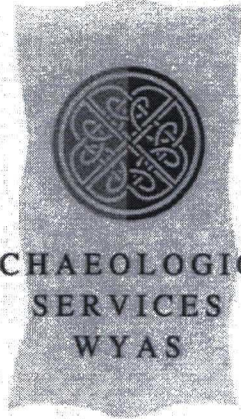


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**Newbridge Quarry
Newbridge, Pickering
North Yorkshire**

Report No. 1627

January 2006

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CEMEX UK Operations Ltd.

Newbridge Quarry
Newbridge, Pickering
North Yorkshire

Interim Report

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1. Introduction

- 1.1 This interim report outlines archaeological works undertaken by the MAP Archaeological Consultancy and Archaeological Services WYAS (ASWYAS), over several seasons between 1999 and 2006, in advance of the progressive extension to the mineral extraction area at Newbridge Quarry operated by Cemex UK (formerly RMC Aggregates UK). As well as providing a quantified summary of the different stages of the excavation work, an attempt is made to present a provisional interpretation of results as they appear at face value, based upon stratigraphic and spatial relationships and a notional grasp of the finds recovered. These will almost certainly be subject to change during the assessment and post-assessment stages of the project. This report also serves to provide an informed estimate of the post-excavation costs, although this is provided without a full awareness of the archive held by MAP, or the benefit of formal finds assessments by the relevant specialists.
- 1.2 The site was located c. 1.5km to the north of the centre of Pickering, on the western edge of the Newbridge Quarry site, and east of Swainsea Lane (at SE 7960 8590), with the southern boundary lying at approximately 75m AOD rising to its northern boundary at about 88m AOD (Figs 1 and 2). The excavated area lies at the southern edge of the Jurassic uplands that form the North Moors, stretching out on a plateau overlooking the Vale of Pickering, a position that was topographically well-placed for settlement in the past.
- 1.3 Together the excavated areas form a rectangular piece of land measuring about 500m long (north-south) and approximately 150m wide (east-west). The area was encompassed within two contemporary fields separated by a well-established hedgerow. The area was archaeologically addressed incrementally as several irregular plots, investigated at different stages over the seven-year campaign (see Fig. 3).
- 1.4 The areas investigated by MAP during 1999 and 2003 amount to an area of approximately 1.8 hectares (Figs 2 and 3). The remainder of the site, some 3.5 hectares, was excavated by ASWYAS over the successive four Summers of 2003-2006. The summer of 2003 saw the excavation of two residual areas (A and B) adjacent to the MAP excavation site, whilst the following four seasons saw the progressive investigation of three approximately equal areas as the extraction work moved northwards (Figs 2 and 3).

2. Results

- 2.1 In all stages of work the modern topsoil, ploughsoil were removed by a 360° mechanical excavator fitted with a smooth bladed ditching bucket to reveal a calcareous fine loamy subsoil over limestone bed-rock. The topsoil consisted of a dark brown silty loam ranging in depth from 0.3m to 0.6m below the topsoil, the subsoil was revealed to be a mid-orange brown clay silt ranging in depth from 0.1m to 0.4m. Covering the whole site was a regime of medieval/post medieval ridge and furrow plough strips, orientated north-south. The furrows of these had cut trough the subsoil into the natural and had disturbed the archaeology considerably in places.

1999 – 2003 Excavations: MAP Archaeological Consultancy

- 2.2 The first phase of trial trenching was undertaken by MAP during the Summer of 1999. The results demonstrated the presence of significant archaeological features and deposits in the land east of Swainsea Lane. Consequently a 1.8 hectare excavation area, located east of Area A was carried out by in three separate phases (Summer 1999 and Summer 2002 and Spring 2003) (Fig. 3).
- 2.3 A key archaeological feature exposed in this area was a trackway formed by a pair of linear ditches, which it transpired were part of a trackway that ran north to south through the whole extraction area. In the northern part of this area the trackway appeared to relate to an enclosure and field system appended to its eastern ditch, probably dating to the Iron Age.
- 2.4 Also of potential Iron Age date are two small square enclosures of unknown function and a possible roundhouse. Several pits and postholes were also identified with the majority concentrating towards the central part of the investigated area. The southern part of the excavation appeared to be sterile of any archaeology except for the presence of a post-medieval pond.
- 2.5 Due to the fact that the transfer of the archive from the MAP Archaeological Consultancy has yet to take place, the interpretation of this area is purely based on the plan of the excavated area provided by MAP, therefore no reliable quantification of the data can be provided at this time (see Appendix II).

2003 Excavation: Archaeological Services WYAS excavation

Area A

- 2.6 Area A was a long strip of land measuring c.250m long and 30m wide, located east of Swainsea Lane and west of the area previously investigated by MAP in Spring 2003. The area then sloped gently towards the south and lay at c.78m AOD (Fig. 3).
- 2.7 The archaeological remains in Area A consisted of a group of pits, some post holes a group of cremations and some linear ditches. Two ditches formed a southern extension to the track-way previously encountered by MAP. In this instance the western ditch of the trackway had sub-rectangular enclosure with an east facing entrance appended to it. The enclosure interior produced no evidence of occupational activity although several post holes and a single cremation pit were found inside its perimeter. Two sets of four post holes (4-posters) were also identified within the excavation area. Though many of the discrete features are probably natural.

