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Scheme Title A1 Widenung Alconbury to Fletton Parkway	Details Alconbury - Fletton Parkway Archaeological Assessment
Road Number A1	Date 1990
Contractor Archaeological Sec. Cumbs CC	
County Cambridgeshire	
OS Reference TL17	
Single sided Double sided ✓ A3 0 Colour 1	

# A1 WIDENING SCHEME

Alconbury - Fletton Parkway

An Archaeological Assessment 1990

TL 190769 - 138949

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*Sawtry Moat*



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**A1 WIDENING SCHEME ALCONBURY TO FLETTON PARKWAY:  
PRELIMINARY ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT**

**1.0 INTRODUCTION**

1.1 During January 1991 the Archaeology Section of Cambridgeshire County Council carried out a preliminary archaeological assessment in advance of the Department of Transport's proposed scheme for the widening of the A1 between Alconbury and Fletton Parkway. The work was undertaken on behalf of W.S. Atkins Ltd.

1.2 This report aims to identify all archaeologically sensitive sites in the affected area and to make recommendations as to their future. The need for further assessment work, where appropriate, is also highlighted.

1.3 The archaeological information in this report was compiled from Cambridgeshire County Council's Sites and Monuments Record (SMR), aerial photographs and detailed fieldwalking of the route. (See Section 4.0).

1.4 The assistance of the following in the compilation of this report is warmly acknowledged:

- J Ette, Assistant County Archaeologist, for advice on county policy and research strategy.
- R Poel, Project Manager, County Council Department of Transportation, for the arrangement of trial trenching.

**2.0 COUNTY ARCHAEOLOGICAL POLICY**

2.1 The need for effective management of the county's archaeological resource is clearly recognised by Cambridgeshire County Council. It is the Council's policy to safeguard nationally important ancient monuments and other significant archaeological sites.

2.2 Specific policies relate to the design of road schemes: "Account will be taken of these areas in the preparation of local plans and other policy documents, in development control and in the design of road schemes." (Structure Plan Policy 14.54).

2.3 Other important statements include the necessity to excavate and record sites with minimal loss of information "where there is no over-riding case for the preservation of an archaeological site."

2.4 Archaeological planning in Cambridgeshire is essentially based on the County Sites and Monuments Record (SMR). This consists of over 11,630 recorded entries, varying from the find spots of individual artefacts to extensive monuments and archaeological landscapes. 250 of these are currently deemed worthy of statutory protection and are designated as scheduled ancient monuments by the Secretary of State for the Environment.

2.5 Recent policy and planning guidance issued by the Department of the Environment (No. 16 "Archaeology and Planning") clearly

states that development proposals affecting all known sites must make provision for the preservation, or, as a last resort, the excavation and recording of all archaeological deposits.

2.6 In Cambridgeshire the majority of archaeological sites and monuments only survive below ground, often below the ploughsoil. These can sometimes be identified from aerial photographs, in which they may show up as variations in over-lying crops. However, there are many sites which do not show up in this way and whose existence is, therefore, probably not recognised. It is accepted that the SMR holds only a sample of the surviving archaeological remains in Cambridgeshire. Previously unknown sites are continually being discovered. For this reason the lack of recorded evidence cannot be taken as proof that a particular area is archaeologically sterile.

2.7 Road construction works, in particular, are considered to be highly destructive of archaeological remains. They involve the removal of large amounts of both topsoil and subsoil along the proposed route. They also affect adjoining areas as a result of the need for cuttings, embankments, services and construction camps.

### **3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND**

3.1 Between Alconbury and Fletton Parkway the A1 follows the presumed line of Ermine Street, one of the most important roads of Roman Britain. It was the major N-S highway and served as a link between major settlements (in particular London and York). In Cambridgeshire, Roman towns at Godmanchester and Water Newton were built on its route. Occasional smaller settlements, posting stations (such as the one at Wimpole, excavated by Cambridgeshire County Council in 1988) or farmsteads are likely to have existed along the route. It is also possible that parts of the structure of the Roman road itself survive either beneath or next to the present A1.

3.2 With successive resurfacings, Ermine Street remained a major national highway throughout the medieval and post-medieval periods. Several villages were established along the route. Some of these survive to the present day (eg. Stilton), some survive but have shifted in position (eg. Sawtry), while others no longer exist above ground (eg. Sawtry Judith). Such agricultural settlements were normally associated with an extensive field system, traces of which often survive in the form of low earthworks, known as ridge and furrow. The latter can be widely observed in pasture land on both sides of the A1 and were probably far more extensive before the Second World War when less land in this area was under cultivation.

### **4.0 RESEARCH STRATEGY**

4.1 This assessment has been compiled from a variety of sources. The SMR was searched for all sites lying in, or immediately

adjacent to, the area affected by the proposed road widening. Records from previously excavated sites in this area were consulted. The relevant aerial photographs were also examined.

4.2 A systematic programme of fieldwork was then undertaken, involving the inspection of all areas due to be affected by the widening scheme. The latter are largely confined to the western side of the A1, although development constraints in certain areas mean that the eastern side will also be affected, albeit to a lesser extent.

4.3 All sites currently in the SMR were visited and a number of new sites were added to the record. Where possible fieldwalking was carried out in recently ploughed fields. This involved a careful search for scatters of artefacts, which could indicate the existence of previously unrecognised sites. In general a 50m wide strip was walked in fields due to be affected by the road widening. More extensive areas were examined where new road junctions are proposed. It was not possible to examine arable fields in which the crop was too far advanced, and these have been noted for further work. Land still under pasture was checked for the presence of surviving earthworks.

4.4 A limited amount of trial trenching was undertaken on sites recognised as a result of earlier fieldwork.

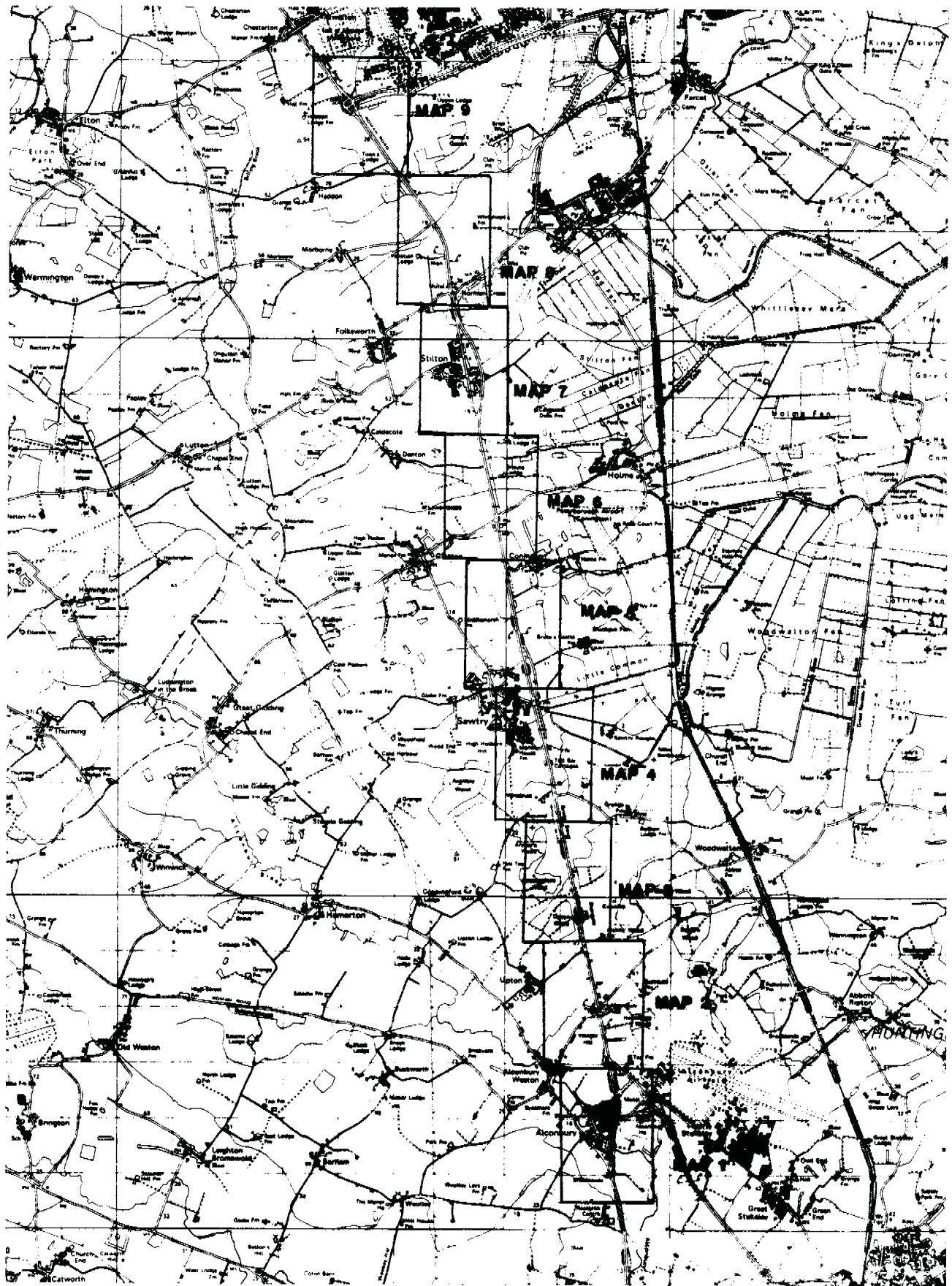
## 5.0 ORGANISATION OF THE REPORT

5.1 This report is structured around a series of maps reproduced to scale from the relevant Ordnance Survey 1:10,000 sheets. A total of nine maps cover the whole route from south to north. Each map displays the following information:

