



INDEX DATA	RPS INFORMATION
Scheme Title A6 Great Glen Bypass	Details Archaeological Assessment
Road Number A6	Date June 2000
Birmingham University Contractor Field Archaeology Unit	
County Leicestershire	
OS Reference SP64	
Single sided ✓ Double sided A3 2 Colour 0	

Birmingham University Field Archaeology Unit
Project No. 713
June 2000

**The A6 Great Glen Bypass, Leicestershire:
An Archaeological Assessment**

by
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The A6 Great Glen Bypass, Leicestershire: An Archaeological Assessment

Summary

An archaeological assessment was carried out along the route of the proposed A6 Great Glen Bypass in Leicestershire, comprising a desk-based assessment and walkover survey of the defined study area. The aim of the assessment was to identify and determine the survival and significance of archaeological remains within the Study Area, in order to allow the consideration and identification of any recommendations for further archaeological work ahead of the construction of the Bypass. The assessment identified areas of earthworks over parts of the study area requiring more detailed recording, and demonstrated that due to the landuse history, archaeological evidence may be invisible to non-intrusive methods of investigation, and therefore requires further investigation.

1.0 Introduction

This assessment was undertaken by BUFAU during June 2000 under commission by Eachus Huckson. It comprises an archaeological assessment of the line of the proposed A6 Great Glen Bypass in Leicestershire (hereafter the Study Area). As the scheme has a long history, and has only recently been revived, the route of the road has already been selected. This study, therefore, combines Archaeological Assessment Stages 1 and 2 as defined by the *Design Manual for Roads and Bridges, Vol. 11*, 1993. The Stage 1 part of the assessment comprises the identification of designated archaeological sites within the Study Area. Stage 2 evaluates any archaeological remains recorded on the Sites and Monuments Record (SMR) or identified from other sources. It also includes a preliminary assessment of aerial photographs, and describes the results of a walkover survey carried out over the Study Area.

2.0 Location of Study Area

The Study Area lies to the southeast of Leicester (Fig.1) and begins just outside Oadby, where the proposed route of the Bypass leaves the line of the A6. From here it runs across ridge-and-furrow grassland and crosses the floodplain of the River Sence to the southwest of Great Glen village. It then rises to a high point at Great Glen Park before descending through fields to cross the Carlton Curlieu Brook immediately before rejoining the line of the A6.

The archaeological Study Area has been defined as a zone approximately 250m from each side of the centreline of the proposed new Bypass (Fig.3). This is a narrower corridor of study than would normally be covered for a road scheme, and reflects the fact that the route of the Bypass has already been determined. Sites outside the Study Area have been included where such sites are considered important in the general

context of the area and/or where the possibility exists that similar or associated sites may exist within the Study Area.

The main parish affected by the route is Great Glen. A small part of the Study Area, lying between the eastern border of the former estate of Great Glen Manor and the Carlton Curlieu Brook, is within the parish of Burton Overy. South of the Brook is the parish of Kibworth Harcourt.

3.0 Objectives

The aims of the assessment were:

- to identify the archaeological sites within the Study Area.
- to determine the known and potential survival of the archaeological and historical resource within and around the Study Area and to identify the extent and limitations of current knowledge.
- to assess the significance and value of the resource in a local, regional, national or international context as appropriate.
- to assess the impact of the road scheme on each site identified.
- To make provisional recommendations for any further archaeological work in advance of the scheme.

4.0 Method

Sites will be discussed in separate sections according to the type of source which led to their identification. These sections are:

- Sites and Monuments Record Data
- Aerial Photographs
- Geotechnical Information
- Walkover Survey
- Field Name Survey
- Cartographic Evidence

A general historical background has been provided of the areas contained within the Study Area, derived from published and unpublished primary and secondary sources.

The definition of 'archaeological sites' should be taken to include upstanding remains, earthworks, buried features, palaeoenvironmental evidence and artefact scatters that may indicate the location of an archaeological site. Historic or Relic Landscape is included in order to set any sites in a broader context. This includes, '*all the physical remains of human interaction with nature through time, or the pattern of field and farm*' (PPG15, taken from English Heritage Archaeological Division Research Agenda 1997, 25). There has been no detailed assessment of listed buildings, as although one listed building is recorded just outside the Study Area (see section 9.1 below), none lie directly within it. The assessment has been carried out in accordance

with the guidelines laid out in *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Desk-Based Assessments* (Institute of Field Archaeologists 1999).

5.0 Assessment of Site Value

The archaeological sites affected by the route are categorised according to importance, or potential importance, as follows:

- sites of national importance, usually Scheduled Ancient Monuments;
- sites of regional importance;
- sites of local importance;
- sites of limited importance.

The Secretary of State for the Environment's published Non-statutory Criteria for the Scheduling of Ancient Monuments (PPG16: Annex 4 1990) and the English Heritage Guidance on the New Approach to Appraisal (1998) have been used to determine levels of significance.

Potential impact is categorised according to the level of disturbance or destruction that each site will undergo when the Bypass is constructed. A high potential impact may, for the purposes of this assessment, be defined as a site of local or regional importance which is traversed by, or largely destroyed by, the road scheme.

6.0 Sources

- The Leicestershire Sites and Monuments Record (SMR). This is the primary source of existing archaeological information.
- Published and unpublished documentary and cartographic sources were consulted at Leicestershire County Record Office.
- Other published sources were consulted in the University of Birmingham Library, including secondary historical and archaeological sources and the published reports of fieldwork.
- Aerial photographs were consulted at the Leicestershire SMR. A search was also requested from the National Monuments Record, who provided a list of vertical and oblique aerial photographs of the Study Area held in their collections.
- Geotechnical data provided by Mott MacDonald.

7.0 The Parish of Great Glen: Historical and Archaeological Background

7.1 Geology and Topography

The parish of Great Glen lies six miles to the southeast of Leicester. The village divides roughly into two parts, southern and northern. The southern part is situated on

low-lying ground in the angle between the River Sence and its tributary and centred on a small triangular green which was once a cattle enclosure belonging to the lord of the manor. This area is liable to flooding. The surface soil in the area is boulder clay. The underlying lias strata are exposed in the valleys of the Sence and its tributary. There are small patches of gravel and the river valleys contain small stretches of alluvium (Lee and McKinley 1964).

7.2 Historical Context

Place Name Evidence

The name 'Glennie' is a settlement name in its only pre-Conquest appearance, (Gelling 1984) and not a pre-English river name as others have suggested. It is possible that it was a district name, taken from the Britons by the Anglo-Saxons and given to two settlements which lay in the district, Great Glen (once known as Glen Magna) and Glen Parva.

Prehistoric

No prehistoric evidence was found relating to the Study Area. In the parish of Kibworth Harcourt, just outside the Study Area at SP 678 950, a quartzite scraper was found on ploughed land just northeast of Westfield at the top of a hill on the way into Kibworth Harcourt. In other parts of the county where detailed fieldwork has taken place, a dense prehistoric landscape has been revealed, and it is likely that such a landscape may be present in the Study Area, unreceptive to walkover survey techniques.

Roman

In the 1960s, sherds of samian and grey ware, including possible wasters, and tesserae were found on the site of the Recreation Ground in Great Glen (SMR 69 NE SP 655 983). A Roman coin, probably of the 3rd century, was also found. In 1971 other finds included box-flue tile, a rim of Black Burnished ware, several grey wares, a rim of colour-coated ware and two medieval rims. These finds have led to the theory that this was the site of a Roman villa.

Roman pottery was also recovered on site 69 NE M (see Section 9.1). This is said to have been identified by D.D.A. Simpson, but no notes were passed on. A coin also found here was dated to the 2nd century and was of either Antoninus Pius, Marcus Aurelius, or Commodus (Liddle 1985).

The SMR also notes the discovery of two joining pieces of Greek pot found somewhere near SP 65 96.

It is clear that there was some kind of Roman occupation of this area and the possibility that there are more undiscovered sites of this period should not be overlooked. The extent of medieval and post-medieval ridge-and-furrow may well mask archaeological sites of earlier periods.

Saxon

The district around Great Glen is rich in Mercian associations, since it was centrally situated in the Kingdom of Mercia. Great Glen itself was situated on a main north-south road later used during the Civil War in the 17th century, making it perhaps an ideal place for assemblies (Bott 1953). Great Glen church, dedicated to St. Cuthbert, the Saxon bishop of Lindisfarne, contains two carved stones of pre-Conquest origin and a circular font of Saxo-Norman date, probably 12th century. The high ground on which the church stands is thought to have been the focal point for the Domesday village. A watermill (SMR 69 NE V) is referred to in the Domesday Book, and a mill building existed on the site until 1885, but by 1958 the mill-house had been converted into a private dwelling. This site lies just north of the A6 to the southeast of a large fishpond, in the vicinity of the Medieval earthworks around Glen Farm.

In 849, 'Glenne' was the site of a charter of the Bishop of Worcester, granting land to the King of Mercia. It has been suggested that an Anglo-Saxon palace may have been situated near the church (SMR 69 NE AU). Hoskins thinks it likely that Great Glenn provided a summer residence for the kings of Mercia in the 9th century. (Bott 1953). Around 850, Wistan, son of the King of Mercia, was murdered at a place thought to be Wistow, which lies about 2km to the southwest of Great Glen. However, other than the documentary reference to the charter, there is no material evidence for this.

Great Glen is mentioned in the Domesday Book, the then lord of the manor being Hugh de Grantmesuil, a follower of William the Conqueror. In 1086 the population of Great Glen was 45 and comprised 20 socmen, 14 villeins, 6 bordars and 2 serfs with 3 bondswomen. On the lord's demesne were 3 ploughs, while the tenants had 6.

Site 69 NE J, described in Section 9.1, the site of earthworks, produced Saxo-Norman pottery, suggesting that this area may have been an early focus for the town. Pottery ranging in date from the 10th century to c.1550 was recovered here. Pottery from the 10th- or 11th- century was possibly associated with stone-footings of buildings. To the north of this site at SP 653 977 (69 NE M) Saxo-Norman and one sherd of Anglo-Saxon pottery was recovered.

From the existing evidence it would appear that the area of Great Glen has potential for archaeological deposits from the Saxon period. The earliest settlement may have grown up in the vicinity of the church, which lies about 250m from the Bypass route. The presence of earthworks around the south and west of the current village (SMR 69 NE AK, J and M) is also a strong indication that Saxon and early medieval settlement took place here.

Medieval

There is very little evidence for the history of Great Glen before about 1070. It is thought that the Medieval settlement of Great Glen may have grown up in the area around the church, where a few older buildings still survive near the river Sence. The Medieval church, which survived until 1876, appears to have dated mainly from the late-13th or early-14th century. The 14th-century tower remains intact, but its spire was removed around 1770. In 1140, Ralph Butler granted the church to Alcester Abbey, which retained it until the 15th century.