Table 1: Quantification of Area A Archive

2003 Excavation: Area A	Totals
Area	6530m ²
Contexts	332
Sections	114

Plans	39
No. of ditches	8
Post-holes	11
Pits	14
Cremations	1
Soil samples	107

Area B

- 2.8 Measuring approximately 35m by 35m and then lying at c.80m AOD, Area B was located north-east of Area A and investigated the remainder of the enclosure that had partly been excavated as part of the 1999-2003 MAP work (Fig. 3). The archaeological remains in Area B consisted of several linear ditches, post-holes, cremation pits and an area paved with sandstone slabs.
- 2.9 The investigation of this area confirmed the northward continuity of the trackway ditches. East of the trackway was a small area enclosed by three shallow ditches, to the south a sandstone slab paved area was also identified. Cutting the western ditch of the trackway, and located close to the northern edge of the excavation area, a set of thirteen cremation pits were found. These were cut into the partially infilled ditches of the trackway and although their date is unconfirmed, they are anticipated to be either a Late Roman or, more likely, a Post-Roman phenomenon (see Fig. 9). Several post-holes and pits were also investigated.

Table 2: Quantification of the Area B Archive

2003 Excavation:	Totals
Area B	
Area	1295m ²
Contexts	176
Sections	72
Plans	54
No. of ditches	10
Post-holes	36
Pits	1
Cremations	13
Soil samples	71

2004 Excavation: Archaeological Services WYAS

- 2.10 The large L-shaped excavation carried out in the Summer of 2004 covered an area of almost 1 hectare in advance of the 90m northward advance of the quarry face (Fig. 3). The archaeological remain encountered in this area

comprised of the ditches and palisade lines of three enclosures on the eastern side of the trackway, evidence for three roundhouses, several cremations and a large number of pits and over 250 post-holes.

- 2.11 The excavations revealed the northward continuation of the trackway and the trend for archaeology to the east of it, there being little or no archaeological features to the west of the trackway, the only features being a pond and an line of post-holes, both of post-medieval date. Appended to the eastern side of the trackway were parts of three superimposed enclosures, one a palisade of post-holes. The interiors of all three enclosures were occupied by roundhouses, but it is uncertain as to whether these were contemporary with the enclosures in all cases. As well as the roundhouses a large number of pits and post-holes were investigated within the enclosed areas.

The two southernmost enclosures appear to have been occupied in the later Iron Age and/or Roman period. However, the pottery from the northernmost (palisaded) enclosure might suggest a post-Roman date for its use. As in previous phases of work the partially infilled trackway ditches appear to have attracted a notable number of cremation burials.

Table 3: Quantification of the 2004 Archive

2004 Excavation	Totals
Area	9924m ²
Contexts	775
Sections	342
Plans	22
No. of ditches	10
Post-holes	254
Pits	28
Cremations	8
Soil samples	327

2005 Excavation: Archaeological Services WYAS

- 2.11 A further extraction area of about 0.8 hectares was excavated in the Summer of 2005, advancing the site northwards some 90m along Swainsea Lane (Fig.3). The archaeological remains encountered included the predictable continuation of the trackway ditches, along with the linear ditches relating to two enclosures appended to the eastern side of the trackway. Within the northern enclosure was the remains of a roundhouse gully, whilst the southern enclosure contained a T-plan corn drier of Roman date. Other features included three inhumation burials, a group of pits and a number of post-holes, the vast majority of which yielded no datable material.
- 2.12 The three inhumation burials are undated, but two were stratigraphically later than the eastern trackway ditch and so, although no artefacts were recovered, these are believed to be of early medieval date.
- 2.13 To the west of the trackway there was little or no archaeology, the only features being a line of post-holes and a few pits, all of likely post-medieval date.

Table 4: Quantification of the 2005 Archive

2005 Excavation	Totals
Area	8370m ²
Contexts	265
Sections	118
Plans	19
No. of ditches	4
Post-holes	80
Pits	17
Cremations	3
Inhumations	3
Soil sample	111

2006 Excavation: Archaeological Services WYAS

- 2.14 The final phase of excavation relating to this phase of extraction was carried out in the Summer of 2006 and involved the excavation of an area of c.0.8 hectare, again advancing the excavations northwards by about 90m, this phase being carried out at a height of about 83m AOD.
- 2.15 In contrast to the previous years work this phase saw a significant number of archaeological features revealed to the west of the ditched trackway. To the east the familiar pattern of ditched enclosures appended to the eastern side of the trackway continued.
- 2.16 To the west of the trackway the western two thirds of the site contained four ditch or gully defined structures. One of these appears to have been a

conventional roundhouse with an east-facing entrance, whilst another structure with an east-facing entrance has an unusual elongated pear-shaped plan. The other two structures are sub-rectangular in plan. The larger, in the south-west corner of the excavated area, was defined by a large U-shaped (profile) ditch, whilst a smaller example was defined by an intermittent gully. A line of post-holes running north-west to south-east across the western part of the site are thought to be of post-medieval date.

- 2.17 To the east of the trackway, located in the north-east corner of the area, two superimposed roundhouses were identified, both with east-facing entrances. These seemed to pre-date the sub-rectangular enclosure which had a high density of post-holes.
- 2.18 A notable feature was a sub-rectangular cont-drier partially constructed with sandstone slabs, located near the southern end of the investigated area, and cutting the east trackway ditch, suggesting either a very late Roman or early medieval date.

