



INDEX DATA	RPS INFORMATION
Scheme Title A259 Dunchurch to M20 (J11)	Details Archaeological Surface Collection survey.
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Contractor Oxford Archaeological Unit	
County	
OS Reference	
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**A259 DYMCHURCH TO M20 (J11)**

**Archaeological Surface Collection Survey**

**Oxford Archaeological Unit**

**November 1992**

# REPORT ON ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURFACE COLLECTION SURVEY

## Background

The surface collection survey undertaken by the Oxford Archaeological Unit (OAU) between 20 and 22 October 1992, formed part of a study being conducted by Chris Blandford Associates to assess the likely impact of the construction of the A259 Dymchurch to M20 (Junction 11) trunk road, upon the archaeological landscape. Surface collection survey is an established technique used to identify unknown sites, define areas of archaeological potential and to interpret past patterns of human settlement activity.

## Methodology

The methodology used for the surface collection survey followed the basic premise that all arable areas of land take should be subject to survey using a systematic linear transect sampling method to a standard specification.

The survey was based on a corridor of land approximately 50 m wide set along the line of the proposed road. Artefacts were bagged in 20 m units along transects set 20 m apart. Sighting poles were set up at opposing ends of a particular land parcel (or at the limits of vision) and the transects were walked, each 20 m unit being measured cumulatively, to avoid the variation in individual pace. A 1 m wide area of land was observed at either side of each transect line, ensuring that at least 10% of the ground was covered by the survey.

Transects actually walked were recorded on the survey maps by indicating the presence or absence of finds. Individuals assigned to various transects were also recorded.

A field log-book and a series of field record sheets were kept to record variations within and between each land parcel:

- i) land parcel number;
- ii) soil/crop conditions;
- iii) ground surface visibility conditions;
- iv) slope/topography;
- v) lighting/weather conditions;
- vi) time of day and date;
- vii) length of transects and number of units walked;
- viii) initial interpretation/summary of finds.

Guidelines were devised in advance of the inception of fieldwork on what artefacts were to be collected (see Finds Section below) and these were adhered to fairly rigidly. At the request of the landowner, Captain G A Hardy, all artefacts resulting from the surface collection survey were identified *in situ* and left in the field.

## The Results

In an attempt to avoid the problem of bias caused by fieldworkers being selective in their recovery of finds, a collection strategy was devised. For most object categories total recovery was aimed at, irrespective of the date of the material in question. This, it was hoped, would avoid discarding finds 'on the spot' in the field, subsequently resulting in imbalances in the recorded quantities of material such as tile and pottery.

The major artefact categories collected and recorded were: pottery (Roman, medieval and post-medieval), worked flint, stone and ceramic building materials, glass, metal objects, slag, clay pipe and bone.

The only items not recorded were 20th century plastics, bakerlite, asbestos and large metal objects derived from modern agricultural machinery.

It is, of course, unavoidable on a project like this to eliminate bias completely. There is a tendency for individuals to be 'tuned in' to a particular artefact type, such as ceramic or firecracked flint, in which case one item is collected at the expense of another. In this project, however, no noticeable problems regarding artefact bias occurred.

## The Finds

All finds recording was conducted *in situ*. Finds were dated where possible, but many items, especially tile, were found in such small fragments that they could not be closely dated, and consequently have been recorded as being of 'uncertain' date. All artefacts were recorded on a computerised database (dBase III) in quite broad object categories. The computerised data was used to provide lists of artefact types by period and formed the basis for a series of finds distribution plots.

The principal finds categories in terms of quantity were pottery, flint and tile/brick.

Analysis concentrated on those groups which were likely to provide chronological information. Certain other classes of object which might have contained a range of closely datable objects consisted, with very few exceptions, entirely of post medieval material.

### i) *Flint*

A total of 47 pieces of struck flint were recovered during the surface collection survey. As one would expect from surface finds, the flint had, in some cases, been heavily battered and abraded. The recorded flint assemblage consisted of 37 flakes, 3 cores and 7 tools, including 1 barbed and tanged arrowhead. <sup>77</sup>

The dating of the collection is somewhat problematical as there were few diagnostic pieces and precise dating is notoriously difficult for unstratified and plough abraded material. A brief assessment has, however, noted the presence of late Neolithic and early Bronze Age elements.

ii) *Pottery*

Some 105 sherds of pottery were recovered from the survey. The majority, 74 sherds, were of post-medieval date with the 19th and 20th centuries apparently predominating. Of the remaining total, 18 sherds were medieval and 13 were Roman. Pot types have not been discussed, nor has any attempt been made to closely date fabrics.

iii) *Tile and Brick*

388 fragments of tile and brick were recorded. Of those that could be dated, 124 pieces were post-medieval and 12 were Roman, including 1 fragment of combed box flue.

iv) *Foreign Stone*

9 fragments of foreign stone were recovered. Few of the stone pieces appear to have been utilised in any way.

v) *Metals*

Metal objects consisted solely of iron fragments. Few of these pieces were datable and most are presumably derived from post-medieval agricultural machinery.

vi) *Other Material*

Organic and largely undatable finds included oyster shell, animal bone and slag/clinker. None of this material appeared to have a significant distribution. All recorded glass fragments were of post medieval date.

### **The Finds Scatters**

The criteria which separate a definite 'concentration' of material, implying a site, and a random scatter, implying material spread during later cultivation, are difficult to define. The results, therefore, involve an element of subjectivity dependant upon the type of material in question. Worked flint, for example, survives relatively well in ploughsoil, though it can become heavily abraded. Prehistoric pottery, however, being less well fired than Roman or medieval examples, will not survive well in disturbed ploughsoils and, therefore, will appear, if at all, in very small quantities.

## Sites Located from Field Survey

The following list gives details of three identified finds scatters. The extent of each concentration is shown in the Surface Collection Survey Maps. The 'confidence' rating indicates a judgement of the confidence that the clusters represent distinct concentrations of potential archaeological significance, ranging from 1 (High) to 3 (Low).

