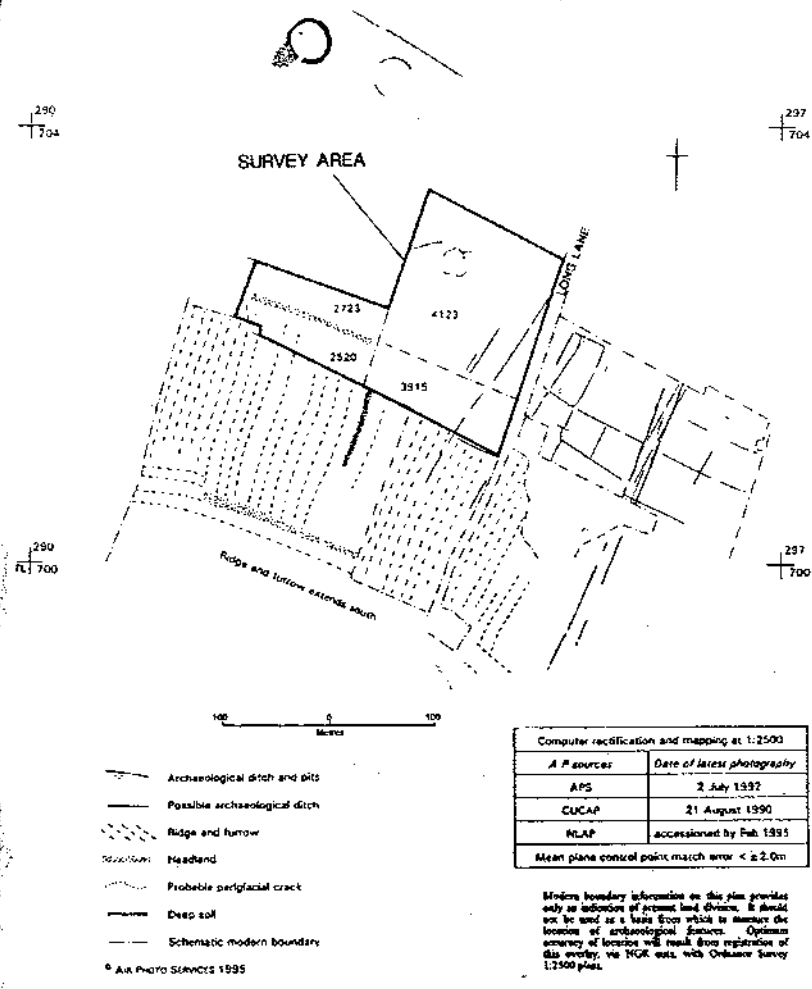
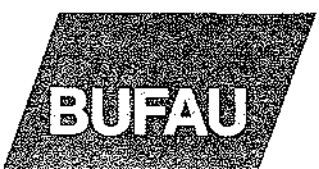


Hemingford Grey, Cambridgeshire



An Archaeological Evaluation 1995



Birmingham University Field Archaeology Unit

Report No. 340

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**LONG LANE,
HEMINGFORD GREY, CAMBRIDGESHIRE**

An Archaeological Evaluation 1995

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LONG LANE, HEMINGFORD GREY, CAMBRIDGESHIRE

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1.0 SUMMARY

An assessment of the archaeological impact on an area in advance of a proposed housing development at Long Lane, Hemingford Grey (hereinafter referred to as the 'study area') was undertaken by Birmingham University Field Archaeology Unit. The study area was tested by an evaluation involving air-photograph analysis and geophysical survey followed by selective trial trenching.

A number of undated features were identified. One ditch contained prehistoric flints, other features encountered contained Post-Medieval artifacts. All areas retained traces of Medieval field systems.

2.0 INTRODUCTION

This report outlines the results of an archaeological assessment of arable farm land (3ha) and scrub land (0.5ha) located at Hemingford Grey (Fig.1), to the south of the River Great Ouse in Cambridgeshire. The work was undertaken by Birmingham University Field Archaeology Unit on behalf of Beazer Homes (Central) Limited. The site (centred on NGR. TL 293 702) is bounded to the east by Long Lane and to the south by open farm land. The land to the north has been developed for housing.

In accordance with the guide-lines laid down in Planning Policy Guidance Note 16 (November 1990) a recommendation for an archaeological evaluation was made by the County Archaeology Office of Cambridgeshire County Council in advance of a proposed housing development. The methodology of this assessment conforms to a design brief prepared by the County Archaeology Office, Cambridgeshire County Council (Sydes 1995) and a research design prepared by Birmingham University Field Archaeology Unit (Jones 1995).

The purpose of the evaluation was to determine the location, extent, date, character, significance and quality of any archaeological remains which may be affected by the proposed development and to provide a basis for a series of recommendations and suggestions to mitigate the impact of the development.

This report provides a detailed description of the results of trial-trenching. The results of aerial photographic analysis and geophysical survey, described in more detail elsewhere (Air Photo Services 1995; Stratascan 1995), are also summarised below.

3.0 THE STUDY AREA AND ITS SETTING (Fig. 1)

The study area lies some 5 kilometres south-east of Huntingdon and approximately 1 mile south of the River Great Ouse. The geology consists of first and second terrace river gravels associated with the River Ouse. These river gravels were extensively settled during the prehistoric, Roman and Saxon periods and a concentration of cropmarks is recorded within the locality of Hemingford Grey.

Field boundaries and a system of cropmark rectilinear enclosures (Cambridgeshire S.M.R. No. 06779) lie immediately to the east of the study area. The orientation of these cropmarks suggests that they may extend into the eastern limits of the study area. To the north of the study area is a further system of crop-marks which may be

interpreted as ring-ditches or henges of early prehistoric date (Cambridgeshire S.M.R. No. 0828). A number of stray finds also suggest Iron Age and Anglo-Saxon activity nearby; these include an almost complete Anglo-Saxon pot located immediately to the north-east of the study area (Cambridgeshire S.M.R. No. 07929).

4.0 AIMS AND METHODOLOGY

4.1: Air photographic analysis

The first stage of archaeological assessment involved the analysis and re-plotting of available air photograph information, which was undertaken to permit the areas of greatest archaeological potential to be targeted during the subsequent geophysical survey.

Vertical and oblique photographs were interpreted to identify features both of archaeological and natural origin (Fig. 3). Photographic interpretation and re-mapping of cropmarks were undertaken by Air Photo Services, Cambridge, using the techniques described in Palmer and Cox (1993). The aerial photographs were examined by eye and under slight (1.5x) magnification, viewed as stereoscopic pairs whenever possible. Archaeological information was digitised, rectified and plotted using the Bradford Rectification Software, AERIAL version 4.2 (Haigh 1993). Photographs were interpreted and rectified to a scale of 1:2500. This analysis also included the re-mapping of any crop-marks immediately adjacent to the study area. The margin of error for the plotting of crop-marks was +/- 2m. The archives held at the Cambridge University Collection of Aerial Photographs and The National Collection of Aerial Photographs at Swindon were consulted.

4.2: Geophysical survey

A geophysical survey was undertaken in two stages by Stratascan, covering Areas A to E (Fig.2). The first stage involved a magnetic susceptibility survey of the whole of the study area (including Field I, Fig.4). This enabled the study area to be rapidly scanned in order to identify areas of enhanced magnetisation resulting from human occupation. The measurement of the magnetic susceptibility of a soil can give an indication of past (possibly archaeological) activity. Three trial areas measuring 20m by 40m were also selected for detailed survey using both a magnetometer and a resistivity meter (Fig. 2). The information obtained from this first stage geophysical survey was used to target the second stage geophysical survey which involved a more extensive examination of the study area using the magnetometer. Further resistivity survey was not considered appropriate.

Data from each of the instruments was processed by computer to enhance the visibility of man-made features. The results are presented as dot density plots (Fig. 5, 6), and an interpretative plot (Fig. 7). The remaining plots may be found in the detailed survey report (Stratascan 1995)

4.3 Trial-trenching

The results of the aerial photographic assessment and the geophysical surveys were employed to locate the trial-trenches and test pits. These were located to examine areas of archaeological potential and also to test the potential of areas where no cropmarks or geophysical anomalies were recorded. This trenching amounted in total to an area of almost 560 square metres, approximately 2% of the entire study area.