Sherds of Medieval pottery dating to c.1100-1550 were unearthed from the earthworks site near Glen Farm (SMR 69 NE J), a site which may mark the location of the early settlement. Medieval village earthworks were also found south of Church Road, and consisted of boundary ditches, house-platforms and cobble spreads. Pottery dating from the Medieval and earlier periods was found.

In 1265, the watermill at Great Glen was worth an annual 15 marks. A windmill is referred to in 1352 as being worth 1 mark annually. In 1272, the lord of the manor was granted the right to hold a Monday market at Great Glen and also an annual fair around St. Cuthbert's Day. The 1381 Poll Tax returns show that there were 22 inhabitants in the village, 9 of whom were women. By 1563, there were 20 households. It is thought that the manor house ceased to exist around 1495. It had certainly gone by 1619 and its site is unknown.

Strip-farming predominated in Leicestershire, and evidence of this in the form of fields of ridge-and-furrow can be seen in the fields around Great Glen and elsewhere within the Study Area. At Great Glen, an inquisition of 1352 shows that a triennial system for the rotation of crops had been adopted, which meant that a third of the land would lie fallow while the other two-thirds were farmed (Lcc and McKinley 1964). There is no evidence for any enclosure in the early-17th century. Some areas of heathland still existed at this time.

Great Glen has many earthwork sites which have proved to date from Saxon and medieval times. These have been interpreted as belonging to a Shrunken Medieval Village, which provided the early focus for settlement at Great Glen. This evidence, along with the evidence for ridge-and-furrow in the fields around, would suggest a high potential for the existence of further Saxon and Medieval archaeology within the Study Area, in particular in the general vicinity of these earthworks.

Post-medieval

During the Civil Wars between 1640 and 1660, houses and the church in Great Glen were often used as billets for the troops. This was probably due to the fact that the village lies on a main north-south route and this road was almost certainly the one that saw the flight of Royalist troops in 1645 after the battle of Naseby. The White House, which stands near the green, is thought to be the house in which Prince Rupert stayed the night before this battle. It is thought that the church was destroyed by fire at this time, perhaps explaining why there are no church registers from 1639-1660.

In 1670 there were 63 households in the village and in 1676 there were 249 communicants. A house dating from the 17th century stands on high ground in the northern part of the village and a mud-walled cottage in the southwest corner of the village was demolished in 1930. A house in Brook Road is dated 1719. In 1758-9 an Act of Parliament for the enclosure of the parish was passed. However, there is no extant map to accompany the Enclosure Award.

Many large houses standing within their own grounds are located near the main road around Great Glen. Great Glen House and Great Glen Manor (now Stoneygate School) both lie on high ground in the southeast of the parish. Great Glen House is mid-Victorian and the Manor was built in 1907. The northern part of the village

contains some early- and mid-19th century cottages, some of which were built for framework-knitters, an industry which was widespread in the village during the early 19th century. Thomas Crick built many cottages in the 19th century, including Crick's Retreat in 1870, a row of 10 houses standing north of the main road between Oadby and Great Glen.

8.0 Burton Overy and Kibworth Harcourt: Historical and Archaeological Background

The village of Burton Overy is seven miles southeast of Leicester and stands on rising ground forming the eastern slope of the River Sence valley. The current A6 crosses the southwest of the parish. The road was a turnpike in 1726. In 1086 the recorded population was 34, making it a little smaller than Great Glen, but by 1563 there were 32 households, 12 more than Great Glen at this time. None of the houses in the village are thought to date from before the 17th century.

A Roman pottery scatter was found northeast of Burton Brook Farm (SMR 69 NE L: SP 679961). Just to the west of the village, on either side of a stream, are some earthworks known as the Banks. To the east of the stream they consist of a bank and ditch forming a large square enclosure. To the west, there are further banks and mounds. Their origin is not certain, but they are thought to have formed part of the medieval village. A Medieval hall and a watermill mentioned in 1440 are thought to have been on the site. Two mills were mentioned in 1314 and 1315. By the end of the Middle Ages, part of Burton Overy was already enclosed to form pasture and meadow held in severalty. In 1622 hemp and flax were being cultivated and there were many fields used for hay production. In the 17th and 18th centuries the village arable was divided into 3 fields. These were enclosed in 1765.

Kibworth Harcourt lies about 9 miles southeast of Leicester on the A6. The village lies near the southern boundary of the township.

In 1967-8 a windmill mound (SMR 69 NE W: SP 689953) was excavated by F.B. Aggas. Finds included a 13th-century storage jar, millstone fragments, a carved bone tool and a small whetstone. Aggas also excavated a ploughed field (SMR 69 NE AN and 69 SE BF: SP 679 950). An area of large pebbles was found, along with Roman pot and building material. A ditch containing 2nd-century pot was found to underlie the pebbles. The site was cut off by a furrow. In 1968-9 further excavation revealed a bronze brooch, decorated bonework, a coin of Constantine I and an iron chisel.

9.0 Results

9.1 Sites and Monuments Record

Seven sites recorded on the SMR lie within or close to the Study Area. These are listed and assessed below. The location of the sites listed can be seen on Figure 3.

Findspot

Site Number: 69 NE AC

Grid reference: SP 653 979

Description: Half of a snaffle bit of medieval type found while recutting a ditch at the bottom of the garden of 7 Fordview Close in Great Glen. This site lies c.550m from the centre-line of the route, but has been included to show the possible extent of the medieval settlement at Great Glen.

Value: Local importance.

Potential impact: None.

Grade II Listed Vicarage

Site Number: 69 NE AL

Grid reference: SP 652 977

Description: Vicarage of the church of St. Cuthbert. Possibly medieval. This lies about 300m from the centre-line of the route.

Value: Regional importance.

Potential impact: No archaeological impact.

Medieval earthworks

Site Number: 69 NE AK

Grid reference: SP 655 976

Description: In 1982, a field of earthworks, including two possible house platforms, was noted here, southeast of the church. When groundworks for building construction began on the site, known as Plot 1, Main Street, in 1998, a watching brief was carried out by University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS). However, no evidence of archaeological deposits or features was noted. This site lies about 350m from the centre of the route but, along with other earthworks to the south of the village, may represent part of a shrunken medieval village.

Value: Regional importance.

Potential impact: None.

Medieval village earthworks

Site Number: 69 NE M

Grid reference: SP 653 977

Description: Earthworks were noted to exist on this site, south of Church Road. In 1984, A.H. Wilson's began building on the site. Pottery from the Roman, Saxon, Saxo-Norman and medieval periods was recovered. Also found were a 2nd century Roman coin, a coin of Edward III and a 13th/14th century jeton (Liddle, 1985). Cobble spreads were also recorded. This site lies about 400m from the centre-line of the route but probably represents part of a larger medieval shrunken village.

Value: Regional importance.

Potential impact: None.

Medieval village earthworks

Site Number: 69 NE J

Grid reference: SP 657 972

Description: In 1972, Peek and Parsons noted linear markings in the neighbourhood of Manor Farm and suggested that these belonged to a Shrunken Medieval Village. An excavation was conducted ahead of sewage pipe installation at Glen Farm, just to the southwest of Manor Farm by Leicester Archaeology Unit in 1990 (Martin and

Sawday, 1991). The aim was to examine the prominent earthworks in this area. These earthworks comprised several platforms and a slight hollow way leading south to pasture/meadows. A small quantity of Roman pot and tesserae was found, thought to be related to the remains of a villa about 900m to the north (69 NE AM SP 655 983). One of the mounds contained six Medieval pot sherds dating to c.1100 and a ditch on its western side contained 29 sherds of Saxo-Norman pottery. No definite evidence for its function was discovered although it may have been used as a house platform or windmill mound. The second mound may have been the product of landscaping associated with the creation of a fishpond to the immediate south. Possible traces of foundations for cob walls of buildings or the remains of associated floor or yard levels were also found. The presence of the earthworks and pottery half a mile away from the church led the authors of the report to suggest that either the village was of quite a large size by a relatively early date, or that there were two separate settlements in existence. However, they also state that there is a possibility of the pottery representing a manuring scatter. Glen Farm is immediately adjacent to the northern edge of the proposed route and this site is the only known archaeological site to lie directly in the line of the Bypass route. The hollow way appears to extend south through the road line and the southwest corner of the outer earthworks may also lie in the line of the route.

Value: Regional importance.

Potential impact: High.

Post-medieval watermill

Site Number: 69 NE V

Grid reference: SP 659 973

Description: A mill, perhaps occupying this site, is mentioned in the Domesday Book. The mill ceased operation after 1885 - the mill house survives as a private dwelling.

Value: Local importance.

Potential impact: None.

Roman villa site

Site Number: 69 NE AM

Grid reference: SP 655 983

Description: In the 1960s, sherds of samian and grey ware, including possible wasters, and tesserae were found on the site of the Recreation Ground in Great Glen. A Roman coin, probably of the 3rd century, was also found. In 1971 other finds included box-flue tile, a rim of Black Burnished ware, several grey wares, a rim of colour-coated ware and two Medieval rims. These finds have led to the theory that this was the site of a Roman villa. The site lies outside the Study Area, but its presence is significant in the landscape, indicating as it does that there was occupation of this area during the Roman period.

Value: Regional importance.

Potential impact: None.

9.2 Aerial Photographs

A preliminary assessment of aerial photographs was carried out, comprising the examination of easily accessible photographs and an identification of the whereabouts and quantity of collections of photographs relating to the Study Area. This enabled the identification of requirements for full interpretation of photographs for selected areas.

Examined Photographs:

Leicestershire County SMR holds two full sets of aerial photographs for the whole of the County. The first of these is the HSL (Hunting) Survey, taken in black-and-white in July-August, 1969-70, at a scale of 1:10 000. Photographs HSL UK 70 1054 11/0682 and HSL LEICS 69 909 12/1513 were examined. Several possible crop/soil-marks were noticed. These were plotted onto the 1:10,000 Ordnance Survey maps using the Mobius Network Method and it was found that none of them lay within the Study Area. Some lay just outside the southern edge of the Study Area. One feature is described below, as it lies within the northeastern corner of a field directly affected by the Bypass route (its position is marked as AP on Fig.3):

Grid reference: SP 666 966

Description: A circular mark, measuring about 30m in diameter. Its southwestern edge lies about 300m from the centre of the proposed route. Its northeastern edge lies about 5m from the current A6. The field in which this feature was noted is currently under dense crop and thus could not be investigated further. Although the feature was not located on the ground, it may be possible that it, along with other similar marks, is part of a larger archaeological feature within the landscape.

Value: Not known.

Potential impact: None.

The SMR also holds a set of colour aerial photographs at 1:10000 taken by Geonex in 1991. No crop or soil marks could be discerned on these. Also held by the SMR are several sets of colour slides and black-and-white prints taken by J. Pickering. These were examined but few showed the Study Area. Where the latter was shown, no archaeological features could be discerned.

