

?A40
223/93

(OX)



THE OXFORD ARCHAEOLOGICAL UNIT



A40 Witney-Cassington Dualling

An Archaeological Evaluation 1991/92

A40 WITNEY-CASSINGTON DUALLING
AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION 1991/92

CONTENTS

List of Figures

1.	Introduction	page 2
2.	Topography	page 3
3.	Archaeological Background	page 3
4.	Aims and Objectives	page 8
5.	Strategy	page 9
6.	The Archaeological Results	page 9
7.	The Finds	page 18
8.	Comments on the Results	page 23
9.	Conclusions and Significance of the Results	page 23
10.	Bibliography	page 29
11.	Appendices	
	Appendix 1: Archaeological description by trench	
	Appendix 2: Table of context information	

List of Figures

1. Route showing trench location and density of archaeological contexts (A:West; B: East)
2. The Geology (A:West; B:East)
3. Neolithic & Bronze Age Sites and Finds (A:West; B:East)
4. Cropmarks north of Eynsham
5. Sites on the A40 at Cassington from Harding 1972; Plate 27
6. Iron Age & Roman Sites and Finds (A:West; B:East)
7. Anglo-Saxon Sites and Finds
8. Cropmarks East of Cassington
- 9-16. Trench Location Plans at 1:5000

17. Section A Trench 1; plans and sections
18. Section C Feature location plan 1:1000
19. Section C Trench 6; plans and sections
20. Section D Feature location plan 1:1000
21. Section D; sections
22. Cassington Spur Road Junction (Sections H & J) Feature location plan 1:1000
23. Section H Trench 1; plan and sections
24. Section H Trench 10; plan and sections
25. Section J Trench 8; plan and sections
26. Section J Trench 10; plan and sections
27. Worton Rectory Farm (Section J; north) Feature location plan 1:1000
28. Section J Trenches 1-3; sections
29. Section H Trench 17; plan and sections

1. Introduction

- 1.1 In September 1991 and January 1992 the Oxford Archaeological Unit carried out an evaluation of the proposed route of the A40 Witney-Cassington dualling. The route lies on the Oxford to Cheltenham stretch of the A40, approximately seven miles northwest of Oxford (SP 380100 - SP 470105). This work was funded by English Heritage.
- 1.2 The new route (approximately 9.5 km) will follow and widen the existing road line for much of its length but diverges from it north of Eynsham. Part of the diversion lies within a wide cutting. To the east a road inter-section is planned with a new spur road running north to Cassington village from a slip road and roundabout junction. (See Figure 1). Some rest areas are planned but there are no details. The location of construction sites and borrow pits are unknown at present.
- 1.3 The route will run through an area of known archaeological importance. The aim of the evaluation was to assess the extent, condition, date and state of preservation of the archaeological resource which would be affected by the scheme.
- 1.4 The evaluation followed the Project Design Specification submitted to English Heritage in September 1991.
- 1.5 The Department of Transport have not yet purchased any part of the route and access to the areas where evaluation was carried out was entirely due to the goodwill of the many landowners and tenant farmers now in possession. It was, unfortunately, not possible to gain access to some land.

- 1.6 Figure 1 indicates the location of evaluation trenches and those areas where archaeological contexts were discovered.

2. Topography

- 2.1 The solid geology of the area is Oxford clay with deposits of unbedded drift on higher ground to the west of the route and extensive areas of river gravels, mostly of the 2nd and 2nd/3rd gravel terraces, to the east. There is a covering of alluvium over much of the Thames and Evenlode floodplains which mask gravel islands and the courses of earlier channels.

Figure 2 illustrates the geology along the road line. It was taken from the OS Geological Survey 1" map and cannot be relied upon for detail.

- 2.2 The western end of the route lies at approximately 85 m OD on Oxford clay, dropping onto 2nd/3rd gravel terrace at 61.5 - 62 m OD north of Eynsham. The ground level at the Cassington spur road roundabout on Thames floodplain is 60 m OD. The spur road then climbs onto the second gravel terrace east of Cassington at 62 m OD.
- 2.3 The majority of land along the route is pasture. Some fields are under arable cultivation and some are set-aside.

3. Archaeological Background

3.1 Summary of Previous work

- 3.1.1 The route of the A40 Witney-Cassington dualling crosses two areas where sites of considerable national archaeological importance have been found; the area adjacent to the present A40 Cassington junction and the area around New Wintles Farm where the new road will swing north of Eynsham. The former area has been cited in regional and national surveys (eg Harding 1972, Cunliffe 1978, Megaw and Simpson 1979). Benson and Miles write 'no other part of the upper Thames Valley has produced, within such a restricted area, so many finds of different periods or so much evidence of concentrated occupation, ranging from Neolithic to Saxon times.' (Benson and Miles 1974, 84). However, archaeological information in this area was retrieved in a haphazard and piecemeal fashion during gravel extraction from the 1930s to the 1950s. At New Wintles Farm gravel extraction once again prompted investigation and archaeological sites of the Bronze Age and Anglo-Saxon periods were excavated in 1968 (Gray 1974).

- 3.1.2 The eastern end of the route, including the Cassington spur road lies within the study area of the OAU/English Heritage Yarnton Cassington Project. This project was initiated as a result of gravel extraction by ARC in an area covering 140 hectares north of the A40. Fieldwalking over some of the areas affected by the scheme had already taken place in 1990 as part of the project.
- 3.1.3 Finds were retrieved during observation of the Witney-Cassington gas pipe line in 1988. These finds are marked without numbers on the location plans. A small group of finds south of the A40 and north of Chil Brook is worthy of note as are stray finds of Neolithic flints on the western end of the route in an area where little archaeological information is available.
- 3.1.4 Other finds and sites are those noted in the Oxfordshire Sites and Monuments Record Office (SMR). The numbers on the location plans are SMR Primary Record Numbers (PRN) numbers. It should be noted that reference is not normally made to sites or artefacts found more than c 500 m from the proposed road line.

3.2 Neolithic and Bronze Age (Figure 3)

- 3.2.1 Several Neolithic features are recorded from gravel quarries on either side of the A40 at Cassington. These were usually pits containing pottery and flints (eg PRN nos 1099, 3267 & 3968). One such pit (PRN 3766) was destroyed by the construction of the A40. Further late Neolithic pits were found in the vicinity of the southwestern entrance of the 'Big Enclosure' (Case 1982, 121-128). Neolithic flints were recovered at several points along the route of the Cassington-Witney gas main.
- 3.2.2 There were a number of Neolithic/Bronze Age burials in the Cassington area. These include barrows and ring ditches, several of which have been excavated (PRN 1268, 1340, 3341 & 3345). An unexcavated ring ditch lay partly under the line of the A40 (PRN 3970) (Figure 4). Just to the south of these, many more ring ditches appear on aerial photographs of the Cassington Mill area. Most of these probably represented ploughed out barrows, but they were destroyed without systematic excavation. A Beaker cemetery (PRN 1341, immediately northeast of PRN 1340) was excavated by Leeds in Tolley's pit and two possible Bronze Age 'huts' were recorded in the same vicinity.
- 3.2.3 North of Eynsham a group of ring ditches was excavated at New Wintles Farm (PRN 5147-5150) and south of these a further ring ditch identified from the air (PRN 5151) lies close to the proposed road line (Figure 4). This may be associated with further cropmarks now directly threatened by the new road.

- 3.2.4 During fieldwalking within the Yarnton Cassington Project a late Bronze Age pottery scatter associated with burnt flints was identified along the line of the Cassington spur road immediately north of the A40. An earlier flint scatter was found to the north, on the second gravel terrace, possibly associated with cropmarks of a nearby ? ring ditch (PRN 1346) (see Figure 8).
- 3.2.5 On the eastern end of the route a dense flint scatter of Mesolithic to Bronze Age date, was located on a gravel island north of the A40 during the Yarnton Cassington fieldwalking project (*Yarnton & Cassington Worton Rectory Farm; 1990/91 Assessments*). The area immediately to the south which overlies the same gravel island will be affected by the road widening scheme.

3.3 Iron Age and Roman (Figure 6)

- 3.3.1 The Cassington Mill 'Big Enclosure', enclosing some 5-6 hectares, is the most prominent feature of these periods in the area (PRN 1265). Apparently occupied in the late Iron Age and through the Roman period, it received a certain amount of piecemeal attention before its destruction by gravel quarrying (summarized in Case 1982). There is little evidence for Iron Age activity within the enclosure, but this may be a result of a lack of detailed investigation. There seems to have been extensive Iron Age settlement to the north of the 'Big Enclosure' and beyond the A40. Enclosures (PRN 3870) of Iron Age (or Roman?) date were found here and pits and ditches with associated artefacts lay a little further north (PRN 3774). Evidence for iron smelting was claimed from the latter site (Oxoniensia 2, 1937, 201) and a further smelting pit was located under the 'new' A40 (ibid; PRN 3744). About 200 m to the east Leeds excavated more Iron Age pits (SMR 1343). Harding's reconstruction of the features in this area is reproduced in Figure 5.
- 3.3.2 Roman activity within the 'Big Enclosure' seems likely to have been fairly intensive, to judge from the quantity and range of pottery recovered from the enclosure ditch, though the necessary structural evidence is inevitably lacking. The occurrence of three pottery kilns, one of 1st century AD date, is paralleled by new discoveries at Yarnton, only 2 km distant. North of the 'Big Enclosure' further Roman features (PRN 3773) were found overlying those of the Iron Age. Between these features and the 'Big Enclosure' was a Roman cemetery with at least 110 graves (only three of which were cremations) presumably mainly of 3rd-4th century date (Figure 4).
- 3.3.3 Southeast and east of Cassington are cropmark complexes of likely Iron Age and/or Roman date (Figure 8). South of the A40 one small group of well-defined features suggests the presence of round houses and ditches (PRN

12197), comparable to Iron Age farmstead sites such as Farmoor and Port Meadow, Oxford. The extent of this complex (particularly southwards) is unknown, but its northern part is directly threatened by the proposed roundabout at the junction of the A40 and Cassington spur road.

- 3.3.4 Some 500 m further north, between Cassington and Worton, an extensive cropmark complex (PRN 1346) is also partly under threat from the Cassington spur road itself. Here a group of enclosures, one containing ?circular buildings, seems to be associated with a field system. Roman pottery and tile (PRN 12932) has been found on the surface of the field in this area both by the Oxford University Archaeological Society and the Yarnton Cassington Project.
- 3.3.5 At the east end of the route a rectangular enclosure with an entrance to the north was discovered from the air by Riley (PRN 1382). This enclosure is cut by the present road line. A scatter of Roman sherds adjacent to this cropmark suggests that fields were being ploughed and manured here in the Roman period.
- 3.3.6 West of Cassington the only evidence for Roman activity near the road line is a record of pottery found just north of Eynsham (PRN 1285). Roman pottery has been found at several locations within Eynsham itself (PRN 1655, 9785 & 9788) and between Chil Brook and the A40 during the construction of the Witney-Cassington gas pipe line. It is unclear if this material represents one or more settlements.

3.4 Anglo-Saxon (Figure 6)

- 3.4.1 One of the most striking features of the archaeology of the area is the density of Anglo-Saxon sites, located (on present knowledge) exclusively on 2nd and 2nd/3rd terrace gravels.
- 3.4.2 East of Cassington a cemetery (PRN 1339) was destroyed in gravel quarrying. Anglo-Saxon pottery has been recorded as a surface find just to the northeast of this (PRN 12933) and in the Yarnton Cassington fieldwalking project. Sunken-featured buildings, characteristic of this period, are thought to be visible on the air photographs of the cropmark site, PRN 1346.
- 3.4.3 At the southwest end of Cassington an uncertain number of Saxon graves were also destroyed in gravel quarrying (PRN 1374) (See also figure 5). 'Huts' are known from at least three locations in the immediate vicinity of these burials (PRN 1373, 3777 & 3969).
- 3.4.4 North of Eynsham a row of sites has been found along the north-south ridge of 2nd/3rd terrace gravel. At the north end is the well-known site of New

Wintles Farm (PRN 5273) with its extensive spread of Saxon features and the cemetery at City Farm just to the north. South of the A40 both cemetery (PRN 1649) and settlement (PRN 1687) sites are known from the northeast corner of Eynsham, and the spread of pottery finds extends as far south as the site of Eynsham Abbey, where current excavations have also produced settlement evidence of this date. The interrelationship of these sites (except the last), with their apparently diverse economic bases, has been discussed by Hawkes (1986, 83-85).

3.5 Medieval and Later

- 3.5.1 There is no evidence for medieval features of any importance in the immediate vicinity of the proposed road line. The medieval village of Cassington lies to the north of the present A40, but fishponds (PRN 991) southeast of the church are less than 100 m from the road. These were presumably associated with the moated manor house (PRN 3763) immediately to the north. It is not known if any part of the medieval village extended south of the fishponds, but this seems unlikely.
- 3.5.2 Dense pottery scatters located to the west of Worton were probably the result of manuring of the open fields belonging to that settlement and slight traces of ridge and furrow can be observed on the brow of the second gravel terrace see *Yarnton & Cassington Worton Rectory Farm; 1990/91 Assessments*). Less dense pottery scatters further down the slope are probably the result of the use of these fields as arable at some stage and not just due to downslope movement of finds.
- 3.5.3 West of Eynsham a few medieval sherds were recovered from the Cassington-Witney gas pipeline (PRN 13417), but there were no associated features.
- 3.5.4 Fields between Barnard Gate and the Evenlode Hotel are known to have belonged to Tilgarsley, a substantial medieval hamlet severely depopulated during the Black Death and abandoned by 1349. The exact location of the village is unknown; speculation is centred on Bowles Farm to the north but there is no archaeological evidence to substantiate this.

3.6 Archives

- 3.6.1 Most of the site archives, including those from Cassington Mill are held at the Oxford County Council Department Museum Services.
- 3.6.2 Archives for New Wintles Farm are held by M. Gray and S. Hawkes. Records for both the Yarnton Cassington Project and Eynsham Abbey are held by OAU.

4. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- 4.1 The new road line runs through an area where sites of considerable national importance have been discovered in the past. The aim of the project was to evaluate the nature, location, extent, date, condition and significance of any surviving archaeological remains.
- 4.2 The academic objectives of the project can be defined as the refinement and extension of our knowledge of this archaeologically very important area, not only at a site specific level but also in terms of the overall organization of the landscape in successive periods. At the eastern end of the area concerned these aims dovetail with the objectives of the Oxford Archaeological Unit's major project at Yarnton and Cassington.
- 4.3 The emphasis of the work at Yarnton has been on a multi-period, landscape-wide approach to the archaeological resource. The proposed work in the Cassington area, particularly that relating to the Cassington spur road, can be seen as a direct extension of this, and taken in conjunction with evidence from the Cassington 'Big Enclosure' area and Purwell Farm to the northwest should result in a fairly clear understanding of the settlement pattern in these periods east of the Evenlode. It may be that the Evenlode has some significance as a boundary, particularly, perhaps, in the late Iron Age, emphasised by the location of the Cassington 'Big Enclosure' adjacent to it.
- 4.4 Evidence for prehistoric and Roman settlement west of the Evenlode is as yet much more sparse. Examination of the new line of the A40 north of Eynsham should help to determine if this difference is significant.
- 4.5 In the Saxon period there is no suggestion of variation in settlement density east and west of the Evenlode, both sides of the river producing evidence for extensive dispersed sites, probably small in size. Within the context of this extremely significant group of sites it will be particularly important to see if the southern boundary of the New Wintles complex can be defined, or whether, as has been suggested, settlement extended all the way from New Wintles to Eynsham (Gray 1974, 53). Any evidence derived from the proposed work will not only be significant in this respect but will also be relevant to our understanding of the development of Eynsham itself in the Saxon period, a problem currently under investigation by the OAU in excavations at Eynsham Abbey.

5. STRATEGY

- 5.1 Five areas were highlighted in the Project Design Specification as having particular archaeological potential. These were:
1. An area east of Cassington, between Cassington and Worton.
 2. The junction of the A40 and the Cassington spur road.
 3. The junction of the A40 and Cassington Road.
 4. The area south of New Wintles Farm.
 5. The area around the proposed Cuckoo Lane Bridge, northwest of Eynsham. The land take for the new road will be particularly extensive here as the road will be in a cutting.

Where access could be gained within these areas a 2% sample was investigated. In all other areas a 1% sample was assessed.

- 5.2 A total of 81 trenches were dug by a JCB type excavator using a toothless ditching bucket. Trenches were positioned within the land-take of the new road, based on information provided by the Department of Transport. However, it should be noted that alterations in the road scheme did take place between the September and January evaluations.
- 5.3 Trenches were typically 30 m in length and 1.65 m wide.
- 5.4 For recording purposes the length of the route was divided into sections A-J (see Figure 1) and trenches were numbered sequentially within each section. Fields affected by the new road line were given unique numbers from west to east.
- 5.5 Where possible trenches were hand cleaned, photographed and planned and a sample of features were hand excavated in order to characterize stratigraphy and establish preservation, dating and finds density.
- 5.6 Dr Mark Robinson of the Oxford University Museum visited the site, advised on environmental strategy and examined samples.

6. THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESULTS

- 6.1 Although some sites of particular archaeological potential were identified during the evaluation all areas contained aspects of interest. The archaeological results are described from west to east along the route.

6.2 **The West End of the Route** (Figures 9 & 10)

- 6.2.1 The western part of the route forms a distinct area lying on higher ground on Oxford clay. Apart from stray finds retrieved during the observation of the Witney-Cassington gas pipe line (mostly Neolithic flintwork) nothing is known about the archaeology of this area and the 1% sample excavated in those areas where access was granted reflected the belief that this was an area of low potential. However, it was always borne in mind that the existing state of knowledge may reflect a lack of investigation rather than a lack of activity in the past.
- 6.2.2 This area includes Section A, Trenches 1-6, all excavated within arable fields on the south side of the present A40 and Section B Trenches 1-8. Trenches B1-5 were excavated in arable fields and Trench B8 was excavated in a pasture field, both on the south side of the road. On the north side of the road B7 was located in a pasture field and B 6 in a set-aside field.
- 6.2.3 Field 1 lies on ground rising to the west. Four ditches and two shallow pits were located beneath either the modern ploughsoil or colluvium (Figure 17). All were located in Trench 1 with the exception of an east-west ditch in Trench A2. One ditch (A/1/3) running north-south contained two probably Iron Age sherds. Otherwise there was no dating evidence from any of these features and their significance is uncertain.
- 6.2.4 Field 22 (Section B) lies on land rising up from the Thames floodplain and is known to have been the site of 19th century brick kilns. The field is now under pasture. Post-medieval pottery, clay pipes, brick and animal bone was found in spreads, probably associated with the destruction of the kilns, overlying the natural clay. No structural evidence of the brick kilns was found.
- 6.2.5 Other features in this area seemed to be associated with barns, tracks, land drains and other modern agricultural activities. No evidence for earlier agricultural activity was detected.

6.3 **Chil Brook** (Figures 11 & 18)

- 6.3.1 Field 27 lies on Oxford clay, west of the Eynsham gravel terrace, east of the Barnard Gate rise and north of the A40. South of the A40 runs the Chil Brook which changes direction here, first flowing northwards then south towards the Thames. An area of alluvium is associated with the brook but was found to be very shallow in the trenches excavated.
- 6.3.2 A noticeable feature in the southeast corner of the field was a small pond that appeared to be made up of three short, wide sections of ditch.
- 6.3.3 Little is known of the archaeological background of the immediate area,

though during the construction of the Witney-Cassington gas main Neolithic, Roman, and Anglo-Saxon finds were recovered from immediately south of the area of investigation.

- 6.3.4 The fields in this area are known to have belonged to Tilgarsley, a medieval hamlet depopulated during the Black Death and abandoned by 1349. The exact location of the village is unknown.
- 6.3.5 A wide ditch C/6/10, more than 0.64 m deep, ran northwest-southeast in the southeast corner of the area, immediately west of the pond and at right angles to it. Its full investigation was hampered by flooding. It was associated with an adjacent trackway or cobbled surface (C/6/8) and an occupation layer (C/6/9) which slightly overlay the cobbles (see Figure 19). These features contained large amounts of medieval pottery. Pottery ranging from the late 11th to early 13th century was retrieved from the cobbled surface and occupation layer (see medieval pottery assessment Section 7.2). The fill of the ditch, however, contained a later 14th to 15th century baluster base and a clay pipe stem suggesting it was filled at a later date.
- 6.3.6 A ditch (C/6/5) ran on the outside edge of the large ditch and at the west end of the trench was another, also slighter ditch (C/6/4) running northwest-southeast.
- 6.3.7 The configuration of the line of the deep ditch, the pond and the modern field boundaries indicates that a square or rectangular enclosure existed. The evidence suggests that this was the site of a small moated medieval farmstead.
- 6.3.8 The pottery assemblage so far recovered from this site appeared to have stronger links with the west country (Gloucester and Bristol) than with Oxford.
- 6.3.9 Within Trench 7, towards the centre of the field, was a small circular pit (C/7/4) containing a burnt fill, mostly oak charcoal. It contained no pottery.
- 6.3.10 A flint, a broken possibly early Neolithic blade, came from ditch C/6/5 in this area.

6.5 Chil Brook to New Wintles Farm (Figures 11 & 12)

- 6.5.1 Access was difficult to obtain along this section. Only five trenches were excavated in one field (Field 35). It was particularly unfortunate that no work could take place in the large field (Field 37) where cropmarks are visible from the air (Figure 4). The geology on this stretch of the route was Oxford clay sloping down gradually onto gravel terrace.

6.5.2 In Field 35 current land use is pasture but traces of ridge and furrow were visible on the surface. Two tree throw pits were located in Trench C3, one of which contained tile (?post-medieval) and flint. No other features were seen.

6.6 New Wintles Farm Area (Figures 12, 20 & 21)

6.6.1 This area lies on a bank of high ground formed by 2nd/3rd gravel terrace. To the east the land slopes gradually towards Evenlode floodplain. A high bank of Oxford clay and fourth gravel terrace overlooks the area on the west side. It lies west of the Long Hanborough to Eynsham road.

6.6.2 The light soils and the open well-drained land was attractive to settlers of all periods. Some 200 m to the north of the proposed route were the sites of excavations at New Wintles Farm and City Farm. These revealed evidence for Bronze Age ring ditches and Iron Age pits beneath a substantial Anglo-Saxon settlement and cemetery dating from the 6th century AD until the early 8th century.

6.6.3 A cropmark (PRN 5151) suggests that the Bronze Age activity may extend to the south and west towards the new road (Figure 4). Further Anglo-Saxon activity has been identified south of the A40 in Eynsham, consisting of a group of huts (PRN 1687) and a cemetery site (PRN 1649). This raised the possibility that Anglo-Saxon settlement may be scattered over much of this terrace.

6.6.4 A ditch running east-west was located in Trench 7 (D/7/6). It contained one small very abraded Roman pottery sherd. Another ditch ran parallel to this further south in Trench 12 (D/12/5). Though the dating is insecure it is possible that these ditches formed part of a field system associated with the New Wintles Anglo-Saxon site.

6.6.5 In Trench 9 were two parallel shallow gullies (D/9/6 & D/9/7) aligned north-south. There was no dating evidence from either of these features which could potentially be associated with either Anglo-Saxon or Bronze Age activity.

6.6.6 Evidence of extensive former ridge and furrow cultivation is present in this area. Medieval ploughsoil sealed all the features referred to above.

6.7 The Evenlode Floodplain (Figures 12 & 13)

6.7.1 The fields to the west of this section are all set-aside, those to the east are under arable cultivation. Twelve trenches were excavated in set-aside fields (Fields 44, 45 & 46) and one in an arable field to the east (Field 48).

- 6.7.2 In Fields 45 and 46 several tree throw pits were observed cutting into the natural sub-soil. The reddish brown silt fills contained flecks of scorched clay and charcoal indicating that tree stumps had been burnt. One pit (E/4/6) contained an undiagnostic burnt flint flake.
- 6.7.3 In Fields 45 and 46 the natural sub-soil and tree throw pits were overlain by an earlier layer, possibly a ploughsoil, of mid brown very silty clay with 5% fine gravel. In Trenches E5 and E7 this layer was cut by two ditches (E/5/6 & E/7/6), possible medieval field boundaries, both running northeast-southwest. In Field 44 no earlier ploughsoil was visible and this horizon was represented by a layer of alluvium.
- 6.7.4 An alluvial deposit overlay these layers and a ploughsoil or meadow soil, probably post-medieval in date, survived beneath the modern topsoil in all sections observed.

6.8 Cassington Mill Area (Figure 14)

- 6.8.1 This area lies on a spur of 2nd gravel terrace overlooking the Evenlode and Thames floodplain just north of their confluence.
- 6.8.2 The archaeology of the Cassington Mill area is well documented and there is evidence of occupation from Neolithic to Saxon times (see above Section 3). Unfortunately, much has been destroyed by modern gravel quarrying.
- 6.8.3 During the quarrying of Smith's and Tolley's pits (see Figure 5) several Neolithic/ Bronze Age burials were encountered, including ring ditches. One ring ditch (PRN 3970) lies partly under the A40 and continues further south on a site not accessible during the evaluation.
- 6.8.4 Immediately north of the A40 were two enclosures (PRN 3870) and many pits and ditches of Iron Age and Roman date, some of which (PRN 3773-4) indicated iron smelting close by. Extraction in Smith's Pit also revealed the presence of a Roman cemetery of more than 110 graves, partly underlying the road.
- 6.8.5 A group of Anglo-Saxon sunken featured buildings were found immediately south of the A40 (PRN 3969) during quarrying. There is also evidence of an associated cemetery (PRN 1374) and records of isolated huts (PRN 3777) further north.
- 6.8.6 Difficulties of access resulted in few trenches being excavated in this area. One trench excavated north of Tolley's Pit and another south of Smith's 1 Pit showed that quarrying had been very extensive. No finds were retrieved in the evaluation from the gravel backfill of the old pits. However, areas where extraction has not taken place probably do survive, for example on

the north edge of Smith's 2 Pit (an area now covered in concrete), the southern edge of gardens north of the road and the wide verges alongside the existing carriageway and at the road junction.

6.9 South of Cassington (Figures 14 & 15)

- 6.9.1 This part of the route partly overlies gravel and partly alluvium of the Thames floodplain. It includes all of Section G, Section F Trench 1 and Section H Trench 14.
- 6.9.2 In Field 64 Trench G6 several features were located below the early ? medieval ploughsoil cutting natural. A shallow ditch (G/6/13) ran east-west in the centre of the trench and was cut by a pit (G/6/9) which contained medieval pottery. The ditch yielded a broken blade-like flake which was probably early Neolithic in date. A ditch (G/6/11) ran west-north-west to east-south-east across the southern end of the trench, cutting a pit (G/6/12). No finds were recovered from either of these features.
- 6.9.3 A ditch (G/2/6) running north-south underlay early ploughsoil and cut natural in Field 69. A medieval sherd was recovered from this feature. Another ditch (G/2/7) lay to the east of it, running east-west and terminating within the trench. Flooding of the trench prevented examination of this feature.
- 6.9.4 In other trenches contexts were observed cut into a ploughsoil layer and sealed by a subsequent layer, also apparently the result of ploughing. The stratigraphic position of the features indicates they may be medieval in date. In Trench G1 (Field 71) three ditches (G/1/5, G/1/6 & G/1/7) ran approximately northwest-southeast and a gully (G/1/8) ran east-west. No finds were recovered from these features. A similar ditch was observed at the eastern end of this section in Trench 14 (H/14/4).
- 6.9.5 There was evidence of medieval agriculture, including extensive areas of ridge and furrow, along this part of the route. Several ditches seemed to be part of the medieval field system (eg. G/6/4). North of the A40, in Trench 3, four postholes were recorded (G/3/5, G/3/7, G/3/9 & G/3/11), evenly spaced between medieval furrows which cut into an earlier meadow or ploughsoil. Their function was unclear but they were almost certainly medieval in date.

6.10 Cassington Spur Road Junction (Figures 15 & 22-26)

- 6.10.1 In this area old channels cut west-east across the floodplain gravels creating islands. It was difficult, from the trenches excavated, to be certain of the precise location of the channels but the evidence suggests that two channels transected the area and one channel lay to the south. Thus three separate zones would have existed in the past (see Figure 22).
- 6.10.2 Although little is known about the archaeology of the immediate area a fieldwalking survey had been undertaken within the Yarnton Cassington Project over the field to the north (Field 81). A late Bronze Age pottery scatter had been located associated with burnt flint, as well as Roman and medieval manuring scatters. Cropmarks were also known from the area to the south (PRN 12197 Figure 8) (see above Section 3.3.3).
- 6.10.3 The area north of the channels, on a gravel island which gives way to the north to alluvium and silts of earlier channel courses, proved to be the site of prehistoric activity. (Figures 22, 25 & 26). Fairly substantial ditches crossed the area and numerous shallower ditches, gullies and postholes were found over the area. Domestic occupation was clearly present and the spatial distribution of some postholes was certainly indicative of house plans.
- 6.10.3 It is extremely difficult to characterize the nature of this site as such a wide date range was represented by the pottery and flint that was recovered (see below Section 7.1 & 7.3). It is unfortunate that time pressures (the imminent sowing of the field) meant that it was not possible to investigate more features.
- 6.10.4 A sherd of late Neolithic Grooved Ware was recovered from the northern end of Trench 8 (Figure 25). The find is labelled as coming from pit J/8/6, though it was believed by the director to have come from the ditch into which this feature was cut (J/8/7); this may be erroneous. Other ditches in this area contained no dating evidence and little else in the way of domestic refuse, with the exception of an undiagnostic broken flake from the top of J/11/7.
- 6.10.5 A thin scatter of material of late Bronze Age and Iron Age date, mostly late Bronze Age/early Iron Age, was retrieved from postholes and pits over the area. The number of sherds was too few to draw conclusions about temporal relationships. None of the features, with the exception of pit J/10/7, contained the quantities of finds recovered from the middle Iron Age settlements to the south. This may indicate an earlier date or different function for this area.
- 6.10.6 All the late Bronze Age to Iron Age material came from the pits and postholes in the area. In the limited number of cases where relationships existed the ditches were cut by the smaller features. This may indicate that

the ditches were related to earlier prehistoric activity, though this is very speculative.

- 6.10.7 On the southern edge of the area, between two channels lay a small settlement, part of which has been observed from the air (PRN 12197 Figure 8) (Figure 23). Several ditches cut across Trench H1, mostly running northwest-southeast. One is certainly part of a circular enclosure seen on the air photographs. Deep gullies, possibly house gullies, were present as well as several postholes. At least some of these postholes indicated structures and a spread of clay silt with daub, burnt limestone and charcoal (H/1/11) was interpreted as destruction debris from a house.
- 6.10.8 Middle Iron Age pottery in fairly substantial quantities was retrieved from the features. A small proportion of early Iron Age pottery may also have been present as may a late Iron Age sherd. The features seemed to be well-preserved and feature layout should be clear. Finds were also in good condition and carbonized remains had survived.
- 6.10.9 The ground shelved away to the north and no features were located in Trench H3, although in Trench H2 a ditch running north-north-west to south-south-east (H/2/7) produced probable middle Iron Age sherds.
- 6.10.10 This site most closely resembles Iron Age farmsteads such as Farmoor, which are known to exist on the Thames floodplain in this area.
- 6.10.11 North of this site, also on a gravel island between two channels was a comparable site. Once again deeper ditches cut across the area in Trench H10, mostly to the south of the trench. (Figure 24). One of the ditches (H/10/8) contained waterlogged material. Gullies and postholes were present and quantities of well-preserved pottery and bone were retrieved.
- 6.10.12 The majority of the pottery recovered was middle Iron Age in date, though one worn late Neolithic/early Bronze Age sherd was found as was a late Bronze Age/early Iron Age finger-tip decorated sherd.
- 6.10.13 An interesting feature of this site was the lack of archaeological contexts in adjacent trenches (H13 was dug specifically to examine the extent of the settlement). The site, which seems similar to that located in Trench 1, must have been very restricted in extent.
- 6.10 14 In the north of the site, in Trenches J7-J11 the features were overlain by a ploughsoil which was probably Roman in date (though there is also a

suggestion of medieval manuring in this area). Ploughing had disturbed the top fills of the earlier features and incorporated some of the prehistoric finds. Two Roman sherds were found in the top fills of features. The action of modern ploughing has subsequently brought the early finds to the surface enabling the identification of the prehistoric settlement as well as the Roman manuring scatter by fieldwalking. However, cultivation did not seem to have severely affected the earlier features. Postholes and gullies had survived to a reasonable depth.

