

**SALVAGE RECORDING III
AT WELLINGTON QUARRY,
MARDEN LANE**

HWCM 5522

REPORT 49

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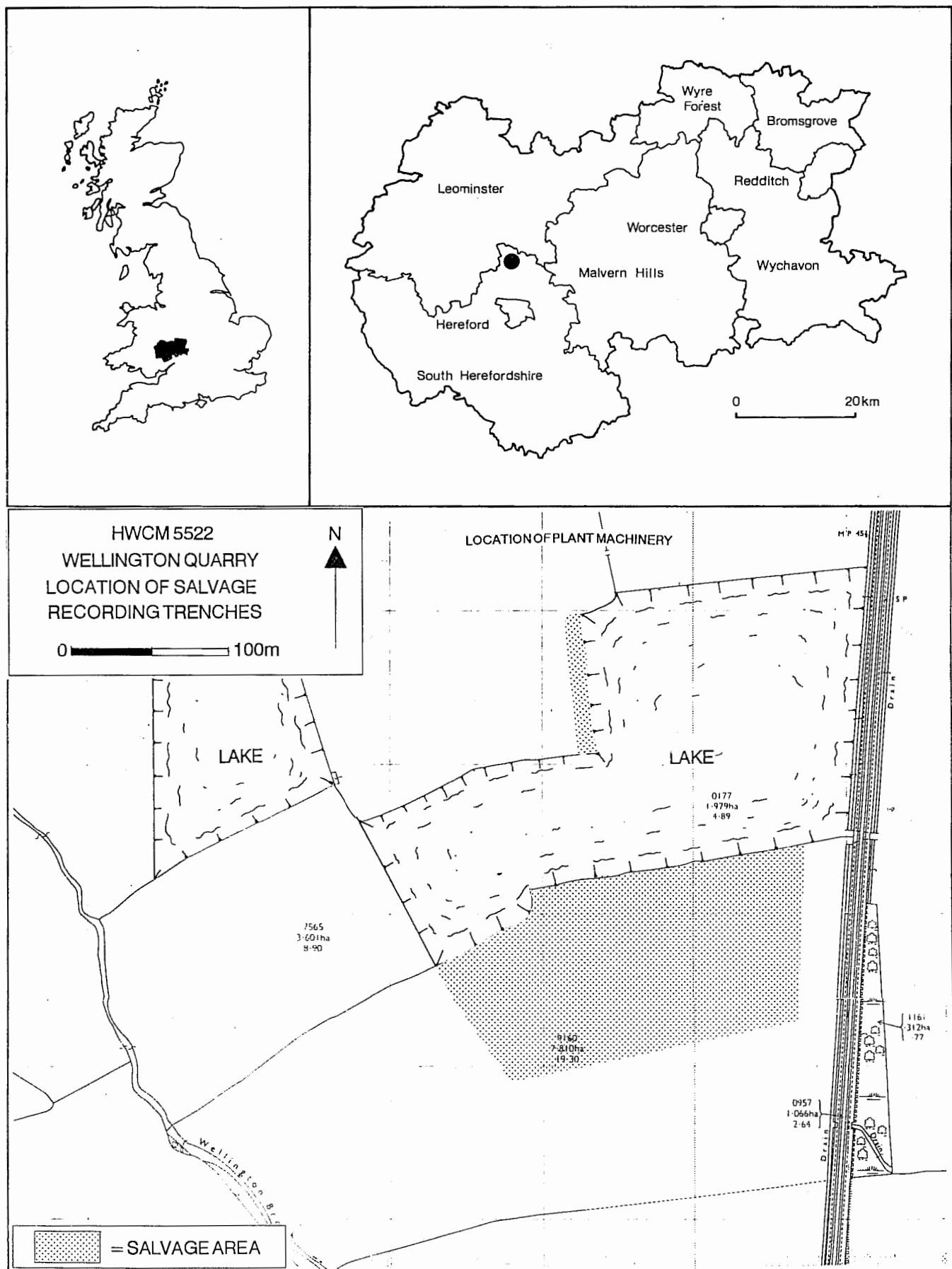
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FIGURE 1



SALVAGE RECORDING III AT WELLINGTON QUARRY, MARDEN LANE (HWCM 5522)

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1) Summary

Salvage recording was carried out at Wellington gravel quarry during removal of alluvial overburden in advance of gravel extraction. Evidence for early activity in the area was again present, but no stratified and dateable deposits were found. It was apparent that the south-eastern part of the area had been a lake or marsh probably in the prehistoric period. There was further evidence of Roman activity which in this area was on a different alignment than that recorded in previous years. Finally, there was evidence for a post-Roman field system which in some cases followed the same lines as modern hedges, and at other points diverged from them. This was separated from modern deposits by the alluvium immediately underlying the topsoil.

2) Introduction

Wellington Quarry is situated at SO 508 479 between the villages of Wellington and Marden, 7km north of Hereford (Fig 1). The salvage recording was carried out on behalf of Redland Aggregates Limited during removal of topsoil and overburden above gravel deposits, in advance of the extension of the extraction area to the south of its present limits.

As this was the third salvage recording exercise to be undertaken at the site the background information relating to the site is not repeated here. A full introduction to archaeological investigation at Wellington can be found in the accounts of the work carried out in June and September 1989 (Edwards 1989 and Shelley 1989), together with the report on the original evaluation excavation (Clarke *et al* 1988).

3) Aims

The purpose of the salvage recording was to record in as much detail as possible any archaeological deposits present, in order to obtain a broad view of the functions fulfilled by the various parts of the site.

4) Method

The way in which any salvage recording can be carried out is governed by the methods being employed

by the client and contractor. In this case, the overburden was removed using a 360o excavator and the spoil removed in dumper trucks. As a result, archaeological features were revealed in the temporary vertical sections, and any opportunity for recording was restricted by the time it took for the machine to finish a strip.

Features, once identified, were recorded in section, according to standard Archaeology Section practice (Archaeology Section 1988 Recording System) in as much detail as time would allow in each individual case.

