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**Fountains Dairy,  
Kirkby Malzeard**

*Archaeological Evaluation*

*July 1996*



**West Yorkshire  
Archaeology Service**

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West Yorkshire Archaeology Service  
14 St John's North, Wakefield WF1 3QA

WYAS R371, 12 July 1996

# **Fountains Dairy, Kirkby Malzeard**

**Grid Ref: SE 235 745**

*Archaeological Evaluation*

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Kirkby Malzeard**  
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*Archaeological Evaluation*

**1. Summary**

***Clients***

Harrogate Borough Council  
Economic Development Unit  
Crescent Gardens  
Harrogate HG1 2SG

Fountains Dairy  
Kirkby Malzeard  
North Yorkshire

***Objectives***

To carry out an archaeological evaluation of a site proposed as an extension to Fountains Dairy, Kirkby Malzeard, North Yorkshire. This is to form part of the planning application for the above site.

***Methods***

Three methods of survey were required:

- Topographic survey of extant features within and adjacent to the site,
- Geophysical survey of a sample of the site,
- Trial excavation of features identified during geophysical survey.

***Conclusion***

A number of features of archaeological significance were identified the earliest of these being a possible enclosure ditch and area of burning predating early medieval ploughing on the site. The medieval ploughing is well preserved at the west end of the site where it survives as earthworks, and gradiometer survey has demonstrated that these features continue to the east end of the site

A bailey forming part of Mobray Castle (Scheduled Monument Number 26935) lies on the west edge of the proposed development site and the earthworks which delimit this feature are well preserved. Other earthworks were noted to the south of the bailey but it is difficult to say that they are contemporary with the medieval castle.

A number of recent features were identified in the site including modern services and field boundaries.

Should any development that takes place on the site be likely to destroy the area at the east end of the site where the enclosure was located, then the area will probably require an open area excavation prior to the commencement of development.

## **2. Introduction**

2.1 The West Yorkshire Archaeology Service was contracted by Harrogate District Council to carry out an archaeological evaluation to the south-east of Mowbray Castle, Kirkby Malzeard, North Yorkshire (Fig. 1). The fieldwork was carried out between 10th June and 18th June 1996.

2.2 The area of the evaluation can be divided into two with the western 1ha of the site being scheduled as an ancient monument of national importance. The scheduled area (which was revised on 14th December 1995) incorporates the earthworks forming the outer bailey of Mowbray castle bounded by the dairy carpark fence to its west, the north boundary of the bungalow to the south, and two metres from the foot of the earthwork bank on its east side. The scheduled area continues northwards to encompass the motte (National Monument Number 26935).

2.3 The entire site was meadow and had grass cover of between 0.3m-0.5m in length.

2.4 The terrain comprises a ridge running east-west across the centre of the site with the earthworks for the bailey lying to the north of this and a slight hollow to its south. Kex Beck lies to the north of the evaluation area.

2.5 The site is on Millstone Grit with Carboniferous Limestone lying to its north and west in the Yorkshire Dales. This is overlain by boulder clay.

2.6 The site is first mentioned in documentary evidence in 1131AD and was destroyed in 1176 on the order of Henry II (as one of the three Mowbray castles slighted after the insurrection of 1173-74AD), it does not appear to have been occupied since (Newton 1995).

2.7 An evaluation of the site was required prior to a decision being made with respect to planning permission for an extension of Fountains Dairy. The North Yorkshire County Council requested that the evaluation comprise three parts:

- I. Earthwork and contour survey of the entire application and the castle bailey
- II. Magnetic gradiometer survey of 1 hectare of the site following a scan
- III. Trial excavation of six trenches measuring 3m by 2m in dimension

The methods employed to satisfy this requirement, and the results of the work are laid out below followed by a discussion tying the results of all three aspects of the work together.

## **3. Topographical Survey**

### **3.1 Methodology**

#### **3.1.1 Earthwork survey**

It is important to make the distinction between an earthwork survey and a contour survey of an archaeological site. The former is an accurately surveyed interpretation of features visually



