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A36 SALISBURY BY-PASS
1992 ADDITIONAL ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY
DECEMBER 1992

PREPARED FOR:-

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This survey was directed from the offices of Wessex Archaeology in Salisbury. It was managed by R Newman and directed in the field by D Coe and D E Farwell. A database was used, dBase IV, which was customised by A Crockett, in consultation with P Williams and E Morris. The report was prepared by D E Farwell, P Harding and R Newman with contributions by L Mephram and E Morris. The illustrations are by J Cross. and the CAD printouts by L Coleman.

Geophysical Surveys of Bradford undertook the magnetometer survey.

Wessex Archaeology would like to thank Wiltshire County Council's Library and Museum Service for their suggestions and information concerning the 1992 scope of works, and also to thank AC Archaeology for providing a copy of their report on Camp Hill.

The project was commissioned by Rendel, Palmer and Tritton, consulting engineers to the Department of Transport.

1. INTRODUCTION

During the preparation of the route options for the A36 Salisbury By-Pass in the 1980s, a report was commissioned to consider all the information already held by the County Sites and Monuments Record (SMR) (Bowden 1986). This work encompassed the whole of the Salisbury area, and was taken into account in the route planning of the three routes submitted for public consultation during 1988.

Following this public consultation the Secretary of State for Transport, in November 1989, decided on a preferred route. This incorporated parts of the three original routes, along with an additional section not previously proposed. The entire area traversed by the 17km preferred route is designated as being of Special Archaeological Significance.

The consulting engineers, Rendel, Palmer and Tritton, subsequently commissioned Wessex Archaeology to prepare a report on the archaeological implications of the preferred route, which would address in particular the following problems:

- (i) the need to establish whether there were archaeological sites along the preferred route which would be affected by the construction of the by-pass, including those within the landscaping areas, and, if so, to suggest appropriate measures to mitigate the effect;
- (ii) the need to define areas of interest within the different environments represented and to assess the potential of the dry valley sediments for yielding data on past environments and land-use.

The fieldwork was undertaken from June to November 1990 and a report (Wessex Archaeology 1991) was submitted in March 1991. Alternative routes had been suggested for the western end of the preferred route and a supplementary report was compiled to cover the variations (Wessex Archaeology 1991 supplement). Unfortunately due to access restrictions not all blocks of land could be investigated.

Following the publication of draft orders for the scheme in November 1991, written comment was made by Wiltshire County Council's Director of Library and Museum Service in February 1992. Subsequent discussion has led to additional survey work being carried out. This was commissioned in July 1992 and undertaken from August to October 1992. The additional work consisted of three elements:

- (i) ~~intensive magnetometer surveys of selected areas where previous surface artefact collection indicated archaeological potential;~~
- (ii) surface artefact collection in any areas crossed by the preferred route which were available in 1992 which had not been open to access in 1990;
- (iii) test-pitting of the set-aside land adjacent to Great and Little Woodbury.

The location of the areas of additional work in relation to the 1990 survey is shown on Figs 1 and 2.

This report presents the results of the fieldwork undertaken during 1992. It should be read in conjunction with the original report (Wessex Archaeology 1991) with which the reader is assumed to have some familiarity. This present report contains a refinement of the evidence for certain mitigation statements. The overall findings of the original report remain substantially unchanged. The field plot numbers given in this report are those used by Wiltshire County Council in their critique (WCC plot 20 etc.).

2. METHODOLOGY

2.1 Geophysical survey

Wessex Archaeology commissioned Geophysical Surveys of Bradford to undertake a magnetometer survey of seven fields (WCC plots 23, 29, 31, 33, 34, 37 and 53). These fields were at five locations; Newton Barrow (WCC plot 23, 2ha), west of the Devizes Road (WCC plot 29, 0.56ha), Camp Hill (WCC plots 31, 33 and 34, 2.6ha), south of the Avenue (WCC plot 37, 2.08ha) and Harnham Hill (WCC plot 53, 1.44ha). An eighth field (WCC plot 28) was under a late crop and so not included within the survey.

The fields were selected on the basis of information gained from the 1990 survey and data already held by Wiltshire Sites and Monuments Record. Surface artefact collection results had suggested the presence of archaeological deposits in all seven fields, and the geophysical survey areas were located over known concentrations of material crossed by the route. It was hoped that the geophysical survey would confirm or deny the presence of surviving archaeological features in these fields. The Sites and Monuments Record provided information concerning two ploughed-out barrows in plot 23, an enclosed Iron Age settlement and a Romano-British settlement at Camp Hill, a ploughed-down barrow in plot 37 and a late prehistoric field system in plot 53. It was hoped that the extent and location of these archaeological features would be defined by the geophysical survey, and sections of the survey were located accordingly.

Fluxgate gradiometers were used. Readings were logged at 0.5m intervals along one axis in 1m traverses giving 800 readings per 20m X 20m grid. Generally features up to one metre below the surface can be detected by this method. The survey covered 8.68 hectares in total. The results were plotted and interpreted by Geophysical Surveys of Bradford. A copy of their complete report is included as appendix 1.

2.2 Surface Artefact Collection

Six fields were surveyed in 1992 which had not been available during the survey programme of 1990 (WCC plots 20, 78, 88, 89, 90 and 93) due to a combination of late harvesting, spring crop rotation and temporary set-aside policies.

Surface artefact collection is of particular use in identifying areas of early prehistoric activity, as these often leave little trace except for stone tools and the large quantities of the debris associated with the production of such implements. The National Grid was used as the reference framework, within which the hectare formed the main unit for collation and tabulation. A 25m grid interval was used within each hectare. There were, therefore, sixteen collection units per hectare, each 25m long and 25m apart. Assuming a visibility span of 2m in each transect, this provided a sample of 8% of the field surface. It should be noted that grid references for hectares are full ordnance survey co-ordinates. These co-ordinates can be adjusted to the standard 100 kilometre square ordnance survey SU references for this area of Wiltshire by extracting the 4000 code from the easting and the 1000 code from the northing, thus hectare 4122/1288 in WCC plot 90 would be SU122288.

In 1992 1,100 25m long surface artefact collection units were walked, or the equivalent of 68.75ha. The previous survey of 1990 had covered 6,144 25m long collection units or 384ha. The bulk of the material recovered consisted of two categories; burnt and worked flint. Absolute figures are presented by hectare within each plot in appendix 2. The results were interpreted by reference to standard deviations produced for the main categories. Standard deviations are used to indicate the spread of a series of values about the mean of the series, and are then used as a basis for interpreting the data in terms of probability. In this way potentially abnormal results are identified from the bulk of the data *i.e.* 'significant concentrations'. Surface artefact collection data groups do not often form statistically viable population distributions, and, therefore, the validity of results so identified have to be checked by subjective archaeological criteria, and cannot be assumed to be automatically real, *i.e.* of archaeological potential. Categories with more limited numbers of objects, such as pottery, were plotted and interpreted on the basis of simple presence/absence distributions.

2.3 Test pits (Fig. 3)

In the areas adjacent to the Scheduled Ancient Monument of Great Woodbury (WCC plots 60, 62, 63 and 64) a series of hand-dug 1m² test pits were excavated in three staggered rows along the line of the preferred route. Each row and pit was spaced at 50m intervals. Each pit was dug to the base of the topsoil or to a maximum depth of 0.30m, and the top 0.10m was sieved using a 10mm mesh. These measures were taken to augment the information gained in 1990 from a geophysical survey (Wessex Archaeology 1991, appendix 6.3). The area is under a set-aside policy and so the option of surface artefact collection was not available. It was felt that test pits would give the most comparable data. Eighty-five test pits were excavated. The results are presented as a table in appendix 3.

Seven more test pits were excavated in an area adjacent to surface artefact collection plots 88 and 89. The area (plot 89A) had been used as allotments, and the test pits were dug in order to assess the nature of the topsoil and subsoil.

The results of test pits surveys are analysed by the same techniques as surface artefact collection. In the case of the test pits an average amount for bulk finds per 50 litres of soil is calculated for each pit, and this forms the basis for distribution calculations.

3. RESULTS

3.1 Little Wishford (Fig. 6)

Two fields to the north of Little Wishford were available for surface artefact collection (WCC plots 93 and 78, NB plot 79 has been incorporated into plot 78). Three hundred and seventy-three collection units were walked. No significant amounts of pottery were recovered, only two sherds of medieval and two sherds of Romano-British in addition to background spreads of post-medieval and modern material. Worked flint was recovered in considerable quantities (1,094 pieces) and although relatively larger quantities were recovered from the eastern half of plot 78 no definite concentrations were discerned. The burnt flint, in contrast, showed a definite area of concentration in the southern half of plot 78, centred on hectares 4076/1362 and 4076/1363 (105,708 grammes were recovered in total).

The significance of the burnt flint concentration is undermined by the topography of plot 78, in that it slopes down to the south and has a coombe running down the centre of the plot. Some of the material can, therefore, be expected to have rolled down slope. In 1990 the field to the north (Field 149, Wessex Archaeology 1991, 53) was surveyed and also produced concentrations of burnt flint but not worked flint. General prehistoric settlement activity to the north of the proposed route is indicated, but further conclusions cannot be drawn.

The single most significant result of the 1992 survey occurred in plot 93, where three Palaeolithic handaxes were recovered. The field covers approximately 8 hectares at the brow of a south-west facing spur on the north side of the Wylde valley (SU 073366). The land slopes from 94m OD to 84m OD along the present A36 before dropping more steeply into the valley at 60m OD. The land, which is currently used for arable farming, is mapped as Upper Chalk (O.S. Geol. Survey Sheet 298) although the field is capped by a thin veneer of Clay with Flints.

The first implement was found at SU 0725036700, where the land is 90m OD. It is an ovate handaxe of Wymer's type K (1968, 57) with a characteristic reversed 'S' twisted profile. It measures 78mm long, 63mm wide and is 21mm thick. It is in a slightly rolled condition (Wymer 1968, PLX1) and has a yellow stained surface over a white patina. One side shows two incipient frost fractures which presumably result from periglacial activity subsequent to its abandonment. A recent plough damage scar indicates that the raw material is grey flint with coarse chert like inclusions. The edges are heavily battered. The handaxe, which is completely flaked on both sides, was probably manufactured using soft hammer percussion.

The second handaxe, found at SU 0730036475 where the land is 84m OD, is also an ovate, although the tip is slightly pointed and it has a flat unflaked base. This implement, measuring 108mm long, 78mm wide and 31mm thick, is heavily rolled with particularly severe damage to the edges. It is stained light yellow mottled orange brown, however a recent chip from the edge suggests that the flint is dark and probably of good quality. It has a slightly plano-convex cross section accentuated by an unsightly lump near the edge which is, at this point, heavily battered indicating fruitless attempts by the knapper to remove the lump.

The third implement, which was recorded 50m east of the second handaxe, is a cleaver of Wymer's type H (1968, 55). It measures 110mm long, 70mm wide and 34mm thick. It is very heavily rolled with flake scars as well as flake ridges showing signs of damage. The implement is crossed by a network of incipient frost fractures and part of one side has been removed by a pot-lid fracture. The cleaver, which is patinated white, retains two small patches of heavily weathered cortex typical of flint from the natural Chalk. The bifacial flaking patterns which extend across both sides of the implement, suggest that the handaxe was produced using less than 15 individual blows.

Two miscellaneous flint flakes were also found which, by their condition and staining, suggest that they may also be Palaeolithic in date.

The discovery of three handaxes from the same location marks a significant increase in the record of Palaeolithic implements from the Wylve valley. Previously only two implements, a handaxe from Heytesbury and another listed only as from the general area of the Wylve valley near South Newton, had been recorded (Wessex Archaeology 1992). The discovery of three handaxes during a single period of survey is unlikely to represent the total accumulation from the field and it is likely that other implements remain undiscovered.

The variations in condition of the Stapleford handaxes suggest that they are not contemporary in date. The twisted ovate is unlikely to have been moved more than a few metres downslope, a process that is likely to have been the result of solifluction in a period of periglaciation. It therefore represents another instance of handaxes found on upland sites of Clay with Flints. The occurrence of handaxes on Clay with Flints, although unusual, is not unknown, Kendall (1916) found numerous implements on Hackpen Hill, Wilts before 1914 and Willis (1947) found large numbers of handaxes on similar geology around Basingstoke in the 1920s. This was especially true at Swallick Farm, near Cliddesden where 20 implements were found within an area of 5,000 sq m. Modern reassessment of these and other old collections has made it more apparent that the scale of occupation of the Clay with Flints uplands by Palaeolithic hunters was greater than has previously been considered (Wymer 1992, 22). Handaxes continue to be discovered on Clay with Flints as at Whitfield, Kent (Halliwell pers. comm.).

