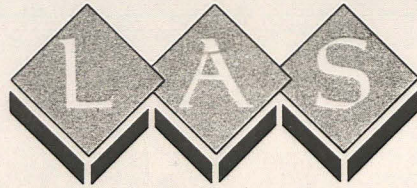


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LINDSEY ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES

FRANCIS HOUSE SILVER BIRCH PARK GREAT NORTHERN TERRACE LINCOLN LN5 8LG

BRAUNCEWELL LIMESTONE QUARRY EXTENSION
BRAUNCEWELL QUARRIES LIMITED
ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION
NGR: TF 0320 5220

Geophysical Survey U2132
(separate report - 9411)
Event U2133

BRAUNCEWELL LIMESTONE QUARRY EXTENSION
BRAUNCEWELL QUARRIES LIMITED
ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION
NGR: TF 0320 5220

Source U16869
PRN 61814 U181839
61815 U181840
61816 U181841

Introduction

Lindsey Archaeological Services was commissioned by Brauncewell Quarries Limited to undertake an archaeological evaluation of the quarry extension area, following the preparation of a Desk-Top Assessment of the site (Field 1993). It was known that a 'triple-linear ditch system' visible on air photographs as a cropmark crossed the extension area and further investigation was requested by the County Archaeological Officer. The evaluation brief required a fieldwalking survey of the extension site and a partial geophysical survey.

The area is an extension to the existing active quarry which lies slightly above the 30m contour, 0.5km west of the A15 Sleaford-Lincoln Road and 4km east of the Roman Ermine Street. The site comprised most of an arable field, under an emerging crop, with some uncultivated ground where sugar beet had been harvested. The existing quarry edge formed the western limit; Church Row Plantation lay on the north side, a field wall provided the eastern limit and the roadside verge lay to the south.

The fieldwalking was conducted over a two day period, February 1st and 2nd 1994. Weather conditions were good, although rain interrupted the exercise; the field surface was liberally covered with limestone brash, indicating the shallow topsoil depth. The field was walked parallel to the road, at 10m transect intervals. Finds of prehistoric flint, Romano-British and medieval pottery and roof tile were retrieved and plotted at 20m intervals along each transect; very few post-medieval or modern finds were seen.

The Fieldwalking Results

A total of 142 sherds of Romano-British pottery were found (Fig. 1). Their concentration in the western half of the field appears to be related to the position of the triple linear ditches. In addition to the Roman pottery 25 pieces of medieval and post medieval pottery were found. They were sparsely scattered across the field and probably not indicative of any settlement remains. There were also 18 worked flints from the field with a slight concentration in the north-east corner of the area walked over. Given the presence of Bronze Age barrows to the east of the quarry site their presence was not unexpected. However, the number of finds was not large enough for any firm conclusions about their significance to be drawn.

The Geophysical Survey

A total of 16 grids, 30m square were surveyed at the south end of the field. The purpose of the survey was to establish whether the triple ditches identified from aerial photographs continued to the southern field boundary. The results are given in the accompanying report. In summary, the survey showed that the eastern ditch continues to the southern boundary of the field and is the same ditch as the fragmentary ditch revealed on air photographs running south of the road. The middle and western ditches were not located which suggests that they may terminate north of the survey area, which was hinted at on the aerial photographs. (The ditches appeared to merge with medieval plough furrows, making interpretation very difficult.) Survey close to the present quarry (grids 11 and 12) located the fourth single ditch, present on the aerial photographs. The survey also revealed a break in the ditch, with a possible inturned entrance. In association with the entrance were a series of anomalies which may be pits or other archaeological remains.

