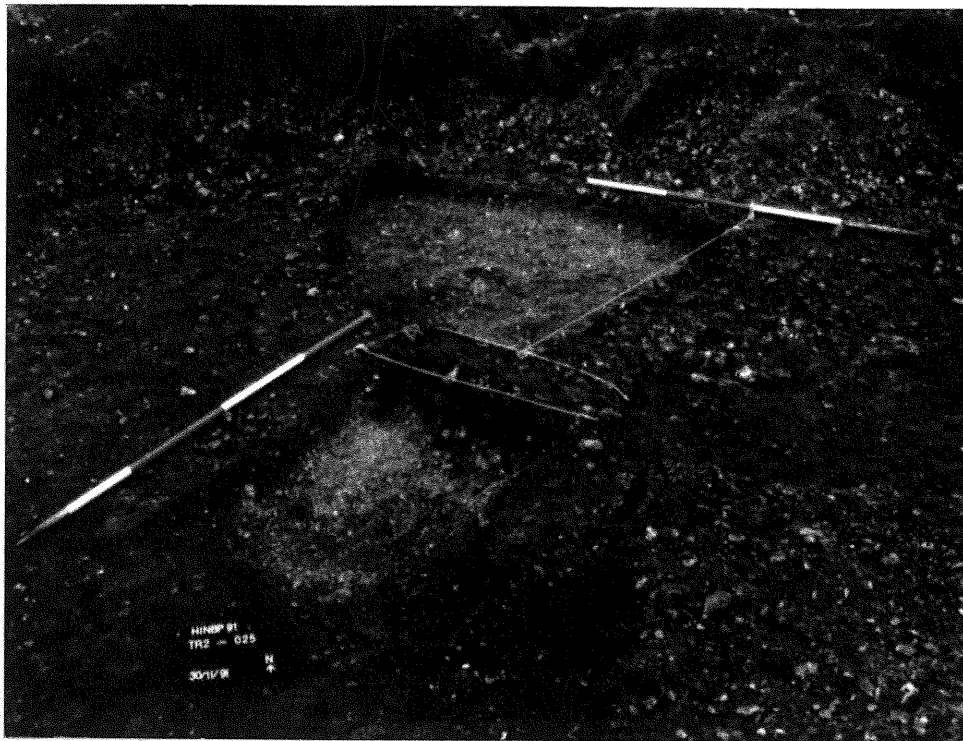


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ROMAN SETTLEMENT AT HINXTON 1991



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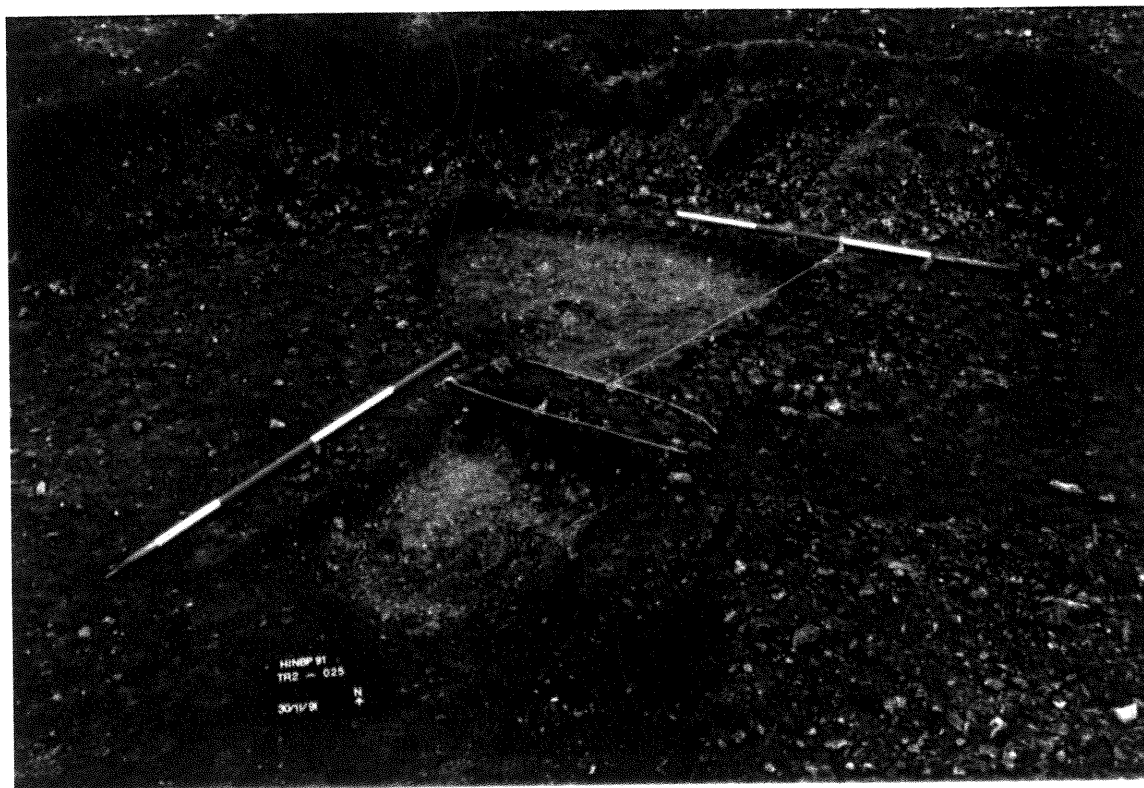
ROMAN SETTLEMENT AT HINXTON

An Archaeological Assessment 1991

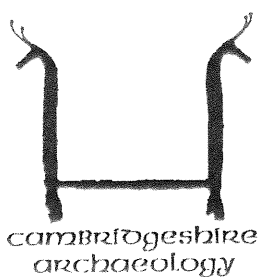
TL487466

Dr Gerald A Wait AIFA

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Report no. 38



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Appendices

1. Analysis of Aerial Photographs by C Cox, Air Photo Services
2. Report on the Roman Pottery by Gavin Lucas (to follow when completed)

Archaeological Assessment of a Roman Settlement at Hinxton, Cambs

Gerald A Wait DPhil, AIFA

Summary

An archaeological field assessment was undertaken on behalf of Mineral Resources Ltd, from 25 November to 6 December 1991 on an area of about 8 hectares, as part of the process of planning application for a proposed borrow pit for gravel extraction (Figures 1 and 2).

The area (see fig 1) is located on first-second terrace gravels in the valley of the River Cam, to the north of Hinxton village and due east of Duxford. The underlying solid geology is chalk.

The topography of the area is essentially flat, but a variation in elevation of about 1.0 to 1.5 metres was observed across the width of the field. The soils of this area belong to the Moulton series, characterised by the Soil Survey as well drained stony (locally very stony) brown sandy loams. These soils were classified as grade 3a agricultural land.

A probable paleo-channel of the Cam is located immediately to the west of the area (see air photo evidence, figs 3, 4 and appendix 1).

Known Archaeology

The area was investigated on the basis of two known archaeological sites, Cambs SMR numbers 09738 in the northwest corner and 08822 in the southeast corner, with some apparent field boundary ditches and droeways linking the two complexes. SMR site 04225, a reference to the discovery of finds of Roman date, is immediately adjacent to the western boundary of the area. The general morphology of the two cropmark complexes suggested that the sites were likely to be of Roman date, and possibly form farm settlements or even a "villa" establishment.

The cropmark evidence was more than sufficient to justify an archaeological field evaluation; a "villa" would be likely to be of regional or even national importance and thereby merit preservation in situ, which would require serious modification or abandonment of proposals to site a borrow pit in this area.

In general, the valley of the Cam produces good evidence, both as cropmarks and as finds scatters, for prehistoric and Romano-Celtic occupation. A Romano-British villa is located about a kilometre to the south (TL 488/451; SMR no. 04210) represented by cropmarks and an extensive artefact scatter. A Romano-British cemetery at TL 496/477 just south of Pampisford (SMR no. 04169) also probably relates to a settlement. It may be argued that settlement and intensive arable farming was focussed on the river valley gravel terraces, with upland chalk hills devoted to pasture and extensive arable farming, and riverside lowlands for pasture.

Methodology

The brief set by the County Archaeology Office called for fieldwalking, geophysical survey, and trial trench excavations in order to determine the date, nature, and preservation of archaeological remains in the area. This information would be used to

make advice to the planning authority on the best planning means of safeguarding the archaeological resource.

The fieldwalking and trial trench excavations were implemented. The geophysical survey was not, as it was not possible to arrange for a specialist company to undertake the work within the time frame. Geophysical survey may be implemented later if deemed appropriate, although it is argued below that the information produced by the rectified replotting of the cropmarks and the trial trench excavations render this unnecessary.

The results of the computer rectified aerial photographic evidence is presented below in figures 3 and 4, and in appendix 1. The fieldwalking was implemented by using transects at 25 metre intervals, with finds collection units every 25 metres. The trial trenches are shown below in figures 4, 5 and 6. The trial trenches were topsoil and subsoil stripped by mechanical digger. Thereafter excavation was by hand, with all features planned. Most were sample sectioned by hand, although two ditches were machine sectioned with the spoil sorted by hand to recover artefacts. All sections were drawn and photographed.