Mott Macdonald provided an aerial photomontage of the Study Area, which showed areas of ridge-and-furrow. Parts of the earthworks south of Glen Farm could also be discerned.

Unexamined Photographs:

The National Monuments Record (NMR) provided the results of a search of both of their aerial photographic collections for the Study Area. The search found 9 oblique and 61 vertical prints. These are listed in the Appendix.

9.3 Geotechnical Information

A ground investigation was carried out for Mott MacDonald in 1991 and borehole and trial pit logs have been examined for this assessment, in order to ascertain the extent of alluvial and/or colluvial deposits within the Study Area. The use of non-intrusive

investigation techniques such as aerial photograph research or geophysical survey would not aid the identification of buried archaeological remains in areas covered by such deposits. The trial pits which contained alluvium were TP 13, 14, and 15. A brief description of these follows (all depths given refer to metres below ground level):

TP13

SP 465237.7/297390.3. Alluvium/glacial drift 0.70-2.0m. Below this, 2m of very stiff grey silty sandy clay, the upper zone of this possibly represents weathered/disturbed lias clay. In the lower zone, numerous ammonite fossils.

TP14

SP 465258.5/297353.7. Alluvium/glacial drift 0.60-1.70m, containing sand and gravel. Below this, 2.30m of stiff grey silty clay (possible weathered lias clay).

TP15

SP 465386.7/297245.7. Alluvium 0.50-3.20. Stiff brown silty sandy clay with stone inclusions becoming very soft at 2.0m. At 2.70-3.20m, soft grey organic silty sandy clay with wood. Below this, 0.80m of lias clay with fossils.

Boreholes 13, 14, 15, 29, 30 and 31 also contained alluvium. The National Grid References for these are as follows:

BH13: SP 465299.6/297323.6

BH14: SP 465334.1/297291.1

BH15: SP 465349.6/297281.6

BH29: SP 467072.3/295919.6

BH30: SP 467081.6/295893.6

BH31: SP 467142.7/295901.9

Trial pits 13, 14 and 15 and boreholes 13, 14, and 15 all lie around the River Sence, and boreholes 29, 30 and 31 lie around the Carlton Curlieu brook, where alluvial deposits would be expected to exist. Figure 3 shows their locations.

9.4 Walkover Survey

A walkover survey was undertaken of all the accessible fields contained within the Study Area, with the aim of noting the presence of Medieval ridge-and-furrow systems, earthworks and any other possible archaeological features within them. *Pro forma* recording forms were used to carry out the survey and each field was given its own identification consisting of a number followed by a letter. The numbers relate to the Land Ownership plan and schedule provided by the Department of Transport. 69 enclosures were recorded and it was found that 41 fields would be directly disturbed by the route of the A6 Bypass.

A total of 28 of the recorded fields contained ridge-and-furrow grassland, and other fields around these for which there was no landowner information could also be seen to contain ridge-and-furrow, indicating an extensive use of this type of farming in the area, probably dating to Medieval times. The ridge-and-furrow was preserved to varying degrees; in some fields it was highly prominent and in others extremely

truncated. Twenty six of the remaining surveyed fields contained dense, high crops, which meant that they could not be surveyed accurately. Some of these fields may also contain truncated ridge-and-furrow, or other earthworks and archaeological features that could not be observed at the time of the survey. The remaining 15 fields were mostly pasture or contained very young crop, two of which contained earthworks (17C and 17D). A third adjacent field, known to contain earthworks, could not be surveyed due to head-height grass and weeds and no knowledge of ownership.

Of the 41 fields which will be directly affected by the route of the Bypass (i.e. the line of the road cuts through all or part of the field), those which have archaeological potential or contain very well-preserved ridge-and-furrow will be described in more detail below. All grid references given relate to the central area of each field. Figure 2 shows the field numbers allocated and current land-use for all fields surveyed, including the presence of ridge-and-furrow.

Ridge-and-furrow

Site Number: 3A

Grid reference: SP 63900/98850

Field name: Not known.

Description: Ridge-and-furrow runs approximately NW-SE with c.6-7m spacing (between centre of ridges). All boundaries were established high hedgerows apart from modern fencing in NW.

Land-use: Pasture (cattle).

Value: Regional importance.

Potential impact: Low.

Ridge-and-furrow

Site Number: 4

Grid reference: SP 64150/98650

Description: Ridge-and-furrow runs approximately NW-SE with c.8m spacing. In places c. 0.5m high. All boundaries were mixed-species hedgerows with some trees.

Land-use: Pasture.

Value: Regional importance.

Potential impact: High.

Ridge-and-furrow

Site Number: 7B

Grid reference: SP 64150/98380

Field name: Not known.

Description: Ridge-and-furrow runs approximately NW-SE. 6-7m apart. It is more pronounced where ground is higher at northern end. Slopes down to NW boundary, where there is a stream. Possible old stream course also observed in southern end, running down to NW – the land dips here and is boggy.

Land-use: Pasture (sheep).

Value: Regional importance.

Potential impact: High.

Ridge-and-furrow

Site Number: 10

Grid reference: SP 64300/98300

Description: Largest area of ridge-and-furrow runs NW-SE, about 6m apart, and is notably 'S'-shaped in character. 0.50-1.0m high. NE corner of field has another smaller area of ridge-and-furrow running NE-SW. A possible headland runs parallel to SE boundary and another mound lies about halfway along NW boundary. Possible stream-course noted in 7B may continue into this field from the NW boundary. High hawthorn and elder hedgerows form boundaries.

Land-use: Pasture (cattle).

Value: Regional importance.

Potential impact: High.

Ridge-and-furrow

Site Number: 11

Grid reference: SP 64700/98000

Description: Three areas of differently aligned ridge-and-furrow, most of which is very well-preserved (c.1.0m high). Blocks of ridge-and-furrow separated by headlands or banks. Near to the NE corner of the field and close to one of the headlands, the ridge-and-furrow is more closely spaced (c.4.0m apart). A steep break of slope curving and running almost parallel with the A6 could be a former stream course, large pond, or possible holloway. N and NE boundaries – mature trees and bushes, and fence. W – scrappy bushes and mature trees. S – well-established hedge and mature trees.

Land-use: Pasture (cattle).

Value: Regional importance.

Potential impact: Moderate.

Ridge-and-furrow

Site Number: 13B

Grid reference: SP 64950/97750

Description: NNE-SSW aligned ridge-and-furrow, mainly 6m apart and 0.50m high, but separated into 2 strips by broader 8m spaced (1.0m high) ridges. Slightly banked flat area to the N may be remains of former headland. Boundaries: S – mixed high, established hedgerow and ditch. N – established mixed hedgerow and trees – possible parkland boundary with field 11. W – small trees/shrubs and 1 mature tree. E – hedge of small shrubs/trees.

Land-use: Pasture.

Value: Regional importance.

Potential impact: Moderate.

Ridge-and-furrow

Site Number: 15

Grid reference: SP 65100/97300

Description: Runs E-W, about 6.0m apart. May be slightly 'S'-shaped. More pronounced at N end where ground slopes up quite steeply. Quite truncated in places. About 0.30m high. Field used as Archery Field. Avenue of young trees planted along N edge and others down W boundary. These boundaries are otherwise composed of modern fencing.

Land-use: Recreational.

Value: Local importance (due to truncation).

Potential impact: Moderate.

Earthworks

Site Number: 17C

Grid reference: SP 65450/97150

Description: Rectangular field under crop. Linear depression running E-W and slight ridge sloping down to W from E boundary may be associated with earthworks in 17D. Several dumps of modern brick appear to infill former ponds. Boundaries: N – established mixed hedgerow and ditch. E – mixed hedgerow and mature trees. S – mixed hedgerow and ditch. W – mixed hedgerow, 2 mature trees.

Land-use: Arable.

Value: Regional importance.

Potential impact: Moderate to high.

Earthworks

Site Number: 17D

Grid reference: SP 65600/97100

Description: Low earthworks noted in field, previously excavated by ULAS (see Section 9.1). Holloway can be seen running from NE corner, SW across site. 2 possible mounds at N end of field and another further to N. 2 or 3 other linear dips running E-W could be seen in SW corner of field. Boundaries are high, mixed hedgerow on S, W and E. Some mature trees on W. Buildings associated with Glen Farm to N.

Land-use: Arable.

Value: Regional importance.

Potential impact: Moderate to high. Most of earthworks avoided, but holloway runs directly through line of road.

Ridge-and-furrow

Site Number: 19B

Grid reference: SP 66300/96600

Description: Parkland formerly belonging to estate of Great Glen Manor. Planted clumps of trees dotted around land. Avenues of trees parallel to E and W boundaries. Four separate alignments of well-preserved ridge-and-furrow noted, separated by very high ridges (1.0-1.50m high). In NW corner, aligned E-W and 8.0m apart. In NE corner, aligned N-S and 4.0m apart. In N central area, aligned E-W and 4.0m apart. In W central area, aligned N-S and 8.0m apart. Probable old field boundary noted running E-W just N of centre of site where alignment of field changes direction slightly. This is indicated by a line of trees against a linear ridge and an old gatepost at the W end. A pond is to the E of one of these trees near the centre of the field. Other ponds lie along W edge. Parkland boundaries of high shrub hedgerow and trees along the inside.

Land-use: Pasture (cattle).

Value: Regional importance.

Potential impact: High.

Ridge-and-furrow

Site Number: 221

Grid reference: SP 67400/95400

Description: N area of field contains low earthworks which may be remnants of ridge-and-furrow or headlands. S of driveway running from A6 to farm, ridge-and-furrow runs NW-SE, about 6.0-7.0m apart. This becomes more truncated to the S. In the furthest W area of the field, a different alignment runs NE-SW – this is very prominent and appears to continue below S boundary into arable field (22H), suggesting hedgerow may post-date it. Maintained head-height hawthorn hedgerows on E, S and part of W. Trees surround farmyard on rest of W boundary. Planted woodland (probable shooting covert) lies along part of S boundary.

Land-use: Pasture (sheep).

Value: Local importance (due to truncation).

Potential impact: Moderate.

9.5 Field Names

A field name survey for the parish of Great Glen was carried out by the Leicestershire and Rutland Federation of Women's Institutes in 1967-8. Other field names for the same area were recorded in Survey Books for the estate of Charles William Packe (Fig. 4) and Mrs. Packe Reading, dated 1862 and 1869 respectively, and held in Leicestershire County Record Office. Field names are often useful indicators for a field's past use, or any unusual or archaeological features which might be within it. Figure 5 shows the W.I. survey annotated onto a 1958 Ordnance Survey map. Perhaps the most interesting of these names is that of 'Graves,' which lies immediately to the southeast of the land containing the earthworks described in Section 8.4. This could be a reference to the earthworks which are visible from this field. Earthworks in the form of mounds were often thought to be tumuli or ancient burial mounds, and 'Graves' could represent such an interpretation. However, Grave can also be a corruption of Grove. Gelling (1984) says, 'It seems likely that a grove was a wood of limited size, which was a striking visual feature,' certainly with reference to place rather than field names. No woodland is shown on maps of this enclosure.

