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**The Nash, Kempsey, Hereford and Worcester
An Archaeological Evaluation**

by
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1. Summary

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken at The Nash, Kempsey, Hereford and Worcester, in order to assess the archaeological implications of proposals for a large-scale hotel and leisure-complex development. The evaluation comprised; fieldwalking of areas adjacent to known archaeological sites lying outside the development area; trial-trenching of enclosures and ditches revealed by aerial photography; and geophysical survey of areas adjacent to a probable prehistoric barrow cemetery, likewise revealed by aerial photography.

The fieldwalking, while carried out under poor ground conditions, did not reveal concentrations of artefacts indicative of the presence of significant buried archaeological deposits. The trial excavations revealed the enclosures and ditches to be part of a probable Romano-British period field system, but no evidence for an associated settlement was uncovered. The geophysical survey, although levels of response were low, indicated the possible presence of two concentric ring-ditches which may form an element of the prehistoric barrow cemetery.

The prehistoric barrow cemetery is an archaeological monument of importance and should be preserved *in situ*. It is recommended that no ground disturbance should take place in the area of the barrow cemetery (Fig. 11, Zone 1). The present development plans indicate that hotel apartments are to be located on the site of the possible concentric ring-ditches detected by geophysical survey. It is recommended that these features should be further investigated by means of a single trial trench to determine their precise nature and significance, with contingency arrangements for full archaeological excavation,

should this be necessary. It is also recommended that provision be made for archaeological monitoring of the groundworks phase of construction of the main hotel and leisure-complex. Elsewhere, the development proposals are considered, on the basis of the evidence available, to present no threat to significant archaeological deposits.

2. Introduction

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken at The Nash, Kempsey, Hereford and Worcester, in order to assess the archaeological implications of proposals for a large-scale hotel and leisure-complex development. The proposed development comprises a golf course, covering the majority of the site, together with a cottage and, focused on the southeastern part of the site around the present Baynhall Farm, a hotel, and equestrian, tennis, leisure and conference centres (Fig. 2).

The archaeological evaluation was commissioned by clients of Ron Allen Associates and was carried out by Birmingham University Field Archaeology Unit and Geophysical Surveys of Bradford, in January and February 1991. The evaluation was carried out in accordance with a brief prepared by the Archaeology Section of Hereford and Worcester County Council. The aims of the evaluation were twofold: first, to locate archaeological deposits and determine their extent, state of preservation, date, type, vulnerability, documentation, quality of setting and amenity value; and second, having thus established the significance of any archaeological remains, to provide recommendations for their appropriate treatment and integration into the proposed development programme.

3. The Site and its Setting

The site of the proposed development (centred on NGR SO 859 474) lies on the eastern side of the valley of the River Severn, some seven kilometres south of Worcester and about one kilometre south of the village of Kempsey. It is roughly defined on its eastern and western sides by the M5 motorway and the A38 respectively (Fig. 1).

The present landuse is predominantly agricultural, with an extensive area of woodland around The Nash itself, an attractive house with elements of 16th-century build. Baynhall Farm, the other major building within the proposed development area, possesses a fine oasthouse (to be preserved in the development plan).

The soils are mostly deep, well-drained, coarse loamy and sandy soils (of the Wick 1 Association), with solid geology of Mercian Mudstone (Keuper Marl) and partial drift of gravel. A smaller area in the northwest of the site is of the Whimple 3 Association, described as reddish fine loamy or fine silty soils over clayey soils with slowly permeable subsoils.

Aerial photography has revealed two archaeological 'cropmark' sites within the proposed development area, and a considerable number in the immediate environs. These sites are revealed to the aerial photographer as marks in an arable crop caused by differential growth of the crop over buried features such as walls or, as here, ditches. Without excavation, the date and function of cropmark sites cannot usually be ascertained, although the general morphological characteristics of the sites provide a clue to their nature. The cropmark sites in the vicinity of The Nash include 'ring-ditches', generally the partially ploughed-out remains of Bronze Age burial mounds, and enclosures and field systems, generally indicative of rural settlement of the later Bronze Age, Iron Age and Romano-British periods.

Within the proposed development area, at its southern tip, is a complex of cropmarks (HWCM 10362, 10408-11; Fig. 3) which comprises two clear ring-ditches and at least three further slightly irregular circles, together with other features, possibly extremely small ring-ditches. The whole is very likely to comprise a barrow cemetery of

the Bronze Age period. The ring-ditches are associated with regular cropmark field boundaries, which may be contemporary with the ring-ditches or be a superimposition of a later period.

North of the probable barrow cemetery, in the field immediately to the east of Baynhall Farm, is a cropmark complex of a different character, comprising probable enclosures and boundary ditches (HWCM 6030, 10413; Fig. 3). The most clearly-defined element of the complex is a small rectangular enclosure (HWCM 10413), about 28 metres long and 13 metres wide, with rounded corners and no obvious entrance. About 50 metres north, in the centre of the field, is a smaller, sub-circular enclosure (HWCM 6030), again with no apparent entrance. A wide linear ditch radiates off from the enclosure in a northwesterly direction, and another well-marked ditch radiates off to the northeast before becoming fainter and apparently turning to the east. Other ditches approach the enclosure from the north, while towards the eastern side of the field fainter cropmarks suggest further boundary ditches and possible (very faint) enclosures.

Within a one kilometre radius of the proposed development area numerous other cropmark sites and complexes have been recorded. A large ring-ditch has been recorded immediately adjacent to the northwest corner of the development area (HWCM 1380; Fig. 1), while a little further west, near Draycott Villa, are a number of features (HWCM 2117, 2118) that include a possible henge (a ritual monument of the Neolithic period), an enclosure, and pit alignments. Further west again, a string of cropmarks (HWCM 2109-12, 1357, 6032, 1352-3), mostly of enclosures of various sorts, have been recorded along the eastern bank of the Severn. To the south of the development area, at Kerswall Green, are an enclosure and trackway (HWCM 10412) and a complex of interlinking and separate small enclosures with additional ditches and pits (HWCM 2120).

The number of cropmark sites which have been recorded around The Nash is sufficient to demonstrate a considerable concentration of prehistoric/Romano-British activity along this stretch of the Severn Valley. However, it is

important to recognise that the recorded sites will only represent a fraction — quite possibly a small fraction — of the number of sites which exist, but which have not yet, due to inappropriate modern land use or other factors, been discovered by aerial photography. The true density of sites is likely to be further under-represented due to a dearth of archaeological fieldwork in the area. However, two important non-cropmark sites are recorded immediately outside the development area. Just north of Baynhall Farm, near Mear House, a handled beaker with spiral decoration, of Early Bronze Age date, (HWCM 2119; Fig. 1) was found in a gravel pit in 1934. On the opposite side of the development area, at Napleton, part of the eastern boundary of the site follows the line of a Roman road (HWCM 1150) — its probable course preserved in the alignment of lanes, footpaths and hedgerows — which branched off from Ryknield Street to the south of Birmingham and led to Gloucester, via Droitwich and Worcester (Margary 1973, 287-8). In 1960, some 14 kilometres to the south of Napleton, at Shuthonger Common, Twynning, near Tewkesbury, a section was excavated through the road where it appeared on an aerial photograph (Sanders and Webster 1960). At this point only the base of the agger, the bank on which the road was built, survived.

Recent fieldwork in the vicinity of the development area is confined to two evaluations carried out in 1990 by the Hereford and Worcester County Council Archaeology Section along the line of the M5 motorway in advance of its widening (Dinn and Edwards 1991). Just outside the development area, at the point where the projected line of the Roman road is intersected by the motorway, three trial trenches were excavated, with the purpose of both locating the road and testing for the presence of contemporary roadside settlement (Dinn and Edwards 1991, 6-10). The excavations demonstrated that the road here was well preserved, probably because the area had been used as pasture, and phases were recorded relating to its construction and primary use, resurfacing and secondary use, and relating to the medieval trackway (Green Lane) which succeeded the Roman road. However, no Roman period finds were recovered, and no evidence was found for roadside settlement or other activity

in the Roman period.

A further evaluation trench was excavated alongside the motorway, just to the east of the complex of enclosures, ditches and pits at Kerswell Green (HWCM 2120), and about 300 metres southeast of the development area (Dinn and Edwards 1991, 10-12) (Fig. 1). The trench failed to locate buried features relating to the cropmark complex, suggesting that here these features, if once present, had been ploughed out. However five sherds of Bronze Age pottery were recovered, including one with cord-impressed decoration, (suggesting the presence of a Bronze Age settlement in the area), together with nine sherds of Roman pottery. Four burnt stones were recovered during casual fieldwalking; such stones, while not of themselves datable, can be a feature of both Bronze Age and Iron Age activity.

Prior to the present investigations, the only known archaeological fieldwork carried out within the development area involved casual fieldwalking undertaken by a member of staff of Hereford and Worcester County Council Archaeology Section during the excavation of test pits for soil examination. No artefacts were recovered from the area of HWCM 6030 and 10413, but a few sherds of Roman pottery were recovered from the areas closest to HWCM 1380 and HWCM 2119 (Fieldwalking Area B, Fig. 2).

4. General Evaluation Methodology

The methods used in the evaluation, which followed closely the guidance of the Hereford and Worcester County Council brief, were designed to be appropriate to both the pre-existing archaeological evidence and the nature of the development proposals. The methods used and the areas covered were also of necessity tailored to accommodate existing land use.

The development proposals for much of the site comprise the construction of a golf course, which, depending on the amount of landscaping involved (and particularly the excavation of bunkers), will result in only limited disturbance of buried archaeological deposits, although over a wide area. The construction of buildings, with associated services, on the other hand, is likely to entail greater disturbance of archaeological

deposits, but over a much more restricted and more easily-defined area (Figs. 2 and 11).

