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Land west of Longstanton, (haul road, residential development Phase 1, Field 19), Cambridgeshire:

an archaeological evaluation 2002

Birmingham University Field Archaeology Unit

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Land west of Longstanton (haul road, residential development Phase 1, Field 19), Cambridgeshire: an archaeological evaluation 2002

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Summary

Ten archaeological trial trenches were excavated in October 2002, within an area of approximately 1.5 ha, in three arable fields to the west of Longstanton, Cambridgeshire (centred on NGR TL 392 675). The work was carried out by Birmingham University Field Archaeology Unit (BUFAU) and commissioned by John Samuels Archaeological Consultants on behalf of Persimmon Homes (East Midlands) Ltd. The evaluation was undertaken as a condition of planning consent in advance of the construction of a proposed haul road necessary for the building of a proposed larger residential development.

The purpose of the trial trenches was to test for the survival of significant archaeological remains along the route of the proposed haul road, and to provide an indication of the importance, date, character and extent of such remains.

Previous archaeological work within the development area comprised of archaeological desk-based assessment (Jones 1995) followed by archaeological investigations to the north of the site (Ellis and Rátkai 2001) which revealed evidence of Late Saxon and Medieval settlement and an area of probable Iron Age settlement. Further archaeological work within the northern part of the proposed development area comprised of geophysical survey and trial trenching (Cuttler 2001). This indicated extensive Late Saxon and Medieval remains survive within the area of the development. The route of the proposed haul road was also included in an aerial photographic assessment (Cox and Deegan 1995) which indicated the presence of ridge and furrow. Further geophysical survey (Stephens 2000), along the route of the proposed haul road, confirmed some of the results of the previous aerial photographic survey and recorded several faint anomalies which could be either of archaeological or of recent agricultural origin.

Some of the trial trenches were located in order to investigate geophysical anomalies and others were speculative. In Trench 2 at the south of the site, close to Hattons Road, two parallel northeast-southwest aligned linear ditches were recorded. One of these ditches contained Late Iron Age pottery and both ditches are likely to be of this date. In Trench 4 a stratified sequence was recorded comprising: a pit which was cut by a large possible boundary ditch or perhaps a large pit, at least 6m wide and almost 1m deep, and this was later cut by another pit. The large ditch or pit was dated to the Late Iron Age.

In Trench 10, at the north part of the site, adjacent to Over Road, four pits and seven shallow linear ditches all on a similar east-west alignment were revealed. Several of these features contained pottery dating from the 13th to 15th centuries AD. The shallow depth of the linear features coupled with the poor quality of the pottery assemblage and its abraded nature, suggestive of a manuring scatter, may suggest that the linear features have an agricultural origin. However the largest and deepest of the pits may been a storage or rubbish pit, indicative of occupation in the vicinity. The function of the smaller smaller pits is unclear. Previous excavations carried out at Home Farm, Longstanton (Ellis and Rátkai 2001) have identified features of

medieval date associated with house plots and occupation features, located approximately 100m to the northeast of site and the features identified in Trench 10 are probably peripheral features associated with this site. All of the significant archaeological features identified in the course of this evaluation were located in areas were the natural subsoil was sand and gravel.

1.0 Introduction

This report describes the results of an archaeological evaluation carried out by Birmingham University Field Archaeology Unit (BUFAU) within an area of approximately 1.5 ha, in three arable fields to the west of Longstanton, Cambridgeshire (hereafter referred to as the site). The work was commissioned by John Samuels Archaeological Consultants on behalf of Persimmon Homes (East Midlands) Ltd. The evaluation was undertaken as a condition of planning consent in advance of the construction of a proposed haul road necessary for the building of a larger residential development.

The evaluation was conducted in accordance with, a brief prepared for Cambridgeshire County Council (Thomas 2002) and a written scheme of investigation prepared by BUFAU (Cuttler 2002). The work conformed to the guidelines set down in the *Institute of Field Archaeologists Standard and Guidance for Field Evaluation* (Institute of Field Archaeologists 2001). The evaluation was undertaken in accordance with Planning Policy Guidance Note 16 (Department of Environment 1990).

One box of paper records, together with one box of finds, comprise the site archive. This will be prepared according to the guidelines in Appendix 3 of the *Management of Archaeology Projects* (English Heritage 1991), the *Guidelines for the Preparation of Excavation Archives for Long-term Storage* (UKIC 1990) and *Standards in the Museum Care of Archaeological Collections* (Museum and Art Galleries Commission 1992). The archive will be deposited with the relevant repository, with the prior notification and agreement of the museum, within a reasonable time after the completion of the evaluation, subject to approval by the landowner.

2.0 Site location and description

The site is located on the west side of the historic village of Longstanton in northern Cambridgeshire (centred on NGR TL 392 675, Fig. 1). The site comprises a strip of land approximately 600m x 25m (1.5 ha), situated in three arable fields (Fig. 2), linking Hattons Road, to the south with Over Road, to the north. The land is generally between 7-10m AOD and slops upwards from north to south, rising about 2.5m over the site.

The village is situated close to the edge of the fens to the north and easily cultivatable upland areas to the south (Taylor 1998). Longstanton is situated on a gravel ridge, although the site is mainly located on permeable calcareous soils acquired from the underlying Ampthill Clay, with some river terrace gravel deposits (Cuttler 2001 and Jones 1995). These gravel deposits are located mainly over the southern half of site and at the north end.

3.0 Archaeological and historical background

Previous archaeological work within the wider proposed development area included an archaeological desk-based assessment (Jones 1995) of the whole of the development area. Evidence of prehistoric and Roman settlement, was concentrated on the river gravels outside the proposed development area and in the northeast part of the development area. In the medieval period, the village of Longstanton developed along High Street, and had three surrounding open fields. A small medieval hamlet was centred to the north of the site at Green End. The central part of the proposed development area was found to contain possible evidence of medieval and post-medieval settlements. The assessment also located the presence of ridge and furrow, aligned northwest-southeast, within the south part of the site. It also found that the site (referred to as Field 19) was part of 'Dale Field', which was depicted on the enclosure map of 1816, and which formed part of the southwestern open field of the medieval village. The site was also included in an aerial photographic assessment (Cox 1995), which also indicated the presence of ridge and furrow within the site and identified a possible ring ditch of unknown date and origin in an adjacent field to the south.

Archaeological investigations to the north of the site (Mould 1997, Cuttler and Rátkai 1998 and Ellis and Rátkai 2001), within the proposed development area, have revealed evidence of Late Saxon and medieval settlement and an area of probable Iron Age settlement. Further archaeological work within the northern part of the proposed development area comprised of geophysical survey and trial trenching (Cuttler 2000). Scatters of earlier prehistoric flint were noted, although these are not thought to represent any intensive settlement. Evidence of Mid to Late Iron Age activity was recorded, including one or more ditched enclosures. Late Saxon and medieval remains included ditches, defining fields or other boundaries, and pits some possibly used for industrial functions. Further geophysical survey (Stephens 2000, Fig. 3), within the site, confirmed some of the results of the previous desk-based assessment and aerial photographic survey. This suggested the presence of northwest-southeast aligned ridge and furrow within the northern part of the site, and southwest-northeast orientated ridge and furrow within the southern part of the site. The survey also recorded several faint anomalies, which could be either of archaeological or of recent agricultural origin.

4.0 Aims

The aims of this evaluation are as laid out in the written scheme of investigation (Cuttler 2002) are to:

- Determine the extent of truncation to any subsurface remains
- Establish the presence of absence of a palaeosol of 'B' horizon and site formation processes generally
- Establish the presence or absence of any periphery features associated with medieval occupation at Longstanton or Green End, particularly in the form of occupation deposits
- Obtain dating evidence to establish a chronology of the site
- Establish the extent of later post-medieval disturbance within the haul road
- Recover environmental information as to the economy, diet etc of the inhabitants of the area.
- To provide information to develop a strategy for the recording, preservation or management of the resource.
- To provide sufficient information to enable an appropriate mitigation strategy.

