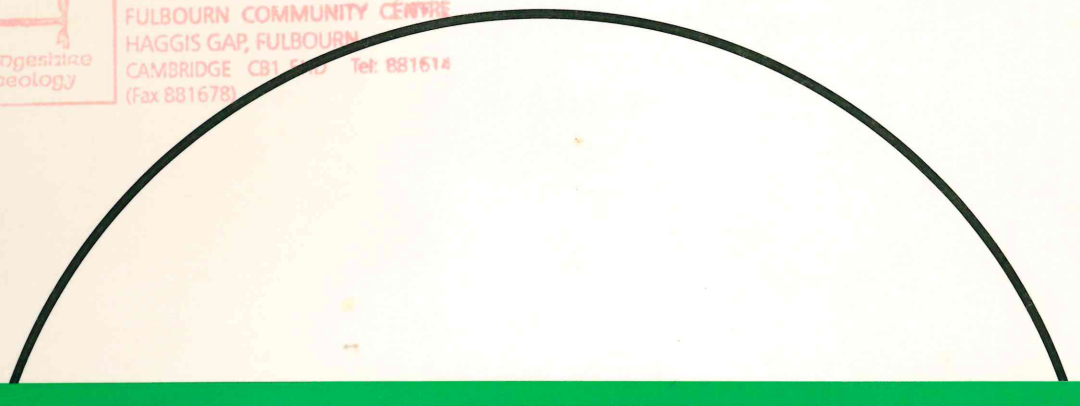


No 64

OFFICE COPY.



ARCHAEOLOGY FIELD OFFICE
FULBOURN COMMUNITY CENTRE
HAGGIS GAP, FULBOURN
CAMBRIDGE CB1 2JZ Tel: 881614
(Fax 881678)



**A1 Widening Scheme - 1992
Alconbury - Fletton Parkway**



A1 Widening Scheme - 1992 Alconbury - Fletton Parkway

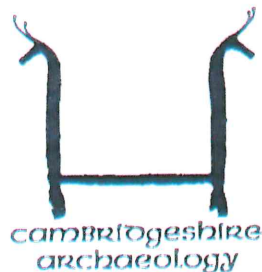
Ruth Pelling P.I.F.A. & Stephanie Leith

Archaeology Section
Property Department
Room 303, ShireHall
Castle Hill
Cambridge CB3 0AP
Tel. (0223) 317312



Report no. 64

Hollow way, Norman Cross



CONTENTS:

| | PAGE |
|--|------|
| ABSTRACT | 1 |
| 1.0 INTRODUCTION | 1 |
| 2.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND | 2 |
| 3.0 SURVEY STRATEGY | 3 |
| 4.0 GUIDE TO THE GAZETTEER | 7 |
| 5.0 GAZETTEER | 9 |
| 6.0 RECOMMENDATIONS | 30 |
| ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS | 32 |
| APPENDIX A: CONINGTON BRIDGE | 33 |
| APPENDIX B: GEOPHYSICAL SURVEY RESULTS | 35 |
| APPENDIX C: GLOSSARY | 42 |
| BIBLIOGRAPHY | 44 |

LIST OF FIGURES:

| | | PAGE |
|--------|------------------------------------|------|
| FIG.1 | LOCATION MAP | 5 |
| FIG.2 | SURVEY AREA | 6 |
| FIG.3 | AREA SOUTH OF ALCONBURY | 8 |
| FIG.4 | ALCONBURY TO ALCONBURY HILL | 10 |
| FIG.5 | ALCONBURY HILL TO COPPINGFORD WOOD | 12 |
| FIG.6 | COPPINGFORD WOOD TO SAWTRY | 14 |
| FIG.7 | SAWTRY | 16 |
| FIG.8 | SAWTRY EARTHWORKS IN DETAIL | 18 |
| FIG.9 | CONINGTON BRIDGE TO ERMINE LODGE | 20 |
| FIG.10 | STILTON AREA | 22 |
| FIG.11 | NORMAN CROSS AREA | 24 |
| FIG.12 | NORMAN CROSS EARTHWORKS IN DETAIL | 26 |
| FIG.13 | HADDON ROAD TO FLETTON PARKWAY | 28 |

LIST OF PLATES:

| | | PAGE |
|------|---|------|
| PL.1 | 18TH CENTURY MILESTONE OBELISK, ALCONBURY | 4 |
| PL.2 | PARISH BOUNDARY MARKER, CONINGTON BRIDGE | 4 |
| PL.3 | 18TH CENTURY GRAVESTONE, ST. ANDREW'S CHURCHYARD, SAWTRY | 4 |
| PL.4 | RIDGE AND FURROW, NORMAN CROSS | 32 |

A1 WIDENING SCHEME, ALCONBURY TO FLETTON PARKWAY: AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY - 1992

ABSTRACT:

During the period April to August 1992 Cambridgeshire County Council Archaeology Section carried out an archaeological survey along the length of the A1 from Alconbury to Fletton Parkway. The work was undertaken on behalf of Transportation Department of Cambridgeshire County Council prior to the Department of Transport's widening of the roadway. This survey was conducted following recommendations made by D. Shotliff after a preliminary survey in January 1991.

The survey strategy included: a survey of all upstanding earthworks and cropmarks, fieldwalking, geophysical survey, and consultation of historical records and the County Sites and Monuments Record. Trial trenching and excavation that had been recommended for certain sites was not included in the brief for the present phase of works, but will be necessary before construction begins.

This part of the A1 follows the line of Ermine Street, a major Roman highway, and as a result the survey area is one of intense Roman and medieval activity. Roman sites are mostly represented by scatters of artefacts, varying from isolated finds to large concentrations suggesting buried buildings. Medieval ridge and furrow field systems are the most common type of earthworks in the survey area, and there are two shrunken medieval villages. Prehistoric and post-medieval sites are represented by scatters of artefacts and cropmarks, and earthwork remains of a Civil War gun emplacement.

The survey has brought to light many sites of archaeological importance. Certain sites must be preserved at all costs, including four scheduled ancient monuments. Three sites have been recommended for trial trenching: Alconbury Hill where Roman buildings are suggested by surface finds, Tort Hill north of Sawtry, and an area around Norman Cross where field systems and a hollow way survive as earthworks. Sites of archaeological potential must be monitored closely during the roadworks, and Conington Bridge over Sawtry Brook must be removed with adequate recording undertaken by archaeologists.

1.0 INTRODUCTION:

- 1.1 An archaeological survey of 1km on either side of the A1 from Alconbury to Fletton Parkway was conducted by Cambridgeshire County Council Archaeology Section during the period April to August 1992. The survey was undertaken on behalf of Transportation Department of Cambridgeshire County Council, who act as agent for the Department of Transport for this stretch of the A1 widening scheme.
- 1.2 A preliminary survey of the area had been conducted in January 1991 by Cambridgeshire County Council Archaeology Section (Evans & Shotliff, 1991). This provided recommendations which formed the basis of the 1992 survey strategy.

- 1.3 The purpose of the present survey was to assess the impact of proposed roadworks on archaeological sites in the area, with particular attention to sites which merit preservation. All archaeological features that will be damaged or destroyed by the road widening scheme have been listed and described. Any features in the landscape not directly threatened, but related to those that are, have been recorded and associations shown. Finally an assessment of further archaeological work required, before or during construction work, has been made.
- 1.4 The archive is stored with Cambridgeshire County Council's Archaeology Section.

2.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND:

- 2.1 Between Alconbury and Fletton Parkway the A1 follows the route of Ermine Street, a major Roman highway. As well as linking important settlements, particularly London and York, Ermine Street encouraged the development of many other settlements. Roman towns in Cambridgeshire, at Godmanchester and Water Newton, were built and thrived. Posting stations were required, one of which was excavated at Wimpole by Cambridgeshire Archaeology in 1988; others are likely to exist. Farmsteads and field systems would have been encouraged in this agriculturally rich area as a result of increasing traffic and prosperity along the road. Roman burials and tombstones were positioned beside their roads, as has been shown on Ermine Street in the recent important discovery of a child in a lead coffin at Arrington in 1990. Parts of the original road structure itself may also exist under or adjacent to the present A1.
- 2.2 Ermine Street has been maintained as a major link road, thus encouraging continued development of the adjacent land. An extensive medieval landscape remains, both as cropmarks and upstanding earthworks. A medieval moated grange occurs at Archer's Wood. A shifted medieval village (SMV) occurs at Sawtry, and a shrunken example at Haddon. Examples of the medieval agricultural system of ridge and furrow exist widely along this stretch of the A1, forming the most frequent type of archaeological feature. Intensive agricultural farming in the twentieth century has doubtless destroyed further ancient field systems.
- 2.3 Post-medieval features of interest along the A1 exist and have been recorded. Most notably these include a possible Cromwellian gun battery at Sawtry, Conington bridge over Sawtry Brook, a Napoleonic prisoner of war camp at the Norman Cross roundabout, and an 18th century milestone obelisk at Alconbury.

3. SURVEY STRATEGY:

- 3.1 Initial consultation of the Cambridgeshire Sites and Monuments Record (SMR) revealed the existence of four scheduled ancient monuments (SAM's) and 52 other entries along the area of the proposed road widening. The entries refer to archaeological sites, individual finds or scatters of artefacts. Several SMR entries have been updated through inspection in the field or consultation of excavation archives. An additional 3 fields with earthworks and 16 fields with cropmarks have been found through consultation of aerial photographs.

- 3.2 This survey was based on the recommendations of the 1991 report. Detailed surveying of standing earthworks was conducted, either in the field, or by aerial photograph rectification. The condition of preservation of all upstanding earthworks was assessed in the field. Cropmarks were recorded by aerial photographic rectification using the Bradford Aerial Photograph System. Charles Sever kindly donated a series of RAF aerial photographs taken in February of this year, covering the area from Alconbury to Norman Cross. These photographs proved to be invaluable to the survey as they revealed a number of features previously unrecorded. In addition, a series of Ordnance Survey aerial photographs taken in the 1960's and 70's were consulted, as were photographs at the Cambridge University Committee for Aerial Photography.
- 3.3 Fieldwalking was conducted in accordance with the recommendations made in the 1991 report. The recently ploughed fields were systematically searched for scatters of artefacts which could indicate the existence of archaeological sites. In most cases a 50m wide strip was walked in fields due to be affected by the road widening. A few fields recommended for fieldwalking were under crop at the time of this survey and therefore unavailable for evaluation.
- 3.4 Geophysical survey was undertaken by Northamptonshire Archaeology Unit in two areas of archaeological potential: at Alconbury Hill where a concentration of finds suggests the existence of Roman buildings, and at Sawtry adjacent to SAM 171, a medieval moated settlement. The results of this survey are found in Appendix B.
- 3.4 A visit to the County Record Office (Huntingdon) was made to search for references to Conington Bridge prior to an architectural survey (results in Appendix A). No mention of it was found in the Quarter Sessions or Victoria County Histories. In the Quarter Sessions for October 1848, however, a reference to highway repair was found, concerning Ermine Street further south in the parish of Upton.
- 3.5 Visits were made to all sites mentioned in the SMR.