The southernmost part of the main salvage recording area was initially excavated using a box grader. Unfortunately, limited on-site time meant that no archaeological recording of any features in this area could be carried out (Fig 2).

In addition to the salvage recording, a small area was selected for sample excavation. This was situated in an area which was known to contain Roman features, since they were apparent in the southern section of the area of last year's salvage recording (Fig 2).

As was also the case in 1989, a problem with the salvage recording exercise was a fact that there was no correlation between the hours, days and weeks worked by the contractors and those available to the archaeologists. The contractors worked long hours and a six day week for a period of over two months, whilst the archaeological team could be on site for far fewer hours, due to travel time, for five days a week, and only for a period of five weeks. Although the purpose of the project was to record any archaeological deposits revealed by the removal of overburden above the gravel, it was not possible fully to achieve this aim. Figure 2 gives an indication of the limited size of the area which it was possible to cover in the weeks available. That area which was covered could only be recorded in part, due to the difference in hours and days worked, so it is not possible to come to any very meaningful conclusions about the density and distribution of archaeological features. Nevertheless, the information gained did allow a better picture of the general type, date and distribution of features to be obtained.

5) Analysis

The deposits identified during the course of the salvage recording can be grouped into six phases.

- Phase 1 Natural gravels
- Phase 2 Pre-Roman deposits
- Phase 3 Roman deposits
- Phase 4 Red clay-filled ditches
- Phase 5 Post-Roman alluvium

Phase 1 Natural gravels

Natural gravels were recorded at a depth below ground surface which varied between 1.2m and 2.4m (contexts 3440, 3491 and 3526). Although from a different part of the quarry area, the mammoth tusk recovered during gravel extraction in the area recorded in September 1989 (Shelley 1989) belongs to this phase.

Phase 2 Pre-Roman deposits

The earliest element of the Phase 2 deposits was a layer characterised as "clayey gravel" and consisting of gravel composed of stones 5-15mm in size, white, reddish pink, greenish grey and blueish grey in colour, generally of soft stone, in a reddish clay matrix (3437, 3486, 3490, 3500, 3512, 3525 and 3474). Context 3433 contained a much greater proportion of white chalky gravel, but should also be included in this phase. This material directly overlay the Phase 1 natural gravels.

An antler (3529) retrieved by the contractors, and therefore strictly speaking an unstratified find, very probably belongs early in Phase 2, since the deposits adhering to it clearly derived from the clayey gravel. It came from an adult red deer, and two tines had been sawn off.

Overlying the clayey gravel in some parts of the site was a layer of orange-brown alluvium (3430, 3460, 3499, 3505 and 3511). The alluvium contained no inclusions and apart from context 3460 which produced a flint flake, no finds. The grey alluvium with orange flecks (3431) probably represented a gleyed version of the same deposit.

Next in sequence is the yellow-buff alluvium (3445, 3461, 3484, 3488, 3498, 3509, 3510, 3522, 3524 and 3528). This was present over rather more of the area than the underlying orange-brown alluvium. Two flint flakes were found in context 3461, but the layer contained no other finds and was free from inclusions. In places the yellow-buff alluvium was divided by a thin (*c* 0.05m) dark brown layer, noted principally in the south-west part of the salvage recording area and along the section aligned north to south to the north of the main area.

Two palaeochannels or former river channels immediately overlying the clayey gravel were recorded (3447 and 3527). Deposits of grey-blue clay overlying the clayey gravel (3485, 3489 and 3473) were also an indication of the former presence of a watercourse or marshy area.

Although little organic material had been forthcoming in previous years at Wellington, this year's salvage recording proved different. A layer of peat *c* 0.20m thick and composed of homogenous organic material

was noted in the profile recorded as 3425. The layer of peat proved subsequently to extend over the area indicated in Fig 4, deepening to the south-east (3462), and containing preserved hazelnuts and waterlogged wood, both smaller branches and tree trunks up to 0.35m in diameter.

Context 3429 which was speckled white and light brown in colour, coarse sand in texture and of a fairly loose consistency, should probably be assigned to this phase. The white colour of this layer appeared to be derived from crushed or decomposed coarse limestone.

Context 3503 resembled a slightly pinkish crumbly mortar, but was probably derived from chalk or limestone deposits. It contained a base sherd of Bronze Age pottery (Hereford and Worcester Fabric 5.4, Jane Evans pers comm).

A human skull (3532) was retrieved by the contractors, who reported that it came from a context relatively deep in the alluvial sequence, and it is therefore assigned to Phase 2. It is likely that if further bones from a complete skeleton had been present, they would have been retrieved along with the skull, and it is therefore probable that the skull was an individual find.

Two human skeletons (3530 and 3531, Fig 5) were retrieved from the excavated area. These appeared to be inhumations, perhaps both placed in the same grave, although the grave cut and fill could not be distinguished from the surrounding yellow alluvium (3445). Skeleton 3530 was supine, aligned north to south, with its head to the south. It lacked its left arm and hand, left leg and foot, right leg and foot from the knee down and right hand and part of the lower arm. The right femur lay parallel to the torso, as if the leg had been pushed right back during burial, perhaps to fit the corpse into a grave. Skeleton 3531 lay in a crouched position on its right side. It too was incomplete, lacking its skull and most of its torso; its left hand was present, but not the arm; its right hand and arm were present, with its pelvis and both legs but neither foot. The preservation of the bone was reasonably good. No artefacts were recovered from the surrounding soil, nor were any grave goods present.

Phase 3 Roman deposits

The Roman deposits are comprised of ditches, probable water channels and watercourses, probable buried soil horizons and other features.

