



JOHN MOORE HERITAGE SERVICES

AERIAL PHOTOGRAPH ANALYSIS

OF

**GLENDA SPOONER FARM, BRINCIL HILL LANE,
KINGSDON, SOMERSET**

ST 51051 25791

On behalf of

Somerset Historic Environment Service

JUNE 2008

REPORT FOR Mr. S. Membroy
Somerset Historic Environment Service

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Summary

Analysis of geophysical survey data and aerial photography was carried out to determine any correlation between the two. The investigation revealed that although the aerial photographs showed significant detail along the road much of this was not reflected in the geophysical results. This may be due to truncation of features by modern ploughing.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Site Location (Figure 1)

The site of the proposed development is located on the west side of Brincil Hill Lane immediately south of the existing farm buildings (NGR ST 51051 25791). The site lies at c. 20m OD. The site is currently agricultural land.

1.2 Planning Background

Planning permission is being sought from South Somerset District Council for development at Glenda Spooner Farm. Due to the presence of known archaeological remains The Historic Environment Service (HES) of Somerset County Council has advised that a predetermination field evaluation is required. This is in line with PPG16 and Local Plan Policy.

1.3 Archaeological Background

A Roman road runs through the proposed development site and there are extensive Roman remains in the landscape surrounding the site. These include a Roman villa and settlement at Catsgore Farm 700m to the west and another Roman settlement 600m to the north. The 1946 aerial photographs show features associated with the Roman road, which take the form of rectangular enclosures, probably fields, with other features possibly being buildings.

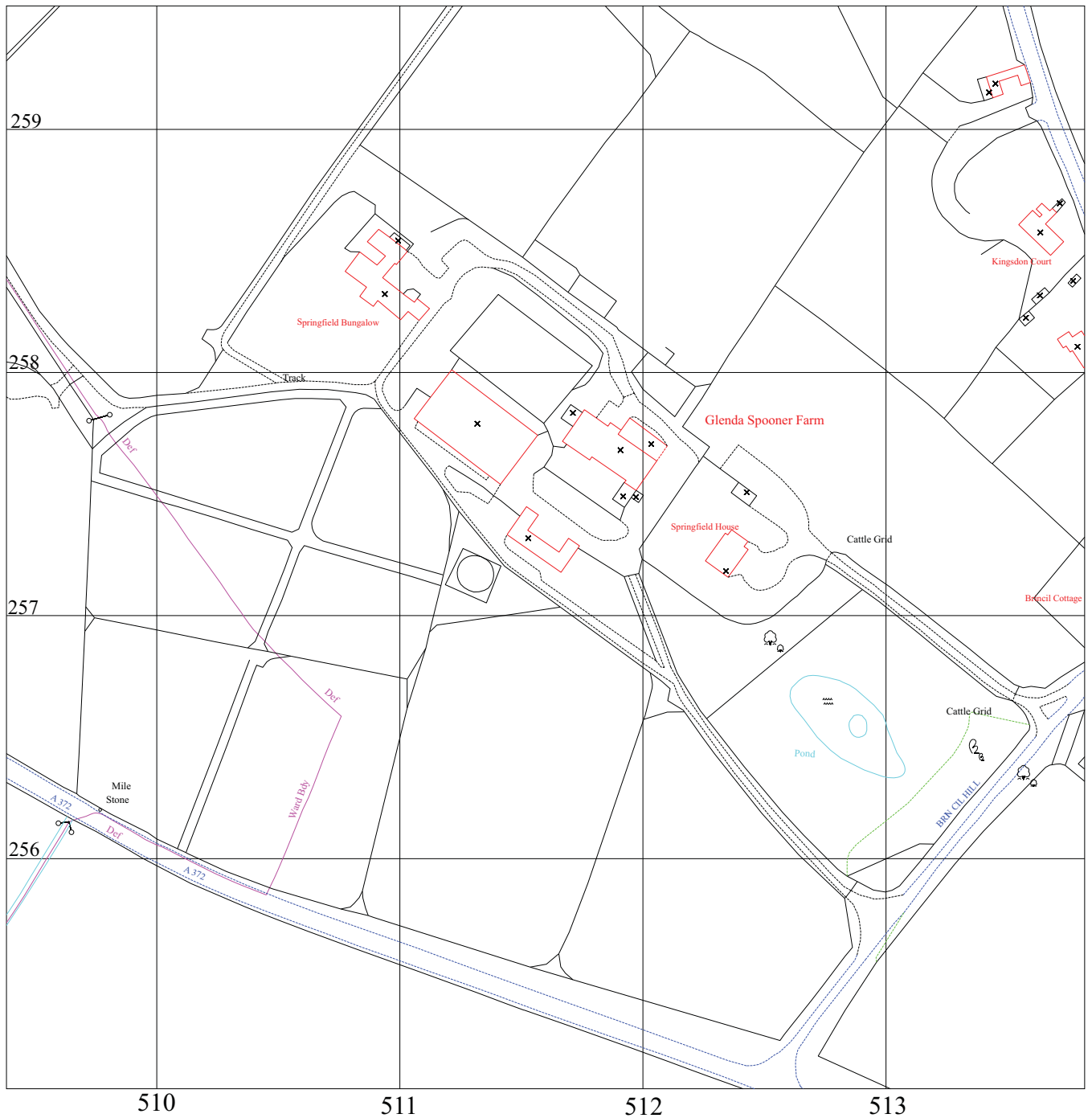
2 AIMS OF THE INVESTIGATION

The aims of the investigation were as follows:

- To make a record of any significant correlation between geophysical data and aerial photographs.

In particular:

- to record any possible Roman features.



