



Gloucestershire
COUNTY COUNCIL

*A Topographical Survey on land
prior to the construction of*

**Avonmouth Eastern Access Road
Avonmouth
Bristol**

For Halcrow Group Ltd



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Archaeology Service
Environment Directorate

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Details

Site address: Avonmouth Eastern Access Road, Avonmouth, Bristol
Report Title: A Topographical Survey on land prior to the construction of Avonmouth Eastern Access Road

OS NGR: 352999 178811
Site type: Topographical Survey
Client: Halcrow Group Ltd
Site Code: AEAR 2010
HER No.: 24881
Date of fieldwork: 6th May 2010
Date of report: 21th May 2010
Author: Andrew Walsh and Nigel Ruxton
Recipient museum: Bristol Museum and Art Gallery
Archived finds: No

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Summary

Gloucestershire County Council Archaeology Service was commissioned by James Goad of Halcrow Group Ltd, to carry out a topographical survey on land in advance of the construction of Avonmouth Eastern Access Road, Avonmouth, Bristol (HER No. 24881). The survey was undertaken at the request of the Bristol City Archaeologist as the site is in an archaeologically sensitive area. It recorded a number of extant linear features probably associated with medieval or post-medieval ridge and furrow, a ditch related to Ballast Lane, and two post-medieval or later features.

1 Introduction

1.1 Gloucestershire County Council Archaeology Service (GCCAS) was commissioned by James Goad of Halcrow Group Ltd, to carry out a topographical survey on land in advance of the construction of Avonmouth Eastern Access Road, Avonmouth, Bristol (HER No. 24881). The survey was carried out on the 6th May 2010 by Nigel Ruxton Land Surveys, on behalf of the Archaeology Service.

1.2 The topographical survey was completed in accordance with the requirements of the written scheme of investigation (Nichols and Ruxton 2010). The Archaeology Service is an Institute for Archaeologists Registered Organisation (IfA RO 42).

2 Site location (Figure 1)

2.1 The site is located on the edge of the industrial area of Avonmouth to the west of Bristol. The proposed access road is located between Avonmouth Way and the Access 18 site, centred on OS NGR 352999 178811, on currently undeveloped agricultural land. The topographical survey was undertaken at the southern end of the proposed route between Ballast Lane and Avonmouth Way, and covered an area of c.1.4ha. The geology of the site is recorded as Mercia Mudstone overlain by alluvial clays (Halcrow 2009).

3 Archaeological, historical and cartographic background

3.1 The detailed archaeological, historical and cartographic background for the site was reported in a desk-based assessment undertaken in 2009 by Halcrow Group Ltd (Halcrow 2009) and shall not be repeated here.

3.2 Suffice to say that the site lies on an area of land reclaimed during the medieval period. There is potential for Romano-British or earlier features to survive at the site, although post-Roman inundation of the landscape is likely to have sealed any features under deep alluvial deposits. Extant medieval or post-medieval ridge and furrow was identified at the site during the desk based assessment. Cartographic evidence indicates that the field boundaries at the southern end of the site, where the topographical survey was undertaken, were subject to extensive remodelling during the mid 19th century (Halcrow 2009, figs 3 and 4).

4 Methodology

4.1 The topographical survey was undertaken using a total station. Survey stations were established across the site and the survey was tied into the Ordnance Survey grid. Accessible detail was surveyed using detail poles or targets and inaccessible detail was surveyed using the reflectorless laser capability of the total station. Minor detail was surveyed using eight metre pocket tapes.

4.2 An archaeological watching brief is due to be undertaken at the site by the Archaeology Service and it is anticipated that the digital data from the survey (in AutoCAD format) will be deposited together with the watching brief archive at Bristol Museum and Art Gallery. The digital data will also be submitted to Bristol HER.

5 Results of the topographical survey (Figure 2)

5.1 The survey covered an area of approximately 1.4ha. The survey was inhibited by dense vegetation on the eastern edge and across the southern half of the area. Letters in parentheses refer to features labelled on Figure 2.

5.2 The northern area

5.2.1 At the northern edge of the survey area a ditch, flanking Ballast Lane, was recorded (**A**). Within the survey area it was orientated north-west to south-east for approximately 30m before turning in a north-easterly direction for a further 14m. It measured 4m in width and was 0.8m to 1.1m deep. South of the ditch two shallow terraces facing south-west measured up to 0.24m (**B**). No other features were identified in the northern part of the survey area.

5.3 The central area

5.3.1 In the central area five shallow terraces, measuring up to 0.2m in height, were orientated on a broadly north-east to south-west direction (**C**). They probably represent the truncated remains of ridge and furrow.

