RPS Planning, Transport and Environment

INDEX DATA	RPS INFORMATION
Scheme Title ~~A419/A417~~ Cirencester and Stratton By-pass	Details Stage 2 Arch Evaluation
Road Number A419/A417	Date 1991
Contractor Cotswold Archaeological Trust	
County Gloucestershire	
OS Reference ?	
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A419/417
CIRENCESTER AND STRATTON BYPASS

STAGE 2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

compiled
by
Cotswold Archaeological Trust
for
Frank Graham Consulting Engineers Ltd

with
specialist contributions

November 1991

CAT TYPESCRIPT REPORT No.9141

CAT JOB No.0124

CORINIUM MUSEUM ACCESSION No's.1991/501-549

Corinium Museum
Park Street
Cirencester
Gloucestershire
GL7 2BX

For further information on this report and accompanying documents please contact CAT at the above address.

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GLOSSARY OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL TERMS

Accession Number

Code number assigned to artefactual material and archaeological records which are to be deposited with an appropriate museum body (Corinium Museum). Codes for Cirencester and Stratton bypass are composed with the year of excavation preceeding the excavation trench number eg. 1991/512.

Ancient Monument

As defined by the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979 this term means :
"(a) any scheduled monument ; and
(b) any other monument which in the opinion of the Secretary of State is of public interest by reason of the historic, architectural, traditional, artistic or archaeological interest attaching to it".

Appraisal

The recognition of an archaeological dimension to a development proposal or management plan.

Archaeology

For the purposes of this project, archaeology is taken to mean the study of past human societies through their material remains, from prehistoric times to the modern era. No rigid upper date limit has been set, but AD 1900 is used as a general cut-off point. It is accepted that some undated sites of slightly later date will unavoidably be included in the absence of firm evidence of date.

Assessment

The identification and documenting of the recorded archaeological resource within the study area. Desk based study of all existing records plus field-checking and basic reconnaissance. In this instance the work included field-walking and a geophysical survey.

bc

Is a suffix used to express uncalibrated 'radiocarbon years' when given as a date, for example 2700bc.

BC

Is a suffix used to express absolute dates shown in 'solar

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

AP	Air Photograph
CAT	Cotswold Archaeological Trust
DTp	Department of Transport
E	East
FGCE	Frank Graham Consulting Engineers
GCC	Gloucester County Council
GRO	Gloucester Record Office
IA	Iron Age
MPP	Monuments Protection Programme
N	North
NGR	National Grid Reference
NMR	National Monuments Record
OD	Ordnance Datum
OS	Ordnance Survey
(pers. comm.)	Personal communication of information
PRN	Primary Record Number
RB	Romano-British
RCHME	Royal Commission on the Historical Monuments of England
S	South
SMR	Sites and Monuments Record
VCH	Victoria County History
W	West

years'.

Beaker period

Name traditionally given to period at the beginning of the 2nd millenium BC when a form of ceramic vessel with origins in the Low Countries becomes commom.

Body Sherd

Fragment of pottery from a ceramic vessel not bearing any distinguishing features, ie. not a rim, handle, base etc.

Bronze Age

The period when bronze was the dominant metal; in Britain it is dated between c.2000-700bc.

Category

General descriptive term covering a group of monument classes related by function, origin or purpose.

Class

Descriptive term applied to a group of monuments which share common visible features of design, layout, construction and use.

Component

Descriptive term applied to any constituent part of a recognised class or type of monument.

Context

The simplest level of archaeological data. ie. a context could be the cut of a ditch (shown as [1]), or the fill of such a ditch (shown as (2))

Crop-mark

A trace of a buried feature revealed by differential growth or ripening of crops, best seen from the air.

Ecofacts

Faunal remains, the study of which can enhance interpretation of local economic and agricultural systems.

Evaluation

Field based study of the recorded archaeological resource coupled

with checking and verification of primary and secondary sources to provide baseline data relating to the quality, quantity, survival, condition, fragility, interpretation and importance of each identified site. Includes checking apparently blank areas.

Feature

A group of archaeological contexts forming a recognisable unit.

Iron Age

The first period in which iron was the predominant metal; in Britain it is dated from c.700 BC to the Roman conquest in AD 43.

Iron Pan

An impermeable layer of concreted iron minerals in a soil profile caused by water leaching. The minerals are deposited in a lower stratum, usually the line of the water table.

Natural

Defined in archaeological terms this refers to the undisturbed natural geology of a site, eg. boulder clay, Oolitic limestone bedrock, river terrace gravels etc.

Neolithic

The period from which the first evidence of farming and domestication of animals can be identified; in Britain it is dated from about 3500 bc to 1800 bc.

Palaeo-environmental

The reconstruction of past environments based upon evidence recovered from preserved botanical and entomological remains.

PPG 16

A paper produced in November 1990 by the DOE giving advice on "Archaeology and Planning":

No development shall take place within the area indicated until the applicant has secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological work in accordance with a written scheme of investigation which has been submitted by the applicant and approved by the Planning Authority.
Reason: to ensure that features of archaeological interest can be properly recorded.

Quernstone

Name given to several forms of grinding stone used for hand-grinding corn.

Ridge-and-furrow

Remains of arable cultivation of medieval and later date usually represented by a corrugated land surface.

Ring-ditch

A ditch of circular or penannular plan, usually surviving as a cropmark and often representing the remains of ploughed barrows of Bronze Age date.

Settlement

An area of habitation, perhaps surrounded by associated closes, paddocks, approach ways and other features which together constitute a complex of earthworks or cropmarks distinct from fields.

Single Monument

One of the three recognised forms in which monuments survive. Single monuments can be identified as separate, self-defining entities which may be classified on the basis of morphological similarities and the interpretation of function. A number of component parts can usually be recognised, some not always present, but all of which are integral to the overall design. Classified by Category, Class and Type.

Site

A "window" onto the archaeological resource and /or area of land containing, or thought to contain, a monument or monuments, which may survive either above or below ground. A site may be of any size from a few square metres upwards to include monuments covering hundreds of hectares.

Type

Descriptive term applied to identifiable variations within any class of monument. The basis for identifying types is usually the morphology of the monuments themselves.

Unclassifiable sites

Sites which cannot be classified (except at the most general level) because of special circumstances of preservation. Such sites are not unclassifiable because they are poorly preserved (many of these would probably be classified to category if noth-

ing else), but because very little is known about their morphology, design, plan, layout or construction, or because they cannot be seen.

Unclassifiable sites may occasionally be single monuments, as for example some cropmark sites, or areas of buried land surface, details of which cannot be obtained without destroying the site through excavation. More common is the presence of unclassifiable deposits within relict cultural landscapes and urban areas.

SUMMARY

The Preferred Route of the A419/417 Cirencester and Stratton bypass was announced in April 1990. The route selected for the scheme, although passing through no archaeological sites or monuments under statutory legislation, was however anticipated to pass by or through a number of archaeological sites identified generally from crop-marks or isolated finds. This information was provided to the Department of Transport by Gloucestershire County Council during Technical Appraisal.

In September 1990 Frank Graham Consulting Engineers Ltd commissioned an archaeological survey of the route on behalf of the Department of Transport so that the latter might, amongst other benefits, comply with Council Directive No. 85/337/EEC of 27 June 1985.

Between September 1990 and November 1991 the Cotswold Archaeological Trust carried out a Stage 1 Archaeological Assessment and a Stage 2 Archaeological Evaluation. This report presents the findings of the Stage 1 and Stage 2 work and also includes a Stage 3 Management Strategy for the archaeological resource. The work follows the brief for archaeological services issued by Frank Graham Consulting Engineers Ltd.

The report contains summarised information of the Stage 1 work, full details can be found in Supplement A (CAT Typescript report 9031). Full details of Stage 2 work can be found in Chapter 5 of this document, and Stage 3 recommendations in Chapter 7. Supplement B of this report contains specialist reports relating to Stage 2 of the work. While Supplement C(i) contains maps, trench plans and photographs also relating to Stage 2. Supplement C(ii) contains plans illustrating the effect of the scheme on the archaeological resource and Stage 3 recommendations for management.

The Stage 1 Archaeological Assessment

The Stage 1 Archaeological Assessment of the study area (defined as the area within the estimated fenceline of the scheme as shown on FGCE Drwgs 9102/26/34-38) undertaken by CAT involved desk-based analysis to bring together information from Sites and Monuments Records, documentary sources, map sources, aerial photographs and museum records. Supplementing this was a programme of field-walking carried out over all available arable areas, and field-checking where this was not possible.

As a result of the Stage 1 work a further 11 areas of potential archaeological significance were added to the existing

total of 13 sites and monuments recorded at the time on the Gloucestershire SMR.

The Stage 2 Archaeological Evaluation

The aim of the evaluation was to provide data from direct observation of archaeological deposits identified through trial excavation on sites identified at Stage 1. Geophysical survey carried out over select areas between Stage 1 and Stage 2 was used to assist in the targeting of trenches at Stage 2. Geophysical results can be found in Chapter 2 of the evaluation report.

Sites and monuments were investigated by a combination of linear trenches within which overburden was removed by machine, and totally hand-dug test-pits.

The Stage 3 Archaeological Management Strategy

The Stage 3 Archaeological Management Strategy is developed as a direct result of findings from Stage 1 and Stage 2.

The first step in the strategy involved the development of levels of 'archaeological importance' to be assigned to sites and monuments within the study area. Four levels were appropriate, High; Medium; Low and Blanks. A full definition of each level is given in Chapter 7.

Eight sites of **High** archaeological importance were highlighted by the work:

[1] The environs of Trinity Mill including; an organic clay deposit in the valley floor with palaeo-environmental potential; the Lynches trackway PRN 2085; and the watermeadows and mill pound on their group value.
[2] Roman Fosse Way and later roads under the present A429, in Hare Bushes plantation and in Field No.0041.
[3] Flint scatter in Field No.2200
[4] PRN 3067a and 3067b in Field No.2472.
[5] PRN 3072 and possible second ring-ditch in Field No.3923
[6] PRN 3290 in Field No.7262
[7] PRN 2388a in Field No.0044
[8] Possible occupation area in Field No.9329

Ten sites of **Medium** archaeological importance were defined:

[1] Linear ditch in Field No.7262
[2] linear ditches in Field No.0015
[3] Linear ditch, pits, possible neolithic flint scatter, medieval pot scatter and possible line of Roman road in Field No.8848 and adjacent to the modern White

Way.
[4] Flint scatter in Field No.4830.
[5] Flint scatter and pit in Field No.0041
[6] Medieval pot scatter, possible prehistoric features in Field No.9534
[7] Possibility of prehistoric features in Field No.2472
[8] Possible continuance of prehistoric ditches in Field No.1757
[9] Linear ditches in Field No.5049
[10] possibility of Roman features alongside Ermin Street PRN 7542, in Field No's 0044, 5366, 7748, 9329, 9300,0005, 0186.

A large number of areas were deemed to be of Low Archaeological Interest:

[1] Field No's 7262, 3600, 8265, 0015, 1023, 0007, 1800, 4800, 3025, 0005, 1900, 1971, 2139, areas within 0041, 0242, and 2246; 1416; 2487; 6100; 5783; 5459; 8057; 5837; 7540; 7400; 8100; 0006; 2000; 0973; 2636; 3923; areas within 6800 and 7900; 5400; 7490; 5086; 6579; areas of 7262; 8476; 0044.
[2] Also included in this category were the parish boundaries of Daglingworth/Bagendon; Daglingworth/Baunton; Bagendon/Baunton where they were cut by the road scheme.

Blank archaeological areas were predominantly roads with one exception:

[1] A435; White Way; A429; Cherrytree Lane; A417; Witpit Lane; St Augustines Lane; Harnhill Lane; Driffield Lane; A419.
[2] Hare Bushes plantation

The impact of the road scheme upon the archaeological resource was split into three sub-divisions; (i) Physical impact on the archaeological deposits; (ii) Visual impact upon upstanding archaeological remains; and, (iii) Physical Impact upon palaeo-environmental deposits.

Physical Impact was deemed to be upon two levels High and Low. In effect most of the bypass scheme is seen as High Impact, the construction of the scheme involving cuttings over much of the route with overburden stripping in remaining areas leaves little or no scope for the preservation of deposits. Therefore all of the above listed sites are affected in some way by the road scheme.

Visual Impact will be encountered in four areas along the route of the road:

[1] At the northern end of the bypass corridor to the Churn valley views to Bagendon and the Perrots Brook earthworks and dyke complex from Baunton Downs will be affected.
[2] Near Trinity Mill where the proposed viaduct crosses upstanding archaeological remains of a variety of periods.
[3] Field No.7540 where extant ridge-and-furrow will be clipped by the scheme.
[4] Field No's 5400 and 7590 where extant ridge-and-furrow will be bisected by the scheme.

Potential impact upon the palaeo-environmental resource has only been identified at one site, this is at Trinity mill in the Churn Valley. There are however three limitations to the concern about this deposit (i) it lacks accurate dating, (ii) its full extent is unknown, and (iii) the exact details of viaduct construction in the vicinity of the deposit are unknown at time of writing.

To deal with the threat to the archaeological resource along the route of the bypass four levels of mitigation action have been proposed:

[1] Conservation/preservation whereby minor re-alignment of the road scheme would allow archaeological deposits of High Importance to remain preserved in the ground and unaffected by the scheme has been proposed in four areas, with recommendations for one additional area being dependent upon further evaluation. In all cases where it becomes impractical to leave remains undisturbed in situ it is proposed that full excavation must be undertaken. Decisions on this strategy must be taken at the pre-construction stage with monitoring during construction.
[2] Full excavation has been recommended for three areas where deposits of High Importance cannot be preserved within the design of the scheme, with the provision that some or all of the areas listed under the heading of Conservation/Preservation may also be included within this category. This work should be carried out at the pre-construction stage.
[3] Strip-and-Record whereby areas of Medium Importance are mechanically stripped of overburden allowing isolation of selected features for excavation has been recommended in 13 areas. This work can be carried out at the intra-construction stage.

[4] Watching Briefs whereby areas thought to be of Low Importance will be monitored for archaeological discoveries during construction works have been recommended for eight areas.

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION AND BRIEF

1.1 Brief, scope and definitions

This report presents the combined findings of a Stage 1 Archaeological Assessment and a Stage 2 Archaeological Evaluation of the 'corridor of interest' as defined on FGCE Drwg. No's. 9102/26/34-38 for the proposed A419/417 Cirencester and Stratton Bypass, Gloucestershire.

The study was commissioned by Frank Graham Consulting Engineers Limited, Elgar House, Shrub Hill, Worcester, Hereford and Worcester, WR4 9EN for the Department of Transport.

Within the corridor of interest there has been no archaeological assessment or evaluation work undertaken except the recent CAT studies. Individual parcels of land have in some cases been very briefly examined by a variety of individual fieldworkers but not as a coherent thematic, period or landscape study.

The proposed method of road construction was not known in detail at the time this report was compiled, recommendations for archaeological mitigation strategies have been made on the strength of verbal communication between FGCE and CAT staff and on a series of design drawings for the scheme as provided by FGCE (Drwg No's 9102/40/01-06)

In order that the DTp may comply with Council Directive No. 85/337/EEC of 27 June 1985 and assess the likely effects of the scheme the following objectives are achieved in this report.

Stage 1 Archaeological Assessment

a) The compilation of base-line archaeological data for the study area, covering all periods. Sources include national and local records, field surveys and geophysical surveys. This comprises a summary of the known archaeological resource.
Chapters 2 and 3 in this document, and Supplement A.

Stage 2 Archaeological Evaluation

b) The evaluation of the archaeological characteristics of the areas highlighted in the Stage 1 Archaeological Assessment through a programme of excavation.

c) The assessment of the nature, extent and importance of

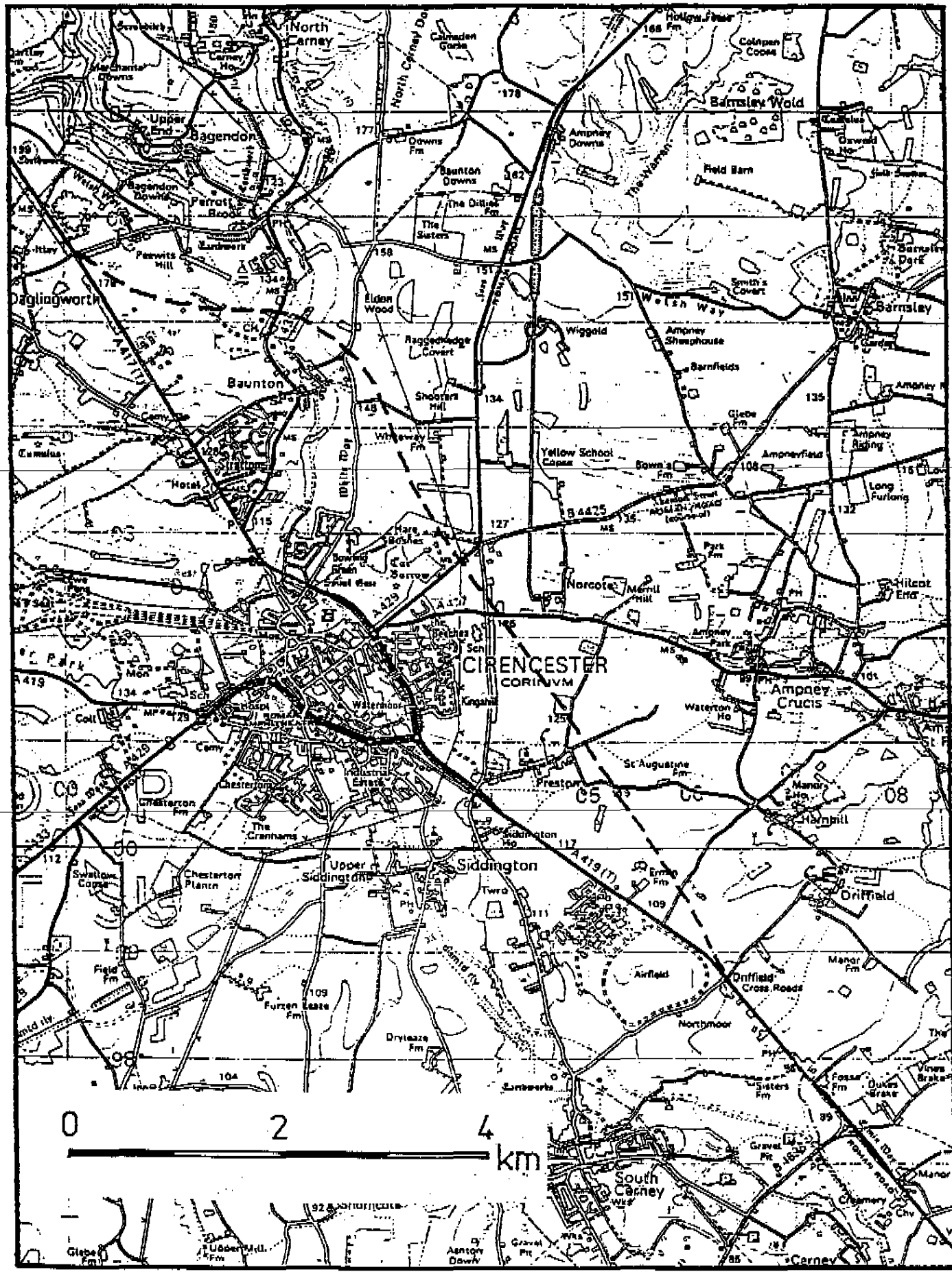


Figure 1.0 Location

the archaeological resource represented within the study area with descriptions framed to conform with the DoE guidelines for the recognition of monuments of national importance.

Stage 3 Archaeological Management Strategy

d) The formulation of recommendations and options for strategies to deal with all aspects of the archaeology in relation to the proposed road scheme.

The aim of this archaeological study is to provide high quality archaeological data with a view to enabling:

i) any modification to the design, construction methods, and/or layout of the proposed development to be prepared in good time.

ii) the design, planning and costing of the most appropriate archaeological response to the proposed development to be prepared in good time.

The archaeological evidence considered in this report lies both above and below the present ground surface. No archaeologically relevant standing buildings fall within the corridor of interest.

1.2 The study area

The study area is defined as the 'corridor of interest' outlined on FGCE Drg. Nos. 9102/26/34-38 at a scale of 1:2500 (see Supplement C, Figure 1.3 for reduced version).

The proposed bypass leaves the A417 trunk road near the Daglingworth Crossroads to run south to join the A419 trunk road at Driffield Crossroads, passing to the east of Cirencester.

The corridor of interest commences at NGR: SP 007055 near the junction of Stratton, Bagendon and Daglingworth parish boundaries on the edge of Cirencester Golf Club. It then runs eastward across Bagendon Downs to cross the Churn valley at Trinity Farm above Baunton village. From the crossing of the Churn it then passes along the high ground to the east of Baunton where it strikes south-east towards Hare Bushes plantation. Thereafter it runs in a straight line to cross the Fosse Way to the east of Cirencester passing by Preston village and on to the Driffield Crossroads. From here upgrading of the present A419 to dual carriageway standard takes the corridor along the line of the road to the county boundary at Fosse Farm where the

Latton bypass scheme begins at NGR: SU 071979.

The corridor of interest varies in width from 20-60m on the main cross country sections widening to approximately 100m at points along the route where it crosses existing major roads. The total area involved in the scheme is approximately 97ha (241 acres), of which some 62.5ha are under arable cultivation, 23ha are laid down to pasture at the time of this study, 8ha are woodland and the remaining 3.5ha comprise roads, tracks, etc.

At its northern limit the corridor of interest runs across land at 178m OD, gradually decreasing in height until it reaches the lowest point at 86m OD on the southern junction with the Latton bypass.

Throughout this report individual fields are referred to in the text by their modern land parcel numbers as they appear on the current Ordnance Survey 1:2500 series maps.

1.3 Geology and soils

From north to south on the route of the bypass the underlying geology is Great Oolite from the Daglingworth Crossroads to the White Way above Baunton. From here the Forest Marbles run as far as the village of Preston from which point Middle Lias Cornbrash predominates as far as Fosse Farm on the A419. The Forest Marbles make a brief re-entry into the sequence between Harnhill and Ermine Farm.

Within the valley of the River Churn there are deposits of river terrace gravels, Fullers earth, and recent alluvium, the alluvial deposits widening out downstream of Baunton.

1.4 Archaeological background

The corridor of interest does not pass through any archaeological sites of previously recognised national importance. There are, however, several extremely important Scheduled Monuments on the fringes of the corridor: Corinium Roman Town and the Perrott's Brook Dykes being the most notable, with the Tar Barrows on the east of Cirencester coming closest to the proposed route. Although the proximity of these monuments to the road scheme has certain implications for the archaeology of the area, none are directly affected by the current proposals.

Within the corridor there are 13 PRN's registered on the November 1990 edition of the GCC SMR. These are listed and fully described in Appendix A of Supplement A to this docu-

ment.

Previous archaeological work in the study area has principally involved personal research by individuals and includes:

1) fieldwalking by Mr S F Coombs in the 1970's on a variety of sites to the east of Cirencester identified several flint scatters within or impinging upon the corridor.

2) fieldwork in 1983 by Dr R Hingley around PRN's 2026, 2390, 3067, 3068, 3069, 3070, 3072, 3383 & 3313 located some flintwork associated with several of these monuments. He also studied aerial photographs in the vicinity.

3) observation of the Thames water pipeline from Preston to Baunton which cut through the corridor at two places, was carried out by C Henshaw in 1981. Nothing was discovered within the corridor, but close-by some artefactual material was noted.

1.5 Resource discrimination criteria and project logistics

The identified archaeological resource is divided into two categories, sites and monuments.

A site may be defined as a 'window' or view onto the archaeological resource, for example, an excavation, watching brief, aerial photograph or an old map.

The term monument is usefully defined by the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979 as:

a) any building, structure or work, whether above or below the surface of the land, and any cave or excavation.

b) any site comprising the remains of any such building, structure or work or any cave or excavation.

c) any site comprising, or containing the remains of any vehicle, vessel, aircraft or other movable structure or part thereof which neither constitutes nor forms part of any work which is a monument in part a) above.

Most of the items contained in the Gloucestershire SMR (Supplement A, Appendix A) are best regarded as 'sites', that is they are archaeological observations of various kinds which may provide clues as to the nature of monuments. The nature of these monuments is described in Chapter 6.

The strategy adopted for the production of this survey follows that in PPG16 and the paper by Darvill and Gerrard (1990). The aim has been to provide baseline data about sites and monuments within the corridor. A variety of survey techniques were used in this process. The data retrieved during this process can only be as reliable and complete as the best currently available techniques will allow.

There are a variety of problems which limit the quality of different sources. Examples include the difficulty of plotting cropmarks accurately from oblique aerial photographs, and fieldwalking at a time when the cereal crop is well-developed and obscures a proportion of the ground surface.

Moreover the land use differs along the study area which makes the consistent application of any one single survey technique impossible.

A fieldwalking programme was implemented over 63.3% of the corridor. Line walking at 50m intervals provided a c.1% sample investigation of the surface area of the walkable sections of the corridor. Area walking within sites identified from the line walking survey increases surface coverage to c. 25%.

A field-checking programme was operated over all of the corridor, the only area where this investigative procedure proved ineffectual was in Hare Bushes plantation within which tree cover was so dense as to make identification of upstanding features impossible.

Some DTp trial pits in potentially sensitive archaeological areas were briefly examined to check for archaeology. The location of these trial pits was governed by geological parameters; no archaeology was noted. A full programme of examination of test pits was not part of the original archaeological project specification as knowledge of this work was not available to CAT at the time of its compilation.

The great size of the corridor of interest, which is some 97ha in areal extent, precluded blanket geophysical coverage. Site specific geophysical surveys were operated over 16 potential archaeological areas, and several test transects were done in sections of the corridor where there was a limit upon the amount of information that could be derived from other survey methods. In total this amounts to some 9.4% of the corridor being subject to investigation by geophysical survey.

Sites of archaeological potential identified at Stage 1 were evaluated by excavation during Stage 2. Some 20 sites were

identified, being examined by a total of 48 trenches, 18 of these were hand-dug and 30 machine stripped of topsoil. The total area opened by trenching is some 1395 sq.m, or 0.14% of the corridor of interest.

CHAPTER 2

STAGE 1 ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT - DATA COLLECTION

In this chapter the techniques used for the location and description of sites are discussed. The methods used and sources studied demonstrate how the data levels are built up using a variety of field techniques to complement the desk-based techniques. The field techniques include field-walking, fieldchecking and geophysical survey.

2.1 Archaeological records and archives

The Gloucestershire County Council SMR held at Shire Hall, Gloucester, is a computer-based record augmented by PRN plots (sketch only) on OS base-maps at 1:10,000 scale. Within this database information has been collected and stored from the National Monuments Record, Ordnance Survey Archaeological Record Cards, excavations, field surveys, casual finds and historical records relating to the county. The database also includes material derived from museum accession records and a preliminary search of primary and secondary literature. The SMR data included in Supplement A, Appendix A is catalogued by archaeological period and PRN.

2.2 Aerial photographs

All the major national collections were accessed for data. This included libraries of the Committee for Aerial Photography at Cambridge University, and the Royal Commission on the Historical Monuments of England which includes many NMR prints. RCHME's archives additionally contained some photographic material supplied by independent, private fliers. Both libraries hold extensive collections of vertical and oblique AP's. A full listing of photographs examined occurs in Supplement A, Appendix B. Several private collections could not be accessed for data due to lack of time, the widespread coverage afforded by the CAPCU and RCHME collections was assumed to be sufficient at this stage.

No additional evidence was forthcoming from those photographs examined with which to enhance current plots (Glos SMR; RCHME 1976; Leech 1977) but some additional detail, definition and more accurate plotting was possible (see Supplement A, Figures 1.4-1.8).

All the cropmarks were plotted at a scale of 1:2500 on OS base sheets. This facilitated positioning of evaluation

trenches.

2.3 Cartographic and documentary sources

The principal source of this material was the Gloucester Record Office.

All known maps of the study area have been examined and relevant data transcribed onto 1:10,000 scale OS base-maps. Only the most useful map data has been reproduced in the Assessment report, ie. early 19th century field names and boundaries (see Supplement A, Figure 2.0). A list of cartographic material examined appears in Supplement A, Appendix C.

Primary documentary sources survive in the form of deeds, estate papers, registers, accounts and terriers. A list of the material relevant to the study area appears in Supplement A, Appendix C.

Secondary documentary sources include unpublished fieldwalking notes; excavation and fieldwalking reports in **TBGAS** and **Glevensis**; the RCHME volume on **Iron Age and Romano-British Monuments in the Gloucestershire Cotswolds** (1976), and the **VCH** volume II for Gloucestershire. Details are listed in the Bibliography, as are tertiary sources.

2.4 Museums

Archaeological finds from Cirencester and its environs are mainly held by the Corinium Museum in Cirencester. Some material has been dispersed to major museums around the country.

It is hoped that most landowners will donate any artefactual material recovered from their property during the course of these investigations to the Corinium Museum.

It is anticipated that the clients (FGCE Ltd) will allow CAT to deposit archive copies of reports arising from this study with the Corinium Museum.

2.5 Individual expertise

Several local fieldworkers were contacted. Little additional information was forthcoming on the study area from these sources.

2.6 Fieldwork

A programme of extensive fieldwalking was carried out along the corridor where field conditions permitted. Some 65% of the corridor was deemed to be suitable for fieldwalking. An intensive fieldwalking programme was operated on a site-specific basis. In total some 16.89 % of the corridor sur face area was covered by these means. The principal aim was to define the location, extent and date of archaeological sites within the corridor from all periods.

A complementary programme of field-checking was carried out over the entire corridor. The principal aim here was to investigate those areas of the corridor under pasture which could not be fieldwalked, ie. pasture and woodland,etc.It was also implemented as a double check in those areas where fieldwalking was possible to look for standing earthworks.

2.7 Fieldwalking

Fieldwalking relies upon the assumption that the artefactual material recovered from the field surface will be representative of the total artefact population present within the ploughsoil, and that this in turn reflects any sub-surface features. Deeply buried features such as graves or pits will normally remain undetected during fieldwalking. Details of soil depth and subsoil conditions were not recorded during the programme and metal detectors were not employed.

Extensive coverage of the corridor was carried out by line walking at 50m intervals based on the OS national grid. Material from each scan line (approximately 1m wide field of vision) was collected, bagged and grid-referenced every 50m along the line. Extensive coverage in this systematic manner allows comparison between sample units and gives a ground surface coverage of 2% of the 65% of the corridor which could be assessed in this way.

Intensive coverage was operated on a site-specific basis. Sites identified from the rapid extensive programme were re-walked in a more intensive study. The same OS base was used but the grid was increased to a 25m spacing. Within each 25mx25m square the entire ground surface was scanned giving 100% coverage of the area under scrutiny. Several sites identified in this way straddle the corridor rather than lie wholly within it. It was outwith the parameters of this study to fully investigate the total extent of these sites as this could have involved coverage of whole fields not directly affected by the bypass corridor.

Some 16.89% of the ground surface of the corridor has thus

been examined by fieldwalking.

Material recovered from both surveys was plotted at 1:2500 scale on OS base maps for the entire study area. Due to the considerable size of the assessment project only certain select categories of artefactual material were illustrated within the report and these were restricted to a site-specific selection (see Supplement A, Appendix F). CAT holds working copies of all maps showing artefact categories for the entire study area. These form part of the project archive and can be made available for consultation by prior appointment if requested.

Fieldwalking results (by period)

Prehistoric

Evidence of prehistoric activity within the study area is restricted to two artefact categories, flint and pottery. The flint was divided into sub-categories and catalogued, ie. burnt, waste, implement etc, but much of this material can be difficult to assign to specific chronological periods. Little patterning could be seen within the distributions recorded. The pottery is slightly more distinctive, but full dating is again difficult on the basis of the small amounts recovered.

Details of the distributions can be found in Section 3 of Supplement A.

The programme highlighted six new areas of interest:
(relevant field numbers can be found on Figure 1.3 of Supplement C)

1) Field No.4830 Site D
2) Field No.0041 Site F
3) Field No.1416 Site H
4) Field No.2200 Site I
5) Field No.8476 Site P
6) Field No.9329 Site S.

These new sites were all identified as scatters of flint. Very little identifiable prehistoric pottery was recovered from the corridor. This is not an uncommon phenomenon as it is not until the late Iron Age that pottery fabrics become resilient enough to withstand the rigours of prolonged presence in cultivated soils.

Romano-British

Surprisingly little evidence came to light to indicate RB activity within the study area. Relatively little ceramic material was recovered. However, there were two areas where

material was recovered in marginally significant quantity. These are:

1) Field Nos. 2472/1757
2) Field Nos. 9534/7400 Sites J and K.

A fragment of quernstone, possibly Roman in date, was also recovered from Field No.7400.

Medieval
There were two concentrations of medieval pottery. These were located in:

1) Field No.9534 Site J
2) Field No.7400 Site K.

There were no other significant concentrations in the corridor. Possible reasons for the occurrence of this material were discussed in length in Supplement A, Section 4.4.

Post-medieval
There is a general and consistent scatter of post-medieval material throughout the corridor. No concentrations occur. Nearly all of the material from this period would appear to have found its way into the fields through manuring.

Early modern period
Distributions of modern brick, tile, slag etc broadly reflect the same manuring patterns, road networks, and areas of occupation as the preceding period. There would not appear to be any significant concentrations of material and variations in density would seem to be accounted for shifting manuring patterns.

2.8 Field-checking

During the assessment all but one area of the corridor was accessible for field-checking. These were not available Fields 9952,1941, and 3929 at Peewits Hill Farm. These fields have since been checked. Hare Bushes plantation was technically available for field-checking but did in fact prove problematic due to dense undergrowth.

Fields under pasture or parcels of land under tree cover were visually checked for earthworks. Several traverses of each field were undertaken and identified features noted on recording sheets. Earthworks were recorded in a number of fields, details of these can be found in Supplement A, 24-8. Those of particular interest are listed below:

Field-checking results

1) Field Nos. 0007,1619,1400,1600 Site B. A complex of agrarian, water management, road, and mill features of possible medieval date and later.

2) Field No.7200 Site E. Features alongside the Fosse Way.

2.9 Field conditions and land availability

Conditions for fieldwalking were not ideal. Although 65 % of the corridor was under arable and theoretically available for fieldwalking, some fields were under root crops and many others had sufficient growth of winter cereals in them as to obscure around 40% of the field surface in some cases. One field which was subsequently cleared of crop, has since been walked. The results were negative.

Weather conditions affect artefact recovery rates. During the course of the fieldwalking such conditions were assessed as fair.

For field-checking all but 13.3% of the corridor was available for examination.

