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NORTHAMPTONSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGY

APRIL 2000

A43 ROAD IMPROVEMENT

SILVERSTONE AND BRACKLEY HATCH SECTIONS

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATIONS: STAGE 3

JANUARY - MARCH 2000

**A43 ROAD SCHEME
SILVERSTONE AND BRACKLEY HATCH SECTIONS
ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATIONS: STAGE 3
SUMMARY REPORT**

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**A43 ROAD SCHEME
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SUMMARY REPORT**

Abstract

A further stage of archaeological investigation along the line of the proposed A43 road improvement resulted in the discovery or further definition of three archaeological sites. Sites SL2, BH4 and Biddlesden Road Bridge were defined through geophysical survey. Subsequently, SL2 and BH4 were investigated by trial trenching and confirmed to be middle Iron Age and early Roman respectively. Biddlesden Road Bridge is likely to be of a similar date on morphological grounds. Site SL3 was further examined by geophysical survey with little new information obtained. Another site, SL4, was investigated by geophysical survey and trial trenching, but no archaeological features were identified. In addition, a survey of probable woodland boundary features was undertaken in Hazelborough Wood.

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 A further programme of archaeological fieldwork was undertaken between January and March 2000 on the line of the proposed A43 road improvements at Silverstone and Brackley Hatch, Northamptonshire. It was undertaken by Northamptonshire Archaeology on behalf of the Highways Agency as the third stage in a series of archaeological works aimed at mitigating the impacts of the road construction upon the archaeology. The work followed on from the earlier fieldwalking and geophysical surveys (*A43 Silverstone Bypass Evaluation Stage 2: Fieldwalking and Geophysical Surveys November 1996 – January 1997* Northamptonshire Archaeology, March 1997),
- 1.2 The current work comprised:
1. Geophysical scanning and survey to further characterise known sites and to prospect for new ones;
 2. Trial trench evaluation of known sites and ancient boundary features identified from historical sources;
 3. Survey of earthworks in the Hazelborough Wood section of the road corridor.
- 1.3 The programme was conducted to a brief agreed with Northamptonshire Heritage. At the time of writing this report the programme required by the brief could not be fully implemented due to the difficulties of land access. Variations to the original programme were agreed with Northamptonshire Heritage and the Archaeological Agent for the Highways Agency, Mr David Freke. The following report describes the work to date.

2. BACKGROUND AND SCOPE OF WORK

- 2.1 The proposed improvements to the A43 Trunk road are being undertaken in a number of sections of which those at Silverstone and Brackley Hatch have been investigated by Northamptonshire Archaeology and form the subject of this report.
- 2.2 The proposed new road (Figs 1a & 1b) diverges from the A43 west of Towcester (NGR SP 682482) and passes east of Silverstone and through Hazelborough Wood as far as the dual carriageway at SP 651422. It then runs from Brackley Hatch (SP 644415), taking a course south of the current A43, and rejoining it at Whitfield Turn (SP 608399). The total length of the route is about 12 km.
- 2.3 Archaeological investigations took place within the corridor of the route. Initially this was defined as a strip 100 m wide. (As in the previous evaluations, this strip extended 50 m either side of the centre line of the published route.) On receipt of updated information, this was later modified to include only the defined boundary of compulsory purchase, as shown on the accompanying figures. Hence some of the survey extended outside the strict limits of road land-take as later defined.
- 2.4 The following table lists the sites examined or to be examined, and summarises the methods of investigation and results. Their locations are shown on Fig. 1a-b.

SITE	GEOPHYSICAL	EARTHWORK SURVEY	TRENCHING	RESULT
SL3	*		*	Postponed
SL2	*		*	Iron Age site
SL1	*		*	Postponed
Bandbrook Bridge	(*)			Nothing found
SL4	*		*	Nothing found
Trench WBR			*	Postponed
Trench WHR 1			*	Postponed
Trench WHR 2			*	Postponed
Winterhills Road Bridge	(*)			Nothing found
Trench DAD1			*	Postponed
Trench DAD2			*	Nothing found
Trenches in Hazelborough Wood			*	To be decided
Hazelborough Wood		*		North side completed
Biddlesden Road Bridge	*		*	Postponed
BH4	*		*	Roman site

* undertaken or planned

(*) scan only

- 2.5 A number of sites had already been identified through the desk-based assessment, surface collection survey and geophysical survey.
- SL1 was known to be on or close to the alignment of the Roman road from Towcester to Alchester (Northamptonshire Archaeology 1997, fig. 1)
 - SL2 and SL3 had been identified from surface scatters of Iron Age and Roman pottery. Geophysical survey had shown ditched enclosures on both sites. The

current work extended the geophysical survey in this area to establish the limits of archaeological features and followed this up with targeted trial trenching on SL2.

- SL4 had been identified from a scatter of Roman pottery and a Roman coin.
- Individual trenches WBR, WHR1, WHR2, DAD1 and DAD2 were positioned to examine boundaries of early enclosures identified as a result of mapping conducted through the Whittlewood Project.
- Trenches HAZ1 - 4 were to examine boundary features within Hazelborough Wood. The boundaries were to be surveyed as a preliminary.
- The site at Biddlesden Road Bridge was identified in the Stage 3 survey through geophysical reconnaissance, followed by a detailed survey.
- BH4 had been identified by a surface scatter of Roman pottery and was further defined through geophysical survey and trial trenching.
- The fields at Bandbrook Bridge and Winterhills Road Bridge were grassland where archaeological prospection had not been undertaken in Stage 2. Geophysical scanning was undertaken without result.

3. GEOPHYSICAL SURVEY

Locations

- 3.1 Geophysical survey was carried out at sites SL1 – 4, Biddlesden Road Bridge and BH4. Sites SL1 – 4 are located on limestone of the Great Oolite and Inferior Oolite series; Biddlesden Road Bridge on glacial sand and gravel overlying Boulder Clay; and Site BH4 on Boulder Clay adjacent to the limestone outcrop at Whitfield (Geological Survey of Great Britain, Sheet 202).

Method

- 3.2 Survey was undertaken using a Geoscan Research FM36 fluxgate gradiometer. It was normally undertaken in stages – an initial reconnaissance or scan through zig-zag and longitudinal traverses in order to detect the presence of magnetic anomalies; followed by a detailed gridded survey.
- 3.3 The detailed survey was undertaken within a 20 m x 20 m square with readings logged at 0.25 m intervals along parallel transects 1 m apart. The data were downloaded in the field on to floppy disk, and analysed using Geoplot 2.01. The data were processed using zero mean functions in order to give a smoother graphical appearance, and were also despiked, thereby reducing extreme readings caused by stray iron and other spurious effects.

Results

- 3.4 The results of the geophysical surveys are shown in Figs. 2, 3, 4, 7 and 8. The locations of the subsequent trial trenches are also shown on these figures.

Site SL3 (Fig. 2)

- 3.5 This site was discovered through surface collection and geophysical survey in the Stage 2 evaluation (Northamptonshire Archaeology, March 1997). Further survey to the north, south and east of the initial survey appears to have established the site limits on these sides. The site consists of an irregular group of small and medium sized enclosures, probably indicating a settlement of Iron Age / Roman date on the evidence of the surface finds.
- 3.6 No trial trenching was undertaken.

Site SL2 (Fig. 3)

- 3.7 Lying about 250 m to the south of SL3, this enclosure was also identified in Stage 2. Further geophysical survey to the north and south identified little more other than a slight east-west linear feature about 60 m to the south of the enclosure.
- 3.8 Trial trenching was undertaken on this site (below).

Site SL1 (Fig. 3)

- 3.9 Geophysical survey was undertaken to locate the Roman road or associated features. Some anomalies were detected which are difficult to interpret. Those along the edge of the field are likely to be modern disturbances. The anomaly running down the slope from the north-west may be a natural hollow.

Site SL4 (Fig. 4)

- 3.10 Geophysical survey was carried out in an 80 m x 80 m block within this field. No significant anomalies were detected. The site was later examined by trial trenching.

Biddlesden Road Bridge (Fig. 7)

- 3.11 Reconnaissance scanning was followed by detailed geophysical survey over 1.84 ha. The site consists of a dispersed pattern of small enclosures and partial enclosures with some linear features. Ridge and furrow is also clearly depicted. The site is most probably Iron Age or Romano-British on morphological grounds.
- 3.12 No trial trenching could be undertaken on this site.

Site BH4 (Fig. 8)

- 3.13 Roman pottery had come from this field. An irregular pattern of linear features and more nebulous anomalies were discovered through geophysical survey.
- 3.14 The site was subsequently examined by trial trenching (below).

4. EXCAVATIONS

Locations

- 4.1 Trial trenching was undertaken at Sites SL2, SL4, DAD1 and BH4. The trenches were positioned to examine both geophysical anomalies and blank areas. The number

and position of the trenches was agreed with Northamptonshire Heritage and the Highways Agency.

