

**Land off High Street/
Silver Street, Buckden,
Cambridgeshire
Archaeological Investigations
1999-2000
Post-Excavation Assessment**

Birmingham University Field Archaeology Unit
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1.0: SUMMARY

This report describes the results of archaeological investigations at land off High Street/Silver Street, Buckden, Cambridgeshire (centred on NGR. TL 194681), and provides proposals to bring the fieldwork results to full publication. An archaeological excavation in advance of proposals for residential development was undertaken by Birmingham University Field Archaeology Unit in November 2000 for John Samuels Archaeological Consultants, acting on behalf of the Church Commissioners. The excavation followed a desk-based assessment and archaeological trial-trenching, which revealed evidence for medieval occupation, as well as a small quantity of Saxon pottery. The excavation identified an oven, a possible kiln, and associated gullies and post-holes of early medieval date. Other artifactual evidence of prehistoric and post-medieval activity was also found.

2.0: INTRODUCTION

2.1: Background

This report integrates the results of trial-trenching and area excavation within land off High Street/Silver Street, Buckden, Cambridgeshire (centred on NGR TL. 194681, Fig. 1, hereafter called 'the site'). Birmingham University Field Archaeology Unit was commissioned to undertake the archaeological excavation for John Samuels Archaeological Consultants, on behalf of the Church Commissioners, in accordance with the guidelines laid down in Planning Policy Guidance Note 16 (November 1990). The archaeological fieldwork was undertaken in advance of proposals for residential development of the site. This report provides a post-excavation assessment of the archaeological data, prepared in accordance with The Management of Archaeology Projects 2 (MAP 2 – English Heritage). The work was undertaken in accordance with a Specification prepared by John Samuels Archaeological Consultants (JSAC 2000) and approved by the County Archaeology Office of Cambridgeshire County Council, and a Brief prepared by the Council (Cambridgeshire CC 2000).

The site is situated about 300m to the north of the historic core of the village of Buckden. The northwestern site boundary is formed by the A1 trunk road. The northeastern boundary is formed by Silver Street, and the southeastern and southern boundaries are formed by the rear of gardens fronting onto High Street (Fig. 2). At excavation, the site comprised overgrown allotments and an orchard.

An archaeological evaluation of the site was carried out in November 1999 by Northamptonshire Archaeology (Mudd 1999). A total of 31 machine-cut trial-trenches,

most measuring 20m by 1.6m, was excavated, with selective cleaning and hand-excavation of the features identified. The evaluation revealed traces of medieval occupation, including an oven, a pit, and other features which contained pottery of 12th-13th century date, and a few sherds of Saxon pottery. Plough furrows indicated that the site had been in cultivation at least from the post-medieval period.

The assessment (Slatcher 1998) describes the archaeological background, which need not be repeated here.

2.2: Aims

The general aims of the archaeological excavation were to identify the below-ground archaeology and to preserve those remains by record.

The detailed research aims of the excavation were to:

- 1) Contribute to the understanding of the early prehistoric land-use of the Buckden area.
- 2) Investigate the nature of Saxon activity on the site.
- 3) Investigate the nature of early medieval settlement-related activity, and to contribute to the understanding of the early medieval domestic economy of Buckden.

3.0: METHODOLOGY (Fig. 2)

Two areas were excavated in 2000. Area A was located in the southern part of the site, and Area B was located in the north of the site. Most of the features described below derive from Area A. Both areas excavated totalled approximately 4,500 square metres. Within both excavated areas the overburden was removed by a mechanical excavator working under archaeological supervision, to expose the uppermost horizon of the subsoil or the uppermost horizon of the overlying alluvium, as appropriate. Sampling of the linear features by hand-excavation was 25% by length. Pits and post-holes were examined in half-section. Samples for environmental analysis were collected from datable feature fills.

Recording employed separate running numerical sequences for contexts (four digit numbers) and features (three digit numbers, prefixed by an 'F'). Features were defined to include negative features such as ditches, pits and post-holes. Contexts include feature fills and discrete deposits. During the excavation pre-printed pro-formas for contexts and features were completed, together with plans (1:50) and sections (1:20), monochrome and colour slide photography. The features (designated by the suffix 'E') and contexts recorded at evaluation stage have been re-numbered following the excavation numbering.

Subject to permission from the landowner, it is proposed to deposit the finds and paper archive with the Cambridgeshire County Council approved archive store.

4.0: RESULTS (Fig. 3)

The integrated results from evaluation and excavation have been provisionally divided into four phases, defined according to the finds dating and stratigraphic data, as follows:

Phase 1	Prehistoric
Phase 2	Saxon
Phase 3	Medieval/early post-medieval
Phase 4	Later post-medieval/modern

All the archaeological features were cut into the subsoil, a yellow-brown silt-gravel (1002), recorded at a depth of between 0.4-0.7m below the modern surface. All the recorded features were cut into the top of the subsoil. In some places, traces of north-south aligned ridge and furrow could be observed.

Phase 1: Prehistoric

Prehistoric activity is represented by residual flint finds from the ploughsoil and the fills of Phase 2-4 features, and by three sherds of possible Bronze Age pottery from Phase 4 plough furrow F108 (see below).

Phase 2: Saxon

Saxon activity was identified within evaluation trenches 5 and 14 (Fig. 2). A single sherd of 6th-century date was recovered from disturbed subsoil layer 501 (Trench 1). Six sherds of Early-Middle Saxon date were recovered from a shallow hollow (1403) which may have been associated with adjoining, undated post-hole 503. No further evidence of Saxon activity was derived from the excavation: trial-trench 14 lay outside the area excavated, although trial-trench 5 lay within Area A. The evaluation results suggested that any Saxon focus of activity lay to the south of the site (Mudd 1999, 15).