### *Site 0001 - Medieval - Confidence 2/3 (Field 1)*

Small but fairly discrete scatter of Medieval pottery (17 sherds) at the northern margins of the collection area. The scatter may relate to later manuring activity.

### *Site 0002 - Prehistoric - Confidence 2/3*

Dispersed scatter of worked flint (28 flakes) spread over Eastern margins of field 1.

### *Site 0003 - Prehistoric - Confidence 2/3 (Field 2)*

Fairly dense concentration of worked flint (14 flakes) and a very low density scatter of Roman material (2 sherds and 1 tile fragment). Site may represent a continuation of Site 0001.

### *Site 0004 - Roman - Confidence 2 (Field 3)*

Dispersed scatter of Roman material (11 sherds and 11 fragments of tile including 4 tegulae, 1 imbrex and 1 fragment of combed box flue) within an area of poor surface visibility (c 15-25%). Scatter may relate to an area of increased Roman activity close to the Lympne-Canterbury and Lympne Dover Roman roads and possibly suggests the former presence of a building within the immediate vicinity.

OAU

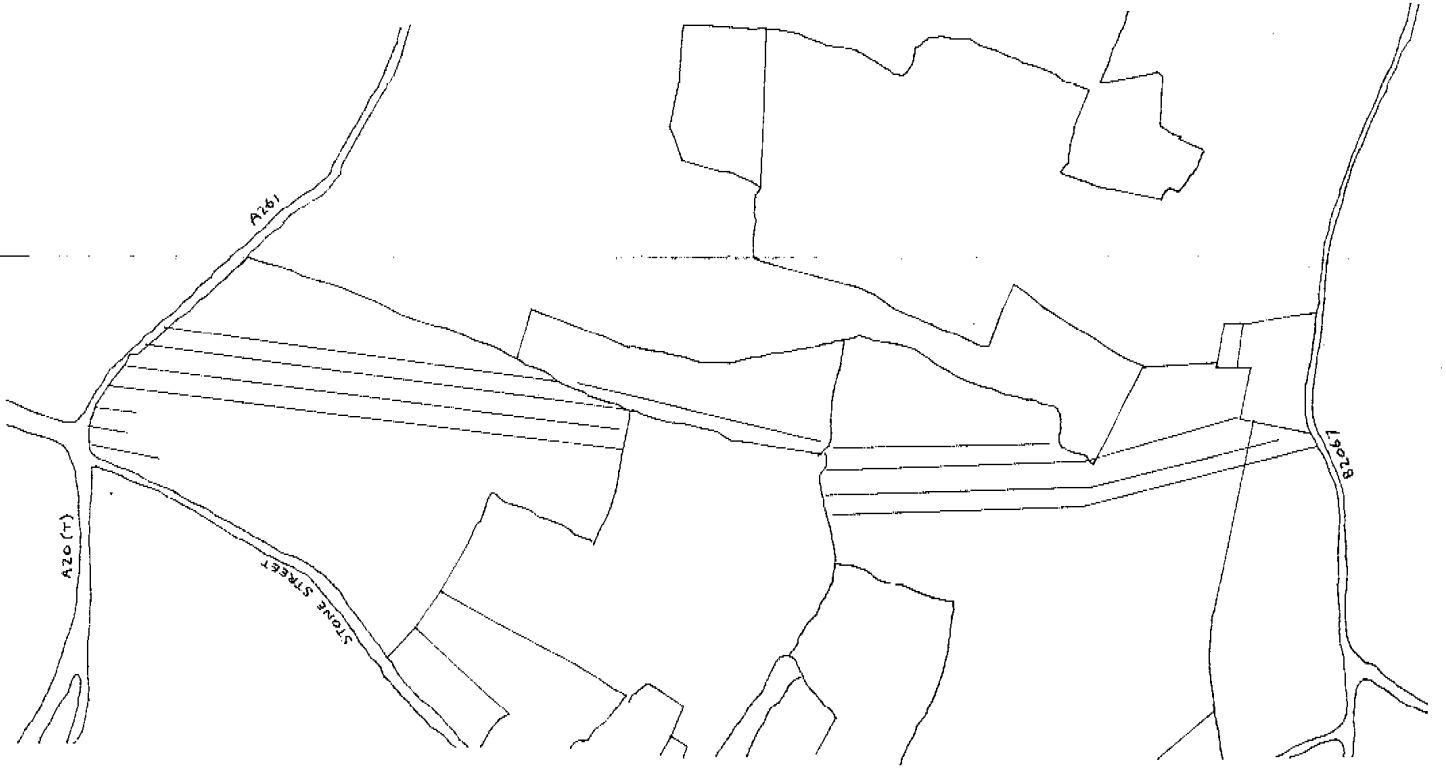
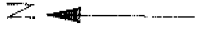
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A259 Dymchurch - M20 (J11)

Transects Walked

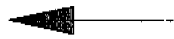
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A259 Dymchurch - M20 (J11)