Pl.1 18th century milestone obelisk, Alconbury

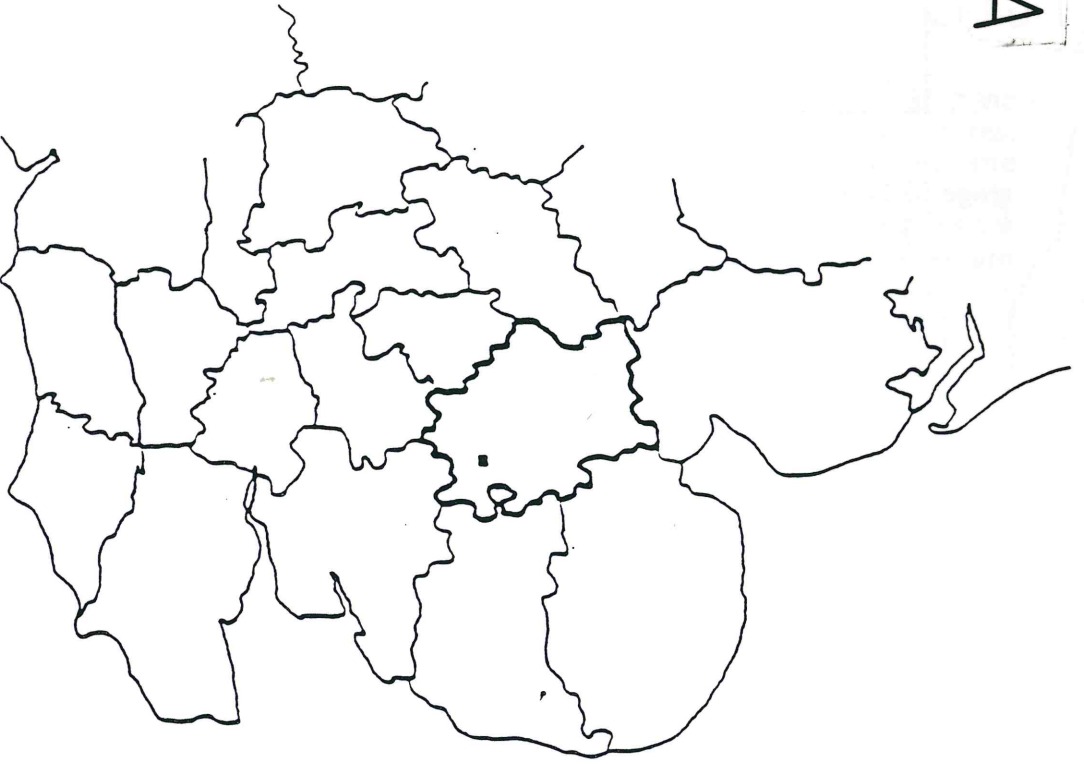


Pl.2 Parish boundary marker, Conington Bridge

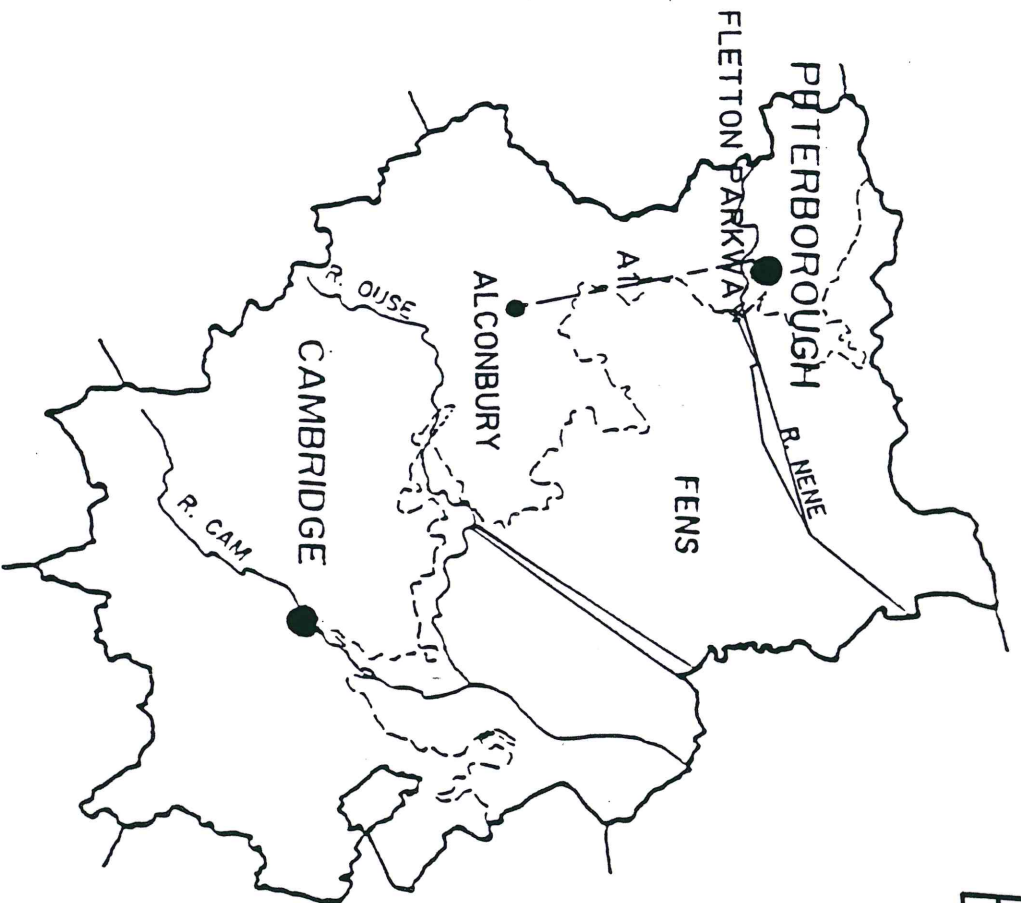


Pl.3 18th century gravestone, St. Andrew's Churchyard, Sawtry

A



B



cambridgeshire
archaeology

Archaeology Section
Cambridgeshire County
Council

FIG.1 LOCATION MAP

Crown Copyright Reserved

Scale

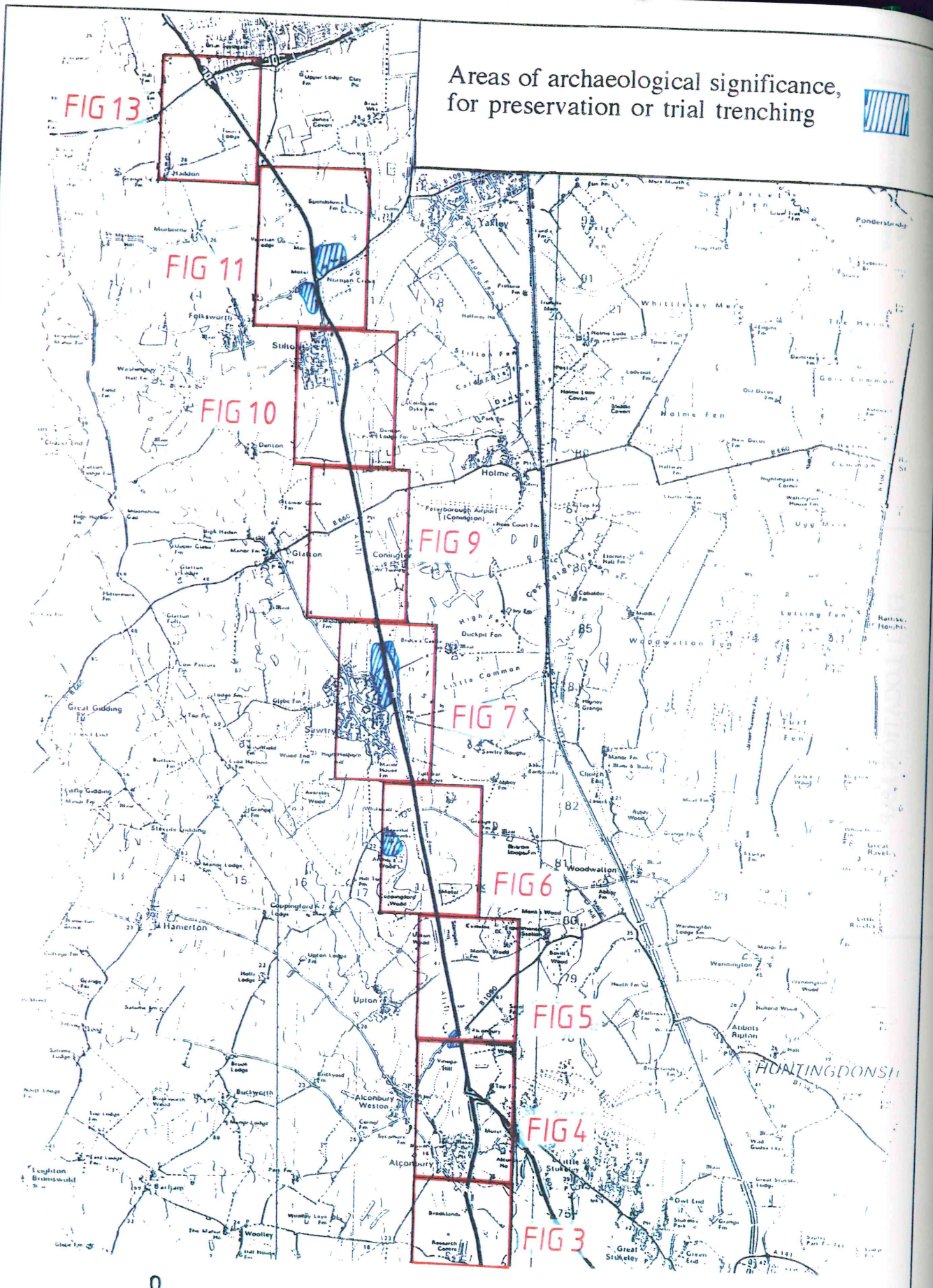
Initials

R.P.

Date

9/92

Areas of archaeological significance,
for preservation or trial trenching



Based upon Ordnance Survey Map No. TL 08/18 with the sanction of the Controller of HMSO (Licence No. LA 07649 X)

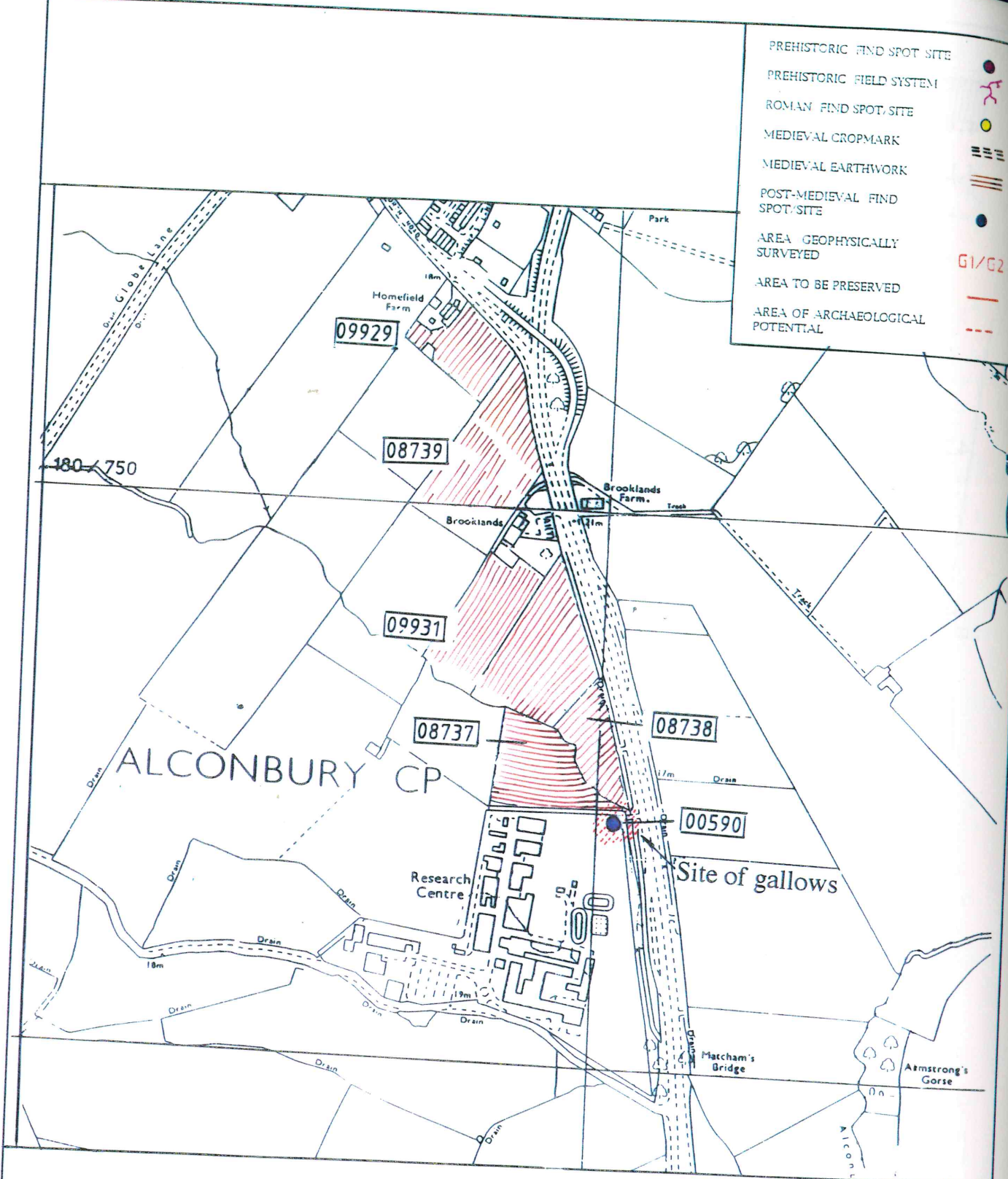
Cambridgeshire
archaeology
Archaeology Section
Cambridgeshire County
Council

FIG.2 SURVEY AREA

| | |
|--------------------------|------|
| Crown CopyRight Reserved | |
| Scale | |
| Initials | Date |
| R.P. | 9/92 |

4.0 GUIDE TO THE GAZETTEER

- 4.1 It was found most constructive to arrange the Gazetteer in the same style as the 1991 report, so that a series of maps show archaeological sites and features, running from south to north. A discussion of each area, including site description, is presented beside the relevant map. Each entry is preceded by its SMR number (where relevant) and O.S. grid reference, and recommendations are brought out in bold text. Fields of ridge and furrow previously unrecorded are labelled A to S. All features identified in this and previous surveys are plotted on a scale of 1:10,000. The more complicated earthworks at Sawtry and at Norman Cross are further illustrated at a larger scale of 1:2500, and Cōnington bridge is also shown in fuller detail. Colour coding has been used to distinguish between sites of differing archaeological/historical periods.
- 4.2 The medieval ridge and furrow field systems are shown, contrary to convention, by a single line down the centre of the furrow, not down the centre of the ridge as is usual. This was the most accurate way to plot the information from aerial photographs. The earthworks were plotted as accurately as was possible at 1:10,000, however plots of earthworks at 1:2500 are stored in the archive and can be consulted if necessary.
- 4.3 Recommendations, including further work necessary, are presented at the end of the report.



- PREHISTORIC FIND SPOT SITE ●
- PREHISTORIC FIELD SYSTEM ⋈
- ROMAN FIND SPOT SITE ●
- MEDIEVAL CROPMARK ≡≡≡
- MEDIEVAL EARTHWORK ≡≡≡
- POST-MEDIEVAL FIND SPOT/SITE ●
- AREA GEOPHYSICALLY SURVEYED G1/G2
- AREA TO BE PRESERVED —
- AREA OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL POTENTIAL - - -

Based upon Ordnance Survey Map No. TL 17SE with the sanction of the Controller of HMSO (Licence No. LA 07649 X)


 **Cambridgeshire
archaeology**
Archaeology Section
Cambridgeshire County
Council

FIG.3 AREA SOUTH OF ALCONBURY

| | |
|--------------------------|--------------|
| Crown CopyRight Reserved | |
| Scale 1:10000 | |
| Initials R.P. | Date 9/92 |

5.0 GAZETTEER:

FIGURE 3:

00590 TL1909 / 7407 - POST-MEDIEVAL GALLOWS

The site of Matcham's Gibbet, destroyed by earlier road widening. Not threatened by present scheme, however burials may exist within the area.

Burials associated with the gallows may exist in this area. Roadworks must proceed with caution and work is to be stopped and archaeologists alerted if human remains are uncovered. The coroner must be informed and a Home Office licence is required for lawful excavation of human remains.

08737 TL189 / 745 - RIDGE AND FURROW

Slight remains of ridge and furrow running east - west, some visible as earthworks, some as cropmarks.

08738 TL188 / 752 - RIDGE AND FURROW

Slight remains of ridge and furrow running southwest - northeast, some visible as earthworks, some as cropmarks.

08739 TL190 / 745 - RIDGE AND FURROW

Ridge and furrow running southwest - northeast. In northern half of field well-preserved with ridges about 60 cm in height, in southern half as cropmarks.

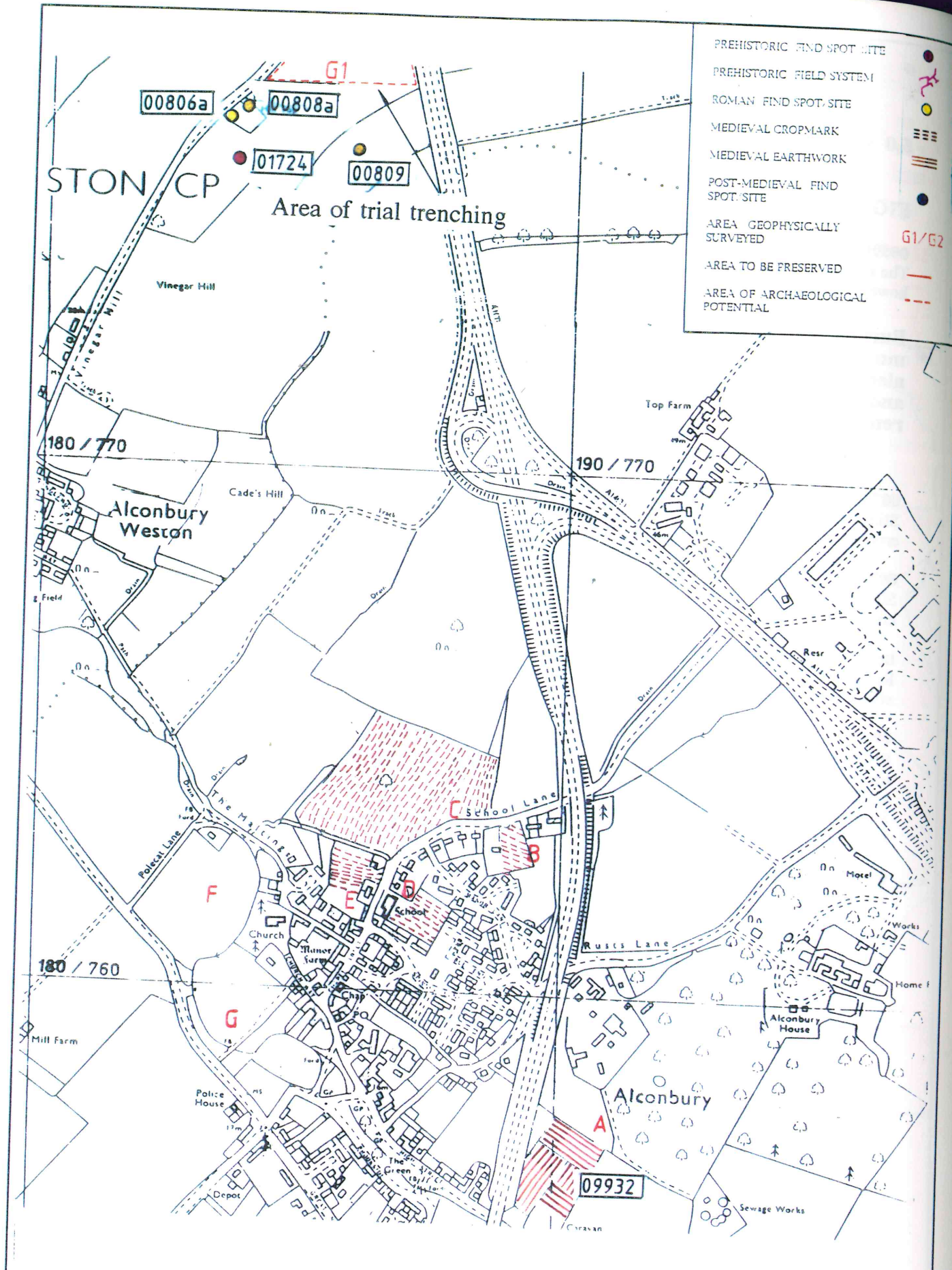
09929 TL188 / 749 - RIDGE AND FURROW

Ridge and furrow surviving as well-defined earthworks running southwest - northeast, in a small triangle of pastures east of Homefield Farm. The ridges are from 60 to 90 cm in height. Further ridge and furrow is visible as cropmarks. The ridge and furrow in this field was plotted from a 1971 Ordnance Survey aerial photograph on which definition is far greater than on the 1992 photographs. This is a result of plough destruction during the intervening 20 years.