For the purposes of identification, the study area was divided into three Fields (Fig 2). Field I is a field of scrub-land forming the western end of the survey area (Fields 2723 and 2520), Field II is a large arable field to the north (Field 4123), and Field III is a small arable field to the south of the study area (Field 3915).

In all trenches the ploughsoil overburden was removed by a mechanical excavator under archaeological supervision to expose the upper horizon of the natural subsoil. In some trenches machining also removed the uppermost levels of the subsoil, to ensure that the uppermost archaeological horizon was not masked by alluviation.

The machined surface was then hand-cleaned to define any archaeological features present in plan. A sample of the features so defined was selectively hand excavated, to provide a representative sample of feature types, and to provide artifactual evidence and samples for plant macrofossil analysis.

A total of six test pits, measuring 1.5m x 1.5m, was hand dug through the ploughsoil to the natural sub-soil. Lettered a to f (Fig. 2), these test pits facilitated a preliminary assessment of the density of artifacts within the ploughsoil horizon.

Recording was by means of pre-printed pro-forma recording sheets for contexts and features, supplemented by scale drawings, plans, sections and photographs, which are all held in the archive.

A 20 litre sample was taken from all apparently undisturbed archaeological contexts which contained datable artifacts. These soil samples were processed for the recovery of plant macrofossils. The results of this processing are described in Section 9 below.

5.0: THE CROPMARK EVIDENCE by Air Photo Services (Figs. 2, 3)

There are few definite archaeological features within the study area that can be identified on aerial photographs. However, examination of the features in adjacent fields suggests that more may be present than have been revealed to date.

It should be noted that the appearance of levelled sub-surface features is possible only during a few weeks in summer and then only if crops are of certain types, have been suitably managed, and that weather conditions have been appropriate to promote growth stresses in those crops. Given the appearance of such crop-marked features it then remains for an airborne archaeologist to observe them and decide that they are worthy of photographing.

Oblique photographs targeted within one kilometre of the study area indicate that archaeological reconnaissance has taken place locally in ten different years between 1959 and 1994. With that amount of experienced observation in the vicinity it would seem reasonable to suggest that if any cropmarked features had been present in the study area on those dates then they should have been seen and, probably, photographed. Despite this, photographs on only two dates, in 1976 and 1992, have recorded features in the field to the east of the study area and, in doing so, have shown there to be slight traces of cropmark ditches in the study area. These cropmarks have been recorded by default in the background or foreground of photographs targeted to the east.

The cropmark plot (Fig. 3) shows there to be traces of ditched fields, possibly using a double ditched track as one axis, in the field to the east of Long Lane (Cambridgeshire S.M.R. 6779). This track is of two phases, each on a slightly different alignment and with ditches of distinctly different character. It may link with other tracks and a complex of ditched features to the north (TL 298786:

Cambridgeshire S.M.R. 6822: not mapped for this assessment). The alignment of this latter track and field system is similar to others recorded in the vicinity. This may be a response to local topography or suggest that these cropmarks represent fragments of a much larger system of ditched land allotment. It is on the latter basis that it is possible that more may be found in the assessment area. East of that area are the features noted above, while some 200m to the north is another linear ditch, itself forming one side of a large, probably rectangular, enclosure following the same alignment (part of Cambridgeshire S.M.R. 6820). It may be that these are two parts of a larger, and coherent cropmark field system divided only by modern land use, in which case ditches on similar axes may be located within the study area.

Medieval fields, recorded as levelled ridge and furrow, have been photographed south of the assessment area and almost certainly extend into Field I (Field 2520). The former boundary which divides Field I (Fields 2723 and 2520) follows a probable headland. In the area examined for this assessment survival of the medieval fields was poor, most were levelled and some were recorded as only the slightest of traces. Medieval cultivation may once have covered the complete area, although there is no evidence on the photographs to support this interpretation. An alternative is to suggest that those modern fields, now devoid of ridge and furrow, were meadows, perhaps a more suitable use for land closer to the River Great Ouse. The track, previously noted in the field east of Long Lane, is clearly of two phases: one being defined by straight, sharp-edged ditches, the other being more irregularly cut. Considering the alignment of some of the medieval fields it would not seem unreasonable to suggest that one of those phases was of that date.

None of the photographs examined showed evidence of deeper soil, either as local pockets or as palaeo-channels, that would help explain the negative evidence on aerial photographs. There is a small feature in Field II (Field 4123) which is probably due to cropmarks forming above periglacial cracks. This feature shows only in the background of the 1976 prints and has been added, using conventions to differentiate it from archaeological features, to the cropmark plot. The photographs show no land drains or any areas of hand-dug quarries that may otherwise confuse field investigation.

Land use

Vertical photographs from C.U.C.A.P. and N.L.A.P. show use of the fields in the study area in 14 separate years between 1946 and 1990. Of these, only 4 (possibly 5) photographic sorties were flown at times of year when crop-marked information may be expected, the remainder showing the fields harvested or as bare soil. Bare soil on gravels does not often reveal the presence of minor sub-surface features. No archaeological information was identified on the verticals other than additions to the extent of medieval cultivation.

Field II (4123) was photographed under arable conditions, usually growing cereals in all years, although in 1953 the crop appears to have been either brassica or root vegetables.

Field III (3915) was an orchard in 1946 but thereafter converted to arable.

The southern part of Field I (2520) has been tree-(?orchard) or scrub-covered in all years. The northern part of Field I (2723) has been scrub or grass in all years.

Under such conditions it may have been possible for cropmarks to have developed over features in Fields II and III, if so they were not seen or recorded. Little or nothing of archaeological significance would be visible to the airborne observer in Field I.

6.0 THE GEOPHYSICAL SURVEY by Stratascan

6.1: Stage One - The Preliminary Survey

The magnetic susceptibility results are illustrated in Fig. 4, in which the areas of enhanced magnetisation can be seen as black. In particular the north-eastern corner of the study area shows areas of potential interest whereas the narrower band of enhancement in the north-west corner is thought to be from modern bonfires and debris.

The resistivity survey (Fig. 5) proved to be disappointing, producing only rather noisy data with no apparent features of interest. This is thought to be due in part to the very wet conditions on the site at the time of the survey.

The preliminary magnetometer survey (now incorporated into the large area plotted in Fig. 6) showed several anomalies which were thought to be of archaeological interest and hence this was the technique that was selected for more extensive geophysical surveying.

6.2: Stage Two - The magnetometer survey (Fig. 7)

Area A (Field I)

Most of the magnetic anomalies found in the area of scrub are thermoremanent in nature. These areas have been hatched (Fig. 7) indicating areas of strong magnetic disturbance. These are thought to reflect the modern use of the land including the dumping of rubbish and bonfires.

There are, however, anomalies which may have some archaeological potential. M9 is a curved linear anomaly which may be part of a ring ditch and should be worthy of further investigation. There is also a rectilinear anomaly M8 which is partly obscured by the area of magnetic disturbance M7.

Area B (Field II)

Anomaly M4 (Area B) is a collectively labelled series of parallel rectilinear anomalies that is thought to be cultivation marks.

Anomalies M5 and M6 in Area B are very weak and can just be seen on the computer display but tend to be lost when printed out. They are only noticed because they coincide with the general location of some weak cropmarks which have been interpreted as periglacial cracks.

There is no obvious explanation in the magnetometer plots for the magnetic susceptibility enhancement seen in the northeastern part of area B.

Areas D and C (Field II)

The magnetic disturbance M2 in Area D is associated with a fence line and an area of rubbish. Similarly the small disturbed area in the north-eastern corner of the site is from the nearby fence. There is also a strong ferrous spike M3 in Area C which is from a buried metal object. None of these are of any archaeological significance with the possible exception of M3. The other anomalies in this area are all weak

linear in nature. The weak rectilinear feature M1 in Area D coincides with a cropmark thought to be part of a field enclosure.

7.0 THE TRIAL TRENCHING RESULTS

7.1: Field I (*scrub land to the west.*)

Trench 1

Objectives and results

Trench 1 measured 30m in length and was aligned approximately northwest-southeast (Fig. 2), perpendicular to a possible plough headland identified by the aerial photographic assessment. At the base of the trench was a light brown silt-sand sub-soil (1105) which contained sub-angular gravel and natural flint.

