

SAMPLE NO. 43152

44702

REPORT ON THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION
at
MAIDENBROOK FARM, CHEDDON FITZPAINE



Prepared for Tarker Ltd.

by

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1.0.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1.0 General

1.1.1 The proposal by Tarker Ltd to build a cattle market at Maidenbrook Farm led to an assessment of the available archaeological records for the area by the Somerset County Planning Department. The results of that initial assessment suggested that the site was potentially of archaeological significance. A limited, preliminary archaeological evaluation was therefore considered, by the County Council, to be an appropriate response. This report is the result of the evaluation commissioned by Tarker Ltd to assess the nature, extent and significance of the archaeological potential within the area of the planning application at Maidenbrook Farm.

1.1.2 The work on site was begun on the 17th January 1990 but was severely restricted by the heavy rainfall that occurred at the end of January and the beginning of February 1990. On site all trenches were flooded and the rising water table prevented the programme of fieldwork from running to schedule. Further disruption, due to high winds, was caused by six days loss of electrical power in the office. Despite these problems much of the basic evaluation was achieved though at the time of writing there still remains a considerable amount of detailed archaeological recording to be undertaken on site. It is considered, however, that the results of this recording are unlikely to influence the overall tenor of the evaluation as presented here.

2.0.0 THE SITE

2.1.0 Location

2.1.1 Maidenbrook Farm lies within half a mile of the northeastern edge of Taunton and in the southern part of the parish of Cheddon Fitzpaine (Fig. 1 B). The site covers 8.94 ha of agricultural land on the E and S side of Maidenbrook Farm. The house and steading are contiguous but are not included in this part of the application. The area is bounded on its N side by the Taunton to Monkton Heathfield section of the A 361 road and on its S side by the Taunton to Bridgwater Canal. On its SW side it is bounded by artificial lines drawn across existing fields and on its NW side by the building complex of the steading. On its SE side it is contained by a substantial hedge bank, which forms the parish boundary with Creech St Michael, and in the NE part by another artificial line drawn across an existing field (Fig. 1 C).

2.2.0 Topography

2.2.1 Maidenbrook Farm lies within the Vale of Taunton and is situated on the northern edge of the flood plain of the River Tone. The valley is formed by the gently rising ground, leading to the Quantock Hills in the N, and with similarly rising ground leading to the Blackdown Hills to the S. The western end of the valley is blocked by the rising high ground of the southern part of the Brendon Hills and the hill country of the Devon border. To the E the River Tone drains into the Somerset Levels (Fig. 1, B).

2.2.2 The site at Maidenbrook Farm is at 15 m OD and lies at the S by E end of a low promontory of land with Maiden Brook on its W side and Allen's Brook on its E side. The house and steading lie in the shallow valley created by Maiden Brook where the stream has been diverted to create a water control system.

2.3.0 Geology and soils

2.3.1 The British Geological Survey sheet (solid and drift edition) shows the whole site to be covered by rock of the Mercia Mudstone Group, formerly

known as Keuper Marl. A thin band of alluvium is associated with Maiden Brook and to the N, on the promontory, there is recorded an outcrop of 1st Terrace Gravels (BGS, 1984).

2.3.2 Despite parts of some trenches being excavated during the course of this evaluation to a maximum depth of 1.40 m, no Mercia Mudstone was encountered. A typical soil profile on the lower part of the site would comprise three units. The first comprised approximately 200 mm of plough soil. This lay over a deposit of alluvium, between 300 mm and 1.20 m in depth. The alluvium in turn sealed deposits of gravel which are probably 1st Terrace Gravels and occur in the area between 38 m and 15 m above OD (Edmonds and Williams, 1985). On the ridge of the low promontory, formed here by an alluvial terrace, no gravels were located (see also 3.2.6 below). Trenches here, excavated to a depth of 1.0 m, recorded only alluvium under the plough soil.

2.3.3 In other parts of the Tone Valley the 1st Terrace Gravels, of varying depths, lie immediately over deposits of the Mercia Mudstone Group (McDonnell, 1989). These gravels are around 100,000 years old and date from the Ipswichian interglacial (Edmonds and Williams, 1985). They contain faunal remains that are important in determining the climatic and environmental character of the area during the last interglacial period. From around Taunton bones of Irish elk, reindeer, bison and rhinoceros have been recovered from these gravels (Ussher, 1906; 1908).

2.3.4 Evidence of a fluctuating water table was recorded in both the alluvium and the gravels. Oxidised irons forming the distinctive mottling associated with gleyed soils and the blackened deposits of magnesium dioxide were present in both materials. Under the conditions of high rainfall experienced at the end of January, the high water table appeared to have a dynamic horizontal mobility through the gravels. In trench E the piercing of the alluvial capping released water under pressure in the gravels which flowed upwards, in the manner of an artesian well, and quickly flooded the trench.