Three of the ditches were very similar in character (3516, 3448 and 3449). They were V-shaped with steeply sloping irregular sides. Their fills (3442/3 and 3518 filled 3516; 3450 and 3451 filled 3448, and 3454, 3455 and 3456 filled 3449) were also similar, consisting of slight variations to a grey clay matrix with moderate to frequent charcoal flecks, occasional fragments of bone, occasional gravel inclusions and occasional sherds of pottery. Primary silting could be observed in all three ditches. In 3516 this consisted of dark grey clay containing burnt spelt chaff. A sample of this lower fill was taken for flotation and is

described in full below. The upper fills (3442/3, 3450, 3454 and 3455) and appear to represent deliberate filling of the ditch. The ditches 3448 and 3449 were observed in the north/south section to the north of the main area of salvage recording, and appeared to be aligned at right angles to one another; 3448 being oriented north-west to south-east, and 3449 south-west to north-east. Ditch 3516 in the main area, however, was aligned east to west and was c1.0m deep and 1.50m wide. At the south-western edge of 3449 a V-shaped gully (3457) had been cut from the very lip of the ditch and parallel to it. At the top of the cut, this gully would have measured c 0.60m across, and 3449 was a further 2.50m wide in addition to this, but the depth of this feature was not possible to ascertain. Context 3446 should also be included in this group, although its stratigraphic relations could not be precisely determined. This consisted of a ditch or pit visible in the southern section of the area soil-stripped in 1989 (Edwards 1989). As can be seen in Figure 3, this may have been either a pit cutting the ditch 3516 or a return of the ditch to run in a northerly direction. Insofar as the fill of this feature was investigated, it closely resembled the fills of the ditches described above.

Two other ditches were rather different in character. One was recorded in two places (3410 and 3414, Fig 2) which indicated that it was aligned east to west. The ditch was c 2m wide at the top, and c 1.5m deep with a concave base and steeply sloping sides. The fill of the ditch (3475 filled 3410, and 3478 filled 3414) was light red-brown alluvium rich in flecks of crushed shell and crushed coarse limestone. Where it was recorded as 3414 it had a lower fill as well (3479), which was similar to that described, but contained a much higher proportion of limestone and shelly material. There were no other inclusions nor were there any finds.

The top fill (3481) of ditch 3415 was similar to the fills (3475 and 3478) of the two ditches described above, being light red-brown in colour and containing white flecks of crushed shell. This ditch differed from 3410 and 3414, however, in that there was primary silting at the base (fill 3483), consisting of a dark grey-brown silt containing decayed roots and charcoal flecks. This was overlain by a thin layer very rich in crushed shell and limestone, similar to 3479 described above.

There were three features which could not very well be described as ditches, since they were wide and shallow. These may perhaps represent water channels. All three had fills very similar to the main fill of the ditch 3410/3414; a light red-brown alluvium with abundant white flecks of crushed shell and limestone. The texture of this was different to that of the other alluvial deposits, since it contained numerous tiny voids. This "fill" was recorded as 3402, 3444 and 3517. 3402 extended to the east of the later ditch 3401 which had truncated the western side of the "channel" filled by 3402. 3444 was observed in the northern and western sections of the excavated area. Here the "fill" contained charcoal flecks and fragments, Roman pottery, bone and several large stones of such a size to suggest that they might have been used for building. This appeared to be a feature aligned approximately north to south. Finally there was the "fill" 3517 (Fig 3), recorded in the excavated area as a layer, but which from the southern section of the area appeared to fill two "channels" aligned north to south and to extend beyond them in a layer

covering a wider area. Unlike 3444 this contained no inclusions and did not produce any finds.

Two other features could be identified with greater certainty as watercourses of Roman date. One of these was aligned north to south and was recorded at two different points (3411 and 3420, F, Fig 4). It was c 8m wide and 0.75m deep, and consisted of layers of dark grey silts (3434 and 3436) lensed with mottled light brown and white coarse sand textured material composed of degraded coarse limestone (3435). The feature also contained a considerable amount of waterlogged wood of the size of branches cut for wattling. It was not possible to determine whether some of these were in fact woven into fencing or not. A sherd of pottery in context 3421 dated the feature to Phase 3.

The upper part of feature 3527 is also suggested to be a waterlain feature. This contained a layer of degraded coarse limestone with abundant crushed shell (3408) above a layer of grey-brown silty very fine sand with frequent charcoal flecks (3409); a layer of red-brown alluvium (3471), overlying a speckled greyish white and light brown layer with frequent crushed shell and moderate charcoal flecks (3472).

Recorded in a number of places was a layer identified as a buried soil horizon dating to the Roman period (3428, 3459, 3477, 3507 and 3521). This lay immediately below the red-brown alluvium (Phase 5) and generally consisted of a mid-brown layer although it was sometimes rather darker and in other areas very difficult to distinguish. It was particularly clear in the north-south section north to the main salvage recording area.

There were a number of miscellaneous features whose precise function could not be identified with any degree of certainty. In two cases this was because the time available to record the features was insufficient. Of these two, 3404 appeared to be a pit, and it was assigned to Phase 3 because its fill contained a sherd of Black Burnished pottery (Hereford and Worcester Fabric 22). The second, 3423 was filled with 3494 and was probably a pit, but it produced no finds and so could only be dated on the basis of its position in the sequence of alluvial deposits.

A small pit (3403) with convex base and sides, 1.7m across and 0.55m deep, was filled with a mid-brown clayey silt (3464), and assigned to Phase 3 on the basis of its position in the alluvial sequence. A small cut feature (3412 filled by 3413), measuring 0.6m across and 0.25m in depth, could not be interpreted, and this too could only be dated because it was cut from the level of the possible Roman buried soil.

A flat-based cut feature with steeply sloping sides (3492), 1.7m wide at the top, 0.90m wide at the base and c 0.7m deep was filled with brownish-yellow alluvium (3422) which produced a sherd of Severn Valley ware (Hereford and Worcester Fabric 12). Primary silting was evident at the base of the feature (3504).

Two small cut features were recorded in the north/south section to the north of the main area of salvage

recording. The more northerly of the two (3501) was a shallow concave scoop (0.15m deep, and 0.50m across) and contained a silty clay fill (3452), dark brown in colour with abundant charcoal and a moderate amount of burnt clay fragments. This fill produced a sherd of Roman pottery. The more southerly of the two features (3502) had a flat base and near-vertical sides. It was 0.14m deep, and 0.43m across and was filled with a black silty clay containing abundant charcoal and a moderate amount of burnt clay fragments (3453). Both features were cut from the level of the buried soil horizon, which in this section was particularly clear.

