

**GARDENER ROSS GOLF AND COUNTRY ESTATE ON THE FARM
KNOPPIESLAAGTE 385 JQ**

RECONNAISSANCE EXCAVATION

SAHRA PERMIT NO 80/04/03/001/51



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Reference: Gardener – Recon-001

Compiled by:

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Date: 28 April 2004



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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Professional Grave Solutions (Pty) Ltd was contracted by Bohlweki Environmental to conduct an investigation into the possible presence of graves in the proposed project area of the proposed Gardener Ross Country and Golf Estate near Centurion.

During the Heritage Impact Assessment and associated heritage-related specialist studies undertaken for the proposed Golf and Country Estate on portion 332 of the Farm Knoppieslaagte 358 JR, Gauteng Province, the possibility was expressed that two of the sites located during the fieldwork may represent graves.

The recommendation was made that the only way to be certain about the existence (or not) of graves would be to conduct a reconnaissance excavation. As it was also indicated that such a reconnaissance excavation can only be undertaken with a SAHRA permit, this document and associated forms represent the application by Mr. W.C. Nienaber and Mr. W Fourie to conduct a reconnaissance excavation on the possible graves.

Conclusion

No indication of burial pits or human remains were found during the reconnaissance excavation on site GR003 and GR010. It can be stated that these structure were not and does not represent graves.

It must however be taken into account that the site GR003 is associated with Late Iron Age activity and that the proposed development will impact on this site. The current indications are that the site is not of great significance. However, the possibility exist that more archaeological artefact may occur subsurface and thus measures must be taken to collect and preserve such artefact when discovered during construction.

Site No	Type	Impact	Significance	Certainty	Duration	Mitigation	LATDD	LONDD	X_COORD
GR003	Iron Age not a grave	Low	High	Definite	Long term	Monitor	-25 8706034	28 0527735	-94940 5039930
GR010	Not a grave	Low	Low	Definite	Long term	None	-25 8696861	28 0447108	-95749 4163174

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1. INTRODUCTION

Professional Grave Solutions (Pty) Ltd was contracted by Bohlweki Environmental to conduct an investigation into the possible presence of graves in the proposed project area of the proposed Gardener Ross Country and Golf Estate near Centurion.

During the Heritage Impact Assessment and associated heritage-related specialist studies undertaken for the proposed Golf and Country Estate on portion 332 of the Farm Knoppieslaagte 358 JR, Gauteng Province, the possibility was expressed that two of the sites located during the fieldwork may represent graves.

The recommendation was made that the only way to be certain about the existence (or not) of graves would be to conduct a reconnaissance excavation. As it was also indicated that such a reconnaissance excavation could only be undertaken with a SAHRA permit (No.80/04/03/001/51), this document and associated forms represent the report by Mr. W. C. Nienaber and Mr. W Fourie on the reconnaissance excavation on the possible graves.

2. APPROACH AND METHODOLOGY

The reconnaissance excavation consisted of the following components:

2.1 Documentation of the above-surface characteristics of the possible grave

This component is represented by photographic documentation of the possible grave dressing. Qualitative description, as well as measurements of the length, width and height of the feature was also documented.

2.2 Excavation of a test trench

Once the possible grave dressing have been documented as outlined above, the stones were removed. With this completed, a grid was laid over the middle of the feature. Consequently, this grid was excavated using archaeological techniques. The excavation was undertaken by hand; using shovels and picks initially, but trowels and brushes

deeper down. The moment any indication of a grave is found, the excavation will stop and the excavation pit filled, after which the site will be clearly demarcated. With the demarcation completed, a full grave relocation process (including social consultation) will be initialised and undertaken.

However, this present investigation was solely for the reconnaissance excavation, and not for the exhumation or re-interment. If no indication of graves (i.e. burial pit, grave goods, coffin or skeletal remains) is found, the feature is not a grave and will be dealt with as such.

3. FINDINGS OF EXCAVATION

3.1 GR003

The investigation was started by setting out a grid of 12m x 12m around the extremity of the area to be investigated. Subsequently all structures were photographed and numbered for reference. Each individual structure was documented on a sketch plan and the dimensions documented.

3.1.1 GR003/1

Description:

The structure is characterised by an elongated scattering of loose stones aligned eastwest. Refer to Figure 1 (structure sketch) and Figure 2 (photo).

Dimensions:

Length: 2.30m

Width: 1.20m

Finding:

A test trench of 2m x 1m was started in the centre of the structure. This trench was dug to a depth of 0.9m at which depth a consolidated bed of quartzite pebbles, consistent with the pebbles found in the black reef formation of the area, were found.

This indicated that no burial pit was present and thus no grave or remains were present. (Figure 3)

3.1.2 GR003/2

Description:

The structure is characterised by an elongated scattering of loose stones aligned eastwest. Refer to Figure 4 (structure sketch) and Figure 5 (photo).

Dimensions:

Length: 1.90m

Width: 1.60m

Finding:

A test trench of 2m x 1m was started in the centre of the structure. This trench was dug to a depth of 0.7m at which depth a consolidated bed of quartzite pebbles, consistent with the pebbles found in the black reef formation of the area, were found. This indicated that no burial pit was present and thus no grave or remains were present. (Figure 6)

3.1.3 GR003/3

Description:

The structure is characterised by an elongated scattering of loose stones aligned eastwest. Refer to Figure 7 (structure sketch) and Figure 8 (photo).

Dimensions:

Length: 2.40m

Width: 1.20m

Finding:

A test trench of 2m x 1m was started in the centre of the structure. This trench was dug to a depth of 1.1m at which depth a consolidated bed of quartzite pebbles, consistent with the pebbles found in the black reef formation of the area, were found.

This indicated that no burial pit was present and thus no grave or remains were present. (Figure 9)

3.1.4 GR003/4

Description:

The structure is characterised by an elongated scattering of loose stones aligned eastwest. Refer to Figure 10 (structure sketch) and Figure 11(photo).

Dimensions:

Length: 1.50m

Width: 1.20m

Finding:

A test trench of 2m x 1m was started in the centre of the structure. This trench was dug to a depth of 1.0m at which depth a consolidated bed of quartzite pebbles, consistent with the pebbles found in the black reef formation of the area, were found. This indicated that no burial pit was present and thus no grave or remains were present. (Figure 12)

During the removal of the loose stones, a single piece of potsherd (Figure 13) as well as a lower grinding stone (Figure 15) and a bored stone (Figure 14) were recovered. These artefacts were not in a primary context and were probably deposited there with the moving of the stone heap to its current location. These artefacts could most probably have come from the same deposit can might be associated. Recent excavations at Melora Hilltop in the Limpopo Province showed evidence of the close association between lower grinding stones and bored stones found *in situ* (Lombard & Parsons 2003).

These finds indicate that the site GR 003 is associated with GR 002 a Late Iron Age site some 30 meters to the west. In the light of the finds it is recommended that an archaeologist be present on site if any further developments area planned for this area.

3.1.5 GR003/5

Description:

The structure is characterised by an elongated scattering of loose stones aligned northeas-southwest. Refer to Figure 16 (structure sketch) and Figure 17 (photo).

Dimensions:

Length: 1.70m

Width: 1.020m

Finding:

A test trench of 2m x 1m was started in the centre of the structure. This trench was dug to a depth of 0.9m at which depth a consolidated bed of quartzite pebbles, consistent with the pebbles found in the black reef formation of the area, were found. This indicated that no burial pit was present and thus no grave or remains were present. (Figure 18)

3.1.6 GR 003/6

Description:

The structure is characterised by an elongated scattering of loose stones aligned eastwest. Refer to Figure 19 (structure sketch) and Figure 20 (photo).

Dimensions:

Length: 2.50m

Width: 1.50m

Finding:

A test trench of 2m x 1m was started in the centre of the structure. This trench was dug to a depth of 0.8m at which depth a consolidated bed of quartzite pebbles, consistent with the pebbles found in the black reef formation of the area, were found. This indicated that no burial pit was present and thus no grave or remains were present. (Figure 21)

3.1.7 GR003/7

Description:

The structure is characterised by an elongated scattering of loose stones aligned eastwest. Refer to Figure 22 (structure sketch) and Figure 23 (photo).

