

THE CLWYD-POWYS ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST

# *Capel Spon, Buckley, Clwyd*

**An assessment of archaeological sites within the  
proposed Bannel Bridge Opencast Coal Site**



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proposed Bannel Bridge Opencast Coal Site**

**report by J R Cole, with W J Britnell and Carole Jones**  
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prepared for British Coal Opencast, Central West Region

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## Introduction (WJB)

In accordance with the recommendations in the CBI's *Archaeological Investigations Code of Practice for Mineral Operator's* (CBI 1991), the Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust (CPAT) was consulted by British Coal Opencast (BCO) in early April 1988 on whether there were any archaeological interests within the boundaries of a proposed working site at Bannel Bridge, near Buckley, Clwyd.

CPAT replied to the consultation in early June 1988 stating that the only known archaeological site within the proposed site boundary was the supposed site of a Medieval chapel called Capel Spon (Clwyd Archaeological Record No CAR 90), known only from documentary sources. There are no surface remains of the site; it was assumed to lie within a field known as 'Chapel Field' (OS Field No 2571), but its precise whereabouts within this field were uncertain. Examination of aerial photographs in the possession of Clwyd County Council's Planning Department (especially 49.84.108 & 109) failed to reveal any distinct buried features of archaeological interest. CPAT recommended firstly that the location of the site might be determined by geophysical survey, and secondly that if the site were to be located that steps should either be taken to protect it or to ensure that the remains were excavated in advance of destruction. Field survey had suggested the likely topographical siting for the chapel on a low knoll towards the south-east corner of 'Chapel Field' at approx NGR SJ 285627; this would form an obvious focus for geophysical work within the proposed site boundary.

Consequently, BCO commissioned CPAT to carry out a geophysical survey of part of the proposed area in order to try and locate the site of the supposed chapel. Survey was carried out in August 1989 by *Geophysical Surveys* of Bradford. Their report, dated September 1991 (Gater & Gaffney 1989), identified a number of significant geophysical anomalies (Figure 1) including (1) the foundations of a rectangular building approx 14m x 7m wide lying on an east-west alignment, (2-4) an early ditched trackway towards the east, with other less clearly interpretable anomalies (6-8) to the north and west. As anticipated, these anomalies were centred on the low knoll at the NGR given above.

A provisional interpretation of the geophysical anomalies was included in a short paper prepared by CPAT in early October 1991 (CPAT 1989), as follows: 'Various features of archaeological interest were identified by the survey, notably buried foundations of a rectangular building ... which are likely to represent the missing chapel. Other features identified by the survey suggest that the chapel may be set within a circular enclosure about 60 metres in diameter, with other ditches towards the eastern side which might represent a roadway leading towards the church, flanked by ditches'. More detailed geophysical survey of the immediate area of the chapel foundations revealed a number of anomalies inside the structure and suggested that an entrance might exist towards the centre of the southern wall (Gater & Gaffney 1989, figs 7-8).

In submitting a copy of the geophysics report, CPAT advised BCO that there was inevitably some uncertainty about their precise interpretation, and recommended that in order to formulate a suitable archaeological response to the threat posed by the opencast workings that further documentary research and trial excavation should be undertaken. Provisional estimates for carrying out this work were also made available. In the absence of further information, however, it was considered that there was a sufficient basis upon which to



define an area of archaeological interest which encompassed the building foundations, the putative enclosure and the trackway to the east (Figure 2).

Without taking up the option of carrying out further trial work at that stage, informal discussions took place between CPAT and BCO about what measures might be taken to satisfy archaeological interests in the site, which lay within the area of a proposed overburden mound. Various options were considered, as follows: **1** carefully burying the archaeological site during the site working phase and then subsequently reinstating it during the site restoration phase; **2** fully excavating the site in advance of the construction of the overburden mound; and **3** excluding the area of archaeological interest from the area of the overburden mound. CPAT considered that the long-term effects of option 1 were unpredictable and potentially damaging as far as continued preservation of the site was concerned, and recommended that options 2-3 were to be preferred. CPAT advised BCO that without undertaking trial work it would be difficult to estimate the level of resources necessary for carrying out excavation, post-excavation and publication work on the site to an acceptable standard. Costs might be considerable, however; potential sources of funding were very limited, and current Welsh Office policy was that BCO, as developer, would be expected to fully fund the work.

BCO at that stage therefore decided to adopt option 3, and the planning application submitted in November 1989 stated that they had 'redesigned the overburden mounds and working methods to leave the site of Spon Chapel undisturbed throughout the working site phase'. BCO also stated that 'Should planning permission be granted, the Executive would fund a trial, the details to be agreed with the County Archaeologist and the Trust, and would be likely to contribute toward the funding for an Archaeological Dig during the restoration phase if the trial proves a site of importance' (BCO 1989, para 4.10, and plan BB6).

In December CPAT provided BCO with an accurate a location as possible of the archaeological features defined by geophysical survey and advised that the opportunity should be taken to define the area to be excluded from site workings more closely. (It appeared from the planning application that parts of the trackway which appeared to be associated with the supposed chapel were not excluded from the proposed extent of the overburden mounds.)

In December 1990 BCO informed CPAT that following the refusal of the application by Clwyd County Council that BCO would be appealing against the decision. CPAT was notified by the Welsh Office in June 1991 that a local inquiry would be held in October 1991 to consider the appeal by BCO.

In July 1991, BCO commissioned CPAT to carry out the assessment work described in this report.

Contact has been maintained between CPAT and Clwyd County Council throughout the period of the Trust's involvement with these proposal, CPAT having also been consulted by the County Council on the original planning application submitted by BCO.



## Historical Background (WJB, JRC)

The following account draws heavily upon recently published historical research by Derrick Pratt (Pratt 1990), prompted by the application for an opencast site, which it is likely will be more fully published in due course. This suggests that Capel Spon may be of greater significance to the early history of monasticism in the diocese of St Asaph than had previously been supposed.