The most significant previously-known archaeological site within the development area is the probable Bronze Age barrow cemetery (HWCM 10362, 10408-11) at its southern tip (Fig. 3). Preservation of this monument *in situ* is an archaeological priority, and the known extent of the cemetery is designated for use as a golf driving range, which should entail no significant sub-surface disturbance. Aerial photography has not, however, necessarily defined the full extent of the cemetery, as the fields adjacent to those in which the ring-ditches have been recorded were not under suitable arable crop when the site was photographed in 1979. For this reason an extensive geophysical survey was carried out in the adjacent fields to the north and east, for the purpose of locating any further ring-ditches or associated features and determining the bounds of the cemetery. Particular attention was paid to the area directly to the north of the recorded ring-ditches, as this area has been designated for the construction of hotel apartments. Areas to the west and northwest, potentially to be affected by carparking and service roads, could not be evaluated due to the presence of a cabbage crop.

The other previously-known archaeological site comprised the enclosures and ditch systems (HWCM 6030, 10413), of more uncertain archaeological significance, to the east of Baynhall Farm. Here trial-trenching of the cropmark features was undertaken to determine, insofar as possible, the date, function, state of preservation and general significance of the features. The area covered by these features is largely designated as golf course, and the threat to any archaeological remains is thus limited.

Two further areas of the development zone were selected for evaluation by means of systematic fieldwalking (Fieldwalking Areas A and B, Fig. 2). In these areas no previous archaeological sites or finds of any significance had been previously recorded but both lie adjacent to significant sites and find-spots immediately outside the development area: Area A lies adjacent to the Roman road (HWCM 1150), although negative results from earlier trial excavations along the roadside (see above)

lessened the possibility of evidence for activity here of the Roman period; Area B1 lies adjacent to the find-spot of a Bronze Age beaker pottery (HWCM 2119) and Area B2 lies adjacent to a ring-ditch (HWCM 1380). Both Areas A and B are designated as golf course and disturbance of any buried archaeological remains will be limited.

A more detailed description of the methods used for the geophysical survey, trial excavations and fieldwalking is provided in the relevant sections below.

5. Geophysical Survey

(The geophysical survey was undertaken by Geophysical Surveys of Bradford. The following is an edited summary of their report. Full details of the geophysical survey, including plots and technical information, will be found in Geophysical Surveys Report 91/20)

5.1 Method

The magnetometer survey at The Nash was a sample of the area specified under the original brief for the evaluation. It was hoped that scanning with the instrument would indicate potential areas of archaeological interest. However, preliminary results indicated that the levels of response were too low to identify the presence of archaeological anomalies.

As a result of this poor enhancement it was decided to initiate a sampling strategy, the result of which can be seen in Figure 3. It was decided that six sample areas would be investigated and the intervening areas also surveyed if necessary. In only one case was it thought to be appropriate to infill an area. This was the 40m interval between Areas A and B. This extra area has been processed alongside the original Area A sample.

The instrument used was a Geoscan FM36 fluxgate gradiometer with ST1 automatic trigger. Magnetic readings were logged at 0.5m intervals along one axis (in 1.0m traverses, 800 readings per 20m x 20m grid) over the survey area. The data were then transferred to a Compaq SLT/286 and stored on 3.5" floppy discs. Field plots were produced on a portable Hewlett Packard Thinkjet. Further processing was carried out back at base on a Dell 386 linked to appropriate printers.

The six areas will be discussed separately.

5.2 Results (Fig. 3)

Area A

There were a number of low-level anomalies in this sample that may be of archaeological origin. It must be stressed that the majority of the most obvious small amplitude anomalies in the area was due to ferrous debris, which is probably modern.

The possible archaeological anomalies, which may indicate the presence of lengths of ditch, have been highlighted in Figure 3.

Area B

The major anomaly in this area was again due to ferrous interference. On this occasion the responses were very characteristic of a metal pipe, running along the eastern limit of this area.

However, given the proximity of the presumed barrow cemetery to the south of this area, there were two concentric anomalies that may be of importance (Fig. 3). It must again be stressed that the anomalies were very weak and their interpretation is therefore somewhat speculative.

Area C

There were no anomalies of archaeological interest in this sample area.

Area D

The magnetic results in this area were again dominated by small amplitude responses, indicative of ferrous debris.

Area E

The major disturbance at the western edge of this sample area was a southern extension of the pipe located in Area B. There were no definite archaeological anomalies in this area.

Area F

Although the data at the western edge of this survey area were distorted by the presence of the pipe referred to above, there were some anomalies of note in the eastern half.

Whilst there were clearly some anomalies that were similar to those described above as due to ferrous debris, there were many whose form was much broader. The latter may be due to buried pits, or some other archaeological activity.

The most likely 'pit-type' anomalies are shown on Figure 3.

5.3 Discussion

The magnetometer survey at The Nash noted several anomalies of potential archaeological interest. However, the two circular anomalies identified in Area B may well be of considerable importance, given the evidence for similar archaeological features in the locality. The anomalies in Area F are different in character to the small anomalies noted elsewhere, and may represent general archaeological activity.

Generally, the lack of archaeological-type anomalies may be due to a number of factors. Firstly, magnetic susceptibility values for sands and gravels are usually quite low, inhibiting the discrimination of features. Secondly, the type of archaeology may not have enhanced the magnetic properties of the soil. Thirdly, the lack of anomalies may be a true reflection of the absence of archaeological features.

6. Trial Excavations

6.1 Method

The cropmarks forming the complex of enclosures (HWCM 6030, 10413) and ditches in the field to east of Baynhall farm were investigated by trial-trenching (Fig. 4). The cropmarks were accurately plotted from the aerial photographs onto a 1:2500 base map using the 'Möbius' network method. The initial trenches (Trenches 1 - 6), each 1.5m wide, were located in order to provide a section across each of the main elements of the complex, primarily the two enclosures and the major ditches. Topsoil was stripped mechanically and the surface of the subsoil cleaned manually in order to define features cut into it. The features thus defined were subsequently excavated either wholly or in part.

Following completion of the initial trial-trenching, some trenches were extended and other trenches (Trenches 7 and 8) and areas were opened up in order to clarify interpretation or further investigate deposits of potential significance.

A full record was maintained by means of photography, measured drawings and pro forma recording sheets. Soil samples were taken from significant deposits for environmental analysis.

6.2 Results

Trench 1, 103m long, was positioned in order to examine two cropmark ditches at the northern end of the field (Fig. 4; Cm 1 and Cm 2). Four linear features were defined. Ditch F1, which corresponded to cropmark Cm 1, was 3m wide with a maximum surviving depth of 0.6m and a gentle U-shaped profile. The sandy silt fill (1003) contained no finds. Ditch F33 (Fig. 5) corresponded to cropmark Cm 2. It was 1.5m wide and survived to a depth of 0.8m, with a steep-sided, V-shaped profile and a pronounced flat-bottomed slot at the base. The fills of the ditch were grey in colour due to gleying; the lower, pebbly fill (1011) was devoid of finds but the upper, silty fill (1010) contained 17 sherds of Roman pottery (see Section 6.3) and a struck flint flake. A narrow, shallow, flat-bottomed ditch (F34) ran parallel to F33 some 2m to the east. The remaining linear feature (F2) was a modern pipe-trench containing an iron pipe.

Trench 2, 68m long, picked up cropmark Cm 1 60m to the south of Trench 1. Here the ditch (F6), with its gentle U-shaped profile and sandy silt fill (2004) could be seen to cut across a steep-sided V-shaped ditch with a flat-bottomed slot at the base, almost certainly the continuation of ditch F33 (Cm 2). The modern iron pipe (F4 [= F2]), a shallow gully (F3), and a shallow pit (F5) were also encountered in the trench. No artefacts were recovered from any of the features.

In Trench 3, also 68m long, the cropmark ditches Cm 3 and Cm 4 were excavated as F32 and F8 respectively. Both were shallow ditches, less than 0.4m deep and of gentle profile, F32 cutting obliquely across the trench. Two sherds of Roman pottery were recovered from the fills of F32. Towards the southeastern end of the trench a sub-circular pit (F7), c.1.6m across and surviving to a depth of 0.5m, was exposed in the southern side of the trench. The blackened primary fill of the pit (3005) contained considerable quantities of burnt stone and charcoal but no pottery or metalworking residues (see Appendix III).

In the anticipation that pit F7 might form one element of a focus of activity or occupation, a small area 5.5m x 5m was opened up to the south of the pit, exposing it fully in plan. The pit was

found to be connected by a short gully to a second, smaller pit (F37) with a similar fill (3027). Another small pit (F36), again containing considerable quantities of charcoal, lay close by. A short section of ditch (F35 [= F8]) ran across the corner of the area, cut by a second, shallow ditch (F37).

Other features encountered in Trench 3 were the iron pipe (F9 [= F2, F4]), and two small post-holes (F10 and F40) containing fragments of 19th-century pottery and, perhaps, related to the known former use of this area for hop-growing.

Trench 4, 47m in length, was positioned in order to investigate the sub-circular cropmark enclosure (HWCM 6030). In the event, however, despite careful manual cleaning, the ditches of this feature were not located, perhaps obscured by the formation of a soil 'B' horizon. A wide, shallow ditch (F21) located at the eastern end of the trench is possibly a continuation of cropmark Cm 4 (F8, F35). The remaining features in the trench comprised two shallow gullies (F22 and F23); a post-hole (F25), possibly associated with recent hop-growing activity; the modern iron pipe (F31 [= F2, F4, F9]); and another modern pipe-trench containing a ceramic drainage pipe (F24).

Trench 5, 90m long, was positioned in order to investigate the sub-rectangular cropmark enclosure (HWCM 10413). Sections were excavated across the ditches defining both the eastern (F27) and western (F43) sides of the enclosure. The ditches survived to a depth of c.0.85m and the silty sand ditch fills (F27: 5012, 5013; F43: 5017, 5018, 5019) were a distinctive grey colour due to localized gleying. Both ditches displayed evidence of re-cutting (most pronounced in F27), resulting in irregular profiles up to 6m wide. The only dating evidence comprised a single sherd of Roman pottery from the upper fill (5011) of F27.