Finally there was the post-hole in the excavated area (3515). This was filled with a yellowish brown silty clay containing fragments of bone and one flint flake. This cut through the skeletons described above, and parts of the skull, radius and ulna of 3530 together with the humerus of 3531 were visible in the side and base of the feature.

Environmental sample from lower part of 3443

A two litre sample was examined from the bottom fill of the ditch. The sample was soaked in water before flotation. The float was then dried and examined for environmental remains. Preservation of environmental remains was excellent. A number of snails were visible, but were not recorded. Both charred and aerobically preserved plant remains were recovered. The species were as follows:

Charred

Triticum spelta (spelt wheat) - cultivated crop; both seeds and chaff present

Anthemis cotula (stinking mayweed) - a common weed of heavy cultivated soils

Aerobic preservation

Thalictrum flavum (meadow rue) - meadows and wet places

Sambucus nigra (elder) - waste and disturbed ground

Rubus spp. (blackberry/raspberry) - disturbed and waste ground

Rumex acetosella (sheep's sorrel) - weed of disturbed ground

Lamium sp. (nettle) - weed of waste and cultivated ground

Brassica nigra (black mustard) - damp waste ground

Spelt was the commonest cereal crop during the Roman period. The spelt seeds were small and misshapen, and together with the chaff, point to burning of the "tailings" after crop processing. The presence of seeds of *Anthemis cotula* indicate cultivation was taking place on a heavy soil with poor drainage.

The other seeds from the sample seem to form an assemblage of plants growing in the vicinity of the

ditch rather than from deliberate waste disposal. The presence of edible species such as *Sambucus nigra* and *Rubus spp.* was probably incidental as both species are found on waste ground as well as being deliberately cultivated. The type of preservation of the seeds was unusual in that the seeds were not apparently waterlogged or mineralised, appearing "fresh" but with no contents. This was probably due to the rapid silting of the ditch, trapping the seeds with enough air to break down the softer contents, but not the outer casing.

Phase 4 Red clay-filled ditches

Five of the recorded features (3401 filled by 3463; 3405 by 3465; 3406 by 3466; 3407 by 3467; and 3416 by 3417) were very similar in character to one another, with concave, steeply sloping sides and concave bases, 1-1.5m wide and 1-1.5m deep. All were cut into the yellow-buff alluvial deposit and filled with a homogenous red-brown slightly silty clay which contained no finds at all. Some of these were recorded in successive sections excavated by the contractors, suggesting that they were ditches not pits. Associated with 3407 was a smaller feature of the same shape and fill, but 0.5m in width and depth. The feature recorded as 3493, which was filled by 3424 and 3495 was in some respects similar, but its profile was different, in that it was relatively wider and shallower, measuring 0.75m in depth; 2.40m in width at the top, and c1.5m at the base where it was rather more flat than was the case with the other ditches. The base and sides appeared to be lined with a layer of red-brown clay, 0.15-0.20m in thickness, and the main fill appeared to be very similar, if not identical to the overlying red-brown alluvium.

Phase 5 Post-Roman alluvium

Overlying Roman deposits and the Phase 4 ditches was a layer of homogenous red-brown clayey silt alluvium containing no finds. This was recorded as 3427, 3439, 3470, 3476, 3480, 3487, 3497, 3506, 3508 and 3520.

Phase 6

Modern topsoil originally covered the entire area, but by the time features were recorded most of this had been removed and stored for use later in restoring areas of previous gravel extraction. Where recorded the topsoil consisted of dark brown loam (3426, 3496, 3513 and 3519).

6) Discussion

In discussion of the phases of activity outlined above it is necessary first of all to point out that although features may be widely spaced from one another and in some cases only partially recorded, they can nevertheless be assigned to the phases described above. This is due to the way in which alluvial layers

derived from different geological sources, and therefore of different colours, have been superimposed upon one another. This provides a general framework to which features can be related even if they themselves contain no dating evidence.

Alluvial sequence

Some elements of the alluvial sequence have remained constant over the entire area of salvage recording 1989-1990, but others changed from one area to the next. This was evident in the area covered by Shelley (1989), which was different in certain particulars from the sequence covered by Edwards (1989). This year some of the deposits followed the pattern observed in the area immediately to the north (Edwards 1989), but in general a change was observed towards the south and east of this year's area.

Elements which remained constant throughout consisted of the quarry gravels at the base of the alluvial sequence; the overlying "clayey gravel" of Phase 2; the red-brown alluvium higher in the sequence and the topsoil above that. Towards the south and east of the salvage recording area the extensive area of peat was a new feature to the alluvial sequence at Wellington, as was the occurrence of chalk or limestone-rich layers, which again were more apparent in the south and east of the area. The standard sequence observed in the area to the north continued in the extreme west and north of the area recorded this year, and was also particularly clear in the section recorded to the north of the main area of salvage recording.

There is little that requires discussion relating to the Phase 1 deposits. As was noted last year (Edwards 1989, 5), the gravel did not occur at a uniform depth below modern ground surface. In certain places it was possible to suggest a reason for the level being particularly low. In the south-eastern part of the 1990 area the gravel was considerably lower than the water table, at a depth of approximately 2.8m below ground surface. This is also the area where the Phase 2 peat deposit was found, suggesting that this was a low-lying marshy area which may at some stage have been a lake.

One result of the relative complexity of the alluvial sequence noted during the 1990 salvage recording has been to reduce the number of phases which could be distinguished. The deposits above the gravel and below the Roman level were designated Phases 2-5 in 1989, but this year they have been grouped together as Phase 2.