Methods

- 4.2 The trenches were excavated mechanically using a JCB or 360° excavator equipped with a toothless ditching bucket. Mechanical excavation ceased at the first significant archaeological horizon. Plough furrows were removed by machine where these could be identified at the stage of overburden removal without damaging archaeological deposits.
- 4.3 Trenches were hand-cleaned sufficiently to identify archaeological features. Features of archaeological or uncertain significance were sample excavated in order to determine their character and date. The trench plans (Figs. 9 & 10) exclude the non-archaeological features examined.
- 4.4 Trenches were planned at 1:50 or 1:100 and sections drawn at 1:10 or 1:20 depending upon the level of detail to be shown. The standard Northamptonshire Archaeology single context recording system was employed.

Results

- 4.5 A summary presentation of the results from each site follows below. A complete context inventory is contained in Appendix 1, and finds assessment reports in Appendix 2.

Site SL2 (Figs. 3 & 9)

- 4.6 **Trench 1** was positioned within the enclosure to examine a group of geophysical anomalies. Directly under the modern ploughsoil were revealed three ditches (1/3, 1/9 & 1/11), a small gully (1/19), a group of five pits (1/5, 1/13, 1/15, 1/17 & 1/21) and a post-hole (1/7). All these features were grouped towards the southern end of the trench.
- 4.7 Ditches 1/9 and 1/11, running approximately east-west were of similar dimensions and form (Fig. 9, Section 5). They were intercutting. Ditch 1/9 appeared to be the later of the two and had a slightly darker clay loam fill (1/10). Both ditches yielded middle Iron Age pottery.
- 4.8 Ditch 1/3 to the north and on a slightly different alignment was smaller with a narrower base. Its single very dark clayey loam fill yielded a few fragments of pot and animal bone.
- 4.9 The largest pits in the group were 1/15, 1/17 and 1/21 (Fig. 9, Section 8). All appeared to be approximately circular. Pit 1/17 largely truncated 1/15 and was slightly deeper (550 mm). Both had moderately sloping sides. Pit 1/21 was of a similar depth to 1/17 but with steep to vertical sides. All these pits had similar light brown to orange brown fills with relatively large quantities of limestone fragments (20-40%) showing tip lines. A few fragments of pot came from pit 1/21, but the others were without finds.
- 4.10 Pits 1/13 and 1/5 were relatively shallow (300 mm) and flat based. 1/13 had a dark and stony fill (1/14) while the fill of pit 1/5 (1/6) was lighter and stone-free. Both contained small quantities of pottery.

- 4.11 Feature 1/7 was a possible post-hole cutting pit 1/5 (Fig. 9, Section 7). It was steep-sided with a narrow, flat base. Several large blocks of limestone came from the fill (1/8) which contained a few sherds of pot.
- 4.12 A shallow gully (1/19) was also within this group of features. It appeared to cut pit 1/21 and terminated within the trench.
- 4.13 **Trench 2** was positioned across the enclosure boundary. Two ditches were revealed in the central part of the trench (2/3 and 2/5 [2/7]), running approximately east-west, but not quite parallel.
- 4.14 Both ditches were relatively broad but shallow and flat-based (Fig. 9, Sections 1 & 2), with 2/3 the more substantial of the two (400 mm deep). Ditch 2/5 may have been re-cut. Both contained uniform mid brown, stony fills. Ditch 2/3 yielded pottery and animal bone.
- 4.15 A pair of post-medieval quarry pits lay to the south of the ditches.
- 4.16 **Trench 4**, positioned to investigate a slight linear geophysical anomaly, revealed a single shallow gully (4/3) without finds.
- 4.17 **Trench 3**, which was positioned to sample an area devoid of geophysical anomalies, was without features or finds.

Site SL4 (Fig. 4)

- 4.18 Four trenches excavated on this site did not encounter any features. Trenches 2, 3 and 4 showed a relatively shallow topsoil (c. 300 mm) directly overlying limestone bedrock. A thin subsoil was identified in Trench 1 from which a fragment of Roman roof-tile was retrieved.

Site BH4 (Figs. 8, 10 & 11)

- 4.19 **Trench 1** was positioned at the southern end of the site to investigate a group of geophysical anomalies. A series of parallel linear features were revealed running across the trench at intervals of about 6 m. One of these was investigated (1/2) and was shown to be a shallow furrow. There were no archaeological features or finds but a quantity of coal and building debris were noted in the topsoil.
- 4.20 **Trench 2** was positioned to investigate a linear anomaly. Two ditches were revealed under the modern topsoil and a lighter subsoil. There were also a number of irregular soil variations which were investigated and shown to be tree holes or geological variations. Plough furrows were also evident, as in Trench 1.
- 4.21 Ditch 2/5 (Fig. 11) was 1.7 m wide and 900 mm deep with a steep-sided, rounded profile. The two upper fills (2/7 and 2/8) were conspicuously charcoal rich and yielded a large quantity of pottery and animal bone. There was also a fragment of a kiln bar from 2/8. The charred remains were shown to include wood charcoal, wheat, nettles and possibly oats and brome grass. The lower fill was a yellowish brown clayey silt which also contained some pot and bone.

- 4.22 Ditch 2/3 (Fig. 11) was relatively narrow but well-defined with steep edges. Its single fill (2/4) was a slightly greyish orange-brown clayey silt. It yielded a few fragments of pot and bone.
- 4.23 **Trench 3** examined an area of geophysical anomalies in the central part of the site. A complex of archaeological deposits were encountered at the south-western end of the trench (Fig. 10), but the only features in the rest of the trench were a series of shallow plough furrows, all of which were 50% excavated.
- 4.24 The archaeological deposits were cleaned, planned and sample-excavated. Pottery was retrieved from surface of many of the deposits here. Among them was a group of partly burnt limestone blocks within a matrix of mid-brown silt-loam (3/7). It is unclear whether this was random rubble or part of a structure. Spreads pebbly yellow-brown silt (3/5 and 3/6) overlying the natural silty clay, may have been remnant floor surfaces. Deposit 3/5 was cut by a shallow gully 3/3 which yielded pot and animal bone. A small post-hole 3/9 was also investigated but was without finds.
- 4.25 **Trench 4** was positioned to examine a linear geophysical anomaly. A linear feature (4/2) was revealed in the expected location. It was very shallow (120 mm) and its mid brown clayey fill was without finds. A shallow gully (4/4) on a slightly different alignment was found towards the northern end of the trench. It was without finds.
- 4.26 A number of other soil variations were also examined by excavation, but these proved to be irregular hollows of probable natural derivation.
- 4.27 **Trench 5** was positioned to examine a faint linear geophysical anomaly. The feature was not found and it assumed to have petered out in this area. There were no features or finds from this trench.

Site DAD2 (Fig. 5)

- 4.28 A 30-m trench was positioned across a former field boundary here showing as slight hollow in the field. The natural greyish orange clay substrate was encountered directly under the modern topsoil. It was cut by a shallow ditch containing exclusively modern fill.

Discussion

Site SL2

- 4.29 The extent of archaeological remains on this site appears to be reasonably faithfully indicated by the geophysical plot (Fig. 3). The general absence of features in Trenches 3 and 4 and the southern half of Trench 2, suggests there is little of archaeological significance on this side of the enclosure. The single shallow ditch in Trench 4, which shows faintly as a geophysical anomaly, remains undated and is of uncertain significance.
- 4.30 Within the enclosure features are not densely distributed except locally in Trench 1. Again the geophysical plot indicates that this pattern is likely to be applicable throughout the area.

- 4.31 The pottery from the ditches and pits indicates that site is of middle Iron Age date. Although there were intercutting features in Trench 1 their overall density and layout suggests a relatively simple site of few phases and, despite the presence of some undated features, it is unlikely there was a significant earlier or later occupation. The geophysical plot strongly indicates the presence of a penannular eaves-drainage ditch in Trench 1, and the excavated ditches can clearly be interpreted in this manner, with the sequential ditches 1/9 and 1/12 on the southern side suggesting two phases of construction. Post-hole 1/7 can be interpreted as having held an internal roof support.
- 4.32 The pits in Trench 1 were mostly inside the purported building and their function is uncertain. They may have been storage pits, although they are rather shallow to be 'typical' grain storage pits.
- 4.33 The ditches in Trench 2 may suggest more than one phase of enclosure although there is no indication of this from the geophysical plot
- 4.34 Two small post-medieval quarry pits were identified (Trench 2), but generally the site did not appear to have been much damaged by modern activity, except ploughing which had impinged on bedrock across the entire site. It is not known to what extent this has truncated Iron Age deposits, but there is no reason to suspect that this is above average for this type of rural location. No field drains were found.