- the location of sites contained in the SMR, including scheduled ancient monuments and sites added as a result of recent fieldwork
- areas where fieldwalking was carried out, together with land which was under crop at the time of the fieldwork, but which must be re-examined once ploughing has taken place
- areas where trial trenching was carried out
- pasture where upstanding earthworks still survive.

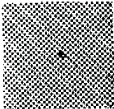


5.2 Each of the nine maps is accompanied by a gazetteer, containing brief descriptions of each SMR entry and details of the results of fieldwork. SMR entries appear as their unique 5 figure reference number, Scheduled ancient monuments are prefaced by the letters, SAM. Areas where fieldwalking was carried out are identified as F1, F2... etc. Where appropriate, recommendations are made concerning the future of individual sites, or of wider archaeological landscapes.

5.3 The report concludes with recommendations for future work on the widening scheme as a whole and highlights in summary form the most important individual recommendations.



LOCATION OF GAZETTEER MAPS 1-9 Scale 1:100,000

KEY TO GAZETTEER MAPS

●	05709	Entry in Sites and Monuments Record
	SAM 268	Scheduled Ancient Monument
—	F19	Area of Fieldwalking
- - - -		Area Recommended for Fieldwalking
		Trial Trenching
		Earthworks under Pasture

## GAZETTEER

### 6.0 MAP 1

00590 TL 1909/7407 Post-medieval gallows  
Matcham's Gibbet, destroyed by earlier A1 widening.

Recommendation: although adjacent to the A1, the site of this gallows does not appear to be affected by the present scheme. However, any work in this area should take account of the fact that executed criminals were often buried in the immediate vicinity of gallows. Human remains may still survive on the site.

08737 TL 189/745 Ridge and Furrow  
Pasture, very slight remains of ridge and furrow.

08738 TL 188/752 Ridge and Furrow

08739 TL 190/745 Ridge and Furrow  
Pasture with well defined ridge and furrow (NE-SW), incorporating headlands and hollow ways. Some disturbance due to quarrying in NW corner of field.

Fieldwalking 1 TL 188/749  
Walked in good weather conditions after recent ploughing. No significant finds scatters recovered. Faint ridge and furrow (running NE-SW) survived, suggesting that the field had only recently been brought under arable. Ridge and furrow recorded as SMR 09930.

09929 TL 188/749 Ridge and Furrow  
A small triangle of pasture next to Homefield farm. Well defined ridge and furrow running NE-SW. Remains of possible pond in SW.

09930 TL 188/753 Ridge and furrow  
Faint ridge and furrow, running NE-SW. Presently under arable after recent ploughing.

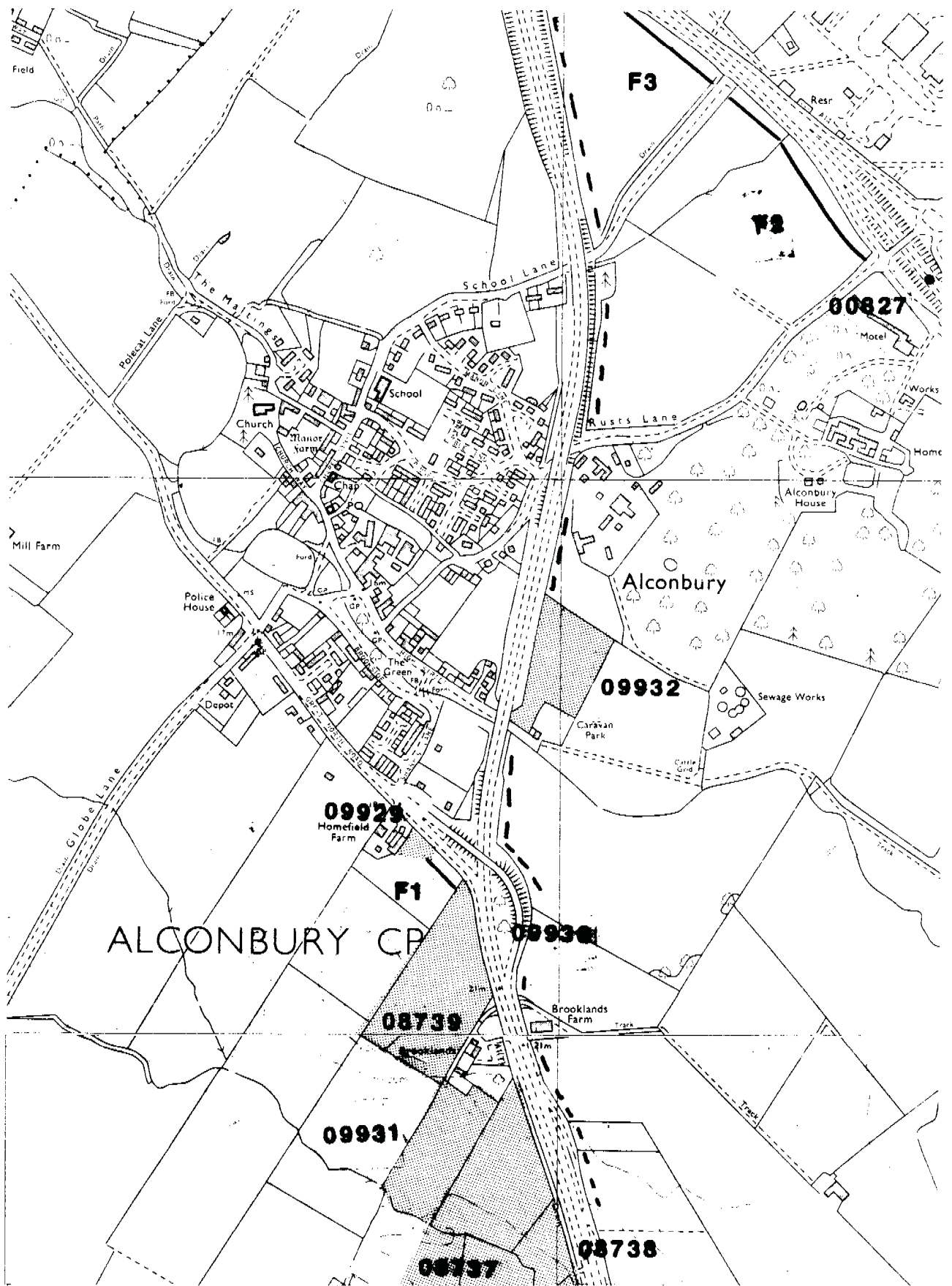
09931 TL 188/748 Ridge and furrow  
Well defined ridge and furrow running NE-SW.

09932 TL 191/757 Ridge and furrow  
Well defined ridge and furrow, headlands, etc. Towards the southern part of field the ridge and furrow runs NE-SW, towards the northern half roughly E-W.

The SE corner of the field contains one or two possible small, square enclosures, measuring approximately 20m x 30m. Their proximity to Alconbury Brook suggests these may be medieval fish ponds.

Recommendations: an extensive ridge and furrow field system survives to the S (and to a lesser extent the E) of Alconbury. Even areas recently brought under plough retain traces of the former land division. The area between Brooklands and Homefield





MAP 1 OS TL 190/748 - TL 190/769 Scale 1:10,000

Farm, in particular, will be severely affected by the road widening. If preservation is not possible, it is essential that these remains are surveyed and fully recorded prior to their destruction.

00827 TL 198/762 Prehistoric flints  
Surface find of flint implements in arable field.

Fieldwalking 2 TL 194/766  
Walked in overcast weather conditions, with field under crop (30mm beet). No significant finds scatters recorded, perhaps due to embanking work for A14.