Although the clayey gravel layer has been assigned to Phase 2, it may be no more than a variation in the natural gravels described as Phase 1 and containing gravel from other sources and clay as well. However, the probable association of the antler within this layer suggests that it belongs to a phase when human activity was taking place at the site, since two tines had been sawn off. It may correspond with the layer identified in 1989 (Edwards 1989, 5) as a potential early ground surface.

Pre-Roman deposits

Prior to the recovery of a flint blade in the orange-brown alluvium overlying the clayey gravel no finds had come from this layer. Flint flakes were also found in the overlying yellow-buff alluvium, which again had previously produced no artefacts.

The flint assemblage from the site as a whole should also be assigned to Phase 2, although some pieces were residual to the contexts in which they were found. It was a small assemblage ofdebitage which included no datable elements, but can probably be assigned to the third or second millennium BC (Hal Dalwood pers comm).

The extensive peat deposit has already been mentioned. No artefacts were recovered from the samples which were examined, although one did produce a considerable number of hazelnuts. Some of the wood preserved in the peat was derived from mature trees, up to 0.4m in diameter. Further analysis which forms part of another project currently under way in Birmingham University should enable the wood to be dated by dendrochronology, and this may enable the deposit itself to be dated with greater precision than is possible from the evidence currently available. Preliminary sampling and analysis of pollen preserved in the peat and associated layers suggest that it is of prehistoric, possibly mesolithic date (J Gregg pers comm).

Associated with the peat deposit were considerable quantities of blue-grey clay. This was also found away from the area of the probable lake or marsh, where it probably indicates the presence of water channels. Due to the constraints mentioned above on time available to observe the work being carried out, it was not possible to trace the course of any of these palaeochannels.

Very little can be said about the two skeletons, although they were excavated and not unstratified finds like the skull. They have been assigned to Phase 2, but because no artefacts were associated with them it is not possible to date them except by radiocarbon analysis. They must be earlier in date than the post-Roman red-brown alluvium of Phase 5, since the fill of the presumed grave or graves is yellow-buff in colour, with no red-brown material amongst it. The fill of the post hole which cut the grave was also brown, not red-brown in colour, and therefore no later than Roman in date. It was not possible to determine whether they had been buried in one or two graves, although there was an indication that skeleton 3530 had been squashed into a small hole, judging by the position of the right femur. Although the joint was still articulated, the position of this limb could not have been achieved without some difficulty. Inhumations are known from the Bronze Age on, giving a very wide potential date range for the two burials.

The skull retrieved by the contractors is potentially very interesting. The recovery of skulls from non-funerary contexts is known from a large number of other sites, and the phenomenon of skull deposition

in water has been noted as a particular feature in the Walbrook in London and the Thames (Marsh and West 1981, Bradley and Gordon 1988). The area around Wellington was evidently marshy and it contained a number of streams. It is therefore possible that the skull was a ritual deposition in one of these streams or watercourses. Those in the Walbrook in London were suggested to be of Celtic date. If the same were true of the Wellington skull, it could perhaps be roughly contemporary with the Iron Age pottery and other features noted in the excavations carried out to the north of the 1990 area of salvage recording (Clarke *et al* 1988). Late Neolithic skull deposition has also been recorded in the Midlands and south-west of England (Darvill 1987, 73) and given the uncertainty of the precise stratigraphic origin of the skull, an early date cannot be ruled out. Dating of the skull by means of radiocarbon analysis may be possible.

Roman deposits

Of the Roman deposits there are several aspects which can be discussed. Firstly there is the alignment of the known Roman ditches. Until the ditch in the excavated area was uncovered, all known ditch alignments were generally north-west to south-east, and south-west to north-east. The stone building of the 1987 excavation also followed this alignment, as did the ditches traced in the 1989 salvage recording (Shelley 1989); the features identified by geophysical survey in 1989 (Gater and Gaffney 1989), and the ditches recorded in the section to the north of the main area of the 1990 salvage recording area. The ditch in the excavated area was aligned east to west, indicating a considerable change from the area to the north. This may reflect a topographical feature, such as a stream or marshy area. The north to south line of the stream shown in Figure 4 (F) may well represent such a feature.

The occurrence of a number of features filled with light red-brown alluvium containing abundant crushed shell and limestone suggests that this material may represent a previously unrecognised phase of alluviation. It was recorded in 1989 (Edwards 1989, fig 4, 3104), but only this one occurrence was noted, and its possible significance could therefore not be assessed. Where observed in the section of the excavated area (3444), this material contained Roman pottery, although a very similar layer, containing no dating material, was cut by the ditch aligned east to west. A tentative suggestion therefore is that this layer dates to the early Roman period, and filled in a number of natural channels and depressions, which may have been water-filled before silting up with this alluvial material. The east to west alignment of ditches D and E (Fig 4) should also be mentioned, in relation to the discussion above, since it would appear to confirm the changed alignment in this area of the site.

Red clay-filled ditches

The Phase 4 ditches filled with red clay in some cases follow the line of the modern hedges and field boundaries, but are separated from them by the red alluvium layer (Phase 5). Figure 4 shows where the alignments coincide and where they diverge from the modern boundaries. It is therefore suggested that

these features represent an early field system, some of which still survives, and some of which is no longer in use. Alignment A for example represents a field boundary not reflected in the modern field layout. Nothing to date the ditches was found in any of the exposed sections through the features, but it is suggested that they may be medieval or earlier, although they post-date the Roman period. This phase correlates with Phase 3 identified by the evaluation excavation carried out in 1987 (Clarke *et al* 1988, 9).

Post-Roman alluvium

The date of Phase 5 has yet to be determined. This information may perhaps be forthcoming as part of the Hereford Valleys Survey (Dinn forthcoming), but for the moment it is only possible to say that this period of alluviation took place after the end of the Roman period and at some time before the present. There are no signs that it occurred in the very recent past, so it may date back as far as the medieval period.

As has already been stated, it is difficult to interpret the deposits recorded, because it was not possible to observe much more than a very small proportion of the area stripped of alluvium by the contractors. Presence of features is therefore significant, but a gap in the distribution is likely merely to reflect the pattern of observations it was possible to make. No conclusions can therefore be drawn either from areas of apparent concentrations of features or from areas where few or no features were recorded.

