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A36 CODFORD - HEYTESBURY ROAD IMPROVEMENT

ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT

Report No. W577

Prepared on behalf of:

The Department of Transport

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CONTENTS

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The 1993 fieldwork was carried out by Andrew Crockett and analysis of the results was undertaken by Andrew Crockett and Michael Allen. The CAD plan was produced by Linda Coleman. The project was managed and this report compiled by Richard Newman.

A36 CODFORD TO HEYTESBURY ROAD IMPROVEMENT

ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT

1. INTRODUCTION

Wessex Archaeology has carried out two stages of archaeological assessment along the course of the proposed A36 improvement between Heytesbury and Codford, Wiltshire. The first stage was undertaken in 1990 and the second in 1993.

1.1 Project Background

As part of the ongoing upgrading of the A36 Bristol to Southampton trunk road, Wiltshire County Council, acting as consulting engineers on behalf of the Department of Transport, propose to construct a new length of road between Heytesbury (ST 933 427) and Codford (ST 958 404). This new route, 3.7m in length, is designed to remove the tight corner at Knook, take traffic away from the north end of Upton Lovell and link the recently opened Heytesbury and Codford bypasses (Fig. 1). A new junction with the B390 Heytesbury to Chitterne road is also planned, with the B390 being diverted to the south of Knook army camp.

1.1.1 As a result of the likely archaeological implications of the road construction Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Wiltshire County Council to carry out an archaeological assessment. The work was completed during September and October 1990. A report entitled *Codford-Heytesbury A36 Road Improvement Archaeological Evaluation* was submitted by Wessex Archaeology in November 1990. This was followed by a further report commissioned by Wiltshire County Council for submission to English Heritage outlining a proposed mitigation strategy (Wessex Archaeology, October 1991).

1.1.2 Subsequently it was decided to upgrade the road to a dual carriageway with graded junctions. As a result the road fell under regulations for Environmental Impact Assessment as defined in amended section 105A of the *Highways Act 1980* (Statutory Instrument 1988 no. 1241). Wiltshire County Council requested Wessex Archaeology to recast their previous work in order that the documentation would be appropriate as supporting documents to an Environmental Statement. Further assessment work was also requested by the County Archaeological Officer and English Heritage in order to take account of the likely greater impact of the revised construction proposals. This fieldwork was carried out in February 1993.

1.1.3 The 1990 fieldwork is hereinafter referred to as stage 1 and the 1993 work as stage 2. For the purposes of this report fields along the route have been numbered sequentially from the north-west to the south-east.

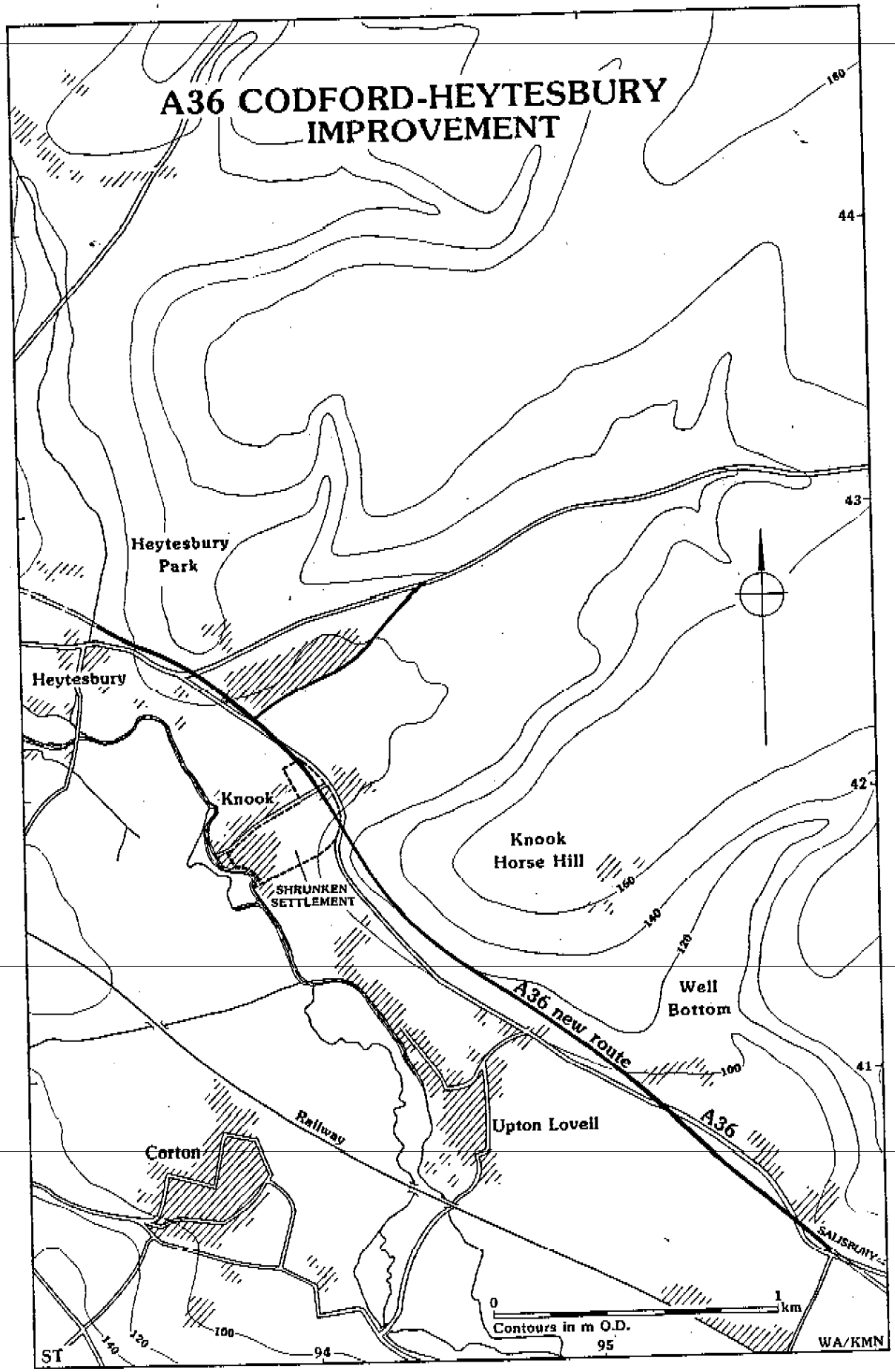


Fig.1 Location

Fig.2 RCHM plan of Knook earthworks

1.2 Geological and Topographic Background

1.2.1 The area of investigations (see Fig. 1) lies on the south-eastern edge of the Salisbury Plain within the major chalk landscape of Wessex. The A36 runs at the foot of the chalk on the northern edge of the Wylye Valley. The chalk edge of the Wylye valley rises steeply, at approximately 26°, from the floodplain to a height of c. 188m OD. This face is incised by a number of broad, flat-bottomed dry valleys and other minor 'finger' valleys. The most significant of these is Well Bottom (Fig. 1) the mouth of which extends north-eastwards into the Plain.

1.2.2 The majority of the 3.40km length of the proposed route of the A36 lay under pasture, the exceptions being the 0.70km under crop and 0.15km under woodland. Of the 0.90km length of the new B390, 0.35km was under crop, 0.35km under pasture, the rest being contained within the Knook army camp facilities.

1.3 Archaeological Background

A study was carried out of the Wiltshire Sites and Monuments Record (SMR) and of relevant photographs housed in the Aerial Photographic Section of the National Monuments Record, and of maps contained within the Wiltshire County Records Office. The following information is derived from this desk-based search.

1.3.1 The most significant archaeological site noted within a 500m easement centred on the new roadline was the shrunken medieval settlement of Knook, SMR No. ST94SW455. This was situated opposite West Farm to the south of the present A36 at ST940 419 (Fig. 1). Today this survives as a series of earthworks within field 12, planned in detail by the Royal Commission on Ancient and Historic Monuments (Fig. 2).

1.3.2 An area of Romano-British settlement is known to the north-west of the route (ST 958 445) on Knook Down West (72/107, Anom. 1973). In addition two areas of field systems were noted on the SMR as being close to the new road. SMR No. ST94SW653 and SW665, comprised strip lynchets to the north and east of Knook village, with which they were probably associated. SMR No. ST94SE635 was located to the north of the new road at Upton Lovell (ST 953 411).

1.3.3 Further to the north as the valley side gives way to Salisbury Plain, many areas of field systems, of various periods, and individual long and round barrows are recorded. These, however, lie well outside the area to be disturbed by the new road.

1.3.4 The geology and drift deposits of the area have the potential to contain significant archaeological information. At the base of the dry valleys hillwash (colluvium) has accumulated. Not only can this mask archaeological deposits, but also the mollusc shells contained within it can be important indicators of past environmental conditions. The gravel deposits of the valleys are prime areas for the location of Palaeolithic stone tools.

1.3.5 No additional information was obtained from the available aerial photographs (NGR Index Numbers ST 9340/1-2, ST 9440/1-6, ST 9441/4-5, ST 9540/1-3 and ST 9542/1-2).

1.4 Planning background

The requirement to consider archaeology as part of an environmental impact assessment was defined in the EC *Council Directive 85/337/EEC*, where under article 3 the cultural heritage is listed as one of the factors for which the direct and indirect effects of a development project should be assessed. This was enforced for the DTp's road schemes in the *Highways (Assessment of Environmental Effects) Regulations 1988*.

1.4.1 The principal legislation and national policies relevant to the consideration of the effects of developments on the archaeological and architectural heritage are the *Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979*, *Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990* and Planning Policy Guidance 16 *Archaeology and Planning* (November 1990). The latter makes it clear, at least in planning matters, '**where nationally important archaeological remains, whether scheduled or not, and their settings, are affected by proposed development there should be a presumption in favour of their physical preservation**' (item 8).

1.4.2 The route of the proposed A36 Heytesbury-Codford improvement lies within an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and close to the Salisbury Plain Special Landscape Area on the one side, and the River Wylye Area of High Ecological Value on the other (*Wiltshire Landscape Local Plan: Written Statement*, 1986, proposals plan).

1.4.3 Within the *Wiltshire Landscape Local Plan* the area through which the proposed road route will pass, and through which the current route passes, is defined as an Area of Special Archaeological Significance. It is numbered area 29 which covers the Wylye valley and is described as an '**area of significant potential, which may contain primary settlements from which the chalkland was colonised**' (1986, 85). Within Areas of Special Archaeological Significance it is stated that '**an attempt would be made to preserve for posterity the ancient landscape containing, for example, whole barrow groups, field systems, settlements, complex crop mark sites and other sub-surface features**' (1986, 49). Further definition of county policy toward archaeological sites is given in *A Rural Strategy for Wiltshire* (1989) in which it is recommended that '**...The maximum opportunity should be sought to investigate development sites in rural areas and record the archaeological evidence if destruction cannot be avoided**' (R54, 28).

1.4.4 The district authority's policy to archaeology is given in recommendation C14 of the *Western Wiltshire Structure Plan Incorporating Alteration Number One: Written Statement* (1990) in which it states that '**...Important areas of archaeological interest will be protected from development pressures as far as possible. Proposals for development which would damage or destroy important archaeological sites will not normally be permitted. In other cases where appropriate, consideration will be given to the use of agreements (including those under section 52 of the *Town and Country Planning Act 1971*) to facilitate site investigation and recording before any damage or destruction can occur and where possible to secure the preservation of archaeological features and deposits**' (1990, 8). The area through which the road route will pass is defined in this structure plan as an Area of Important Archaeological Landscape (1990, proposals plan) and must therefore be considered to be an important area of archaeological interest.

1.4.5 Both national and local policies make it clear that there should be in the consideration of the impact of development proposals on archaeological remains, a presumption in favour of preservation where those remains are sufficiently important. In an Area of Special Archaeological Significance in particular the importance of an individual site can be elevated by its relationship to others and its role as an element in a wider archaeological landscape. Where it is not possible to preserve sites *in situ* it is clear steps should be taken to investigate and record them prior to destruction.

2. PROJECT AIMS

2.1 Objectives of the 1990 archaeological evaluation

The main aim of the stage 1 evaluation was to identify areas of archaeological potential which merited more detailed archaeological investigation or preservation along the route of the proposed A36 Codford - Heytesbury improvement. Given the routes location adjacent to the edge of Salisbury Plain particular attention was paid to the potential of colluvial deposits both within the Wylye valley and in the coombes running into the Plain. Another area of particular concern was the identification of the limits of medieval settlement at Knook.

2.2 Objectives of the 1993 additional archaeological work

The primary aim was to provide additional coverage appropriate to the increased size of the scheme's proposals. It was also considered necessary to try to provide details of archaeological features to add to the artefact data gained from previous test pitting, in the area of cut across Knook Horse Hill. Specific aims were targeted on the two infiltration ponds that were now a construction requirement for the graded junctions at Well Bottom (ST 9395 4213) and Knook (ST 9525 4078).

2.2.1 At Well Bottom the purpose of further work was to assess the potential impact of the infiltration pond and any topsoil stripping on any buried landscapes there, as well as evaluating the colluvium deposits known to be present from the stage 1 evaluation. A deep sequence of colluvium of up to 3m was noted there in a geotechnic trial pit, but it was not sampled for safety reasons.

2.2.2 At Knook the purpose of further work was to establish the impact of the infiltration pond to the west of Knook village. In particular it was necessary to assess whether or not the Romano-British and medieval archaeological activity noted in the area from finds scatters (Wessex Archaeology 1990) could be equated with features.

3. METHOD STATEMENT

3.1 Desk-based Study

A study was to be carried out of the Wiltshire Sites and Monuments Record (SMR) and of relevant photographs housed in the Aerial Photographic Section of the National Monuments Record. Maps and documentary sources contained within the Wiltshire County Records Office were also to be consulted.

3.1.1 Contemporary with the A36 project, Wessex Archaeology was carrying out a watching brief and limited excavation along the Codford to Heytesbury Wessex Water pipeline (W387, Coe 1990), the route of which ran almost parallel some 500m to the south. A small excavation was undertaken at the south end of the Knook earthworks in field 12. The relevant results of this work were to be integrated into the assessment of the proposed road route.

3.2 Fieldwalking

Fields under arable cultivation which had recently been ploughed were to be fieldwalked. This was to be undertaken using a 25m artefact collection grid over an area extending 50m each side of the new road centre line.

3.3 Test Pitting

A series of hand-excavated pits was to be dug along the route in pre-determined locations with the intention of assessing artefact distributions and depth of deposits. These were located to sample each area of topography along the route. Each pit was excavated down to one of the following: natural chalk; the top of suspected colluvial deposits; undisturbed natural deposits; or a depth where because of safety considerations and movement restrictions it became unfeasible to work in the pit (*c.* 1.00m)

3.4 Machine trenching

3.4.1 *Geotechnic Pits*
The excavation of these pits by Wiltshire County Council's geotechnical contractors was to be observed and any archaeological features noted.

3.4.2 *Environmental Trenching*
A series of four machine trenches was proposed to investigate colluvial deposits at specific points along the route. These trenches were to be used to determine whether the colluvial deposits were masking archaeological remains and to gain background landscape data. Mollusc samples were to be taken from each trench with a view to placing archaeological sites found along the route within their palaeoenvironmental context. An artefact collection box, an area of 1.50m x 0.75m centred around the mollusc column, was to be excavated from the surface by trowel. All artefacts recovered from this were to be three-dimensionally recorded so they could be accurately related to the mollusc column. The methods of investigation and analyses to be employed were those adopted by Bell (1981; 1983) and Allen (1984a; 1988) in their colluvial studies.

3.4.3 *1993 trenches at Knook*

In stage 2 two trenches were to be excavated at Knook in the location of an infiltration pond (fields 8 and 9). They were to be excavated to determine whether the artefact scatters noted in stage 1 were associated with features (Fig. 5). A further two trenches were to be excavated in fields 24 and 25 to assess the depth of colluvium within the area of the intended infiltration pond for the Well Bottom graded junction.

3.5 Geophysical Survey

Geophysical survey using both magnetic and resistance techniques were to be employed. In areas where either the fieldwalking or test pit results had illustrated archaeological potential the area was to be further investigated by geophysical survey. By this method it was hoped further to define and delimit the archaeological activity.

