

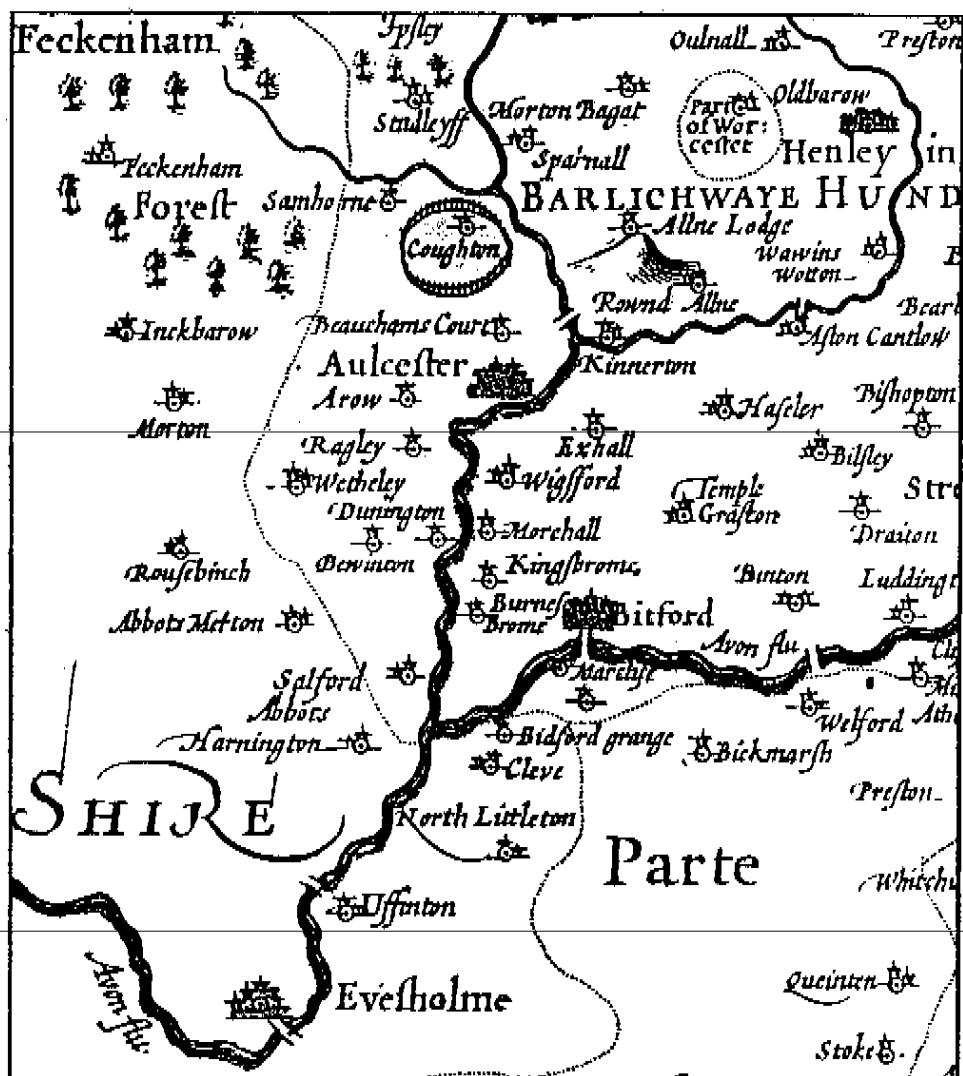
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# A435 Norton Lenchwick Bypass

## Phase 2: Archaeological Field Evaluations

### Part I: Boteler's Castle (WA 543)



June 1993

**A435 Norton-Lenchwick Bypass  
Phase 2 Archaeological Evaluation  
Part I: Boteler's Castle, Alcester, Warwickshire (WA 543)**

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## **Summary**

Archaeological evaluation on land to the east of the motte and inner baileys of Boteler's Castle, Alcester, in December 1992, revealed an extensive enclosure defended by a large external ditch and probable bank. Within the enclosure there was occupation dating from the late 11th/12th century to the 13th century. Two pairs of parallel ditches across the interior probably represented roads or trackways. These were flanked by domestic features, including a well, pits and gullies, containing much domestic material, although no definite structural evidence of buildings was uncovered. Further features lay south of the southern enclosure ditch.

Earlier occupation of the site was found in the form of a Romano British field system and also a single Beaker (early Bronze Age c. 2000-1300 BC) posthole which may indicate a domestic site.

### **1. Introduction**

1.1 The Department of Transport is planning to construct a new road from Evesham in Worcestershire to Alcester in Warwickshire. The road, known as the A435 Norton Lenchwick Bypass was the subject of an archaeological desktop assessment and initial field investigation in September 1992 (Warwickshire Museum 1992a). This assessment identified a number of archaeological sites that would be affected by the proposed construction of the new road.

1.2 It was decided that each of the affected sites should be the subject of a field evaluation to be followed by full scale excavation and recording should significant archaeological deposits be identified.

1.3 A field evaluation on the site at Boteler's or Oversley Castle, Alcester (WA 543), commissioned from the Warwickshire Museum, was carried out in December 1992. This report presents the results of that evaluation, and gives an account of the archaeological finds and deposits located.

### **2. Location and Topography (Fig 1)**

2.1 The evaluation site consisting of a strip of land 750m long by some 40m wide, lies approximately 300m east of the present course of the River Arrow, centred on National Grid Reference SP086559, some 1.25km south southwest of the centre of Alcester. The southern part of the site is situated on a plateau of Arden Sandstone (at c.46m AOD) which drops onto 1st terrace river gravels of the Arrow valley at the north end (at c.38m AOD).

### **3. Historical Background**

3.1 The earliest mention of Oversley is in the Domesday survey, which records 'Oveslei' as being held by Britmar before the conquest (VCH 1904, 317). The original meaning of the name is suggested as 'woodland belonging to the *ofer* or bank'

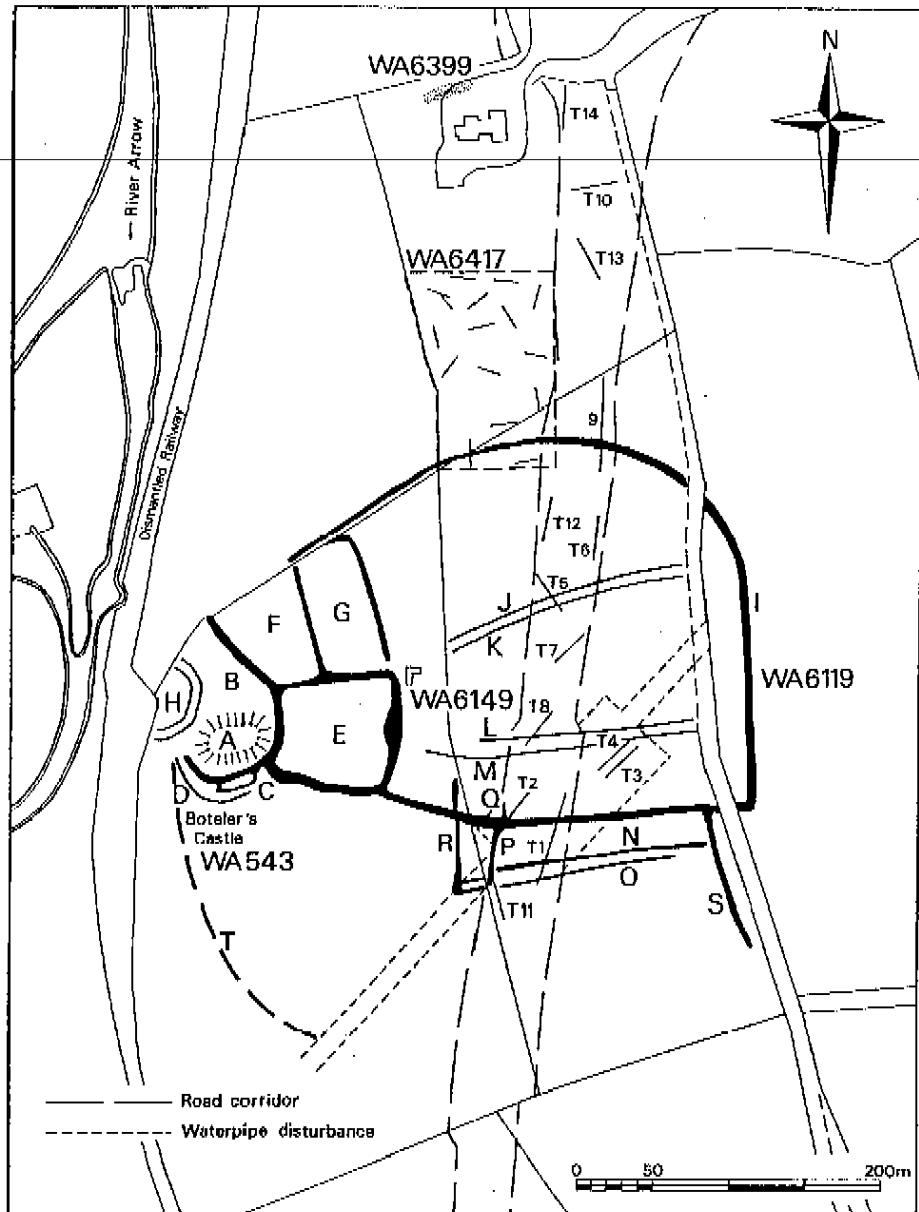


Fig. 1: Site Location

(Mawer and Stenton 1936, 216). After the conquest it was held by Fulk for the Earl of Meulan, later Earl of Leicester, when it contained 3 hides, a population of about 50, with a mill and extensive woods. The Earl granted the land to one of his senior officials Ralph le Boteler, who, according to Dugdale (1730, 855; VCH 1945, 29), made it his principal seat and built a castle overlooking the River Arrow between 1100 and 1135 AD. Jointly with the Earl Ralph Boteler also founded a Benedictine Abbey in Alcester in 1140, and amongst its endowments were the chapel of his castle at Oversley and the whole tithe of his Lordship at Oversley. There is also a single reference to a church at Oversley (VCH 1945, 31).

In the reign of Henry III the Botelers married into the Lordship of Wem in Shropshire and by the mid-13th century the family had become the 'Botelers of Wem' and Oversley had become more or less a dower house. The castle seems then to have fallen out of use. In 1283 William Boteler died holding 'the manor house and gardens' of Oversley.

#### **4. Archaeological Background (Fig 1)**

4.1 Boteler's Castle (WA 543) is a motte and bailey castle located on the edge of a plateau overlooking the River Arrow. Until the 1950s the castle survived as a series of earthworks, but since then cultivation has eroded the earthworks so that today most of the remains form a series of cropmarks (Fig 1, A-T). Part of the Castle site, namely the motte and the probable inner baileys, is scheduled as an ancient monument (Warwicks Monument No 74). The true character and extent of the castle is however relatively little understood.

4.2 The castle motte (A) at the very top of the hill, is now visible as two slight humps when viewed from ground level. Limited excavation in 1934 failed to locate any structures, although large quantities of tile and pottery were recovered. This led the excavator to conclude that it was probably constructed from earth and timber (Chatwin 1936, 145-146). It is surrounded on all but its NW side by what is apparently a large ditch (B). This ditch in turn has two enclosure ditches attached to it. A small rectilinear enclosure on its south side (C) appears to follow the contours of the hill as does an outer curving ditch (D). To the east is an enclosure probably to be identified as the inner bailey (E). This cuts across the contours of the hill, and is on a considerable slope which would seem to make it inconvenient for use as a castle bailey.

4.3 Two further enclosures to the north (F and G) probably represent further baileys. They can be seen as terraces at ground level and slight banks are visible on the east side of each. Chatwin (1936, 145) interpreted them as gardens associated with the later Oversley Court on account of the unusually dark and silty soils that were present.

4.4 Two parallel, semi-circular cropmarks (H) on the far western side of the hilltop, somewhat below the motte, appear to surround a spread of rubble and tile still visible in the topsoil. At the point where the southern arm of this semi-circular cropmark (which appears as a slight bank) reaches the edge of the escarpment, a

substantial stone wall protrudes from the side of the hill, some 2m below the present ground surface. A further wall which runs along the edge of the escarpment is apparent about 1m above the protruding wall. The place of these features in the site complex is uncertain.

4.5 To the east of the inner baileys a large outer enclosure (I) is visible on the eastern side of the castle. It has been suggested (Hingley 1989, 143) that this was an Iron Age hillfort (WA 6149), later cut by the Roman Ryknild Street (WA 445). The intersecting cropmarks would suggest that if this were the case then it must have been re-used in the medieval period as part of the outer bailey defences for the castle. An evaluation was undertaken in June 1992 in respect of a planning application to build an hotel and conference facility adjacent to the new road corridor immediately north of the castle (Warwickshire Museum 1992b). This enabled a section to be cut through the large enclosure ditch and suspected Iron Age pottery sherds and animal bones were recovered from the primary fill. Subsequent re-examination of the pottery however has shown that the pottery is more likely to be medieval in origin (Ratkai below). The upper fills of the ditch produced only medieval sherds.

4.6 Two sets of parallel linear cropmarks (J-K and L-M) cross the outer enclosure and may suggest streets, although they also run parallel to recent and existing field boundaries. To the south of the enclosure there is a further set of parallel cropmarks (N-O) as well other north-south ones (P, Q, R and S) which may also have been field boundaries forming enclosures with the east-west ditches. They appear to be aligned on Ryknild Street.

4.7 A linear depression (T) can be seen at the base of the south west side of the hill, although existing aerial photographs point towards it being a natural phenomenon and no evidence can be found to link it with the enclosure (I).

4.8 A substantial stone building known as Oversley Court (WA 6149) is known to have stood east of the inner bailey, and the ruins of it were still visible in the mid 17th century. Chatwin (1936, 146) suggested that it may have originated as the 13th-14th century manor house that replaced the castle.

4.9 In 1977 a watching brief was conducted during the construction of one of the water main pipelines across the outer enclosure (Ford 1977). The southern arm of the enclosure ditch was seen to measure 7m wide by over 2m deep where it crossed the pipe trench and contain at least three contexts. Although no finds were recovered, the middle fill contained much charcoal. A large pit at the centre of the enclosure was interpreted as a 13th century rubbish pit. A section through Ryknild Street revealed a 8.5m wide cobbled surface overlying a 13th century road make-up layer. On the east side of Ryknild Street 16 undated, but apparently Christian, inhumations were excavated. No trace of the eastern arm of the enclosure was identified (Ford 1977, 10-12).

4.10 The field immediately east of the enclosure is shown as Chapel Close on a Ragley Estate map of c.1823 (Pepperman n.d.), and both the field names to the north and east have 'Chapel' in their names according to Ford, who does not reference the source. It is possible that the Castle chapel was in this vicinity and that the

inhumations belonged to a graveyard associated with it.

4.11 The possible hillfort and its environs were briefly examined in 1989, when a large assemblage of pottery, tiles, flints, coins and other bronze work was recovered during a surface survey. These finds ranged in date from the Neolithic to the post medieval period (Adams and Jenkins 1989).

4.12 A scatter of 12th-13th century material was recovered from an area between the two trackway cropmarks (J-K and L-M) on the west side of Ryknild Street. The finds which included many rim sherds from cooking pots, roof tiles and building stone were thought to have been derived from a high status building, such as possibly a castle gatehouse (Dyer 1989)

4.13 Aerial photographs (eg Chatwin 1936, pl XIII) define ridge and furrow ploughing to the north of the site. The furrows stop precisely on the edge of the northern outer enclosure ditch where a headland is formed. There are also possible traces of ridge and furrow over the interior of the outer enclosure.

