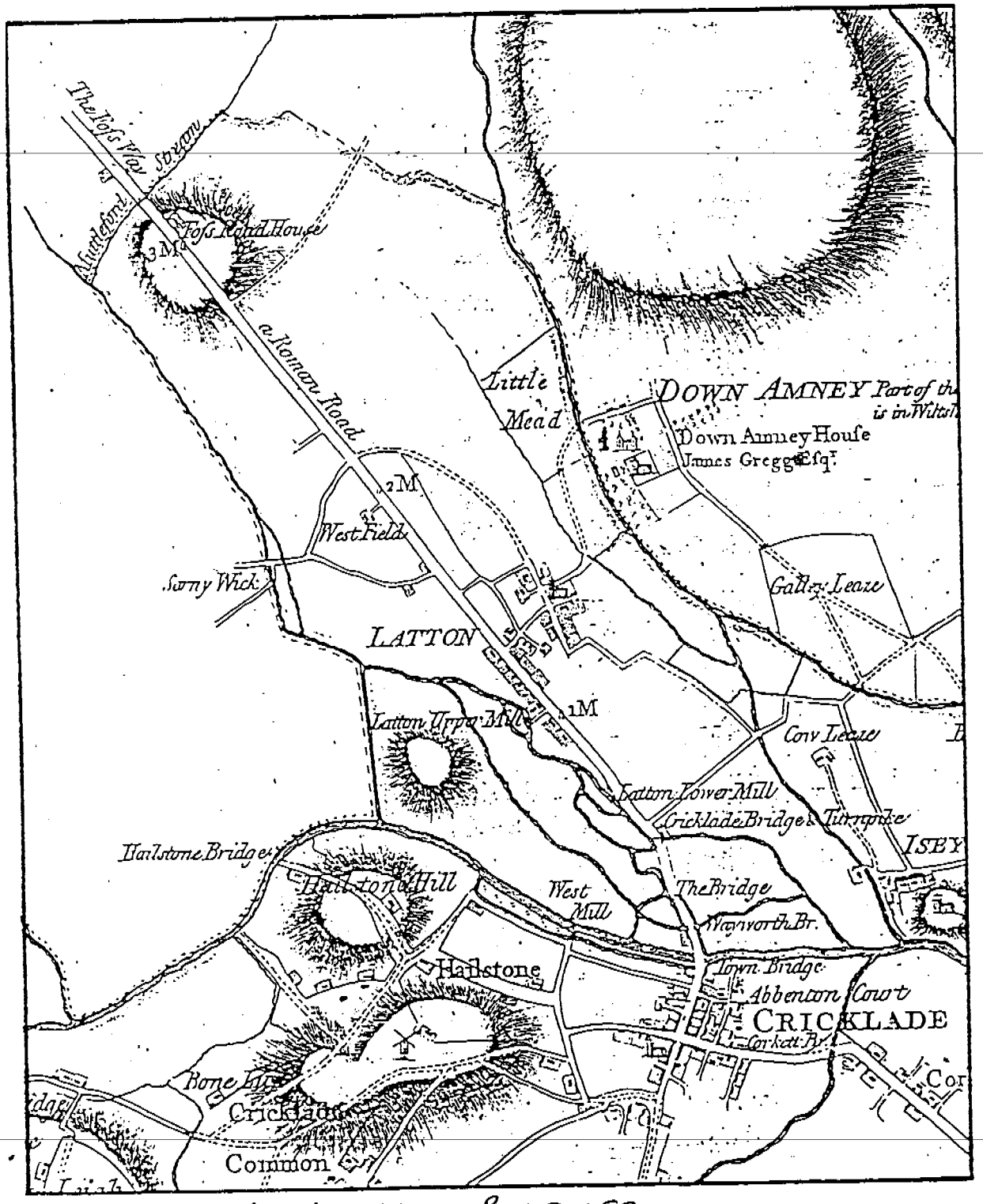
RPS Planning, Transport and Environment

INDEX DATA	RPS INFORMATION
Scheme Title A419 Latton Bypass	Details Stage 1 Arch Ass + Stage 2 Field Evaluation
Road Number A419	Date 1991
Contractor Cotswold Archaelogical Trust	
County ~~Gloucestershire~~ Wilts	
OS Reference ?	
Single sided ✓ Double sided A3 1 Colour 0	



A419 Latton Bypass

1783 ANDREWS & DURY

Stage 1 Archaeological Assessment
and
Stage 2 Field Evaluation

Wilts

Corinium Museum
Park Street
Cirencester
GL7 2BX

For further information on this report and accompanying documents please contact CAT at the above address.

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Trench I, (C) gravel pad and (F) gully and pit/hollows

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

ACC NO.	Accession Number
APU	Air Photography Unit
CAT	Cotswold Archaeological Trust
CWS	Cooperative Wholesale Society
DTp	Department of Transport
FGCE	Frank Graham Consulting Engineers
GCC	Gloucester County Council
GRO	Gloucester Record Office
MPP	Monuments Protection Programme
NGR	National Grid Reference
NMR	National Monuments Record
OD	Ordnance Datum
OS	Ordnance Survey
PRN	Primary Record Number
RB	Romano-British
RCHME	Royal Commission on Historical Monuments (England)
SMR	Sites and Monuments Record
TAU	Thamesdown Archaeology Unit
TWA	Trust for Wessex Archaeology
VCH	Victoria County History
WAM	Wiltshire Archaeological Magazine
WCC	Wiltshire County Council

GLOSSARY OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL TERMS

Ancient Monument

As defined by the **Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979** this term means:
"(a) any scheduled monument; and
(b) any other monument which in the opinion of the Secretary of State is of public interest by reason of the historic, architectural, traditional, artistic or archaeological interest attaching to it".

Archaeological Appraisal

The recognition of an archaeological dimension to a development proposal or management plan.

Archaeological Assessment

The identification and documenting of the recorded archaeological resource within the study area. Desk-based study of all existing records plus field-checking and basic reconnaissance. In this instance the work included field walking and a geophysical survey.

Archaeology

For the purposes of this assessment archaeology is taken to mean the study of past human societies through their material remains, from prehistoric times to the modern era. No rigid upper date limit has been set but AD 1900 is used as a general cut-off point. It is accepted that some undated sites of slightly later date will unavoidably be included in the absence of firm evidence of date.

bc

Is a suffix used to express uncalibrated 'radiocarbon years' when given as a date,, for example 2700bc.

BC

Is a suffix used to express absolute dates shown in 'solar years'.

Bronze Age

The period when bronze was the dominant metal; in Britain it is

dated very roughly between c. 2000-700bc.

Category

General descriptive term covering a group of monument classes related by function, origin or purpose. Ring ditch is an example encompassing Neolithic and Bronze Age barrows.

Class

Descriptive term applied to a group of monuments which share common visible features of design, layout, construction and use.

Component

Descriptive term applied to any constituent part of a recognised class or type of monument.

Context

The simplest level of archaeological data. ie. a context could be the cut of a ditch (shown as [1]), or the fill of a ditch (shown as (2)).

Cropmark

A trace of a buried feature revealed by differential growth of crops, best seen from the air.

Ecofacts

Organic remains, the study of which can enhance interpretation of local economic and agricultural systems.

Feature

A group of contexts forming a recognisable unit.

Field Evaluation

Field-based study of the recorded archaeological resource coupled with checking and verification of primary and secondary sources to provide base-line data relating to the quality, quantity, survival, condition, fragility, interpretation, and importance of each identified site. Includes checking apparantly blank areas.

Iron Age

The first period in which iron was the dominant metal; in Britain

it is dated from c.700 BC to the Roman conquest in AD 43.

Natural

Defined in archaeological terms this refers to the undisturbed natural geology of a site, eg. gravel.

Neolithic

The period from which the first evidence of farming and domestication of animals can be identified; in Britain it is dated from about 3500 BC to 1800 BC.

Palaeo-environmental

The reconstruction of past environments based upon evidence recovered from preserved botanical and entomological remains.

PPG 16

A paper produced in November 1990 by the DOE giving advice on "Archaeology and Planning":

No development shall take place within the area indicated until the applicant has secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological work in accordance with a written scheme of investigation which has been submitted by the applicant and approved by the Planning Authority.
Reason: to ensure that features of archaeological interest can be properly recorded.

Ridge and furrow

Remains of cultivation of medieval and later date forming a corrugated surface.

Ring-ditch

A ditch of circular or penannular plan, usually surviving as a cropmark and often representing the remains of ploughed barrows of Bronze Age date.

Settlement

An area of habitation, perhaps surrounded by associated closes, paddocks, approach ways and other features which together constitute a complex of earthworks or crop marks distinct from fields.

Single Monument

One of the three recognised forms in which monuments survive. Single monuments can be identified as separate, self-defining

entities which may be classified on the basis of morphological similarities and the interpretation of function. A number of component parts can usually be recognised, some not always present, but all of which are integral to the overall design. Classified by Category, Class, Type and Component.

Site

A "window" onto the archaeological resource and/or area of land containing, or thought to contain, a monument or monuments, which may survive either above or below ground. A site may be of any size from a few square metres upwards to include monuments covering hundreds of hectares.

Type

Descriptive term applied to identifiable variations within any class or monument. The basis for identifying types is usually the morphology of the monuments themselves.

Unclassifiable sites

Sites which cannot be classified (except at the most general level) because of special circumstances of preservation. Such sites are not unclassifiable because they are poorly preserved (many of these would probably be classified to category if nothing else), but because very little is known about their morphology, design, plan, layout or construction, or because they cannot be seen.

Unclassifiable sites may occassionally be single monuments, as for example some cropmark sites, or areas of buried land surface, details of which cannot be obtained without destroying it through excavation. More common is the presence of unclassifiable deposits within relict landscapes and urban areas. The deposits encountered in trench XIII are an example.

SUMMARY

1.0 BRIEF, SCOPE AND DEFINITIONS

1.1 Latton scheme confirmed in 1989 White Paper 'Roads for Prosperity' and a revised Preferred Route Announcement was made in March 1990

1.2 Latton lies within the Upper Thames area of special Archaeological Significance as defined in the Wiltshire Landscape Local Plan and the corridor of interest affects two Scheduled Ancient Monuments, AM 899 and AM 900

1.3 In September 1990 Frank Graham Consulting Engineers Limited commissioned an archaeological survey on behalf of the Department of Transport so that the latter might, amongst other benefits comply with Council Directive No. 85/337/EEC of 27 June 1985.

1.4 Between September 1990 and September 1991 the Cotswold Archaeological Trust carried out a Stage 1 Archaeological Assessment and a Stage 1 Field Evaluation Programme. This report presents the findings of the Stage 1 and Stage 2 work and also includes a Stage 3 Management Strategy. The work follows the brief for archaeological services issued by Frank Graham Consulting Engineers Ltd (10-9-90).

1.5 The full results of the Stage 1 Assessment can be found in Supplement A. Detailed results of the Stage 2 Evaluation can be found in Chapter 5 of this document and in Supplement B, and a selection of maps, plans and sections illustrating the report can be found in Supplement C.

2.0 STAGE ONE ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT

2.1 The Stage 1 Archaeological Assessment of the study area was undertaken in October and November 1990 by CAT. This research brought together all existing archaeological data, and included the ordering of the Wiltshire County Council Sites and Monuments Record; replotting of aerial photographic evidence from RCHME at Swindon and Cambridge Aerial Photographic Unit; WCC Record Office cartographic and documentary sources, including map regression and a Musuem search.

The Assessment also included a programme of fieldwalking of all cultivated land within the corridor of interest, fieldchecking of pasture fields and a geophysical survey.

2.2 As a result of the Stage 1 Archaeological Assessment 17 areas of archaeological potential were identified for investigation during the Stage 2 Archaeological Field Evaluation. See Chapter 3

3.0 STAGE TWO ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELD EVALUATION

3.1 The aim of Field Evaluation is to provide data from direct observation of the archaeological deposits.

3.2 Trenches had topsoil removed by machine and archaeological deposits were hand excavated using standard archaeological recording methods during December 1990 and January 1991.

3.3 Scheduled monument consent was required for the excavation of six trenches in AM 899 and two trenches in AM 900. Consent was granted on 21.12.90.

3.4 Ground investigation trial pits were observed and no archaeological deposits were encountered. The 42 trial pits extended the length of the study area.

4.0 STAGE THREE ARCHAEOLOGICAL MANAGEMENT STRATEGY

4.1 Four levels of **Archaeological Importance** are defined; See figure 3.1/3.2

4.1.1 Areas of **High Archaeological Importance**, nationally important sites and monuments and areas of high archaeological potential. (c.18% of the area, p82)

Prehistoric/Romano-British rural settlement PRN 315, AM 899, Fields 1100 and 3500
Area of unenclosed prehistoric settlement in field 1100
?Romano-British Organic pond deposit in Field 5769, AM 899
Roman quarry pits next to the A419 in field 2029, 3220, 3517, 3914 and 6400, 7600, AM 900

4.1.2 Areas of **Medium Archaeological Importance**, regionally and locally important sites and monuments and areas of medium archaeological potential. (c.31% of the area, p82)

Prehistoric and medieval activity next to A419 in field 1859
Linear ditch features in fields 0040, 3500, 0001, 7666 (AM 899)
Street Farm lane, Canal basin
Earthwork features in fields 0338, 0735 and 2029

4.1.3 Areas of **Low Archaeological Importance**, areas with no known sites and monuments unknown or assumed low archaeological potential and areas already archaeologically sterilised. (c.38% of the area, p83)

Fields 4948, 3334, 8900, 5400, 1859, 3167 and 8347
CWS Creamery/Sewage works
Fields 0019, 0148, 9041 and 0055
Fields 7600, 0071 and Syd's Patch
Area of impact of Latton to Blunsdon water pipeline and infilled Thames and Severn Canal in AM 900, field 6400.

4.1.4 **Blank Archaeological Areas** where it has not been possible to do Field Evaluation work and where the archaeological potential remains unknown. (c.13% of the area, p83-84)

A419 Fosse Farm to Manor Farm
A419 Latton to Latton Wharf
Spine Road
Cerney Wick road
Street Farm Lane to Canal Basin

4.2 **Physical Impact** on the archaeology has been defined as follows; see Figure 4.1/4.2

4.2.1 **Low Impact** where there will be no loss of archaeological deposits. Areas of High Archaeological Importance are to be covered by Terram and embankment. The nature of the deposits encountered during the field evaluation indicate that little damage will result from this construction method. Little however is known about the long term affects on structures such as ditches and post-holes and a short desk-based study is recommended.

4.2.2 **Medium Impact** is defined as a 3m belt either side of the main construction area. In practice this may be difficult to define during construction.

4.2.3 **High Impact** is defined as the total loss of overburden and archaeological deposits resulting from the need to find an acceptable formation for the construction of the road.

4.3 The following **Mitigation Action** is recommended. See Figure 5.1/5.2

4.3.1 **Conservation and Preservation**/Decision pre-construction but action at intra-construction phase.

This is the preferred option where possible. Archaeological deposits are protected by methods of construction such

as Terram and embankment with no topsoil stripping beforehand.

This is recommended in Fields 1100 and 3500 for the settlement complex PRN 315 AM 899 and Ditched Enclosure PRN 621.

Further evaluation is recommended for the organic deposit encountered in Field 5769. This might lead to a recommendation for either preservation or excavation.

4.3.2 **Excavation**/Pre-construction work

This action is recommended where deposits of High Archaeological Importance cannot be conserved as part of the development scheme.

This is recommended either side of the A419 in Fields 2029/3220/3517/3914 and 6400/7600 AM 900.

Selected excavation across the A419 is also recommended between Fosse Farm and Manor Farm and between Latton and Latton Wharf to evaluate the Roman Ermin Way.

4.3.3 **Strip-and-Record**/Intra-construction work

This action is recommended where deposits of Medium Archaeological Importance cannot be conserved as part of the development scheme. Overburden is removed using a box-scraper as part of the construction process and archaeological features are isolated, sampled and recorded.

This is recommended in five different areas listed on p86.

4.3.4 **Watching Brief**/Intra-construction work

This action is recommended where deposits of Low Archaeological Importance cannot be conserved as part of the development scheme. Groundworks are monitored by an archaeologist with the ability to temporarily stop construction work in a specific area in order to rapidly record archaeological features.

This is recommended in eighteen different areas listed on p88-91.

4.4 Post-construction work

There would appear to be no potential for the display, promotion or presentation of any archaeological sites or monuments within the corridor of interest. The only exception to this would appear to be the Thames and Severn Canal.

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION AND BRIEF

==========

1.1 Brief, scope and definitions

This report presents the findings of the Stage 1 Archaeological Assessment and Stage 2 Field Evaluation of the 'corridor of interest' for the A419 Latton Bypass, (drawings 9112/26/6 & 7) which lies in the parish of Latton, Wiltshire.

The study was commissioned by Frank Graham Consulting Engineers Limited, Elgar House, Shrub Hill, Worcester, Hereford and Worcester, WR4 9EN for the Department of Transport.

The study has been commissioned as part of the Environmental Assessment programme for the road scheme and in recognition of the fact that the parish of Latton contains many features of archaeological significance. Lying within the Upper Thames area, the parish contains extensive cropmarks which define late prehistoric and Romano-British settlements and field boundaries.

In August 1988 the Thamesdown Archaeology Unit carried out an archaeological evaluation within Scheduled Ancient Monument (AM 899) on behalf of the Department of Transport and their agents at that time, the WCC. Since that study in 1988 the line of the road corridor has been moved to what is now called the 'revised preferred route'. It is this route and its 'corridor of interest' which is the subject of this report. Figure 2.0.

The corridor of interest outlined on drawings 9112/26/6-7 affects some land which has not previously been evaluated archaeologically for this particular road scheme but this survey addresses the archaeology of the entire corridor.

The proposed method of road construction was not fully detailed at the time this report was compiled. The use of Terram and embankment had been suggested for the Scheduled Ancient Monument AM 899 however, (FGCE brief 1990). Recommendations for the archaeological mitigation strategies described in chapter 7 have been made on the basis of verbal communication between FGCE and CAT, and on the series of road design drawings provided by FGCE (Drawing No's. 9112/40/1-2).

In order that the DTp may comply with Council Directive NO. 85/337/EEC of 27 June 1985 and assess the likely effects of this scheme the following objectives are achieved in this report.

Stage 1 Archaeological Assessment

a) The compilation of base-line archaeological data for the study area, covering all periods. Sources include national and local records, field surveys and geophysical surveys. This comprises a summary of the known archaeological resource.

Chapters 2 and 3 in this document, and Supplement A.

Stage 2 Field Evaluation

b) The evaluation of the archaeological potential of the areas highlighted in the Stage 1 Archaeological Assessment through a programme of excavation.

Chapters 4 and 5 in this document, and Supplement B.

c) The assessment of the nature, extent and importance of the archaeological resource represented within the study area with descriptions framed to conform with the DoE guidelines for the recognition of monuments of National Importance.

Chapters 5, 6 and 7 in this document, and Supplement B.

Stage 3 Archaeological Management Strategy

d) The formulation of recommendations and options for strategies to deal with all aspects of the archaeology in relation to the proposed road scheme.

Chapter 7 in this document.

The aim of this archaeological study is to provide high quality archaeological data with a view to enable:

i) any modification to the design, construction methods, and/or layout of the proposed development which might enhance the worthwhile preservation of the archaeological deposits to be made at the earliest opportunity; and

ii) the design, planning and costing of the most appropriate archaeological response to the proposed development to be prepared in good time.

The process also provides suitable documentation to support an application for necessary Scheduled Monument Clearance.

The archaeological evidence considered in this report lies below the present ground surface and there appears to be only one disused building, at SU 08789542, within the corridor of interest.

For part of this project the Cotswold Archaeological Trust has worked in collaboration with the Thamesdown Archaeological Unit based at Swindon.

1.2 The study area

The study area represents a narrow corridor of land amounting to approximately 60Ha in the parish of Latton, Wiltshire (Figure 1.0). Within the parish the A419 runs from the north-west to the south-east, bounded to the west by the river Churn and the former Thames & Severn canal and to the east by the Ampney Brook.

The current revised preferred route was announced in March 1990. As stated in the brief "it leaves the existing A419 trunk road at the end of the Cricklade bypass and runs north-westwards behind properties on the south-west side of The Street. It passes west of Street Farm, Westfield Farm and the CWS Creamery and rejoins the existing trunk road at the Spine Road Junction".

Figure 2.0 shows the position of the corridor as defined above and as used during this study. Much of the study area lies at 80m OD with the land rising in the northern part of the study area around the Spine road junction and Fosse Farm to 88m OD.

The principal landowners affected by this development were CWS based at Manor Farm, and Mr Ford of Fosse Farm. Throughout this report individual fields are referred to by their modern field numbers as they appear on Ordnance Survey 1:2500 coverage.

1.3 Geology and soils

The village of Latton and much of the study area for this report lies on the First Terrace river gravels of the Upper Thames. The terrace deposits are typically made up of fine to coarse oolitic limestone gravels with some shelly limestone cobbles. Along the banks of the river Churn, alluvium lies above and is interleaved with, the terrace gravels. Beneath the gravels and alluvium the dominant solid geology is Oxford Clay.

Soils in this area are characterised by a high clay content. Typically they are well drained calcareous or non-calcareous fine loamy soils (see Supplement A, section 1.3).

1.4 Archaeological background

The corridor of interest cuts through parts of two **Scheduled Ancient Monuments, AM 899 and AM 900.** It contains a total of 15 PRN's, recorded on the WCC SMR, and listed in Appendix A of Supplement A. The whole corridor lies within the WCC area of **Special Archaeological Significance** defined in the Wiltshire Landscape Local Plan 1986 (Area 1).

Previous archaeological work in the study area includes: (see bibliography for details)

1) Evaluation by the Thamesdown Archaeology Unit for the Department of Transport of the proposed route as defined in 1988. As a result of that study it was clearly demonstrated that the cropmark (AM 899) through which the route passed, was a Romano-British settlement (PRN 315), with a concentration of occupation debris in the north-eastern quarter of the Scheduled area. For this reason the current 'revised preferred route' runs some way to the south-west thus avoiding the area identified as being of greatest importance.

The archaeological survey carried out in August 1988 by TAU produced useful results and full consideration has been taken of them during this research.

2) The Trust for Wessex Archaeology recording of the groundworks associated with the construction of the Esso Midline Pipe.

3) The Thamesdown Archaeology Unit recording of the groundworks associated with the construction of the Latton to Blunsdon Thames Water Pipeline.

4) Personal research by M J Stone including aerial photography and field survey. The only results used from this source were recorded on the WCC SMR.

