

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGY

ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATIONS AT UPTON,

NORTHAMPTON SOUTH WEST DISTRICT,

AUTUMN 2000

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NORTHAMPTONSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

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INTERIM REPORT

ABSTRACT

An archaeological excavation was carried out in, Northampton, South-West District at Upton in advance of residential development. About three hectares was stripped in three separate areas south of the A45 (areas A1, A2 and A3). Additional trial trenching was also undertaken to the north of the A45 to investigate any possible northward extension of the settlement activity. Geophysical survey was undertaken to the south of the excavation, closer to the River Nene in order to access its archaeological potential.

Area A1 comprised part of a late Bronze Age/early Iron Age pit alignment and a series of Late Iron Age enclosures with associated driveway and contemporary pitting. These formed part of a small farmstead with evidence of later Roman and medieval agriculture associated with settlement foci to the east and west respectively.

Areas A2 and A3 comprised a palimpsest of ditches and gullies, forming small oval to sub-square enclosures possibly utilised for stock management. Additional activity included areas of pits, wells and a pottery kiln. The latter was within a sub-circular enclosure.

Two inhumations were also recovered from the south-west corner of the site; the lack of other interments in the vicinity suggests that they represent isolated burials. The archaeological deposits probably represent low level domestic and agricultural activity on the periphery on a Romano-British farmstead. The site forms one of the largest set-piece excavations in the area of the small Roman town of Duston, which was extensively quarried in the 19th century. The site therefore has the potential to add a considerable amount of detail to the Roman landscape in this region.

North of the A45, no traces of archaeological activity were uncovered. The lack of archaeological deposits suggests that this area may have been devoid of any Iron Age, Roman or later settlement activity.

Geophysical survey conducted within Zones B and C, on the south side of the site recovered little in the way of archaeological anomalies, suggesting that the area closest to the River Nene was only utilised for agricultural purposes.

1. **INTRODUCTION**

1.1 The current excavation areas lie within a 43.9ha parcel of land at Upton to the south-west of Northampton (Fig 1), which for the purposes of discharging the archaeological condition attached to outline planning consent was subdivided into three separate zones, hereafter called zones A, B and C (Fig 2). Zone A comprised three areas of excavation (areas A1, A2, and A3) and also included three trial trenches located to the north of the A45. The excavation was carried out in advance of residential development.

1.2 About three hectares was stripped in three separate areas south of the A45 in Zone A (areas A1, A2 and A3) to investigate Iron Age and Roman remains identified during earlier evaluation (Prentice 1999). Additional evaluation excavations were also undertaken to the north of the A45 to investigate any possible northward extension of the settlement activity. Geophysical survey was undertaken to the south of the excavation, closer to the River Nene in order to access its archaeological potential (NGR SP 7236 5976 Fig 2).

1.3 This report represents an interim statement on the above work and has been prepared prior to the completion of the whole project to provide a record of the work to date. It is envisaged that, as the development of the South-West District proceeds, an extensive watching brief and additional trial excavation will be carried out that will further add to the body of data collected to date. Once all of the work has been completed newly acquired results will be added to this interim report to provide an updated project design that will evaluate the results and make recommendations for final reporting and publication.

1.4 The underlying geology of the site has been mapped by the Geological Survey of Great Britain as Northampton Sand with Ironstone to the north and glacial lake clay to the south (GSB 1990).

- 1.5 The Sites and Monuments Record for Northamptonshire identifies Iron Age and Roman sites within the northern part of a large field within application area (Zone A) encompassed by SMR 5813/0/1 and SMR 5130 centred upon NGR SP 723 600. The sites are bounded to the north by the A45 (Weedon Road) to the west by Upton Mill Lane and to the east by recent residential development. At the time of excavation, the field had recently been cultivated.
- 1.6 Several phases of evaluation have previously been undertaken within the application area to determine the archaeological potential of the site. This comprised both non-intrusive and intrusive evaluation techniques including a series of test pitting and trial excavations (Jackson 1993; Shaw 1993), in addition to geophysical survey, metal detecting and further trial trenching (Prentice 1999). These individual assessments indicated that the site was rich in archaeological remains dating from the prehistoric to medieval periods. As a result of the evaluations a brief for excavation and additional works was outlined by English Partnerships on 26th July 2000, prior to residential development on the site. It was approved by Northamptonshire County Council's Archaeological Planning Officer.

PROJECT BACKGROUND

- 1.7 Archaeological evaluations were conducted on the site during 1993 and 1999; this consisted both of geophysical survey and trial excavation, which were targeted on the results of the former. Both studies were both undertaken to examine both the potential archaeological features and the apparent blank areas identified during initial geophysical scanning (*Op. cit.*).
- 1.8 During trial excavation variety of features including ditches, pits, postholes and metalled surfaces were identified across the site. This confirmed the results of the geophysical survey suggesting the presence of two discrete sites dating to the Iron Age and Roman periods within the northern part of the development area (Zone A).

- 1.9 The previous evaluations indicated the presence of two archaeological sites of intrinsic importance. These are an Iron Age site (SMR 5813/0/1, Area A1) comprising a rectangular ditched enclosure with possible internal features and pits. Outside the enclosure a possible pit alignment, a drove way and associated geophysical anomalies had been interpreted as fields or paddocks. The second site, an area of Roman occupation, was identified to the east (SMR 5130, Area A2) and comprised a complex pattern of linear and curvilinear geophysical anomalies suggesting a Roman settlement with associated field system.

2. *OBJECTIVES AND METHODOLOGY*

PROJECT OBJECTIVES

- 2.1 The project objectives were based upon the results of the previous evaluation, and were defined in the project design (Northamptonshire Archaeology 2000) as set out below:

Zone A (Fig 2)

- Pre-emptive open area excavation on two areas A1 and A2, which were to include the recording of all stratigraphic relationships of the main structural features such as boundary ditches and buildings, with the relative chronology supplemented by the systematic retrieval of datable artefacts from selected contexts.
- To undertake magnetic susceptibility and phosphate surveys of the identified enclosures and field systems.
- Trial trenching and small scale open area excavation targeted on key elements/intersections of field systems and track ways.
- Detailed metal detecting and hand collection of finds from the enclosure complexes during topsoil stripping in accordance with Northamptonshire Heritage guidelines (NCC NH 1995). With all relevant finds retained and their contexts noted.
- Detailed recording of the local topography and geology.

- Detailed watching brief to be undertaken during the stripping of road corridors.

Zone B (Fig 2)

- Further explorative works to examine the archaeological potential through a programme of geophysical survey and trial trenching.
- Trenching and small-scale open area excavation targeted on key elements identified in the exploratory works.
- A detailed watching brief and recording action to be undertaken during the stripping of road corridors.

Zone C (Fig 2)

- Pre-emptive exploratory works to examine the archaeological potential through a programme of field-walking, supplemented by trial trenching to investigate and characterise any sites or concentrations of material.

- 2.2 The results of the 1999 evaluation indicated that the Iron Age site (SMR 5813/0/1) probably comprised of several phases of activity. The Roman site (SMR 5130) seemed to be centred on an area of low level structural activity defined by an area of metalling and a possible kiln.
- 2.3 In the area to the south of both sites there was generally low levels of activity suggesting that these areas were only utilised as open fields situated on or near the River Nene's floodplain.

PROJECT STRATEGY

- 2.4 The entire 3ha area forming A1 and A2 was to be mechanically stripped of topsoil and overburden to reveal the upper archaeological horizon. Hand cleaning of a proportion of features was to be undertaken to enhance their definition prior to their excavation and recording.

- 2.5 Areas offering the highest potential for contributing to the site objectives were to be selected for intensive investigation in consultation with the Archaeological Planning Officer Myk Flitcroft.
- 2.6 Revisions were made to the initial strategy during excavation. This occurred primarily in area A2, where the location of overhead cables, which bisected the area from north to south led to it having to be excavated in two separate halves divided by a 9m baulk. Also the proposed eastern limit of the excavation was cut back due to adverse weather conditions encountered at the time of excavation which prevented topsoil stripping.
- 2.7 Following consultation with Northamptonshire Heritage, an additional area of stripping was undertaken in the western area of the site to make up for this shortfall. This additional area encompassed one of the smaller open area excavations which was due to be targeted on a key intersection in the Roman field system.
- 2.8 The adverse weather also led to the temporary abandonment of the trial trenches proposed for Zones B and C; the only works subsequently undertaken within this area were the geophysical scanning followed by detailed geophysical survey. The results of this survey will be used as an aid in the location of future trial trenches.
- 2.9 The changes to the project strategy were finalised following a site meeting with Northamptonshire Heritage. The trial excavations proposed for Zones B and C have been deferred until the ground conditions become more suitable. With only the trial trenches, located to the north of the A45 being excavated during the current programme.

EXCAVATION METHODOLOGY

- 2.10 The ploughsoil and subsoil were removed under archaeological supervision using a combination of box scraper and 360° mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket.

- 2.11 After the removal of topsoil and subsoil the exposed archaeological deposits and stratigraphic relationships were planned at a scale of 1:50 and 1:100, or, in the case of specialised activity, recorded in greater detail.
- 2.12 Linear and ring/curvilinear ditches were initially sampled at between 5-25% of their total lengths, these samples were targeted at intersections, entrances/terminals with further samples evenly spaced throughout their length. This proportion of sampling was increased to between 10-50% where significant relationships were to be investigated.
- 2.13 Timber structures, represented by post-holes and beam slots, were initially half sectioned, with the second halves being excavated only if a feature was found to be of particular significance.
- 2.14 Fifty percent of all non-structural pits were half sectioned. Where deposits were found to be rich in ceramics or other datable materials the second half of these pits was also excavated. The only exception to this strategy was a pit alignment, where all 13 of the pits within the excavation area were fully excavated.
- 2.15 All of the archaeological features were given a separate context number and were described on pro-forma record sheets that included details of relationships, interpretation and a check list of associated finds and samples. Sections or profiles of excavated features were drawn at scales of 1:10 and 1:20 as appropriate and related to the Ordnance Datum. Photographic coverage of the site included both colour slide and black and white prints.
- 2.16 During the excavation a metal detecting survey was also conducted. This included a rapid scan of the entire excavation area and several areas of more intensive survey, the latter generally centred on the structural remains.

3. **RESULTS**

STRUCTURAL EVIDENCE

Introduction

- 3.1 The density of features recovered from areas A1 and area A2 (Fig 3) and the small key hole area (A3, Fig 3) generally followed the results of the geophysical survey and trial trenching evaluation conducted in 1999. Although, as is usual in larger open plan excavations, both sites did contain patterns of smaller postholes and gullies or slots which were not identified during evaluation.
- 3.2 In the preparation of this interim report all of the evidence recorded, to date has been assessed and a preliminary phasing has been prepared, but this will inevitably need revision in the light of detailed analysis, following the final trial excavations on the site. Full assessment and updated project design of the project will only then take place.

TRIAL TRENCHES

- 3.3 Three trial trenches were located within the north-west corner of Zone A to the north of the A43 (Figs 3 & 4). During the excavation, these trenches were found to be devoid of any archaeological deposits.

PROVISIONAL PHASING

- 3.4 The structural evidence for human occupation at the two sites has been grouped into 5 broad phases based on the stratigraphic relationships and ceramic assemblage. These are tabulated and summarised below within Tables 1 and 2.

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Table 1: Principal phases of activity within area A1 (Zone A)

PHASE	PERIOD	DESCRIPTION/STRUCTURES
1	Late Bronze Age-Early Iron Age (2nd-1st centuries BC) ?	Pit alignment (part off) located in north-west corner area A1.
2	Late Iron Age 2nd-1st centuries BC	Series of rectilinear enclosures or fields and smaller enclosures or pens/stock enclosures.
2a	Late Iron Age 2nd-1st centuries BC	"Droeway" aligned north-east to south-west through entire length of area A1. With probable modifications.
2b	Late Iron Age/Roman modification and enlargement of settlement	Series of sub-square and rectilinear enclosures subsequently partially overlying drove way with probable contemporary pitting.
3	Roman 2nd century AD	Curvilinear north to south and east to west aligned Droeway or large field boundary ditches.
5	Late medieval/ Post Medieval	Ridge and furrow.

Table 2: Principal phases of activity within area A2 and Area A3 (Zone A)

PHASE	PERIOD	DESCRIPTION/STRUCTURES
1	Late Bronze Age-Early Iron Age (2nd - 1st centuries BC) ?	Dispersed pits, flint scatters and possible features relating to tree clearance.
3	Roman (2nd century)	Linear ditches possibly utilised for drainage or boundary elements, a single kiln with associated stoke pit and occasional pitting.
4	Roman (3rd/4th centuries)	Series of small rectilinear and curvilinear enclosures or pens/stocks. In addition to a series of gullies possibly utilised for drainage. And modifications of some of the enclosures and drainage gullies

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PHASE	PERIOD	DESCRIPTION/STRUCTURES
4a	Roman (3rd/4th centuries)	Two boundary/enclosure ditches possibly defining settlement limits
4b	Roman (3rd/4th centuries)	Further series of linear/curvilinear gullies and ditches possibly utilised for drainage, with associated pitting and possible structural activity.
5	Late medieval/ Post Medieval	Ridge and furrow.

AREA A1 PHASES

Phase 1: Late Bronze Age-Early Iron Age (9th-7th centuries BC, Fig 5)

3.5 This phase of activity comprised part of a north-east to south-west pit alignment, which ran for approximately 35m within the north-west corner of area A1 and continued outside the limit of study to the north-east and south-west. In all, 13 pits were recovered and investigated. They were all sub-circular to sub-rectangular in plan, measuring between from 1.8-2.6m in diameter by 0.8-1m deep, with sides varying in incline from gently sloping to near vertical and a generally flat base. They contained one or more fills, ranging from a dark brown orange sandy clay to a mid yellow/orange brown sandy silt with a higher stone content. The latter generally represented primary deposits deriving from weathering processes. The pits may have originally been rectilinear or square in shape, as indicated by their base areas, with the upper sub-circular forms, defined by a gentle sloping profile, probably being formed as a process of weathering and erosion (Fig 8, section 1).

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3.6 The ceramic evidence from these features indicates a late Bronze Age/early Iron Age date for their construction and use, though as the majority of the finds were recovered from upper fills suggesting that they could have been cut at an earlier date. One pit contained a copper alloy tube possibly dating to the late Bronze Age or early Iron Age.

3.7 Other archaeological activity from this phase period comprised the following:

- A number of irregular crescent shaped features interpreted as tree throw holes. These possibly define an episode of tree clearance, but may also relate to fallen trees due to storms or old age. They remain undated except by stratigraphic relationship.
- A small number of dispersed pits containing Bronze Age pottery.

PHASES 2: THE LATE IRON AGE SETTLEMENT (2ND – 1ST CENTURY BC, FIG 5)

3.8 This phase of activity is defined by a sequential series of sub-oval to sub-rectangular enclosures (1-7), associated pitting and several parallel ditches forming

- 1) a probable droveway
- 2) elements to individual fields.

PHASE 2 (ENCLOSURES 1, 3-6, FIG 5)

3.9 **Enclosure 1** had a reversed D-shaped plan with no evidence of an entrance. It measured 14m by 11m externally and 11m by 7m internally, with its ditches ranging between 1.38-3.2m wide and 0.7-1.26m deep. The ditches had gradual to steep sides forming U-V shaped profiles, with fills of dark brown sandy silt with inclusions of ironstone fragments, flint pebbles, sand and clay patches.

3.10 **Enclosure 3** comprised a penannular ditch forming a sub-circular to oval shape plan with a small entrance identified on its eastern side. It measured 6.2m by 8m externally and enclosed an area of approximately 24 square metres. The ditch, with evidence of re-cutting noted especially on its western side, ranged between 0.78-0.87m wide by 0.34-0.45m deep, with gradual to steep sides forming a U-V shaped profile. The fills comprised dark brown sandy silts with ironstone fragments, flint pebbles, sand, clay patches and occasional charcoal flecks. Some evidence for internal features indicative of domestic activity was recovered from the western side of the enclosure.

- 3.11 **Enclosure 4** was sub-oval in plan with rounded corners and no apparent entrance. Measuring 14m by 14m externally and 8.1m by 8.1m internally, it comprised two phases of ditches ranging between 1.00m wide (outer) by 1.75m wide (inner) and 0.21-0.58m deep, with gradual to steep sided edges with broad U-shaped profiles. This enclosure had similar fills to Enclosures 1 and 3, consisting of mid to dark brown sandy silt with inclusions of ironstone fragments, flint pebbles, sand, clay patches and occasional charcoal flecks.
- 3.12 **Enclosure 5** was an irregular ellipse in plan with a small entrance located on its south-east side. It's spatial position in relation to Enclosure 6 seemed to indicate contemporaneity, with both respecting each others boundary. Measuring 14m by 16.5m externally and 8.5m by 12.5m internally, its ditch showed evidence of re-cutting and ranged between 0.6-1.7m wide by 0.4-0.84m deep with sides ranging from gradual to steep forming a U-V shaped profile. The greatest depth and steepest profile of ditch was noted at the terminal ends adjacent to the south-east side of the entrance (Fig 8, section 2). The fills were dark brown sandy silt with inclusions of ironstone fragments, flint pebbles, sand and clay patches with occasional charcoal flecks. Apart from a single posthole located on the western side of the enclosure, the internal area was devoid of archaeological features.
- 3.13 **Enclosure 6** was irregular in plan and open to the south-east. It measured 28m east to west by 22m north to south. Its ditch showed evidence of re-cutting and measured up to 0.86m wide by 0.35m deep with sides ranging from gradual to steep forming a U-V shaped profile. Fills were dark brown sandy silt with inclusions of ironstone fragments, flint pebbles, sand and clay patches. The eastern side of the enclosure was later modified by a series of smaller gullies which further sub-divided it. Domestic activity comprising of post-holes and pits were located within this sub-division.
- 3.14 All of these enclosures represent the earliest form of a late Iron Age settlement, and were probably used either for stock management or for domestic activity. Their relationships to the droveway (described within phase 2a below) would suggest some contemporaneity. However, as part of its route truncated the northern side of all but enclosure 1, it has been placed into this separate, later phase of activity.

- 3.15 Other activity dated to this phase included a series of linear ditches, which probably formed individual fields in at least two cases (Fig 5), formed the boundary ditches encompassing Enclosure 4-6.

PHASE 2A: THE LATE IRON AGE DROVEWAY (FIG 5)

- 3.16 This is comprised of two parallel north-east to south-west aligned ditches or gullies transecting A1 across its entire width. These features had evidence of re-cutting or modifications, especially towards their western ends. The relationship of the droveway to the phase 2 enclosures is presently uncertain, though the southern ditch clearly truncated the northern parts of enclosures 3-5. However, there is no evidence to suggest that these enclosures could not have still functioned as individual units after the truncation. Certainly the ceramic assemblage from both the droveway and the enclosures, though small in quantity, suggests a contemporary date.

PHASE 2B: THE LATE IRON AGE (FIG 5)

- 3.17 Sometime following the establishment of the “droveway”, two Enclosures 2 and 7 of varying size and shape were constructed over part of the droveway, suggesting that its ditches, might during this phase, have ceased to function. However, as with the relationship between the phase 2 enclosures and the droveway, the impact of enclosures 2 and 7 on the droveway is only partial suggesting both it and the enclosures could have continued to function together.
- 3.18 The enclosures would on present evidence seem to form an extension/enlargement of the enclosures of phase 2 or a subsequent re-modelling of the settlement at this point. The settlement may have migrated from east to west based on the current analysis of the evidence of the enclosures of phase 2b.

- 3.19 **Enclosure 2** was rectangular in shape, with an entrance on its south-east side and measured 46.50m by 32.50m externally and 40m by 27m internally. Its ditch was 3-3.2m wide and 0.65-1.26m deep, with its shallowest depth noted at the terminals forming the entrance. The sides of the ditch were generally gradual to steeply sloping, forming a V-shaped profile with a slightly rounded base (figure 8, section 3). The ditch had fills of dark brown orange sand /silt to a reddish grey brown clay silt containing ironstone fragments, pebbles and patches of sand, deriving from the weathering of the surrounding natural. A number of internal features were recorded, including traces of a curvilinear gully, possible a drip gully to a roundhouse, a stone spread and areas of pitting, all indicative of domestic activity.
- 3.20 **Enclosure 7** was sub-square in plan, with a possible opening to the north onto the driveway. It measured 26m east to west by 27m north to south. The ditch measured 1.12m wide by 0.46m deep, with a gradual to steep side profile and fills of mid-dark brown orange clay/silt containing ironstone fragments, pebbles and patches of sand. Two small pits, one containing cremated bone, were located within the western side of the enclosure and were thought to be contemporary to it.
- 3.21 Additional activity in this phase included a series of small gullies or slots, some representing possible modifications to enclosure 6 (phase 2), and areas of pitting. The latter comprised a series of shallow to deep sub-circular to circular pits with shallow to gradual steep sided edges cut for storage and domestic disposal. They were generally located within the area of enclosure 1 and to the north of the driveway suggesting intensive domestic use within this area of the settlement.
- 3.22 The dating evidence provided by an initial assessment of the pottery assemblage would indicate that the settlement was founded in the 2nd/1st BC and continued through to the 1st century AD, with later activity defined by a provisional dates for the Roman driveway (see below) from the 2nd century AD. However, the almost total lack of Roman wares, apart from occasional fragments recovered from the driveway, topsoil and subsoil layers, (the latter probably represent manuring action from the adjacent Roman site) suggests an abandonment date of the Iron Age settlement sometime in the 2nd century AD.

PHASE 3 ROMAN ACTIVITY (FIG 5)

- 3.23 Two curvilinear ditches forming a droveway possibly enclosing a large field located to the south-west of area A1 were initially identified during the 1999 geophysical evaluation. The ceramic evidence, though slight, dates this feature provisionally to the 2nd century AD. The droveway and associated large field is likely to be part of the Roman farmstead located to the east and encompassed by areas A2 and A3.

AREAS A2 AND A3 (ZONE A)

- 3.24 Area's A2 and A3 (Fig 6) uncovered extensive evidence relating to a 2nd-4th century Roman farmstead, situated on the outskirts of the small Roman town of Duston. This town was heavily quarried for iron stone during the 19th century, consequently very little is known of its layout (RCHME 1985, 252). The deposits located from the present site comprised of a sequential series of linear and curvilinear gullies and ditches denoting both boundary, enclosure and drainage elements. In addition a number of structural postholes, two wells, a single kiln with a surrounding enclosure, two apparently isolated graves and areas of pitting were also recorded. The provisional stratigraphic sequence indicates three broad phases of activity (phases 3-5), except phase 4 which can be further subdivided into sub-phases on the stratigraphic evidence.

PHASE 3 (FIG 6)

- 3.25 This phase of activity is represented by a single sunken kiln, an associated encircling enclosure, and a small area of pitting and two large boundary ditches. The kiln, comprising of a firing chamber, single flue and stoke pit (fig 7, sections 4, 5) is similar in form to the type 111C kilns located elsewhere within the Nene Valley (PJ Woods 1974). The provisional ceramic evidence suggests that it produced harshly fired sandy wares and groggy white wares dated to the 2nd century. The wares from the kiln possibly supplied the needs of the small town of Duston

PHASE 4 (4A-4C, FIG 6)

- 3.26 These phases are represented by a sequential series of boundary ditches, curvilinear and linear gullies or slots forming either elements to small enclosures utilised for stock management, or small gullies cut for drainage, all of which have undergone a series of amendments.
- 3.27 Other features included areas of pitting, two wells, one of which was lined with limestone blocks, a number of small to medium sized postholes, some forming lines indicative of a building or fence line and two inhumation burials. The latter were located adjacent to each other and aligned east to west and would seem to represent isolated burials placed on the periphery of settlement activity.

PHASE 5 AREAS A1 AND A2: MEDIEVAL/POST MEDIEVAL

- 3.28 Both areas A1 and A2 had a series of shallow furrows aligned from north to south, which defined the extent of the former ridge and furrow field system. The use of this field system is most probably contemporary with the life of the deserted settlement located to the west of Upton Mill Lane (SMR 5138).

4. ***THE SURVIVAL AND QUALITY OF THE EVIDENCE***

4.1 The site generally produced the quantity of features that was anticipated from the earlier evaluations, though in parts the quality of the survival was better than expected. In particular, the partial ploughed remnants of a sunken kiln, in addition to the upper stone lining of a well, were recovered in a good state of preservation. Although it must be said any associated structural remains, where they were identified, were in a poor state, which suggests that associated structures, especially within area A1, may have been lost to later ploughing.

QUANTIFICATION: THE SITE ARCHIVE

4.2 ***Site Records (To Date)***

Plans:	46
Sections:	312
Contexts:	855
Photographs (films):	9 colour slide, 9 black and white

4.3 ***Finds (by box unless stated otherwise)***

Pottery	18
Ceramic Tile	1
Fired clay (mostly kiln material)	2
Animal bone	6
Querns and Slag	2
Flint	80 individual items
Small finds	140 items
Inhumations	2 individuals
Bulk soil samples	85 in addition to 110 small phosphate samples

5. **THE FINDS**

WORKED FLINT

- 5.1 A total of 77 worked flints were recovered from areas A1 and A2, both from dated and residual contexts. The artefacts have survived in a fresh condition and are made from a variety of flint raw material. There is some naturally occurring flint on the site in the form of frost-affected gravel nodules, and the grey/brown, brown or reddish/brown gravel that was extensively utilised for flint knapping may also have been locally found.
- 5.2 The predominant flint used is a dark grey/brown, slightly cherty type, that occurs in rounded nodules with a thick cream or brown stained cortex and may have been collected on the surface. Also common is flint with a thin grey/brown cortex, which appears to be a fresh tabular flint - ie possibly mined, and therefore could have been collected from further afield. There is also a small amount of grey, cherty flint present, but this variation may be due to differential patination. The size of the majority of the raw material pieces is fairly small.
- 5.3 The assemblage of worked pieces typically comprises small utilised blades and flakes, partly as a result of the size constraint of the raw material. There is a high proportion of cores and the predominant tool types present are scrapers and serrated blades.

