

INDEX DATA	RPS INFORMATION
Scheme Title A417 MS - A40 (Elmrigge court).	Details Preliminary Archaeological Assessment.
Road Number A417	Date June 1990.
Contractor Charles Parry.	
County Gloucestershire.	
OS Reference S082.	
Single sided <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Double sided	
A3 3 Colour 0	

**THE A417 M5 TO A40 (ELMBRIDGE COURT), GLOUCESTERSHIRE:**

**A preliminary archaeological assessment**

---

Charles Parry  
Archaeology Section  
Planning Department  
Gloucestershire County Council

---

Gloucestershire County Council, June 1990

## Contents

- 1 Summary
- 2 Introduction  
Description of the survey area, its geology and topography,  
present and former land use
- 3 Survey design and methodology
- 4 General discussion  
Archaeological background, summary of results, limitations on  
the gathering of evidence
- 5 Recommendations for future work
- 6 Gazetteers
- 7 List of unpublished sources and bibliography

---

- 8 Acknowledgements

**Figures**

Cover: Elmbridge Court, from the 1902 Ordnance Survey Map, 1:2500

Figure 1 Location of the survey area

Figure 2 Land use c.1840; land use 1990

Figure 3 Ridge and furrow  
All known instances; surface traces 1990

Figure 4 Archaeological survey  
Location of sites listed in the gazetteers

Figure 1: Crown Copyright. Figures 2-4 are based upon the Ordnance Survey 1:10,000 map revision of 1975, with the permission of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationary Office; subsequent boundary changes are not shown

**The A417 M5 to A40 (Elmbridge Court), Gloucestershire:  
A preliminary archaeological assessment**

**1 Summary**

The following assessment of the archaeology within the proposed A417 M5 to A40 (Elmbridge Court) route corridor identifies sites and areas of archaeological interest, and sites of significance on the periphery of the survey area. The evidence is listed and discussed, and recommendations for further work are made.

**2 Introduction**

**2.1 Introduction**

This assessment of the proposed A417 M5 to A40 (Elmbridge Court) route corridor was undertaken by the Archaeology Section of Gloucestershire County Council to provide a preliminary indication of the archaeological implications of road construction. The survey was commissioned by Frank Graham and Partners, Consulting Engineers, and was undertaken during May and June 1990.

**2.2 Description of the survey area**

The survey area is located on the eastern limits of the city of Gloucester, consisting of a c.3.1 km long transect through the civil parishes of Innsworth, Churchdown, and Hucclecote (Figure 1). The western limit of the survey area lies immediately south of the village of Innsworth, and the transect extends from there in a southerly direction to the foot of the southern slope of Churchdown Hill. At either end, the survey area measures c.100-250 metres wide, but is considerably wider at the site of a proposed junction at the Elmbridge roundabout, from which a portion of the survey area extends c.1.1 km north-eastwards on either side of the A40 road.

**2.3 Topography and geology**

The land forming the survey area is situated within the Severn Vale and its underlying geology is mainly lower lias clay. At the northern end of the survey area, the clay is cut by the Horsbere brook, from which deposits of alluvium have spread in a narrow area alongside (Ordnance Survey Geological Map Sheet 234, Gloucester). The land within the survey area is highest to the south, where it is 40 metres OD, sloping gently northwards to 30m OD at Innsworth.

