Rainwall's Lane, Sutterton
Evaluation (Interim)
SP094

94/5

A P S
ARCHAEOLOGICAL
PROJECT
SERVICES

INTERIM REPORT ON ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATIONS AT LAND WEST OF RAINWALL'S LANE, SUTTERTON, LINCOLNSHIRE

Work Undertaken For
Savills International Property Consultants

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Archaeological Project Services
The Old School
Cameron Street,
Heckington,
SLEAFORD,
Lincolnshire NG34 9RW

SPO 94

Part of the Heritage Trust of Lincolnshire
Company No: 2554738 (England) Charity No: 1001463.

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1. SUMMARY

An archaeological examination was undertaken on land on the west side of Rainwall's Lane, Sutterton, in response to a proposal for development of the site. It was anticipated that, by virtue of the proximity of the site of the seventeenth century Sutterton House and several medieval findspots in the vicinity, the area could fall within a zone of medieval and later activity. The development could affect related deposits and, in consequence, fieldwalking and geophysical surveys were carried out. These examinations were supplemented by an evaluation excavation and five trenches were opened to test for the presence and survival of archaeological deposits.

A quantity of pottery of medieval and later date was recovered during fieldwalking but no concentrations of artefacts were recognised. Geophysical survey recorded faint anomalies considered to possibly indicate buried archaeological remains. However, excavation revealed that the most prominent geophysical anomaly had been caused by a silt-filled natural depression. The trial trenching also established that natural alluvial subsoils occurred directly beneath the modern ploughsoil and no archaeological deposits were encountered.

2. INTRODUCTION

2.1 Background

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken northwest of Sutterton on land adjacent to Rainwall's Lane. This was in respect of a planning application submitted by Savills International Property Consultants for a proposed residential development, and in accordance with a brief set by the Boston District Community Archaeologist. The proximity of the post-medieval Sutterton House, together with sites and finds of the medieval period, suggested that the evaluation area may fall within a zone of medieval and later activity.

2.2 Topography and Geology

Sutterton is located 8km southwest of Boston in the civil parish of Sutterton, Boston Borough, Lincolnshire (Fig. 1). The site lies 8km from the southwest corner of The Wash, and between the Rivers Welland, to the north, and Witham, to the south.

The investigation area is located at a height of *c.* 3m OD, half a kilometre northwest of the centre of Sutterton village on the west side of Rainwall's Lane Fig. 2). Centred on NGR TF281360, the site covers approximately 0.4 hectare.

Local soils are the Pepperthorpe/Tanvats association, alluvial gleys developed on marine alluvium. Usually found near areas settled in the Anglo-Saxon period, these soils probably represent early reclaimed land (Robson 1990, 23; 30). Beneath the marine alluvium is glacial drift that was deposited in a geological basin between the Lincolnshire Wolds and the East Anglian Heights (Harden 1978, 5). These glacial deposits in turn overlie a solid geology of Jurassic clays.

2.3 Archaeological Setting

Rainwall's Lane is located in an area of archaeological remains dating mainly from the medieval and post-medieval periods. Approximately 150m southeast of the present investigation area is the site of Sutterton House (Fig. 2), a hall built in 1609 and demolished earlier this century (SMR 12510). In the same general area a medieval coffin lid, used as a stepping

stone, has been noted (B18/012). Large quantities of medieval and later pottery were recovered from the field north of the Sutterton House site, approximately 300m from the investigation area (SMR 12513).

In the centre of the modern village is the parish church of St. Mary which retains architectural evidence of a Norman origin (Pevsner and Harris 1989, 730). Cropmarks 500km northeast of the investigation area have been recorded on aerial photographs (SMR 13072). These cropmarks have been tentatively identified with the lost village of Riche, known to have been located in the general area of Wigtoft, Sutterton and Algarkirk.

Evidence of earlier human activity in the vicinity is provided by Romano-British pottery (B18/018) found approximately three quarters of a kilometre to the southeast of the present investigation site.

3. AIMS

The aims of the investigation were to locate archaeological deposits and determine, if present, their extent, state of preservation, date, type, vulnerability, documentation, quality of setting and amenity value. The purpose of this identification and assessment of deposits was to establish their significance, since this would make it possible to recommend an appropriate treatment that could then be integrated with any proposed development programme.

4. METHODS

4.1 Geophysical Survey

The examination area was gridded out into a series of contiguous rectangular blocks and surveyed using a fluxgate gradiometer. Magnetic readings were logged at 0.5m intervals along traverses 1m apart (Geophysical Surveys of Bradford 1994). Processing and printing of the recorded data was carried out on computers (Fig. 3).

4.2 Fieldwalking Survey

The area of examination was gridded out into 10 x 10m blocks and each grid square surveyed by the walk-through method. By this technique, each $10m^2$ block was traversed and finds recovered from the field surface were labelled according to the coordinates of the respective grid square (Figs. 4-6).

4.3 Trial Trenching

Five trenches were opened (Fig. 7) and selected deposits partially or fully excavated by hand to retrieve artefactual material and to determine their nature. The trenches were located to provide sample coverage of the entire development site in order to evaluate the potential survival of archaeological deposits and features across the area. One trench (9) was positioned to investigate an anomaly registered on the geophysical survey. The other trenches were placed randomly, but evenly distributed across the site, in order to provide a representative view of conditions and deposits across the total area.

All five trenches were opened by machine to the surface of undisturbed layers, then cleaned and excavated by hand. A sounding to a maximum depth of *c.* 0.75m below the present ground surface was excavated by hand in trench 9. Recording of deposits encountered was undertaken according to standard Archaeological Project Sevices practice.

5. ANALYSIS

5.1 Geophysical Results (Fig. 3)

Responses associated with agricultural machinery and garden sheds at the southern edge of the field dominated the results of the survey of this area. A few scattered geophysical anomalies were recorded but it was considered that a modern or natural origin was most probable for these (Geophysical Surveys of Bradford 1994, 1-2).

5.2 Fieldwalking Results (Figs. 4-6)

Artefacts recovered from the field surface were examined and differentiated on basis of type and date. Thereafter, the different categories of material were recorded on plans of the fieldwalking grid. These plans were then used to establish if significant concentrations of finds existed and, if so, where they were located.

