SWATON CROSSROADS
EVALUATION EXCAVATION

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A P S
ARCHAEOLOGICAL
PROJECT
SERVICES

EVALUATION EXCAVATION ON LAND NEXT TO SWATON CROSSROADS, HORBLING, LINCOLNSHIRE

Work Undertaken For
Lincolnshire County Council

Report Compiled by
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1. SUMMARY

An evaluation was undertaken on land adjacent to the Swaton crossroads on the route of the A52, Holland Road. This was in response to a proposal, by Lincolnshire County Council, for the redesigning of the crossroads junction. The proximity of the scheme to known archaeological sites was such that three trial trenches were excavated to test for the presence and survival of archaeological deposits.

Truncated features containing flint and waterlogged wood were recorded. Additionally, flint artefacts, mostly of Neolithic date, were collected from the field surface around the trenches. This substantiates previously discovered evidence for prehistoric utilisation of the surrounding area.

A single pot sherd thought to date from either the Roman or Saxon period was recovered from within the fill of one pit.

Post-Medieval quarry workings were recorded within all three trenches excavated. The majority of these workings lie adjacent to the site on the northern side of the A52.

Modern activity on the site was limited to field drainage systems.

2. INTRODUCTION

2.1 Background

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken on farmland to the southwest of the junction of the A52 and the B1394 between the villages of Swaton and Horbling (National Grid Reference TF129367). This archaeological investigation was in response to a proposal, by Lincolnshire County Council Highways and Planning Department, for widening of the southwest corner of the junction.

2.2 Topography and Geology

Swaton crossroads is located 10km southeast of Sleaford and 8km west of Donington, Lincolnshire (Fig. 1). Situated in the southwest corner of the A52/B1394 junction, the site lies approximately half a kilometre south of the village of Swaton, in the civil parish of Horbling, South Kesteven District (Fig. 2). Local soil type is Beccles 3 Association, typical stagnogley associated with sands and gravels (Hodge *et al.* 1984, 121). The terrain of the area is relatively flat (Fig. 8), lying at about 7m OD. Present land use is arable, the area of investigation being currently under a young cereal crop.

2.3 Archaeological Setting

Structures of a prehistoric date are known to exist in the general vicinity of the road junction. At least one Bronze Age barrow (NK61.11) lies in the field directly north of the site (Fig. 7). Another barrow (NK61.15) is situated 100m northeast of the investigation area. Ring ditches (NK61.13), apparently further barrows, are located *c.* 1km north of the crossroads.

Two areas of undated occupation lie close to the site. Aerial photographs record 'clothes line' enclosures (NK61.22) within the field directly north of the examination area. A second group of undated cropmarks are located approximately half a kilometre northeast of the present investigation site.

Roman occupation of the area is known from metal detector finds. Salter's Way, a suspected prehistoric trackway reused during the Roman period, is preserved by the present route of the A52 and therefore constitutes part of the proposed junction

redesign. Approximately 400m west of the road junction is a Romano-British occupation site with much tile and building stone (South Kesteven parish file). Artefacts recovered from this site include lead weights, bronze objects, a horse harness bell (SMR 32849) and a bronze Saxon brooch (SMR 32850). Additionally, *c.* 1km east of the investigation site, crossing the line of the A52 in a north-south direction, is the Car Dyke. Of Romano-British date, this waterway connects the River Nene east of Peterborough with the River Witham east of Lincoln (Whitwell 1970, 57).

Medieval occupation of the area is thought to focus around the present village of Swaton. The village church, dedicated to St. Michael, is of Early English construction (*c.* 1190-1250AD), but containing earlier Norman elements (Pevsner and Harris 1989, 735). A rectangular moated site (NK 61.9; SMR 40002) lies west of the church at TF 128374, though no specific date for its construction is known. To the east of the moated site, around the area of Smithy Farm, finds recently reported by metal detectorists include many Medieval artefacts and a few Roman coins. Areas of ridge and furrow are present within the fields around the village. An Ordnance Survey map of 1824 locates an extinct hamlet (NK61.8) at the west end of Swaton village on West Street, TF 127375. Medieval and Post-Medieval pottery, together with prehistoric flintwork, has been recorded from a location *c.* 700m east of the crossroads (South Kesteven parish files).

North of the site, within the field containing the barrow and enclosures, are the remains of large scale, pit quarrying, presumably for the extraction of sand and gravel. Distinct limits to these workings are visible on aerial photographs and reveal the quarrying to extend slightly into the northern end of the evaluation area.

3. AIMS

The aims of the evaluation were to locate archaeological deposits and determine, if present, their extent, state of preservation, date, type, vulnerability, documentation, quality of setting and amenity value. The purpose of this was to establish their significance, since this would make it possible to formulate an appropriate strategy that could be integrated with the proposed development programme.

4. METHODS

A geophysical survey of the entire area was commissioned as an indicator for the presence of buried features, prior to the excavation of three evaluation trenches. The survey method (fluxgate gradiometry), revealed few anomalies on the site. However, three magnetic irregularities thought to be potentially of archaeological nature were recorded (Appendix 4).

Three trial trenches located to examine the geophysical anomalies were opened by machine (Fig. 3). Selected deposits were partially excavated by hand to determine their nature and to recover artifacts. Trench size was nominally 12m x 2m.

5. ANALYSIS

Finds recovered from those deposits evaluated were examined and a period date assigned where possible. A stratigraphic matrix was produced and phased. A total of four phases was identified.

Phase 1 - Natural deposits
Phase 2 - Pre-medieval deposits

Phase 3 - Post-medieval deposits
Phase 4 - Modern deposits

Phase 1 Natural deposits

Natural deposits of yellow/brown sandy gravel were encountered in all three trial trenches. A semi-organic deposit 072, apparently running under the natural, was recorded within Trench A and may suggest a buried channel. Alternatively, the deposit may still constitute a feature fill, slumping of the natural having obscured the features edges. Ground water was encountered 0.60m below present ground level.

Phase 2 Pre-medieval deposits

The truncated remains of a *c.* 2.5m wide, flat-bottomed pit (065, 078; Fig. 10) with a highly organic infill (064, 072) was recorded in Trial Trench A (Fig. 4). No pottery was recovered from these fills though a few fragments of animal bone, along with pieces of wood (species unknown) were present.

Apparently coming down onto the organic fills of the flat-bottomed pit (065, 078) was 074, a second pit-like feature of which only the southern side was observed. Bone fragments and a few pieces of flint, one of which was struck, were retrieved from the mixed sandy gravel fill (063). Immediately to the north of 074 was 056, an undated, similar sized and stratigraphically equivalent feature.

A broad, *c.* 5m diameter, pit (066) cut down into the upper fills of both 074 and 056. A quantity of animal bone, flint flakes and a single sherd of shell gritted pottery was recovered. Preliminary dating of the sherd suggests a Roman or Saxon origin.

The bone fragments recovered from all these features were in a poor state of preservation.

Phase 3 Post-medieval deposits

One side of a cut feature (048), *c.* 0.6m deep, was recorded at the northern end of Trial Trench A (Fig. 4). Evidence recorded in section suggested that the feature had been recut (049) after silting (045, 047). Possibly representing a ditch, the exposed side of this cut was aligned east-west. Similar orientation is expressed by a field dyke directly to the north and it has been suggested that 048 may represent a forerunner to this boundary.

Three shallow concave features (058, 060, 068) were observed crossing Trench A, each apparently aligned east-west. Between *c.* 0.15 and 0.35m deep, all appeared to have been truncated by ploughing and were not readily explainable. A single sherd of post-medieval pottery was recovered from the fill (057) of one of these cuts (058).

A large (over 2 x 6m) cut feature (035) lay at the west end of Trench B (Fig. 5). Finds recovered from the infilling deposits (006, 007, 033 and 034) of the feature suggest a twentieth century date for the activity. This feature, interpreted as a quarry pit, was apparently responsible for a large cropmark recorded on aerial photographs.

A 0.3m diameter circular feature (032) was recorded lying next to the exposed east side of feature 035. This small cut is interpreted as a posthole.

Two features cutting the natural gravels were observed in Trench C (Fig. 6). Both were large, one (030) being over 2m wide and *c.* 0.6m deep, the second (016) being approximately 3m wide and 0.7m deep. Both are interpreted as quarry pits (Fig. 9).

The infill deposits of these quarries are not single events but several, including recutting, this re-excavation serving an unknown function.

A shallow (*c.* 0.3m deep) and narrow north-south linear gully (041) was observed cutting natural in Trench B (Fig. 5). Filled with a sandy silt (040), this had been cut by a similarly oriented feature (039) that was *c.* 1m wide and 0.3m deep. These are interpreted as gullies, the second being a recut of the silted up original. No finds were recovered from either of them, nor were they readily apparent from the results of the geophysical survey.

Phase 4 Modern deposits

Several east-west aligned linear features were observed crossing the area. Containing ceramic or plastic pipes, these are land drains, of which three types were recorded. Ploughsoil constituted the present ground surface.

6. DISCUSSION

Natural deposits (phase 1) of sandy gravel occur directly below ploughsoil across the entire area of the site.

The truncated remains of a flat bottomed pit with a highly organic infill (phase 2) were recorded in Trench A. No pottery was recovered from these fills, though a few fragments of animal bone, along with pieces of wood (species unknown) were present. Waterlogged deposits are present in the northwest area of the site, close to the A52. No material was recovered to enable the dating of the features. However, flint and bone fragments were recovered from features immediately sealing the waterlogged deposits. Although probably residual, these finds suggest an indeterminate activity of prehistoric date, and are possibly associated with the round barrow immediately northeast of the evaluation area. Further indications of prehistoric exploitation of the area are provided by the flintwork of predominantly Neolithic date, recovered from the field surfaces around the trenches (see Appendix 3).

A single sherd of pottery and associated bone fragments was recovered from a feature in the same area, (A), as the waterlogged deposits. The sherd, a shell gritted ware, has been provisionally dated to the Roman or Saxon period.

Post-medieval activity (phase 3) on the site is thought, primarily, to represent the excavation and subsequent infilled of quarry pits. These are possibly test holes contemporary with the quarry workings on the opposite side of the A52, recorded on aerial photographs. Recutting to these pits served an unknown function. A posthole alongside one of the quarry pits may signify the location of a safety fence or a hoisting mechanism. Alternatively, the posthole may be associated with land parcelling. Roughly parallel to the B1394, the recut gullies in Trench B (039, 041) are possibly old field boundary ditches. These were not initially recognised by the geophysical survey. However, it was subsequently realised that a faint linear anomaly, recorded on the magnetometry printout, corresponded with the position of these gullies.

Modern activity (phase 4) is represented by land improvement, in the form of field drains, for agricultural use of the site. A crop-bearing ploughsoil provided the present ground surface of the area.

Surface finds were also collected from the investigation area. No concentrations were observed and periods dating from prehistory through to modern were

represented.

7. ASSESSMENT

No clear evidence for the date of the pre-medieval features was identified by the evaluation nor were their functions apparent. Elements identified during the evaluation such as the ditch/gully and posthole are not rare. Similarly, the possible quarry workings can be found in the adjoining field. Although located in an area of archaeological diversity, both in terms of periods and types of evidence represented, the evaluation revealed a limited variety of features.

