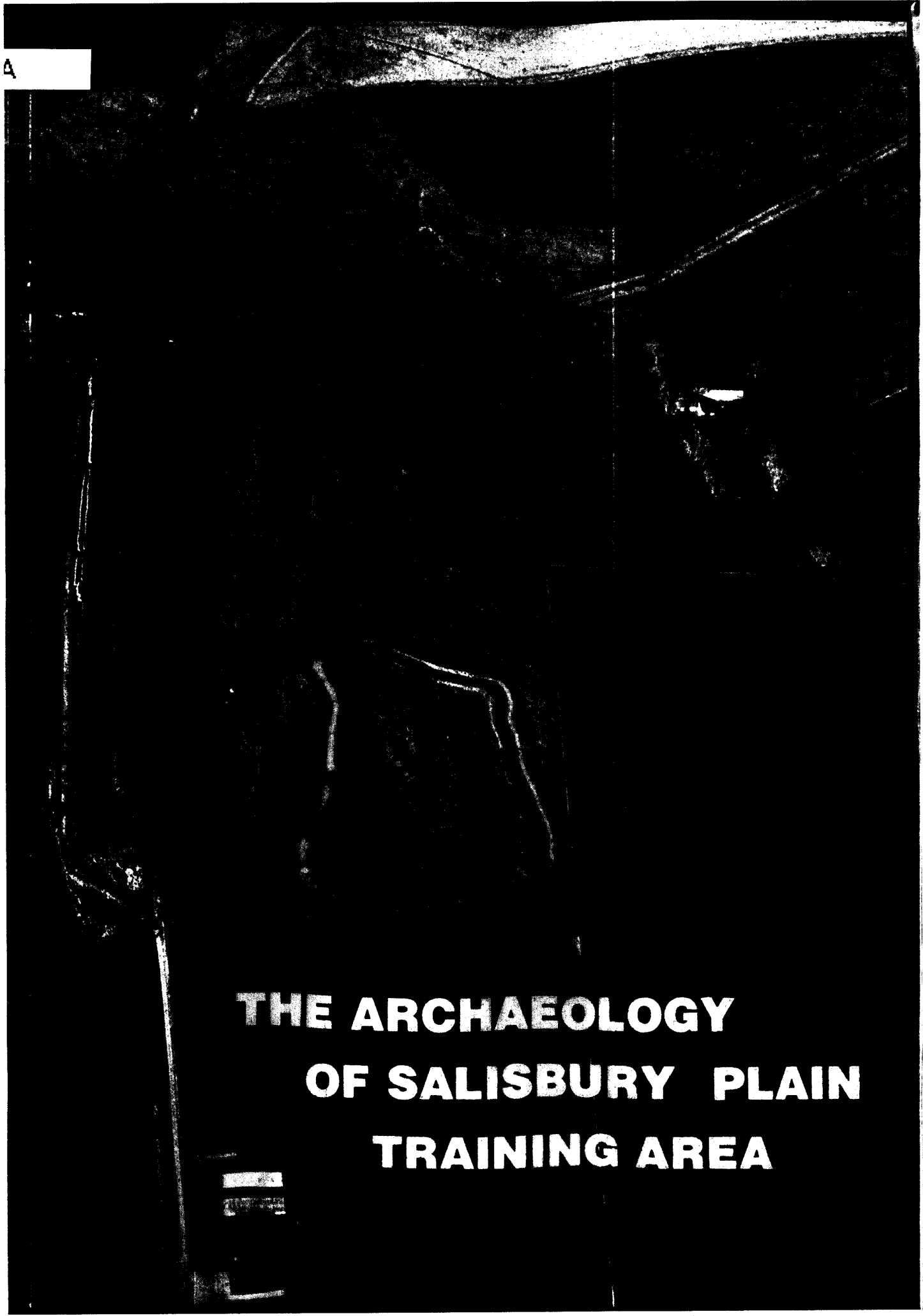


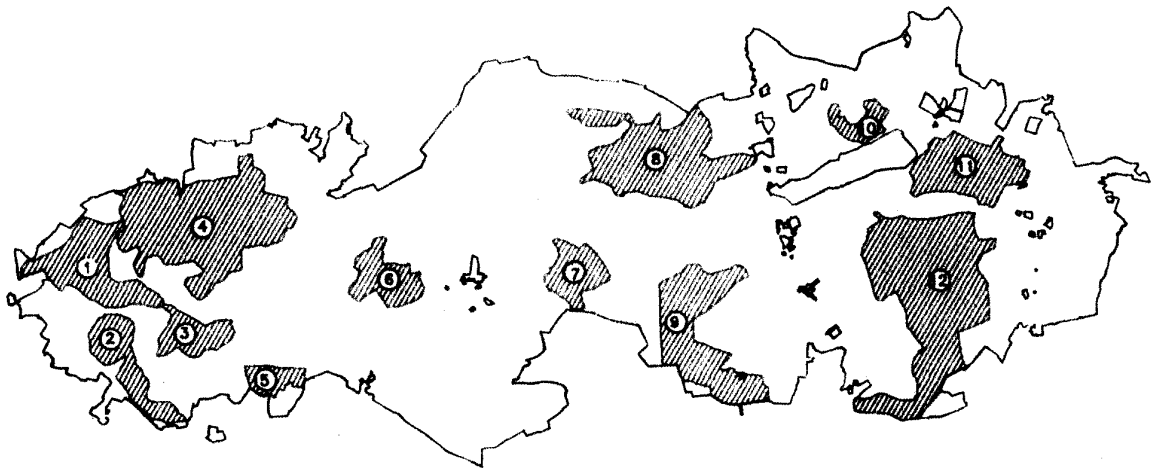
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**THE ARCHAEOLOGY
OF SALISBURY PLAIN
TRAINING AREA**

THE ARCHAEOLOGY OF SALISBURY PLAIN TRAINING AREA

MANAGEMENT PLANS FOR ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE GROUPS



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INTRODUCTION

1. Salisbury Plain Training Area (SPTA) is the largest Army training area in the United Kingdom consisting of some 93,000 freehold acres owned by the Ministry of Defence. The majority is ancient downland, consequently both archaeology and natural history have been preserved.
2. In November 1983, following reports of damage to archaeological sites, a meeting was convened at which the Ministry of Defence (MOD) and the Department of the Environment (DOE) were represented. It was agreed that DOE, through the Inspectorate of Ancient Monuments, would arrange for a survey of the archaeology on Salisbury Plain so that MOD could be advised about those sites which should be managed.
3. In 1984 a Working Party was formed under the chairmanship of Regional Estate Surveyor at the Property Services Agency (PSA). The Working Party report was published in 1986 and subsequently ratified by both MOD and DOE at Ministerial level.
4. Under Recommendation 5 of the Working Party Report, 12 areas of historic landscape were identified for special protection under Archaeological Site Group (ASG) Management Plans.
5. The Report recognized that SPTA is held by the Secretary of State for Defence solely for military training and that all other considerations are secondary. However, military training, conservation and farming can generally be integrated. The ideal of the Management Plan is to develop a sustainable method of management which will ensure that these three aspects of land use can evolve together, as far as possible without conflict.
6. In drawing up these management plans, generally we have adopted 1986 as the date when all the management plans were written so any subsequent management technique deployed is seen to be in response to the Archaeological Working Party Report.

THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESOURCE (PLAN 1)

7. The survey carried out in 1984 indicated the presence of archaeological features in every part of the Training Area. Since the Ministry of Defence purchased most of the land at the beginning of the century there has been little opportunity for modern farming techniques, particularly ploughing, to have an impact on the quality of the ancient features. It transpires, therefore, that a large proportion of the recorded archaeology is in excellent condition.
8. The sequence opens with the establishment of Neolithic settlement on the chalk hills that overlook Warminster and the Wylde Valley, and also in a zone stretching from Larkhill to the Bulford Rifle Ranges. The settlements themselves, notoriously difficult to identify, have not been found, but the burial mounds of the Neolithic period — huge earthen long barrows — are well-preserved features in the landscape. Twenty-seven have been identified on SPTA from a national total of about 300. The date range of the Neolithic period is approximately 4,000 - 2,000 BC.
9. Burial mounds continue as an indicator of human activity. The period 2,000 - 1,600 BC saw the construction on the Training Area of a huge number of round barrows or tumuli. The archaeological survey recorded 550 of these monuments, some admittedly eroded by arable cultivation on the farming tenancies which flank the Training Area, but the majority surviving in good condition. The distribution is remarkably uneven with no more than about 50 in SPTA West and Centre and the rest being located on land to the east of the River Avon in SPTA East. This is an indicator of the period when the greater part of this area was colonised for farming, probably 2,000 - 1,000 BC.

Subsequent field investigations by a team from the University of Reading have shown that Bronze Age settlements are present in some numbers within the Eastern Training Area. By implication, many of the field systems recorded in that zone must date from the same age.

10. From around 800 BC the use of iron for tools and weapons may have led to an increase in the rate of land colonisation. The majority of the archaeological features shown on Plan 1 consist of either lynchets or banks forming the boundaries of ancient fields or long linear earthworks probably set up to form territorial boundaries between estates. Research into the origin of this vast ancient landscape is only now beginning, but there is a reasonable probability that the evolution of this landscape began in the late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age, roughly 1,000 - 400 BC. Dating from this time is a sequence of Iron Age Hillforts surrounding Salisbury Plain. These are indications of the wealth and power acquired in the exploitation of the area. Arable cultivation of a significant proportion, as indicated by the remains of field lynchets, was supplemented by the raising of sheep and cattle on large chalkland ranches.

11. The Roman invasion of southern Britain in AD43 undoubtedly led to an assessment of the corn-producing potential of Salisbury Plain by the newly installed governor. Britain had a reputation for grain production prior to the invasion and seems to have been regarded by the Roman Empire as something of a granary for feeding its army in Western Europe. Scattered across the Training Area are a number of very well-preserved Roman settlements, akin to Medieval villages in their size and layout. Very little excavation work has been done but it appears these settlements continued the native traditions rather than reflecting the civilising influence of the Roman world. Standing examples can be seen in the Roman settlement of Knook East, Knook West and also Chisenbury Warren. Within the Larkhill Impact Area a settlement which has been known for some time on Thornham Down occupies a ridge top position. Recent survey suggests that it is some 30 - 40 hectares in extent, the size of a small Roman town.

12. The end of Roman occupation appears to have brought abandonment of the chalk grasslands, either because valley settlement was preferred by the incoming Saxon peoples or because the fertility of the chalkland had been much reduced by centuries of agricultural activity. It is plain from the Saxon burials inserted into prehistoric burial mounds that the area was visited and perhaps used for grazing, but permanent settlement is nowhere apparent, except in the river valleys. The beneficial effect is, of course, that the prehistoric and Romano-British remains were unaffected in the main by later agricultural use — a trend which was by good fortune continued when the Ministry of Defence made the decision to purchase on such a large scale.

MANAGEMENT APPROACH

13. The Management Plans would undertake positive management measures to prevent further damage to archaeological sites. The plans would be drawn up by the Consultative Committee and incorporate a brief description and location, a statement of the archaeological importance, the military use of the area, the perceived threats to the archaeology followed by management proposals taking into account each monument within the ASG boundary.

14. Each area will be considered as a whole, including influences from outside the specified boundary. Management would consist broadly of identification of sensitive areas with proposals for the manipulation of training and farming activities so that the perceived threats could be diverted.

15. It was proposed that implementation would follow as soon as practicable after completion of the Management Plan and monitoring would establish the effectiveness of the proposals. It is recognized that the plans would require constant amendment to ensure that they responded to damaging trends.

16. No attempt should be made to incorporate management techniques for natural history although care would be taken not to implement management measures which were detrimental.

THREATS AND SOLUTIONS

17. The threats to archaeology were identified in the archaeological Working Party Report as:

- a. **Military** — digging, vehicle manoeuvring and impact areas, training woodland and fixed installations.
- b. **Agricultural** — cultivation, direct and indirect, treading by stock, directly or as a preliminary to erosion.
- c. **Natural agencies** — burrowing animals, scrub and trees and any inter-relationship which disrupts stratified layers of archaeology or starts erosion.

Solutions to Potentially Damaging Effects of Military Training

18. Solutions proposed to counter military damage are:

- a. To identify areas of archaeological importance on the ground by signing, posting or bollarding.
- b. To make sensitive areas unattractive to soldiers in training by removal of scrub and cover.
- c. The creation of penning which satisfies an agricultural need with minimum impact on training.
- d. To draw soldiers in training away from sensitive areas by the planting of trees.
- e. Provide tracks around sensitive areas to draw traffic away as much as possible.
- f. To remove plough or forestry which could direct training onto archaeologically sensitive areas.

Solutions to Potentially Damaging Effects of Agriculture

19. Solutions proposed to counter agricultural damage are:

- a. Reduce all Schedule III ploughing consents, both on the ASG and in the area immediately around, to prevent the secondary effect of diverting Military training onto vulnerable areas.
- b. Position penning over sensitive areas and then control the grazing regime.
- c. Strict control of stocking, so that grazing animals do not do direct damage or cause secondary damage through erosion.

Solutions to Potentially Damaging Effects from Natural Causes

20. Solutions proposed to counter damage from natural causes are:

- a. Rabbits and other burrowing animals. Rabbits must be controlled where they tunnel into archaeological remains. The control of digging by badgers would be subject to special consultation with the Nature Conservancy Council (EN).

b. Erosion. Eroded areas should be made up, turfed or reseeded and allowed to heal. All surface damage giving rise to erosion must be prevented on archaeological sites.

c. Scrub. The establishment and subsequent removal of scrub can be damaging to buried stratified layers, and the scrub itself can give rise to erosion by providing a focus for stock. The removal of scrub on archaeological remains and the prevention of regrowth will be considered against other conservation interests. Scrub attracts burrowing rabbits which provide loose soil for further scrub establishment.

d. Trees. It may be necessary to remove trees where they are unsafe to prevent the excavating effects of wind throw.

21. Regular monitoring will indicate threats and will form an important basis for subsequent changes to the Management Plan at regular intervals.

22. The management proposals are based on the information available from the archaeological records at the time of writing the individual plans. Research work carried out by the Royal Commission on the Historical Monuments of England will, however, provide invaluable information in improving the records and such additional information will be incorporated as plans are revised.

23. In the event of additional land being acquired by MOD it may be necessary to provide a comprehensive review at an earlier date to reflect the changing patterns in military traffic.

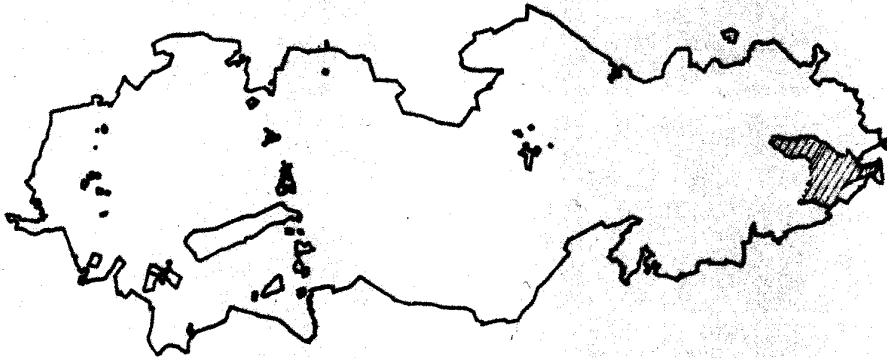
ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF SOURCES

24. The information for which the management plans have been compiled have been drawn from the following:

- a. The Archaeological Working Party Report 1986.
- b. Wiltshire County Council Field Archaeologist.
- c. DLA Durrington.
- d. Secretary of the Consultative Committee.
- e. Conservation Sub Groups.
- f. English Nature.
- g. Headquarters Salisbury Plain Training Area.
- h. The Ministry of Defence, Defence Land Services.

(ASG 1)

THIRTEEN HUNDRED DOWN AND OXENDEAN DOWN



CHAPTER 1

THIRTEEN HUNDRED DOWN AND OXENDEAN DOWN (ASG 1)

SECTION 1. — GENERAL

Description (see Map)

1. Archaeological Site Group 1 (ASG 1) comprises approximately 650 hectares (1,600 acres) at the western end of Salisbury Plain Training Area (West) — SPTA (West) just north of Warminster.
2. The majority falls within the danger area of the School of Infantry Small Arms Ranges and is therefore almost invariably closed to public access.
3. Generally there is no agriculture to consider although there is a small area of Schedule I in the extreme west. The majority of the land is under rough grass with scrub. The area is visually attractive with deep combes and high-sided valleys. The archaeology is protected partly by the topography but largely by the existence of the Small Arms Ranges.

Military Use

4. Most of the area is taken up by Small Arms Ranges and their associated Range Danger Area. Because of the proximity of Warminster Camp, ancillary sporting activities occasionally take place within the ASG. There is very little evidence of heavy vehicular use of the area and the majority of the archaeology is thus safeguarded.

Archaeological Importance

5. The principal archaeological interest rests in the dispersed barrow group which runs from Four Hundred Down in the north to the Warminster-Imber road in the south-east. In the central sector few of the burial mounds can now be discerned (e.g., 31, 44, 48, 257, 259, 260-262), perhaps as a result of nineteenth century agriculture, but those in other sectors are in good condition.
6. On the southern slopes of Upton Cow Down is a well preserved field-system (56), unaffected by training or farming. Lynchets can be traced across Ranscombe Bottom and thence to the centre of the ASG.
7. On the opposite slope to the south, a remarkable series of tracks (74) cut across the downland to Dirtley Wood. The form of these deep grooves, traceable for about one mile, suggest a cattle droveway, certainly in use in the Middle Ages but perhaps originating in prehistory.
8. In the south of the ASG, the remains of the extensive linear earthwork known as Old Ditch (268) are more impressive on the map than on the ground. The earthwork survives but may never have been a dominant feature in the landscape.

SECTION 2. — THREATS TO SPECIFIC SITES

9. The round barrows forming the widely dispersed cemetery are generally in good order and unaffected by training. The barrow on the northern fringe edge of Dirtley Wood (47) appears to have been overwhelmed by scrub.

10. The multiple cattle droveway (74) is being damaged by the movement of vehicles downwards into Ranscombe Bottom. Although a well-constructed track has been provided, some drivers are running on the grass adjacent to it, thus scarring the earthworks severely.

SECTION 3. — MANAGEMENT PROPOSALS

11. The following actions are proposed:

a. **Multiple Trackway (74) — (red 1 on Map).** The erosion of the multiple trackway will be reduced by marking the track with posts and delineating the location of the monument near the track with star-signs.

b. **Round Barrow (47) — (red 2 on Map).** Further attempts to be made to locate this round barrow and clear it of scrub.

c. **Other Sites.** Marking with star-signs and removal of scrub is all that is required to safeguard the remaining burial grounds.



BATTLESBURY AND SCRATCHBURY
(ASG 2)

CHAPTER 2

BATTLESBURY, SCRATCHBURY

(ASG 2)

SECTION 1. — GENERAL

Description (see Map)

1. The ASG is located within SPTA (West), principally on land that was formerly Schedule I but which has recently been converted to Schedule III. Much of the ASG consists of a long ridge which forms the south-western boundary of the training area running up to about 680 feet above sea level overlooking Warminster and the Wylde Valley. The ridge with its four summits shows evidence of ancient occupation on account of its strategic importance but has been little used for military training.
2. The ASG comprises an area of about 500 hectares (1,230 acres) and is almost 5 kilometres in length but comparatively narrow. The majority of the area is steep but ploughed where this is practical.

Military Use

3. Military use is largely restricted to Battlesbury Bowl which is heavily used by tracked and wheeled vehicles and for firepower demonstrations. Scratchbury and Battlesbury Camps are under grass and Scratchbury is grazed by sheep.
4. The majority of land within the ASG is ploughed but is now in process of conversion from Schedule I to Schedule III. It is not anticipated that there will be a sharp increase in military training in the archaeologically sensitive areas. Steps will be taken to safeguard these within the management proposals. The area is presently farmed by several separate occupiers.