Phase 3: Medieval/early post-medieval (late 12th-16th century)

Description

Most of the identified features could be attributed to this phase. The Phase 3 features, including pits or post-holes, gullies and a kiln were concentrated within the northeastern part of Area A. This phase is divided into two sub-phases, within the first of which three main feature groups were identified and which are described in turn below.

Late 12th-15th century

The northernmost feature group comprised a pit (F114), only partly recorded within the excavated area, and a roughly north-south aligned gully (F112). The pit was cut to an irregular profile and was backfilled with grey-brown silt (1019). The gully was vertical-sided and was backfilled with grey-brown silt (1015). A further short length of a north-

south aligned gully (F110) was located further to the south. Feature F110 was U-shaped in profile, and was backfilled with dark grey silt (1013). Both features F112 and F110 may be the surviving, deeper-cut section of originally more extensive linear boundary features.

To the south lay a group of Phase 3 features comprising gullies (F112, F115, F123) a pit (F109) and an oven (F124).

A northwest-southeast aligned gully (F112, F121) was recorded for a distance of approximately 85m. The gully measured a maximum of 0.7m in width and was backfilled with grey-brown silt-clay (1034). Southwest-northeast aligned gully F115 formed a right angle with feature F121 which it joined. Gully F115 was backfilled with grey-brown silt-sand (1023). A further, approximately north-south aligned gully (F123) was cut at an angle of 45 degrees to gully F121. Feature F123 was backfilled with brown silt-clay (1036). An oven (F124) cut just beyond the southeastern terminal of gully F121, was oval in plan and measured a maximum of 2.5m in diameter and 0.55m in depth. It was backfilled with dark brown-black clay-silt (1037), containing angular stone rubble towards the top of the fill.

An oval oven (F121) was cut through the backfills of gully F121, and into the subsoil. The southeastern side of the oven was flush with gully F115, which might suggest that the oven was associated with the two gullies. The oven measured a maximum of 2.3m in diameter and 0.7m in depth. The oven lining of light brown silt-sand (1011) was burnt *in situ*, and contained fragments of lime, burnt stone, and charcoal flecks. The feature was backfilled with red-brown silt (1011), including charcoal flecks and fragments of lime and burnt stone.

To the southeast of feature F124 lay two further ovens (F113, F116), and associated features (F119, F122). The long axis of oven F113, was roughly east-west. The feature measured a maximum of 3.55m in length and 1.6m in width. The western end of the oven was bowl-shaped, forming a furnace chamber, and both terminals were rounded. The base of the western bowl-shaped terminal was lined with clay (1028) burnt *in situ*. This lining was overlain by a mixed deposit of ash and burnt clay (1027). A light brown silt-clay layer (1038) overlay the remainder of the oven base. Layers 1027 and 1038 were sealed by a layer of yellow-orange clay (1017), mixed with burnt clay, charcoal and burnt cobbles. The cobbles mostly comprised well-rounded stone fragments which may be interpreted as the remains of a clay dome or roof structure that had collapsed inwards. Above was a deposit of mottled brown silt (1016), in turn overlain by a layer of mottled brown-orange clay (1026), containing charcoal, burnt red clay, and ash. Post-holes F119 and F122 adjoining this oven were probably associated with a contemporary structure. A deposit of charcoal-rich soil (1031), overlying the subsoil and also sealing post-hole F119, probably derived from the oven use.

The second oven (F116) was located just to the south of feature F113. Oven F116 was oval in plan, measuring a maximum of 1.6m in length, 1.2m in width, and 0.38m in

depth. The base of the oven was burnt *in situ* dark red. The oven was backfilled with soft brown silt (1024), but no trace of oven lining or roof could be identified.

The single feature of this phase recorded in the south of the excavated area was a pit (F103), measuring 1.3m in diameter, and was backfilled with dark yellow-brown silt (1006).

Dating

Layer 1018 contained sherds of 13th-century pottery. Features F112, F114 and F116 contained pottery of 13th-14th-century date. Features F114 and F124 contained pottery of 14th-15th-century date.

16th century

A later sub-phase of activity, dated to the 16th-century may be represented by two features (F125, F120). Oven F125 was located in the extreme north of the area investigated. It measured a maximum of 2.2m in diameter, 0.4m in depth, and was backfilled with a stony deposit of dark-brown silt-clay (1039).

Post-hole F120 may be attributed to the 16th century on the basis of a single sherd of pottery, although this could be intrusive. Feature F125 contained the largest assemblage of pottery from any of the excavated features, totalling 36 sherds, significantly not including any earlier material. This feature may have been used as a rubbish pit.

Interpretation

The Phase 3 features were probably located towards the rear of the backplots of medieval properties located on the medieval frontage of Ermine Street (the modern A1 road). The frontage area would have been destroyed by the dualling of the A1 trunk road. Buildings were marked on the former southeastern frontage of Ermine Street on the Ordnance Survey maps of 1887, 1900 and 1926, and earlier medieval or post-medieval predecessors may have existed, although they were not recorded prior to road widening. The main Phase 3 linear features (F112/F121) and F112 were cut at an approximate right-angle to the alignment of Ermine Street. The feature types recorded at excavation, including ovens, associated post-holes and pits, are typical of the features found in such backplot areas.

In contrast, little activity was recorded over the remainder of Area A, except for feature F110, which may have lain outside the medieval/post-medieval backplot areas. This area may also have been unattractive for settlement because it was less well drained, being located in a zone where the subsoil had a much higher clay content. The paucity of features recorded in the south of Area A may suggest that this area lay beyond the limits of the backplots of properties fronting onto High Street (to the southwest of the site), or, alternatively, that this part of the street frontage was not built-up.