Due to the indeterminate function and the limited datable material, the group value of the features is low within the extent of the evaluation area. However, the proximity of the site to other known archaeological features places the group value of those pre-medieval recorded in local terms as high. However, if correct in their dating, the pre-medieval deposits are of interest. Their proximity to the known Roman road (A52) and the suspected Bronze Age barrow may indicate contemporary features, the form and function of which is unclear without further investigation.

The area immediately around the crossroads (including the site), has been well documented, primarily through the recording of cropmarks taken from aerial photographs. However, no synthesis of the information held in the various repositories has been produced.

Archaeological deposits, where present, are generally in good condition, however, damage to pre-medieval deposits by later, post-medieval activity is high in the areas evaluated. Environmental remains, in the form of waterlogged deposits, exist in the northern area of the site, where features extend below the present ground water table.

Construction of the road improvement poses little threat to the archaeological deposits. The stripping of the ploughsoil and the raising of the intended road surface should cause little damage. However, if this is not so and infilled features require excavating and backfilling with hardcore, the threat to buried deposits is potentially high.

Potential for the further clarification of discoveries remains high. Isolated archaeological features have been recorded and association with other remains may be expected. Furthermore, the extent, function and date of those features identified may be revealed by further examination.

8. EFFECTIVENESS OF TECHNIQUES

The methods and strategies employed in the evaluation of the site varied in their effectiveness. Firstly, the remote sensing survey (Fluxgate Gradiometry) did reveal buried anomalies within the evaluation area and was therefore successful. The locating of the trial trenches was dependent upon the results of the remote survey. Trial trenching revealed more archaeological features and deposits than was suggested by the results of the remote survey, however, this is not unexpected. Excavation of the archaeological features revealed by the stripping of the trial trenches was only partially successful, due mainly to the size of the sample trenches. The form and functions of some features recorded was not readily apparent, however, enough datable material was recovered from within the features to allow tentative dates to be assigned. This information, in conjunction with aerial photographic and SMR records of the area,

greatly aided the final analysis of the site.

9. CONCLUSIONS

This evaluation identified the presence of archaeological deposits dating to the post-medieval period in a generally good state of preservation. Further, pre-medieval deposits are thought to be present, though little material was recovered with which to assign a specific date for these deposits, or to suggest their extent and function. However, most of the post-medieval features appear to be of an extractive nature and generally of large size. Such activity appears to have damaged earlier deposits present on site. Furthermore, the soils infilling these post-medieval quarries are probably derived of unknown origin.

10. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeological Project Services would like to thank Lincolnshire County Council, Highways and Planning Department for funding the excavation and post - fieldwork analysis. Steve Haynes coordinated the work and this report was edited by Dave Start and Gary Taylor. Advice on finds was given by Hilary Healey (ceramics) and Mr W Bee (flints). Mr James Pickering kindly sanctioned reproduction of the aerial photograph of the site. Examination of information held in the relevant parish files was permitted by Ruth Waller, the Community Archaeologist for South Kesteven, and Nicola Nuttall, the North Kesteven Community Archaeologist. Information from the County Sites and Monuments Record was provided by Mark Bennet of Lincolnshire County Council Archaeology Section.

11. PERSONNEL

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Supervisor: Mike Jarvis
Site Assistants: Aaron Chapman, David Brown
Finds Processing and Illustration: Mike Jarvis
Post-excavation Analyst: Mike Jarvis

12. BIBLIOGRAPHY

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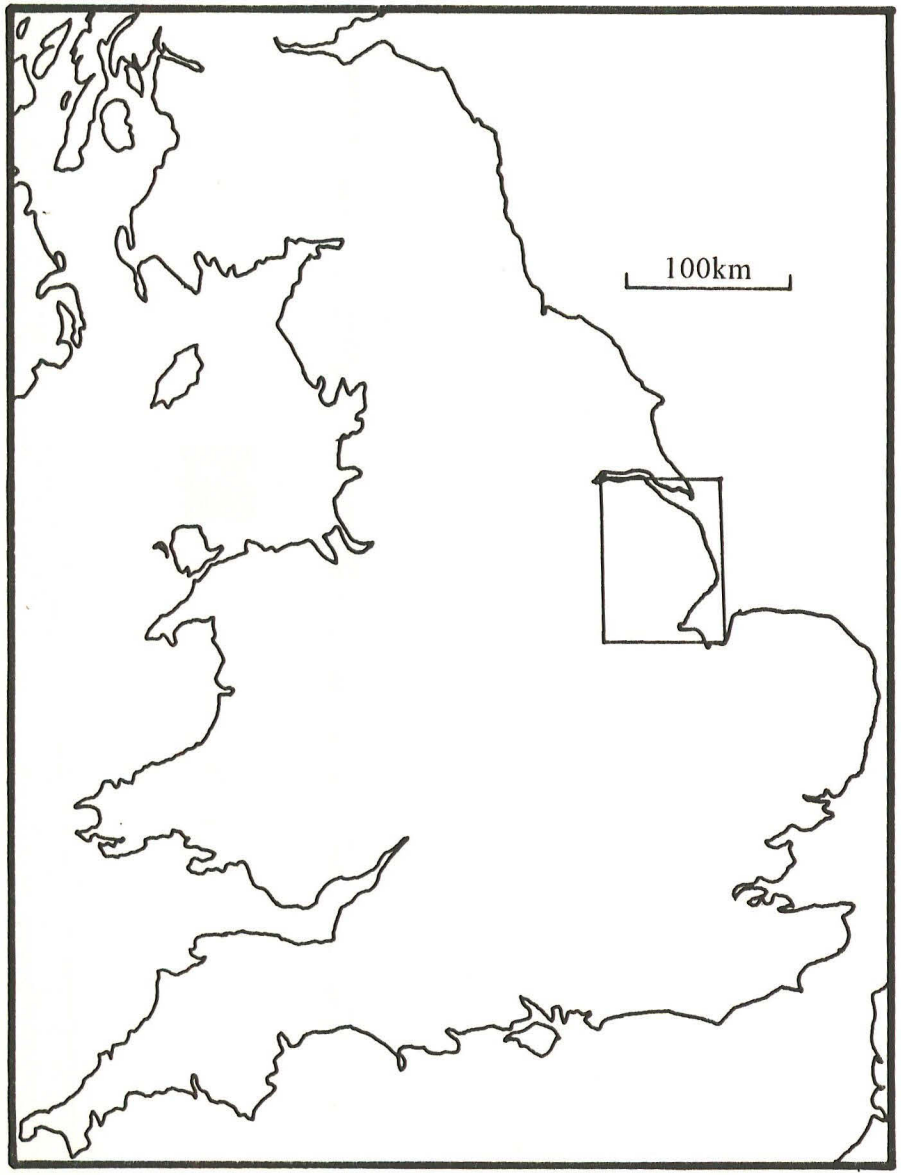
13. ABBREVIATIONS

Numbers prefixed with 'SMR' are the primary reference numbers used by the Lincolnshire County Sites and Monuments Record.

Numbers prefixed by 'NK' are the reference numbers used by the North Kesteven Community Archaeologist.