Until recently, there appeared to be little historical information about the site, and this was largely based on Edward Lhwyd's observations of about 1697-9 that there were three chapels annexed to the parish, and that with regard to that at Spon 'a small part of ye wall onely is now to be seen'.

Two centuries later the chapel had virtually disappeared, although in 1854 the then vicar of Mold, the Rev C B Clough noted that 'The remains of Spon Chapel are in the township of Bistre on a farm held by one Brotley ... who has recently turned up some of the foundations when ploughing ...'. In 1906 the site of the 'chapel' is mentioned as lying in Chapel Field, but this may be a late field-name inspired by the local historical researches since in the Bistre Tithe Apportionment of the later 19th century the field in which the 'chapel' lies is simply named as 'Field under Wood'. Late 19th century accounts give the following suggested location - 'The site is in a field known as Chapel Field ... The footpath from Spon Green to Padeswood passes through the Chapel Field, the field itself skirts a wooded dingle, and the site of the chapel is on the opposite side to the wood ... The spot is indicated by a slightly elevated ridge and unevenness of the ground. In the adjacent hedge are a large number of stones which have been cast up from time to time by the plough.' A suggestion that 'the capella or oratory of Spon [was] built by the Monks of St Werburgh's Abbey, probably towards the end of the 11th century' appears to have no sound historical foundation.

The recent historical research by Pratt suggests that the site should now be interpreted in the light of four charters of the period 1185-1232, of which two are lost, that once existed for Spon 'Chapel'. Study of the charters appears to give the date of the chapel's foundation, the name of its founder and early patrons, an indication that it began life as a monastic house, that it possessed a dedication unique in the St Asaph diocese and may have been an early centre of pilgrimage, that it possessed a considerable landed endowment, and that it had a fairly short existence.

In or around 1185 Ralph de Mohaut II (d 1200), lord of Mold, granted Spon and other lands, rights and privileges in Bistre to the abbot and convent of Haughmond, Shrewsbury, for the express purpose of endowing and building 'a religious house' dedicated to St Thomas the Martyr (Thomas Becket) 'under the rule and jurisdiction of the church of Haughmond'. Three confirmatory charters were issued, of which one for 1211 survives, and of two of 1201 have been lost. The surviving charters suggest that the chapel was in effect a daughter house of Haughmond, and represents a previously unsuspected Augustinian priory of a kind rare in North Wales and otherwise non-existent in the diocese of St Asaph. The landed endowments of the priory given in successive charters were reasonably extensive and are apparently given in sufficient detail to permit them to be mapped with some accuracy.



## **Archaeological evaluation (JRC)**

The objectives of the evaluation were broadly the same as those proposed in 1989 (CPAT 1989), as follows: to determine the character of the foundations and see whether they were associated with a burial ground; to determine whether the building lay within a ditched enclosure; to determine the character of the trackway to the east of the site; and to test various other anomalies within the putative enclosure. Provision was made for the subsequent preparation of a report and for the deposition of finds and records. Between 29 July and 19 August 1991 six trenches were opened to investigate the archaeological or geological significance of the anomalies recorded by the 1989 geophysical survey (Figure 3, Trenches A-F), the most significant results of which are described below.

The total area examined was approximately 140m<sup>2</sup>, less than 4% of the defined area of archaeological interest. Where possible a non-destructive excavation technique was adopted whereby features would be simply revealed in plan. This would leave as much as possible of the archaeology of the site intact, but would inevitably place some limitations on the inferences which could be drawn from excavation.

Slight variations may be given to the general description of the soils and geology at the site as given in British Coal's planning application (BCO 1989, paras 2.5.1-2). On the summit of the knoll on which the excavated sites are located there is approximately 0.25m of humic topsoil immediately overlying the eroding surface of a compact stony yellowish brown boulder clay. There was an increasing depth of topsoil in the areas surrounding the summit, and in the slight hollow encountered in Trench A, for example, there was a depth of 0.40-0.45m of upper and lower topsoil.

Modern field-drains approx 0.3m wide (containing ceramic pipes) were encountered in all trenches. These run roughly parallel with the southern boundary of Field No 2571 and are spaced at intervals of approx 7m.

Soil pH has not been measured, but due to the nature of the subsoil this is likely to be relatively acidic. The preservation of bone and some other materials is therefore likely to be poor.

### **Trench A** (about 10 x 3m across)

This trench was designed to reveal the east gable wall of the rectangular building occupying the flat summit of the knoll (Figure 4). The surviving traces of the wall were shown to consist of well-defined pitched stone footings, here and elsewhere approx 1-1.2m wide, set firmly within a foundation trench cut into the subsoil. The north-east and south-east angles of the footings appeared to have been extensively robbed of stone, possibly to remove quoins, leaving a loose mix of mortar and small rubble. The fill of a field-drain which cut diagonally through the footings was emptied to reveal that the foundation trench was only about 0.2m deep from subsoil level. Below subsoil level the footings appear to have either been bonded with clay or had been rammed into the underlying subsoil. The presence of mortar at the surface of the surviving footings suggests that above ground level the walls would have been bonded with mortar. Numerous plough-marks were noted in the subsoil to either side of the footings, showing that this part of the site is being actively eroded when reseeding is carried out. There was no evidence that internal floor surfaces had survived within the building.



**Trench B** (4x 5m across)

The trench was designed to locate the west gable wall of the building. It was extended slightly to the north in order to investigate a disturbed area of possible archaeological significance which had been revealed at about the subsoil surface. The wall-line was revealed as a strip of mortar and small stones overlying larger angular stones and had evidently been much disturbed by stone robbing. The distribution of different kinds of material along the length of the wall-line suggested that there had been an opening about 1.4m wide towards the middle of the wall: it appeared that stone robbing may have been carried out to a slightly greater depth to either side of a doorway in order to remove larger, possibly faced or carved building stone. A possible pit was noted in the area of the doorway, and it appeared that a spread of clay with charcoal flecks, pebbles and small angular stones which fanned out from beyond the footings might represent a path leading to the doorway. A possible grave was recorded in the south-west corner of the trench (similar in general character with those identified in Trench C).