Towards the middle of Trench 1 was a shallow, flat bottomed linear feature (F100), aligned roughly northeast-southwest. Approximately 4.0m wide, the feature was filled with a dark brown silt sand to a depth of 0.30m. To the south, and on a similar alignment, were two linear cuts (features F101 and F102). Feature F101 contained a modern field drain, and a U-shaped feature (F102), approximately 0.30m wide, is almost certainly associated with feature F101. These were sealed by a dark brown silt-sand ploughsoil (1100) measuring between 0.28m and 0.40m in depth.

Interpretation

Feature F100 may possibly represent the headland identified in the aerial photographic assessment. No features of archaeological origin were identified within the 4.0m sondage cut into the sub-soil (context 1105) at the northern end of Trench 1.

Trench 2

Objectives and results

Trench 2 measured 50m in length, and was aligned approximately northeast-southwest. The trench was located in order to examine two geophysical anomalies; anomaly M9 to the southwest end of Trench 2 and anomaly M7, an area of magnetic disturbance (Fig. 2).

The uppermost horizon of the natural sub-soil, revealed by the hand cleaning of the machined surface, comprised a light brown silt-sand and gravel (2007) which contained fragments of natural flint.

Located towards the middle of Trench 2, cutting the sub-soil, was a linear feature (F202 Fig. 8), aligned north-south. Measuring 2.10m wide and 0.06m deep this feature was filled and sealed by a layer of medium brown sandy-silt (2001) approximately 0.20m in depth.

Five further linear features (F200, F201, F203, F204, and F205) were aligned north-south and post-dated feature F202 (Figs 2 and 8). This feature group was cut from a horizon above layer 2001 into the natural sub-soil. All of the features measured approximately 1.10m in width with their depths varying between 0.20m and 0.30m and were filled with a medium grey-brown silt (contexts 2002 to 2006 respectively). A modern topsoil of dark brown silt sand (2000) measured 0.30m deep.

Interpretation

The linear feature F202 (Fig. 8), aligned slightly more to the northwest than the remainder of the features in Trench 2, possibly represents an earlier field boundary. Features F200, F201, F203, F204 and F205 were probably associated with the medieval field systems identified to the south by the aerial photographic assessment.

The position of feature F205 (Fig. 8), 3.5m from the south west end of Trench 2, corresponded almost exactly to the location of curved linear anomaly (M9) identified by geophysical survey. A sondage measuring 3.0m by 0.5m was dug by hand through feature F205 and the natural sub-soil (2007) to a depth of 0.5m. This was in order to ensure that anomaly M9 (fractionally to the east of feature F205) was not masked by later deposits.

Two test pits (a and b) were located in Field I. To the west, test pit a was dug by hand to a depth of 0.40m, revealing the natural subsoil. Two flint flakes and three animal bones were recovered from the modern ploughsoil horizon (1001). To the east, test pit b, which was hand dug to a depth of 0.32m, yielded Post-Medieval pottery and one possible retouched scraper from the modern ploughsoil (context 1000).

7.2: Field II (*The largest arable field to the north*)

Trenches 3 and 4

Objectives and results

Trench 3 (Fig. 2) measured 50m in length and was cut on a north-south alignment, intersecting a semi-circular cropmark, identified in the aerial photograph assessment as a possible periglacial crack. Trench 4 (Fig. 2) measured 36m long and joined Trench 3, forming a T-shaped arrangement across the same semi-circular cropmark. This also enabled the examination of a linear cropmark, aligned northeast-southwest. Both trenches were cut to a width of 1.70m, except over the location of the semi-circular cropmark, where the trenches were machined to a width of 2.50m. Trench 3 was also cut to examine a weak geophysical anomaly (M6 Figs. 2 and 7) recorded in this area.

In Trench 3 the natural subsoil comprised a medium brown silt-sand and gravel (3003). A linear feature (F300), aligned north-south and approximately 1.0m wide with gently sloping sides and a flat base, was evident for most of the length of the trench. This, in turn, was sealed by a layer of grey-brown silt-sand (3001) approximately 0.10m deep. The upper horizon of Trench 3 consisted of modern ploughsoil to a depth of 0.29m (3000).

Hand cleaning of the brown silt-sand and gravel sub-soil within Trench 4 (4002), revealed three shallow linear features aligned north-south. Linear feature F402 (Fig. 2) measured approximately 1.6m wide and 0.22m deep. This feature was filled with a brown gravel silt (context 4004), very similar in matrix to the natural sub-soil.

The westernmost linear feature (F401 Fig. 2) had gently sloping sides and was cut to a depth of 0.15m. Filled by a brown silt-sand (4003) this feature (F401) was similar in fill and dimensions to linear feature F400. All features were sealed by a grey-brown silt-sand (4005), measuring between 0.05m and 0.13m in depth. The upper horizon of Trench 4 consisted of modern ploughsoil (4000) with an average depth of 0.27m.

Interpretation

Linear feature F300 seems likely to have originated from the medieval field systems. Depressions within the sub-soil of grey-brown sandy silt (3002) at the northern end of Trench 3 appeared to be natural in origin and possibly relate to the periglacial cracks described in the aerial photographic assessment. Excavation tended to suggest that F402 was related to of undulating natural alluvial outwash gravels and may also be associated with the periglacial cropmark.

Feature F401 may equate with a cropmark aligned northeast-southwest (Fig. 2). However, it seems more plausible that F401 and F400 relate to the medieval ridge and furrow. Variations in the depth of the layer sealing the features (4005) is probably the result of Medieval ploughing.

Trench 5

Objectives and results

Trench 5 was aligned northwest-southeast, measured 45m in length (Fig. 2), and was located to test an area where no cropmarks or geophysical anomalies were recorded in the southwest corner of Field II (Fig. 2). The natural sub-soil comprised a brown silt-sand and gravel (5006).

Located at the south east end of Trench 5 was a circular feature (F502) (Fig. 8, Plate 2). Measuring 1.1m across and 0.12m deep feature F502 was filled with a light brown sandy silt (5005).

Further to the north-west of feature F502, orientated northeast-southwest, was a small curvilinear gully (F501) with steep sides and a flat base (Fig. 8, Plate 1). The gully, measuring approximately 0.88m wide by 0.26m deep, was filled with a light brown sandy silt (5004) which contained worked flint. Sealing features F501 and F502 was a layer of brown silt-sand (5001), approximately 0.16m in depth.

Located towards the northwest end of Trench 5, orientated northeast-southwest, was a large ditch (F500) (Figs. 2 and 8), with steep sides and a flat base. The ditch, measuring 6.0m across and 0.6m deep, cut through layer 5001 from the base of the modern ploughsoil. The primary ditch fill of fine brown silt (5003) was sealed by an upper fill of brown silt-sand with clay (5002) containing burnt clay and Post-Medieval pottery. The ploughsoil in Trench 5 (5000) measured 0.24m deep.

Interpretation

The profile of ditch F500 is unusual for a drainage or boundary ditch. This feature (F500), probably Post-Medieval in origin, has no parallel in the aerial photographic analysis or the geophysical survey.

Artifacts retrieved from the linear feature F501 suggest that it may be prehistoric in derivation and may possibly be part of the field systems of ditched land allotment evident to the east of Long Lane. Feature F502 may be a small pit.

Trench 6

Objectives and results

Trench 6 was aligned roughly northeast-southwest and was located within the eastern part of Field II (Fig. 2). This trench was positioned to intercept any cropmarks continuing into the study area and forming part of the cropmark system east of Long Lane.

Trench 6 was cut for a distance of 42m, exposing the natural brown silt-sand and gravel sub-soil (6004). The subsoil (6004) was cut by a number of features both natural and man-made in origin. Located towards the middle of Trench 6 was a circular feature (F601) approximately 0.6m across and 0.17m deep. With steeply sloping sides and a rounded base, the feature was filled with a grey to medium brown sandy silt (context 6002). Immediately to the east was a similarly shaped feature (F602, 1.15m wide and 0.18m deep), the full extent of which was not within the trench.

At the northern end of Trench 6 was a ditch (F600 Fig. 8), aligned north-south, with steep sides and a rounded base. The ditch, measuring 1.95m across and 0.30m deep, had a single fill (6001) comprising a medium brown sandy silt. This was sealed directly by a dark brown sand-silt ploughsoil, measuring 0.26m in depth.