Archaeological Importance

5. The northern sector of the ASG is dominated by Battlesbury Camp, a large Iron Age hill fort with multiple lines of defensive earthworks. Habitation was not confined to the hill fort. Site 13, 500 metres to the north, is a concentration of Iron Age domestic material found during excavations in 1956. Significant quantities of Roman pottery and coinage have been found in arable land east of the main site.
6. Battlesbury Bowl is surrounded by the ancient fields which supported these communities — site 64 along Sack Hill and Oxendean Down, and the extensive lynchets of sites 273 and 275 along the edge of Boreham Down.
7. Close to Battlesbury and around Middle Hill to the south-east, a series of Medieval fields in the form of strip lynchets are still well preserved. The earthworks of a small Medieval village or hamlet are located at Middleton Farm, to which the field-system on Middle Hill undoubtedly belonged.
8. The more southerly hill fort, Scratchbury Camp, is without parallel. These massive fortifications usually commanded large tracts of land, with many modifications in evidence from the complexity of the defences as fully evolved. Scratchbury contains an early and simple form of enclosure at its centre, and has been redesigned during the Iron Age to encompass the entire hill-top. Within the hill fort and on the scarp-edge to the south-east, some fourteen round barrows are still visible and represent the extent of two Bronze Age cemeteries. Cemeteries are rare in SPTA (West) and indeed in West Wiltshire.

SECTION 2. — THREATS TO SPECIFIC SITES

9. The plough which threatened the archaeology of the interior of Battlesbury Camp has now stopped and scrub has taken hold.
10. Scrub is spreading out of Battlesbury Wood onto the southern ramparts of the hill fort.
11. The construction of facilities for the Demonstration Area has resulted in some physical and visual impact on Battlesbury. Vehicle movement to and from the command post and grandstand has eroded an area which is of high archaeological potential, as judged from the contents of site 13.
12. Field-system 273 is well-preserved, but its south-eastern segment is now under dense scrub.
13. Round barrow 391 has been clipped by ploughing, but the land is now pasture. Trees surmount the barrow.
14. Field-system 444 is well preserved but scrub covered. The nearby Medieval village site 380 has been cleared, leaving only one or two trees standing on it.
15. Field-system 426 consists of strip lynchets which are now down to grass, although they have been much affected by ploughing in the past.
16. Scratchbury is in excellent condition. The only problem is erosion on the outermost rampart of the northern sector, caused by cattle.

SECTION 3. — MANAGEMENT PROPOSALS

17. The following actions are proposed:

a. On **Battlesbury Hill (red 1 on Map)** — it is suggested that the encroaching woodland is cut back. This will involve the removal of mature trees (mostly sycamore), and may cause some protest.

b. **Field-system 273 (red 2 on Map)** — the scrub is obscuring and damaging a valuable site. Clearance is difficult because the area has received much bombardment in demonstrations, and there may be a nature conservation issue.

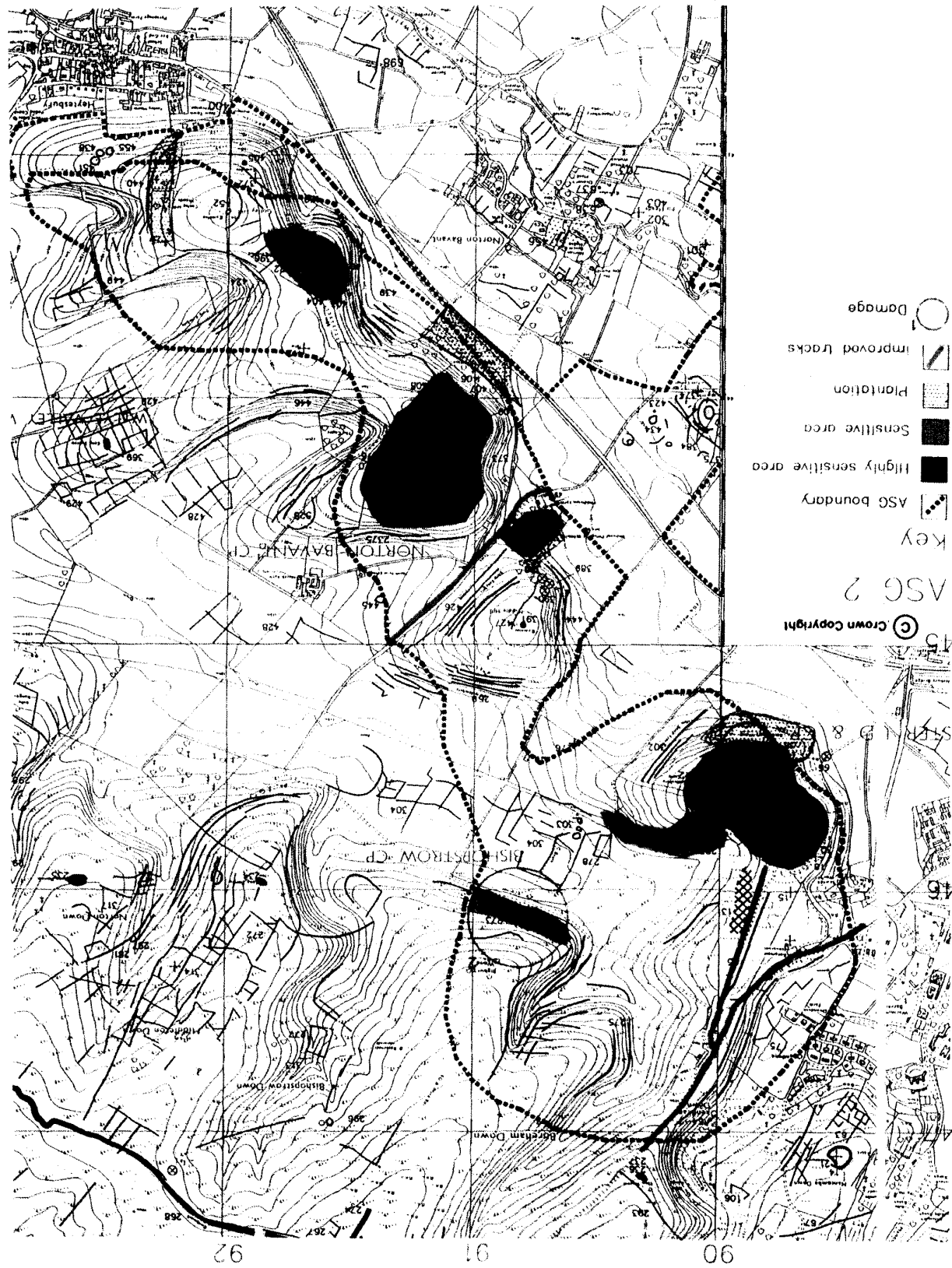
c. **Other Sites.**







(1) **Battlesbury.** It is important that the interior of Battlesbury remains in grass, with appropriate management. Redundant farm fencing and scrub will be removed. Grazing of the ramparts by sheep will be encouraged. Further developments at Battlesbury must be subject to consultation. Monitoring may determine the need for stone tracks through archaeologically sensitive areas

(2) **Barrow 391.** This will be cleared of trees, to prevent further damage from roots and to ensure that cattle do not congregate on the mound.

(3) **Scratchbury.** Some control over grazing is needed. On the northern sector, scrub will be removed and the badly eroded section of the ramparts put out of bounds to cattle.

(4) **Field-System 444.** Scrub will be removed.



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 ASG 2
 Key
-  ASG boundary
 -  Highly sensitive area
 -  Sensitive area
 -  Plantation
 -  Improved tracks
 -  Damage

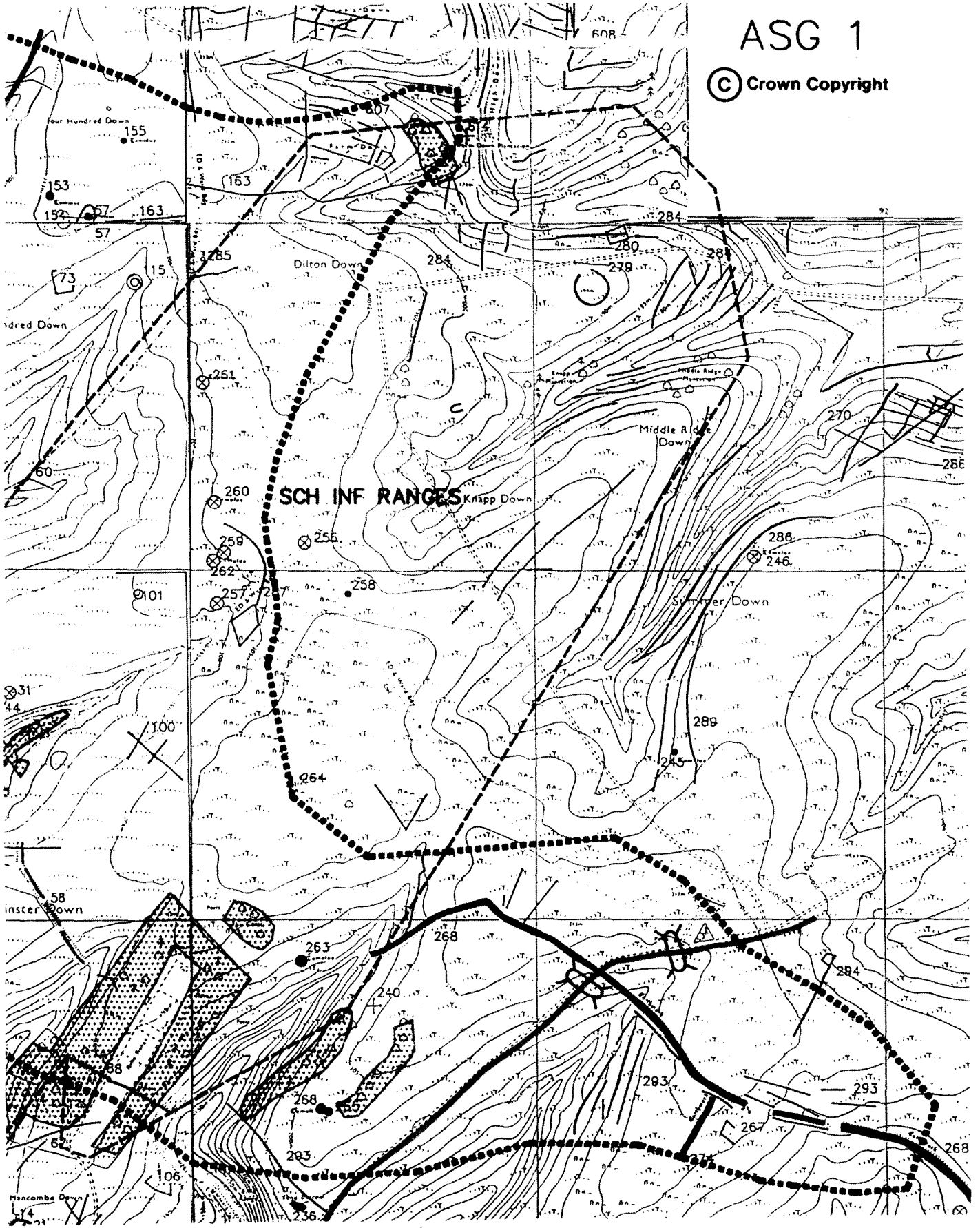
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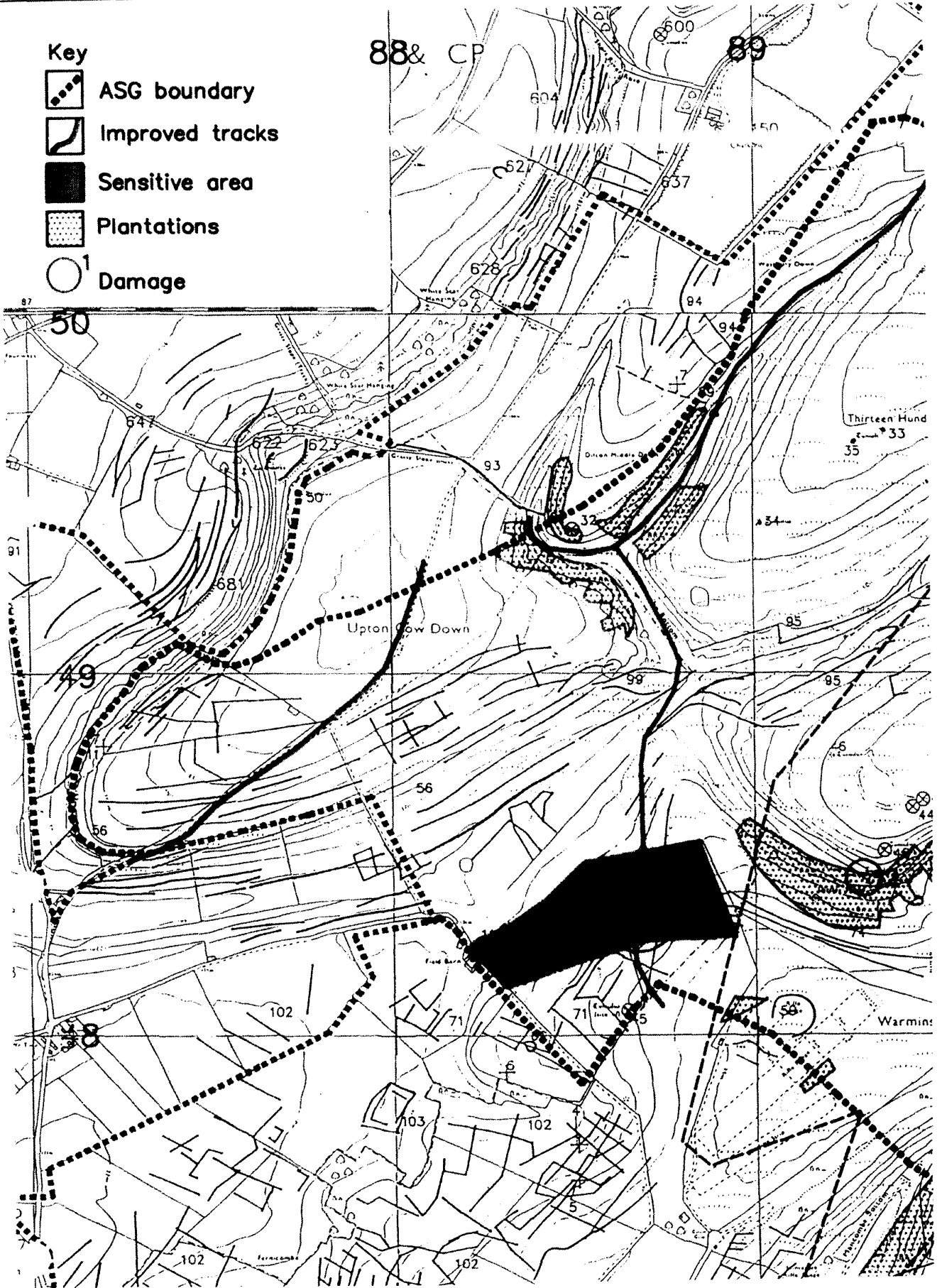
ASG 1

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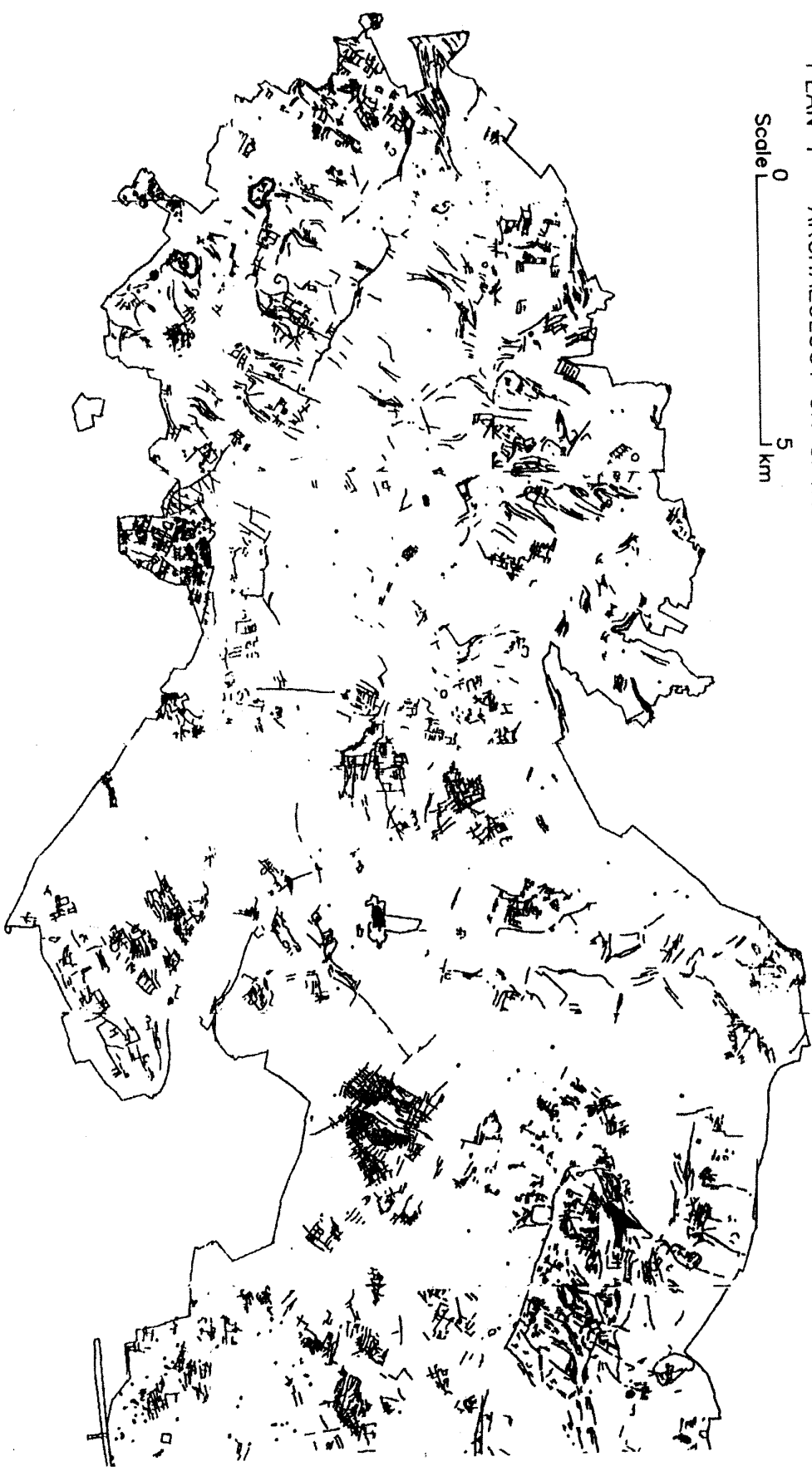
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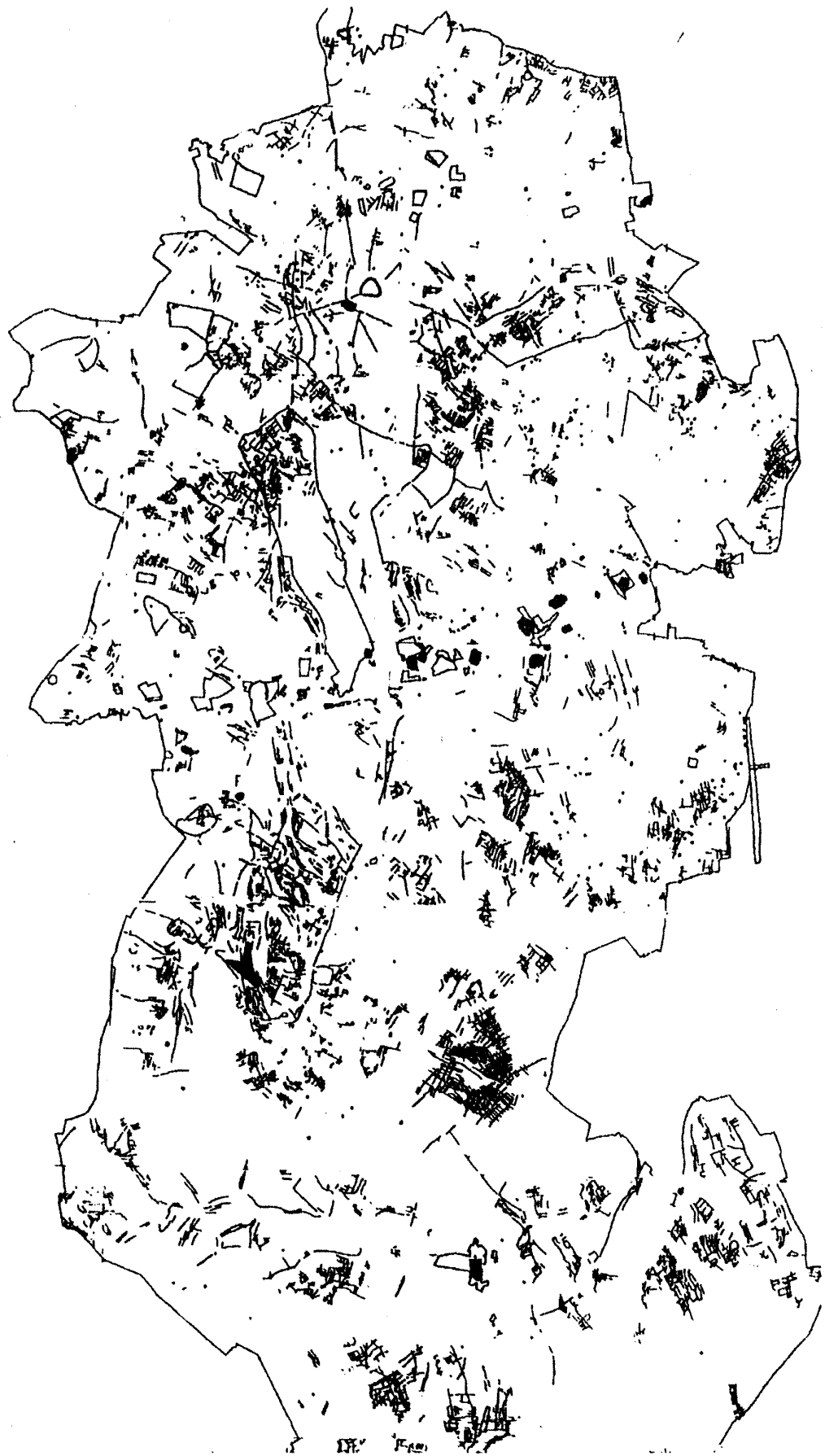
-  ASG boundary
-  Improved tracks
-  Sensitive area
-  Plantations
-  Damage