Proposal for Further Work

The results of the preliminary evaluation work have indicated an area of great archaeological interest on the western boundary of the new quarry area. After discussions with the County Planning Department and the Assistant County Archaeological Officer and Mr Dickinson the following proposals for further archaeological have been made:

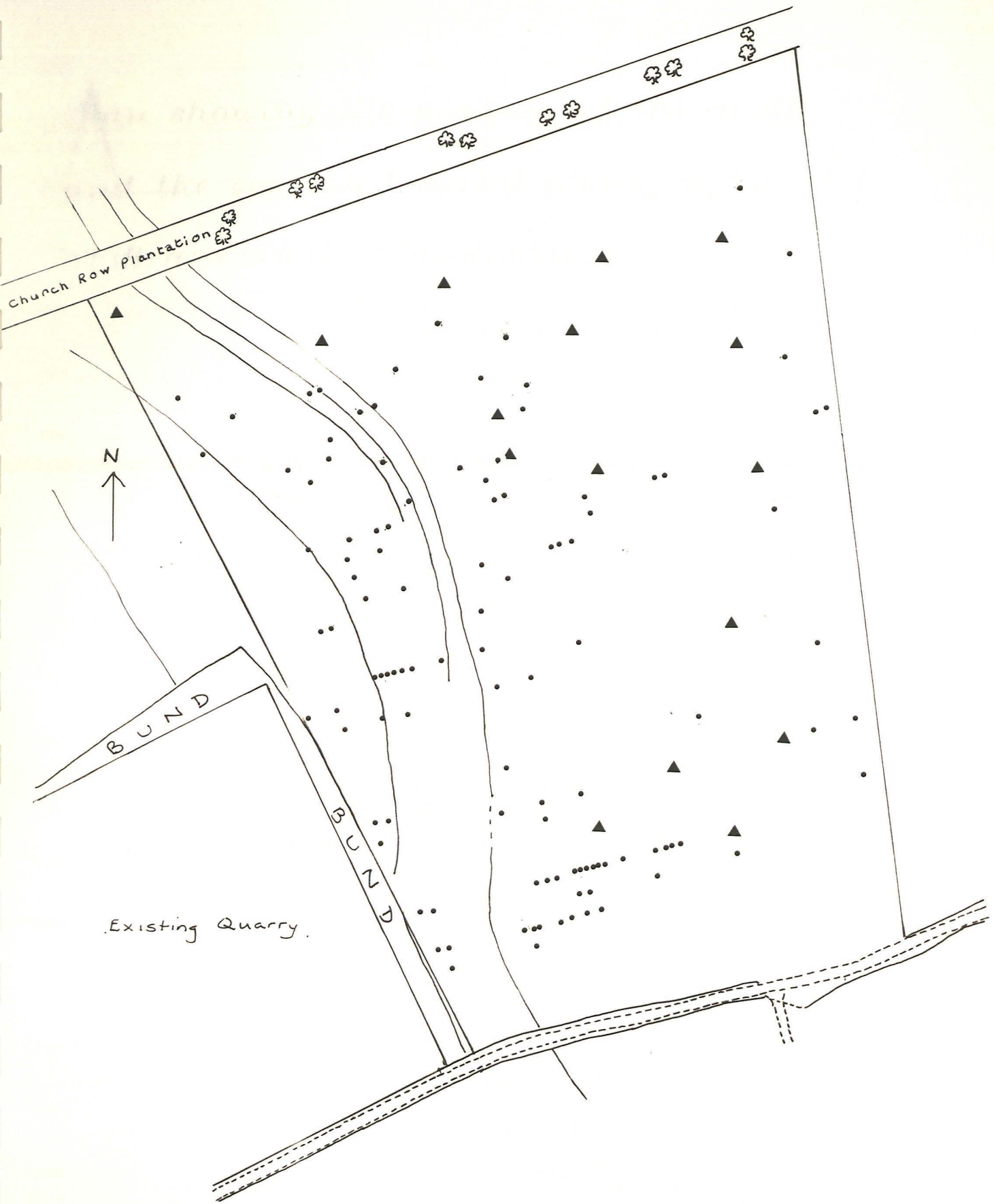
An area 60m x 30m extending east from the west boundary of the new quarry and straddling grids 11 and 12, should be mechanically stripped of topsoil (Figs 2 & 3). All archaeological features revealed to be planned and photographed as appropriate. Selected features will be excavated to obtain dating evidence and determine depths of deposits.

It may be necessary to undertake further excavation and/or watching brief on the rest of the quarry area depending on the quality of remains located.

Naomi Field
Lindsey Archaeological Services
March 8th 1994

References

Field, N. 1993 *Brauncewell Limestone Quarry: Archaeological Desk-Top Study* LAS Developer's Report.



