

**Little Paxton Quarry,  
Diddington,  
Cambridgeshire**

**Field 7 (East)  
Fieldwalking 2002**

Birmingham University Field Archaeology Unit  
**Project No. 219.21**  
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**Little Paxton Quarry, Diddington, Cambridgeshire**  
**Field 7 (East) Fieldwalking 2002**

by  
Lynne Bevan and Sarah Watt

*For further information please contact:*  
Simon Buteux or Iain Ferris (Directors)  
Birmingham University Field Archaeology Unit  
The University of Birmingham  
Edgbaston  
Birmingham B15 2TT  
Tel: 0121 414 5513  
Fax: 0121 414 5516  
E-Mail: [BUFAU@bham.ac.uk](mailto:BUFAU@bham.ac.uk)  
Web Address: <http://www.bufau.bham.ac.uk>

# **LITTLE PAXTON QUARRY, DIDDINGTON, CAMBRIDGESHIRE**

## **Field 7 (East) Fieldwalking 2002**

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THE UNIVERSITY  
OF BIRMINGHAM

Field Archaeology Unit

Edgbaston  
Birmingham B15 2TT  
United Kingdom  
Telephone 0121 414 5518  
Fax 0121 414 5516  
Email BUFAU@bham.ac.uk  
Web address <http://www.buiau.bham.ac.uk>

Directors  
S. T. E. Bateux BA MPhil MIFA  
I. M. Ferris BA MIFA  
Assistant Director:  
A. E. Jones BA MA MIFA

FAX COVER

DATE AND TIME

11 FEB 02

TO

SIMON ATKINSON

FAX NUMBER

FROM

ALEX JONES

Fax number

Field Archaeology Unit  
0121 414 5516

NUMBER OF PAGES (Inc this one)

x 13

MESSAGE.

Little Paxton Quarry

- Fieldwalking RESUME to the bench plan.

- We would like to start pit-benching  
on Mon 18th Feb, if CCC can approve bench  
plan in time + quarry can provide a  
machine.

Thanks

Alex

# **LITTLE PAXTON QUARRY, DIDDINGTON, CAMBRIDGESHIRE**

## **Field 7 (East) Fieldwalking 2002**

### **1.0: SUMMARY**

This report describes the results of fieldwalking of an area of approximately 10 ha. (Field 7 (East) at Little Paxton Quarry, Diddington, Cambridgeshire (centred on NGR TL. 2005/6615). The fieldwalking collection mainly comprised post-medieval brick, pottery and tile, although a total of ten flint items were also recovered. The quantity of post-medieval material collected probably derives from extensive manuring. The flint finds were too small in quantity to suggest more than occasional activity in early prehistory.

### **2.0: INTRODUCTION**

This report describes the results of the fieldwalking of an area of approximately 10 ha., comprising the eastern part of Field 7 within the Phase 3 area (centred on NGR TL. 2005/6615, Figs. 1-2) at Little Paxton Quarry, Diddington, Cambridgeshire. The fieldwalking was undertaken by Birmingham University Field Archaeology Unit for Entec Consultants Limited, acting on behalf of Aggregate Industries Limited. The methodology adopted follows a specification prepared by BUFAU (BUFAU 2001), approved by the County Archaeology Office of Cambridgeshire County Council.

The aims of fieldwalking were to attempt to define the extent of settlement and activity within the areas examined, based on relative artifact density on the ploughsoil surface, and to date this activity from the artifact assemblages. Of particular interest was the identification of evidence for Bronze Age and earlier activity. The information contributed by fieldwalking was intended to assist in the formulation of a strategy for subsequent evaluation.

This fieldwork forms part of a large-scale archaeological project, begun in 1992, which aims to provide a landscape-based analysis of changes in settlement forms and agriculture within the quarry concession, and to relate these changes to the evolving river-valley environment.

The fieldwalking forms the latest stage in the examination of the Phase 3 area. The results of previous stages of fieldwalking have been reported on separately. In each case the fieldwalking has been followed by trial-trenching. The subsequent mitigation strategy has involved salvage recording and archaeological watching briefs, with area excavated targeted at the main feature concentrations.

No previous fieldwork has been undertaken within the area fieldwalked in 2002. With the exception of the eastern side of a cropmarked enclosure of early Roman date (partly excavated in 2001) there are few identified cropmarked features within the area fieldwalked.