5.3.2 A small circular mound was located near the northern edge of this area (**D**). It measured 6m in diameter and 0.3m in height. Seventeen metres to the south-west of the mound a sub-circular scoop and short channel led to the mid 19th century ditch which formed the western boundary of the survey area (**E**). The scoop and channel measured 8m in length and up to 0.6m deep. It is likely these features are post-medieval or modern in date.

5.4 The southern area

5.4.1 Poorly preserved ridge and furrow continued in this area, surviving to a maximum height of 0.15m (**F**). A field boundary bank, located approximately 24m north of Avonmouth Way, formed the most southerly feature (**G**). It was orientated on a north-east to south-west direction and measured 5m in width and up to up to 0.22m in height. Cartographic evidence suggests this field boundary dates to the mid 19th century (Halcrow 2009, figs 3 and 4).

6 Conclusion

6.1 A topographical survey was undertaken to record earthwork features in advance of the construction of Avonmouth Eastern Access Road. The survey recorded a number of extant linear features probably associated with medieval or post-medieval ridge and furrow, a ditch related to Ballast Lane, and two post-medieval or later features. The ridge and furrow was poorly preserved in the survey area.

8 References

- | | | |
|----------------------------------|------|---|
| Halcrow | 2009 | St Modwen Developments Ltd. Eastern Access, Access 18, Avonmouth, Archaeological Desk Based Assessment |
| Nichols,
P. &
Ruxton,
N | 2010 | A topographical survey in connection with archaeological work prior to the construction of Avonmouth Eastern Access Road, Avonmouth, Bristol. Archaeological Written Scheme of Investigation. GCCAS typescript report |