Site BH4 (Fig. 8)

- 4.35 The site appears to be confined to Trenches 2 and 3, and possibly Trench 4, although it is not possible to define the site tightly on the basis of the evaluation or geophysical results. The anomalies in Trench 1 appear, on present, evidence to be related to modern dumping, and the faint linear feature in the northern field could not be found in Trench 5.
- 4.36 The deep ditch in Trench 2 (ditch 2/5) was clearly depicted on the geophysical survey. It contained a large quantity of domestic refuse indicating nearby occupation, although there was no indication of structures in the rest of the trench. The smaller ditch (2/3) on a similar alignment may represent a different phase of the same feature.
- 4.37 The ditch in Trench 4 (ditch 4/2) turned out to be a very shallow feature, without finds in the excavated section. It is uncertain whether it is associated with the occupation represented by the material in Trenches 2 and 3, although its orientation approximately at right-angles to ditches 2/3 and 2/5 suggests that it should be, despite its radically different character. The only other feature here was a shallow gully (4/4), which is likewise of indeterminate significance.
- 4.38 The nature of the occupation on this site is difficult to characterise. The linear geophysical anomalies do not form a clear pattern, and it is uncertain what the more random looking anomalies represent. In Trench 3 the complexity of small features at the south-west end is not evident on the geophysical plot and, conversely, the anomalies in the central part of the trench did not correspond to features in the ground. There therefore seems to be localised activity, which is difficult to predict from the geophysical results.
- 4.39 The recovery of a kiln bar fragment from ditch 2/5 suggests that pottery production may have been undertaken on site, although there were no wasters in the pottery assemblage. This may suggest that there is a dispersed pattern of kilns across the site

- with some anomalies representing kiln sites or local areas of burnt material. Trench 3 has shown that there is other occupation represented by shallow deposits, but this does not appear to be widespread, the majority of each trench being devoid of features.
- 4.40 The charred remains from ditch 2/5 were on the whole unremarkable. Much of the charcoal was in powder form and not identifiable. There is no indication that the charred remains came from anything other than normal domestic activity.
- 4.41 The pottery indicates that the occupation on the site can be dated to the terminal Iron Age and early Roman period. There is no evidence of significantly earlier or later occupation.
- 4.42 Ploughing since at least the medieval period, has truncated all the features on this site, but it has been shown that quite fragile remains, possibly including remnant floor surfaces, survive in places. Although the ground is poorly drained there did not appear to be significant truncation by land drains.

5. EARTHWORK SURVEY IN HAZELBOROUGH WOOD

Introduction

- 5.1 A survey was undertaken of the surviving earthworks on the north side of the A43 in Hazelborough Wood (Fig. 6). The survey took place in March 2000 after the trees and a certain amount of the undergrowth within the road corridor had been cleared. Earthworks on the southern side of the road were not surveyable due to the presence of dense woodland.

Method

- 5.2 The survey was undertaken using a total station. Although only the earthworks within the road corridor were required to be surveyed, it proved possible to extend the survey into the partly cleared zone of replanting outside the CPO boundary proper, and to a more limited extent into undisturbed woodland. This enabled more sense to be made of the overall pattern of earthworks, although the pattern outside the road corridor is by no means complete.

Results

- 5.3 The results are presented in Fig. 6. A sinuous ditch is the most prominent feature on the ground, traceable for much of the length of the road corridor here from about 8 m to 26 m distant from the present road edge. A bank is present in places on the north-west side of the ditch. It was probably originally continuous with the ditch but now only survives as a prominent feature in the areas furthest away from the road.
- 5.4 The bank and ditch feature appears to be a woodland boundary. The date of the feature is not inferable from the survey itself, and there are suggestions that it has been modified relatively recently for drainage purposes. It clearly respects the present trackways from the road, but it is not known whether this means that it post-dates the trackways or whether the boundary has been modified to accommodate the insertion of the trackways at these points.

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Project Manager: Andy Mudd BA MIFA
Fieldwork: Chris Jones and Joe Prentice
Geophysical Survey: Peter Masters

Text: Andy Mudd
Illustrations: Mark Roughley and Peter Masters

Approved by: Steve Parry MA MIFA

*Northamptonshire Archaeology
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Appendix 1: Context Inventory

Site SL2

Trench/ Context	Type	Depth mm	Width m	Finds	Comment
1/1	topsoil	300	-	-	
1/2	natural substrate	-	-	-	
1/3	ditch	450	0.95	-	
1/4	fill of 1/3	450	0.95	MIA pot bone	
1/5	pit	300	1.4	-	cut by 1/7
1/6	fill of 1/5	300	1.4	MIA pot	
1/7	post-hole	550	0.6	-	cuts 1/5
1/8	fill of 1/7	550	0.6	MIA pot	
1/9	ditch	460	1.5		cuts 1/11
1/10	fill of 1/9	460	1.5	MIA pot	
1/11	ditch	500	1.8	-	cuts 1/9
1/12	fill of 1/11	500	1.8	MIA pot	
1/13	pit	300	1.5		
1/14	fill of 1/13	300	1.5	none	
1/15	pit?	400	?		cut by 1/17
1/16	fill of 1/15	400	?	none	
1/17	pit	550	1.6		cuts 1/15
1/18	fill of 1/17	550	1.6	none	
1/19	gully	300	0.4		cuts 1/21
1/20	fill of 1/19	300	0.4	none	
1/21	pit	550	1.0		cut by 1/19
1/22	fill of 1/21	550	1.0	MIA pot	
2/1	topsoil	200	-	-	
2/2	natural substrate	-	-	-	
2/3	ditch	400	2.0	-	runs E-W
2/4	fill of 2/3	400	2.0	MIA pot bone	
2/5	ditch	250	1.0	-	cuts 2/7
2/6	fill of 2/5	250	1.0	none	
2/7	ditch	250	0.6+	-	cut by 2/5
2/8	fill of 2/7	250	0.6+	none	
2/9	quarry fill	400	3.0	PM pot bone glass	modern
2/10	quarry fill	650	1.3	PM pot	modern
3/1	topsoil	300	-	-	
3/2	natural substrate	-	-	-	
4/1	topsoil	300	-	-	
4/2	natural substrate	-	-	-	
4/3	gully	140	1.2	-	
4/4	fill of 4/3	140	1.2	none	

Site SL4

Trench/ Context	Type	Depth mm	Width m	Finds	Comment
1/1	topsoil	250	-	-	
1/2	subsoil	110	-	tile	Roman roof- tile
1/3	natural substrate	-	-	-	
2/1	topsoil	350	-	-	
2/2	natural substrate	-	-	-	
3/1	topsoil	300	-	-	
3/2	natural substrate	-	-	-	
4/1	topsoil	300	-	-	
4/2	natural substrate	-	-	-	

Site DAD2

Context	Type	Depth mm	Width m	Finds	Comment
1	topsoil	250	-	-	
2	natural substrate	-	-	-	clay
3	ditch	360	0.9	-	modern
4	fill of 3	360	0.9	marmalade jar lid	

Site BH4

Trench/ Context	Type	Depth mm	Width m (Length)	Finds	Comment
1/1	topsoil	400	-	-	
1/2	furrow	140	1.96	-	
1/3	fill of 1/2	140	1.96	none	
1/4	natural substrate	-	-	-	
1/5	fill of 1/6	n/k	0.6	none	modern
1/6	linear feature	n/k	0.6	-	land drain?
2/1	topsoil	300	-	-	
2/2	subsoil	300	-	none	ploughsoil
2/3	ditch	400	0.9	-	Roman
2/4	fill of 2/3	400	0.9	RB pot bone	
2/5	ditch	900	1.7	-	Roman
2/6	lower fill of 2/5	250	1.2	LIA/RB pot bone	
2/7	middle fill of 2/5	400	1.1	LIA/RB pot bone	
2/8	upper fill of 2/5	250	1.7	RB pot kiln bar	
2/9	natural substrate	-	-	-	
3/1	topsoil	250	-	-	
3/2	subsoil	90 - 200	-	none	

Trench/ Context	Type	Depth mm	Width m (Length)	Finds	Comment
3/3	gully	120	0.5 – 0.7	-	cuts 3/5
3/4	fill of 3/3	120	0.5 – 0.7	RB pot bone	
3/5	layer	n/k	n/k	RB pot	possible surface
3/6	layer	n/k	n/k	none	possible surface
3/7	deposit	n/k	0.8	RB pot	possible feature complex
3/8	deposit	n/k	1.0	RB pot	possible feature
3/9	post-hole	70	0.29	-	cuts 3/6
3/10	fill of 3/9	70	0.29	none	
3/11	deposit	n/k	2.5	none	possible feature
3/12	deposit	n/k	04 (0.7)	none	possible feature
3/13	natural substrate	-	-	-	
4/1	topsoil		-	-	
4/2	ditch	120	1.75	-	
4/3	fill of 4/2	120	1.75	none	
4/4	gully	100	0.5	-	
4/5	fill of 4/4	100	0.5	bone	
5/1	topsoil		-	-	
5/2	natural substrate	-	-	-	

Appendix 2: The Finds

Site BH4

The evaluation produced a small assemblage of pottery and animal bone. Of particular interest is the presence of a terminal fragment from a tapered kiln bar, suggesting that there may be pottery manufacture in the vicinity, however there is no evidence for ceramic wasters within the pottery assemblage.

