

**Shirebrook Colliery,
Derbyshire and
Associated Land**

**Phase 1 Archaeological
Evaluation 2002**

Birmingham University Field Archaeology Unit
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Phase 1 Archaeological Evaluation 2002**

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1.0: SUMMARY

Archaeological trial trenching was undertaken at Shirebrook Colliery in Derbyshire (NGR SK 5182 6710) in March 2002. This followed a desk-based assessment, which identified potential for the survival of prehistoric remains. A preliminary geophysical survey suggested the presence of archaeological features in some parts of the proposed development area. Trial trenching targeted these areas, as well as archaeologically 'blank' areas. The fieldwork was commissioned by East Midlands Development Agency through Wm Saunders Partnership, in advance of a proposed residential development and associated Perimeter Access Road (PAR).

A total of 48 trenches were excavated within the Phase 1 area. Most of the trenches excavated revealed clay or limestone natural. Ditches in Trenches 3 and 4 which contained burnt fills were first identified as linear geophysical anomalies, perhaps forming two sides of an enclosure. Other nearby ditches (Trenches 1, 2, 3, 4 and 22) could be associated with one or more enclosures, although no finds were retrieved from the feature fills. Another possible enclosure, first revealed by geophysical survey, was targeted in Trenches 42 and 43, although no associated features could be identified. A cluster of small pits and gullies were located in Fields 1 and 3 towards the western end of the Phase 1 area. The small number of features present and the lack of dating evidence has necessarily limited their interpretation. No archaeological features were found in the majority of the trenches. A significant number of the possible features tested by hand-excavation were either natural or modern in origin. Part of the proposed development zone (Phase 2 area) was not available for investigation at the time of this trial-trenching.

2.0: INTRODUCTION

This report details the results of trial-trenching within the Phase 1 area of a larger zone proposed for residential development adjoining Shirebrook Colliery, Shirebrook, Derbyshire (centred on NGR SK 51826710, Fig. 1). The area investigated (designated the Phase 1 area) comprises Fields 1, 3 and parts of Fields 4, 5 6 and 7 (Fig. 2). The work was commissioned by East Midlands Development Agency through Wm Saunders Partnership, and was undertaken by Birmingham University Field Archaeology Unit in March 2002. The trial trenching followed a desk-based assessment (John Samuels Archaeological Consultants 1999) and a geophysical survey (GSB 2000), which also included parts of the overall development outside the Phase 1 area. The programme of trial trenching within the Phase 1 area was based on a scheme of investigation prepared by Birmingham University Field Archaeology Unit (BUFAU 2000), approved by Bolsover District Council.

This report also summarises the results of the geophysical survey within the Phase 1 area, which are detailed elsewhere (GSB 2000a and b). Part of the land proposed for residential development (designated the Phase 2 area) was not available for investigation at the time of the Phase 1 investigation.

3.0: SITE LOCATION AND DESCRIPTION (Fig. 1)

The proposed development site comprises c 38 hectares of land close to Stinting Lane in Shirebrook, Derbyshire (NGR SK 5182 6710). The soils of the area comprised shallow, well drained calcareous fine loamy soils, over limestone (SSEW 1983).

4.0: ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

The site is located within an area of known archaeological significance. The Derbyshire Sites and Monuments Record contains reference to the recovery of a small quantity of prehistoric flint waste flakes and the survival of associated burnt material from the site (SMR 12534 and 12535 respectively) which suggests some prehistoric activity, such as encampments or settlements, within the immediate environs of the site (John Samuels Archaeological Consultants 1999).

In addition, an archaeological evaluation at Stinting Lane, Shirebrook, to the north of the present site, was carried out in February 1998. It was followed by an excavation in July 1998. Both stages of work were carried out by Birmingham University Field Archaeology Unit ahead of residential development (Mould 1998 and 2000). Prior to these projects no below-ground archaeological investigations had been conducted within the proposed development site or in its immediate environs. The evaluation comprised a study of available cartographic evidence, geophysical survey of three areas and the excavation of four trial trenches. Archaeological features, which potentially dated to the prehistoric period, were identified in Trench 3 only. A larger area was opened up around Trench 3 during the excavation stage and this identified a small, prehistoric enclosure, with associated pits and post-holes. Despite total sieving of the feature fills, artefacts were scarce and only a small assemblage of flints was recovered. No chronologically-diagnostic flint artefacts were identified and no charred plant remains or molluscs were recovered from the environmental samples.

5.0: AIMS

The objective of the programme of trial trenching was to test possible anomalies of archaeological interest identified by the geophysical survey, and to provide an examination of areas for which no archaeological information was available. The trial trenching aimed to assess, amongst other variables, the presence, extent, absence, depth, quality, date and condition of preservation of archaeological remains and palaeo-environmental deposits within the proposed development area, in order to enable an

informed strategy for archaeological mitigation to be agreed, and implemented in advance of development.

6.0: SUMMARY OF GEOPHYSICAL SURVEY RESULTS (see Fig. 2 for survey area locations)

The results of geophysical survey of the Phase 1-2 areas are presented in two reports (GSB 2000a for Areas A-H and GSB 2000b for Areas I-M). Only a brief summary of the survey results is presented in this section of the report.

The first stage of geophysical investigation involved scanning using a gradiometer in traverses spaced 10m apart. A total area of 23 ha., comprising Fields 1, 2 and 4-7 was scanned. The results of scanning within Field 2 revealed few anomalies of archaeological interest. A few isolated responses were detected in Fields 2 and 7. Possible archaeological responses were recorded in Fields 1 and 4-6, which were further investigated by detailed gradiometer survey. Each detailed survey area was surveyed with a gradiometer, in traverses 1m apart, with readings taken at 0.5m intervals.

Field 1 (Areas A-D, Figs. 3-4)

In Area A the anomalies recorded included two ditches cut at right-angles, possible pit-type anomalies and linear trends which were less distinct. The anomalies noted in Area B may be geological in origin, or derive from recent ploughing. Further evidence of ploughing was recorded in Area C, which also contained possible pit-like anomalies. Little of possible archaeological interest was recorded in Area D.

Field 3 (Areas I-L, Figs. 5-6)

No anomalies of archaeological interest were detected in Area I, although this area contained slight linear and pit-like responses, as well as anomalies of possible natural origin. Area J contained anomalies which may have been caused by elongated pits or interrupted ditches. Anomalies of possible archaeological interest in Area K included pits and lengths of ditches, although these could represent no more than buried fragments of ferrous metals. Slighter, linear anomalies may have been caused by ploughing. Area L produced a number of weak linear and pit-type anomalies which could be of archaeological interest. Area M contained possible traces of part of a curvilinear enclosure, other ditches and pits, although some of the anomalies could be natural in origin.

Fields 4-7 (Area E, Figs. 7-8)

This area contained possible linear anomalies which could be of archaeological interest.

Within Fields 4-7, Areas F-H lay outside the Phase 1 area.

7.0: METHOD OF TRIAL-TRENCHING (Fig. 2)

A total of 48 trenches were excavated, amounting to a 2% sample of the Phase 1 area. The trenches mainly measured 50m in length and 2m in width. Trenches were located to test anomalies or possible anomalies of archaeological interest identified by the geophysical survey, and also to sample as widely as possible, areas for which no archaeological information was available. Trench locations were agreed with Bolsover District Council. Some trenches were re-located slightly to avoid disturbance to rights of way, and to avoid possible hazards associated with an area of landfill to the east of Field 3.

Each of the trenches was located using a Total Station Theodolite. The ploughsoil, and underlying colluvium ('B horizon), where present, were excavated using a mechanical excavator fitted with a 2m-wide toothless ditching bucket under archaeological supervision, to expose the natural subsoil. Where appropriate, the natural subsoil was hand cleaned. The features, or possible features identified were hand excavated to provide information concerning the survival and complexity of feature fills, and to recover artefactual evidence. A detailed context record on individual *pro-forma* record cards was maintained and all features and trenches were photographed using both colour and black and white film. Trench plans were drawn at a scale of 1:50 or 1:20, as necessary. Excavated sections of individual features were drawn at a scale of 1:10 or 1:20.

Subject to approval from the landowner, it is proposed to deposit the paper and finds archive with a repository approved by Derbyshire County Council.