Other named fields directly disturbed by the Bypass route are Two Elsons, Jobby Jack's Field, Long Green, Long Meadow, Bottom Hut, Top Hut, Middle Holmes, Seven Acre and Manor Park. The name hut may refer to the presence of outbuildings in these enclosures at some time. The name Holmes can be derived from the old Norse for 'water meadow' or, perhaps more often, can refer to a stream-side meadow (Field 1993). The western edge of the field is 400m to the east of the River Sence and the field to the west of it is named Bottom Holmes, so this would seem a plausible explanation.

The following is a list of field-names and corresponding numbers (as shown in Fig.5), which represent those fields lying within or immediately adjacent to the Study Area. The numbers shown in brackets are the numbers allocated for the walkover survey by BUFAU.

26 (13E) Two Elsons	57 (17K) Top Hut
27 (13G) Brown's Close	58 (17J) Stonelands

28 (17A) Long Green	59 (17M) Seven Acres
37 (13F) Jobby Jack's Field	60 (19B) Manor Park
49 (17E) Graves	61 (17N) Highfields
50 (17C) Long Meadow	62 Oswins
51 (17F) Middle Holmes	67 (17N) Long Run
52 (17I) Bottom Holmes	68 (17F) Bottom Hut
55 Middle Stygates	69 (17L) Hill Field
56 (17M) Top Stygates	

9.6 Cartographic Evidence

No tithe maps were found to exist for Great Glen, Oadby, Burton Overy or Kibworth Harcourt. Kain (1995) says that, 'the proportion of land exonerated from tithe commutation at the time of parliamentary enclosure is exceeded only by that in Huntingdonshire and Northamptonshire. As in other midland counties the enclosure process left a number of pockets of residual tithable land within otherwise tithe-free districts so that...less than 30% of the area of the county remained tithable.' He also says that as most tithe maps of Leicestershire were produced at the end of the 1840s, most of them only depict the small pockets of residual tithable land.

Although an Enclosure Act was passed for Great Glen in 1758-9, the Award exists without the accompanying plan.

An 1862 Survey Book of estates belonging to Charles William Packe (Fig.4) showed part of the A6 and one of the fields to the south of it. This field was not formally surveyed during the walkover survey but it was noted as containing ridge-and-furrow. This field lies to the north of 17E and 17J. The estate plan numbers it 19a and names it The Croft. A house, gardens and pond are also shown in its northeast corner and probably represents the existing Manor Farm. As a field name, Croft often refers to a small enclosure associated with a cottage or house (Field 1993). The field was occupied by Sarah Clements. The survey also shows some land occupied by the Executors of Archibald Finnie. These are 17 and 18a. The latter corresponds to 19G on the walkover survey and is referred to here as Great Stoneyland. The 1967-8 field-name survey calls it Stonelands. This field was noted to contain ridge-and-furrow. Field 17 refers to a small enclosure to the south of this and is named Little Stoneyland. However, this enclosure is not shown on current maps. Instead, Little Stonelands in the field-name survey is to the northwest of Stonelands. The name is self-explanatory, referring to the difficulty in cultivation caused by the type of soil.

An 1869 Survey Book of lands belonging to Mrs Packe Reading showed some land in Great Glen, but it was not clear exactly which area was shown.

The 1904 and 1929 Ordnance Survey maps (Figs.6 and 7) showed no features of archaeological interest within the Study Area. The area is shown as fields with several ponds dotted throughout. Other Ordnance Survey maps from the 1960s-1990s showed no archaeological features or significant changes within the Study Area. The Women's Institute field-name survey is annotated onto an Ordnance Survey map from 1958, as aforementioned.

In 1961 a map showing land-use in the area of Great Glen was produced by C. N. Hadfield, the County Planning Officer. The fields shown along the route are mainly agricultural land with a market garden and woodland, nursery garden, poultry and orchard being the only separate designations.

In the mid to late 1980s, Fred Hartley annotated Ordnance Survey maps SP 69 NE and NW to show the location of ridge-and-furrow throughout the district (Fig.8). His sources were aerial photographs, including RAF verticals, the HSL survey, and his own oblique shots. The aim was to show the whereabouts of ridge-and-furrow from all dates, whether it existed at the time or had existed in the past. The fields he has shown to contain ridge-and-furrow which were not observed to contain it during the walkover survey, often because the fields were under dense crop, are 8B, 9A, 9C, 13D, 17A, 17C, 17D, 17E, 17F, 17J, 17K, 17M, 17N, 19A, 19C, 19F, 20A, 20B, 22A, 22B, 22C, 22D and 22F.

Figure 9 shows the plans produced by ULAS to illustrate their 1991 excavation of the earthworks around Glen Farm. Here several earthworks can be seen around Glen Farm. The earthworks to the west are in Field 17D, with some overlap into 17C. To the east of these are many more earthworks which could not be observed on the ground due to high weed and grass coverage.

Fig.10 shows Philip Thornton's 1988 plan of the Parish of Glen Magna, about 1840. His source was the c.1840 Ordnance Survey map of Leicestershire. The map shows the watermill southeast of the triangular green in Great Glen. To the west of this, on either side of the current A6 are shown a few buildings.

10.0 Discussion

The Study Area lies within a Medieval landscape. This is evident both from the extent of ridge-and-furrow in the area, a characteristic of Medieval and Post-medieval settlement in this region, and from the Shrunken Medieval Village earthworks that lie around Great Glen and other settlements in the area, such as Burton Overy. The line of the road will run directly through part of the possible Shrunken Medieval Village earthworks in enclosures 17C and 17D.

Ridge-and-furrow is, in itself, a significant archaeological feature in the regional landscape, and a resource that is gradually being destroyed as towns expand. A survey of destruction rates indicates that countrywide only 8-21% of ridge-and-furrow present in 1940 survives today. Field systems can also be indicators of complex settlement patterns. Although a fairly small proportion of the ridge-and-furrow along the Bypass route will be disturbed or destroyed relative to the total amount in the Study Area, a number of fields containing well-preserved ridge-and-furrow will be affected to a greater or lesser extent. Essentially, the value of ridge-and-furrow is as a visual landscape feature, for example Enclosure 19B contains several different alignments of prominent ridge-and-furrow, with associated headlands, and also parkland previously belonging to an estate. Any disturbance of this enclosure will inevitably result in loss of the character of this parkland, and it is necessary to ensure that this is preserved 'by record'.

A significant result of this assessment is the recognition of the extent and limitations of current knowledge, especially with regard to the identification of areas where no systematic previous research has been carried out, where past land use has affected the ability to detect buried remains, and where field conditions such as dense crop or vegetation, or alluvial cover may conceal important remains.

It is reasonable to surmise that the small amount of archaeological fieldwork undertaken in this area may account for the relatively small amount of sites recorded in the SMR. This paucity of fieldwork in turn may be accounted for by the nature of the land in this area. Archaeological sites which pre-date the medieval period may well have been masked by the extensive ridge-and-furrow, thereby rendering them invisible on aerial photographs and non-receptive to geophysical survey techniques. The presence of alluvium will have a similar masking effect, and areas around rivers tend to be focal points for settlement. However, the rivers within the Study Area cross the line of the road rather than running along it, and alluvial cover within the Study Area is therefore relatively localised.

Because of the extent of ridge-and-furrow in the area and the possibility that much of the land currently used for arable purposes may also be, or have been in the past, ridge-and-furrow, most of the available aerial photographs are unlikely to provide much useful archaeological information, as the ridge-and-furrow will conceal any earlier features. However, the area around the putative Shrunken Medieval Village, where earthworks have been observed and/or investigated, may merit fuller assessment and interpretation of aerial photographs.

11.0 Recommendations

On the basis of the assessment, recommendations for mitigation and further archaeological recording are outlined below. These recommendations have been made in consultation with the Leicestershire county archaeologist, in her capacity as the archaeological advisor to the planning authority.

Specific recommendations:

- **Fieldwalking**
All arable land within the projected fence line of the Bypass route, under crop at the time of the walkover survey, should be subject to a programme of non-intensive fieldwalking when ploughed, focused mainly on surface artefact collection.
- **Earthwork survey**
A detailed, measured EDM survey should be undertaken of well-preserved ridge-and-furrow in those areas directly disturbed by the road. Fields recommended for this are 4, 7B, 10 and 19B, the latter being an especially well-preserved landscape. The Shrunken Village earthworks in fields 17C and 17D should also be subject to a detailed measured survey.

- **Aerial photographs**
Full assessment, interpretation and digitally rectified plotting of the aerial photographs held at the National Monuments Record relating to the area around the Shrunken Medieval Village of Great Glen, focusing on enclosures 17C and 17D, should be carried out.
- **Geophysical Survey**
A geophysical scan of all the land within the projected fence line of the Bypass route should be carried out, followed by detailed geophysical survey amounting to 25% of the scanned area, targeted on areas showing anomalies, or areas deemed to be of high potential.
- **Trial-trenching**
A programme of trial-trenching should be carried out in fields 17C and 17D, in the location of the earthworks, prior to the construction of the Bypass. The results of the trial-trenching will determine whether any further excavation will be necessary.
- **Archaeological auguring**
A programme of archaeological auguring should be carried out across the width of the projected fence line in the two areas of alluvium, in order to identify any dateable organic deposits, palaeosols, or occupation levels. The programme should include sampling to test for palaeoenvironmental potential.
- **Further investigation of areas of unknown potential.**
Sample trial-trenching, in advance of construction, in targeted areas directly in the line of the road should be carried out, in order to determine the presence and extent of any earlier archaeological remains that may be masked by the ridge-and-furrow. The extent and location of such areas would need to be agreed with the county archaeologist following the results of the fieldwalking, and geophysical and auger surveys.
- **Mitigation**
There will need to be mitigation of adverse impacts in areas of sensitivity identified by the above techniques, by excavation or other appropriate means. Furthermore, a contingency should be built in to the construction programme to allow for the excavation of previously undetected sites that may be revealed during topsoil stripping. The topsoil stripping should be subjected to archaeologically specified machining methodology and supervision..

Acknowledgements

This report was written by Sarah Watt and edited by Steve Litherland and Lucie Dingwall, who also managed the project. The walkover survey was carried out by Laurence Jones, Sarah Watt and Lucie Dingwall. The illustrations were prepared by Nigel Dodds. Thanks are due to Eachus Huckson for commissioning the work, and to Richard Knox of the Leicestershire County Sites and Monuments Record and John Webber of Mott Macdonald for their assistance during the course of the project. Thanks are also due to Ann Graf, the Leicestershire County archaeologist, for her comments on the draft version of the report.