Overview of Results

The fieldwalking programme was strikingly unproductive (see figure 3). Only a very few prehistoric or Roman artefacts were collected. Post-medieval tile was scattered widely over the field in relatively low density, corresponding to the distance of the area from known late medieval and post-medieval settlements.

The trial trench excavations confirmed the presence of the two cropmark complexes of archaeological features (mostly of ditches) as indicated by the aerial photographic evidence. There is a very high congruence between the archaeological activity represented by cropmarks and that found by excavation - the cropmarks appear to give an accurate reflection of the archaeology present. The features are, where dated by artefacts, all of Roman date. It is likely that all the undated features are also of Roman date, with the possible exception of the ditches in Trench 4, which may mark a boundary of an earlier extent of the small wooded copse to the west of the area. The trial trenches did not produce any evidence to suggest that a "villa" type settlement is located in the area investigated, although it is clear that less prestigious farm settlements are represented by the cropmark complexes.

Detailed Results

Fieldwalking Survey (Figure 3)

The results of the fieldwalking are presented in Figure 3. There were only 16 artefacts of Medieval or earlier date. Post-Medieval tile and brick fragments were much more common and more widely scattered. However, the distribution of neither class appeared to correspond to the distribution of archaeological features plotted from the aerial photographs, nor could they be linked to the distribution of archaeological remains excavated. Few conclusions can be drawn from so limited evidence.

Trial Trench Excavations (figures 4 - 6)

A total of 850 linear metres of trench were excavated, equalling some 1400 square metres. Within this area 25 archaeological features were recognised and excavated. A

further half dozen features were recognised and planned but not excavated. The excavated features are summarised below.

Summary of Excavated Features

<u>Feature No.</u>	<u>Type</u>	<u>Orientation</u>	<u>Fills</u>
<u>Trench 1, 2 and 3</u>			
005	DITCH	E-W	006, 007
009	DITCH	E-W	010, 011, 019
012	DITCH	N-S	013
018	UNCERTAIN		014, 015, 016, 017
025	CORN DRIER?		026
027	DITCH	N-S	028, 029
070	DITCH	N-S	071, 072, 073
<u>Trench 4</u>			
043	DITCH	NW-SE	044, 045, 046
049	DITCH	NW-SE	047, 048
050	GULLY	N-S (phase I)	051
052	GULLY	E-W (phase II)	053
<u>Trench 5</u>			
074	GULLY	NW-SE	075, 076
<u>Trench 7</u>			
020	GULLY	E-W	021
<u>Trench 10</u>			
064	DITCH	N-S	055, 056
<u>Trenches 11 and 12</u>			
035	DITCH	N-S	037, 038, 032, 039 first phase of series
077	GULLY	N-S	040} second phase
078	GULLY	N-S	069} second phase
079	GULLY	N-S	080} second phase
033	GULLY	N-S	054
030	GULLY	N-S	031, 085
061	DITCH	E-W	063, 065, 066
086	DITCH	N-S	067, 068
	TERMINAL		
084	GULLY	N-S	083
087	DITCH	E-W	088, 064; second phase of 061
<u>Trench 13</u>			
022	POSTHOLE		023

Detailed Description of Features

Key: B= Brown, YB= Yellow brown, DYB=Dark yellow brown, GB=Grey brown
Occ=Occasional, Freq=Frequent, Mod=Moderate, Rel=Relatively

Trenches 1, 2 and 3

- 005 Ditch, E-W, 174/660; 2.10x1.10m deep
006 B sandy silt, occ gravel
007 DYB sandy silt, occ to freq flint gravel, larger nodules on bottom
Section drawing 7
- 009 Ditch, E-W, 127/669; 2.2m x 0.95m deep
010 DYB sandy silt
011 DYB sandy silt
019 DYB sand, freq flint gravel
V shaped profile
Produced 10% of pottery artefacts from site.
Section drawing 6
- 012 Ditch, N-S, 131/674; 2.3m x 0.50m deep
013 B sandy silt, mod flint gravel
Section 5
- 018 Uncertain feature, 132/673;
014 Black sandy charcoal
015 White rammed chalk
016 Pink-grey silty clay (heat affected)
017 Flint nodules in silty clay matrix
Section 5
- 025 Corn drier? 158/675
026 DYB sandy silt, freq large flint nodules and chalk fragments, very mixed
Plan 2 Section 3, [Figure 7]
- 027 Ditch N-S, 141/673; 1.70m x 0.46m deep
028 B silty sand
029 YB silty sand, rel more flint gravel
V shaped profile
Section 8
- 070 Ditch, N-S, 201/675; 1.10m x 0.46m deep
071 VDB sandy silt, little flint gravel
072 DYB silty sand, freq small flint gravel
073 DYB sand, freq flint gravel
Rounded U profile
Section 9
- ### Trench 4
- 043 Ditch NW-SE, 126/550; 2.60m x 0.68m deep
044 DYB silty sand, freq small rounded flint
045 DYB sandy silt, occ small flint gravel
046 DGB sandy silt, occ to freq flint nodules
Broad U profile, cut by 049
Section 11

049 Ditch NW-SE, 127/550; 2.20m x 0.70m deep
047 DYB silt, occ small flint gravel
048 DB clayey silt, small flint gravel and occ flint nodules
Broad U profile, cuts 043
Section drawing indicates a recut on W side, which
was not followed in field. Section 11

050 Gully, N-S, 118/550; 1.2m x 0.38m deep
051 DB sandy silt, occ small flint
Shallow broad U profile, rel 052 uncertain Section 10

052 Gully, E-W, 118/550; 1.3m x 0.25m deep
053 DB sandy silt, occ small flint gravel
Shallow, broad irregular edge and bottom Section 10

Trench 5

074 Gully E-W, 210/549; 0.63m x 0.25m deep
075 DYB sandy silt, occ flint gravel
076 B sandy silt, occ flint gravel
V profile Section 12

Trench 7

020 Gully, E-W, 224/625; 0.72m x 0.20m deep
021 B-DB silty sand, occ small flint gravel
Broad U profile Section 14

Trench 10

054 ditch, N-S, 314/317; 2.70m x 1.10m deep
055 YB sandy silt, occ small flint gravel
056 YB sandy silt, mod-freq small flint gravel
Broad U profile, poss recut? Section 17

Trenches 11 and 12

035 Ditch N-S, 326/452; 3.4m x 1.50m deep
037 DYB sandy silt, occ small gravel
038 DYB " "
032 DYB sandy silt, freq small flint gravel
039 YB silty sand, occ small flint gravel
First pase, with three recuts (077, 078, 079)
Layers 032 and 038 produced quantities
of Roman pot, V profile. Layer 032
suggests silting from internal, eastern bank.
Produced 61% of pottery artefacts. Section 19

077 Gully N-S, 326/450; 1.2m x 0.50m deep
040 DYB silty sand, freq small flint gravel
U profile Section 19

- 078 Gully, N-S, 326/450; 0.84m x 0.44 m deep
 069 DYB silty sand, freq small flint gravel
 U profile Section 19
- 079 Gully, N-S, 326/450; 1.32m x 0.48 m deep
 080 DYB Silty sand, occ small flint gravel
 U profile Section 19
- 033 Gully, N-S, 358/446; 1.2m x 0.40m deep
 034 DB-DYB sandy silt, occ large flint nodules
 Broad shallow U profile, cut by 030 Section 21
- 030 Ditch, N-S, 360/446; 1.95m x 0.48m deep
 031 B sandy silt, occ large flint nodule
 085 LB sandy silt, Occ to freq small flint gravel
 Broad shallow U profile Section 21
- 061 Ditch, E-W, 360/411; 2.4m x 1.10m deep
 063 DB sandy silt, occ-freq small flint gravel
 065 YB sandy silt, occ-freq small flint gravel
 066 Yb sandy silt, freq small flint gravel
 Recut of earlier ditch 087, sharp V profile Section 22
- 086 Ditch terminal, N-S, 1.0m 0.50m deep
 067 YB sandy silt, occ small flint gravel
 068 YB sandy silt, freq small flint gravel
 Nr vertical sides, broad rounded bottom Section 18
- 084 Gully, N-S, 399/400; 0.50m x 0.30m deep
 083 DYB sandy silt, mottled grey, occ
 small flint gravel
 V profile Section 20
- 087 Ditch, E-W, 360/411; 2.60m x 0.88 m deep
 088 DB sandy silt, freq small flint gravel
 064 B sandy silt, freq small flint gravel
 Earlier phase of 061, V profile Section 22

Trench 13

- 022 Posthole 131/375; 0.28m x 0.20m deep
 023 GB sandy silt, mod to freq flint gravel
 larger stones nr base, steep vertical sides
 rounded base Section 23

Comments on Pottery by Gavin Lucas

This is a collection of early Roman pottery, of first to second century AD. The majority is locally made, with the exception of a few sherds of Gaulish Samian and Nene Valley beaker. Almost all the sherds are from domestic coarsewares including bowls and jars, and Belgic-type carinated bowls. One Gallo-Belgic copy of a butt beaker was noted. In summary this suggests a small scale domestic settlement. [A full archive report is forthcoming] GML 17/12/91.