Field 1

N



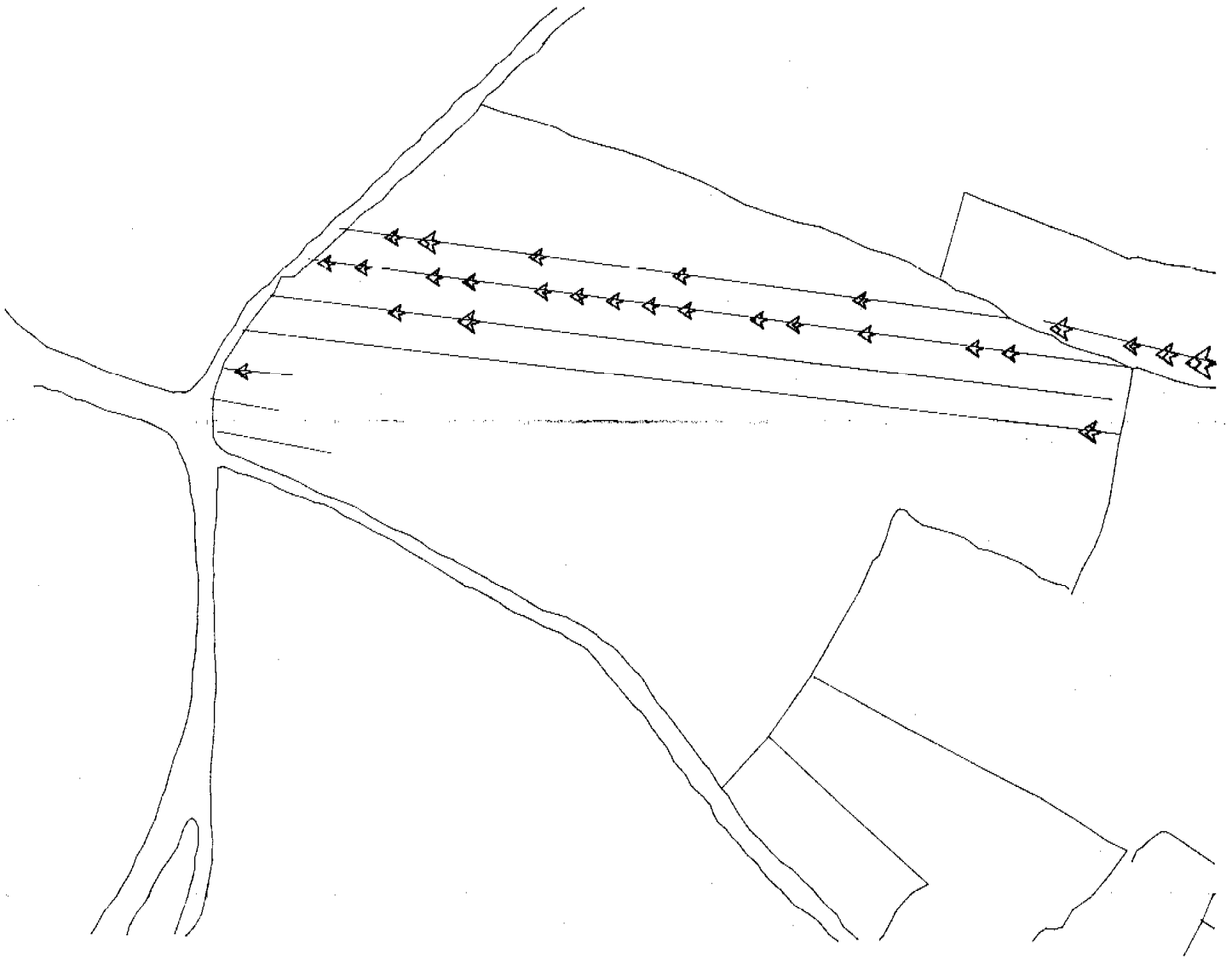
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Flint

- ▲ 1 Flint
- ▲ 2 Flints
- ▲ 3 Flints
- ▲ 4-5 Flints
- ▲ 6-7 Flints





A259 Dymchurch - M20 (J11)

