

Report on Geophysical Survey - Sleaford By-Pass

Introduction

On the 10th and 11th July 1991, Heritage Lincolnshire carried out a geophysical survey on an area of land in the path of the proposed Sleaford Western By-pass known as Plot 17. The evaluation was commissioned by Lincolnshire County Council and aimed to identify any archaeology on the site, as well as to assess its nature and extent.

The site lies approximately 275m to the west of the shrunken medieval village of Holdingham (Fig. 1). It is bordered to the north by a stream, to the south by dense shrubland and trees and covers an area of approximately 90m x 25m (Fig. 1).

The site lies on Blisworth clay and the top soil at the time of the survey was dry and loose with a sparse covering of grass, weeds and twigs.

The plot was considered to be of interest due to its proximity to the village and that it adjoins a field containing slight earthworks of possible archaeological significance.

Methodology

The fieldwork was carried out by two operators using a Geoscan RM4 resistivity meter.

A grid consisting of eight 20m x 20m boxes was laid out on the site, although most of the boxes could only be partially completed due to the position of the field boundaries. The area examined was however sufficiently large to provide a representative sample of any surviving archaeology.

The readings were recorded along the north-south axis of the grid at intervals of 1 metre (a maximum of 400 readings per box). A total of 1501 readings were taken, with a minimum value of 3 ohms and a maximum of 19 ohms.

When completed, the records were referred for processing and interpretation to Adrian Challands of the Fenland Archaeological Trust. The data was entered manually into an Amstrad PC and the results were displayed as dot density plots of both filtered and raw data (the individual boxes having been placed together to represent their position on site - (see Figs. 3-6).

Conclusion

"All of the resistance values are very low with the exception of the slightly higher reading (drier ?) lying alongside the stream and wooded areas. it would appear from the data supplied that there is nothing of archaeological interest within the Plot 17 survey area". Adrian Challands 15/7/19.

