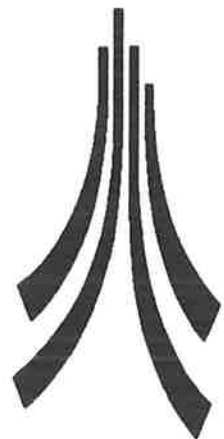


Lake District National Park Survey

Whin Garth

LANCASTER
UNIVERSITY
ARCHAEOLOGICAL
UNIT



June 1990

Whin Garth Survey 1989
Summary Report

James Quartermaine

In the spring of 1989 the Lancaster University Archaeological Unit undertook a programme of intensive survey at Nether Wasdale Common/Whin Garth on the West Cumbrian Fells. This was the eighth and last season of exploration for the Lake District National Park Survey, which was funded by English Heritage and the Lake District Special Planning Board. It has to date accurately recorded and located over 11,800 archaeological monuments on the Lake District Fells.

The survey area comprises 4.2sqkm of enclosed farming land and unenclosed fell between Seatallen and Gosforth, adjacent to an area of intense prehistoric settlement on Stockdale Moor. The area was selected on the advice of Tom Clare (Cumbria County Archaeologist) who identified the Scale Farm settlement by oblique aerial photography.

The land belongs to the National Trust, BNFL, Mill House Farm, Church Stile Farm and Bridge Petton Farm. During the survey 911 sites were recorded from seven small cairnfield groups on the unimproved land of Nether Wasdale Common and one very large field system on improved land in association with a derelict farm (Scale Farm).

The cairnfields are of a simple type, comprising randomly distributed cairns, with only occasional stone banks and no evidence of a field system. The cairns are generally small and of a type normally associated with stone clearance; however, at Yokerill Hows there is a group of four large, prominent, well-defined cairns which may have had a funerary function.

Associated with the Scale Farm there is a complex superimposition of at least three and possibly four phases of field system, of which the earliest elements are an extensive cairnfield and four rectilinear huts. The distribution of the cairns was not constrained by any of the field boundaries and the cairnfield was clearly an early feature. However, many of the cairns are fairly substantial and appear to have been enlarged by subsequent stone clearance.

Two of the huts are two celled structures and are well paralleled from the medieval period. The later farm is called Scale, the local term for a shieling, hence the huts may have been the transhumant antecedents of the farm. The huts are distributed within the cairnfield and although both elements are apparently early in date they are not necessarily contemporary.

In the next phase Scale Farm was constructed on the north side of the beck, with an associated field system (c.f. plan 2 which is one of the 25 archive plans produced during the 1989 season). The farm is a four celled, longhouse type; the eastern, middle, cell is butted by the adjacent cells, has an internal division and was possibly the original farmhouse. The field system on the north side of the beck extends radially from the farm, whereas on the opposite side of the beck the early field system is orientated along the moderate slope and is associated with broad

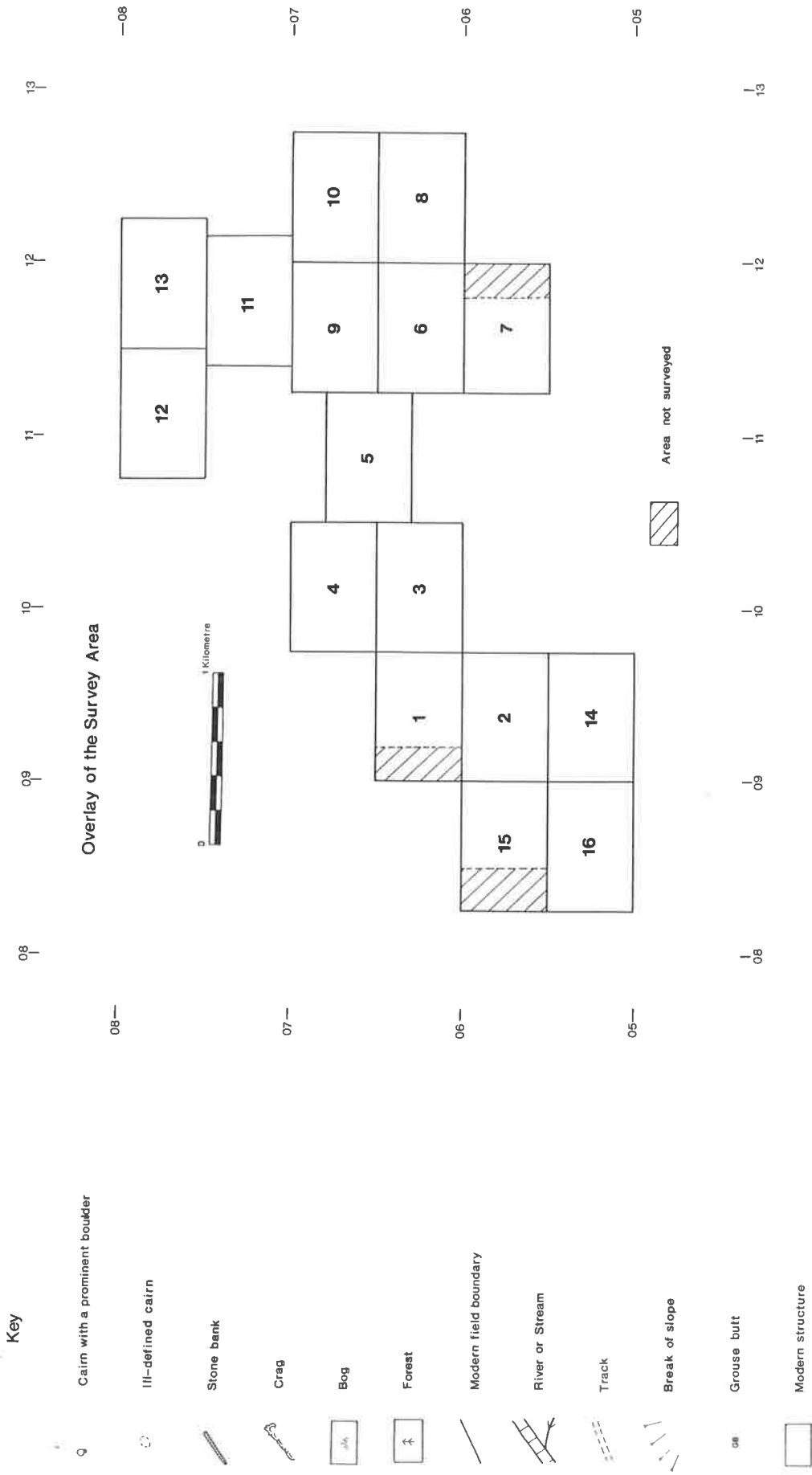
ridge and furrow. This latter field system underwent a multitude of subtle changes, but essentially respected the across-slope pattern.