**Trench C** (max 5x8m across)

This trench ran west of Trench A in order to investigate the south wall of the building and the area immediately outside it, where detailed geophysical survey had recorded anomalies suggesting a possible door. Continuous stone footings identified along the length of the trench were similar in general character to those revealed in Trench A, but the smaller quantities of mortar present suggested less disturbance. On the assumption that the base of the foundations were on about the same level as those revealed in Trench A, the depth of the footings is likely to be about 0.3m here. Six linear areas of clean orangy-yellow clay with small stones, up to about 2.0m long and 0.6m wide, were revealed in the area immediately to the south of the footings, lying parallel with the south wall. Their size and orientation and the cleanness of the clay (in contrast with the slightly more humified subsoil), suggests inhumation graves dug into the subsoil and immediately refilled. One of the graves was excavated to a depth of about 0.70m but revealed no surviving skeletal remains. (This is to be expected, given the probability of acidic soil conditions at the site.) The excavated grave appeared to be the later of two intersecting graves, and may by reason of its length represent a child burial. The earlier was longer and at a slight angle to it.

**Trench D** (4 x 5m across)

The trench was located about 6m to the north of the building foundations in an area where anomalies had been detected on the geophysical survey and where a slight depression was visible in the ground surface. As anticipated, the overburden was considerably greater here than in trenches excavated further to the south, with possibly a buried ground surface of some antiquity surviving towards the northern side of the trench. Three or four possible stakeholes possibly representing a timber structure of some kind were identified in an intermittent line towards the western side of the trench, defined by small diameter patches of silt. A band of friable silts to the north of this was sectioned and appeared to be either a steep-sided gulley or possibly a robbed-out drain.

**Trench E** (2 x 12m across)

This trench was located approx 20m to the east of the stone building in order to test geophysical anomalies suggesting a possible enclosure ditch. Topsoil at the higher, eastern end of the trench came off directly onto clay subsoil. At the western end of the trench an approx 2m wide ditch was recorded which a section showed to have a V-profile and to have been 0.7-0.8m deep from the subsoil surface. Cut by the ditch and extending further



to the east was a much broader and deeper anomaly (probably also detected on the geophysical survey), filled with reddish-brown and grey clays and degraded fragments of coal. It is thought that this is likely to be of geological and represent a frost wedge of periglacial origin. To the east, this was partly overlain by a layer of hard, yellow silty clay, which was in turn overlain by a layer of bluish clay, 50-100mm thick, which might represent the base of a bank on the eastern (inner) side of the V-profile ditch. A deposit of charcoal-flecked clayey soil further to the west might represent hill-wash from higher up within the interior. No post-settings were found to be associated with the putative bank within the excavated area.

#### ***Trench F*** (1 x 10m across)

The trench was located to examine the northern ditch of the double-ditched trackway approaching the site from the east, at a point approx 10m to the east of the ditch section in Trench E. Removal of topsoil at the southern end of the trench revealed a compacted and mineralised surface with occasional flat pebbles, probably representing a trackway surface at the subsoil surface. To the north of this an approx 1 m wide ditch was identified which cut into the subsoil. The ditch was not sectioned, but appears to correspond to the northern trackway ditch identified in the geophysical survey. Further to the north again, outside the trackway, were a number of features which might represent a bank, hedge or fence-line associated with the trackway. These include two possible stone-packed postholes (unexcavated), and a possible shallow gulley towards the northern end of the trench.

#### ***The Finds*** (CJ)

The excavations produced 230 sherds of pottery, 30 fragments of iron, 21 clay pipe fragments, 4 crucible fragments, 3 coarse tiles, a quantity of fire brick and burnt brick, 1 fragment of slag-encrusted pot, 16 lumps of slag, 25 sherds of glass, 11 fragments of bone, kiln residue, and a small amount of discarded slate. The great majority of finds came from topsoil and are therefore unstratified. The more significant groups of finds are discussed below.

#### ***Roman pottery***

Single abraded sherd of Samian Ware.

#### ***Medieval Pottery***

The 27 sherds of identifiably Medieval pottery from the site include 7 sherds of late 12th - early 13th century Cheshire cooking-pot. The remainder comprise three varieties of locally-produced Ewloe pottery of 14-15th century date, and 6 sherds not yet assigned to type. The Cheshire cooking-pot sherds represent a minimum of two vessels with rim profiles which have been tentatively identified as follows: Laing's Type 4 - a club-rimmed cooking pot in the North British tradition and common to Chester; Laing's Type 2 - of East Midlands origin, relatively rare in Chester but popular in Shropshire and the Welsh Marches from the late 12th - mid 13th century.

#### ***Post-medieval pottery***

A wide range of coarse and fine wares included 2 sherds of 17th century slip-ware, and 2 sherds of imported North Devon gravel-tempered ware of similar date.

#### ***Metalwork***

Metalwork comprises 14 probable nails, a broken horseshoe, fragments of agricultural equipment, several objects of indeterminate function, and a knife fragment. The knife



fragment was found on the surface of the stone footings but has not yet been closely dated; the fragment, 65mm long, is from a small implement with a riveted tang, and shows possible traces of gold inlay around the base of the blade at about the point where a ferrule would be expected.

## Conclusions

The trial excavations have added considerably to the understanding and interpretation of the sites identified by geophysical survey. There is now good reason to suppose that these features can be equated with the historically attested late 12th and early 13th century religious house at Spon.

The building which forms the focus of the site would have been of a fairly modest, rectangular design, probably with a doorway at the western end. The building had mortared walls and may have been largely built of rag-stone, although details of the robbing at some of the corners and to either side of the putative western door suggest the use of larger building stone, which may possibly have been faced and carved. It possibly had a simple earthen floor, of which all trace has now been lost. There is no independent dating evidence for the structure, but the association with similarly orientated inhumation graves suggests that it was almost certainly a single-celled chapel belonging to this religious foundation. The siting of a doorway in the western gable is a frequent occurrence on churches of this period. It is interesting to note that the 12th century church at Haughmond Abbey, the mother house of the establishment at Spon, was of a similar size, having been subsequently extended to the west beyond the western opening to form nave and chancel. This may have been the intention at Spon, had the establishment flourished.