Other features contacted in Trench 5 included, towards its eastern end, a series of ditches and gullies on a common north-south alignment (F11-14, F16-17, F26), all probably associated with modern field drainage, and the iron pipe (F15 [= F2, F4, F9, F31]) was once again contacted. A further series of six small post-holes (F18-20,

F28-30), containing occasional fragments of modern pottery, may again be associated with recent hop-growing.

Trenches 7 and 8 were extensions of Trench 5 designed to locate the northern and southern sides of the enclosure and to sample the interior for traces of occupation. The northern and southern ditches were successfully defined but only the northern ditch section (F39) was excavated, displaying a similar profile and evidence for re-cutting as encountered in the eastern and western ditches. Despite the mechanical clearing and hand cleaning of *c.*25% of the enclosure interior, no internal features were revealed, with the exception of a shallow pit (F41) of indeterminate function and containing no finds.

Trench 6 was positioned in order to investigate Cropmark 6, the most pronounced of the cropmark features, indicating a broad, straight ditch apparently connecting with the sub-circular enclosure (HWCM 6063). The ditch was initially difficult to define, being sealed beneath the 'B' horizon of the soil profile. The section of the ditch excavated (F44) was over 6m wide and survived to a depth of *c.*0.75m, with gently sloping sides and a flat bottom. In common with the other major ditches excavated on the site, the secondary ditch fills were gleyed. Two sherds of Roman pottery were recovered from the ditch fills.

6.3 The Finds (Jane Evans)

The earliest activity was represented by a small flint assemblage comprising two struck flakes and a blade shaft (see Appendix II).

Twenty-nine sherds of Roman pottery were recovered. The only identifiable form, represented by 17 sherds from ditch-cut F33, was a 3rd- to 4th-century grey ware of a Malvernian fabric (HWCM fabric number 19) with an everted rim. The remainder of the assemblage comprised very abraded body sherds of oxidised Severn Valley ware. Apart from one sherd from ditch-cut F8, which was organically tempered and probably dated to the 1st or 2nd centuries AD, these could have been produced at any time during the Roman period.

No medieval finds were represented and the post-medieval finds were probably 18th-century or later in date. The post-medieval pottery comprised black wares, salt-glazed stoneware and blue and white china. Other post-medieval finds were clay pipe stems (3 fragments), brick and tile (5 fragments), and fragments of green bottle glass and clear window glass.

Apart from the 17 sherds of grey ware from ditch-cut F33, all of which were probably from the same vessel, the finds of all periods appear more representative of 'background noise' than a concentration of activity in the excavated area.

6.4 Discussion

The trial excavations have enabled the cropmark system to be broadly characterised and dated. The correspondence between the excavation results and the cropmark evidence was very close, with the majority of the cropmark features being successfully identified on the ground and sampled. The form of the features, surviving at a depth of between *c.*0.3m and 1.0m below the modern ground surface, was very much as might be predicted from the cropmarks: narrow, sharply-defined cropmarks such as cropmark Cm 2 (Fig. 4), turning out to be narrow, steep-sided ditches (Fig. 5; F33); broader, more diffuse cropmarks, such as cropmark Cm 5 (Fig. 4), turning out to be wider ditches with more gently-sloping sides (Fig.6; F44).

It is often the case that upon excavation a cropmark system such as that at The Nash turns out to be much more complex, and to contain many more elements, than the aerial photographs suggest. Here, however, it would appear, albeit on the basis of a small sample, that the aerial photographs reflect with reasonable faithfulness the character and density of significant archaeological features below ground. The only significant features encountered which were not registered on the aerial photographs was the small group of pits (Fig. 6; F7, F37 and F36) containing considerable quantities of burnt stone and charcoal, and perhaps serving an 'industrial' function of some kind, although undated. Other additional features uncovered by the trial excavations were probably by-and-large modern,

and included a series of land drains and a scatter of post-holes possibly related to recent hop-growing.

The rectangular enclosure (HWCM 10413) was extensively sampled, and was shown to measure about 28m x 13m, defined by broad ditches evincing at least one episode of re-cutting. The virtual absence of internal features and artefactual remains indicates that this was not a settlement enclosure, and rather was, perhaps, used for stock. The other elements of the system are generally indicative of field boundaries and animal enclosures, although they do not form a coherent pattern. The extreme rarity of pottery strongly suggests the associated settlement does not lie within the excavated area. Sufficient pottery was found in various features to indicate that the system is of broadly Romano-British date, but insufficient to allow further refinement of dating. Evidence for former land use, in the form of animal bones or preserved seeds, was absent (Appendix III).

The Romano-British enclosure and field system at The Nash is one of a growing number of such systems being identified along this stretch of the Severn Valley, and similar systems are common along the terraces of many British rivers. In an area where, however, very little previous fieldwork has taken place, it has been useful to be able to date the system at The Nash and indicate something of the character of the remains.

7. Fieldwalking

(The following account is an edited summary of reports prepared by Quentin Hutchinson and Shaun Richardson.)

7.1 Method

Intensive fieldwalking was undertaken within the designated areas, with full coverage being enabled by systematic walking along closely-spaced transects. All artefacts except modern ceramics (generally present in large quantities) were collected in the field, other post-medieval material being discarded after identification and quantification. Recording in Area A was undertaken using an electronic distance measurer (EDM) to plot the exact find spots and provide an accurate picture of the spread of material (Fig. 7).

Due to the small quantity of ancient material recovered and the lack of significant clustering this recording method was abandoned in Area B, where material was recorded by 50m square.

The ground conditions were very poor for fieldwalking throughout, which will undoubtedly have affected the results. Area A had not been ploughed for months and contained a young crop of winter wheat. Area B1 was cleared of rotting cauliflowers shortly before fieldwalking but was not properly ploughed. Area B2 was under a crop of spring onions. Ground conditions varied from wet to frozen to (for several days when the fieldwalking had to be abandoned) snow-covered. Despite the poor conditions, it is believed that valid, if limited, results have emerged, a control on recovery levels being provided by the recording and quantification of post-medieval (except modern) ceramics.

The results of the field walking are presented to a standard format of density by 50m square in Figures 8 to 10. Quantity and type of material are tabulated in Appendix I.

7.2 Results

Area A (Fig. 8), measuring c.50,000 square metres, produced only 3 sherds of Roman pottery and 5 fragments of Roman tile, representing only 4% of the total assemblage (191 artefacts), primarily comprised of post-medieval pottery and tile. The general concentration of finds towards the western side of this sloping field reflects the tendency of the plough to accumulate material at the foot of a slope.

In Area B1 (Fig. 9), measuring c.34,000 square metres, the finds were fairly evenly distributed, although the fieldwalking conditions were particularly poor. Only two fragments of Roman tile were recovered, representing 2% of the total assemblage (99 artefacts), primarily composed of post-medieval tile and pottery.

Area B2 (Fig. 10) measured over 65,000 square metres and produced by far the largest number of artefacts (974). Roman pottery was very poorly represented, with only 3 sherds, but interestingly 47 sherds of medieval pottery accounted for 5% of the total assemblage, again largely composed of post-medieval pottery and tile. While the

medieval pottery was fairly evenly distributed throughout the area, the post-medieval ceramics displayed a rather less even distribution. Three flints were recovered towards the southern end of the area, one part of a scraper, one a struck flake and one probably unworked (see Appendix II).

7.3 Discussion

Intensive fieldwalking, albeit in poor conditions, revealed no significant concentrations of artefacts. The general spread of post-medieval artefacts is, doubtless, largely the result of domestic debris incorporated in manure; the same process could explain the presence of small quantities of Roman material and the more localised spread of medieval pottery and tile. The three prehistoric flints were located broadly adjacent to known prehistoric monuments (HWCM 2119 and 1380) outside the development area; such flints are probably more widely distributed but were only identified in the area B2 where, due to comparatively good ground conditions, fieldwalking was most productive.

There were no concentrations of artefacts suggestive of buried settlement remains.

8. Recommendations

These recommendations have been drawn up with reference to Department of the Environment Planning Policy Guidance Note 16 'Archaeology and Planning' (1990) and the requirements of the Hereford and Worcester County Council brief.

In assessing the significance of the archaeological remains the Secretary of State's 'criteria for scheduling ancient monuments' has been used as a guide.

In Fieldwalking Area A (Fig. 2), negligible quantities of Roman pottery were recovered, which must be considered only as 'background noise' and is not indicative of the presence of settlement remains. This result is in conformity with the results of the Hereford and Worcester County Council Archaeology Section's trial trenches on adjacent land immediately to the east, where (other than the Roman road outside the proposed development area) "no evidence was found for roadside settlement or other activity

in the Roman period" (Dinn and Edwards 1991, 10). Although evaluation has not been intensive, the archaeological potential of this area is low and the proposed use of this area for part of a golf course, which will entail limited subsoil disturbance, is appropriate.

In Fieldwalking Area B1 (Fig. 2), although the conditions for fieldwork were very poor, no evidence suggestive of occupation of any period was encountered. The proposed use of the area as part of a golf course is appropriate.

In Fieldwalking Area B2 (Fig. 2) a small proportion of the pottery was of the medieval period, a phenomenon not observed in the other fieldwalking areas, but in insufficient amounts to be clearly indicative of settlement. Towards the southern end of the area three prehistoric flints were recovered. Use as a part of a golf course is again appropriate for this area.

Archaeological trial excavations in the field immediately east of Baynhall Farm (Fig. 4) revealed the majority of the cropmarks to be elements of a Roman period field system. Such systems are not rare, although in this part of the Severn valley very little fieldwork has taken place. The fact that very little Roman pottery was present and the absence of internal features within the sample of enclosure HWCM 10413 excavated, suggests that the enclosures were not part of a settlement; the small group of 'industrial' pits is undated. Animal bone was absent and preservation of seed-remains poor. Taken together, these facts do not indicate an archaeological resource of high value, and further excavation would be unlikely to add greatly to our understanding. Use of this area as part of a golf course, where subsoil disturbance will in any case be limited, is appropriate.