4.14 A series of shallow pits (WA 6399; Warwickshire Museum 1990) and a small flint scatter dated to the Neolithic period were recorded to the west of the north end of the evaluation area, during the construction of the present service station.

## 5. Aims and Methods of the Evaluation

5.1 The evaluation was designed to assess the date, nature and state of preservation of any archaeological deposits which might be present in the area of the proposed road corridor. It also aimed to assess the relative importance of these deposits, and the potential loss of archaeological information if road construction went ahead without further archaeological work.

5.2 The evaluation considered the whole area of potential disturbance and comprised a programme of geophysical survey and the excavation of 14 trial trenches (Fig 1).

## 6. Geophysical Survey

6.1 A detailed magnetometer survey was undertaken by Geophysical Surveys of Bradford (See Appendix A). The survey was able to confirm some of the features depicted on the air photographs, although it failed to detect the enclosure ditch and other features shown on the air photographs.

6.2 In retrospect it can be seen from the evidence of the trial trenches that the magnetometer was only able to detect those features that contained large quantities of charred material. Features such as the enclosure ditch were not detected because for the most part they were filled with unresponsive sterile clay.

## 7. Trial Trenching

7.1 The trial trenches were positioned to sample the whole area and each measured 1.8m wide. Some trenches were expanded to allow the excavation of partially exposed features. A total of 839m square of trial trench were opened, amounting to some 3.1% of the evaluation area.

7.2 The topsoil was removed mechanically by a tracked 360° excavator using a 1.8m wide toothless ditching bucket. A mini excavator was also used in some trenches to remove layers of overburden and/or collapsed sections.

7.3 The archaeological features were planned to scale and photographed in both colour and monochrome. Vertical sections were drawn to scale where appropriate and each archaeological context and its stratigraphic relationship was recorded using the standard Warwickshire Museum system.

7.4 The excavation of the trial trenches was undertaken in the two weeks immediately preceding Christmas with a team of up to 8 people. The weather during the first week varied between overcast with periods of rain and very heavy rain. The temperature dropped to below freezing point over the following weekend and the ground did not thaw at all during the second week. This made the task of feature recognition and excavation very difficult and it is quite possible that not all features were recognised.

## 8. Trench by Trench Descriptions

The general nature of the archaeological features recorded is discussed here. A more detailed description of each feature is contained in Appendix B. A full account can be found in the site archive held at the Warwickshire Museum.

### 8.1 Trench 1 (Figs 2, 3, 4)

Trench 1 was aligned north east-south west and measured 65m long. It was positioned to cross the large outer enclosure cropmark (I) as well as the two linear cropmarks (N-O) that run parallel to it on its south side. All the features recorded in this trench were cut through and filled with clay, which due to the weather conditions at the time made their identification and excavation problematical. The exact position of the large enclosure ditch was not determined nor was that of any inner bank. It was therefore decided to excavate a second, oblique section through them in Trench 2. Four linear features were identified towards the south end of the Trench 1 (103-106). Of these ditches 104 and 105 formed the cropmarks N and O respectively. Ditch 104 had two parallel, modern field drains (107 and 108) running along its length, which implies that it may have existed as a depression at the time of the laying of the drains. Neither 104 nor 105 yielded any datable evidence, nor did two other ditches (103 and 106) to north and south.

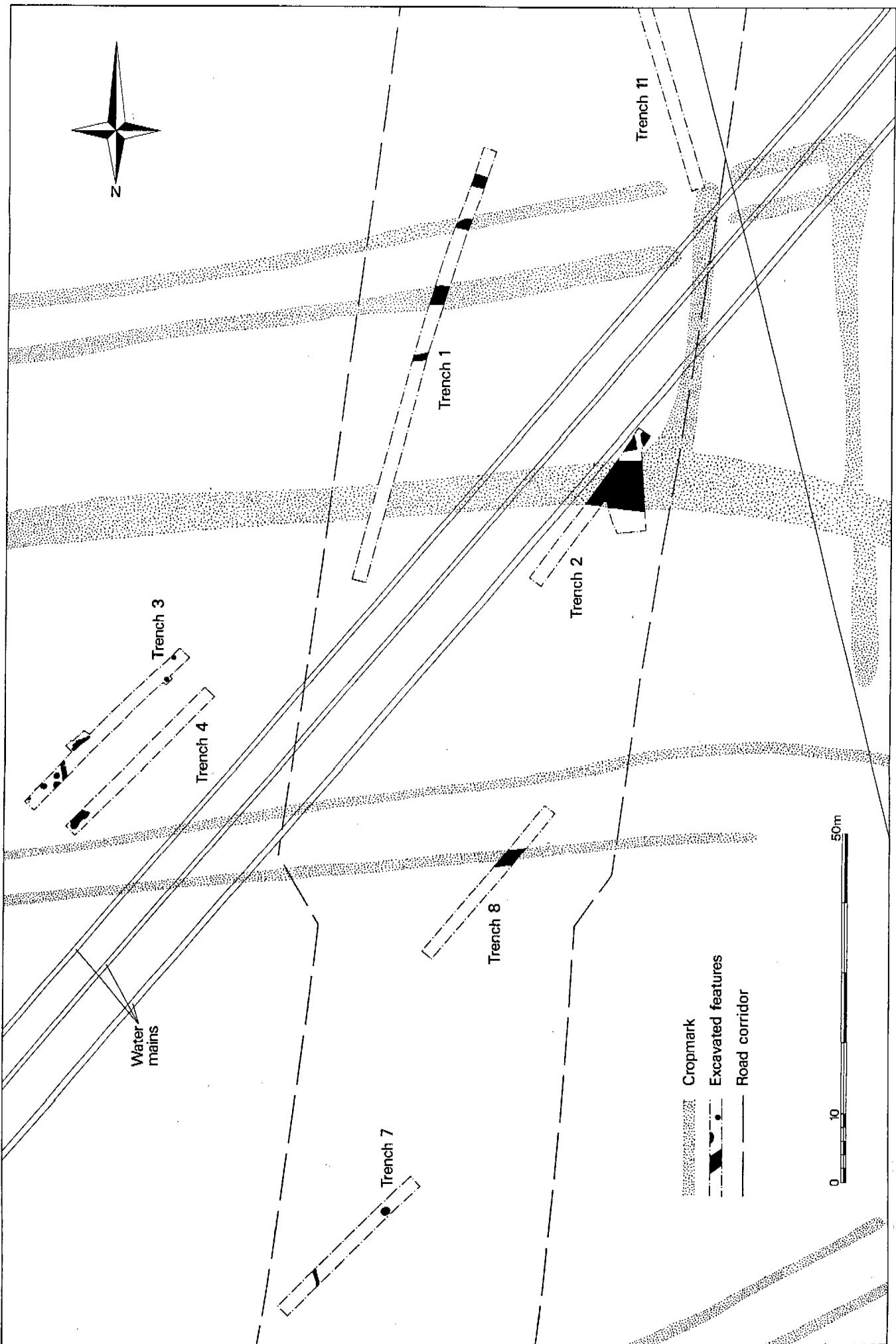
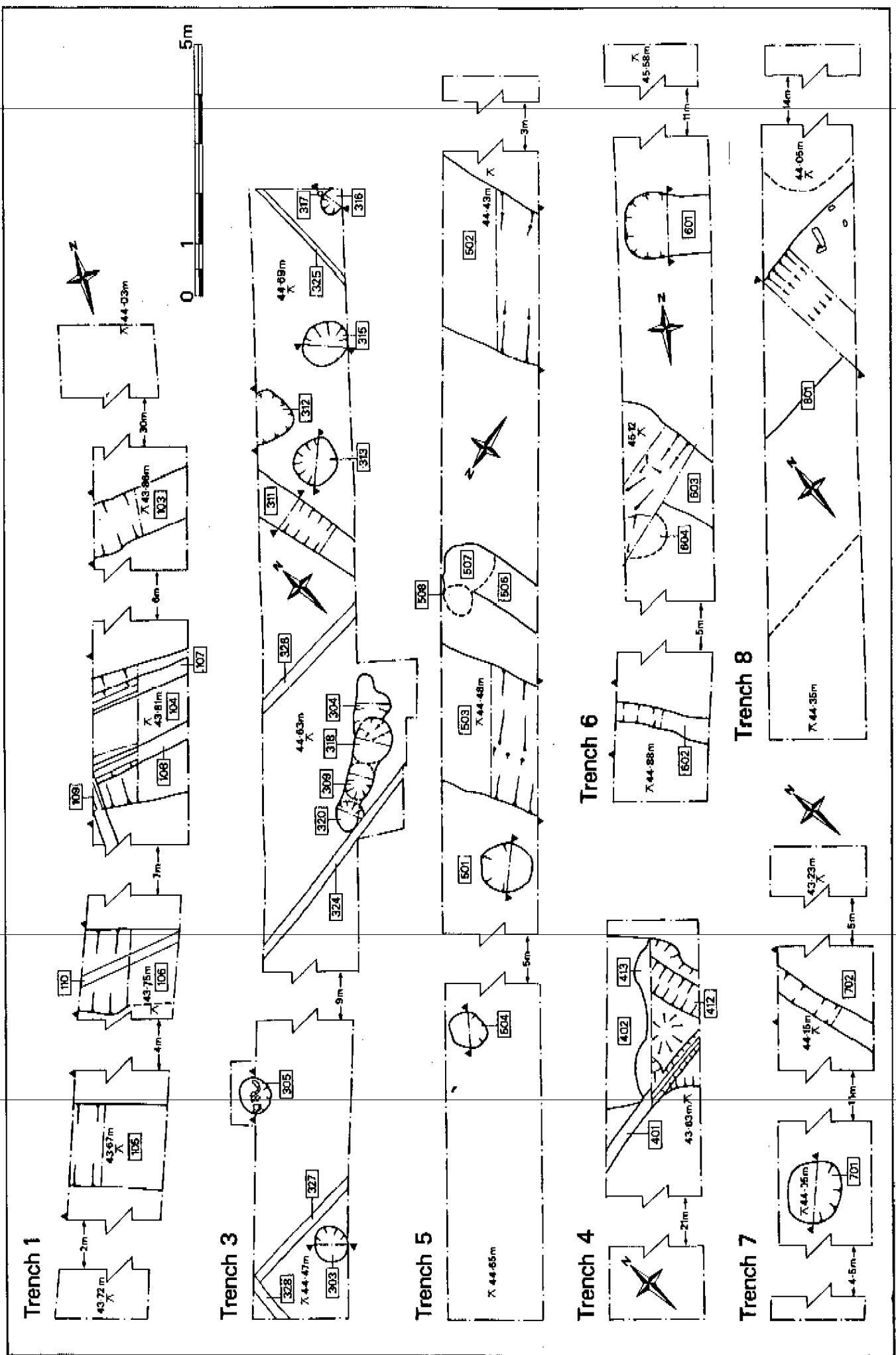


Fig. 2: Trench location (Southern part)



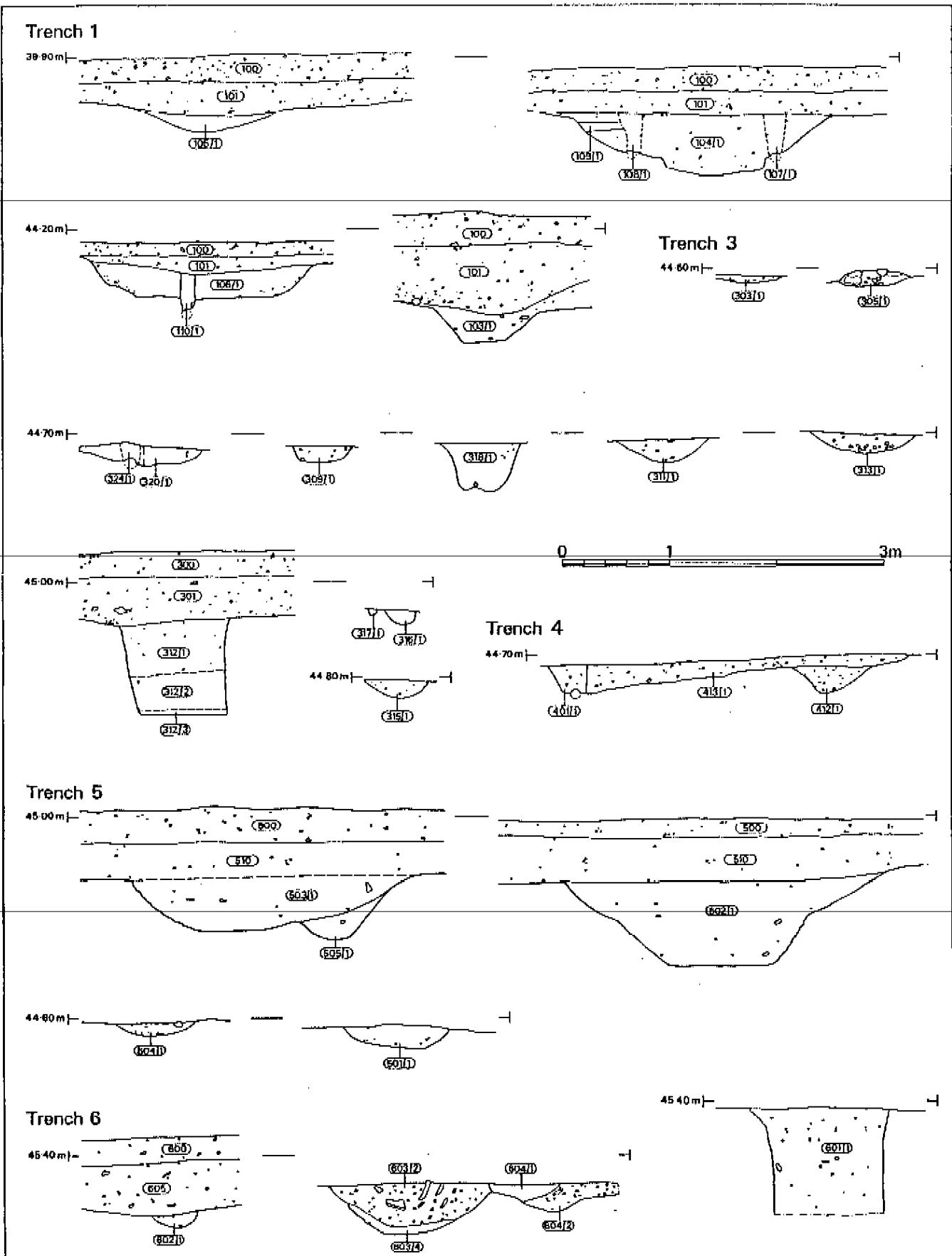


Fig. 4: Trenches 1-6, Sections

### **8.2 Trench 2 (Figs 2, 5)**

Trench 2 was originally aligned north east-south west and measured 25m long; a north-south spur was later cut across the enclosure ditch from the south end. The trench lay some 30m to the north west of Trench 1. It was positioned to pick up the intersection of the enclosure cropmark (T) and two linear cropmarks (P & Q), each on a N-S alignment. Its exact location was largely determined by the underground water mains and the boundary of the proposed road corridor. The enclosure ditch (203) at this point was V-shaped, but with a flat bottom, some 6.7m wide x 3.4m deep. It was cut through a succession of natural layers of gravel and clay sandwiched between lenses of sandstone bedrock. The spoil from the ditch had been used to form a bank on its inner side, and the majority of the fill of the ditch appears to have been derived from the same bank. A section was machined through the bank material but because of the restricted area in which this could be achieved, it was cut at an oblique angle. The bank (205 & 206) appears to have been constructed on top of an old land surface (207), although its true width was not established. The linear cropmark Q possibly equates with the clay filled ditch 202, which cut through the partially filled 203 and was sealed by the larger ditch's latest fills. The other cropmark P may have been the clay filled ditch 201. No finds were recovered from either ditches 201 or 202, although two 11/12th century sherds were found in context (203/2) at the top of the enclosure ditch. The trench also contained a series of modern field drains (208-213).