Phase 4: Post-medieval/modern

Description

A slightly irregular, mainly north-south aligned gully (F118) was recorded in the northeast of Area A. It measured a maximum of 2.5m in width and 0.2m in depth, and was backfilled with grey-brown silt-clay (1030). Three parallel, roughly north-south aligned, gullies (F100, F101, F102) were recorded towards the south of Area A. All three features were similar in profile and were 0.03m in depth. Further to the west lay a further, parallel gully (F108), measuring 3.75m in width and 0.13m in depth. Feature F108 was cut by two post-holes (F105, F106).

The other feature of this phase in Area A comprised a gully (F104), was cut at a right-angle to features F100-F102 and F108. Feature F104 measured 0.03m in depth and 0.8m in width.

A Phase 4 shallow north-south aligned ditch (F117, not illustrated) was recorded in Area B (see Fig. 2 for area location). It measured a maximum of 0.74m in width, 0.2m in depth, and was backfilled with grey-brown sand-silt (1025).

The linear features in Areas A and B may be interpreted as plough furrows were tested by hand-excavation (not illustrated). Post-holes F105-6 may be the remains of fence-posts.

The backfilled features and the subsoil in Areas A and B were sealed by a medieval-post-medieval ploughsoil (1001), measuring 0.1-0.4m in depth, sealed beneath the modern ploughsoil (1000).

Dating

Pottery of 19th-century date was recovered from the ploughsoil (1000) and from layer 1001.

Interpretation

Assuming that the Phase 3 features are correctly interpreted as being located within the backplot areas of properties fronting onto Ermine Street, the Phase 4 furrows indicate the abandonment of the Phase 3 backplots, and their replacement by arable cultivation. It is interesting to note that the Phase 4 furrows respect the roughly north-south alignment of the Phase 3 linear features.

Other features (outside the areas excavated)

Undated, roughly north-south aligned plough furrows were recorded in trial-trenches 9, 10, 15, 16 and 18, and possibly in trial-trench 6 (Mudd 1999, fig. 2). One furrow in trial-trench 10 was re-cut by a ditch (1004), forming an abandoned field boundary. Further possible plough-furrows were found in trial-trenches 10, 13 and 14, all aligned east-west.

Trial-trenches 19-31 (except 21) all contained north-south aligned plough furrows. Other features identified may be interpreted as root-holes (trial-trench 27) and planting holes (trial-trench 31).

5.0: ASSESSMENTS

5.1: Quantifications

Tables 1-2 quantify the archive. Quantifications include material from the evaluation, except where stated.

TABLE 1: Quantification of paper archive

<i>Record</i>	<i>Evaluation</i>	<i>Excavation</i>
Contexts	174*	26
Features		25
Col. Slide	70	80
Black and white prints	70	80
Drawings	31	14
Env. samples	4	16

* topsoil and subsoil separately numbered in each trench

TABLE 2: Quantification of finds archive (including evaluation)

<i>Material</i>	<i>Quantity/wt.</i>
Flint	14
Metal objects	1 x cu; 8 iron; 6 nails; 1 lead
Prehistoric pottery	3 sherds
Medieval/post-medieval pottery	99 sherds
Tile	5 fragments
Brick	8 fragments
Animal bone	1780g

5.2: Factual data and statement of potential

5.2.1: Flint by Lynne Bevan

Fourteen items of humanly-struck flint were recovered. The material used was a good quality pebble flint, the majority of which was medium brown in colour, with a high incidence of white re-cortication. A Neolithic date is probable for a small group of five items which included two blades and a burnt retouched flake or scraper with a notched edge (1204, trial-trench 12). A further blade was identified (F112/1015). The remainder of the collection consisted of unretouched, undiagnostic flakes from the following

features/layers: F110/1013 x 1, F112/1015 x 2, layer 1018 x 1, F125/1039 x 2, layer 1204 x 2.

Although the assemblage attests to some prehistoric activity in the vicinity of the site, for which certain elements suggest a Neolithic date, further analysis of the assemblage is not worthwhile because of its small size.

5.2.2: Metal objects by Lynne Bevan

Metal finds consisted of a small fragment of perforated copper alloy plate (2200, trial-trench 22), six nails (F100/1013, F124/1037, F125/1039 x 2, F109/2200), a staple (F124/1037), several fragments of corroded iron (1000 x 2, F125/1039 x 5), and a fragment of lead with an amorphous, molten appearance (unstratified).

With the possible exception of the copper alloy plate, which might be of medieval date (although it is undecorated and in a poor standard of preservation), all of the finds appear to be of relatively recent origin.

None of this material is worthy of further study or publication.

5.2.3: Prehistoric pottery by Annette Hancocks

Three joining sherds were recovered from a furrow (F108, 1010). The sherds were freshly broken and could be joined to form a single rim. The fabric of the pot was very vesicular and organic. The reconstruction produced a globular, neckless, everted-rim jar of Mid-Late Iron Age date. As the vessel was recovered from a Phase 4 furrow, it must clearly be residual.

5.2.4: Medieval and post-medieval pottery by Stephanie Ratkai

Assessment methodology

All the pottery was examined macroscopically and divided into fabric groups. The post-Roman-medieval and post-medieval pottery was quantified by sherd count (see Table 3). Nineteenth-century pottery was noted as present, but not quantified.

Quantity

A very small quantity of pottery of Saxon to post-medieval date was recovered from the excavation and the preceding evaluation, totalling 96 sherds. As the assemblage is very small any conclusions drawn at the assessment stage must be treated with caution.

Provenance/dating

There was no evidence of any Roman activity, but occupation seems to have resumed in the early-middle Saxon period. This does not appear to have continued into the late

Saxon or early post-Conquest period and occupation seems to have resumed possibly in the late 12th century, but certainly by the 13th century, and to have been more or less continuous up to the 16th century.

Range/variety

Phase 2 was represented by Early-Middle Saxon pottery, which was found residually in pit F112 (1015) and in two evaluation layers (501 (trial-trench 2) and 1404 (trial-trench 14)).

