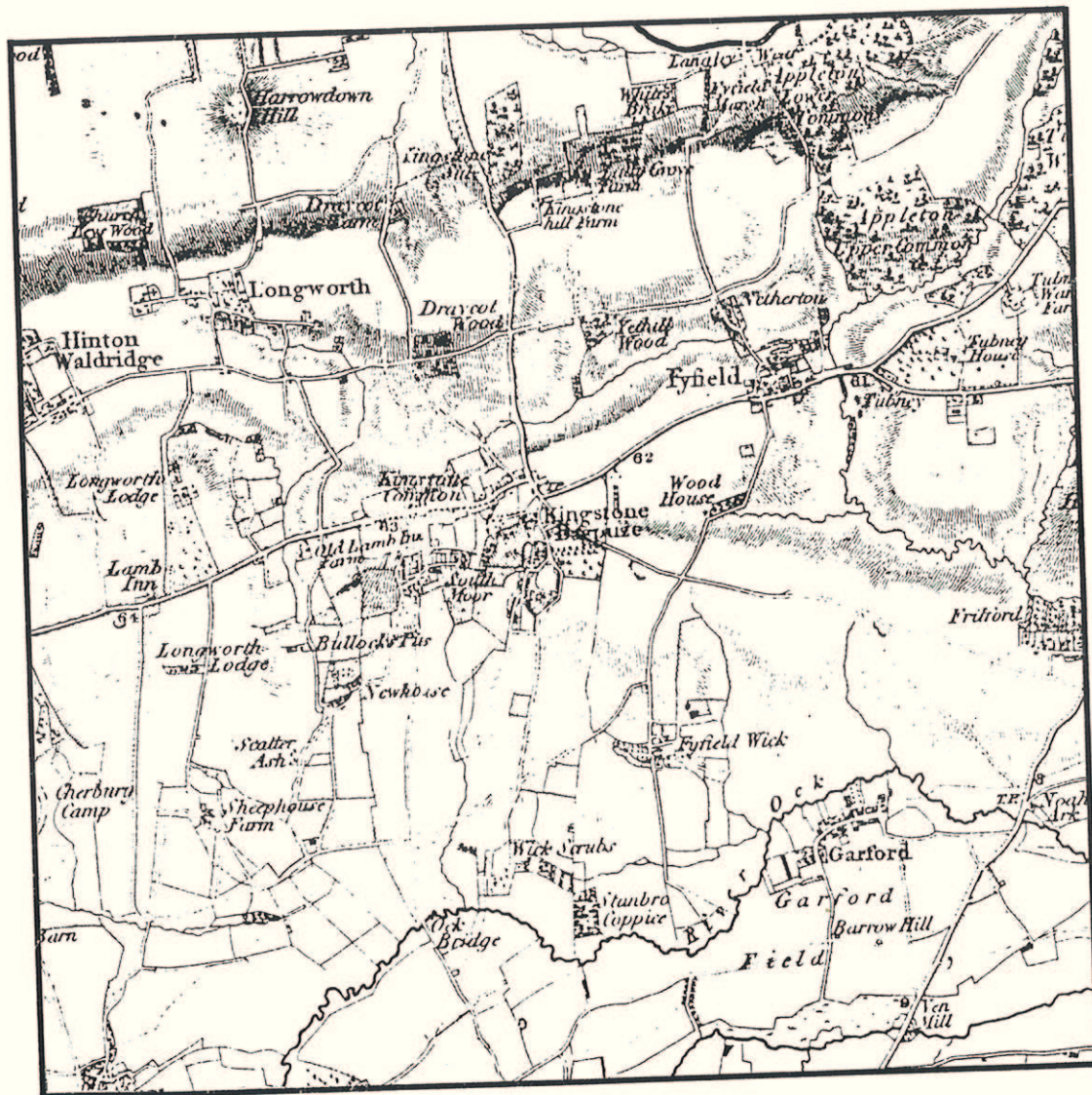


# A420 KINGSTON BAGPUIZE WITH SOUTHMOOR BYPASS

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION



THE OXFORD ARCHAEOLOGICAL UNIT



# **An Archaeological Evaluation of the A420 Kingston Bagpuize with Southmoor Bypass**

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## **Summary**

The archaeological evaluation of the Kingston Bagpuize with Southmoor bypass was undertaken by the Oxford Archaeological Unit in January and February 1992 shortly before the commencement of construction work. The work was funded by English Heritage. Some 99% of the route was examined by a combination of surface examination (fieldwalking) and random sampling (trial trenching) of the surface and buried soil horizons. Despite the problems of access and timing sufficient data was collected to permit an interpretation of the potential preservation of the archaeology. This would appear to indicate that the route of the bypass will pass through terrain that has, for the most part, been on the periphery of main settlement foci.

## **Introduction**

### **Character of Development**

The purpose of this project was to evaluate the route of the proposed bypass. That is, from NGR SU 3805-9757 to SU 4185-9855 a distance of 4.05 km which will effectively transform 220,525 sq metres (22.05 ha or 54.5 acres) from a predominantly agrarian use into a 'communication corridor'. This will consist of a dual carriageway each 7 m wide and divided by a central reservation approximately 4.5 m wide. There will be a principal junction (roundabout) with the north-south A415 Witney road and 'T-junctions' on the Charney Bassett road and Pine Woods road. There will be a single bridleway bridge at Harris's lane. The new road will also effectively sever the north-south roads (Lamb's lane; Beggars lane/Harris's lane; Draycott road) and, in addition, diverting the Pine Woods road. A trackway and a footpath will also be bisected.

### **Timing**

The evaluation was carried out between mid-January and mid-February 1992. The late commencement date effectively restricted the nature of the evaluation by reducing the number of options that were available to those implementing the project brief. That is fieldwalking did not begin until the winters crop had been sown and sprouting. This did not adversely affect surface collection but did mean that the farmers were unwilling to allow their crops to be disturbed by trial trenching methods. Where the fields remained unploughed they were sampled by trial trenching before they could be fieldwalked. The result of this was that 54% of the route was fieldwalked but not trial trenched and 45% was trial trenched but not fieldwalked. The remaining 1% was not examined due to a combination of their small size and low lying and, therefore, damp and waterlogged characteristics.

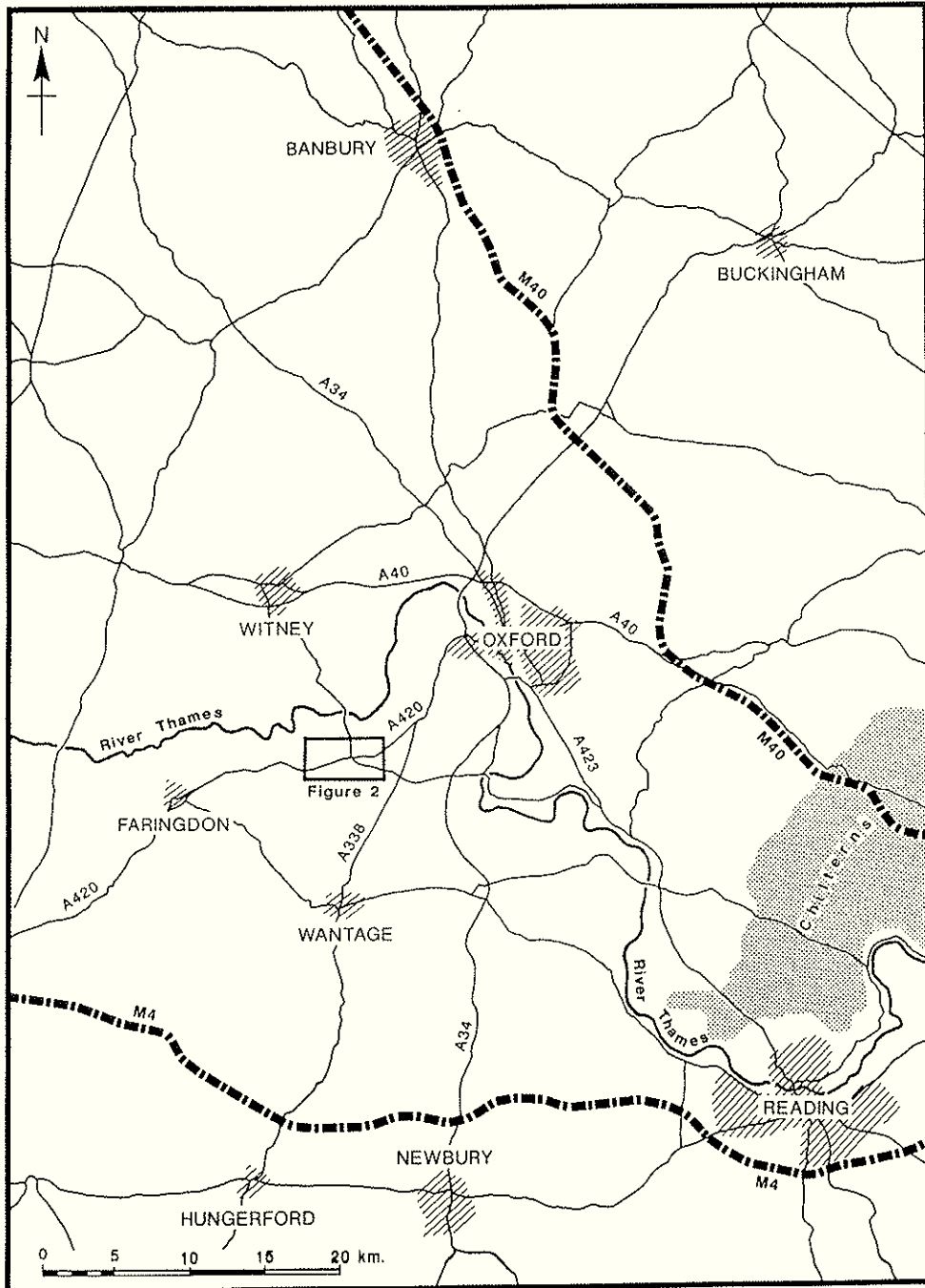


Figure 1

## **Contractor**

The evaluation programme was funded by H.B.M.C. (English Heritage).

## **Topography**

### **Terrain**

From the beginning of the bypass in the west (SU 3805-9757) to 4 km to the east at SU 4185-9855 the terrain is flat with elevation not varying more than 5 metres at maximum (i.e. ranging from 80 to 85 m OD). There are no significant water courses along the bypass route. The only hydraulic systems that are crossed are a number of drainage ditches that empty towards the River Ock to the south.

### **Geology and Soils**

The route of the bypass is situated on the flat plateau of the Corallian Ridge which was originally the first terrace of the River Thames. This flat ridge lies approximately midway between the River Thames to the north (2.5 km) and the River Ock to the south (2.5km). The parent material of the soils consists of a mixture of limestone, ragstone, grits and sand (Jarvis 1973). This produces a most variable sandy soil which, because of the presence of limestone, is quite neutral (Stamp 1936). Apart from the variation of soil consistency there is also the question of soil depth. The borehole logs carried out for Oxfordshire County Council reveal that the soil depth varies from 0.20 m in field unit no. 2 to as much as 0.50 m in field unit no. 15. The mean average depth is approximately 0.25 to 0.30 m. Field observation and anecdotal evidence suggests that the area when sufficiently dry is prone to soil loss by wind erosion. This being the case then the area can be characterised as one of relative soil degradation in contrast to one where the soils have been enhanced by the process of build up (colluvium and alluviation). This has a bearing on the archaeology which will be discussed further on.

### **Land Use**

The principal land use of the bypass consists of farmland of which over 80% is arable and 18.5% is permanent pasture. The quality of the land is predominantly grade 2 with those areas of grade 3 mostly restricted to the present day areas of permanent pasture (field units no. 3, 10-14), (MAFF 1971). Hedgerows or neglected secondary vegetation zones lie respectively along the boundaries of field unit no. 3, between 9 and 10, along Harris's lane, the north side of plot 12, the western boundary of plot 15, between 19 and 20, flanking the A415 Witney road and between 22 and 24 (Aelfrith's Ditch).

## **Archaeological Background**

### **Introduction**

In order to understand this archaeological evaluation it is necessary to place the project in its proper context. Although there is an archaeological overview of the Corallian Ridge (Miles, Palmer and Chambers 1989) in which the bypass lies, there has been very little systematic survey work undertaken. An updated version of the regional review, which deals more specifically with the Kingston Bagpuize area was written by Susan Smith (1990). However, this did little more than summarise data that was based on the SMR which lay within a 1 km zone on either side of the proposed road. This information is reproduced in Fig. 4. In order to clarify, in more precise terms, what is known of the proposed 'development corridor' the landscape evidence is sub-divided into three distinct headings: artefact scatters, the settled landscape and the administrative landscape

### **Artefact Scatters**

#### **Mesolithic**

There are three scatters of Mesolithic flints east of Kingston Bagpuize. Two of these, PRNs 10966 and 10967, lie close to the bypass line. Flints from them have been recovered over several years. The assemblage consists of microblades, some retouched, a microburin and cores, as well as Neolithic flint. The third Mesolithic scatter lies east of the affected area, on the eastern side of Fyfield village.

#### **Neolithic**

Apart from the occurrence of Neolithic flints in the Mesolithic scatters mentioned above, additional Neolithic material has been found 800m north of the proposed road line (PRN 13309). Two polished stone axes (PRNs 7095 and 7096) are also known, the latter from a point immediately adjacent to the new road and in the same orchard as the flint scatters 10966-67.