Table 3: The overall assemblage

Cores	10
Core-rejuvenation flakes	3
Shattered pieces	2
Waste flakes	11
Blades/bladelets	4
Microliths	2
Utilised blades	21

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Utilised flakes	3
Scrapers (2 also notched)	9
Serrated flakes	8
Notched blades/flakes	1
Awl/piercer (also notched)	1
Discoidal Knife/scrapper (1 also notched)	2
Total	77

- 5.4 There is a very small proportion of diagnostically Mesolithic material within the assemblage, in the form of two possible microliths. Several other of the small, finely prepared blades, bladelets and small blade cores may also be dated to this era of the prehistoric period or to the Early Neolithic.
- 5.5 There are two broad categories of flint working within the assemblage. The smaller proportion can be summarised as the production of small blades and primary flakes struck from prepared cores, almost wholly using a soft hammer. The majority of these products are utilised, characteristic of Neolithic material, with heavy edge damage from cutting a wide range of materials.
- 5.6 The second group comprises a majority of hard hammer struck flakes, and also, unusually a high number of blades with a greater proportion of waste flakes (which are usually short and broad), but less preparation of cores to create specific tool types. A surprising number of the characteristic retouched implements present, -notched and serrated tools, side and end scrapers are actually hard hammer struck. This group is usually characteristic of the Later Neolithic/ Early Bronze Age. This is confirmed by the presence of the characteristic discoidal knife and scrapers

- 5.7 There are no other closely dateable artefacts within the group. There are a fairly large quantity of cores (10 in total representing 13% of the assemblage), and several smaller debitage flakes have been recovered, as well as tertiary (cortex removal) flakes, suggesting that flint knapping was occurring on site. The predominance of tools – particularly the utilised blades and scrapers, and serrated flakes – suggests ‘domestic’ types of activity were being carried out on site. There is a lack of both arrowheads- projectiles are perhaps more likely to be found at hunting sites; and burnt flint (although two artefacts had themselves been burnt).

PREHISTORIC POTTERY

- 5.8 The prehistoric pottery recovered from Upton came from two widely spaced phases at either end of the Iron Age period. In total 2474 sherds, weighing 30.245 KG were recovered from A1, in addition to approximately 1250 small fragments (not weighed) which due to their size and abraded state do not form part of the following assessment. Of the 2474 sherds recovered from the site, 687 sherds (4.205 KG) have been dated to the late Bronze Age-early Iron Age (LBA-EIA) and the remainder 1787 sherds (26.090 KG) have been dated to the later Middle Iron Age (2nd –1st century BC).

LATE BRONZE AGE-EARLY IRON AGE PHASE 1 (9TH-7TH CENTURY BC?)

- 5.9 Pottery of this period was recovered principally from the fills relating to the pit alignment located in the north-west corner of Area A1, and two isolated pits found just over 100m to the south-east.

The pottery from the pit alignment, a total of 267 sherds weighing 1.690 KG was characteristically similar to material recovered from Borough Hill, Daventry (Jackson, 1996/7); and other sites of this period from Northamptonshire. However the number of individual sherds that are diagnostic is small. There are only seven rim sherds from the entire assemblage, mostly from tripartite long necked vessels, but there are no decorated sherds. The main inclusions in the fabric are small grits, quartz, or sand, with the shell content picked out by erosion.

- 5.10 Other pottery of this period was recovered from two adjacent pits and an isolated pit adjacent to the western side of the excavation, comprising 420 sherds weighing 2.515 KG. The pottery is similar to that recovered from the pit alignment, but is generally courser, the sherds probably deriving from a few large vessels of uncertain form. One small rim sherd in coarse ware was recovered in addition to several sherds of extremely thin rim fragments in fine ware, which probably derived from carinated vessels.

LATER MIDDLE - IRON AGE PHASES 2, 2A, 2B (2ND-1ST CENTURY BC)

Form and Fabric

- 5.11 The majority of the pottery recovered is probably of globular or slack-sided form and derives from either bowls or medium to small jars. It is similar to the pottery recovered from the Hunsbury Hillfort, Northampton, with the exception of numerous large jars recovered at that site, which were not common at Upton. Similar pottery was also found near Upton Church in 1965, approximately 1km to the west of the present excavation (Jackson et al 1969). The main surviving inclusions in the fabric are stone grits, particularly ironstone and grog. Shell inclusions did not survive.

Chronology and distribution

- 5.12 The later Iron Age pottery from the site seems likely to date from the late 2nd century until the late 1st century BC or the early 1st century AD. The date when wheel-turned "Belgic" pottery was introduced to the area is uncertain, but no features of this period were revealed in the excavated area. The rim sherds from the excavation derive largely from bipartite vessels with direct rims and little neck. This type of pottery was in use widely around the 1st century BC and styles changed little during this time.

NORTHAMPTON SOUTH WEST DISTRICT, UPTON

- 5.13 The pottery from enclosure 2 at Upton suggests that this enclosure dates to a late phase in the site sequence, as does that from enclosure 5. Whereas pottery from Enclosures 1 and 6 in addition to some of the pits to the north and west of Enclosure 1, which were found to contain sherds of vessel with slightly longer neck forms, suggests a second century BC date and a similar date could be put forward for enclosures 3-5 by their association 2.
- 5.14 The large amount of pottery from the ditch of enclosure 6 and an associated internal pit or gully strongly suggests that there was occupation in this area in the 1st BC (Table 4). Elsewhere on the site, the amount of pottery was sparse, with the majority of the pits (where excavated) containing little or no pottery.

Feature type	Number of sherds	Rim numbers	Spot dates
N-S boundaries	2		? 2nd century BC pottery.
E-W driveway	29	1	1st century BC
Enclosure 1	28	1	Rim sherd 2nd or 1st century BC
Enclosure 2	128	4	LIA-early Roman pottery from middle fill of ditch
Enclosure 3	14	1	Rim not diagnostic
Enclosure 5	81	8	Some late 1st century BC pottery
Enclosure 6	326	11	Late 2nd or 1st century BC pottery

Table 4

ROMAN POTTERY (PHASES 3-4)

- 5.15 Roman pottery recovered from Areas A1, A2 and A3 weighed in excess of 74kg, although of these some could be late Iron Age date and as such will have to be sorted and analysed at full analysis. The vast majority of this quantity was recovered from areas A2 and A3, which encompassed the Roman site. Pottery was retrieved from the majority of the excavated deposits, with several large dumps noted at the terminal ends of some of the enclosure or drainage ditches. Much of the assemblage is in a moderately good condition with few signs of extensive abrasion, to hamper identification.

- 5.16 An initial scan of the material by phase (table 5) indicates that it is spread throughout the Roman period, ranging in date from the 1st to the 4th centuries. With a possible preponderance of early Roman material. The early wares comprised a mixture of oxidised sandy wares, grey wares, white wares and shelly wares, most probably local. The most obvious import was samian ware.
- 5.17 Later wares included colour coats, both Oxford and Nene Valley, and mortaria from both sources. Shelly wares occurred in smaller quantities than might be expected, but may give an indication of the marketing pattern of the wares from Harrold, Bedfordshire which is assumed to be the source. It was also apparent that the shell tempered wares recovered from areas A2 and A3 were in a much better condition than those recovered from area A1.
- 5.18 Storage jars and table wares were common in the assemblage, which would correspond to the domestic activity noted on the site. Small-scale industrial use was identified from the single kiln. The material recovered from this feature and surrounding deposits would provisionally suggest that the kiln was possibly utilised for the firing of harshly fired sandy wares and groggy white wares dated to the 2nd century. The complete lack of kiln bars suggests that a large part of its superstructure was carefully removed and used elsewhere in the locality.
- 5.19 There was a noticeable lack of sooting on the pottery, which would normally indicate cooking wares, although there were large storage jars, particularly of late types, which might give an indication of the function of this part of site.

NORTHAMPTON SOUTH WEST DISTRICT, UPTON

PHASE NO	DESCRIPTION	DATE AND CERAMICS
3	A single Kiln with an associated enclosure, boundary ditches and some pitting activity.	Ceramics predominated by harshly fired sandy wares, grey and white wares. The former generally deriving from the kiln and surrounding features.
4, 4a, 4b	Series of curvilinear gullies possibly utilised for drainage or elements to irregular shaped enclosures. Including amendments.	Pottery included Nene Valley wares, grey and coarse wares dated to the 3rd-4th centuries
4c	Large linear and curvilinear ditches possibly defining boundary ditches.	Pottery dated to 3rd-4th centuries, mortaria, colour coats and storage jars observed.
4d	Series of curvilinear gullies and ditches partially respecting and truncating phase 4c activity.	Pottery similar in composition and date to the preceding phase.

Table 5

SMALL FINDS

Introduction

5.20 The excavations produced a collection of finds spanning the late Bronze Age/Iron-Age through to post-medieval period. In total there are 143 individually recorded or group recorded small finds, together with quantities of fired clay/daub, tile and slag, which have been recorded under the bulk finds system. All the common materials are represented; there are no objects of gold. The small finds may be quantified by material type as follows:

MATERIAL	TOTAL
Silver	4
Copper alloy	105
Iron objects	19
Lead	8
Stone	5
Glass	2
Total	143

Table 6

Data collection

5.21 All of the finds were recorded on site manually following NA guidelines. Some of the finds were recovered by hand, although the largest majority was recovered during the metal detector survey undertaken by Steve Critchley which was undertaken prior to, during and after machining. The use of a metal detector increased the recovery of metal objects particularly copper alloy and lead objects, and, in particular it doubled the recovery of coins. Metal detecting was carried out at regular intervals through the excavation, and involved the systematic coverage of the exposed surface of the site and scanning the spoil heaps. The position of all excavated finds was recorded as three-dimensional co-ordinates. All the individually recorded finds have been entered on to a database (MS ACCESS 97) A basic catalogue has been compiled, comprising, material type and object identifications, together with stratigraphic information. All finds have been boxed by material type, in numerical small find order.

Condition

- 5.22 The silver and copper alloy objects recovered are in a stable condition and no further work is required. The ironwork is in a poor state of preservation, much of it is encrusted in corrosion products, and a small number of objects are impossible to identify. There are no objects of worked bone and no waterlogged organic material was found.

SUMMARY OF MATERIAL RECOVERED

Prehistoric

- 5.23 Very little Iron Age material was retrieved. There are small quantities of fired-clay and metal working residue, together with one copper alloy object. The material deriving from Area A1.

The small finds

- 5.24 Four small finds have been retrieved from Iron Age features. These are represented by three quern stone fragments and a piece of sheet copper alloy rolled to form a cylindrical tube, the latter recovered from one of the pits forming the late Bronze Age/Early pit alignment located in the north-west corner of the site.

Fired clay/daub

- 5.25 A small quantity of fired clay debris (1.156 KG) was retrieved from twelve individual deposits. Amorphous, undiagnostic fragments dominate the assemblage, a small number are furnished with smoothed surfaces, suggesting that they may be fragments deriving from an oven and some display organic and wattle impressions. The fabric is sandy with very few inclusions.

Slag

5.26 In total 1.3 KG of slag samples were retrieved from the Iron Age site. There appear to be two types present, 'Iron Age Grey' a light vesicular slag which is similar to Fuel Ash Slag, and a single smithing hearth bottom (a plano-convex accumulation of smithing slag) located in a pit within the interior of enclosure 2 (Fig 5). Analysis of the distribution of this material may define specific activity areas.

ROMAN

5.27 The majority of artefacts from the excavation date to the Roman period and were recovered primarily from area A2. The presence of kiln debris and metal working debris allude to pottery and metal working activity areas within the settlement. There is a large collection of coins, together with fragmentary items of jewellery, tools and structural debris in the form of roof tile

Coins

5.28 In total there are eighty-eight coins, represented by one silver and eighty-seven copper alloy pieces. Thirty-eight coins were retrieved from deposits dated to the Roman period and one coin was located in a medieval/post-medieval furrow. Forty-seven coins are unstratified, they were located within topsoil (13) and subsoil (34) deposits. It was possible to identify thirty of the coins, they range in date from the late second through to the late fourth centuries, fourth century types predominate. Although forty-nine coins are illegible, they generally date to the 3rd/4th centuries. Three coins are impossible to date. A brief catalogue is provided below:

<u>Identification</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Context</u>
Commodus - sesterius	AD 177-192	Subsoil (1002)
Macrinus - denarius	AD 217-218	Fill of ditch (1297)
Dupondius - illegible	Mid 2nd	Fill of ditch (1306)
Sestertius - illegible	2nd century	Subsoil (1002)
Sestertius - illegible	2nd century	Fill of ditch (1018)
Sestertius - illegible	2nd century	Fill of ditch (1221)

NORTHAMPTON SOUTH WEST DISTRICT, UPTON

<u>Identification</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Context</u>
Sestertius - illegible x 2	2nd century	Fill of ditch (1313)
Gallienus	AD 253-68	Subsoil (1002)
Victorinus	AD268-270	Subsoil (1002)
Victorinus?	AD268-270	Fill of ditch (1018)
Carrausius - Ae Ant.	AD 287-293	Topsoil (1001)
Carrausius -	AD 287-293	Fill of ditch (1018)
Allectus x 2	AD293-296	Subsoil (1002)
Constantine I - Ae follis	AD307-337	Topsoil (1001)
Constantine I x 4	AD307-337	Subsoil (1002)
Constantine I	AD307-337	Fill of ditch (1090)
Constantine I	AD307-337	Fill of gully (1311)
Constantine II x 3	AD337-340	Subsoil (1002)
Constans	AD 337-350	Fill of ditch (1010)
Constantius II	AD 337-361	Fill of ditch (1018)
Constantius II	AD 337-361	Fill of ditch (1221)
Centenionnalis Magnentum	AD 350-353	Fill of gully (1252)
Centenionnalis Decentius	AD 351-353	Fill of pit (1005)
Valens	364-374	Subsoil (1002)
Valens	364-378	Fill of ditch (1303)
Valens?	AD 368-378	Fill of gully (1170)
Valens	AD 368-378	Fill of enclosure/boundary ditch (1221)
Valentinian II	AD 375-392	Fill of gully (1252)
Barbarous radiate	L. 3rd	Topsoil (1)
Barbarous radiate x 2	L. 3rd	Subsoil (1002)
Barbarous radiate	L. 3rd	Fill of pit (1202)
Illegible x 2	L. 3rd	Subsoil (1002)
Illegible	L.3rd	Fill of gully (1010)
Illegible	L.3rd	Fill of gully (1024)
Illegible	L. 3rd	Fill of ditch (1297)
Radiate	L. 4rd	Subsoil (1002)
Illegible	3rd/4th	Topsoil (1)
Illegible	3rd/4th	Subsoil (2)
Illegible x 4	3rd/4th	Topsoil (1001)
Illegible x 3	3rd/4th	Subsoil(1002)
Illegible	3rd/4th	Fill of pit (1005)

NORTHAMPTON SOUTH WEST DISTRICT, UPTON

<u>Identification</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Context</u>
Illegible x 3	3rd/4th	Fill of ditch (1018)
Illegible	3rd/4th	Fill of pit (1190)
Illegible	3rd/4th	Fill of ditch (1221)
Illegible	3rd/4th	Fill of pit (1268)
Illegible	3rd/4th	Fill of ditch (1314)
Illegible	3rd/4th	Medieval/post-medieval furrow (1324)
Illegible	4th century	Topsoil (1001)
Illegible x 7	4th century	Subsoil (1002)
Illegible	4th century	Layer/subsoil (1008)
Illegible	4th century	Fill of ditch (1303)
House of Valentinian	Mid 4th	Topsoil (1001)
Barbarous issue	Mid 4th	Topsoil (1001)
Barbarous issue	Mid 4th	Subsoil (1002)
Illegible	E/Mid 4th	Fill of ditch (1263)
Illegible x 2	Mid 4th	Topsoil (1001)
Illegible	Mid 4th	Fill of ditch (1018)
Illegible x 2	Mid 4th	Fill of gully (1024)
Illegible	Mid 4th	Fill of well (1174)
Illegible x 2		Subsoil (1002)
Illegible		Fill of ditch (1263)

Table 7

Copper alloy

- 5.29 There are five copper alloy objects which definitely date to the Roman period, they include, an enamelled plate brooch, manufactured in Britain and dated c. 125-225AD (pers.com. D. MacKreth), a penannular bracelet terminal in the form of a snakes head, a fragment from a plain finger ring, a cranked spoon handle which is silvered and a swivel hook. With the exception of the spoon handle all objects were retrieved from topsoil and subsoil deposits and are therefore unstratified. Three other objects may date to the Roman period but they are too fragmentary to identify.

Iron

- 5.30 In total 19 iron objects have been recorded, these include a single knife blade, 8 nails and 9 miscellaneous and unidentifiable fragments or objects. In addition to a small group of nails retrieved through the sieving of the cremation, which may have formed part of a casket. Depending upon the state of preservation, it may be possible to identify some or all of these once they have been X-rayed. All of the objects were located in stratified deposits.

Lead

- 5.31 The quantity of lead recovered from the excavation was increased by the use of metal detectors. There is a small collection of plugs for repairing ceramic vessels (5), weights (2) and a fragment of rolled sheet.

Glass

- 5.32 There are only two fragments of glass, neither display diagnostic features, although one is azure blue in colour and is obviously Roman.

Stone

- 5.33 The only object of stone recovered from the site is a small fragment of a shale bracelet, which was found within a terminal of a small gully forming part of a small enclosure, or drainage channel.

Ceramic tile

- 5.34 A total of 38 fragments of tile, weighing in excess of four kilos (4.189 KG) were recovered. Much of the assemblage comprised abraded and undiagnostic fragments, which hampered identification. Nevertheless, using fabric and form the entire collection could be identified as being of Roman date. The identifiable pieces of roof tile were represented by Tegulae (14 fragments) and Imbrex (3 fragments). Two main fabric types were identified, a shell-gritted fabric that is buff/brown in colour and a coarse sandy fabric fired to an orange colour.

Fired clay

- 5.35 Over c.17kg of fired clay was retrieved from area A2. Most of the material comprises structural debris deriving from a penannular enclosure, which surrounded the kiln provisionally dated to the 2nd 0AD.

Two fabric types are evident:

- i) Thin sheets of fire clay, tempered with sparse sand inclusions, occasional small stones and fired to an orange colour. The sheets measure 10-25mm in thickness.
- ii) Amorphous lumps, some furnished with roughly, smoothed surfaces and tempered with abundant sand and sparse pebbles (ironstone, quartz).

Slag

- 5.36 In total nearly c.2kg of metal working debris was retrieved from Area A2. It was distributed through out the site and it was not possible to identify a specific metal working area.

MEDIEVAL AND POST-MEDIEVAL FINDS

- 5.37 A small collection of medieval and post-medieval finds was recovered from areas A1 and A2, mostly from topsoil and subsoil deposits. Objects of medieval date include two hammered silver coins, one of Edward I (1272-1307) or 2nd (1307-27) and one of Edward III (1327-77). Of interest is the presence of a fragment from a spherical pinhead manufactured from sheet metal it is gilded and decorated with a silver scrolled filigree ornament. Examples of this style of pin are known from both late Saxon and early post-medieval deposits; further research will be required to determine its date.

Post-medieval finds worthy of note include three trading jettons, one of French origin which dates to the 14th century and two of 17th century date from Germany.

6. **FAUNAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL REMAINS**

HUMAN BONE

The Burials

- 6.1 Two inhumation burials were recovered, both placed in earth cut graves, aligned east to west. Bone preservation was poor due to the acidity of the soil, resulting in only small quantities of bone surviving in the two burials. However one, was demonstrably found supine, extended with head to east, and with the arms crossed over the chest area. The other had insufficient surviving elements to determine either orientation or position, though its close spatial position to the first burial would strongly suggest that it was similarly aligned.

Burial 1 (1234), poorly preserved with all parts fragmentary, mainly represented by the skull and long bones, weighing 0.695 KG in total. The skeleton is of an adult of indeterminate sex and stature. The teeth show minimal wear, with some dental pathology present, suggesting age at death was no more than 25-30 years

Burial 2 (1237), very poorly preserved, with only 8 fragments of one limb bone surviving, probably a femur, weighing 18g in total. There was insufficient material surviving to determine sex, or age beyond an estimate of adult.

The cremation

- 6.2 A single cremation was recovered comprising of small fragments of calcined bone, from an isolated pit within a large Late Iron Age enclosure (7). Associated with the cremation were several ferrous objects, comprising a number of nails probably derived from the cremated coffin, or alternatively from a post cremation wooden container; together with stud nails either from footwear or possibly for attaching a leather or cloth cover to the wooden funerary container.

6.3 Only small calcined fragments of bone were present, the largest 3g in weight, with a total from the whole cremation of 318g. This total clearly represents only a fraction of what would have been the actual debris from the cremation (a full adult cremation typically producing 2500-3000g). The deposit also contained a number of charcoal fragments, presumably deriving from pyre debris. Assessment of the cremated bone fragments suggests the individual cremated was an adult.

FAUNAL REMAINS

6.4 In total over 16kgs of animal bone was recovered from 107 individual contexts. Approximately 20% of the total contexts comprising a wide range of features and phases across the site were scanned to gain an overview of the species present, preservation, evidence of butchery and their potential for further analysis.

6.5 Preservation was generally poor. Fragmentation was heavy consisting largely of old breaks and few complete bones were seen. Surface abrasion was also heavy. Some evidence for canid gnawing was seen and a few examples of butchery were detected. No evidence of burning was observed.

Table 8: Area A1 Species by context

Context	<i>Bos</i>	Large ungulate	<i>Equus</i>	Indeterminate
88	P			P
103	P			
104	P			
110	P			
113	P			
196	P	P	P	
440		P		P

Table 9: Area A2 Species by context

Context	<i>Bos</i>	Large ungulate	Ovicaprid	<i>Equus</i>	<i>Canis</i>	Indet.
1010	P	P	P			
1075	P		P			P
1086	P					
1150	P			P		
1172	P		P			
1178	P					
1240						P
1241	P					
1252				P		P
1263	P	P	P			P
1287	P	P				P
1297	P					
1303	P				P	P
1313						P
1314	P	P				
1315	P					

6.6 The assemblage appears to be dominated by Cow. When compared to other sites of the period (Robinson and Wilson 1983), the absence of pig is surprising. This will help in the understanding of the site husbandry and the farming economy.

ENVIRONMENTAL EVIDENCE

Method

6.7 In total 85 samples were taken for ecofact recovery, of these 7 represent column samples and small bulk samples taken for the retrieval of snails. Small sub-samples were taken from a range of contexts and phases for examination of their environmental potential. These were disaggregated in water and the flot recovered. The sub-samples were graded into three classifications of potential: High, Moderate or Low representing the potential for recovering useful environmental information.

Table 10: Charred grain species by context

Context	Cereal	Wheat/ barley	Wheat	Spelt	Rye	Pulse Indet.	Caryophyl- laceae	Chenopodiu m sp.	Weed indet.
17		*	*						
18	*	*		*		*			*
26		*							
31		*							
40							*	*	
45	*				*	*			*
71	*								
84						*			

6.8 On the whole preservation was poor with many abraded and fragmentary examples observed. It should be noted that sample 85 was sterile and that sample 78 produced only a small charcoal fragment.

PHOSPHATE ANALYSIS

6.9 110 small samples (weighing up to 25kg) were taken for phosphate analysis from area A1, to comprehensively cover the area defining the late Iron Age enclosures and the associated driveway (the area covering approximately 180m east to west by 50m north to south). Future processing and chemical analysis of these samples should provide information concerning the possible presence of livestock and so assist in the determination of area utilisation and the faunal economy of the site.

7. FURTHER GEOPHYSICAL SURVEY

- 7.1 A magnetic susceptibility survey was carried out in Zones B and C to the south of a pre-emptive excavation in zone A. Six fields within Zones B and C were investigated, hereafter described as A-F. These fields covered an area of 18.51ha (Fig. 8). Following the results of the magnetic susceptibility survey, identifiable areas of enhanced magnetic susceptibility or “hot spots” were subject to a detailed magnetometer survey in order to define the nature of the anomalies and possible date of previous activity.

TECHNIQUES

Magnetic Susceptibility

- 7.2 The magnetic susceptibility survey was carried out using a Bartington Magnetic Susceptibility Meter. The readings were logged in SI units at 10m intervals along transects spaced 10m apart using the MS2D field loop. The data were captured in the field using a Psion data logger running the Geofieldssoft computer program BARTI. The results were subsequently imported into Geoplot for Windows v.3 for analysis and plotting. The magnetic susceptibility results are shown as colour scale plots. The data were despiked (see below) and processed using a median filter in order to further remove noise and to give a much smoother appearance.

Magnetometer Survey

- 7.3 Detailed sample area surveys were carried out using two Geoscan Research FM36 Fluxgate Gradiometers. Five 40m x 40m areas were surveyed in detail to determine the nature of the “hotspots” highlighted by the magnetic susceptibility survey. Parallel traverses were made from south to north at walking pace, with individual readings taken at 0.25m intervals using a sample trigger for the rapid recording of data. The sensor alignment or balance was checked upon the completion of survey within each grid square and tilt error was maintained below +/- 2nT per +/- 20 degree tilt.

7.4 The data was analysed using the computer program Geoplot for Windows 3.0. Low magnetism is represented as white and high magnetism as black in the resultant grey-scale plots (Figs 13,16,19,22,24). Data was processed using an algorithm to remove magnetic spikes, thereby reducing extreme readings sometimes caused by stray iron fragments and spurious effects due to the inherent magnetism of soils.

7.5 The data was also processed using zero mean functions to correct the unevenness of the plots in order to give a smoother graphical appearance. However, some of the plots were not corrected in order to prevent removing significant readings or introducing processing artefacts.

Field A (figs. 10 - 12)

7.6 The magnetic susceptibility survey produced no significant "hot spots". A detailed sample survey using a magnetometer indicated no significant anomalies.

Field B (figs. 14 - 16)

7.7 The magnetic susceptibility survey results produced no significant traces. The detailed magnetometer survey results denote a modern pipe on the northern edge of the plot with ridge and furrow running in a north-south direction.

Field C (figs. 17 - 19)

7.8 The resultant magnetic susceptibility plot indicated no significant "hot spots". The detailed magnetometer survey also indicated no significant anomalies.

Field D (figs. 20 - 22)

7.9 A series of significant hot spots were detected by the magnetic susceptibility survey towards the centre of the field. The detailed magnetometer survey results, however, did not reveal any significant anomalies. The results show an iron spike and traces of ridge and furrow cultivation, which can be clearly seen in the field as earthworks.

Field E (fig. 23 - 24)

- 7.10 Magnetic susceptibility results showed no significant “hot spots”. The resultant detailed magnetometer survey plot denotes two parallel pipelines with two linear anomalies situated between. These two anomalies may indicate ditch alignments to a former trackway or the ploughed out remains of the pre-enclosure field system of ridge and furrow.

Field F (fig. 25)

- 7.11 The magnetic susceptibility plot indicates modern disturbance at the northern end of the field. This may be due to the spread of material from the modern farm buildings close by. No detailed magnetometer survey has been carried out to date.

