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**AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION OF THE  
PROPOSED A3 IMPROVEMENTS AT CHASE FARM,  
NEAR HINDHEAD, SURREY**

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Kingston-upon-Thames  
KT1 2DT

**SURREY COUNTY SCAU**  
**ARCHAEOLOGICAL UNIT**

**AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION OF THE PROPOSED  
A3 IMPROVEMENTS AT CHASE FARM, NEAR HINDHEAD, SURREY**

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Client	Chris Blandford Associates
Date of Project	4-5th January 1995
Date of Report	10th February 1995

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# **AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION OF THE PROPOSED A3 IMPROVEMENTS AT CHASE FARM, NEAR HINDHEAD, SURREY**

## **INTRODUCTION**

An archaeological evaluation of land affected by the proposed improvements to the A3, London to Portsmouth trunk road, at Chase Farm, near Hindhead, Surrey (Fig. 1) was carried out by the Surrey County Archaeological Unit, on behalf of Chris Blandford Associates.

This evaluation was conducted on the 4th and 5th January 1995 under the supervision of Steve Dyer, with the assistance of Simon Hind.

## **SITE LOCATION**

The site which forms the subject of this evaluation lies towards the south-western end of the proposed 6km stretch of improvements to the A3 at Hindhead, where land currently used as pasture would be taken to form part of a new dual-carriageway as well as a new junction with Hammer Lane. The areas affected by this evaluation are shown on Fig. 2.

## **GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY**

The site lies on Hythe Beds, forming part of the Lower Greensand series of Cretaceous date. The soils arising from the Greensand are generally of an acidic sand or sandy loam composition, giving rise to acidic heath lands. The soils of the area of evaluation are of the sandy loam type which have been improved, resulting in adequate conditions for grazing purposes.

The topography of the site is that of a gently rising slope between 182 metres AOD in the south to 195 metres AOD in the north.

## **BACKGROUND**

An archaeological desk-top assessment for the area of the proposed A3 Hindhead Improvements was undertaken by Chris Blandford Associates, the results of which are included in the archaeological brief for the project (CBA/HJG/D067/Arch. brief/Rev2). This document includes, as well as the preferred route for the improvements, a corridor to either side of the proposed alignment; allowing for the elements of the historic landscape recorded to be placed in their wider context.

From this desk-top study only one feature of historical interest, a post-medieval parish boundary stone, is recorded in the vicinity of the area of this evaluation. However, as far as can be ascertained, no systematic archaeological work had been carried out prior to the instigation of works in advance of this proposed road scheme in this area.

An archaeogeophysical survey had been carried out in the fields forming the evaluation area by A.D.H. Bartlett of the Bartlett-Clark Consultancy during May 1994: this took the form of detailed magnetometer survey together with magnetic susceptibility measurements on a grid basis of the four pasture fields affected by the proposed road improvements. The results of these surveys indicated the positions of features of potential archaeological interest; it is the presence of such features that led to the evaluation that is the subject of this report.

The results of the geophysical survey (Fig. 3) have been presented in a separate report to Chris Blandford Associates. These showed a number of magnetic anomalies, largely localised and possibly representing pits together with one indistinct linear feature probably representing a ditch.

## **THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL BRIEF**

The archaeological brief and specification set out the aims of the evaluation as follows:

- (a) To conduct a trial trenching evaluation of the area (Fields 1,2,3 and 4) designed to verify the presence (or absence), nature and date of any deposits encountered.
- (b) The trial trenches should be oriented where practicable on a NS or EW axis although it is recognised that in attempting to trench the geophysical anomalies, this may not always be possible.
- (c) A sample of not less than 2% of the area should be given although it is not expected that this will be an even coverage of the fields.
- (d) A contingency should be made for the environmental sampling of any deposits.
- (e) That further evaluation should aim to gather sufficient information to establish the presence/absence, extent, character, quality and date of any deposits encountered in order to allow definition of an appropriate mitigation strategy.

After the project design had been drawn up it was agreed between Chris Blandford Associates and the Surrey County Archaeological Unit that Field 4 would not form part of this evaluation exercise due to its current use as a school playing field; but that if the evaluation in Field 3 produced evidence suggesting that archaeological deposits might be encountered in the former then a recommendation for later evaluation would be made.

## **METHODOLOGY**

The trial trenching for the archaeological evaluation was carried out using a JCB 3CX fitted with a 1.2 metre wide toothless, ditching bucket. This was used to remove the soil in spits, separating the top soils and sub soils as they were excavated in order that they could be replaced in their correct order. As the soils were removed the surfaces revealed were observed for the presence of any features of archaeological interest and the resulting spoil examined for the presence of archaeological artefacts. The top few centimetres of the weathered greensand was removed once it had been ascertained that no archaeological deposits were present in individual trenches in order to confirm that no part of this had been deposited during archaeological periods and had therefore covered stratigraphy of interest.

### Field 1

A total of eleven trenches were excavated in this field, placed in order to sample the more significant anomalies arising out of the geophysical survey, and to sample the area as outlined in the specification for the project.

### Field 2

It was proposed to excavate five trenches within this field, but it was agreed that, given the results after four were excavated, the fifth need not be completed.

### Field 3

Four out of a proposed seven trenches were excavated here, it being agreed that the results and unfavourable weather conditions implied that the remainder could be omitted without prejudicing the archaeological interpretation and understanding of the area.

The positions of these trenches are shown on Fig. 4.

On completion of the excavation of trenches within one field these were backfilled using the excavated material in the correct order and the areas left level.

## **RESULTS**

### Field 1

None of the trenches excavated in this field produced any stratigraphy, deposits or artefacts of archaeological interest. The linear feature seen on the results of the geophysical survey proved to be a shallow ditch, visible as a slight depression on the ground, which, although not producing any material by which to date it, appears to be of recent date, possibly arising from the removal of a former field boundary.

Where pit like features indicated as magnetic anomalies, were subjected to trial trenching no features were revealed; it is thought that the anomalies arose due to the presence of iron rich deposits within the natural greensand deposits.

### Field 2

No deposits or artefacts of archaeological interest were observed in the trenches excavated in this field. One pit like feature seen on the geophysical survey results was again probably the result of iron rich deposits as outlined above. The major area of disturbance towards the south-west of this field proved to be a plastic water pipe with iron fittings buried at a depth of 25 centimetres.

### Field 3

Again no stratigraphy or artefacts of archaeological interest was present within the trenches excavated in this field. One of the magnetic anomalies recorded from the geophysical survey proved to be the hole resulting from the removal of a large tree stump, the remainder of the anomalies tested were, as with Fields 1 and 2, probably caused by iron rich deposits within the natural greensand deposits.

## **CONCLUSIONS**

No features, stratigraphy or artefacts were recovered from any of the excavated trial trenches; the nature of the soil indicating that the ground had been used as pasture for a considerable time and had not been disturbed through ploughing or occupation activities in the past.