#### **Bronze Age**

The evidence consists of the following elements: Two flint implements, a plano-convex knife (PRN 13310) and a barbed and tanged arrowhead, are known, the latter probably from the multiperiod flint scatter PRN 109660. There is a cremation burial from the area but its precise location is not known. It may have lain further southeast of Kingston Bagpuize village in an area where probable Bronze Age ring ditches are known from aerial photographs (eg PRNs 12299 and 12484, both more than 1km from the bypass route. Recently, metal detector finds in the vicinity of the west end of the new route include two spearheads some 400m to the north and a palstave lying even closer to the new road line.

## **The Settled Landscape**

### **Iron Age**

The earliest known settlement sites are dated to this period. The principal Iron Age site in the region is Cherbury Camp, a multivallate hillfort some 3km southwest of Kingston Bagpuize. Other Iron Age settlements in the area lie about 1km from the bypass route, to the north and south. The former (PRN 13312) is defined as an extensive scatter of middle Iron Age pottery, the latter (included here in PRN 12266 etc) is a cropmark complex including enclosures, hut circles and pits. The cropmarks do not appear to extend further north than the point indicated.

### **Romano-British**

The most extensive Roman sites in the area are related to the two Iron Age complexes just described and lie some distance from the bypass route, both are possible villa sites (PRN 7115 to the south and PRN 10604 to the north). An undated extended inhumation (PRN 5923) was found just to the south of the latter site and may have been related to it. Other Roman finds are located south of Kingston Bagpuize (PRNs 7972 - a coin hoard and 12485 - a spread of tile and pottery). Further surface collections of tile and pottery have been located to the east of Kingston much closer to the new road line (PRNs 10966 and 10968). Both of these may represent more extensive sites than are at present apparent. A scatter of 3rd-4th century coins has recently been found about 200m north of the bypass route.

### **Post-Roman Evidence**

The bypass route passes between the probable mid to late settlement of Longworth and Draycott Moor which lie 1 km to the north and Kingston Bagpuize which lies 0.3 km to the south. How early these Anglo-Saxon settlements were is not known and the evaluation was unable to shed much light on this matter. Previous work would seem to suggest that settlement in the vicinity of Draycott Manor Farm (situated 0.8 km to the north of route) seems to have contracted to its present size and that it later became supplanted by settlement in the southern area which lay closer to the present A 420 (Beresford and Hurst 1971).

### **The Administrative Landscape**

The bypass route cuts through a landscape that was itself divided by several distinct administrative units. These were a hundred boundary and parish/township and manorial boundaries. There is normally a correlation between hundred and parish boundaries. An interesting exception to this is the case of Longworth which appears to have been sub-divided by the hundred of Ganfield and Ock (Young 1979, 21) at least by the late Anglo-Saxon period. This raises the question as to what the hundred boundary was based on. It would be unlikely that the hundred boundary would have sub-divided such an elementary fiscal unit as an estate holding. It is perhaps more likely that the hundred boundary followed the line dividing two townships (villata), in this case between

Longworth and Draycott Moor.

### **Townships and Parishes**

Draycott Moor is referred to as 'villa de Draycote et la More' in the Feudal Aids of 1316 (Gelling 1974, 404). Draycott Moor did not become a separate parish until 1866 and was merged with Kingston Bagpuize in 1971 (Young 1979, 20). Kingston Bagpuize does not become a distinct parish until the 16th century (ibid). Both Fyfield and Hinton Waldrist were ancient parishes. The boundary between the parish/township of Fyfield and Longworth is partially demarcated by an Anglo-Saxon bank known as Aelfrith's Dyke. There is good circumstantial evidence to suggest that the parishes of Fyfield, Kingston Bagpuize, Draycott Moor, Longworth and Hinton Waldrist were based either in part or in whole on township units. Evidence for this phenomena exists elsewhere in the British Isles (Hunn forthcoming).

### **Estate Boundaries**

In contrast to the township and parish boundaries those of manors remained relatively flexible and were often determined by the circumstances of individual lords. In the case of the aforementioned townships (Hinton Waldrist, Longworth, Draycott Moor, Kingston Bagpuize and Fyfield) the following estate framework is outlined. Only a small portion of Hinton Waldrist is affected by the bypass. According to the VCH (IV, 463-65) it was divided into two pre-conquest estates whose boundaries are not known. Longworth together with Draycott Moor, Kingston Bagpuize and Charney Basset appears to have formed a single royal estate though Longworth itself was granted to Eadric a thegn of King Eadwigs in 958 (VCH IV, 467). At the time of the Domesday Survey Longworth was held by the abbey of Abingdon. However, it was only assessed at 8 hides and it gained an additional 5 hides in the early 12th century (ibid). It is not known how Longworth was sub-divided between these two areas though it is possible the division was later the origin of the distinction between East and West Longworth. Both Draycott Moor and Charney (Bassett) were held by Abingdon abbey at the time of the Domesday Survey. In the case of Kingston Bagpuize this had 7 of its hides out of 20 granted to the kings deacon in 970 (ibid, 349). By 1086 Kingston Bagpuize was divided into two estates, one in the north and one in the south. The manor of Fyfield was similarly acquired by Abingdon abbey in the 10th century in two portions (north and south) (VCH IV, 345).



# The Archaeology of the Road Corridor

## Introduction

Each of the land parcels will be described individually in sequential order beginning at the western end (NGR SU 3805-9757) and proceeding eastwards to the eastern end of the bypass towards Fyfield (NGR SU 4185-9855). At the beginning of each description there will be a brief classification of the known data; this in turn will be summarised at the end of the report. All trenches unless otherwise stated were 1.55m wide.

See Fig 3.

### No.1

Area: 3300 sq m

Area sampled: 31 sq m (0.93%)

Location: Field immediately west of Lamb lane

Terrain: Flat

Soil: Fyfield - Brown earth

Quality: Grade 2

Land use: Arable

Soil conditions: Harrowed and sown

Historical Reference: Survey of 1561 (University of Leeds, Brotherton Library. Map of 1762 (Berkshire Record Office D/P 70/26).

Method: Trial trench

Archaeological potential: Improbable

### Trench 17

This was a single 20m E-W trench with a central 1 m extension cut at right angles to the excavation. A shallow ditch 1.6m wide and 0.35m deep was located outside the southern margin of the trial trench. This lay parallel with the A420 and approximately 11.5m from the road's edge. It is possible that this feature was associated with the turnpike road although its distance from it could imply that it was of an earlier date. No dating evidence was found in the ditch.

## No.2

Area: 10400 sq m

Location: Field immediately east of Lamb lane and west of the parish boundary of Hinton Waldrist (NGR SU 3829-9861).

Terrain: Flat

Soil: Fyfield - Brown earth

Quality: Grade 2

Land Use: Arable

Soil conditions: ploughed/harrowed

Historical Reference: Same as for no.1

Method: Field walked

Archaeological potential: Remotely possible.

This was 'line walked' in early January at a density of 10m apart. The results revealed the following ratios of flint (13), RB pottery (2) and medieval sherds (10). This pattern would be consistent with long usage and random discard of flint waste and occasional loss due to manuring practices in the case of RB and medieval pottery patterns.

## No.3

Area: 3000 sq m

Area of sample: 68.2 sq m (2.27%)

Location: North of Lamb and Flag pub. East of the parish boundary of Longworth.

Terrain: Flat - uneven

Soil: Kingston and Longworth - mainly gleyed brown earths.

Quality: Grade 3

Land use: Recreational purposes with scrub growth along boundaries.

Soil Conditions: Mown grassland with disturbed land amongst the scrub.

Historical Reference: Longworth and Charney Tithe map of 1847 (B.R.O IR 30/2 no.87).

Method: Trial trenched

Archaeological potential: Improbable (excluding parish boundary).

### Trench 18

A 25m N-S trench was excavated down to a depth of 0.4m. No features or artefacts were noticed.

### Trench 19

This was a 19m E-W cut across an ancient parochial/township boundary dividing Hinton Waldrist and Longworth. The sequence of events would appear to be as follows: The earliest identifiable feature was ditch 19/8 whose bank could have been obliterated by ploughing. The ditch fill consisted of four sandy loams which had all been disturbed by root action. At what date the ditch became filled is not known. Later a pit (19/5) was cut 6m to the east of ditch 19/8. This contained modern refuse of no more than 10-15 years old. This in turn was cut by another ditch (19/6) whose spoil (19/7 and 19/4) appears to have been disturbed on either side of its margins. The fill was a mixture of modern

refuse. The excavator believed that the original ditch had been recut. There was no dating evidence as to when this boundary was originally dug. In its present form the ditch sides are too steep to have remained open for very long and therefore may have been deliberately dug either for the disposal of rubbish from the pub or for some purpose connected with the 'landscaping' of the car park.

It is not possible to demonstrate a primary date for the cutting of the first ditch (19/8). Although the formation of this parochial boundary occurred by the late Saxon period, if not earlier, it does not necessarily follow that a physical boundary in the form of a bank and ditch was constructed at a similar date. To judge by the configuration of the Hinton Waldrist/Longworth boundary it exhibits all the characteristics of one that was laid out in an open landscape. That is, one that was probably being cultivated. The staggered shape of the boundary merely reflected former field or land parcel boundaries that became fossilized in the landscape. The boundary of these units could have been represented by a 'headland', marker posts or even isolated trees and/or hedgerows. The hedge-species count in the vicinity of the excavation was quite low although that does not mean that the remainder is similarly botanically poor. Only further investigation of the surviving flora will be able to demonstrate or not the validity of such an approach.

#### **No. 4**

Area: 24200 sq metres  
Location: Field immediately west of Pine Woods road  
Terrain: Flat to gently undulating  
Soil: Fyfield - Brown earth  
Quality: Grade 2  
Land use: Arable  
Soil conditions: Harrowed and drilled  
Historical Reference: Same as for no.3  
Method: Field walked.  
Archaeological potential: Remotely possible.

This land parcel produced one of the more richer flint assemblages with a concentration of material located more towards the centre of the field. As no trial trenching could be undertaken it was not possible to assess the significance of this particular pattern. The RB pottery was negligible and the medieval pattern indicative of manuring practices. The ratio of flint to RB and medieval pottery was as follows: 44.3.12.

#### **No.s 5 - 7**

Land parcels too small

#### **No.8**

Included with no.9

### **No.9**

Area 46900 sq m

Location: Double field lying to the east of Pine Woods road.

Terrain: Flat

Soil: Fyfield - Brown earth

Quality: Grade 2

Land use: Arable

Soil conditions: Harrowed and drilled

Historical Reference: Same as for no.3

Method: Field walking

Archaeological potential: Remotely possible

This land unit is in fact two separate land parcels divided by a footpath and boundary. The only factor that unites them is that they share a common ownership. The majority of the flint material was concentrated in the western half of this parcel (i.e. to the west of the footpath). This will be discussed further on. The ratio of recovered material was as follows: Flints (123), RB pottery (5), medieval sherds (27).

### **No.10**

Area: 1350 sq m

Location: NGR SU 3920-9825

Terrain: Low lying, flat and damp

Soil: Surface water - gley soils

Quality: Grade 4

Land use: Pasture/waste

Soil conditions: Unmanaged grass

Historical reference: same as for no.3

Method: Observed

Archaeological potential: Improbable

### **No.11**

Area: 14000 sq m

Area sampled: 232.5 sq m (1.66%)