2.10 Geophysical Survey

The geophysical survey was executed in two stages due to the negotiation of access to the required areas. The survey work was in fact carried out between the Stage 1 Assessment and the Stage 2 evaluation and also during the Stage 2 Evaluation, but the results of this work are included within Chapter 2 of this document as it is basically an assessment technique.

The geophysical survey was split into two distinct components. The first included test sampling over areas of the corridor that were under permanent pasture and could not be fieldwalked. These failed to show any notable signs of archaeological activity during fieldchecking. These same areas showed no useful indications of archaeology when examined through AP analysis. Points for sampling were selected on the basis of their potential for past human utilisation (eg. plateau areas rather than scarps), information gathered from landowners about potential areas of archaeological significance based on past discoveries, and attempting to cover a reasonably spaced sample of the land involved.

The second component of the survey involved execution of test surveys over potential or known archaeological sites highlighted at Stage 1 for further investigation. These were looked at in order to i) assess the potential for the existence of additional features not visible on the AP's, ii) to check the positioning of features plotted from AP evidence, and iii) to assist accurate targeting of evaluation trenches to ensure maximum return of data as far as was practicable.

The survey instrument used in all cases was a Geoscan Fluxgate Magnetometer. Use of a magnetometer was chosen as the most appropriate geophysical technique where the need was to provide a reasonable return of information while covering the ground rapidly.

The survey transects were in nearly all cases related to the OS National Grid although the standard survey unit was a 30mx30m square. Multiples or subdivisions of this unit were used as required.

Select details of the geophysical survey are given by field in Chapter 3 of this document. A short account is now given here.

The following areas were surveyed:

Site A(i) 3000m2 in Field No 7262, under pasture, no cropmark or fieldchecking evidence.

Site A(ii) and (iii) 8550m2 in Field No 9952 & 3929 under pasture, no cropmark evidence. Some feint earthwork features probably modern.

Site D 5400m2 in Field No 4830 Flint scatter

Site E 1800m2 in Field No 7200 adjacent to Fosse Way. The only point on the Fosse within the corridor which is not under tree cover or been quarried in the past.

Site F 3600m2 in Field No 0041. Flint scatter.

Site H 5400m2 in Field No 1416. Flint scatter

Site I 5400m2 in Field No 2200. Flint scatter

Site J 20700m2 in Field No 9534. Medieval pottery scatter, some Roman background material.

Site K 3600m2 in Field No7400. Medieval pottery scatter, some Roman background material including a quernstone fragment.

Site L 3600m2 in Field No 2472 PRN 3067.

Site M 1800m2 in Field No 2636 PRN 3383

Site N 9825m2 in Field No 5049 PRN 2026.

Site P 5400m2 in Field No 8476. Flint scatter.

Site R 5400m2 in Field No 0044 PRN 2388a.

Site S 6800m2 in Field No 9329. Flint scatter

Total area surveyed equals 90275m2, and equates to a 9.62% sample of the corridor.

Geophysical survey results

The geophysical survey was useful in exposing the presence of potential features at Sites A(i)-(iii). Nothing was previously known in these areas, most features recorded were linear although there were some possible pits.

Site D was relatively devoid of features, some possible pits were encountered.

Nothing was revealed at Site E.

A possible pit group was recorded within Site F

A few tentative linear features and possible pits were recorded at Sites H and I.

Some linear features and possible pits were recorded at Site J, results at Site K were very poor.

Results at Site L revealed PRN 3067 to be located further north than the AP evidence suggested.

Results at Site N showed a complex of linear features and some possible pits.

A possible ring-like feature was tentatively identified at Site P

Results at Site R were not encouraging, PRN 2388b was difficult to identify among the very few feint indications of features.

Site S revealed some pit like anomalies and some linear features.

Full details of the survey procedure and results are given by Site in the survey report in Supplement B.

2.11 The Earthwork Survey - Trinity Mill

The watermeadow complex at Trinity Mill was subject to field-checking during Stage 1. Examination of the area revealed a suspected sequence of superimposed features including watermeadows, drains, leats and causeways. In addition the site was known for its earlier history, there being literary reference to a mill in the area from at least the Saxon period, and on the east side of the valley the pre-1820 road is well preserved in lengths.

It was believed that the complexity of the area could not be properly understood without a detailed survey of the features within and around the corridor. This work was carried out by RCHME between Stage 1 and Stage 2, and encompassed the whole parcel of land pertaining to Trinity Mill.

The earthwork survey results

The initial suspicion that there were complex features in this area was justified by the results of the survey. These showed that there was indeed a complex history to the watermeadows themselves, there being evidence of superimposed systems and typological differences between blocks of meadow. Unfortunately,the laying down and subsequent changes to watermeadow systems are not well documented in contemporary literature, making phase dating almost impossible.

The survey also revealed remnant ridge-and-furrow preserved on the valley floor but truncated by the watermeadow block (8). This same section of ridge-and-furrow is cut through by the mill pound of Trinity Mill and it would seem the upcast from the excavation of this feature overlies the ridge-and-furrow to some extent. This helps to date the mill pound on a relative basis. Ridge-and-furrow in the Cotswolds reaches a peak of usage around the 13th century, therefore because the pound cuts the extant ridge-and furrow it is later than it, ie. probably no earlier than the 13th century. The style of ridge-and-furrow encountered here is narrow-rig, normally this is associated with post-medieval land-use, and if so then cutting of the mill pound must be seen as a fairly late development.

Apart from these features there were no other important archaeological elements apparent within the general area of the corridor.

An important secondary consideration is that this detailed

earthwork survey will ensure that damage done to the meadows could, if felt appropriate, be re-instated accurately and to the original plan by using the 1:1000 earthwork survey.

Full details of the earthwork survey can be found in Supplement B.

2.12 Summary

The following chapter lists a fully detailed account of assessment work done on the corridor using the variety of techniques summarised in this chapter. The data is arranged by modern field number.

CHAPTER 3

STAGE 1 ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT - RESULTS

==========

3.1 General

In this chapter the archaeological data assembled at the end of Stage 1 is summarised. The data is defined in terms of sites identified using the techniques outlined in Chapter 2.

The study area is broken down into small units using the present field numbering system. Within these fields the presence or absence of sites, their nature and the technique used in their location are described.

The field numbers are those that appear on the modern 1:2500 OS maps. The fields and numbers can be seen on Figures 1.2

The field names are those that appear on the early 19th century maps of the area (see Supplement A, Figure 2.0), many of these names persist to the present day.

The following records apply only to the study area within each field, not to each field as a whole unless sites extend beyond the study area.

FIELD NUMBER: 7262
Field name: None
Land-use: Pasture
Stage 1 Assessment - desk-based study
Result: The parish boundary between Daglingworth and Baunton runs through the corridor here.
Stage 1 Assessment - fieldwork
Field-checking results: no surface visible features
Geophysical results: possible ditches and pits indicated. (Supplement B, Geophysical report)
Proposed Stage 2 Evaluation
Two machine cut trenches, 1991/501 and 502 to investigate linear and pit-like features.

FIELD NUMBER: 8265
Field name: none
Land-use: pasture
Stage 1 Assessment - desk-based study
Result: two parish boundaries form the E and S edges of this field. The Bagendon/Daglingworth boundary is called Warrens Wall, the name may be medieval in origin.
Stage 1 Assessment - fieldwork
Field-checking result: no surface features visible.

Proposed Stage 2 Evaluation
None

FIELD NUMBER: 3600
Field name: not known
Land-use: golf course
Stage 1 Assessment - desk-based study
Result: the parish boundary between Baunton, Bagendon and Daglingworth form the limits E an N to this field.
Stage 1 Assessment - fieldwork
Field-checking result: no surface visible features.
Proposed Stage 2 Evaluation
None

FIELD NUMBER: 9952
Field name:none
Land-use: pasture
Stage 1 Assessment - desk-based study
Result: no records exist of archaeological finds/sites.
Stage 1 Assessment - fieldwork
Field-checking result: a feint lynchet noted running N-S across the field. This cuts the corridor from NGR SP00905006 to SP0090705453. Several linear depressions also run across the corridor these are most probably modern drains.
Geophysical result: Traces of anomalies noted, undefined.
Proposed Stage 2 Evaluation
None taken up due to difficulties of access

FIELD NUMBER: 1941
Field name: Pewett Hill
Land-use: pasture
Stage 1 Assessment - desk-based study
Result: no records exist of archaeological finds/sites. Verbal communication with the landowner establishes that an RB black-burnished ware urn and fragments of Roman Samian ware were found at NGR SP0110905502 to the north of the corridor. The reliability of the information is difficult to assess.
Stage 1 Assessment - fieldwork
Field-checking results: Some linear depressions run across the corridor, these are most probably modern drains.
Proposed Stage 2 Evaluation
None taken up due to difficulties of access.

FIELD NUMBER: 3929
Field name: Pewett Hill
Land-use: pasture
Stage 1 Assessment - desk-based study
Result: Verbal communication with landowner established possibility that a large masonry tank was found before the Second World War at the head of the coombe running across

the corridor. The findspot would appear to be approximately NGR SP0130705352. It is difficult to assess the reliability of the information provided.
Stage 1 Assessment - fieldwork
Field-checking result: No archaeological traces in reputed findspot of masonry tank. Several parallel linear depressions visible in area of corridor appear to be modern drains.
Geophysical result: Traces of anomalies noted, undefined.
Proposed Stage 2 Evaluation
None taken up due to difficulties of access.

FIELD NUMBER: 3746
Field name: Pewetts Hill
Land-use: pasture
Stage 1 Assessment - desk-based study
Result: no records exist of archaeological finds/sites.
Stage 1 Assessment - fieldwork
Field-checking result: no visible traces of archaeology.
Proposed Stage 2 Evaluation
None

FIELD NUMBER: 0015
Field name: Knockers Hall piece
Land-use: pasture
Stage 1 Assessment - desk-based study
Result: no records exist of archaeological finds/sites.
Stage 1 Assessment - fieldwork
Field-checking result: a slight linear hollow running downslope, two modern trackways running with the contours and a very shallow depression were recorded. All appear modern.
Geophysical result: a number of linear features converging at right-angles and some possible pits were recorded. (Supplement B, Geophysical report)
Proposed Stage 2 Evaluation
One evaluation trench 1991/503 to examine linear and pit-like features.

FIELD NUMBER: 0007
Field name: Millhams
Land-use: pasture
Stage 1 Assessment - desk-based study
Result: land bounded by PRN 2090, the 1820 turnpike road on the NW and a mill pound on the SE. This is part of the land pertaining to Trinity Mill.
Stage 1 Assessment - fieldwork
Field-checking: a shallow depression exists at the top of the slope at SP 0200605150. This would appear to be modern quarrying or a disused building platform.
Proposed Stage 2 Evaluation
None.

FIELD NUMBER: 1023
Field name: Millhams
Land-use: pasture
Stage 1 Assessment - desk-based study
Result: land bounded by PRN 2090, the 1820 turnpike road on the NW and a mill pound on the SE.
Stage 1 Assessment - fieldwork
Field-checking result: no visible traces of archaeology.
Proposed Stage 2 Evaluation
None.

FIELD NUMBER: 1619
Field name: Millhams
Land-use: meadow
Stage 1 Assessment - desk-based study
Result: this field is part of an extensive water meadow system in the valley. It is bounded on its NW side by a mill pound.
Stage 1 Assessment - fieldwork
Field-checking result: there are upstanding earthworks of different phases some of which relate to the water meadows.
Earthwork survey result: remnant ridge-and-furrow exists here cut through by later water meadows and the mill pound. (Supplement B, Survey plan)
Proposed Stage 2 Evaluation
None.

FIELD NUMBER: 1400
Field name: Lake meadow
Land-use: meadow
Stage 1 Assessment - desk-based study
Result: part of an extensive water meadow system. Also identified as an area with potential for deep colluvial and alluvial deposits with possible palaeo-environmental and archaeological content.
Stage 1 Assessment - fieldwork
Field-checking result: multi-phase watermeadow system still upstanding.
Earthwork survey result: this revealed two distinct blocks of water meadow here showing evidence of alteration over the years. (Supplement B, survey report p.7)
Proposed Stage 2 Evaluation
Two machine-cut trenches 1991/504 and 505 cut across the valley floor to assess the palaeo-environmental and archaeological potential of deposits.

FIELD NUMBER: 1600
Field name: The Lynches
Land-use: pasture
Stage 1 Assessment - desk-based study
Result: field on edge of water meadow system through which a pre-1820 trackway runs, PRN 2085.

Stage 1 Assessment - fieldwork
Field-checking result: PRN 2085 found to be in exceptionally well preserved condition where it passes through the corridor.
Proposed Stage 2 Evaluation
A linear trench 1991/506 cut to examine the trackway.

FIELD NUMBER: 1800
Field name: The Lynches
Land-use: woodland scrub
Stage 1 Assessment - desk-based study
Result: no records of archaeological finds/sites
Stage 1 Assessment - fieldwork
Field-checking result: no archaeology visible.
Proposed Stage 2 Evaluation
None.

FIELD NUMBER: 3600
Field name: Elms Quarry
Land-use: pasture
Stage 1 Assessment - desk-based study
Result: no records of archaeological finds/sites.
Stage 1 Assessment - fieldwork
Field-checking result: no archaeology visible.
Proposed Stage 2 Evaluation
None.

FIELD NUMBER: 4800
Field name: Elms Quarry
Land-use: pasture on W side, quarry infill and tip on E side adjacent to White Way
Stage 1 Assessment - desk-based study
Result: field bounded on E side by PRN 2039, the White Way. Top end of field was a stone quarry.
Stage 1 Assessment - fieldwork
Field-checking result: much ground disturbance at the top end of the field, this is related to quarry infilling.
Proposed Stage 2 Evaluation
Originally proposed one trench running off the edge of the White Way, trench later re-located due to supply of additional data after Stage 1 Assessment.

FIELD NUMBER: unknown
Field name: Water Furrow
Land-use: arable (under swedes)
Stage 1 Assessment - desk-based study
Result: field bounded on W side by PRN 2039, the White Way. AP evidence and features within fields to the north of this field suggest that the original line of the White Way may have crossed this field to the rear of Exhibition Barn.
Stage 1 Assessment - fieldwork
Fieldwalking result: this field was walked during Stage 2

when the crop had been reduced by grazing sheep, some flint-work was recovered which could be tentatively dated to the Neolithic period.
Field-checking result: a barely perceptible rise was noted on the approximate projected alignment of the White Way.
Proposed Stage 2 Evaluation
Originally proposed one trench running off the White Way, trench later re-located in the light of new evidence following the removal of the crop which had previously obscured the field surface.

FIELD NUMBER: 8848
Field name: Hitchings Hedge
Land-use: arable (cereals)
Stage 1 Assessment - desk-based study
Result: field is bounded on W side by PRN 2039, the White Way. The projected re-alignment of the White Way suggests it would cross this field in the centre.
Stage 1 Assessment - fieldwork
Field-walking result: the crop in this field had sprouted at the time of walking, post-medieval and modern pottery recovered. At Stage 2 some flintwork tentatively identified as Neolithic, and some Whiteway pottery was recovered.
Proposed Stage 2 Evaluation
Originally none, later modified to place trench 1991/507 within this field in order to examine the area through which the original line of the White Way was suspected of running.

FIELD NUMBER: 3025
Field name: Barley Stone
Land-use: arable (cereals)
Stage 1 Assessment - desk-based study
Result: no records of archaeological finds/sites
Stage 1 Assessment - fieldwork
Field-walking result: the crop in this field was advanced at the time of walking, post-medieval and modern pottery recovered.
Proposed Stage 2 Evaluation
None

FIELD NUMBER: 0005
Field name: Ridgeway
Land-use: Arable (cereals)
Stage 1 Assessment - desk-based study
Result: this field is bounded to the W by PRN 2039, the original line of this road is thought to run through the W side of this field.
Stage 1 Assessment - fieldwork
Field-walking result: the crop was advanced at the time of walking, post-medieval and modern pottery recovered.
Proposed Stage 2 Evaluation
None

FIELD NUMBER: 1900
Field name: Barley stone
Land-use: Arable (cereals)
Stage 1 Assessment - desk-based study
Result: no records of archaeological finds/sites.
Stage 1 Assessment - fieldwork
Field-walking result: the crop was advanced at the time of walking, post-medieval and modern pottery recovered.
Proposed Stage 2 Evaluation
None

FIELD NUMBER: 1971
Field name: Moor furlong
Land-use: Arable (cereals)
Stage 1 Assessment - desk-based study
Result: no records of archaeological finds/sites.
Stage 1 Assessment - fieldwork
Field-walking result: some modern pottery, one flint and one sherd of Roman pottery were recovered.
Proposed Stage 2 Evaluation
None

FIELD NUMBER: 2139
Field name: Lower twenty acres
Land-use: arable (cereals)
Stage 1 Assessment - desk-based study
Result: an undated cropmark complex PRN 2128 is present to the west of the corridor. Also a scatter of flint was recorded in this field in 1972 by Mr S F Coombs, this too was outside the line of the corridor.
Stage 1 Assessment - fieldwork
Field-walking result: some modern pottery was recovered.
Proposed Stage 2 Evaluation
None

FIELD NUMBER: 4830
Field name: Hare Bushes
Land-use: Arable (cereals)
Stage 1 Assessment - desk-based study
Result: no records of archaeological finds/sites
Stage 1 Assessment - fieldwork
Field-walking result: a scatter of flintwork was recovered which contained some material datable to the Neolithic period, most of the remaining flint was undiagnostic. A sherd of medieval pottery and some modern pottery was also recovered. It was thought that the flintwork may represent an extension of the scatter recorded in Field No.2139 by Mr Coombs. (Supplement A, Appendix F, Figures 3.1-3.7)
Geophysical results: a test transect over the flint scatter revealed some tentative traces of possible pit-like features.

Proposed Stage 2 Evaluation
Four trenches to be excavated here 1991/508-511 to examine the flint scatter and possible pits. Three of these trenches to be hand-dug and one machine cut.

FIELD NUMBER: Hare Bushes Plantation
Field name: Hare Bushes
Land-use: managed woodland
Stage 1 Assessment - desk-based study
Result: no records of archaeological finds/sites within the corridor, but PRN 6561 the Roman Fosse Way bounds the plantation on its SE side. The Cirencester and Baunton parish boundary runs through the N end of the woods crossing the corridor at SP 0345003103 to SP 0350003103.
Stage 1 Assessment - fieldwork
Field-checking result: field-checking hampered by extremely dense tree cover, the full corridor area could not be examined adequately. However several features of interest were recorded within the wood alongside PRN 6561, these included a short length of platform, a possible roadside quarry ditch and the road embankment. The parish boundary exists as a single bank with hedgeline, and ditch, where it crosses the corridor.
Proposed Stage 2 Evaluation
Three trenches to be used here, 1991/512-514 in order to examine the platform, the quarry ditch and the area where the quarry ditch appeared to end and the road embankment continue as the sole feature.

FIELD NUMBER: 0041
Field name: not known
Land-use: Arable (cereals)
Stage 1 Assessment - desk-based study
Result: The field is bounded on two sides by PRN 6561 the Roman Fosse Way and PRN 5963 Cherrytree Lane a possible Roman road. In addition there are some cropmarks to the S of the corridor, PRN 2129. A scatter of flint was recorded by Mr S F Coombs in the field in 1971.
Stage 1 Assessment - fieldwork
Field-walking result: walked under crop but a flint scatter was identified centred on NGR: SP0375502650, most of the material was undiagnostic. Other categories of material recovered were large quantities of modern pottery and one sherd of Roman pottery (Supplement A, Appendix F, Figures 3.8-3.15)
Geophysical result: two areas were examined, one alongside the Fosse Way was located in the only part of this field adjacent to the road not disturbed by quarrying, this showed no features. The second was a trial transect over the flint scatter, this revealed a possible pit cluster at SP 0385003755, and several other possible pits.

Proposed Stage 2 Evaluation
One machine-cut trench 1991/515 located at the Fosse Way to double-check the area where the geophysical survey showed negative results. It is still suspected that there may be Roman roadside ditches or occupation here. Two hand-dug test pits 1991/516-517 in the area of the flint scatter to assess its character, one of these to be located over a geophysical anomaly to test for possible pits. One machine-cut trench 1991/518 located at right-angles to Cherrytree Lane in order to check for possible Roman roadside ditches

FIELD NUMBER: 0242
Field name: part of Townsend Ground
Land-use: Managed woodland
Stage 1 Assessment - desk-based study
Result: Woodland bounded on W side by Cherrytree Lane, PRN 5963 a possible Roman Road.
Stage 1 Assessment - fieldwork
Field-checking result: an earthen bank was encountered in the part of the plantation flanking the A417 road, this is modern.
Proposed Stage 2 Evaluation
None

FIELD NUMBER: 2246
Field name: Townsend Ground
Land-use: arable (cereals)
Stage 1 Assessment - desk-based study
Result: no records of archaeological finds/sites.
Stage 1 Assessment - fieldwork
Field-walking result: no material recovered.
Proposed Stage 2 Evaluation
None

FIELD NUMBER: 1416
Field name: not known
Land-use: arable (cereals)
Stage 1 Assessment - desk-based study
Result: the field is bounded by Kingshill Lane PRN 5963 to the W and by the disused West Midland and Junction railway line PRN 4944, only the railway runs through the corridor. Early photographs of the site show a railway construction team temporary encampment in the field. No trace of this was encountered during fieldwork.
Stage 1 Assessment - fieldwork
Field-walking result: A flint scatter was identified centred on NGR: SP0415502200, other material recovered was mainly modern pottery. The line of the railway is now marked by large quantities of balast and slag in the top-soil. (Supplement A, Appendix F, Figure 3.15-3.27)
Geophysical survey result: A test transect was located over part of the flint scatter this revealed several short

linear features.
Proposed Stage 2 Evaluation
Two hand -dug trenches 1991/519-520 to examine the area of the flint scatter and a machine-cut trench 1991/521 across one of the linear features.

FIELD NUMBER: 2200
Field name: not known
Land-use: arable (cereals)
Stage 1 Assessment - desk-based study
Result: field bounded on its NW side by PRN 4944. Flint-work located in this field by Mr S F Coombs in 1972.
Stage 1 Assessment - fieldwork
Field-walking result: a flint scatter was identified in the area of the corridor, this appeared to be Mesolithic/ Neolithic in date. Other material recovered was mainly modern pottery.
Geophysical result: a test transect was carried out over this area it revealed a few possible pits and some short linear features.
Proposed Stage 2 Evaluation
One machine-cut trench 1991/522 to be cut across a short linear feature and possible pit, four hand-dug test pits 1991/523-526 to be located within the general flint scatter to examine its character, one of these was placed over a possible pit.

FIELD NUMBER: 6100
Field name: not known
Land-use: arable (cereals)
Stage 1 Assessment - desk-based study
Result: no records of archaeological finds/sites.
Stage 1 Assessment - fieldwork
Field-walking result: no material recovered.
Proposed Stage 2 Evaluation
None

FIELD NUMBER: 2487
Field name: Oak Leigh
Land-use: arable (cereals)
Stage 1 Assessment - desk-based study
Result: no records of archaeological finds/sites.
Stage 1 Assessment - fieldwork
Field-walking result: no material recovered.
Proposed Stage 2 Evaluation
None

FIELD NUMBER: 5783
Field name: Mount Hills
Land-use: arable (cereals)
Stage 1 Assessment - desk-based study
Result: no records exist of archaeological finds/sites.

Stage 1 Assessment - fieldwork
Field-walking result: a small amount of modern and post-medieval pottery was recovered from the field, amongst this were two flint flakes.
Proposed Stage 2 Evaluation
None

FIELD NUMBER: 5459
Field name: Bottom Piece
Land-use: arable (cereals)
Stage 1 Assessment - desk-based study
Result: no records of archaeological finds/sites
Stage 1 Assessment - fieldwork
Field-walking result: most of the material recovered was modern pottery but amongst this there were two sherds of medieval pottery, one possible Roman pot-sherd and one flint.
Proposed Stage 2 Evaluation
None

FIELD NUMBER: 8057
Field name: Whittingstools
Land-use: pasture
Stage 1 Assessment - desk-based study
Result: no records of archaeological finds/sites
Stage 1 Assessment - fieldwork
Field-checking result: no surface visible features
Proposed Stage 2 Evaluation
None

FIELD NUMBER: 7540
Field name: Whittingstools
Land-use: woodland and pasture
Stage 1 Assessment - desk-based study
Result: no records of archaeological finds/sites
Stage 1 Assessment - fieldwork
Field-checking result: some well preserved ridge-and-furrow exists within the wood
Proposed Stage 2 Evaluation
None

FIELD NUMBER: 5837
Field name: Severals
Land-use: arable (cereals)
Stage 1 Assessment - desk-based study
Result: no records of archaeological finds/sites
Stage 1 Assessment - fieldwork
Field-walking result: no material recovered
Proposed Stage 2 Evaluation
None

FIELD NUMBER: 9534
Field name: Cowleigh
Land-use: arable (cereals)
Stage 1 Assessment - desk-based study
Result: no records of archaeological finds/sites. The field contained extant ridge-and-furrow until very recently when this was bulldozed flat. Fieldwalking was carried out in 1981 along the route of the Thames Water Pipeline which ran through this field, no finds were recovered from field 9534 but further N along Witpits Lane medieval and Roman material was recovered.
Stage 1 Assessment - fieldwork
Field-walking result: a heavy concentration of medieval pottery broadly dated to between the 12th and 14th centuries was recovered from this field, amongst it were three Roman sherds and a few flint flakes. Amongst the medieval pottery fabric and form types were very limited. Modern and post-medieval pottery was abundant. (Supplement A , Appendix F, Figure 3.28-3.33)
Geophysical result: the area of the corridor was blanketed by geophysical survey, the indications from the survey were that there was little activity here beyond the possible presence of several pit-like features and some curving linear items. Initial results of the survey had hinted at the presence of a kiln, but subsequent analysis showed this to be unlikely. (Supplement B, Geophysical survey report)
Stage 2 Evaluation
Three machine cut trenches were required here 1991/527, 529 and 530. These were intended to examine the general cause of the scatter of medieval pottery and the various geophysical anomalies present on the survey.

FIELD NUMBER: 7400
Field name: Whittingstools
Land-use: arable (cereals)
Stage 1 Assessment - desk-based study
Result: no records exist of archaeological finds/sites.
Stage 1 Assessment - fieldwork
Field-walking result: a heavy concentration of medieval pottery broadly dated to the 12th to 14th centuries was recovered from the N part of the field. One sherd of possible prehistoric pottery was recovered, and one Roman sherd also. Much of the remaining material was modern and post-medieval in date. A fragment of Roman quernstone was also recovered from this area. (Supplement A, Appendix F, Figure 3.28-3.33)
Geophysical survey result: The survey showed no activity within the area examined. (Supplement B, Geophysical report)
Proposed Stage 2 Evaluation
Two trenches were required 1991/528 and 531 in order to examine the causes for the medieval pottery concentration.

FIELD NUMBER: 8100
Field name: Townsend Ground
Land-use: arable (cereals)
Stage 1 Assessment - desk-based study
Result: no record of archaeological finds/sites.
Stage 1 Assessment - fieldwork
Field-walking result: Large quantities of post-medieval and modern pottery was recovered from this field along with one sherd of medieval pottery and three flints. (Supplement A, Appendix F, Figures 3.28, 3.29 and 3.32)
Proposed Stage 2 Evaluation
None

FIELD NUMBER: 0006
Field name: Townsend Ground
Land-use: arable (cereals)
Stage 1 Assessment - desk-based study
Result: no records of archaeological finds/sites.
Stage 1 Assessment - fieldwork
Field-walking result: Much post-medieval and modern pottery was recovered from the field along with three pieces of flint. The flint was widely scattered. (Supplement A, Appendix F, Figure 3.35)
Proposed Stage 2 Evaluation
None

FIELD NUMBER: 2000
Field name: Pinhill
Land-use: arable (cereals)
Stage 1 Assessment - desk-based study
Result: PRN 3313 extant ridge-and-furrow, is present within this field but does not impinge upon the corridor.
Stage 1 Assessment - fieldwork
Field-walking result: heavy stubble cover denied the opportunity to fieldwalk the area.
Proposed Stage 2 Evaluation
None

FIELD NUMBER: 0973
Field name: Harnhill Lane end ground
Land-use: arable (cereals)
Stage 1 Assessment - desk-based study
Result: no records exist of archaeological finds/sites.
Stage 1 Assessment - fieldwork
Field-walking result: a large quantity of post-medieval and modern pottery was recovered, along with several pieces of flint which were outside the corridor.
Proposed Stage 2 Evaluation
None

FIELD NUMBER: 2472
Field name: Duck Foreland
Land-use: arable (cereals)
Stage 1 Assessment - desk-based study
Result: the field contains PRN 3067 a sub-rectangular enclosure and a double-ditched trackway.
Stage 1 Assessment - fieldwork
Field-walking result: material recovered from the field was mainly post-medieval and modern pottery with one medieval sherd, one Roman sherd and two flints. None of the material showed any significant clustering. (Supplement A, Appendix F, Figures 3.34, 3.35 and 3.37)
Geophysical result: A sample transect across the area showed the double ditched trackway to be further north than originally plotted from the oblique AP's, there were also several more linear features within the corridor and one or two possible pit features. (Supplement B, Geophysical survey)
Proposed Stage 2 Evaluation
Two machine-cut trenches 1991/532 and 533 required to investigate the nature of the linear features and their relationship to the double ditched trackway.

FIELD NUMBER: 1757
Field name: not known
Land-use: arable (cereals)
Stage 1 Assessment - desk-based study
Result: no records of archaeological finds/sites.
Stage 1 Assessment - fieldwork
Field-walking result: much post-medieval and modern pottery was recovered from this area, amongst this were one possible prehistoric sherd and three Roman sherds, and a flint. The Roman and prehistoric material was all widely distributed. (Supplement A, Appendix F, Figure 3.35-3.37)
Proposed Stage 2 Evaluation
None

FIELD NUMBER: 5049
Field name: not known
Land-use: arable (cereals)
Stage 1 Assessment - desk-based study
Result: PRN 2026 occupies this field, this is mainly a series of amorphous ditches seen on AP's and a ring-ditch which is outside the corridor.
Stage 1 Assessment - fieldwork
Field-walking result: heavy stubble cover made this field impossible to walk.
Geophysical result: blanket coverage of the area of the field covered by the corridor resulted in clear indications of a number of irregular linear ditches and some possible enclosures, there were also one or two possible pits within the area as well. (Supplement B, Geophysical report)

Proposed Stage 2 Evaluation
Two trenches 1991/536 and 537 were required to investigate a sample of these ditches and possible enclosures, to ascertain their true character and archaeological potential.

FIELD NUMBER: 2636
Field name: not known
Land-use: pasture
Stage 1 Assessment - desk-based study
Result: this field is partly occupied by PRN 3383, a collection of irregular cropmark features probably field boundaries and a possible sub-rectangular enclosure.
Stage 1 Assessment - fieldwork
Field-checking result: there was no visible upstanding archaeology, the field gave the appearance of having been levelled at some time.
Geophysical result: A sample transect over the possible sub-rectangular enclosure revealed several linear features which appeared to correspond with the AP evidence. (Supplement B, Geophysical report)
Proposed Stage 2 Evaluation
Two machine cut trenches 1991/534 and 535 to examine the nature of the sub-rectangular enclosure and a section of linear ditch within the corridor.

FIELD NUMBER: 3923
Field name: not known
Land-use: pasture
Stage 1 Assessment - desk-based study
Result: this field contains PRN 3072 , a double penannular ring-ditch of indeterminate date, possibly Bronze Age.
Stage 1 Assessment - fieldwork
Field-checking result: revealed no upstanding visible archaeology. This field gave the impression of having been levelled at some point in time.
Proposed Stage 2 Evaluation
One machine cut trench located across PRN 3072 to assess its character and state of preservation.

FIELD NUMBER: 6800
Field name: not known
Land-use: pasture
Stage 1 Assessment - desk-based study
Result: no records of archaeological finds/sites.
Stage 1 Assessment - fieldwork
Field-checking result: some traces of remnant ridge-and-furrow present in field.
Proposed Stage 2 Evaluation
None

FIELD NUMBER: 5400
Field name: not known
Land-use: pasture
Stage 1 Assessment - desk-based study
Result: no records of archaeological finds/sites.
Stage 1 Assessment - fieldwork
Field-checking result: well preserved sections of ridge-and-furrow are present within this field.
Proposed Stage 2 Evaluation
None

FIELD NUMBER: 7590
Field name: not known
Land-use: pasture
Stage 1 Assessment - desk-based study
Result: no records of archaeological finds/sites
Stage 1 Assessment - fieldwork
Field-checking result: some extant ridge-and-furrow is present here, less well preserved than that in field 5400.
Proposed Stage 2 Evaluation
None

FIELD NUMBER: 5086
Field name: not known
Land-use: pasture
Stage 1 Assessment - desk-based study
Result: no records of archaeological finds/sites.
Stage 1 Assessment - fieldwork
Field-checking result: no surface visible features.
Proposed Stage 2 Evaluation
None

FIELD NUMBER: 6579
Field name: not known
Land-use: arable (cereals)
Stage 1 Assessment - desk-based study
Result: no records of archaeological finds/sites
Stage 1 Assessment - fieldwork
Field-walking result: no material recovered.
Proposed Stage 2 Evaluation
None

FIELD NUMBER: 8476
Field name: Locks Quarter Ground
Land-use: arable (cereals)
Stage 1 Assessment - desk-based study
Result: parts of this field used for small scale stone quarrying. No record of archaeological finds/sites.
Stage 1 Assessment - fieldwork
Field-walking results: a general background scatter of post-medieval and modern pottery was recovered. A scatter of flintwork was also identified, although mostly undiagnostic

some of it was perhaps datable to the Bronze Age. (Supplement A, Appendix F, Figure 3.38-3.43)
Geophysical result: A sample transect was carried out over part of the flint scatter, this revealed a possible ring-like feature at the N end of the transect. (Supplement B, Geophysical report)
Proposed Stage 2 Evaluation
Three hand-dug trenches 1991/539-541 to examine the character of the flint scatter, one of these to be placed over the possible ring feature seen on the geophysical.

FIELD NUMBER: 7262
Field name: not known
Land-use: arable (cereals)
Stage 1 Assessment - desk-based study
Result: this field contains PRN 2390, a ring-ditch. It is also bounded on its E side by the Preston/Driffield parish boundary. It has been suggested that this boundary may represent fossilisation of an earlier Roman administrative boundary.
Stage 1 Assessment - fieldwork
Field-walking result: most of the material recovered is of post-medieval and modern date, four flints were found over a wide area. (Supplement A, Appendix F, Figures 3.38 and 3.39)
Proposed Stage 2 Evaluation
One machine cut trench 1991/542 placed across PRN 2390 in order to assess its state of preservation, the trench also to run up to the field boundary to check for evidence of earlier usage.