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- Thornton, P 1988 *A Look at Great Glen*
Philip Thornton
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Maps

Ordnance Survey:

1904 Leics. XLV.2
1904 Leics. XXXVIII.9
1904 Leics. XXXVIII.13
1929 Leics. XLV.2
1929 Leics. XXXVIII.9
1929 Leics. XXXVIII.13
Current 1980s 1:2500: SP 6697
 SP 6597
 SP 6696
 SP 6397
 SP 6497
 SP 6598

Others:

1862 Survey Book of Estates Belonging to Mrs. Packe Reading
1869 Survey Book of Estates Belonging to Charles William Packe, Esq.
1967-8 Women's Institute Field-Name Survey annotated Ordnance Survey
from 1958
1980s Fred Hartley: annotation of Ordnance Survey with ridge-and-furrow
1988 Plan of the Parish of Glen Magna, about 1840 – from Thornton, P.,5

Appendix

National Monuments Record Aerial Photographs

This section lists those photographs covering the study area.

Obliques:

<u>NGR Index No.</u>	<u>Accession No.</u>	<u>Frame</u>	<u>Original No.</u>	<u>Date Flown</u>	<u>6 Fig NGR</u>
SP6398/1	JAP 6963	090	86.16	18/6/86	SP635985
SP6497/1	JAP 2340	27		7/1/82	SP644977
SP6497/2	JAP 2341	28		7/1/82	SP643978
SP6497/3	JAP 2341	29		7/1/82	SP643978
SP6498/1	JAP 6977	1903	86.30	1/8/86	SP645987
SP6498/2	JAP 6977	1904	86.30	1/8/86	SP644984
SP6498/3	JAP 6977	1905	86.30	1/8/86	SP645983
SP6895/10	JAP 19438	03	D1	9/3/95	SP681953
SP6895/11	JAP 19438	05	D1	9/3/95	SP680953

Total: 9 records

Verticals:

Sortie No.	Library No.	Camera Position	Start Frame	End Frame	National Ref. Start	National Ref. End	Date
106G/UK/636	16	RS	4010	4012	SP630991	SP644987	10/8/45
106G/UK/636	16	RS	4057	4058	SP683952	SP676951	10/8/45
CPE/UK/1925	549	FP	1016	1018	SP621993	SP633999	16/1/47
CPE/UK/1925	549	FS	2020	2022	SP655964	SP666969	16/1/47
CPE/UK/1925	549	RP	3019	3020	SP645977	SP650980	16/1/47
CPE/UK/1925	549	RS	4022	4023	SP675944	SP681947	16/1/47
CPE/UK/2415	757	V	5036	5037	SP637989	SP634989	26/11/47
CPE/UK/2511	784	V	5001	5003	SP639992	SP633991	14/3/48
CPE/UK/2424	835	RS	4033	4034	SP636984	SP643987	31/12/47
58/1078	1419	F22	22	23	SP636997	SP641997	9/4/53
106G/UK/1017	3464	FV	7084	7087	SP664969	SP652968	17/11/45
58/780	3518	V	5068	5071	SP646982	SP643979	14/9/51
58/780	3518	V	5107	5115	SP657971	SP642979	14/9/51
106G/LA/150	3870	FS	2065	2067	SP635983	SP634994	27/2/45
US/7PH/G P/LOC283	6924	V	5001	5001	SP677984	SP677984	18/4/44
US/7PH/G P/LOC305	8188	V	5029	5030	SP684936	SP693944	22/4/44
US/7GR/L OCB5	8237	V	16	16	SP664969	SP664969	4/3/44
US/7GR/L OCB6	8239	V	26	26	SP670967	SP670967	5/3/44
OS/69068	10911	V	40	41	SP653977	SP650977	5/4/69
OS/66241	11589	V	113	115	SP639989	SP640981	3/9/66
OS/88098	13255	V	27	29	SP640981	SP656978	16/5/88
OS/88098	13255	V	69	70	SP661968	SP653968	16/5/88
OS/88098	13255	V	84	85	SP669954	SP677954	16/5/88

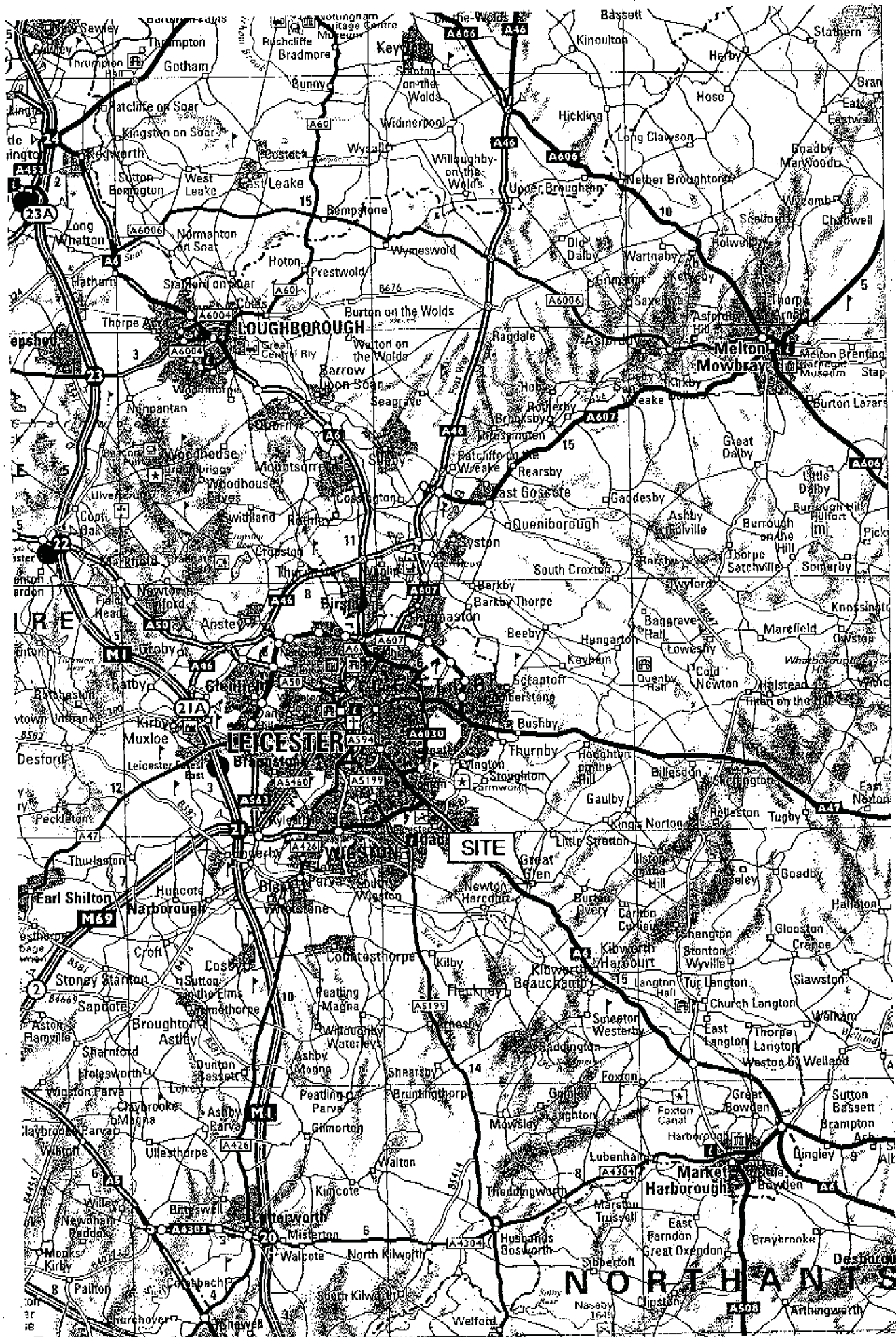
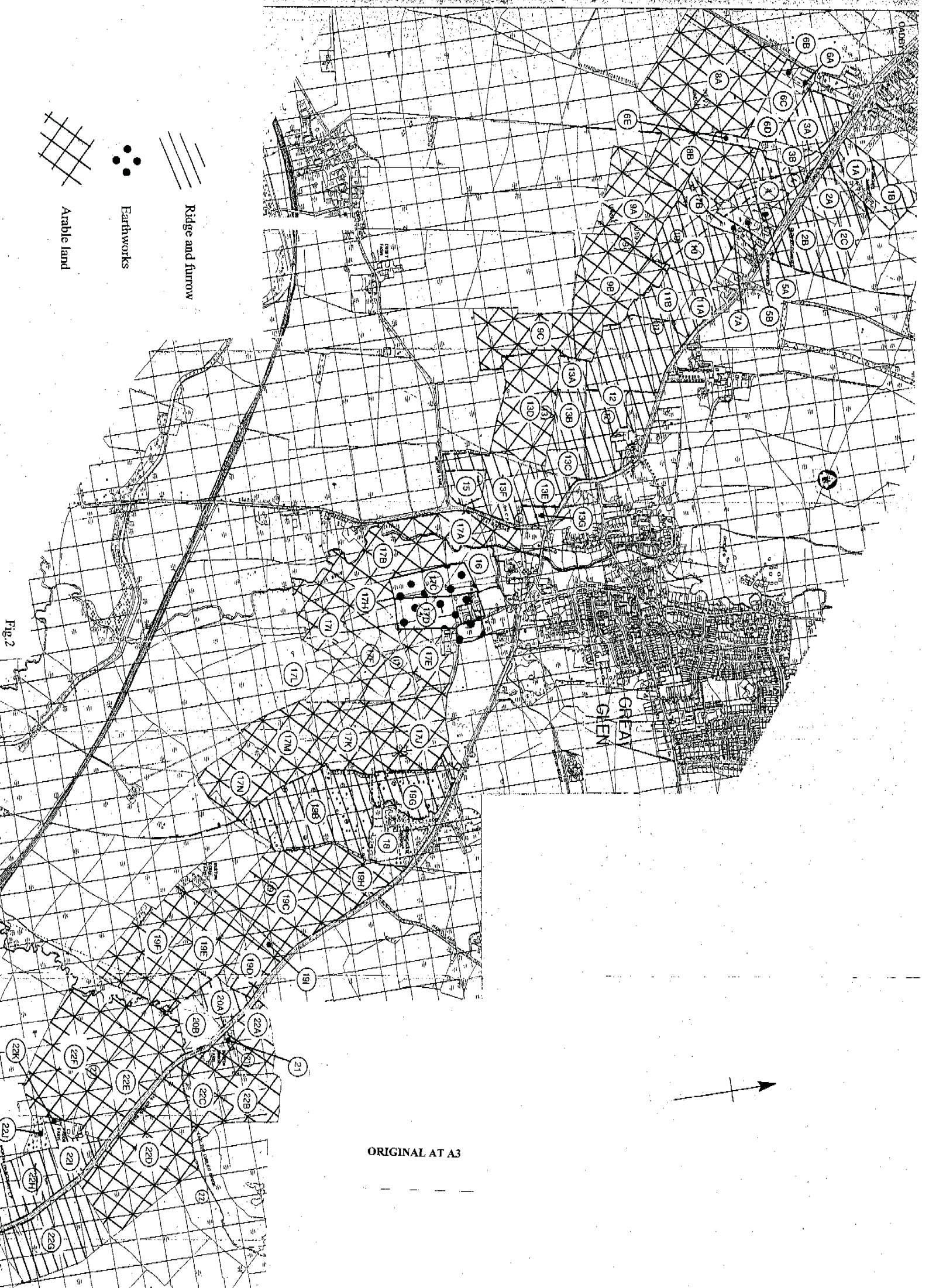