09931 TL188 / 748 - RIDGE AND FURROW.

Ridge and furrow running southwest - northeast, surviving as earthworks. Ridges preserved to a maximum height of 30 cm.

No further work is required on the above sites of ridge and furrow, but earlier features preserved beneath the pasture or ploughsoil may be encountered during road construction. Further archaeological works would be necessary in the event of an important discovery.



Based upon Ordnance Survey Map No. TL 17NE with the sanction of the Controller of HMSO (Licence No. LA 07649 X)



 cambridgeshire

 archaeology

 Archaeology Section

 Cambridgeshire County

 Council

FIG.4 ALCONBURY TO ALCONBURY HILL

Crown Copyright Reserved

 Scale

 1:10000

 Initials

 R.P.

 Date

 9/92

FIGURE 4:

00806a TL184 / 776 - ROMAN POTTERY.

Roman pottery found during excavation of house foundation trenches at Hill Top. Included Castor Ware, Coarse and Gritted ware, grooved tile and *tegulae*.

00808 TL1836 / 7754 - ROMAN PIT.

Site of a Roman rubbish pit discovered during the excavation of house foundation trenches. In addition to Roman pot sherds, a Roman brooch was uncovered.

00809 TL186 / 776 - FINDS SCATTER

Roman pottery found during building work.

01724 TL183 / 775 - FINDS SCATTER

Sherds of Iron Age, wheel made, Cordoned Brown Ware and a carinated jar of grey ware.

Finds scatters suggest the presence of Roman buildings. Geophysical surveying has been conducted in this area, labelled G1 on fig. 4 and 5 (results in Appendix B).

Trial trenching is recommended in this area (see Fig.5).

09932 TL191 / 757 - RIDGE AND FURROW.

Well-defined ridge and furrow surviving as earthworks running northeast - southwest in northern part, southwest - northeast in southern part of the field. Headlands show clearly. A small enclosure is visible in the southeast corner that was suspected to be a medieval fishpond. Closer inspection of aerial photographs, however, show this to contain further ridge and furrow, headlands forming the enclosure boundaries.

A - Ridge and furrow appearing as faint soilmarks, running northwest - southeast.

B - Ridge and furrow appearing as well-defined earthworks running east - west.

C - Ridge and furrow appearing as faint cropmarks running southsouthwest - northnortheast.

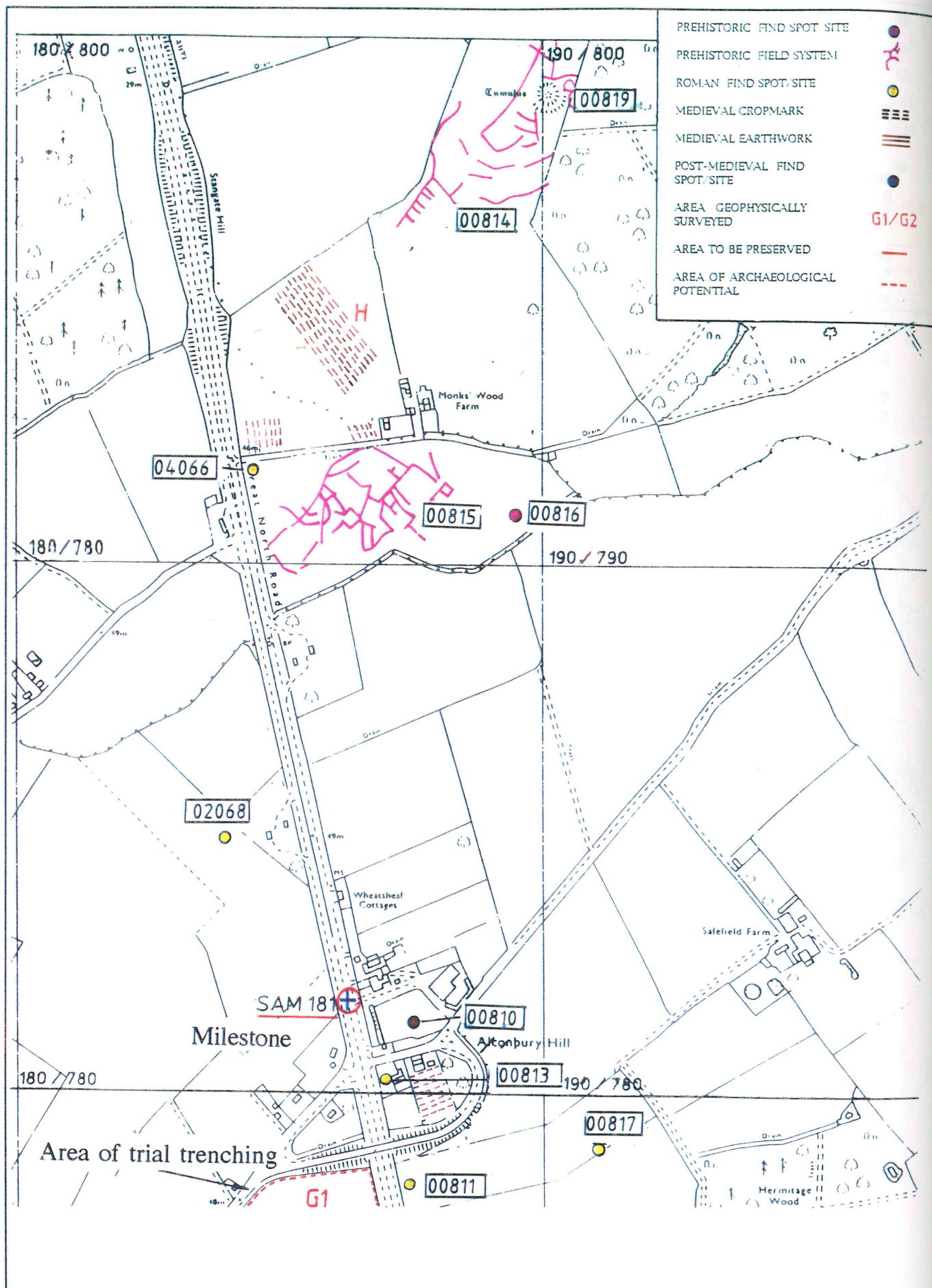
D - Ridge and furrow running northwest - southeast. Visible as soilmarks on the school playing ground.

E - Ridge and furrow appearing as soilmarks on the recreation ground running northwest - southeast.

F - Ridge and furrow appearing as faint cropmarks running southsouthwest - northnortheast.

G - Ridge and furrow appearing as faint cropmarks running southsouthwest - northnortheast.

No further work is required on the above sites of ridge and furrow, but earlier features beneath the pasture or ploughsoil may be encountered during road construction. Further archaeological works would be necessary in the event of an important discovery.



Based upon Ordnance Survey Map No. TL 17NE with the sanction of the Controller of HMSO (Licence No. LA 07649 X)

 **Cambridgeshire
Archaeology**
Archaeology Section
Cambridgeshire County
Council

**FIG.5 ALCONBURY HILL TO COPPINGFORD
WOOD**

Crown CopyRight Reserved
Scale
1:10000
Initials
R.P.
Date
9/92

FIGURE 5:

00811 TL187 / 780 - ROMAN BUILDINGS

A group of small rectangular Roman buildings excavated in 1940. An inscribed stone was included among the finds.

The area to the east of the Alconbury Hill junction has produced evidence of Roman roadside occupation. Fieldwalking on the west of the A1, south of Vinegar Hill and Hill Top, produced a significant quantity of early Roman pot, increasing in number towards the north of the field. A large fragment of "*opus signinum*", a Roman mortar, coloured pink by the addition of crushed tile, suggests the possibility of a high quality building.

A geophysical survey has been conducted in this area, labelled G1 on fig. 4 and 5 (results in Appendix B). Although the geophysical survey did not reveal any substantial archaeological features, the possibility remains that there are Roman buildings in this area.

Trial trenching is recommended on the west of the A1 at Alconbury Hill.

00810 TL187 / 782 - MEDIEVAL MOAT

A moat and ridge and furrow existed before construction of the riding school buildings.

00813 TL187 / 780 - ROAD METALLING.

Road works in 1938 uncovered remains of Roman Ermine Street.

00814 TL185 / 794 - CROPMARK, POTTERY, RIDGE AND FURROW.

Field systems, probably late Iron Age / Romano-British, visible as cropmarks. Surface finds of Romano-British pottery to the north of the area. Some ridge and furrow also visible on aerial photographs.

00815 TL187 / 791 - CROPMARKS, ENCLOSURE.

Field systems and possible enclosure, probably early prehistoric settlements, seen on Ordnance Survey aerial photographs taken in 1973.

00816 TL1875 / 7913 - QUERN.

Part of an Iron Age beehive quern found in 1953.

00817 TL191 / 779 - FINDS SCATTER.

Find of Roman pottery and some burnt daub.

00819 TL190 / 800 - POTTERY.

Surface scatter of Roman pottery, slight mound now ploughed flat, possibly a Roman barrow.

02068 TL1830 / 7860 - POTTERY.

Surface scatter of Roman pot sherds, possibly from one vessel of Cream Ware, dated to AD200 at latest. Found during excavation of a pipe trench. No features were identified.

04066 TL184 / 791 - ROMAN COIN.

Stray find of a Roman coin of Faustina II.

H - Ridge and furrow running northwest - southeast and north - south, visible as cropmarks.

The above sites should not be affected by the proposed widening scheme, but associated features may be encountered during road construction. Further archaeological works would be necessary in the event of an important discovery.

00812 - SAM 181 TL187 / 781 - MILESTONE.

18th century milestone obelisk in central reservation of A1.

This is to be preserved in its present position and fenced during roadworks.

FIGURE 6:

SAM 171 TL175-/812- EARTHWORKS

Earthworks originally covered an area of 30 acres, extending from the Coppingford road into Archer's Wood. Includes a large outer moat, an inner moat and raised building platform, minor baulks and ditches, and ridge and furrow. This has been identified as a grange of Sawtry Abbey dated by pottery and other finds to the 14th to 16th centuries.

Unfortunately this site was largely destroyed in 1979 by levelling for farming and continues to be damaged by ploughing. Rescue excavations were carried out by the Sawtry and District Archaeology Society.

There is no immediate threat by the present road scheme, although outlying associated features may exist between this site and the A1. Archaeologists must be contacted if any archaeological features are uncovered during road construction.

I - Ridge and furrow running northwest - southeast, well-preserved with ridges about 60 cm in height, in pasture to the north of the Coppingford road.

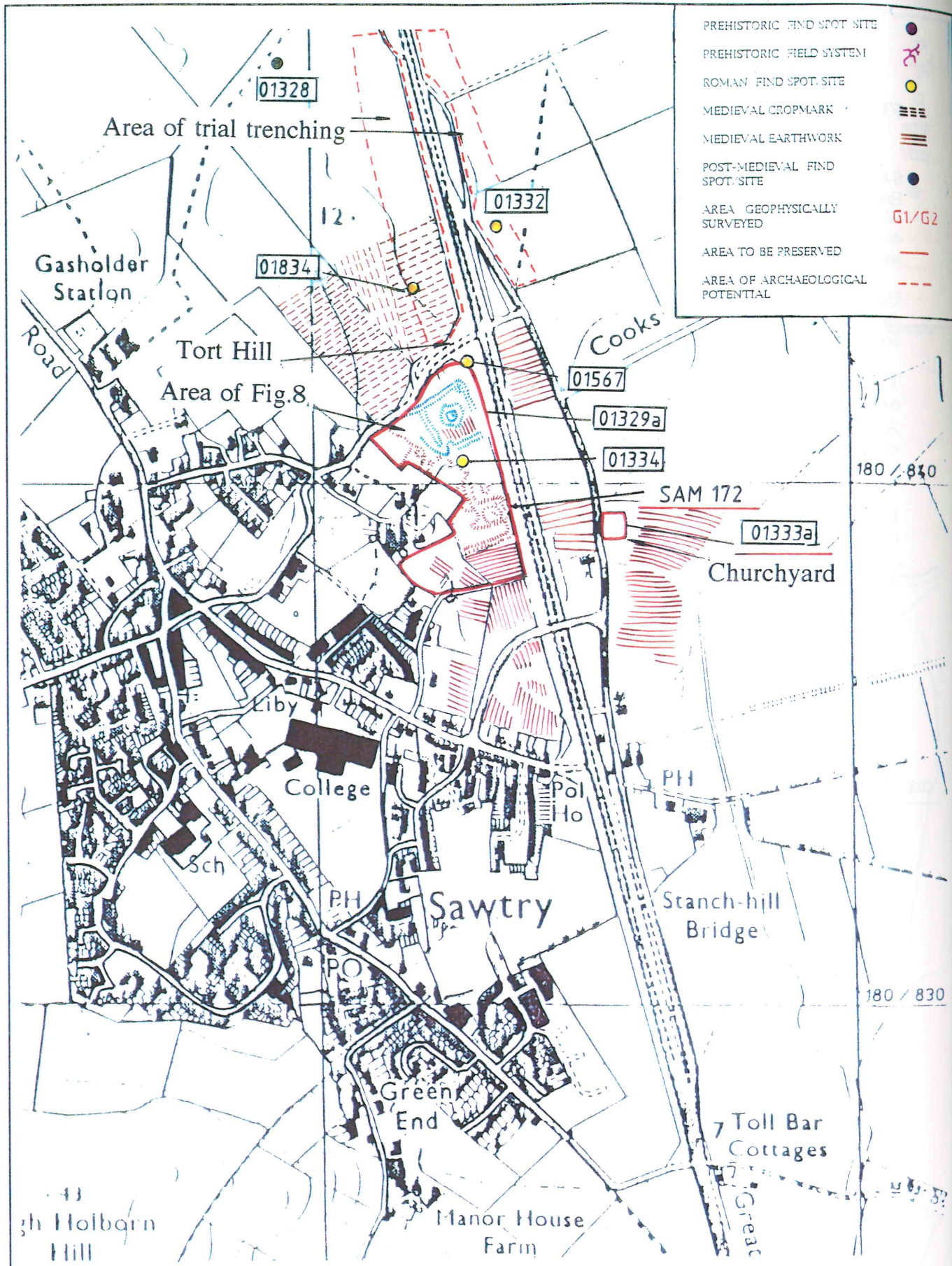
J - Ridge and furrow running northwest - southeast, fairly clear as earthworks.

Both the above fields of ridge and furrow are probably associated with the Archer's Wood earthwork site. Further ridge and furrow must have existed originally.