Pottery

Ditch 35	176 sherds
5	9 sherds
61	26 sherds
9	42 sherds
12	50 sherds
25	1 sherd (possible corn drier)
64	1 sherd
Total 7 contexts	306 sherds

Animal Bones

Animal bones were recovered from the following contexts:

Ditch 64	8 fragments
Gully 30	6 fragments
Ditch 27	12 fragments
Ditch 12	1 fragment
Ditch 35	77 fragments
Ditch 5	2 fragments
6 Contexts	106 fragments of animal bone.

No detailed analysis will be attempted on this collection. If further excavations occur these fragments should be included in the analysis.

Discussion of Results

The field assessment has provided much new information about the two sites previously identified on the Cambs SMR. No new sites were located in the area examined. The close agreement between the aerial photographic and excavation evidence has been noted. Also the apparent blank area in the centre of the field investigated is confirmed as an "archaeological blank", rather than an absence of information.

The site in the northwest corner (SMR no 09738) comprised a series of rectilinear ditched enclosures. The aerial photographs indicate some internal features. One internal feature excavated is tentatively interpreted as the foundation for a corn drying oven. The archaeological features in this area produced a moderate density of artefacts (117 objects, 28% of the total). These suggest a Roman date for the enclosures and occupation (possibly focused on the area of the intersection of trenches 1 and 2), probably a Roman farmstead and associated garden plots, paddocks and infields. The large boundary ditch [008] and [009] is markedly V shaped in profile, which tends to suggest that it was allowed to fill-in without repeated cleaning (which leads to a broader U profile in gravel sub-strata).

The site in the southeast corner (08822) is similarly composed of rectilinear enclosures, though here the layout is markedly less regular than in the other site. Only ditches were located within the sample trenches. However, the excavated sections of these ditches did produce a relatively higher density of artefacts (294 objects, 72% of the total), including both pottery (of Roman date) and animal bone, similarly suggesting a domestic use of this area. Again an agricultural focus for the settlement is probable. Several of the ditch sections showed a markedly V profile, suggestive of relatively short term use, with little or no recutting and cleaning of the ditches.

The two sites investigated appear on present evidence to be single phase sites - that is both appear to be simply Romano-British settlements with no evidence for Iron Age or post-Roman occupation. This conclusion is supported by the simple regular layout recorded by the aerial photographs, with none of the complexity expected of sites with long histories of occupation.

The tracks and droveways identified from the aerial photographs were not investigated in the field assessment.

Recommendations

The sites investigated are, on present evidence, not sufficiently rare in nature or date to be classed as of national importance. The evaluation suggests no convincing argument for preservation in situ. However, rural farm settlements of the early Roman period are not a well known class of site in Cambridgeshire, and it is likely that the County Archaeology Office, acting as Curators of the County's heritage, would require a programme of sample excavation to record the sites in advance of destruction by quarrying operations.

There are two options for further action. Although in the author's view there is no strong archaeological reason to preserve the sites in situ, there may be a financial motive. One choice is therefore to alter the boundaries of the proposed borrow area in order to leave the two settlement areas in place and unaffected. A plan of the area is attached showing the areas which should be left in situ.

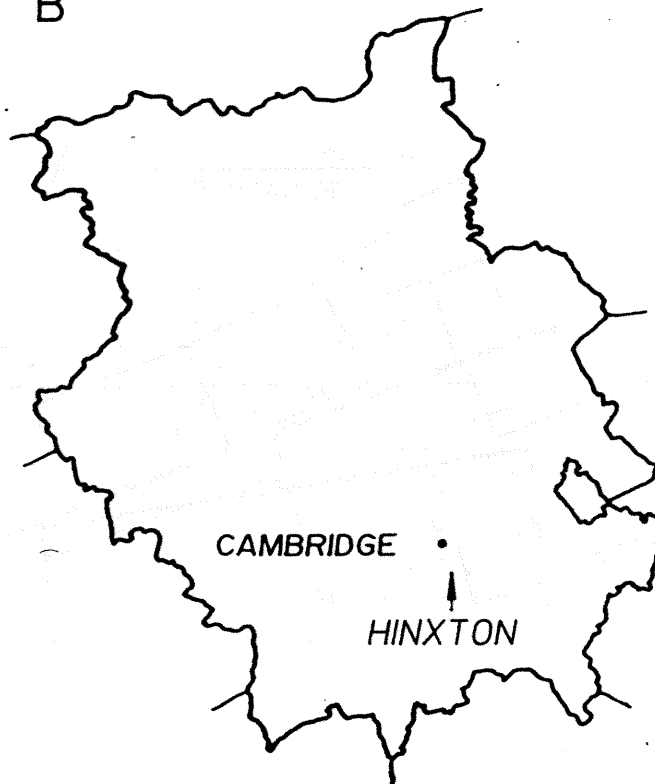
The second option is to commission further excavation and recording work, which would preserve the sites by record. A detailed programme of excavation would have to be agreed with the County Archaeology Office.

In either case provision should be made for a low level watching brief to be maintained over the balance of the area. Two particular archaeological features should be recorded by sample excavation - the possibly recent ditched enclosure along the western site boundary associated with the wooded copse, and the presumptively Romano-British tracks and droveways which were not investigated in the evaluation.