### 3.0: METHODOLOGY (Fig. 3)

Following ploughing and weathering of the field surface, the area was walked, with collection of all artifacts by a team walking at approximately 5m apart. Collection was restricted by the high incidence of natural flint pebbles occurring in the soil, as observed on previous occasions. However, it was apparent from the beginning of the exercise that very few fragments of struck flint (which tended to be of a darker colour than the un-worked flint, which was of a generally lighter brown colour with a coarser, 'cherty' appearance) were present on the surface of the ploughsoil. The flint was collected in 25m squares, following the national grid. The squares were given a unique number and letter designation. Those squares adjoining the boundary of the area fieldwalked could not, of course, be completely walked.

Field 8 (Fig. 3), to the east of Field 7 (East) was not available for ploughing, and could not be fieldwalked.

### 4.0: RESULTS

#### 4.1: Flint (Fig. 4)

A total of ten worked flint items only was recovered, as follows:

<i>Grd sq.</i>	<i>Identification</i>
4H	1 flake
5F	1 flake
5H	2 flakes
6F	1 (flake) core
7L	1 (rough) core
8D	1 struck chunk
9A	1 flake
9L	1 flake
11F	1 struck chunk

The fieldwalking assemblage comprised two flint cores, six flakes and two struck chunks. None of this material was chronologically diagnostic beyond a generally early prehistoric, probably Bronze Age date. The flint is mainly distributed towards the southern and western parts of the area investigated, although the distribution may not be meaningful in view of the small quantity of worked flint recovered.

#### 4.2: Other finds (Fig. 5)

The other finds collected during fieldwalking comprised Roman pottery, post-medieval pottery, tile and glass fragments, quantified in Table 1. The Roman pottery (total 15 sherds) partly derived from the area adjoining the cropmarked enclosure. Other sherds were collected further to the east, and may represent manuring scatters. Only two sherds of medieval pottery, and 18 sherds of post-medieval pottery were recovered. The largest quantity of material recovered comprised post-medieval brick and tile (not illustrated on Fig. 5), amounting to 314 fragments. The other finds collected comprised post-medieval glass, clay pipe and metal fragments, collected in

small quantities. Fragments of broken modern land-drains were observed on the field surface, but not collected.

**Table 1: Fieldwalking finds (excluding worked flint)**

<i>Grid square</i>	<i>Roman pottery</i>	<i>Medieval pottery</i>	<i>Post-medieval pottery</i>	<i>Tile/brick</i>	<i>Clay Pipe</i>	<i>Glass</i>	<i>Metal obj</i>
3J				2			
3K				11	1		1
3L			1	2			
3M				2		1	
4F				1			
4G				2			
4H				2			
4I				1			
4J				4			
4M	1			3			
5A	1			1			
5B	1			1			
5C				1			
5D			1	5			
5E		1		1			
5F				2			
5G				2			
5H				1			
5J				2			
5K				1			
5L			1				
5M	1			1			
6B			1	1			
6C	1		1				
6D	1			4			
6E			1	5			
6F			1	4			
6G				2			
6H				3		1	
6K	1			3			
6L			1	1			
7A				3		1	
7B			2	4			
7C			1	1			
7D	2			2			
7E				2			
7F		1					
7G				7			
7H			1	3			
7J				3			

7K				4			
7L				5			
7M				14			
8B				2			
8C				2			
8D	1			1			
8E				6			
8F				4		1	
8G				3			
8H				2		1	
8I				1			
8J				3			
8K				5			
8L				9			1
8M				7			
8N				3			2
9A				1			
9B				3			
9D			1				
9E				2			
9F				5			
9G	1			3			
9H				2			
9I				3			
9J				4			
9K				4			
9L			2				
9M				6			
10A						1	
10B				2			
10F				4			
10G				2			
10H				3			
10I				2			
10J				2			1
10K				3			
10L				2		1	
10M				2			
10N				7			
10O				1			
11A				1			1
11B				1			
11C				1			
11D				2			
11E			1	4			
11G			1				
11H				1			
11I				2			

11J				3			
11K				3			
11L	1			2			
11M				2			
11N				4			
11O				1			
12A				2			
12B				2			
12C				1			
12D			1	1			
12F				2			
12G				3			
12H	1			1			
12I				3			
12K				2			
12L				2			
12M				2			
12O	1			2			
13D				1			
13E				2			
13G				2			
13H	1			2			
13I				4			
13J				3			
13L				1			
13M				3			
13O				1			
14H				1			
14L				2			
14O				1			
14P				2			
15L				2			
15N				2			
15O				1			
16N				1	3		
16O				3			