1.5 Resource descrimination criteria and project logistics

The identified archaeological resource is divided into two categories: **sites** and **monuments.**

A site may be defined as a 'window' onto the archaeologi-

cal resource, for example, an excavation, watching brief, aerial photograph or an old map.

The term monument is usefully defined by the **Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979** as:

a) any building, structure or work, whether above or below the surface of the land, and any cave or excavation.

b) any site comprising the remains of any such building, structure or work or of any cave or excavation.

c) any site comprising, or containing the remains of any vehicle, vessel, aircraft or other movable structure or part thereof which neither constitutes nor forms part of any work which is a monument within paragraph a) above."

Most of the items contained on the Wiltshire SMR (Supplement A, Appendix A) are best regarded as "sites", that is they are archaeological observations of various kinds which may provide clues as to the presence or nature of monuments. The nature of these monuments is discussed in Chapter 6.

The strategy adopted for the production of this survey follows that in the PPG 16 and the paper by Darvill and Gerrard (1990). The aim has been to provide baseline data from a variety of complementary techniques along the entire line of the corridor. Certain techniques identify the presence of sites, where sites are considered to be our most basic form of data. This data can only be as detailed and complete as the sources allow.

There are a variety of problems which limit the quality of different sources. Examples include the difficulty of plotting cropmarks accurately from oblique aerial photographs, and fieldwalking at a time when the cereal crop is well developed and obscures the ground. The land-use differs throughout the study area making the application of any single survey technique impossible.

The size of the study area, approximately 60 hectares, precluded the expensive application of geophysical survey. This technique was used over c.8% of the study area, primarily in AM 899 and AM 900.

A programme of field walking was used in c.56% of the study area. Line walking at 50m intervals provided a 2% sample of the surface area of the fields walked.

The ground investigation trial pits excavated at intervals along the length of the study area were checked for ar-

chaeological evidence as a random sample of sub-surface deposits, the location of the pits being governed by geological and not archaeological requirements. No archaeology was seen in any of the pits.

Sites identified at Stage 1 were evaluated by excavations during Stage 2. A total of seventeen excavation trenches were opened, representing some 1270.76 sq metres or 0.21% of the corridor of interest.

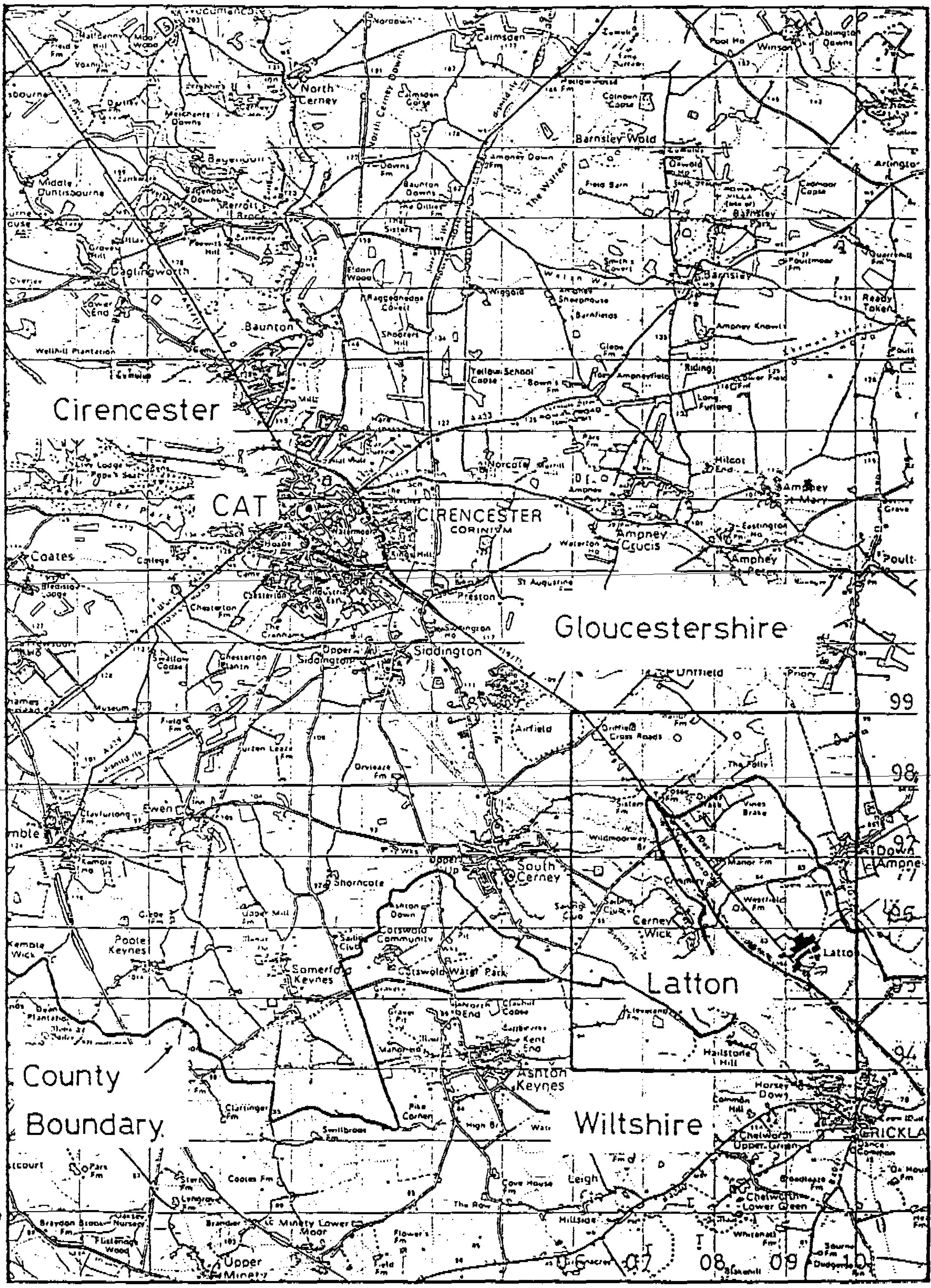
Cirencester
CAT
CIRENCESTER
CORINIUM
Gloucestershire
Latton
County
Boundary
Wiltshire
99
98
94
07
08
09
10

FIGURE 1.0

CHAPTER 2

STAGE 1 ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT - DATA COLLECTION

==========

General

In this chapter the techniques used for the location and description of sites are discussed. The methods used and sources studied demonstrate how the data levels are built up using a variety of field techniques to complement the desk-based techniques. The field techniques include field-walking, fieldchecking and geophysical survey.

2.1 Archaeological records and sources

The Wiltshire County Council (WCC) SMR in Trowbridge. (plots on OS maps (1:10,560 1960) operates a data-base system. It includes the National Monuments Record (NMR), the Ordnance Survey (OS) and new finds, excavations and watching briefs undertaken in the county. The SMR data in Supplement A, Appendix A is catalogued by grid reference and PRN. Data, including Aerial Photographs is currently being computerised and replotted at WCC, but the new plots were not available for this research.

2.2 Aerial photographs

The Royal Commission (RCHME) Air Photography Unit (APU) at Swindon and the University of Cambridge Aerial Photography Unit both have collections. A complete list of photo-graphs studied is in Supplement A, Appendix B. Obliques and verticals were studied and crop marks were replotted to check or where necessary revise the existing plots (Supplement A, Figures 1.4 and 1.5).

The cropmarks plotted in field 5400 (Canal Field), (Fig-ures 1.4 and 5.0) have been updated in the light of new aerial photographs. Swindon 1991. The new photgraphs provide greater clarity and more detailed information on PRN's 625 and 624. Details in Supplement B, appendix M.

All the cropmark features have been plotted at a scale of 1:2500. (Figures 3.1 and 3.2).

Several private collections of air photographs exist which may cover this area but have not been studied for this report. (eg Riley collection, Oxford).

2.3 Cartographic and documentary sources

The main source was Wiltshire County Council Record Office.

All known maps of the study area have been researched and the relevant data transcribed (see Supplement A Figures 2.0-2.2, and a list of maps consulted in Appendix C of Supplement A). Map regression provides evidence of the landscape changes since the end of the medieval period.

Primary documentary sources survive in the form of estate papers, court rolls, Feet of Fines, enclosure schedules and churchwardens accounts. Documents relevant to the study area are listed in Appendix C of Supplement A.

Secondary documentary sources included The Wiltshire Archaeological Magazine (WAM), the Victoria County History for Wiltshire: Archaeology (there is no Victoria County History yet written for the parish of Latton), TWA and TAU reports on excavations within the study area. Full details are listed in the Bibliography.

Tertiary descriptive texts are fully listed as references.

2.4 Museums

Archaeological finds from Latton are divided between the museum at Swindon and the Corinium Museum in Cirencester (Supplement A, section 2.4).

The full archive and all finds which result from this research will go to Thamesdown Museum Services, Bath Road Swindon, along with a copy of the report. A second copy of the report will be deposited with the Corinium Museum in Cirencester.

2.5 Fieldwork

Much of the area has been regularly ploughed and nine fields were suitable for walking. Fieldwalking represents a cost-effective technique for recovering archaeological information and complements other techniques used within the study area. The principal aim was to define the date, location and extent of archaeological sites and monuments of all periods from the prehistoric to the present day. (Results and plotted distributions in Supplement A, Figures 3.0-3.3). Field checking was carried out in those fields where pasture meant that field walking was impossible.

An assumption is made that the recovered material will be representative of the artefacts present in the plough soil but that some deeper features, such as graves and pits, may not be located. Details of soil depth and subsoil conditions were not recorded and metal detectors were not used.

The fieldwalking for Latton was carried out by a team of three archaeologists from TAU. The whole study area presently under cultivation was covered "extensively" using a line-walking technique. Lines were spaced every 50m on a grid which aligns with the national grid. Finds were collected and bagged every 50m along each line. The area was systematically walked in a way which allows comparison to be made between each sample unit. This method gives a c. 2% sample of land assuming a 1m wide scan along each line walked.

Where clustering of artefacts occurred the area was re-walked at a greater intensity at 25m intervals to give a 1% sample and the results recorded in the same way.

CAT hold working copies of all artefact category plots at 1:2500 scale over the study area. These form part of the project archive and can be made available for consultation if required. In Supplement A only the major categories of artefacts for the main periods are illustrated (Figures 3.0-3.3)

The crop was in an advanced state in certain fields eg. field 7600 and strong sunlight was experienced during much of the fieldwalking programme.

2.6 Fieldwalking

Prehistoric

Evidence of prehistoric activity is restricted to two categories of artefact collected during the programme of fieldwalking: flint and pottery. The flint can be divided into sub-categories, ie burnt, waste and implement, but some material is difficult to date and the distributions have no obvious patterning. The pottery is more distinctive, allowing statements of reasonable certainty to be made on the basis of the small quantities examined. Details of the distributions are given by field in Chapter 3 in this report and Figures 3.0 in Supplement A.

There are three areas of particular interest:
(Field numbers are shown on Figure 2.0)

1) Beggars Field, No. 1100, AM 899

2) Canal Field, No. 5400, west of Manor Farm
3) Field 1859 opposite Fosse Farm

Within Scheduled Monument AM 899 more prehistoric pottery was discovered than Roman pottery. This may suggest that although still likely to be of early post-conquest date, this Romano-British farmstead may have earlier pre-Roman phases. Field Evaluation trench I is located to test the results in field 1859 where prehistoric pot (2 pieces) and worked flint were recovered during the fieldwalking.

Roman
No new Roman sites can be suggested from the results of the fieldwalking and the area of known Roman settlement at AM 899 also produced very few finds. Figure 3.1 in Supplement A illustrates the distribution of Roman material.

There are three areas of interest:

1) Canal Field, No. 5400
2) Beggars Field, No. 1100, AM 899
3) Field 7600, adjacent to the Ermine Street

Two further areas of potential interest lie either side of the A419 at the southern end of Latton but were not available for fieldwalking

Medieval
There were no dense concentrations of medieval pottery, although 86% of the medieval pottery found, amounting to twenty-four sherds, came from the area adjacent to Ermin Street, north of Manor Farm. This scatter was widely spread and the plotted distributions are shown on Figure 3.2 in Supplement A.

There was very little medieval material from AM 899 and only three sherds were recovered from field 7666. No finds of medieval date were made in field 7600.

Post-medieval
Two hundred sherds of post-medieval pottery were picked up within the study area, of which 87.5% came from the area of the corridor between Fosse Farm and the Creamery. The finds are plotted on Figure 3.3 in Supplement A.

The distribution of post-medieval pottery in fields 5400, 3334, 1859, 4948 and 8900 is probably the result of manuring. The 1805 Inclosure Award shows this area (Pease Bridge) was used for corn growing.

2.7 Field-checking

Fields under pasture were visually checked for upstanding archaeological features. The fields were thoroughly traversed in several directions and all alien topographic features noted.

Earthworks were recorded in a number of fields and most would appear to be associated with post-medieval activities. See Supplement A, p20 for details.

The following fields contain earthworks which were checked as part of the assessment; 0071, 6400, 2029, 8347, and 7666. One field, 5769, was identified as having wetland potential.

Full descriptions are given in Chapter 3 by field.

2.8 Geophysical Survey

The conclusions of the survey carried out for the Thamesdown Archaeology Unit in 1988 suggested that the nature of the gravel subsoil allowed clear results to be recorded of the gross features. The geophysical survey and the known cropmark evidence agreed, though where the archaeological resource was less concentrated the results proved difficult to understand.

A geophysical survey was carried out in AM 899, AM 900 and fields adjacent to the CWS creamery. Details of the Magnetometer Survey by A D H Bartlett and B Y Turton are given by field in Chapter 3 of this document and in Supplement A, p14.

The survey was located by means of a series of 30m grid squares set out in lines (Figures 2.5-2.7, Supplement A). Readings were taken in each grid square at intervals of 0.45m along traverses 1.0m apart using a Geoscan Fluxgate Magnetometer. The results in Supplement A are shown as both graphical traces and as half-tone plots, which together allow features to be seen both in profile and in plan. The readings were processed to correct for variations in the instrument zero setting and smoothed to reduce background noise levels. Soil samples were also collected during the survey from grid points across the site and tested for magnetic susceptibility. Susceptibility values provide an indication of the strength of response to be expected from a magnetic survey, and often show enhancement in the vicinity of past settlement sites, as appeared to be the case in the 1988 survey.

The following transects were surveyed, all were 30m wide;

Transect 1 90m in field 0019 where pasture has provided no cropmark evidence and no opportunity for fieldwalking.

Transect 2 390m in field 1100 (AM 899) where crop mark evidence suggested ditches and boundaries. Fieldwalking has been carried out in this field.

Transect 3 300m in field 1100 (AM 899) where a possible widespread pit group and the rectangular ditched enclosure of PRN 315 are located. Fieldwalking has been carried out in this field.

Transect 4 90m in field 5769 (AM 899). Permanent pasture in this field provided no crop mark evidence or opportunity for fieldwalking. Investigation was undertaken to test voids/blanks in the distribution of known sites.

Transect 5 270m in field 7666 (AM 899). Boundary ditches and a possible pit group have shown up on aerial photographs. Fieldwalking has been carried out.

Transect 6 390m in field 6400 (AM 900). Cropmark features have been noted. Currently this field is under pasture and not available for fieldwalking.

The transects represent a total area of 45750m2.

Geophysical survey results

The geophysical survey was useful in confirming the exact position of archaeological features previously recorded from aerial photographs and in testing blank areas. The results of the transects are summarised below.

Archaeological features associated with the cropmark site AM 899 appear to be widespread in sections C, D and E of the survey (field 1100), although the activity is nowhere as intensive as was seen further to the north and east in the 1988 survey. There are strongly defined linear features in section B which appear to relate to recent field boundaries, as do several other features in sections D and E. Details of results are listed by field in Chapter 3.

2.9 Field conditions and land availability

Field conditions were not ideal during the course of the study. Much of the land had been sown with winter wheat and barley, which though sown late had risen quickly. In

certain fields, 8900 and 4948, where the barley was 4-5 weeks old, as much as 40-50% of the ground surface was obscured. During the fieldwalking programme, rain, which helps identification of finds, and strong sun, which makes it more difficult, were both experienced.

2.10 Summary

As a result of the Stage 1 Archaeological Assessment 17 areas of archaeological potential were selected requiring Field Evaluation at Stage 2. The areas were defined on the basis of the results of all the components of the Stage 1 work, but naturally rely heavily on the results of the aerial photographs, the fieldwalking and the geophysical surveys. These results are described more fully by field in chapter 3.

CHAPTER 3

STAGE 1 ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT - RESULTS

3.1 Results listed by field number

In this chapter the archaeological data gathered during Stage 1 is summarised. The data is defined in terms of sites identified using the techniques outlined in chapter 2.

The study area is broken down into small units using the present system of field numbers and boundaries. Within these fields the presence or absence of sites, their nature and the technique used in their location are described.

The field numbering system is taken from the OS 1:2500 maps. The fields are illustrated on fig. 2.0 and run from north to south.

The following records apply only to the study area within each field, not to the field as a whole unless sites extend beyond the study area.

FIELD NUMBER: 3167
Field Name:
Land Use: arable
Stage 1 Assessment - desk-based study
Result: no records exist of archaeological finds.
Stage 1 Assessment - fieldwork
Fieldwalked in poor conditions.
Result: no sites identified.
Proposed Stage 2 Field Evaluation
None

FIELD NUMBER: 1859
Field Name:
Land Use: cultivated
Stage 1 Assessment - desk-based study
Result: no previous record
Stage 1 Assessment - fieldwork
Fieldwalked.
Result: Two pieces of prehistoric pottery and four pieces of worked flint were found. The area was re-walked at 25m intervals but no further prehistoric material was recovered. (Figure 3.0, Supplement A)
Proposed Stage 2 Field Evaluation

Trench number: I
Comment/Summary: The site of prehistoric pottery finds is considered to be a site of archaeological potential. Trench I was located here to provide data on the nature of the archaeological deposits, to confirm the presence of an archaeological site, and to provide more detailed stratigraphic data, etc.

FIELD NUMBER: 6250/4948
Field Name:
Land Use: cultivated/arable
Stage 1 Assessment - desk-based study
Result: no record
Stage 1 Assessment - fieldwork
Fieldwalked - crop advanced.
Result: no finds recovered; no sites identified.
Proposed Stage 2 Field Evaluation
None

FIELD NUMBER: 4346
Field Name:
Land Use: central reservation, ?built landscape
Stage 1 Assessment - desk-based study
Result: No records
Stage 1 Assessment - fieldwork
Result: Not able to be examined
Proposed Stage 2 Field Evaluation
None
Comment/Summary: Archaeological blank. Previous impact of road not known. No evaluation recommended at this stage.

FIELD NUMBER: 3334
Field Name:
Land Use: cultivated
Stage 1 Assessment - desk-based study
Result: no records
Stage 1 Assessment - fieldwork
Fieldwalked - crop advanced, 1 unworked flint of prehistoric date and numerous sherds of Post-medieval pottery. Field checking revealed no earthworks.
Result: no sites identified.
Proposed Stage 2 Field Evaluation
None
Comment/Summary: Field boundary of 'modern date'. No further action.

FIELD NUMBER: 8900
Field Name:
Land Use: cultivated

Stage 1 Assessment - desk-based study
Result: SMR PRN 307
Stage 1 Assessment - fieldwork
Result: Fieldwalked - poor conditions, 2 sherds and 1 worked flint of prehistoric date were found. They were widely spaced and did not indicate the presence of potential sites. 2 sherds of Romano-British date and numerous pieces of post-medieval pottery were found. Field checked.
Proposed Stage 2 Field Evaluation
None
Comment/Summary: The above finds appear to represent background noise and do not appear to warrant further investigation at this stage.

FIELD NUMBER: 5400
Field Name: Canal Field
Land Use: cultivated
Stage 1 Assessment - desk-based study
Result: SMR PRN 625 and two areas of cropmarks of linear features from AP evidence
Stage 1 Assessment - fieldwork
Fieldwalked and field checked.
Result: An extensive but light scatter of flint was recovered from the southern part of this field. 65% of the flint was unidentifiable. Three sherds of prehistoric pottery were also found. A scatter of 6 sherds of Romano-British date were recovered from this field. 86% of the medieval pottery found during the fieldwalking came from this field, amounting to 24 sherds. (Figure 3.2, Supplement A). Post-medieval pottery was found in abundance.
Proposed Stage 2 Field Evaluation
Trench numbers: II (to investigate linear cropmarks), III (to investigate ring ditch PRN 625) and IV (to investigate linear cropmarks).

FIELD NUMBER: 0068, 8445, 8443
Field Name: Creamery/Sewage Works
Land Use: built environment
Stage 1 Assessment - desk-based study
Result: None
Stage 1 Assessment - fieldwork
Result: Not available for fieldwalking
Proposed Stage 2 Field Evaluation
None
Comment/Summary: blank area in archaeological knowledge. No action possible at this time.

FIELD NUMBERS: 0055, 0040 and 0019
Field Name: Creamery Field
Land Use: pasture
Stage 1 Assessment - desk-based study
Result: Cropmarks/linear features identified from APs.

Stage 1 Assessment - fieldwork
Geophysical transect A
Result: Results indicated some magnetic disturbance. The magnetic susceptibility was very low and so archaeological features are hard to detect. A possible ditch and a pit were identified. Details in Supplement A, figures 2.5 and 2.8
Proposed Stage 2 Field Evaluation
Trench numbers: V and VI. Trench V was located to test a linear cropmark and trench VI was located to test a possible pit detected during the geophysical survey.

FIELD NUMBER: 2540/3500
Field Name:
Land Use: cultivated
Stage 1 Assessment - desk-based study
Result: SMR PRN 621, oval ditched enclosure and linear cropmarks from APs
Stage 1 Assessment - fieldwork
Result: 3 sherds of Romano-British date and 1 sherd of post-medieval date were found.
Proposed Stage 2 Field Evaluation
Trench number: VII, was located to test the nature of the archaeological deposits within the ditches of the oval enclosure.
Comment/Summary: Lies next to Scheduled Monument area AM 899. Ridge and furrow shown on AP's. Division with field 1100 was original medieval lane, now a footpath/right of way

FIELD NUMBER: 0001
Field Name:
Land Use: cultivated/pasture
Stage 1 Assessment - desk-based study
Result: none
Stage 1 Assessment - fieldwork
Result: no sites identified
Proposed Stage 2 Field Evaluation
None

FIELD NUMBER: 1100
Field Name: Beggars Field
Land Use: cultivated/arable
Stage 1 Assessment - desk-based study
Result: SMR PRN 315, part of Romano-British rural settlement, the majority of which lies outside the study area. Cropmark site dated by evaluation work in 1988 by TAU as RB. Sub-rectangular enclosure ditches cut main enclosure ditches and phasing is not understood. Area of pits suggested from AP data to the south of the main enclosures.
Stage 1 Assessment - fieldwork
Fieldwalking.