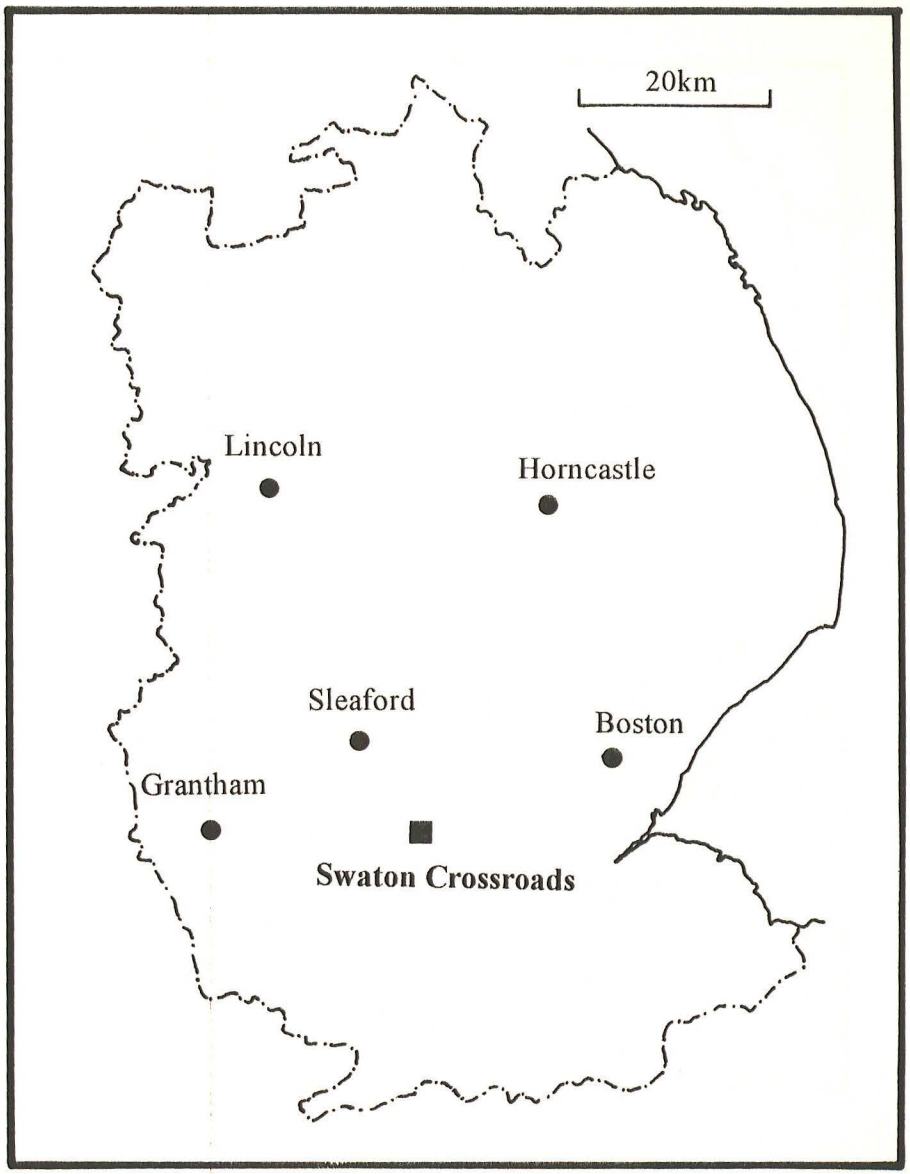


Fig. 1 GENERAL LOCATION PLAN

Fig. 2 Area of Development

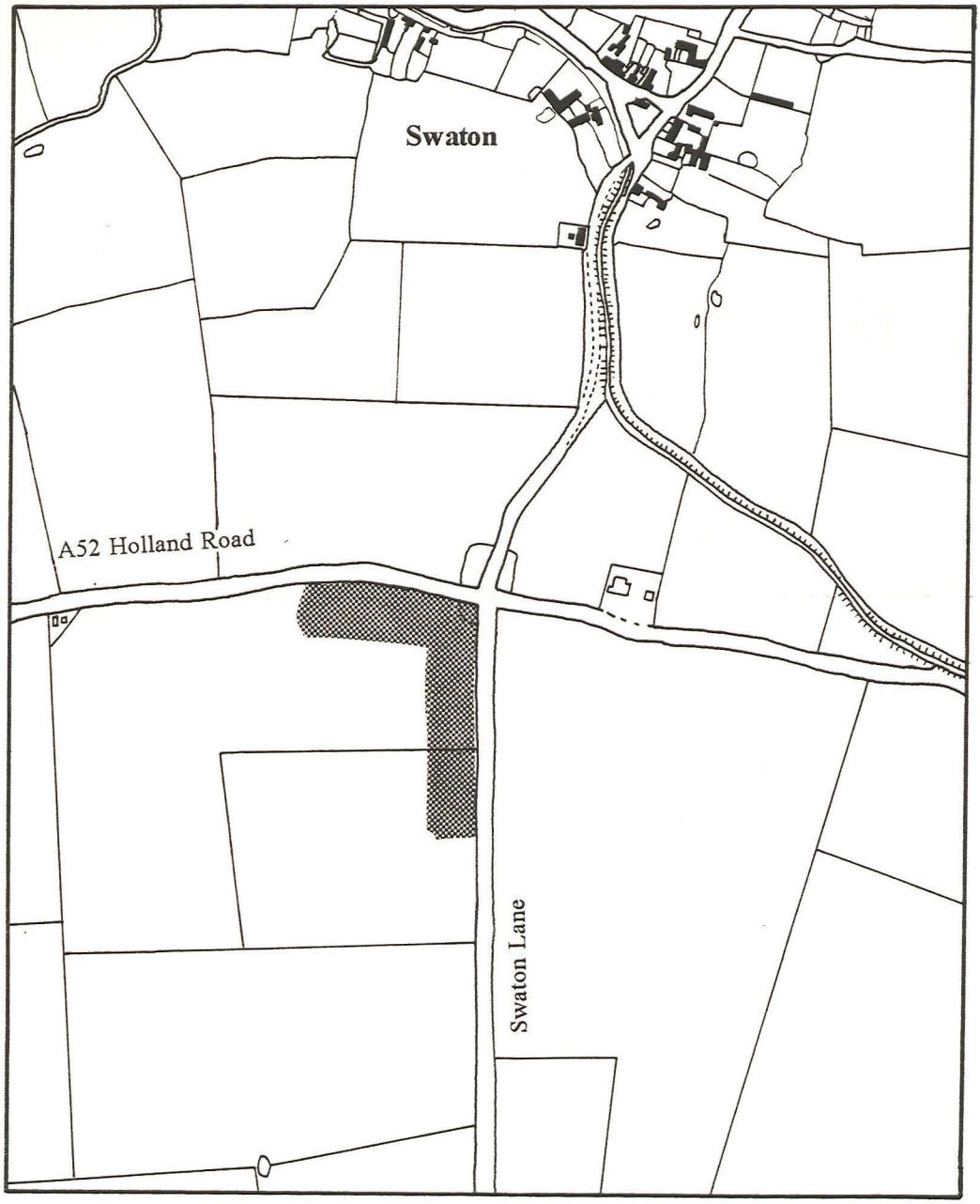


Fig. 3 Trench Location Plan

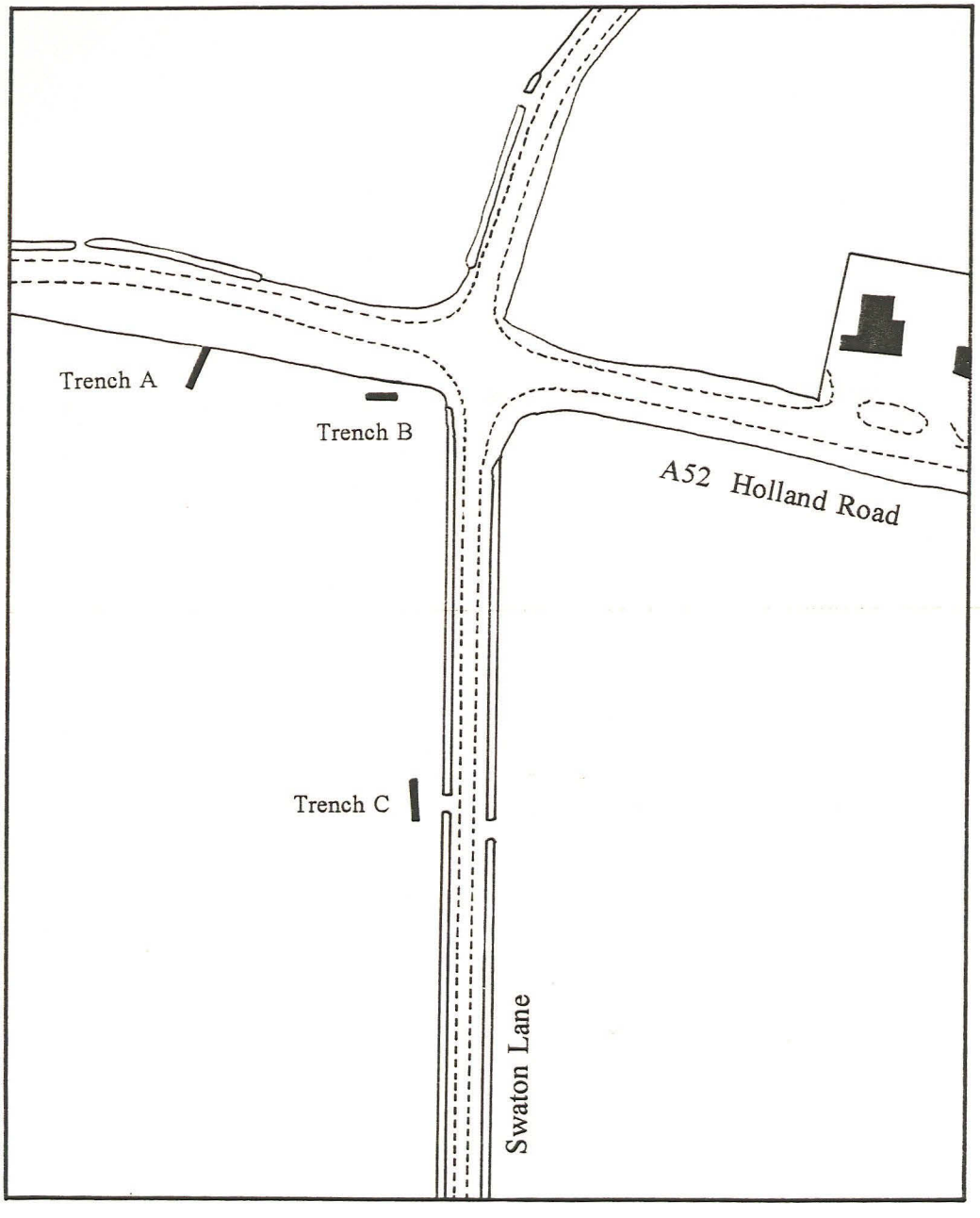


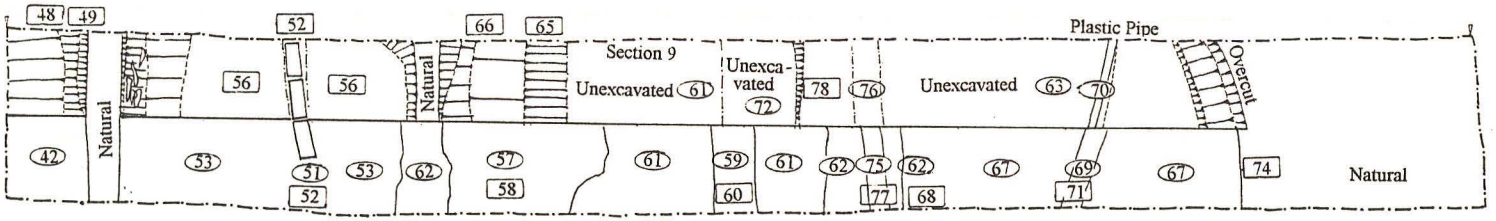
Fig.4

SCR94 Trial Trench A

Scale 1:50

0 1 2 3 4 5 m

N



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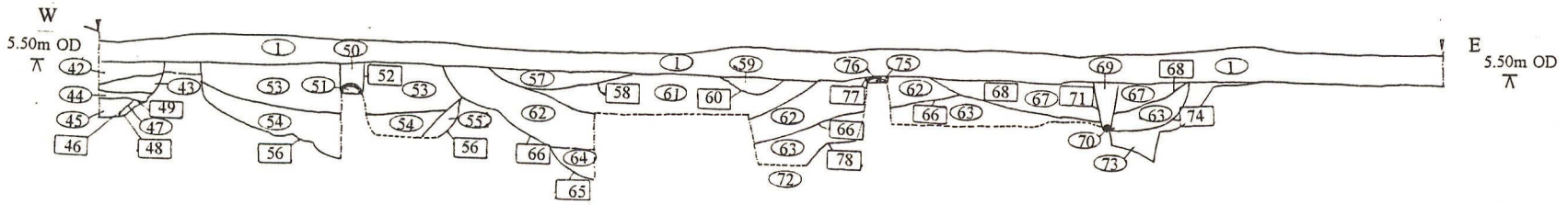
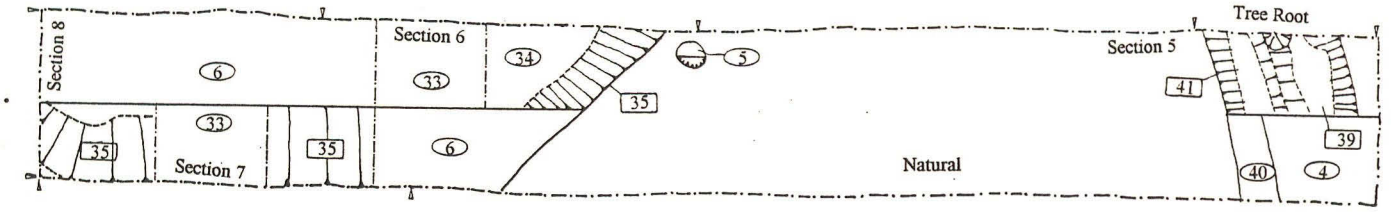


Fig.5
SCR94 Trial Trench B

Scale 1:50

0 1 2 3 4 5 m

N



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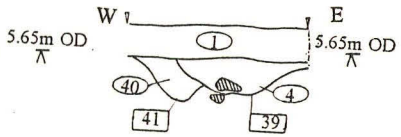

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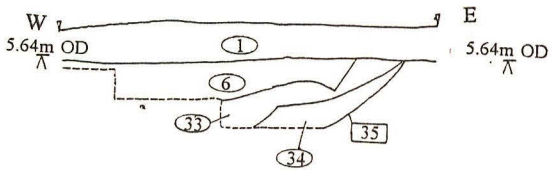

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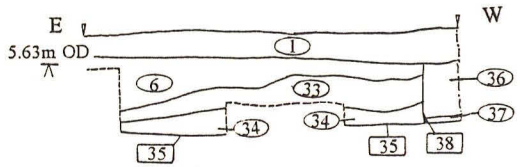