Interpretation

The shape and fill of feature F600 suggests it predates the Medieval ridge and furrow. However, the feature is on a similar alignment to the Medieval field system. Unfortunately no datable artifacts were recovered from this ditch. Features F601 and F602 are possibly of geological origin.

Trench 7

Objectives and results

Orientated east-west, Trench 7 measured 48m in length (Fig. 2). Its purpose was to examine geophysical anomaly M2 and three linear cropmarks identified during the aerial photographic assessment. The natural subsoil comprised a light brown silt sand and gravel (7015).

Two features were noted towards the western end of Trench 7. The first, a curvilinear feature (F704), aligned northwest-southeast, measuring 0.10m in depth, was filled by a single fill of brown silt-sand with clay (7013). This measured approximately 0.50m wide and 2.2m in length and had sloping sides and a flat base. The second feature (F705), located further to the west, was ovoid in plan and measured approximately 0.75m by 0.55m. The feature measured 0.12m in depth and was cut with sloping sides and a flat base.

Towards the middle of Trench 7 was a shallow ditch (F703), aligned northeast-southwest. With gradually sloping sides and a flat base, measuring 0.70m wide and 0.12m in depth, this ditch was filled with a dark brown silt sand (7012). Further to the east of feature F703 was the base of a shallow ditch (F702). Aligned northwest-southeast, feature F702 was filled with a brown silt-sand, and measured approximately 0.25m wide and 0.10m deep. Feature F702 was overlain at the eastern end of the trench by a medium brown layer of sandy silt (7001). This layer (7001) sloped sharply from the east down towards the west end of the trench where it ceased to be evident.

At the eastern end of Trench 7 was a rectangular feature (F700), with its long axis orientated east-west, and measuring 2.30m by 0.65m. Feature F700 was cut from the base of the ploughsoil to a depth of 0.60m and was backfilled by 7003, 7004 and 7006-7011. Ploughsoil in Trench 7 (7000) sealed layer 7001 and feature F700 to a depth of 0.30m.

Interpretation

The rectangular feature at the eastern end of Trench 7 (F700) is almost certainly modern, possibly associated with former agricultural buildings. The shallow ditch (F703) aligned northeast-southwest may possibly be associated with the system of

crop-marks to the east of Long Lane, and correlates with the alignment of the plotted cropmarks. Feature F702 to the east may also be contemporary.

The remaining features in Trench 7 contained no datable artifacts and are possibly natural in origin.

7.3: Field III (*The smallest arable field to the south*)

Trench 8

Objectives and results

Measuring 46.0m in length Trench 8 (Fig. 2) was orientated east-west and was aligned perpendicular to the linear cropmarks identified by the aerial photographic assessment (Fig. 3). The uppermost horizon of the natural sub-soil, revealed by the hand cleaning of the machined surface, comprised a brown silt-sand and gravel (8005). This was sealed by a medium brown sandy-silt (8001) with an approximate depth of 0.18m. The eastern end of Trench 8 was machined to the base of layer 8001 for a distance of 6.0m to ensure that a lower archaeological horizon was not masked by layer 8001.

At the west end of Trench 8 was a shallow linear feature (F800), aligned north-south. Measuring 1.7m wide and 0.24m deep, feature F800 was filled with a dark brown sandy silt (8002). To the west was an irregularly shaped circular feature (F801), 1.1m in width and 0.16m deep, which contained fragments of Post-Medieval pottery. Further to the west was another irregularly shaped circular feature (F802), measuring 1.0m across and 0.55m in length. This feature also contained sherds of Post-Medieval pottery. All features were cut from the base of the ploughsoil at a depth of 0.30m.

Interpretation

No features of archaeological origin were evident below layer 8001. Cut from above layer 8001, the linear feature F800 seems likely to be part of the Medieval field system identified in the aerial photographic assessment. The two remaining circular features represent Post-Medieval disturbances. Linear cropmarks aligned northeast-southwest, believed to continue into this area, were not evident.

8.0 THE FINDS

8.1: The flint *by Lynne Bevan*

A small collection of worked flint, comprising four scrapers, a blade shaft fragment and 14 waste flakes, attests to prehistoric activity on the site. The flint is of good quality and ranges from brown to black in colour. Traces of thin pebble cortex indicates that the raw material was obtained from secondary deposits, probably gravels.

Two of the scrapers were recovered from features F500 and F501 in Trench 5. Both are oval in shape. The first has been steeply worked around 70% of its circumference, from its bulbous corticated dorsal, and the second is a side and end scraper on a flake, its working edges retouched with a single row of shallow flaking. A blade shaft fragment was also recovered from feature F501. This broad blade, with a maximum width of 14mm and 50% remnant cortex, has lost its tip and sustained damage to both edges. A further side and end scraper, similar to the example from Trench 5, was recovered from Trench 2 (layer 2001), and a rectangular shaped scraper with 50% remnant cortex and three working edges was recovered from the ploughsoil within Trench 1. Of the remaining flakes four were

from Trench 8 and three were from Trench 2. Trench 1 yielded only one flake as did Trench 4. Test pits a and c each contained two flakes, and one flake was an unstratified find.

Scrapers are one of only three types of retouched implements to be expected in settlement areas with any degree of frequency (Schofield 1987, 280). These multi-purpose tools, associated with numerous domestic tasks including hide working, wood working, and the processing of vegetable and animal foods, attest to at least one episode of settlement nearby during the prehistoric period. Although not chronologically diagnostic in form, the four scrapers represented here, together with the broad blade and flakes, suggest a post-Mesolithic date for the collection.

8.2: The other finds

With the exception of three abraded pottery sherds of probable Roman date from the ploughsoil (4000) in Trench 4, and three sherds of green-glazed Medieval pottery from the large ditch F500 in Trench 5 (5002), the remaining finds are Post-Medieval in date and comprise pottery, brick and tile, animal bone and glass. Full details of all finds may be found in the archive.

9.0 THE ENVIRONMENTAL EVIDENCE by Lisa Moffett

Twenty litre soil samples from features F501 and F502 5005 (Trench 5), and ditch F600 (Trench 6) were rapidly floated through a 700 micron sieve to recover a sample of any charred plant remains present. The flot was briefly scanned under magnification (x12).

The flots were all small, being 10l or less in volume. Few charred plant remains were present. One cereal fragment and two legume fragments were present in sample F501, and a probable rye grain (*secale cereale*) was found in the sample from feature F502.

10.0 DISCUSSION

Although areas of archaeological interest were evident adjacent to the study area, few features of archaeological significance could be identified within the study area during this assessment. This was despite machining parts of trenches to a lower level, discounting the possibility of a deeper archaeological horizon masked by alluvial deposits. All areas showed evidence of levelled ridge and furrow and other features probably resulted from Post-Medieval activity.

Field I

No features of archaeological significance could be identified in this field. The information available from aerial photography was limited due to the fact that in all years flown the field had been under scrub. The geophysical anomaly highlighted as a possible ring ditch (M9) was not evident on the ground. Of the features identified, all were either related to the Medieval field systems or were the result of modern disturbance.

Field II

It appears that the crop-marks identified as possible periglacial cracks, examined within Trenches 3 and 4, were natural in origin. Trenches 3 and 4 exhibited little of

archaeological potential. Further to the south, however, several features were noted in Trenches 5, 6 and 7.

Finds recovered from the ditch F501 (Trench 5, Fig.8, Plate 1) suggest it may be prehistoric in origin, although the artifacts could be redeposited. Ditch F600 (Trench 6, Fig 8) may be part of the larger complex of rectangular field systems lying mainly to the east of Long Lane. Linear features F702 and F703 (Trench 7, Fig. 8) may also be associated with this cropmark field system.

Field III

Disturbances within this area resulted from Medieval agriculture and Post-Medieval activity. No features of archaeological significance could be identified in this area.

Test-pits a to f

Hand excavation of six 1.5m x 1.5m test-pits through the modern ploughsoil yielded a number of sherds of pottery, mainly Post-Medieval in date, and a few struck flints. The density of collected artifacts did not appear to suggest that a significant scatter of flint artifacts may be found in the ploughsoil.