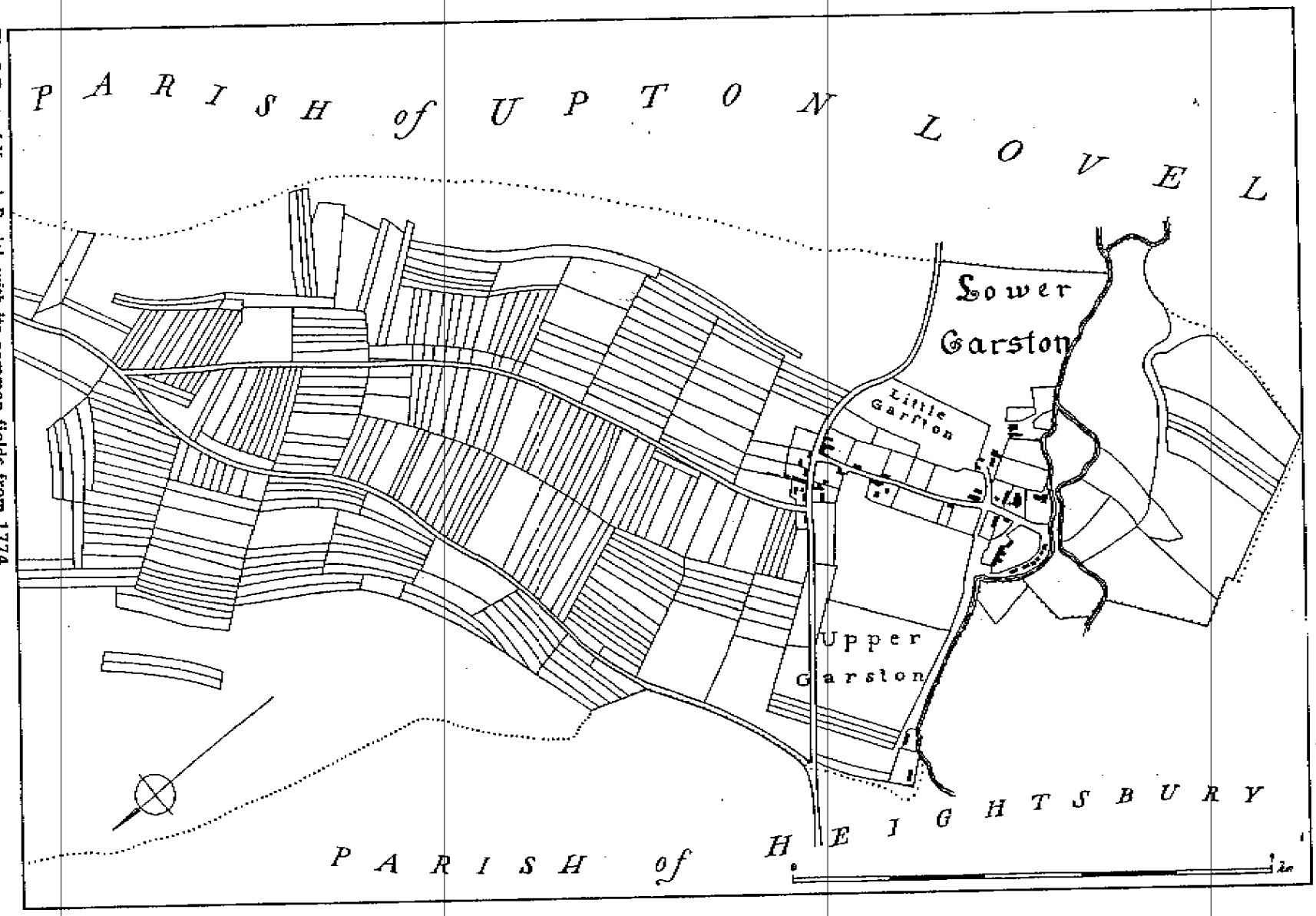


Fig.3 Part of Knook Parish with its common fields from 1774

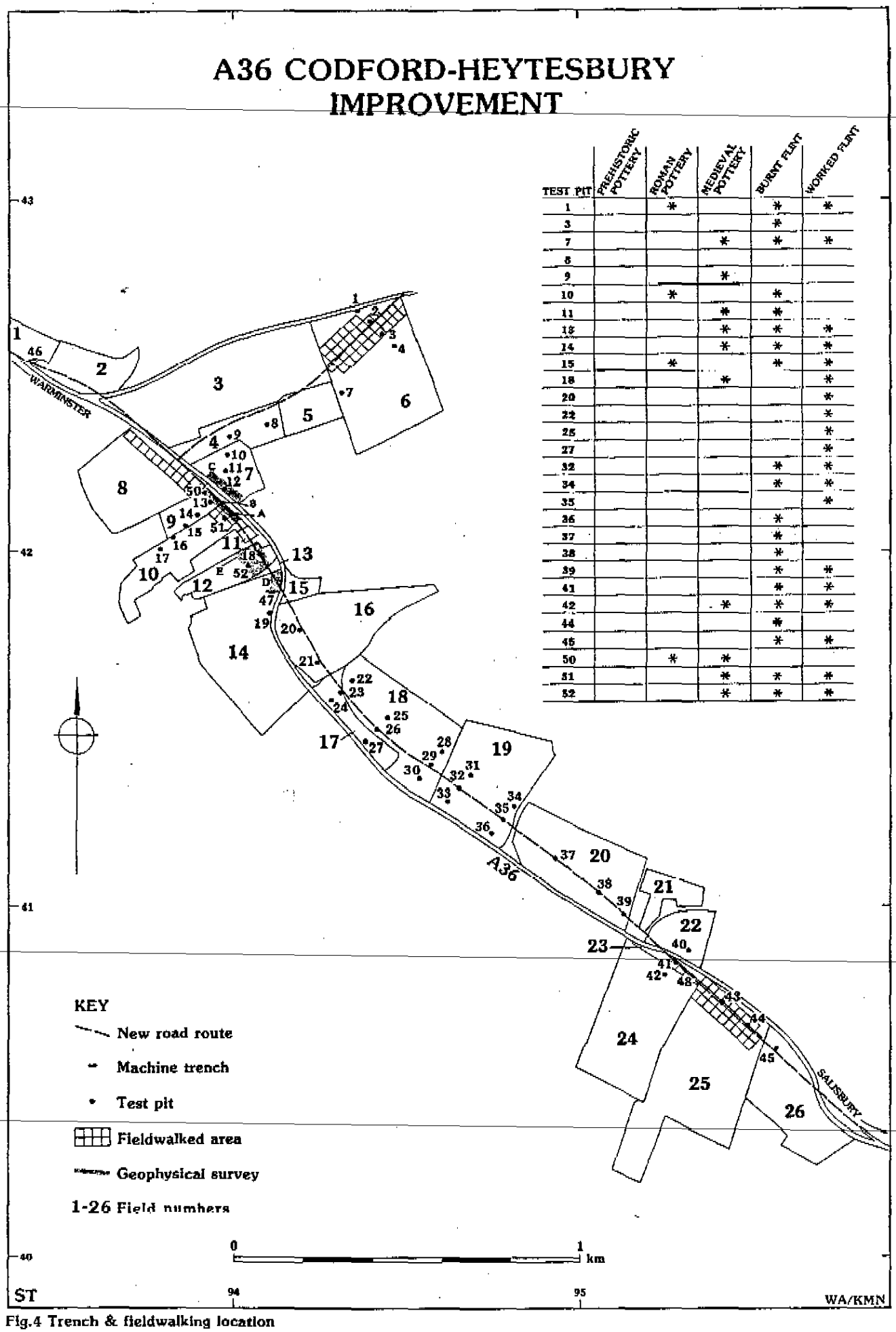


Fig.4 Trench & fieldwalking location

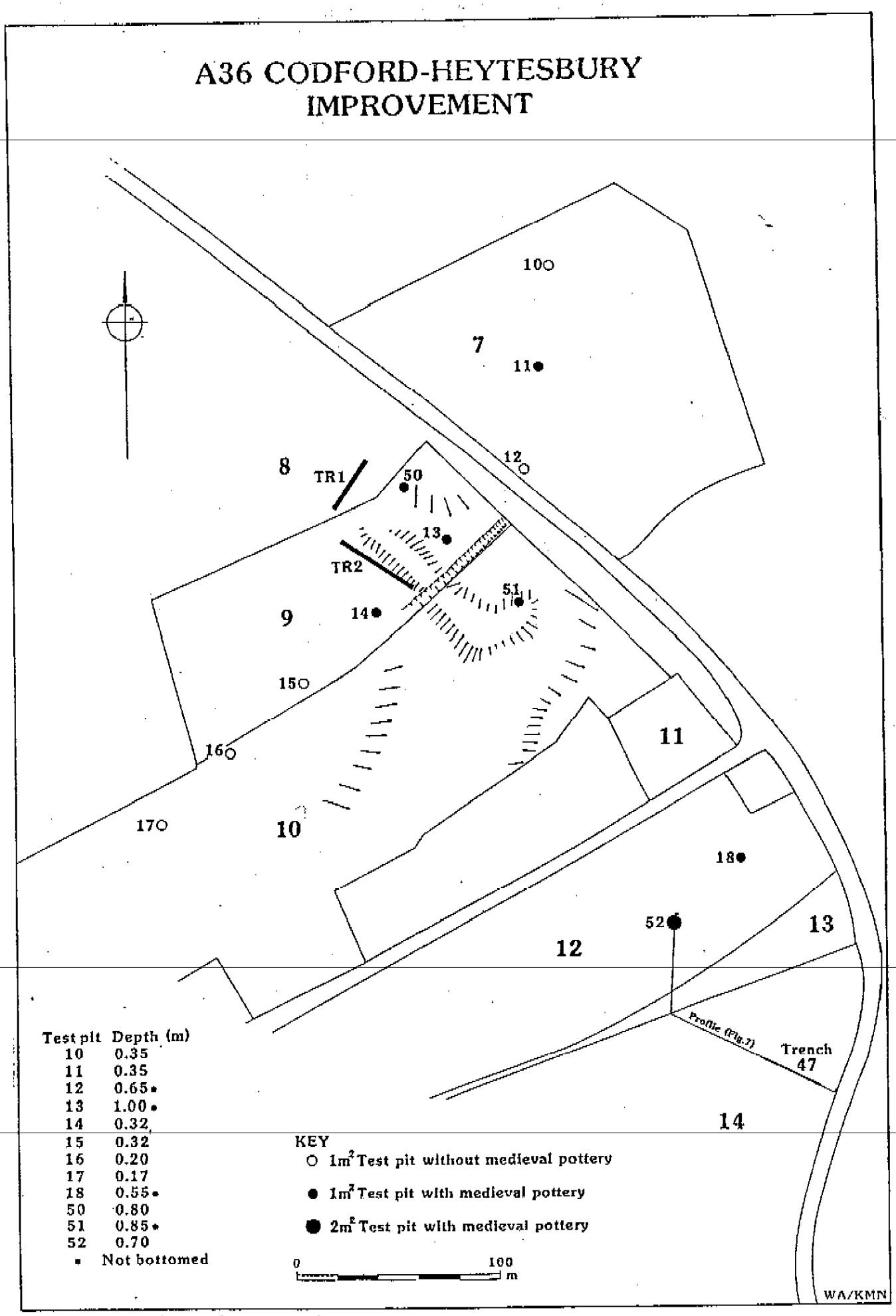


Fig.5 Knook shrunken settlement test pits

4. NON TECHNICAL SUMMARY OF RESULTS

4.1 Desk-based study

No sites were noted along the road line other than at Knook.

4.1.1 *Knook*

Eighteenth-century maps, show a settlement at Knook extending to the west and north (Fig. 3). The earliest recorded settlement on the site was of a village known as Cunuche in 1086 AD. By the later 18th century, the settlement appears to be polyfocal with one focus around the church and another to the east along the Warminster to Salisbury road (Coe and Newman 1993). Field names on a 1774 Knook estate map (101/1174/1, Wiltshire Records Office) suggest one of the *foci* may have been known as Garston; in the nineteenth century the farm bearing this name was located in the south-west corner of the parish at ST 9356 4222 within the area known in 1774 as Upper Garston. Present day Knook comprises a small agricultural community centred around the church and situated to the west of the area of earthworks.

4.2 Fieldwalking

4.2.1 During stage 1 five fields were subjected to fieldwalking, involving the collection of artefacts present on the surface of the field, though only field 6 was in the ideal state of being recently ploughed. The other four (fields 8, 10, 23, and 24) had been ploughed in spring and were covered in the residual stubble from the summer crop, thus reducing the visibility of the artefacts present, the effectiveness of the technique. The results are outlined per field below; only pottery, worked flint, burnt flint, and brick and tile are itemised. No other artefacts were found in numbers great enough to be of significance.

4.2.2 *Field 3*

Forty-eight x 25m artefact collection runs were possible along the 100m wide road easement within 4 hectare collection squares (5000-5003). This field was in the best state for fieldwalking of any of the five walked, having only recently been ploughed. The field, sloping steeply to the south-east, is to be bisected by the new B390. The proposed route runs down the Knook dry valley and to the east of the present army camp. The modern field occupies part of the former Common Arable Land of Knook parish (1774 Knook estate map, Wiltshire Records Office). Only eight pieces (122g) of pottery were found in the field, one Roman, one Medieval and six post-medieval; these were spread over the easement. A total of 25 pieces of worked flint (14 flakes, ten broken flakes and one retouched flake) were spread thinly over the route as were 40 pieces (1240g) of burnt flint. The most common find was of brick and tile, 61 pieces (3271g) being found evenly over the walked area. This material is most likely to derive from the present army camp and the adjacent former Great War camp. Overall there was a low density of finds and no coherent concentrations.

4.2.3 *Field 8*

In all, 22 25m artefact collection runs were possible spread over three hectare squares (5005-5007). The available area was constrained by the proximity of the new and present roads resulting in the necessity of walking only in the southern half of the easement. This field, dipping slightly to the south, was situated directly opposite the

Knook army camp and was on the margin of suitability for fieldwalking. The field had been ploughed in the spring, stubble still being present after harvesting. This, coupled with sprouting grass, made surface visibility very poor. Only seven pieces (89g) of pottery, all post-medieval and four pieces (145g) of burnt flint were recovered. The only artefact type found in any quantity was brick and tile of which 65 pieces (5567g) were found. These can be attributed to the Great War camp that once occupied the field. Too few artefacts were recovered to define any concentrations.

4.2.4 *Field 10*

In all, only nine 25m artefact collection runs were available in a single hectare square (5004). The available area was constrained by the proximity of the present road allowing only the southern half of the easement to be walked. The field was relatively flat, though earthworks were visible towards its northern end (Fig. 5). A crop had recently been harvested and stubble remained, resulting in poor surface visibility. Very few artefacts were recovered from the field; one flint flake, three pieces (33g) of burnt flint, 15 pieces (121g) of pottery, all post-Medieval, and 102 pieces (6252g) of brick and tile. The latter can be explained by the former presence of houses, until at least 1930, between the field and the A36. Too few artefacts were recovered to make any valid statements concerning the distribution.

4.2.5 *Field 23*

This comprised a thin linear field directly to the south and running along the edge of the present A36. The proximity of the present road meant it was only possible to walk four 25m artefact collection runs in a single hectare square (5008). The field was relatively flat, dipping only slightly to the south and was covered with the wizened remains of a former crop of peas. Surface visibility was consequently poor. Very few artefacts were recovered from the field: only three pieces (79g) of burnt flint, and two fragments (18g) of brick and tile being found.

4.2.6 *Field 25*

This was a large field immediately to the south of the present A36, of which all bar the northernmost run was available for fieldwalking. In all, 35 x 25 artefact collection runs were made over three hectare squares. The field was relatively flat, dipping only slightly to the south and was covered with the wizened remains of a former crop of peas. Surface visibility was consequently poor. A uniform spread of 26 pieces of worked flint (nine flakes, 14 broken flakes, one burnt worked piece, one scraper and one fabricator) and 40 pieces (838g) of burnt flint was found over the whole field. There was little in the way of brick and tile, only 11 pieces (327g), and a mere 17 (192g) pottery sherds incorporating one Romano-British, one medieval and 14 post-medieval. No concentrations or patterns were visible in the distribution.

4.2.7 In all, the fieldwalking results were poor. Too few artefacts were recovered to attempt any distributional analysis, so no significant concentrations indicative of sites were noted. The poor retrieval must in part be a result of the limited visibility, resulting from the field conditions at the time of the survey.

4.3 Test Pits

A total of 46 1m x 1m test pits were excavated. In addition a single 2m x 2m pit (test pit 52) was excavated on the centre line of the proposed new road to Guernsey Farm

where it crossed the Knook earthworks in field 12. The recorded deposits are listed in Appendix 1.

