

BRITISH GAS PLC

OTTERY ST MARY -ASHCOMBE PIPELINE

GEOPHYSICAL SURVEY REPORT NO. 2/92

J PRICE

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEYOR

APRIL 1992

JP/2/92

Magnetic surveys were carried out at seven sites along the proposed pipeline route in areas where aerial photographs have shown there to be archaeological sites on or close to the pipeline route.

METHODOLOGY

The surveys were carried out using a Geoscan FM36 Fluxgate Gradiometer. 30m square grids were laid out along the pipeline route on either side of the center line thus surveying a minimum strip of 60m width. Further grids were surveyed to the sides of this minimum strip in order to check the extent of the archaeology or to check the area of the likely reroute. Within each grid readings were taken at 1m intervals along traverses 1m apart. The data was processed using Geoscan's Geoplot software.

RESULTS

Site 1 - Ottery St Mary

Area surveyed - 12 grids in field no. 8087

No archaeological features were detected.

Site 2 - Metcombe

Area surveyed - 23 grids in field no's 4548/6043

Several features can be seen in the survey. The large linear feature running from grid 1 through grids 2,8,9,10 and 11 is the old field boundary which appears to have comprised a bank and

ditch, the ditch being on the western side. Running E-W from this ditch are a series of other linear features which are almost certainly field drains emptying into the old ditch.

The linear feature running E-W through grids 15,16 and 17 is an electric fence, but there is also just to the north of and at a slight angle to this another feature which may be either archaeological or else another field drain.

In grids 1,2,7 and 8 is a circular feature approximately 30m in diameter. This represents the quarry ditch surrounding a barrow or burial mound of probably Bronze age date, the mound of which has been ploughed away. This ring-ditch is one of a pair that are visible as cropmarks on an aerial photograph, the other being to the south east.

Site 3 - **Ebford**

Area surveyed - 16 grids in field no. 2176

No archaeological features were detected.

Site 4 - **Clumpit**

Area surveyed - 13 grids in field no. 5002

No archaeological features were detected.

Site 5 - **Ringsdon**

Area surveyed - 8 grids in field no. 7066

No archaeological features were detected. The two negative features running SW-NE through grid 1 and NW-SE through grid 5

result from a surface furrow surrounding an area of pheasant cover.

Site 6 - Mowlish

Area surveyed - 8 grids in field no's 4951/7834

No archaeological features were detected, however there is a linear feature either side of the existing field bank running the length of the survey area. This may represent earlier field boundaries or medieaval ploughing. In addition the diagonal striations in grids 5-8 are most likely caused by modern agricultural activity ie subsoiling. The aerial photograph of the site shows a ring-ditch which would be approximately in grid 3 however there is no sign of this in the survey data.

Site 7 - Ashcombe

Area surveyed - 28 grids in field no's 1153,1942,2043 and 0515

Several features can be seen on this survey most of which are probably agricultural in origin. The negative feature running E-W through grids 11 and 24, highlighted in pale green, is a new fence line. The three features heavily highlighted in pink are field boundaries that have recently been removed. The two features shown as dashed pink lines are also probably fairly recent agricultural features, they are both parallel to, and the southerly one appears to be a continuation of another field boundary which has been removed, alternatively they could both be field drains.

The most interesting features are those highlighted in green and orange. The long prominent feature running N-S from grid 1 to grid 21 corresponds to a cropmark on the aerial photographs. Its slightly reversed S shape is characteristic of mediaeval ploughing, so it is possibly either an old field boundary or drainage ditch laid out according to mediaeval ridge and furrow. The other features, highlighted in orange are a lot less prominent. Given their location on a fairly steep exposed hillside it is unlikely that they represent settlement more likely they could be evidence of a pre-mediaeval field system eg 'Celtic fields'.