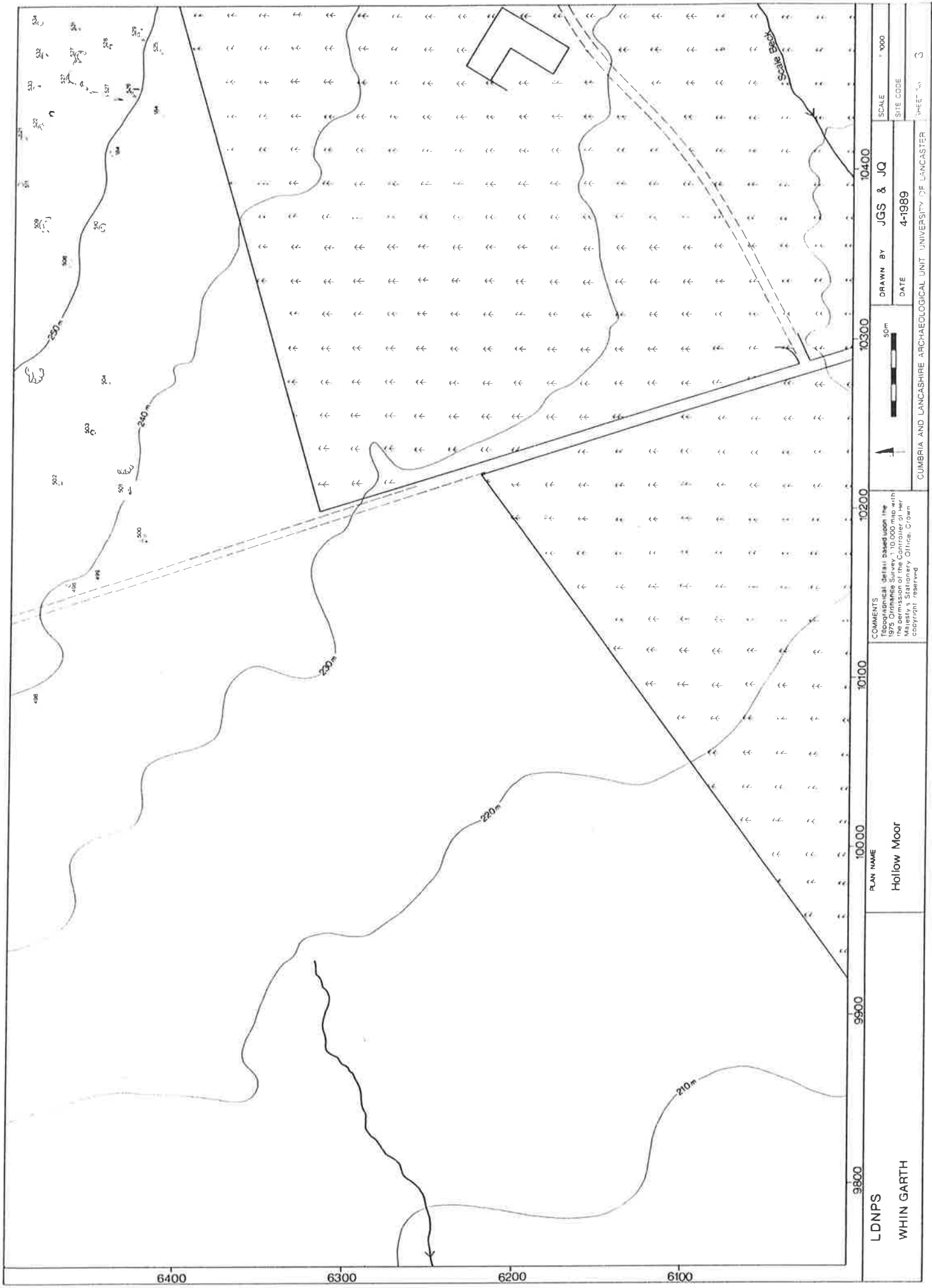
In the final phase Scale Farm was abandoned, the point of access for the fields became a track on the top of the hill, and the fields were reorientated down the slope. Some of the walls were re-used but many were built on new foundations using stone robbed from earlier, parallel walls.

The field system represents a remarkable record of a developing agricultural landscape from the medieval through to the present. However, it has been damaged by land improvement; large modern cairns within the area provide testament to the extensive clearance of ancient cairns and banks that has already taken place and in other areas farm traffic has damaged the monuments.

The southernmost field on plan 16 (NY 088050) has been more effectively improved than those to the north. Although only a few monuments were recorded with in it, it was apparent that it originally contained more extensive remains of the early field system and cairnfield. The absence of surface features, does not necessarily indicate that sub-surface archaeological features have not survived.

WHIN GARTH SURVEY 1989





LDNPS

WHIN GARTH

PLAN NAME

Hollow Moor

COMMENTS

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SCALE

1:1000

DRAWN BY

JGS & JQ

DATE

4-1989

SITE CODE

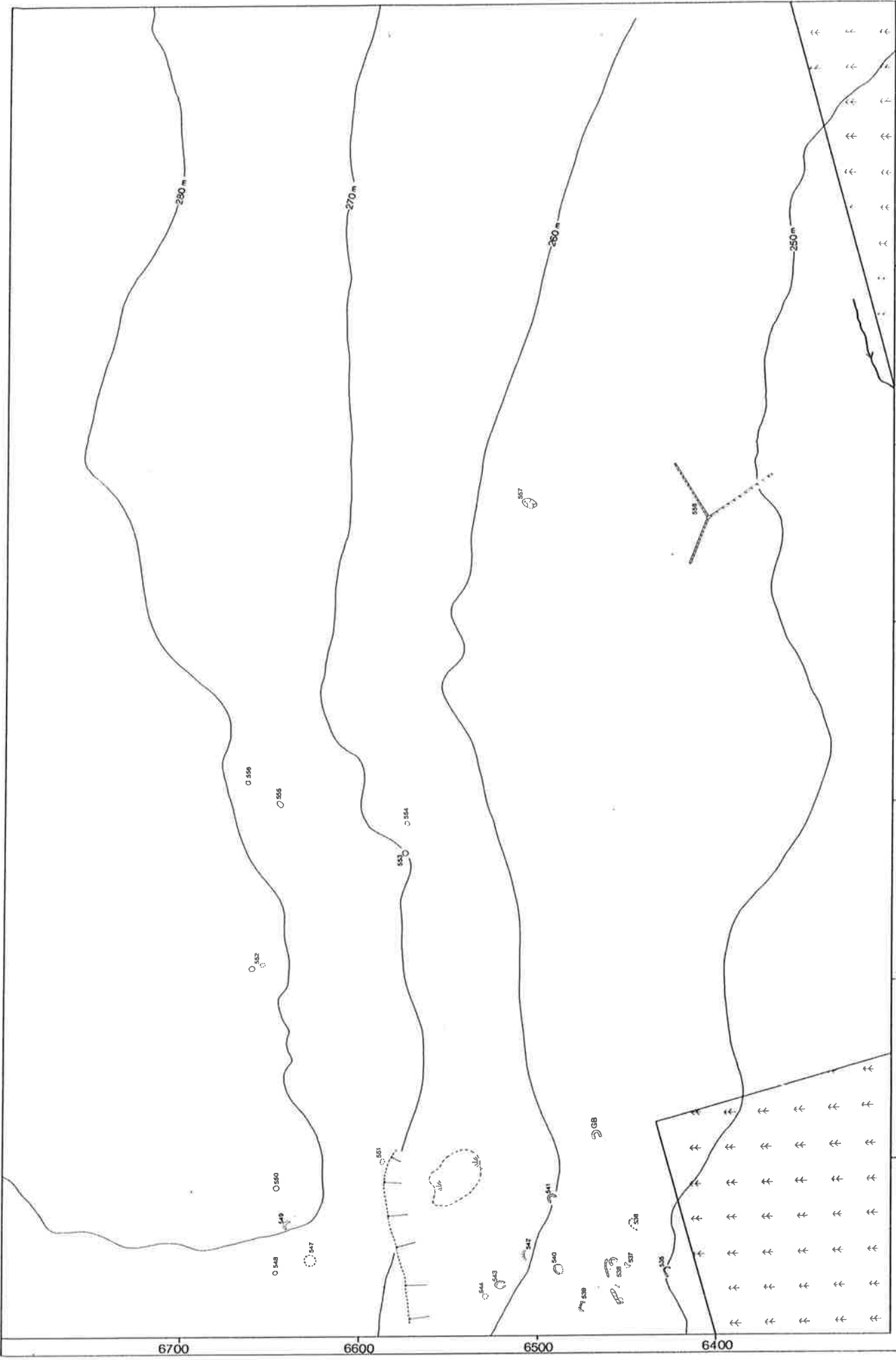
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3