The pottery by Tora Hylton

A small collection of pottery spanning the late Iron Age/early Roman period was recovered from eight individual deposits. In total the assemblage comprised over 400 sherds and weighed in excess of four kilos.

The entire assemblage was scanned to establish the major fabric types, determine the quantities and forms present and to highlight sherds of intrinsic interest. Basic ceramic analysis has not been undertaken at this stage. The fabric groupings used are those developed by E. MacRobert for Ashton Roman Town (unpublished).

The major fabric groupings can be summarised as follows:

- Fabric A Grogged-tempered wares. They may be hard-fired (Fabric A1/3), soft-pink-grog (Fabric A2) or some times combined with small quantities of shell (Fabric A/B). The exterior surfaces may be orange/red to brown-black. or pink.
- Fabric B Shell-tempered wares. Some sherds may be hard fired but this is rare. The surfaces may be fired black to dark orange and buff in colour.
- Fabric C Sandy greywares.
- Fabric D Sandy oxidised wares.

The assemblage dates from the first century through to the early second century and is represented by a range of locally manufactured vessels. Grog-tempered wares predominate, both in "soft" and "hard" fabrics. In addition, sandy greywares, shell-gritted wares and oxidised wares are also represented but in much smaller quantities.

FABRIC TYPE	TRENCH/CONTEXT NO							
	2/04	2/06	2/07	2/08	3/04	3/05	3/07	3/08
	No/Wgt	No/Wgt	No/Wgt	No/Wgt	No/Wgt	No/Wgt	No/Wgt	No/Wgt
Grog-tempered	1/10	3/37	213/4,127	36/774	14/357	1/24	2/5	5/77
Greyware	6/32		3/18	10/115	40/203	3/22	4/19	8/39
Oxidised sandy	1/4		3/27		1/3	2/8		
Sandy-coarseware					2/25			
Soft-pink grog	3/29				6/70		1/36	
Shell-gritted	2/25	1/14	2/40		3/53			
Whiteware				9/128				
TOTAL	13/100	4/51	221/4212	85/1017	66/711	6/54	7/60	13/116

The weight is given in grammes

Pottery was retrieved from Trenches 2 and 3 in the area of identified archaeological features. The largest quantity of material (5,280g) was retrieved from Ditch 2/5 (fills 2/6, 2/7 & 2/8), which

comprised a predominance of grog-tempered wares, particularly from fill 2/07, together with abraded fragments of early second century material from the upper fill (2/08).

For much of the material, vessel form, manufacture and in some cases decorative technique indicates a group of ceramics which display Gallo-Belgic influences. Diagnostic grog-tempered forms include, butt and ?girth beakers, channel-rim jars, wide-mouth jars, carinated vessels and storage vessels. Decorative techniques include, burnishing, cordons, grooves, incised lattice motif and vertical linear ornament.

Shell-gritted wares are represented by channel-rim jars some times decorated with horizontal or oblique rilling and jars with bead rims. There are very few diagnostic sherds of greyware. Identifiable forms include necked and neckless jars with everted rims.

There is nothing in the present assemblage indicating a pre-conquest occupation, although this would be a possibility if a larger assemblage were to be retrieved from this site.

The Other Finds by Tora Hylton

The kiln bar fragment is small (85 x 40 x 40mm) and was located in the upper fill (2/08) of Ditch 5 in Trench 2. The fabric is coarse, slightly "soapy" to touch and has been tempered with large quantities of vegetable matter and very little quartz. Its extant features suggest that it resembles a type of kiln bar known to be well represented in the central and eastern region of the county (Swann 1984, 63). Tapered kiln bars are associated with late Iron Age/Belgic pottery kilns.

Faunal remains by Eden Hutchins

In total there were 1,140 grammes of animal bone, represented by fragments from cattle, sheep, pig, horse and a bird (see Table below).

Context	Faunal remains
02/07	Cattle humerus, fragmentary cattle mandible, a bird (probably a goose) tarso-metatarsus, sheep scapula, cattle scapula, cattle ulna (was fused) and indeterminate fragments.
03/04	cattle mandible, cattle metapodial, sheep metapodial shaft (cut and scraped), small rib, large rib (cut).
04/05	Horse radius (was fused)
02/04	cattle mandible(fragmentary) cattle tibia(fragmentary), sheep mandible(fragmentary), pig tusk.

The bone was in generally good condition, although most of the remains were broken in some way. All the mandibles recovered were badly broken.

Because of the small size of the assemblage there would be little value in a more detailed analysis. However, butchery marks have survived well and would be of some interest if further work were to be carried out.

It is interesting to note that, even in such a small assemblage, several species were present. The site as a whole is likely to contain a diverse and well-preserved faunal assemblage.

Environmental indicators by Eden Hutchins

Two soil samples were taken for the recovery of charred plant remains and snails. The flots were scanned by eye, and informative remains examined more closely.

The samples were graded into three classifications of quantity: High, Moderate or Low. This represents the amount of each ecofact present. Low would have 1-10 instances, Moderate 10-100, and High over 100.

Sample	Charcoal	Seed	Snails	Comments
1 (2/8)	Low	Moderate	Low	Wheat, nettles and brome grass(?)
2 (2/7)	Low	Moderate	Low	Wheat and oat(?)

The charred remains were generally unremarkable for a site of this date. The wheat was probably Spelt wheat. The snails were typical of calcareous soils and not particularly environmentally diagnostic, particularly in such small quantities.

There would be little value in examining these samples more closely. However, if the site were to be fully excavated, a sampling strategy would enable some appraisal of the agricultural processes and trends on this site and in the wider region.

Site SL 2

Iron Age Pottery by Dennis Jackson

A small collection of 42 sherds of Iron Age pottery weighing 379g was retrieved from the features in Trenches 1 and 2, together with 16 other fragments of pot or fired clay. 23 of the sherds came from the ditches and pits in Trench 1, and 19 from Ditch 2/3 in Trench 2, which was the largest group.

The fabrics were dominated by inclusions of shell of varying size and density, but fabrics containing shell and grog, and shell grog, and stone grits were also present. The sherds were small and it is not possible to assess the form of any of the vessels. There were no decorated or scored sherds.

On the evidence of a rim and neck from one vessel, and the general appearance of the pottery, the assemblage is likely to date to the 3rd, or perhaps the 2nd century BC. There is no recognisable pottery from the earlier or later middle Iron Age phases, but the dating is not firmly based with such a small assemblage.

The nearest published assemblages of MIA pottery come from sites in the Milton Keynes area, some 25 km to the south-west. A larger assemblage from the Silverstone area could therefore be useful in the study of Iron Age ceramics from south Northamptonshire. If the assemblage is representative, grog inclusions may be more common on this site than on other MIA sites in Northamptonshire, and could represent a regional variation, but at present there are no published groups of MIA pottery from this region for comparison.

Faunal remains by Eden Hutchins

There was a small amount of animal bone (954g) from this site. It was generally in good condition, although most remains were broken.

The species present are indicated below:

Context	Faunal remains
02/04	Deer tibia
02/09	indeterminate fragments
01/04	Cattle humerus, Pig tooth, large rib, Sheep mandible (fragmentary),

	several burnt fragments including part of a Sheep humerus and Sheep metapodial, small ribs, Cattle radius (fragmentary), Deer metacarpal, Deer metacarpal II (separately bagged), Deer carpal.
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There is little potential for the further analysis of this assemblage. However, a larger assemblage from this site would be of some interest. The deer bones are unusual and may indicate an association with a site of high status or a wooded environment, although there is probably only one animal represented in this group. The burnt remains are probably rubbish accidentally incorporated in a fire.

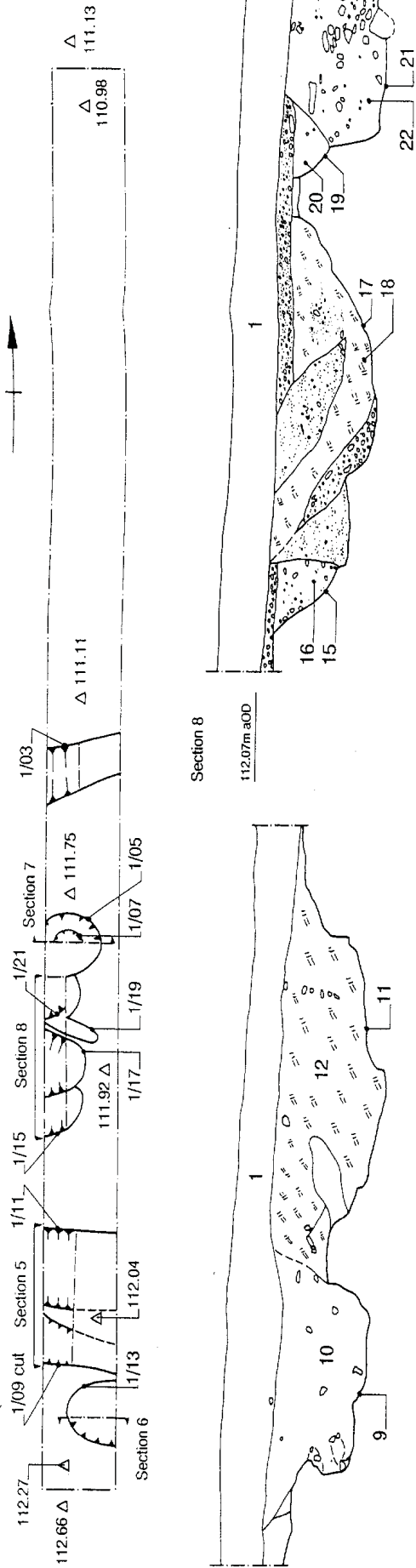
Site SL 4

The evaluation produced just two worn and abraded fragments of Roman roof tile from superficial deposits (1/02). Both pieces are fragments from imbrex tiles, one manufactured in a soft-pink-grog type fabric and the other in an oxidised sandy fabric.