Fieldwalking 3 TL 193/768  
Walked in overcast weather conditions, with field under crop (30mm beet). No significant finds scatters recorded, perhaps due to embanking work for A14.

**Recommendations:** the area immediately to the S of the A1-A14 junction appears to have been severely affected by landscaping for previous road building schemes. The land affected by the present proposal is unlikely to contain any significant archaeological remains.

## 7.0 MAP 2

00806a TL 184/776 Finds scatter  
Roman pottery found during excavation of foundation trenches for council houses at Hill Top.

00808 TL 1836/7754 Roman rubbish pit.  
Finds recovered during excavation included a Roman brooch.

00809 TL 186/776 Finds scatter  
Roman pottery and tile found during building work at Hill Top.

01724 TL 183/775 Finds scatter  
Roman pottery

**Fieldwalking 4 and trial trenching TL 188/777**  
An extensive area was fieldwalked immediately to the SW of the present-day Alconbury Hill junction. The weather was overcast and the fields were under crop (30mm beet). No significant finds scatters were recorded along the E edge of the area, parallel to the A1. This apparent absence of archaeological remains seemed to be confirmed by later trial trenching. Two trenches, 50m x 2m, were opened, perpendicular to the A1. These failed to reveal any archaeological features below the ploughsoil.

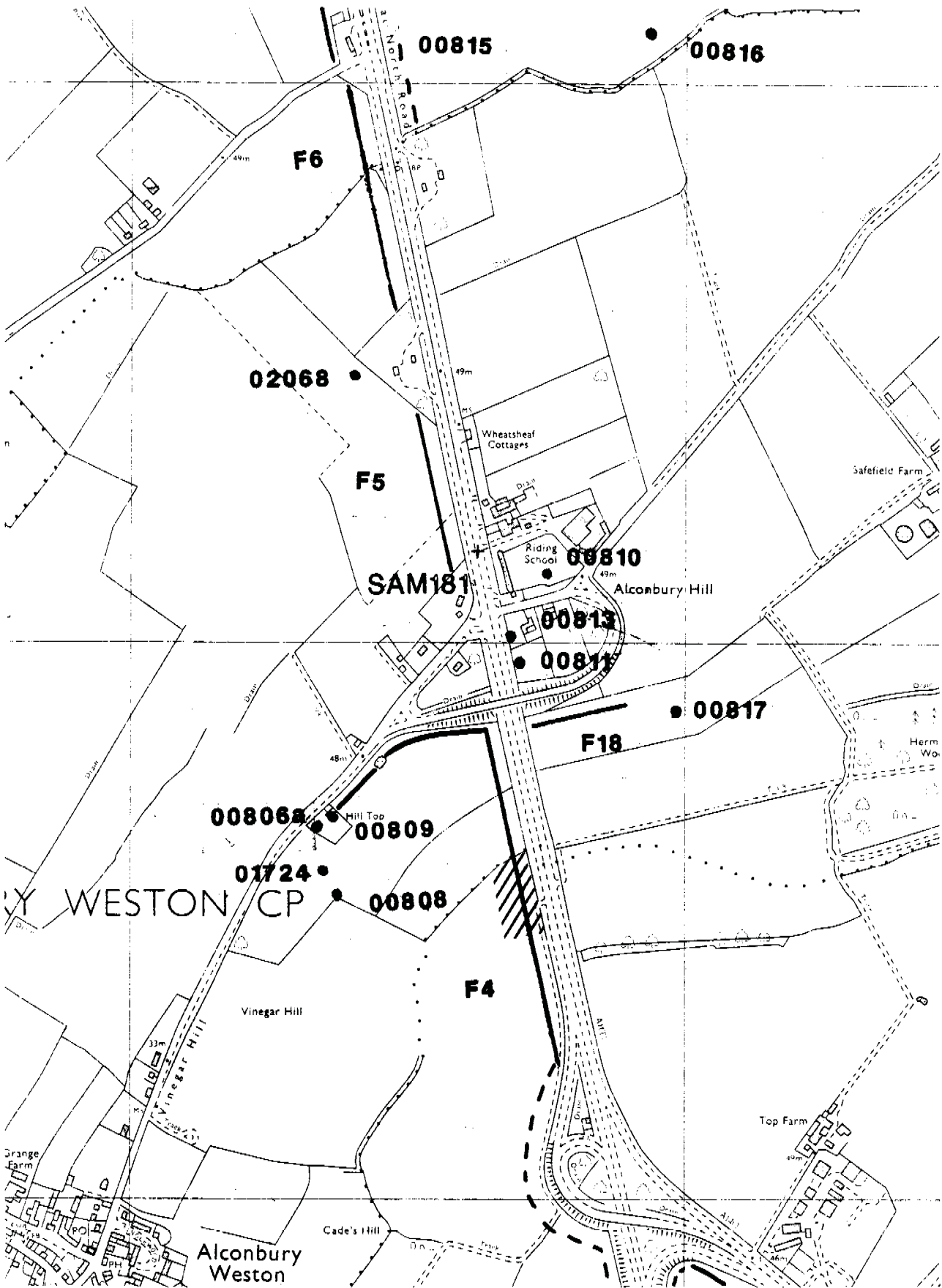
Along the northern edge of the area, however, there was an extensive scatter of early Roman pottery. This increased in density towards the NW corner of the field in the vicinity of Hill Top. Also among the pottery was a large fragment of "opus signinum", a Roman mortar, coloured pink by the addition of crushed tile and normally used in the construction of high quality buildings.

**Recommendations:** the fields to the south of Alconbury Hill have produced considerable evidence of Roman activity. This appears to be centred towards the NW corner of the area, close to Hill Top. The presence of Roman building material ("opus signinum") suggests a substantial structure may still exist below ground. The bridge over the A1 at Alconbury Hill is to be moved southwards. It is, therefore, essential that further trial trenching be carried out along the northern edge of the field, in order to try to locate this site more precisely. If substantial remains of Roman buildings survive in good condition, it will be necessary to design the highway to avoid their destruction.

**Fieldwalking 18 TL 187/778**  
Walked in overcast weather conditions with field under crop (20-30mm beet). No significant scatters of finds were recorded, possibly due to grading for bridge embankment to N.

00817 TL 191/779 Finds scatter  
Roman pottery, with some burnt daub.

00811 TL 187/780 Roman buildings  
A roadside group of small rectangular Roman houses, excavated in 1940. Finds included an inscribed stone.



MAP 2 OS TL 190/769 - TL 184/792 Scale 1:10,000

00813      TL 187/780      Road metalling  
Remains of Roman Ermine Street, uncovered during road-works in  
1938

**Recommendations:** evidence for Roman roadside occupation has been recorded on the E side of the A1 at Alconbury Hill junction. Much of this is likely to have been destroyed by previous road building. However, it is possible that further remains will be encountered during the re-positioning of the bridge. Trial trenching must be carried out on any areas to be affected by construction work.

SAM 181      TL 187/781      Milestone  
SMR number 00812. 18th century milestone obelisk in central reservation of A1.

**Recommendation:** this scheduled ancient monument should be retained, undisturbed, in its present position.

00810      TL 1867/7819      Pond and house  
Possible moat, now destroyed.

**Recommendation:** although this possible moat has been destroyed, further earthworks associated with the house may be encountered, and would require recording as part of a general watching brief.

Fieldwalking 5      TL 186/783  
Walked in overcast weather conditions with field under crop (10-20mm beet). No significant finds scatters were recorded.

02068      TL 1838/7868      Finds scatter  
Roman pottery (no later than 2nd century) collected during the digging of a pipeline in 1984.

Fieldwalking 6      TL 185/787  
Walked in overcast weather with the soil well broken down after ploughing. No significant finds scatters were recorded.

00815      TL 187/791      Cropmark  
Enclosure system (possibly late prehistoric), beneath cultivated land

00816      TL 1875/7913      Beehive quern  
Stray find of part of a beehive quern

## 8.0 MAP 3

04066 TL 184/791 Roman coin  
Stray find of coin of Faustina II

Fieldwalking 7 TL 184/793  
Walked in sunny weather conditions with the field under crop (30mm field beans). No significant finds scatters were recorded.

00814 TL 185/794 Iron age/Roman cropmark  
Cropmark of field system, associated with dense scatter of Romano-British pottery. Some medieval ridge and furrow also appears on the aerial photographs.

Fieldwalking 8 TL 183/797  
Walked in sunny weather conditions with the field under crop (20-30mm wheat). No significant finds scatters were recorded.