Within the Geophysical Sample Areas (Figs. 3 and 11) the number of archaeological-type anomalies was small, and none of the anomalies was well-resolved or definitely archaeological in character. The principal anomalies of possible archaeological origin were located in Geophysical Sample Areas B and F. In Area F the anomalies suggested a cluster of pits; use of this area as part of a golf course is appropriate but sub-soil disturbance should be avoided (Fig. 11, Zone 1). The anomalies in Area B suggest two concentric

ring ditches. While the anomalies are very weak and their interpretation speculative, their proximity to cropmark ring-ditches to the south gives them considerable potential archaeological significance. Subsoil disturbance here should not take place without further archaeological investigation. As the present proposals involve the siting of hotel apartments in this area (Fig. 11) and presumed ground disturbance below the depth of the topsoil (estimated to be between 0.3m and 0.4m deep), two principal options may be considered. First, to relocate the hotel apartments north of the geophysical survey areas. Second, if this is not practical, to investigate by means of a single trial trench the nature and significance of the anomalies. If the anomalies do prove to be of archaeological significance, full archaeological excavation should then be programmed prior to construction works. While, should their archaeological significance be confirmed, preservation *in situ* of such features would normally be the preferred option, excavation ('preservation by record') would here be justified as a means of better determining the significance of the ring-ditch group as a whole and assisting with the future management of the monuments.

The area of the main hotel and leisure-complex could not be directly evaluated due to the presence of the buildings of Baynhall Farm (Fig. 11), which occupy much of the area, and a vegetable crop in the surrounding fields. Evaluation in adjacent areas does not, however, suggest high archaeological potential for this area but, due to the uncertainties, provision for an archaeological watching brief during the groundworks phase of construction here is recommended.

From an archaeological point-of-view the most sensitive part of the site is the group of cropmark ring-ditches (HWCM 10362, 10408-11), representing a probable prehistoric barrow cemetery. The proposed use of this area as a golf

driving range, which will involve no ground disturbance, is appropriate. Indeed, such land use, in contrast to the present erosive effects of ploughing and cultivation, may enhance the preservation of these monuments. The area in which ground disturbance should not take place is marked as Zone 1 on Figure 11.

In the remaining areas of the site not mentioned above the development proposals are considered, on the basis of the evidence available, to present no significant threat to significant archaeological deposits.

9. Acknowledgements

The geophysical survey was carried out by Geophysical Surveys of Bradford; Chris Gaffney co-ordinated the survey, assisted by Dan Shiel. The fieldwalking was supervised by Quentin Hutchinson, assisted by Shaun Richardson and members of the evaluation team. The trial excavations were supervised by Ed Newton and were carried out with the assistance of Martin Lightfoot, Sally Finter, Luigi Signorelli, Rob Atkins and Lucie Dingwall.

The report illustrations were drawn by Mark Breedon. Russell Heath analysed the soil samples. Quentin Hutchinson and Shaun Richardson processed and analysed the material from fieldwalking. Jane Evans and Lynne Bevan wrote the reports on the pottery and flints respectively. Iain Ferris edited the text and Liz Hooper produced the final report.

We are grateful to Simon Woodiwiss of Hereford and Worcester County Council Archaeology Section for his assistance and advice at all stages of the work, to Hilary White of the Hereford and Worcester Sites and Monuments Record, to Ron Allen and David Broom of Ron Allen Associates, and to the landowner, Mr D.J. Venables.

10. References

- | | | |
|----------------------------|------|--|
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| Gaffney C.F. | 1991 | <i>Report on Geophysical Survey: The Nash, Kempsey.</i> Geophysical Surveys Report No. 91/20 |
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Appendix I Quantified Results from Fieldwalking (Quentin Hutchinson)

Area A

Finds	Number	Percentage
Roman Pottery	3	2
Roman Tile	5	3
Post Medieval Pottery	101	53
Post Medieval Tile	71	37
Glass	8	4
Brick	2	1
Clay Pipe	1	*
	<hr/>	
	191	100

Area B1

Finds	Number
Roman Tile	2
Post Medieval Pottery	40
Post Medieval Tile	50
Post Medieval Brick	4
Clay Pipe	3
	<hr/>
	99

Area B2

Finds	Number	Percentage
Roman Pottery	3	*
Medieval Pottery	47	5
Medieval Tile	6	*
Post Medieval Pottery	496	51
Post Medieval Tile	323	33
Glass	52	5
Clay Pipe	41	4
Bone	1	*
Nails	2	*
Flints	3	*
	<hr/>	
	974	100

(* = less than 1%)

Appendix II The Flints (Lynne Bevan)

A total of three struck flakes and two recognisable tools was recovered from the site in the course of excavation and fieldwalking.

Excavated flakes comprise one large core-rejuvenation flake of brown chert and one small, thick flake of opaque, dark grey flint, the latter plough-damaged and patinated on the ventral side. One additional plough-damaged flake of translucent, light grey flint was collected during fieldwalking to the northeast of the excavation in Area B. An incomplete convex scraper was also collected from this area. Of the same material as the third flake, this steeply-worked flake, which bears traces of cortex on its dorsal side, appears to have been damaged and abandoned during the manufacturing process.

The only recognisable implement recovered during excavation was a broken blade shaft of opaque grey flint. This represents the mid-section of a small blade, the width of which has been reduced by edge-damage.

Although this small collection provides testimony to human activity in the area during the prehistoric period, it cannot be regarded as evidence of settlement of any length or intensity. While the scraper may be considered to be broadly Neolithic in character, the rest of the collection cannot be assigned to any particular prehistoric period with any confidence.

Appendix III Assessment of Soil Samples (Russell Heath)

Method

All flotation was conducted using a modified siraf tank (York variant). Paraffin was not used as it was considered that the advantages for flot separation were outweighed by the difficulties of the increased handling of the flot. A five-hundred-micron sieve was used to collect the flot.

The initial assessment of the flot was carried out using a microscope on x10 magnification. Representative samples of the flot from each context were checked for carbonised organics. No attempt was made at this stage to distinguish between individual species represented in the carbonised remains.

Results

Trench	Feature	Context	Initial Wt.	Flot Wt.	Mineral Res.
3	F7	3005	4.0kg	-	60g
3	F7	3005	2.6kg	69.10g	20g
1	F33	1010	3.6kg	0.04g	13g
1	F33	1011	5.2kg	3.32g	80g
3	F35	3016	4.4kg	0.10g	10g
3	F36	3017	3.8kg	-	-
3	F37	3026	1.0kg	0.24g	5g
3	F37	3027	2.6kg	-	10g
8	F39	8004	4.0kg	0.10g	30g
6	F44	6006	4.0kg	0.70g	30g
6	F44	6006	4.0kg	0.02g	50g

Conclusions

The ditches (F33, F35, F39 and F44) contain only small amounts of carbonised material, too small to enable meaningful statements to be made of land usage.

The flot from pits F7, F36 and F37 seems to be entirely composed of fragments of wood charcoal. This may suggest an 'industrial' function for the pits, although no further evidence of the nature of the activity was recovered from the samples.

No further work is recommended on these samples.