Fragments of pottery, clay pipe, ceramic tile and brick, bone, slag and iron objects were recovered from the field surface. A thin scatter of pottery of thirteenth century and later date was the earliest dateable material retrieved (Fig. 4). Pottery of post-medieval date (late seventeenth through to early nineteenth century) was notably more concentrated, without being plentiful (Fig. 5). Ceramic building material in the form of brick, tile and field drain was the most abundant class of artefacts discovered (Fig. 6). No significant concentrations of any of the finds, either by class or date, were identified by the fieldwalking survey.

5.3 Excavation Results (Fig. 8)

Records of the deposits identified in the evaluation were examined. Phasing was assigned based on the nature of the deposits and recognisable relationships between them. A stratigraphic matrix of all identified deposits was produced and phased. A total of two phases was identified during the evaluation:

Phase 1 Natural deposits
Phase 2 Modern deposits

5.3.1 Phase 1 Natural deposits

Layers of clayey silts (3, 4, 5, 6, 104) were encountered in all five trenches. Considered to be natural deposits of alluvial origin, the surface of these layers sloped naturally from the north and south, where they were encountered at *c.* 2.55m OD, down to *c.* 2.35m OD in the centre of the area.

Towards the southern end of trench 9, beneath the silty subsoil (104), was a thin layer of clayey silt (10). This material, which had a maximum thickness of 70mm, wedged out naturally to the north (Fig. 8). Beneath this, and terminating a little further south, was a layer of blue clay (91) upto 80mm thick. Both these layers infilled a slight depression in the underlying layer, a brown clayey silt (7). All these deposits are considered to be alluvial in origin. In particular, the colouration of the blue clay is often characteristic of deposition in standing water.

5.3.2 Phase 2 Modern deposits

Covering the entire investigation area was a dark clayey silt ploughsoil deposit (1) that constituted the present ground surface. A beet crop was growing towards the southern extent of this deposit.

6. DISCUSSION

Alluvial silts and clays occurred as natural deposits across the area (phase 1). Towards

the southern limit of the investigation site, a small depression in the surface of an earlier silt layer was filled by localised clay and silt deposits that perhaps signify a minor alluviation episode. This slight hollow appears to be broadly coincident with, and responsible for, a magnetic anomaly registered by the geophysical survey.

Ploughsoil, partially covered by a beet crop, constituted the modern ground surface (phase 2). Although a moderately dense scatter of artefacts was recovered during the fieldwalking, much of the material was post-medieval in date, with a limited medieval complement. No concentrations of finds were recognised and most, if not all, of the occupation debris could have derived from manuring scatter and the ploughing-up of old field drains.

7. ASSESSMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

7.1 For assessment of significance the *Secretary of State's criteria for scheduling ancient monuments* has been used (DoE 1990, Annex 4; see Appendix 3).

7.2 Period:
Pottery scatters on arable land, generally with no associated structural evidence, are a common characteristic of the medieval and post-medieval periods. Such evidence relates to both pastand recent agricultural use of the land.

7.3 Rarity:
Scatters of medieval and later pottery on field surfaces are extremely common. Such scatters are generally found in areas adjacent or surrounding settlements of such date.

7.4 Documentation:
Records of archaeological sites and finds made in the Sutterton area are kept in the Lincolnshire County Sites and Monuments Record and the relevant parish files of the Boston District Community Archaeologist. A synthesis of this evidence was produced prior to the commencement of the field surveys.

There are no appropriate historical surveys of the Sutterton area.

7.5 Group value:
The medieval and post-medieval pottery recovered from the modern ploughed field surface probably relate to adjacent sites of these periods. However, as unstratified finds with no directly associated archaeological deposits or features, the group value is low.

7.6 Survival/Condition:
No archaeological deposits were encountered by the evaluation

7.7 Fragility/Vulnerability:
No archaeological deposits were identified during the evaluation. However, if any such remains exist they are extremely vulnerable due to imminent development which will impact the investigation area into natural strata.

7.8 Diversity:
Both functional and period diversity were restricted. The evidence recovered suggests that medieval and later occupation is located elsewhere.

7.9 Potential:
There is very limited potential that medieval or later activity exists or survives elsewhere in the investigation area.

Palaeoenvironmental material of geological date may survive within the natural alluvial deposits but was not encountered by the

excavations.

8. CONCLUSIONS

This examination did not identify any archaeological deposits or remains on the west side of Rainwall's Lane, Sutterton. Medieval and later material was recovered during the the fieldwalking survey but no localised concentrations of artefacts were recognised. Furthermore, the finds recovered by this technique could all have derived from past scattering of manure and domestic waste on the fields and through ploughing up of old land drains.

Geophysical investigation recorded a number of magnetic anomalies across the area. Ferrous objects had caused several of these signals though an archaeological origin was considered possible for some of the anomalies. However, trial trenching established that a natural feature was responsible for the most prominent magnetic deviation. Excavation also revealed that natural subsoil deposits occurred directly beneath the ploughsoil and no archaeological remains were encountered.

9. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Thanks are due to Mr R J Hurst of Savills International Property Consultants. Steve Haynes coordinated the work and Dave Start edited this report. Advice on finds was given by Hilary Healey. Dr Helen Keeley provided an assessment of the environmental potential of the site. Examination of the relevant parish files was permitted by Jim Bonnor, the Boston District Community Archaeologist. Access to the County Sites and Monuments Record was provided by Ian George and Julia Wise of the Archaeology Section, City and County Museum, Lincoln.

10. PERSONNEL

Project Manager: Steve Haynes
Supervisor: Fred Coupland
Site Assistants: David Brown, Aaron Chapman, Paul Cope-Faulkner, Mike Garrett, Chris Moulis, Rene Mouraille, Fiona Walker
Finds Processing and illustration: Denise Buckley
Post-excavation Analyst: Gary Taylor

11. BIBLIOGRAPHY

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Geophysical Surveys of Bradford, 1994 *Report on Geophysical Survey: Sutterton*, Report **94/23**

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Pevsner, N, and Harris, J, 1989 *Lincolnshire*, The Buildings of England (2nd Ed, revised Antram, N)