There was a suggestion of ploughing having taken place in the south of the area over the settlement located in Trench H1.

6.11 Worton Rectory Farm (Figures 16, 27 & 28)

6.11.1 Ditches and pits were identified further north on the gravel terrace in Trenches J1, 2 and 3.

6.11.2 In Trench J3 below the scarp of the terrace a shallow ditch was located running northeast-southwest (J/3/8) (figure 27). The top fill of the ditch was packed with burnt stone and flint. A reduced core which may be earlier Neolithic in date was retrieved from this deposit.

6.11.3 A few sherds of late Iron Age and Roman pottery were found in ditches J/1/4 and J/2/2. The ditches and pits are probably associated with the known Roman and Iron Age site identified from air photographs and fieldwalking, around Worton Rectory Farm (PRN 1346 Figure 8). Plough damage has occurred on this site, though features had survived to a reasonable depth.

6.12 Eastern End of Route (Figures 15 & 29)

6.12.1 East of the lay-by on the south side of the A40 is a gravel island, possibly the same as that occupied by the southernmost settlement of the Cassington spur road sites. This island seems to be continuous with that north of the A40 where a dense flint scatter of Mesolithic to Bronze Age date was located during fieldwalking in the Yarnton Cassington Project.

6.12.2 Gullies, pits and postholes were observed in Trenches H16 and H 17. With the exception of a posthole and a pit these were all located in Trench H17. Unfortunately, only from gully 17/4 were any dateable finds recovered; one sherd of late Neolithic/early Bronze Age pottery. Features were fairly shallow and were overlain by what appeared to be a ploughsoil. Nevertheless, their present depth is probably a genuine reflection of their original size.

7. THE FINDS

7.1 The Pottery

Alistair Barclay

The evaluation on five sections of the A40 (Sections A, F, G, H and J) have produced 419 sherds (3077 g) of pottery. The assemblage ranges in date from the late Neolithic through to the post-medieval period and includes few diagnostic forms.

7.1.1 Section A

Trench 1. Context 1/3/A/1 produced one worn ?Iron Age (IA) sherd and a worn and leached sherd ?IA was found near the trench at SP 41620/10650.

7.1.2 Section F

Pottery was found in two trenches (1 and 2).

Trench 1. Context 1/2 produced two medieval sherds and a possible post-medieval sherd.

Trench 2. Context 2/2 produced a piece of fired clay and a fragment from a modern tile/pipe.

7.1.3 Section G

Pottery was excavated from four trenches (2, 3, 5 and 6).

Trench 2. Context 2/6 produced a medieval rim sherd.

Trench 3. Context 3/2 produced a worn fragment of ?Roman tile and three medieval sherds.

Trench 5. Context 5/2 produced two sherds of Medieval and post-Medieval date and 5/6 worn and abraded Romano-British sherd.

Trench 6. Three contexts 6/8, 6/10 and 6/9/A/1 produced sherds of medieval date although the latter could be early Roman.

7.1.4 Sections H & J

Most of the material can be dated by fabric and surface treatment to the middle Iron Age (MIA) although earlier (EIA) and later Iron Age (LIA) material is also present. Small proportions of late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age (LNEBA) (grog fabrics), late Bronze Age/early Iron Age (quartzite fabrics) and early Saxon (grass tempered fabrics) were also noted. Much of this material could be residual or intrusive.

7.1.5 Section H

Pottery was excavated from eight trenches (1, 2, 3, 9, 10, 13, 16 and 17).

Trench 1

Ten contexts (1/1 & 3-11) produced a significant assemblage of MIA sherds. The material was characterized by the suggestion of rounded forms, simple rims, burnishing, absence of decoration and the predominance of sandy fabrics. A small proportion of EIA sherds may be present in 1/8, 1/9 and a possible LIA sherd in 1/3.

Context 1/10 produced the largest concentration of MIA material (54 sherds, 561 g). However, a small proportion of this material (5 sherds, 107 g) is uncharacteristic. Five sherds represented by a pedestal base, a possible rim and body sherds in sandy and/or organic tempered fabrics are more typical of early Saxon ceramics. G. Lambrick thinks this material is acceptable as IA but difficult to parallel. Context 1/4 produced 28 sherds (330 g) of MIA pottery including two rim fragments from barrel and globular shaped jars. Context 1/5 also produced MIA material (8 sherds, 190 g) which included three rim fragments from globular vessels.

Lime scale and burnt residues were noted on a number of MIA sherds, and fired clay (daub) and possible crucible fragments were also seen (1/8 and 1/10).

Trench 2. Two contexts 2/5 and 2/7 produced a few probable MIA sherds. However, 2/5 also contained two possible Roman sherds.

Trench 3. Context 3/4 produced a piece of fired clay.

Trench 9. Context 9/1 produced a single post-medieval sherd.

Trench 10

Context 10/2 contained a range of datable material most of which is characteristic of the MIA but also includes a very worn ?LNEBA sherd, a LBA/EIA finger tip decorated sherd and a possible MIA/LIA sherd. Contexts 10/3, 10/8/1, 10/8/2, 10/8/3, 10/14, 10/15/1 and 10/16 contained sherds of MIA date. Some of the sherds from contexts 10/3, 10/8/1 and 10/15/1 could equally be of EIA date. Context 10/16 also contained a redeposited LNEBA sherd and a fragment of fired clay (?daub). Context 10/21 contained two ?LIA base sherds.

Trench 13. Context 13/5 contained a post-Medieval sherd and a ?MIA sherd.

Trench 16. Contexts 16/2 and 16/5 produced small pieces of fired clay (?daub). 16/2 also produced modern china.

Trench 17. Context 17/4 produced a single grog tempered LNEBA sherd.

7.1.6 Section J

Pottery was excavated from seven trenches (1, 2, 3, 5, 8 and 11).

Trench 1 produced LIA (1/4) and a possible Roman sherd (1/5).

Trench 2 produced Roman Grey Ware (2/2), medieval (2/4/2) and an EIA sherd (2/5/A).

Trench 3 context 3/3 produced an oxidized Roman sherd and an E/MIA sherd.

Trench 5 produced two medieval sherds (5/1).

Trench 8

Trench 8 produced a wide range of material.

8/6 produced a sherd of late Neolithic Grooved Ware

8/24 produced LBA/EIA and possible Bronze Age sherds

8/18 contained IA sherds, fired clay (daub) and possible intrusive crumbs of early Saxon pottery

8/20 contained an EIA sherd and a small sherd of indeterminate fabric.

8/21 contained a worn IA sherd and a LIA/early Roman rim.

8/2 contained Samian, 8/22 contained a Medieval sherd.

Trench 10. Context 10/7/1 produced LBA, MIA and ?LIA sherds.

Trench 11. Iron Age sherds came from the surface of contexts 11/4/1, 11/5/1 and 11/6/1. The sherd from 11/5/1 is in a diagnostic LBA/EIA fabric.

7.2 The Medieval Pottery from the Chil Brook Site

Cathy Underwood-Keevill

7.2.1 A total of 59 sherds weighing 0.527 kg was recovered from this site. Most of the material (47 sherds) came from context C/6/9.

7.2.2 The assemblage was divided into fabric types. The main types were

1. a sand and flint gritted ware with coarse angular flint and rounded limestone with translucent quartz (SFG)

2. a very vesicular fabric with soft, smoothed surfaces with dense limestone voids and occasional very coarse grey flint and white translucent quartz (LFG). The latter is similar to Oxford fabric CX, a Shipton-under Wychwood type fabric. Vesicular fabrics are also present in Gloucester and Bristol.

3. Oxford fabric Y, the Oxford medieval fabric was also present.

- 7.2.3 Vesicular fabrics and limestone tempered wares appear to date to the late 11th to mid 12th centuries in the Gloucester and Bristol area. Oxford fabric CX is thought to be 12th to 13th century in date.

Fabric Y is dated in Oxford to the late 11th to early 13th centuries. Cooking pot rims in fabric LFG and fabric Oxford Y indicate an early to late 12th century presence. A thickened rolled cooking pot rim in fabric LFG from C/6/9 suggests an early 12th century date and a flat-topped cooking pot rim that is thickened internally (in fabric Oxford Y) is probably later; late 12th/13th century in date. Any interpretation as to date range is, however, severely limited by the lack of diagnostic material.

- 7.2.4 A possible earlier, very coarse, friable, flint-gritted fabric is present in context C/6/4, but the smallness of the sherds prevents any conclusions as to date being advanced.
- 7.2.5 A later 14th to 15th century baluster base in a Surrey Ware type fabric with a light green glaze came from context C/6/10/5.
- 7.2.6 It is interesting to note that the limestone and flint-gritted fabrics have no definite parallels with any of the Oxford fabric types. It is possible that the sources for the ceramics are to be found in the west.

7.3 The Flints

Pippa Bradley

- 7.3.1 A small collection of 17 pieces (216 g) of struck flint was recovered from the evaluation. The flint was distributed over six sections (Sections C, D, E, G, H & J) of the A40.
- 7.3.2 The majority of the flint would seem to be of a derived nature and may have been obtained from river gravels occurring locally. Only one flake from Section H Trench 1 (H/1/10) would appear to have been struck from better quality flint.
- 7.3.3 None of the pieces are closely datable. A study of technological traits may provide some grounds for provisional dating.
- 7.3.4 Possible earlier Neolithic (EN) material was recovered from some trenches, including a reduced Class B3 core from J/3/8. The remainder of the possible earlier Neolithic material consisted of blades with narrow butts, diffuse bulbs of percussion and showed signs of careful knapping.
- 7.3.5 Possible later Neolithic or early Bronze Age (LNEBA) material was characterized by wide butts and prominent bulbs of percussion, some hinge fractures were also noted.

- 7.3.6 The only tools recovered were found in Trench 1 Section J; both were scrapers and are not closely datable.
- 7.3.7 Only one feature in Trench 1 Section J produced more than one piece of struck flint. The distribution of material is therefore sparse and any conclusions drawn about the nature and date of the collection are necessarily tentative.
- 7.3.8 Section C
C/6/5 contained EN material
- Section D
D/4/4 contained LNEBA material
- Section G
G/6/14 contained EN material
- Section H
H/1/10 contained LNEBA material
H/10/12 contained EN material
- Section J
J/1/3 contained EN material
J/3/8 contained EN material
J/8/20 contained EN material
J/10/3 contained LNEBA material
- Other material was undiagnostic.

7.4 Environmental Material

- 7.4.1 Sites were visited by Mark Robinson who commented on the environmental potential of several deposits. The results are included with the archaeological results above.
- 7.4.2 Two samples were taken for analysis at a later stage:
C/7/4/1 A sample of carbonized material. This was not a cereal-rich sample. There was a large quantity of oak charcoal present.
- 7.4.3 H/10/8/3 A sample was taken to assess the potential for the preservation of waterlogged material in this ditch. The state of preservation of the organic material was not of high quality but was potentially usable.

8. COMMENTS ON THE RESULTS

- 8.1 The main obstacle to undertaking a thorough evaluation on the A40 dualling scheme was the inability to gain access to several areas. These include areas which have significant archaeological potential, of which Field 37, southwest of New Wintles Farm is the most obvious example. There are other areas where further evaluation may clarify the potential of contexts already located, for example opposite Field 1 at the west end of the route.
- 8.2 Weather conditions were generally favourable during the two phases of evaluation.
- 8.3 In the lower areas of the Thames and Evenlode floodplain flooding of the trenches was very rapid during the January evaluation which made recording of the features difficult.
- 8.4 During the September evaluations time pressure in some fields which were just about to be sown meant that a smaller proportion of features were excavated than would have been ideal. This particularly affected the southwestern corner of Field 81 (Trenches J8 - J11).

9. CONCLUSIONS AND SIGNIFICANCE OF THE RESULTS

- 9.1 On a linear development it is difficult to draw general conclusions from evaluation results. It is, of course, of significance that they offer the potential to compare settlement patterns and economy on a transect across different topographies. The evaluation demonstrated that archaeological sites of significance will be affected by the Witney-Cassington dualling scheme. In some areas these sites are of obvious and national or regional significance. Elsewhere the potential of the sites is less clear but is, at least, of local importance.

The conclusions for each part of the route will be dealt with separately, as divided in the result section.

9.2 Landscape

- 9.2.1 Linear road schemes do offer an excellent opportunity to retrieve more general information on landscape and land use across different topographies. For example tree clearance, land boundaries, the extent of arable cultivation at different periods in time and environmental information from old river channels can all be investigated over a wide transect on different geologies. This provides a broad context to enable landscape investigations to be carried out on an appropriate scale.

- 9.2.2 The evaluation demonstrated that information on many aspects of landscape archaeology will be affected by the scheme. Consideration should be given to methods of retrieving this kind of data.
- 9.2.3 Tree clearance with associated evidence burning and a slight suggestion that dating evidence in the form of flintwork was present, was evidenced on the Evenlode floodplain. Ditches of several periods representing boundaries of fields and probably land ownership were located in many places (for example south of New Wintles Farm and south of Cassington). Evidence of ridge and furrow cultivation was present over much of the route. Field boundaries and the potential for recovering environmental evidence from some of these (especially at the eastern end of the route) indicate possibilities for obtaining information relating to land use through time. Palaeochannels were also found at the east end of the route in which preservation of environmental data should be extremely good.

9.3 The Western End of the Route

- 9.3.1 In such a small sample the significance of the archaeology at this end of the route was difficult to assess.
- 9.3.2 Features, such as ditches and pits, did survive in Trench A1 and the very slight dating evidence suggested an Iron Age date for these (though some contexts could have been more recent field ditches and drains). There is no evidence of substantial occupation on this site. Nevertheless, the early settlement of this area is so little understood that any information will add significantly to present knowledge.
- 9.3.3 The potential of the Field 1 site may be clarified by evaluation on the north side of the A40, if access could be agreed.

9.4 Chil Brook

- 9.4.1 The probable moated farmstead at Chil Brook lies directly beneath the line of the road. This category of site has not often been examined in this region. The status of these sites varies as does their role in the medieval rural economy. The Chil Brook site has the potential to greatly extend our knowledge of medieval settlement in the region.
- 9.4.2 The significance of the site is enhanced by the lack of previous archaeological information from the area and has especial interest in the context of the lost deserted medieval village with which it may have been closely associated.

- 9.4.3 It is of considerable interest that the pottery assemblage so far recovered from the site has greater similarities to the region to the west, Gloucester and Bristol, rather than to Oxford. The site has potential to address issues of trading links and regional organization.
- 9.4.4 Finds from the site were well-preserved and there appeared to be good potential for the recovery of environmental information, both from waterlogged deposits in the ditch and carbonized material from occupation layers. Information on the economy and status of the site should thus be recoverable.

9.5 Chil Brook to New Wintles Farm

- 9.5.1 It has not been possible to evaluate the potential of this part of the route by trenching. Air photographs and previous work in the area strongly suggest, however, that archaeological contexts do exist particularly on the gravel terraces in the east of this section.

9.6 New Wintles Farm

- 9.6.1 No dense concentrations of features were located in the area south of New Wintles Farm and the date of those contexts examined was uncertain. However, it seems possible that the features belong either to the Anglo-Saxon settlement around New Wintles Farm or to the Bronze Age activity evidenced from air photographs immediately to the west. In either case, contexts of these periods are difficult to locate, and the light distribution of features observed may be more significant than at first appears.
- 9.6.2 The extent of Bronze Age activity in the area is uncertain. The nearby Cassington Mill sites are of known national importance. It is of significance to evaluate the interrelationships of these sites and to look at issues of settlement and ritual landscapes and the agricultural economy of the region at this period.
- 9.6.3 Information associated with Anglo-Saxon settlement, in particular possible agricultural and land boundaries, has enormous potential to answer ill-understood issues of land use during the early medieval period. It is not known whether settlement sites were widely scattered over the broad, hospitable gravel terraces or were constrained in some way by land ownership or arable fields. The extent of arable cultivation, as opposed to pasture is also uncertain. These are key research questions being addressed by current research in the Eynsham/Cassington area and this site has the potential to contribute to these studies.

9.7 The Evenlode Floodplain

- 9.7.1 The evaluation suggests that the Evenlode floodplain was not an area chosen for settlement in the past, though the possible existence of small prehistoric settlements on gravel islands must be borne in mind.
- 9.7.2 The presence of tree throw pits in this area beneath alluvial and ploughsoil cover containing scorched deposits and charcoal (and one solitary flint flake) indicates potential to recover information about the date and nature of tree clearance in the area.

9.8 Cassington Mill

- 9.8.1 As has been stated above this is an area of national archaeological importance and one that has already been blighted by modern road construction and gravel extraction. Although this destruction has been extensive some areas which are still preserved are thought to survive in areas immediately adjacent to the present road. Archaeological contexts such as the Bronze Age ring ditch (PRN 3970), Iron Age and Roman pits and metal smelting areas, a Roman cemetery and Anglo-Saxon settlement are all thought to lie on the new road line (Figure 5) and will be affected by the scheme.
- 9.8.2 Although of limited extent, these remains have enormous potential to shed light on sites previously examined under less favourable conditions, without the advantages of modern archaeological and environmental techniques.

9.9 South of Cassington

- 9.9.1 The significance of the scatter of features located south of the A40 in the area south of Cassington was difficult to assess. The date of many of these contexts is also uncertain. Some of the features are undoubtedly medieval in date and many were probably field boundaries and drains, associated with the ridge and furrow cultivation which was extensive in this area.
- 9.9.2 Others of the features were probably prehistoric in date. It is hard to ascertain whether they represented a continuing spread of occupation in this area between Cassington Mill and the Cassington spur road junction or whether they are the remains of small discrete settlements. In either case understanding their form and function would contribute substantially to the understanding of early occupation in the area.

9.10 The Cassington Spur Road Junction

- 9.10.1 There is extensive evidence for prehistoric occupation in this area. The sites were located on gravel islands between river channels.

- 9.10.2 The area to the north was difficult to categorize as the date range of the finds was so varied, as was the type of context observed. It is certain that more than one phase of use was represented, at least one of which was domestic in nature, and there is potential to obtain important stratigraphic relationships. Occupation layout of the two sites to the south, apparently separated from each other and the site to the north by palaeochannels, was more coherent and seemed to represent single, though potentially long-lived settlements. Preservation of finds from all sites was good.
- 9.10.2 Evidence of earlier prehistoric domestic occupation is rare in all parts of Britain. If some of the features located to the north of this area represent such sites then they are of national importance. If they represent a ritual use of the landscape, as is more usual at this period, their relationship to contemporary domestic sites further to the east in Yarnton and other ritual sites to the west at Cassington Mill is also of considerable interest.
- 9.10.3 The dating evidence suggests that broadly contemporary settlements existed in the middle Iron Age and possibly earlier on different gravel islands. If this is the case the understanding of their interrelationship would be a rewarding study of national significance. The apparent contemporaneity of these sites may, however, be the result of insufficient archaeological evidence. The potential of these sites is enhanced by the survival of less substantial features such as postholes and gullies demonstrating that settlement layout can be recovered. Contexts also yielded good quantities of finds.
- 9.10.4 The proximity of the sites to palaeochannels, where the potential for recovering well-preserved environmental data has already been evidenced elsewhere in this area, offers exciting possibilities for obtaining information about the economy of the settlements and the adjacent landscape. There is also the potential for the survival of stratigraphic information on the channel edges, protected by alluvium, and the possibility of finding contemporary structures within the channel indicating how these resources were used in the past.
- 9.10.5 Environmental information will also be forthcoming from features on the settlement sites themselves, both from carbonized remains and from waterlogged deposits within deeper pits and ditches. Although, no high quality waterlogged deposits were located some features did contain this type of information and others probably exist. These features are not only threatened by the road scheme but also by dewatering within the adjacent ARC gravel extraction pit.
- 9.10.6 As stated above these sites fall within the study area of the Yarnton Cassington Project. This project is a multi-period, landscape-wide, multi-disciplinary investigation into the archaeological resource of the area. This group of sites forms an integral part of the project as they lie on the adjacent floodplain area to the Yarnton sites. Their investigation will allow

comparison of settlement (function and choice of location), landscape and land use to be drawn with Yarnton floodplain and with the (potentially contemporary) sites on the second gravel terrace at Worton and Cassington. Within this project the investigation of alluvial sequences within channels is also of importance for understanding the history of floodplain areas.

9.11 Worton Rectory Farm

- 9.11.1 The occupation site on the edge of the gravel terrace to the west of Worton Rectory Farm also lies within the Yarnton Cassington Project study area. This site appears superficially to have a similar, contemporary development to the adjacent settlement at Yarnton which has been excavated by the Oxford Archaeological Unit. The Yarnton site has the longest continuous record of occupation of any site so far investigated in the Upper Thames Valley (from the late Bronze Age to the mid Saxon period). The potential information from an apparently contemporary adjacent settlement at Worton has national significance.
- 9.11.2 The evaluation suggested that the features located west of Worton were of Iron Age and Roman date and lay on the edge of their respective settlements. They had been affected, to some extent, by ploughing.
- 9.11.3 The importance of this site lies in providing comparative data to the Yarnton second gravel terrace settlement site, in understanding the relationship of this site to occupation activity on the adjacent floodplain area, and in providing information about landscape and land use on the 2nd gravel terrace.

9.13 The Eastern End of the Route

- 9.13.1 The site at the east end of the scheme lies on the same gravel island as the fields to the north of the A40 road. Fieldwalking has been undertaken on these fields and a dense flint scatter was located. The principal elements of the flintwork seemed to be Mesolithic and late Bronze Age in date (*Yarnton & Cassington Worton Rectory Farm; 1990/91 Assessments*). The evidence from south of the A40 was consistent with a continuation of early prehistoric activity from the area to the north. Although only a small amount of this site will be affected by the road widening scheme it is, nevertheless, significant in terms of understanding occupation density and spatial relationships of sites of different periods and functions across floodplain areas.

10. Bibliography

- Allison K.J., Beresford M.W. and Hurst S.E. 1965 *The Deserted Villages of Oxfordshire*, D M V R C,
Leicester University Press, Dept. of English Local History, Occ.
Papers No. 17
- Benson D. and Miles D. 1974 *The Upper Thames Valley: An archaeological survey of the river gravels*
Oxford, Oxford Archaeological Unit Survey no. 2
- Case H.J. & Whittle A.W.R. 1982 *Settlement Patterns in the Upper Thames Valley*
CBA Research Report No 44
- Chadwick Hawkes S. and Gray M. 1973 *Preliminary notes on the early Anglo-Saxon settlement at New Wintles Farm, Eynsham*,
Oxoniensia 38
- Gray M. 1974 *The Saxon settlement at New Wintles, Eynsham, Oxon.*
Anglo-Saxon Settlement and Landscape (ed T Rowley),
BAR vol 6, 51-55, Oxford
- Harding D.W. 1972 *The Iron Age in the Upper Thames Basin*
Clarendon Press, Oxford
- Hawkes S.C. 1986 *The Early Saxon Period*,
in Briggs, Cook & Rowley (eds), *The Archaeology of the Oxford Region*, Oxford, 64-108.
- OAU 1991 *Yarnton & Cassington Worton Rectory Farm; 1990/91 Assessments*
Internal Report submitted to English Heritage
- Victoria County History Oxon* xii

11. Appendix 1: Trench Descriptions

See appendix 2 for details of feature dimensions

A. Section A

Field 1

A1 Trench 1

A Trench 30 m in length aligned E-W in the NE corner of Field 1. Ploughsoil (1/1) to a depth of 0.25 m overlay 2/2 a greyish brown clay with yellowish brown mottling, up to 0.25 m deep, probably an earlier ploughsoil or colluvium.

Underlying 2/2 were several features cut into the natural clay and gravel. Two parallel ditches, 1/6 and 1/7 were seen at the E end of the trench aligned NW-SE. Ditch 1/6 was 1.15 m wide and 0.32 m deep and 1/7 was 1.30 m wide by 0.36 m deep, neither contained any finds.

A worn sherd of ? IA pottery was collected from the surface of another ditch, 1/3, aligned N-S at the W end of the trench. Another IA sherd was retrieved from the ploughsoil nearby.

Between ditches 1/3 and 1/6, in the centre of the trench, were two shallow pits 1/4 and 1/5, both roughly circular in shape. Neither contained any finds.

Natural in Trench 1 was a blue grey clay with yellowish brown sandy clay mottling and patches of gravel.

A2 Trench 2

A trench 20 m long aligned E-W along the N edge of Field 1. Ploughsoil (2/1) to a depth of 0.30 m overlay natural clay and gravel as in Trench 1.

Two features, an E-W ditch 2/2 and a shallow circular pit 2/3, were cut through the natural. Neither feature contained any finds.

A tree throw hole, 2/4, was seen at the W end of the trench.

Field 11

A3 Trench 3

A trench 30 m in length aligned E-W in the NW corner of Field 11. Ploughsoil (3/1) to a depth of 0.25 m overlay natural clay and gravel as in Trench 1.

A N-S ditch, 3/2, 1.20 m wide and 0.20 m deep cut the natural at the W end of the trench. It could have been for drainage. No finds were recovered.

A4 Trench 4

A trench 30 m long aligned N-S to the N edge of Field 11. Ploughsoil (4/1) to a depth of 0.25 m overlay natural clay and gravel as in trench 1. No features.

A5 Trench 5

A trench 30 m long aligned N-S in the SE corner of Field 11.
Ploughsoil (5/1) to a depth of 0.25 m overlay natural clay and gravel.
No features.

A6 Trench 6

A trench 30 m long on the W edge of the proposed Barnard Gate slip road in Field 11.
Ploughsoil (6/1) to a depth of 0.25 m overlay natural clay and gravel.
No features.

B Section B

Field 15

B1 Trench 1

A trench 30 m long aligned N-S in the NW corner of Field 15.
Ploughsoil (1/1) to a depth of 0.30 m overlay yellowish brown sandy clay natural with blueish grey clay mottling and mixed with gravel patches.

A ditch, 1/2, cutting the natural, was seen at the S end of the trench aligned NW-SE, but contained no finds.

B2 Trench 2

A trench 30 m long aligned E-W along the N edge of Field 15.
Ploughsoil (2/1) to a depth of 0.30 m overlay natural clay and gravel as in Trench 1.

A shallow feature (2/2) cut the natural along the S edge of the trench, this was thought to be a deep cultivation furrow. No finds were recovered.

B3 Trench 3

A trench 30 m long aligned NNE-SSW in the NE corner of Field 15.
Ploughsoil to a depth of 0.30 m overlay natural greyish brown clay, heavily iron stained.

There were no archaeological features but three tree throw holes were observed, one of which showed evidence of burning.

Field 20

B4 Trench 4

A trench 30 m long aligned E-W along the northern edge of Field 20.
Ploughsoil to a depth of 0.30 m overlay natural yellowish brown sandy clay mottled with blueish grey clay.
No features were observed.

B5 Trench 5

A trench 30 m long aligned NNE-SSW in the NE corner of Field 20 on the top of a rise. Ploughsoil (5/1) to a depth of 0.25 m overlay natural as in Trench 4.

A ditch (5/2) aligned SSW-NNE was cut into the natural 10 m from the NNE end of the trench, but contained no finds.

Field 25

FIELD 25 is situated on the N side of the A40 midway between Cuckoo Lane and Barnard Gate. The ground surface was fairly level and there are no known cropmarks. A large Victorian barn is situated centrally along the NW hedge but may have replaced an earlier building, surrounding rubble was of a different brick and stone tile, associated with a trackway along the hedgeline.

The field is presently being cultivated with grass for silage.

B6 Trench 6

A trench 23.2 m long aligned NE-SW in the SE corner of Field 25.

Grass and ploughsoil (6/1) to a depth of 0.23 m overlay a mid brown clay loam at the SW end of the trench (6/2). This was seen to be upcast from modern ditch clearing up to 0.10 m in depth.

Underneath 6/2 and extending over the entire length of the trench was a mid grey clay with orange brown mottling (6/3), 0.12m in depth. This showed some evidence of recent ploughing but is probably derived from an undisturbed subsoil.

Underneath 6/3 was a light grey clay with orange mottling and manganese staining, 6/4, an undisturbed subsoil overlying natural light yellow gravel 6/5.

No features were observed.

B7 Trench 7

A trench 12 m long aligned WNW-ESE in the SW corner of Field 25.

This trench was included to test a scatter of limestone fragments ploughed up along the NW edge of the field.

Grass and ploughsoil (7/1) to a depth of 0.32 m overlay a layer of mid brownish grey silty clay alluvium (7/2) up to 0.40 m deep.

A ditch 7/3 aligned N-S, 0.80 m wide and 0.42 m deep, cut the natural orange brown sand and gravel 4 m from the WNW end of the trench. This ditch ran parallel to and was probably associated with a rough trackway 7/4, consisting of loose gravel, brick, and limestone fragments which probably gave access to the post medieval barn further NE.

The edges of two tree throw holes 7/5 and 7/6 were also seen in the trench, both showing evidence of burning (flecks of charcoal and scorched clay).

Field 22

FIELD 22 is on the S side of the A40 adjacent to Ambury Close Farm. The field lies on an E facing slope rising up from the Thames floodplain. Current land use is pasture, but it is known to have been close to the site of 19th century brick kilns. The present ground surface is up to 1 m lower than the adjoining fields to the S and W so the topsoil may have been stripped at an earlier date.

B8 Trench 8

A trench 24 m long in the NW corner of Field 22.

Turf and topsoil (8/1) to a depth of 0.20 m overlay a light brownish grey sandy silty clay 8/2. This layer, 0.28 m deep, contained large amounts of charcoal, clay pipe, brick fragments, and 19th and 20th century pottery and is probably associated with destruction of the brick kilns.

Underneath layer 8/2 was a light brownish grey clay natural subsoil 8/3 with orange brown clay mottling.

Layer 8/3 slopes away sharply along the N edge of the field but this edge has been levelled off, probably prior to the field being converted to pasture, with a dark greyish brown silty clay. This layer contained no finds but was laminated, had been compacted and contained flecks of burnt clay and charcoal.

No archaeological features were observed.

C Section C

Field 35

FIELD 35 lies on the N side of the A40, N of Eynsham and E of Cuckoo Lane. The field slopes from N to S. Trenches 1-5 were excavated in the N corner at the top of the slope. Current land use is pasture but the remains of ridge and furrow cultivation can be seen on the present ground surface. Along the NW and NE hedgelines there is a band of slightly lower ground about 3 m wide, possibly a backfilled ditch or sunken trackway.

C1-5 Trenches 1-5

All trenches were 30 m long and aligned either N-W or S-E.

Within these trenches turf and topsoil 1-5/1 to a depth of between 0.13 m and 0.25 m overlay light greyish brown clay mixed with blueish gray clay and patches of yellowish brown gravel forming the natural subsoil.

In trenches 1,2 and 5 there was a layer of mid greyish brown sandy clay up to 0.20 m in depth. This layer was only seen at the ends of these trenches nearest the hedgeline and may be what remains of an earlier ploughsoil or associated with a previous land boundary (see field description).

In Trench 3 two tree throw holes, 3/3 and 3/4, were observed.