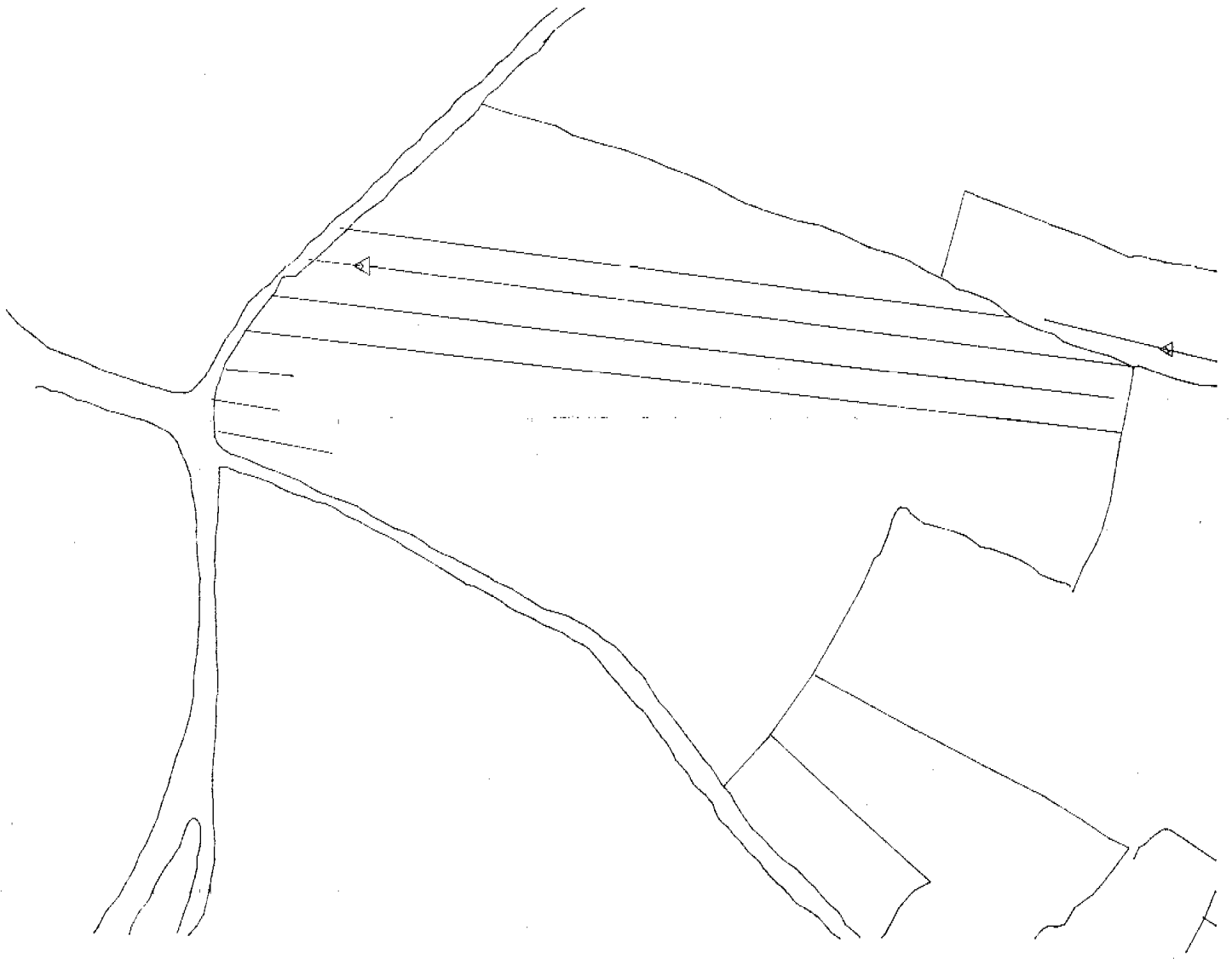
Field 1

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Roman Tile

- ▲ 1 Sherd
- ▲ 2 Sherds
- ▲ 3 Sherds
- ▲ 4 Sherds



A259 Dymchurch - M20 (J11)

Field 1

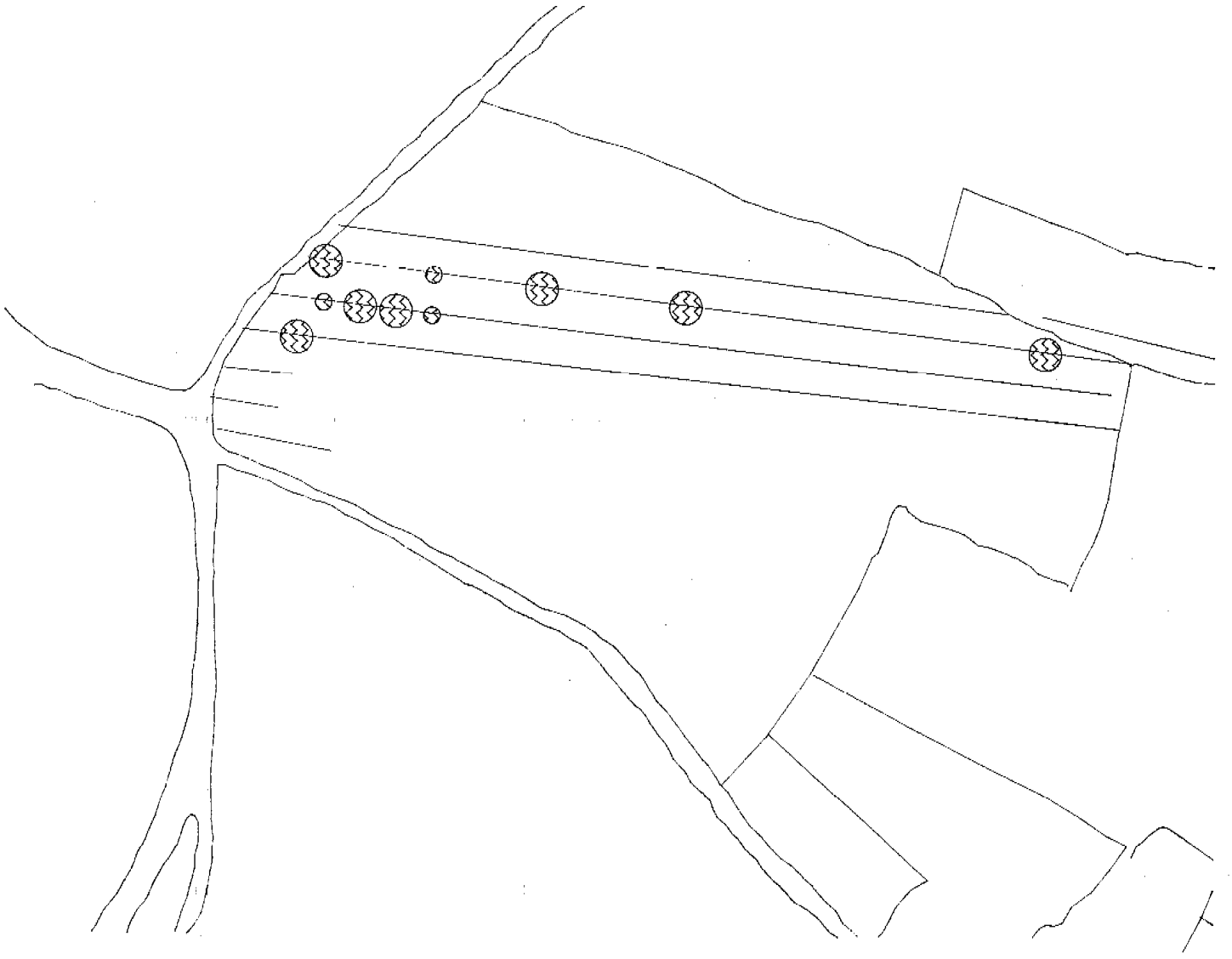


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Medieval Pottery

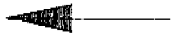
- 1-2 Sherds
- ⊗ 3 Sherds
- ⊗ 4 Sherds
- ⊗ 5 Sherds



A259 Dymchurch - M20 (J11)