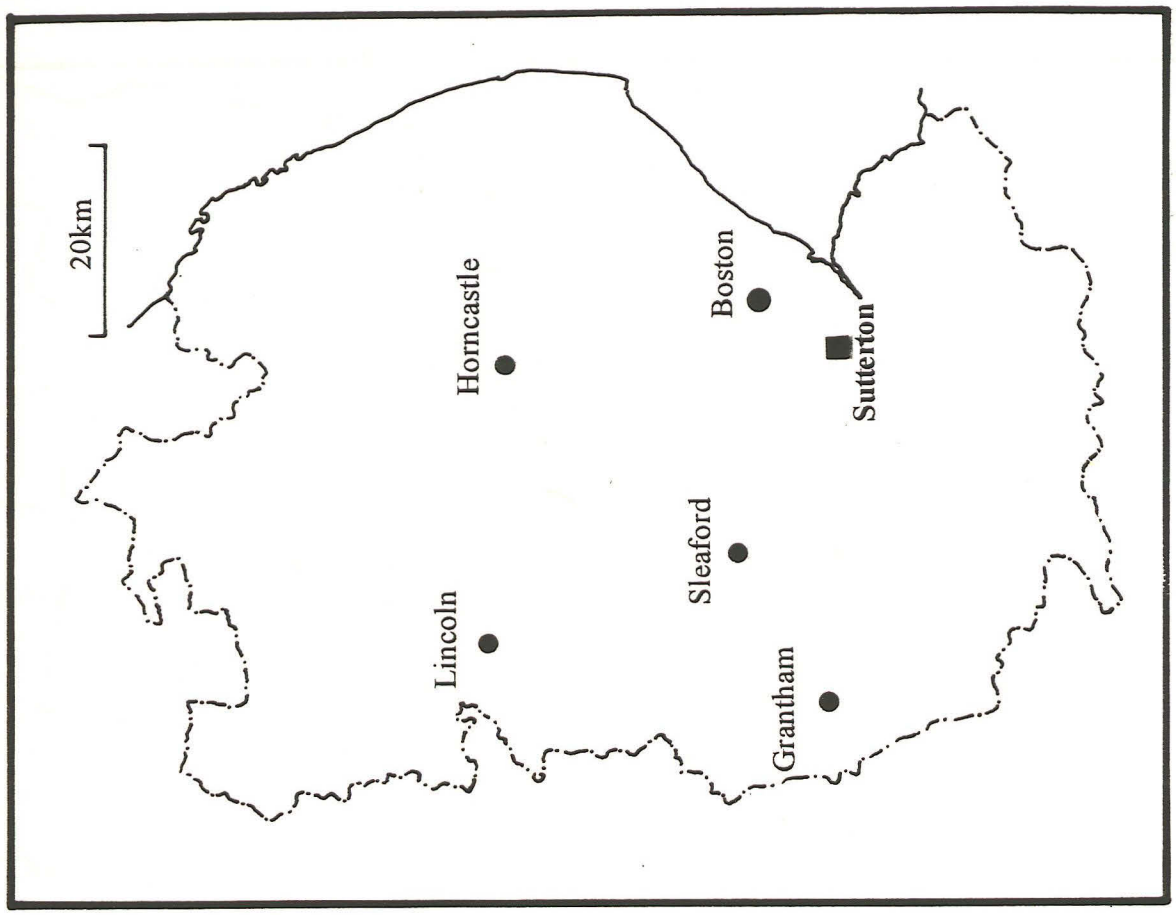
Robson, J D, 1990 *Soils of the Boston and Spalding district*, Soil Survey and Land Research Centre

12. ABBREVIATIONS

Numbers prefixed by 'SMR' are the primary reference numbers used by the Lincolnshire County Sites and Monuments Record.

Numbers prefixed by 'B' are the reference codes used by the Boston District Community Archaeologist.