Field 27

FIELD 27 lies on the N side of the A40 midway between Cuckoo Lane and Barnard Gate. There is a slight rise towards the N and centre of the field but the ground is generally even and there are no obvious features. In the SE corner of the field is a pond which appears to consist of three short sections of wide ditches at right angles to one another but there has been much modern dumping in the area and its exact nature is obscure.

The field is currently set aside and roughly grassed over.

C6 Trench 6

A trench 37 m long aligned E-W in the SE corner of Field 27.

Grass and topsoil to a depth of 0.22 m overlay a light grey silty clay 6/2, possibly an old ploughsoil, 0.14 m in depth.

Layer 6/2 overlay natural light grey clay with orange brown mottling 6/3.

A ditch, 6/4 aligned NW-SE, cut 6/2 at the W end of the trench and contained medieval pottery.

Underlying 6/2, 20 m from the W end of the trench were two parallel ditches 6/5 and 6/10. Ditch 6/5 was 1.20 m wide, 0.42 m deep and contained 3 flint flakes and some medieval pot.

Ditch 6/10 was 7 m wide and over 0.70 m deep. It contained several sherds of medieval pot and appeared similar in size and profile to the ditches forming the pond in the SW corner of the field.

To the E of ditch 6/10 was a cobbled surface or trackway (6/8) 5 m in width and consisting of limestone fragments and pebbles laid to form a flat surface with several sherds of pottery mixed in. The surface has been partially plough damaged and a layer of mid brown silty clay 6/6 sealing 6/8 is probably derived from this.

Another layer 6/7 is underneath 6/6 and slopes down into ditch 6/10, it contains some large quartzite pebbles and limestone and is probably debris from in-use destruction of 6/8.

A layer of mid brown silty clay loam 6/9 underlying 6/6 was seen on the E side of the trackway, it contained two distinct lenses of charcoal and several sherds of medieval pottery and may represent occupation debris.

Underlying the trackway 6/8 and only partially seen was a posthole 6/11, 0.31 m in diameter, this was not excavated.

C7 Trench 7

A trench 30 m long aligned N-S in the centre of Field 27.

Turf and topsoil 7/1 to a depth of 0.20 m overlay a layer of mid greyish brown silty clay 7/2, a ploughsoil derived from alluvium. Underlying 7/2 was natural light grey clay with yellowish brown clay mottling 7/3.

A circular pit 7/4 containing a burnt fill and daub was situated 9 m from the S end of the trench, this was sealed by 7/2.

A narrow gully 7/5 ran NE-SW just N of 7/4, this was cut through 7/2 and was probably a cut for a modern field drain.

C8 Trench 8

A trench 30 m long, aligned E-W in the SW corner of Field 27.
Turf and topsoil to a depth of 0.21 m overlay a layer of mid greyish brown silty clay as 7/2.

Natural 8/3 as 7/3.

8/4 was a narrow gully aligned NW-SE similar to 7/5.
A tree throw hole 8/5 was sealed by 8/2.

D Section D

Field 44

FIELD 44 lies N of the Eynsham roundabout on the A40, adjacent to Mill Lane and E of the Eynsham to Long Hanborough Road. The ground surface is fairly even with no obvious features.

The field is currently set aside and grassed over.

D1-6 Trenches 1-6

Trenches 1, 2, 3 and 5 were positioned along the line of the proposed Eynsham slip road, all 30 m in length, 1 and 3 were orientated NE-SW and Trenches 2 and 5, NW-SE.

Trenches 4 and 6 were positioned along the line of the proposed rerouting of the A40. Trench 4 was 30 m E-W and Trench 6 35 m N-S.

Grass and topsoil 1/1-6/1 to a depth of 0.24 - 0.30 m overlay a blue grey to light grey silty clay 1/2, 2/2, 3/2, 4/3 and 6/3 representing a late phase of alluviation. In Trench 1 this layer filled 3 natural channels 1/5 (width 1m, depth 0.4 m), 1/6 (width 1.4 m, depth 0.27 m) and 1/7 (width 3 m, depth 0.51 m). In Trenches 2, 3, 4 and 6 this layer was more even and continuous, 0.14 to 0.30 m in thickness. This layer was not present in Trench 5.

Underneath this was an earlier alluvial layer 1/3, 2/3, 3/3, 4/4, 5/2 and 6/4 of mid brown to orange brown silty clay 0.17 m to 0.32 m thick. This overlay the natural yellowish brown gravel 1/4, 2/4, 3/5, 4/6, 5/6 and 6/6 under a light grey silty clay with orange brown mottling, 3/4, 4/5, 5/3 and 6/5, an undisturbed subsoil filling natural hollows in the gravel.

In Trenches 4 and 6 between the topsoil and the latest alluvium was a light greyish brown clay loam 4/2 and 6/2, an old ploughsoil or meadowsoil 0.20 m thick.

In Trench 5 a tree throw hole 5/5, 1.42 m across was recorded.

No archaeological features were observed.

Field 40

FIELD 40 lies NW of the A40 Eynsham roundabout on the W side of the B4449.
On the ground surface former ridge and furrow cultivation was visible, orientated roughly N-S.
Current land use is pasture.

Trenches 7, 8, and 10 were positioned along the line of the proposed Eynsham slip road. Trench 7 was 20 m ENE-WSW, Trench 8 was 30 m NNW-SSE and Trench 10 was 30 m NE-SW.

Trenches 9 and 11-13 were positioned on the proposed rerouting of the A40. Trenches 9 and 12 were 30 m NNE-SSW, Trench 11 was 30 m WNW-ESE and Trench 13 was 30 m NW-SE along the SW hedgeline.

D7-13 Trenches 7-13

Turf and topsoil 7/1 - 13/1 to a depth of between 0.15 m and 0.24 m overlay a mid reddish brown to mid greyish brown silty clay loam, post-medieval ploughsoil 7/2 - 13/2, 0.13 m to 0.32 m thick, being deeper towards the SE corner of the field.

The superficial ridge and furrow was only reflected in the stratigraphy of Trench 13 where the late ploughsoil 13/2 followed the contours of 3 furrows up to 0.40 m in depth. The furrows cut into the natural subsoil 13/5 and were also filled by 2 silting layers, 13/3 a mid brown clay silt 0.12 m deep, and 13/4, a yellowish brown silty clay 0.03 m deep.

In Trenches 7, 9, and 11 the late ploughsoil overlay a light to mid reddish brown silty clay loam 7/3, 9/3 and 11/3, possibly a medieval ploughsoil, 0.12 m to 0.21 m in thickness. A similar layer exists in Trench 8 but between this and the topsoil is a thin lens of mid greyish brown silty clay, 8/4, up to 0.17 m in depth.

Beneath the earliest ploughsoil in each trench lay the natural subsoil, 8/5, 9/5 and 11/6. This varied in depth as the gravel surface was uneven. Where the gravel was highest, in Trench 8, it was directly underneath the medieval ploughsoil. Where there were natural dips in the level of the gravel it was overlaid, firstly by a light yellowish brown to orange brown silty sand layer 10/4, 11/5, 12/4 and 13/5 up to 0.35 m in depth.

Underneath the ploughsoil in Trenches 9, 11, and 12 was a light reddish brown clay silt undisturbed subsoil, 9/4, 11/4 and 12/3 up to 0.14 m thick.

In Trench 7 the natural gravel was not seen and the undisturbed subsoil consisted of a light red brown sandy clay, 7/5, overlaid by 7/4, a light orange brown sandy silty clay.

Archaeological features were identified in Trenches 7, 9, and 12.

In **TRENCH 7** sealed by the medieval ploughsoil 7/3 was a ditch, 7/6, 1.20m wide and 0.62m deep aligned NE-SW. 1 sherd of abraded Roman pottery was recovered from the bottom fill of this ditch.

In **TRENCH 9** sealed by the medieval ploughsoil 9/3 was a shallow ditch 9/6, orientated NNW-SSE and terminating at the E section of the trench. To the SW of 9/6 and parallel to it was a short section of ditch 9/7 terminating at both E and W sections of the trench. It contained 1 pottery sherd ?, probably intrusive, and some fragments of animal bone.

In **TRENCH 12** sealed by the recent ploughsoil was a ditch aligned NE-SW, 12/5, 1.20 m wide and 0.40 m deep. No finds were recovered.

E Section E

Field 48

FIELD 48 lies between the A40 and the B4449 Cassington Road, W of the river Evenlode. The field had been recently ploughed but not sown.

The ground surface was even and there were no obvious features.

E1 Trench 1]

A 30 m E-W trench along the N edge of field 48.

Ploughsoil 1/1 to a depth of 0.32 m overlay a light brown clay alluvial layer 1/2, 0.11 m thick.

Beneath 1/2 were 2 further layers of alluvium, 1/3, a light brown sandy clay 0.28 m in depth and 1/4 a blueish grey clay 0.40 m thick. At the W end of the trench 1/4 overlay a pale yellow natural gravel 1/5, in places disturbed by the alluviation. This layer sloped sharply to the E where it was overlaid by 1/6 a dark blueish grey clay up to 0.50 m in depth, probably the fill of a wide, shallow channel.

No archaeological features were seen.

Field 46

FIELD 46 lies on the N side of the A40 between the river Evenlode and the Eynsham roundabout. The ground surface is fairly even, sloping very gently from N to S. The land is currently set aside and grassed over.

E2-4 Trenches 2-4

Trenches 3 and 4 were 30 m E-W trenches along the S edge of the field and Trench 2 was a 30 m N-S trench in the SW corner.

Grass and topsoil 2/1 - 4/1 to a depth of 0.14-0.20 m overlay in Trenches 2 and 4 a mid brown silty clay loam 2/2 and 4/2, an old ploughsoil 0.14 m in depth, probably post-medieval.

In Trench 3 underneath the topsoil was a layer of mid greyish brown silty clay alluvium 0.18 m thick. A similar alluvial layer 4/3 0.10 m deep appeared beneath the ploughsoil in Trench 4.

Directly above the natural yellow sand and gravel in Trenches 2, 3 and 4 was a mid reddish brown silty clay, an old ploughsoil up to 0.38 m in depth.

In the natural gravel in these trenches several tree throw holes were visible. All were filled with a reddish brown clay silt mixed with gravel 4/5 and showed signs of burning (flecks of scorched clay and charcoal). A burnt flint flake was recovered from one of these features 4/6.

Field 45

FIELD 45 lies on the N side of the A40 immediately W of the Eynsham roundabout. The ground surface is fairly even sloping very gently from N to S. The land is currently set aside and grassed over.

E5-7 Trenches 5-7

Grass and topsoil 5/1 - 7/1 to a depth of 0.10 - 0.20 m overlay a mid brown silty clay loam ploughsoil 5/2 - 7/2, up to 0.12 m in depth.

In Trenches 5 and 7 this overlay a mid grey clay loam ploughsoil 5/3 and 7/3 derived from an alluvial layer, up to 0.08 m thick. In Trench 6 this layer, 6/3, retained more of its alluvial character being mid blueish grey in colour and showing little evidence of ploughing.

The natural subsoil in this area was a mid orange brown silty clay overlying orange brown gravel.

In the centre of Trench 5, cutting layer 5/3 was a ditch 5/6, 0.78 m wide and 0.29 m deep, orientated NE-SW. This was probably an old field boundary.

In the E end of Trench 7, cutting layer 7/3 was a ditch 7/6, 1.15 m wide and 0.20 m deep, orientated NE-SW, probably similar in function to 5/6.

In the natural gravel in these trenches several tree throw holes were visible. All were filled with a dark reddish to greyish brown clay silt mixed with gravel 6/5. Most showed evidence of having been burnt (scorched clay and charcoal flecks).

F Section F

Field 63

FIELD 63 lies in the S side of the A40, midway between Horsemere Lane and Eynsham Road, Cassington. The N area of the field is fairly even, the S half slopes away steeply to the S. Current land use is pasture.

F1 Trench 1

A 30 m E-W trench along the N edge of field 63.

Turf and topsoil 1/1 to a depth of 0.20 m overlay a layer of mid reddish brown silty loam 1/2 an old ploughsoil 0.11 m thick.

Underneath this was natural yellow and reddish brown gravel. Cut into the natural was 1/4 a tree throw hole.

1 sherd of glazed medieval pot was recovered from 1/2.
No archaeological features were seen.

Field 59

FIELD 59 lies S of the A40, immediately E of Durham Lane, Cassington. Most of the field has been quarried for gravel and forms Marlborough Pool, only the N edge had any potential for archaeology.

F2 Trench 2

A 10 m E-W trench along the N edge of Field 59.

Turf and topsoil 2/1 to a depth of 0.12 m overlay a reddish brown silty loam layer up to 0.60 m deep with varying gravel content 2/2. Underneath 2/2 was a light reddish brown silty sandy loam 2/3, 0.32 m in depth.

There was a layer of redeposited gravel 2/4 0.10 m thick above the natural gravel.

Layers 2/2, 2/3 and 2/4 are all redeposited quarry fill.

No archaeological features were seen.

Field 51

FIELD 51 lies N of the A40 between the river Evenlode and Eynsham Road, Cassington. The N half of the field has been quarried for gravel and only the S edge had any potential for archaeology.

F3-4 Trenches 3-4

Trench 3 was an 8.5 m E-W trench along the S edge of Field 51. Trench 4 was a 9.6 m N-S trench 2 m further E.

Turf and topsoil 3/1 and 4/1 to a depth of 0.10 m overlay two layers of quarry backfill in Trench 3. Layer 3/2 was a greyish brown sandy loam 0.30 m thick mixed with 20% medium gravel, and Layer 3/3 of small to medium quartzite pebbles 0.30 m in depth. In Trench 4 these two layers were more mixed and seen as one layer 4/2, 0.15 m thick.

At the W end of Trench 3 was a layer of reddish brown sandy silt 3/4, possibly an old ploughsoil up to 0.08 m in depth.

Natural in both trenches was a very compact white gravel.

G Section G

Field 71

FIELD 71 lies s of the A40, immediately W of Horsemere Lane. The ground surface in the N half of the field is fairly even but former ridge and furrow cultivation, aligned NW-SE is visible, but flattened in the S half. Current land use is pasture.

G1 Trench 1

A 26 m N-S trench at the N edge of Field 71.

Turf and topsoil 1/1 to a depth of 0.30 m overlay a light yellowish brown clay silt alluvium 1/2, 0.40 m in depth.

Beneath the alluvium was an orange brown sandy silt 1/3, an old ploughsoil up to 0.40 m thick.

The underlying natural consisted of a yellowish brown natural gravel and sand.

Cutting 1/3 and sealed by 1/2 were 3 ditches and a gully. Ditch 1/5 was 0.70 m wide and 0.18 m deep, aligned WNW-ESE, 10 m from the N end of Trench 1. A further 10 m S of 1/5 was a larger ditch 1/6, 1 m wide and 0.22 m deep, running NW-SE. At the S end of the trench was ditch 1/7, running NNW-SSE. Only the NW terminal of this ditch was seen and was probably cut by a gully 1/8 running E-W.

No finds were recovered from any of these features.

Field 69

FIELD 69 is a small triangular field S of the A40 between Horsemere Lane and Durham Lane, Cassington. The SW and SE sides are bounded by an earth bank at least 1 m high and a wide ditch. The ground surface in the centre of the field is even with no obvious features. Current land use is pasture.

G2 Trench 2

A 30 m E-W trench along the N edge of Field 69.

Turf and topsoil 2/1 to a depth of 0.20 m overlay a mid brown silty loam 2/2, an old ploughsoil 0.18 m deep.

Beneath this was a possible earlier ploughsoil 2/3, a light brown silty clay 0.24 m thick.

The underlying natural subsoil was a reddish brown silty clay with manganese staining 2/4, 0.24 m deep over natural reddish brown silt and gravel 2/5.

Cutting 2/4 and sealed by 2/3 were two features. Ditch 2/6, running N-S 5 m from the E end of the trench, contained 1 sherd of pottery. A further 3 m E of 2/6 was a probable ditch 2/7, at least 1 m wide and terminating just short of 2/6. It was not possible to investigate due to flooding of the trench.

Field 72

FIELD 72 lies N of the A40, immediately E of Horsemere Lane. Flattened but clear ridge and furrow is visible running NW-SE. The field is currently grassed over, either set aside or for rough grazing.

G3-4 Trenches 3-4

Two 25 m WSW-ENE trenches along the S edge of Field 72. Turf and topsoil 3/1 and 4/1 to a depth of 0.18 m overlay a mid yellowish brown silty clay loam ploughsoil 3/2 and 4/2, up to 0.20 m deep.

Underneath this later ploughsoil were a series of furrows 3/6, 3/8 and 3/10, up to 1.5 m wide and 0.35 m deep at approximately 8 m intervals, running NW-SE. These were filled by a light yellowish brown clay silt 4/3.

In Trench 3, fairly evenly spaced between each of the furrows, were postholes 3/5, 3/7, 3/9 and 3/11. The fill of these postholes was distinctly lighter in colour and more silty than that of the furrows and so may not be contemporary, but no further investigation was possible due to flooding of the trench.

Beneath the furrows and cut by the postholes was a mid greyish brown clay silt 3/3 and 4/4, an old meadow soil 0.10 - 0.45 m in depth and possibly ploughed at one time.

Natural reddish brown gravel 3/4 and silt was underneath this in Trench 3, but in Trench 4 was overlaid by an orange brown silty clay undisturbed subsoil.

Some medieval pottery was recovered from layers 3/2 and 3/3 during machining.

Field 73

FIELD 73 is a small triangular field S of the A40, bounded by Horsemere Lane to the W and the dismantled railway to the S. The ground surface is marked by flattened ridge and furrow running NNW-SSE and current land use is pasture.

G6 Trench 5

A 23 m N-S trench in the centre of Field 73.

Turf and topsoil 5/1 to a depth of 0.22 m overlay a mid greyish brown silty loam ploughsoil 5/2, 0.13 m thick.

Sealed by 5/2 at the S end of the trench was a furrow 5/6 running NNW-SSE and up to 0.28 m deep. The fill of 5/2 was slightly more gravelly than the underlying layer of mid greyish brown silty loam 5/3. This layer was 0.14 m deep and probably an old ploughsoil.

The underlying natural subsoil was a reddish brown silt with manganese staining 5/4, 0.20 m in depth, above reddish brown gravel and silt 5/5.

Field 64

FIELD 64 lies S of the A40, midway between Horsemere Lane and Durham Lane, Cassington. The S of the field is marked by fairly well defined ridge and furrow. At the N edge is a band 20m wide where the ground surface is pitted and hollowed forming small shallow ponds, possibly the result of previous gravel workings. Current land use is pasture.

G6 Trench 6

An 18 m N-S trench at the N edge of Field 64.

Turf and topsoil to a depth of 0.18 m overlay, at the N end of the trench, a bank of upcast gravel and silty loam 0.30 m deep and formed by layers 6/2 and 6/3.

Underneath the bank is a ditch 6/4, 2.50 m wide and 0.48 m deep, running NE-SW. Layers 6/5, a mid grey silt loam 0.44 m in depth, and 6/6, a dark grey silt loam 0.18 m deep, are the fills of 6/4 although 6/6 was only partially seen and may represent a separate feature.

A mid brown silty clay loam ploughsoil 6/8, 0.20 m deep, was underneath 6/1 and cut by 6/4. This overlay another ploughsoil 6/10, 0.23 m deep, very similar to 6/8 but with a slightly higher clay content.

Natural gravel 6/7 was cut by 4 features, all sealed by 6/10. A pit or ditch terminal 6/9, in the centre of the trench, was 2 m long, 0.40 m wide, 0.40 m deep and contained one sherd of medieval pottery. A shallow ditch 6/13, running E-W was cut by 6/9 and contained 1 large flint blade. Ditch 6/11 ran WNW-ESE at the S end of the trench, 0.76 m wide and 0.24 m deep. This was seen to cut pit 6/12, 0.78 m in diameter, no finds were recovered from these features.

H Section H

Field 77

FIELD 77 lies S of the A40, immediately S of the access road for the ARC Cassington pit. The ground surface is even and the field is currently ploughed.

H1 Trench 1

A 35 m N-E trench along the W edge of Field 77.

Ploughsoil 1/1 to a depth of 0.25 m overlay a layer of dark brown silty clay alluvium 1/2 0.06 m in depth. This layer looked slightly churned and could have been ploughed.

The underlying natural was light yellowish brown sandy gravel with pockets of silty subsoil.

Numerous features were cut into the natural gravel and sealed by 1/2.

At the N end of the trench was a gully 1/3, 0.50 m wide and 0.55 m deep. A further 2 m S of 1/3 were two ditches, 1/4 and 1/5, running E-W. Ditch 1/4, cutting 1/5, yielded no finds but the bottom fill contained possibly waterlogged deposits.

To the S of 1/5 were two parallel gullies, running WNW-ESE, both numbered 1/6 and just N of a posthole 1/7.

Overlying Posthole 1/7 and Ditch 1/6 was a layer of dark brown clay silt 1/11, mixed with burnt limestone, charcoal and daub, possibly derived from the destruction of a building associated with 1/7.

Also in this area was a greenish grey sandy silt layer 1/12, 2.7 m wide and cut by 1/7 and 1/6.

In the centre of the trench was a ditch 1/8 aligned E-W, 1 m wide but only partially excavated.

There were two ditches, 1/9 and 1/10, crossing at right-angles 10 m from the S end of the trench. Ditch 1/9 ran SE-NW, 1.5 m wide, 0.64 m deep and cutting 1/10. Ditch 1/10 running NE-SW was 2.15 m and 0.66 m deep. Covering both ditches was a layer of dark grey silty loam 1/13, up to 0.25 m thick. Neither ditch contained any finds.

At the S end of the trench was a shallow posthole 1/14.

H2-3 Trenches 2-3

Trench 2 was a 30 m E-W trench in the NW corner of Field 77. Trench 3 was a 5 m N-S trench along the W edge of the same field.

Ploughsoil 2/1 and 3/1 to a depth of 0.26 m overlay a layer of dark greyish brown clay silt

alluvium which contained 5% small gravel and 10% coarse sand (it could have been ploughed at some stage), 2/2 and 3/2, 0.08 - 0.18 m thick.

Underneath this were two further layers both alluvial in character. Layer 2/3 and 3/3 was a yellowish brown sandy clay silt, 0.15 m deep. Layer 2/4 and 3/4 was a yellowish brown clay silt up to 0.20 m in depth.

There was a thin interface 0.10 m deep, 2/5 and 3/5, between layers 2/4, 3/4, and the natural gravel.

Trench 3 contained no archaeological features but 3 ditches and a possible pit were seen in Trench 2.

Ditch 2/6 was a possible medieval boundary ditch, 2.70 m wide and 0.68 m deep, aligned NNW-SSE in the centre of Trench 2. It cut an earlier ditch, 2/7 to the E and on the same alignment as 1/6. Another shallow ditch further E, 2/8, was 0.60 m wide and 0.28 m deep, running NNW-SSE. This was cut by a possible pit or ditch terminal, 2/9, 0.70 m across.

Field 85

FIELD 85 lies on the S side of the A40, E of the access road for the ARC Cassington pit. The ground surface is even and the field is currently ploughed.

H Trench 4

A 20 m N-S trench in the NW corner of Field 85.

Ploughsoil 4/1 to a depth of 0.26 m overlay a mid brown silty clay subsoil 4/2, 0.16 m deep.

Underneath this was a light brown sandy silt natural subsoil, 4/3, 0.40 m thick over natural white gravel.

In the S half of the trench were 2 parallel ditches running WSW-ENE, 4/4 and 4/5, cutting 4/2 and sealed by 4/1. On the N edge of ditch 4/5 was a layer of upcast, silty clay and gravel 4/6, from its excavation.

There were no finds.

H5 Trench 5

A 20 m E-W trench in the NW corner of Field 85.

Ploughsoil 5/1 to a depth of 0.28 m overlay a light grey clay alluvial layer 5/2, 0.29 m thick.

Beneath this was a further layer of alluvium 5/3, a light grey clay with orange brown mottling, 0.66 m in depth.

The underlying natural was light yellow to white gravel and silt.
No finds or features.

Field 75

FIELD 75 lies S of the A40 between Horsemere Lane and the access road to the ARC Cassington pit. The ground surface is even and current land use is pasture.

H6 Trench 6

A 20 m NE-SW trench in the NE corner of Field 75.

Turf and topsoil 6/1 to a depth of 0.20 m overlay a mid orange brown sandy clay alluvial layer 6/2, 0.21 m in depth.

Underneath this was a layer of mid brown clay loam, 6/3 an old ploughsoil up to 0.13 m deep. A further layer of mid orange brown sandy clay alluvium, 6/4, 0.21 m thick overlay the natural orange brown gravel, 6/5.
No finds or features.

Field 76

FIELD 76 lies between the A40 on its S side and the ARC access road. A ditch and hedgeline, running N-S, divide the field into 2 unequal areas. The ground surface is even and the field is grassed over but currently not in use.

H7-9 Trenches 7,8 & 9

Grass and topsoil 7/1, 8/1 and 9/1 to a depth of 0.22 m overlay, in Trenches 8 and 9 a layer of mid greyish brown ploughsoil, 8/2 and 9/2, 0.10 m deep. Underneath this was a layer of mid brown sandy clay alluvium, 8/3 and 9/3, 0.14 m thick. In Trench 7 this layer, 7/2 was directly underneath the topsoil.

A further layer of orange brown to greyish brown sandy clay alluvium, 7/3, 8/4 and 9/4, 0.08 - 0.18 m in depth was present in all 3 trenches.

Underlying this in Trench 9 were 2 lower layers of alluvium, 9/5 a dark grey clay 0.16 m in depth, and 9/6 a mid greyish brown sandy clay 0.10 m thick. Trench 9 was probably cut through a palaeochannel.

Trenches 7 and 8 each contained 1 feature. Ditch 7/4, running NW-SE, was 0.75 m wide, 0.70 m deep, cut 7/3 and was sealed by 7/2. Ditch 8/5, running E-W, was 1.20 m wide, 0.85 m deep, cut 8/3 and was sealed by 8/2.

H10 Trench 10

A 38 m N-S trench in the centre of Field 76, immediately E of the N-S dividing ditch.

Grass and topsoil 10/1 to a depth of 0.30 m overlay a mid greyish brown clay ploughsoil, 10/2, 0.20 m in depth.

Underneath this were 2 layers of alluvium, 10/3 a mid greyish brown clay, 0.10 m thick, and 10/4 a light brown sandy clay, 0.16 m deep.

Several features were observed, sealed by 10/2 and cutting 10/3 unless otherwise stated.

At the N end of the trench were 3 postholes, 10/5, 10/6 and 10/7. In the centre of the trench, S of 10/7, was a series of ditches and gullies running NE-SW, 10/9, 10/10, 10/11 and 10/14.

The latest of these was Ditch 10/9, cutting 10/10 further S.

S of 10/10, and cut by it, was Ditch 10/11, 0.50 m wide and 0.50 m deep. Ditch 10/14 was S of and parallel to 10/11. Immediately N of 10/9 was an earlier feature 10/12, cutting 10/4 and sealed by 10/3, this was at least 0.30m deep and it's fill contained frequent flecks of charcoal, possibly a tree throw hole.

Cutting 10/14 along it's S edge was a shallow gully 10/13. Curving S from the W section of the trench 10/13 terminated after a further 4 m alongside postholes 10/20 and 10/19, which appeared to be cut by the gully.

To the NW of 10/20 were 2 or more postholes clustered together, 10/21. These were not excavated but bone and pottery were collected from the surface.

A further 2 m S were 2 more postholes, 10/17, 0.40 m diameter and 0.15 m deep, and 10/18 only partially seen.

At 12 m from the S end of the trench was a shallow circular pit 10/15, containing pottery and bone. This was cut by 10/22 another pit, or possibly the butt end of a ditch, 1 m wide and 0.30 m deep.

Cutting 10/22 at it's SW corner was a NW-SE ditch, 10/23. This was at least 1 m wide, 0.60 m deep and cut by a series of E-W aligned ditches and gullies, 10/24, 10/25 and 10/26. Probable ditch, 10/25 was a large feature of indeterminate shape, at least 2 m wide and 1 m deep. Gullies 10/24 and 10/26, cut layer 10/2 and appear to be a lot later in date. Pottery and bone from 10/24, 10/26 and the upper fill of 10/25 were given the finds reference 10/16.

At the S end of Trench 10, was a large ditch 10/8. This was 3 m wide and at least 1.20 m deep containing bone and pottery. The lower fill was possibly waterlogged and was sampled.

H11-12 Trenches 11 & 12

Trench 11 is a 30 m E-W trench along the N edge of Field 76. Trench 12 is a 30 m N-S trench in the NE corner of Field 76.

Ploughsoil 11/1 and 12/1 to a depth of up to 0.40 m overlay a light greyish brown silty clay alluvium, 11/2, up to 0.70 m deep, and 12/2, 0.18 m in depth.

The underlying natural subsoil was an orange brown sandy silt, 11/3 and 12/3, 0.40 m thick over natural yellowish brown sand and gravel 11/6.

In the centre of Trench 11 was a posthole 11/4. To the E of this was a shallow gully 11/4, running NE-SW. There were no finds from either feature.

H13 Trench 13

A 30 m E-W trench along the S edge of Field 76, 5 m E of Trench 10.

Grass and topsoil 13/1 to a depth of 0.28 m overlay a mid brown clay loam, 13/2, an old ploughsoil 0.14 m thick.

Underneath this was 13/3 a yellowish brown sandy silt layer of alluvium.

The underlying natural was yellowish brown sand and gravel, 13/4. Cutting 3/2 was a gully 13/5, on an ENE-WSW alignment. This contained some pottery. It was probably a recent feature.

Field 74

FIELD 74 lies on the S side of the A40, W of the ARC access road.

H14 Trench 14

A 20 m N-S trench at the E edge of Field 74.

Grass and topsoil 14/1 to a depth of 0.20 m overlay a light brownish grey silty clay alluvial layer, 14/2, 0.50 m deep.

Cutting 14/2 at the S end of the trench was a large ditch, 14/4, 2 m wide and 1.5 m deep. This was aligned ENE-WSW along the S hedge of the field and was probably a post-medieval field boundary.

The underlying natural subsoil was an orange brown sandy silt above sand and gravel. No finds or features.

Field 79

FIELD 79 is a small triangular field, N of the A40 where it passes over the ARC access road. The ground surface is even and the land is currently grassed over but not in use.

H15 Trench 15

A 20 m NE-SW trench.

Grass and topsoil 15/1 to a depth of 0.23 m overlay a mid brown clay loam, 15/2, 0.25 m thick, possibly an old ploughsoil.

Underneath this was a layer of mid brown clay alluvium, 15/3, 0.60 m in depth, above natural reddish brown silty clay, 15/4.

A ditch at least 1 m wide was seen in the bottom of the trench cut through natural, running NNE-SSW. Due to rapid flooding of the trench this could not be investigated further, but, from its alignment, this is possibly a continuation of 14/4 from Trench 4. A late cow burial was cut through 15/2 at the NE end of the trench but was not investigated.

Field 87

FIELD 87 lies S of the A40 at the E limit of the proposed dualling. The ground surface is even and the field is currently ploughed, but not in use.

H16 Trench 16

A 30 m E-W trench along the N edge of Field 87.

Ploughsoil 16/1 to a depth of 0.21 m overlay a mid brown silty loam, 16/2, an old ploughsoil 0.14 m thick. Underneath this was a natural yellowish brown sandy silt, 16/3.

At the W end of the trench were 2 features, a posthole 16/4 and a pit, 16/5. There were no finds from 16/4 but 16/5 contained a small fragment of daub.

H17 Trench 17

A 30 m E-W trench along the N edge of Field 87.

As in Trench 16, ploughsoil 17/1, 0.20 m deep overlay a mid brown silty loam, 17/2, an old ploughsoil 0.13 m deep. The underlying natural was a light brown to yellow sandy gravel.