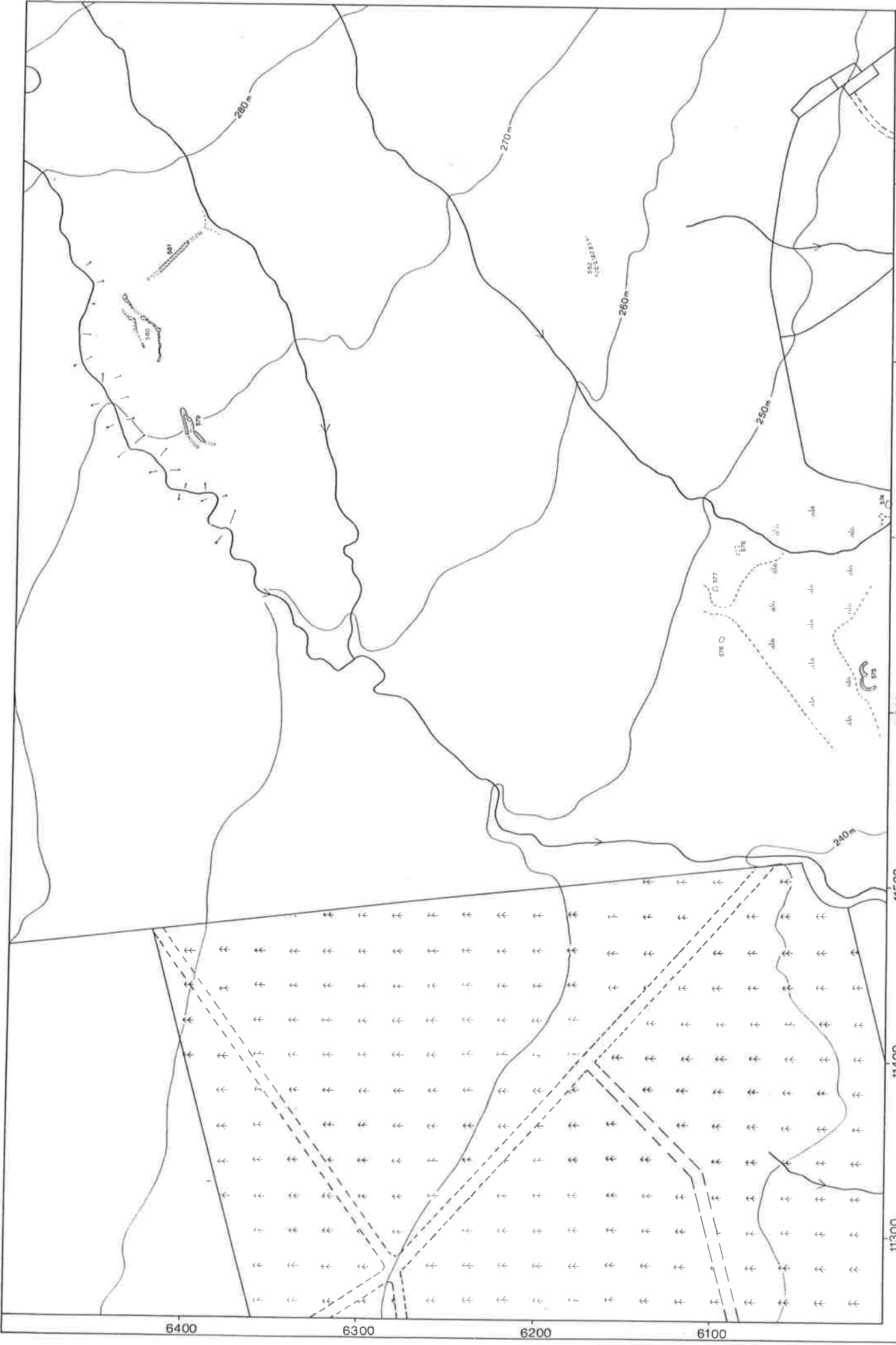
CUMBRIA AND LANCASHIRE ARCHAEOLOGICAL UNIT UNIVERSITY OF LANCASTER





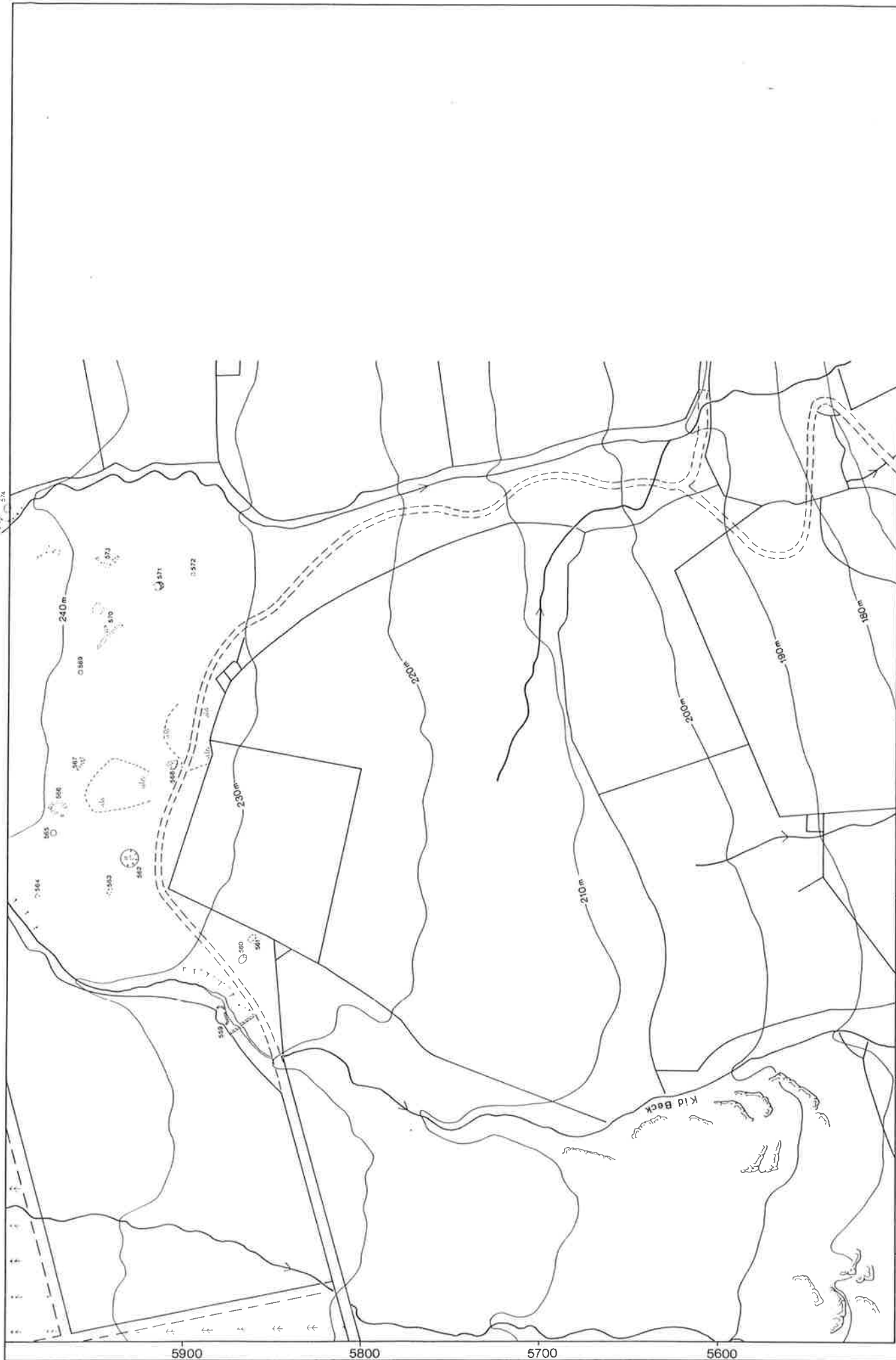
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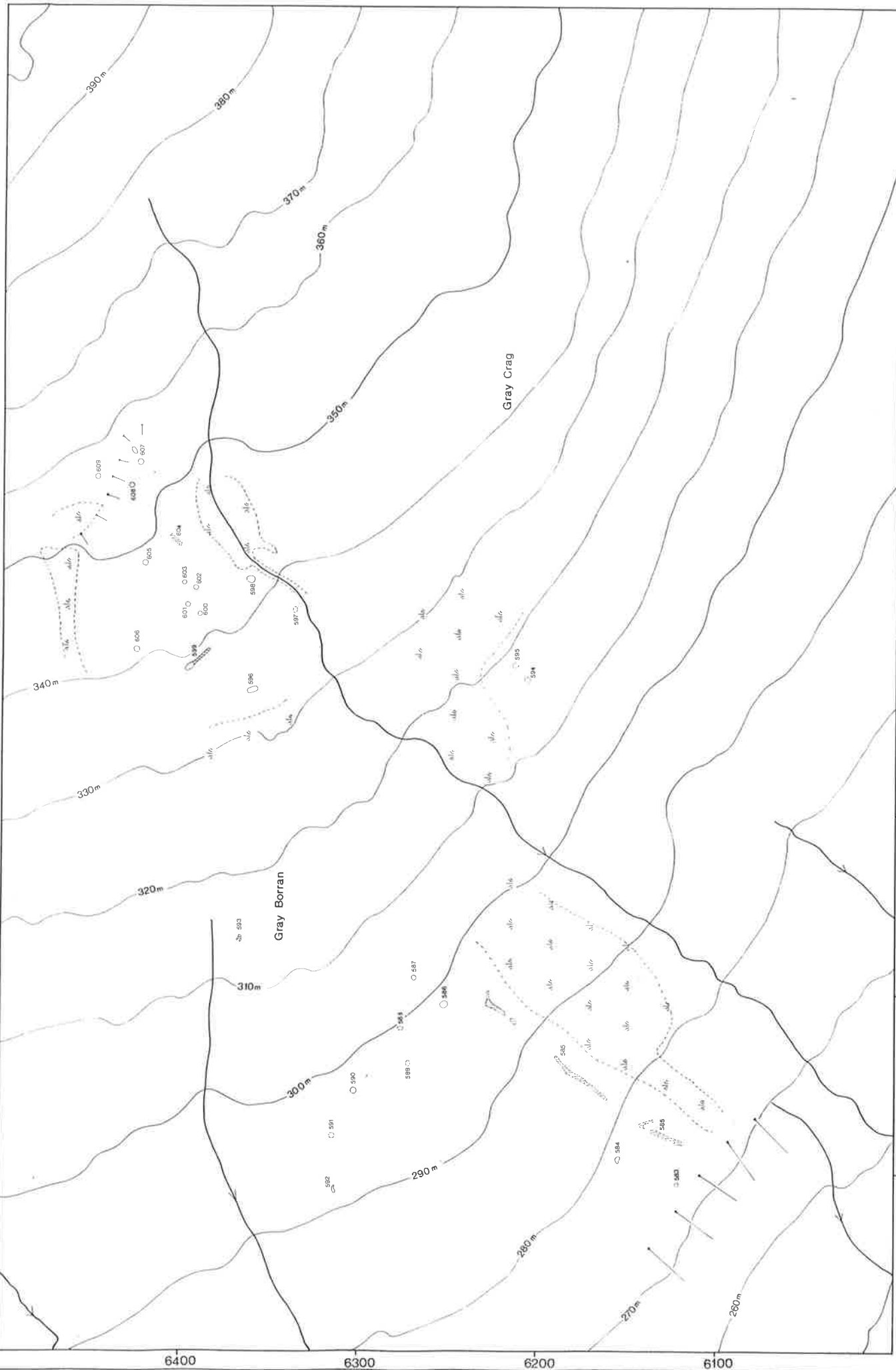
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CUMBRIA AND LANCASHIRE ARCHAEOLOGICAL UNIT - UNIVERSITY OF LANCASTER							
COMMENTS Topographical detail based upon the 1978 Ordnance Survey 1:10,000 map with the addition of a number of new measurements. Copyright of Her Majesty's Stationery Office. Crown copyright reserved							