4.3.1 The average depth of deposits over either the chalk bedrock or colluvium was 0.44m. As would be expected deposits were generally deeper in the valley and at the base of the valley side compared to those further upslope. An exception to this was encountered in field 19 where test pit 32, well up the valley side, was 1.10m deep, the deepest fully excavated. In field 18 immediately to the east, test pits 22 and 25 displayed a buried soil, under which worked flint was found. The test pits (13, 18, 50, 51, 52) around Knook shrunken settlement were significantly deeper than surrounding test pits presumably due to the build up of deposits associated with past settlement activity. The artefacts recovered from the pits are discussed below with a number and weight count presented in Table 1.

4.3.2 *The Flint*

A total of 68 pieces (560g) of worked flint was recovered from the test pits (see Table 1 below). This assemblage comprised 33 flakes, 33 broken flakes, one burnt worked flint and one retouched flake. All material was patinated white. The assemblage was undiagnostic and biased towards the more robust specimens which survive more readily in ploughed soils. A total of 101 pieces (1735g) of burnt flint was found in the test pits (see Table 1 below).

4.3.3 *The Pottery*

In total 318 sherds of pottery (1992g) were recovered from the test pits (see Table 1 below). This total comprised four Romano-British sherds (30g), 268 medieval sherds (1739g) and 46 post-medieval sherds (223g). A brief analysis of the pottery recovered is given below.

> **Romano British.** The Romano-British material consisted of three coarseware sherds and one fineware sherd, part of a New Forest colour-coated Beaker. The latter piece could be dated to the late 3rd to 4th century AD, and one of the coarseware sherds from a drop flange bowl is also of late Roman type. The remaining sherds were undiagnostic.
>
> **Medieval.** Most of the medieval material fell within a broad date range of 11th- to 13th-century. Fabric types identified could be divided into three main groups: sandy wares; 'gritty' wares i.e. fabrics tempered with coarse, poorly-sorted quartz and flint fragments; and calcareous wares i.e. fabrics tempered with limestone fragments. None of these wares has a known source, although the sandy wares, frequently scratchmarked, are similar to material from Salisbury, which is presumed to derive from the kilns at Laverstock, or nearby. Calcareous wares are distributed widely across the West Country in the early medieval period, and were undoubtedly produced at several centres. One source, for example, has been suggested in the Avon Valley near Bath (Vince 1979). So-called 'gritty' wares form part of as widespread tradition across southern England, developing from similar Late Saxon wares and continuing in use until the 12th century. Vessel forms recognised amongst the early medieval material are restricted mainly to cookpots, although there are also a number of base sherds from 'West Country' dishes, a vessel form common in this area in the 12th and 13th centuries. There are also a few sherds of finer sandy wares, frequently glazed, and some with white slip decoration, which can be dated to the late medieval period (14th to 15th century).
>
> **Post-medieval.** The post-medieval material consists largely of earthenwares, mostly of Verwood type, from the Dorset/Hampshire border; none of these are closely datable.

4.3.4 Artefact distribution from the test pits (see Fig. 4) along the route showed one distinct cluster. Significant quantities of medieval pottery. was found in the test pits in fields 4, 7, 9, 10, and 12 (see Fig. 5). This spread was located directly north of the

known limits of the Knook shrunken settlement and appears to be associated with a previously unsurveyed earthwork, probably the boundary bank to a toft (A36.3 on Fig 9). In addition a concentration of worked flint was found at neighbouring test pits 34 and 35, near Upton Folly. The mean total of worked flint for each test pit was 3.58 therefore using the Chi squared test the concentration of seventeen worked flints from the two test pits has a 99.9% probability of being significant (A36.7 on Fig 9). Another statistically significant concentration of seven worked flints was found in test pit 22 near Guernsey Belt (A36.6 on Fig 9). This latter concentration may be associated with sub soil disturbance from badgers as it is located over a badger set. The flints in test pits 34 and 35 were probably derived from occupation and activity upslope away from the proposed road line.

Table 1: Test pit finds

Test Pit	Burnt Flint		Worked Flint		CBM		Roman Pot		Medieval Pot		Post-med Pot	
	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt
1	2	6g	1	8g	3	8g	1	3g				
3	1	4g										
7	1	15g	4	64g					3	12g		
8											1	2g
9					3	196g						
10	3	24g					1	1g				
11	1	9g			1	58g			3	5g	25	53g
12					1	584g					2	5g
13	1	5g	1	2g					65	494g		
14	7	66g	2	8g	10	130g			3	6g	3	37g
15	12	215g	3	27g	3	25g	1	3g				
18			3	7g	1	252g			16	96g		
19					1	50g					1	3g
20			2	13g								
22			7	114g								
24											1	29g
25			3	58g								
26					1	19g						
27			1	4g							1	9g
32	10	126g	3	25g	1	1g						
34	6	86g	10	91g	1	4g						
35			7	18g	4	566g						
36	2	12g									1	8g
37	4	49g										
38	9	186g										
39	26	572g	4	18g								
41	1	17g	2	18g	3	24g						
42	3	51g	2	14g	1	37g			1	6g	5	32g
44	5	172g										
45	2	18g	1	4g								
50					3	5g	1	23g	33	153g		
51	1	22g	1	6g	1	9g			6	36g		
52	4	78g	11	61g					136	927g	4	25g
Total	**101**	**1735g**	**68**	**560g**	**38**	**1968g**	**4**	**30g**	**268**	**1739g**	**46**	**223g**

4.4 Machine trenching

4.4.1 *Geotechnic pits*

The machine-excavation of 19 pits (see Fig. 6) by Wiltshire County Council's contractors was observed by staff of Wessex Archaeology. One planned pit (WCC geotechnic pit 14) was not observed at the time of fieldwork due to access to the land being withheld. No archaeological features were noted, and no artefacts recovered. geotechnic pit 17 in field 26 displayed a depth of 5.00m colluvial material. This complemented the results from Wessex Archaeology's machine trench 48 in field 24 to the north-west where similar deposits 3.60m deep were recorded.

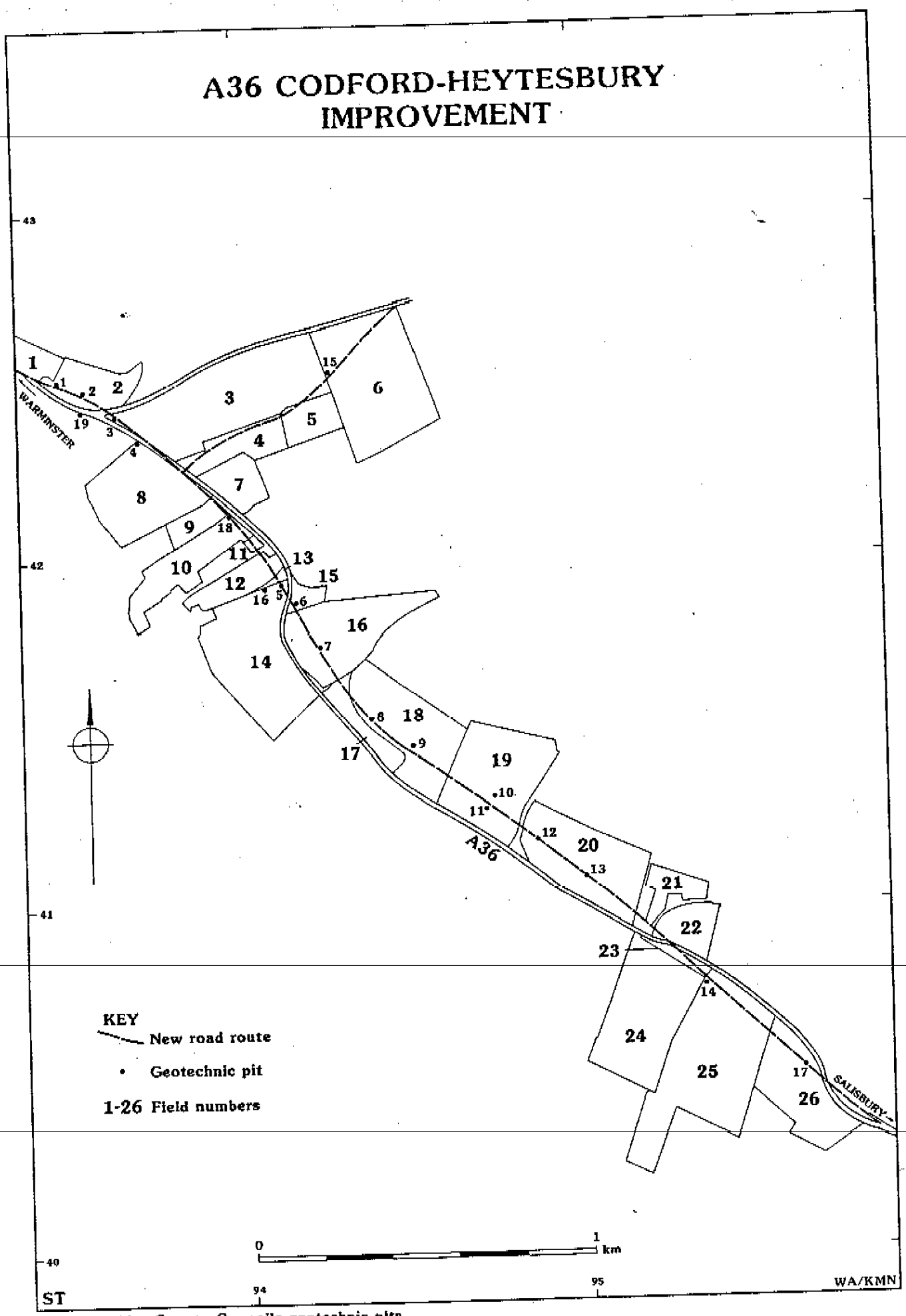


Fig.6 Wiltshire County Councils geotechnic pits

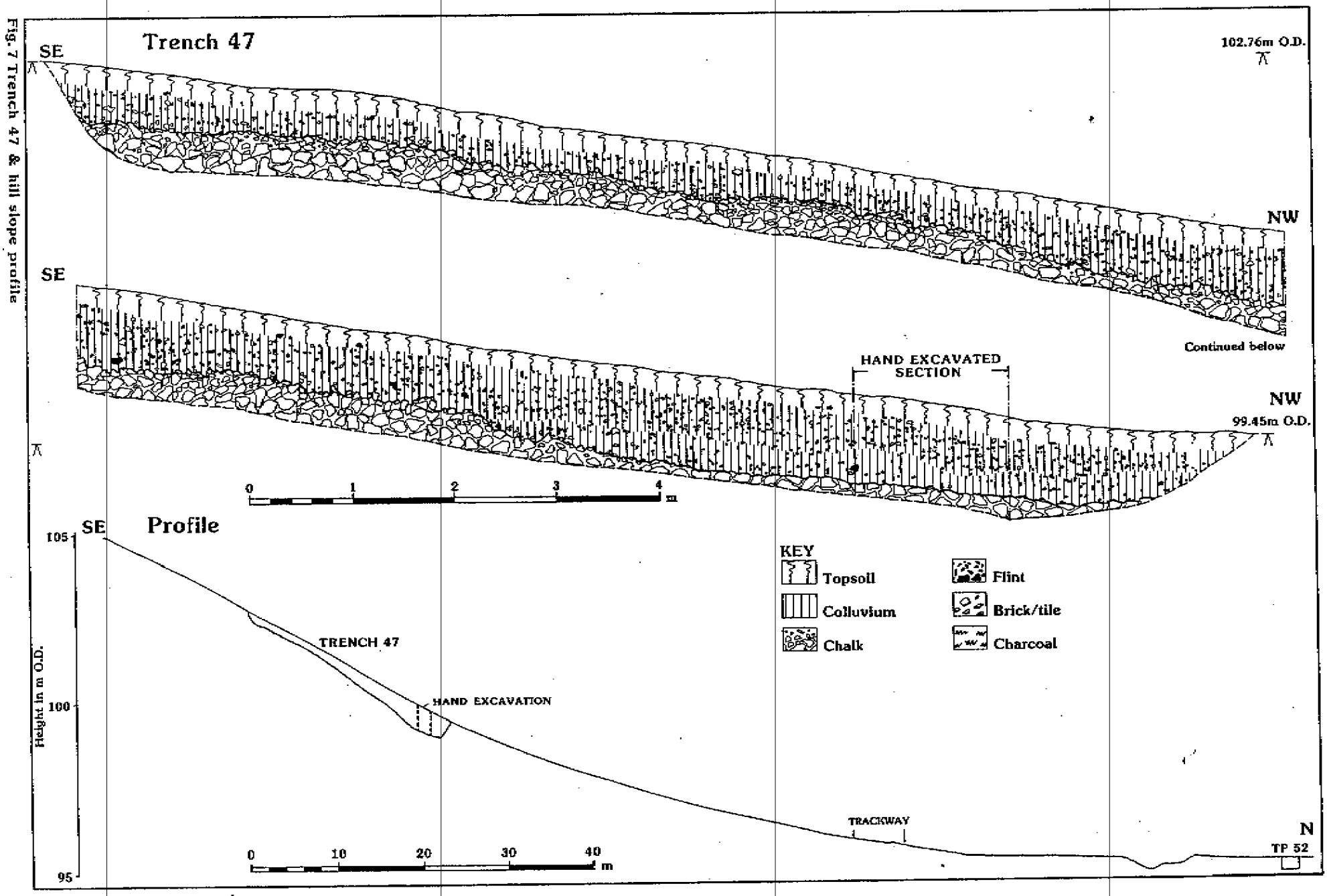
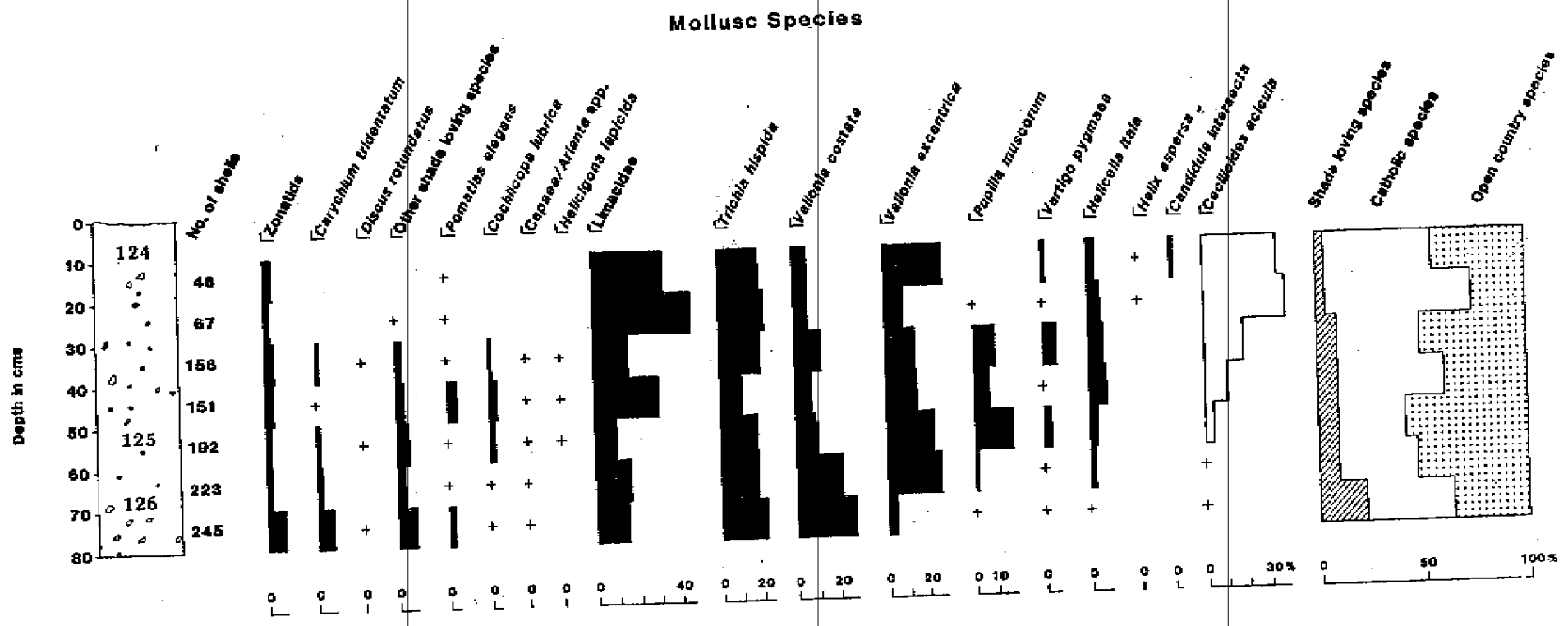
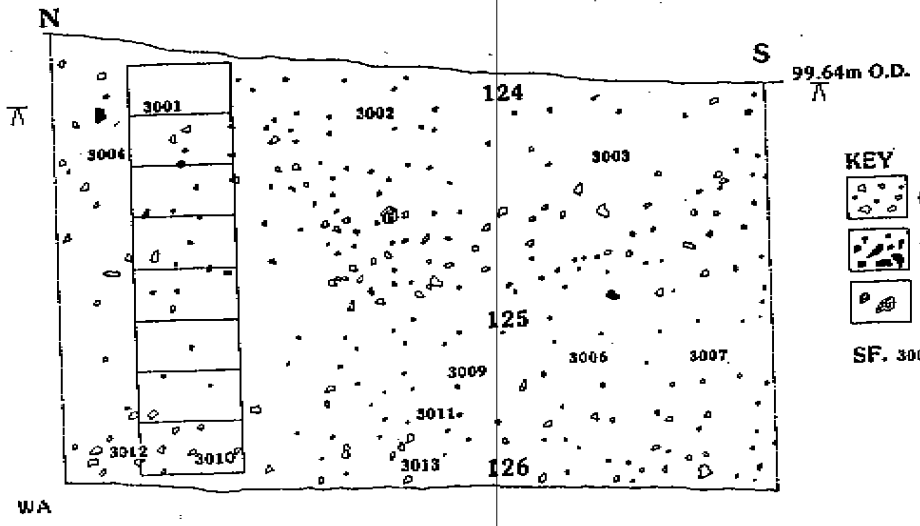