Bibliography

Swann, V G 1984 The Pottery Kilns of Roman Britain, RCHM

TRENCH 1



Section 5

111.68m aOD

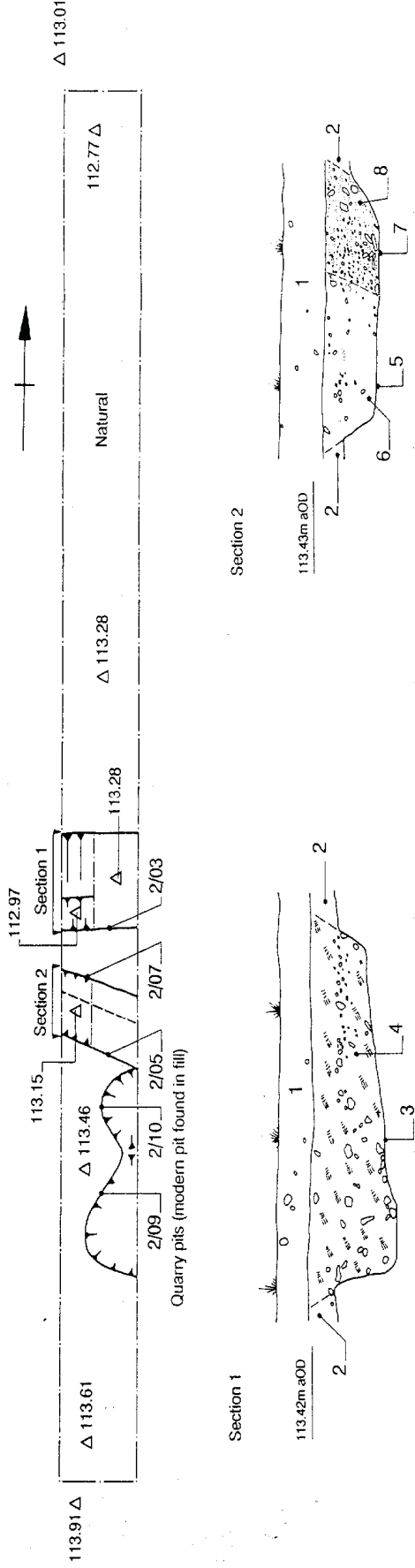
Section 6

111.83m aOD

Section 7

112.30m aOD

TRENCH 2



Section 1

113.42m aOD

Section 2

113.43m aOD

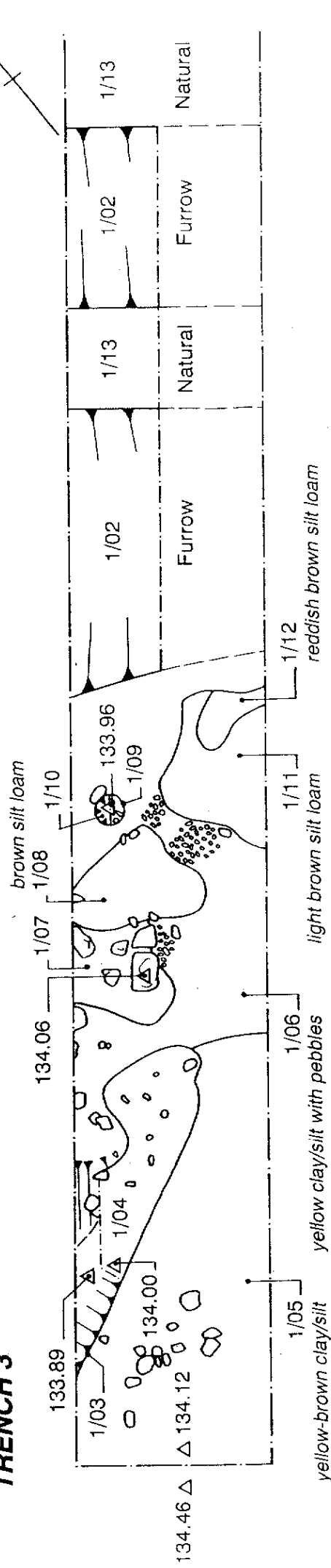
Plans

20m (Scale 1:100)

Sections

5m (Scale 1:25)

TRENCH 3



TRENCH 2

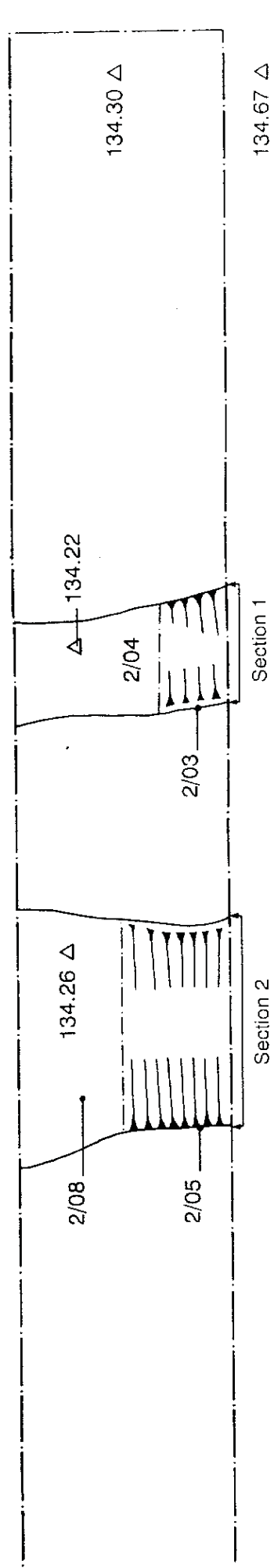
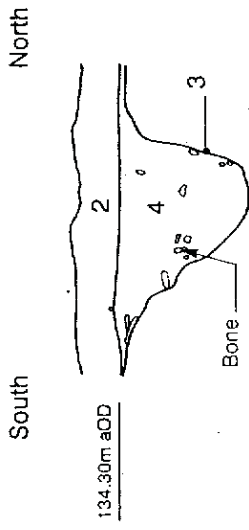


Fig.10

TRENCH 2

SECTION 1



SECTION 2

South

North

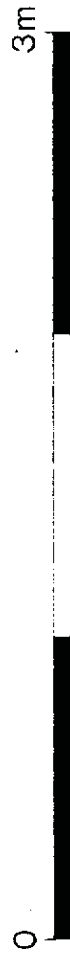
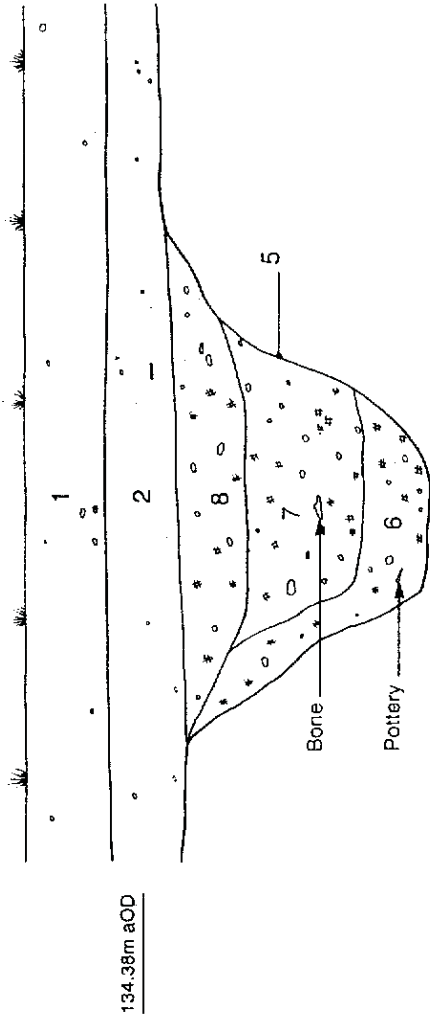


