5 METHODOLOGY AND STRATEGY

5.1 Mapping and interpretation

The methodology and procedures for interpretation, rectification and mapping were summarised in the original Project Design in 1994. This was further developed between 1994 and 1998 into the processes detailed in the Northamptonshire Heritage Air Photography System (Markham 1998).

In 1999 developments in the specialist software used for air photo rectification prompted a reappraisal and adjustment of procedures, which required significant changes in working practice.

5.2 Methodology 1994 - 1998

Between 1994 and 1998 the Bradford AERIAL Photograph Rectification System Version 4 (AERIAL4) was used for the rectification of information from oblique and vertical air photographs. Indeed the AERIAL software had been employed since the early 1980s and the resultant plots are integral to the NMP dataset.

The following provides an overview of the basic procedures outline in the Northampton Heritage Air Photography System (Markham 1998).

For each quarter sheet

- Organise NMR and NH oblique photographs by kilometre square, NMR vertical photographs by quarter sheet. Collate NMR record maps and record printouts. Prepare map note sheet.
- Organise existing digital records in a MAPINFO workspace with appropriate background map for cross-checking
- Select those images which provide new data and have sufficient control information for rectification

Plate 3. An aerial photograph selected for interpretation and rectification (NCC Photo Index 7062/069).

- Trace archaeological and relevant non-archaeological information onto acetate sheets firmly attached to selected photographs. Add control points. Add photo number, parish and photo date.