There was no late Saxon or Saxo-Norman pottery. Medieval pottery seems to begin in the 13th-14th centuries, possibly in the late 12th century. Just under half the fabrics could be sourced, and comprised Lyveden-Stanion wares, Brill, ?Bourne and Potterspury. Smooth sandy type ware was also present, which, although unsourced, is a known type in Cambridgeshire (Spoerry 1999).

The greater part of the pottery was not sourced and was made up of a mixture of iron-rich sandy wares, iron-poor sandy ware and sandy calcareous wares. These wares all have affinities with pottery found in Bedfordshire and Northamptonshire. The pottery supply in the Middle Ages seems to be biased towards the East/Southeast but with a certain component from the North and Northeast.

Late medieval and early post-medieval pottery was represented by Tudor green-type ware, greyware, Cistercian ware and glazed red earthenware.

Statement of potential

It is proposed that the pottery be recorded with reference to the Longstanton and Peterborough pottery type series (both of which are tied in to the Cambridge county type series), to enable the data to be accessible to those working in Cambridgeshire. Quantification by sherd count, sherd weight, rim count and rim percentage will be undertaken. Data will to be entered onto computer, and analyses of the functional composition of the vessels and of the sources of supply will be undertaken.

TABLE 3: Occurrence of pottery by sherd count (evaluation data from Blinkhorn 1999)

Evaluation		Fabric														Date	
		A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N		O
501	T2	1															6th c?
704	T7		1														13th c
706	T7		2														late 12th c
804	T8		8														late 12th c
1404	T14	6															early-middle Saxon
2304	T23		1														late 12th c
2404	T24							1									13th c
3004	T30									1							12th c??
3104	T31															1	16th c?
3111	T31															4	16th c?
Total		7	12	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	5	26 sherds

Excavation

1000	Topsoil							1								x	19th c
1001											1					x	19th c
1015	F112	2	1		2	1				8							13th-14th c
1018	Layer		1	1													13th c
1023	F114								1		1						14th-15th c
1024	F116					1		1		1							13th-14th c
1033	F120												1				16th c
1037	F124			1		2		1			2						14th-15th c
1039	F125		2					4		24	2		1	2	1		16th c
1010	F108																Prehistoric BA?
	F114			1	1												13th-14th c
u/s			1	1													13th-14th c
Total		2	5	4	3	4	0	7	1	33	6	1	1	2	1		70 sherds

KEY to fabrics:

- A Early-middle Saxon
- B Shell/Lyveden A
- C Lyveden-Stanion B
- D Smooth sandy ware
- E Bourne ?
- F Brill
- G Sandy calcareous
- H Iron poor sandy
- I Iron rich sandy
- J Potterspur
- K Tudor Green type
- L Greyware
- M Cistercian ware
- N Red earthenware
- O Modern glazed wares

5.2.5: Brick/tile and fired clay by Lynne Bevan

Five fragments of tile (F124/1037 x 4, F125/1039 x 1), eight fragments of brick (F110/1013 x 2, F116/1024 x 1, F109 x 5) and five broken fragments of brick or tile (F125/1039) were recovered. Small quantities of fired clay were also recovered from the following features/layers: 1002 x 1, F112/1015 x 8, F113/1016 x 2, F119/1032 x 3, F122/1035 x 2, F124/1037 x 1, F125/1039 x 5.

This small assemblage does not merit further analysis or publication.

5.2.6: Charred plant remains by Marina Ciaraldi

Assessment methodology

Well-sealed datable feature fills were sampled during excavation for charred plant remains. A total of 13 samples of up to 20 litres in volume was recovered. The soil samples were floated using a York flotation machine. The samples were very high in clay content and had to be treated with sodium carbonate before flotation. The flots (light fraction) were recovered on a 0.5 sieve, and the residue (heavy fraction) on a 1mm mesh. The residue was sorted by eye, while the flots were scanned under a low-power stereo microscope. The plant remains were identified without the use of a reference collection and all identifications should for this reason to be treated as provisional only.

The aims of assessment were to:

- 1 Establish the degree of preservation of the organic material.
- 2 Establish the potential of the charred plant remains to contribute to the general understanding of the human activities on site, particularly agricultural activities
- 3 Establish their potential contribution towards the reconstruction of the site environment.

Provenance/dating

The samples here assessed come mainly from medieval deposits.

Range/variety

The samples examined were all rather small and contaminated by modern rootlets. Charred plant remains were overall scarce and poorly preserved. The presence of small fragments of coal was noted in most of the samples. Only two samples (F113/1016 and F113/1027) contained a more abundant assemblage of charred seeds. The two samples were recovered respectively from the top and bottom layer of an oven, and contained barley and wheat grains, the first being more abundant. The samples from pit F125 (1039) and oven F124 (1037), though very small, contained wheat grains and pulses. None of the samples produced evidence of chaff.

Statement of potential

It is recommended that the four samples highlighted in Table 4 are fully analysed. They will provide important evidence for the interpretation of the use of oven F113 and on the presence of cereals on site. The two samples from pits (F124, F125) could provide some evidence of the use of this backplot area in the medieval period.

TABLE 4: Charred plant remains, samples assessed

<i>Feature/ layer</i>	<i>Vol. Proc. (l.)</i>	<i>Type of feature/layer</i>	<i>Period</i>	<i>Flot vol (ml)</i>	<i>Notes</i>
F113/1016	10	Oven - top fill	medieval	40	Small pieces of charcoal. Barley (xxx), T.aestivum (x), Triticum (xx), Vicia/Lathyrus/Pea (x), Buglossoides sp. (1)
F112/1015	20	gully	medieval	30	Small frags of coal. Spelt grain (1), Chenopodium (1)
F103/1006	20	pit	Early-middle Saxon	5	No seeds
F116/1024	20	pit	medieval	30	Land snails, Triticum (1)
F122/1035	6	post-hole	medieval	5	no seeds
F113/1027	17	oven-primary fill	medieval	200	Barley (xxx), Triticum (x), Vicia/Pea (x)
F125/1039	7	pit	medieval	10	Barley (x), Bread wheat (1) Cereals (2), Vicia/Pea (1)
F124/1037	20	oven	medieval	20	Bread wheat (2) Vicia/Pea (2), Anthemis (1)

KEY: x in brackets indicates the rough estimate of seed numbers. All samples are from Area A.