Result: Fieldwalking suggested a prehistoric date as well as the established Romano-British date to site (PRN 315). 5 sherds of prehistoric pottery, six pieces of worked flint and numerous uncategorised flints were recovered. The material was evenly distributed to the south and west of the settlement focus which lies outside the present study area. (Figure 3.0, Supplement A)

4 sherds of Romano-British date were found during field-walking. 3 came from the edge of the main ditched enclosure. These results confirm the TAU findings of the 1988 survey which indicated a marked fall-off in pottery finds away from the main area of the crop mark complex (PRN 315). No Medieval material was found but a dense concentration of post-medieval pottery was located in the area of the ditched enclosures

Geophysical transects B,C,D,and part of E. Supplement A, figure 2.5, 2.9, 2.10, 2.11 and 2.12.
Results: A multiple ditch-like feature appeared to correspond both to the former field boundary and track shown on the 25" OS map and on the early 19th century enclosure map. There is also a strongly defined ditch on plot C which again represents a former field boundary. Between these two points the susceptibility readings were exceptionally high, and several correspondingly strong ditches can be seen in the survey. The fact that the high susceptibility values lie between old field boundaries suggests that the reason for the variations may in part be geological or natural. Detected ditches also align with the old field boundaries, although there is no evidence from cartographic sources that subdivisions were present in this field. Magnetic anomalies elsewhere in plot C were very much weaker than those seen nearer the centre of the cropmark (315) in the 1988 TAU survey, but linear features and possible pits were detected. The clearly defined corner of the rectangular enclosure was detected in section D along with feint indications of a linear feature, most probably the old field boundary shown on the early 19th century Enclosure Map.

Proposed Stage 2 Field Evaluation

Trench numbers: VIII (Strongly defined linear ditches parallelling the known 18th century field boundaries), IX (A cluster of possible pits and linear/rectangular features), X and XI (The area of intersection between the large enclosure PRN 315 and the seemingly self-contained sub-rectangular enclosure, and an area of possible pits outside these enclosures) and XII (Possible linear/rectangular features and pits).
Comment/Summary: an area of considerable potential judging by the aerial photographic evidence and the results of the TAU 1988 survey. The limits of the Scheduled Area AM 899

do not coincide with the extent of the interesting cropmarks. It is likely that some of the linear features visible as cropmarks are of geological origin and result from periglacial frost action on the gravel substrate. Little is known of the full date range of the archaeological features in this area, though the fieldwalking programme provided evidence that the RB settlement may have a prehistoric antecedent. Evaluation will help separate geological from man-made features.

FIELD NUMBER: 5769
Field Name:
Land Use: pasture
Stage 1 Assessment - desk-based study
Result: study of soil maps and cartographic records indicated that this area had long been pasture. It is low lying, liable to flooding and appears to be a possible relict channel filled with alluvium.
Stage 1 Assessment - fieldwork
Field checked.
Geophysical transect E (Supplement A, Figure 2.5-2.12)
Result: Susceptibility values are low in this field, as is often the case where ground is low lying and badly drained. Several anomalies looked to be pits.
Proposed Stage 2 Field Evaluation
Trench number: XIII to test possibility of environmental trap close to PRN 315
Comment/Summary: potential environmental data survival.

FIELD NUMBERS: 7666/8347
Field Name:
Land Use: cultivated
Stage 1 Assessment - desk-based study
Result: Study of vertical aerial photographs from the 1940's show the presence of relict ridge-and-furrow. The ridge-and-furrow is approximately 25m in length and 5-10m in width. SMR (PRN) 400, recognised by artefact survival - Saxon pottery. During the 1988 survey TAU excavated a section through a boundary ditch of unproven date. It was considered that the ditch might relate to other cropmarks in the field defining enclosures which themselves might contain pits. Study of oblique photographs shows the presence of linear cropmarks, probably ditches. The majority are in the northern and eastern parts of the field outside the study area. Within the study area a linear cropmark can be seen running from the western corner of the field close to the gate with field 5769 and running south-east toward field 8347. Considering the information of the Enclosure Award of 1805 two of the ditches/field boundaries within the study area in this field are of Post-medieval date.

Stage 1 Assessment - fieldwork
Fieldwalking
Result: Medieval and Post-medieval pottery were found in small quantities during fieldwalking.
Fieldchecking
Result: A c.175m bank was noted running from the north near the A419 toward the southern hedge line. This is a field boundary shown on the Inclosure Award of 1805, figure 2.1. The bank is 8-10m wide.
Ruined standing structure in SW corner of the field close to the Thames and Severn canal with which it was most likely related. Its approximate extent is 17m by 20m. The walls are of drystone and mortar construction. The monument state is described as medium to bad, unstable and the current land use is woodland. The building first appears on the 25" 1st ed. 1885 OS map.
Geophysical transects F and G (Supplement A, Figures 2.13 and 2.14).
Result: The geophysical transect in this field lies close to the line surveyed in 1988, and although results were expected to be similar it was surveyed for completeness and compatibility of data. At least two ditches were detected in section F. Pit-like anomalies, as well as other irregular linear features of uncertain significance were also encountered. The Esso midline pipe and the old field boundary on the south east side were also detected. Details in Supplement A, Figures 2.13 and 2.14
Proposed Stage 2 Field Evaluation
Trench number: Given the results of the TAU work in this field, the field walking and geophysical survey it was felt that little additional information would be gained by further evaluation.
Comment/Summary: photographic recording of the ruined standing structure might be recommended before road construction begins.

FIELD NUMBER: 8950
Lane to Old Canal Basin and adjacent ground.
Land Use: built track
Stage 1 Assessment - desk-based study
Result: cartographic showed lane to be present in C18th.
Stage 1 Assessment - fieldwork
Field checked.
Result: None
Proposed Stage 2 Field Evaluation
None
Comment/Summary: This road dates from 1800 at least but no further action could be taken at this stage. Associated with the abandoned Thames and Severn Canal. The relationship of the road to the canal has not been dealt with in this report.

FIELD NUMBER: 9041
Field Name:
Land Use: pasture
Stage 1 Assessment - desk-based study
Result: No records
Stage 1 Assessment - fieldwork
Field checked.
Result: no sites recognised
Proposed Stage 2 Field Evaluation
None
Comment/Summary: Apparantly blank archaeological area, no evaluation recommended.

FIELD NUMBER: 0148
Field Name:
Land Use: pasture
Stage 1 Assessment - desk-based study
Result: No records
Stage 1 Assessment - fieldwork
Field checked.
Result: None
Proposed Stage 2 Field Evaluation
None
Comment/Summary: Apparantly blank archaeological area, no evaluation recommended.

FIELD NUMBERS: 0338/0735
Field Name:
Land Use: pasture
Stage 1 Assessment - desk-based study
Result: SMR PRN 606, likely Post-medieval field boundaries associated with the houses fronting the A 419
Stage 1 Assessment - fieldwork
Field checked.
Result: Earthworks described as being in a stable condition beneath permanent pasture and part of PRN 606 were recorded but not planned in detail. The earthworks are considered to be of Post-medieval date and connected with the now abandoned Thames-Severn canal.
Proposed Stage 2 Field Evaluation
None
Comment/Summary: No evaluation recommended.

FIELD NUMBER: 2029
Field Name: Post Office Field
Land Use: pasture
Stage 1 Assessment - desk-based study
Result: cartographic evidence of post-medieval buildings along A419, The Street. Extension of earthworks PRN 606.
Stage 1 Assessment - fieldwork
Fieldchecked.
Result: This field contains extensive earthworks, standing

between 0.20-1.0m in height. The earthworks may be connected with the canal but cartographic evidence suggests a possibly earlier date and indicates that the majority are property boundaries associated with houses that once fronted Ermin Street. As many as eight houses may have had frontages on to The Street in the area that is now field 2029, with plots leading down toward the River Churn and/or Thames-Severn canal.

Proposed Stage 2 Field Evaluation

Trench number: XIV located to test the nature of the Post-medieval evidence and the possibility of archaeological deposits alongside the Roman road.

Comment/Summary: the position of trench XIV in the centre of fields 0148-3914 provides a sample of likely archaeology on the west side of the Ermin Way.

FIELD NUMBERS: 3220/3517/3914

Field Name: Mill House-Cotswold Gate

Land Use: gardens/pasture/built environment

Stage 1 Assessment - desk-based study

Result: possible earthworks in garden/paddock of Mill House recognised by cartographic analysis. No SMR record.

Stage 1 Assessment - fieldwork

Result: None

Stage 2 Field Evaluation

Comment/Summary: No action taken at this time, see summary above, field 2029.

FIELD NUMBER: 6400

Field Name:

Land Use: pasture (has been ploughed)

Stage 1 Assessment - desk-based study

Result: SMR records PRN's 304, 305, 308, 616 (the main cropmark complex), 615 (double-ditched trackway) and 100 (Neolithic features).

Stage 1 Assessment - fieldwork

Field checked

Result: Earthworks associated with a number of recorded activities could be seen. (the infilled Thames & Severn canal and the pipe-trench for the Latton to Blunsdon water pipe-line).

Geophysical survey

Results: Various modern disturbances including a deep visible furrow in section H, and the Thames Water Authority pipe in section J were detected. There was also a considerable magnetic disturbance, especially in section H, where the susceptibility values are higher. The plan of the magnetic anomalies is complex, and there are no clearly defined enclosure ditches as seen in AM 899. Magnetic disturbances of this kind could well, at least in part, be natural, and indicate perhaps a depth of topsoil over an uneven gravel subsoil. Although aerial photographs indi-

cate a ditched trackway running from the main cropmark complex to the A419 the traces are feint in this area and were not picked up in the geophysical survey. Details in Supplement A, Figures 2.15 and 2.16

Proposed Stage 2 Field Evaluation

Trench number: XV to test geophysical anomalies and XVI to test the nature of archaeological deposits associated with the double-ditched trackway, PRN 615.

Comment/Summary: Scheduled Monument area AM 900, with much disturbance along the boundary with Ermin Way. High impact from the excavation of the Thames and Severn Canal (now abandoned) and the Latton-Blunsdon water pipeline. Western boundary of AM 900 lies in part beneath the Cricklade bypass.

FIELD NUMBERS: 7600/0071/0066

Field Name:

Land Use: cultivated

Stage 1 Assessment - desk-based study

Result: SMR PRN'S 455 and 304

Stage 1 Assessment - fieldwork

Result: Field walking produced only one sherd of Romano-British pottery and 6 sherds of Post-medieval pottery. Field checking produced evidence of earthworks in field 0071, assumed to be disturbance from the laying of the Latton to Blunsdon pipeline. 13th-14th century pottery was discovered by M J Stone in this area, (PRN 455).

Stage 2 Field Evaluation

None

Comment/Summary: Not scheduled, PRN 304 is covered by the proposed trench XVI whilst the area of PRN 455 has been left at this stage since the fieldwalking indicated no further medieval activity in this area.

FIELD NUMBER: ?

Cricklade Bypass

Field Name:

Land Use: road/built environment

Stage 1 Assessment - desk-based study

Result: No records

Stage 1 Assessment - fieldwork

Result: No action was taken

Stage 2 Field Evaluation

None

Comment/Summary: Apparantly blank area archaeologically and therefore no further action taken at this stage.

FIELD NUMBER: 0066

Field Name: "Syd's Patch" and road alongside

Land Use: pasture, liable to flooding

Stage 1 Assessment - desk-based study

Result: No SMR data, though the infilled Thames and Severn

canal passes through this field. The Roman road is assumed to lie beneath the current A 419 alongside this field.

Stage 1 Assessment - fieldwork

Field checked.

Result: no sites identified

Proposed Stage 2 Field Evaluation

Trench number: XVII located to test the possibility of archaeological deposits alongside the Roman road

Comment/Summary: Potential for archaeological deposits alongside the Ermin Way, and line of abandoned canal. Possibility of features associated with Latton wharf.

3.2 Summary

The results of the Stage 1 investigations showed that 17 areas required evaluation at Stage 2. The exact location of each individual evaluation trench depending on a combination of the following;

a) The results of the desk-based study
b) The results of the fieldwalking
c) The results of the geophysical survey
d) The results of the field checking
e) The results of the cartograhic studies, especially in relation to the identification of field 5769 as an area of interest.
f) The extent and nature of gaps in the knowledge of the archaeology as a result of the above.

It may be noted that the spread of trenches also gives a reasonable cover of the study area from north to south.

The following fields contained areas of archaeological potential where evaluation trenches were located. The results of these 17 trenches are summarised in Chapter 5.

Field	Trench	Site
1859	I	Prehistoric pottery and flint /fieldwalking
5400	II	Linear ditch features/cropmark
	III	PRN 625/ring ditch/cropmark
	IV	Linear ditch features/cropmark
0040/0019	V	Linear ditch features/cropmark
	VI	?Pits/geophysical survey

3500	VII	PRN 621/oval ditched enclosure /cropmark
1100 (AM 899)	VIII	Ditch/pit anomalies/geophysical
	IX	Anomalies/pits/geophysical /cropmark
	X	PRN 315/Ditch/?occupation /sub-rectangular enclosure /geophysical/cropmark
	XI	PRN 315/Ditches/?occupation sub-rectangular enclosure /geophysical/cropmark
	XII	Pits/linear features /geophysical/cropmark
5769 (AM 899)	XIII	Environmental deposit /cartographic/geological
2029	XIV	Post-medieval structures /Roman road/cartographic
6400 (AM 900)	XV	Anomalies/geophysical AM 900
	XVI	Ditched trackway/cropmark PRN's 100, 304, 305/ AM 900
Syd's Patch	XVII	Thames-Severn canal/?Roman road /occupation/cartographic

CHAPTER 4

STAGE 2 FIELD EVALUATION

4.1 Aims and objectives

The general aim of the Field Evaluation was to provide high quality data from direct observation of the archaeological deposits to complement the information already available in the Stage 1 Archaeological Assessment.

These general aims are achieved through pursuit of the following specific objectives:

1) To determine the thickness, depth, and depositional history of the archaeological deposits, paying particular attention to the presence or absence of deposits relating to each of the main phases of occupation discussed in the assessment;

2) To characterise the nature of the main stratigraphic units encountered in terms of their physical composition (stone, sand, gravel, humic etc.) and their archaeological formation (primary deposit, secondary deposit etc.);

3) To assess the overall presence and survival of structural remains relating to each of the main periods of occupation revealed, and the potential for the recovery of additional structural information given the nature of the deposits encountered (eg. extent of later disturbance etc.);

4) To assess the overall presence and survival of the main kinds of artefactual evidence (incl. pottery, brick, tile, stone, glass, metal, bone, small finds, industrial residues etc.), its condition and its potential given the nature of the deposits encountered;

5) To assess the overall presence and survival of the main kinds of ecofactual evidence (incl. animal bones, human bones, plant remains etc.), its condition and its potential given the nature of the deposits encountered;

6) To assess the overall presence and survival of the main kinds of environmental evidence (incl. charcoal, pollen, mollusca, soil structure etc.) its condition and its potential given the nature of the deposits

encountered;

7) To appraise the relative value of the main stratigraphic units revealed in terms of their importance for preservation and conservation; and

8) To appraise the deposits in terms of their potential for display, promotion and presentation as visible exhibits and public viewing during excavation.

Scheduled Monument Clearance was required prior to any evaluation being undertaken within the Scheduled Monuments AM 899 and AM 900. This was granted on 21.12.90 and a copy of the document can be found in Supplement B.

4.2 Methodology

The only technique suitable for the recovery of the information required at this stage in the development programme was the combination of machine cutting and the hand-digging of excavation trenches from the present ground surface down to the top of the natural substrate.

All the archaeological evaluation trenches were excavated with appropriate horizontal and vertical recording of the stratigraphy (ie. text, photographs, drawings). Artefacts and ecofacts were recovered and recorded by stratigraphic unit. Samples of major stratigraphic units were taken for analysis and the full list of samples and results achieved are listed in Supplement B.

The archaeological deposits recovered in the trenches were regarded as expendable and the principle is accepted that their loss must be set against the information gained.

The main intention is to study the intrinsic nature of the deposits themselves rather than provide intricate interpretations of any remains revealed. For this reason the trenches examined the entire stratigraphic sequence from top to bottom. The reason for this is that we feel it is equally important to know the quality and extent of what could be preserved as what might be lost in the course of development.

Observation of trial pits excavated by the ground investigation team was also possible. This work was not included in the project design since it was not then known that the work would take place at the same time as the archaeological field evaluations. Approximately 60% of trial pits were checked as a matter of routine by an archaeologist. **No archaeology was observed in any of the test pits.** Since the test pits are evenly distributed along the entire length of the corridor the results provide a useful random sample.

4.3 Summary

A factual report of the Field Evaluation results is arranged in trench order in chapter 5, with detailed lists and specialist reports in Supplement B and appropriate plans and sections in Supplement C. The main plans and sections are drawn at 1:50 with details at 1:20 and 1:10. Copies of all field plans and sections not included in this report are stored in the Latton archive and may be consulted if required.

CHAPTER 5

STAGE 2: ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION RESULTS

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5.1 General

In this chapter the results of field evaluation are listed by trench, from I to XVII (north to south). Trench I was excavated as part of the evaluation programme for the A419/A417 Cirencester and Stratton Bypass.

The results are ordered in such a manner that the main stratigraphic units encountered can be clearly understood. The nature of artefactual, ecofactual and environmental data is described with full details given in specialist reports to be found in Supplement B.

Finally, the value of the archaeological deposits encountered is summarised so that in chapter 6, where the sites and monuments are discussed under their respective period headings, values of importance can be attributed. Three levels of importance have been used, with High for sites and monuments of national importance, Medium for sites and monuments of regional and local importance and Low for areas with no known sites or monuments and areas where previous archaeology has been severely damaged or sterilised. In addition there is a fourth category for blank archaeological areas where it has not been possible to do evaluation work.

All the trenches were opened by machine using a 1.75m wide ditch cleaning bucket to remove ploughsoil before being excavated by hand. Details of contexts, samples taken and specialist reports are given in Supplement B.

A selection of important plans and sections can be found in Supplement C. The positions of the trenches are illustrated on Figure 2.0 in this document and in greater detail on Figure 3.1/3.2 in Supplement C.

Numbers in round brackets are context numbers and those in square brackets are features. Descriptions of these are given in the glossary.

5.2 TRENCH I

Six hand dug trenches (A-F) to test concentration of prehistoric pottery and flint recovered during the field walking programme. Possible prehistoric site on high ground opposite Fosse Farm.

TRENCH SIZE: Six 2m x 2m trenches, spaced at intervals of 8m, therefore total length of trench 62m
TRENCH ORIENTATION: East-West
FIELD NO.: 1859
CROP: Arable
LANDOWNER: Mr Ford
ACC.NO.: (9856-860 LC 90-91)

Characterisation of main stratigraphic units

TOPSOIL: Clay loam
SUBSOIL: Clay
NATURAL: Kellaways Sands and Clays
ARCHAEOLOGY: Post-medieval field drain [18]
Gravel pad (5)
Gully [24] and Clay hollows [27] and [28].

HEIGHT OF TOPSOIL: 87.75 to 88.75m OD
HEIGHT OF SUBSOIL: 87.47 to 88.50m OD
HEIGHT OF ARCHAEOLOGY (maximum): 88.67m OD (top of (19))
HEIGHT OF ARCHAEOLOGY (minimum): 88.11m OD (gravel pad (5))
88.40m OD (base of [28])

Archaeological Features

Little of interest was encountered in trenches (A) and (B).

A post-medieval field drain [18] was encountered in trench (C) running NNE-SSW cut into (22). The pipe-trench cuts through (14) and is covered by (1). Also in trench (C) an usual gravel pad was excavated. The pad measured 0.94m in diameter and was 0.20m thick at the centre, thinning toward the edges. The pad was sealed and surrounded by a clay layer (4) and overlay another clay layer (17). The bottom 0.1m of the pad comprised compacted sand, whilst the body of the feature was characterised by a hard compact gravel at the centre altering to a sticky clay toward the circumference. The function and date of the pad remain uncertain.

Trenches (D) and (E) produced no evidence of archaeological features but were characterised by a buff compact sticky clay (7) and (9) beneath the plough soil (1). Layer (9) was excavated to a depth of 87.69m OD.

Trench (F) adjacent to the Ermin Way produced the greatest evidence of human activity. Two scoops or hollows, [28] and [27], and a gully [24] were revealed. The gully [24], a shallow concave

-sided feature with curved base, lay at the foot of a clay lip (3). The gully was 0.3m wide, 1.4m in length with an average depth of 0.1m. It ran E-W before curving into the southern section of the trench and was filled by a brown clay (20). In the NW corner of trench (F) an irregular hollow [28] was encountered. Its dimensions were 1.55m in length and 1.1m wide, with a depth of 0.3m. The west and nothern edges lay under the sections of the trench. The eastern edge was characterised by a narrow shelf, steeply sloping concave sides and a relatively flat base. The hollow was filled by a silty clay (23) and a stained clay (26). In the NE corner of trench (F) a similar but smaller hollow (0.92m by 0.70m) of equal depth (0.30m) was excavated. The hollow was filled with a stained clay (21). The function and date of these features remain uncertain.

Artefactual evidence

No further pottery of prehistoric date was found during the excavation of trenche I (A-F) to add to the two sherds found during the field walking. Additional flint was found however in the following contexts. Trench (C), flint flakes in (5) and (1). Trench (E), a bipolar flint core of late Mesolithic or early Neolithic date in (1). A further ten flint flakes were found in the field around trench I.

Medieval and post-medieval pottery spanning the 13th to the 18th century was recovered, mainly from layers (1) and (2), trenches A - F. Finds included a sherd of Bath A pottery (10th-13th century) from layer (1) trench B, Minety ware (13th-15th century) from layer (2) trench F and Ashton Keynes (16th-17th century and 18th-19th century) all trenches.

Three objects of iron and one of copper were found in layers A (1), C (1), F (2) and C (17).

Ecofactual/environmental evidence

No evidence was encountered and no samples taken. Results from sampling in other trenches in this project have shown that preservation, in shallow contexts beneath plough soil, is poor and that contamination is usually high.

Value of deposits

The archaeological deposits evaluated in trench I proved difficult to interpret. The presence of worked flint suggests a prehistoric date, but the quantity and quality was insufficient to ascribe a precise date. The hollows in Trench I (F) appear to be man-made though they are clearly too shallow to be quarry pits for the Roman road. The gravel pad (5) in (C) is unsusual and would seem to be man-made and of prehistoric date. Its function and exact date remain uncertain.