8. *THE POTENTIAL OF THE EVIDENCE AND PROPOSALS FOR FURTHER ANALYSIS*

8.1 The excavations have produced a wide range of evidence for previous activity and occupation. The prehistoric evidence is sparse except the pit alignment and occasional isolated post-holes. Of particular significance is the recovery of a sequence of Late Iron Age and Roman occupation.

8.2 The analysis and publication of the results of this work will therefore make a significant contribution to the landscape studies of the Iron Age to Roman transition. It will also add further to the understanding of the small Roman town of Duston in its wider context.

PREHISTORIC ACTIVITY

8.3 Pre-Iron Age prehistoric activity comprised of a late Bronze Age pit alignment and two or three scattered pits. Comparison to published results of other type-sites in the region will aid in the understanding of the function of the limited features present here. While only 13 pits were recovered during the present excavation, the data will further contribute to the evolution and understanding of pit alignments in the landscape. The features undoubtedly continued beyond the limits of the excavation to form part of a larger alignment or series of alignments of pits. For instance Briar Hill, (Jackson 1969) Gretton (Jackson 1972), these and other sites generally interpreted as possibly forming tribal/territorial boundaries pointing to an organised landscape. Pollen evidence may indicate whether the landscape was open or wooded at this time.

Assume samples taken. then

8.4 The presence of a scatter of pits and possible tree throws from this period provides a useful addition to knowledge of earlier prehistoric activity in the area. However, given the small quantity of features involved there is little in the way of further analysis that is required.

8.5 Finally, the spatial distribution of the small flint assemblage should be examined to determine whether it was all residual in later features, or whether some of the small groups are from features of prehistoric date.

IRON AGE AND ROMAN ACTIVITY

- 8.6 The broad outline of the nature of the Iron Age and Roman activity has been determined at this interim stage. However, there is a need for further analysis of the plan, stratigraphic records, and of the finds, to fully define the dating of the features and the nature of the activity.
- 8.7 The phased sequence of late Iron Age settlement development, together with the results of the pottery, finds, animal bone and environmental analysis, will have the potential to contribute to a number broad topics of interest to Iron Age archaeologists. In order to fulfil this potential, it will be necessary to produce a phased sequence of plans showing the arrangement of the settlement at successive stages in its development between the 2nd to 1st centuries BC. These will form the basis for establishing the sequential development of the settlement, the location of any specialist functional areas, and changes to these through time. The analysis of the plan form and its development is therefore central to the entire analysis and interpretation of the site.
- 8.8 Iron Age activity is well represented from A1, further analysis should include comparable studies to other sites of a similar period in the area in order to place it within a wider archaeological context of the Upper Nene valley and adjacent uplands. However, the excavated structures, where identified, within A1 and A2 were only poorly preserved, and as such may add little to the understanding of the spatial arrangement and zoning of the Iron Age and Roman sites.
- 8.9 Features recovered from the Roman site of A2 and A3 will help in the understanding of peripheral activity associated with Romano-British small towns of the local region. The quantity and location of the Roman pottery and ceramic tile will provide an important aid to identifying what functions the features relating to this phase may have performed.
- 8.10 The medieval post medieval phase is only represented by ridge and furrow, the activity associated with the medieval village SMR 5138 to the west and as such only represents peripheral activity, no further work is envisaged.

- 8.11 The potential and proposals for the finds and environmental data are discussed in detail below, and here the conclusions are only briefly summarised. The analysis of the pottery will be the primary means for defining the overall chronology of the site, and will assist in dating and defining the detailed phasing. The pottery assemblage should also contribute to the understanding of Iron Age and Roman ceramics in the wider area. Other finds are relatively few in number but represent a range of domestic and industrial activities, and may provide some indication of status. The animal bone and environmental assemblages will provide some definition of the agricultural economy of the settlement, and the data will also form a base for comparison with other contemporary rural sites of this nature.

THE FLINT ASSEMBLAGE

- 8.12 The flint assemblage, occurring in dated and residual contexts, provides additional data on the prehistoric use of this part of the county. The assemblage should be fully classified, quantified and described, and set within a chronological framework for the site and its environs. Length/breadth analysis for the flakes and blades is not deemed to be necessary given the small size of the assemblage, the restrictions of the raw material and the residual nature of their deposition. A range of significant implements should be illustrated and described.

THE LATE BRONZE AGE/EARLY IRON AGE AND LATER IRON AGE POTTERY

- 8.13 The pottery assemblage provides the primary means of dating the occupation of the settlement in both broad terms and, more specifically, in the provision of spot dates to aid the process of phasing the enclosures especially where some inter-relationships are uncertain. In addition, as discussed below, the assemblage also has a contribution to make to the local and regional study of Iron Age ceramics.

Proposals for analysis:

- The assemblage should be recorded to Prehistoric Ceramic Research Group guidelines (PCRG).
- Late Bronze Age/early Iron Age pottery is still relatively rare in Northamptonshire and the assemblage from Upton should be compared to the material from sites at Borough Hill, Thrapston and Oakley.
- In the later Iron Age period the form, fabric and possible use of the pottery should be compared with the material from the Hunsbury hillfort and other sites of similar date.

THE ROMAN POTTERY

8.14 Along with the coin evidence the pottery assemblage provides the primary means of dating the occupation of the Roman farmstead in both broad terms and, more specifically, in the provision of spot dates to aid the process of phasing the palimpsest of archaeological deposits, especially where some inter-relationships are uncertain. In addition, as discussed below, the assemblage also has a contribution to make to the local and regional study of Roman ceramics.

Proposals for analysis:

- The entire assemblage should be quantified and recorded, although topsoil and unstratified pottery only be scanned. As no Roman Type series exists for Northamptonshire, the codes in the Bedfordshire Ceramic Type Series will be used.
- Inputting data onto an Access database, linking with contextual data and all computer sorts and queries
- Discussion on fabric and forms, in addition to discussion of chronology, function, distribution and parallels.

- To confirm the date range of the pottery to see what percentage of the material dates to the later Roman period, the evidence from the trial trenching suggesting an abandonment by the 3rd century AD.

THE SMALL FINDS

8.15 *Proposals for analysis:*

- Prepare iron objects for X-ray. This will aid identification and highlight any features of interest. As there are so few iron artefacts all objects will be X-rayed to provide a permanent record. Buckinghamshire County Museum Conservation Service will X-ray the objects and undertake any necessary conservation.
- Complete object descriptions and bibliographic references where applicable
- Undertake further work on objects of interest eg. Pin
- Basic analysis of finds distributions eg. Slag
- A full coin report will be undertaken at the report and updated project design stage.
- Report preparation and illustrations. It is envisaged that no more 8 illustration will be required.

HUMAN BONE

The Burials

- 8.16 Due to the poor preservation of the material, it is not envisaged to undertaken further analysis by an osteoarchaeologist.

The Cremation

8.17 The cremated material should be submitted for specialist study, as even though only a relatively small quantity was recovered, there is sufficient material to establish the approximate age of the cremated individual. Dating evidence is presented by the ferrous items, which suggest a Late Iron Age or more probably R/B date for the cremation. There was also sufficient charcoal surviving to obtain a C14 date, (although this may be of little value as likely to be of a date from a shallow curvature.)

Animal bones

8.18 Due to the nature of the soil, the animal bones were on the whole recovered in a poor state of preservation and heavily fragmented. Consequently, further analysis would prove difficult, as much of the material cannot be identified to species level. Surface abrasion also precludes an analysis of butchery techniques. However work on the spatial distribution of the bone across the site could prove beneficial, as it could be useful in the interpretation of the utilisation of specific areas of the site.

ENVIRONMENTAL EVIDENCE

Table 11: Potential

Ecofact	High	Medium	Low
Charred seeds		18,40,17	31,26,84,45,71
Charred wood			78
Animal Bone			18

8.19 Of the ten samples processed eight produced charred cereal, weed seed and chaff. However the amounts were all too small for reliable quantification. Only two cereal grains were identifiable to species level due to poor preservation.

- 8.20 Three of these samples (17,18 and 40) produced ecofacts in sufficient quantities to suggest it may be worthwhile processing these in their entirety. Particularly as two of these samples contained chaff, the quantification of which in relation to cereal grain would help determine if grain processing was taking place on site.
- 8.21 The three more productive samples were from A1 and come from both pits and enclosure ditches. This would suggest that any further analysis should concentrate on features in this area, particularly the row of late Bronze Age/early Iron Age pits in the North West and the enclosure ditches. It may then be possible for comparisons between the two groups to be made, so aiding the identification of varying uses of different areas of the site.
- 8.22 The assemblage from A1 is likely to produce sufficient data to suggest the nature of the arable economy of the site. However A2 and A3, (the Roman site), had insufficient and poorly preserved data, which on present evidence would negate further analysis.

Proposals for further analysis

- Processing of selected samples.
- Identification and quantification of charred seeds.
- Possible comparisons between the late BA/early IA pit alignment and the later Iron Age Settlement, to identify possible changes through time.

9. *CONCLUSIONS*

- 9.1 In conclusion, the excavation has enhanced the evidence recovered from the geophysical survey and trial trenches carried out in 1999. Briefly, Zone 1 (Areas A1, A2, and A3) comprised archaeological activity dating from the late Bronze to the early Roman period. The principal activity formed a late Iron Age settlement formed by a series of enclosures straddling a droveway.
- 9.2 In contrast, A2 consisted evidence solely of Roman date, the activity mainly comprised pits, post-holes and ditches interpreted as low level domestic activity on the periphery of a Roman farmstead located approximately 1km to the west of the small Roman town of Duston.
- 9.3 The artefactual and ecofactual assemblages will aid the understanding of the status, agricultural base, and activity areas within the two areas of excavation.
- 9.4 Further work will include trial excavation in zones B and C to the south of the current excavation. Additional works will include supervision of the topsoil and subsoil removal for the road corridors in all three zones with provision for salvage recording in the event of "unexpected discoveries". Excavations here will greatly enhance the understanding of the archaeological landscape in this area. Although the initial magnetic susceptibility scanning recovered a number of hot spots, a series of follow up surveys by detailed magnetometer produced few significant archaeological anomalies. Only traces of ridge and furrow were detected in all fields except in Field E where two side ditches of a former trackway were located. These may have been associated with the Deserted Village of Upton (SMR 5138, SAM 165) to the north.
- 9.5 Subsequently no further geophysical works are envisaged. It is hoped that the results from the current survey will be sufficient to satisfactorily aid the location of trial excavations, which are proposed for spring 2001.

10. ILLUSTRATIONS

- Fig. 1. Location plan
- Fig. 2. The site and its environs
- Fig. 3. Site plan of Zone A showing schematic plan of archaeological deposits
- Fig. 4. Trial trenches in Zone A
- Fig. 5. Detailed plan of A1, scale 1:1250
- Fig. 6. Detailed plan of A2 and A3, scale 1:1250
- Fig. 7. Detailed plan and section of kiln, scale 1:50 and 1:20 sections
- Fig. 8. Area A1 – various sections of features, scale 1:20
- Fig. 9. Location plan of showing areas of magnetic susceptibility survey
- Fig. 10. Field A - detailed raw magnetic susceptibility plot
- Fig. 11. Field A - detailed filtered magnetic susceptibility plot
- Fig. 12. Sample Grid A – detailed magnetometer survey results
- Fig. 13. Field B - detailed raw magnetic susceptibility plot
- Fig. 14. Field B - detailed filtered magnetic susceptibility plot
- Fig. 15. Sample Grid B – detailed magnetometer survey results
- Fig. 16. Field C - detailed raw magnetic susceptibility plot
- Fig. 17. Field C - detailed filtered magnetic susceptibility plot
- Fig. 18. Sample Grid C – detailed magnetometer survey results
- Fig. 19. Field D - detailed raw magnetic susceptibility plot
- Fig. 20. Field D - detailed filtered magnetic susceptibility plot
- Fig. 21. Sample Grid D – detailed magnetometer survey results
- Fig. 22. Field E - detailed raw and filtered magnetic susceptibility plots
- Fig. 23. Sample Grid E – detailed magnetometer survey results
- Fig. 24. Field F - detailed raw and filtered magnetic susceptibility plots

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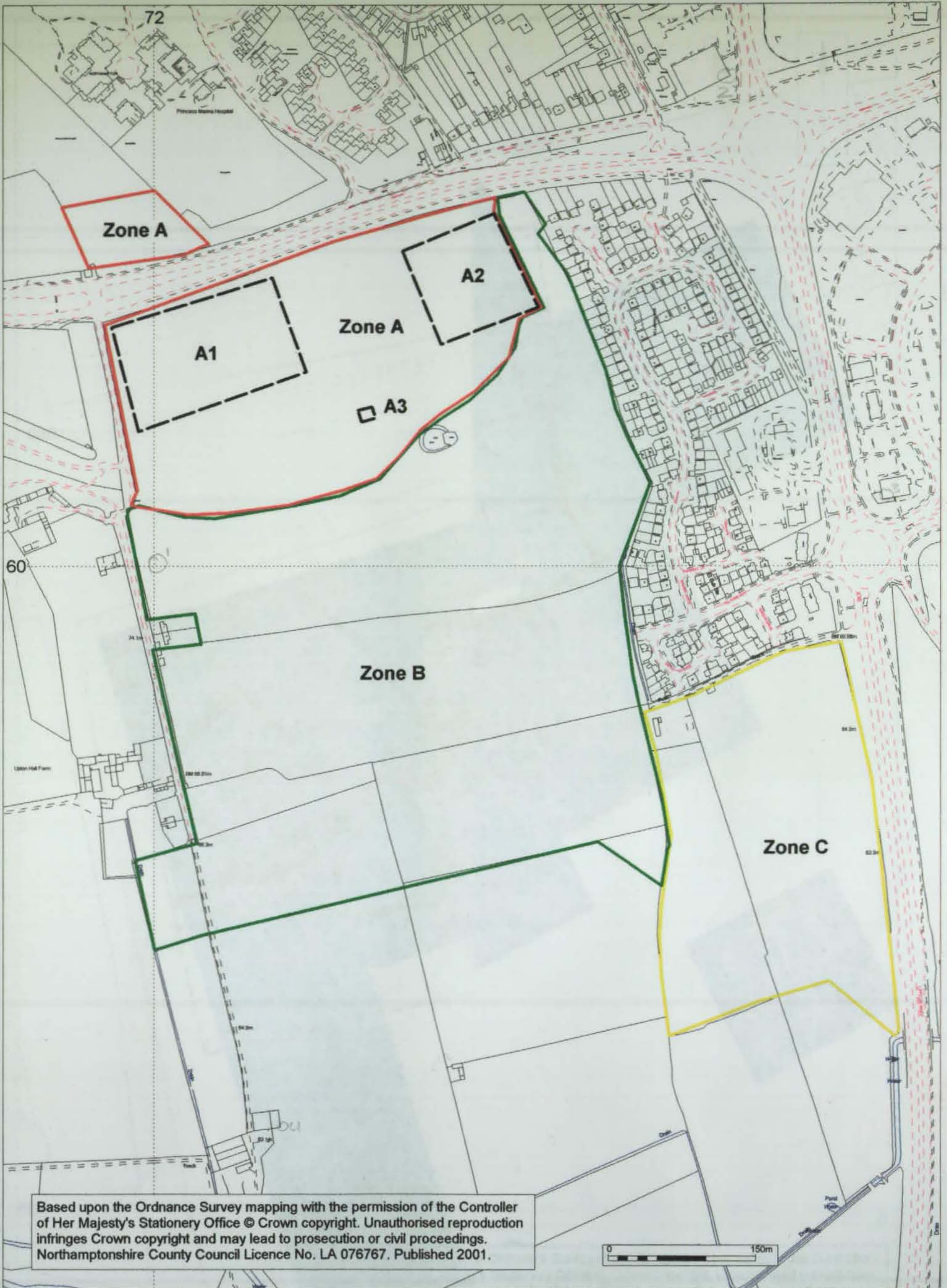
Project manager:	Chris Burgess
Fieldwork and text:	Anthony Maull, Cert. Archeol., Peter Masters
GIS illustrations:	Peter Masters BA HND PIFA
Illustrations:	Alex Thorne BSc AIFA MAAIS
Prehistoric pottery and flint:	Denis Jackson and Alex Thorne
Roman pottery:	Anna Slowikowski BA Phil MIFA MAAIS
Faunal remains and environmental evidence:	Karen Deighton BA MSc
Human remains:	Pat Kent BSc MSc
Small finds and other finds:	Tora Hylton
Geophysical Survey:	Peter Masters, E Hindmarch BSc, I Fisher BA
Metal detector Survey:	Steve Critchley
Edited by:	Chris Burgess and Iain Soden MIFA

Northamptonshire Archaeology
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Environment Directorate April 2001



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Fig. 1



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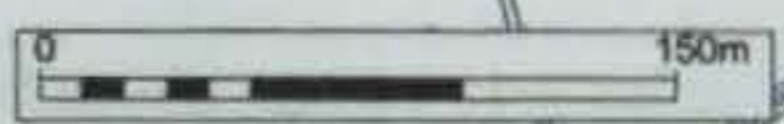
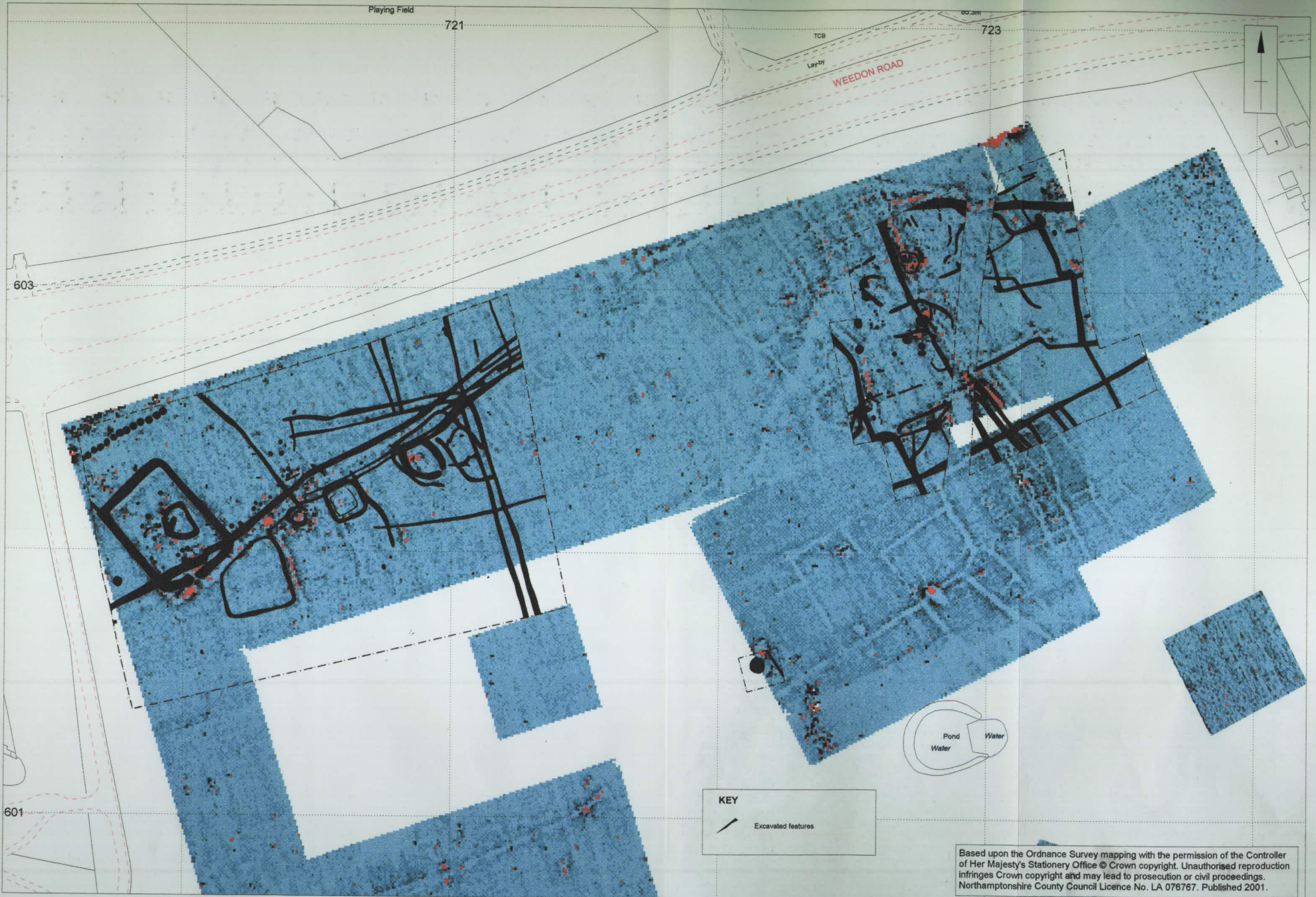


Fig. 2



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Fig. 3

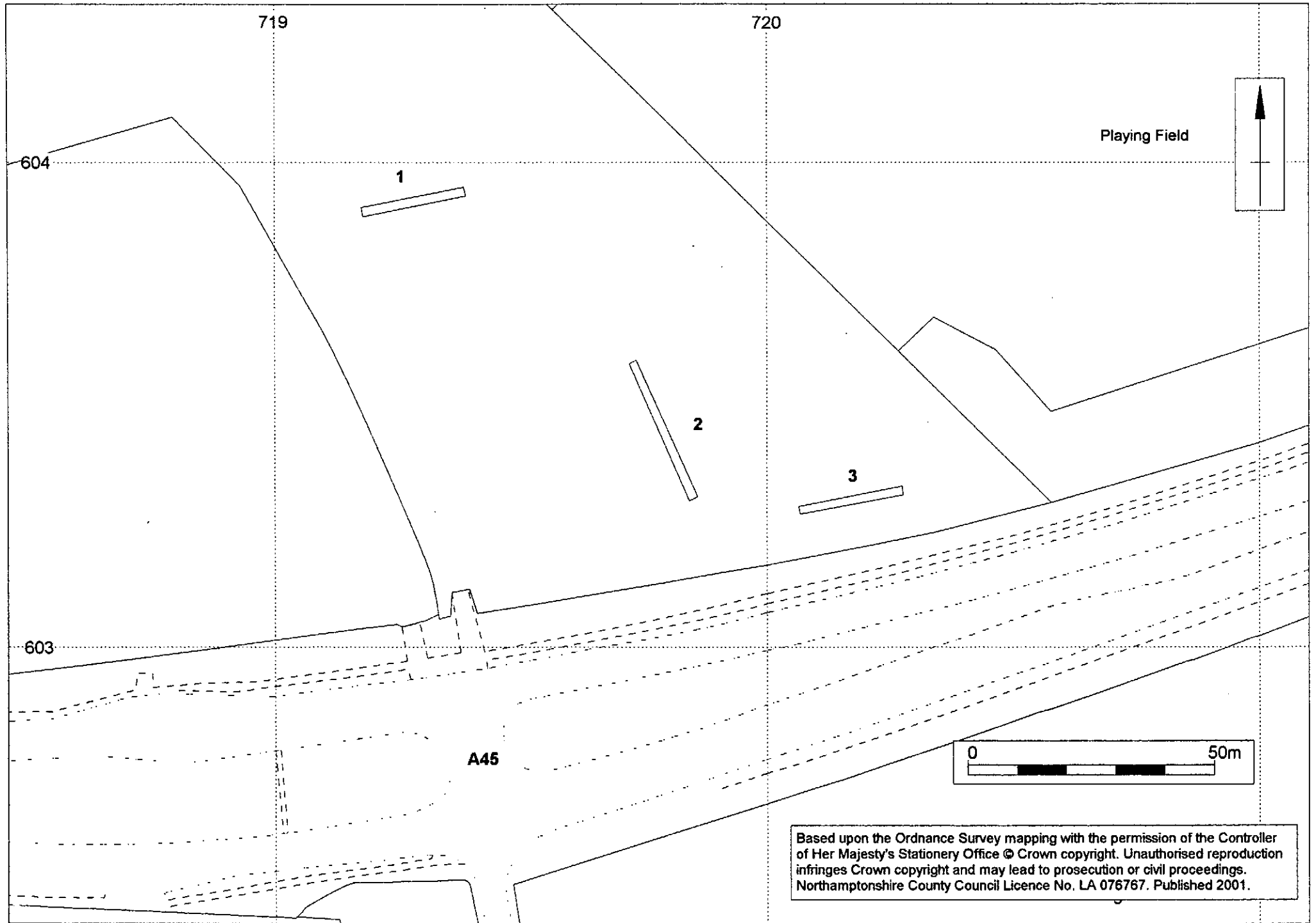


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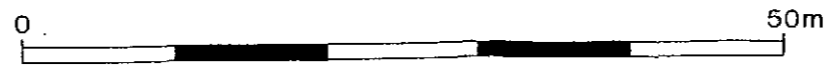
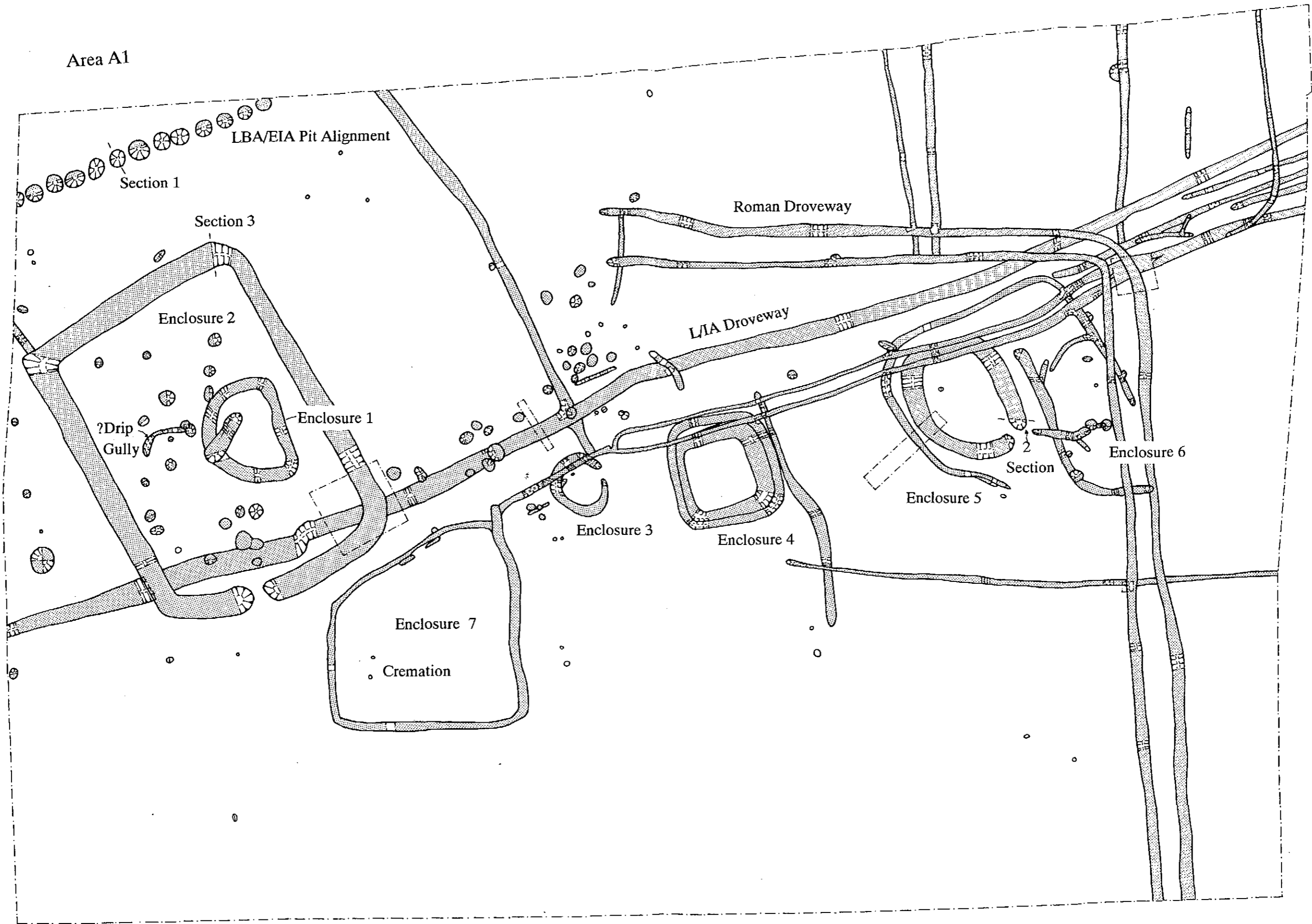
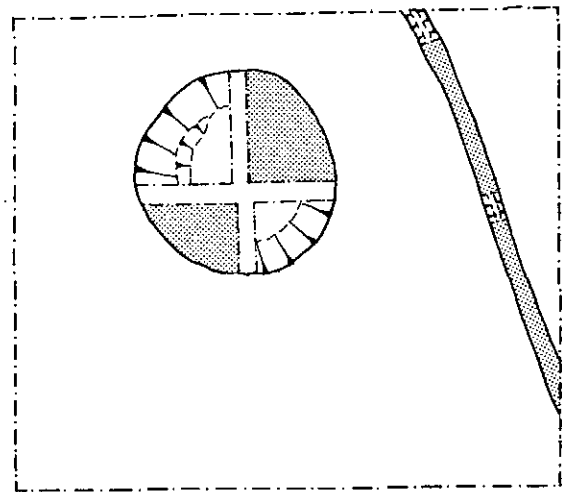