01339 TL17 / 82 - ROMAN URNS.

Roman urns were found in 1722, possibly representing a cremation cemetery associated with the Tort Hill settlement (SMR 01567, Fig. 7).

Further features associated with the Archer's Wood SAM may exist in this area to the west of the A1. Field walking did not reveal any significant finds scatters. Geophysical surveying, conducted in the area labelled G2, did not record any anomalies (results in Appendix B).



Based upon Ordnance Survey Map No. TL 18SE with the sanction of the Controller of HMSO (Licence No. LA 07649 X)



 Cambridgeshire

 Archaeology

 Archaeology Section

 Cambridgeshire County

 Council

FIG.7 SAWTRY

Crown Copyright Reserved

Scale
1:10000

| | |
|------------------|--------------|
| Initials R.P. | Date 9/92 |
|------------------|--------------|

FIGURE 7:

01328 TL17 / 82 - ROMAN COIN

Isolated find of a silver coin of Julius Caesar, found 1890.

SAM 172 TL173-/ 842- - EARTHWORKS (Fig. 8)

Earthworks in pasture between Sawtry village and the A1. Consists of a moat (01329a), SMV (01329c), a rectangular embanked platform and circular earthwork (01329b), and ridge and furrow (see descriptions below).

01329a TL173 / 839 - MOAT

A moated homestead with a central sub-rectangular house platform raised 1.82m above the surrounding ground surface. Moat is rectangular with extended corners, partially destroyed on south-east corner by banking on the west of the A1. South and east stretches of the moat are water-logged. Platform is raised slightly on east and west sides. No internal divisions are visible. A ditch running east-west to the south of the monument appears to turn and meet the moat in its southeast corner. This ditch is possibly a water outlet channel. Ground rises north of the monument towards the top of Tort Hill.

01329c TL 172 / 841 - EARTHWORKS

A number of banks, ditches, platforms, hollows and one still water-filled pond, situated to the north of the moat. Ridge and furrow extends out to the north, south and east. Earthworks represent a SMV associated with the moat.

01329b TL174 / 841 - EARTHWORKS.

Earthworks on summit of Tort Hill consisting of an embanked rectangular platform containing a circular feature. Rectangular platform is approximately 100m square. Circular earthwork has a diameter of approximately 30m, has a sunken interior and one internal partition.

The rectangular platform was originally thought to be a Roman signal station overlooking Ermine Street. However, excavations in 1965 indicated that it was not in use prior to the 13th century (A.R. Edwardson et al, 1966), and it is interpreted as a 17th century gun battery, built to control traffic on the Great North Road.

The purpose of the circular earthwork is unclear. Aerial photographs show ridge and furrow that are no longer visible as earthworks. It is unclear if the ridge and furrow actually runs under the monument as suggested by the SMR, or only up to it. The interpretation suggested on the SMR is that of a Civil War gun emplacement. An alternative interpretation is that this is the site of a medieval wooden mill, suggested by the sunken interior and internal partition. A conclusive interpretation is not yet possible.

SAM 172 must be preserved and protected during the roadworks. This precludes any disturbance, including tipping, landscaping, siting of huts or use of wheeled vehicles in this area.

171 / 843

Tort Hill

8.7m

Gun emplacement

01329d

Pond

171 / 840

The Rectory 1597 459ha 3.61

The Old Rectory

All Saint's Church (C of E)

1790 661ha 1.63

Manor Farm

2380 089ha 2.22

1977 259ha 6.1

171 / 838

175 / 840

SAM 172
Moated farmstead
Hollow way

5285 097ha 2.4

175 / 838



PREHISTORIC FIND SPOT SITE

PREHISTORIC FIELD SYSTEM

ROMAN FIND SPOT SITE

MEDIEVAL CROPMARK

MEDIEVAL EARTHWORK

POST-MEDIEVAL FIND SPOT SITE

AREA GEOPHYSICALLY SURVEYED

AREA TO BE PRESERVED

AREA OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL POTENTIAL

G1/G2

Based upon Ordnance Survey Map No. TL 173/840 with the sanction of the Controller of HMSO (Licence No. LA 07649 X)

Cambridgeshire archaeology
Archaeology Section
Cambridgeshire County Council

FIG.8 SAWTRY EARTHWORKS IN DETAIL

| | |
|--------------------------|------|
| Crown Copyright Reserved | |
| Scale 1:2500 | |
| Initials | Date |
| R.P. | 9/92 |

FIG.7 CONT.

01333a TL1756 / 8393 - GRAVEYARD.

Surviving graveyard of the Church of St. Andrew (demolished 1880), east of the A1 slip road east of Sawtry. Formerly contained 13th century / early 14th century stone coffin with shaped head. The majority of the gravestones date from the late 19th century.

The graveyard is to be preserved and fenced beside the roadside during roadworks.

01332 TL17 / 84 - ROMAN COFFINS

Two coffins of Barnack Stone (one male, one female), found during A1 widening.

01334 TL173 / 841 - STRAY FIND

Find of Roman colour-coated pot-sherd with the figure of a spearman in white.

01567 TL173 / 842 - FINDS SCATTER

Large quantity of fine wares collected during realignment of the A1 at Tort Hill in 1939. Presumably associated with Tort Hill Roman settlement.

01567 TL173 / 841 - ROMANO-BRITISH SETTLEMENT.

Settlement discovered during realignment of the A1 at Tort Hill in 1939. Probably occupied from 2nd century to 4th century (J.R. Garrod, 1940 and 1947).

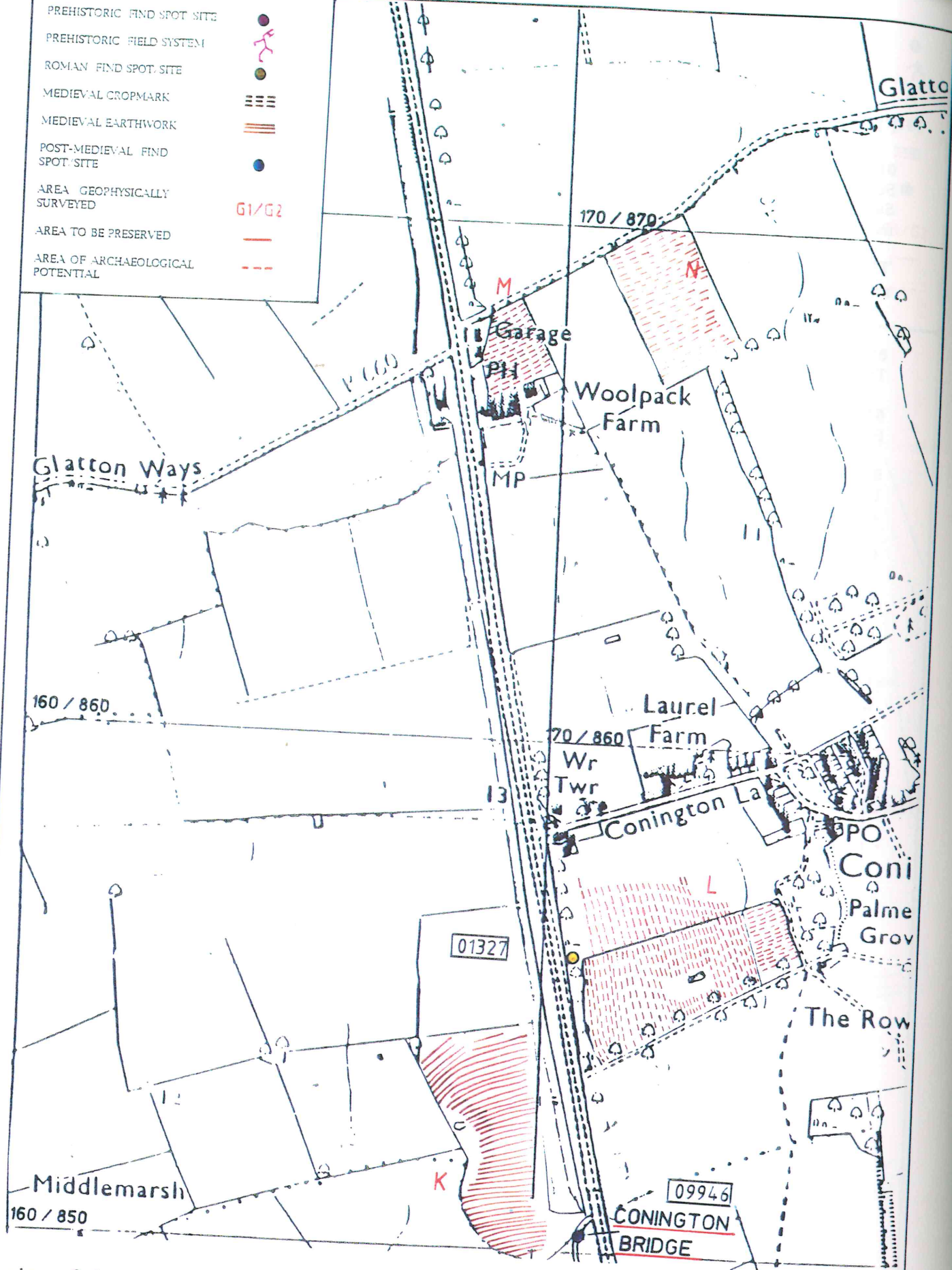
01834 TL173 / 848 - FINDS SCATTER

25 Roman coins and in excess of 1200 pot sherds found during field-walking in 1983. Again presumably associated with the Roman settlement.

Trial trenching is recommended on Tort Hill where further Roman material is likely to exist.

The Sawtry area is clearly very rich in archaeology, predominantly medieval and Roman. There is a high risk of uncovering archaeological features during roadworks in this area. The work must proceed with caution, and must be monitored by archaeologists.

- PREHISTORIC FIND SPOT SITE ●
- PREHISTORIC FIELD SYSTEM ┆┆┆
- ROMAN FIND SPOT SITE ●
- MEDIEVAL CROPMARK ≡≡≡
- MEDIEVAL EARTHWORK ≡≡≡
- POST-MEDIEVAL FIND SPOT SITE ●
- AREA GEOPHYSICALLY SURVEYED G1/G2
- AREA TO BE PRESERVED —
- AREA OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL POTENTIAL - - -



Based upon Ordnance Survey Map No. TL 18NE with the sanction of the Controller of HMSO (Licence No. LA 07649 X)


 *cambridgeshire archaeology*
 Archaeology Section
 Cambridgeshire County Council

FIG.9 CONINGTON BRIDGE TO ERMINE LODGE

| | |
|--------------------------|--------------|
| Crown CopyRight Reserved | |
| Scale 1:10000 | |
| Initials R.P. | Date 9/92 |

FIGURE 9:

01327 TL1708 / 8539 - ROMAN POTTERY

Isolated find uncovered during construction of dual carriageway.

09946 TL171 / 850 - CONINGTON BRIDGE.

Bridge over Sawtry Brook under a road off the A1, now a layby. Suspected in origin to be of medieval date. Research in Huntingdon County Record Office produced no mention of the bridge in the Quarter Session or the Victoria County History. A parish map of 1842 and an OS map of 1887 did show the bridge.

Mr. C.R. Godfrey of Cambridgeshire County Council Conservation Group was invited to an inspection of the bridge (Appendix A). Three main construction phases were identified with minor 20th century repair work.

Phase one is situated in the centre of the bridge, 3.5m in length, built of large, tightly fitted limestone blocks. A construction date of the late 16th to 17th century is estimated. In the late 17th or 18th century this was extended on either end with an orange brick superstructure. A single course of limestone blocks on each side bears the weight of the above bricks, and limestone blocks form the voussoirs at either end. The keystone at the southwesterly end projects downwards having slipped slightly. The third major phase, again consisting of extensions at either end, consists of several layers of limestone blocks surmounted by rough, long and narrow limestone bricks. The northeastern voussoir is again of limestone blocks. This phase is estimated as 19th century in date. Repair work in the 19th century involved replacing damaged bricks or blocks with red bricks. 20th century alterations consist of extending the southwestern end and the construction of blue-grey brick parapets, the southwestern one being very recent.

Sawtry Brook marks the parish boundary between Sawtry and Conington. A cast iron boundary marker is set on the top of the bridge against the northeastern parapet.

Although there is no trace of medieval masonry nor record of a medieval bridge, a medieval date of origin is still possible. During destruction of the bridge a watching brief is recommended so that any medieval foundation can be recorded.

K - 16- / 85- RIDGE AND FURROW

East-west running ridge and furrow appearing as cropmarks.

L - 171 / 855 - RIDGE AND FURROW

North-south and east-west running ridge and furrow appearing as cropmarks.

M - 168 / 866 - RIDGE AND FURROW

North-south and east-west running ridge and furrow appearing as cropmarks.

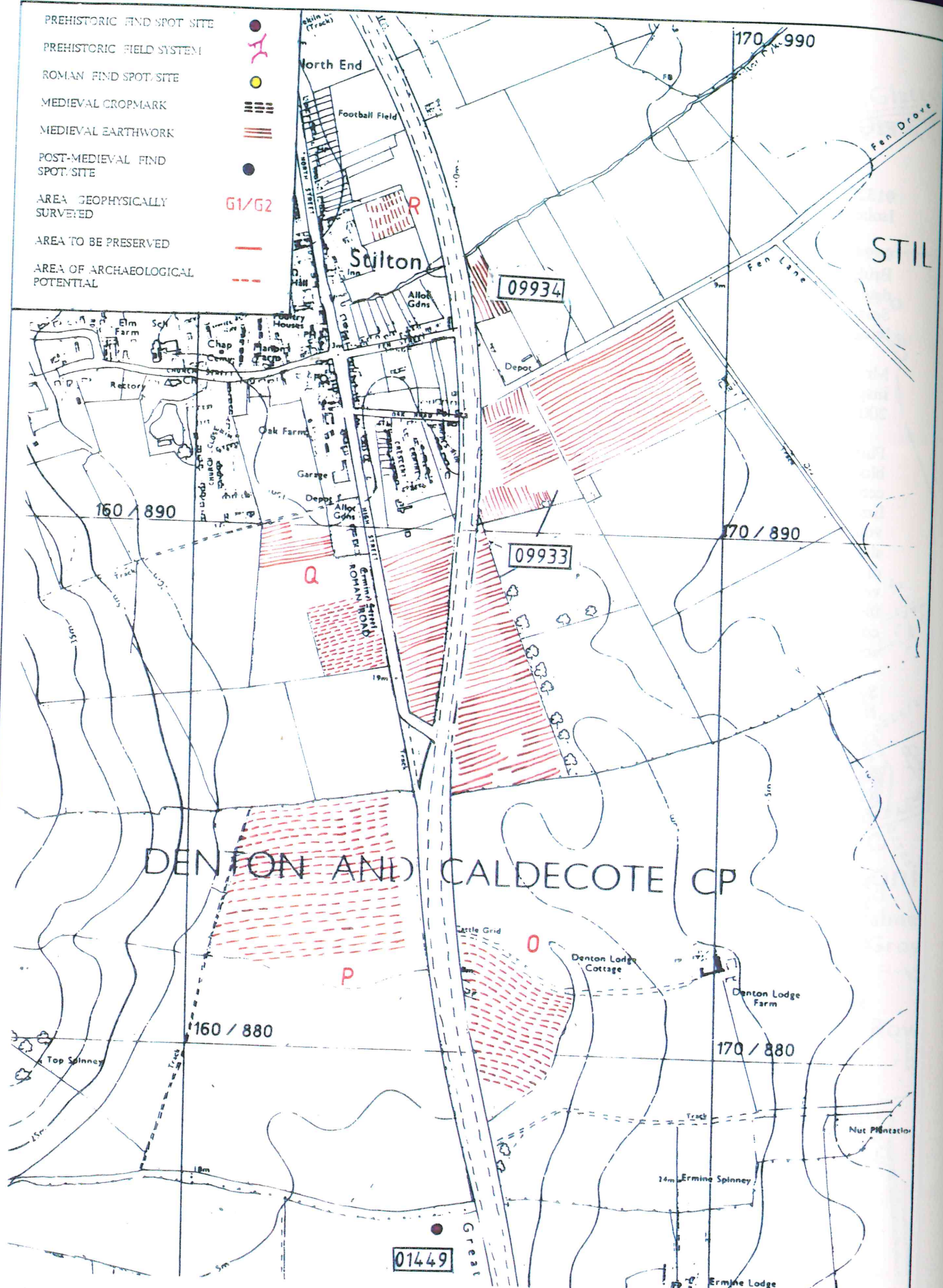
N - 172 / 867 - RIDGE AND FURROW

Southwest-northeast running ridge and furrow appearing as cropmarks.