Fig. 7 Trench 47 & hill slope profile





KEY

- Chalk
- Flint
- Burnt flint

SF. 3000-3013

3001 Roman pottery
3002 Brick/tile
3005 Brick/tile
3004 Natural stone
3006 Iron Age pottery
3007 Burnt flint
3009 Early Prehistoric pottery (Beaker?)
3010 Burnt flint
3011 Prehistoric pottery
3012 Prehistoric pottery
3013 Burnt worked flint

0 50 100 cm

KMN

Fig.8 Mollusc column & diagram

4.4.2 *Environmental trenching*

Originally four environmental trenches were planned to examine the suspected colluvial deposits. Unfortunately one of the planned trenches had to be abandoned due to the reticence of the land owner to allow its excavation. This alteration to the work programme was agreed with Wiltshire County Council. Hence only three trenches (46-48) were actually excavated. The detailed results are given in Appendix 2. In trench 46 (28m x 2m) in Heytesbury Park, three post-medieval features were noted, as was one earlier but undated ditch (A36.1 on Fig 9). These trenches cut through a 1.5m thick deposit of colluvium, which was clearly disturbed by recent landscaping activities. In trench 47 (23.4m x 2m) below Knook Horse Hill, a prehistoric lynchet was recorded, as was a shallow colluvial sequence and a possible truncated land surface (A36.5 on Fig 9). From the artefacts, it is postulated that the truncated ancient land surface is possibly earlier Bronze Age with the main colluvial sequence being Iron Age and later. In trench 48 (3m x 2m) at Well Bottom a colluvial sequence of 3.6m was exposed (A36.8 on Fig 9).

4.4.3 *1993 trenches*

In 1993 two areas proposed as the locations for infiltration ponds were targeted for further machine trenching. Trenches 1 and 2 were located in fields to the south of Knook army camp (fields). Trench 3 was situated to the east of the Happy Eater restaurant at the northern end of the Codford bypass (field 25); a further trench proposed for this area could not be excavated due to opposition from the landowner. The tabulated results from these trenches are presented in appendix 4. In brief trench 1 (28m x 2m) located two undated ditches, as both were cut into the natural marl and gravel and lay beneath deposits similar to those containing medieval and Romano-British pottery to the east, it is postulated that the ditches may be prehistoric (A36.2 on Fig 9). Trench 2 (45m x 2m) did not contain any features of archaeological interest. Trench 3 (40m x 2m) revealed a thick layer of colluvium. This was machine excavated to a depth of 1.2m. An auger bore was taken at the south-east end of the trench and showed the colluvium to be present to a depth of at least a further 2m below the base of the trench. This supported the previous observations made in geotechnic pit 17 and Wessex Archaeology's machine trench 48 (A36.8 on Fig 9). No finds were recovered but the calcareous nature of the upper 1m of hill wash which was sampled indicates an origin as an erosion product derived from thin, highly calcareous rendzina soils, and may therefore be of later prehistoric or post Roman date. The presence of the shells of introduced Helicellids in the mollusc shell assemblage at about 0.7m below the present ground surface, infers that the upper 1m of hillwash is probably post Roman in date as they are of medieval or later date. The mollusc species in total (see table 2) indicated an open country environment but with some change through time perhaps indicative of a move from dry open short (grazed) grassland or arable to longer grassland (rough pasture).

4.5 Earthwork Survey

The earthworks representing the shrunken settlement at Knook (field 12) have recently been surveyed by the Royal Commission for Historic Monuments (RCHM) (Fig. 2). The slight earthworks in fields 9 and 10 were not included in the RCHM survey, and so were recorded as part of the 1990 evaluation. They took the form of a slight, interrupted bank running parallel to the present road (see Fig. 5 which may represent former house platforms. Test pits 13 and 51 excavated through these

earthworks displayed significant depths of deposits (1.00m, not bottomed and 0.85 not bottomed, respectively). Large amounts of medieval pottery were found in test pit 13 which in both fabric and numbers compared to that found in test pit 52, situated in the heart of the shrunken settlement.

4.6 Geophysical Survey

4.6.1 *1990 magnetometry survey*

After completion of the trial pits in 1990, two areas were selected for geophysical survey. fields 7, 9, and 10 (see Fig. 4, geophysical surveys C, B, and A respectively) were chosen to investigate the observed earthworks and high density of medieval pottery. In addition the northern corner of field 14 (see Fig. 4, geophysical survey D) was chosen to assess whether the shrunken settlement or field boundaries known to the east (SMR ST94SW665) continued into this area. The survey was conducted by Geophysical Surveys of Bradford (90/69) using a fluxgate magnetometer over a 20m grid. Plots provided in their reports are shown in Figs 10-13 in Appendix 2. The survey isolated the south-east corner of field 7 (Fig. 12, survey C), as being badly disturbed, probably by either the Great war camp or farming activity. The rest of the survey, both in fields 9 (Fig. 11, survey B), field 10 (Fig. 10, survey A) and in field 14 (Fig. 13, survey D) produced no significant anomalies. In fields 9 and 10 this may be attributed to the substantial depth of deposits, over 0.80m in test pits 13, 50 and 51. These may have masked features. It was concluded the areas investigated had only limited archaeological potential. It was, nevertheless felt better results might be achieved by a resistance metre if further geophysical work was to be undertaken in the area.

4.6.2 *1990 resistance survey*

With the agreement of Wiltshire County Council's Archaeological Officer a resistivity survey was undertaken along the road corridor (Appendix 2, Fig. 14, survey E) where it crossed the Knook shrunken settlement earthworks in field 12 (see Fig. 2). The results of the resistivity survey (Geophysical Surveys 90/73) correlated well with the results of the earthwork survey. The three platforms visible in the survey area were identified as geophysical anomalies (see Fig. 14), the two having high readings suggesting structural evidence. In addition a linear anomaly thought possibly to be a filled-in sunken way entered the site from the north before terminating close to the southern edge of the field. This is not visible through surface examination and suggests the present visible earthworks reflect the later stages of activity and mask earlier developments (Coe and Newman 1993, 85).

4.6.3 *1993 magnetometry survey*

An area of approximately 1.5km by 70m was scanned using a fluxgate gradiometer. From the basis of this scan any areas of potential were to be subjected to a gridded survey, detailed results are contained in appendix 5. Although no areas of potential were revealed in the scan two areas were surveyed in detail. Area A amounting to 40m x 20m, was surveyed over a badger set to the north-east of the Guernsey Belt. No responses were gained from the set or from features of archaeological interest. Area B, 40m x 40m and lying to the west of Manor Road in the vicinity of test pits 34 and 35, was surveyed because the scan indicated the presence of two anomalies. No archaeologically significant anomalies were revealed in the survey and it is possible the anomalies noted in the scan were the two former test pits.

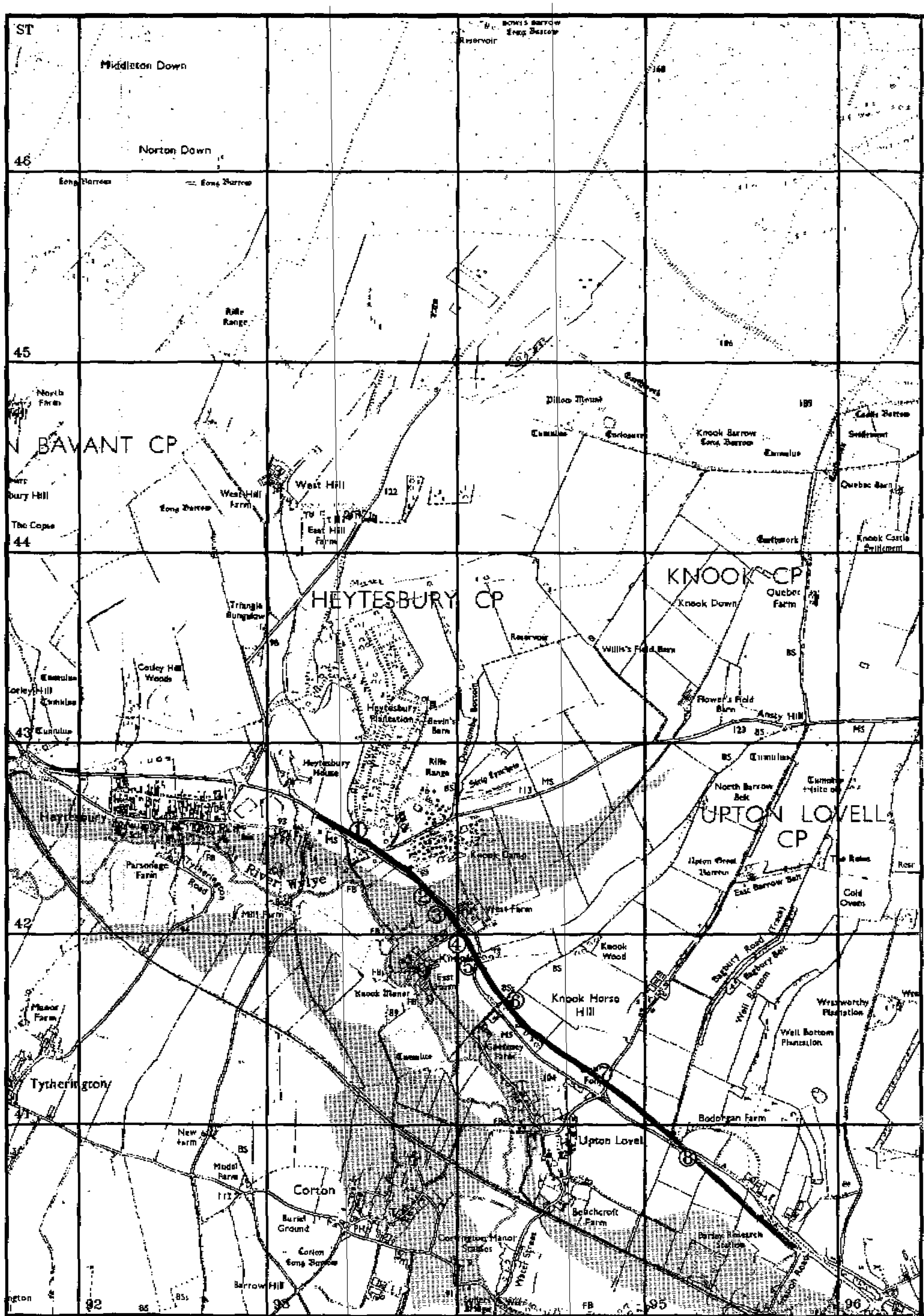
4.7 Summary of results

Four major areas of interest were defined by the fieldwork, the already known settlement earthworks at Knook (A36.4), an undated earthwork and associated medieval finds scatter to the north of the Knook earthworks (A36.3), a deep colluvial sequence at Well Bottom (A36.8) and a colluvial sequence and truncated land surface at Knook Horse Hill (A36.5).

4.7.1 The fieldwork around Knook shrunken settlement in fields 7, 9, 10, and 12 (A36.3 and 4) supported the historical evidence that the shrunken settlement had once spread over this area. Although only one possible structural feature was excavated, slot 044 in test pit 51, the considerable depths of deposit and amounts of pottery suggest structural remains in the locality. The test pit was in any case located to minimise any damage to structural deposits. The inability of magnetic survey to locate any archaeological activity can probably be attributed to the depth of deposits. The medieval pottery recovered proves the existence of structures in the area before those shown on the 18th-century maps. The current earthworks could be considered to be of scheduable quality but they represent only part of a wider site much of which has been recently disturbed and in some instances destroyed (Coe and Newman 1993). The presence of Romano-British pottery, however little of it there was, implies by its relative concentration that a Romano-British settlement existed in the locality.

4.7.2 The deep colluvial deposits from the mouth of Well Bottom (trench 48, field 24, A36.8) are exceptional and may contain a long and detailed palaeoenvironmental sequence, perhaps stretching back to the Neolithic, this would be of considerable local significance. The data for land-use history from Knook Horse Hill (trench 47, field 14, A36.5) is surprisingly detailed. Previous molluscan analyses from calcareous colluvium have not been able to detect with any certainty such discrete episodes of pasture and arable. Closer sampling of such stratigraphy may provide a higher resolution of information relating to the proposed cyclical use of this hillside (Allen 1992, 4). A full discussion of the information concerning the palaeoenvironmental evidence is contained in appendix 6.

4.7.3 Less significant areas of archaeological interest were identified in four other locations. In field 18 and test pits 22 and 25 contained buried soils covering subsoils which included pieces of worked flint, there being a statistically significant number of such flints in test pit 22 (A36.6). No anomalies were noted during a subsequent magnetometer survey, however. The unusual depth of deposits in test pit 32 (field 19), and the quantities of worked flint recovered from nearby test pits 34 and 35 may indicate an area of archaeological interest in the vicinity (A36.7) but again a magnetometry survey failed to identify any archaeologically significant anomalies. The undated pre-landscaping ditch in trench 46 (field 1), may be part of a wider archaeological site (A36.1) as might the undated but probably prehistoric ditches recorded in field 8 (A36.2).