Several features were identified cutting the natural gravel and sealed by 17/2. At the E end of the trench was a shallow gully, 17/4, running NE-SW and containing 1 sherd of pottery and animal teeth.

At the S section adjacent to 17/4 were 3 earlier, roughly circular postholes, 17/7, 17/8 and 17/9. None of these contained any finds.

At this point in the opposite section was the terminal of a shallow gully, 17/11, running N-S. A further 5 m S of 17/4 were two pits, 17/6 and 17/10, neither contained any finds.

In the middle of the trench was a shallow ditch, 17/5, 1 m wide and 0.23 m deep, aligned NW-SE. This appeared to terminate 0.10 m from the N section of the trench.

H18 Trench 18

A 20 m E-W trench in the NW corner of Field 87.

Ploughsoil to a depth of 0.17 m overlay 3 layers of alluvium, 18/2, 18/3 and 18/4.

Layer 18/2 was a light brownish clay, 0.20 m thick above 18/3, a grey clay with orange mottling, 0.84 m in depth. The lowest alluvial layer was 18/4 a dark grey clay 0.39 m thick.

Due to the depth of the alluvium the trench was not machined down to natural.

J Section J

Field 81

FIELD 81 lies N of the ARC access road where it passes underneath the A40. The ground surface slopes gently from NE to SW and the field is currently ploughed. Trenches 1 - 7 and 10 are along the W edge, and trenches 8, 9 and 11 are in the SW corner of the field.

J1 Trench 1

A 30 m NW-SE trench.

Ploughsoil 1/1 to a depth of 0.28 m overlay a mid brown sandy silt loam ploughsoil 1/2, 0.10 m deep.

Several features were cut into the natural yellowish brown sandy gravel.

1/5, 1/6, 1/7 and 1/9 were furrows up to 0.90 m wide and 0.11 m deep aligned E-W.

Ditch 1/3, running SW-NE, contained 1 flint flake and some animal bone, and was cut by a NNE-SSW ditch, 1/4, from which some pottery and animal bone were recovered. A further 7m S of 1/4 was another ditch, 1/8, containing some animal bone.

At the SE end of the trench was a shallow ditch, 1/10, 1 m deep and 0.28 m wide, running E-W from the W section but terminating after 1 m.

J2 Trench 2

A 20 m NE-SW trench.

Ploughsoil 2/1 to a depth of 0.30 m lay directly on top of natural pale yellowish brown sandy gravel.

2/3 and 2/4 were two wide shallow features, up to 2.50 m across and 0.16 m in depth. At first it was thought they were sunken floored buildings, but later seen to be, more plausibly, deep furrows.

In the centre of the trench Ditch 2/5, running NW-SE, was up to 1 m wide and cut by another ditch 2/6, aligned NE-SW and 1.80 m wide by 1.04 m deep. From 2/5 came 1 sherd of late Iron age or early Roman pottery. West of 2/4 was a N-S ditch 2/2.

At the E end of Trench 2 was an E-W gully, 2/7.

J3 Trench 3

A 30 m NW-SE trench.

Ploughsoil 3/1 to a depth of 0.30 m overlay a layer of brown silty loam hillwash, 3/2, 0.20 m deep.

Beneath this was another layer of hillwash, 3/3, a brown silty loam 0.20 m in depth. This layer was probably due to ploughing and contained several sherds of pottery.

Above the natural yellowish brown sandy silt was a layer of dark yellowish brown sandy silt, 3/4, 0.20 m thick. Between the centre and the SE end of the trench the natural started to slope away and a layer of blue grey silt, 3/6, 0.18m thick, appeared below 3/4. This was possibly a palaeochannel deposit.

In the centre of the trench was a pit, 3/7, alongside a N-S ditch, 3/8. The fill of Ditch 3/8 contained some burnt limestone and a flint core. Immediately S of 3/8 was a NE-SW ditch, 3/9, containing 2 small fragments of animal bone.

J4 Trench 4

A 20 m NE-SW trench.

The top 3 layers were the same as in Trench 3. Ploughsoil to a depth of 0.35 m overlay a layer of hillwash, 4/2 as 3/2, 0.14 m thick. Beneath this was a further hillwash layer, 4/3 as 3/3, 0.10 m in thickness.

Underneath this in Trench 4 was a layer of greyish brown clay silt alluvium, 4/4, 0.16 m in depth. There was a 0.10 m interface, 4/5, where 4/4 mixed with the underlying blue grey silty clay natural subsoil, 4/6.

No features or finds.

J5 Trench 5

A 30 m NW-SE trench.

Ploughsoil 5/1 to a depth of 0.25 m overlay a dark yellowish brown sandy clay silt, 5/2, a hillwash layer 0.45 m deep. Beneath this was a layer of blueish grey clay alluvium, 5/3, 0.20 m in depth, above natural orange brown sandy silt.

No features or finds.

Trenches 6-11

Trenches 6, 10 and 11 were 20 m NE-SW trenches. Trenches 7, 8, and 9 were 30 m trenches aligned NW-SE, N-S and NE-SW respectively.

Ploughsoil 6/1 - 11/1 was between 0.25 and 0.30 m deep, overlying a dark yellowish brown sandy silt loam layer, 6/2 - 11/2, becoming deeper from 0.10 - 0.30 m the further N the trench. This layer was alluvial in origin but had been ploughed, probably during the Roman period, and had disturbed the top fills of numerous prehistoric features.

J6 Trench 6

In TRENCH 6 layer 6/2 overlay a blue grey clay with yellowish brown mottling, 6/3, 0.28 m thick, with a 0.20 m deep interface between the 2 layers in the centre of the trench.

Potential features cut the orange brown silty sand natural and were sealed by 6/4, but they may well have been natural features.

At the SW end of TRENCH 6 was a circular posthole 6/6, cutting a NNW-SSE ditch, 6/5, 1.90 m wide and 0.34 m in depth. At the S edge of 6/5 was a possible pit, 6/7. There were no finds.

J7 Trench 7

In TRENCH 7 all features were cut into the natural yellowish brown clay subsoil with blue grey clay mottling.

At the SE end of the trench was a posthole, 7/4, 0.30 m in diameter and 0.13 m deep. A further 20 m N of this was an E-W ditch, 7/5 1.45 m wide and 0.46 m in depth. There were no finds.

J8 Trench 8

At the N end of TRENCH 8 was a shallow pit, 8/3 and a posthole 8/11. Immediately S of this were 2 E-W ditches, 8/4 and 8/5. Ditch 8/4 was 0.91 m wide and 0.40 m deep. Ditch 8/5 was

1.05 m wide , 0.46 m deep and cut on it's S edge by a pit, 8/6. Also cut by 8/6 was a NW-SE ditch 8/7, 1.35 m wide and parallel to a gully, 8/8, 1 m further S.

At 6m from the N end of the trench were 2 sub rectangular postholes 8/9 and 8/10.

A large ditch, 8/12, ran NW-SE in the centre of Trench 8, up to 5.5 m wide and 1.02 m deep, small fragments of animal bone were found in the fill. To the S of 8/12 were 5 roughly circular postholes, 8/16, 8/18, and 8/20 were excavated but there were no finds. Postholes 8/23 and 8/24, were not excavated but some surface pottery was collected.

A possible gully, 8/19, ran NW-SE across the area of postholes. Posthole 8/21 was cut through the top fill of a ditch, 8/25, aligned NW-SE but not fully seen. At the S end of the trench was a shallow pit, 8/22.

All features were cut through a yellowish brown silty gravel and sealed by 8/2.

J9 Trench 9

In TRENCH 9 all features were cut into the natural yellowish brown sand and gravel and sealed by 9/2.

At the SW end of the trench was a NW-SE ditch, 9/4, 0.70 m wide and 0.35 m deep. A further 8 m NE of 9/4 was a feature 0.80 m in diameter, 9/5, on investigation this was thought to be a tree throw hole. At the SW end of the trench was a possible gully 9/6. There were no finds.

J10 Trench 10

In TRENCH 10 all features were cut into the natural yellowish brown silt, 10/11, and sealed by 10/2.

At the NE end of the trench were 3 circular postholes, 10/3, 10/4 and 10/5 None contained any finds.

Just NE of the postholes was a NE-SW gully, 10/10, 1.05 m across and 0.12 m in depth. In the centre of the trench a gully, 10/6, ran E-W.

At the SW end, was a pit, 10/7, 1.80 m in diameter and at least 1 m deep.

J11 Trench 11

Several features were seen in TRENCH 11, cutting a greyish brown clay silt natural subsoil, 11/3. These were planned but not excavated due to lack of time.

Field 84

FIELD 84 lies on the S side of the B4449 between Cassington and Worton. Most of the field has been previously quarried and only in the NE corner was there any archaeological potential. Current land use is pasture.

J12 Trench 12

A 20 m E-W trench in the NE corner of Field 84.

Grass and topsoil 12/1 to a depth of 0.15 m overlay a light greyish brown clay silt ploughsoil, 12/2, 0.12 m thick.

Underneath this was an orange brown silty clay alluvium, 12/3, 0.35 m in depth, above 0.30 m of a mid grey sandy silt hillwash layer. Above the natural sand and gravel was a layer of dark greyish brown silty clay, probably a palaeochannel deposit.

J13 Trench 13

A 20 m N-S trench along the E edge of Field 84.

The N end of the trench was similar to Trench 12. Grass and topsoil, 13/1 as 12/1 overlay 0.20 m of ploughsoil, 13/2 as 12/2. The alluvium, 13/3, 0.12 m in depth, was slightly more grey in colour than 12/3.

A hillwash layer, 13/4 as 12/4, 0.15 m thick, overlay the S edge of the palaeochannel deposit 13/5 same as 12/5.

At the S end of the trench 13/1 directly overlay a backfilled quarry and modern ditch 13/6 along it's N edge. The backfill, 13/7, consisted of mixed layers of clay, gravel and topsoil, up to 1.60 m in depth.

A40 A 92 Table of Context Details

Context No.	Description	Depth (m)	Length (m)	Width (m)	Finds
Trench 1 (Field 1)					
1/1	Modern ploughsoil	0.25			
1/2	Earlier ploughsoil	<0.25			
1/3	Ditch N-S	0.40		0.95	Pottery 2 IA
1/4	Pit roughly circular	0.10		0.90	
1/5	Pit circular	0.10		0.70	
1/6	Ditch NW-SE	0.32		1.15	
1/7	Ditch N-S	0.36		1.30	
Natural	Clay some gravel				
Trench 2 (Field 1)					
2/1	Modern ploughsoil	<0.30			
2/2	Ditch E-W	0.24		1.20	
2/3	? Pit circular	0.24		1.57	
2/4	Tree throw pit	0.40		1.50	
Natural	Mixed clay and gravel				
Trench 3 (Field 11)					
3/1	Modern ploughsoil	<0.25			
3/2	Ditch N-S	0.20		1.20	
Natural	Clay				
Trench 4 (Field 11)					
4/1	Modern ploughsoil	<0.25			
Natural	Clay/sandy clay				
Trench 5 (Field 11)					
5/1	Modern ploughsoil	0.25			
Natural	Clay/sandy clay				
Trench 6 (Field 10)					
6/1	Modern ploughsoil	0.25			
Natural	Clay/sandy clay				

A40 B 92 Table of Context Details

Context No.	Description	Depth (m)	Length (m)	Width (m)	Finds
Trench 1 (Field 15)					
1/1	Modern ploughsoil	0.30			
1/2	Ditch NW-SE	0.30		0.94	
Natural	Sandy clay/clay				
Trench 2 (Field 15)					
2/1	Modern ploughsoil	0.30			
2/2	? Furrow	0.16		>0.24	
Natural	Sandy clay/clay				
Trench 3 (Field 15)					
3/1	Modern ploughsoil	0.30			
Natural	Clay				
Trench 4 (Field 20)					
4/1	Modern ploughsoil	0.30			
Natural	Sandy clay/clay				
Trench 5 (Field 20)					
5/1	Modern ploughsoil	0.25			
5/2	Ditch SSW-NNE	0.20		0.56	
Natural	Sandy clay/clay				
Trench 6 (Field 25)					
6/1	Turf & topsoil	0.23			
6/2	Ditch upcast modern	0.10			
6/3	Meadowsoil	0.12			
6/4	Natural subsoil	0.18			
6/5	Natural subsoil				
Natural	Gravel/clay				
Trench 7 (Field 25)					
7/1	Turf & topsoil	0.32			
7/2	Alluvium	<0.40			
7/3	Ditch N-S Post Med	0.42		0.80	
7/4	Trackway Post Med			2.00	
7/5	Tree throw hole				

A40 B 92 Table of Context Details

Context No.	Description	Depth (m)	Length (m)	Width (m)	Finds
7/6	Tree throw hole				
Natural	Sand and gravel				
Trench 8 (Field 22)					
8/1	Turf & topsoil	0.20			
8/2	Modern subsoil	0.28			Clay pipe, brick, PM pot, bone
8/3	Natural subsoil	< 1.00			
8/4	Modern backfill	< 1.00			Slag, clay pipe
Natural	Clay				

A40 C 92 Table of Context Details

Context No.	Description	Depth (m)	Length (m)	Width (m)	Finds
Trench 1 (Field 35)					
1/1	Turf & topsoil	0.13			Pot Post Med
1/2	Ploughsoil	<0.10			
Natural	Sand & gravel/clay				
Trench 2 (Field 35)					
2/1	Turf & topsoil	0.18			
2/2	Ploughsoil	0.20			
Natural	Sand & gravel/clay				
Trench 3 (Field 35)					
3/1	Turf & topsoil	0.25			
3/2	Natural clay				
3/3	Tree throw pit	0.20	1.16	0.77	
3/4	Tree throw pit	0.44	1.90	1.50	Tile, flint
Natural	Sand & gravel/clay				
Trench 4 (Field 35)					
4/1	Turf & topsoil	0.13			
Natural	Sand & gravel/clay				
Trench 5 (Field 35)					
5/1	Turf & topsoil	0.12			
5/2	Earlier ploughsoil	0.07			
Natural	Sand & gravel/clay				
Trench 6 (Field 27)					
6/1	Turf & topsoil	0.22			
6/2	Old ploughsoil ?	0.14			
6/3	Natural subsoil				
6/4	Ditch NW-SE	0.46		1.48	Pot Med
6/5	Ditch NNE-SSW	0.42		1.20	Flint, pot Med
6/6	Ploughed layer	0.14			
6/7	Layer	<0.27			
6/8	Trackway			5.00	Pot, bone
6/9	Clay loam	0.13			Pot Med

A40 C 92 Table of Context Details

Context No.	Description	Depth (m)	Length (m)	Width (m)	Finds
6/10	Ditch	0.64+		7.00	Pot, bone, clay pipe, slag
6/11	Posthole			0.31	
Natural	Clay				
Trench 7 (Field 27)					
7/1	Turf & topsoil	0.20			
7/2	Alluvium	0.12			
7/3	Natural subsoil	1.00+			
7/4	Pit	0.11		0.50	Burnt clay
7/5	Gully probably field drain	0.14		0.34	
Natural	Clay				
Trench 8 (Field 27)					
8/1	Turf & topsoil	0.21			
8/2	Alluvium	0.15			
8/3	Natural subsoil	1.00+			
8/4	Gully probably field drain	0.11		0.40	
8/5	Tree throw pit				
Natural	Clay				

A40 D 92 Table of Context Details

Context No.	Description	Depth (m)	Length (m)	Width (m)	Finds
Trench 1 (Field 44)					
1/1	Turf & topsoil	0.26			
1/2	Alluvium	<0.50			
1/3	Earlier alluvium	0.32			
Natural	Gravel & silt				
Trench 2 (Field 44)					
2/1	Turf & topsoil	0.30			
2/2	Alluvium	0.22			
2/3	Alluvium	0.17			
Natural	Gravel				
Trench 3 (Field 44)					
3/1	Turf & topsoil	0.24			
3/2	Clay	0.14			
3/3	Silty clay	0.19			
3/4	Natural subsoil	0.47			
Natural	Gravel				
Trench 4 (Field 44)					
4/1	Turf & topsoil	0.30			
4/2	Earlier ploughsoil	0.20			
4/3	Clay	<0.30			
4/4	Clay	0.30			Flint
4/5	Silty clay	0.20			
Natural	Gravel				
Trench 5 (Field 44)					
5/1	Turf & topsoil	0.21			
5/2	Clay	0.22			
5/3	Clay	0.19			
5/5	Tree throw pit		1.42	0.76	
Natural	Gravel				
Trench 6 (Field 44)					
6/1	Turf & topsoil	0.21			

A40 D 92 Table of Context Details

Context No.	Description	Depth (m)	Length (m)	Width (m)	Finds
6/2	Meadowsoil	0.12			
6/3	Alluvium	0.10			
6/4	Silty clay	<0.12			
6/5	Silty sandy clay	0.05			
Natural	Gravel				
Trench 7 (Field 40)					
7/1	Topsoil & turf	0.24			
7/2	Earlier ploughsoil	0.13			
7/3	? Medieval ploughsoil ?	0.18			
7/4	Natural subsoil	0.30			
7/5	Natural subsoil	0.64			
7/6	Ditch NE-SW	0.62		1.20	1 sherd pottery
Natural	Sandy clay				
Trench 8 (Field 40)					
8/1	Turf & topsoil	0.19			
8/2	Old ploughsoil	0.13			
8/3	Silty clay	<0.17			
8/4	? Medieval ploughsoil	0.12			
8/5	Natural subsoil	0.30			
Natural	Sand & gravel				
Trench 9 (Field 40)					
9/1	Turf & topsoil	0.18			Pot Med
9/2	Earlier ploughsoil	0.13			Pot med
9/3	Earlier ploughsoil	0.12			
9/4	Natural subsoil	0.14			
9/5	Natural gravel in silt				
9/6	Ditch NNW-SSE	0.36		0.83	Bone
9/7	Ditch NNW-SSE	0.24		0.55	1 pot sherd RB, bone
Natural	Gravel and silt				

A40 D 92 Table of Context Details

Context No.	Description	Depth (m)	Length (m)	Width (m)	Finds
Trench 10 (Field 40)					
10/1	Turf & topsoil	0.18			Pot Med
10/2	Earlier ploughsoil	0.21			
10/3	Subsoil	0.19			
10/4	Natural subsoil	0.18			
Natural	Gravel and sand				
Trench 11 (Field 40)					
11/1	Turf & topsoil	0.22			
11/2	Earlier ploughsoil	0.17			
11/3	Earlier ploughsoil	0.21			
11/4	Natural subsoil	0.11			
11/5	Natural subsoil	0.22			
Natural	Gravel				
Trench 12 (Field 40)					
12/1	Turf & topsoil	0.22			
12/2	Earlier ploughsoil	0.32			
12/3	Subsoil	0.11			
12/4	Natural subsoil	0.35			
12/5	Ditch NE-SW	0.40		1.20	
Natural	Gravel and sand				
Trench 13 (Field 40)					
13/1	Turf & topsoil	0.15			Pot Post Med
13/2	Ploughsoil	0.40			Pot Med
13/3	Silting of furrow	0.12			Clay pipe
13/4	Layer in bottom of furrow	0.03			
13/5	Natural silt	0.13			
13/6	Tree throw hole	0.35	1.30		
Natural	Gravel and sand				

A40 E 92 Table of Context Details

Context No.	Description	Depth (m)	Length (m)	Width (m)	Findings
Trench 1 (Field 48)					
1/1	Ploughsoil	0.32			
1/2	Alluvium	0.11			
1/3	Alluvium	0.28			
1/4	Alluvium	0.40			Bone
1/5	Disturbed natural	0.15			
1/6	Alluvium	0.10			
Natural	Gravel				
Trench 2 (Field 46)					
2/1	Turf & topsoil	0.14			
2/2	Old meadowsoil	0.14			
2/3	Ploughsoil	0.10			
Natural	Gravel				
Trench 3 (Field 46)					
3/1	Turf & topsoil	0.22			
3/2	Alluvium	0.18			
3/3	Earlier ploughsoil	<0.38			
Natural	Gravel				
Trench 4 (Field 46)					
4/1	Turf & topsoil	0.15			
4/2	Earlier ploughsoil	0.12			
4/3	Alluvium	0.10			
4/4	Earlier ploughsoil	0.16			
4/5	Fill of tree throw holes	<0.30			
4/6	Tree throw hole	0.28		1.10	Flint flake
Natural	Gravel				
Trench 5 (Field 45)					
5/1	Turf & topsoil	0.21			
5/2	Ploughsoil	0.03			
5/3	Ploughsoil/alluvium	0.06			

A40 E 92 Table of Context Details

Context No.	Description	Depth (m)	Length (m)	Width (m)	Finds
5/4	Natural subsoil	0.09			
5/6	Ditch NE-SW	0.29		0.78	
Natural	Gravel				
Trench 6 (Field 45)					
6/1	Turf & topsoil	0.10			
6/2	Ploughsoil	0.12			
6/3	Alluvium	0.08			
6/4	Earlier ploughsoil	0.30			
6/5	Fill of tree throw holes	<0.28			
Natural	Gravel				
Trench 7 (Field 45)					
7/1	Turf & topsoil	0.18			
7/2	Ploughsoil	0.09			
7/3	Ploughsoil ? meadowsoil ?	0.08			
7/4	Natural subsoil	0.08			
7/6	Ditch NE-SW ? old field boundary	0.20		1.15	
Natural	Gravel				

A40 F 92 Table of Context Details

Context No.	Description	Depth (m)	Length (m)	Width (m)	Finds
Trench 1 (Field 63)					
1/1	Turf & topsoil	0.20			
1/2	Old ploughsoil	0.11			3 sherds; 2 Med 1 Post M
1/4	Tree throw hole				
1/5	Animal disturbance				
Natural	Gravel				
Trench 2 (Field 59)					
2/1	Topsoil	0.12			
2/2	Quarry spoil	0.60			Fired clay modern tile
2/3	? Old ploughsoil ?	0.32			
2/4	Redeposited natural				
Natural	Gravel				
Trench 3 (Field 51)					
3/1	Topsoil	0.10			
3/2	Quarry backfill	0.30			
3/3	Redeposited natural	0.30			
3/4	Earlier ploughsoil ?	0.08			
Natural	Gravel				
Trench 4 (Field 51)					
4/1	Topsoil	0.10			
4/2	Quarry backfill	0.15			
Natural	Gravel				

A40 G 92 Table of Context Details

Context No.	Description	Depth (m)	Length (m)	Width (m)	Finds
Trench 1 (Field 71)					
1/1	Topsoil	0.30			
1/2	Alluvium	0.40			
1/3	Old ploughsoil	<0.50			
1/5	Ditch WNW-ESE	0.18		0.70	
1/6	Ditch NW-SE	0.22		1.00	
1/7	Ditch NNW-SSE	0.25		0.50	
1/8	Gully E-W	0.11		0.25	
Natural	Gravel				
Trench 2 (Field 69)					
2/1	Turf & topsoil	0.20			
2/2	Old ploughsoil	0.18			
2/3	? Ploughsoil ?	0.24			
2/4	Natural ploughsoil	0.24			
2/6	Ditch N-S	0.34		0.64	1 Med pot sherd
2/7	Ditch			1.00	
Natural	Gravel and silt				
Trench 3 (Field 72)					
3/1	Turf & topsoil	0.18			
3/2	Ploughsoil	0.16			Pot 1 Roman 1 Med
3/3	Ploughsoil	0.10			
3/5	Posthole			0.70	
3/6	Furrow			1.50	
3/7	Posthole			1.00	
3/8	Furrow			1.40	
3/9	Posthole			0.60	
3/10	Furrow			1.20	
3/11	Posthole			0.80	
Natural	Gravel				
Trench 4 (Field 72)					
4/1	Sandy silt loam	0.15			

A40 G 92 Table of Context Details

Context No.	Description	Depth (m)	Length (m)	Width (m)	Finds
4/2	Ploughsoil	0.20			
4/3	Fill of furrows	<0.35			
4/4	Meadowsoil ? ploughsoil ?	0.45			
4/5	Natural subsoil	0.50			
Natural	Sand & gravel				
Trench 5 (Field 73)					
5/1	Turf & topsoil	0.22			
5/2	Silt loam	0.13			1 sherd Med, 1 sherd Post Med
5/3	Ploughsoil	0.14			
5/4	Natural subsoil	0.69			
5/6	Furrow	<0.28			1 sherd RB pot
Natural	Gravel and silt				
Trench 6 (Field 64)					
6/1	Turf & topsoil	0.18			
6/2	Dump ? / upcast ?	0.10			
6/3	Dump ? / upcast ?	<0.20			
6/4	Ditch ? / pond fill ?	0.46		2.50	Pot, slag
6/5	Layer ? / ditch fill ?	0.44			
6/6	Ditch ?	0.18			
6/8	Ploughsoil	0.20			1 Med sherd
6/9	Pit	0.40		2.00	1 Med pot sherd
6/10	Ploughsoil	0.23			1 Med pot sherd
6/11	Ditch WNW-ESE	0.24		0.76	
6/12	Pit			0.78	
6/13	Ditch E-W				Flint blade
Natural	Gravel				

A40 H 92 Table of Context Details

Context No.	Description	Depth (m)	Length (m)	Width (m)	Finds
Trench 1 (Field 77)					
1/1	Ploughsoil	0.25			Bone, MIA pot
1/2	Alluvium	0.06			
1/3	Gully E-W	0.55		0.50	MIA/LIA pot
1/4	Ditch E-W	0.70		1.70	Bone
1/5	Ditch E-W	0.48		1.45	Bone
1/6	Gully WNW-ESE	0.20		0.70	
1/6	Gully WNW-ESE	0.15		0.85	MIA pot, bone
1/7	Posthole	0.20		0.26	MIA pot
1/8	Ditch E-W			1.00	MIA/EIA pot, bone
1/9	Ditch SE-NW	0.64		1.50	MIA/EIA pot
1/10	Ditch NE-SW	0.66		2.15	MIA pot, bone, flint
1/11	House destruction layer ?	0.20		3.50	
1/12	Sandy silt			2.70	
1/13	Silty loam	<0.25			
1/14	Posthole	0.06		0.33	
Natural	Gravel				
Trench 2 (Field 77)					
2/1	Ploughsoil	0.25			
2/2	Alluvium	0.18			
2/3	Clay silt	0.15			
2/4	Clay silt	0.16			
2/5	Interface of 2/5 & gravel	0.10			Bone, pot
2/6	Ditch NNW-SSE ? Med boundary	0.68		2.60	
2/7	Ditch NNW-SSE			1.40	Bone, pot
2/8	Ditch NNW-SSE	0.28		0.60	
2/9	Pit/ditch	0.30		0.70	
Natural	Gravel				
Trench 3 (Field 77)					

A40 H 92 Table of Context Details

Context No.	Description	Depth (m)	Length (m)	Width (m)	Finds
3/1	Ploughsoil	0.26			
3/2	Subsoil	0.08			
3/3	Alluvium	0.08			
3/4	Alluvium	0.20			Fired clay
3/5	Interface of 3/4 & gravel	0.06			
Natural	Gravel				
Trench 4 (Field 85)					
4/1	Ploughsoil	0.26			
4/2	Subsoil	0.16			
4/3	Natural subsoil	0.40			
4/4	Ditch NE-SW	0.34		1.00	
4/5	Ditch NE-SW	0.90		3.60	
4/6	Upcast from 4/5	0.15		2.40	
Natural	Gravel				
Trench 5 (Field 85)					
5/1	Ploughsoil	0.28			
5/2	Alluvium	0.29			
5/3	Alluvium	0.66			
Natural	Gravel				
Trench 6 (Field 75)					
6/1	Topsoil	0.20			
6/2	Alluvium	0.21			
6/3	Ploughsoil	0.13			
6/4	Alluvium	0.21			
Natural	Gravel				
Trench 7 (Field 76)					
7/1	Topsoil	0.22			
7/2	Alluvium	0.12			
7/3	Alluvium	0.08			
7/4	Ditch ? NW-SE	0.50		0.75	

A40 H 92 Table of Context Details

Context No.	Description	Depth (m)	Length (m)	Width (m)	Finds
7/5	Natural subsoil	<0.16			
Natural	Sandy clay				
Trench 8 (Field 76)					
8/1	Topsoil	0.22			
8/2	Subsoil	0.10			
8/3	Alluvium	0.27			
8/4	Alluvium	0.10			
8/5	Ditch E-W	0.85		1.20	
Natural					
Trench 9 (Field 76)					
9/1	Topsoil	0.26			Post Med pot
9/2	Subsoil	0.08			
9/3	Alluvium	0.14			
9/4	Alluvium	0.18			
9/5	Alluvium	0.16			
9/6	Alluvium	0.10			
Natural					
Trench 10 (Field 76)					
10/1	Topsoil	0.30			
10/2	Old ploughsoil	0.20			
10/3	Alluvium	0.10			Pot
10/4	Alluvium	0.16			
10/5	Pit oval	0.27	0.65	0.50	
10/6	Posthole	0.15	0.35	0.25	
10/7	Posthole			0.50	
10/8	Ditch NE-SW	1.20+		3.00	Prehistoric pot
10/9	Ditch NW-SE	0.50		0.95	Bone
10/10	Ditch NW-SE	0.55		0.65	Bone
10/11	Ditch NW-SE	0.50		0.50	
10/12	Gully/pit	0.12		0.40	Bone, flint
10/13	Gully	0.32		0.45	

A40 H 92 Table of Context Details

Context No.	Description	Depth (m)	Length (m)	Width (m)	Finds
10/14	Ditch NW-SE	0.32		0.70	Pot
10/15	Pit	0.13		1.31	Pot
10/16	Finds reference				Bone, pot, daub
10/17	Posthole	0.15		0.40	
10/18	Posthole	0.18		0.45	Bone
10/19	Posthole			0.58	
10/20	Posthole			0.60	Bone
10/21	Posthole cluster				Pot
10/22	Pit	0.30		1.00	
10/23	Ditch NW-SE	0.60		1.00	
10/24	Gully E-W	0.30		0.70	
10/25	Ditch E-W	1.10		4.20	
10/26	Gully E-W	0.25		0.60	
Natural	Gravel				
Trench 11 (Field 76)					
11/1	Ploughsoil	0.30			
11/2	Alluvium	<0.70			Horseshoe
11/3	Subsoil	0.40			
11/4	Gully NE-SW	0.25		1.00	
11/5	Posthole	0.35		0.70	Charcoal
Natural	Gravel				
Trench 12 (Field 76)					
12/1	Ploughsoil	<0.40			
12/2	Silt clay	0.18			
12/3	Subsoil	0.38			
Natural	Gravel				
Trench 13 (Field 76)					
13/1	Topsoil	0.28			
13/2	Old ploughsoil	0.14			
13/3	Alluvium	0.12			
13/5	? Gully ENE-WSW				Pot

A40 H 92 Table of Context Details

Context No.	Description	Depth (m)	Length (m)	Width (m)	Finds
Natural	Gravel and sand				
Trench 14 (Field 74)					
14/1	Topsoil	0.20			
14/2	Alluvium	0.50			
14/3	Natural subsoil	0.28			
14/4	Ditch ENE-WSW Med/PM boundary ?	1.52		2.00	
Natural	Gravel and sand				
Trench 15 (Field 79)					
15/1	Topsoil	0.23			
15/2	Old ploughsoil	0.25			
15/3	Alluvium	0.60			
Natural	Silty clay				
Trench 16 (Field 87)					
16/1	Ploughsoil	0.21			
16/2	Ploughsoil / meadowsoil ?	0.14			Pot, daub
16/3	Sandy silt	0.21			
16/4	Posthole	0.12		0.42	
16/5	Pit	0.70		0.90	Daub
Natural	Sandy silt and gravel				
Trench 17 (Field 87)					
17/1	Ploughsoil	0.20			
17/2	Old ploughsoil	0.13			
17/4	Gully NE-SW	0.16		0.40	1 sherd pot, bone
17/5	Ditch NW-SE	0.23		1.00	
17/6	Pit	0.16	1.75	0.85	
17/7	Pit	0.20	0.63	0.60	
17/8	Posthole	0.13		0.32	
17/9	Posthole	0.16	0.51	0.24	
17/10	Pit	0.14	0.69	0.44	