Fig. 1 GENERAL LOCATION PLAN



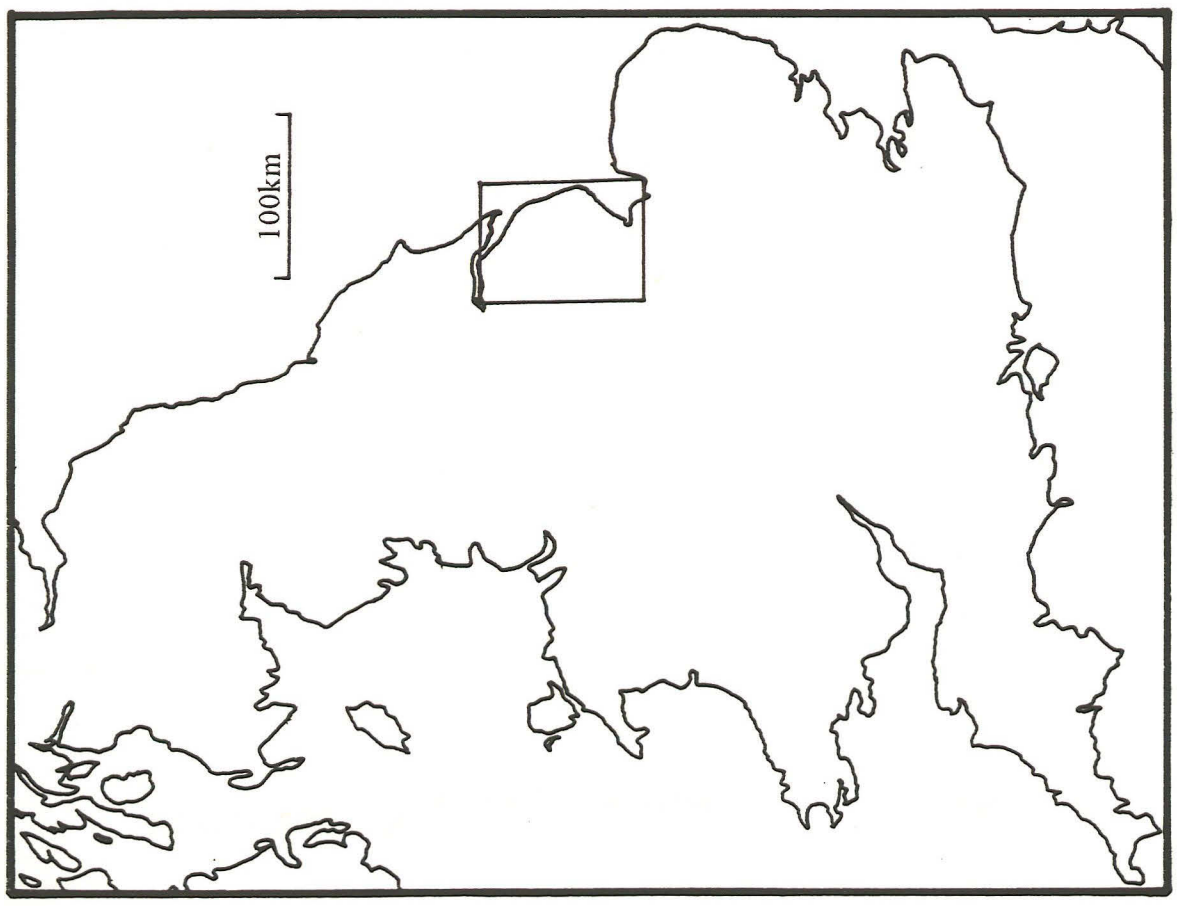
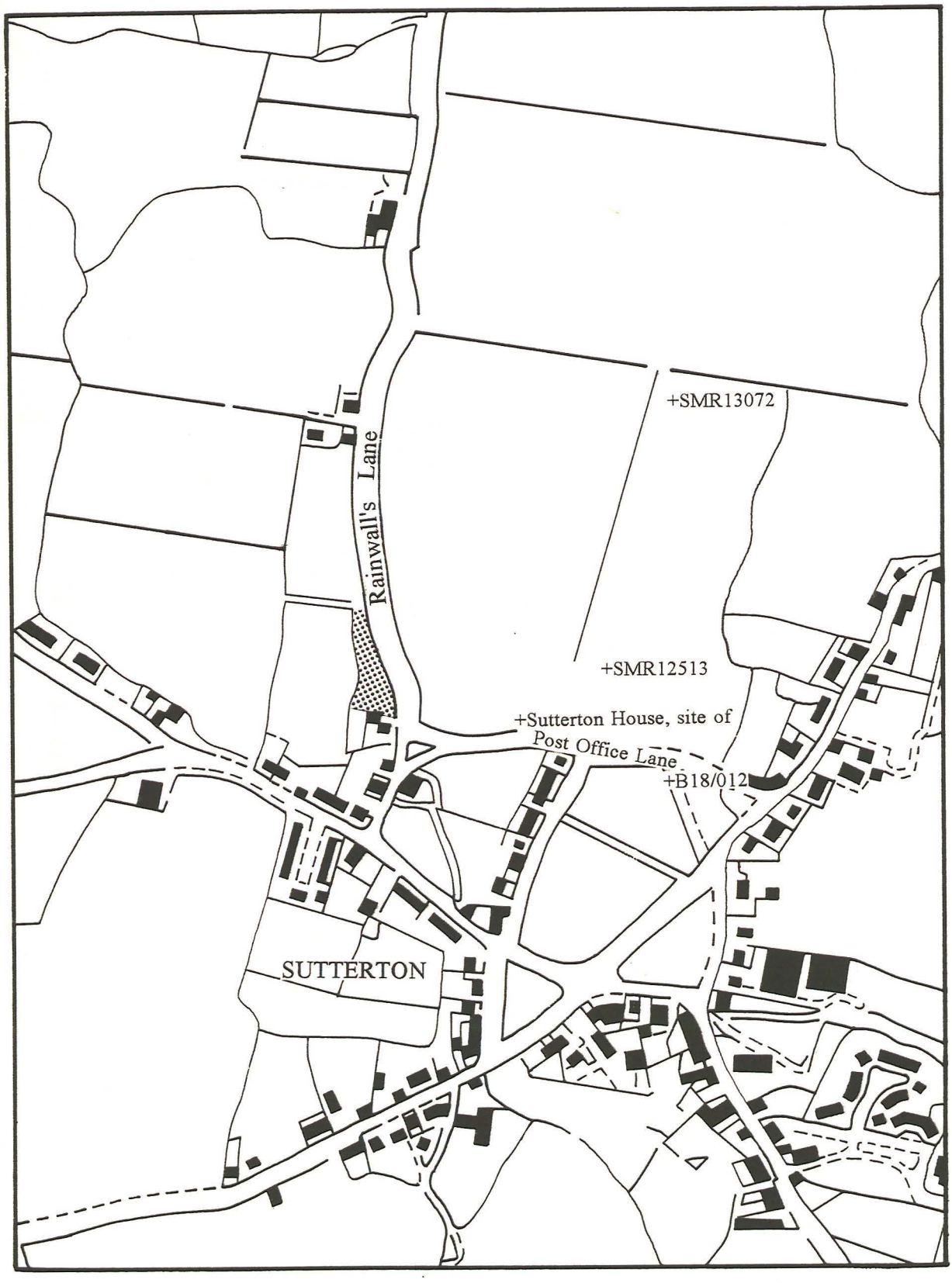