- To provide sufficient information to enable any subsequent archaeological works or excavation to be conducted within clearly defined research aims.

5.0 Method

In order to achieve the aims of the evaluation 10 trial trenches, were excavated. Seven of the trial trenches were 50m long and were located within the area of the proposed haul road. Three of the trial trenches were 25m long and were positioned at the locations of three proposed contractors' compound areas. The total amount of trenching was 850sq.m, providing for a 5% sample of the site. Trenches 5, 6, 7 and 8 were positioned to investigate geophysical anomalies.

Excavation of topsoil subsoil/overburden was carried out using a 360 degree mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket down to the natural subsoil level or to the top of the uppermost archaeological horizon. Subsequent cleaning and excavation was by hand. Spoil from machine excavation and hand-excavation was temporarily stored on-site.

Twenty litre soil samples were collected from a range of datable features and their potential for charred plant macro-fossils was assessed. Appropriate samples were also to be collected from any waterlogged deposits in order to retrieve plant macro fossils, insect, molluscs and pollen.

Advice was sought from a suitably qualified specialist in faunal remains on the potential for fish bones and small mammal bone. If a potential was identified, a sieving programme was to be undertaken. Faunal remains were collected by hand and by sieving and were assessed and analysed as appropriate. Recovered finds were cleaned and marked, and remedial conservation work will be undertaken where appropriate.

Recording was by means of pre-printed pro-forma record cards for contexts and features, supplemented by plans (at 1:20 and 1:50), sections (at 1:10 and 1:20), and monochrome print and colour slide photography.

A site visit was made by C. A. I. French, qualified soil scientist, to inspect any potential buried soils and he was consulted regarding the potential of a soil micro-morphological study or other analytical techniques to enhance understanding of the site.

Review/ monitoring meetings were attended by Richard Cuttler, BUFAU Project Manager, Dan Slatcher, Consultant Archaeologist, John Samuels Archaeological Consultants and Andy Thomas, Principal Archaeologist, Land Use Planning Cambridgeshire County Council.

6.0 Summary of results

This section is intended only as a summary. The detailed results of the trial trenching are described in tabulated form below (Appendix 1). The underlying natural subsoil varied over the site. In Trenches 1, 6, 7, 8 and 9 the natural subsoil consisted of a compact grey clay with patches of silt and sand. In Trenches 2, 3, 4, 5 and 10 the natural subsoil consisted of sand and gravel with clayey patches. All of the significant

archaeological features identified in the course of this evaluation were located in areas were the natural subsoil was sand and gravel.

In Trench 2, two shallow linear ditches (F201 and F202, Fig. 4), both aligned northeast-southwest, were excavated. The excavated section across these features was oblique and consequently it was only possible to estimate their true width. The most northerly of the ditches, F201, was approximately 2m wide and 0.26m deep and contained sherds of Iron Age pottery. Ditch F202 was approximately 3m wide and 0.20 m deep. A northwest-southeast aligned linear gully (F200, not illustrated), 0.4m wide and 0.45m, deep was excavated at the south end of Trench 2. A sherd of post-medieval pottery was recovered from the primary fill (2004) of this feature.

The earliest feature in Trench 4 (Fig. 4), on the basis of the stratigraphy, was a large pit (F403), at least 2.2m wide and at least 0.54m deep, with steep sides. Pit F403 was not fully excavated due to safety reasons. F403 was cut by a large northeast-southwest aligned feature (F402) probably a ditch or possibly a pit, at least 6m wide and 0.95m deep, with steep sides and probably a flat base. F403 was not fully excavated due to safety reasons. It contained three fills all of which contained sherds of Iron Age pottery and fragments of animal bone. A sub-circular pit (F401), 1.84m wide and 0.86m deep, cut the southeastern edge of F402. Close by, to south of Pit F401 was a small circular pit (F400), 0.60m in diameter, and 0.50m deep.

Several sherds of post-medieval pottery were recovered from the ploughsoil (5003 and 5004) within recent plough furrows in Trench 5. Sherds of medieval pottery were recovered from two shallow northwest-southeast aligned furrows (F702 and F703, not illustrated) in Trench 7.

A shallow gully (F600, not illustrated) with a 'V'-shaped profile aligned northwest-southeast, 0.38 wide and 0.17m deep was excavated in the middle of Trench 6.

A curvi-linear gully (F800, not illustrated) with a 'U'-shaped profile, of unknown width and length, due to later truncation by modern drainage features was recorded in Trench 8. The nature of the fill suggested that this is probably a relatively modern feature.

In Trench 10 (Fig. 5), at the north end of the trench was a shallow sub-circular pit (F1003) extending beyond the edge of the trench. It was at least 1m wide and 0.30m deep, with a 'U' -shaped in profile and contained sherds of medieval pottery and a fragment of animal bone. To the southeast of F1003, extending beyond the edge of the trench, was a large sub-circular pit (F1000), 2m wide and 1.02m deep, with steeply sloping sides and a flat base. Pit F1000 contained three fills and sherds of medieval pottery and a fragment of animal bone were recovered from both the middle and final fill (10006 and 10005). Two more circular pits (F1001 and F1002) with steeply sloping sides and rounded bases were recorded further south, in the middle of Trench 10. The most northerly pit (F1001), 0.80m in diameter and 0.28m deep, contained sherds of medieval pottery. Pit F1002 was 0.75m in diameter and 0.30m deep.
Several parallel east-west orientated linear features (from north to south: F1007, F1006, F1005, F1008, F1010 and F1009 and F1004), 0.57-2.25m wide and 0.14-0.32m deep, were excavated in the middle of Trench 10. The most northerly of these features, F1007, was cut on its south side by F1006. All these features had steep sides

and rounded bases with the exception of F1004, which had vertical sides and a flat base and was the most southerly feature in the trench. Features F1003-F1006 contained sherds of medieval pottery and F1006 contained residual Late Iron Age pottery. Sherds of medieval pottery was recovered from the ploughsoil (10000) overlying these features. Features F1003 and F1004 contained fragments of animal bone.

In all of the trenches a subsoil of compact yellow brown sandy silty clay sealed the natural. The depth of this subsoil varied over the area of the evaluation, with the greatest depth of 0.45m in Trench 4, and the shallowest, 0.15m in Trench 2. In all the trenches land drains cut the subsoil and natural. Overlying the subsoil was a ploughsoil, 0.25m deep, consisting of a brown loamy clay-silt, although in the areas of sand and gravel natural, the topsoil had a tendency to have a higher sand and gravel content and was better drained.

7.0 The finds

7.1 Pottery

Iron Age Pottery by Annette Hancocks

A total of 115 sherds of Late Iron Age pottery were recovered. No diagnostic rim forms or bases were recognised, but the pottery was rapidly scanned and a *terminus post quem* assigned. The assemblage was recovered from secure contexts and shows no signs of contamination very little evidence of residuality. The material was not abraded and showed few signs of weathering. All the material was hand collected.

A total of nine body sherds (29g) of grog tempered Late Iron Age pottery were recovered from Ditch F201 (2005), Trench 2. A total of 24 body sherds (61g) of grog tempered Late Iron Age pottery were recovered from the upper fill (4006) of ditch F402, Trench 4. Some ten body sherds (66g) of fossil shell tempered pottery and 43 body sherds (123g) of grog tempered pottery were recovered from the middle fill (4007). Twenty-eight body sherds (96g) of grog and fossil shell tempered pottery were recovered from the primary fill (4008). A single residual body sherd (5g) of grog tempered Late Iron Age pottery was recovered from the fill of F1006, Trench 10 (10011).

Further study of the assemblage might define the chronological development of the site. However, the distinct lack of diagnostic rim and base forms means that detailed analysis will more than likely not enhance our overall understanding of the site on its own. The potential of this material is deemed to be low. Given the nature and character of the assemblage, it is recommended that no further detailed analysis of the Late Iron Age ceramics are undertaken, as only body sherds survive.