Field 2

N



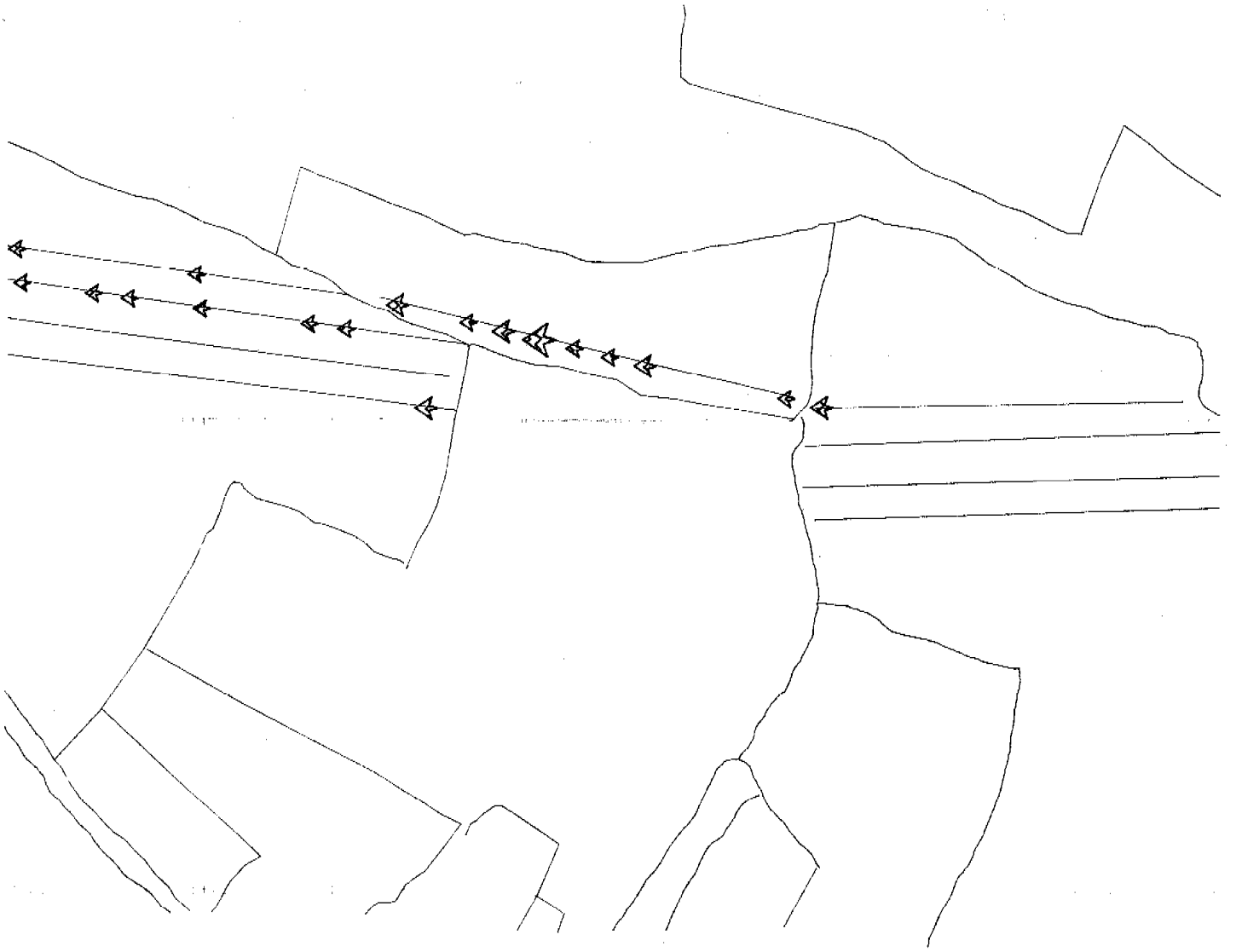
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100 0 100 200m



Flint

- ▲ 1 Flint
- ▲▲ 2 Flints
- ▲▲▲ 3 Flints
- ▲▲▲▲ 4-5 Flints
- ▲▲▲▲▲ 6-7 Flints



A259 Dymchurch - M20 (J11)