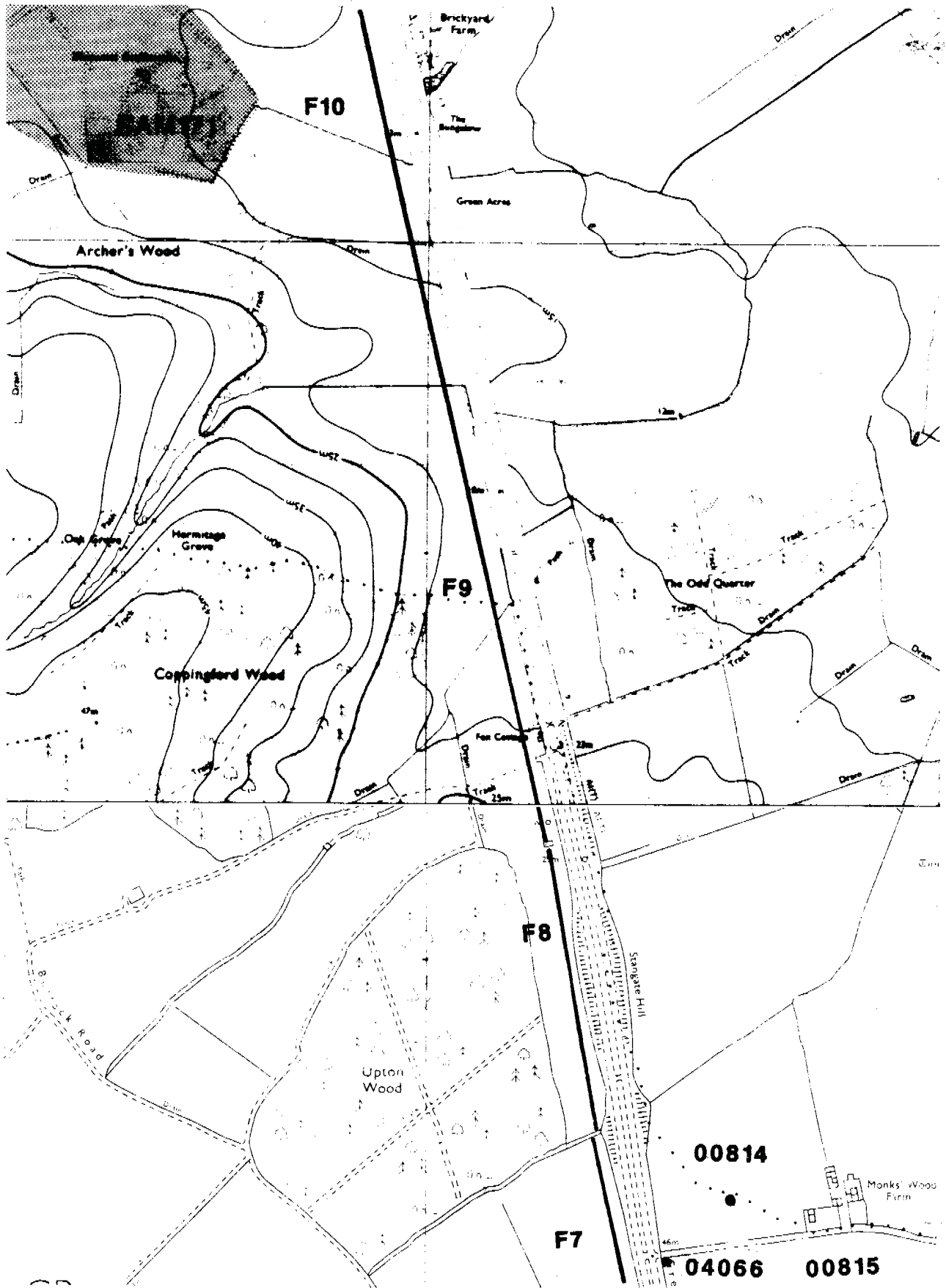
Recommendations: on the eastern side of the A1, opposite the Upton turn-off, a variety of evidence indicates the presence of extensive late Iron Age/early Roman occupation. This area does not appear to be immediately affected by the present scheme and it is recommended that it be left undisturbed.

However, despite the lack of positive results from fieldwalking, it is quite possible that similar remains survive on the western side of the road. If this is the case, they are certain to be affected by the road widening. It is recommended that further fieldwalking, followed by trial trenching should be undertaken in this area.

Fieldwalking 9 TL 181/805  
Walked in sunny weather conditions with field under crop (20-60mm various). The soil was well broken down, making visibility poor. No significant finds scatters were recorded.

SAM 171 TL 175/812 Deserted medieval village  
Village of Sawtry Judith, including grange, manorial earthworks and moat, numerous homesteads and roads, and a possible bronze working site connected to Sawtry Abbey. Partly excavated from 1967 onwards.

Fieldwalking 10 TL 178/815  
Walked in sunny conditions with the fields under crop (30-60 mm various). The soil was too finely broken down for optimum visibility. No significant finds scatters were recovered.



MAP 3 OS TL 184/792 - TL 180/810 Scale 1:10,000

9.0 MAP 4

Fieldwalking 11 TL 178/823

Walked in very overcast weather conditions with the field under crop (50mm beet). Fine soil breakdown contributed to the poor visibility. No significant finds scatters were recorded.

Fieldwalking 12 TL 176/826

Walked in overcast weather conditions with the field recently ploughed. No significant finds scatters were recorded.

Recommendations: the scheduled ancient monument of Sawtry Judith lies approximately 300m to the west of the A1, immediately to the N of Archer's Wood. It appears to be unaffected by the present scheme but should in any circumstances be left untouched. The area between this deserted medieval village and the A1 will be affected by the road widening, and may contain outlying structures associated with the village. Fieldwalking here was carried out in far from optimum conditions and it is recommended that these fields be re-examined after further ploughing.

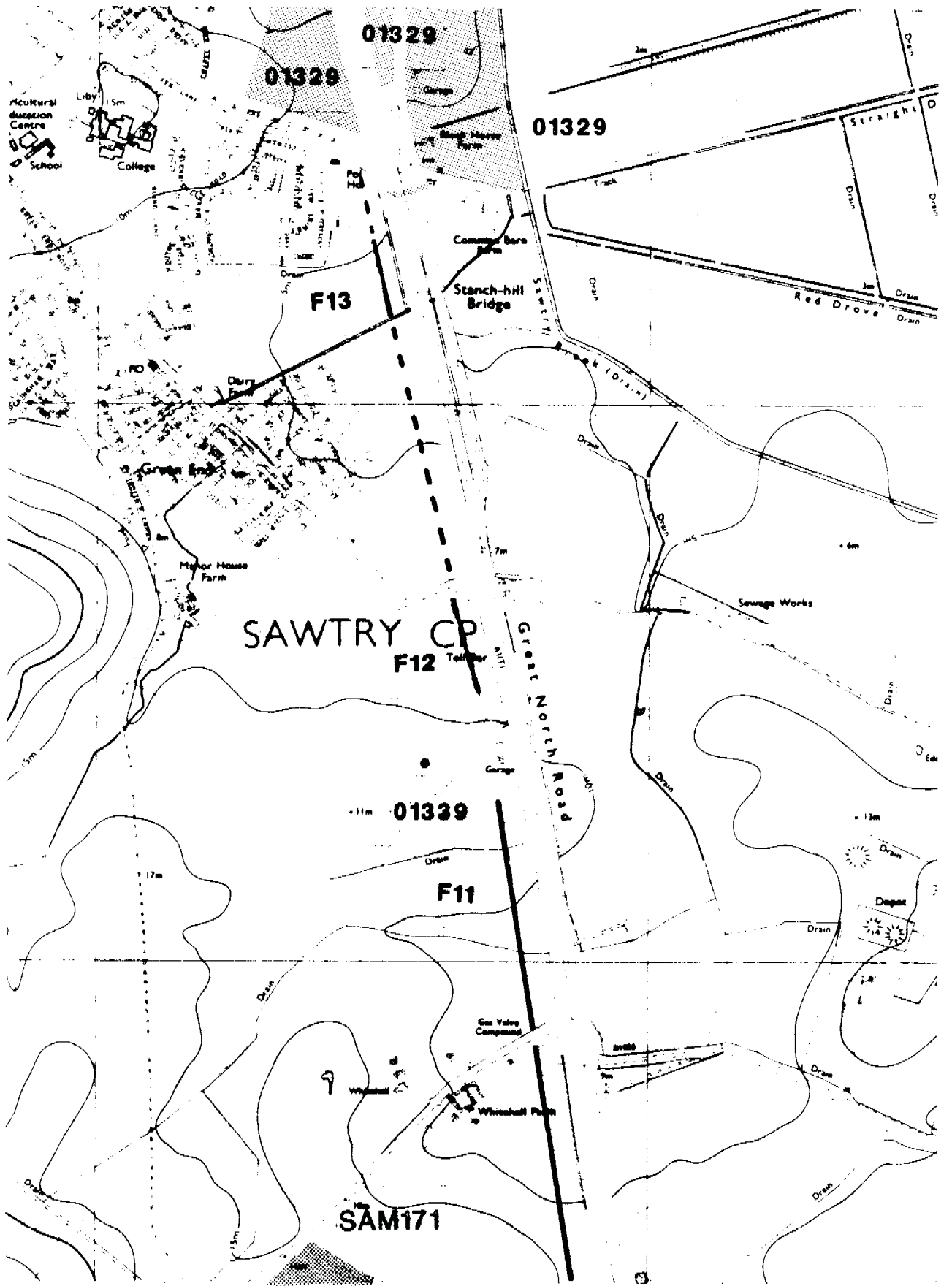
01339 TL 17/82 Roman cemetery

In 1722 Roman urns were found in "Sautrie-field", near Ermine Street about one mile from the village. These may represent a cemetery associated with the settlement at Tort Hill (SMR 01329d).