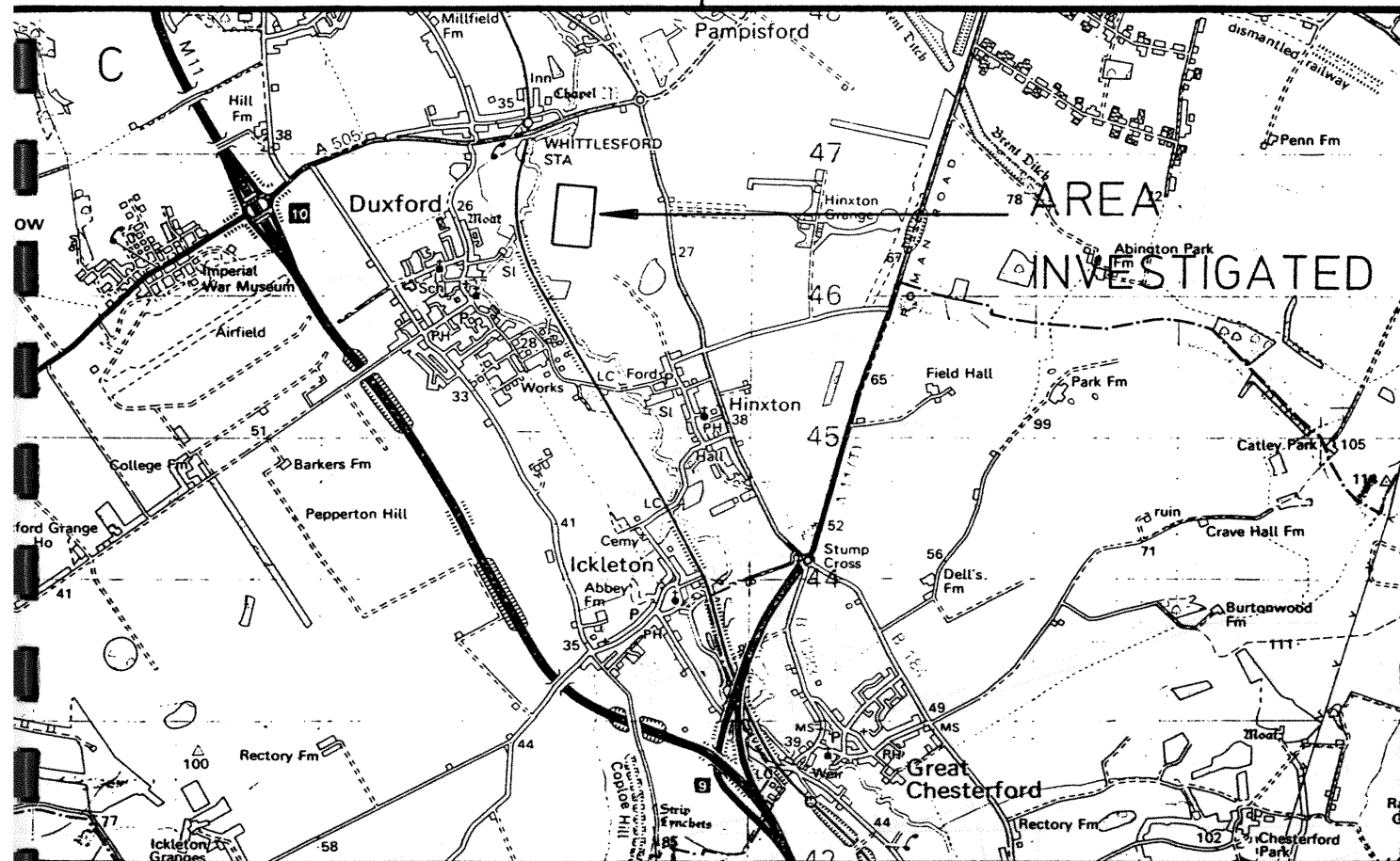
A



B



C



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County Council

Department of Property
Archaeology Section

SITE LOCATION
PROPOSED
BORROW PIT

CROWN COPYRIGHT RESERVED

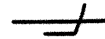
PREPARED BY: GW DATE: 12/91

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PLAN NO. 1

HINBP '91 FIGURE 2

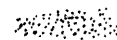
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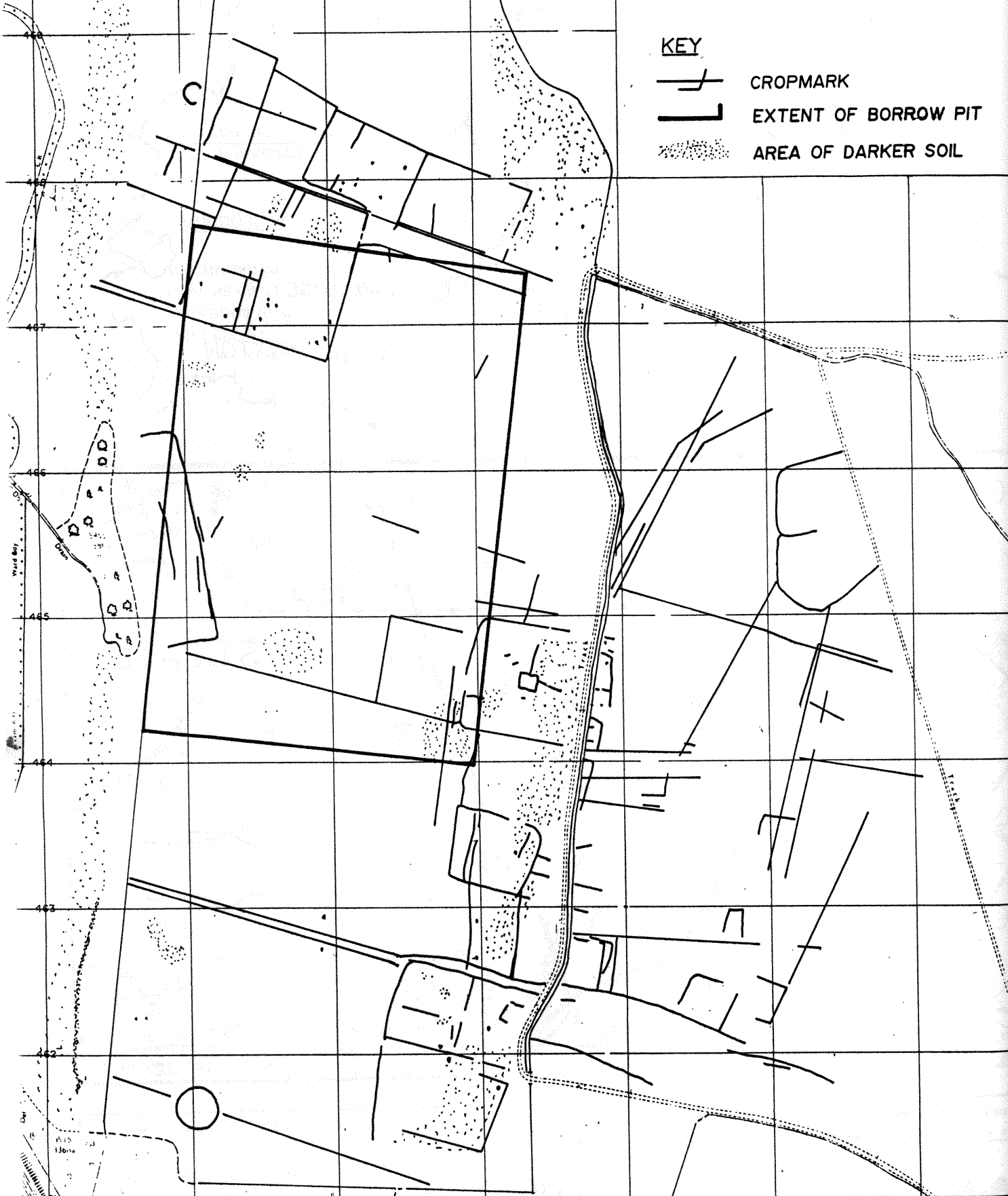
CROPMARK



EXTENT OF BORROW PIT



AREA OF DARKER SOIL



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HINXTON PROPOSED BORROW PIT

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PREPARED BY: GW DATE: 12-9

SCALE: 1:2500

PLAN NO: 2

FIGURE 3

KEY

CROPMARK

ROMANO BRITISH / PREHISTORIC FINDS

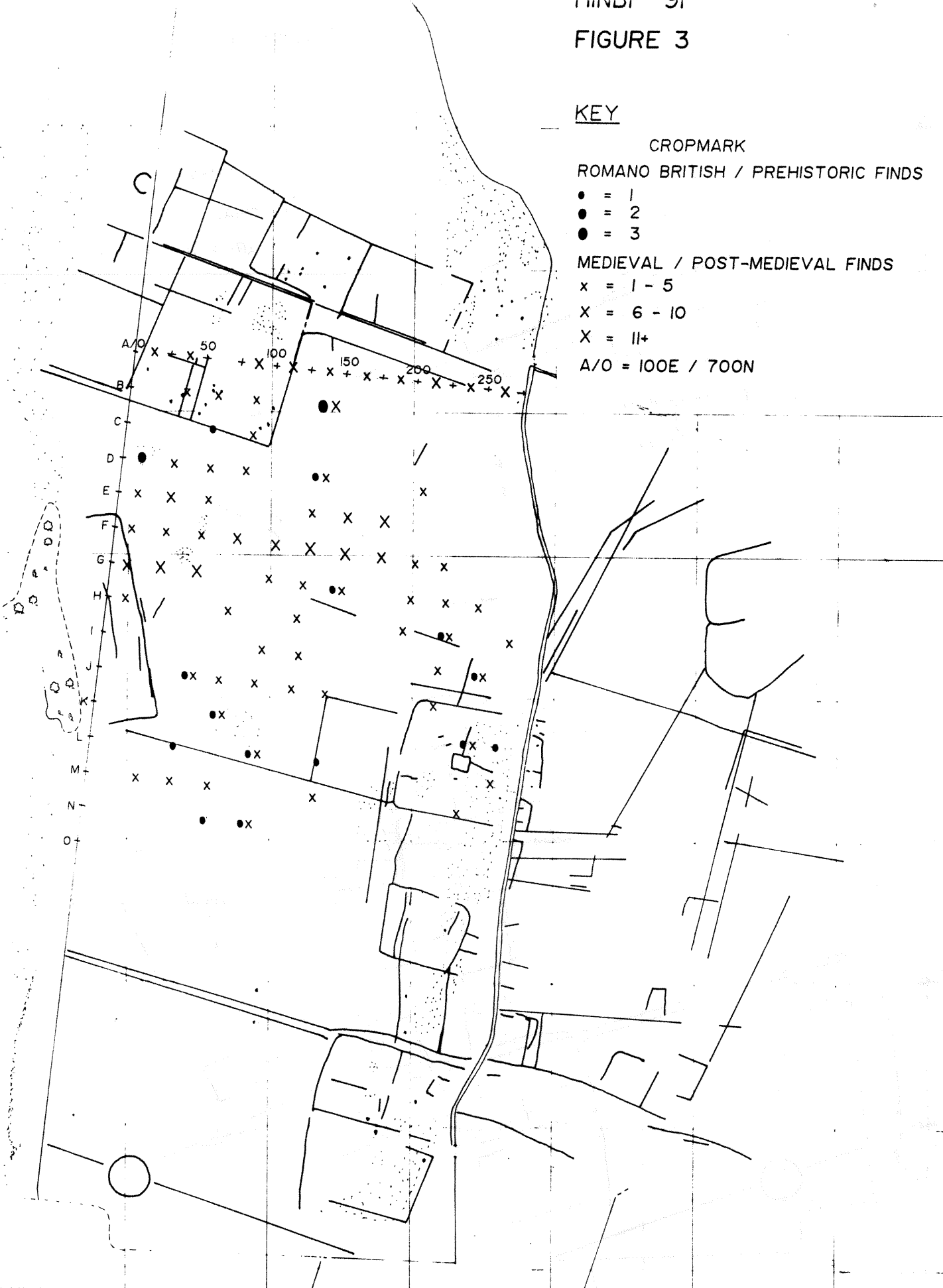
- = 1
- = 2
- = 3

MEDIEVAL / POST-MEDIEVAL FINDS

- x = 1 - 5
- X = 6 - 10
- X = 11+

A/O = 100E / 700N

469
468
467
466
465
464
463
462
461



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HINXTON RESULTS OF FIELDWALKING