Table 5: Quantification of the 2006 Archive

2006 Excavation	Totals
Area	8400m ²
Contexts	510
Sections	222
Plans	17
No. of ditches	17
Post-holes	132
Pits	25
Cremations	5
Inhumations	0
Soil sample	85

3. **Conclusion**

- 3.1 On the basis of the evidence available the landscape investigated between 1999-2006 would appear to have seen activity from at least the Iron Age to the early medieval period. Continuity is demonstrated by the one feature common to all phases, the double-ditched trackway, must have facilitated access and communication from a very early period. A summary in relation to the provisional phases and supposed chronology is provided below.
- 3.2 Phase 1, dating to the earlier Iron Age, provisionally envisages an open linear settlement focused upon the trackway, or its predecessor (Fig. 5), whilst Phase 2 sees the beginning of ditched enclosures appended to this routeway in the Late Iron Age (Fig. 6), a process that develops further in the Romano-British period (Phase 3), when it is thought that the trackway was defined by side ditches (Fig. 7).

- 3.3 The creation of a series of enclosures solely on the eastern side of the trackway (Phase 4) appears to be a development of the later Romano-British period and might be termed a 'ladder' settlement, although the evidence for settlement as such remains to be proven (Fig. 8)
- 3.4 Post-Roman settlement (Phase 5) is represented by a palisaded enclosure and possibly a number of other features to the east of the trackway. It is thought, however, to be most strongly represented a funerary remains, mainly in the form of cremation burials that were cut into the accumulated fills of the trackway ditches. Significantly, the greatest concentrations of these occur in the part of the trackway adjacent to the enclosure and other features east of the trackway (Fig. 9).
- 3.5 The site has produced a number of post-medieval features in the form of three dew ponds and two lines of post-holes, which relate to former temporary land divisions (Phase 6, Fig. 10).
- 3.6 The above phasing is provisional and will be subject to some change once analysis has taken place. Moreover, there remain a large number of features which could not at this stage be provisionally phased (Fig. 11). Partly this is because they form part of the archive currently held by the MAP Archaeological Consultancy and partly it is as a consequence of not having had the necessary analyses and dating carried out on the finds and organic remains that have been recovered from them.
- 3.7 The site offers enormous potential for enhancing our knowledge about the evolution and development of sites of this nature and chronology in this part of North Yorkshire and will provide a significant parallel to the work carried out on sites of a similar nature in the Vale of Pickering.

4. *Post-Excavation Work*

- 4.1 The following figures for post-excavation work on the ASWYAS excavation phases are based upon ball-park estimates provided by finds specialists for assemblages that have not yet been seen or phased. Finds cleaning and processing and soil sample processing for the 2006 excavation are more reliably estimated. The finds and soil sample processing for the work carried out between 2003-2005 were covered by interim payments made by RMC/Cemex after the end of each excavation. Other work, such as reporting, illustration and editing towards a publication text are based upon a perception of the likely number of phases and features that will need to be reported.
- 4.2 Certain cost elements, such as the analysis of charcoal and seeds, radiocarbon dating, publication and museum curatorial costs are notional and will only be established when a proper detailed analysis of the potential for further work has been carried out in a structured way.
- 4.3 The costs for the reporting of the MAP Archaeological Consultancy excavations of 199-2003 are entirely notional and based upon a pro rata by area computation of the ASWYAS area perceived post-excavation costs with a 30% reduction on that to allow for economies of scale in dealing with the whole archive together. This estimate does not allow for any costs associated with the acquirement of the archive.

4.4 The figures are presented in Tables 6 and 7 below.

Table 6. Post-excavation estimates for ASWYAS excavations 2003-2006

Task	Resource	Estimated cost
Primary Archive Assessment	ASWYAS	£5,250.00
Phasing and report texts	ASWYAS	£21,865.00
Illustrations	ASWYAS	£7,422.00
Project management/co-ord.	ASWYAS	£3,075.00
Pottery analysis	C. Cumberpatch/R. Leary	£5,970.00
Flint analysis	I.P. Brooks	£850.00
Stone artefacts analysis	D. Heslop/G. Gaunt	£915.00
Small finds (e.g. metalwork)	H. Cool/S. O'Connor	£800.00
Human remains analysis	M. Holst	£2,100.00
Animal bones	J. Richardson	£600.00
Metalworking residues	J. Cowgill	£340.00
Charcoal and seeds analysis	D. Alldritt	£4,580.00 (min)
Radiocarbon dating	Glasgow Univ. SURCC	£6,090.00 (21 dates)
Publication costs		£4,895.00
Museum charges		£4,000.00
Total of estimates (ex VAT)		£68,752.00

Table 7. Post-excavation estimates for MAP excavations 1999-2003

Task	Resource	Estimated cost
Primary Archive Assessment	ASWYAS	£2,995.00
Phasing and report texts	ASWYAS	£7,697.00
Illustrations	ASWYAS	£3,740.00
Project management/co-ord.	ASWYAS	£940.00
Pottery analysis	C. Cumberpatch/R. Leary	£1,700.00
Flint analysis	I.P. Brooks	£340.00
Stone artefacts analysis	D. Heslop/G. Gaunt	£170.00
Small finds (e.g. metalwork)	H. Cool	£250.00
Human remains analysis	M. Holst	£850.00
Animal bones	J. Richardson	£400.00
Metalworking residues	J. Cowgill	£170.00
Charcoal and seeds analysis	D. Alldritt	£1,000.00
Radiocarbon dating	Glasgow Univ. SURCC	£2,030.00 (7 dates)
Publication costs		£1,435.00
Museum charges		£2,000.00
Total of estimates (ex VAT)		£25,717.00

