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Results of an Archaeological Evaluation Excavation of the northern part of Mawsley New Village, Cransley, Northamptonshire

NGR SP 808 760

prepared by

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on behalf of

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JSAC 531/00/011
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Site Code : MNV00 P2



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of the northern part of Mawsley New Village, Cransley, Northamptonshire**

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Summary

Alfred McAlpine Homes (Midlands) Ltd. are proposing the development of 103ha of land between the villages of Great Cransley, Loddington and Old and is centred on NGR SP 808 760.

A desk-based archaeological assessment, geophysical survey, fieldwalking survey, trial trenching and area excavation were carried out on land at Mawsley New Village, Cransley Lodge, Northamptonshire by John Samuels Archaeological Consultants on behalf of Alfred McAlpine Homes Midlands Ltd from April to December 1999. A two stage geophysical survey and fieldwalking survey were undertaken to further assess the likelihood of significant archaeology surviving. Based on this work, a trial trench evaluation was undertaken, with a total of 43 trenches being excavated in the southern part of the proposed development area. The trial trenching in this area provided largely negative results, indicating a very poor state of preservation, to the extent of destruction of features.

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken on land in the northern part of the New Village, prior to planning permission being granted, to complete the trial trenching phase of archaeological work at Mawsley New Village. A geophysical survey of the area had previously been undertaken and had identified areas of archaeological interest. This phase of field evaluation has confirmed the results of the geophysical survey and has identified remains dating from the Iron Age and Romano-British periods. Of particular interest is the area surrounding Cransley Lodge which had tentatively been identified through geophysical survey as representing an Iron Age/Romano-British farmstead. The field evaluation has confirmed this assumption by recording occupation debris and features dated to these periods.

Further excavation is required to fully establish the nature of the settlement and to record its full extent. It is expected that area excavation would increase our understanding of diet, animal and crop husbandry, and industrial activities taking place at the site and the development of settlement during the Iron Age and Romano-British periods.

1.0 Introduction

1.1 Site Location and Topography

1.1.1 The study area is situated located in the centre of a triangle formed by the villages of Great Cransley, Loddington and old and is centred on NGR SP 808 760 (see Figure 1). The site is bounded primarily by agricultural land, with the area proposed for development covering a total area of approximately 103ha of agricultural and pasture land.

1.1.2 The site lies at the head of a south-west to north-east facing valley, which drains into the River Ise. The site is situated within a gently rolling landscape. At its highest, the land is situated at an approximate height of 144m above ordnance datum at the southern boundary and falls away to 123m above ordnance datum at the northwestern corner of the site, towards Cransley Lodge.

1.2 Planning Background

1.2.1 Alfred McAlpine Homes (Midlands) Ltd. commissioned *John Samuels Archaeological Consultants* to undertake a desk-based assessment to identify any archaeological remains in advance of the development of the site. A brief was produced for archaeological investigation by Northamptonshire Heritage.

1.2.2 The desk-based assessment (*JSAC 531/99/001*) revealed that there was a possibility of archaeological remains surviving within the proposed development area. It was recommended that a geophysical survey of the site should be carried out and has now been completed. Fieldwalking, trial trenching and area excavation (*JSAC 531/00/006*) have been undertaken across areas which were deemed suitable or of archaeological potential. Very little artefactual material was retrieved during fieldwalking and few features of archaeological interest were identified during trial trenching or excavation.

1.3 Fieldwork and Post-excavation

1.3.1 The fieldwork was undertaken during May 2000 by Jenny Young BA and Martin Griffiths BA, under the direction of Dan Slatcher, BA, MA, AIFA and John Samuels BA, PhD, FSA, MIFA. Site conditions were generally wet with occasional dry and sunny weather.

1.3.2 The post-excavation analysis and report preparation was undertaken by Jenny Young. Specialist reports were prepared by Paul Blinkhorn, Tora Hylton and James Rackham respectively (see Appendices B and C). This assessment was written by Jenny Young in consultation with Dan Slatcher, BA, MA, AIFA.

2.0 Archaeological Background

- 2.1 The new village is situated in a landscape which was inhabited during the Iron Age and Roman periods. Groups of cropmarks to the east of New Lodge, 250 metres east of the new village area may represent activity dating to these periods. The cropmarks in the southern part of the new village are also likely to represent Iron Age or Roman period enclosures. The new village may also be located just outside the edge of a major Anglo-Saxon period estate. However, place-name evidence indicates that the area was heavily wooded at the time and it is unlikely that there was anything other than small-scale settlement in the area. Medieval occupation in the area was probably focussed outside the north-western boundary of the new village site.

3.0 Methodology and Objectives

- 3.1 A specification for the work (JSAC 531/00/009, see appendix D) was agreed with Northamptonshire Heritage. Trenches 26, 27 and 28 were agreed as a variation on that specification and were excavated to further assess the geophysical anomalies in field 1 and to verify the results of the previous evaluation.
- 3.2 Trenches were located in relation to the areas of known or suspected archaeology identified by the initial assessment, geophysical survey and subsequent trial trenching evaluation and area excavation. Their precise dimensions and locations are detailed in Figure 2. A total of 28 trenches were excavated.
- 3.3 Topsoil and overburden was removed by a 360° mechanical excavator, with a toothless ditching bucket measuring approximately 1.6 metres in width. The spoil generated during the evaluation was mounded around the edges of each trench with topsoil being kept separate from other excavated material. The excavation ceased when either undisturbed natural deposits or when archaeological features were identified. The nature of these deposits was assessed by hand excavation. Excavation of archaeological features exposed was undertaken as far as was required, to determine their date, sequence, density and nature.
- 3.4 The objective of the evaluation was to determine the presence or otherwise of buried remains of archaeological interest; and to assess the site's archaeological potential in order to allow the Local Planning Authority to make an informed decision regarding its suitability for development.
- 3.5 Further aims included:
- i. to assess the nature, date, density, extent, function and state of preservation of archaeological remains identified;
 - ii. to assess their potential for answering questions about the development of land use in the region.

4.0 Results

4.1 A total of 28 trenches were machine excavated and measured approximately either 10m or 20m in length. The soil was removed in spits and excavation ceased when either archaeological or natural deposits were encountered. All the trenches were cleaned, photographed and all archaeological features were hand excavated and recorded, based on the MOLAS recording system. A context summary appears as Appendix A. The trench locations are illustrated in Figures 2 - 7.

4.2 Trench 1 (Figure 4)

4.2.1 Trench 1 measured 2m wide by 9m long and was excavated to a depth of 0.9m. A layer of topsoil comprising a mid greyish brown silty clay loam (100) was recorded to a depth of 0.35m below the present ground surface. The topsoil sealed a 0.5m thick layer of yellowish brown silty clay (101) which represents the subsoil. Below the subsoil, a layer of yellowish brown silty clay and gravel (102) was recorded and represents the natural geology. Three north-south aligned field drains were recorded cutting through the natural geology. No archaeological deposits or artefacts were recovered during excavation.

4.3 Trench 2 (Figure 4)

4.3.1 Trench 2 measured 2m wide by 10m long and was excavated to a depth of 0.7m below the present ground surface. The earliest deposit recorded comprised a yellow sandy silt (201) and represents the natural geology. A field drain was recorded cutting through the natural geology. A very shallow circular cut [202] was also recorded and was cut through the natural geology. The fill of this feature comprised a black silty ash (203) containing 19th-20th century pottery. A 0.5m thick layer of topsoil sealed this feature.

4.4 Trench 3 (Figure 4)

4.4.1 Trench 3 measured 2m wide by 19.7m long and was excavated to a depth of 0.9m below the present ground surface. The earliest deposit recorded comprised a yellowish brown silty sandy gravel (301) and represents the natural geology. A 0.3m thick layer of topsoil sealed the natural geology and several field drains. No archaeological features or artefacts were recovered during excavation.

4.5 Trench 4 (Figure 4)

4.5.1 Trench 4 measured 2m wide by 10.10m long and was excavated to a depth of 0.5m below the present ground surface. The earliest deposit recorded comprised a yellowish brown silty clay with gravel (401) and represents the natural geology. An east-west aligned drainage trench with vertical sides and flat base [402] was recorded cutting through the natural geology. A 0.3m thick layer of topsoil (400) was recorded sealing the fill of drainage trench [402].

circular

*19/20
pot.*

*DF
Trench*

4.6 *Trench 5 (Figure 7)*

4.6.1 Trench 5 measured 2m wide by 20.6m long and was excavated to a depth of 0.7m below the present ground surface. The earliest deposit recorded comprised a yellowish brown silty clay with gravel (502) and represents the natural geology. A 0.4m thick layer of subsoil (501) comprising a yellowish brown silty clay sealed the natural geology and was itself sealed by a 0.3m thick layer of topsoil (500). No finds or features were recorded during excavation and cleaning of Trench 5.

4.7 *Trench 6 (Figure 7)*

4.7.1 Trench 6 measured 2m wide and 19.1m long and was excavated to a depth of 0.55m below the present ground surface. The earliest deposit recorded comprised a yellowish brown silty clay with gravel (602) and represents the natural geology. A 0.15m thick layer of subsoil (601) comprising a mid yellowish brown silty clay sealed the natural geology and was itself sealed by a 0.4m thick layer of topsoil (600). No archaeological deposits or artefacts were encountered during excavation. A field drain represents the only human disturbance recorded within this trench.

4.8 *Trench 7 (Figure 7)*

4.8.1 Trench 7 measured 2m wide and 19.4m long and was excavated to a depth of 0.5m below the present ground surface. The earliest deposit recorded comprised a yellowish brown silty clay with gravel (702) and represents the natural geology. A 0.25m thick layer of subsoil (701) comprising a yellowish brown silty clay sealed the natural geology and was itself sealed by a 0.25m thick layer of topsoil (700). No archaeological finds or features were recorded during excavation of Trench 7.

4.9 *Trench 8 (Figure 7)*

4.9.1 Trench 8 measured 2m wide by 19.5m long and was excavated to a depth of 0.5m below the present ground surface. The earliest deposit recorded comprised a yellowish brown silty clay with gravel (802) and represents the natural geology. A layer of subsoil (801) comprising a yellowish brown silty clay sealed the natural geology and was itself sealed by a 0.25m thick layer of topsoil (800). No archaeological artefacts or deposits were encountered during machine excavation of the trench. The presence of a modern field drain represents the only human disturbance within the trench.

4.10 *Trench 9 (Figure 7)*

4.10.1 Trench 9 measured 2m wide by 19.7m long and was excavated to a depth of 0.8m below the present ground surface. The earliest deposits recorded comprised a yellowish brown silty clay with gravel (902) and a firm yellowish orange sand (903), and both represent the natural geology. A layer of subsoil (901) comprising a yellowish brown silty clay sealed the natural geology and was itself sealed by a 0.4m thick layer of topsoil (900). No finds

or features of archaeological interest were recorded during excavation of this trench. After heavy rain, Trench 9 also flooded.

4.11 *Trench 10* (Figure 7)

4.11.1 Trench 10 measured 2m wide by 17.4m long and was excavated to depth of 0.5m below the present ground surface. The earliest deposit recorded comprised a yellowish brown silty clay with gravel (1008). Two east-west aligned parallel linear features with concave sides and base ([1005] & [1011]) were recorded cutting through the natural geology (see Figures 8 & 9). The fills of both these features were very similar in colour and content, with both fills comprising a light greenish grey silty clay (1004) and (1010) respectively. The relationship between the two was unclear because of the identical fills although one sherd of pottery of possible Iron Age date was retrieved from deposit (1010).

4.11.2 A shallow oval pit with concave sides and base [1003] was recorded cutting through the top of deposit (1004) (see Figures 8 & 10). The fill of this pit comprised a greyish green silty clay (1002) and contained seven sherds of residual Iron Age pottery and one sherd of greyware dated possibly to the 1st-2nd centuries A.D.

4.11.3 A further feature [1007] was partially revealed within the trench and was recorded cutting through the natural geology. The function of this feature is unclear but it was revealed on partial excavation, to be a shallow feature. The fill of this cut comprised a firm, reddish brown black burnt clay (1006) and represents a period of burning.

4.11.4 All archaeological features were sealed by a 0.2m thick layer of subsoil comprising a light yellowish brown silty clay (1001). A layer of topsoil (1000) sealed this deposit.

4.12 *Trench 11* (Figure 7)

4.12.1 Trench 11 measured 2m wide by 20.8m long and was excavated to a depth of 0.3m below the present ground surface. The earliest deposit encountered comprised a mid reddish brown silty clay (1101) and represents the natural geology. Three linear features were recorded cutting through the natural geology (see Figure 11).

4.12.2 An east-west aligned linear cut with a concave base [1103] was recorded cutting through the natural geology (see Figure 11 & 12). The fill of this feature comprised a dark greyish black silty clay (1102) and contained sherds of Belgic type wares, greyware and shell-gritted ware which date from the 1st century A.D.

4.12.3 A second linear cut [1105] was recorded cutting through the natural geology and was recorded on a northeast-southwest alignment (see Figures 11 & 13). This feature had concave sides and base and contained a dark brownish grey silty clay fill (1104). Pottery recovered from this deposit during excavation dates from the Iron Age and the 1st-4th centuries A.D.

- 4.12.4 A third linear cut [1109] on a north-south alignment, was recorded cutting through the natural geology (see Figures 11 & 14). The primary fill of this feature comprised a mid yellowish brown silty clay (1108) which was overlain by a dark greyish brown silty clay (1107). The tertiary fill of this feature comprised a mid reddish brown silty clay (1106). Nene Valley Colour-Coated ware dated to the mid 3rd-4th century was retrieved from the primary fill (1108). Residual fragments of Iron Age and 1st century A.D. pottery sherds were retrieved from the secondary and tertiary fills of ditch [1109].
- 4.12.5 All these archaeological features were overlain by a 0.3m thick layer of ploughsoil comprising a mid greyish brown silty clay (1100).
- 4.13 *Trench 12* (Figure 7)
- 4.13.1 Trench 12 measured 2m wide by 19m long and was excavated to a depth of 0.25m below the present ground surface. The earliest deposit encountered comprised a mid reddish brown silty clay (1201) and represents the natural geology. This deposit was sealed by a 0.25m thick layer of ploughsoil (1200). No archaeological artefacts or features were identified within the trench.
- 4.14 *Trench 13* (Figure 3)
- 4.14.1 Trench 13 measured 2m wide by 19.9m long and was excavated to a depth of 0.3m below the present ground surface. The earliest deposit encountered comprised a yellowish white brown silty clay with sand (1301) and represents the natural geology. A north-south aligned linear cut with straight sides and a flat base [1302] was recorded cutting through the natural geology and represents a modern drainage trench. This feature and its fill was sealed by a 0.3m thick layer of ploughsoil (1300). No archaeological artefacts or features were identified within the trench.
- 4.15 *Trench 14* (Figure 4)
- 4.15.1 Trench 14 measured 2m wide by 9m long and was excavated to a depth of 0.3m below the present ground surface. The earliest deposit encountered during excavation comprised a yellowish brown silty clay with gravel (1401). A southeast-northwest aligned linear cut with concave sides and base [1402] was recorded cutting through the natural geology. A single fill comprising a greyish brown silty clay loam (1403) was contained within this feature. No archaeological finds were retrieved during excavation of [1402] but it is thought that this cut represents a furrow of agricultural origin.
- 4.15.2 A 0.3m thick layer of topsoil comprising a mid greyish brown silty clay loam (1400) was recorded sealing archaeological deposit (1403).
- 4.16 *Trench 15* (Figure 4)
- 4.16.1 Trench 15 measured 2m wide by 9.6m long and was excavated to a depth of 0.25m below

the present ground surface. The earliest deposit encountered during excavation comprised a yellowish brown white silty clay with gravel (1501). A shallow southeast-northwest aligned linear cut with concave sides and a flattish base [1502] was recorded cutting through the natural geology. A single fill, comprising a greyish brown silty clay loam (1503) was contained within this feature. No archaeological finds were retrieved during excavation of [1502] but it is thought that given the dimensions (2.2m wide x 0.09m deep) and profile of this feature, it represents a furrow of agricultural origin.

4.16.2 A 0.22m thick layer of topsoil comprising a mid greyish brown silty clay loam (1500) was recorded sealing archaeological deposit (1503).

4.17 *Trench 16* (Figure 5)

4.17.1 Trench 16 measured 2m wide by 19.8m long and was excavated to a depth of 0.65m below the present ground surface. The earliest deposit encountered comprised a yellowish brown silty clay with gravel (1602) and represents the natural geology. A 0.5m thick layer of subsoil comprising a yellowish brown silty clay (1601) was recorded sealing the natural geology and was itself sealed by a layer topsoil under grass (1600). No archaeological features or artefacts were retrieved during excavation or cleaning of this trench.