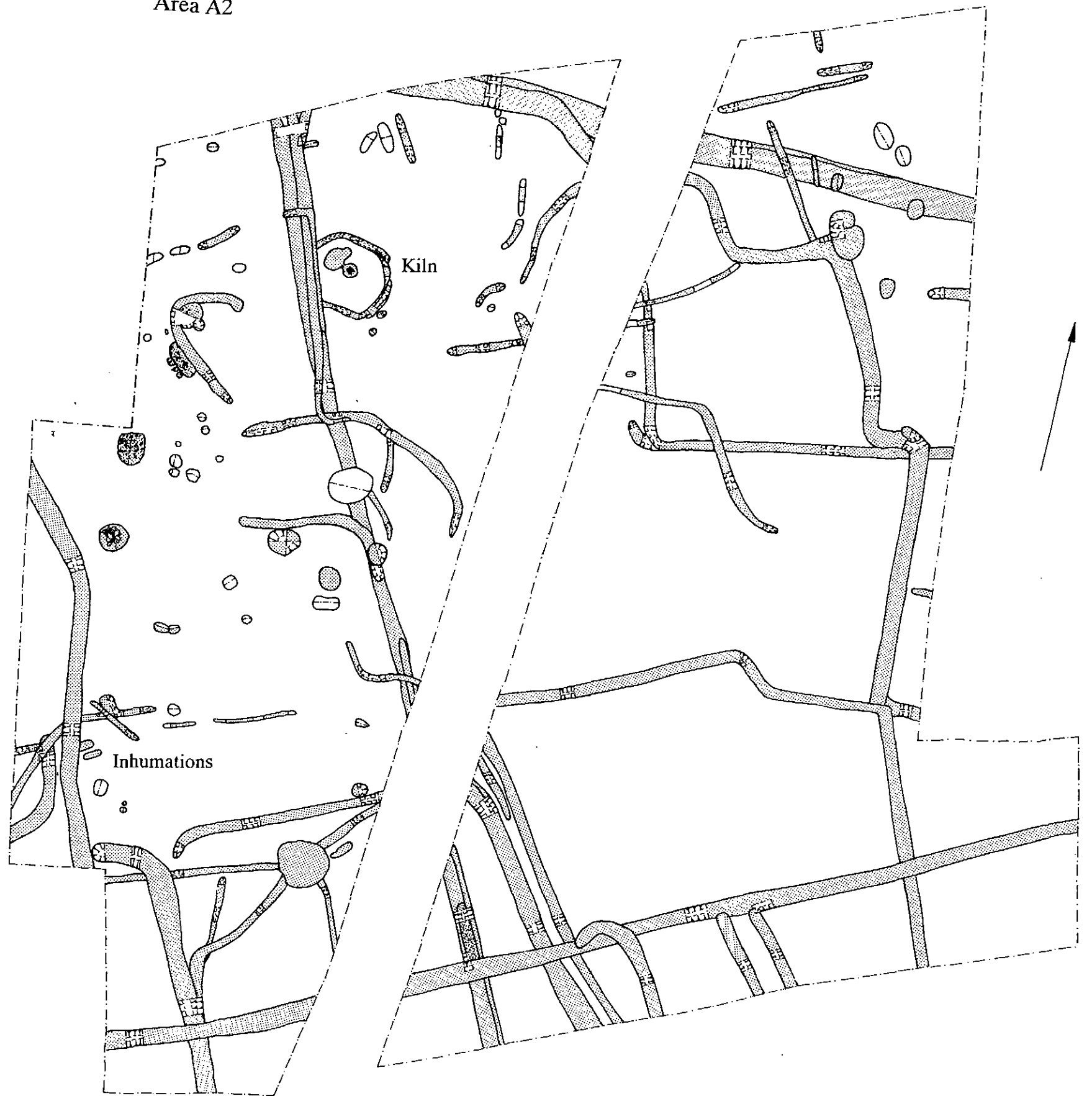
Fig. 5

Area A3



0 10m

Area A2



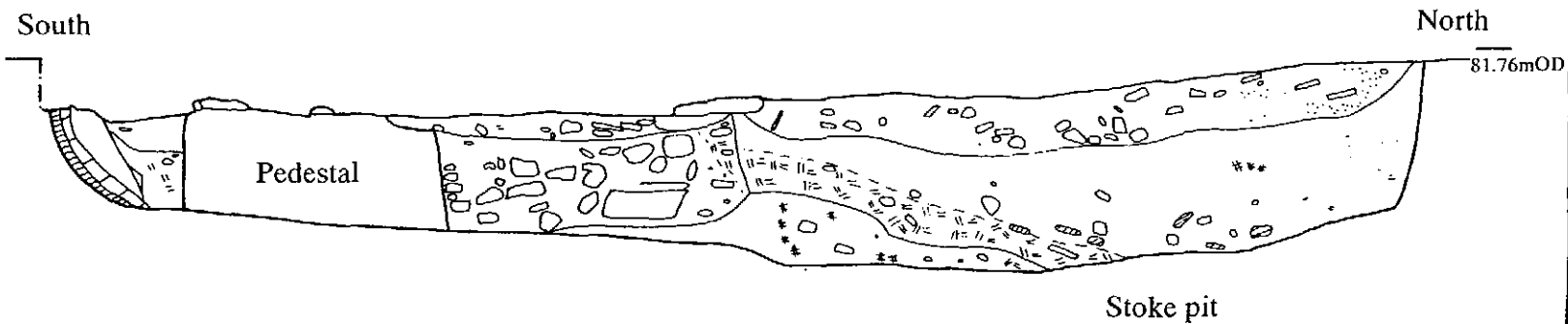
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Fig. 6

Probable 2nd Century Kiln with associated Enclosure

SECTION 4

A longitudinal section through the 2nd Century Kiln.

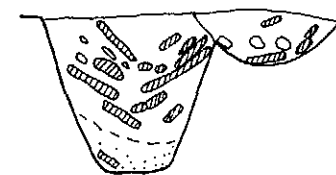


- Key
- Fired Clay
 - Limestone
 - Charcoal
 - Clay

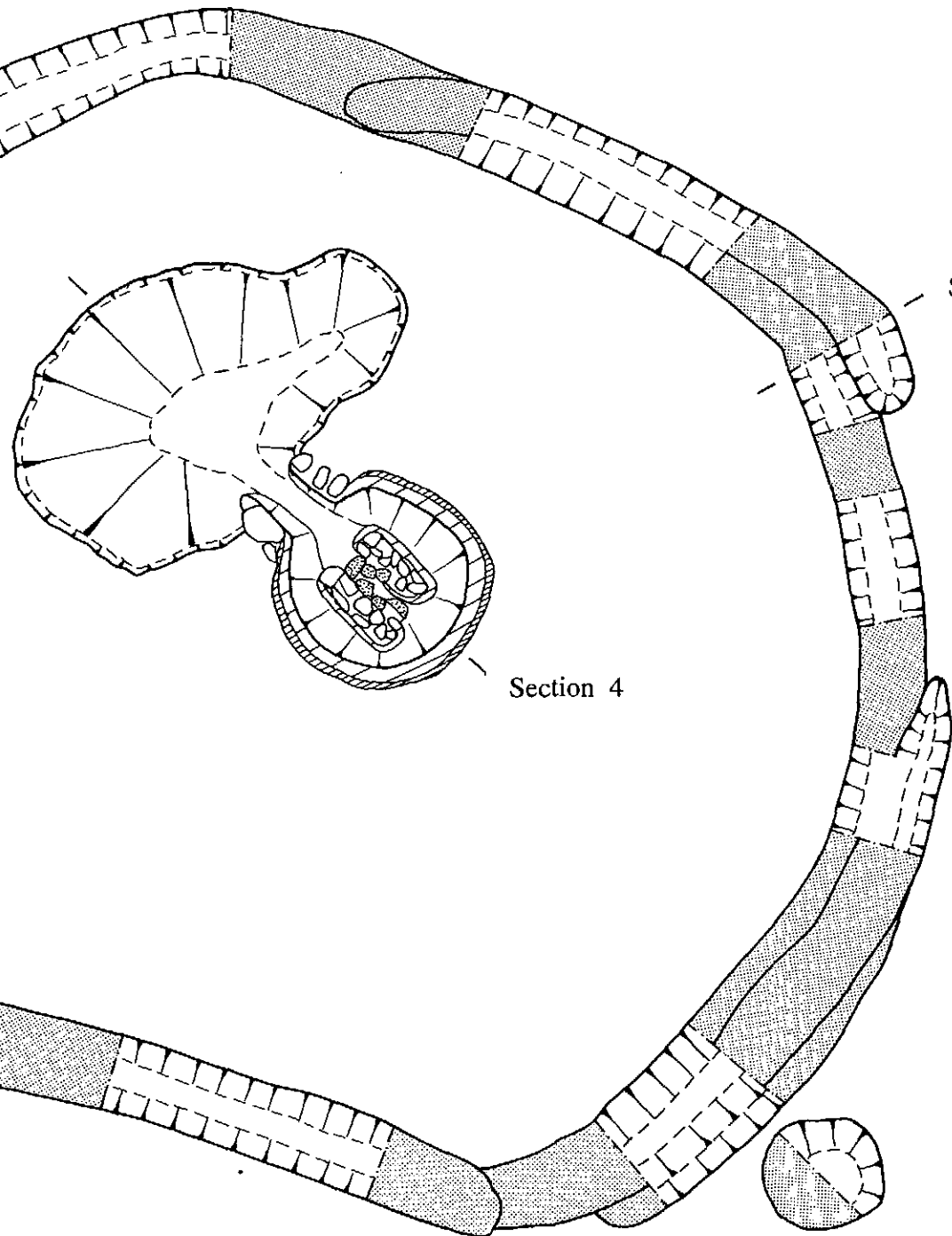
SECTION 5

South West 81.63mOD

North East



Example of a section through the associated Enclosure.



Section 4

Section 5

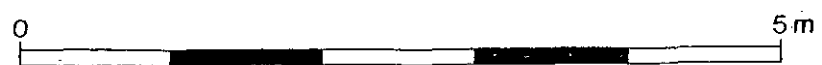
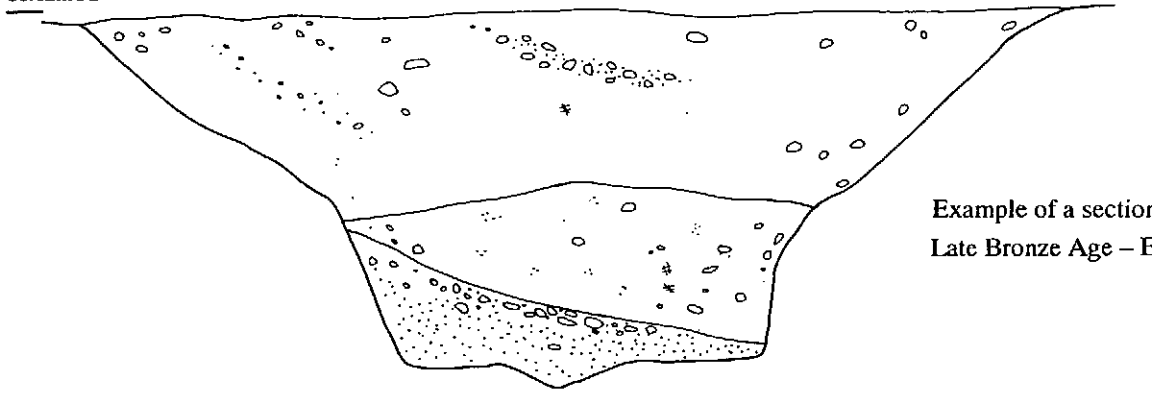


Fig. 7

SECTION 1

North West
86.12mOD

South East

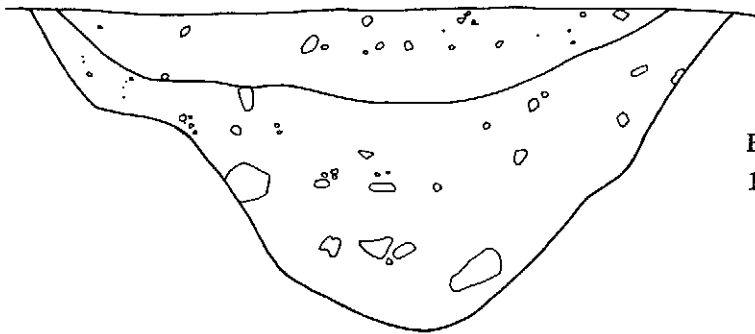


Example of a section through a
Late Bronze Age - Early Iron Age pit.

SECTION 2

West
82.74mOD

East

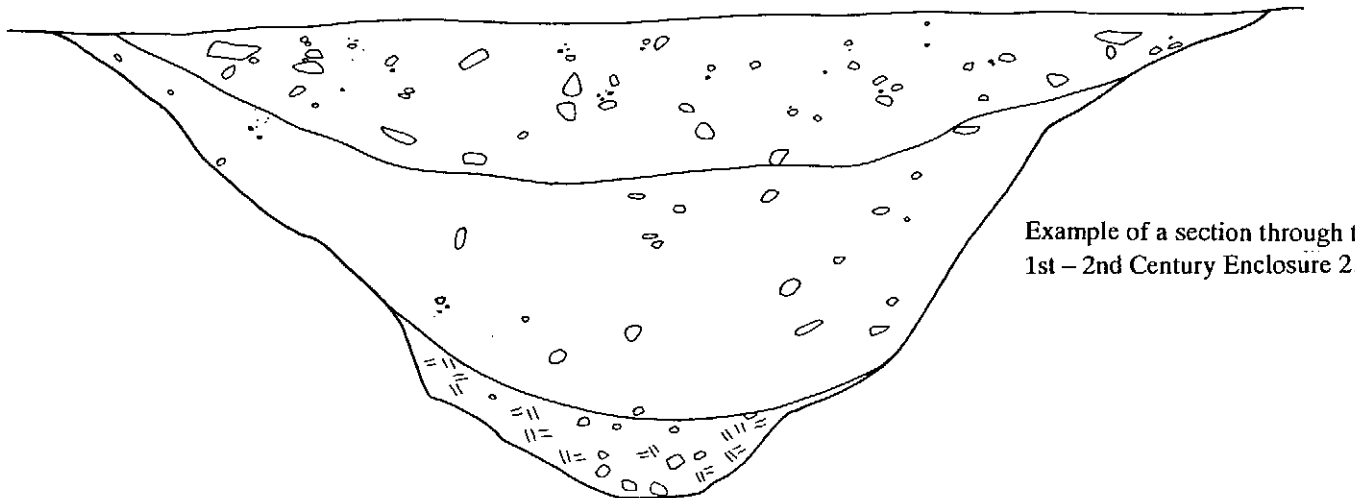


Example of a section through the
1st - 2nd century Enclosure 5.

SECTION 3

South
85.55mOD

North



Example of a section through the
1st - 2nd Century Enclosure 2.



Fig. 8

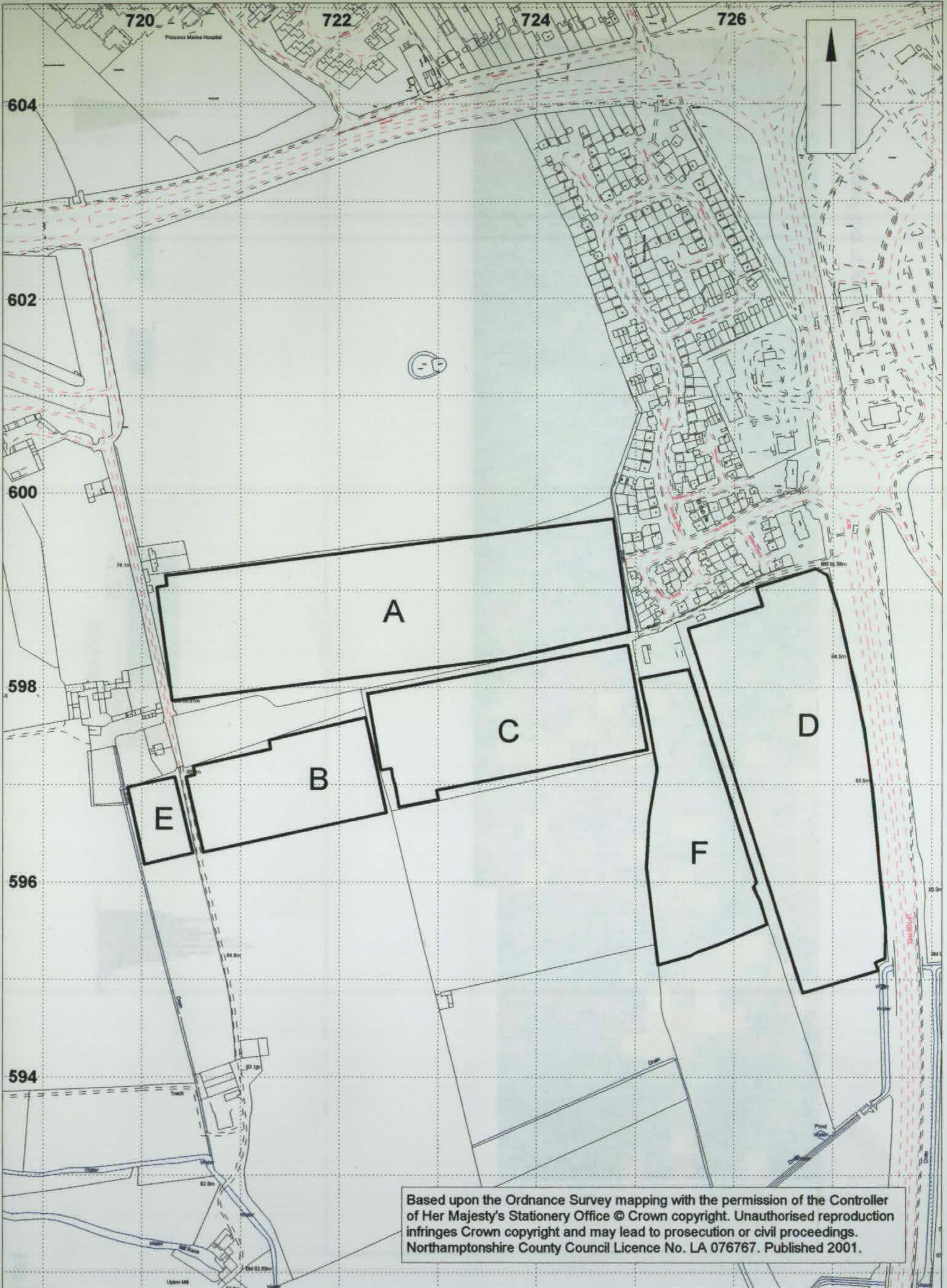
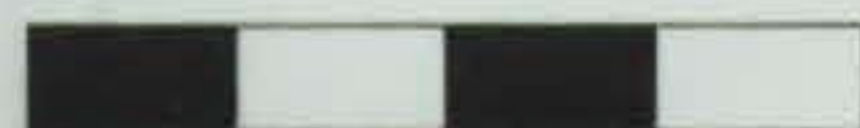
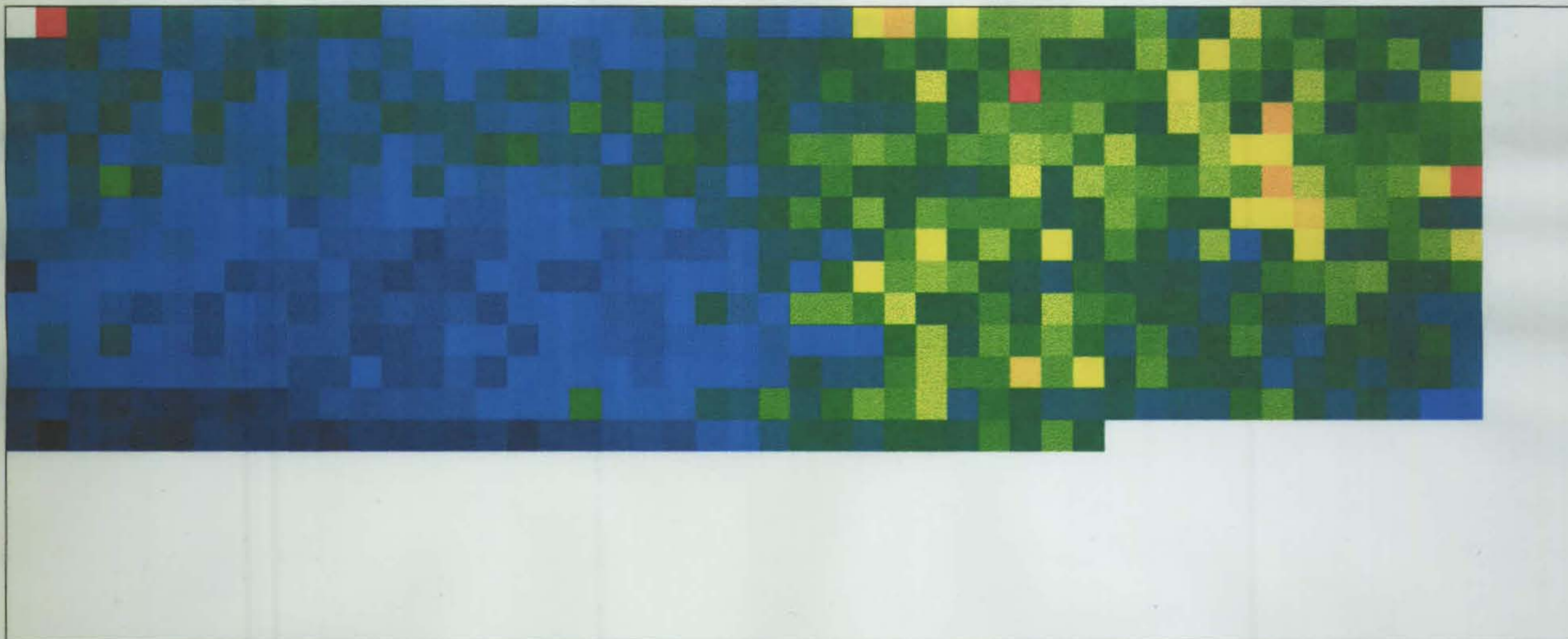