Location: To the west of Harriss's lane

Terrain: Flat to low lying

Soil: Kingston - surface water gley soil

Quality: Grade 3

Land use: Pasture

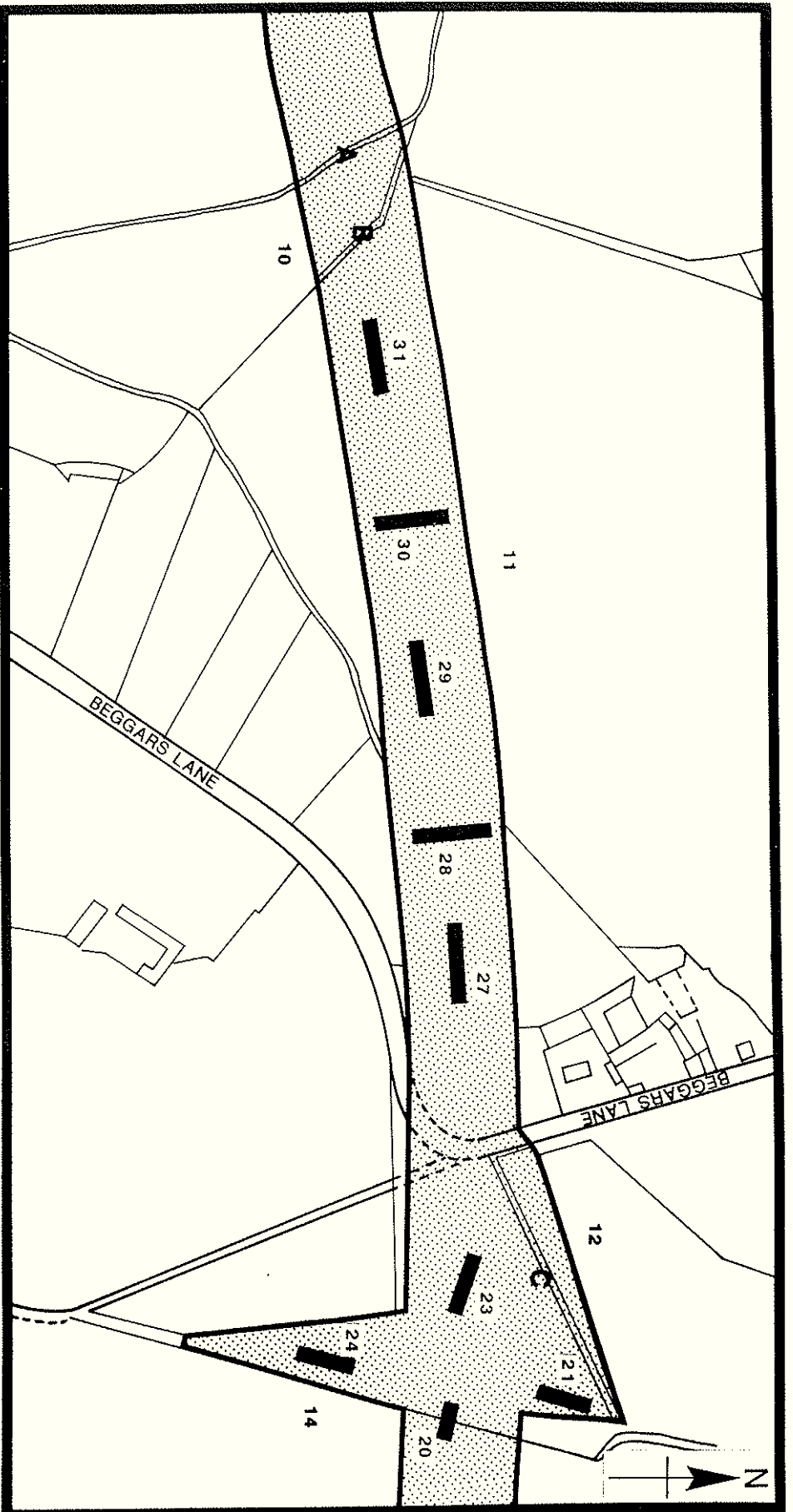
Soil conditions: Grass

Historical reference: same as for no.3

Method: Trial trenched

Archaeological potential: Improbable

A total of five trial trenches were opened up (no's 27-31). These will be described in sequence, proceeding from east to west.



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**Key**  
New Road Corridor  
Archaeological Trenches  
Boundaries Between Parcels



Figure 7

#### Trench 27

This was an E-W trench (30m x 1.55m) sub-divided by two baulks and excavated by machine to a depth of 0.5m. The trench revealed four soil horizons (27/1 - 27/4) of varying sandy loams. A sewer trench was located running along the centre of the trench and there were four different alignments of land drain. It was not surprising that the excavation became flooded to a depth of 0.05 to 0.10m. No significant features or finds were observed.

#### Trench 28

This 30m N-S trench was excavated to a maximum depth of almost 0.5m. There were three main soil horizons of predominantly sandy and silty loams. A shallow NE - SW gully crossed the bottom of the trench (0.5m wide by 0.21m deep). Two field drains lay parallel to the gully while a third lying to the north was more oblique. The lower lying southern most end of the trench had a tendency to flood with water. A few sherds of medieval and post-medieval pottery was recovered from 28/2 and 28/3.

#### Trench 29

An E - W trench (0.45m deep) revealed three land drains and a shallow NE- SW ditch (0.7m wide by 0.28m deep). These features are all post-medieval and probably post 18th century in date.

#### Trench 30

This was a N - S trench (0.4m deep) which revealed the usual land drains but no archaeological features.

#### Trench 31

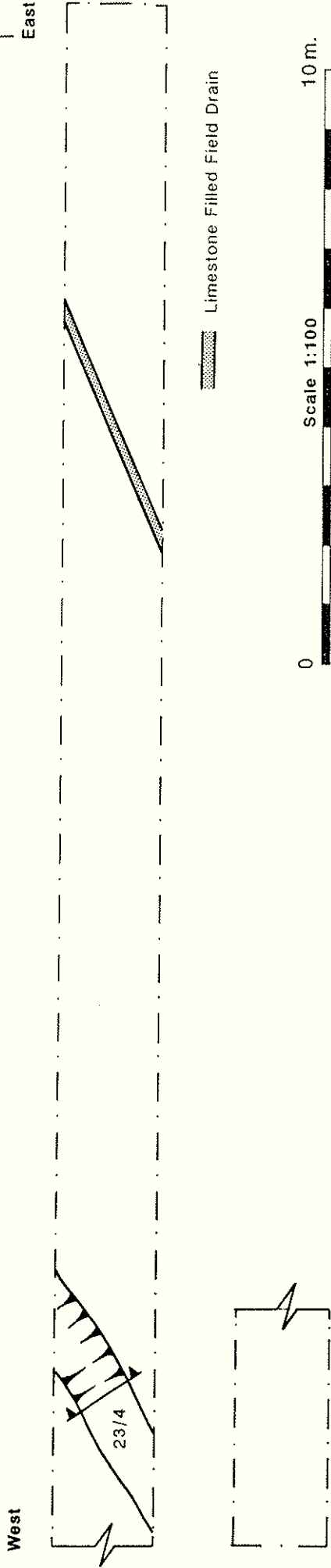
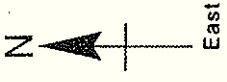
This lay approximately E-W and was excavated down to a depth of no more than 0.45m. There were four soil horizons of a predominantly sandy/silty clay loam. No archaeological features or finds were observed.

#### **No's 12-13**

Too small and damp, therefore, omitted.

Trench 23  
Plan

KBS A420



Trench 23  
Section 23/4 1:20

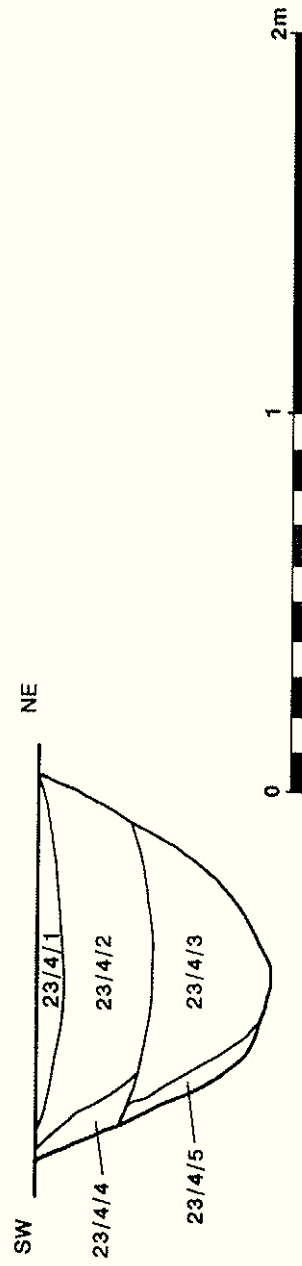


Figure 8

## No. 14

Area: 8750 sq m (including areas 12 and 13)

Area sampled: 116.5 sq m (1.31%)

Location: Immediately to the east of Harriss's lane

Terrain: Flat

Soil: Kingston and Longworth - Gleyed brown earths

Quality: Grade 3

Soil conditions: Grass with faint traces of ridge and furrow

Historical reference: Same as for no.3

Method: trail trenched

Archaeological potential: Remotely possible

Three trial trenches (21-24) were excavated within this field while a fourth (20) was cut across the boundary between fields number 14 and 15.

### Trench 20

This was excavated on what is assumed to have been the boundary between the townships of Longworth and Draycott Moor and later defined the parish boundary between Longworth and Kingston Bagpuize (NGR SU 3961-9841). A 10 m E-W trench was cut across the boundary this revealed four soil horizons of a predominantly reddish brown sandy loam character but contained no archaeological features of any note. There were a few fragments of 13th and 14th century but most were all of post medieval date. There were no surface indications for the existence of a former physical boundary. The present boundary consists of a fairly standard amalgam of single fence (barbed wire), drainage ditch, bridle path and hedgerows (to the north).

### Trench 21

This consisted of a 20m N-S trench (1.55m wide and 0.25m deep). There were two soil horizons above the sandy parent material. No features or finds were distinguished.

### Trench 22

Not excavated. Land parcel no. 12 was awash with surface water.

### Trench 23

This was situated mid-way in the field and was orientated E-W (30m x 1.55m). Its average depth was 0.4m and contained only two soil horizons above the parent material. A single feature (a ditch) was noted (Fig 8). The ditch was orientated NE - SW and steeply V-shaped (1.05m wide by 0.7m deep).

### Trench 24

This was a 20m N-S trench lying parallel to the boundary between Draycott Moor and Kingston Bagpuize. The soil horizons were a very sandy reddish brown loam. Due to the



presence of stock (horses) the trench was excavated in a piece-meal fashion (i.e. in short lengths). A maximum depth of 0.95m was attained. No features were noted although some RB pottery sherds were recovered from the layers below topsoil (24/2-24/4).

## No.15

Area: 14800 sq m

Area sampled: 201.5 sq m (1.36%)

Location: To the east of the parish boundary of Longworth and west of Draycott road.

Soil: Fyfield - Brown earth

Quality: Grade 2

Land use: Arable

Soil conditions: Ploughed

Historical reference: Tithe map for Draycott Moor 1843 (B.R.O IR 30/2/47).

Method: Trial trenched

Archaeological potential: Probable

A total of four 30m and one 10m trenches were excavated in this field (no's 9-13). These will be described in sequential order.

### Trench 9

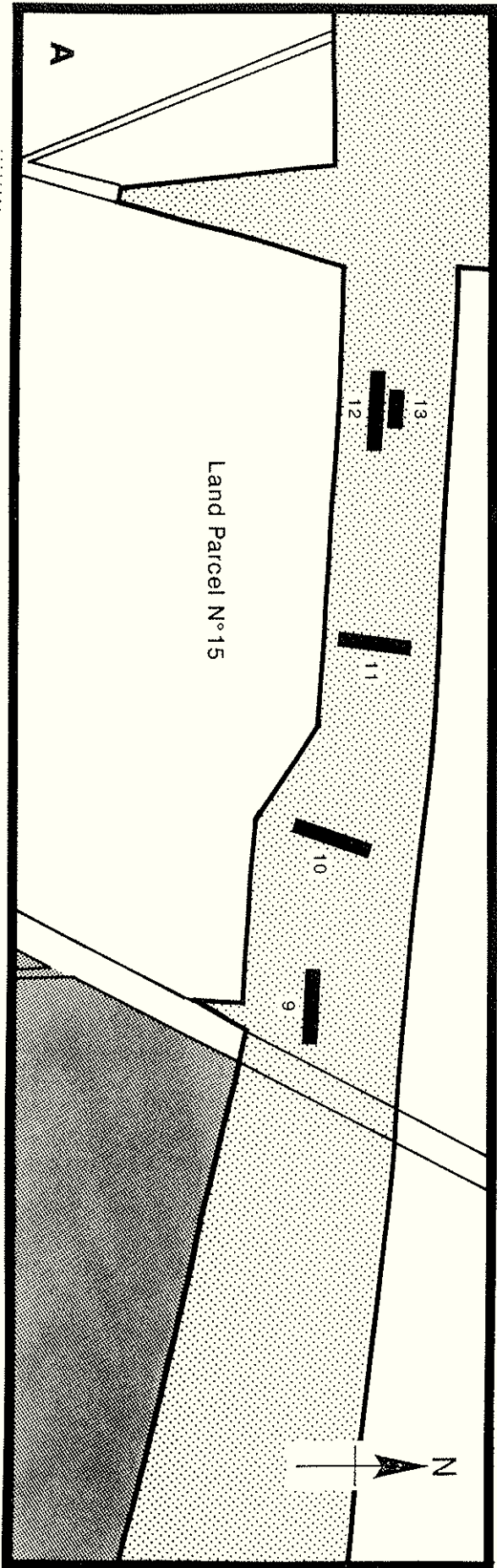
This was an E-W trench situated on the western side of the field. There were three soil horizons which consisted of predominantly dark orange sandy loams. The excavator noted a possible ditch orientated on a N-S axis. This had a wide dowl-shaped profile (2.5 m wide by 0.44 m deep) and was filled by ' a dark brown silty sandy loosely compacted loam'. Due to apparent annual disturbance it is uncertain what this feature was. One Romano-British sherd, one medieval and three post-medieval sherds were recovered.

### Trench 10

This consisted of a north-south trench (30 m long by 1.55 m wide and 0.5 m deep, in addition, there was a 4.5 m projection in the middle of its western side) the only feature worthy of note was the appearance of Cornbrash deposits at a depth of 0.4 metres. A few fragments of pottery were recovered throughout the soil horizons. However, due to the loose and somewhat weak structure of the soil it is most probable that their presence was due to former animal burrows and possibly even sinkage due to natural causes. The pottery consisted of one middle Iron Age and one Romano-British sherd.