OTTERY

B. KEN

BA. OT

6964
67

422

0078
5:20

B 3174

B 3174

420

OTTERY S MARY
AGI

0053
0:00

1046
55

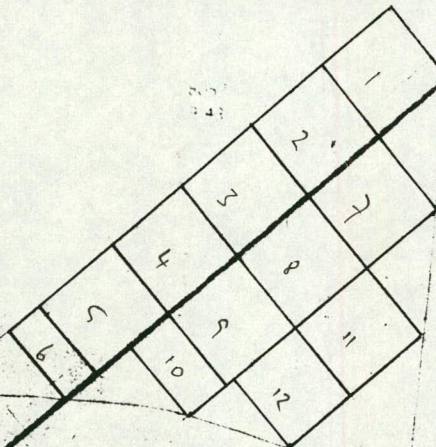
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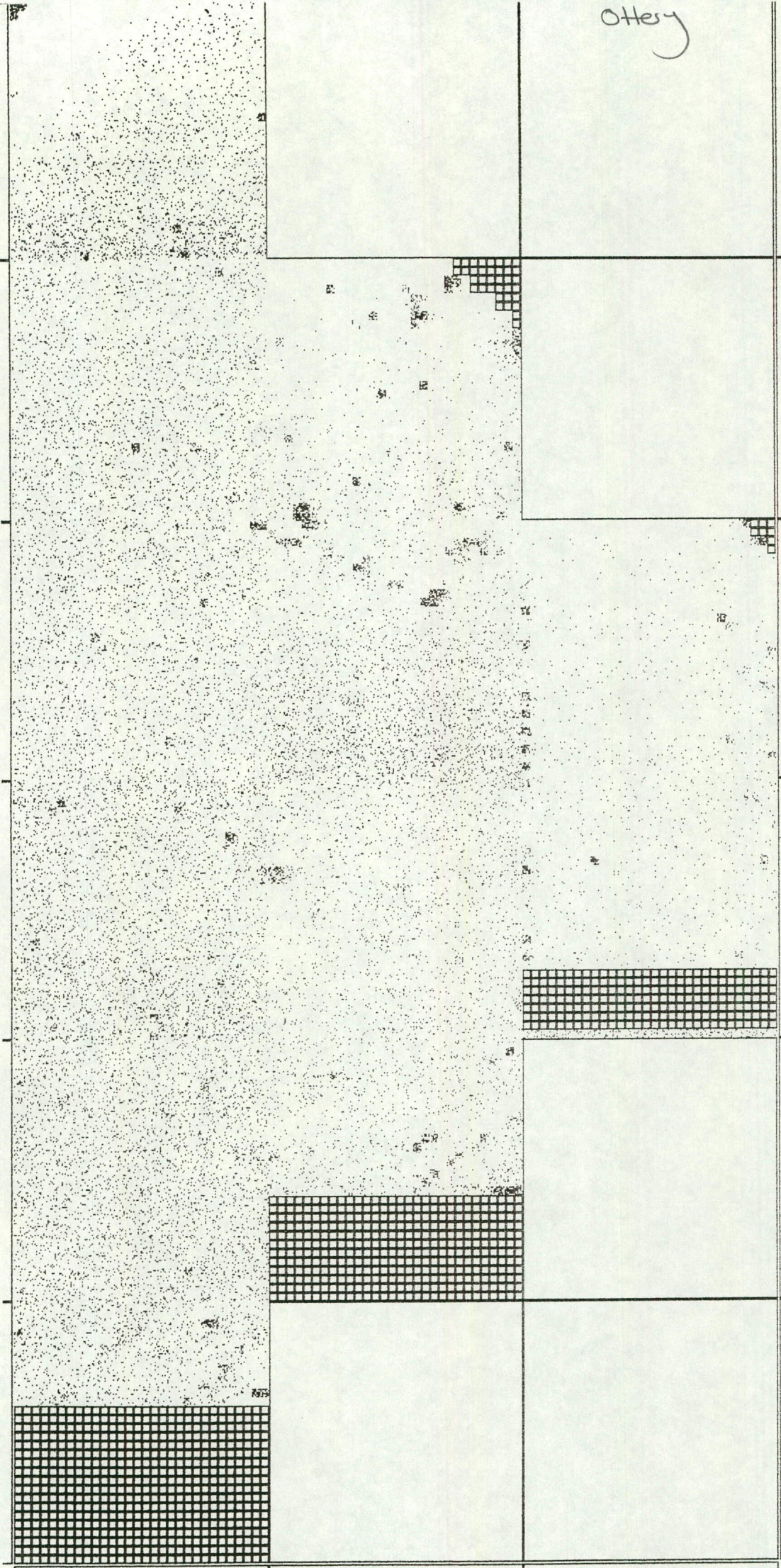