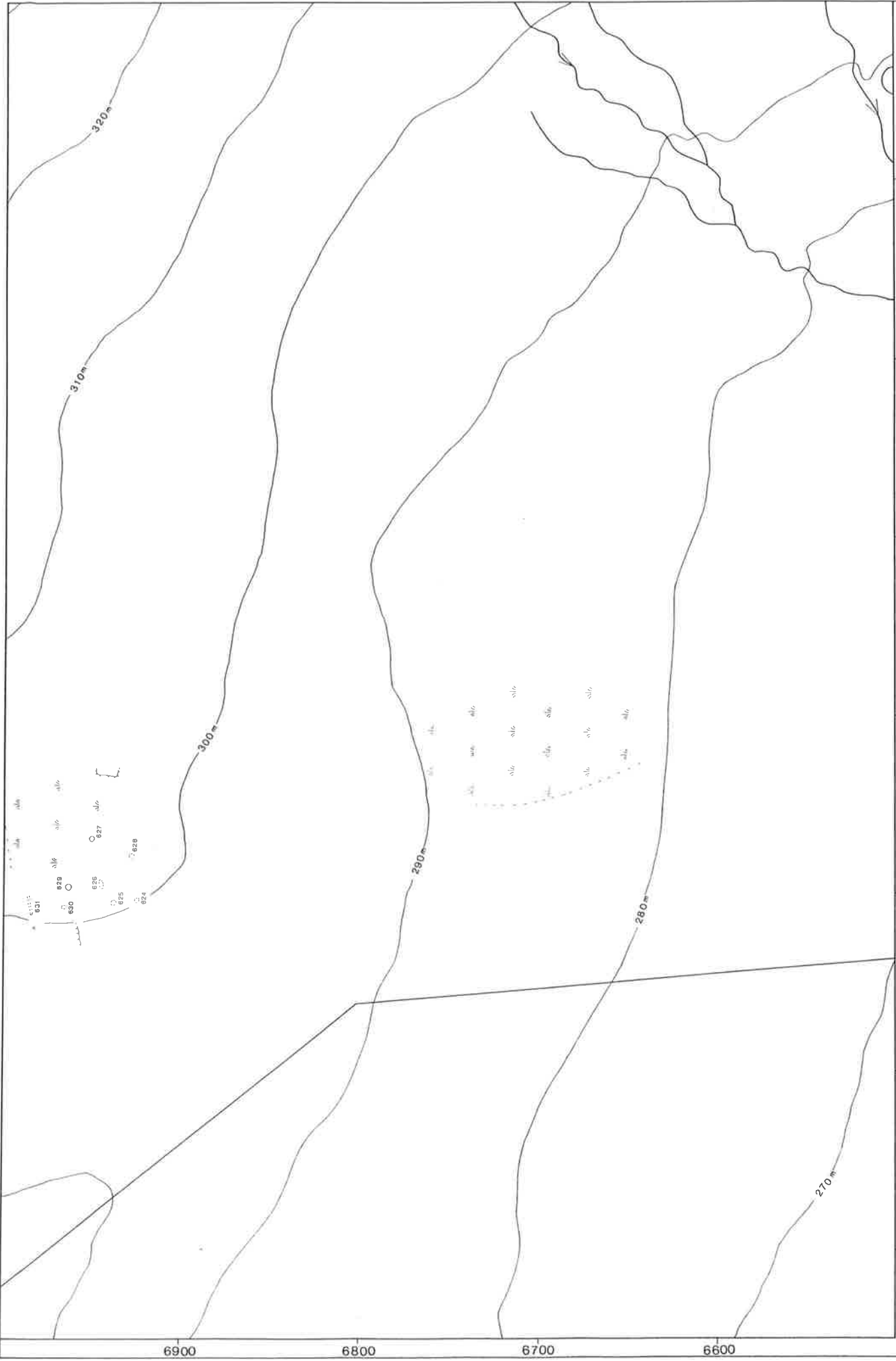
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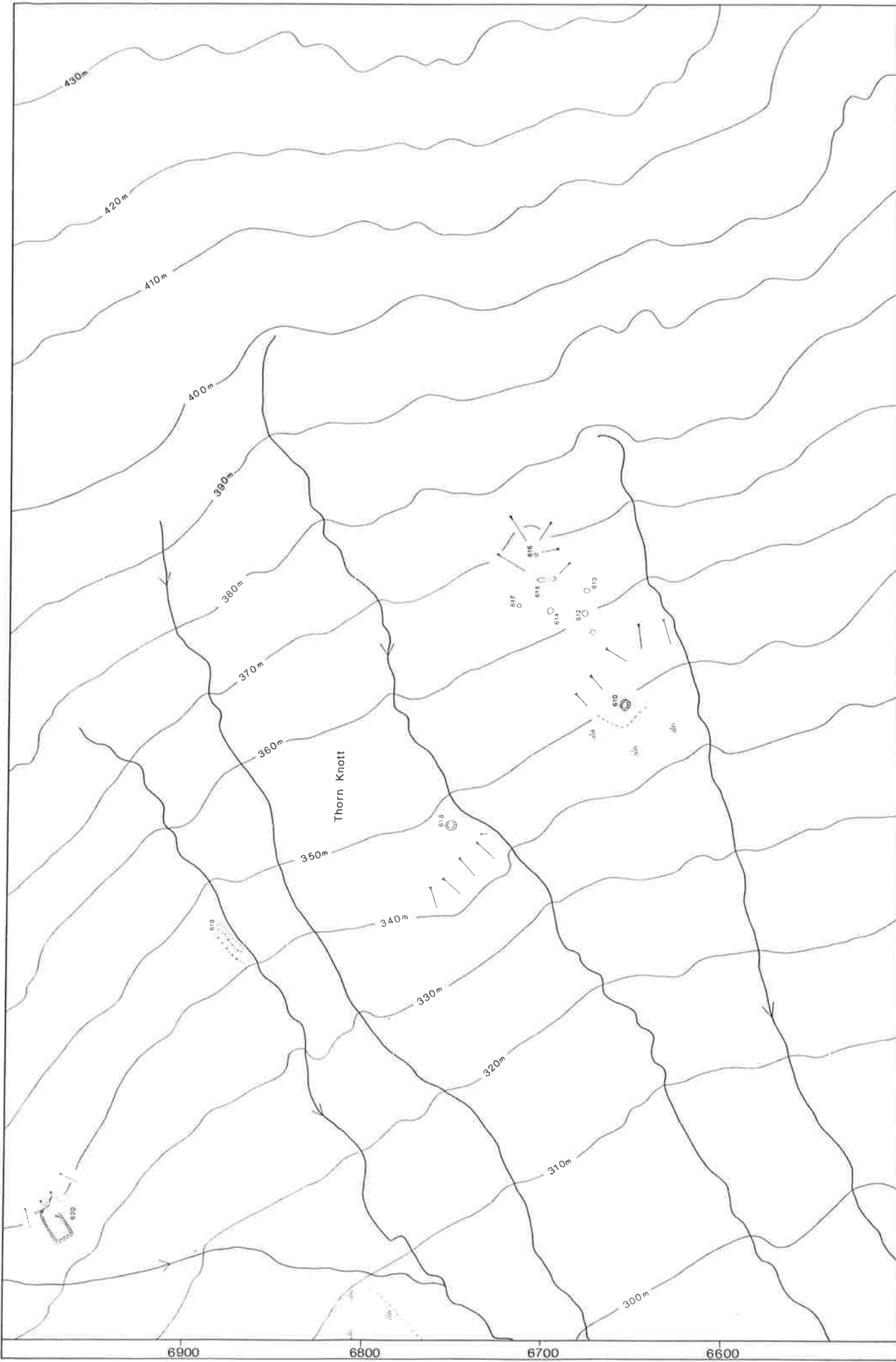
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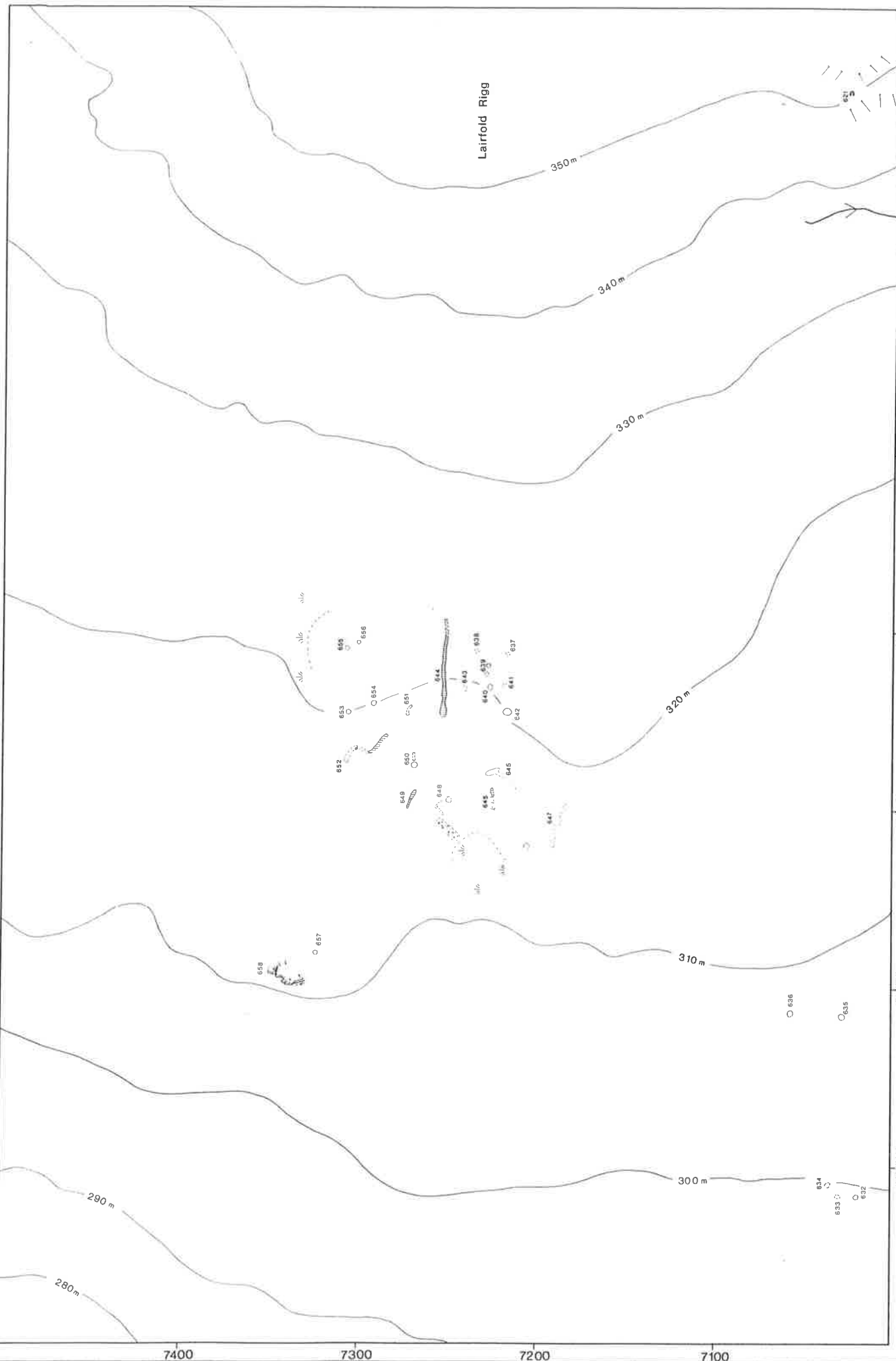
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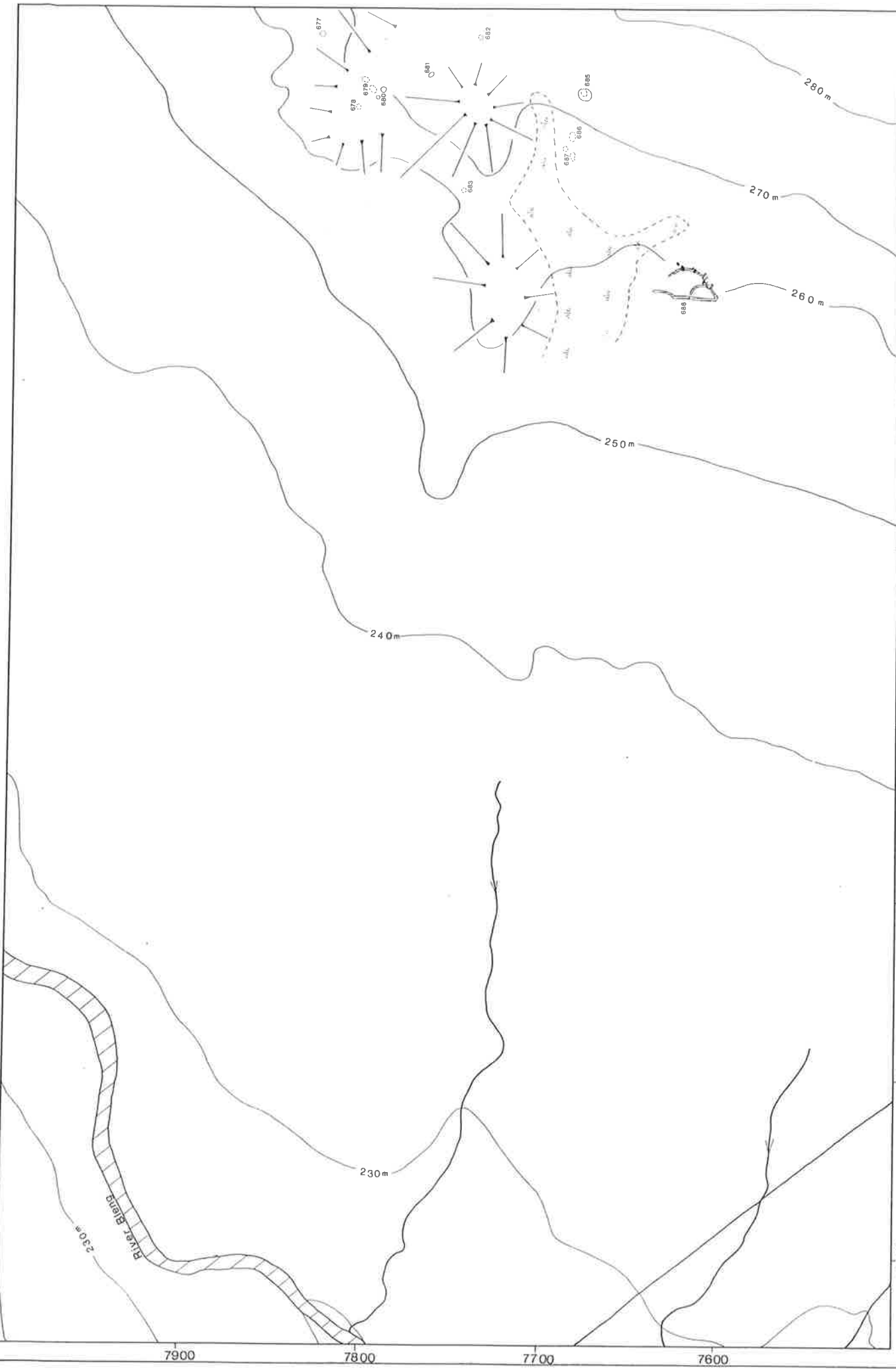