# A417 M5 TO A40 (ELMBRIDGE COURT) LOCATION OF SURVEY AREA

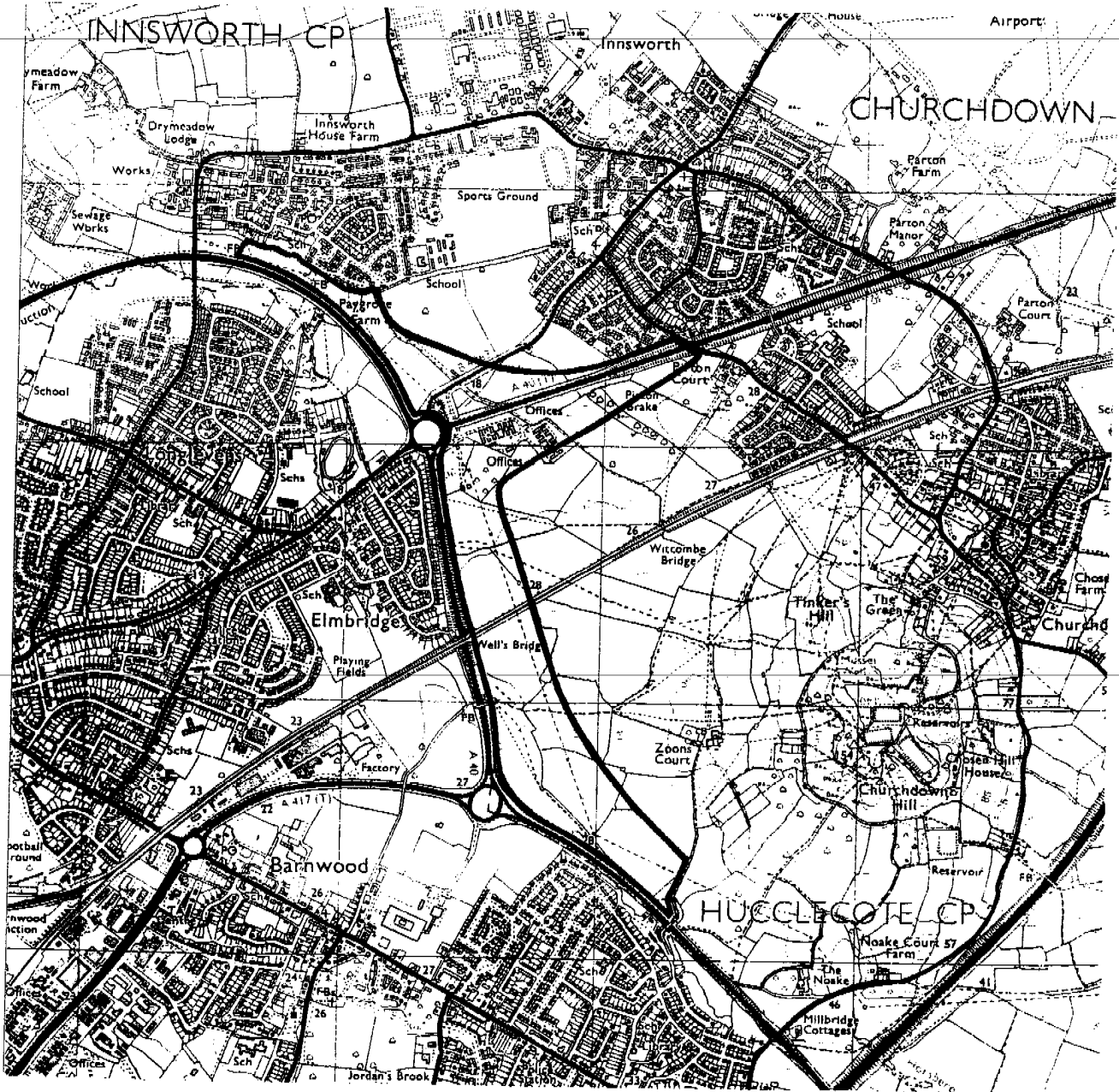


figure 1

## 2.4 Land use, 1990

In June 1990, most of the survey area was given over to arable and pasture, with one small area of woodland (Figure 2). Construction of the Gloucester-Cheltenham railway, the A417 and A40 trunk roads, and a complex of buildings forming Elmbridge Court, has led to portions of the survey area being taken out of cultivation. At the northern end of the survey area, a series of service pipelines are visible as surface features. The railway marks an approximate division between concentrations of arable and pasture, with arable being present in most fields to the south, and pasture in most fields to the north.

## 2.5 Former land use

Maps compiled to aid the enclosure of land and payment of tithes during the 18th and 19th centuries (7.1 below) indicate that the agricultural regime then followed was broadly similar to today (Figure 2). Areas of former arable cultivation, mostly observed in areas currently given over to pasture, are also indicated by widespread traces of ridges and furrows created as a result of medieval ploughing methods. The distribution of all known instances (sketch plotted on Figure 3) has been obtained from vertical aerial photographs dating to the 1940s, and probably represents a minimum distribution in view of the fact that post-medieval cultivation would have removed a proportion of the surface traces of ridge and furrow before 1940. Only a small proportion of the known ridge and furrow could be observed on the ground in 1990 (Figure 3) and most of this was low and indistinct. Only within OS parcel no. 5768 did it survive to any height.