### Trench 11

This was a 30m N-S trench (1.55m wide by about 0.5m deep). Three distinct features were discovered (11/4, 11/5 and 11/6) these will be described individually. An E-W ditch (11/5) 1.2m wide and 0.4m deep was found. It cut 11/3 and was filled with a light to mid brown sandy loam. This was later cut by another ditch (11/4) which lay parallel and overlapping it. It was 2.15m wide and about 0.4m deep. Ditch 11/4 contained three Roman and 1 medieval sherd. About 5m to the north lay another shallow E-W ditch



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**Key**

-  New Road Corridor
-  Archaeological Trenches
-  Urban Areas

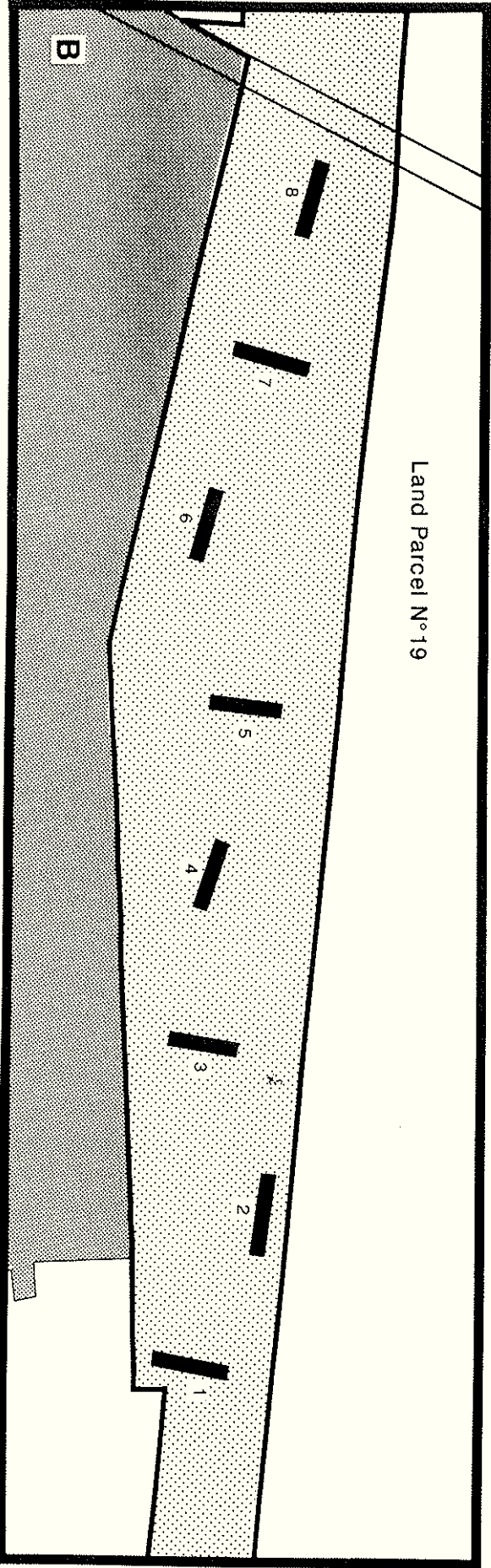


Figure 9

(0.95m wide and 0.4m deep) which was filled by a 'mid brown- light grey silty sand'. The ditch cuts a dark brown-light grey sandy loam (11/3). This layer contained 1040 grammes of pottery, most of which was 3rd to 4th century but 6 sherds were of medieval date. Also extending across the southern three quarters of the trench was a compacted mid orange to mid brown sandy loam mixed with Cornbrash. This pre-dated the two ditches (11/4 and 11/5) and contained RB pottery sherds.

#### Trench 12

This consisted of an E-W 30m length by 1.55m wide trench. Two ditches were discovered and excavated (12/6 and 12/7). The first one was (12/6) was an NE-SW ditch (almost 1m wide and 0.7m deep) and filled with a dark grey silty sand with occasional charcoal flecks and frequent limestone fragments. The ditch contained 740 grammes of pottery (31 sherds) all of which post-dated the mid-4th century.

The second ditch (12/7) lay 3.5m to the west. It consisted of a N-S ditch (2.1m wide and 0.5m deep). The fill consisted of a predominantly mid to dark grey-brown silty sand mixed with other disturbed soils. Ten sherds of pottery (240 grammes) dated to the late 3rd/4th century and bone fragments were recovered. From layer 12/3 came some 820 grammes of pottery (46 sherds), all of which were of Roman date. Also from this layer came a rather curious ceramic fragment. This consisted of a piece of well fired clay, buff with a partial grey core which appears to have been part of a vessel. It has five perforations, four of which go through the base/side of the object; one of them doesn't appear to have gone through. These perforations were made prior to its firing and, therefore, relate to the intended function of the object. The base was 0.025 m thick, the wall 0.022 m thick and measured about 0.0.40 m sq and weighed 65 grammes.

#### Trench 13

This was a short 10m trench that was excavated just 10m to the north of trench 12 and intended to locate one or two ditches found in T.12 (12/6 and 12/7). It was not absolutely certain which previous ditch it was a continuation of. The ditch 13/6 was aligned approximately NNW-SSE. It was about 2.1m wide, 0.86m deep and filled with two fills both of which were of a predominantly mid-grey sandy silt. Although Romano-British pottery was found within this trench the assemblage was essentially medieval. The ditch itself contained 160 grammes of late 3rd century pottery.

## No.19

Area: 37500 sq m

Area sampled: 372 sq m (0.99%)

Location: To the east of Draycott road and west of the old township boundary between Draycott Moor and Kingston Bagpuize.

Terrain: Flat with occasional gentle dips

Soil: Fyfield - Brown earths

Quality: Grade 2

Land use: Arable

Soil conditions: Stubble

Historical reference: Same as for no.15

Method: Trial trenched

Archaeological potential: Remotely possible

A total of eight 30m by 1.55m trenches were cut in this land parcel (1-8). They were as follows, starting from east to west.

### Trench 1

Excavation of the A and B horizons down to the weathered parent material - 'a dark orange silty sand' (0.36 m below the surface). At the southern end of the trench a shallow depression or ditch (?) was located. This was orientated WNW-ESE (0.74m wide by 0.15m deep) and filled by a dark grey brown silty loam. No finds were present.

### Trench 2

This was an E-W trench which was similar to trench 1. The weathered parent material was 0.32m down. No feature or finds worth describing.

### Trench 3

A N-S trench which revealed the weathered parent material lying at a depth of 0.34. No features or finds noted.

### Trench 4

An E-W trench devoid of any distinguishing features.

### Trench 5

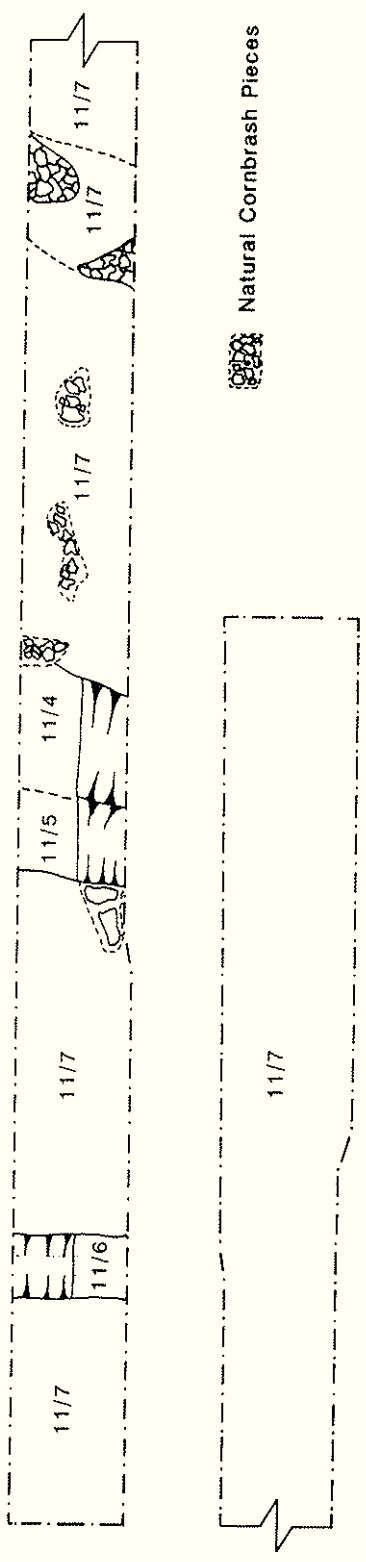
This was orientated N-S and had the same dimensions as no.1. However, due to uncertainty over what constituted the parent material the trench was excavated to a depth of 0.66m. Four horizons were distinguished but all would appear to be variations on a theme of 'mid brown' sandy loams. No artefacts or features were observed.

### Trench 6

Trench 11  
Plan



KBS A420



Trench 11  
Sections 11/4 11/5 11/6

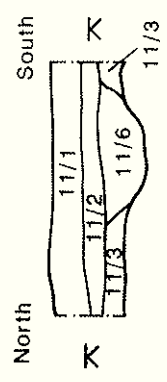
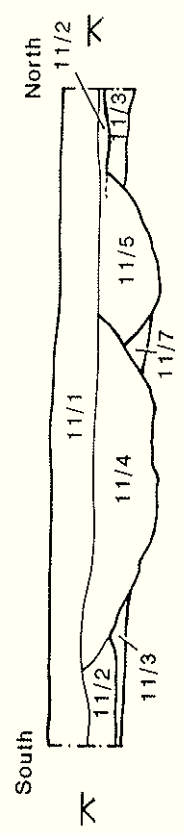
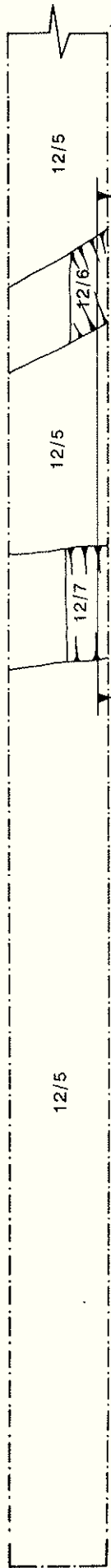
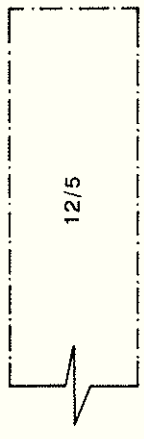


Figure 10

Trench 12  
Plan

KBS A420



Section 12/7 12/6

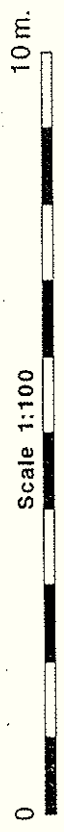
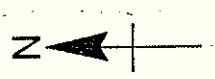
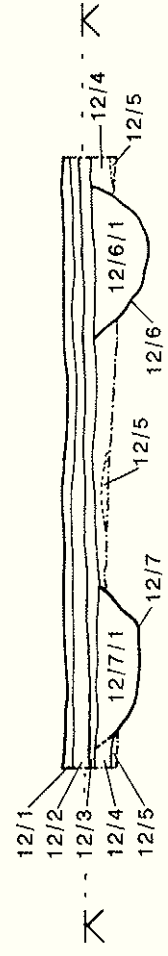


Figure 11

An E-W trench excavated to a depth of 0.4 containing brown-orange sandy loams (6/1 - 6/3). No archaeology present.

Trench 7

A N-S trench completely featureless.

Trench 8

An E-W trench similar in character with the earlier trenches. The only exception was that there was a greater variation in the weathered parent material (8/3 and perhaps 8/2) which rose to about 0.25m of the present land surface. Three sherds of 11th and 12th century date were recovered from 8.

## **No.20**

Area: 13200 sq m

Location: East of the A415 Witney road

Terrain: Flat

Soil: Kingston and Longworth - Gleyed brown earths

Quality: Grade 3

Land use: Arable

Soil conditions: Drilled and crop sprouting

Historical reference: Inclosure map of Kingston Bagpuize in 1807 (B.R.O D/P 77/26.

Tithe map 1846 (B.R.O IR 30/2/79)

Method: Field walked

Archaeological potential: Remotely possible

The recovery of flint material was below average from this field (11 fragments). No Romano-British pottery was recovered though medieval pottery was above average (25). This was dated to the 13th and 14th century. The evidence from this field will be discussed in the summary at the end of the report.

## **No.21**

Omitted

## **No.22**

Area: 15200 sq m

Location: To the east of the A 415 Witney road

Terrain: Flat

Soil: Kingston and Longworth - Gleyed brown earths

Quality: Grade 3

Land use: Arable

Soil conditions: Harrowed and drilled

Historical reference: Same as for no.20

Method: Field walking

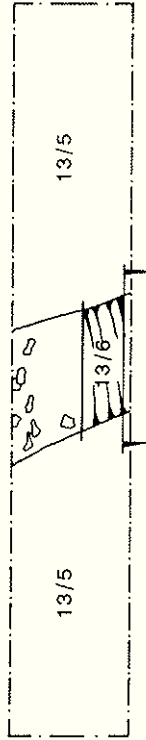
Archaeological potential: Remotely possible

The material recovered was as follows: Flint (17)' RB pottery (2), medieval pottery (19). See discussion at the end of the report.