4.18 *Trench 17* (Figure 7)

4.18.1 Trench 17 measured 2m wide by 20m long and was excavated to a depth of 0.30m. The earliest deposit encountered during excavation comprised a yellowish brown white silty clay with gravel (1701). A shallow east-west aligned linear cut with concave sides and a flattish base [1702] was recorded cutting through the natural geology. A single fill, comprising a greyish brown silty clay loam (1703) was contained within this feature. A further linear cut, also with concave sides and base [1704], was also recorded cutting through the natural geology and contained a fill very similar to (1705). No archaeological finds were retrieved during excavation of [1702] or [1704] but it is thought that these cuts represent furrows of agricultural origin.

4.18.2 A 0.25m thick layer of topsoil comprising a mid greyish brown silty clay loam (1700) was recorded sealing archaeological deposits (1703) and (1705).

4.19 *Trench 18* (Figure 7)

4.19.1 Trench 18 measured 2m wide by 19.4m long and was excavated to a depth of 0.2m. The earliest deposit encountered during excavation of this trench comprised a yellowish brown silty clay gravel (1801) and was sealed by a 0.1m thick layer of topsoil (1800). No archaeological artefacts or deposits were encountered during excavation or cleaning of this trench.

4.20 *Trench 19* (Figure 7)

- 4.20.1 Trench 19 was excavated to a width of 2m and length 19.8m. The earliest deposit encountered during excavation of this trench comprised a yellowish brown silty clay gravel (1902) and represents the natural geology. A series of linear and curvilinear cuts were recorded cutting through the natural geology (see Figure 15).
- 4.20.2 The possible terminus end of an east-west aligned linear cut with concave sides and base [1919] was recorded cutting through the natural geology (see Figure 16). The fill of this cut comprised a mid greyish brown silty clay (1918) containing a single sherd of possible Iron Age pottery.
- 4.20.3 The fill of this feature was cut by a curvilinear cut [1911] which contained a mid reddish brown silty clay with iron panning (1910) (see Figure 17). Eight sherds of Iron Age pottery were recovered during excavation of this feature along with one sherd of greyware dated to the 1st-2nd centuries A.D.
- 4.20.4 Three linear cuts truncated the fill of curvilinear cut [1911] (see Figure 15). The first of these cuts comprised a northwest-southeast aligned linear cut with concave sides and base [1909] which contained a mid greyish brown silty clay fill (1908) (see Figure 18). Thirteen sherds of Iron Age pottery were retrieved during excavation along with one sherd of greyware dated to the 1st-2nd century A.D.
- 4.20.5 The terminus end of a linear cut with concave sides and base [1915] was also recorded cutting through deposit (1908)(see Figures 15 & 19). The fill of this feature comprised a firm, dark greyish brown silty clay (1914) but contained no dating evidence.
- 4.20.6 A third feature also cut through deposit (1908) and comprised the western edge of a possible north-south aligned linear feature [1913] (see Figure 20). This feature was only partially excavated due to the limits of the trench. No dating evidence was recovered from the fill of this feature during excavation.
- 4.20.7 Four further linear features were recorded on an east-west alignment and were cut through the natural geology. One of these, [1921] comprised the terminus end of a ditch which had concave sides and base and lay parallel to [1919] (see Figures 11 & 17). No dating evidence was retrieved during excavation of this feature.
- 4.20.8 Another east-west aligned linear feature [1917] was recorded at the northern end of the trench and measured approximately 1.5m wide. The fill of this feature comprised a mid brown silty clay (1916) but contained no dating evidence. This feature has been interpreted as representing a plough furrow.
- 4.20.9 A further furrow [1907] has also been recorded within Trench 19 and is located towards the southern end of the trench cutting through the natural geology. Like feature [1917], [1907] is an east-west aligned linear cut with concave sides and base and with a general width of approximately 1.5m. The fill of this feature comprised a greyish brown silty clay (1906) but contained no dating evidence.

- 4.20. At the most southerly end of the trench, a fourth east-west aligned linear feature [1905] with concave sides and base was recorded cutting through the natural geology (see Figures 11 & 21). The primary fill of this feature comprised a brownish black pebble, flints, stones and gravels mix (1904) but contained no dating evidence. The upper fill of this feature (1903) comprised a mid brown silty clay which contained a single sherd of 1st-2nd century A.D. greyware.
- 4.20 All archaeological features were sealed by a 0.35m thick layer of firm, yellowish brown silty clay (1901) which represents subsoil. A 0.2m thick sealing deposit of mid greyish brown topsoil (1900) overlay the subsoil.
- 4.21 *Trench 20* (Figure 5)
- 4.21.1 Trench 20 measured 2m wide by 9.8m long and was excavated to a depth of 0.4m. The earliest deposit encountered during excavation of this trench comprised a yellowish white silty clay with gravel (2001) and represents the natural geology. A 0.15m thick layer of topsoil comprising a greyish brown silty clay loam was recorded sealing the natural geology. No archaeological deposits or artefacts were recovered during excavation.
- 4.22 *Trench 21* (Figure 5)
- 4.22.1 Trench 21 measured 2m wide by 10.1m long and was excavated to a depth of 0.35m below the present ground surface. The earliest deposit encountered during excavation of this trench comprised a yellowish white silty clay with gravel (2101) and represents the natural geology. A 0.15m thick layer of topsoil comprising a greyish brown silty clay loam was recorded sealing the natural geology. No archaeological deposits or artefacts were recovered during excavation.
- 4.23 *Trench 22* (Figure 5)
- 4.23.1 Trench 22 measured 2m wide by 10.2m long and was excavated to a depth of 0.3m below the present ground surface. The earliest deposit encountered during excavation of this trench comprised a yellowish brown silty clay with flints and limestones (2202) and represents the natural geology.
- 4.23.2 Two linear features, representing plough furrow bases were recorded cutting through the natural geology. One of these features [2205] was found to be on an east-west alignment with an irregular profile. The fill of this feature comprised a mid brown silty clay (2206) and was very similar to the subsoil in nature. No dating evidence was retrieved from this deposit.
- 4.23.3 A second linear feature was recorded within the trench on a north-south alignment. This cut deposit (2206) and contained a mid brown silty clay fill (2204) which was also very similar to the subsoil in colour and content. No dating evidence was recovered from this deposit during excavation.

4.23.4 A 0.2m thick layer of subsoil comprising a mid brown silty clay was recorded sealing all archaeological deposits. A layer of topsoil comprising a greyish brown silty clay loam (2200) was recorded sealing the subsoil. No archaeological artefacts were recovered during excavation.

4.24 *Trench 23* (Figure 6)

4.24.1 Trench 23 measured 2m wide by 19.7m long and was excavated to a depth of 0.30m below the present ground surface. The earliest deposit encountered during machine excavation comprised a reddish orange sandy clay (2301) and represents the natural geology. A 0.25m thick layer of topsoil (2300) sealed the natural geology. No archaeological artefacts or features were encountered during excavation.

4.25 *Trench 24* (Figure 6)

4.25.1 Trench 24 measured 2m wide by 9.9m long and was excavated to a depth of 0.30m below the present ground surface. The earliest deposit encountered during machine excavation comprised a reddish orange sandy clay (2301) and represents the natural geology. A 0.25mm thick layer of topsoil (2300) sealed the natural geology. No archaeological artefacts or features were encountered during excavation.

4.26 *Trench 25* (Figure 7)

4.26.1 Trench 25 measured 2m wide by 19.8m long and was excavated to a depth of 0.40m below the present ground surface. The earliest deposit encountered during machine excavation comprised a yellowish brown silty clay with gravel (2502) and represents the natural geology. A 0.15m thick layer of subsoil (2501) comprising a mid brownish yellow silty clay sealed the natural geology. Topsoil (2500) sealed the subsoil to a depth of 0.2m below the present ground surface. No archaeological artefacts or features were encountered during excavation.

4.27 *Trenches 26, 27 and 28* (Figure 4)

The stratigraphic sequence of these trenches comprised a loose dark brown silty clay loam top/plough soil, c. 0.48m deep, over a firm light brown natural clay. This stratigraphy was observed within the three trenches in this field. A possible feature identified in trench 26 proved to be natural in origin.

5.0 Discussion

- 5.1 Archaeological evaluation across the northern part of Mawsley New Village has confirmed the results of the geophysical survey undertaken by GSB, Bradford. The following discusses the results in relation to the spatial distribution of the trenches and within their 'Field area limits' (see Figures 2, for field locations).
- 5.2 Within Field 9 (see Figure 3), Trench 13 was located along the route of the proposed pipeline as well as across a possible archaeological feature identified by geophysical survey. However, although this feature did exist, on excavation it proved to be a modern drainage trench. ✓
- 5.3 Within Field 7 (see Figure 4), Trenches 1, 2 and 3 had been located across features identified by geophysical survey. Trench 1 was located across a north-south aligned linear feature which had been identified as being of possible archaeological interest. However, the only disturbance that was encountered during excavation was the presence of north-south aligned field drains. Trench 2 had been located in relation to a large amorphous feature which on examination appears to be a wetter section within the trench. Trench 3 had been located to establish the shape and form of a possible linear feature and large amorphous feature. No archaeological features were identified but a number of field drains at depth (0.9m) were encountered. ✓
- 5.4 Within Field 8 (see Figure 4), Trenches 4, 14 and 15 were also positioned over features of possible archaeological interest. Excavation of Trench 4 revealed an east-west aligned drainage trench located within an area which produced a pit-type anomaly when surveyed by geophysics (magnetometry). Trenches 14 and 15 were located over linear features thought to be of archaeological interest. Excavation of both these trenches revealed that this interpretation was correct. Furrows of agricultural origin were identified but remain undated. ✓
- 5.5 Trenches 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21 and 22 were located within Field 5 (see Figures 5 and 7) and areas of archaeological interest. The location of Trenches 18 and 19 suggested that a further spread of remains related to the enclosures identified by geophysical survey may be encountered within that particular area. However, excavation of Trench 18 gave a negative result with no archaeological or man-made features being encountered. Excavation of Trench 19 proved to be more productive and identified a further area of Iron Age and 1st-2nd century A.D. date settlement. Excavation revealed a number of intercutting features within the trench which made further interpretation difficult.
- 5.6 Excavation of Trenches 16, 17, 20, 21 and 22 suggests that these areas are almost devoid of human disturbance. Excavation of trenches 17 and 22 recorded linear cuts which have been interpreted as representing furrows of agricultural origin but remain undated. Excavation of Trenches 16, 20 and 21 revealed no archaeological features.
- 5.7 Excavation of Trenches 23 and 24 within Fields 11 and 10 respectively (see Figure 6)

produced negative results. No archaeological features or human disturbance was encountered during excavation.

- 5.8 The northern corner of Field 6 (see Figure 7), proved to be of particular archaeological interest and also confirmed that the geophysical survey had been successful. Trenches 10 and 11 had been located in relation to linear enclosure features identified by the survey. Excavation of Trench 10 recorded an area of possible burning as well as two enclosure/boundary ditches which ran parallel to one another. The relationship between the two linear enclosure ditches is unclear as the fills were identical and it is entirely possible that these features were open at the same time. However, a single sherd of Iron Age pottery retrieved during excavation of one of these features suggests that these ditches date from this period.
- 5.9 Environmental analysis of deposit (1006) within Trench 10 suggests that the area of burning is representative of a hearth, with the majority of the residue comprising fired earth. It is concluded that the relative absence of charcoal and charred grain or seed within the deposit suggests that the feature is related the floor of the hearth rather than the ash from the fire. However, the location of this 'hearth' is, according to the geophysical survey, outside the enclosure identified by the geophysical survey.
- 5.10 Excavation of Trench 11, recorded three linear cuts representing periods dating from the 1st century A.D. through to the 4th century A.D. These features are likely to represent enclosure/boundary ditches associated with later settlement on the site.
- 5.11 Excavation of Trenches 5, 6, 7, 8, 9 and 12 elsewhere within Field 6, produced negative results. Trenches 5, 7 and 8 had been located within areas which had not been subjected to geophysical survey. Within Trench 8, a field drain was recorded but Trenches 5 and 7 proved to be devoid of any human disturbance. Trenches 6, 9 and 12 had been subjected to geophysical survey but the results proved to be negative. A large amorphous feature identified within Trench 9 proved to be an area of natural sand. A field drain was recorded within Trench 6 and no human disturbance was recorded in Trench 12.
- 5.12 One trench was located within Field 4 (Trench 25) (see Figure 7) and within an area not subjected to geophysical survey. The excavation encountered no archaeological deposits.
- 5.13 Analysis of the pottery retrieved during excavation suggests that the assemblage is typical of many Romano-British sites in the region (see Appendix B). The majority of the material dates from the 1st and 2nd centuries A.D. and is indicative of the main period of occupation on the site. The presence of Iron Age pottery and a single sherd dated to the mid 3rd-4th centuries A.D. suggests activity on the site during these periods.
- 5.14 Environmental analysis suggests that the site lay generally within an open area or grassland habitat during the Iron Age to Romano-British period (see Appendix C). The molluscan taxa recorded from the samples suggests primarily an open environment although a marsh element is also identified within Trench 10. To the north of Trench 10,

a wetter area was noticed during the evaluation and could represent a possible dried up pond. Few charred cereal fragments were present within the soil samples processed and are suggestive of domestic activity rather than indicative of crop processing being carried out in the immediate vicinity. Metalworking is poorly represented, with little hammerscale present within the deposits sampled. However, a fragment of tapslag was retrieved during excavation from deposits dated to the 1st-2nd centuries A.D. and suggests that metalworking occurred in the general vicinity. Analysis of the animal bone indicates the presence of domesticated animals with some evidence of butchery and dog gnawing. The bone was in relatively good condition and identifiable.

- 5.15 Excavation of trenches 26, 77 and 28 in field 1 confirmed the results of the previous evaluation.

6.0 Conclusions and Recommendations

- 6.1 The archaeological evaluation has recorded features dating from the Iron Age and Romano-British periods. Of particular interest is the area surrounding Cransley Lodge which geophysical survey identified as being of high archaeological potential. Enclosure ditches, pits and a hearth were identified during the evaluation and have proved that the geophysical survey was in the main, a useful and successful non-intrusive technique. It is considered that such remains are indicative of a small farming complex of Iron Age/Romano-British date and are of local importance.
- 6.2 The evaluation has identified that during the Iron Age period the main focus of settlement is likely to have been in the vicinity of Trenches 10 and 19. The majority of the Iron Age material retrieved during excavation is of a residual nature. However, within both trenches archaeological features exist which are dated solely to this period and comprise linear features and enclosure ditches. These features represent the earliest recorded settlement on the site.
- 6.3 Later settlement on the site dates mainly to the 1st and 2nd centuries A.D. and is represented within Trenches 10, 11 and 19. Pottery retrieved from deposits recorded in Trench 11 are in particular dated to this period and later. Features excavated within Trench 11 and identified by geophysical survey appear to be a reworking of the earlier Iron Age enclosures.
- 6.4 In order to establish the full nature and extent of settlement during the Iron Age and Romano-British periods, it is recommended that further archaeological excavation should be undertaken prior to development taking place. An extension of the areas evaluated within the vicinity of Trenches 9, 10, 11 and 19 should be carried out as an area excavation. Pottery retrieved during the evaluation has been identified as being typical of material recorded throughout Northamptonshire and represents settlement/activity from the Iron Age period through to the mid 3rd-4th centuries A.D.
- 6.5 Although no further environmental analysis of soil samples taken during the evaluation is recommended, further environmental sampling should be carried out during area excavation. The preservation of environmental material is good and it is expected that further analysis would benefit the understanding of the palaeoeconomy of the site during the Iron Age and Roman periods. It is also noted that although the samples processed suggest settlement with a domestic function, it is possible that further sampling could identify/confirm the presence of agricultural and industrial processing on the site.
- 6.6 In conclusion, the field evaluation has confirmed the results of the geophysical survey and it is clear that much of the site is of negligible archaeological potential. However, remains dating from the Iron Age and Romano-British periods have been identified around Cransley Lodge. Further excavation is required to fully establish the nature of the settlement and to record its full extent prior to development taking place. It is expected that further excavation would further our understanding of diet, animal and crop

husbandry, and industrial activities taking place at the site and the development of settlement during the Iron Age and Romano-British periods.