Field 2

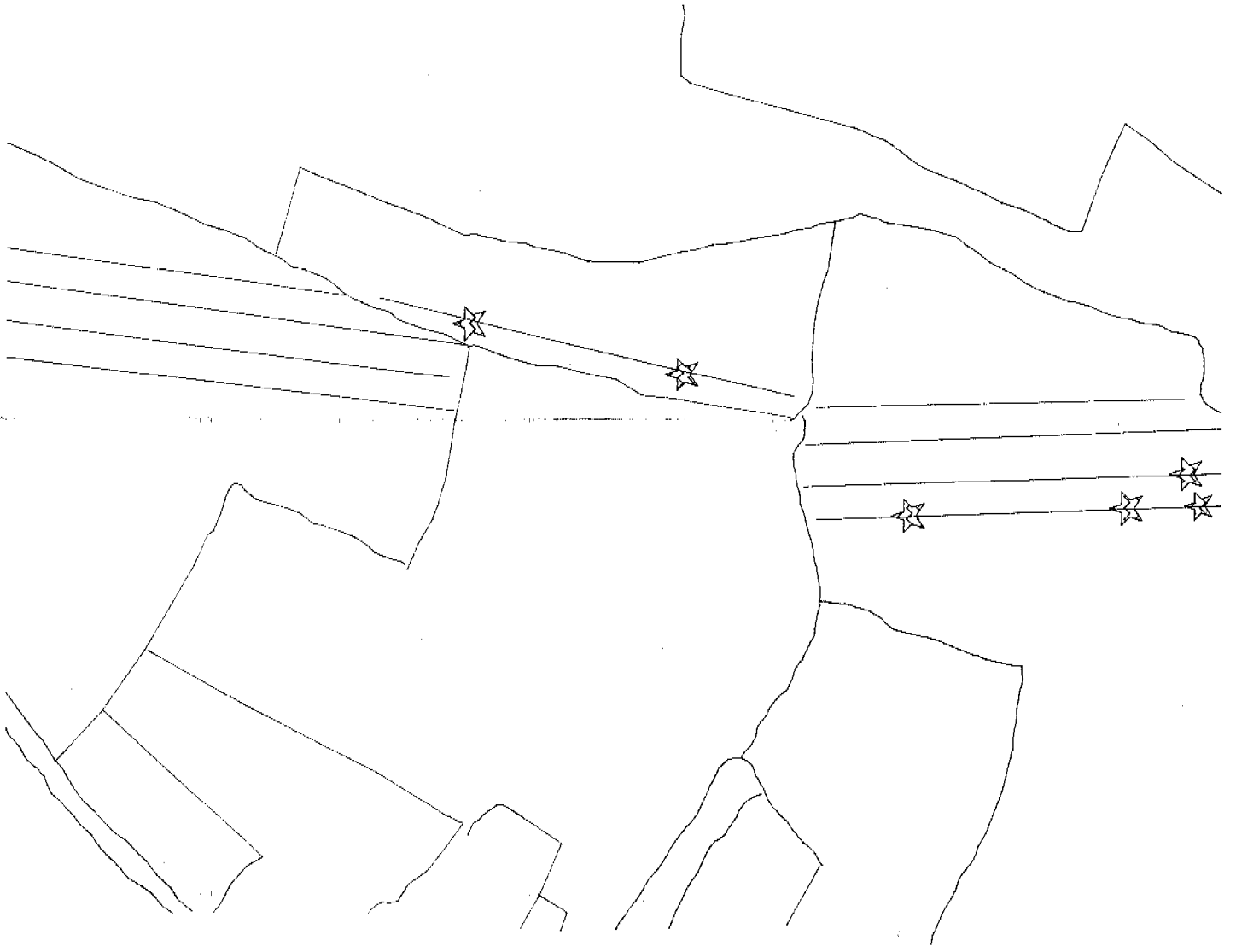


Scale 1:2500



Roman Pottery

- ★ 1 Sherd
- ★ 2 Sherds
- ★ 3 Sherds



A259 Dymchurch - M20 (J11)

Field 2

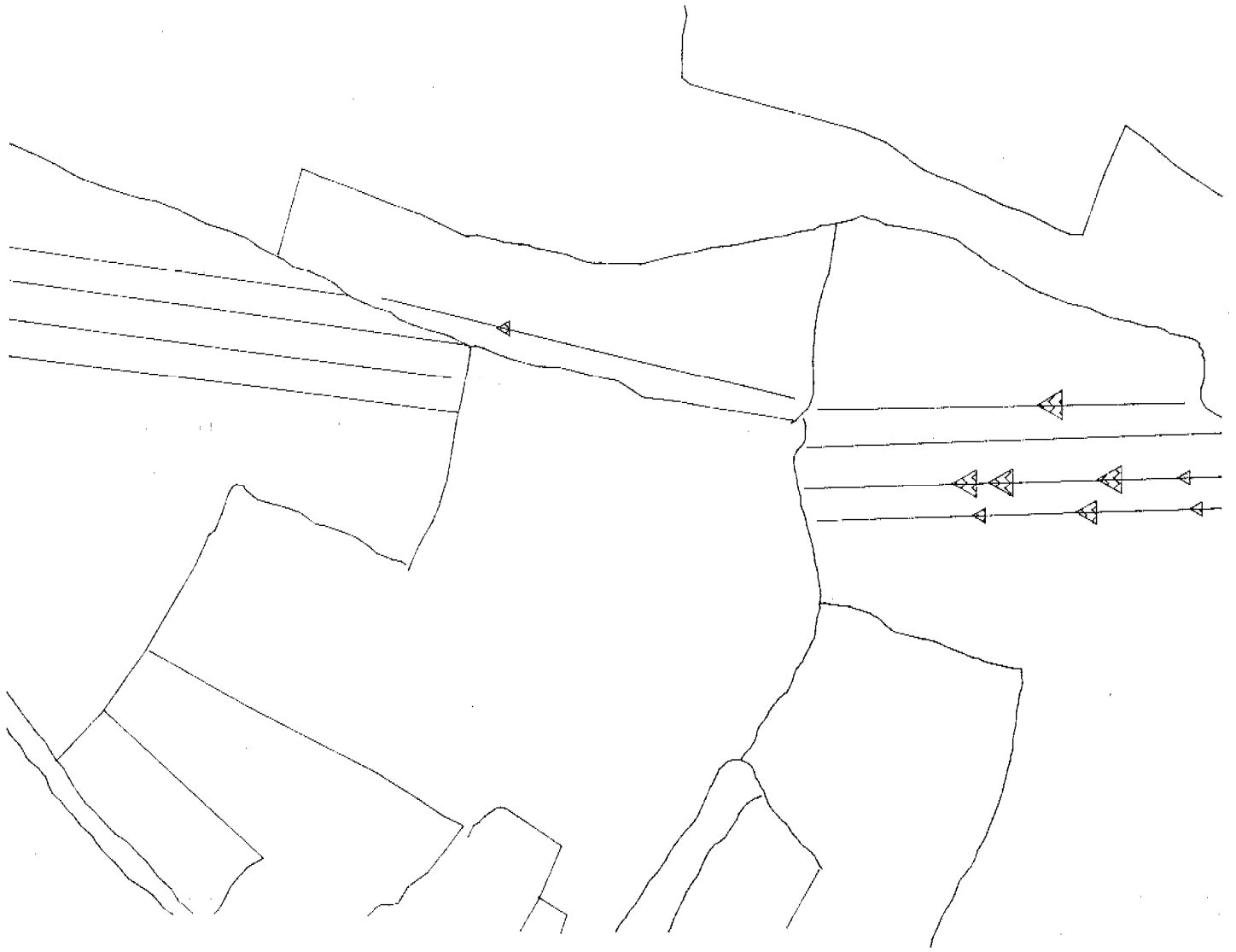


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Roman Tile

- ▲ 1 Sherd
- ▲ 2 Sherds
- ▲ 3 Sherds
- ▲ 4 Sherds



A259 Dymchurch - M20 (J11)