Section 8

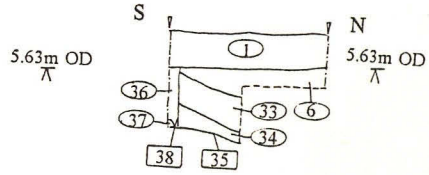


Fig.6
SCR94 Trial Trench C

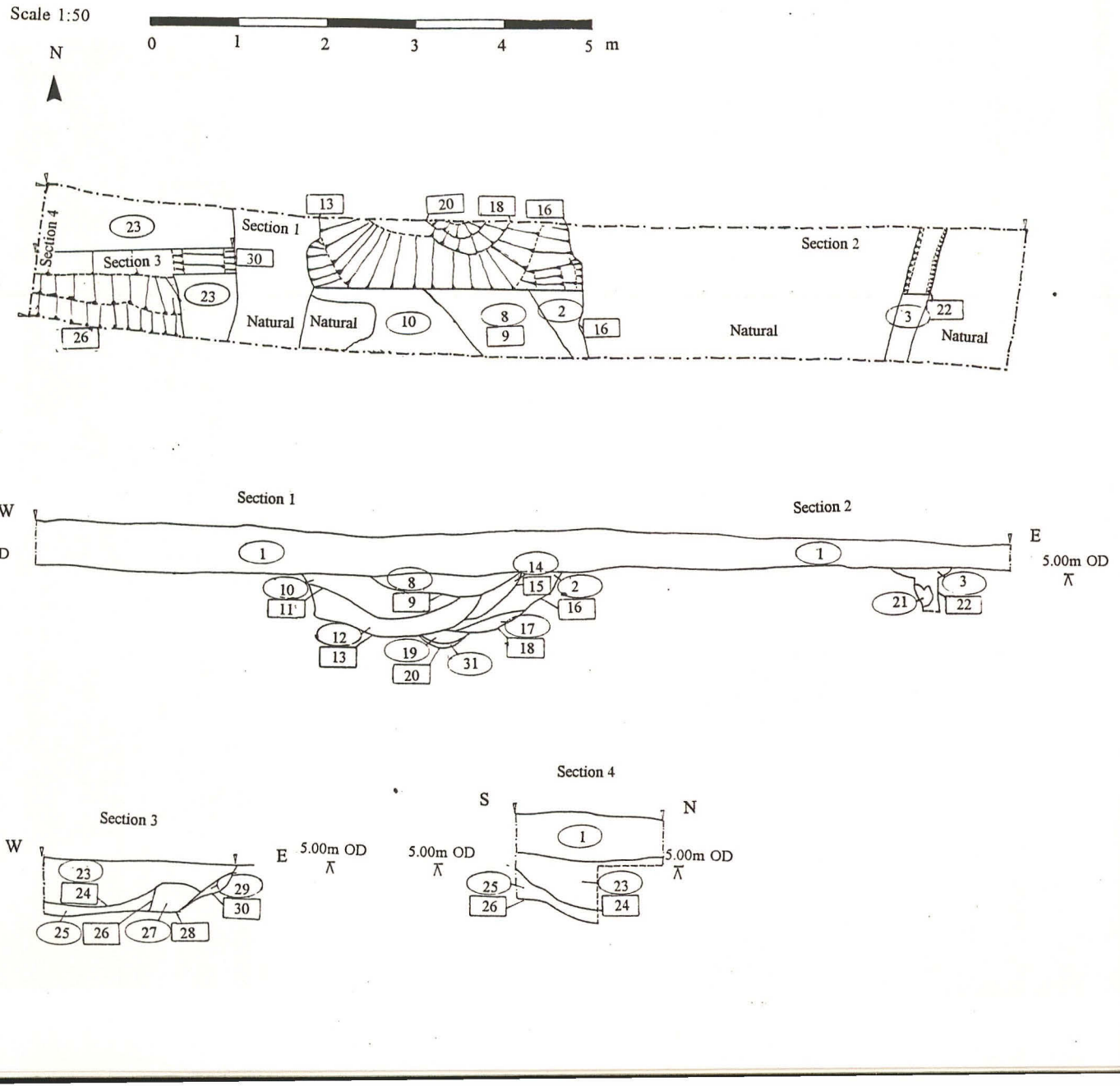


Fig. 7 Aerial View of Swaton Crossroads, looking southwest

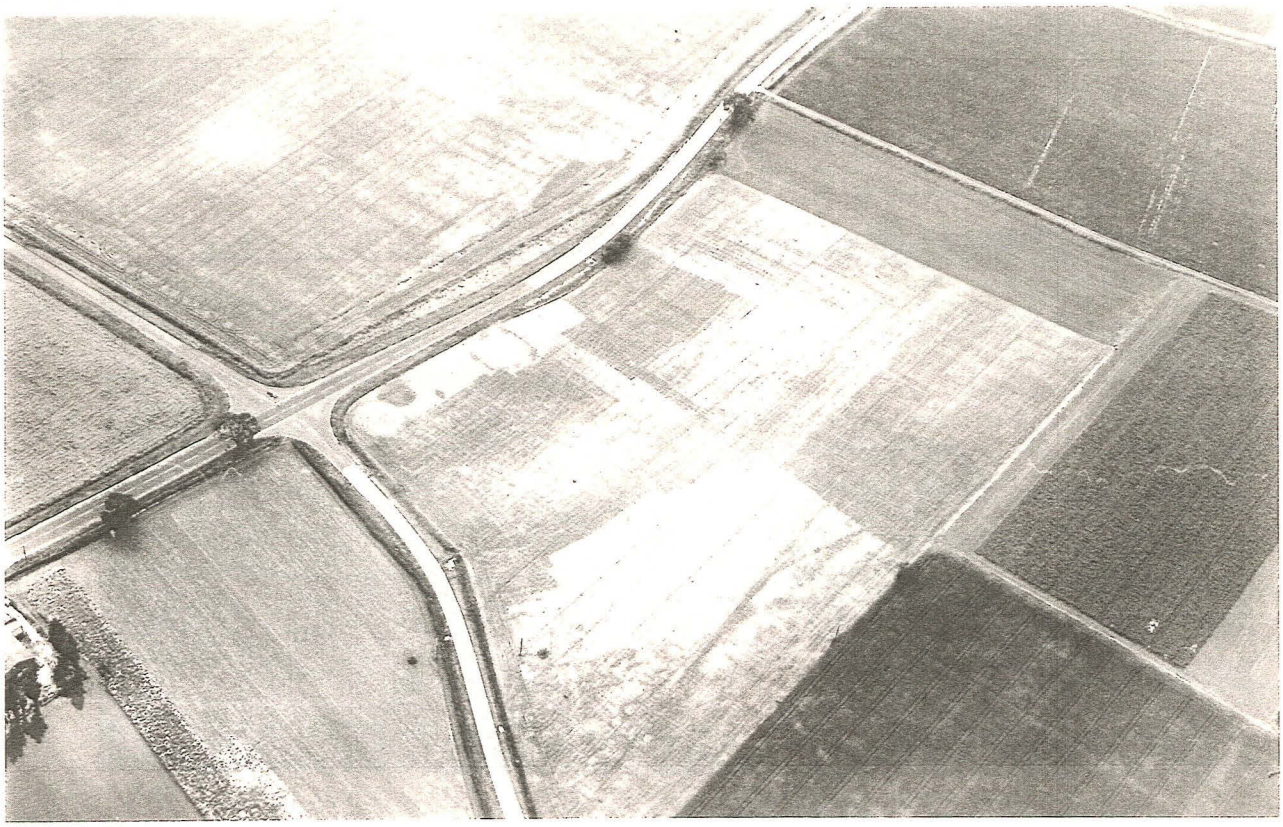
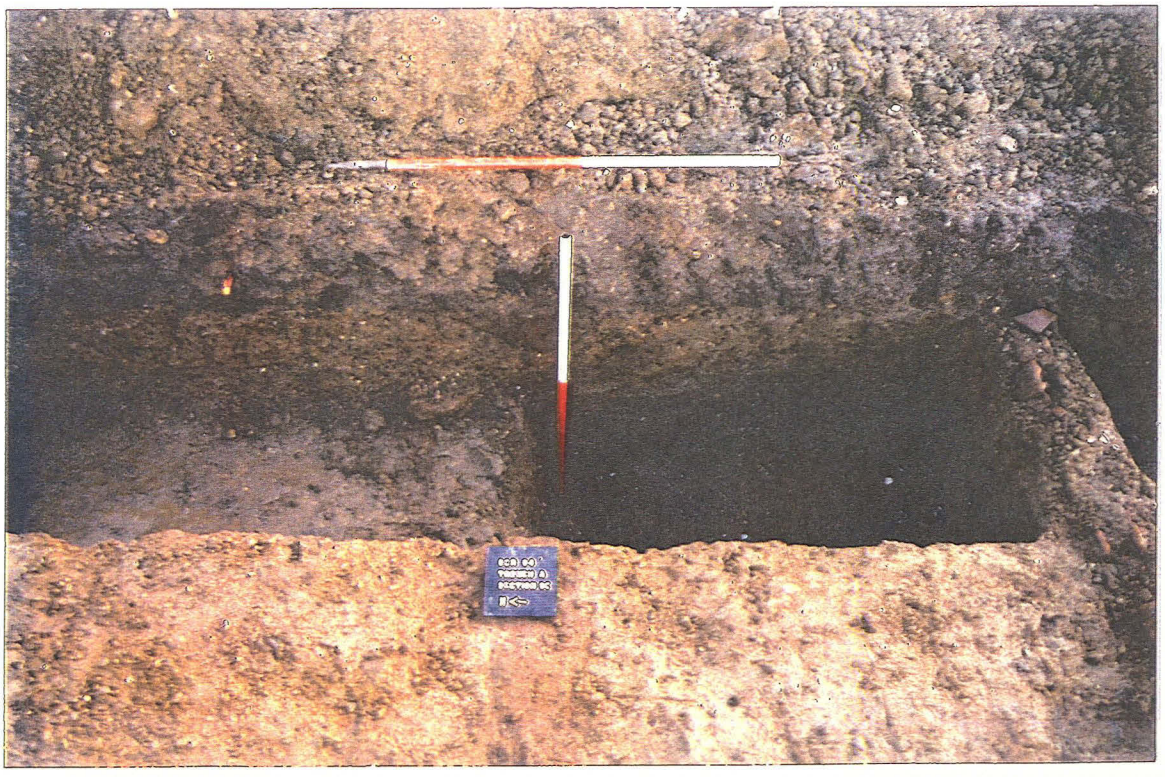


Fig. 8 General View of Investigation Area, looking southwest towards Trench C

Fig. 9 Excavation in Progress: Trench C looking north

Fig. 10 Trench A. Pit 78 with organic fill (see Fig. 4, Section 9)