It is not thought that this situation is different in those parts of the area not subjected to archaeological evaluation.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

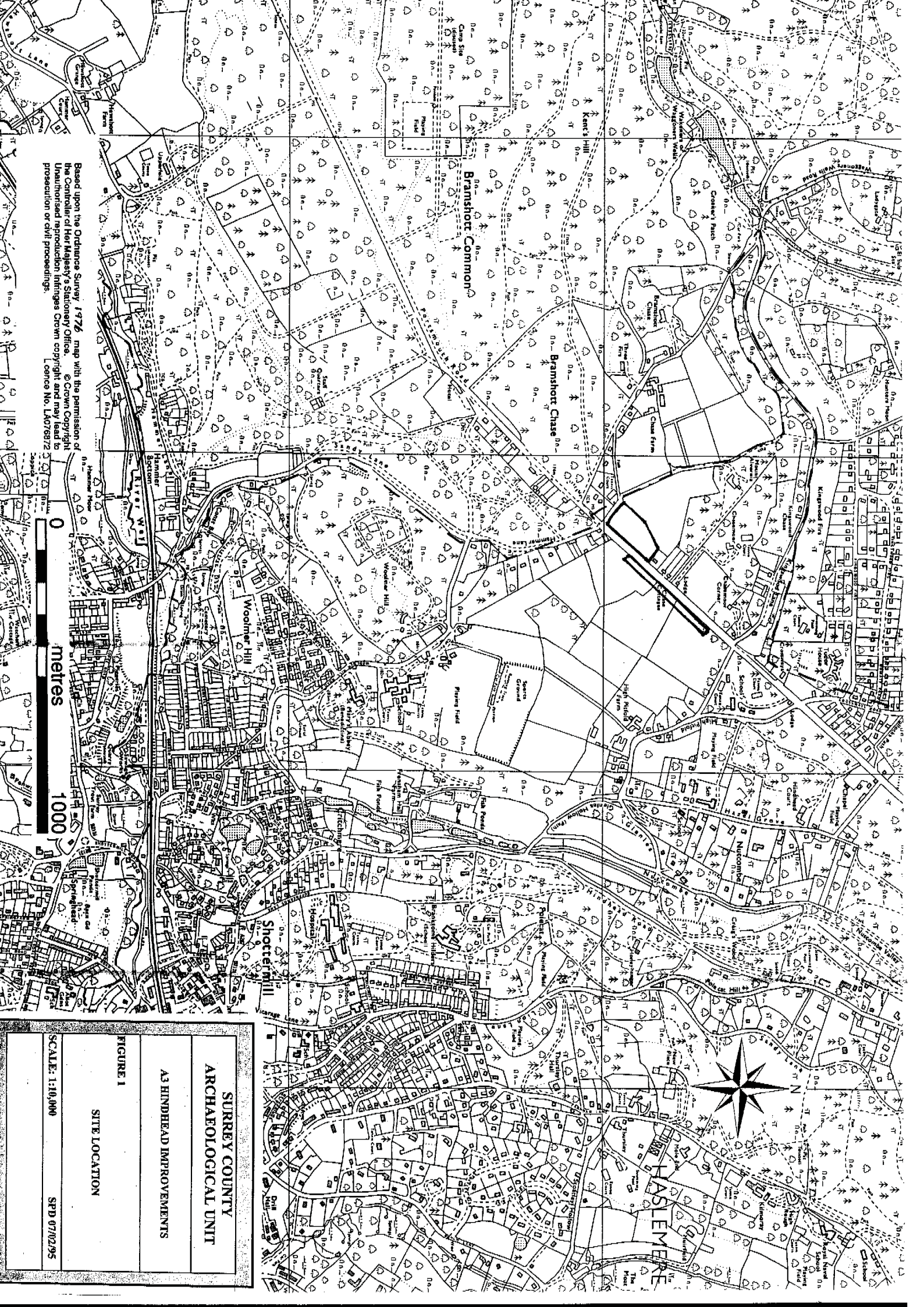
It is not recommended, due to the negative evidence gained through this evaluation, that any further archaeological provision is required for this part of the proposed improvements to the A3, either in the form of excavation or monitoring of works associated with construction phases of the road works. Similarly no recommendations are deemed necessary for the archaeological evaluation of Field 4, as it is not thought that archaeological deposits are likely to be present in this area.

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

Thanks are made to Helen Glass of Chris Blandford Associates for co-ordinating this work; the farmer, Mr Ashton, for access to the land for this exercise and to Simon Hind for assistance in the field during the evaluation.

Steve Dyer  
Archaeological Survey Officer  
Surrey County Archaeological Unit  
Surrey County Council.





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0 1000 metres

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**A3 HINDHEAD IMPROVEMENTS**