11.0 IMPLICATIONS AND PROPOSALS

Little archaeology was encountered within the study area. No further archaeological fieldwork in fields I and III and in the north of field II is recommended. However, the maintenance of a watching brief during the groundworks in the southern half of field II is recommended. This watching brief would involve the salvage recording of any archaeological features identified within service and other trenches, in liaison with the contractor.

12.0: ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This project was commissioned by Beazer Homes (Central) Limited. The field work was monitored by Alex Jones and supervised by Richard Cuttler with the assistance of Edward Newton, David Tyler, Derek Moscrop, Mark Allen, Marianne Ridgeway, Eleanor Ramsey and Tony Hanna. Analysis and finds research was by Lynne Bevan. The report was edited by Iain Ferris and the drawings prepared by Richard Cuttler. The project was monitored for Cambridgeshire County Council by Rob Butler.

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Stratascan 1995. *Hemingford Grey: A Geophysical Survey 1995*.

Sydes, R., 1995. *Brief for archaeological evaluation: Long Lane, Hemingford Grey, Cambridgeshire County Council, Unpublished*.

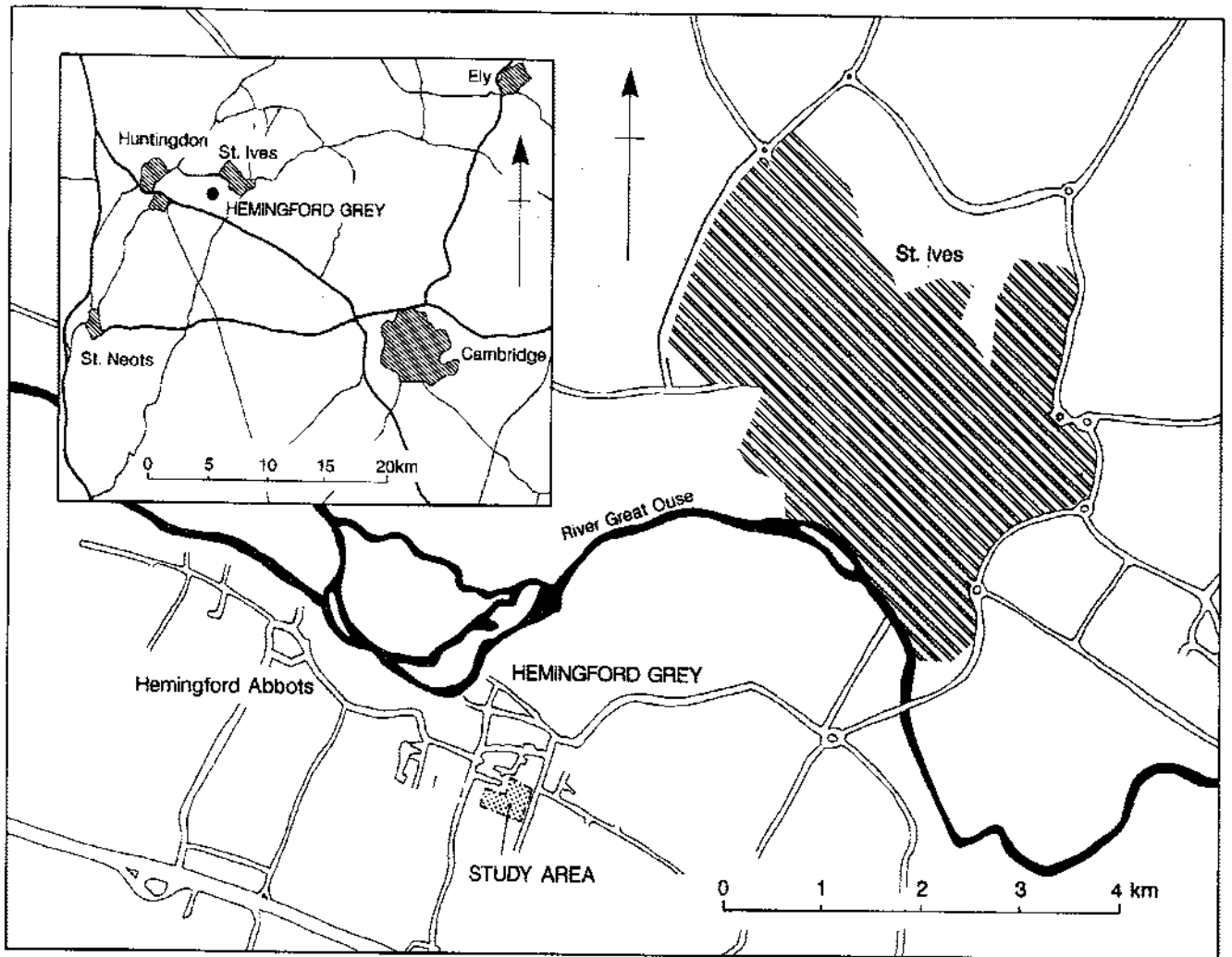








Figure 1

- 5  Trench
-  Feature
- A  Test pit
- M7  Geophysical anomaly
-  Geophysical survey areas
-  Crop mark