The presence of large quantities of medieval and post-medieval pottery may indicate activity in the area, most likely upslope toward Fosse Farm. The material may result from manuring, though this is unlikely to be the case with the early medieval material.

The evaluation results indicate a greater concentration of archaeological features toward the east of the trench. It is possible therefore that trench I encountered the periphery of a site which lay close to or beneath the Ermin Way, and nearer to the crest of the hill. Conditions at this stage did not permit evaluation further to the east. Ploughing has reduced the value of the deposits in Trench I and it is only likely that the site would be fully understood if a large area were stripped of topsoil.

Overall importance: Medium

5.3 TRENCH II

Machine-cut trench to test the linear cropmarks in the northern half of the field.

TRENCH SIZE: 60m total (2 x 30m arms)
TRENCH ORIENTATION: East-West and North-South
FIELD NO.: 5400
CROP: Arable
LANDOWNER: CWS
ACC NO.: (856-861 LC 90-91)

Characterisation of main stratigraphic units

TOPSOIL: Clay loam
SUBSOIL: Clay
NATURAL: Alluvial gravels
ARCHAEOLOGY: Post-medieval or modern field drains (3) (5) (13)
s Posthole (19)
Linear ditch features (9) (11)

HEIGHT OF TOPSOIL: 84.23 to 83.87m OD
HEIGHT OF SUBSOIL: 83.99 to 83.34m OD
HEIGHT OF ARCHAEOLOGY (maximum): 84.02m OD (top of cut (3))
HEIGHT OF ARCHAEOLOGY (minimum): 83.46m OD (base of ditch (13))

Archaeological Features

Post-medieval or modern field drains (3) (5) and (13) running NE-SW were noted, cut into the clay subsoil (15) and (16). The original height from which these features were cut is unclear, but may well originally have been from the topsoil level (2). The maximum height of field drains was 83.90m OD.

A linear ditch feature (9) was noted containing a loam fill (10) with a gently sloping profile. This was some 3.7m wide and 0.26m thick at maximum (top = 83.72, base = 83.46) running approximately W to E and cut into the natural gravels. Its dating and purpose is uncertain.

A second ditch feature (11) containing a loam fill (12) was found, running W to E, with a shallow, gentle profile (top 83.68m, base 83.55m OD). This feature was cut into the natural gravels (17) but it is unclear whether it was originally cut from higher up and subsequently truncated by later ploughing. The function of the ditch is again uncertain.

Artefactual evidence

No artefactual material was recovered from trench II.

Ecofactual/environmental evidence

Little ecofactual material was found in trench II. No animal or human bone was encountered. The analysis of a soil sample from the ditch fill (10) revealed the presence of a small number of charcoal fragments. No plant remains were found and the sample was contaminated with modern roots.

The sampled ditch fill (10) was of minimal environmental interest. Whilst the sample contained a small quantity of charcoal the contamination by root matter minimised its research potential. No pollen analysis was run on this and similarly contaminated samples.

Value of deposits

The archaeological deposits evaluated in Trench II are characteristic linear ditch features of uncertain date. Consistent ploughing has reduced what evidence might have existed to a minimum. All the evidence would suggest that these features will only be understood if it is possible to isolate points at which they stratigraphically relate to datable sites. If this is not possible then their importance would seem to be medium/low. Linear features are clearly manmade and not geological. Aerial photgraphic evidence indicates that some of the linear ditch features may be interpreted as the furrows of extensive ridge-and-furrow, orientated approximately east-west.

The deposits are only of local interest and have been badly damaged by agricultural practices.

Overall importance: Medium.

5.4 TRENCH III

A single 13m trench in Canal Field (5400) to evaluate a circular cropmark.

TRENCH SIZE: 13m
TRENCH ORIENTATION: West - East
FIELD NO.: 5400
CROP: Arable
LANDOWNER: CWS
ACC.NO.: (856-862 LC 90-91)

Characterisation of main stratigraphic units

TOPSOIL: Loam
SUBSOIL: Clay loam
NATURAL: Alluvial gravels
ARCHAEOLOGY: Post-medieval or modern field drain (2)
Phase I cropmark ditches (33) (39)
Phase II ditch recut (40)
Phase III truncation of earlier ditches (13) (11)

HEIGHT OF TOPSOIL: 83.96 to 83.72m OD
HEIGHT OF SUBSOIL: 83.72 to 83.46m OD
HEIGHT OF ARCHAEOLOGY (maximum): 83.83m OD (top of (2))
HEIGHT OF ARCHAEOLOGY (minimum): 82.87m OD (base of (38))

Archaeological features

A post-medieval or modern field drain (2) was encountered running NE-SW and filled with (3), a gravelly clay-loam, and containing a 2" ceramic pipe. The top of the trench was recognised cut into the natural gravels, but its original height within the overlying subsoil is not known. (Base 83.36m, top 83.83m OD).

A large pit or ditch feature (39) running NW-SE with a sharp V-shaped profile was found cut into the natural alluvial gravels. This was filled with a primary deposit of brown clay-loam (37) and with a subsequent fill of yellow-brown clay (36). The ditch was later recut (40) and filled with a secondary deposit (16) of dark brown clay-loam. (Top of (39) 83.47m, base 83.09m OD).

The entire feature seems then to have been truncated by (13), a long linear cut running NE-SW and filled with (14), a clay-loam similar to the subsoil (29) common throughout the trench. The initial phases of the ditch (39) and (33), as well as the later ditches (12) and (13), could not be dated.

Ditch feature (12) was filled with a primary deposit of clay loam (11) and ran NW-SE, some 2.9m long and 1.25m wide. (Top 83.59m, base 83.47m OD). The similarity of its latest fill (15) to fill (16) within recut (40) may suggest that the two features are associated.

A sub-circular pit or ditch (34) was also found. This was filled with a yellow gravelly-clay (35) and cut into the earlier feature (33). This feature has been tentatively interpreted as an ancient tree hole, and this in turn was disturbed by (38), a wide ditch running NW-SE, some 2m wide, with vertical edges and a sloping base cut into the natural gravels (1). The feature, running parallel with the drain (2), would seem to be a field boundary of post-medieval date. The primary fill of this feature was a compact black charcoal deposit (4) containing slag, perhaps derived from industrial workings nearby. This in turn was covered with a secondary deposit of softer clay-loam (5). (Top 83.80m, base 82.87m OD).

The series of ditches clearly indicates a considerable amount of human activity in the area of the evaluation trench, but no clear patterning could be extracted from the recovered information. The undated ditches possessed no associated structural evidence, perhaps as a result of later ploughing, and the interpretation of these enigmatic ditches remains tentative.

Artefactual evidence

Trench III yielded no artefactual evidence. The potential in this area for the recovery of datable artefacts is thought to be low.

Ecofactual/environmental evidence

No animal or human bone was found in the trench. Nor were plant remains discovered within the sample of the ditch fill (16) which was analysed. The sample was highly contaminated with modern root systems.

No charcoal remains were found in the soil sample from context (16). Due to the contamination of the sample pollen analysis was not undertaken.

Value of deposits

The evaluation trench appeared to cut across a curving feature, but the complex pattern of inter-related cut features could not be interpreted clearly. Due to apparent post-medieval activity in the area and subsequent intensive agricultural practices the artefactual, ecofactual and environmental potential is low.

Aerial photgraphs made available since the field evaluation show

that at least one of the ditch-like features encountered is likely to be geological in origin. The pattern of intersecting ice wedges suggested the form of a ring ditch, which was known from aerial photographs to lie in the area. PRN 625 has now been accurately positioned and lies approximately 100m to the south-west. See figure 3.1.

The evaluation excavation produced no artefactual evidence, though clearly there had been post-medieval activity. The fact that ditch/feature (39) appears to have been recut is rather interesting, and suggests either human activity of unknown date or perhaps infilling of reopened frost cracks in the gravel.

Overall importance: Low

5.5 TRENCH IV

A 120m trench in Canal Field (8900) to evaluate a series of linear cropmarks. Fieldwalking produced prehistoric material.

TRENCH SIZE: 122.20m
TRENCH ORIENTATION: North-East - South-West
FIELD NO.: 5400
CROP: Arable
LANDOWNER: CWS
ACC.NO.: (856-863 LC 90-91)

Characterisation of main stratigraphic units

TOPSOIL: Loam
SUBSOIL: Gravelly clay - loam
NATURAL: Alluvial gravels
ARCHAEOLOGY: Post-medieval or modern field drain (14)
Linear features (3) (4) (17) (19) (20)

HEIGHT OF TOPSOIL: 83.75 to 83.30m OD
HEIGHT OF SUBSOIL: 83.58 to 83.04m OD
HEIGHT OF ARCHAEOLOGY (maximum) - 83.41m OD (top of (14))
HEIGHT OF ARCHAEOLOGY (minimum) - 82.90m OD (base of (5))

Archaeological features

A linear ditch (4) running E-W, some 1.5m wide and up to 0.19m deep, was recorded in a heavily truncated state. One small fragment of iron nail was recovered from its loam fill (5) but the feature remains undated and its function is unclear.

Another narrow undated linear feature (19) was noted, some 0.21m wide and with a shallow 'U' shaped profile. It contained a gravelly loam fill within which was found one undated flint waste flake.

A probable field drain (3) was recorded running on a N-S alignment some 0.50m wide and 0.22m deep and with a sharp straight sided profile.

A modern field drain (14) running N-S with straight sides and a depth of some 0.30m was also found. This contained a sandy matrix (13).

Traces of another minor feature (17) a shallow pit or ditch terminal was also recognised, some 0.14m deep.

(20) was also possibly a pit or posthole cut into the subsoil, some 0.35m wide and 1.00m long. (Top 84.51m - 84.38m OD).

Artefactual evidence

One artefact was recovered from the trench , a waste flake from the shallow ditch feature (19). The flint could not be dated and the potential for the recovery of well datable material in association with these features again appears to be low.

Ecofactual/environmental evidence

No animal or human bone was encountered. A soil sample was analysed from the ditch fill (7) but this contained no identifiable plant remains. Several snails were found but the sample was dominated by modern roots.

A small quantity of charcoal fragments were present within the sample taken from ditch fill (7). However, the level of contamination within the sample indicates a low research potential.

Value of deposits

The linear cropmark features evaluated in this trench remain undated. Replotting of the cropmarks from Canal Field using aerial photographs made available since the field evaluation indicates that the majority of features encountered are likely to be remnants of medieval ridge-and-furrow. No finds were made during the evaluation and the area can be safely considered not to contain archaeological deposits.

Overall importance: Low

5.6 TRENCH V

A c.50m trench located in Creamery Field (0040) to evaluate linear cropmark features.

TRENCH SIZE: 56.75m
TRENCH ORIENTATION: North - South
FIELD NO.: 0040/0019
CROP: Pasture
LANDOWNER: CWS
ACC.NO.: (856-864 LC 90-91)

Characterisation of main stratigraphic units

TOPSOIL: Loam
SUBSOIL: Gravelly clay loam
NATURAL UNDERLYING GEOLOGY: Alluvial gravels
ARCHAEOLOGY: Post-medieval or modern field drains (4) (7) (24) and pipe-trench (16)

Linear ditch (26) with bank (29) - one of probable cropmarks running from PRN 610 to the Cerney Wick road

HEIGHT OF TOPSOIL: 82.57 to 82.14m OD
HEIGHT OF SUBSOIL: 82.29 to 81.88m OD
HEIGHT OF ARCHAEOLOGY (maximum): 82.32m OD (top of bank (29))
HEIGHT OF ARCHAEOLOGY (minimum): 81.85m OD (base of ditch (26))

Archaeological features

A field drain (4) was recorded running E-W and cut into (9). Width = 0.26m.

Another field drain (7) was noted running E-W and cut within (3), some 0.29m wide.

A pipe trench (16) cut into the subsoil was recorded but left unexcavated, running NE-SW.

A further unexcavated land drain (24) was identified running E-W and cut into the subsoil.

A possible prehistoric boundary ditch (26) was recorded running on an E-W alignment with well defined, sharp edges cut into the gravels (23) and with a slightly undulating base. This was filled with a primary deposit of gritty clay (28) and a secondary fill of similar gravelly clay (27) (top = 82.32, base = 81.85). The ditch has an associated bank (29) consisting of a very thin layer of yellow clay and gravel. Despite considerable plough damage within the trench the partial survival of a bank suggests that

more associated structural evidence may survive in this immediate area. The relationship between this feature and the ring ditch (PRN 610) was not tested by the evaluation programme but remains a point of interest.

Artefactual evidence

One ?Mesolithic flint blade fragment was recovered from CONTEXT 18/21, but this could not be associated with any particular feature. The blade was of a dark flint and broken.

Ecofactual/environmental evidence

No ecofactual/environmental evidence was recovered from trench V.

Value of deposits

The principal cropmark feature proved to be a ditch. The site is of medium importance, being locally interesting for understanding the rural landscape. Dating and function remain unknown and potential from artefacts, ecofacts and environmental evidence is low but the survival is good.

Ploughing has caused considerable damage and the number of drains indicates that the water table is high in this field.

Overall importance: Medium

5.7 TRENCH VI

A c.15m trench in Creamery Field (0019) to evaluate a possible pit detected during the geophysical survey.

TRENCH SIZE: 17m
TRENCH ORIENTATION: North - South
FIELD NO.: 0040/0019
CROP: Pasture
LANDOWNER: CWS
ACC.NO.: (856-865 LC 90-91)

Characterisation of main stratgigraphic units

TOPSOIL: Loam
SUBSOIL: Clay loam
NATURAL UNDERLYING GEOLOGY: Alluvial gravels
ARCHAEOLOGY: Post-medieval or modern field drains (6) and (9) and pipe trenches (3) and (12)

HEIGHT OF TOPSOIL: 82.80 to 82.72m OD
HEIGHT OF SUBSOIL: 82.72 to 82.40m OD
HEIGHT OF ARCHAEOLOGY (maximum) 82.60m OD (top of cut (6))
HEIGHT OF ARCHAEOLOGY (minimum) 82.00m OD (top of cut (3))

Archaeological features

A post-medieval or modern pipe trench (12) was noted running NE-SW, some 0.17m wide, cutting into the natural gravels (17). The fill of the trench (13) contained one fragment of post-medieval tile.

Pipe-trench (3) again cut into the gravels (17) and (18) ran on a NNE-SSW alignment, and also disturbed the earlier drains (6) and (9). This contained a series of gravelly - clay fills (14), (15) and (16). No artefactual material was recovered from these fills by which this relatively modern feature could be more closely dated.

A field drain (6) was found, 0.41m wide, orientated NE-SW, cutting into the natural gravels (17) and (18).

A further field drain (9) was also encountered, 0.46m wide, running NE-SW,and again cutting into the natural gravels. No artefacts were found within its fill.

Artefactual evidence

Only one artefact was recovered from the trench, a post-medieval or modern tile fragment from the modern pipe trench (12). The potential for the recovery of finds in this area would appear to be low.

Ecofactual/environmental evidence

No animal or human bone was found in trench VI. The minor features and plough/subsoils were not sampled for plant remains.

As with the ecofactual evidence, no samples were taken for pollen analysis, given the lack of significant archaeological deposits within the trench.

Value of deposits

The suspected pit, indicated by the geophysical survey, was not located, despite two extensions to the original trench.

The results of this evaluation trench are useful in emphasising the low potential of this area.

Overall importance: Low

5.8 TRENCH VII

A single trench in Beggars Field (3500), 30m long extended to an L-shaped trench to evaluate a circular cropmark enclosure (PRN 621).

TRENCH SIZE: 60m total
TRENCH ORIENTATION: West-East and North-South (2 x 30m arms)
FIELD NO.: 3500
CROP: Arable
LANDOWNER: CWS
ACC.NO.: (856-866 LC 90-91)

Characterisation of main stratigraphic units

TOPSOIL: Loam
SUBSOIL: Clay loam
NATURAL UNDERLYING GEOLOGY: Alluvial gravels
ARCHAEOLOGY: Linear ditch features (13) (14) (15) (17) (19) (21) (23) (26) (30) (34) and (40) are all believed to relate to the prehistoric ring ditch and/or associated structures

HEIGHT OF TOPSOIL: 83.24 to 82.92m OD
HEIGHT OF SUBSOIL: 82.98 to 82.78m OD
HEIGHT OF ARCHAEOLOGY (maximum): 82.99m OD (top of bank (35))
HEIGHT OF ARCHAEOLOGY (minimum): 82.48m OD (base of cut (30))

Archaeological features

A ditch feature (30) was encountered within the trench, the original cut into the natural gravels (39) of a prehistoric ring ditch with a sharp profile and flat bottom. This ditch possessed a probable internal bank on the southern side and a clearer counterscarp bank on its northern side. The ditch contained a primary fill (29) of gravels and (28) of dirtier gravels. The ditch was subsequently recut (27) and filled with a silty-loam (9) and (6) on top. The ditch, 3.24m wide, ran on an E-W orientation and contained no finds. (Top 82.98m, base 82.48m OD).

Another section (26) of the same ring ditch was encountered, consisting of a sharp-sided and flat-bottomed ditch, 3.18m wide, cut into the natural gravels (39). This contained a primary fill of gravels (25) which was later recut by (11) and filled with (10), a silty clay-loam, and then by a clay-loam (3). Orientation of the ditch was approximately NE-SW. An internal bank of gravel (35) survived on its northern side. (Top 83.02m, base 82.48m OD). Fill (25) contained one late Neolithic or early Bronze Age discoid scraper and several similar types were discovered as surface finds close to the trench.

A counterscarp bank may have existed on the southern side of the ditch but any structure has been removed by the pit fill (13) which had a maximum width of 1.90m and filled with a clay-loam soil (12). (Top 82.99m, base 82.76m OD).

A possible trackway ditch (15) was also encountered. This was filled with a sticky clay-loam fill (31). The feature ran on an E-W orientation and possessed a broad shallow profile, 2.7m wide. No finds were recovered from this feature. (Top 82.98m, base 82.61m OD).

A linear feature (14) was noted running on an ENE-WSW alignment. Its width was approximately 1.50m but it contained no artefacts. (Top 82.94m, base 82.75m OD).

Ditch (40), 2.84m wide, was found to run across the trench on an E-W alignment and was filled with a sticky clay-loam (5). No finds were recovered from the feature. (Top 82.87m, base 82.62m OD).

Ditch (17) was a further flat-bottomed ditch running N-S parallel with ditch (19). (Top 82.90m, base 82.74m OD).

Ditch (19), 1.14m wide, ran on a N-S orientation and possessed a crude V-shaped profile. The ditch ran parallel to (17) and was filled with a gritty loam (18). No finds were recovered from this feature. (Top 82.92m, base 82.68m OD).

Ditch (21), running N-S, was irregularly cut and had two troughs within it. On its west side its profile was sharp but less clear to the south. It was filled with (36) a stoney gritty clay-loam and subsequently with (20), a similar clay-loam deposit. The width of the feature was 1.45m. (Top 82.95m, base 82.66m OD).

A further linear feature (23) was encountered, 1.45m wide, running N-S and containing a gritty clay loam (20). (Top 82.90m, base 82.73m OD).

Artefactual evidence

Except for the important Late Neolithic-Early Bronze Age scraper no artefactual evidence was recovered from trench VII.

Ecofactual/environmental evidence

Ditch fills (7), (9), (10), (25) and (28) produced fragments of charcoal and snails, but no seeds were identified and the samples were dominated by roots.

Ditch fill (6) contained roots and modern seeds. There were also snails including Ceciliodes acicula, a subterranean species which indicates, along with the modern seeds, some disturbance.

Value of deposits

Lying close to the Scheduled Area AM 899, containing complex cropmark evidence of rural settlement (PRN 315) this site is of high importance. The discoid scraper from fill (25) of ditch (26) suggests a Late Neolithic-Early Bronze Age date for the enclosure. There is a pausity of artefactual evidence and the samples assessed indicate recent disturbance of ditch fills and low potential for providing environmental evidence. However, the ditch features and associated banks survive remarkably well given the intensity of agricultural practices.

The surprisingly numerous linear ditches relating to the ring ditch and to associated features suggests a greater complexity of the monument in this area than first anticipated from other sources of evidence. The possibility of structural and/or occupation evidence surviving in or around the monument cannot be ruled out.

The results of the evaluation have provided a Late Neolithic-Early Bronze Age date for the site but have failed to say much about its function. The complexity of this site suggests that it still offers opportunities for further understanding of the rural settlement in this area. The fact that the ditches of the enclosure were recut suggests long term usage of the site. The possible Bronze Age pottery in trench IX, only 300m away, suggests the possibility of occupation of that date in the vicinity.

Spatially related to fieldsystems associated with the important cropmark complex (PRN 315) and the cropmark complex close to Westfield Farm, this ditched enclosure lies, surprisingly, just outside the Scheduled Area AM 899 but is of high importance.

Overall importance: High

5.9 TRENCH VIII

A single 25m trench in Beggars Field (1100) to evaluate anomalies shown on the geophysical survey.

TRENCH SIZE: 25m
TRENCH ORIENTATION: North - South
FIELD NO.: 1100
CROP: Arable
LANDOWNER: CWS
ACC.NO.: (856-867 LC 90-91)

Characterisation of main stratigraphic units

TOPSOIL: Loam
SUBSOIL: Gravelly clay loam
NATURAL UNDERLYING GEOLOGY: Alluvial gravels
ARCHAEOLOGY: Ditch feature (15)
Ditch feature (10)
Postholes (8) (11) (18 - 22) (28 - 47)
(53 - 71)

HEIGHT OF TOPSOIL: 83.11 to 82.85m OD
HEIGHT OF SUBSOIL: 82.92 to 82.69m OD
HEIGHT OF ARCHAEOLOGY (maximum): 82.71m OD (top of p/h (54))
HEIGHT OF ARCHAEOLOGY (minimum): 82.15m OD (base of p/h (47))

Archaeological features

A wide and shallow ditch feature (15) running E-W was noted, some 3.3m wide, and filled with (3) and (4). It was not clear whether this feature was cut from a higher level than recorded and subsequently truncated by ploughing. No finds were recovered from the feature, which dates after the postholes described below. (Top 82.55m, base 82.46m OD).

A second ditch feature (10) was recorded, some 1.09m wide, with a reasonably sharp ditch profile cut into the natural gravels (4) and the subsoil (3) which covered the widespread posthole evidence from this trench. Again no finds were recovered from this ditch. (Top 82.62m, base 82.44m OD).

A large number of post- and stake holes were encountered across the length of the trench. These ranged in size from 0.10 to 0.30m in diameter, and from 0.08 to 0.42m in depth. (Max. top of posthole 82.71m max. base of posthole 82.15m OD).