7) Conclusions

This salvage recording exercise indicated that the alluvial sequence is more complex than it appeared at first in 1989 (Edwards 1989). The deposits recorded by Shelley (1989) also differed from those of the first salvage recording, giving an overall impression of considerable variety of deposits in the Wellington area as a whole.

The earliest deposits indicated the presence of a lake or marshy area in the south-east part of the salvage recording area. These are likely to date from the prehistoric period, but this as yet remains unconfirmed. Worked flint gave an indication of the presence of human activity during the prehistoric period in the area, but none was associated with dateable features.

The features dating from the Roman period show a change in alignment from those found in previous years, and this is suggested to be caused by a topographical feature, perhaps a stream or other water-course.

Evidence for an early field system took the form of a series of ditches, some of which follow the line of modern field boundaries. These are post-Roman in date.

8) Acknowledgments

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Marsh, G, and West, B, 1981 Skullduggery in Roman London *Trans London Middlesex Archaeol Soc* 32, 86-102

Shelley, D C, 1989 *Salvage recording at Wellington Quarry, Marden Lane, HWCM 5522* HWCC Internal Report 32

10) Archive

The archive consists of:

- 132 Context records AS1
- 20 Fieldwork progress records AS2
- 3 Photographic records AS3
- 1 Drawing number catalogue AS4
- 5 Context number catalogues AS5
- 22 Context finds records AS8
- 2 Scale drawings
- 3 Boxes of finds

All primary records and finds are kept at:

Archaeology Section
Hereford and Worcester County Council
Tetbury Drive
Warndon
Worcester WR4 9LS
Tel Worcester (0905) 58608

A security copy of the archive has been placed at:

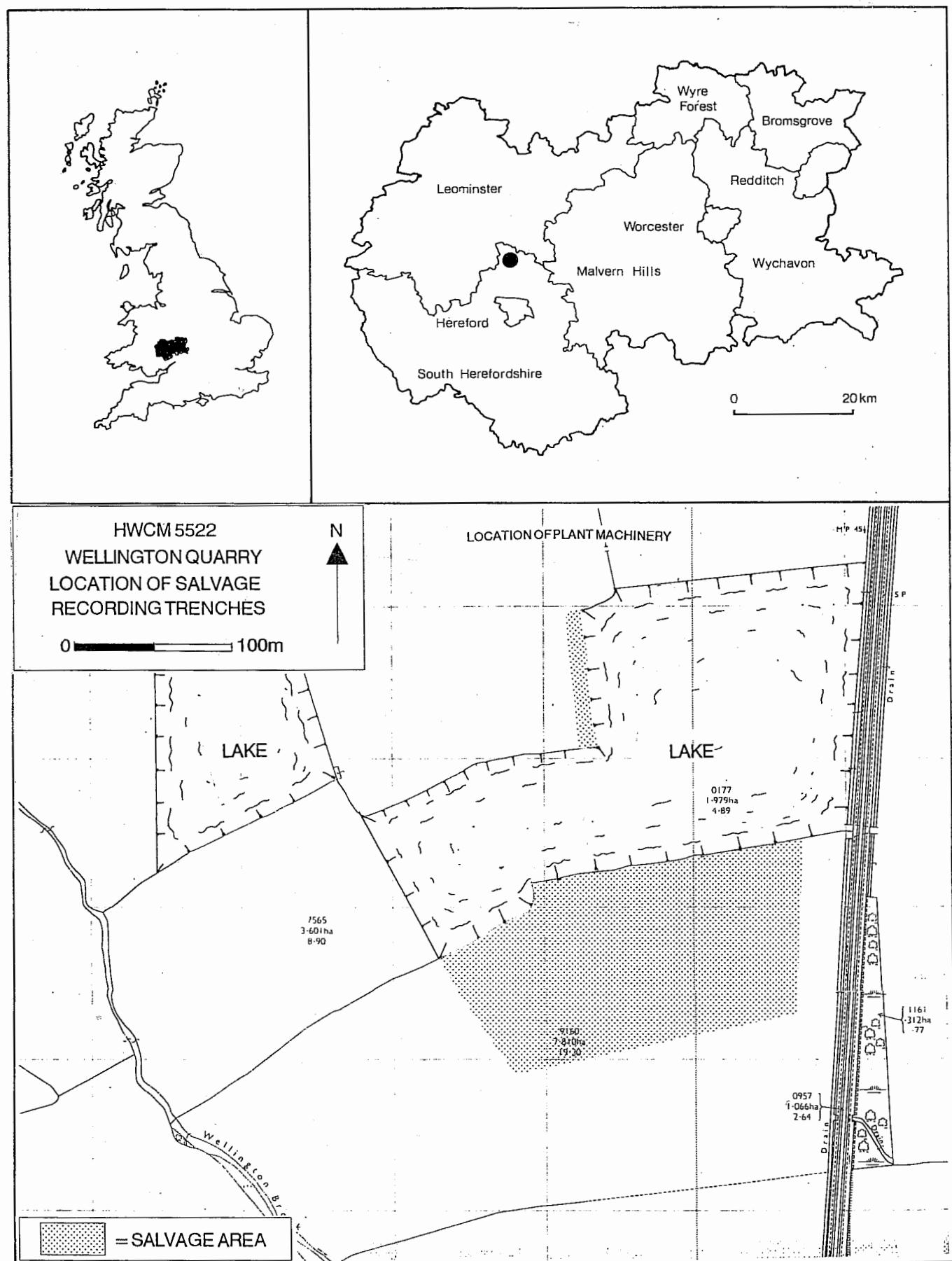
Hereford and Worcester County Museum
Hartlebury Castle
Hartlebury
Near Kidderminster
Worcestershire DY11 7XZ
Tel Hartlebury (0299) 250416