Trench 13  
Plan 1:100

KBS A420



Section 13/6 1:50

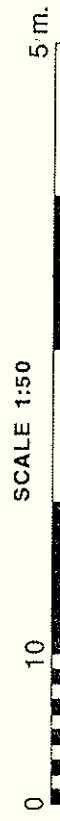
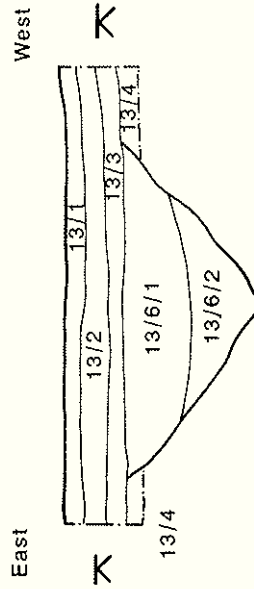


Figure 12

## No.23

Area: 3750 sq m

Area sampled: 139.5 sq m (3.7%)

Location: Adjacent to A 415 road to its east

Soil: Kingston - surface water gley soil

Quality: Grade 3

Land use: Arable

Soil conditions: Sown and sprouting

Historical reference: Same as no. 20

Method: Trial trenching

Archaeological potential: Improbable

### Trench 14

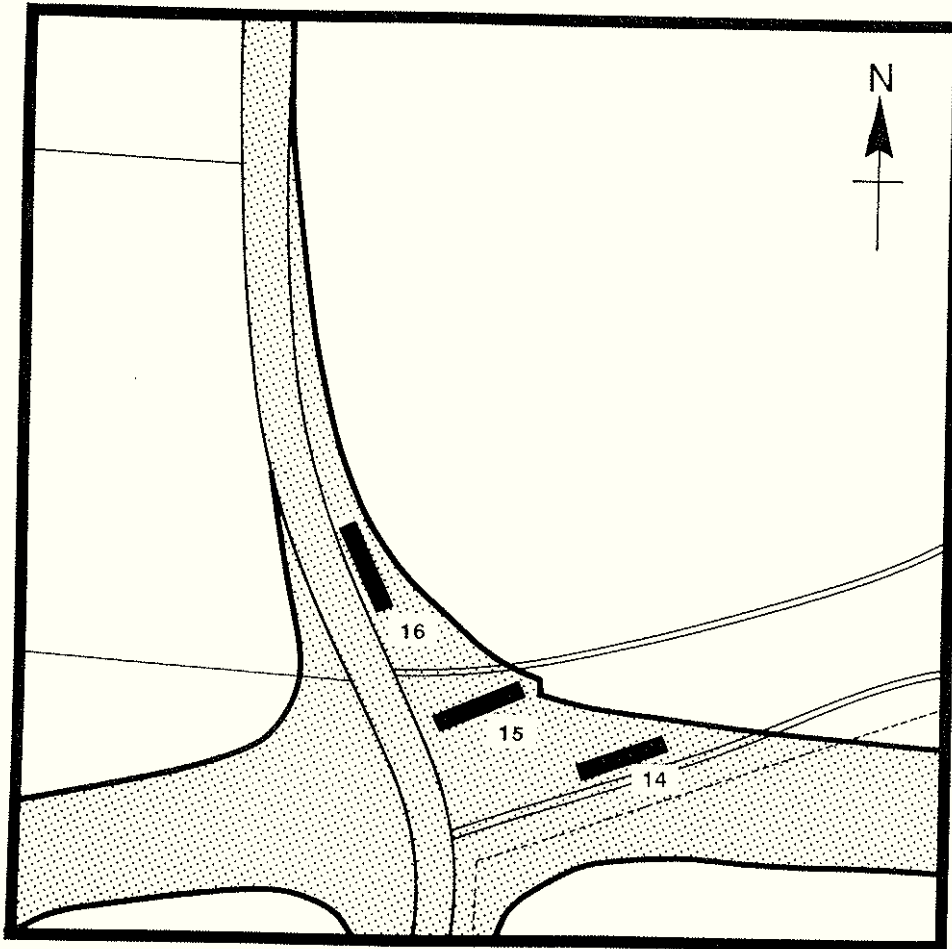
On an E-W axis which attained a depth of 0.28m before the weathered parent material was encountered.



### Trench 15

Parallel to trench 14 and similar in soil composition. An irregular feature was noted at its western end (15/5) and it was suggested as being a possible ditch or large pit. However, lack of associated finds makes it difficult to date, though a modern date was proposed.

### Trench 16

This N-S trench contained four soil horizons to a depth of 0.45m onto weathered parent material (sand). In the middle of this trench there was an 11m shallow gully (0.56m wide by 0.16m deep). This feature was undated though it did contain flecks of charcoal and occasional pottery and bone fragments.



**KEY**     New Road Corridor     Archaeological Trenches

SCALE 1:2500  
0                      100                      200 m.



Figure 13

## Between Land Parcels 22 and 24

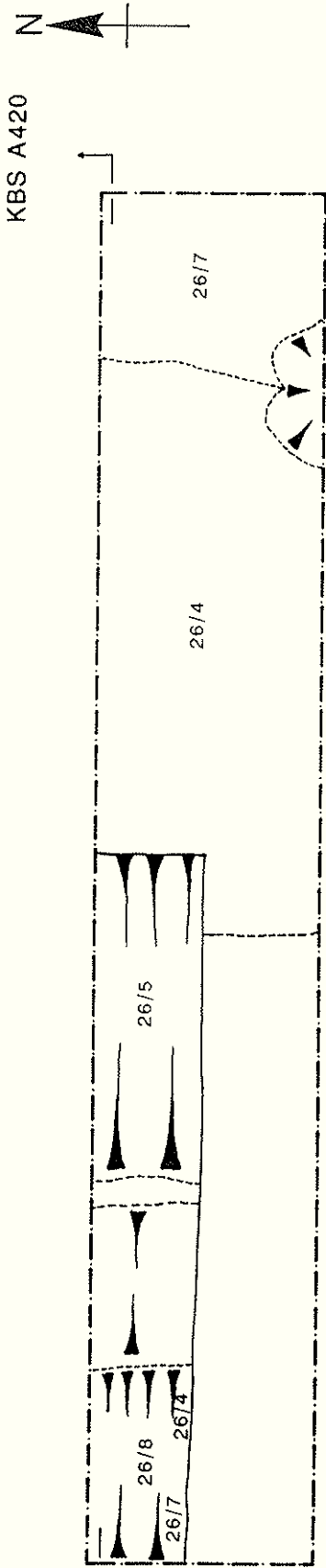
### Trench 26

This was excavated across the boundary between land parcel 22 and LP 24. It was situated at NGR SU 41170-98520 and consisted of a trench 10.6m long by 1.55m wide. The archaeology consisted of two ditches of which the earliest was 26/8. It was 1.7m wide and 0.57m deep and filled by a pale sandy loam. This was sealed by a greyish brown loam (26/3). The second ditch cut the layer 26/3 that sealed the first ditch (26/8). This was 2.9m wide and just over 0.5m deep. The primary fill was a 'hard compact yellowy brown silty sand'. Sealing it was a mostly modern layer (26/6) possibly derived from the deliberate levelling of the bank. It was impossible to distinguish the upcaste from the ditches, although there was a pronounced rise in ground level on the eastern side. A profile of the earthwork was recorded 180 m to the south the excavation (T.26). This is illustrated in Fig 14 and shows the monument to be a bank-type feature about 8 m wide.

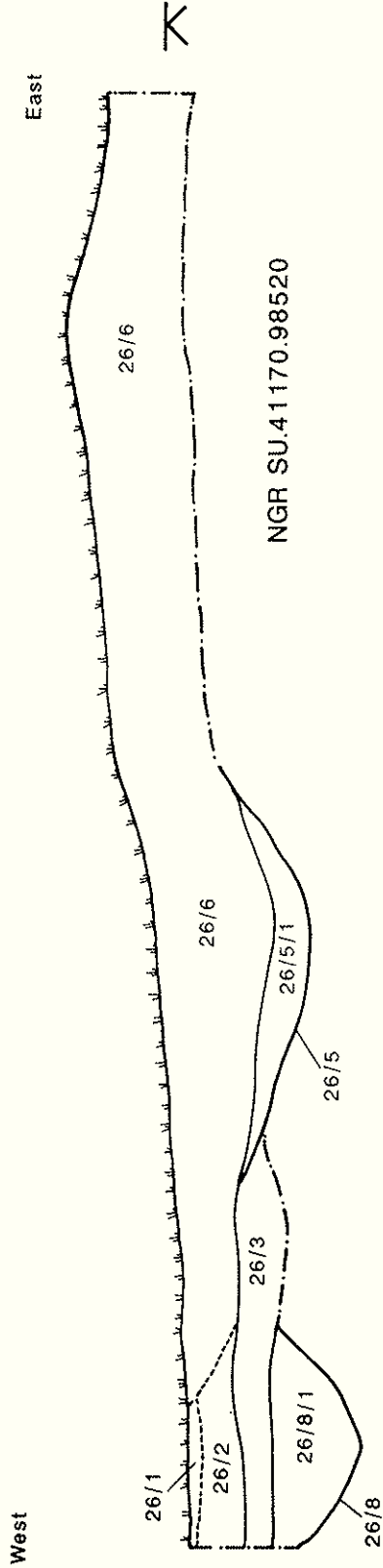
The earliest description of this feature was written in 1930 by Crawford (1953, 240). In 1941 a section of the earthwork was excavated to the south of Kingston Bagpuize (Bradford and Morris 1941) at NGR SU 4104-9788). This revealed no evidence for either a ditch or a date. The note in *Oxoniensia* states that, 'where it is best preserved its overall width was 80 ft and was no more than 4ft high (ibid). This measurement is difficult to reconcile with that observed in the field, it is perhaps more likely to be 8 yds than 80 ft.

Aelfrith's Ditch or Dyke marked the boundary between the two ancient parishes of Longworth and Fyfield and coincidentally the eastern boundary of the township (villa) of Kingston Bagpuize (Grundy 1925). There are several points worth observing: Firstly, this boundary is comparatively less irregular than that on the other township and parish boundaries of Kingston Bagpuize, Draycott Moor, Longworth and Hinton Waldrist. Secondly, although it is mentioned in charters describing the bounds of Kingston Bagpuize in 956, 968 and 977 (Gelling 1974, 908-9 n.14). The difference can be seen to the south of the present A 415 road (Frilford to Kingston Bagpuize road) where the parish projects eastward across the continuation of Aelfrith's boundary in the form of the 'Short Dyke' to the R.Ock. From these observations arise the question of the earthwork's date. The wording of the charters of 956 and 977 (ibid) does not appear to mention any kind of deviation to the east of either the short ditch (scortandic) or of Aelfrith's ditch. That is, the boundary described in the mid to late 10th century does not correspond with that of the parish boundary. This means that it (Aelfrith's boundary) is either later or much earlier than the parish boundary. Since it is argued that parish boundaries were based on those of township units it would suggest that Aelfrith's ditch may predate the former but post-date the latter. All that can be stated at present is that Aelfrith's boundary formed an integral part of the landscape at the time when charters were being drawn up in the late Anglo Saxon period.

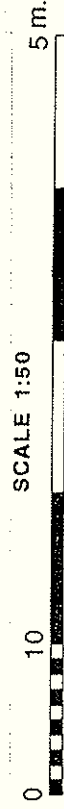
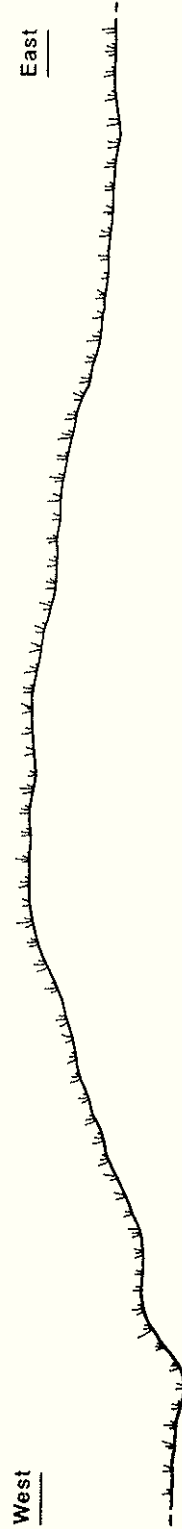
**Aelfrith's Ditch  
Trench 26  
Plan**



**Trench 26  
Section**



**Profile Across Aelfrith's Dyke at :  
NGR SU.41160.98430.**



**Figure 14**

## No. 24

Area: 24000

Location: East of Aelfrith's ditch and west of Fyfield and the A 420

Terrain: Flat

Soil: Fyfield - Brown earth

Quality: Grade 2

Land use: Arable

Soil conditions: Harrowed and drilled

Historical reference: Inclosure map of 1816 (B.R.O Q/R Dc 13

Method: Field walked

Archaeological potential: Remotely possible

The Prehistoric evidence consisted of a weak scatter of 31 flint flakes and discarded fragments. No Roman-British pottery was recovered though there was a total of 23 medieval sherds retrieved. None of this evidence is indicative of certain settlement location. This evidence from the this field will discussed in the summary.

### Summary of Field walking strategy

Just over half the route (54%) was field walked and the results have been supplemented with the description of each field parcel. A total of six fields were line-walked (10m apart) covering a combined area of 13.39 ha. Because of the disjointed nature of this linear sample and lack of field walking in the area it is difficult to make meaningful comparisons of the site data. Nevertheless, it is important that some information is produced that will at least allow comparisons to be made with other linear surveys and, indeed, with further work on the Corallian ridge. The table below seeks to illustrate the sort of finds density that was recovered by the survey. It will be noticed, as might be expected, that there was little correlation between the density of one category of artefact and another. Field 9 shows the greatest concentration of flint (flakes and cores) while Field 2 the highest for Romano-British sherds and Field 20 for those of medieval pottery. The only conclusions that can be drawn from the field walking exercise is that allows for different artefact concentrations to be identified. These are summarised below.