Existing Quarry.

○ ————— 200 m.

- Roman pottery
- ▲ Flint

Fig. 1 Distribution of fieldwalking finds, with linear ditches shown

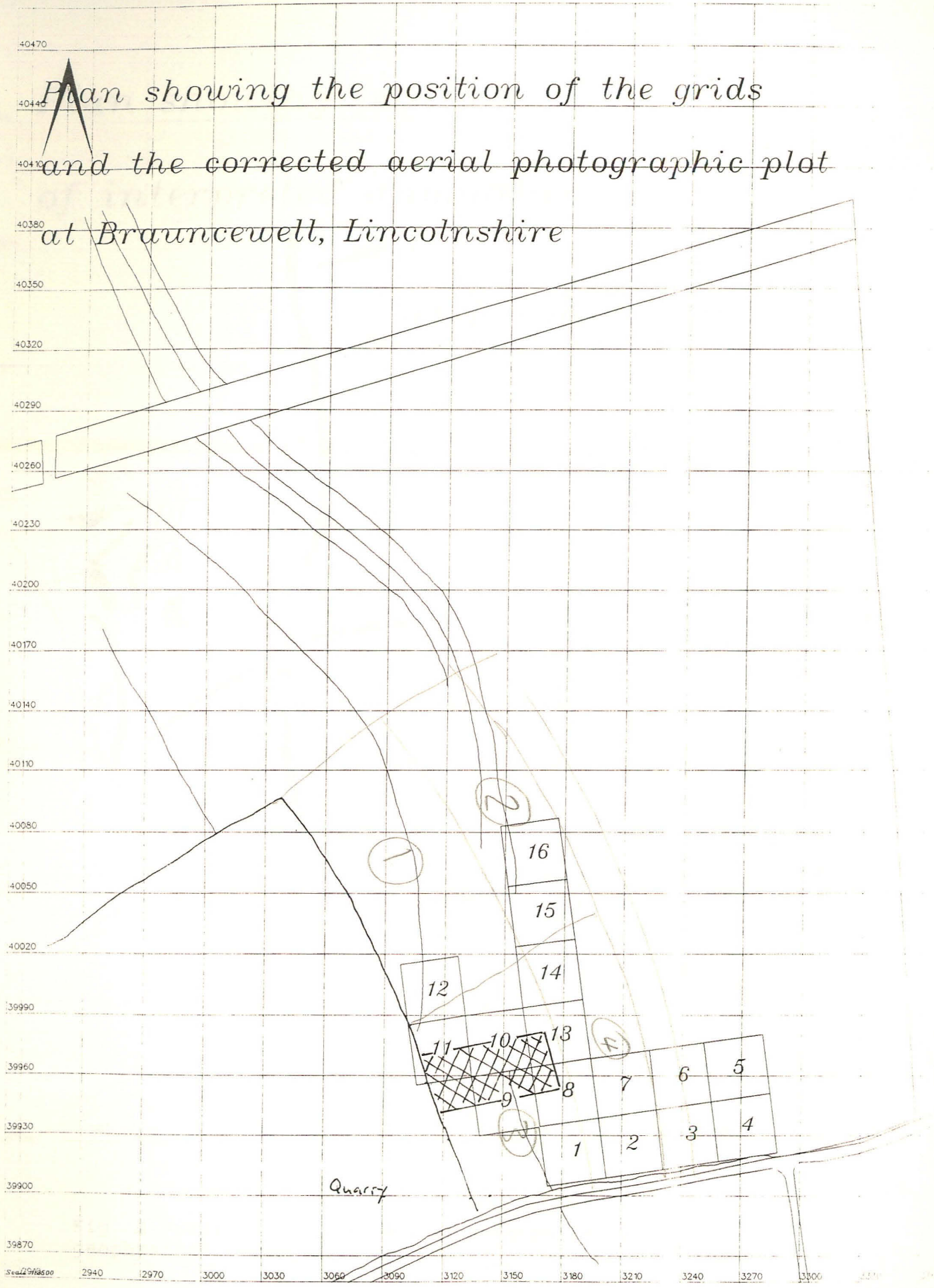


Fig. 2 Position of proposed excavation in relation to geophysical survey grids