The overall finds assemblage comprises one box of finds and 17 assemblage summary archive record sheets. This small amount of material poses no long-term storage problems and will be deposited with the Cambridgeshire Museum service subject to the permission of the landowner.

Table 1: Finds quantification by Annette Hancocks with a contribution by Stephanie Rátkai (medieval pottery)

Context	Feature	Iron Age pottery	Medieval pottery	Clay Pipe	Animal Bone	Ceramic Tile	Fired clay	Spot date
Trench 2								
2003	F200	-	-	-	-	1 (2g)	1 (2g)	Unknown
2004	F200	-	1x GRE (5g)	-	-			16th – 18th century
2005	F201	9 (29g)	-	-	-	-	-	Late Iron Age
Trench 4								
4006	F402	24 (61g)	-	-	272g	-	-	Late Iron Age
4007	F402	53 (189g)	-	-	211g	-	-	Late Iron Age
4008	F402	28 (96g)	-	-	115g	-	-	Late Iron Age
Trench 5								
5003		-	2 x GRE (15g) 1x Late MELT? (6g)	1 (6g)	6g	-	-	17th – 18th century
Trench 7								
7005	F702	-	1x MELT (7g) 1x SANDCPJ (5g)	-	-	-	-	13th – 14th century
7006	F703	-	1 x MICSW (3g)	-	-	-	-	12th – 14th century
Trench 10								
10000 Surface finds			3x GRE (51g) 1x SHW (2g) 1x SANDCPJ (5g) 1x S14 (2g)			-	-	16th – 18th century 13th? century ?12th century
10003	F1001	-	1x MICSW (4g) 6x ?SSW (15g)	-	-	-	-	13th – 14th century
10005	F1000	-	7x SHW (37g) 1x LYSTB (7g) 4x MICSW (27g) 2x BONBT (14g) 1x GRE? (15g) 1x SIBHEDT? (4g)	-	1g	-	-	15th century?
10006	F1000	-	1x SHW (15g) 1x LYSTB (6g) 3x MELT (11g) 1x MICSW (1g)	-	1g	-	-	13th –14th century
10008	F1003	-	1x SHW (2g) 1x MELT? (2g)	-	5g	-	-	13th – 14th century
10009	F1004	-	2x MELT (18g) 1x MICSW (4g)	-	7g			12th – 14th century
10011	F1006	1 (5g)	1x MICSW (1g) 2x MELT (4g) 1x ?SSW (4g)	-	-	-	-	13th – 14th century with residual Late Iron Age
10012	F1005	-	1x BONBT (1g)	-	-	-	-	13th – 14th century
Total		**115 (380g)**	**51 (293g)**	**1 (6g)**	**618g**	**1 (2g)**	**1 (2g)**	

Key:

BONBT:	Bourne B type ware
GRE:	Glazed red earthenware
LYSTB:	Lyveden Stanion ware (type B)
MELT:	Medieval Ely type ware
MICSW:	Micaceous sandy ware
S14:	Fine reduced ware (see Rátkai 2001, 83)
SANDCPJ:	Coarse sandy unglazed ware (see Rátkai 2001, 88)
SHW:	Shelly ware
SIBHED:	Sible-Hedingham type ware
SSW:	Smooth sandy ware

Discussions of the above fabrics can be found in Spoerry and Hinman (1998, 50-82 and 96-108) and Rátkai (2001).

Medieval and post-medieval pottery by Stephanie Rátkai

The pottery was examined under x20 magnification and divided into fabric groups and was quantified by sherd count and sherd weight. The assemblage was of poor quality consisting of small, abraded sherds, most of which were devoid of diagnostic features. The pottery has all the appearance of having derived from manuring scatters. In such a small assemblage the absence of late Saxon fabrics e.g. St Neots ware and Thetford ware, which were present at Home farm, Longstanton (Rátkai 2001), need not be significant. The condition of the sherds made fabric identification difficult and spot dating very broad. Recent work by Spoerry (forthcoming) has also highlighted the difficulty in differentiating by eye between Medieval Ely type ware and Bourne products, and products of kilns sited near to Ely e. g. Colne. Clearly, the assemblage from the evaluation has no potential in furthering knowledge of ware distribution; relative chronologies or functional analysis in the region and merits no further study.

7.2 Animal Bone by Emma Hancox

A total of 645g of animal bone was recovered during the evaluation. Eight contexts from three trenches produced animal bone. Bulk samples were taken but have not been processed at this time. This report deals only with the hand collected bone.

The general preservation of the assemblage was poor; the bones were mostly very fragmented with exfoliation of the outer layers. Only nine countable elements were recorded, these came from four contexts (4006, 4007 and 4008 from ditch F402 and 10008 from F1003). Butchery was noted on one bone from context 4008. There was no evidence of gnawing, pathology or burning. F402 can be dated to the Late Iron Age. Pit F1003 was probably of 13-14th century date. Unfortunately there is not enough bone from these features to draw any firm conclusions.

Given that the amount of bone recovered is very small and in poor condition no further work is recommended. The assemblage is of little archaeological potential.

7.3 Charred plant remains by Marina Ciaraldi and Andrew Walsh

Three soil samples (Table 2) were collected during the evaluation. The soil samples were processed and the charred plant remains were assessed in order to establish:

- the preservation of organic remains
- the potential of the plant assemblage for understanding the economy of the site
- the potential for reconstructing the palaeo-environment of the site

The samples examined were taken from two pits (F403 and F1000) and a ditch (F402). F402 and F403 were of Late Iron Age date and F1000 was of medieval date. The soil matrix consisted of a red brown clay silt. Ten litres of soil samples was processed by manual flotation. The light fraction (flot) was recovered using a 0.5mm mesh. It was then dried in an oven at 40 degrees centigrade and scanned under a microscope. The residue was recovered using a 1mm mesh and sorted by eye.

The charred component of all the samples examined was very small. Only a single charred grain of barley (*Hordeum vulgare* L.) was observed, in sample F1000/10007. This sample also contained fragments of cereal grains and some vetch seeds (*Vicia/Lathyrus*). In all of the samples a number of small snail shells were present. A small fragment of bone was observed, in sample F402/4008.
On the basis of the samples examined it would seem that preservation by charring is very poor in the archaeological soil samples, which were examined. The presence of charred cereal in the medieval pit F1000, suggests that charred deposits may be more abundant or have survived better in deposits of this period. It is therefore recommended that such features, as well as charcoal-rich features, are carefully sampled in any future excavations. The presence of snail shells in the samples should be taken into account when sampling in future excavations, particularly if the archaeological context is deep and well-stratified (e.g. stratified deposits in deep pits and ditches). If organic remains are present in the sequence of deposits, they can provide important information on the nature of the landscape surrounding the site and on the changes occurred after its abandonment, including a possible inundation of the area.

Table 2: List of the soil samples assessed for plant macro-remains

Sample N.	Trench	Feature	Context	Date range	Vol. processed (lt.)	Description
3	4	F402	4008	Iron Age	10	Some, small charcoal remains A number of snail shells observed Small bone fragment
6	10	F1000	10007	medieval	10	1 Barley seed and 2 Vetch seeds observed Some cereal seed fragments A number of snail shells observed
7	4	F403	4001	Iron Age	10	Some, small charcoal remains A number of snail shells observed

8.0 Soil Evaluation by C. A. I. French
Observations
The evaluation area is situated on the western side of Longstanton village on an area of boulder clay and glacial gravels drift deposits (Worsaam and Taylor 1969). For this reason, the soil profile is dominated by clay loam soils (Hodge and Seale 1966).

The sample excavation trenches revealed a profile comprising a thin ploughsoil overlying a yellowish brown clay loam B horizon (*c* 0.15-0.45m thick) developed on a mixture of sands, gravels and boulder clays, exhibiting glacial ice polygons and silt patches. Also, the whole area has been extensively disturbed by numerous and recent mole drains.

Potential for Further Work
The absence of both an undisturbed buried soil and the relative lack of archaeological settlement-related features indicates that there is no justification for recommending further soil investigations at this stage.

