

**LAND AT SHOOTERS BOTTOM
CHEWTON MENDIP
SOMERSET**

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

For

ECOTRICITY

on behalf of

NEXGEN GROUP LTD

CA PROJECT: 2322
CA REPORT: 08069


MARCH 2008



LAND AT SHOOTERS BOTTOM
CHEWTON MENDIP
SOMERSET

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

CA PROJECT: 2322
CA REPORT: 08069

prepared by	Katharine Aston, Supervisor
date	28 March 2008
checked by	Richard Young, Project Manager
date	31 March 2008
approved by	Mark Collard, Head of Contracts
signed	
date	31 March 2008
issue	01

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Fig. 1 Site location plan (1:25,000)

Fig. 2 The site, showing location of observed groundworks (1:10,000)

SUMMARY

Project Name: Land at Shooters Bottom
Location: Chewton Mendip, Somerset
NGR: ST 5940 5065
Type: Watching Brief
Date: 5 and 9 November 2007
Planning ref: APP/Q3305/A/05/1181087
Location of Archive: To be deposited with Somerset County Museum
Accession Number: TTNCM 203/2007
Site Code: BUM 07

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology during groundworks associated with the construction of a wind turbine, platform and access road on land at Shooters Bottom, Chewton Mendip, Somerset.

No features or deposits of archaeological interest were observed during groundworks, and no artefactual material was recovered.

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 In November 2007 Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological watching brief for Ecotricity (on behalf of Nexgen Group Ltd) on land at Shooters Bottom, Chewton Mendip, Somerset (centred on NGR: ST 5940 5065; Fig. 1). The watching brief was undertaken to fulfil a condition attached to a planning consent (Planning ref: APP/Q3305/A/05/1181087) for the construction of a wind turbine and associated platform and access road on land at Shooters Bottom, Chewton Mendip, Somerset. The objective of the watching brief was to record all archaeological remains exposed during the development.
- 1.2 The watching brief was carried out in accordance with a detailed Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) produced by CA (2007) and approved by Steven Membery, Development Control Archaeologist, Somerset County Council (SCC), archaeological advisor to the Local Planning Authority (LPA). The fieldwork also followed the *Standard and Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief* issued by the Institute of Field Archaeologists (2001), and the *General Specification for Archaeological Work in Somerset* issued by SCC (1995), and the *Management of Archaeological Projects* (English Heritage 1991).

The site

- 1.3 The proposed development site encloses an area of approximately 1ha and is located on a south-facing slope towards the eastern end of Nedge Hill at the eastern end of the Mendip Hills (Fig. 2). The southern end of the access road lies below 225m AOD whilst, 300m to the north, the wind turbine lies at approximately 240m AOD.
- 1.4 The lowest (southern) end of the access road lies on a band of Burrington Oolite whilst the remainder of the site lies on deposits of Vallis Limestone of the Jurassic geological era (BGS 1984).

Archaeological background

- 1.5 Archaeological interest in the site has been summarised in a Desk-Based Assessment (CA 2006). The findings of that report are summarised below.

Prehistoric

- 1.6 A barrow is recorded 400m to the south-east of the site and many similar features are known from its wider environs. These include a group of earthworks 850m to the west of the site variously interpreted as a possible barrow cemetery or as modern spoil heaps.

Romano-British

- 1.7 No Romano-British remains are recorded within the site. In the wider area, a Roman road linking Old Sarum and the Mendips runs 1.2km to the south-west of the site and a Romano-British lead working settlement was identified 2km to the west of the site in 1956.

Modern

- 1.8 Three lime kilns are recorded on the Ordnance Survey maps of 1904 close to the site. All were located outside the proposed impact area and are no longer visible as standing structures. The earliest available mapping for the site, the 1800 Chewton Mendip Enclosure Award, depicts the site as lying within a single field. This had been sub-divided into two fields by the time of the 1839 Tithe Map for Chewton Manor although this boundary has since been removed. Historic Landscape Characterisation has been undertaken for Somerset and the site lies within character area HL341: recently enclosed land 18th-21st centuries.

Undated

- 1.9 Two undated features, identified as cropmarks on aerial photographs, are located close to the site but outside the proposed impact area. One group, located just south of Shooters Bottom, comprises two adjacent sub-square features which might be ditched enclosures. The second group, located 350m to the north of the site, comprises both rectilinear and curvilinear cropmarks the origins of which remain unclear.