SLEAFORD WESTERN BYPASS

GEOPHYSICAL SURVEY 1991

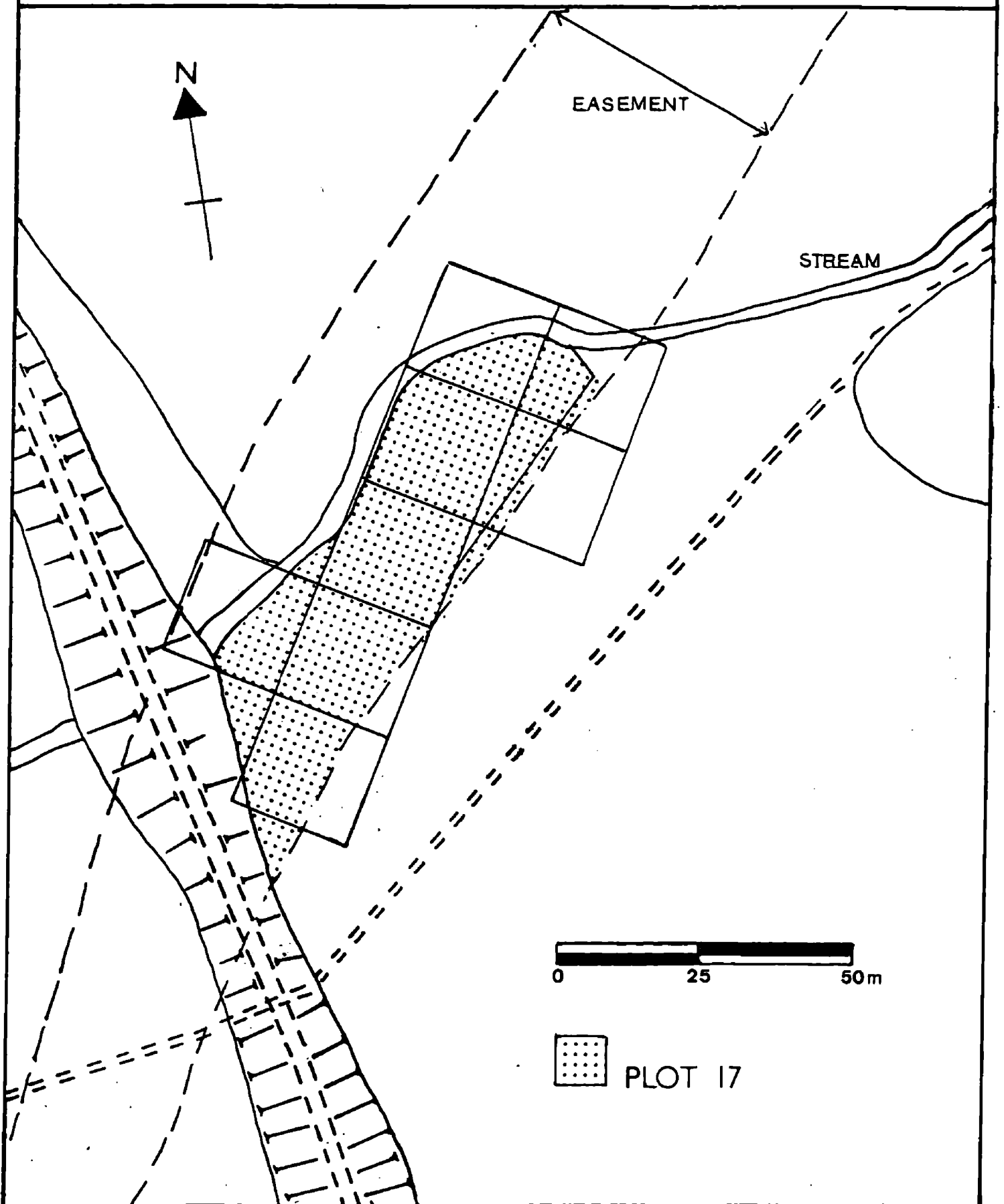
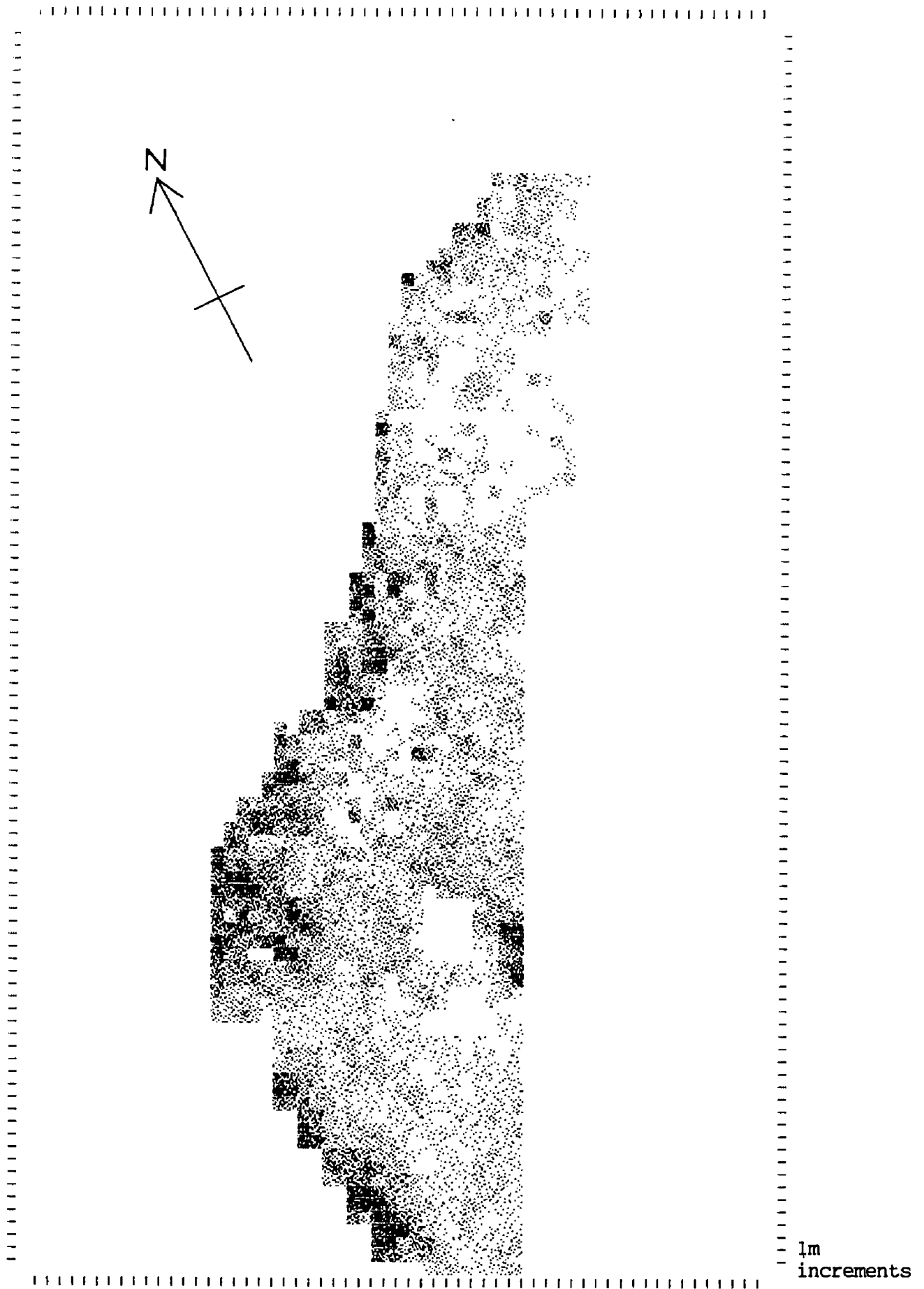