The other two handaxes from Stapleford are both heavily rolled, indicating considerable transport. This may also be the result of solifluction but may equally relate to previously unrecorded vestigial fluvial gravel terraces on the valley sides of the river Wylve. Wymer (Wessex Archaeology 1992) has recorded that the majority of handaxes from the Upper Avon have been found at heights up to 30m above the present stream, as at Milford Hill in Salisbury where fluvial gravels have been connected with Terraces 7 and 8 of the Lower Avon valley. This situation has now been demonstrated at Stapleford where the implements occur at a similar height above the present river. It is possible that poorly developed terrace deposits in the upper reaches of the rivers have gone unrecorded or have been eroded away.

3.2 Newton Barrow (Fig. 7 and appendix 1 Fig. 23/2)

Two fields were surveyed in the vicinity of Newton Barrow (SAM 148). To the north WCC plot 20 was subjected to surface artefact collection, there being 306 collection units in all. In plot 23, which contains Newton Barrow in its southern edge, a geophysical survey totalling 2ha was undertaken.

Plot 20 contained ten sherds of Romano-British and one sherd of medieval pottery in addition to post-medieval and modern material. The pattern of burnt flint recovered showed a slight increase towards the north, while the worked flint showed a concentration at the southern edge of the field (555 pieces of worked flint and 53,597 grammes of burnt flint being collected in total). In 1990 plot 23 had been fieldwalked and a concentration of flint flakes noted along the northern edge of the field (Wessex Archaeology 1991, 24-5). The concentration in plot 20 mirrors the earlier results and suggests that the material does not extend in significant quantities to the north.

The geophysical survey of plot 23 was undertaken in part to survey the environs of Newton Barrow and in part to confirm or deny the presence of activity associated with the flint concentration along the northern edge of the field. The results were disappointing. Few anomalies of archaeological interest were located within the surveyed area. Nothing was noted in the area immediately adjacent to the barrow apart from a couple of vague linear trends. At the northern end of the field two strong broad anomalies were encountered. They could indicate large archaeological pits and do coincide with the flint concentrations, however, the presence of marl pits has been recorded from local information and on aerial photographs so their interpretation is open to doubt.

3.3 Devizes Road (Fig. 7 and appendix 1 Fig. 29/2)

High proportions of tools and cores were found in the flint assemblage from surface artefact collection of two small fields in 1990 (WCC plots 28 and 29). Definite concentrations of material were not recorded. Geophysical survey of plot 29 (0.56ha) found no anomalies of definite archaeological interest. Plot 28 was not surveyed due to late harvesting.

3.4 Camp Hill Reservoir (Fig. 4 and appendix 1 Figs. 31, 33 and 34)

At Camp Hill (WCC plots 31, 33 and 34) the Sites and Monuments Record (SMR) contains entries for an enclosed Iron Age settlement (SU13SW200) and a Romano-British settlement (SU13SW300). This information was gained from the construction of the reservoir and its services in 1933 and the subsequent excavation of water-main trenches in 1972 (Newall 1933, Algar and Hadley 1972). The evidence included three ditches and a pit which contained Late Iron Age pottery, a small pit and an oven which contained Roman pottery, and four other ditches, four pits, a post-hole and a flat earth floor, all undated. The pit which contained Roman pottery also contained pieces of painted Roman plaster. Observations in the service trenches in 1933 suggested that settlement features, excluding ditches, were encountered at an average rate of one per 20m of trench observed.

At this point it could be said that the archaeological evidence defined an area approximately 250m from north to south by 150m from east to west within which an enclosed Late Iron Age settlement and a subsequent Roman structure once stood. To

the south of the reservoir three parallel ditches running approximately east-west appear to define the southern side of an enclosure. The inner ditch was recorded as 4.75m wide and possibly 3m deep, the second as 4.75m wide and about 2.5m deep and the outer was 1.25m deep. Late Iron Age pottery was recovered from the inner ditch. The remaining recorded features do not appear to form a discrete distribution and little further can be added except to say that a reasonable density of settlement features could be expected.

In 1990 surface artefact collection took place in the fields to the east (WCC plot 32) and south (WCC plot 34) of the reservoir. One sherd of Late Bronze Age and 65 sherds of Romano-British pottery were recovered from plot 32 and 79 sherds of Romano-British pottery from plot 34. Neither plot contained significant concentrations of worked flint, although plot 32 was found to contain very high quantities of burnt flint, normally a reliable indicator of nearby prehistoric settlement activity. The burnt flint concentration was focused on hectare 4122/1339, while the Romano-British pottery was found in highest amounts in hectares 4111/1335, 4111/1336, 4112/1336, 4112/1337 and 4112/1338. This information revealed nothing further about the extent of Late Iron Age settlement activity, but served to confirm the presence of Roman material and further suggested that settlement activity extended at least 100m to the east of the Devizes Road, as well as covering the area already defined.

A resistivity survey was mounted as an independent operation during 1990/1991 by a geology undergraduate at the University of London. Two areas of survey, one to the west of the reservoir and one to the east were undertaken. The results, although adversely affected by the very dry conditions, confirmed the presence of surviving subsoil features adjacent to the reservoir, and suggested that structural evidence survives, within 20m of the west side of the reservoir. This extends the area of structural evidence defined in 1933, which was centred to the north of the reservoir.

In July 1992 AC Archaeology excavated a section through a ditch immediately to the north of the reservoir (Richards 1992). The ditch ran approximately north-south and was 2m wide and 1.2m deep. Pottery of broadly 1st century BC/1st century AD date was recovered. This ditch is close to the position of two sections of ditch recorded in 1933 (Newall 1933 features vi and viii). The ditch sections were recorded as about 3m wide and 1.5m deep and contained pottery of 1st century BC/1st century AD date in the basal fills. It is therefore likely that these are the same feature, a substantial ditch running approximately north-south from the northern corner of the reservoir.

In 1992 a large-scale magnetometer survey was undertaken by Wessex Archaeology's subcontractors, Geophysical Surveys of Bradford. The survey area comprised 2.6ha in total and was located along the published route for the proposed by-pass as it passes to the east of the reservoir. The survey confirmed the presence of both pits and the middle and outer enclosure ditches to the south of the reservoir (appendix 1 Figure 34/3.4). The inner enclosure ditch was not discovered but the middle ditch was shown to be turning to the north. To the east of the reservoir two ditches oriented north-south were discovered (appendix 1 Figure 33/2.2). The westernmost may be a continuation of the middle enclosure ditch as it turns north, and it may also be the same ditch as feature 3 recorded in 1972 (Sites and Monuments file note CP/EMC/LM.18.17). Feature 3 was 4m wide and at least 1.5m deep and contained

Iron Age pottery. The 1992 survey also noted the presence of four linear anomalies which may form an enclosure and an associated trackway in the field to the north of the reservoir (appendix 1 Figure 31/2.2).

From all of the foregoing evidence it would appear that the reservoir has been situated roughly in the centre of the western side of a square area of 300m long sides, which contains evidence for at least one enclosure which has associated settlement activity of both Late Iron Age and Roman date. The proposed by-pass route runs roughly through the centre of the area, at a diagonal from north-west to south east. Approximately 20% of the area outlined above would be threatened. Since the construction of the present A360 and the reservoir and its attendant pipe-lines has already removed about 8% of the area, it is reasonable to assume that about 70% of the area of interest would survive the construction of the by-pass.

One major uncertainty remains about the nature and extent of the evidence. The geophysical survey results, coupled with the results of the limited watching briefs and excavation work, are best interpreted as representing a series of parallel ditches running east-west to the north and south of the surveyed area and running north-south through the centre. That is, one complete side of an enclosed area with parts of two further sides at right-angles. Unfortunately, the part sides do not suggest that the enclosed area was definitely to east or west, and evidence for settlement activity has been found on both sides. A more complex sequence than that of a single enclosed Late Iron Age settlement followed by later Romano-British activity can be expected.

3.5 The Avenue (Fig. 8 and appendix 1 Fig. 37/2)

In 1990 a large field to the east of the Avenue was subjected to surface artefact collection (Wessex Archaeology 1991, 23, field 106), and was found to contain significant amounts of worked flint. Concentrations were noted in the following hectares; 4112/1332, 4112/1333, 4113/1332, 4113/1333 and 4114/1332. The northern part of the field crossed by the proposed route is thought to contain a ploughed-down barrow (SMR SU13SW604), but its precise position and status is not known. These two factors led to the selection of this field for geophysical survey in 1992 (WCC plot 37).

The geophysical survey comprised 2.08ha spread over about 700m of the proposed route and included a road junction in the northern part of the field. Given the high level of potential suggested by the 1990 survey, the geophysical results were disappointing. One possible pit was recorded from the area roughly coincidental with the flint concentrations, otherwise there was a complete lack of anomalies of archaeological interest. In their report (appendix 1, section 4.7.6) Geophysical Surveys of Bradford note that:

"Whilst it is possible that features do exist in plot 37 that are not magnetically enhanced from their background, and hence remain undetected, it is also possible that the plough has destroyed the archaeology associated with the surface material."

The 1992 survey has therefore reduced rather than confirmed the expectations raised by the results of the work in 1990.

3.6 Bemerton Farm (Fig. 8)

Two fields (WCC plots 88 and 89) were available for surface artefact collection, in which 127 units were walked. One sherd of medieval pottery was recovered. No definite concentrations of burnt or worked flint were noted. A slight rise in the amount of worked flint was distinguished towards the southern edge of plot 89, but the overall quantities of material recovered were low. During the work in 1990 amorphous marks in a field to the north of Bemerton Farm were noted on an aerial photograph (Wessex Archaeology 1991, 19). The fieldwalking results do not suggest the immediate presence of a medieval settlement, and observations in plot 89 suggested that the marks on the aerial photographs may be ascribed to the ploughed out remnants of a watermeadow system.

In a small plot (89A) adjacent to and to the west of plot 89, seven test pits were excavated. The topsoil was found to be about 0.30m deep and consisted of a dark humic loam consistent with a previous use as watermeadow. The immediate subsoil was flint gravel with a light brown clay matrix. Fragments of ceramic building material, worked flint and burnt flint were recovered from the pits, but not in significant quantities.

3.7 Harnham Hill (Fig. 9 and appendix 1 Fig 53/2)

The northern slope of Harnham Hill was subjected to surface artefact collection in 1992 (WCC plot 90), while the southern aspect was surveyed by geophysical methods (WCC plot 53). The southern slope had been surveyed by surface artefact collection in 1990 and a concentration of worked flint was noted in hectare 4127/1284 (Wessex Archaeology 1991, 25, field 113). This concentration roughly coincides with a junction within a field system noted on the Sites and Monuments Record (SU12NW634) and was thought to indicate limited prehistoric settlement activity within an area of agricultural use.

Plot 90 was covered by 294 surface artefact collection units. No significant concentrations of burnt flint were recorded, and only three sherds of medieval pottery and no pottery of an earlier date were recovered. A concentration of worked flint was noted in hectare 4122/1288 and the general quantity of material was above average (911 pieces of worked flint were recovered from this plot). The concentration coincided with the end of the spur, where the ground slopes away steeply to the north and more gently to the south and west.

In plot 53 the geophysical survey covered 1.44ha divided into eight sample areas. The majority of the sample areas were found to be devoid of archaeological type anomalies. The exception occurred towards the northern edge of the field, roughly in hectare 4124/1284, where three lengths of possible ditches were recorded. Their alignment runs roughly north-south and they could, therefore, be part of the field system noted in 1990.

The results of the survey work in 1990 and 1992 are not directly supportive, but could suggest an underlying increase in archaeological activity along the top and southern face of Harnham Hill. However, the conditions noted on the ground during the surface artefact collection surveys indicate that intensive arable farming has reduced

the ploughsoil depth and eroded the subsoil. Archaeological features would not be expected to be well preserved at this location.