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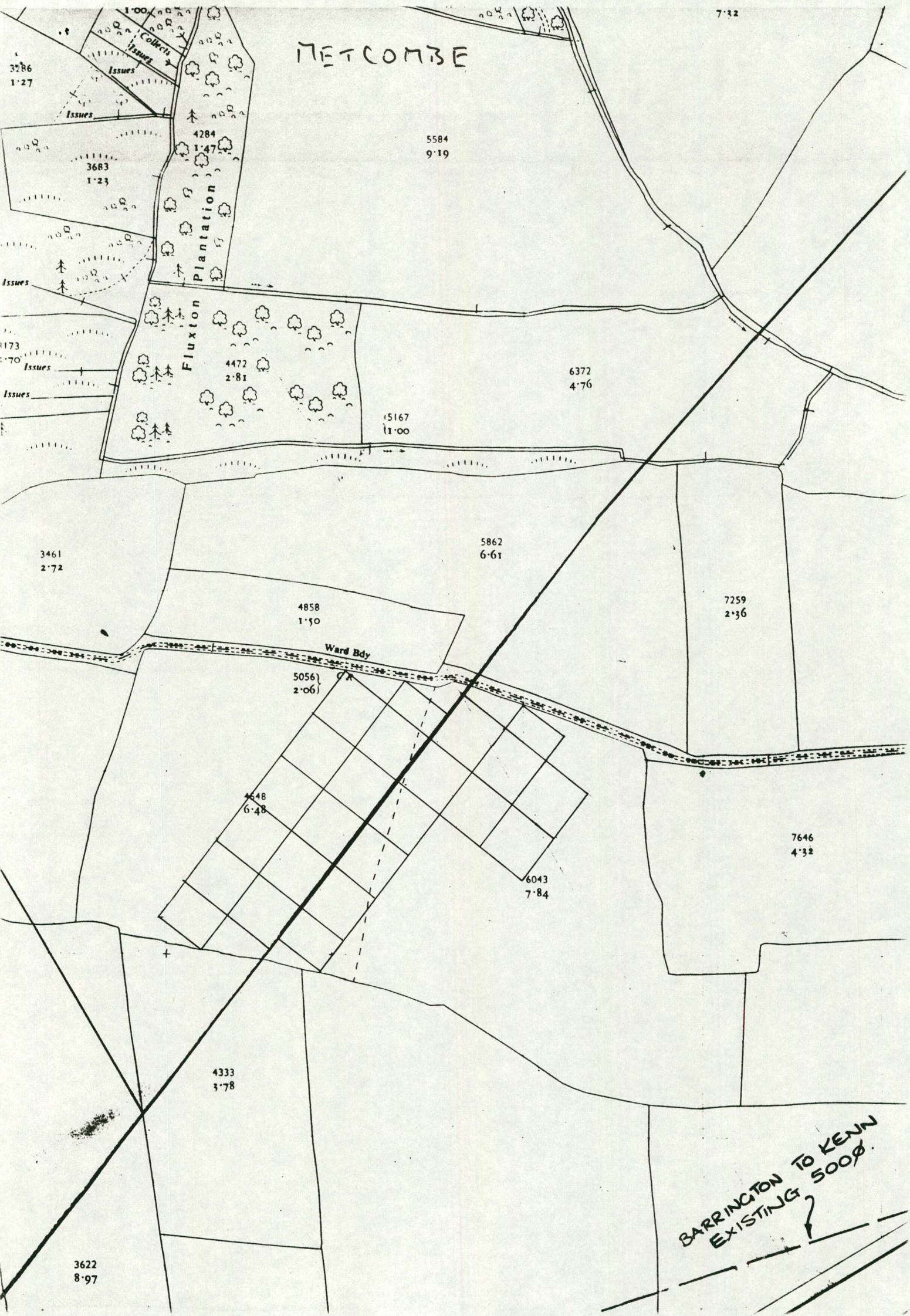
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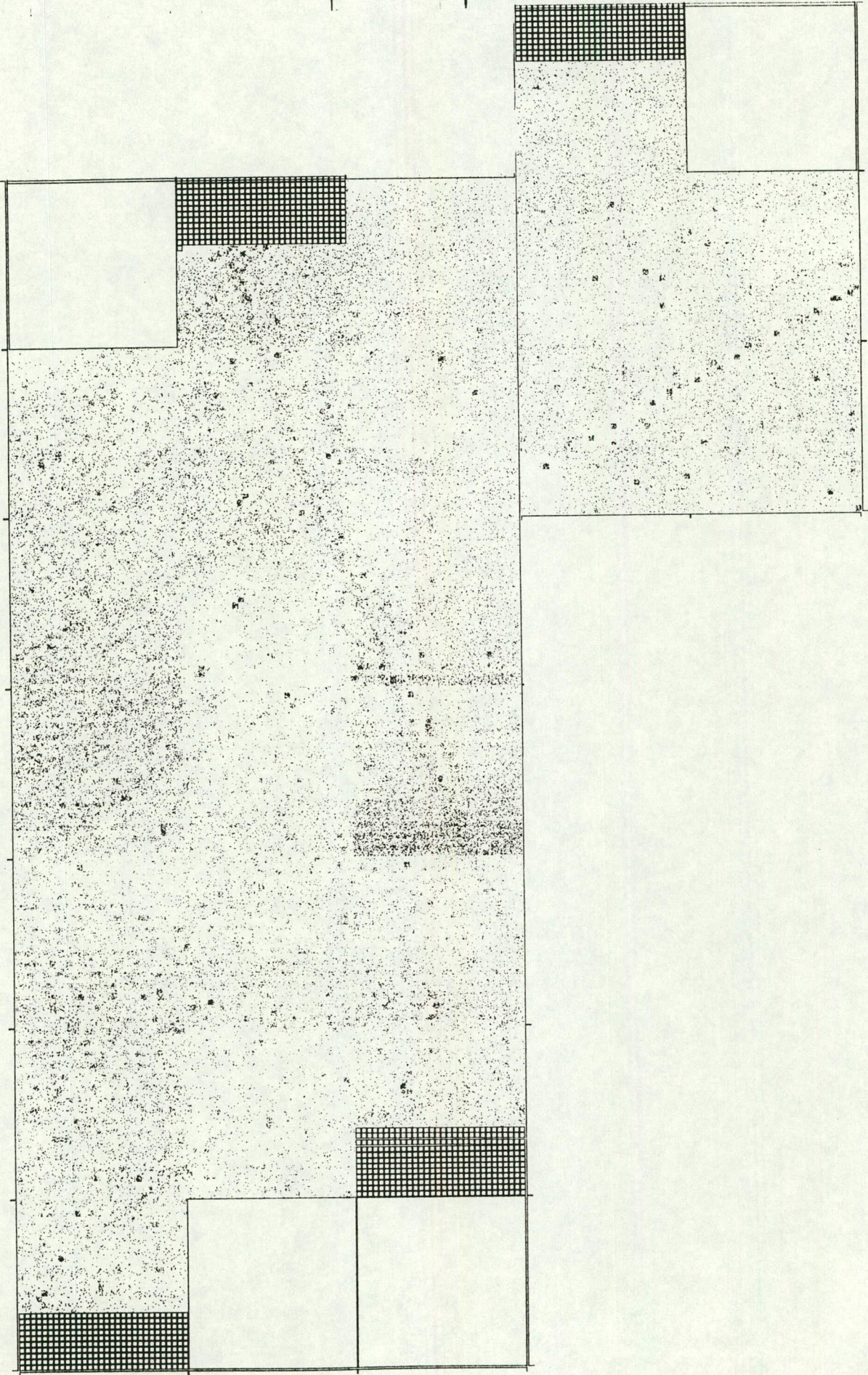