Dimensions:

Length: 2.30m

Width: 1.30m

Finding:

A test trench of 2m x 1m was started in the centre of the structure. This trench was dug to a depth of 0.6m at which depth a consolidated bed of quartzite pebbles, consistent with the pebbles found in the black reef formation of the area, as well as a large boulder in the middle of the trench were found. This indicated that no burial pit was present and thus no grave or remains were present. (Figure 24)

3.1.8 GR003/8

Description:

The structure is characterised by an elongated scattering of loose stones aligned eastwest. Refer to Figure 25 (structure sketch) and Figure 26 (photo).

Dimensions:

Length: 2.30m

Width: 1.20m

Finding:

A test trench of 2m x 1m was started in the centre of the structure. This trench was dug to a depth of 0.6m at which depth a consolidated bed of quartzite pebbles, consistent with the pebbles found in the black reef formation of the area, as well as a large boulder in the middle of the trench were found. This indicated that no burial pit was present and thus no grave or remains were present. (Figure 27)

3.2 GR010

Description:

The structure is characterised by a row of large closely packed stones aligned eastwest. Refer to Figure 28 (structure sketch) and Figure 29(photo).

Dimensions:

Length: 3.30m

Width: 1.50m

Finding:

An attempt was made to remove the larger of the stone, investigation however revealed that these stone was part of the underlying geological structure and the surrounding area is characterised by the same quartz pebbles as at GR 003. The indication was that no burial pit was present and thus no grave or remains were present. It would however be prudent to have an archaeologist present during construction when these large boulders are removed.

4. CONCLUSION

No indication of burial pits or human remains were found during the reconnaissance excavation on site GR003 and GR010. It can be stated that these structure were not and does not represent graves.

It must however be taken into account that the site GR003 is associated with Late Iron Age activity and that the proposed development will impact on this site. The current indications are that the site is not of great significance. However, the possibility exist that more archaeological artefact may occur subsurface and thus measures must be taken to collect and preserve such artefact when discovered during construction.

Site No	Type	Impact	Significance	Certainty	Duration	Mitigation	LATDD	LONDD	X COORD
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5. LIST OF PREPARES

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Alfred Mabena

Samuel Madutlela

Shorty Mcgina

Duduzi Mcgina

John Kilane

6. REFERENCES

Buikstra, J.E. and Ubelaker, D.H. (eds.). 1994. Standards for data Collection from Human Skeletal Remains. Arkansas Archaeological Survey Research Series. 44.

Hester, T.R. et.al 1975. A Guide to Field Methods in Archaeology. Palo Alto.

Joukowsky, M. 1980. A Completer Manual of Field Archaeology. Engelwood Cliffs.

Morse, D. (ed.). 1978. Handbook of Forensic Archaeology and Anthropology. Tallahassee.

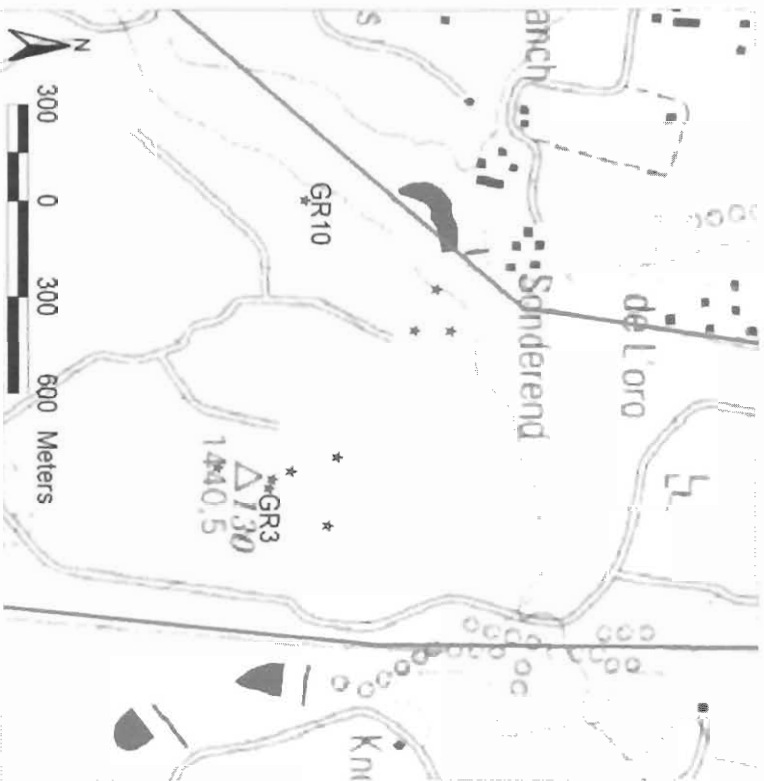
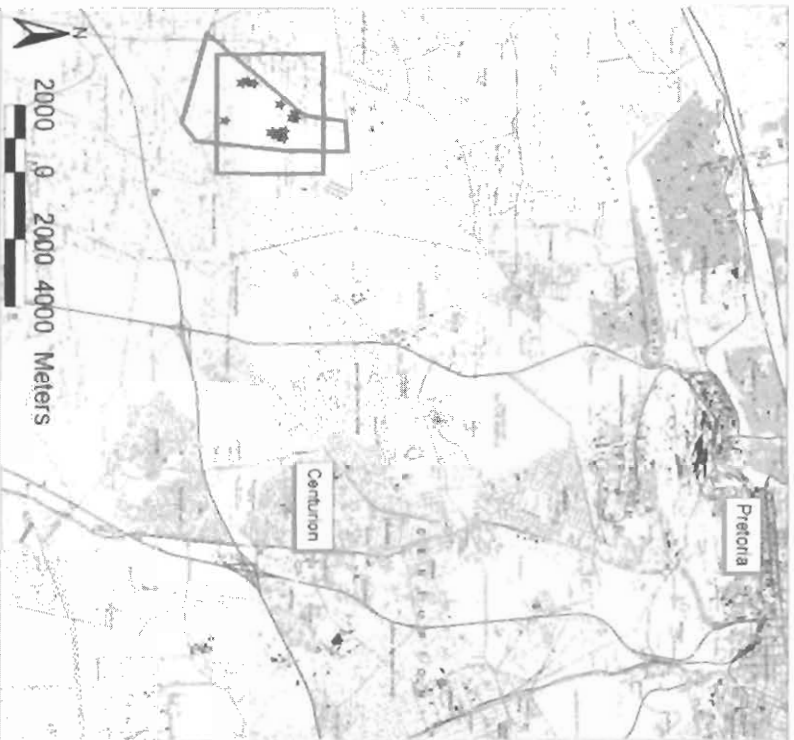
Lombard, M. & Parsons, I. 2003. Ritual Practices in a domestic space: Evidence from Melora Hilltop, a Late Iron Age Stone-Walled Settlement in the Waterberg, Limpopo Province, South Africa. South African Archaeological Bulletin 58 (178):79-84,2003.

Nienaber, W.C. 1997. Eshumation and Reinterment of Burgher C.G. Naude. South African Journal of Culture History. 11(1):123-133

Steyn, M. Nienaber, W.C. and Iscan, M.Y. 2000. Excavation and Retrieval of Forensic Remains. In: Siegel, J.A., Saukko, P.J. and Knupfer, G.C. (eds.). Encyclopaedia of Ferensic Sciences. Sidcup: Academic Press: 235-242.