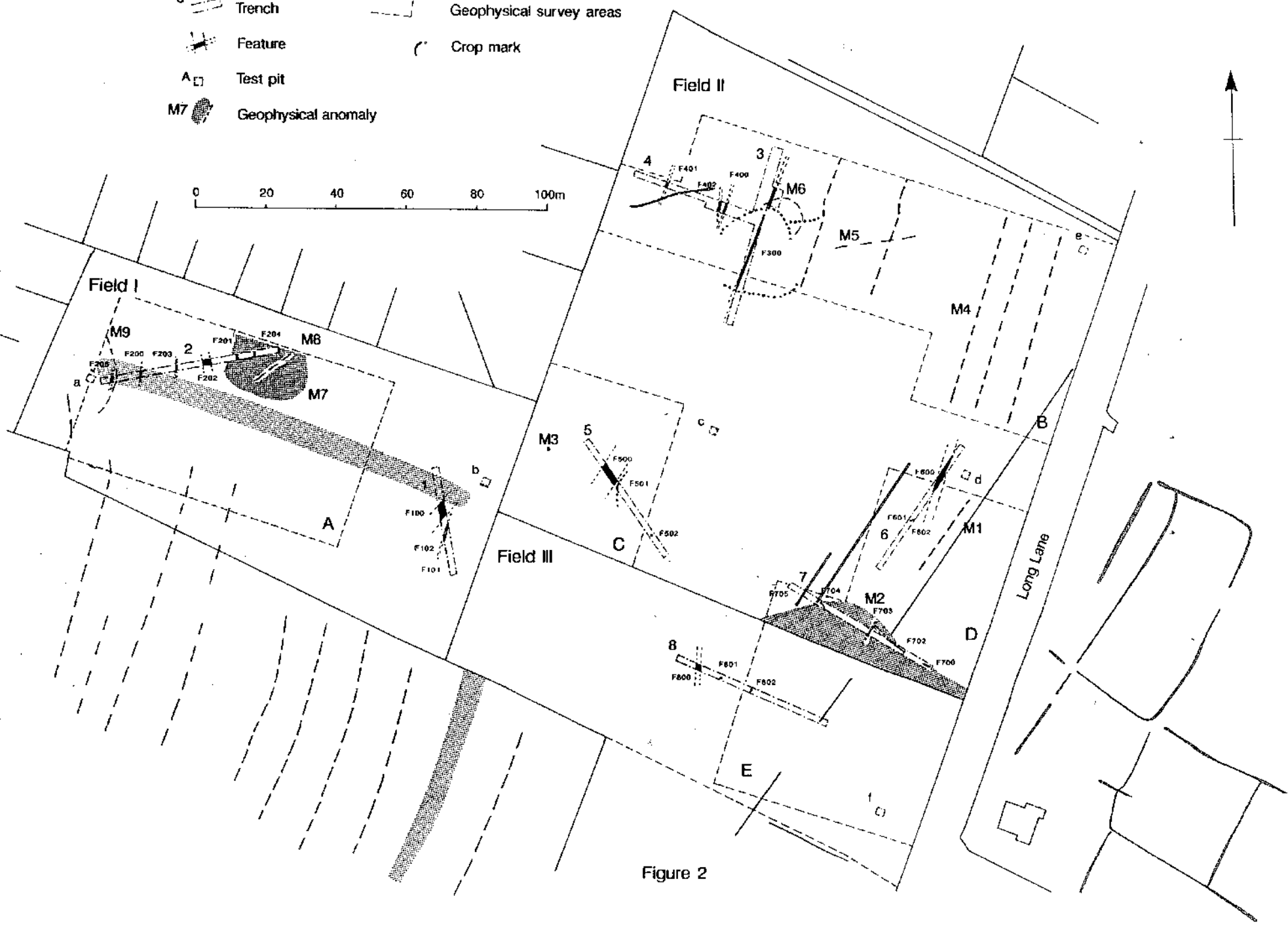
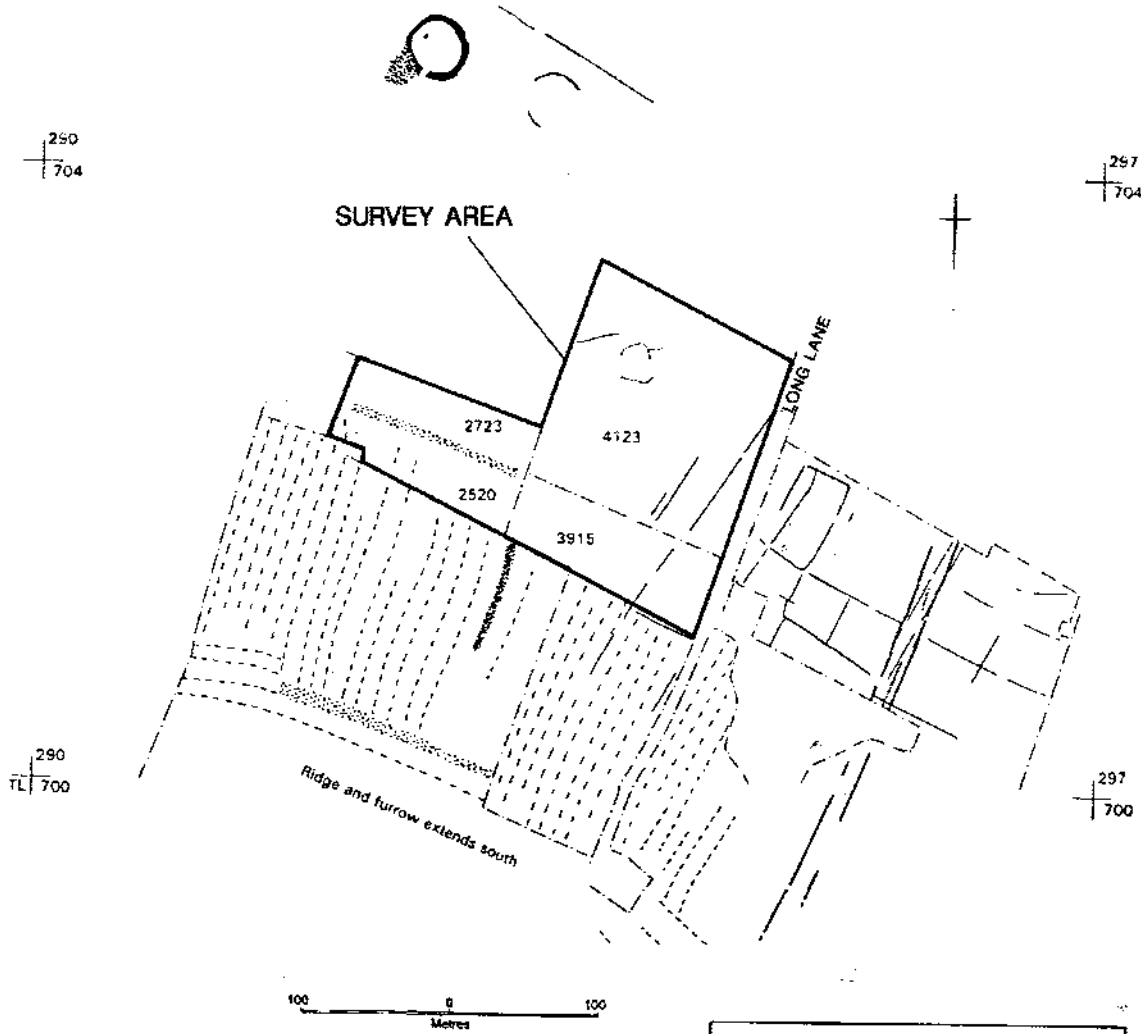


Figure 2



- Archaeological ditch and pits
- Possible archaeological ditch
- Ridge and furrow
- Headland
- Probable periglacial crack
- Deep soil
- Schematic modern boundary

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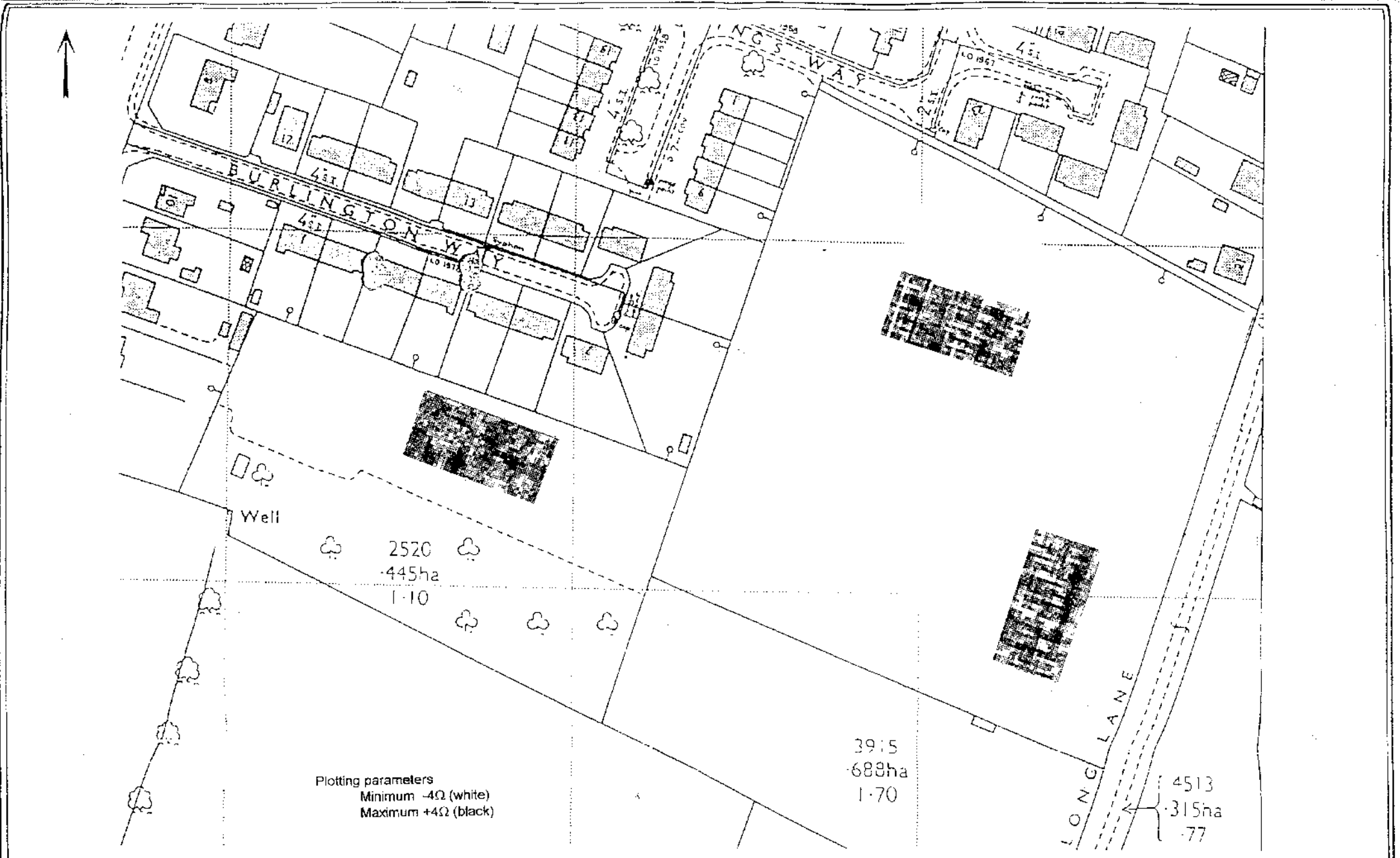
Computer rectification and mapping at 1:2500	
A P sources	Date of latest photography
APS	2 July 1992
CUCAP	21 August 1990
NLAP	accessioned by Feb 1995
Mean plane control point match error <math>< \pm 2.0m</math>	

Modern boundary information on this plan provides only an indication of present land division. It should not be used as a basis from which to measure the location of archaeological features. Optimum accuracy of location will result from registration of this overlay, via NGR cuts, with Ordnance Survey 1:2500 plans.