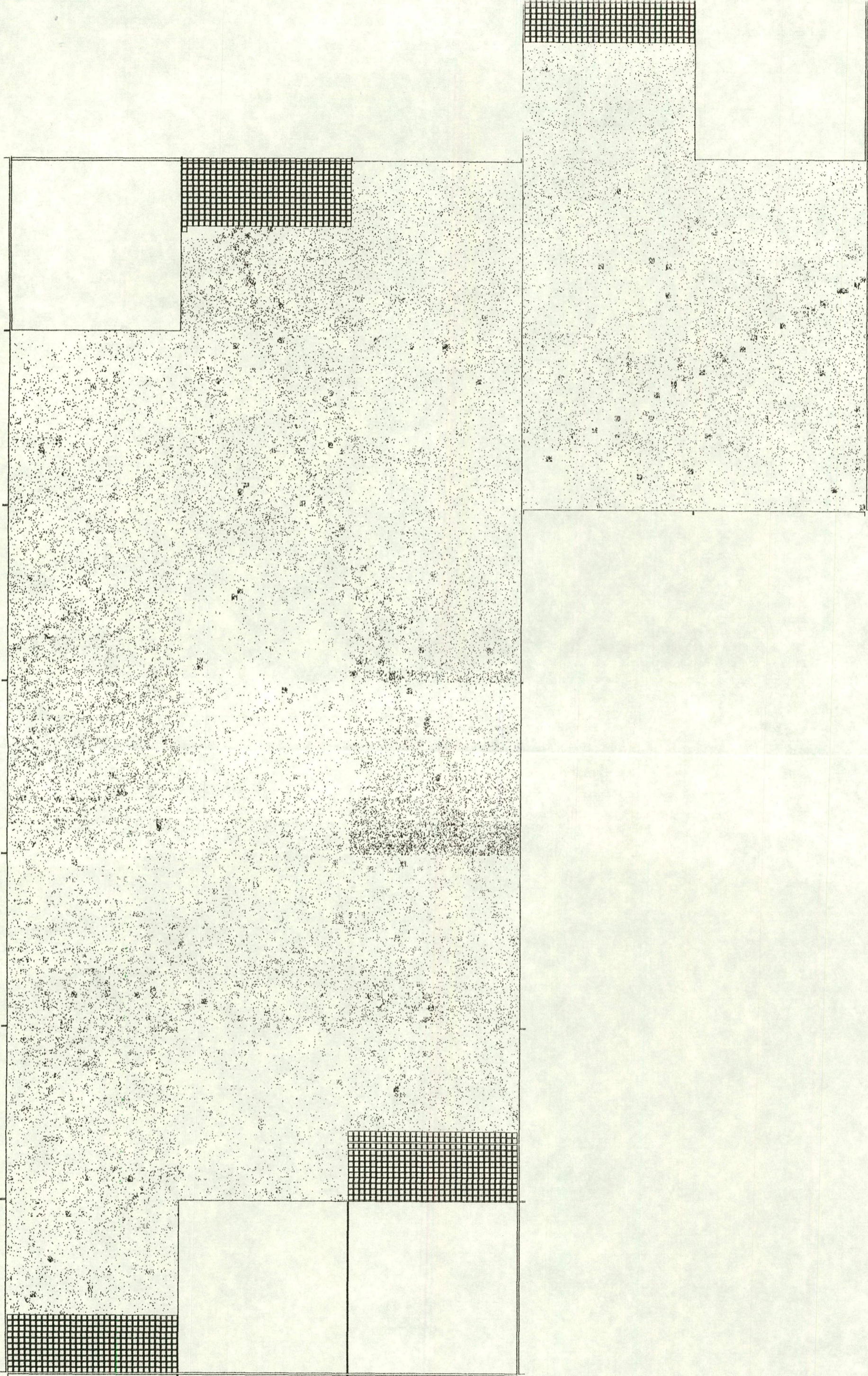
Ottery



METCOMBE



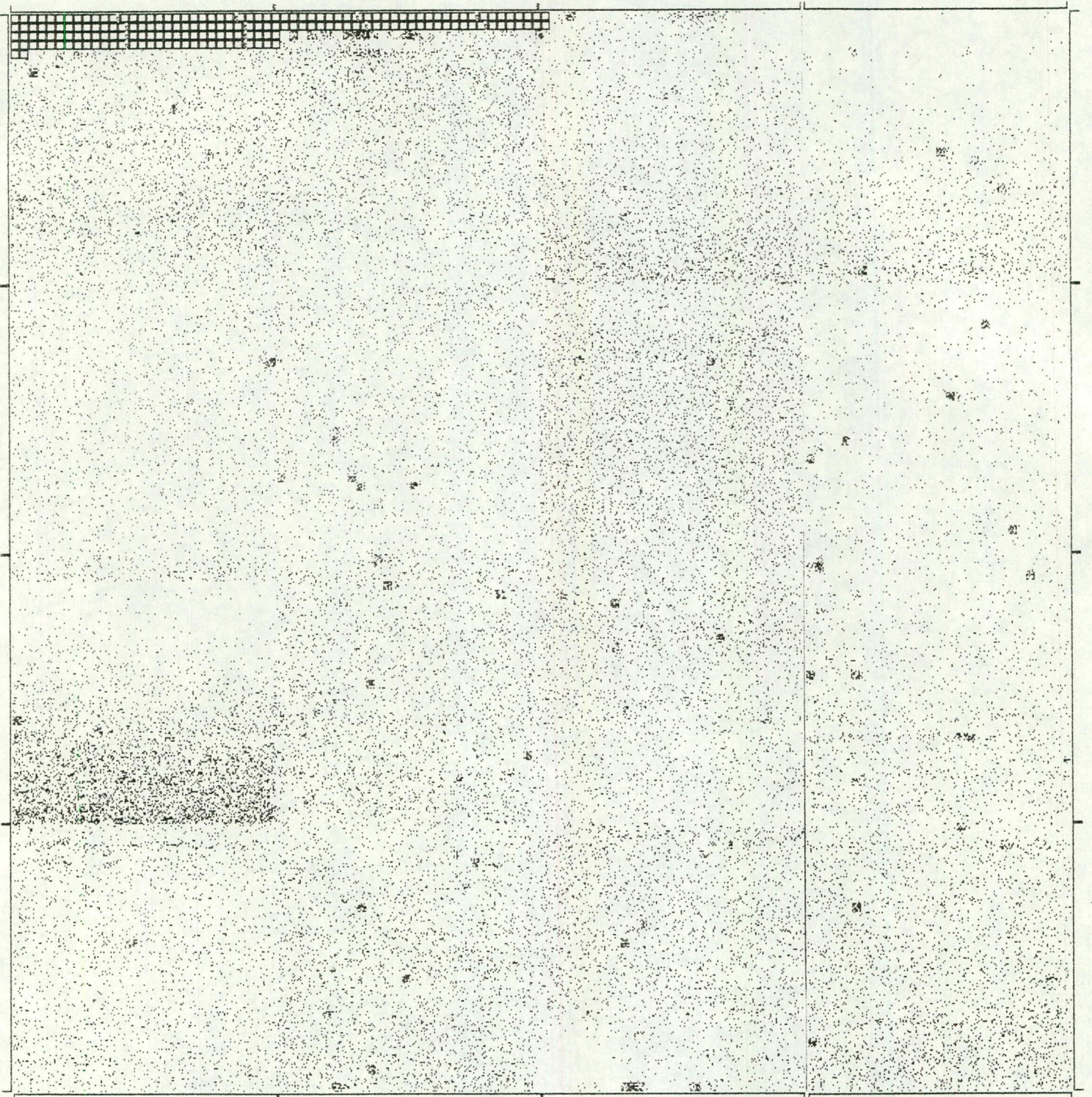




EBFORD



EBP00

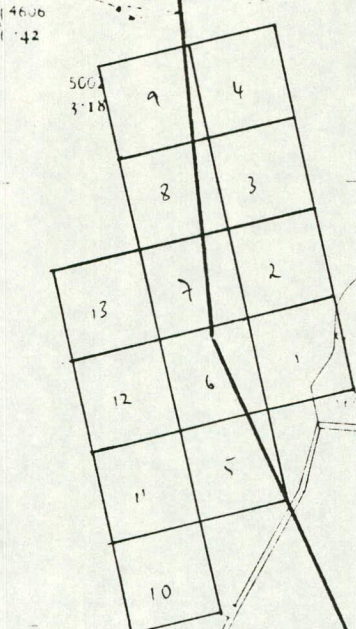


CLUMPIT

4010
7.72

7013
7.00

CLUMPIT LANE



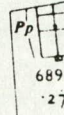
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3.18

4606
1.42

6401
1.46

7716
2.48

ELP



6896