3.8 North of Great Woodbury (Fig. 10)

In 1990 a geophysical survey was undertaken of Great Woodbury (SAM 298) and the fields to the north (Wessex Archaeology 1991, 26, Fig. 7 and section 6.3). The survey enhanced the information already available on the Sites and Monuments Record. Ditches, which probably formed part of an associated field system, were found in the area around Great Woodbury, and a ring ditch and trackway were located to the west. The fields crossed by the proposed route are in set-aside and so surface artefact collection was not possible. Accordingly, a series of hand-dug testpits were excavated along the line of the route (WCC plots 60, 62 and 63 see appendix 3).

Forty-five test pits were excavated in total (Fig. 5). Quantities of post-medieval and modern pottery were recovered, but only seven test pits were found to contain pottery of earlier date. Six sherds of Romano-British, two sherds of medieval and two sherds of undiagnostic prehistoric pottery were recovered. Reasonable quantities of worked and/or burnt flint were recovered from six test pits, and six features, all undated but probably of archaeological significance, were recorded. The features comprised three linears, one post-hole and two of unknown size and shape. The linears were not the same as those previously encountered by the geophysical survey, and so supplement the record.

The number of test pits to contain pottery, features or quantities of worked or burnt flint was, in total, fifteen or one third of the total excavated. Therefore, in spite of the apparently limited amount of information recovered, the test pit survey confirms that traces of archaeological activity survive outside of the monument of Great Woodbury and on the proposed route. No significant clustering of material could be seen. The density of material is not comparable with that within Great Woodbury but it is still significant.

3.9 Junction west of Odstock Road (Fig. 10)

In 1990 a limited geophysical survey was undertaken in this area to confirm the survival and extent of a group of barrows (SMR SU12NW602, SU12NW603 and SU12NW604). This field is presently under set-aside and so surface artefact collection is not possible. Forty hand-dug test pits were excavated along the line of the proposed route and across the proposed site of the road junction with the A338 (WCC plot 64).

Quantities of post-medieval and modern pottery were recovered, and nine test pits were found to contain pottery of earlier date. Two sherds of Romano-British, five sherds of medieval, one sherd of Late Iron Age, one sherd of Late Bronze Age, one sherd of Early Bronze Age and two sherds of undiagnostic later prehistoric pottery were recovered. Reasonable quantities of worked and/or burnt flint were recovered from nineteen test pits.

The field has a steep slope down to the north and an old coombe running north-south across the western half. As would be expected some of the significant concentrations of material occurred at the base of the slope and in the coombe, however, reasonable quantities of material were also recovered from the high, relatively flat, ground to the south and east. The Sites and Monuments Record notes the presence of a penannular ring ditch (SU12NE615) at SU 15112817, a position roughly coincidental with the presence of flint from test pits, together with the Late Bronze Age sherd which came from SU 15032816. The south-east quarter of the survey area would seem to have positive indications of prehistoric activity.

4. MITIGATION

4.1 Little Wishford (Fig. 11)

The 1991 report has no suggestions for this area. The discovery of Palaeolithic material in plot 93 has substantially altered the archaeological and geological importance of this location. Approximately one hectare of plot 93 would be disturbed by the proposed route. It is suggested that recovery of more information would be best served by intensive surface artefact collection of the immediate area, followed by removal of topsoil and subsoil, as required by the road construction, under archaeological supervision so as to expose and record a section through any surviving terrace deposit. The rolled nature of the flint discovered in the immediate area suggests that intact living surfaces would not be encountered, and so a set-piece archaeological excavation is not recommended.

4.2 Newton Barrow

The report on the supplementary routes suggested areas of excavation and watching brief for plot 23 (Wessex field reference 107) and near Newton Barrow (Wessex Archaeology 1991 Supplement, 4, locations 3 and 4 and Fig. 5). The 1992 survey results do not require any alteration to that response.

4.3 Devizes Road

No mitigation suggested in 1991 and no further response suggested in 1992.

4.4 Camp Hill Reservoir

Excavation of 500m of the route was suggested in 1991 (Wessex Archaeology 1991, 36). The geophysical survey in 1992 has refined the definition of the area of interest. It might be possible to limit the excavation to some 300m of route. However, the geophysical survey has exposed a number of linear features only some of which can definitely be said to relate to the Late Iron Age and Romano-British activity. Some machine trenching of the undated features would be useful to ascertain their contemporaneity. The general lack of material relating to other periods from the immediate vicinity does indicate however, that the presently undated features are most likely to be also of Late Iron Age and Romano-British date.

4.5 The Avenue

Excavation of 250m of the route was suggested in 1991 (Wessex Archaeology 1991, 36). The geophysical survey in 1992 did not confirm the surface artefact collection results of 1990. This may reflect difficulties with the underlying clay-with-flints at this point, rather than a lack of archaeological features. It is suggested that the mitigation option remain as excavation.

4.6 Bemerton Farm

No mitigation was suggested in 1991. The results of the 1992 survey do not support further suggestions.

4.7 Harnham Hill

A watching brief was suggested for 1,100m of the route at this location in 1991 (Wessex Archaeology 1991, 37, location 11). The 1992 survey results are not definite enough to require an alteration to this option.

4.8 North of Great Woodbury

The level of mitigation suggested in 1991 (Wessex Archaeology 1991, 37, location 12) has not been altered by the results of the 1992 survey.

4.9 Junction west of Odstock Road (Fig. 12)

The discovery of relatively high quantities of archaeological material in the test pits in plot 64, in association with a penannular ring ditch (SU12NE615) requires an alteration to the level of response suggested in 1991 (Wessex Archaeology 1991, 37 and Fig. 22). The original response called for mixed areas of excavation and watching brief along the centreline of the proposed route. At the eastern end of plot 64, where the road junction is proposed, an additional area of excavation of up to 2ha would be required to deal with the archaeological potential. The two original excavation areas would be repositioned to cover the coombe and areas of productive test pits.

APPENDICES

1 Geophysical survey report

The following report is a direct copy of Geophysical Surveys of Bradford report number 92/63 as submitted to Wessex Archaeology.

2 Results of surface artefact collection

Within each plot the material is listed in hectare order. Where parts of hectares were walked in 1990 the earlier information has been combined with the recent results.

Abbreviations used:-

- t presence of flint tool or retouched flake,
- c presence of flint core or core fragment.
- p/m presence of post-medieval and/or modern pottery.
- med presence of medieval pottery.
- rb presence of Romano-British pottery.

3 Results of test pits

All artefacts recovered by test pit, context and material type.

WCC plot 60 contained test pits 2000-2008, 2010-2012 and 2014.

WCC plots 62 and 63 contained test pits 2013, 2015-2032, 2034-2046.

WCC plot 64 contained test pits 2047-2086.

Maximum depth of deposits shown in metres.

Material type entries show number/weight in grams.

All contexts except those in bold were sieved.

Context entries in bold indicate subsoils/other deposits such as layers or fills.

n.b. = not bottomed; n.ex. = not excavated; pc = piece.

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**A36 SALISBURY BY-PASS
ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY: SUPPLEMENT**

The Chain Drove and Crouch Barn Routes

MARCH 1991

PREPARED FOR:-

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1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 BACKGROUND

This report contains the results of the assessment of the archaeological potential of alternative routes suggested for the western end of the A36 Salisbury By-Pass. The archaeological impact of the alternatives known as the Chain Drove and Crouch Barn routes is discussed, and recommendations are given for mitigation. This work was undertaken under instruction from Rendel Palmer & Tritton Ltd, the consulting engineers, by Wessex Archaeology during the assessment of the preferred route.

1.2 METHODOLOGY

The assessment was carried out principally through documentary research and fieldwalking. This latter method involved the collection of artefacts found on the surfaces of ploughed fields (Fig. 1); each field was divided into collection units which were plotted. Some test pits were excavated and limited augering undertaken, as shown on Figs A - B, located in a pocket at the rear of this report. A detailed method statement is contained in the main archaeological survey report (Wessex Archaeology, A36 Salisbury By-Pass Archaeological Survey, March 1991).

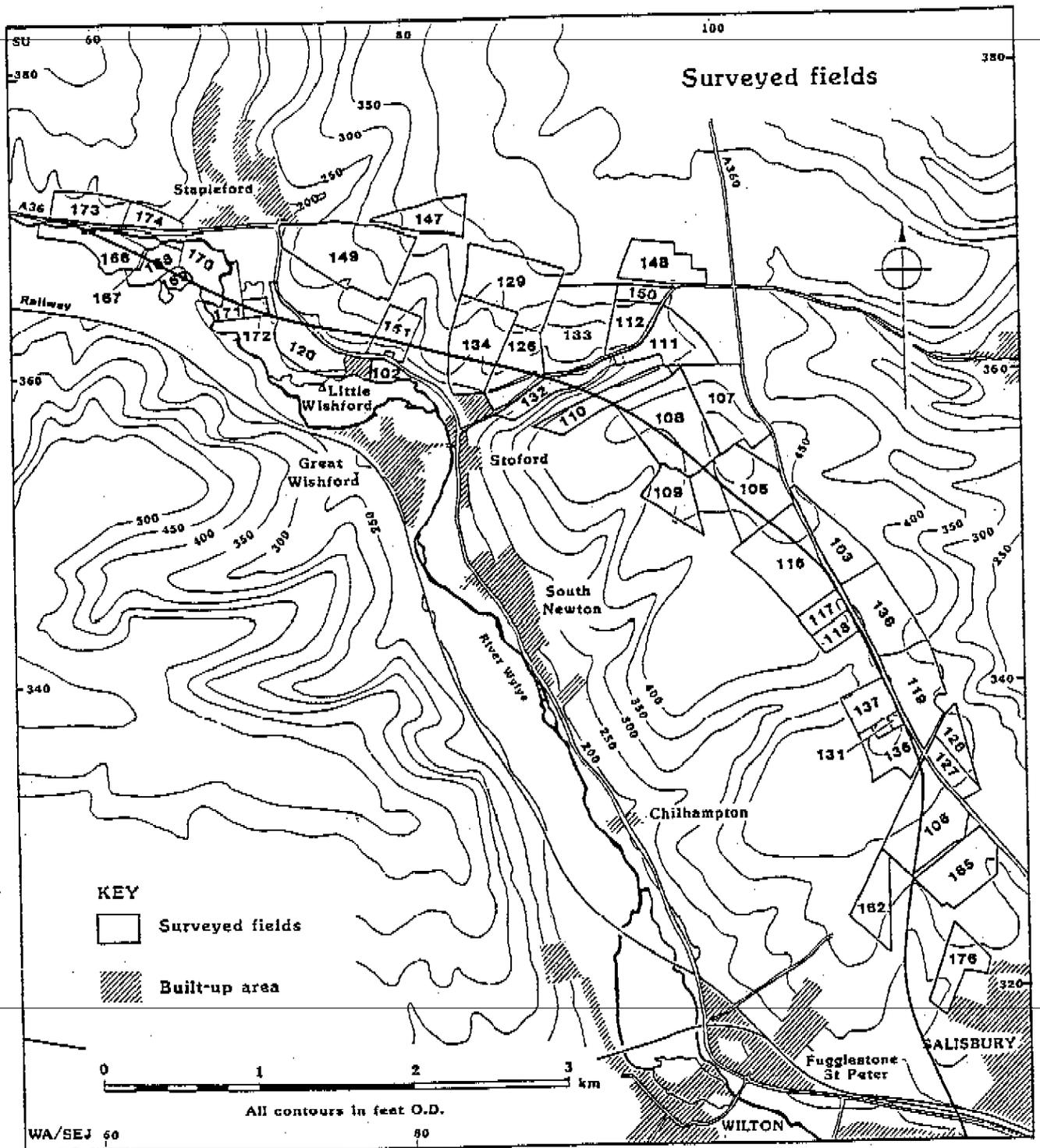


Fig. 1 Location of surveyed fields, western half of route

2. THE RESULTS OF THE ASSESSMENT

2.1 SUMMARY

The archaeological results are summarised in Table 1. Full details of results and methodology are to be found in Sections 3 and 4 of the main archaeological survey report (Wessex Archaeology, A36 Salisbury By-Pass Archaeological Survey March 1991). Descriptions of the alternative routes are given below in Sections 2.2 and 2.3 (this volume).

2.2 THE CHAIN DROVE ROUTE

The Chain Drove route departs from the preferred route east of Stapleford near Hunters lodge. It crosses the post-medieval water-meadow system, rises onto Chain Hill following the line of Chain Drove, until it joins the line of the present A360. The route runs southwards along the line of the present road until it rejoins the preferred route as it approaches Camp Hill reservoir.