ANNEXURE A – LOCALITY MAP

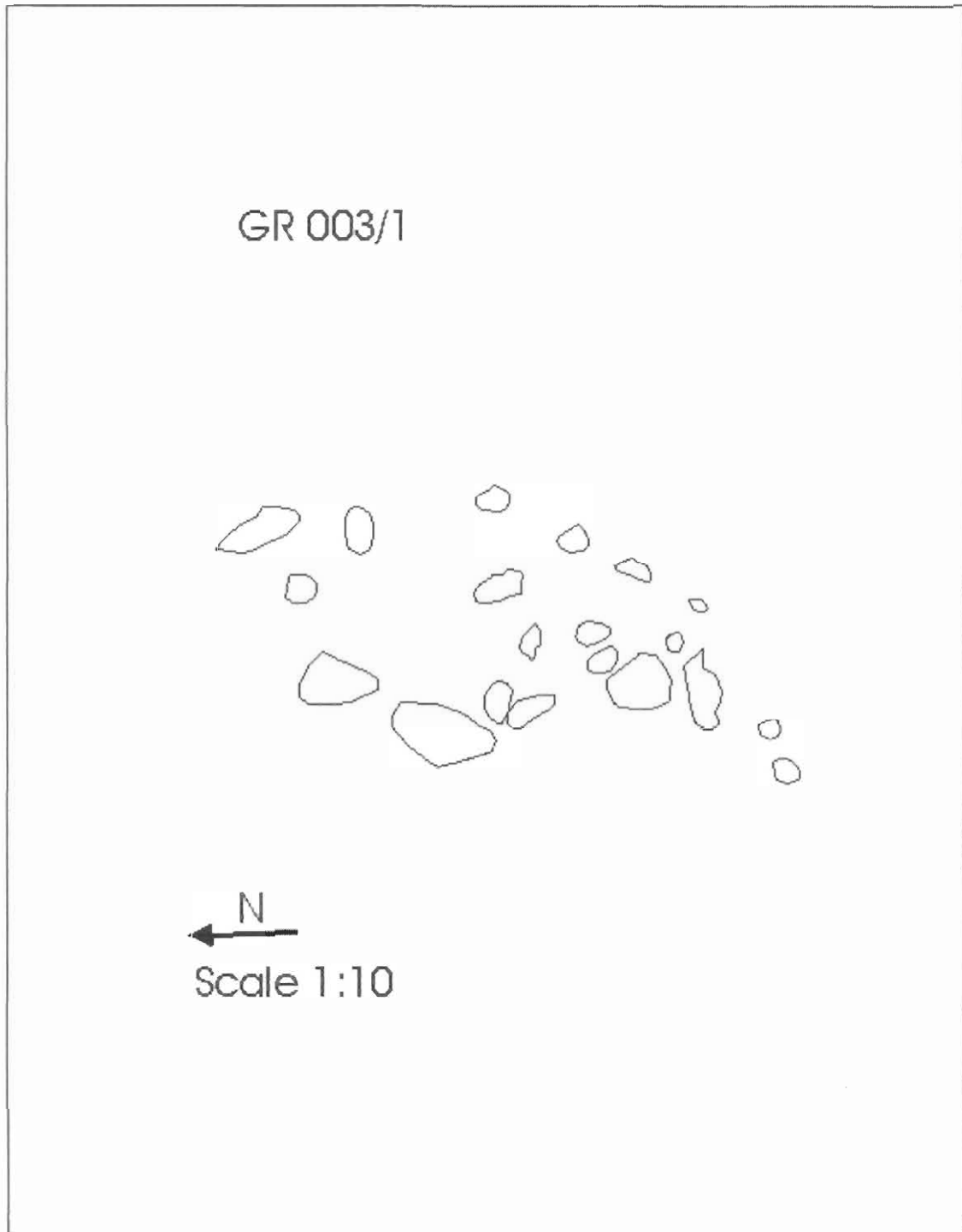
**Gardener Ross Estate - Grave Investigation
Locality Map**



Compiled by: W Fourie
Date: 05/05/2004
Ref: GardenerEX 001

ANNEXURE B – SKETCHES AND PHOTO'S

GR003/1



• Figure 1



Figure 2

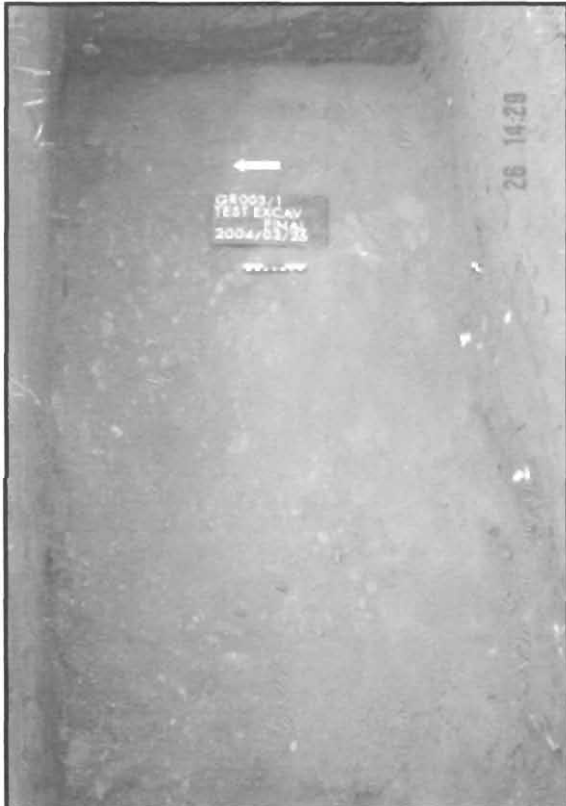
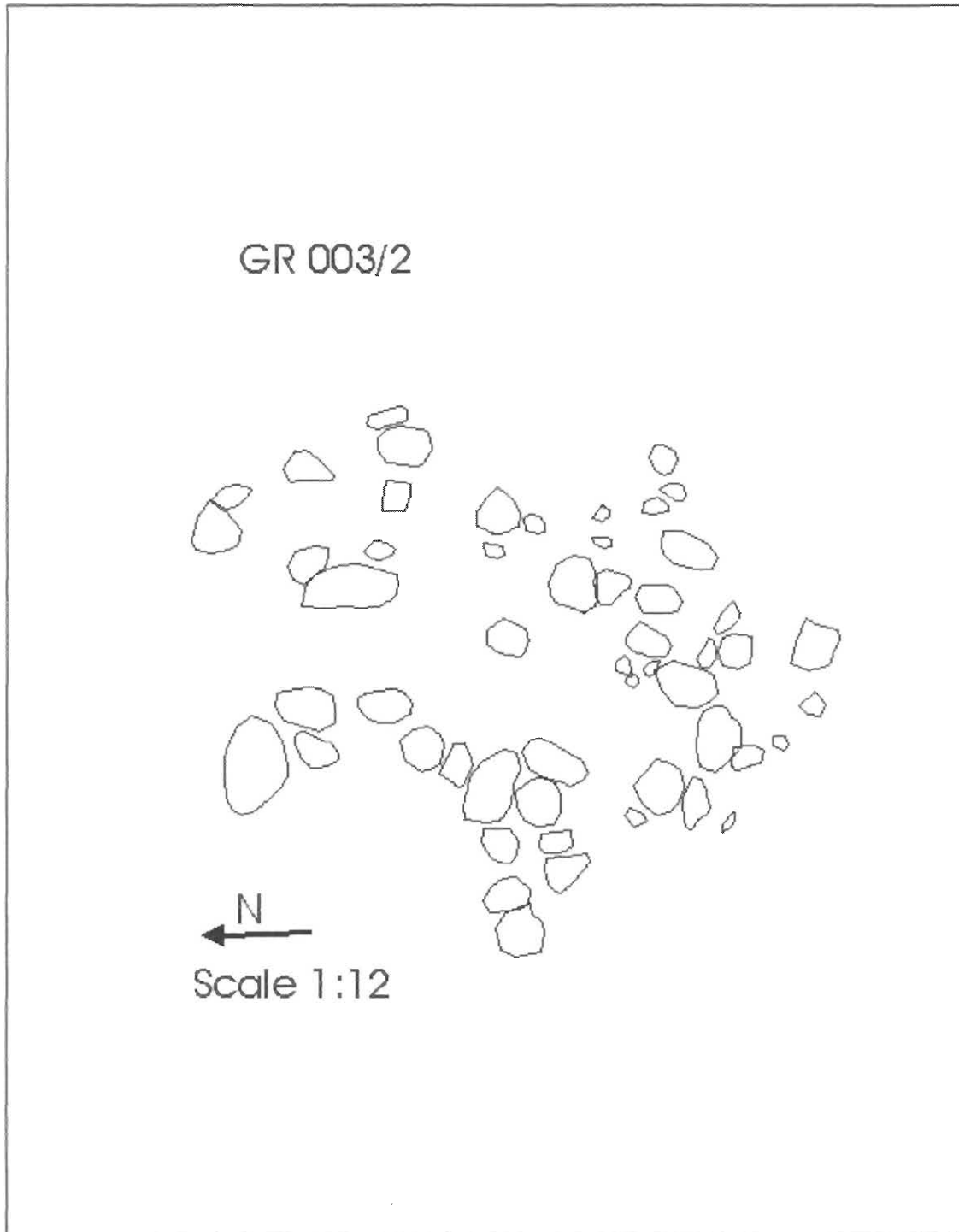