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COMMENTS									DRAWN BY	JQ SQ
Topographical detail based upon the 1975 Ordnance Survey 1:10,000 map with the permission of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office. Crown copyright reserved.									DATE	4 - 1989
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WHIN GARTH	PLAN NAME Thorn Knott		COMMENTS Topographical detail based upon the 578 Ordnance Survey 1:10,000 map with the permission of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office. Crown copyright reserved.		DRAWN BY JQ SQ		SCALE 1:1000
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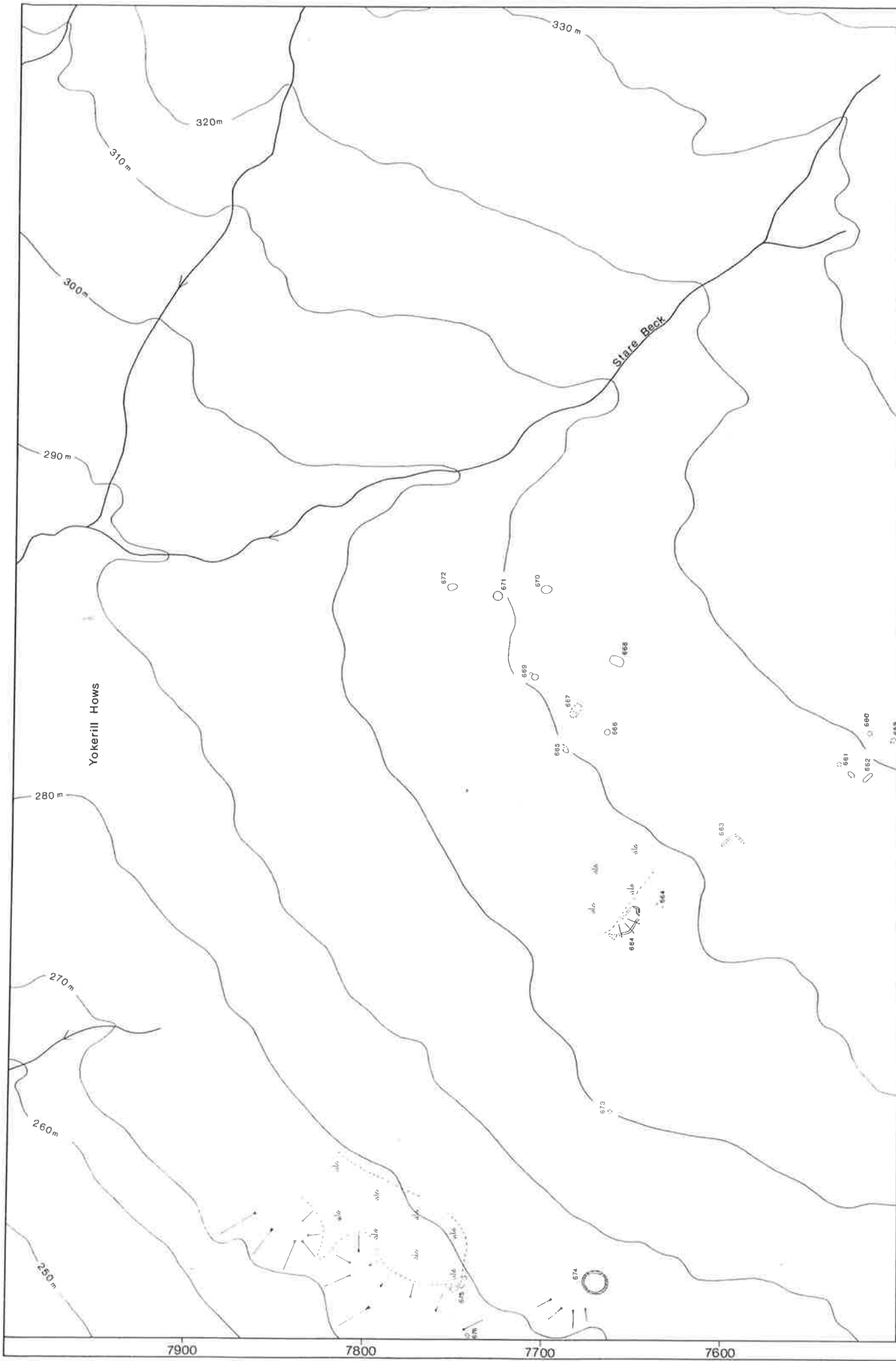