A number of graves have probably been identified on the southern and western sides of the chapel, forming part of what is probably a larger cemetery. The eastern, southern and western sides of a church are commonly those most favoured for burial. Taking into account the apparently short life-span of the establishment the cemetery is likely to be confined to these sides of the building, and may not have been very extensive. However, the possible child's grave excavated to the south of the chapel suggests that the burial ground may have continued in use for lay burials for some time after the abandonment of the putative Augustinian settlement. Soils at the site are likely to be relatively acidic, and it is probable that skeletal remains have either not survived or only survive in a highly degraded condition.

Recent excavations on Augustinian sites such as Haughmond (Shropshire) and Norton Priory (Cheshire) have revealed traces of early timber buildings which at a later stage might be replaced in stone. This kind of evidence is only likely to become clear where large open-area excavation methods are adopted. Similar traces may well survive at Spon, but are only likely to be identified by larger, open-area excavation methods. The steep-sided gulley and stakeholes identified in the area to the north of the chapel may, however, belong to structures of this kind.

The possible enclosure and trackway ditch investigated to the east of the chapel are again undated, and are not of defensive value, but may well be contemporary with the establishment. Further work would be needed to establish the precise extent of the ditched enclosure, but the suggestion from the geophysical survey of a boundary approximately 60m in diameter appears to be a reasonable interpretation.

The bulk of the pottery from the site is unstratified and of post-medieval date, but the



presence of at least two late 12th - early 13th century cooking-pots, in an area almost totally aceramic before the Edwardian conquest, tends to confirm occupation of the site following Ralph de Mohaut's grant of land here in or about 1185 to the abbot and convent of Haughmond.

Derrick Pratt has argued that the lack of endowments after 1211 suggests that the priory came to an abrupt end shortly after this time, after only about 30 years. The surviving archaeological remains are unlikely to be spectacular. Augustinian houses were typically 'modest in size and endowment, a reflexion of the middling rank of their founders and benefactors' (Baugh & Cox 1988, 17). Spon, like the religious house at Chirbury (Shropshire, established in about 1190), was founded half a century after the great period of the order's expansion and probably came too late to attract an adequate endowment (Baugh & Cox 1988, 20). None the less, the site likely to be of considerable archaeological significance: 'Spon may provide the historian and archaeologist with a monastic site where ... the church was not modified in succeeding centuries, and which, within its enclosure, may yield unique information about the temporary accommodation and offices ... established as the first step in the foundation of any religious house' (Pratt 1989).



## **Recommendations (WJB)**

These recommendations have taken as their starting point the proposals in British Coal's planning application 'to leave the site of Spon Capel' undisturbed throughout the working site phase' (BCO 1989, para 4.10).

The primary areas of archaeological interest identified by geophysical survey and trial excavation can now be defined more securely, but some consideration should also be given to the broader context of the site. The relative importance of known archaeological remains within the proposed site boundary can be given as **A** the site of the chapel, features immediately associated with it (cemetery, possible timber structures), the putative ditched enclosure and the presumed junction between the ditched enclosure and the trackway ditches extending to the east, **B** the remaining (eastern) parts of the trackway, and **C** the largely unknown archaeological component of the remaining areas within the proposed site boundary.

In order to accommodate these varying levels of archaeological interest the recommendations concern **1** a more precise definition of the primary area of archaeological interest (see A above) and the precise means by which areas of archaeological interest are to be preserved during the working site phase, **2** the provision that should be made for the excavation and recording of any part of the area of interest that lies outside the area to be excluded from site workings (see B above), **3** provision for maintaining a 'watching brief' during site preparation works within the full extent of the proposed site boundary and the publication of any significant archaeological evidence (see C above), and **4** what measures should be taken to ensure the continued preservation of the site during and following restoration.

### ***Areas to be excluded from site workings***

The extent of the primary area of archaeological interest and the means by which these are to be preserved during the working site phase should be more clearly defined.

#### **Recommendation 1**

**Site workings and heavy plant should be excluded from the site of the chapel, features immediately associated with it (cemetery, possible timber structures), the putative ditched enclosure and the presumed junction between the ditched enclosure and the trackway ditches extending to the east. This area of constraint should include a 'buffer zone' of at least 10-20m, and should be securely fenced around the perimeter at an early stage during site preparation works. The site should be marked by appropriate warning notices which together with fencing should be maintained in good order throughout the site working phase.**

### ***Excavation and recording of areas not excluded from site working***

The following recommendation is made in the light of the fact that it may not be British Coal's intention to exclude the eastern part of the trackway leading towards the chapel site from the area designated for overburden mounds. If this is the case, further, probably selective, rescue excavation should be carried here in advance.



## **Recommendation 2**

**Provision should be made for the excavation and recording by a competent archaeological practitioner of any part of the trackway on the eastern side of the chapel that lies outside the area to be excluded from site workings.**

### ***Watching brief during site preparation works***

Other sites of archaeological interest may exist in the area of the proposed site boundary, which cannot be clearly defined at this stage, but which might include the following, for example. Firstly, the landed endowments of the religious house at Spon which are given in successive 12th-13th century charters were reasonably extensive and can apparently be mapped with some accuracy. Insufficient research has been carried out to be certain of the precise location or extent of these holdings, but it is possible that archaeological evidence of these boundaries may still survive within the proposed site boundary and might adequately be recorded during site preparation works. Secondly, possibly natural hollows to the east of the chapel might include sediments or other archaeological remains that are of archaeological significance.