## 3. Survey design and methodology

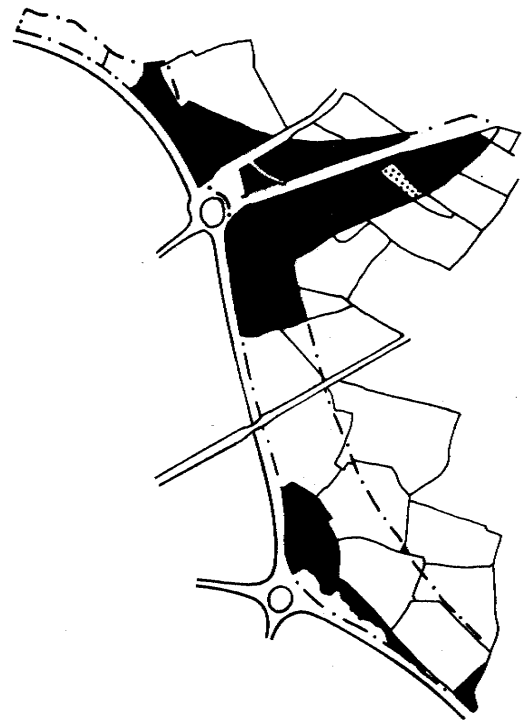
3.1 The survey was designed to examine the archaeology of the area of search, and looked also at peripheral sites where these were suspected to extend into the survey area. Two sorts of evidence were examined.

3.2 Documentary sources relating to the area were surveyed, and the relevant information extracted. These sources were:-

- Gloucestershire County Sites & Monuments Record (Glos SMR) curated by the Archaeology Section, County Planning Department (Section 6: Gazetteer)




- Aerial photographs, both oblique and vertical, curated by the Royal Commission on Historical Monuments (RCHM); vertical aerial photographs held by Gloucestershire County Council and Frank Graham and Partners, Consulting Engineers (Section 6: Gazetteer)

# A417 M5 TO A40 (ELMBRIDGE COURT) LAND USE

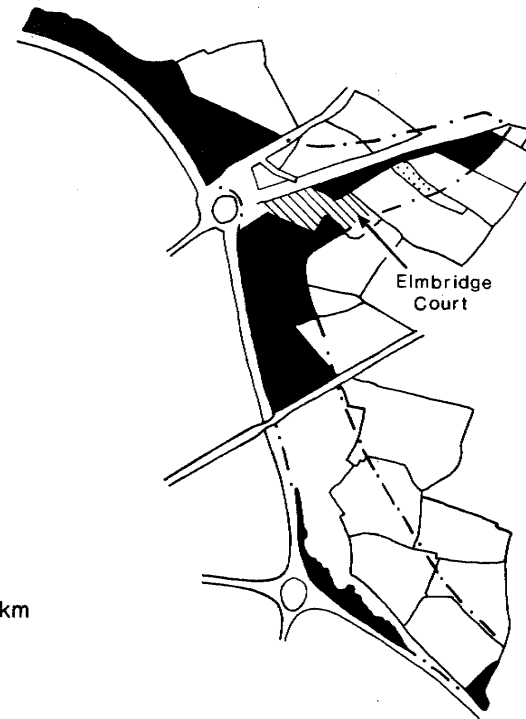



C.1840

## KEY

-  ARABLE
-  PASTURE
-  WOODLAND

0 500m 1km



1990

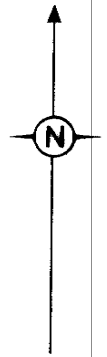


figure 2



- Documents and maps curated by the Gloucestershire County Record Office (7.1 Unpublished Sources)

- Major published works (7.2 Bibliography)

- 3.2 Fieldwork was undertaken during June 1990 to validate the recorded evidence of archaeological sites contained in the documents, and to locate new ones.
- 3.4 The documentary and field assessment resulted in the addition of 13 new entries to the SMR, and a total of 14 additional observations were added to existing records.