Fig. 2 SITE LOCATION PLAN



Area of Investigation

Fig. 3 GEOPHYSICAL SURVEY, RESULTS AND INTERPRETATION

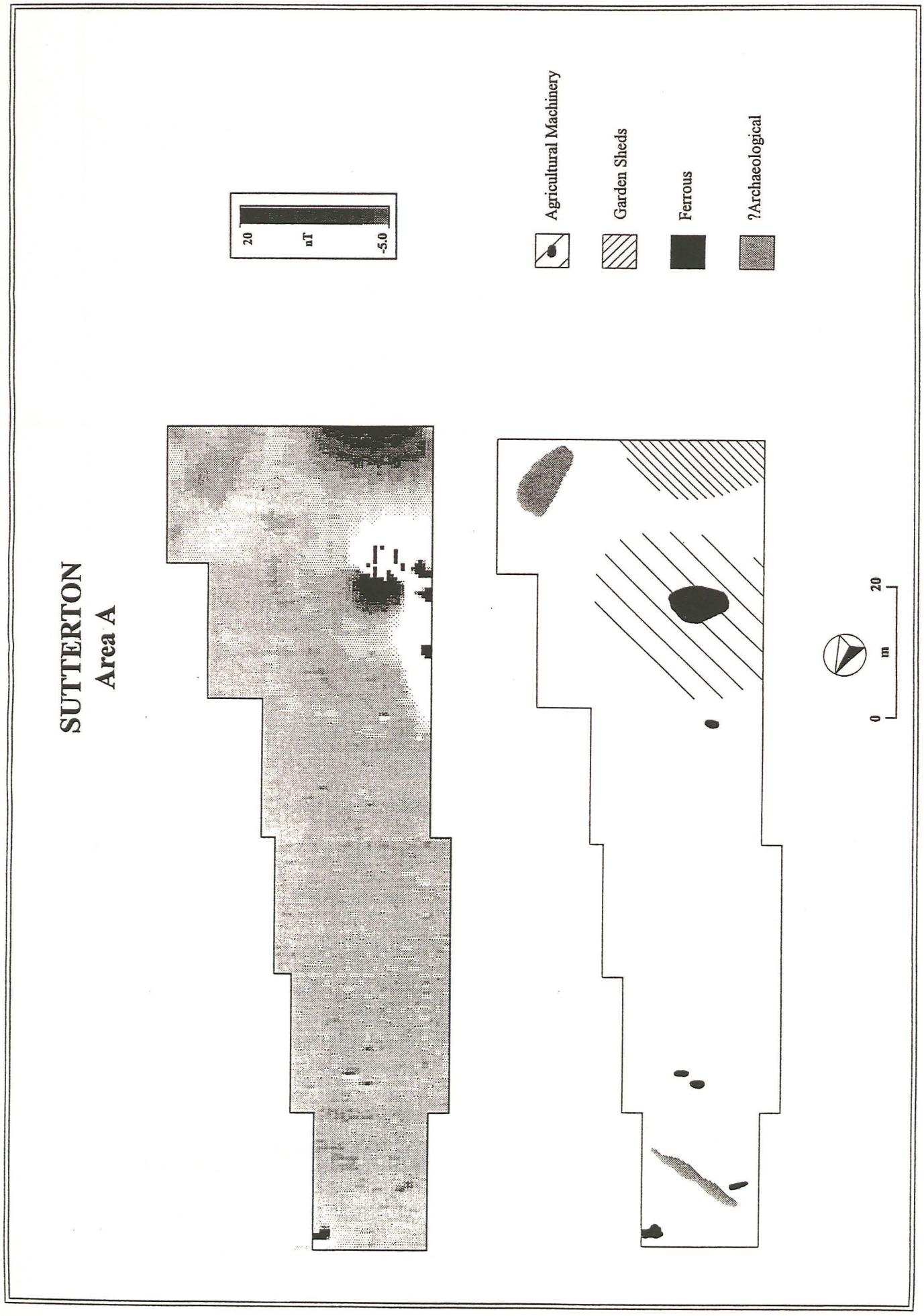
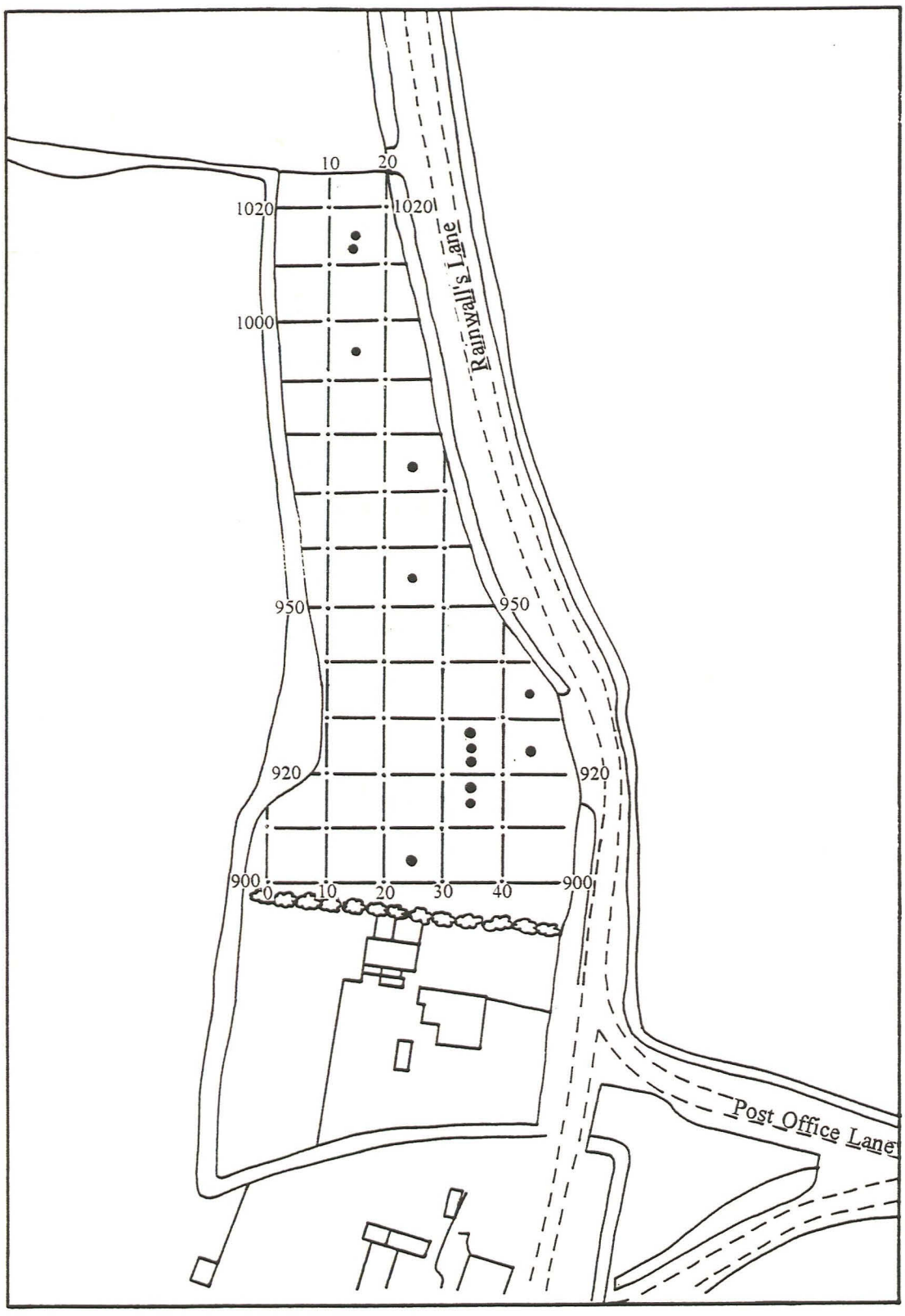