5.2.7: Animal bone by Emily Murray

Assessment methodology

The faunal assemblage was recorded using a modified version of a system devised by Davis (Davis 1992; Albarella and Davis 1994). This system considers a selection of anatomical elements as 'countable', while the presence of 'non-countable' specimens of interest are noted. Sheep and goat were separated using the criteria of Boessneck (1969).

Quantity

Approximately 1780g of animal bones were recovered by hand-collection. Processing of bulk environmental samples produced no faunal material.

Provenance/dating

Animal bones were recovered from a number of features. The medieval material derived from pits, a ditch, and the primary fill of an oven, the post-medieval material from overall

layers. Layers attributed to post-medieval activity also produced medieval pot sherds, suggesting some degree of contamination.

Range/variety

Cattle, sheep/goat, pig, hare and rabbit are the species represented by the small assemblage of bones and teeth recovered from Buckden (Table 5). The material is well-preserved and the level of fragmentation is typical of material derived from butchery waste. A number of the bones from the domestic species also has direct signs of butchery; chop marks caused through the dismemberment of the carcass and shallow cuts made by a knife either through the process of skinning and/or de-fleshing. The three domesticates are represented by both cranial and post-cranial elements and no goat bones could be identified with certainty. A sow (attributed to sex by the shape of the canine alveolus) and an adult caprine are represented by semi-complete mandibles. Three of the medieval bones show signs of heavy gnawing, probably by a dog.

TABLE 5: Animal bone, number of 'countable' specimens (NISP)

<i>Species</i>	<i>Medieval</i>	<i>Post-Medieval</i>
Cattle (<i>Bos taurus</i>)	11	2
Sheep/goat (<i>Ovis/Capra</i>)	8	1
Pig (<i>Sus scrofa</i>)	1	1
Hare (<i>Lepus</i> sp.)	-	1
Rabbit (<i>Oryctolagus cuniculus</i>)	*	-

* = species was represented by a 'non-countable' element.

Statement of potential

No further analysis is recommended because of the small size of this animal bone assemblage.

5.3: Conservation

The finds from the site are relatively stable, and no conservation requirements have been identified at present.

6.0: UPDATED PROJECT DESIGN

6.1: General

Most rural settlements in the region, like Buckden, lie under modern villages, and many have been partially-destroyed. Glazebrook (1997) notes the lack of excavations on medieval rural sites in the region, and that associated environmental data is notably lacking.

The specification highlighted the potential of the site to provide information concerning the nature and economy of early medieval settlement in Buckden, and, in addition, to contribute to the understanding of Saxon and prehistoric activity within the surrounds of the site. The excavation identified a number of features of medieval date, probably associated with small-scale industrial activity in a backplot area. However, the evidence for both prehistoric and Saxon activity was tantalising. The prehistoric pottery does not merit reporting, but the Saxon pottery should be studied along with the medieval pottery.

The historic core of Buckden was located to the south of the Bishop's Palace (JSAC 1998). A further settlement focus may have adjoined the southeastern frontage of the Great North Road (Roman Ermine Street, the modern A1 road), along which buildings were mapped in the 19th century. The industrial features identified by excavation may represent small-scale industrial activity to the rear of these plots fronting this road.

Further analysis will contribute to an understanding of their precise function. Study of the pottery will highlight the chronology of settlement and the sources of supply. This analysis will contribute towards an understanding of the morphology and industry of early medieval Buckden. This backplot areas, and presumably the associated buildings on the frontage, were abandoned before the 17th century, and the area is likely to have become incorporated into one of the open fields surrounding Buckden.

6.2: List of updated aims

- 1) To define the chronology of the settlement remains, within their historic setting.
- 2) To further define the function of the backplot features excavated.
- 3) To contribute towards an understanding of the morphology and economy of early medieval Buckden.

7.0: PUBLICATION SYNOPSIS

It is proposed to publish the report as part of a volume in *the British Archaeological Reports, British Series*. The report will also present the results from two other excavations of Saxon and medieval sites in Cambridgeshire excavated by the Unit.

SAXON AND MEDIEVAL SETTLEMENT IN BUCKDEN. ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATIONS AT HIGH STREET/SILVER STREET, 1999-2000.

By Richard Cuttler, Stephanie Ratkai and Sarah Watt

with a contribution by Marina Ciaraldi

The suggested layout of the report is as follows:

Text

Summary (400 w)

Introduction, aims and methodology, archaeological setting (2000 w)

Results and interpretation (3000 w, 1 table, 4 plates)

Saxon and medieval pottery (3000 w, 2 tables, 2 figures)

Charred plant remains (2500 w, 1 table)

Summary of the other finds (500 w)

Discussion (2500 w)

Conclusion (500 w)

Total 13,400 w, 4 tables, 4 plates

Figures

- 1 Location
- 2 Areas investigated
- 3 Area A detail
- 4 Detailed plans
- 5 Sections
- 6 Pottery
- 7 Pottery sources
- 8 The site and its archaeological and historical setting

8.0: TASK LIST

A summary of the proposed full post-excavation tasks is provided in Table 6.