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Figure 1. Site location

3 STRATEGY

3.1 Research Design

John Moore Heritage Services carried out the analysis at the request of the Somerset Historic Environment Service. Standard John Moore Heritage Services techniques were employed throughout.

Standards specified by the Institute of Field Archaeologists were adhered to.

3.2 Methodology

Digital overlays of the data were created from a photograph provided by the Somerset Historic Environment Service and geophysical survey data provided by Stratascan (Stratascan 2008).

4 RESULTS (Figure 2)

The Roman road is very distinct on the aerial photograph. The geophysical results appear to indicate that it is bounded by a ditch to the south (figure 2, 1). There may well be a remnant of a bank to the north of the road (figure 2, 2).

No indication of the road surface was indicated by the geophysical results, it is possible that this has previously been robbed or that modern ploughing has destroyed it.

Certain linear features on the aerial photograph have been interpreted as field boundaries, not all of these showed up on the geophysical results (figure 2, 5). Some could even be junctions in the road to secondary minor track-ways (figure 2, 4-6).

A series of pits would appear to follow the Roman road; these could be associated with roadside burials or simply robber-pits for the stone of the road itself.

Certainly no indications of any structures associated with settlement are seen in the geophysical data.

Several circular features are noted on the aerial photograph, these have the appearance of bomb craters. The two that fell within the area of the geophysical survey are both associated with high metallic disturbance (figure 2, 3).

Modern satellite images of the site available on-line show only faint traces of the Roman road at best. Modern ploughing appears to have obliterated almost all trace of archaeological features in the area.

Some features noted on the aerial photograph appear to be the remains of field boundaries noted on the first edition OS map of the area, but since removed. Interestingly the geophysics appears to have not picked these up.

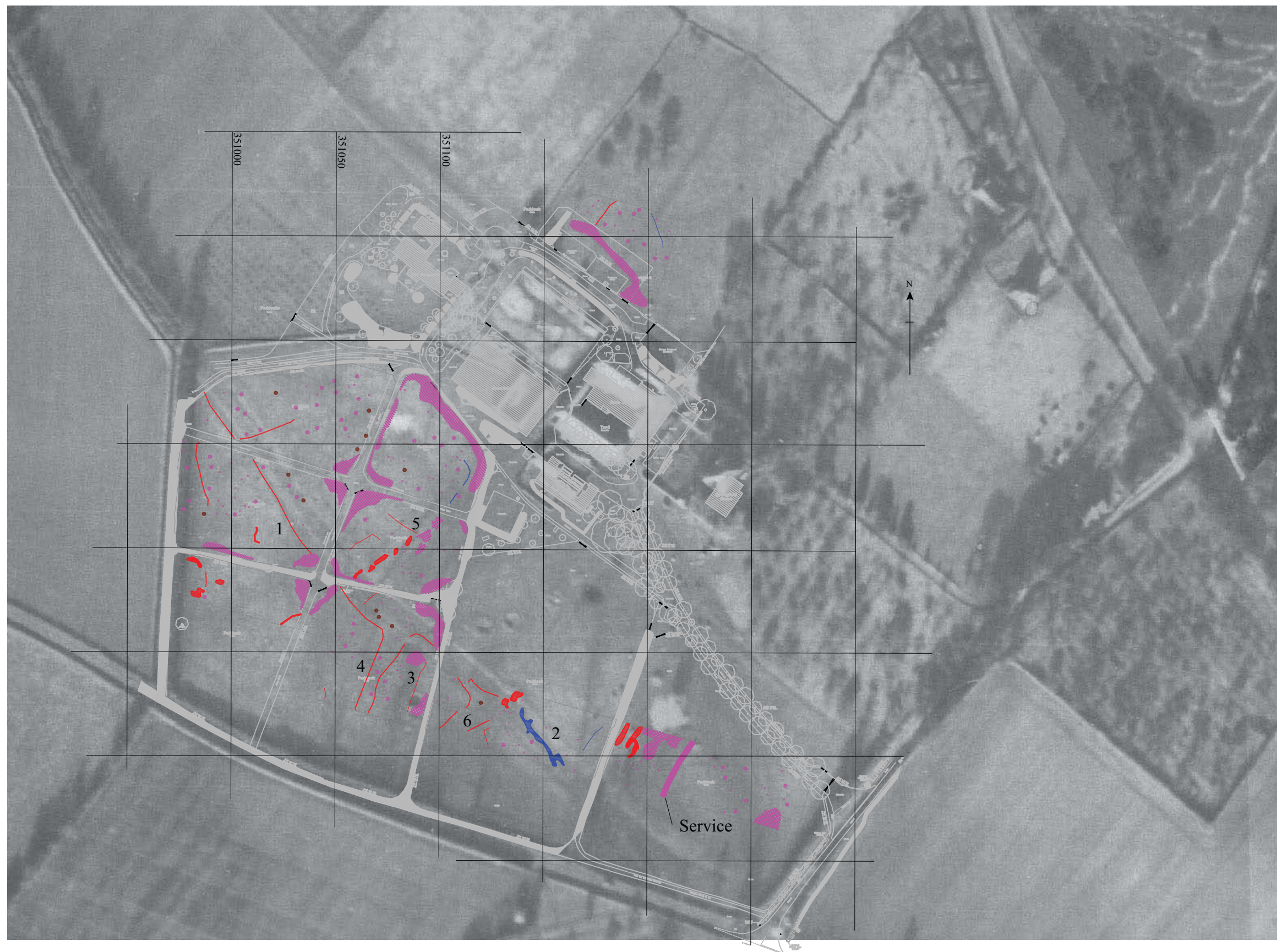


Figure 2. Aerial photograph with geophysical interpretation