Acknowledgements

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Figures: L. Signorelli MA

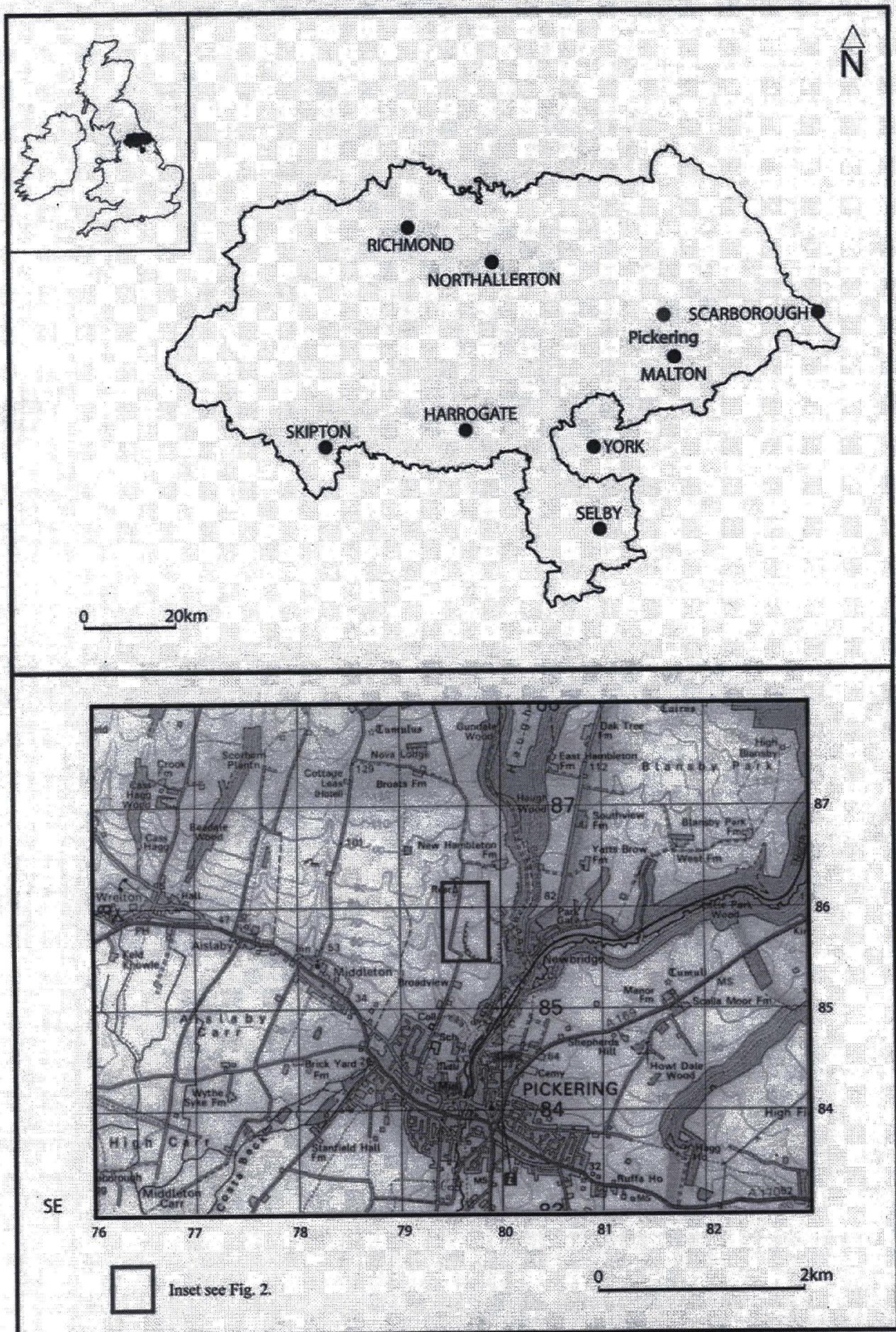


Fig. 1. Site location

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