1.27

7100
1.20

7395
1.27

7897
1.82

Chiverstone Farm

8296
1.63

6395
1.84

W'd Pp

Tennis Court

7789
2.39

4085
19.36

ELP

Chiverstone Cottages

6982
1.40

7282
1.28

8185
1.88

5274
15.41

Track

7066
15.74

ELP

5450
8.67

8455
11.65

Clumpit

01

11

12

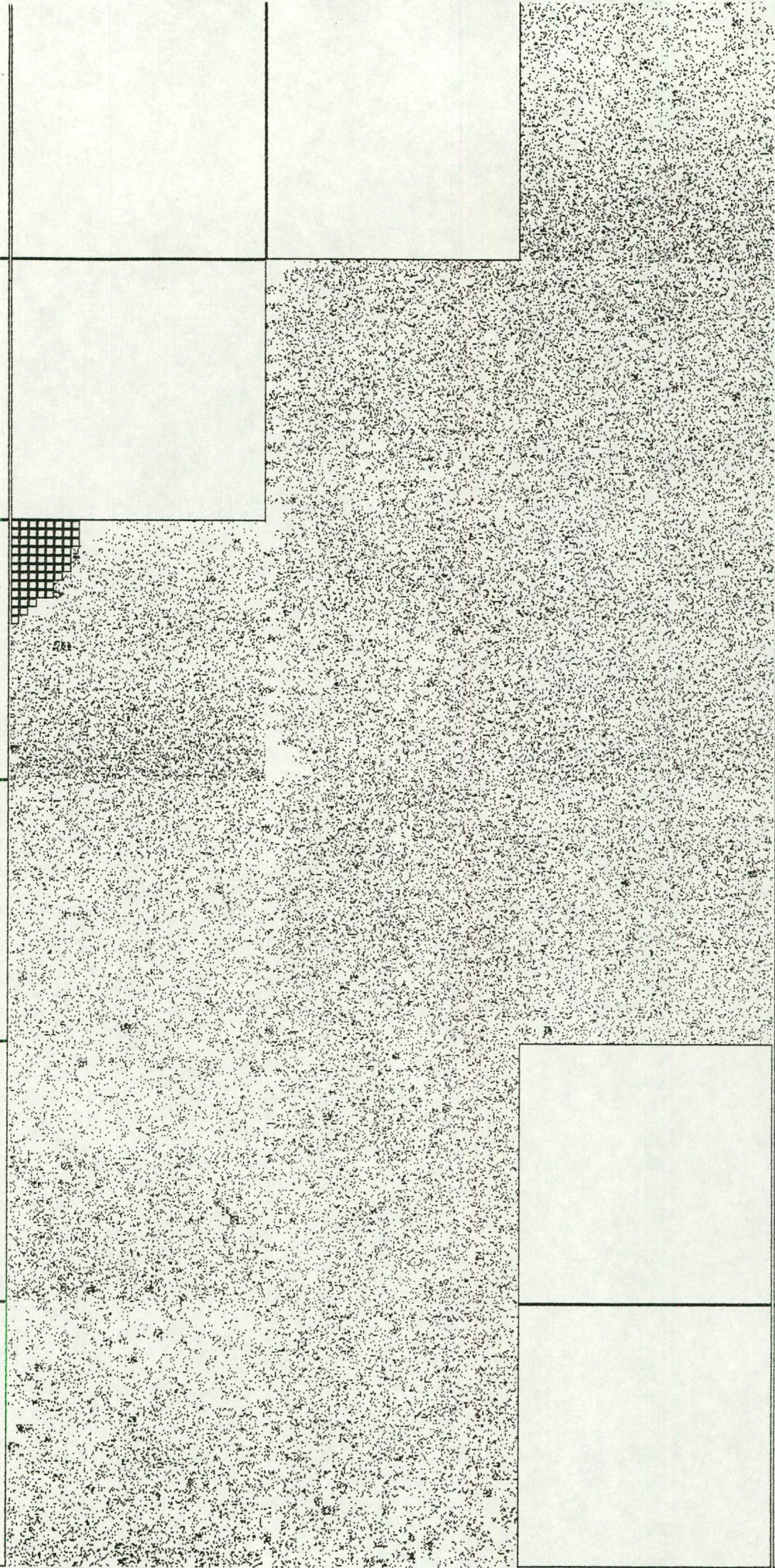
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1