FIELD NUMBER: 0044
Field name: Upper field
Land-use: arable (kale)
Stage 1 Assessment - desk-based study
Result: this field contains PRN 2388 at its northern end. Although there is only one Primary Record Number for this site it is in fact two distinct and separate items, the first of these is a cropmark of a ring-ditch and short linear features surrounding it, the second is a group of linear and curvi-linear features to the W of Field Barn. To the east of the corridor traces of ridge-and-furrow show on AP's, and in the S end of the field post-medieval field boundaries are also visible on AP,s. The NW side of the field is bounded by the Preston/Driffield parish boundary, while the SW side of the field is bounded by PRN 7542, Roman Ermine Street.
Stage 1 Assessment - fieldwork
Field-walking result: the advanced state of the crop meant fieldwalking could not take place.
Geophysical result: A test transect over part of the linear and curvilinear cropmark complex PRN 2388 revealed some very feint traces of linear features. (Supplement B,, Geophysical

report)
Proposed Stage 2 Evaluation
Three trenches were required here, 1991/543-544 would be located across the linear and curvilinear features to assess their character and state of preservation, while 1991/545 would be located across the ring-ditch for the same reasons.

FIELD NUMBER: 5366
Field name: Rytham/Overstreet furlong
Land-use: arable (kale)
Stage 1 Assessment - desk-based study
Result: the field is bounded on its SW side by PRN 7542 Roman Ermine Street. No other records of archaeological finds/sites.
Stage 1 Assessment - fieldwork
Field-walking result: the advanced state of the crop meant that fieldwalking could not take place at the time of the original assessment, the field was later grazed then ploughed allowing walking to take place at Stage 2, some modern pottery was recovered.
Proposed Stage 2 Evaluation
None

FIELD NUMBER: 7748
Field name: Overstreet Furlong
Land-use: arable (cereals)
Stage 1 Assessment - desk-based study
Result: the field is bounded on its SW side by PRN 7542 Roman Ermine Street. There were no other records of archaeological finds/sites.
Stage 1 Assessment - fieldwork
Field-walking results: walked under advanced crop, material recovered was mainly post-medieval and modern pottery, some flintwork was also recovered, none of this proved to be significant. (Supplement A, Appendix B, Figure 3.44)
Proposed Stage 2 Evaluation
None

FIELD NUMBER: 9329
Field name: Lowerstreet furlong
Land-use: arable (cereals)
Stage 1 Assessment - desk-based study
Result: the field is bounded on its SW side by PRN 7542, Roman Ermine Street. No other records of archaeological finds/sites.
Stage 1 Assessment - fieldwork
Field-walking result: post-medieval and modern pottery formed the bulk of the material recovered from this field. A significant scatter of flintwork was also recorded. One Roman sherd was found. (Supplement A, Appendix F, Figure 3.44, 3.45, 3.47, 3.50-3.54)
Geophysical survey result: a test transect was carried out

over part of the flint scatter. This revealed a few anomalies that could represent pits, there were also a series of parallel linear features which were initially interpreted as having an agricultural origin. (Supplement B, Geophysical report)

Proposed Stage 2 Evaluation

Three trenches were required here. 1991/546 and 548 were to be hand-dug within the general flint scatter to assess its character and possibility of undisturbed deposits existing below plough depth, one of these trenches was also located over a geophysical anomaly. A machine cut trench 1991/547 was to be cut at an angle to PRN 7542 to check for the presence of roadside ditches and to examine one of the linear features visible on the geophysical survey.

FIELD NUMBER: 9300
Field name: not known
Land-use: arable (cereals)

Stage 1 Assessment - desk-based study

Result: the field is bounded on its E side by PRN 7542, Roman Ermine Street. No other records of archaeological finds/sites.

Stage 1 Assessment - fieldwork

Field-walking result: all material recovered was post-medieval and modern pottery.

Proposed Stage 2 Evaluation

None

FIELD NUMBER: 0005
Field name: Littleworth
Land-use: woodland

Stage 1 Assessment - desk-based study

Result: the land is bounded on its W side by PRN 7542, Roman Ermine Street. No other record of archaeological finds/sites

Stage 1 Assessment - fieldwork

Field-checking result: a deep roadside ditch was present running through the wood, this was thought to be relatively modern in date.

Proposed Stage 2 Evaluation

None

FIELD NUMBER: 0186
Field name: not known
Land-use: pasture

Stage 1 Assessment - desk-based study

Result: the field is bounded on its E side by PRN 7542, Roman Ermine Street, and on its SE side by the South Cerney/Latton parish boundary. No other records of archaeological finds/sites.

Stage 1 Assessment - fieldwork

Field-checking result: no visible archaeology

Proposed Stage 2 Evaluation
None

FIELD NUMBER: 1386
Field name: not known
Land-use: woodland
Stage 1 Assessment - desk-based study
Result: land is bounded on its W side by PRN 7542, Roman Ermine Street. No other records of archaeological finds/sites.
Stage 1 Assessment - fieldwork
Field-checking result: no visible archaeology
Proposed Stage 2 Evaluation
None

3.2 Summary

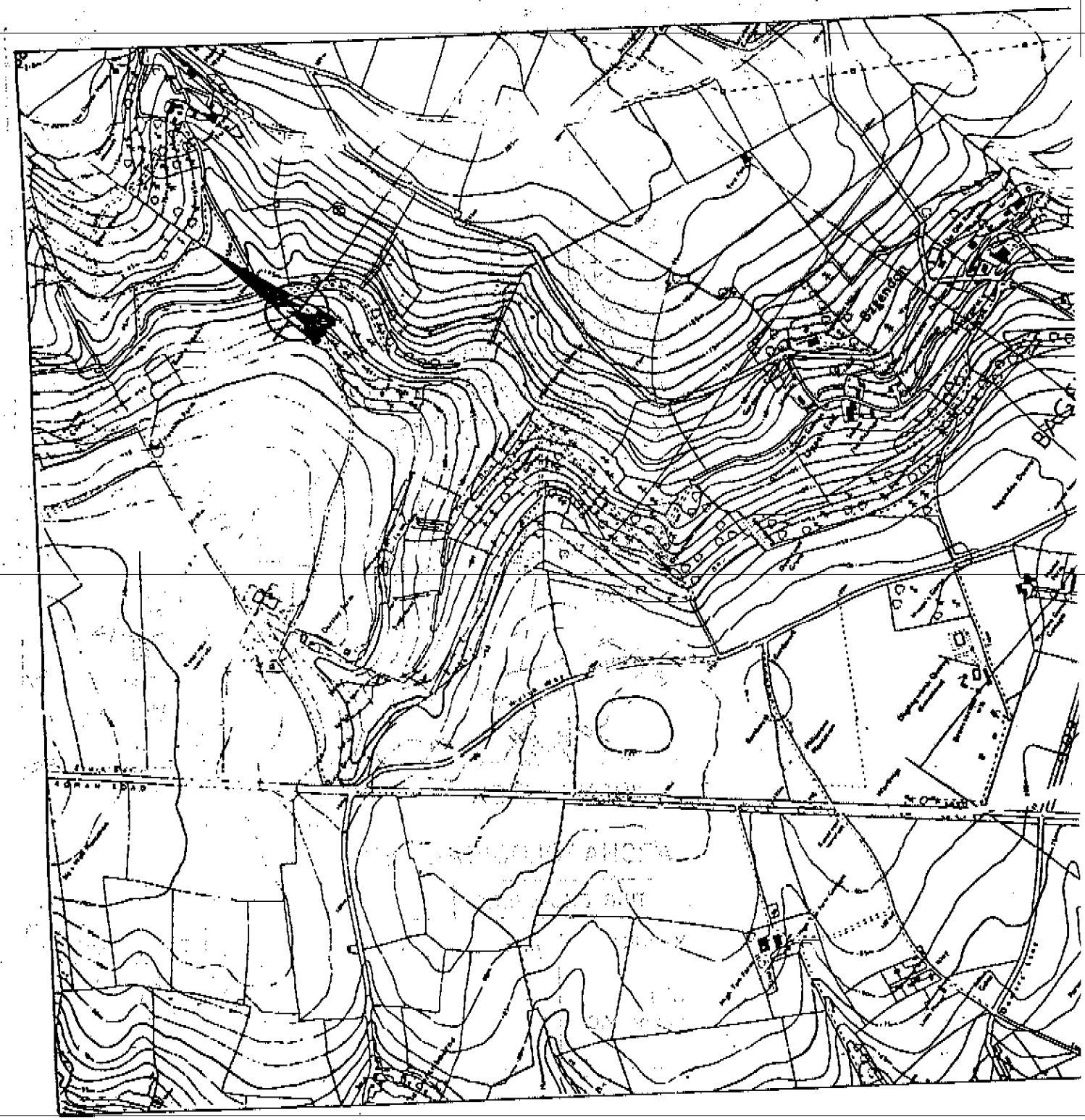
The results of the Stage 1 investigation showed that twenty areas required evaluation at Stage 2. The exact location of each evaluation trench was determined by a combination of the following:

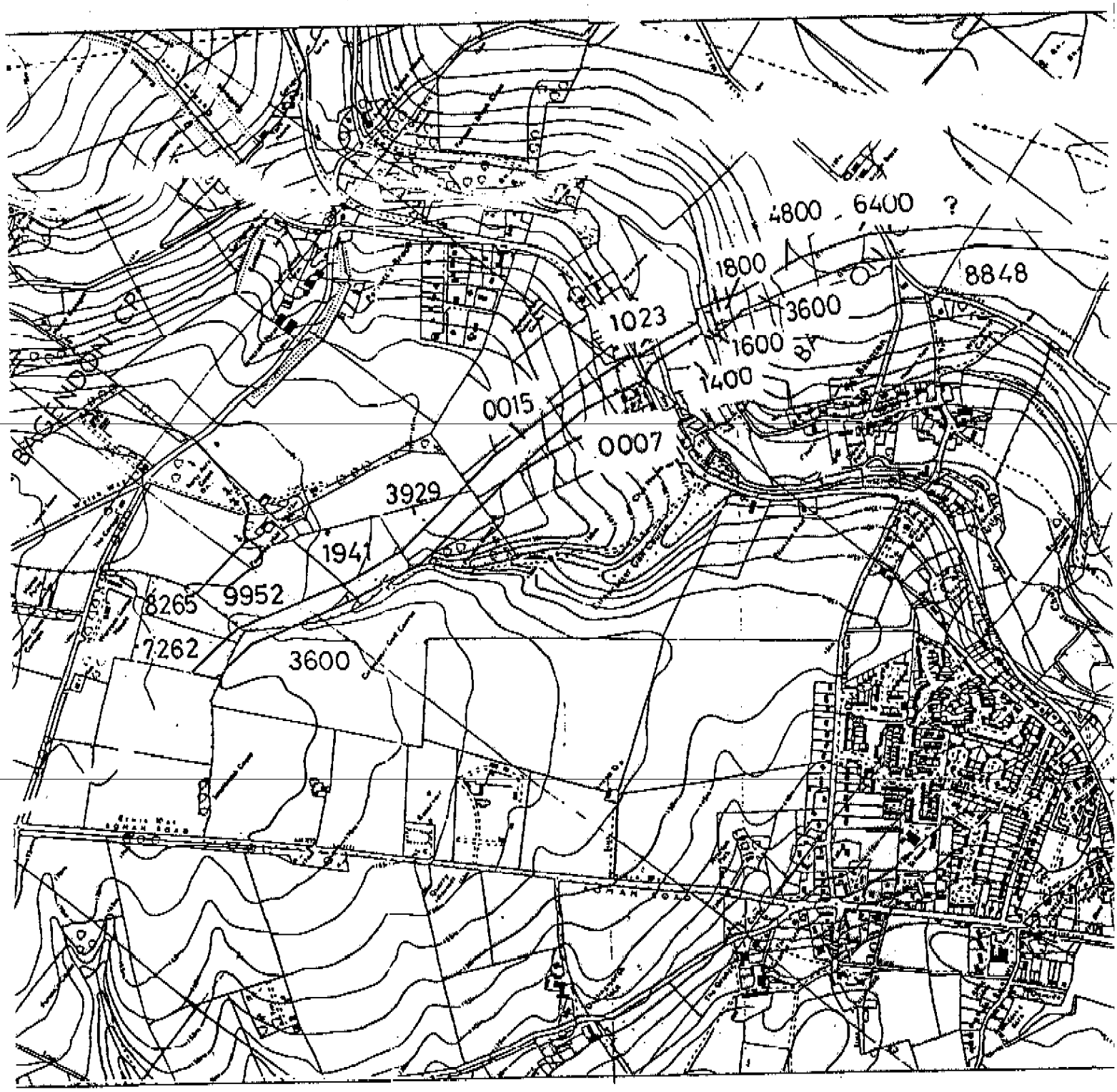
a) The results of the desk-based study
b) The results of the field-walking
c) The results of the geophysical survey
d) The results of the field-checking
e) The results of the cartographic studies
f) The extent and nature of the gaps in the knowledge of the archaeology as a result of a) to e) above.

The following fields contained areas of archaeological potential where evaluation trenches were located. The results of the excavation of these trenches are summarised in Chapter 5.

Site	Field	Trench(es)	Site type
A(i)	7262	1991/501, 502	unclassified
A(ii)(iii)	0015	1991/503	unclassified
B	1400	1991/504, 505	valley deposits
	1600	1991/506	trackway PRN 2085
C	8848	1991/507	(?)road alignment and (?)Neolithic flint scatter
D	4830	1991/508-511	(?)Neolithic flint scatter
E	7200	1991/512-514	roadside features
	0041	515	
F	0041	1991/516, 517	flint scatter
G	0041	1991/518	(?)Roman road

H	1416	1991/519-521	flint scatter
I	2200	1991/522-526	Neo/meso flint scatter
J	9534	1991/527, 529 530	medieval pot scatter
K	7400	1991/528, 531	medieval pot scatter
L	2472	1991/532, 533	undated cropmarks PRN 3067
M	2636	1991/534, 535	undated cropmarks PRN 3383
N	2472	1991/536, 537	undated cropmarks PRN 2026
O	3923	1991/538	undated cropmark PRN 3072
P	8476	1991/539-541	(?)Bronze Age flint scatter
Q	7262	1991/542	undated ring-ditch PRN 2390
R	0044	1991/543, 544	undated cropmarks PRN 2388b
		545	undated ring-ditch PRN 2388a
S	9329	1991/546-548	flint scatter

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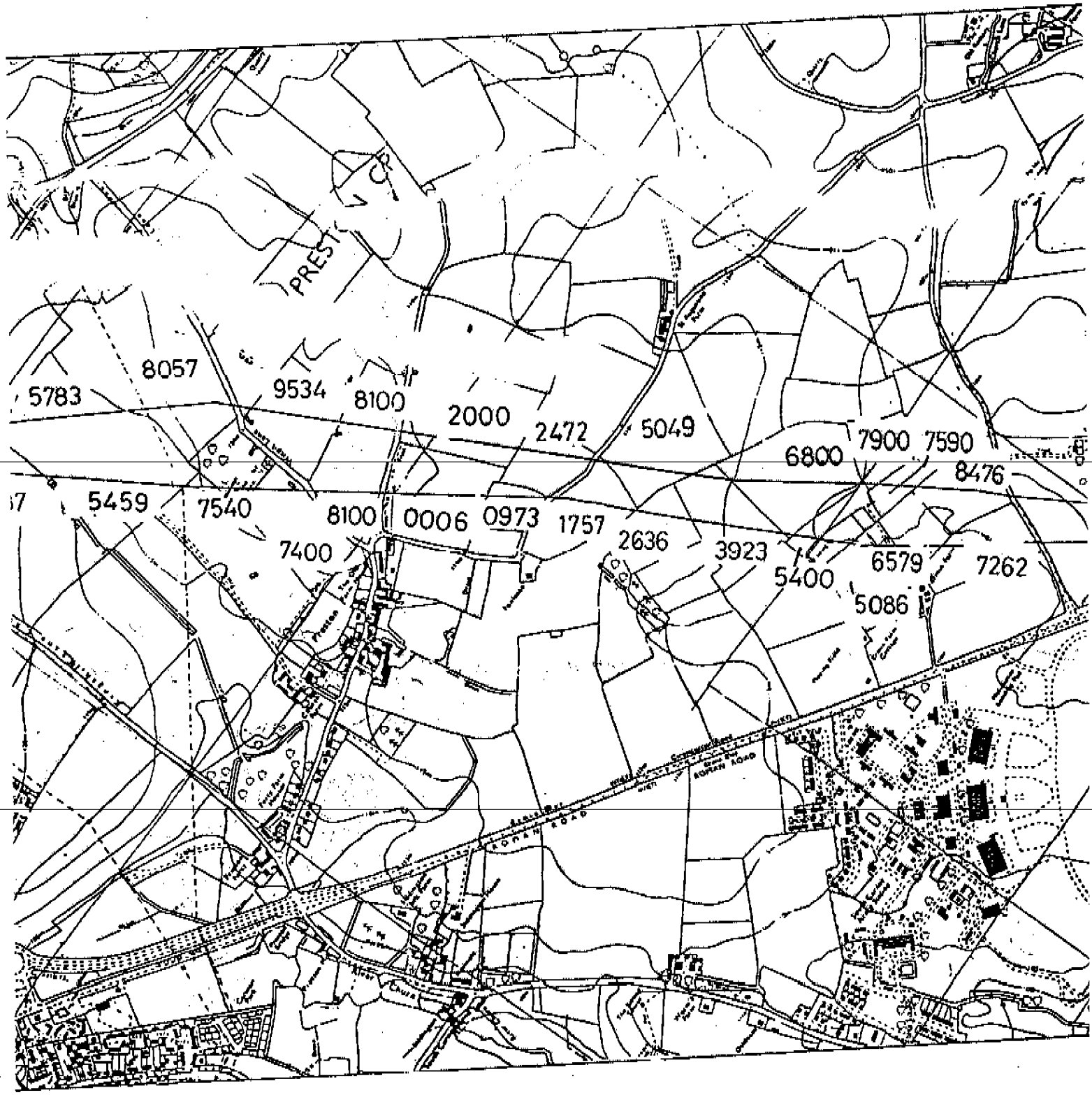

FIGURE 1.2

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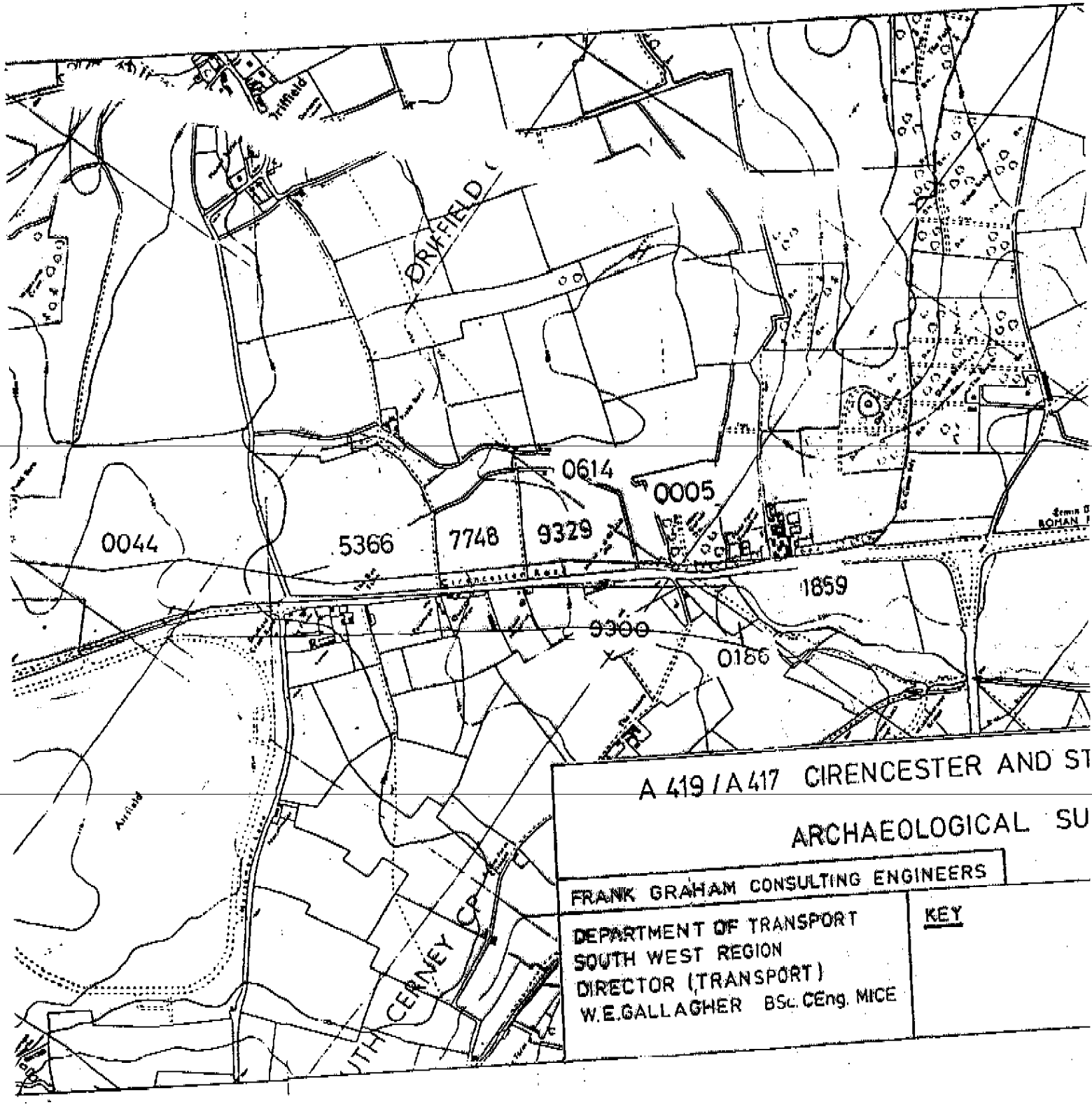

TAILED LOCATION PLAN SHOWING
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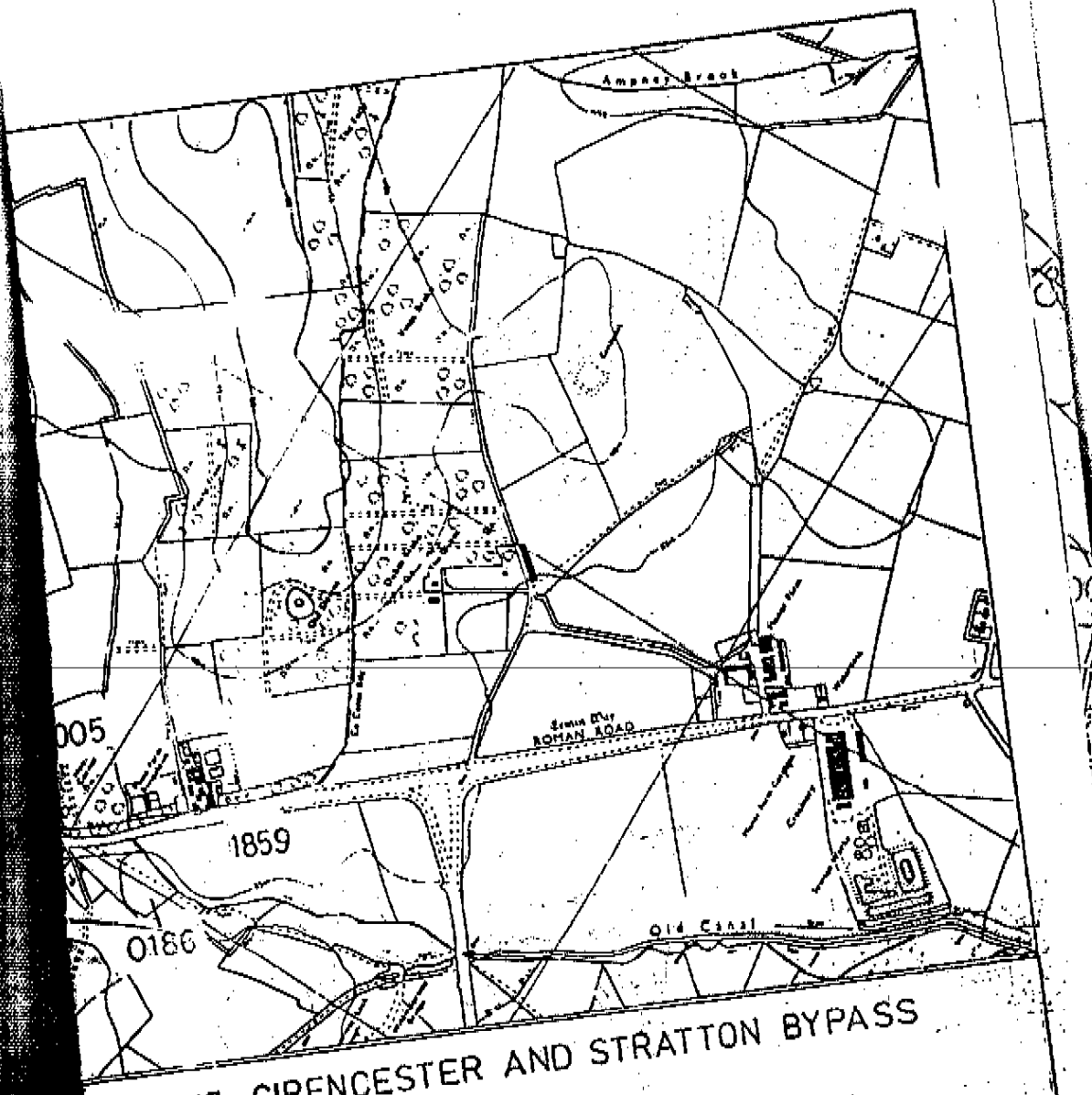

419 / A417 CIRENCESTER AND STRATTON BYPASS

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY

RAHAM CONSULTING ENGINEERS

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CHAPTER 4

STAGE 2 EVALUATION

4.1 Aims and objectives

The general aim of the evaluation was to provide high quality data from direct observation of the archaeological deposits to complement the information already available in the Stage 1 Archaeological Assessment.

These general aims are achieved through pursuit of the following specific objectives:

1) To determine the thickness, depth, and depositional history of the archaeological deposits, paying particular attention to the presence or absence of deposits relating to each of the main phases of occupation discussed in the assessment;

2) To characterise the nature of the main stratigraphic units encountered in terms of their physical composition (stone, sand, gravel, humic etc) and their archaeological formation (primary deposit, secondary deposit etc.);

3) To assess the overall presence and survival of structural remains relating to each of the main periods of occupation revealed, and the potential for the recovery of additional structural information given the nature of the deposits encountered (eg. extent of later disturbance etc.);

4) To assess the overall presence and survival of the main kinds of artefactual evidence (incl. pottery, brick, tile, stone, glass, metal, bone, small finds, industrial residues etc.), its condition and its potential given the nature of the deposits encountered;

5) To assess the overall presence and survival of the main kinds of ecofactual evidence (incl. animal bones, human bones, plant remains etc.), its condition and its potential given the nature of the deposits encountered;

6) To assess the overall presence and survival of the main kinds of environmental evidence (incl. charcoal, pollen, mollusca, soil structure etc.), its condition and its potential given the nature of the deposits encountered;

7) To appraise the relative value of the main stratigraphic units revealed in terms of their importance for preservation and conservation; and

8) To appraise the deposits in terms of their potential for display, promotion and presentation as visible exhibits and public viewing during excavation.

4.2 Methodology

The only technique suitable for the recovery of the information required at this stage in the development programme was the combination of machine cutting and the hand-digging of excavation trenches from the present ground surface down to the top of the natural substrate.

A programme of geotechnical ground investigations, principally machine cut trial pits was in operation during the later stages of the archaeological investigation. Examination of these trial pits was not part of the original project design and little opportunity arose for investigation of geotechnical trial pits for archaeological content. It is assumed that any archaeological material or features encountered would have been referred to CAT, as was indeed the case when a horse tibia and metacarpal were found in FGCE trial-pit 150 close to CAT trench 1991/506.

All archaeological trenches were excavated with appropriate horizontal and vertical recording of the stratigraphy (ie. text, photographs, drawings). Artefacts and ecofacts were recovered and recorded by stratigraphic unit. Samples of major stratigraphic units were taken for analysis and the full list of samples and results achieved are listed in Supplement B.

The archaeological deposits recovered in the trenches were regarded as expendable and the principle is accepted that their loss must be set against the information gained.

The main intention is to study the intrinsic nature of the deposits themselves rather than provide intricate interpretations of any remains revealed. For this reason the trenches examined the entire stratigraphic sequence from top to bottom. The reason for this being that it is felt to be equally important to know the quality and extent of what could be preserved as what might be lost in the course of development.

4.3 Summary

A factual report of the Stage 2 Evaluation results is arranged in site and trench order in Chapter 5, with specialist reports in Supplement B, and appropriate plans and sections in Supplement C. The main evaluation trench plans and sections are drawn at a scale of 1:50 with details at 1:20. Copies of all plans and sections not included in this report are stored in the project archive for Cirencester and Stratton Bypass and can be made available for consultation by prior appointment if required.

CHAPTER 5

STAGE 2:ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION RESULTS

5.1 General

In this chapter the results of the evaluation are listed by Site and Trench, from Site A(i) to Site S running north to south along the corridor.

The results are ordered in such a manner that the main stratigraphic units encountered can be clearly understood. All stratigraphic units within a trench are assigned a unique number , a 'context' number eg. (1). Features such as a ditch, or a pit are also individually numbered within the same running sequence but are denoted by square brackets, eg. [2]. Such features may contain several contexts, such as the layers making up a ditch fill.

The nature of artefactual, ecofactual and environmental data is also summarily described, full details of these items can be sought in the individual specialist reports in Supplement B.

The value of the archaeological deposits encountered is summarised so that in Chapter 6 where the sites and monuments are discussed under their respective period headings, values of importance can be attributed. Three levels of importance have been used, with **High** for sites and monuments of national importance , **Medium** or sites and monuments of regional and local importance and **Low** for areas with no known sites or monuments and areas where archaeology has previously been sterilised. In addition there is a fourth category for blank archaeological areas where it has not been possible to do evaluation work.

Machine-cut trenches were opened using either a JCB or more normally with a tracked mini-excavator, using a 1.75m wide ditch cleaning bucket, archaeological features were then investigated by hand excavation.

2mx2m trenches designed to investigate flint or pottery scatters were dug entirely by hand. Those which were used to assess the flint scatters were subject to a 25% by volume dry-sieving regime using a sieve with 0.5cm mesh size.

A selection of plans and sections from various evaluation trenches can be found in Supplement C. The remaining plans an sections not illustrated are held with CAT as part of the

project archive and can be made available if required. The position of the evaluation trenches are illustrated in Supplement C Figures 3.1 to 3.5.

Evaluation results are as follows:

5.2 SITE A(i)

All trenches at Site A were located to test geophysical anomalies in areas with no known archaeological content.

TRENCH NO: 1991/501
TRENCH SIZE: 1.75m x 14.2m
TRENCH ORIENTATION: NW-SE
FIELD NO.: 7262
LANDUSE: Pasture
LANDOWNER: Mr and Mrs Wilson

Characterisation of main stratigraphic units

TOPSOIL: Loam
SUBSOIL: none present
NATURAL: Limestone bedrock
ARCHAEOLOGY: Linear ditch feature [3]

HEIGHT OF TOPSOIL: 176.14m - 176.73m
HEIGHT OF SUBSOIL: none
HEIGHT OF ARCHAEOLOGY (maximum): 176.24m
HEIGHT OF ARCHAEOLOGY (minimum): 175.79m

Archaeological features

A ditch [3] 1.40m wide, of uncertain date runs across the trench in a NE to SW direction. The ditch was shallow, cut into the limestone bedrock to a depth of 0.30m with a gentle rounded profile. The fill (2) was red-brown clayey loam, well settled and compact giving the appearance of being of some antiquity. No other features were encountered.

Artefactual evidence

No artefactual evidence was recovered from the trench.

Ecofactual/palaeo-environmental evidence

No ecofactual material was recovered from the trench.

Assessment of a sample of ditch fill showed root contamination.

Value of deposits (trench)

The archaeological deposits evaluated in this trench are restricted to one ditch of indeterminate date. The shallowness of the ditch may have been artificially created as a result of ploughing and natural weathering reducing the height of the bedrock and thus the ditch profile. It is impossible to assess how much topsoil and bedrock has been lost. An interpretation of this feature on the limited evidence available, ie. no visible association with occupation features or artefactual material, would suggest it possibly functioned as a a field boundary. It would be necessary to relate this ditch to a datable or morphologically distinct feature before its proper function can be understood.

Prior to this investigation there was no known archaeology within this land parcel, there is now obviously some potential for further archaeological remains to be discovered. The deposits appear to be only of local interest and have been badly damaged over time. **Importance: Medium.**

TRENCH NO: 1991/502
TRENCH SIZE: 1.75m x 5.0m
TRENCH ORIENTATION: N-S
FIELD NO.:7262
LANDUSE: Pasture
LANDOWNER: Mr and Mrs Wilson

NO ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONTENT: Geophysical traces proved to natural anomalies. Three fragments of post-medieval pot were recovered from the topsoil.

Value of deposits (Site)

As above for 1991/501. **Medium**

5.3 SITE A(ii)(iii)

TRENCH NO: 1991/503
TRENCH SIZE: 1.75m x 12.0m
TRENCH ORIENTATION: E-W
FIELD NO.: 0015
LANDUSE: Pasture
LANDOWNER: Mr Lodge

Characterisation of main stratigraphic units

TOPSOIL: Loam
SUBSOIL: Stoney - Loam
NATURAL: Limestone bedrock
ARCHAEOLOGY: linear features (4)(6)(8)(10)
?? double ditched trackway or field boundary

HEIGHT OF TOPSOIL: 159.74 - 160.36m
HEIGHT OF SUBSOIL: 159.62m
HEIGHT OF NATURAL: 159.42 - 160.18m
HEIGHT OF ARCHAEOLOGY (maximum): 160.18m
HEIGHT OF ARCHAEOLOGY (minimum): 159.02m

Archaeological features

Two pairs of linear features running on a NW - SE alignment were noted upon removal of overlying topsoil (1) and a build-up of loamy subsoil (2) which may be a remnant of lynchet or accumulated hillwash. Feature (10) was a Vee - shaped ditch 0.42 m deep and ranging from 0.41m (maximum) to 0.13m (minimum) in width. The ditch was cut into the natural limestone bedrock (3) and contained a compact fill of gritty, loamy - clay (11). No finds were recovered from this or any of the other features within 1991/503.