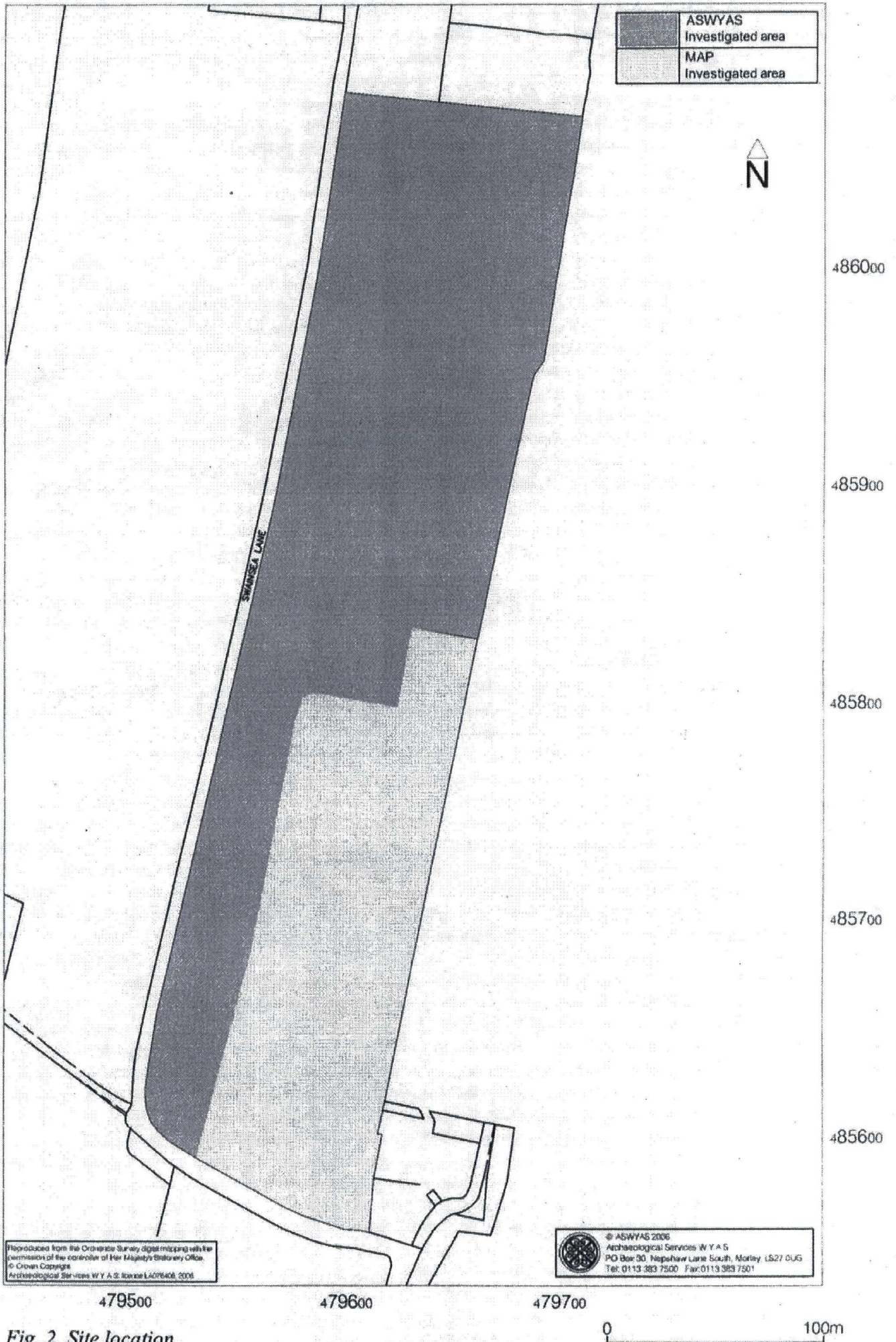


Fig. 2. Site location

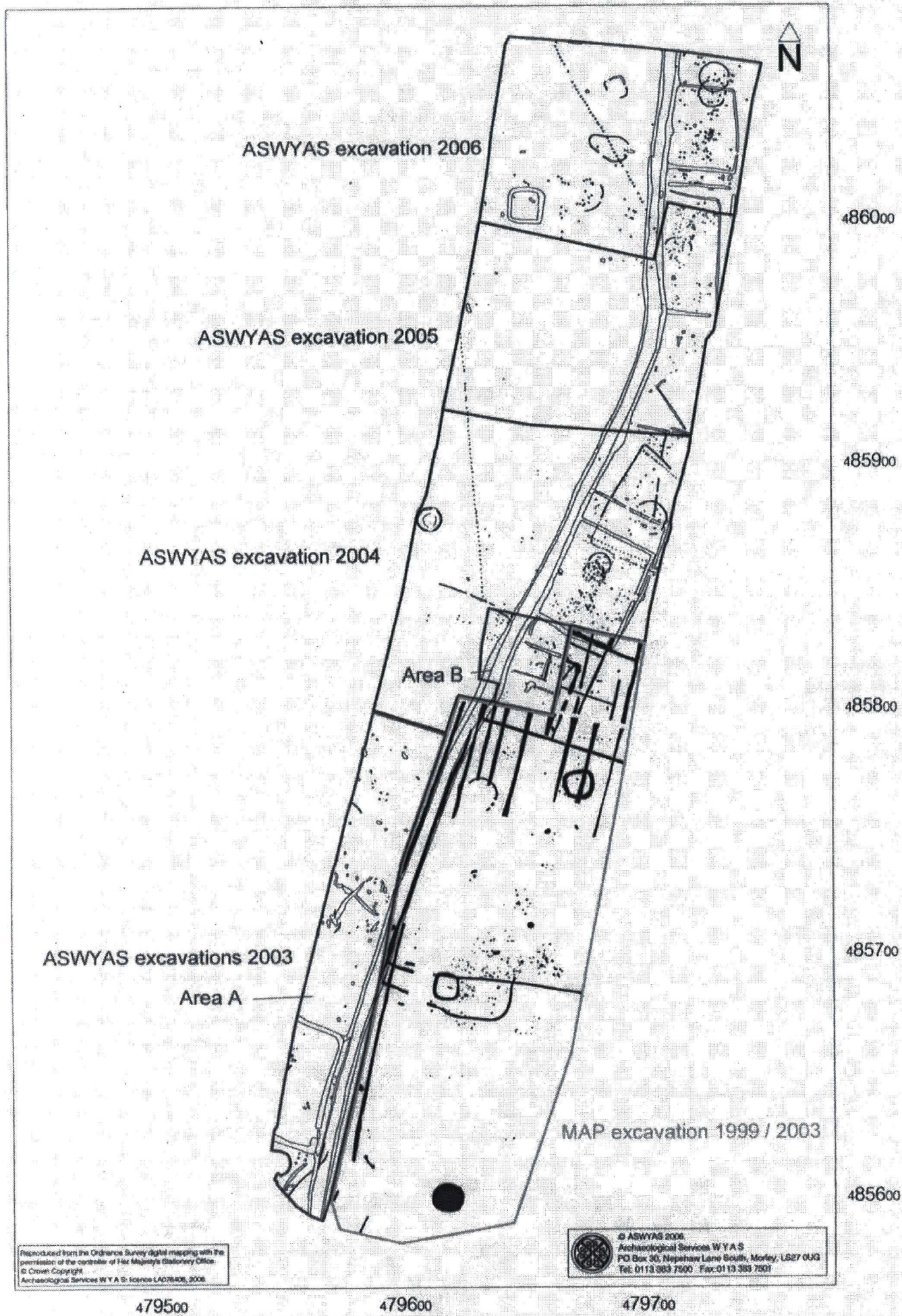









Fig. 3. Site location showing the five excavated areas (scale 1:2000)