#### 4 General discussion

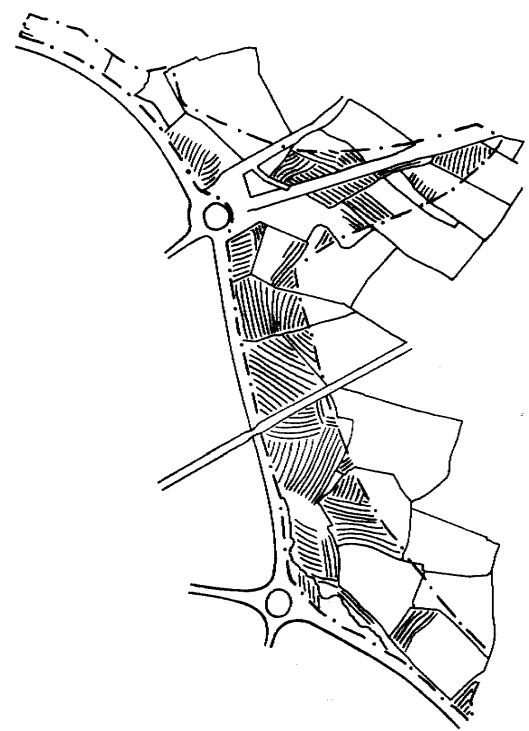
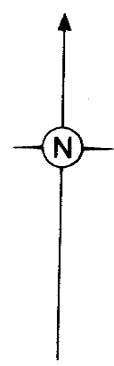
##### 4.1 Archaeological background

Detailed knowledge of the archaeology of the general area of the proposed route corridor has been gained from excavations and observations undertaken during development of the suburb of Barnwood, where bronze age material (Clifford 1964) and a Romano-British cemetery have been found (Baddeley 1920; Clifford 1930). More recent development in Barnwood has resulted in the chance discovery of settlement features predominantly of Romano-British date (Atkin and Garrod 1988; 1989; Rawes 1977), presumably located to take advantage of Ermin Street, the major eastern approach road to Roman Gloucester.

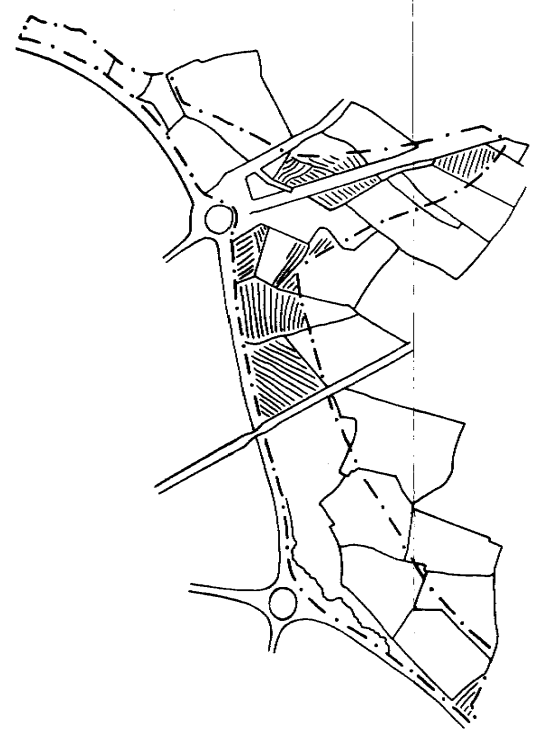
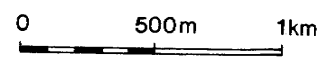
Later periods are less well represented in the archaeological record, the only major known site of medieval date being the moated site of Elmbridge Court (Cardew 1898). The moat was destroyed without record when the area was developed for housing during the 1960s and no trace of it survives. (The name Elmbridge Court was subsequently transferred to a modern complex of buildings situated adjacent to the Elmbridge roundabout). Documents concerning the medieval and post-medieval history of Barnwood (Jurica 1988a) and Hucclecote (Jurica 1988b) have been examined.

- 4.2 The archaeological detail gained from the sites in Barnwood can be contrasted with the lack of archaeological knowledge within the A417 M5 to A40 route corridor. The area is essentially rural, and the past agricultural regime (4.6 below) and the lack of large scale development generally have given little scope for the definition or chance discovery of sites of archaeological interest; there is no record of any archaeological fieldwork ever having been undertaken prior to the current survey.