Figure 3

GR003/2



• Figure 4



Figure 5

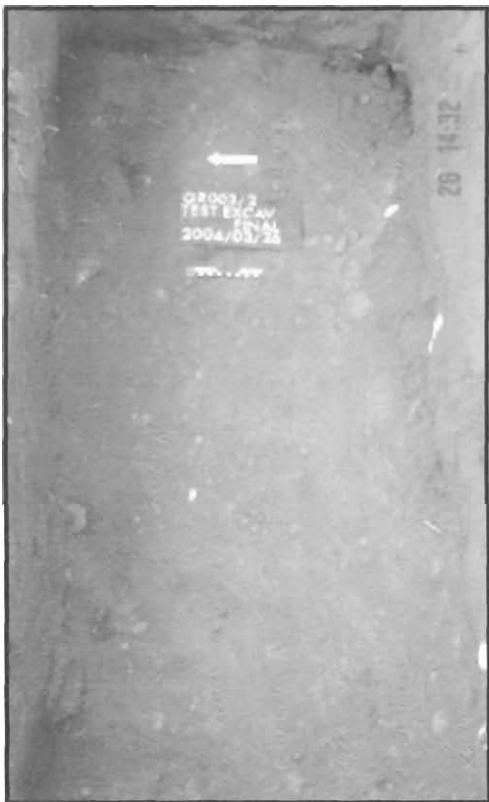
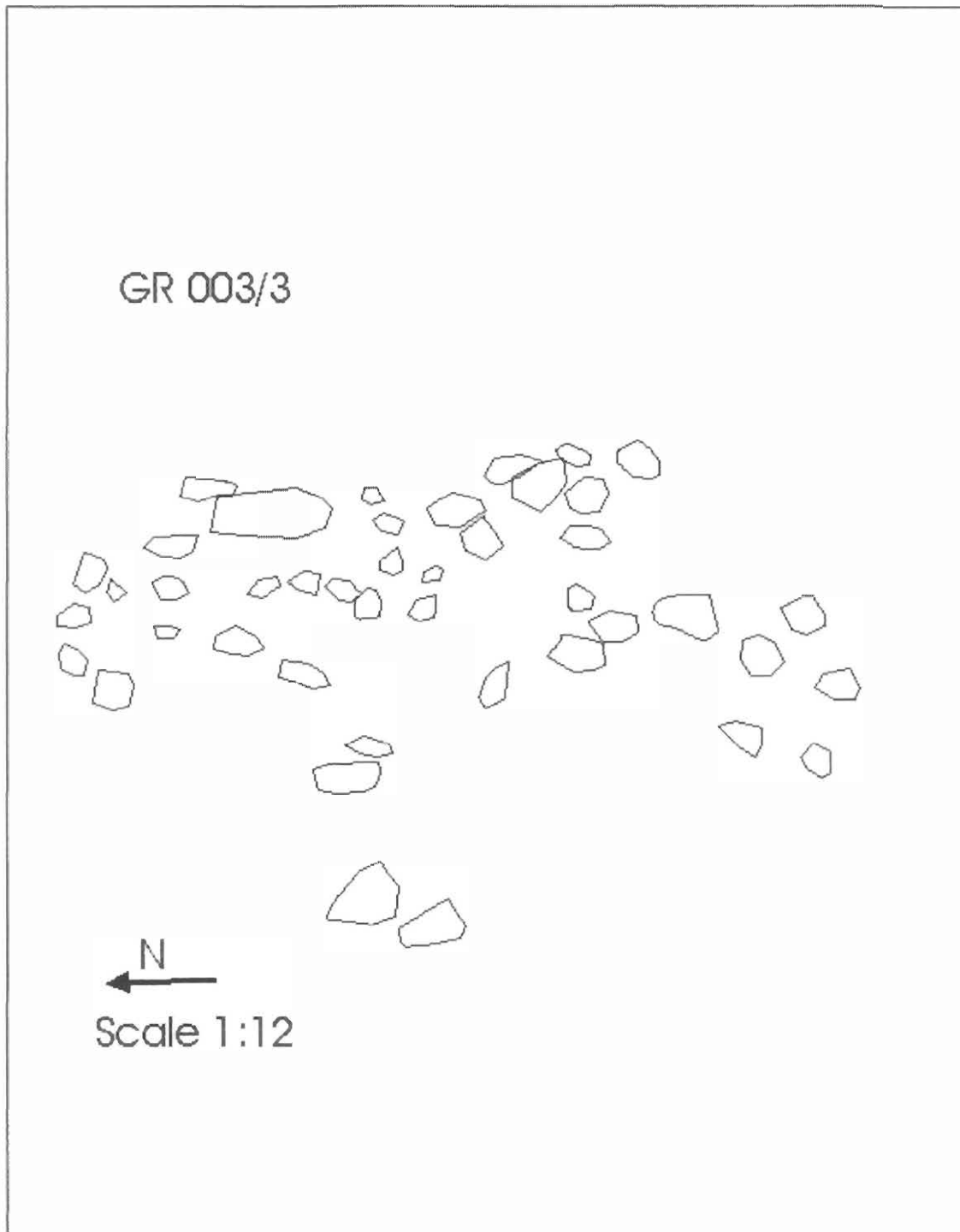