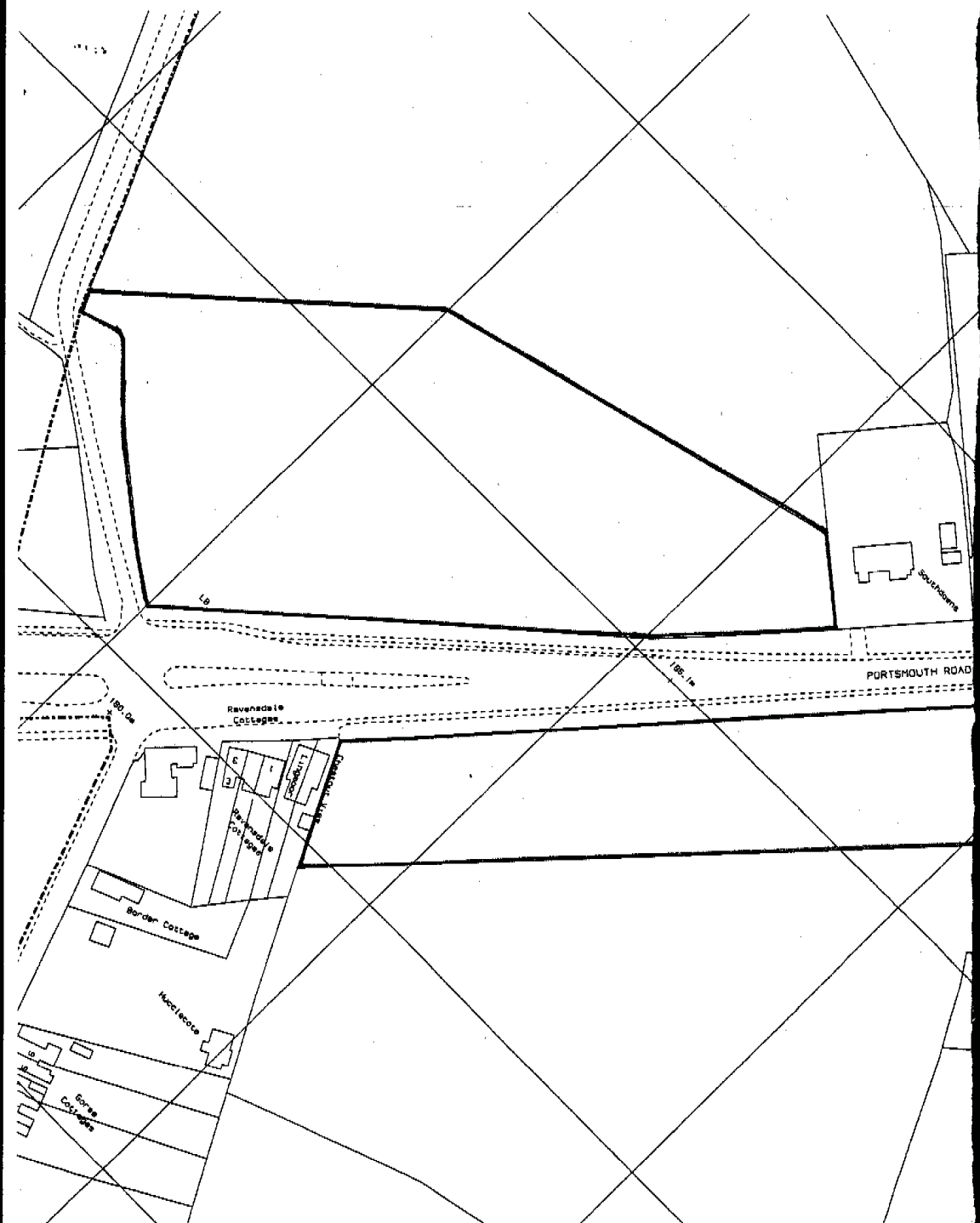
**FIGURE 1**

**SITE LOCATION**

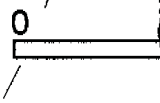
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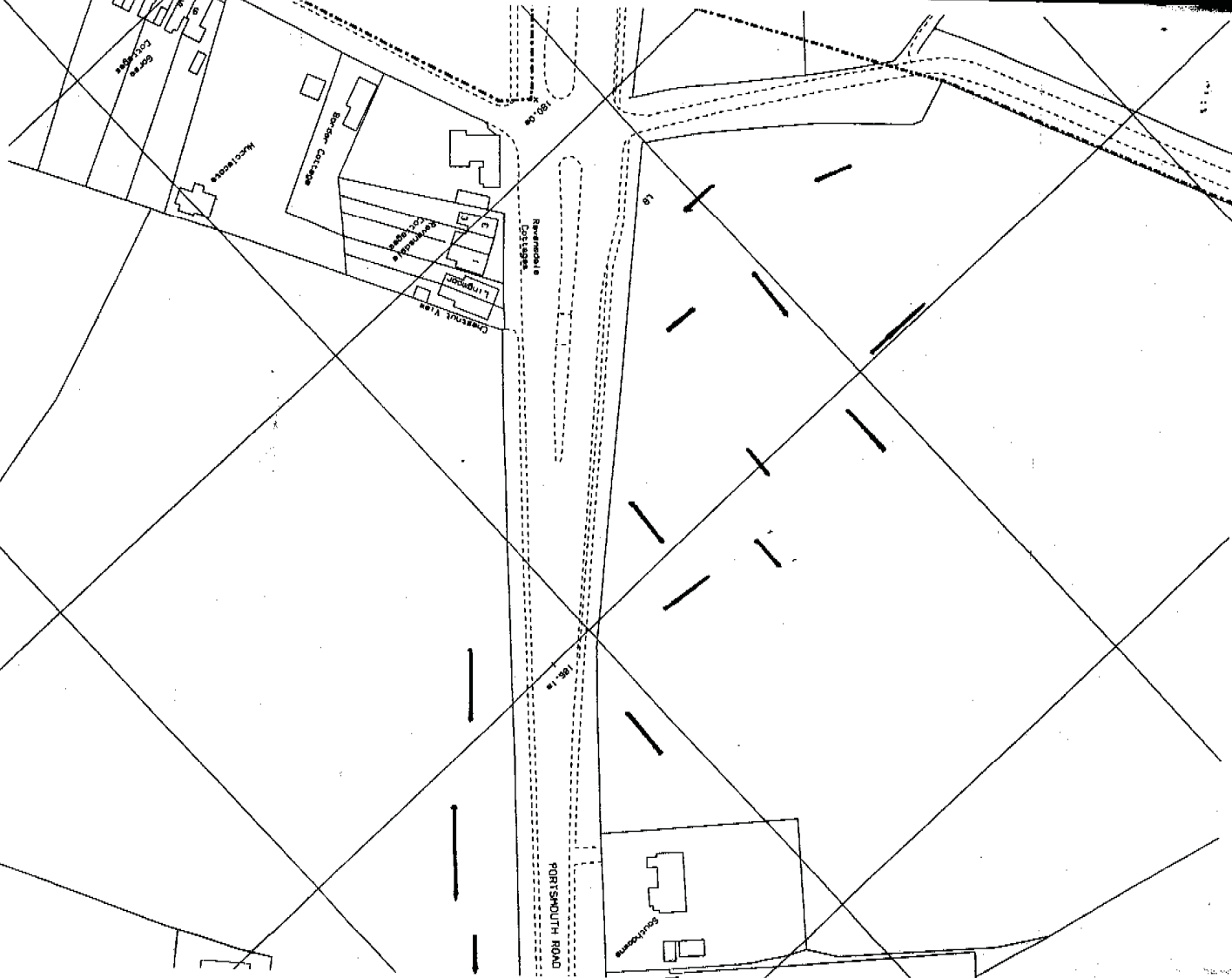




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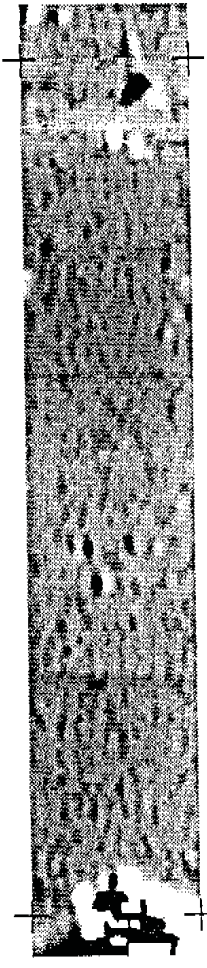
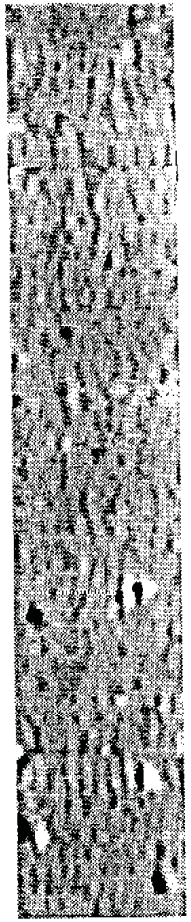
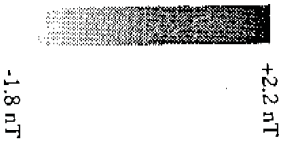