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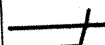

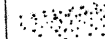
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GW 12-91

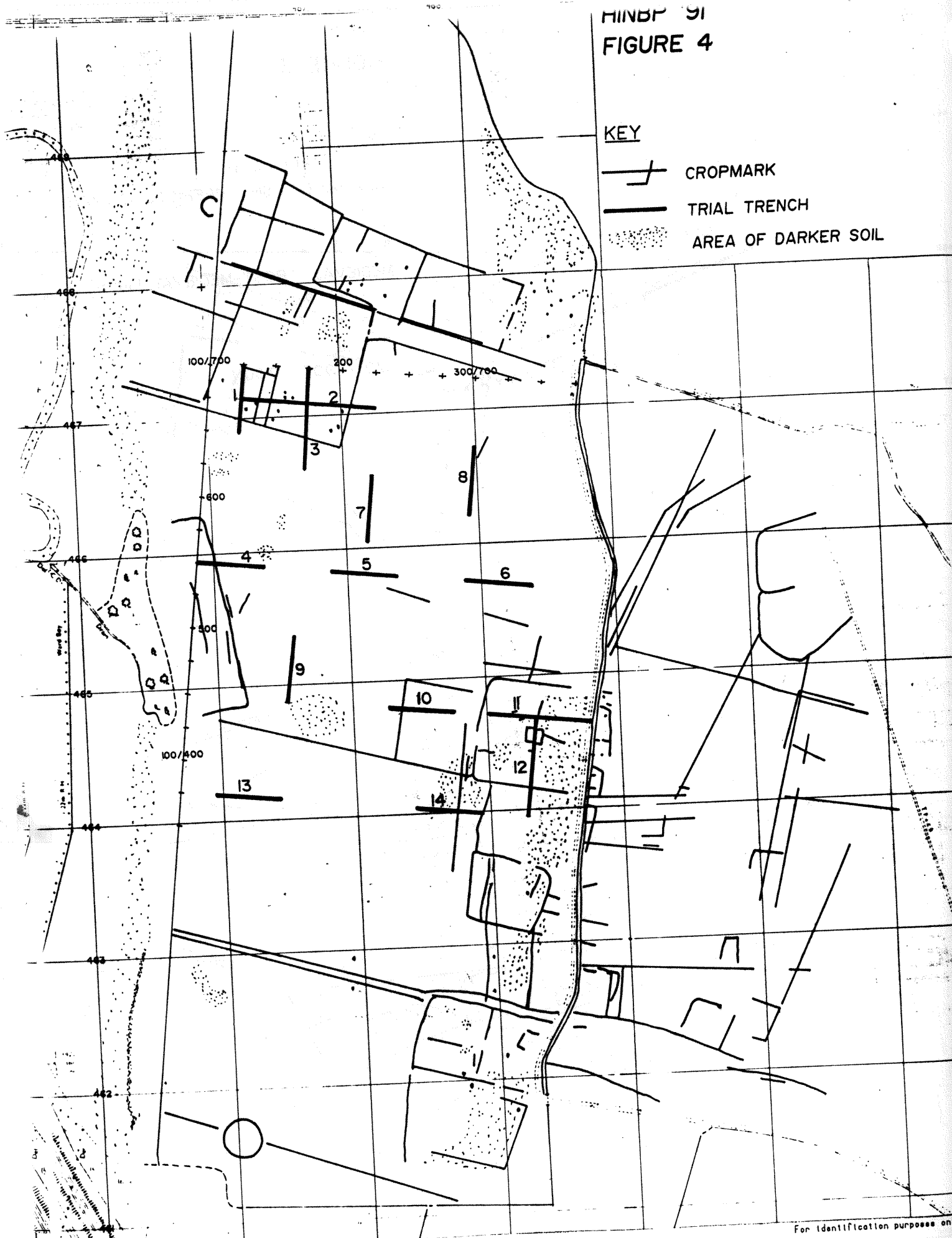
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PLAN NO: 3

HINBP 91 FIGURE 4

KEY

-  CROPMARK
-  TRIAL TRENCH
-  AREA OF DARKER SOIL



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Department of Property

HINXTON LOCATION OF TRIAL TRENCHES

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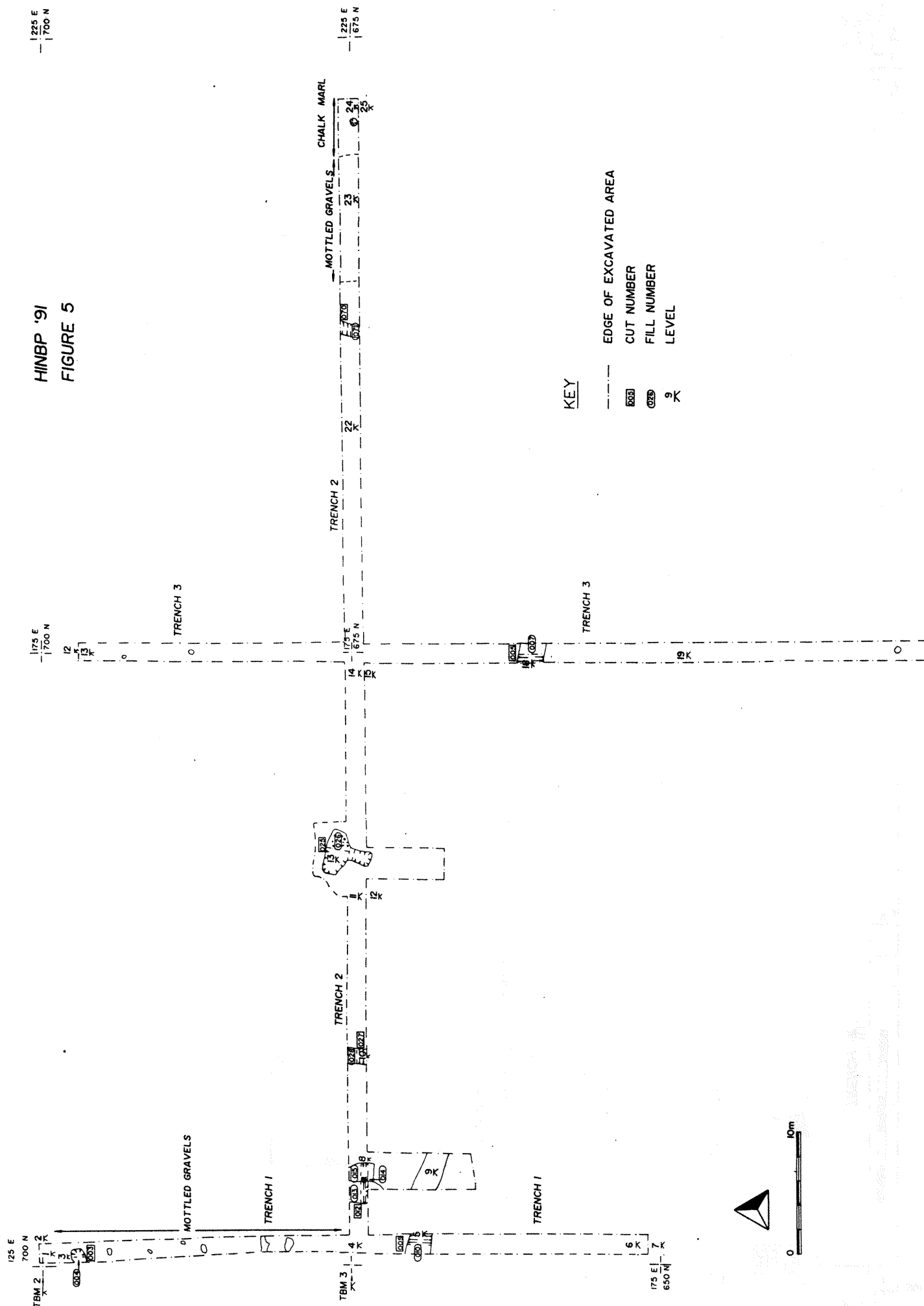
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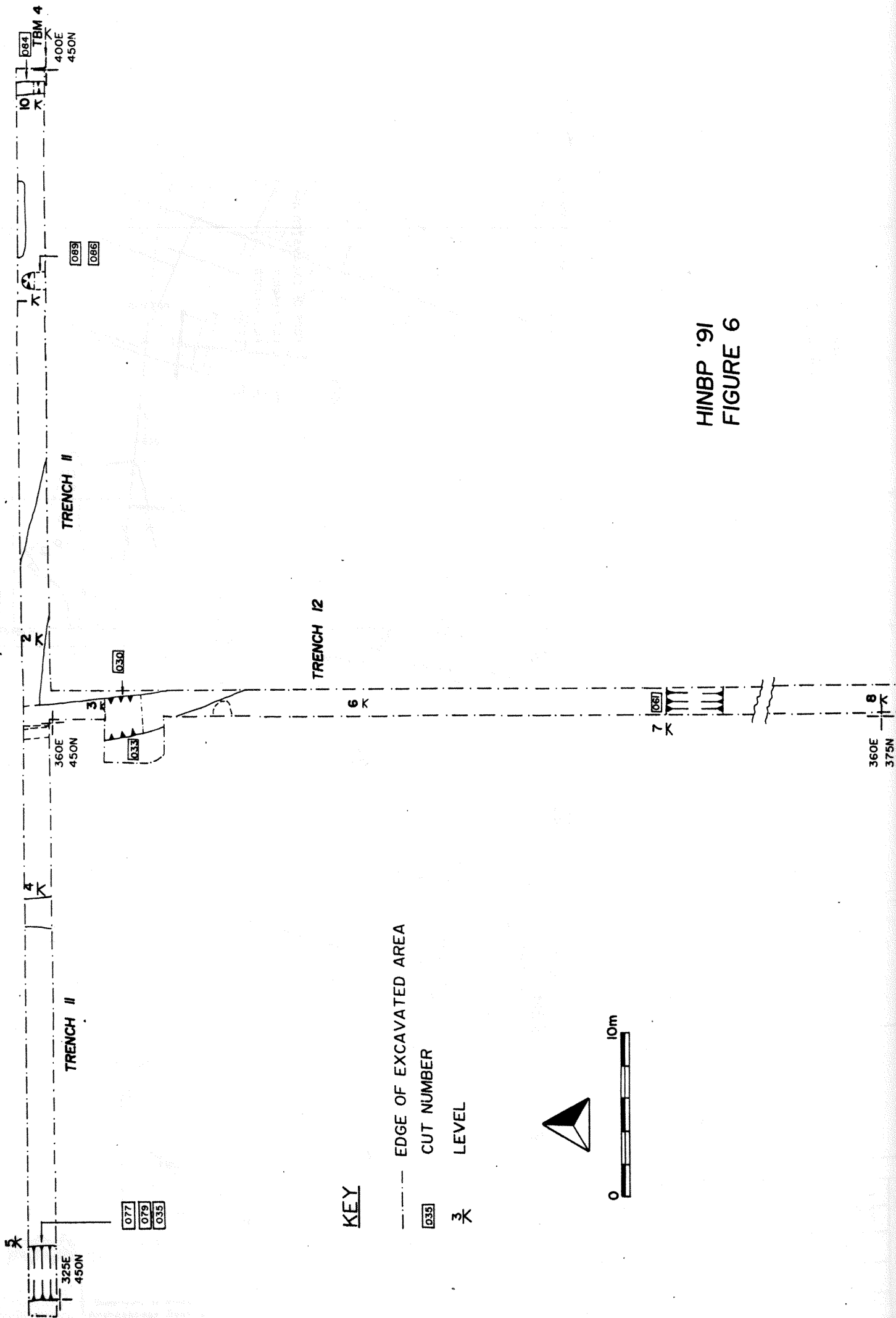
SCALE: 1:2500