	Phase 1 Early Iron Age
	Phase 2 Late Iron Age
	Phase 3 Romano-British
	Phase 4 Post Romano-British
	Phase 5 Early Medieval
	Phase 6 Post medieval
	Un-phased features

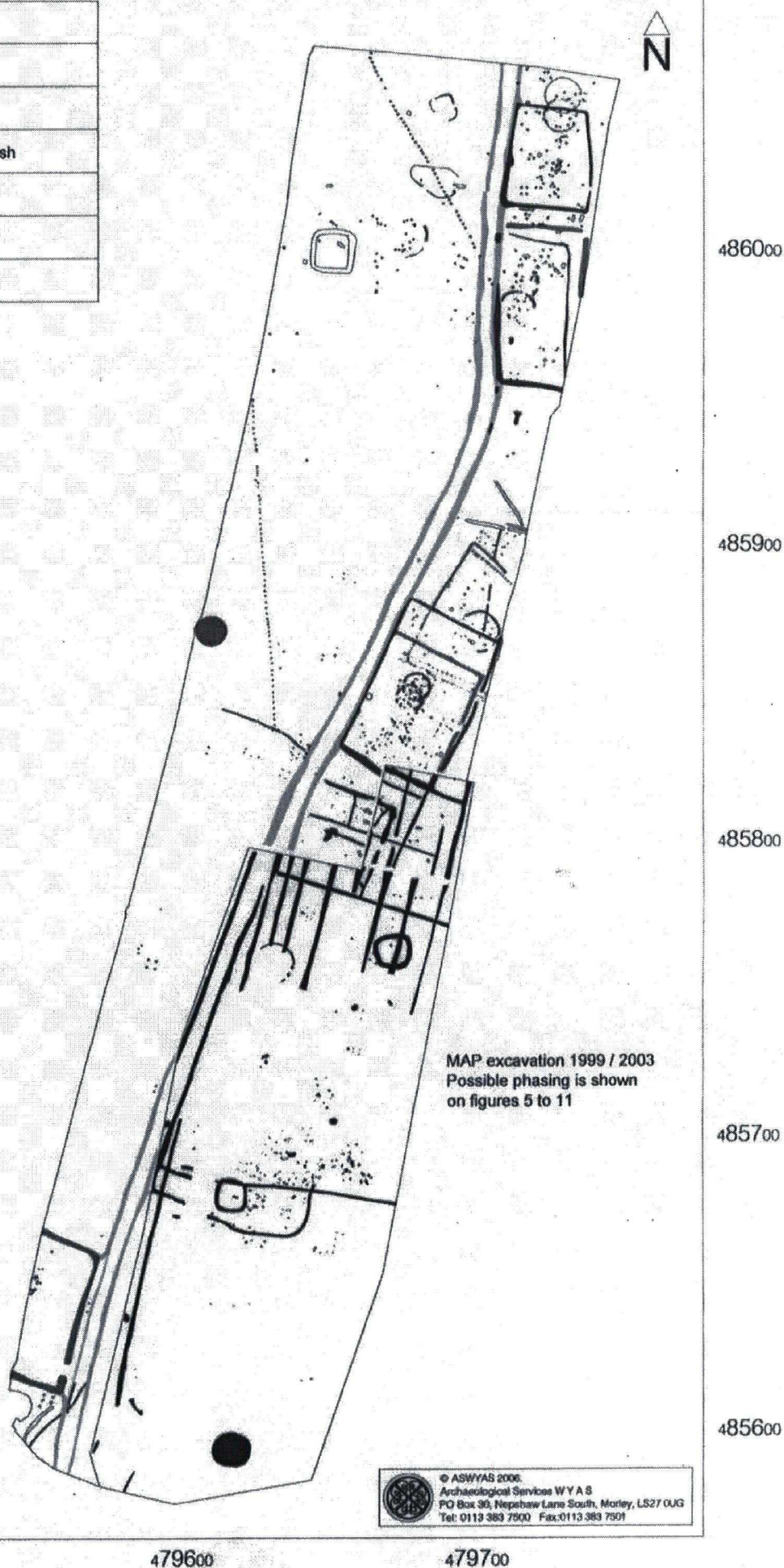
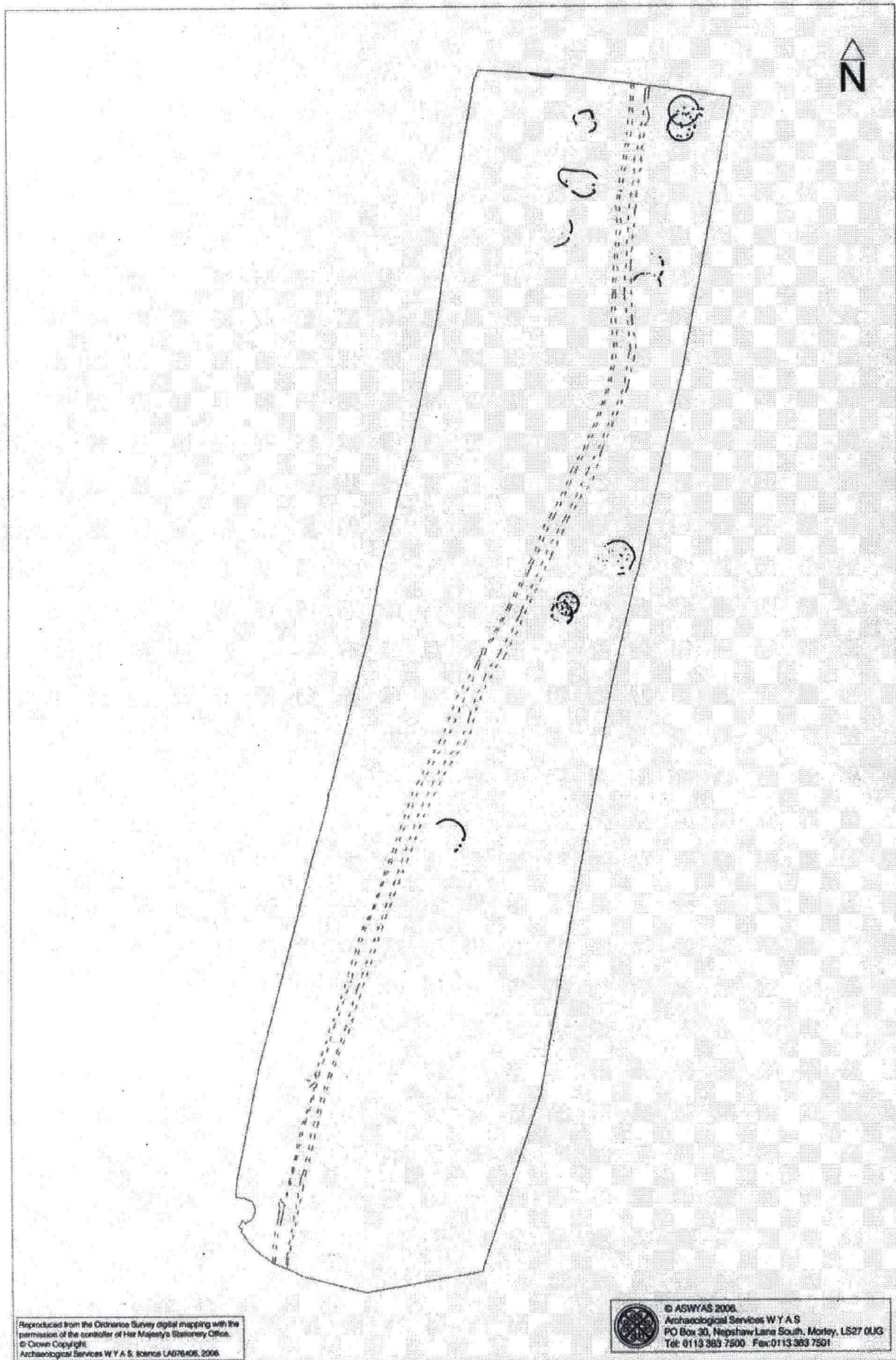