The only proviso is that if any palaeo-channels were encountered during this and subsequent evaluations in this development area, these could repay palaeoenvironmental investigation. Given the relatively impermeable subsoil in the area and the fine textured soils encountered, pollen sequence data could be contained within either palaeo-channels or deep archaeological features such as wells. These features could provide much needed data on the Holocene environment of this area and human impacts on it.

9.0 Discussion

No evidence was found of the faint anomalies recorded by the geophysical survey. These anomalies could be of agricultural or geological origin. No datable evidence of early prehistoric activity was revealed during the evaluation. Late Iron Age features were encountered at the southern part of the site in Trenches 2 and 4. In Trench 4 a stratified sequence of features was excavated. The earliest feature, a deep pit (F403) is probably of Iron Age date or possibly an earlier date. The large Late Iron Age northeast-southwest orientated feature F402 could be a large ditch or possibly a pit (F402). A ditch of this size could be a major boundary feature with the earlier pit perhaps part of a preceeding pit alignment as at Covert Farm, Crick, Northamptonshire (Hughes 1998). The later undated pit F401 could be of Late Iron Age date or possibly of a later date. In Trench 2, the two shallow linear ditches F201 and F202, of probable Late Iron Age date were on a similar alignment to the large possible boundary feature in Trench 4, F402. The function of F402 and F403, is uncertain, they may perhaps be truncated enclosure ditches. Although evidence of Iron Age features was confined to the southern part of the site the presence of residual Late Iron Age pottery, recovered from Trench 10, may suggest further Iron Age features may exist at the northern part of the site. The fact that bone from the Iron Age features was poorly preserved and the paucity of charred plant remains suggests that the potential for understanding the economy of the site, by study of these finds is fairly low.

Features of probable medieval date containing pottery from the 13th to 15th centuries AD, were identified at the north part of the site, adjacent to Over Road, in Trench 10. Four pits and seven shallow linear ditches all on a similar east-west alignment were revealed. The shallow depth of the linear features coupled with the poor quality of the pottery assemblage and its abraded nature, suggestive of a manuring scatter, may suggest that the linear features have an agricultural origin. However the largest and deepest of the pits (F1000) which contained a charred grain of barley and fragments of cereal grains may been a storage or rubbish pit, indicative of occupation in the vicinity. The function of the smaller pits is unclear. Previous excavations carried out at Home Farm, Longstanton (Ellis and Rátkai 2001) have identified settlement features of medieval date associated with house plots and occupation, located approximately 100m to the northeast of Trench 10. The features in Trench 10, are probably associated with the Home Farm site. The survival of charred plant remains albeit in small amounts may suggest that there is fair potential for understanding the economy of the site and the diet of the inhabitants, by study of these remains as part any further work on the site. The lack of animal bone and its poor preservation may suggest the potential for the study of this material to inform us about the medieval economy is very limited.

The ridge and furrow identified by aerial photography and the geophysical survey can be seen to correspond with a few of the excavated features. The two shallow linear features excavated in the middle of Trench 7 (F700 and F701) are on the same alignment as these features. Very little evidence of ridge and furrow, was visible in the trial trenches. This is could be due to repeated deep ploughing and modern drainage works, which, in some cases, seem to have followed the alignment of the ridge and furrow.

The significant archaeological remains appear to be the Late Iron Age features, which appear to be limited to the southern part of the site, and the medieval remains in the vicinity of Trench 10, at the north part of the site, which are probably peripheral features associated with the medieval settlement at Longstanton. The only other significant datable features are the traces of ridge and furrow, in Trench 7.

The large numbers of field drains and mole drains and modern deep ploughing appears to have truncated some of the archaeological features across the site.

10.0 Acknowledgements
The evaluation was carried out by Mary Duncan with the assistance of Bob Burrows and Helena Beak. The report was written by Mary Duncan and edited by Laurence Jones. The project was managed by Richard Cuttler. Thanks are due to Peter Stroud (landowner) and Neil Stroud for their assistance.

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Appendix 1
Detailed results of trial trenching

Context/ Feature number	Feature/ context type	Description	Comment	Top AOD (m)
Trench 1				
1000	Layer	Compact brown loamy clay.	Topsoil	10.11
1001	Layer	Compact yellow-brown clay.	Subsoil	9.86
1002	Layer	Compact grey clay with silt pockets.	Natural	9.79
Trench 2				
2000	Layer	Compact brown loamy clay.	Topsoil	10.06
2001	Layer	Compact yellow-brown clay.	Subsoil	9.81
2002	Layer	Friable yellow sand and gravel with clay pockets.	Natural	9.7
2003	Fill	Loose dark grey silt and sand with gravel	Top fill of F200	9.55
2004	Fill	Hard dark brown gravel with silt and clay	Primary Fill of F200	9.24
2005	Fill	Friable brown silt sand and gravel	Fill of F201	9.64
2006	Fill	Friable brown clay sand and gravel with silt	Fill of F202	9.6
F200	Cut	Linear gully	Drain	9.59
F201	Cut	Linear, gently sloping sides flat base, 2m wide and 0.26m deep	Ditch	9.64
F202	Cut	Linear, gently sloping sides flat base, 3m wide and 0.2m deep	Ditch	9.6
Trench 3				
3000	Layer	Compact brown loamy clay.	Topsoil	10.06
3001	Layer	Compact yellow-brown clay.	Subsoil	9.81
3002	Layer	Friable yellow sand and gravel with clay pockets.	Natural	9.47
Trench 4				
4000	Layer	Compact brown loamy clay.	Topsoil	9.94
4001	Layer	Compact yellow-brown clay.	Subsoil	9.69
4002	Layer	Friable yellow sand and gravel with clay pockets.	Natural	9.31
4003	Fill	Compact grey silt, clay and sand.	Top fill of F400	9.25
4004	Fill	Friable grey silt sand and gravel with some charcoal flecking.	Primary fill of F400	9.01
4005	Fill	Friable brown silt clay and sand.	Primary fill of F401	9.12
4006	Fill	Compact brown silt and clay with gravel.	Top fill of F402	9.26
4007	Fill	Friable light grey silt and clay with pockets of sand throughout.	Middle fill of F402	9.02
4008	Fill	Friable, grey silt, sand and clay with gravel throughout.	Primary fill of F402	8.7
4009	Fill	Friable dark grey silt, sand and clay.	Top fill of F401	9.26
4010	Fill	Compact blue-grey silt and clay with charcoal flecking.	Middle fill of F401	9.1
4011	Fill	Compact grey clay and silt with charcoal.	Fill of F403	8.39
4012	Fill	Friable light brown silt	Fill of F404	9.22
4013		Compact brown silt with ceramic drain	Fill of F405	9.26
F400	Cut	Sub-circular pit with U-shaped profile 0.6m in diameter and 0.5m deep	Pit	9.26
F401	Cut	Sub-circular pit with u-shaped profile 1.84m in diameter and 0.86m deep	Pit	9.26
F402	Cut	Linear ditch? with U-shaped profile 6m wide and 0.9m deep	Ditch	9.26