Fieldwalking between Conington Bridge and Stilton did not reveal any significant finds scatters.

No further work is required on the above sites of ridge and furrow, but earlier features preserved beneath the pasture or ploughsoil may be encountered during road construction. Further archaeological works would be necessary in the event of an important discovery.

- PREHISTORIC FIND SPOT SITE ●
- PREHISTORIC FIELD SYSTEM H
- ROMAN FIND SPOT SITE ●
- MEDIAEVAL CROPMARK ||||
- MEDIAEVAL EARTHWORK |||
- POST-MEDIAEVAL FIND SPOT SITE ●
- AREA GEOPHYSICALLY SURVEYED G1/G2
- AREA TO BE PRESERVED ---
- AREA OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL POTENTIAL ---



Based upon Ordnance Survey Map No. TL 18NE with the sanction of the Controller of HMSO (Licence No. LA 07649 X)

**Cambridgeshire
archaeology**
Archaeology Section
Cambridgeshire County
Council

FIG.10 STILTON AREA

Crown CopyRight Reserved
Scale 1:10000
Initials R.P. Date 9/92

FIGURE 10:

01449 TL166 / 877 - MEDIEVAL STONE CROSS.

Boundary cross marked on 1613 map of Glatton, no longer exists.

09933 TL166 / 888 - RIDGE AND FURROW

Well-defined ridge and furrow in fields to the east of the A1. Appears as earthworks in the two northern fields, cropmarks in the southern one. Headlands are visible.

09934 TL166 / 895 - RIDGE AND FURROW

Small field of well-defined ridge and furrow, occurring as earthworks, running north-south.

O TL165 / 880 - RIDGE AND FURROW

Ridge and furrow appearing as cropmarks running northwest-southeast.

P TL163 / 884 - RIDGE AND FURROW

Ridge and furrow appearing as cropmarks running east-west.

Q TL163 / 887, TL183 / 888 - RIDGE AND FURROW

Ridge and furrow running east-west appearing as cropmarks.

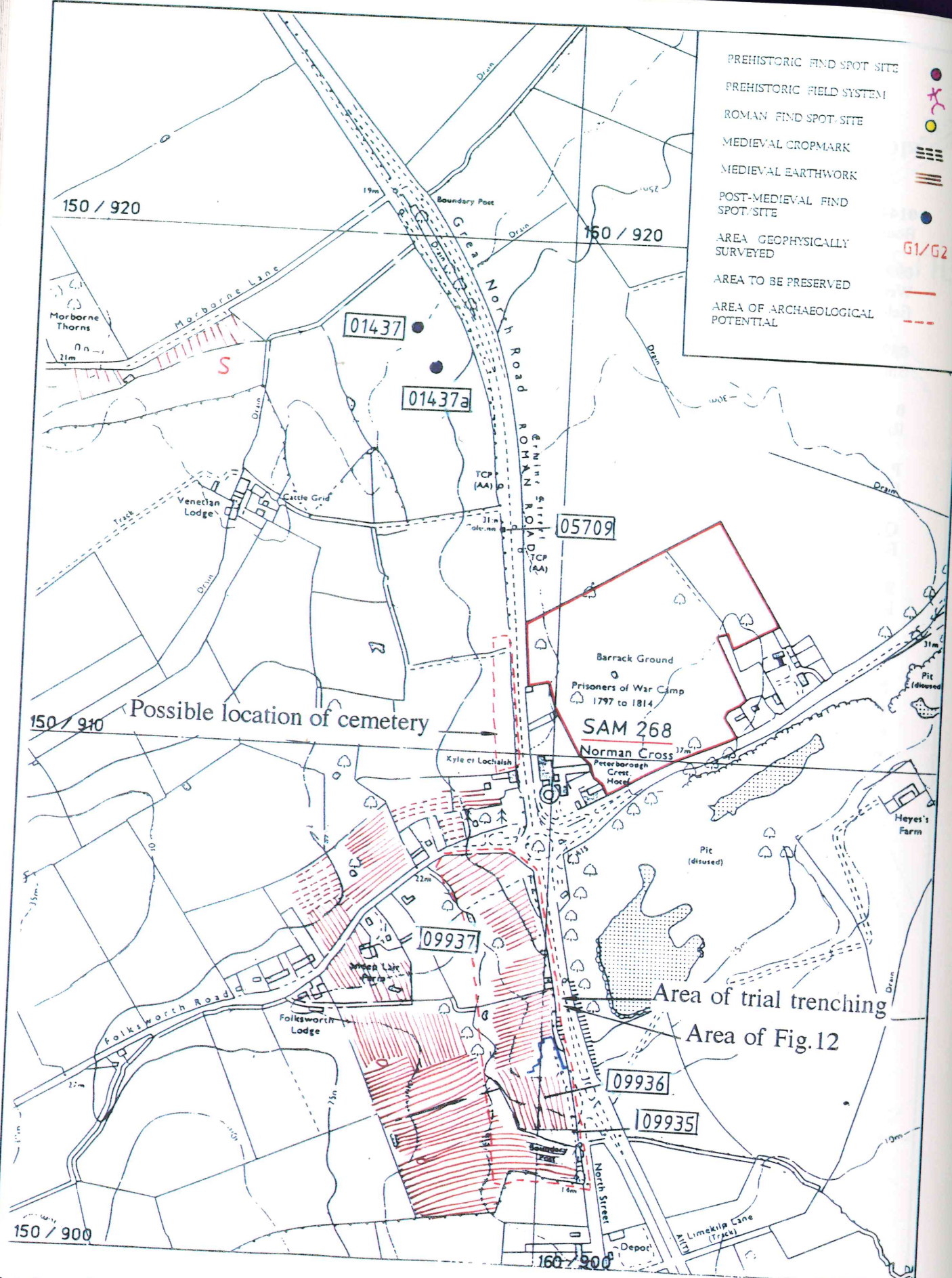
R TL 164 / 885 - RIDGE AND FURROW

Ridge and furrow running north-south appearing as cropmarks.

Fieldwalking on the east side of the A1, east of Stilton, did not reveal any significant finds scatters.

No further work is required on the above sites of ridge and furrow, but earlier features preserved beneath the pasture or ploughsoil may be encountered during road construction. Further archaeological works would be necessary in the event of an important discovery.

- PREHISTORIC FIND SPOT SITE ●
- PREHISTORIC FIELD SYSTEM ⋈
- ROMAN FIND SPOT SITE ●
- MEDIAEVAL CROPMARK ≡≡≡
- MEDIAEVAL EARTHWORK ≡≡≡
- POST-MEDIAEVAL FIND SPOT/SITE ●
- AREA GEOPHYSICALLY SURVEYED G1/G2
- AREA TO BE PRESERVED —
- AREA OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL POTENTIAL - - -



Based upon Ordnance Survey Map No. TL 19SE with the sanction of the Controller of HMSO (Licence No. LA 07649 X)


 **Cambridgeshire
archaeology**
Archaeology Section
Cambridgeshire County
Council

FIG.11 NORMAN CROSS AREA

| | |
|--------------------------|--------------|
| Crown CopyRight Reserved | |
| Scale 1:10000 | |
| Initials R.P. | Date 9/92 |

FIGURE 11:

01437 TL1579 / 9172, TL1585 / 9163 - TWO EARTHEN MOUNDS.

Two ploughed out mounds excavated in 1961 (J. Alexander, 1961). Northerly mound was proved to be the tump of a post mill in use from the 15th to 18th century. Southern mound was the result of modern disturbance, probably from the removal of an ant hill mound.

01437a TL1579/9172 - RING DITCH.

Originally thought to be a ring ditch, but consultation of the excavation archive (J. Alexander, 1961) showed it to be the result of modern disturbance.

S TL152 / 917 - RIDGE AND FURROW

Ridge and furrow appearing as cropmarks running north-south below Morborne Lane. Probably associated with Morborne SMV (not illustrated).

No further work is necessary for the above sites

02803 -SAM 268 TL163 / 911 - NORMAN CROSS NAPOLEONIC POW CAMP

Site of a 42 acre prisoner of war camp in use from 1796 to 1814.

The PoW camp is to be preserved and protected during the roadworks.

05709 TL1588 / 9142 - MEMORIAL STONE.

Stone erected in 1914 in memory of 1,700 prisoners of war who died at the Norman Cross Napoleonic PoW camp. Base only survives but was removed in 1990 after damage by vandals when the bronze eagle surmounting the stone was stolen. Trial trenching in 1990 and 1992 in fields to the west and south in an attempt to locate the cemetery was unsuccessful.

The cemetery may exist within close proximity to the A1. The roadworks must proceed with caution, and work must be stopped and archaeologists alerted if any human remains are uncovered. The coroner must be informed and a Home Office licence is required for lawful excavation of human remains.

09935 TL1598 / 9030 - FIELD BOUNDARY AND HOLLOW WAY

Bank and hedge running north-south, 3m west of present field boundary, possibly on line of Roman or medieval Ermine Street. May incorporate original metalling.

09936 TL1598 / 9035 - POST-MEDIEVAL QUARRY

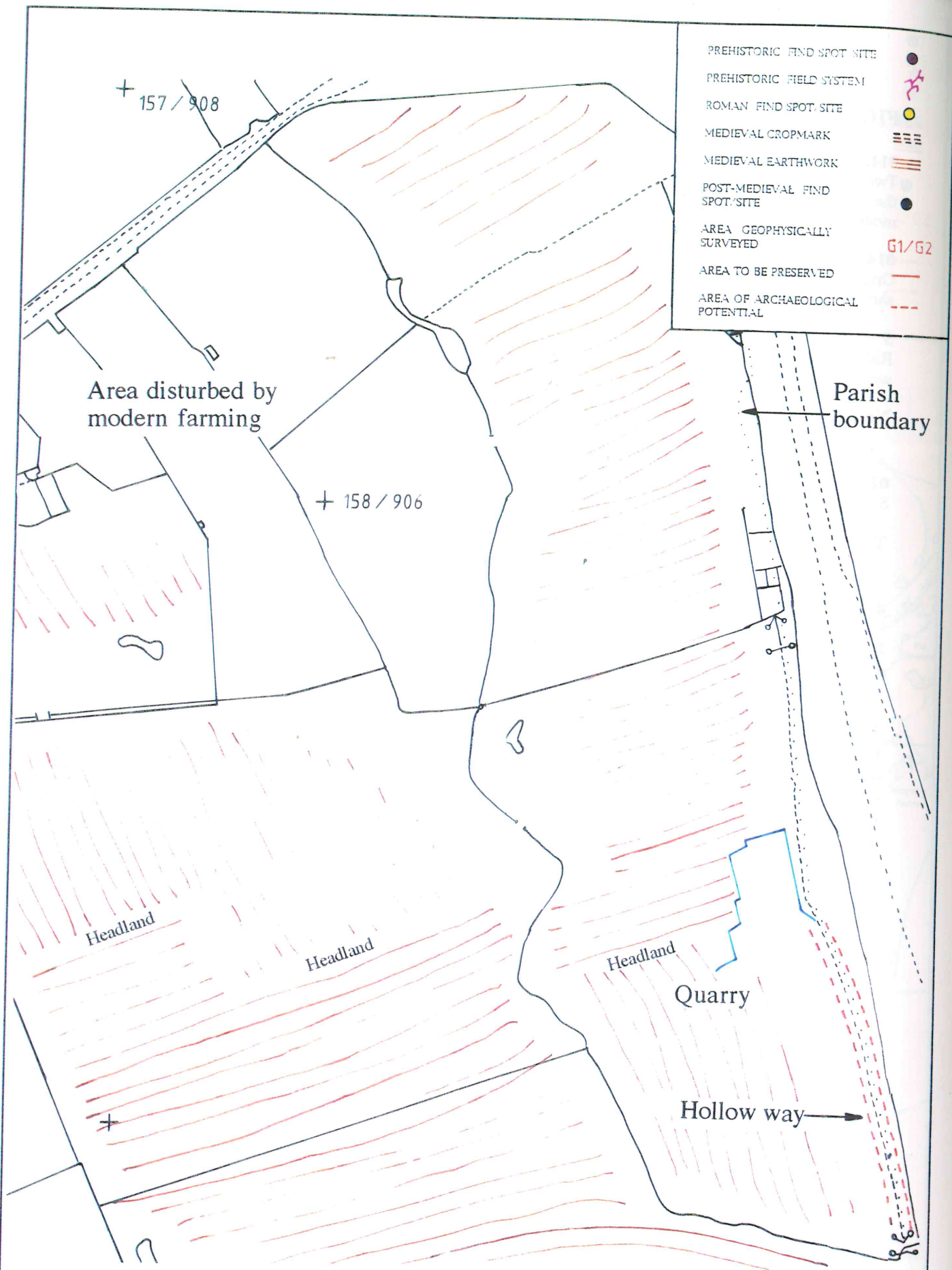
Rectangular level area on the summit of a low hill, originally described as a three-sided enclosure. Inspection in the field has shown that it is clearly a quarry or borrow pit, which truncates the ridge and furrow.

09937 TL157 / 903 - RIDGE AND FURROW


Well defined ridge and furrow, visible as earthworks, covering several fields, separated by headlands and hollow ways. Runs in varying directions.

An extensive medieval landscape exists in the Norman Cross area, west of the A1 (see Fig. 12 for greater detail). This area was originally designated for preservation, however the location of the PoW camp on the east side of the A1 will make this impossible. The proposed roadworks will destroy much of this area.

Excavation of trenches through the hollow way and selective ridge and furrow and headlands is recommended, to yield dating evidence and a detailed record of part of the medieval field system.