PLAN 1 - ARCHAEOLOGY ON SPTA

Scale 0 5 km







NORTON DOWN AND BISHOPSTROW DOWN
(ASG 3)

CHAPTER 3

NORTON DOWN, BISHOPSTROW DOWN (ASG 3)

SECTION 1. — GENERAL

Description (see Map)

1. Archaeological Site Group Management Plan No. 3 (ASG 3) comprises an area of approximately 800 acres (325 hectares) in the south west of Salisbury Plain Training Area (SPTA) approximately 2 miles east of Warminster.
2. The site is part of the Imber live firing area and included within the Danger Area Sub Division.
3. There is no agriculture to consider.
4. Ground cover is rough grass and scrub. The surface particularly to the north is heavily rutted by traffic travelling east/west along the ridge.
5. The sensitive archaeological sites are principally 3 long barrows and a linear feature which runs along much of the northern boundary. These will be rescheduled in the new programme. There is no officially designated Important and Fragile Site.
6. The land falls towards the south from the ridge running along the northern boundary.

Military Use

7. The area is generally closed to public access because of live firing exercises. The whole area, but more particularly the ridge along the north, is heavily used in armoured exercises by troops leaving Warminster on the Imber road before turning right for access to Area 4 and beyond that to the rest of the SPTA.
8. Some of this traffic may be reduced if the Southern Bypass Route out of Warminster is constructed.

Archaeological Importance

9. The importance of this ASG lies in the high number of long barrows within a relatively small area. All three are extant and well defined. The barrows themselves lie in close proximity to extensive field systems, and the ASG is bounded on its north side by an earthwork of prehistoric date.

SECTION 2. — THREATS TO SPECIFIC SITES

10. The Field Systems within this ASG do not all survive as cohesive blocks, but the field boundaries themselves are generally well-preserved, particularly 272, where good lynchets up to 2 metres are visible even though subject to bombardment from the Battlesbury Demonstration Area. Most field systems have some damage due to tactical vehicle movement, though none of this is severe at the moment.

11. Sites which require a visit by the sub-committee (outlined in red on map):

a. **Linear Earthwork 268 (1 and 2 on Map).** This boundary feature, extant in places, has been crossed frequently by tracked vehicles. The main cause for concern, however, is the proximity of the spreading NW/SE routeway at approximately ST 932466 and ST 921473.

b. **Bowl's Barrow 233 (3 on Map).** The mound of this long barrow is damaged by both scrub and rabbits. There is also a concrete base set into its top. The exclusion signs have kept vehicles away from the east end of the mound, though this has been dug into, probably for a gun position. Vehicles have, however, skirted close to the barrow elsewhere damaging the side ditches. The north ditch has been destroyed by digging. The south ditch is in the process of being destroyed by military vehicles.

c. **Middleton Down Long Barrow 234 (4 on Map).** There are some depressions in the top, and north side, but the main problem is trees and scrub covering the east end of the monument. There is only one star marker, positioned at the west end. Also at this end is an old trench approximately 2 metres square. No side ditches are visible.

d. **Norton Down Long Barrow 235 (5 on Map).** This barrow is in excellent condition, though its top is pitted with holes including a possible badger sett. The side ditches are well preserved. The northern ditch is protected by a star sign and has received no damage from vehicles, though there is some scrub damage at the east end. On the south and west sides there are no protective markers, and there are vehicle tracks quite close to the west end of the barrow. A vehicle has entered the south ditch and caused some damage. Vehicles have also turned at the east end of the barrow where again there is no protection.

SECTION 3. — MANAGEMENT PROPOSALS

12. These management proposals take account of the difficulty of providing and maintaining adequate protection in a live firing area.

13. The field systems will not be protected or identified unless monitoring defines trends which would justify protection measures.

Linear Earthwork (268)

14. The linear earthwork has been considered for protection. The best preserved section in the west does not appear to be under any particular threat. Consideration will be given to constructing a track to draw traffic away from the linear feature along the north west boundary.

Bowl's Barrow (233)

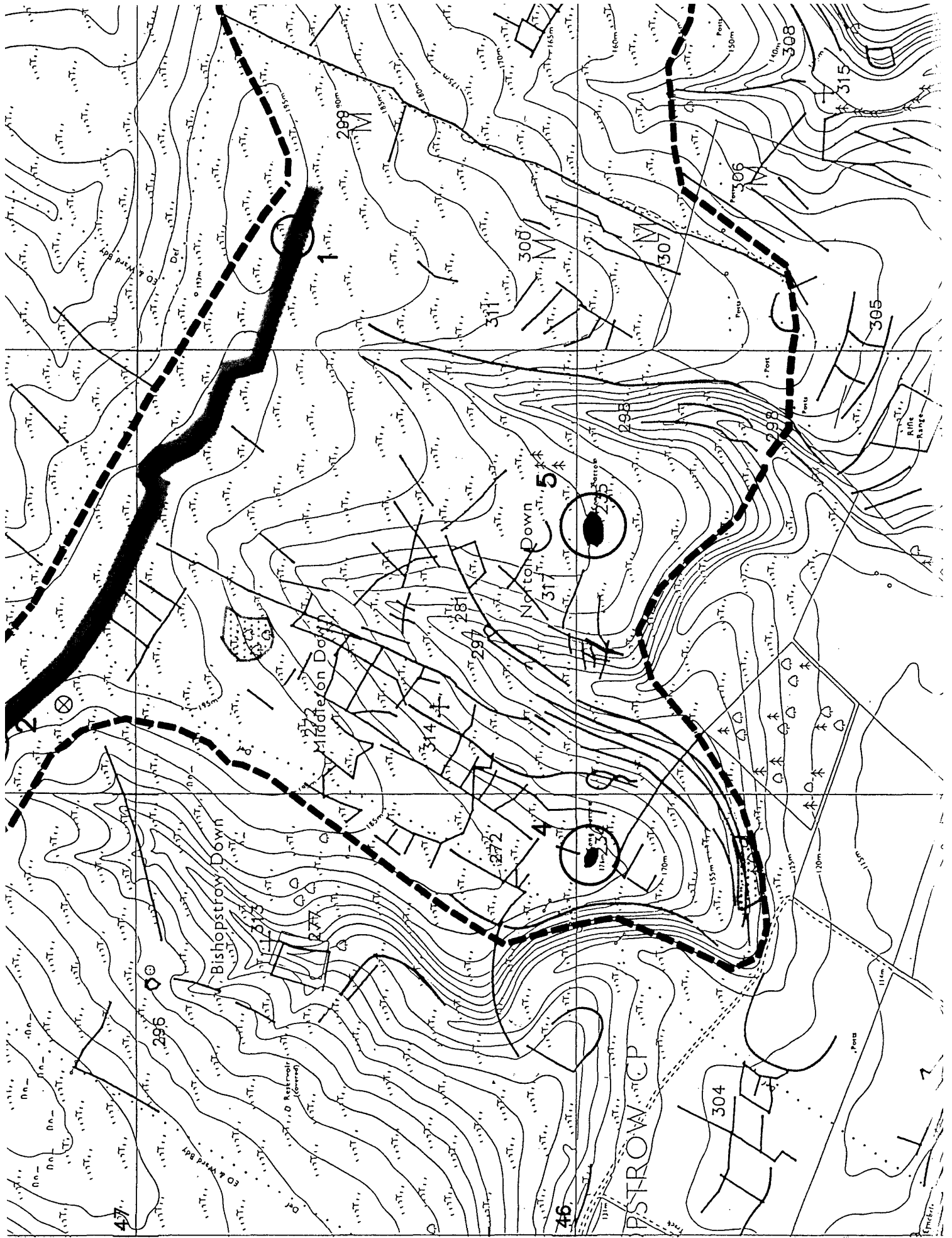
15. Scrub will be removed from Bowls Barrow. The barrow will be extensively star-signed to keep military traffic away from the barrow and out of the lateral ditches. If these signs prove short-lived, bollards and signs may have to be substituted.

16. The beech copse sited on the ridge-top west of the barrow is tactically important and concentrates activity around the monument. The repeated use of the same area can overflow, doing damage to the barrow which itself provides some cover to troops on exercise. It is recommended that additional woodland planting at intervals along this ridge-top will reduce the concentration of military activities and thereby indirectly provide better protection for the barrow.

Middleton Down (234) and Norton Down (235) Long Barrows

17. Both barrows, although a kilometre apart, sit prominently on the crests of south facing spurs with the land falling away sharply on three sides. Location has proved to be the best protection against military manoeuvres.

18. The only real threat is from scrub, rabbits and badgers. It is proposed to clear the scrub, attempt to eradicate the rabbits and fill the holes to prevent re-infestation. Both barrows will be ringed with star-signs to identify them to soldiers in training.





ERLESTOKE, COULSTON DOWN
(ASG 4)

CHAPTER 4

ERLESTOKE, COULSTON DOWN

(ASG 4)

SECTION 1. — GENERAL

Description (see Map)

1. Archaeological Site Group Management Plan for Area 4 (ASG 4) comprises approximately 4,500 acres (1,800 hectares) in the north west of Salisbury Plain Training Area (SPTA) approximately 4 miles north east of Warminster.
2. The majority is part of the Imber live firing area and very often closed to public access.
3. In the south there is no agriculture to consider, and here the area is wholly in rough grass with scrub. In the north approximately 1,100 acres are under arable cultivation or in the process of conversion to Schedule III and it is this area, with its deep coombes and high sided valleys, which is most visually attractive.
4. The sensitive archaeological areas consist principally of an enclosure at Wadman's Coppice, a second enclosure in the north west of the site group, a flight of lynchets in a steep coombe running north towards Bratton and a dispersed barrow group across the area in varying stages of preservation. There is no officially designated Important and Fragile Site but special attention is drawn to the Wadman's Coppice enclosure.
5. The majority of the land falls towards the south except for the edge of the escarpment which drops sharply north from the ridge mostly in the arable area.

Military Use

6. The area is generally closed to public access because of live firing exercises and the extent of military use declines the further one gets away from the Warminster/Imber Road although the whole area is extensively used and rutted by vehicles over the years.
7. The steep re-entrant north of Imber makes it difficult for tanks to bypass Imber. Therefore this area tends to be used on School of Infantry exercises as a subsidiary access, seldom involving more than a company group.

Archaeological Importance

8. This ASG contains the highest concentration of coombe features and lynchets on SPTA. One of the most important sites within this ASG is a Romano-British settlement associated with a large enclosure, the banks of which are extant to a height of approximately 0.5 metres. The round barrows here occur as individuals or groups of two or three and are widely spaced throughout the area forming the northern limit of this type of monument on the west part of the Plain.

SECTION 2. — THREATS TO SPECIFIC SITES

9. Sites which require a committee visit (outlined in red on map):

a. **Enclosure 170.** The enclosure measures approximately 300 yards by 150 yards (3 acres) and lies on the top of a ridge equidistant from Wadman's Coppice to the west and a block of woodland in the east. It is crossed by four different tracks indicating a natural progression of military exercises between the two woods. The enclosure is visible on the ground with banks 0.75 metres high and an external ditch of about the same depth, all generally speaking in good condition. There are no star signs to indicate that this is an archaeological site.

b. **Settlement 197.** The area of the settlement is not yet accurately defined, but Romano-British pottery found in vehicle tracks suggest that at least part of the settlement is being damaged by a vehicle route. There is also the danger of inadvertent damage through military digging.

10. The west end of the ASG lies within the School of Infantry ranges and was not available for inspection at the time of the compilation of the report, but will be visited when the opportunity arises.

SECTION 3. — MANAGEMENT PROPOSALS

11. **Enclosure Site 170** and **Settlement 197** deserve special consideration. The Settlement is ill-defined on the ground and it is hoped that a preliminary survey can be carried out to identify its extent. A more accurate evaluation would necessitate a full survey by the Royal Commission for Historic Monuments or possibly through excavation; so the Management Proposal is designed more to prevent damage in the vicinity of the Settlement until such time as the boundaries can be defined. The initial measures will be confined to ringing the Settlement and the Enclosure with star-signs to identify these to soldiers in training, but still permit access for vehicles. The second stage may involve providing a raised track to protect the archaeology but still enable access for vehicles across the site.

12. Much will depend on the help of the Range Liaison Officer who will endeavour to limit damage by monitoring exercises in the area.

13. The dispersed barrows will be identified by signing and this will be carried out irrespective of whether the archaeology is to be re-scheduled under the current proposals or not. The exception to this will be the **lynchets (604)** in the valley running down to Bratton where Management Proposals will probably be limited to the clearance of scrub in order to enhance the visual aspect and prevent further erosion from stock. Some re-seeding may be necessary to obtain a turf cover for these earthworks.

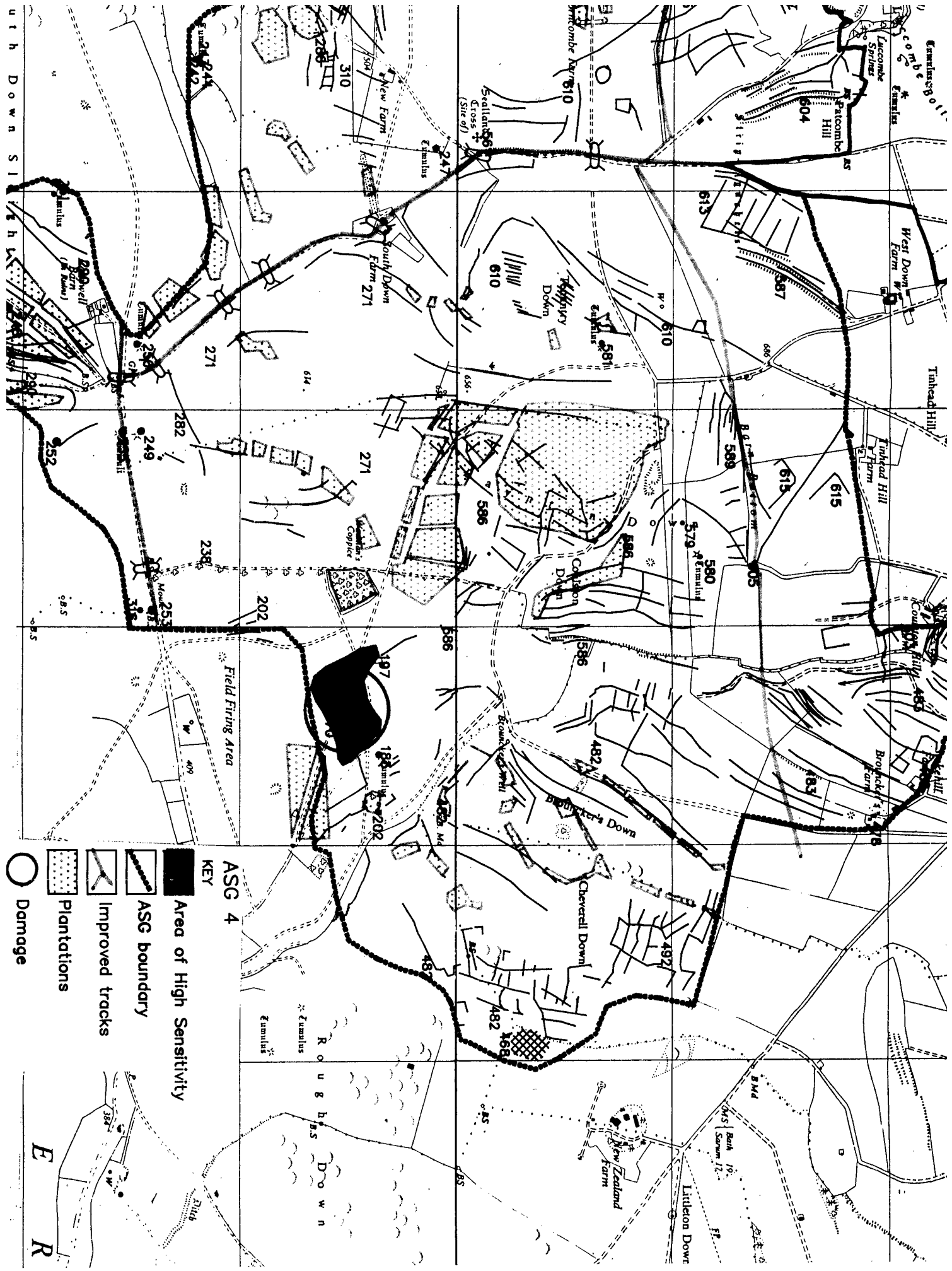
14. To the north west of ASG 4, and on the very edge of the live firing area, there is a **Settlement Site (582)** with ancillary earthworks covering several acres. The site is in very good condition at present under a good grazing regime, but there is no identification on the ground so protection is principally by its location. It is out of the main thoroughfare for exercises and to some extent protected by the existence of the stone track to the north, which tends to draw administrative traffic. The principal threat is from vehicles leaving this track at an obvious break to the west of the beech wood by which access can be gained immediately onto the Settlement area.

15. It is proposed to star-sign this area and remove the scrub which might attract soldiers seeking cover.

16. It is not thought necessary to repair the small amounts of damage caused by cattle or vehicles. However monitoring of the site is essential to ensure that there is no increase in frequency of traffic or cattle damage.