Field 3

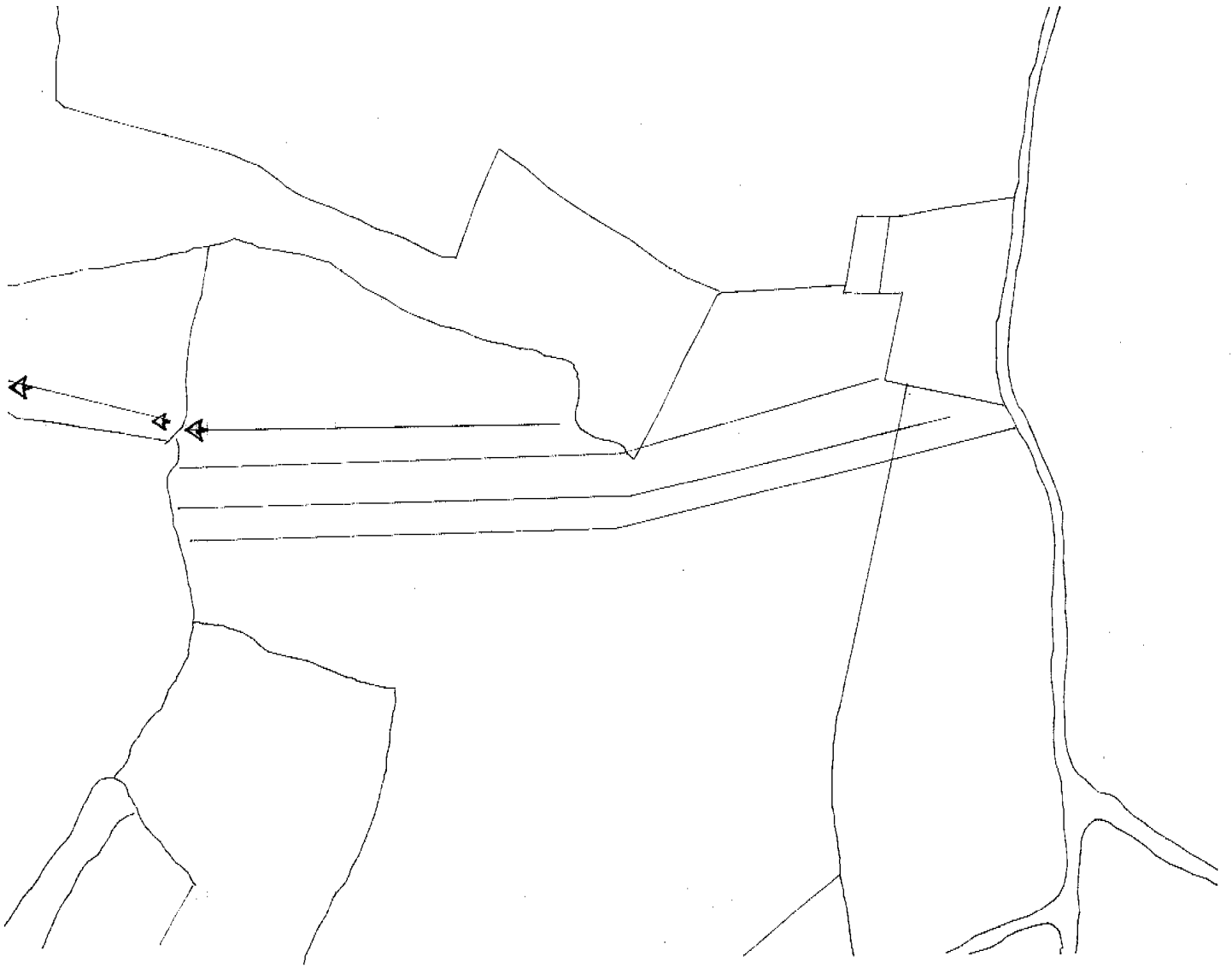
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N



Flint

- ▲ 1 Flint
- ▲▲ 2 Flints
- ▲▲▲ 3 Flints
- ▲▲▲▲ 4-5 Flints
- ▲▲▲▲▲ 6-7 Flints



A259 Dymchurch - M20 (J11)