A417 M5 TO A40 (ELMBRIDGE COURT)  
RIDGE AND FURROW



ALL KNOWN INSTANCES



SURFACE TRACES , 1990

figure 3

#### 4.3 Summary

A total of 16 archaeological areas of interest (6.2 below) can be identified within the proposed A417 M5 to A40 (Elmbridge Court) route corridor. On the periphery of the survey area, an additional two sites of potential significance have been identified (6.3 below). The sites within the survey area can be quantified as follows:

Site type	Glos SMR no.	Total
Cropmarks: ?settlement features	7605	1
Earthworks: modern	11035;11037;11038; 11135	4
Earthworks: ridge and furrow	11034;11036;11039; 11040;11041;11095; 11133;11134;11136	9
Fieldnames: modern	8640;8733	2

#### 4.4 Sites and areas of potential archaeological significance

Of the archaeological sites listed above, three are of potential significance. A small cropmark complex, Glos 7605, which is too faint to allow a coherent plan to be plotted, may denote an area of former settlement. Areas of former occupation may also be indicated by fieldnames, but their relevance for the area of search is questionable. Adjacent fields called "Stoney Lanes Piece" and "Stoney Lanes Piece Meadow" (Glos 8640), documented on the Tithe Map and Award c.1840, might indicate that settlement debris was present there. However, only a small portion of those fields lies within the area of search. A field called "Moat Grove" (Glos 8733), documented on an Estate Map of 1769, was situated immediately east of Elmbridge Court moated site; as ridge and furrow (Glos 11039) survives in the area formerly called "Moat Grove" it is unlikely that any potentially significant archaeological deposits contemporary with Elmbridge Court moat are present.

#### 4.5 Sites and areas of lesser or no archaeological significance

All of the surface features visible on the ground in 1990 have limited archaeological significance. Three mounds (Glos 11035;11037;11038), recorded because of their barrow-like appearance, are recent dumps of spoil, and a low bank once forming a field boundary (Glos 11135) is almost certainly post-medieval in date. The remaining surface features (ridge

and furrow) have limited potential, for while it is important to record the pattern of medieval arable cultivation, the deposits forming these earthworks have little intrinsic archaeological potential. However, it cannot be concluded that the areas in which these features lie have no archaeological potential, for areas of ridge and furrow can mask the presence of earlier archaeology beneath them.

#### **4.6 Limitations on the gathering of archaeological evidence**

A sizeable proportion, if not most, of the proposed A417 M5 to A40 (Elmbridge Court) route corridor has been under plough at some time during, or since, the medieval period (Figures 2 and 3). Ploughing can result in the erosion or total removal of surface traces of occupation, leaving only subsurface features intact. This factor implies that there is a considerable constraint on the gathering of archaeological data within the area of search, because few sites pre-dating the medieval period would be preserved at ground level. It is, however, difficult to be certain of the level of preservation in the field, because the height of the arable and grass crops did not allow close inspection of the ground surface in June 1990, and very low earthworks may easily have escaped detection. Additionally, the lack of freshly turned earth within arable fields at that of year meant that the retrieval of surface artefacts, to indicate areas of former occupation, was impossible.

### **5. Recommendations for further work**

**5.1** The survey of the proposed A417 M5 to A40 (Elmbridge Court) route corridor provides an initial (Stage 1) assessment of the archaeological implications of road construction within the defined route corridor. In order to make a full assessment of the implications of the route, to record archaeological evidence which will be destroyed by road construction, and to bring the results to publication, the following four further stages of work can be recommended.

#### **5.2 Stage 2: completion of the assessment and evaluation**

To complete the assessment begun in Stage 1, a second stage of work is recommended to provide a detailed study of the area to be affected by road construction, to prospect for, and to evaluate in detail all significant archaeological sites and areas of interest. A range of prospection methods could be utilised, including aerial reconnaissance, geophysical survey, artefact retrieval by detailed field walking, and trial excavations. The Stage 2 programme of work should attempt to locate and evaluate the full range of archaeological features within the affected area, to determine their extent, date and level of preservation. On this evidence, informed decisions

could then be made regarding appropriate levels of recording for each site. Within this stage of work, it is recommended that ground investigations, undertaken by the Department of Transport in advance of construction, should be observed.

### **5.3 Stage 3: recording in advance of construction**

Using the Stage 1 and 2 assessments, suitable project designs should be drawn up for individual sites affected by construction, and an appropriate level of recording undertaken at each. The latter would consist of partial or full survey and excavation. Recording could take place in advance of construction, or could be phased in with the construction programme.

5.4 It is recommended that Stages 2 and 3 are undertaken well in advance of construction, to allow detailed project designs for both phases of work to be drawn up and implemented. Additionally, the work would need to be integrated into the farming cycle, as some operations (such as fieldwalking over newly ploughed fields) would be dependent on this.