Biological Issues

17. It is understood that there is a proposal for an SSSI on the northern border of the ASG, but as yet no details are available.



ASG 4

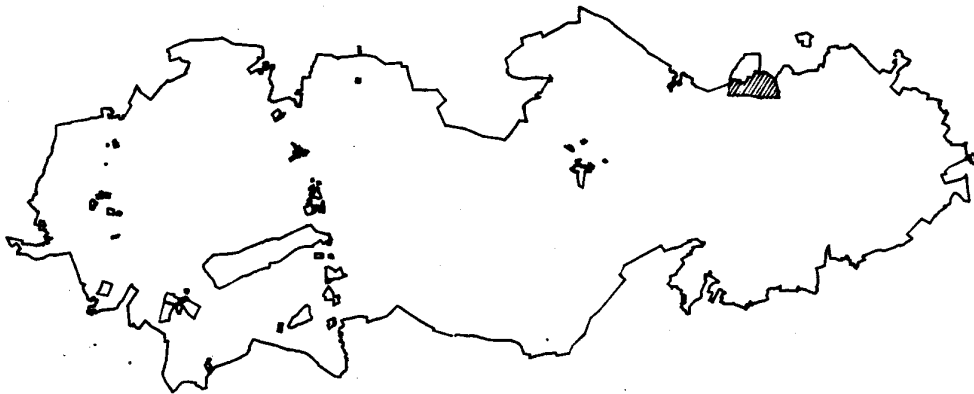
KEY

-  Area of High Sensitivity
-  ASG boundary
-  Improved tracks
-  Plantations
-  Damage

WITH DOWN SIDE WITH

E R

KNOOK
(ASG5)



CHAPTER 5

KNOOK (ASG 5)

SECTION 1 — GENERAL

Description (See Map 1)

1. Archaeological Site Group (ASG) 5 comprises an area of approximately 682 acres (268 hectares) abutting the southern edge of SPTA (West) and is located on the danger area boundary to the north of Quebec Farm. In consequence all the archaeological remains are vulnerable to traffic passing through this narrow strip between the danger area boundary and the edge of MOD property to the north.
2. The majority of the area is Schedule III grassland of which a part has been ploughed in the past.
3. The Archaeological Working Party Report identified the highest grade of archaeological sites as Important and Fragile Sites (IFS). These are indicated in yellow on the plan. The sensitive archaeological areas are shown in blue with those of higher sensitivity indicated by dark shading. IFSs are out of bounds to all military vehicles and a ban on digging or ground disturbances is accepted by the Army. However, such restrictions conflict with the overriding use of a part of the area for training purposes and the management plan seeks to resolve this conflict.
4. The ASG has been well protected by the farming regime in the past, but following a recent farm re-organization and possible changes in the military use of the area referred to below, steps must now be taken to ensure that the archaeology is protected.
5. The majority of the area is to be re-scheduled as an ancient monument under the current re-scheduling proposals.

Military Use

6. The conversion of much of the land outside the danger area boundary, from Schedule I to Schedule III is designed to provide a transit area outside the danger zone for units travelling to other parts of the training area. As a result the military use of the area is likely to intensify but the stages of intensification are uncertain, and will only become clear as the pattern of usage of the Fighting In Built-Up Areas (FIBUA) facility develops. However, the following aspects are relevant:
 - a. Knook military camp has been selected to provide accommodation for units using FIBUA. Knook archaeological area lies on the route linking FIBUA with Knook Camp so the area will be used by units passing through with all types of military hardware, both tracked and wheeled.
 - b. The area will be used as a "back door training area" for Knook Camp.
 - c. The farm buildings at Quebec Barn with their similarity to farm buildings in North West Europe, will be developed as a training feature. These will be used by sub units which wish to deploy off the main east-west route or practise concealment during military exercises.

d. The archaeological area lies across the only narrow access strip in the south through which all units, whether armoured or not, will transit to other parts of the training area.

Archaeological Importance

7. The ASG consists of two exceptionally well-preserved Romano-British villages, accompanied by the remains of their ancient fields. Agriculture has removed extensive parts of the ancient fieldscape, both within the Schedule I land and in that part of the complex which lies beyond the SPTA boundary.

8. The ancient villages, conventionally known as **Knook West** (328) and **Knook East** (329), are of similar form. A well-preserved street forms the nucleus around which the houses and structures of the village developed. A survey by the Royal Commission on Historic Monuments is revealing some of the internal detail.

9. The **Iron Age hillfort (Knook Castle — 322)** is also well-preserved. It is remarkably small, a contrast to the other Wylve Valley hillforts (Battlesbury, Scratchbury and Yarnbury), which are renowned for their size.

10. The **ancient field-systems** survive well in two places only. On the east side of Knook West, a block of fields (339) occupies the land which runs downslope from the ancient village to Quebec Barn. This has been classified as an area of archaeological sensitivity. The second block lies to the east of Knook East settlement, and indeed forms an integral part of the eastern complex. Owing to its outstanding qualities, this has been designated as an area of high archaeological sensitivity in a single block within the village.

11. Another major element in the picture is "**Old Ditch**" (309), a linear earthwork which crosses an extensive region of SPTA (West). It has a prehistoric origin, probably contemporary with Knook Castle. Entering the area from the north-west it turns abruptly north near Knook Castle and was reused as the high street of Knook West Roman settlement.

12. **Castle barrow** (337), **Knook long barrow** (319) and the **Knook bowl barrow** (336), are the sole surviving burial mounds in the ASG.

13. The ASG contains some of the best preserved sites on Salisbury Plain. One of the details revealed recently by RCHM survey is the existence of a very early field-system in the area of Knook Castle and the southern extremity of the Roman village. The survey shows that the banks of Knook Castle overlie the ancient fields, which are therefore regarded as of Bronze Age date (probably 1200 - 1000 BC).

SECTION 2 — THREATS TO SPECIFIC SITES

14. The following points should be noted (see Map 1):

a. The **linear earthwork** (309) is generally in good condition, situated partly in grassland, partly in arable. The bank on the west side is quite clear but cut to a sharp edge in places by the arable which abuts it.

b. On the west side of the ASG are situated a **long barrow** ("Knook Barrow" — 319), and a **round barrow** (336). An area of arable lies close to the west side, and a vehicle route runs alongside the arable. There is therefore some danger from vehicle movement. The mound of the long barrow has been damaged in the past by digging and its top and south side is pitted with holes. The bowl barrow has sustained some slight damage from cattle poaching because a star sign placed on the centre of the mound has been used as a rubbing post.

- c. **Castle Barrow (337)** is not marked by a star sign. The edges of the mound have been truncated by a trackway on its south side and probably by past ploughing on the north side.
- d. The **Romano-British settlements (328 and 329)** are generally in good condition. There is some poaching by cattle, and care is needed in the siting of feeding areas and water troughs.
- e. The ramparts of the **hillfort (322)** are eroded in several sectors: The cause is cattle grazing, particularly where the star signs have been used as rubbing posts.

SECTION 3 — MANAGEMENT PROPOSALS

Refer to Map 2

15. Knook West (328) and Knook Castle (322). These have been under grass for many years with a carefully managed grazing regime which has proved sympathetic to the archaeology although small areas of erosion to the banks and fortifications, or centred round Star Signs, have occurred locally. The proposals are:

- a. The Star Signs will be removed and resited on the fences.
- b. The erosion sites will be re-profiled and re-seeded.
- c. South of the danger area the castle and the settlement will be protected by a single penning, and a grazing system managed to prevent further erosion by stock concentration.
- d. North of the danger area the existing penning which encloses part of the Roman settlement will be retained.

16. Knook East (329). This has been under permanent grass for many years and minimal damage has been caused to the archaeological features. It is not proposed to take any active management steps immediately under this plan, although the removal of Star Signs, feed troughs and the like from positions where they can cause erosion should prevent any damage from occurring in the future. The area will remain under grass as a penning with some additional Star Signs to be erected on the fence. It has been suggested that Knook East is dangerously exposed by becoming Schedule III, but site usage will be monitored.

17. Linear features. Those crossing this ASG will receive no special treatment but will be monitored as training intensifies to see whether positive management steps are justified.

18. Quebec Barn and Through Routes. The military use of Quebec Barn and the passage of units through the site are identified as the principal threats to the area. Provision of the tracks mentioned below should ensure that the majority of administrative traffic will avoid archaeology. The proposals to counter these threats are:






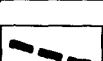
- a. The construction of new tracks, the most important of which will be the east-west route just outside the danger area boundary.
- b. The new plantation which it is hoped will divert traffic travelling from the west.
- c. Traffic travelling north from the B390 will have a hard track to link immediately with the east-west route, and will continue northwards to join the Southern Tank Route.

d. There will also be a track running eastwards along the southern boundary of Knook Castle to Quebec Barn. This track will be primarily for the use of units using Quebec Barn and will have its own exit north to rejoin the east-west route.

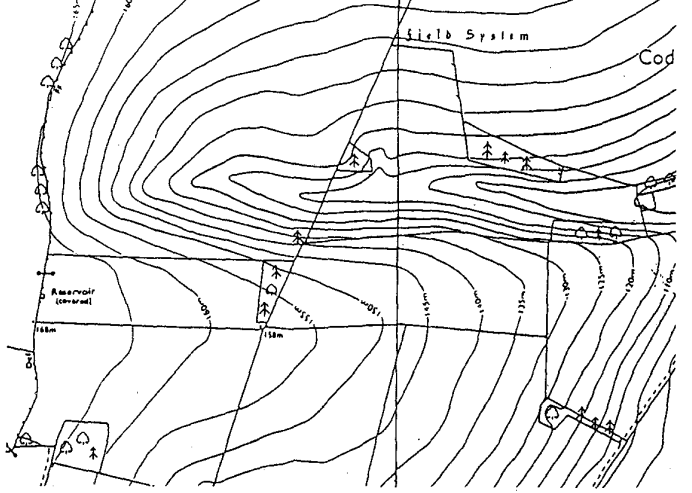
19. Additional Star Signs. These will be placed on **Knook Barrow, Castle Barrow** and along **Old Ditch** ensuring that these are readily identified on the ground.



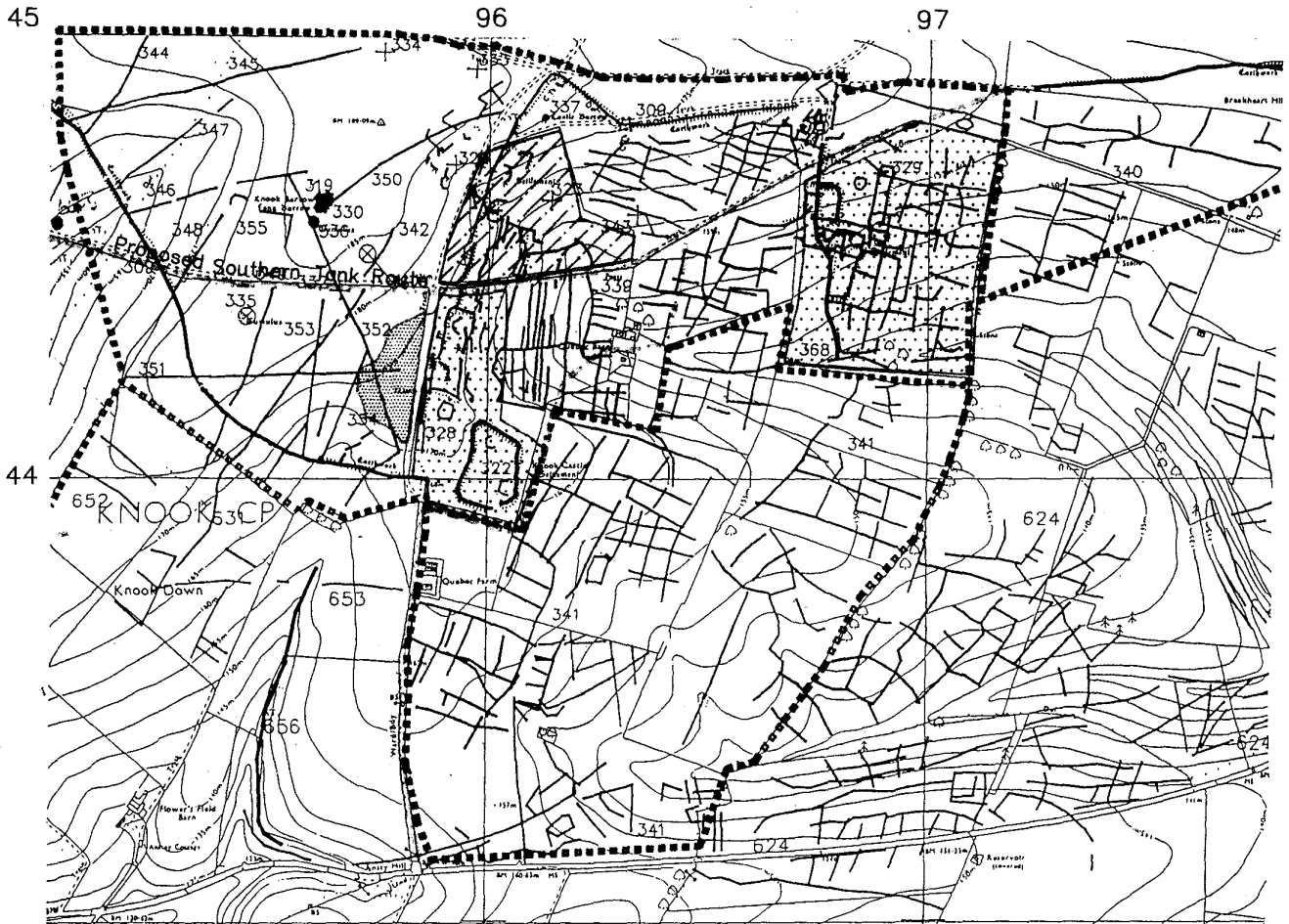
ASG 5 - Map 1

-  SPTA boundary
-  ASG boundary
-  Improved tracks
-  Important and Fragile Site
-  Sensitive area
-  Danger Area Boundary







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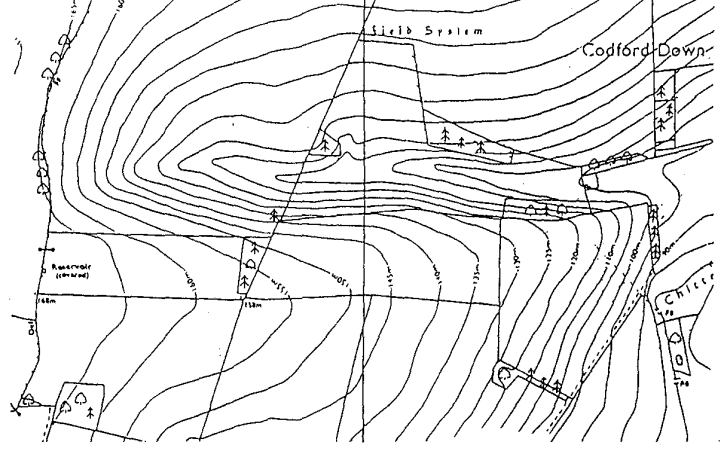
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**ASG 5 – Map 2
Proposals**

-  ASG boundary
-  Improved tracks
-  Proposed tracks
-  New plantation
-  Existing penning
-  New penning

Scale 0 500m



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CHAPPERTON DOWN
(ASG 6)

CHAPTER 6

CHAPPERTON DOWN

(ASG 6)

SECTION 1 — GENERAL

Description (see Map)

1. ASG 6 comprises an area of approximately 800 acres (330 hectares) of Schedule III, on the eastern end of the Imber Live Firing Area. It is associated with the School of Infantry at Warminster within Salisbury Plain Training Area (West). At no time in recent years has the area been farmed and there is no likelihood of farming in the foreseeable future. The area is rank grassland, rutted and uneven through constant military use with the higher ground being of interest to both the military and archaeologists. The ASG contains an Important and Fragile Site (IFS) — the Chapperton Down settlement. It was singled out in the Archaeological Working Party Report as an area in which the conflict between military training and archaeological preservation presented particular problems.
2. The majority of the area is to be scheduled as an Ancient Monument under the current proposals.

Military Use

3. The importance of this area to military training was fully recognized by the Archaeological Working Party. It lies across the main access of the east-west movement which in this area is constrained by Schedule I land, some 1100 metres to the north, and by the main Chitterne/Tilshead road 1000 metres to the south. Virtually any major exercise which involves movement from SPTA (West) onto the rest of the training area has to pass through this corridor. Whilst it is acceptable for administrative traffic to be canalised along well defined routes through this area, it is not acceptable for tactical military movement, including tanks and APCs, to be unduly impeded.

Archaeological Importance

4. ASG 6 has a very high concentration of sites within its relatively small area (6 sq km). Survey has recorded six field-systems and three boundary features together with a Romano-British settlement. A number of these sites are quite extensive and consequently difficult to protect.
5. The Romano-British village is the core feature, since it stretches for 1000 m along the highest part of Chapperton Down. The houses of the village are detectable as earthen banks and mounds scattered along either side of a street. In the north-west sector of the village, the houses are clearly visible and heavily concentrated. Further to the south-east, the houses are less clear, but the street is preserved as a distinct hollow-way throughout. At the extreme north-west is a pond-like feature (196). It is accompanied by a large mound, which may be the "midden" or refuse heap generated by the settlement.
6. There are four field-systems close to the settlement, none of which have been affected by modern agriculture. The fields (189) to the west of the village are probably the most pronounced on Salisbury Plain, the lynchets standing over 2 m in height.

7. There are two well-preserved linear earthworks. One of these (695) forms the western boundary of a field-system (712). The other (690) is a substantial earthwork which is traceable for a distance of 2 km. A part of this earthwork (centred on SU004479) is at the centre of an area of high archaeological sensitivity. The earthwork itself was clearly designed to avoid some pre-existing feature (note the bend). The remains of ancient fields abut either side of its bank, and some indistinct scoops have been recorded as a possible flight of ancient dewponds. The behaviour of the earthwork may indicate that there is a Bronze Age settlement in the area.

8. ASG 6 is, therefore, an ancient landscape of some complexity, with the earliest occupation represented by the Neolithic long barrow (Kill Barrow — 667) and two Bronze Age round barrows (682, 702). The Roman village is the most recent feature in the archaeological complex.

SECTION 2 — THREATS TO SPECIFIC SITES

9. The area is unaffected by agricultural issues, and even natural agencies have caused little damage. The exception to this is perhaps the trees on the village midden (196) together with the animal burrows in the round barrows (682 and 702) and boundary feature (690). Military training, specifically the movement of tracked vehicles and digging, account for the majority of damage to this ASG.

10. The pattern of damage is as follows (see red entries on map):

a. Trenching for tank emplacements on the **Romano-British settlement** in 1988 caused much damage to some critical areas of the site. In addition to this slit trenches cut into the site over many years have caused gradual but increasing destruction of archaeological information. In the past vehicle movement along the line of the village street and diagonally across the settlement have caused much erosion to the features.

b. The **western field-system** (189), although excellent in parts, is cut through in every direction by vehicle movement. Of particular concern is the north-east/south-west route, which has cut into some major lynchets and through to the subsoil in places. There is also occasional digging on some of the lynchets.

c. The trees on top of the **village midden** (196) form a landmark for the military, and consequently has a total of seven slit trenches. The adjacent hollow (probably a pond) is much disturbed by vehicle tracks.

d. Tactical vehicle damage to the **eastern field-system** (688) is fairly light, but the track south of the screen of trees and the two diagonal tracks leading to the same gap have cut quite deeply into lynchets. Similar damage occurs north of the screen of trees.

e. The **linear earthwork** (690) and the earthworks which join it form a highly sensitive area and has received much vehicle damage. It is the subject of a special management plan, in which plantations have been designed to control the movement of heavy vehicles.

f. There are many elements still intact in the **northern field-system** (193). It has received general vehicle damage, but particular note should be taken of the heavily used track.

g. The **southern round barrow** (682) has suffered damage from badgers and is also affected by vehicle activity, particularly to its west side. This situation should be monitored.