8.0: RESULTS (Figs. 9-11)

The ploughsoil over most of the site varied between 0.05m and 0.35m deep, and comprised a dark brown silty loam with occasional river pebbles in low-lying areas. Colluvium (or 'B-horizon' material) was present in the lower-lying trenches, varying in depth between 0.05m and 0.2m, comprising a light brown silty clay with occasional pebbles. The natural subsoil mostly comprised yellow, fissured and weathered limestone, overlain in places by red silty clay, although river pebbles were located in low-lying trenches.

The results are described in field number order. Features, or possible features of archaeological interest, are described individually. Details of all trenches are tabulated (Tables 1-3). A selection of the features identified are illustrated (Figs. 9-13, Plates 1-10).

8.1: Field 1 (Trenches 1-14, Fig. 2)

Trenches 3-4 were located to test possible anomalies recorded in geophysical survey Area A, and Trench 6 was located to test geophysical survey Area B. Possible anomalies in

geophysical survey Area C were investigated by Trenches 9-10, and Trench 8 was positioned to test possible anomalies within geophysical survey Area D. The remaining Trenches (1-2, 5, 7, 11-14) were located as widely as possible to test areas for which no archaeological information was available.

Trench 1

F10 - Located 14m from the northwest end of the trench. A linear ditch, aligned north-south, U-shaped in profile, 1.75m in width and 0.27m deep. Filled with a light brown sandy-silt clay (0103). No finds.

Trench 2

F20 - Located 13.6m from the southwest end of the trench. A circular pit, bowl-shaped in profile, 0.5m in diameter and 0.19m deep. Filled with a light brown silt-sand (0203), containing some brick fragments.

Trench 3 (Fig. 9)

F30 - Located 6m from the east end of the trench. A linear ditch aligned northwest-southeast, bowl-shaped in profile, 0.9m in width and 0.2m deep. Filled with a black silty-clay (0303), with areas of orange and red mottling. No finds.

F31 - Located 8m from the west end of the trench. A linear ditch, aligned approximately north-south, U-shaped in profile, 1.25m in width and 0.36m deep. Filled with a light brown sandy-silt-clay (0304). No finds

Trench 4 (Fig. 9)

F40 - Located 8m from the south end of the trench. A linear ditch aligned southwest-northeast, bowl-shaped in profile, 1.3m in width and 0.3m deep. Filled with a brown sand (401), overlain by a black silty clay (0400) with areas of orange and red mottling. No finds.

F41 - Located 6m from the north end of the trench. A linear gully aligned southwest-northeast, U-shaped in profile, 1.1m in width and 0.2m deep. Filled with a brown silty-sand (0402) with few stones. No finds.

Trench 11

F110 - Located 19m from the northwest end of the trench. A circular pit, U-shaped in profile, 0.42m in diameter and 0.11m deep. Filled with a black sandy-silt (1103), with significant charcoal flecking. No finds.

The remaining trenches (Trenches 5-10, 12-14) contained no features, or possible features of archaeological interest.

TABLE 1: Details of trenches in Field 1

<i>Tr. No.</i>	<i>Context nos.</i>	<i>Topsoil details and depth</i>	<i>Colluvium details and depth</i>	<i>Description of natural</i>
1	0100, 0101, 0102	Dark brown sand-silt-clay, 0.25m	Reddish-brown, clayey-silt, 0.14m	Red silty-clay and limestone bedrock
2	0200, 0201, 0202	Dark brown silty-loam, 0.2m	Reddish-brown, silty-clay, 0.1m	Bands of red silty-clay, mid-brown silty-clay and limestone bedrock
3	0300, 0301, 0302	Dark brown, very organic silty-clay with stone inclusions, 0.2m	Light brown-silty-clay with stone inclusions, 0.25m	Dark red silty-clay with limestone fragments
4	0403, 0404, 0405	Dark brown silty-organic clay, 0.2m	Red clay with occasional sandy patches, 0.05m. Not continuous throughout trench	Fissured limestone bedrock
5	0500, 0501	Dark brown sand-silt-clay, 0.2m	Not present	Brownish-red silty-clay with patches of bedrock in the southeast
6	0600, 0601	Dark brown sand-silt-clay, 0.15m	Not present	Limestone bedrock at southeast end, otherwise brownish-red silty-clay
7	0700, 0701	Dark brown sand-silt-clay, 0.2m	Not present	Brownish-red silty clay at southeast end, otherwise limestone bedrock
8	0800, 0801, 0802	Brown silty-loam, 0.3m	Light brown silty-clay, 0.1m	Red silty-clay at south end, merging to light brown silty clay at north end. Little bedrock present
9	0900, 0901	Dark brown, very organic silty-clay with some stone inclusions, 0.25m	Not present	Light brown limestone bedrock set within dark red silty-clay
10	1000, 1001	Dark brown very organic silty-clay with small stone inclusions, 0.17m	Not present	Light brown limestone bedrock with patches of red silty-clay patches throughout
11	1100, 1101, 1102	Dark brown sand-silt-clay, 0.2m	Light brown silty-clay, 0.15m	Brown silt-clay with patches of limestone bedrock towards centre of trench
12	1200, 1201	Dark brown sand-silt-clay, 0.25m	Not present	Brown silty-clay at northeast end, and fissured limestone bedrock over remainder of trench
13	1300, 1301, 1302	Dark brown loam, 0.25m	Reddish clay, 0.15m	Light brown silty-sand, with patches of grey clay and regular striations of weathered limestone bedrock
14	1400, 1401, 1402	Dark brown silty-loam with occasional, small rounded stones, 0.21m	Discontinuous, reddish clay, 0.05m	Concentrations of small-medium, rounded stones. Frequent distinct seams of red-grey-light brown silty clay. Partially waterlogged

NOTE: Colluvium sealed the backfilled features in Trenches 1, 2, 3, 4 and 11.

Field 3

Field 3 sloped gently from the western and eastern edges towards its centre, the lowest point topographically being in the southeast corner of the field, to the south of Trench 40.

Trench 22 (Fig. 10)

F220 - Located 15.5m from the northwest end of the trench. A linear gully, aligned southwest-northeast, U-shaped in profile, 1.1m in width and 0.35m deep. Filled with a yellow clay (2204), sealed by a dark brown silty-sand (2205), overlain by a light brown sandy-silt clay (2203). No finds.

F221 - Located 9m from the northwest end of the trench. A sub-circular pit with an irregular profile, 1.25m in width and 0.24m deep. Filled with a light brown sandy-silt-clay (2206). No finds.

F222 - Located 7m from the southeast end of the trench. A sub-rectangular pit, or ditch terminal, with an irregular profile, 0.85m in width and 0.27m deep. Filled with a light brown sandy-silt-clay (2207). No finds.

Trench 24 (Fig. 10)

F240 - Located 1m from the southeast end of the trench. A linear gully, aligned southwest-northeast, U-shaped in profile, 0.52m in width and 0.12m deep. Filled with a light brown sandy-silt-clay (2404). No finds.

F241 - Located 8m from the southeast end of the trench. A sub-circular pit with an irregular profile, 0.62m in width and 0.14m deep. Filled with a light brown silty-sand-clay (2405). No finds.

F242 - Located 14m from the southeast end of the trench. A linear gully, aligned southwest-northeast, V-shaped in profile, 0.5m in width and 0.38m deep. Filled with a light brown sandy-silt-clay (2406). No finds.

Trench 26 (Fig. 10)

F260 - Located 2.7m from the northeast end of the trench. A linear gully, aligned north-south, U-shaped in profile, 1.2m in width and 0.2m deep. Filled with a light brown sandy-silt (2603). No finds.

F261 - Located 7.3m from the northeast end of the trench. The northwest terminal of a linear gully, aligned northwest-southeast, U-shaped in profile, 0.45m in width and 0.19m deep. Filled with a light brown sandy-silt-clay (2604). No finds.

F262 - Located 19m from the northeast end of the trench. A sub-rectangular pit with an irregular profile, 1.4m long, 0.46m wide and 0.08m deep. Filled with a light brown silty-sand (2605). No finds.

Trench 27

F270 - Located 9.8m from the northeast end of the trench. A sub-circular pit with a bowl-shaped profile, 0.6m in width and 0.13m deep. Filled with a light brown silty-sand (2703). No finds.

Trench 31 (Fig. 11)

F310 - Located 23.5m from the northeast end of the trench. An oval pit with a U-shaped profile, 1.1m long, 0.72m wide and 0.15m deep. Filled with a light yellowish brown sand (3103). No finds.