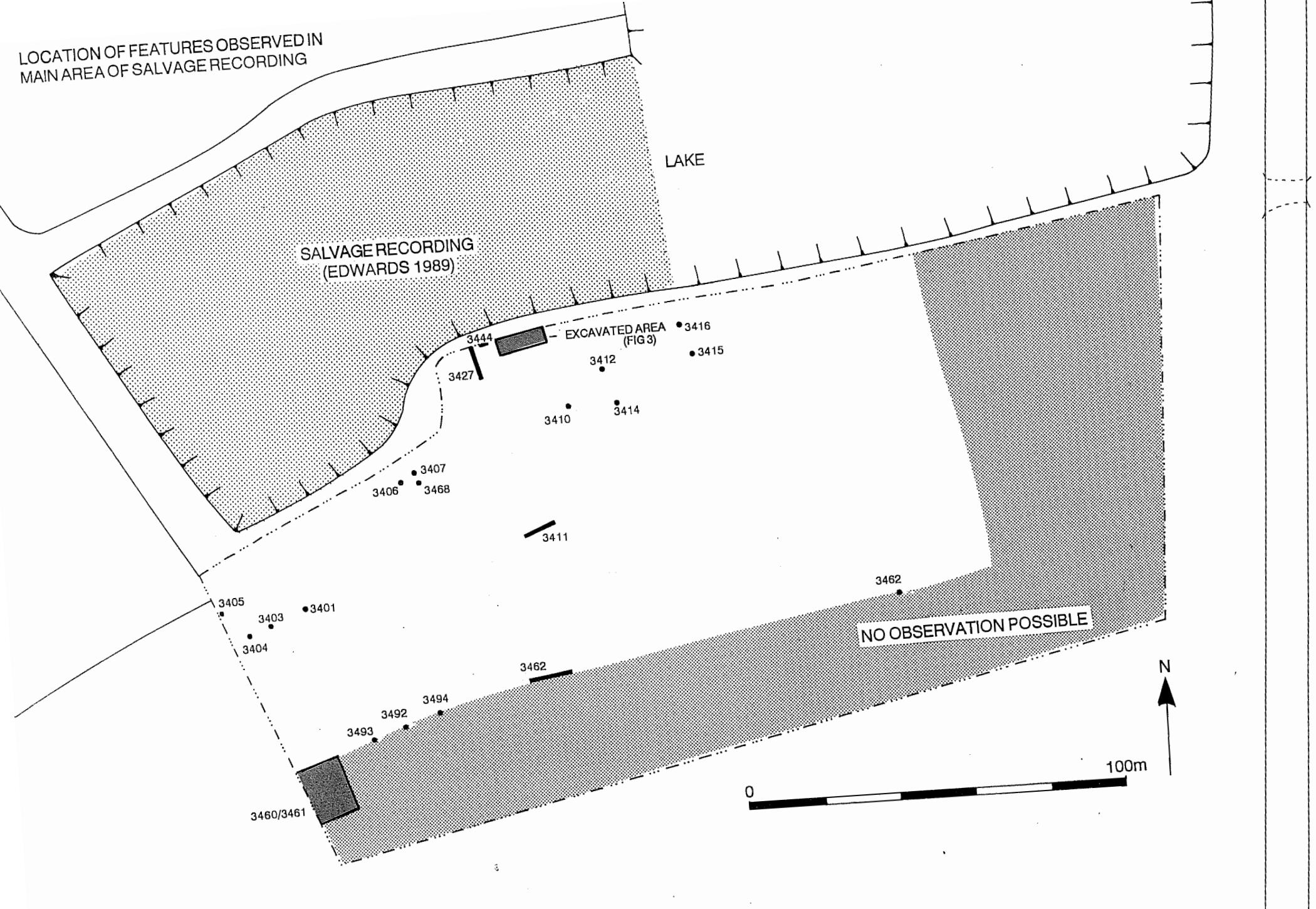
11) Abbreviations

Numbers prefixed with "HWCM" are the primary reference numbers used by the Hereford and Worcester County Sites and Monuments Record.

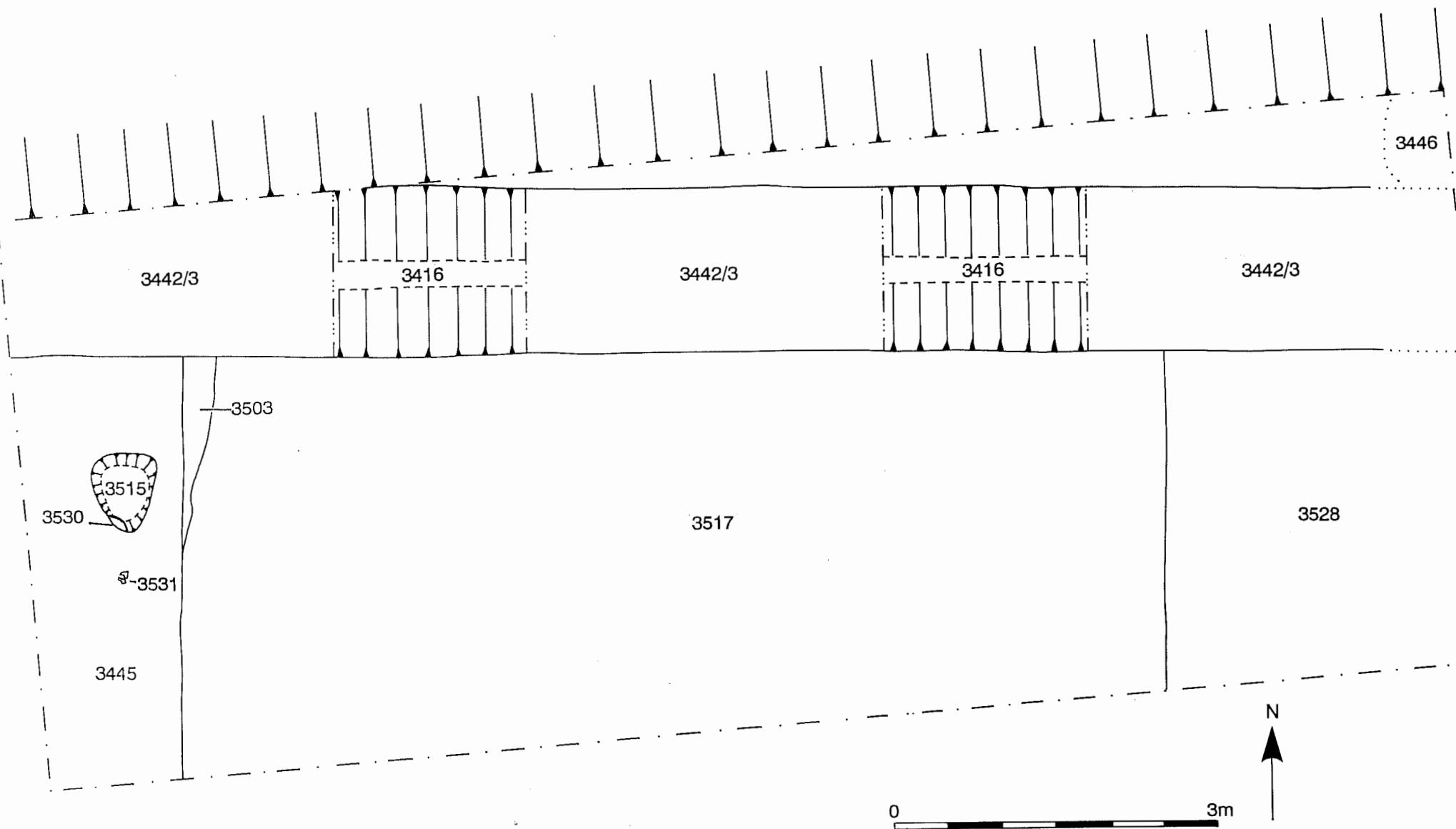
HWCC - Hereford and Worcester County Council.