THE NASH, KEMPSEY 1991

Archaeological Setting

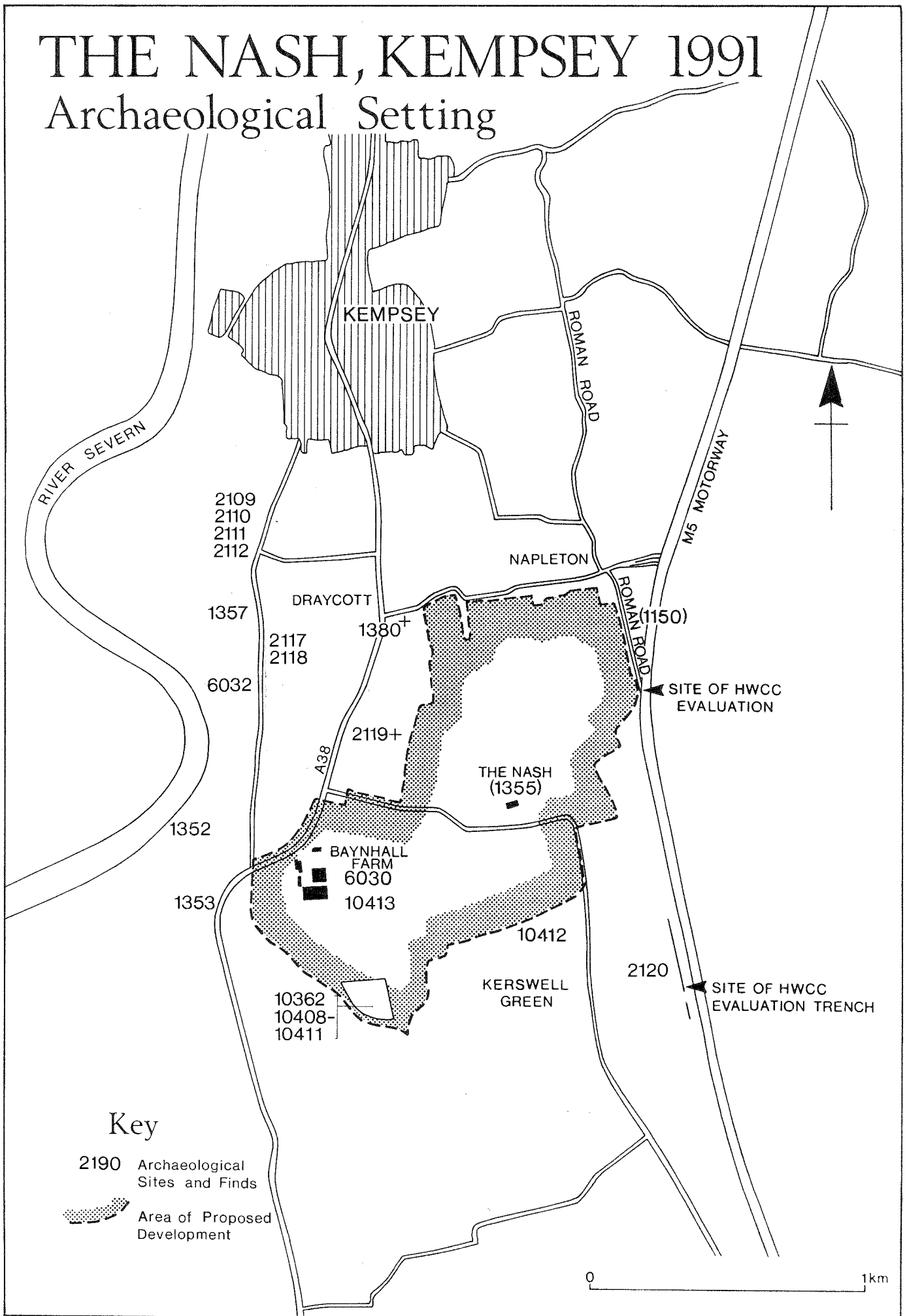


FIGURE 1

THE NASH, KEMPSEY 1991

Evaluation Areas

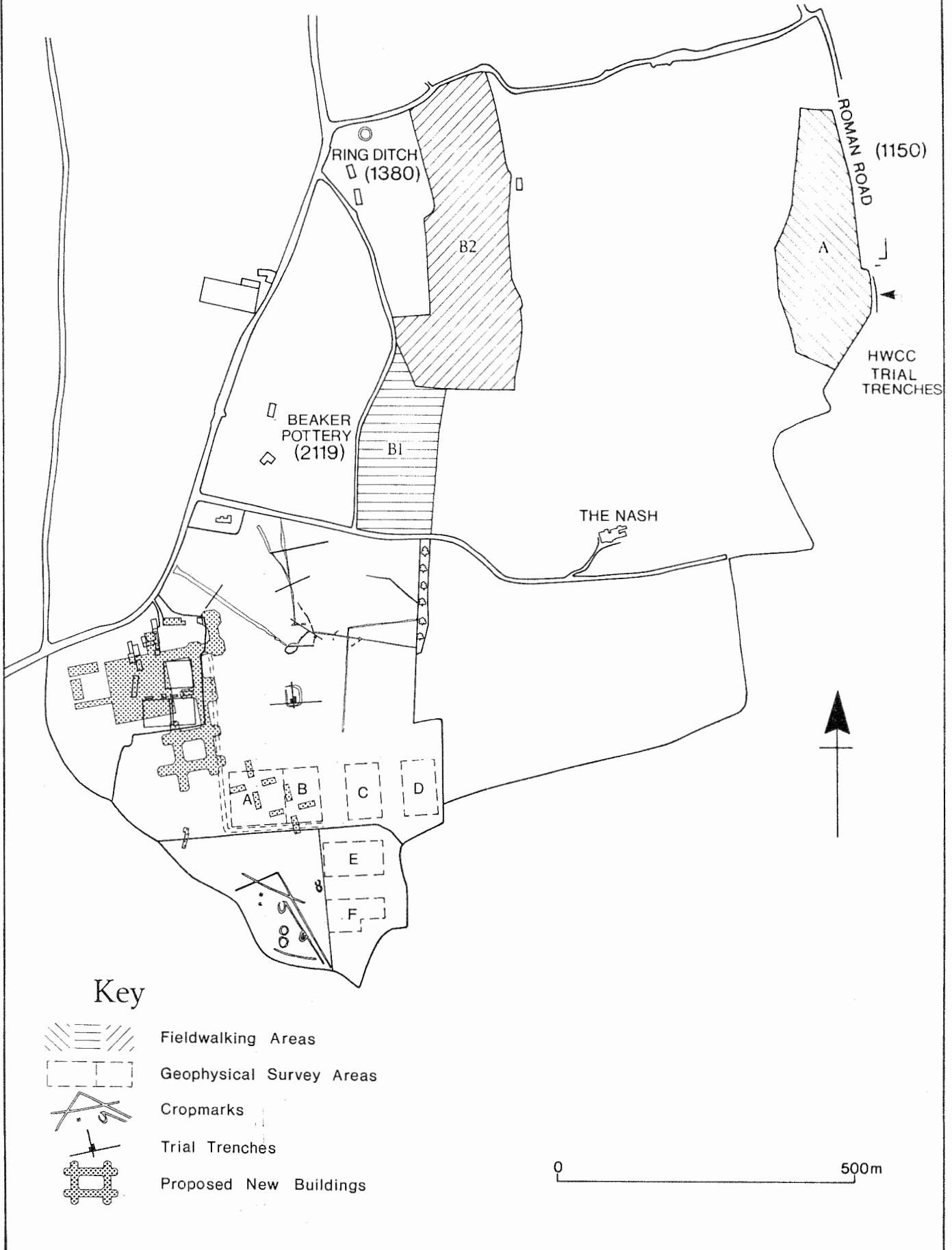


FIGURE 2

THE NASH, KEMPSEY 1991

Geophysical Survey and Trial Excavations

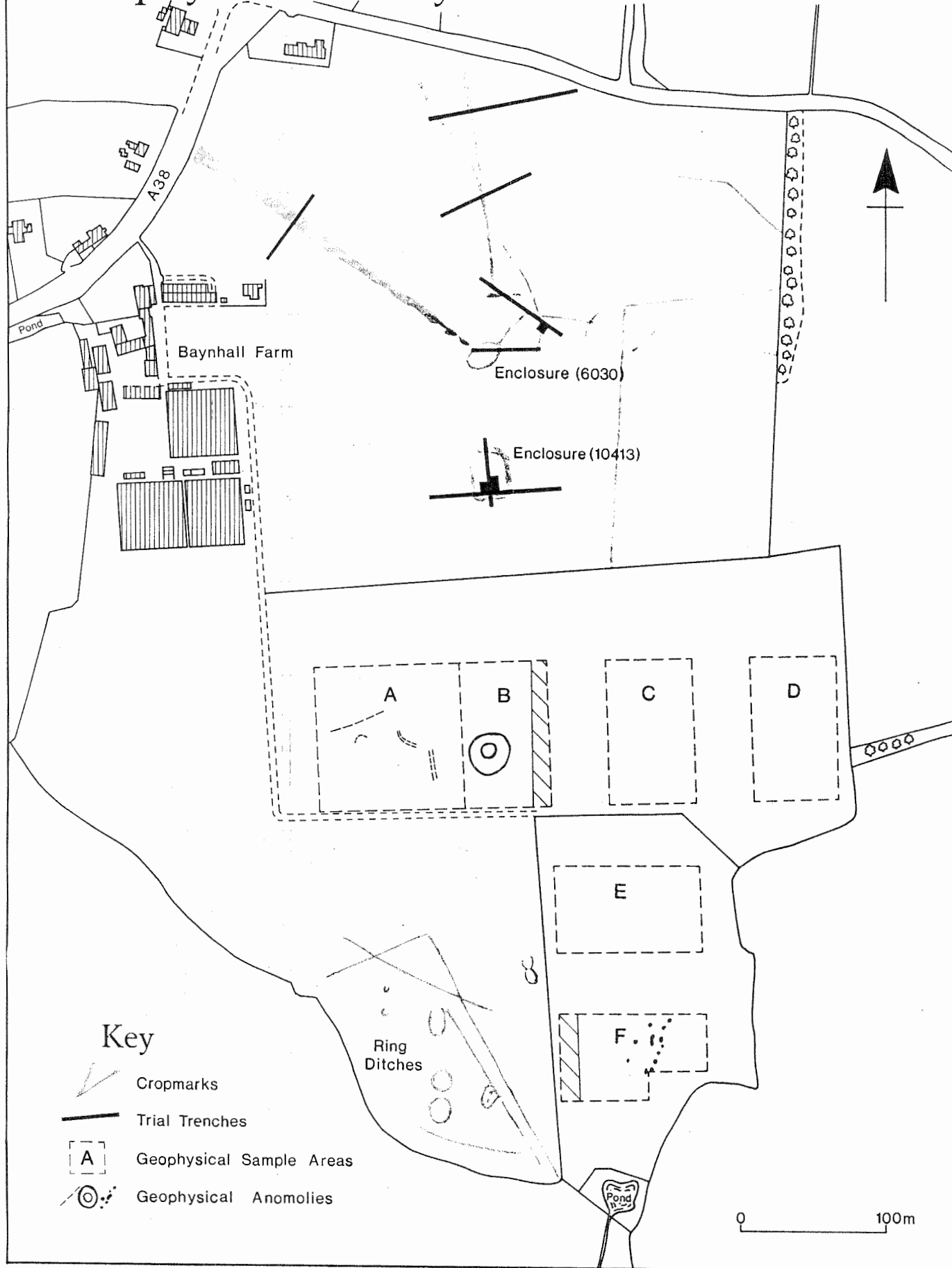
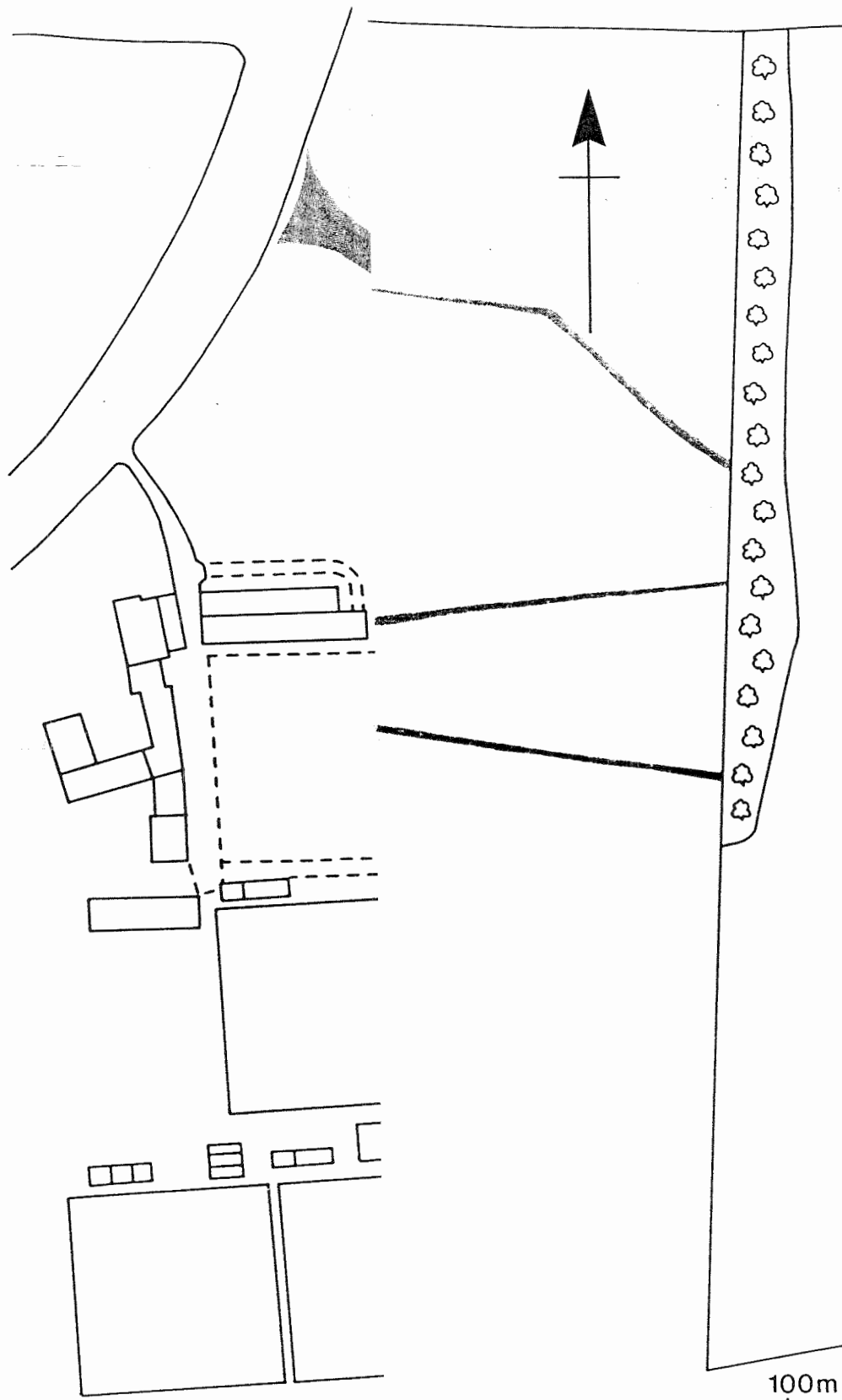