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0 1:625 30m

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A3 HINDHEAD IMPROVEMENTS	
FIGURE 3	
RESULTS OF THE GEOPHYSICAL SURVEY	
SCALE: AS SHOWN	SPD 07/02/95
BASED ON DRAWING SUPPLIED BY CHRIS BLANDFORD ASSOCIATES	



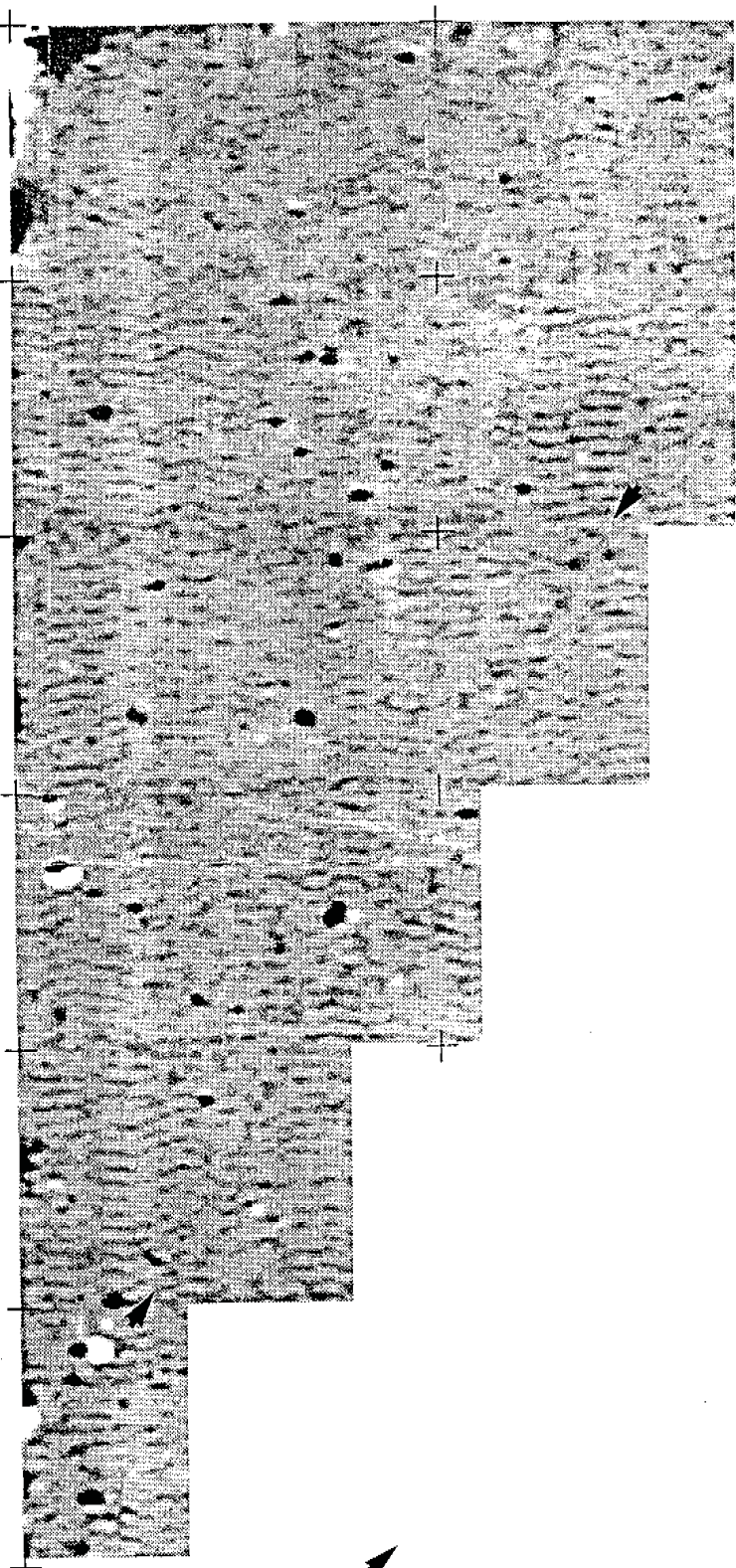
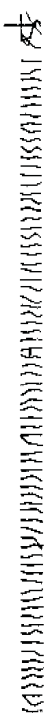
Field 3

Field 4

Project title / Client		A3 Hindhead Improvements		Drawing Title		Geophysical Survey Results	
Scale	Date	Drawn	BLP	CHRIS BLANDFORD ASSOCIATES			
Drawing No.	Aug. 1994	Approved		Landscape Architecture Environmental Planning			
Figure 6	Revision			Postingsmonth Craft Workshops, Backboys, Uckfield, East Sussex, TN22 5HE			
				Telephone (0435) 864988 Fax (0435) 864381			

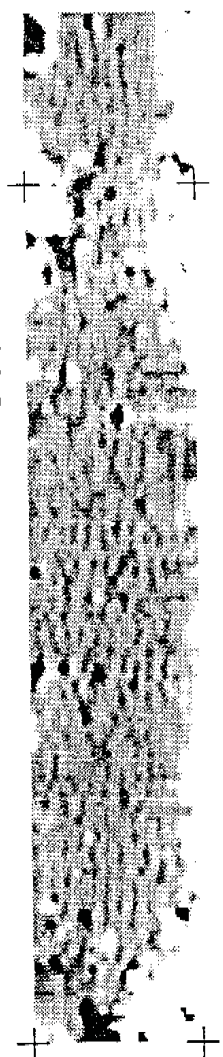
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(ii) Magnetometer Survey