6.0 Figures

Figure 1 : Site location

Figure 2 : Field locations

Figure 3 : Trench locations within Field 9

Figure 4 : Trench locations within Fields 1, 7 and 8

Figure 5 : Trench locations within Field 5

Figure 6 : Trench locations within Fields 10 and 11

Figure 7 : Trench locations within Fields 4, 5 and 6

Figure 8 : Plan of Trench 10

Figure 9 : Northeast facing section drawing of contexts [1005] and [1011]

Figure 10 : Northeast facing section drawing of context [1003]

Figure 11 : Plan of Trench 11

Figure 12 : Southwest facing section drawing of context [1103]

Figure 13 : West facing section drawing of context [1105]

Figure 14 : West facing section drawing of context [1109]

Figure 15 : Plan of Trench 19

Figure 16 : North facing section drawing of context [1919]

Figure 17 : North facing section drawing of contexts [1911] and [1921]

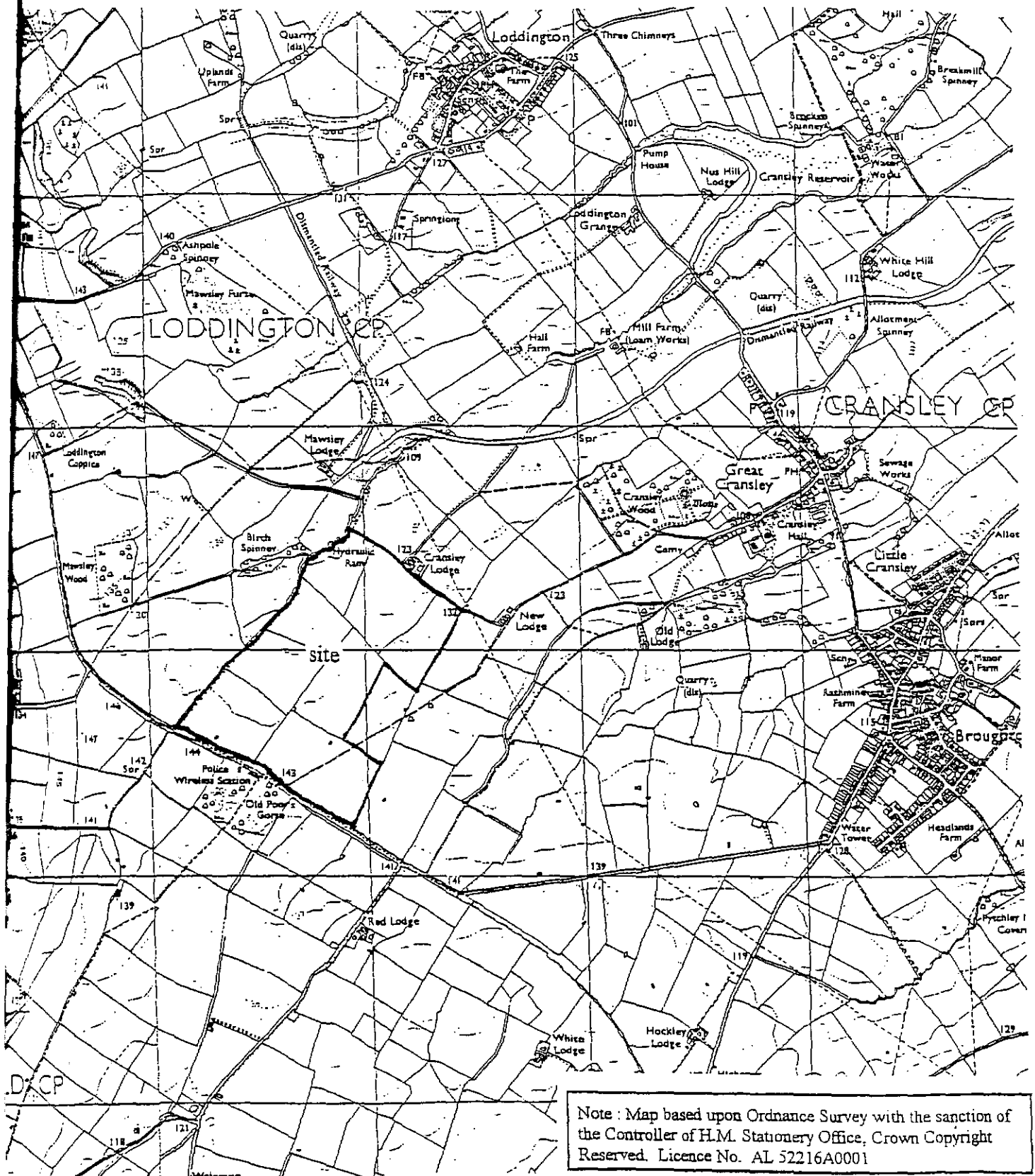
Figure 18 : West facing section drawing of context [1909]

Figure 19 : West facing section drawing of context [1915]

Figure 20 : South facing section drawing of context [1913]

Figure 21 : Southeast facing section drawing of context [1905]

Results of an Archaeological Evaluation Excavation on
Land in Housing Area 3B, Mawsley New Village, Cransley, Northamptonshire



Note : Map based upon Ordnance Survey with the sanction of the Controller of H.M. Stationery Office, Crown Copyright Reserved. Licence No. AL 52216A0001

Figure 1 : Site location

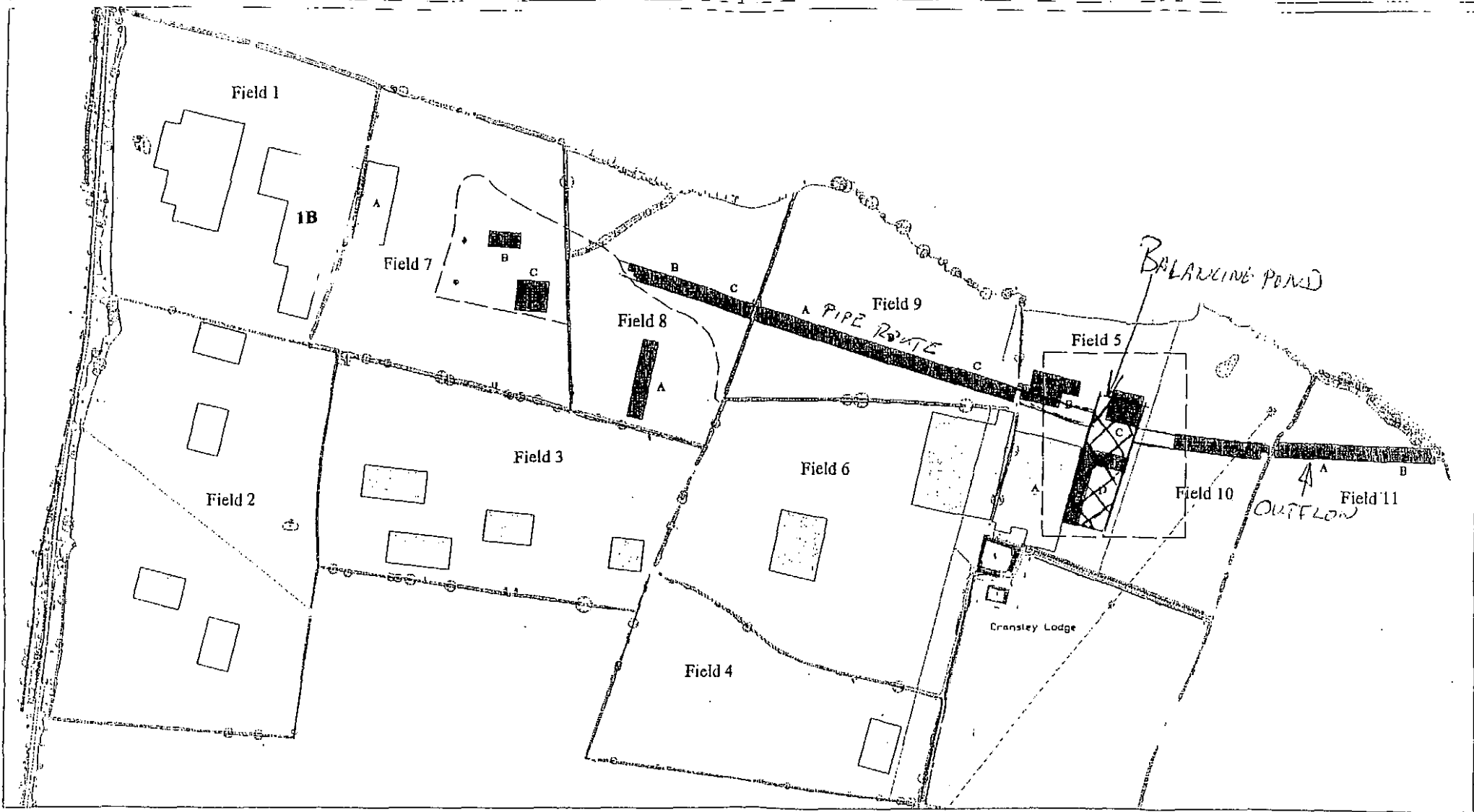
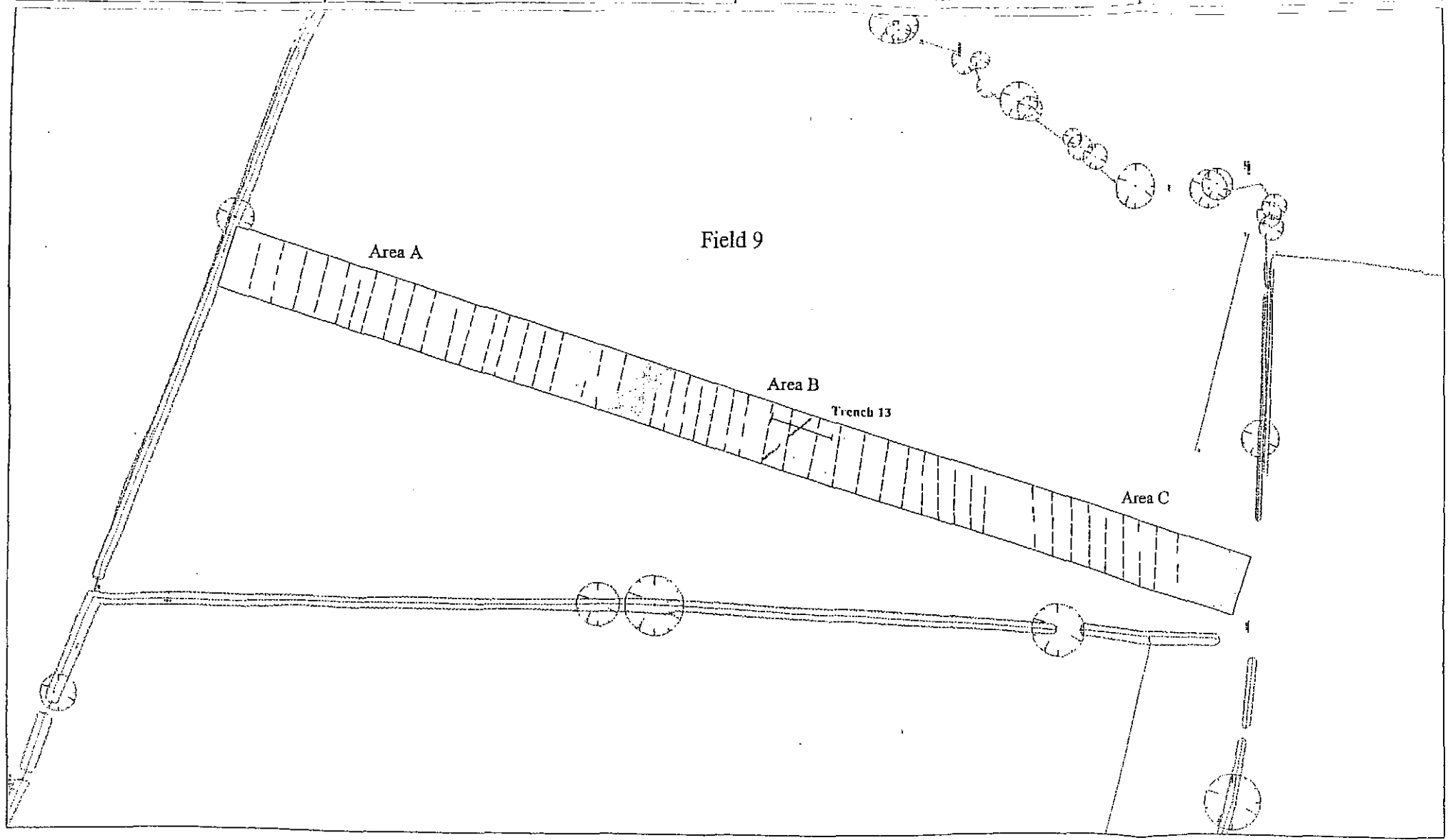