An archaeological watching brief aims to produce a minimal archive of an archaeological site or area of more general archaeological interest during the process of development. This is often limited to the period when topsoil stripping and other site preparation works are taking place. A watching brief is commonly used to test for the presence of archaeological remains in an area where these are suspected (rather than known), the intention being simply to observe a site during development and to carry out any necessary recording work. There is no intention to delay or hinder the course of development, irrespective of the nature of any remains identified. In exceptional circumstances important remains might be revealed which it may be desirable to examine in greater detail. In these circumstances, permission to carry out more detailed recording or excavation (which might result in delays to the progress of site working) would need to be granted in advance by the developer or contractor working on his behalf. (Potential conflicts of interest are often overcome if developer engages or commissions a competent archaeological contractor to carry out a watching brief on their behalf during the relevant period of site works.)

## **Recommendation 3**

**Provision should be made for an archaeological watching brief to be maintained by a competent archaeological practitioner during the initial site working phase, while topsoil stripping and other site preparation works are taking place.**

### ***The future management of the site of Capel Spon***

Trial excavation has demonstrated that the site is extremely vulnerable to damage, irrespective of the present planning proposals. The topsoil cover above the chapel is very thin (approx 0.25m). The site has already been partly damaged by the insertion of pipe trenches and it is clear from accounts of the site earlier this century and from the ploughmarks recorded in the surface of the subsoil in the vicinity of the foundations that active erosion of the archaeological remains occurs when reseeding takes place.

The precise effects of future agricultural activity on the site (eg ploughing, reseeding, drainage) during and following the proposed restoration phase are unpredictable but are



likely to be damaging. The site might be buried more deeply, but this might not protect it if the area is returned to normal agricultural use and drainage works are carried out at some time in the future. Total excavation during the restoration phase might provide a solution in the longer term (see BCO 1989, para 4.10), but should not be undertaken unless sufficient funds are available to carry out the work to an acceptable standard. Exclusion of the site from normal agricultural activity in future would be beneficial, but would probably need to be considered in the light of a broader management strategy. The following recommendation is made in the light of these various considerations (cf CBI 1991, para 2.10).

(Similar consideration should also be given to the future management of the site in the event of planning permission not being granted.)

**Recommendation 4**

**A written management strategy for the area excluded from site workings on archaeological grounds should be drawn up by the applicant and approved by the planning authority in advance of the site restoration phase.**



## **Excavation Archive and Post-excavation work (JRC, CJ)**

The results of the evaluation work summarised in this report should be published in an academic journal in due course. Further work will be held in abeyance for the time being, however, pending the results of the inquiry to be held in October 1991. The following section gives summary details of the excavation archive and provides a provisional statement of some of the work that will be required to complete a full report on the site.

### ***Excavation archive***

#### ***Plans and sections archive***

Site location plan, 1:100

Site plans, trenches A-F, scale 1:20

Section drawings of excavated features in trenches A, C, D and E, scale 1:10

#### ***Photographic archive***

35mm black and white negatives and colour transparencies of all trenches and of excavated features.

#### ***Context record archive***

109 A4 sheets giving descriptions of soils, location, dimensions, provisional interpretation and cross reference to drawings, photographs, finds and samples etc.

#### ***Finds record archive***

Complete listing and detailed breakdown of material by context.

#### ***Sample record archive***

Listing and description of soil, slag and mortar samples etc.

### ***Further post-excavation work***

In addition to the preparation of a report giving a fuller description, interpretation and illustration of the results of excavation, further work will also need to be carried out on the finds and materials recovered from excavation.

#### ***Pottery***

More detailed analysis, particularly of the medieval material, and illustration where appropriate.

#### ***Soil, mortar and slag samples***

Specialist analysis, as appropriate.

#### ***Metalwork***

X-rays and conservation of selected material, specialist analysis and illustration where



appropriate.