2

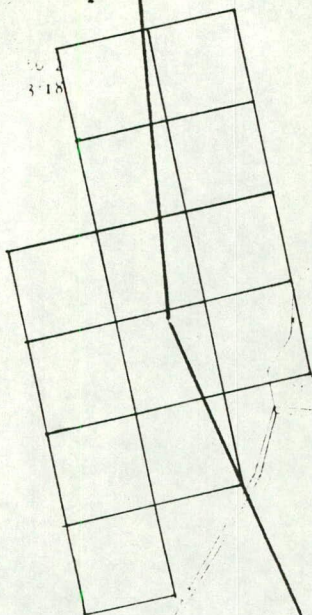
3

5



RINGSDON

LANE



6401
46

7100
20

2 45

8610
09
9030
18

6395
1-84

Pp
6896
27

7395
1-27

Tank

7897
82

Chiverstone Farm

8296
63

• Wild Pp

Tennis Court

7789
2-39

9390
7-51

Chiverstone Cottages

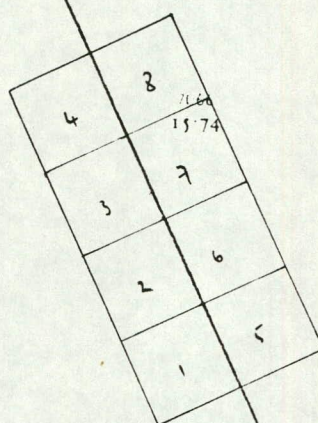
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5-74
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9876
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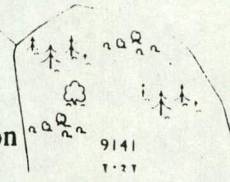
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ELP

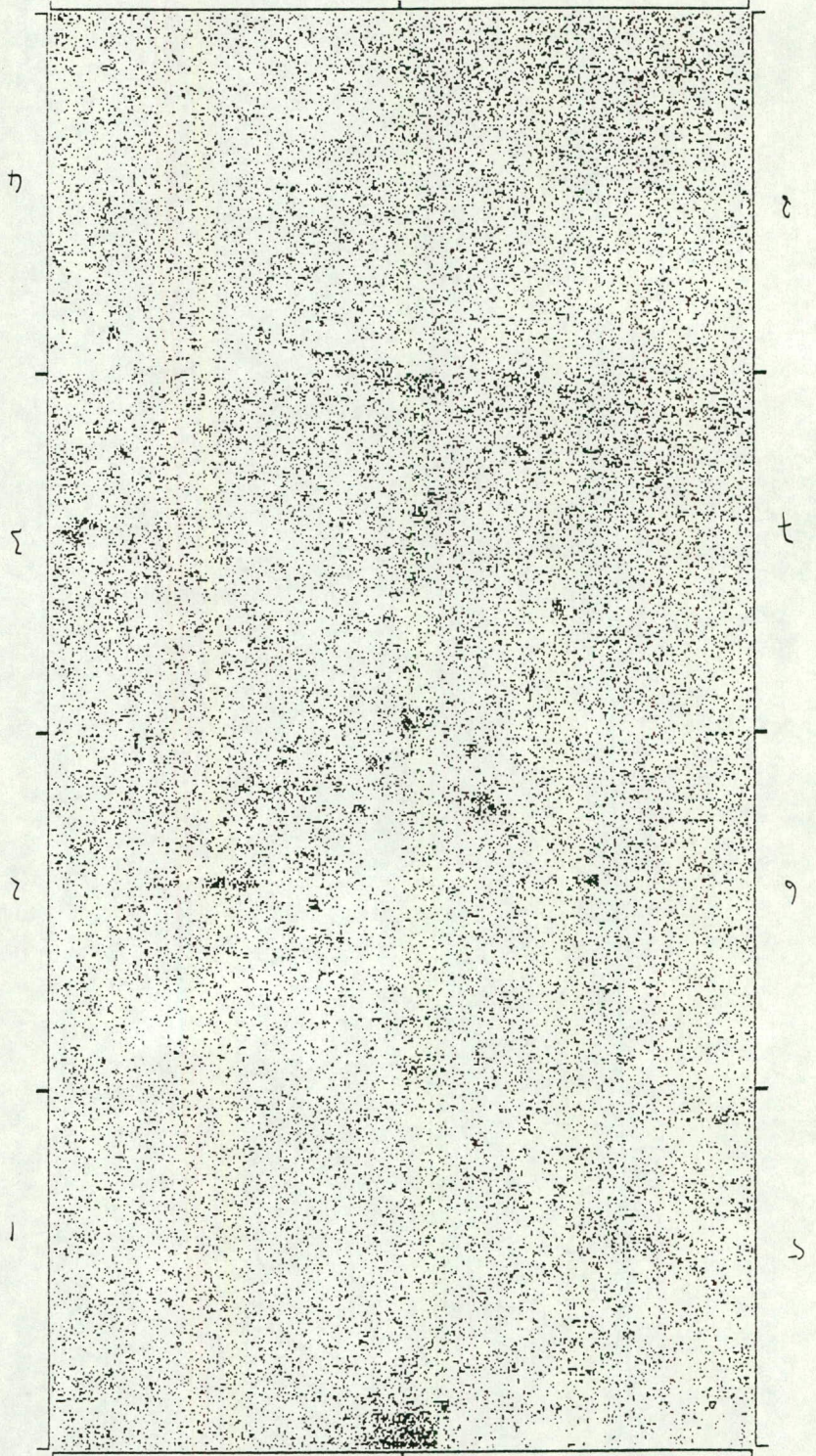
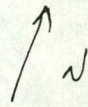
5450
8-67