SECTION 3 — MANAGEMENT PROPOSALS

11. **General.** It is noted that a number of major exercises regularly use Chapperton Down. The damage to the ancient settlement, the Romano-British village, and the eastern linear earthwork are a result of this practice. Discussions have been held with the School of Infantry to establish whether these exercises can be varied in order to spread the load across the wider tract of landscape.

12. The Romano-British Settlement.

a. The first positive step is to remove administrative traffic from running up the main street of the settlement on a number of parallel tracks, several of which traverse the house platforms. This traffic will be diverted by means of a new track running to the east of the settlement before turning west to pass just south of Kill Barrow to rejoin the turnpike north of the settlement site.

b. To supplement the above measure, barrier plantations will be constructed across the old turnpike road to the north and south of the village.

c. The trackway which runs through the Romano-British settlement will be allowed to heal.

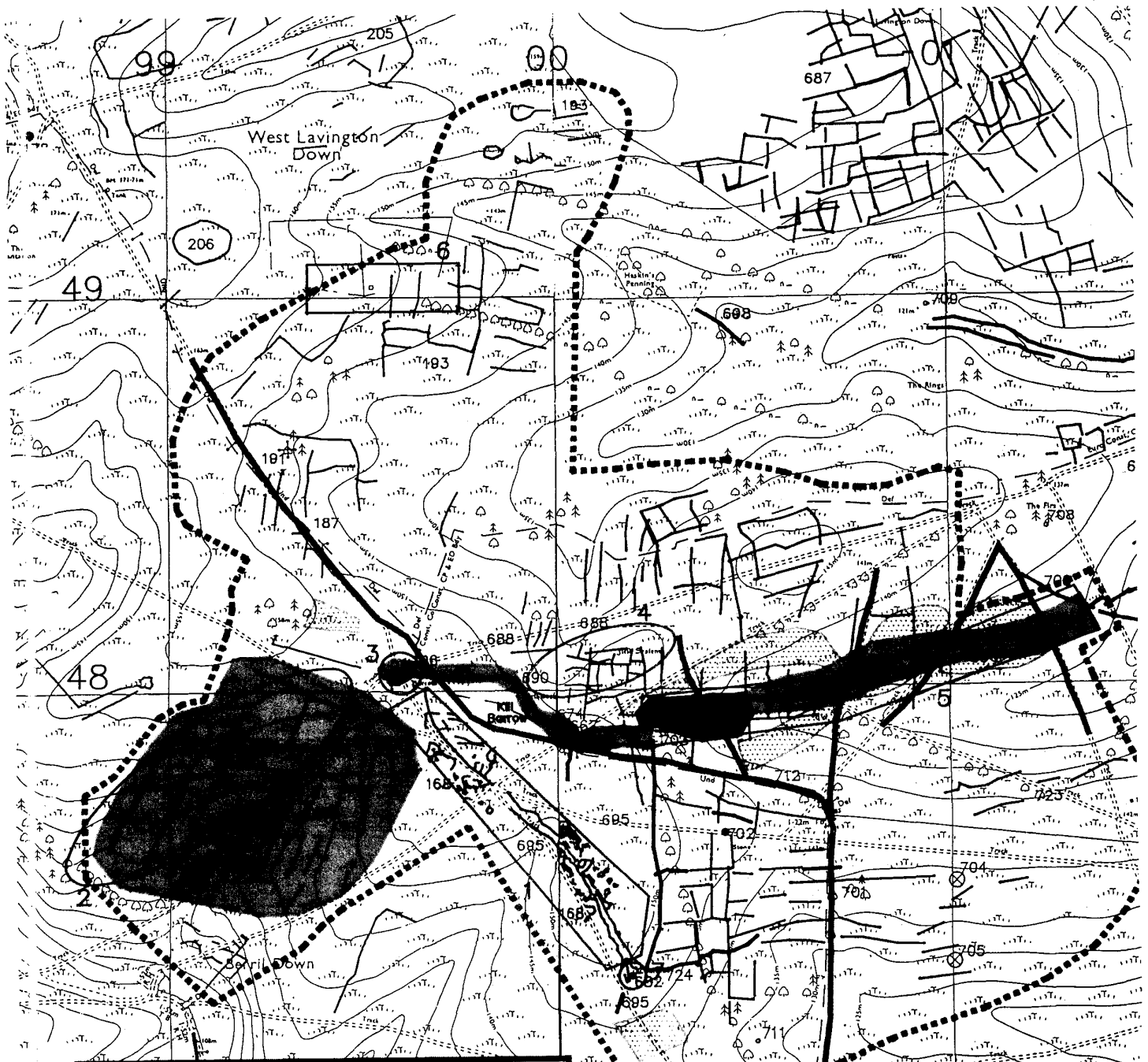
13. The Field-Systems.

a. The western field-system is generally traversed by tanks, with three or four defined routes. It has sustained considerable damage, but the military view is that no effective measures of protection can be introduced without interfering with military training.





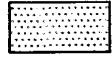
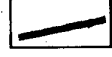

b. The field-system to the north, north-east and east of the settlement will have no further protection measures for the foreseeable future, but damaging trends will be monitored in order to determine whether any practical measures could be taken to safeguard the archaeology.

14. **Barrow (682)** — the tank hide on the southern side will be removed and the area re-seeded.

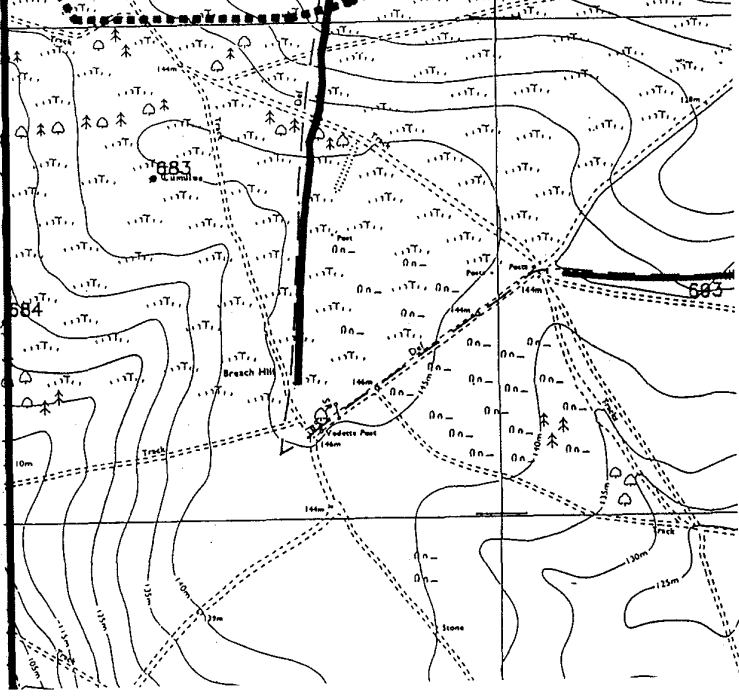
15. **Linear Earthwork (690).** This runs eastwards from the settlement, passes Kill Barrow and continues across the ASG. This feature will be protected by a combination of forestry and tracks. Four separate plantations will be established to channel manoeuvres across the earthwork at points already damaged. These access points will be hardened.



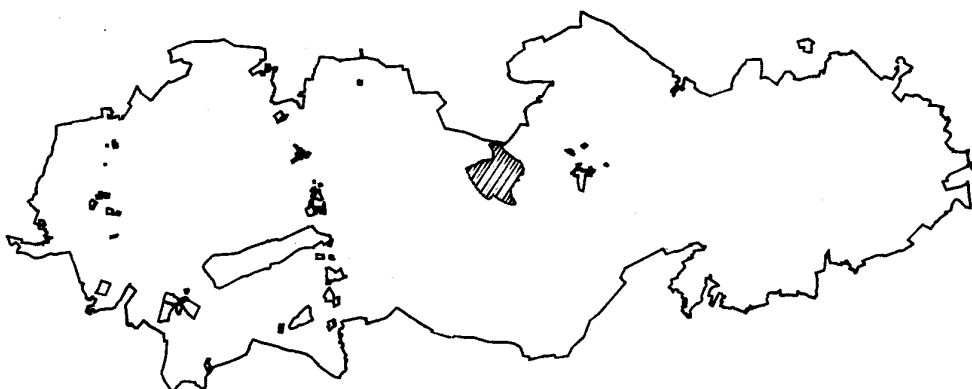
ASG 6 © Crown Copyright

-  ASG boundary
-  Sensitive area
-  Highly sensitive area
-  Important and Fragile Site
-  New plantations
-  Proposed track improvements
-  1 Damage

Scale 0 500m



CHURCH PITS
(ASG 7)



CHAPTER 7

CHURCH PITS

(ASG 7)

SECTION 1 — GENERAL

Description (see Map)

1. ASG7 includes an Important and Fragile Site (IFS) and comprises an area of approximately 758 acres (300 hectares), of which half is designated as a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI). It is located within Salisbury Plain Training Area Centre (SPTA (Centre)) and is entirely on Schedule III training land. ASG7 adjoins the southern edge of, and extends into, the splinter area to the south of the impact area, and includes a large proportion of the Bombard Danger Area.
2. To the south is Greenland Camp, to the east the central range road and Area 13, and to the west is Tilshead.
3. The rolling chalk grass downland is generally grazed. If the current use could be maintained there would be no threat from agriculture or natural causes. There has been little evidence of military manoeuvre across the area in recent years.

Military Use

4. The ASG is used by the Royal School of Artillery for gun positions firing into the impact areas. It also lies across the narrow strip of ground available for tactical movement when the impact area is in use. There is no need for administrative traffic or vehicles in transit to travel across country through the ASG nor is there at present any threat from digging as no random digging is permitted on SPTA (Centre).
5. Since the late 1980s this area has been used for tank exercises. If changes in the size and deployment of the Army in the UK lead to more armour being stationed around the Plain this will increase. In particular, the introduction of Tactical Engagement Simulation (TES) would increase the demand for unrestricted manoeuvre over larger areas.

Archaeological Importance

6. The ASG consists of an outstandingly well-preserved landscape which is primarily Romano-British in date. The focal point is the Roman village at Church Pits, which stretches for some 600 m along a prominent ridge. Within the settlement the plan of individual houses can still be identified as shallow scoops.
7. Extensive field-systems occupy much of the surrounding downland, and no doubt represent the full extent of the arable land farmed by the occupants of the settlement. Within the field-system on West Down lie two Bronze Age round barrows. A third barrow is situated on the southern edge of the ASG to the south east of Greenland Camp.
8. Two linear earthworks of unknown date cross the field-systems. It would appear that the linear 646 is later than the field-system since it cuts through a number of lynchets and then curves to avoid barrow 634. This linear appears to end in an enclosure which is superimposed on the lynchets. Linear feature 657 was possibly constructed before the field-system was laid out in its final form, since parts of the system overlay it.

SECTION 2 — THREATS TO SPECIFIC SITES

9. The **Romano-British settlement** is in good condition with adequate grass cover and none of the attendant problems of vehicle movement which have in the past affected the Chapperton Down settlement. From time to time, the area has been crossed by tracked vehicles on exercise resulting in damage to the IFS (2 in red on map). At the south west end of the settlement, where a depression exists, poaching by cattle has occurred.

10. The **field-systems** around the settlement are quite complex and generally in very good condition. Lynchets stand to over 1 m high in places with little damage apart from the tracks on field-system 654 (3 in red on map).

11. Both of the **linear earthworks** within the ASG are relatively undamaged. The only outstanding area of concern is the point marked 1 on the map where the linear bank and ditch (646) is badly damaged by vehicles, poaching and erosion.

12. The two **bowl barrows** within the area of field-system are almost undamaged. There is slight poaching to barrow 633.

SECTION 3 — MANAGEMENT PROPOSALS

Proposed Protection of Archaeological Sites

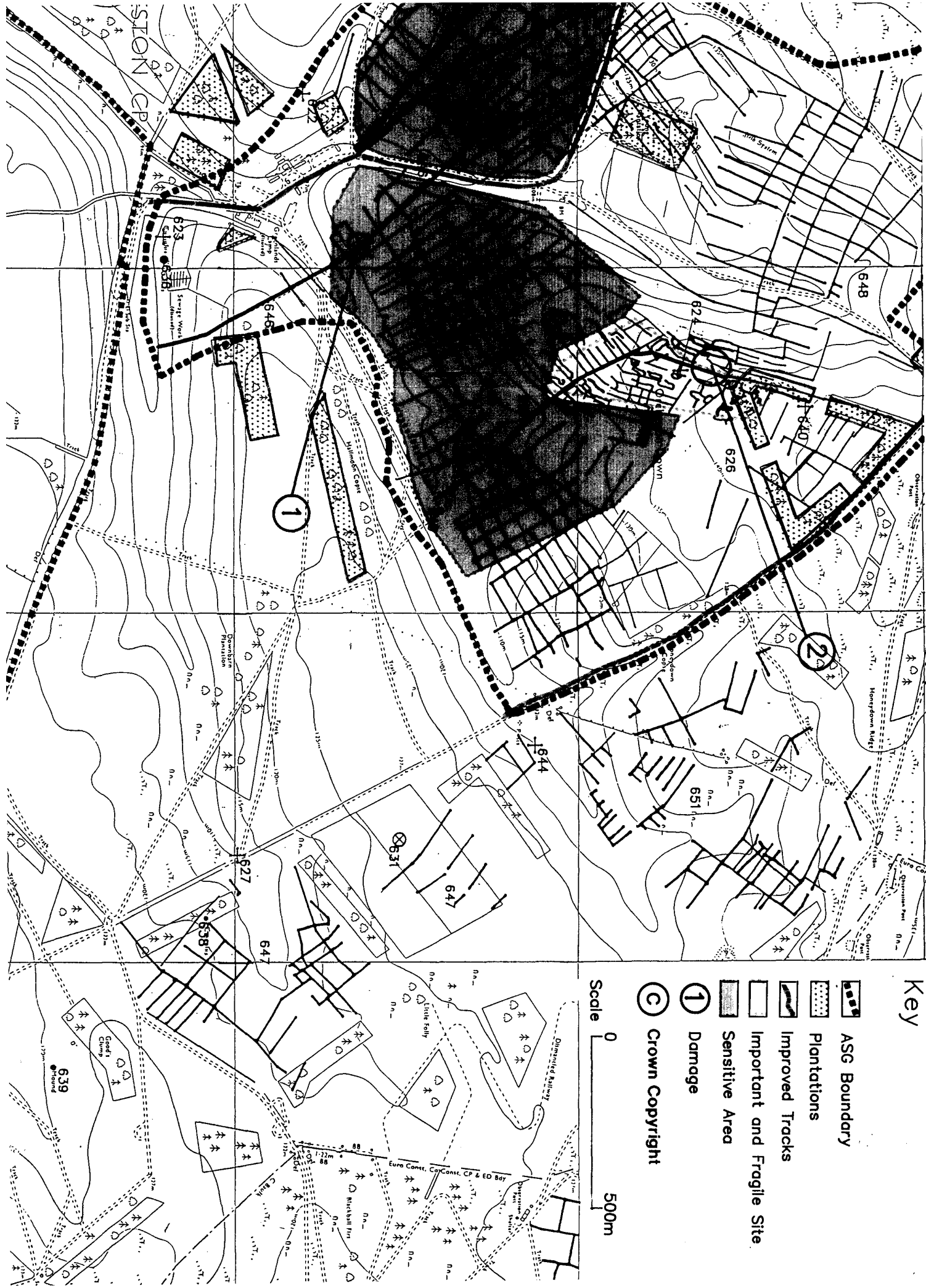
13. **The IFS.** The Romano-British settlement sited on the ridge-top, has had no protection or identification on the ground. The young plantation on the north of the settlement was cut back in 1988 when it was observed that planting had encroached onto the earthworks. Two measures are proposed:

- a. The IFS will be ringed with star signs to remove the threat from all vehicular traffic.
- b. Units exercising in the area will be briefed by HQSPTA.








14. **Linear Earthwork (646).** This has been damaged at its southern end by vehicular traffic but, as this damage was localized, it was decided that to provide protective measures at this stage will serve no purpose.

15. **Field-System (654).** It was decided that no steps would be taken to channel vehicular movement across this as the trends in movement initially causing the damage had ceased.

16. **Bowl Barrows (633 and 634).** These together with the northern end of Linear Feature 646 will be identified by star signs.



Key

-  ASG Boundary
-  Plantations
-  Improved Tracks
-  Important and Fragile Site
-  Sensitive Area
-  Damage
-  Crown Copyright

Scale 0 500m



LARKHILL IMPACT AREA
(ASG 8)

CHAPTER 8

LARKHILL IMPACT AREA

(ASG 8)

SECTION 1. — GENERAL

Description (see Map)

1. Archaeological Site Group (ASG) 8 is situated in the north-eastern corner of SPTA (Centre). It extends to approximately 1,254 hectares (3,100 acres) and is one of the largest and least known ASGs, incorporating the indications of a complex archaeological landscape of great extent.
2. Well over half of the ASG lies within the Larkhill Impact Area and has not been farmed for over 100 years.
3. There are two areas of Schedule I land. The one to the south-east is used for arable production and is located on both sides of Water Dean Bottom. The other has been put into set-aside and grassed down.
4. The remaining area is Schedule III grassland which is extensively grazed and consists of a number of steep-sided valleys weathered out of the plateau. There are, however, a number of ploughing consents in the far south-eastern corner.
5. Casterley Camp is singled out in the Archaeological Working Party Report as a site in need of special protection and management.

Military Use

6. Much of the ASG lies within the Larkhill Impact Area and is seldom used by military vehicles. Damage by shelling is most apparent on the southern slopes; the northern areas remain relatively undamaged.
7. Both a Demolition Area and a Swingfire Position are located within the ASG, curtailing other military activity.
8. To aid movement from SPTA (East) to SPTA (Centre) via 'A' crossing, the conversion of land from Schedule I to Schedule III has taken place at West Chisenbury Farm.
9. A perimeter track runs northwards through the ASG, along the boundary of the range and the Schedule I land. This has the effect of concentrating units into a very narrow corridor, reducing damage to archaeology. This track then joins the Ridgeway which provides an important route for units travelling around the impact areas.

Archaeological Importance

10. The area contains one of the best preserved ancient landscapes in Southern Britain, including a group of Romano-British settlements recognized in the Archaeological Working Party Report as an Important and Fragile Site (IFS). The extent of the IFS is indicated on the map.

11. In the north-east the late Iron Age fortification known as Casterley Camp overlooks this territory, which is bounded on the southern side by an extensive linear earthwork running from Ell Barrow eastwards along a ridge.

12. Between these two features lies a landscape dominated by the lynchets of ancient fields. On Compton Down, and Thornham Down in particular, the layout of the fields is strictly governed by the topography, in which deep combes divide the land into a series of platforms.

13. Early occupation of the interior of Casterley Camp is indicated on aerial photographs. There appear to have been small, ditched enclosures perhaps for the control of stock; and also the rectangular outline of a Celtic temple and its enclosing boundary can be seen. Two miles to the south-west on Charlton Down the Iron Age farmers constructed a small but well protected settlement at Church Ditches.

14. It is clear from other discoveries that farming of this area developed to its fullest extent in the Roman period. The map records the approximate extent of ridge-top settlements in which Romano-British pottery and other artefacts are found in quantity. The extent of the arable zone — roughly 1,000 hectares (2,470 acres) — is a reminder of the economic role that Britain played in supplying grain to the Roman world.