3.0.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

3.1.0 General comments

3.1.1 This evaluation of the archaeological potential of the application site has approached various sources of information relating to the area and the site. The existing evidence is set out below. The machine dug evaluation trenches were cut primarily to establish the presence of surviving, subsurface archaeological features, their depth, complexity, degree of preservation and significance. This undertaking does not constitute a full archaeological excavation but should be considered as a preliminary examination.

3.2.0 Existing evidence

3.2.1 Two sources of evidence indicated that the site had archaeological potential. Historical, documentary evidence showed that Maidenbrook Farm was mentioned in the Domesday Book while the archaeological, aerial photographic evidence indicated the possible presence of a small settlement or farm on the S end of the low promontory close to the Taunton to Bridgwater Canal.

3.2.2 The documentary evidence relates to the Saxon settlement of Maidenbrook which is more than likely to be on the site of the present house and steading. Although this is just outside the application area its significance and proximity to the site gave it sufficient status to warrant its influence upon this evaluation. The farmhouse is listed as a Grade II building which in part is of the early 17th century. The listing description ends with the statement "A very important farmhouse needing a full archaeological exploration; the exterior gives little evidence for the internal richness." The water control system here is of particular interest with the suspicion of perhaps a moat on the site later reused as fish ponds.

3.2.3 According to the Domesday Book the manor of Cheddon Fitzpaine was held, prior to 1066, by Wulfin. After the conquest it was granted to Roger Arundel and was valued at 60 shillings. Maidenbrook is not mentioned under the entry for

its parent manor but is entered separately in a list of manors and villages which owed what were known as 'customary dues' to the manor of Taunton. After the conquest Taunton was held by the Bishop of Winchester and one of the numerous customary dues that were levied was that Maidenbrook was bound to provide people to go on military service with the Bishop's men. When the lord of the estate died he had also to be buried in Taunton. By the time of the completion of the Domesday Book in 1086 all of these payments seem to have either lapsed or to have been withheld (Darby and Weldon Finn, 1979). Cheddon Fitzpaine is also mentioned in this list of customary dues so a separate entry for Maidenbrook suggests that it may have had some status even within its parent manor.

- 3.2.4 The 'Maidenbroche' of Domesday probably simply means the maiden's brook. The maiden prefix in other parts of the country is given this straightforward interpretation (Ekwall, 1977).
- 3.2.5 The aerial photographic evidence comes from a single, colour, 35 mm transparency taken by Mick Aston in the 1970s and held by the Somerset County Planning Department. The angle of the photograph is acutely oblique and it contains little information that would enable precise locational plotting. The photocopied image reproduced here (Plate 1) has considerably less resolution than the original and some of the detail discussed here will not be visible. The features were sketch plotted within a measured framework constructed by the 'paper strip' method and the information presented here is considered adequate for the purposes of this evaluation (see Fig. 2). The photograph shows a series of crop marks in the southern part of the field (OS field number 8527) which is bordered by the canal.
- 3.2.6 Crop marks usually appear when transpiration in a growing crop exceeds precipitation. They often show up well, as here, in a cereal crop. The area in this photograph where there is insufficient soil moisture, shows up as a yellower colour. Where ditches have been dug in antiquity they hold more moisture and the vegetation shows up as a greener colour over these features. The general division between the yellower south western corner of the field and the greener north eastern part reflects the depth of the poorly draining terrace of alluvium which lies over the freer draining gravels. In the south western corner the

shallower alluvium allows freer drainage and the consequent soil moisture deficit produces crop marks. In the north eastern part the depth of the alluvial terrace had retained enough soil moisture to prevent crop marks from appearing at the time that this particular aerial photograph was taken.

3.2.7 The distribution of crop marks in this field is therefore constrained by pedogenic factors rather than the true distribution of subsurface archaeological features. It would be safe to assume that the archaeological evidence is likely to be more extensive than the limited area of the crop marks would suggest.

3.2.8 There are a variety of features visible on this aerial photograph but the most obvious is the circular feature in the centre of the southern part of the field. Against its W side there is the fainter mark of a rectangular enclosure which may overlap into the centre of the circular feature. To the E there is a miscellaneous group of linear features which may include ditches or recent field drainage works but, apart from the two parallel probable field drains, they form no coherent pattern. Some of the marks parallel and to the NE of the rectangular feature are low value indicators and may be fortuitous (Fig. 2).

3.3.0 Strategy

3.3.1 The general strategy and disposition of trenches adopted for the evaluation of this site were directed by the requirements of the Somerset County Planning Department. Following a site meeting with Mr. Croft, from the Department, it was decided that some 850 square metres of the application site was to be machine stripped. This represented 0.95% of the whole application area. However, the significance of the site soon became apparent after stripping less than this area and in order not damage evidence by machine stripping, the area of trenching was reduced to 552 m. This represents 0.62% of the total area.