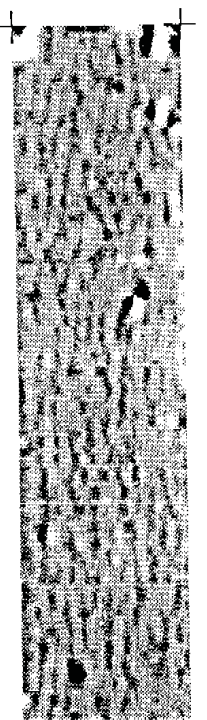
Field 1

magnetic anomalies



Field 2

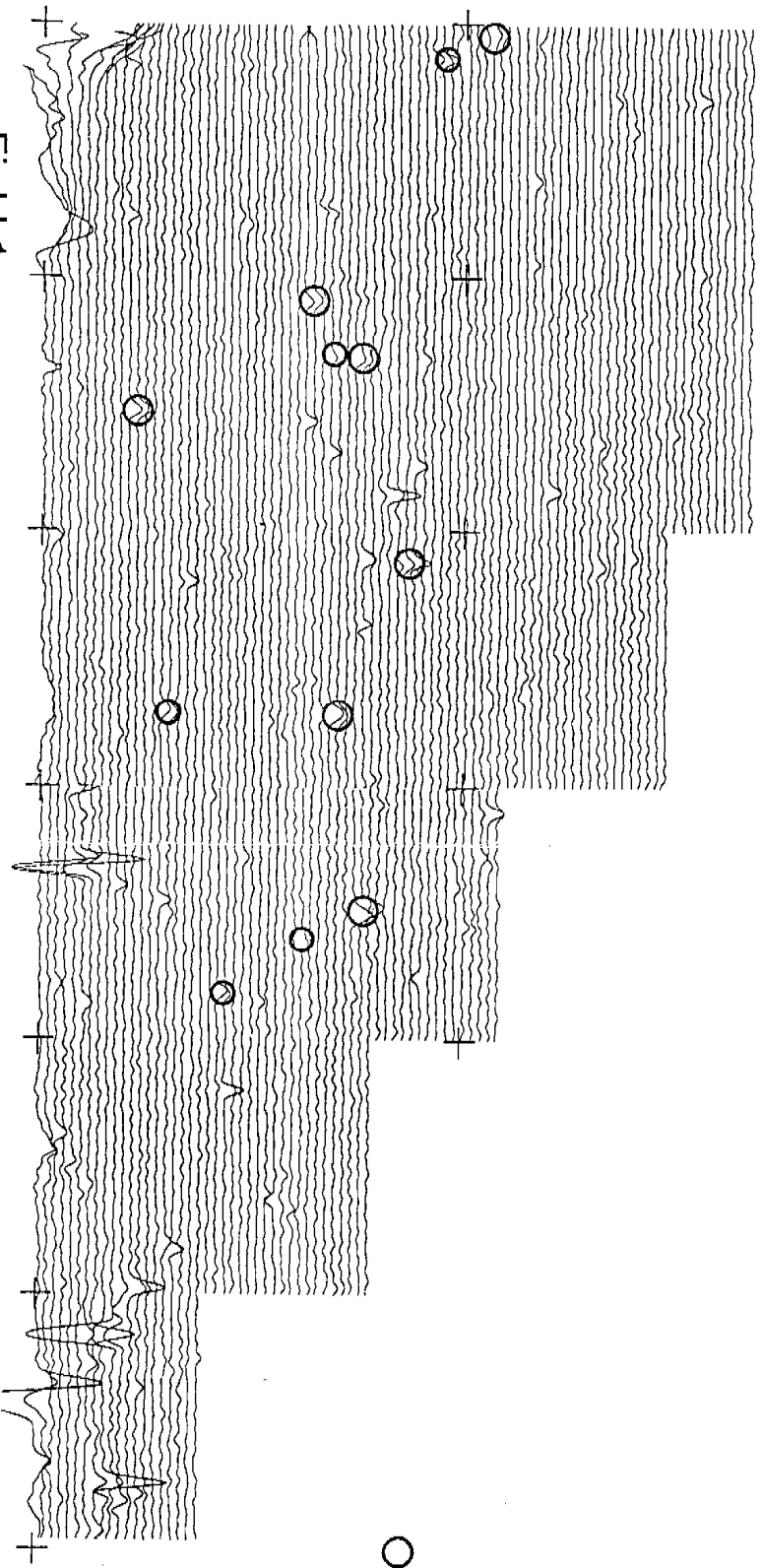
(iii) Magnetometer Survey: half tone plot



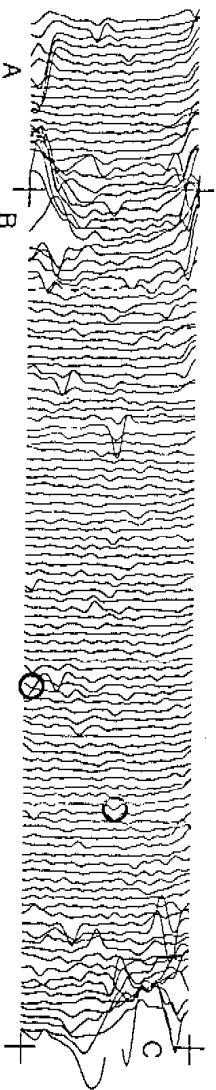


# A3 HINDHEAD IMPROVEMENTS

## Geophysical Survey 1994

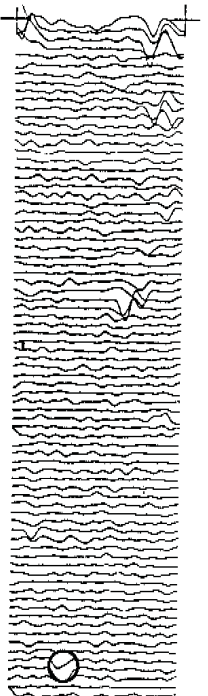


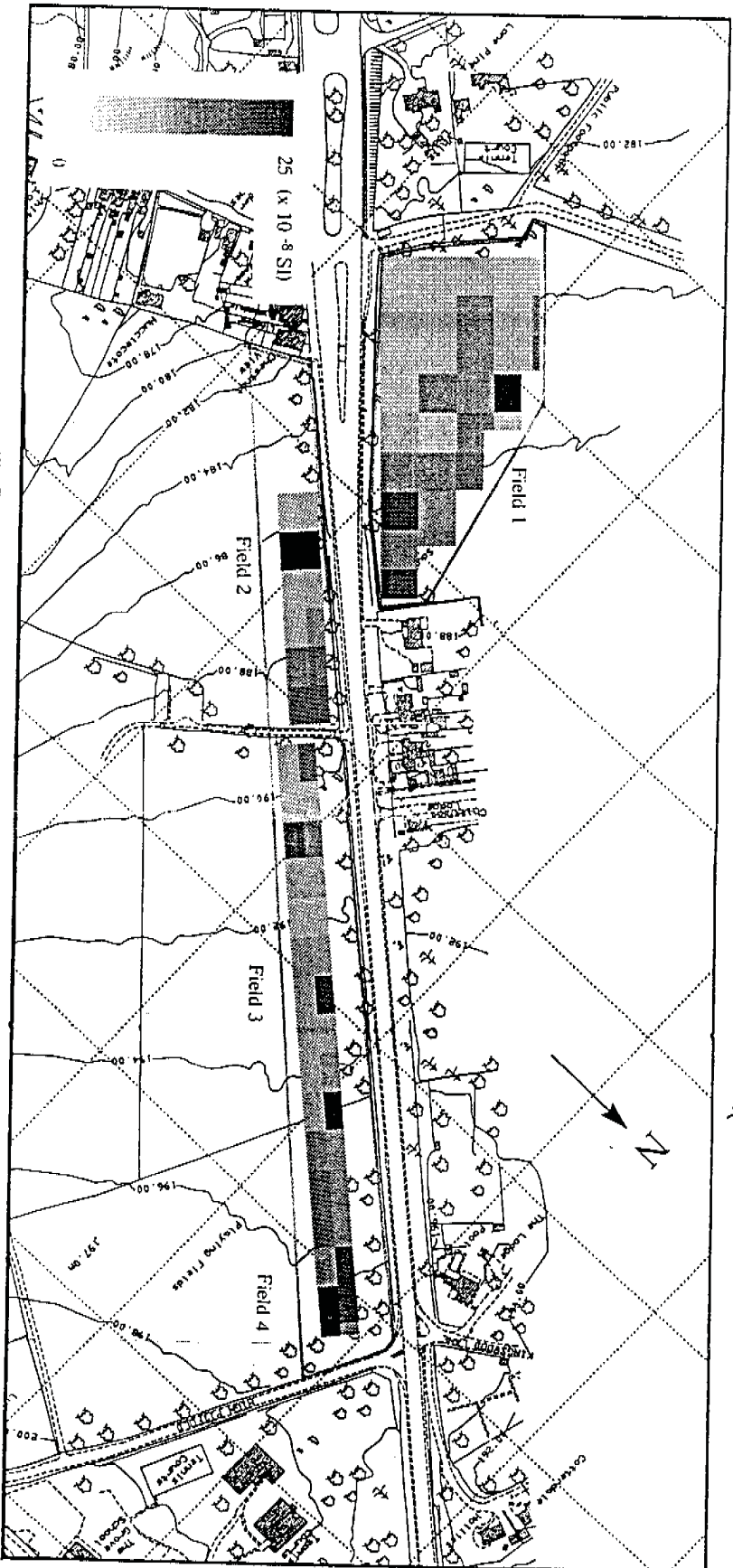
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Field 2