Figure 2 : Field locations



Archaeology

Ridge & Furrow

Ferrous



Figure 3 : Trench locations within Field 9

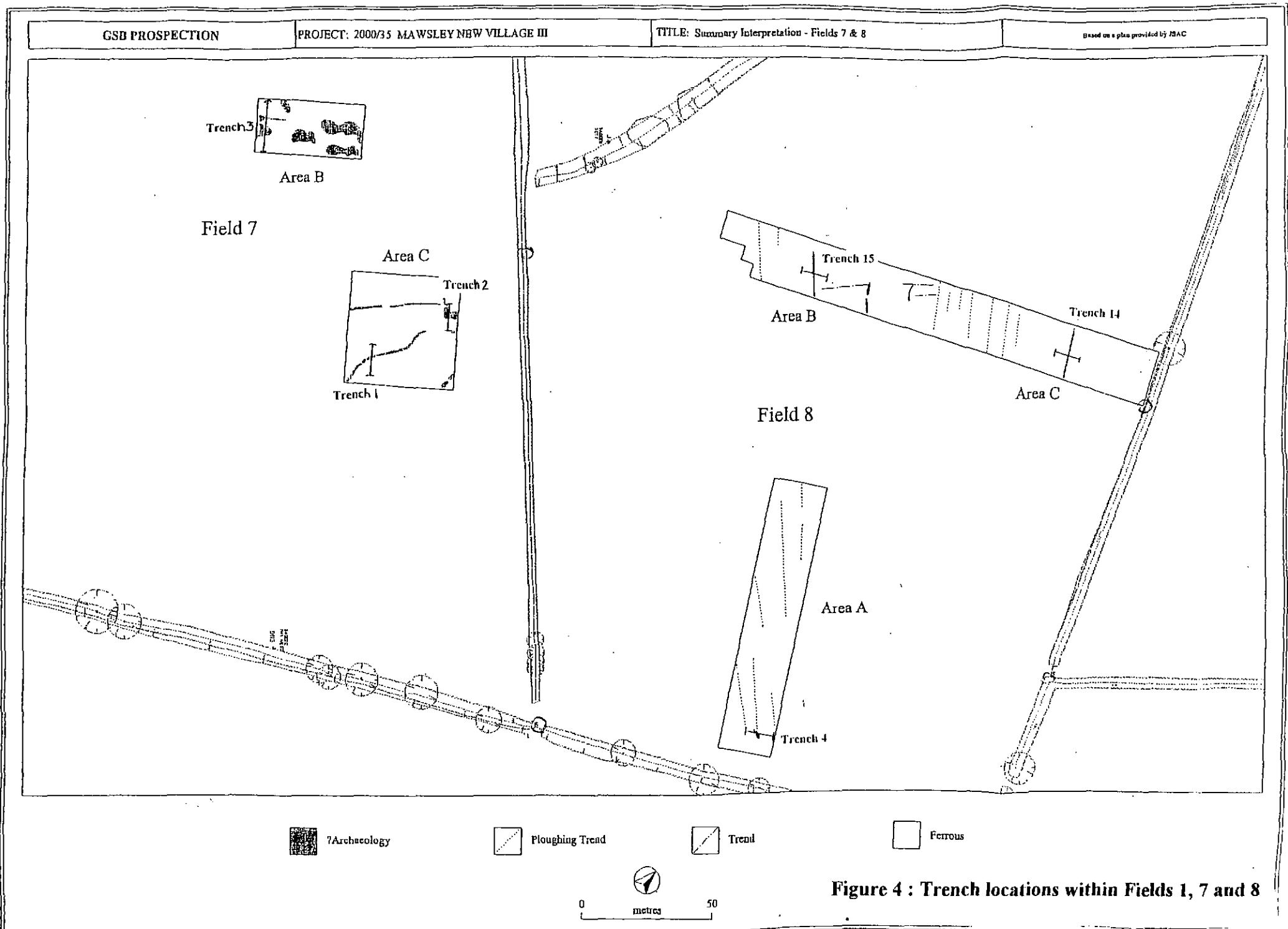
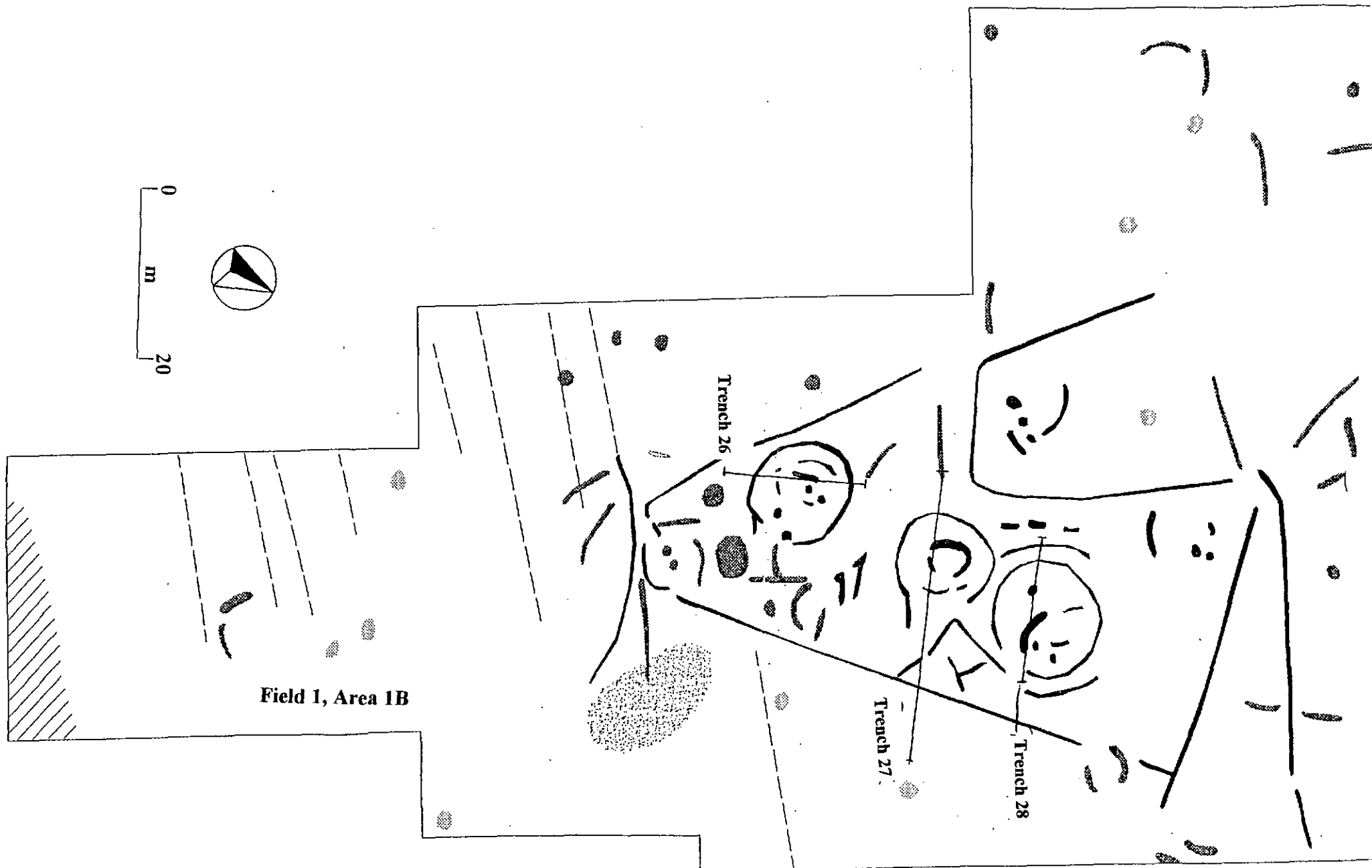
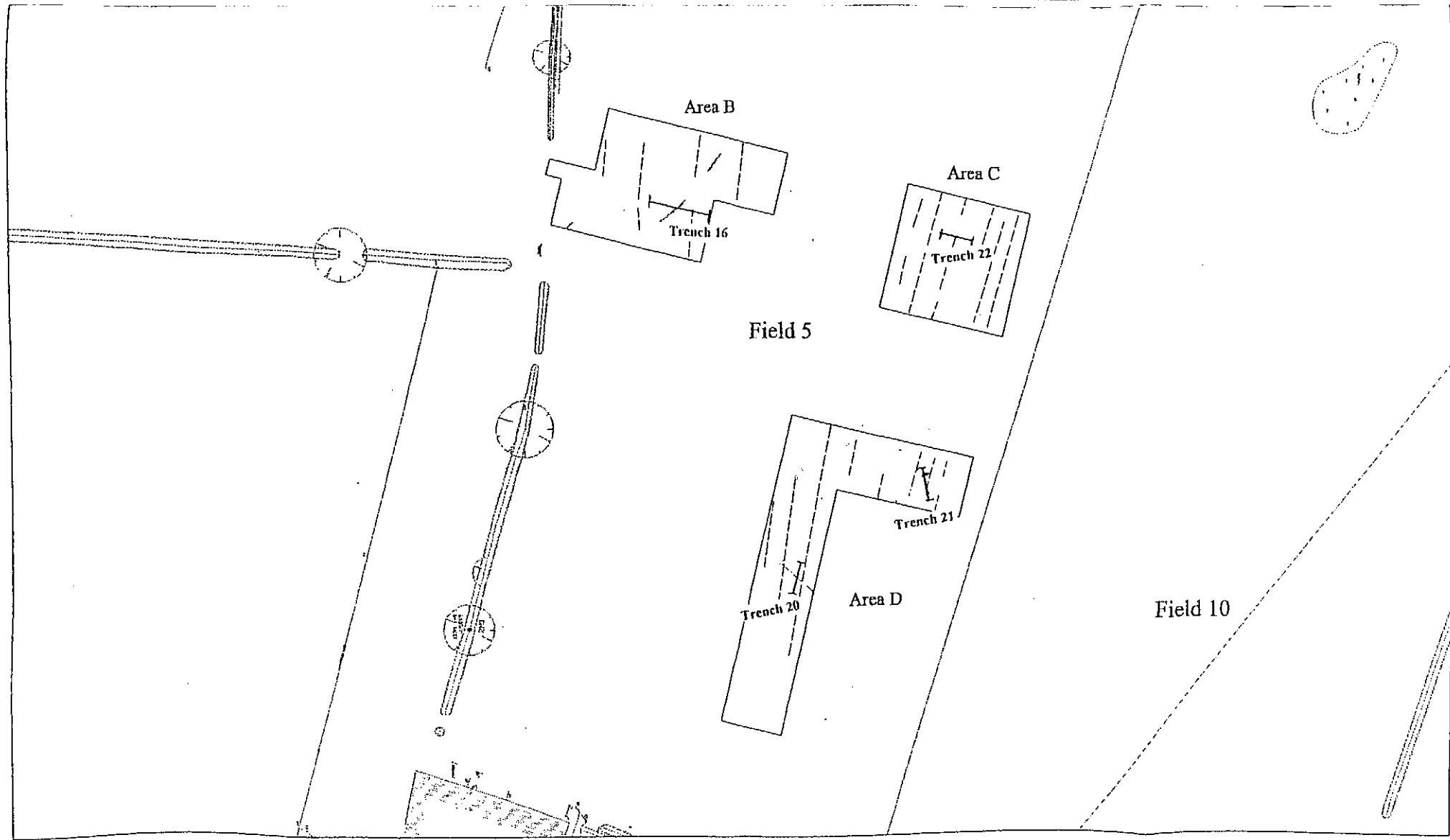


Figure 4 : Trench locations within Fields 1, 7 and 8



?Archaeology



Ridge & Furrow



Trend

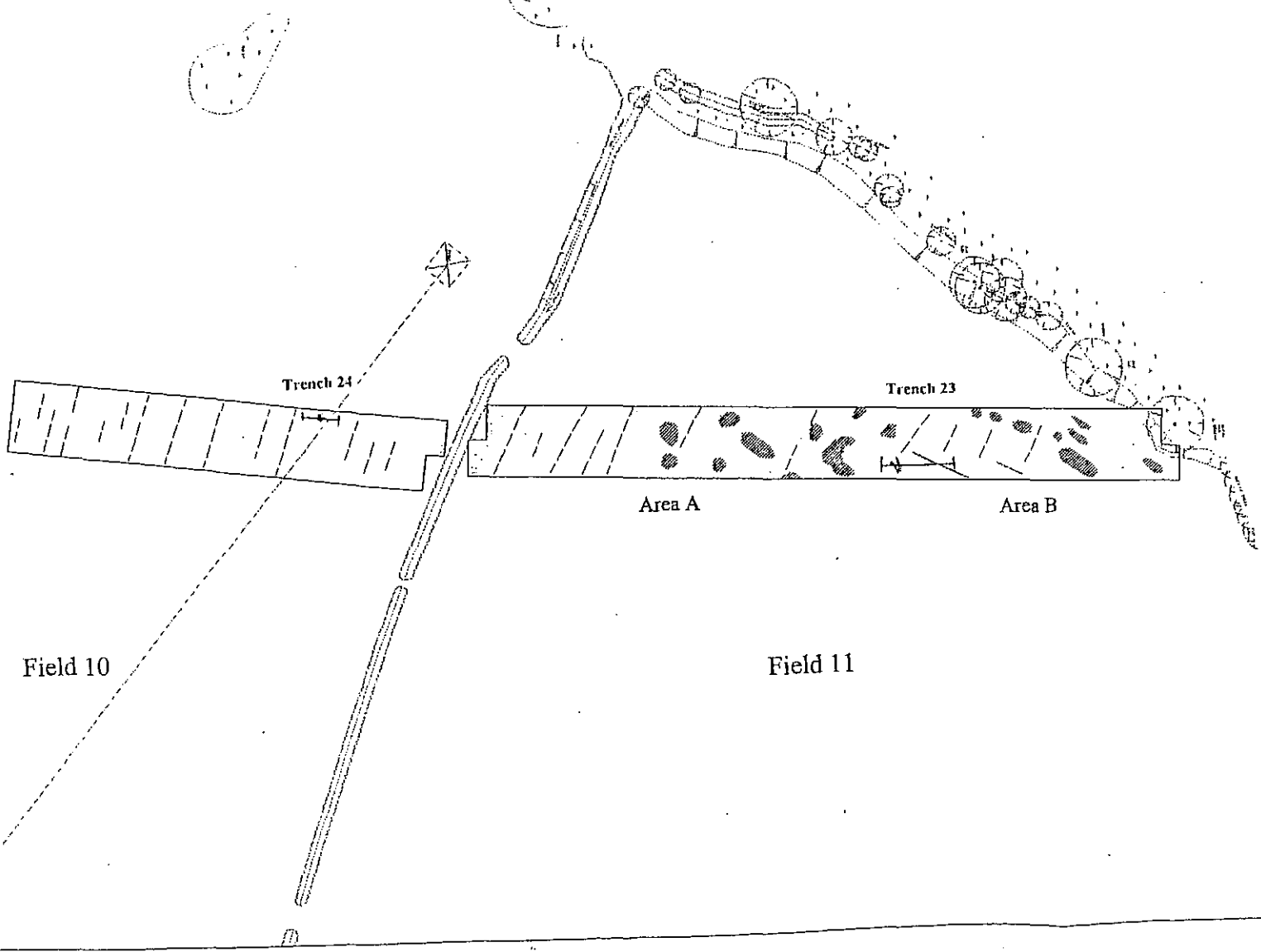


Ferrous



0 metres 50

Figure 5 : Trench locations within Field 5



Archaeology

Ridge & Furrow

Natural

Ferrous



Figure 6 : Trench locations within Fields 10 and 11

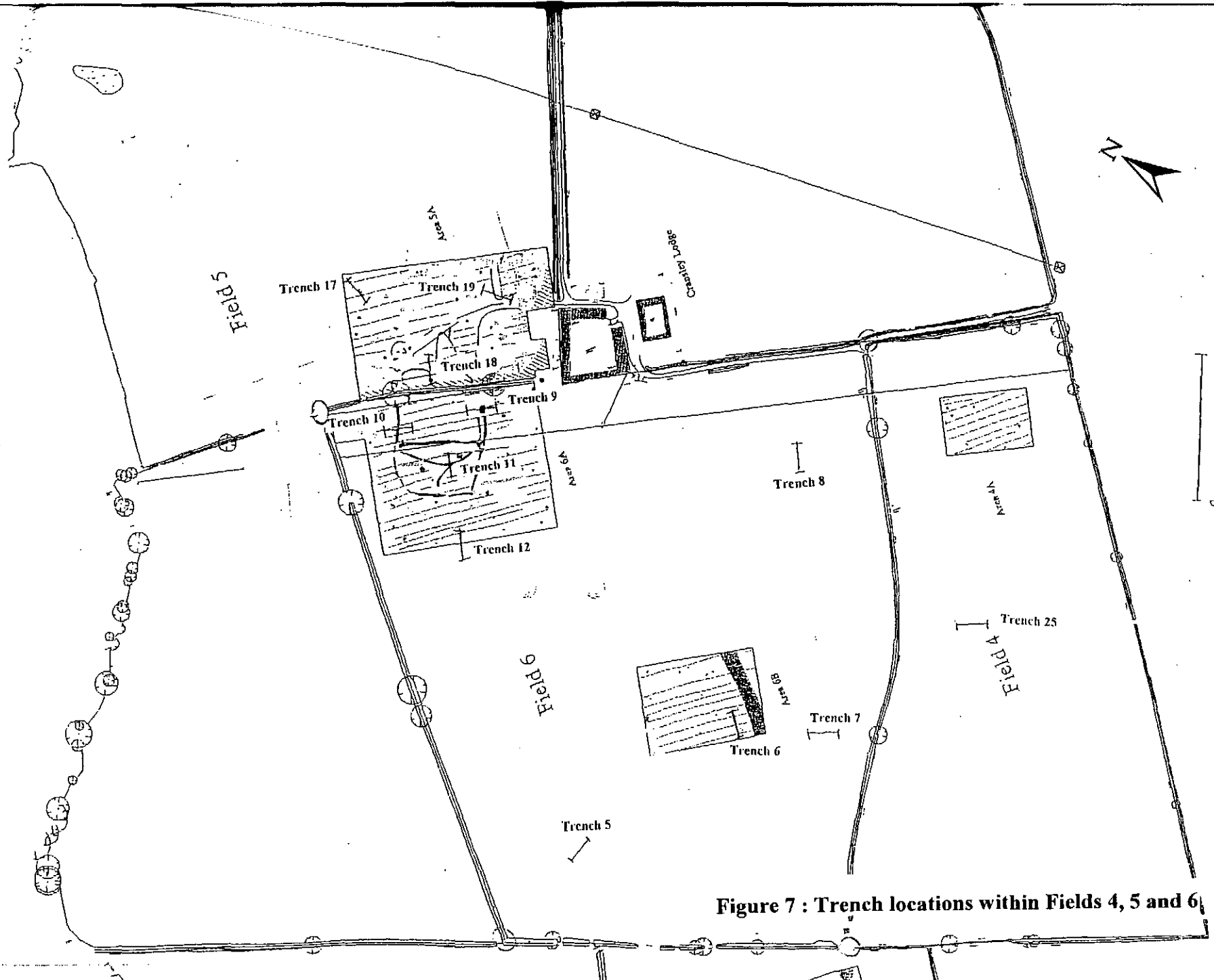


Figure 7: Trench locations within Fields 4, 5 and 6

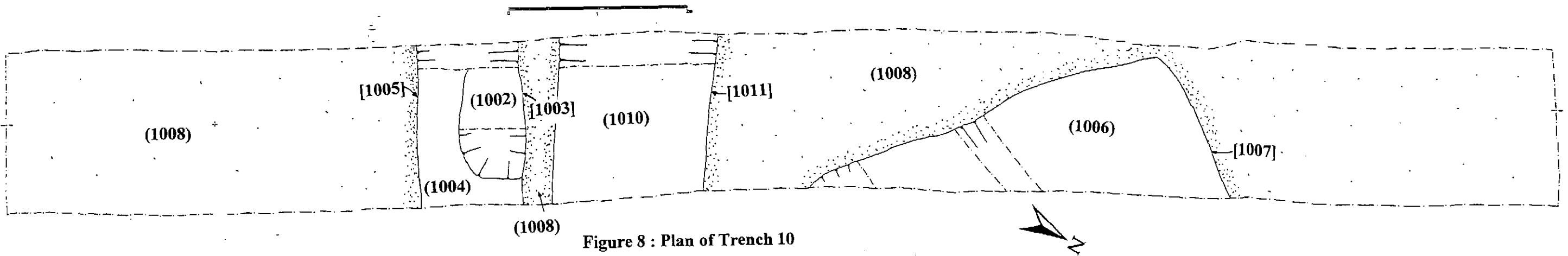


Figure 8 : Plan of Trench 10

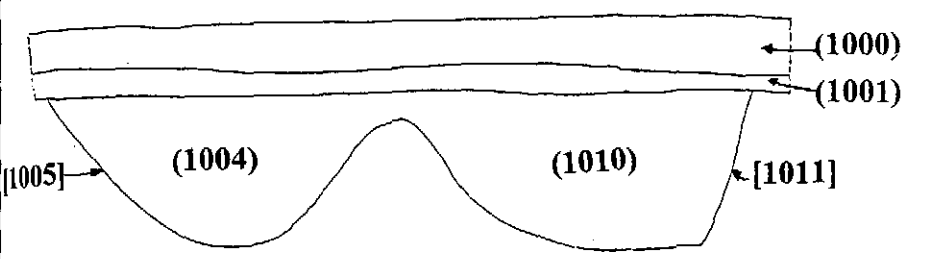


Figure 9 : Northeast facing section drawing of contexts [1005] and [1011]

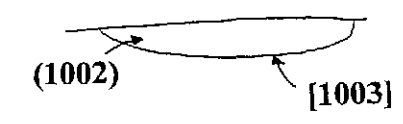


Figure 10 : Northeast facing section drawing of context [1003]