3.3.2 The machine used was a Komatsu PC 120 tracked vehicle from Bussell Plant Hire. A toothless bucket of a nominal 1.6 m width was used and all trenches were dug by shallow spits 100 mm deep.

3.3.3 The principal focus of attention was in the area of the crop marked features. The requirement here was to strip an area of 400 square metres in order to examine the circular feature recorded on the aerial photograph. This was to be a square trench 20 m by 20 m and is identified as trench B. As stated above, however, it was clear having stripped less than a quarter of this area (90 square metres) that the surviving archaeological features and associated finds could not be adequately recorded by machine stripping. The significance and complexity of the evidence being exposed clearly warranted a controlled, hand dug excavation. In addition, to the now reduced size of trench B, 174 m of machine trenching were required to test the horizontal extent of the crop mark complex. Trench A ran for 30 m to the W, trench C 70 m to the E and trenches D, 31 m, and E, 43 m, to the N (Fig. 1 C).

3.3.4 A further requirement was to sample two other areas of the application site by machine trenching. In the NE corner of the same ground trench F was cut on a N/S line and was 85 m long. In the ground to the W (OS field number 7133) trench G was cut on a N/S line and was 30 m long. This trench was cut to sample the area close to the steading.

4.0.0 RESULTS OF THE EVALUATION

4.1.0 Distribution of archaeological features

4.1.1 Trench A [30 m by 1.60 m]

The features recorded at the W end of this trench were a series of subcircular patches in the surface of the gravels. These were defined by both colour and gravel size differentiation. Some of these features were further differentiated by alluvial content. On the basis of the present data it is not clear if these features were cultural or periglacial. The only artefactual evidence was an unstratified flint blade of possibly mesolithic date. This trench was planned prior to flooding.

4.1.2 Trench B [9 m by 10 m]

This trench was cut to investigate the circular crop mark but in the event it was felt that the complexity of visible features and the amount of pottery being recovered warranted a controlled, hand dug excavation. Machine digging this area was not considered an appropriate methodology and was consequently restricted from the proposed 400 square metres to only 90 square metres of the NW quadrant of the circle. Linear, ditch fills were observed lying on the same orientation as the rectangular crop mark and slate packed post holes were also recorded. Only a small part of this area was examined prior to flooding and no evidence of the circular crop mark was observed as a subsurface feature.

4.1.3 Trench C [70 m by 1.60 m]

This trench was cut to assess the eastward extent of the crop marked complex. At its W end ditches, on the same orientation as the rectangular crop marks were recorded, and a ditch fill crossing the trench at 16 m from its W end may represent part of the circular feature. At the E end of the trench a complex of post holes were recorded. Some of these were packed with slate and quantities of pottery. The central and western part of this trench flooded fairly rapidly to a depth of 1.00 m. The trench was nevertheless planned before it flooded.

4.1.4 Trench D [31 m by 1.60 m]

Trench D was cut to assess the northern extent of the crop mark complex. Soil changes were noted in the southern half but this trench flooded before it could be cleaned back and examined in detail. No artefactual evidence was recovered.

4.1.5 Trench E [43 m by 1.60 m]

This trench was a continuation of trench D but was cut separately to avoid damaging what on the surface appeared to be either a major field drain or a water pipe. This trench flooded immediately the alluvial layer was pierced and no recording has been possible. A single flint blade was recovered from the lower part of the alluvial sequence exposed by machining at the S end.

4.1.6 Trench F [85 m by 1.60 m]

Situated in the NE corner of the field this trench was cut to sample the eastern edge of the site. The majority of recorded features here were linear features, probably ditches, running at either an acute angle slightly W of N up the trench or across it at more or less right angles. They were interpreted as field boundary features. Three pieces of flint, two pieces of chert and a single RB rim sherd were recovered. Features in this trench were planned and the northern 30.0 m of the W facing section were drawn prior to flooding.

4.1.7 Trench G [30 m by 1.60 m]

This trench was cut on the SE side of the steading to determine whether or not there had been any shrinkage of the settlement from this direction. Linear stone filled features and other areas of stoney fill in the alluvium were observed prior to the trench flooding. No artefactual evidence was recovered during the machining.

4.2.0 Distribution of finds

4.2.1 Ceramic material

A total of 3.55 kg of pottery was recovered from the site of which all appears to be of the 3rd and 4th centuries AD. Apart from a single rim sherd from trench F all the remaining pottery

came from two well defined areas. In trench B 1.05 kg was recovered while the remaining 2.50 kg all came from the E end of trench C where it was associated with the complex of post holes recorded there.