### **8.3 Trench 3 (Figs 2, 3, 4)**

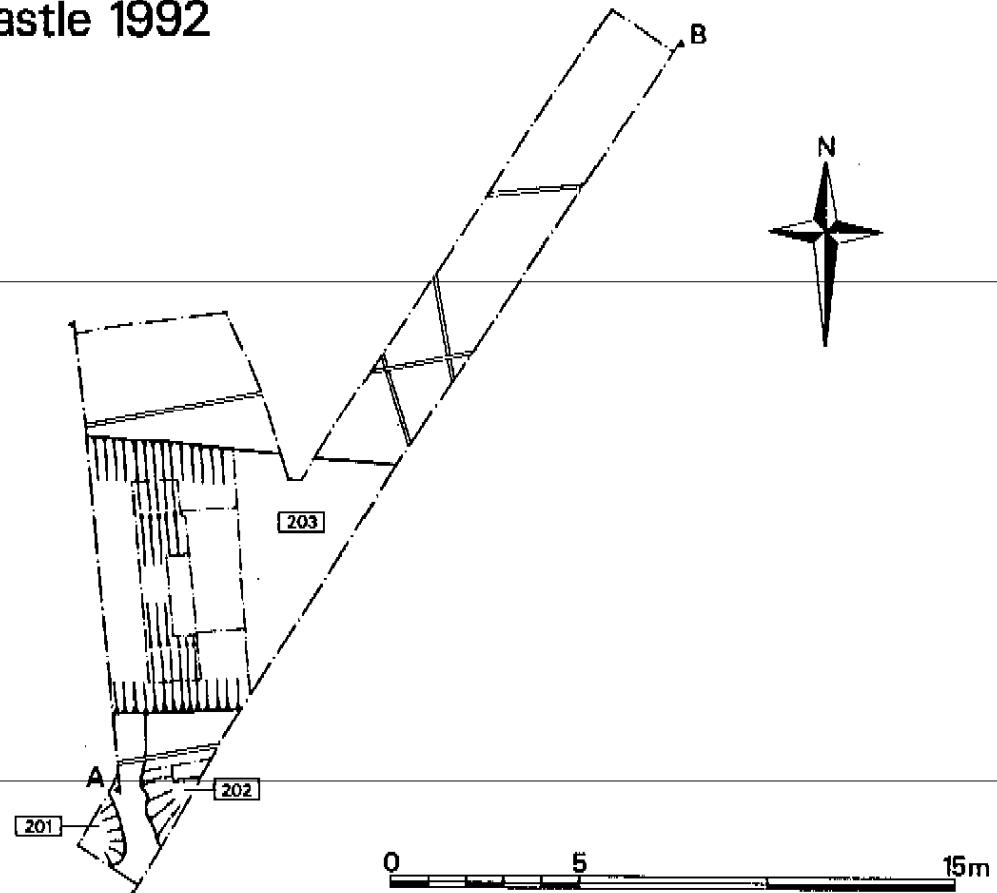
Trench 3 was aligned north east-south west and measured 30m long. It was positioned to sample the area that would be damaged by the work proposed to divert the water mains in advance of the new road. To the north east a number of pits (312, 313, 315, 316, 304, 308, 318 and 320) were identified cutting the natural (a clayey gravel) on either side of a linear gully (311), aligned at right angles to the putative trackway. Gully (311) produced pottery dating to the 12th century as did pits 312 and 313. These three features, along with an undated pit 316 and a possible stake hole (317) had an uncertain relationship with a burnt layer 302 (not shown in plan or section) which contained 11th century pottery. It is possible that this layer represents the remains of a midden or rubbish dump. All the other excavated features were barren of finds, with the exception of 305, a small posthole at the south west end of the trench, which contained the base of a Beaker pot and a number of contemporary sherds within its fill.

### **8.4 Trench 4 (Figs 2, 3, 4)**

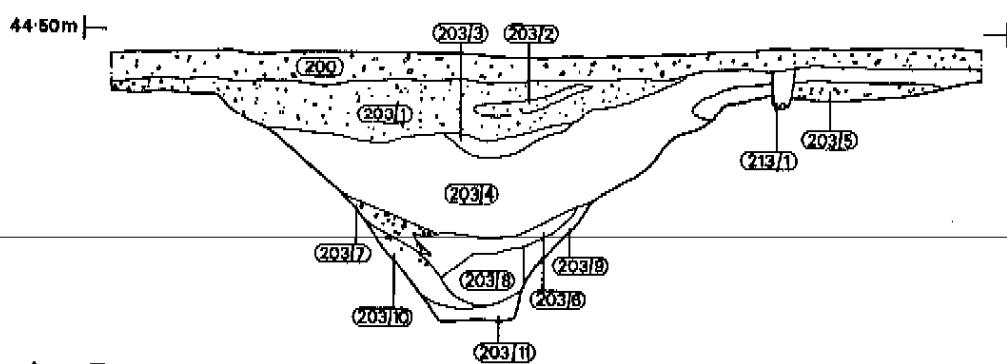
Trench 4 was aligned parallel to Trench 3 some 7m to the north west and measured 29m in length. A sequence of features was evident at the north east end of the trench, the earliest being gully 412, the continuation of 311. This was cut by 402, a large shallow hollow, which produced 12th century sherds. Hollow 402 was in turn cut by a recent animal burial 413, which was later cut by a modern field drain 401.

# Oversley Castle 1992

## Trench 2



### Section A



### Section B

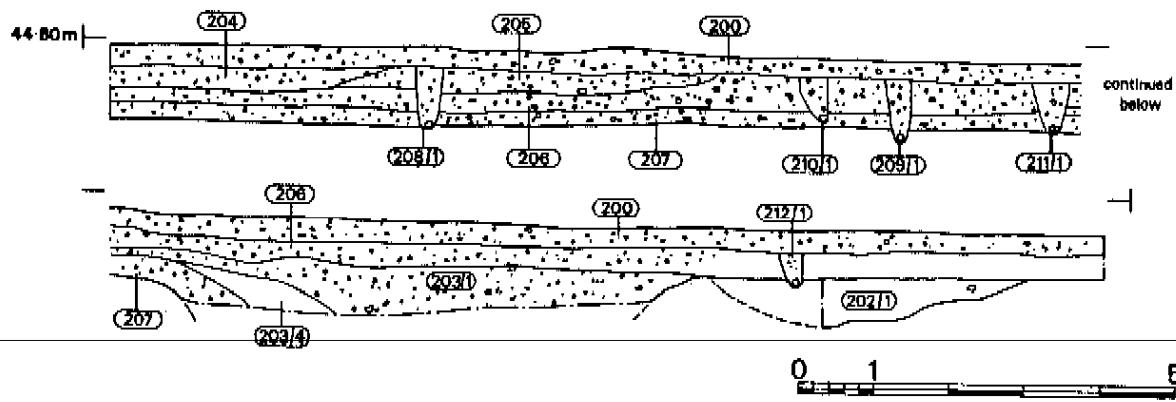


Fig. 5: Trench 2, Plan and Sections

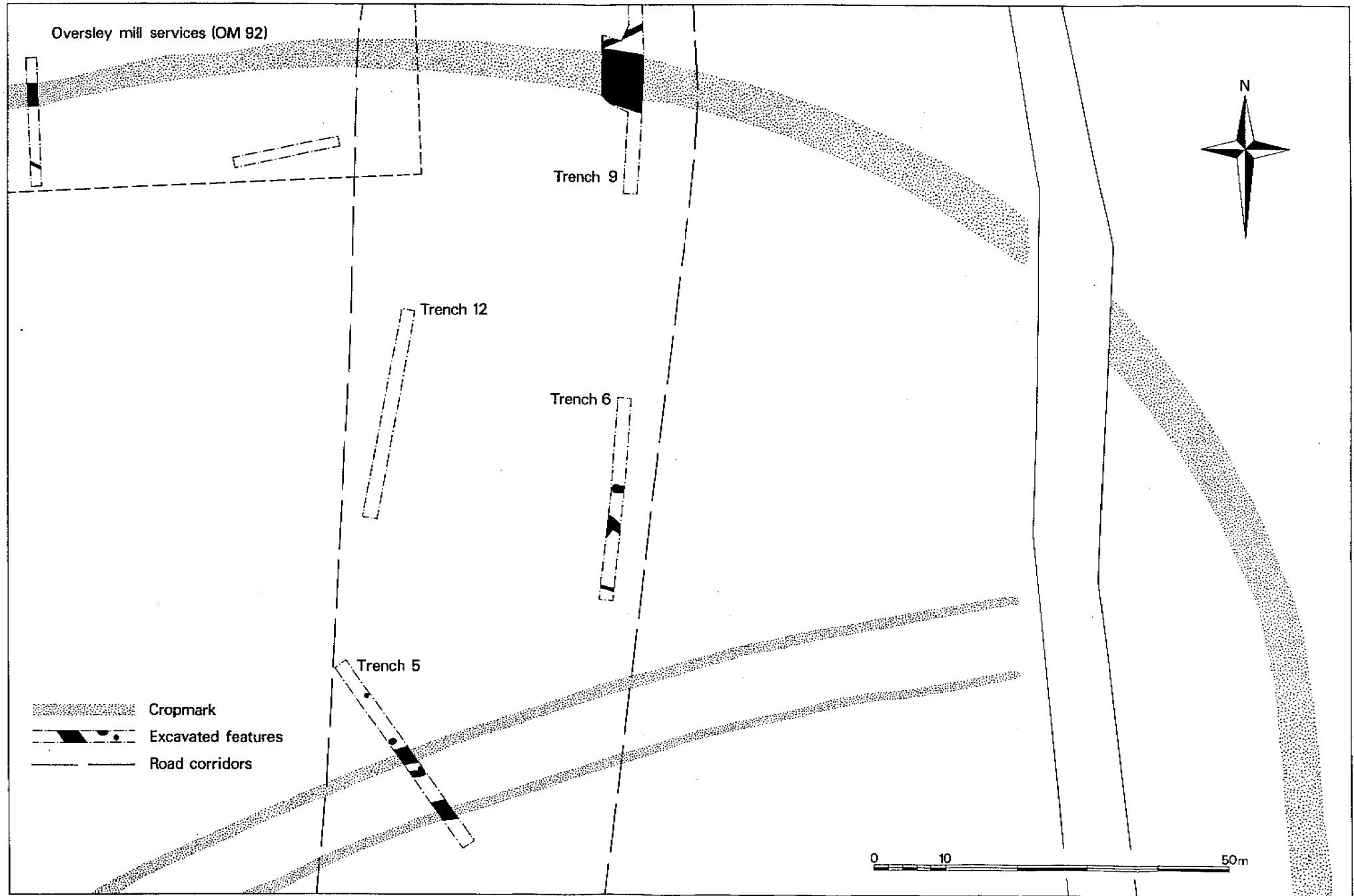


Fig. 6: Trench Location (Northern part)

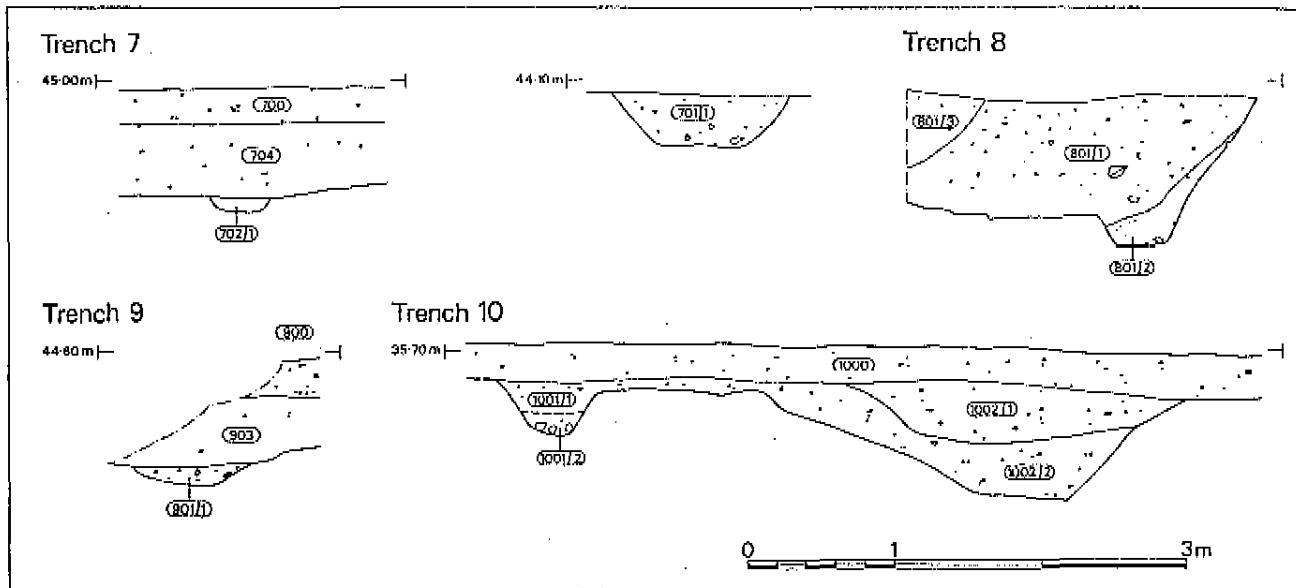


Fig. 7: Trench Trenches 7-10, Sections

### 8.5 Trench 5 (Figs 3, 4, 6)

Trench 5 was aligned north west-south east and measured 30m long. It was positioned to cross the 'trackway' cropmark (J-K) that had been located during the geophysical survey. Two large ditches (502 and 503) were found, containing large amounts of domestic debris, dated by the pottery to the 12th century. Ditch 503 was found to cut an earlier ditch (505) on the same alignment. The surface between 502 and 503 was cut by an unexcavated gully 506 and a pit 507 whose relationships remain uncertain. Two shallow pits (501 & 504) dated to the 12th-13th century were excavated to the north west of the trackway.

### 8.6 Trench 6 (Figs 3, 4, 6)

Trench 6 was aligned north-south and measured 30m long. A shallow, probable drainage gully (602) was excavated at the south end, although it remains undated. A larger ditch (603) towards the centre of the trench was also undated, although it appeared to be cut by a hollow (604). Some 12th century pottery was recovered from the upper portions of a rock cut well (601) which was excavated to a depth of 1.0m below the present level of the natural. An auger hole placed in the middle of the excavated part passed through waterlogged deposits at 0.6m and was stopped at 0.75m, by what was thought to be bedrock.