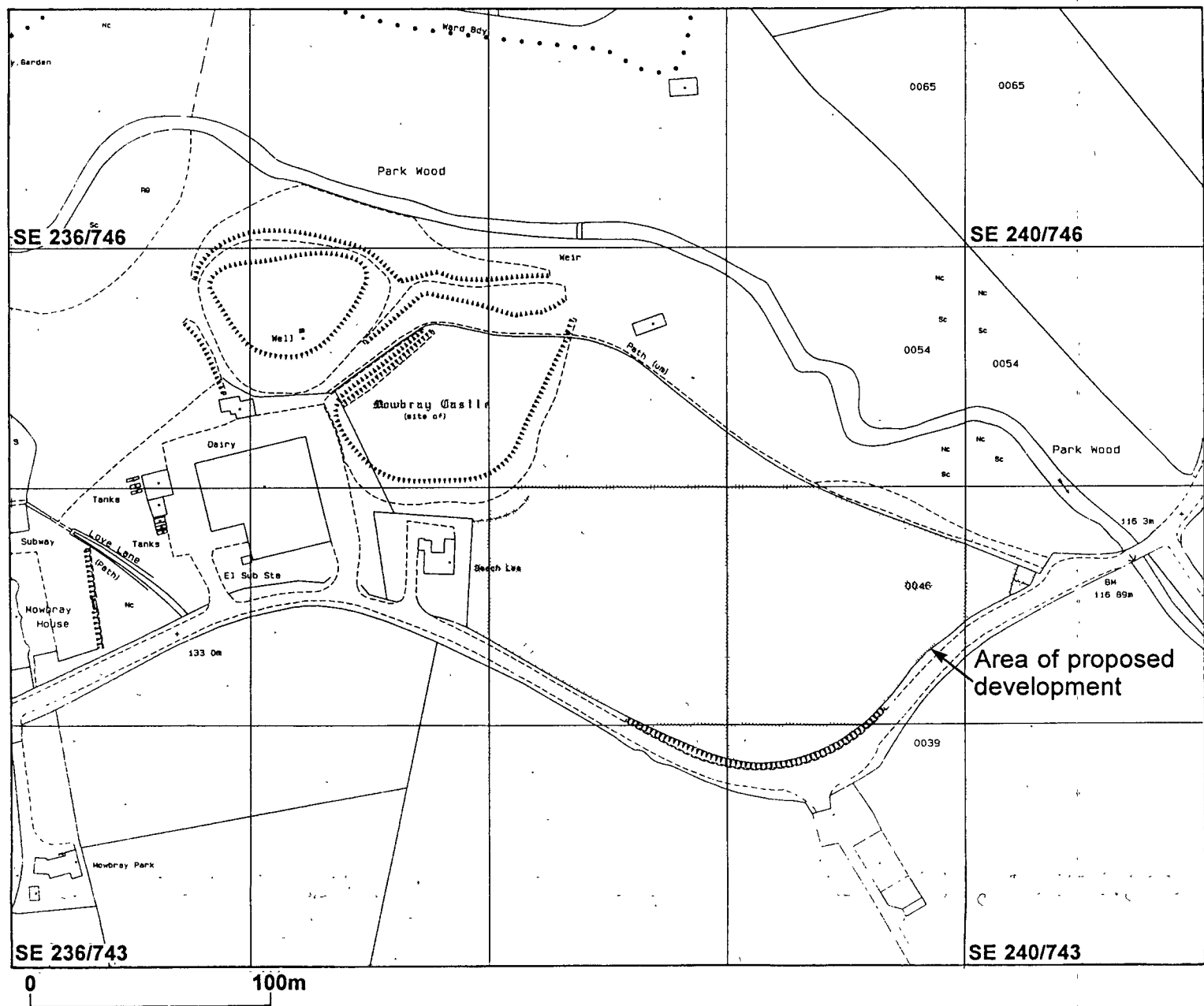
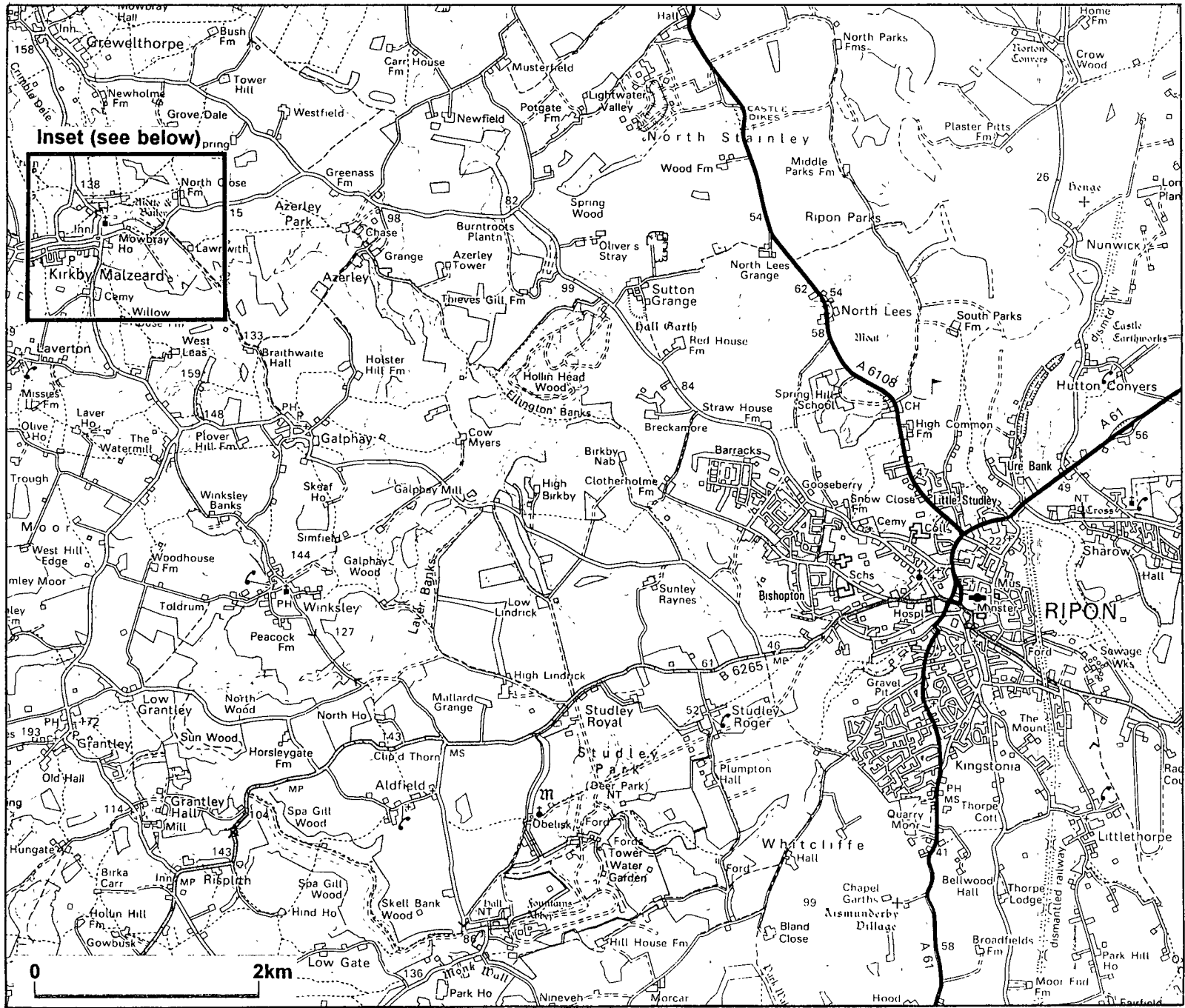