4.2.2 Lithic material

A total of 0.50 kg of lithic material was recovered from the site. Of this 0.40 kg comprised a piece of rolled granite and a piece of red sandstone. The sandstone had a flat, smooth, worn surface and may be part of a broken quern stone. Both of these items came from the E end of trench C and were associated with the complex of post holes. The remaining 0.10 kg of lithic material comprised flint tools, cores and flakes with a chert burin and a chert scraper. Some of the blades are worked on their distal ends and are more properly small, end scrapers. The distribution is shown below:-

Trench A	a single blade
Trench B	a blade, three cores and two flakes
Trench C	a notched blade/shaft straightener and a flake
Trench D	no material recovered
Trench E	a single blade
Trench F	three blades, a chert burin and a chert scraper
Trench G	no material recovered

All pieces were unstratified with the exception of two of the blades from trench F, of which one came from a ditch fill <627> and one from the alluvium; the blade from trench E came from the alluvium at the S end of the trench. From a total of 15 items there are five blades, a notched blade, two cores, a burin, a scraper and five flakes. On the basis of a preliminary examination all the items appear to date from the mesolithic period.

4.2.3 Iron

Two finds of iron were recovered from trench B. One piece is a tapering, square sectioned item and may be the shaft of a large nail or stud. The second piece is badly decayed and comprises several broken pieces and looks as though it may be part of a blade. This piece is being submitted for X ray photography.

4.3.0 Depth of stratigraphy

4.3.1 The depth of the soil overlaying undisturbed archaeological layers varied only slightly across the two fields where trenches were cut. In trenches A, B, C, D and F the depth varied from a maximum of 400 mm in part of trench D to a minimum of 200 mm in trench F. The average depth across the site was 300 mm. In trench E no features were recorded because of the rapid flooding of the trench; the depth of the plough soil over the alluvium here was between 200 mm and 250 mm. In trench G cultural features were between 200 mm and 400 mm from the ground surface depending on where they had been cut from within the soil profile.

4.4.0 Summary of the evaluation evidence

4.4.1 On the basis of the evidence recovered from this evaluation it would appear that there are three phases of activity on the site. These are the mesolithic, the Romano British and from the Saxon to the present day.

4.4.2 The first phase is represented by the scatter of mesolithic flint recovered from the area. Despite the small percentage of stratified flint there is the persistent suspicion that this material is coming from within the sequence of alluvial deposits and probably from the lower part. The location of a hunter gatherer site on the edge of a river valley flood plain, where a variety of subsistence resources would be available, is not surprising. No focus of activity has been identified here other than the general distribution of material in the S and E part of the area. Given the method of excavation and the incomplete nature of the field recording even this general pattern cannot be considered as particularly indicative.

4.4.3 The second phase of activity is in the later part of the Romano British period. There are two areas of the site where concentrations of this activity are recorded. The first is in the area of the crop marks in trench B and extends into the western end of trench C. The presence of iron objects, the significant amounts of pottery and the complexity of features recorded here suggests that this is likely to be a settlement site with timber buildings. The second area is at the E end of trench C where again significant amounts of pottery and numerous post holes suggest a timber, possibly domestic, structure. With only 35 m separating these two areas it is probable that they represent two elements within a single settlement. Some of the linear features recorded in trench F may be field boundaries associated with this settlement.

4.4.4 The third phase of activity on the site will be, by inference, from the Saxon and medieval settlement at Maidenbrook. The field bank on the E side of the site forms the parish boundary and is likely to be of an early date. The other extant field boundaries here may date from the medieval if not also from the Saxon period.

5.0.0 CONCLUSION

5.1.0 The archaeological evidence

5.1.1 The archaeological potential of this area was implicit in the existing data. It was the recognition of this by the Somerset County Planning Department that led to the provision for this evaluation. Given the Saxon associations with the site, its subsequent medieval activity and the group of crop marks on the gravels the potential of the area was already in effect identified.

5.1.2 This evaluation, despite the limitations imposed by high ground water levels, has added to the record:-

- i. evidence of mesolithic activity.
- ii. it has identified the crop marks as belonging to a late Romano British settlement.
- iii. it has broadly established zones of concentrated cultural activity within the south eastern part of the area.
- iv. it has established the shallow depth of the archaeological contexts from the ground surface.

5.1.3 This evaluation focussed principally on the area of the crop marks and but for trenches F and G, the remaining 99.38% of the area remains without subsurface evaluation. It is therefore likely that the Romano British settlement is more extensive than this phase of the evaluation indicates. The initial disposition of trenches was directed by the distribution of the crop marks and a requirement to evaluate them. Once cut, however, it became clear that there was a further area of concentrated activity at the E end of trench C where, for reasons stated above, crop marks gave no prior indication of cultural activity (see 3.2.7 above).