Figure 3



Date March 1995	Client UNIVERSITY OF BIRMINGHAM FIELD ARCHAEOLOGY UNIT	STRATASCAN. TILTRIDGE FARM UPPER HOOK ROAD UPTON UPON SEVERN WORCESTERSHIRE WR8 0SA UK TELEPHONE (0684) 592266
Scale 1:2500	Subject Geophysical Survey - Hemingford Grey Plot of magnetic susceptibility survey	
Figure 4		



Date March 1995

Client UNIVERSITY OF BIRMINGHAM FIELD ARCHAEOLOGY UNIT

Figure 5

STRATASCAN™
GEOPHYSICAL & SPECIALIST SURVEY SERVICES

TILTRIDGE FARM
UPPER HOOK ROAD
UPTON UPON SEVERN
WORCESTERSHIRE WR8 0SA UK

Scale 1:1430

Subject Geophysical Survey - Hemingford Grey
Plot of processed resistivity data

TELEPHONE (0584) 592266
FAX (0684) 594142

TELEPHONE (0584) 592266
FAX (0684) 594142

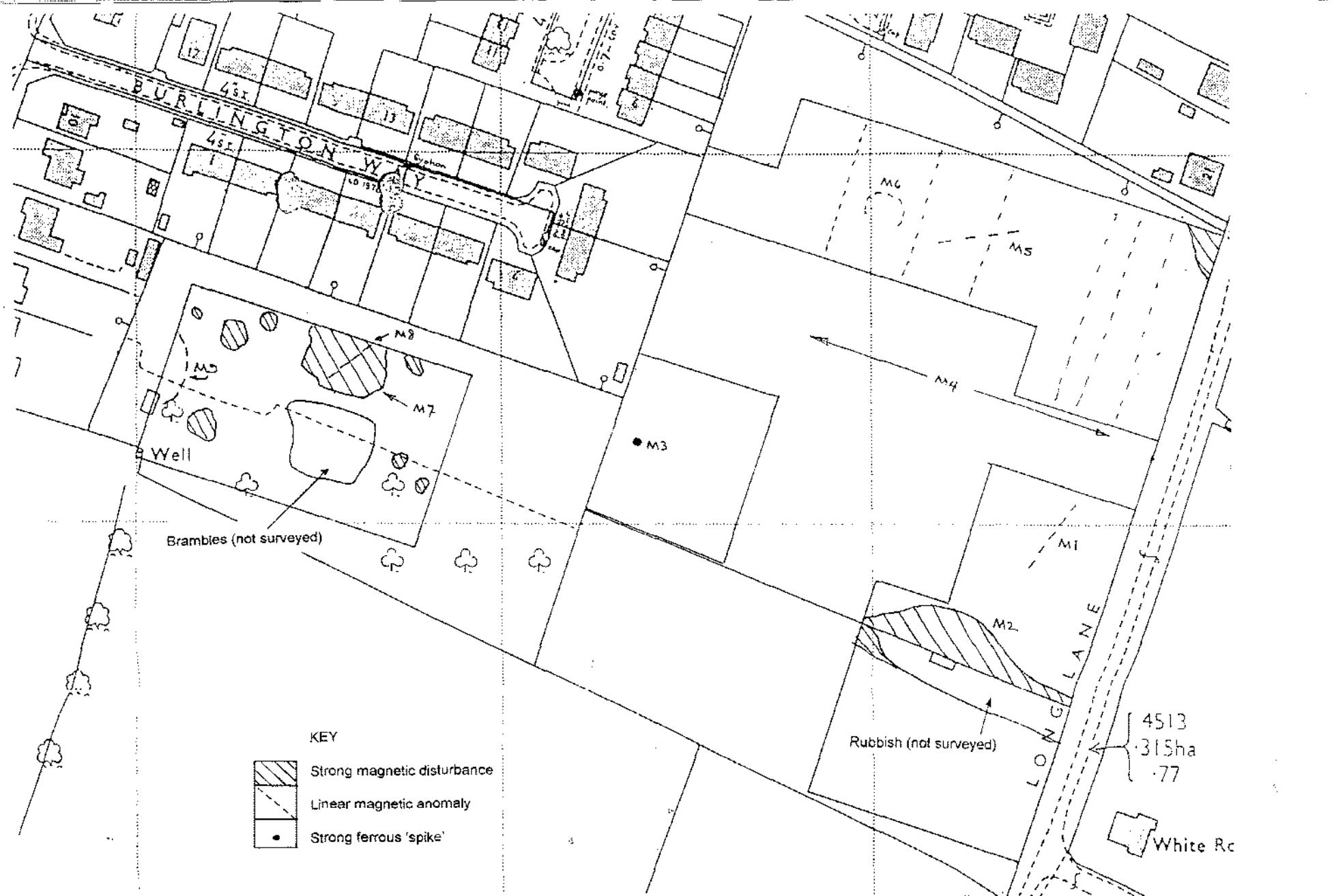





Plotting parameters
 Minimum -2.5nT (white)
 Maximum +2.5nT (black)

4513
 31 Sha
 77

White Rd

Date March 1995	Client UNIVERSITY OF BIRMINGHAM FIELD ARCHAEOLOGY UNIT	Figure 6	STRATASCAN GEOPHYSICAL & SPECIALIST SURVEY SERVICES TILTRIDGE FARM UPPER HOOK ROAD UPTON UPON SEVERN WORCESTERSHIRE WR8 3SA UK TELEPHONE (0684) 592266 FAX (0684) 594142
Scale 1:1430	Subject Geophysical Survey - Hemingford Grey Plot of processed magnetometer data		



- KEY
-  Strong magnetic disturbance
 -  Linear magnetic anomaly
 -  Strong ferrous 'spike'