Fig.1



Ridge and furrow
 Earthworks
 Arable land

GREAT GREEN

ORIGINAL AT A3

Fig 2

Aerial photograph cropmark



Bore-holes & Test pits

TP14
BH13

SMR References



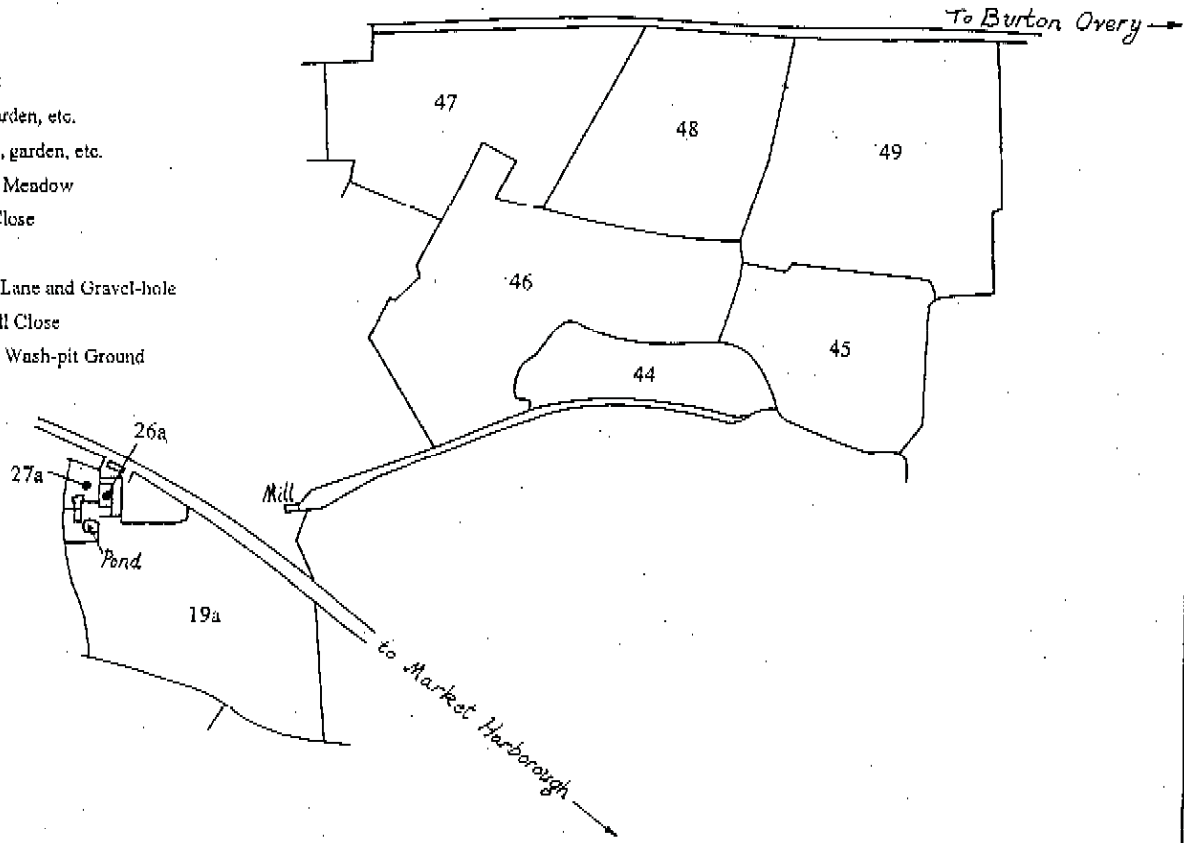
Study Area



Fig 3

ORIGINAL AT A3

- 19a The Croft
- 26a House, garden, etc.
- 27a Buildings, garden, etc.
- 44 Mill Close Meadow
- 45 Top Mill Close
- 46 Mill Close
- 47 Top o' the Lane and Gravel-hole
- 48 Middle Mill Close
- 49 Top Close. Wash-pit Ground



Estates Belonging to Charles William Packe Esq.
1862

- 17 Little Stoneyland
- 18a Great Stoneyland
- 40 Upper Townside Close
- 41 Mansion House, outbuildings, lodge, plantations and pleasure ground
- 42a Hall Field
- 43a Fish-pond Plantations
- 46a Mill, garden, orchard, etc.