Fig.9

Magnetic susceptibility plot of Area A



80m

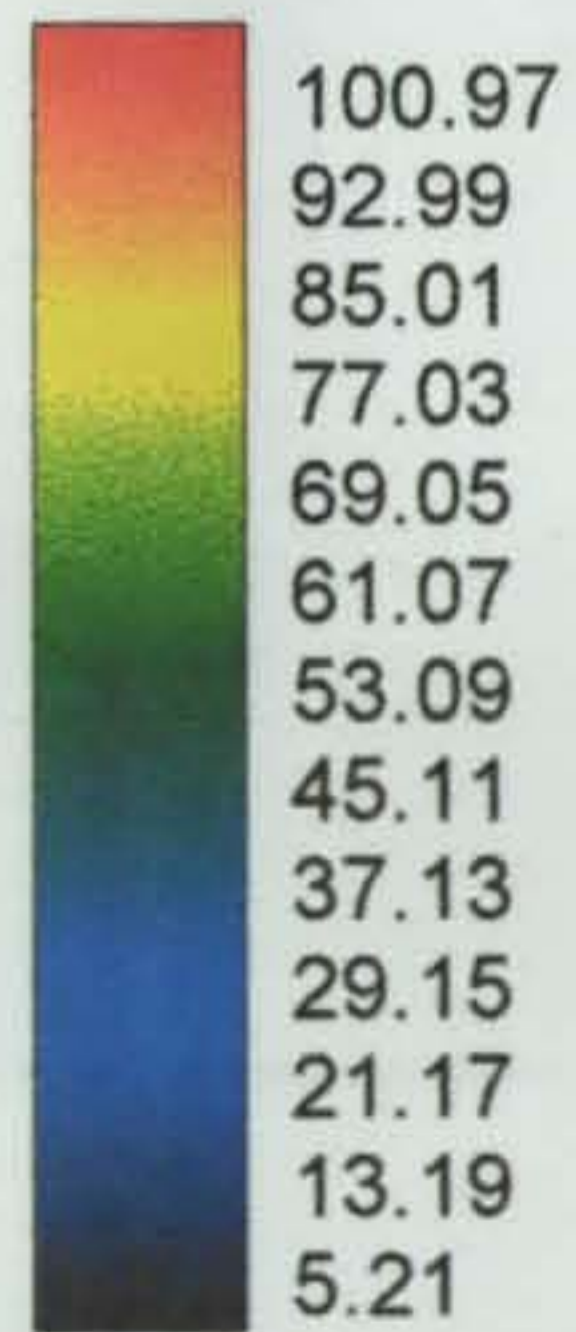
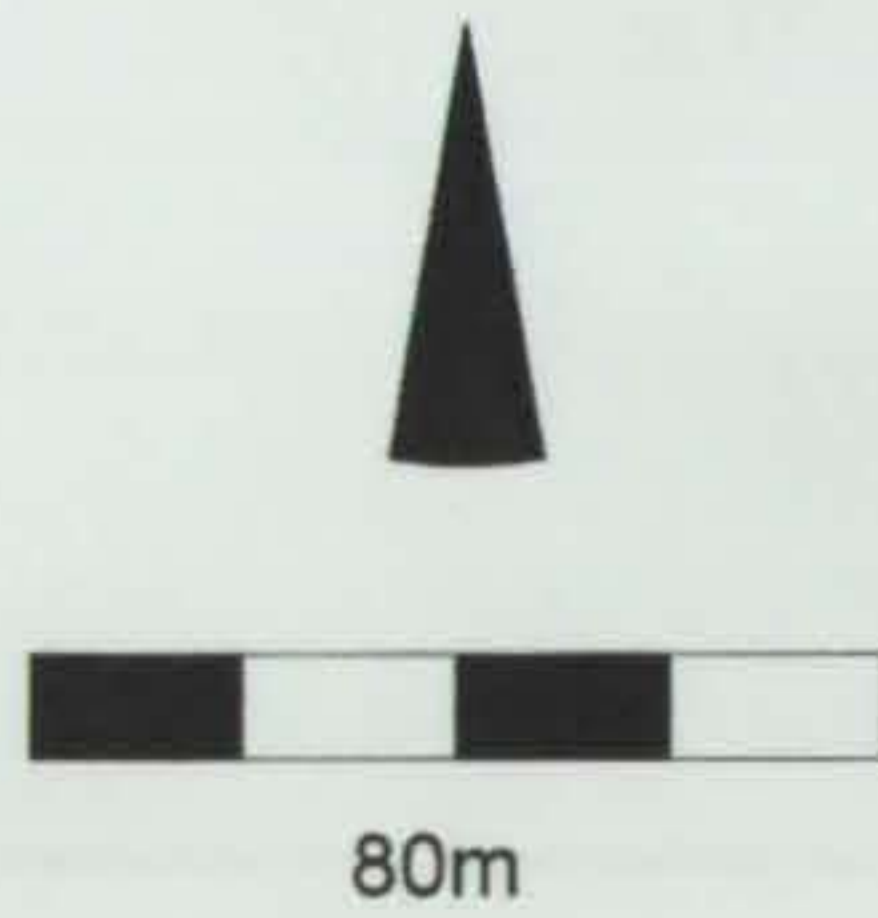
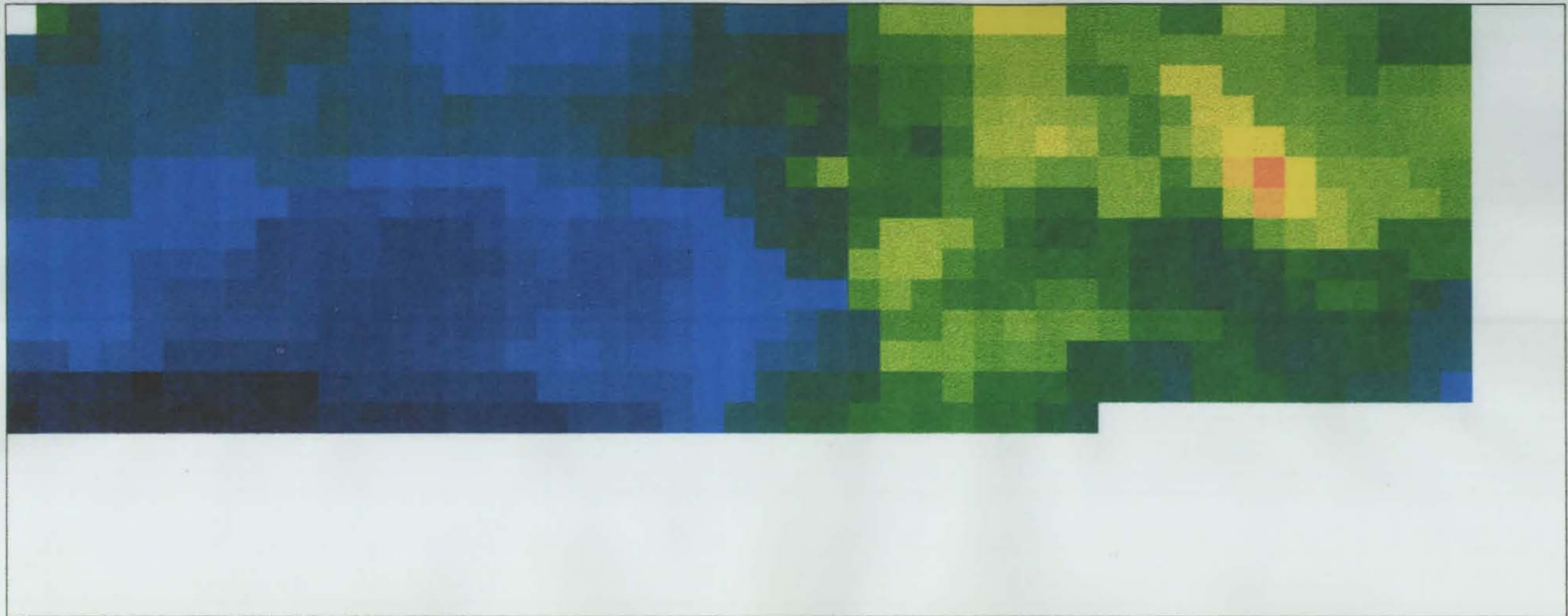


-1.52 121.16
SI units



Fig. 10

Field A - Filtered data plot



SI units



Fig.11

Sample Grid A - Raw and enhanced grey scale plots

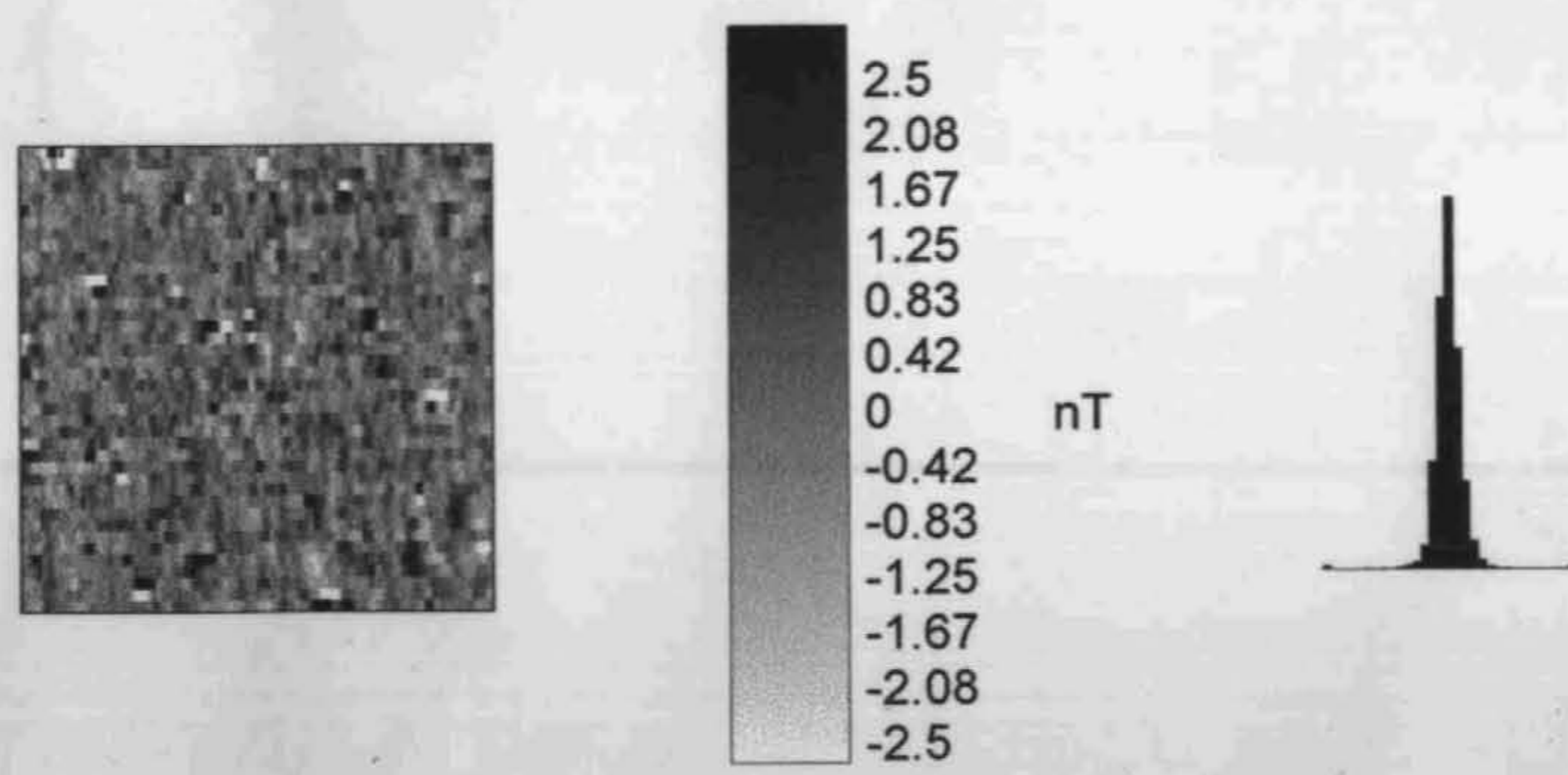
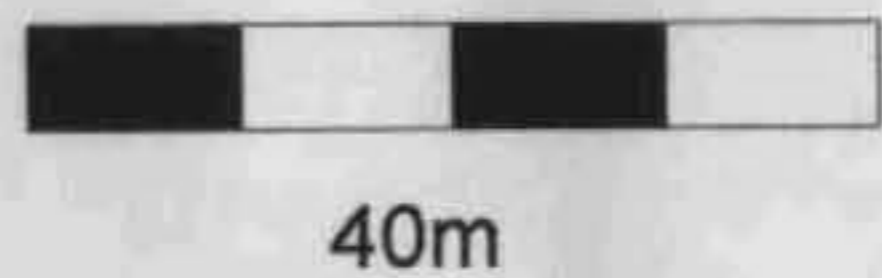
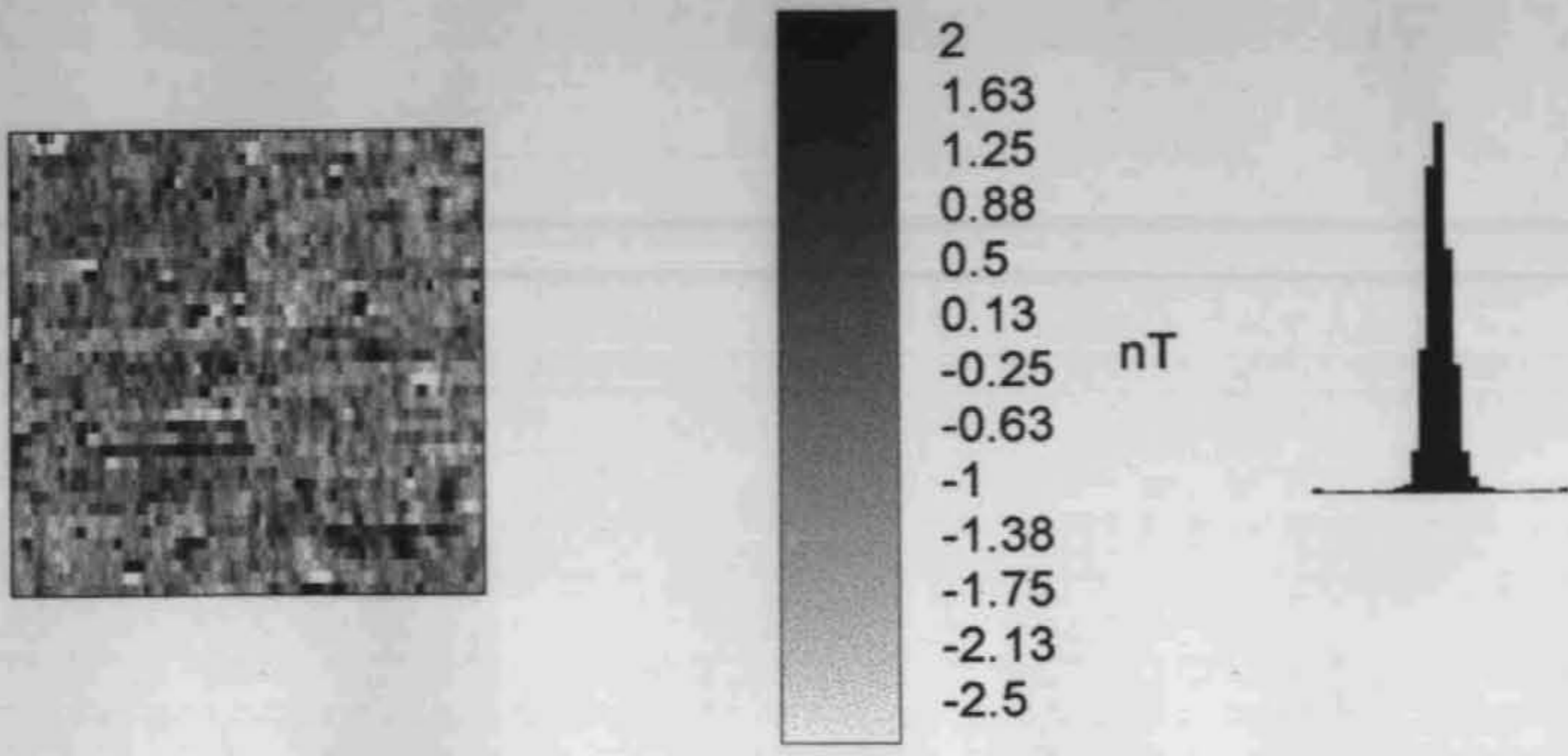


Fig. 12

Magnetic Susceptibility raw data plot of Area B

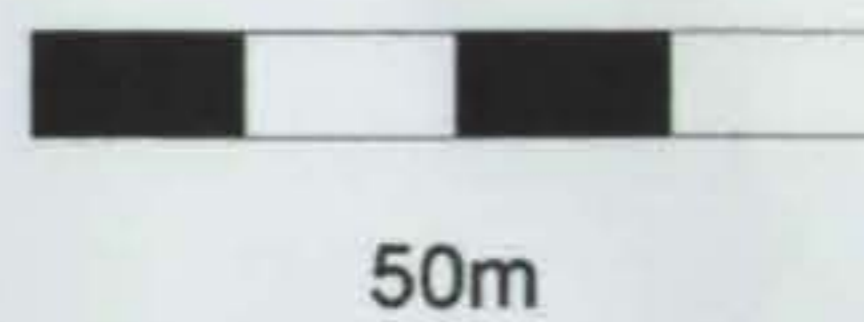
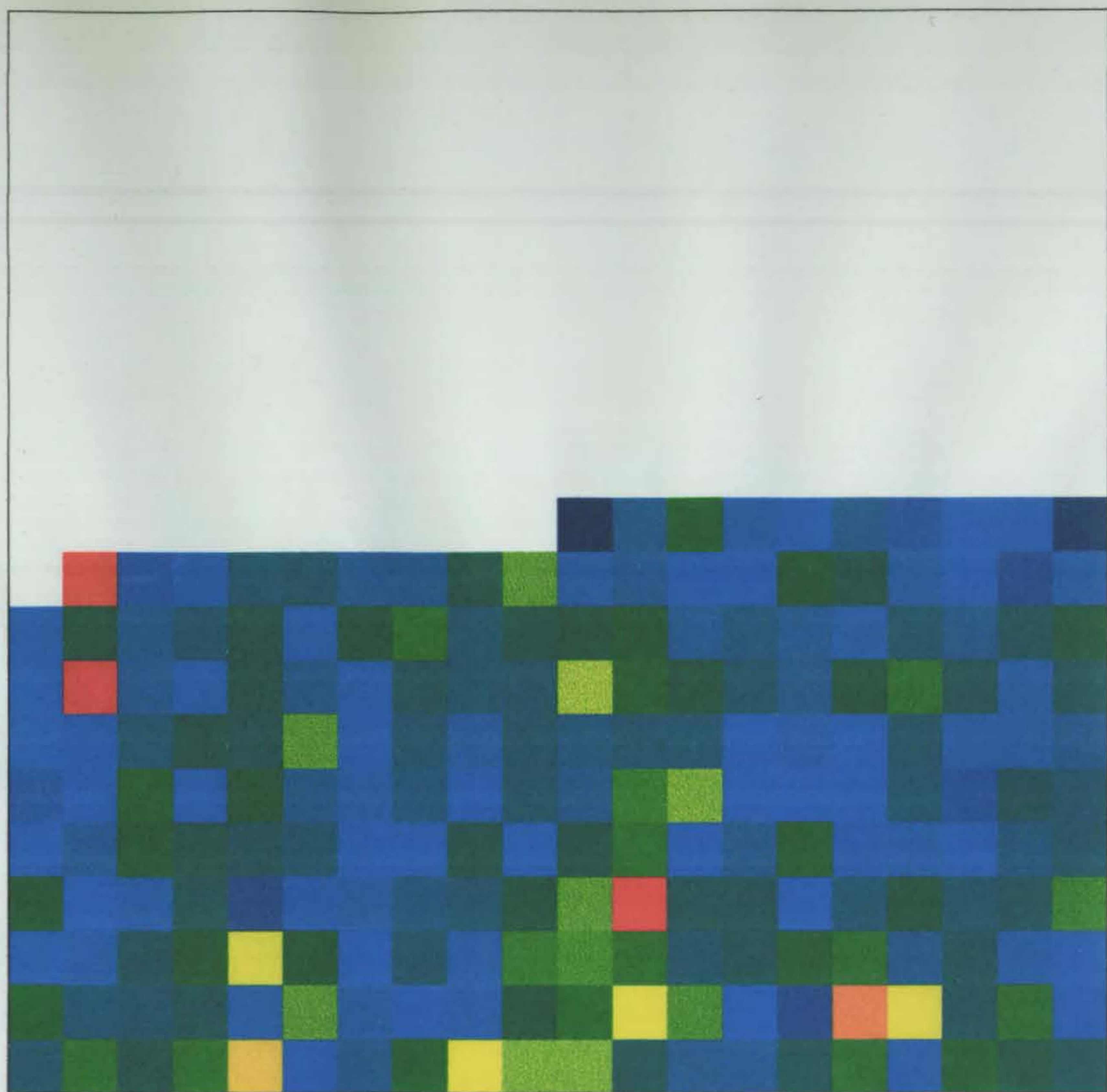
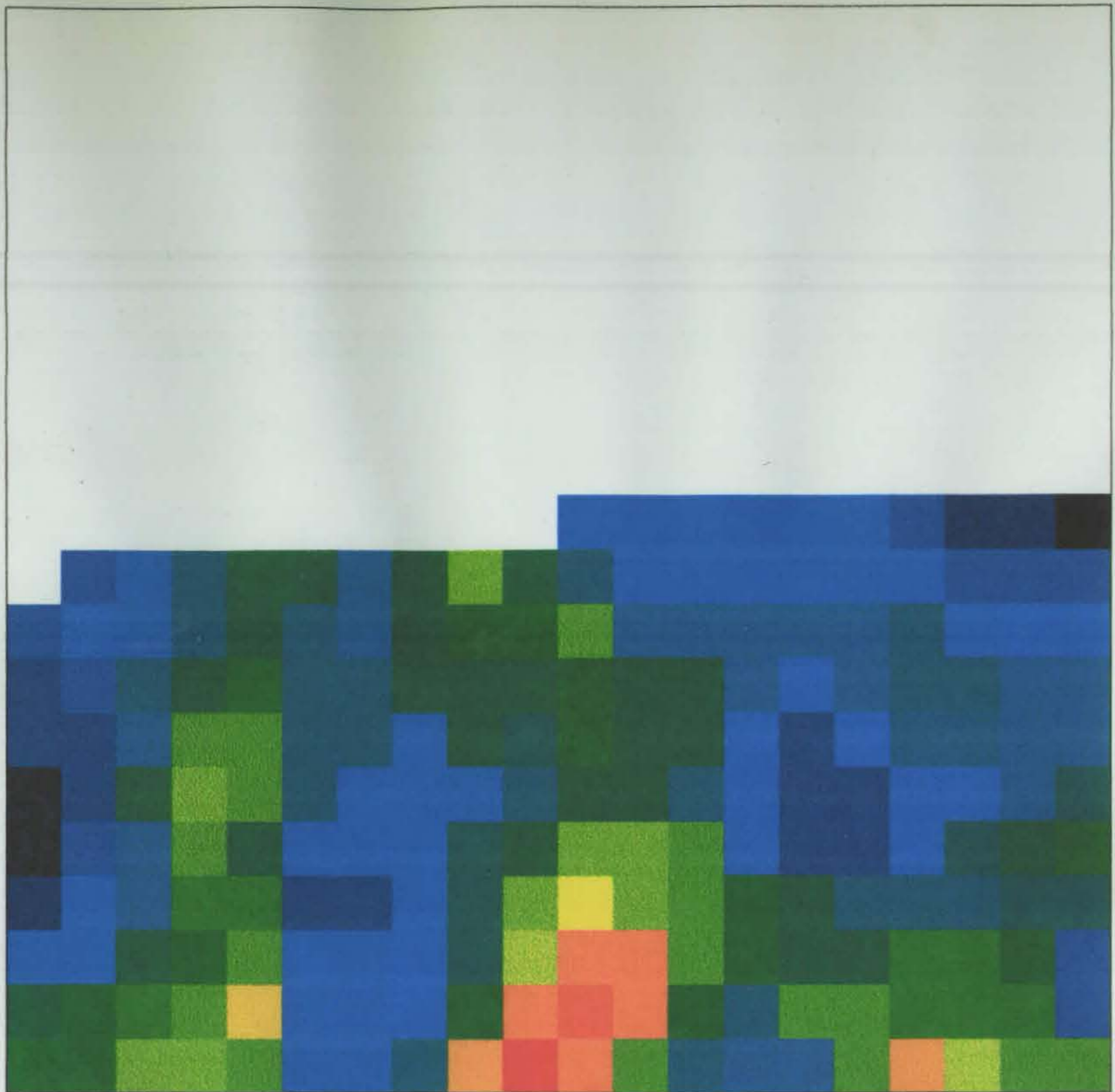
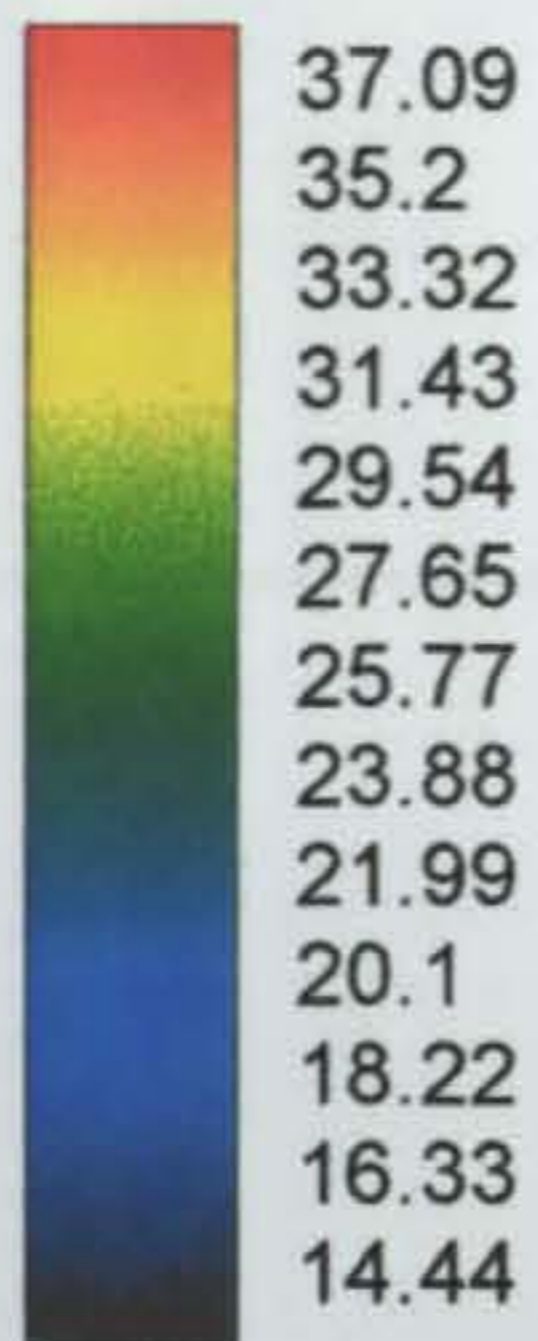