A40 H 92 Table of Context Details

Context No.	Description	Depth (m)	Length (m)	Width (m)	Finds
17/11	Gully	0.15		0.34	
Natural	Gravel				
Trench 18 (Field 87)					
18/1	Ploughsoil	0.17			
18/2	Alluvium	0.20			
18/3	Alluvium	0.84			Bone
18/4	Alluvium	0.39			
Natural	Gravel				

A40 J 92 Table of Context Details

Context No.	Description	Depth (m)	Length (m)	Width (m)	Finds
Trench 1 (Field 81)					
1/1	Ploughsoil	0.28			Flint
1/2	Recent ploughsoil	0.10			
1/3	Ditch SW-NE	0.43		1.30	Flint, bone
1/4	Ditch NNE-SSW	0.43		0.60	Pot, bone
1/5	Furrow	0.12		0.90	Pot Roman ?
1/6	Furrow/pit	0.10		1.70	
1/7	Furrow	0.11		0.75	
1/8	Ditch E-W	0.50		0.69	Bone
1/9	Furrow	0.06		0.38	
1/10	Ditch	0.28		1.00	
Natural	Gravel				
Trench 2 (Field 81)					
2/1	Ploughsoil	0.30			
2/2	Ditch	0.40		0.90	Pot
2/3	Furrow	0.16		2.50	
2/4	Furrow	0.20			Pot
2/5	Ditch SW-NE			1.40	LIA ? pot, bone
2/6	Ditch NE-SW	1.04		1.80	
2/7	Gully N-S	0.18		1.20	
Natural	Gravel				
Trench 3 (Field 81)					
3/1	Ploughsoil	0.30			
3/2	Ploughsoil/hillwash ?	0.20			
3/3	Hillwash	0.20			Roman pot
3/4	Sandy silt	0.20			
3/5	Channel fill ?	0.18			Flint
3/6	Silty sand	0.16			
3/7	Pit ?	0.30		0.73	
3/8	Ditch ? N-S	0.28		2.50	Bone, flint
3/9	Ditch NE-SW	0.56		1.28	Bone

A40 J 92 Table of Context Details

Context No.	Description	Depth (m)	Length (m)	Width (m)	Finds
Natural	Silty sand & clay				
Trench 4 (Field 81)					
4/1	Ploughsoil	0.35			
4/2	Hillwash	0.14			
4/3	Hillwash	0.10			
4/4	Alluvium	0.16			
4/5	Alluvium	0.10			
4/6	Natural subsoil	0.16			
Natural	Silty clay				
Trench 5 (Field 81)					
5/1	Ploughsoil	0.25			Pot
5/2	Hillwash	0.45			
5/3	Alluvium	0.20			
5/4	Interface of 5/2 and 5/3	0.18			
Natural	Gravel and clay				
Trench 6 (Field 81)					
6/1	Ploughsoil	0.30			
6/2	Subsoil	0.30			
6/3	Subsoil	0.20			
6/4	Natural subsoil	0.28			
6/5	Ditch ? NNW-SSE	0.34		1.90	
6/6	Posthole	0.10		0.25	
6/7	Pit ?	0.23		1.07	
Natural	Sand and gravel / clay				
Trench 7 (Field 81)					
7/1	Ploughsoil	0.25			
7/2	Alluvium	0.30			
7/3	Natural subsoil	0.12			
7/4	Posthole	0.13		0.30	

A40 J 92 Table of Context Details

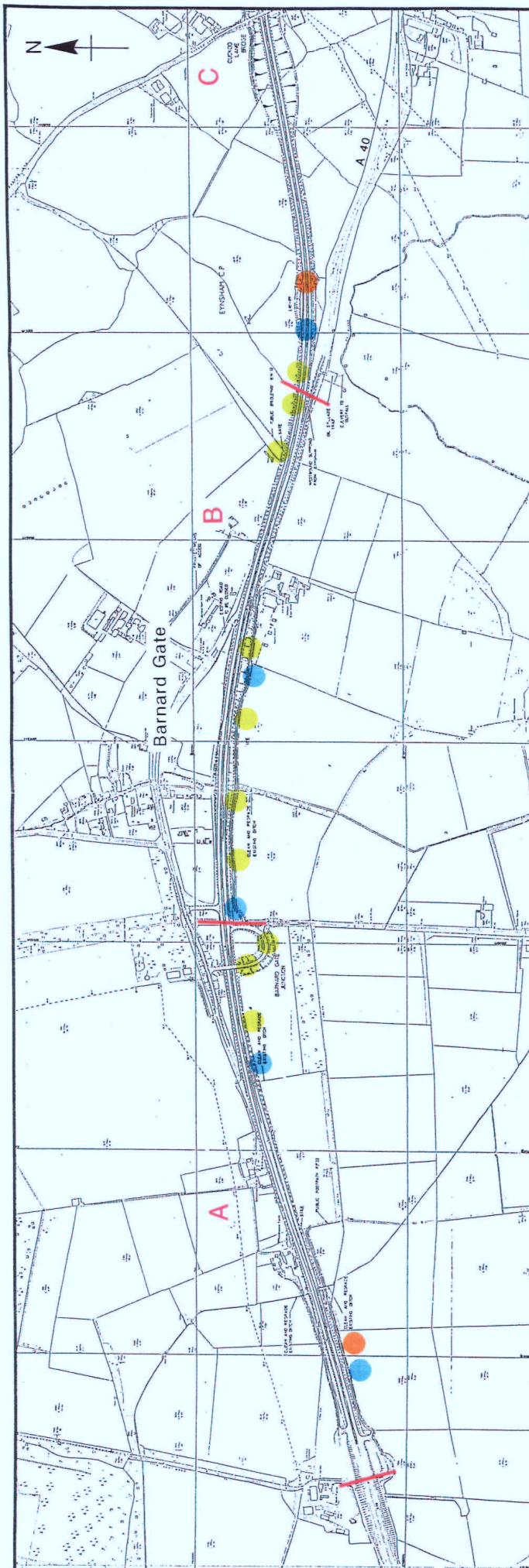
Context No.	Description	Depth (m)	Length (m)	Width (m)	Finds
7/5	Ditch E-W	0.46		1.45	
Natural	Sand and gravel / clay				
Trench 8 (Field 81)					
8/1	Ploughsoil	0.30			
8/2	Sand silt	0.30			Pot
8/3	Pit	0.21		0.33	
8/4	Ditch E-W	0.40		0.91	
8/5	Ditch E-W	0.40		1.05	
8/6	Pit	0.30		0.47	Pot
8/7	Ditch NW-SE	0.27		1.35	
8/8	Gully NW-SE	0.05		0.25	
8/9	Posthole	0.09	0.32	0.27	
8/10	Posthole	0.11	0.41	0.35	
8/11	Posthole	0.37	0.69	0.58	Bone
8/12	Ditch NW-SE	1.02		5.50	Bone
8/16	Posthole	0.25		0.29	
8/17	Tree throw hole	0.32	1.50	1.00	
8/18	Posthole	0.60		0.54	Bone, pot, daub
8/19	Gully Nw-SE	0.26		0.70	
8/20	Posthole	0.20		0.28	Flint, pot
8/21	Posthole	0.57		0.50	Pot
8/22	Pit	0.20		0.70	Pot
8/23	Posthole			0.33	Pot
8/24	Posthole			0.30	Pot
8/25	Ditch NW-SE				
Natural	Gravel and silt				
Trench 9 (Field 81)					
9/1	Ploughsoil	0.30			
9/2	Alluvium	0.16			
9/3	Plough furrow	0.04		0.40	

A40 J 92 Table of Context Details

Context No.	Description	Depth (m)	Length (m)	Width (m)	Finds
9/4	Ditch NW-SE	0.35		0.70	
9/5	Pit			0.80	
9/6	Gully	0.17		0.90	
Natural	Gravel and silty sand				
Trench 10 (Field 81)					
10/1	Ploughsoil	0.25			
10/2	Alluvium	0.37			
10/3	Posthole	0.20		0.34	Flint flake
10/4	Posthole	0.22	0.22	0.24	
10/5	Posthole	0.08	0.20	0.18	Bone
10/6	Gully N-S	0.14		0.71	
10/7	Pit	1.00+		1.80	BA and IA ? pot, bone
10/8	Posthole	0.28		0.28	
10/9	Tree throw hole			0.90	
10/10	Gully NE-SW	0.17		1.05	
Natural	Gravel				
Trench 11 (Field 81)					
11/1	Ploughsoil	0.30			
11/2	Alluvium	0.10			Slag
11/3	Natural subsoil	0.10			
11/4	Posthole	N/E			Pot
11/5	Posthole	N/E			Pot
11/6	Pit	N/E			Bone, pot
11/7	Ditch	N/E			Flint
Natural	Gravel / clay				
Trench 12 (Field 83)					
12/1	Topsoil	0.15			
12/2	Old ploughsoil	0.12			
12/3	Alluvium	0.35			
12/4	Hillwash	0.30			
12/5	Alluvium	0.10			

A40 J 92 Table of Context Details

Context No.	Description	Depth (m)	Length (m)	Width (m)	Finds
Natural	Gravel and sand				
Trench 13 (Field 83)					
13/1	Ploughsoil	0.20			
13/2	Old ploughsoil	0.20			
13/3	Alluvium	0.12			
13/4	Hillwash	0.15			
13/5	Palaeochannel deposit	<0.30			
13/6	Ditch	0.80		2.00	
13/7	Quarry backfill	1.60			
Natural	Gravel and sand				



Key:

- 0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONTEXTS
- 1-2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONTEXTS
- 3 OR MORE ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONTEXTS

0 1 km
Scale 1:10,000

Figure 1a

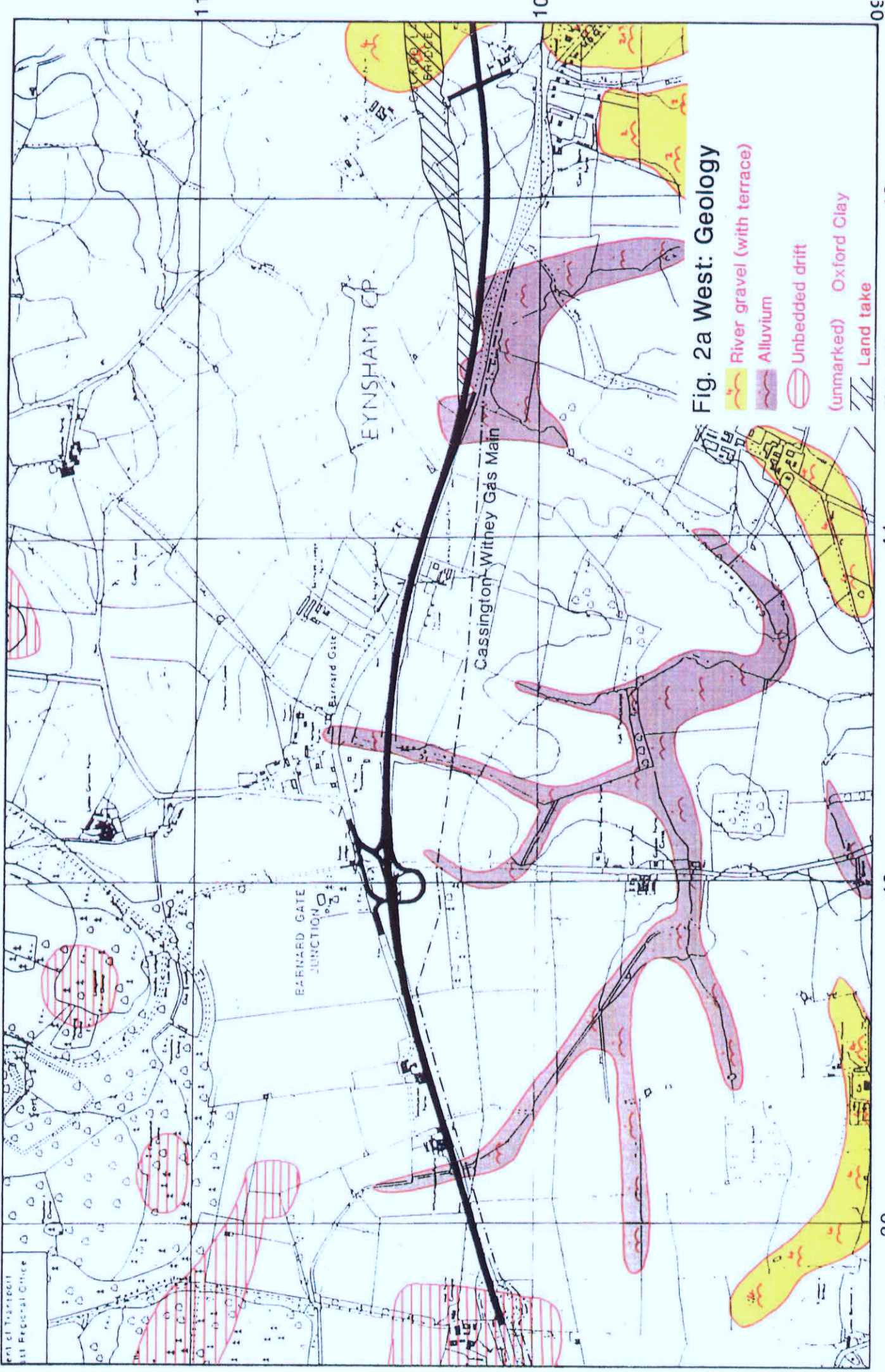


Fig. 2a West: Geology

- River gravel (with terrace)
- Alluvium
- Unbedded drift
- (unmarked) Oxford Clay
- Land take

11
10
39 40 41 42
1km grid
09

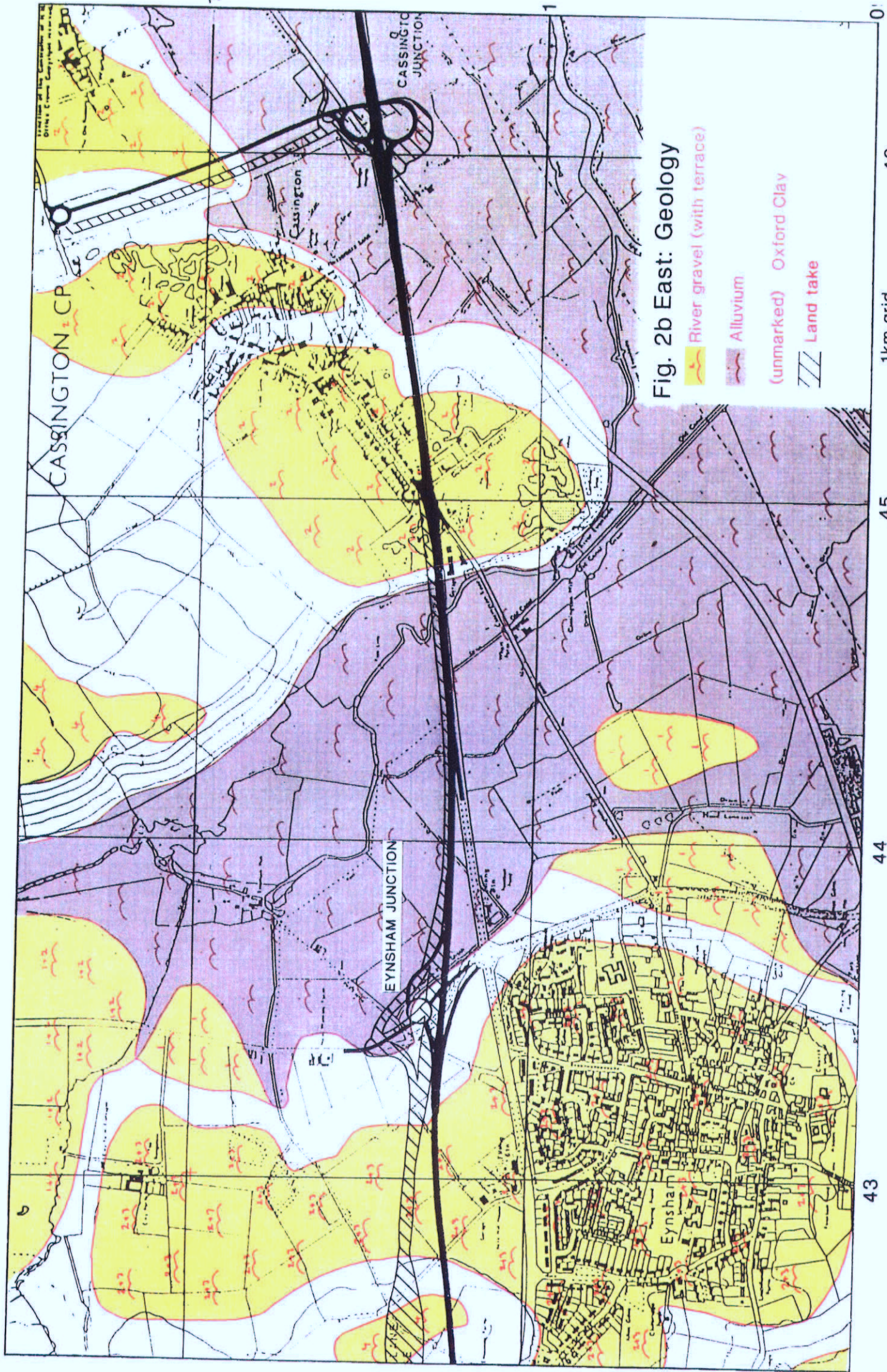


Fig. 2b East: Geology

- River gravel (with terrace)
- Alluvium
- (unmarked) Oxford Clay
- Land take

43

44

45

46

0'

1km grid

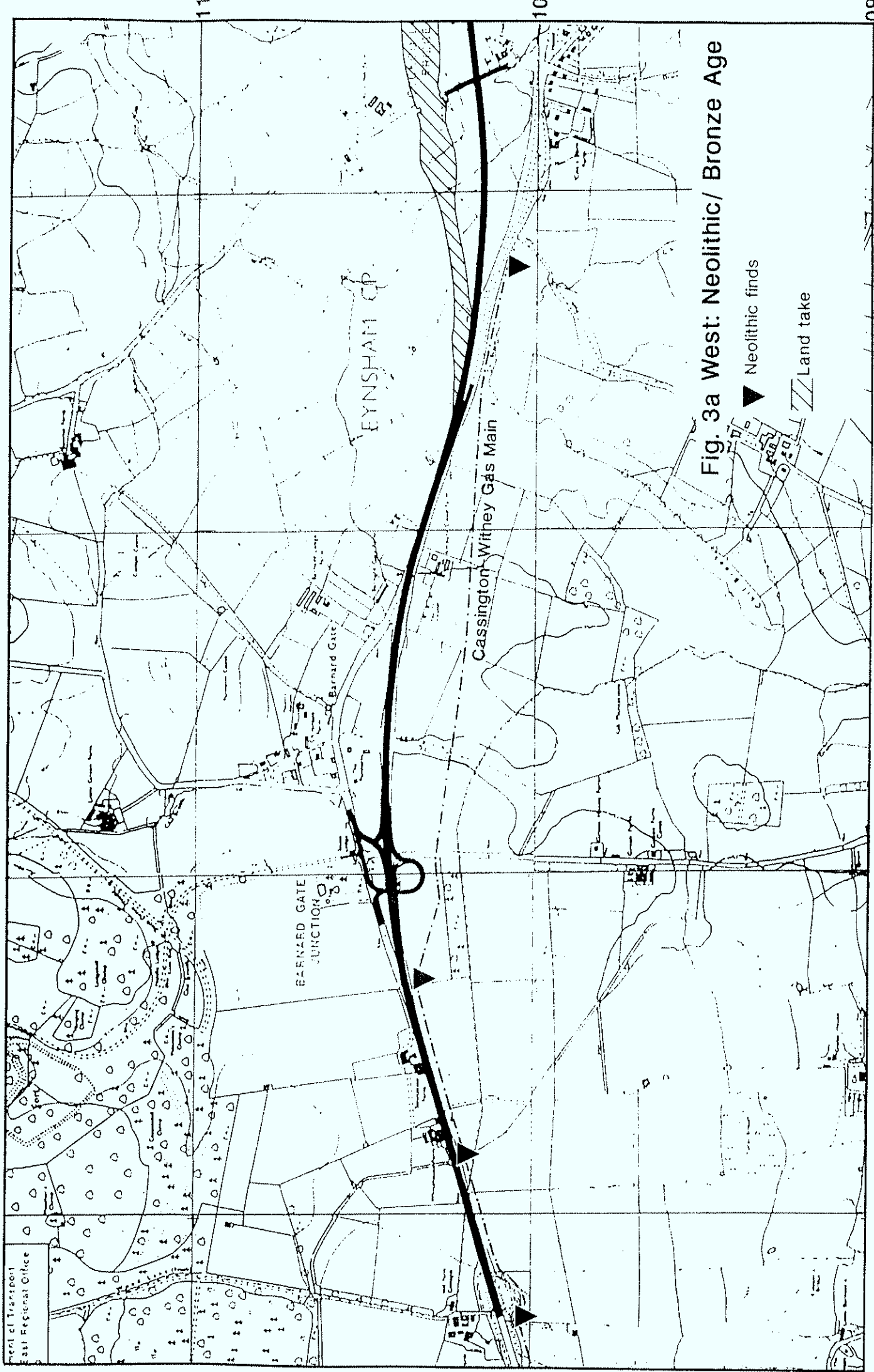


Fig. 3a West: Neolithic/ Bronze Age

▲ Neolithic finds
 ▨ Land take

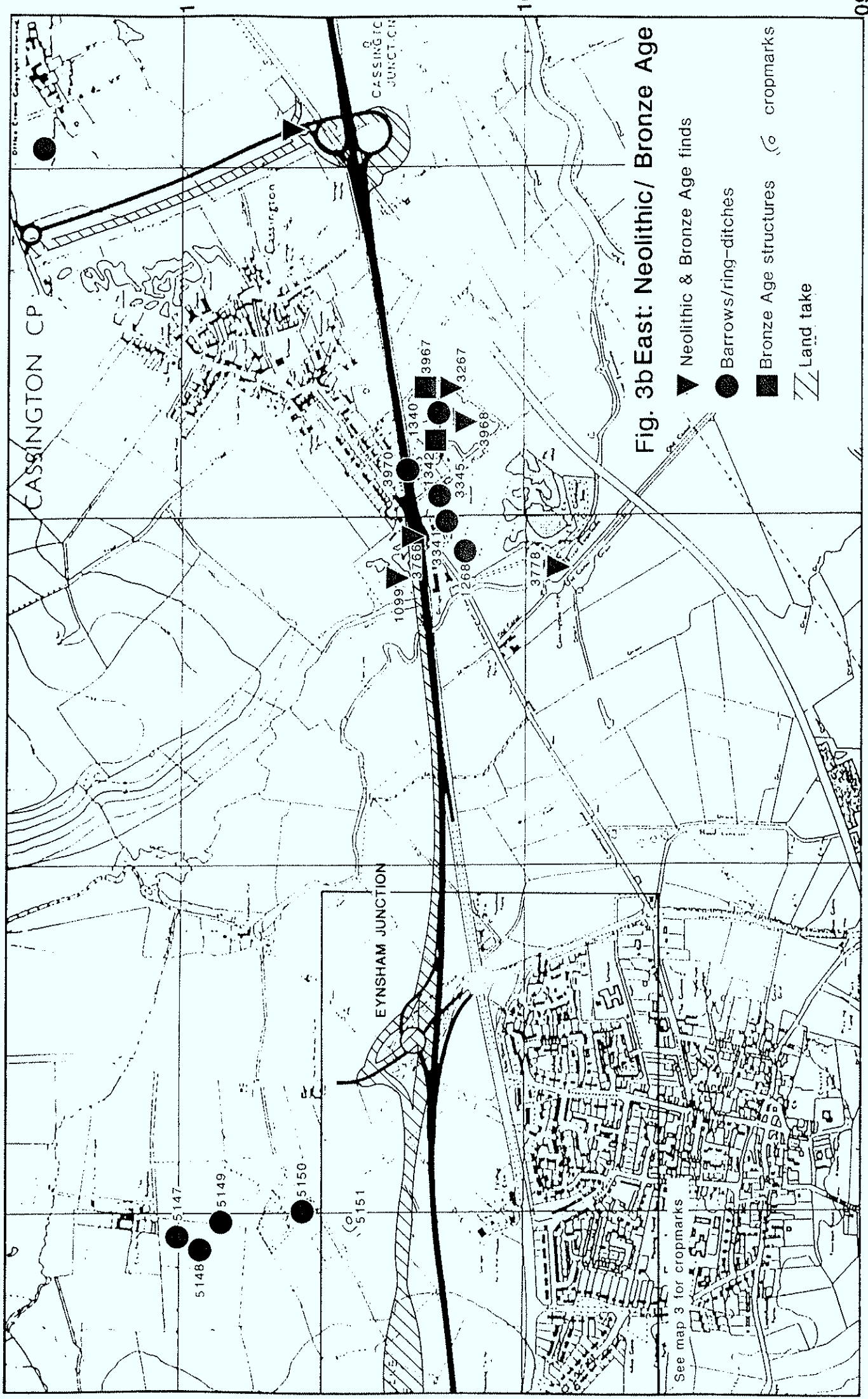


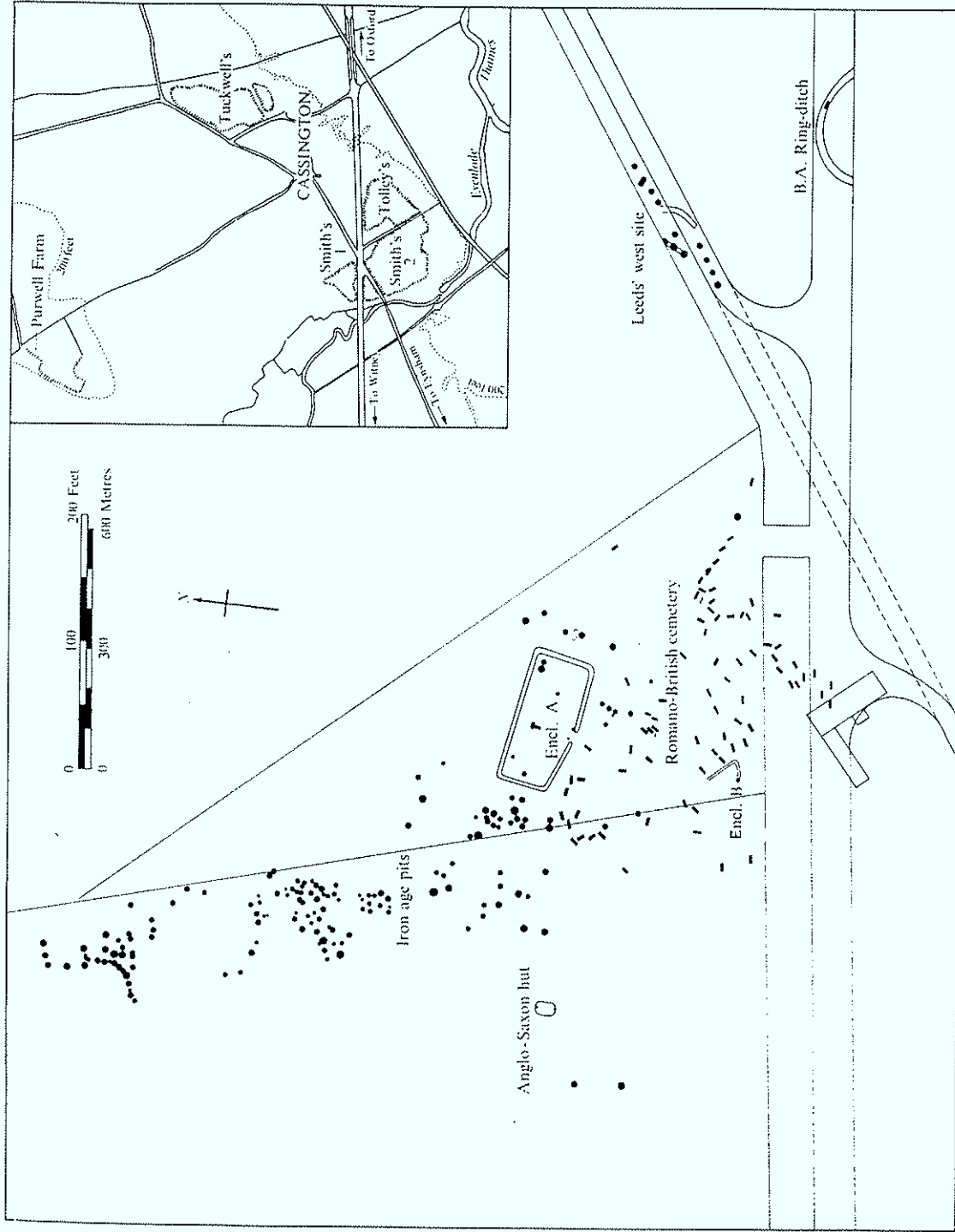
Fig. 3b East: Neolithic/ Bronze Age

- ▼ Neolithic & Bronze Age finds
- Barrows/ring-ditches
- Bronze Age structures
- ▨ Land take
- cropmarks