FIGURE 3

THE NASH, Trial Excavations



THE NASH, KEMPSEY 1991

Feature Plans and Sections

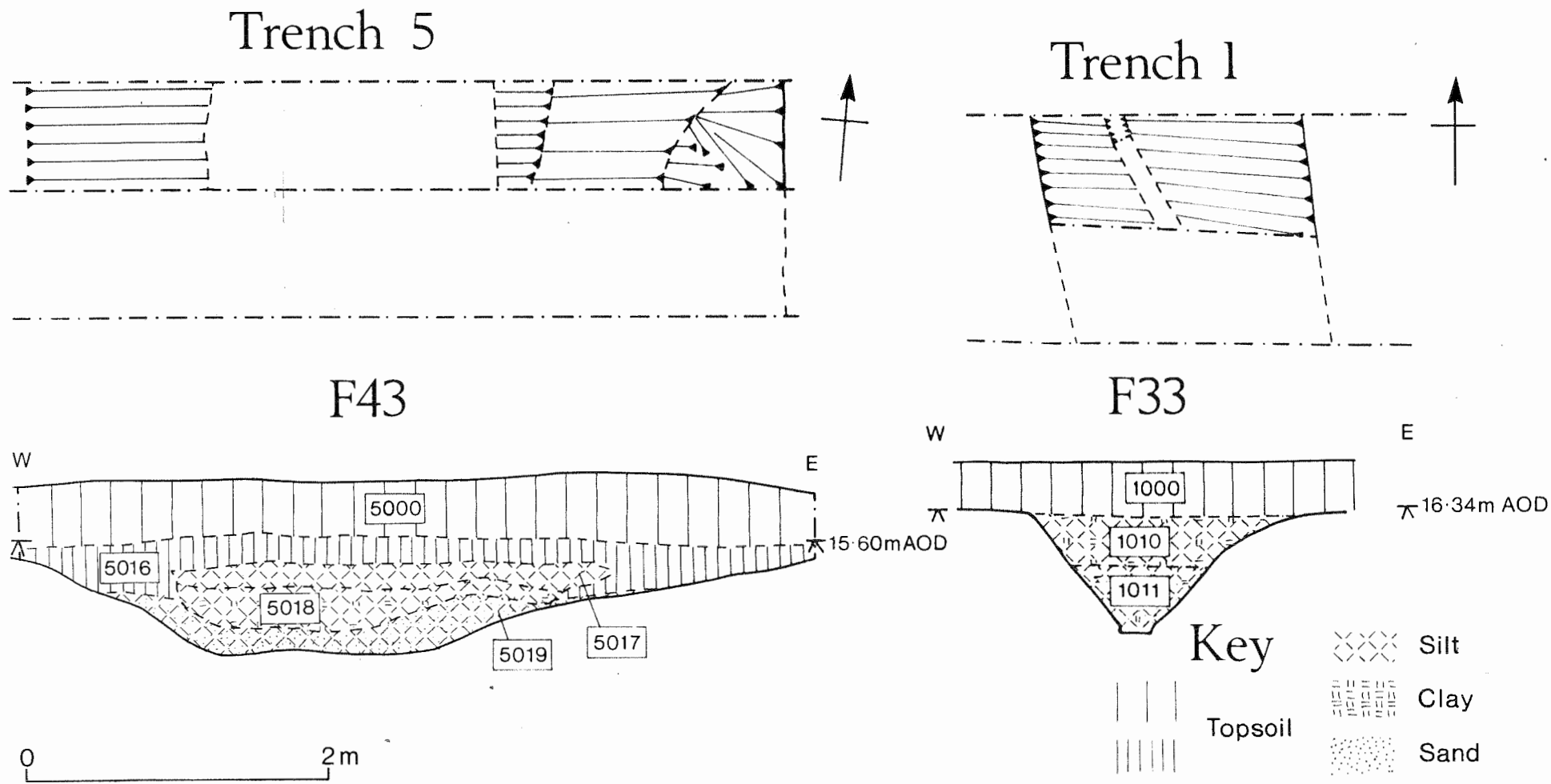
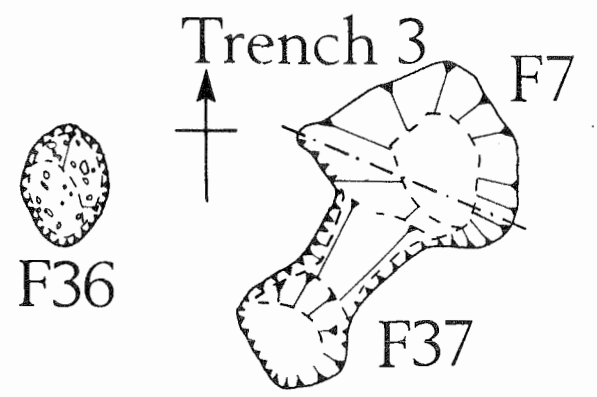