Ditch (10) lay adjacent to another linear feature (8) cut into the limestone geology to a depth of 0.52 m. Although the shared alignment of features (10) and (8) would suggest some common function, it was noted that the profile of cut (8) was slightly different, being flat bottomed and broader, some 0.56 m (maximum) and 0.16 m (minimum) in size. The southerly edge of the feature possessed a well defined slope, whilst the northerly edge appeared rather more degraded and weathered. As with ditch (10) the fill of this feature was an orangey - brown gritty, loamy - clay.

Towards the northern end of the trench two further parallel features were noted, again running NW - SE. (6) was a narrow feature, some 0.17 m in width and a mere 0.05 m in depth, filled with a similar loam fill to the other ditches.

It is not known to what degree this feature and/or any of the other ditches have been truncated by possible later ploughing action.

One final feature (4) was recorded, running adjacent to (6) on the same alignment. Its width was some 0.26 m and had a depth of some 0.11 m, containing a gritty loam fill.

Artefactual evidence

Little artefactual material was recovered from the trench. Several fragments of window glass and one small glazed sherd of late Post - Medieval date were found within the overlying topsoil (1) and may indicate an introduction to the area by ploughing activity. No material was recovered from any of the ditch fills (11) (9) (7) or (5) to provide any information on their function or dating.

Ecofactual/palaeo-environmental evidence

No ecofactual or palaeo-environmental evidence was found during the excavation of trench 1991/503.

Value of deposits

Geophysical survey transects A(ii) and A(iii) highlighted several anomalies of potential interest. Trench 503 was located so as to bisect a major linear feature running NW-SE to the NE of Peewits Copse and with the identification of feature (8) this has appears to have been successfully achieved.The narrowness and shallow depth of features (4) and (6) at the northern end of the trench would explain their lack of identification by ground survey, whilst the deeper linear features (8) and (10) may have given a combined reading.

The absence of dating evidence and the variation in size and profile of the four parallel features makes their interpretation somewhat difficult. All of the features are too deep to be caused by plough-scarring and at least one of them, (10), has a profile which must be rejected as a field drain. If, as the shared alignment and apparent pairing of the features suggests, the four features are contemporaneous in date then it may well be that the features represent the remains of a field boundary or perhaps more likely a double-ditched trackway.

The state of preservation of the features was variable. (8) and (10) were found to be well preserved whilst (4) and

(6) to the north, with only a thin covering of topsoil were only poorly preserved. Overall the site is of interest and is assigned a value of importance of: Medium

5.4 SITE B

A series of three trenches plus one small pit located in the Churn Valley near Trinity Mill. Trenches 1991/504 and 505 plus the test pit were sited primarily for recovery of palaeo-environmental evidence, while trench 1991/506 was excavated to evaluate the Lynches trackway (PRN 2085), the pre-1820 road up the Churn valley.

TRENCH NO: 1991/504
TRENCH SIZE: 1.75m x 20.0m
TRENCH ORIENTATION: NW-SE
FIELD NO.: 1400
LANDUSE: Meadow
LANDOWNER: Mr and Mrs Duncumb

Characterisation of main stratigraphic units

TOPSOIL: Loam
SUBSOIL: Loamy-clay
NATURAL: Clay, red-brown overlying blue-grey
ARCHAEOLOGY: N/A

HEIGHT OF TOPSOIL: 119.34m
HEIGHT OF SUBSOIL: 119.17m
HEIGHT OF ARCHAEOLOGY (maximum):119.17m
HEIGHT OF ARCHAEOLOGY (minimum):119.04m

Archaeological features

Shallow channels filled with humic loam soil and tentatively associated with the watermeadow system were seen in section. The channels were insubstantial and no other features were visible.

Artefactual evidence

No artefactual evidence was recovered.

Ecofactual/palaeo-environmental evidence

None.

Value of deposits (trench)

Low.

TRENCH NO: 1991/549
TRENCH SIZE: 1.20mx1.0m
TRENCH ORIENTATION: N-S
FIELD NO: 1400
LANDUSE: Meadow
LANDOWNER: Mr and Mrs Duncumb

Characterisation of main stratigraphic units

TOPSOIL: Loam
SUBSOIL: Clay
NATURAL: Alluvial gravels
ARCHAEOLOGY: Mill pound upcast
Palaeo-environmental material

HEIGHT OF TOPSOIL: 119.68m
HEIGHT OF SUBSOIL: 119.50m
HEIGHT OF NATURAL: 118.48m
HEIGHT OF ARCHAEOLOGY (maximum): 119.56m
HEIGHT OF ARCHAEOLOGY (minimum): 119.32m

HEIGHT OF PALAEO-ENVIRONMENTAL DEPOSITS (maximum): 119.32m
HEIGHT OF PALAEO-ENVIRONMENTAL DEPOSITS (minimum): 118.48m

Archaeological features

Possible upcast (2) from cutting or scouring of mill pound.

Artefactual evidence

None

Ecofactual/palaeo-environmental evidence

This small hand-dug test pit located near FGCE borehole No 325 contained some organic material, analysis of this shows preservation of rush and sedge seeds consistent with the belief that the material may have been deposited in an oxbow or meander of the river. No further macro-plant remains were recovered and the deposit is deemed to be of limited use for further analysis of this sort. However, pollen preservation was extremely good. Only a very small series of samples was examined from the stratigraphic sequence within the test-pit but results show pollen to be in abundance, and this would allow a more detailed and closer spaced analysis to be carried out. Preliminary analysis shows several different environments present in the vicinity, it can be suggested that the area from which the samples

were recovered was wet floodplain and watermeadow. Some shallow water environment is also indicated although this could be attributable to long term seasonal flooding. Also a strong arable agricultural component is present. Finally, some woodland may have been present, and this shows a change in dominant species from ash to oak through time.

Value of deposits (trench)

As stated above useful macro-plant remains were poorly represented within the test-pit stratigraphy, but the palynological component is extremely well preserved and represented throughout the sequence. The high quality of palaeo-environmental data from this pit makes it extremely important as it has been shown that very little organic material exists across the valley floor. Absolute dating of the deposits is problematic, the pollen assemblage recovered appears to have characteristics of the Saxon to medieval periods, but there is no firm associated artefactual evidence for this. Formation of upper context (3) would appear to have ceased when the mill leat was constructed as the upcast from the pound (2) seals (3) and (5). The same upcast appears to overlie some ridge-and-furrow in Field No 1619. There is no dating evidence for the cutting of the mill pound, but morphologically the ridge-and-furrow would appear to be post-medieval in date and it would be consistent to see the cutting of the mill pound as being contemporary with the current Trinity Mill buildings which are late 18th/early 19th century in date. This gives an approximate terminus-ante-quem for sealing of the organic deposits, although it could of course be earlier than this.
Importance: High

TRENCH NO: 1991/505
TRENCH SIZE: 1.75m x 30.0m
TRENCH ORIENTATION: NW-SE
FIELD NO.: 1400
LANDUSE: Meadowland
LANDOWNER: Mr and Mrs Duncumb

Characterisation of main stratigraphic units

TOPSOIL: Loam
SUBSOIL: Clay
NATURAL: Clay, red-brown overlying blue-grey with lenses of alluvial gravel at interface.
ARCHAEOLOGY: n/a

HEIGHT OF TOPSOIL: 119.21m - 119.31m
HEIGHT OF SUBSOIL: none present
HEIGHT OF ARCHAEOLOGY (maximum):119.31m
HEIGHT OF ARCHAEOLOGY (minimum):119.00m

Archaeological features

Several small channels thought to relate to the water meadow were noted.

Artefactual evidence

No material was recovered.

Ecofactual/palaeo-environmental evidence

No evidence was recovered.

Value of deposits

Low

TRENCH NO: 1991/506
TRENCH SIZE: 1.75m x 11.4m
TRENCH ORIENTATION: NW-SE
FIELD NO.: 1600/1800
LANDUSE: Bridleway
LANDOWNER: Mr and Mrs Duncumb

Characterisation of main stratigraphic units

TOPSOIL: Loam
SUBSOIL: Clayey-loam
NATURAL: Alluvial gravel overlying degraded bedrock
ARCHAEOLOGY: Modern, early-modern and post-medieval road metallings (20), (21), rut [12], and revetment (9) and (11). (?)Medieval road metallings (19), (14), (15), (24), (26), and revetment (10).
Phase I (?)medieval revetment and road surfaces.
Phase II post-medieval and later revetment and road surfaces due to outward drift of road.

HEIGHT OF TOPSOIL: 118.95m - 121.67m
HEIGHT OF SUBSOIL: 119.11m - 119.58m
HEIGHT OF ARCHAEOLOGY (maximum): 121.18m

HEIGHT OF ARCHAEOLOGY (minimum): 119.95m

Archaeological features

The earliest phases recorded in the trench were several well made and superimposed metalled surfaces, the first (24) being lain on levelled bedrock above a bedding of silty material (26). Above (24), two other surfaces (25) and (15) were laid directly. Above this an accumulation of silty wash had accumulated before surface (14) was laid, the proc ess was repeated before the final surface (19) closed Phase I. All of these surfaces were retained by revetment (10). (24), (25) and (15) were very well made, better even than the modern surface, visually their characteristics resembled Roman road surfaces but there is no dating evidence to substantiate such a statement.

Phase II involved movement west away from the scarp presumably because of hillwash accumulation. A new revetment was constructed (9) and (11) and poorer surfaces (14), (19) made up against it, culminating in the modern surface (21) which laps over the revetment.

Artefactual evidence

One sherd of early-modern glazed ware was recovered from (2), and two bodysherds of medieval date were recovered from (26). An undated flint flake came from (15). Two flint flakes, seven fragments of tile, and a nail were also recovered from (26).

Ecofactual/palaeo-environmental evidence

Seven unidentified fragments of bone, one unassigned vertebrae and one fragment of humerus from a horse were recovered from (18). There was no environmental evidence recovered from the sample analysed.

Value of deposits (trench)

Preservation of archaeological deposits in this area is extremely good with a distinct two-phase sequence discernible within a long period of accumulation. Artefactual, ecofactual and palaeo-environmental evidence is relatively abundant considering the nature of the monument being evaluated, normally artefactual evidence is scarce from roads. Although little was datable, recovery rates bode well for the possibility of dating the phasing of the roads should

further work be undertaken. Its principal value, however, lies in the integrity of its structural stratigraphic sequence and the long period of formation involved in its deposition. **Importance: High**

Value of deposits (Site)

Within the variety of trenches at Site B there is extremely good potential for the recovery of archaeological data of all types, with the exclusion of macro-plant remains.

On the E side of the valley 1991/506 would appear to be high in importance and this section of the Lynches offers the opportunity of understanding the development of communications along the Churn valley. Importance: High

The middle of the valley appears to offer little in the way of retrievable archaeological information beyond that already gleaned from the earthwork survey. In Trenches 1991/504 and 505 the very minor intrusions of the water meadow ditches into the subsoil showed no signs of any complex structure and little could be gained by further examination.

On the W side of the valley 1991/549 has revealed what could be an extremely important pollen sequence if it can be accurately dated. To find conditions in calcareous areas where an environmental sequence can be recovered is extremely rare. The value of the deposits encountered here is that they come from a relatively small catchment area and consequently give a tight picture of the immediate environment. Taking both these points into consideration any opportunity for palaeo-environmental reconstruction should receive high priority treatment especially as the extent of the deposit appears to be limited. **Importance: High**

As a whole the site is very important. Over and above the information retrieved from evaluation, the Stage 1 earthwork survey showed the valley floor to be occupied by well-preserved multi-phase post-medieval earthworks, displaying a variety of component types.
Overall importance: High

5.5 SITE C

This trench was located to assess the possibility of confirming the alignment of the White Way, PRN 2039. Prehistoric pot and flintwork has been recovered during fieldwalking.

TRENCH NO: 1991/507
TRENCH SIZE: 1.75m x 90.0m
TRENCH ORIENTATION: E-W
FIELD NO.: 8848
LANDUSE: Arable (cereals)
LANDOWNER: Mr Chester-Master

Characterisation of main stratigraphic units

TOPSOIL: Loam
SUBSOIL: Loamy - clay, with weathered limestone present
NATURAL: Limestone bedrock
ARCHAEOLOGY: Pit [6], possible pit [12] and linear ditch [3].

HEIGHT OF TOPSOIL: 150.23m - 150.58m
HEIGHT OF SUBSOIL: 150.11m - 150.31m
HEIGHT OF ARCHAEOLOGY (maximum): 150.16m
HEIGHT OF ARCHAEOLOGY (minimum): 149.64m

Archaeological features

Several features were encountered within this trench. A pit [6], filled with red-brown loamy-clay (5) was found at the E end of the trench. Another possible pit [11], was also filled with red-brown loamy-clay (12) a man-made origin for this feature is not certain. A linear ditch [3] running N-S across the W half of the trench was encountered, there were two fills to this, (4) a red-brown loamy-clay, and (5) a primary fill of stony-clay.

Artefactual evidence

Artefactual evidence recovered from the trench came from the ploughsoil (1). This comprised several post-medieval and modern sherds but also included sherds of medieval date, in addition there was one lump of undateable flint. No artefactual material was recovered from the fills of any features. Some additional flint of suspected Neolithic date and pottery of medieval date was recovered from the ploughsoil in the immediate vicinity of the trench, the potential for associating these artefacts with features would appear

to be low.

Ecofactual/palaeo-environmental evidence

None was recovered, the ditch and pit fills were heavily contaminated with modern roots.

Value of deposits (trench and Site)

It was originally hoped that the evaluation trench would recover evidence (ditches, metalling material) which would indicate the alignment of the White Way. The stone count results were inconclusive, but the presence of a ditch running in the same alignment as the projection drawn up for the White Way may bring some credence to the AP and field-checking evidence already gathered. However, it is not enough to be conclusive. On the other hand it has been established that two types of archaeological feature do survive relatively untruncated where topsoil cover is around 0.15-0.20m deep and it is to be expected that further features may reveal themselves if topsoil were stripped from the area. If this were done it may be possible to associate the few widely spaced features recorded during evaluation with datable items, or to reveal patterning which may be morphologically distinctive. **Importance: Medium**

5.6 SITE D

A flint scatter producing some material datable to the Neolithic/Bronze Age. Trenches 1991/508;509; 511 were hand dug to investigate the scatter, Trench 19991/510 was machine cut across a geophysical anomaly.

TRENCH NO: 1991/508
TRENCH SIZE: 2mx2m
TRENCH ORIENTATION: N-S
FIELD NO: 4830
LANDUSE: Arable (cereals)
LANDOWNER: Mr B Chester-Master

NO ARCHAEOLOGY PRESENT: no features or artefacts were encountered here.

TRENCH NO: 1991/509
TRENCH SIZE: 2mx2m
TRENCH ORIENTATION: N-S
FIELD NO.: 4830
LANDUSE: Arable (cereals)
LANDOWNER: Mr B Chester-Master

NO ARCHAEOLOGY PRESENT: no features or artefacts were encountered here.

TRENCH NO: 1991/510
TRENCH SIZE: 1.75m x 10.0m
TRENCH ORIENTATION: E-W
FIELD NO.: 4830
LANDUSE: Arable (cereals)
LANDOWNER: Mr B Chester-Master

Characterisation of main stratigraphic units

TOPSOIL: Loam
SUBSOIL: none present
NATURAL: Limestone bedrock
ARCHAEOLOGY: artefactual material only

Artefactual evidence

Artefactual material from this trench was restricted to flintwork. All material was recovered from the topsoil (1), it comprised four flint flakes and one burnt lump. None of

this material was diagnostic.

TRENCH NO: 1991/511
TRENCH SIZE: 2mx2m
TRENCH ORIENTATION: N-S
FIELD NO.: 4830
LANDUSE: Arable (cereals)
LANDOWNER: Mr B Chester-Master

TOPSOIL: Loam
SUBSOIL: none present
NATURAL: Limestone bedrock
ARCHAEOLOGY: artefactual only

Artefactual evidence

Two post-medieval sherds of pottery and one very small fragment of Roman Samian ware were the only archaeological items present.

Value of deposits (Site)

Very little was encountered here which could be considered to be of great importance. A point of interest is that although this was a relatively dense flint scatter as recorded at Stage 1, only the large machine cut trench produced any flint under evaluation, this illustrates considerable variability of artefactual density within the topsoil. Unfortunately no features were encountered with which to associate the artefactual material, which included one Roman pot-sherd.

The site must not be written off as of low importance. Mention was made at Stage 1 of the fact that this site appeared to be part of a larger flint scatter to the west, and that some of the material recovered was of comparable Neolithic date. Although Site D produced little material it is now thought that this may be because of a peripheral association with the main flint concentration. There may still be potential for the discovery of remains within Site D. **Importance: Medium**

5.7 SITE E

A series of four trenches running off the Fosse Way to investigate specific features associated with the road. trench 1991/512 was cut across a platform of unknown function; 1991/513 was cut across a broad depression and the embankment of the road; 1991/514 was cut across the same depression where it seemingly ran out and reverted to the embankment of the road; and 1991/515 was cut on the opposite side of the road in a small section of field which appeared to have escaped disturbance.

TRENCH NO: 1991/512
TRENCH SIZE: 1.75m x 7.0m
TRENCH ORIENTATION: NW-SE
FIELD NO.: 7200
LANDUSE: Managed woodland
LANDOWNER: Mr RTG Chester-Master

Characterisation of main stratigraphic units

TOPSOIL: Silty - humic soil
SUBSOIL: Silty loam
NATURAL: Limestone bedrock
Trench not fully excavated
ARCHAEOLOGY: 19th and 18th century road embankment build-ups.
Post-medieval road make-ups, surfaces, drains and wall.
(?)Roman road make-ups and surfaces.

HEIGHT OF TOPSOIL: 125.53m - 126.82m
HEIGHT OF SUBSOIL: 125.19m - 126.31m
HEIGHT OF ARCHAEOLOGY (maximum): 126.34m
HEIGHT OF ARCHAEOLOGY (minimum): 123.03m

Archaeological features

Selective excavation within this trench seemed to show a tri-partite stratigraphic sequence.

The latest phase would appear to comprise; (1) a layer of road make-up or wash associated with a surface below the modern road beyond the SE end of the trench. This is cut into by various features [31] and [33]. [31] is filled with flat limestone slabbing (11) which could be a rough pavement flanking a (?)19th century road to the SE. Several very thin fragmented metalling layers (24), (13) are bedded/separated by similar material to (1), the upper surface (24) is flanked by a gully [29]. It would appear

that both surfaces (13) and (24) are the very edges of roads running under the line of the modern A417 to the SE of the trench.

The second phase shows a distinct change in character for the make-ups and surfaces now encountered. A road metalling (15) is bedded in a compacted grey sandy-clay, heavily iron-panned. From the trench edge the metalling (15) extends NW 0.35m where a stone slabbed drain [34] is encountered flanking the road, a second smaller drain [25] parallells the first, beyond this the bedding material (3)/(16) continues for a further 2.6m without any metalling. Below (16) a fragmentary metalled surface (17)/(12) is bedded on a compact layer (18) of sandy-gritty clay, iron-panned and retained to the NW by a limestone wall (8) at 4.40m from the SE trench edge. This wall appears to have started to collapse before (18) built up against it.

Phase I is separated from Phase II above by layer (19), a deep sandy clay similar to subsoil in the area and on which wall (8) is built, this material spreads across the entire length of the trench. Below this layer character and composition of surfaces and make-ups changes again. A possible mortared surface (20) which is very fragmented is bedded on a deep layer of yellow-white sandy-clay (21), which is slightly higher in limestone content than a similar deep layer (22) below, both (21) and (22) are slightly iron-panned. Layer (23), a gritty material containing small pebbles may be the edge of a metalled surface beyond the SE end of the trench, this layer is bedded on (26) which is a very fine grey-brown sandy-clay with slight traces of iron-panning.

Artefactual evidence

Very little artefactual material was recovered, this is common with excavation involving roads. Six sherds of post-medieval glazed ware were recovered from (3), along with four iron nail fragments. In addition, six tile fragments were recovered from the fill of drain [25].

The metalled road surface (12)/(15) produced one full horseshoe and one broken horseshoe from the running surface. Both these shoes are identical in pattern and are no earlier than post-medieval in date.

Further down the stratigraphic sequence layer (20) yielded two small pieces of pot mortared within the surface, and one fragment of tile. Layer (21) produced one fragment of heavily abraded Roman Severn Valley Ware, and layer (22) below, yielded seven fragments of the same

Ecofactual/palaeo-environmental evidence

None of the sediments sampled were conducive to good palaeo-environmental preservation.

Value of deposits

There is a great depth (3.44m) of intact and undisturbed post-medieval and later road surfaces, (?)silting build-ups, and bedding layers forming the platform which partly flanks the A417 Fosse Way. It would seem highly likely that this platform is not in itself a purpose-built feature but one partly created from banking-up of materials against wall (8). Below the platform proper earlier surfacings are more ethereal although the archaeological stratigraphy remains intact to some considerable depth, this could not be proved to natural for safety reasons. Although there is very little evidence to base firm conclusions on, it would appear that from layer (20) downwards Roman archaeology may be encountered , while it would seem that the main body of road surfaces are to the SE of the trench and only the very edges of metalled layers are being encountered at this depth.

In summary the value of the deposits lies mainly with the well preserved post-medieval roads and associated features, although the whole stratigraphic sequence is important for the understanding of road and communications development from the Roman period onward, as well as technological developments/regressions in road construction. **Importance : High**

TRENCH NO: 1991/513
TRENCH SIZE: 1.75m x 16.0m
TRENCH ORIENTATION: NW-SE
FIELD NO.: 7200
LANDUSE: Managed woodland
LANDOWNER: Mr RTG Chester-Master

Characterisation of main stratigraphic units

TOPSOIL: Silty - humic soil
SUBSOIL: Silty loam
NATURAL: Limestone bedrock
ARCHAEOLOGY: (?)19th century road silt build-up
Turnpike road construction and quarry ditch
Superimposed Roman road surfaces and drains.

HEIGHT OF TOPSOIL: 126.21m - 126.73m
HEIGHT OF SUBSOIL: 126.15m - 126.66m
HEIGHT OF ARCHAEOLOGY (maximum): 126.50m
HEIGHT OF ARCHAEOLOGY (minimum): 125.08m

Archaeological features

A basic two phase stratigraphic sequence can be discerned in this trench.

The latest phase comprises an embankment make-up/silting material (3) and (20) for a road not visible in the trench but under the A417 to the SE. This overlies the 18th century turnpike road (12), an extremely solid and well-made feature associated with the cutting of a major quarry ditch [5](c.5.0m across x 2.5m deep) presumably as a source of limestone for the road. The turnpike road would seem to be built flush against the edge of the quarry ditch partially infilled with many sandy-silty layers. On the NW side of the quarry ditch a cut [2], let into the upper quarry fills contained the remains of several animals. The uppermost layer in a complex series of roads, cuts, and drains at the SE end of the trench, is (13) which directly supports the turnpike road above. (13) comprises large slabs set at an angle of c.45 degrees as a revetment to a road, presumably the turnpike. This structure is very substantial and well-built, and although the building style is not typical it does have a Roman "appearance". It would seem too well made to be post-medieval in date, but such a supposition creates a problem in that there would appear to be no roads made in the period between the 4th and 18th centuries AD, clearly not the case as seen in Trench 1991/512. It must therefore be part of the turnpike construction.

Phase II comprises the remaining roads and drains in the sequence. Layer (28) is a road metalling associated with an extremely fine mortared drain on its NW side, this drain (27) has been cut away for the insertion of revetment (13) above and only extends some 0.30m from the SE end of the trench. Layer (14) is another metalled surface with its own roadside drain. This surface must also have been cut through to take (13), and also for the insertion of drain (27), but the stratigraphic associations are unclear at this point. In turn, drain [16] has cut or been built into the side of drain [23] which has been blocked up with packing stone. Road metalling (17) is contemporary with the mortared drain [23] which had been blocked up to provide a flush surface across (17), which carries evidence of heavy traffic movement in the form of wheel ruts. The packed limestone surface of (17) has been laid on a bedding layer (18). This overlies another metalled surface (25) associat-

ed with a fragment of mortared drain. The last layer in the sequence is a fragmentary metalled surface (29) which underlies (25). All of these Phase II stratigraphic sequence has been cut away on the NW side by the major quarry ditch for the turnpike road. But at its lowest level Phase II layers survive up to 1.90m out from the SE end of the trench.

All Phase II contexts are undoubtedly Roman in date, based on morphological comparisons and stratigraphic relationships within this trench. No associated dating material was recovered from any context.

Artefactual evidence

Very little artefactual evidence was recovered from any stratigraphic unit from any period, this is not uncommon with excavations of this kind. The upper fills of the quarry ditch (7) and (9) produced a few pieces of iron and some sherds of 19th century glazed ware, while (6) yielded a fragment of lead moulding from a leaded window.

Ecofactual/palaeo-environmental evidence

Recovery rates of ecofactual evidence was high due mainly to the occurrence of one major deposit of the remains of several animals in the upper fill (7) of the quarry ditch. In all 163 bones were recovered from this context, these represented a minimum of six horses, one sheep, and an unidentified number of cattle. The horse bones showed evidence of knife and saw cuts received during dismembering the carcasses, the cattle bones also displayed evidence of butchery, one skull being chopped at the rear to gain access to the brain. The reason behind the deposit is unclear but the absence of skulls and feet bones would suggest this was simply burial of processed remains. This would seem to be a one-off depositional occurrence and is not indicative of the overall recovery rate for the remainder of the trench which was almost nil.

Value of deposits

The presence of multiple road surfaces here, undoubtedly of Roman date and associated with additional structural features such as stone or mortar drains, of varying build overlain by a large section of turnpike road make this sequence of extreme importance in understanding road construction and communications maintenance through the centuries. Rarely is it possible to examine such sequences outside an urban context, and here, although the putative

Roman layers are partly removed by later quarrying sufficient survives both to the NW of the present road and presumably below it, for there to be excellent potential for further research work. Additionally, work on the silts and fills of the turnpike quarry could add to understanding of roadsilt accumulation found within Roman Corinium. **Importance: High**

TRENCH NO: 1991/514
TRENCH SIZE: 1.75m x 10.3m
TRENCH ORIENTATION: NW-SE
FIELD NO.: 7200
LANDUSE: Managed woodland
LANDOWNER: Mr RTG Chester-Master

Characterisation of main stratigraphic units

TOPSOIL: Silty - humic soil
SUBSOIL: Silty loam
NATURAL: Limestone bedrock
ARCHAEOLOGY: 19th century and later road embankment/wash material.
18th century turnpike road construction with quarry ditch and partial infill.
(?)post-medieval road build up.
Roman road surfaces and (?)roadside ditch.

HEIGHT OF TOPSOIL: 126.41m - 127.11m
HEIGHT OF SUBSOIL: 126.62m - 126.74m
HEIGHT OF ARCHAEOLOGY (maximum): 126.74m
HEIGHT OF ARCHAEOLOGY (minimum): 124.65m

Archaeological features

A possible four phase sequence was encountered in this trench.

The latest phase comprises layers of sandy-silt (7), (8) and (9) which appear to be build up or road wash for/from a road surface below the modern A417 to the SE of the trench.

Phase III sees the excavation of a large quarry ditch [15] 5.30m wide and 2.20m deep presumably to provide limestone for construction of the turnpike road (18) which comes right up to the quarry edge but is not cut by it. The quarry may have been partly backfilled with (14) prior to construction of the road, or (14) may be natural infilling with road

silt, this point is unclear. However, a standstill horizon (13) develops within the ditch before a second infilling takes place with (11) and (12), very similar materials to (14).

Phase II is less distinct but comprises a gritty limestone deposit (16) below the turnpike (18). Within (16) there exists a hint of a stone line which could possibly represent the NW edge of a metalled surface running out SE beyond the trench, it is impossible to be more conclusive with the limited data available. however this phase may possibly represent post-medieval accumulations before the major 18th century building phase, as (16) is cut by the large quarry ditch. The footings of a wall (3) were found in the NW end of the trench, this would appear to be a continuation of the wall seen in 1991/512, its reduced state explains why there is no platform build up of material at this W end of Site E.

The earliest phase is very slight indeed in terms of stratigraphic depth and consists of only one metalled surface (17) which lies directly beneath (16) in the SE end of the trench. Only a small section of this metalled surface made from small and medium cobbles survives, it extends for some 0.60m from the trench edge before being cut away by quarry [15]. On the cut edge one large chamferred stone remains of a probable roadside drain. Road surface (17) is laid directly onto levelled limestone bedrock, its constructional build and stratigraphic positioning mark it out as Roman in date. At 4.80m from the SE end of the trench a second ditch [5] was encountered. This was c.30m wide by 1.10m deep filled with orange-brown sandy-silt (4) which contained Roman and modern pottery. The feature was partially cut through by [15]. This second ditch may possibly be a Roman roadside ditch associated with (17), although mixing of artefactual material by tree roots denies precise dating.

Artefactual evidence

The fill of the putative Roman roadside ditch provided relatively high quantities of artefactual material considering its distance from the town of Corinium. Amongst the finds were one scrap of iron and a number of Roman sherds from ditch fill (4). These included a rim of BB1 from a straight-sided dish, one sherd of decorated Samian (?Drag.37 type) and eight miscellaneous sherds of local ware styles. The dating of the material clusters around the second to third centuries A.D but the latest material within the fill derives from the eighteenth century or later. Later contexts provided little material, from (14) there was one iron nail, (6) provided a few iron scraps and (8) yielded a fragment of clay tobacco pipe.

Ecofactual/palaeo-environmental evidence

No ecofactual material was recovered, and none of the accumulated fill deposits offer much scope for palaeo-environmental research principally due to mixing of layers by tree roots.

Value of deposits (trench)

The presence of a possible Roman roadside ditch here is extremely significant as it would appear that in this and other areas 18th/19th roadside quarrying has removed all trace of these features. That the ditch should contain artefactual material so far away from the occupation centre is in itself important for understanding activity in the immediate locality. Additionally, a Roman road surface survives in part with evidence for associated constructional feature, presumably further surfaces lie well preserved beneath the post-medieval and later layers under the A417 to the SE. Importance: **High**

TRENCH NO: 1991/515
TRENCH SIZE: 1.75m x 21.0m
TRENCH ORIENTATION: E-W
FIELD NO.: 0041
LANDUSE: Arable (cereal)
LANDOWNER: Mrs RTG, WF, FE, RL, & BJ Chester - Master

Characterisation of main stratigraphic units

TOPSOIL: Loam
SUBSOIL: Loamy - clay
NATURAL: Limestone bedrock
ARCHAEOLOGY: Outwash from (?) post-Roman roads
Roman roadside ditch, fills and recuts; Roman road, and (?)demarcation ditch

HEIGHT OF TOPSOIL: 125.93m - 125.62m
HEIGHT OF SUBSOIL: 125.18m - 125.32m
HEIGHT OF ARCHAEOLOGY (maximum): 124.65m
HEIGHT OF ARCHAEOLOGY (minimum): 123.03m

Archaeological features

Two distinctive phases can be recognised in this trench. The latest phase comprises contexts (1), (3) and (4), of

which (3) and (4) are the most significant representing a build up of deep (0.85m) colluvium over the Roman layers below. This material has presumably accumulated due to the continued use of this field as arable, loosening the soil to run down into the natural shallow coombe present here.

Phase I comprises layer (5) a creamy-buff sandy-clay with limestone fragments which is undoubtedly an outwash deposit from the road to the N of the trench. This material immediately overlies the fill (7) of a re-cut roadside ditch [12]. [12] in turn cuts the fill (8) of a much larger re-cut ditch [9], this ditch is some 3.00m wide and 1.20m deep. Re-cut ditch [9] cuts layer (6) which seems to represent the first serious colluviation in the area. On the N side of the trench (6) supports a thin tail of stones (14) which must represent road metalling of the Roman road to the N. The colluvial layer (6) has filled the original Roman roadside ditch [13], which is c.2.50m wide by 0.60m deep and cut into the bedrock, necessitating the subsequent re-cut [9]. Note that [9] is centrally placed within the first ditch and has scoured its base, whereas the much shallower [12] is off centre. No contemporary road metalling is associated with [13], this must be further N beyond the trench.

Contemporary with ditch [13], is ditch [11]. Ditch [11] is a minor feature c.0.60m wide by 0.18m deep filled with vivid red clayey soil. It sits 4.0m S of the main ditch and runs parallel to it, it may have functioned as a road zone demarcation ditch during the first building phase. Alternatively it may be related to some form of roadside occupation.

Artefactual evidence

Only one sherd of pottery was recovered from this trench, this came from the interface between contexts (4) and (6) at the SE end of the trench where the bedrock rises and colluvium is thinner. It is of medieval date and unabraded.

Ecofactual/palaeo-environmental evidence

No ecofactual material was recovered, and a sample from fill (10) proved to be of little potential for extraction of palaeo-environmental evidence.

Value of deposits (trench)

The stratigraphic sequence within this trench is extremely well preserved, and displays a wide variety of features associated with the Roman Fosse Way, as well as revealing

important evidence about land-use and local soil denudation. The potential for further work here is high, this is a valuable resource as much of these linear deposits have been removed either side of the area examined by quarrying. Importance: High

Value of deposits (Site)

The combined result of evaluation of these four trenches has produced information which shows excellent preservation of i) Roman roadside ditches, multi-phase on the SE side of the road, and a possible second on the NW side; ii) complex and numerous Roman road surfaces and associated features surviving in part on the NW side of the road and presumably in whole beneath the road; iii) post-medieval road surfaces and associated features; and iv) substantial 18th century turnpike road beneath the present A417. In summary, this site represents a valuable archaeological resource and its importance must be assessed as: High

5.8 SITE F

A flint scatter was identified during the Stage 1 Assessment occurring on both slopes of a small dry valley. A test geophysical survey was done on the E side of the scatter, this revealed several possible pits in a cluster. Trench 1991/516 was located in a high flint density area and Trench 1991/517 was located over one of the geophysical anomalies.

TRENCH NO: 1991/516
TRENCH SIZE: 2mx2m
TRENCH ORIENTATION: N-S
FIELD NO.: 0041
LANDUSE: Arable (cereals)
LANDOWNER: Mrs RTG, WF, FE, RL, & BJ Chester - Master

Characterisation of main stratigraphic units

TOPSOIL; Clayey - loam
SUBSOIL: none present
NATURAL: limestone bedrock
ARCHAEOLOGY: Undated pit and fill [4] and (2).

HEIGHT OF TOPSOIL: 125.98m
HEIGHT OF SUBSOIL: none present
HEIGHT OF ARCHAEOLOGY (maximum): 125.74m
HEIGHT OF ARCHAEOLOGY (minimum): 125.48m

Archaeological features

A very small pit [4] about 0.55m in diameter and cut into bedrock to a depth of 0.25m was noted on the E side of the trench. The fill (2) of this pit was a red-brown clayey-silt containing flecks of burnt clay and charcoal, no finds were recovered from the fill. It is not possible to ascertain the original level from which the pit was cut, but it is clear that it has been much truncated by ploughing action and weathering of the bedrock in this exposed area with little topsoil cover.