Based upon Ordnance Survey Map No. TL 158/905 with the sanction of the Controller of HMSO (Licence No. LA 07649 X)



 cambridgeshire

 archaeology

 Archaeology Section

 Cambridgeshire County

 Council

FIG.12 NORMAN CROSS EARTHWORKS
IN DETAIL

| | |
|--------------------------|--------------|
| Crown CopyRight Reserved | |
| Scale 1:2500 | |
| Initials R.P. | Date 9/92 |

FIGURE 12:

Medieval landscape at Norman Cross:

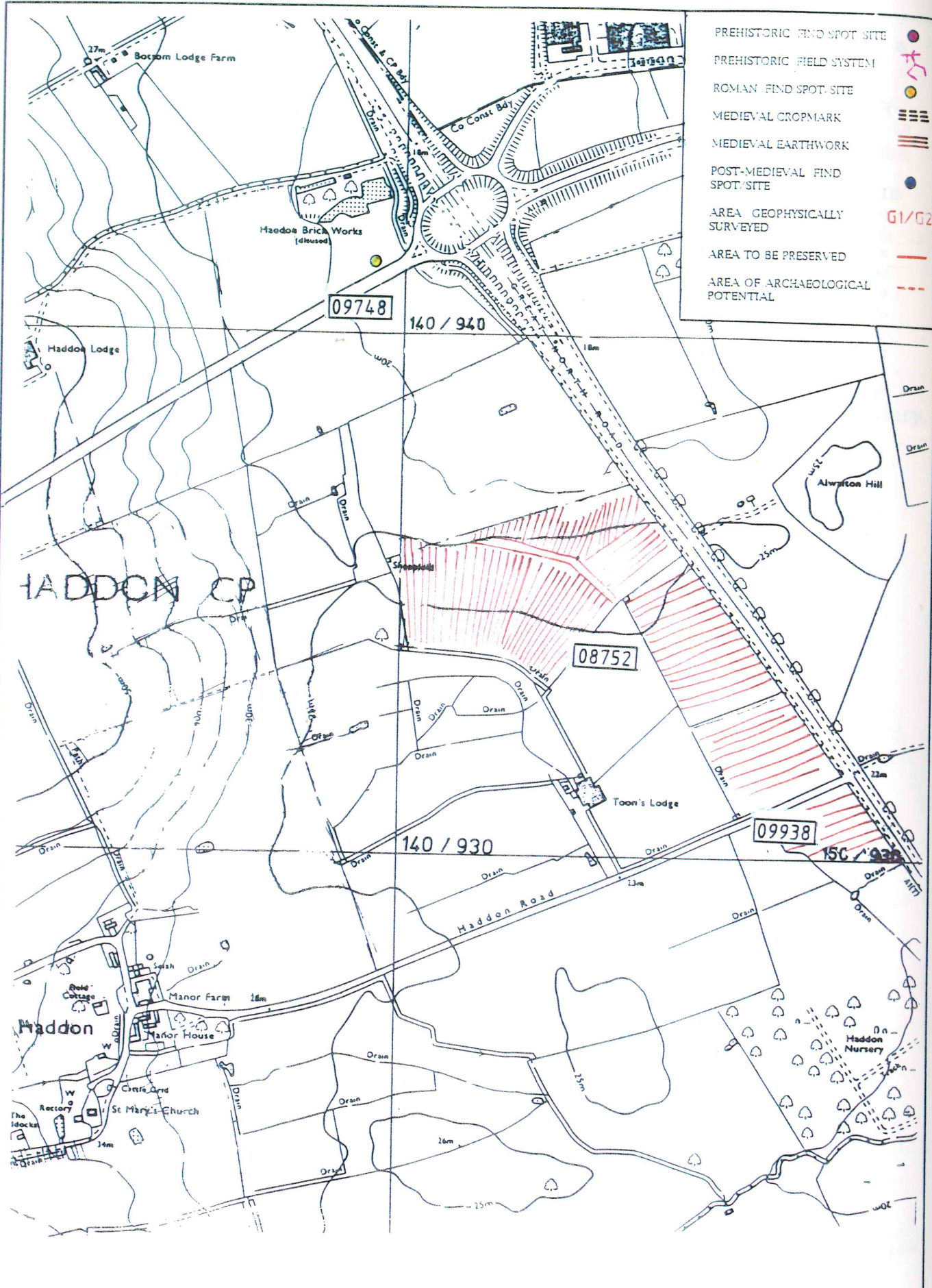
The distinctive ridge and furrow field systems of medieval cultivation are obvious in fields of permanent pasture at Norman Cross. The unit of cultivation was a strip called a *land* which varied from 3 to 14 m in width and from 14 to 350 m in length. Each land belonged to a different farmer, and was ploughed most often in a clockwise manner. This method of ploughing formed a ridge down the centre from 0.3 to 1 m in height, with sides sloping from ridge to furrow. The lands usually ended with a slight twist, giving the ridge an elongated reverse-S shape. The turning of the plough deposited extra soil forming a heap at the end of each land, called a *head* or *butt*.

Groups of parallel lands were called *furlongs*. Where two furlongs had furrows at right angles, the boundary between them was known as a *headland*. The ridges and headlands are the two most striking features in the fields of ridge and furrow at Norman Cross, and these can be easily surveyed.


A strip of land beside brooks and rivers was left as meadow for communal grazing. This can be seen on Fig.12 where the ridges end a little distance from the brook, showing that this is an ancient waterway.

Furlong patterns often reveal ancient boundaries, and the number of lands can provide information about the population of nearby villages. The area at Norman Cross, west of the A1, is part of the parish of Folksworth. The lands here were no doubt associated with the moated manor at Folksworth and the adjacent medieval village. Most parish boundaries follow ancient waterways or roads, and Ermine Street provided such a boundary in this area. In Fig.12 it can be seen that the parish boundary between Folksworth and Yaxley swerves away from the A1, following the line of the hollow way. This indicates that the hollow way was the route of Ermine Street in the medieval period, and probably marks the line of the original Roman road.

- PREHISTORIC FIND SPOT SITE ●
- PREHISTORIC FIELD SYSTEM ⌘
- ROMAN FIND SPOT SITE ●
- MEDIAeval CROPMARK ≡≡≡
- MEDIAeval EARTHWORK ≡≡
- POST-MEDIAeval FIND SPOT/SITE ●
- AREA GEOPHYSICALLY SURVEYED G1/G2
- AREA TO BE PRESERVED —
- AREA OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL POTENTIAL - - -



Based upon Ordnance Survey Map No. TL 19SW with the sanction of the Controller of HMSO (Licence No. LA 07649 X)

 **Cambridgeshire
archaeology**
Archaeology Section
Cambridgeshire County
Council

**FIG.13 HADDON ROAD TO FLETTON
PARKWAY**

| | |
|--------------------------|--------------|
| Crown CopyRight Reserved | |
| Scale 1:10000 | |
| Initials R.P. | Date 9/92 |

FIGURE 13:

08752 TL143 / 935 - RIDGE AND FURROW

Extensive area of ridge and furrow running in various directions existing as earthworks. Associated with the Haddon shrunken medieval village.

09938 TL148/930 - RIDGE AND FURROW

Ridge and furrow running east-west in fields north and south of Haddon Road. In a poor state of preservation.

09748 TL139 / 942 - RIDGE AND FURROW

Ridge and furrow running north-south overlying earlier Roman fields systems. Recorded prior to construction of A605 Elton-Chesterton bypass.

09748a TL139 / 942 - ROMAN FARMSTEAD

Roman farmstead and field system occupied in 1st to 4th centuries AD, excavated in 1989.

The area west of the Fletton Park roundabout is now almost certainly devoid of archaeology following construction of the bypass. Similar remains to those excavated in 1989 may exist on the opposite side of the A1. Fieldwalking in the area immediately southeast of the roundabout revealed a complete absence of finds suggesting that this area was also disturbed during the previous roadworks.

No further archaeological works are required in this area.

6.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

Standard procedure for the investigation of sites of archaeological potential, following preliminary surveys using aerial photographs, the SMR and historical records, falls into four stages. i) Fieldwalking after ploughing can be used to identify an archaeological site where a notable increase in surface finds is observed, as was the case with the Alconbury Hill area. ii) A geophysical survey can be carried out as a non-destructive method of plotting sub-surface archaeological features, and is often a useful technique where surface finds are not significant. iii) Test pits and trial trenching provide evidence for feature depth, and possibly for date and use. iv) Where a site of importance exists that merits fuller recording, larger scale excavations will be necessary.

6.1 PRESERVATION:

Certain sites within the area of this survey are of outstanding archaeological importance and must be preserved at all costs. Preservation precludes disturbance of any kind, including tipping, landscaping, the siting of huts or use of wheeled vehicles on the site. The smaller sites must be fenced during the roadworks.

The sites to be preserved are the following:

00812 - SAM 181 - TL187-/781 (Fig. 5) - 18th century milestone obelisk in central reservation of the A1 at Alconbury Hill. To be preserved in place and fenced during roadworks.

SAM 171 - TL175-/812 (Fig. 6) - Medieval moated site existing as earthworks and cropmarks adjacent to Archer's Wood.

SAM 172 - TL173-/842 (Fig. 7 & 8) - Medieval and post-medieval earthworks in pasture between Sawtry village and the A1.

01333a - TL1756/8393 (Fig. 7) - Surviving graveyard of the church of St. Andrew (demolished 1880). To be fenced during roadworks.

SAM 268 - TL163-/911 (Fig. 11) - Norman Cross Napoleonic Prisoner of War camp.

6.2 TRIAL TRENCHING:

Trial trenching is recommended for each of the following areas, to be carried out prior to beginning of road construction:

Alconbury Hill (Fig. 4 & 5). Although the geophysical survey did not reveal any substantial archaeological features, apart from vestiges of medieval ridge and furrow cultivation, it is still possible that buildings of a Roman date exist in the area. Trial trenching to locate and define any features would take about three weeks including post-excavation work, and would best take place after the crop has been harvested to minimize compensation costs and disturbance to the farmer.

Norman Cross field systems and hollow way (Fig. 11 & 12). Excavation may produce original road metalling in the hollow way, dating evidence and a detailed record of one of the many medieval field systems along the A1, and possibly archaeological remains from earlier periods that have been preserved beneath the medieval ridge and furrow. The estimated time for trial trenching here is three weeks including post-excavation work.

Tort Hill Roman settlement, north of Sawtry (Fig. 7). This area is due to be affected by the roadworks on both sides of the A1. Trial trenching should define the settlement and reveal any more burials in the area. The estimated time for this work is three to four weeks including post-excavation work, and should take place after harvest to minimize disturbance for the farmer.

6.4 EXCAVATION:

If trial trenching or roadworks disturbance indicate the presence of significant archaeological features, excavation is recommended to take place prior to construction or in tandem with roadworks. At present it is predicted that this will be necessary at Alconbury Hill, Tort Hill and Norman Cross, with the possible addition of further sites if earth moving operations during road construction uncover further sites (see Monitoring below).

6.5 MONITORING OF AREAS OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL POTENTIAL DURING CONSTRUCTION WORKS:

Certain areas due to be affected by the widening of the A1 contain potential sites of archaeological significance. It is therefore integral that archaeologists maintain close communications with the engineers conducting the roadworks. This will involve weekly visits by archaeologists to site. The engineer in charge must be responsible for contacting the archaeologists if any archaeological features are uncovered.

In the case of cemeteries or burials, work must be stopped immediately and the archaeologists called in if human remains are uncovered. A Home Office licence for the removal of human remains can be obtained by Cambridgeshire Archaeology prior to the beginning of the roadworks in order to minimize the delay before excavation.

Roman burials occur along roads. Much of the present A1 follows the line of Ermine Street Roman road, therefore there is a distinct possibility of encountering isolated Roman burials.

The sites of archaeological potential are the following:

00590 TL1909 / 7407 (Fig. 3) - Post-medieval gallows. Burials associated with the gallows may exist in this area.

SAM 171 TL175 / 812 (Fig. 6) - Medieval moated grange. Features associated with the SAM may exist between the site and the A1.

Sawtry TL17 / 84 (Fig. 7) - The area around Sawtry is rich in archaeology and there is a high risk of uncovering archaeological features. In addition, there may be a cemetery associated with the two Roman burials found during the previous road widening (SMR No. 01332).

SAM 268 TL1588 / 9142 (Fig. 11) - Norman Cross Napoleonic PoW Camp. The cemetery associated with the PoW camp may exist in this area.

6.5 WATCHING BRIEF :

A watching brief during road construction is recommended for **Conington Bridge** (Fig. 9 & Appendix A). This will involve the removal of the bridge under controlled conditions and supervision. If it is the case that the bridge has medieval foundations time must be allowed for full detailed recording, three or four days in the field.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS:

Acknowledgements are due to a number of people for their help in compiling this report. Mr. Charles Sever deserves thanks for the loan of a series of RAF aerial photographs of the survey area. Ms. Angela Simco gave advice on how to conduct the survey of Conington bridge, and Mr. C.R. Godfrey of Cambridgeshire County Council Conservation Group helped with the interpretation of the bridge. Mr. Richard Heawood and Mr. Simon Bray both helped with the surveying work. Thanks also go to Mr. Ben Robinson for his advice and Dr. Tim Reynolds for his supervision.



Pl.4 Ridge and furrow, Norman Cross

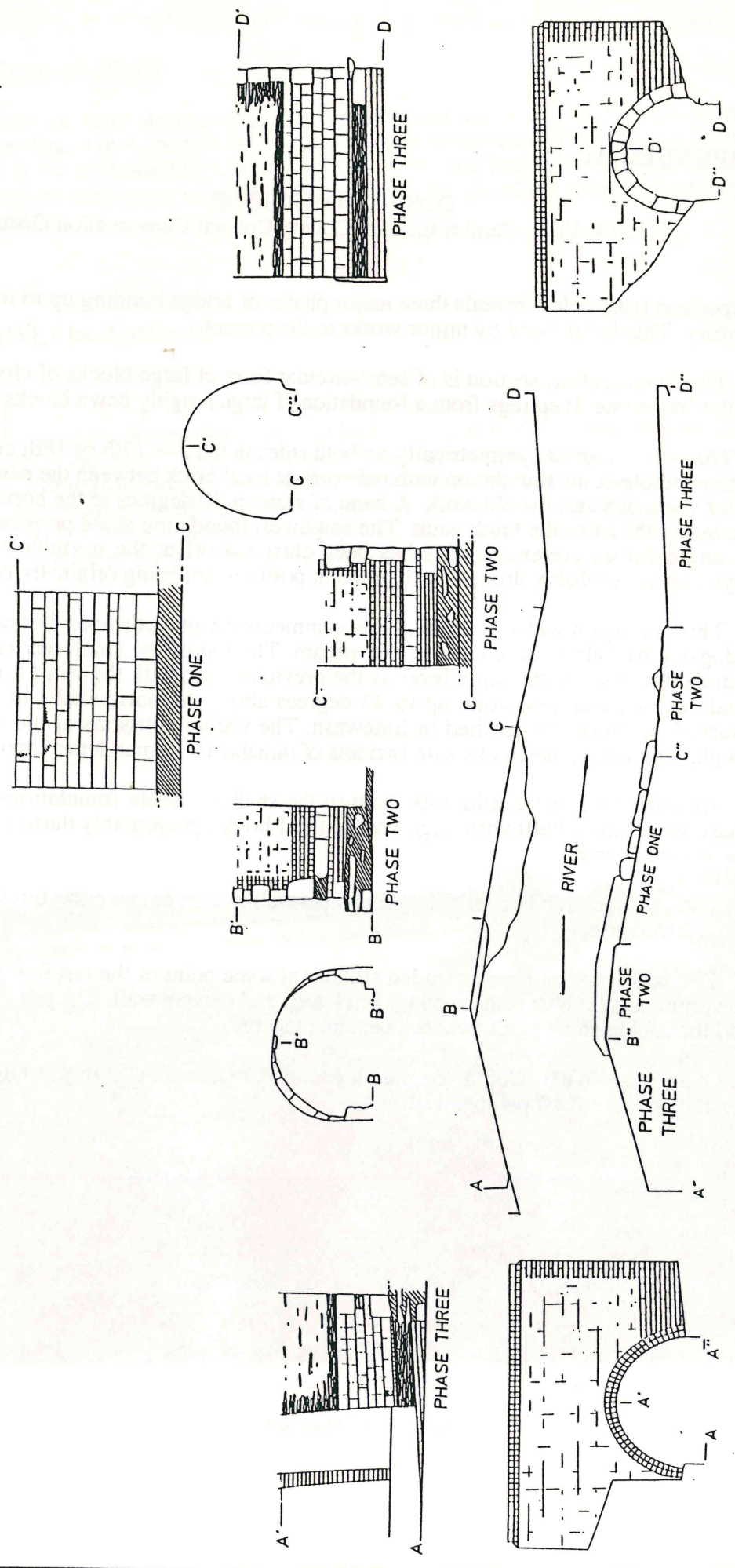
APPENDIX A:

CONINGTON BRIDGE C.R. Godfrey, Cambridgeshire County Council Conservation Group

Inspection from below reveals three major phases of bridge building up to the mid 19th century. This is followed by minor works to the present.