**Table 1**

Shows the number of square metres per artefact collect.

Parcel No	2	4	9	20	22	24	Average
Flint	800	550	381	1200	894	774	766.5
RB Pottery	5200	8066	9380	-	7600	-	5041
Medieval	1040	2016	1737	528	800	1043	1194

The above figures would appear to indicate a discard pattern that was consistent with random loss and the movement of refuse/manure from occupation areas onto their surrounding associated territories.

### Summary of the trial trenching strategy

This was implemented on those areas where the ground cover or the timing of the evaluation necessitated an appropriate response. The Table below illustrates the level of trial trenching that was assigned to each field parcel. Only in the case of field parcel no.15 was any significant archaeological evidence recovered.

**Table 2**

<b>Land Parcels</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>Total</b>
Area sq m	3300	3000	14000	8750	14800	37500	3750	85100
Sample sq m	31	68.2	232.5	116.2	201.5	372	139.5	1161
Percentage	0.93	2.27	1.66	1.32	1.36	0.99	3.7	1.42

## **Appendix 1**

### **A note on the Romano-British pottery by Paul Booth.**

The material from Trenches 11-13 is the only significant concentration of pottery of any period and undoubtedly indicates the presence or immediate proximity of Roman settlement. In total, these trenches produced 247 Roman and 12 medieval sherds, weighing 3.35 kg. Much of this material comes from layers (11/3, 12/3 and 13/3) overlying other features and all containing a few medieval as well as Roman sherds. Almost all the pottery in Trench 11 is from this layer and many of the sherds are of relatively small size and some are abraded. Here, and in Trench 13, the average sherd weight is under 10 gm. In Trench 12, however, the average sherd weight is over 20 gm and almost half of the sherds come from contexts other than layer 12/3. This may indicate that Trench 12 is closer to the focus of activity, or alternatively that it includes some deposits perhaps containing primary rubbish.

The Roman pottery spans the period from the 2nd to the 4th century, but the emphasis appears to be in the late Roman period. A group from 12/6 is likely to be late 4th century. Early Roman material is absent, the only grog tempered fabrics being used for storage jars which may have been produced throughout the Roman period. Reduced coarse wares dominate the assemblage, oxidised coarse wares are scarce. Lack burnished and late Roman shell tempered wares also occur. Samian, fine wares, mortaria and white wares (the so-called fine and specialist wares) totals 34 sherds (13.8% of the assemblage). Probable Oxfordshire colour coated wares are the only fine ware represented. Oxfordshire products also account for all the mortaria and white wares, the latter including one parchment ware bowl. Most of the oxidised and reduced coarse wares are probably also products of the Oxfordshire industry. The relatively high percentage of fine and specialist wares may indicate a site assemblage of moderate status, but more likely reflects the late Roman emphasis of the group when fine wares were more common than earlier. The weighting of the vessel types very heavily towards jars (36 out of 47 vessels or about 77%) would be consistent with a relatively low-status assemblage. Bowls and dishes, the majority of the remaining types occur entirely in Samian, Oxfordshire colour coat and black burnished ware fabrics.

## **Appendix 2**

### **A note on the flint assemblages by P.J. Bradley**

The material had suffered quite badly from post-depositional processes, many pieces were broken or damaged. The majority of the flint is fairly good quality material although one or two pieces are probably gravel flint. The better quality flint was generally a grey to dark brown colour. Cortex where present is thin and white or sometimes stained brown. Some cherty inclusions were present and the flint was mainly lightly corticated although some pieces exhibited heavy cortication. This material would have been brought to the area probably from superficial deposits to the SW.



The assemblage contains few diagnostic pieces for dating purposes; any evidence for dating will be gained from a study of technological aspects of the material (cf Holgate 1988). Such an approach will provide only provisional dating.

#### Field 2

Fourteen struck flints were recovered from this field. The material represents a general scatter which is not closely datable. Although narrow butts and diffuse bulbs of percussion are slightly more common and may be indicative of Earlier Neolithic activity (cf Holgate 1988). The small size of the scatter and the lack of diagnostic pieces precludes precise dating.

#### Field 4

A total of 39 pieces of struck flint were recovered from this field. A couple of denser patches were noted amongst the background scatter (centred on C 180 and H 280). Again this material was not closely datable but both Earlier and Later Neolithic artefacts seem to be represented.

#### Field 9

One hundred and eleven struck flints were recovered from this field. At least two and possibly three concentrations are present.

Concentration 1 (centred on D 100) consisted mainly of unretouched flakes although some blades and two scrapers were found. In terms of technological traits most of the material would appear to be Later Neolithic although some earlier material is present.

Concentration 2 (centred on E 320) appeared to contain more blades, and blade-like pieces, a blade and flake core was recovered (C 420). The majority of this material would on technological traits appear to be Earlier Neolithic, some Later Neolithic was also recovered.

Concentration 3 (centred on C 560) a small group of probable Later Neolithic flint. A fragment of a polished implement was recovered from C 560, it may be a chisel or a small axe. The piece has been thoroughly reduced but would seem to come from the middle of an implement. A Later Neolithic date may be envisaged if the implement is a chisel, however, as the piece is so reduced dating is problematic.

#### Field 20

Eight struck flints were recovered from this field. The material seems to represent a small scatter of probable Later Neolithic and Early Bronze Age flintwork. A broken arrowhead (probably barbed and tanged or possibly triangular) was recovered from C 240.

#### Field 22

A general scatter (17 struck flints were recovered) with both Early and Later Neolithic flintwork represented.

#### Field 24

Twenty-seven struck flints were recovered again representing a general scatter. No closely datable pieces were recovered but from technological traits the material is mainly Later Neolithic.

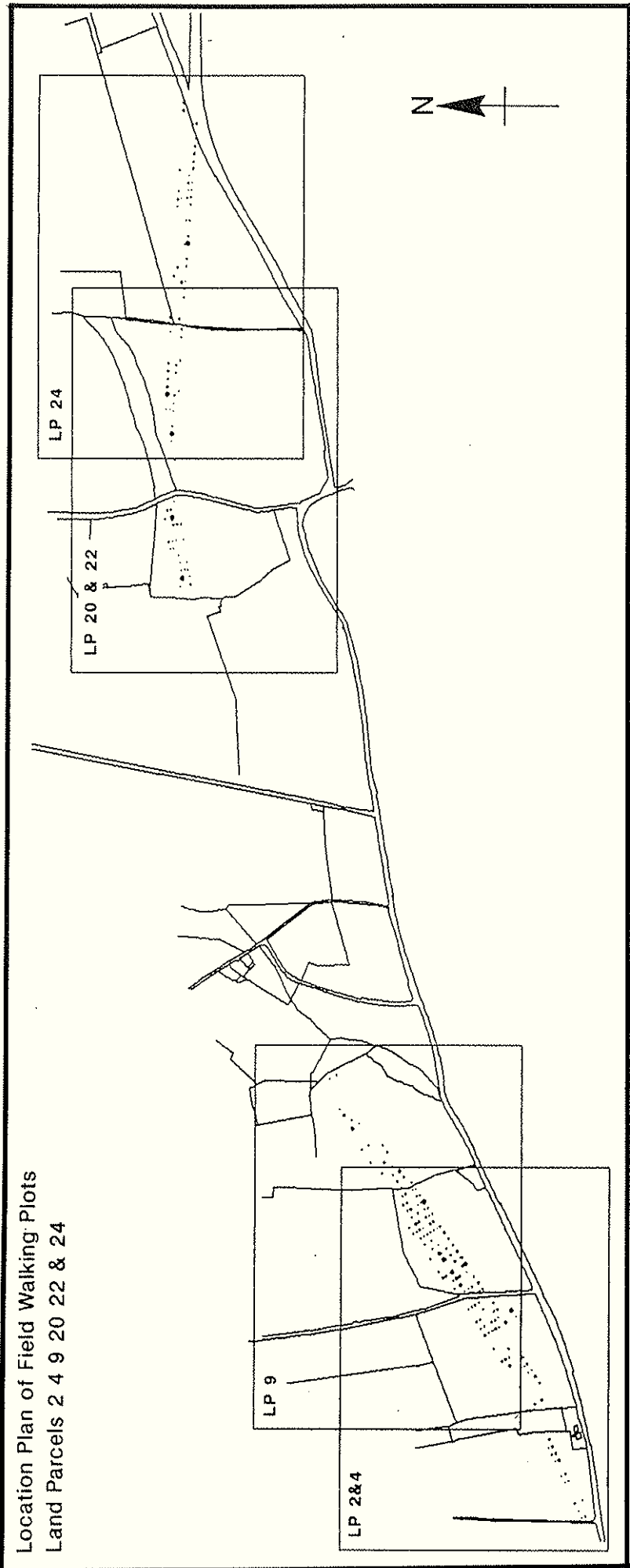
## Appendix 3

### Field Walking Plots

#### KEY

LP	Land Parcel
+	Flint
☆	Roman
●	Medieval
5	+
4	+
3	☆ ● +
2	☆ ● +
1	* * *

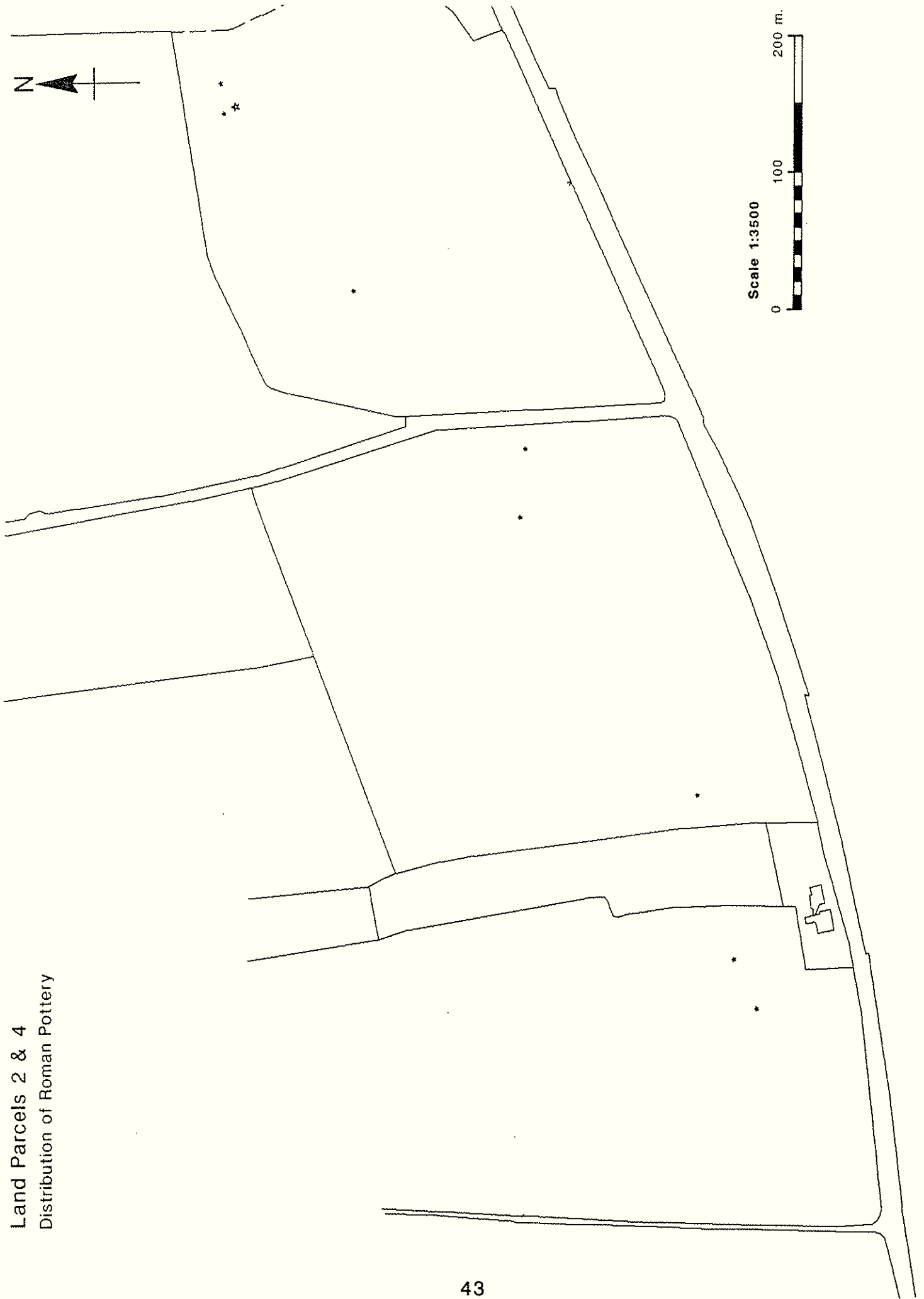
Location Plan of Field Walking Plots  
Land Parcels 2 4 9 20 22 & 24