TABLE 6: Task list and programme**STAGE A, PRELIMINARY ANALYSIS. Performance indicator, completion July 2001**

1	Project Management	AEJ	0.5
2	Site archive/update phasing/plans	RC	1
3	Data entry	EM	0.5
4	Prepare detailed site plans/sections: roughs	RC	1
5	Pottery recording/ revise phasing	SR	2
6	Charred plant remains, analysis	MC	0.5
7	Summary of other finds/ finds management	LB	1
8	Update database	EM	0.5

STAGE B, REPORTING AND ILLUSTRATION. Performance indicator, completion August 2001

10	Project management	AEJ	1
11	Prepare plans and sections	ND	4
12	Prepare pottery illustrations	ND	3
13	Library research	RC	0.5
14	Pottery reporting/discussion	SR	2
15	Charred plant remains reporting	MC	1
16	Draft new stratigraphic text	RC	0.5
17	Draft discussion	RC	2
18	Mount illustrations/corrections	ND	1.5

STAGE C, COMPLETION OF FIRST DRAFT. Performance indicator, completion October 2001

19	Project management	AEJ	0.5
20	First edit	AEJ	1
21	Corrections to text	RC	1
22	Corrections to figures	ND	0.5
23	Prepare/deposit archive	KM	2
24	Prepare camera ready copy	-	-
25	Liaison with referees/BAR/ corrections	RW	1
26	Deposit archive	KM	1

KEY: AEJ= A. Jones, Project Manager; RC= R. Cuttler, author; MC=M. Ciaraldi, charred plant remains specialist; LB=L. Bevan, finds manager/other finds summary; ND=N. Dodds, illustrator; KM=K. Muldoon, Archive Supervisor; RW=R. White, final edit.

NOTE: Assumes project commissioned no later than early May 2001.

9.0: ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The excavation was sponsored by John Samuels Archaeological Consultants on behalf of the Church Commissioners. The project was directed by Richard Cuttler, assisted by Andy Rudge and Erica Macey, who also supervised the finds processing. The specialists are thanked for their contributions. The illustrations and a first draft of the text were prepared by Sarah Watt. The text was edited by Iain Ferris.

The evaluation was undertaken by Northamptonshire Archaeology for the same sponsors.

10.0: REFERENCES

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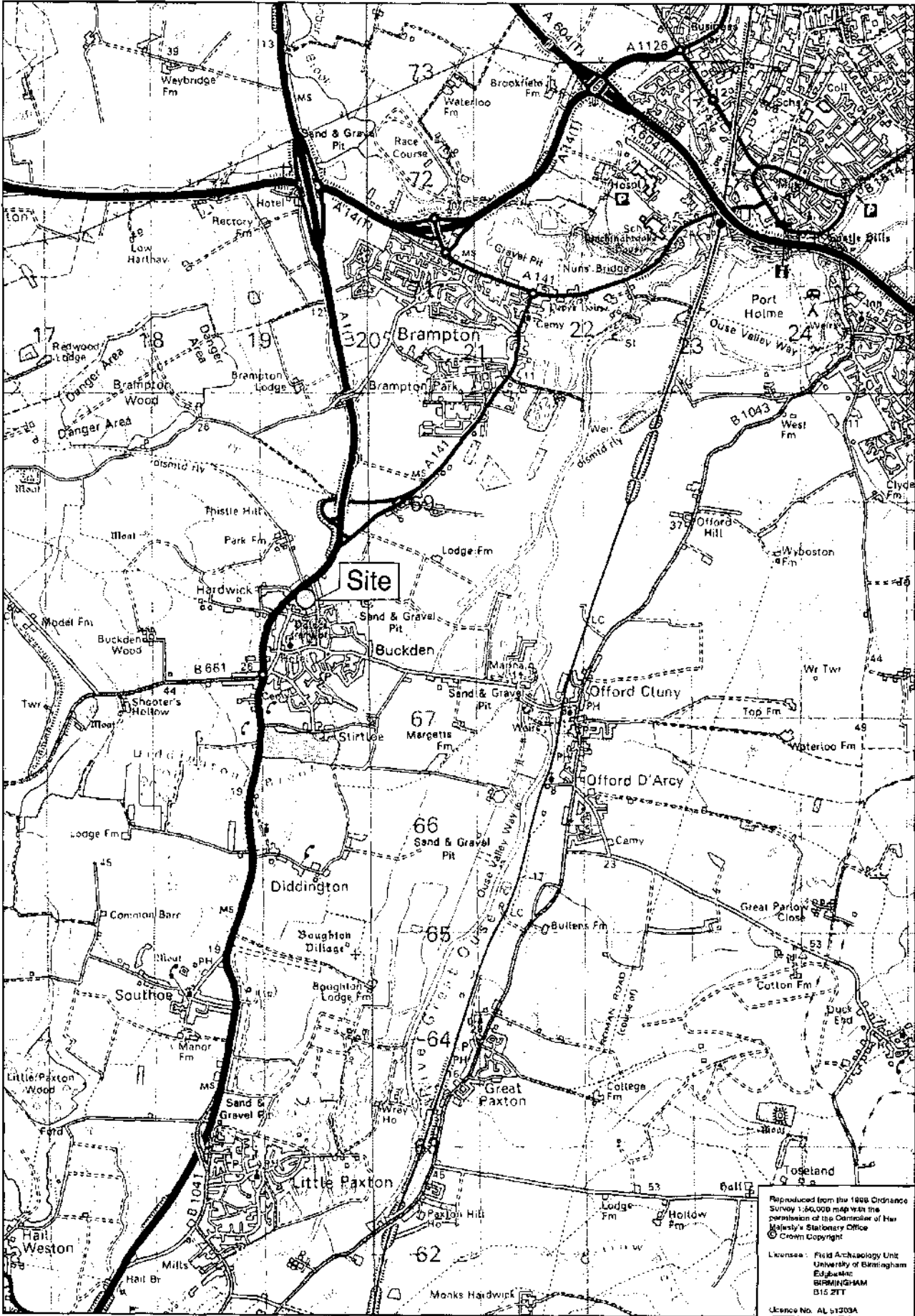