Figure 6

GR003/3



• Figure 7



Figure 8

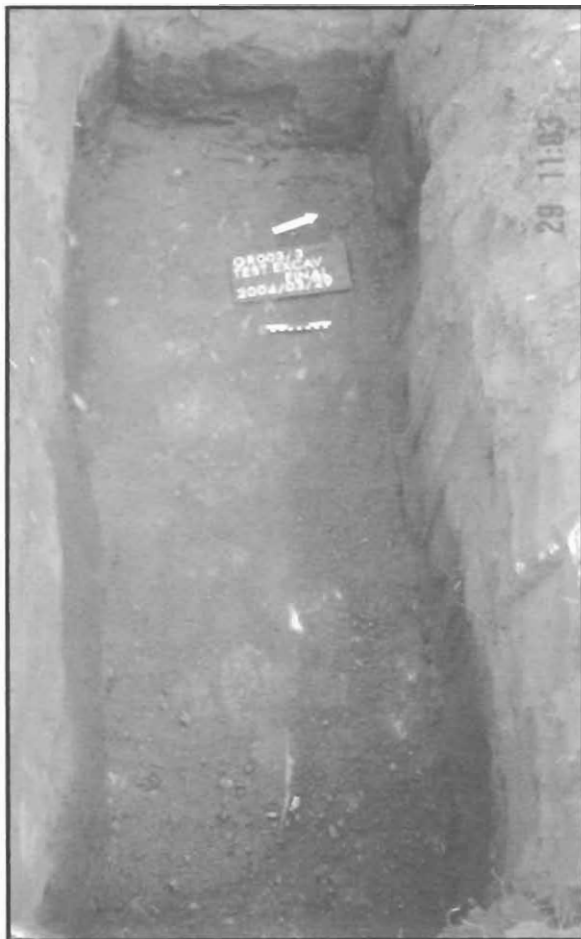
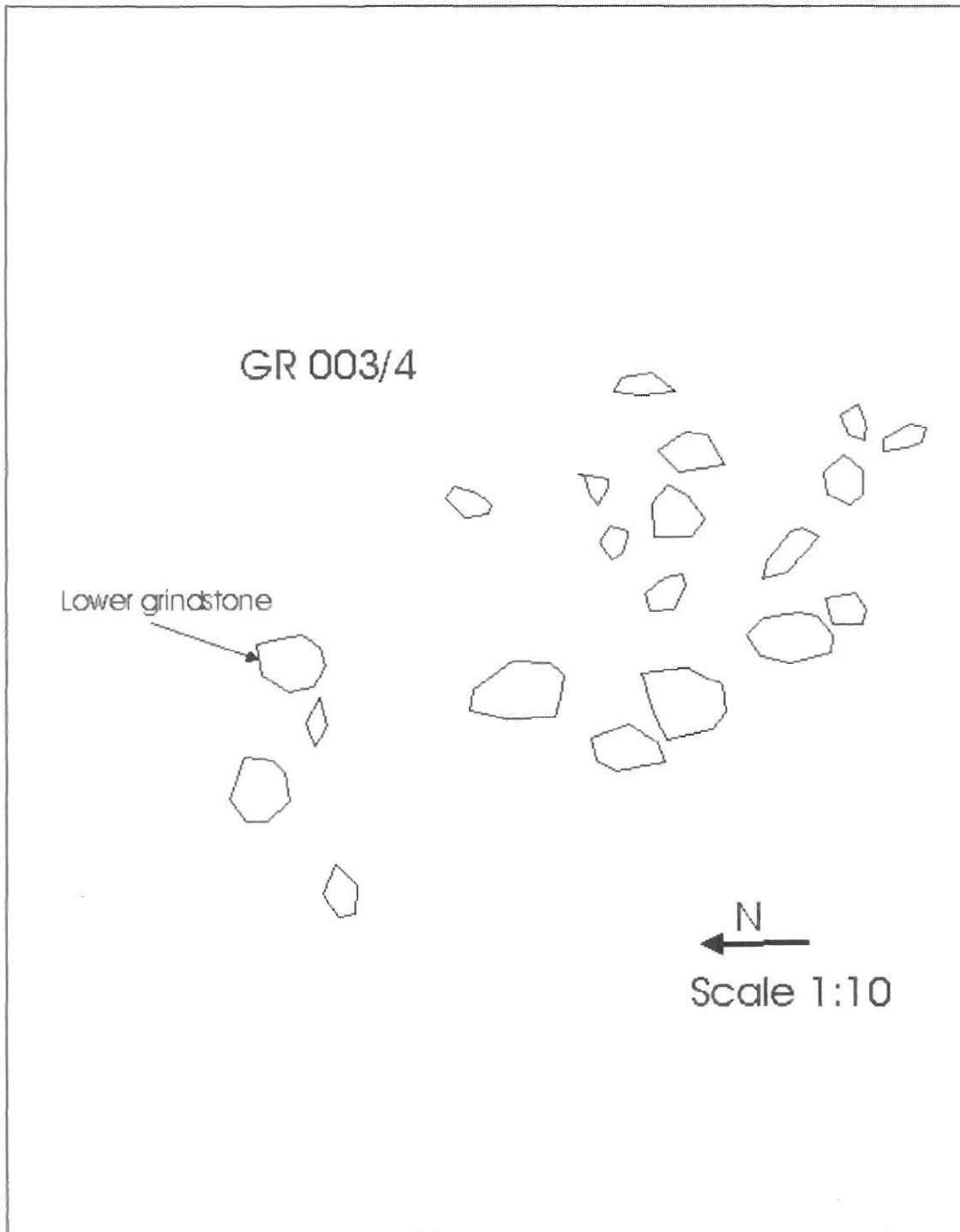


