

## LAKE CONSTRUCTION EAST OF MANOR FARM, ASCOTT-U-WYCHWOOD (AWMF92)

### Archaeological Watching Brief

The Oxford Archaeological Unit conducted a watching brief at Manor Farm, Ascott-U-Wychwood, Oxon (SP430219), on October 29th and 30th, 1992, during the initial stages of the construction of a lake.

Immediately N of the farm buildings lie the ruins of the 12th century Ascott d'Oyley Castle (S.M.Oxon 82). 300m to the NE is a slightly raised mound, which has been suggested may be the heavily eroded remains of a motte.

The site of the proposed lake lies just SW of this mound, close to the R.Eventlode, and it was considered possible that the initial topsoil stripping may reveal archaeological activity related to the 'motte'.

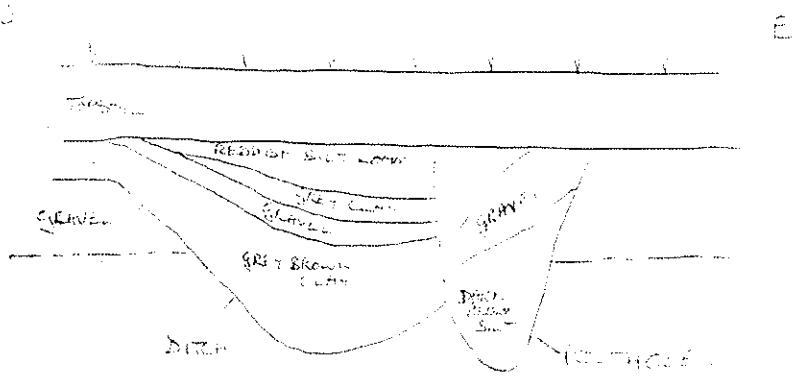
No finds were recovered from the machine-stripped topsoil, over an area of approximately 3600 sq m. Two 20m x 1.4m trenches were machine dug (Fig 1), to test the underlying strata and the depth of the natural. The dark brown silty-loam topsoil (0.20 to 0.25m deep) overlay a mottled grey/brown clay subsoil (0.10 to 0.15m deep), under which was the natural gravel. One 'U' shaped ditch was revealed, 1.0m w x 0.50m deep, oriented NNE-SSW. Cutting the SE side of the ditch was a possible post hole. No dating evidence was recovered from either feature.

### Interpretation

The ditch is on a similar alignment to the present boundary to the NE, and so may represent a fairly recent field boundary, possibly superseded by a fence, as suggested by the post hole. The total lack of finds suggests that this area does not contain archaeological material related either to the castle or the putative 'motte'.