F311 - Located 19m from the southwest end of the trench. A curvilinear gully, aligned north-south, U-shaped in profile, 1.55m long, 0.62m wide and 0.14m deep. Filled with a light yellowish brown sand (3104). No finds.

F312 - Located 20m from the southeast end of the trench. An irregularly-shaped pit with a U-shaped profile, 3.5m in diameter and 0.56m deep. Filled with a light brown silty-sand (3105). No finds.

Trench 34

F340 - Located 11.4m from the northwest end of the trench. A linear feature, aligned north-south, U-shaped in profile, 0.15m wide and 0.1m deep. Filled with a light yellowish brown silty-sand (3403). No finds.

Trench 35A

F350 - Located 13.5m from the northwest end of the trench. An irregular feature with an irregular profile, 2.2m long, 1.6m wide and 0.38m deep. Filled with a yellow silty-sand (3502). No finds.

The remaining trenches (Trenches 18, 23, 25, 28a/b-30, 32-33, 35b-40) contained no features, or possible features of archaeological interest.

TABLE 2: Details of trenches in Field 3

<i>Tr. No.</i>	<i>Context no.</i>	<i>Topsoil details and depth</i>	<i>Colluvium details and depth</i>	<i>Description of natural</i>
18	1800, 1801, 1802	Dark brown loam-silty-sand. Even spreads of small and medium rounded stones, 0.2m	Light brown clayey-silty-sand, 0.19m	Bands of light brown silty-sand, dark red silty-clay and weathered limestone bedrock
22	2200, 2201, 2202	Dark brown silty-loam, rounded stones, 0.18m	Light brown clayey-silty-sand, 0.21m	Bands of light brown silty sand, dark red silty clay and weathered limestone bedrock
23	2300, 2301, 2302	Light brown silty organic deposit with stones, 0.18m	Orange-brown silty-sandy-clay with stone inclusions, 0.09m	Dark red-brown silty-sandy clay, with areas of limestone bedrock
24	2400, 2401, 2402	Dark brown black silty-clay, 0.3m	Dark red-light brown silty-sandy-clay with small stone inclusions, 0.18m	Dark red silty-sandy-clay with areas of brown mottling
25	2500, 2501, 2502	Black silty-sandy-loam, with organic inclusions, 0.3m	Light brown-yellow silty-loam, with small stone inclusions, 0.22m	Dark red silty-loam with patches of brown mottling throughout
26	2600, 2601, 2602	Dark brown loam-silty-sand, 0.2m	Light brown silty-loam, 0.14m	Dark-medium red silty-loam, with frequent bands of limestone bedrock
27	2700, 2701, 2702	Dark brown loam-silty-sand. Occasional small rounded stones, 0.17m	Mid-light brown clayey-silty sand, 0.18m	Bands of light brown clayey-silty-sand, light red clay and fragments of limestone bedrock
28A	2800, 2801	Dark brown silty-organic-clay, 0.17m	Not present	Dark red silty-clay, with some stone inclusions
28B	2800, 2801	Dark brown silty-organic clay, 0.14m	Not present	Dark red silty-clay, with some stone inclusions
29	2900, 2901	Dark brown silty-organic-clay, with some stone inclusions, 0.24m	Not present	Dark red silty clay with some limestone inclusions
30	3000, 3001	Dark brown silty-organic-clay, with some stone inclusions, 0.29m	Not present	Light red-orange silty-clay, with some stone inclusions. Some areas of brown clay mottling
31	3100, 3101, 3102	Dark brown silty-clay, 0.25m	Light brown silty-clay, 0.15m	Very soft pink-orange clay, with scatters of small pebbles and limestone fragments
32	3200	Dark brown sand, 0.25m	Not present	Light brown-orange clay, with gravel
33	3300, 3301	Dark brown silty-sand, 0.2m	Not present	Dark orange-brown clay, with bands of limestone bedrock
34	3400	Dark brown loam-silty-sand, 0.22m	Light brown silty-loam, with stone fragments, 0.2m	Dark red silty-loam, occasionally medium red, with bands of limestone outcropping
35A	3501, 3503, 3504	Darker organic silt, 0.2m	Clayey-sand, with occasional flecks of charcoal, and small stones, 0.15m	Red sandy-clay with occasional small limestone bedrock fragments
35B	3505, 3506, 3507	Dark organic silty-sand, 0.2m	Dark, slightly organic, sand, 0.2m	Compacted red-dark brown clay, with occasional small stone fragments

36	3600, 3601	Dark brown/black silty organic clay layer, 0.27m	Not present	Dark red silty-clay, with some stone inclusions
37	3700, 3701, 3702	Dark brown organic silty-sand, 0.22m	Shallow layer of dark sand, 0.1m	Fissured limestone bedrock
38	3800, 3801, 3802	Dark brown organic silty-sand, 0.26m	Light brown silty-clay, 0.2m	Dark red-brown silty-clay, with areas of limestone bedrock
39	3900, 3901	Dark brown organic silty-sand, 0.25m	Not present	Limestone bedrock with patches of reddish-brown silty-clay
40	4000, 4001	Dark brown organic silty-sand, 0.2m	Not present	Limestone bedrock with patches of reddish-brown silty-clay

Fields 4-7

Only parts of Fields 4-7 lay within the Phase 1 area. Field 4 sloped from west to east. Fields 5 and 6 sloped from north to south. Field 7 sloped from south to north, with a sharp slope from west to east on the eastern side of the field.

Trench 60 (Fig. 11)

F600 - Located 3.5m from the south end of the trench. A linear gully, aligned north-south, U-shaped in profile, 7m long, 0.78m wide and 0.29m deep. Filled with a light brown silty-sand-clay (6003). No finds.

F601 - Located 10m from the south end of the trench. A linear gully, aligned north-south, irregular in profile, 5.5m long, 0.35m wide and 0.08m deep. Filled with a light yellowish silty-sand-clay (6004). A continuation of feature F600. No finds.

Trench 75

F750 - Located 15.2m from the north end of the trench. A linear gully, aligned east-west, U-shaped in profile, 1.1m long, 0.69m wide and 0.17m deep. Filled with a red silty-clay (7503). No finds.

The remaining trenches in Fields 4-7 within the Phase 1 Area (Trenches 41-45, 52, 56, 58-9, 72-5) contained no features, or possible features of archaeological interest.

TABLE 3: Details of trenches in Fields 4-7

<i>Tr. No.</i>	<i>Context no.</i>	<i>Topsoil details and depth</i>	<i>Colluvium details and depth</i>	<i>Description of natural</i>
41	4100, 4101, 4102	Dark brown silty-clay	Light brown silty-clay	Dark red silty-clay with patches of limestone bedrock
42	4200, 4201, 4202	Fine brown silty-loam	Light brown silty-clay	Light red silty-clay with patches of bedrock
43	4300, 4301, 4302	Fine brown silty-loam	Light brown silty-clay	Light red silty-clay with patches of bedrock
44	4400, 4401, 4402	Dark brown silty-clay	Light brown clay-sand	Light brown sand at west end, red-brown clay at east end
45	4500, 4501	Dark brown silty-clay	Not present	Shattered limestone bedrock and red silty-clay
52	5200, 5201	Dark brown silty-clay	Not present	Broken limestone bedrock and red silty-clay
56	5600, 5601, 5602	Dark brown silty-clay	Light brown silty-clay	Red clay
58	5800, 5801	Dark brown silty-clay	Not present	Dark red silty-clay and limestone bedrock
59	5900, 5901	Dark brown silty-clay	Dark brown sand	Light-dark brown sand and limestone bedrock
60	6000, 6001, 6002	Dark brown silty-clay	Light brown silty clay	Dark red clay with patches of limestone
72	7200, 7201, 7202	Dark brown silty-clay	Brown clay-sand	Light orange-red clay
73	7300, 7301, 7302	Dark brown silty-clay	Mixed silty clay-sand	Orange-red clay
74	7400, 7401, 7402	Dark brown silty-clay	Reddish silty-clay	Limestone bedrock with patches of reddish silty-clay
75	7500, 7501, 7502	Dark brown silty-clay	Red sandy-clay	Limestone bedrock

The remaining trenches within Fields 4-7 would be dug as part of the Phase 2 programme of field evaluation.