Fig.1 Site location plan

identifiable on site, whilst the latter uses isographic contours to map trends in variations of the topography of a site

The earthwork survey was carried out by using a Geodimeter total station to map breaks of slope along the tops and bottoms of major earthworks on the site such as the bank and ditch of the bailey and the natural ridge running east-west across the site. A 1:500 hard copy of this plan was then taken back to site and smaller earthwork features surveyed in. The results of this work are shown on Figure 2.

### 3.1.2 Contour survey

A Geodimeter total station was used to take readings at intervals of *c* 5m across the site (information obtained for the purposes of the earthwork survey was also used when computing the contour survey). All the data was then used to form a digital terrain model in the Landscape software package (Blue Moon Systems). This software produces triangular facets between all the survey points. Contours were subsequently computed from this model and the results are presented in Figure 3.

Contour levels were tied into the Ordnance Survey Datum of 142.04mOD situated in the centre of Kirkby Malzeard.

## 3.2 Results

3.2.1 The most striking archaeological earthworks on the site are the north-west and south banks (Fig 2, A) of the bailey which can be seen to stand at between 1m to 2m in height within the constraints of the site. The top of the eastern bank (Fig 2, B) lies about 1m lower than the eastern end of the south stretch of Bank A, but notably follows the contours at this point rather than running down slope like A. Both banks A and B appear to surround a slight hollow (Fig 2, C). The ground slopes gradually down towards the east throughout the interior of the bailey. The bailey ditch is most prominent at D (Fig 2).

3.2.2 Ridge and furrow was observed on site. This was most obvious through the change in vegetation where lighter grass and buttercups lay along the ridges. However, the features also manifested themselves as slight earthworks which can be seen within the bailey and to its east. More importantly, these do not appear to cross the east bank of the bailey and therefore probably predate it.