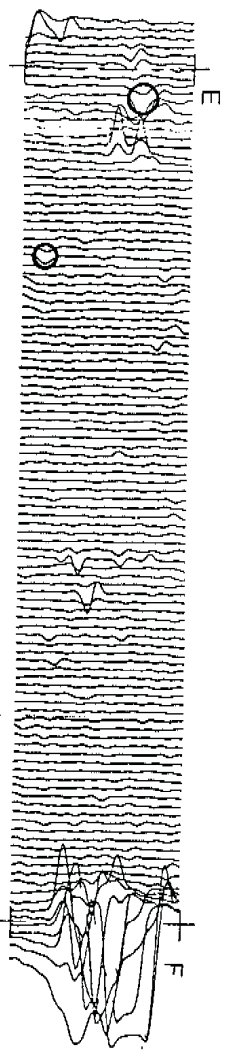
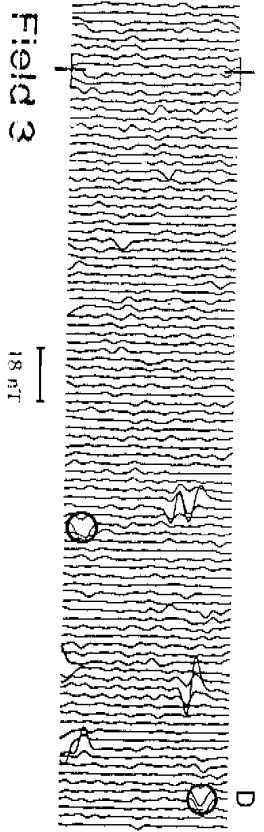
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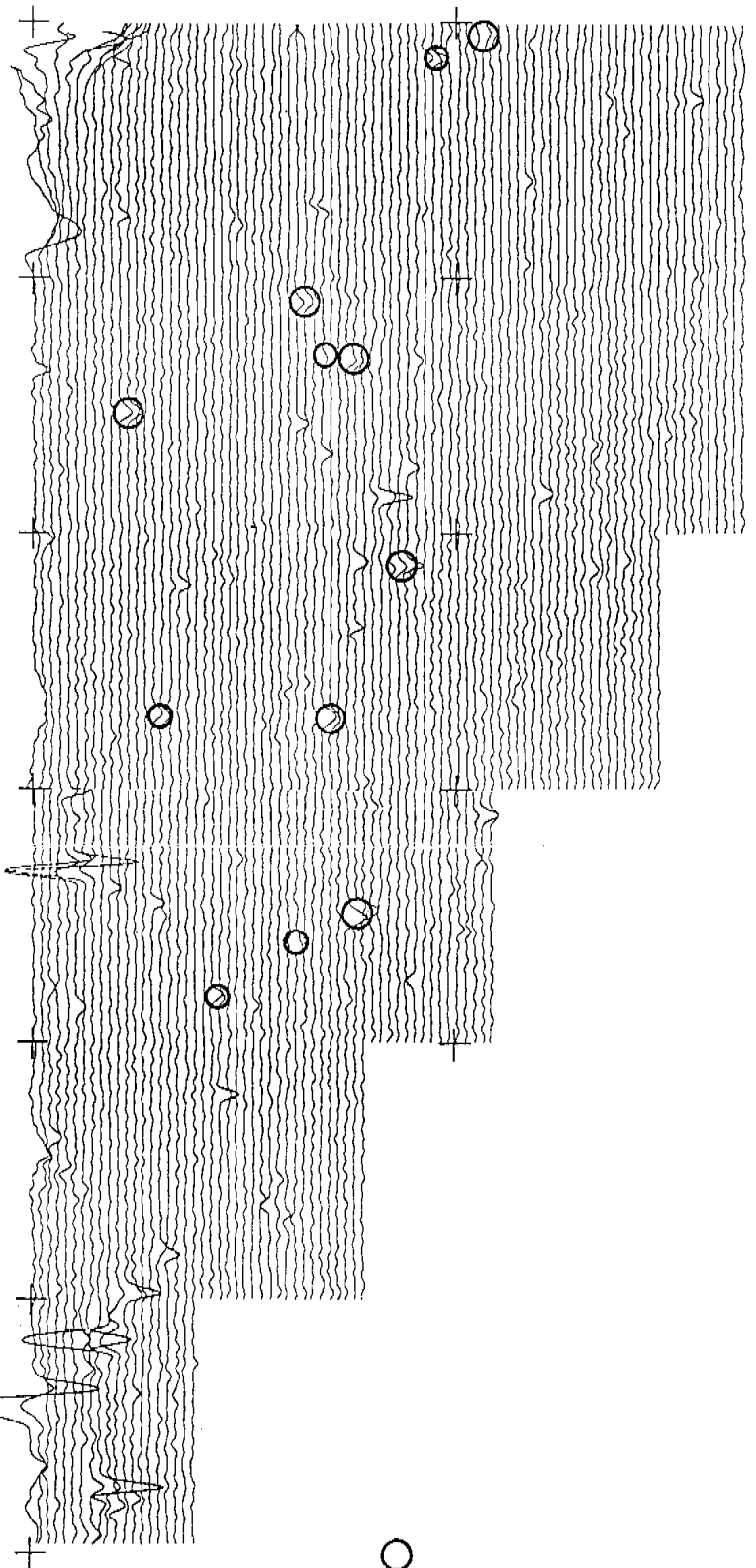