APPENDIX 1

SWATON CROSSROADS
CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

CONTEXT	AREA	DESCRIPTION	INTERPRETATION
+	A, B, C	Surface finds.	Unstratified
1	A, B, C	Dark brown silty sand with frequent charcoal and flint pebbles.	Ploughsoil
2	C	Light-mid brown silty clay with frequent charcoal and flint pebbles.	Fill of 16
3	C	Mid brown /grey silty sand with flint pebbles.	Fill of 22
4	C	Dark brown/grey silty sand with occasional flint pebbles.	Fill of 39
5	C	Light-mid brown silty sand with frequent angular pebbles.	Fill of 32
6	C	Mottled grey-light brown silty sand with charcoal flecks and pebbles.	Fill of 35
7	C	Mottled grey-light brown silty sand with charcoal flecks and pebbles.	Fill of 35
8	C	Light grey silty sand with occasional charcoal and flint fragments.	Fill of 19
9	C	Linear cut possibly contained within cut 20.	Shallow cut
10	C	Light yellow/brown silty sand with occasional flints flakes.	Fill of 13
11	C	Boundary between deposits	
12	C	Mid brown silty sand with small sub-rounded pebbles and charcoal flecks.	Fill of 13
13	C	Cut, 0.65m deep and c. 3.0m wide	Recut of 20
14	C	Mid brown silty sand with occasional small rounded pebbles.	Fill of 15
15	C	Boundary between deposits	
16	C	Cut, 0.65m deep and c. 3.0m wide	Pit , recut
17	C	Mid-light brown silty sand with frequent charcoal flecks and pebbles.	Fill of 20
18	C	Cut, 0.65m deep and c. 3.0m wide	Pit, recut
19	C	Mid-light grey/brown sandy clay with occasional small rounded pebbles.	Fill of 20
20	C	Cut, circular in plan 0.70m in diameter and 0.15m deep	Pit
21	C	Yellow sand with infrequent silt and occasional flint flakes.	Fill of 22
22	C	Linear cut orientated east-west 0.45m wide and 0.40m deep.	Land drain cut
23	C	Light yellow/brown silty sand with occasional sub-rounded pebbles.	Fill of 24
24	C	Boundary between deposits	

25	C	Mid grey/brown silty sand with occasional small rounded pebbles.	Fill of 26
26	C	Flat based cut, over 1.2m wide and 0.30m deep	Pit
27	C	Light yellow/brown sand with infrequent angular flint pebbles.	Fill of 28
28	C	Same as 30	
29	C	Light yellow/brown with orange hue sandy gravel.	Fill of 30
30	C	Large cut over 2m wide and 0.50m deep.	Pit
31	C	Reddy/brown silty sand with occasional small rounded pebbles.	Fill of 20
32	B	Cut, circular in plan 0.30m diameter and 30mm deep.	Posthole
33	B	Light yellow/brown silty sand with frequent flint pebbles and occasional charcoal fragments.	Fill of 35
34	B	Reddy/brown with grey hue silty sand with occasional charcoal fragments and pebbles.	Fill of 35
35	B	Very large cut over 6m x 2m in extent and 0.70m deep.	Quarry pit
36	B	Light-mid yellow/brown silty sand	Fill of 38
37	B	Plastic pipe.	Land drain
38	B	Linear cut aligned east-west 0.50m deep.	Cut for 37
39	B	Cut aligned north-south 1.2m wide and 0.3m deep.	Ditch/gulley
40	B	Yellow/brown silty sand with occasional flint pebbles.	Fill of 41
41	B	Cut, aligned north-south 0.45m wide and 0.35m deep.	Ditch
42	A	Mid brown silty sand with occasional pebbles.	Fill of 49
43	A	Mid brown silty sand with occasional flint pebbles.	Fill of 49
44	A	Yellow /brown silty sand with occasional pebbles.	Fill of 49
45	A	Mid brown silty sand with occasional pebbles.	Fill of 46
46	A	Possible cut or fill boundary aligned east-west 0.50m wide and 0.2m deep.	Recut dyke
47	A	Yellow silty sand with occasional gravel.	Fill of 48
48	A	Cut aligned east-west 0.15m wide and 0.3m deep.	Ditch?
49	A	Flat based east-west aligned cut 0.4m deep and over 0.60m wide.	Recut Ditch?
50	A	Mid brown silty sand with occasional pebbles.	Fill of 52
51	A	Ceramic U shaped drain culvert.	Fill of 52

52	A	Cut, aligned east-west 0.20m wide and 0.25m deep.	Land drain cut
53	A	Mid brown silty sand with occasional charcoal and flint fragments.	Fill of 56
54	A	Light brown/grey clay/silty sand with occasional flint fragments.	Fill of 56
55	A	Light brown silty sand with occasional flint fragments.	Fill of 56
56	A	Cut 2.8m wide and 0.8m deep.	Pit
57	A	Mid brown reddy hue silty sand with occasional gravel.	Fill of 58
58	A	Cut irregular shape 1.5m wide and 0.2m deep.	Pit
59	A	Mid brown silty sand with occasional angular and rounded gravel.	Fill of 60
60	A	Linear cut aligned east-west 0.60m wide and 0.15m deep.	
61	A	Light yellow/brown silty sand with frequent gravel and infrequent charcoal.	Fill of 66
62	A	Light grey/brown with light green hue silty sand with gravel, charcoal???	Fill of 66
63	A	Light brown silty sand with occasional charcoal and gravel/pebbles.	Fill of 74
64	A	Mottled dark brown - light sandy silt with brown organic deposit.	Fill of 65
65	A	Cut, unknown width and length c. 0.30m deep.	Pit
66	A	Cut over 5m wide and 0.85m deep.	Pit
67	A	Light brown silty sand with frequent small pebbles.	Fill of 68
68	A	Cut 2.5m wide and 0.35m deep.	Recut of 74
69	A	Mixed brown silt, sand with frequent pebbles.	Fill of 71
70	A	Plastic pipe.	Land drain
71	A	Linear cut aligned east-west 0.2m wide and 0.65m deep.	Cut for 70
72	A	Dark grey /black sandy silt with frequent pebbles and charcoal/organics.	Fill of 74
73	A	Mottled grey/brown silty sand with frequent organics and gravel.	Natural?
74	A	Cut over 0.80m wide and 0.50m deep.	Pit
75	A	Light brown silty sand with occasional flint fragments.	Fill of 77
76	A	Ceramic pipe.	Land drain
77	A	Linear cut aligned east-west 0.40m wide and 0.20m deep.	Cut for 76
78	A	Cut 2.5m wide and 0.35m deep.	Pit

APPENDIX 2

SWATON CROSSROADS
FINDS DATA

CONTEXT	TRENCH	DESCRIPTION	QUANTITY	DATE
Unstratified	N/A	Pottery	4 sherds	Medieval
			1 sherd	Roman
			7 sherds	Late Post-Medieval
Unstratified	N/A	Slag	1 fragment	N/A
Unstratified	N/A	Flint	3 fragments	Natural
Unstratified	N/A	Glass	1 fragment	Late Post-Medieval
Unstratified	N/A	Tile	7 fragments	Late Post-Medieval
Unstratified	N/A	Clay-pipe	2 fragments	Late Post-Medieval
2	C	Pottery	10 sherds	Late Post-Medieval
2	C	Glass	7 fragments	Late Post-Medieval
2	C	Clay-pipe	1 fragment	Late Post-Medieval
2	C	Coal	1 fragment	N/A
3	C	Glass	1 fragment	Late Post-Medieval
6	B	Pottery	58 sherds	Late Post-Medieval
6	B	Clay-pipe	7 fragments	Late Post-Medieval
7	B	Pottery	14 sherd	Late Post-Medieval
7	B	Tile	1 fragment	Late Post-Medieval
7	B	Flint	1 fragment	Natural
7	B	Clay-pipe	2 fragment	Late Post-Medieval
7	B	Bone	2 fragments	N/A
10	C	Pottery	5 sherds	Late Post-Medieval
10	C	Glass	4 fragments	Late Post-Medieval
10	C	Clay-pipe	1 fragment	Late Post-Medieval
25	A	Pottery	1 sherd	Post-Medieval
25	A	Coal	1 fragment	N/A
41	B	Bone	4 fragments	N/A
43	A	Pottery	1 sherd	Post-Medieval
57	A	Pottery	4 sherds	Medieval
			1 sherd	Roman
62	A	Bone	19 fragments	N/A
63	A	Bone	2 fragments	N/A
66	A	Pottery	1 sherd	Roman/Saxon
66	A	Bone	18 fragments	N/A

APPENDIX 3

SWATON CROSS ROADS
SMALL FINDS DATA

FINDS No.	TRENCH	CONTEXT	DESCRIPTION	DATE
1	B	6	Brass button	19th CENTURY
2	C	25	Copper thimble	N/A
3	B	6	Pewter button	19th CENTURY
4	C	2	Bronze buckle/strap-end with leather attached	19th CENTURY
5	N/A	Unstratified	Pewter button	19th CENTURY
6	B	6	Copper coin, halfpenny	1805/6
7	B	34	Bronze nail	
8	A	63	Flint Debitage	Neolithic
9	N/A	Unstratified	Whetstone	20th CENTURY
10	N/A	Unstratified	Flint All-over core	Neolithic
11	N/A	Unstratified	Flint Side scraper	Bronze Age
12	A	1	Quern fragment	N/A
13	N/A	Unstratified	Iron ring (nut)	19th/20th CENTURY
14	B	7	Iron nail fragment	19th/20th CENTURY
15	N/A	Unstratified	15 iron nail fragments	19th/20th CENTURY
16	C	2	Iron object	19th/20th CENTURY
17	B	6	19 iron nail fragments	19th/20th CENTURY
18	A	62	Flint, Possible anvil	Neolithic
19	A	62	Flint Debitage	Neolithic
20	N/A	Unstratified	Flint, Attempt at core	Neolithic
21	N/A	Unstratified	Flint Debitage, with hinge fracture	Neolithic
22	N/A	Unstratified	Flint, flake debitage	Neolithic
23	N/A	Unstratified	Flint, possible core	Neolithic

APPENDIX 4

RESULTS OF GEOPHYSICAL SURVEY, SWATON CROSSROADS

SITE SUMMARY SHEET

94 / 01 Swaton

NGR: TF 130 368

Location, topography and geology

The site lies at a crossroads formed by the A52 and B1394 roads between the villages of Horbling and Swaton, Lincolnshire. The survey area is located within an arable field and on part of the roadside verge to the south of the A52 and to the west of the B1394. The geology comprises sands and gravels.

Archaeology

Aerial photographs show cropmarks indicating the presence of a barrow and a horseshoe enclosure immediately to the north of the A52, which is on the site of a Roman road. Other cropmarks to the west and north may represent the remains of a Roman cemetery and a large annular feature.

Aims of Survey

A fluxgate gradiometer survey was undertaken as part of a wider archaeological evaluation being carried out by **Heritage Lincolnshire.** The aim of the survey was to try to locate any archaeological features that may be present within the area of a proposed road improvement scheme.

Summary of Results *

The survey recorded a number of features, most of which are likely to be modern and reflect a pattern of field drainage. Several isolated pit like anomalies were detected. However, they lack any obvious archaeological context and may be responses from modern ferrous debris. Archaeological features may be present in the northernmost part of the site, but their signals will have been masked by strong magnetic interference produced by ferrous debris and road signs.

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

SURVEY RESULTS

94 / 01 Swaton

1. Survey Areas

1.1 An area covering a total of 1ha was surveyed using a fluxgate gradiometer. For the purpose of presentation the survey area has been divided into three parts, Areas A, B and C. Their location is shown in Figure 1, at a scale of 1:2500.

1.2 The survey grid was set out by **Geophysical Surveys of Bradford**. Detailed tie-in information has been lodged with the client.

2. Display

2.1 The results are displayed in three formats:- X-Y trace, dot density plot and grey scale image. These display formats are discussed in the *Technical Information* section, at the end of the text.