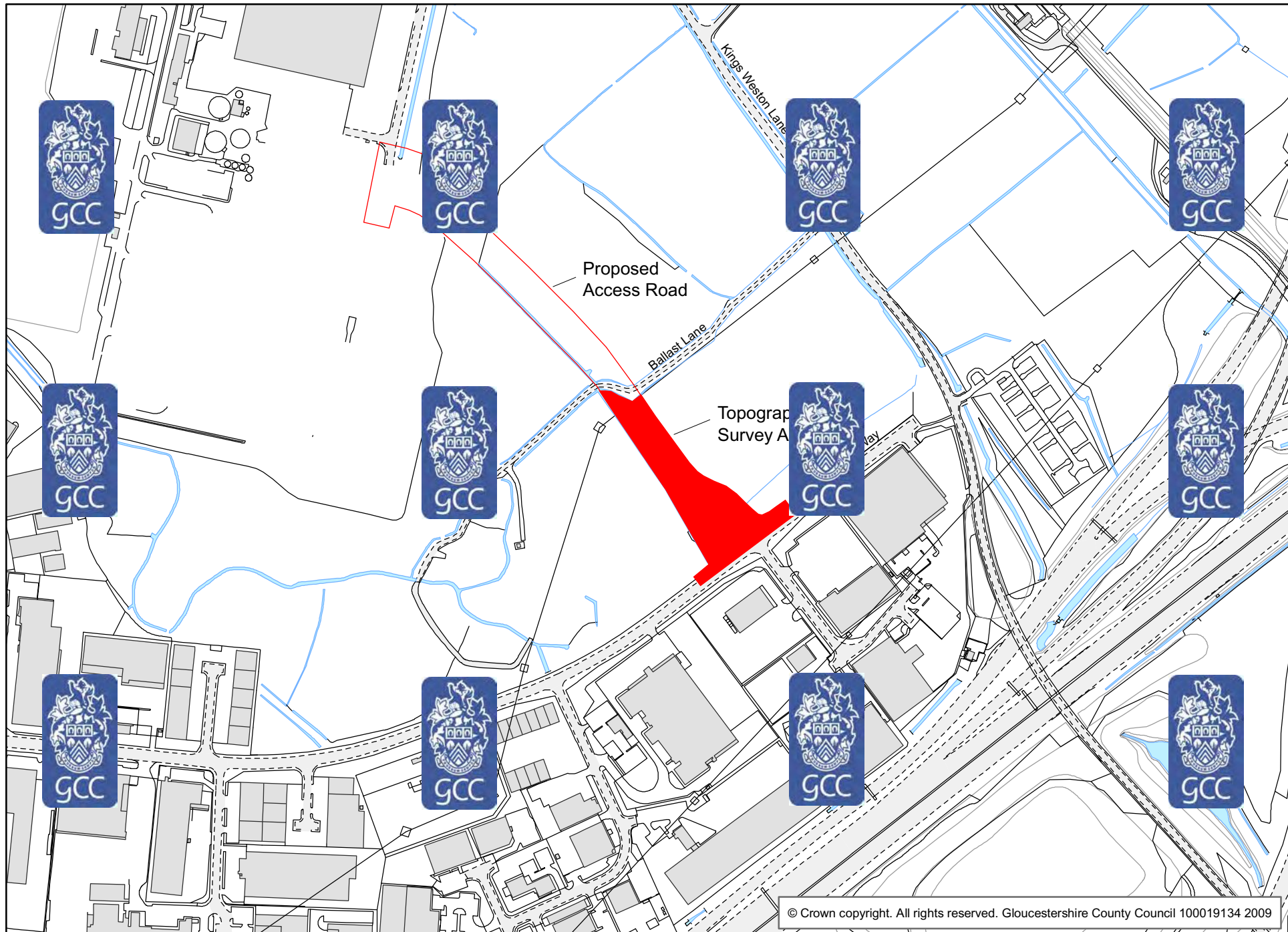


Figure 1. Avonmouth Eastern Access Road. Site location plan showing the proposed road (red outline) and the area subjected to topographical survey (red shading). Scale 1:5000.

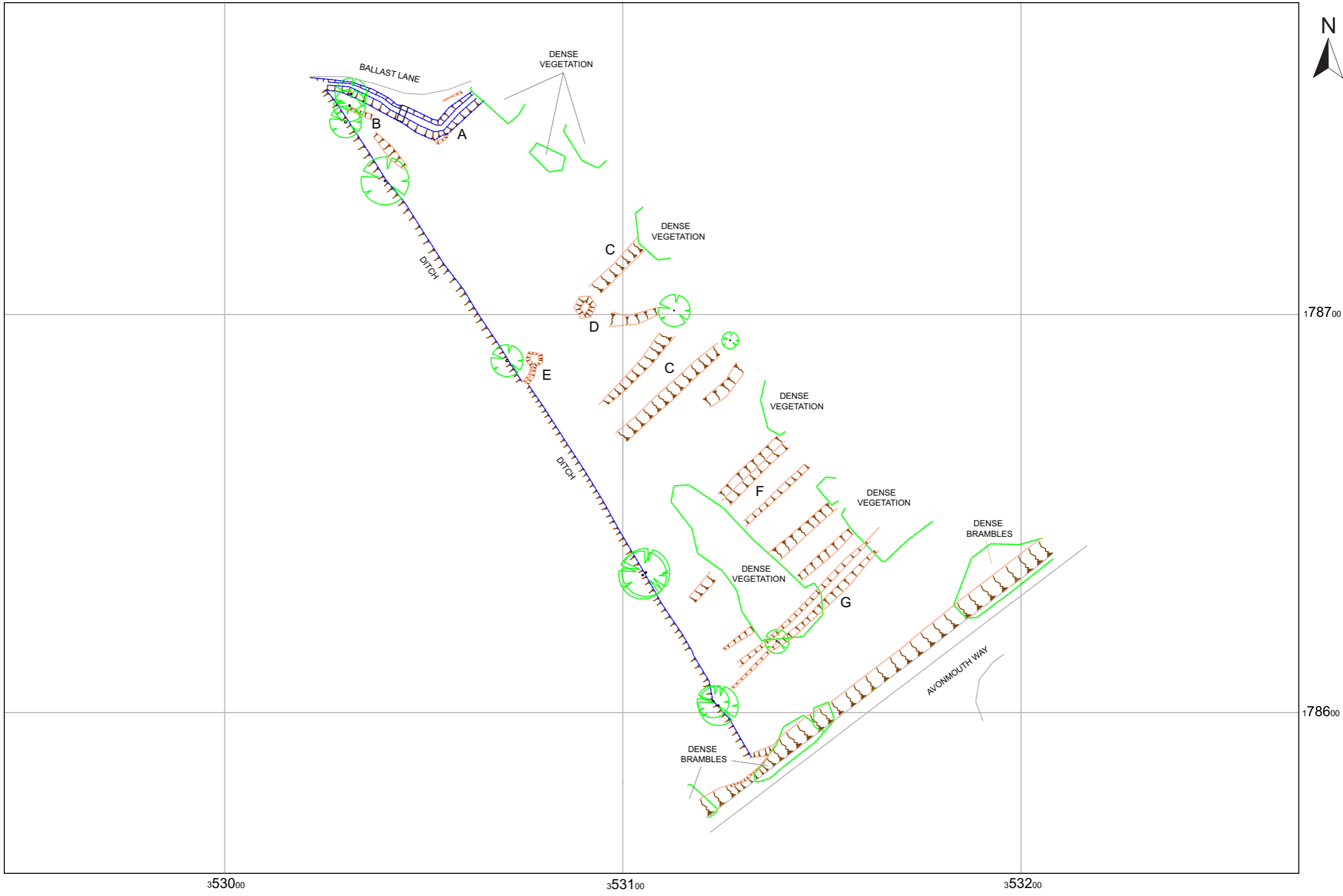


Figure 2. Results of the topographical survey (© 2010 Nigel Ruxton Land Surveys)

0 10 20 30 40 50 m

1:1000 @ A3