3.2.3 A large ridge (Section 2.4) which bisects the site (Fig 2, M) lies to the south east of the bailey. At the west end of this and nearer the bailey a number of earthwork features were observed. These comprised a small earthwork ditch about 3m wide and 0.5m deep (Fig 2, E) and a slight bank surrounding a hollow measuring approximately 10m across (Fig 2, F). To the east of these lay a shallow mound about 10m in diameter. This latter feature was far less well defined than E and F and may prove to be natural in origin.

3.2.4 At the far east end of the site lay a cluster of earthworks probably belonging to a number of phases of activity (Fig 2, H-K). A linear bank (Fig 2 H) follows the line of the road along the south edge of the site. It was clearly defined as an earthwork with a very sharp slope on its south-east side. It was about 80m in length and 1.5m in width with a height of between *c* 0.5m and 1m. To the north of this lay two hollows against the northern boundary of the site. These

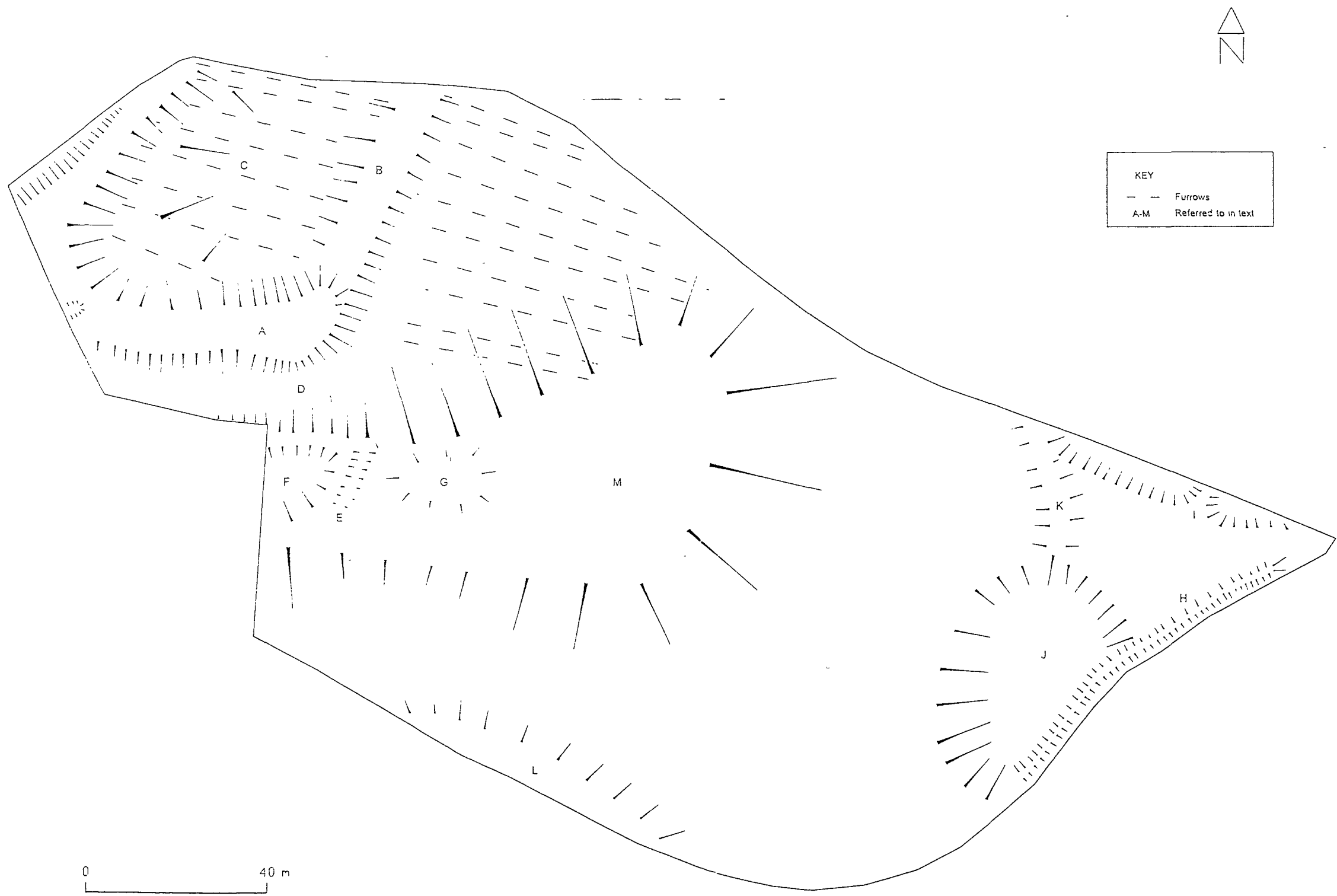


Fig. 2 The Earthwork Survey