The Modified Chain Drove route deviates from the preferred route to the south of Serrington. It also crosses the post-medieval water-meadow system and then follows the course of a dry coombe eastwards until it joins the Chain Drove route.

2.3 THE CROUCH BARN ROUTE

This route shares the line of the preferred route for part of the length which runs through the water-meadows east of Stapleford. It then runs across the lower slopes of Chain Hill, and across both Stapleford Bottom and Mount Pleasant. It passes between the Newton Barrow and the neighbouring bowl barrows SU13NW 674, and joins the line of the Chain Drove/Modified Crouch Barn route 300m south-east of the Newton Barrow.

The modified Crouch Barn route is similar to the Crouch Barn route, but follows a line 200m to the north-east for some of its length. It joins the line of the Chain Drove route within field 107.

3. MITIGATION

3.1 PROPOSALS

The areas of archaeological potential have been coloured according to level of response on Figs.2 and 3, and the background information is to be found on Figs. 4 and 5. For the sake of completeness these figures show the suggested alternative routes and all the areas of archaeological potential encountered in the survey areas. The areas of potential crossed by the routes are listed below in an approximately west-east order, together with the levels of appropriate archaeological work recommended (Table 1). The levels of response have been simplified to three options; preservation, preservation by record, and monitoring during construction. Sites to be preserved are limited to those already registered as Scheduled Ancient Monuments and so deemed of national importance and afforded legal protection: no such sites are directly affected by the preferred route. Sites to be preserved by record would require excavation prior to construction work; they include all sites considered to be of considerable importance within the context of the archaeological background of the Salisbury area, and for which their potential data value is sufficient to merit detailed further investigation. Sites to be monitored would require a watching brief involving the presence of one or more archaeologists on site while topsoil and, where appropriate, subsoil was being removed; they include all sites considered to be of local importance but not of sufficient potential or of degree of preservation to merit detailed further investigation. The definition of excavation or watching brief as an archaeological response does not imply that the response is favoured instead of preservation, but only that they are the appropriate options where preservation is not a viable alternative.

3.2 WATCHING BRIEFS

The westernmost parts of both the Chain Drove and Crouch Barn routes, and their modified versions, coincide with, or only slightly deviate from, the line of the preferred route; all of them run for some length through the post-medieval watermeadows east of Stapleford. The response suggested for the preferred route, of a watching brief for this section, is therefore also applicable to the alternative routes, although the lengths of section affected vary from route to route (Table 1, and Figs. 4 and 5).

Both the Chain Drove route and the modified Chain Drove route pass through field 149, on the lower slopes of Chain Hill, which produced a concentration of burnt flint and small amounts of prehistoric, medieval, and post-medieval pottery. Both routes also cross an outlying part of the field system SU03NE 639. Burnt flint is known to be often associated with prehistoric occupation sites, which are otherwise difficult to locate from surface indications, and there is a possibility that there was some occupation in this field. This evidence is, however, likely to be slight as there are no indications of substantial features, and the land has been ploughed probably resulting in damage to any sub-surface archaeological remains. The ditches of the field system SU03NE 639 are certainly crossed only once on the Chain Drove route and twice on the modified route. A watching brief should be effective in dealing with them and with any occupation features which appear elsewhere in the field.

The Chain Drove route does not cross any certain archaeological features as it runs along Chain Drove, but it does skirt a major field system (SU03NE 612), enclosures, and a concentration of finds in Field 148 of prehistoric, Roman and medieval date. Although there are no visible traces of the field system across the route, the disposition of the visible field boundaries, especially towards the eastern end of the of the system SU03NE 612, suggests that it once did. The proximity of both the field system, and the concentrations of material from surface collection in field 148, is such that a watching brief is required along this section.

Although the Crouch Barn and modified Crouch Barn route cross more field system ditches than the Chain Drove routes, this field system has been badly eroded and was given a low score by Bowden (1986) in his assessment of the road corridor's archaeological potential. A watching brief is, however, necessary at the points where field ditches are crossed by the route. The Crouch Barn route also crosses the extreme northern end of the only section of downland on the route, at Mount Pleasant. It is at this point only some 60-70m wide, that a watching brief should be carried out.

The alternative routes cross the field to the north of Newton Barrow, within which scatters of artefacts were recovered during the field survey. It is suggested that a watching brief take place in this area, augmented by evaluatory excavation work (see following section 3.3).

Table 1: Areas of archaeological potential crossed by the alternative routes.
(N.B. Site numbers as in Figs. 2-5)

LOCATION	NATURE OF EVIDENCE	RESPONSE
Chain Drove Route		
1. River Wytje South of Stapleford (centred on NGR SU065367) (900m)	Extant remnants of post medieval water meadow system. Unassociated find of Neolithic worked flint (SMR SU 03NE 101)	Watching brief
2. Chain Drove (from NGR SU 072369 to SU 097364) (2400m)	Concentrations of medieval pottery and Romano-British pottery in the northern part of Field 149. The route then crosses an outlying part of the field system SU03NE 639, at SU 080369, and passes within 50m of the field system SU03NE 612 and the enclosure at SU 087369.	Watching brief
3. Field 107 (from SU 100363 to SU 104354 (400m)	Concentrations of prehistoric and Romano-British pottery and worked flint; crosses outlier of field system SU13NW 707.	Watching brief and Excavation
4. Barrow SU 103355	Newton Barrow, Scheduled Ancient Monument 148. Both the Chain Hill Drove route and the modified Chain Hill Drove route skirt the this barrow and the pair of flat bowl barrows to the west (SU13NW 674).	Preservation
Modified Chain Drove Route		
1. River Wytje South of Stapleford (centred on NGR SU065367) (1300m)	Extant remnants of post medieval water meadow system. Unassociated find of Neolithic worked flint (SMR SU03NE 101)	Watching brief

Table 1: continued

LOCATION	NATURE OF EVIDENCE	RESPONSE
2. Chain Drive (from SU 076366 to SU 097364) (2,000m)	Concentrations of medieval pottery in Field 149; the route also crosses part of field system SU03NE 639. The route then joins the Chain Drive route.	Watching brief.
3. Field 107 (from SU 100363 to SU 104354 (400m)	Concentration of prehistoric and Romano-British pottery and worked flint. Crosses outlier of field system SU13NW 707.	Watching brief and Excavation
4. Barrow SU 103355	Newton Barrow, Scheduled Ancient Monument 148. Both the Chain Hill Drive route and the modified Chain Hill Drive route skirt the this barrow and the pair of flat bowl barrows to the west (SU13NW 674).	Preservation
Crouch Barn Route		
1. River Wythe South of Stapleford (centred on NGR SU065367) (1,300m)	Extant remnants of post-medieval water meadow system. Unassociated find of Neolithic worked flint (SMR SU 03NE 101)	Watching brief
5. Chain Hill lower slopes - Stoford Bottom (from SU 075364 to SU 093362) (1,400m)	Prehistoric sherd found on surface of field 151. Route cuts across field system SU03NE 639.	Watching brief
6. Mount Pleasant (SU 096360) (60m)	Surviving chalk downland	Watching brief
3. Field 107 (from SU 099359 to SU 104354) (500m)	Sherds of Romano-British pottery on surface. Route passes closes to Newton Barrow (Scheduled Ancient Monument 148)	Watching brief and Excavation
4. Barrow SU 103355	Newton Barrow, Scheduled Ancient Monument 148.	Preservation
Modified Crouch Barn route		
River Wythe South of Stapleford (centred on NGR SU065367) (1,300m)	Extant remnants of post-medieval water meadow system. Unassociated find of Neolithic worked flint (SMR SU 03NE 101)	Watching brief
5. Chain Hill lower slopes (from SU 075364 to SU 089363) (900m)	Prehistoric sherd found on surface of field 151. Route cuts across field system SU03NE 639.	Watching brief
3. Field 107 (from SU 098360 to SU 104354) (350m)	Concentration of Romano-British pottery. Route passes between Newton barrow (Scheduled Ancient Monument 148) and a pair of flat bowl barrows to the west.	Watching brief and Excavation
4. Barrow SU 103355	Newton Barrow. Scheduled Ancient Monument 148.	Preservation

3.3 EVALUATORY EXCAVATIONS

All the alternative routes pass close to the extant Newton Barrow, SAM (Scheduled Ancient Monument) 148. The proposed road lines leave the barrow preserved, but the areas around barrows are of interest. In particular, Early Bronze Age barrows were sometimes used as the focus for Middle Bronze Age cremation cemeteries. The existence of the ring ditches SU13NW 674 also raises the possibility that there may be other ploughed out barrows of which there are now no traces, in the same field, as barrows commonly occur in groups. Although the two known sites are avoided by all the routes, if one of these routes were chosen it would be necessary to carry out some further work to evaluate the area around and between the barrows. This could be done by machine-trenching of limited areas.

Limited excavation is suggested for the area around the Scheduled Ancient Monument of Newton Barrow. Prehistoric and Romano-British pottery and a concentration of worked flint were found in the northern end of the adjacent field, 107 (Fig. 1). The significance of the surface scatters of artefacts and high potential for archaeological features close to Newton Barrow and the two bowl barrows to the west could be investigated by excavating targeted areas.

A maximum of 250m of route could be investigated in this manner covering both areas of interest.

3.4 GENERAL IMPACT

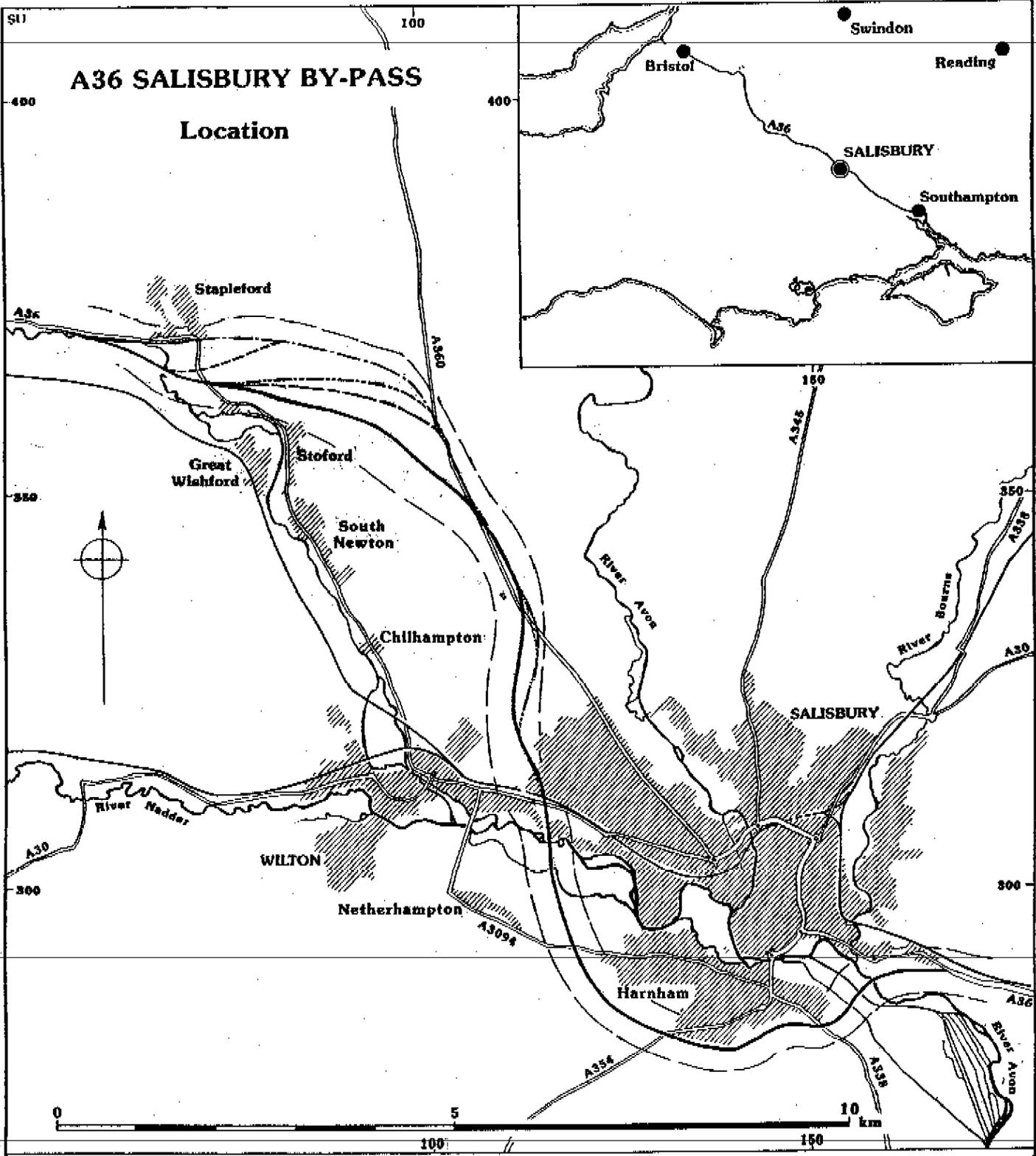
The total length of sections in which some archaeological response would be required is shown in Table 2. In the case of the modified versions of the two routes the length of sections requiring archaeological work include the sections that are common to both the original and the modified versions of each route. The section within which lengths have been considered is from Hunters Lodge in the west to the intersection of the alternative routes with the A360 in the east.