1. The first (central) section is of semi-circular form of large blocks of closely joined ashlar limestone. It springs from a foundation of large roughly hewn blocks.
2. This was widened symmetrically on both sides in the late 17th or 18th century on a higher rubble-stone foundation with pale orange local brick between the new limestone outer voussoirs and the old work. A band of stone at 30 degrees to the horizontal takes the major thrust of the brick vault. The southwest foundation stone projects out and at an angle for an abutment. This has been chiselled off at the northwest. The west keystone has probably dropped to its present position; not being originally pendant.
3. This was again widened more or less symmetrically on both sides; but now forming a dog-leg to follow the course of the stream. The top of the shallower rubble-stone foundation is set at the same level as the previous work with the vault formed of re-used coursed Barnack stone up to 45 degrees above the horizontal and then thinly coursed rubble-stone finished in limewash. The visible voussoirs at the east end are roughly cut limestone blocks with two sets of initials in a Roman letter form.
4. At some time in the mid 19th century the shallow rubble foundations of the last phase were under-built with large orange local bricks, presumably during recutting of the stream course.
5. The east end arch is overlaid by a parapet wall in blue engineering bricks (probably early 20th century).
6. The west end has been extended slightly at some point in the last few years by the construction of a blue (engineering) brick arch and parapet wall. The join between this and the rubble-stone vault has been cement rendered.
7. There is a Sawtry / Conington parish boundary marker in cast iron (triangular with a crest) against the east parapet wall.

PLAN OF CONINGTON BRIDGE SHOWING
 INTERIOR PLAN, SPAN PROFILE AND CONSTRUCTION



APPENDIX B:

Magnetometer Surveys at Alconbury Hill and Archer's Wood, Cambridgeshire 1992

Introduction

Magnetometer surveys of two areas that would be affected by proposed widening of the A1 Great North Road were commissioned by the Cambridgeshire County Council Archaeology Field Office. The individual sites were located at Alconbury Hill (NGR TL 186778, fig. 1a) and near Archer's Wood (NGR TL 179812, fig. 1b) respectively. The surveys were undertaken by the Contracts Section of the Northamptonshire County Council Archaeology Unit in early September 1992. An initial scan survey carried out at both sites revealed few anomalies of substantive archaeological interest. A further more detailed, gridded survey at Alconbury Hill located a series of linear anomalies which are interpreted as medieval furrows, in addition to evidence of more recent features.

Methodology

The surveys were carried out using a Geoscan FM18 Fluxgate Gradiometer set to a resolution of 1nT. Initially each site was the subject of a scan survey in order to identify areas of possible archaeological interest. This entailed monitoring the magnetic response whilst the particular field was traversed at intervals of approximately 10m. In general there was only a weak response at both sites.

Due to the presence of previously located surface scatters of archaeological material, however, a more detailed gridded survey was undertaken at Alconbury Hill where a total of 18 separate 20m x 20m grid-squares was surveyed. Each

grid-square was walked by parallel traverses 1m apart, with individual readings logged at 1m intervals. The results are presented here as a dot density plot (figs. 3 and 4), produced using the Geoplot IBM (Version 1.20) program. The plotting parameters were set between a minimum of 0nT and a maximum of 5nT, with a contrast of 2 so that the darker areas represent positive readings.

Results

The scan survey at Archer's Wood failed to locate any magnetic anomalies indicative of archaeological activity. The background readings were constantly very weak, ranging only between -2nT to +2nT. While isolated anomalies were noted, they were not extensive and most likely denoted the occurrence of buried metal rather than sub-soil features. The low readings encountered at the site may be due in part to the unresponsive nature of the clay geology and it is impossible in such a situation to be certain that no archaeological features are present. Approximately 30m to 40m away from the eastern edge of the field, apparently running north-west to south-east and parallel with the A1 trunk road, a very strong linear anomaly was located. In places its central readings exceeded 1000nT and the feature is best interpreted as a modern service trench. The strength of the anomaly affected readings up to 10m at either side.

The scan survey at Alconbury Hill like that at Archer's Wood, showed that the magnetic response of the field was generally very weak (-2nT to +2nT). Occasional slight anomalies which may represent below ground features were detected but these were amorphous and dispersed, occurring towards the south of the field away from the proposed road corridor. Detailed survey was

confined, however, to the area that would be immediately threatened by the widening of the road (fig. 2).

The gridded survey located a series of very weak linear anomalies (generally only 1nT or 2nT above the background levels) running approximately north-east to south-west across the area. Spaced c. 6m to 15m apart and perhaps slightly curved, the majority probably represent the vestiges of former ridge-and-furrow cultivation, although the possibility of a more recent agricultural origin cannot be dismissed.

The two easternmost linear anomalies, however, pass at either side of an area of very low readings located in grid-square 1A. These low readings (down to -146nT) suggest a modern feature possibly connected with the drainage system which surrounds the field. As one of the linear anomalies proceeds from the corner of the field where a small area of high readings was recorded (+149nT), it may be that it denotes a modern drain upon a coincident alignment with that of the earlier furrows.

At the western end of the survey, the linear anomalies stop and an area of more varied readings can be seen (grid-squares 8b, 9a and 9b). Some of the variation in readings may be accounted by an area of modern disturbance which was observed extending into grid-squares 9a and 9b. A small semi-circular anomaly evident in grid-squares 7B and 8B may be an archaeological feature but unfortunately it lies too close to the edge of the grid for adequate interpretation.

Overall, the very low readings are probably due to the low magnetic susceptibility of the underlying clay geology. The small range of readings

highlights the differences between grid-squares and the slight white strip between rows A and B and the darker bands in grid-square 3B are simply a function of this edge effect. The frequent small black patches evident across the surveyed area represent isolated pieces of metal on the field.

Illustrations

Figure 1a: Location plan of Alconbury Hill site, 1:10,000

Figure 1b: Location plan of Archers Wood site, 1:10,000

Figure 2: Location plan of geophysics grid, Alconbury Hill, 1:2,500

Figure 3: Dot-density plot of magnetometer results, 1:2,500

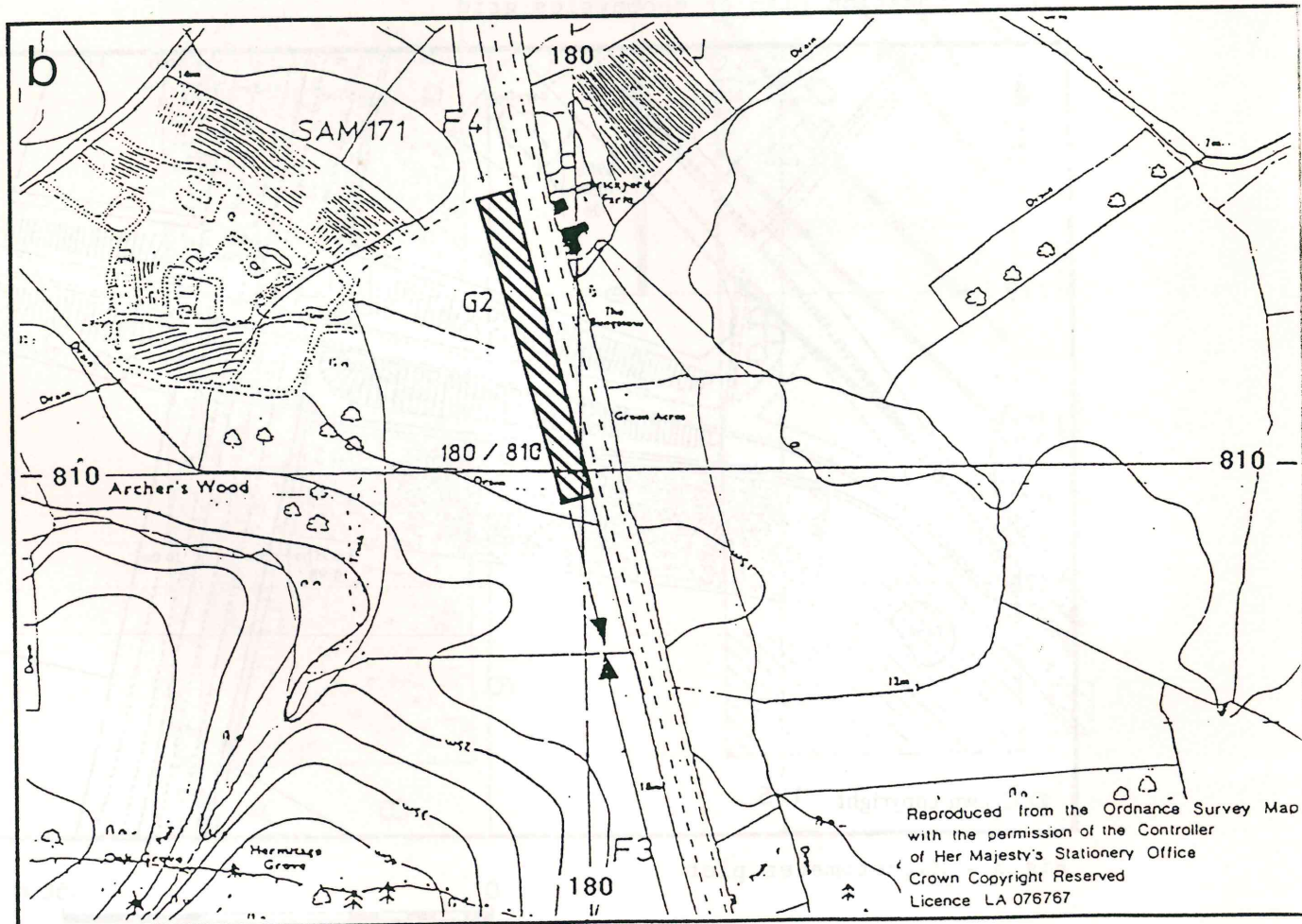
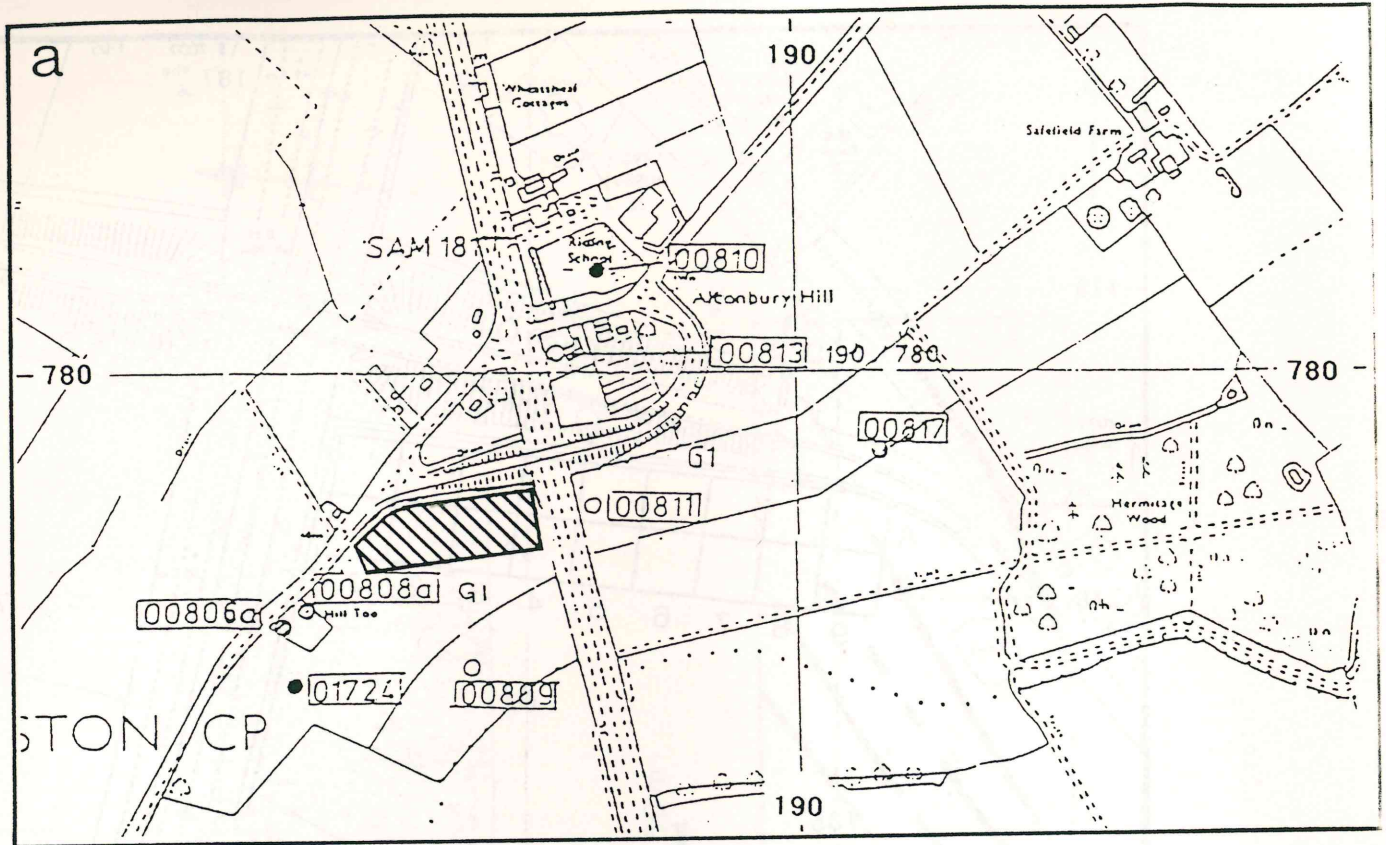
Figure 4: Dot-density plot and interpretation plan of magnetometer results,
1:1,000


Mark Holmes

Contracts Section, Northamptonshire County Council Archaeology Unit

9th September 1992

© Northamptonshire County Council, September 1992



 Area of scan evaluation

0  500 m

Fig 1 - Location plans of sites at Alconbury Hill (a) and Archer's Wood (b)