Plan showing position
of interpreted anomalies

at Brauncewell

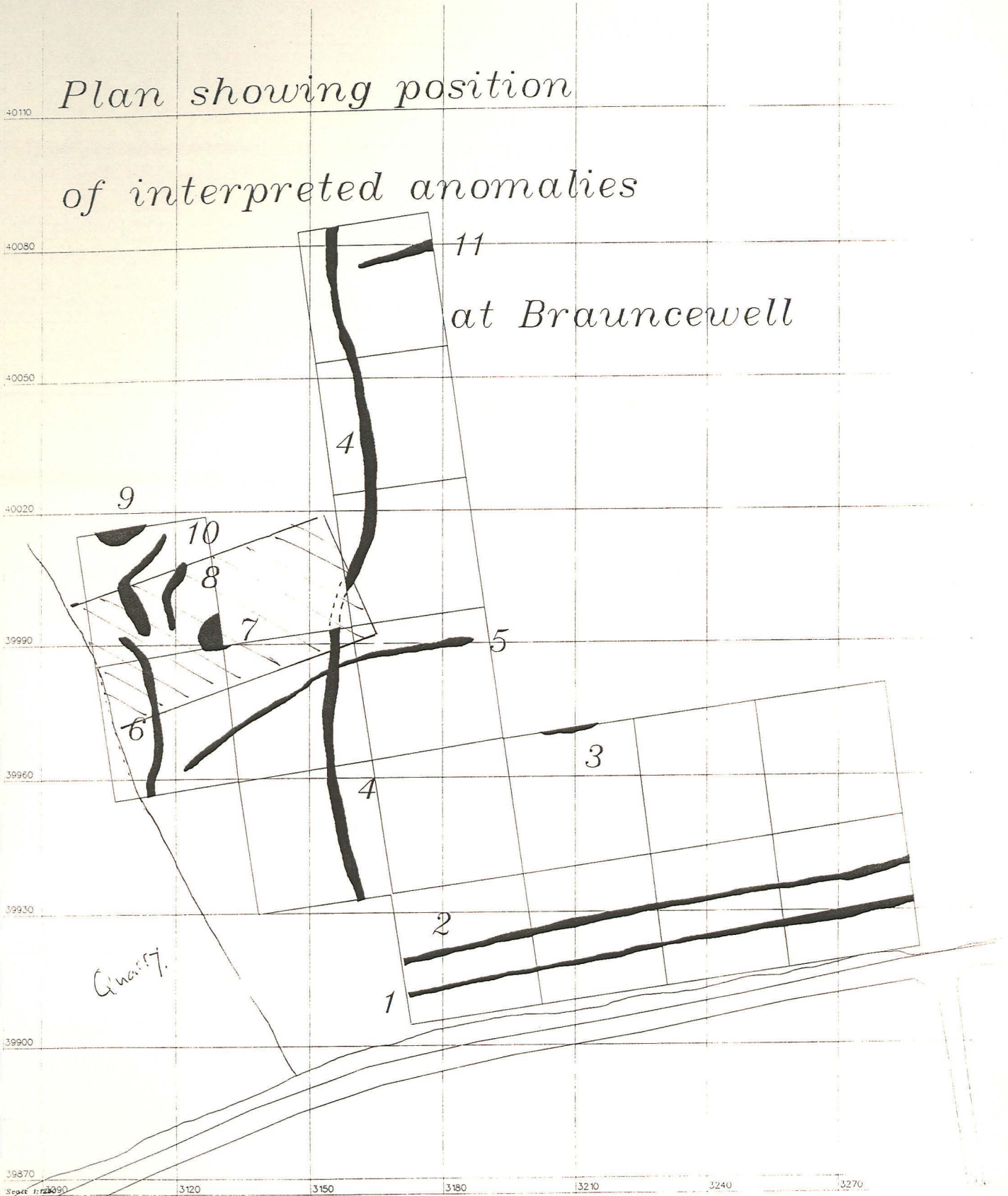


Fig. 3 Position of proposed excavation in relation to geophysical survey grids

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