Methodology

- 1.6 The fieldwork followed the methodology set out within the WSI (CA 2007). An archaeologist was present during intrusive groundworks comprising the stripping of the topsoil (Fig. 2).
- 1.7 Written, graphic and photographic records were compiled in accordance with CA Technical Manual 1: *Fieldwork Recording Manual* (2007). No artefactual material was recovered.
- 1.8 The archive from the evaluation is currently held by CA at their offices in Kemble. The site archive will be deposited with Somerset County Museum under accession number TTNCM 203/2007. A summary of information from this project, set out within Appendix B, will be entered onto the OASIS online database of archaeological projects in Britain.

2. RESULTS

- 2.1 Undisturbed natural limestone 103 was encountered across the site at an average depth of 0.55m. It was sealed by subsoil 102 and topsoil 101.
- 2.2 No features or deposits of archaeological interest were observed during groundworks and, despite visual scanning of spoil, no artefactual material was recovered.

3. DISCUSSION

- 3.1 Despite the archaeological potential of the application area (see archaeological background above), the watching brief identified no archaeological remains within the area of observed groundworks. The absence of archaeological deposits may indicate that remains associated with the prehistoric barrows and the features represented by cropmarks either do not extend as far as or were not exposed by the development.

4. CA PROJECT TEAM

Fieldwork was undertaken by Jonathan Hart. The report was written by Katharine Aston. The illustrations were prepared by Lorna Gray. The archive has been compiled by Jonathan Hart, and prepared for deposition by Kathryn Price. The project was managed for CA by Richard Young.

5. REFERENCES

BGS (British Geological Survey) 1984 *Sheet 280: Wells*

CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2007 *Shooters Bottom, Chewton Mendip, Somerset: Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment* CA typescript report **06001**

CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2007 *Shooters Bottom, Chewton Mendip, Somerset: Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Watching Brief*

APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

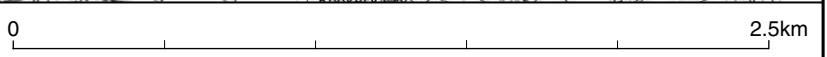
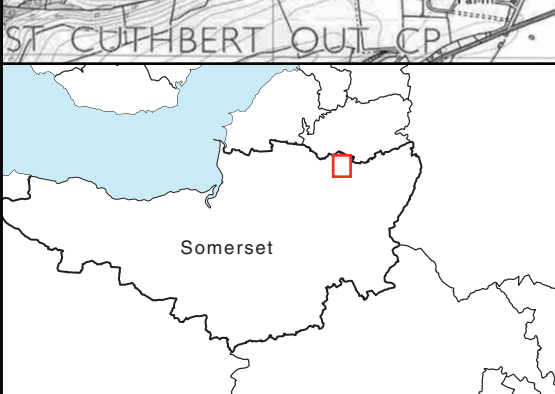
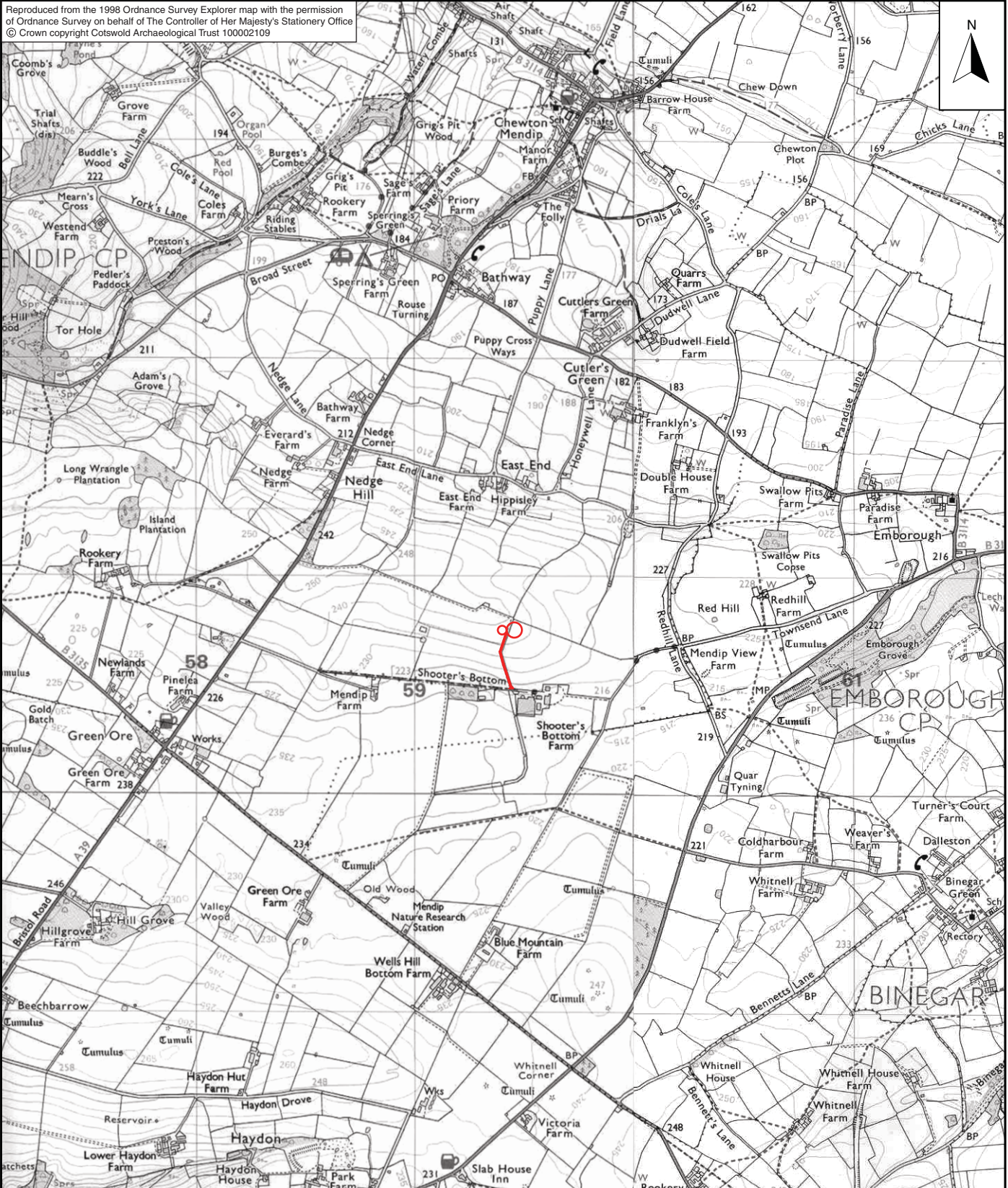
Trench 1