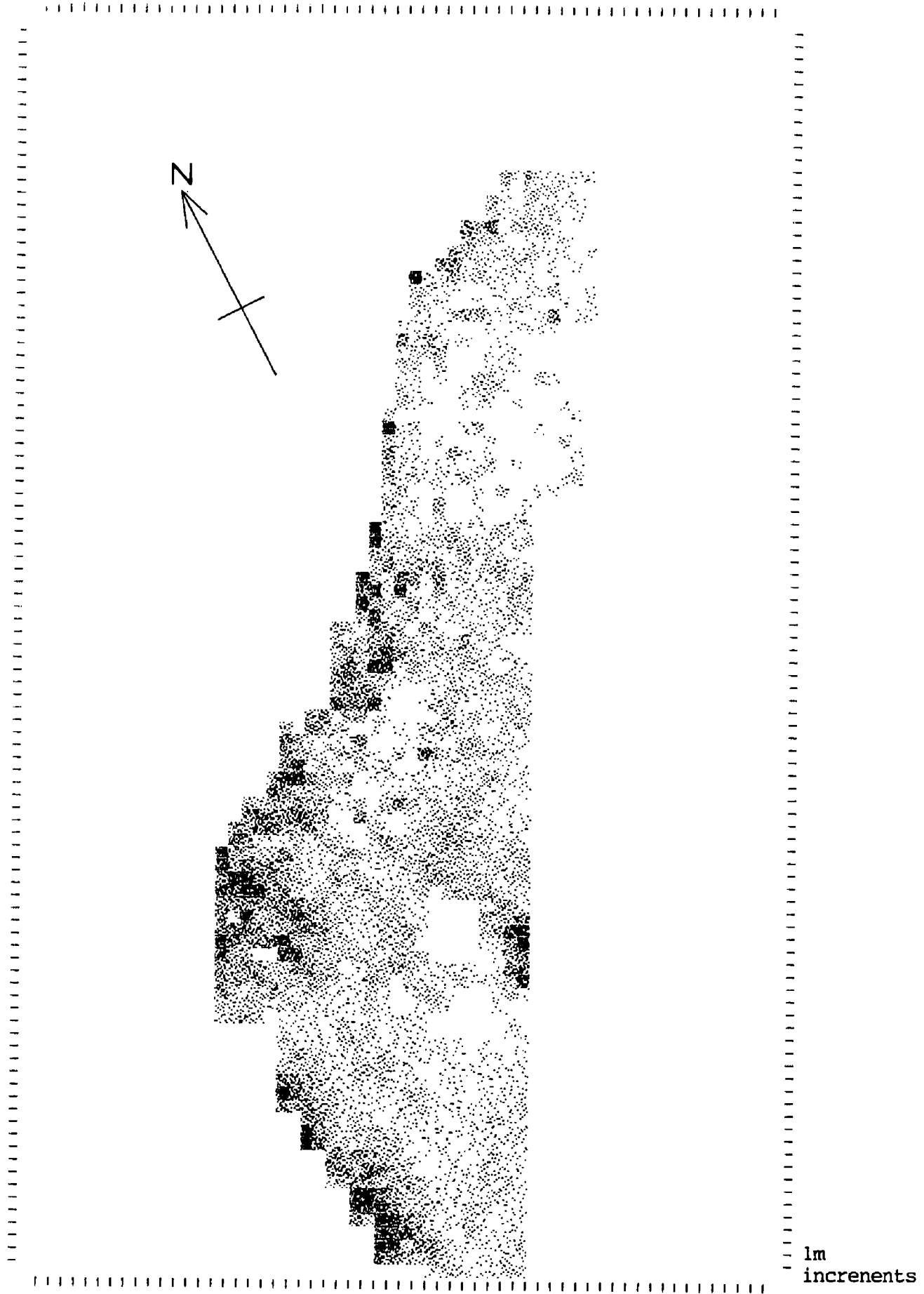
FIG. 2



Sleaford Western Bypass - Geophysical Survey - Plot 17

Unfiltered data - Print range 4 to 10 ohms

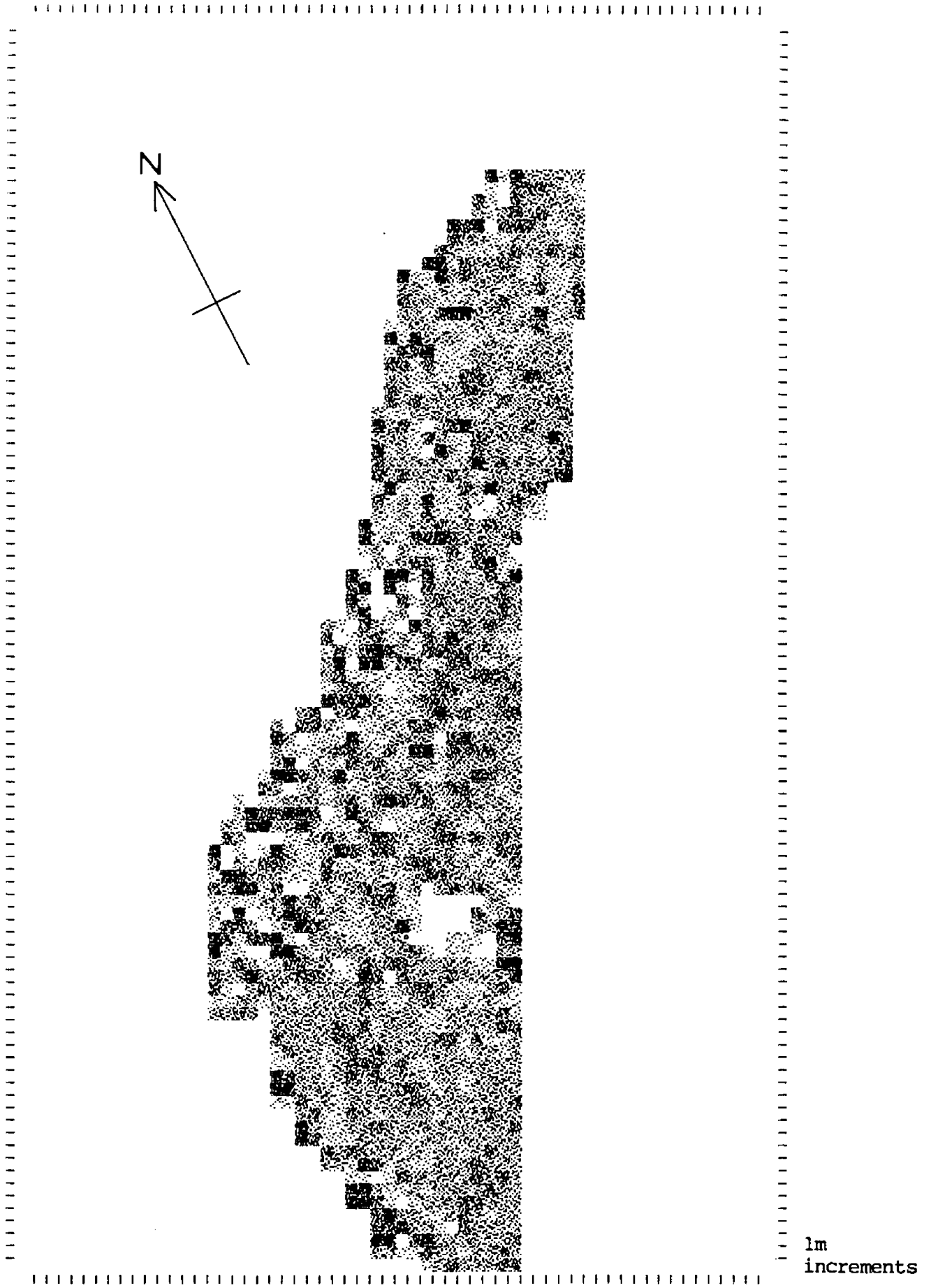
Fig. 3



Sleaford Western Bypass - Geophysical Survey - Plot 17

Unfiltered data - Print range 4 to 11, ohms