### 8.7 Trench 7 (Figs 2, 3, 7)

Trench 7 was aligned north east-south west and measured 27m long. Two undated features were identified cutting the natural bedrock: a probable drainage gully 702

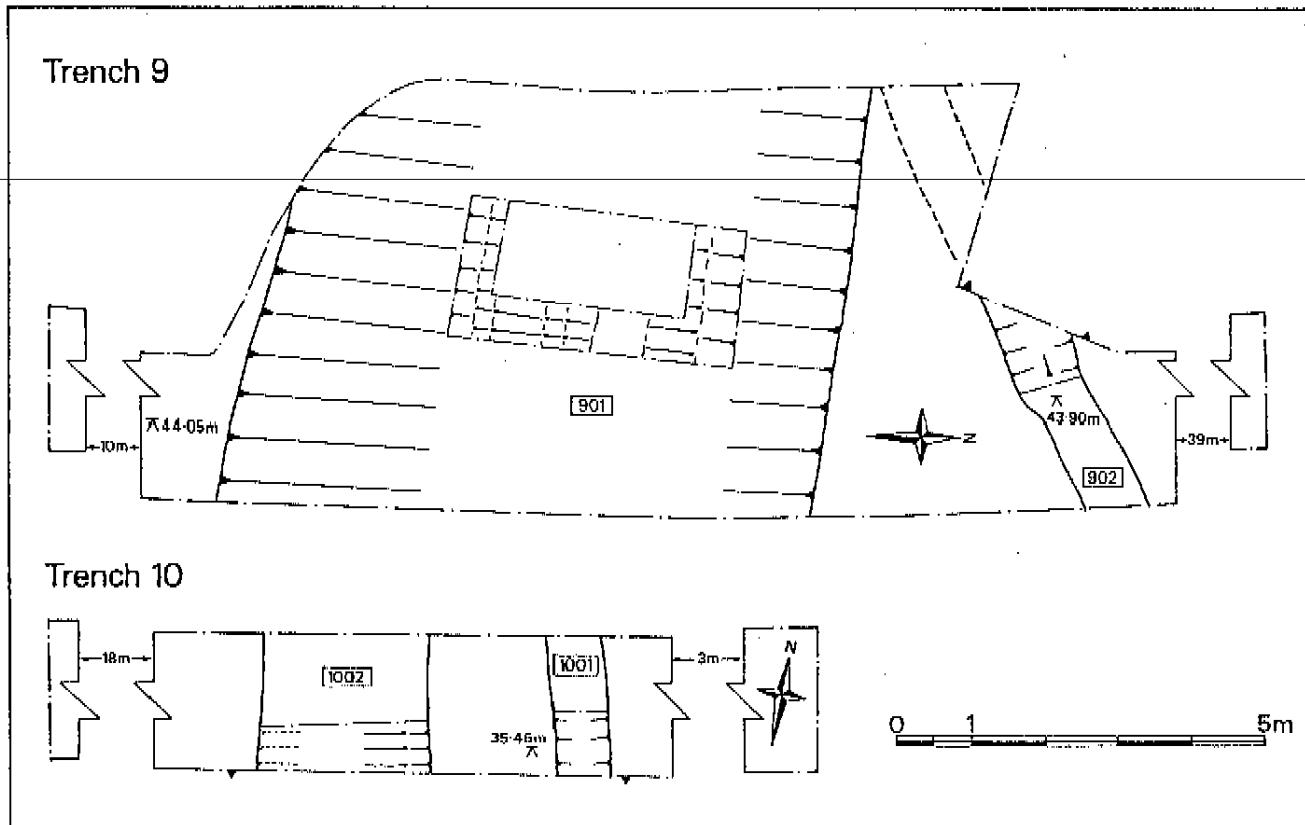


Fig. 8: Trenches 9-10, Plans

and a shallow pit 701.

#### 8.8 Trench 8 (Figs 2, 3, 7)

Trench 8 was aligned north east-south west and measured 27m long. It was positioned to intersect with the trackway cropmark (L-M) that had also been located by the geophysical survey. A large linear feature (801) was found which excavation revealed to be of considerably greater width than was at first realised. Its true width was never acceptably established within the trial trench, although it was evident that it had been re-cut at least three times. Substantial amounts of 12th and early 13th century pottery sherds were recovered from two of its fills.

#### 8.9 Trench 9 (Figs 6, 7, 8)

Trench 9 was aligned north-south and measured 62m long. It was positioned to cut through the northern side of the enclosure cropmark (I) and determine if a defensive bank had been present. The trench was extended by machining a large box (10m x 3.5m) at the point that it crossed the enclosure ditch (901) which proved to be some

7.0m wide. A further trench was then machined through the deeper part of the ditch to enable safe excavation of the lower fills, which however yielded only a single animal bone. A small gully (902) which contained Roman pottery, was presumably cut by 901, although this was not obvious during excavation.

#### **8.10 Trench 10 (Figs 1, 7, 8)**

Trench 10 was aligned east-west and measured 30m long. It was positioned as near as possible to the existing bridle path on the line of Ryknild Street without obstructing the 'right of way'. The aim of this location was to determine if at all possible the original alignment of the Roman road and also whether any contemporary features existed along its route. Two features and a tree-root hole on parallel alignments to the road were recognised. A small gully (1001) which contained small fragments of very abraded Romano British pottery, and a deeper ditch (1002) from which fragments of post medieval clay pipe were recovered.

#### **8.11 Trenches 11, 12, 13 and 14 (Figs 1, 2, 6)**

Trenches 11, 12, 13 and 14 each measured 30m in length. They were in each case machined down to natural subsoil and no archaeological features were identified in any of them. Although Trench 11 was positioned over a linear cropmark, no such feature could be distinguished. This may in part be due to the clay fills (as identified in the linear features in Trench 1) being first totally waterlogged and subsequently frozen during the excavation.

### **9. Discussion of Artefacts Found**

**9.1** The easiest and most reliable method of dating archaeological deposits is by study of the artefacts which have been excavated from the context in which they are found. By far the most common artefacts are sherds of pottery vessels. These vessels are very fragile and easily broken, and therefore they are regularly discarded. Comparison of fragments from excavated sites has enabled specialists to determine the date and often the place of manufacture of most pottery.

#### **9.2 Medieval Pottery by Stephanie Ratkai**

**9.2.1** The evaluation produced 436 medieval sherds dating from the late 11th/12th century to the 13th century. There were 53 rim sherds which with one exception were from cooking pots/jars. The group was dominated by local Alcester Ware (Cracknell and Jones, 1989), although the vessels were in somewhat different forms from those found in Alcester and were very much cruder in execution. Also in the local fabric were fragments from nine pitchers. The range of non-local fabrics was very limited. There was a Worcester type ware jug/pitcher sherd and a fine sandy glazed sherd of unknown source. In Stamford Ware was an unglazed rim sherd from a cooking pot/jar (Kilmurry 1980, type 4/5). There were also two Shelly ware sherds and two Malvernian sherds. All these non-local fabrics have been found among previously excavated material from Alcester.

9.2.2 The group seems fairly homogenous. The lack of non-local pottery and the crudeness of some of the local vessels would suggest a 12th-early 13th century date. There are none of the later glazed fine wares such as Boarstall/Brill Ware and Chilvers Coton Ware, which are commonly found in Alcester. However other material from Boteler's Castle held by Warwickshire Museum and viewed by the author is more similar to pottery from Alcester and does include some finer glazed wares. Unfortunately there is no exact reference to where this pottery came from within the site and it may relate to the later manor house.

9.2.3 Further work on larger groups of pottery from the site would provide valuable information. Firstly, there should be pottery dating back to the later 11th and early 12th century. At present there is little evidence for the character of early post conquest pottery in the area and it would be interesting to see if the earliest local pottery production is that connected with Alcester Abbey (Cracknell and Jones 1989), established in 1140, or whether there was already an organised area of pottery production. Secondly, it would be of interest to compare assemblages from the small market town of Alcester and the castle site, to see whether the status and seigneurial links of the castle affect the composition of the assemblage, and how far this reflects the relative wealth of the town and castle.

### **9.3 Beaker Pottery *by Paul Booth***

9.3.1 Approximately nine sherds of prehistoric pottery (including many very small fragments), came from posthole 305. The sherds are probably from three different vessels.

9.3.2 Vessel No 1. Most of the fragments, many of which join, are from the base and lower body of a coarse, handmade vessel tempered principally with grog, with occasional organic and quartz sand inclusions. The vessel is undecorated.

9.3.3 Vessel No 2. Two fairly thin walled sherds, one of which has a fragment of base, are in a finer fabric with some angular grog inclusions and sparse small white (?shell) and sparse-moderate fine quartz sand inclusions. Both sherds are decorated with fairly close spaced, roughly horizontal linear decoration. One of the lines on the base sherd can be seen to have been formed with a fine twisted cord. The remaining lines on this and on the other sherd may have been formed in the same way, but the sherds have been scrubbed too vigorously for any trace of this to survive.

9.3.4 Vessel No 3. A single sherd, possibly from vessel 2, in a similar fabric but with occasional larger fragments of sharply angular quartz in addition to the moderate, finer subrounded quartz. The sherd does not appear to be decorated.

9.3.5 The character of the fabrics and, in particular, the decoration on Vessel No. 2, make it clear that this is a Beaker assemblage. The large, coarse vessel (No. 1) is perhaps a domestic beaker. The fabric is certainly consistent with a date in the Early Bronze Age.

## **9.4 Other Finds**

9.4.1 A full list of the artefacts recovered can be found in Appendix C.

## **10. Archaeobotanical Sampling *by Lisa Moffett***

10.1 A total of 5 contexts were sampled for charred plant remains. Samples were chosen on a 'most likely to produce results' basis. Sample sizes ranged from 15kg to 25kg depending on the ease with which they could be retrieved from the sections of their contexts. Each sample was wet sieved through a stacked filter comprising a 10mm mesh over a 0.5mm mesh. The resulting material was then immersed in water to allow charcoal and the charred plant remains to float to the surface and be scooped off. The resulting flots were then allowed to dry and examined under a binocular microscope to evaluate their archaeobotanical potential and to check for other possible material of environmental interest. Large flots were subsampled to save time, but in these cases at least 25% of the flot was scanned. No items were removed from the flots.

10.2 The sample from feature 203/8/1 produced no charred remains, but did include some uncharred seeds. It is not certain if these seeds are modern or were preserved due to waterlogging. At the time of the survey heavy rains had flooded the feature from which the sample was derived. The other samples produced charred remains of wheat, rye, hulled barley, oat, pea, hazel and some weed seeds. The presence of fragments of bone, including fish scales, was noted in 315/1/1 and 312/3/1. At least two of the samples (302/0/1 and 312/3/1) may be worth further botanical analysis as the material in them was fairly abundant. Two samples with abundant material out of five taken is a fairly high ratio, as experience has shown that the number of samples from a site that are worth further analysis is often around 10%. Although there is no way to know whether the area of the evaluation will be typical of the proposed area of excavation, the abundance and apparent commonness of charred material is promising. Only one sample had no charred remains and that one may not be contemporary with the others.

10.3 A rachis node of *Triticum turgidum/durum* (rivet/macaroni wheat) was found in 312/3/1. This wheat is no longer thought to have been rare, but its area of distribution is of interest and may take on greater significance in the light of results from the project on thatching materials being undertaken by John Letts and funded by English Heritage.

10.4 There are a relatively small number of Medieval rural sites of all types which have been systematically investigated botanically. Much more work is needed which not only identifies the botanical material present on a site but, where possible, relates the material to the economy of the site. Only when this has been done will it be possible to make comparisons between sites. Further work on material from this site would be a valuable contribution to this end.

10.5 The following material was seen in the samples:

302/8/1 *Rubus fruticosus* agg., *Lemna* sp., *Fumaria* sp., *Ranunculus acris/repens/bulbosus*, *Carduus/Cirsium*.

302/0/1 *Triticum* sp., *Secale cereale*, *Hordeum vulgare* hulled, *Avena/large Gramineae*, Cereal indet., *Corylus avellana*, *Vicia/Lathyrus*.

312/3/1 *Triticum turgidum/durum* rachis, *Triticum* sp., *Secale cereale*, *Hordeum vulgare* hulled, *Avena/large Gramineae*, cereal indet., *Pisum sativum*, *Corylus avellana*, *Vicia/Lathyrus*, *Carex* sp., bone including fish bone and scales.

315/1/1 *Triticum* sp., *Secale cereale*, *Hordeum vulgare*, *Avena* sp., Cereal indet., *Corylus avellana*, *Vicia/Lathyrus*, *Centaurea cyanus*, a large-seeded *Brassica* that may be modern.

601/1/1 *Triticum* sp. Cereal indet., *Corylus avellana*, bone including fish bone and scales.

## 11. Conclusions

11.1 The results of the archaeological evaluation at Oversley Castle allow certain conclusions to be drawn concerning the site's past land use. The earliest activity was evidenced by the small Beaker assemblage associated with posthole 305. Other undated features from the same trench may have been contemporary with or from the same phase as 305, but its character was significantly different from any other feature. It is difficult to extrapolate definitive interpretations from a single feature, but the nature of the pottery assemblage suggests that this posthole belongs to a domestic rather than a funerary site.

11.2 The complete absence of Iron Age material from across the site prompted a re-examination of the purported Iron Age pottery sherds from the Oversley Mill Services evaluation and these sherds have subsequently been attributed to the same period as the others from the evaluation (11th-13th centuries). The outer enclosure ditch therefore is almost certainly of medieval origin and there remains no secured evidence of Iron Age occupation on the hilltop.

11.3 It is not certain if the present line of the Ryknild Street follows its original Roman course, as it was not possible to trench the present trackway. Ditch 1001, which was aligned parallel to the trackway and produced two abraded Romano British pottery sherds, could indicate the original road alignment. It is more likely however that it represented a field boundary ditch, as there was a complete absence of road material, such as metalling, within the trench. No sign of roadside ditches was found during the watching brief on the water main as it crossed Ryknild Street (Ford 1977). Another boundary ditch (902) which may have been part of the same Romano British field system ran along the edge of the scarp and was picked up in Trench 9.

11.4 The most extensive and important remains revealed by the evaluation are those

of the medieval period. The large outer enclosure is dated to this period. Its defences were massive, consisting of a ditch, 7.8m wide x 2.45m deep to the north and 6.7m wide x 3.4m deep to the south, and an internal bank possibly c.5.5m wide. Suggestions of an outer bank in the Oversley Mill Services section may relate to the possible plough headland visible on air photographs. Within the enclosure there were features suggesting an extensive medieval settlement contemporary with the documented period of occupation of the castle. Although no sites of buildings were recognised, the ditches in Trenches 5 (502 & 505) and 8 (801) are likely to be trackway or road side ditches. The large quantities of domestic debris recovered from their fills must be derived from adjacent occupation sites. Further evidence for settlement is available in the form of the well (601) and the possible midden layer (302). The many pits and gullies of contemporary date revealed in the trial trenches further indicate that the occupation was extensive, although their particular functions remain unclear.

11.5 The character of the medieval settlement is, however, not certain. The presence and massiveness of the defences suggests that it lay within a large outer bailey of the castle and formed part of the castle complex. However it is alternatively possible that it was the original village of Oversley, established around the castle, or possibly before the castle, and then deserted in favour of the existing Oversley Green when the castle was abandoned. It is also possible that the uses were successive, that the enclosure was established for some military purpose and was then disused and covered by the village. The presence of another putative trackway outside the defences to the south may support the last suggestion. The elucidation of the true character of the occupation will only be resolved by further excavation.

## 12. Preservation of Deposits

12.1 Of the 14 trenches excavated only Trenches 11, 12, 13 and 14 failed to produce any significant deposits. It is however possible that clay filled features were present in Trench 11 but were not recognised prior to the trench flooding. Only Trench 12 from within the bailey remained sterile.

12.2 The site has been subjected to intensive modern agricultural practices which for the most part have penetrated a maximum of 0.40m. The southern part of the site on the clay subsoil has, however, been extensively disturbed by land drains.

12.3 A pre-bailey ditch land surface survives under the inner bank and there is a strong likelihood that preserved waterlogged deposits remain at the bottom of the southern arm of the ditch and/or at the bottom of the Well 601.

12.4 The medieval features are generally well preserved and for the most part contain large quantities of charred material and domestic rubbish. The exception to this may be the enclosure ditch itself which was notably free of both charred material and finds. However the trench excavated through it as part of the evaluation at the Oversley Mill Services site did produce significant quantities of pottery.

12.5 The Beaker site is likely to have been disturbed by both the medieval settlement and the modern agricultural disturbance. It is also likely to have been heavily

disturbed by the various phases of water main construction and removal.