Major concentrations of postholes occurred between 0-3m, at 9m and from 12-20m. Although extrapolation of possible building positions from the data in this narrow trench is very difficult the patterning does at least indicate significant settlement in the area, believed to relate to the nearby late prehistoric/early

Roman enclosure.

Several finds of interest were recovered from the plough and subsoil horizons. One flint waste flake was found within the loam soil (2) and a further three possible flakes came from (3) along with one broken serrated blade of likely Mesolithic or Neolithic date. One abraded light grey pot sherd containing limestone and iron inclusions was found in the subsoil (3), but is of unknown prehistoric date.

Artefactual evidence

Trench VIII contained only a small amount of artefactual evidence. The flint and ceramics discussed above indicated early prehistoric and later activity in the area. However, given the absence of finds from sealed contexts or even in close association with the postholes it was not possible to date the widespread signs of previous structures.

Ecofactual/environmental evidence

No animal or human bone was found in trench VIII. A sample from a typical posthole fill (18) was analysed for ecofactual evidence but no charred remains were present. No environmental evidence was found within the analysed sample of (18).

Value of deposits

Within the Scheduled Area AM 899. It was not known that evidence of structures existed in this area. The structures are undated but lie in close proximity to both the ditched enclosure (PRN 621) and the complex cropmark site (PRN 315). The features encountered in this trench did not agree entirely with the results of the geophysical survey. A greater range of small features was encountered than was expected.

Overall importance: High

5.10 TRENCH IX

A single trench c.30m in Beggars Field (1100) to evaluate anomalies from the geophysical survey.

TRENCH SIZE: 31.2m
TRENCH ORIENTATION: North-East to South-West
FIELD NO.: 1100
CROP: Arable
LANDOWNER: CWS
ACC.NO.: (856-868 LC 90-91)

Characterisation of main stratigraphic units

TOPSOIL: Loam
SUBSOIL: Clay loam
NATURAL UNDERLYING GEOLOGY: Alluvial gravels
ARCHAEOLOGY: Undated narrow gully (9)
Undated pit (10)
Undated postholes (18) and (20)
Linear channel/gully (6)
Alluvial stream channel (16)

HEIGHT OF TOPSOIL: 83.20 to 82.85m OD
HEIGHT OF SUBSOIL: 82.91 to 82.57m OD
HEIGHT OF ARCHAEOLOGY (maximum): 82.50m OD (top of p/h (21))
HEIGHT OF ARCHAEOLOGY (minimum): 82.20m OD (base of p/h (21))

Archaeological features

A narrow clay-filled gully or possible plough scar (9) was recorded running on an E-W alignment, 0.08m wide and 0.05m deep. This cut into the dirty gravel subsoil (4).

This was partially disturbed and cut away by the cut (10) of a scoop or pit like feature cut into the gravels, and filled with a reddish-brown fine loam fill (11). On removal of this fill a circular posthole (22) was revealed. This was cut down into the natural gravels and contained a red brown gravelly-loam fill (21), lacking any artefactual material.

The overlying pit or scoop is of unknown date and function but may well be early given that no cut was visible within the subsoil to suggest a recent disturbance. The recovery of similar postholes and pits within trenches VIII, X, XI and XII suggests a widespread presence of early structures throughout the area of the field.

One further posthole was found (18) cutting into the natural gravels and filled with (19), a dark brown-grey clay loam. No artefacts were found in this fill.

A possible water gully (6) running NE-SW was noted within test pit 1, cut into the subsoil (3). The fill (7) contained one coarse fossil-shell tempered sandy ware sherd, of possible Iron Age date. (Top 82.71m, base 82.65m OD).

One feature of apparently natural formation was (16), a large sharp profiled channel running E-W cut into the blue-grey clay (17) underlying the alluvial gravels and filled with (15) a dark grey brown, mottled-blue gritty clay. This channel seems to have been subsequently overlain with alluvial gravels and then recut by a later channel (12) filled with a dark brown gritty clay. This later channel was subsequently sealed by subsoil. (Top 82.75m, base 81.95m OD).

Of particular interest in trench IX were a number of pot sherds from the subsoil (3) of prehistoric and Roman date. Six sherds were recovered from this horizon and have been assigned a date range from the Late Bronze Age to the early Roman period. These would tend to suggest a long settlement history within and around the present Scheduled Area.

Artefactual evidence

A number of early pot sherds, in moderately fresh condition, were recovered from the general subsoil level (3) and are discussed above. One sherd of possible Iron Age date was found within the fill of gully (7). The find may be residual but the potential exists for the good recovery of similar artefact in proximity to the evaluation trench.

Ecofactual/environmental evidence

No ecofactual or environmental evidence was recovered from trench IX.

Value of deposits

This trench produced artefactual evidence indicating a prehistoric to Romano-British date for the early field systems and enclosures in this area. The potential for more finds seems high, though once again ploughing and subsoiling have caused great damage. One feature would appear to be natural, indicating that not all linear cropmarks are manmade features.

Overall importance: High

5.11 TRENCH X

A 30m trench in Beggars Field to evaluate the internal area of the sub-rectangular enclosure seen as a cropmark.

TRENCH SIZE: 30m
TRENCH ORIENTATION: East - West
FIELD NO.: 1100
CROP: Arable
LANDOWNER: CWS
ACC.NO.: (856-869 LC 90-91)

Characterisation of main stratigraphic units

TOPSOIL: Loam
SUBSOIL: Clay loam
NATURAL UNDERLYING GEOLOGY: Alluvial gravels
ARCHAEOLOGY: Enclosure ditch (11) and recut (7)
Possible ditch features (5) (12) and (17)

HEIGHT OF TOPSOIL: 82.84 to 82.19m OD
HEIGHT OF SUBSOIL: 82.37 to 81.83m OD
HEIGHT OF ARCHAEOLOGY (maximum): 82.29m OD (top of ditch 11)
HEIGHT OF ARCHAEOLOGY (minimum): 81.37m OD (base of 11)

Archaeological features

Removal of the overlying ploughsoil (1) and subsoil (2) revealed a series of ditch and pit-like features (5), (12) and (17), only glimpsed within the trench and all cut into the natural gravels (4) and (14). All the features were shallow and their full profile and function could not be established. No material was recovered from their fills to date them.

A gradual slope in the natural gravels was noted towards the eastern end of the trench. This feature (16) was filled with an unusual deposit (13), an olive yellow clay loam of unknown origin. It was also encountered at the northern end of trench XI.

One major ditch feature (11) running NE-SW was recorded. This was a V-shaped ditch containing a primary fill (10) of gravelly sandy-loam. This feature was subsequently recut (7) and later filled up with a gravelly loam (8). No dating evidence was recovered from this multi-phase feature. The absence of large quantities of domestic material in the immediate area of the evaluation trench would suggest that the main focus of occupation lies slightly further afield, perhaps in the direction of trench XI where a possible roundhouse gully was discovered.

Artefactual evidence

No artefactual evidence was recovered from the trench.

Ecofactual/environmental evidence

No human or animal bone was found in trench X. The unusual yellow clay fill (13) of the possible shallow ditch feature (12) was sampled. This proved not to contain any charred plant remains and was heavily contaminated with modern roots.

No environmental evidence was recovered from trench X.

Value of deposits

The recut ditch and associated features indicate long term occupation of this site and once again the complexity of interrelated cut features was more complex than expected.

It is not possible to assign a date or function to this central area of the sub-rectangular enclosure, other than to say that the range of post holes suggest structural complexity.

Overall importance: High

5.12 TRENCH XI

Machine-cut trench across the intersection of the ditches of the smaller and larger sub-rectangular enclosures to establish their relationship and retrieve secure dating evidence for each phase.

TRENCH SIZE: 34.8m
TRENCH ORIENTATION: North-East - South-West
FIELD NO.: 1100
CROP: Arable
LANDOWNER: CWS
ACC.NO.: (856-870 LC 90-91)

Characterisation of main stratigraphic units

TOPSOIL: Loam
SUBSOIL: Clay loam
NATURAL UNDERLYING GEOLOGY: Alluvial gravels
ARCHAEOLOGY: Enclosure ditch (12)
Circular ? roundhouse ditch (6)
Ditch features (4) (23)
Postholes (8) (15) (19) (21) (25-29) (35) (37) (40) (41) (51) (54-57) (62-69) (71-74) (80) (82) (84) (86) (87) (89) (91) (93-95)

HEIGHT OF TOPSOIL: 83.14 to 82.89m OD
HEIGHT OF SUBSOIL: 82.89 to 82.54m OD
HEIGHT OF ARCHAEOLOGY (maximum): 82.70m OD (top of (10))
HEIGHT OF ARCHAEOLOGY (minimum): 81.83M OD (base of (12))

Archaeological features

A shallow ditch or gully feature (4) some 0.37m wide and 0.10m deep was revealed by excavation at the north end of the trench, filled with a yellow-green clay loam (5). The gully possessed a shallow profile and ran on a NE-SW alignment, cut into the natural gravels (3) and running into the wider ditch feature (23). This contained a similar yellow-green clay fill (24) and both ditches are believed to be components of or connected with the ?Romano-British ditched enclosure (PRN 315).

A major ditch feature (12) was encountered, running E-W and some 2.10m wide at the top of the feature. The sharply V-shaped ditch contained a primary fill (45) of gravelly loam and a secondary fill (44) of brown-grey loam. Subsequent loamy fills (43), (17), (14) and (13) were also encountered. The upper ditch fills were truncated by ploughing and covered by subsoil layer (2). (Top 82.69m, base 81.89m OD). No artefacts or surviving structural evidence was found. The ditch is believed to be that of the sub-rectangular enclosure, parallelled by ditch (10).

Adjacent to this ditch (12) was a second and shallower ditch (10) 1.15m wide running E-W and filled with a brown loam (11). (Top 82.68m, base 82.50m OD). This feature is undated and appears to run parallel to ditch (12) and was recorded as a cropmark.

One further ditch of particular interest was found. Ditch (6) followed a curving line, coming out of section at 16.80m and returning at around 25.90m with a maximum visible width of 0.54m. (Top 82.78m , base 82.69m OD). This feature is thought to be the ditch of a roundhouse and would appear to have lain *inside* the sub-rectangular enclosure. It contained a primary gravelly-loam fill (70), a secondary fill (18) of red-brown loam (containing a flint core) and a third fill (7) of loam, containing five undated flakes, including one burnt piece. The ditch feature was found to have cut an entire posthole (37) indicating more than one phase of building in the area.

An irregularly shaped scoop feature cut (8) into the gravels, filled with a brown loam soil, was found on excavation to contain a number of post- and stake holes (26)-(29) which may relate to a former four post structure. A large number of further postholes were found cut into the natural alluvial gravels and filled with gravelly clay loams. Concentrations were found between 1-7m (respected by ditch (12), between 18-22m and between 28-32m along the length of the trench. Although estimation of structures from posthole positions is fraught with difficulty it is believed that some of them are paired with others, for example posthole line 156-164 with line 155-162.

Artefactual evidence

Flint and ceramic artefacts were recovered from the trench. One sherd of seventeenth to nineteenth century glazed red earthenware was recovered from the subsoil (2). Flint found within the enclosure ditch fills (7) and (8) was not datable but suggests that similar and perhaps datable material may be recoverable within the area.

Ecofactual/environmental evidence

One cattle bone in poor condition was found in the secondary ditch fill (7). Analysis of a soil sample from the primary ditch fill (18) revealed no charred plant remains and a considerable number of modern roots.

Primary ditch fill (18) was sampled and analysed for environmental remains. A few charcoal remains were found but the overall potential of the ditch fill of trench XI is thought to be low.

Value of deposits

Taken together the results of trenches X and XI suggest a greater structural and phasing complexity than was expected. The general dating evidence, the possible roundhouse ditch cutting complex postholes all point to the sub-rectangular enclosure having considerable potential as a separate and earlier area of occupation from the main rural settlement to the east (PRN 315).

The results of the evaluation in trench XI confirm the AP data which indicates parallel ditches on the south side of the sub-rectangular enclosure. The lack of the main enclosure ditch in this trench suggests a possible lateral displacement of the readings.

The potential for ecofactual and environmental data seems poor, but the site is clearly of great importance for its structural complexity. Ploughing and subsoiling in this field have evidently caused considerable damage to stratigraphy above the top of the river gravels.

The posthole evidence at the southern end of trench XI indicates structures outside of the known enclosure ditches. Judging by the unexpected posthole evidence from trench VIII there is potential for further archaeology beyond the enclosures.

Overall importance: High

5.13 TRENCH XII

Machine-cut trench to establish the character and to define the archaeological significance of a series of pits and linear features highlighted by the geophysical survey.

TRENCH SIZE: 40.4m
TRENCH ORIENTATION: North-West - South-East
FIELD NO.: 1100
CROP: Arable
LANDOWNER: CWS
ACC.NO.: (856-871 LC 90-91)

Characterisation of main stratigraphic units

TOPSOIL: Loam
SUBSOIL: Clay loam
NATURAL UNDERLYING GEOLOGY: Alluvial gravels.
ARCHAEOLOGY: Undated postholes (5) (12)
Pit or ditch terminal (7)

HEIGHT OF TOPSOIL: 82.61 to 82.29m OD
HEIGHT OF SUBSOIL: 82.46 to 81.86m OD
HEIGHT OF ARCHAEOLOGY (maximum): 82.17m OD
HEIGHT OF ARCHAEOLOGY (minimum): 81.63m OD

Archaeological features

After removal of the overlying ploughsoil and subsoil, which contained only two pot sherds, of indeterminate date, several postholes were encountered. Posthole (5) was 0.15m deep and 0.25m in diameter, filled with a loamy clay (6). A second posthole (12) of similar size was found nearby, within a shallow depression (14) in the gravels. This contained a gravelly loam fill (14). No finds were recovered from these fills.

One other feature of interest was found. This was an irregularly shaped ditch terminal or pit feature (7) containing a gravelly loam fill (8). Within (8) several sherds of early pottery were found. One was a rimsherd from a grey ware jar of a fabric type found locally at Ashton Keynes and of probable second century AD date. Two other sherds were found. One contained calcined flint and quartz sand, of unknown date. The other was a dark grey-brown sandy ware sherd of likely Roman date. The enigmatic pit or ditch feature (7) is thus likely to be a further component of the settlement complex in an area perhaps less intensively occupied than the main enclosure.

Artefactual evidence

As discussed above the trench provided several important early, datable sherds and the potential for recovery of similar material is suggested.

Ecofactual/environmental evidence

No ecofactual or environmental evidence was recovered from trench.

Value of deposits

Less evidence of intensive occupation was discovered in this area than in trenches X and XI. However, essential dating evidence confirming widespread use of this area in the Romano-British period was encountered. The aerial photographs indicate the possibility of more features such as pits in this area.

Although this area of XII is ploughed and therefore potentially poor in ecofactual and environmental evidence it can be seen that the complementary evidence from all the trenches in fields (1100) and (5769) suggest potential for understanding the development of this rural settlement and associated farmland. The proximity of this area to Field 5769 with its ?late prehistoric-Romano-British organic deposit of high importance reaffirms this view.

Overall importance: High

5.14 TRENCH XIII

Machine-cut trench across the line of the alluvially filled depression or stream course to assess the potential for preservation of buried land surfaces and environmental data.

TRENCH SIZE: 70m
TRENCH ORIENTATION: North-West - South-East
FIELD NO.: 5769
CROP: Pasture
LANDOWNER: CWS
ACC.NO.: (856-872 LC 90-91)

Characterisation of main stratigraphic units

TOPSOIL: Clay loam
SUBSOIL: Clay/Organic humified amorphous peaty-loam
NATURAL UNDERLYING GEOLOGY: Alluvial gravels
ARCHAEOLOGY: Pond of Roman or earlier date
Undated posthole line through pond fill
Field boundary and post-medieval/modern drains

HEIGHT OF TOPSOIL: 81.99 to 81.07m OD
HEIGHT OF SUBSOIL: 81.44 to 80.98m OD
HEIGHT OF ARCHAEOLOGY (maximum): 81.59m OD (top of (7))
HEIGHT OF ARCHAEOLOGY (minimum): 80.70m OD (base of (3))

Archaeological features

A number of post-medieval or modern field drains (13) (17) (23) and (27) were encountered running N-S and cut into the organic channel fill (3) from the overlying loam soil. These contained stoney clay or limestone fills.

Beneath the present topsoil (2) a widespread deposit of black organic pond fill was revealed, some 51.5m in length. This overlay subsoil deposits of yellow and brown clays (4) and (6) and natural alluvial gravels (5). Due to the continual seepage of water into the trench the bottom of the organic deposit (3) was not established along its entire length, but the deposit is at least 0.49m in thickness. (Top 81.43m, base 80.70m OD).

Cut into (3) were a line of postholes up to 0.50m in diameter and fairly equally spaced. Flooding of the trench made their investigation difficult but it was established that posthole (15) was cut into (3) rather than predating it. During archaeological supervision of the opening up of the trench, by mechanical excavator, a sherd of Roman pottery was seen lying close to the fill of posthole (25). It is suspected that this originally came from the posthole and consequently suggests a Roman or later structure.

Artefactual evidence

Artefactual remains from trench XIII were scant but were nevertheless of interest. One rim sherd was recovered from the interface of the clay loam topsoil (2) and pond fill (3). This proved to be from a thickened everted rim jar and was discoloured with a laminated, abraded surface. The light grey core with an orange surface and slightly sandy fabric suggests a local origin and a likely date between the second and fourth centuries AD.

Within the black organic deposit one fragment of Roman tile was found, along with a large rim sherd from a flanged rim flagon. The fabric was a dense, sandy orange ware with a grey core, 8cm in diameter, and this survived in good condition. The sherd is believed to date to the late first or early second century AD.

Stone, flint and ceramic artefactual evidence was recovered in small quantities from the organic band (3). The pottery was in a reasonably good condition and was broadly datable. A quantity of heavily patinated and unworked flint was found within (3) as well, in a heavily rolled state. A natural origin for these pieces could not be ruled out.

A further find of particular interest was a fragment of stone slab, a non-local compressed shelly stone, perhaps from the upper levels of the Purbeck - it is too shelly to be from the Forest Marble. Cut on two sides and broken on the third it would appear to have been worked. It was found standing vertically in the base of a channel cut into the natural gravel with the organic layer (3) around and above it. The function of the original stone piece remains uncertain.

Ecofactual/environmental evidence

Two horse bones and one unidentified fragment were found within (3) and are believed to be of Romano-British date. Unusually these include a radius from an immature animal. Further information on the bone material can be found within Supplement B.

A series of bulk samples of peat were taken from within the peat band (3). These proved to contain a considerable quantity of well preserved plant remains of high research potential. These are discussed more fully in the specialist report within Supplement B.

The pollen core was taken from the central area of the organic band. Initial analysis indicated that the preservation of pollen was poor, partly it is suspected because of the base-rich nature of the substrate.

Value of deposits

The organic layer (3) with its associated postholes and likely late prehistoric or Romano-British date is quite remarkable.

The proximity of this apparently ponded deposit to the rural settlement complex (PRN 351) of similar date is unusual in this gravel terrace environment. It is potentially of national importance despite the seemingly poor pollen preservation.

The high water table in this field (at ground level during excavation) and the fact that according to cartographic evidence this field has maintained the same 'S' shape since before the 19th century would indicate the potential for survival of more structural remains.

Certainly any future work in this area should involve a programme of augering to understand the full dimensions of the organic layer, sampling to establish its exact date (samples were taken for C14 dating) and the implementation of a detailed sampling programme of the whole deposit to check the initial poor pollen result.

Overall importance: High

5.15 TRENCH XIV

Machine-cut trench at an angle of approximately 45 degrees to A419 through one house platform and paddock to establish depth of stratigraphy and history of roadside settlement.

TRENCH SIZE: 30m
TRENCH ORIENTATION: West - East
FIELD NO.: 2029
CROP: Pasture
LANDOWNER: CWS
ACC.NO.: (856-873 LC 90-91)

Characterisation of main stratigraphic units

TOPSOIL: Loam
SUBSOIL: Clay loam
NATURAL UNDERLYING GEOLOGY: Alluvial gravels
ARCHAEOLOGY: modern pipeline-associated disturbance
post-medieval road surfaces (16) (18)
Roman gravel quarry pits (30) (31) (34) (36) (37) (38) (47) (48) (50) (54)

HEIGHT OF TOPSOIL: 81.89 to 81.09m OD
HEIGHT OF SUBSOIL: 81.74 to 80.70m OD
HEIGHT OF ARCHAEOLOGY (maximum): 81.58m OD (top of road (16))
HEIGHT OF ARCHAEOLOGY (minimum): 80.06m OD (base of pit (50))

Archaeological features

Removal of ploughsoil (1) and the selective excavation of sections of trench revealed a number of archaeological features. Layers (2) (3) (4) (11) (13) and (15) were initially thought to be gravel and soil spreads connected with roadside settlement. However, the excavation of sample block B revealed a deep and wide strip of modern disturbance across the trench derived from the Latton-Blunsdon pipeline running on a NW-SE line. Numerous bands of dirty gravels and loam soils were consequently found, all upcast from the pipeline, containing a range of metal, glass, bone and ceramic finds ranging from late Medieval through eighteenth and nineteenth century wares to modern ceramics. (Base 80.06m OD).

The depth of excavation of this line would explain the residual presence of an abraded sherd of Roman grey ware in layer (2).

Within sample block A the removal of ploughsoil and pipeline upcast (2) and (3) revealed a well preserved cobbled road surface (16) (top = 81.58m OD) constructed from small sub-rounded limestone pieces and overlain in part by a small area of gravel (55) as a later repair to its surface. Beneath surface (16) lay a thick band of grey silt which is thought to be roadwash. This in

turn overlay an earlier road surface of a more limited extent (18) which contained a considerable quantity of artefactual material within its make up (top 81.32m OD). This included ceramics with a date range incorporating the twelfth to fifteenth century, the late medieval period and a quantity of glazed earthenware pottery dating from the seventeenth to nineteenth centuries. Of particular interest was the presence within the road construction of thirty residual limestone Roman tessarae from a mosaic or tessellated pavement, their original source being unknown. Layer (18) also contained a small farthing trade token, issued in the seventeenth century by Anthony Chance, a Cirencester mercer. The road surface (16) is likely to have been constructed during or after the nineteenth century.

Beneath the lower cobbled surface (18) a sharp sided pit or ditch was noted, thought to be either a roadside ditch or quarry pit associated with the Roman road.

The earliest activity in the area highlighted by the evaluation trench relates to eight quarry pits dug into the alluvial gravels. One of the gravelly loam fills of these scoops contained a rim sherd of grey, micaceous ware, a wheelmade hard sandy ware of Roman date. This was recovered from the base of quarry pit (31) and indicates localised extraction of road building materials for the construction or maintenance of Ermin Street.