Land Parcels 2 & 4  
Distribution of Flint



Land Parcels 2 & 4  
Distribution of Roman Pottery



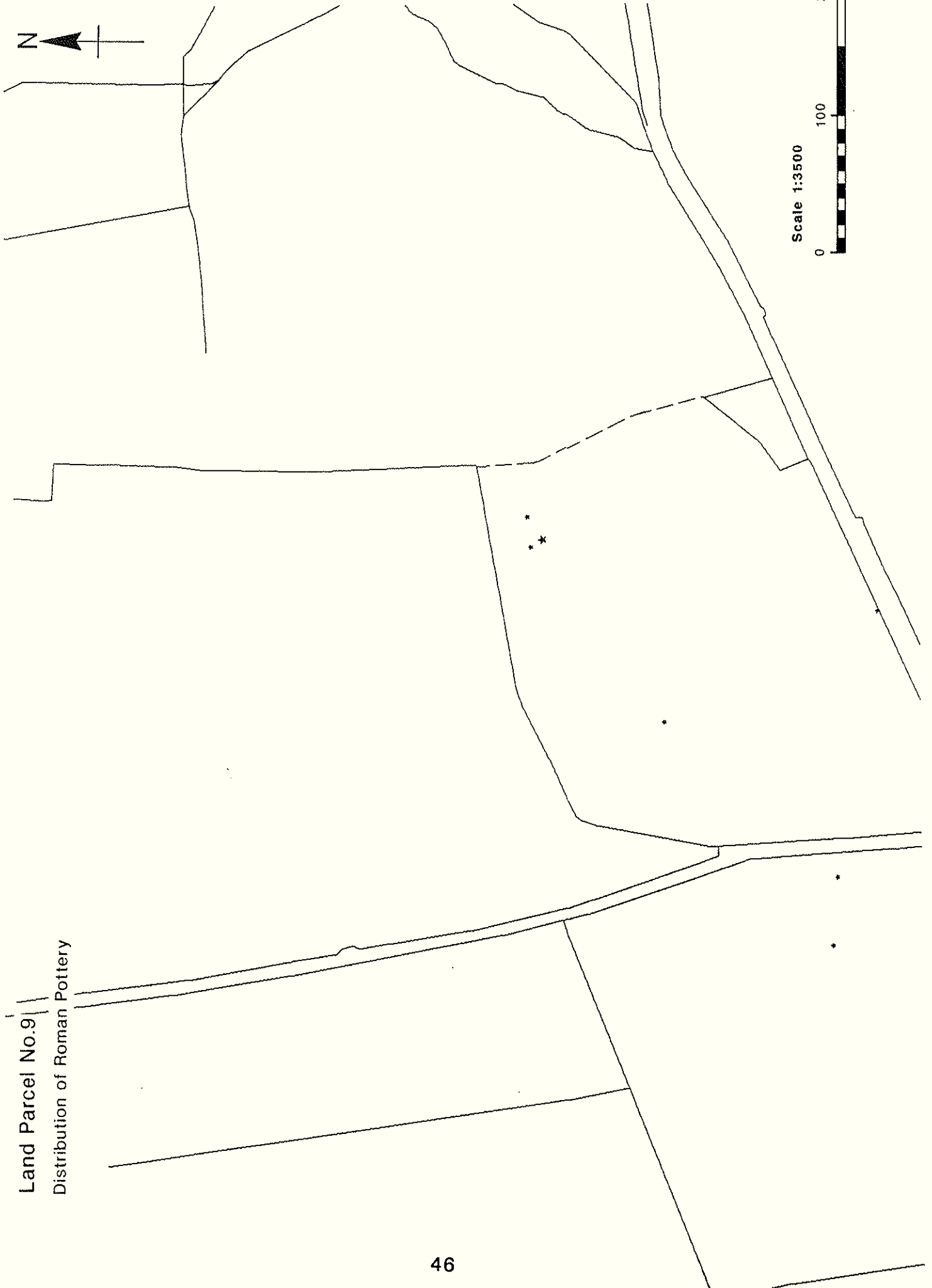
Land Parcels 2 & 4  
Distribution of Medieval Pottery





Land Parcel No.9  
Distribution of Flint





Land Parcel No.9  
Distribution of Roman Pottery



Land Parcels 20 & 22  
Distribution of Flint



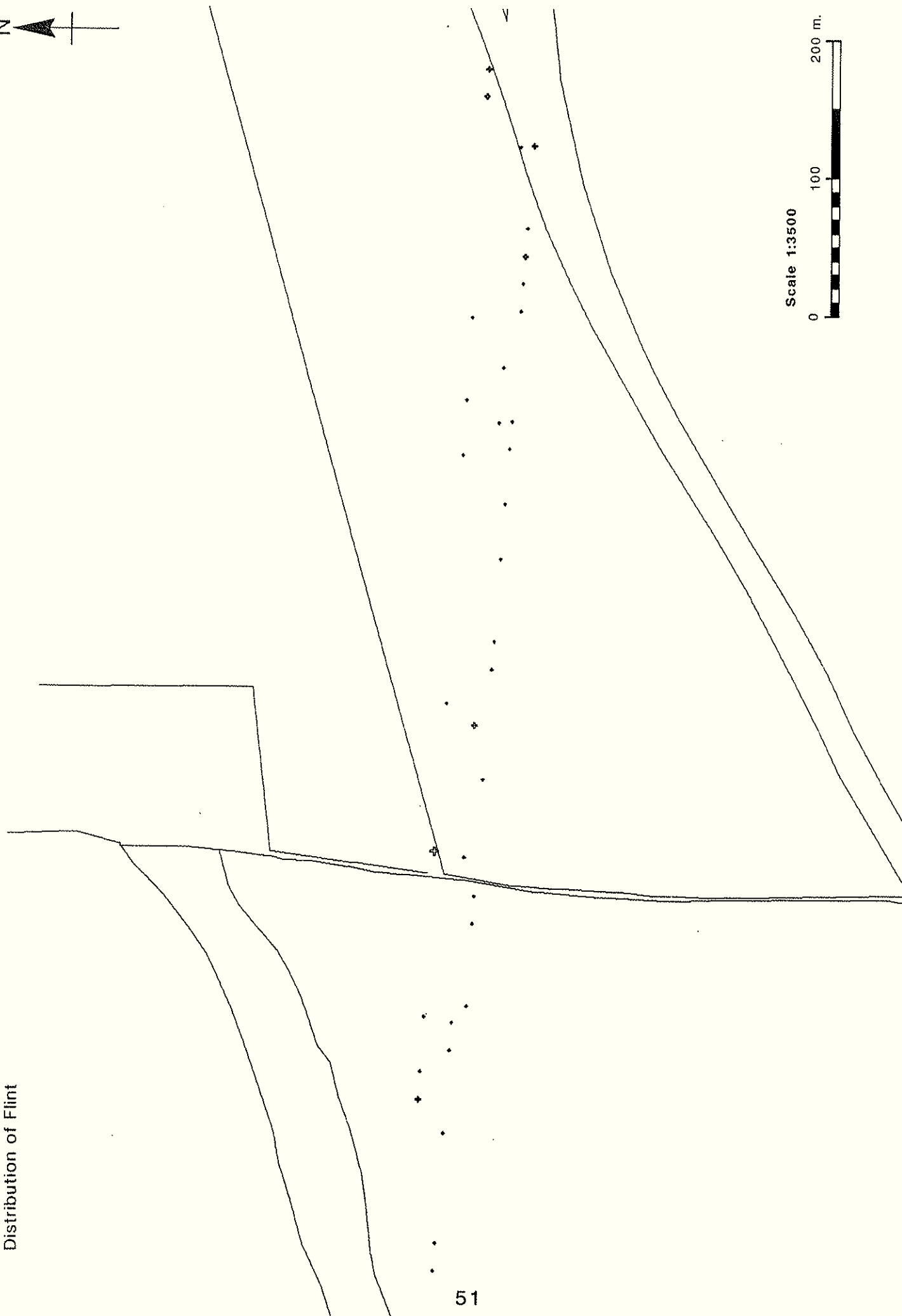
Land Parcels 20 & 22  
Distribution of Roman Pottery



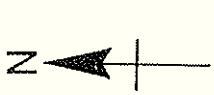
Land Parcels 20 & 22  
Distribution of Medieval Pottery



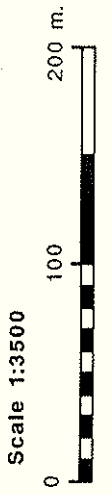
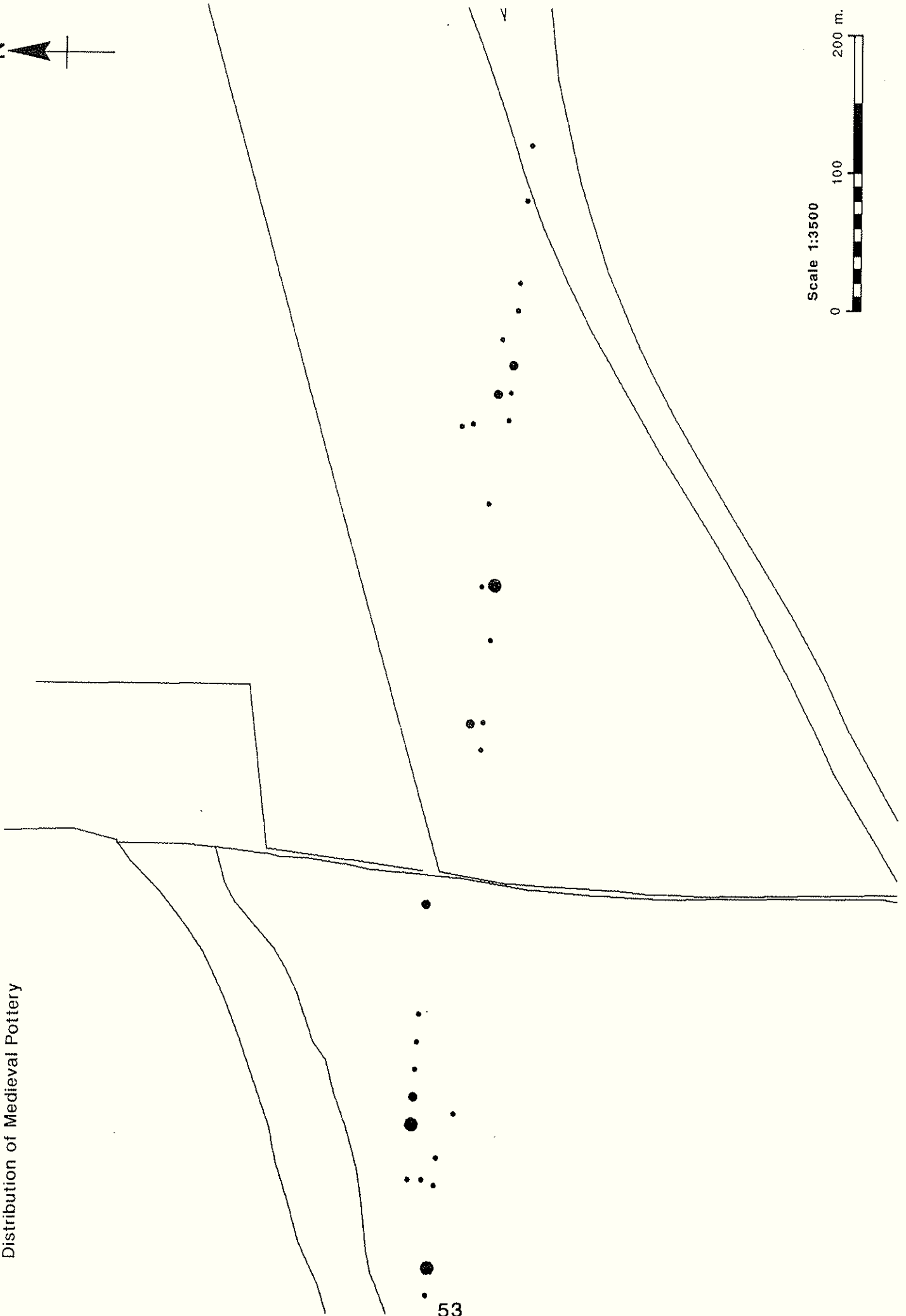
Land Parcel No.24  
Distribution of Flint



Land Parcel No.24  
Distribution of Roman Pottery



Land Parcel No.24  
Distribution of Medieval Pottery





## Summary

**Table 3**

(Area of each land parcel in sq m)

Land Parcel Number	Destroyed	Improbable	Remotely Possible	Possible	Probable	Certain	Method
1		3300					TT
2			10400				FW
3		3000					TT
4			24200				FW
5-8							
9			46900				FW
10		1350					OB
11		14000					TT
12-13							
14			8750				TT
15					14800		TT
16-18							
19			37500				TT
20			13200				FW
21							
22			15200				FW
23		3750					TT
24			24000				FW
		<b>25400</b>	<b>180150</b>		<b>14800</b>		

It can be seen from Table 3 that in terms of the potential archaeology the following pattern is predicted.