Artefactual evidence

Artefactual evidence from this trench was mainly modern and post medieval pottery, glass and iron fragments from the ploughsoil (1). However several small and abraded sherds of pottery thought to date from the Roman and/or medieval periods were also recovered from (1), as were two small flint flakes.
Flint density: 1:0.44 cubic metres of soil.

Ecofactual/palaeo-environmental evidence

Several fragments of decayed animal horn were found in fill (2) of the small pit. There was no potential for palaeo-environmental analysis.

Value of deposits (trench)

Clearly features exist in this area in spatial association with a flint scatter which now also seems to contain prehistoric pot. Without further evidence it would be difficult to surmise the flint distribution was derived from occupation of this site which had left structural/occupational traces in the form of heavily truncated negative features. However, the juxtaposition of these items suggests linkage and if this can be proven then the site would have to be considered as having further potential. **Importance: Medium**

TRENCH NO: 1991/517
TRENCH SIZE: 2mx2m
TRENCH ORIENTATION: N-S
FIELD NO.: 0041
LANDUSE: Arable (cereals)
LANDOWNER: Mrs RTG, WF, FE, RL & BJ Chester-Master

Characterisation of main stratigraphic units

TOPSOIL; Clayey - loam
SUBSOIL: none present
NATURAL: Limestone bedrock
ARCHAEOLOGY: No features

HEIGHT OF TOPSOIL: 125.74m - 125.79m
HEIGHT OF SUBSOIL: none present
HEIGHT OF ARCHAEOLOGY (maximum): no archaeology present
HEIGHT OF ARCHAEOLOGY (minimum):

Archaeological features

The possible pit recorded on the geophysical survey turned out to be a natural periglacial feature. No other features which could be interpreted as archaeological were encountered.

Artefactual evidence

Artefactual material comprised several post-medieval pot sherds, an iron nail, one small fragment of fired clay, two fragments of medieval pottery and four pieces of flint. Flintwork included two fragments of broken blade, a core rejuvenation flake and a burnt core, none of this material is diagnostic.
Flint density: 1:0.22 cubic metres of soil

Ecofactual/palaeo-environmental evidence

None was recovered from this trench.

Value of deposits (trench)

Only artefactual material was recovered from this trench, but the flintwork and pottery implies the area possesses some potential for further work. **Importance: Medium.**

Value of deposits (Site)

Clearly features exist in this area in spatial association with a flint scatter but the material recovered cannot unfortunately be given even a broad date range. Without further evidence it would be difficult to surmise the flint distribution was derived from occupation of this site which had left structural/occupational traces in the form of heavily truncated negative features. However, the juxtaposition of these items suggests linkage and if this can be proven then the site would have to be considered as having potential for further work. The average flint density of the topsoil appears to be 1:0.29 cubic metres in the area examined, the figure is relatively high and suggests good recovery rates for further work. **Importance: High**

5.9 SITE G

A trench was placed alongside the putative Roman road to assess the possibility of whether roadside features such as ditches existed.

TRENCH NO: 1991/518
TRENCH SIZE: 1.75m x 15m
TRENCH ORIENTATION: E-W
FIELD NO.: 0041
LANDUSE: Arable (cereals)
LANDOWNER: Mrs RTG, WF, FE, RL & BJ Chester-Master

NO ARCHAEOLOGY PRESENT: no features were encountered

5.10 SITE H

A light flint scatter close to the modern A417. A test geophysical survey on one area of the scatter revealed a linear anomaly. Both hand-dug Trenches (1991/519 and 1991/520) were located within the general flint scatter, machine trench 1991/521 was cut across the linear anomaly.

TRENCH NO: 1991/519
TRENCH SIZE: 2mx2m
TRENCH ORIENTATION: N-S
FIELD NO.: 2200
LANDUSE: Arable (cereals)
LANDOWNER: Mr RTG Chester-Master

NO ARCHAEOLOGY PRESENT: only one nail and two modern pot-sherds were recovered from the topsoil.

TRENCH NO: 1991/520
TRENCH SIZE: 2mx2m
TRENCH ORIENTATION: N-S
FIELD NO.: 2200
LANDUSE: Arable (cereals)
LANDOWNER: Mr RTG Chester-Master

NO ARCHAEOLOGY PRESENT: only two abraded bodysherds of medieval pottery were recovered from the topsoil.

TRENCH NO: 1991/521
TRENCH SIZE: 1.75m x 10.0m
TRENCH ORIENTATION: E-W
FIELD NO.: 2200
LANDUSE: Arable (cereals)
LANDOWNER: Mr RTG Chester-Master

NO ARCHAEOLOGY PRESENT: the linear feature recorded on the geophysical proved to be geological in origin. Artefactual remains consisted of two fragments of daub or fired clay, several fragments of iron, and one flint, all recovered from the topsoil.

Flint density: 1:2.2 cubic metres of soil.

Value of deposits (Site)

Evaluation of the site has proven the flint density to be extremely low within the ploughsoil, and that there are no archaeological features that can be recognised. There is little potential for further work. **Importance: Low**

5.11 SITE I

An area of flint scatter broadly dated to the Neolithic/Bronze Age. A geophysical survey over much of the area affected produced results which indicated several linear features were present plus some possible pits. Trench 1991/522 was located to bisect a linear feature and possible pit, Trench 1991/523 was placed over a possible pit amongst the general scatter, the remaining trenches 1991/534, 535 and 536 were distributed throughout the flint scatter.

TRENCH NO: 1991/522
TRENCH SIZE: 1.75m x 10.0m
TRENCH ORIENTATION: NW-SE
FIELD NO.: 2200
LANDUSE: Arable (cereals)
LANDOWNER: Mr RTG Chester-Master

Characterisation of main stratigraphic units

TOPSOIL; Clayey - loam
SUBSOIL: Clayey - loam
NATURAL: Limestone bedrock
ARCHAEOLOGY: primarily artefactual.

Archaeological features

Several very minor features were encountered, none of these could be positively identified as archaeological.

Artefactual evidence

Several flints were recovered from this trench, among these was a well made barbed and tanged arrowhead datable to the Bronze Age, a fragment of a second barbed and tanged arrowhead, two small flint chips and two pieces of burnt flint. Only the arrowheads are distinctive enough to be dated. All the finds came from context (2) which was a subsoil c.0.20-0.56m deep. The deep plough scars recorded at 0.46m deep in Trench 1991/525 would suggest that these flints are not in an undisturbed context.

Flint density: 1:1.00 cubic metres of soil.

Ecofactual/palaeo-environmental evidence

No bone was recovered. None of the fills encountered here

could be positively identified as archaeological and all were contaminated with modern roots, potential is therefore low in terms of palaeo-environmental research.

Value of deposits (trench)

It has been established that good quality flintwork is present in the area of this trench, but that none of it appears to be within undisturbed contexts. The flintwork forms part of a good assemblage from the immediate vicinity, the B&T arrowhead would tend to imply an area of occupation or indeed a burial close by, the former would appear more likely on the strength of current evidence. **Importance: High**

TRENCH NO: 1991/523
TRENCH SIZE: 2mx2m
TRENCH ORIENTATION: N-S
FIELD NO.: 2200
LANDUSE: Arable (cereals)
LANDOWNER: Mr RTG Chester-Master

Characterisation of main stratigraphic units

TOPSOIL; Loam
SUBSOIL: Clay
NATURAL: Limestone bedrock
ARCHAEOLOGY: Modern field drain [4]

HEIGHT OF TOPSOIL: 118.40m
HEIGHT OF SUBSOIL: 118.18m
HEIGHT OF ARCHAEOLOGY (maximum): N/A
HEIGHT OF ARCHAEOLOGY (minimum): N/A

Archaeological features

A modern field drain [4] was encountered. There were no other archaeological features.

Artefactual evidence

Very little artefactual evidence was recovered from this trench, only two flint flakes are of any interest, these are not diagnostic and cannot be dated.

Flint density: 1:0.88 cubic metres of soil.

Ecofactual/palaeo-environmental evidence

None was recovered.

Value of deposits (trench)

The deposits encountered within the trench were restricted to undatable flint unassociated with features, therefore the potential for recovery of more information through further work would appear limited. **Importance: Low**

TRENCH NO: 1991/524
TRENCH SIZE: 2mx2m
TRENCH ORIENTATION: N-S
FIELD NO.: 2200
LANDUSE: Arable (cereals)
LANDOWNER: Mr RTG Chester-Master

Characterisation of main stratigraphic units

TOPSOIL; Loam
SUBSOIL: Loamy - clay
NATURAL: Blue - grey clay
ARCHAEOLOGY: Modern drain [4]

HEIGHT OF TOPSOIL: 118.78m
HEIGHT OF SUBSOIL: 118.54m
HEIGHT OF ARCHAEOLOGY (maximum): N/A
HEIGHT OF ARCHAEOLOGY (minimum): N/A

Archaeological features

A modern field drain [4] was encountered, there were no other archaeological features.

Artefactual evidence

Some post-medieval pot was recovered from (1), and two flint flakes from the ploughsoil context (1). The flint flakes are not diagnostic and cannot be dated.

Flint density: 1:0.88 cubic metres of soil.

Ecofactual/palaeo-environmental evidence

None was recovered.

Value of deposits (trench)

The individual value of the deposits encountered in this trench would be assessed as Low as no features were encountered and quantity of flint was moderate. **Importance: Low**

TRENCH NO: 1991/525
TRENCH SIZE: 2mx2m
TRENCH ORIENTATION: N-S
FIELD NO.: 2200
LANDUSE: Arable (cereals)
LANDOWNER: Mr RTG Chester - Master

NO ARCHAEOLOGY PRESENT: no features or artefactual material was encountered.

TRENCH NO: 1991/526
TRENCH SIZE: 2mx2m
TRENCH ORIENTATION: N-S
FIELD NO.: 2200
LANDUSE: Arable (cereals)
LANDOWNER: Mr RTG Chester - Master

Characterisation of main stratigraphic units

TOPSOIL: Loam
SUBSOIL: Clay
NATURAL: Blue - grey clay
ARCHAEOLOGY: Ditch [4] and fill (5), gully [6] and fill (10)

HEIGHT OF TOPSOIL: 119.22m
HEIGHT OF SUBSOIL: 118.89m
HEIGHT OF ARCHAEOLOGY (maximum): 118.68m
HEIGHT OF ARCHAEOLOGY (minimum): 118.35m

Archaeological features

A ditch [4] cut into the natural clay bedrock was encountered running in a E-W direction across the trench. The S edge of the ditch was almost vertically sided while the N edge had a smoother profile, the bottom was almost flat, a useful analogy for the profile would be that of a "Punic ditch". Associated with this E-W ditch was a slight irregu-

lar gully [6] running into [4] at right angles on the N side. One fill was recorded within [4], this was (5) which was a well-settled and compact layer of considerable antiquity. There was only one fill in [6], this was (10). Along the S side of ditch [4] there was much pock-marking of the natural clay (3) suggesting that there may have been a contemporary hedgeline present.

Artefactual evidence

All the artefactual evidence came from the E-W running ditch, within fill (5) two flint flakes were recovered. Neither of these flints are diagnostic and they cannot be assigned a date.

Flint density: 1:1.06 cubic metres of soil.

Ecofactual/palaeo-environmental evidence

No ecofactual evidence was recovered from this trench, and there is no potential for palaeo-environmental analysis.

Value of deposits (trench)

The value of the deposits recovered in this trench must be considered high in comparison to the other trenches on this site. The spatial relationship between artefactual material and archaeological features is close and even though the flintwork is not specifically datable it could be conjectured that the ditch [4] is a prehistoric feature, perhaps a field ditch or stock boundary, such an interpretation would be consistent with current evidence. **Importance: High**

Value of deposits (Site)

In addition to the flint collected at Site I during the Stage 1 field-walking programme, further material was collected during Stage 2 Evaluation. Advantage was taken of the heavy winter rains and snow breaking down the ploughsoil and washing clean artefacts. The area of the geophysical grid was quickly rewalked to produce 53 items of flint, an average of 8.8 flints per 30mx30m square. Most of this material comprised, waste flakes, burnt fragments, fragments of blades, cores and general working waste, but amongst it were several utilised flakes and a Bronze Age scraper.

Overall it would appear that Site I is extremely important for several reasons; i) there is a moderate quantity of

flintwork from the site spanning several periods; ii) that different activities would appear to have gone on at the site or nearby, the recovery of Bronze Age implements in association with burnt material implies occupation, while the large amount of waste material and some Mesolithic/ early Neolithic would seem to suggest working debris rather than occupation; and iii) that there are features on the site which could be related to the general scatter. Unfortunately not enough of the flint recovered is of sufficiently distinct character for more definitive statements to be made and very little of the material has come from an undisturbed context. However, there does exist the potential for further study on this site. **Importance: High.**

5.12 SITE J

A heavy concentration of medieval pottery broadly dated to the 12th-15th centuries was recovered from this field. A geophysical survey carried out over most of the area affected by the bypass corridor revealed several anomalies indicating pits and linear features. Trench 1991/527 was located over one of these pits within the general pot scatter, Trench 1991/529 was located to bisect several linear and pit-like anomalies in an area where the pottery density was moderate, and Trench 1991/530 was located over a major anomaly original suspected as a possible kiln, the density of pottery within this area was also high.

TRENCH NO: 1991/527
TRENCH SIZE: 1.75m x 20.5m
TRENCH ORIENTATION: N-S
FIELD NO.: 9534
LANDUSE: Arable (cereals)
LANDOWNER: Mr Huck

Characterisation of main stratigraphic units

TOPSOIL: Clayey - loam
SUBSOIL: Silty clay
NATURAL: Blue - grey clay
ARCHAEOLOGY: Remnant ridge-and-furrow

HEIGHT OF TOPSOIL: 123.28m
HEIGHT OF SUBSOIL: 123.02m
HEIGHT OF ARCHAEOLOGY (maximum): 122.85m
HEIGHT OF ARCHAEOLOGY (minimum): 122.66m

Archaeological features

This trench lay parallel to the strike of the medieval ridge-and-furrow ploughing system once extant in this field but which has recently been destroyed by levelling with a bulldozer. However the profile of the ridges still exists in the subsoil and was detectable here, the trench lying slightly down the E slope of the ridge. The only other features uncovered lay beneath the clay mound of the ridge, these were a shallow irregular gully [6] filled with red-brown haematite rich clay (7) (this would appear to be the feature detected during the geophysical survey), and a slightly larger more well defined gully [5] filled with red-brown clay material (4) A definite archaeological origin would be difficult to assign to either of these items on the strength of current evidence.

Artefactual evidence

All artefactual material was recovered from the subsoil (2) Finds were few and most of the material was post-medieval pot, tile etc but there was one possible late medieval sherd of pottery. No artefacts were recovered from gullies [5] and [6].

Ecofactual/palaeo-environmental evidence

None was recovered.

Value of deposits (trench)

The tenuous archaeological claims of features [5] and [6], and the general lack of artefactual material from this trench do not suggest this particular area holds much potential for further investigation. **Importance: Low**

TRENCH NO: 1991/529
TRENCH SIZE: 1.75m x 30.0m
TRENCH ORIENTATION: E-W
FIELD NO.: 9534
LANDUSE: Arable (cereals)
LANDOWNER: Mr Huck

Characterisation of main stratigraphic units

TOPSOIL; Loamy - clay
SUBSOIL: Clay
NATURAL: Limestone bedrock
ARCHAEOLOGY: Modern drains [9] and [14]
Ridge-and-furrow gullies (5) and (10)
Gully [18]
Gully [16] and ditch [12]

HEIGHT OF TOPSOIL: 123.09m - 123.34m
HEIGHT OF SUBSOIL: 122.76m - 123.08m
HEIGHT OF ARCHAEOLOGY (maximum): 123.09m
HEIGHT OF ARCHAEOLOGY (minimum): 122.66m

Archaeological features

Features encountered in this trench were; [9] a modern field drain of soakaway type, running NE-SW across the trench, [5] and [10] which were the side furrows of the

medieval ridge-and-furrow ploughing system running N-S across the trench. [19] was a shallow curving gully cut into the subsoil c.0.05m, running in a NW-SE direction, this feature was heavily truncated and only its very bottom profile had survived ploughing. The most significant feature in the trench was a ditch [12], 0.90m wide cut into the clay natural 0.45m from the top of subsoil (2/4), the original level from which it was cut cannot be ascertained. The feature ran across the trench in a NNE-SSW direction and had an unusual profile, the E edge of the ditch was gently graded while the W side was vertical, within this feature there were two fills. The main fill was (13), a dark brown charcoal flecked clayey-loam, within this fill there was a pocket of burnt clay (21) and charcoal mixed with soil (22) possibly resulting from in-situ burning of a post, or perhaps a large root. On the W side of the feature [12] where it was vertically sided an orange-brown gravelly-clay (17) was set against the edge, this too had a vertical face where it met fill (13). The explanation for fill (17) could be that it was a packed backfilling material used to fill up a slot on the edge of the ditch which held a palisade or fence when this was removed, the material (17) seemed to be somewhat alien to the immediate environment and was either quarried nearby or brought in. Flanking ditch [12] on its W side was a minor gully [25] which ran exactly parallel to the main ditch, this was filled with a brown clayey-loam which yielded a single flint flake upon excavation.

Artefactual evidence

Artefacts were few from this trench, a post-medieval sherd, two possible pieces of medieval pottery and one sherd of pottery of 11th-13th century date were recovered from the subsoil. An undateable broken flint blade was recovered from fill (16).

Ecofactual/palaeo-environmental evidence

Only one fragment of unidentifiable bone was recovered from the trench, this came from gully fill (16). Samples taken from the burnt and charred feature within ditch fill (13) produced no remains of interest when analysed.

Value of deposits (trench)

Most of the features in this trench are of little value, however the double-filled ditch [12] with flanking gully [25] is of considerable interest, not only because of its complexity but also from the fact that artefactual material

is present within the fills of the feature. Examination of such a short length of ditch cannot hope to prove function and date, examination of a larger area would be required for this. The geophysical survey is not helpful in identifying the plan of the feature as it merely shows as a strong distorted anomaly over a small area, when this is clearly not the case judging from the excavated evidence. Although truncated to some extent, this complex of gullies and ditches is well-preserved and maintains potential for further investigation. **Importance: High**

TRENCH NO: 1991/530
TRENCH SIZE: 1.75m x 20.5m
TRENCH ORIENTATION: N-S
FIELD NO.: 9534
LANDUSE: Arable (cereals)
LANDOWNER: Mr Huck

Characterisation of main stratigraphic units

TOPSOIL; Clayey - loam
SUBSOIL: Silty clay
NATURAL: Limestone bedrock
ARCHAEOLOGY: Modern drain [3], large quantities of artefactual material

HEIGHT OF TOPSOIL: 123.66m
HEIGHT OF SUBSOIL: 123.42m
HEIGHT OF ARCHAEOLOGY (maximum): N/A
HEIGHT OF ARCHAEOLOGY (minimum): N/A

Archaeological features

A modern drain [3] cut across the N end of the trench in a NE-SW direction.

Artefactual evidence

A great deal of artefactual material was recovered from this trench. Much burnt limestone, charcoal, slag, coke and a dozen iron nails came from within the subsoil (1), there was no discernible pattern to this material but it may account in some way for the large anomaly seen on the geophysical survey in this area. The pottery recovered included c.45 bodysherds of medieval domestic pottery dating from the 11th-13th centuries, there were only two sherds of post-medieval and early modern material, while there were four

very small abraded pieces of pottery which may be Roman in date, one of these appears to have been re-used for an unknown purpose. One small undated flint flake was recovered along with a Neolithic/Bronze Age end scraper. A silver short-cross ha'penny minted in the reign of Henry III (1218-1242) was found, this accords well with the date range for the early medieval pottery.

Ecofactual/palaeo-environmental evidence

None was recovered.

Value of deposits (trench)

The value of the deposits within this trench are difficult to assess as they solely comprise artefactual material unassociated with any structural evidence. However the large quantity of early medieval pottery and silver coin of similar date hint at some form of occupation. **Importance: Medium**

Value of deposits (Site)

It is clear that throughout Site J the character of the archaeology is variable. The N end of the site appears to possess little of interest while the SE and SW sides contain good structural and artefactual material respectively. The character of the deposits in 1991/529 is suggestive of prehistoric occupation, while the pottery evidence from 1991/530 is clearly of too great a density, and restricted of fabric and form type to be attributed to medieval manuring patterns alone. The high density of early medieval pottery over much of the area which has been shown to be associated with relatively high value coinage (the silver ha'penny would have represented a days wages for a labourer at contemporary rates of pay) hints at occupation evidence even though no structural traces were encountered. With medieval archaeology such items are often difficult to identify in small trenches, larger scale examination of the area would be required to establish the character of the site, clearly there is the potential for further information recovery under the correct conditions. **Importance: Medium.**

5.13 SITE K

An early medieval pot scatter. A test geophysical survey revealed no traces of features. Two trenches were used to investigate the area.

TRENCH NO: 1991/528
TRENCH SIZE: 1.75m x 20.5m
TRENCH ORIENTATION: N-S
FIELD NO.: 7400
LANDUSE: Arable (cereals)
LANDOWNER: Mr Huck

Characterisation of main stratigraphic units

TOPSOIL;Loamy - clay
SUBSOIL:Clay
NATURAL: Blue - grey clay
ARCHAEOLOGY: modern field drain [7],
ridge-and-furrow gullies [4] and [5],
(?)pit [3]

HEIGHT OF TOPSOIL: 124.28m - 124.43m
HEIGHT OF SUBSOIL: 124.15m
HEIGHT OF ARCHAEOLOGY (maximum): 124.17m
HEIGHT OF ARCHAEOLOGY (minimum): 123.84m

Archaeological features

A modern field drain [7] crossed the trench on a NE-SW alignment. Two truncated furrows [4] and [5] of the ridge-and-furrow system which once existed within this field were encountered running E-W across the trench, the distance between these features was c.9.5m putting them into the broad-rig' category and characteristically medieval in typology. Both these furrows were cut into the clay sub-soil, they did not penetrate as far as the natural.

An irregular shallow pit [3] is of doubtful man-made origin.

Artefactual evidence

The only artefactual evidence recovered was one cortical flint flake from the subsoil (6), this is undatable.

Ecofactual/palaeo-environmental evidence

None was recovered.

Value of deposits (trench)

Although the remnant ridge-and-furrow encountered in this trench is medieval in date it has little potential for further work, the nearby copse adjoining Witpit Lane contains extant ridge-and-furrow from the same field system, therefore there is little to be gained from study of the features within trench 1991/528. **Importance: Low**

TRENCH NO: 1991/531
TRENCH SIZE: 1.75m x 19.5m
TRENCH ORIENTATION: N-S
FIELD NO.: 7400
LANDUSE: Arable (cereals)
LANDOWNER: Mrs RTG Chester - Master

Characterisation of main stratigraphic units

TOPSOIL: Loam
SUBSOIL: Loamy - clay
NATURAL: Clay
ARCHAEOLOGY: medieval furrow [2]
drainage gully [5]

HEIGHT OF TOPSOIL: 124.06m - 124.29m
HEIGHT OF SUBSOIL: 123.86m - 124.18m
HEIGHT OF ARCHAEOLOGY (maximum): 123.68m
HEIGHT OF ARCHAEOLOGY (minimum): 123.06m

Archaeological features

The principal feature encountered in this trench is a truncated furrow [2] from the ridge-and-furrow which once covered the field. This furrow corresponds with [4] in trench 1991/528. In the deepest part of furrow [2] a vertically sided ditch [5] had been cut into the subsoil (3) and the top of the undisturbed natural clay (6). The ditch is some 0.50m wide by 0.65m deep and filled with blue-grey clay (4). The function of this must presumably have been for drainage over and above that afforded by the furrow. As it does not occur within furrow [4] in Trench 1991/528 to the W, it must presumably run E-ward to Witpit Lane and the roadside ditch there.

Artefactual evidence

Artefactual material mainly comprised post-medieval glazed

wares from the ploughsoil (1). There were also four pot-sherds of possible medieval date, and one undateable flint flake from the subsoil (3).

Ecofactual/palaeo-environmental evidence

None

Value of deposits (trench)

Deposits within this trench are of limited value for further study, as with 1991/528 there is little to be gained from examination of truncated ridge-and-furrow features. None of the artefactual material recovered was of particular interest. **Importance: Low**

Value of deposits (Site)

Overall the excavated evidence from these two trenches reveals little information about the origin of the pottery scatter from this area. Although there are abundant traces of medieval ploughing technique, and some evidence of associated features, this in itself is not particularly helpful in answering the problems posed by heavy concentrations early medieval pottery of limited date range and form. Within the two trenches there was no indication of occupation evidence and the quantity and quality of artefactual material recovered was low. On the strength of the evidence recovered it is unlikely that much further information can be extracted from this site. **Importance: Low**

5.14 SITE L

PRN 3067 is a site plotted from AP's which show a ditched trackway or possibly an enclosure in the N half of the site, and a long sub-rectangular enclosure in the S half. A geophysical survey revealed the approximate position of the trackway, but gave little indication of the sub-rectangular enclosure. Trench 1991/532 was placed to examine the trackway and its relationship to the enclosure, while 1991/533 was placed across a geophysical anomaly within the general area of the same enclosure.

TRENCH NO: 1991/532
TRENCH SIZE: 1.75m x 51.6m
TRENCH ORIENTATION: NE-SW
FIELD NO.: 2472
LANDUSE: Arable (cereals)
LANDOWNER: Monarch Assurance

Characterisation of main stratigraphic units

TOPSOIL; Loam
SUBSOIL: Loamy - clay
NATURAL: Clay
ARCHAEOLOGY: modern field drain [8]
ditches [1], [3] and [5] of trackway PRN 3067

HEIGHT OF TOPSOIL: 118.97m
HEIGHT OF SUBSOIL: 118.79m
HEIGHT OF ARCHAEOLOGY (maximum): 118.69m
HEIGHT OF ARCHAEOLOGY (minimum): 118.06m

Archaeological features

A modern field drain [8] crossed the middle of the trench on a N-S alignment.

At the NW end of the trench a ditch [3] 0.60-1.0m wide was cut into the limestone bedrock to a depth of 0.25m. The ditch was very clearly defined on the NE side with a sharp cut edge running E-W across the trench, on the SW side the edge of the feature was very degraded and appears to have weathered back into the fragmented cornbrash to leave a ragged edge, the bottom of the ditch was flat.

A second ditch [1] on the same alignment as [5] was encountered cut into the bedrock to a depth of 0.30m, and was some 1.20m wide. The ditch had a gently sloping profile with a flat bottom. Within it there were three fills, the upper

(2) was a stony sandy-clay, while (7) below was of similar composition to (2) but with a greater quantity of large stones. The greater concentration of stone on the SW side of (7) may represent slumping of material from a stone bank set alongside the ditch. The very bottom of the ditch contained a thin primary fill of sandy-clay (10).

The final ditch in the series was [5] closest to the NE end of the trench and followed exactly the same alignment as [1] and [3]. This was by far the largest feature encountered being some 1.40m wide and cut into the bedrock to a depth of 0.65m. One edge of this ditch had also weathered back to some extent, the NE side of the feature led into the ditch with a shallow slope where the bedrock had been degraded. The profile of the ditch was sharp on the NE side, gently sloping on the SW, with a rounded bottom. There were two fills within the ditch, the upper (6) was a stony sandy-clay which lay above the very much stonier primary fill (11). The higher concentration of large limestone fragments on the NE side of fill (11) could be attributed either to the presence of a stone bank on that side or simply to bedrock weathering from the upper surface.

Artefactual evidence

The only pottery to be recovered from this trench was three sherds of medieval domestic wares from the topsoil, along with a fragment of modern glass and a post-medieval rowel spur made of iron. A fragment of burnt flint was retrieved from the subsoil, and an undated but utilised cortical flint flake was found within fill (6) of ditch [5].

Ecofactual/palaeo-environmental evidence

Ecofactual material was limited to one horse tooth recovered from fill (11) of ditch [5]. A sample of fill (2) from ditch [1] was analysed for palaeo-environmental data, the sample contained a few small fragments of charcoal and a few snails, and was of relatively little value.

Value of deposits (trench)

Three ditches are visible on the AP's of the possible track-way within PRN 3067, all three were identified during the evaluation. They did however vary slightly in their state of preservation with [3] the least substantial, having suffered the most damage. The remaining two ditches are very well preserved and of considerable interest, displaying a good variety of fill types, containing some sealed arte-

factual material and, being morphologically distinct. Although no additional features were encountered, these three ditches are in themselves of considerable archaeological value. **Importance: High**

TRENCH NO: 1991/533
TRENCH SIZE: 1.75m x 51.6m
TRENCH ORIENTATION: NE-SW
FIELD NO.: 2472
LANDUSE: Arable (cereals)
LANDOWNER: Monarch Assurance

Characterisation of main stratigraphic units

TOPSOIL: Clayey - loam
SUBSOIL: Loamy - clay
NATURAL: Limestone bedrock
ARCHAEOLOGY: modern drains [3] and [11]
(?)pit [2]
ditch [1]

HEIGHT OF TOPSOIL: 118.73m
HEIGHT OF SUBSOIL: 118.65m
HEIGHT OF ARCHAEOLOGY (maximum): 118.50m
HEIGHT OF ARCHAEOLOGY (minimum): 117.96m

Archaeological features

A modern soakaway type drain [3] was cut through the bedrock on a NNE-SSW alignment. A second modern drain [11] crossed the trench at the NW end on a N-S alignment.

An irregular shaped feature [2] c.0.90m in diameter and cut into the bedrock to a depth of 0.40m may be a pit, it was slightly stepped on one side while the remaining circumference was reasonably vertical on the cut edge. The bottom of the feature was flat.

A major ditch [1] ran across the middle of the trench on an approximate N-S alignment. Both the NE and SW edges of the ditch cut had suffered degradation presumably through natural weathering when the ditch was in use. These edges had partly weathered back into the bedrock by over 1.0m in cases. A series of four fills could be detected within this ditch. The uppermost layer (4) would is somewhat disturbed by ploughing in the highest part of the context, and is slightly mixed with the subsoil. Fill (8) below (4) is an undisturbed sandy-clay containing limestones. Fill (9)

below (8) is distinguished from it by its higher stone content, as is (10), the primary fill of the ditch.

Artefactual evidence

The upper fill (4) of the ditch [1] contained 12 bodysherds of middle/late Bronze Age pottery, probably all from the same vessel, although this context was slightly disturbed within the upper margins the material was well stratified at the bottom of the layer. The proximal end of a flint blade was also recovered from this context.

One sherd of medieval pottery was recovered from context (8) below (4), this sherd must be considered as intrusive when one considers the artefactual evidence from the layer above, it is highly unlikely that 12 sherds from the same vessel would be residually deposited in such a tight grouping as that found in (4). A large flint flake possibly worked, was recovered from this layer, the item cannot be dated.

Fill (9) below (8) produced two flints, a core preparation flake, and a cortical flake that may have been utilised. Neither of these items could be dated.

Ecofactual/palaeo-environmental evidence

Two items of bone was recovered from fill (9), a fragment of cattle bone and a fragment of horse, both were poorly preserved. A sample of ditch fill from [1] proved to have little potential for palaeo-environmental analysis.

Value of deposits (trench)

Although the main feature encountered in this trench, ditch [1] is somewhat disturbed and degraded in sections of the upper profile, the archaeological deposits overall are relatively well preserved and contain considerable quantities of artefactual material. In addition there may possibly be other archaeological features which are associated with the main ditch. It is impossible to assign a function to [1], large scale examination of a wider area would be required for this and also to assess the likelihood of patterning or association with features such as [2]. However there is clearly potential for further investigation of the area with useful information being returned. **Importance: High**

Value of deposits (Site)

Evaluation of this site has proved the existence of well preserved intact structural features associated with the cropmark evidence, some features can be directly related to the pattern of cropmarks seen on the AP's, the multiple ditched trackway for example. Consequently a more reliable location plot of these cropmarks can now be constructed, resulting in the multiple ditched trackway moving northward outside the limits of the corridor, although the exact positioning of the sub-rectangular enclosure is still unclear.

In addition to this there would appear to be quite considerable dating evidence for some features. The length of ditch examined in the area of the sub-rectangular enclosure can be dated to the middle/late Bronze Age with reasonable certainty.

Taken as a whole the results from this trench suggest good overall potential for the return of archaeological information. There is the possibility of identifying the full plan, function and date of features on the site. This is of considerable importance as the sub-rectangular feature is not a commonly occurring phenomena from this region, and there is a possibility that the multiple-ditched trackway may in fact be something more significant. **Importance: High**

5.15 Site M

TRENCH NUMBER: 1991/534
TRENCH SIZE: 1.75m x 29.25m E-W, 1.75m x 6m N-S
TRENCH ORIENTATION: E-W,N-S
FIELD NO: 2636
LANDUSE: Pasture
LANDOWNER: Mr & Mrs Glass

Characterisation of main stratigraphic units

TOPSOIL: Loam
NATURAL: Limestone bedrock
ARCHAEOLOGY: features [1] and [9]
ditches/pits [3], [5] and [11]

HEIGHT OF TOPSOIL: 118.18m
HEIGHT OF NATURAL: 117.96m
HEIGHT OF ARCHAEOLOGY: (maximum) 118.01m
HEIGHT OF ARCHAEOLOGY: (minimum) 117.65m

Archaeological features

A number of features were encountered in this trench. The two parallel linear features seen on the geophysical survey corresponding with the ditches of the possible sub-rectangular enclosure were identified as cuts [1] and [2] in the central area of the trench. Both of these features were very damaged by modern agricultural practices, cut [1] was approximately 1.0m wide, but was cut into the bedrock only to a depth of c.0.14m. It had a red-brown clayey-loam fill which was spread out either side of the feature presumably as a result of plough spreading, the second parallel feature was identical in character but even less substantial.

There were three other features of some interest in this trench. In the N-S wing of the trench there were two shallow cut features, possibly pits. The first of these [3] extended out from the trench section 0.35m and was cut into bedrock to a depth of 0.12m. The second feature [5] extended out from the section by a similar distance but appeared broader, around 0.90m, it was cut into bedrock to a similar depth as [3]. Both features had identical clayey-loam fills (4) and (6) with a very high stone content. The third feature [11] was in the middle area of the main E-W arm of the trench and extended northward from the section edge by about 0.68m, and was 0.95m broad by 0.12m deep. The profile of this cut [11] was quite-sharp sided with a flat bottom, and the fill (12) was identical to (4) and (6).

Artefactual evidence

None

Ecofactual/palaeo-environmental evidence

None

Value of deposits (trench)

Evaluation of this site has proved the existence of the parallel linear features seen on AP's and the geophysical survey, and shown that there are other features present. However it would seem most likely that cuts [1] and [9] may represent the truncated remains of furrows from the medieval ridge-and-furrow field system which was once present here on a comparable alignment. There are two reasons for this assumption, the first being that the features were extremely ill defined where identified cut into the bedrock and not at all suggestive of ditch cuts; the second reason is that the distance between the features broadly equates with medieval 'broad-rig'.