No structural evidence relating to Roman or later roadside occupation was encountered during the excavation of the evaluation trench.

Artefactual evidence

By far the greatest quantity of artefacts from the entire evaluation programme were recovered from trench XIV. These covered a date range from the Roman period, through twelfth to fifteenth centuries and late medieval wares to modern ceramics. Much was recovered only loosely stratified within plough and subsoils and from the disturbed layers of spoil derived from the Latton-Blunsdon pipeline construction. Road surfaces (16) and (18) contained quantities of residual material but the majority of clusters centred around the seventeenth to nineteenth centuries. More closely datable artefacts could potentially be recovered from these features.

Ecofactual/environmental evidence

Approximately 5 Kilos of animal bone was found within trench XIV layers, consisting of post-medieval cattle,sheep and pig bones largely in a poor state of preservation. The most interesting of these was a likely post-medieval pig burial cut within the subsoil (14). None of the bone suggested much potential in assisting our understanding of the history of the area. Details in the

specialist report by Mark Maltby in Supplement B.

A soil sample taken from a potentially Roman quarry-pit or road-side ditch (53), sealed by the post-medieval road (18), was analysed. It was found to be the only deposit where root contamination was minimal, and contained a single charred seed and several snails. The seed could not be identified to species and the deposit is of low potential.

Value of deposits

The cutting of the Latton-Blunsdon pipeline has had a high impact on a narrow (c. 2m wide) section of the deposits in this area. However, survival of archaeological deposits is good since Roman material is sealed below Post-medieval stratigraphy.

Evidence for house platforms of post-medieval date taken from the cartographic sources was surprisingly not encountered. The nearby excavations in 1988 by TAU did, however, produce evidence of paths and walls of this date.

Of great potential are the road and associated deposits including the Roman quarry pits. Any opportunity to investigate the history of Ermine Street, with its Roman and post-Roman resurfacings, would be potentially informative. Despite the results of the evaluation there is still potential in this field for the discovery of post-medieval structures lining the road and associated with the now abandoned Thames and Severn canal.

Overall importance: High

5.16 TRENCH XV

Machine-cut trench at an angle of 45 degrees to the A419 to test the area of high magnetic disturbance noted in the geophysical survey, and also the possibility of roadside occupation.

TRENCH SIZE: 40.5m
TRENCH ORIENTATION: West - East
FIELD NO.: 6400
CROP: Pasture
LANDOWNER: CWS
ACC.NO.: (856-874 LC 90-91)

Characterisation of main stratigraphic units

TOPSOIL: Loam
SUBSOIL: Clay loam
NATURAL UNDERLYING GEOLOGY: Alluvial gravels
ARCHAEOLOGY: Canal fill and derived upcast layers.
Roman quarry pits (6) (9)
? Alluvial channel (8)

HEIGHT OF TOPSOIL: 82.31 to 81.23m OD
HEIGHT OF SUBSOIL: 82.17 to 80.49m OD
HEIGHT OF ARCHAEOLOGY (maximum): 82.27m OD (top of canal (2))
HEIGHT OF ARCHAEOLOGY (minimum): 80.38m OD (base of pit (10))

Archaeological features

Removal of overlying ploughsoil (1) revealed the clay and rubble filled canal (2) running N-S and numerous associated gravel and loam soil upcast layers. The original buried land surface (20) was identified within a series of test pits, overlying the natural gravels (3). No finds were recovered from any of these layers.

The subsoil (2) contained a mixture of post-medieval or modern glass, pottery, bone and iron as well as a residual unworked cortical flake. Beneath the subsoil two quarry pits were recognised, cut into the natural gravels. Pit (6), approximately 0.80 by 1.30m in size, was filled with a gravelly loam (7) which contained three handmade bodysherds from different vessels. These were tempered with fossil shell and limestone and suggest an early to middle Iron Age date. (Top 80.94m, base 80.48m OD).

The adjacent quarry pit (9), some 1.80m by 1.50m in size, was again filled with a gravelly loam (10) and contained three Roman sherds. One of these was a bodysherd from a Dorset BB1 jar with acute lattice decoration, dating to the second century AD. A sherd of black fine sandy ware with brown core was also found, of possible Wiltshire origin, along with a further scrap of a sandy bodysherd. The probable Iron Age sherds may be residual but

given the absence of a stratigraphic relationship between the two quarry pits it is not clear whether more than one phase of quarrying may have occurred. (Top 80.79m, base 80.38m OD).

One long linear feature (8) of probable natural origin was also excavated within trench XV. This was a sharp V-shaped channel running NE-SW some 4.70m long, 0.50m deep and with a maximum width of 1.05m. The primary fill of the feature was a brown gravelly clay (12) which contained patches of reddish clay (15). A subsequent fill of grey brown silty loam (11) was lain on top. No finds were recovered from the channel fills and the feature appears to be naturally formed although a man-made origin cannot be ruled out at this stage. A deliberate removal of part of the upper channel fill (11) was made by (4) which subsequently filled with a dark loam (13). The purpose of that action remains unclear.

Artefactual evidence

A small quantity of post-medieval glass, ceramic and iron was found within the subsoil (2). A small amount of early pottery came from the two quarry pits in a fair condition and there is a reasonable potential for the recovery of further datable early artefacts in the area.

Ecofactual/environmental evidence

A single pig bone was found in the subsoil (2) of negligible value. The Roman quarry pit fill (7) was sampled and analysed, producing a small number of snails. Root contamination of this sample was moderate.

Quarry pit fill (7) was also found to contain several small fragments of charcoal. No pollen analysis was carried out on this sample.

Value of deposits

Although the abandoned Thames & Severn Canal is of intrinsic interest as a monument, its section was not studied. Its impact on the archaeology and that of the pipelines adjacent to it would appear to have been total, much of this within the Scheduled Monument.

The survival of Iron Age and Romano-British pottery in adjacent quarry pits is extremely interesting in a critical area of the Scheduled Monument AM 900 lying between the Roman road and rural settlement of known Romano-British date to the east.

Overall importance: High

5.17 TRENCH XVI

Machine-cut trench at an angle of 45 degrees to the A419 in order to establish the exact position of the double ditched trackway visible as a cropmark feature, and to attempt to date it and establish its relationship to any possible roadside occupation.

TRENCH SIZE: 40m
TRENCH ORIENTATION: West - East
FIELD NO.: 6400
CROP: Pasture
LANDOWNER: CWS
ACC.NO.: (8560875 LC 90-91)

Characterisation of main stratigraphic units

TOPSOIL: Loam
SUBSOIL: Clay loam
NATURAL UNDERLYING GEOLOGY: Alluvial gravels
ARCHAEOLOGY: Post-medieval and modern field drains
Undated ditches
Possible Romano-British trackway ditch

HEIGHT OF TOPSOIL: 81.88 to 81.61m OD
HEIGHT OF SUBSOIL: 81.80 to 80.82m OD
HEIGHT OF ARCHAEOLOGY (maximum): 81.64m OD
HEIGHT OF ARCHAEOLOGY (minimum): 80.47m OD

Archaeological features

Removal of ploughsoil (1) and (2) and the underlying subsoils revealed two post-medieval pipelines (19) (49) running NW-SE and a well constructed field drain (40) within ditch cut (12) which contained a sherd of seventeenth to nineteenth century red earthenware ceramic within its gravel fill (13). Both of the pipe trenches appear to have been dug through a band of gravel and loam canal upcast similar to the layers encountered within trench XV.

It is thought that the drain (40) running as it does parallel to the line of the old canal is of a similar date to the canal construction. The drain is cut into subsoil layers (9) and (11) which contained several sherds of eighteenth to nineteenth century earthenwares and must therefore date from that period or later. The subsoil unsurprisingly also yielded several residual Roman sherds, including a Severn-Valley ware variant.

Two shallow ditch features (52) and (69) were also noted, some 1.10m and 1.72m wide respectively and both running on a N-S line. Ditch (52) was cut into the natural gravels (27) and filled with a gravelly loam (53) but contained no finds. Ditch (69) was also undatable; a similar shallow feature cut into the subsoil and

filled with a gravelly loam (70). The function of both ditches is uncertain.

Towards the eastern end of trench XVI several potentially interesting features were identified, namely two shallow ditch features (29) and (32) running on a NE-SW line and filled with a gravelly loam (30) and a loamy clay (33) and cut into the natural gravels. Both ditches lie close to an area of compact slightly raised gravels (80) which could not easily be interpreted within the narrow limits of the evaluation trench. All three features are possibly the remains of the trackway (PRN 616?) linking the Romano-British rural settlement to the Roman road. The trackway was noted on aerial photographs but becomes indistinct in this area and was not detected during the geophysical survey.

Artefactual evidence

A range of flint, ceramic, glass and iron artefacts were found within trench XVI. The majority of these finds were derived from the plough and subsoils, from canal upcast layers or from the fills of field drains and pipes. Several of these contained residual sherds of Roman pottery presumably dragged up from further down, and suggesting similar material might be found nearby from undisturbed features.

Ecofactual/environmental evidence

No samples from trench XVI were sent for ecofactual or environmental analysis.

Value of deposits

A well defined area of recent impact was recorded in this evaluation trench. The impact from the infilled Thames & Severn Canal and two pipelines was high, leaving only the area furthest from the road with archaeological potential. Here the ecofactual and environmental potential is assumed to be poor, but structural evidence in the form of ditches remains as it does elsewhere in the study area. The dating evidence from trench XVI indicates that the potential in this area of the Scheduled Monument where the ditched trackway runs down to the Roman road is high. Despite the very important find of a pit containing Neolithic material (PRN 100) by M J Stone, no further evidence of activity of this date was found.

Overall importance: High

5.18 TRENCH XVII

Machine-cut trench at 45 degrees to A419 located between it and the line of the Thames & Severn Canal in order to assess the potential for roadside settlement in this area.

TRENCH SIZE: 30m
TRENCH ORIENTATION: North - South
FIELD NO.: ?
CROP: Pasture
LANDOWNER: CWS
ACC.NO.: (856-876 LC 90-91)

Characterisation of main stratigraphic units

TOPSOIL: Loam
SUBSOIL: Clay loam
NATURAL UNDERLYING GEOLOGY: Alluvial clay and gravels
ARCHAEOLOGY: stone filled field drain
gravel band of ? canal upcast
alluvial deposits of the River Churn

HEIGHT OF TOPSOIL: 79.20 - 78.75m OD
HEIGHT OF SUBSOIL: 78.75 - 77.70m OD
HEIGHT OF ARCHAEOLOGY (maximum): 79.02m OD (top of gravel (6))
HEIGHT OF ARCHAEOLOGY (minimum): 78.94m OD (base of gravel (6))

Archaeological features

Despite difficulties in recording this trench due to problems of flooding it was noted that almost no archaeological features were present except for the infilled, abandoned Thames & Severn Canal, one stone filled drain and a thin, limited band of gravels, believed to be further upcast from the canal. A deep band of yellow clay at the west end of the trench, alongside the Cricklade Road, appears to indicate movement and alluvial deposits of the River Churn.

Artefactual, ecofactual and environmental evidence

No artefacts were found within trench XVII. No samples were sent for ecofactual or environmental analysis.

Value of deposits

No structural evidence alongside the Roman road (the modern Cricklade Road) was encountered.

Overall importance: Low

CHAPTER 6

CHRONOLOGICAL SUMMARY

6.1 General

The results of the Stage 1 Archaeological Assessment and the Stage 2 Field Evaluation enable the sites and monuments to be described in their own right and within their national, regional and local setting. The nature of the study area (long and thin) and the type of archaeology involved (largely ploughed-out cropmarks) has made it difficult to define single monument classes. The results have, however, added greatly to our knowledge and allow more precise comments to be made about the date, extent, condition and potential of the archaeological deposits within the study area. In chapter 7 the study area is divided into zones of High, Medium and Low Archaeological Importance. A programme of Mitigation Action for the proposed scheme is then put forward.

6.2 Early Prehistoric (Mesolithic-Bronze Age)

The study area

Evidence of prehistoric activity within the study area was suggested by the Stage 1 Assessment, full details of which are given in Appendix A of Supplement A:

PRN 100
Neolithic feature, pit with finds.
PRN 625
Ring ditch of uncertain date, probably a ploughed-out barrow of Bronze Age date.
PRN 621
Ditched enclosure of uncertain date, probably a stock enclosure. There is a possible break in the ditch on the north side. The enclosure is surrounded by a concentric ditch with appended ditches radiating out.

Stage 1 and Stage 2 results

Possible Mesolithic flints were recovered from trenches V and VIII. Late Mesolithic (c.6500 BC+) flint tools and scatters have been located at over 40 sites in neighbouring Gloucestershire but little excavation of such sites has occurred and our knowledge of Mesolithic settlement remains limited. There appears to be little potential for the discovery of Mesolithic archaeology in the study area.

The Neolithic feature PRN 100 is of some significance and indicates occupation in the area of field 6400 at this time. Structures of this date are considered difficult to locate. No further evidence of activity of this date was found in trench XVI.

Within the Stage 2 Field Evaluation programme little artefactual material datable to the Neolithic was found, with finds only of a broken serrated blade from trench VIII of Mesolithic-Neolithic date, and a late Neolithic-Early Bronze Age discoid scraper recovered from trench VII, fill (25). This last find was the only artefactual evidence from trench VII and clearly dates the site. The oval shape of the enclosure, the apparent break in the ditch on the north side and the clear evidence of recutting of the main ditches tend to indicate that this is not a ploughed-out barrow. The shallow nature of the ditch profiles and the lack of evidence of postholes inside the ditches also makes it difficult to understand this as a stock enclosure. The evidence of Bronze Age material in trench IX and the undated posthole structures in trench VIII all suggest that there is the possibility of late Neolithic or Early Bronze Age occupation in this area. A fact that was not recognised before the Field Evaluation.

Bronze Age barrows are common throughout the parish but no settlement has so far been located. In neighbouring Gloucestershire around 300 examples of round barrows are known, constructed from the Neolithic period onwards, with most being Bronze Age in date. As Darvill (1987) states, such monuments degrade easily as a result of cultivation practices since prehistoric times. The aerial photography evidence of ring ditches is often all that remains of such features within the Upper Thames Valley. Early to late Bronze Age activity is suggested from cropmark evidence and reinforced by the results of the Field Evaluation, although even here little artefactual material was recovered, and features believed to be of Bronze Age date remain undated.

Monument Classes

The following monument classes have been tentatively identified as being of prehistoric date or with possible prehistoric origins and lie wholly or partially within the study area:

?Unenclosed settlement
(Field 1100, Trenches VIII and IX, AM 899)

Bronze Age occupation refuse was limited to a small number of loosely stratified finds within the clay-loam subsoil

of trench IX. Three thick-walled body sherds of a late Bronze Age to early Iron Age date were recovered, along with two thinner sherds that could only be assigned a broadly pre-Roman date. All of these finds may be of Iron Age date rather than late Bronze Age. This evidence suggests that some of the cropmark and posthole features within field 1100 may be of prehistoric date.

Oval ditched enclosure
(PRN 621, Field 3500, Trench VII)

An oval ditched enclosure (PRN 621) was investigated by trench VII. Two sections, 26 and 30 of the ditched enclosure were studied and were seen to have been recut. Primary fill (25) of ditch section 26 produced a Late Neolithic-Early Bronze Age discoid scraper, the only dating evidence for the site. Numerous associated linear ditch features (13), (14), (15), (17), (19), (21), (23), (34) and (40) were encountered but the evaluation of the monument was unable to establish the nature of these ditches, or their relationship to the ring ditch. One feature, (15), appears to be a broad trackway. As Smith (1972) has discussed, circular or penannular cropmarks, like PRN 621, with broad ditches and indications of recutting, occur at Lechlade and Kempsford. One such at Lechlade proved to be of Roman date and uncertain function.

The evaluation of the monument has suggested an early prehistoric date and a greater degree of complexity than originally anticipated from the results of the Stage 1 Assessment. The proximity of Bronze Age pottery and undated posthole structures in trenches VIII and IX produce a picture of possible Late Neolithic-Early Bronze Age occupation in this area. The potential for the recovery of structural evidence associated with the monument is thought to be reasonably high and is indicated by the survival of internal and counterscarp banks. This is despite the considerable plough damage. Possible occupation-related stratigraphy may also exist in an archaeologically-retrievable condition at the centre of the enclosure and there remains a strong potential for the future, fuller understanding of the monument. It is rated as being of High Archaeological Importance a position that is reinforced by its proximity to the Scheduled Monument AM 899.

Ring ditch
(PRN 625, Field 5400, Trench III)

Evaluation trench III sought to investigate the date and nature of the ring ditch, PRN 625, which was believed from

cropmark evidence to be the ploughed out remains of a Bronze Age barrow. Subsequent aerial photgraphic evidence has shown that a number of ice cracks of geological origin explain the cropmark at this location. PRN 625 has been acccurately located some 100m to the southwest, and lies outside the corridor.

Trench I (A-F)

Evaluation excavation at Trench I sought to test the results of the fieldwalking programme which suggested the position of a prehistoric site on the basis of a concentration of two pottery sherds and four pieces of worked flint. Further discoveries of worked flint and cut features including a gully and a number of hollows, as well as a gravel pad suggested the presence of human activity centred further upslope toward Fosse Farm and probably below the current A419. The evaluation results confirm the potential for the discovery of further prehistoric material but did not allow interpretation of function or date of the surviving features. A bipolar core of Late Mesolithic or early Neolithic date was recovered. The field has been ploughed for some years. Large quantities of medieval and post-medieval pottery were also recovered from the site.

Regional Setting

Generally, there is a scarcity of Neolithic and Bronze Age settlement sites before c. 1000 BC compared to the number of funerary and religious monuments known. In the local context of the proposed route of the bypass Neolithic long barrows are not known. Ring ditches are more numerous with eight in the vicinity of the study area and two lie partially or wholly within the corridor of interest. No early Bronze Age settlements are known within Gloucestershire, but middle Bronze Age occupation sites are known within the Severn Valley, close to excavated pits and boundary ditches containing middle Bronze Age material (Darvill 1987). Evidence of late Bronze Age occupation is again limited but is probably to be found within the same general areas as middle Bronze Age sites. The overall pattern seems to be of well dispersed settlement.

Fasham (1978) and Smith (1972) have discussed the wide variety in date, form and function of ring ditches. Smith for example, has commented that 60% of the sites that were reviewed in the Thames Valley (Hamlin and Case 1963) "could not be positively classified as a barrow". Kinnes (1976), reviewing the middle Neolithic evidence, has indi

cated possible mortuary, ritual or domestic functions.

This view is emphasised by Woodward (1978) who has shown within the Great Ouse Valley, that "it was evident that the ring ditches were set away from the main habitation foci". It is possible that an occupation site of Bronze Age date might have lain beneath the later rural settlement PRN 315, relating to ring ditches in the vicinity. The archaeological potential would seem to exist within the corridor for these themes to be studied further. It is this potential, highlighted by the Stage 1 and Stage 2 surveys which has led to the high grading of these monuments.

6.3 Late Prehistoric - Romano-British

The study area

Within the parish of Latton there are a number of sites and monuments of late prehistoric or Romano-British date. The following SMR entries were noted as lying wholly or partially within the study area:

PRN 300 and 301/SU 09 NE
The Roman road from Corinium to Calleva Atrebatum, Ermine Street, The Street.
PRN 304
Pits containing RB pottery and debris of small building.
PRN 305
Evidence of Roman building.
PRN 307
Coin and brooch find of low accuracy.
PRN 315
Romano-British rural settlement, the majority of this monument lies outside the study area.
PRN 615
Double ditched trackway leading from the Romano-British rural settlement to the Ermine Street.

Stage 1 and Stage 2 results
Monument Classes

The following monument classes have been tentatively identified following the results of the Stage 2 Field Evaluation and lie wholly or partially within the study area:

Farmstead/Fieldsystem
(Field 1100, Trenches VIII to XII, AM 899)

Three sherds of possible early Iron Age pottery were recovered from subsoil layer (3) within trench IX, along with one sherd of grey-black ware with a light brown interior. The paste of this latter sherd contained fine orange grog and organic voids, and is thought to date between the late Iron Age and early Roman period. A further possible Iron Age sherd from trench IX was recovered from the fill (7) of a shallow gully cut into the subsoil. It is described as a coarse fossil shell-tempered black sandy ware.

Trenches VIII to XII yielded quantities of Iron Age and Roman pottery in association with a number of ditch and quarry pit features. A number of trenches contained postholes and ditches indicative of widespread settlement and related features throughout the area.

Trench VIII contained several concentrations of postholes of unknown date, any associated structures having been ploughed out. One abraded light grey sherd with ?iron and limestone inclusions was found within the subsoil. This is thought to be of early but uncertain date. Evidence of structures was unexpected in this area and it indicates the potential for a much wider spread of occupation throughout field 1100.

Trench IX contained two undated postholes, (18) and (22) suggestive of standing structures. The six sherds of ?late Bronze Age to early Iron Age and late Iron Age/early Roman pottery from the subsoil (3) and the ?Iron Age sherd from gully (7) all indicate Romano-British occupation in the area.

Sub-Rectangular Enclosure
(Field 1100, Trenches X and XI, AM 899)

Trench X was found to contain a series of undated shallow ditch features (5), (12), (17), and one deep V-shaped ditch (11), which has been recut. No dating evidence was recovered from the ditch fills and the suspected signs of occupation would appear to lie to the south, in the direction of trench XI.

Within trench XI evidence of probable Iron Age or Romano-British settlement was found, consisting of a deep, recut enclosure ditch, (12), and associated ditches (4), (10) and (23) of unknown purpose and date. Ditches (12) and (10) are believed to be sections of parallel enclosure

ditches. The relationship between the sub-rectangular enclosure and the main enclosure was not resolved.

A curving ditch (6), was unexpectedly encountered, no suggestion of its presence having been indicated from the geophysical survey results. It is thought to be a round-house gulley ditch, which cut an earlier posthole (37), indicating more than one episode of building in the area. A large number of postholes were noted, cut into the natural gravel, none of which provided any dating evidence. The posthole evidence was very similar to that from trenches VIII, IX and XII and, with postholes at the south end of trench XI lying outside the enclosure ditches it indicates widespread, but as yet undated occupation across the present field 1100.

?Romano-British Pond
(Field 5769, Trench XIII, AM 899)

Romano-British pottery of 1st to 4th century date was found in trench XIII, in a peaty/organic pond fill, (3). A series of postholes cut into this deposit are thought to be of a similar date with at least one datable Roman potsherd appearing to come from the fill of a posthole.