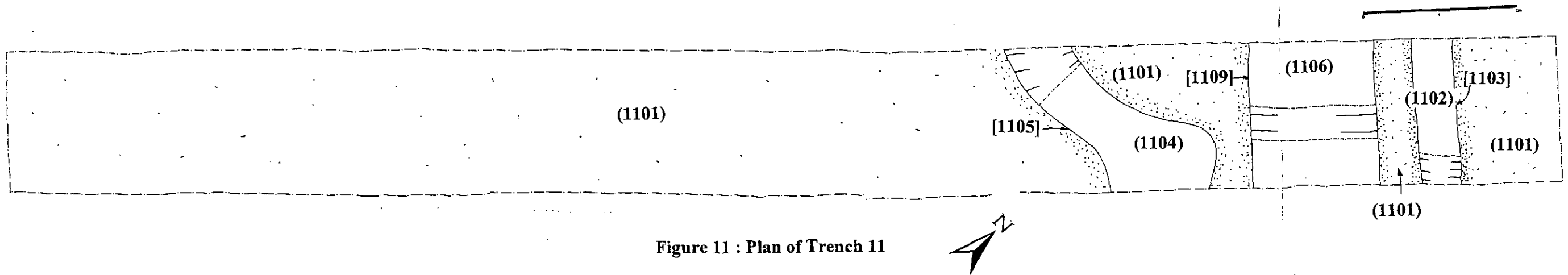


Figure 11 : Plan of Trench 11

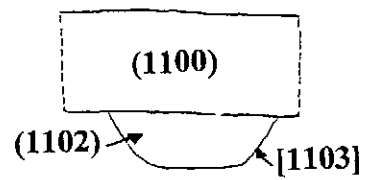


Figure 12 : Northwest facing section drawing of context [1103]

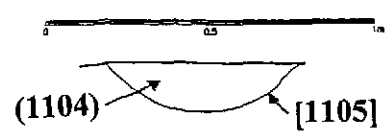


Figure 13 : West facing section drawing of context [1105]

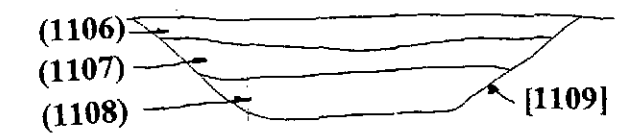


Figure 14: Northwest facing section drawing of context [1109]

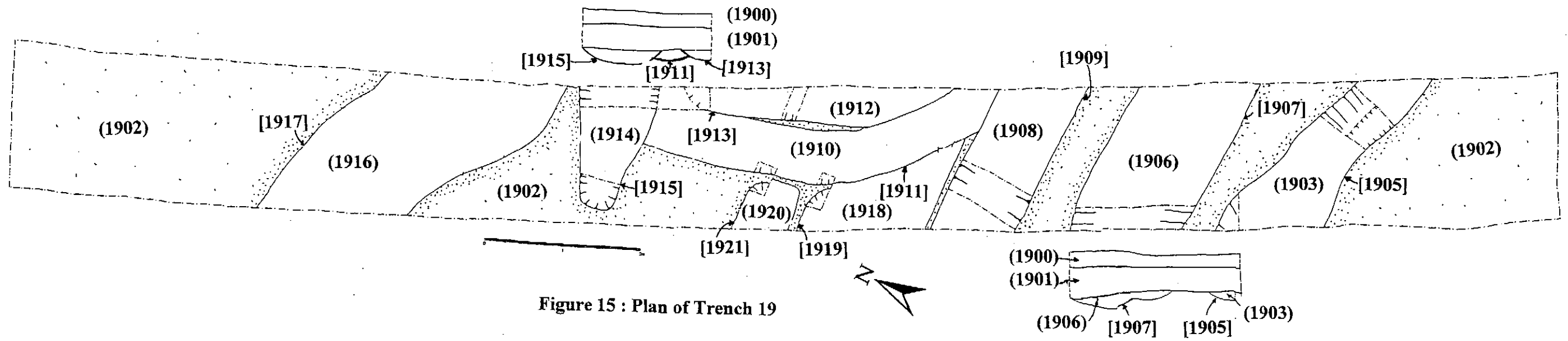


Figure 15 : Plan of Trench 19

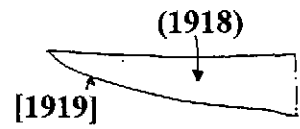


Figure 16 : North facing section drawing of context [1919]

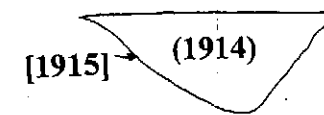


Figure 19 : West facing section drawing of context [1915]

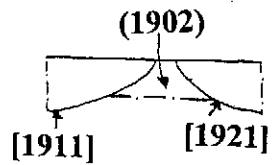


Figure 17 : North facing section drawing of contexts [1911] and [1921]

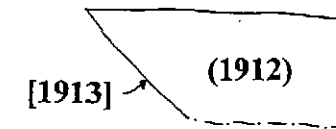
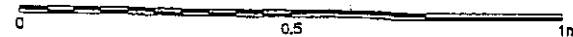


Figure 20 : South facing section drawing of context [1913]

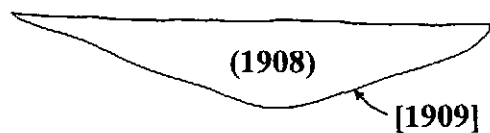


Figure 18 : West facing section drawing of context [1909]

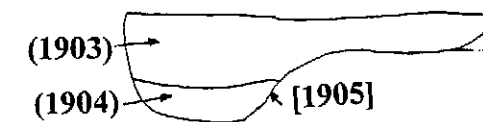


Figure 21 : Southeast facing section drawing of context [1905]

**Appendix A :
Context Summary**

Context Summary

Context No.	Trench No.	Description	Interpretation
100	1	Firm, mid greyish brown silty clay loam under grass	Topsoil
101	1	Firm, yellowish brown silty clay	Subsoil
102	1	Firm, yellowish brown silty clay and gravel	Natural geology
200	2	Firm, mid greyish brown silty clay loam under grass	Topsoil
201	2	Firm, yellow sandy silt	Natural geology
202	2	Very shallow circular cut (0.01 deep x 0.6m diameter)	Base of pit/?smearing
203	2	Loose black silty ash containing 19th-20th century pottery	Fill of [202]
300	3	Firm, mid greyish brown silty clay loam under grass	Topsoil
301	3	Firm, yellowish brown silty sandy gravel	Natural geology
400	4	Firm, mid greyish brown silty clay loam under grass	Topsoil
401	4	Firm, yellowish brown silty clay and gravel	Natural geology
402	4	Linear cut with vertical sides and flat base (0.4m wide x 0.7m deep)	Drainage trench
403	4	Firm, greyish brown silty clay	Single fill of [402]
500	5	Firm, mid greyish brown silty clay loam	Topsoil
501	5	Firm, yellowish brown silty clay	Subsoil
502	5	Firm, yellowish brown silty clay with gravel	Natural geology
600	6	Firm, mid greyish brown silty clay loam	Topsoil
601	6	Firm, mid yellowish brown silty clay	Subsoil
602	6	Firm, yellowish brown silty clay with gravel	Natural geology

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700	7	Firm, mid greyish brown silty clay loam	Topsoil
701	7	Firm, yellowish brown silty clay	Subsoil
702	7	Firm, yellowish brown silty clay with gravel	Natural geology
800	8	Firm, mid greyish brown silty clay loam	Topsoil
801	8	Firm, yellowish brown silty clay	Subsoil
802	8	Firm, yellowish brown silty clay with gravel	Natural geology
900	9	Firm, mid greyish brown silty clay loam	Topsoil
901	9	Firm, yellowish brown silty clay	Subsoil
902	9	Firm, yellowish brown silty clay with gravel	Natural geology
903	9	Firm, yellowish orange sand	Natural geology
1000	10	Firm, mid greyish brown silty clay loam	Topsoil
1001	10	Firm, light yellowish brown silty clay	Subsoil
1002	10	Firm, greyish brown silty clay	Fill of pit [1003]
1003	10	Roughly oval cut with concave sides and base (1.3m long x 0.76m wide x 0.1m deep)	Pit cut
1004	10	Firm, light greenish grey silty clay	Single fill of [1005]
1005	10	East-west aligned linear feature with concave sides and base (1m wide x 0.9m deep)	Boundary ditch
1006	10	Firm, reddish brown black burnt clay	Area of burning
1007	10	Shallow feature with concave sides and flat base (full extent not known)	Contains (1006) - unknown function
1008	10	Firm, yellowish brown silty clay with gravel	Natural geology
1009	10	Cancelled	
1010	10	Firm, light greenish grey silty clay	Single fill of [1011]
1011	10	East-west aligned linear feature with concave sides and base (c. 1m wide x 0.9m deep)	Boundary ditch
1100	11	Firm, mid greyish brown silty clay	Ploughsoil
1101	11	Firm, mid reddish brown silty clay	Natural geology

POT CT-II
◇

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POT 1A

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1102	11	Firm, dark greyish black silty clay	Single fill of linear [1103]	POT CI ◇
1103	11	East-west aligned linear cut with a concave base and a vertical eastern edge and sloping western side (0.5m wide x 0.17m deep)	Boundary ditch	
1104	11	Firm, dark brownish grey silty clay	Single fill of linear feature [1105]	POT CI-IV ◇
1105	11	Northeast-southwest aligned linear cut with concave sides and base (0.5m wide x 0.15m deep)	Boundary ditch	
1106	11	Firm, mid reddish brown silty clay	Tertiary fill of [1109]	POT CI ◇
1107	11	Firm, dark greyish brown silty clay	Secondary fill of [1109]	POT CI ◇
1108	11	Firm, mid yellowish brown silty clay	Primary fill f [1109]	POT CI-IV ◇
1109	11	North-south aligned linear cut with concave sides and base (1.7m wide x 0.37m deep)	Boundary ditch	
1200	12	Firm, mid greyish brown silty clay	Ploughsoil	
1201	12	Firm, mid reddish brown silty clay	Natural geology	
1300	13	Firm, mid greyish brown silty clay loam	Topsoil	
1301	13	Firm, yellowish brown silty clay and sand	Natural geology	
1302	13	East-west aligned linear cut with straight sides and a flat base (0.5m wide x 0.4m deep)	Modern drainage trench	
1303	13	Firm, mid greyish brown silty clay loam with sand	Backfill of drainage trench [1302]	
1400	14	Firm, mid greyish brown silty clay loam	Topsoil	
1401	14	Firm, yellowish brown silty clay with gravel	Natural geology	
1402	14	Southeast-northwest aligned linear cut with concave sides and base (2.3m wide x 0.10m deep)	Furrow	
1403	14	Firm, greyish brown silty clay loam	Single fill of [1402]	
1500	15	Firm, mid greyish brown silty clay loam	Topsoil	

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1501	15	Firm, yellowish brown white silty clay and gravel	Natural geology
1502	15	Shallow east-west aligned linear cut with concave sides and flattish base (2.2m wide x 0.09m deep)	Furrow
1503	15	Firm, greyish brown silty clay loam	Single fill of [1502]
1600	16	Firm, greyish brown silty clay loam under grass	Topsoil
1601	16	Firm, yellowish brown silty clay	Subsoil
1602	16	Firm, yellowish brown silty clay with gravel	Natural geology
1700	17	Firm, greyish brown silty clay loam	Topsoil
1701	17	Firm, yellowish brown white silty clay gravel	Natural geology
1702	17	Shallow east-west aligned linear cut with concave sides and flattish base (2.3m x 0.10m deep)	Furrow
1703	17	Firm, greyish brown silty clay loam	Single fill of cut [1702]
1704	17	Shallow linear cut with concave sides and flattish base (2.2m wide x 0.10m deep)	Furrow
1705	17	Firm, greyish brown silty clay loam	Fill of cut [1704]
1800	18	Firm, mid grey brown silty clay loam	Topsoil
1801	18	Firm, yellowish brown silty clay gravel	Natural geology
1900	19	Firm, mid grey brown silty clay loam	Topsoil
1901	19	Firm, yellowish brown silty clay	Subsoil
1902	19	Firm, yellowish brown silty clay gravel	Natural geology
1903	19	Firm, mid brown silty clay	Secondary fill of [1905]
1904	19	Firm, brownish black pebble, flints, stones and gravels	Primary fill of cut [1905]
1905	19	Linear cut with concave sides and base (0.7m wide x 0.25m deep)	Drainage trench

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1906	19	Firm, greyish brown silty clay loam	Single fill of [1907]
1907	19	Linear cut with concave sides and base (1.5m wide x 0.2m deep)	Furrow
1908	19	Firm, mid greyish brown silty clay	Single fill of [1909]
1909	19	Northwest-southeast aligned linear cut with concave sides and base (1m wide x 0.17m deep)	?Boundary ditch
1910	19	Firm, mid reddish brown silty clay and iron panning	Single fill of [1911]
1911	19	Curvilinear cut with concave sides and base (0.6m wide x 0.2m deep)	Unknown function
1912	19	Firm, mid greyish brown silty clay	Single fill of [1913]
1913	19	Partially excavated linear cut	Unknown function
1914	19	Firm, dark greyish brown silty clay	Single fill of cut [1915]
1915	19	Terminus end of linear cut with concave sides and base (1m wide x 0.2m deep)	?Boundary
1916	19	Firm, mid brown silty clay	Single fill of [1917]
1917	19	Linear cut with concave sides and base (1.5m wide x 0.2m deep)	Furrow
1918	19	Firm, mid greyish brown silty clay	Single fill of [1919]
1919	19	Terminus end of east-west aligned linear cut with concave sides and base (1m wide x 0.15m deep)	Unexcavated cut
1920	19	Firm, mid greyish brown silty clay	Single fill of [1921]
1921	19	Terminus of east-west linear feature with concave sides and base (0.6m wide x 0.10m deep)	Linear feature
2000	20	Firm, greyish brown silty clay loam	Topsoil
2001	20	Firm, yellowish brown silty clay with gravel	Natural geology
2100	21	Firm, mid greyish brown silty clay loam	Topsoil
2101	21	Firm, yellowish brown silty clay with gravel	Natural geology

POST CI-II

POST CI-II

POST IA

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2200	22	Firm, mid greyish brown silty clay under grass	Topsoil
2201	22	Firm, mid brown silty clay	Subsoil
2202	22	Firm, light yellowish brown silty clay with flints and limestones	Natural geology
2203	22	North-south aligned linear cut with concave sides and base (0.6m wide x 0.28m deep)	Furrow
2204	22	Firm, mid brown silty clay	Single fill of [2203]
2205	22	East-west aligned linear cut with irregular sides and base (1.6m wide x 0.22m deep)	Furrow
2206	22	Firm, mid brown silty clay	Single fill of [2205]
2300	23	Firm, mid greyish brown silty clay loam	Topsoil
2301	23	Firm, reddish orange sandy clay	Natural geology
2400	24	Firm, mid greyish brown silty clay loam	Topsoil
2401	24	Firm, yellowish brown silty clay with white gravel	Natural geology
2500	25	Firm, mid brown silty clay loam	Topsoil
2501	25	Firm, mid brownish yellow silty clay	Subsoil
2502	25	Firm, yellowish brown silty clay with gravel	Natural geology

Appendix B:

The Pottery

by Paul Blinkhorn and Tora Hylton

Iron Age and Roman Pottery from Mawsley New Village

Paul Blinkhorn and Tora Hylton

The pottery assemblage comprised 98 sherds with a total weight of 1,009 g. The range of ware types present indicates that the main period of occupation was during the 1st and 2nd centuries AD, with a single sherd testifying to activity during the mid 3rd – 4th centuries. Small quantities of Iron age material were present, but most, if not all appears to be redeposited.

Fabric

i) Iron Age

The **Iron Age** pottery is typical of material found throughout Northamptonshire, and was classified using the same general codes as material from other sites in the region, (eg Jackson 1976, Jackson and Dix 1986/7), as follows:

Fabric 2: Fine shell. Sparse to moderate angular shell fragments up to 5mm, although most are usually below 2mm.

Fabric 5: Pounded shell. Sparse to moderate fine shell up to 1mm. Vessels are often self-slipped, so that inclusions are only visible in section.

All the Iron Age pottery was occurred in early Roman contexts, and is likely to be residual. A small sherd occurred in each of two contexts which produced no other pottery, but it is impossible to say with certainty that these were not residual.

ii) Romano-British

'Belgic' grog-tempered wares. Mainly wheel-turned jar forms. 1st century AD.

Shell-gritted wares, 1st – 4th century AD. The feature sherds indicate that all the vessels were channel-rim jars of 1st century date.

Grog-tempered ware, late 1st century?

Greywares, 1st-2nd century AD.

Nene Valley Colour-Coat, mid 3rd – 4th century.

The pottery occurrence by number and weight of sherds per context by fabric type is shown in Table 1.