### **5.5 Stage 4: observation and recording during construction**

All ground disturbance during road construction should be observed to record information concerning sites and areas not selected for excavation during Stage 3, and to record evidence not predicted during Stages 1, 2, and 3.

### **5.6 Stage 5: post-excavation archive preparation, analysis, and publication**

To complete Stages 1-4, it would be necessary to prepare an archive of the field data, to analyse this data, and to publish the results of this analysis.

## 6. Gazetteer of sites

6.1 The gazetteer lists in brief all entries for the proposed A417 M5 to A40 (Elmbridge Court) route corridor noted on the Gloucestershire Sites and Monuments Record in June 1990. Each site is listed by order of SMR number, and located by National Grid Reference and parish. Brief recommendations for further archaeological work at two sites (Glos 7605; 8640), in the event of these being affected by road construction, follow the relevant gazetteer entries and should be read in conjunction with Section 5. Where no recommendation is made, no further archaeological response is envisaged. A gazetteer of selected sites on the periphery of the survey area follows (6.3). Each site mentioned in the gazetteers is located on Figure 4; potentially significant areas discussed above (4.4) have been outlined in red, as has an additional area located adjacent to a Roman site (Glos 6731) on the periphery of the survey area (6.3 below)

### 6.2 Gazetteer of sites within the survey area

Glos 7605

SO 85952060

Innsworth

Cropmarks visible on aerial photographs within OS parcel no. 0054; of uncertain origin.

Recommended action: evaluation

Glos 8640

SO 86202047

Churchdown/Innsworth

Fieldnames "Stoney Lanes Piece" and "Stoney Lanes Piece Meadows" recorded by the Tithe Map and Award c.1840 within OS parcel no.s 2325 and 3745. A possible indicator of occupation debris denoting the existence of an area of settlement.

Recommended action: evaluation

Glos 8733

SO 86451975

Innsworth

Fieldname "Moat Grove" recorded by an Estate Map of 1769 within OS parcel no. 5768. A name probably associated with the medieval moated site of Elmbridge Court (6.3 below). The area contains ridge and furrow (Glos 11039) and the possibility that a second moated site existed there is remote.

Glos 11034

SO 86401990

Innsworth

Surface traces of ridge and furrow visible in June 1990 within OS parcel no. 4500.

Glos 11035

SO 86441999

Innsworth

Mound, c.0.6m high and 8m in diameter located within OS parcel no. 4500. A modern dump of spoil from the construction of a nearby gate and fence (pers. comm. Mr R Cook, landowner).

Glos 11036

SO 86601987

Innsworth

Surface traces of ridge and furrow visible in June 1990 within OS parcel no. 5786.

Glos 11037

SO 86471989

Innsworth

Mound, c.3m high and 16m in diameter located within an orchard (OS parcel no. 5000). A soil dump of modern origin (pers. comm. Mr. R Cook, landowner). One of two identical features in this area (cf. Glos 11038)

Glos 11038

SO 86471982

Innsworth

Mound, c.3m high and 16m in diameter located within an orchard (OS parcel no. 5000). A soil dump of modern origin (pers. comm. Mr. R Cook, landowner). One of two identical features in this area (cf. Glos 11037)

Glos 11039

SO 86551970

Innsworth

Surface traces of ridge and furrow visible in June 1990 within OS parcel no. 5768.

Glos 11040

SO 86551945

Innsworth

Surface traces of ridge and furrow visible in June 1990 within OS parcel no. 5645.

Glos 11041

SO 86701985

Innsworth

Surface traces of ridge and furrow visible in June 1990 within OS parcel no. 6800.

Glos 11095

SO 87251822

Hucclecote

Surface traces of ridge and furrow visible in June 1990 within OS parcel no. 2624.

Glos 11133

SO 86802015

Churchdown

Surface traces of ridge and furrow visible in June 1990 within OS parcel no. 7024.

Glos 11134

SO 87202025

Churchdown

Surface traces of ridge and furrow visible in June 1990 within OS parcel no. 2727.

Glos 11135

SO 86072046

Innsworth

Bank, c.0.2m high, aligned approximately north-west to south-east within OS parcel no. 2325; the remains of a former field boundary documented on maps prior to the construction of the A417 road.



Glos 11136

SO 86702025

Churchdown

Surface traces of ridge and furrow visible in June 1990 within OS parcel no. 7024.

### 6.3 Gazetteer of sites on the periphery of the survey area

The following sites lie adjacent to the survey area, but their extent is uncertain. The proximity of these sites raises the possibility that associated archaeological deposits and features may extend into the area of search.