FIGURE 1

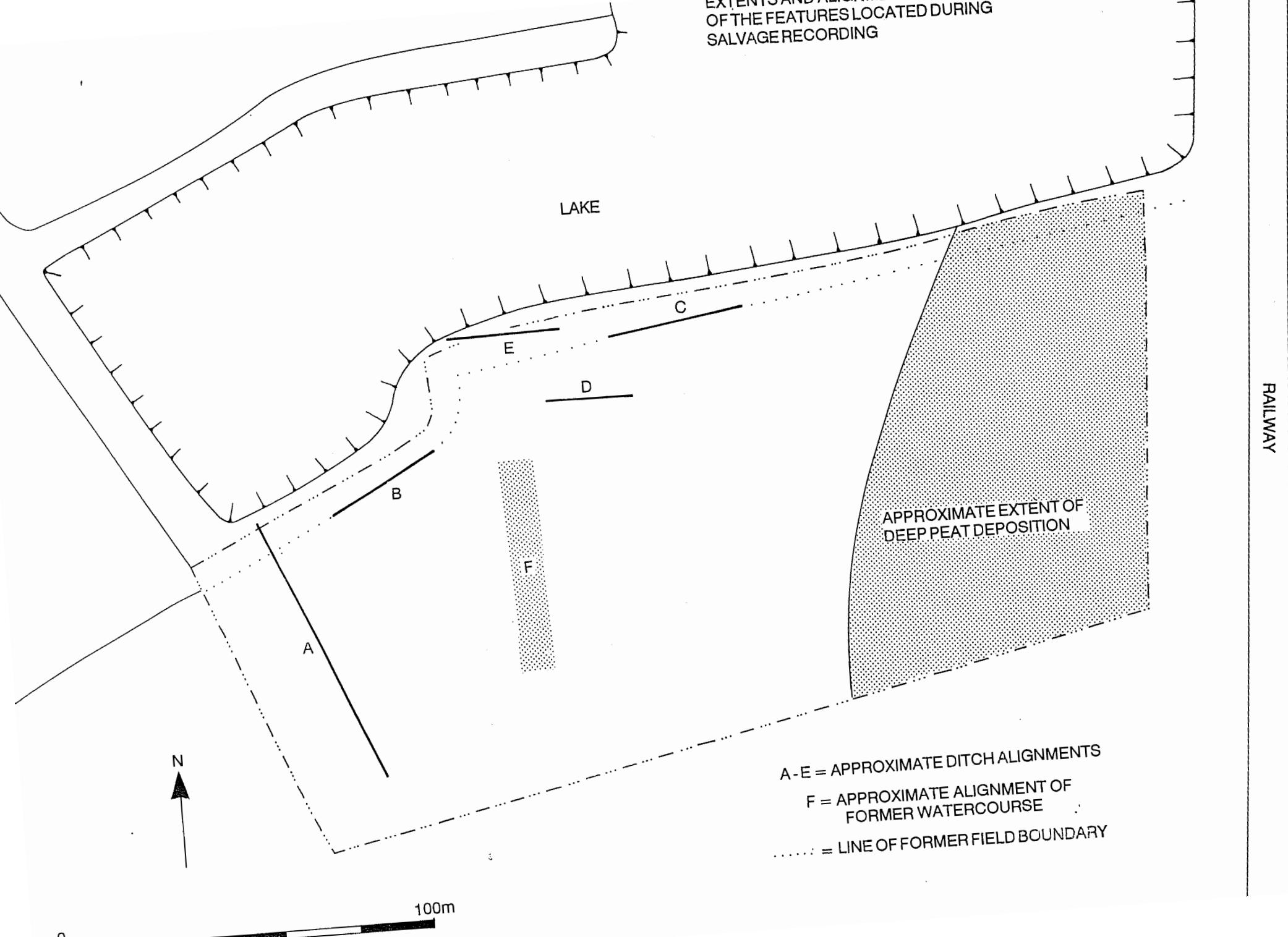




PLAN OF EXCAVATED AREA



EXTENTS AND ALIGNMENTS
OF THE FEATURES LOCATED DURING
SALVAGE RECORDING



INHUMATIONS FROM EXCAVATED AREA