### **13. Acknowledgements**

The work was commissioned by the Department of Transport and the Warwickshire Museum would like to express its thanks to the landowners Mr A Brown, Mr and Mrs A J Price and Mr J S Price for their help and co-operation. The Museum would also like to thank the staff at the Oversley Mill service station for their interest and tolerance of muddy feet on their clean floors during the course of the evaluation.

The excavation was directed by the author, Stuart Palmer, with the assistance of Tim Allen, Andrew Briggs, Nick Havas, Tim Holt, Peter Moore, John Thomas and Kevin Wright. Stephanie Ratkai analysed the medieval pottery and Paul Booth commented on the prehistoric sherds. Lisa Moffett analysed the archaeobotanical samples.

Warwickshire Museum  
June 1993

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## SITE SUMMARY SHEET

### 92 / 105 A435 Norton Lenchwick Bypass

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**NGR:** SP 07 50 (centre)

#### **Location, geology and topography.**

The subject of this report is the geophysical assessment of a group of six sites along the route of the proposed bypass that will link Evesham, Hereford and Worcester with Alcester, in the county of Warwickshire. The route follows a line running approximately parallel with, and east of the existing A435 trunk-road. Details about the location and topography of each area are included in the results section of the report (Sections 4. to 9.). The geology comprises glacial sands and gravels and river alluvium. In addition, towards the northern end of site WA 543 there are outcrops of sandstone bedrock.

#### **Archaeology**

Details about the known archaeology in the locality of each of the sites is given in Sections 4. to 9. of the report.

#### **Aims of Survey**

Each of the six survey areas were selected to investigate the corridor of the proposed road at points where the route passes sites recorded on county Sites and Monuments Record. A geophysical survey was undertaken as part of a wider archaeological evaluation being carried out by Warwickshire County Council (WCC). The object of the survey was to try to locate possible archaeological activity on the route of the proposed bypass.

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#### **Summary of Results \***

The survey located anomalies of archaeological potential at each of the six sites. At site WA 1499 in particular, the gradiometer survey indicated that the dense settlement complex recorded on aerial photographs extends further than was previously known. The location of archaeological features corresponding to cropmarks associated with the Boteler's Castle site (WA543) met with only limited success. At sites WA 4910 and WA 4908 the archaeological interpretation for some of the anomalies recorded remains inconclusive. The survey was least successful at Salford Priors (WA 1510) and at cropmark site WA 5081.

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\* It is essential that this summary is read in conjunction with the detailed results of the survey.

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## SURVEY RESULTS

### 92 / 105 A345 Norton Lenchwick Bypass

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#### 1. Survey Areas

1.1 Six areas were surveyed with gradiometry or resistivity techniques. The position of the survey areas can be seen in the location diagrams Figures 1 to 6b, at a scale of 1:2500.

1.2 At Boteler's Castle (WA 543), the full length of the road width was surveyed in detail. At Salford Priors (WA 1510) the survey areas were restricted by various obstructions. Elsewhere, initial scanning with a gradiometer determined the location of sample blocks for recorded survey. Where scanning failed to locate anomalies of archaeological potential, sample areas were chosen at random within the road corridor. The size and location of each survey area is described in more detail in Sections 4. to 9. of the report.

1.3 The survey grid was set out by **Geophysical Surveys of Bradford (GSB)** with reference to the road corridor set out by consulting engineers **Dobbie & Partners**. Detailed tie-in information has been lodged with **WCC**.

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#### 2. Display

2.1 The results are displayed in two formats:- dot density plot and X-Y trace. These display formats are discussed in the *Technical Information* section, at the end of the report.

2.2 Data plots and interpretation diagrams for each site are produced at a scale of 1:625 and are bound in a separate, archive report (92 / 105B).

2.3 Overall interpretations placed on location diagrams (Figures 1 to 6b) are produced at a scale of 1:2500 with the text of the report (92 / 105A). These diagrams also include cropmark evidence supplied by **WCC Field Archaeology Office**.

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#### 3. General Considerations - Complicating factors

3.1 Details of general considerations and complicating factors for each site are included in the results section of the report (Sections 4. to 9.).

3.2 Archaeological features on sites located in areas where the geology comprises sands and gravels commonly produce magnetic responses which are near general background noise levels. In addition, gravels are often significantly magnetic. These factors can hamper the detection and interpretation of responses from archaeological features.

## **4. Survey Results**

### **4.1 Site WA 543 Boteler's Castle (Figures 1 and 1A to 1F2)**

**NGR:** SP 086 560

*4.2 The site lies approximately 1.25km due south of Alcester and to the east of the A435 trunk-road. The proposed bypass route crosses the outer bailey of the castle to the east of the motte. Six areas, A to F, were surveyed with the gradiometer (see Figure 1). Areas A to E occupied a fairly level, ploughed and harrowed field. Area F was located in a stubble field.*

*4.3 The survey was carried out to locate features including some plotted from aerial photographs associated with settlement inside the outer bailey of the castle. It was considered possible that features might also be detected that relate to Ryknild Street Roman road which runs along the eastern edge of the proposed road corridor.*

*4.4 Conditions were ideal for survey, the ground being both flat and free of obstruction. Considerable disturbance was generated by three water pipes in the southern part of the survey area, which will have masked responses from archaeological features if present.*

#### **4.5 Area A**

4.6 Area A appears to be very quiet with the exception of ferrous disturbance along the eastern edge where there is evidence of a trackway running along the field boundary.

4.7 On the southern edge of the survey an area of disturbance may be archaeologically significant. This group of pit like responses coincides approximately with the top of the slope over which the northern boundary of the castle's outer bailey was located from cropmark evidence.

4.8 The ditch of the outer bailey was not detected by the survey which is surprising since it is expected that it would be substantial in size. However, it was noted that ploughing had reached down to the sandstone bedrock suggesting that the feature may have been ploughed out by the time of the survey. Alternatively, the fill of the ditch may not have been of sufficient magnetic contrast to the subsoil to produce a significant response.

#### **4.9 Area B**

4.10 Area B was found to be magnetically very quiet. No anomalies of archaeological significance were detected in this area.

#### **4.11 Area C**

4.12 Two linear responses were detected in the southern half of Area C. These correspond with cropmark evidence which indicates that the outer bailey was divided into two parts by parallel ditches. At least one possible pit anomaly was detected by the survey.

4.13 There is a noticeable increase in ferrous debris in this locality, although it is likely to be of modern origin, some may be of archaeological significance.

#### **4.14 Area D**

4.15 The southern most part of this area contains a group of anomalies which appear to be archaeological in character. There are at least two strong pit like responses and suggestions of short ditch type anomalies.

4.16 The extreme southeastern corner of Area D is disturbed by the presence of three buried water pipes. This interference will mask responses from archaeological features.

#### 4.17 Area E

4.18 The results of Area D are dominated by the disturbance generated by the buried pipes. These can be seen to affect an area of approximately 40 to 50m in width. As with Area D this interference will have hidden weaker archaeological anomalies, if such remains are present.

4.19 Aerial photographs indicate the presence of a number of ditches running in an east-west orientation. None of these anomalies were detected by the survey.

4.20 A single pit like response was detected south of the pipe anomalies and to the east of the survey area.

#### 4.21 Area F

4.21 The northern end of this area has been disturbed by the pipes encountered in Areas D and E.

4.22 Elsewhere the magnetometer detected a general scatter of ferrous debris, which increased in the southern end where there is a modern field boundary and field entrance.

4.23 One possible pit like anomaly was detected. However, archaeological interpretation of single anomalies is very difficult, and this response may be due to buried ferrous debris of modern origin.

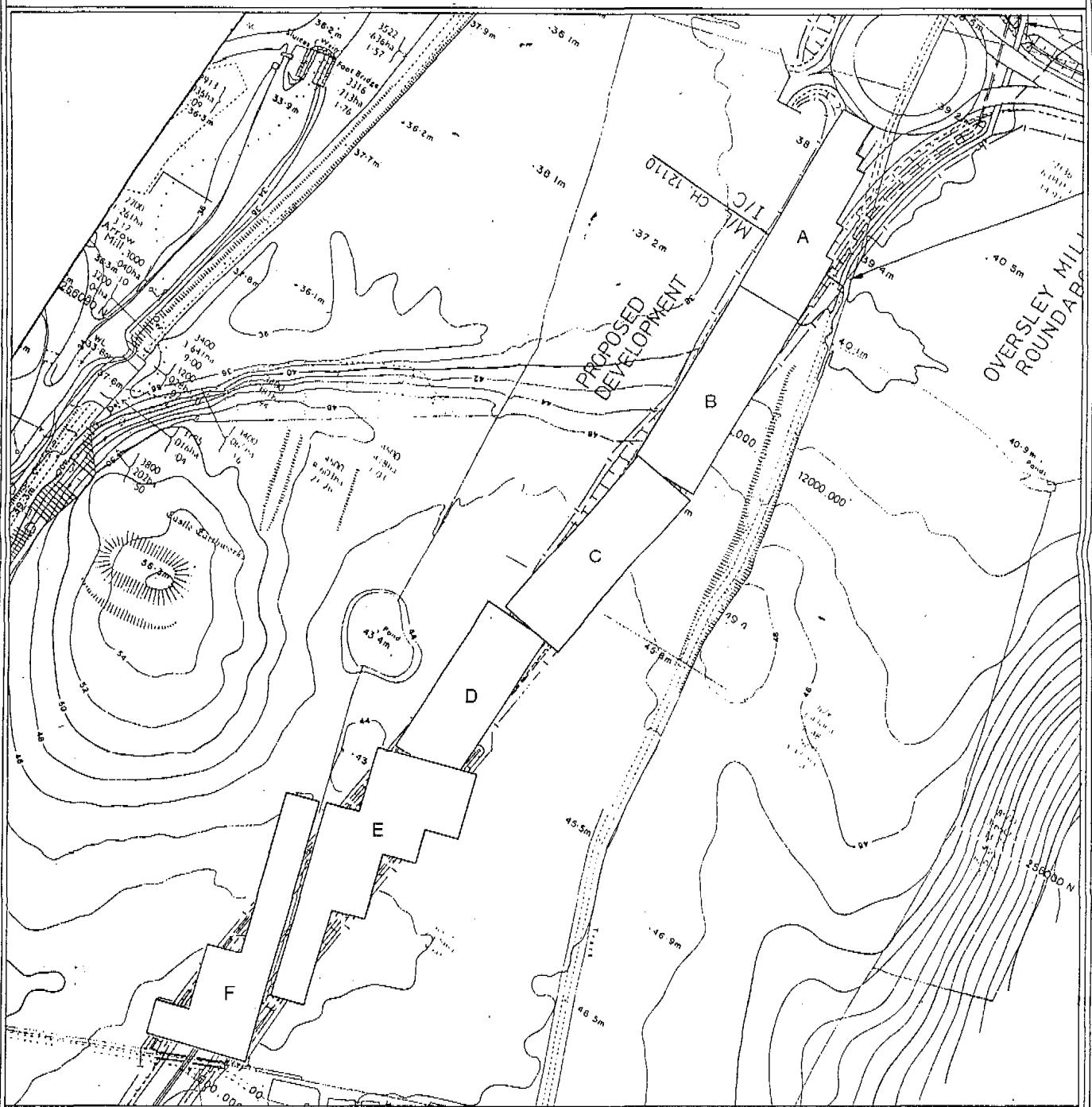
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#### 4.24 Conclusions of Survey at Boteler's Castle (WA 543)

The survey at this site located a number of anomalies of archaeological potential along the route of the proposed road. However, several possible features recorded on aerial photographs were not located, in particular the northern boundary of the outer bailey was not identified. In the southern part of the survey area interpretation was hampered by the presence of three buried water pipes.

## A435 NORTON LENCHWICK BYPASS

## Site WA543 Location Diagram



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1:2500

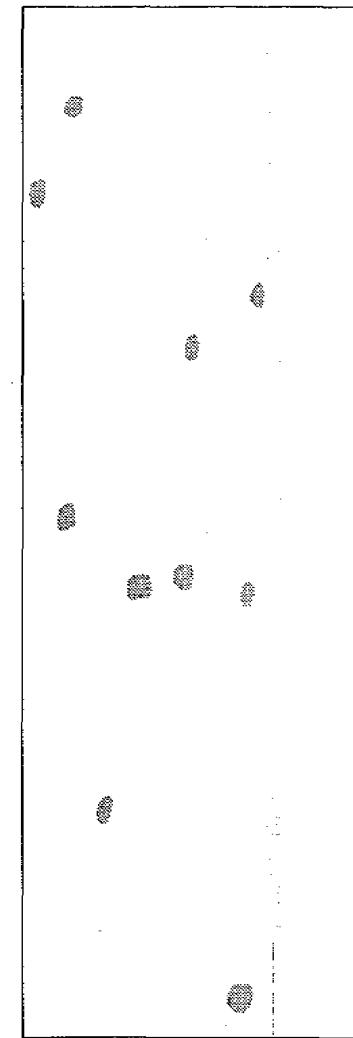
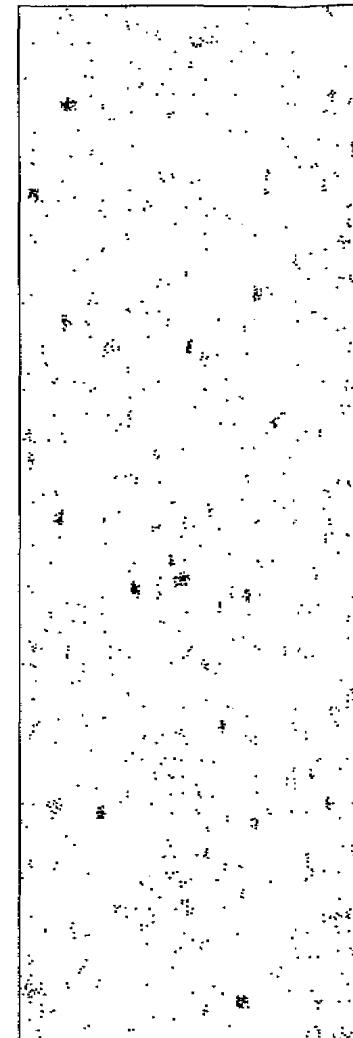
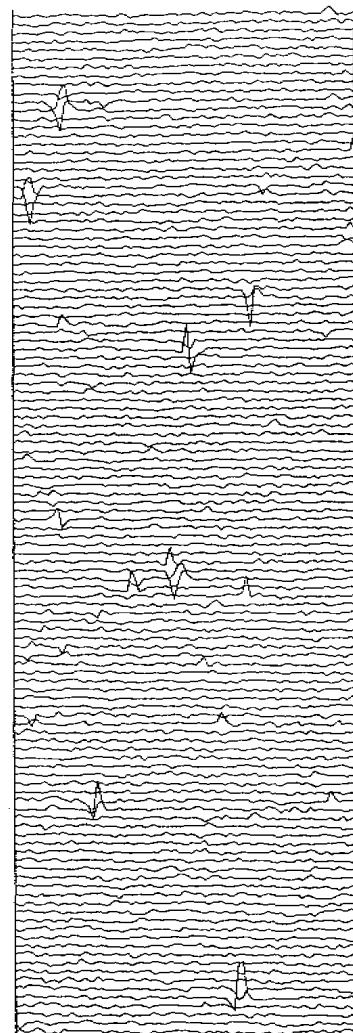
**Figure 1**