Fieldwalking 13 TL 175/833

Walked in overcast weather conditions with the field under crop (60mm field beans). No significant finds scatters were recorded.





MAP 4 OS TL 180/810 - TL 177/838 Scale 1:10,000

## 10.0 MAP 5

**SAM 172 TL 173/839 Deserted medieval village and moat**  
Extensive earthwork remains of medieval village, including moated homestead, hollow ways, ridge and furrow. Extends northwards to Tort Hill where there are a number of sunken, rectangular and circular enclosures and platforms (including two probable Civil War gun batteries).

**01333/a TL 1756/8393 Graveyard**  
Site of parish church of Saint Andrew's (demolished 1880). Graveyard still extant, though overgrown. Contains 13th/early 14th century stone coffin with shaped head.

**01334 TL 174/839 Stray find**  
Roman colour coated potsherd with figure of spearman in white.

**01329d TL 173/841 Romano-British settlement**  
Apparently occupied from the 2nd to 4th century. Discovered during the realignment of the A1 at Tort Hill in 1939.

**01567 TL 173/842 Finds scatter**  
Large quantity of fine wares collected during realignment of the A1 at Tort Hill in 1939.

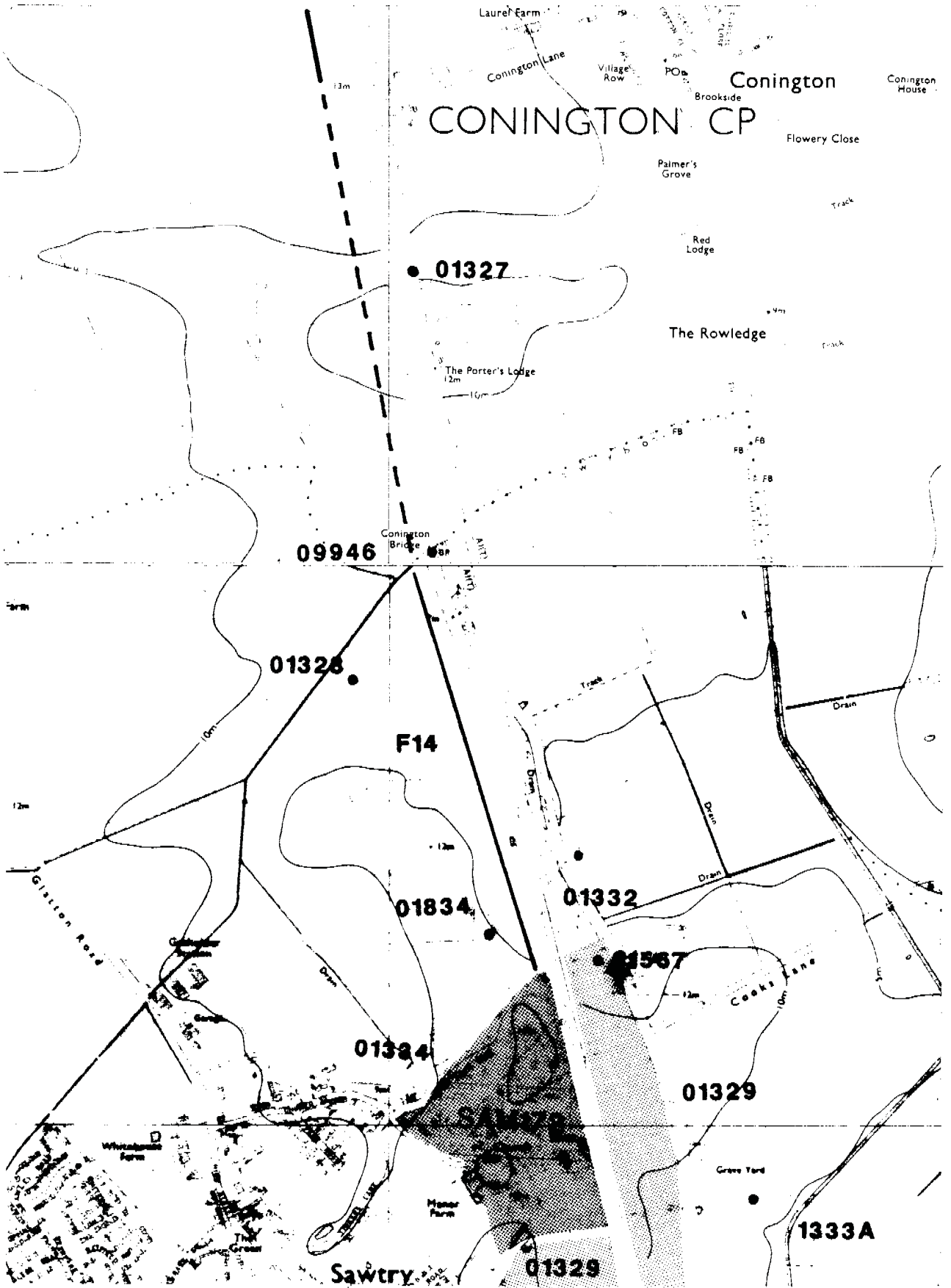
**01332 TL 17/84 Roman coffins**  
Two coffins (one male , one female) of Barnack stone discovered during widening of A1.

**Fieldwalking 14 TL 173/845**  
Walked in sunny weather conditions after recent ploughing. A small scatter of 1st to 2nd century Roman pottery was recovered.

**01834 TL 173/848 Finds scatter**  
25 Roman coins and in excess of 1200 potsherds found during fieldwalking in 1983.

**Recommendations:** the area around the village of Sawtry appears to be unusually rich in archaeological remains. In particular, there is a Roman settlement at Tort Hill, with a possible associated cemetery to the S. The remains of medieval Sawtry survive as extensive earthworks to the E of the present-day village. A part of this archaeological landscape was destroyed during road construction in 1939; the surviving remains are nevertheless impressive.

The nucleus of this area has been designated a scheduled ancient monument and should not in any circumstances be damaged. Adjacent, outlying areas, although not scheduled, are important elements in the overall landscape and it is strongly recommended that they too be left intact. On the E side of the A1 these include the graveyard of Saint Andrew's Church and the fields of ridge and furrow to the N and W of the latter. On the W side of the A1 significant earthwork remains survive to the S of the scheduled area in the field to the S of the present bridge over the dual carriageway.



MAP 5 OS TL 177/838 - TL 169/861 Scale 1:10,000

Fieldwalking of the land immediately to the N of Tort Hill has produced an impressive quantity of Roman finds. This probably represents a second Roman site, to the N of the settlement at Tort Hill, and it is strongly recommended that trial trenching be carried out in any areas to be affected by the road widening.