(i) Survey Location (with magnetic susceptibility readings) 1:2500

(Based on plan by L.G. Monchel & Partners Ltd)

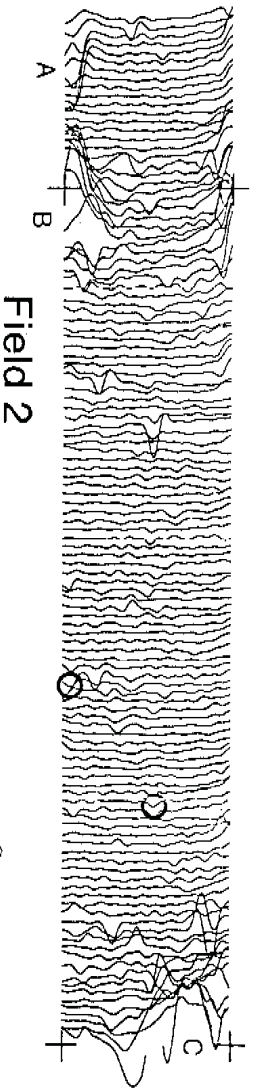


A3 HINDHEAD IMPROVEMENTS  
Geophysical Survey 1994



○ magnetic anomalies

Field 1



Field 2

(iii) Magnetometer Survey

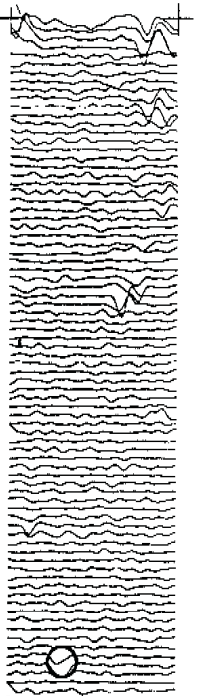


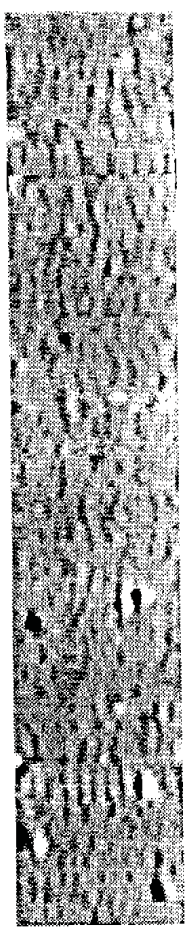
Fig 6



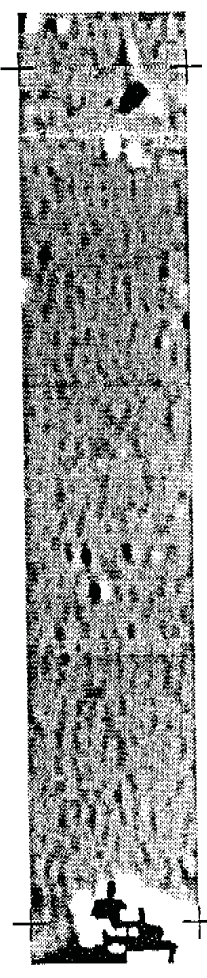
0 1:625 30m

SURREY COUNTY ARCHAEOLOGICAL UNIT	
A3 HINDHEAD IMPROVEMENTS	
FIGURE 3	
RESULTS OF THE GEOPHYSICAL SURVEY	
SCALE: AS SHOWN	SPD 07/02/95
BASED ON DRAWING SUPPLIED BY CHRIS BLANDFORD ASSOCIATES	

+2.2 nT  
-1.8 nT



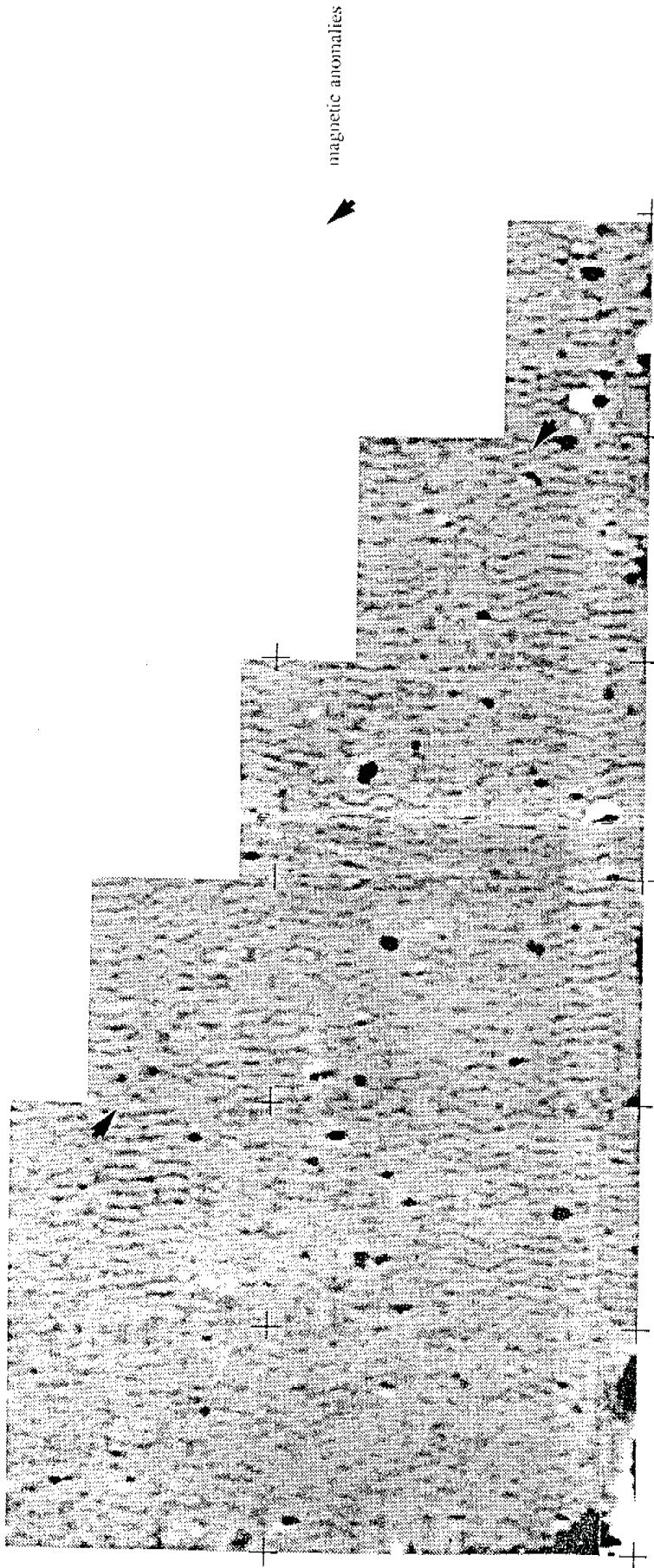
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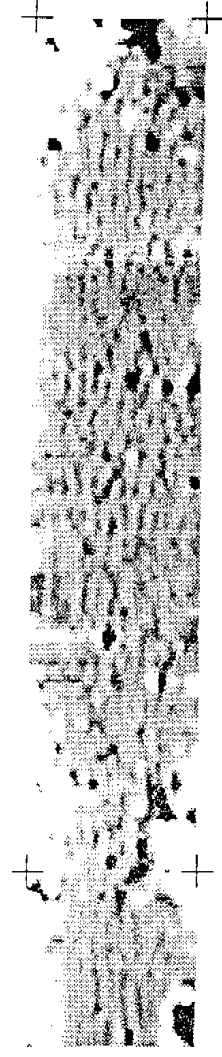
Field 4