See map 3 for cropmarks



Fig. 4: Cropmarks North of Eynsham



From D. W. Harding: The Iron Age in the Upper Thames Basin

Figure 5

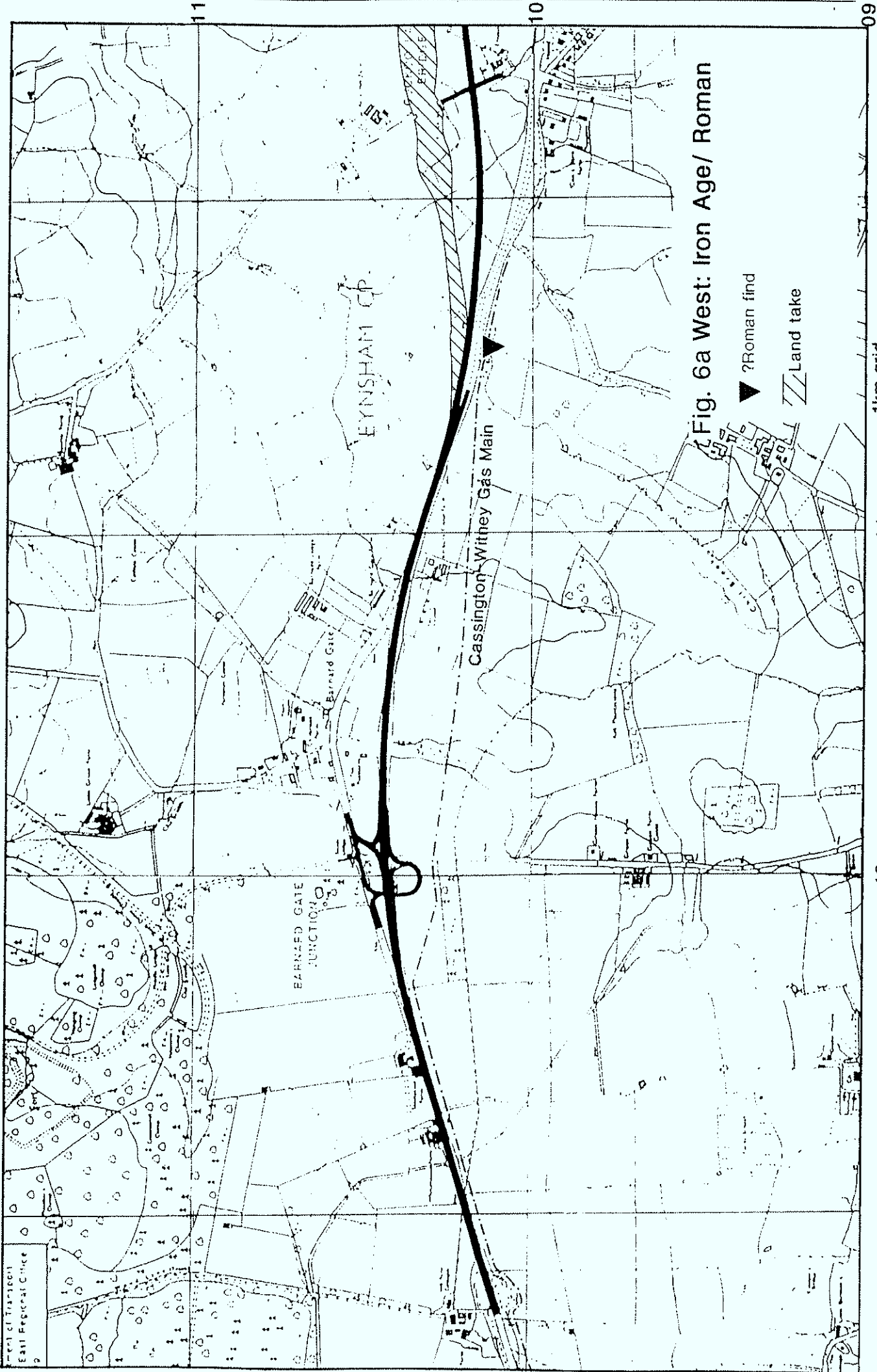


Fig. 6a West: Iron Age/ Roman

- ▲ ?Roman find
- ▨ Land take

11
10
09
42
41
40
39
1km grid

West of Tra-16001
East of Regional Centre

BARNARD GATE
JUNCTION

EYNSHAM CP

Cassington Withey Gas Main

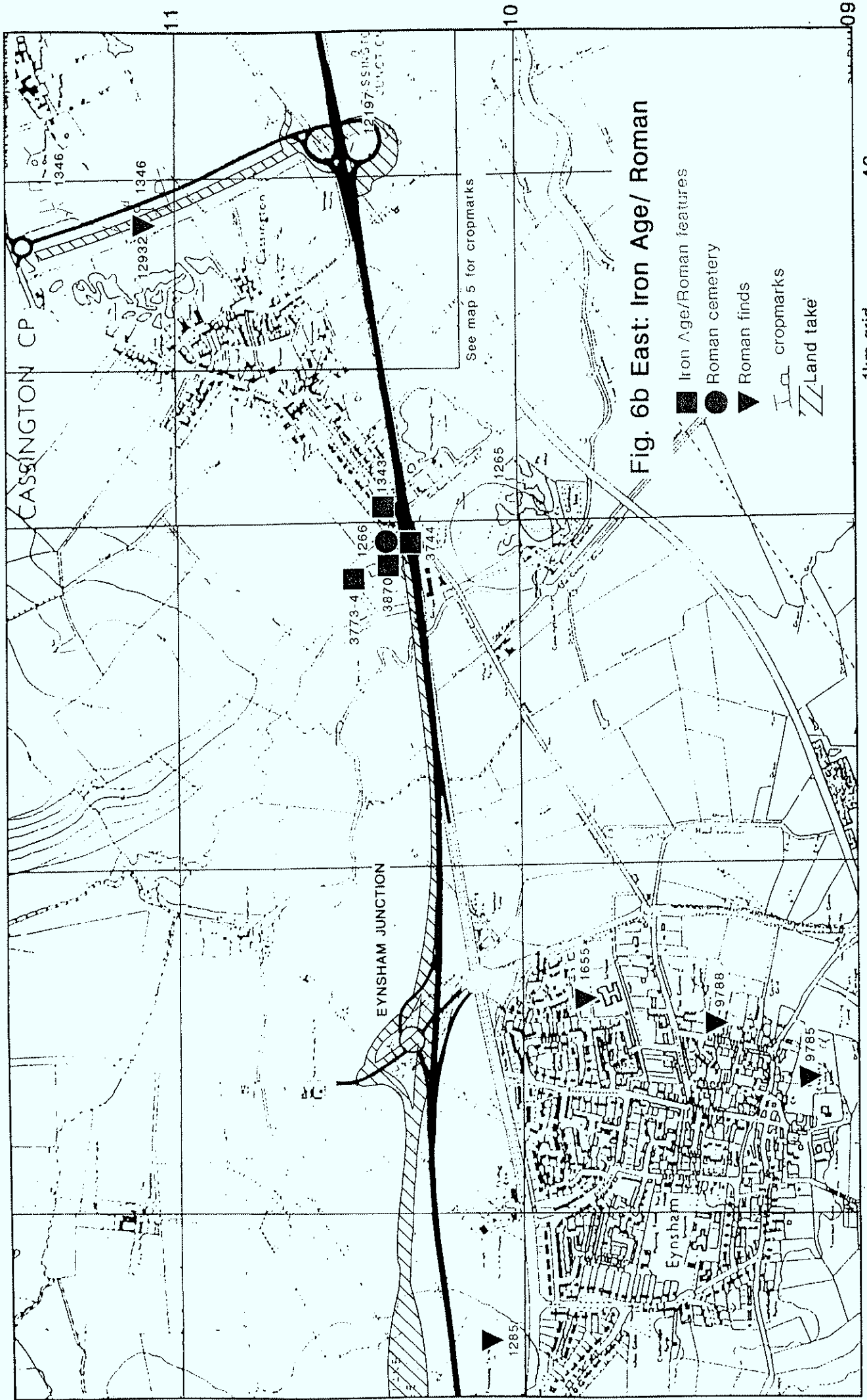


Fig. 6b East: Iron Age/ Roman

- Iron Age/Roman features
- Roman cemetery
- ▲ Roman finds
- - - cropmarks
- /// Land take

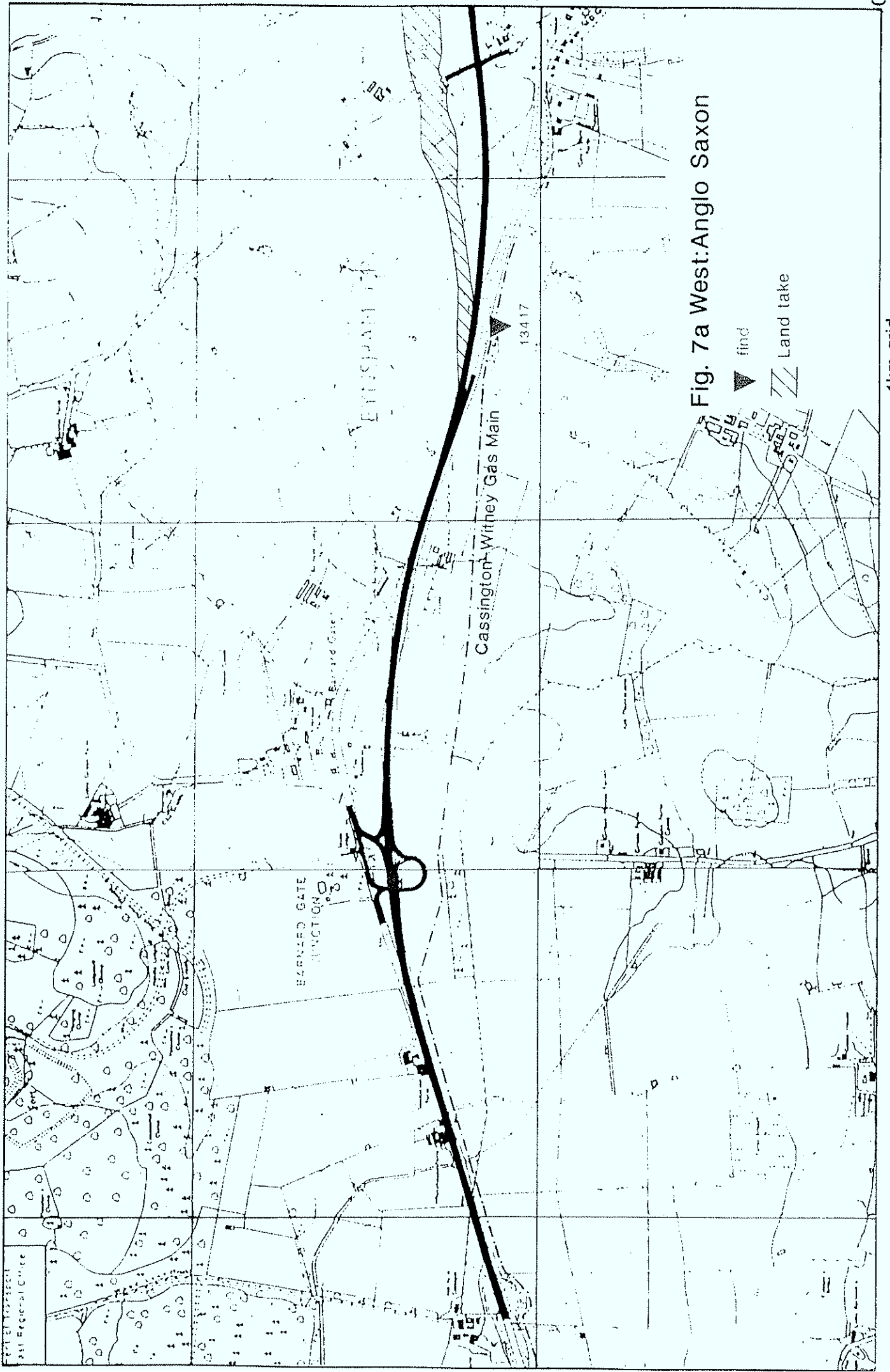


Fig. 7a West:Anglo Saxon

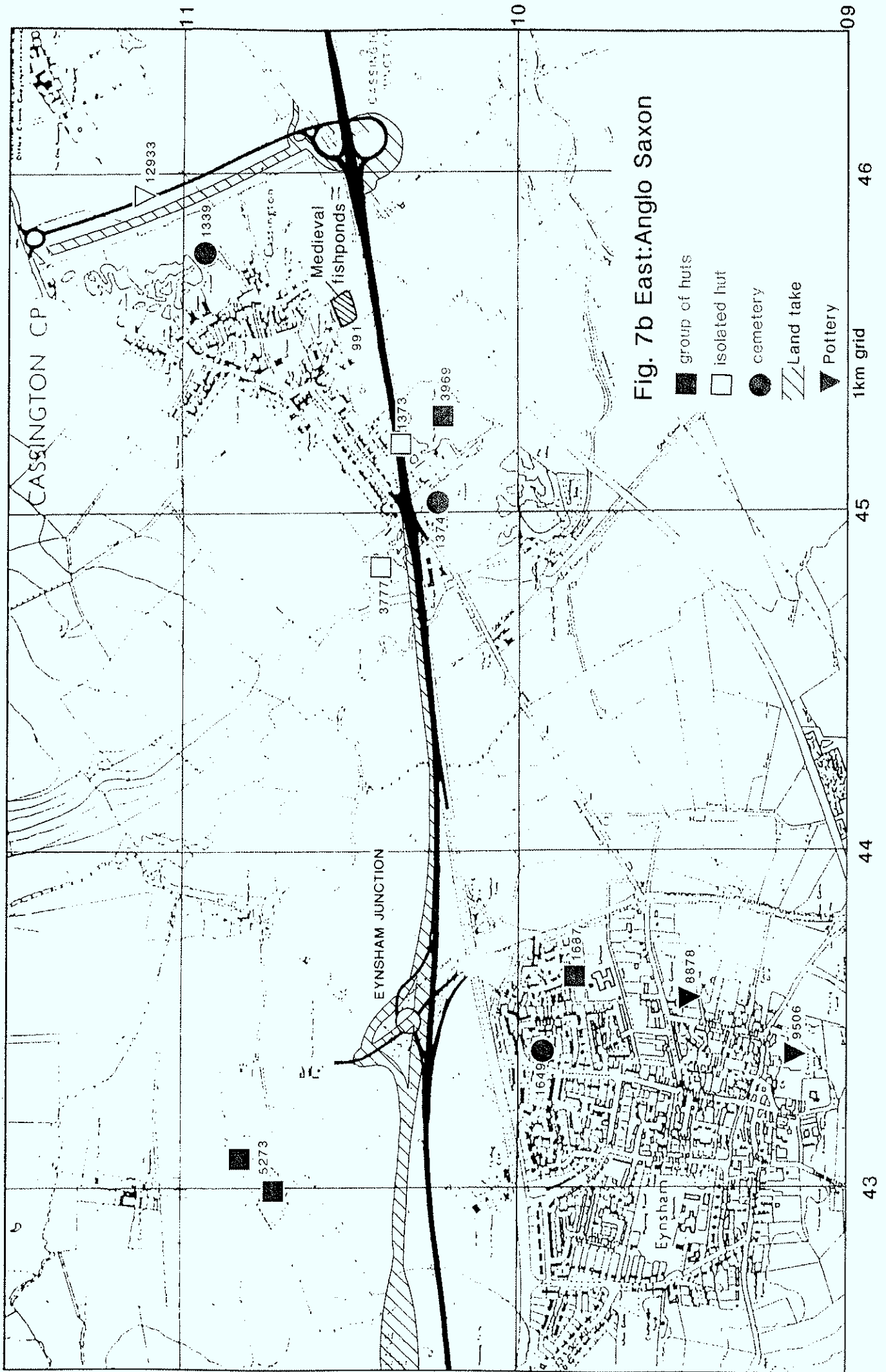


Fig. 7b East:Anglo Saxon

- group of huts
- isolated hut
- cemetery
- ▨ Land take
- ▼ Pottery

1km grid

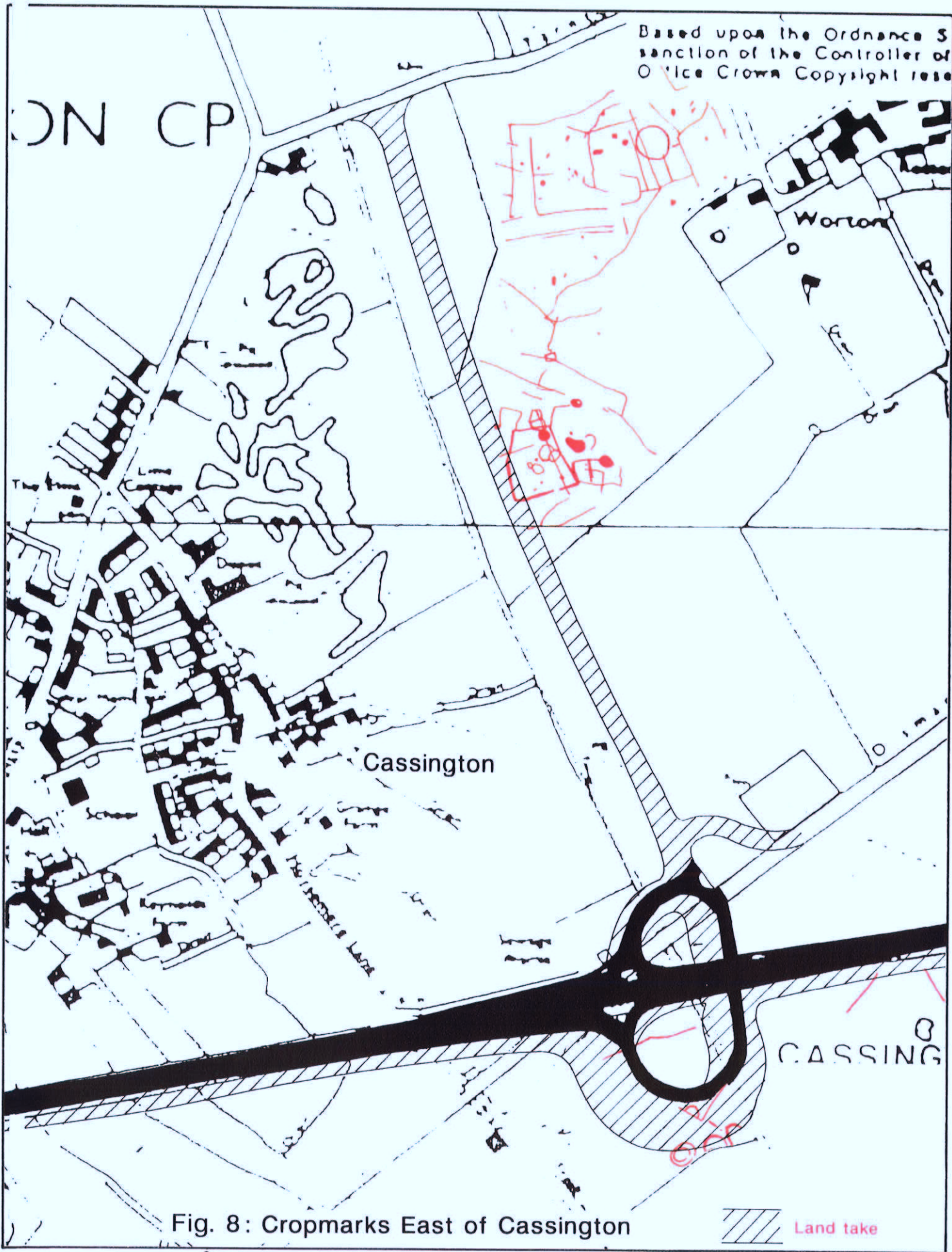
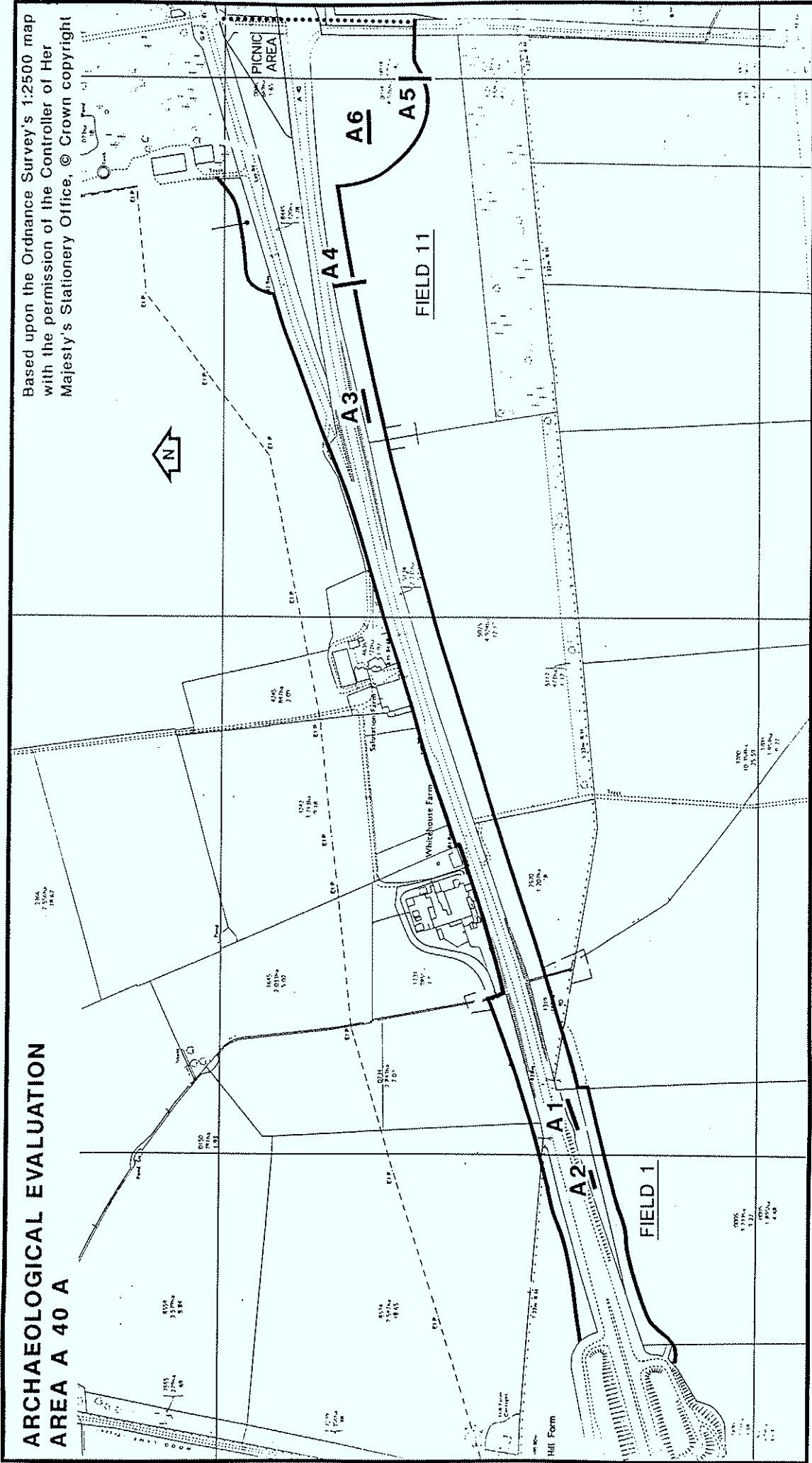


Fig. 8: Cropmarks East of Cassington

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION
AREA A 40 A**

Based upon the Ordnance Survey's 1:2500 map
with the permission of the Controller of Her
Majesty's Stationery Office, © Crown copyright



Key: LIMIT OF LANDTAKE/ROUTE (simplified) EVALUATION TRENCH **H9**

LIMIT OF EVALUATION SECTION

SCALE 1:5000

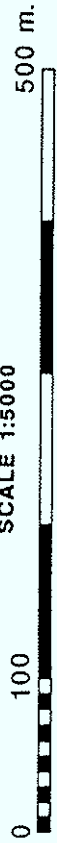
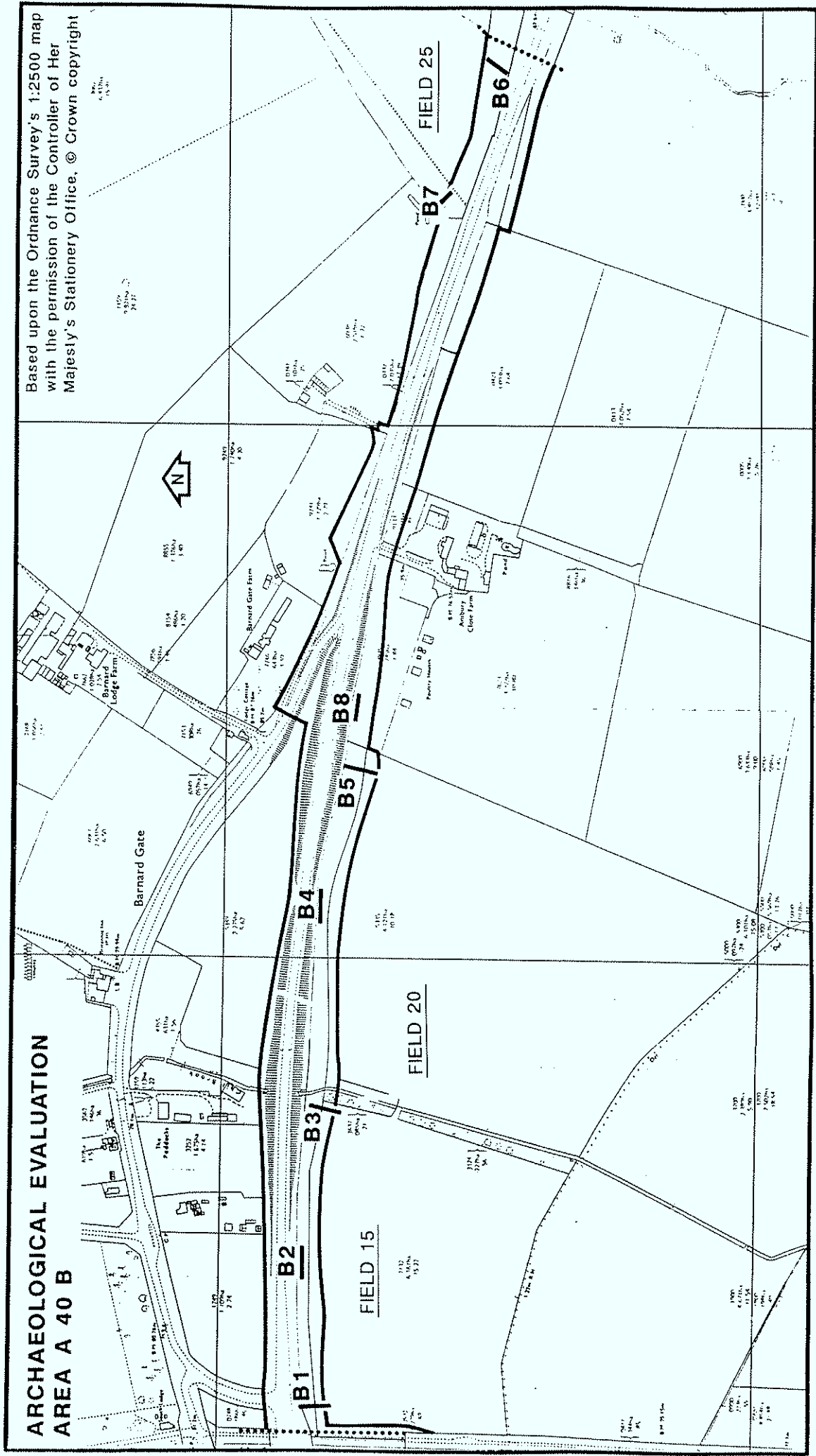


Figure 9

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION
AREA A 40 B**

Based upon the Ordnance Survey's 1:2500 map with the permission of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office, © Crown copyright



FOR KEY SEE FIGURE 9

SCALE 1:5000

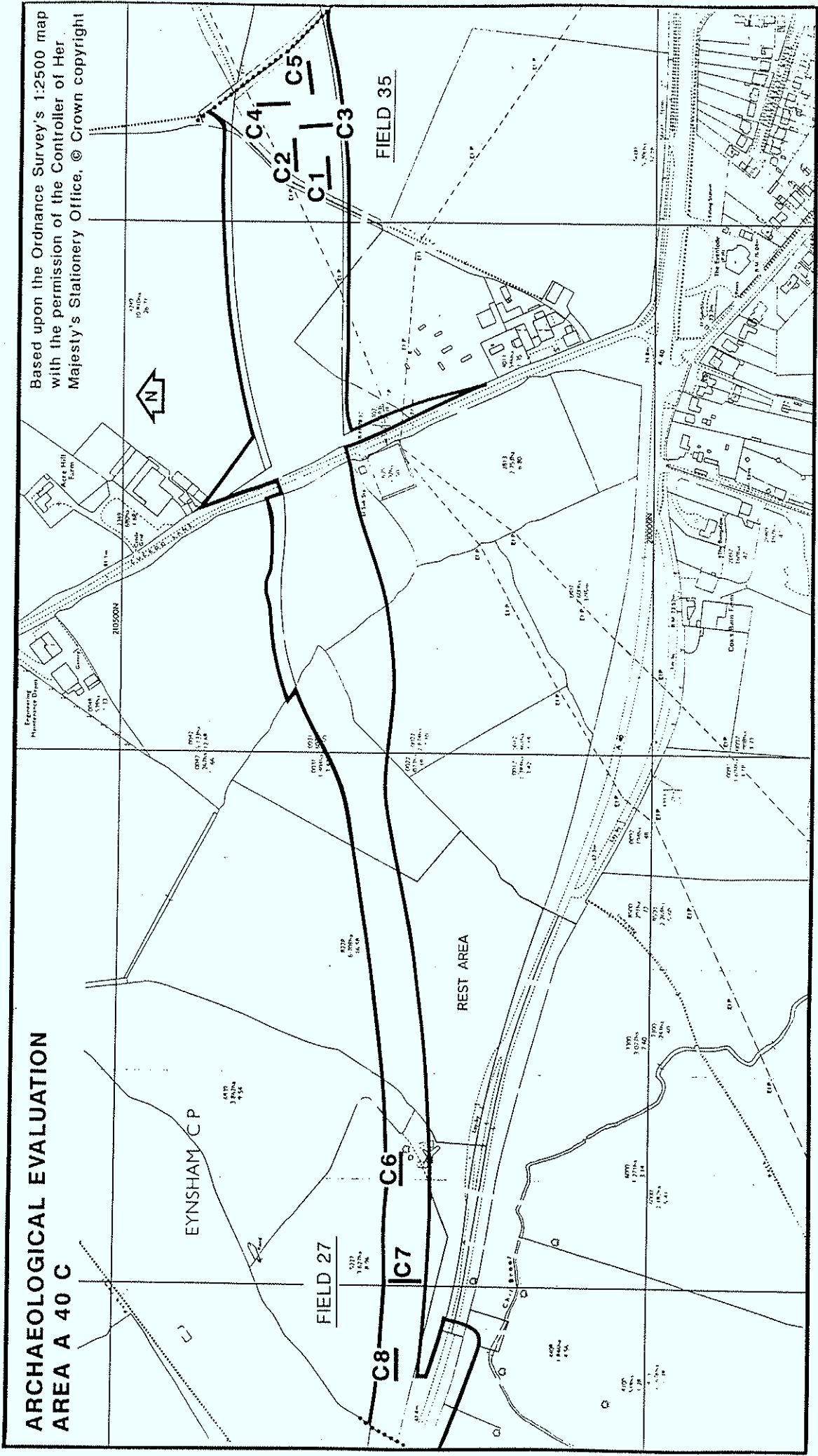


500 m.