Note: the table only includes squares which contained finds

### 4.3: Discussion

Compared to the results of previous fieldwalking in adjacent areas, the 2002 flint collection is very small, and the quantity of later finds is correspondingly greater. The flint distribution is probably too small to be meaningful, except perhaps to suggest only limited activity in early prehistory within the site. The Roman pottery finds derive from the partly excavated enclosure, and adjoining manuring. The remaining finds are concentrated within the south and west of the area fieldwalked, and probably also derive from manuring scatters. The absence of Iron Age pottery is unsurprising, particularly since Iron Age pottery was not recovered from previous fieldwalking exercises, even over large complexes of Iron Age enclosures.

## **5.0: ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

The fieldwalking was sponsored by Aggregate Industries Limited, through Entec Consultants Limited. The fieldwalking was supervised by Mary Duncan, assisted by Sally radford, Melissa Monway, Bob Bracken and Maurice Hopper. The finds were processed by Erica Macey, and the flint identifications were by Lynne Bevan. The illustrations were prepared by Sarah Watt and Nigel Dodds. The fieldwork was managed by Alex Jones who also edited this report.

## **6.0: REFERENCE**

BUFAU 2001 *Written Scheme of Investigation. Archaeological Evaluation. Field 7 (East), Field 8. Phase 3 Area, Little Paxton Quarry, Diddington, Cambridgeshire.*