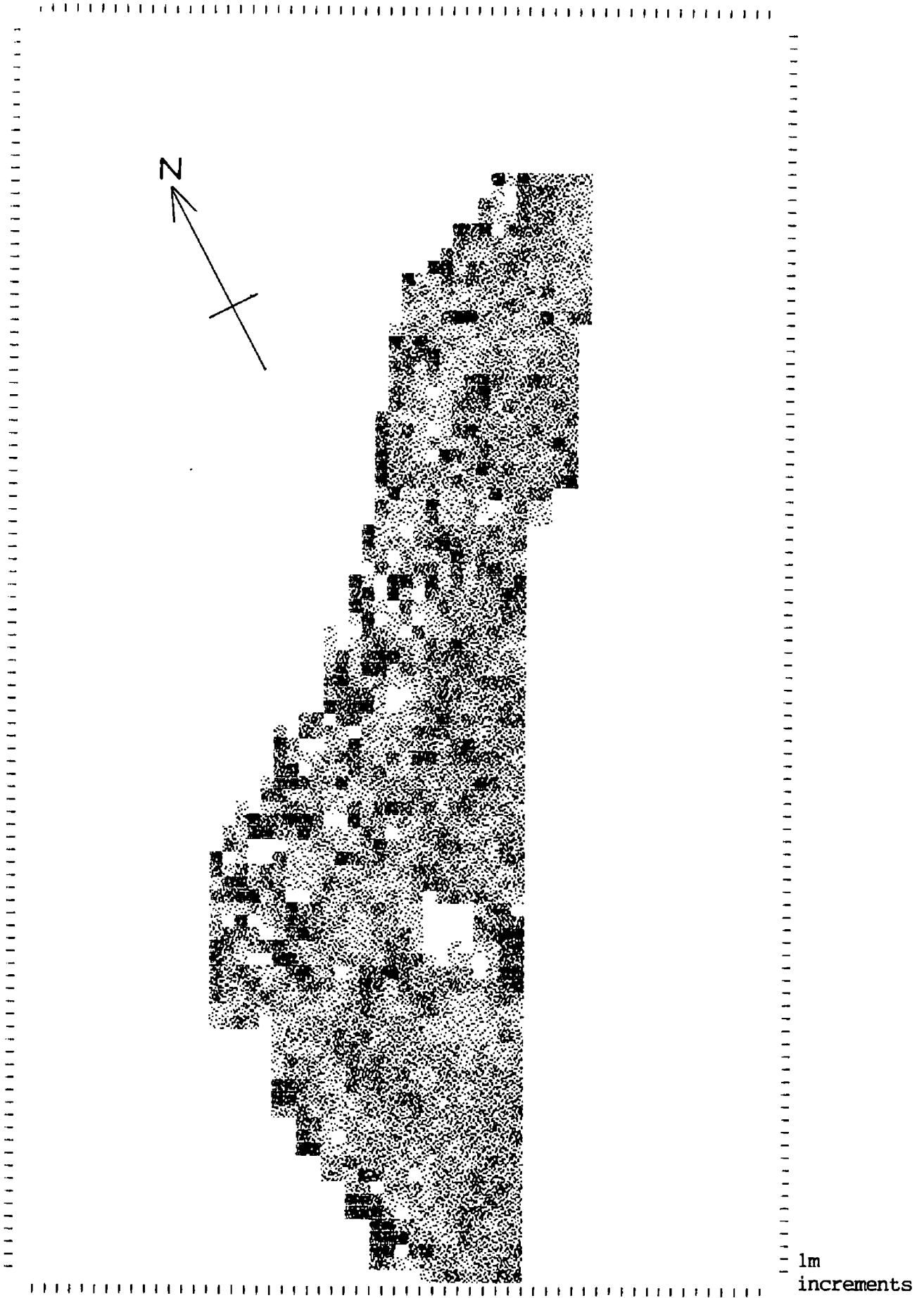
Fig. 4



Sleaford Western Bypass - Geophysical Survey - Plot 17

24 point filtered data - print range -2 to 2

Fig. 5



Sleaford Western Bypass - Geophysical Survey - Plot 17

48 point filtered data - print range -2 to 2

Fig. 6