9.0: FINDS SUMMARY by Annette Hancocks

Finds were recovered from five trenches (Trenches 2, 5, 42, 58 and 73). The majority of the material was recovered from Trench 42. This material comprised a fragment of cow tooth, a fragment of post-medieval roof tile, a fragment of post-medieval glass slag, an iron nail, a flint blade (topsoil find) and six sherds of post-medieval pottery of 18th/19th century date. The finds recovered from Trench 42 were similar to those from the remainder of the trenches producing finds. The flint blade was the only prehistoric find recovered, and no finds of Roman date were recovered.

10.0: DISCUSSION

The majority of features were located in the trenches on the western side of Fields 1 and 3. The two linear features located in geophysical survey Area A were located in Trenches 3 and 4 (F30 and F40), both containing significant amounts of burnt material. These ditches could have formed two sides of an enclosure, although Trenches 1 and 2 did not reveal the other sides, possibly as a result of plough truncation. Further ditches in Trenches 1 (F10), 2 (F20), 3 (F31) and 4 (F40) could be associated with this possible enclosure, although the lack of dating evidence from any of these features makes interpretation difficult. A ditched enclosure of prehistoric date (Mould 2000), was excavated to the north of the Phase 1 area. This enclosure, and the possible enclosure identified in Trenches 3-4 could have been associated with animal husbandry.

Four ditches were located on the western side of Field 3, one in Trench 22 (F220) two in Trench 24 (F240 and F242) and one in Trench 34 (F340). These ditches were of varying dimensions and profiles but had similar fills. Again, the lack of any dateable material makes their interpretation difficult. Ditches were located in Trench 26 (F260 and F261), and Trench 31 (F311). Other excavated features were likely to be naturally-formed.

The two ditches in Trench 60 (F600 and F601) could have formed field divisions, as could the ditch in Trench 75 (F750).

Outside of the concentration of ditches along the western side of the site, the evidence for archaeological activity is sparse. The almost total absence of prehistoric or Roman finds from the site is unsurprising given the sparse archaeological features encountered in the Phase 1 area, and the small quantities of finds associated with the previously-investigated enclosure (Mould 2000), located to the north of the Phase 1 area. The possible enclosure located in geophysical Area E was not located in Trenches 43 and 44 and can only be explained by ploughing trends and changes in the natural bedrock. Other geophysical anomalies, not located within the trenches, could have been caused by localised variations in the topsoil or in colluvial deposits, or changes in the highly variable character of the subsoil as was also noted in the survey results (GSB 2000a and b). Another pattern to emerge from the trial-trenching is the absence of archaeological features within trenches where no colluvial deposits were present, perhaps suggesting the colluvium had provided protection against plough truncation.

11.0: IMPLICATIONS AND PROPOSALS

11.1: Completion of field evaluation programme

It is recommended that the Shirebrook Colliery evaluation programme is completed by undertaking the Phase 2 trial-trenching as soon as possible, to allow an informed strategy for any necessary mitigation (e.g. watching brief, salvage recording or area excavation) to be undertaken in advance of development, together with the associated programmes of post-excavation analysis and reporting.

11.2: Implications

On present information, the Phase 1 area is likely to be developed in two stages. The first stage would involve the construction of the Perimeter Access Road ((PAR), Fig. 2), and the second stage would involve construction of the new housing.

Subject to comments from the Local Planning Authority, the following strategy for archaeological mitigation fieldwork is suggested:

A) Works in advance of PAR

Possible field boundaries were located in Trenches 60 and 75, dug along the line of the PAR. Other features identified along the line of the PAR (Trenches 34 and 35a) may be natural in origin.

It is recommended that an archaeological watching brief be maintained during the clearance of overburden in advance of PAR construction within the area of Field 7.

B) Construction of new housing, remainder of Phase 1 area

Field 1, area surrounding Trenches 1-4, and Field 3, areas surrounding Trenches 22, 24, 26-7, and 31:

Archaeological mitigation to comprise the following programme:

- 1) Removal of overburden by tracked excavator working under archaeological control.**
- 2) Selective hand-cleaning of subsoil surface, and preparation of a base plan of the archaeological features present, using a Total Station EDM.**
- 3) Implementation of a programme for sampling the features present by hand-excavation, with associated recording, the scope of this work to be agreed with the Local Planning Authority. The precise extent of the areas to be investigated can only be defined following finalisation of housing development plans.**

C) General

The nature and extent of any archaeological mitigation would need to be detailed in a Written Scheme of Investigation, approved by the Local Planning Authority. Such work would need to include provision for an appropriate level of post-excavation analysis, and reporting of the results. An appropriate time-allowance should be provided in the construction programme to enable the archaeological investigations to be completed without delay to the construction programme.

12.0: ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Josh Williams supervised the fieldwork with the assistance of Bob Braken, Alison Dingle, Richard Lee, Philip Mann and Jon Sterenberg. The illustrations are the work of Nigel Dodds. Annette Hancocks identified the finds.

Alex Jones managed the project and the report was written by Josh Williams. Thanks are due to Alex Gibson and Mark Burkitt of William Saunders Partnership for their assistance on site.

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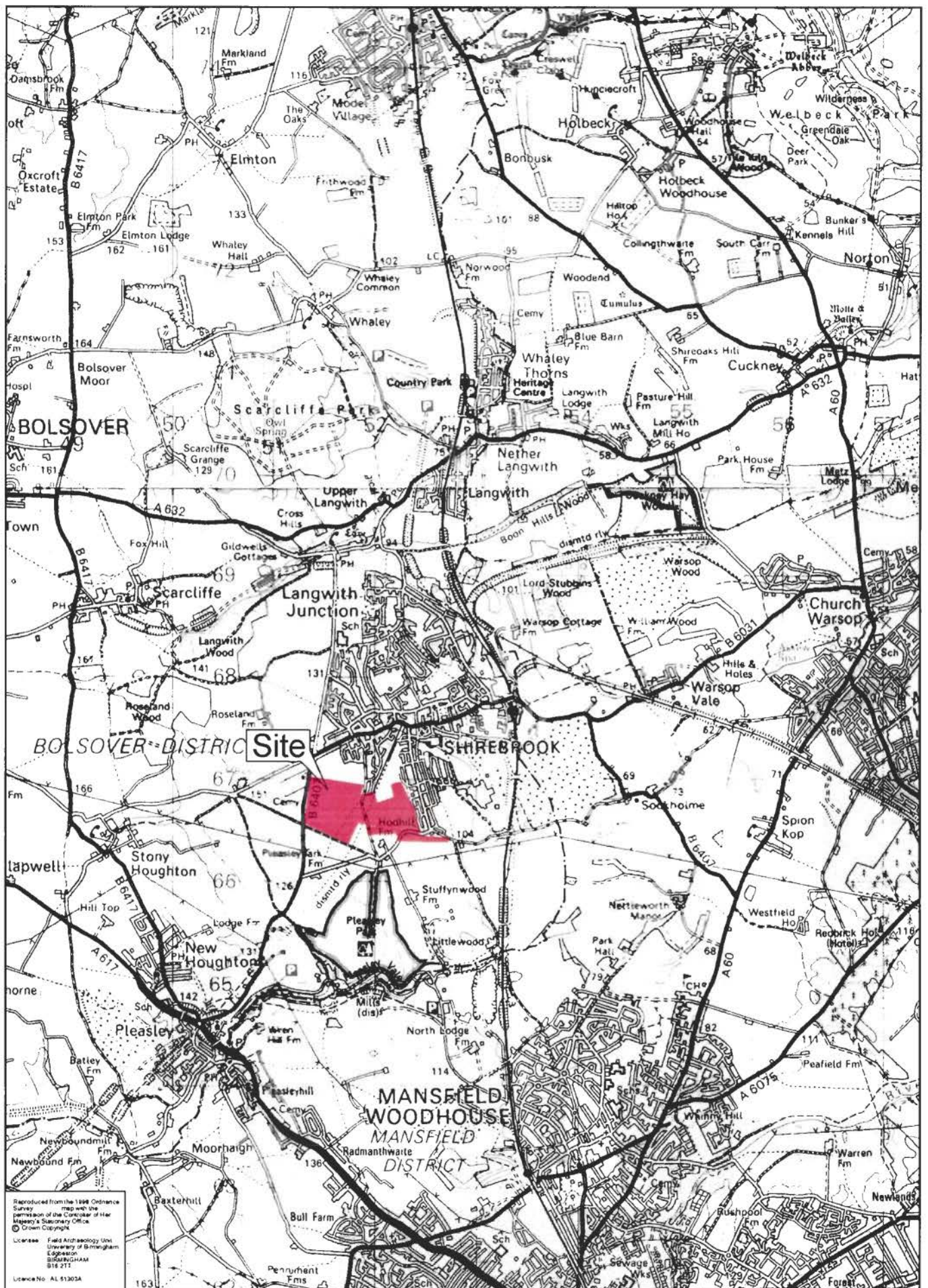