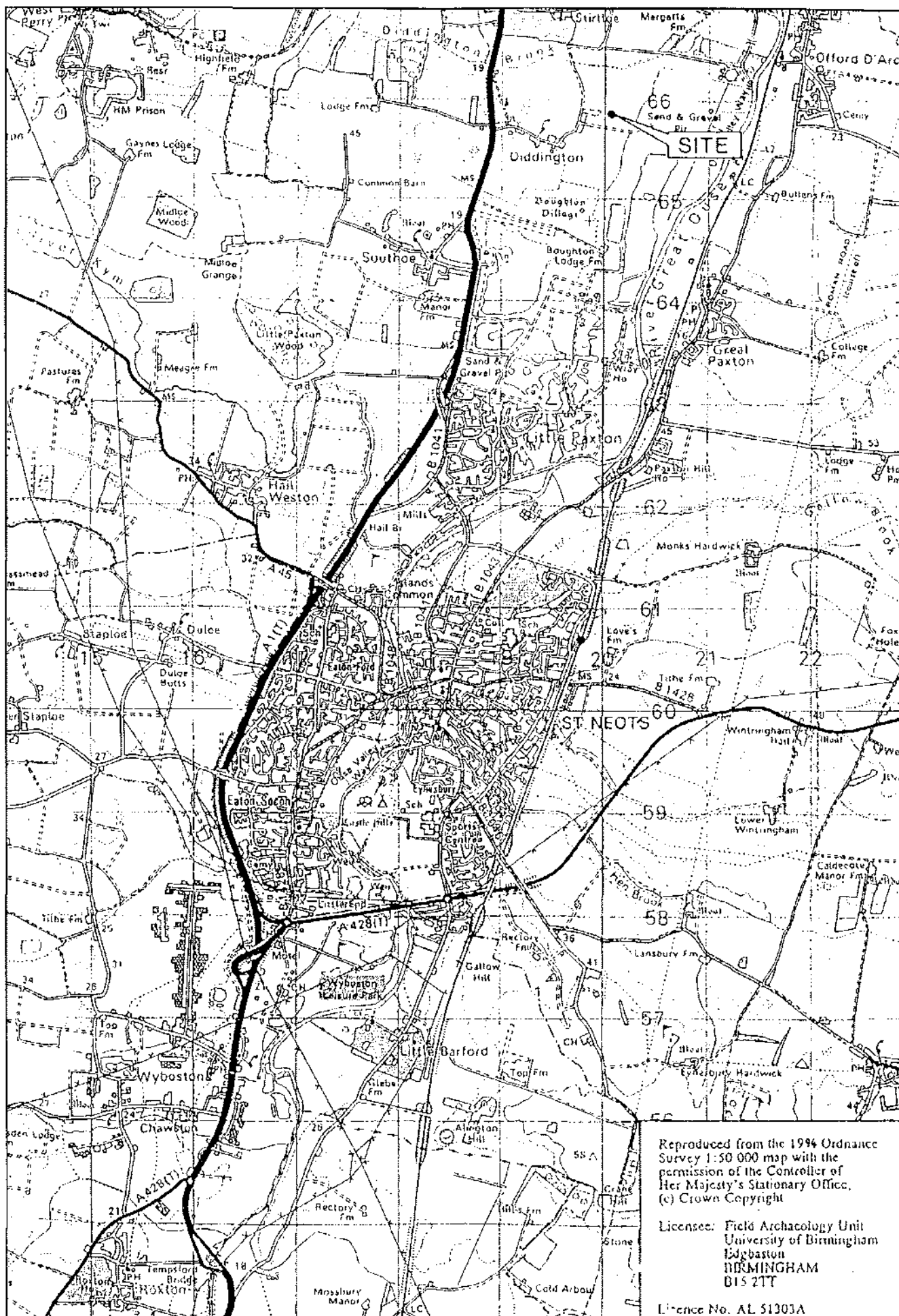


Fig.1