Fig. 13

Field B - Filtered data plot



50m

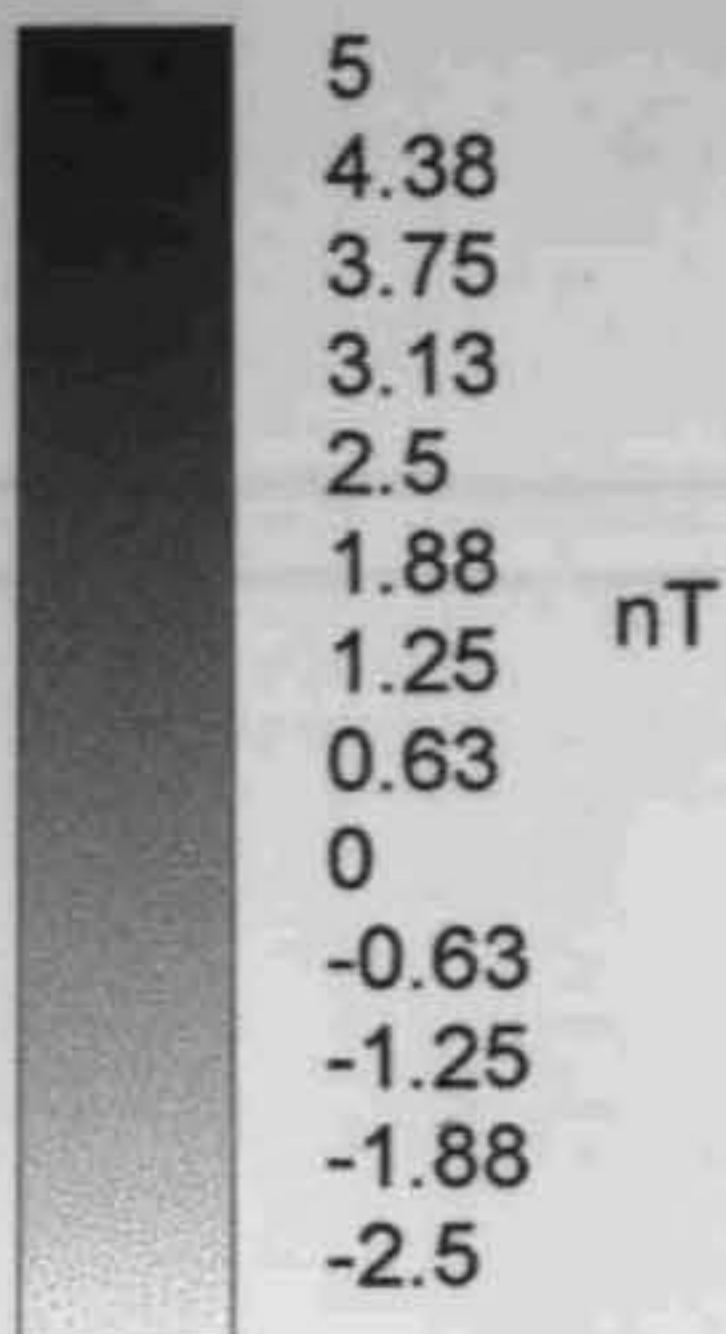
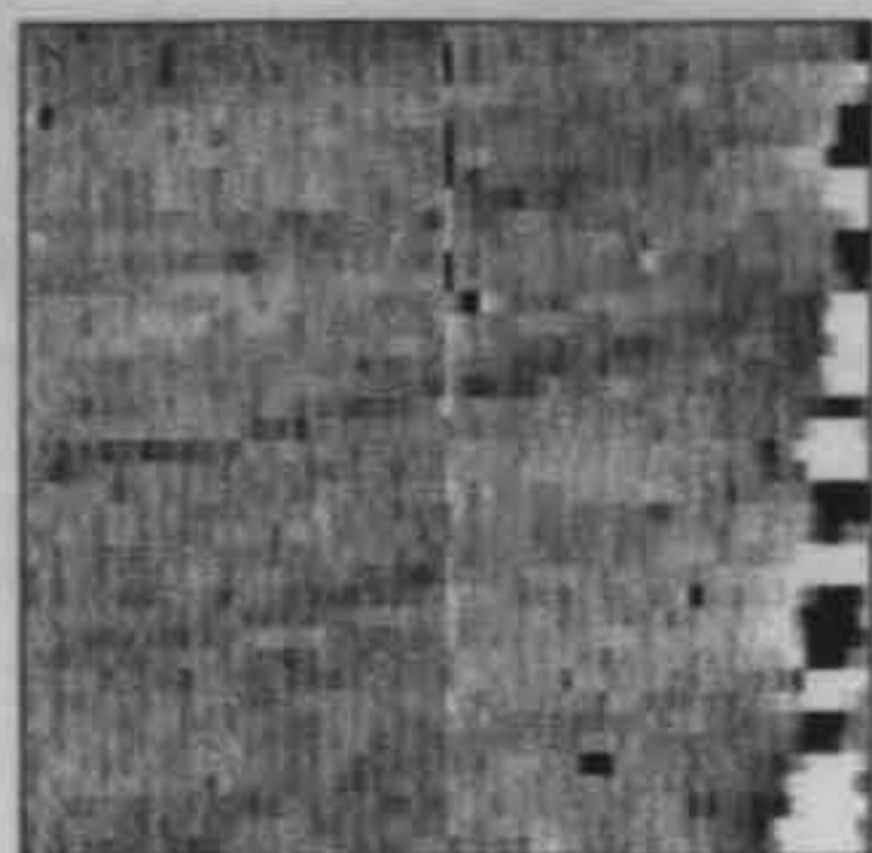


SI units



Fig. 14

Sample Grid B - Raw and enhanced data



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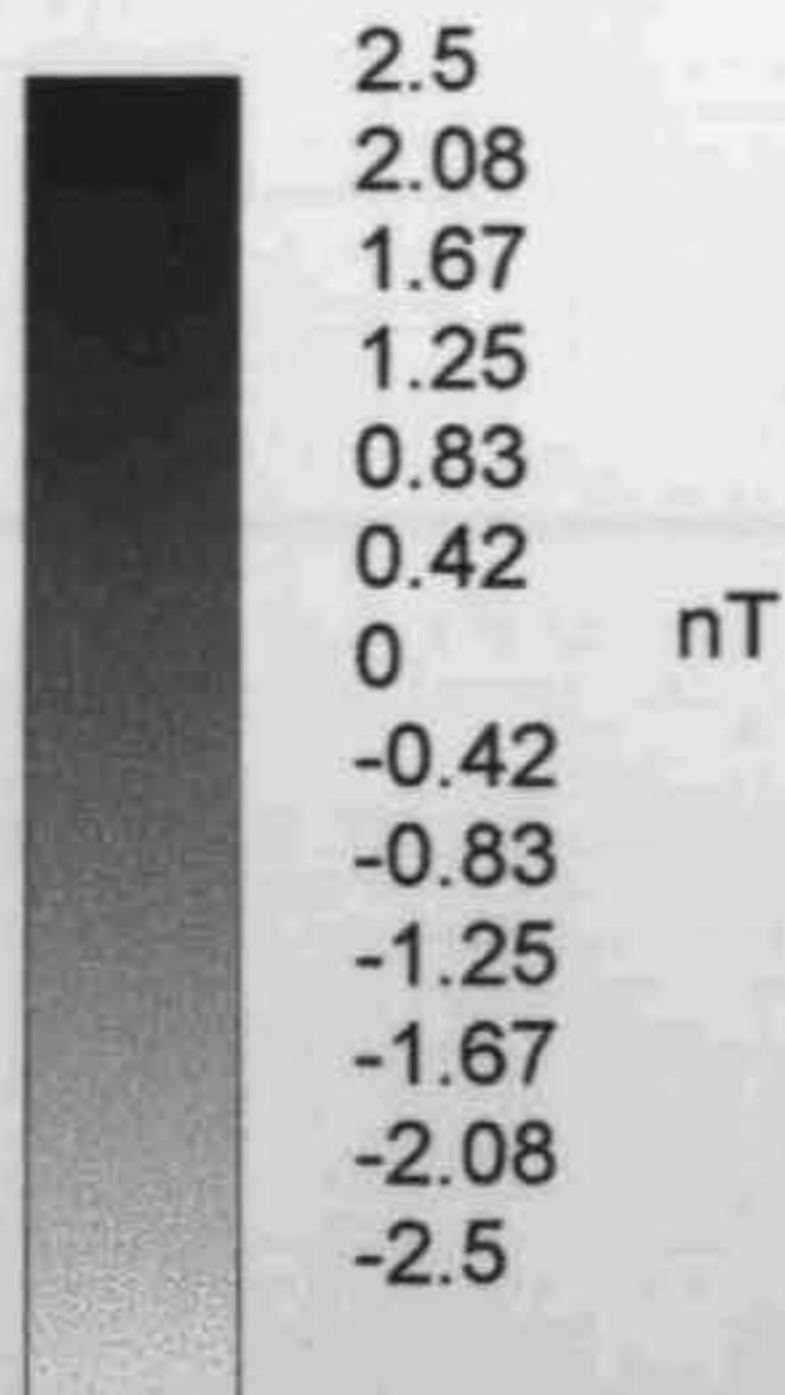
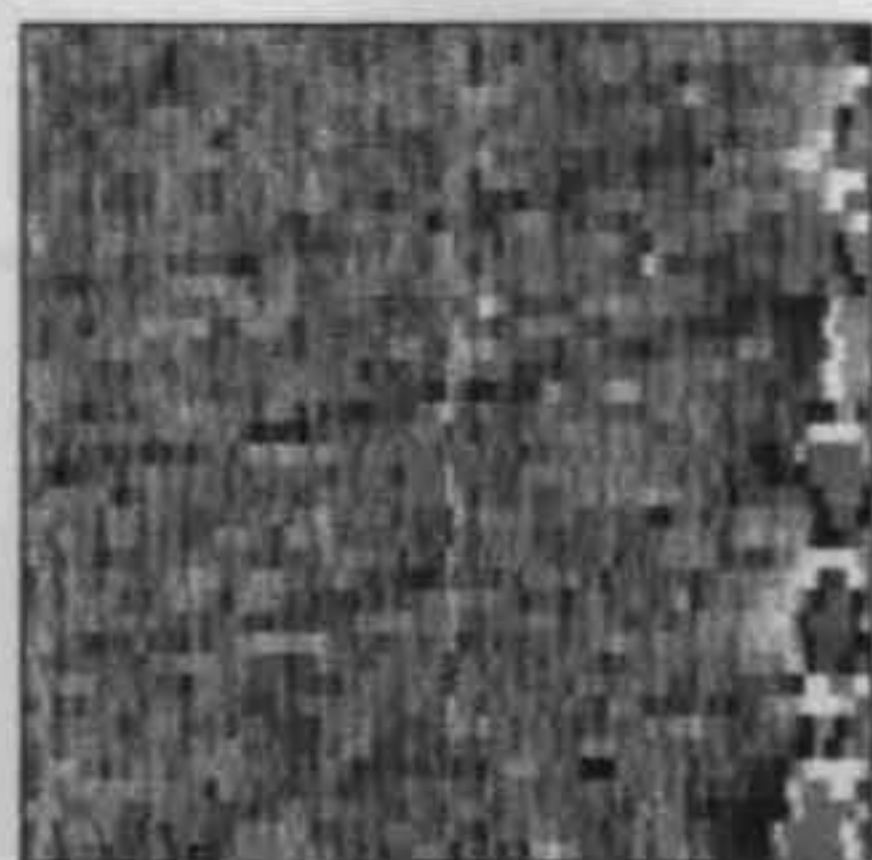


Fig. 15

Field C - Raw data plot

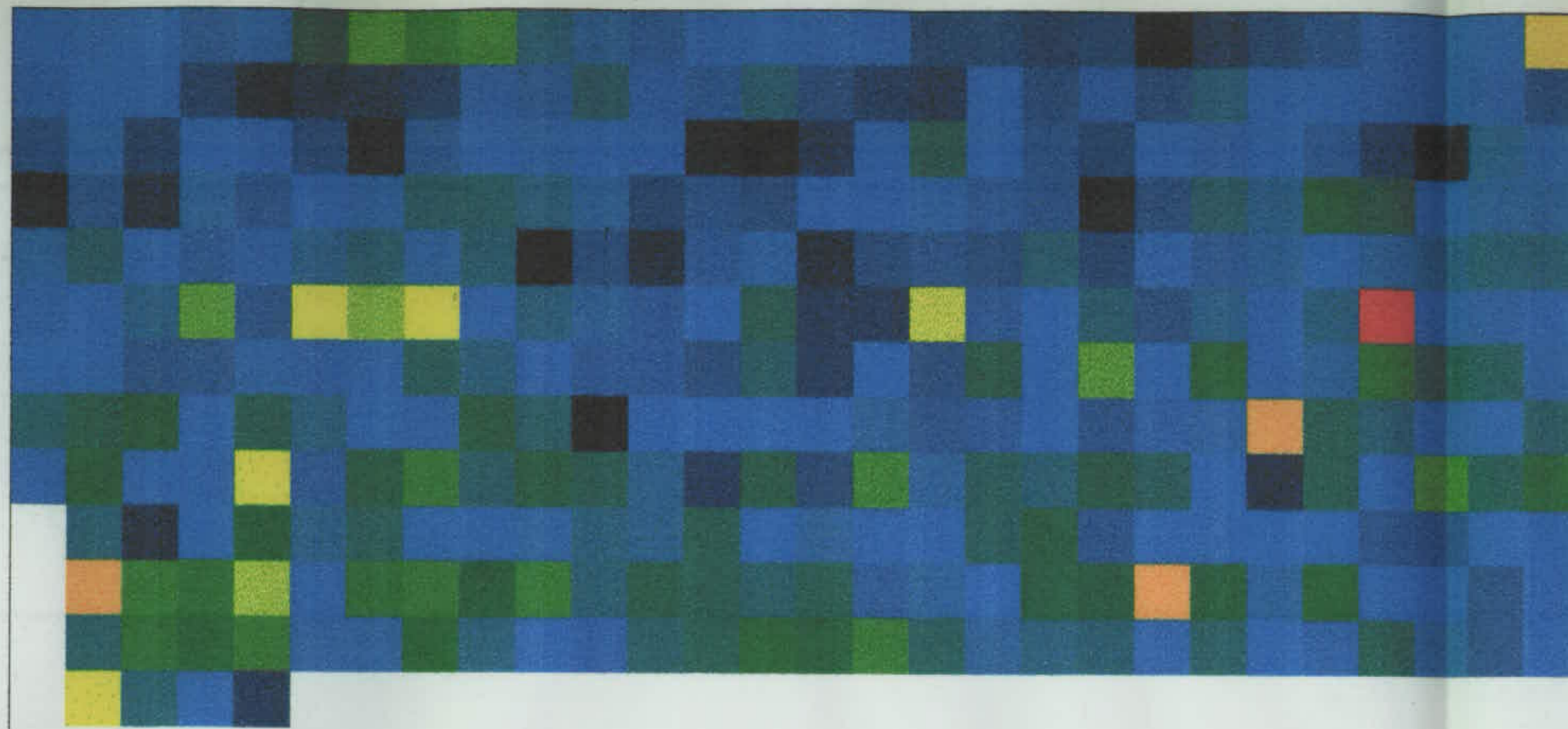


Fig.16

Field C - Filtered data plot

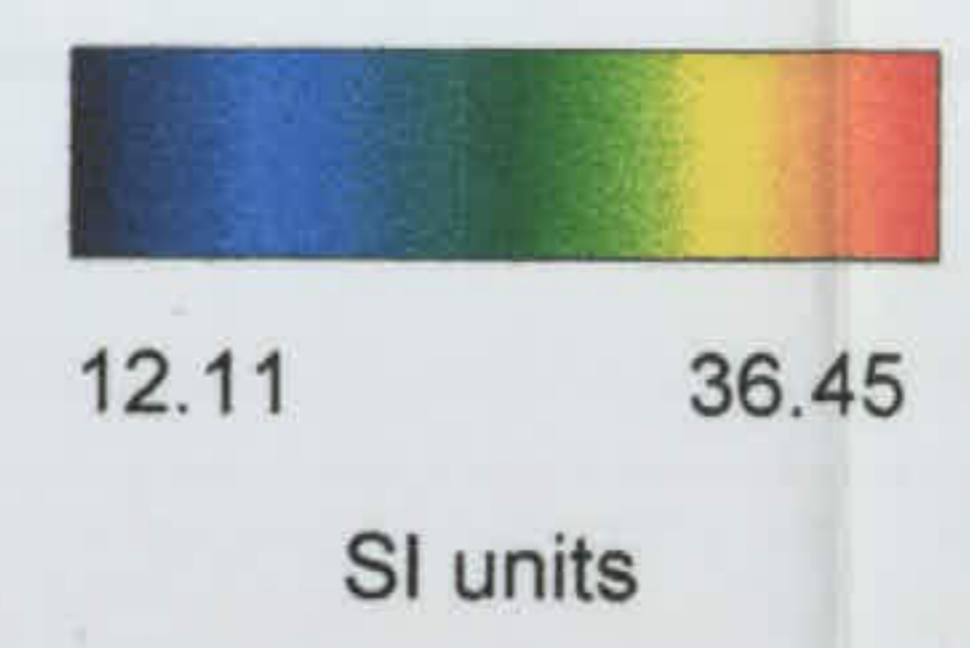
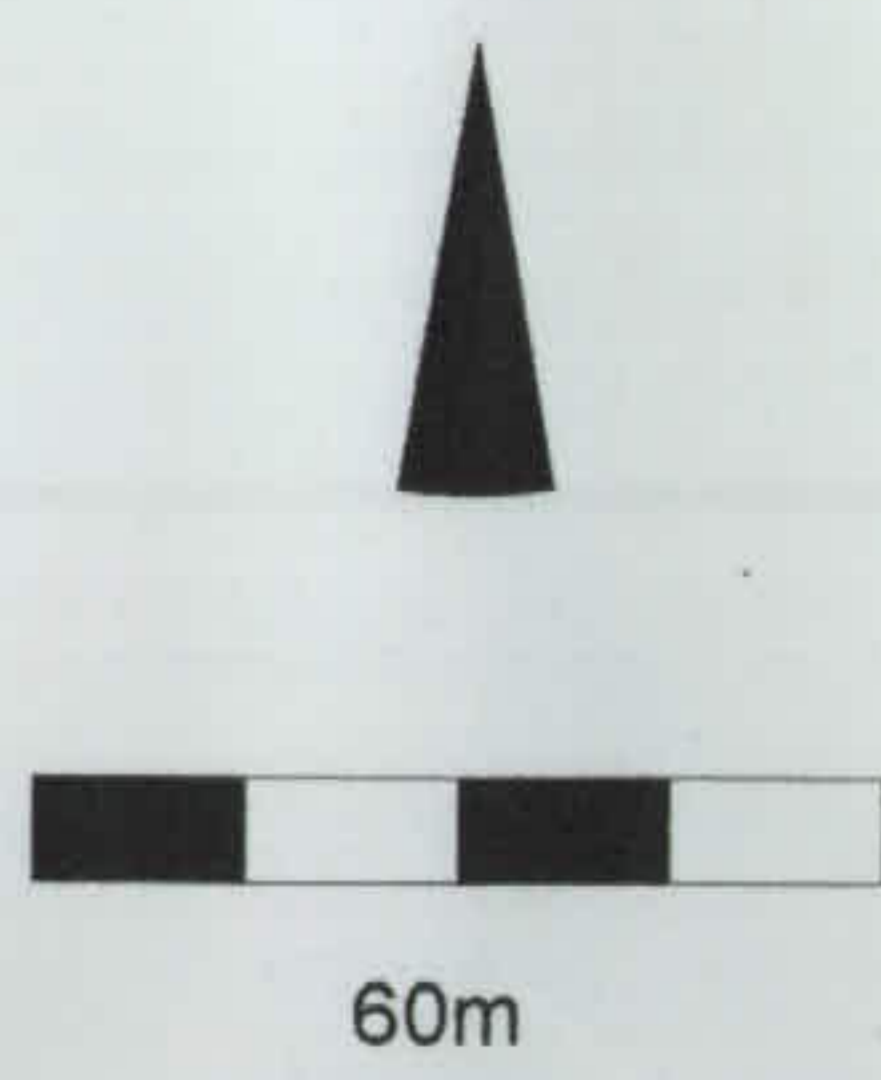
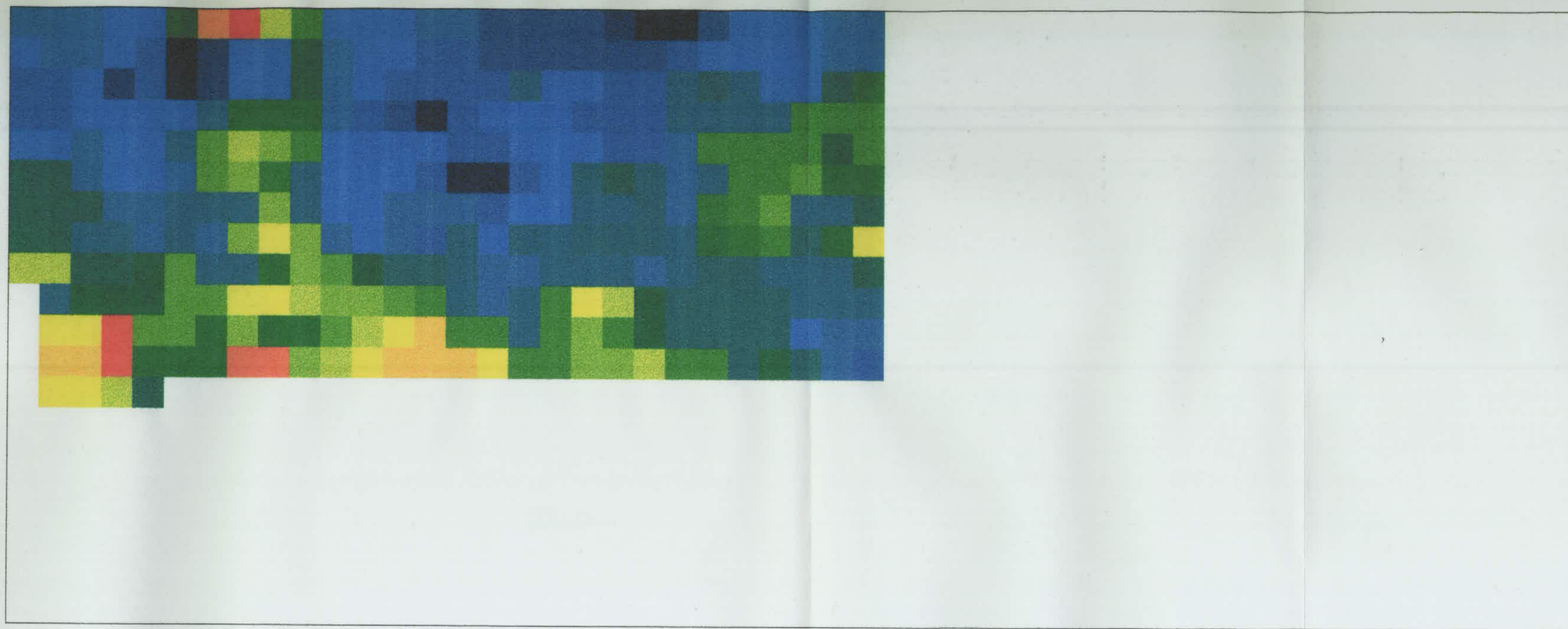
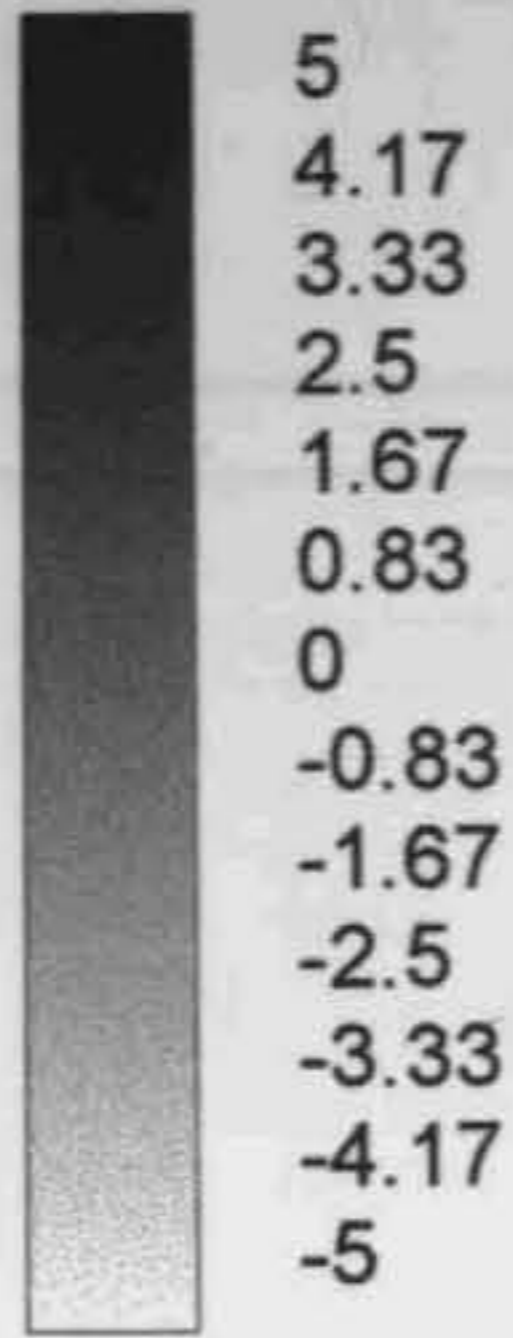
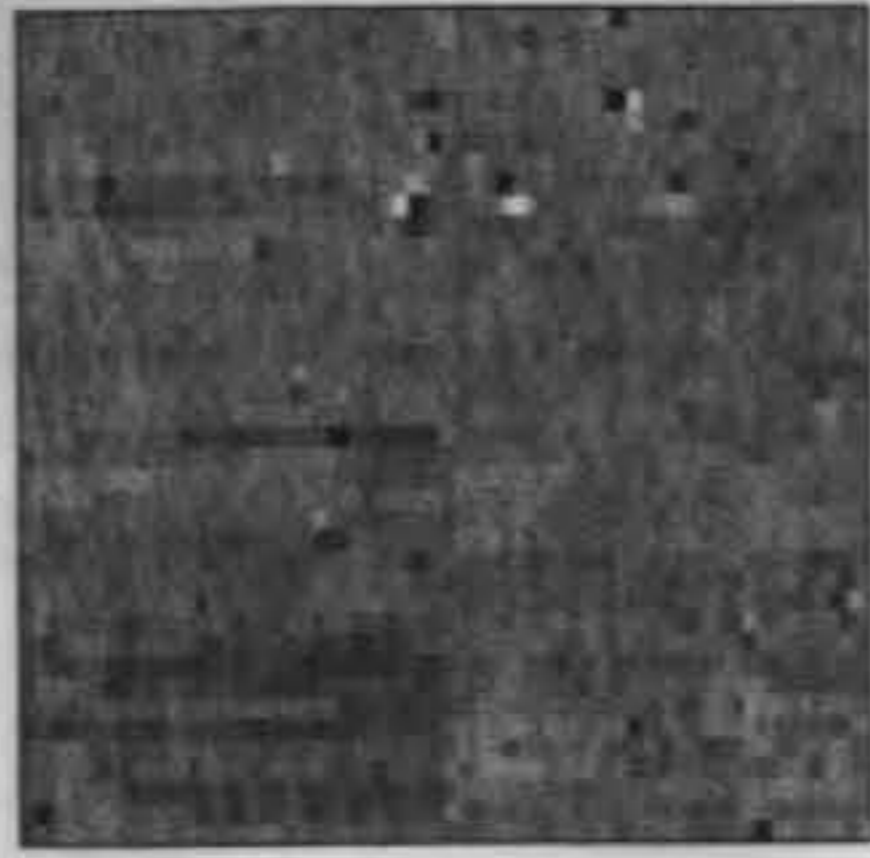