Table 1: Pottery occurrence by number and weight (in g) of sherds per context by fabric type

Ctxt	IAF2		IAF5		'Belgic'		Shell-gritted		Greyware		Grogged		NVCC		No	Wt	No
	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt					
1002	5	24	2	21					1	36							1 st -2 nd AD?
1010	1	3															IA?
1102					3	112	1	25	1	19							1 st AD?
1104	2	6	2	8			1	15			1	20					1 st - 4 th AD
1106	2	6			2	34											1 st AD?
1107					3	46	8	208			2	91					1 st AD
1108							1	5			33	225	1	3			M3 rd - 4 th
1903									1	1							1-2 nd AD
1908	13	32							1	6							1-2 nd AD
1910	8	31	1	10					1	17							1-2 nd AD
1918	1	3															IA?
	32	105	5	39	8	194	11	253	5	79	36	336	1	3			

Chronology

The ceramic assemblage appears typical of many R-B sites in the region, starting with 'Belgic' pottery and often continuing in use until the 3rd or 4th centuries (Foster 1999, 133). The range of ware types present indicates that the main period of activity was during the 1st and perhaps the 2nd century AD, with the single Nene Valley Colour-Coat sherd being the only evidence of activity beyond this period. The Iron Age pottery is impossible to date other than within the broad period, and most, if not all, is residual.

Cross-fits

Joining sherds from a RB grog-tempered jar were noted from contexts 1107 and 1108.

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Appendix C:

**Environmental Archaeology Assessment
by D.J. Rackham**

Mawsley New Village, MNV00**Environmental Archaeology Assessment*****Introduction***

Evaluation excavations were conducted by a team from John Samuels Archaeological Consultants on an Iron Age and Romano-British site at Mawsley New Village, Northamptonshire. During the course of the excavations seven soil samples were taken for environmental assessment (Table 1) and a small assemblage of animal bone was collected by hand.

Table 1: Mawsley New Village. Samples taken for environmental analysis

sample no.	context	sample vol. l.	sample wt kg	feature type	Date
1	1006	7	6	Area of burning?	Undated
2	1002	8	6.5	Single fill of pit	Iron Age
3	1102	12	12	Single fill linear –boundary ditch	Romano-British
4	1106	9	8.25	Tertiary fill linear boundary ditch 1109	Romano-British + residual IA
5	1107	9	9.5	Secondary fill linear boundary ditch 1109	Romano-British
6	1108	9.5	9.25	Primary fill boundary ditch 1109	Romano-British
7	1104	9	7.25	Single fill boundary ditch 1105	Romano-British + residual IA

Methods

The soil samples were processed in the following manner. Sample volume and weight was measured prior to processing. The samples were washed in a 'Siraf' tank (Williams 1973) using a flotation sieve with a 0.5mm mesh and an internal wet-sieve of 1mm mesh for the residue. Both residue and float were dried, and the residues subsequently re-floated to ensure the efficient recovery of charred material. The dry volume of the flots was measured, and the volume and weight of the residue recorded.

The residue was sorted by eye, and environmental and archaeological finds picked out, noted on the assessment sheet and bagged independently. A magnet was run through each residue in order to recover magnetised material such as hammerstone and prill. The residue was then discarded. The float of each sample was studied under a low power binocular microscope. The presence of environmental finds (ie snails, charcoal, carbonised seeds, bones etc) was noted and their abundance and species diversity recorded on the assessment sheet. The float was then bagged. The float and finds from the sorted residue constitute the material archive of the samples.

The individual components of the samples were then preliminarily identified and the results are summarised below in Tables 2, 3 and 4.

Results

A few uncharred seeds of goosefoots, *Chenopodium* sp., and occasional other seeds, recent rootlets and a few worm egg capsules were recorded in a number of the samples indicating

low levels of contamination. Some uncharred straw and chaff blowing across the site during sampling has also been incorporated into one or two of the samples as have one or two modern beetles and millipedes. Some of the samples produced several shells of the burrowing blind snail, *Cecilioides acicula* (see Table 3). This taxon is believed to have been introduced (Evans 1972; Kerney and Cameron 1979) and since it is known to burrow to depths of 2 metres (Evans 1972) it must be viewed as a probable contaminant in the sampled contexts.

All but one of the samples produced pottery and animal bone (Table 2). Context 1006 which produced no pottery and is recorded as an area of burning is clearly a hearth floor. Most of the residue is composed of fired earth and the relative absence of charcoal and any charred cereals and seeds is consistent with the floor of the hearth rather than ash from the fire. The few burnt snails may well be those that were in the earth upon which the fire was built. The unburnt shells probably becoming incorporated into the deposits after the hearth ceased to be used.

Table 2: Archaeological finds from the assessed samples

samp.no	cont.	samp. vol. l.	res. vol. ml	pot £/#	ham'e rscale	fired earth wt. *	bone wt	other
1	1006	7	150			10 +		
2	1002	8	425	12/11	1		46	
3	1102	12	850	11/16	2	10	68	
4	1106	9	350	3/1	1		4	vitrified clay (1g)
5	1107	9	250	4/3		1	16	
6	1108	9.5	575	5/11			3	
7	1104	9	250	4/5	1	1	14	

£/# - no sherds/weight in g.

sorted from >7mm residue fraction only

+ present in quantities in the <7mm fraction

One or two of the other samples produced one or two flakes or spheroids of hammerscale and a few fragments of fired earth. One small sherd of pottery from context 1102 had included within its fabric a spheroid of hammerscale. The consistent presence of chalk in all the samples indicates that the site lies on chalky till and the calcareous soils are probably responsible for the good preservation of animal bone and snails.

The environmental finds from the samples (Table 3) comprise charcoal, charred cereals (grains and chaff), charred weed seeds, domestic animal bones, small vertebrates and snails. Concentrations of cereal fragments are not high although both 1002 and 1102 produced densities greater than 1 grain per litre. Chaff was identified in three of the samples but only one or two fragments were noted in each during scanning. Weed seeds were never more abundant than grain. The condition of this material was poor and many of the grains were fragmented and unlikely to be identifiable, with only a few cereal fragments identifiable to genus, and possibly only the chaff the species. Wheat, barley, oat (?), legumes and hazelnut fragments were preliminarily identified.

The bone finds from the samples included fragments of cattle, sheep and dog, with a number of small fragments of burnt bone present in most samples. Rodent bones were present in most and wood mouse, bank vole, common shrew and frog/toad were identified among the small vertebrate remains.

Table 3: Environmental finds from the assessed samples

samp .no	cont.	samp. vol. l.	flot vol. ml	char coal *	charr'd grain *	chaff *	charr'd seeds *	small vert. *	snail */#	other
1	1006	7	2	1					4/2	burnt snails
2	1002	8	2	2	2	1	1	1	2/2	wheat, oat?, legume, sheep, cattle, rodent
3	1102	12	15	4	2	1	1	3	2/1	wheat?, barley?, legume, cattle, wood mouse, bank vole, frog/toad
4	1106	9	1	1	1		1	1	1/1	sheep, common shrew
5	1107	9	2	2	1	1	1	1	1/1	legume, hazelnut, sheep, dog, rodent
6	1108	9.5	2	2	1		1	1	1/1	wheat?, sheep, common shrew, frog/toad
7	1104	9	2	2	1		1	1	2/1	nutlet, rodent

* frequency – 1=1-10; 2=11-50; 3=51-150; 4=151-250; 5=>250 items

diversity – 1=1-3; 2=4-10; 3=11-25 taxa

The terrestrial snails although not very abundant in the samples produced a consistent picture (Table 4). The assemblages are dominated by taxa of open country or grassland habitats, with the more catholic species *Trichia hispida* occurring and a marsh element suggested by the presence of *Lymnaea truncatula* in the hearth floor, 1006, and the pit fill, 1002, although these may have been secondarily deposited.

Table 4: Molluscan taxa recorded from the samples

Sample	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Context	1006	1002	1102	1106	1107	1108	1104
<i>Cecilioides acicula</i>	++	+	+	+	+	+	+
<i>Helicella</i> sp.		+					
Open country/grassland							
<i>Vertigo pygmaea</i>	+				+		
<i>Vertigo</i> sp.	++	+	+				
<i>Pupilla muscorum</i>	+	+					
<i>Vallonia excentrica</i>	++	+					
<i>Vallonia</i> sp.			+	+			+
Catholic							
<i>Trichia hispida</i>	+	+				+	
Marsh							
<i>Lymnaea truncatula</i>	+	+					

+ - present; ++ - abundant

habitat groupings broadly taken from Evans, 1972; Ellis 1969; Kerney and Cameron 1979

The excavated animal bone

Twenty nine fragments of animal bone were collected during the evaluation. These were in relatively good condition, with only two bones from context 1002 showing any surface erosion or root damage. The bones were identified and recorded following the procedures on the Environmental Archaeology Consultancy (see key attached to archive catalogue) and an archive catalogue produced.

Material was recovered from both Iron Age and Romano-British contexts and fragments of

cattle, sheep (or goat), pig and horse have been identified in descending order of frequency. A few of the bones carried evidence of butchery and dog gnawing (see catalogue) and ageable jaws of cattle and pig were present.

Discussion

The occurrence of pottery, animal bone, charcoal and charred grain in the deposits indicates that domestic rubbish forms a component of the contexts. The densities are not high but are sufficient to suggest some primary dumping in the pits and ditches at the site. There is little evidence among these samples of crop processing activities taking place in the immediate vicinity, and although a few flakes of hammerstone are present these do not occur at the densities that would be expected if smithing was taking place in the immediate vicinity.

The excavated areas of the site appear to lie in open grassland, but apart from the mollusc evidence the calcareous character of the soils mitigates against any other useful palaeo-environmental evidence surviving.

Recommendations

No further work is justified on the samples from the evaluation.

The condition of the charred plant remains, animal bone and terrestrial snails is good and there is little evidence for loss of this material from the deposits. The poor condition of the charred plant remains is a result of the contemporary charring conditions rather than any subsequent taphonomic processes. All these lines of evidence therefore would repay sampling if further archaeological fieldwork is required at the site. The evidence from the evaluation suggests a domestic origin for the sampled material, but agricultural and industrial processing areas may occur elsewhere on site and be identifiable through the analysis of soil samples. The sample size obtained from the evaluation (between 7 and 12 litres) was too small for samples in these soils where charred material is one of the primary objectives and thirty litre samples should be collected from the dated features on any future excavation. The molluscan study is best addressed through sampling a series of dateable ditch fills that cover all the periods represented by the archaeology, with columns of individual samples being taken from the fills of chronologically distinct ditches in order that any local changes in the environment can be monitored through the lifetime of the site.

The evidence from the evaluation samples clearly indicates domestic occupation in or adjacent to the evaluation trenches. The environmental evidence from any further archaeological fieldwork can be expected to yield evidence with which to address the diet, animal and crop husbandry, and industrial activities taking place at the site and their spatial distribution across it. From this information some assessment of the palaeoeconomy of the site in the Iron Age and Roman period should be possible.

Acknowledgments

I should like to thank Alison Foster and Jeremy Dubber for the sample processing.

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28th July 2000

Appendix D: Specification

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A Specification for the Archaeological Evaluation Excavation of the northern part of Mawsley New Village, Cransley, Northamptonshire

NGR SP 808 760

by

John Samuels Archaeological Consultants

on behalf of

Alfred McAlpine Homes Midlands Ltd

Friars Gate

1011 Stratford Road

Solihull

West Midlands B90 4BN

JSAC 531/00/009

May 2000



*Also at : Witham Park House, Waterside South, Lincoln LN5 7JP
Telephone 01522 880050*



026
Certificate Number 1967/99

**A Specification for the Archaeological Evaluation Excavation of
the northern part of Mawsley New Village, Cransley, Northamptonshire**

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1.0 Introduction

1.1 Site Location and Description

1.1.1 The proposed development site is located in the centre of a triangle formed by the villages of Great Cransley, Loddington and Old and is centred at NGR SP 808 760. The proposed development site covers an area of approximately 103 ha. The site lies at the head of a south-west to north-east facing valley, which drains into the river Ise. The area is currently in agricultural use. The site lies mainly on boulder clay, giving rise to slowly permeable calcareous clayey soils (SSEW 1983).

1.2 Planning Background

1.2.1 Alfred McAlpine Homes (Midlands) Ltd commissioned *John Samuels Archaeological Consultants* to undertake a desk-based assessment to identify any archaeological remains in advance of the development of the site. A brief was produced for archaeological investigation by Northamptonshire Heritage (see appendix).

1.2.2 The desk-based assessment revealed that there was a possibility of archaeological remains surviving within the proposed development area. A two stage geophysical survey (GSB Prospection reports 99/81 and 99/106) and fieldwalking were undertaken to further assess the likelihood of significant archaeology surviving. The geophysical survey in particular indicated the possibility of significant archaeological remains surviving on the site. Based on this work a trial trench evaluation was undertaken, with a total of 43 trenches being excavated. An area in the north-western part of the site was selected for area excavation based on the results of the trial trenching. Both the trial trenching and the area excavation provided largely negative results, indicating a very poor state of preservation, to the extent of destruction of features

1.2.3 A further stage of geophysical survey has been completed on the remainder of the new village site (GSB report number 2000/35). This has indicated the possibility of significant archaeological remains surviving close to New Lodge Farm.. It is now intended to carry out trial trenching on the remainder of the site to further assess the likelihood of significant archaeological remains here.

1.3 Archaeological Background

1.3.1 The new village is situated in a landscape which was inhabited during the Iron Age and Roman periods. Groups of cropmarks to the east of New Lodge, 250 metres east of the new village area may represent activity dating to these periods. The cropmarks in the southern part of the new village are also likely to represent Iron Age or Roman period enclosures. The new village may also be located just outside the edge of a major Anglo-Saxon period estate. However, place-name evidence indicates that the area was heavily wooded at that time and it is unlikely that there was anything other than small-scale settlement in the area. Medieval occupation in the area was probably focussed outside the north-western boundary of the new village site. There is some potential for medieval

settlement remains to survive within the north-western part of the new village but these are likely to be peripheral and to be less well preserved than the main part of the village, which has not been subjected to ploughing for so long.

1.4 Aims

1.4.1 The aims of this evaluation are:

- i. to determine the presence or otherwise of buried remains of archaeological interest; and*
- ii. to assess the site's archaeological potential in order to allow the Local Planning Authority to make an informed decision regarding its suitability for development.*

1.4.2 Should any significant remains be identified, an additional set of aims are in place to allow the planning decision to be made. These are:

- i. to assess the nature, date, density, extent, function and state of preservation of archaeological remains identified;*
- ii. to assess their potential for answering questions about the development of land use in the region; and*
- iii. where remains are of sufficient importance, to determine the best method by which these remains can be preserved by record or *in situ*.*

*1.5 This specification conforms to the requirements of *Planning Policy Guidance: Archaeology and Planning* (DoE 1990) (PPG16). It has been designed in accordance with current best archaeological practice and the appropriate national standards and guidelines including :*

Management of Archaeological Projects (English Heritage, 1991);

Model Briefs and Specifications for Archaeological Assessments and Field Evaluations (Association of County Archaeological Officers, 1994);

Code of Conduct (Institute of Field Archaeologists, 1994); and

Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Excavations (Institute of Field Archaeologists, 1994).

Policy and Guidance for Archaeological fieldwork projects in Northamptonshire (Northamptonshire Heritage 1995)

2.0 Methodology

2.1 Excavation

- 2.1.1 Trenches have been located in consultation with Northamptonshire Heritage in relation to the areas of known or suspected archaeology, identified by the initial phases of assessment. Each trench measures 20 metres by 2 metres. Their precise locations are detailed in Figure 2.
- 2.1.2 Topsoil and overburden will be removed by mechanical excavator. The spoil generated during the evaluation will be mounded around the edges of each trench. The excavation will cease at either undisturbed natural deposits or when archaeological features are identified. The nature of these deposits will be assessed by hand excavation. Excavation of archaeological features exposed will be undertaken as far as is required to determine their date, sequence, density and nature. However, where features of particular interest are encountered that cannot be adequately assessed within the trenches identified, additional areas will be opened up by machine in consultation with the County Archaeological Officer, to a maximum extent of a further 10% of the initial evaluation area.
- 2.1.3 The exposed areas will be cleaned by hand and discrete archaeological features (e.g. pits) that are identified for excavation will be assessed by half- or quarter-sectioning. Where linear features are encountered, sufficient will be excavated to determine their nature, profile and, where possible, their date and function.
- 2.1.4 The exposed area will be recorded at an appropriate scale by measured drawing and photography and the deposits encountered described fully on pro-forma individual context recording sheets. The sections of excavated archaeological features will also be recorded by measured drawing at an appropriate scale (normally 1:20). The recording system is based on the Museum of London's '*Archaeological Site Manual*' (1994). Spot heights and those of individual features will be recorded relative to Ordnance Datum.
- 2.1.5 The photographic record will be maintained during the course of the excavation and will include:
- i. the site prior to commencement of fieldwork;
 - ii. the site during work, showing specific stages of fieldwork;
 - iii. the layout of archaeological features within each trench;
 - iv. individual features and, where appropriate, their sections;
 - v. groups of features where their relationship is important;
- 2.1.6 All artefacts will be treated in accordance with UKIC guidelines, '*First Aid for Finds*' (1981). All finds will be bagged and labelled according to the individual deposit from which they were recovered, ready for later cleaning and analysis.
- 2.1.7 Mr James Rackham will make a site visit to advise on deposits suitable for environmental sampling.