5.2.0 Significance of the evidence

5.2.1 The limitations imposed on the site recording by the weather have reduced the resolution of the data but not its significance. The quality of the evidence recovered is sufficient to formulate recommendations for future archaeological work on the site in the event of the proposal to build a cattle market here going ahead.

5.2.2 Mesolithic

A new mesolithic site at Maidenbrook Farm is particularly significant. Other sites of this period recorded in the Tone valley include find spots of single items from Taunton and Norton Fitzwarren (Wymer, 1977), and a large assemblage from Fideoak Park at Bishop's Hull (Seaby, 1951). A reappraisal of the assemblage from the flood plain at Fideoak Park states that the material appears to come from the the lower deposits of alluvium which overly the valley gravels here (Norman, 1975). The site at Maidenbrook, with the suspicion of a similar stratigraphic context, will contribute to the general model that is emerging for the exploitation of the margins of the Somerset Levels, the Tone valley and the southern end of the Quantock Hills during the early mesolithic period (Norman, 1982).

5.2.3 A simple scatter of unstratified implements at Maidenbrook Farm would constitute an archaeological site of local importance. However, the potential of artefact recovery from stratified contexts puts the site more within the range of a site of county importance.

5.2.4 Romano British

West of the River Parrett, in West Somerset, there are relatively few Romano British settlements. The small group of occupation sites in the SW part of the Vale of Taunton is an exception (Leech and Leach, 1982). Despite this small group there is very little material available for study from this area and few examples of the local pottery types. There have been no recent archaeological excavations of any of these sites. The evidence from Maidenbrook Farm is therefore likely to make a substantial contribution to our knowledge and understanding of this period in the Vale of Taunton.

5.2.5 The settlement at Maidenbrook Farm is sealed below a shallow layer of alluvium which has partly protected the site from subsequent ploughing. In doing so it has enhanced the archaeological value of the site. Another factor which increases this sites significance is the possibility of continuity of settlement between the Romano British and the Saxon period. Given these considerations this settlement is considered to be of county importance.

5.2.6 Saxon

Although no structural or artefactual evidence for Saxon settlement was recorded on the site of the planning application the Domesday evidence relating to Maidenbrook is important. The proximity and status of the settlement is sufficient to warrant its influence on the contiguous site of this planning application. The trench most likely to have recorded activity of this period is trench G which has not yet been examined in detail because of flooding. The documentary evidence and the possibility of continuity of settlement from the Romano British through the Saxon and into the medieval period, which is likely to extend into the area of this planning application, places this site within the range of county importance.

5.2.7 Medieval

As with the Saxon period similar considerations apply. The presence of fish ponds coupled with a complex water control system of leats and sluices can be added to the significance of this site which is considered to be of county importance and similarly is likely to extend into the area of this planning application.

5.3.0 Management options

5.3.1 Part of the archaeological significance of the area of this planning application is due to the proximity and status of the house and steading at Maidenbrook Farm. This is certainly the case in the Saxon and medieval periods and, if we consider the possibility of continuity, also to some extent in the Romano British period. Both the mesolithic site and the Romano British settlement are significant in their own right.

- 5.3.2 The whole area of this planning application is therefore considered to be archaeologically of county importance. The combination of the types of evidence available, the degree of sub-surface preservation and the multi-period nature of the site all contribute to the archaeological importance of Maidenbrook Farm and its immediate environs.
- 5.3.3 Although of county importance this site is not considered sufficiently significant to warrant in situ preservation for all time. Within in the scope of this development there are two options that might be considered. These are the design option and preservation by record.
- 5.3.4 Design option
- The design option would involve the modification of the proposal in order to avoid sub-surface disturbance of the archaeological contexts. Given the nature of the proposed development this would probably be difficult to achieve especially in the area of drainage requirements for a cattle market. Moreover, the shallow depth of the archaeological surfaces at Maidenbrook would mean that the movement of plant and other general construction activities would cut through the plough soil and damage archaeological evidence unless the existing ground surface was raised substantially. This is not considered to be a practical option.
- 5.3.5 Preservation by record
- Preservation by record would involve the archaeological excavation of sample areas of the site and the subsequent publication of the resulting data. In as far as the entire site will not be archaeologically excavated it is further suggested that a watching brief operation may be required during the earlier, earth moving stage of the development. The details of the working brief for this secondary operation will depend upon the results of the excavation and may in the event not be necessary.
- 5.3.6 The preservation by record is considered here to be the best available option and on the basis of the results of this evaluation Tarker Ltd are urged to adopt it as a way forward. Detailed proposals for the execution of this option are set out in Section 6.0.0 below.

5.4.0 General comments

5.4.1 In the event of the preservation by record option being adopted it should be pointed out that certain constraints on the time table already exist. Tarker Ltd have a requirement to be back in possession of the site by the middle of July 1990 in order to start the development at the beginning of August. A full scale archaeological excavation on this site is likely to take between eight to ten weeks in the field. This means that archaeological work will have to commence, at the very latest, at the beginning of May 1990.