Fig. 4. Preliminary phasing of the excavated areas (scale 1:2000)



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Fig. 5. Phase 1. Earlier Iron Age

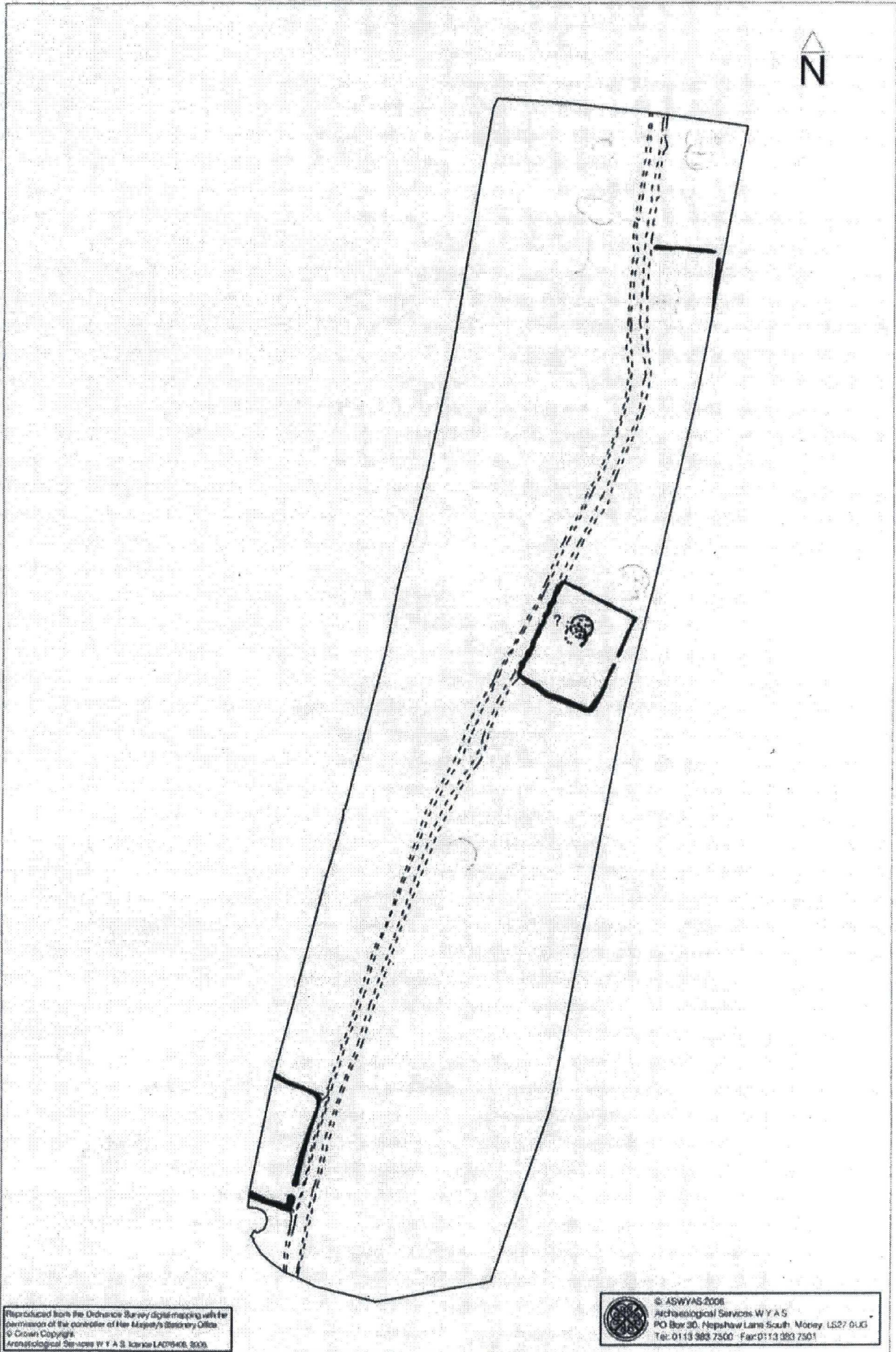