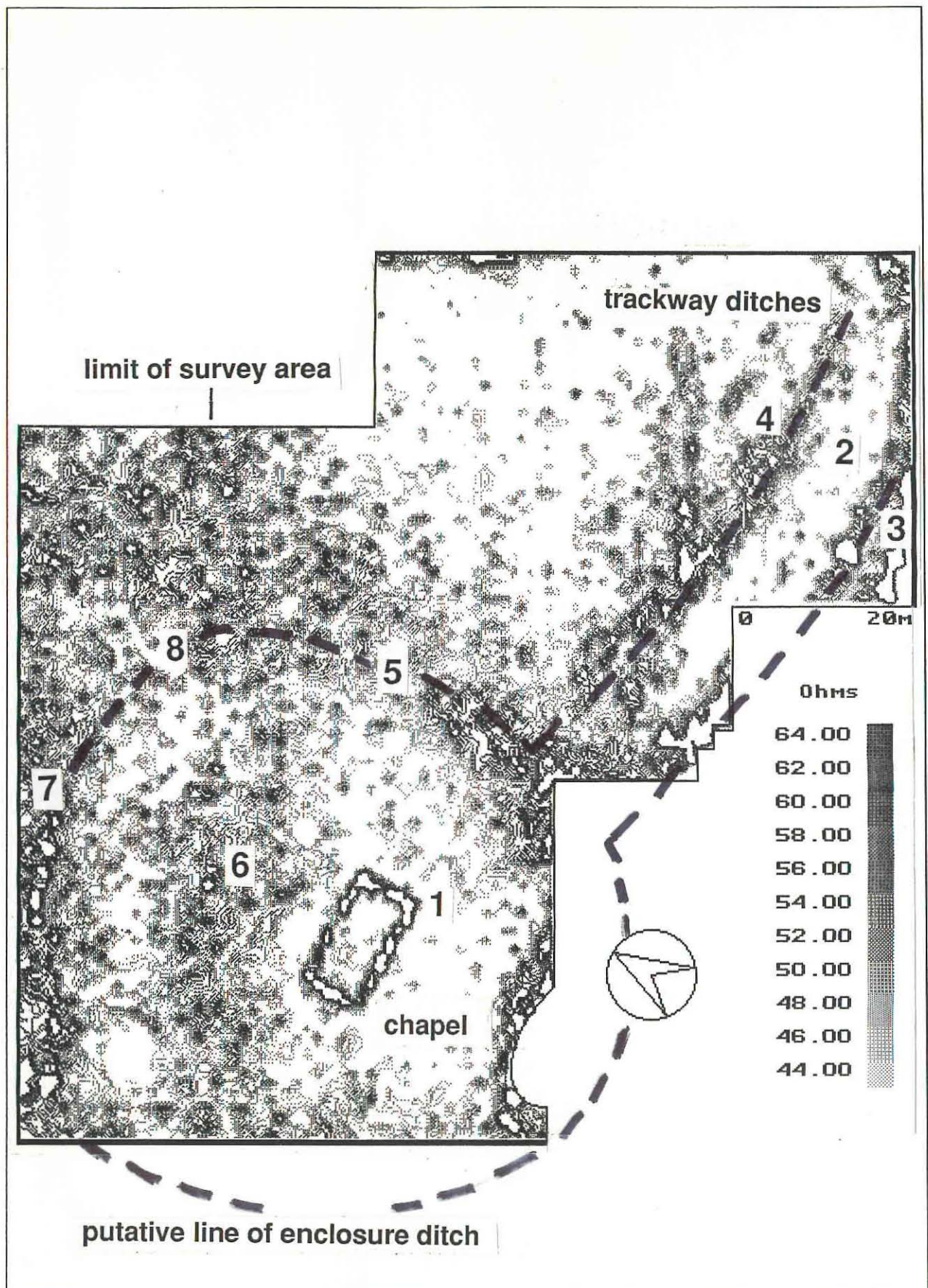
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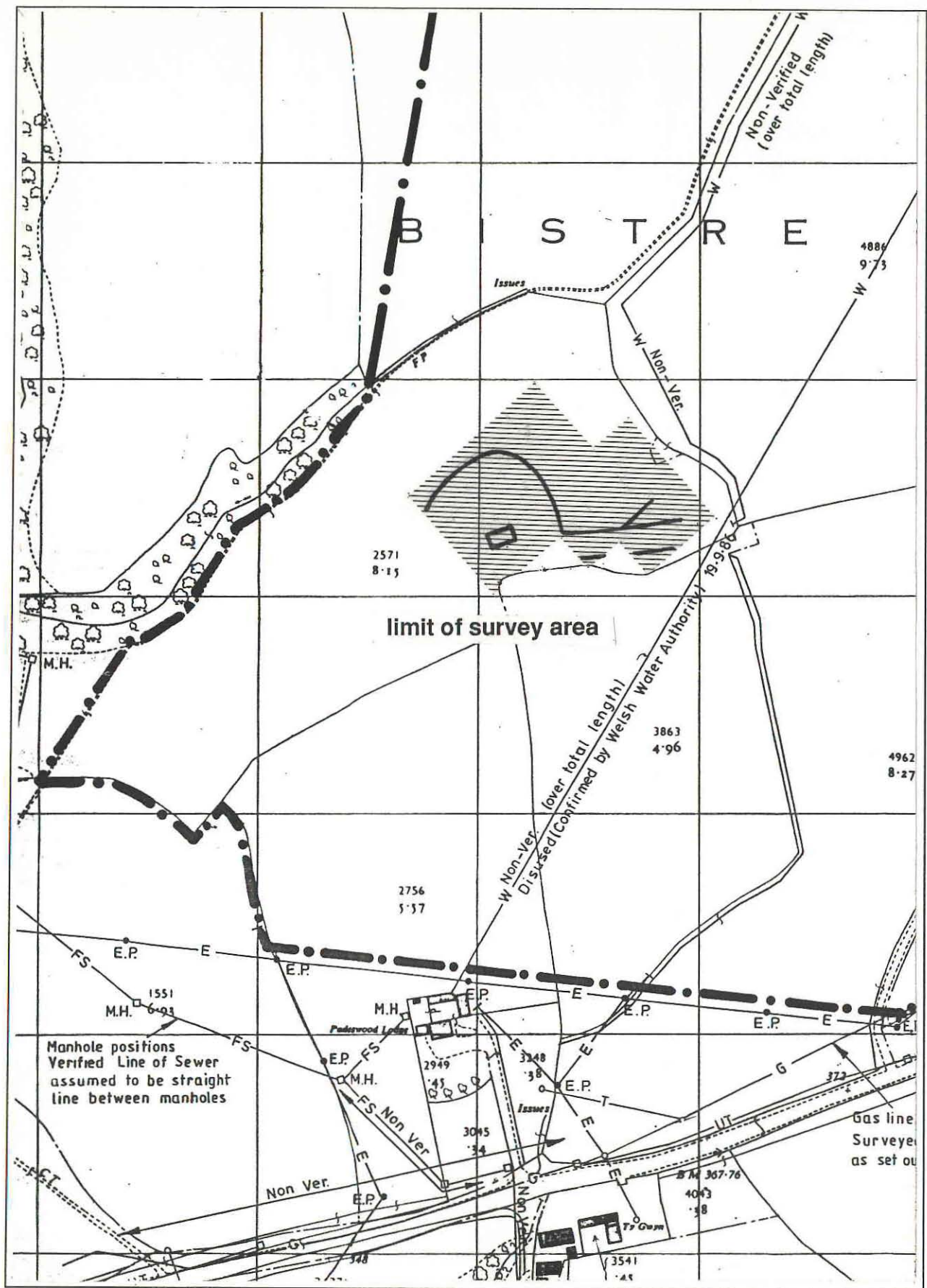
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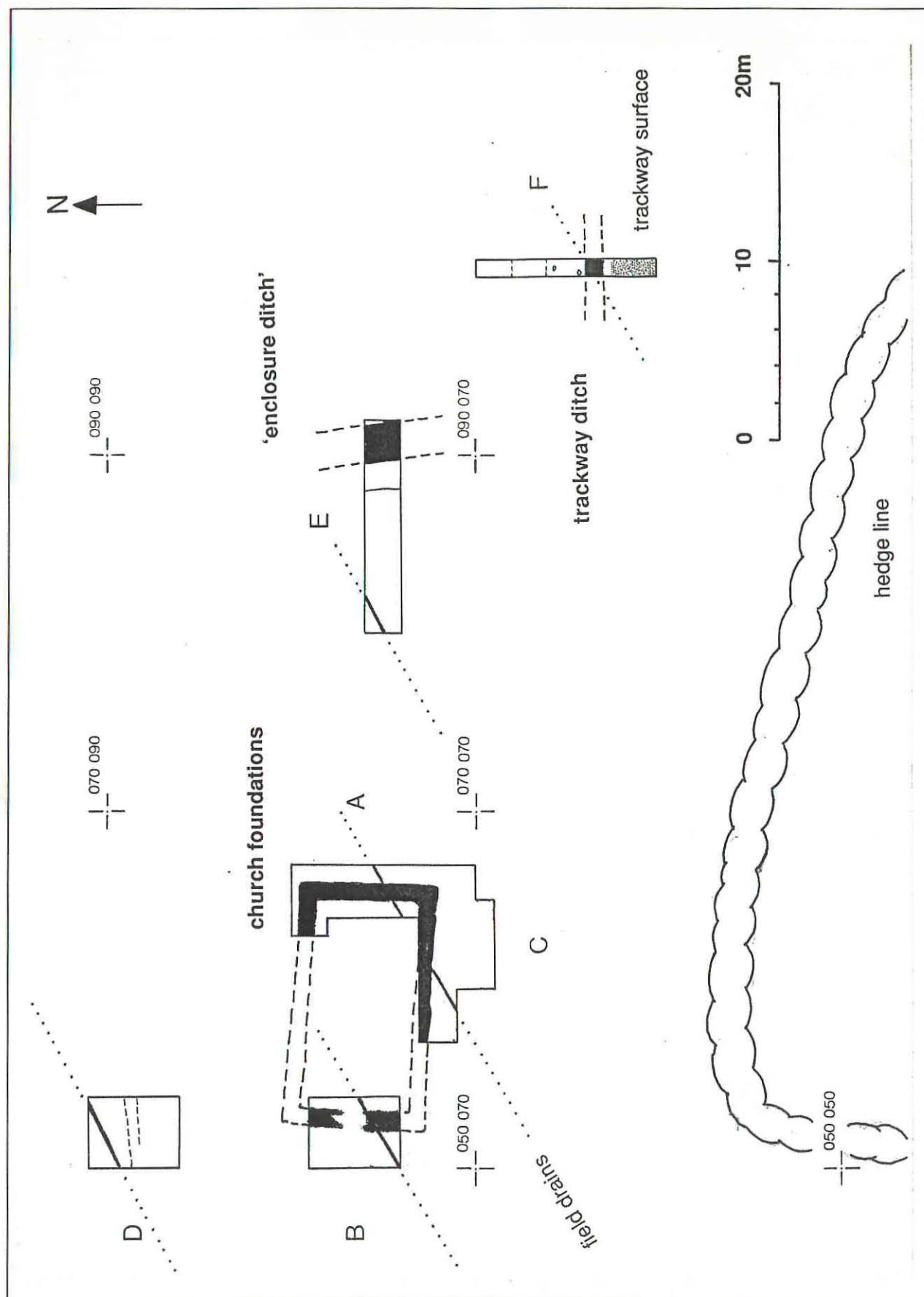
**Figure 1**  
Geophysical Survey, August 1991. Contour plot of resistance data with superimposed interpretative lines. Scale approx 1:625 (after Gater & Gaffney 1989 fig 4).