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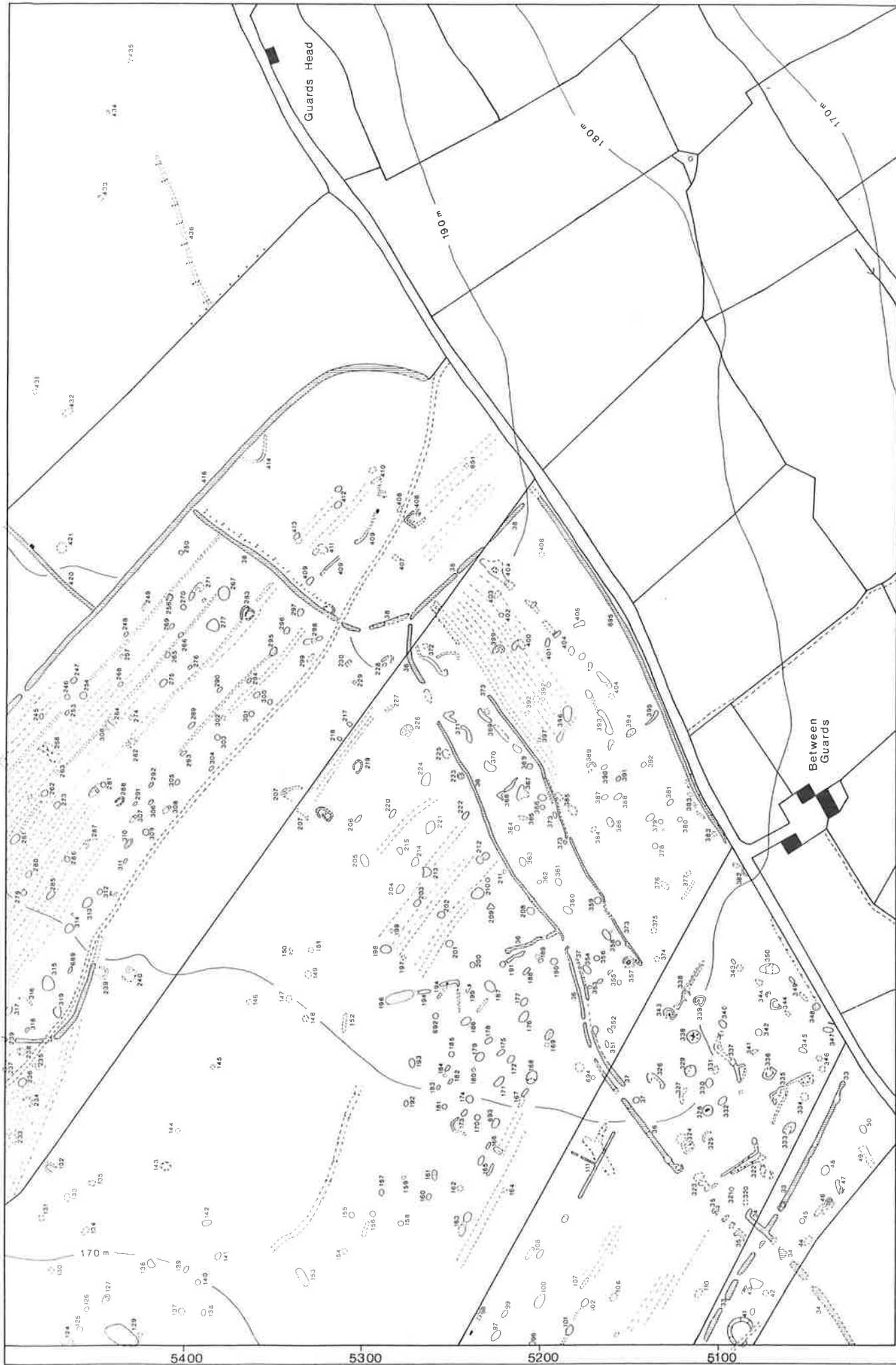