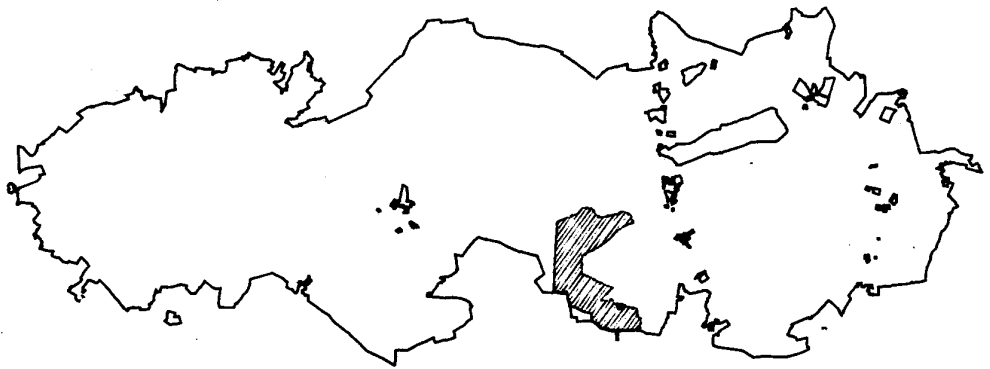
15. This remarkable heritage is little known and little studied. Few Wiltshire people have seen it. The archaeologist knows it only from aerial photographs, of which scarcely a handful have been published.

SECTION 2. — THREATS TO SPECIFIC SITES

16. The ASG is situated almost entirely within an impact area, and therefore much of the archaeology has suffered from artillery practice over a period of perhaps 90 years. Only in the last five or six years have reports been received of damage resulting from tracked vehicle exercises.
17. Sites which require a Committee visit (in red on Map):
- a. **Eil Barrow 820 (1 on Map)** — this Neolithic long barrow is still surmounted by a target and attracts artillery fire. In recent months (April-June 1991) a unit has dug in on the mound, the positions left without reinstatement.
 - b. **Site 843 (2 on Map)** — a small, D-shaped enclosure has been damaged by shell fire, but there is little sign of recent impact. Two hundred metres to the west of site 843 a probable prehistoric, unenclosed settlement has been found by the RCHM (Salisbury). Such sites are extremely rare survivals as earthworks, and are of national importance. Both are vulnerable to tank exercises.
 - c. **Slay Barrow 841 (3 on Map)** — a large Bronze Age round barrow formerly much damaged by impact. It is also affected by the movement of tracked vehicles on the east-west tank route.
 - d. **Old Ditch 849 (4 on Map)** — the earthwork has been encroached upon by the tank-route that crosses the Larkhill Range. Tank movement across the impact area has breached the earthwork near its eastern end at SU 105508. Sections of the monument are covered in scrub.
 - e. **Casterley Camp 1764 (5 on Map)** — the earthworks of this very large fortification have not been harmed by military training. The interior has been ploughed and no sign of internal features can be seen except as crop marks visible on aerial photographs. Cessation of ploughing under a set-aside scheme will postpone the threat of continuing arable damage for a period of five years. It is necessary to ensure that cultivation does not resume. In visual terms also there is much to be gained from the removal of arable cultivation, which tends to leave the ramparts in isolation.
 - f. **Field-System 1802 (6 on Map)** — scrub is established on an outstanding ancient field-system flanking Water Dean Bottom which obscures the site and encourages rabbits.
 - g. **Round Barrow 1815 (7 on Map)** — one of the largest round barrows in Wiltshire, located in arable and ploughed close to its base.
 - h. **Field-System 1843 (8 on Map)** — a field-system still surviving in arable. The lynchets will certainly be degraded if close ploughing continues.
 - i. **The IFS (yellow area on Map)** — within the IFS concentration of impact around target LIMA is causing severe damage to the earthworks of the ancient settlement.

SECTION 3. — MANAGEMENT PROPOSALS

18. **Star-Signs — General.** Identification of archaeology by star-signs has been a fundamental management technique on the Training Area. However, there may be problems in adopting this approach in the Impact Area. Apart from the physical difficulties of putting the star-signs in place, the signs themselves may well become targets and attract artillery and other fire. For that reason signing will be applied only to sites such as enclosures and minor earthworks on the fringes of the Impact Area, and to barrows such as Ell and Slay where an immediate reminder that they are archaeological features is considered necessary.
19. **Casterley Camp.**
 - a. Many of the objectives have been fulfilled indirectly by the five year set-aside scheme. This scheme is now under review. There is a possibility that the agricultural tenant will vacate the area so the threat of plough will be removed indefinitely. This was one of the objectives set out in the Archaeological Working Party report.
 - b. The Camp has long been protected by star-signs, but many of them have been removed. It is suggested that the remaining signs be taken off the earthworks and replacements positioned on the surrounding fence lines. To the east of Casterley Camp there is evidence of an occupation site which has no identification on the ground and should be star-signed, particularly as military exercises may come up the deep combe.
20. **Ell Barrow.** In addition to star-signing to prevent further digging activity, it is proposed that the metal target sited on it be removed.
21. **Slay Barrow.** A combination of star-signs and 'dragon's teeth' will be used to deflect traffic.
22. **Linear Earthwork (849).** This runs along the south-western border of the ASG and is already attracting scrub and rabbits. It is considered necessary to remove all scrub from the feature as this will ensure that soldiers seeking cover are not attracted to the earthwork.
23. **Water Dean Bottom.**
 - a. **Field System 1802** — scrub will be removed.
 - b. **Field System 1843** — will be protected from ploughing.
24. **The IFS.** Consideration will be given to moving target LIMA within the IFS.
25. **Enclosure 843 and the prehistoric features to the west** — will be protected by star-signs.
26. **Training Patterns.** It is recognized that change in military training patterns may necessitate more active deployment of management technique throughout this area but this will be indicated by monitoring.



ALTON DOWN, DURRINGTON DOWN

(ASG 9)

CHAPTER 9

ALTON DOWN, DURRINGTON DOWN (ASG 9)

SECTION 1. — GENERAL

Description (see Map)

1. The ASG boundary encloses approximately 950 hectares (2,300 acres) in a crescent which backs on to the 10 Easting around Larkhill Garrison Town with the northern horn including Netheravon Down due north of Larkhill and the southern horn running along the MOD boundary including the edge of the Cursus. The area north of the Packway road is generally Schedule III grazing land or training woodland. There are two Schedule III licensees and part of this area is a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) which is being re-notified. South of the Packway road the extensive barrow cemeteries are surrounded by Schedule I arable farmland all in one tenancy and the farmland is further broken by forestry and infrastructure associated with the Garrison Town.

2. The one monument of outstanding importance, not only in terms of the ASG but British archaeology as a whole, is the Neolithic causewayed enclosure called Robin Hood's Ball, located in the northern half of the ASG.

3. Generally the archaeology has been identified by star-signs. However, damage by agricultural cultivation, burrowing animals and scrub is evident and on the Schedule III some military damage is found. This suggests the requirement for additional protection measures.

Military Uses

4. No provision need be made for protection from military activities south of The Packway where the threats are largely agricultural.

5. North of The Packway the area is used for the siting of gun positions firing into the Impact Area. It is also used extensively for survey, reconnaissance and deployment, communication exercises and teaching weapons system procedures, all of which are closely controlled in the field. All forms of dry training take place in the area, including parachuting into Blackball Firs Dropping Zone, so the principal threats come from these military activities, many of which include the use of wheeled and tracked vehicles. Robin Hood's Ball appears to be the focus of tracked vehicle movement travelling from the west or north.

6. Further developments of the Royal Aerospace Establishment site are planned with the introduction of the electro-optical tracking installations.

Archaeological Importance

7. The importance of this area has, to a large extent, been determined by its recent land use history. There is a distinct division between those sites in open downland north of The Packway where the majority of monuments are still extant, and the arable farmland to the south, where much of the archaeology has been ploughed out or built over.

8. The northern part of the ASG is dominated by Robin Hood's Ball (a rare ceremonial site), which is classified as an Important and Fragile Site (IFS) in the Archaeological Working Party Report. The only barrow group in this area is that to the south east of the Royal Aerospace Establishment. However, there are individual loosely associated barrows throughout the area within the Celtic Field Systems.

9. In the southern part of the ASG all the field systems have been ploughed out together with many of the round barrows. Out of an original total of 71 barrows in this area, only 28 are now extant. The barrows here tend to lie in groups, but only two groups have survived relatively intact; that to the south east of Down Barn Destructor and the excellent group in Durrington Down Plantation.

10. A very rare Neolithic monument — the Cursus — forms the southern border of SPTA. Comments on its management are included in Section 2 below, although the greater part of the site is in private ownership.

SECTION 2. — THREATS TO SPECIFIC SITES

11. **Robin Hood's Ball (1152)** and the barrows in the vicinity have long been threatened by tactical and administrative traffic. This traffic in general passes to the north of Robin Hood's Ball although two distinct tracks have formed across the enclosure.

12. **Bowl Barrow 1179 (1 on Map)** is in the intersection of two woodland tracks and the ditch of the barrow has become part of the track on two sides. The barrow is covered by scrub. A slit trench on the south east side of the mound is surrounded by loose soil and partially backfilled, a square of earth has been removed from the top of the mound. The mound is heavily infested with rabbits.

13. **Bowl Barrow 1526 (2 on Map)** is situated in the middle of a track under rough grass. It is crossed by vehicle tracks and cut by fence lines on its north and south edges.

14. **The Durrington Down Group of Barrows (3 on Map)** lies within a plantation. The outlying bowl barrow (1484) on the east side of the group has been made angular in shape by the plough. The rest of the barrows are all well-preserved. The main cause of concern is the presence of trees on the barrows.

15. **The Cursus (4 on Map)** lies on the boundary of the ASG. East of the point where the track from Durrington Down Farm crosses the Cursus (SU 12404310) the northern part of the monument is in good condition. Slight damage is caused by sheep using the bank as a track. Towards the east end of the Cursus a number of trees have been uprooted causing much damage to the bank.

16. **Bowl Barrow 1523 (5 on Map)** is situated between a farm track and an arable field. The barrow has a tree on it and is crossed by a boundary fence. It is star-signed on the field side and there are three sources of damage:

- a. The fence and tree on the barrow.
- b. The track.
- c. The cultivation of the arable field.

17. **Long Barrow 1161 (6 on Map)** has been dug into and badly damaged. The northern ditch and the mound itself have been damaged by military vehicles travelling on an established but not heavily used track.

SECTION 3. — MANAGEMENT PROPOSALS

Proposed Protection of Archaeological Sites

18. South of the Packway in land which is predominantly arable, no steps will be taken to restrict cultivations in the vicinity of archaeological monuments. Protection measures in Schedule I are the responsibility of English Heritage (EH), which will contact MOD tenants direct.

19. In the forestry areas in Durrington Down Plantation the proposal is to cut back and clear all the trees from areas of the barrows so they can be seen as a group within a fenced off forestry area with an uneven edged forestry plantation to east and west. The group will be star-signed as an envelope on the forestry fence and along the cut back edges.

20. Ideally the woodland boundary will be enhanced with shrubs to soften the edge and provide a more varied habitat for insects and birds. These proposals may be affected by the Stonehenge Visitors Centre so it is not proposed to implement this part of the Management Plan immediately.

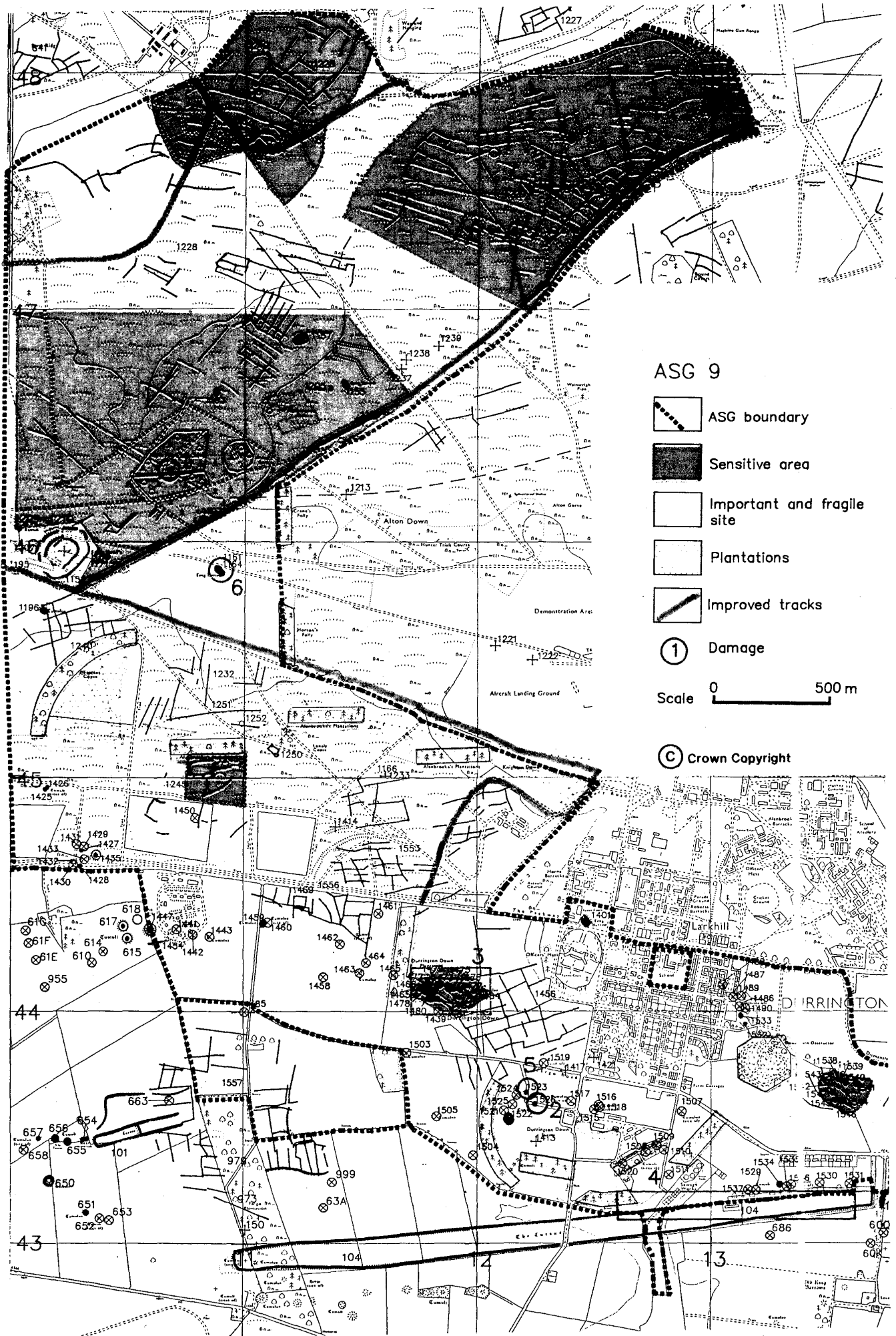
21. North of the Packway where military training predominates, all barrows will be star-signed to identify them on the ground. The barrows south east of the Royal Aerospace Establishment (RAE) will be protected by stoning one of the tracks linking the two adjacent plantations.

22. **Robin Hood's Ball Complex** — this area will be included in a penning with the adjoining barrows. This will be clearly star-signed on the penning fence. If monitoring suggests that the military damage from the trackway cutting through the banks of the monument do not grass down, provision should be included for the harrowing out of these old trackways and re-seeding together with remedial work where unfilled military excavations become a source of scrub or attract rabbits.






23. It is proposed to construct a stone track to the south of the Robin Hood's Ball penning. This will provide a major east-west route designed to by-pass the monument.

24. Proposals to protect the Cursus involve removal of trees from the back of the Cursus and restoration of the damage that has occurred through windblow or animal action. However, these plans will not be implemented until the position regarding the Stonehenge Visitors Centre is clear.

25. **Long Barrow 1161** will be protected on the north side by diversion of the track. The old track will be blocked.



ASG 9

-  ASG boundary
-  Sensitive area
-  Important and fragile site
-  Plantations
-  Improved tracks

 Damage

Scale  0 500 m

 Crown Copyright



CHISENBURY WARREN AND LITTLECOTT DOWN
(ASG 10)

CHAPTER 10

CHISENBURY WARREN, LITTLECOTT DOWN (ASG 10)

SECTION 1 — GENERAL

Description (see Map)

1. The area is located towards the north west end of SPTA (East) entirely on Schedule III training land. The area is restricted by boundaries on all sides which have the effect of concentrating training onto the archaeological features. This is compounded because the site group lies across a military access route from the northern River Avon tank crossing.
2. The ASG comprises an area of approximately 460 acres (186 hectares) of training land indicated on the accompanying map. The map also shows the recorded archaeological features and current land use. The area is predominantly grass land with some ploughing consent farmed by three licensees.

Military Use

3. The area is heavily used for military training. Pressures will increase because of proposals by the Comdt HQ SPTA, to improve the training facilities available in this area. This initiative will be reflected on the ground in a staged withdrawal of ploughing consents to the north of ASG 10 and perhaps increased movement across this sector. Use of the area will increase substantially if negotiations to acquire the privately owned Coombe feature to the south come to fruition.

Archaeological Importance

4. The ASG is one of the smallest on Salisbury Plain and yet diverse in land use and archaeological site type.

SECTION 2 — THREATS TO SPECIFIC SITES

5. The Romano-British settlement known as **Chisenbury Warren** (1647) is a particularly complex site and has been given Important and Fragile Site (IFS) status in the Archaeological Working Party Report. It has suffered in the past from military digging and erosion caused by over stocking (1 on map). To the west of Chisenbury Warren an administrative route runs close to the settlement and cuts its associated trackway (2 on map).
6. The Iron Age settlement known as **Lidbury Camp** (1636) is enclosed within a permanent penning which effectively protects it from military activity. There are two star signs within the fenced area, one is on the dewpond and the other on the rampart of the camp. This star sign and the individual bushes on the earth works have attracted stock, causing erosion. There is evidence of erosion from stock around individual bushes elsewhere on the monument. A trackway leading to Lidbury Camp on the eastern side of the monument varies in its state of preservation (3 on map).
7. The **three barrows** within the ASG are all in need of protective measures. Within the Lidbury Camp penning the barrier has been damaged by cattle poaching and is inadequately signed. Those to the south of the ASG all require star signing, scrub removal and the eradication of rabbit infestation.

8. The impressive **double lynchet trackway** (2351) leading to Chisenbury Warren has suffered from vehicle movement across it in an east-west direction. Continuous crossing in this fashion has severely damaged the quality of this rare and important monument.

9. There are two field-systems within the boundary of the ASG. The first (1699) is a small part of a system which can be seen to the north of Lidbury Camp. It receives no protection at present, but remains in good condition under long grass. The second field-system (1733) to the south of Chisenbury Warren stretches from the Warren to Longstreet Down. It is a good example of the ancient landscape. Its extent is indicated on the map by the area of sensitive archaeology. Crossing this field-system is a double lynchet way (1690). This latter is reduced by cultivation but still visible. It has been damaged by military vehicles.

SECTION 3 — MANAGEMENT PROPOSALS

10. Chisenbury Warren Site (1647).

- a. To be protected by a permanent penning where sheep grazing only will be permitted. Signing will be erected on the fences.
- b. To the west of Chisenbury Warren Settlement the track will be strengthened and stoned and the steel poles erected to funnel traffic will be maintained.
- c. The tracks running to the west, south and east of the settlement will be stoned.
- d. Patches of dense scrub on the important and fragile site will be removed and the encroachment of further scrub monitored and controlled as necessary.
- e. Between the new penning fence around Chisenbury Warren and the dense thicket of scrub to the north a strip will be cleared to enable exercising soldiers to see the penning fence in good time as they leave the scrub. This will have the additional advantage of providing an access strip around the penning fence.

11. Lidbury Camp (1636).

- a. To remain in a penning suitably signed.
- b. The star signs to be removed from the earthworks to prevent further erosion damage which will in due course be returned.
- c. The existing bushes will be removed.
- d. The barrows will be cleared of scrub (except No 1678) and star signed.
- e. The old pipework on the Longstreet Down Barrow (1673) will be cut off and the surface restored as far as possible.