Glos 4826

SO 86301919

Gloucester

Elmbridge Court medieval moated site (Cardew 1898); a monument once consisting of moat c.90m square, the enclosed area containing a house set on a raised platform. The site was completely destroyed by housing development during the 1960s, and no surface traces survive in 1990. Associated earthworks in an adjoining field (the exact location is unknown) were visible in the late 19th century (Cardew 1898, 65-66); only ridge and furrow is visible adjacent to the former moated site within the area of search, and it may be presumed that no significant archaeology related to the moat extends into the survey area.

Glos 6731

SO 86511905

Gloucester

Romano-British settlement (Rawes 1977). Finds of pottery dating to the 2nd-4th centuries AD, two ditches, and building debris were found during the culverting of the Horsebere brook below the A417 road during the 1970s.

The type and the full extent of this site is unknown; in view of its possible extension into the area of search, a notional potentially significant area has been outlined in red on Figure 4. It is recommended that evaluation of this area should take place.

# A417 M5 TO A40 (ELMBRIDGE COURT) ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY

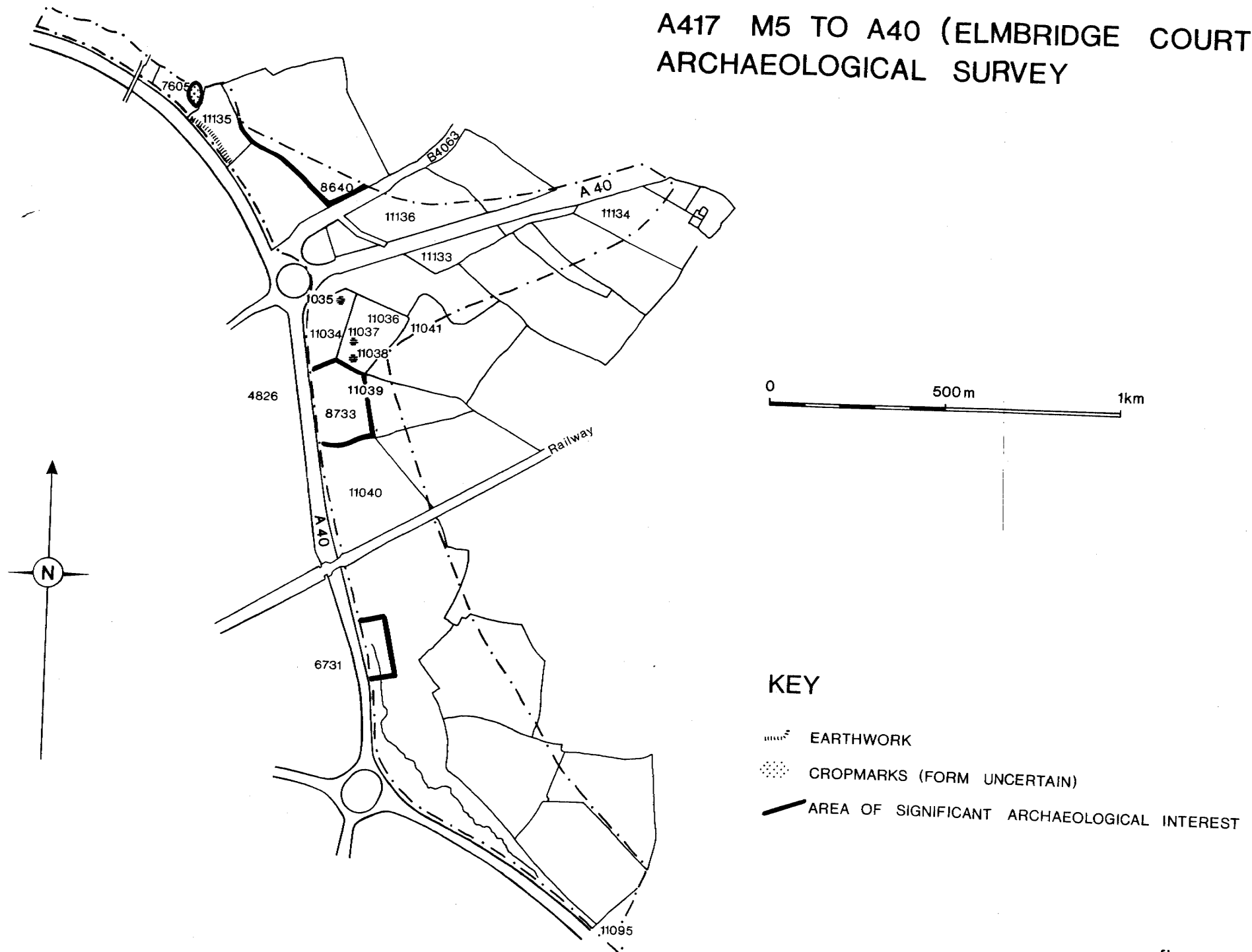


figure 4

## 7. List of unpublished sources and bibliography

### 7.1 List of unpublished sources

All the sources listed below are from the manuscript collection in the Gloucestershire Record Office. The references should be preceded by the letters GRO.

BARNWOOD	1800	Estate map	D936/E5
	1838	Tithe map & apportionment	GDR/TI/16
	1853	Estate Map	D143 P 1
CHURCHDOWN	1769	Estate map	D184/P 1
	1844	Tithe map & apportionment	Q/R1 44
HUCCLECOTE	1727	Inclosure Award & accompanying reconstruction and notes by Howard, F.T. 5.12.1940	D531/3
	1801	Plan of the Noake Estate	Photocopy 342
HUCCLECOTE & BARNWOOD	1799	Enclosure map	Q/RI 70

### 7.2 Bibliography

Atkin, M.	1988	Archaeology in Gloucester, 1987. <u>Transactions of the Bristol and Gloucestershire Archaeological Society</u> 106, 209-218.
Atkin, M.	1989	Archaeology in Gloucester, 1988. <u>Transactions of the Bristol and Gloucestershire Archaeological Society</u> 107, 233-242.