Figure 10

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION
AREA A 40 C**

Based upon the Ordnance Survey's 1:2500 map
with the permission of the Controller of Her
Majesty's Stationery Office, © Crown copyright



FOR KEY SEE FIGURE 9

SCALE 1:5000

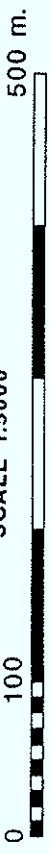
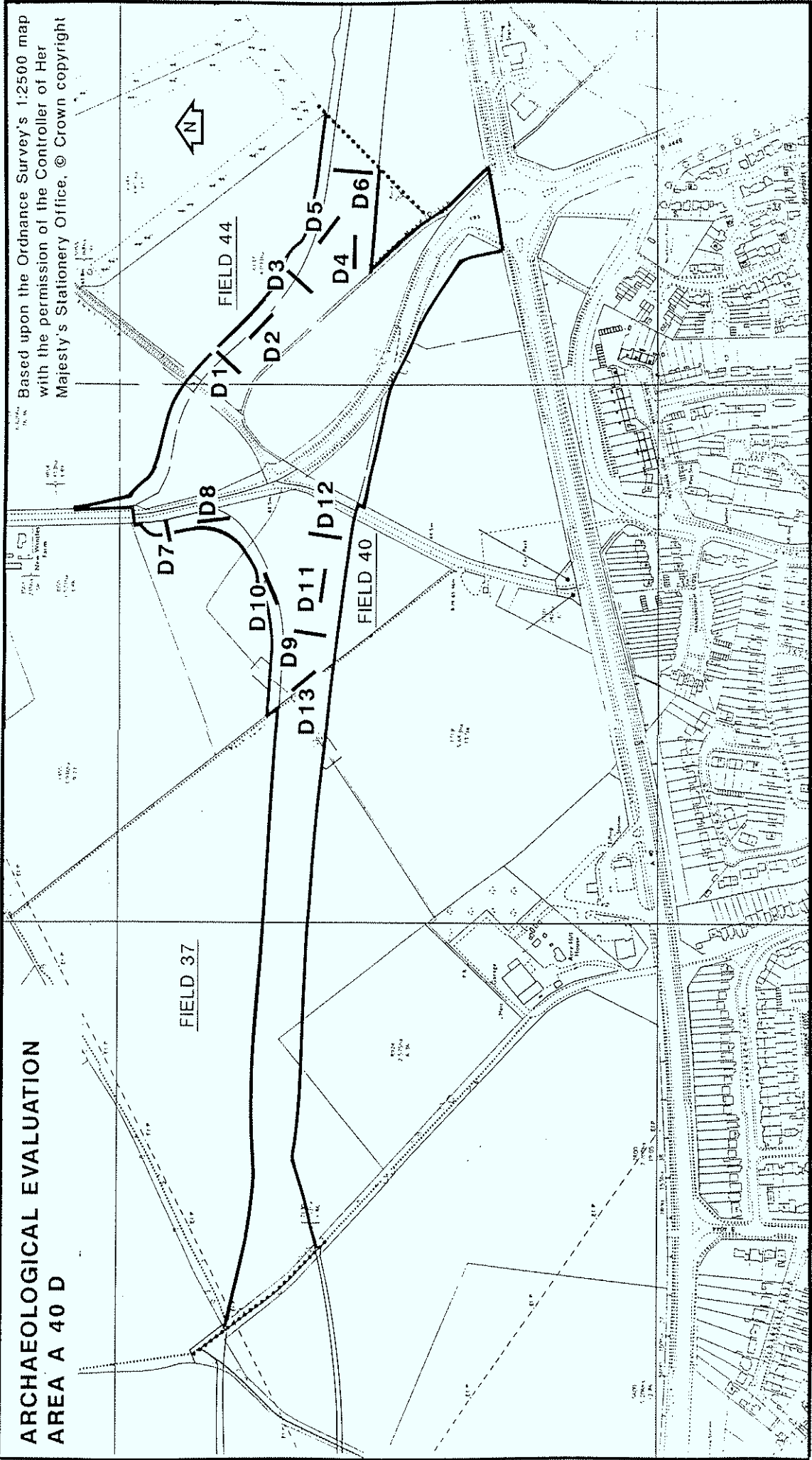


Figure 11

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION
AREA A 40 D**

Based upon the Ordnance Survey's 1:2500 map
with the permission of the Controller of Her
Majesty's Stationery Office, © Crown copyright

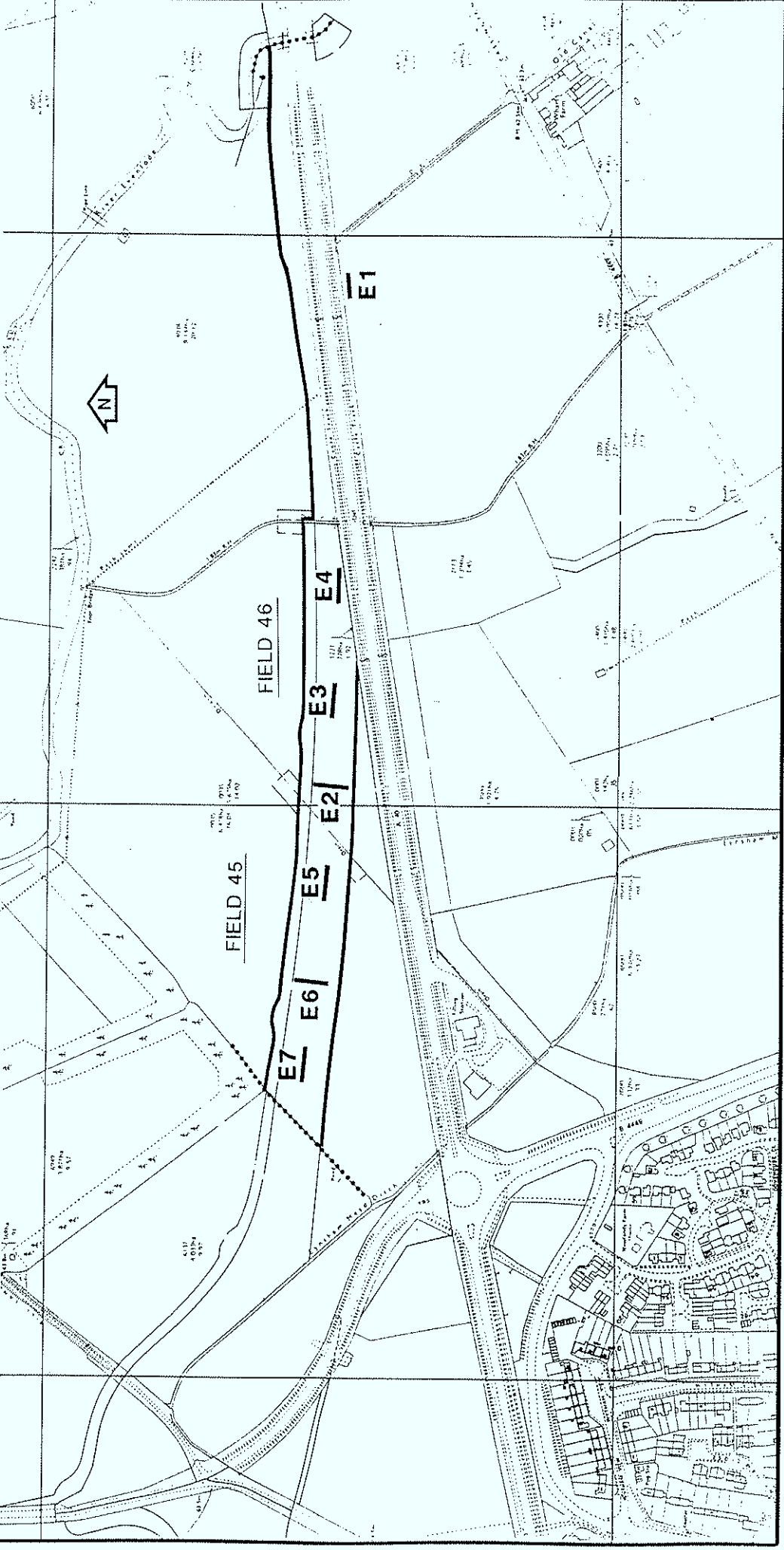


FOR KEY SEE FIGURE 9

Figure 12

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION
AREA A 40 E**

Based upon the Ordnance Survey's 1:2500 map
with the permission of the Controller of Her
Majesty's Stationery Office, © Crown copyright



FOR KEY SEE FIGURE 9

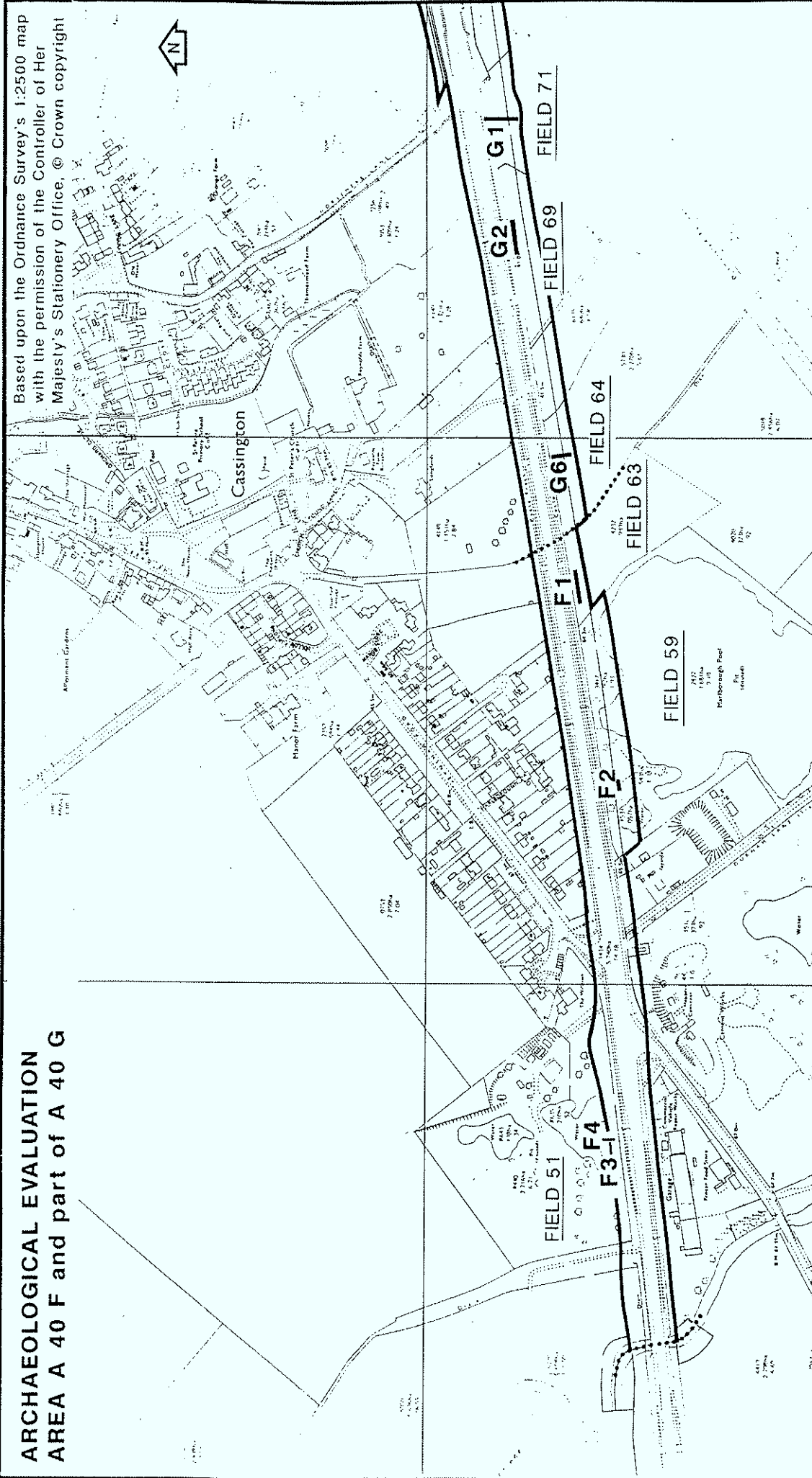
SCALE 1:5000



Figure 13

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION
AREA A 40 F and part of A 40 G**

Based upon the Ordnance Survey's 1:2500 map
with the permission of the Controller of Her
Majesty's Stationery Office, © Crown copyright



FOR KEY SEE FIGURE 9

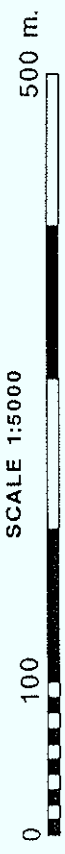
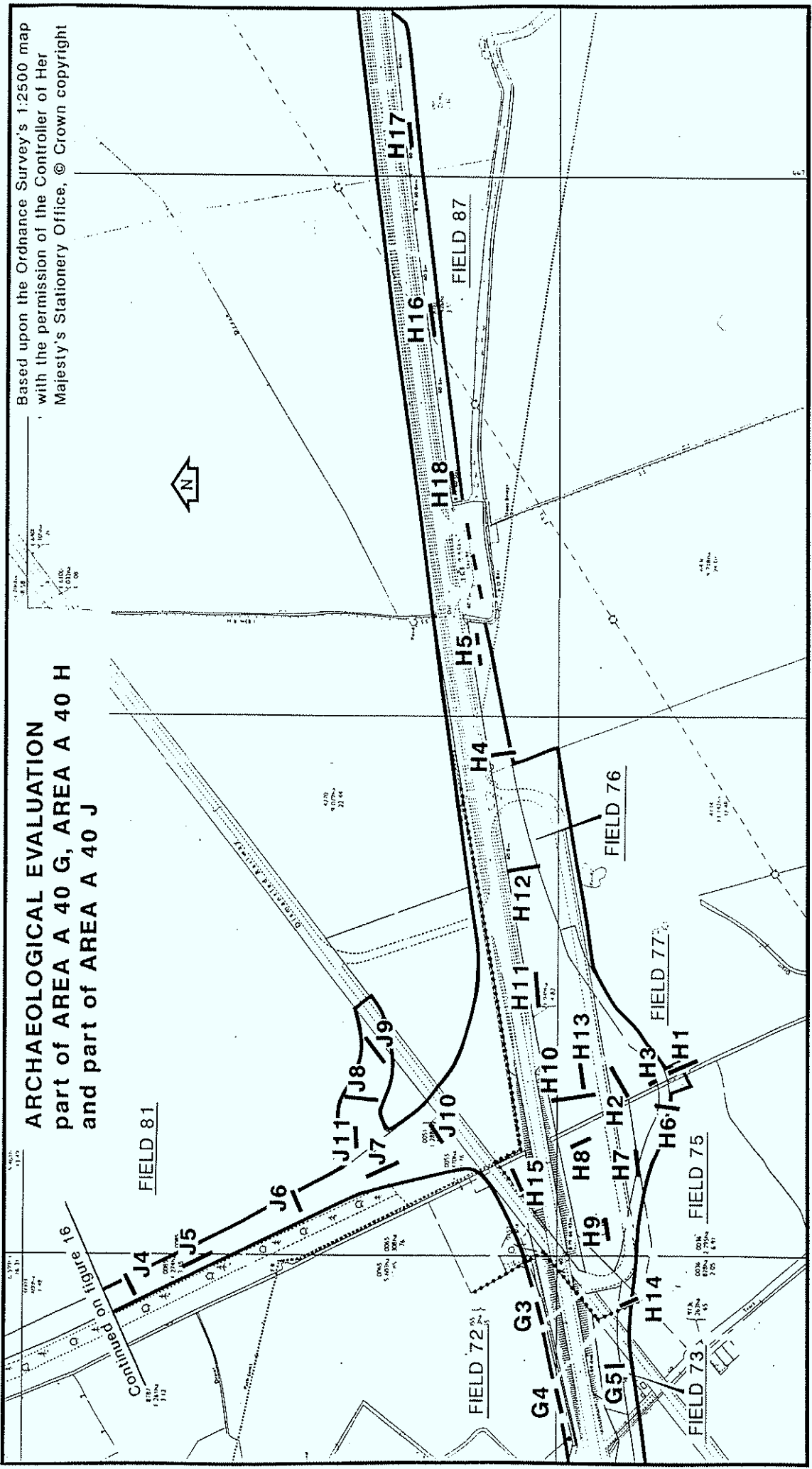


Figure 14

Based upon the Ordnance Survey's 1:2500 map with the permission of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office, © Crown copyright

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

part of AREA A 40 G, AREA A 40 H and part of AREA A 40 J



FOR KEY SEE FIGURE 9

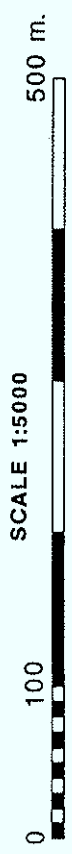
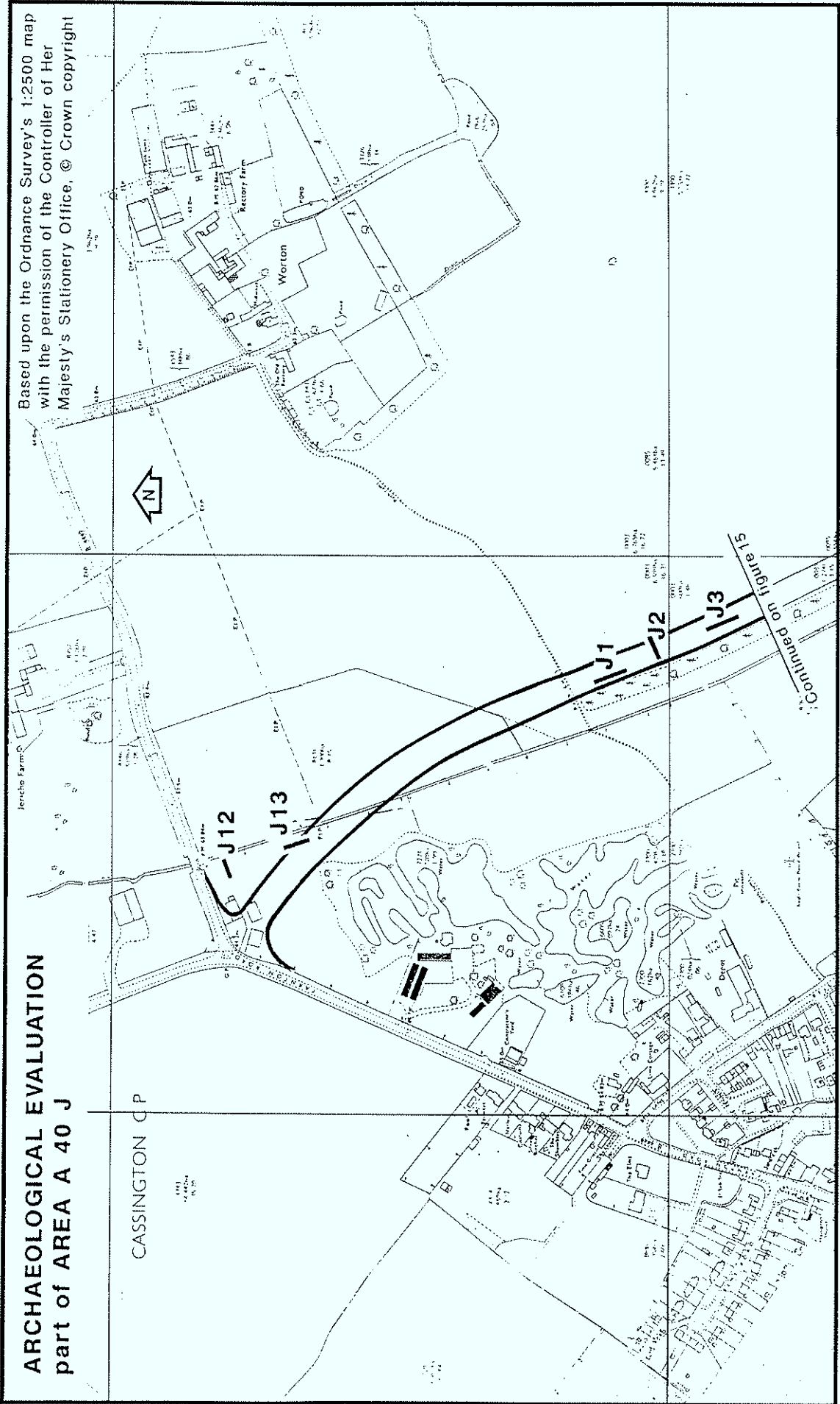


Figure 15



FOR KEY SEE FIGURE 9

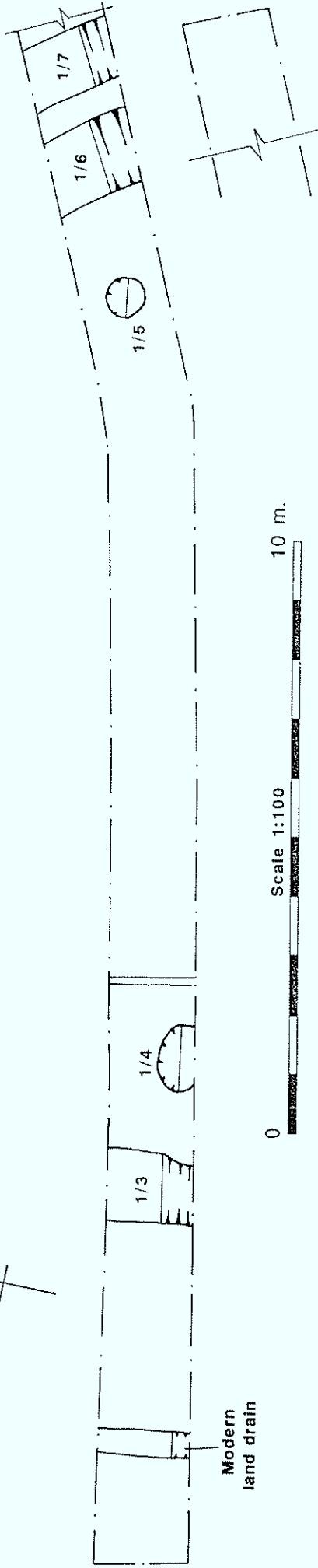
Figure 16

TRENCH A1

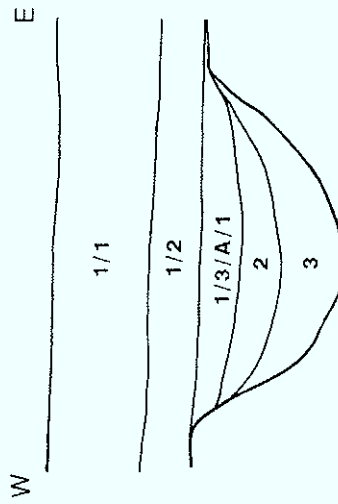
Plan



A 40 A 92



Section 1/3



Section 1/4

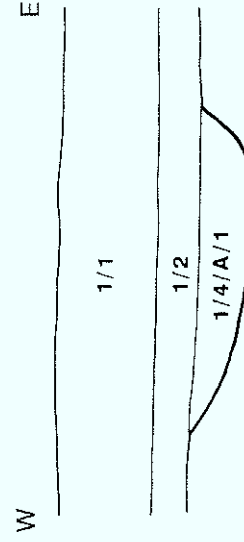


Figure 17

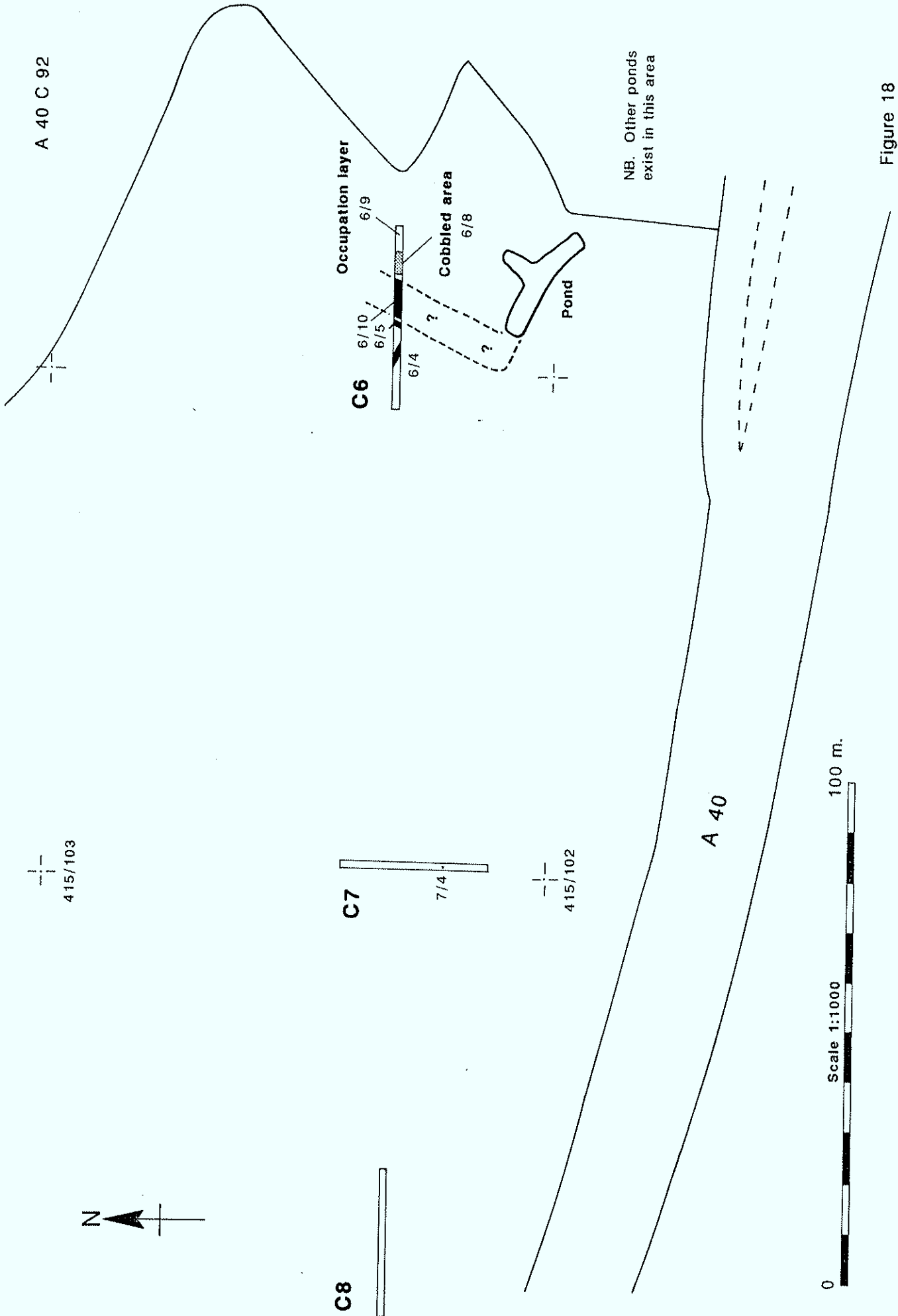
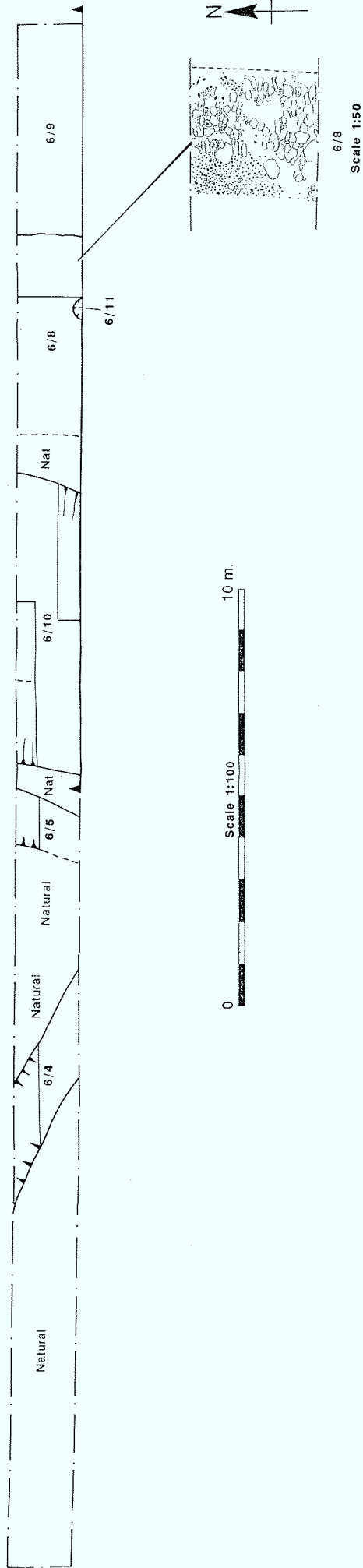


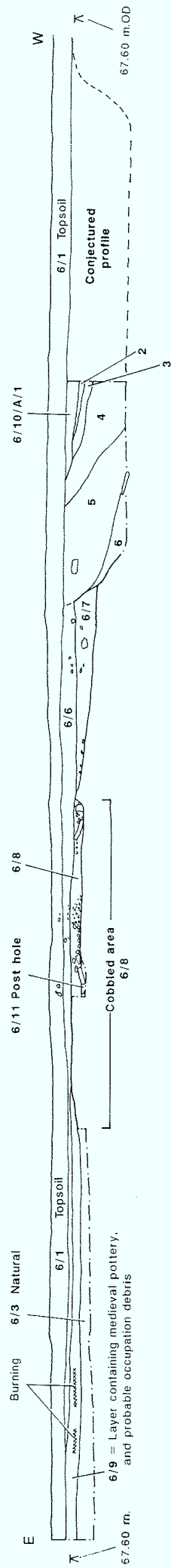
Figure 18

TRENCH C6

A 40 C 92



Section



6/9 = Layer containing medieval pottery, and probable occupation debris

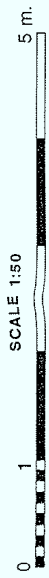


Figure 19

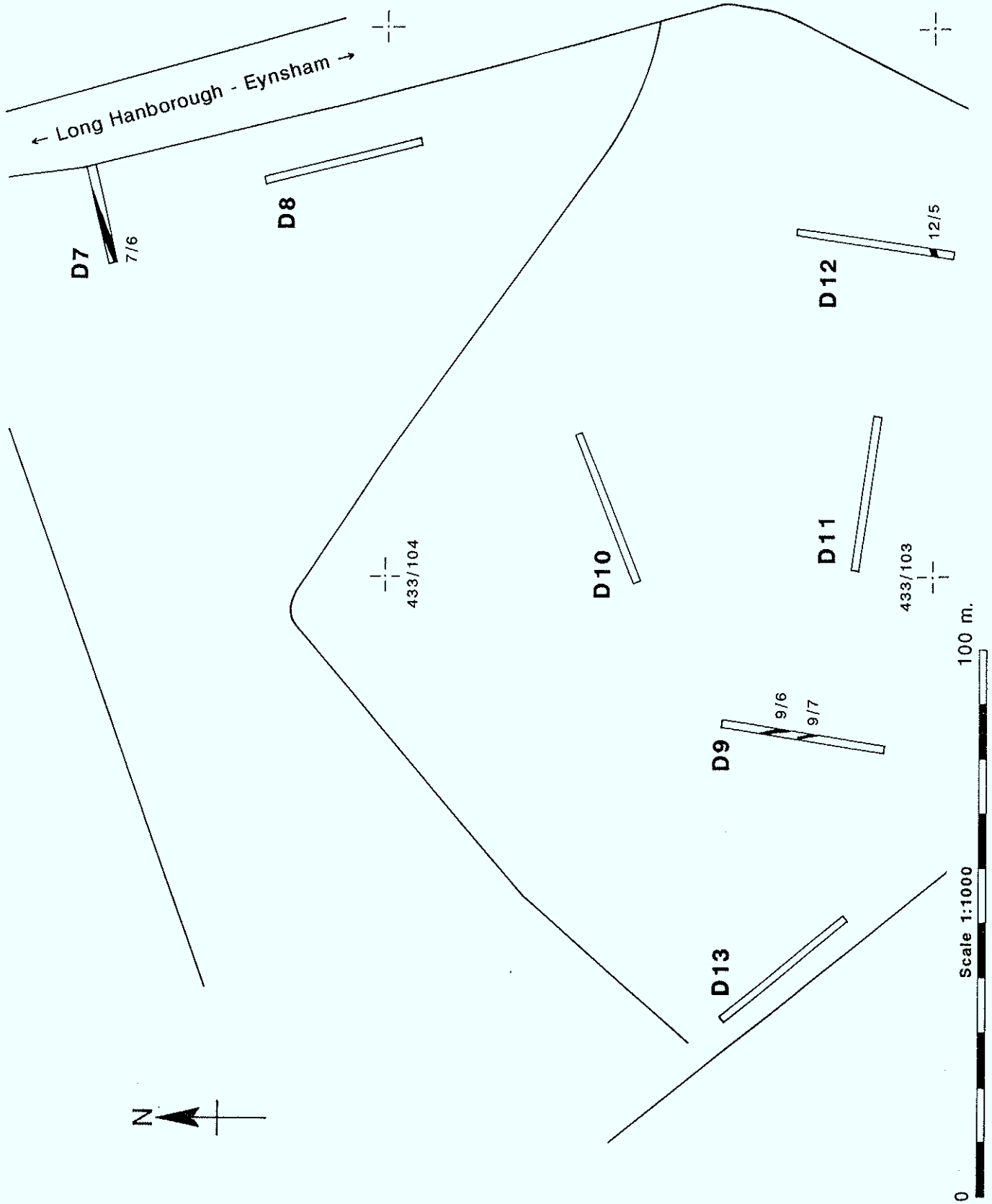
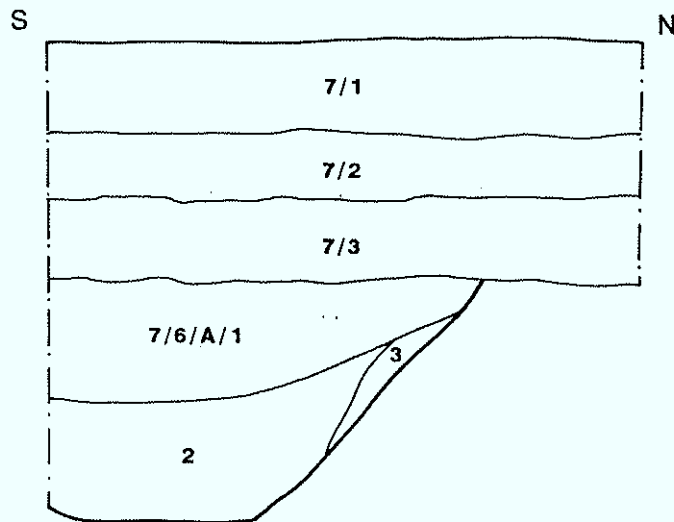
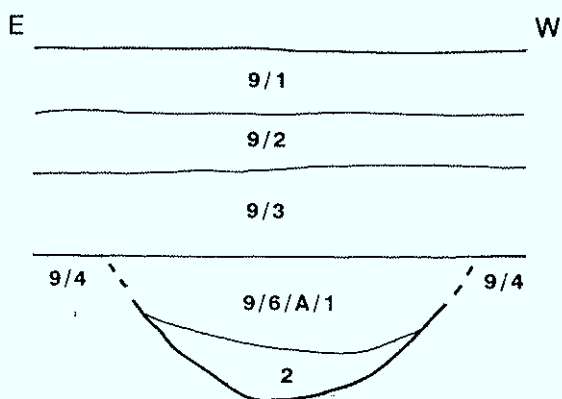