Table 2 Total route lengths requiring archaeological responses

	CHAIN DROVE	MODIFIED CHAIN DROVE	CROUCH BARN	MODIFIED CROUCH BARN	PREFERRED ROUTE
Total length of sections requiring watching briefs	3,700m	3,700m	3260m	2,550m	2,550m
Total length of sections requiring excavation	200m	200m	200m	200	-

Table 2 shows that the alternative routes have no advantage over the preferred route, in that the total section lengths requiring watching briefs are equivalent or longer. The provision for excavation at the eastern end of the alternative routes highlights the increased level of damage to areas of high archaeological potential otherwise avoided by the preferred route. It should be noted that the proximity of the Chain Drove and Modified Chain Drove routes to an enclosure at SU 087369 and to occurrences of Romano-British pottery to the north of the existing Chain Drove is of some concern since the closer the

route gets to the brow of Chain Hill, the more likely it is to cross areas of high archaeological potential. Therefore it seems that the alternative routes are likely to be more detrimental to archaeological remains than the equivalent section of the preferred route.



- KEY:**
- Line of preferred bypass route
 - Crouch Barn route
 - Modified Crouch Barn route
 - Survey corridor
 - Chain Drove route
 - Modified Chain Drove route
 - Modified Fugglestone Red route
 - ▨ Built-up area

WA
Fig. 1

SEJ

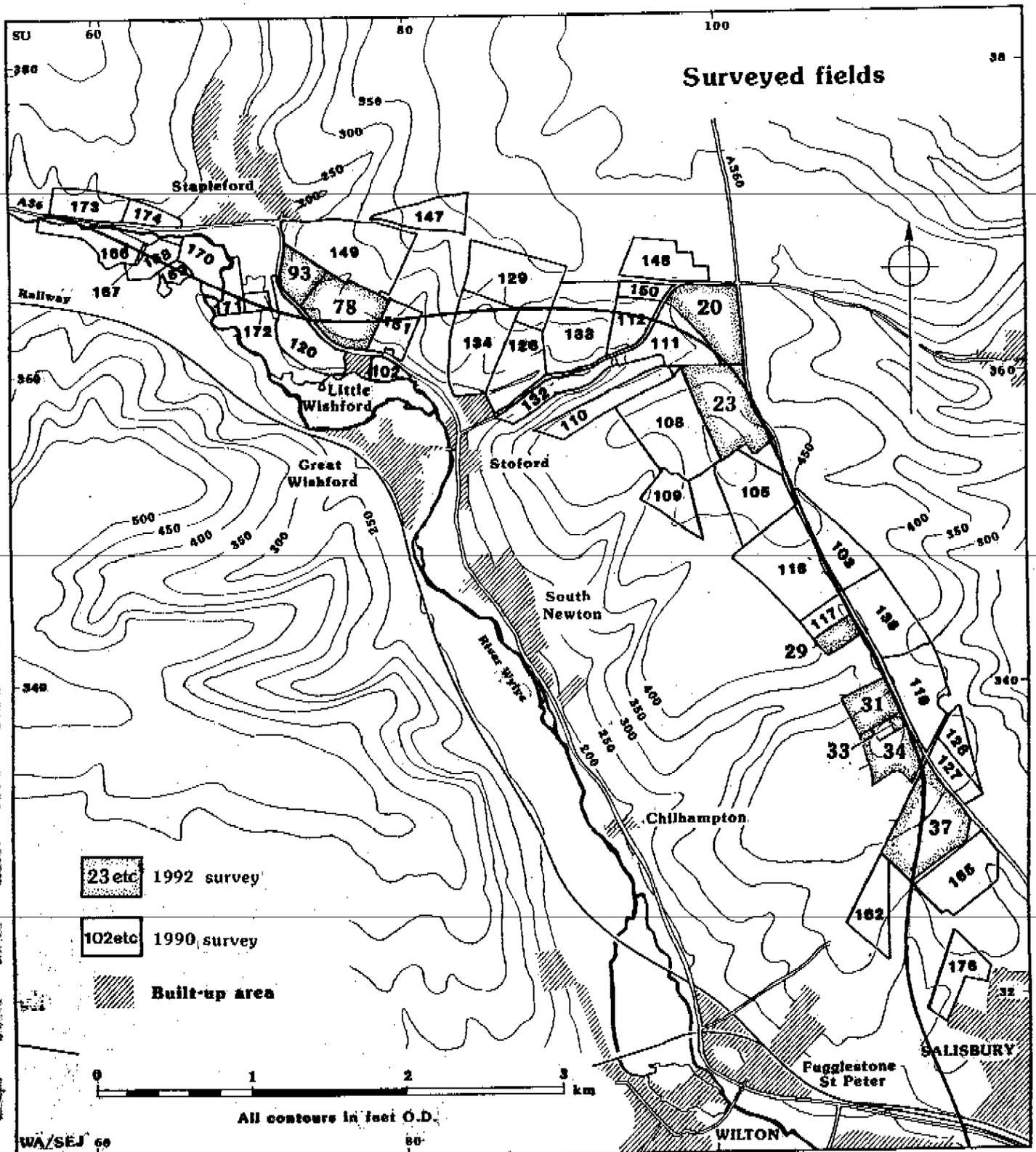


Fig. 2. Location of surveyed fields, western half of route

A36 Salisbury By Pass

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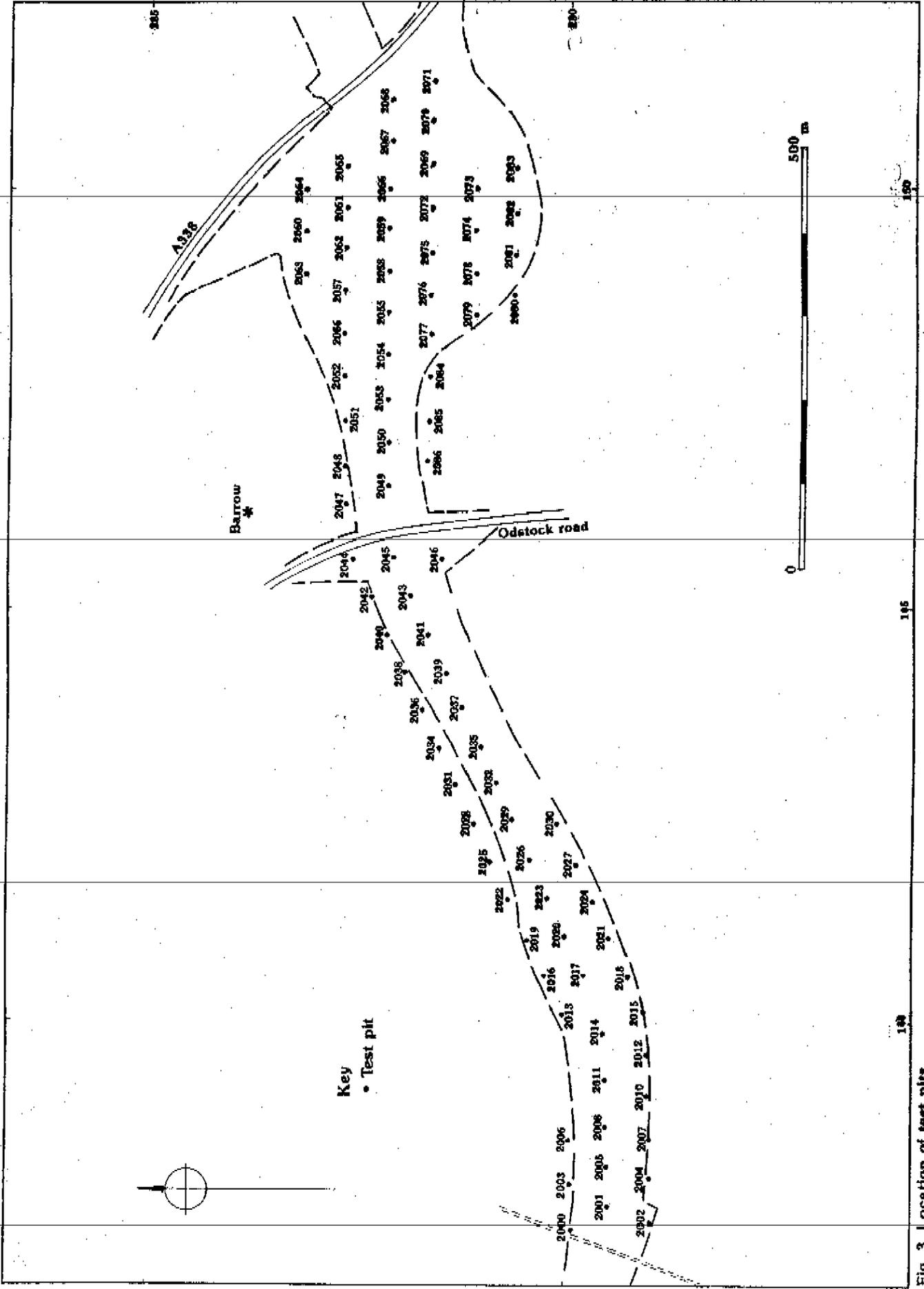
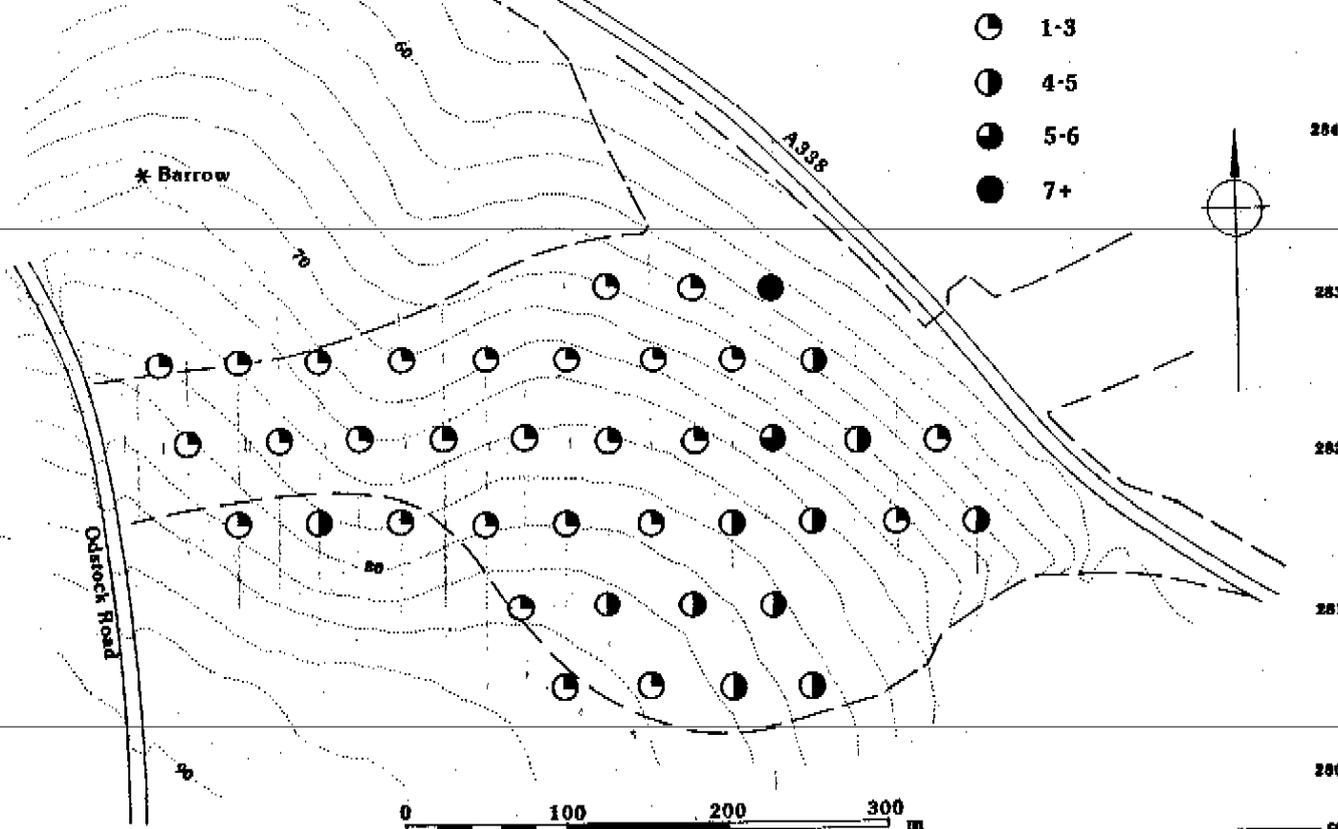