2.2 Figure 2 is a summary interpretation of the survey data reproduced at a scale of 1:2500.

2.3 Figures A1 to C2 are detailed data plots and interpretation diagrams of the survey areas shown at a scale of 1:500.

3. General Considerations - Complicating factors

3.1 The northern edges of Areas A and B lie over part of the roadside verge and are separated from the remainder of the survey by a 2m wide drain. To the north of the drain substantial magnetic interference was encountered, which will have masked responses from archaeological features, if present in this area. A slight increase in magnetic noise levels occurred when surveying across the field drain and from passing traffic.

4. Results of the Survey

4.1 The strongest magnetic anomalies are those produced by modern ferrous debris discarded beside the A52 and the presence of road signs. It is possible that archaeological features are present in this area but their responses are hidden by the disturbance.

4.2 Four linear anomalies with an identical intermittent response were recorded, aligned approximately east-west. Their response is not a characteristic archaeological one and it is likely that these responses are due to the presence of buried field drains.

4.3 Several pit like responses were recorded, the most promising of which is that detected in Area A. However, they appear in isolation with no obvious archaeological context and given the high level of ferrous debris detected, a non-archaeological origin cannot be ruled out.

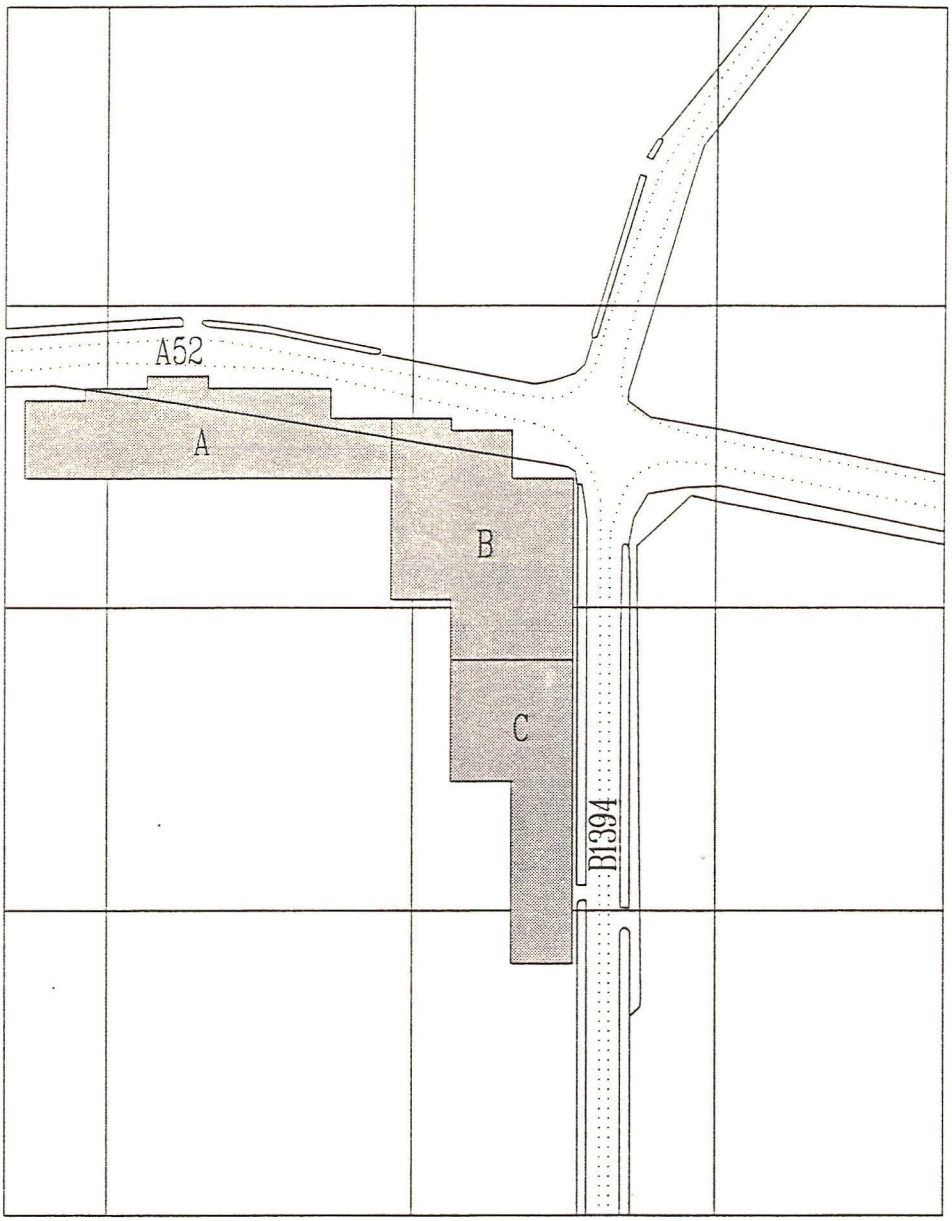
6. Conclusions

The fluxgate gradiometer survey recorded a number of responses of potential interest. A series of linear anomalies orientated east-west are not considered to be archaeological in nature and are likely to have been produced by buried field drains. Several isolated pit like responses were also detected. However, given the high level of ferrous noise recorded throughout the site, and a lack of any obvious archaeological context for these anomalies, their interpretation remains tentative. Substantial magnetic interference recorded in the northernmost part of the site will have masked signals produced by archaeological features, if present in this area.

Project Co-ordinator: D Shiel
Project Assistant: A Shields, N Nemcek & A S Wilson

14th January 1994
Geophysical Surveys of Bradford

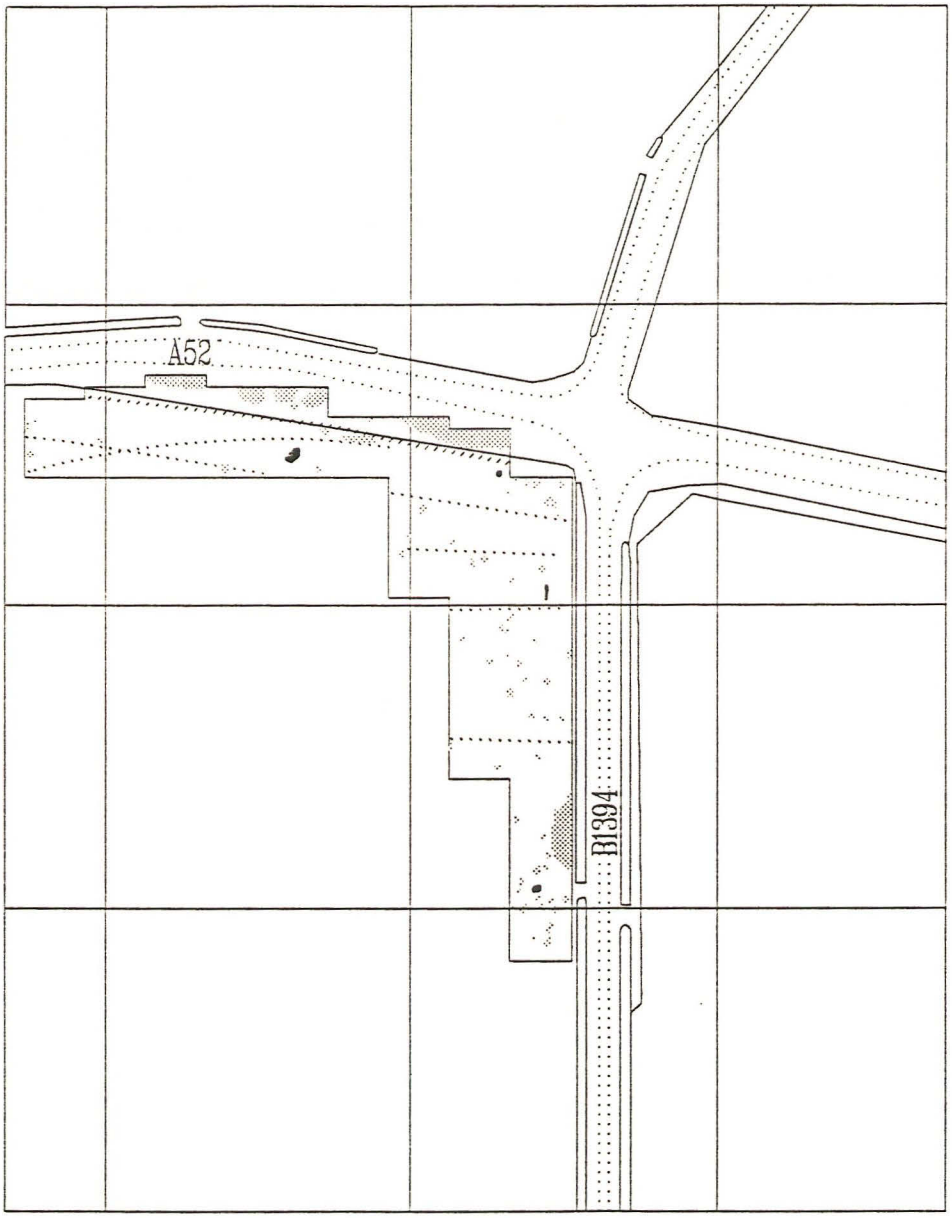
1:2500



Gradiometer Survey

GEOPHYSICAL SURVEYS OF BRADFORD	
PROJECT: SWATON	
TITLE: Location Diagram	
Based on a plan supplied by Heritage Lincolnshire	Figure 1