As for features [3], [5] and [11], so little of these items was available for examination that it is difficult to be sure of their character, they could possibly be the highly truncated remains of pits or ditch terminals. A lack of associated artefactual material and their poorly defined profiles (apart from [11]) does not inspire confidence in such an interpretation.

On the strength of current evidence it would appear that the deposits encountered within this trench are of no more than local importance. Further work on the site is unlikely to produce any more than a plan of the features present, and it is unlikely that these could be dated if proven to be archaeological. **Importance: Low**

TRENCH NUMBER: 1991/535
TRENCH SIZE: 1.75m x 10m E-W, 5m x 5m N-S
TRENCH ORIENTATION:E-W, N-S
FIELD NO: 2636
LANDUSE: Pasture
LANDOWNER: Mr & Mrs Glass

NO ARCHAEOLOGY PRESENT: no features or artefacts were encountered in this trench.

Value of deposits (Site)

Overall it would appear that the value of the deposits on this site is minimal. Where encountered, features are poorly preserved and have no association with other forms of archaeological evidence. It is likely that the cropmarks on this site are caused by the higher water retention properties of the clay spreads present in and around the very shallow features, and that these form linear marks along features such as [1] and [9]. It is known from the geophysical survey that other linear features cross [1] and [9] at right angles, and variations within the fill of these may have given rise to what resembled a sub-rectangular enclosure in PRN 3383.

Assessing the deposits on this basis would class them as being of no more than of modest interest. **Importance: Low**

5.16 Site N

Faint cropmarks in this area of PRN 2026 were checked by a geophysical survey which revealed linear and pit-like anomalies. Trench 1991/536 was located over two possible ditches which appeared to form the corner of an enclosure. Trench 1991/537 was located over a very strongly indicated boundary ditch and a curving enclosure like ditch.

TRENCH NUMBER: 1991/536

TRENCH SIZE: 1.75m x 15m
TRENCH ORIENTATION: N-S
FIELD NO: 5049
LANDUSE: Pasture
LANDOWNER: Monarch Assurance

Characterisation of main stratigraphic units

TOPSOIL: Loam
SUBSOIL: Clayey - Loam
NATURAL: Limestone bedrock
ARCHAEOLOGY: ditch [6]

HEIGHT OF TOPSOIL: 118.55m
HEIGHT OF SUBSOIL: 118.37m
HEIGHT OF NATURAL: 118.37m
HEIGHT OF ARCHAEOLOGY: (maximum) 118.35m
HEIGHT OF ARCHAEOLOGY: (minimum) 117.94m

Archaeological features

Only one archaeological feature was encountered within this trench. Ditch [6] partially extended N from the SE corner of the trench, not enough of the feature was visible for a picture of its full width to be gained but where seen it was no less than 0.85m wide, and was cut into bedrock to a depth of 0.42m. The fill (5) was a red-brown sticky clay containing flat slabs of limestone near the bottom and edges of the feature where these had weathered in from the sides. There was some artefactual material present within the fill.

Artefactual evidence

Seven sherds of post-medieval pottery and two of medieval pottery were recovered from the subsoil in the trench, along with an iron nail, and two pieces of flint one of which can be identified as a core trimming flake but is not datable.

Ecofactual/palaeo-environmental evidence

One cattle bone was recovered from the fill (5) of the ditch. A sample of fill (5) did not prove to hold any potential for the recovery of palaeo-environmental material when analysed.

Value of deposits (trench)

The evaluation has shown that there is at least one well preserved ditch feature within this area of PRN 2026 and that there are limited direct, and some indirect artefactual associations. Neither the function or the date of the feature revealed could be established on the basis of evidence recovered, it would however seem likely that the ditch is more probably a field boundary rather than part of an enclosure. As such it would be assessed as being of local significance. There is good potential in this area for establishing a plan and function for the feature, and it may be datable if it can be stratigraphically related to more diagnostic features. **Importance: Medium**

TRENCH NUMBER: 1991/537
TRENCH SIZE:1.75m x 15m
TRENCH ORIENTATION: N-S
FIELD NO: 5049
LANDUSE: Pasture
LANDOWNER: Monarch Assurance

Characterisation of main stratigraphic units

TOPSOIL: Loam
SUBSOIL: Clayey - Loam
NATURAL: Limestone bedrock
ARCHAEOLOGY: ditches [3] and [5]

HEIGHT OF TOPSOIL: 118.53 - 118.60m
HEIGHT OF SUBSOIL: 118.44m
HEIGHT OF NATURAL: 118.32m
HEIGHT OF ARCHAEOLOGY: (maximum) 118.33m
HEIGHT OF ARCHAEOLOGY: (minimum) 117.85m

Archaeological features

Two features were encountered in this trench. Ditch [3] ran across the southern half of the trench in a NNW-SSE direction. This feature was 1.0m wide and cut into the bedrock

to a depth of 0.43m, the profile being gently graded on the sides with a narrow sub-rectangular sectioned slot cut into the bottom. This slot was some 0.30m wide and about 0.11m deep, well defined on the NNW side but grading out on the SSE.

Ditch [3] was cut through by a later more substantial ditch [5], which crossed the trench on an NW-SE alignment. This feature was approximately 1.5m wide and was cut into the bedrock to a depth of 0.55m. The sides of this feature, although slightly degraded and weathered in the upper margins, were inclined towards the vertical and the bottom was flat.

The fills of both ditches, (2) and (4) were a very similar silty loam with a high stone content increasing with depth. The only discernible difference was in (4) where a much higher proportion of large blocky limestone slabs on the N side of the fill seemed to betray the side of the ditch upon which the original bank of upcast must have stood.

Artefactual evidence

None

Ecofactual/palaeo-environmental evidence

No ecofactual material was recovered and the sample of ditch fill (4) proved to possess little potential for palaeo-environmental analysis.

Value of deposits (trench)

In the absence of any artefactual material the value of the features encountered in this trench is based on an assessment of their physical condition in relation to other attributes. The evaluation trench has proven that within this area of PRN 2026 there exists at least two morphologically distinct and well preserved linear ditches and undisturbed fills, displaying a variety of different typological attributes.

Although function is difficult to assess, the absence of occupation material here would tend to suggest these are field or boundary ditches rather than enclosure ditches, although the possible palisade slot in the bottom of [3] is a feature usually associated with more elaborate prehistoric monument types than fields. As such it would be reasonable to assess these items as being of local rather than regional

importance, but that the area possess considerable potential for understanding and interpreting layout, form and function of such features should they be field systems or otherwise. Stratigraphic relationships exist between the features examined, and if this can be extended to other more diagnostic monument types than it may be possible to date the sequence. **Importance: Medium**

Value of deposits (Site)

It is clear that this area of PRN 2026 has within it some very well preserved linear boundaries perhaps of prehistoric date. It has also been shown that there is some ambiguity in the geophysical indications of features from the site, on the one hand only a short length of ditch was seen in 1991/536 where two ditches were anticipated and the curving ditch within 1991/537 did not materialise, whereas a very substantial and clearly unexpected ditch [5] was encountered in the same trench. There is therefore the potential for encountering further hidden features in this area which may lead to better understanding and interpretation of the use of local landscape in relation to known archaeological sites. **Importance: Medium**

5.17 Site O

This trench was located across the axis of the double penannular ring-ditch PRN 3072 as plotted from AP's.

TRENCH NUMBER: 1991/538
TRENCH SIZE: 1.75m x 40m NW-SE, 1.75m x 7.5m NE-SW
TRENCH ORIENTATION: NW-SE, NE-SW
FIELD NO: 3923
LANDUSE: Arable
LANDOWNER: Mr & Mrs Glass

Characterisation of main stratigraphic units

TOPSOIL: Loam
NATURAL: Limestone bedrock
ARCHAEOLOGY: modern drain [13]
ditches [3] and [5]
(?)ditch terminals [9] and [11]
(?)pit [7]

HEIGHT OF TOPSOIL: 116.49 - 117.61m
HEIGHT OF NATURAL: 116.18 - 117.44m
HEIGHT OF ARCHAEOLOGY: (maximum) 117.44m
HEIGHT OF ARCHAEOLOGY: (minimum) 115.87m

Archaeological features

A variety of archaeological features were encountered in this trench, almost all appear associated with PRN 3072.

A modern drain [13] was noted crossing the trench on a N-S alignment.

In the NW end of the trench two features [9] and [11] were encountered protruding from opposites sections of the trench edge. These appear to correlate with the approximate position of the ditch terminals of the larger ring. Feature [9], with well defined edges and a flat bottom is approximately 1.50m wide and cut into bedrock to a depth of 0.35m. It contained an upper fill of stony red-brown clayey soil (8) above a thin deposit of slightly humic soil (15) in the bottom of the feature.

Feature [11] was more vertically sided, and also had a flat bottom. It was approximately 1.20m wide and some 0.38m deep, and contained only one fill (10) identical to (8).

To the SE of these features another cut was encountered. [7] emerged from the trench section and appears to be some 1.35m

wide and 0.15m deep, with a single fill (6) identical to (8) and (10).

In the centre of the trench a gently curving ditch [5] would appear to correspond with the plotted position of the larger ring. This feature was some 1.35m at its widest point and was cut into bedrock to a depth of 0.35m, with an almost vertically sided profile and flat bottom. There was one fill (4) within this ditch, identical to (6), (8) and (10), and in its very bottom there were traces of a similar humic material to (15).

In the SE end of the trench a very distinct length of curving ditch [3] was encountered running in opposition to the anticipated ditch of the smaller of the two rings. This ditch was some 1.05m at widest and cut into bedrock to a depth of 0.32m with an almost vertical cut edge on the NW side grading into an irregular bottom and sloping SE side. A single fill (2) was present in this ditch and was identical to the other fills within the trench.

Artefactual evidence

None

Ecofactual/palaeo-environmental evidence

No ecofactual material was recovered and a sample of fill (8) proved to have little palaeo-environmental potential when analysed.

Value of deposits (Site)

Evaluation of this site has proved the existence of a number of reasonably well-preserved features which probably correlate with at least one of the rings of the double ring-ditch PRN 3072, and allows a more reliable plot of the site to be developed. In addition there is evidence for associated features not identified on AP's of the site, one of these, ditch [3] may be a previously unidentified ring-ditch lying on the NE side of PRN 3072. Although the evidence to substantiate this is slim at present, if proven,, it would bring the total of ring ditches in this vicinity to five, such a number would constitute a significant grouping suggestive of a round-barrow cemetery.

A lack of associated artefactual material is not wholly unexpected if this site is funeral rather than occupational, and it would seem there is limited potential for direct

dating of PRN 3072 other than on morphological grounds. Clearly the state of preservation on the site is conducive to recovery of a plan of the monument(s) and associated features which would undoubtedly assist in understanding its complexity, form and perhaps function.

Complex ring-ditches are not a particularly common archaeological entity and should be accorded a regional to national significance. The positioning of PRN 3072, being as it is in association with a number of cropmark complexes nearby, would enhance the potential of the monument for interpretation of inter-relationships of different monument classes in area. **Importance: High**

5.18 Site P

A flint scatter. A geophysical survey in a sample area of the scatter revealed a possible ring-like feature. Trench 1991/539 was dug over this feature the remaining trenches were distributed amongst the general flint scatter.

TRENCH NUMBER: 1991/539
TRENCH SIZE: 2m x 2m
TRENCH ORIENTATION: N-S
FIELD NO: 8476
LANDUSE: Arable
LANDOWNER: Mr & Mrs Glass

Characterisation of main stratigraphic units

TOPSOIL: Loam
SUBSOIL: Clayey - Loam
NATURAL: Clay
ARCHAEOLOGY: (?)gully [3]

HEIGHT OF TOPSOIL: 108.92m
HEIGHT OF SUBSOIL: 108.77m
HEIGHT OF NATURAL: 107.98m
HEIGHT OF ARCHAEOLOGY: (maximum) 108.67m
HEIGHT OF ARCHAEOLOGY: (minimum) 108.59m

Archaeological features

Only one feature was recorded in this trench, this was a narrow gully [3] about 0.35m wide and 0.18m deep set within the subsoil (2). The feature ran N-S across the trench. It is not possible to say whether the shallow profile of this feature is original or whether it has been truncated by ploughing, ploughing scars leave little trace in the deep subsoil (2). Also the feature was very ephemeral and it would be difficult to definitely ascribe a man-made origin to it on the strength of the excavated evidence.

Artefactual evidence

The subsoil (2) yielded one post-medieval potsherd, one possible medieval sherd and one damaged flint flake.

Flint density: c.1:1.84 cubic metres of soil.

Ecofactual/palaeo-environmental evidence

None

Value of deposits (trench)

The value of the deposits within this trench is not high. It has been established that the ring-like feature seen on the geophysical survey proved to have a natural origin, gully [3] cannot definitely be called archaeological and the flint recovery rates from the trench were low. There would seem to be little potential for recovery of useful archaeological information from this part of Site P. **Importance: Low**

TRENCH NUMBER: 1991/540
TRENCH SIZE: 2m x 2m
TRENCH ORIENTATION: N - S
FIELD NO: 8476
LANDUSE: Arable
LANDOWNER: Mr & Mrs Glass

Characterisation of main stratigraphic units

TOPSOIL: Loam
SUBSOIL: Clayey - Loam
NATURAL: Clay
ARCHAEOLOGY: only artefactual

HEIGHT OF TOPSOIL: 109.26m
HEIGHT OF SUBSOIL: 109.05m
HEIGHT OF NATURAL: 108.76 - 108.83m
HEIGHT OF ARCHAEOLOGY (maximum): none present
HEIGHT OF ARCHAEOLOGY (minimum):

Archaeological features

None

Artefactual evidence

The topsoil (1) and subsoil (2) produced one fragment of post medieval pot each. In addition (2) yielded two flint flakes one of which could be natural, and one small unworked flint nodule.
Flint density: 1:0.72 cubic metres of soil.

Ecofactual/palaeo-environmental evidence

None

Value of deposits (trench)

There would appear to be little potential within the area of this trench for the recovery of useful archaeological information based on current evidence. It has been established that no features exist in this area and that the flintwork, although moderate in density, is not of high quality. **Importance:** Low

TRENCH NUMBER: 1991/541
TRENCH SIZE: 2m x 2m
TRENCH ORIENTATION: N - S
FIELD NO: 8476
LANDUSE: Arable
LANDOWNER: Mr & Mrs Glass

Characterisation of main stratigraphic units

TOPSOIL: Loam
SUBSOIL: Clayey - Loam
NATURAL: Clay
ARCHAEOLOGY: (??)pit [6]

HEIGHT OF TOPSOIL: 109.34m
HEIGHT OF SUBSOIL: 109.15m
HEIGHT OF NATURAL: 108.88m
HEIGHT OF ARCHAEOLOGY (maximum): none present
HEIGHT OF ARCHAEOLOGY (minimum):

Archaeological features

A small sub-oval feature [6] was recorded in the middle of this trench. The dimensions of the feature were 0.50m x 0.30m and it was cut into the natural clay to a depth of 0.18m on a tapering profile. There was little to indicate that this feature has a man-made origin.

Artefactual evidence

Artefactual evidence was restricted to flintwork. One possibly utilised cortical flake was recovered from the topsoil (1), while the subsoil (3) yielded one small flake

and a flake from a polished implement, perhaps an axe.

Flint density: 1:0.50 cubic metres of soil

Ecofactual/palaeo-environmental evidence

None

Value of deposits (trench)

Although this trench has produced some flintwork of reasonable quality in moderate quantity it would seem unlikely in the absence of features that much useful archaeological information could be retrieved from further examination of this area. **Importance: Low**

Value of deposits (Site)

Although the overall quantity of flintwork from the site is low and thus any interpretation of dating of the material is bound to be uncertain, the assemblage as a whole would seem to have the characteristics of working waste perhaps dateable to the Neolithic or Bronze Age. Having established this it would be unlikely that the site could be seen as an occupation area, more probably it simply marks a temporary area of flint tool manufacture. Because of the difficulties of studying such material in such low densities the artefactual material recovered can be assessed as having little more than local significance and the site as a whole offers little potential for retrieval of information over and above that established by the evaluation. **Importance: Low**

5.19 Site Q

This trench was placed to bisect the plotted position of ring-ditch PRN 2390, and to assess the possibility of earlier boundary features existing along the line of the modern parish boundary.

TRENCH NUMBER: 1991/542
TRENCH SIZE: 1.75m x 45m
TRENCH ORIENTATION: E-W
FIELD NO: 7262
LANDUSE: Arable (cereals)
LANDOWNER: Mr & Mrs Glass

Characterisation of main stratigraphic units

TOPSOIL: Loam
SUBSOIL: Clayey - Loam
NATURAL: Clay
ARCHAEOLOGY: modern drain
(??)pits [21] and [1]
ring-ditch [19]

HEIGHT OF TOPSOIL: 107.05 - 107.46m
HEIGHT OF SUBSOIL: 106.75 - 107.33m
HEIGHT OF NATURAL: 106.62 - 107.08m
HEIGHT OF ARCHAEOLOGY: (maximum) 107.08m
HEIGHT OF ARCHAEOLOGY: (minimum) 106.31m

Archaeological features

A modern drain was recorded running across the trench on a NW-SE alignment.

Two very feint features [1] and [21] were noted at the W end of the trench. Cut [1] was sub-oval in shape and was only partly exposed within the trench, its recorded width was 0.45m and its depth 0.08m and it was filled by a stony fine loam, dark brown in colour with haematite flecking. The second feature [27] was c.1.0m in diameter and 0.10m deep, with a dark brown clayey-loam fill. Both features were sealed by the subsoil and cut into the natural clay below.

The principal feature within the trench was an irregular curving ditch cut [19], which was 0.88m in width and cut into the natural clay to a depth of 0.90m on an almost vertically sided and flat bottomed profile on the E end, becoming more irregular and less well defined on the W end. The fill (20) was a compact dark-brown clay-loam flecked with haematite and fragments of burnt clay. This feature

was located in the centre of the trench and broadly correlates with the irregular shape and position of PRN 2390 seen on AP's.

In the very bottom of the ditch three regularly spaced shallow depressions were noted. These were under 0.15m in diameter, and perhaps represent impressions left in the clay by vertically set timbers.

Artefactual evidence

All pottery recovered in this trench came from the surface of the subsoil and was post-medieval in date. One flint flake was recovered from the surface of the subsoil, this was a cortical flake formed during core preparation and represents working waste.

Ecofactual/palaeo-environmental evidence

None. A sample of ditch fill (20) was found to be contaminated with modern roots and seeds when analysed.

Value of deposits (Site)

Evaluation has established that there is little archaeological material of note within this trench other than the curving ditch [19] and fill (20). The features recorded at the W end of the trench are very ephemeral and may be natural pockets of more loamy subsoil sitting within shallow scoops into the natural clay.

There was no trace of any evidence which would suggest pre-medieval usage of the present parish boundary within the area examined on the E side of the trench, this does not of course mean that it does not exist outside the limit of the trench.

If the curving ditch feature [19] can be reliably correlated with PRN 2390, which it would seem to be although the extrapolated diameter of the feature encountered is slightly smaller than the AP evidence would suggest, then the site would be of considerable significance. Ring-ditches are of regional to national importance, and the example identified here appears to be physically well preserved and to possess evidence of small scale associated features. As ring-ditches can be functionally and morphologically diverse, and not always clearly understood, the evidence from this site is important in that there would appear to be some potential for the recovery of a full structural plan of the monument

and associated features which may assist in interpretative analysis of the type. Obviously there is less potential for the dating of the monument other than on morphological grounds, but this does not diminish the value of the site as it is not uncommon for monuments of this type to produce very little artefactual material. **Importance: High**

5.20 Site R

A series of linear and curvilinear cropmarks, PRN 2388b was subject to a geophysical test survey which failed to reveal unambiguous traces of features, two trenches 1991/543 and 544 were located over feint anomalies in order to test their character. A large irregular ring-ditch PRN 2388a , identified from cropmarks,, was investigated by placing Trench 1991/545 across its plotted circumference.

TRENCH NUMBER: 1991/543
TRENCH SIZE: 1.75m x 20m
TRENCH ORIENTATION: E-W
FIELD NO: 0044
LANDUSE: Pasture
LANDOWNER: Mr Oldacre

NO ARCHAEOLOGY PRESENT: No features or artefacts were encountered

TRENCH NUMBER: 1991/544
TRENCH SIZE: 1.75m x 40m
TRENCH ORIENTATION: E-W
FIELD NO: 0044
LANDUSE: Pasture
LANDOWNER: Mr Oldacre

Characterisation of main stratigraphic units

TOPSOIL: Loam
SUBSOIL: Loamy - Clay
NATURAL: Clay / Forest Marbles
ARCHAEOLOGY: ditch [3]

HEIGHT OF TOPSOIL: 106.34m
HEIGHT OF SUBSOIL: 106.12m
HEIGHT OF NATURAL: 105.93m
HEIGHT OF ARCHAEOLOGY: (maximum) 106.12m
HEIGHT OF ARCHAEOLOGY: (minimum) 105.51m

Archaeological features

The only feature encountered within this trench was a large ditch [3] running on a NE-SW alignment. The ditch was 0.95m wide, cut into the deep subsoil (4) to a depth of 0.50m and was filled with a slightly humic loam (2).

Artefactual evidence

One sherd of Roman grey ware was recovered from the topsoil (1).

Ecofactual/palaeo-environmental evidence

None

Value of deposits (trench)

The single ditch encountered in this trench aligns approximately with the main axial ditch seen on the AP cropmarks, it also aligns with the approximate position of the old Harnhill/Preston parish boundary. It would not be unlikely that the excavated evidence represents either one or the other of these items, or more probably both. The nature of the fill (2) would suggest that it is not ancient, and this would equate with the cartographic evidence for the area which shows the Harnhill boundary still marked on early 19th century maps.

Whether the short linear features seen radiating from this ditch on the AP's were ever archaeological in origin is questionable as there is much geological variation within the area examined which may possibly account for their presence.

The ditch [3] is assessed as being of local importance and the area would seem to offer little potential for recovery of additional archaeological information beyond that gained from the evaluation. **Importance: Low**

TRENCH NUMBER: 1991/545
TRENCH SIZE: 1.75m x 40m
TRENCH ORIENTATION: E-W
FIELD NO: 0044
LANDUSE: Pasture
LANDOWNER: Mr Oldacre

Characterisation of main stratigraphic units

TOPSOIL: Loam
SUBSOIL: Loamy - Clay
NATURAL: Clay / Forest Marbles

ARCHAEOLOGY: hearths (2) and (6)
pits [3], [5], [7] and [9]
ring-ditch [11]

HEIGHT OF TOPSOIL: 105.08m
HEIGHT OF SUBSOIL: 105.03m
HEIGHT OF NATURAL: 104.92m
HEIGHT OF ARCHAEOLOGY: (maximum) 104.99m
HEIGHT OF ARCHAEOLOGY: (minimum) 104.84m

Archaeological features

A variety of archaeological features were encountered within this trench, all were associated with ring-ditch PRN 2388a. Uppermost of these was pit [5], approximately 0.60m in diameter and cut into the subsoil (10) to a depth of 0.10m, this was filled with a dark-brown clayey-loam with occasional charcoal flecks.

Another pit [3], approximately 0.50m in diameter and cut into the fill of the ring-ditch to a depth of 0.12m was filled with the remains of a hearth (2), comprising charcoal, burnt clay and burnt limestone.

Pit [3] also cut into pit [7] and its hearth fill (6) below, removing most of this to leave an irregular crescent of burnt earth and charcoal, with some fragments of burnt limestone.

The final pit in the sequence is [9], an oval-shaped feature approximately 0.30m wide and about 0.06m deep filled with silty-clay (8). This feature was located 0.30m down within the ring-ditch fill (10).

The ring-ditch itself cut across the W end of the trench on a SW-ENE curve, the inner edge of the ditch being almost tangential to the trench edge. The ditch was some 1.60m wide and cut into the limestone bedrock to a depth of 0.58m, the edges of the feature were not exactly parallel when viewed in plan, but where not weathered were almost vertical, leading to a flat bottom. In the W end of the trench the ditch appeared to have been cut back into the face of the inner edge along the natural jointing lines with the result that when seen in plan a zig-zag pattern is apparent. It is difficult to interpret the reason for such an action on the strength of the currently available evidence

In the E end of the trench plough scars were seen grazing the subsoil.

Artefactual evidence

Artefactual evidence from this trench comprised two post-medieval pot-sherds, one Roman sherd, and one fragment of early Bronze Age cord-impressed collared urn. This last item came from the upper area of the ring-ditch fill and can almost certainly be directly associated with it. Additionally, four flints were recovered from context (4), this group comprised three cortical flakes and two broken blades none of which were diagnostic.

Ecofactual/palaeo-environmental evidence

Ecofactual material was restricted to one cattle bone recovered from the subsoil. Samples of hearth material (2) produced the remains of one charred barley seed and a chaff fragment when analysed, hearth material (6) only produced large quantities of charcoal. The plant remains from (2) are not considered to be of significance.

Value of deposits (trench)

The quality of the archaeological remains within this trench is high. The evaluation has proven the existence of a substantial ring-ditch probably of early Bronze Age date, associated with a number of small scale features directly related to the ditch of the monument. Artefactual material is present in limited quantities over the site and some of this can be located to stratigraphic contexts. The potential for preservation of palaeo-environmental material is low, but there is sufficient carbonised debris for the application of scientific dating methods to be used on secondary associated features.

As a monument type of regional to national importance, this example must be considered as having significant potential for retrieval of further archaeological data with regard to form, function and dating of the site. **Importance: High**

Value of deposits (Site)

Assessment of the value of the deposits on this site would have to proclaim PRN 2388b as being low in potential for the retrieval of any type of archaeological data, while PRN 2388a must be regarded as being the opposite, with extremely good potential for recovery of such information. **Importance: PRN 2388a, High**

5.21 Site S

A flint scatter was examined by a test geophysical transect which revealed a few possible pits and some linear features running parallel to Ermine Street. Trench 1991/546 was located over one of the pit-like anomalies within the general flint scatter; 1991/546 was located at an angle to the hedgeline flanking Ermine Street in order to investigate the linear anomalies; and 1991/548 was located within the general flint scatter.

TRENCH NUMBER: 1991/546
TRENCH SIZE: 2m x 2m
TRENCH ORIENTATION: N-S
FIELD NO: 9329
LANDUSE: Arable (cereal)
LANDOWNER: Mr Ford

Characterisation of main stratigraphic units

TOPSOIL: Loam
SUBSOIL: Loamy - Silty - Clay
NATURAL: Clay
ARCHAEOLOGY: hearth pit [8]
re-cut ditch [7]
gravel spread [6]

HEIGHT OF TOPSOIL: 90.66m
HEIGHT OF SUBSOIL: 90.52m
HEIGHT OF NATURAL: 90.40m
HEIGHT OF ARCHAEOLOGY: (maximum) 90.39m
HEIGHT OF ARCHAEOLOGY: (minimum) 89.95m

Archaeological features

A hearth feature (5), 1.10m long by 0.50m wide was encountered in the middle of the trench. This material was found to be sitting in a shallow pit [8], 0.18m deep, cut through an area of gravel spread (6) into the natural clay below.

Another feature was visible in the SW corner of the trench, although only partly visible in plan this feature would appear to be a ditch terminal or possibly a return. The upper fill (4) of this feature was a dark brown clay-loam containing patches of burnt red clay and occasional burnt flint. (4) sat within a V-shaped re-cut [9], which had cut into the primary fill (10) of the original ditch cut [7]. The width of the original ditch [7] would appear to be approximately 1.0m, and its depth 0.45m, it was cut through gravel spread (6) and the natural clay with Vee-shaped

profile leading into a rounded bottom. The re-cut ditch was approximately 0.85m wide and 0.38m deep, and closely respected the outline of [7].

The gravel spread (6) was made up of a yellow gritty-gravel and clay-loam mix. It appeared to form three patches running in a 1.20m band across the trench from NW to SE. It was hard packed and firm, appearing to form an area of hard-standing around the hearth feature in the centre of the trench.

Artefactual evidence

A small fragment of early-modern pottery was noted from the interface of (3) and (6), this was thought to be intrusive.

From the upper surface of gravel spread (6) a small (0.01m diam.) copper alloy disc was recovered. This fragile item was decorated on its outer circumference by the addition of gold thread wound through the coiled copper alloy. It is difficult to date the object in its present corroded state, it could possibly be as late as the post-medieval period although this would seem unlikely in view of its circumstances of discovery.

Ditch fill (4) produced two fragments of burnt flint.

Ecofactual/palaeo-environmental evidence

No ecofactual evidence was recovered. Samples of hearth material from (5) are unlikely to possess much potential for palaeo-environmental analysis.

Value of deposits (trench)

The close association within this trench of several related features in a good state of preservation, and indicative of in-situ occupation makes this area of the site of considerable importance. There clearly exists the potential for recovery of additional feature here, which could lead to a fuller understanding of those encountered during evaluation.
Importance: High

TRENCH NUMBER: 1991/547
TRENCH SIZE: 15mx1m
TRENCH ORIENTATION: E-W
FIELD NO: 9329

LANDUSE: Arable (cereal)
LANDOWNER: Mr Ford

Characterisation of main stratigraphic units

TOPSOIL: Loam
SUBSOIL: Clayey - Loam
NATURAL: Clay / Limestone bedrock
ARCHAEOLOGY: (?)clay-pit/dew-pond [7]
(??)roadside ditch [4]

HEIGHT OF TOPSOIL: 90.13 - 90.31m
HEIGHT OF SUBSOIL: 89.99 - 90.23m
HEIGHT OF NATURAL: 89.52 - 90.08m
HEIGHT OF ARCHAEOLOGY: (maximum) 89.55m
HEIGHT OF ARCHAEOLOGY: (minimum) 89.17m

Archaeological features

A shallow cut [7] corresponding with a surface visible scarp, was encountered running on a gentle gradient from SE-NW. The fill of this feature (2), a sticky clay-loam containing small fragments of limestone, was indistinguishable from the subsoil of the area.

Near the NW end of the trench a slightly deeper cut [4] was noted running parallel to Ermine Street, and was filled with (5) which was distinguishable from (2) on account of its higher charcoal and burnt clay content. In addition, (2) and (5) seemed to be separated by a feint band of silty-clay wash (6). The exact nature of this feature [4] was difficult to establish, it may well be a deeper cut of the overall cut [7] although it correlates with one of the linear features seen on the geophysical survey.

Artefactual evidence

Material from this trench was sparse, the only find was a fragment of clay tobacco pipe from fill (5).

Ecofactual/palaeo-environmental evidence

None

Value of deposits (trench)

Due to problems of interpretation caused by disturbance of

the area, the value of the deposits within this trench is difficult to assess. However it is safe to assume that no further evidence is likely to be forthcoming from the area which would help date and interpret the feature [7]. A provisional assessment of this item would be that it is possibly a clay pit, although the quality of the clay here is poor and it would be difficult to see an obvious purpose for the extraction of such material, alternatively it may have had an agricultural function, a dewpond perhaps. Whatever the case, the item is of no more than local significance.

Cut [4] may possibly be a roadside ditch flanking Roman Ermine Street, but the limited area examined and the find of an 18th century pipe stem from the fill makes dating insecure. It would be difficult to explain the occurrence of such an item within a Roman context unless that context had been heavily disturbed by later activity, the cutting of [7] for example. Indications, such as they are, would appear to suggest that there is some possibility of encountering road side features along the edge of Ermine Street, and as such the potential for recovering more secure dating evidence on these features exists. **Importance: Medium**

TRENCH NUMBER: 1991/548
TRENCH SIZE: 2m x 2m
TRENCH ORIENTATION: N-S
FIELD NO: 9329
LANDUSE: Arable (cereal)
LANDOWNER: Mr Ford

Characterisation of main stratigraphic units

TOPSOIL: Clay - Loam
SUBSOIL: Loamy -Silty - Clay
NATURAL: Silty - Clay
ARCHAEOLOGY: modern drain [4]

HEIGHT OF TOPSOIL: 90.15m
HEIGHT OF SUBSOIL: 89.98m
HEIGHT OF NATURAL: 89.68m

Archaeological features

The only feature encountered within this trench was a modern drain [4].

Artefactual evidence

Artefactual evidence from this trench comprised ten fragments of post-medieval pottery and one flint blade from the topsoil (1) and two lumps of fired clay and a small fragment of unidentifiable pot from subsoil layer (2).

Ecofactual/palaeo-environmental evidence

An unidentified bone fragment was recovered from topsoil (1).

Value of deposits (trench)

There would seem to be little potential for recovery of archaeological data from this part of the site which would throw further light upon the origins of the flint scatter or features encountered in 1991/546. **Importance: Low**

Value of deposits (Site)

Deposits in the area of this site are varied, differing dramatically from trench to trench. However, results from 1991/546 indicate the importance of the immediate area for its potential to reveal further (?)occupation evidence. The limits of occupation as suggested by the deposits in 1991/546 are not yet clear, but it must be assumed that they do not exist in complete isolation and that the area concerned is more extensive than the area of the evaluation trench. As the ground is rising here it may be that the level area between the road and the middle of the field is the most promising site on which to find further activity. The features here are undated and it is tempting to believe that they are directly associated with the Roman road due to their proximity to that monument. However without further examination of the area such questions cannot be resolved. Clearly the strip of land alongside Ermine Street where it has not yet been improved to dual carriageway offers some potential for further productive examination of the area. **Importance: Medium/High**

CHAPTER 6

CHRONOLOGICAL SUMMARY

6.1 General

The combined results of the Stage 1 Assessment and the Stage 2 Evaluation allow more detailed descriptive statements to be made about the sites and monuments within the corridor and for some assessment to be made of their significance within local, regional and national contexts. It is now possible to give greater consideration to such problems after investigating and sampling the known and potential archaeological resource highlighted at Stage 1.

Within this chapter a summary shall be provided of the known archaeological resource within the corridor divided by period, and, its relationship to the current body of evidence which provides the data-base of comparative archaeology locally, regionally and nationally.

For ease of reference it is proposed to divide the results of the study into artefactual evidence and evidence of features encountered during the Stage 1 and Stage 2 work, and additionally, on a level where this evidence has allowed definition of components of monuments, and monument classes themselves.

Mention must be made of the constraints put upon interpretative statements and dating when dealing with small flint scatters such as those encountered within the study area. Unless very large assemblages are encountered it can be difficult to make reliable judgments about the character of a flint scatter site. When objects are scattered over a wide area at low density, accurate assessments of this density are difficult since the limits of the area of distribution are difficult to assess in any practical and objective manner (see CARG,1982 for discussion of these problems).