Fig.1

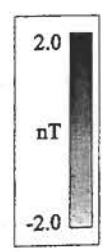
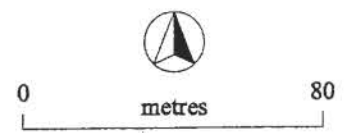


Fig.3

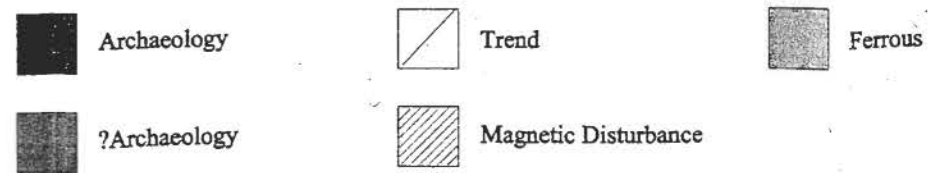
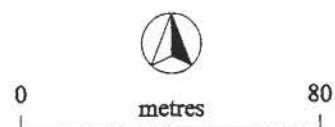
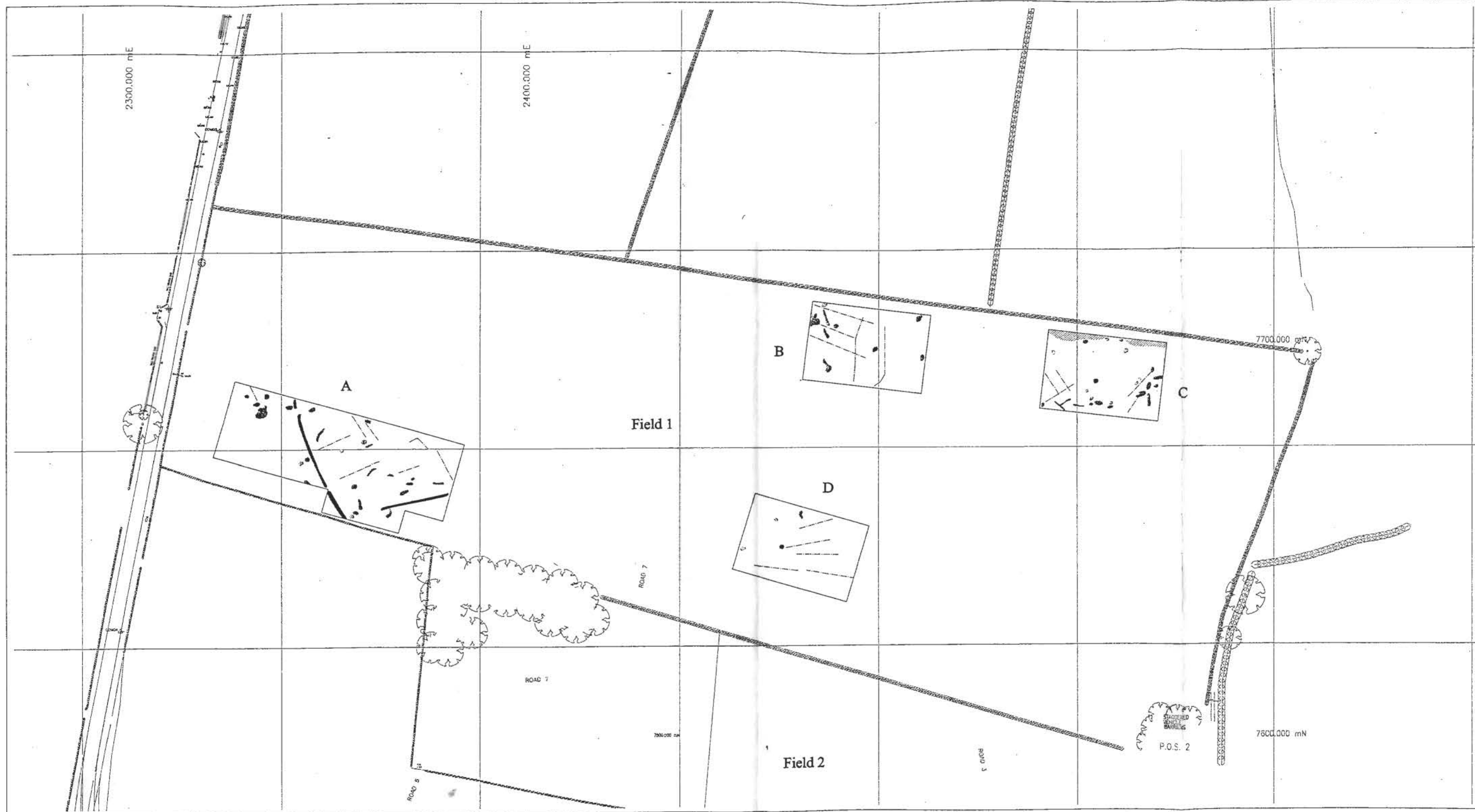