Date March 1995

Client UNIVERSITY OF BIRMINGHAM FIELD ARCHAEOLOGY UNIT

Figure 7

Scale 1:1430

Subject Geophysical Survey - Hemingford Grey
Abstraction of anomalies

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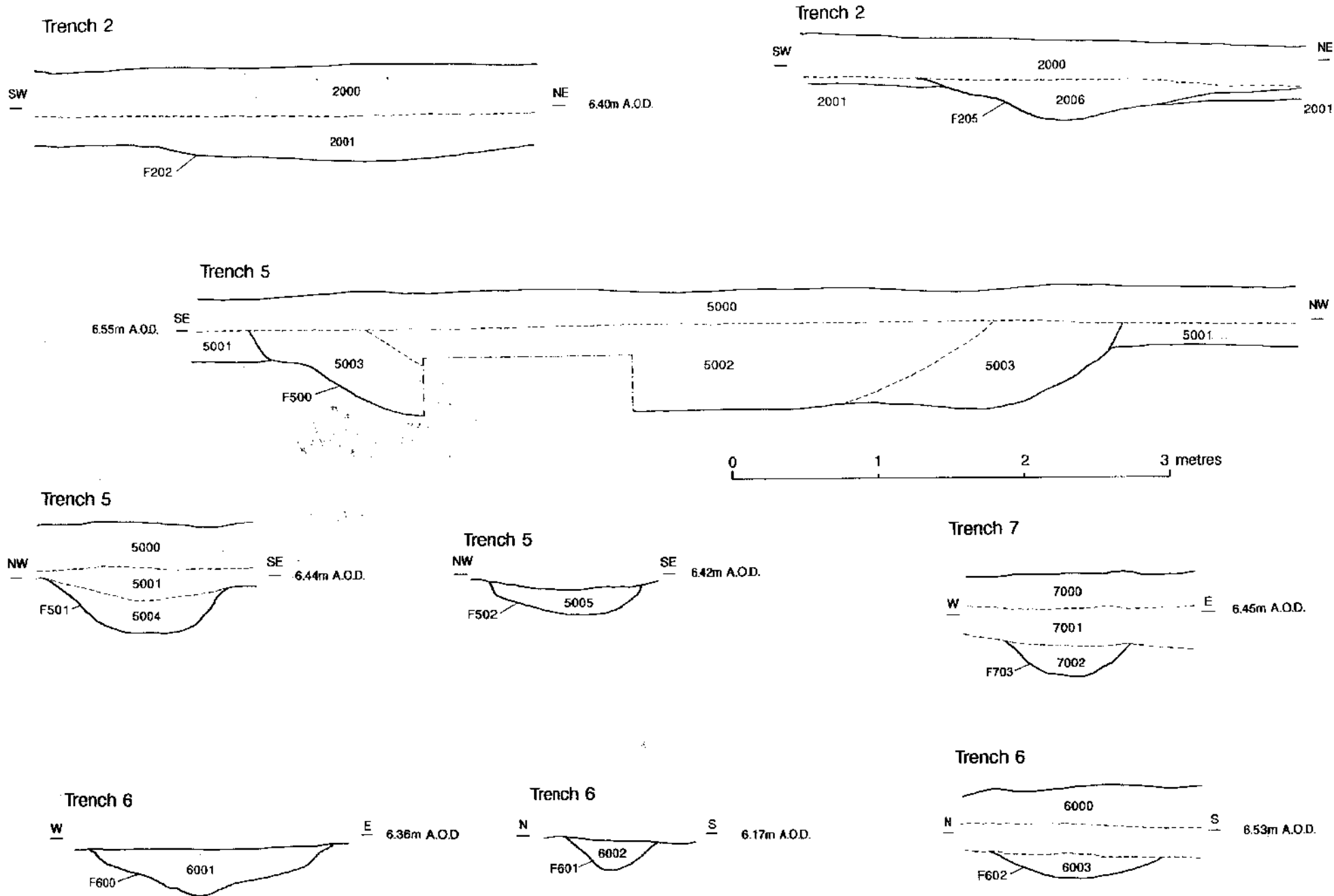


Figure 8

Plate 1

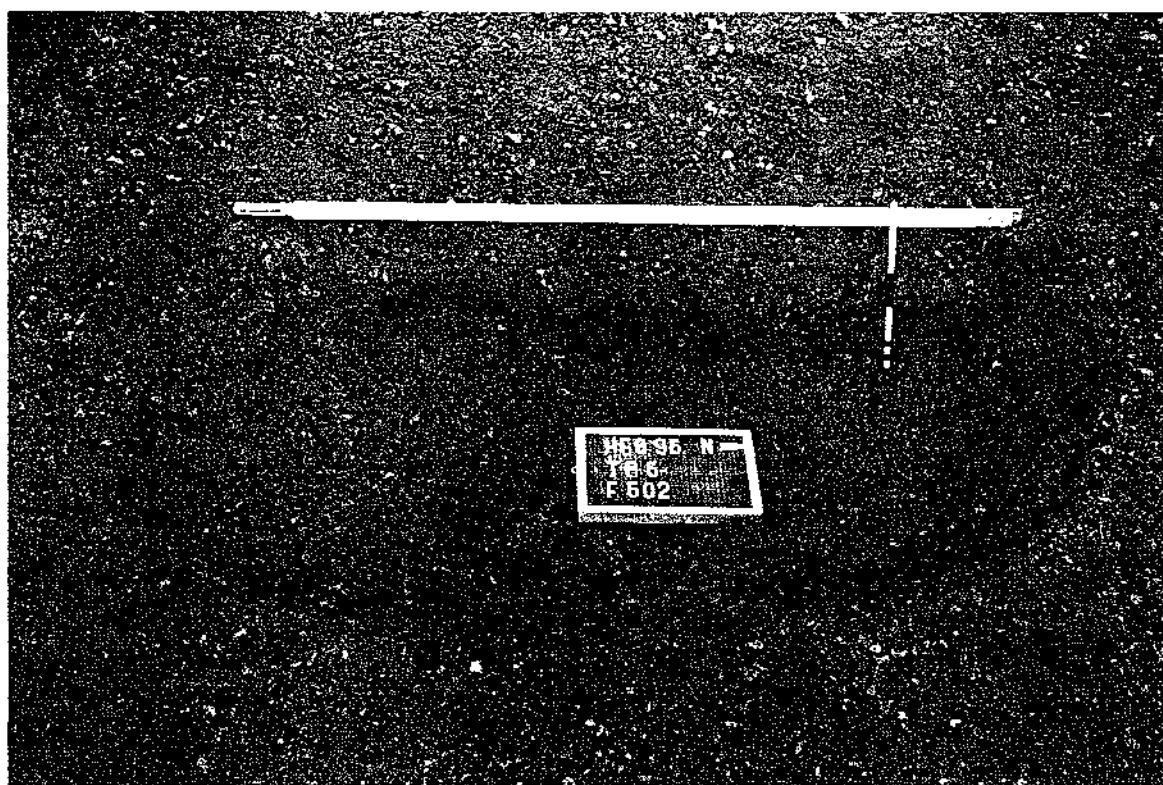
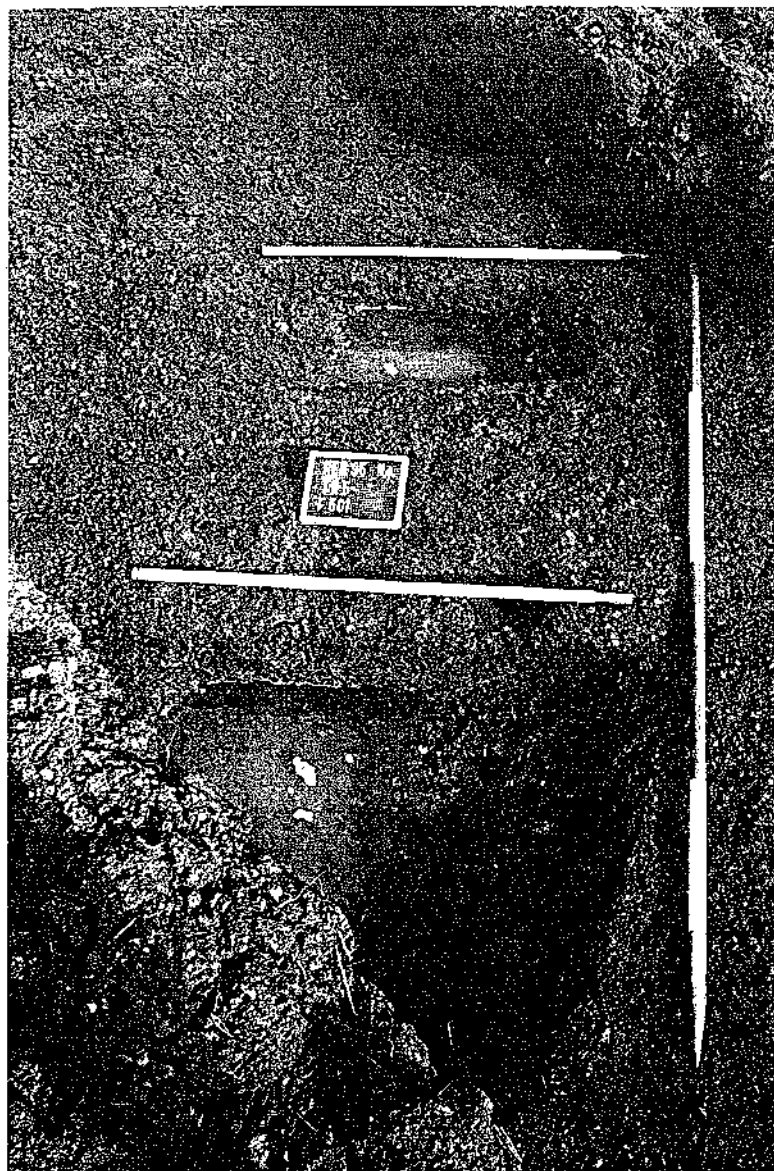


Plate 2