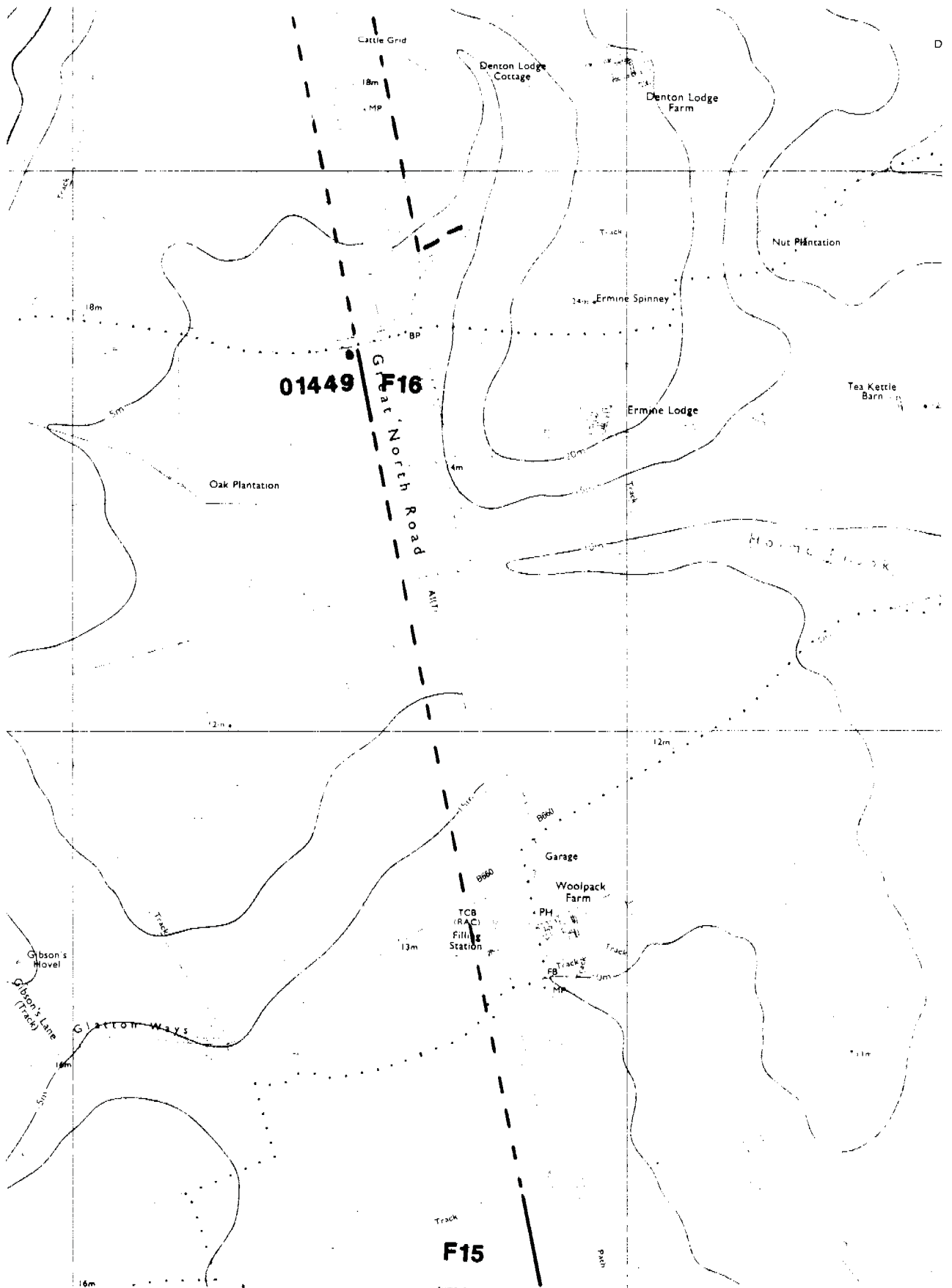
09946      TL 171/850      Conington Bridge

Stone-built bridge on line of Great North Road, marking parish boundary between Conington and Sawtry.

Recommendation: although the superstructure has been repaired in brick, the main part of this bridge is built of dressed stone. The date of its construction is uncertain. Its appearance suggests it may be post-medieval but it is quite possible that much earlier, medieval fabric survives at foundation level. It is recommended that a full survey be carried out in order to try to establish the age of this structure. If it dates in part to the medieval period, it is strongly recommended that it be preserved in situ.

01328      TL 17/85      Roman coin  
Isolated find of silver coin of Julius Caesar, found 1890.

01327      TL 1708/8539      Roman pottery  
Isolated find, uncovered during construction of dual carriageway.



MAP 6 OS TL 169/861 - TL 166/883 Scale 1:10,000

11.0 MAP 6

**Fieldwalking 15**      TL 169/859

Walked in sunny weather conditions after recent ploughing. No significant finds scatters recorded.

**01449**      TL 166/877      **Medieval stone cross**

Boundary cross marked on 1613 map of Glatton

**Fieldwalking 16**      TL 166/877

Walked in sunny weather conditions with field under crop (20-30mm field beans. No significant finds scatters recorded.

**Recommendations:** between Conington Bridge and Stilton, the majority of the land on the W side of the A1 was under crop at the time of the present fieldwork. It is essential, therefore, that these fields be walked after the next ploughing. Two areas to the W of this stretch of the A1 also appear to be affected by the road widening. Further fieldwalking here is also essential.

## 12.0 MAP 7

09933 TL 166/888 Ridge and furrow  
Generally well defined ridge and furrow, extending over several fields and incorporating headlands, hollow ways. Mostly aligned E-W, and occasionally N-S and NW-SE.

09934 TL 166/895 Ridge and furrow  
Well defined ridge and furrow, running E-W and NW-SE (in SW corner of field).

Fieldwalking 19 TL 165/897  
Walked in overcast weather conditions with field under crop (50-60mm wheat). Poor visibility. No significant finds scatters were recorded.

**Recommendations:** in the vicinity of the village of Stilton the road widening is due to affect the E side of the A1. Several fields of ridge and furrow survive in this area and it is recommended that they be surveyed prior to their destruction.

To the N of this area of pasture lie several fields under arable. Fieldwalking was only possible in one of these and again it is essential that further fieldwalking take place following the next ploughing.

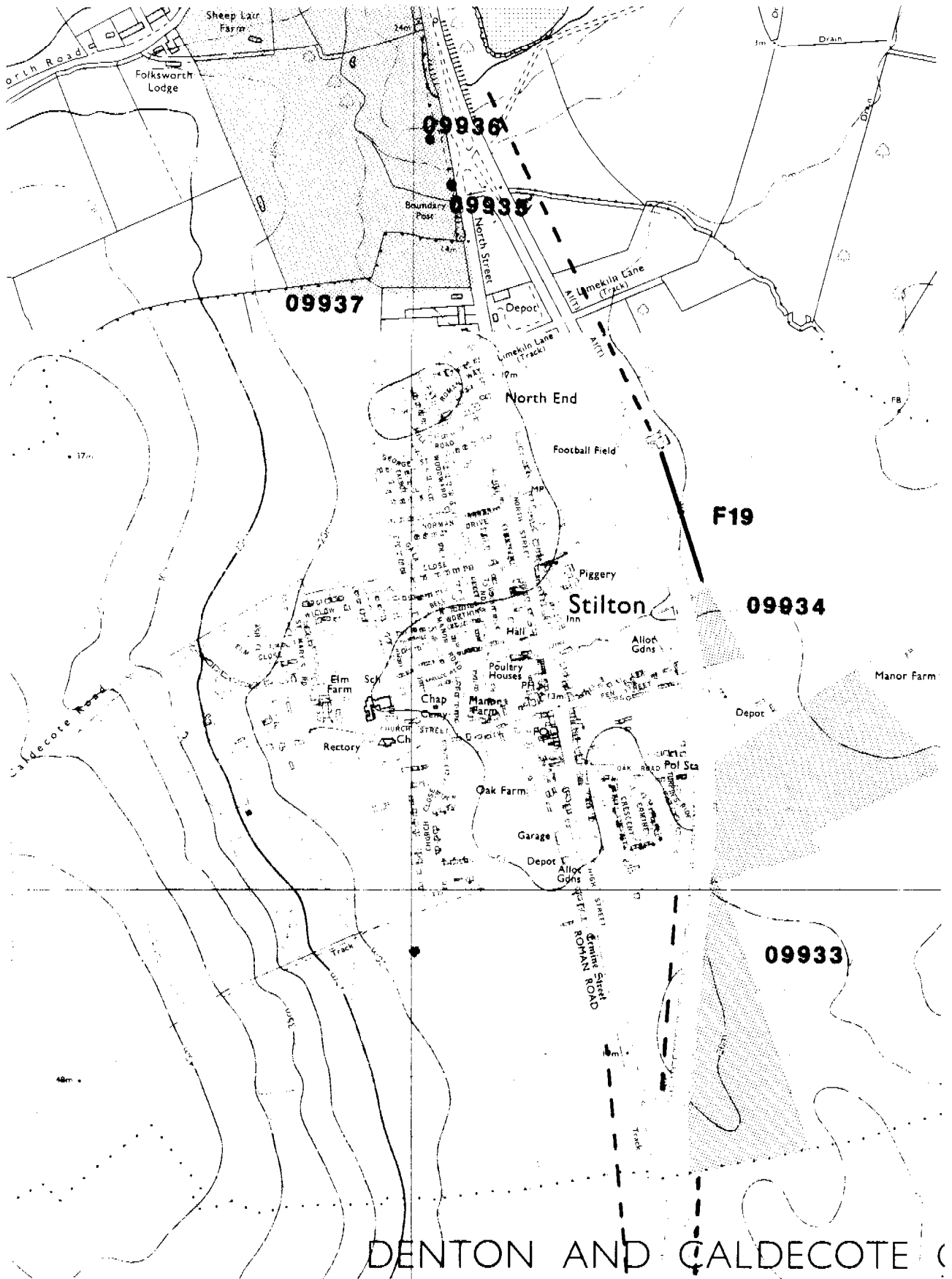
09935 TL 1598/9030 Field boundary and hollow way  
N-S running bank and hedge, 3m to W of present field boundary incorporating hollow way, on presumed line of Roman or medieval Ermine Street.