Fig.11

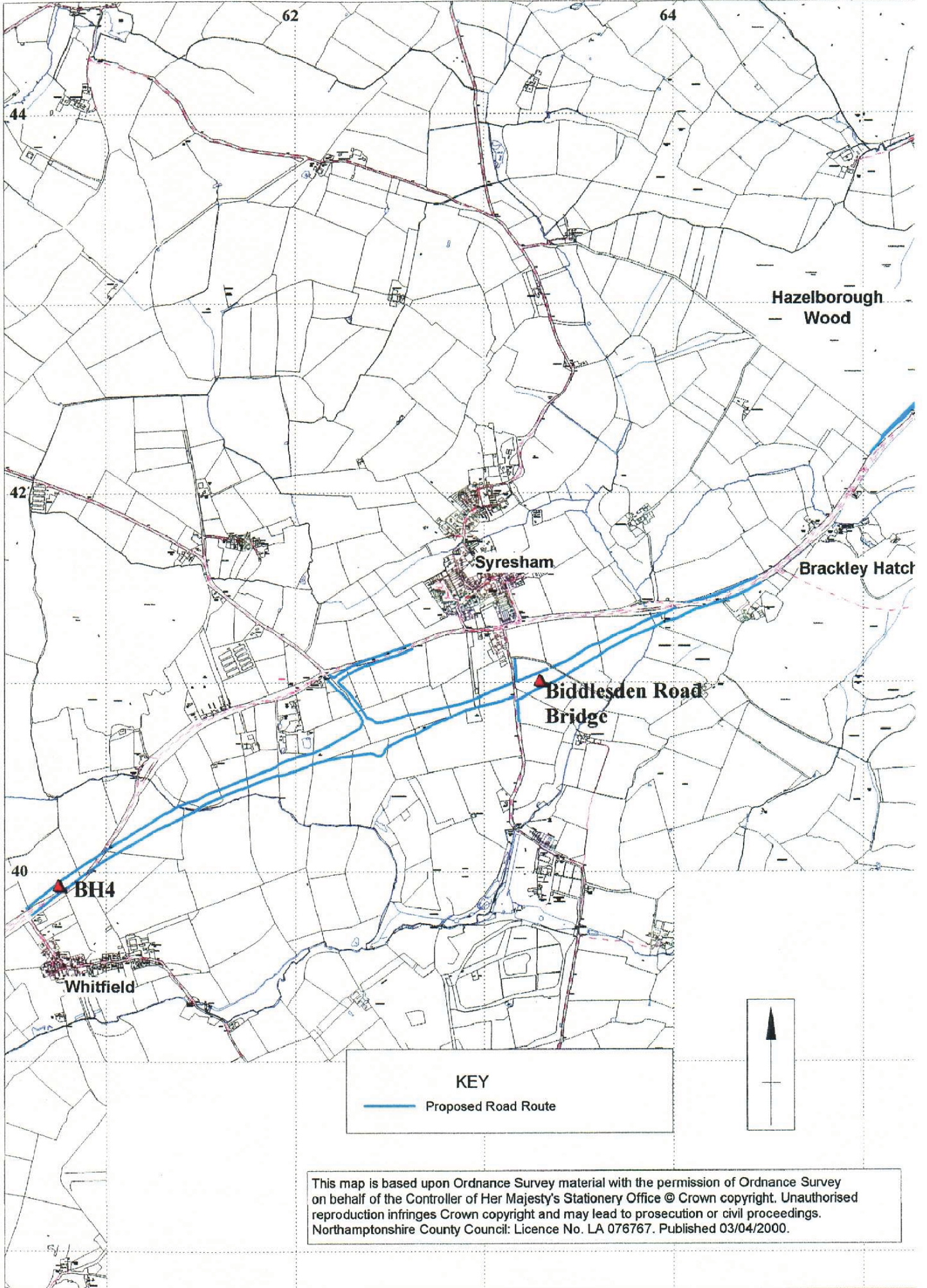


Fig. 1b



Fig. 2

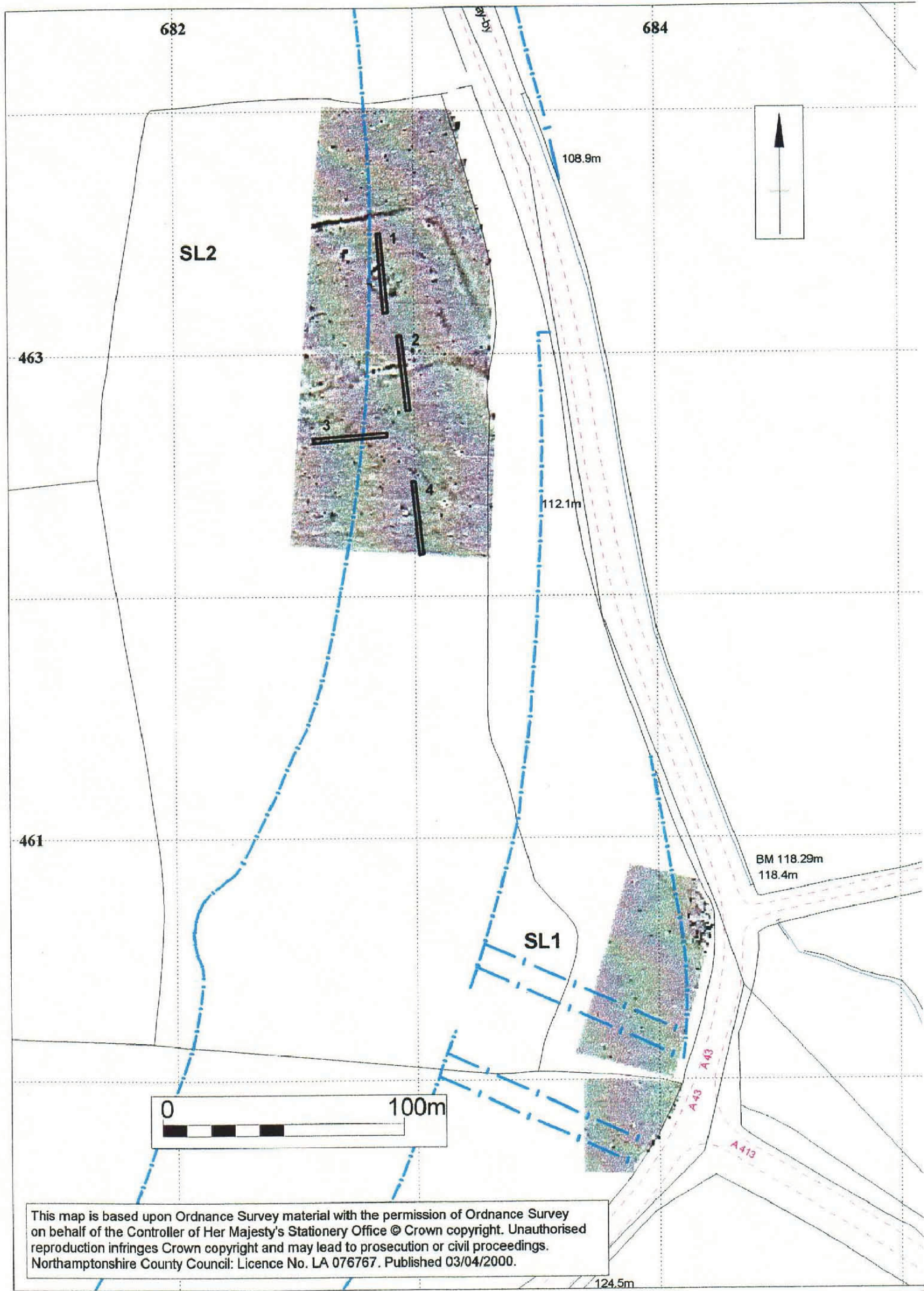


Fig. 3