Fig. 3. Location of test pits

WCC PLOT 64 WORKED FLINT

Number of pieces

- 1-3
- ◐ 4-5
- ◑ 5-6
- 7+



BURNT FLINT

Weight in grams

- 0-30
- ◐ 31-50
- ◑ 51-60
- 60+

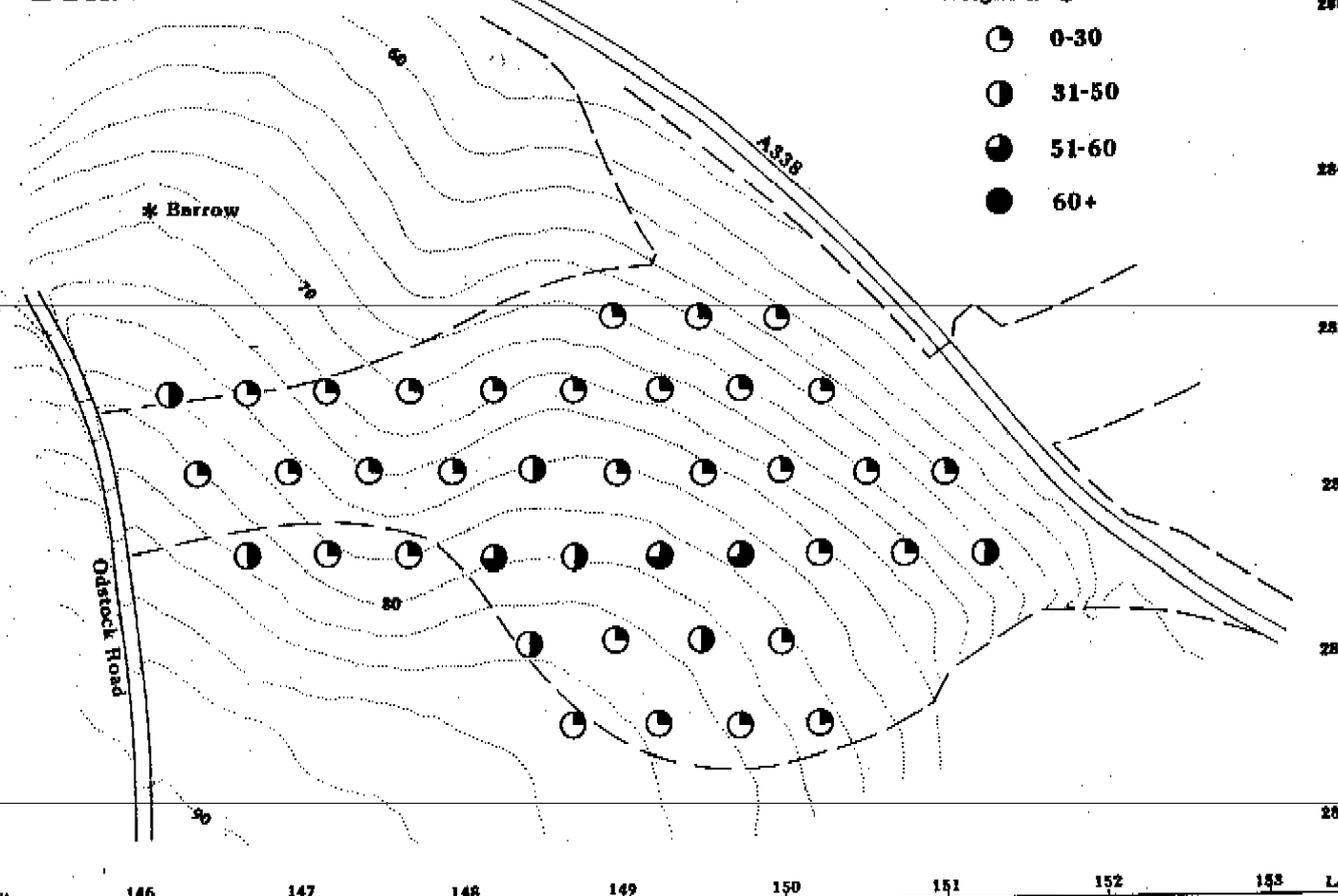


Fig. 5. Plots of artefact quantities from test pits

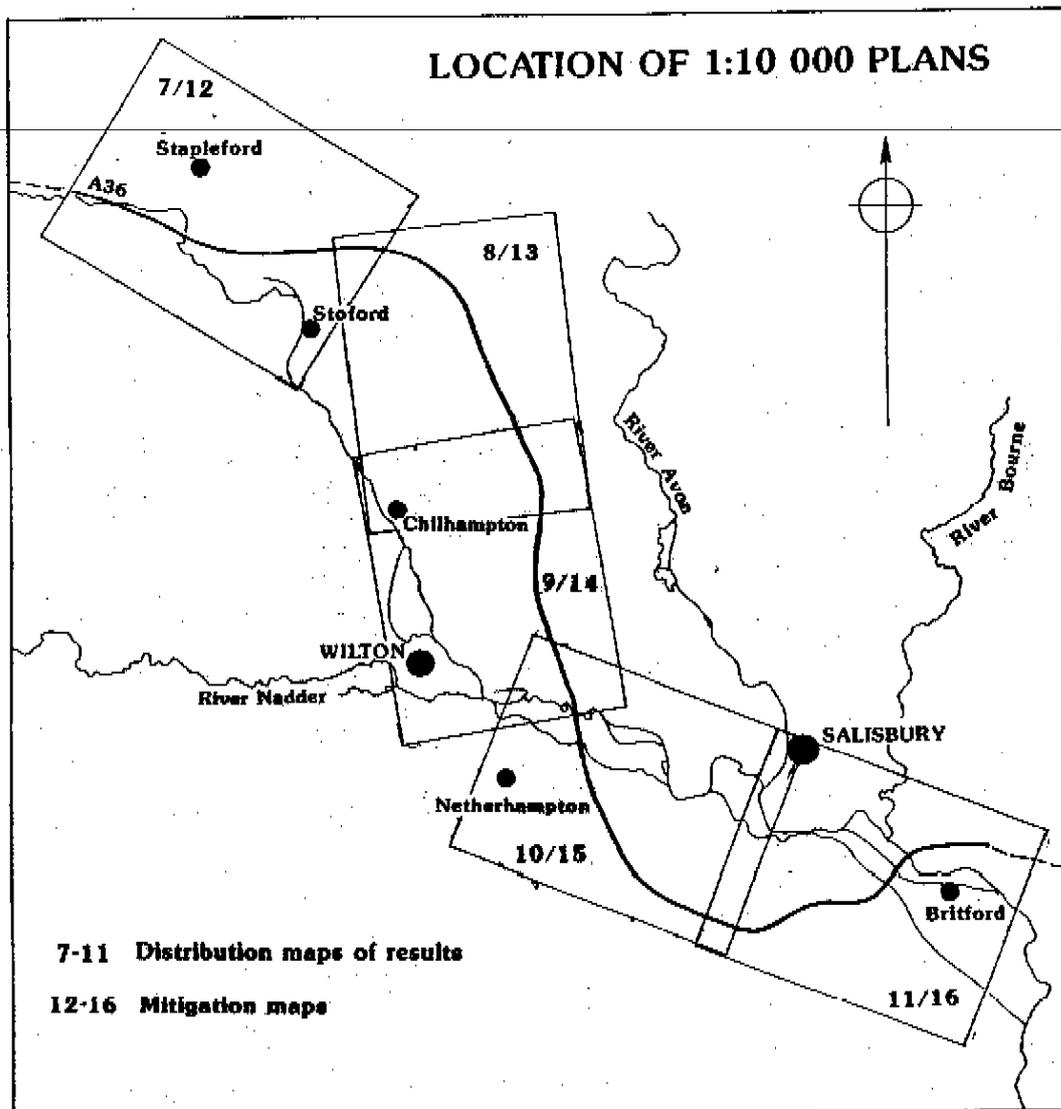


Fig. 6

KEY TO FIGS. 4-10

Method of survey:

- Walked
- Geophysical
- Test pitting

Occurrence of pottery:

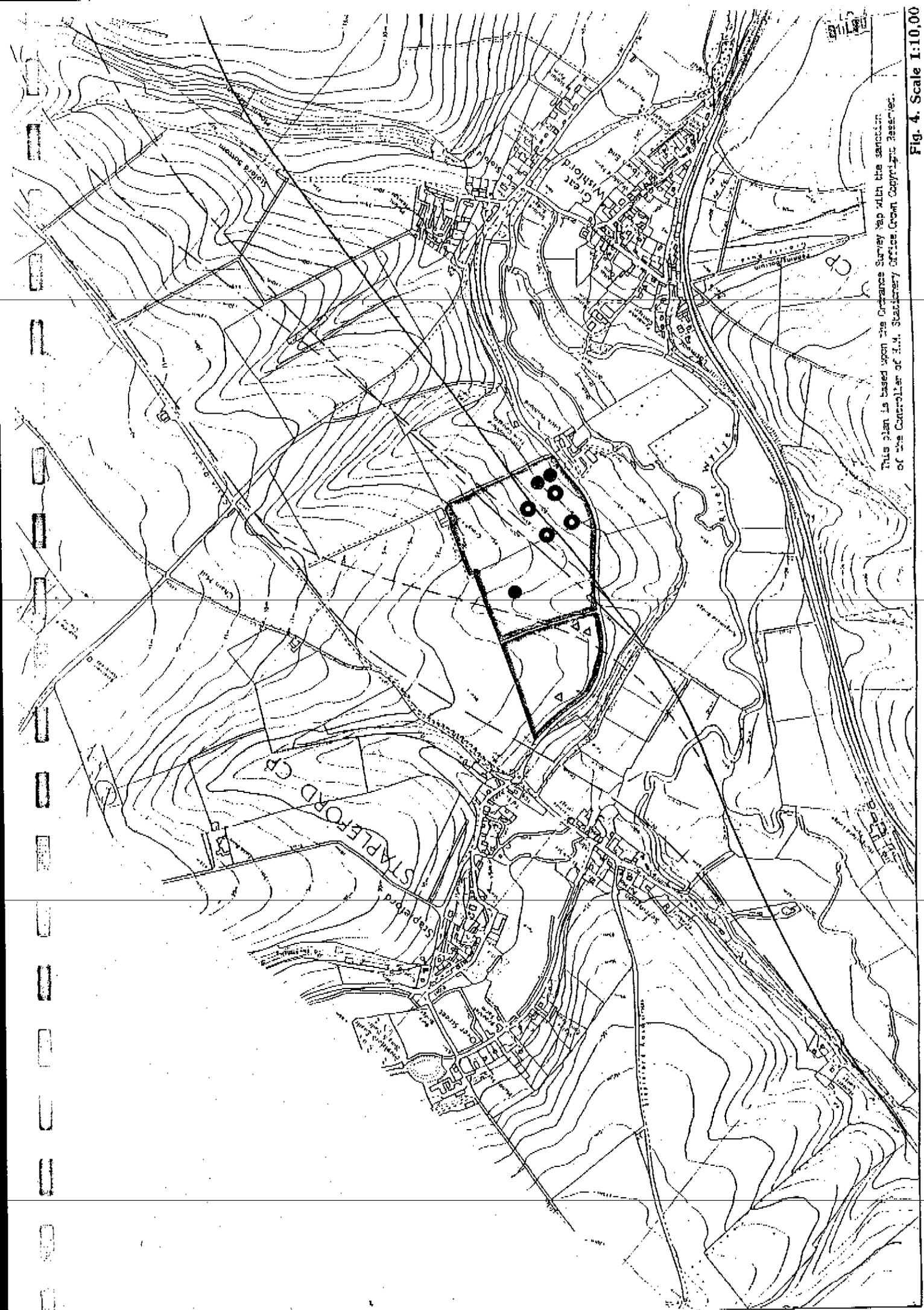
- Prehistoric
- Romano-British
- Medieval