Fig.1

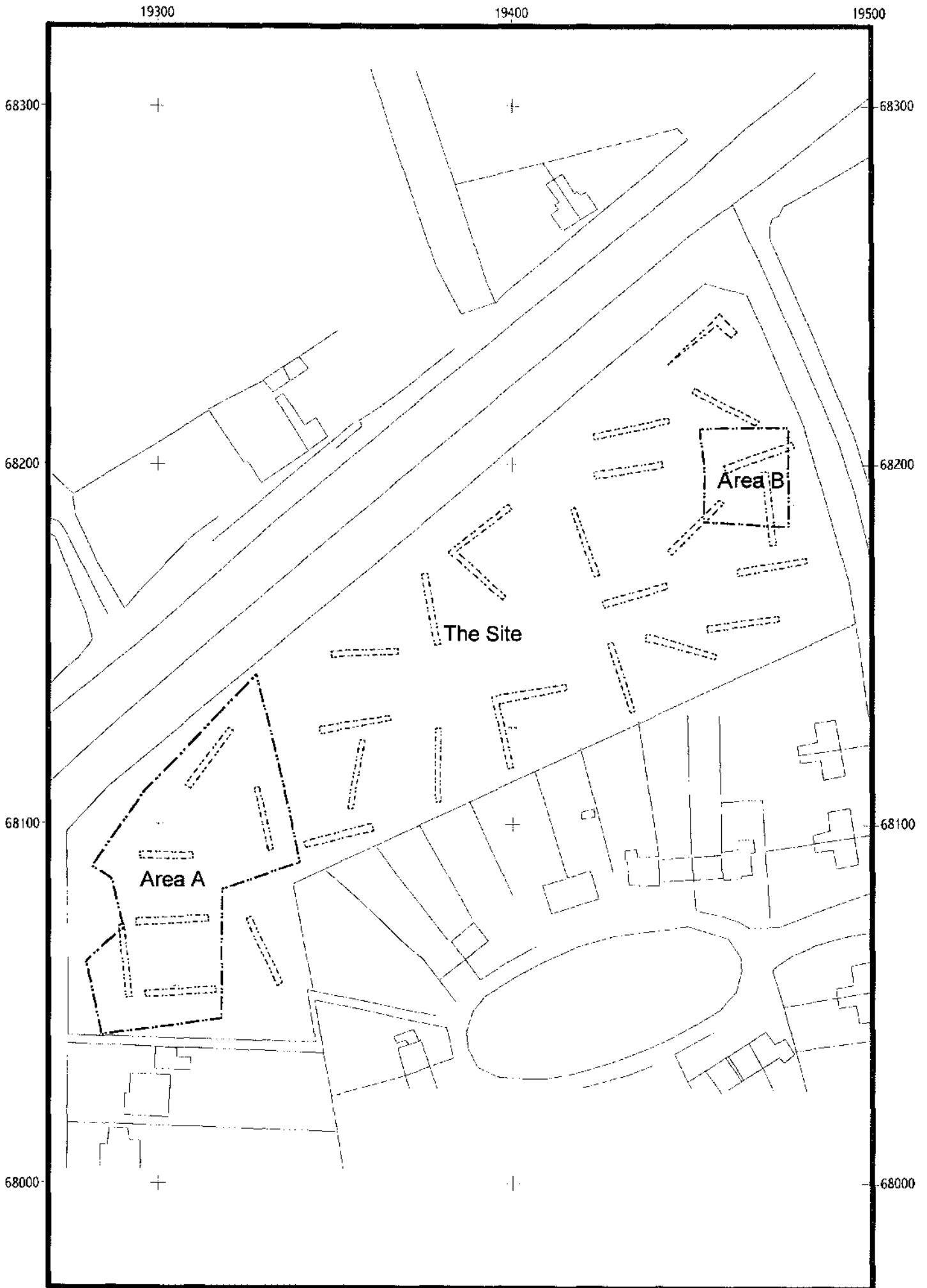


Fig. 2

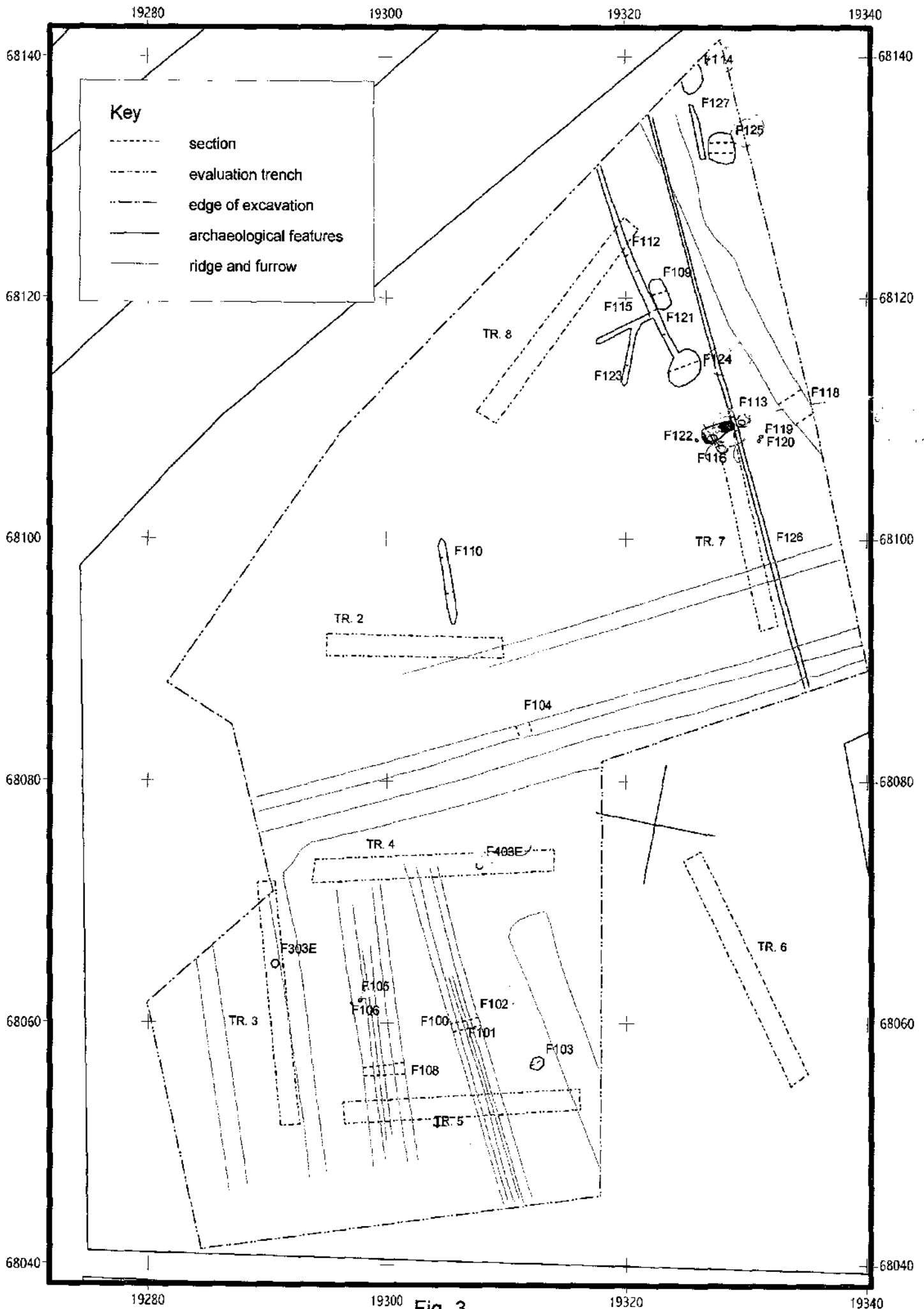


Fig. 3