1:2500



?Archaeology

Existing Field Boundary

?Field Drains

Ferrous

GEOPHYSICAL SURVEYS OF BRADFORD

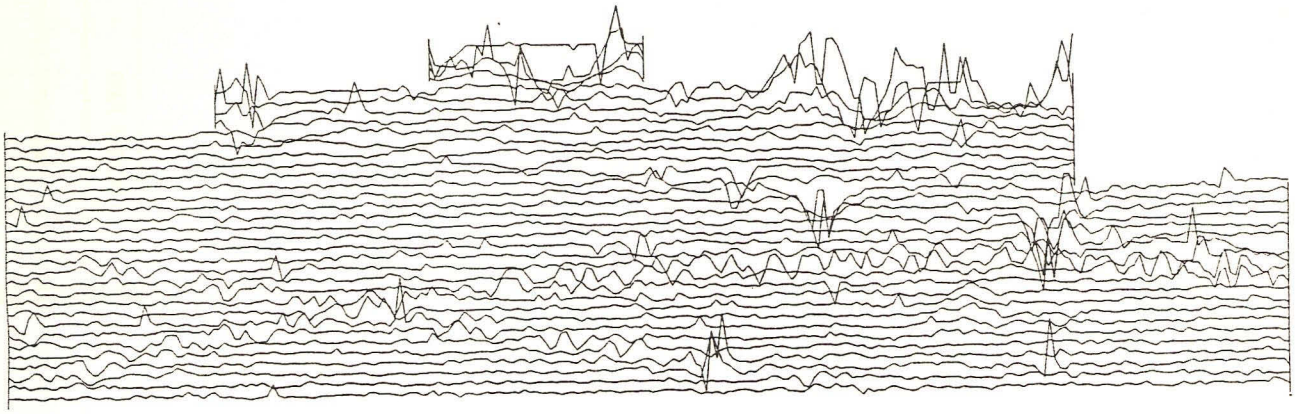
PROJECT: SWATON

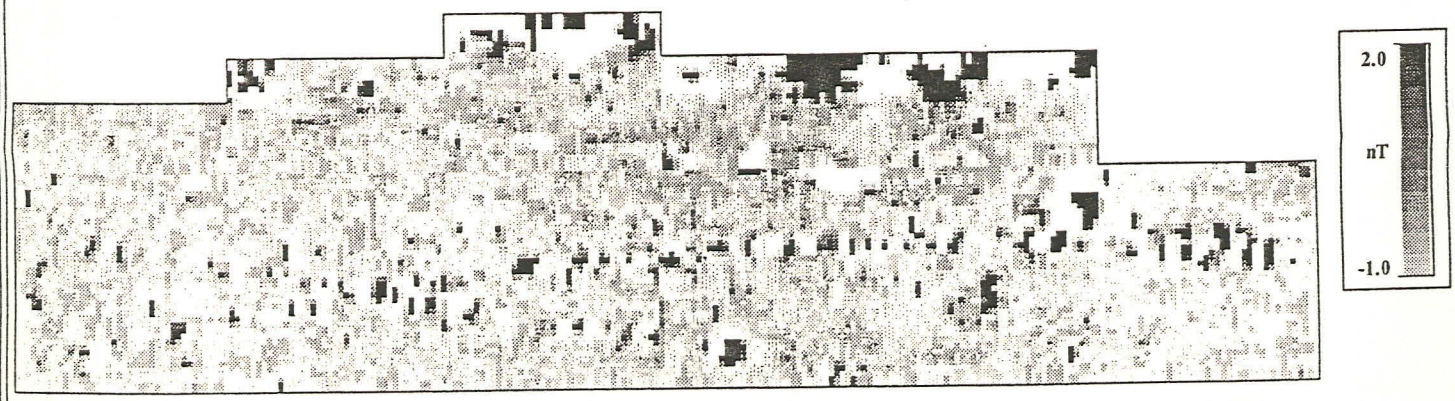
TITLE: Summary Interpretation Diagram

Based on a plan supplied by Heritage Lincolnshire

Figure 2

SWATON
Area A





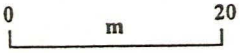
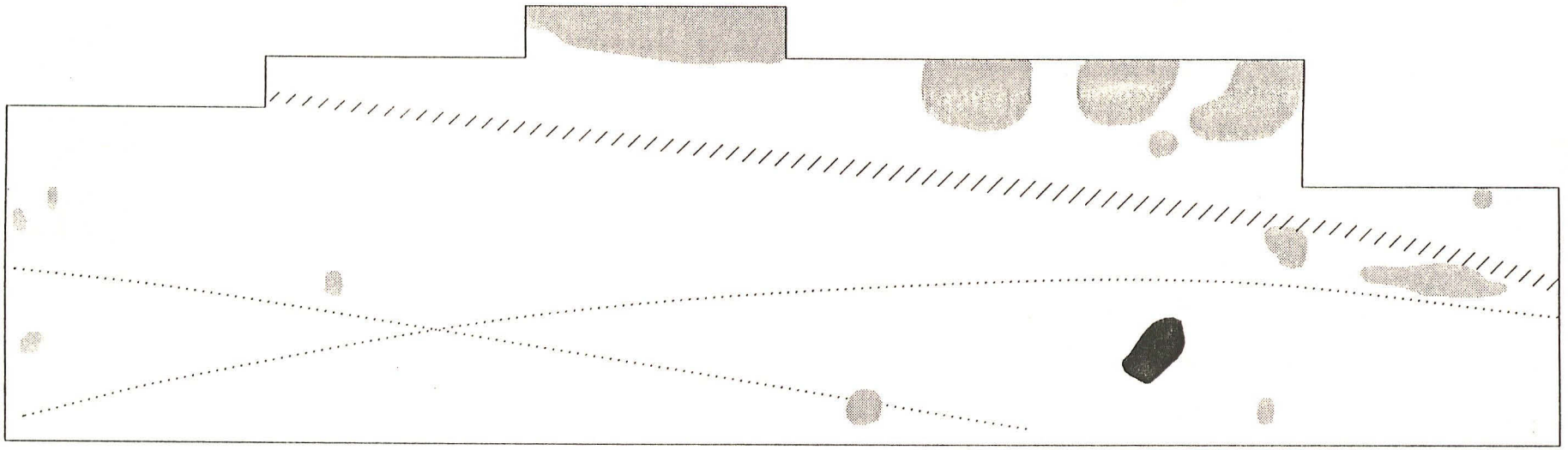


Figure A1

GEOPHYSICAL SURVEYS OF BRADFORD	PROJECT: SWATON	TITLE: Area A Interpretation	SCALE: 1:500



?Archaeology

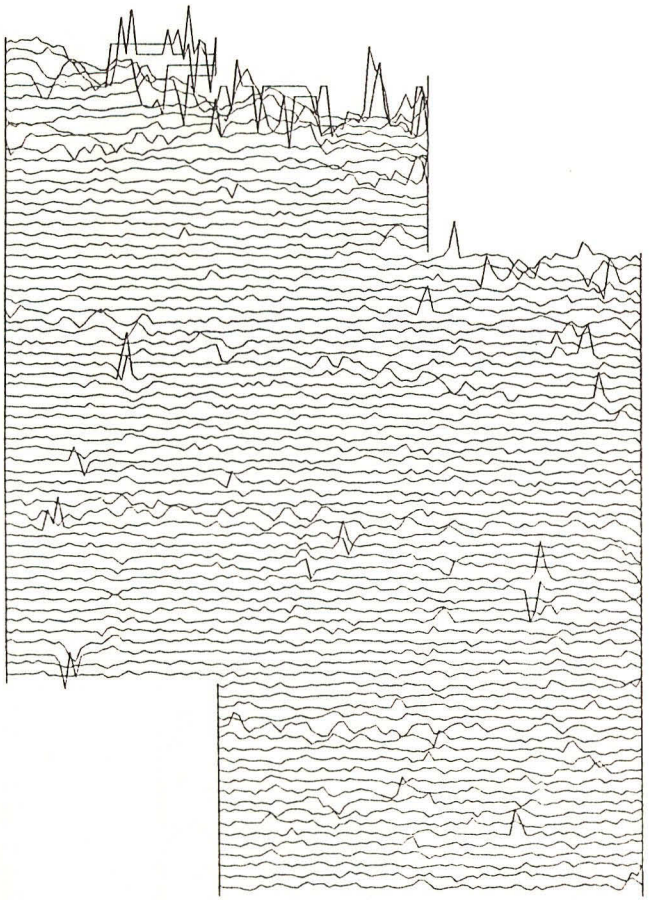
?Field Drains

Existing Field Boundary

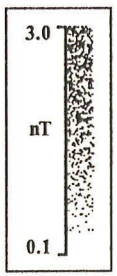
Ferrous

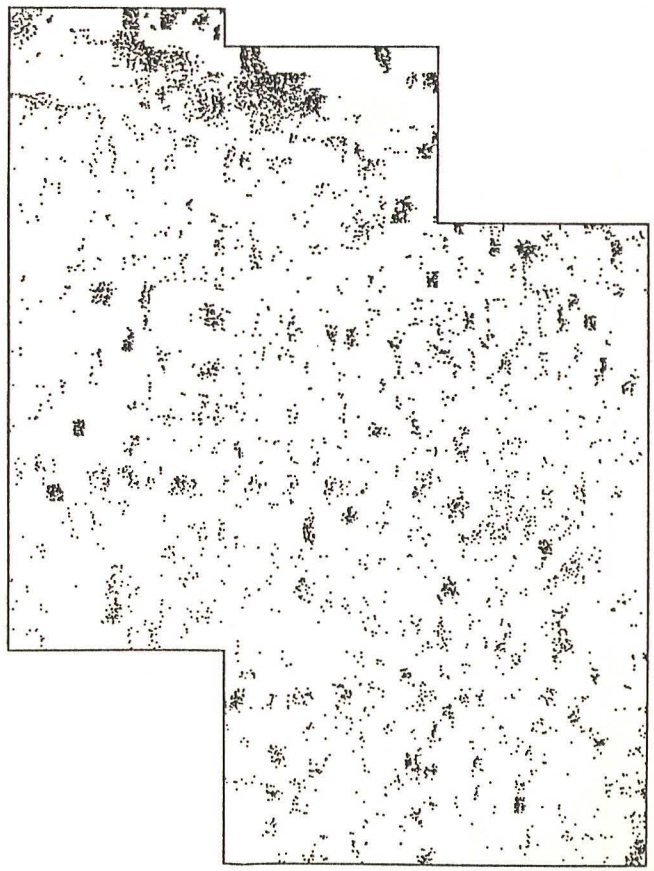
Figure A2

SWATON
Area B



15 nT





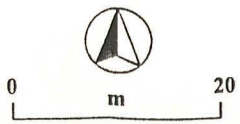
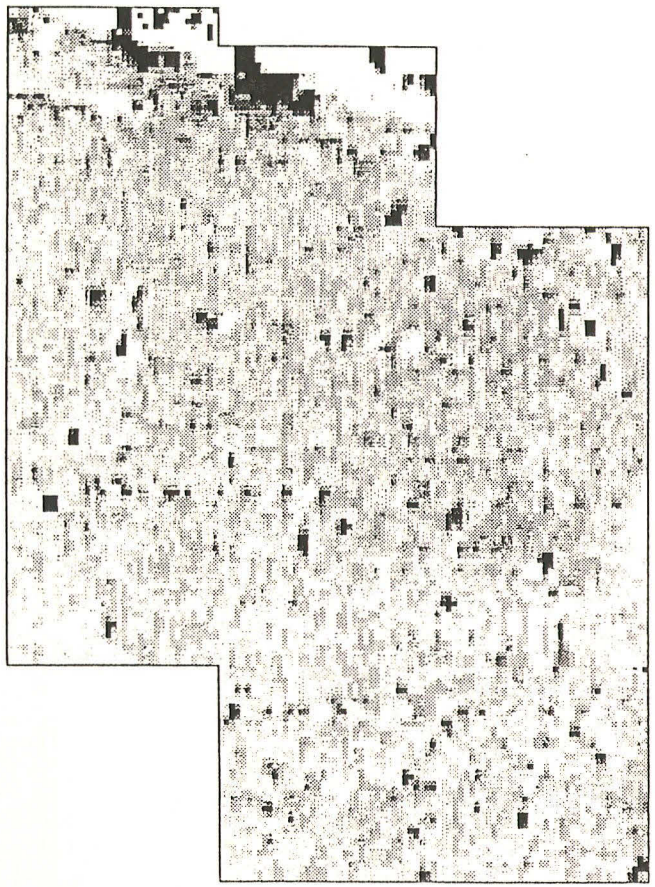
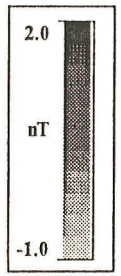