Fig.4

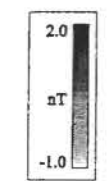
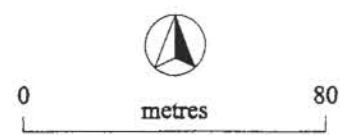
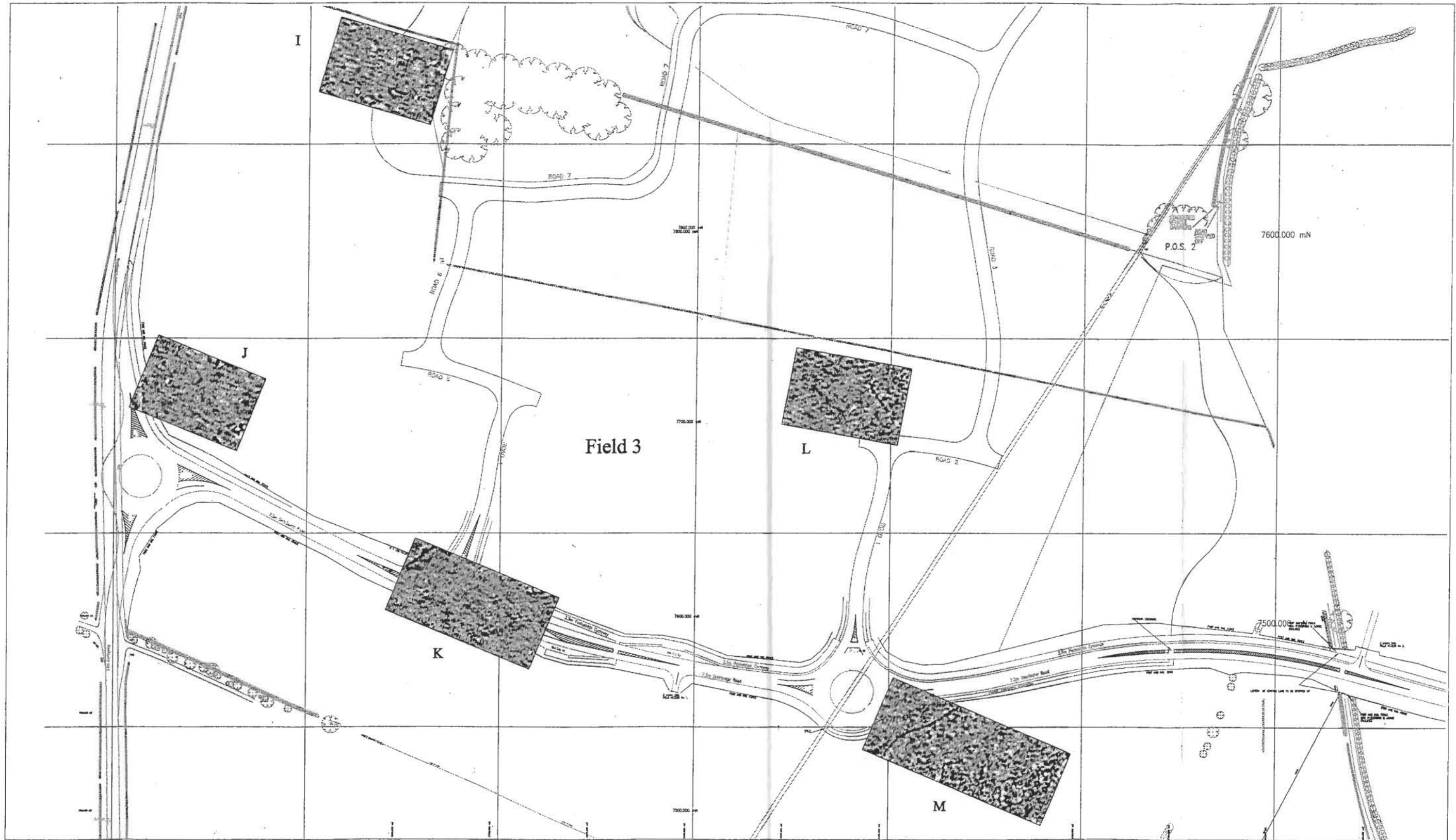
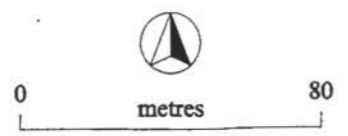
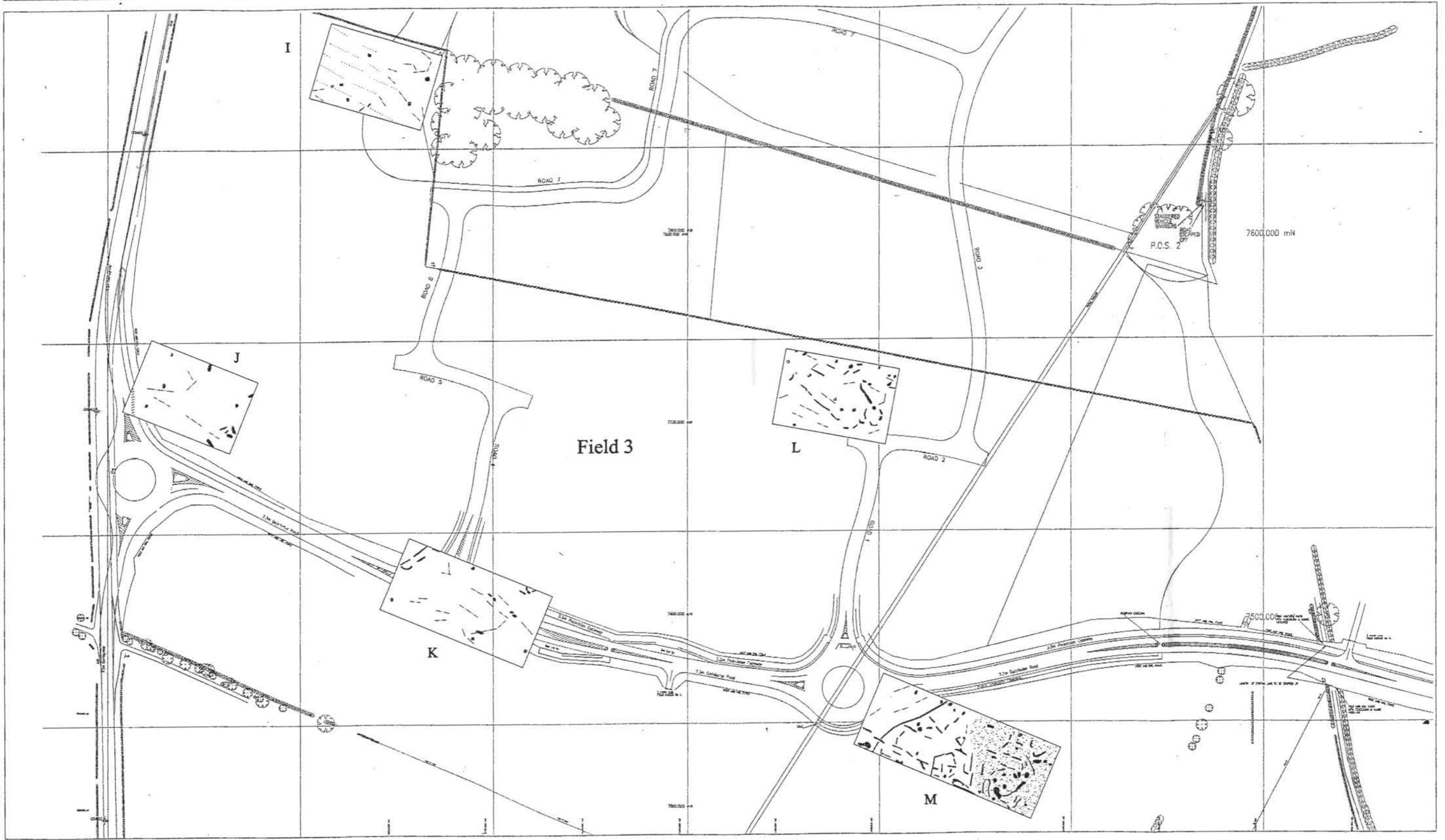


Fig.5



- ?Archaeology
- Trend
- Negative Linear Anomaly
- Area of Increased Magnetic Response
- Ploughing
- Ferrous