**A435 NORTON LENCHWICK BYPASS**  
**Site WA543**  
**Area A**



Figure 1A

**A435 NORTON LENCHWICK BYPASS**  
**Site WA543**  
**Area B**



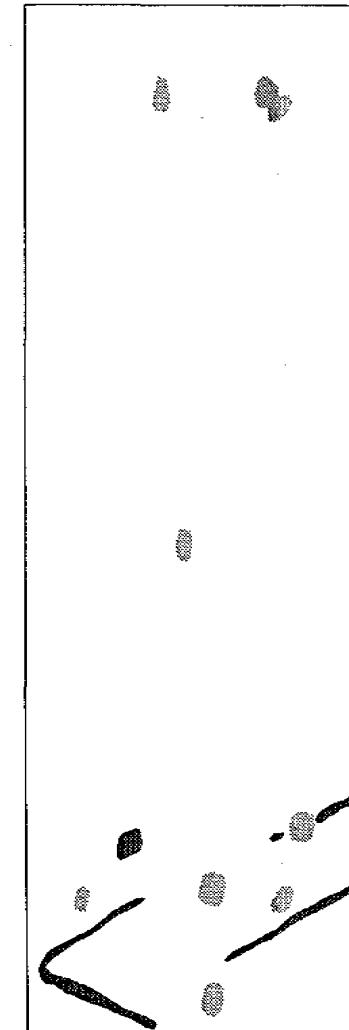
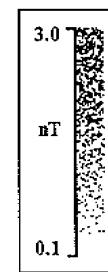
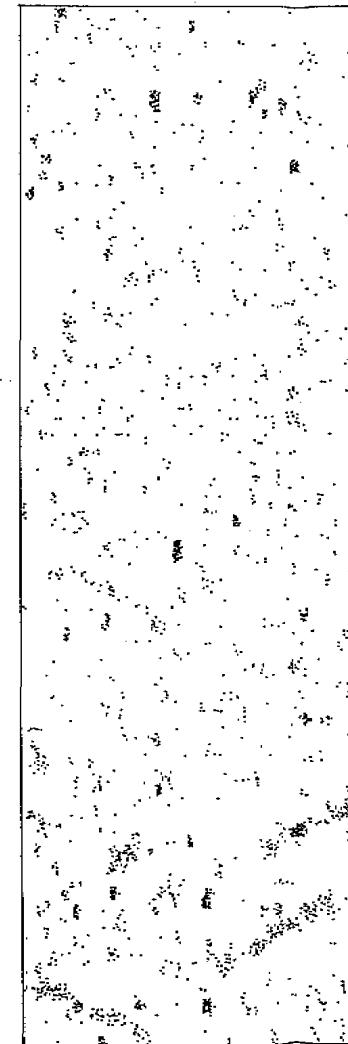
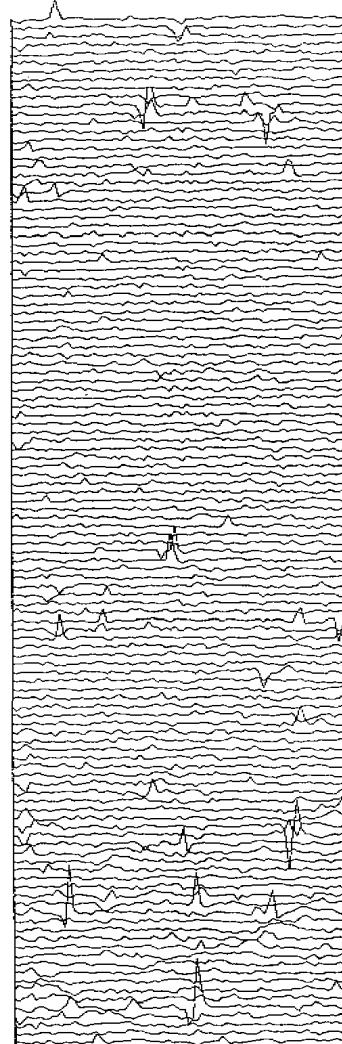
■ Ferrous disturbance



1:625

Figure 1B

**A435 NORTON LENCHWICK BYPASS**  
**Site WA543**  
**Area C**



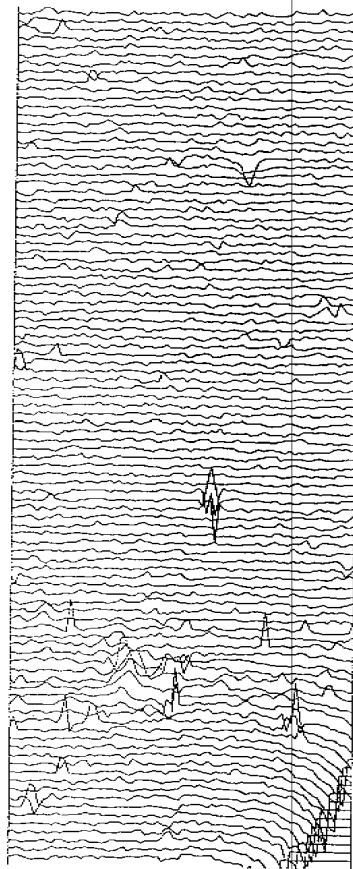
■ ?Archaeology  
■ Ferrous disturbance



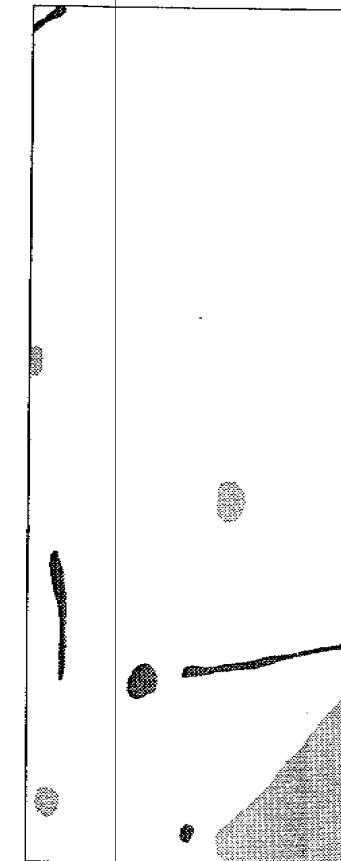
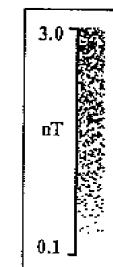
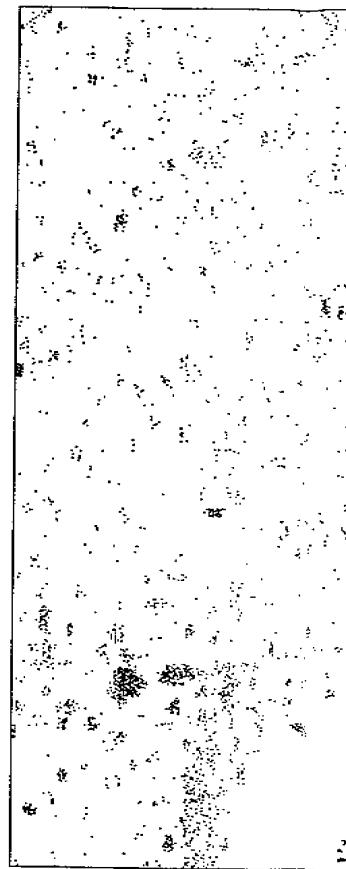
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Figure 1C

**A435 NORTON LENCHWICK BYPASS**  
**Site WA543**  
**Area D**



15 nT



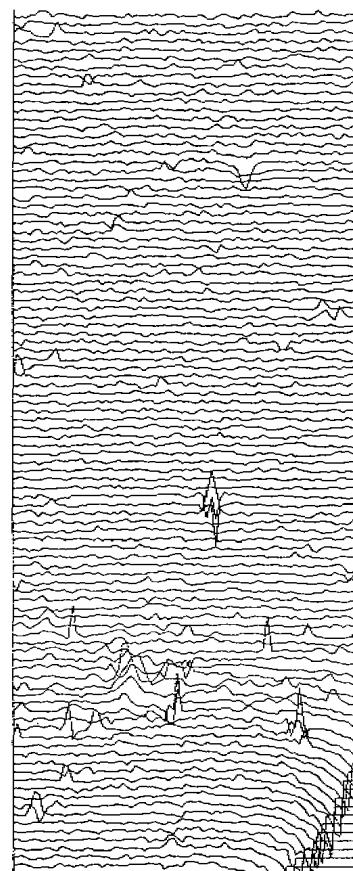
- ?Archaeology
- Ferrous disturbance



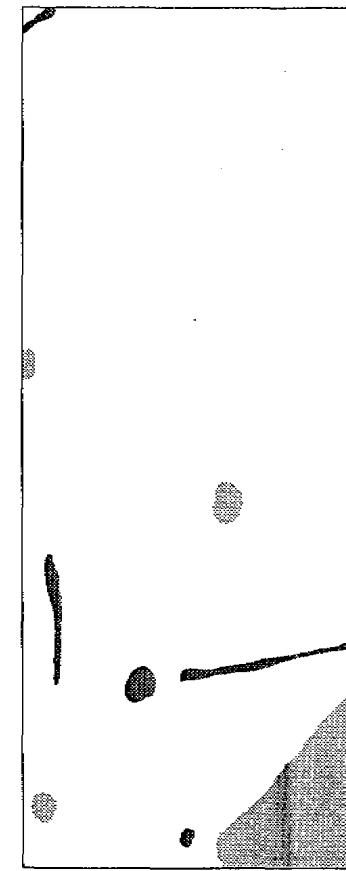
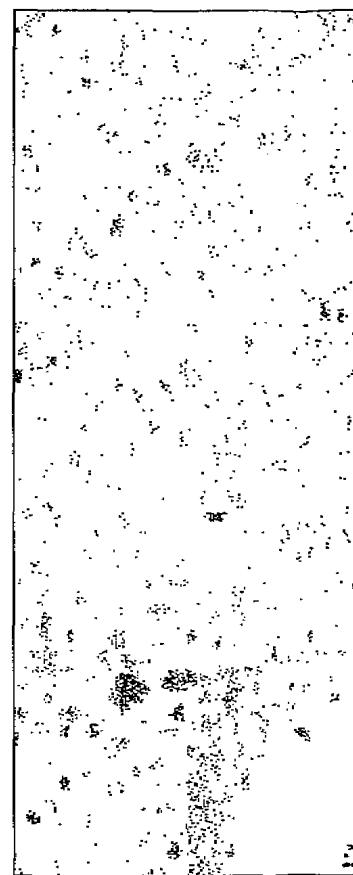
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**Figure 1D**

**A435 NORTON LENCHWICK BYPASS**  
**Site WA543**  
**Area D**



15 nT



- [Dark Gray Square] ?Archaeology
- [Light Gray Square] Ferrous disturbance



1:625

**Figure 1D**

**A435 NORTON LENCHWICK  
BYPASS  
Site WA543  
Area E**

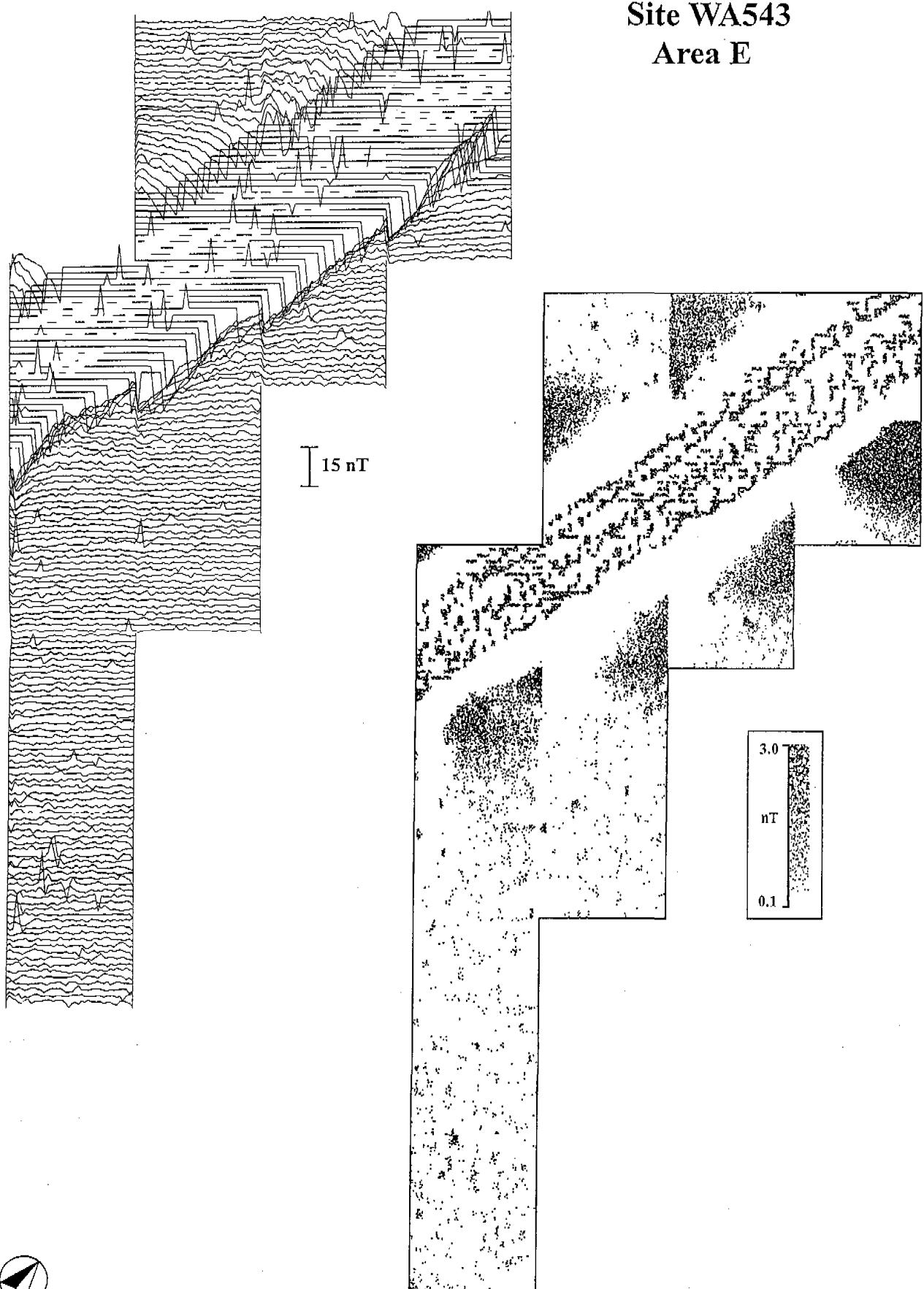
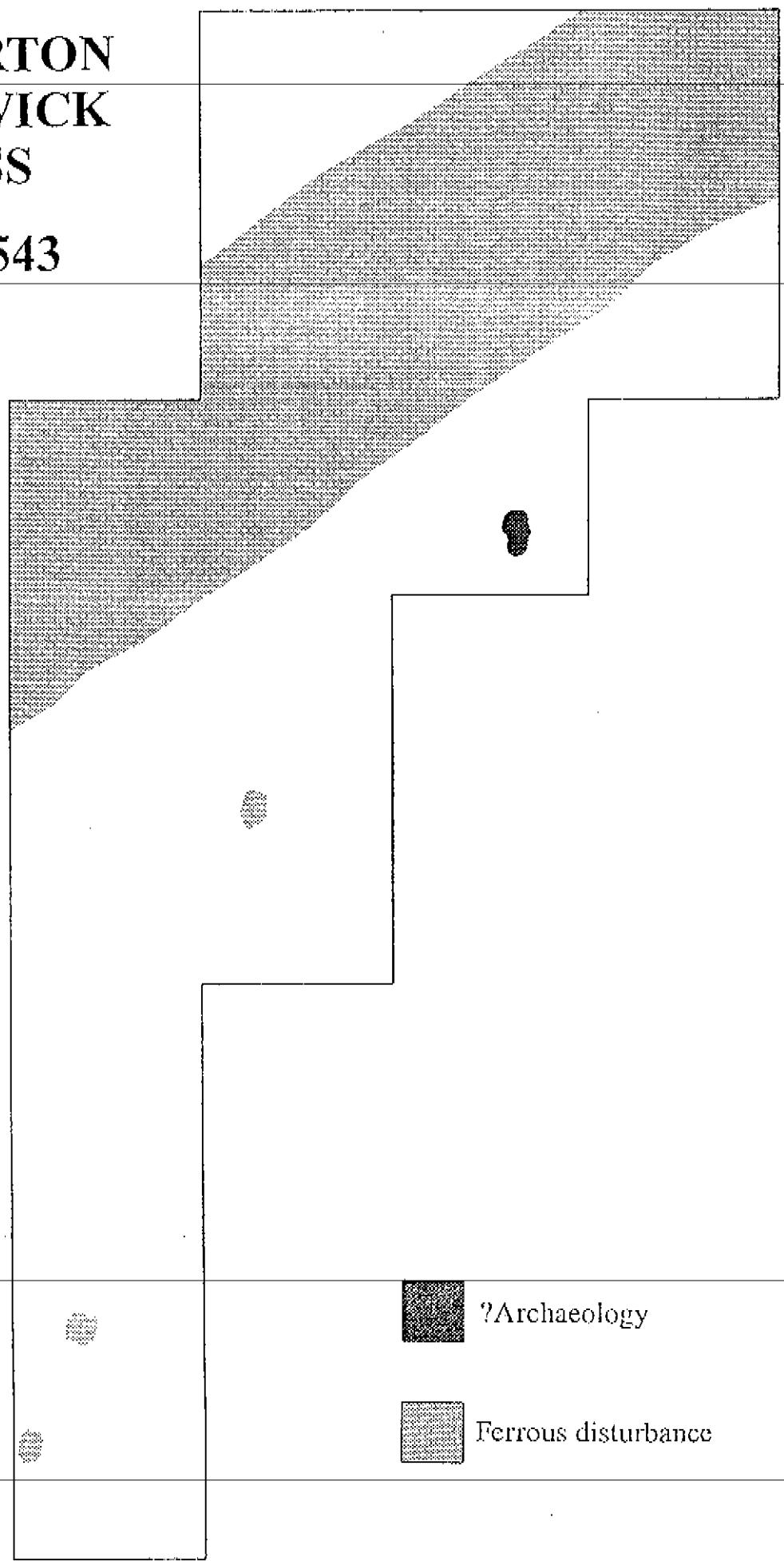