- i. Any securely dated deposits containing the following will be sampled at a minimum of 20 litres where possible.
 - charred plant remains;
 - large quantities of molluscs;
 - large quantities of bone;
 - hearths and other burnt features;
 - other domestic features, e.g. house gullies, potentially containing the above .
- ii. Charred plant samples will be wet sieved with flotation using a 0.5mm mesh. All residues will be checked.
- iii. Should waterlogged deposits be encountered, further consultation with one of the above named specialists will determine methods for recovery.

2.1.8 Any human remains encountered will be cleaned with minimal disturbance, recorded and left *in situ* and only removed if necessary. The contractor will comply with all statutory consents and licences under the Disused Burial Grounds (Amendment) Act, 1981 or other Burial Acts regarding the exhumation and interment of human remains. The archaeological contractor will comply with all reasonable requests of interested parties as to the method of removal, reinterment or disposal of the remains or associated items. Every effort will be made, at all times, not to cause offence to any interested parties.

2.1.9 The County Archaeological Officer will be given notice of when work is due to commence and will be free to visit the site by prior arrangement with the project director. Should any significant remains be found it may be necessary, in liaison with the County Archaeological Officer, to formulate a strategy designed to fully establish their character, distribution, extent, condition, dating and further treatment.

2.1.10 Archaeological staff and visitors will respect Health and Safety provisions and site specific safety regulations.

2.1.11 The material excavated from the trenches will be used to backfill them following the completion of work.

2.2 *Post-excavation*

2.2.1 Post excavation work will comprise the following:

- i. checking of drawn and written records during and on completion of fieldwork;
- ii. production of a stratigraphic matrix of the archaeological deposits and features present on the site, if appropriate;
- iii. cataloguing of photographic material and labelling of slides which will be mounted on appropriate hangers;
- iv. cleaning, marking, bagging and labelling of finds according to the individual deposits from which they were recovered. Any finds requiring specialist treatment and conservation will be sent to an appropriate Conservation Laboratory, such as that at the City and County

Museum, Lincoln. Finds will be identified and dated by appropriate specialists.

2.2.2 A report detailing the finds of the evaluation will be prepared within three months of the completion of site works and will consist of:

- i. a title page detailing site address, site code and accession number, NGR, author/originating body, client's name and address;
- ii. full contents listing;
- iii. a non-technical summary of the findings of the evaluation;
- iv. a description of the archaeological background with reference to the desk-top assessment and previous fieldwork;
- v. a description of the topography and geology of the evaluation area;
- vi. a description of the methodologies used during the evaluation;
- vii. a description of the findings of the evaluation;
- viii. plans of each of the trenches/areas showing the archaeological features exposed;
- ix. sections of the excavated archaeological features;
- x. interpretation of the archaeological features exposed and their context within the surrounding landscape;
- xi. specialist reports on the artefactual/environmental remains from the site;
- xii. appropriate photographs of specific archaeological features;
- xiii. a consideration of the importance of the archaeological remains present on the site in local, regional and national terms
- xiv. a list of contexts.

2.2.3 Copies of the evaluation report will be sent to the client for approval and then to the Local Planning Authority, the County Archaeological Officer and SMR.

2.4.4 The project archive will be prepared according to the recommendations in *Guidelines for the Preparation of Excavation Archives for long term storage* (UKIC 1990), *Standards in the Museum Care of Archaeological Collections* (Museums and Galleries Commission 1992). This excludes items of gold and silver which by law must be reported to Her Majesty's Coroner. The archive will be deposited in an appropriate local museum.

2.4.5 Notes or articles describing the results of the evaluation will be submitted for publication to an appropriate local journal and/or national journals, dependant on the nature of the results. A copy of any such works will be sent to the County Archaeological Officer and to the County SMR.

3.0 Timetable and Personnel

3.1 The evaluation is expected to take up to three weeks with three staff and a supervisor.

- 3.2 Dan Slatcher BA, MA, AIFA will direct the project with daily site supervision by either Dan Slatcher, Nansi Rosenberg, BA PIFA, Aleck Russell or Simon Johnson BA AIFA. Additional members of JSAC staff will be brought in as required. CVs will be provided on request.
- 3.3 Specialist assistance where required will be provided by appropriate persons. In the recent past, John Samuels Archaeological Consultants have employed the services of a number of specialists, including

Jane Cowgill - Slags and small finds

Robert White - Conservation

Robert Alvey - Small finds/environmental sampling

Paul Blinkhorn - Iron Age, Roman, Anglo-Saxon and medieval pottery

John Samuels, Lynne Bevan (BUFAU), - Roman pottery

Jane Young, Stephanie Ratkai (BUFAU) - Medieval pottery

Stephanie Ratkai (BUFAU) - Post Medieval pottery

Angela Monckton (ULAS), Umberto Albarella (BUFAU) James Rackham -
Environmental sampling, animal bone analysis

John Carney - Geological and soil analysis

Lynne Bevan (BUFAU) - Flint

- 3.4 Additional or alternative specialists will be brought in if necessary, in consultation with the County Archaeological Officer.

4.0 Insurance

- 4.1 The archaeological contractor will produce evidence of Public Liability Insurance to the minimum value of £5 m and Professional Indemnity Insurance to the minimum of £2m.

5.0 Health and Safety

- 5.1 It is the policy of John Samuels Archaeological Consultants ('the Employer') to conform fully with the requirements of the Health & Safety at Work etc. Act (1974).
- 5.2 It is accepted that it is the duty of the Employer to ensure, so far as is reasonably practical, the health and safety of all his employees at work.
- 5.3 The employer also has a duty to ensure that his employees are aware of their responsibility for their own health and safety, and for the health and safety of others, including the general public, who might be affected by their work.
- 5.4 Where employees are temporarily engaged at other workplaces, they are to respect relevant local regulations, both statutory and as imposed by other employers within the Health and Safety at Work etc. Act (1974).
- 5.5 In furtherance of the duty of care imposed by the Health & Safety at Work etc. Act (1974), the Employer shall make available to his employees whatever reasonable facilities are required by particular circumstances, e.g appropriate protective clothing, safety equipment, rest breaks for specialised tasks, etc.
- 5.6 Attention is paid to the requirements of more recent legislation including the provision and use of *Work Equipment Regulations 1992*, the *Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1992* and the *Construction (Design and Management) Regulations 1994*. A risk assessment will be undertaken, a safety officer appointed and all aspects of health and safety nominated during work.

6.0 Figures

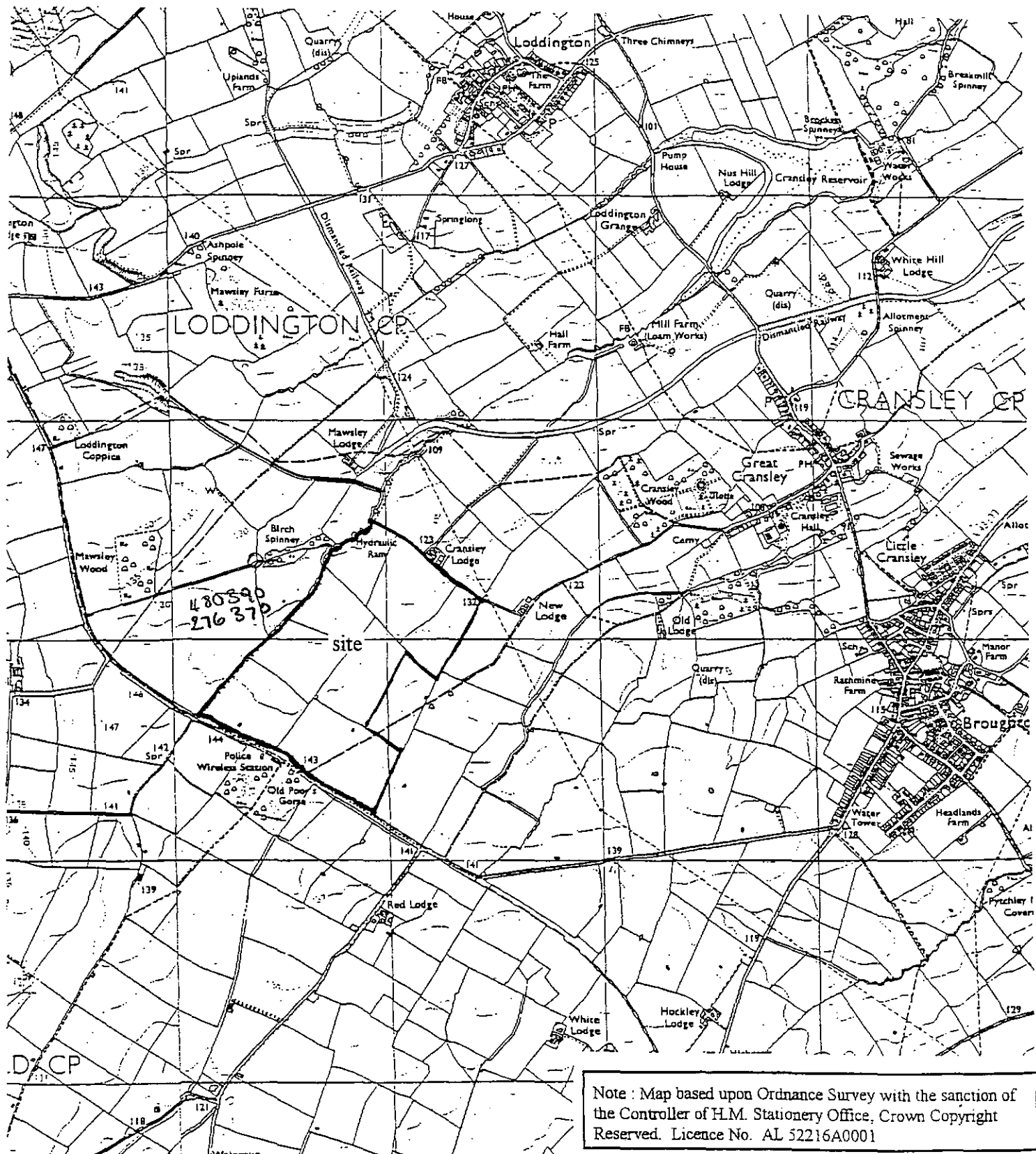
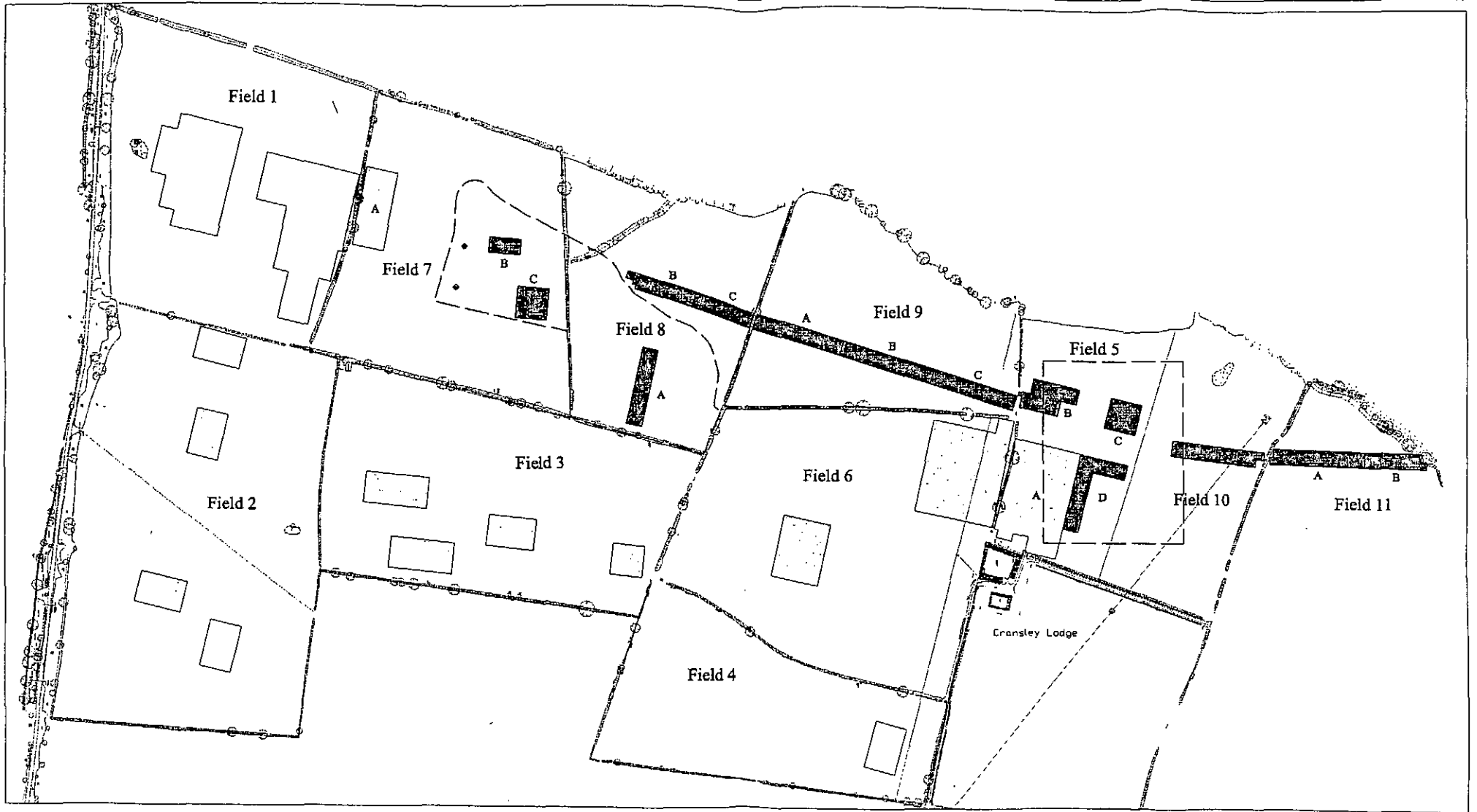


Figure 1 : Site Location



Current Area of Scanning



Current Detailed Survey



Scanning Anomaly
(not surveyed)

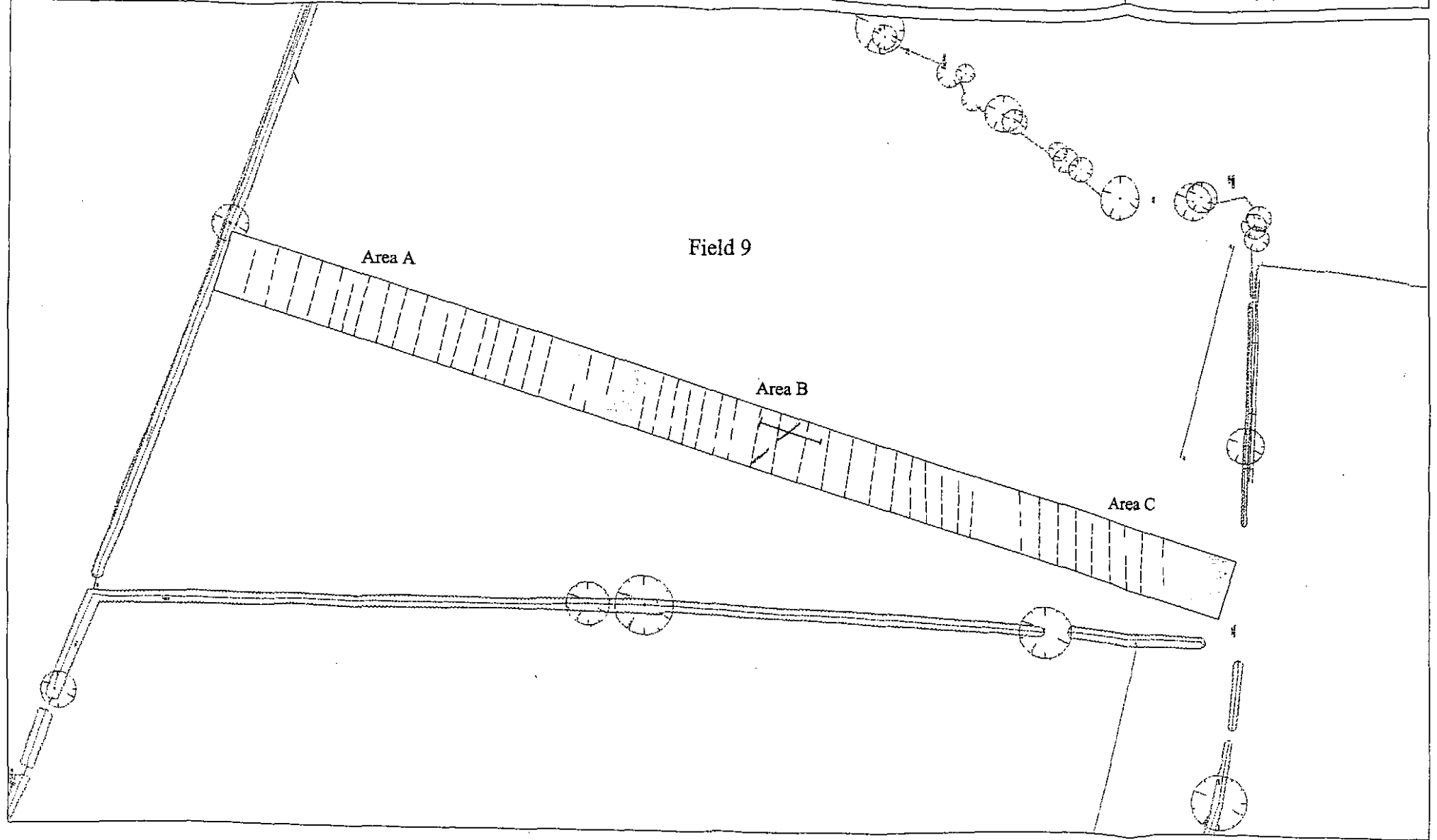



Previous Detailed Survey
(99/81 & 99/106)