F403	Cut	Sub-circular? pit 2.2m diameter visible and 0.54m excavated below later feature	Pit	8.39
F404	Cut	Shallow ditch, gently sloping sides and flat base 1m wide and 0.06m deep	Furrow	9.22
F405	Cut	Linear with U-shaped profile 0.35m wide and 0.3m deep	Land drain	9.26
Trench 5				
5000	Layer	Compact brown loamy clay.	Topsoil	9.75
5001	Layer	Compact yellow-brown clay.	Subsoil	9.5
5002	Layer	Friable yellow sand and gravel with some silt patches.	Natural	9.19
5003	Layer	Friable brown silt	Plough furrow	9.27
5004	Layer	Friable brown silt	Plough furrow	9.19
Trench 6				
6000	Layer	Compact brown loamy clay.	Topsoil	9.4
6001	Layer	Compact yellow-brown clay.	Subsoil	9.15
6002	Layer	Compact grey clay with silt pockets.	Natural	8.53
6003	Fill	Friable brown silt and sand with some pebbles	Fill of F600	8.75
F600	Cut	Linear with shallow v-shaped profile 0.38m wide and 0.17m deep	Gully	8.75
Trench 7				
7000	Layer	Compact brown loamy clay.	Topsoil	8.35
7001	Layer	Compact yellow-brown clay.	Subsoil	8.1
7002	Layer	Compact grey clay with silt pockets.	Natural	7.2
7003	Fill	Friable brown clay sand and silt.	Fill of F700	8.95
7004	Fill	Friable brown clay sand and silt.	Fill of F701	8.95
7005	Fill	Plastic brown sand silt and clay.	Fill of F702	9.01
7006	Layer	Same as 7001, hand dug sample.	Subsoil	
F700	Cut	Shallow linear with u-shaped profile, heavily truncated 0.46m wide and 0.04m deep	Furrow	8.95
F701	Cut	Linear with U-shaped profile 0.34m wide and 0.24m deep.	drain	8.95
F702	Cut	Shallow linear with with gently sloping sides and a rounded base, 2.8m wide and 0.1m deep.	Furrow	9.01
F703	Cut	Shallow linear with gently sloping sides and a slightly rounded base, 1.2m wide and 0.08m deep.	Furrow	9.01
Trench 8				
8000	Layer	Compact brown loamy clay.	Topsoil	7.62
8001	Layer	Compact yellow-brown clay.	Subsoil	7.37
8002	Layer	Compact grey clay with silt pockets.	Natural	7.06
8003	Fill	Compact black clay, silt and organic material	Fill of F800	7.1
8004	Fill	Compact clay and silt with some organic material	Fill of F801	7.1
F800	Cut	Curvi-linear with U-shaped profile heavily truncated 0.32m wide and 0.22m deep	Gully	7.1
F801	Cut	Linear with U-shaped profile	Mole drain	7.1
Trench 9				
9000	Layer	Compact brown loamy clay.	Topsoil	7.67
9001	Layer	Compact yellow-brown clay.	Subsoil	7.42
9002	Layer	Compact grey clay with silt pockets.	Natural	6.84
Trench 10				
10000	Layer	Compact brown loamy clay.	Topsoil	7.61
10001	Layer	Compact yellow-brown clay.	Subsoil	7.36
10002	Layer	Friable yellow sand and gravel with clay pockets	Natural	7.13
10003	Fill	Friable dark grey silt sand and clay	Fill of F1001	6.9
10004	Fill	Friable dark grey silt sand and clay with gravel	Fill of F1002	7.06
10005	Fill	Compact dark grey sand, clay and silt.	Top fill of F1000	7.13

10006	Fill	Compact grey clay and silt with pockets of sand and gravel.	Middle fill of F1000	6.99
10007	Fill	Compact grey sand, clay and silt.	Primary fill of F1000	6.3
10008	Fill	Friable brown sandy silt with some stones.	Fill of F1003	7.08
10009	Fill	Friable brown sand and silt	Fill of F1004	7.04
10010	Fill	Friable grey clay sand and silt	Fill of F1005	7.03
10011	Fill	Friable brown sand gravel and silt	Fill of F1006	7.05
10012	Fill	Friable brown silt and sand	Fill of F1007	7.12
10013	Fill	Friable brown silt very clean	Fill of F1008	
10014	Fill	Friable brown silt and sand	Fill of F1009	7.02
10015	Fill	Friable brown silt and sand	Fill of F1010	6.96
F1000	Cut	Circular pit with U-shaped profile 2m in diameter and 1.m deep	Pit	7.13
F1001	Cut	Circular in plan with a U-shaped profile 0.8m in diameter and 0.32m deep.	Pit	6.9
F1002	Cut	Circular in plan with a U-shaped profile 0.75m in diameter and 0.32m deep.	Pit	7.06
F1003	Cut	Sub-circular pit with a U-shaped profile 1m in diameter and 0.3m deep.	Pit	7.08
F1004	Cut	Linear with vertical sides flat base 2.4m wide and 0.12m deep.	Ditch	7.04
F1005	Cut	Linear with gently sloping sides flat base, 1.75m wide and 0.13 m deep.	Ditch	7.03
F1006	Cut	Linear with gently sloping sides flat base, 1.14m wide and 0.22m deep.	Ditch	7.05
F1007	Cut	Linear with gently sloping sides flat base, 1m wide and 0.26m deep.	Ditch	7.12
F1008	Cut	Linear with U-shaped profile, 1.25m wide and 0.34m deep.	Ditch	7.0
F1009	Cut	Linear with U-shaped profile, 0.85m wide and 0.26m deep.	Ditch	7.02
F1010	Cut	Linear with U-shaped profile, 1.15m wide and 0.2m deep.	Ditch	6.96