KEY

A36 new route

Site of archaeological potential (see table below)

Alluvium

Valley gravel

Site No.	O.S. Reference	Description	SMR Reference
A36.1	ST934 425	Undated ditch but originating prior to construction of Heytesbury Park landscaped grounds	—
A36.2	ST938 422	Undated narrow ditches of probable prehistoric date	—
A36.3	ST939 421	Undated earthwork and medieval finds scatter	—
A36.4	ST940 419	Shrunken settlement, earthworks associated with medieval artefacts	ST94 SW455
A36.5	ST941 418	Possible prehistoric lynchet and truncated land surface	—
A36.6	ST943 416	Seven undiagnostic worked flints recovered from a test pit	—
A36.7	ST948 413	Seventeen undiagnostic worked flints recovered from two adjacent test pits	—
A36.8	ST953 408	Deep colluvial sequence	—

Wessex Archaeology

SCALE	1:25 000
DRAWN BY	LJC
CHECKED BY	RN
APPROVED BY	RN
DATE	16/4/93

Fig. 9. Sites of archaeological potential

A36 Heytesbury to Codford

Location Diagram

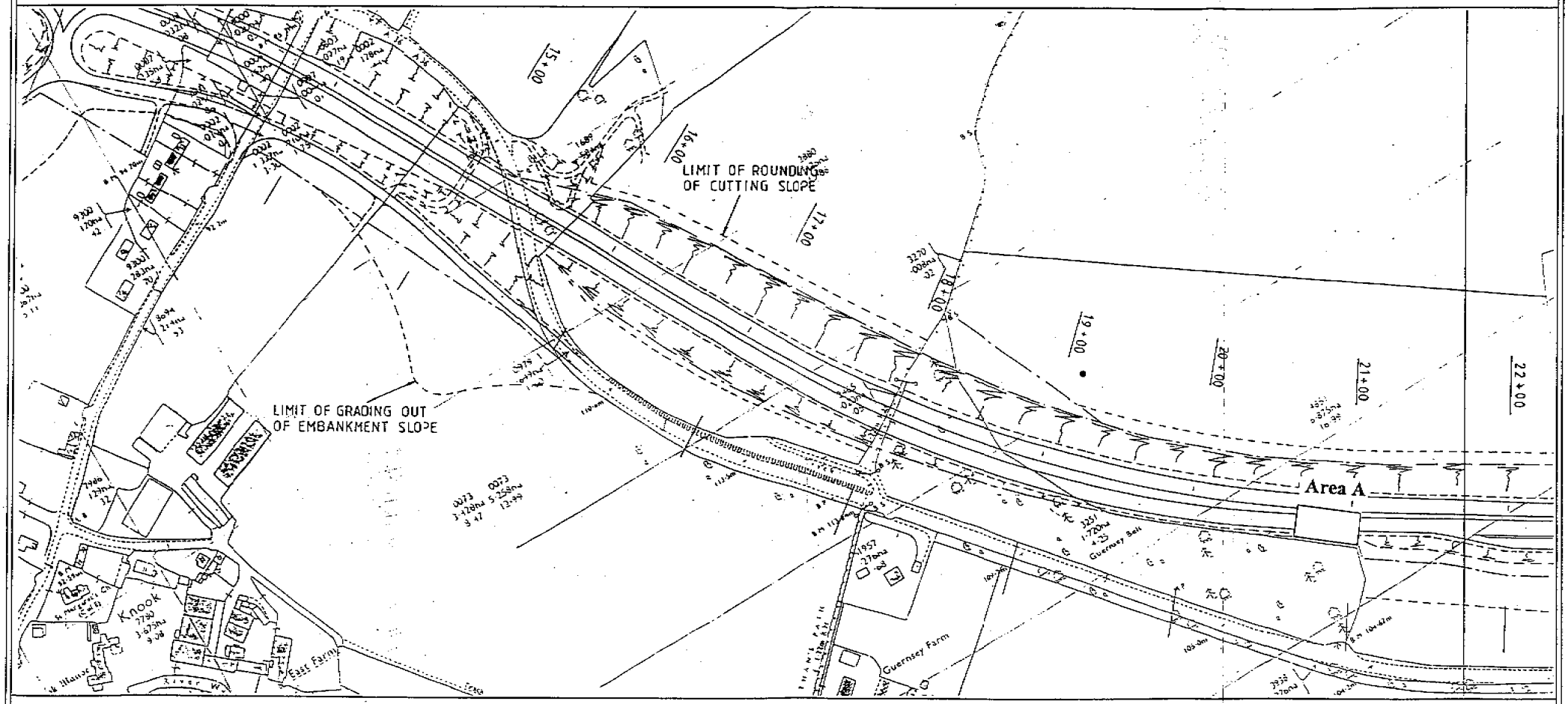


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Figure 1

A36 Heytesbury to Codford

Location Diagram

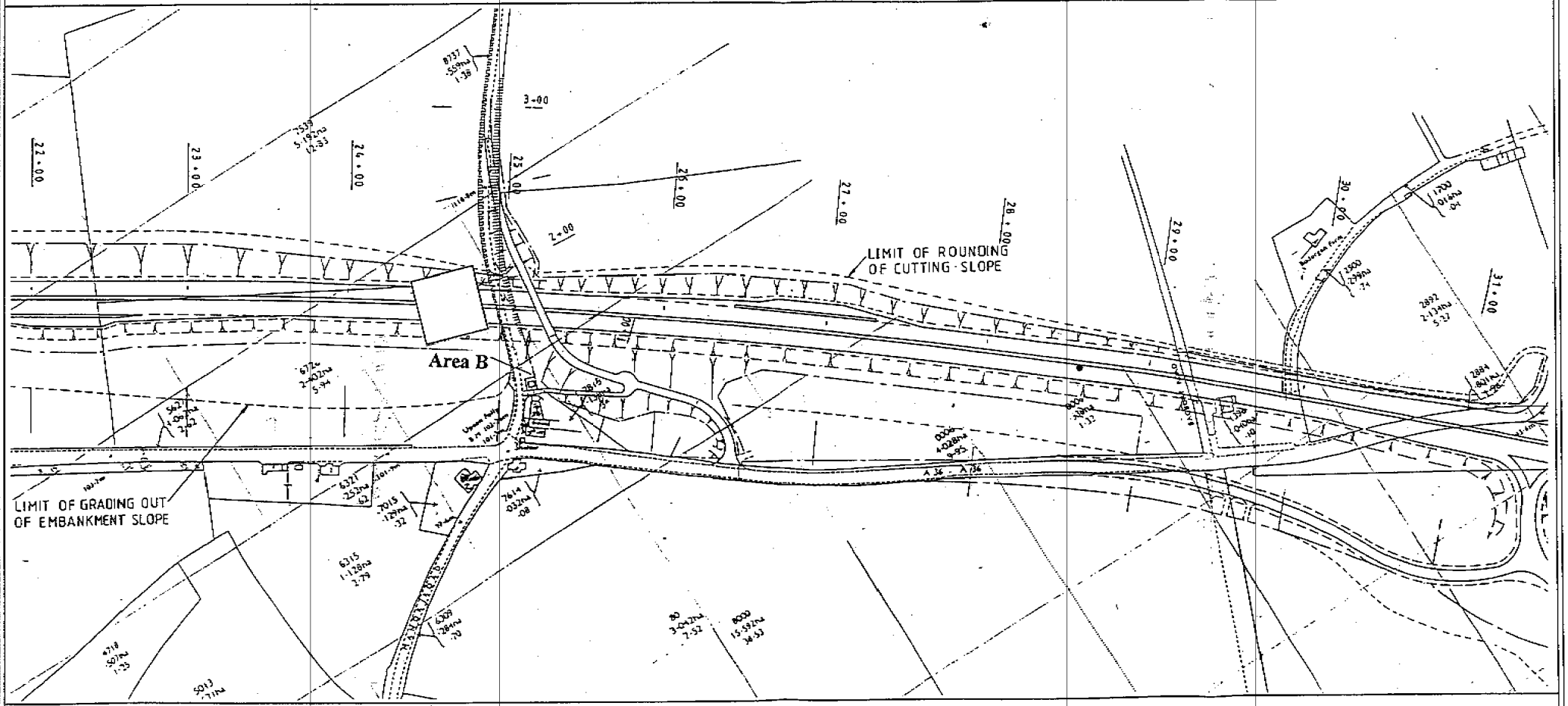

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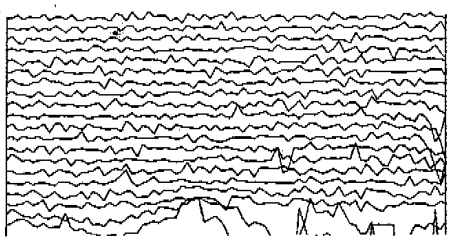
Figure 2

A36 Heytesbury to Codford
Area A



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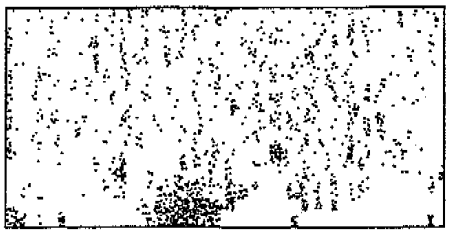
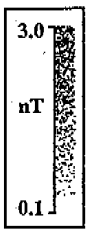
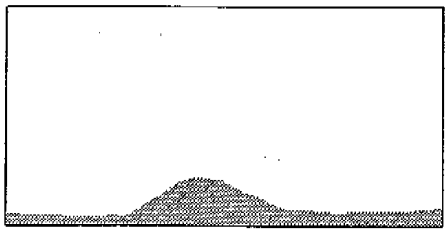




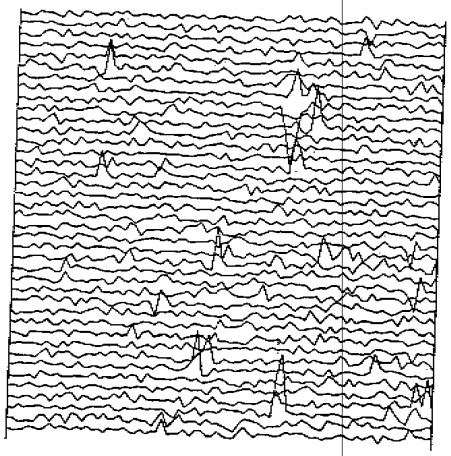


Ferrous

0 m 20

Figure A1

A36 Heytesbury to Codford
Area B



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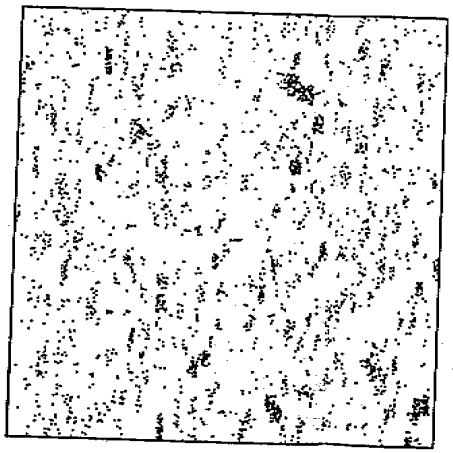
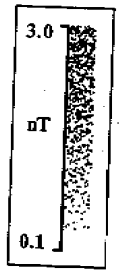
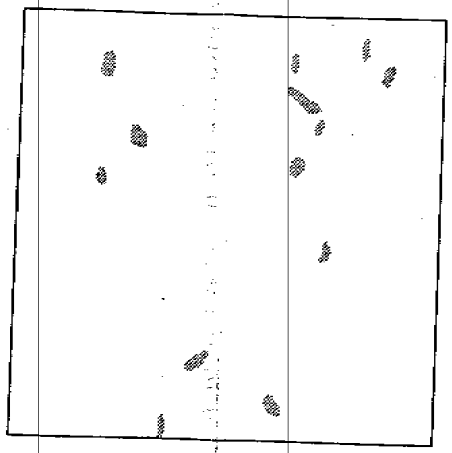




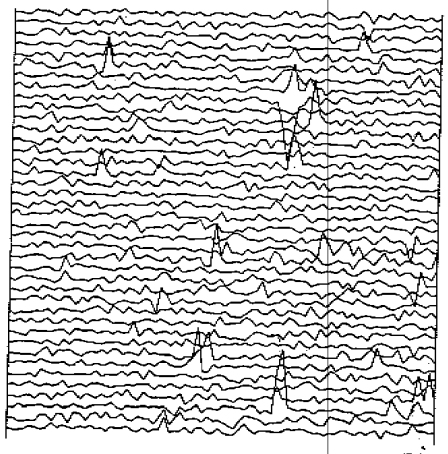


Ferrous

0 m 20

Figure B1

A36 Heytesbury to Codford
Area B



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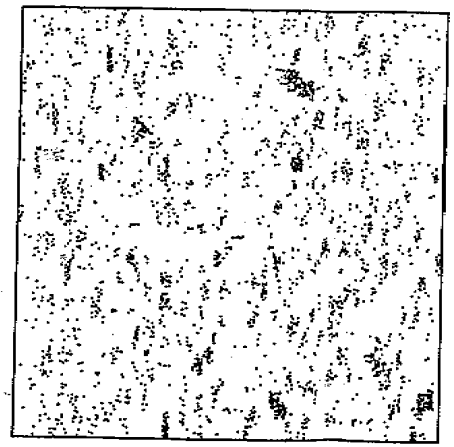

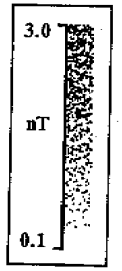

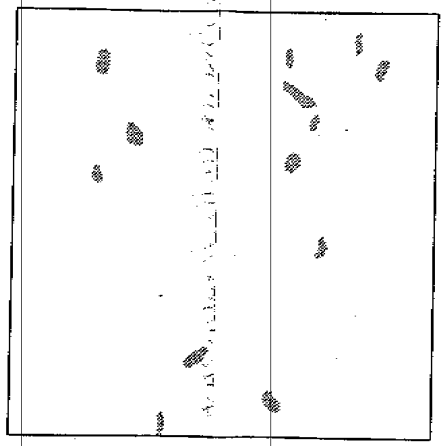

Ferrous

0 m 20

Figure B1

5. STATEMENT OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL POTENTIAL

5.1 General Statement

In general the proposed road runs through an area of 'significant potential' for archaeology as defined in the *Wiltshire Landscape Local Plan* (1986). The route is also within an 'Area of Important Archaeological Landscape' as defined within the *Western Wiltshire Structure Plan* (1990). This said it does not however impinge on any scheduled monuments, listed buildings or conservation areas.

5.2 Classification of areas of archaeological significance

5.2.1 In order to assess the relative importance of the sites identified along a road route it is necessary to classify and rank them. This is done by defining a site's status at the time of undertaking the archaeological study and then attributing relative significance.

5.2.2 The definition of status is a matter of fact, but the attribution of significance is largely based on professional judgement. Certain levels of status, however, ensure a minimum level of significance, hence world heritage sites would be automatically considered of international significance and scheduled monuments automatically considered to be of national significance.

5.2.3 Lesser definitions of significance are local, limited and none. Local implies importance at a county or district level. Limited implies that whilst a site has some archaeological potential it is of limited value as a local landscape feature and/or as a research resource. Sites having no significance would be SMR entries which are erroneous or refer to sites which no longer exist. They also may be places which are recorded due to the presence of a few finds, but which on evaluation do not have unusual levels of artefacts above that to be expected as a general background level and where no corroborative evidence for archaeological interest can be found.

5.3 Ranking of areas of archaeological significance along the route of the A36 Heytesbury to Codford improvement

The sites along the A36 Codford to Heytesbury Improvement are ranked as follows:

Site No.	*Status*	*Significance*
A36.4	SMR entry within a local authority designated area of archaeological interest	National/Local
A36.3	Unknown prior to evaluation	Local
A36.8	Unknown prior to evaluation	Local
A36.5	Unknown prior to evaluation	Local/Limited
A36.1	Unknown prior to evaluation	Limited
A36.2	Unknown prior to evaluation	Limited
A36.6	Unknown prior to evaluation	Limited
A36.7	Unknown prior to evaluation	Limited

6. IMPACT OF THE ROAD SCHEME

The effect of the road building proposals varies along the route largely dependant on whether the road is constructed on embankment or through a cutting. Even where the road is constructed on an embankment it is usual for the topsoil to be stripped in advance of construction. Where there are no upstanding earthworks present topsoil stripping to a depth of 150mm should not affect any underlying archaeological deposits.

6.1 Areas of embankment

Sites A36.4 and A36.8 are in areas of embankment. A36.4, the area of upstanding earthworks at Knook, would be adversely affected by topsoil stripping as this would have the affect of levelling the earthworks. At A36.8, the deep colluvial sequence at Well Bottom, it is estimated that up to 500mm of topsoil and subsoil might be removed during initial preparatory works. This would not affect any known archaeological deposits and would only remove the upper and recent hillwash accumulation.

6.2 Areas of cut

All other sites identified along the road line will be within areas of cutting and therefore in most cases will be largely destroyed within the width of the road easement. In most cases, however, these sites are of limited significance. The two exceptions are A36.3 and A36.8. At the former road construction will remove the undated earthwork noted during the course of the stage 1 survey and disturb layers known to contain significant quantities of medieval pottery. It is thought this is the site of a medieval property (Coe and Newman 1993). At A36.8 the construction of an infiltration pond will penetrate deeply into the recorded colluvial sequence. Although this pond will only remove a tiny percentage of the colluvium at Well Bottom, its construction will present an opportunity to sample the sequence to a much greater depth than has been possible previously.

7. MITIGATION PROPOSALS

The following proposals are put forward as mitigation against the adverse effects of the road construction proposals on the archaeological resource. Preservation in situ and pre-construction excavation has been proposed where the sites of greatest significance are affected by the proposed route.

7.1 Watching brief

The entire length of the road should be subjected to a watching brief during topsoil stripping and other initial earth disturbance activities. This response is sufficient to provide mitigation for sites A36.1, A36.2, A36.5, A36.6 and A36.7. It is essential during this work close liaison is maintained between the on-site archaeologist and the construction contractors with adequate provision made for archaeological recording.

7.2 Areas of embankment

7.2.1 In field 12 at A36.4, engineering measures including the laying of a geotextile mat should be undertaken to ensure the earthworks and sub-surface archaeological features are not disturbed and will be preserved under the embankment.

7.2.2 Any unavoidable excavation necessary in field 12 for drainage etc. must be undertaken under archaeological supervision and sufficient time allowed for a complete record of all archaeological features to be obtained. Wherever possible all such ground disturbance will be avoided in field 12.

7.2.3 Elsewhere the embanked road is unlikely to affect sites of archaeological potential except at Well Bottom (A36.8) where up to a maximum of 0.5m of the colluvial sequence may be removed in preparation works. This upper level of the sequence has been shown to be of recent origin and sufficient sampling work has already been carried out in order to characterise its nature and to derive palaeoenvironmental data.