5.4.2 It might be considered appropriate that a site which is likely to have had continuous agricultural settlement on it from at least the 3rd century AD should continue to be associated with an agricultural theme and now become a cattle market.

6.0.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

6.1.0 General recommendations

6.1.1 In any future archaeological work at Maidenbrook Farm the house and steading should be archaeologically surveyed. Particularly attention should be paid to the house as recommended in the Listing details dated 27th April 1989. The water control system with its ponds, leats and sluices should also be included in this survey.

6.1.2 All finds material recovered from the site is the property of the land owner and as commissioning agent the site records belong to Tarker Ltd. It is recommended that the material from this evaluation, which includes site records, photographs and finds are retained by the writer until such time as a decision has been made about future work on the site. If the option of preservation by record is adopted then the material can be passed on to whoever undertakes the work and it can be included in the final site archive programme. If no future archaeological work is anticipated on the site the material would best be deposited with the Somerset County Museum, in Taunton, where it will be available to the public for study.

6.1.3 It is recommended that the trenches cut for this evaluation should be left open until a decision has been made about future archaeological work on the site. Should the preservation by record option be adopted, and the work can be put in hand quickly, then the trenches might be left open so that the recording of those trenches that remains to be done can be included in the full, excavation programme.

6.2.0 Recommendations for preservation by record

6.2.1 It is recommended that the area of the crop marks in field No. 8527 is excavated archaeologically. It is anticipated that an area of not less than 3,000 square metres will require examination.

6.2.2 It is recommended that an area at the E end of trench C in field No. 8527 is excavated archaeologically. It is anticipated that an area of about 2,000 square metres will require examination.

6.2.3 It is recommended that the stripping of sample areas of the top soil and upper alluvial layers be undertaken in field Nos. 6722, 7133, 7145 and 9249. The anticipated areas of examination are listed below under their OS field number.

OS no. 6722	300 square metres (2 x 150)
OS no. 7133	250 square metres
OS no. 7145	250 square metres
OS no. 9249	200 square metres

6.2.4 The total recommended area considered to require detailed archaeological investigation is in the region of 6,000 square metres.

6.2.5 It is recommended that provision should be made for an archaeological watching brief to be undertaken during the early earth moving stages of the development (see 5.3.5 above). Such an undertaking should not incur any delay in the development work.