Table 4

Archaeological settlement potential of the Kingston Bagpuize bypass

Destroyed	0%
Improbable	11.5%
Remotely Possible	81.7%
Possible	0%
Probable	6.8%
Certain	0%

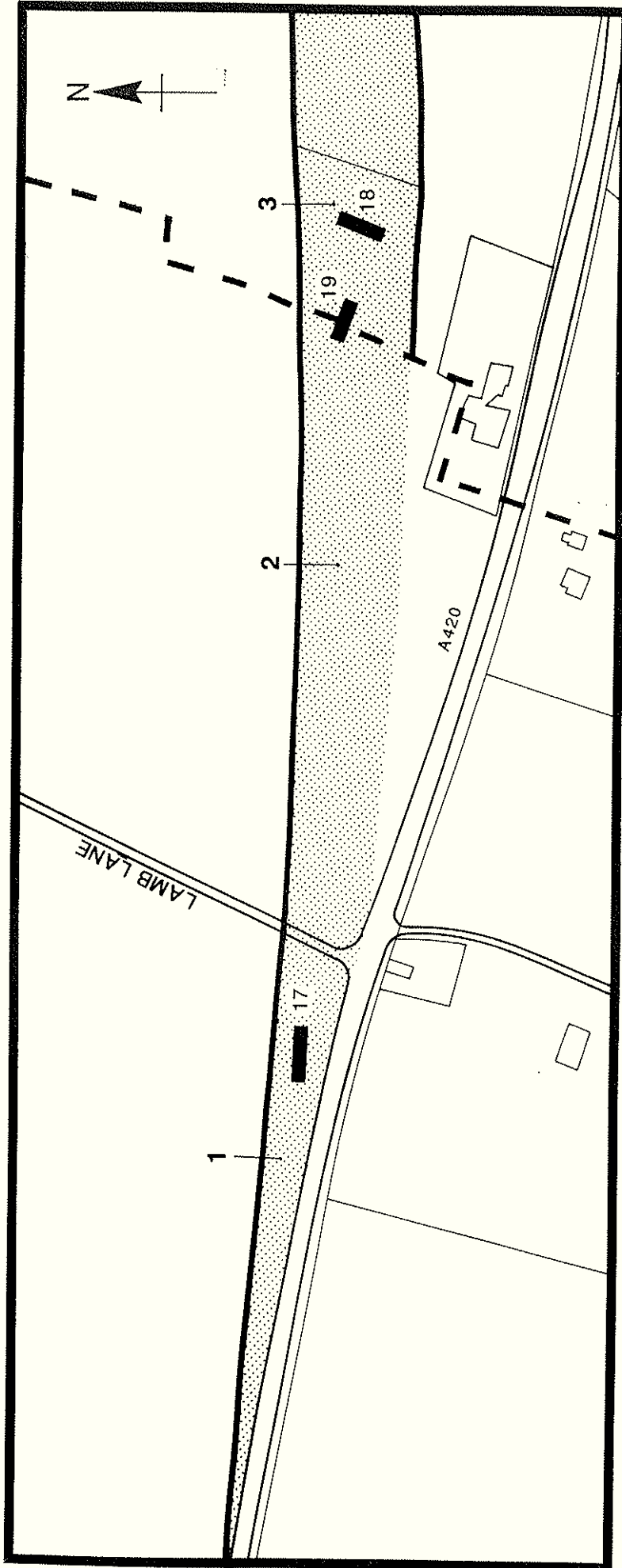
Based on the above figures it can be seen that from the point of view of the overall impact that the bypass will have on the archaeological landscape (i.e. the buried landscape) it will have a relatively low negative influence. Only in the case of field 15 (NGR SU 398-985) is there any significant archaeological activity. This is manifested in the form of some layers and ditches whose fills indicate the proximity of a probable Romano-British settlement. The evidence of the fills suggests that the ditches were being allowed to silt up sometime prior to the late 4th century.

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Land Parcels 1-3

KBS A420



Key

NEW ROAD CORRIDOR

ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRENCHES

PARISH BOUNDARY

SCALE 1:2500

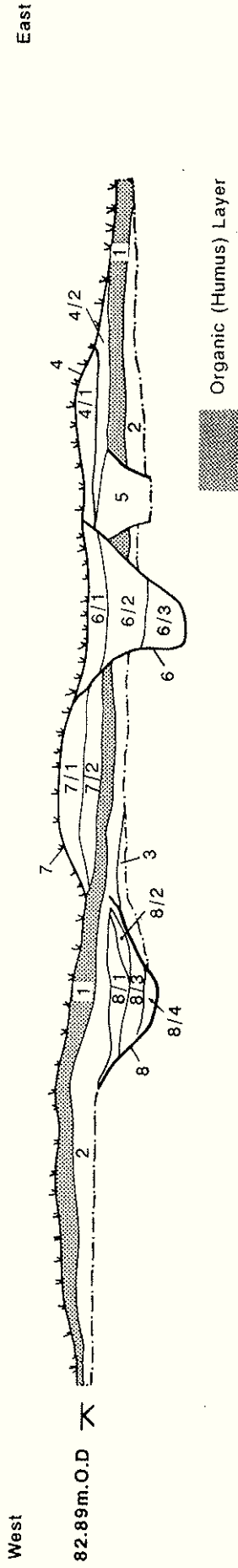
100

200 m.

Figure 5

KBS A420

### Trench 19 South Facing Section



### Trench 19 Plan

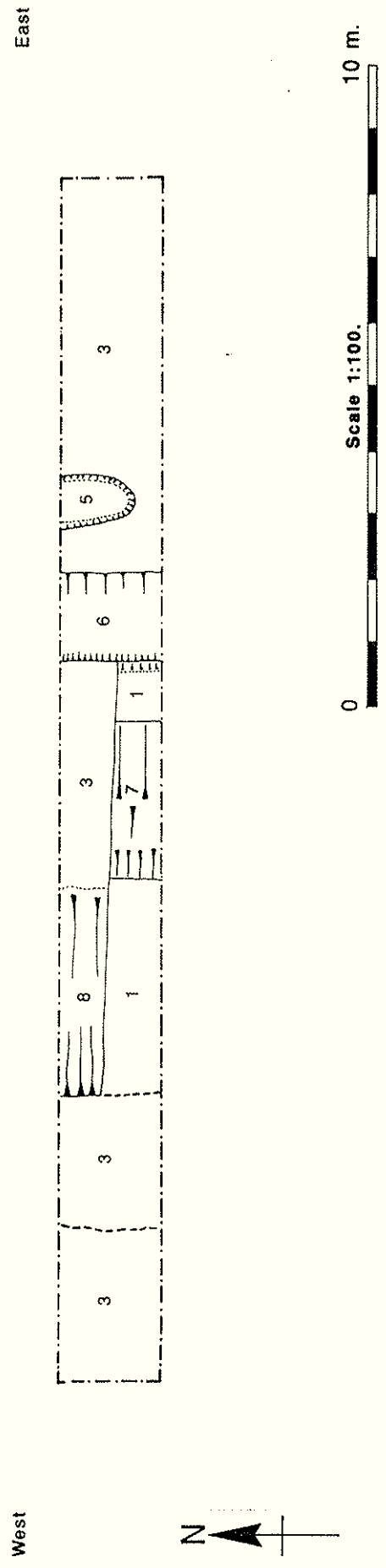
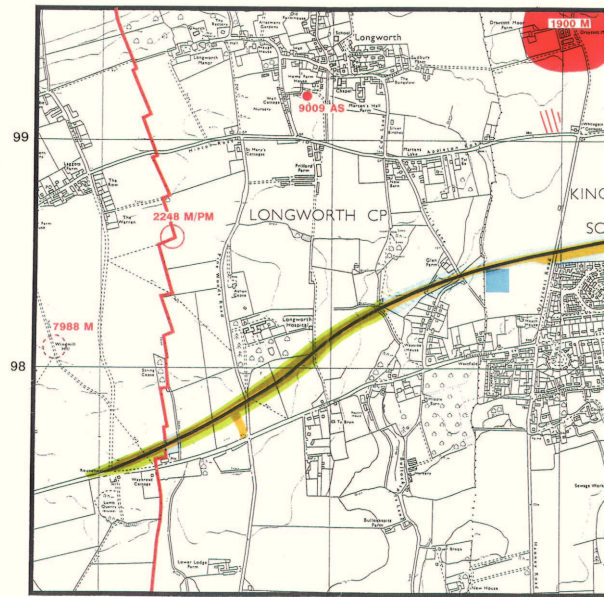
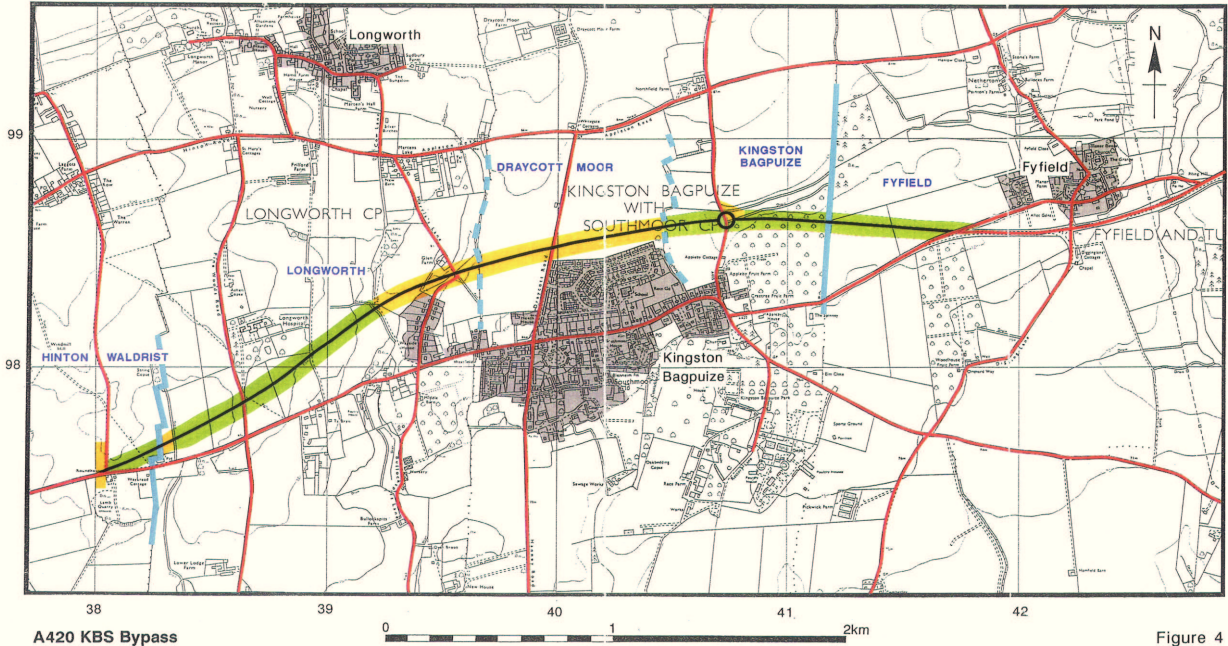


Figure 6



A420 KBS Bypass

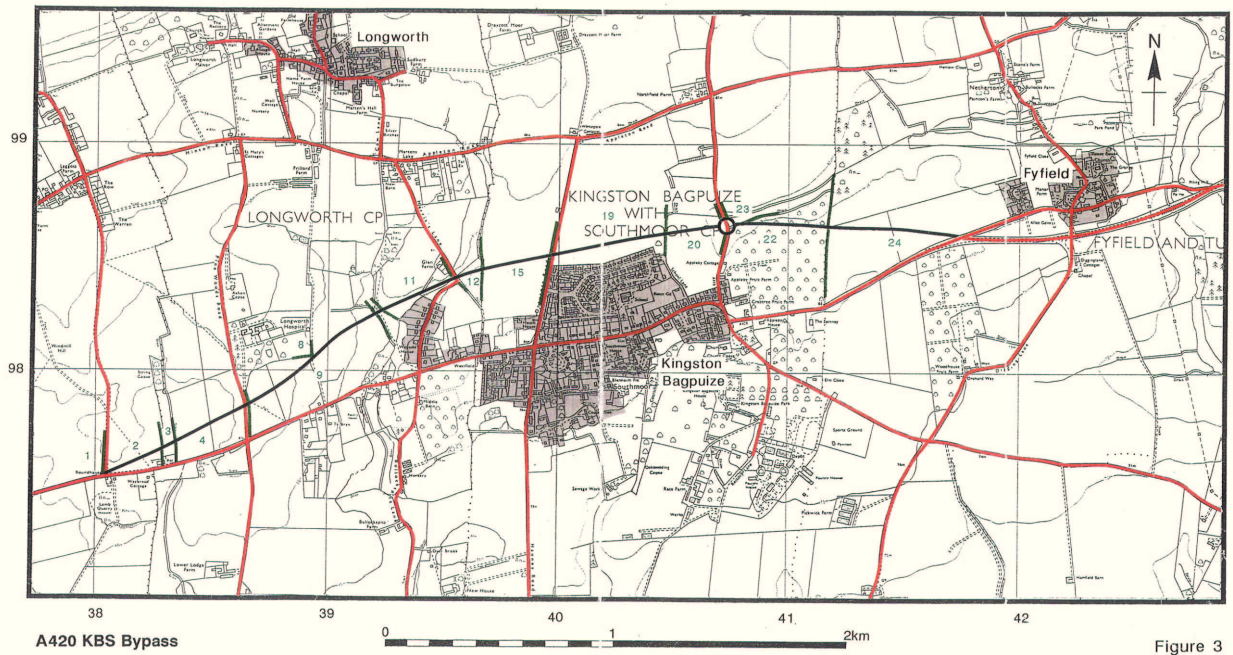


A420 KBS Bypass

Figure 4

KEY

- ROADS
- URBAN AREAS
- BYPASS ROUTE
- AREAS FIELD WALKED
- TRIAL TRENCHED WITH MACHINE
- ANCIENT PARISH BOUNDARIES
- LATER PARISH BOUNDARIES



A420 KBS Bypass

Figure 3

KEY

- ROADS
- URBAN AREAS
- BOUNDARIES WITH NUMBERS OF FIELD PARCELS
- BYPASS ROUTE