09936 TL 1598/9035 Earthwork enclosure  
Three-sided rectangular earthwork enclosure (70m x 35m), cut into summit of low hill to form a level area. Open to S, with possible entrance(s) to N. Banks survive to a height of approximately 1.50m. Cuts through earlier ridge and furrow and field boundary (SMR 09935) to E.

09937 TL 157/903 Ridge and Furrow  
Extensive, well defined medieval field system stretching northwards from Stilton to Folksworth Road and westwards towards Folksworth. Incorporates several individual fields, separated by headlands and hollow ways.

**Recommendations:** the area between north Stilton and the Norman Cross roundabout contains an extensive, well preserved medieval landscape. This is bounded on the E side by a hollow way (running parallel to the A1) which appears to be a continuation of Stilton High Street. The hollow way probably preserves the line of Ermine Street and may actually incorporate metalling from the original Roman road. A previously unrecognised earthwork enclosure also survives in this area.

The density of remains, their excellent state of preservation and the integral nature of this landscape as a whole are forceful arguments in favour of its complete preservation. If destruction



MAP 7 OS TL 166/883 - TL 160/906 Scale 1:10,000



is unavoidable an extensive programme of archaeological fieldwork will be essential. This must include a full earthwork survey as a precursor to the excavation of selected elements. The latter should include the enclosure, the hollow way and parts of the field system (in particular the headlands) which may yield dating evidence.

13.0 MAP 8

**SAM 268 TL 163/911 Norman Cross Napoleonic PoW camp**  
(SMR number 02803) Site of 42 acre prisoners of war camp, in use from 1796 to 1814.

**05709 TL 1588/9142 Memorial Stone**  
Erected in 1914 in memory of 1,770 prisoners of war who died in Norman Cross camp. At present only the base of this column remains in situ. The fields immediately to the west and south have been trial trenched (November 1990 and January 1991) in an attempt to uncover any burials, but to date without success.

**Recommendations:** the former PoW camp at Norman Cross is a scheduled ancient monument and should, therefore, be left undisturbed. The location of the burial ground of the internees is still uncertain. Trial trenching in the fields opposite the camp has failed to produce any evidence for burials. Nevertheless, any work in this area must have regard for the fact that human remains may be encountered. A careful watching brief must be maintained during any earth-moving work. It is recommended that the memorial stone to the prisoners be refurbished and re-erected.

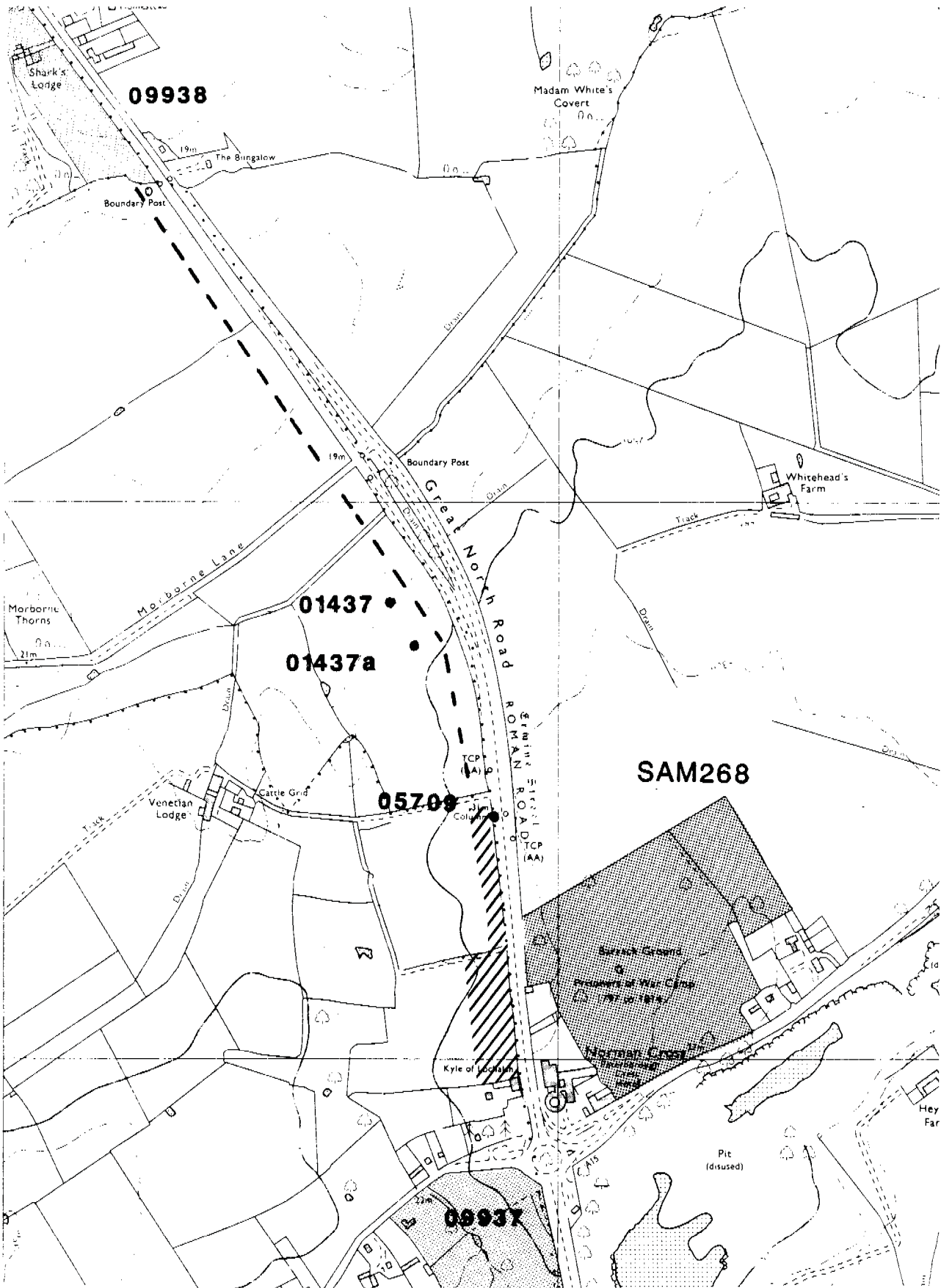
**01437 TL 1579/9172 Two earthen mounds**  
TL 1585/9163  
Two ploughed out mounds, one of which has been identified as the tump of a post mill, in use from the 15th to 18th century.

**01437a TL 1585/9163 Possible prehistoric ring ditch**  
Discovered during excavation of the more southerly of the two earthen mounds (SMR 01437)

**Recommendations:** the two earthen mounds on this site no longer exist above ground. However, the ring ditch will almost certainly still survive at the level of the subsoil. It is recommended that the ditch be excavated in order to determine its full extent and to date it more precisely.

It also recommended that further fieldwalking be undertaken between Norman Cross and Haddon Nursery. This stretch of the route was under arable at the time of the present fieldwork.

**09938 TL 1500/9281 Ridge and furrow**  
Several fields of ridge and furrow, mostly aligned N-S (with exception of one small area aligned E-W).



MAP 8 OS TL 160/906 - TL 150/929 Scale 1:10,000

#### 14.0 MAP 9

**08752 TL 143/935 Ridge and furrow**

Extensive area of ridge and furrow, running northwards from the Haddon road almost to Fletton Parkway roundabout. Aligned in various directions, with well defined headlands and hollow ways.

**Fieldwalking 17 TL 144/938**

Walked in overcast weather conditions with the field under crop (30-40mm wheat). Poor visibility. No significant finds scatters were recorded. Large, partly dried out pond on W edge of area of fieldwalking.

**Recommendations:** the present-day village of Haddon represents a remnant of a once far more extensive medieval village. Upstanding earthworks associated with the earlier village can be seen in the fields between Haddon and the W side of the A1. Parts of this have already been damaged by being recently brought under plough, and the road widening will have severe implications for much of the rest. It is, therefore, recommended that this medieval field system be surveyed and recorded prior to its destruction.