7.3 Areas of cut

7.3.1 Within fields 9 and 10 the area defined by the earthwork bank (A36.3) will be archaeologically excavated in advance of construction thus ensuring the site preservation by record. It is proposed two trenches, each measuring 30m x 12m, be excavated, one in field 9 and one in field 10. The topsoil and overburden will be stripped by mechanical excavator under the supervision of an archaeologist, and any underlying features and deposits excavated manually. All archaeological deposits and features will be recorded graphically, photographically and in writing on *pro forma* record sheets. All finds will be retained for analysis and environmental samples taken where appropriate.

7.3.2 At Well Bottom (A36.8) in the location of the proposed infiltration pond (field 24), a section approximately 10m x 2m at the surface and 3.6m deep will be mechanically excavated through the colluvial deposits and shored. A hand-excavated column will be taken from the machine trench section measuring 1.5m wide and penetrating 0.5m into the section face. Within this column all artefacts will be plotted and recovered and a mollusc column sample taken which will enable an environmental sequence to be recorded.

Table 2: Definition of site mitigation responses

Site	Significance	Response
A36.1	Limited	Watching brief
A36.2	Limited	Watching brief
A36.3	Local	Excavation
A36.4	National/Local	Preservation
A36.5	Local/Limited	Watching brief
A36.6	Limited	Watching brief
A36.7	Limited	Watching brief
A36.8	Local	Excavation

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Test Pit Register

Test Pit 1, Field 6.
007 Brown silty clay loam topsoil, 0.20m thick.
008 Very pale brown calcareous silty loam subsoil, 0.08m thick.
009 Chalk bedrock.

Test Pit 2, Field 6.
001 Brown silty clay loam topsoil, 0.25m thick.
002 Very pale brown calcareous silty loam subsoil, 0.08m thick.
003 Chalk bedrock.

Test Pit 3, Field 6.
004 Brown silty clay loam topsoil, 0.20m thick.
005 Brown silty clay loam subsoil, 0.20m thick.
006 Weathered chalk bedrock.

Test Pit 4, Field 6.
010 Brown silty clay loam topsoil, 0.20m thick
011 Very pale brown calcareous silty loam subsoil, 0.08m thick.
012 Weathered chalk bedrock.

Test Pits 5 and 6 not excavated due to being located over disturbed areas of Knook Camp, Field 5.

Test Pit 7, Field 6.
013 Very dark greyish brown silty clay loam topsoil, 0.25m thick.
014 Brown silty clay subsoil, 0.45m thick.
015 Degraded surface of chalk bedrock.

Test Pit 8, Field 4.
081 Grey silty loam topsoil, 0.08m thick.
082 Dark greyish brown silty loam with much chalk, 0.20m thick. Levelling deposit connected with Great War camp.
083 Dark brown silty loam subsoil, 0.42m thick. Pre-Great War camp surface.
084 Degraded chalk natural.

Test Pit 9, Field 4.
079 Greyish brown silty loam topsoil, 0.14m thick.
080 Greyish brown silty loam excavated to a depth of 0.50m. Disturbed and not bottomed, probably associated with Great War camp.

Test Pit 10, Field 7.
020 Dark greyish brown silty clay loam topsoil, 0.22m thick.
021 Dark greyish brown silty clay loam subsoil, 0.18m thick.
022 Degraded chalk deposit.

Test Pit 11, Field 7.
034 Grey silty loam topsoil, 0.17m thick.
035 Grey silty loam subsoil, 0.17m thick.
036 Degraded chalk deposit.

Test Pit 12, Field 7.
023 Dark greyish brown silty loam topsoil, 0.08m thick.
024 Dark grey silty loam excavated to a depth of 0.55m but not bottomed. Appeared to be an embankment for the adjacent A36 road.

Test Pit 13, Field 9.
025 Dark grey silty loam topsoil, 0.17m thick.
026 Dark greyish brown silty loam deposit presumably associated with low bank through which the pit was excavated, 0.40m thick.
027 Dark greyish brown silty clay loam subsoil, excavated to a depth of 0.45m but not bottomed.

Test Pit 14, Field 9.
028 Dark greyish brown silty loam topsoil, 0.15m thick.
029 Dark greyish brown silty loam subsoil, 0.17m thick.
030 Degraded chalk deposit.

Test Pit 15, Field 9.
031 Dark greyish brown silty loam topsoil, 0.17m thick.
032 Greyish brown silty clay loam subsoil, 0.10m thick.
033 degraded chalk deposit.

Test Pit 16, Field 10.
018 Dark brown silt loam topsoil, 0.15m thick.
019 Flint gravel natural subsoil.

Test Pit 17, Field 10.
016 Dark brown silty clay topsoil, 0.16m thick.
017 Chalky surface of natural subsoil.

Test Pit 18, Field 12.
037 Dark greyish brown silty loam topsoil, 0.22m thick.
038 Dark greyish brown silty loam subsoil excavated to a depth of 0.33m but not bottomed.

Test Pit 19, Field 14.
045 Grey silty loam topsoil, 0.20m thick.
046 Light grey chalky silt excavated to a depth of 0.30m, thought to be top of colluvial deposits, not bottomed.

Test Pit 20, Field 16.
051 Greyish brown silty loam topsoil, 0.25m thick. Flint 2p 13g.
052 Degraded surface of chalk bedrock.

Test Pit 21, Field 16.
053 Greyish brown silty loam topsoil, 0.28m thick.
054 Degraded surface of chalk bedrock.

Test Pit 22, Field 18.
059 Grey silty loam topsoil, 0.16m thick.
060 Dark grey silty loam buried soil, 0.08m thick.
061 Greyish brown silty loam subsoil, 0.15m thick.
062 Degraded surface of chalk bedrock.

Test Pit 23, Field 17.
057 Dark greyish brown silty loam topsoil, 0.16m thick.
058 Degraded surface of chalk bedrock.

Test Pit 24, Field 17.
055 Greyish brown silty loam topsoil, 0.25m thick.
056 Degraded surface of chalk bedrock.

Test Pit 25, Field 18.
063 Grey silty loam topsoil, 0.18m thick.
064 Dark grey silty loam buried soil, 0.08m thick.
065 Greyish brown silty loam subsoil, 0.13m thick.
066 Degraded surface of chalk bedrock.

Test Pit 26, Field 18.
067 Grey silty loam topsoil, 0.25m thick.
068 Degraded surface of chalk bedrock.

Test Pit 27, Field 17.
075 Very dark grey silty loam topsoil with much leaf matter, 0.26m thick.
076 Chalky silt excavated to a depth of 0.30m, thought to be surface of colluvial deposits, not bottomed.

Test Pit 28, Field 18.
073 Grey silty loam topsoil, 0.24m thick.
074 Degraded surface of chalk bedrock.

Test Pit 29, Field 18.
071 Grey silty loam topsoil, 0.23m thick.
072 Degraded surface of chalk bedrock.

Test Pit 30, Field 18.
069 Disturbed grey silty loam topsoil, 0.23m thick.
070 Degraded surface of chalk bedrock.

Test Pit 31, Field 19.
092 Grey silty loam topsoil, 0.21m thick.
093 Chalky silt excavated to a depth of 0.18m, thought to be surface of colluvial deposits, not bottomed.

Test Pit 32, Field 19.
094 Grey silty loam topsoil, 0.64m thick.
095 Greyish brown silty loam subsoil, 0.46m thick.
096 Degraded surface of chalk bedrock.

Test Pit 33, Field 19.
077 Grey silty loam topsoil, 0.33m thick.
078 Degraded surface of chalk bedrock.

Test Pit 34, Field 19.
089 Light grey silty loam topsoil, 0.23m thick.
090 Pale brown silty loam subsoil, 0.33m thick.
091 Degraded surface of chalk bedrock.

Test Pit 35, Field 19.
087 Grey silty loam topsoil, 0.26m thick.
088 Degraded surface of chalk bedrock.

Test Pit 36, Field 19.
085 Light grey silty loam topsoil, 0.28m thick.
086 Greyish brown silty loam excavated to a depth of 0.05m and thought to be surface of colluvial deposits, not bottomed.

Test Pit 37, Field 20.
097 Grey silty loam topsoil, 0.26m thick.
098 Light brownish grey silty loam subsoil, 0.25m thick.
099 Degraded surface of chalk bedrock.

Test Pit 38, Field 20.
103 Grey silty loam topsoil, 0.44m thick.
104 Degraded surface of chalk bedrock.

Test Pit 39, Field 20.
100 Grey silty loam topsoil, 0.25m thick.
101 Light brownish grey silty loam subsoil, 0.28m thick.
102 Degraded surface of chalk bedrock.

Test Pit 40, Field 22.
105 Greyish brown deposit consisting mostly of modern demolition rubbish. Excavated to a depth of 0.60m, not bottomed.

Test Pit 41, Field 23.
109 Grey silty clay loam topsoil, 0.18m thick.
110 Grey silty clay loam subsoil, 0.28m thick.
111 Dark greyish brown silty clay loam subsoil 0.30m thick.
112 Chalky silt deposit, thought to be surface of colluvium.

Test Pit 42, Field 24.
106 Pale brown grey silt loam topsoil, 0.21m thick.
107 Pale brown clay loam subsoil, 0.19m thick.
108 Chalky silt deposit thought to be top of colluvial deposits.

Test Pit 43, Field 25.
113 Yellowish brown silty loam topsoil, 0.25m thick.
114 Chalky peagrit deposit, possibly colluvial.

Test Pit 44, Field 25.
115 Pale greyish brown silt loam topsoil, 0.24m thick.
116 Grey silt subsoil 0.08m thick.
117 Surface of chalky deposit, possibly colluvial.

Test Pit 45, Field 26.
118 Light brownish grey silty clay loam topsoil, 0.24m thick.
119 Surface of chalky gravel, possibly colluvial.

Test Pit 50, Field 9.
039 Dark grey silty loam topsoil, 0.15m thick.
040 Dark grey silty loam subsoil, possibly part of surrounding earthwork, 0.40m thick.
041 Dark greyish brown silty loam subsoil, 0.25m thick.
043 Dark greyish brown silty loam fill of 044.
044 Shallow slot 0.11m wide and 0.08m deep with steep straight sides and a flat base cutting into natural 042. Entered the trench from the south and ran for 0.40m north-south then turned a right-angled corner and proceeded 0.60m to east and out of the pit. Possibly constitutes structural evidence.
042 Compacted chalk gravel.

Test Pit 51, Field 10.
047 Dark greyish brown silty loam topsoil, 0.20m thick.
048 Chalk silt fill of 049.
049 Slot 0.29m deep and at least 0.46m wide running north-south across eastern side of pit.
050 Grey silty loam subsoil excavated to a depth of 0.68m but not bottomed.

Test Pit 52 (2m x 2m), Field 12.
120 Pale grey silt loam topsoil, 0.29m thick.
121 Greyish brown silty clay loam subsoil, 0.20m thick.
122 Brown clay loam subsoil, 0.18m thick.
123 Chalky clay silt, surface of colluvium.

Environmental Trenches 1990

Trench 46, Field 1 Heytesbury Park ST425934 - A machine trench 25m in length, 2m wide and up to 2m in depth was cut through the south facing side of a dry valley in the south-east corner of Heytesbury House gardens, to the immediate south of Heytesbury plantation.

The deposits in the trench were sealed by topsoil (129) a pale grey brown silty loam 0.25m thick, and subsoil (139) a pale grey silty clay.

Cutting from directly beneath the topsoil were three features assumed to be modern on the basis of associated artefacts:

Ditch 134 - a ditch 8.60m wide and 1.35m deep with a shallow sided flat-bottomed profile, ran north-west/south-east across the trench. Filled with a series of silty clay deposits (135) which contained much brick, tile and slate. This ditch had been recut at least once (136), the recut being 3.60m wide and 0.80m deep with a silty clay loam fill (137) containing much modern pottery.

Ditch 140 - a steep sided flat bottomed ditch 1.70m wide and 0.60m deep crossing the trench east-west. Filled with a deposit indistinguishable from the silty clay subsoil (139) and which contained modern artefacts.

Pit 141 - a steep sided flat bottomed pit 0.80m wide and 0.38m deep filled with a single silty clay loam (142) containing modern artefacts including an 1885 Queen Victoria penny.

Another ditch, (131), crossed the trench east-west, and was 2.5m wide and 1.10m deep with moderately steep sides. This was cut to the north by modern ditch (134) and was to the south sealed by subsoil (139). The fill, a pale grey silty clay (132) contained no artefacts though it was only examined in section. The form and nature of the ditch and fill along with its stratigraphic relationships implied that this feature may have been of some antiquity.

All the features in the trench cut through colluvial deposit 133, an extremely compact chalky silty clay, up to 1.50m thick, which directly overlay chalk bedrock (130).

The trench revealed evidence of extensive landscaping to create a series of bench terraces. As a consequence of this later 19th century/early 20th century activity, any former prehistoric or early historic colluvial deposits had been removed. Small relict pockets of highly calcareous hillwash survived, but these had been disturbed and were noted to contain small fragments of brick and slate. In view of the extensive disturbance the section was recorded but no detailed descriptions or sampling was undertaken.

Trench 47, Field 14 Knook East/Knook Horse Hill West ST418939
A machine cut trench 23.4m long, 2.0m wide and up to 1.0m deep was excavated along the axis of the proposed road improvements below Knook Horse Hill and just above Knook shrunken settlement (figs. 4 and 6). To the south of the trench the slope leads down on to Wylye Valley floodplain and the shrunken settlement. Test pits on the floodplain (Test Pit 51) revealed limited deposits (max. 1.2m) of which most could be attributable to medieval or post-medieval activity.

The trench revealed a fairly shallow sequence not exceeding a metre (fig. 7). The deposits increased gradually in depth southwards downslope, and the greatest depth of hillwash on this slope was probably immediately downslope of the excavated section.

The basal deposits (127) comprised large and medium chalk pieces in a silty calcareous matrix. This weathered chalk was probably a result of periglacial conditions. At the deepest point in the stratigraphy a calcareous silty clay loam horizon (context 126) was observed. This contained significantly more clay (by field textural observations) than the overlying colluvium and was also darker in colour. The latter observation probably indicated a less calcareous deposit and possibly a higher organic content. Close microscopic inspection of the weak blocky peds showed distinct inter-pedal coatings. It is probable that this horizon represented a relict, truncated old land surface. The coatings observed under a low power microscope might be the result of slaking due to silt translocation following an episode of tillage.

The main colluvial deposit (context 125) was a highly calcareous pale whitey grey (10YR 7/2) silt loam with many small to medium chalk pieces. Towards the top of this deposit small and very small chalk inclusions were more frequent. The lack of large stones and the predominance of small stones in the fine calcareous matrix indicates low energy deposition. This deposit may be the result of low energy erosion events such as small scale sheet-wash and rilling episodes typical within and from arable contexts (Allen in press). The modern topsoil is a pale grey (10YR 6/2) silty loam calcareous brown earth.

The colluvial deposit (125) and possible truncated land surface (126) were deemed to be of environmental interest. Thus an artefact collection box consisting of a 1.5m section excavated 0.5m back from the face of the southern end of the trench was dug. Within this a mollusc column was removed.

The artefact collection box produced 11 artefacts (see fig. 8). The basal relict old land surface produced only a single fragment of prehistoric pottery (SF. 3012) and a flint flake (SF. 3013). The lower portion of the colluvium contained a well worn fragment of earlier prehistoric pottery (SF. 3009; Cleal pers. comm.) and a sherd of Iron Age pottery (SF. 3006), while the upper more calcareous colluvium was artefact-free. The topsoil contained fragments of brick/tile (SF. 3002, 3003) and Roman pottery (SF. 3001). The paucity of artefacts certainly indicated the absence of prehistoric settlement in the immediate vicinity and the artefact density of 18.7 artefacts per cubic metre is very low compared with other published data (Allen 1988, 69; Bell 1986). Nevertheless, we could suggest that the relict truncated old land surface may be earlier prehistoric (earlier Bronze Age) whilst the main colluvial sequence was probably Iron Age or later.

A summary of the environmental analysis of the samples from the trench is included under Section 6 below.

Trench 48, Field 23 Well Bottom ST 407953 - A machine trench was positioned to examine the deposits thought to have emanated from Well Bottom dry valley to the north. The initial 3m length of the trench was machined down to the degraded surface of the chalk, a depth of 3.60m, revealing an exceptionally deep colluvial sequence. Nearby Test Pits 41 and 42 (see fig. 4) had not been bottomed because of the depth of the colluvium, Test Pit 41

having revealed colluvial deposits with a minimum overall depth of 0.75m. It was obvious that the trench would have to be unfeasibly large to allow someone to work safely at the necessary depth. Consequently the trench was abandoned and backfilled.