Fig. 4 FIELDWALKING RESULTS:
DISTRIBUTION OF MEDIEVAL ARTEFACTS

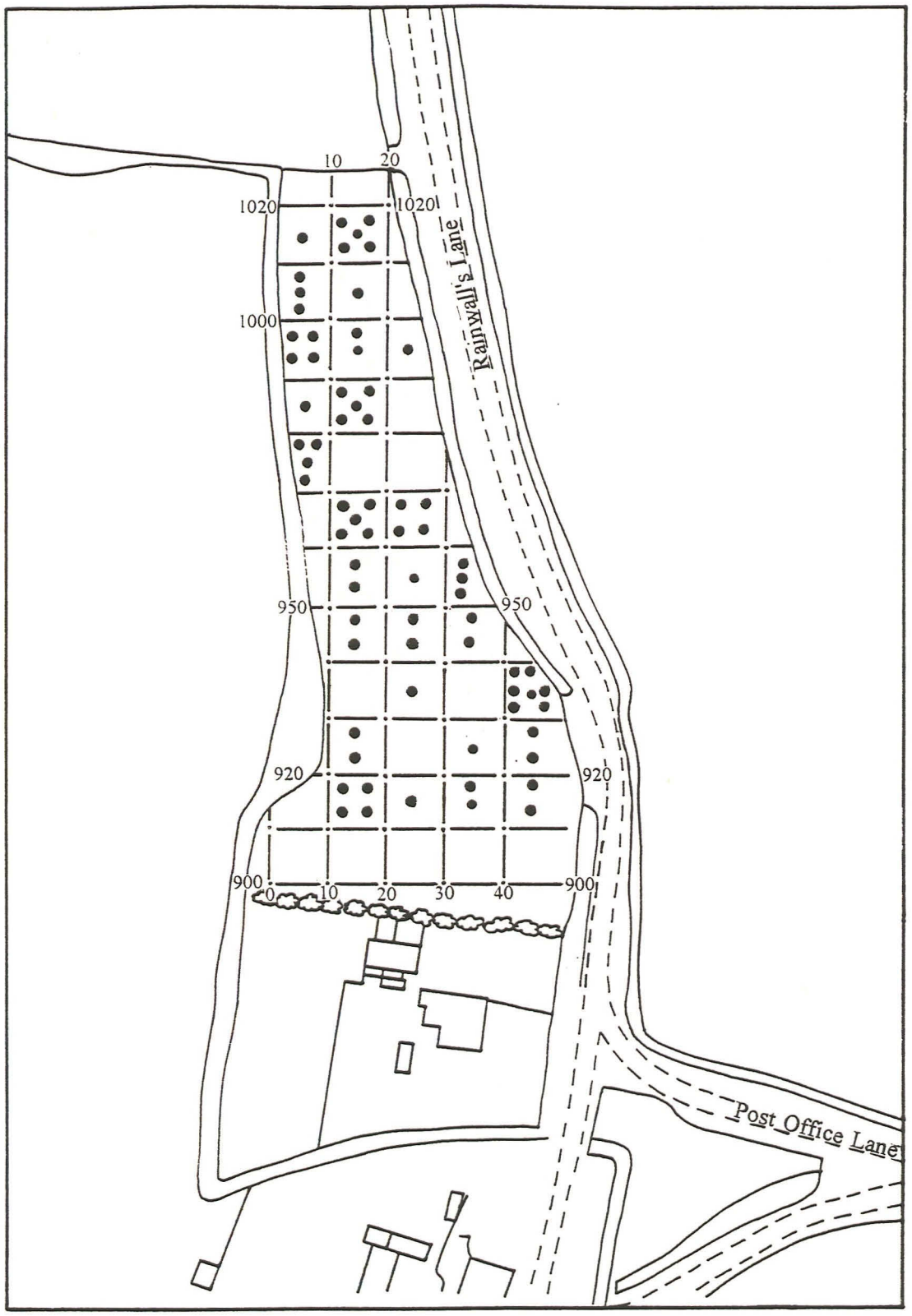


40 FIELDWALKING GRID, EASTINGS

920 FIELDWALKING GRID, NORTHINGS

● RECORDED ARTEFACT

Fig. 5 FIELDWALKING RESULTS:
DISTRIBUTION OF POST-MEDIEVAL ARTEFACTS



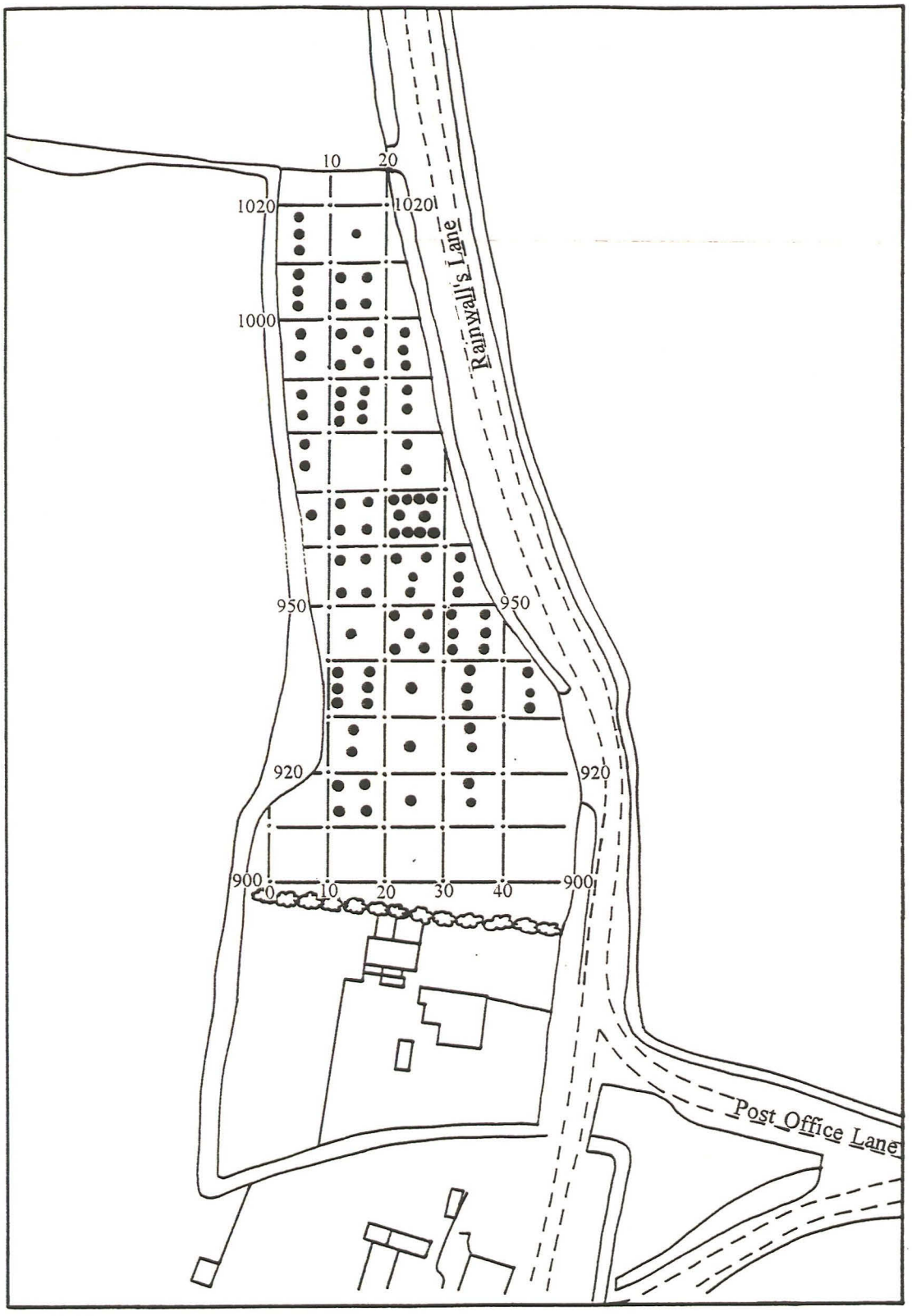
N

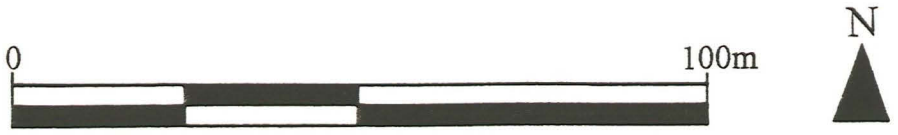
40 FIELDWALKING GRID, EASTINGS

920 FIELDWALKING GRID, NORTHINGS

• RECORDED ARTEFACT

Fig. 6 FIELDWALKING RESULTS:
DISTRIBUTION OF CERAMIC BUILDING MATERIAL



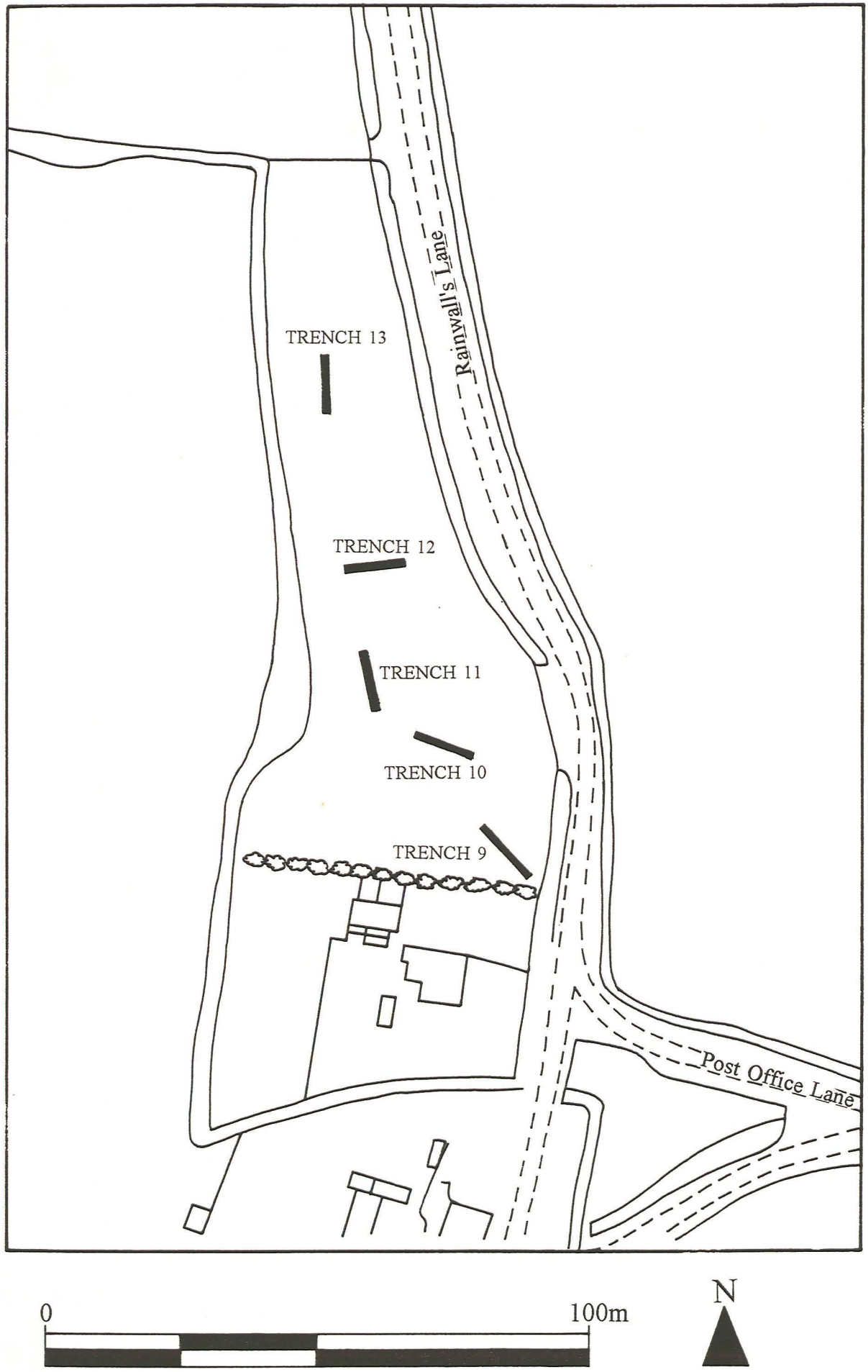


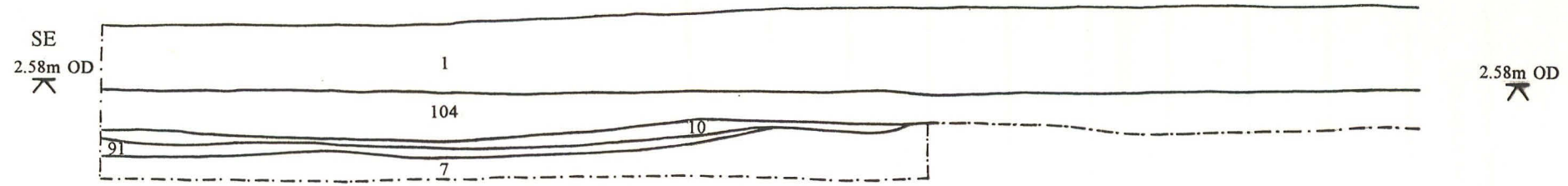
40 FIELDWALKING GRID, EASTINGS

920 FIELDWALKING GRID, NORTHINGS

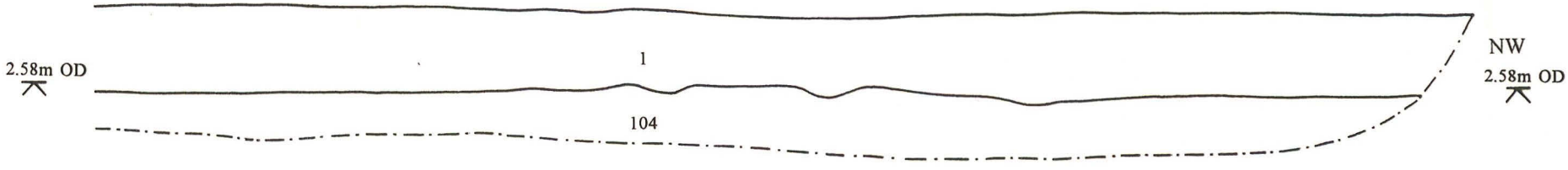
• RECORDED ARTEFACT

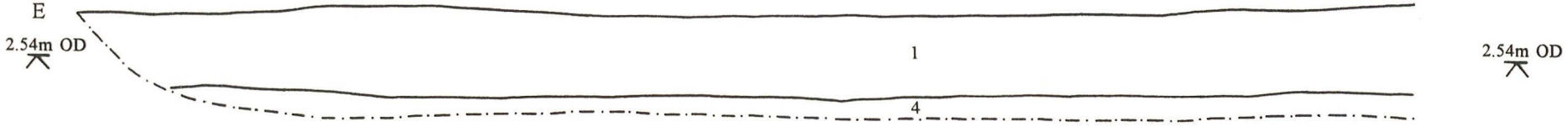
Fig. 7 TRENCH LOCATION PLAN





TRENCH 9





TRENCH 12

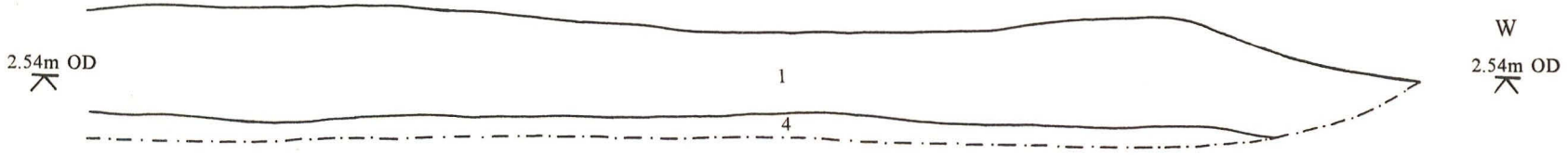


Fig. 8 SECTIONS OF TRENCHES 9 AND 12

APPENDIX 1

Context Summary

Context Number	Description	Interpretation
1	Very dark grey brown clayey silt	Ploughsoil
3	Grey brown clayey silt with orange mottles	Natural subsoil
4	Grey brown clayey silt with orange mottles	Natural subsoil
5	Grey brown clayey silt with orange mottles	Natural subsoil
6	Grey brown clayey silt with orange mottles	Natural subsoil
7	Grey brown clayey silt with orange mottles	Natural subsoil
10	Grey brown clayey silt with orange mottles	Natural subsoil
91	Light blue clay with brown mottles	Natural subsoil
104	Brown clayey silt	Natural subsoil