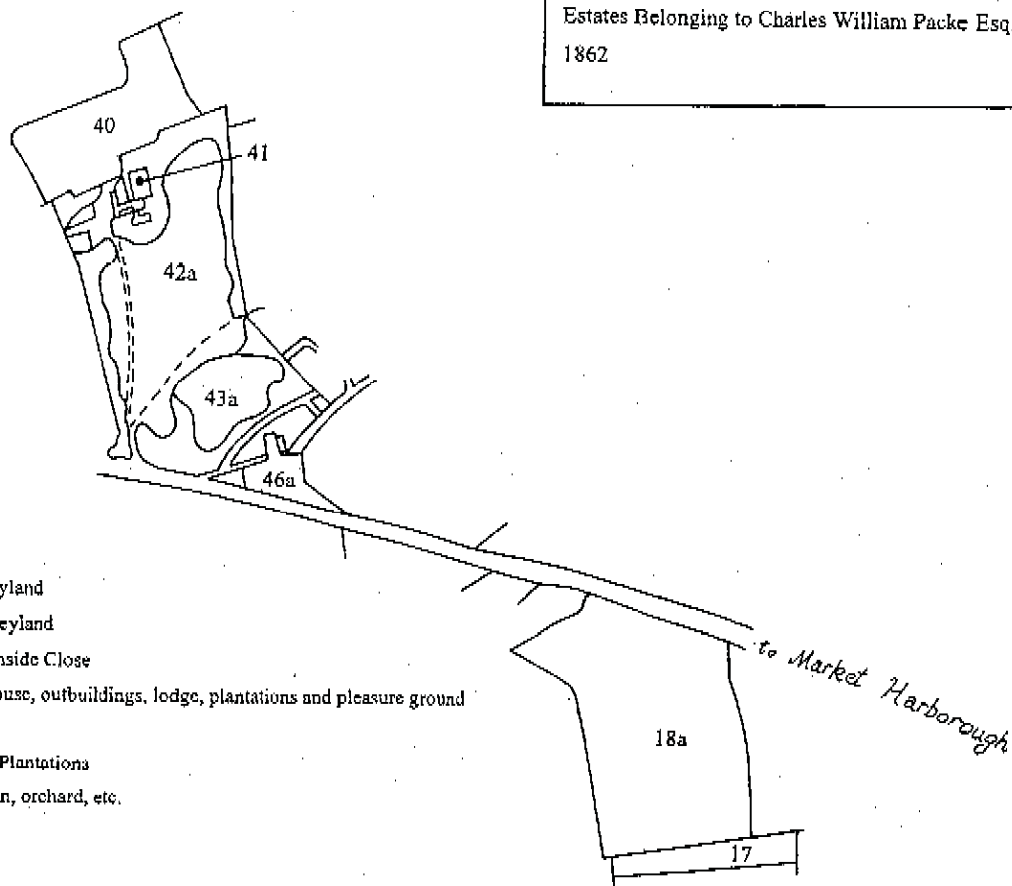


Fig.4

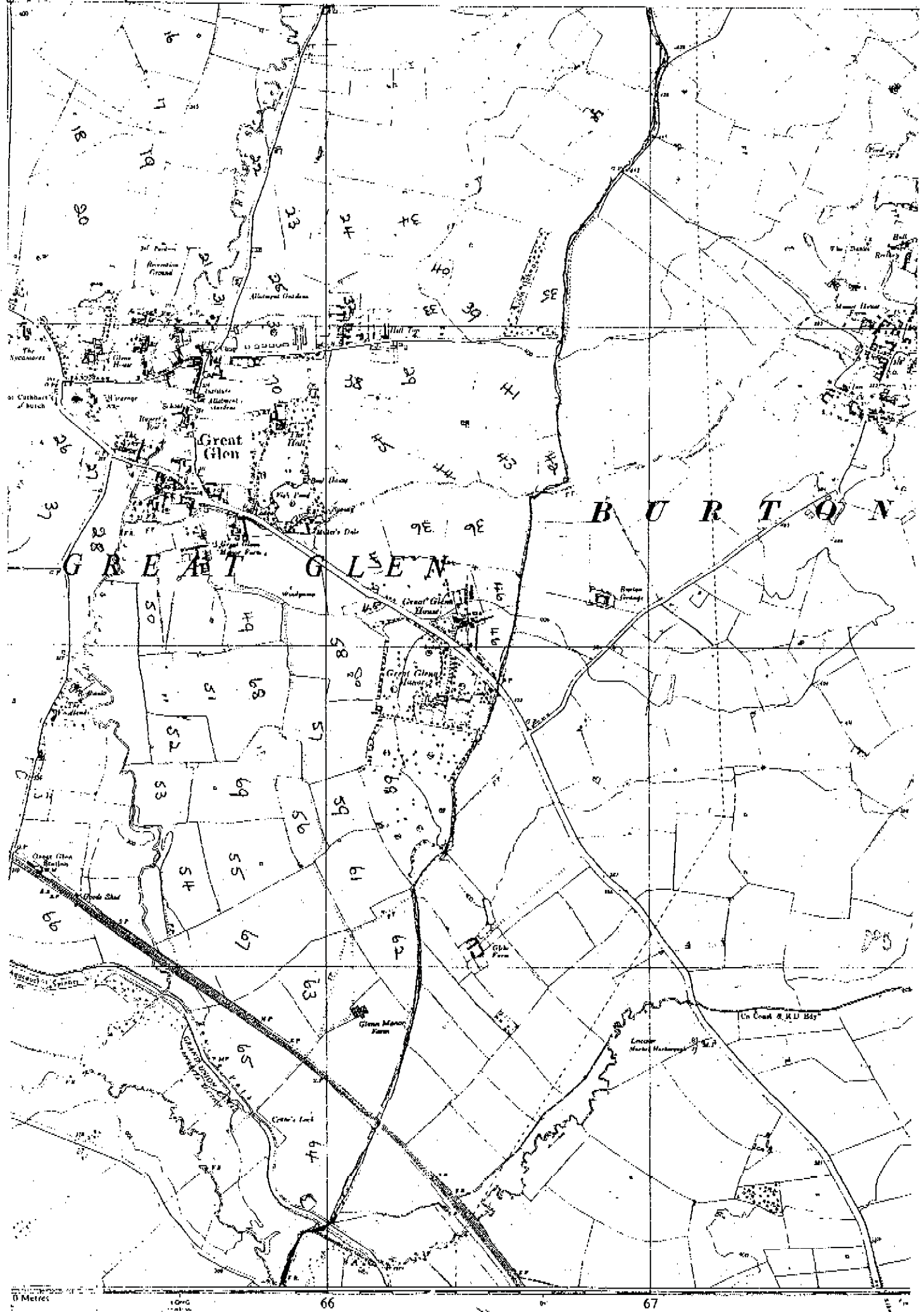
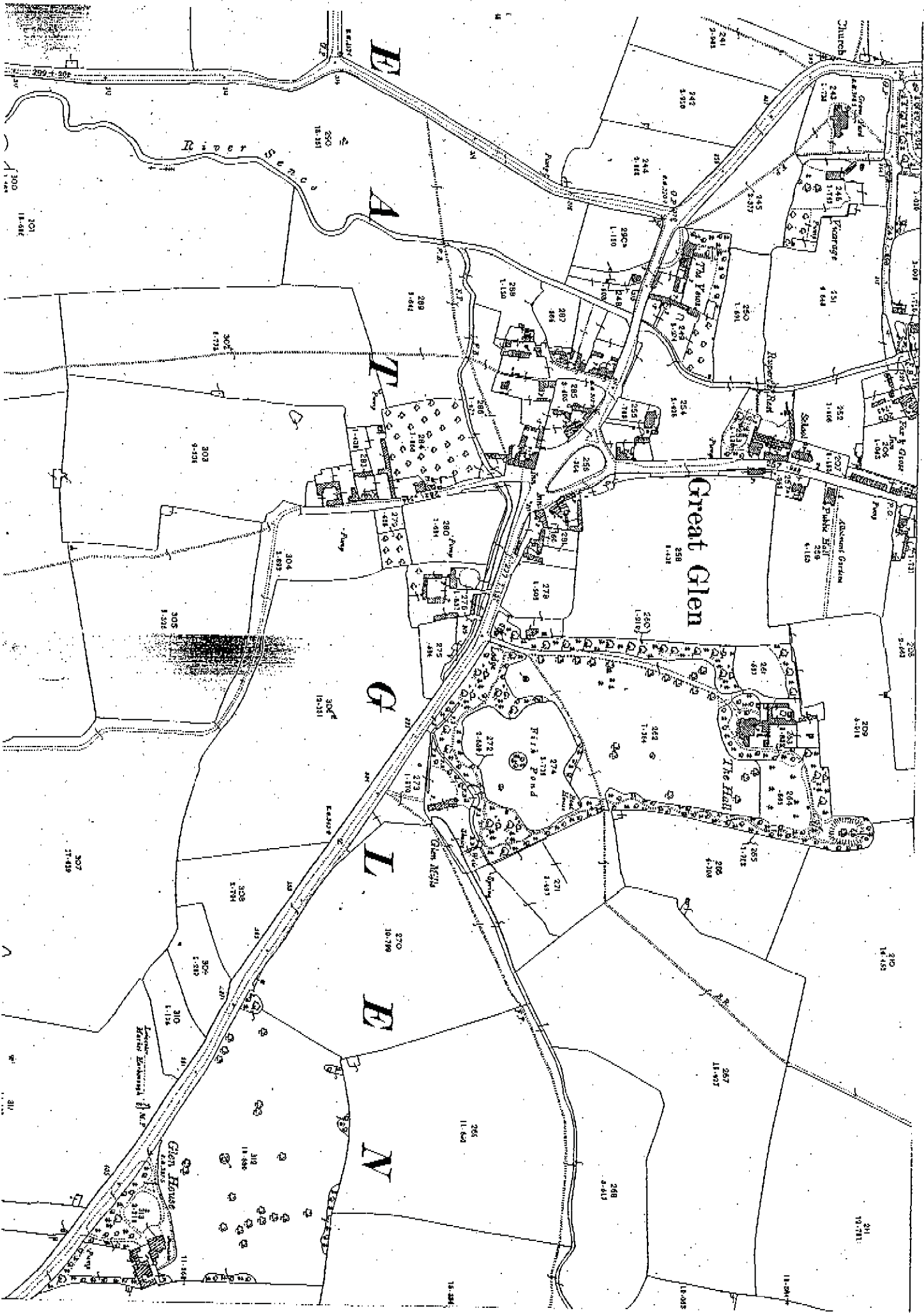
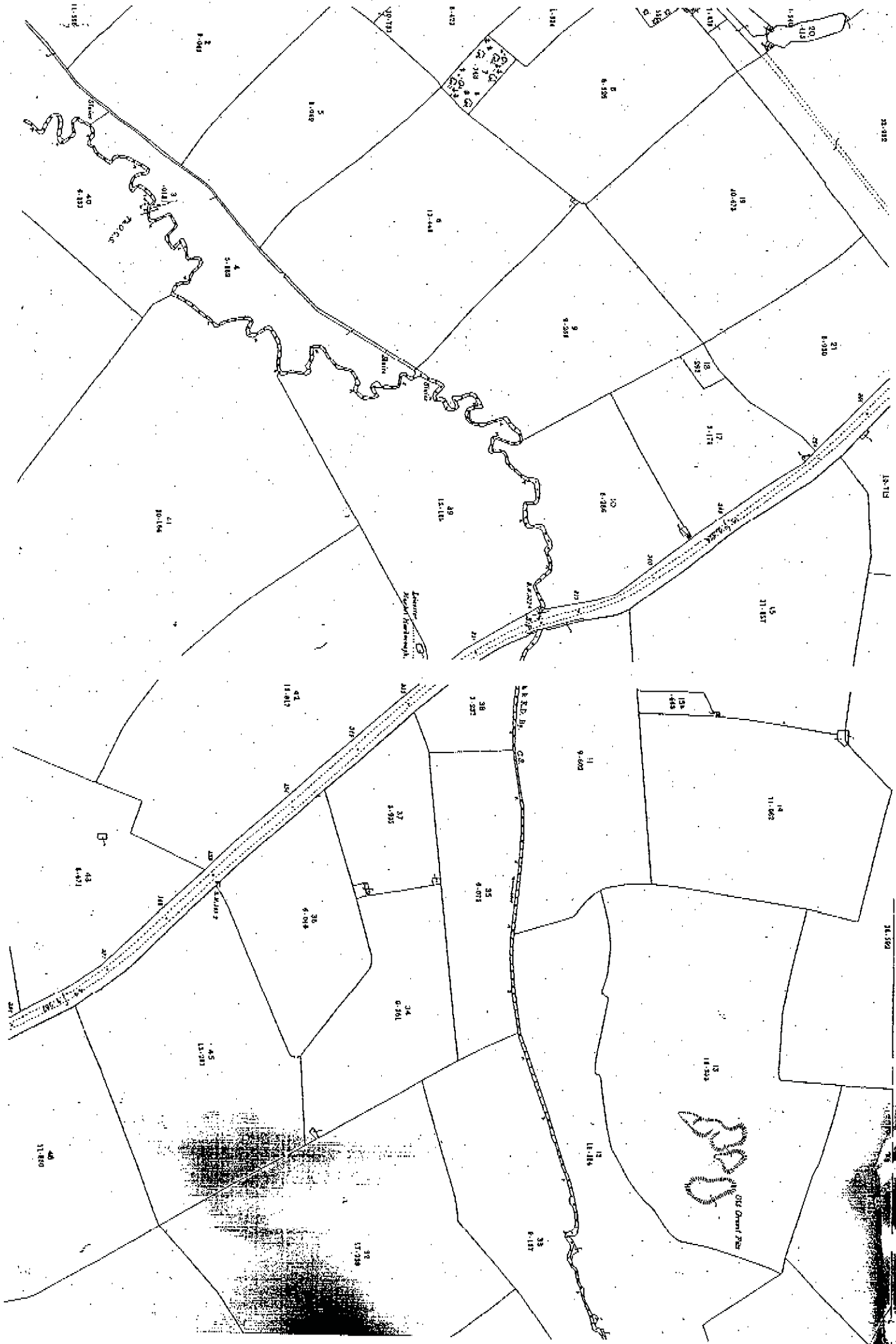