PLAN NO: 4

1225 E
700 N

HINBP '91
FIGURE 5

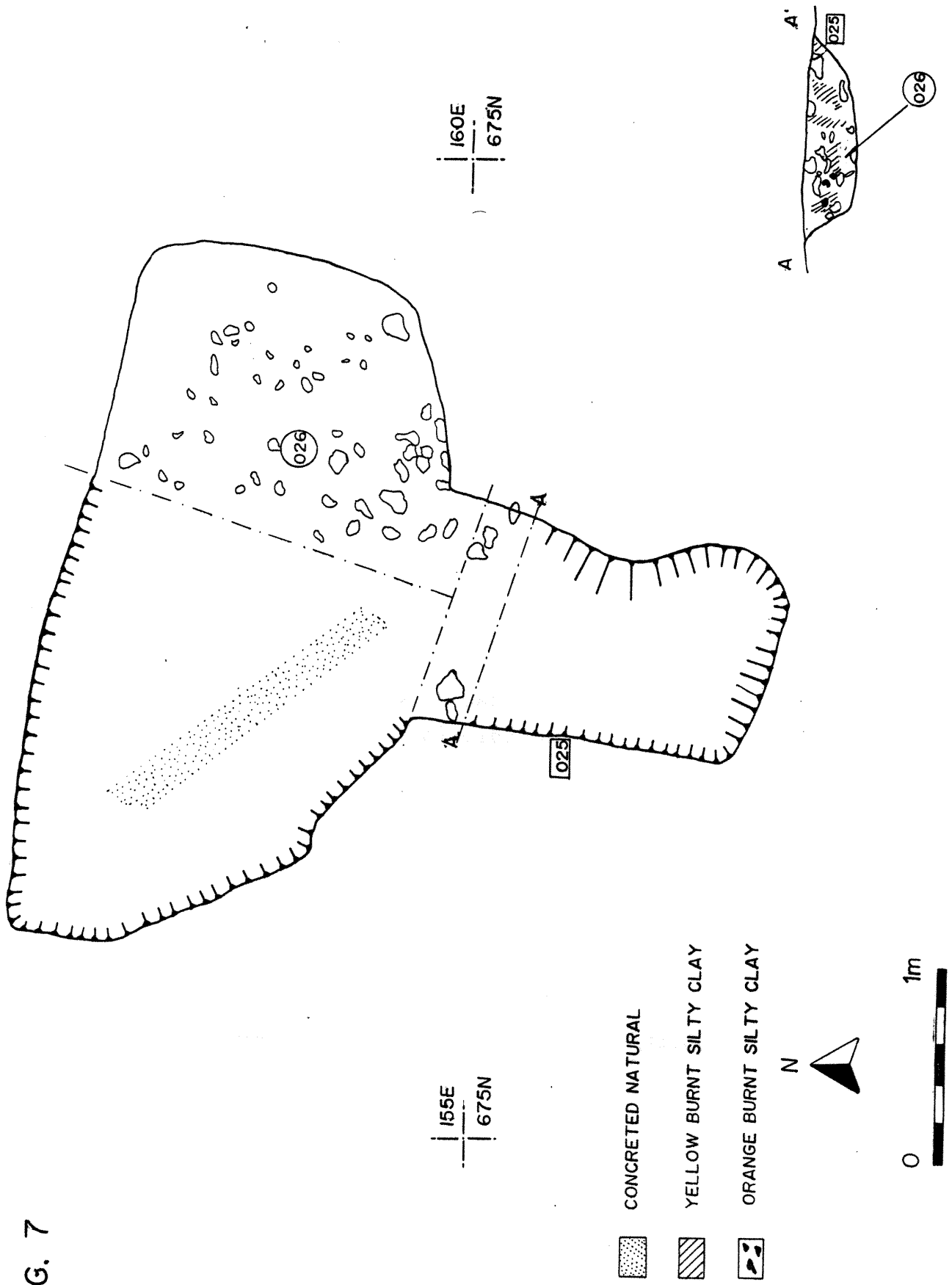




HINBP '91
FIGURE 6

HINBP '91

FIG. 7



TL4846 - TL4946
HINXTON, CAMBRIDGESHIRE

AERIAL PHOTOGRAPHIC ASSESSMENT

AIR PHOTO SERVICES
CHRIS COX MA MIFA ROG PALMER BA MIFA
7 EDWARD STREET CAMBRIDGE CB1 2LS
0223 316393

COMMISSIONED BY
CAMBRIDGESHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL, ARCHAEOLOGY
DEPARTMENT OF PROPERTY
SHIRE HALL
CASTLE HILL
CAMBRIDGE CB3 0AP