Project title / Client		A3 Hindhead Improvements	
Drawing Title		Geophysical Survey Results	
Scale	Date	Drawn	BLP
	Aug 1994		
Drawing No.	Revision	Approved	
Figure 6			
<b>CHRIS BLANDFORD ASSOCIATES</b> Landscape Architecture Environmental Planning Paisleygrove, Cull Workshops, Bishops, Uxbridge, East Sussex TN22 5HE Telephone (0435) 865488 Fax (0435) 865491			

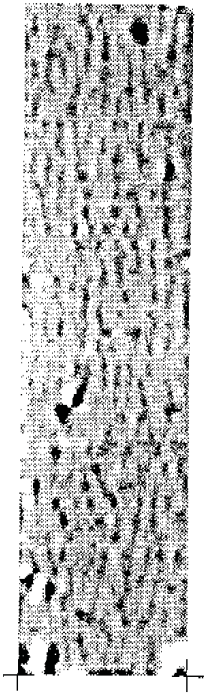
Fig 6



Field 1



Field 2



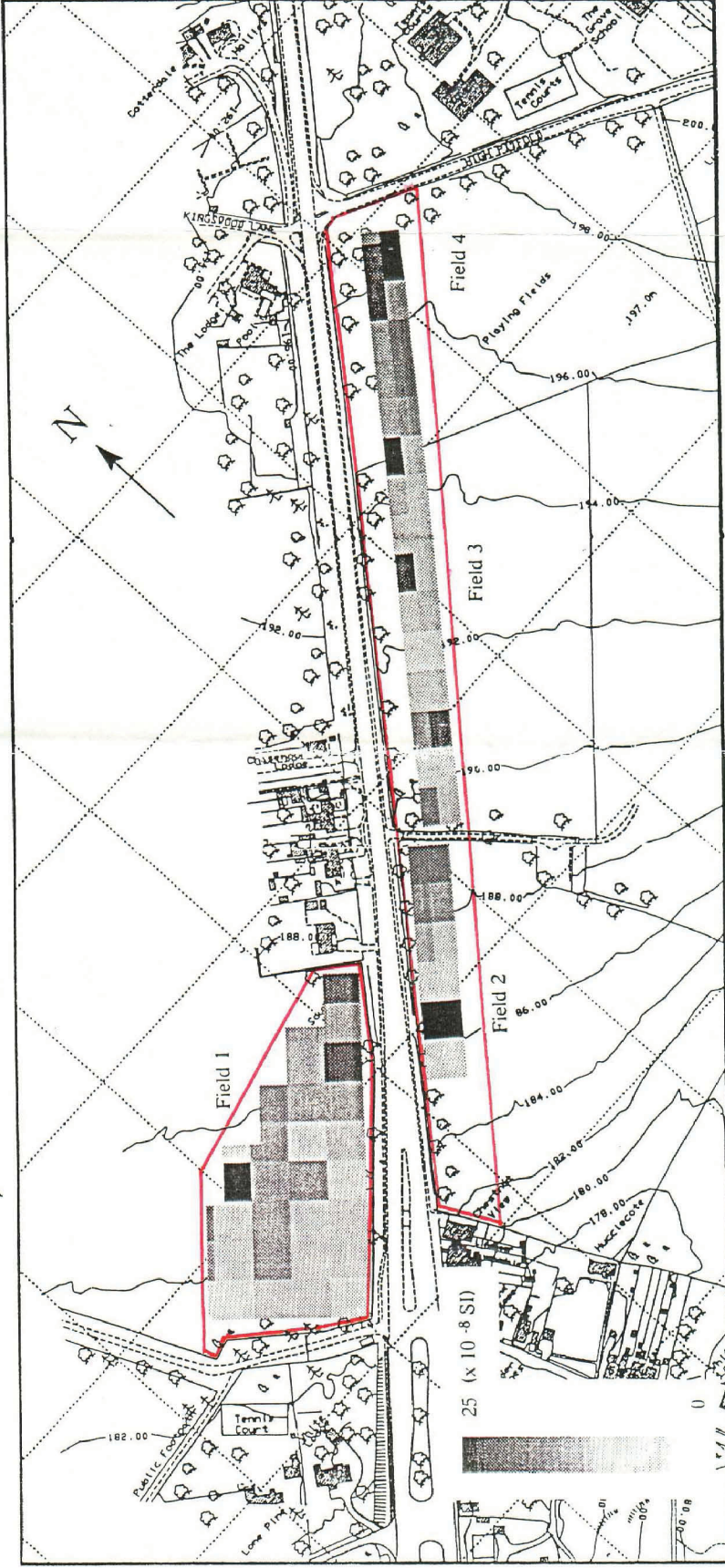
(iii) Magnetometer Survey: half tone plot

Bartlett-Clark Consultancy  
 S.T.E.P. Centre, Osney Mead,  
 Oxford OX2 0ES  
 (0865 200864)



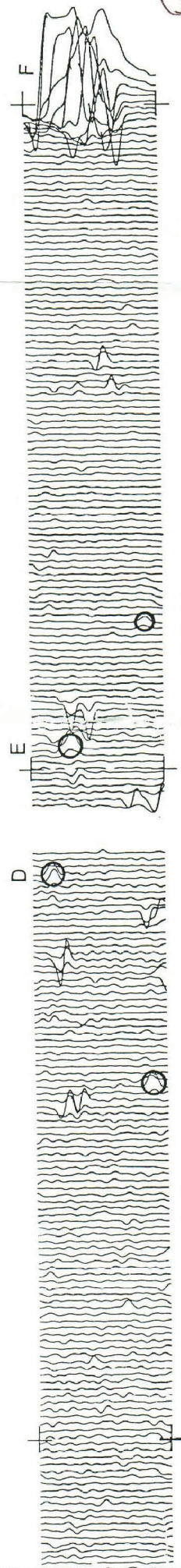
7400E

4200N



(i) Survey Location (with magnetic susceptibility readings) 1:2500

(Based on plan by L.G. Mouchel & Partners Ltd)



Field 4

Fig 6