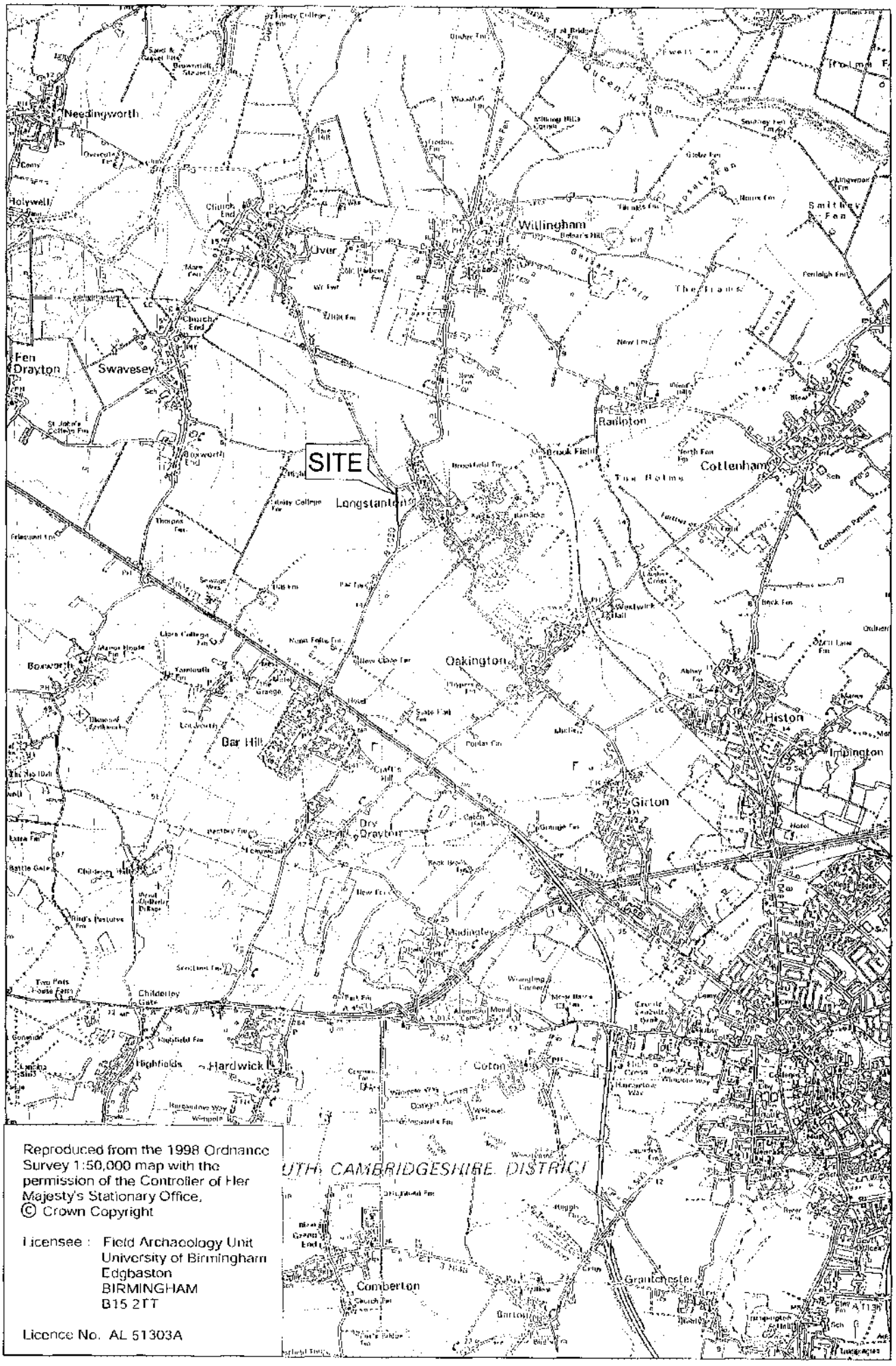

Fig. 1

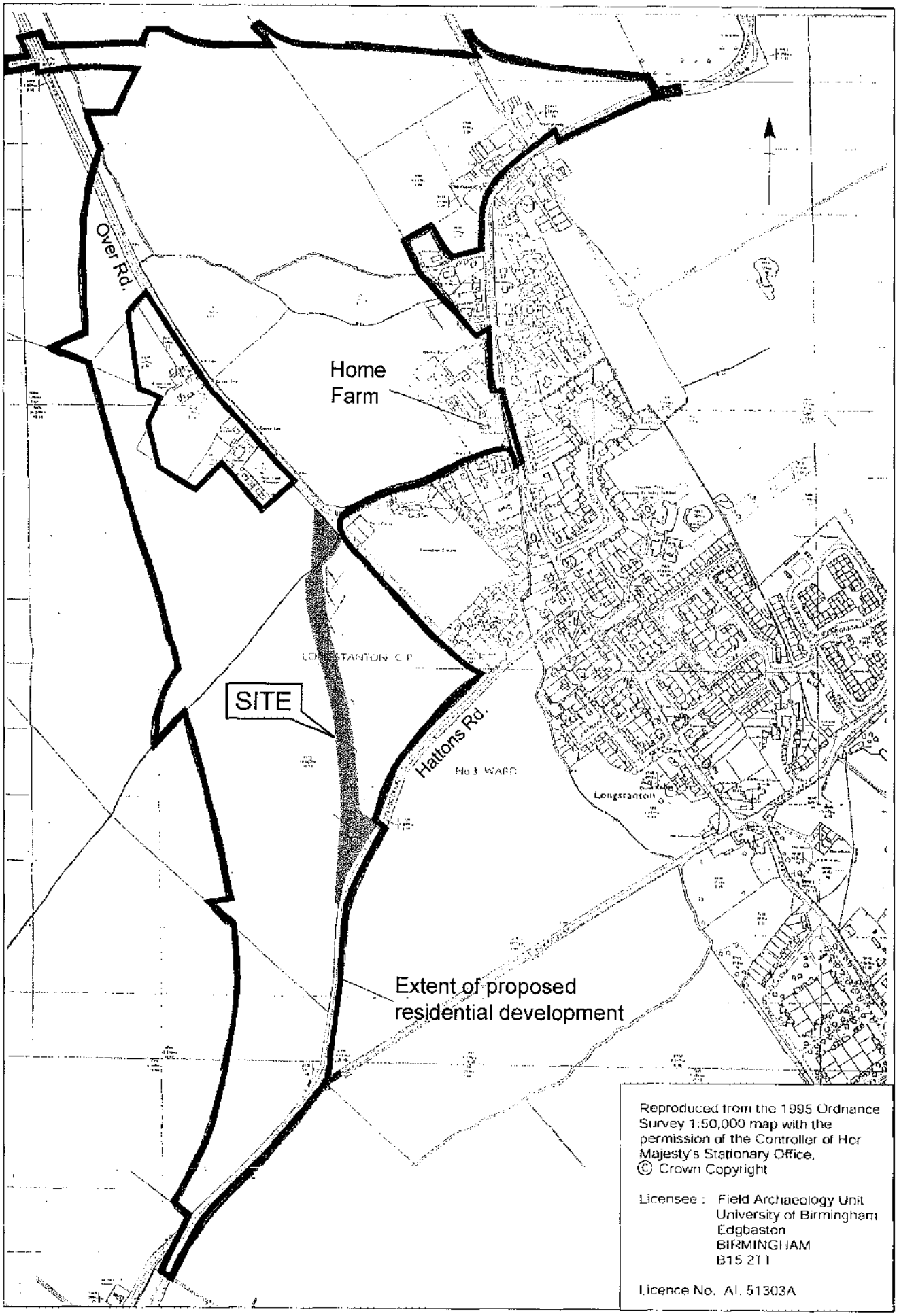
Over Rd.
Home Farm
SITE
Hattons Rd.
Extent of proposed residential development
Reproduced from the 1995 Ordnance Survey 1:50,000 map with the permission of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationary Office,
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Fig.2

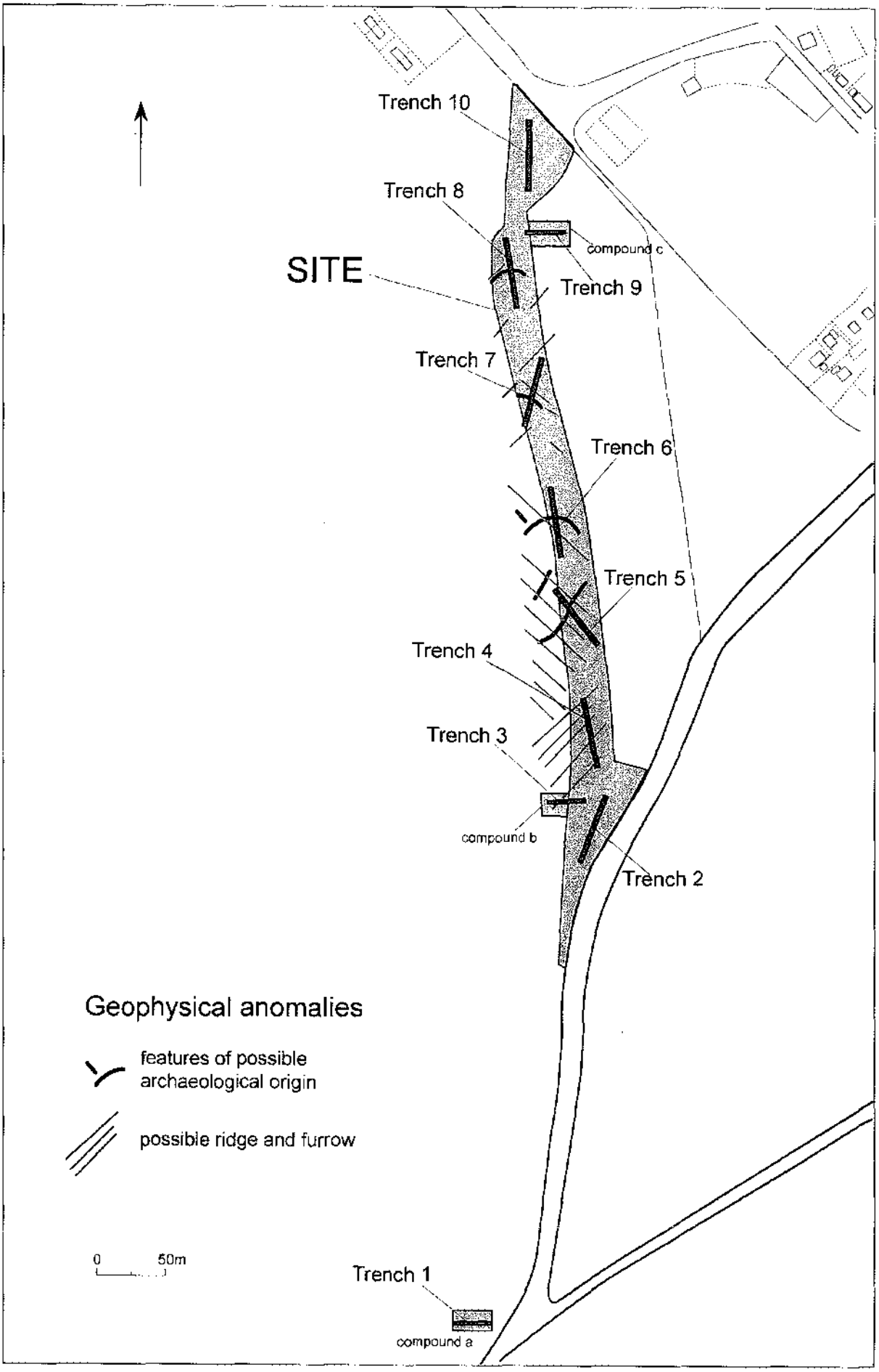
Trench 10
Trench 8
SITE
compound c
Trench 9
Trench 7
Trench 6
Trench 5
Trench 4
Trench 3
compound b
Trench 2
Geophysical anomalies
features of possible archaeological origin
possible ridge and furrow
0
50m
Trench 1
compound a