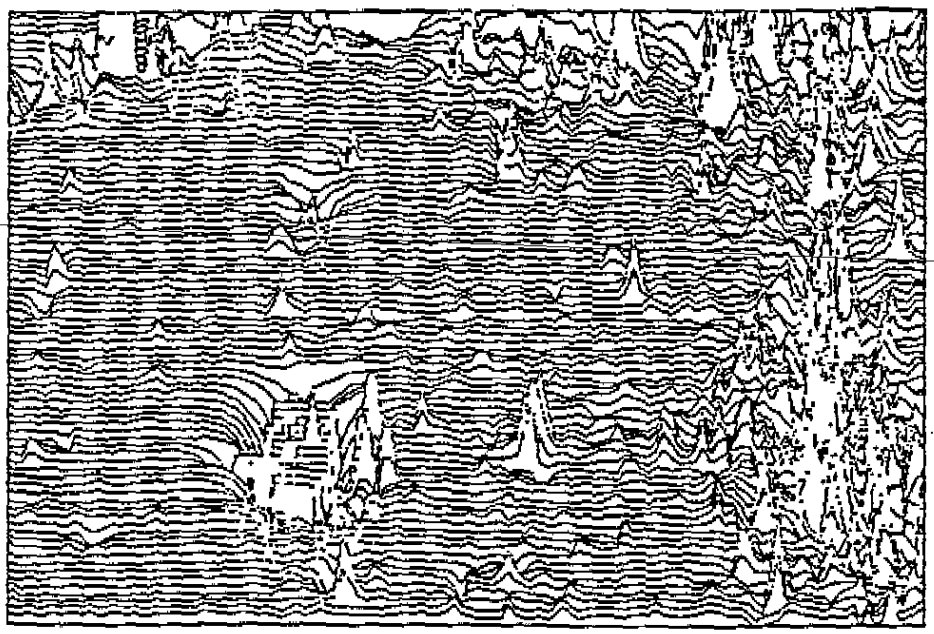
Before backfilling the section was recorded, from the surface. At 3.60m the weathered periglacially soliflucted chalk surface was noted, which contained weathered medium to large chalk pieces in a silty calcareous matrix. The colluvial deposit overlying this comprised 3.10m of homogeneous calcareous silty mud hillwash with few flints. No lenses of chalk or flint pieces were apparent nor was any other horizonation. The modern soil was a typical calcareous brown earth 0.55m deep.

APPENDIX 3: Geophysical Survey Plots, 1990

nT

10.0
9.0
8.0
7.0
6.0
5.0
4.0
3.0
2.0
1.0
0.1

KNOOK



Scale in nT

1 3 5 10

0 15m

Area A

ig.9 Magnetometer survey - Area A, Field 10

KNOOK

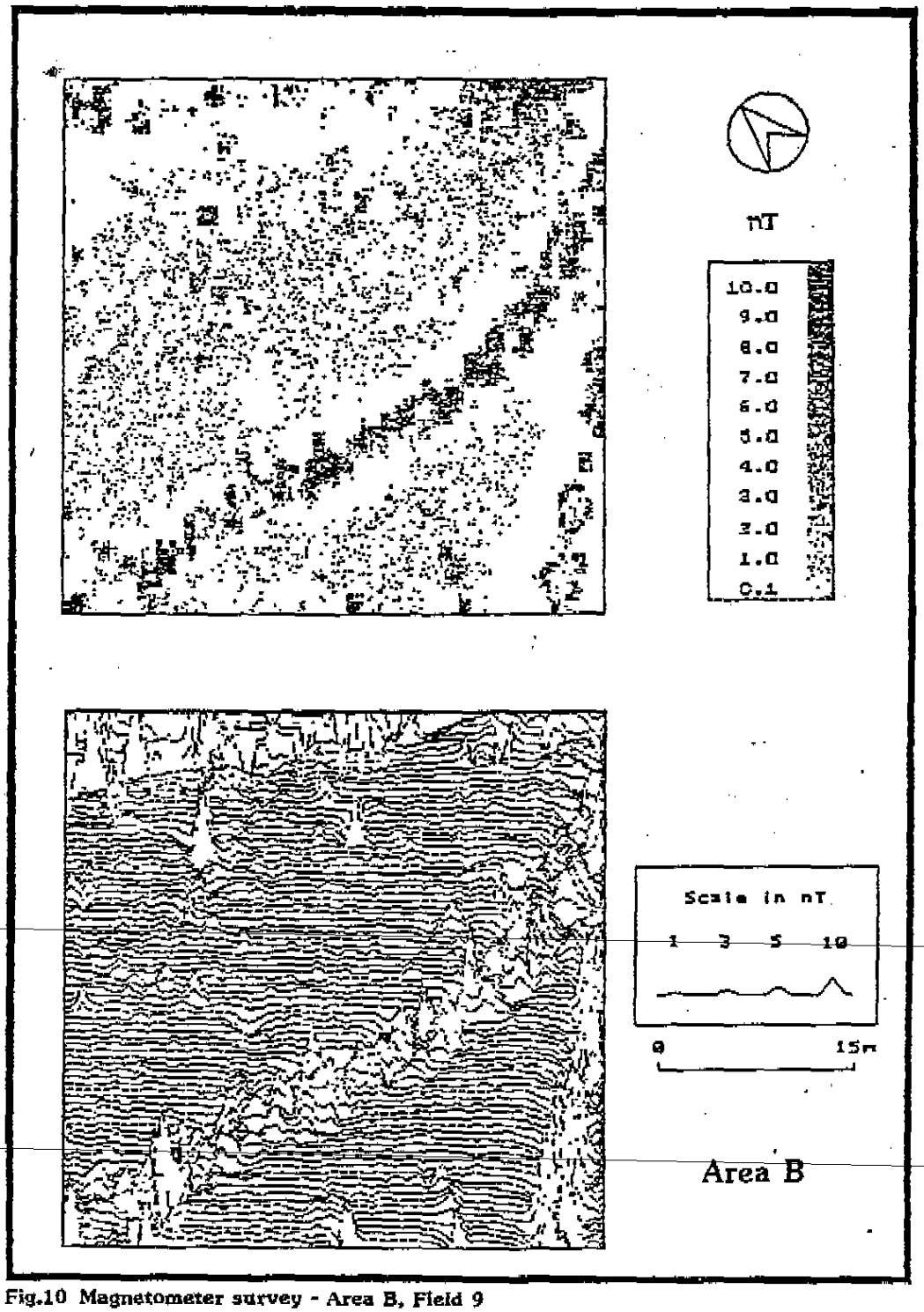


Fig.10 Magnetometer survey - Area B, Field 9

KNOOK

nT

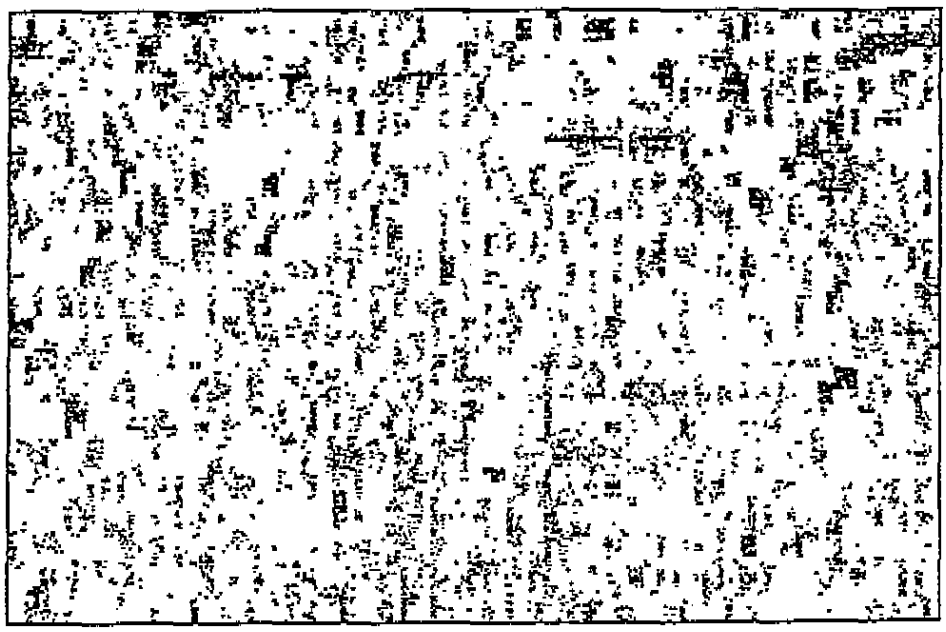
9.5
8.5
7.5
6.5
5.5
4.5
3.5
2.5
1.5
0.5

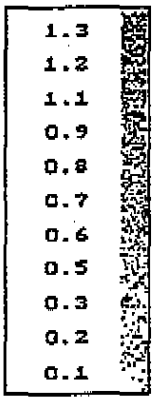
Area C

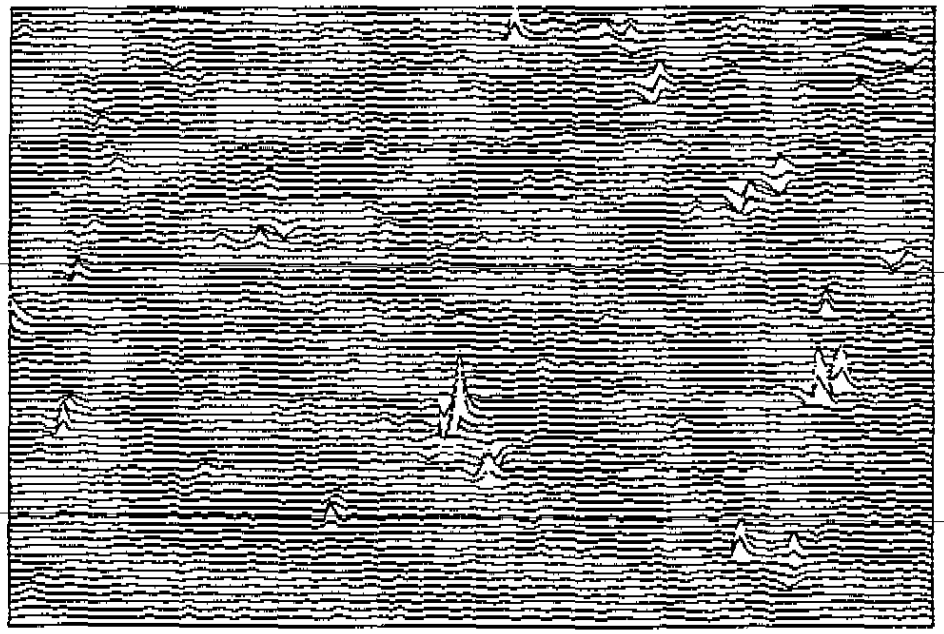
1:500

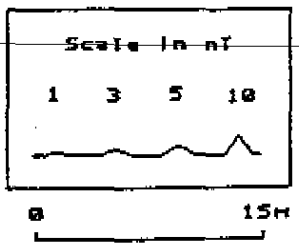
Fig.11 Magnetometer survey - Area C, Field 7

KNOOK









Area D

Fig.12 Magnetometer survey - Area D, Field 14

KNOCK

Resistance Data

Ohms

55.0
54.1
53.1
52.2
51.2
50.3
49.3
48.4
47.4
46.5
45.5

1:500

Area E

Fig.13 Resistivity survey - Area E, Field 12

APPENDIX 4: Evaluation trench results 1993

Trench 1

Dimensions: 28m long, 2m wide and up to 0.95m deep.
NGR: ST9384542165 - ST9386042190

Context	Description	Depth	Interpretation
100	A mid brown clayey loam with moderate flint gravel and rare chalk flecking. One piece of burnt flint weighing 8g was also recovered.	0.15m	Topsoil
101	A pale brown clayey silt with moderate to frequent flint gravel and occasional chalk flecking. Three pieces of burnt flint weighing 33g and 4 pieces of worked flint weighing 116g were recovered.	0.25m	Subsoil
102	A very pale brown/ off white weathered chalk marl with frequent flint gravel and clayey silt, and frequent unstructured chalk blocks.	n/e	Natural
[103]	A shallow SE/NW aligned linear feature, 0.9m wide, 0.25m deep, observed cutting 102 and filled with 104.	0.55m	Ditch
104	A pale brown clayey silt with frequent flint gravel and occasional chalk flecks filling [103]. Two pieces of animal bone weighing 27g, two pieces of burnt flint weighing 122g, two pieces of worked flint weighing 3g and one piece of fired clay weighing 2g were recovered.	0.55m	Ditch fill
105	A light greyish brown clayey silt with very occasional chalk flecks and flint gravel, filling [106] and sealing 107. One piece of burnt flint weighing 8g and a one iron nail were recovered.	0.25m	Upper ditch fill
[106]	A steep-sided SSE/NNW aligned linear feature, 1m wide and 0.5m deep, observed cutting 102 and filled with 105 and 107.	0.5m	Ditch
107	A greyish brown slightly clayey silt with profuse chalk flecks and moderate flint gravel, filling [106] and sealed by 105. One piece of burnt flint weighing 12g and two pieces of worked flint weighing 220g were recovered.	0.25m	Primary ditch fill
108	Lenses of very light brown clayey silt filling natural depressions in the surface of 102, and sealed by 101. Four pieces of worked flint weighing 8g were recovered.	0.06m	Periglacial feature fill
109	A mid brown clayey silt with occasional chalk flecks and rare flint gravel, filling [110]	0.1m	Root disturbance fill
[110]	An irregular shallow depression, at least 1m in diameter, filled with 109 and cutting 102.	0.1m	Root disturbance
111	A lens of dark reddish brown/ black silty clay, not excavated. This appeared to be cut by 112, and may therefore represent part of the fill of a feature also filled with 113.	n/e	Pit fill ?
112	A SSE/NNW aligned linear band of pale brown clayey silt with occasional chalk flecks. This appeared to cut through 111 and 113	n/e	Modern trench fill ?

113	A large subcircular spread of mid brown clayey loam with moderate to frequent chalk flecks and occasional flint gravel. This appeared to be cut by 112, and may therefore represent part of the fill of a feature also filled with 111.	n/e	Pit fill ?

Trench 2

Dimensions: 45m long, 2m wide and up to 0.7m deep.
NGR: ST9385042150 - ST9388742125

Context	Description	Depth	Interpretation
200	A mid brown clayey loam with moderate flint gravel and rare chalk flecking. One piece of CBM weighing 37g, two pieces of worked flint weighing 18g and two pieces of post-medieval pottery weighing 12g were recovered.	0.15m	Topsoil
201	A pale brown slightly clayey silt with moderate to frequent flint gravel and occasional chalk flecking. One piece of worked flint weighing 4g was recovered	0.30m	Subsoil
202	A very pale brown/ off white weathered chalk marl, with frequent flint gravel, lenses of clayey silt, and unstructured chalk blocks.	n/e	Natural
203	A mid brown slightly clayey silt with occasional flint gravel and profuse chalk flecking, filling [204].	0.05m	Watercourse fill
[204]	A shallow irregular N/S aligned feature, 3m wide and 0.1m deep, filled with 203 and cutting 102.	0.05m	Watercourse

Trench 3

Dimensions: 40m long, 2m wide and up to 1.2m deep
NGR: ST9528740807 - ST9532340787

Context	Description	Depth	Interpretation
300	A dark brown loamy clay with rare flint gravel.	0.25m	Topsoil
301	A light brown silty clay, ped-like in structure.	0.2m	Subsoil
302	A thin band of greyish light brown clayey silt, representing an interface between 303 and 306. A second deposit of this material was observed within layer 306.	0.05-0.1m	Colluvium
303	A mixed pale brown/ dark yellow clayey silt, ped-like in structure.	0.2-0.5m	Colluvium
304	A pale brown clayey silt with profuse very small chalk granules and very occasional flint gravel.	0.2-0.4m	Colluvium
305	A thin band of pale/ mid brown soft clayey silt, within layer 306.	0.05-0.1m	Colluvium
306	A pale yellow compacted silty clay, ped-like in structure.	0.5m+	Colluvium

n/e = Not excavated
CBM = Ceramic building material (brick, tile etc.)