Figure 20

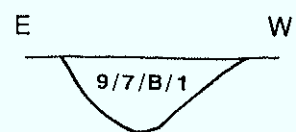
Section D7/6



Section D9/6



Section D9/7



Section D12/5

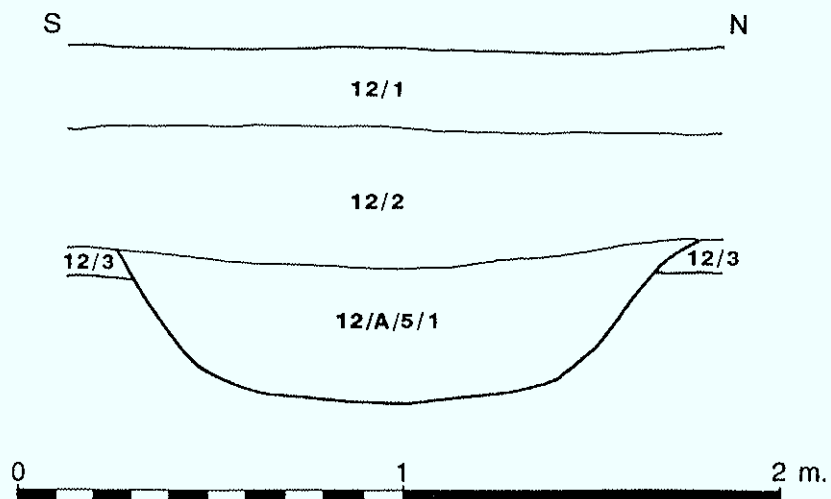


Figure 21

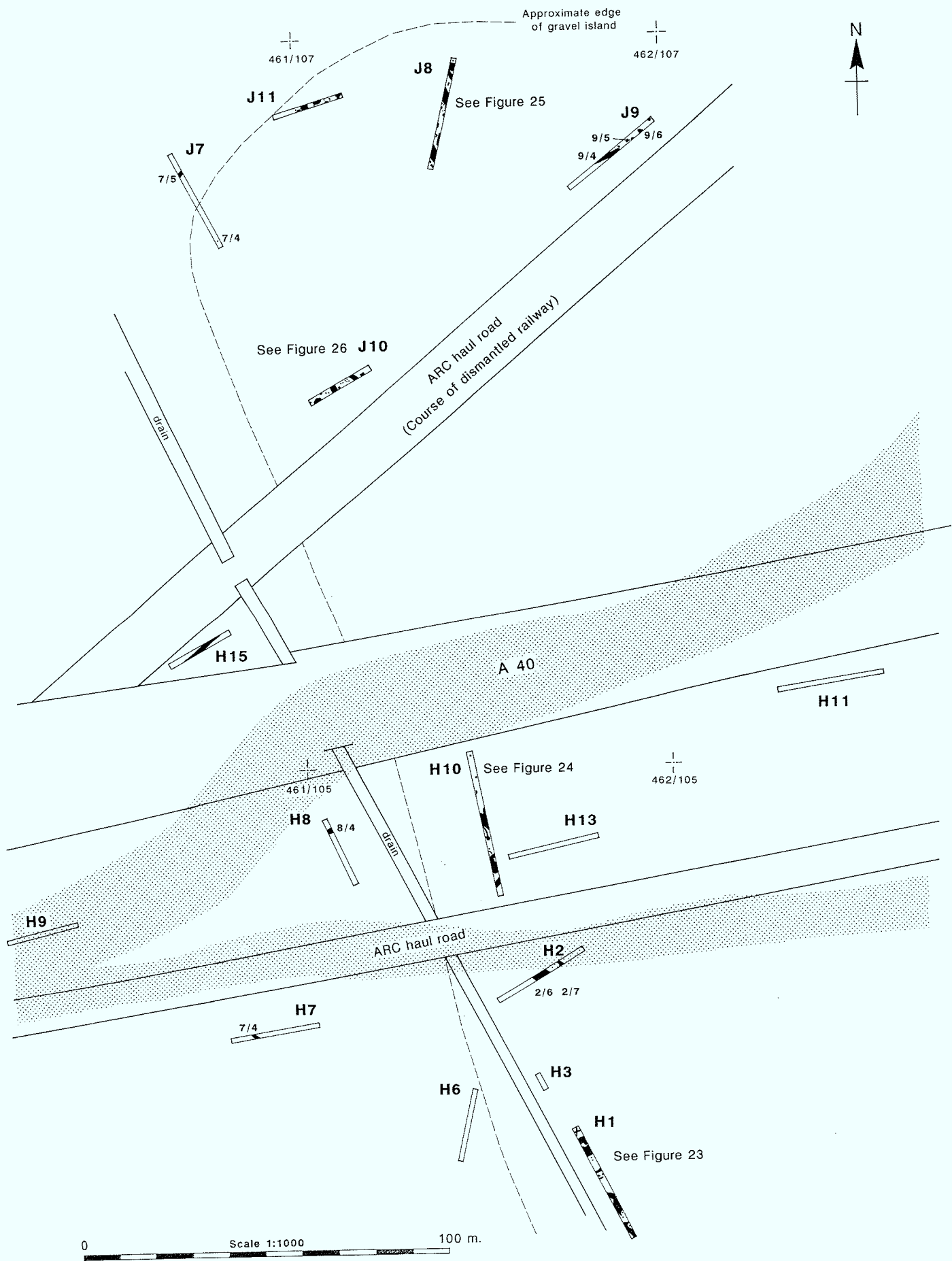
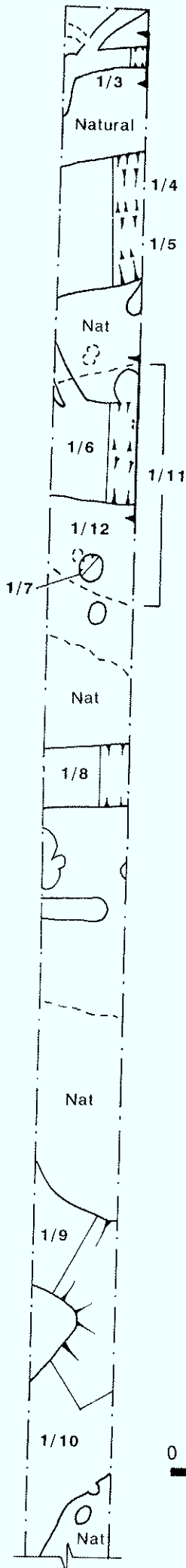


Figure 22

TRENCH H1

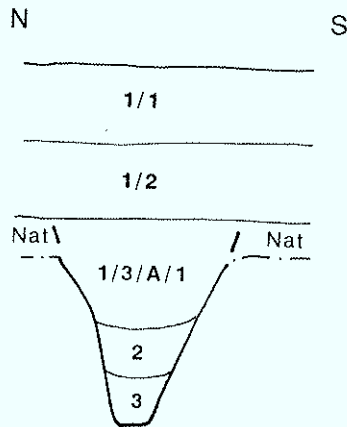
A 40 H 91



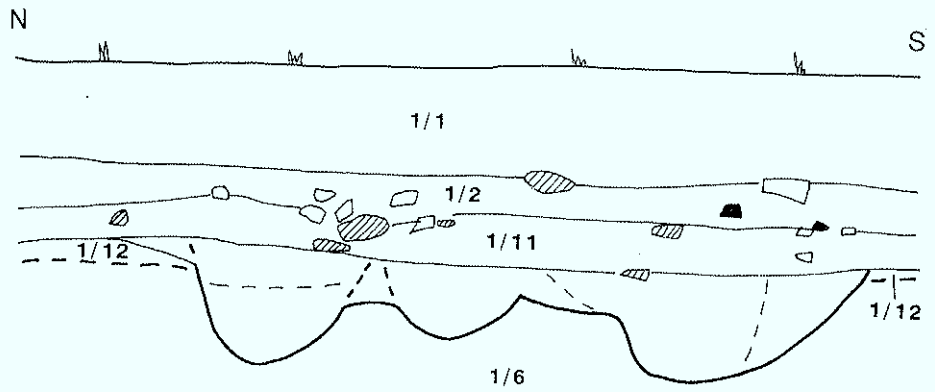
Plan





Section 1/3



Section 1/6



Key:

- Burnt limestone 
- Daub 

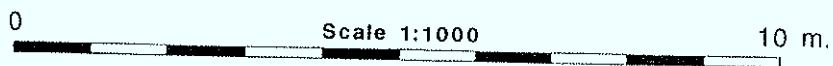


Figure 23

TRENCH H10

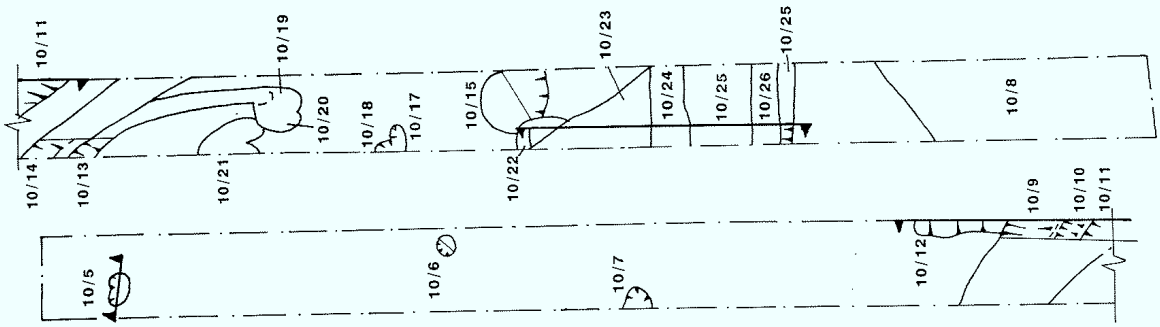
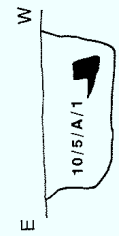
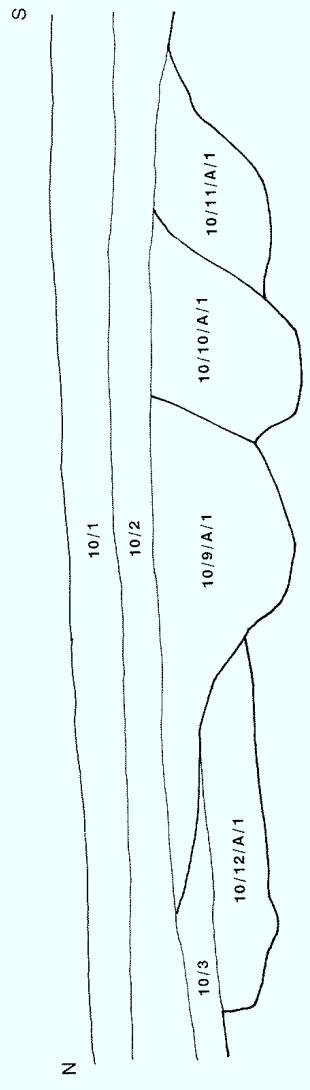
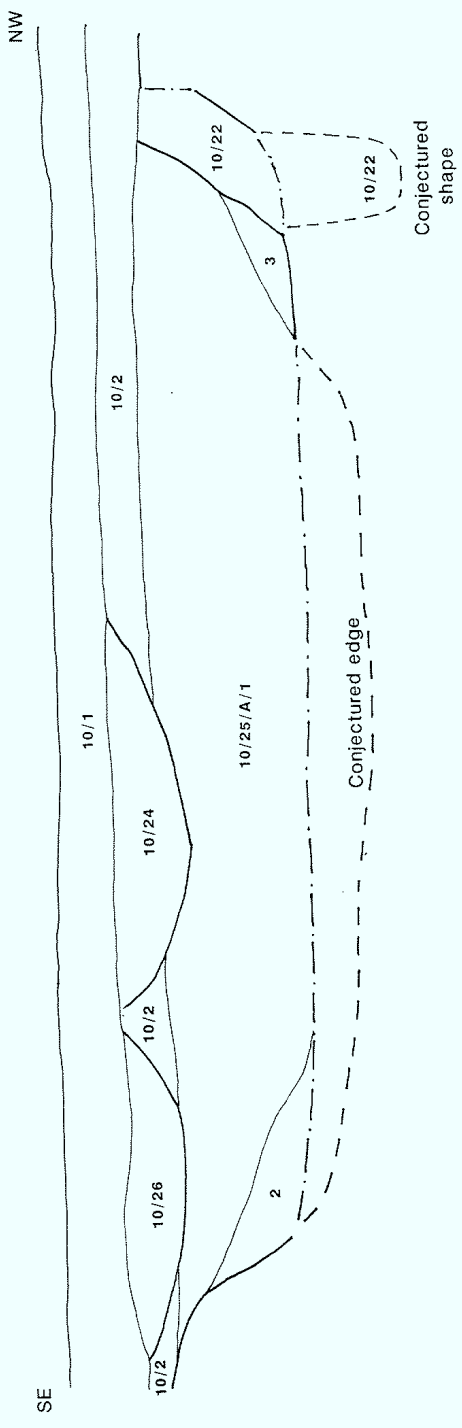


Figure 24

TRENCH J8

A 40 J 91

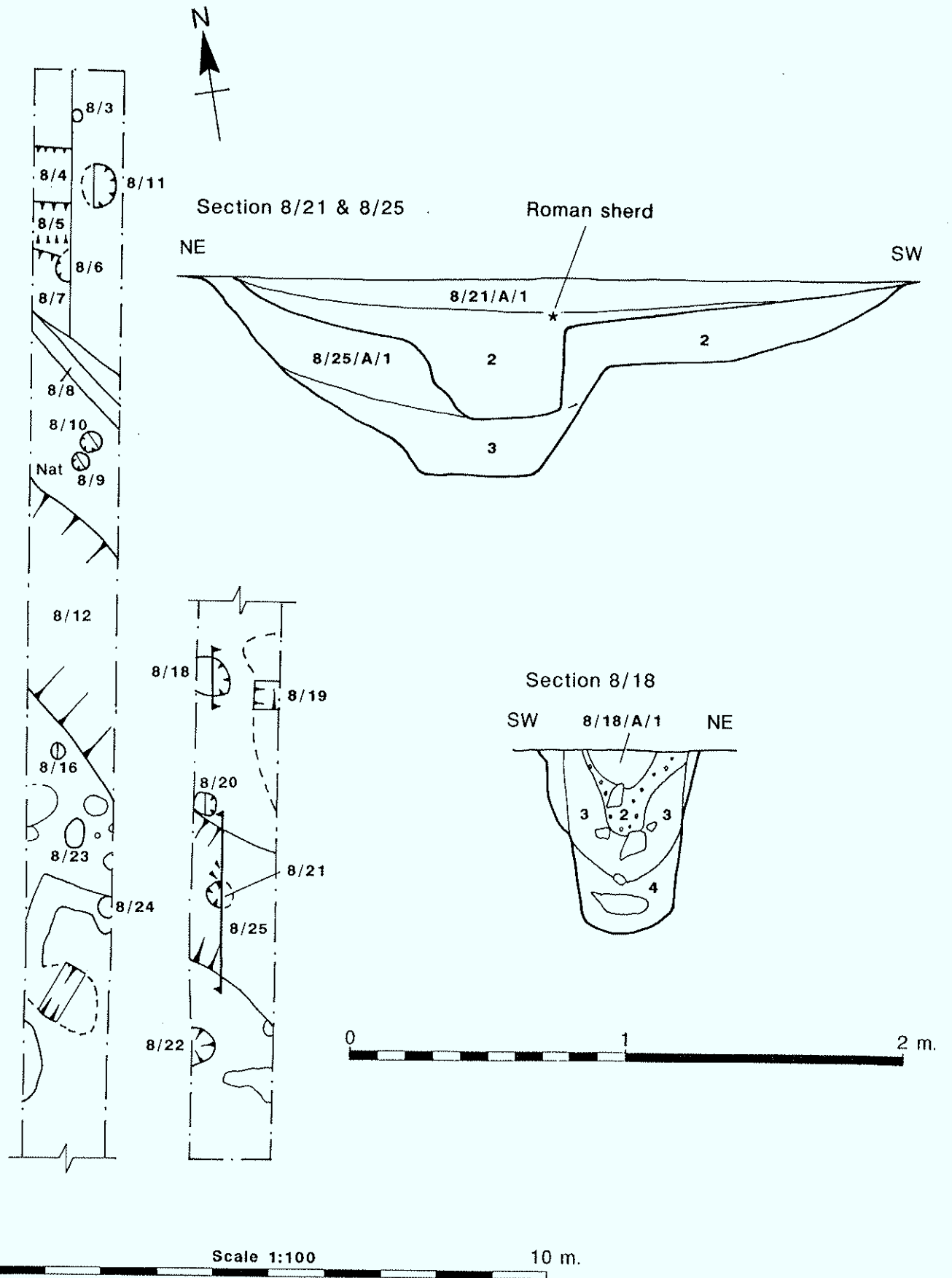
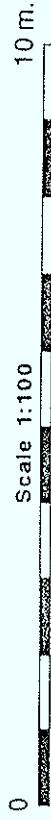
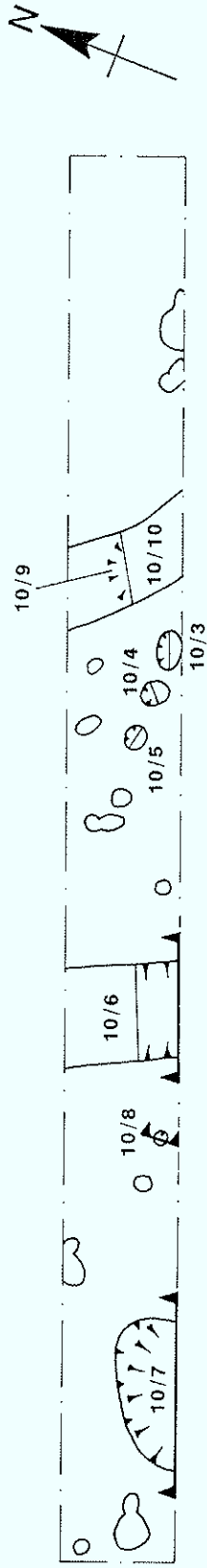


Figure 25

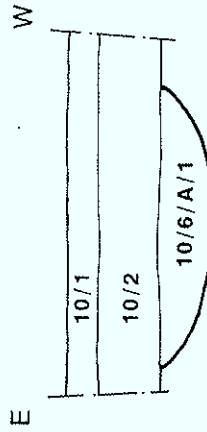
TRENCH J10

Plan

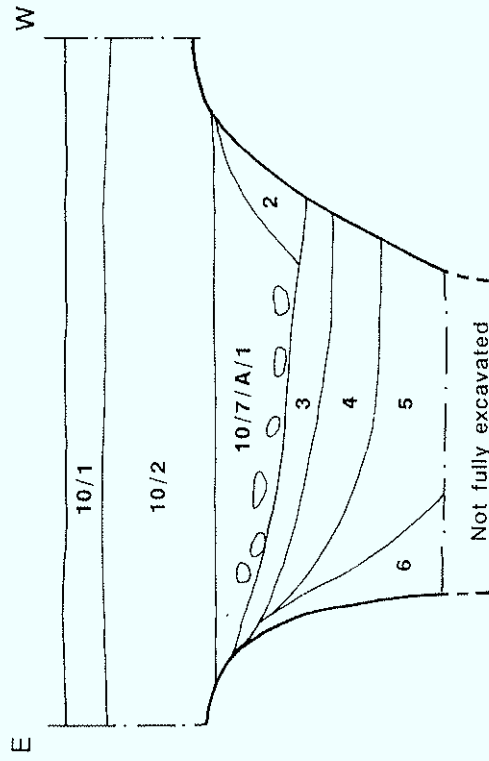
A 40 J 92



Section 10/6



Section 10/7



Section 10/8

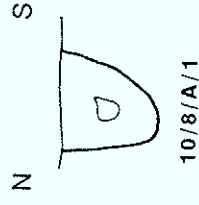


Figure 26

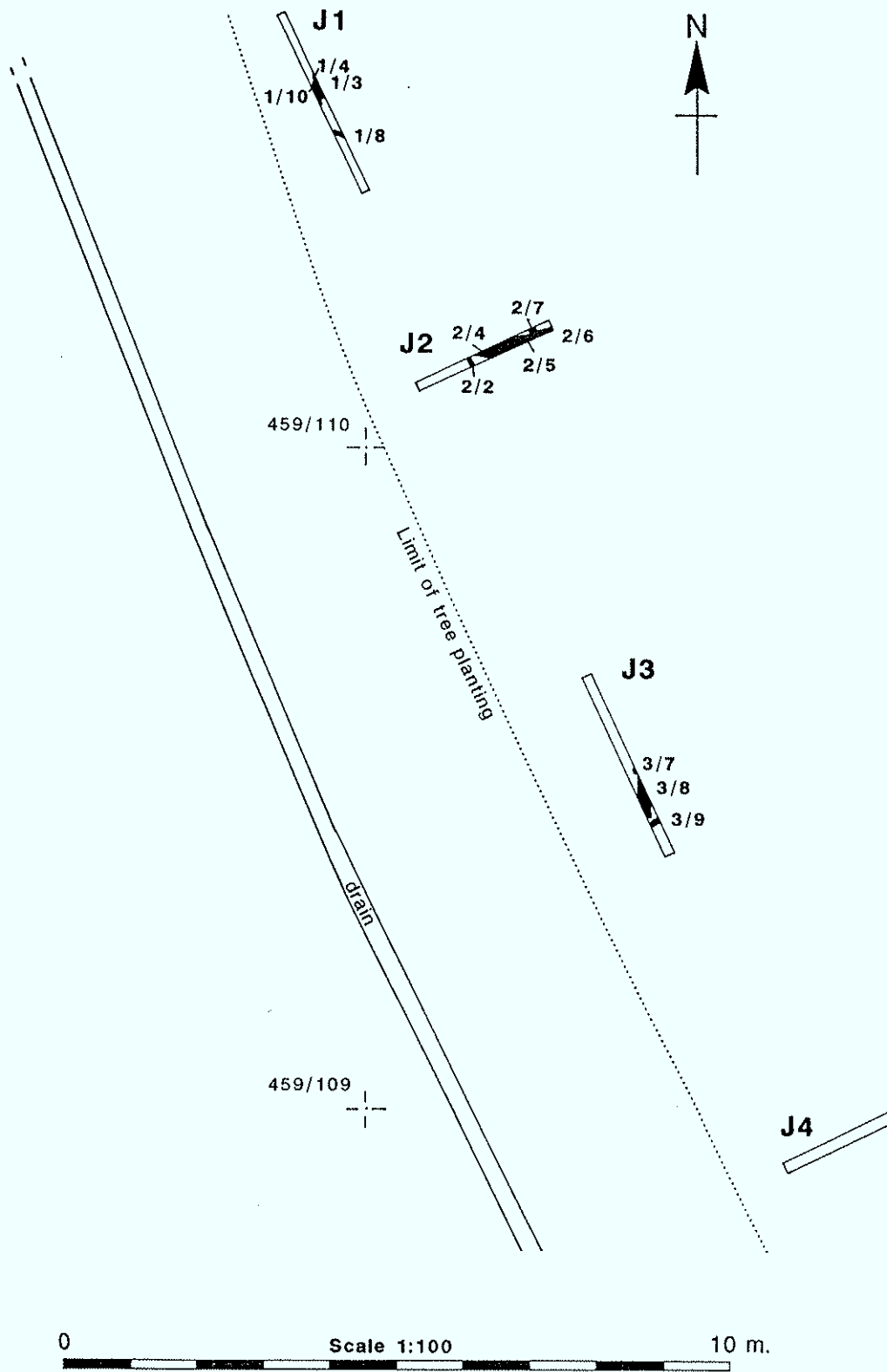
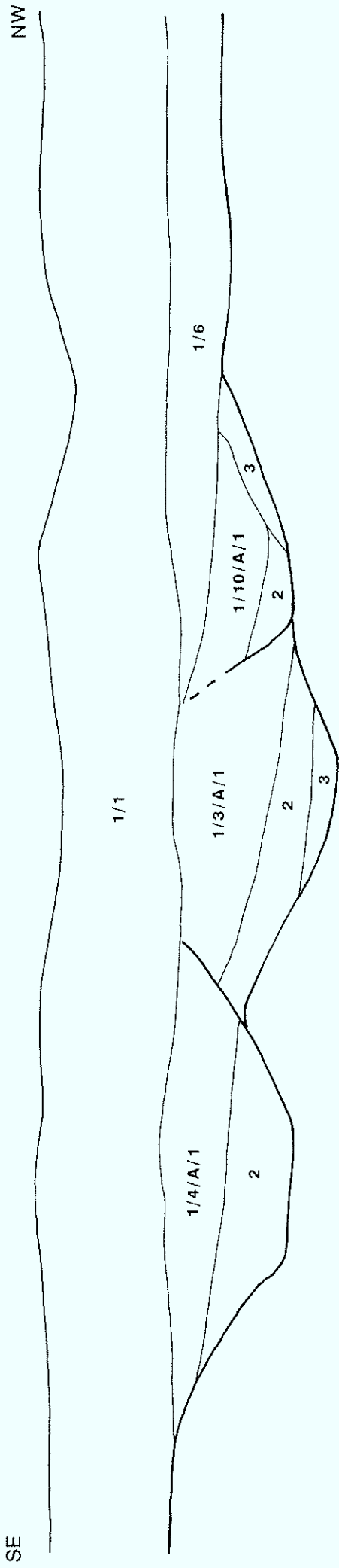
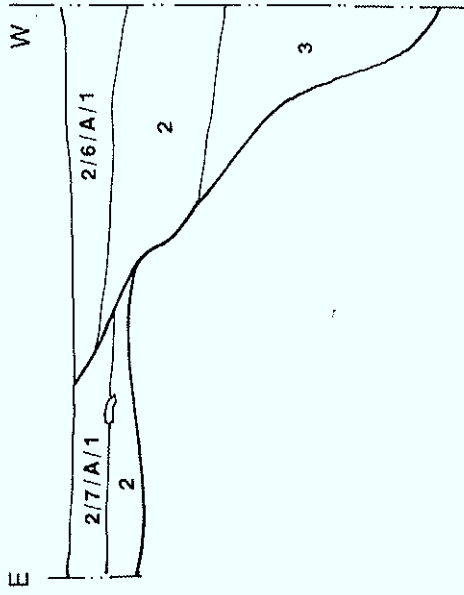


Figure 27

TRENCH J1
Section



TRENCH J2
Section



TRENCH J3
Section

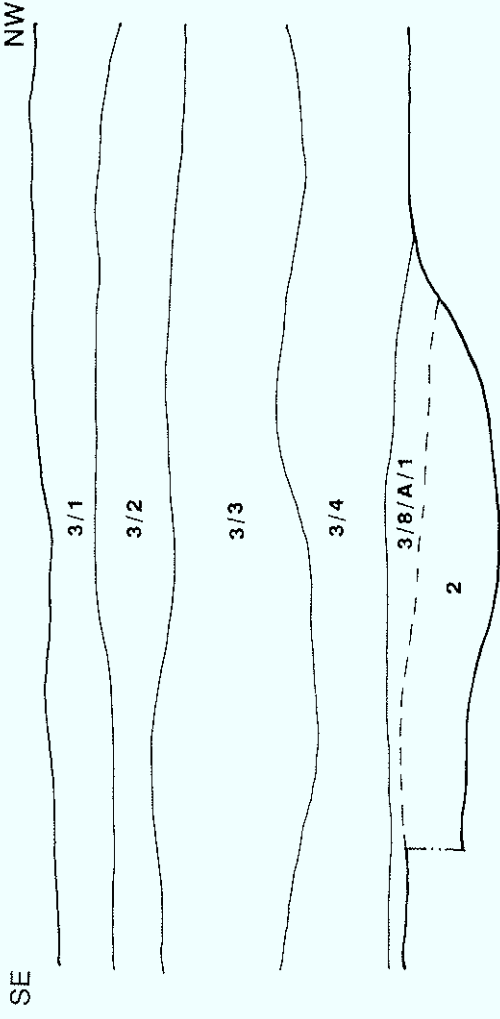
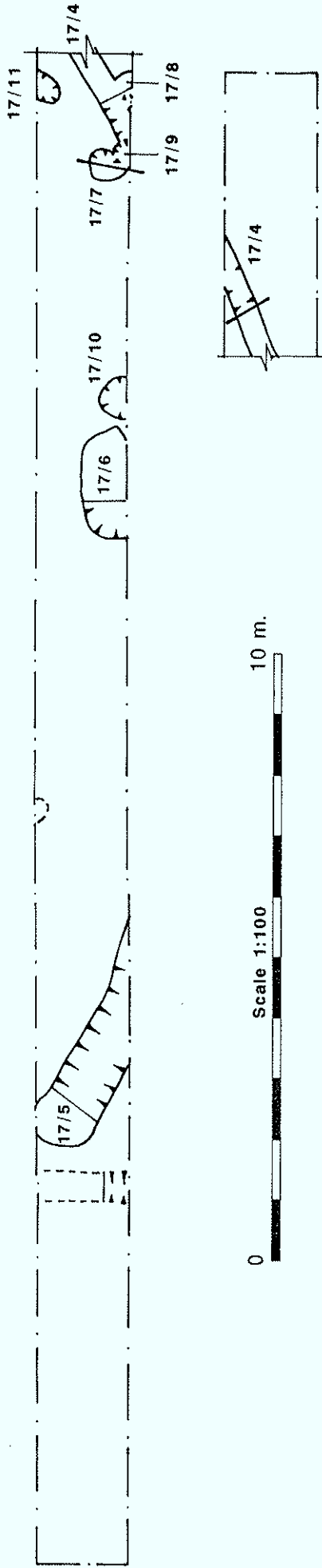


Figure 28

TRENCH H17

A 40 H 92

Plan



Section 17/4



Section 17/7

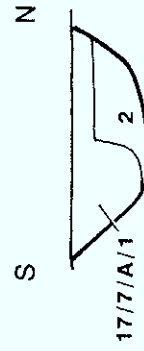


Figure 29