Fig.6

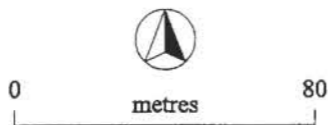
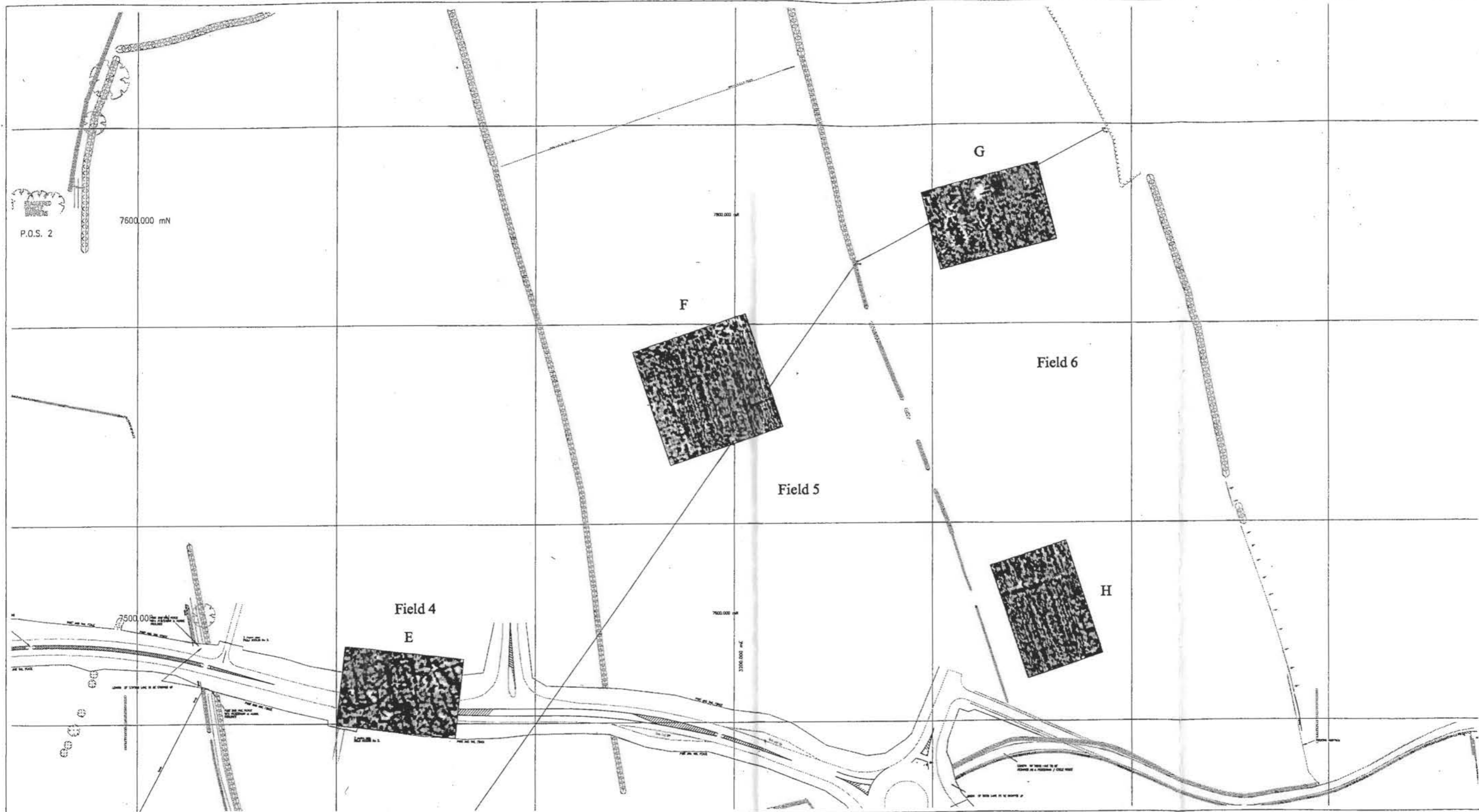
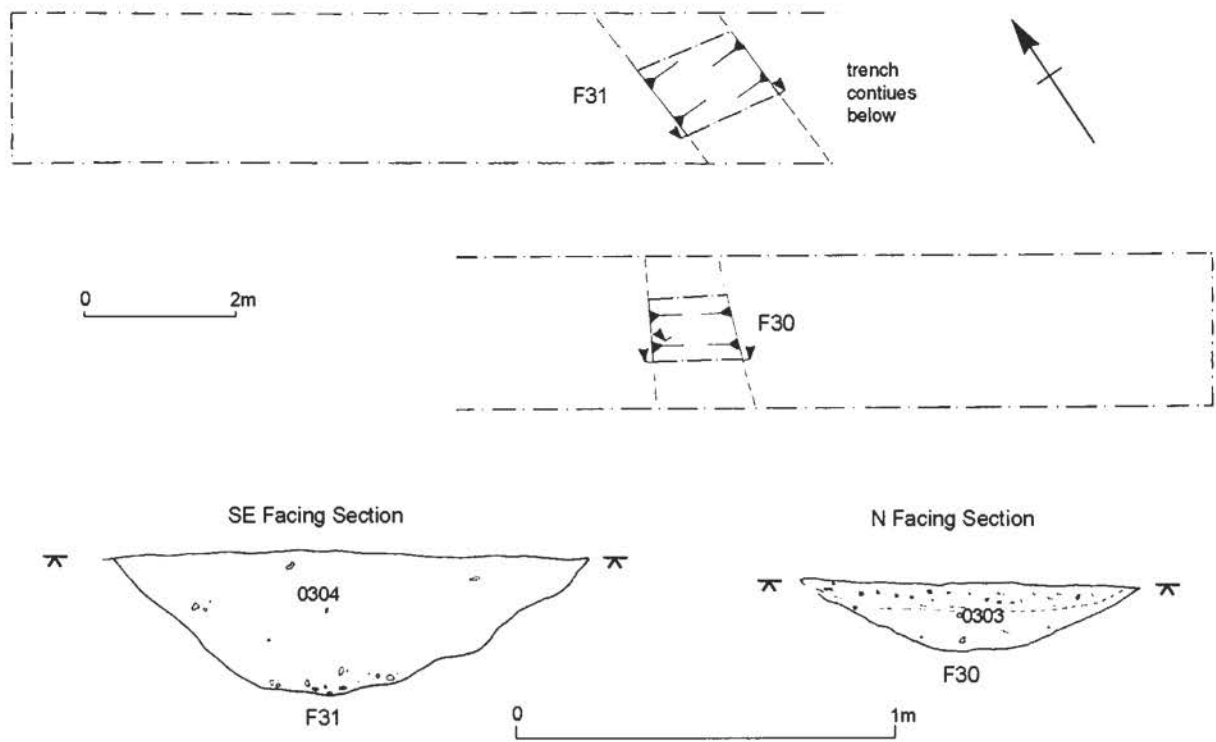


Fig.7

Trench 3



Trench 4

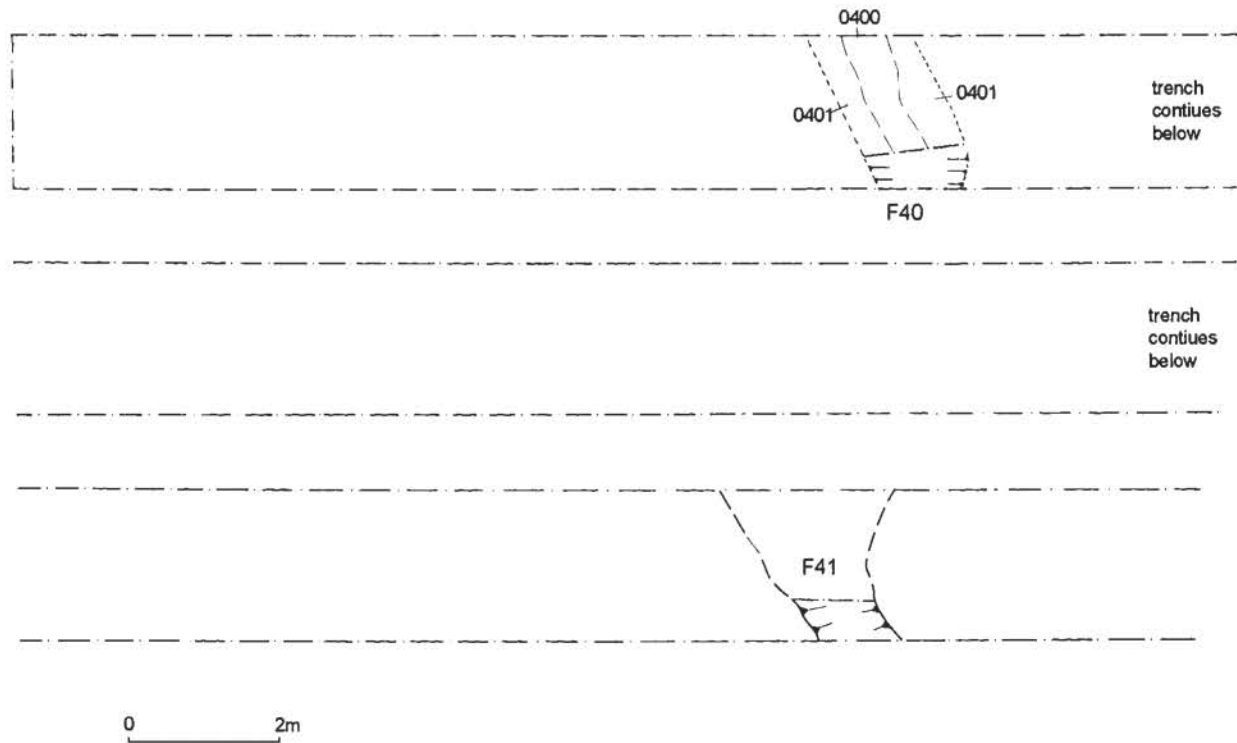
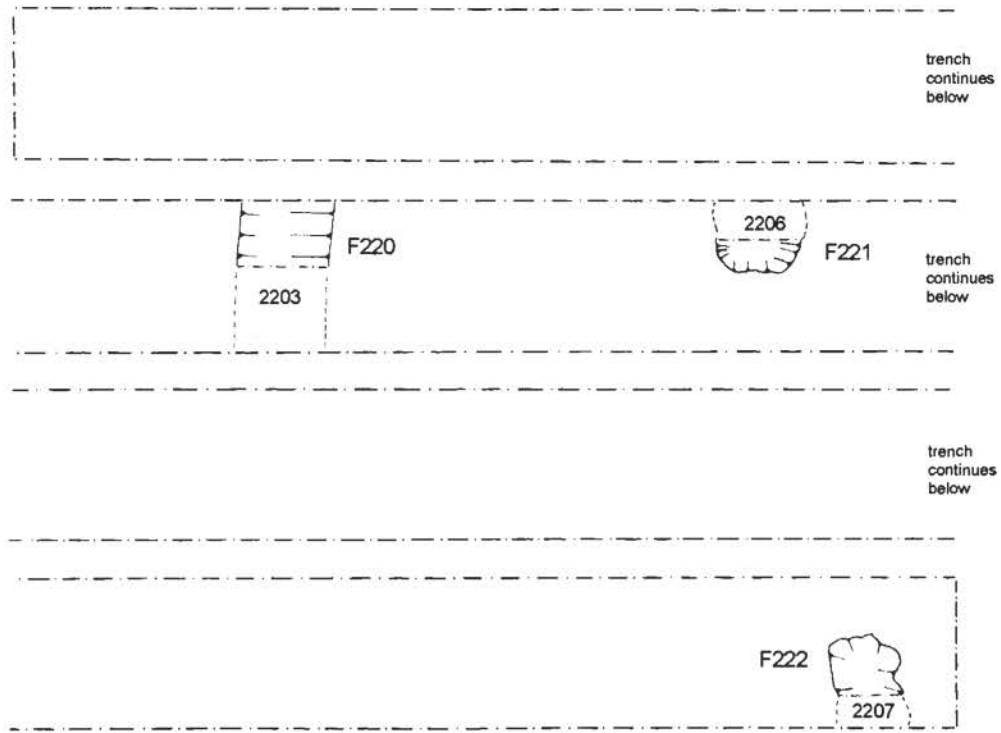
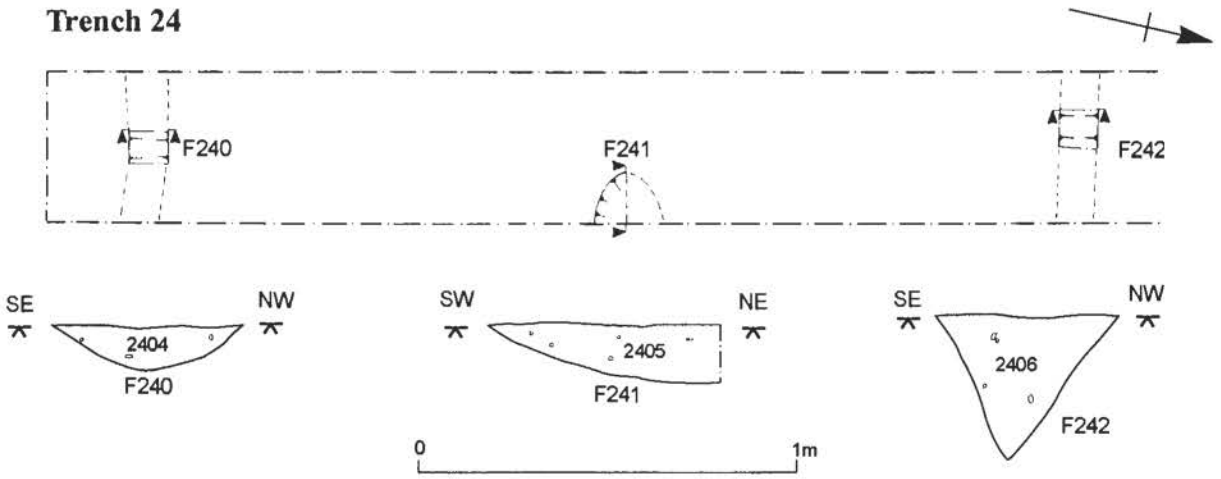