12. **Double lynchet way** — that part of (2351) running south west of Chisenbury Warren will be protected by the construction of a stone track to the south of the feature along the existing bridleway. This is expected to draw traffic away from the feature. The steel poles will remain to reduce traffic damage further.

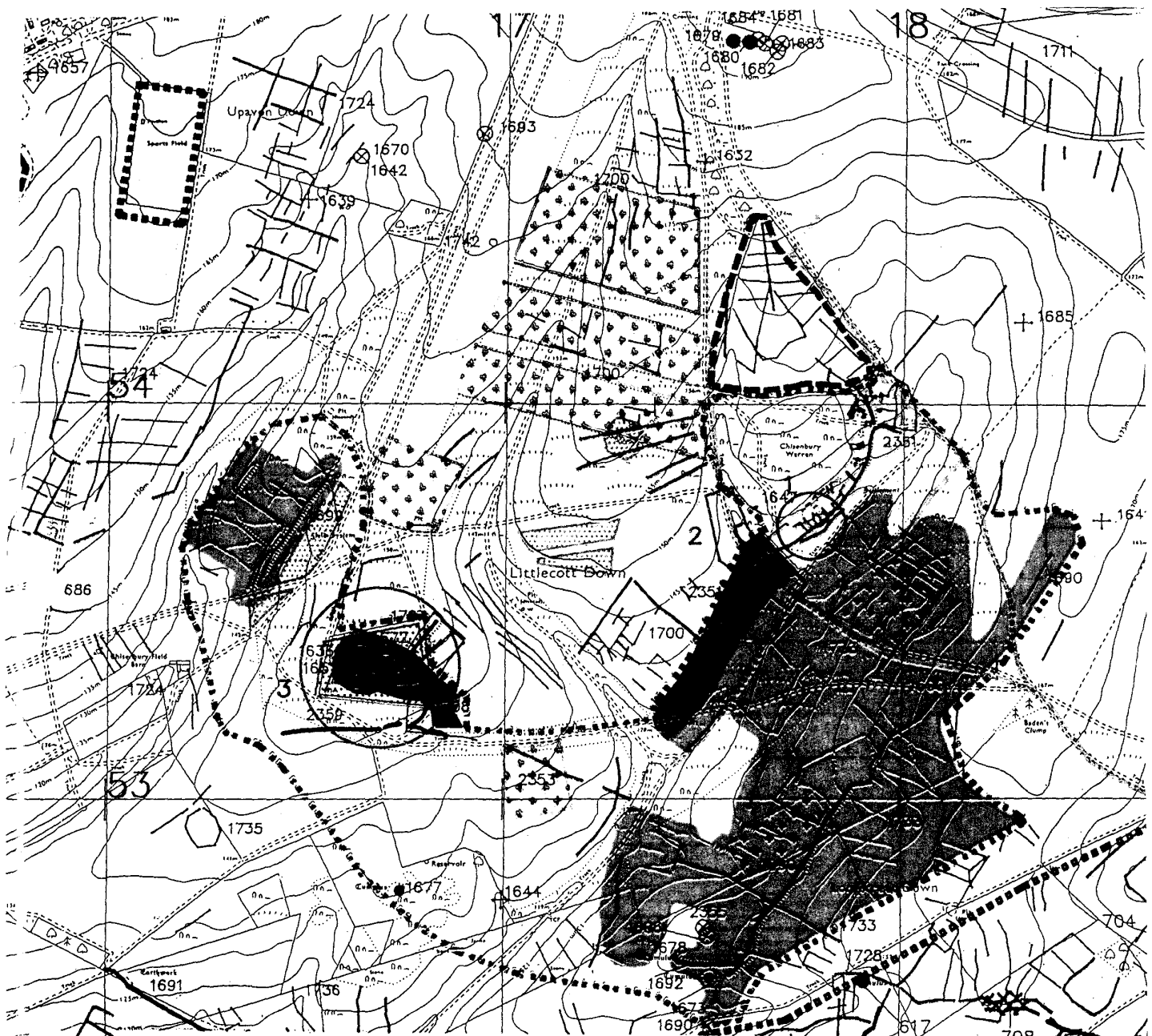
13. **The field-system** (1699) — to the north of Lidbury Camp will receive no management measures at present, but monitoring will identify any new damaging trends.

14. **The large field-system south of Chisenbury Warren (1733).** It is intended that the stone track from Badens Clump to Jenners Firs will contain traffic. The existing bridleway will be surfaced and a new stone track from Badens Camp across the eastern corner of Jenners Firs will channel traffic through the site.

15. **General.**

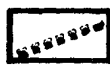
a. Training woodlands will be planted outside the ASG in order to attract soldiers away from archaeological features.

b. Twenty-six acres of private land to the north known as Jenners Firs will be purchased in order to reduce the obstruction to military training currently presented by the combination of this privately owned land and the IFS.



ASG 10 © Crown Copyright

Scale 0 500m



ASG boundary



New plantations



Ploughing consents



Permanent penning



Sensitive Area



Proposed track improvements



Highly Sensitive Area



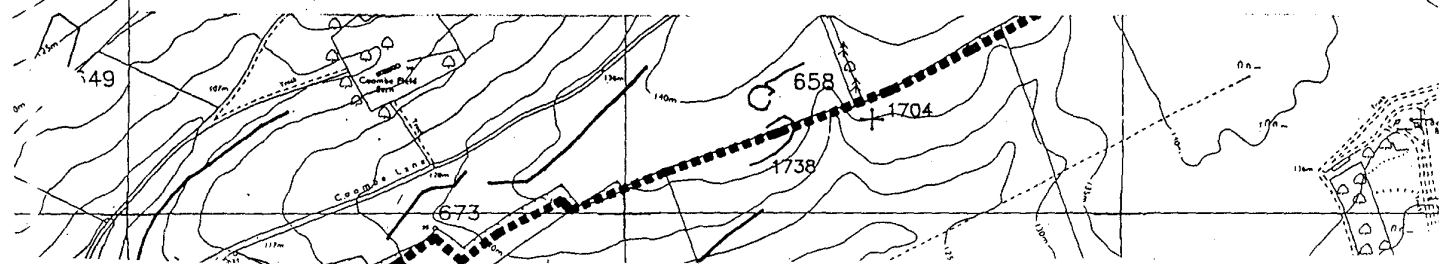
Land to be purchased



Important and Fragile Site



Damage



WEATHER HILL, SNAIL DOWN, SIDBURY HILL
AND COW DOWN (ASG 11)



CHAPTER 11

WEATHER HILL, SNAIL DOWN, SIDBURY HILL, COW DOWN (ASG 11)

SECTION 1. — GENERAL

Description (see map)

1. ASG 11 is set centrally in the northern part of Salisbury Plain Training Area (East) to the south of the village of Everleigh. It includes Snail Down and Cow Down Barrow Cemetery. To the south the ground rises to include Sidbury Hill and to the west the Haxton Down field-system.
2. The ASG totals approximately 600 hectares (nearly 1,500 acres) of largely uncultivated rolling chalk grassland interspersed with training woodlands. A ridge of higher land runs north-south through the western section including Weather Hill, rising to 224 metres OD on Sidbury Hill.
3. Snail Down is within the Everleigh Dropping Zone and has in the past been sheltered from military training. Consequently there has been little military damage since the Second World War when photographs taken by the Americans soon after they arrived indicated that tracked vehicle damage had already occurred to many of the barrows.
4. Cow Down is close to the Garrison Town of Tidworth. Easy access for training has resulted in considerable damage through digging and vehicle harbourage around the scrub-covered barrows. In addition there is both badger and rabbit damage.
5. The majority of the archaeology is unmarked on the ground although individual barrows may have a star-sign or temporary signs on wooden posts, erected comparatively recently, to arrest damaging trends.
6. Generally agricultural activities are confined to grazing. The principal threat to archaeology comes from natural causes and military training.
7. It is anticipated that the Haxton Down field-system, together with individual barrow sites and the linear features on Weather Hill, will be scheduled as Ancient Monuments under the current re-scheduling proposals.

Military Use

8. The Weather Hill and Haxton Down area is of major significance to military training on SPTA (East). It is situated on the direct approach route to Sidbury Hill from the north-west (crossing 'A' and its associated corridor), and from the west (crossing 'B'), and from the north (Everleigh Ashes).
9. The MOD's proposed purchase of the Coombe Feature may alleviate the passage of military movement through the narrow corridor bounded to the west by the feature itself and to the east by the Everleigh DZ and Sidbury Hill. However the area will remain of major importance and will be subject to north-south and east-west movement. This may be accentuated when Tactical Engagement Simulation exercises are developed on SPTA.

10. The proposal to allow occasional armoured exercises to travel across the Everleigh dropping zone will mean that enhanced protection measures are necessary around the Snail Down cemetery.

11. Outlying barrows and individual important sites must be identified on the ground to prevent digging-in and curtail accidental damage.

12. Cow Down has long been attractive to soldiers because of the covering of scrub, but the proposed east-west track may well draw administrative traffic away from this barrow cemetery.

Archaeological Importance

13. To the north of Weather Hill Firs are two important sites:

a. A Neolithic Henge consisting of a low profile ditched enclosure (2252).

b. An Iron Age farmstead of a similar construction (2253).

14. The central zone is crossed by a number of well defined banks and ditches. These are boundary earthworks, probably of later Bronze Age date (1,000-800 BC). They form a pattern of large enclosures, from which ancient fields are noticeably absent. A likely interpretation is that they were areas of enclosed summer pasture.

15. The same territory had previously been used for burial practice. There are thirteen round barrows scattered across Haxton Down, clearly the remains of a dispersed cemetery of the early Bronze Age. Nine further mounds have been ploughed out.

16. Another element is an area of extensive field-systems (1741, 2309) occupying the high ground east of the Everleigh-Haxton road. A well-preserved Neolithic long barrow holds a prominent position on the ridge, and presumably denotes the origins of farming practice in the area. The south-west field system is bounded by a bank and ditch (2305), apparently the boundary between arable and pasture some 3,000 years ago.

17. To the east there are two important barrow groups at Snail Down and Cow Down and a complex of linear earthworks of late Bronze Age origin.

18. Also within this part of the ASG are a number of field-systems, though none of outstanding quality. In addition to the linear ditches which are probably agricultural in origin, there are other linears which appear to converge on Sidbury Hill as territorial boundary markers.

SECTION 2. — THREATS TO SPECIFIC SITES

19. Although many of the round barrows have been ploughed out the vast majority of this area is Schedule III training land and not currently subject to agricultural damage. The principal source of damage in the past has been military training, burrowing animals and in certain areas the growth of scrub. The sites which are damaged (red on Map) include:

20. **The Henge Monument 2252 (1 on Map)** — is crossed on its south-west side by vehicles which stray from an established track on the north side of the woods. These vehicle tracks have cut into the monument.

21. The junction of the **Linear Features 2131, 2234 and 2238 with 2232 (2 on Map)** — is an important area for understanding the relationship between these features. In recent years this junction has become obscured and damaged by vehicle tracks. Additionally, a trench has been dug into the bottom of 2131.

22. **Linear Earthwork 2232 (3 on Map)** — has long suffered damage from both rabbits and scrub. Over the past year or two it has been dug into by soldiers. It appears that exercises are using the same piece of ground repeatedly and the result is serious damage.

23. The small **Round Barrow 2192 (4 on Map)** — has been damaged by vehicles cutting the corner between two tracks. Previous attempts to protect it have failed.

24. **Cow Down Barrow Group (5 on Map, and see Fig 1)** — lies to the east of ASG 11 and originally consisted of about fourteen barrows, although several of these have been ploughed out. The remainder are heavily overgrown and some of them have most inappropriate protection measures involving upright railway sleepers inserted in the outer edge of the barrow, themselves doing archaeological damage.

25. **Linear Earthwork 2242 (6 on Map)** — to the east of Sidbury Hill has been dug into along much of its length. In addition to the digging some of this ditch is overgrown with scrub. There is not much of this linear still extant.

26. **Snail Down Barrow Group (7 on Map)** — is protected both by vehicle exclusion signs and by the Everleigh Dropping Zone. Damage is principally from scrub and burrowing animals.

27. **Iron Age Hill Fort on Sidbury Hill (8 on Map, and see Fig 2)** — has been excluded from military training since 1946 but the interior and the ramparts are much obscured by woodland and scrub. The problems are:

a. Naturally Arising Threats.

(1) Aerial photographs of the Iron Age Hill Fort taken in the 1940s show that the western and north-eastern sector of the ramparts were largely free of scrub and tree growth. On the same sectors the slopes below the ramparts are seen as grassland, and were presumably planted up in the 1950s. It would appear that the dense thorn thicket (area 3) occupying areas of rampart and interior on the west and north-east has developed over the last three decades. This colonisation appears to be pushing outwards in a northerly and easterly direction. It is understood that the dense areas of scrub are the territory valued by the ornithologists.

(2) Much of Sidbury Hill is infested with rabbits and if removal of scrub and forestry forms part of the management proposal it would be helpful to eradicate the burrows where they threaten archaeology.

(3) Surface damage has in certain instances caused erosion to take place, either through the excavations of burrowing animals, military usage or through the increasing damage caused by motorcycles.

b. **Military Threats.** Sidbury Hill is a vantage point. The earthworks have in the past proved attractive to the drivers of military vehicles. Attempts to limit access with signs and railway sleeper bollards, coupled with placing the area out of bounds, has curtailed damaging activity. It is hoped to allow limited access for acceptable forms of training.

c. **Agricultural Threats.** There is no agriculture on Sidbury Hill at present. The introduction of sheep is proposed to prevent the re-growth of scrub. Care will be taken over stocking density to ensure that erosion of the earthworks does not occur during wet weather.

SECTION 3. — MANAGEMENT PROPOSALS

Protection of Archaeological Sites

28. The stoning of the old Marlborough Road and the east-west route from Tank Crossing 'Z' to Tank Crossing 'CC' will do much to divert administrative traffic away from archaeological remains. Additionally, the junction of tracks affecting sites 2131, 2232, 2234 and 2238 will be stoned.

29. Individual sites will be identified on the ground by star-signs erected in envelopes where appropriate.

30. Military damage to the linear running north of Sidbury will be protected by stoning the track in the vicinity and further south by star-signs.

31. No separate protection measures need be taken for field-systems generally or to linear features which, because of their extent, cannot be placed out of bounds to military training and are impossible to sign satisfactorily without impinging on the historic landscape.

Cow Down Barrow Group (Fig 1)

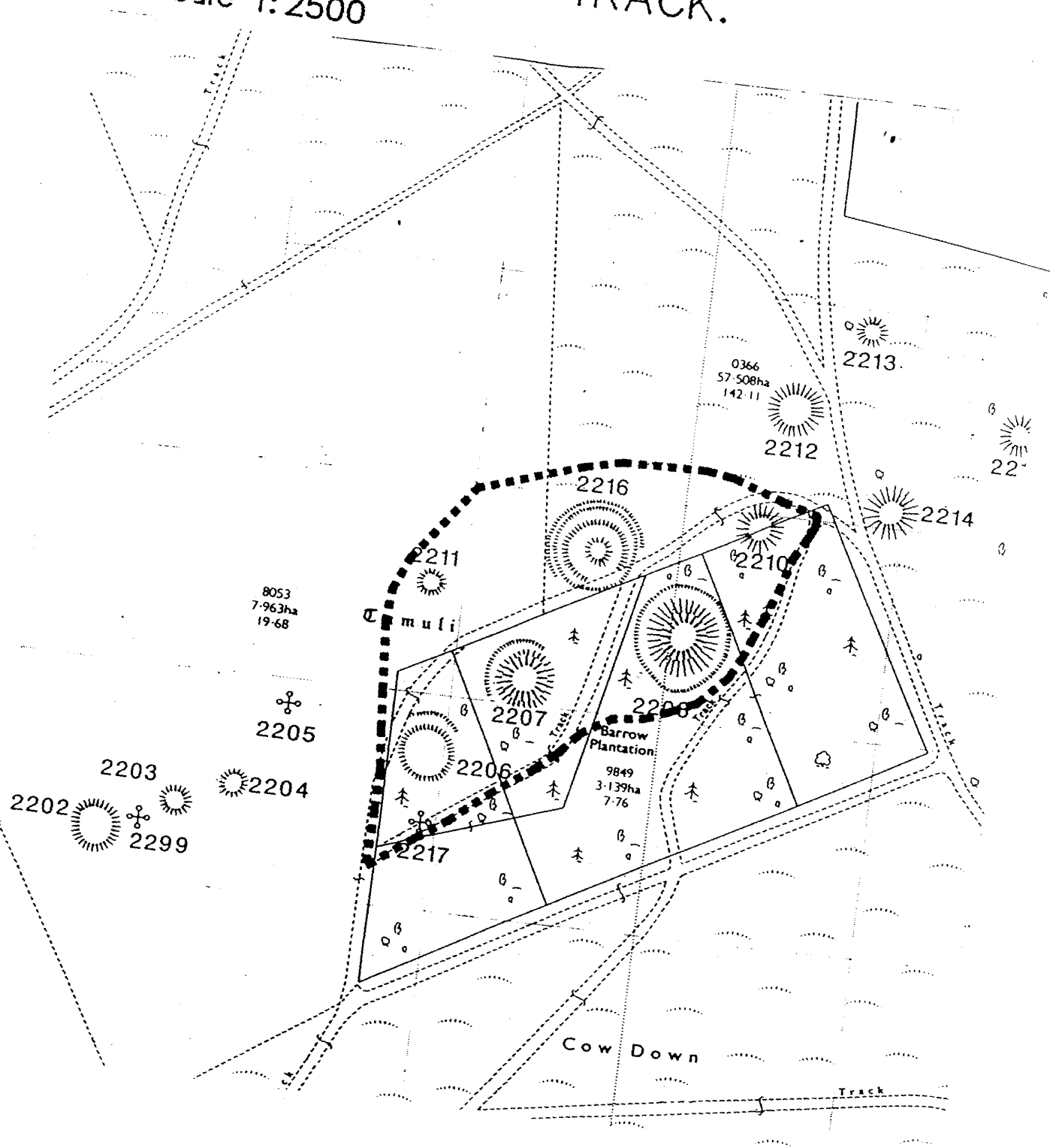
32. At Cow Down the proposal is to ring the undamaged barrows with a stone track (see Fig 1) and enclose them further in an envelope of star-signs, with individual star-signing outside the group. Trees and scrub will be removed from the area around the barrows as far as the new stone track, in order to open up the whole group and thus deter soldiers.

33. A problem may arise over the badger sett in the barrow 2208, but at risk of being controversial it would not seem to matter whether the badger vacates following the removal of the tree or remains, providing his continued tenancy does not cause still more archaeological damage.

34. The proposal to construct a new stone track running to the south of the barrow group linking 'CC' crossing with 'Z' crossing may well draw traffic away from this barrow group and therefore constitute a management measure in itself.

COW DOWN BARROW GROUP
 SHOWING POSITION OF
 PROPOSED NEW TRACK.
 Scale 1:2500

Fig.



Sidbury Hill (Fig 2)

35. The management objectives listed below are primarily for archaeological protection and enhancement. The archaeological objective is to prevent further deterioration of the earthworks, diminish woodland and scrub and re-establish the hill fort as a dominant feature in the landscape. For botanical, aesthetic and historical reasons the post-war conifer plantations on the slopes of Sidbury Hill will not be maintained.

36. **Area 1** — within the interior of the hill fort the archaeological features are barely visible under light scrub. The archaeological objective is to convert this to grass without ground disturbance. This might necessitate appropriate chemical control.

37. **Area 2** — a clump of dense woodland on the battlements will be retained.

38. **Area 3** — represents the dense thorn thicket which has developed across the eastern and western ramparts. It is clear that there is a potential conflict with nature conservation interests. The greatest gain for archaeology is to clear the dense scrub from the western ramparts where a sector of about 100 metres is now very much obscured.