Field 3



Scale 1:2500

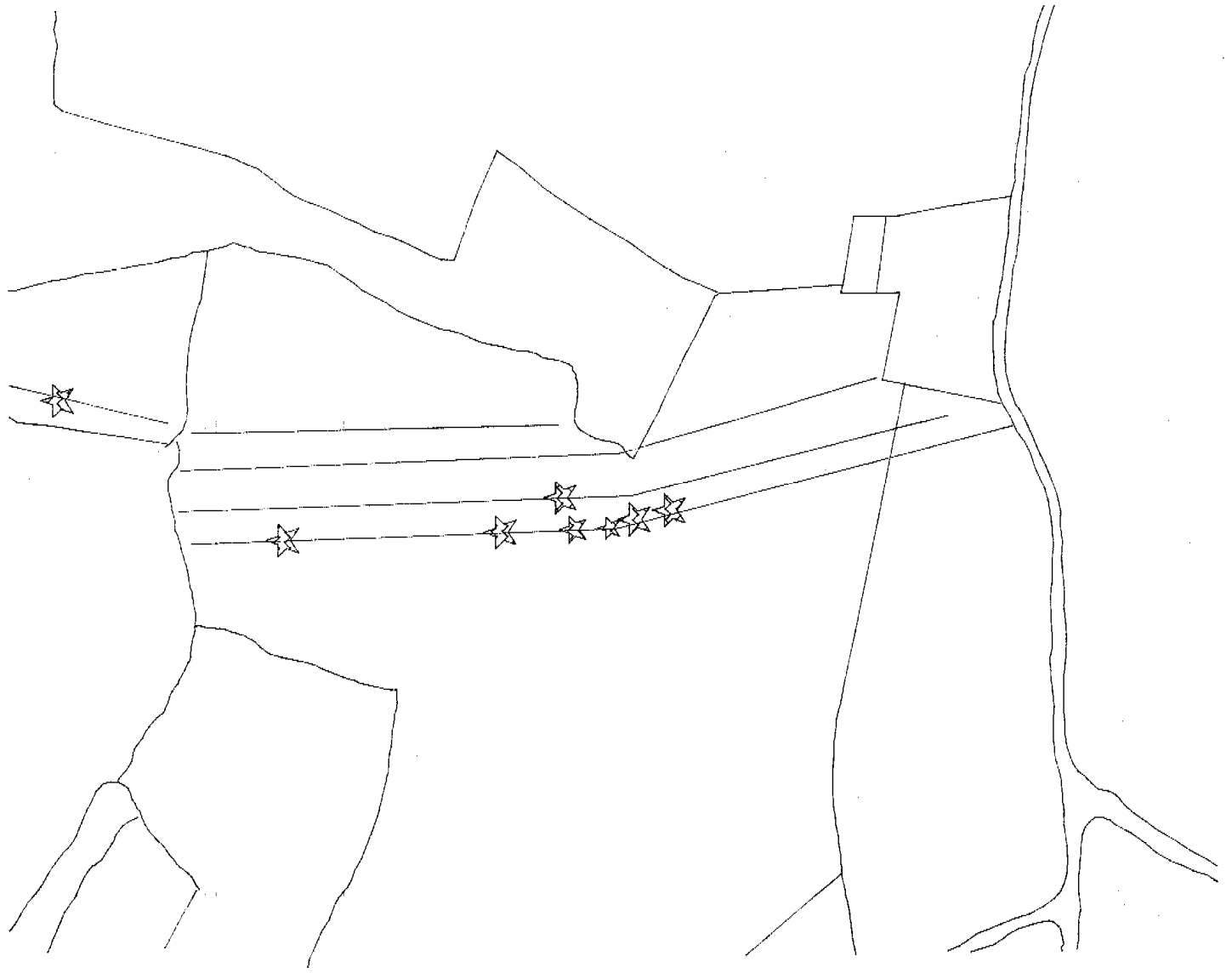


Roman Pottery

★ 1 Sherd

★ 2 Sherds

★ 3 Sherds



A259 Dymchurch - M20 (J11)

Field 3

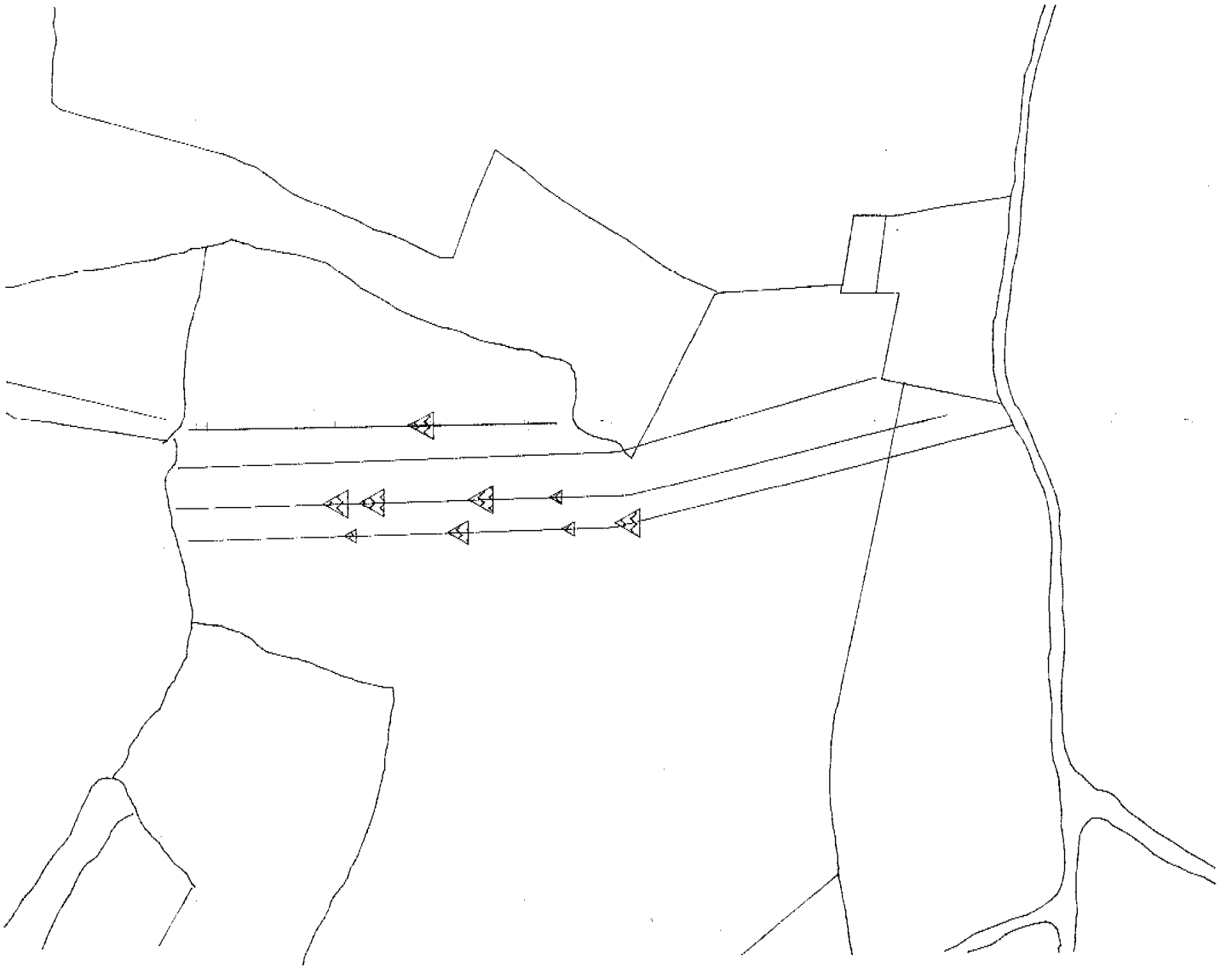


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Roman Tile

- ▲ 1 Sherd
- ▲ 2 Sherds
- ▲ 3 Sherds
- ▲ 4 Sherds





A259 Dymchurch - M20 (J11)

Field 3



Scale 1:2500

100 0 100 200m.



Medieval Pottery

- 1-2 Sherds
- ⊗ 3 Sherds
- ⊗ 4 Sherds
- ⊗ 5 Sherds