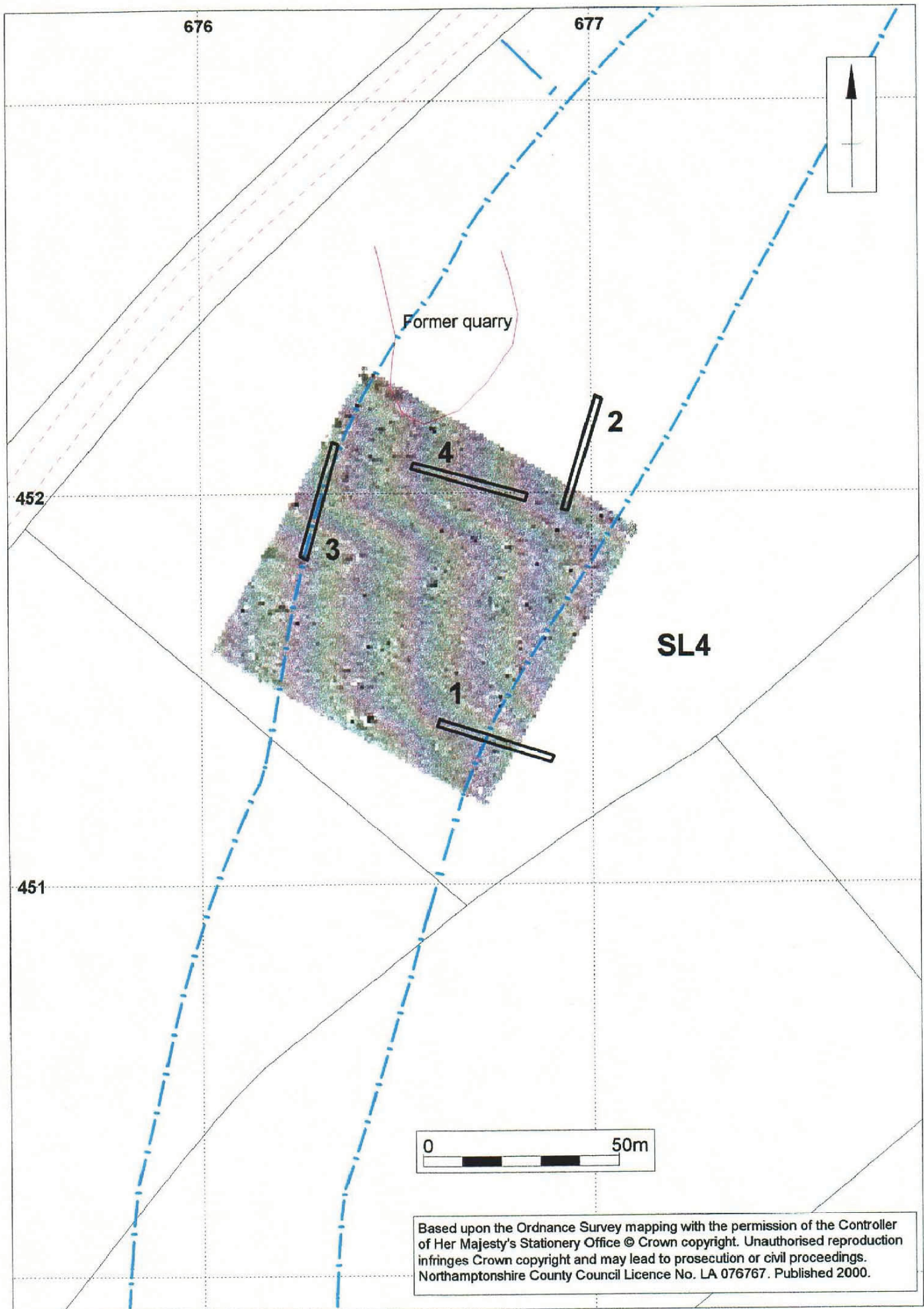


Fig. 4

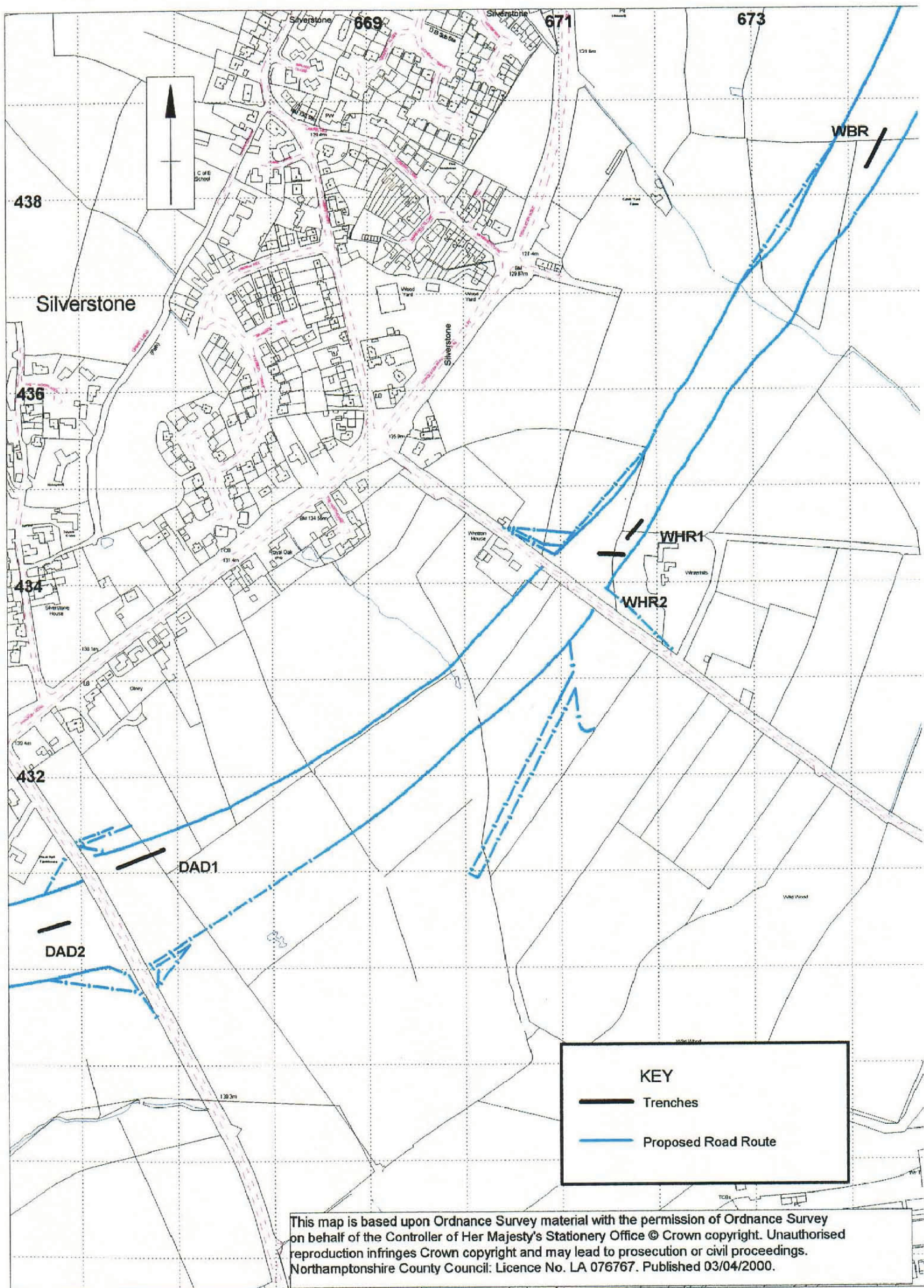
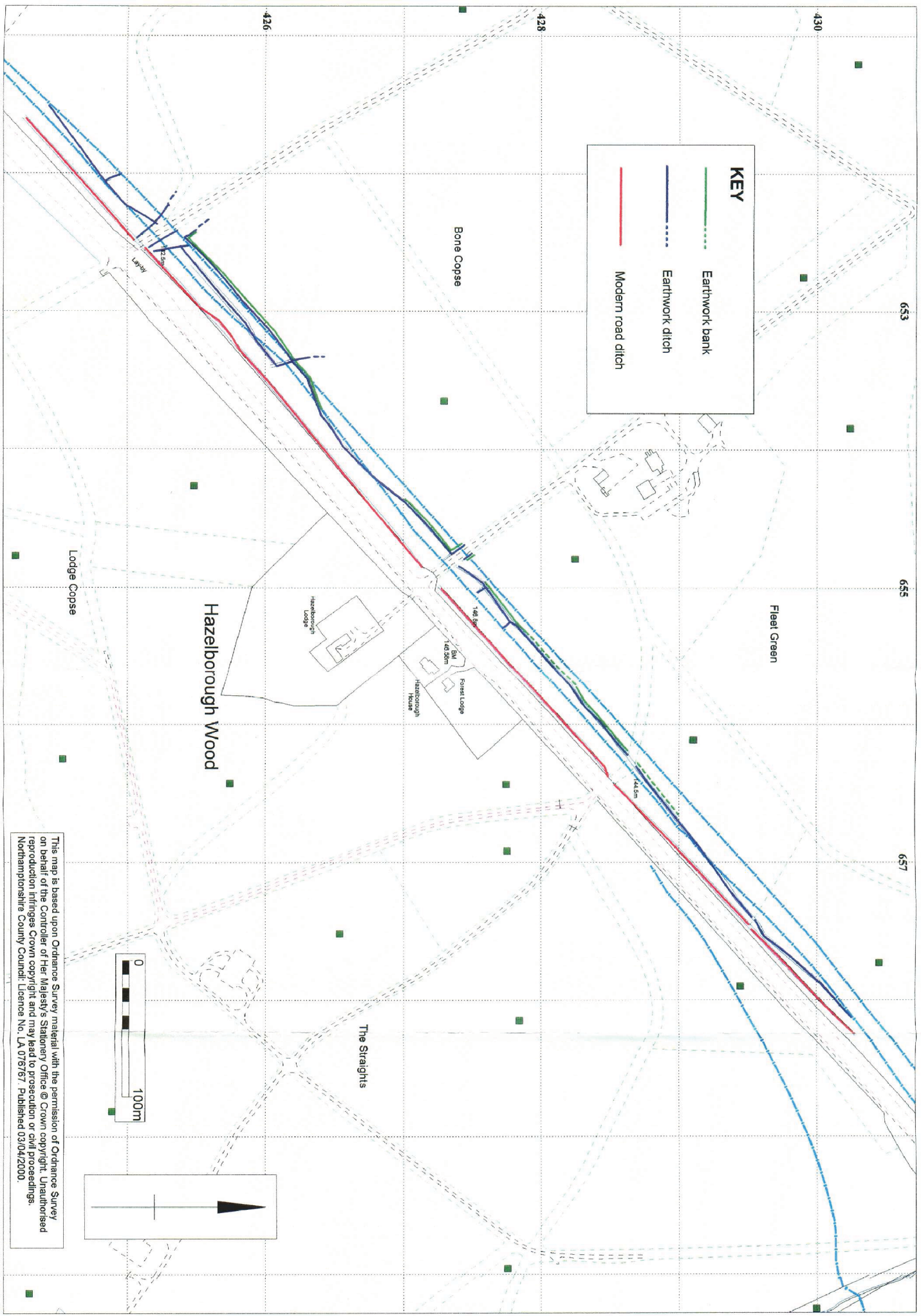