Fig.17

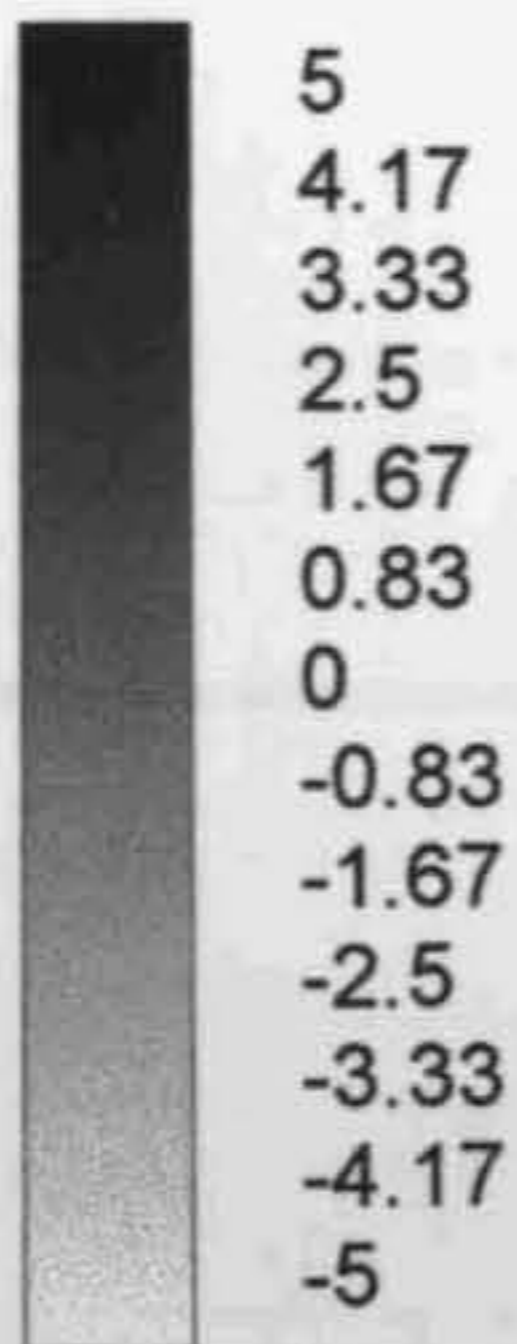
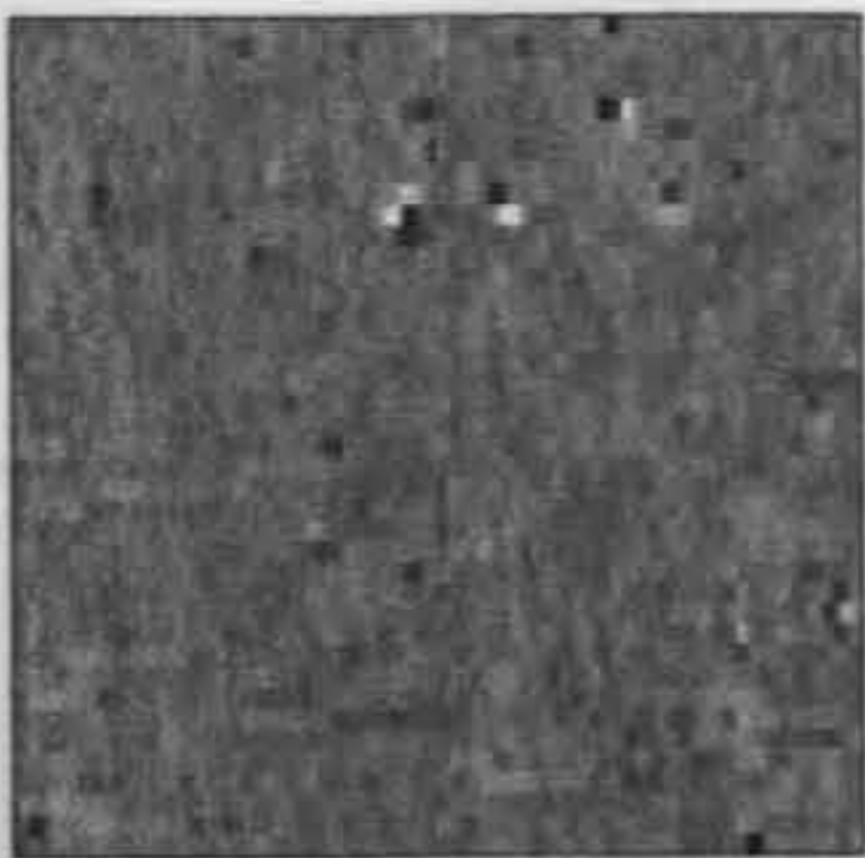
Sample Grid C - Raw and enhanced grey scale plot



nT



40m

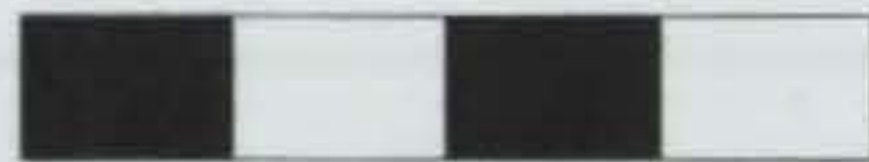
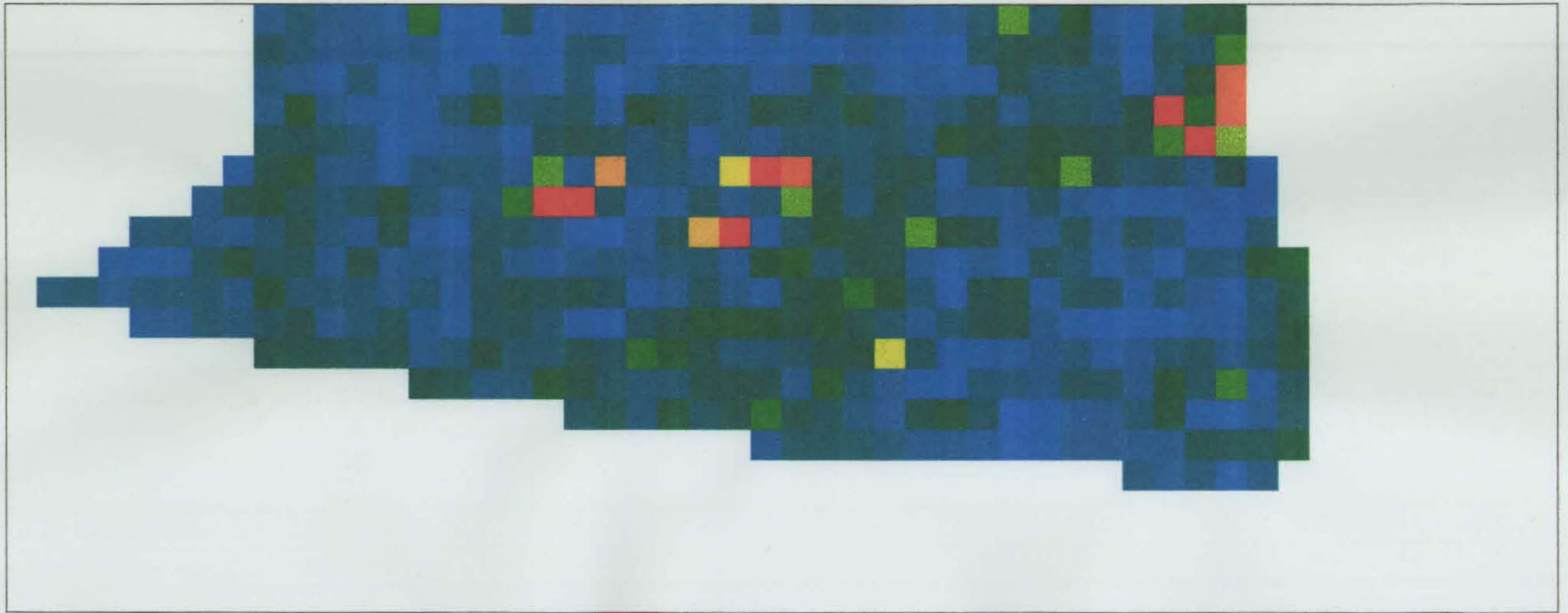


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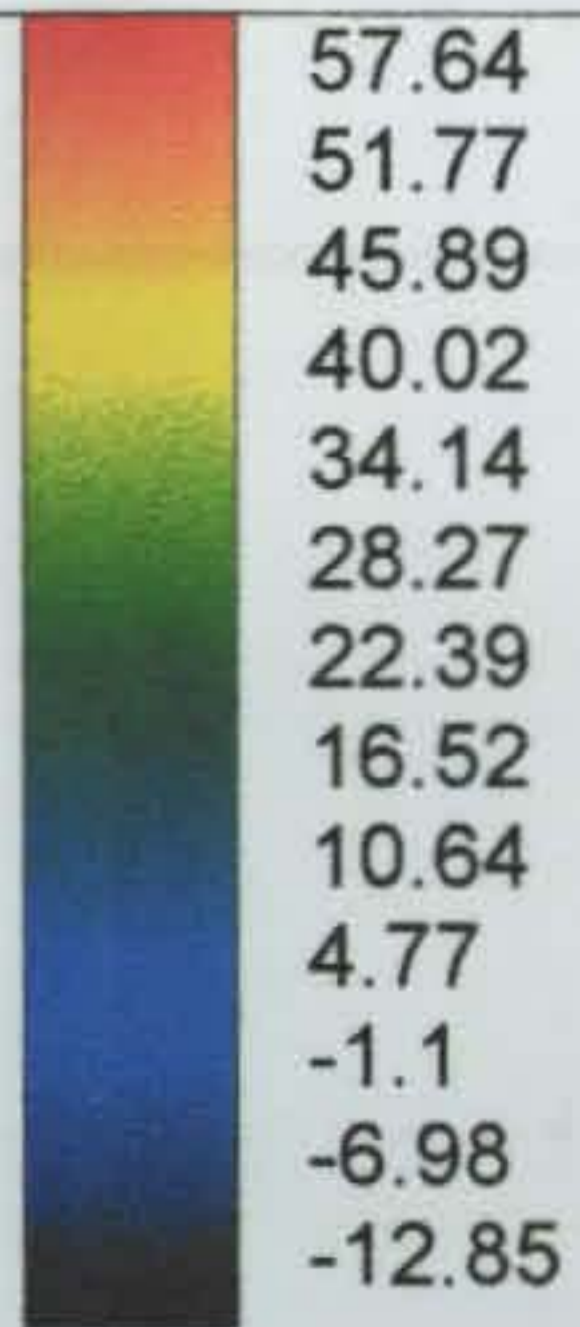


Fig. 18

Field D - Raw data plot



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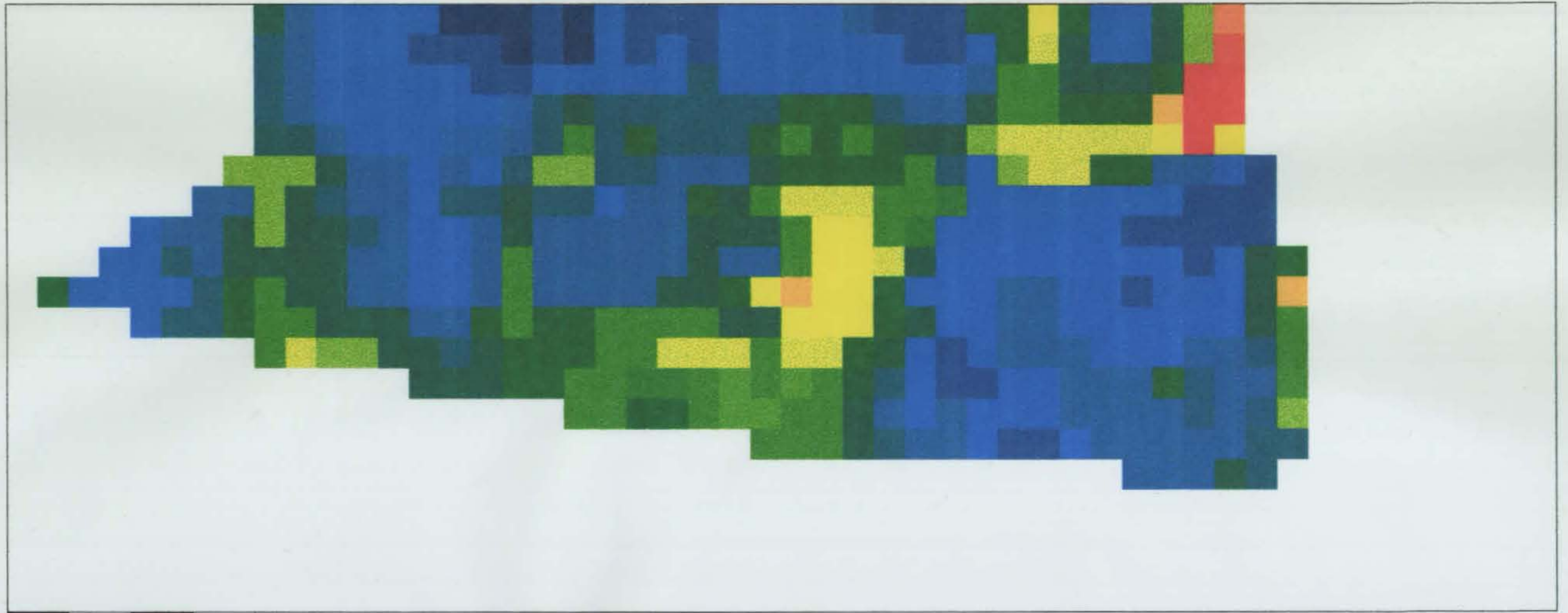
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16.52
10.64
4.77
-1.1
-6.98
-12.85

SI units

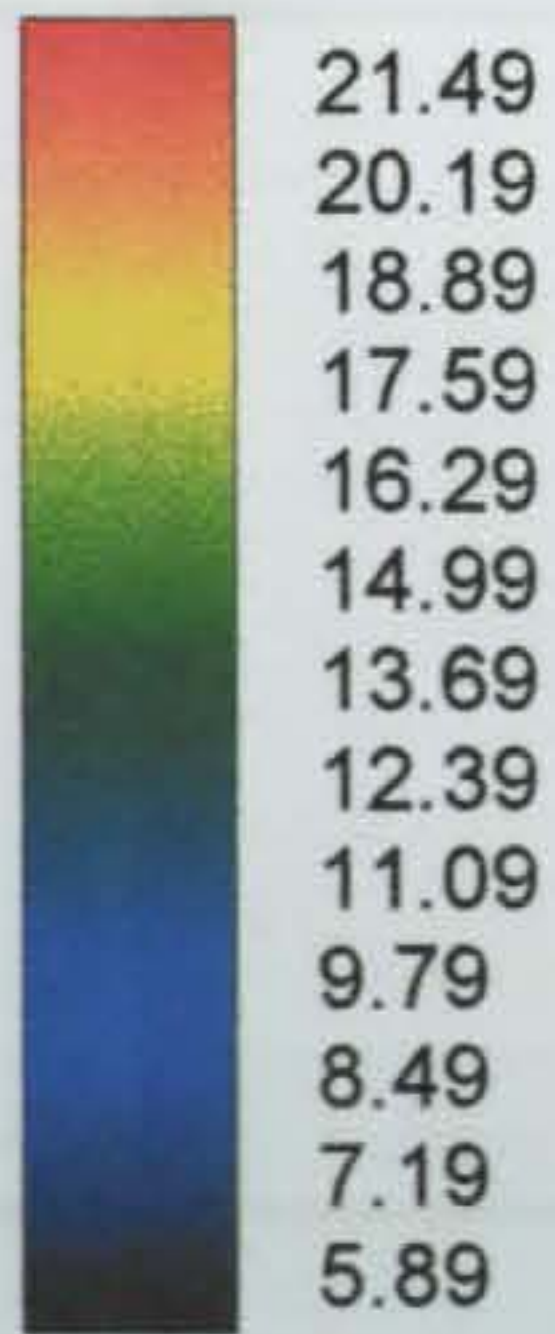


Fig.19

Field D - Filtered data plot



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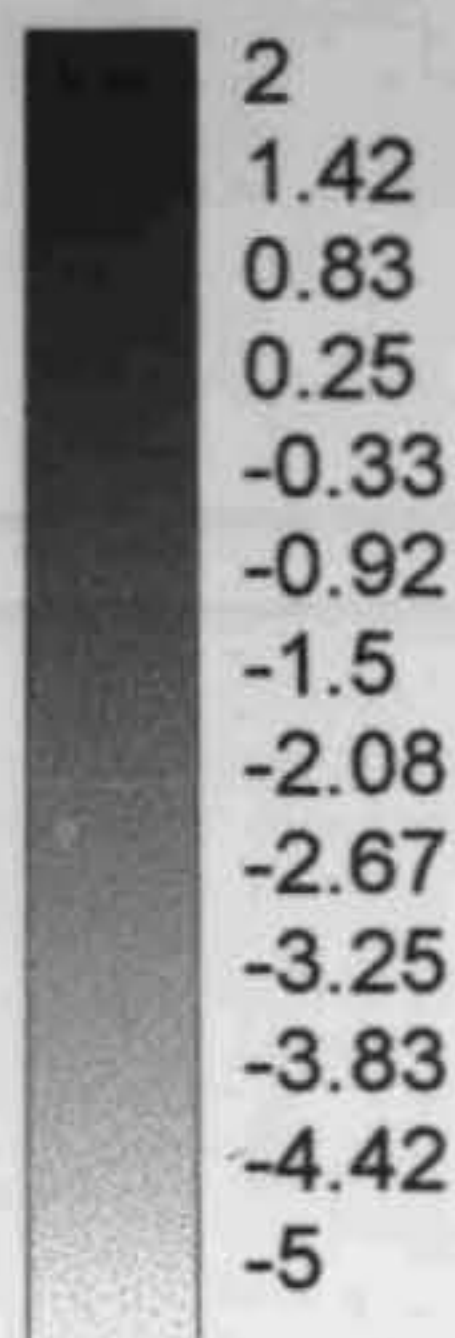
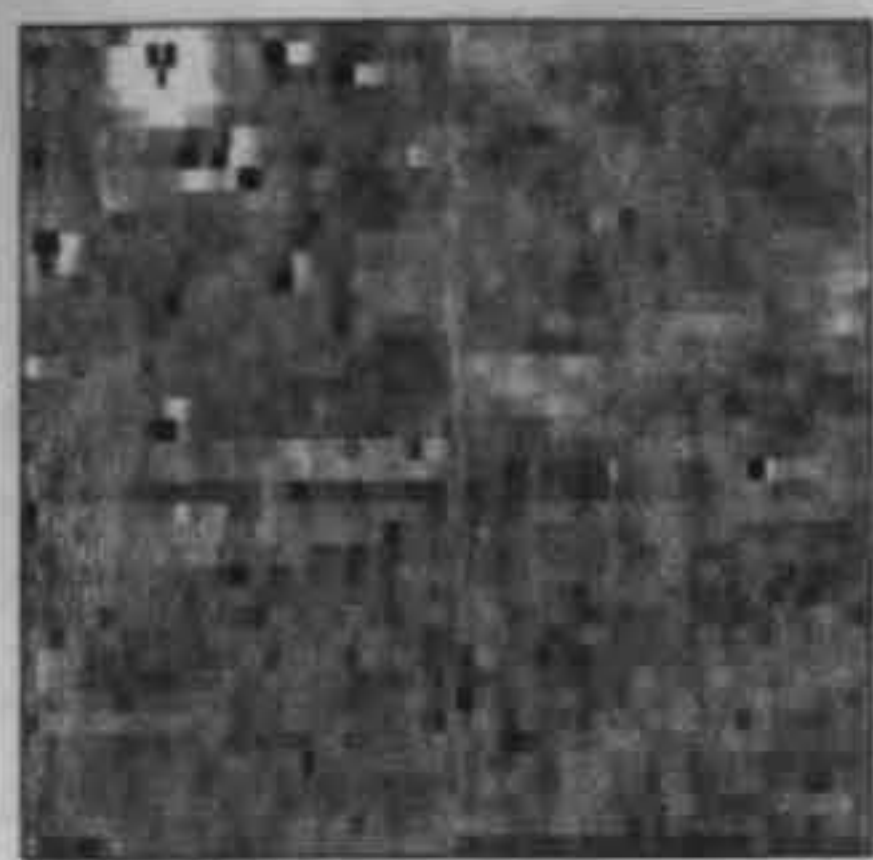


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Fig. 20

Sample Grid D - Raw and enhanced grey scale plot



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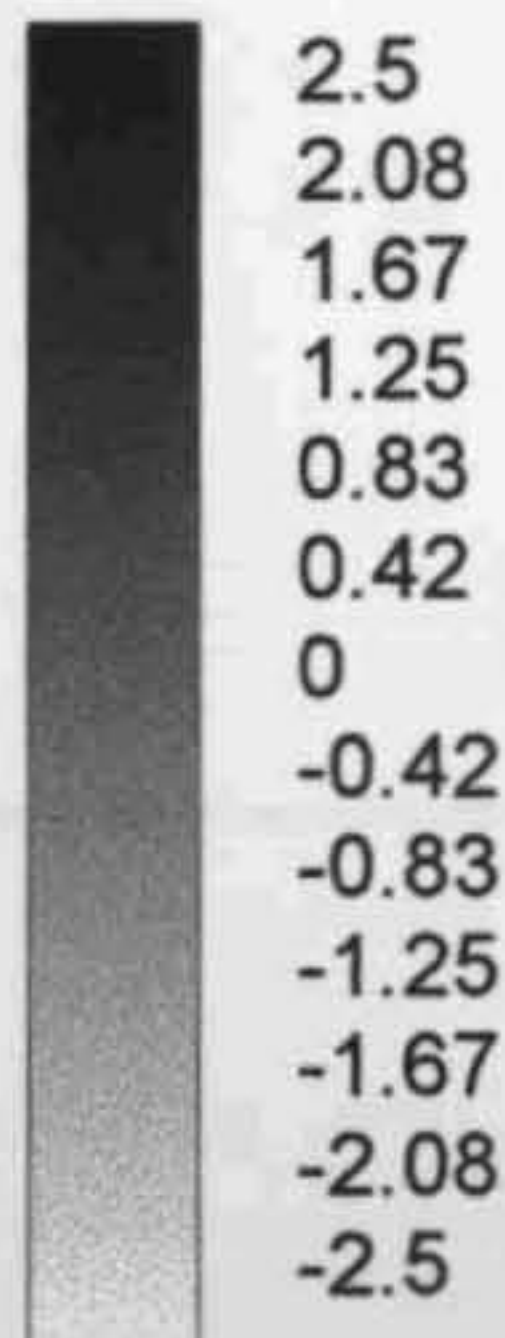
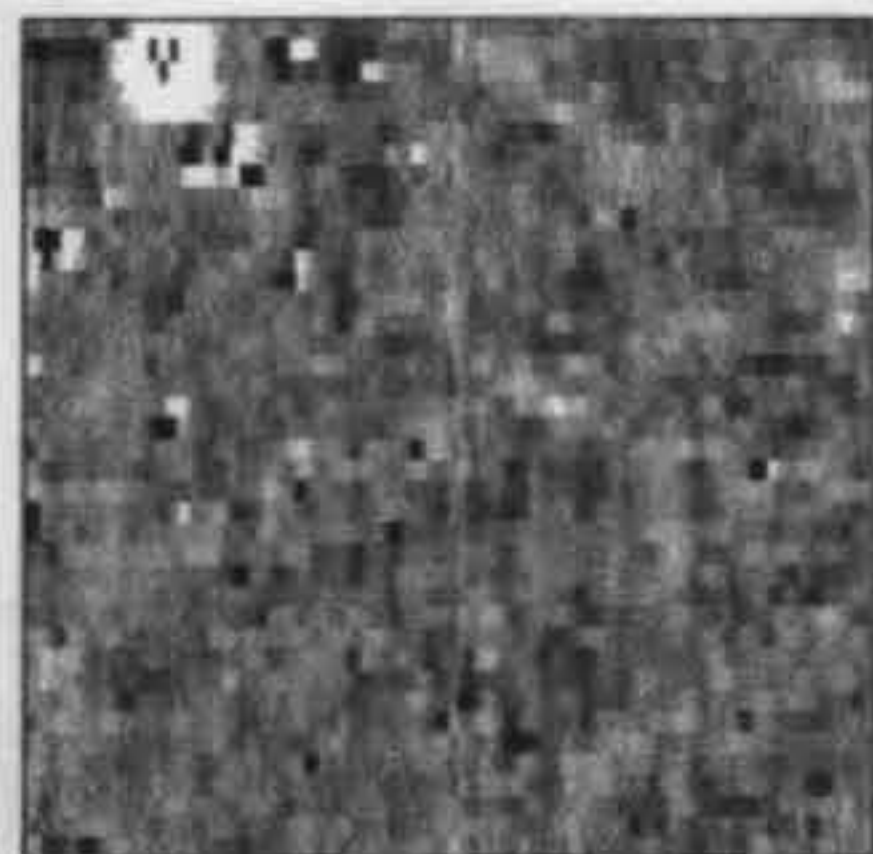
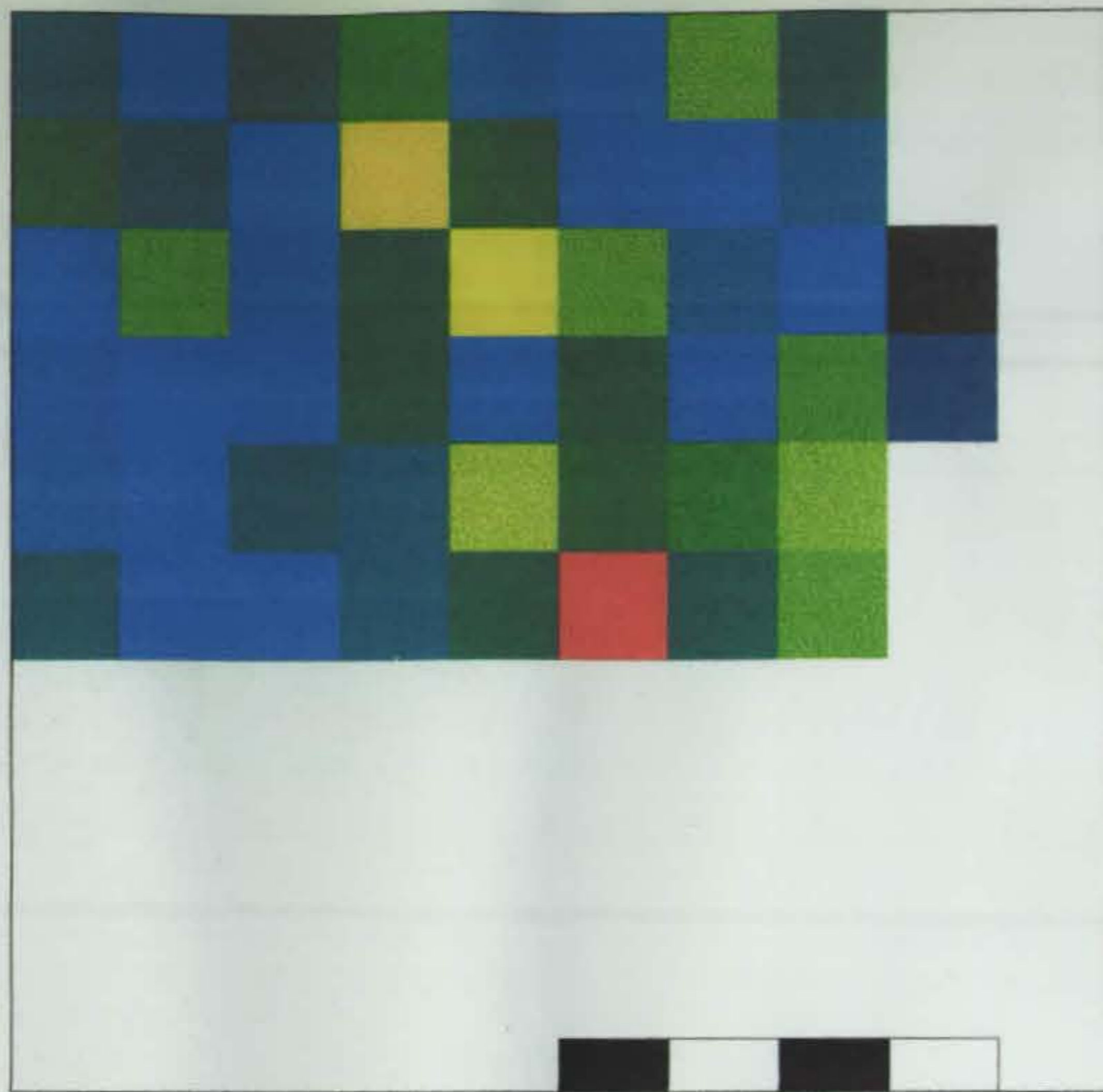