Maidenbrook Farm

An Archaeological Evaluation, January 1990

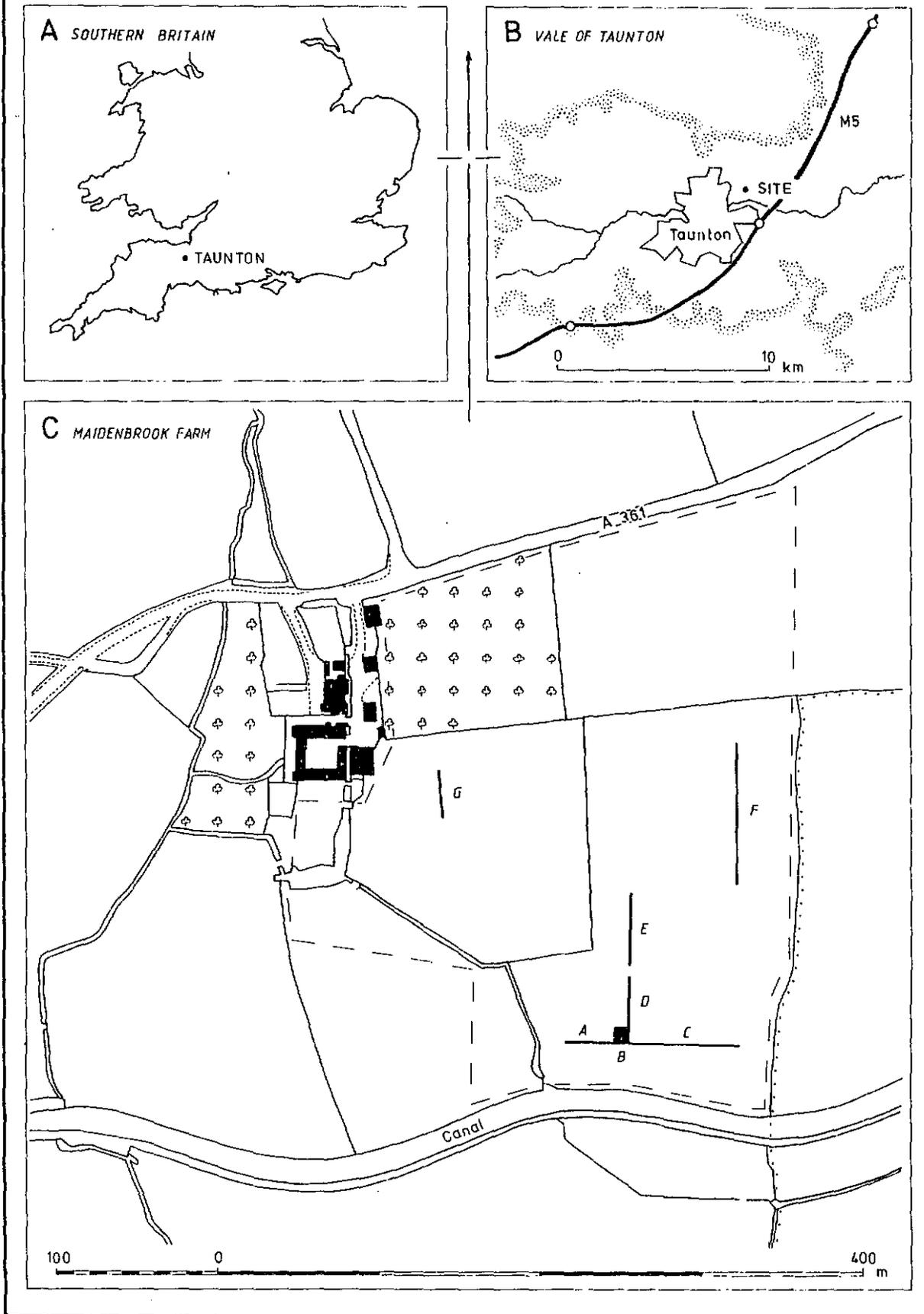


Fig. 1

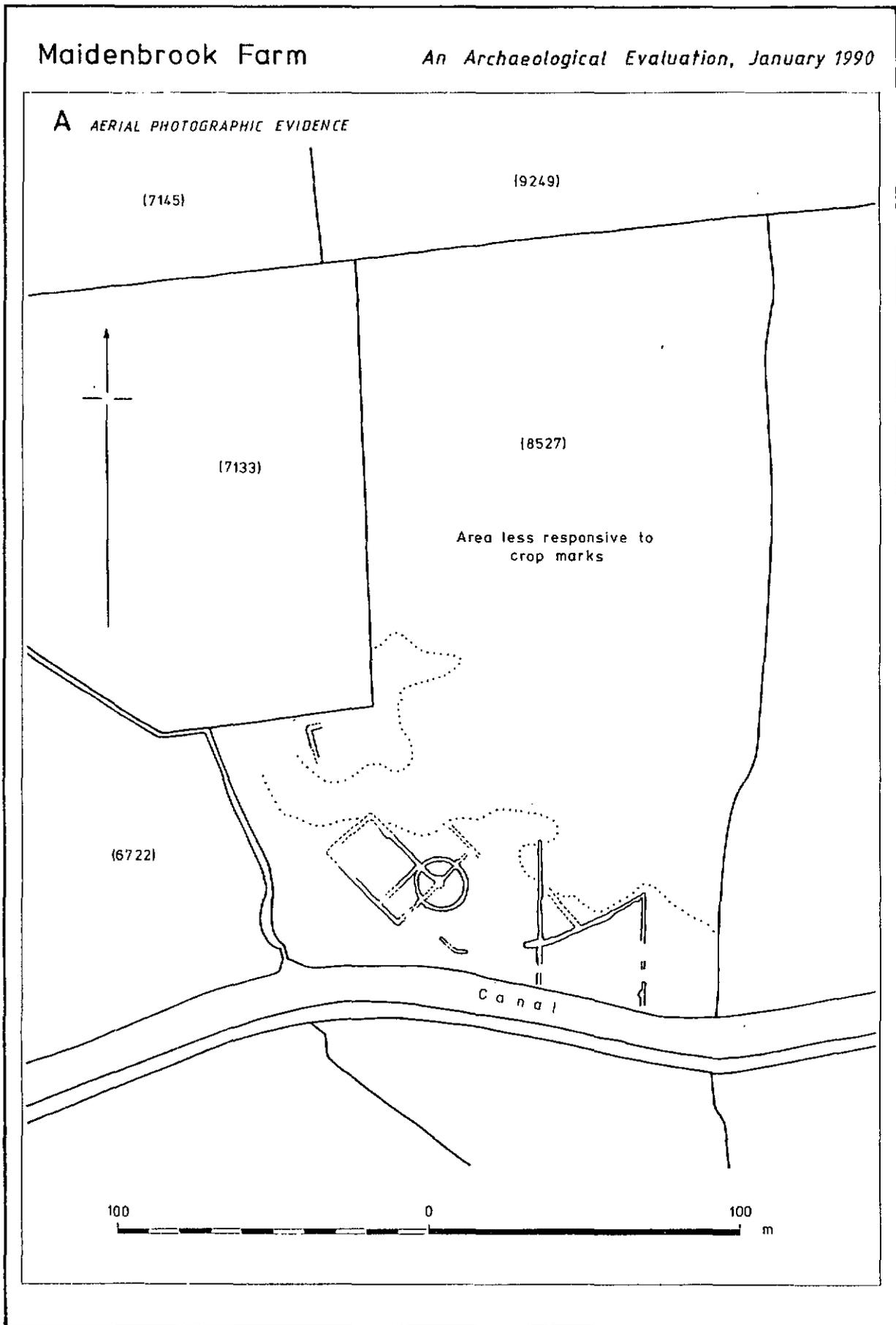


Fig. 2