6.2 Early Prehistory (Mesolithic to Bronze Age, 8000bc - 700BC).

6.2.1 The study area

The palaeolithic period is not included within this summary as there is no data for the local sphere and evidence was not encountered during the current study. Evidence was forthcoming for the Mesolithic to Bronze Age periods during

Stage 1 and full details of this can be found in Supplement A, Appendix A.
Sites and monuments previously identified:

PRN 3072
A double-penannular ring-ditch of uncertain date but possibly Bronze Age on morphological grounds.
PRN 2390
A single small irregular ring-ditch, undated but possibly Bronze Age.
PRN 2388a
A large irregular ring ditch with appended linear ditches, undated but possibly Bronze Age.
PRN 3067
(?)Trackway and (?)enclosure, no dating evidence but associated with possible Bronze Age ring-ditches.
PRN 2026
Amorphous linear ditches showing very faintly on AP's, associated with a nearby ring-ditches.
PRN 3383
Linear features of possible post-medieval date amongst which there appeared to be a small sub-rectangular enclosure of uncertain date.

Stage 1 and 2 results (by period)

Evidence based upon artefacts and/or features

Undated: The flint scatter and pit like feature found at Site F unfortunately remain undated at present, none of the material recovered was diagnostic and how it related to the possible pit feature on the site is still unresolved. The whole problem of flint scatter analysis will be mentioned in the text below, but for this site little can be said other than that it possesses some potential for further investigation.

Likewise, the unusual ditch features found in Trench 1991/529 at Site J cannot be interpreted conclusively on the strength of the currently available evidence. Its character implied a prehistoric date but it would be impossible to elaborate further at this stage, it is sufficient to say that its state of preservation would warrant further investigation.

Mesolithic: A scatter of flint of possible late Mesolithic/early Neolithic date was recovered during fieldwalking at Site I. Evaluation of the site showed most of the flintwork to be in disturbed contexts of topsoil and subsoil, but some undateable material was recovered from a

well-preserved negative feature. It was also established that Site I contained evidence for Bronze Age activity as well, possibly occupational. Over 40 late Mesolithic sites are known from Gloucestershire mostly from the Cotswold Scarp overlooking the Severn Vale, very few are known from the dipslope and in general knowledge of Mesolithic settlement is extremely limited, particularly in the period of transition to the Neolithic.

The value of Site I comes from a combination of factors rather than the occurrence of any single entity. Although the general character of the flint recovered from fieldwalking and evaluation creates an assemblage suggestive of working waste rather than occupation, the presence of a variety of different period-datable items in conjunction with a linear ditch clearly of some antiquity, may hint at occupation or related activity in the area of at least one period, if not all.

Superimposition of different period artefacts would seem to mark the site as having had some importance as an area of temporary occupation for reasons unknown to us now. It is unlikely that these could ever be established. However, the potential for understanding certain aspects of this site are good and the area must receive sympathetic consideration.

Neolithic: Sites C, D and I produced some evidence of arte factual material dating from this period during fieldwalking. For such an statement the assessment for Site C is based on the character of the whole assemblage recovered and the occurrence of occasional semi-diagnostic pieces. For Site D the situation is similar, with one very diagnostic artefact suggesting Neolithic rather than Bronze Age date. Site I has already been discussed above. During evaluation Site C produced traces of occupation in the form of structural evidence, ie pits and a ditch, none of the features encountered contained artefactual material but they cannot be easily dismissed. All artefactual material recovered came from disturbed contexts. Nonetheless sufficient evidence exists to suggest that the site holds the potential for revealing further information to assist in clarification and understanding of its origins.

Site D on the other hand produced only artefactual material from disturbed contexts, and there were no archaeological features encountered with which finds could be associated, it would however be unwise to dismiss this site as unimportant. On the basis of the best currently available evidence it would seem that the site lies on the edge of something more extensive and as such a measure of caution

must be advised when considering its management.

A single end scraper of Neolithic/Bronze Age date was recovered from Trench 1991/530 at Site J in an unstratified context and cannot be held as representative of the site.

The Neolithic of the region is well represented in the Cotswolds particularly in the sphere of large funerary monuments, although other evidence exists in the form of enclosed and unenclosed settlements, one or two ceremonial sites, flint scatters and isolated finds. The major points of concern are with settlement sites, their identification, distribution and relationships to funerary and ceremonial sites. Settlements of the period are notoriously difficult to identify in the archaeological record, and no less so in the Cotswolds. Where the possibility of such occupation evidence is suspected as at Sites C or I by co-relationships between artefacts and structural remains then every effort must be made to examine these sites further, particularly in areas where there is no other evidence for activity from this period. This need not be on the scale of total excavation, the quality and quantity of material from Site C would not justify this, whereas the various attributes outlined above for Site I would. Site D must also be considered on the strength of the currently available evidence as possessing the potential for further archaeological discoveries and treated accordingly.

Bronze Age: Of all the flint scatters examined in the corridor only that at Site I has produced unambiguous evidence of Bronze Age flintwork, a single end scraper from Site J of Neolithic/Bronze Age date was found in an unstratified context and could be a casual loss. Site P will be dealt with below.

Trench 1991/522 at Site I yielded a single barbed-and-tanged arrowhead of late Neolithic/early Bronze Age date, and a fragment of another arrowhead. Such items can occasionally be found in funerary contexts associated with 'Beaker' inhumations but are more commonly found as stray items in cultivated fields, as in this case. Occupation evidence from the period is extremely rare there being no more than ten sites in Britain to have produced evidence of structures. Because of the difficulty in identifying and locating such settlement sites from the archaeological record it is of utmost importance to consider all flint scatter evidence as significant, particularly where features are encountered. It may be that the site represented here by flint is suggestive of tool manufacture rather than habitation, but the entire scatter is spread over a greater area than that of the corridor and as such may be a compo-

nent of it rather than the focus. The occurrence of a well defined ditch in Trench 1991/526 on the edge of Site I may suggest such . In the absence of further evidence it is not possible to say much more about the character of the finds and type of site they represent.

Site P produced a flintwork assemblage which is not easily datable, but could belong to the Neolithic/Bronze Age. Its character was assessed as being that of working waste, and as such there is little further information that could be extracted from the relatively small quantities of material present on the site. It is however possible to be more conclusive about the date of the material as it is known from other sites that during the Bronze Age flint working tended to be carried out near, or in some cases on round barrows. It has been proven with a degree of certainty that PRN 2388a represents the remnants of a round-barrow, perhaps giving focus to the execution of such activities as flint knapping.

Evidence based upon Monument classes and/or components of those classes

Among the many cropmark sites provisionally bracketed within the Bronze Age period on morphological grounds alone, several can now be dated precisely within the period by association with artefactual material. These can be discussed within their respective monument classes:

Ring-ditches

Site O (PRN 3072)
This double penannular feature was and still is dated to the Bronze Age on morphological grounds alone. Evaluation of the site did not produce any artefactual material but did reveal further evidence for previously unknown archaeological features which, along with negative artefactual evidence, would support the belief in the monument being a) funerary and b) Bronze Age.

Interpretation of the monument rests on the assumption that the evaluation trench did not pass through the axis of the whole feature but did in fact cut the larger of the two rings through the ditch terminals and the N arc of the ring, missing the lesser ring altogether. If this assumption is correct then the internal pit feature found within the ring would be directly in line with the gap in the ring and its axis, such an attribute is more suggestive of ritual or funerary practices than occupation sites. Secondly there is the occurrence of a curving ditch in the SE half of the trench which would appear to suggest the

presence of another previously unrecognised ring-ditch on this site, making the area appear to possess the characteristics of a barrow cemetery.

There is some evidence to support such a theory. From the immediate vicinity there are two other ring-ditches, PRN 3068 and PRN 3069 set within a general mass of linear boundaries, some of which respect the position of the individual monuments, there is also one small ring-ditch within PRN 2026 in the adjacent field. All occupy a characteristic barrow cemetery locality, ie an area of locally high ground surrounded by evidence of general prehistoric activity.

Obviously further evidence would be needed to substantiate such a claim beyond the provisional interpretation stage. In the absence of such evidence, that which is available would prompt an assessment of High Importance for the site.

Site Q (PRN 2390)
Little supporting evidence was retrieved during the evaluation to assign a Bronze Age date to this monument other than on morphological grounds, even this is uncertain. No artefactual evidence was retrieved, which does in itself support a belief that the site is funerary rather than occupational. However the short length of ditch examined was enough to reveal indications of possible small scale structuring within the feature in the form of impressions in the natural clay possibly left by timbers set in the ditch bottom. It is not however enough to be conclusive of the sites use as something other than a barrow, although the basis for such an argument has been laid.

Site R (PRN 2388a)
This was the only ring ditch to produce evidence for dating in the form of a single sherd of early Bronze Age collared urn. Although abraded and not found within a sealed archaeological context it could be argued that the item is not necessarily associated with the ring-ditch, this would appear unlikely.

Urns of this date have no specific function, they have been found in both funerary and domestic contexts, and the manner in which they operate within these spheres seems fairly unsophisticated. The pots themselves were simply domestic vessels of which the largest and most elaborate were selected for use as burial urns. Only nine burials in collared urns are known from the county, including examples from barrows and ring-ditches, making the discovery of material in association with a ring-ditch at Site R

of great importance.

Where urns are encountered on burial sites they usually act as a receptacle for cremated human remains or more rarely, in the case of collared urns to accompany inhumations. Urns have been found in primary contexts beneath round barrows, but more frequently where they are associated with mounds are found to be inserted into existing barrows erected by Beaker or Food Vessel cultures, as secondary burials.

From a monument-specific point of view PRN 2388a is highly important. The amount of information from the county re garding distribution, socio-political setting, dating and typology of ring-ditches and barrows is low, and any occurrence of artefactual material in association with either a monument component or a monument itself must be considered as extremely significant. This is the reason PRN 2388a is classed as being of High Importance, and must receive appropriate consideration at the management stage.

(?) Enclosure

Site L (PRN 3067)
From the results of the evaluation it would now seem sensible to expand this PRN into two separate items. It is proposed to call the monument originally identified as a trackway 3067a and the possible enclosure as 3067b. Although originally thought that both these items respected each other in terms of alignment and positioning and therefore could be contemporary or inter-related, such an assumption must be reconsidered. Firstly, 3067a has been shown to lie some way north of its originally plotted position distancing it from 3067b, and secondly re-assessment of the AP evidence combined with the geophysical and evaluation results now makes the exact form and alignment of 3067b less clear.

A full plan of the suspected sub-rectangular enclosure 3067a was not recovered during evaluation. The result was the uncovering of one large linear ditch, seen on the geophysical survey for a length of 11m but which presumably forms a component of something larger. The discovery of 12 sherds of middle to late Bronze Age pottery within the upper fill of the ditch, and several other pieces of artefactual material make it unlikely that the ditch is related to something as simple as a field or land boundary. It is more probable that it forms a component of either an occupation site or a funerary or ritual monument. As there is considerable evidence in the immediate area to support the view of a barrow cemetery being present, the latter funerary or ritual function would appear the better option.

Classifying the site exactly is a problem, but if the ditch excavated forms part of what appears to be a sub-rectangular enclosure then one possible interpretation would be that it represents a Neolithic long-mortuary enclosure. Such an interpretation would not be wholly inconsistent with the recovery of Bronze Age pottery from the uppermost fill of the feature only. It is known from other sites that the presence of Neolithic burial monuments tends to lead to a continuity of land-use in the Bronze Age for the same purposes, and may thus give credence to the belief that this high-density cropmark area to the east of Preston represents at least in part, a barrow cemetery. It is normal practice within Bronze Age society for a spatial distinction to be made between habitation areas and those areas reserved for funeral rites, ie a "ritual landscape". Such distinctions normally hold good over long periods of time.

Whatever the case, and the evidence at this stage can allow only tentative interpretations to be postulated. Intact archaeological features containing abundant and datable artefactual material are rare from the period and as such the importance of PRN 3067b cannot be overstressed.

6.2.2 Regional Setting

Beaker settlements are known from only four sites in Gloucestershire. Most of the evidence for the existence of such sites comes from negative features cut into the subsoil, these take the form of occasional pits, sometimes no more than hollows, and lengths of ditch. The quantities of ceramic or flintwork evidence associated with such features and sites is rarely high.

Site I which produced some flintwork of this date has already been discussed. However, it needs to be made clear that at no Beaker period habitation site in Gloucestershire has there come any evidence for houses or buildings, and evidence of farming and subsistence is also poor. The most common material remains are those of burials, but even these are not great in numbers. It follows that any site which reveals some form of artefactual or structural evidence which holds potential for clarifying questions of social, agricultural, or economic character should be given enhanced consideration in the proposals for any scheme which is likely to destroy such fragile evidence. For this reason Site I has been graded as High in importance.

Although barrows and components of barrows (ie.ring-ditches) are plentiful in the county, some 300 or so are known, there is a bias in distribution towards the north Cotswolds

and the gravels of the Upper Thames Valley. The weight of numbers of such monuments is misleading in terms of how much surviving material remains may offer in the way of archaeological potential. Barrows and ring-ditches in fact not at all well understood in terms of function, the reasons for spatial differences in distribution, their relationships to settlement sites, and their typological dating. This is partly a result of continued destruction of such monument types and also a lack of modern controlled scientific excavation, only a handful of barrows have been investigated by modern excavation and even fewer ring-ditches. In itself this creates its own problems, as an accurate assessment of a monument class such as ring-ditches which display some functional and temporal variability, cannot be made because no major data-base exists which adequately documents the attributes of such monuments, ie their dating and function. Bearing such limitations in mind wherever an opportunity exists for preservation of such monuments or to halt a decrease in numbers and allow controlled study then this should be given appropriate consideration. Or where it is impractical to preserve the monument in the ground, then preservation by record through excavation should be the preferred option.

Over and above these considerations there is the added significance of the individual monuments' relationship to their immediate locale, neighbouring sites and monuments, and how these relationships are reflected elsewhere in the local, regional or national landscape. In this instance, PRN's 3067b and 3072 are components of a wider cropmark complex which includes PRN's 2026, 3068, 3069, 3070 and 3383 lying to the east of Preston and occupying an area approximately 20Ha in extent. Additionally a subsidiary group of cropmarks, PRN 2388a and 2390, and a flint scatter probably contemporary in date lie under a kilometre away to the southeast. Clearly not all these features need be contemporary (there is some evidence to suggest that many are) and as such the importance of individual monuments is enhanced by their inclusion within an inter-related set of sites and monuments of different classes and date.

Regionally such cropmark complexes are normally found on the gravel terraces of the Upper Thames Valley. The group under consideration here which appear suggestive of a barrow ceme-tery lie outwith this geological and topographic region on the interface with the Cotswolds where such complexes are rarely encountered, and only a handful of barrow cemeteries are known. The complex therefore provides a link between distinct environments, a fact which enhances its archaeological value.

Ultimately consideration has to be given to the potential

of such areas of prehistoric landscape which the scheme proposals will affect. In this instance it would seem to be very high based on current evidence. Therefore the effect the scheme will have on individual monuments within the group under consideration here must be given the utmost consideration, as loss of these individual components will ultimately diminish the value of the collective resource.

6.3 Late prehistory (Iron Age to Romano-British, 700BC - AD410)

6.3.1 The study area

No evidence was forthcoming about the presence of Iron Age sites or monuments within the study area, but several Roma no-British monuments were investigated. Details of these can be obtained in Appendix A of Supplement A.

Sites and monuments previously identified:

PRN 2039
possible Roman road running from Corinium Dobunnorum to an unknown destination, most probably the Roman settlement at Andoversford. Known as the White Way.
PRN 6561
Roman road running from Isca Dumnoniorum to colonia Domiti-ana Lindensium. Known as the Fosse Way.
PRN 5963
possible Roman road linking PRN 6561 (Fosse Way) to PRN 7542 (Ermine Street)
PRN 2388b
linear and curvilinear cropmarks, undated but thought per haps to be IA/RB
PRN 7542
Roman road running from Calleva Atrebatum to Glevensis. Ermine Street.

Stage 1 and Stage 2 results

<u>Evidence based upon artefacts and/or features</u>

Iron Age: Few areas along the corridor could be reliably identified as having definite potential for the discovery of Iron Age features at Stage 1. It had been anticipated that perhaps around the area of Bagendon Downs near the possible Oppidum site at Perrots Brook that features or sites might come to light. No artefactual evidence of Iron Age date was recovered from any of the evaluation trenches in the study area, and none of the previously undated cropmarks gave any indication that they could belong within

this period. At Sites A(i)-(ii) short lengths of ditch were encountered which are undated but appear to form linear boundaries. Stock management by use of linear banks and ditches on high downland is characteristic of the Iron Age, but also of later periods. The geophysical results at Site A(ii)(iii) suggested a pattern of linear features converging at right angles, and it was postulated that these could represent remnants of a field system on the edge of the downs close to the oppidum. Such systems would indeed by expected in an area such as this.

During Stage 1 attention was drawn to the discovery of a large masonry tank in Field No.3929 by the property owner. The item was apparently uncovered in the 1920's or 30's at the head of the coomb in this field just outside the corridor of interest, and was identified by an unknown authority as a "Celtic tanning bath". The item is now in a decayed state but its form is still recognisable, although no parallel examples can be found to support its original functional interpretation. The importance of the item is that it indicates the possibility of there being some archaeology on the edge of the corridor within this field. Unfortunately consent for archaeological evaluation was not forthcoming from the landowner, and the immediate vicinity of the reputed findspot has only been investigated by geophysical survey.

On the strength of the best currently available evidence potential for the discovery of Iron Age remains within the corridor is assumed to be relatively low. However a large part of the corridor near the Perrots Brook oppidum could only be examined by sample geophysical which although pro ducing some indications of archaeology could not be evaluated. This must be borne in mind for later stages of the scheme.

Roman: With regard to the Roman period very little material was recovered in areas away from those monuments already fairly securely dated to this period. A handful of possible Roman sherds were recovered at Site J where fieldwalking had previously identified some artefactual material. Elsewhere finds were few, two sherds for example at Site R at both PRN 2388 a and b. However much evidence was recovered in at least one form for deposits of Roman date, these shall now be discussed.

Evidence based upon monument classes and/or components of those classes

Roman roads and associated features.

Site C (PRN 2039, Trench 1991/507)
A number of factors led to the re-positioning of trenches designed to examine the White Way and its possible Roman origins. The road runs in long straight sections from N to S along the ridgeway until NGR: SP028057 where it becomes sinuous on its final run towards Cirencester, this final length is uncharacteristic of the whole and as such would appear to be of medieval or later origin, one particular kink being related to the presence of a medieval settlement in the valley below. Two stretches of agger survive at NGR: SP030074, a projection drawn from one stretch takes an alignment along the higher ground of the ridgeway down to the angle of return at NGR SP027032 where the road re-asserts itself on a straight alignment to enter the north gate of the Roman town. Aerial photographic evidence suggests a linear feature running along a stretch of the projected alignment to the rear of Exhibition Barn beside the White Way, and there is some correlation between the projected alignment, AP evidence and locally high features preserved beneath drystone field boundaries.

A single piece of supporting evidence for the belief that a Roman alignment of the road may have differed from the present was encountered in Trench 1991/507. A short length of well cut linear ditch was recorded running across the trench at an angle appropriate to that of the projected road alignment. If this were a roadside ditch then a second may have been expected a road width away. No such ditch was encountered although the area examined would have been off the drainage side of the road alignment where it a may well have been unnecessary to provide the road with a ditch. A stone count along the length of the trench proved unproductive.

Bearing in mind the variability of Roman road construction and that traces of such monuments vary considerably in the archaeological record, it is essential to maintain observation of this area in order to clarify the problem of alignment. Examination of a wider area should clarify the situation.

Site E (PRN 6561, Trenches 1991/512-515)
Evidence of substantial deposits relating to Roman road building and the existence of successive remakings of the Fosse Way beneath the modern A429 was recovered from all the evaluation trenches on this site.

The evidence was varied. The character of road surfaces, make-up layers and associated features changed between Trenches 1991/512 and 513/514 where they could be seen to display a wide variety in methods of construction. It could be postulated that on this stretch of the Fosse leaving town to the east side of Cirencester where it is known to have been carrying a double load of traffic up to present day Fosse Cross and the Akeman Street/Fosse Way fork, wear and tear on the roadway would be at a higher rate than elsewhere and that this may possibly account for the diversity of surfaces etc where running repairs were implemented on a piece-meal basis.

All of the surfaces encountered were made from local limestone and not from gravel which could have been quarried from the area of the town itself had it been required. This highlights normal Roman constructional policy whereby suitable local materials were used wherever possible to offset the need for expensive importation of special building materials.

In one of the evaluation trenches (1991/514) there was evidence for two roadside ditches one of which was a quarry ditch for the extraction of stone presumably to be used on the 18th century turnpike. However, an earlier ditch was encountered which, although containing a disturbed fill, produced Roman ceramic material of 2nd/3rd century date, making it possible that this feature represents a similar extractive process connected with building or re-surfacing of the Roman road. Evidence was also recovered for the existence of secondary related roadside features or activity in the form of a small linear ditch parallelling the main roadside ditch on the southeast side of the road. Such features are known to exist adjacent to other Roman roads but their function is uncertain. One interpretation is that they are demarcation ditches defining a road-zone in much the same way as perimeter fencing is used in modern road schemes.

Such a complex and varied series of components make this section of one of the principal Roman roads in Britain of considerable interest. Although it is a linear feature which runs across the landscape for many miles, it cannot be assumed to have a character which is consistent throughout its entire length. Sections on other parts of the road have shown varied and inconsistent results, and it is necessary to give a High importance rating to this length of the Fosse Way.

Site G (PRN 5963, Trench 1991/518)
Although no archaeological deposits were recovered during evaluation of this site, the existence of Cherrytree/Kingshill Lane as a road of Roman date cannot be ruled out. Without investigating the deposits sealed beneath the present modern road a conclusive statement about its history is impossible. For practical reasons it was not possible to investigate further the areas on the fringes of the road, but the negative evidence recovered on one side gives the impression of a ditchless road. Ditches are by no means a compulsory feature of Roman roads and their absence cannot be regarded as conclusively denying the road a Roman origin.

Site S (PRN 7542, Trench 1991/547)
Some evidence was recovered from the trench adjacent to the A419 to suggest the possibility of extant roadside features. The linear feature found within the bottom of a depression alongside the road did possess the appearance of a roadside ditch. But the nature of its fill which was very similar to the overburden and the presence of a single fragment of clay tobacco pipe stem must inject a degree of caution into an interpretation of it being of Roman origin. It might be expected that such an important road as Ermine Street would possess ditches of similar proportions to those seen on the Fosse but this is not necessarily so. The area examined during evaluation was some distance from the present carriageway and it is possible that the area of ground between the trench and the road conceals further archaeological evidence.

Of some considerable importance is the presence of occupation evidence adjacent to the road in Trench 1991/546. These deposits are as yet undated and could belong to an earlier period before road construction, but it is important to consider the possibility of a direct association between this (?)habitation site and the Roman road.

6.3.2 Regional setting

It is surprising to find so little material datable to the Roman period from a survey carried out so close to a major Roman settlement, and possible pre-Roman dyke complex. It is not impossible that the linear form of the study area has allowed it to pass between and through sites and monuments of Romano-British and Iron Age date which are betraying their presence by nothing more than the few pieces of pottery recovered at various points along the route. Bearing in mind this lack of evidence and that the relationships of the major Iron Age and Roman monuments near

the study area have already been discussed in depth in Supplement A only one theme shall be pursued here.

The most pressing problems of the interpretation of the Roman landscape around the town are all related to roads. The problems of the alignment of the Whiteway have not been considered by fieldworkers in the past and have only arisen during the course of this study. It now seems clear that there are additional questions to be posed about the origins of the road system around the town.

The problems of the so-called mis-alignment of the Fosse Way on the east and west sides of the town has received much attention in the past and are worth re-stating here (see Margary, 1967,146-50). The emergence of the Fosse from one side of the Roman town to the other is not symmetrical, there are kinks in the alignment suggesting a different goal for the road than the position of the town of Cirencester. There is little to suggest what such a goal may be, most discussions in the past having being concerned with the importance of the Fosse as a frontier, a now outdated idea.

The convergence of up to four roads upon Fosse Cross may indicate a site of importance, alternatively the very sharp and uncharacteristic corner of the Fosse Way at Fosse Cross to bring the road into the east gate of the town may not be an original feature. Access to the east gate would have been more easily achieved by running the road through the area of Hare Bushes. A field boundary passing by the Tar Barrow outside the town lies on a perfect alignment between the east gate and a long alignment of the Fosse between Ampney Down farm and the turn at Raggedhedge Covert where it moves away from its NE-SW form to a N-S direction. Continuation of this line would also bring it to the east gate of the early Roman fort. The minimal evidence for a cemetery on the E side of town could make more sense if the principal road was not on the line of the Burford Road, but instead followed that just mentioned, particularly if one believes the Tar Barrow and its satellite to be Roman and not Bronze Age in date.

A suggestion that the turn southwards at Raggedhedge Copse is intended to bring the Fosse to join with Akeman Street, presupposes the prior existence of this latter road which is not an accepted belief. Alternatively the Margary argument that sees the Fosse running directly down Cherytree/Kingshill Lane to join Ermine street because access to the S is more important than to the SW, has little supporting evidence.

Additionally the overall general alignment of the White Way also suffers from a seemingly unnecessary turn just before it reaches Cirencester where it moves from its N-S alignment to a SW direction in order to meet the north gate of the town, when continuation of its general alignment would bring it to the east gate side of the town, or perhaps more importantly the north gate of the fort which preceded the town (see Wacher and McWhirr, 1982,18). Consideration of the White Way in relation to its servicing ability for Roman villas and settlements to the N of the town would show it to 'collect' more of these sites than the Fosse, a natural development one would imagine if the White Way was later in date than the Fosse, itself a road purely military in origin if the traditional argument is to be believed. However if the alignments postulated in this discussion were shown to be credible and the White Way does perhaps connect with the early fort site then some re-consideration of the origins of the road network and their primary and secondary functions around the town would be required.

On a less speculative note some consideration must be given to Ermine Street. Approximately 1.7Km of the road is to be parallelled by the new scheme from NGR: SO059992 to SO071979 and will be directly affected by it in two places, at South Cerney airfield where a roundabout is to be built and at the junction with the Latton bypass.

On the gravel terraces of the Upper Thames Valley it is known that dense Romano-British settlement is present over much of the area. A characteristic component of these settlements is the ditched trackway, a feature which links settlements, fields and roads. On some cropmark sites it has been noted that these trackways adjoin principal Roman roads at right-angles and that the frequency of occurrence of such trackways can be very high. At Latton for example trackways link Romano-British settlements (SAM899 and SAM900) to the road at a distance along it of 1.2Km. Obvi ously the full pattern of occupation density is not known and higher frequencies of occurrence have been postulated on this basis.

This information is important with respect to the stretch of Ermine Street affected by the Cirencester bypass. This part of the scheme is on the boundary between the river terrace gravels and the Cotswold dipslope where management and farming of land is thought to change character during the Roman period from small rural settlements to large villa estates with outlying farms (see Section 4.3 in Supplement A for discussion), but there is no reason to believe that such a system of linkage by trackway would not function in a manner equal to that elsewhere. It is therefore not unlikely that the strip of land adjoining the NE

flank of Ermine Street which is to be disturbed by the proposed scheme could reveal traces of such trackways or perhaps roadside settlement (as suggested by Trench 1991/546) when examination of the area is afforded by wholesale topsoil removal.

As a further consideration one could expect information to be forthcoming about the frequency of quarry pits or ditches alongside the Roman road. Such possibilities have rarely been investigated, but the nature of the present scheme proposals makes the likelihood of uncovering such features relatively high.

In summary it should be clear from discussion of the above themes that there are considerable gaps in the knowledge about Roman road systems and their development with relation to the known pattern of settlement, and that at present a whole series of questions remain without answers. On the strength of the best currently available evidence one can suggest that several possible lines of enquiry must be pursued if the picture is to be resolved. Bearing in mind that Roman Cirencester is second only to London in the number and importance of the principal roads which converge in its locale, the need for strictly regulated observation of all development likely to interfere with or reduce the quantity of the archaeological resource in the vicinity of the town cannot be overstressed.

6.4 Saxon, medieval and post-medieval

6.4.1 The study area

The following SMR entries were noted within the study area:

PRN 2085
The Lynches trackway, a predecessor to the modern A435

Stage 1 and Stage 2 results

Evidence based upon artefacts and/or features

A number of features of interest were noted during the stage 1 work as lying within the study area. These included;

1) Trinity Mill complex, and palaeo-environmental data.
2) parish boundaries
3) 11th-13thc. pot scatters at Sites J and K

4) portions of extant ridge-and-furrow.

Saxon: None of the above features could be reliably ascribed an origin within this period. The founding of a mill in the Saxon period on or near the present day site of Trinity Mill is attested in the Domesday Book, and there are references to the development of the mill site, its land holding and ownership to be found in unpublished primary documentation, none of these however help in the identification and dating of related features such mill leats or pounds (Barker pers. comm.).

The relative dating of such features where they were investigated within the study area has already been discussed in Section 5.3 of this document and there is little more that can be added here.

The most significant material uncovered during the course of investigations may prove to be the organic clay deposit from Trench 1991/549. This context offers excellent conditions for the preservation of pollen and spores, and exhibits a pollen profile of probable Saxon and medieval date. This type of environmental data is extremely limited and little or no information is available for the Cotswolds (see Bell, 1981). Any opportunity to fill out this picture must receive high priority.

Recent research into archaeomagnetic dating has led to the development of new techniques which can date sedimentary clays to a high degree of resolution. In the case of the Saxon and Medieval periods the calibration curve for such work is well-defined and offers the opportunity, under the correct conditions, for the recovery of dates with an accuracy in the region of plus or minus 40-50 years (Clarke. pers.comm). The alluvial clays within Trench 1991/549 seem to meet the necessary criteria for such an analysis but further investigation to define its suitability would need to be carried out before this could be certain. Clearly, dating work of this kind would only be worthwhile if the pollen information recovered was of good quality.

The parish boundaries between Daglingworth/Baunton, Daglingworth/Bagendon, Bagendon/Baunton, Baunton/Cirencester, Cirencester/Preston, Preston/Driffield, Driffield/South-Cerney, South Cerney/Latton, and Driffield/Latton are all to be bisected by the proposed scheme. The exact date at which these boundaries were first laid down is not known, it has been suggested that some boundaries have their origins in the Roman and even late prehistoric period. However, the administrative units we call parishes and which may confirm pre-existing alignments probably have

their origin in the second half of the 10th century when large Anglo-Saxon estates were breaking up and the landscape was becoming more densely populated with parochial churches responsive to the needs of the local population. Changes to parish boundaries have taken place over time, Harnhill parish boundary is one example within the study area, this has been lost with the incorporation of the parish into Driffield in modern times.

The physical form of such boundaries is not always consistent, changes occur between the use of walls, banks and ditches, fences and roads, but on the whole long stretches of one linear feature connect with long stretches of another. A very general rule of thumb states that the greater the antiquity of a parish boundary the more boundaries will adjoin it over a given length. If one looks at a map of field boundaries in the study area this can be demonstrated with relation to Roman roads, it does not however take into account the removal of boundaries such as hedges and ditches.

The possible Roman origins of some boundaries was postulated in a discussion of these features in Sections 4.3 and 4.4 of Supplement A, but as yet there is little supporting evidence for this and none was encountered during the evaluation stage. It would however be useful to observe sections cut through the Daglingworth/Baunton, Daglingworth/Bagendon, Baunton/Cirencester and Preston/Driffield parish boundaries, and although it is to be admitted that dating evidence is extremely unlikely to be uncovered there may be useful information about the boundary construction to be recovered.

Medieval: The possible origins of the early medieval potscatters found at Sites J and K were discussed at length in Section 4.4 of Supplement A. The results of the evaluation did not provide any clear answers to the problems raised by the occurrence of this material. Only one trench (1991/530) produced stratified finds of interest which included more medieval pottery together with a single silver ha'penny of comparable date. The remaining trenches produced evidence relating to ridge-and-furrow field systems.

Some interpretation of the early medieval 11th-13th century pottery scatter can now be offered. The distribution of pottery over Sites J and K is widely and evenly spread while the material is all of similar date. This type of pattern is unlikely to be the result of manuring, the way in which many modern finds such as brick or slate find their way into fields. Instead it is likely that there was once habitation on both of these sites on either side of

the road and probably in the form of peasant cottages constructed of turf and wattle and daub with a wooden frame. These structures are notoriously difficult to identify unless the site is stable and there are upstanding earthworks. In these cases very large scale excavations can be undertaken which open up expansive open areas. However, in the case of sites J and K the archaeology is likely to have been severely damaged by plough action and identification is further complicated because of the acidic nature of the soils makes the survival of organic remains unlikely.

The traces of remnant ridge-and-furrow found within many of the evaluation trenches offer little to aid the interpretation of the wider medieval landscape in the locality. In addition the surviving portions are limited in their value as interpretative units and more important as visible exam ples of what was once a more widespread open field system which is now reduced to only two small areas of upstanding earthworks in or near the study area. It is possible to re-create the system of open fields around the village of Preston through a combination of aerial photographic, cartographic and field-name evidence, and as such the remains encountered are of low archaeological potential, but would be a sad loss in an area where few examples of such upstanding remains have escaped levelling for agricultural needs or general development. Some effort to record their form through a low grade topographic survey ought to be made before they are partly destroyed. This could be achieved at the watching brief stage.

Of the complex of features within the Churn Valley at Site B much additional information can now be added. The results of the earthwork survey have been discussed in Section 2.11 of this document, and as far as can be ascertained on the strength of the currently available evidence, most of the components of the complex; mill pound, ridge-and-furrow, and water meadows all appear to be of post-medieval date. The archaeological value of the whole complex was highlighted at Stage 1 and was the reason for execution of the earthwork survey. To be added to this is the visual and amenity value of the site and the interest to environmentalists afforded by the preservation of pollen spectra. This site is unique in the Churn valley, not because of the value of the individual components of the complex but because of their inter-related nature. As such it offers a great deal from an educational viewpoint as an illustration of the form and function of a post-medieval landscape. Only two components of the complex are deemed worthy of further investigation; the organic deposit which has been dealt with elsewhere and; the Lynches Trackway.

Evidence based upon Monument classes and/or components of those classes

Site B (PRN 2085, Trench 1991/506)
The evaluation results from trenching of this feature proved to be of considerable value in a preliminary assessment of its character. At least two major phases of construction were encountered with many different build-ups of road surfacings. A terminus post quem for the very bottom layer examined in the sequence gives a medieval date at the earliest for construction of the first road surface. Although artefactual evidence was not found in large quantities its appearance in an evaluation of this sort is encouraging and means there is further potential for dating of this moderately complex structure.