NOVEMBER 1991

TL4846 - TL4946 HINXTON

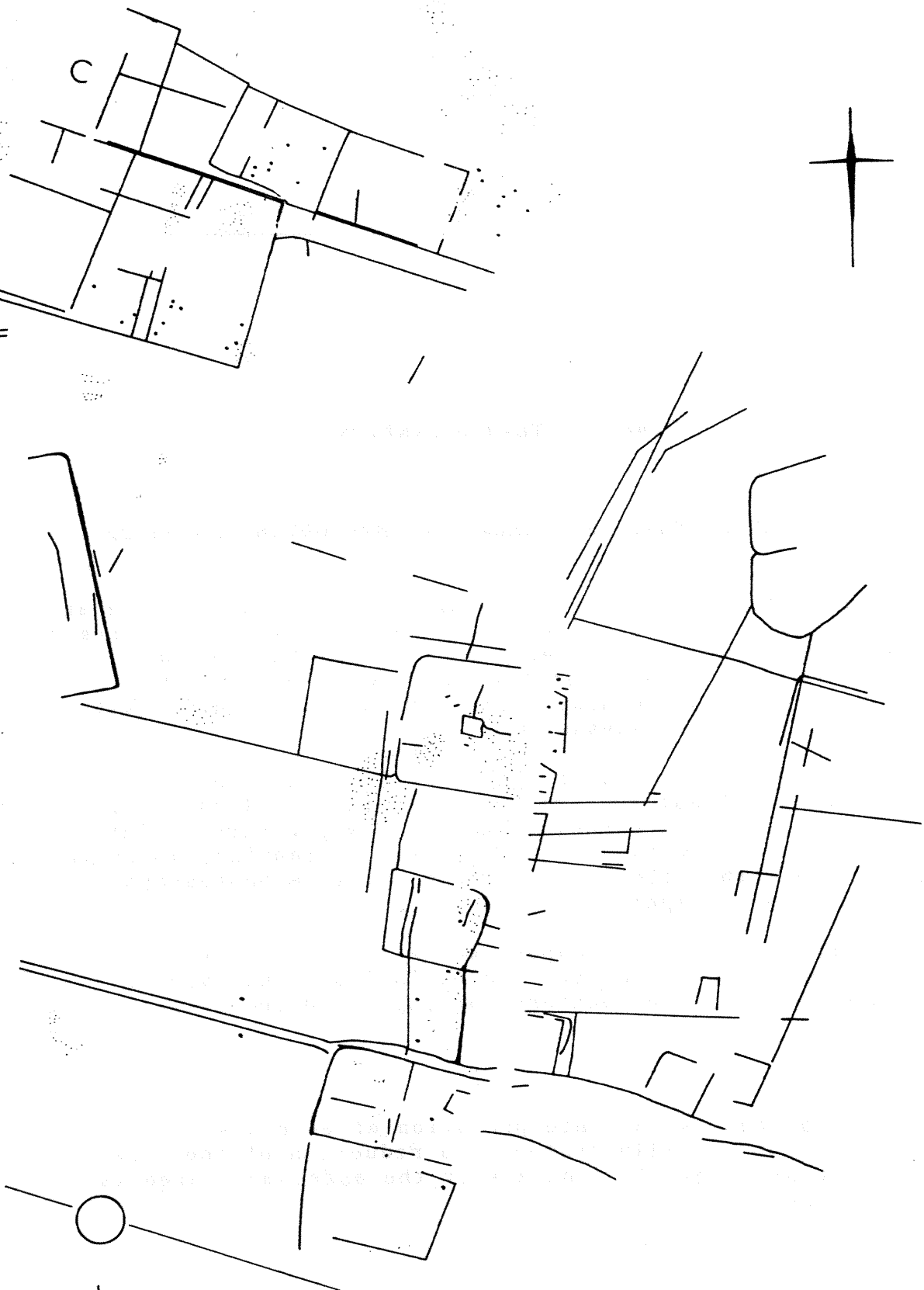
AERIAL PHOTOGRAPHIC ASSESSMENT OF SMRs 09738 AND 08822

This assessment was carried out using all available oblique and vertical aerial photographs covering the assessment area from the Cambridge University Collection of Aerial Photographs (CUCAP). Photographs held in the National Library of Air Photographs could not be made available for consultation within the timescale of this assessment.

Photos were interpreted, digitally rectified and mapped at 1:2500 using the Bradford aerial photographic rectification software *Aerial 3.3*. Accuracy of photo to map control point matching was under 3m in all cases. The accompanying map is the result of the combination of data from multiple photographs, some of which were highly oblique.

Soil differences have been mapped where relevant to the archaeological interpretation, and to indicate the type of features which may be encountered during field investigation.

This report discusses the interpretation of each SMR individually, and is illustrated by a reduction of the final plan. The archaeological landscape of the assessment area is then summarised.



TL 486
461

100 M 0 100 M

— DITCHES
 ∴ PITS
 DEEP SOIL

Photographs Consulted

CUCAP

Obliques:	ZQ 60-61	4 July 1959
	BJJ 79, 81-82, 84-87	7 July 1972
	BNM 68	22 June 1973
	BNX 29	3 July 1973
	70H R-33	30 April 1974

Verticals:

RC8-CK 149	16 November 1977
RC8-DY 123-125	23 September 1981

Best illustration: BJJ 84, ZQ 60 (site detail)

Digitally rectified photographs: BJJ 84-85, BNM 68, 70H R-33

Comment

Archaeological features mapped from aerial photographs at this location comprise linear ditches aligned NW-SE, with abutting conjoined enclosures, pits and a ring ditch.

The enclosure complex spans the north end of the assessment area, and crosses a modern field boundary to its west. The features are bounded on the west by alluvium (where they either end or become invisible on aerial photos) as the land dips to the nearby River Cam, and on the east by a band of deeper soil.

The enclosure complex adjoins and lies on the same axis as a double ditched linear feature running from TL48604683 to TL48854673 which follows a similar alignment to linear features mapped for this assessment to the south and south east.

A linear ditch runs parallel to this ditch 16m to the south, forming a possible track or driveway abutting and possibly accessing an enclosure at its western end at TL48724677. At this point, the linear ditch angles south east to form an asymmetric funnel shape, indicating either a widening to an entrance or its possibly being the corner of another, unseen, conjoined enclosure. The ditch of the western abutting enclosure breaks at this point, and the gap is spanned by a much narrower ditch, shown on print number ZQ 60. This is suggestive of modification and recutting of the ditch and possible entrance. The apparently blank areas to the south of the main complex contain further archaeological features, indicated by small sections of ditch mapped in this area, and the alignment of a small segment of linear ditch which abuts the main linear feature at TL48744675.

The enclosure centred TL48654675 contains evidence of internal double ditched straight divisions and other internal ditches. Two areas of apparently deeper soil in this enclosure are indicated by darker toned and partially lodged crop, on prints ZQ 60 and BJJ 86. These may be internal settlement features, similar to those within an enclosure at TL48834646 described below under SMR 08822.

The majority of the linear ditches are precisely and straightly cut, with squared corners where alignments change. Pits occur in and around the enclosures.

The ditches continue across the modern field boundary to the west, where they are 'lost' in the alluvium. A ring ditch lying within the enclosed area shows clearly on print number 70H R-33, but is partly obscured by the modern field boundary to its east.

Part of a ditched enclosure, TL48624655, shows clearly on all prints which cover its location. This feature is not aligned with other archaeological features in the vicinity. The enclosure shows as a light mark on verticals RC8-CK 124-125, and as a ditch on the obliques. It is possibly a woodland boundary, indicating the former extent of the small wood to its immediate west. The enclosure is the same length as, and respects, the alignment of this wood. However, its archaeological origin cannot be firmly discounted from aerial evidence alone.

Photographs consulted

CUCAP

Obliques:	ZQ 55-59, 62	4 July 1959
	BJJ 80, 82, 88-89	7 July 1972
	BNM 66-67, 69	22 June 1973
	BNX 27-28	3 July 1973
	70H R-34 - 7	30 April 1974
Vertical:	RC8-CK 149	16 November 1977

Best illustrations: ZQ 62, BJJ 88, 70H R-37

Digitally rectified photographs: ZQ 62, BJJ 88, 70H R-36 - 37

Comment

A large complex of similarly aligned ditched enclosures, trackways and linear features extends over two modern fields, centring upon TL489464. The eastern field shows extensive amorphous geological features which are not mapped due to their complexity.

Long linear ditches in this part of the assessment area continue the NW-SE alignment seen to the north at TL486468 SMR 09738, suggesting that the two complexes form part of the same archaeological landscape.

A series of conjoined ditched enclosures runs N-S, from TL48854653 to TL46754615, abutting NW-SE aligned linear ditches and trackways.

The enclosure at TL48854645 has rounded corners, an entrance in its west side, and a central square shaped internal feature (showing on prints ZQ 62 and BJJ 82). A linear ditch runs NW from the SW corner of the enclosure, which is abutted at right angles by a single ditched feature which may delineate two sides of a newly identified enclosure. Other linear ditches immediately to the north of the round cornered enclosure were identified on print ZQ 62. These additional ditches provide strong evidence for the existence of further archaeological features between the known foci of enclosures.

Further enclosures making up this N-S aligned group contain internal ditches and pits and are integral with NW-SE aligned tracks and linear ditches.

A double ditched track running N-S through a small enclosure at TL48794635, meets the NW-SE aligned track as a single ditch at TL48794626. The NW-SE track respects the north side ditch of an enclosure centred TL48794623. The track curves around the NW

corner of this enclosure, and continues its alignment into the adjacent modern field to the east, where it is abutted by further enclosures.

The relationship of the two tracks and the surrounding enclosures suggests that the N-S track was superseded by the NW-SE track when an enclosure was built over its alignment which can be seen within the enclosure.

A further linear feature runs NW-SE crossing a ring ditch, but is not visible within the ring ditch.

Pits are present both within and outside the enclosures and beside the NW-SE track, showing extent of landuse and possibly settlement into the middle of the modern field.

A sinuous linear feature beyond the western modern field boundary is, in my opinion, caused by the interface of the alluvium and the adjacent soil. It is shown in heavy red stipple on the accompanying map, as deep soil, and must be treated with caution if it is interpreted as an archaeological feature.