Occurrence of significant amounts of:

- Burnt flint
- Worked flint
- △ Palaeolithic handaxe
- Discrete feature
- Linear feature

By-pass routes:

- Preferred route
- - - Crouch Barn route
- · - · Modified Crouch Barn route
- - Chain Drove route
- - - Modified Chain Drove route
- - - - Modified Fugglestone Red route



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Fig. 4. Scale 1:10,000

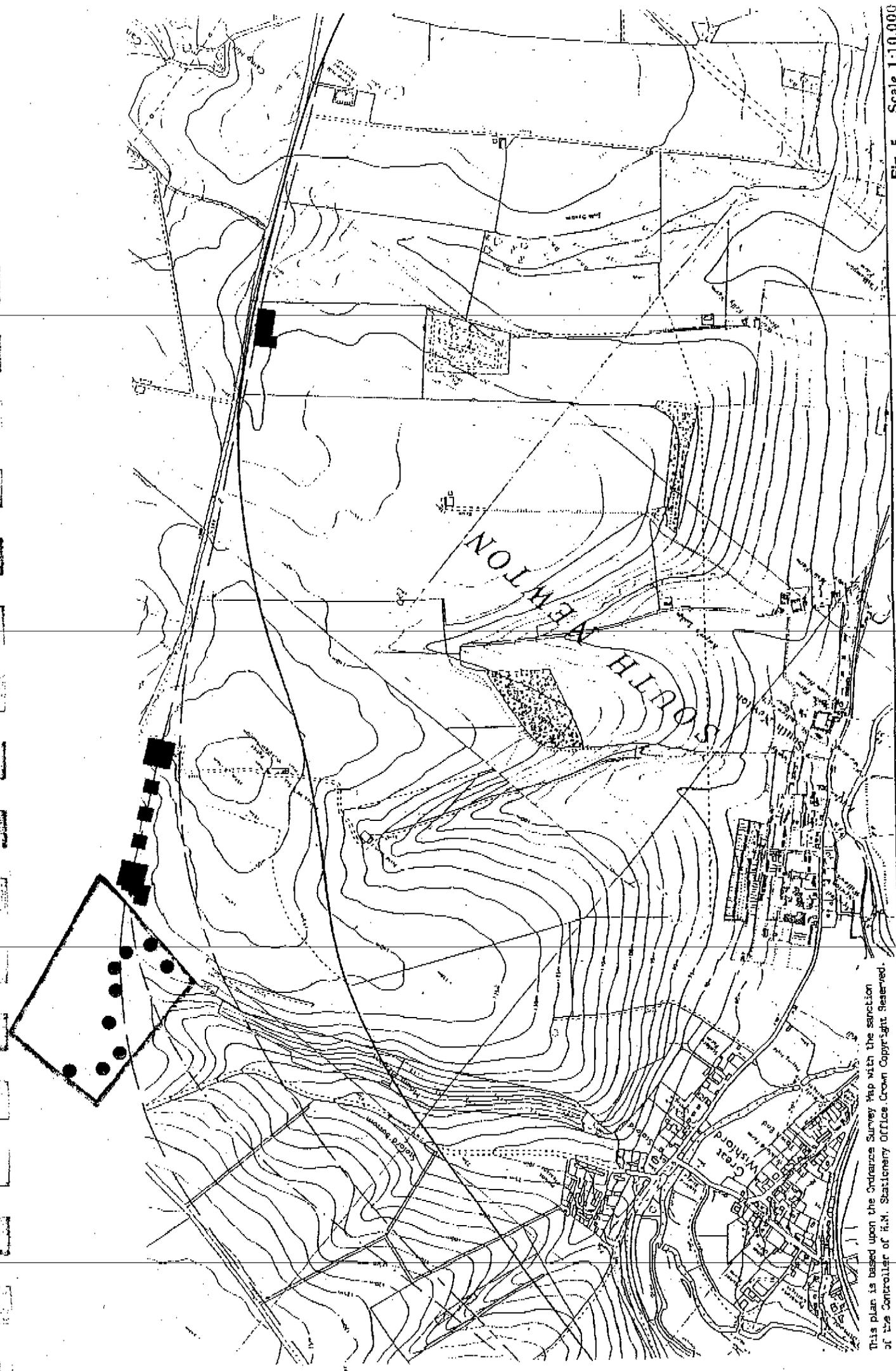
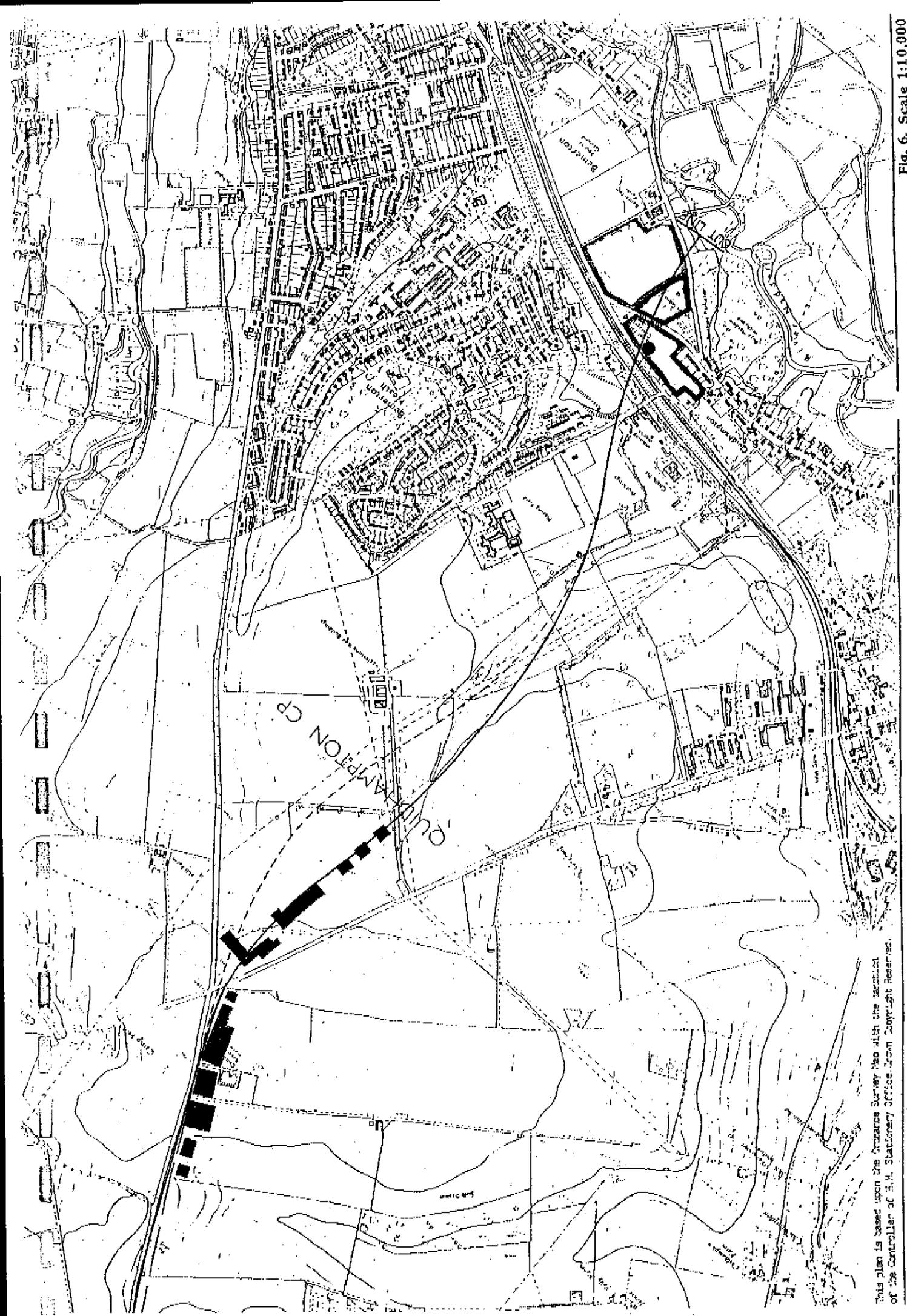