Figure 1E1

**A435 NORTON  
LENCHWICK  
BYPASS**

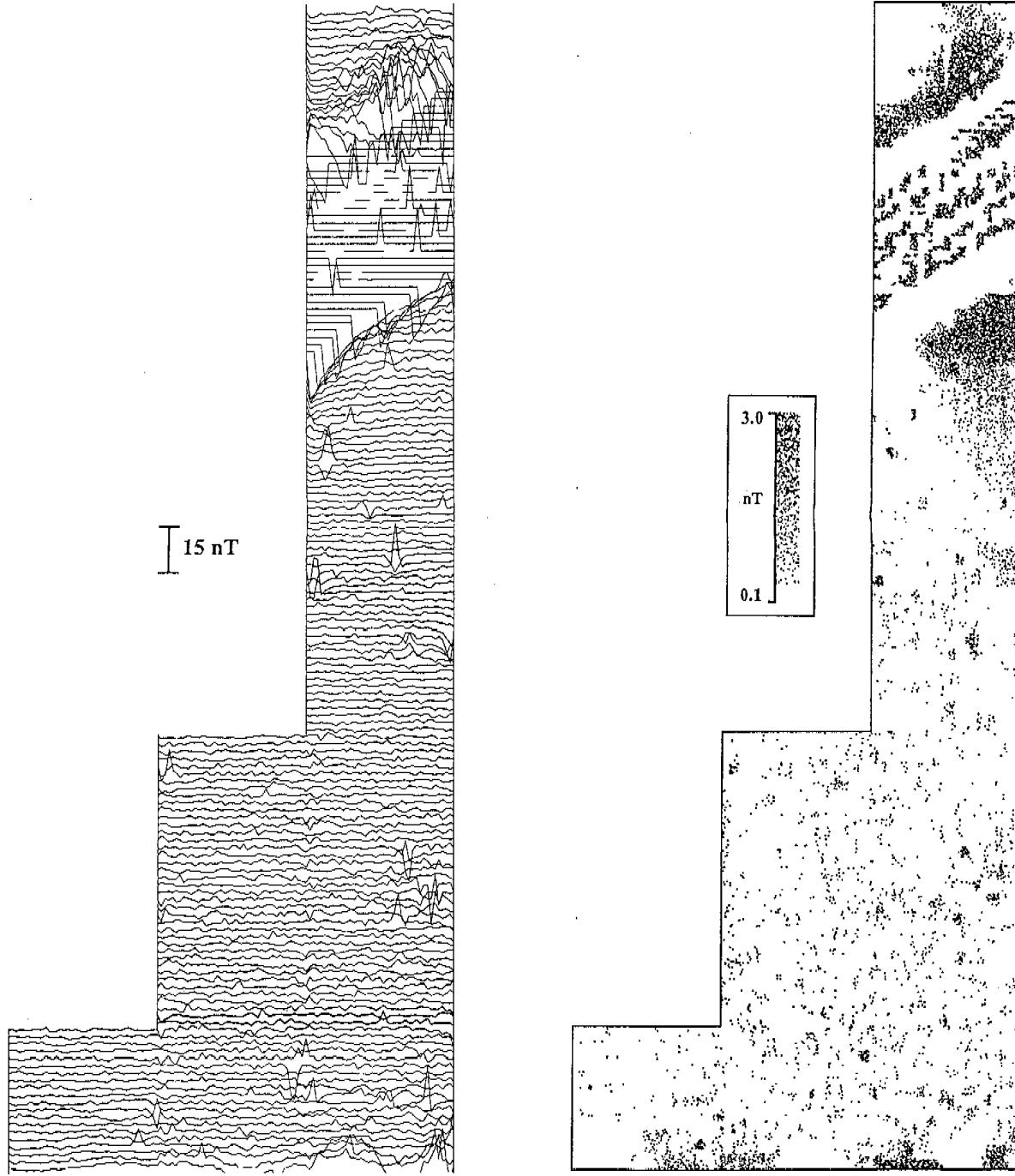
**Site WA543**

**Area E**



**Figure 1E2**

**A435 NORTON LENCHWICK BYPASS**  
**Site WA543**  
**Area F**

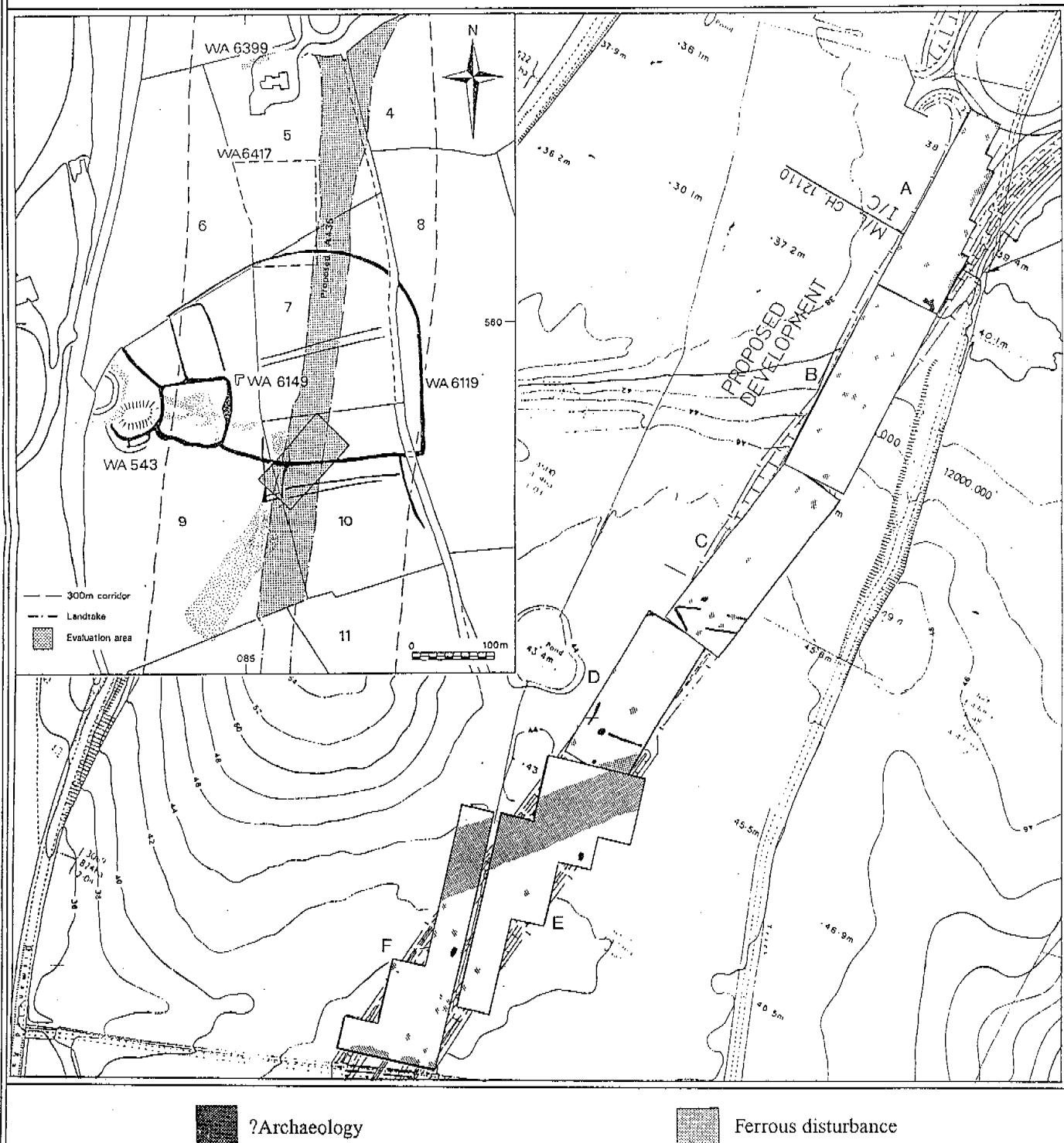


1:625

Figure 1F1

## A435 NORTON LENCHWICK BYPASS

## **Site WA543 Summary Interpretation**



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### Ferrous disturbance

**Figure 1**

## APPENDIX B: LIST OF EXCAVATED FEATURES

*Context:*   *Dimensions:*      *Type:*      *Description:*

### Trench 1

100	Length: Width: Depth:	Topsoil 0.28m	Brown clay loam.
101	Length: Width: Depth:	Layer 0.20m	Red clay.
102	Length: Width: Depth:	Ditch	Ditch running NW - SE across the trench. Same as 203.
102/1	Length: Width: Depth:	Fill	Unable to record due to rain and frost.
102/2	Length: Width: Depth:	Fill	Unable to record due to rain and frost.
103	Length: Width: Depth:	Ditch 1.00m 0.28m	Narrow ditch running NE - SW across the trench with moderately steep sloping sides and a flat bottom.
103/1	Length: Width: Depth	Fill 0.28m	Reddish brown clay.
104	Length: Width: Depth:	Ditch 1.95m 0.60m	Wide ditch running NW - SE across the trench with sloping sides leading to a flattish bottom.
104/1	Length: Width: Depth:	Fill 0.60m	Brown silty clay loam.
105	Length: Width: Depth:	Ditch 1.65m 0.13m	Wide, shallow ditch with a rounded bottom running NNW - SSE across the trench.

<i>Context:</i>	<i>Dimensions:</i>	<i>Type:</i>	<i>Description:</i>
105/1	Length: Width: Depth: 0.13m	Fill	Reddish brown clay.
106	Length: Width: 1.50m Depth: 0.25m	Ditch	Ditch running NNW - SSE across the trench with fairly steep sloping sides and a flattish bottom.
106/1	Length: Width: Depth: 0.25m	Fill	Reddish brown clay.
107	Length: Width: Depth:	Modern drain	Modern drain running NW - SE across the trench.
107/1	Length: Width: Depth:	Modern drain fill	Brown clay loam.
108	Length: Width: Depth:	Modern drain	Modern drain running NW - SE across the trench.
108/1	Length: Width: Depth:	Modern drain fill	Brown clay loam.
109	Length: Width: Depth:	Modern drain	Modern drain running N - S across the trench.
109/1	Length: Width: Depth:	Modern drain fill	Brown clay loam.
110	Length: Width: Depth:	Modern drain	Modern drain running NE - SW across the trench.

<i>Context:</i>	<i>Dimensions:</i>	<i>Type:</i>	<i>Description:</i>
105/1	Length: Width: Depth: 0.13m	Fill	Reddish brown clay.
106	Length: Width: 1.50m Depth: 0.25m	Ditch	Ditch running NNW - SSE across the trench with fairly steep sloping sides and a flattish bottom.
106/1	Length: Width: Depth: 0.25m	Fill	Reddish brown clay.
107	Length: Width: Depth:	Modern drain	Modern drain running NW - SE across the trench.
107/1	Length: Width: Depth:	Modern drain fill	Brown clay loam.
108	Length: Width: Depth:	Modern drain	Modern drain running NW - SE across the trench.
108/1	Length: Width: Depth:	Modern drain fill	Brown clay loam.
109	Length: Width: Depth:	Modern drain	Modern drain running N - S across the trench.
109/1	Length: Width: Depth:	Modern drain fill	Brown clay loam.
110	Length: Width: Depth:	Modern drain	Modern drain running NE - SW across the trench.

<b>Context:</b>	<b>Dimensions:</b>	<b>Type:</b>	<b>Description:</b>
110/1	Length: Width: Depth:	Modern drain fill	Brown clay loam.
111	Length: Width: Depth:	Modern drain	Modern drain running NE - SW across the trench.
111/1	Length: Width: Depth:	Modern drain fill	Brown clay loam.
112	Length: Width: Depth:	Modern drain	Modern drain running NE - SW across the trench.
112/1	Length: Width: Depth:	Modern drain fill	Brown clay loam.

### Trench 2

200	Length: Width: Depth:	Topsoil 0.28m	Brown clay loam with 2% rounded pebbles.
201	Length: Width: Depth	Hollow/ ditch 0.22m	Shallow hollow or possible butt end of a ditch with flattish, irregular bottom and gently sloping sides.
201/1	Length: Width: Depth:	Fill 0.22m	Reddish brown clay.
202	Length: Width: Depth:	Ditch 0.60m	Ditch running N - S across the trench with sloping sides and a flattish bottom.
202/1	Length: Width: Depth:	Fill 0.60m	Reddish brown clay.

<b>Context:</b>	<b>Dimensions:</b>	<b>Type:</b>	<b>Description:</b>
203	Length: Width: Depth:	Ditch 6.70m 3.40m	Large "v" shaped ditch with a flat bottom.
203/1	Length: Width: Depth:	Fill 0.75m	Reddish brown sandy clay with 1% small pebbles and 3% green sandstone flecks.
203/2	Length: Width: Depth:	Fill 0.16m	Reddish brown sandy clay with 10% sandstone flecks. Lens within 203/1.
203/3	Length: Width: Depth:	Fill 0.22m	Brown sandy loam with 1% gravel and 1% green sandstone.
203/4	Length: Width: Depth:	Fill 1.20m	Reddish brown clay with occasional small pebbles.
203/5	Length: Width: Depth:	Fill 0.20m	Brown sandy loam with 1% gravel and 1% greenish grey sandstone flecks.
203/6	Length: Width: Depth:	Fill 0.25m	Reddish brown clay with green grey mottles.
203/7	Length: Width: Depth:	Fill 0.26m	Reddish brown sandy clay with 1% gravel and 3% greenish grey sandstone flecks.
203/8	Length: Width: Depth:	Fill 0.66m	Brown clay with very occasional pebbles and green grey mottles.
203/9	Length: Width: Depth:	Fill 0.20m	Reddish brown clay.