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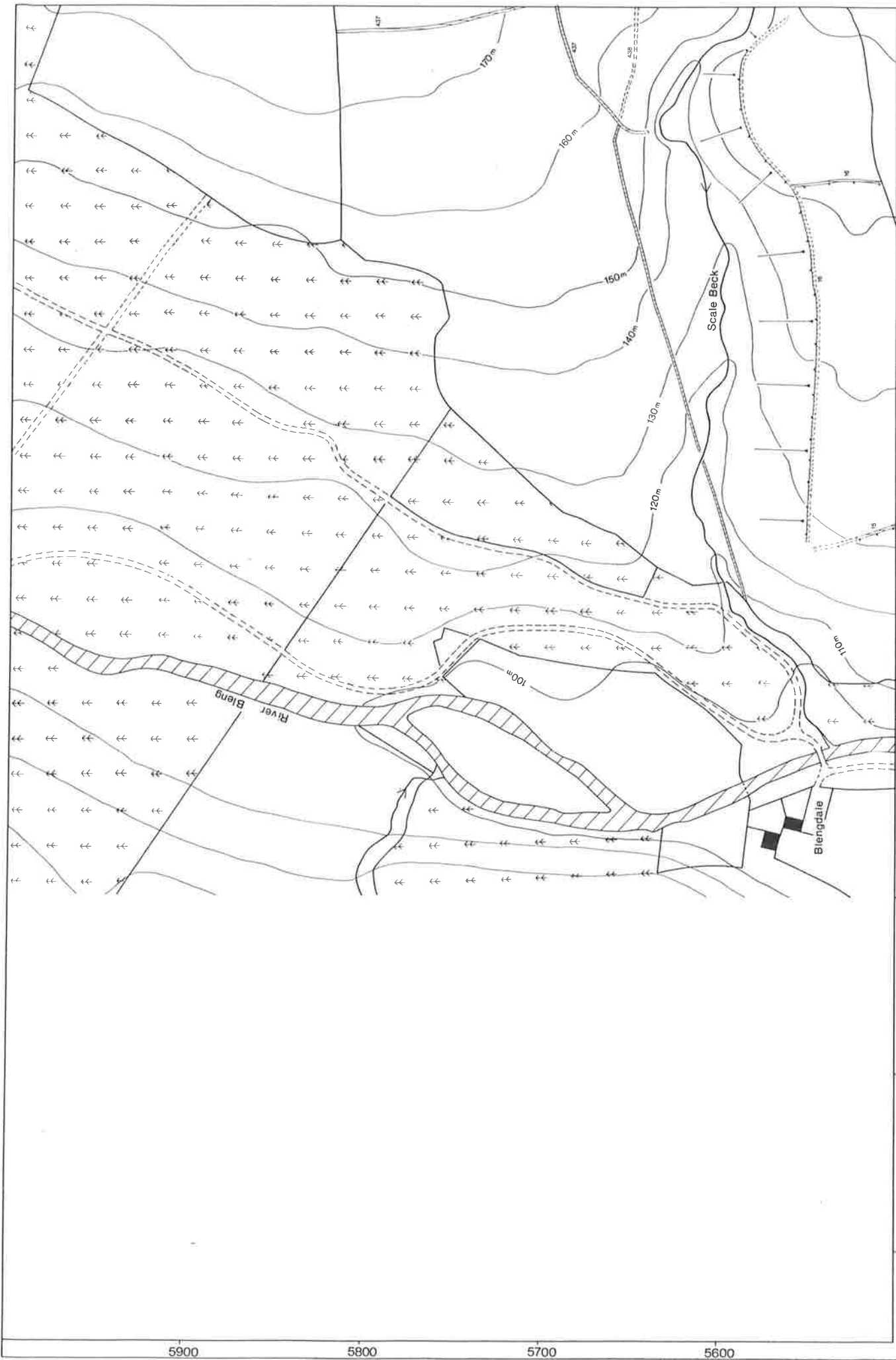
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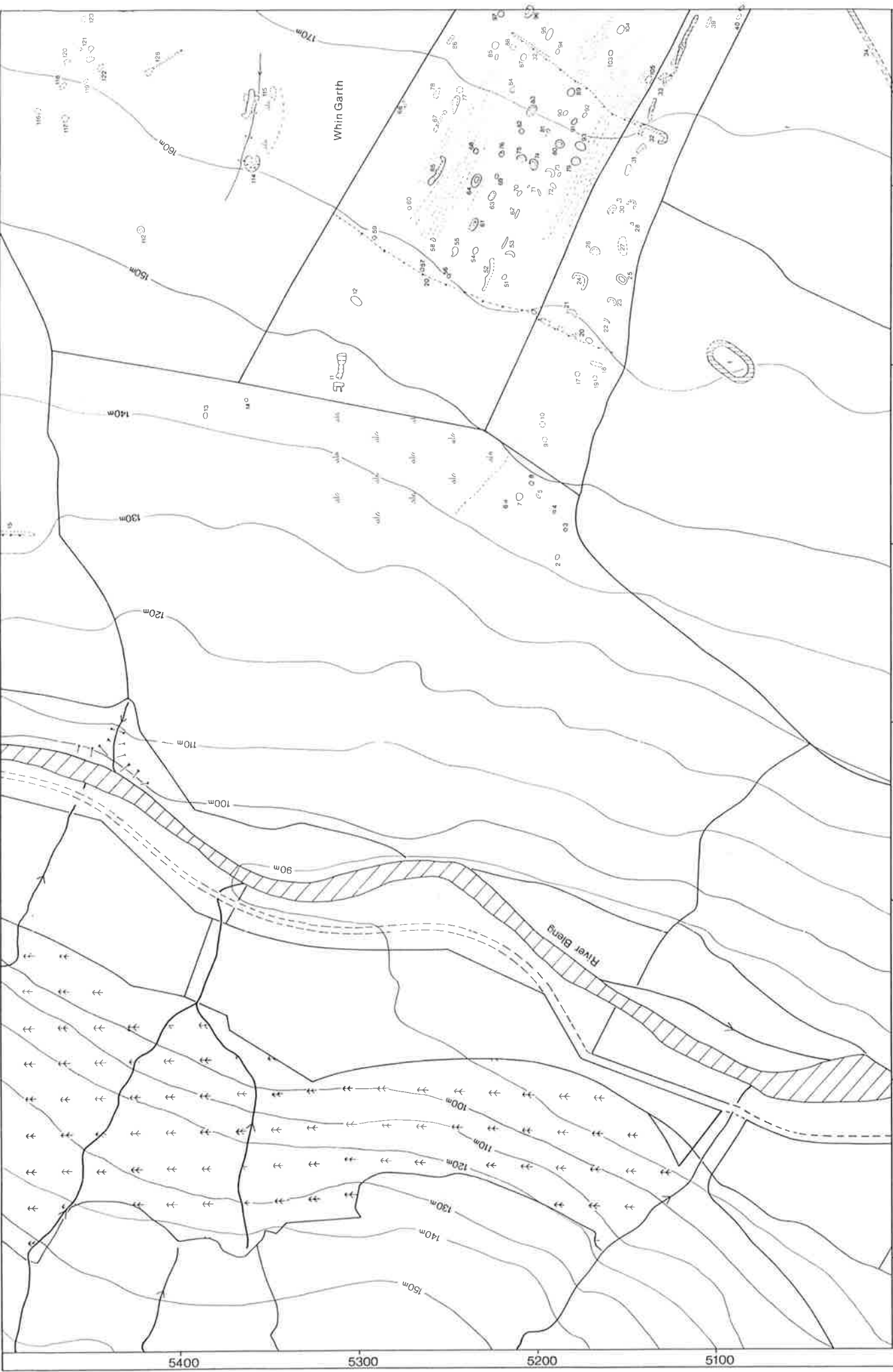
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	COMMENTS	Topographical detail based upon the 1978 Ordnance Survey map. Drawn to scale with the permission of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office. Crown copyright reserved.							
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PLAN NAME		Scale Farm		COMMENTS Topographical detail based upon the 1978 Ordnance Survey 1:10,000 map with the permission of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office. Crown copyright reserved.			
DRAWN BY		JQ & JGS		SCALE 1:1000			
DATE		11-1989		SITE CODE			
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LDNPS WHIN GARTH	PLAN NAME Scale Farm	COMMENTS Topographical detail based upon the 1978 Ordnance Survey 1:10,000 map with the permission of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office. Crown copyright, reserved.	DRAWN BY JQ & JGS	SCALE 1:1000
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