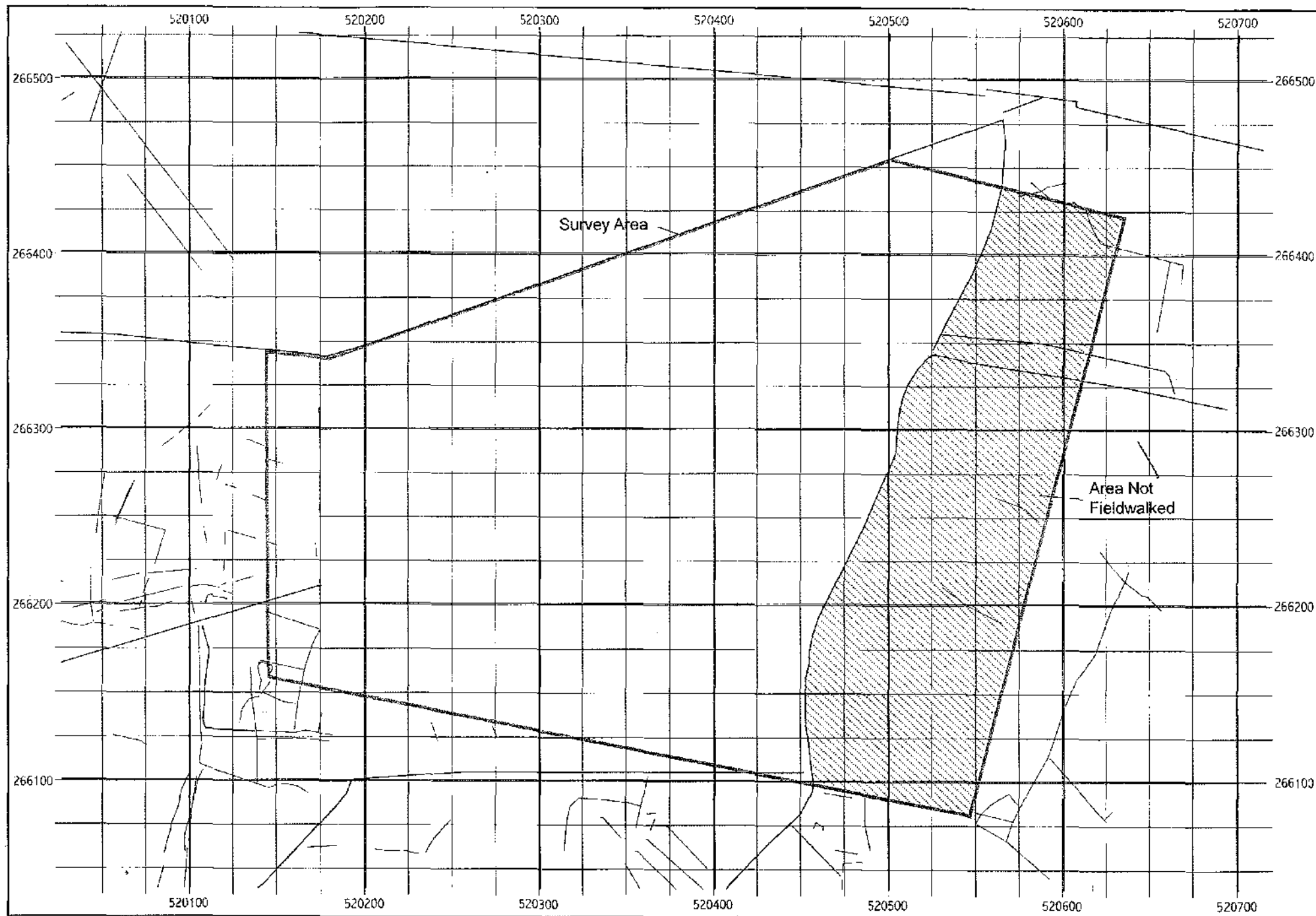


Fig.2

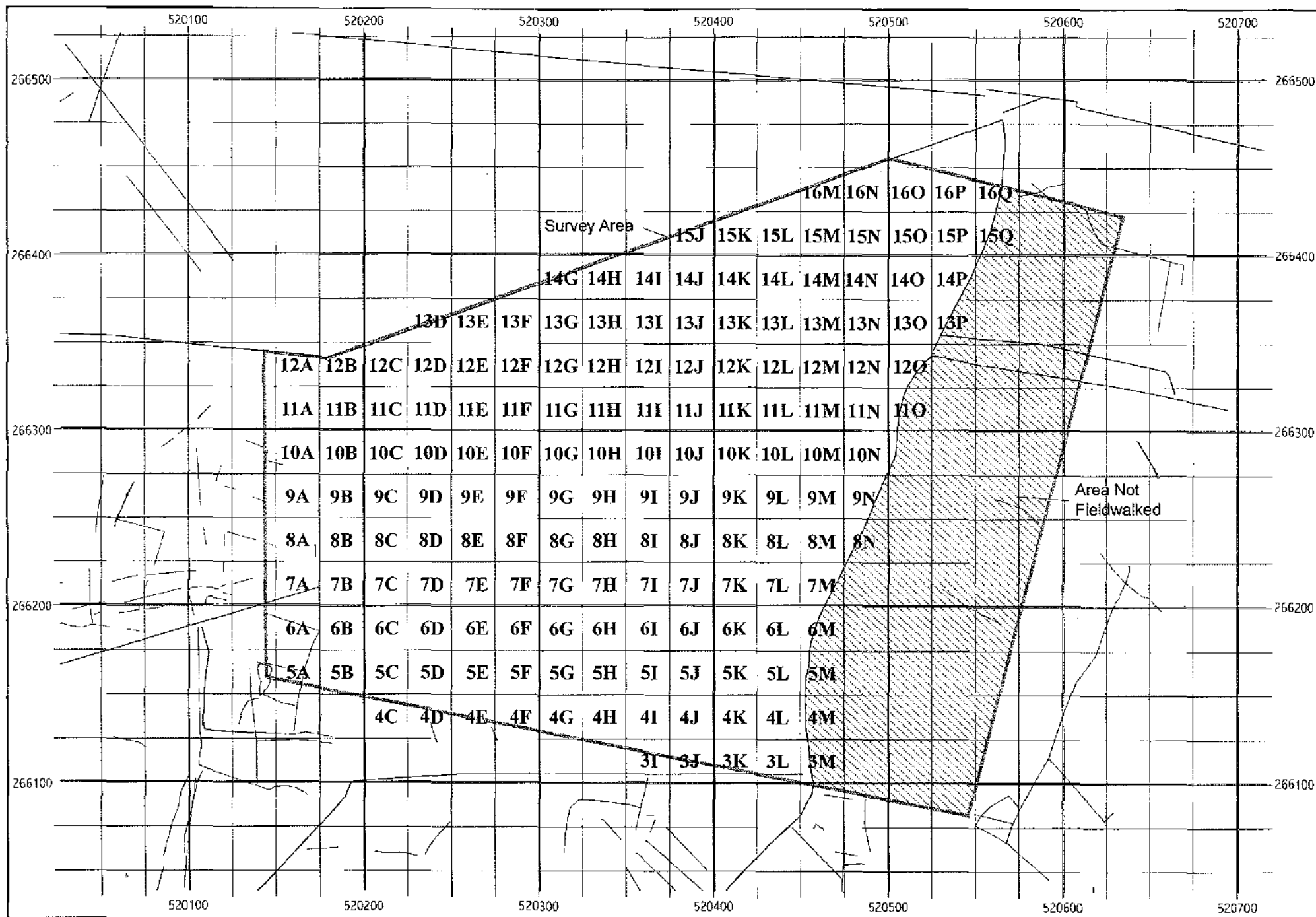