<b>Context:</b>	<b>Dimensions:</b>	<b>Type:</b>	<b>Description:</b>
210	Length: Width: Depth:	Modern drain	Modern drain aligned NW - SE.
210/1	Length: Width: Depth:	Modern drain fill	Brown clay loam.
211	Length: Width: Depth:	Modern drain	Modern drain aligned NE - SW.
211/1	Length: Width: Depth:	Modern drain fill	Brown clay loam.
212	Length: Width: Depth:	Modern drain	Modern drain aligned NW - SE.
212/1	Length: Width: Depth:	Modern drain fill	Brown clay loam.
213	Length: Width: Depth:	Modern drain	Modern drain aligned NW - SE.
213/1	Length: Width: Depth:	Modern drain fill	Brown clay loam.
<b>Trench 3</b>			
300	Length: Width: Depth:	Topsoil 0.30m	Dark brown sandy clay loam with 2 - 3% small and medium rounded pebbles.
301	Length: Width: Depth:	Subsoil 0.20m	Brown/dark brown sandy clay loam with 5% medium and large rounded pebbles.

<b>Context:</b>	<b>Dimensions:</b>	<b>Type:</b>	<b>Description:</b>
302	Length: Width: Depth: 0.15m	Layer	Black sandy clay loam.
304	Length: Width: 0.70m Depth:	Hollow/ pit	Sub - rounded hollow or pit to the E of 318.
304/1	Length: Width: Depth:	Fill	Brown/dark brown sandy loam.
305	Length: 0.60m Width: 0.66m Depth: 0.14m	Pit	Rounded, shallow pit to the W of the trench.
305/1	Length: Width: Depth: 0.14m	Fill	Brown/dark brown sandy clay with several large sandstones.
309	Length: 0.76m Width: 0.55m Depth: 0.05m	Pit	Shallow pit with very shallow sloping sides and a flat bottom.
309/1	Length: Width: Depth: 0.05m	Fill	Brown/dark brown sandy loam.
311	Length: Width: 0.70m Depth: 0.18m	Gully	Gully running NE - SW across the trench with gentle sloping sides leading to a rounded bottom.
311/1	Length: Width: Depth: 0.18m	Fill	Brown/dark brown sandy clay loam with up to 3% small and medium rounded stones.
312	Length: Width: 0.80m Depth: 0.90m	Pit	Large square pit with near vertical sides and a flat bottom.

<i>Context:</i>	<i>Dimensions:</i>	<i>Type:</i>	<i>Description:</i>
312/1	Length: Width: Depth: 0.60m	Fill	Brown/dark brown sandy clay loam with 1 - 2% small and medium rounded stones and 1 - 2% charcoal flecks.
312/2	Length: Width: Depth: 0.22m	Fill	Greyish brown clay loam with up to 3% charcoal flecks.
312/3	Length: Width: Depth: 0.08m	Fill	Greyish brown clay loam with up to 20% charcoal flecks.
313	Length: 1.03m Width: 0.80m Depth: 0.14m	Pit	Rounded pit with sloping sides and a rounded bottom.
313/1	Length: Width: Depth: 0.14m	Fill	Brown/dark brown sandy clay loam with 5% medium rounded pebbles.
315	Length: 0.65m Width: 0.52m Depth: 0.15m	Pit	Small rounded pit with moderately steep sloping sides leading to a rounded bottom.
315/1	Length: Width: Depth: 0.15m	Fill	Very dark grey sandy clay loam.
316	Length: Width: 0.34m Depth: 0.12m	Pit/gully end	Pit or gully butt end protruding from the NE corner of the trench with fairly steep sloping sides and a flattish bottom.
316/1	Length: Width: Depth: 0.12m	Fill	Brown/dark brown sandy clay loam with 2% small rounded stones.
317	Length: 0.08m Width: 0.08m Depth: 0.07m	Possible stake hole	Rounded possible stake hole near to 316.

<i>Context:</i>	<i>Dimensions:</i>	<i>Type:</i>	<i>Description:</i>
317/1	Length: Width: Depth: 0.07m	Fill	Brown/dark brown sandy clay loam.
318	Length: 0.70m Width: 0.80m Depth: 0.30m	Pit	Large sub - rounded pit with steep sloping sides and a narrow rounded bottom.
318/1	Length: Width: Depth: 0.30m	Fill	Dark yellowish brown sandy clay loam with less than 1% stones.
320	Length: 0.72m Width: 0.59m Depth: 0.17m	Pit	Rounded pit with fairly steep sides leading to a sloping bottom.
320/1	Length: Width: Depth: 0.17m	Fill	Dark yellowish brown sandy clay loam.
321	Length: Width: Depth:	Natural	Natural sand and gravel.
322	Length: Width: Depth:	Natural	Reddish brown sandy clay.
323	Length: Width: Depth:	Natural	Greenish grey clay.
324	Length: Width: Depth:	Modern drain	Modern drain aligned NW - SE.
324/1	Length: Width: Depth:	Modern drain fill	Dark brown sandy clay loam.

<b>Context:</b>	<b>Dimensions:</b>	<b>Type:</b>	<b>Description:</b>
325	Length: Width: Depth:	Modern drain	Modern drain aligned NE - SW.
325/1	Length: Width: Depth:	Modern drain fill	Dark brown sandy clay loam.
326	Length: Width: Depth:	Modern drain	Modern drain aligned NE - SW.
326/1	Length: Width: Depth:	Modern drain fill	Dark brown sandy clay loam.
327	Length: Width: Depth:	Modern drain	Modern drain aligned NW - SE.
327/1	Length: Width: Depth:	Modern drain fill	Dark brown sandy clay loam.
328	Length: Width: Depth:	Modern drain	Modern drain aligned NE - SW.
328/1	Length: Width: Depth:	Modern drain fill	Dark brown sandy clay loam.

#### **Trench 4**

400	Length: Width: Depth:	Topsoil 0.51m	Dark brown sandy clay loam with 2 - 3% small and medium rounded pebbles.
401	Length: Width: Depth:	Field drain 0.32m 0.25m	Modern field drain running NW - SE across the trench, filled with topsoil.

<b>Context:</b>	<b>Dimensions:</b>	<b>Type:</b>	<b>Description:</b>
402	Length: Width: Depth: 0.20m	Hollow	Large hollow to the E end of the trench filled with topsoil.
412	Length: Width: 0.50m Depth: 0.33m	Gully	Gully running NE - SW across the trench with moderately steep sloping sides and a rounded bottom.
412/1	Length: Width: Depth: 0.33m	Fill	Brown/dark brown sandy clay loam.
413	Length: Width: 1.20m Depth: 0.12m	Animal burial	Cut for animal burial.
413/1	Length: Width: Depth: 0.12m	Fill	Dark brown sandy clay loam.
414	Length: Width: Depth:	Natural	Strong brown natural sand and gravel.
<b>Trench 5</b>			
500	Length: Width: Depth: 0.20m	Topsoil	Very dark greyish brown sandy clay loam.
501	Length: 0.99m Width: 1.00m Depth: 0.22m	Pit	Large rounded pit with shallow, fairly gentle sloping sides and a flat sloping bottom.
501/1	Length: Width: Depth: 0.22m	Fill	Dark brown sandy loam with charcoal flecks and up to 1% small pebbles.
502	Length: Width: 3.30m Depth: 0.88m	Ditch	Large ditch running E - W across the trench with gentle sloping initial edges leading to steep sides and a flat bottom.

<b>Context:</b>	<b>Dimensions:</b>	<b>Type:</b>	<b>Description:</b>
502/1	Length: Width: Depth: 0.88m	Fill	Dark greyish brown sandy loam.
503	Length: Width: 2.58m Depth: 0.58m	Ditch	Large ditch running E - W across the trench with steep sides and an irregular bottom.
503/1	Length: Width: Depth: 0.58m	Fill	Very dark greyish brown sandy clay loam with 2 - 3% medium and large rounded pebbles and charcoal flecks.
504	Length: Width: 0.75m Depth: 0.13m	Pit/ gully end	Pit or gully end protruding from the E trench wall.
504/1	Length: Width: Depth: 0.13m	Fill	Very dark greyish brown sandy loam with charcoal flecks and 2 -3% small and medium angular sandstones.
505	Length: Width: 0.85m Depth: 0.20m	Ditch	Ditch running E - W across the trench with fairly steep edges and a round bottom.
505/1	Length: Width: Depth: 0.20m	Fill	Dark grey sandy clay with charcoal flecks and 3 - 5% medium rounded and angular stones.
506	Length: Width: 0.60m Depth:	Gully	Gully protruding from the W trench wall. Unexcavated.
506/1	Length: Width: Depth:	Fill	Dark greyish brown sandy loam.
507	Length: Width: 0.90m Depth:	Pit	Large rounded pit on the end of 506. Relationship uncertain, unexcavated.

<b>Context:</b>	<b>Dimensions:</b>	<b>Type:</b>	<b>Description:</b>
507/1	Length: Width: Depth:	Fill	Very dark greyish brown sandy loam.
508	Length: Width: Depth:	0.50m Possible feature	Possible feature near to 507.
508/1	Length: Width: Depth:	Fill	Very dark greyish brown sandy loam with up to 50% medium, angular sandstones.
509	Length: Width: Depth:	Natural	Strong brown sand and bedrock.
510	Length: Width: Depth:	Subsoil 0.40m	Brown/dark brown sandy loam.

#### Trench 6

600	Length: Width: Depth:	Topsoil 0.66m	Very dark greyish brown sandy loam.
601	Length: Width: Depth:	1.27m 1.63m 1.09m	Well Rounded well with vertical sides. Not fully excavated.
601/1	Length: Width: Depth:	Fill 1.09m	Dark grey sandy loam.
602	Length: Width: Depth:	Gully 0.40m 0.16m	Gully running E - W across the trench with sloping sides and a rounded bottom.
602/1	Length: Width: Depth:	Fill 0.16m	Dark greyish brown sandy loam with 2 - 3% pebbles.

<b>Context:</b>	<b>Dimensions:</b>	<b>Type:</b>	<b>Description:</b>
603	Length: Width: Depth:	Ditch 1.60m 0.48m	Ditch running NW - SE across the trench with moderately steep sloping sides and a rounded bottom.
603/1	Length: Width: Depth:	Fill 0.14m	Greyish brown clay.
603/2	Length: Width: Depth:	Fill 0.40m	Dark greyish brown sand.
603/3	Length: Width: Depth:	Fill	Very dark grey sandy loam.
603/4	Length: Width: Depth:	Fill 0.10	Brown sand.
603/5	Length: Width: Depth:	Fill	Light greyish brown sand.
604	Length: Width: Depth:	Possible pit 1.05m 0.33m	Possible pit next to 603. Sub - rounded with steep sloping sides and a narrow bottom.
604/1	Length: Width: Depth:	Fill 0.15m	Brown/dark brown clay.
604/2	Length: Width: Depth:	Fill 0.23m	Brown sand with 30% small and medium angular sandstones.
605	Length: Width: Depth:	Subsoil 0.40m	Brown/dark brown sandy loam.

<i>Context:</i>	<i>Dimensions:</i>	<i>Type:</i>	<i>Description:</i>
606	Length: Width: Depth:	Natural	Strong brown sandstone.

#### Trench 7

700	Length: Width: Depth:	Topsoil	Dark brown sandy loam.
701	Length: Width: Depth:	Pit	Large rounded pit with fairly steep sloping sides leading to a slightly rounded bottom.
701/1	Length: Width: Depth:	Fill	Dark greyish brown sandy loam.
702	Length: Width: Depth:	Gully	Shallow, narrow gully running NE - SW across the trench with gentle sloping sides and rounded bottom.
702/1	Length: Width: Depth:	Fill	Dark greyish brown sandy loam.
703	Length: Width: Depth:	Natural	Strong brown sand and bedrock.
704	Length: Width: Depth:	Subsoil	Brown/dark brown sandy loam with few pebbles.

#### Trench 8

800	Length: Width: Depth:	Topsoil	Dark brown sandy loam.
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<b>Context:</b>	<b>Dimensions:</b>	<b>Type:</b>	<b>Description:</b>
801	Length: Width: Depth: 0.75m	Ditch	Large ditch running NW - SE across the trench with a sloping visible edge and a flat bottom.
801/1	Length: Width: Depth: 0.75m	Fill	Dark brown silty clay loam with frequent - 6%, charcoal flecks.
801/2	Length: Width: Depth: 0.25m	Fill	Yellowish brown sandy loam with 5% medium stones.
801/3	Length: Width: Depth: 0.40m	Fill	Reddish brown clay loam.
802	Length: Width: Depth:	Natural	Green and red clays.

### Trench 9

900	Length: Width: Depth: 0.30m	Topsoil	Very dark greyish brown sandy loam.
901	Length: Width: 7.80m Depth: 2.45m	Ditch	Northern enclosure ditch running E - W across trench.
902	Length: Width: 0.90m Depth: 0.13m	Gully	Narrow gully running E - W across the trench on the N side of 901.
902/1	Length: Width: Depth: 0.13m	Fill	Brown clay loam.
903	Length: Width: Depth: 0.30m	Subsoil	Brown/dark brown sandy loam.

<i>Context:</i>	<i>Dimensions:</i>	<i>Type:</i>	<i>Description:</i>
<b>Trench 10</b>			
1000	Length: Width: Depth:	Topsoil	Dark reddish brown clay loam with 1% small gravel.
1001	Length: Width: Depth:	Gully	Gully running N - S across the trench with steep sloping sides and rounded bottom.
1001/1	Length: Width: Depth:	Fill	Dark reddish brown clay loam with occasional very small gravel.
1001/2	Length: Width: Depth:	Fill	Dark reddish brown clay loam with 10% small gravel and 10% very large gravel.
1002	Length: Width: Depth:	Ditch	Ditch aligned N - S with sloping sides and a flattish bottom.
1002/1	Length: Width: Depth:	Fill	Reddish brown clay loam with 2% gravel.
1002/2	Length: Width: Depth:	Fill/ possible natural	Reddish brown clay with green grey mottles which are denser to the W and 1% gravel throughout. Possible natural.

## APPENDIX C: LIST OF FINDS

Context	Pottery	Date by century	Tile	A. Bone	Iron	Slag	Charcoal	Clay pipe
<b>Trench 2</b>								
203/2	2	11-12th						
<b>Trench 3</b>								
300	3	11-12th						
302	10	11th						
305/1	9	prehistoric						
311/1	4	12th		1				
312/1	26	12th	1	9		1		
312/2	50	12th	2	7				
312/3	15	12th		7			2	
313/1	11	11-12th	1				1	
<b>Trench 4</b>								
402/1	4	12th	1					
412/1				1				
<b>Trench 5</b>								
502/1	74	12th		37	6			
503/1	31	12th	2	46		2	1	
504/1	4	12-13th						
505/1				26				
<b>Trench 6</b>								
601/1	46	12th		16	1		1	
<b>Trench 8</b>								
801/1	150	12-13th	5	85	1	2	1	
801/2	22	12-13th	1	10	1		1	
<b>Trench 9</b>								
901				1				
902/1	2	1-4th (Roman)		5				
<b>Trench 10</b>								
1001/1	2	1-4th (Roman)					4	