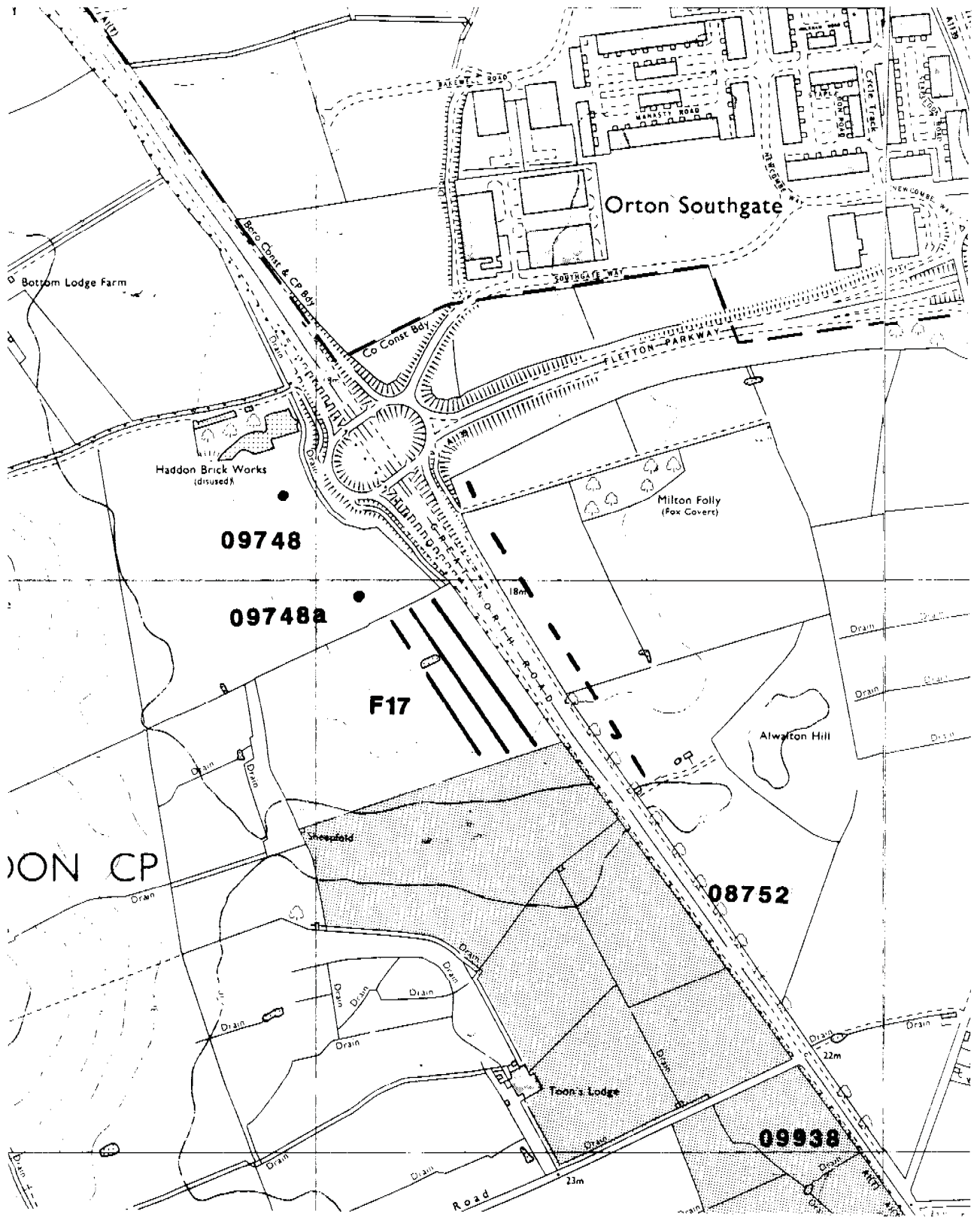
**09748a TL 139/942 Medieval ridge and furrow**

N-S running ridge and furrow, mirroring earlier Roman field system. Recorded prior to construction of A605 Elton-Chesterton bypass.

**09748 TL 139/942 Roman farmstead and field system**

Roman farmstead, occupied in 1st and 4th centuries, incorporating various stone and wooden buildings, enclosures, ditches, fence lines and well. Excavated in 1989 prior to construction of A605 Elton-Chesterton bypass.

**Recommendations:** the area immediately to the W of the Fletton Parkway roundabout is almost certainly devoid of archaeological remains following the construction of the Elton-Chesterton bypass. However, the area to the SE of the roundabout may contain similar remains to those excavated in 1989. It is, therefore, recommended that fieldwalking be carried out in this area, following the next ploughing.



MAP 9 OS TL 150/929 - TL 138/949 Scale 1:10,000

## 15.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

15.1 The following represents a summary of the more detailed recommendations made above and also includes overall recommendations for the widening scheme as a whole.

15.2 It should be noted that the following specific recommendations are not mutually exclusive. For example, sites recommended for preservation may well require survey and/or excavation, if destruction is unavoidable. Similarly, further trial trenching may reveal sites which would be recommended for preservation.

### 15.3 Preservation

The following sites or monuments are recommended for preservation:

- SAM 181, TL 187/781, milestone.
- 00815/00814, TL 187/791 - TL 185/794, Iron age/Romano-British field system (cropmark).
- SAM 171, TL 175/812, deserted medieval village of Sawtry Judith.
- SAM 172, TL 173/839, extensive earthwork remains to the E of present-day Sawtry (together with further elements of the same archaeological landscape not actually included in the scheduled area.)
- 09946, TL 171/850, Conington Bridge (subject to results of structural survey.)
- 09935/00936/00937, TL 157/903, extensive, well preserved earthworks N of Stilton.
- SAM 268, TL 163/911, Norman Cross Napoleonic POW camp.

### 15.4 Earthwork survey

It is recommended that surveys be made of the following earthworks prior to their damage or destruction during the proposed road widening:

- 08737-9/09929-32, TL 189/745 - TL 191/757, medieval field system to the S (and E) of Alconbury.
- 09933-4, TL 166/888 - TL166/895, medieval field system to the E of Stilton.
- 09938/08752, TL 1500/9281 - TL 143/935, medieval field system associated with the shrunken medieval village of Haddon.

### 15.5 Excavation

It is recommended that the following sites be excavated:

- 01437a, TL 1585/9163, possible prehistoric ring ditch.

### 15.6 Trial trenching

It is recommended that further trial trenching be carried out on the following sites:

- 00809, TL 186/776, finds scatters and recent fieldwalking highlight the need for further investigative work along the N edge of the fields immediately to the S of Alconbury Hill, where the presence of a substantial Roman building is suspected.
- TL 184/793, trenching is recommended in the fields immediately to the N of the Upton turn-off (on the W side of the A1). An extensive Iron age/Romano-British field system (00815, 00814) may extend across from the E side of the A1.
- 01834, TL 173/848, the field between Tort Hill and Conington Bridge has produced extensive scatters of Roman artefacts. Trenching is recommended to establish whether or not a potentially large Roman site is within the area affected by the road widening.

### 15.7 Fieldwalking

It is recommended that further fieldwalking be carried out on the following sites:

- F6-F7, TL 185/787 - TL 184/793
- F9-F11, TL 181/805 - TL 178/823
- the fields between Conington Bridge and Stilton (on the W side of the A1), most of which it was not possible to examine during the present fieldwork.
- the fields to the E of Stilton (N of and including F19, TL 165/897.)
- the fields between Norman Cross and Haddon Nursery (on the W side of the A1).
- the fields to the SE of the Fletton Parkway roundabout.

### 15.8 Watching brief

It is recommended that an archaeologist be appointed to maintain a watching brief during the road widening works. Any removal of the former Great North Road, not incorporated in the present A1, should be monitored for the survival of earlier Roman metallurgy. The following sites should also be given particular attention during earth-moving activity.

- 00590, TL 1909/7407, Matcham's Gibbet
- 00811/00813, TL 187/780, Roman roadside buildings at Alconbury Hill (E side of A1).
- 00810, TL 1867/7819, possible medieval earthworks at Alconbury Hill (E side of A1).
- SAM 268, TL 163/911, Norman Cross Napoleonic PoW camp. The

presumed burial ground associated with this camp has yet to be discovered. Any work in adjacent fields must take this into account.

15.9 This report's wide ranging recommendations concerning the future treatment of archaeological remains within the affected area follow on naturally from its status as a preliminary assessment. The importance of further investigative work at this early stage, well in advance of construction works, cannot be stressed too highly. This would allow the relative importance of individual sites to be evaluated more accurately and would form the basis for a precise assessment of future requirements.

liaison with the Archaeology Section of the County Council will be necessary to ensure future works are undertaken by recognised (by the County Council) archaeological organisations.

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