Fig.9

Trench 22



Trench 24



Trench 26

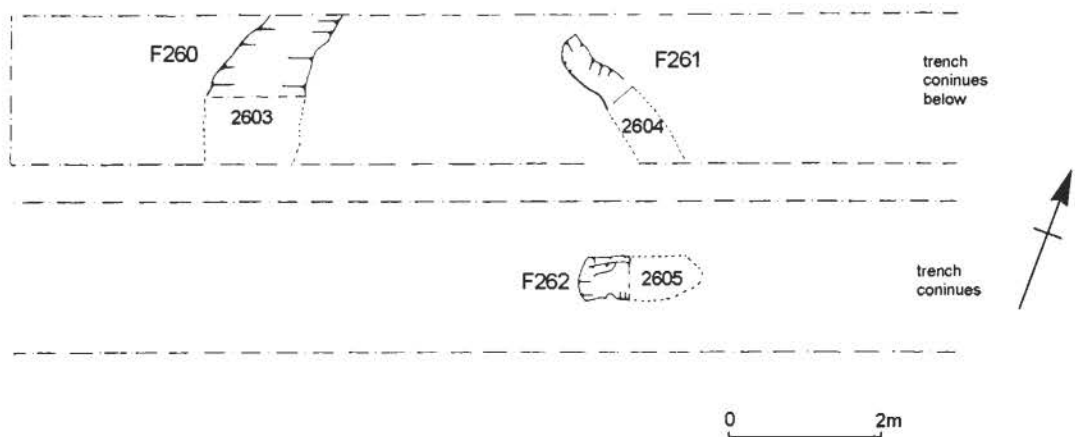


Fig.10

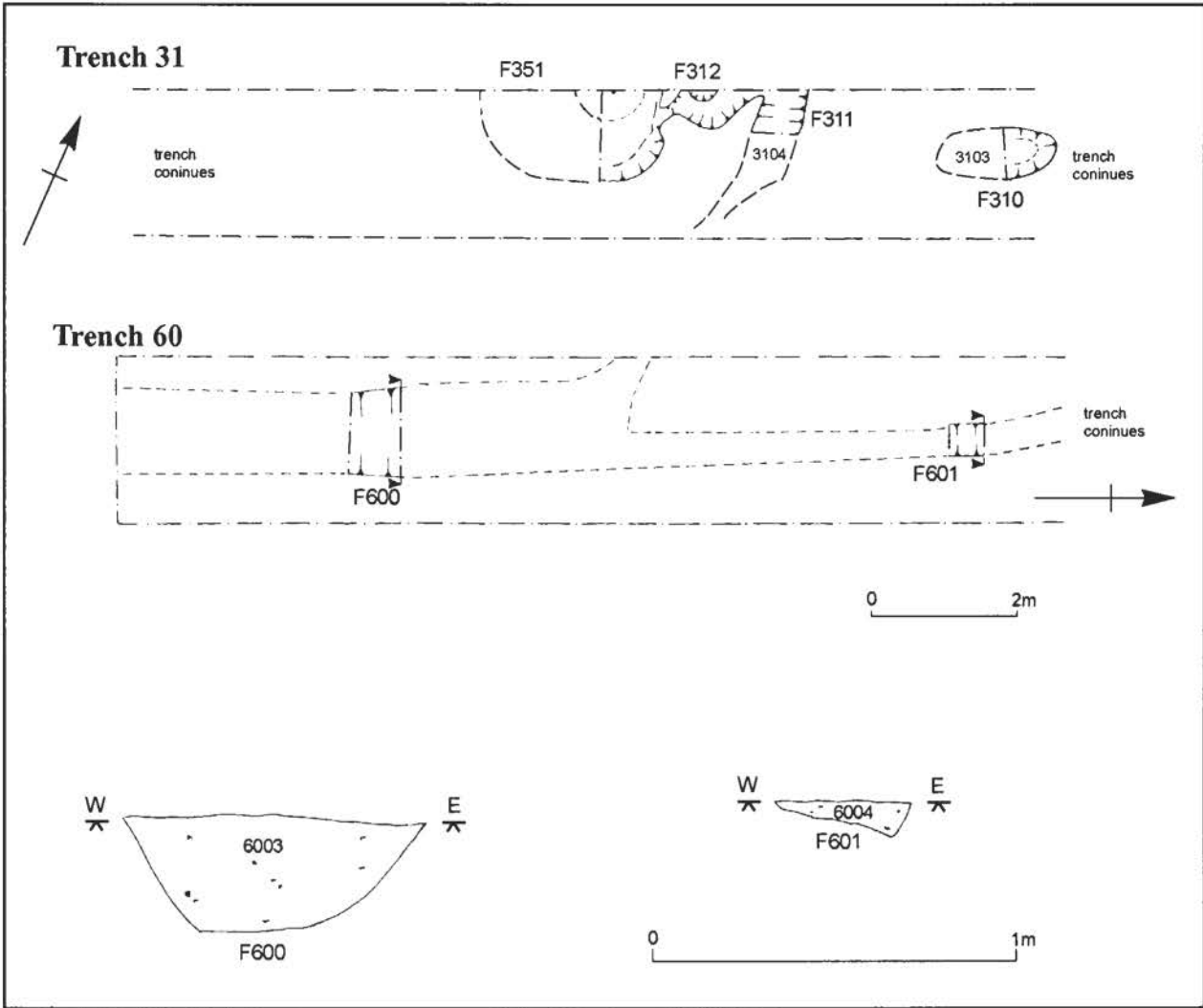


Fig.11