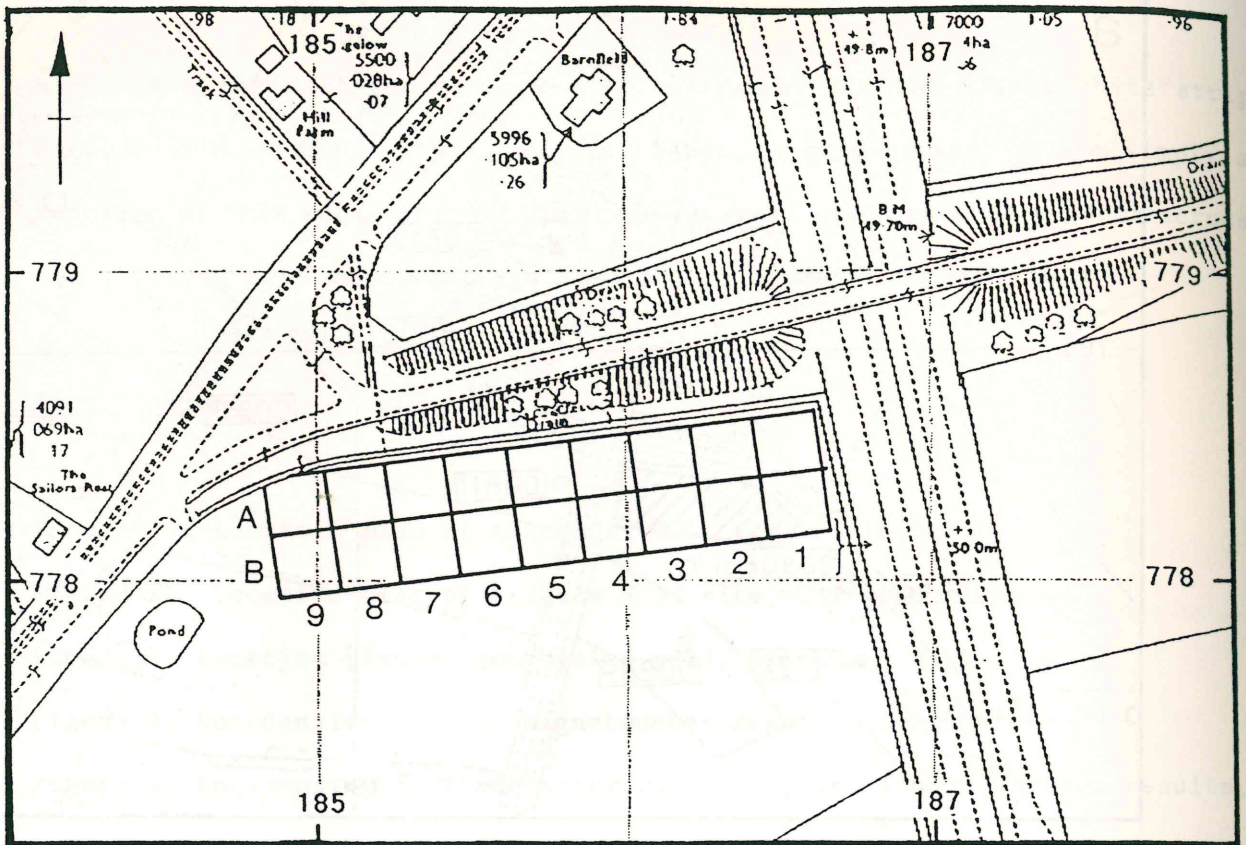


Fig 2 - Location plan of geophysics grid

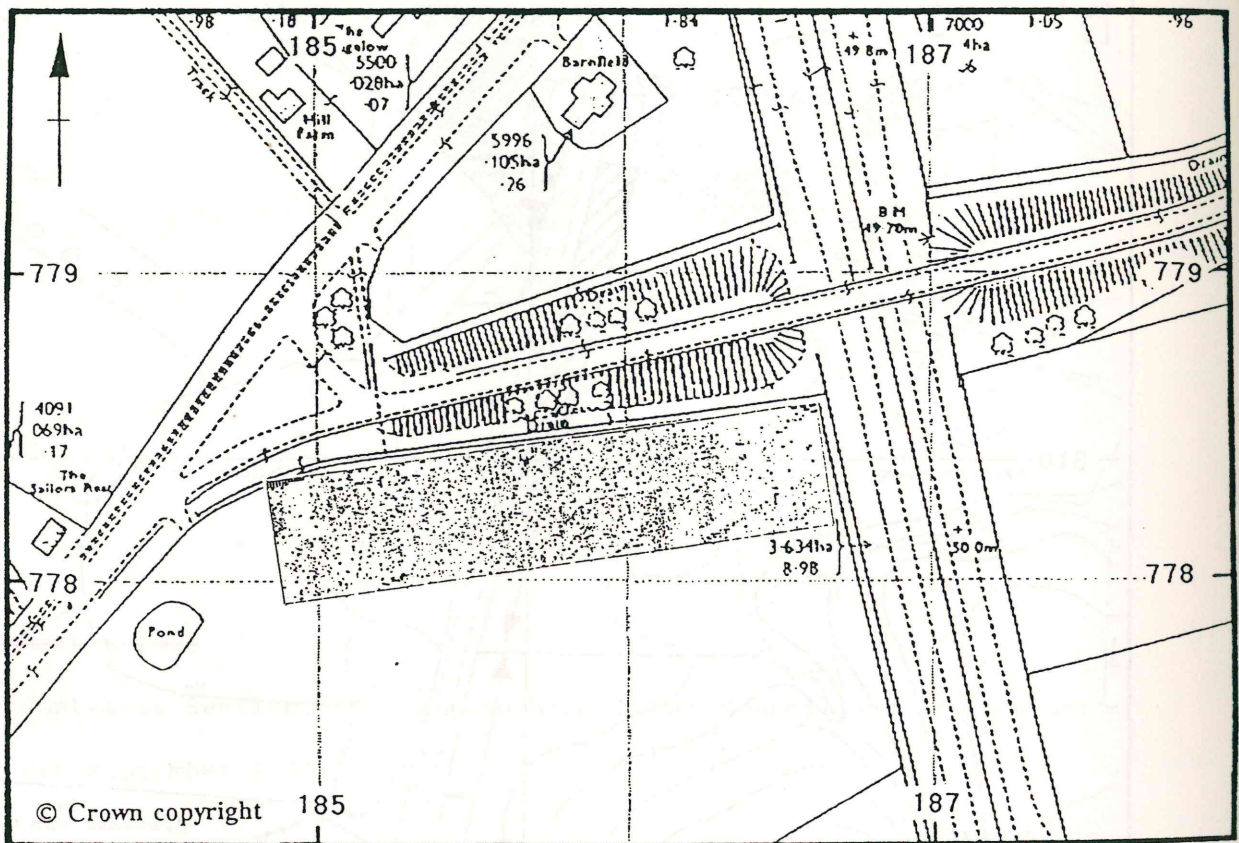
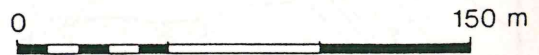


Fig 3 - Magnetometer plot



© Crown copyright 185

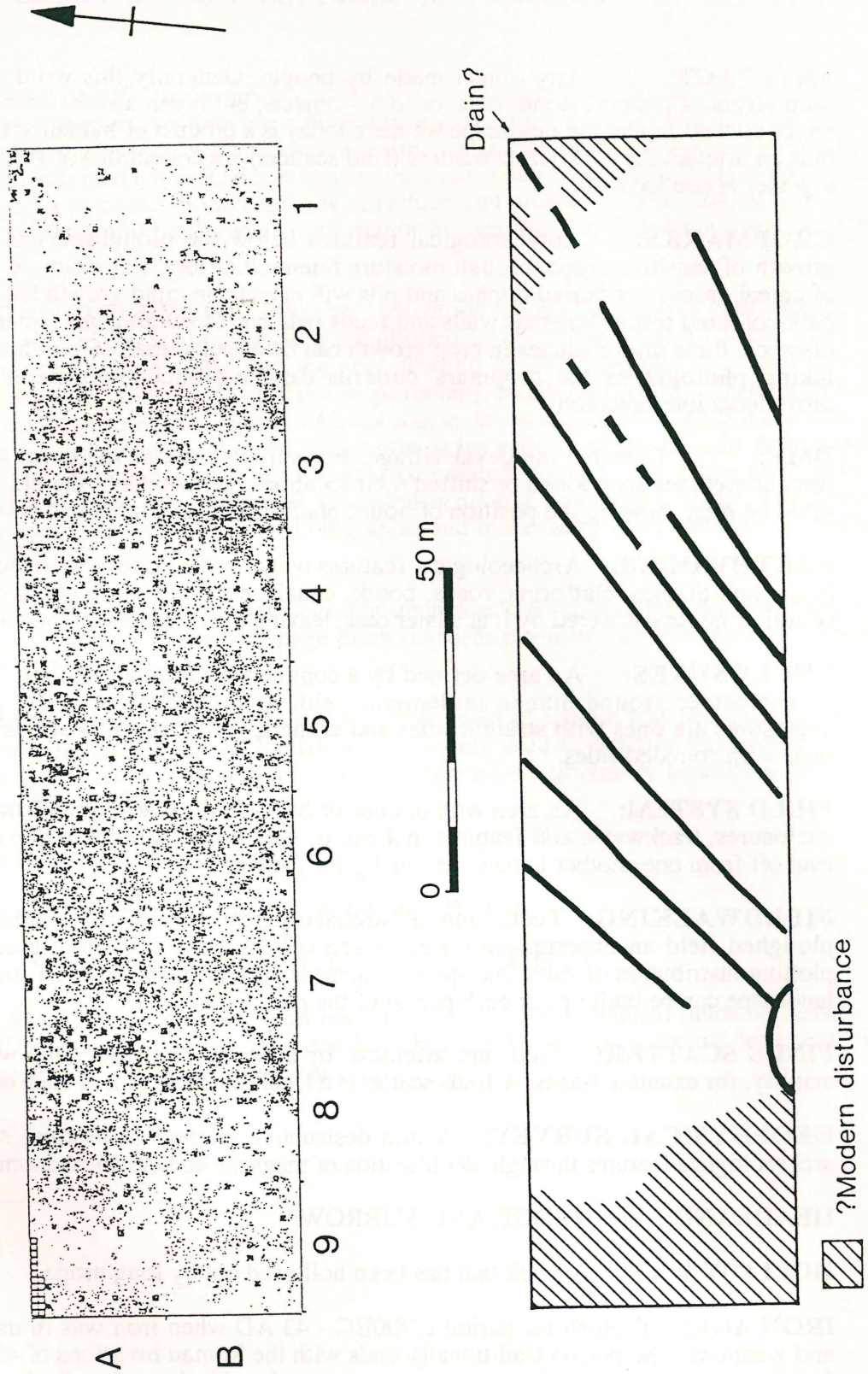


Fig 4 - Magnetometer plot and interpretation

APPENDIX C - GLOSSARY OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL TERMS:

ARTEFACT: Any object made by people. Generally this word is used for such terms as pottery, stone tools, or metal objects, but it can also be used in a much wider context in that the landscape we have today is a product of human activity and is thus an artefact itself. Artefact scatters (find scatters) are collections of artefacts found together at one location.

CROPMARKS: Archaeological features below the ploughsoil can affect the growth of sensitive crops through moisture retention or loss. For example the growth of cereal crops over buried ditches and pits will encourage rapid growth leading to tall, dark coloured plants, whereas walls and roads will lead to stunting and faster yellowing of crops. These discrepancies in crop growth can be detected easily from the air, and by taking photographs the cropmark patterns can be plotted onto maps and given provisional interpretation.

DMV: Deserted medieval village. For various reasons medieval settlements were sometimes abandoned or shifted their location. Earthworks of the old village can often be seen showing the position of house platforms, crofts, lanes and ponds.

EARTHWORKS: Archaeological features that are still extant above the ground as banks and ditches, platforms, roads, ponds, canals, etc. They were either constructed of soil or became covered by it at a later date, leaving the archaeology showing in relief.

ENCLOSURES: An area defined by a continuous surrounding ditch. These may be enclosures around human settlement, fields or paddocks for stock. Rectilinear enclosures are ones with straight sides and corners, whilst curvilinear enclosures are ones with rounded sides.

FIELD SYSTEM: An area with ditches or banks that show a systematic pattern of enclosures, trackways, and features that can be seen to run parallel to one another, or lead off from one another to form an intelligible pattern.

FIELDWALKING: Technique of archaeological survey. By walking over a ploughed field an experienced observer can collect many ancient artefacts, and by plotting distribution of such find spots on maps an idea of the occupation and use of the landscape can be built up for each period of the past.

FINDS SCATTER: Finds are artefacts, or other objects associated with human activity, for example bones. A finds scatter is a localised collection of such objects.

GEOPHYSICAL SURVEY: A non-destructive method of plotting sub-surface archaeological features through identification of magnetic and electrical anomalies.

HEADLAND: see "RIDGE AND FURROW".

HOLLOW WAY: A track that has been hollowed out by long usage.

IRON AGE: Prehistoric period c.700BC - 43 AD when iron was in use for tools and weapons. The period traditionally ends with the Roman invasions of 43AD but in fact there was a considerable time of adjustment after this date when the Iron Age way of life continued with little change from Roman influence.

MEDIEVAL: Historic period that begins with William the Conqueror's invasion of 1066. Post-medieval is generally considered to date from 1500.

MOATED SITE: In the medieval period a moated site provided an area surrounded by water filled ditches leaving a platform or island on which to build a house. There were several reasons for this: defence in times of lawlessness, a ready source of water for the needs of the house and an antifire measure, a handy reservoir for fish and waterfowl, and a response to the demands of fashion and prestige. These moated sites were often manors, and occasionally old manor houses are still found enclosed by their moat.

RIDGE AND FURROW: Medieval cultivation techniques led to a phenomenon of corrugated fields. Strips of land were allotted to individuals and a furrow was left between one person's strip and the next, leading to the corrugated ridge and furrow effect. An area of land with all these strips running parallel was called a *furlong*. These strips usually followed a slightly sinuous course, an elongated reversed S shape to help in turning the plough at the end. Where the strips ended and the ploughs turned, soil would be deposited and a 'head' would be created. After a time these may form a boundary in their own right and are called *headland boundaries*. Ridge and furrow shows up as cropmarks on air photographs, and more rarely as earthworks in pasture fields.

RING-DITCH: A continuous circular ditch which is all that remains of a ploughed out round barrow, or the drainage ditch (eavesdrip gully) that surrounded a round-house.

ROMAN: Historic period 43-410AD when most of Britain was part of the Roman Empire. The term *Romano-British* is now widely used to describe the people of this period as few were Roman themselves, but they were a provincial manifestation of the Empire developing in a unique way.

SAM: Scheduled ancient monument.

SMR: Cambridgeshire Sites and Monuments Record.

SMV: Shrunken or shifted medieval village (see DMV).

SOILMARKS: Archaeological remains often show in ploughed fields by reason of the different soil of which they consist. They can be visible at ground level but like cropmarks are best seen from the air.

BIBLIOGRAPHY:

- Alexander, J. "A Postmill and Anthill at Morborne (Hunts)" Excavation archive, 1961
- Alexander, J. "Morborne" MPBW Excavations Annual Report, 1961
- Brown, A.E. & Taylor, C.C. "Cambridgeshire Earthworks Surveys: IV" Proceedings of the Cambridge Antiquarian Society, LXX 1980
- Darvill, T. Ancient Monuments in the Countryside, English Heritage 1987
- Edwardson, A.R. et al "Archaeological Notes" Proceedings of the Cambridge Antiquarian Society, LIX 1966, 138-9
- Evans, G. & Shotliff, D. A1 Widening Scheme; Alconbury to Fletton Parkway. An Archaeological Assessment, 1990
- Garrod, J.R. "A Romano-British Site at Sawtry, Huntingdonshire" The Antiquaries Journal, XX 1940, 504-507
- Garrod, J.R. "Romano-British Site at Sawtry, Huntingdonshire" Transactions of the Cambridgeshire and Huntingdonshire Antiquarian Societies, IV 1947, 178-186.
- Hall, D. Medieval Fields, Shire Archaeology 1982
- Horton, W. & Wait, G. Excavation of a Roman Site at Wimpole Hall, Cambridgeshire, 1988 (Unpublished)
- Huntingdonshire Quarter Sessions
- Page, W. et al (ed.) Victoria Histories of the Counties of England: Huntingdonshire, vol. 1 (1926), vol. 2 (1932), vol. 3 (1936)



Archaeology Field Office
Fulbourn Community Centre
Haggis Gap
Fulbourn
Cambridge CB1 5HD
Tel. (0223) 881614

The Archaeology Office
Rural Management
Department of Property
Shire Hall
Cambridge
Tel. (0223) 317312