FIGURE 5

THE NASH, KEMPSEY 1991

Feature Plans and Sections



Trench 5

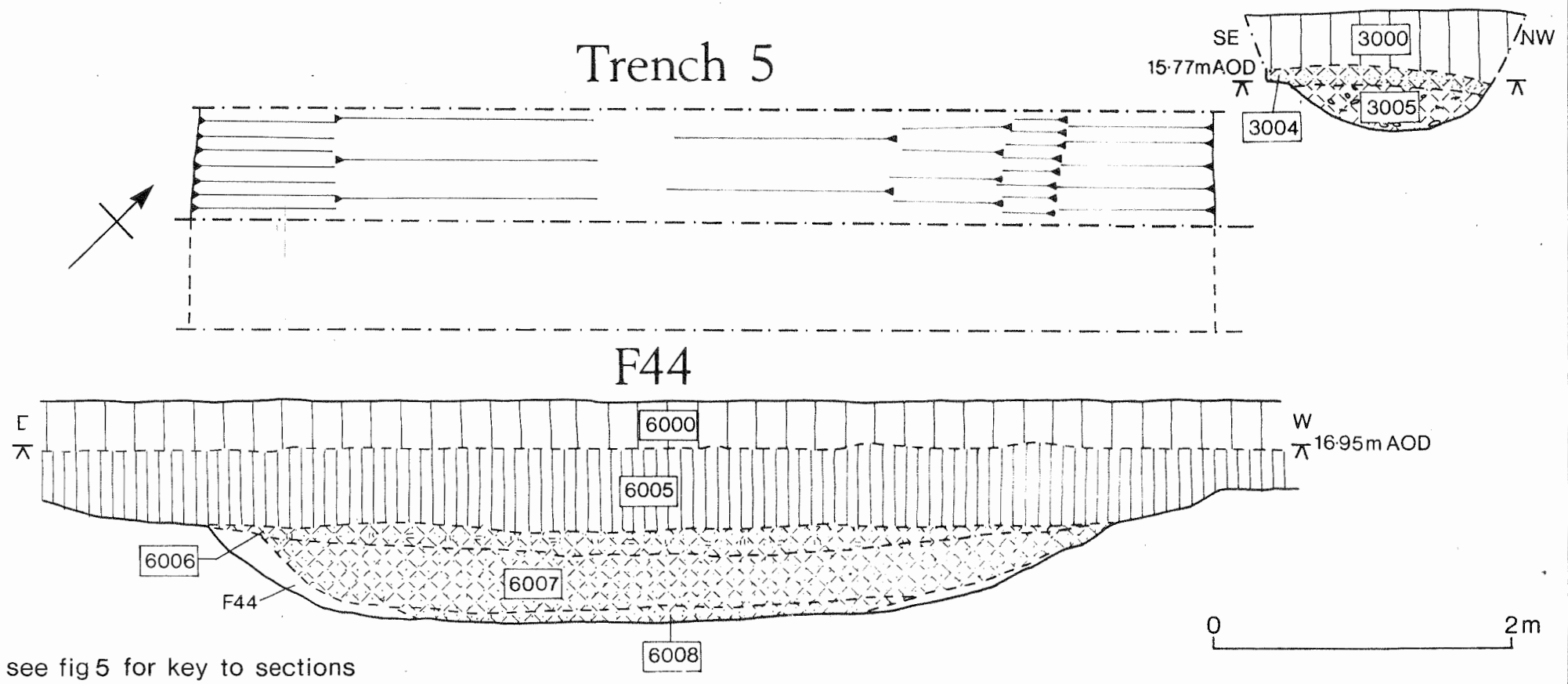


FIGURE 6

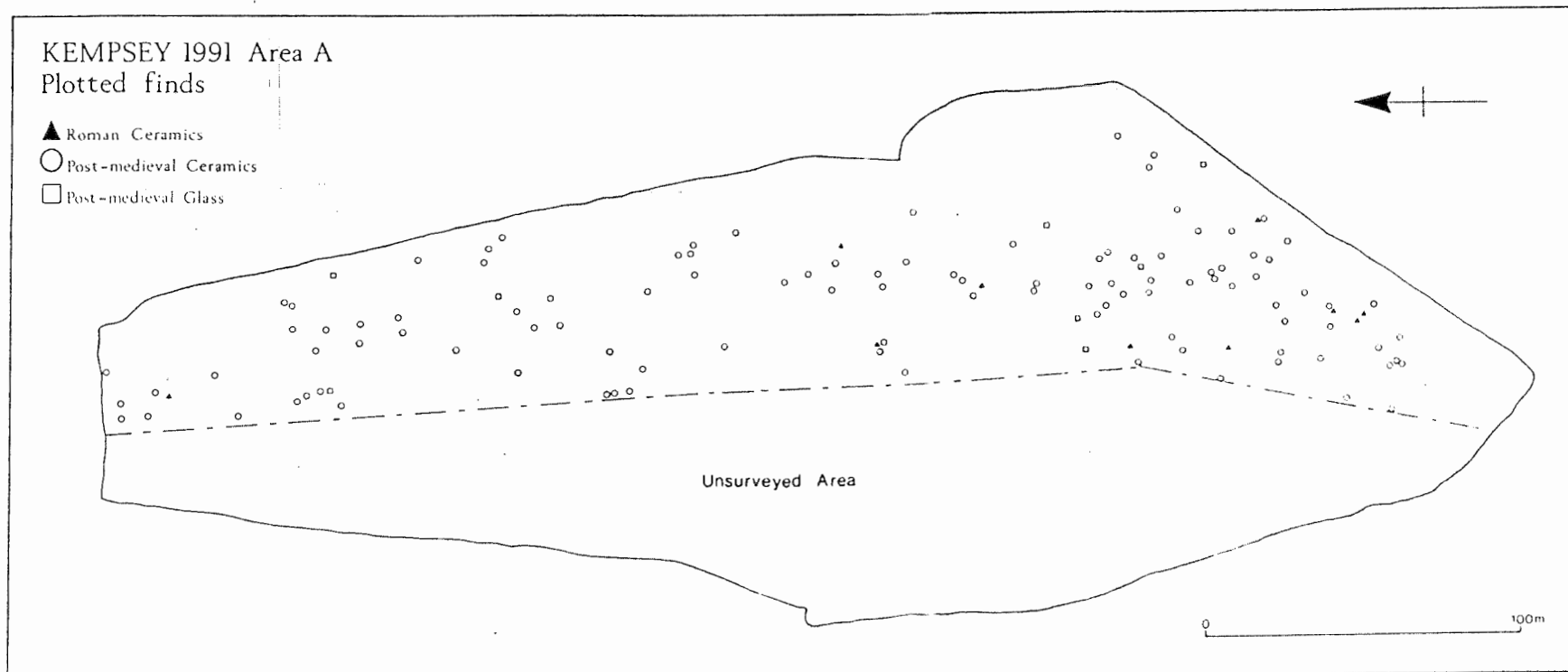


FIGURE 7

KEMPSEY 1991 Area A Find Concentrations

- ▲ Roman Ceramics
- Post-Medieval Ceramics and Glass
- ▲ 1-10 finds per square
- 11-20 finds per square
- 21-30 finds per square