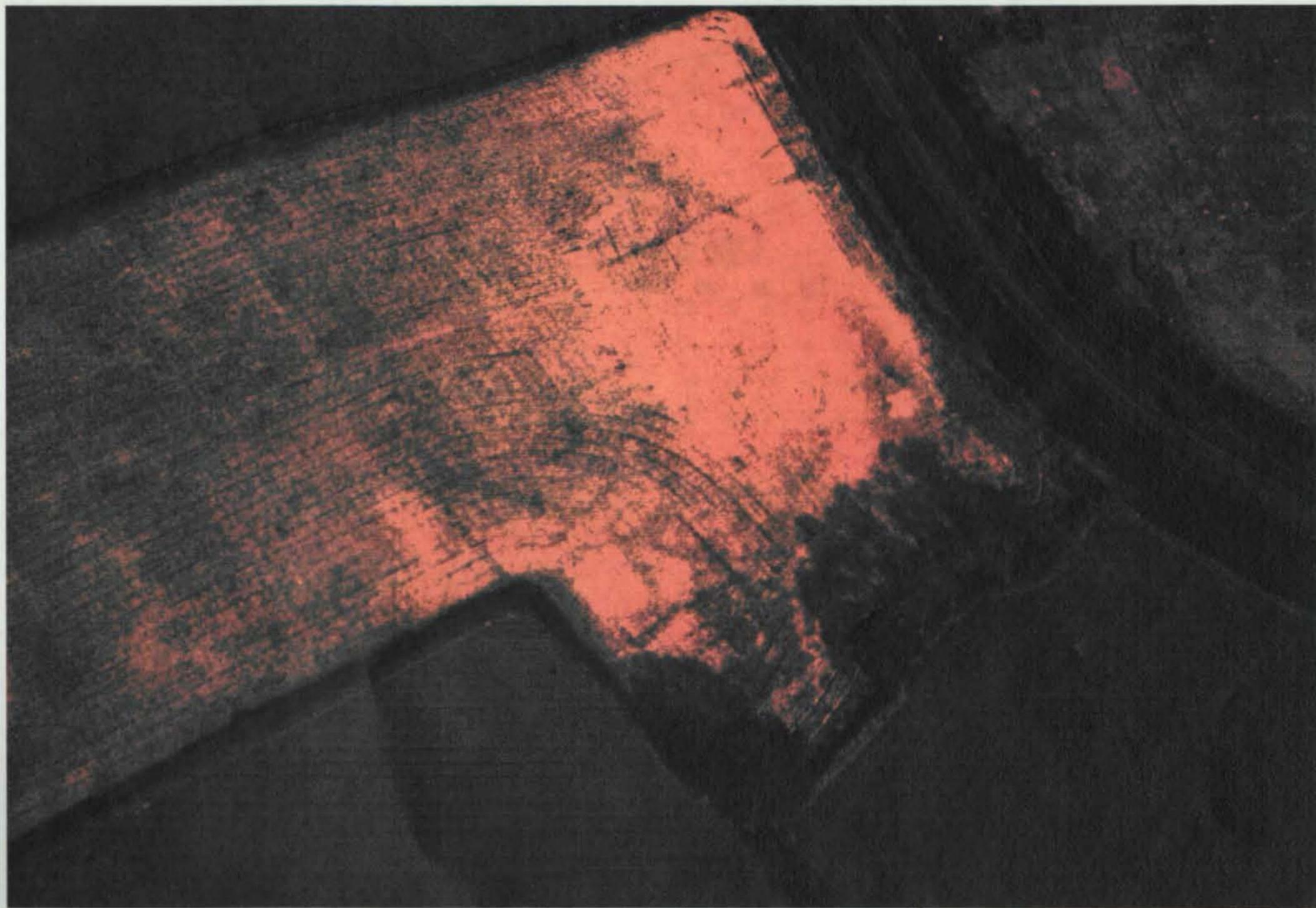


Plate 1. Aerial photograph of the SE corner of the site. [Photo. M. Aston].

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