Plate.1

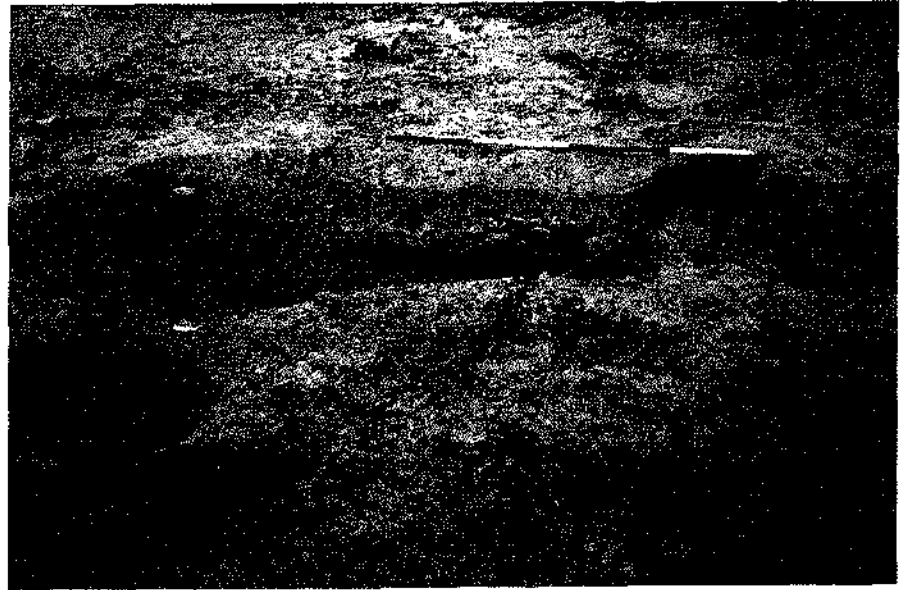


Plate.2

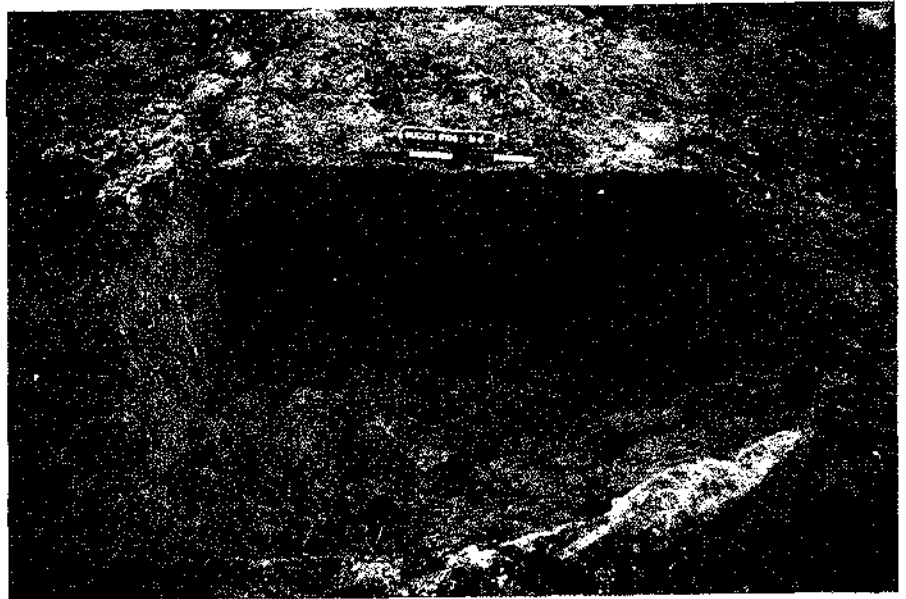


Plate.3