The site continues into the adjacent field to the east where the archaeological features show clearly on only one highly oblique photograph, 70H R-37. Further enclosures, some with internal divisions and pits, abut NW-SE aligned linear ditches at TL48864625, TL48954624 and in N-S alignment TL48904647-TL48874637.

At the northern end of the field, a curvilinear enclosure TL490465 is abutted by two divergent linear ditches running approximately SW-NE, which are crossed by linear ditches following the general NW-SE alignments. Evidence of ditch superimposition can be seen at TL4904647.

A track runs NE from TL48904655, changing direction to the east at TL48954662, respecting the shape of the curvilinear enclosure 70m to its east. A further linear ditch follows the NE line of this track from TL48904655, but cannot be traced to or beyond the modern boundary due to its appearing in the background of a highly oblique photo.

SUMMARY

The common alignments of linear ditches, tracks and enclosures within the whole assessment area are strongly indicative of a linked, cohesive archaeological landscape representing a small 'village' set around trackways and linear boundaries. Evidence of development and superimposition suggests a reasonably long occupation span.

The relationship of the two identified ring ditches to the enclosures is unclear. The ring ditches are different sizes, the northernmost being probably associated with settlement features, whilst the southern ring ditch is linked only with a linear feature of no proven contemporaneity.

There is a high probability that the area between the two foci of enclosures, centered TL48754660, contains further archaeological evidence. It is therefore suggested that field investigation/trial excavation in the area between the settlement foci may provide further archaeological evidence, and that similar tests within the known settlement areas be carried out to date and compare the two areas. The area between the 'sites' contains positive evidence of possible further enclosures and linear ditches, and is crossed by four linear ditches which are integral with, and possibly form land boundaries to, settlement areas of which the limits are unknown.

The vertical photo RC8-CK 149 shows geological features in the south east of the assessment area which are not apparent in the western field adjacent to the river. The soil in this western field may therefore be deeper, thus masking further archaeological features which are likely to be present in its centre.

Chris Cox, November 1991

TL4846 - TL4946 HINXTON

AERIAL PHOTOGRAPHIC ASSESSMENT OF SMRs 09738 AND 08822

APPENDIX

This note appends the above aerial photographic assessment carried out by Air Photo Services for Cambridgeshire County Council Archaeology.

Upon receipt of oblique photographs loaned by the National Library of Air Photographs at RCHME, Swindon, the assessment has been checked and completed.

The following NLAP photos showed the assessment area:

TL4846/3, 192-193	15 May 1976
TL4846/1,	1930s
TL4947/1	1930s
TL4846/6-8, 2004-2007	1 July 1985

Comment

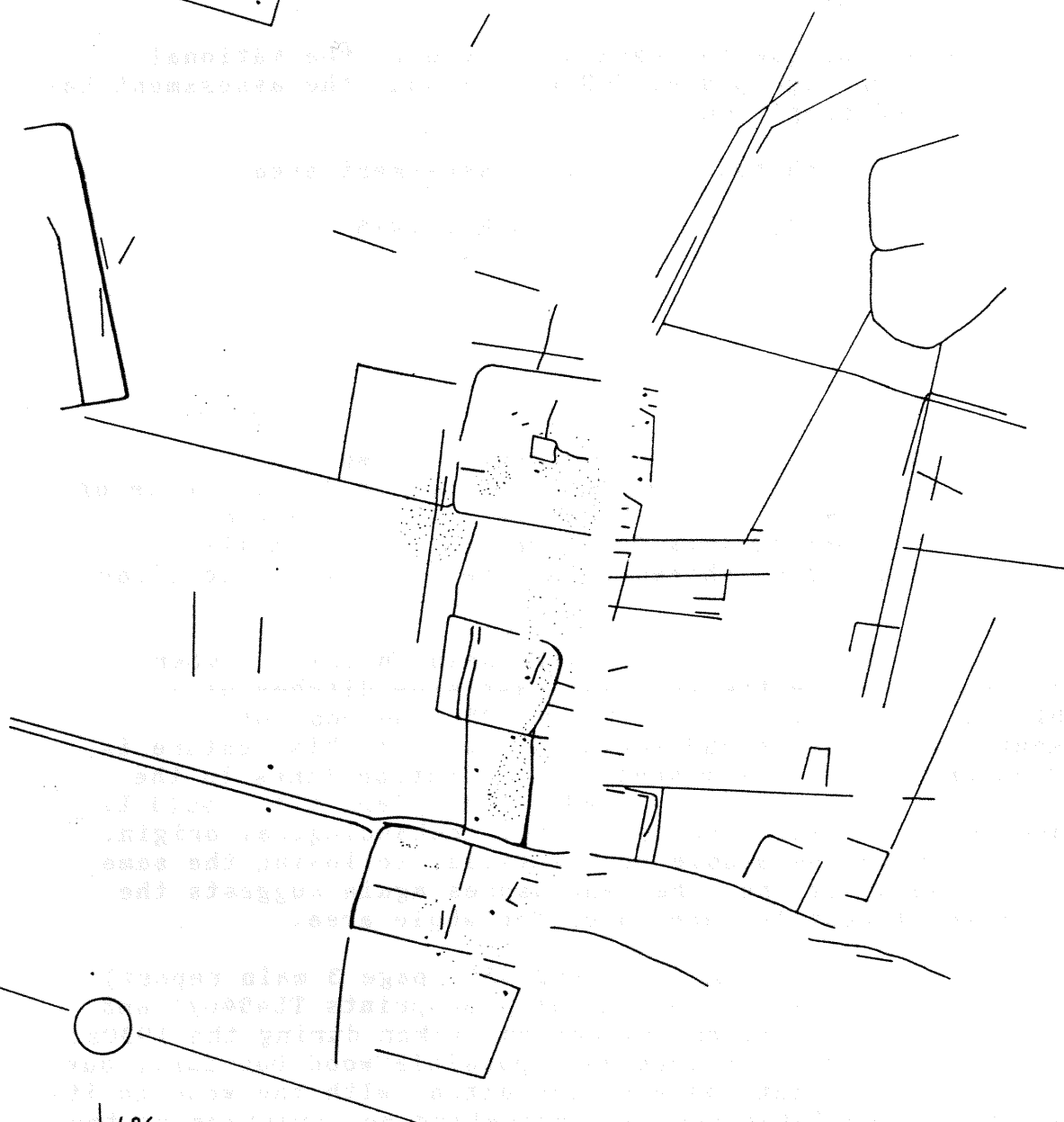
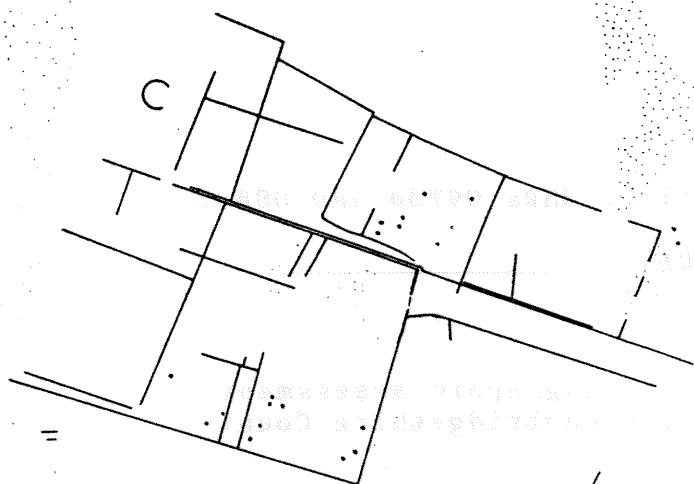
The photographs from NLAP were checked and compared to interpretations made from the CUCAP photos, in the presence of those prints. The NLAP photos added very little to the information interpreted from CUCAP photos, on which the archaeological features showed with more clarity and to a far greater extent.

However, possible linear ditches were seen on print number TL4846/7 which may be the west and east side ditches of a possible further enclosure at TL48674635. The possible alignments of the north and south ditches, if this feature is indeed an enclosure, are masked by cultivation lines in the field. The ditches have been added to the plan, but should be regarded as of possible, not definite, archaeological origin. Their position in the middle of the field, following the same general alignment as the other enclosures again suggests the extent of settlement features over the whole area.

The previously noted ditch at TL48624655 (page 3 main report) showed on photos of this area, notably on prints TL4846/1 and TL4947/1, from the Crawford collection, taken during the 1930s. I had interpreted this feature as a possible wood boundary, but it shows on these prints as a buried ditch, with the wood to its west as it does on later photos, indicating no shrinkage of the wood during the last 60 years. Possible internal ditches which I had noted on the plan also showed clearly on prints TL4846/6, 2006-2007 clarifying their interpretation as definite internal divisions extending to the SW boundary of the main 'enclosure, which may, in the light of this evidence, be a valid archaeological feature.

Chris Cox, 6 December, 1991




	492
TL	469



	49
TL	4

	486
TL	461

100 M 0 100 M

 DITCHES
 PITS
 DEEP SOIL