Fig. 3

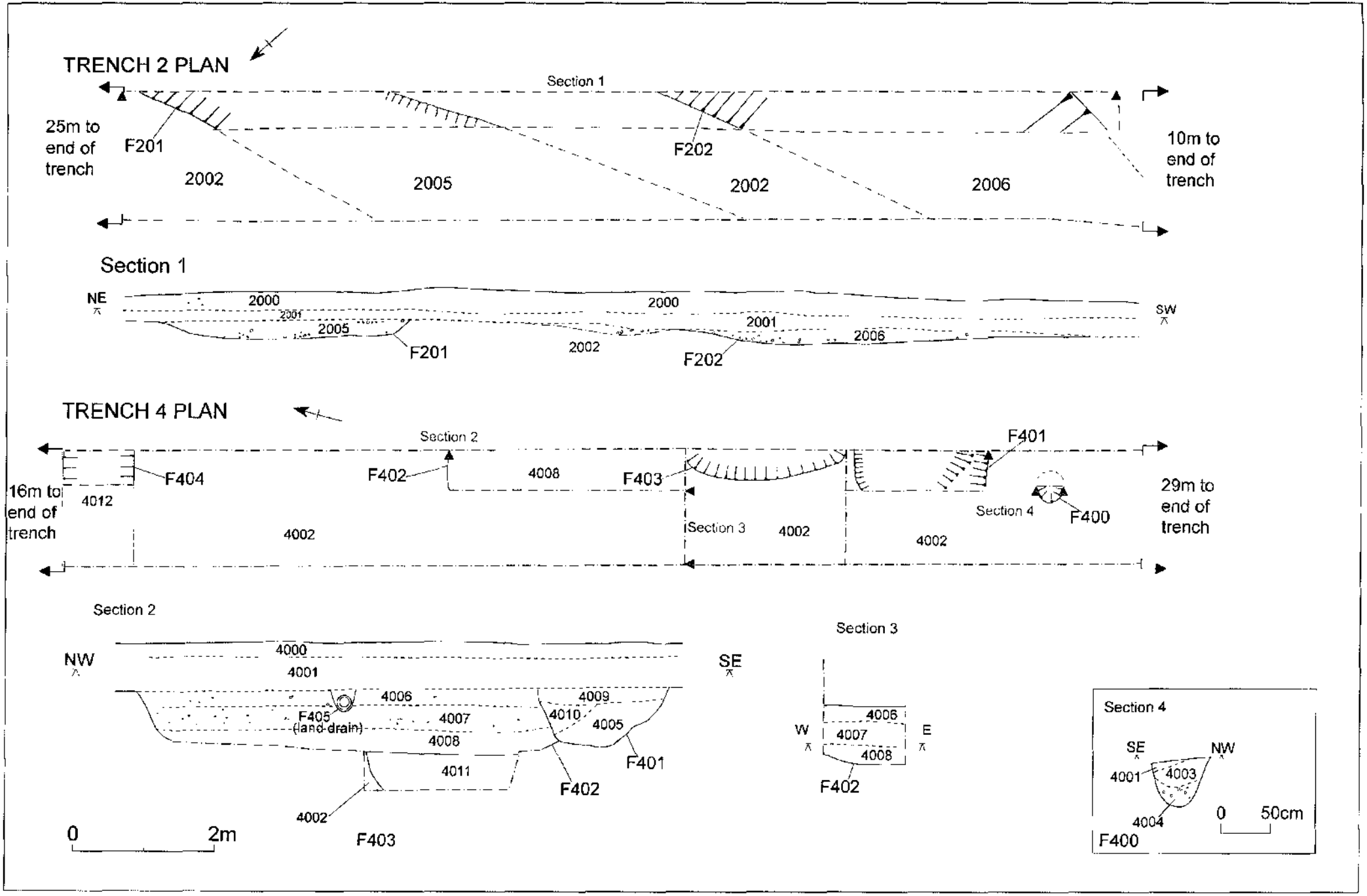
TRENCH 2 PLAN
Section 1
25m to end of trench
F201
F202
10m to end of trench
2002
2005
2002
2006
Section 1
NE
SW
2000
2001
2005
2000
2001
2006
F201
2002
F202
TRENCH 4 PLAN
Section 2
F401
F404
F402
4008
F403
16m to end of trench
4012
Section 4
F400
29m to end of trench
4002
Section 3
4002
4002
Section 2
Section 3
NW
SE
4000
4001
4006
4009
F405 (land drain)
4007
4010
4005
4008
4011
F401
F402
4002
F403
0
2m
W
E
4006
4007
4008
F402
Section 4
SE
NW
4001
4003
4004
0
50cm
F400

Fig. 4

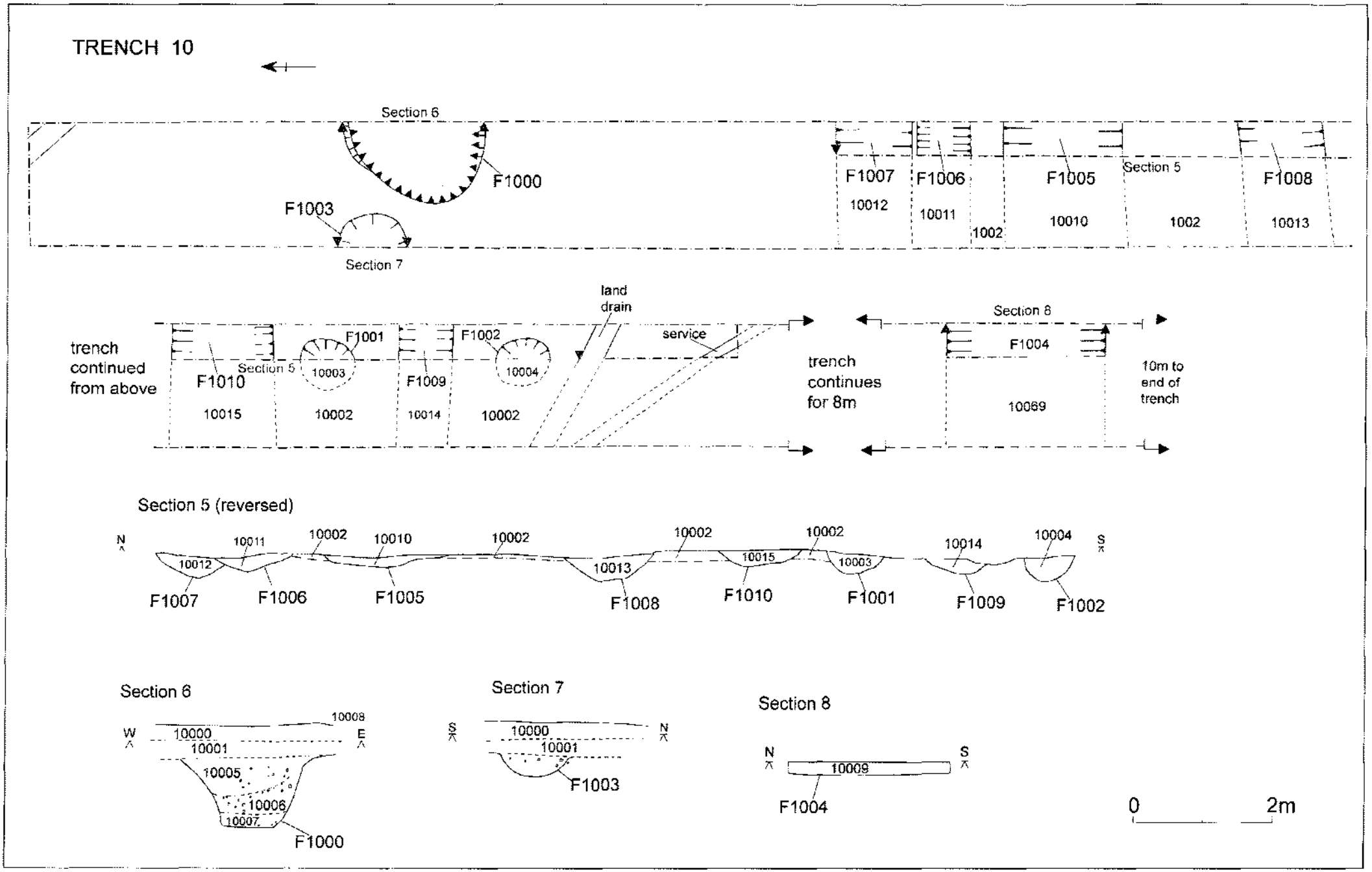
TRENCH 10
Section 6
F1000
F1003
Section 7
F1007
10012
F1006
10011
1002
F1005
10010
Section 5
1002
F1008
10013
trench continued from above
Section 5
F1010
10015
F1001
10003
10002
F1009
10014
F1002
10004
10002
land drain
service
trench continues for 8m
Section 8
F1004
10069
10m to end of trench
Section 5 (reversed)
N
S
10012
10011
10002
10010
10002
10013
10002
10015
10002
10003
10014
10004
F1007
F1006
F1005
F1008
F1010
F1001
F1009
F1002
Section 6
W
E
10008
10000
10001
10005
10006
10007
F1000
Section 7
S
N
10000
10001
F1003
Section 8
N
S
10009
F1004
0
2m