8455
11-65

Ringsdon Clump



Ringsdon



Mowlish

1 22
22 07

11 11
13 11

4 55
2 55

4 07
22 78

3 53
20 35

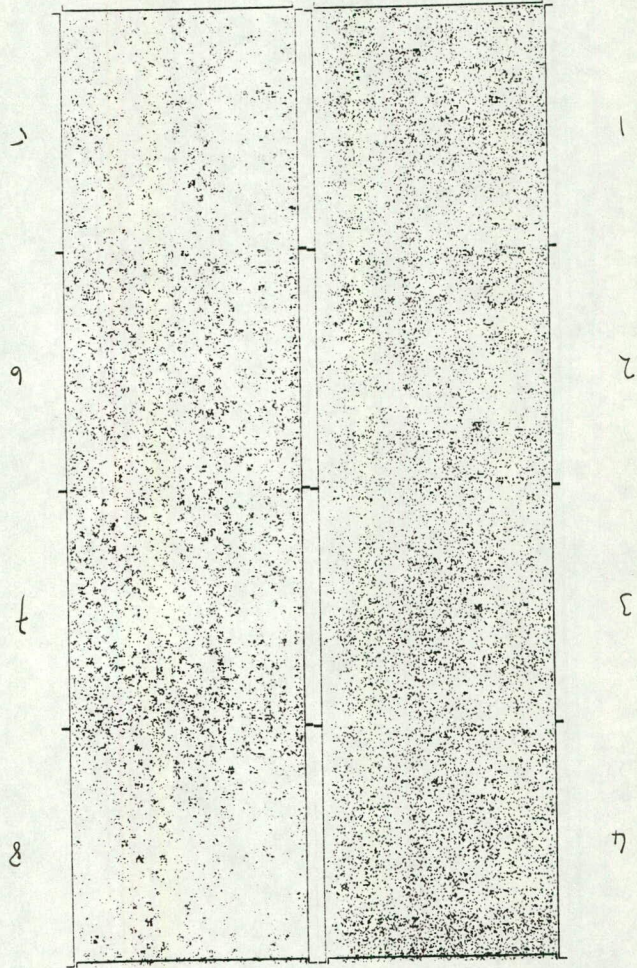
10 14
24 04

5	1
9	2
6	3
8	4

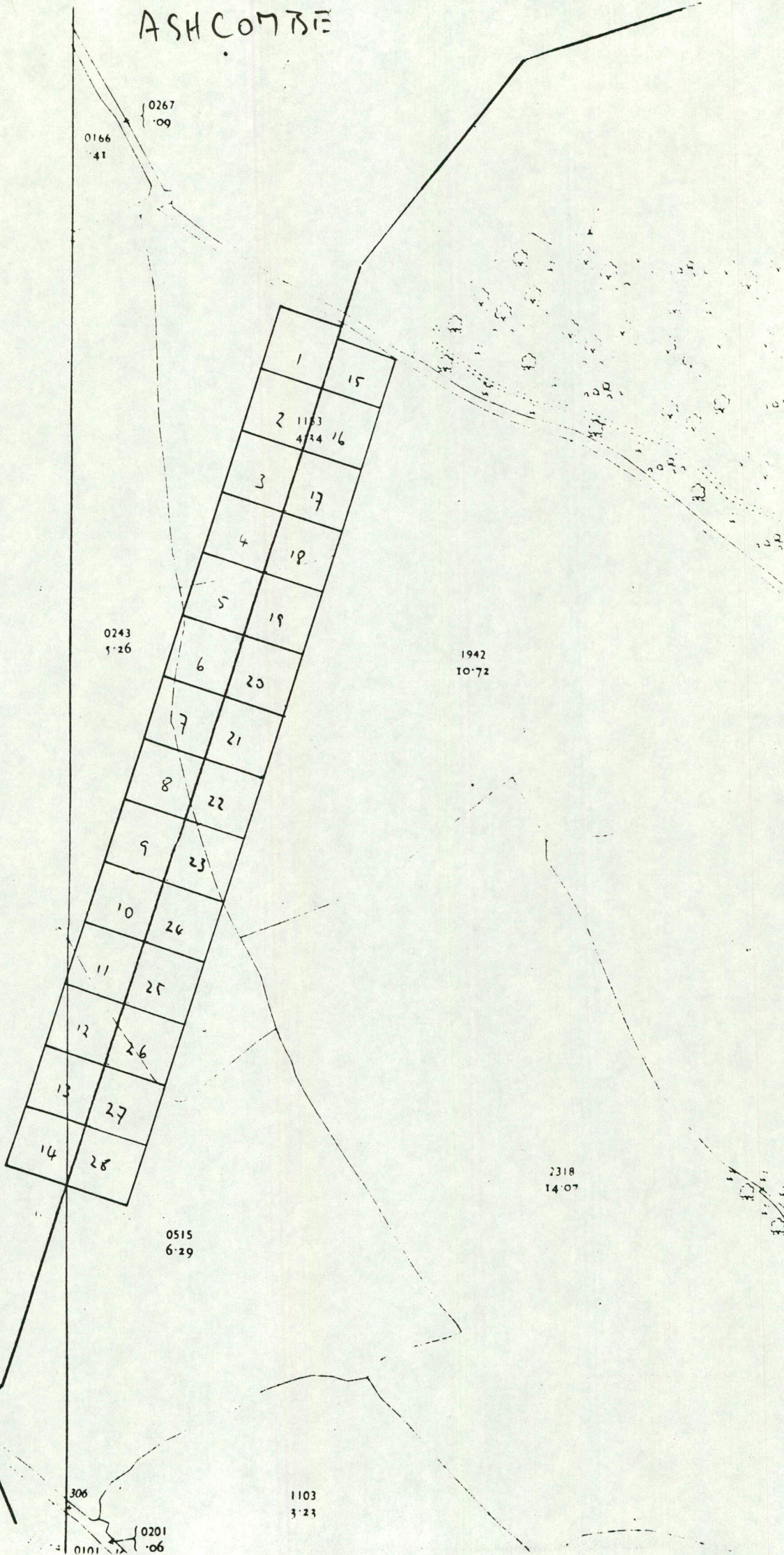
O/H ELEC

ASTMOLI

Mowlish



ASHCOMBE



0166
41

0267
09

0243
5.26

1942
10.72

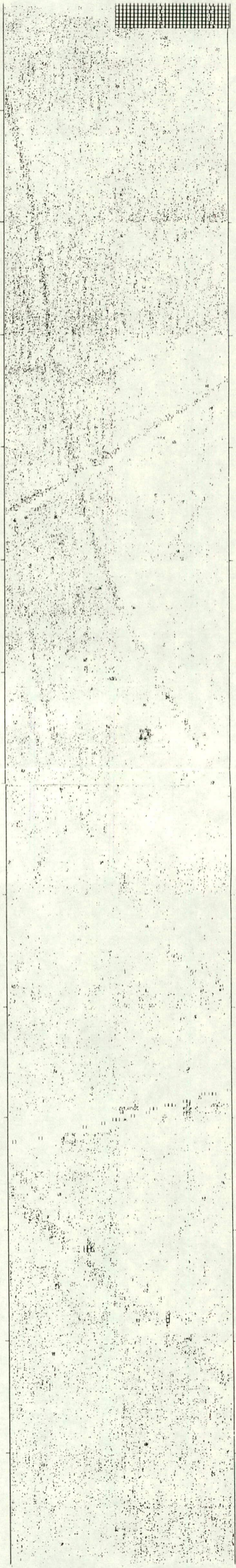
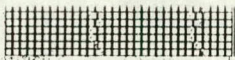
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6.29

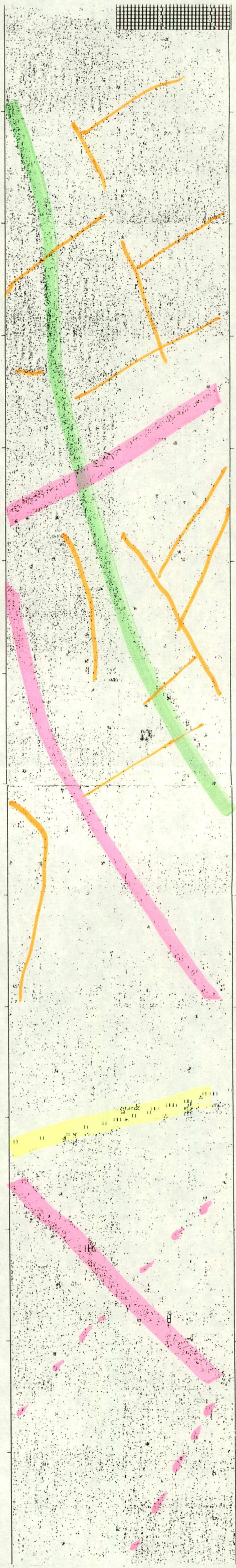
2318
14.07

306

1103
3.23

0201
06





BRITISH GAS PLC

OTTERY - ASHCOMBE FIELDWORK

The second stage of the fieldwork on the Ottery-Ashcombe pipeline was commenced in mid November 1992. Two transects were walked along the pipeline route approximately 10m apart.

No new archaeological sites have been recorded and, in fact, no flint or pottery other than Post-medieval was found along the whole length of the pipeline. This is far from what one would expect particularly as a number of flints and pot sherds were recovered during the geophysical surveys. However both weather conditions and ground cover have had a major affect on these results as is obvious from the following breakdown of ground state.

<u>Ground State</u>	<u>Percentage of pipeline length</u>
Pasture	42.0
Stubble	27.9
Winter cereals	16.1
Other (rape, kale etc)	8.6
Ploughed and harrowed	5.4
	<u>100.0%</u>

a further 5.8%, including some poorly grown cereals and some areas of maize stubble, gave good surface visibility giving an overall total of only 11.2% good visibility. Clearly the low percentage of ploughed land was influenced by the very poor weather in November and December.

Recommendations for further work

- 1 The route should be walked again before construction preferably in September/October before the winter plantings are too well established to affect ground visibility, and again probably in April/May when ploughing for spring sowings should have taken place.

- 2 A magnetic profile should be determined for the whole route which would allow predictions to be made of possible settlement areas that are otherwise undetectable because of the agricultural regime.
- 3 If preconstruction drainage work is carried out this should be checked in case any cultural material is turned up.

JP/MH
21.04.93