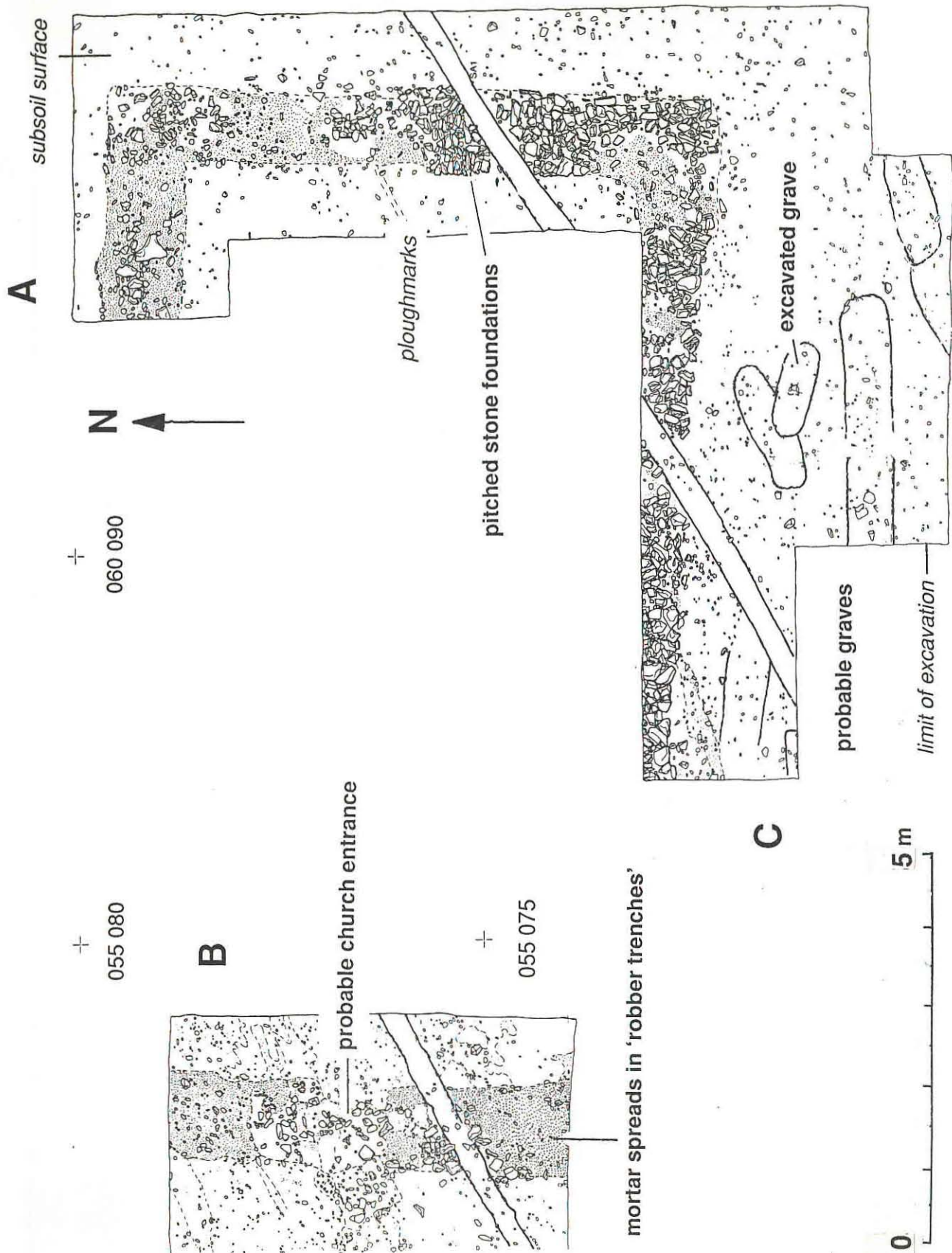
**Figure 2**  
Location of geophysical survey area and anomalies. Scale 1:2500.  
Note that the shown boundary is the Consultation Boundary 1988.