Fig.3

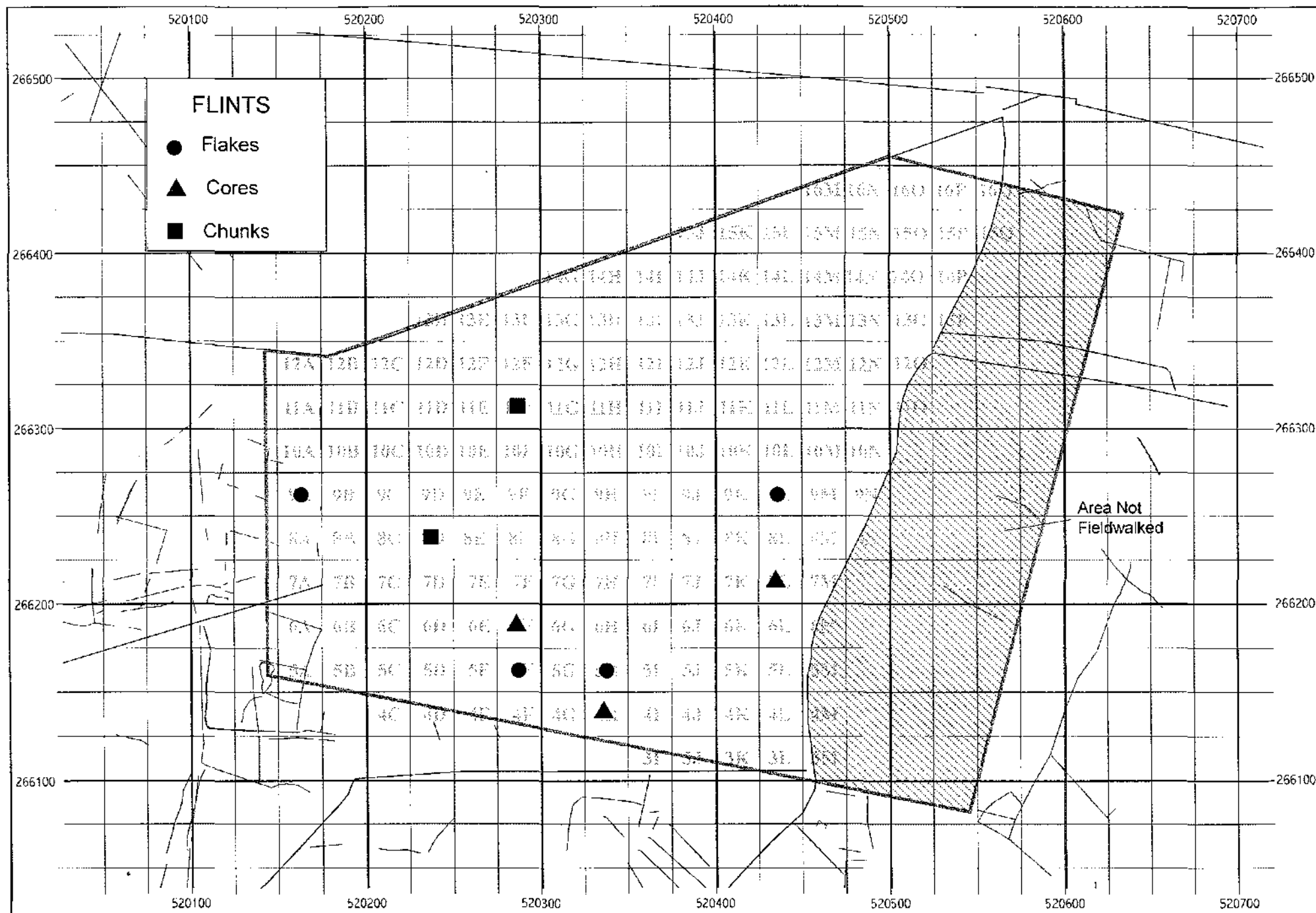


Fig.4