Fig.5





25.312

15.719

24.520

1.415
415

BPO
Old Orchard Road

1.000
1.000

13.448

12.115

13.282

3.995

6.048

6.701

17.728

4.0
4.033

30.166

4.431

11.850

9.281

6.316

9.002

6.127

6.030

31.157

11.825

14.724

14.714

11.850

11.850

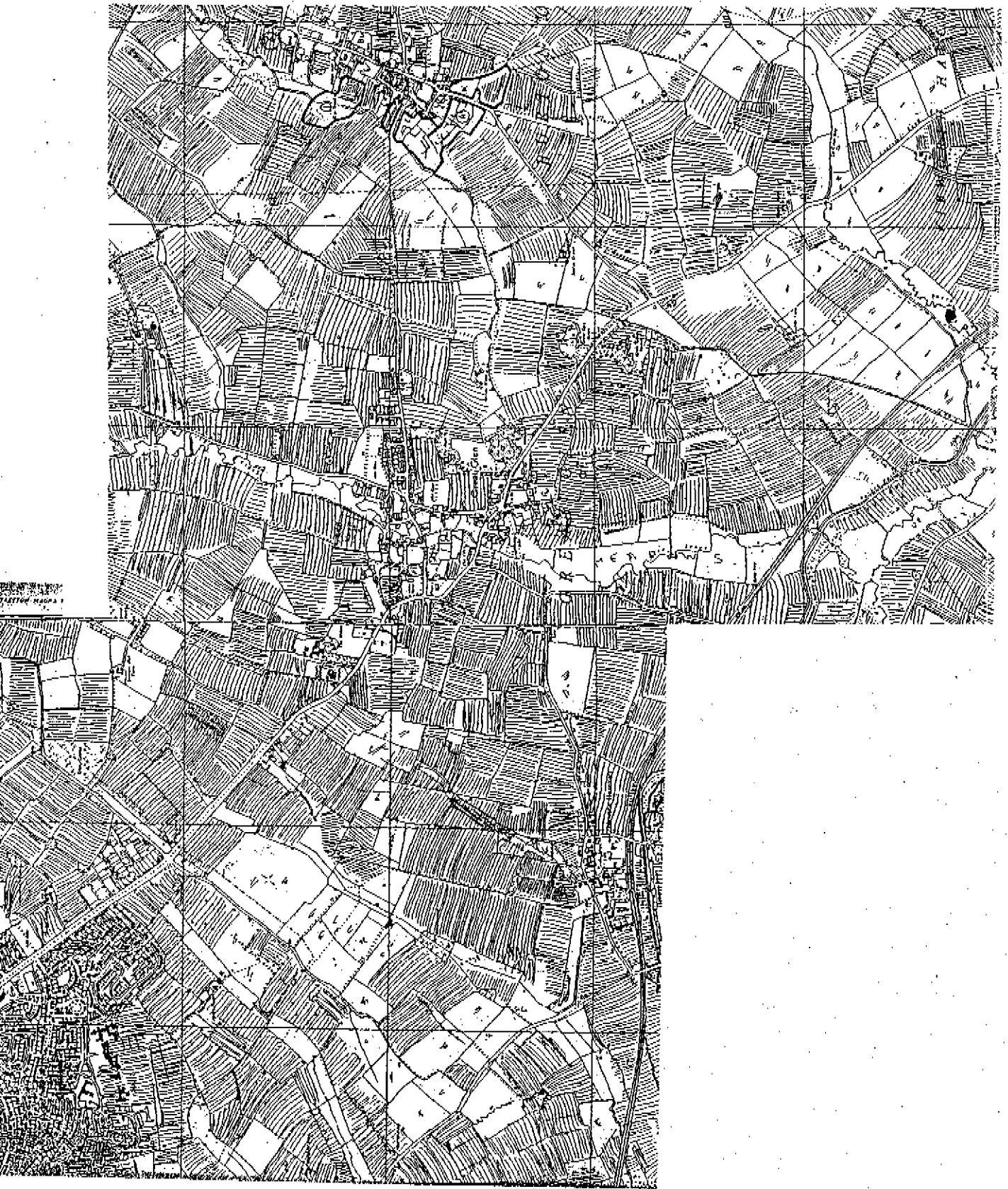
Leisure
Might
Development

N.E. Rd. Br.
C.S.

11.850

11.850

11.850



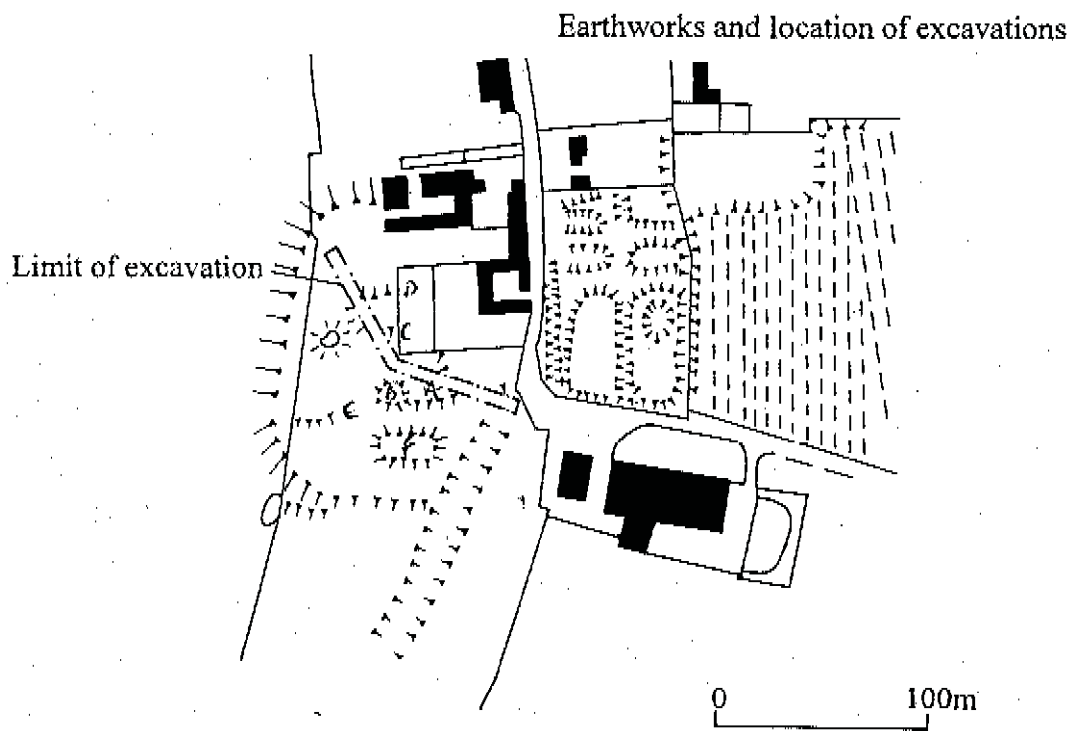
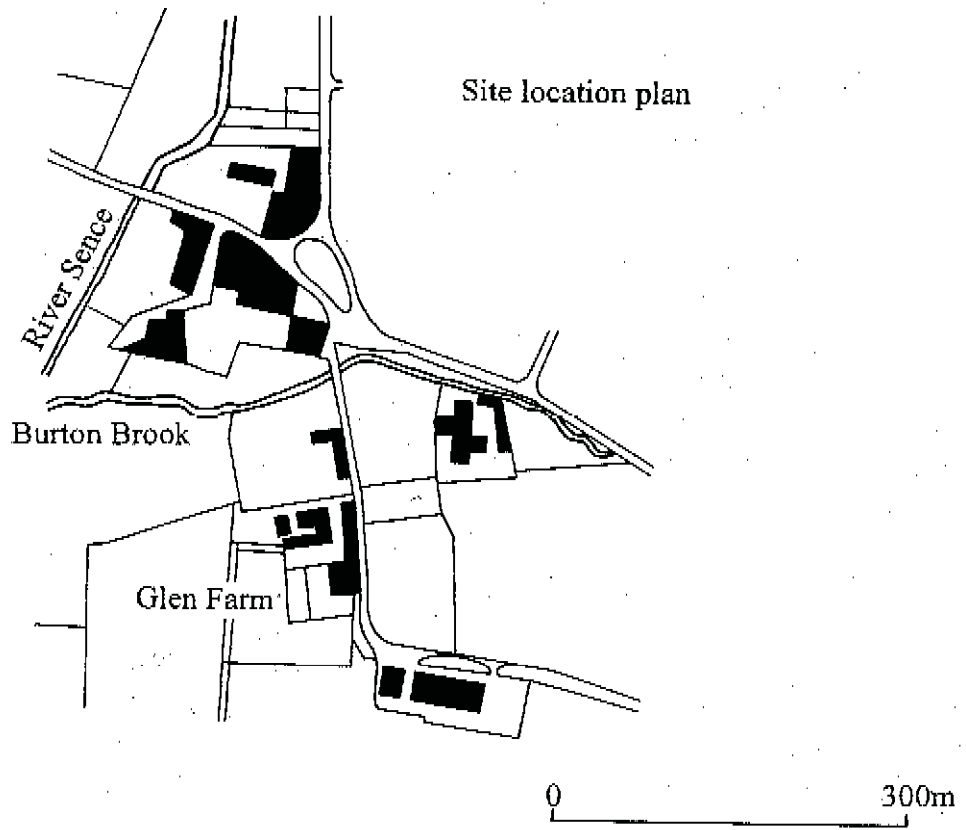


Fig.9

THE PARISH OF GLEN MAGNA, ABOUT 1840

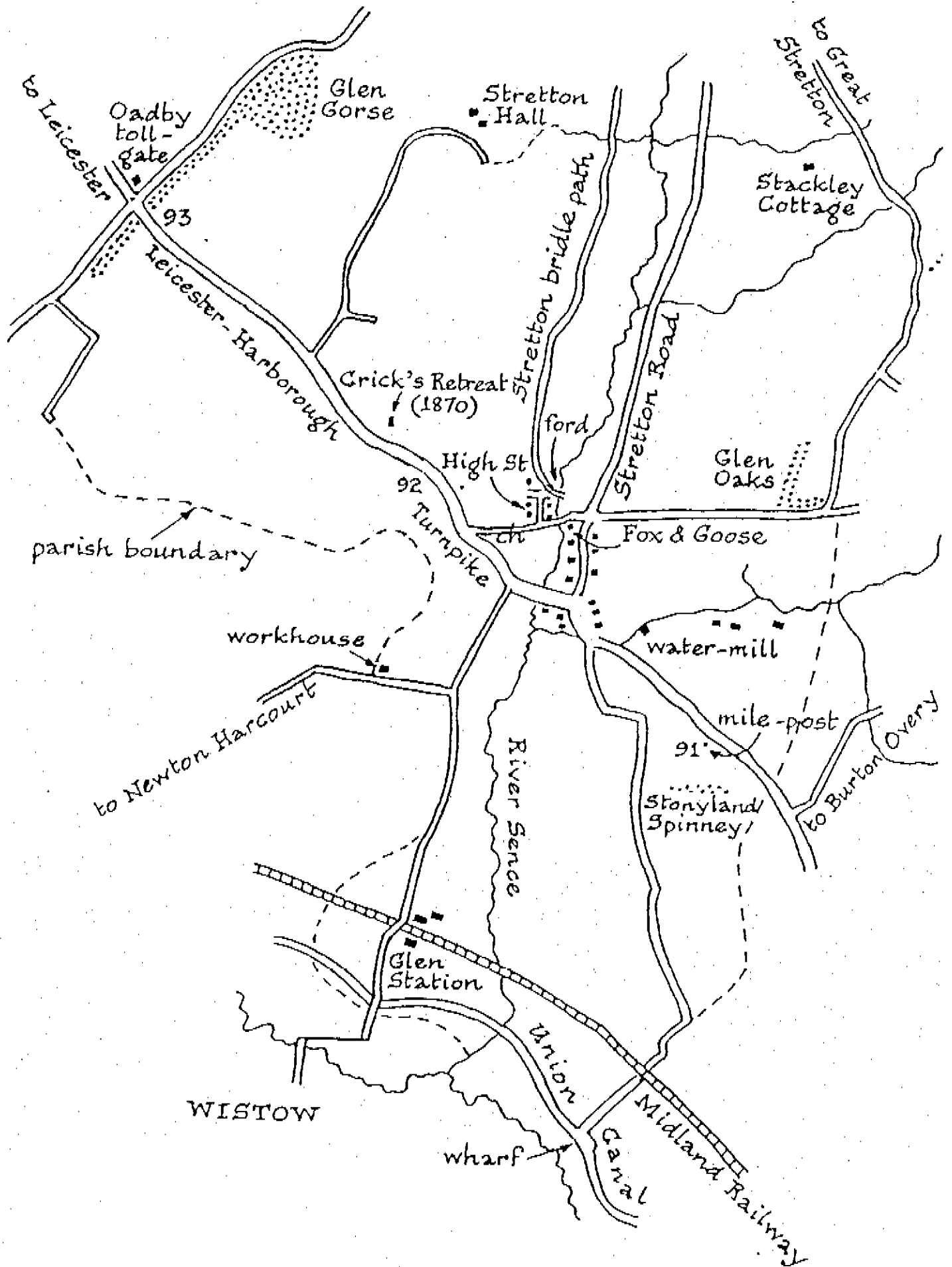


Fig.10