0 metres 200

Figure 2



 ?Archaeology

 Ridge & Furrow


 Ferrous



Figure 3

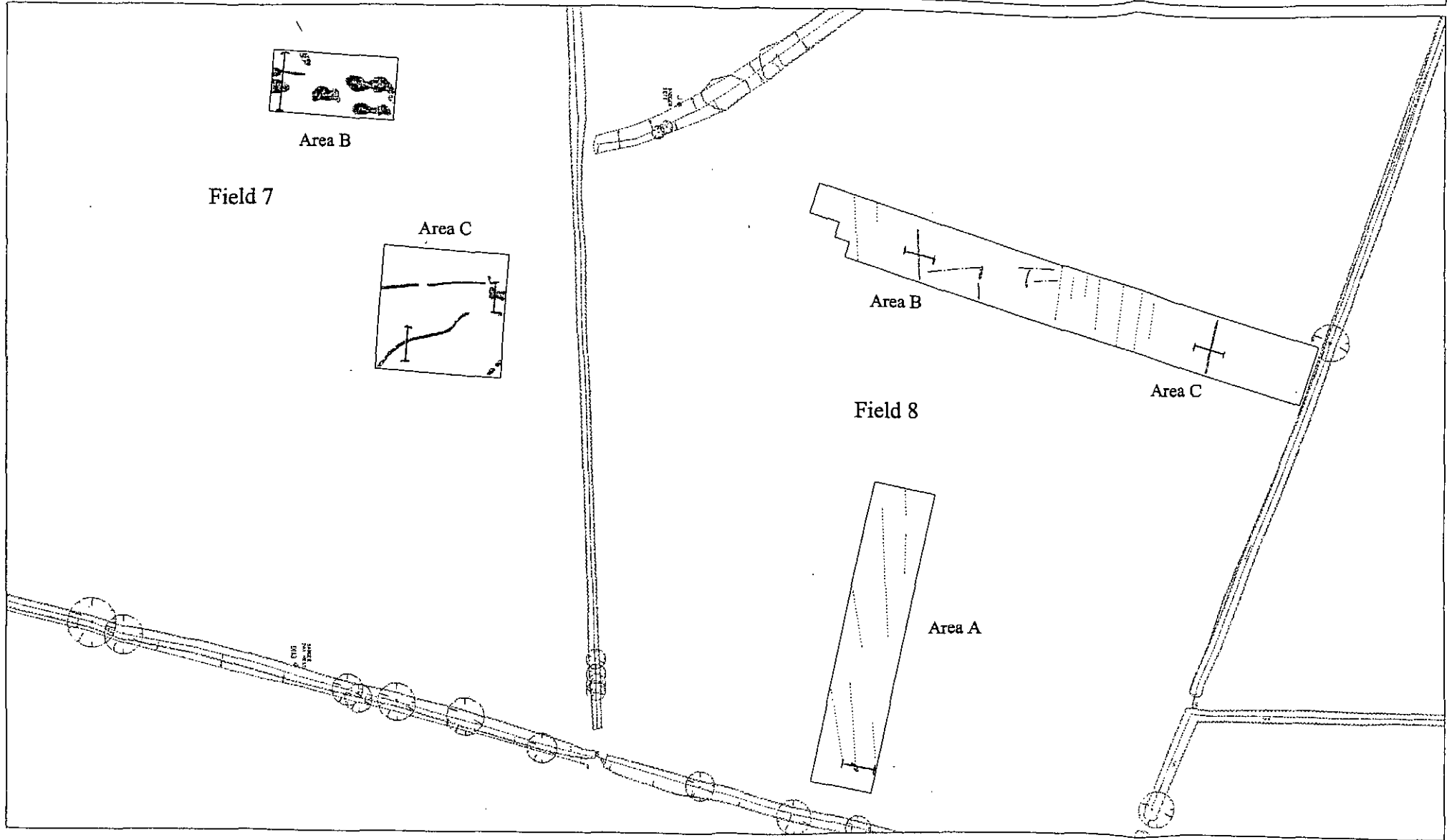
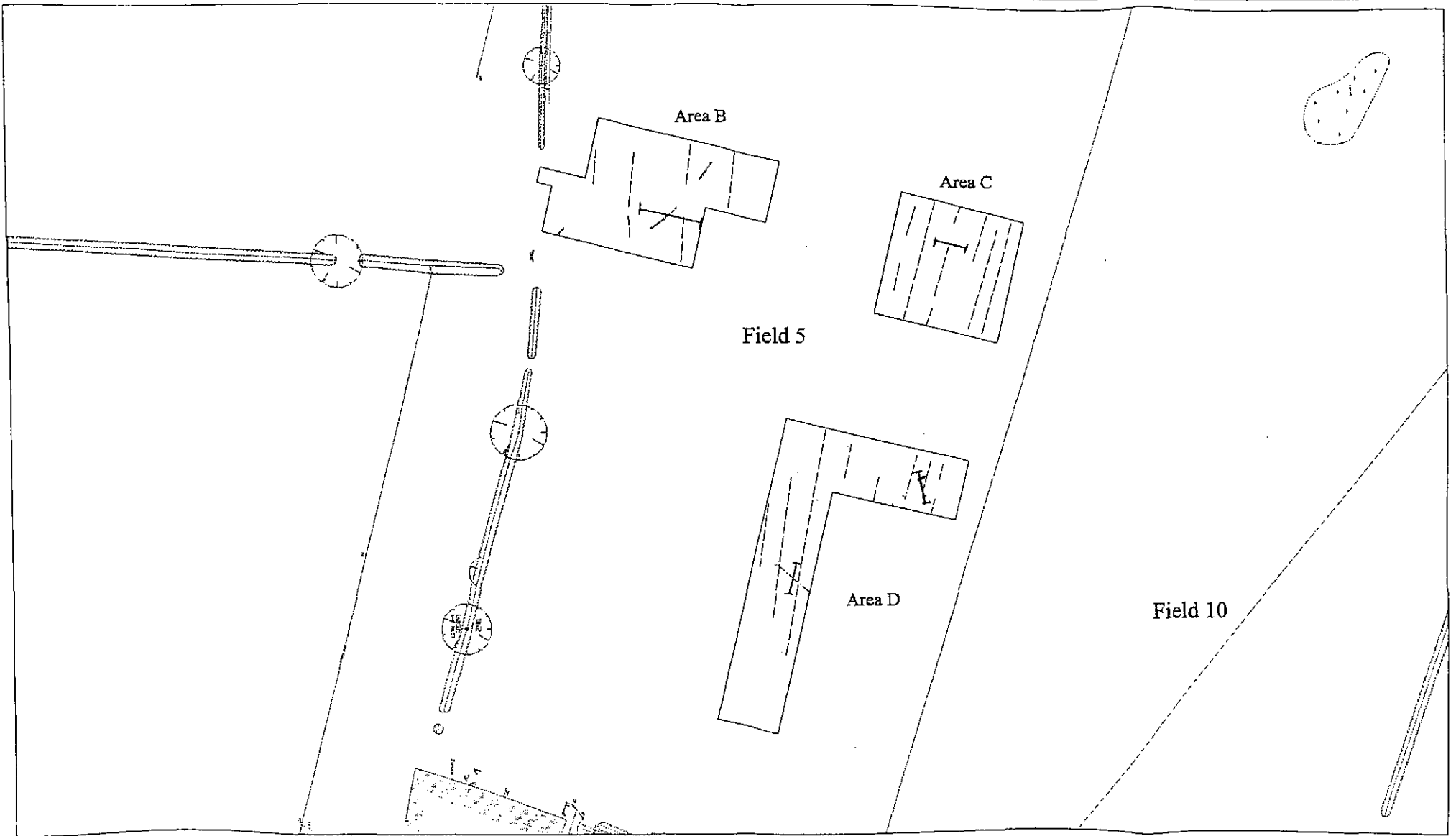


Figure 4



?Archaeology



Ridge & Furrow



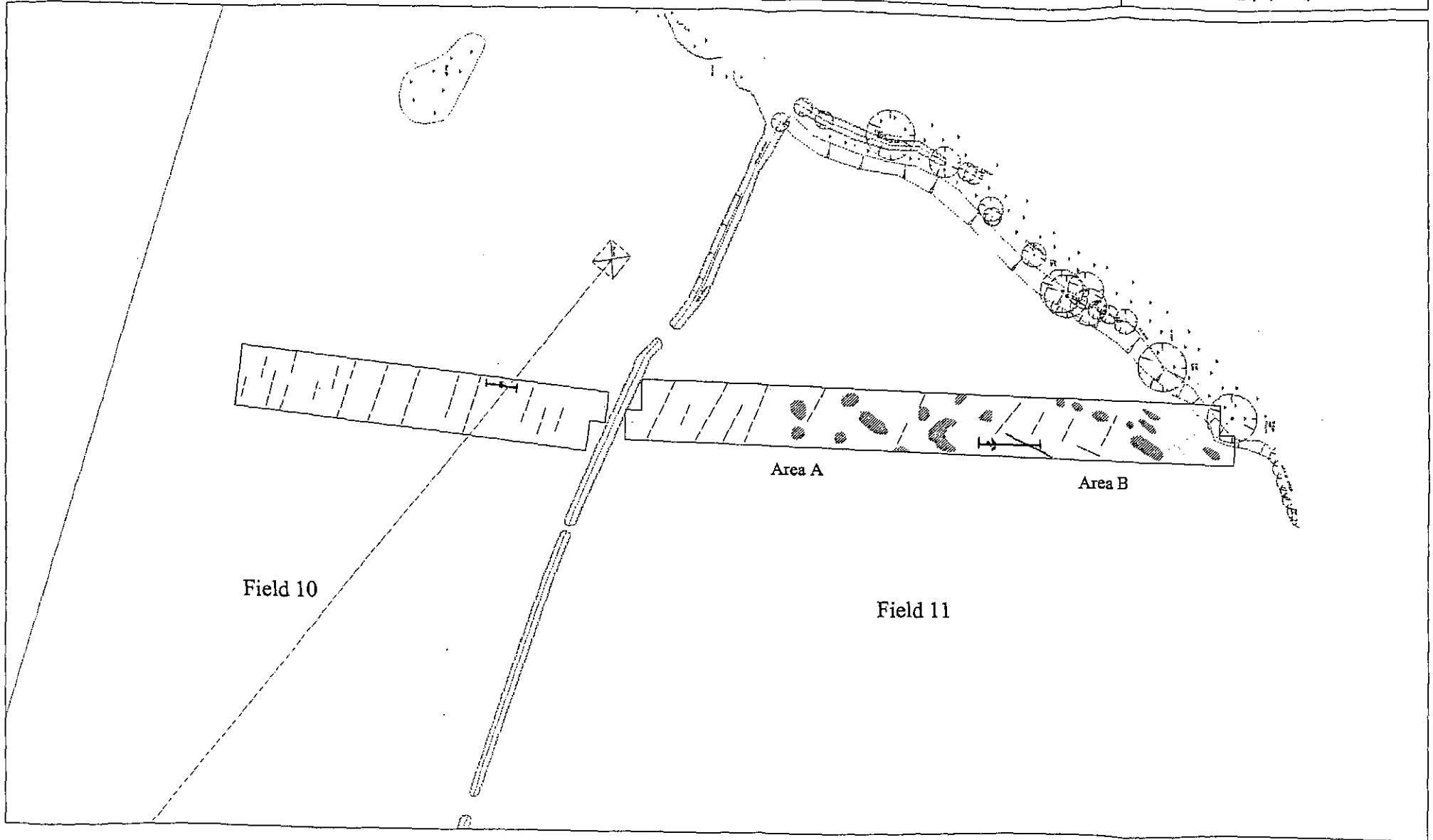
Trend





Ferrous



Figure 5



 ?Archaeology

 Ridge & Furrow

 ?Natural

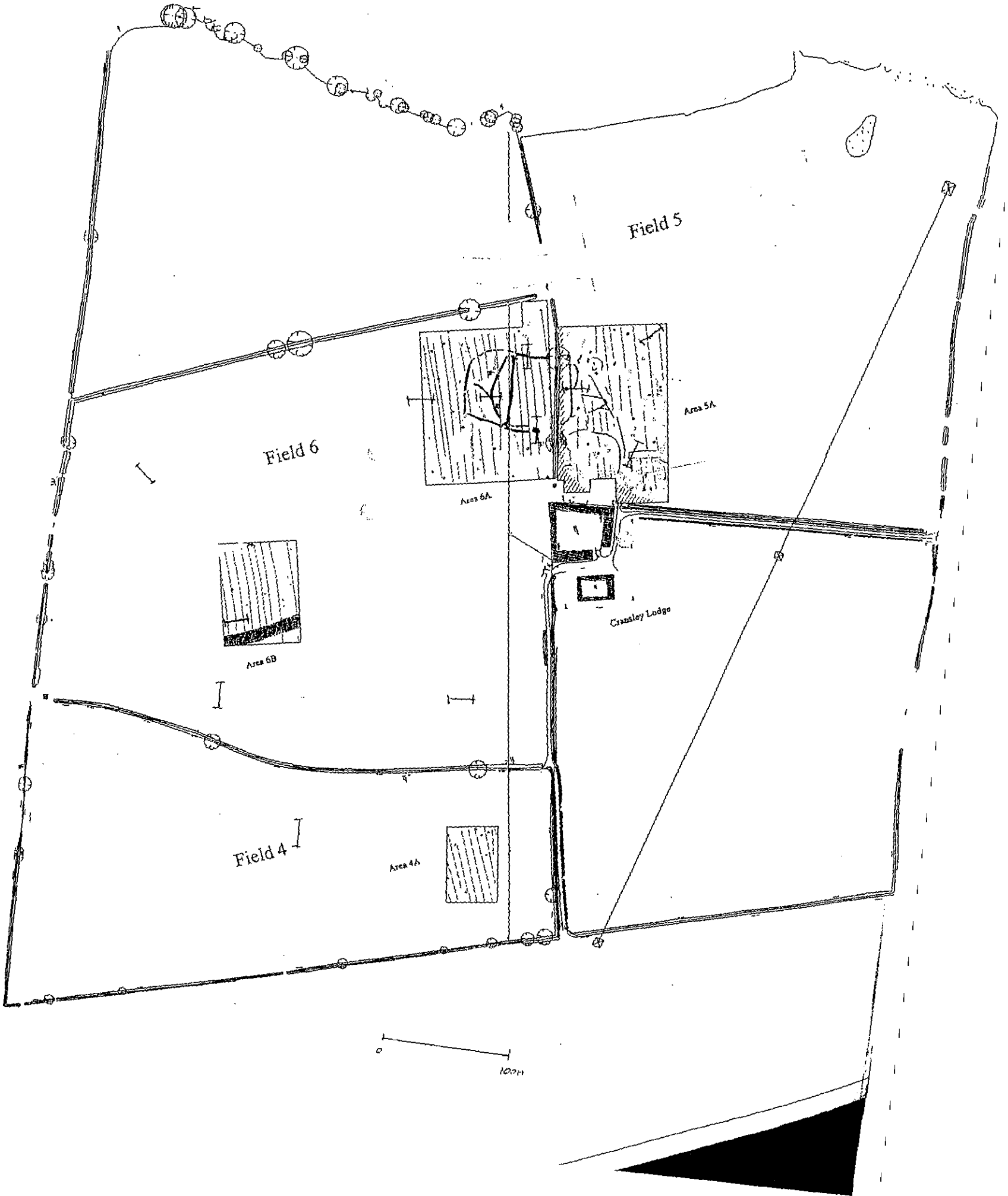
 Ferrous



Figure 6

Ferrous

Figure 7



Author **John Samuels Archaeological Co** Date

Title **Results of an Archaeological Evaluation of the
Northern Part of Mawsley New Village, Cransley,
Northamptonshire**

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