At present the dating of this site is tentative. If it is of Romano-British date, as seems likely, then its association with the adjacent settlement of similar date makes this a very unusual and interesting discovery.

Road and Quarry pits
(Field 2029/Trenches XIV and field 6400/Trench XV, AM 900)

Roman activity in the area of trench XIV was highlighted by the discovery of a series of gravel quarries, the fill of one from XIV containing a Roman rim sherd of grey micaceous ware, and two from XV containing early-mid Iron Age and 2nd century wares. The quarry pits are presumably associated with the construction of Ermin Street and its subsequent maintenance. Similar quarry pits are anticipated to lie extensively along the line of the A419, with some potential for the recovery of more closely datable material. No section of the Roman road was encountered nor signs of the road-side ditches. The potential remains beneath much of the A 419.

Trackway
(PRN 615, Field 6400, Trench XVI, AM 900)

Roman finds from trench XVI were few. One sherd of a Severn Valley ware variant of Roman date was recovered from (9) along with a further grey ware sherd from (11), both residual. Several shallow ditch features, (52) and (69), were noted running northwards towards the Romano-British settlement. These contained no datable finds. Two further shallow and undated ditches, (29) and (32), were identified, associated with a slightly raised area of compact gravels (80) which could not easily be interpreted, but may relate to the trackway plotted from aerial photographs. The potential for recovery of artefacts and datable features within this area is thought to be moderately high.

Regional Setting

The Roman road of Ermin Street runs from Corinium (Cirencester) to Calleva Atrebatum (Silchester) via the local settlement of Cricklade and through the modern village of Latton. Cirencester was one of the most important towns during the Roman occupation and Cricklade appears to have been a possible river port and settlement.

Many sites in the region indicate a continuity of late prehistoric rural settlement into the Roman period. Recent excavations on sites close to the present study area exemplify this. Interim conclusions from several fieldwork projects around the nearby village of Ashton Keynes have recorded important settlement evidence spanning the period from the middle Iron Age to the fourth centuries AD.

The excavations at Cotswold Community School, Ashton Keynes, were conducted as an evaluation of cropmark evidence in advance of possible sand and gravel extraction. The site showed broad parallells with the rural settlements at Latton in Scheduled Monuments (**AM 899 and 900**), being enclosed settlements associated with both small enclosures, and larger enclosed areas thought to be for stock or even arable. As at Latton, post-Roman agricultural activity had removed shallow structures and features, leaving only the lower portions of ditches and postholes. Nevertheless it still enabled the recovery of plans of domestic buildings in the settlement nucleus, and the overall understanding of the sequence of development on the site. Close similarities exist with AM 899 and 900 at Latton in the presence of recognisable monument classes and components. For example trackways, small ditched

enclosures and linear boundaries. Extensive excavation on the Community School site indicates the potential for stratification of infill deposits at Latton, and that as at Ashton Keynes, a range of datable material and occupation related features could still survive in a degraded state at Latton within the smaller enclosures.
Parry (1988) has noted that this type of rural settlement, often associated with lengths of trackway, occurs commonly within the Upper Thames Valley. As Parry states, recent large-scale work at Claydon Pike, Lechlade (Miles 1984) suggested that such rural settlement complexes "occupied and exploited discrete environmental niches on the gravel terraces". "At Claydon Pike there was evidence that this type of location may have been utilised during the Romano-British period by communities of stock breeders, fulfilling a highly specialised role in the local and regional economy. The Cotswold Community site may perhaps be interpreted as a smaller version of this site type and it is interesting that it appears to lie on the very margins of wetland, which would have provided excellent pasture" (Parry 1988).

Similar excavations were carried out in 1988 around Cleveland Farm, Ashton Keynes and revealed a prehistoric enclosure dating to the middle Iron Age with some activity still occurring into the late Iron Age. Prehistoric elements consisted of three enclosures, a number of unenclosed hut circles, four-post structures, pits, miscellaneous ditches/gullies and pottery dating between 400 BC and c.50 AD. Romano-British activity existed in the form of a complex of shallow ditches, thought to represent small field or paddock systems within a larger regular ditched field-system and linked to a trackway. As at Latton dirty gravels within which features were not immediately apparent were encountered, these were likewise removed to reveal recognisable archaeological features and artefacts.

Though cropmark complexes of Romano-British date are common in the Upper Thames Valley three points should be stressed; firstly the nature of the gravel substrate makes complex cropmark features easy to identify, even when badly damaged by agricultural practices; secondly the cropmark complex (PRN 315) at Latton is associated with a potentially unique and very important environmental sequence and thirdly many sites of this type have already been destroyed in this area by gravel extraction. Those that remain are consequently of greater rarity.

6.4 Saxon, Medieval and Post-Medieval

The study area

The following SMR entries were noted lying wholly or partially within the study area:

PRN 400
Saxon pottery found in Esso pipeline excavation, 1985.
PRN 304
Pits containing 12th-15th century pottery.
PRN 452
Ditch containing 12th-14th century pottery.
PRN 455
Unasssociated pottery of 13th-14th century date.
PRN 456
Unasssociated pottery of 13th-14th century date.
PRN 606
Earthworks of uncertain date alongside the A419.

Stage 1 and Stage 2 results

A number of medieval and post-medieval sites or features of interest were noted during the Stage 1 work as lying within the study area. These include portions of the infilled Thames and Severn canal in fields 2029, 6400 and Syd's Patch. The position of the Latton Bridge in the south-east corner of field 2029 where the canal used to pass beneath the A 419 was also noted. Throughout the study area there are a large number of field boundaries which can be seen to be of some antiquity as they appear on the Enclosure Award of 1805. Of these one of the most interesting is the right of way which forms the division between fields 3500 and 1100 west of Westfield Farm.

The most interesting area would appear to lie in fields adjacent to the A 419 close to Latton where cartographic evidence shows clearly that there were once houses and plots leading back to the canal. What there does not appear to be is any evidence of a former Latton village lying within the study area.

No artefactual material of the Saxon period was recovered during the course of the evaluation and only a small number of residual medieval sherds were found. These included two worn Minety ware rim sherds from the pipeline upcast, (3), (13) and (41) of trench XIV, and five residual Minety cooking pot sherds from the subsoil (14). From the same trench similar residual 12th-15th century and late medieval wares were recovered from the lower cobbled post-medieval road (10). Given the absence of significantly high quantities of, or dense concentrations of,

pottery from the earlier fieldwalking the focus of medieval Latton would appear to have lain east of Ermin Street. No trace of medieval structural remains of roadside settlement were found adjacent to the A419 as might have been anticipated, although the potential still exists to the south and north of Trench XIV.

In field 1859 close to Fosse Farm excavation revealed scoops and gullies. Unassociated medieval and post-medieval pottery, including Bath A and Minety Wares were recovered from the topsoil levels. The suggestion remains that a site of medieval date lies closer to the A419 or beneath the present Fosse Farm. The post-medieval pottery and some of the medieval pottery might well have resulted from manuring.

Several ditch features were encountered but dating evidence was absent from these features. Examples of assumed post-medieval field boundaries include a ditch feature 38 in trench III and ditch feature 7 in trench XIII. Certain linear features encountered in Trenches II to IV are likely to be ploughed-out remnants of ridge-and-furrow. With oblique evening light remnant ridge-and-furrow was also noted in field 1100 and 3500.

Aside from such (poorly) datable ?boundary ditches a large number of field drains were noted. Again these contained little or no dating evidence and, like the numerous plough scarring within many of the trenches, cannot be dated with any certainty.

Trenches XV and XVI yielded post-medieval artefacts of 17th to 19th century date, mostly from thick spread, layers of gravel and loam upcast from the canal whose rubble and clay fill was identified within trench XV. One well-constructed stone field drain (40) was also revealed in trench XVI, running broadly parallel with the canal and believed to be of a similar date. Several modern pipelines (19) and (49) also ran through the latter trench, cut through the subsoil and canal upcast horizons.

Monument Classes

The following monument classes have been tentatively identified:

Road, (post-medieval).
Field 2029, Trench XIV

The main post-medieval features identified/encountered by evaluation were found within trenches XIV-XVI adjacent to

the line of the present A419. Within trench XIV two phases of smooth, compacted limestone road surface were recorded, (16) and (18), separated by a thick band of silty roadwash (17). Close dating of the roads is difficult but the latest ceramics recovered from the lower surface (18) included a large number of glazed earthenware fragments of 17th to 19th century date. The specific position of these road levels between the Roman and ?medieval surfacings and the present road level is not known but remains a matter of research interest.

Thames and Severn canal
Fields 2029, 6400, 7600, Syd's Patch
The canal was completed in November 1789 and was abandoned between 1927 and 1933. Since this time much has been infilled and many associated structures destroyed. The canal is an important part of the industrial archaeological heritage of the country. The infilled remains of the canal which have been sectioned in trenches XV, XVI and XVII indicate that there is little of structural interest to be learnt. The wealth of documentary evidence is sufficient to allow a full understanding of the monument within the study area and therefore little comment has been made.

Regional Setting

Little is known of the archaeology of the region in the 5th-7th centuries AD and no contemporary settlement sites have been identified comparable to those recognised in the Oxford region. Previous study focussed little on the medieval and post-medieval landscape in this area. It has been stated (Leech 1977) that attention should be paid to " extant, shrunken, migrated or deserted villages... with emphasis on features such as the village plan, churchyards, the disposition of land-parcels, greens and house platforms". The study area includes relict rural features such as field boundaries and tracks of late medieval and post-medieval date as well as a section of the A419 between Latton and Wharf Farm.

CHAPTER 7

ARCHAEOLOGICAL MANAGEMENT STRATEGY

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7.1 Aims

The overall process of evaluation is not the end of the management cycle (Darvill and Gerrard 1990). Following on from the Archaeological Assessment and Field Evaluation there is a need to formulate an Archaeological Management Strategy based on the information documented so far, and then to implement it. First, four levels of Archaeological Importance are defined, the areas are shown on Figure 3.1/3.2, secondly three levels of Archaeological Impact are defined, the areas are shown on Figure 4.1/4.2. Thirdly, four kinds of mitigation action are defined, the areas are shown on Figure 5.1/5.2.

7.2 Areas of Archaeological Importance

The following levels of archaeological importance have been defined. They are not period-specific.

High
Nationally important sites or monuments and areas of high archaeological potential;

Nationally important sites can be broadly assessed as including Scheduled Monuments, ancient monuments in the process of being scheduled and monuments of such quality that they are worthy of scheduling. This level does not exclude all monuments outside this description as the scheduling process is under revision. Nationally important sites are definable as archaeological sites or monuments which offer the opportunity for the recovery of such information as; a) three dimensional site plan, b) artefactual content, c) ecofactual data, and d) palaeoenvironmental data leading to either; i) dating, ii) environmental reconstruction, iii) topology, or a combination of these factors, with the ultimate aim of allowing a fuller understanding and interpretative analysis of the site within local, regional or national contexts. Such parameters form the basis for selecting sites and monuments of national importance within the remit of the non-statutory criteria laid down by the Secretary of State for the environment (DOE, 1983). Briefly these criteria are, Survival/Condition; Period; Rarity; Fragility/Vulnarability; Diversity; Documentation; Group Value; and Potential.

Sites deemed to be of high importance within the study area are:

Rural settlement features, PRN 315, AM 899
Organic pond deposit in field 5769, AM 899
Ditched enclosure, PRN 621 in field 3500
Roman quarry pits next to the A419 in field 2029,3220 and 3517 and 6400, AM 900
Area of unenclosed ?prehistoric settlement in field 1100, AM 899
Roman trackway in field 6400, PRN 615, AM 900

This level of archaeological importance makes up c.20% of the study area and is shown in **orange** on Figure 3.1/3.2.

Medium
Regionally and locally important sites and monuments and areas of medium archaeological potential;

Regionally or locally important sites and monuments are defined partly on the basis of exclusion from the above category, but which are clearly in a state of preservation conducive to consevation or extraction of moderate levels of archaeological data (ie. those categories listed above) leading to fuller understanding and interpretative analysis of the item in local, regional or national contexts.

Medium archaeological potential is broadly defined as the ability of a site to offer preservation or extraction of at least one of the four categories of information a) to d) listed above. (Note: where palaeo-environmental data is encountered on a site within the Upper Thames area, its importance will always be considered **High**, because of a paucity of such information from all archaeological periods within the region.

Sites deemed to be of this level of importance within the study area are:

Prehistoric and medieval activity in field 1859
Linear ditch features in field 0040
Linear ditch features in fields 3500 and 0001
Linear ditch features in field 7666 (AM 899)
Canal features/basin
Earthwork features in fields 0338, 0735 and 2029

This level of archaeological importance makes up c.31% of the study area and is shown in **yellow** on Figure 3.1/3.2

Low

Areas with no known sites and monuments, unknown or assumed low archaeological potential, and areas already archaeologically sterilised;

Areas with no known sites or monuments can be defined as sections of the corridor where investigative technique used during Stage 1 and Stage 2 produced little or no indications of sub-surface archaeology. This does not preclude the potential for some of these areas to reveal the presence of archaeology at a later date.

Low archaeological potential can be assessed as absence of archaeology or the inability of a site or monument to preserve or allow extraction of any information from categories a) to d) listed above.

Areas that are archaeologically sterilised are those that are known or are assumed to have undergone destructive processes detrimental to archaeological deposits, and which are likely to have removed those deposits to such an extent as to diminish their worth for the preservation or extraction of information in categories a) to d) above. The affects on these areas may include industrial processes, certain agricultural regimes involved in land 'improvement', road schemes and the construction of buildings.

Sites deemed to be of this level of importance within the study area are:

Field 5400.
Fields 4948, 6250, 3334, 8900, 5400, 1859, 3167, 8347.
CWS Creamery/Sewage works
Field 0019
Fields 0148, 9041 and 0055 where pasture stopped all assessment except field-checking.
Field 0071 and Syd's Patch
The Latton to Blunsdon pipeline trench and filled in Thames and Severn canal in fields 2029, 6400 and Syd's Patch

This level of archaeological importance makes up c.36% of the study area and is shown in green on Figure 3.1/3.2

Blanks

Areas where it has not been possible to do evaluation work and where the archaeological potential is unknown. In certain areas it is assumed to be low. These are often also areas of previous impact. Note however that where the Roman road runs beneath the A 419 the assumed level is

high.

Areas defined are:

A419 between Fosse Farm and Manor Farm. Presence of the Roman road beneath the existing road is possible.
Spine road
Cerney Wick road
Street Farm lane to canal basin
A 419 Cricklade Bypass south from the BP garage. Presence of the Roman road beneath the existing road is possible, line continues along old A 419 to Cricklade

This level of archaeological importance makes up c.13% of the study area and is shown in blue on Figure 3.1/3.2.

Figure 3.1/3.2 shows the levels of archaeological importance throughout the study area. A level of importance changes where there is no evidence from the Stage 1 and Stage 2 work to support the continued grading at that level. Therefore levels of importance do not for example respect the boundaries of Scheduled Monuments but rather reflect the quality and extent of the recorded archaeological evidence.

7.3 Archaeological Impact of the present proposals

One of the principal elements needed to formulate an appropriate management plan is information about the development scheme itself. This exists in the form of: a general account of the likely nature of the road in the area of the Scheduled Monument AM 899, included in the original Brief for Archaeological Survey, September 1990; plans showing the corridor of interest received form the client for the Stage 1 assessment; a plan and section of the proposed Latton bypass itself, received from the client on 1.2.1991. (Plans 9112/40/1-2); and verbal comments on the nature of the construction methods from FGCE.

Using the information available it is possible to compile an Archaeological Impact Statement defining the expected impact on the varying deposits of specific development proposals. These levels of Archaeological Impact are shown on Figure 4.1/4.2

Three principal types of impact from the scheme may be defined;
1) Physical Impact
2) Environmental impact
3) Visual Impact

Physical Impact

The following are levels of physical impact judged to be useful by the Cotswold Archaeological Trust in this instance;

Low Impact:

No loss of archaeological deposits.
Blue on Figure 4.1/4.2

A geotechnical desk study was carried out in 1988 to consider the implications of the proposals for building a road on an embankment across the archaeological deposits in AM 899. The report which was included in Annex 3 of the Brief for Archeological Survey 1990, anticipates that consolidation/settlement would generally be small, not likely to exceed 30mm in the highest part of the embankment and that the majority of the consolidaiton/settlement would take place during construction.

To protect the underlying archaeological features it was recommended that a geotextile be laid underneath the embankment directly on the ground surface. It was also recommended that a granular fill to a minimum depth of 150mm should then be laid before vehicles are allowed to run over the site. Two types of protection would result;

1) Rutting from wheel tracks would be prevented and,
2) It would reduce the effect of local settlement.

The Stage 2 Field Evaluation indicates that there are no structures or archaeological deposits in field 1100 or 3500 which would be damaged by the proposed Terram and embankment method of construction. Therefore, for the purposes of this research it is assumed that this method of construction and the degrees of compression expected will cause minimal damage to the archaeology.

Medium Impact:
Yellow on Figure 4.1/4.2

This level includes possible damage to archaeological deposits from construction plant where haul roads are not laid and machine stripping of the overburden does not take place. This level of impact has been defined as a 3m belt either side of the main construction area, or where this is not possible for lack of room within the corridor, then 6m on one side only.

High Impact:
Orange on Figure 4.1/4.2

This level assumes the total loss of archaeological deposits as a result of machine stripping of overburden to find an acceptable formation for the embankment and road.

The width of the carriageway embankment varies between 40 and 45m. Added to this in order to define the area of high impact is a distance in width equal to the depth to which cutting takes place and/or to the height of the ensuing embankment, (eg. for a 1m high embankment 1m has been added to the width of the basic carriageway width).

Visual Impact

The archaeological deposits in the Latton bypass corridor do not include upstanding visible features and therefore there is no expected impact on the visual amenity of the archaeological remains.

Environmental Impact (Archaeological)

Two possible consequences of the proposed works can be foreseen in terms of the archaeological environment. First is the compaction of deposits below the embanked road. There is no available technical information on the likely effect of embankment on the type of environment represented at Latton, but given the relatively poor survival of artefacts, ecofacts and environmental materials in the deposits examined it is considered that the impact will be minimal.

Potentially more serious is any change to the drainage patterns relating to the wetland area in Field 5769. Technical information on proposed drainage plans is not currently available to the Cotswold Archaeological Trust, but if de-watering of the deposits came about much of their archaeological value would be lost.

7.4 Mitigation Action

The following recommendations are given for mitigation action.

These recommendations have been developed with not simply the Archaeological Impact in mind. They also take into consideration factors such as practicality (inc. health and safety factors), legal status (eg. whether scheduled or not), and relative cost.

The following definitions of mitigation action apply;

Conservation/Preservation

The action taken where areas of High Archaeological Importance are considered worthy of protection as part of the development scheme. This is the preferred option wherever possible. Archaeological deposits are protected by methods of construction, in this case, an embankment constructed over Terram laid with no topsoil stripping beforehand. This can, in fact, occasionally result in a positive benefit for the deposits in the prevention of other forms of archaeological degradation such as that caused by ploughing. The areas where this action is proposed are coloured **brown** on Figure 5.1/5.2.

Excavation

The action taken where deposits of High Archaeological Importance cannot be conserved as part of the development scheme. The action would involve total excavation of the archaeological deposits exposed after careful mechanical removal of topsoil. Areas where this action is proposed are coloured **orange** on Figure 5.1/5.2.

Strip-and-Record

The action taken where areas of Medium Archaeological Importance cannot be conserved as part of the development scheme. The action would involve the removal of overburden using a box-scraper, isolation and definition of archaeological features and sampled excavation and recording. The areas where this action is proposed are coloured **yellow** on Figure 5.1/5.2

Watching Brief

The action taken where areas of areas of Medium Archeological Importance will be damaged by Medium Impact (vehicles etc) and where areas of Low Archaeological Importance will be destroyed as a result of the development scheme. The action would involve the monitoring of all groundworks with the ability to temporarily stop work in order to record any features uncovered. The areas where this action is proposed are coloured **blue** on Figure 5.1/5.2.

Areas defined are illustrated on Figure 5.1/5.2 with different colours for different types of mitigation ac-

tion. Where the colour is a lighter shade it indicates the expected mitigation action should the road be moved to that area of the corridor.

7.5 **Summary of impact zones and proposed mitigation action**
Figure 4.1/4.2

Zone 1 **High Importance/High Impact**	**Mitigation Action**
1) Field 5769 Organic deposit	Further evaluation * (c. 2000m2)

* Further evaluation with Scheduled Monument Consent to determine the extent, date and full environmental potential. Depending on the results of this work further recommendations would be made.

2) Field 2029/3220 Quarry pits	Excavation (c. 9200m2)
3) Field 6400/7600 Quarry pits/trackway	Excavation (c. 9000m2)

Preservation is also a desired option in field 6400, though at this stage it has been assumed that cut is required in this field and therefore excavation has been suggested.

4) Area beneath A 419 between Latton and Latton Wharf	Excavation (4 trench sections approx. 20mx5m c. 400m2)

This last area will have to be dealt with as part of the intra-construction works.

Zone 2 **High Importance/Medium Impact ***	
1) Field 2029/3220/3517/3914 Quarry pits	Watching brief
2) Field 6400/7600 Quarry pits/trackway	Watching brief

* The area of this mitigation action is shown in areas of Medium Impact as a grey line around the edge of areas of excavation and strip-and-record.

Zone 3
High Importance/Low Impact

Field 1100 and 3500 Settlement complex PRN 315 Ditched Enclosure PRN 621	Conservation Terram + Embankment*

* This method of construction should be extended to cover the archaeology from and including PRN 621, to the organic deposit in field 5769. This is an area of c. 29900 m2 (c. 2650m in length by 46m in width) and at £2.00 per m2 (cost given in archaeological brief) the cost would be considerably less than the cost for excavation of the same area.