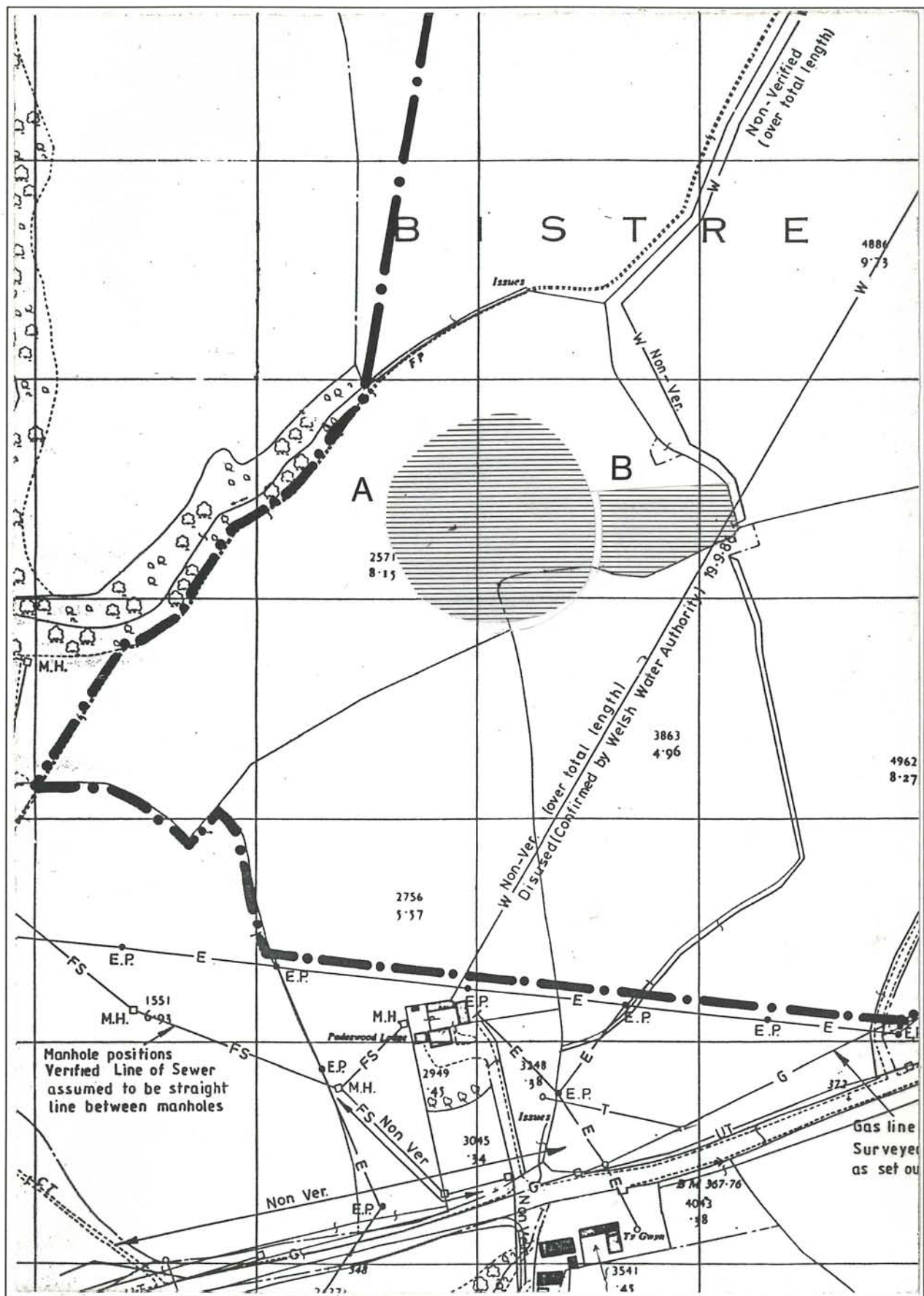
**Figure 3**  
Overall location of evaluation excavation trenches, August 1991. Scale as indicated.





**Figure 4**  
Plans of chapel area, August 1991. Scale as indicated.





### Figure 5

**A** - Recommended areas to be excluded from site workings. **B** - Recommended area for excavation and recording if not excluded from working site. Scale 1:2500. Note that the shown boundary is the Consultation Boundary (1988)