No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
101	Layer	Topsoil			0.25	
102	Layer	Subsoil			0.30	
103	Layer	Natural limestone				

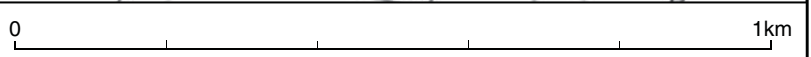
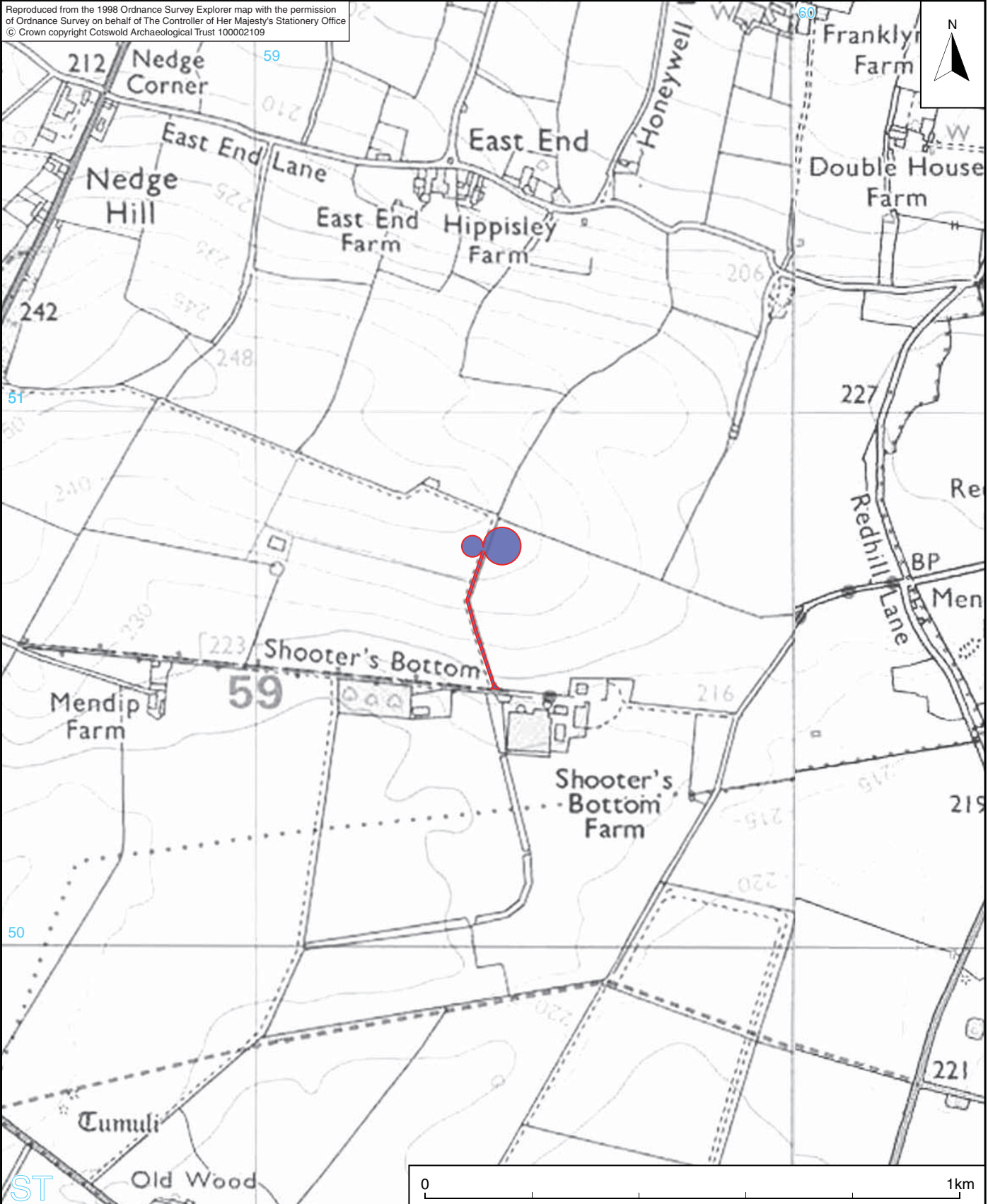
APPENDIX B: OASIS REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS		
Project Name	Land at Shooters Bottom	
Short description (250 words maximum)	An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology during groundworks associated with the construction of a wind turbine, platform and access road on land at Shooters Bottom, Chewton Mendip, Somerset. No features or deposits of archaeological interest were observed during groundworks, and no artefactual material was recovered.	
Project dates	5 and 9 November 2007	
Project type (e.g. desk-based, field evaluation etc)	Archaeological watching brief.	
Previous work (reference to organisation or SMR numbers etc)	Desk-based Assessment.	
Future work	Unknown	
PROJECT LOCATION		
Site Location	Shooters Bottom, Chewton Mendip, Somerset	
Study area (M ² /ha)	Approximately 1ha	
Site co-ordinates (8 Fig Grid Reference)	Centred on ST 5940 5065	
PROJECT CREATORS		
Name of organisation	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Brief originator	n/a	
Project Design (WSI) originator	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Manager	Richard Young	
Project Supervisor	Jonathan Hart	
PROJECT ARCHIVES		
	Intended final location of archive (museum/Accession no.)	Content (e.g. pottery, animal bone etc)
Physical		
Paper	Somerset County Museum (TTNCM 203/2007)	Trench recording form, plan
Digital	Somerset County Museum (TTNCM 203/2007)	Digital photos
BIBLIOGRAPHY		
CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2007 <i>Shooters Bottom, Chewton Mendip, Somerset: Archaeological Watching Brief</i> CA typescript report 08069		

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 COTSWOLD ARCHAEOLOGY		
PROJECT TITLE Land at Shooter's Bottom Chewton Mendip, Somerset		
FIGURE TITLE Site location plan		
SCALE	PROJECT NO.	FIGURE NO.
1:25,000@A4	2322	1



ST

site
 area of observed groundworks

 COTSWOLD ARCHAEOLOGY		
PROJECT TITLE Land at Shooter's Bottom Chewton Medip, Somerset		
FIGURE TITLE The site, showing location of observed groundworks		
SCALE	PROJECT NO.	FIGURE NO.
1:10,000@A4	2322	2