Fig. 5

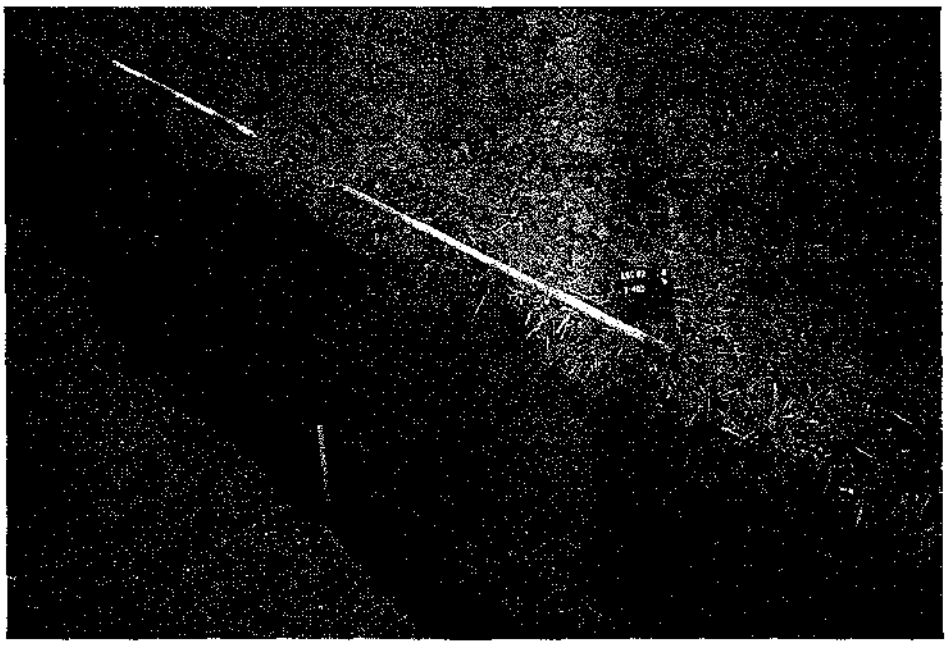

Plate 1

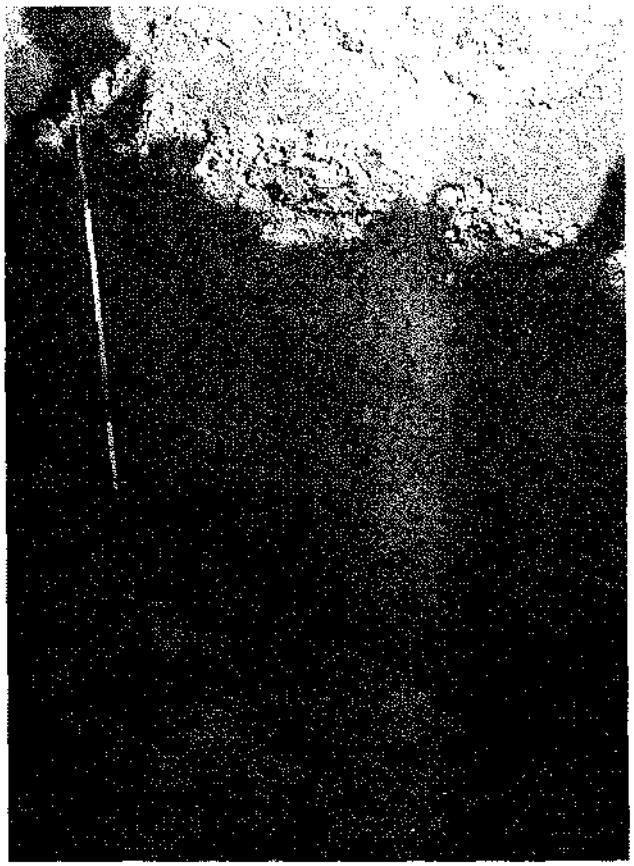

Plate 2

Plate 3

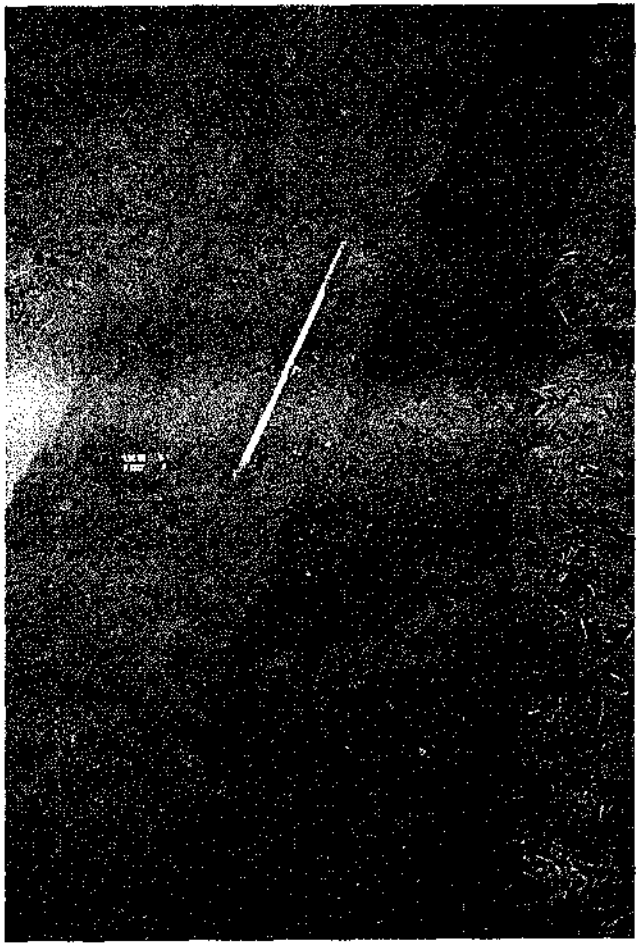

Plate 4