Figure 9

GR004/3



• Figure 10



Figure 11

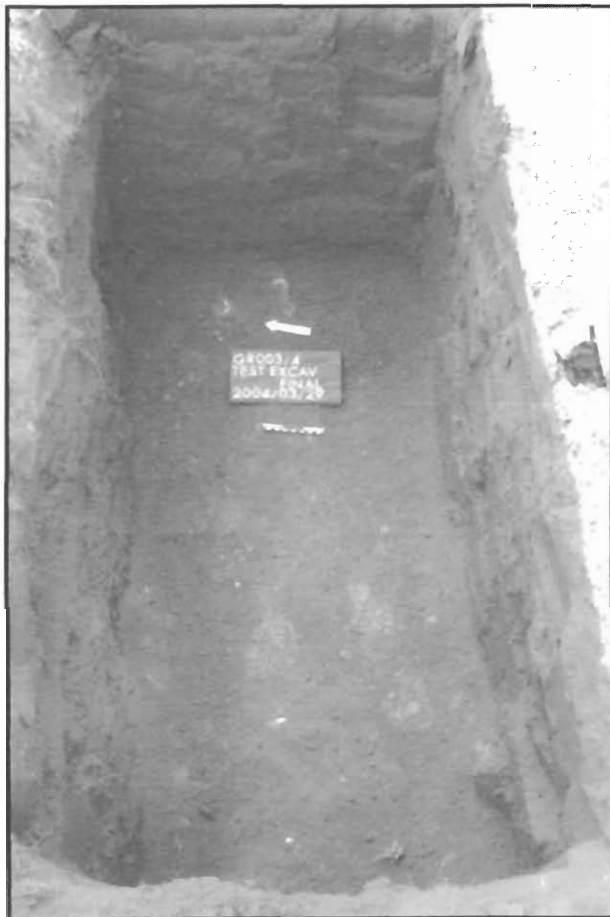


Figure 12

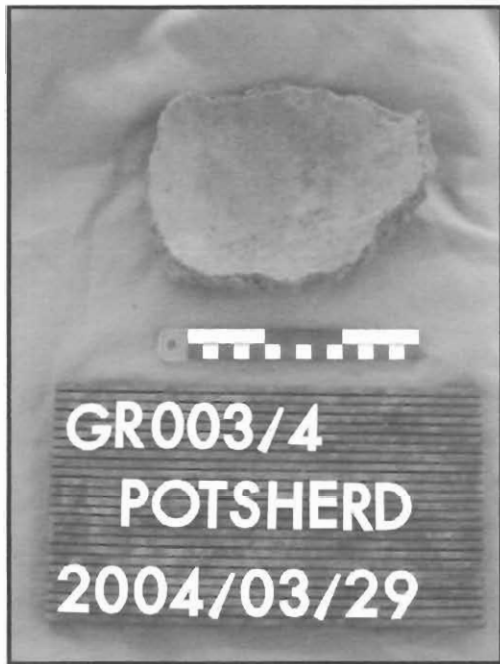


Figure 13



Figure 14

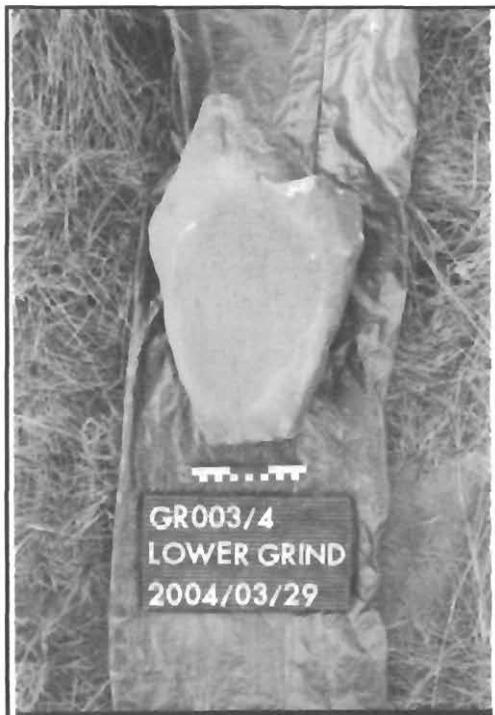
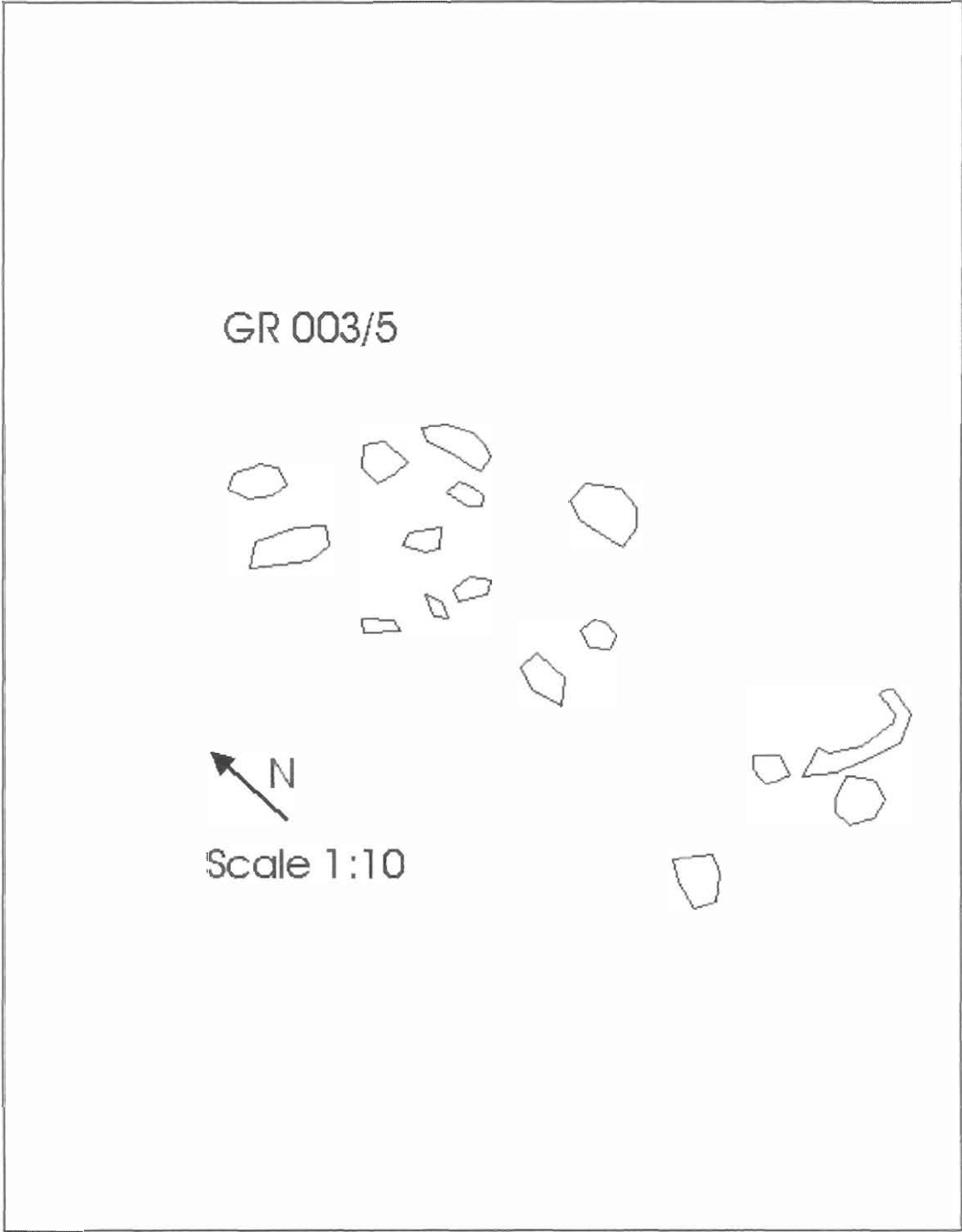


Figure 15

GR003/5



• Figure 16



Figure 17

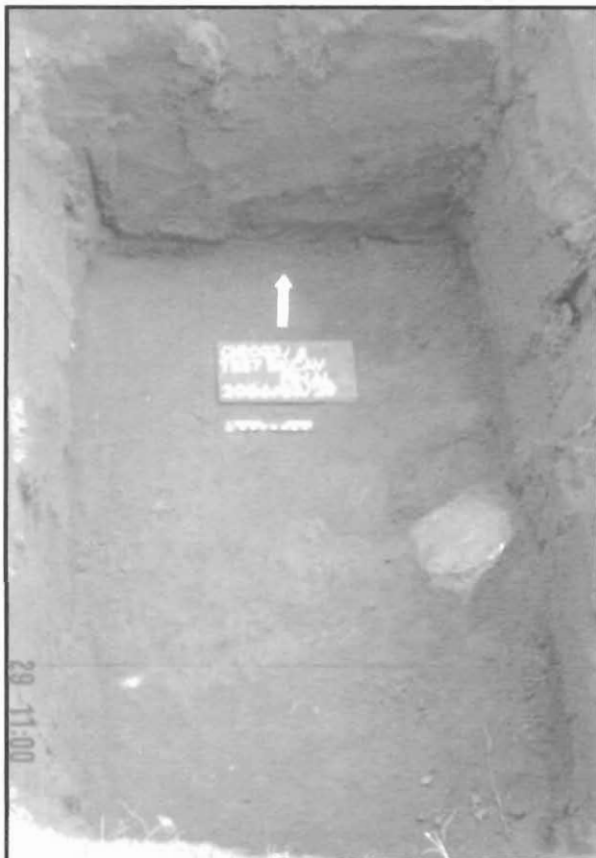
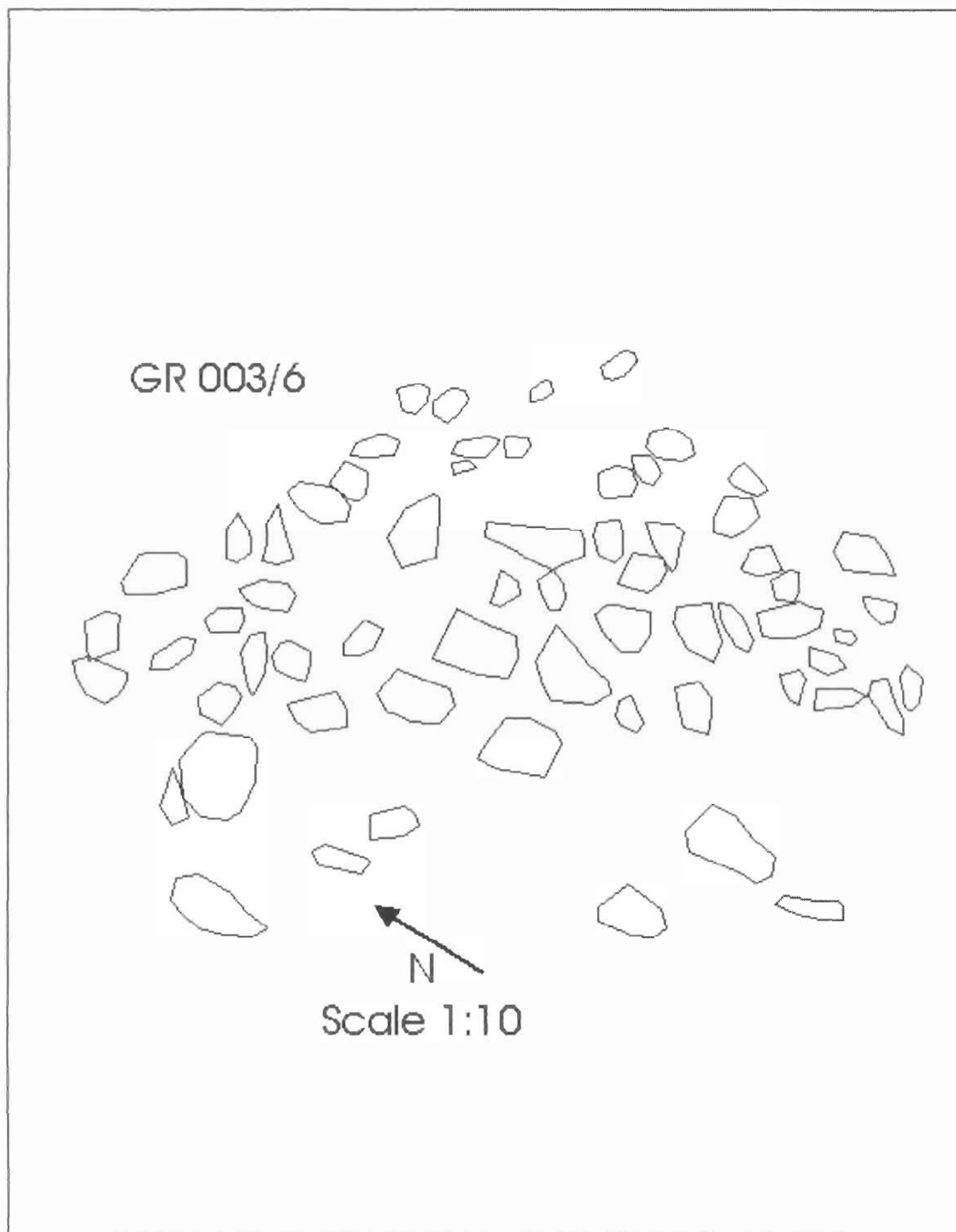