Fig. 21

Field E - Raw and filtered data plots

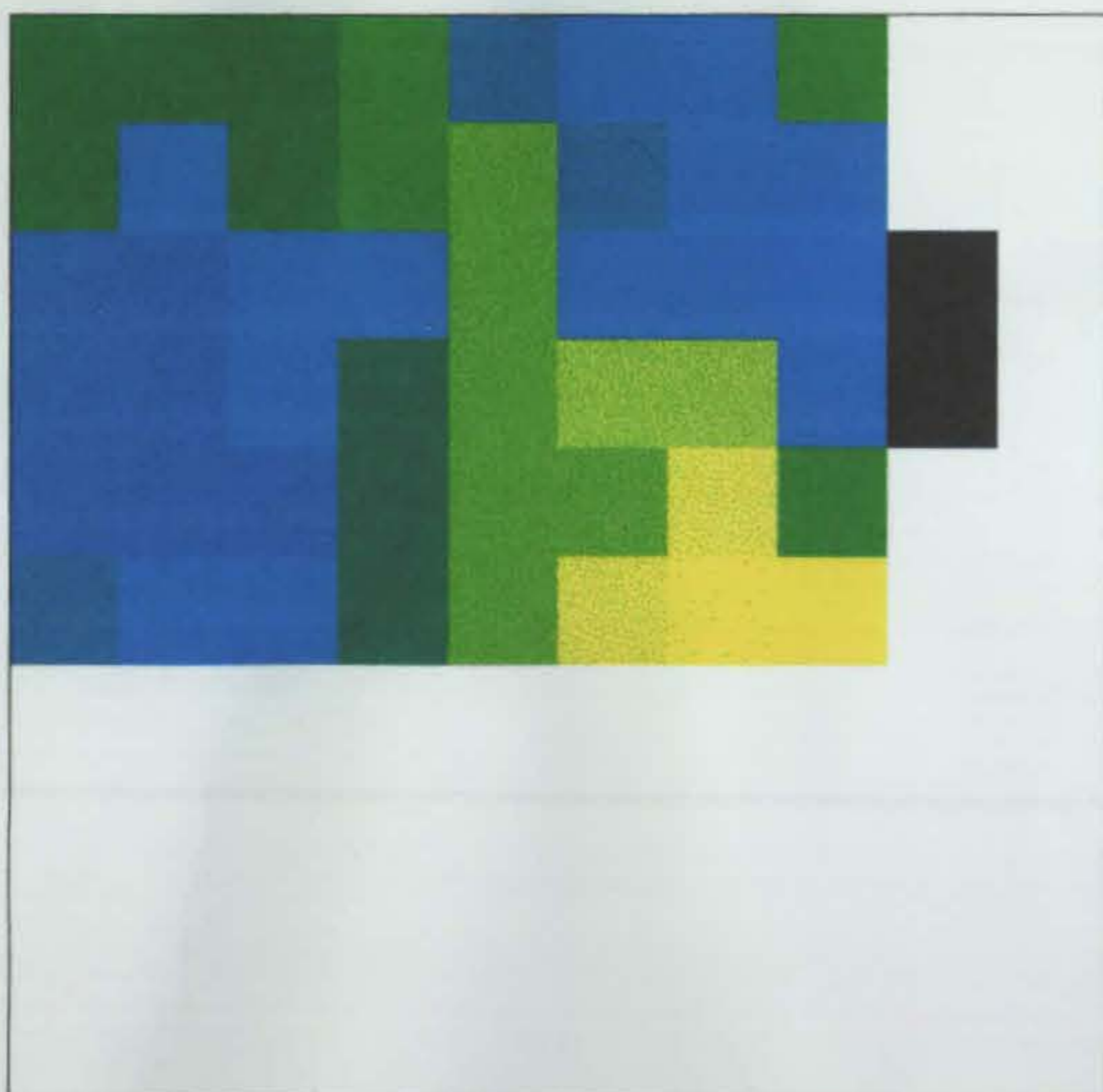
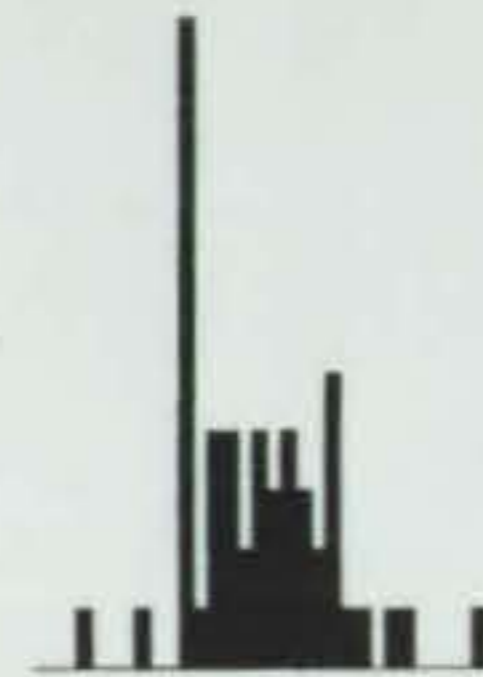


40m



0 0

SI units



0 0

SI units

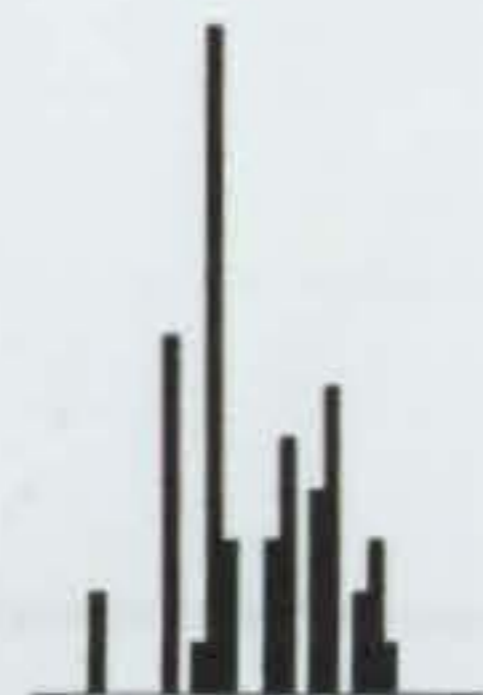
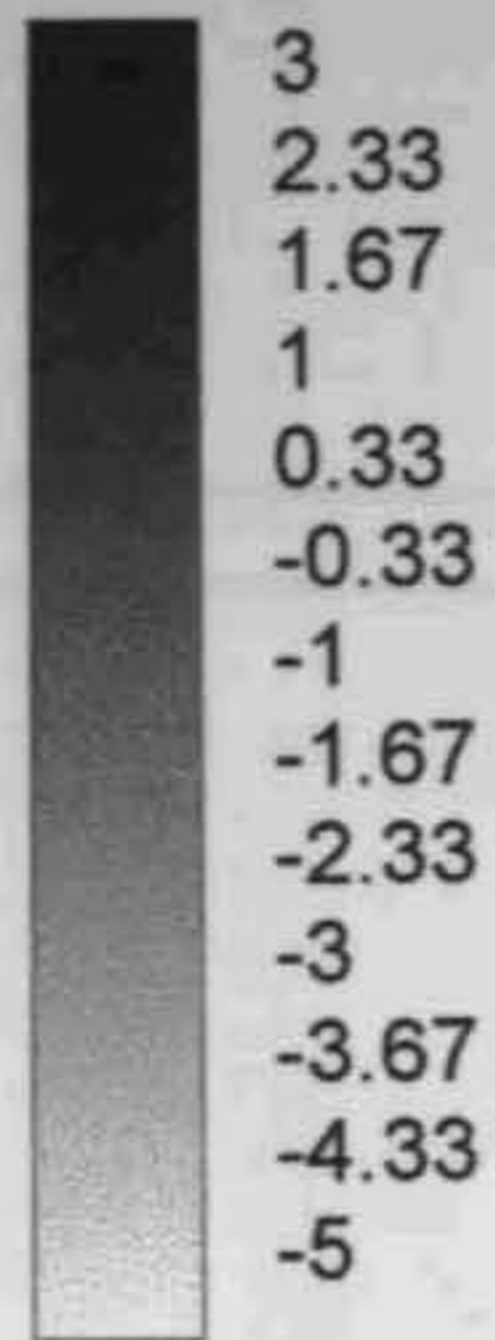
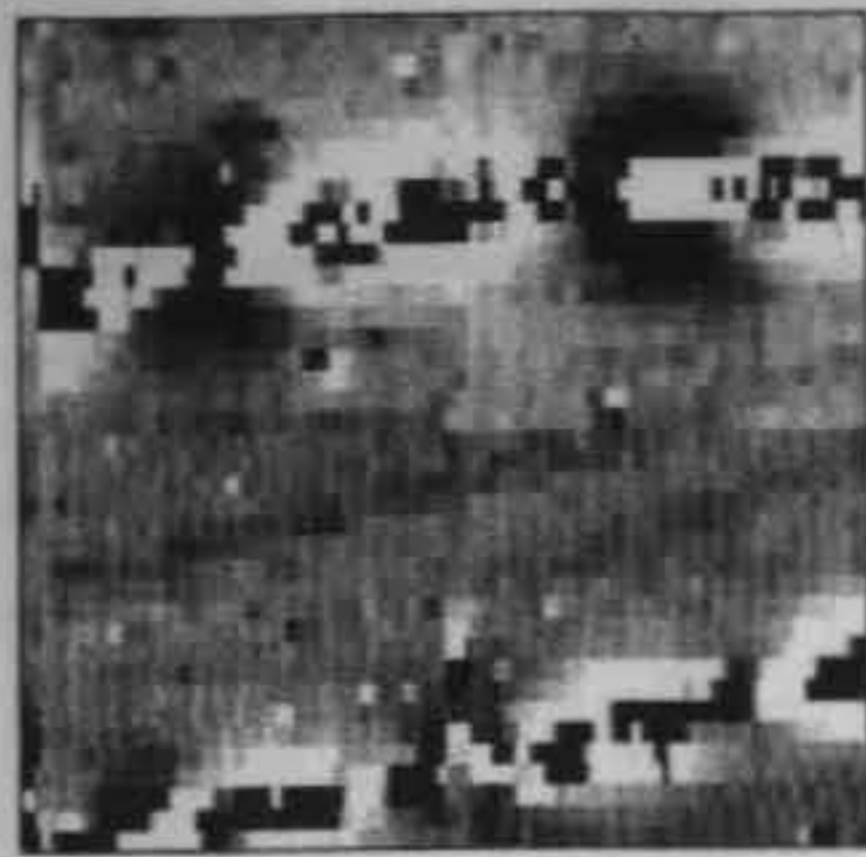


Fig. 22

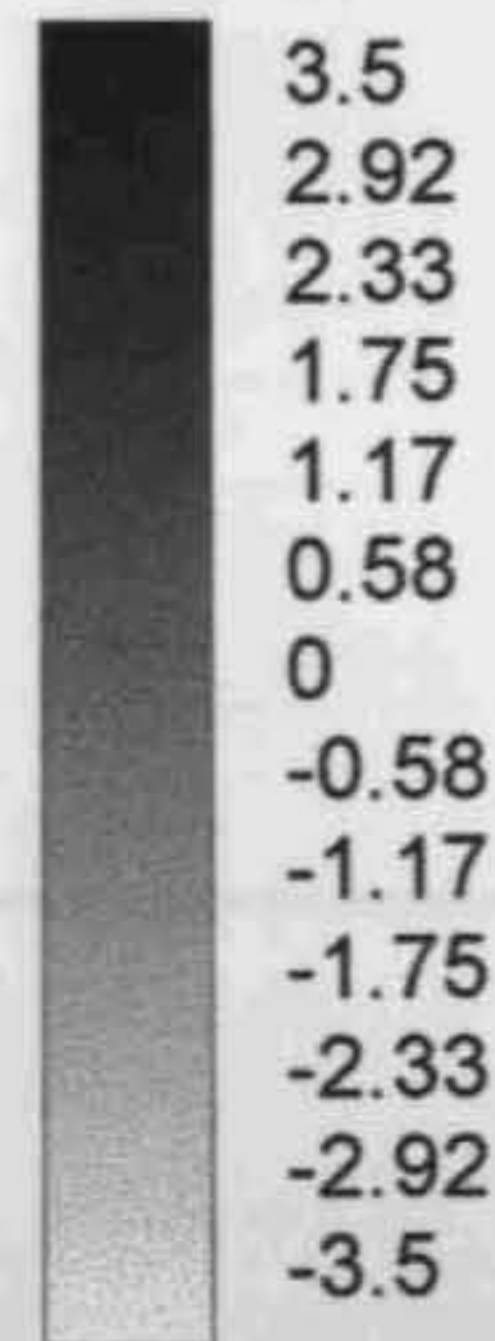
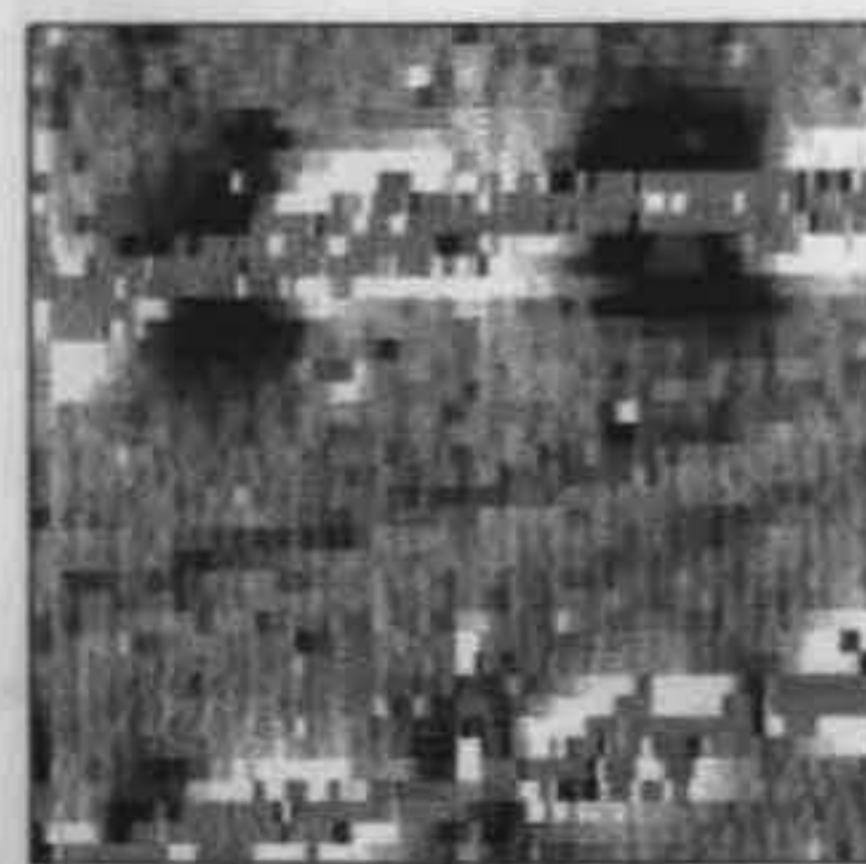
Sample Grid E - Raw and enhanced grey scale plots



nT



40m



nT



Fig. 23

Field F - Raw and filtered data

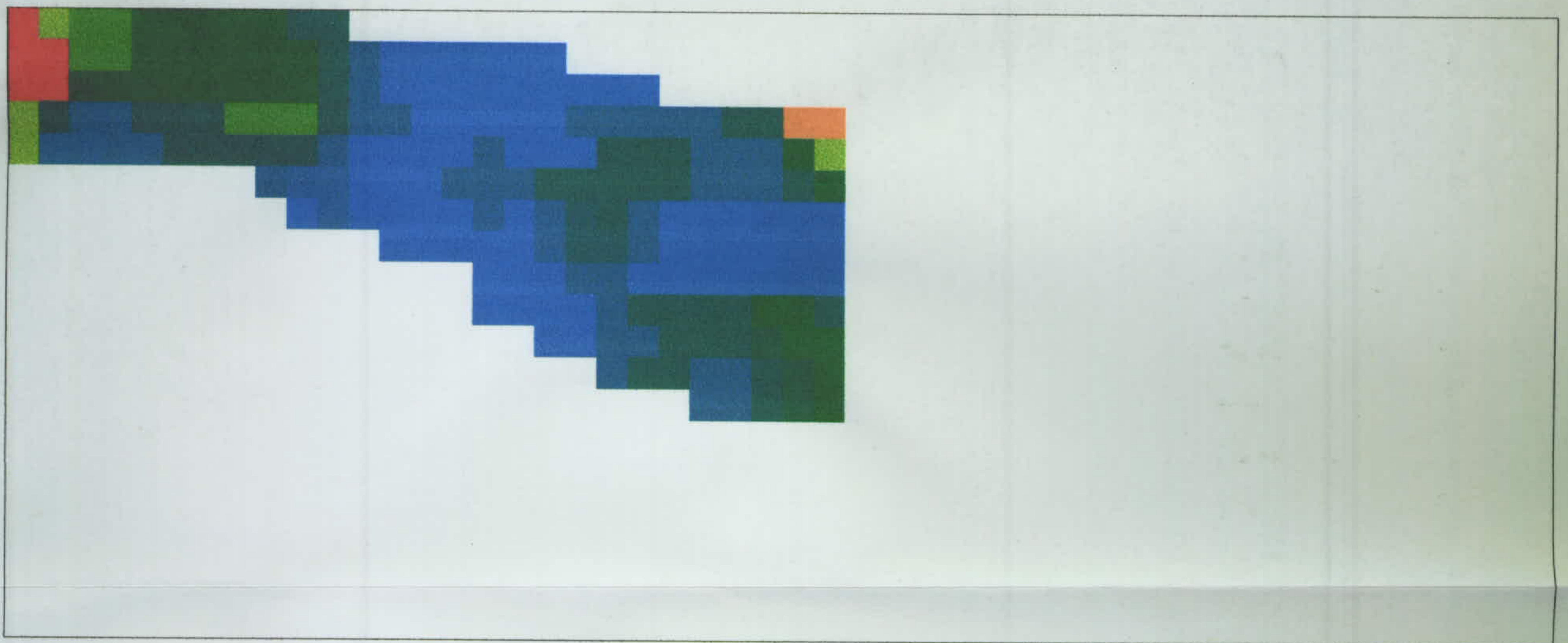
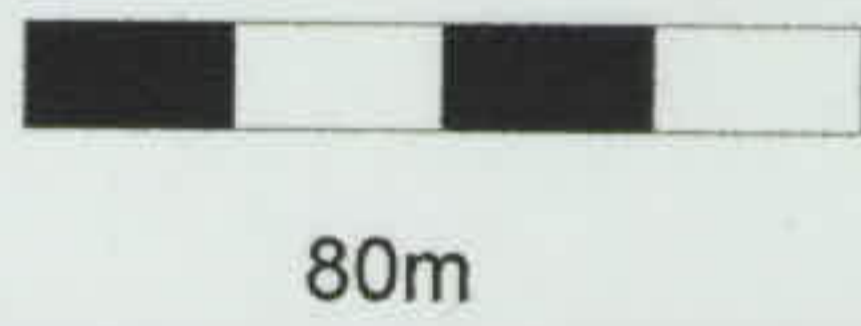
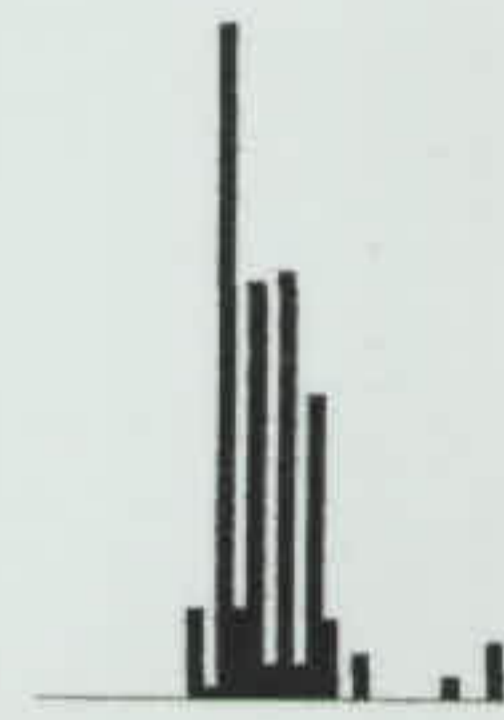
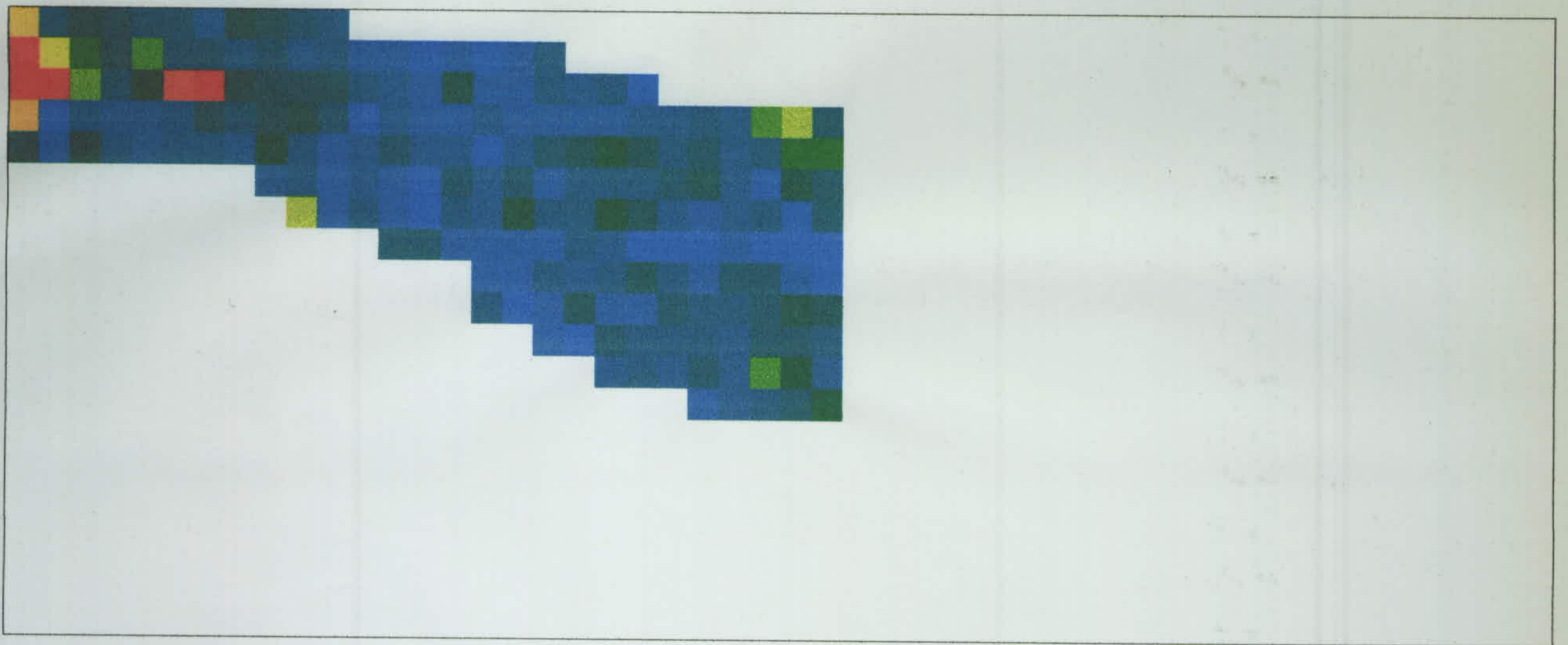


Fig. 24