APPENDIX 2

Secretary of State's criteria for scheduling Ancient Monuments - Extract from *Archaeology and Planning* DoE Planning Policy Guidance note 16, November 1990

The following criteria (which are not in any order of ranking), are used for assessing the national importance of an ancient monument and considering whether scheduling is appropriate. The criteria should not however be regarded as definitive; rather they are indicators which contribute to a wider judgement based on the individual circumstances of a case.

i *Period*: all types of monuments that characterise a category or period should be considered for preservation.

ii *Rarity*: there are some monument categories which in certain periods are so scarce that all surviving examples which retain some archaeological potential should be preserved. In general, however, a selection must be made which portrays the typical and commonplace as well as the rare. This process should take account of all aspects of the distribution of a particular class of monument, both in a national and regional context.

iii *Documentation*: the significance of a monument may be enhanced by the existence of records of previous investigation or, in the case of more recent monuments, by the supporting evidence of contemporary written records.

iv *Group value*: the value of a single monument (such as a field system) may be greatly enhanced by its association with related contemporary monuments (such as a settlement or cemetery) or with monuments of different periods. In some cases, it is preferable to protect the complete group of monuments, including associated and adjacent land, rather than to protect isolated monuments within the group.

v *Survival/Condition*: the survival of a monument's archaeological potential both above and below ground is a particularly important consideration and should be assessed in relation to its present condition and surviving features.

vi *Fragility/Vulnerability*: highly important archaeological evidence from some field monuments can be destroyed by a single ploughing or unsympathetic treatment; vulnerable monuments of this nature would particularly benefit from the statutory protection that scheduling confers. There are also existing standing structures of particular form or complexity whose value can again be severely reduced by neglect or careless treatment and which are similarly well suited by scheduled monument protection, even if these structures are already listed buildings.

vii *Diversity*: some monuments may be selected for scheduling because they possess a combination of high quality features, others because of a single important attribute.

viii *Potential*: on occasion, the nature of the evidence cannot be specified precisely but it may still be possible to document reasons anticipating its existence and importance and so to demonstrate the justification for scheduling. This is usually confined to sites rather than upstanding monuments.