Zone 4
Medium Importance/High Impact

1)	Field 1859/A419 ?prehistoric site/Roman road Medieval activity	Strip-and-Record (c. 2500m2)
2)	Field 0040 Ditches	Strip-and-Record (c. 4600m2)
3)	Field 3500/2540 Ditches	Strip-and-Record (c. 1840m2)
4)	Field 7666 Ditches/?pits	Strip-and-Record (c. 11960m2)
5)	Field 0338/0735/2029 Earthworks	Strip-and-Record (c. 9200m2)

Zone 5
Medium Importance/Medium Impact
(The 3m area each side of the areas of strip-and-record listed above)

1)	Field 1859	Watching Brief
2)	Field 0040 Ditches	Watching Brief
3)	Field 3500/2540 Ditches	Watching Brief
4)	Field 7666 Ditches/?pits	Watching Brief

5)	Field 0338/0735/2029 Earthworks	Watching Brief

Zone 6
Medium Importance/Low Impact

None

Zone 7
Low Importance/High-Medium Impact

1)	Fields 1859/3334/5400 4948/6250/8900	Watching Brief
2)	CWS Creamery/sewage works	Watching Brief
3)	Field 0040/0019/0055	Watching Brief
4)	Field 8347	Watching Brief
5)	Fields 0148/9041	Watching Brief
6)	Fields 7600/0071/0066	Watching Brief
7)	Syd's Patch	Watching Brief

Zone 8
Low Importance/Low Impact

None

Zone 9
Blank Areas/High Impact-Medium Impact

1)	A 419, Posse - Manor Farms	Excavation Roman Road *
2)	Spine Road	Watching Brief
3)	Cerney Wick road	Watching Brief
4)	Street Farm lane	Watching Brief
5)	A419 Latton to Latton Wharf	Excavation Roman road *

*
Evaluation excavation across the Ermin Street is recommended to check the survival of the Roman road and any associated structures.

6) Cricklade Bypass Watching Brief

7.6 Towards Strategy Implementation

Since there is a great diversity of archaeological impact across the site a range of options at various stages is recommended.

The following are seen as the three likely stages for the implementation of this strategy;

7.6.1 Pre-construction works:

This usually includes preparatory works for the preservation or conservation of deposits, and the total or selective excavation of areas of High Impact before groundworks get underway.

Works: Further selective evaluation work to define the limits of the organic deposits or their full excavation, Excavation and Strip-and-Record

7.6.1.1 For the proposed scheme **conservation** is recommended in the following areas;

a) Field 5769

The organic deposit in field 5769 is of High Archaeological potential, it lies within AM 899 and is spatially related and possibly contemporary with PRN 315.

Recommended Action

Define the exact date and extent of the organic deposit. A more extensive environmental sampling programme should be implemented to extend the results of the Field Evaluation. This should be done as soon as possible. Scheduled Monument Consent will be required for this work.

At present it is proposed that surface water channels will carry water to outfalls outside the Scheduled Area AM 899. It was suggested in Annex 3 of the Brief for Archaeological Survey that fin drains would be used and kept above the existing ground surface. It was also suggested that the layer of granular fill above the geotextile, if of a

single size would allow surface-water run-off from the ground to the north-east of the proposed embankment toward the River Churn.

Further details on drainage proposals would allow a more complete understanding of any possible adverse effects to the archaeological deposits.

Results

If the pollen survival is poor, as the results of the Field Evaluation survey have suggested, it will reduce the value of this deposit.

If the deposit is recent and not of Romano-British date it will reduce the value of this deposit.

Knowledge of the true extent of the deposit will show what percentage might be lost from the implementation of the present scheme, and/or it might show where an alternative route could be situated in the event of the deposit maintaining its current level of importance.

Assuming the organic deposit maintains its level of High Archaeological Importance

The mitigation actions available would be;

a) Conserve the deposit. A civil engineer would need to investigate the possibility of bridging the c. 50m deposit. CAT has not investigated the practicality of this option.

b) Total excavation prior to the destruction of the deposit. The presence of the postholes indicate the potential for the discovery of further structures. Removal of the area currently threatened by the proposed scheme might represent the loss of 1/3 of the deposit. This might adversely effect what is left.

c) If mitigation actions a and b were not possible the only option would appear to be the re-routing of the road.

b)Field 1100/3500, PRN 621 and PRN 315

The area of High Archaeological Importance in AM 899 is larger than was previously expected. It now appears, following the results of the Field Evaluation, to extend throughout the corridor in field 1100 and on into field 3500. The Late Neolithic-Early Bronze Age oval ditched

enclosure, PRN 621 and the adjacent areas of activity are of High Archaeological Importance despite lying outside the Scheduled Monument AM 899.

It has been recommended in the brief by FGCE 1990, that a method of construction be used in AM 899 to protect the archaeology.

The area requiring protection has been extended to the west and is defined on Figure 5.1/5.2. It is recommended that these areas are protected by extending the Terram and embankment, where the carriageway is located, from the north side of PRN 621 to the field boundary between field 1100 and 5769. This area is illustrated on Figure 5.1/5.2.

In this survey the Terram and embankment method has been assumed to cause Low Impact. However, CAT have not found sufficient technical data to prove that this will be the case in the kind of environment represented at Latton and accordingly recommend that a short desk-based study is commissioned to show that the Terram and embankment method of construction will protect the type of archaeological features encountered during the Field Evaluation between PRN 621 and field 5769.

The engineering characteristics of the overburden described in the brief were derived from tests carried out for the Cricklade Bypass and involved clays. The overburden throughout most of the study area and filling the majority of archaeological features is typically a gravelly clay loam which it is thought would compress rather more than the clay at Cricklade. The borehole/excavations indicated an average depth of 0.7m of compressible overburden (clay, silt, topsoil) whereas the typical results from the evaluation show 0.6m of compressible overburden above the gravel and 0.6m of compressible fill within negative features cut into the gravel.

7.6.1.2 For the proposed scheme **Excavation** is recommended in the following areas;

a) Fields 2029/3220/3517/3914

Field Evaluation demonstrated the range of archaeological deposits in this area from Post-medieval road surfaces beneath the existing A 419 to Roman roadside quarry-pits.

b) Fields 6400/7600

Field Evaluation demonstrated that to the east of the

infilled Thames-Severn canal and the two pipelines there are features of Romano-British and Iron Age date. Previous work in these fields, listed on the WCC SMR indicate also the presence of important Neolithic features.

7.6.1.3 For the proposed scheme **Strip-and-Record** is recommended in the following areas;

a) **Field 1859**
b) **Field 0040**
c) **Field 3500/0001/2540**
d) **Field 7666**
e) **Field 0338/0735/2029**

7.6.2 Intra-construction works:

This will involve monitoring the conservation actions in Fields 3500/1100 and possibly 5769. The Terram and embankment method of construction has been discussed above in the pre-construction section. The embanking process and monitoring will take place as intra-construction works. For example, in the brief for archaeological services it was suggested that a light tractor/roller go over the ground for the purposes of levelling prior to laying the geotextile. This would have to be monitored.

The other mitigation actions at this stage will involve watching briefs, and recorded observations undertaken in parallel with groundworks and other construction activities. Excavation of six sections across the A419 Ermin Way would probably have to be done at this stage.

7.6.2.1 For the proposed scheme **Watching Briefs** are recommended in the following areas;

a) **Along the margins of all groundworks where construction traffic will be moving.**

This area is shown as a grey margin to the areas of excavation and strip-and-record on Figure 5.1/5.2.

b) **Fields 3334/4948/6250/8900/5400/1859**

c) **A 419 Fosse - Manor Farms**

d) **Spine Road**

e) **CWS creamery/sewage works**

f) Field 0019/0040/0055

g) Cerney Wick road

h) Field 8347/Street Farm lane

i) Fields 9041/0148

j) A419 Latton BP garage/ Cricklade road

k) Cricklade Bypass

l) Field 7600/0071/0066

m) Syd's Patch

7.6.3 Post-construction works:

This involves archaeological operations after the development is complete and may include on-site operations such as the establishment and maintenance of long-term conservation or preservation measures, or off-site operations such as the analysis of earlier phases of archaeological work, the conservation of fragile finds, the preparation of general and academic reports and accounts of the work, and the deposition of finds with the Swindon museum.

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Specialist Report references are listed in Supplement B following each report.

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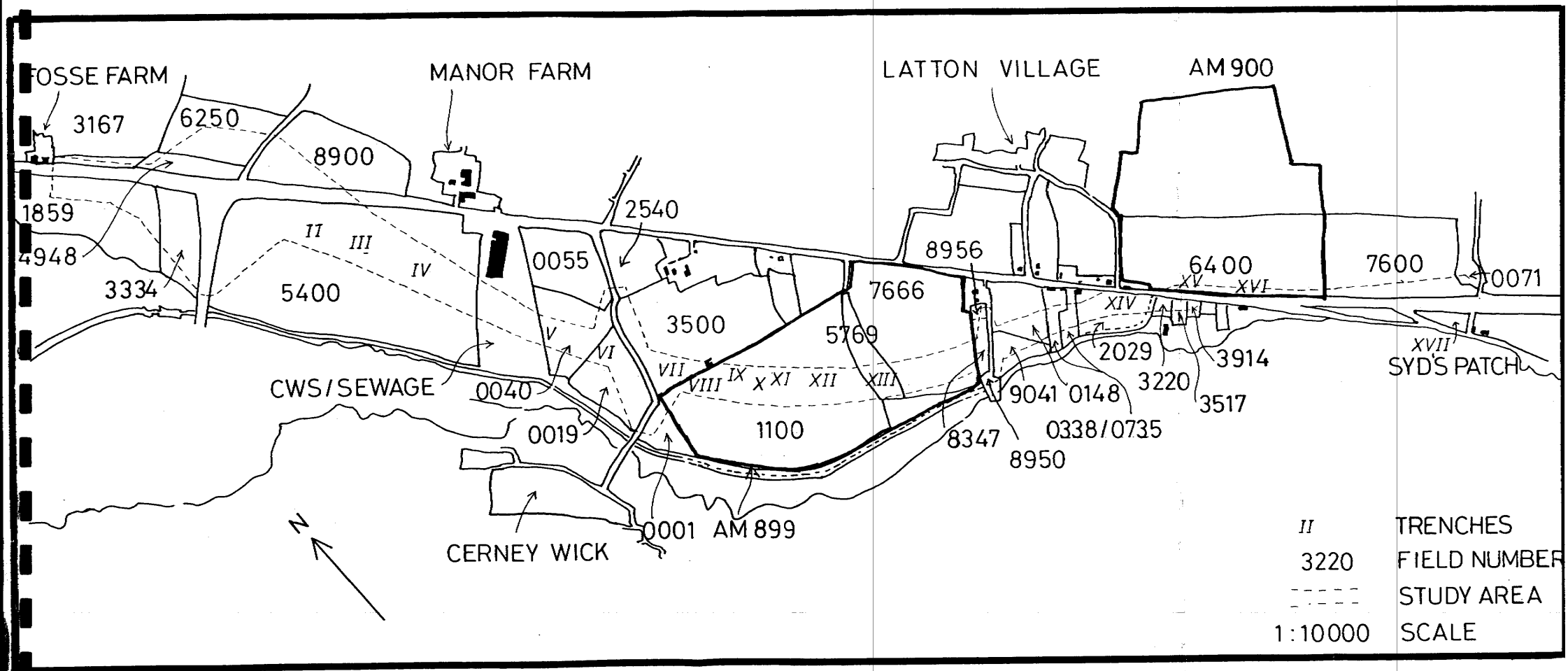
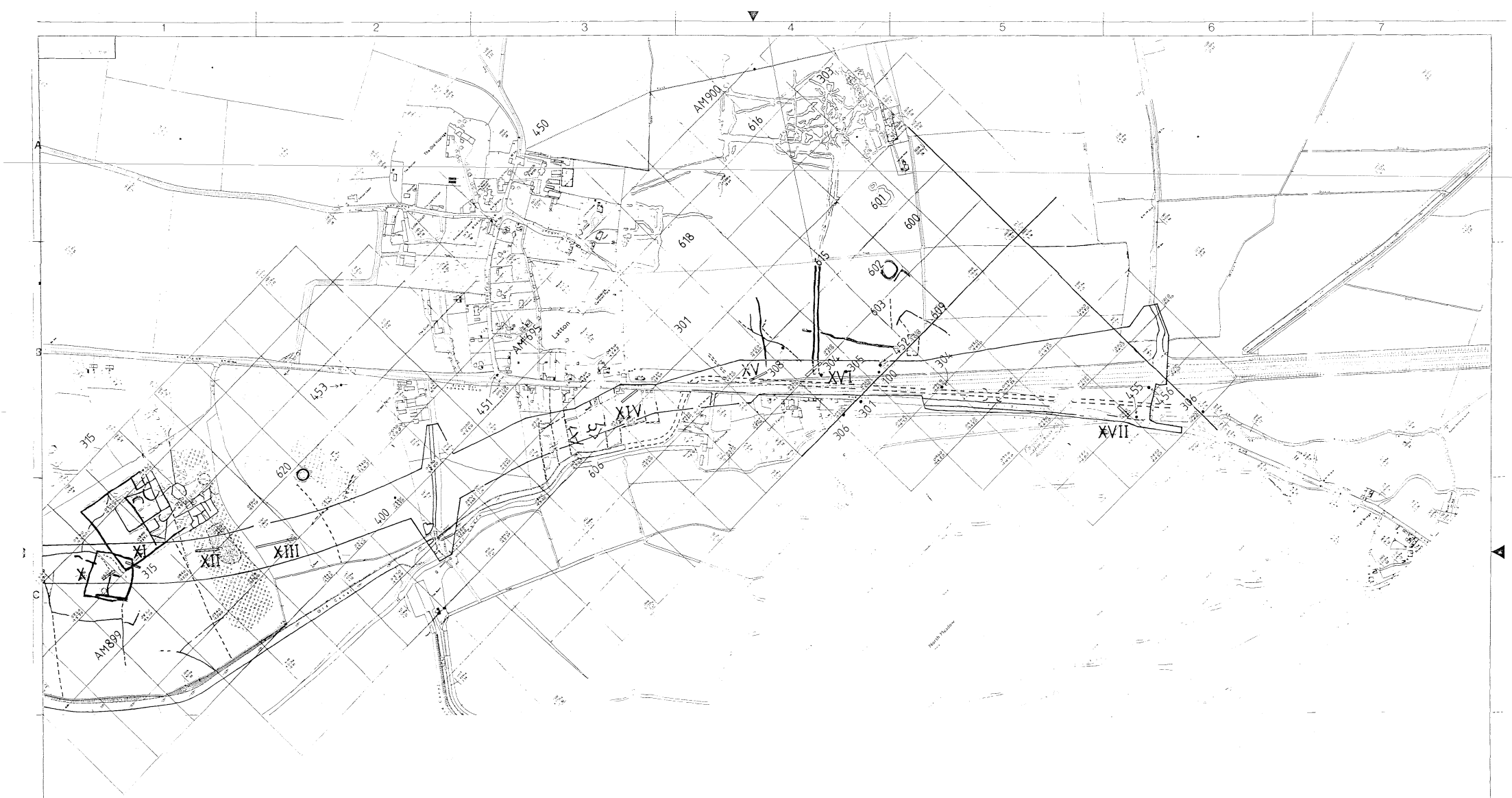


FIGURE 2.0

ORIGINAL AT A3



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A419 LATTON BYPASS

Figure 5.1

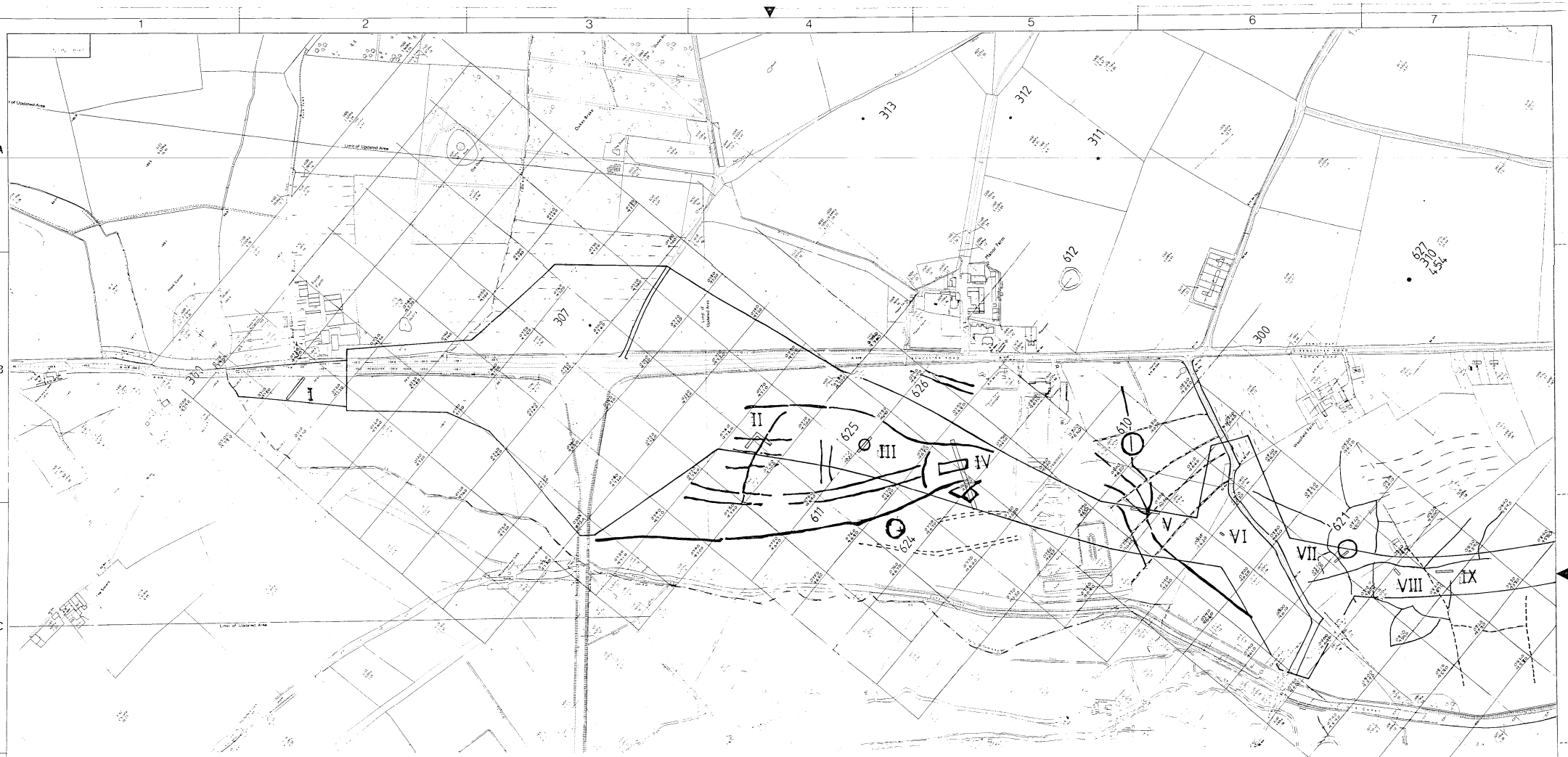

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Figure 5.0

DRAWN	DATE	DWG SHEET No.
TRACED	DATE	DRAWING No.
CHECKED	DATE	

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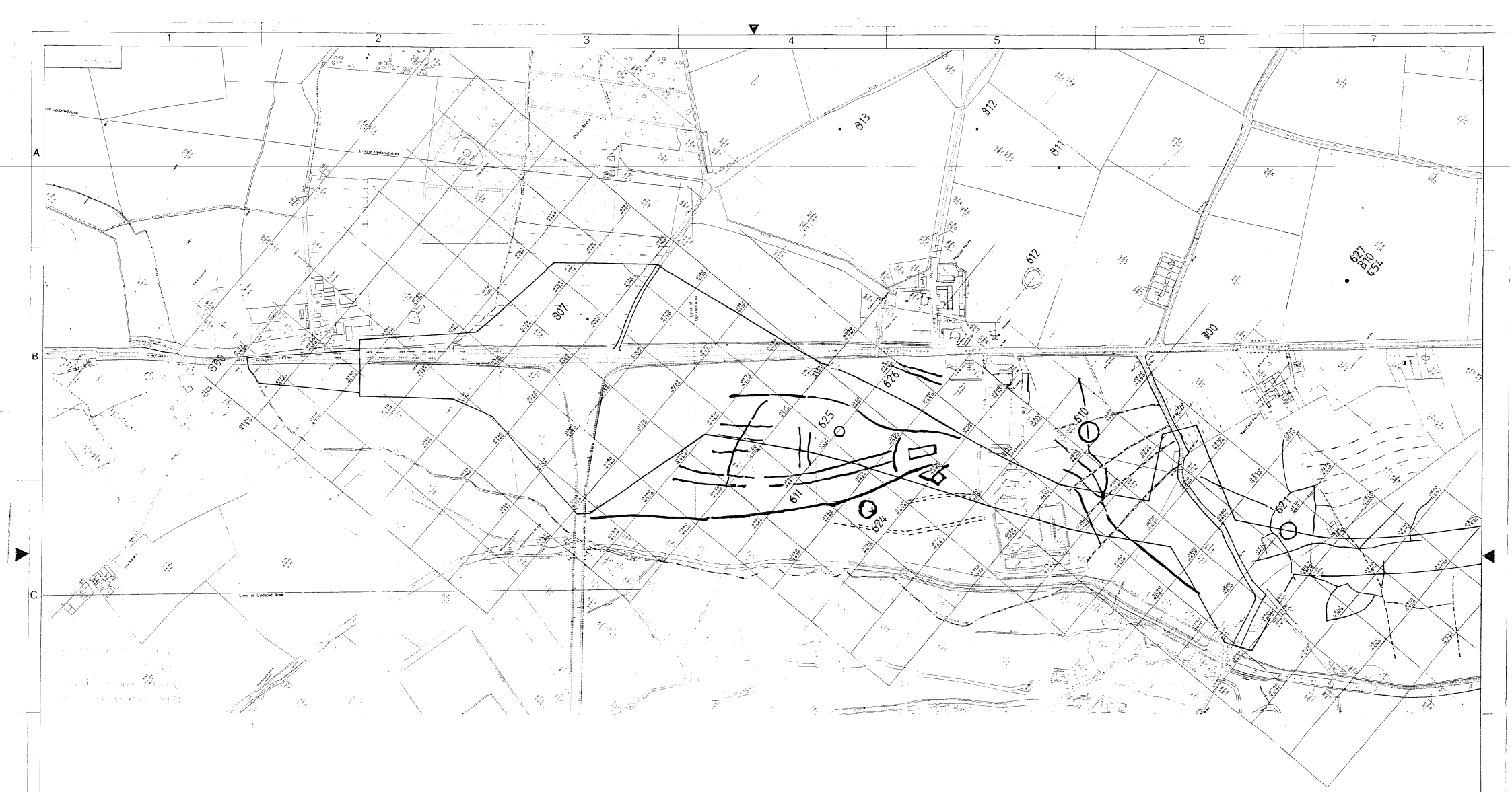
A419 LATTON BYPASS

Figure 1.5



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No.	AMENDMENT DETAILS	BY	DATE

A419 LATTON BYPASS

Figure 1.4

DRAWN	DATE	DWG. SHEET No.
TRACED	DATE	DRAWING No.
CHECKED	DATE	