Figure B1

SWATON
Area B



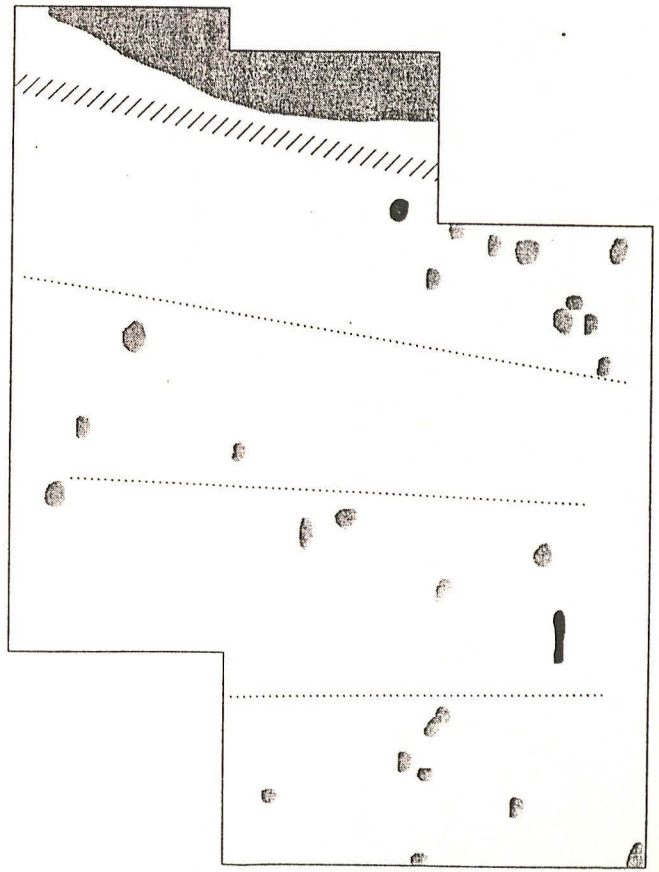


?Archaeology

?Field Drain

Existing Boundary

Ferrous



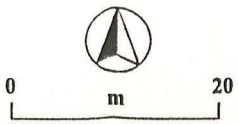
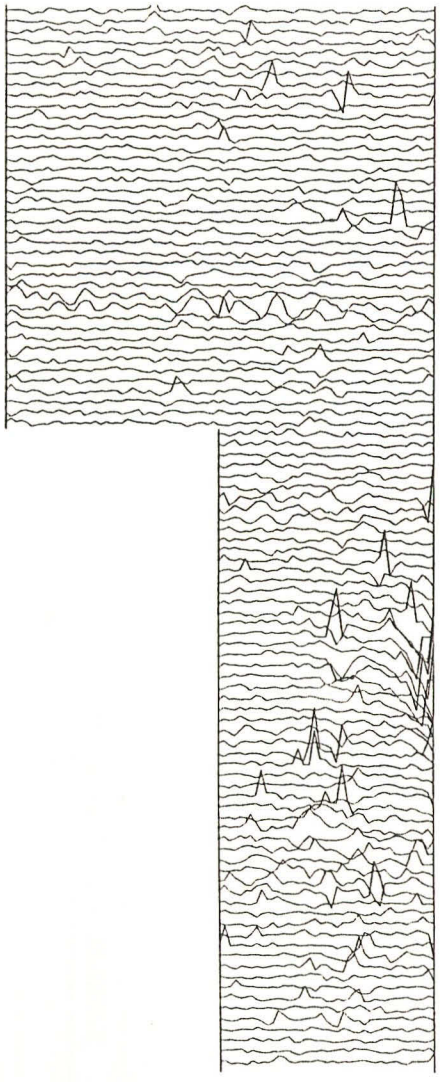


Figure B2

SWATON
Area C



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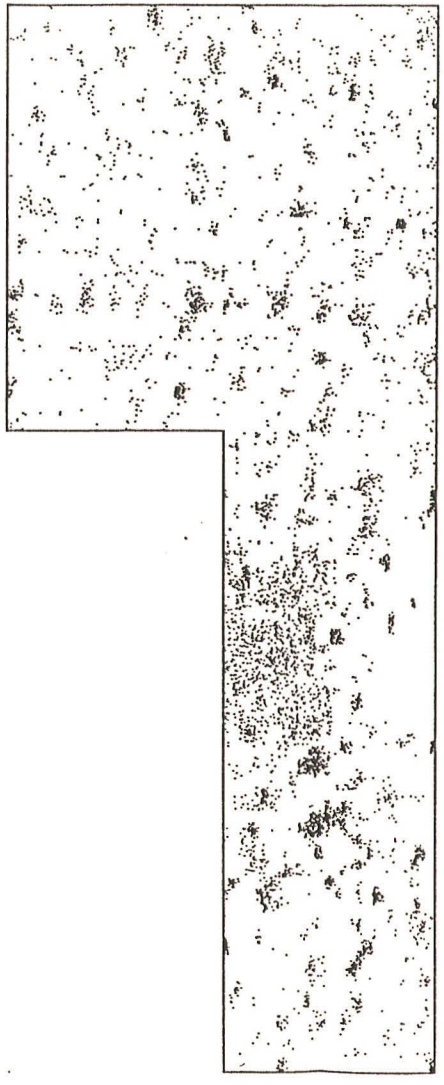
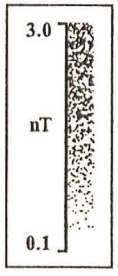
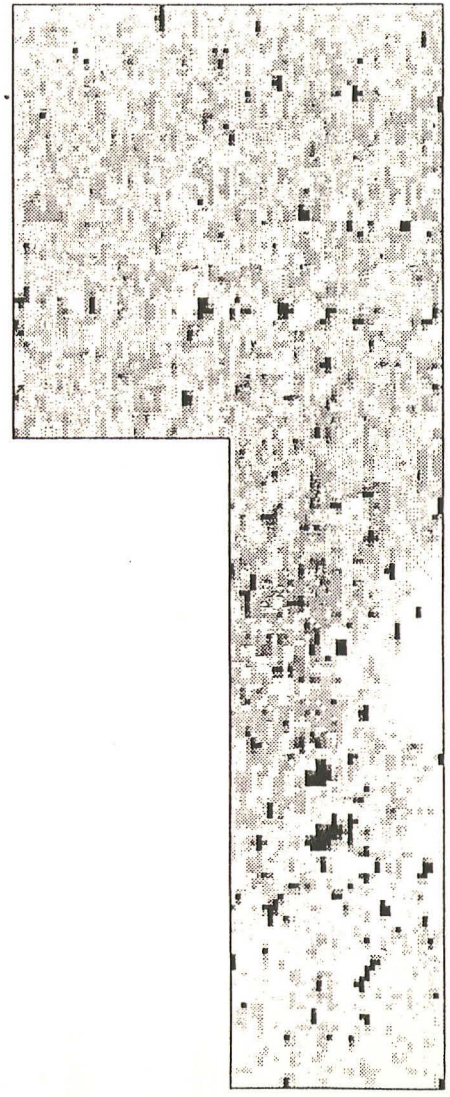
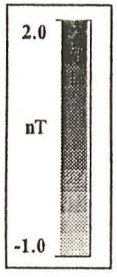


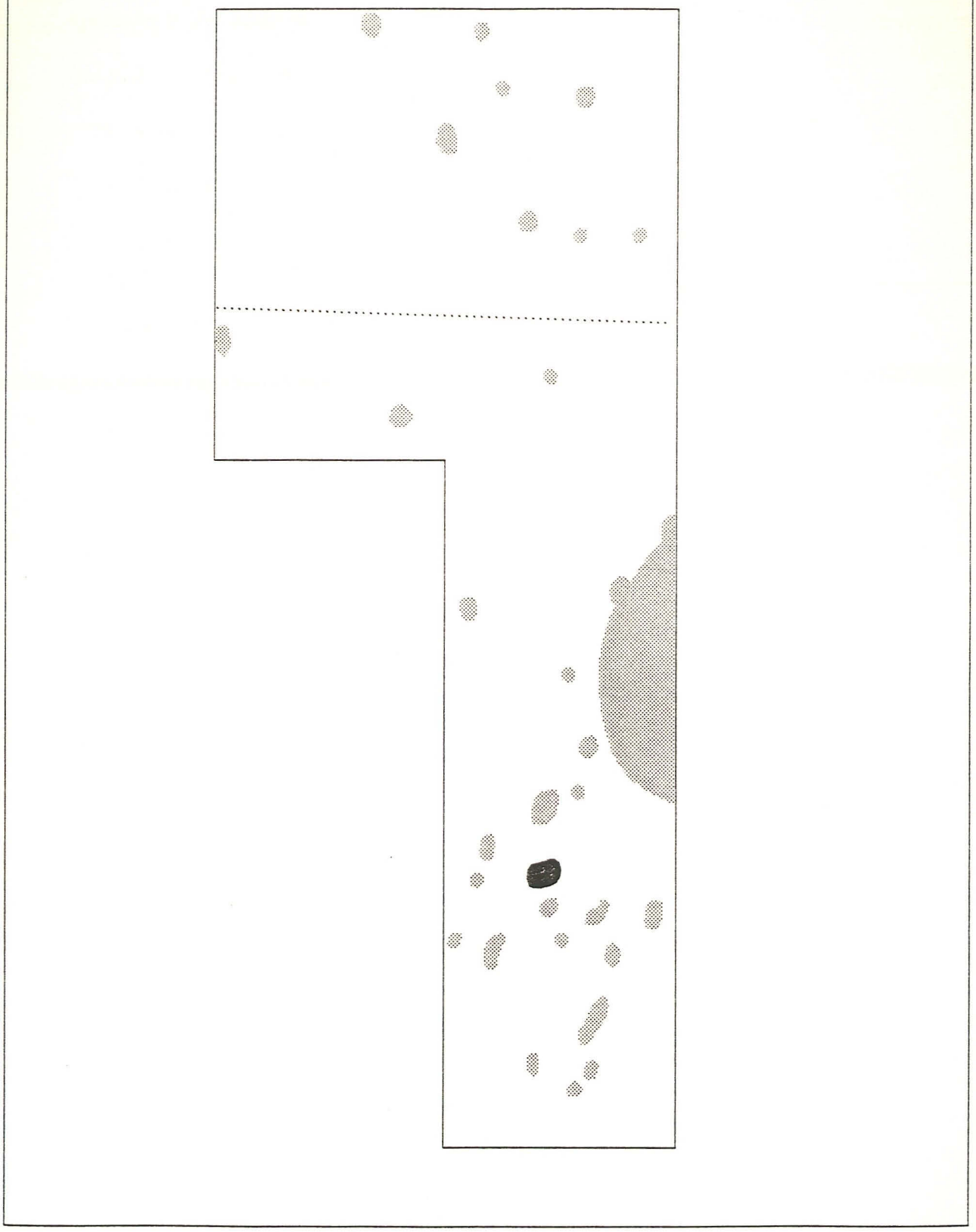






0 m 20

Figure C1



?Archaeology

Ferrous

?Field Drains

GEOPHYSICAL SURVEYS OF BRADFORD	
PROJECT: SWATON	
TITLE: Area C Interpretation	
SCALE: 1:500	Figure C2

Appendix 5 The archive

The archive consists of:

78	Context records
3	Photographic records
25	Scale drawings
1	Box of finds
1	Box Small finds
1	Stratigraphic matrix

All primary records and finds are currently kept at:

Archaeological Project Services
28 Boston Road
Sleaford
Lincolnshire
NG34 7ET

City and County Museum, Lincoln Accession Number: 23.94