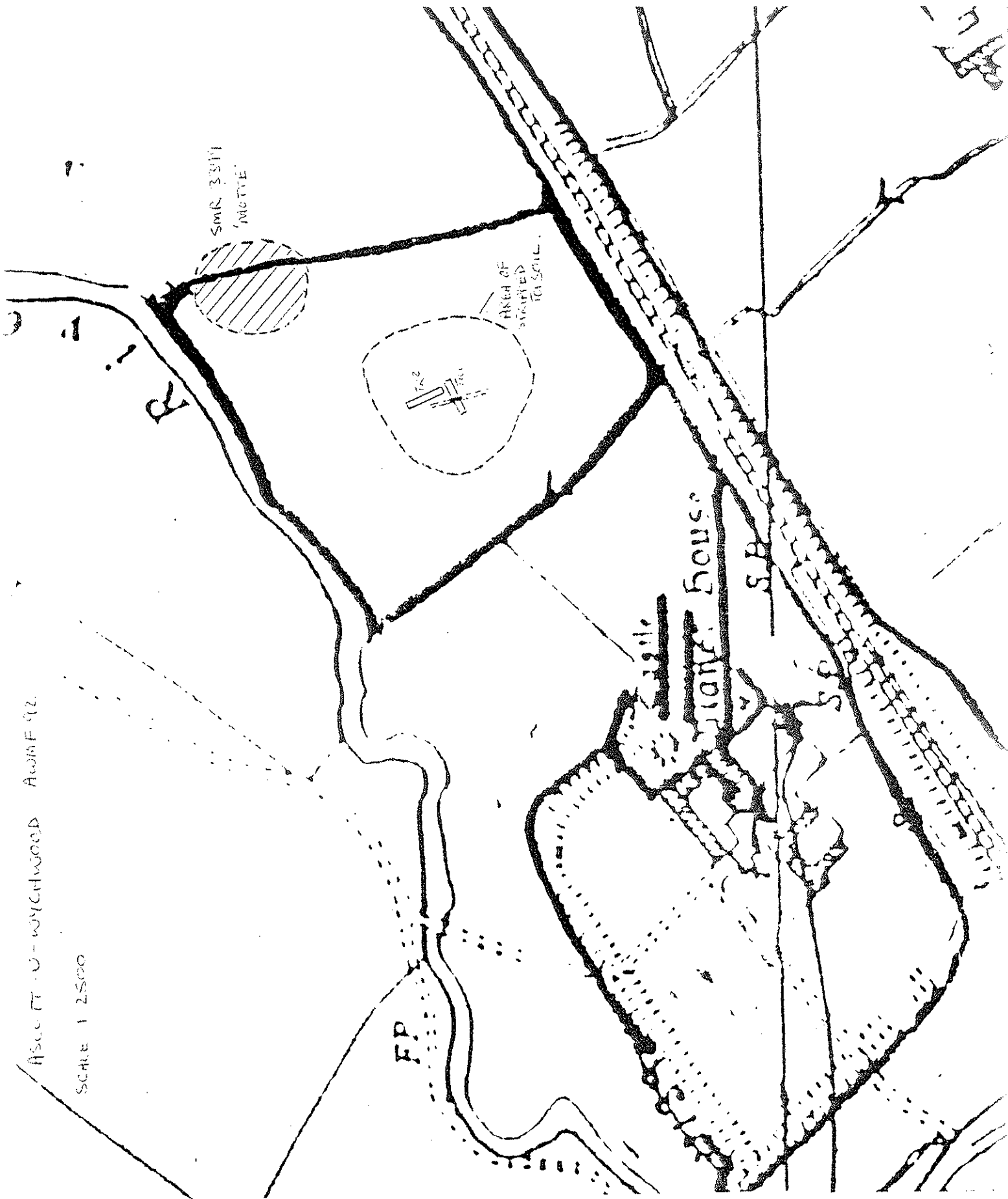
Alan Hardy  
O.A.U.  
11.11.92

HWMF92  
SCALE 1:30



ASCOFF - O-WYCHWOOD - AOMF 92.

SCALE 1:2500



# SHEET SP 31 NW

AWMF92 LOCATION PLAN

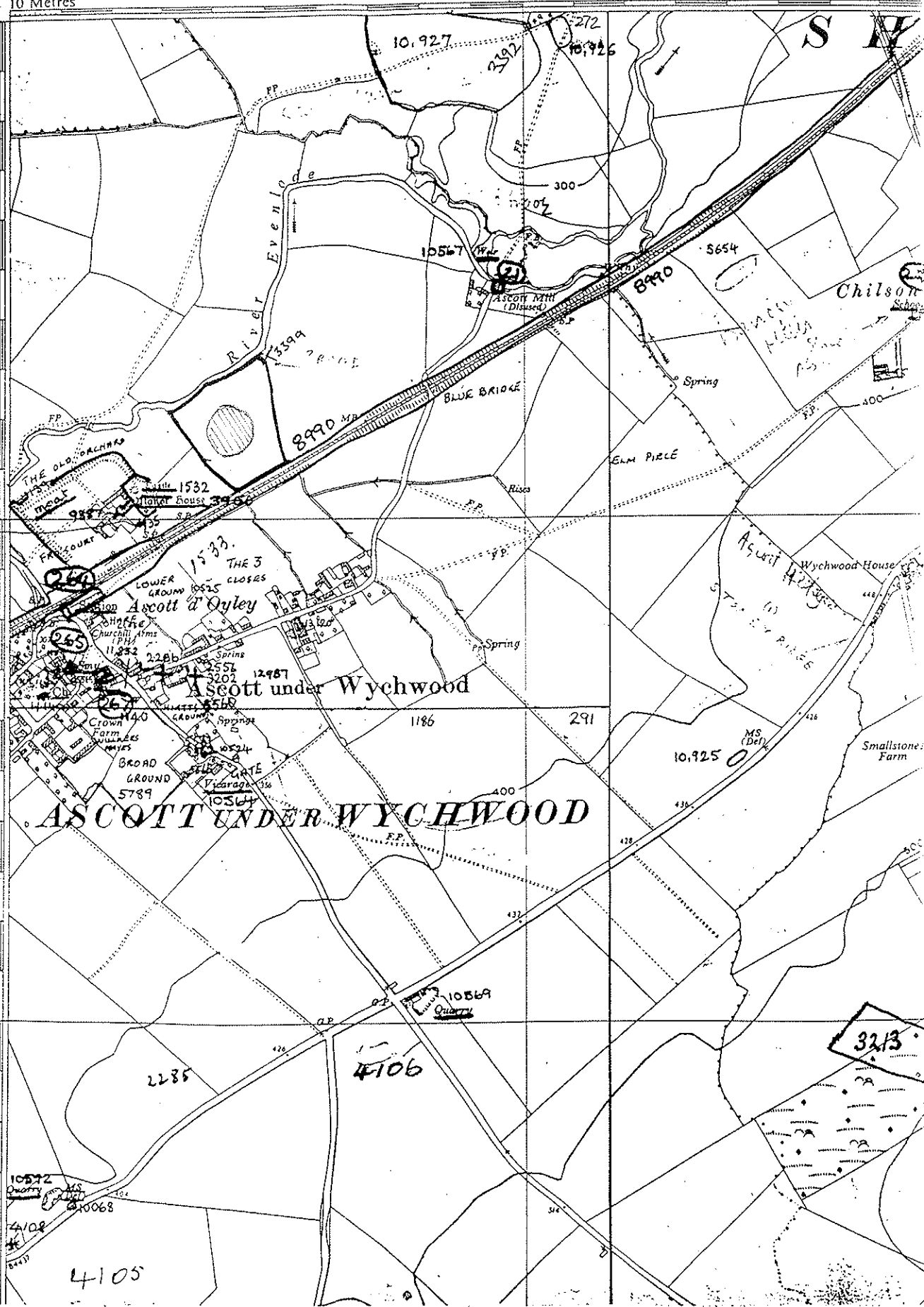
Links 1000 500 0

430000  
10 Metres

LONG 1° 33' W 31

12000 Feet

220000



## ASCOTT UNDER WYCHWOOD

NORTON RD

1:10,000

4105

4106

3213