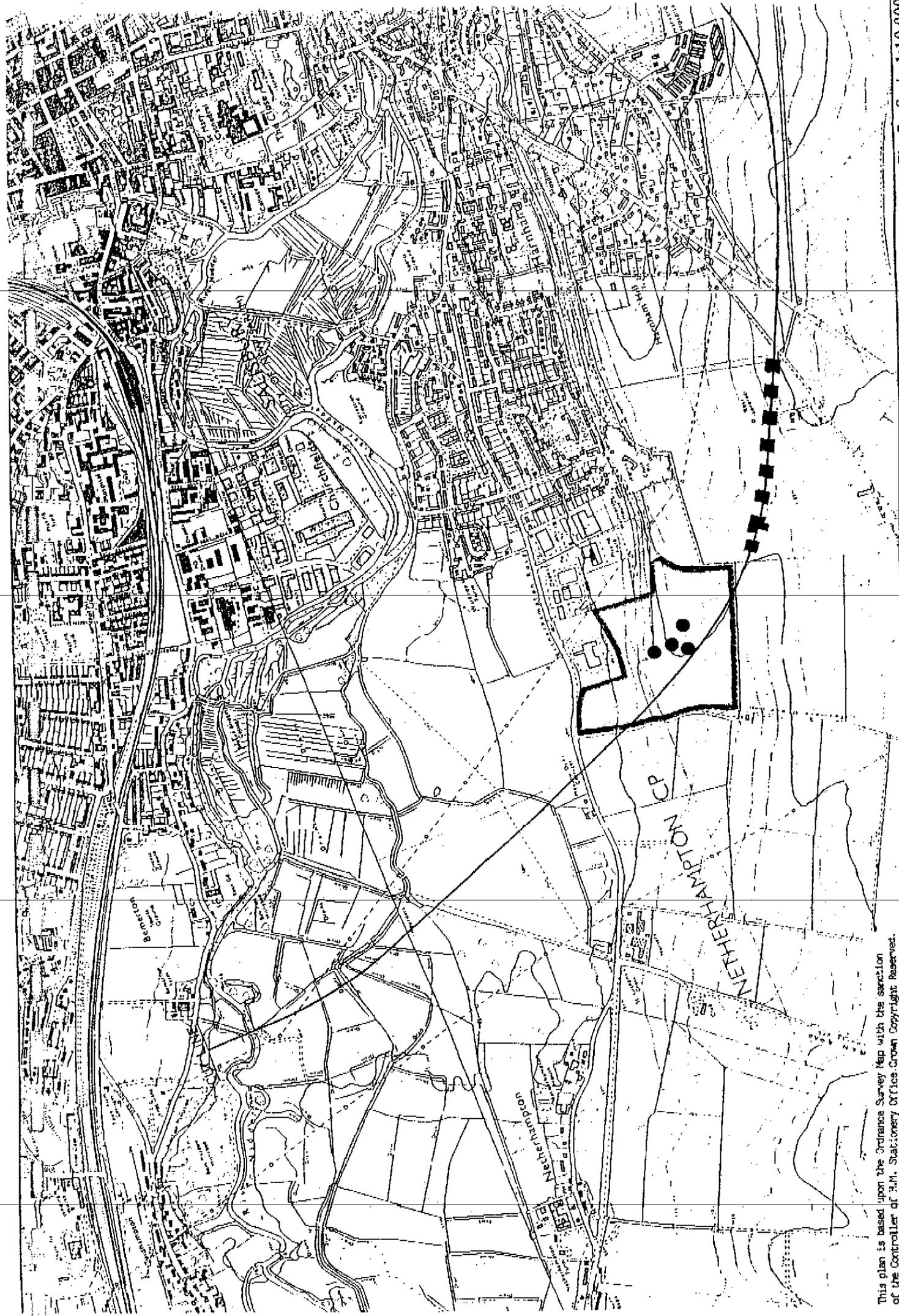
Fig. 5. Scale 1:10,000

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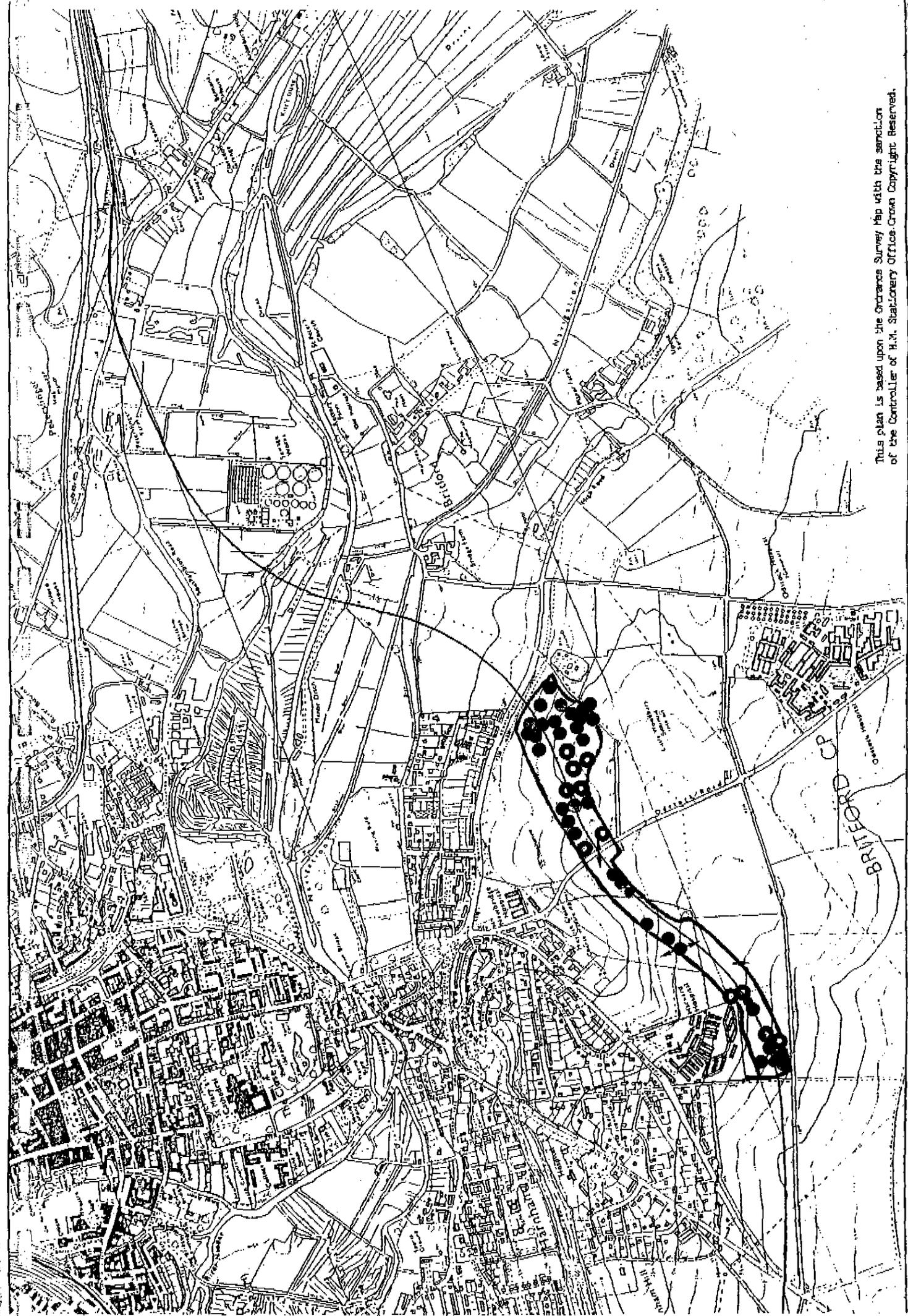
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Fig. 6. Scale 1:10,000



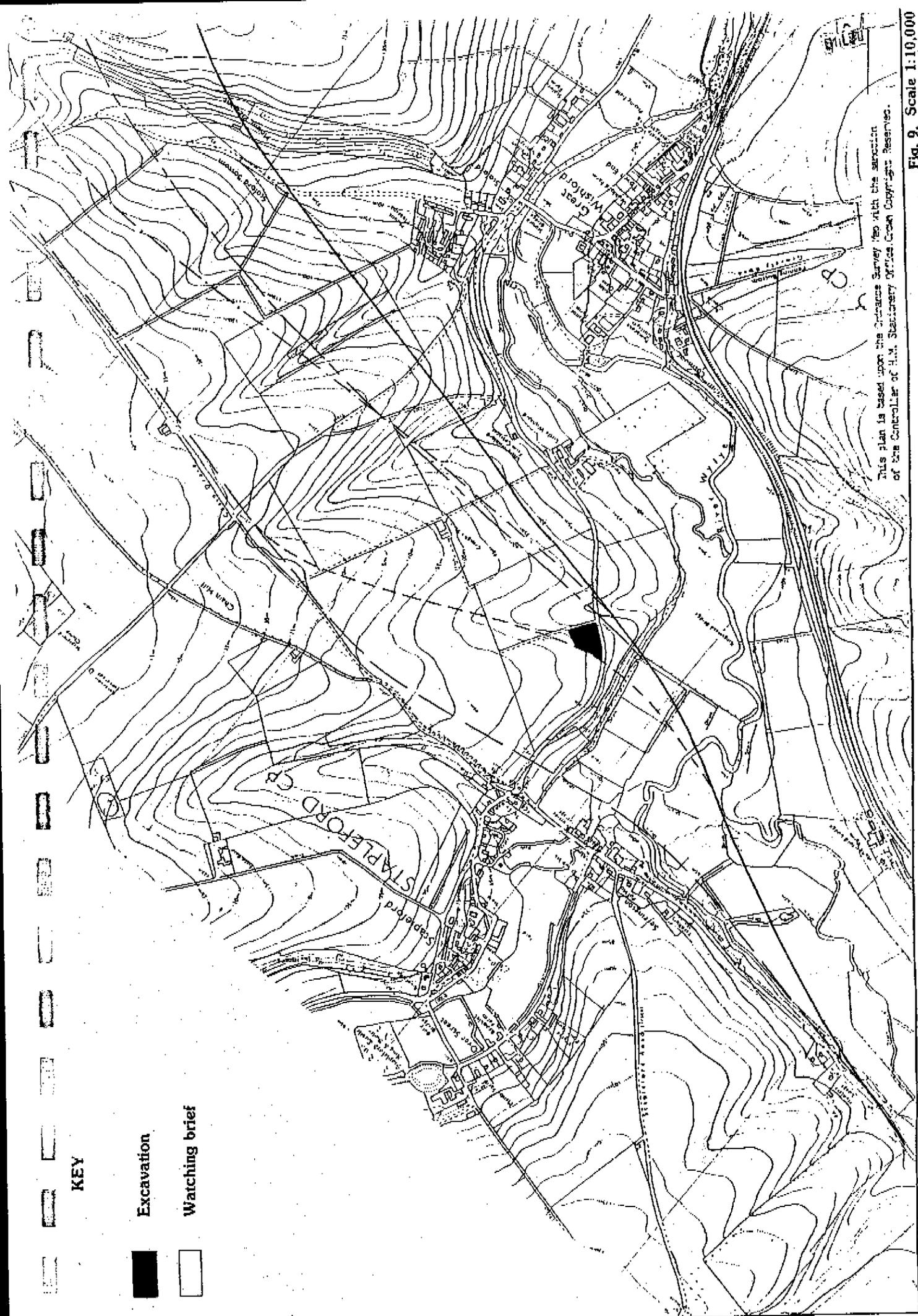
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Fig. 7. Scale 1:10,000



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Fig. 8. Scale 1:10,000



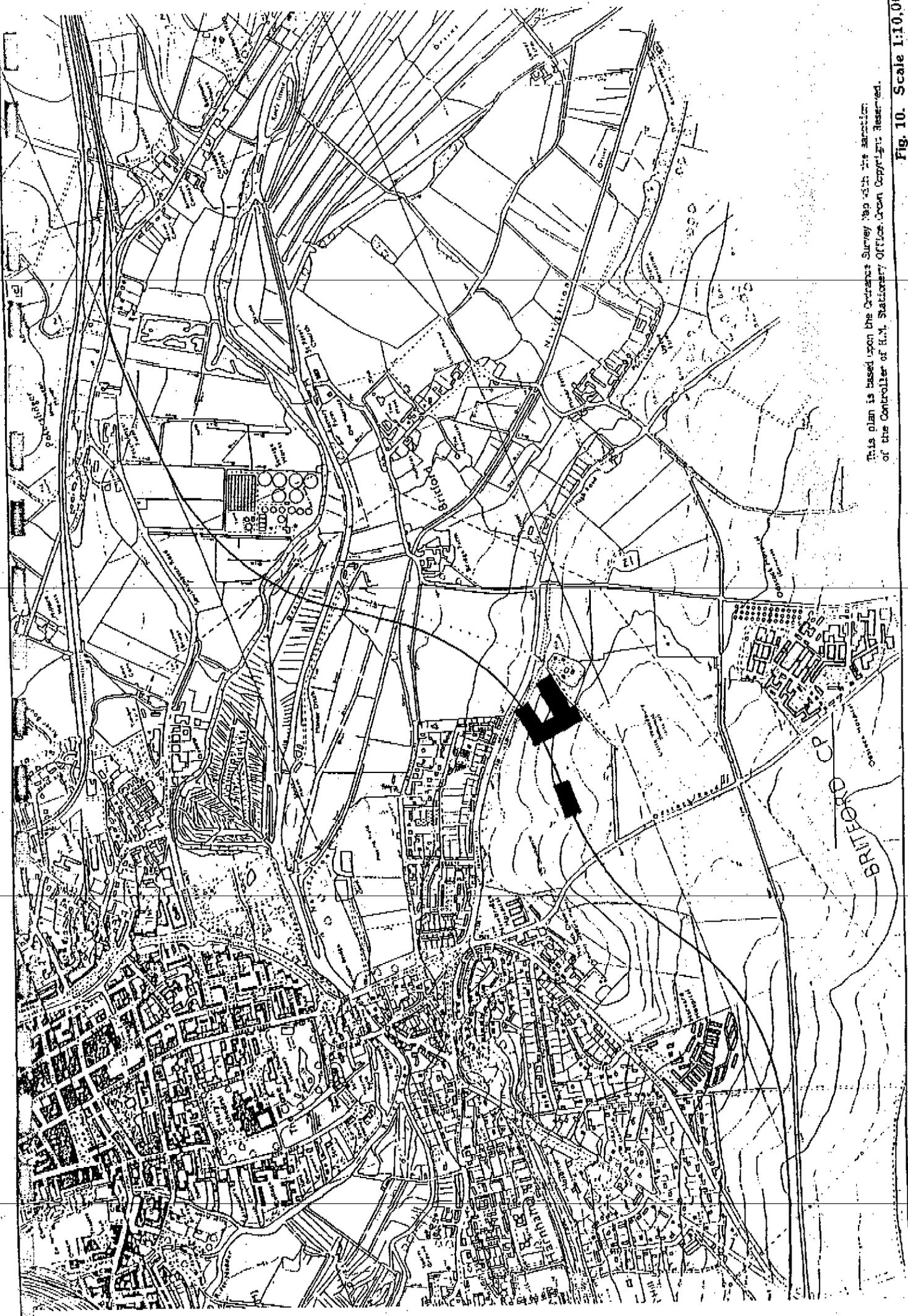
KEY

Excavation

Watching brief

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Fig. 9. Scale 1:10,000



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Fig. 10. Scale 1:10,000