Fig. 5



KEY

- Earthwork bank
- - - Earthwork ditch
- Modern road ditch
- - - Earthwork ditch

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Fig. 6

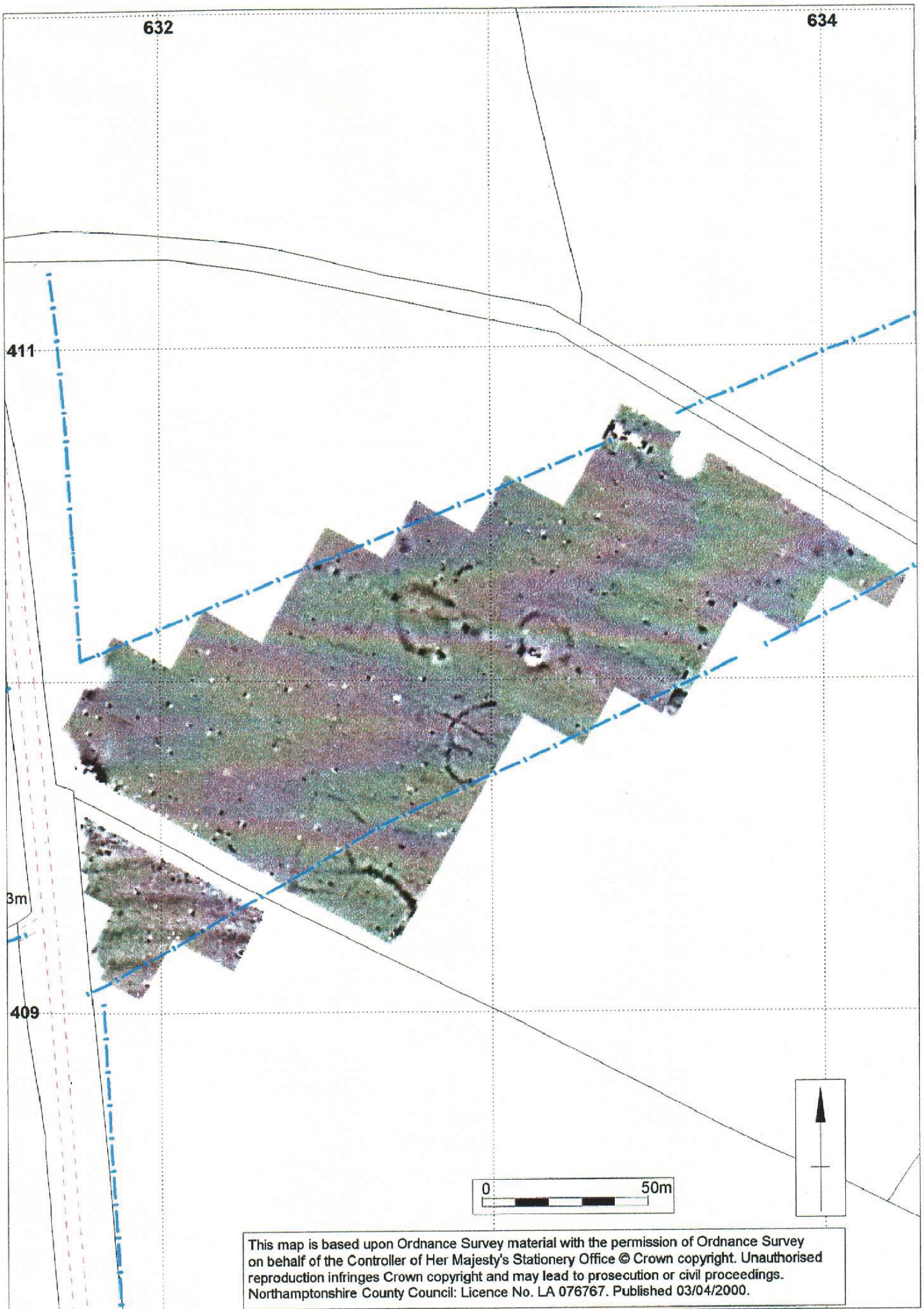


Fig. 7

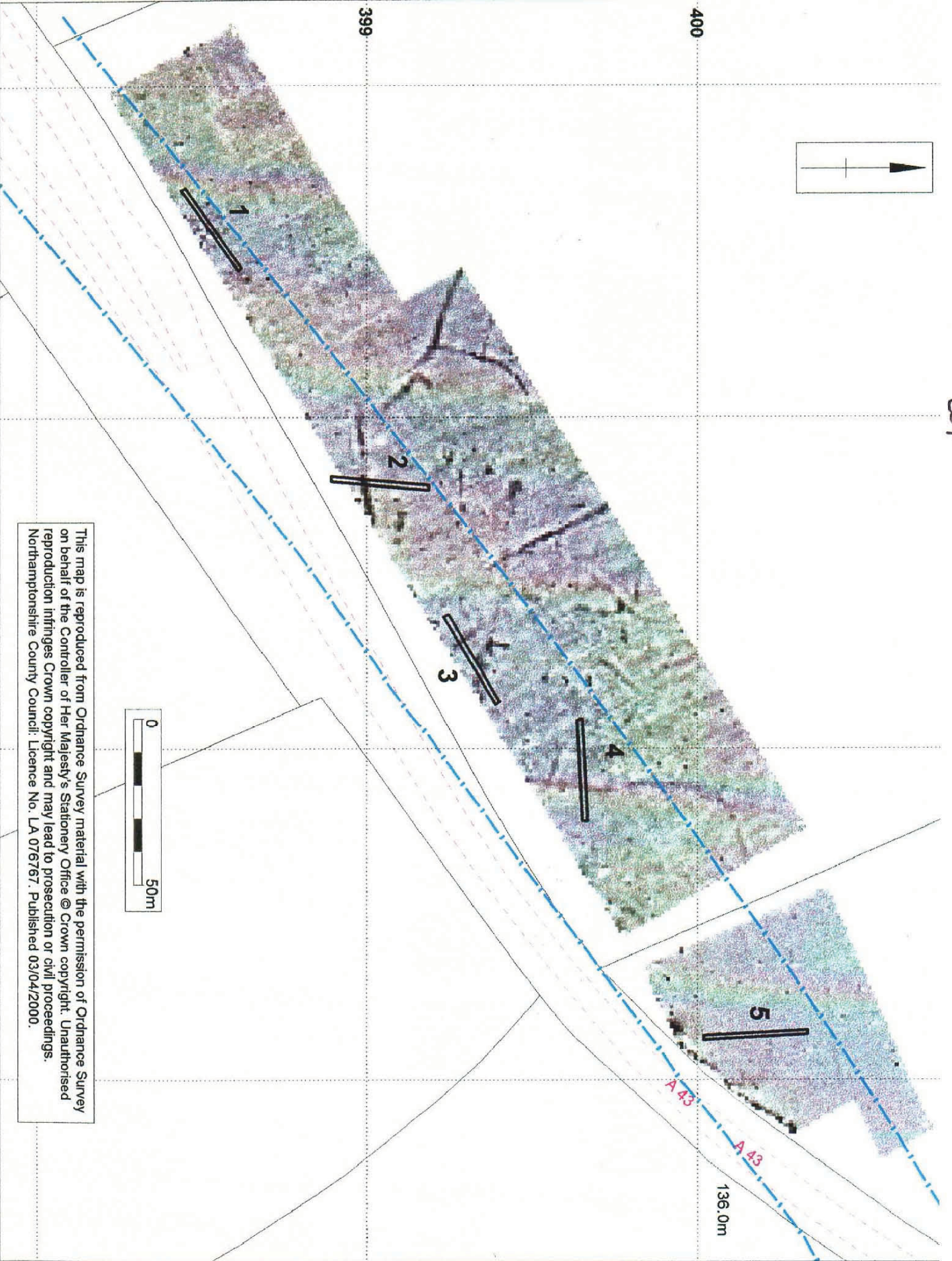


Fig. 8