Figure 18

GR003/6



• Figure 19

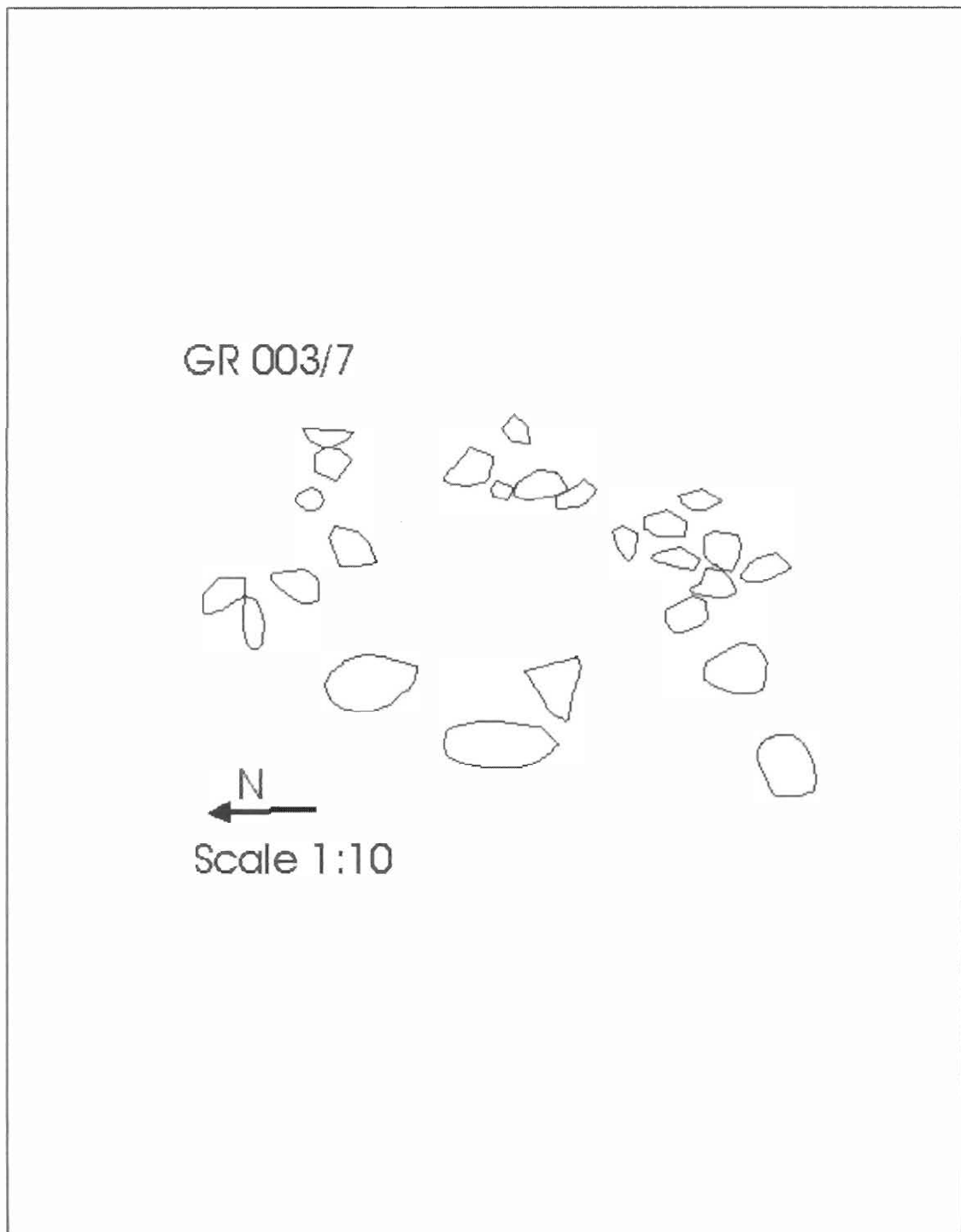


Figure 20



Figure 21

GR003/7



• Figure 22

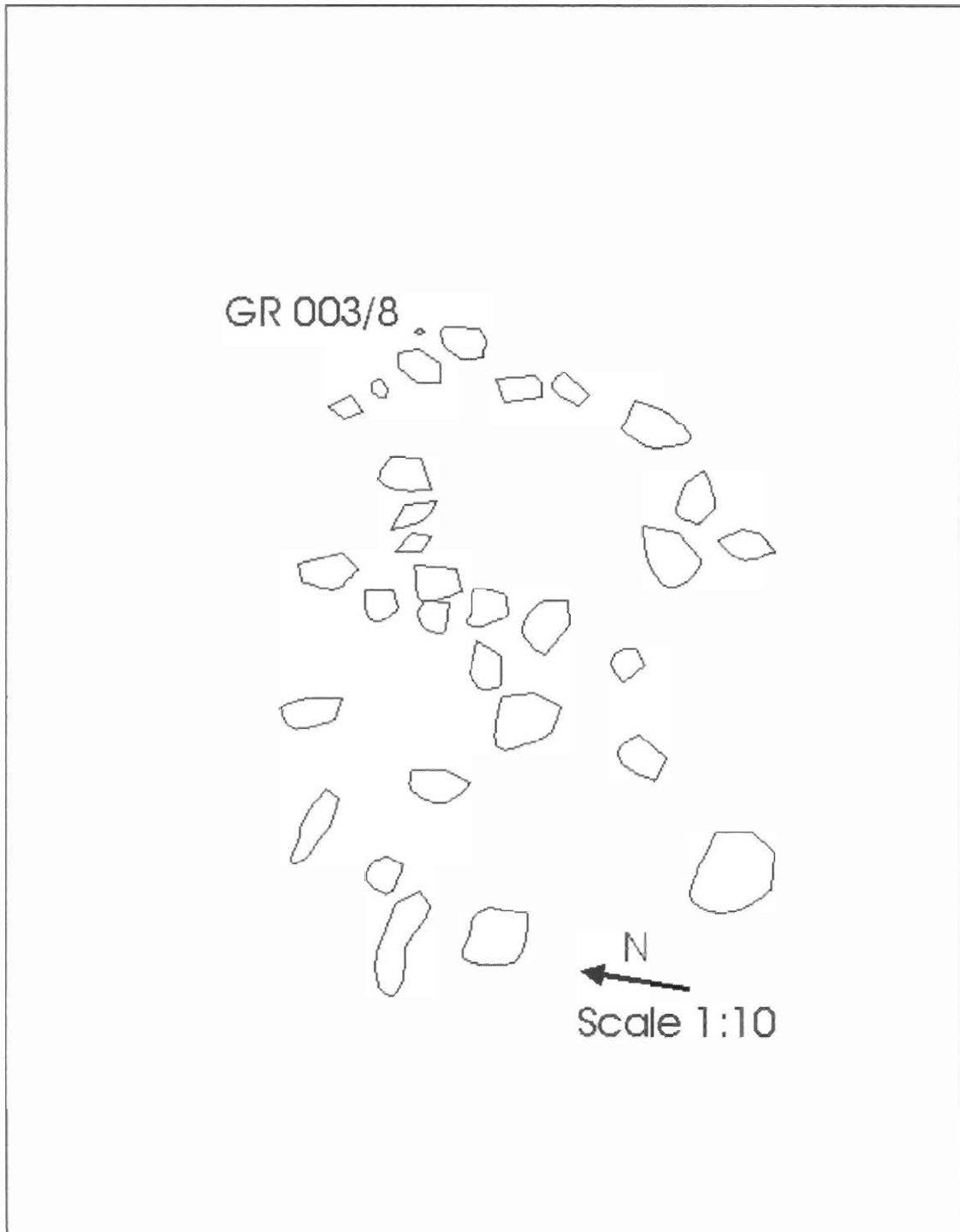


Figure 23



Figure 24

GR003/8



• Figure 25

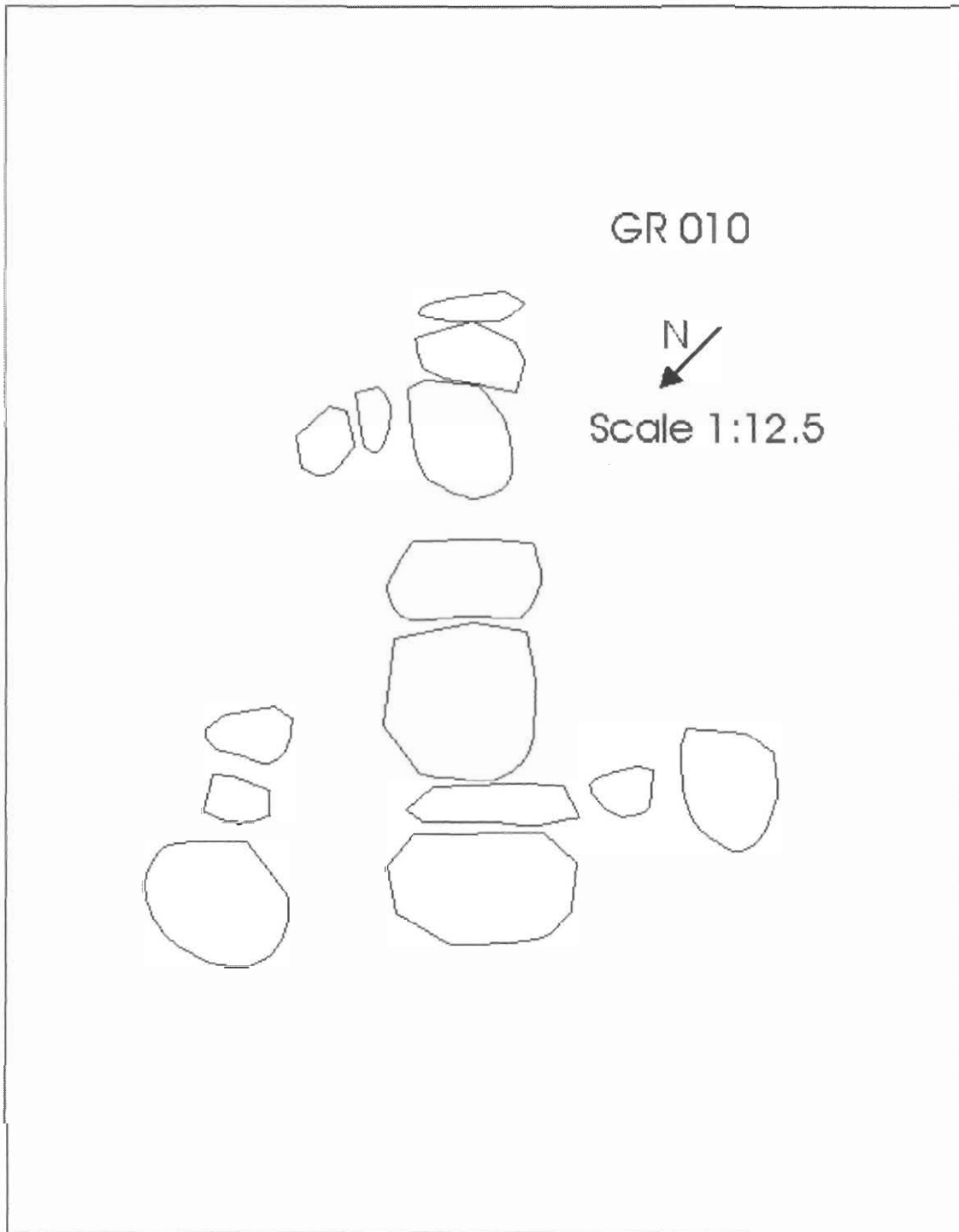


Figure 26



Figure 27

GR010



• Figure 28



•Figure 29

ANNEXURE C – SAHRA PERMIT FOR INVESTIGATION



SOUTH AFRICAN HERITAGE RESOURCES AGENCY
111 HARRINGTON STREET, CAPE TOWN, 8000. PO BOX 4837, CAPE TOWN, 8000
TEL. (021) 462 4502 FAX (021) 462 4509

9/2/228/1

PERMIT
No. 80/G4/03/001/51

Issued under Section 35(4) of the National Heritage Resources Act, Act No. 25 of 1909, Permission is hereby given:

to: Dr WC Nienaber in association with Mr W. Fourie,
of: Professional Graves Solutions (PGS), PO Box 431, Paardekraal, 1752.
for: reconnaissance excavation to ascertain the presence of a possible grave,
at: approximately 25.86 S, 28.04 E,
on: the farm Knoppieslaagte, 385 JR, Ptn 332,
in: the Tshwane District, Gauteng Province.

The following conditions apply:

1. If the permit holder is not to be present on the site at all times then SAHRA must be provided with the names and qualifications of the authorised representatives.
2. Adequate recording methods as specified in the Regulations and Guidelines pertaining to the National Heritage Resources Act must be used. Note that the position of all excavations must be marked on a plan of each site.
3. A standard site record form must be lodged with the National Cultural History Museum.
4. Should indications of a grave be found excavation will be stopped, filled in and clearly marked and a full grave relocation procedure initiated.
5. A report must be submitted to SAHRA on or before 1 April 2005. SAHRA reserves the right to withhold further permits if progress is not deemed satisfactory.
6. Reprints of all published papers, or copies of these or reports resulting from this work must be lodged with SAHRA.
7. If a published report has not appeared within three years of the lapsing of this permit, the report required in terms of the permit will be made available to researchers on request.
8. It is the responsibility of the permit holder to obtain permission from the landowner for each visit, and conditions of access imposed by the landowner must be observed.
9. It is the responsibility of the permit holder to fill in excavations and protect sites during and after excavation to the satisfaction of SAHRA and the landowner.
10. SAHRA shall not be liable for any losses, damages or injuries to persons or properties as a result of any activities in connection with this permit.
11. SAHRA reserves the right to cancel this permit upon notice to the permit holder.

This permit is valid until 1 April 2005.

SAHRA: ARCHAEOLOGY, PALAEOLOGY & METEORITE UNIT
Date: 23 March 2004

A. Ray de la...
Places: Cape Town