Baddeley, W. St. C.	1920	A Romano-British cemetery at Barnwood, Gloucestershire. <u>Journal of Roman Studies</u> 10, 60-67.

- Bazeley, W. 1921 Churchdown and Mattesdone before the Norman conquest.  
Proceedings of the Cotteswold Naturalists Field Club 21, 17-30.
- Cardew, G.A. 1898 The moats or waterfronts of the vale of the Severn.  
Transactions of the Bristol and Gloucestershire Archaeological Society 21, 58-69.
- 
- Clifford, E.M. 1930 A prehistoric and Roman site at Barnwood, near Gloucester.  
Transactions of the Bristol and Gloucestershire Archaeological Society 52, 201-254.
- Clifford, E.M. 1934 Finds at Barnwood, Gloucester.  
Transactions of the Bristol and Gloucestershire Archaeological Society 56, 231-235
- Clifford, E.M. 1964 Two finds of Beaker pottery from Gloucestershire.  
Transactions of the Bristol and Gloucestershire Archaeological Society 83, 34-39
- Jurica, A.R.J. 1988a (Barnwood entry). In N.M. Herbert ed.), Victoria County History, IV, The City of Gloucester (410-420). Oxford.
- 
- Jurica, A.R.J. 1988b (Hucclecote entry). In N.M. Herbert ed.), Victoria County History, IV, The City of Gloucester (430-437). Oxford.
- Ordnance Survey maps:
- OS 1885 Ordnance Survey 1:2500 plan 25/16 1884.  
OS 1889 Ordnance Survey 1:10560 plan 26 S.W. 1889.  
OS 1902a Ordnance Survey 1:2500 plan 25/12 1902.  
OS 1902b Ordnance Survey 1:2500 plan 25/16 1902.  
OS 1924 Ordnance Survey 1:10560 plan 25 1924.  
OS 1961 Geological Survey of Great Britain. Sheet 234. Gloucester.
- Rawes, B. 1977 A Roman site at Well's Bridge, Barnwood.  
Transactions of the Bristol and Gloucestershire Archaeological Society 95, 24-39.

## Acknowledgements

The survey was undertaken with the assistance of Robert Bourn, who also helped to compile the report. Figures 2-4 were drawn by Natalie Acaster. Thanks are due to: Gloucestershire County Council Archaeology Section for access to the County Sites and Monuments Record; Gloucestershire County Record Office for access to unpublished documents; Royal Commission on the Historical Monuments of England; Frank Graham and Partners, Consulting Engineers, and Gloucestershire County Council for access to aerial photographs. Fieldwork within the area of search was facilitated by the landowners, who obligingly allowed access.