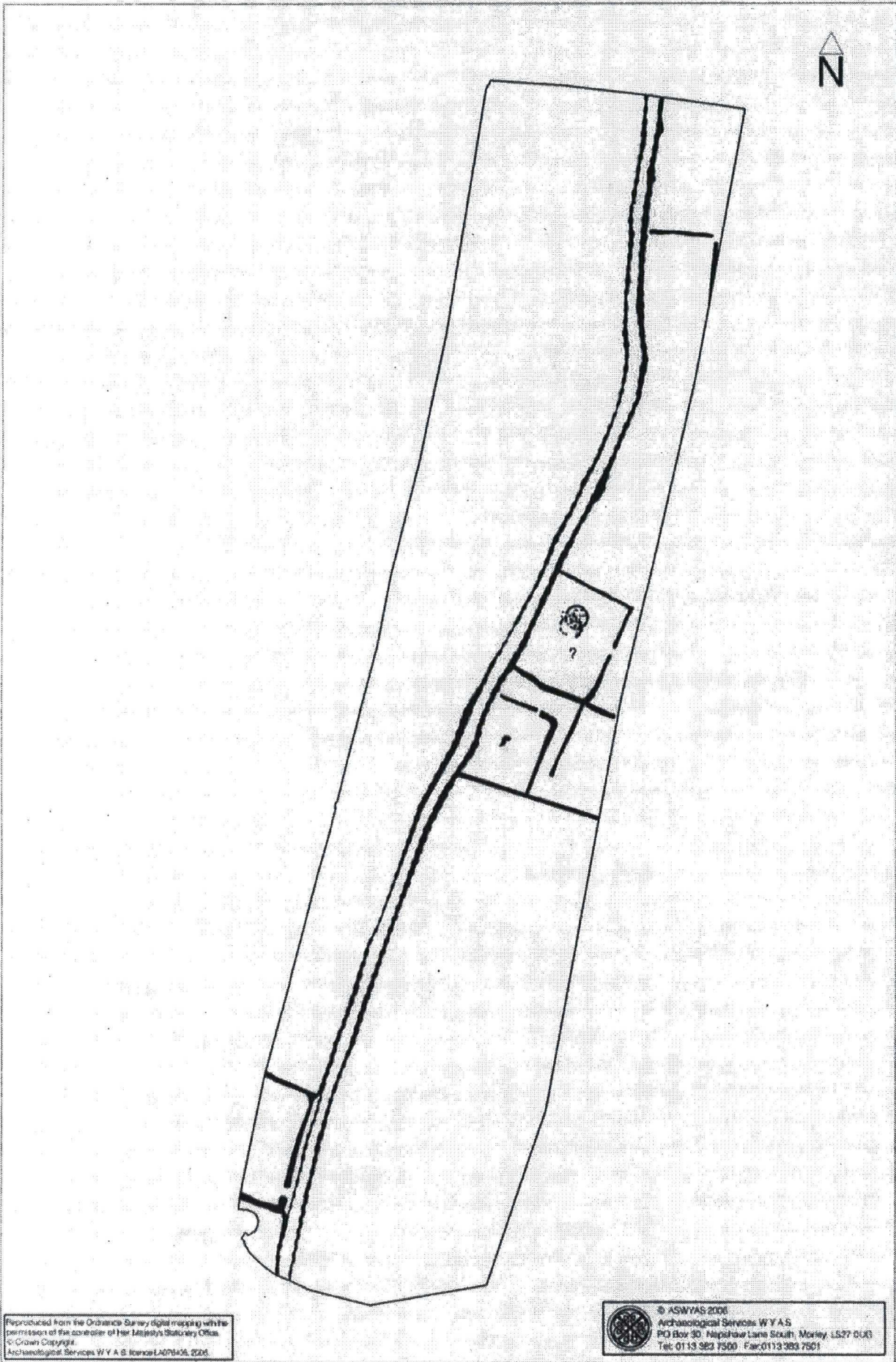


Fig. 6. Phase 2. Late Iron Age / Romano British



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Fig. 7. Phase 3. Romano British (1)