APPENDIX 5: Geophysical Survey results, 1993

SITE SUMMARY SHEET

93 / 23 A36 Heytesbury to Codford

NGR: ST 941 418 to ST 956 405

Location, topography and Geology

The proposed road corridor covers approximately 1.5 km by 70m to the north of the existing A36 road from Heytesbury to Codford. The area is undulating, sloping down to the A36 in the south. Ground cover was predominantly pasture with an area of stubble in the east. The underlying geology comprises chalk.

Archaeology

Aerial photographs indicate no archaeological features and trial pits have given no indications of archaeological activity (R Newman, *pers comm*).

Aims of Survey

A gradiometer scan was undertaken in an attempt to establish the extent of any archaeological features that might exist at the site. Detailed survey was to be undertaken over any anomalies of possible archaeological interest. The geophysical survey was carried out as part of an archaeological evaluation being undertaken by Wessex Archaeology (WA), prior to widening of the A36.

Summary of Results *

Scanning showed the area to be very quiet magnetically with only one anomaly of possible interest being detected. Detailed survey in two areas revealed no archaeologically significant anomalies.

*** It is essential that this summary is read in conjunction with the detailed results of the survey.**

SURVEY RESULTS

93 / 23 A36 Heytesbury to Codford

1. Survey Areas (Figures 1 - 2)

1.1 An area of approximately 1.5km by 70m covering the proposed road corridor, was initially scanned using a fluxgate gradiometer. Yellow wooden stakes, marking the road corridor, had been set out prior to the survey.

1.2 Two areas of detailed survey work, A and B, were undertaken and the location of these is shown in Figures 1 and 2 at a scale of 1:2500.

1.3 The survey grids were set out and tied-in by **Geophysical Surveys of Bradford** personnel. Accurate tie-in information is available on request.

2. Display

2.1 The results are displayed as X-Y traces and dot density plots. These display formats are discussed in the *Technical Information* section, at the end of the report.

2.2 The data are displayed at a scale of 1:500, with interpretation diagrams at the same scale.

3. General Considerations - Complicating factors

3.1 Conditions proved ideal for gradiometry, the ground being gently undulating and free of obstructions.

4. Results

4.1 Results of Scanning

4.1.1 Scanning showed the majority of the road corridor to be magnetically extremely quiet. The background noise level was slightly higher in the most westerly field; almost certainly the result of past agricultural processes. Only one anomaly of possible archaeological interest was located during the scanning. This lies in the eastern portion of the corridor and the results are discussed in Section 4.3.

4.1.2 Strong ferrous type responses were detected to the north of Guernsey Belt wood suggesting the presence of pipes and possibly modern dumping. In addition, several discrete strong response were detected during scanning. These are due to modern ferrous debris in the topsoil.

4.2 Area A

4.2.1 A small area of 20m by 40m was surveyed immediately adjacent to the Guernsey Belt over a badger set. It was hoped that gradiometry would be able to determine the extent of the associated underground chambers and passageways.

4.2.2 Along the southern edge of the surveyed area the data have been distorted by the presence of a ferrous pipe, part of which is visible above the surface.

4.2.3 The rest of the survey area is extremely quiet with no suggestion of responses from the badger set or archaeological activity.

4.3 Area B

4.3.1 Area B, 40m by 40m lies to the west of Manor Road as indicated on Figure 2. Scanning located two anomalies of possible interest. However, the detailed survey revealed no archaeologically significant anomalies.

4.3.2 The area is slightly noisy with several discrete ferrous responses, the most prominent of which are indicated on the interpretation plan. The increased level of noise may be due to the nearby Manor Road.

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5. Conclusions

5.1 The gradiometer scan indicated that the proposed road corridor was extremely quiet magnetically, apart from isolated ferrous responses. Only one anomaly of possible interest was scanned out and surveyed in detail. The detailed survey indicated no archaeologically significant responses. As a result of the lack of potentially archaeological responses the 1ha contingency for detailed survey was not used, at the request of the client.

5.2 Survey over a known badger set failed to proved any information with regards to its extent.

Project Co-ordinator: Dr S Ovenden
Project Assistants: J Grandidge and A Shields

11th March 1993
Geophysical Surveys of Bradford

APPENDIX 6: Mollusca from samples taken from 1993 trench 3

	Sample column 350									Sample column 360							
Mollusca	351	352	353	354	355	356	357	358	359	361	362	363	364	365	366	367	368
Open country species																	
Introduced Helicellids	-	-	-	-	-	C	-	-	-	-	-	-	C	-	-	-	-
Helicella itala	-	-	-	-	C	C	-	B	B	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Pupilla muscorum	-	-	-	-	-	-	C	B	B	B	A	-	B	B	C	C	B
Vallonia spp.	-	-	-	-	-	-	B	B	B	A	B	-	A	B	-.B	B	
*Vertigo*cf. *pygmaea*	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	C	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Abida secale	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	C	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Intermediate species																	
Trichia hispida	-	-	-	-	-	C	B	B	B	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	C
Cochlicopa spp.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	C	C	-	B	-	-	C	-	-	-
Vitrina pellucida	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	C	-	-
Shade-loving species																	
Punctum pygmaeum	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	C	-	-	B	C	C	B	-	C	C
Euconulus fulvus	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	C	-	C	-	-	-	C	-	-	-
Burrowing species																	
Cecilioides acicula	-	-	-	-	C	-	C	B	B	-	-	-	-	-	C	C	-

Scanned flots: A ≥ 10, B = 5-9 and C = <4 shells.

APPENDIX 7

Colluvial Sequences and Landscape Taphonomy

Along the route of the A36 Codford to Heytesbury road improvement areas were identified as being potential locations of hillwash by analogy with known typical locations (see Bell 1981, fig 5.1 p76; Bell 1986, fig 2 p74), and by field observations during the project planning stage. The nature of the colluvial deposits at three of these locations was investigated. The most important area was not investigated due to the landowner's opposition. In all three areas trenched the slope edge deposits were examined by the excavation of machine cut trenches (46, 47 and 48) which were augmented by hand-dug test pits.

The aims of the investigations of the colluvial deposits were to record evidence of human activity either causing, or masked by, hillwash and to attempt to determine the landscape history The area, situated on the south-western edge of Salisbury Plain, is composed of chalk geology masked by alluvial deposits in the Wylye valley. Colluvial deposits were suspected at the base of the steep south-east facing valley side. In addition two major dry valleys cross the route, both of which were expected to have colluvial deposits. The most westerly descends from Knook Down and is to be traversed by the new length of the B390. The other is situated to the east associated with such archaeological activities. Thus, in the first instance, it was necessary to determine if colluvial deposits, which could bury significant areas of the landscape, occur. Elsewhere in southern England colluvium has been demonstrated to mask archaeological sites (Allen 1988) and potentially archaeological landscapes and artefact scatters (Allen in press). The occurrence of hillwash also provides an indication of anthropogenic activity itself (Bell 1981) and provides the potential for palaeoenvironmental determination (Kerney et al. 1964; 1980; Allen 1988; Bell 1983) via the analysis of land Mollusca and the analysis of the deposits themselves.

Three trenches were excavated using a JCB to reveal the extent, depth and nature of the colluvial sequences. Where appropriate and possible, the entire section was cleaned and accurately recorded at 1:20. In Trench 47 a 1.5 metre wide section of the most informative portion of the colluvial sequence was selected for hand excavation adjacent to the exposed face and all artefacts carefully recorded in order to provide a crude chronological framework for the erosional regimes. After detailed drawing (1:10) of this section a contiguous column of samples for land Mollusca was taken and detailed pedological descriptions of the sequence made following the methods and terminology outlined in Hodgson (1976).

One kilogram of air dried soil from the mollusc column in Trench 47 was processed following the methodology outlined by Evans (1972). The results of analyses are presented in Table 2 and as histograms of relative abundance in figure 7. Molluscs were relatively well-preserved, although as the deposits seemed to become increasingly more calcareous up the profile, mollusc numbers declined significantly.

Table 2: Mollusc data from Trench 47.

sample	2000	2001	2002	2003
context	|--126--|		|-------12	
depth (cm)	70-79	60-70	50-60	40-50
wt (g)	1000	1000	1000	1000
Mollusca				
Pomatias elegans (Müller)	7	3	2	7
Carychium tridentatum (Risso)	19	7	3	2
Cochlicopa lubrica (Müller)	-	-	-	1
Cochlicopa spp.	3	3	5	5
Vertigo pygmaea (Draparnaud)	3	2	7	1
Pupilla muscorum (Linnaeus)	3	5	33	12
Vallonia costata (Müller)	66	47	18	12
Vallonia excentrica Sterki	12	58	44	23
Acanthinula aculeata (Müller)	1	1	-	2
Punctum pygmaeum (Draparnaud)	2	2	5	1
Discus rotundatus (Müller)	3	-	1	-
Vitrina pellucida (Müller)	3	1	-	2
Vitrea contracta (Westerlund)	7	-	1	2
Nesovitrea hammonis (Ström)	-	1	-	1
Aegopinella pura (Alder)	11	1	-	-
Aegopinella nitidula (Draparnaud)	-	4	2	3
Oxychilus cellarius (Müller)	3	1	2	-
Limacidae	36	36	20	45
Cecilioides acicula (Müller)	1	2	7	16
Cochlodina laminata (Montagu)	1	2	2	-
Clausilia bidentata (Ström)	7	-	2	1
Candidula intersecta (Poiret)	-	-	-	-
Helicella itala (Linnaeus)	3	6	8	13
Trichia striolata (C. Pfeiffer)	-	3	2	-
Trichia hispida (Linnaeus)	53	40	34	17
Helicigona lapicida (Linnaeus)	-	-	+	1
Cepaea/Arianta spp.	2	+	1	+
Helix aspersa (Müller)	-	-	-	-
Taxa	20	19	19	18
TOTAL	245	223	192	151

Totals exclude the burrowing species C. a

The basal relict buried soil produced high mollusc numbers (in excess of 240 shells per kilogram). The assemblage, however, was comparatively restricted. It was dominated by Limacidae, Trichia hispida and Vallonia costata. The shade-loving component, according to Evans' ecological groupings (1972), attained 23% and primarily comprised Carychium tridentatum and the Zonitids. Apart from the Vallonias which like open dry grassland habitats there are very few other open county species present. Although shade-loving species as defined by Evans (1972) are present (Table 2) most of these individuals are also common in longer grassland and early scrub succession (Cameron and Morgan-Huws 1975). Indeed the three species that Cameron and Morgan-Huws suggest could be reclassified as catholic species (Carychium tridentatum, Vitrea contracta and Aegopinella pura) are the most common 'shade-loving' species here. It is likely therefore, that this assemblage represents long grassland and open calcareous scrub habitats. The occurrence of Pomatias elegans, which prefers loose disturbed soil and might be found in

bare earth patches beneath hawthorn bushes, is commonly taken to indicate disturbance and creation of loose earth as a result of vegetation clearance or tillage. The fact the assemblage from the upper part of the truncated old land surface displays a significantly different characteristics, may suggest that the occurrence of P. elegans is a result of elements of both bare soil habitats beneath bushes and clearance. This assemblages differs insofar as Vallonia excentrica becomes dominant and V. costata declines. This is accompanied by an increase in the proportions of Pupilla muscorum and Helicella itala and an overall decline in the shade-loving species. This change in the assemblage composition certainly indicates more open and drier conditions probably associated with very short, grazed grassland.

The colluvial sequence produced predominantly open country assemblages, and mollusc numbers declined rapidly towards the surface. Overall the assemblages were dominated by V. excentrica, Pupilla muscorum, Trichia hispida and Limacidae. Helicella itala and Vertigo pygmaea were also present, the latter is rarely found in any habitat in abundance. V. excentrica , however declines throughout the hillwash. This assemblage is typical of chalkland dry valley and lynchet deposits (cf. Bell 1983, Evans 1972 and Allen 1988 and in prep) and can also be paralleled with field boundary ditch assemblages (see Allen 1984b; Allen and Fennemore 1984). Thus the assemblage can be seen predominantly as one of arable contexts. That being said, some variation can be detected within this sequence. P. muscorum is particularly abundant at the base of the colluvium. It is a grassland species but is characteristic of earth bare of vegetation. A coincidental proportional increase of P. elegans, which likes loose bare earth habitats, H. itala, which is common in prehistoric arable contexts, and Limacidae may indicate an episode of tillage. The preceding and succeeding increases in both P. muscorum and V. pygmaea may indicate short intensively (?sheep) grazed grassland.

The uppermost sample, from the base of the modern soil shows a re-emergence of V. excentrica as the dominant species with Limacidae. T. hispida and V. costata remaining constant. This assemblage may indicate very open harsh arable conditions. The occurrence of both Helix aspersa and Candidula intersecta indicate a post-Roman (Kerney 1977) if not medieval or latter date.

The variations detected within the colluvial sequence indicate mollusc communities adapting to localised small scale changes in the micro-environment. This suggests that the deposits had accumulated slowly over a long period of time and that they immediate environs became more inhospitable for snail life, probably as a result of arable intensity.

As in Trench 48 the early prehistoric climax soil (argillic brown earth) is absent. The hillwash recorded here predominantly originates from the gentler slopes of Knook Horse Hill. The colluvium has washed immediately downslope, the minor break in slope (fig. 7) arresting erosion and enabling deposition. The resultant hillwash can be paralleled particularly well ploughwash from lynchet deposits. The earliest molluscan evidence indicated a period of long grassland and open scrub possibly used as rough grazing. Clearance of the open scrub for cultivation followed. This probably occurred during the Bronze Age. The variations detected within the mollusc sequence (fig. 8) might

indicate alternating arable and pastoral phases. The nature of the erosional and deposition regimes have blurred these effects, but closer sampling (perhaps at 5cm intervals) may have provided a better resolution. Through later prehistory it seems likely therefore, that the area was subjected to a rotational system of tillage and pasture. This seems to provide the only secure evidence of prehistoric activity from the Codford to Heytesbury A36 improvements.

The lack of medieval deposits indicates a long period of stable grassland, probably heavily grazed. Thus it can be suggested that the slopes to the west of the Knook shrunken settlement were not cultivated during its occupation, but were used to graze livestock.

The lack of a basal buried soil in the sequence is not untypical of downland colluvial sequences, but higher humic content and clay rich relict basal sequences are more common in the deeper (2.0m +) colluvial deposits (see Strawberry Hill, Wiltshire and Little Down, Isle of Wight; Allen unpub. data). The completely homogeneous colluvial sequence is also relatively unusual and indicates a lack of high energy deposits at the location investigated. This deposit is probably the result of soil erosion from the western slopes of Well Bottom below Knook Horse Hill as well as down the valley axis. The hillwash here suggests a gradual and continual accumulation of sediments as a result of an open and tilled landscape on the slopes of, and within, Well Bottom. Although the colluvium is probably a product of two erosion regimes, the nature, extent and depth of the deposit indicate erosion from an intensively used landscape, and by analogy with other colluvial sequences (Allen 1988) almost certainly extends into prehistory. The initial onset of erosion was severe enough to truncate and strip out the former land surface and suggests that a lacuna in the sequence exists. The erosion products of the former, probably brown earth, soil cover are not present. The hillwash represents erosion from severely thinned soils and by analogy with other sequences probably is of Bronze Age or later date. Without further confirmatory artefactual evidence no closer chronological statements can be attributed to this hillwash.

The deposit is exceptionally deep and probably spatially quite extensive. It is probable that large areas of the Well Bottom valley and the base of the downland slope are blanketed by colluvium and may well completely seal and mask prehistoric to medieval sites in the vicinity, especially in view of the density of such sites postulated by Allen (1988).

Evidence for extensive colluviation occurs within Well Bottom and the exceptional depth and probable extent of this deposit certainly indicates fairly extensive or long-term human activity. Although no artefacts were recovered from the section or from the spoil heap the deposits are almost certainly primarily of prehistoric date. In view of the local topography it certainly would not be surprising to find relatively extensive settlement activity within Well Bottom completely sealed by hillwash. It is likely that hillwash is very deep at the mouth of Well Bottom and at the base of the steep chalk slope, but relatively shallow (c. 1 - 1.5m) within the main valley (see Bell and Allen 1985). Certainly below Knook Horse Hill there is again evidence for prehistoric arable and pastoral activity and it is possible that both colluvial sequences are broadly contemporary. On the whole however, prehistoric activity, as reflected by these deposits,

was not extensive. Bronze Age and Iron Age settlement was probably more extensively confined to the chalklands and the valleys themselves and there is little evidence to indicate such occupation extended into the Wylye Valley itself at this point.

The lack of Roman and medieval colluvium (especially at Knook) indicates a reduction in arable agriculture and probably an increase in pasture and animal grazing. The shrunken settlement at Knook, was probably essentially based on livestock, as indeed is Knook East Farm today.