The fact that only a limited section of the earthwork which forms the Lynches survives in an undegraded form, and that section lies mostly within the area of land pertaining to Trinity Mill, makes disturbance of this part of the feature most undesirable. The potential information gain from the feature, as well as the part it plays in the appreciation of the immediate environment is deemed to be quite high, loss of such potential is undesirable.

6.4.2 Regional Setting

Very little is understood of the Saxon or early medieval periods in the Cotswolds and little evidence has been detected so far in the archaeological record with which to pursue questions related to filling the large gaps in the knowledge which currently exist. Research objectives have tended to focus on villages, towns and ecclesiastical topics while little work has been done on apparently less interesting topics such as roads. Within the study area there are several sites which offer the opportunity for certain themes to be examined and as such their importance must not be underrated.

With regard to the post-medieval period, little of the characteristic landscape once widespread in the area now survives. Most of the traditional agricultural landscape of the Cotswolds has now disappeared, mainly due to modern agricultural intensification and a change in practices. What survives generally tends to be concentrated in areas less accessible to modern agricultural regimes. The Trinity Mill area is one of these, although the watermeadows, leat etc. are not unique in their survival, the overall package of features in the land pertaining to the mill is very important. Little more archaeological information can be extracted from the individual components of the area

beyond those already discussed but the 'whole' is undoubtedly significant, and should be viewed as such when its integrity is threatened.

6.5 Early modern and modern period

6.5.1 The study area

The following were noted as lying within the study area:

PRN 2090
The 1825 Cirencester to Cheltenham turnpike road

PRN 6561.
The 1727/1755 Cirencester to Stratford turnpike road.

PRN 7542
The 1758 Cirencester to Cricklade turnpike road

PRN 4944
The West Midland and Junction Railway

Stage 1 and Stage 2 results

Evidence based upon artefacts and/or features

A number of items were noted as lying within the study area during the course of Stage 1 work, these were:

1) Milestone at NGR: SP03670271
2) several small quarries (many locations)
3) 18th c. enclosure boundaries

The milestone at NGR: SP03670271 sits adjacent to the southbound carriageway of the Fosse. As a result of an act of parliament in 1750 turnpike trusts were required to erect milestones along the highways. The milestone itself is a dressed limestone slab carrying a cast iron mileplate painted in black figuring on a white background. The mileplate is a much later addition, c.1825. It is understood that this milestone and plate is currently under consideration for inclusion within the Listed Buildings Schedule for the Cotswold District (Hartland pers. comm.). If it is included on the schedule, Listed Building Consent would be required for any works done to the monument.

Many quarries were noted within and alongside the study area. Most of these are undateable but are assumed to be fairly late in date, several are known to have been backfilled in the recent past.

Most of the pattern of field boundaries seen within the study area are a result of various enclosure acts of the 18th and 19th century. Some sub-division of fields has taken place along with later amalgamation, the pattern is not a completely static one.

Evidence based upon Monument classes and/or components of those classes

Roads

There are very few extant records of the activities of the Cirencester Turnpike Trust, the body formed to improve the local road system of the day. Contemporary accounts of road building technique and requirements exist but there is little documented evidence for activities on a local scale.

Site B (PRN 2090)
No evaluation work was done on this feature which lies beneath the present A435 road. Its archaeological integrity is apparently not threatened by the proposed scheme, and it suffers no loss as a monument from the visual impact of the viaduct crossing of the Churn valley.

Site E (PRN 6561, Trenches 1991/512-515)
The date of turnpiking for the stretch of road from Cirencester to Fosse Cross is unclear. The Fosse Way was turnpiked from Cirencester to Stratford in 1755, but the stretch of the study area under consideration here also forms part of three other turnpike roads, the earliest of which was built in 1727 from Cirencester to Lechlade. It is therefore likely that the date of turnpiking for the stretch up to Fosse Cross is earlier than 1755, which accords with the excavated evidence.

Three of the evaluation trenches 1991/512-514 revealed considerable evidence of the turnpike road and associated features. The most illustrative area was seen in 1991/513 where a considerable portion of the road could be examined in section. This appeared to be constructed along the lines of the Telford method with heavy basal layers grading upward through an intermediate layer until a layer of smaller stone was laid as the running surface. Telfords method was known to be an excellent system of road building but one which was expensive, and the cheaper Macadam method was most popular among the many turnpike trusts in the country.

In Trench 1991/512 there was some evidence for the preservation of pre-turnpike road surfaces, possibly post-medieval in date. It was not possible to explore the character these surfaces to any great extent.

The very large quarry ditch in Hare Bushes alongside the road which may be of this date would be characteristic of the ability of a Turnpike Trust to quarry for materials on anyones land without permission, simply by paying for the material extracted. A problem alluded to in an earlier section of this document is the accumulation of large quan tities of gritty silty infill of the quarry ditch, and between the Roman and later road surfaces. It is unclear at this stage whether such material is derived from grinding down of the limestone road surface or whether it is an imported bedding material or a combination of both. It is an important question as large accumulations of silts have been discovered in Roman roadside contexts in Cirencester. The reasons for these accumulations are little understood, but there may be some hope in finding a solution to the problem outwith the town in relation to these 18th century roads which differ little in character from their Roman counterparts.

Site S (PRN 7542, Trench 1991/547)
This road was not evaluated with the specific aim of identifying turnpike features, such considerations were part of a combined investigative procedure with the focus on elucidation of certain problems relating to activity on the edge of the earlier Roman road. Apart from investigation of a roadside depression which could be related to the later turnpike road no activity was noted from this period. This is partly due to the distance of the trench from the present carriageway under which the turnpike undoubtedly lies.

6.5.2 Regional setting

Again the main focus of attention for a particular period within the study area is one of roads. Unlike the Roman period however, there are no major questions to be asked about alignment or reasons for projected destinations. The main point of concern is the documenting within the archaeological record of construction techniques, source materials, and in the case of the stretch of road from Cirencester to Fosse Cross its date of building. Although the contemporary literature outlines the ideal methods of construction for turnpike roads it is unknown how far such methods were adopted, nor how they may have varied from turnpike to turnpike, as nearly all 18th and 19th century

roads are sealed directly below modern build-ups and surfaces.

In the past archaeological attention has rarely been focused on the nature of monuments such as turnpike roads. They have an importance as part of the archaeological continuum which is often overlooked. It is clear from the results of this evaluation work that study of such features can lead to a better understanding of these and earlier roads and associated features. It is commonly assumed for example that the very large agger or embankment on which many modern roads with a Roman ancestry run, is created by construction of such features in the Roman period itself. At Site E it has been demonstrated that much of the build-up of material which forms this embankment has its origins with the construction of the turnpike road, and that the size of the Roman works was overestimated.

The opportunity to examine such themes in the course of execution of the current scheme proposals would be easily achieved.

CHAPTER 7

STAGE 3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL MANAGEMENT STRATEGY

7.1 Aims

Following on from the Stage 1 Assessment and Stage 2 Evaluation there is a need to formulate a Stage 3 Archaeological Management Strategy based on the information documented so far, and then to implement it in the areas targeted within this document. Such a strategy can only be based on the currently available information. First, four levels of Archaeological Importance are defined, the areas are shown on Figures 3.1-3.5. Secondly levels of Archaeological Impact are defined, the areas are shown on Figures 7.1-7.5. Thirdly, four kinds of mitigation action are defined, the areas are shown on Figures 7.6-7.10.

7.2 Areas of Archaeological Importance

The following levels of archaeological importance have been defined: **High, Medium and Low.** Definition of such levels has been based on review of current archaeological and environmental attitudes to sites, monuments and landscapes on a local, regional and national overview. At present there are few well-defined parameters to regulate inclusion of individual archaeological items in these levels. Current work by English Heritage is attempting to resolve this shortfall in the evaluation of archaeological sites by the implementation of a Monuments Protection Programme (Darvill, Saunders, Startin, 1987). Unfortunately this programme is still in development and the results are not yet fully available, therefore only more general concepts of 'Levels' will be used for the current proposals in this document. These are;

High: Nationally important sites or monuments;

Nationally important sites can be broadly assessed as including Scheduled Monuments, ancient monuments in the process of being scheduled and monuments of such quality that they are worthy of scheduling. This level does not exclude all monuments outside this description as the scheduling process is under revision. There are numerous sites and monuments clearly having potential for inclusion within the legislation but which have not yet been treated in this way for a variety of reasons.

Areas of high archaeological potential have been selected within the course of the Stage 1 and Stage 2 projects and are definable as archaeological sites or monuments which offer the opportunity for the recovery of such information as; a) three dimensional site plan, b) artefactual content, c) ecofactual data, and d) palaeo-environmental data leading to either; i) dating, ii) environmental reconstruction, iii) typology, or a combination of these factors, with the ultimate aim of allowing greater understanding and interpretative analysis of the site within local, regional or national contexts. Such parameters form the basis for selecting sites and monuments of national importance within the remit of the non-statutory criteria laid down by the Secretary of State for the environment (DOE,1983). Briefly these criteria are, Survival/Condition; Period; Rarity; Fragility/Vulnerability; Diversity; Documentation; Group Value; and Potential

Sites deemed to be of high importance within the study area are:

Site B (Trenches 1991/549, 506)
Organic clay deposit in Field No.1619
The Lynches trackway PRN 2085
(Watermeadows and mill pound etc, are included on their group value status)

Site E (Trenches 1991/512-515)
Roman Fosse Way and later roads in Hare Bushes plantation, Field No.0041 and under the A429

Site I (Trenches 1991/522-526)
Flint scatter and associated feature in Field No.2200

Site L (1991/532, 533)
Multiple ditched feature PRN 3067a and (?)enclosure PRN 3067b in Field No.2472

Site O (Trench 1991/538)
Double penannular ring-ditch PRN 3072 and possible second ring-ditch in Field No.3923

Site Q (Trench 1991/542)
Single ring-ditch PRN 2390 in Field No.7262

Site R (Trench 1991/545)
Single ring-ditch PRN 2388a in Field No.0044

Site S (Trenches 1991/546-548)
(?) Occupation area in Field No.9329

This level of archaeological importance is shown in red on

Figures 3.1-3.5.

Medium: Regionally and locally important sites and monuments;

Regionally or locally important sites and monuments are defined partly on the basis of exclusion from the above level, but which are clearly in a state of preservation conducive to conservation or extraction of moderate levels of archaeological data (ie. those categories listed above) leading to fuller understanding and interpretative analysis of the item in local, regional and national contexts.

Medium archaeological potential is broadly defined as the ability of a site to offer preservation or extraction of at least one of the four categories of information a) to d) listed above. (Note: where palaeo-environmental data is encountered on a site within the Cotswold district its importance will always be considered as High, because of a paucity of such information from all archaeological periods within the locality).

Sites falling within this category in the study area are;

Site A(i) (Trench 1991/501)
Linear ditch feature in Field No.7262

Site A(ii)(iii) (Trench 1991/503)
Linear ditch features in Field No.0015

Site C (Trench 1991/507)
Linear ditch feature, pits, (?)Neolithic flint scatter, medieval pot scatter, and possible line of Roman White Way in Field No.8848, and field between Trench 1991/507 and the existing White Way.

Site D (Trenches 1991/508-511)
Flint scatter no features, but probably on the edge of larger (?)Neolithic site. Field No.4830

Site F (Trenches 1991/516, 517)
Flint scatter, pit feature. Field No.0041

Site J (Trenches 1991/529, 530)
Medieval artefactual material, (?)prehistoric ditches. Field No.9534

Field No.2472
Possibility of presence of prehistoric features due to close proximity of PRN 3067

Field No.1757
Likely to contain prehistoric features continuing from Sites L and N.

Site N (Trenches 1991/536, 537)
Linear ditch features. Field No.5049

Field No's. 0044, 5366, 7748, 9329, 9300, 0005, 0186
Along the edge of PRN 7542

This level of archaeological importance is shown in orange on Figures 3.1-3.5.

Low: Areas with no known sites and monuments, assumed low archaeological potential, and areas already archaeologically sterilised;

Areas with no known sites or monuments can be defined as sections of the corridor where investigative techniques used during Stage 1 and Stage 2 produced little or no indications of sub-surface archaeology. This does not preclude the potential for some of these areas to reveal the presence of archaeology at a later date.

Low archaeological potential can be assessed as absence of archaeology or the inability of a site or monument to preserve or allow extraction of any information from categories a) to d) listed above.

Areas that are archaeologically sterilised are those that are known or are assumed to have undergone destructive processes detrimental to archaeological deposits, and which are likely to have removed those deposits to such an extent as to diminish their worth for the preservation or extraction of information in categories a) to d) above. Such areas may include industrial processes, certain agricultural regimes involved in land 'improvement', road schemes and the construction of buildings.

Sites and fields falling within this category are listed as;

Parish boundaries
Daglingworth/Bagendon, Daglingworth/Baunton, Bagendon/Baunton

Fields 7262, 3600, 8265, 0015, 1023, 0007, 1800, 4800, 3025, 0005, 1900, 1971, 2139, areas within 0041, 0242, 2246.

Site H (Trenches 1991/519-521)
Flint scatter, no archaeology in Field No.1416

Fields 2487, 6100, 5783, 5459, 8057, 5837,

Field No.7540
Extant ridge-and-furrow

Site K
Pot scatter, remnant ridge-and-furrow. Field No.7400

Fields 8100, 0006, 2000, 0973

Site M
Cropmarks, PRN 3383, remnant ridge-and-furrow in Field No.2636

Fields 3923 (areas of), 6800, 7900

Field No's.5400, 7490
Extant ridge-and-furrow

Fields 5086, 6579, areas of 7262.

Site P (Trenches 1991/539-541)
Flint scatter, minimal archaeology in Field No.8476.

Site R (Trenches 1991/543, 544)
PRN 2388b, cropmarks, minimal archaeology in Field No.0044

This level of archaeological importance and is shown in yellow on Figures 3.1-3.5

Blanks: Areas where it has not been possible to execute evaluation techniques and where the archaeological potential is unknown. In areas of previous impact the potential is assumed to be low and sites would normally be classed within this level. Note: areas prefixed by * are assumed high/medium in potential as a result of evidence recovered during Stage 1 and Stage 2.

A435, PRN 2090
White Way minor road, PRN 2039
*A429 road, PRN 6561
Hare Bushes plantation
*Cherrytree Lane, minor road PRN 5963
A417 road
Witpit Lane, minor road
St Augustines Lane, minor road

Harnhill Lane, minor road
Driffield Lane, minor road
* A419, trunk road PRN 7542

This level of archaeological importance is shown in blue on Figures 3.1-3.5. Figure 3.1/3.2 shows the levels of archaeological importance throughout the study area. A level of importance changes within one PRN where there is no evidence from the Stage 1 and Stage 2 work to support the continued grading of the PRN at that level outside the corridor. Therefore levels of importance do not for example respect the boundaries of field specific PRN's but rather reflect the quality and extent of the recorded archaeological evidence.

7.3 Impact of the proposed scheme on the archaeological resource

One of the principal elements needed to formulate an appropriate management plan for the archaeology within the corridor is information about the development scheme itself. This has been provided to CAT in the form of; i) plans (Drg. No.9102/26/34-38) showing the corridor of interest received from the client for the Stage 1 assessment; ii) provisional plans and sections (9102/40/01-06) of the proposed Cirencester and Stratton bypass, received from the client for the Stage 2 Evaluation; and iii) verbal comments on the nature of the construction methods and likely impact of these on the corridor from staff of FGCE Ltd.

Using the information provided it is possible to compile an Impact Statement defining the anticipated impact on the varying archaeological deposits of specific development proposals. These levels of Archaeological Impact are shown on Figures 7.1-7.5. Three principal types of impact from the scheme may be defined;

1) Physical Impact
2) Visual Impact
3) Impact on the Palaeo-environmental resource

7.3.1 Physical Impact

The physical impact of the scheme is seen on two levels, that of impact on its immediate physical environment, and that on the archaeology within that physical environment. In the case of the Cirencester bypass the entire route of the study area will be cut or filled to varying degrees. Where filled this will involve ground disturbance through the necessary removal of overburden to create a firm base.

Therefore any archaeological deposits within the area of the scheme will be affected. Only land within limits of the proposed scheme rather than the entire corridor is considered. The following are levels of physical impact judged to be useful by the Cotswold Archaeological Trust in this instance;

High Impact:

This level assumes the partial or total loss of archaeological deposits as a result of cutting, filling and machine stripping of overburden to find an acceptable base for the embankment and road. The width of the carriageway and road junctions throughout the course of the route varies considerably. Within the fenceline defining the scheme boundaries where there is a narrow strip of ground between the edge of cut or fill areas and the fenceline, this 'dead ground' has been incorporated within the high impact zone, as have areas within the centre of roundabouts and narrow 'dead ground' areas between the main carriageway and slip roads.

This level is coloured red on Figures 7.1-7.5, and shaded darker where archaeology of any level of importance is affected by the scheme.

Medium Impact:

Note: This level of Impact was used in evaluation of the proposed scheme for the Latton bypass (CAT, 1991) where the use of Terram allowed the definition of areas of low impact, and areas of medium impact were defined as a 3m belt either side of the main construction area where possible damage to archaeological deposits might occur.

This level of impact has since been judged as redundant as even in marginal areas where there may be no intention of carrying out intentional ground disturbance, damage to archaeological deposits, say from the passage of construction traffic along the fringe of the scheme may be significant. Impact on the archaeology from the passage of construction vehicles, erection of site accommodation etc is generally unquantifiable. It is assumed that any impact may be wholly detrimental to the overall preservation and subsequent interpretation of archaeological deposits, and therefore in such areas Impact must be regarded as High.

Low/No Impact:

Defined as no anticipated loss or disturbance of archaeolog-

ical deposits. Such areas are strictly difficult to define on the strength of current information but are thought to be those areas of land 'captured' by the scheme (ie. large areas of dead ground) where it is not intended to carry out ground disturbance. Areas between slip roads and centres of roundabouts are not included in this level as these are known to be affected by topsoil stripping during construction.

This category is coloured **Blue** on Figures 7.1-7.5.

7.3.2 Visual Impact

The archaeological deposits in the Cirencester and Stratton bypass corridor include upstanding visible features and therefore there is some expected impact on the visual amenity of the archaeological remains. Areas where this will occur are;

1) From the northern end of the bypass corridor to the Churn valley, views to Bagendon and the Perrots Brook earthworks and dyke complex from Baunton Downs will be adversely affected by the major cutting proposed here.

2) Site B. The Trinity Mill area, where a package of archaeological features will be crossed by the proposed viaduct. This will be visually intrusive in an area notable for the absence of modern features amongst this remnant of the post-medieval landscape.

3) Field No.7540 where the copse containing extant ridge-and-furrow will be clipped by the scheme.

4) Field No's 5400 and 7590 where the extant ridge-and-furrow will be bisected by the proposed scheme.

7.3.3 Impact on the Palaeo-environmental resource

Only one area of concern arises in this category. The undated but potentially important organic clay deposit at Site B at Trinity Mill which contains good palaeo-environmental evidence in the form of well preserved pollen, may be affected by the nature of works concerned with viaduct construction. It is not known what the full extent of the deposit in this area is, nor the scheme proposals for water management during and after construction. On the strength of current knowledge it is likely that the proposed scheme could adversely affect this deposit to the extent that the archaeological value would be diminished.

7.4 Mitigation Action

These recommendations have been developed with not simply the Archaeological Impact in mind. They also take into consideration the relative cost of certain actions, likely developments in archaeological science and general practical considerations.

The following recommendations for mitigation action are;

Preservation (ie. minor re-alignment of road scheme. Unlike the Latton scheme where the use of protective geotextile (Terram) and embankment can be employed over archaeology, this is not presumed feasible throughout the Cirencester and Stratton scheme where current proposals dictate the road will run in cuttings over much of the route.)

As part of normal archaeological policy towards monument protection this option is always preferred. However, with linear schemes such as roads etc. lateral movement may be restricted and only a select portion of the archaeological resource can be treated in this way.

For the present scheme this mitigation action is recommended where areas of High Archaeological Importance, threatened with High Impact are considered worthy of protection as part of the development proposals and where low impact allows archaeology to survive by default.

The areas where this action is proposed are coloured **red** on Figures 7.6-7.10.

Excavation

This is the action recommended where deposits of High Archaeological Importance cannot practicably be preserved within the overall proposals for the scheme. The action would normally involve the total excavation of archaeological deposits after machine removal of overburden, except in the areas of potentially important flint scatters where selected sample areas would be totally excavated from the surface of the topsoil downward.

The areas where this action is proposed are coloured **orange** on Figures 7.6-7.10

Strip-and-Record

This is the action recommended where areas of Medium Archaeological Importance threatened with High Impact cannot be

preserved within the overall proposals for the scheme. The action would involve the wholesale removal of overburden from a site allowing isolation and definition of archaeological features, which would then be subject to selective excavation and recording.

The areas where this action is proposed are coloured yellow on Figures 7.6-7.10.

Watching Brief

This is the action recommended where areas of Low Archaeological Importance will be damaged by High Impact proposals of the scheme. The action would involve monitoring of all the groundworks with the option to temporarily divert or stop groundworks in order to record any features uncovered. Recording of such features would, bar exceptional circumstances, be carried out at a reduced level of detail from that of Excavation and Strip and Record in order to restrict scheme disruption to a minimum. The areas where this action is proposed are coloured **blue** on Figures 7.6-7.10.

Mitigation action for visual impact

Due to the nature of the effect and impact the scheme has upon the upstanding archaeological remains in the corridor it is not possible to develop a suitable mitigation strategy at this impact level.

In nearly all the cases cited the scheme bisects a landscape feature or group of features. Due to, i) the constraints on lateral movement of the scheme, and, ii) the form of the archaeological site where encountered in the vicinity of the scheme, ie perpendicular to it, it is almost impossible not to cross the areas concerned at some point, and visual impact cannot be avoided.

7.5 Summary of Impact Zones and proposed mitigation action (Figures 7.6-7.10)

Zone 1	**Mitigation Action**
High Importance/High Impact	
1) Site B Organic deposit	Further evaluation/ (?)preservation *

Further evaluation is required to establish the extent and date of the deposit, following which further recommendations would be made.

Action: An auger survey would be used to define the exact limits of the deposit, as well as its depth and composition in areas not examined by trenching. The potential for recovery of botanical and entomological information from the deposit was known to be low in the area trenched, any variation in this component of the deposits must be assessed. Investigation of the deposit must be carried out in order to assess the date range of the accumulated material containing pollen. This is thought to be possible by the use of archaeomagnetic dating techniques on the alluvial clay component of the deposit.

Result: Establishing the extent of the deposit will allow a percentage loss assessment to be made on it should construction works prove a threat to its survival. If the date range of the deposits proves to be late then their value will be reduced.

Revised mitigation action: a) devise and implement a sampling strategy to recover suitable pollen cores for examination if the entire deposit is small in extent and cannot be preserved.
b) if the deposit is large, preserve the areas unaffected by the scheme proposals and sample for pollen analysis in those areas to be destroyed.
c) if the deposit is either large or small, preserve it in entirety if possible within the limits of practicality imposed by necessary construction works.

2) Site B — Excavation
PRN 2085

Evaluation greatly increased the amount of information known about this site without being able to attribute exact dates for the origin of the structure or the different constructional episodes present. A length of the roadway equal to the proposed area of destruction would be required for examination.

3) Site E — Excavation
PRN 6561

Evaluation demonstrated the range of deposits within this site, extending through Roman roads and associated features via an ascending sequence of later features up to the present day. Variability within the vertical and horizontal axis of the site was apparent. The entire length of the monument affected should be treated as a full excavation in the initial stages until key areas can be identified for continued detailed examination.

4) Site I — Excavation and Strip and record
Flint scatter

Evaluation of this site greatly increased the amount of information about its character and the type of artefactual material and features on the site without being able to attribute firm dates for its origin, or a purpose. A selected area of excavation will be required in the vicinity of the site where a feature was encountered, with random sampling of the topsoil layer by test-pits. The remaining topsoil would be stripped to undisturbed levels. Either side of the excavation area strip and record would be carried out to a distance equal to that of the flint scatter along the Impact zone.

5) Site L — Preservation/Excavation
PRN 3067b

A high level of data-enhancement was achieved through evaluation of this site, but it was not possible to accurately define function or typology of the site although these have been postulated. The highly important nature of the deposits encountered make conservation the preferred mitigation action. This can only be achieved by re-alignment of the road scheme within the corridor. To the west of PRN 3067b the areas of archaeological importance are assumed medium, grading to low, moving the road scheme within this zone would be preferable. If re-alignment is not possible then the Reserve mitigation action is excavation of PRN 3067b.

6) Site O — Preservation/Excavation
PRN 3072

Knowledge of this site was greatly enhanced by the evaluation process, an additional ring-ditch was postulated from the excavated evidence increasing the overall importance of the site. In view of this enhanced importance the Preservation Action is preferred, necessitating westward movement of the scheme into an assumed Medium to Low Importance zone of the corridor. If re-alignment is not possible then the reserve Excavation action would be necessary on the area of PRN 3072 where the presumed satellite ring-ditch is cut through by the scheme. Partial excavation of this feature on the basis of it being subject to only partial destruction would not be an option as total excavation is essential to the recovery of useful quantities of information.

7) Site R — Preservation/Excavation
PRN 2388a

The amount of new data collected on this site during the evaluation was considerable and its Importance rated as

High. The preferred management strategy for the site is Preservation which would necessitate some alteration to the road scheme by moving the main carriageway slightly west and the Harnhill Road embankment slightly north and west away from the site. If this should prove impossible then the reserve strategy would be total excavation of the site for the same reasons as outlined for Site O above. The nature of the monument will not endorse partial destruction as an acceptable loss.

8) Site S — Strip and record
(?)occupation evidence

A great deal of previously unknown information was recovered about this site during evaluation, resulting in it receiving an Importance rating of High. In the immediate vicinity of Trench 1991/546 which lies outside the proposed scheme the archaeology is preserved by default. Inside the road scheme boundary limits it is expected that some of these deposits may intrude but that on the whole they could be adequately identified by implementing an action of Strip and Record in tandem with that to be recommended for PRN 7542 below.

9) PRN 7542 — Strip and record

No direct evidence was recovered for the nature of deposits beneath the modern road surface but the results of Stage 1 and Stage 2 suggest that there may be further roadside features in an intact state of preservation alongside Ermine Street where it has not been disturbed by the impact of upgrading to the status of dual carriageway as is the case in Latton parish. The action recommended here is strip and record alongside the Roman road and also on the areas of PRN 7542 where engineering and construction work will interfere with the deposits below the modern surface layers.

Zone 2
High Importance/Low Impact

1) Site Q — Preservation
PRN 2390

A great deal of additional information was recovered about the potential of this site during evaluation. Its high Importance leads to a recommendation of preservation for the site. On the strength of the available information on the nature of the scheme there would appear to be no barriers to viability of this action, as the site appears to lie outside the limits of the scheme defined by the enclosing fence-line.

Zone 3
Medium Importance/High Impact

1) Site A(i) Ditch	Strip & record
2) Site A(ii)(iii) Ditches	Strip & record
3) Site C Pits, ditches, artefacts	Strip & record
4) Site D (?)Neo. flint scatter	Strip & record
5) Site F Flint scatter, pit	Strip & record
6) Site J Pot scatter, ditches	Strip & record
7) Site L Area around PRN 3067b	Strip & record
8) Site N, PRN 2026, Fields 1757, 3923	Strip & record
9) Fields 0044, 5366, 7748, 9329, 9300, 0186.	Strip & record

The Strip and Record action is recommended in all the above areas where either archaeological features have been identified in their own right and require further investigation, or, where areas on the perimeter and immediate vicinity of High Importance and PRN's may be expected to contain associated known or as yet unrecognised features.

Zone 4
Medium Importance/Low Impact

1) Field 0044	Strip&record

This action is recommended as a contingency in the event of the area of dead ground between the existing A419 and the new carriageway adjacent to South Cerney airfield being used for purposes which could have a detrimental effect on unknown deposits in an area where it could be expected that archaeology is present.

Zone 5
Low Importance/High Impact

1) Fields 7262(part), 8265, 0015(part), 1023, 1800, 4800, 8848(part), 3025 0005, 1900, 1971, 2139, 0041(part) 0242, 2246, 1416, 6100, 2487, 5783, 8057, 5837, 9534(part), 7400, 0006, 2000, 0973, 2636, 3923(part), 6800, 5086, 8476, 7262(part), 0044(part) — none

2) Parish boundaries — Watching brief
Daglingworth/Baunton
Daglingworth/Bagendon
Bagendon/Baunton
Baunton/Cirencester
Preston/Driffield

Watching briefs on these sites anticipate the need to record archaeological features of a Low Importance level.

3) PRN 4944 — none

4) Field No.7540 — Watching brief
Ridge-and-furrow

5) Field No's 5400, 7590 — Watching brief
Ridge-and-furrow

Action for 4) and 5) above would involve low level field survey and photography of the features affected.

Zone 6
Low Importance/Low Impact

None

Zone 7
Blank Areas/High Impact

1) Field No's 9952, 1941, 3929 — (?)Watching brief

Without evaluation of the geophysical anomalies seen in these fields it is not possible nor justified to mount a Strip and Record action.

2) PRN 2090 — none

3) PRN 2039 — Watching brief

4) Hare Bushes plantation — Watching brief

A Strip and Record action in this heavily wooded area is not likely to produce much more evidence for archaeology than a Watching Brief, in both cases disturbance of deposits present by removal of tree cover would be considerable.

5) PRN 6561	(see Zone 1)
6) PRN 5953	Watching brief
7) A417 road	none
8) Witpit Lane	none
9) Lane north of Preston	none
10) St Augustines Lane	none
11) Harnhill road	Watching brief
12) PRN 7542	(see Zone 1)

7.6 Strategy Implementation

There is a diversity of archaeological impact across the length of the corridor, to cope with this the mitigation action will be based upon a multi-option strategy. The following are seen as the three likely stages for implementation of this strategy. Should plans for the scheme be changed at a subsequent date the strategies would require review.

7.6.1 Pre-construction works:

This includes preparatory works for the preservation or conservation of deposits, and the total or selective excavation of chosen areas before groundworks commence in the area of the Sites identified for such treatment. This does not restrict construction work commencing in other areas where archaeology has not been identified or where different mitigation action is to be employed.

7.6.2 Intra-construction works

This will involve the monitoring of construction work in those areas where conservation action has been recommended Additional mitigation action at this stage will be watching briefs and recorded observation undertaken in parallel with groundworks and other construction activities.

7.6.3 Post-construction works:

This involves archaeological operations after the fieldwork is complete and will include off-site work on the analysis of the archaeological fieldwork, incorporating analysis and conservation of artefactual material and deposition of such material with Corinium Museum, and the preparation of project and academic reports based on the fieldwork and post-fieldwork analysis.

This stage may also involve the establishment and maintenance of long-term on-site conservation measures and the monitoring of such should they be required.

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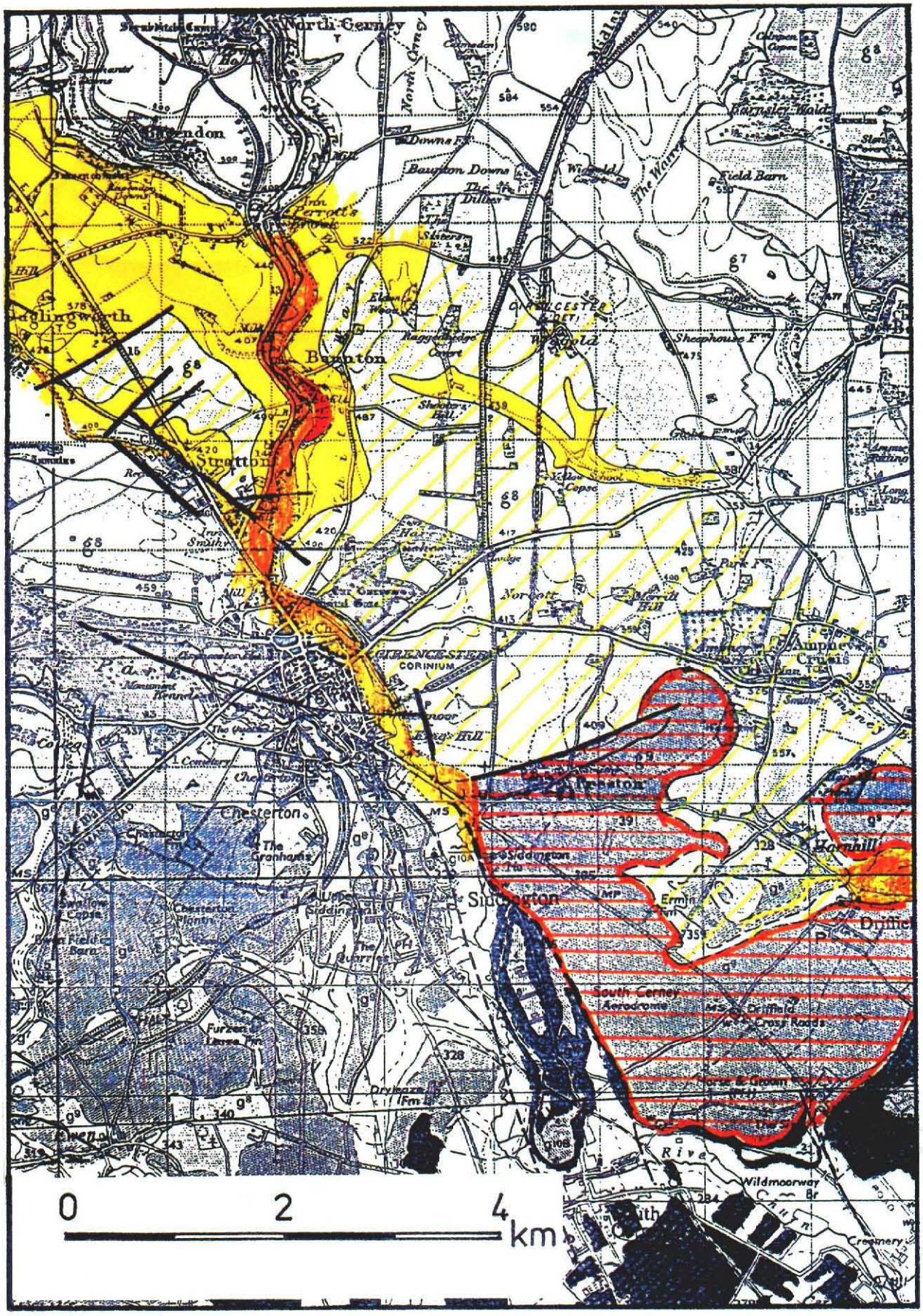

Great Oolite
Forest Marble
Cornbrash
River Gravels
Alluvium

Figure 1·1 Geology
Solid and drift

ORIGINAL IN COLOUR