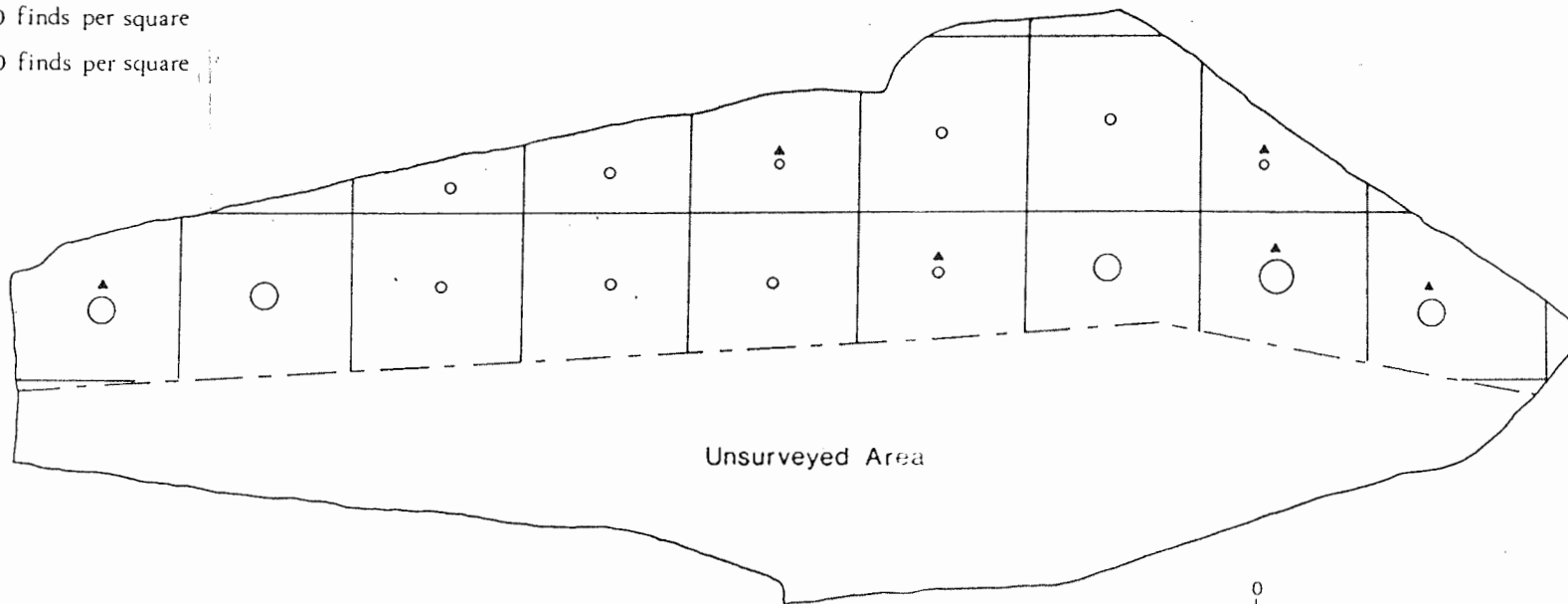


FIGURE 8

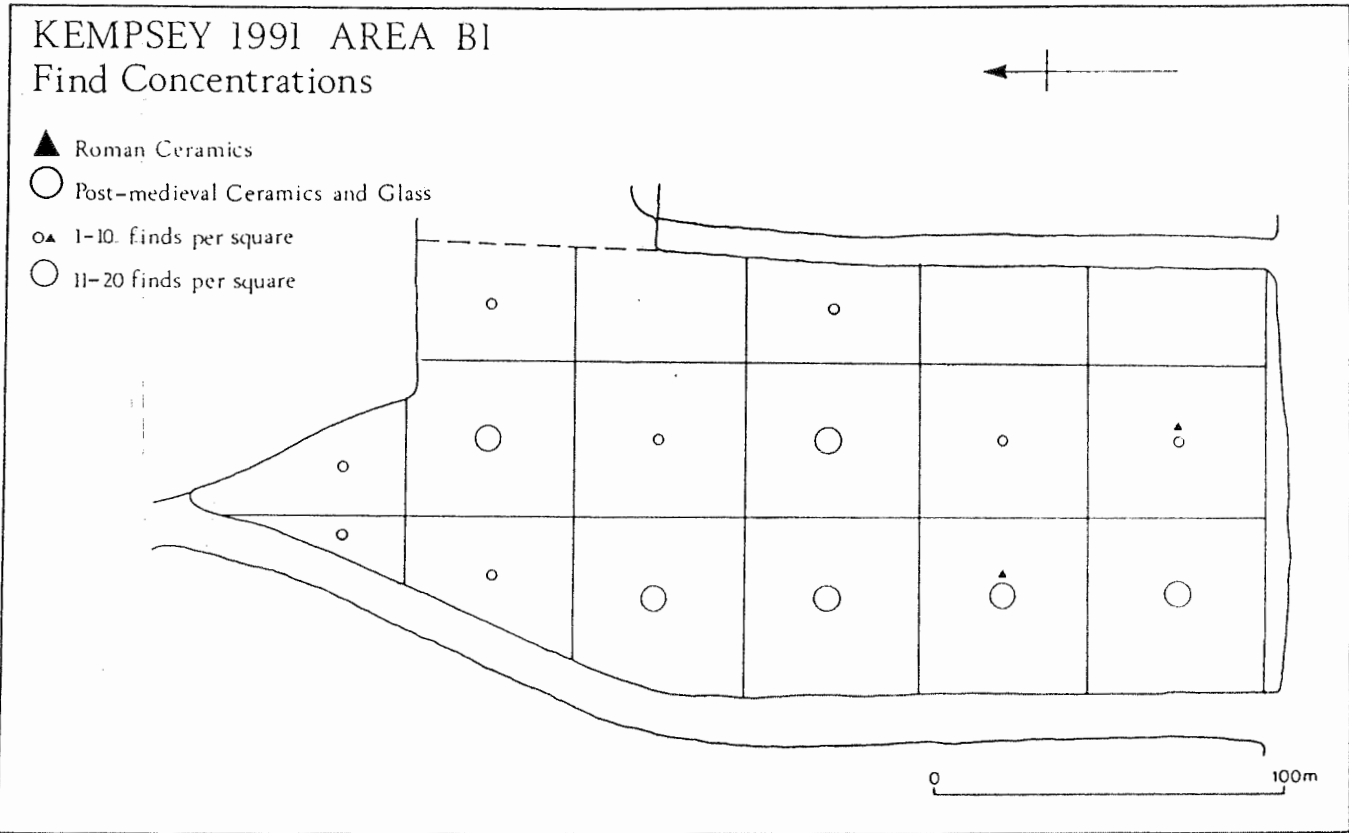
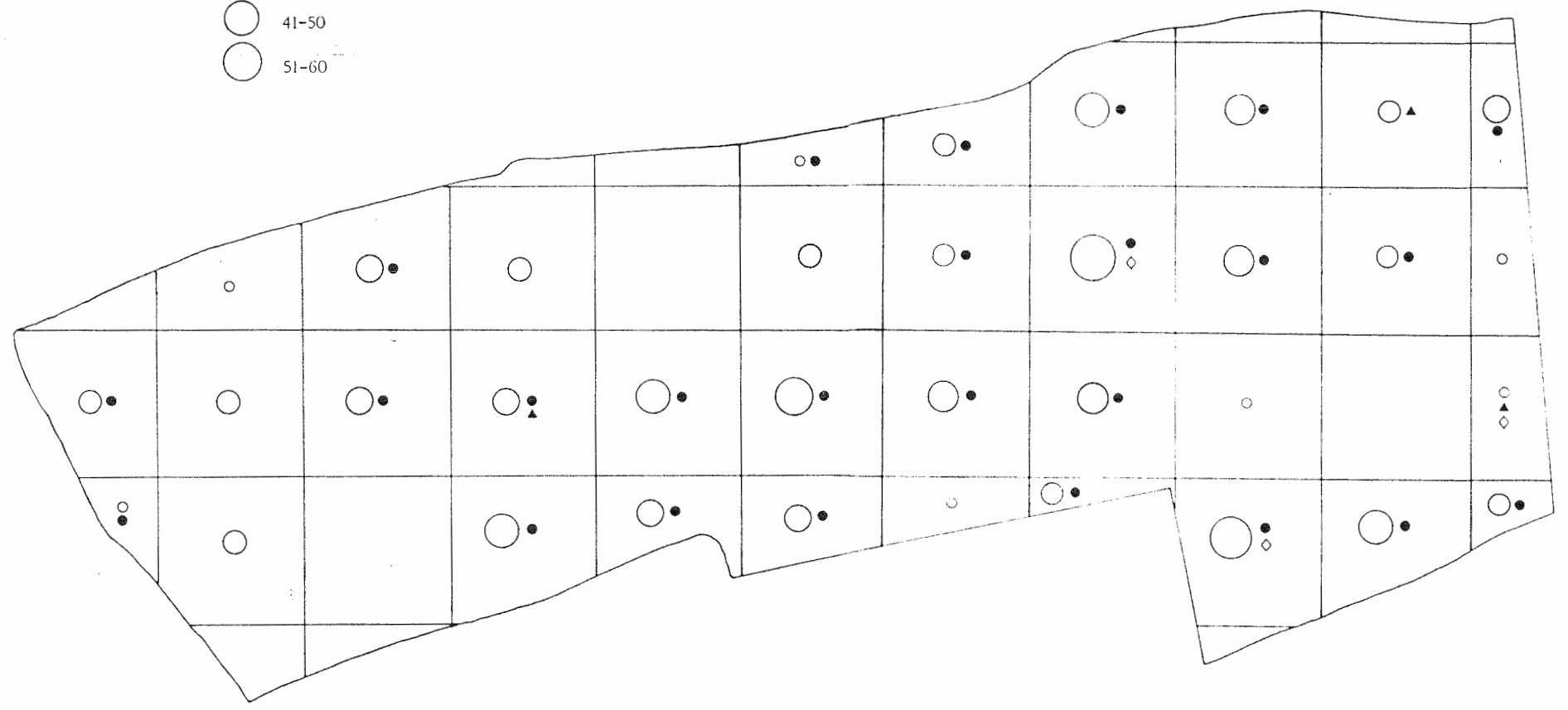


FIGURE 9

KEMPSEY 1991 Area B2
Find Concentrations

- ▲ Roman Ceramics
- Post-Medieval Ceramics and Glass
- Medieval Ceramics
- ◇ Flint

- Number of finds per square
- | | |
|----------|---------|
| ●▲◇ 1-10 | ○ 61-70 |
| ○ 11-20 | ○ 71-80 |
| ○ 21-30 | |
| ○ 31-40 | |
| ○ 41-50 | |
| ○ 51-60 | |



0 100m

FIGURE 10

THE NASH, KEMPSEY 1991

Archaeological Recommendations

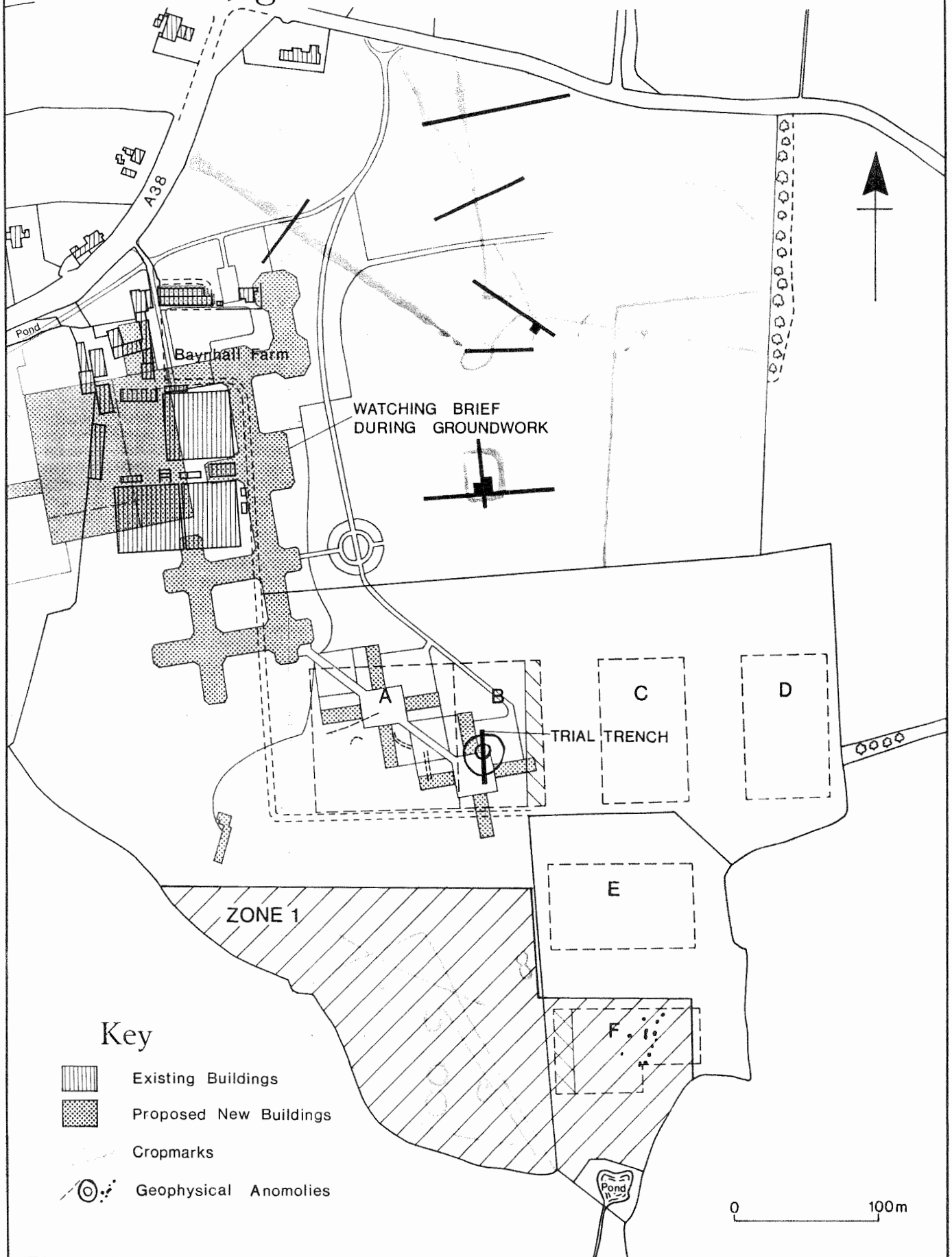


FIGURE 11