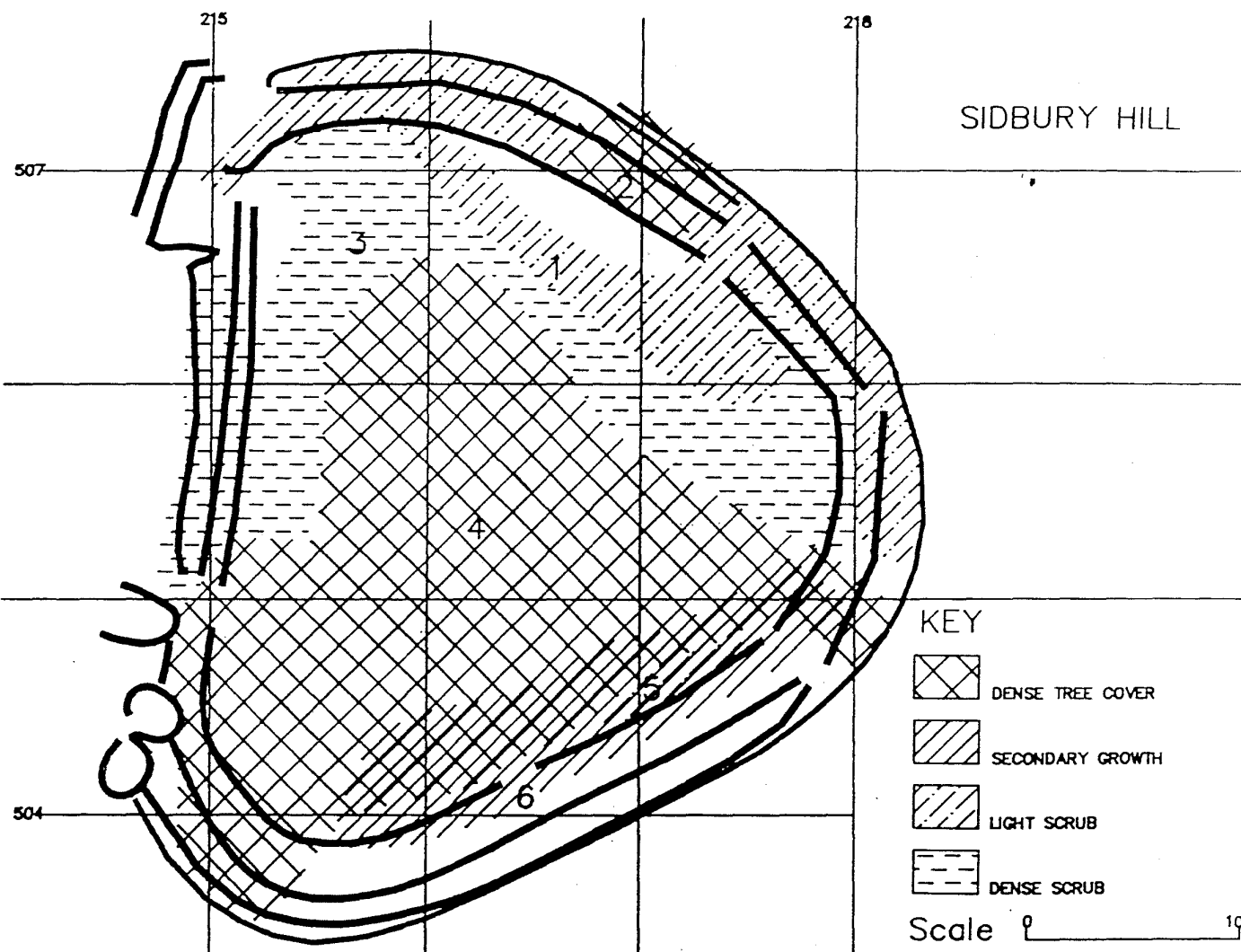
39. **Area 4** — the natural woodland occupying the core of the site has spread across the south-western ramparts. The woodland is of questionable timber value due to the presence of metal fragments lodged in the wood. This has made the clearance of this area uneconomic. However, the cutting of a ride adjacent to the ramparts would increase the value of the area for military training, prevent the re-establishment of scrub and help to reveal the hill fort. It is noted that area 4 is of substantial interest to ornithologists and will therefore be treated accordingly.

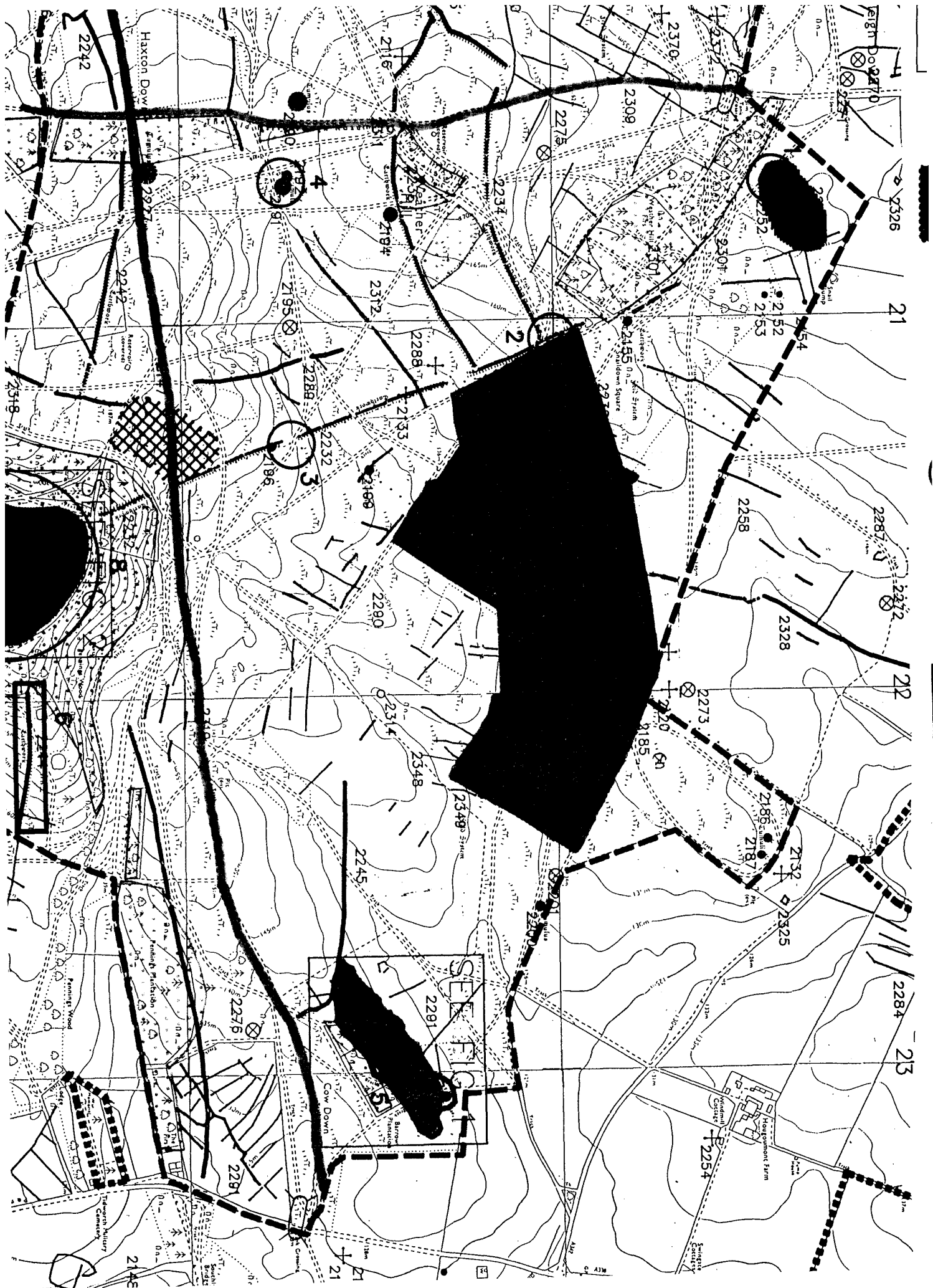
40. **Area 5** — a section of the light scrub will be cleared in order to permit access around this sector of the interior.

41. **Area 6** — this is an area of secondary growth consisting of open, mature woodland occupying the southern ramparts which provides a habitat for wood warblers, ferns and lichens. The profile of the ramparts has suffered as trees have fallen down. The ideal archaeological objective would be to remove trees when an alternative canopy has developed on adjoining land. However, nature conservation interests suggest that some thinning and the removal of fallen trees is acceptable but that other mature trees should stay.

42. If the archaeological objectives can be combined with those of ornithology and botany through the judicious clearance of scrub, the principal problem will become one of maintaining the area thereafter. This may be done either by mechanical means or by grazing, although the latter course may prove complex if fencing is needed.

Fig. 2







FIGHELDEAN DOWN, BULFORD RANGES
(ASG 12)

CHAPTER 12

FIGHELDEAN DOWN, BULFORD RANGES (ASG 12)

SECTION 1 — GENERAL

Description (see Map)

1. Archaeological Site Group (ASG) 12 comprises an area of approximately 5,325 acres (2,155 hectares) at the south-eastern edge of SPTA (East), stretching in a north-easterly direction from MOD's southern boundary at Bulford.
2. The ASG includes the Bulford rifle range danger area and part of the Garrison town of Bulford. It also encompasses areas which are to be re-notified as SSSIs at Haxton and Figheldean Downs to the north and Bulford Downs and Beacon Hill to the south (see plan).
3. The majority of the area is Schedule III grassland, although a small proportion is ploughed.
4. The sensitive archaeological areas are shown in blue on the enclosed plan, or boxed in red for special attention under individual management plans numbering from G1 - G15. The areas within the Bulford rifle range danger area are well protected from agriculture and military training damage, due to limited access by both farming and military vehicles. The blue sensitive areas, located in the north, are more open to military damage.
5. Restriction on access curtails grazing, so gradually the whole area is becoming overgrown with scrub to the detriment of those conservation interests normally associated with chalk downland. The scrub harbours rabbits which have colonized many of the archaeological features, but the rabbits have themselves ensured the close grazing which favours many downland plant species without appearing to control the thickets of hawthorn and blackthorn.
6. The ranges are generally afforested and the Military Shoot, together with the pheasant release pens, exploit some of the sporting possibilities. Deer in increasing numbers have colonized this natural wilderness.
7. The Nine Mile River, a winter-bourne, rises in the rifle range danger area and provides a habitat for wetland plants in the early part of the year and the wide range of amphibians which spawn in the area.
8. The area forms a basin in which pine trees dominate the landscape, a wilderness of great natural beauty.

Military Use

9. The military use of the area falls into three categories and these are largely dictated by the Bulford rifle ranges which lie centrally.
 - a. **Bulford Rifle Ranges.**
 - (1) These incorporate a danger area of about 2,000 acres for which there is a set of Bylaws which apply when the red flags are flown.

(2) On average the rifle ranges are operating five days in each week, so the danger area is generally out of bounds to the public, agricultural activities and, with the exception of small arms, to all forms of military training.

(3) When the ranges are operating, all traffic has to be channelled around the area. The ranges therefore provide protection for most of the time against all forms of military or agricultural damage.

b. Beacon Hill.

(1) To the south of the rifle ranges, and behind the firing position, Beacon Hill rises above the Bulford/Tidworth road to a height of 200 metres, or nearly 700 feet above sea level. It is designated as a backdoor training area for troops from the Garrison Towns of Bulford and Tidworth so generally training activity is confined to foot soldiers or light vehicles which generally stay on the tracks.

(2) The area along the Beacon Hill ridge is to be re-notified as an SSSI, partly due to the stand of junipers which became established in the early 1950s when the rabbit population slumped due to myxomatosis.

(3) With the juniper there has been an enormous influx of other scrub and the affect in a few years will be a closed canopy impenetrable for military training and out of character to chalk downland.

c. Figheldean Down. To the north of the rifle range danger area is one of the most used parts of Salisbury Plain. The majority of wheeled, tracked or foot traffic leaving Tidworth barracks debouches onto this area from the tank park and from across the cross-country driver training area. From here troops fan out to carry out all forms of dry training that take place on the east and the activity is indicated in the disturbed ground. Further west concentration of activity is diluted by space and the majority of the military movement appears to use existing tracks.

Archaeological Importance

10. The area contains probably the highest concentration and best preserved archaeological sites of any ASG in the Salisbury Plain Training Area.

11. The archaeology of the ASG can be broadly divided into two parts. The northern area has some of the finest Celtic field-systems present on the Plain. To the south of this band of field-systems lie similar quality Bronze Age barrow cemeteries and individual barrows. The whole ASG is crossed by boundary features of the Late Bronze Age. The remarkable extant survival of this last type of monument led to the choice of this part of the plain as a "core" area for the study of prehistoric linear boundaries by the University of Reading. Indeed it is a testament to the military presence and consequent absence of farming from this part of the Plain, that the elements of the prehistoric landscape, comprising field-systems and boundaries, can still be viewed on the ground.

12. There has been a marked absence of recorded settlement sites in this ASG. However, recent work by the University of Reading has identified an area to the west of Dunch Hill as a site of Late Bronze Age settlement, and the SPTA fieldworker identified an area of probable settlement on Figheldean Down while compiling information for this management plan.

SECTION 2 — THREATS OF SPECIFIC SITES

13. To address this area the archaeology has been divided into three categories. The first consists of a series of round barrow groups (G 1-15 on map), the second is an extensive area of ancient landscape (16) and the third comprises notable earthwork sites scattered across the ASG (17).

14. In order to avoid repetition all the detail relating to problems and solutions is provided in Chapter 3 on Management. The areas are therefore:

1. HQ SPTA Group
2. Bulford Barrack Group
3. Sling Camp Group
4. Bulford Down Group
5. SMARA Group
6. Milston Firs Group
7. Milston Down Group 1
8. Milston Down Group 2
9. Hare Warren Group
10. Silk Hill Group
11. Briggerston Firs Group 1
12. Briggerston Firs Group 2
13. Goat Wood Group
14. Briggerston Plantation Group
15. Seven Barrow Group
16. Earthworks in Bourne Bottom, Ablington Down and Figheldean Down.
17. Dispersed Sites.

SECTION 3 — MANAGEMENT PROPOSALS

Management Techniques

15. Management will be largely restricted to identifying archaeological features by marking with star signs and use of bollards.

16. Pennings (fenced off areas for stock harbourage during exercises) will be positioned over archaeologically sensitive sites. This will exclude military vehicles and serve agricultural requirements. Care must be taken to ensure that overstocking does not cause damage.

17. Scrub which obscures and damages archaeology will be removed and treated to prevent regrowth.

18. Various techniques for rabbit control are now being tried, so far unsuccessfully. If complete eradication can be achieved it must be followed by netting archaeology to prevent re-infestation. The cost will limit the use of this to a few chosen sites.

19. Damaged and eroded earthworks will be re-profiled and where necessary rehabilitation of adjacent areas will be carried out to enhance the setting.

20. Track construction will be used to by-pass archaeological features, localize damage where crossing of archaeology is unavoidable and reintegrate archaeological groups divided by current patterns of movement.

21. Certain agricultural and forestry operations will be managed to prevent damage to archaeology. These include stocking levels, positioning of plough and new plantations. Grazing and mowing will be used to control weed and scrub growth and will re-establish the visual qualities of ancient monuments.

22. Information boards will be provided on appropriate sites in order to educate and inform.

Individual Site Proposals

23. Group 1 — HQ SPTA (1321 - 1326, 1335, 1336) — see Map G1

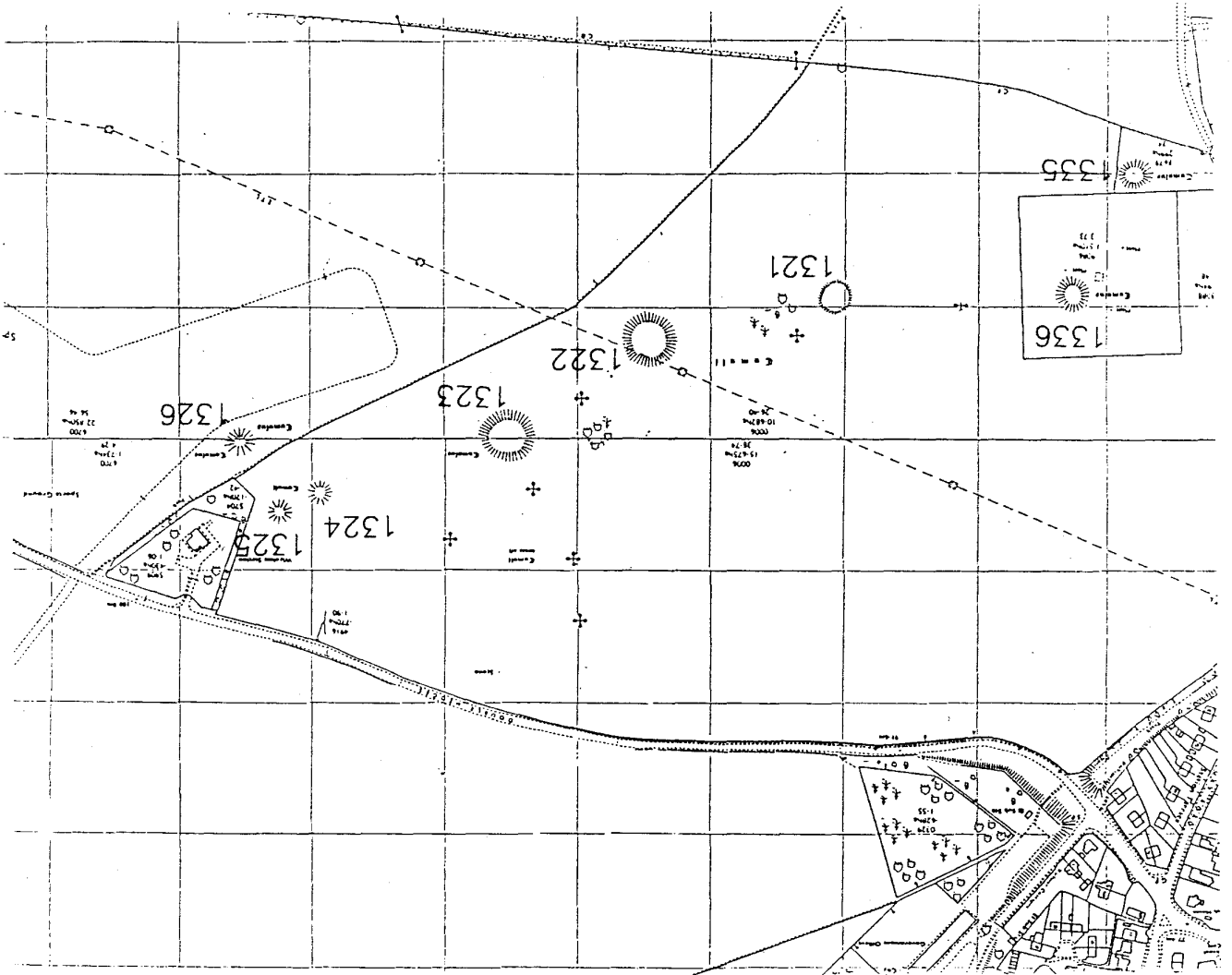
a. **General.** The group lies within both arable and pasture. Any protection measures will restrict agricultural production on Schedule I land, and provision will have to be made to compensate the farmer. Archaeological management on land subject to an agricultural tenancy is the responsibility of English Heritage. Any agreement reached should be incorporated in these plans. Meanwhile no action can be taken to protect those barrows situated in arable land.

b. **1321, 1322 and 1323** — almost completely ploughed out. Cultivation should cease on 1321 and 1323; star signing would achieve this. About two acres of land will be affected.

c. **1324 and 1325** — being eroded by cultivation and will be star signed.

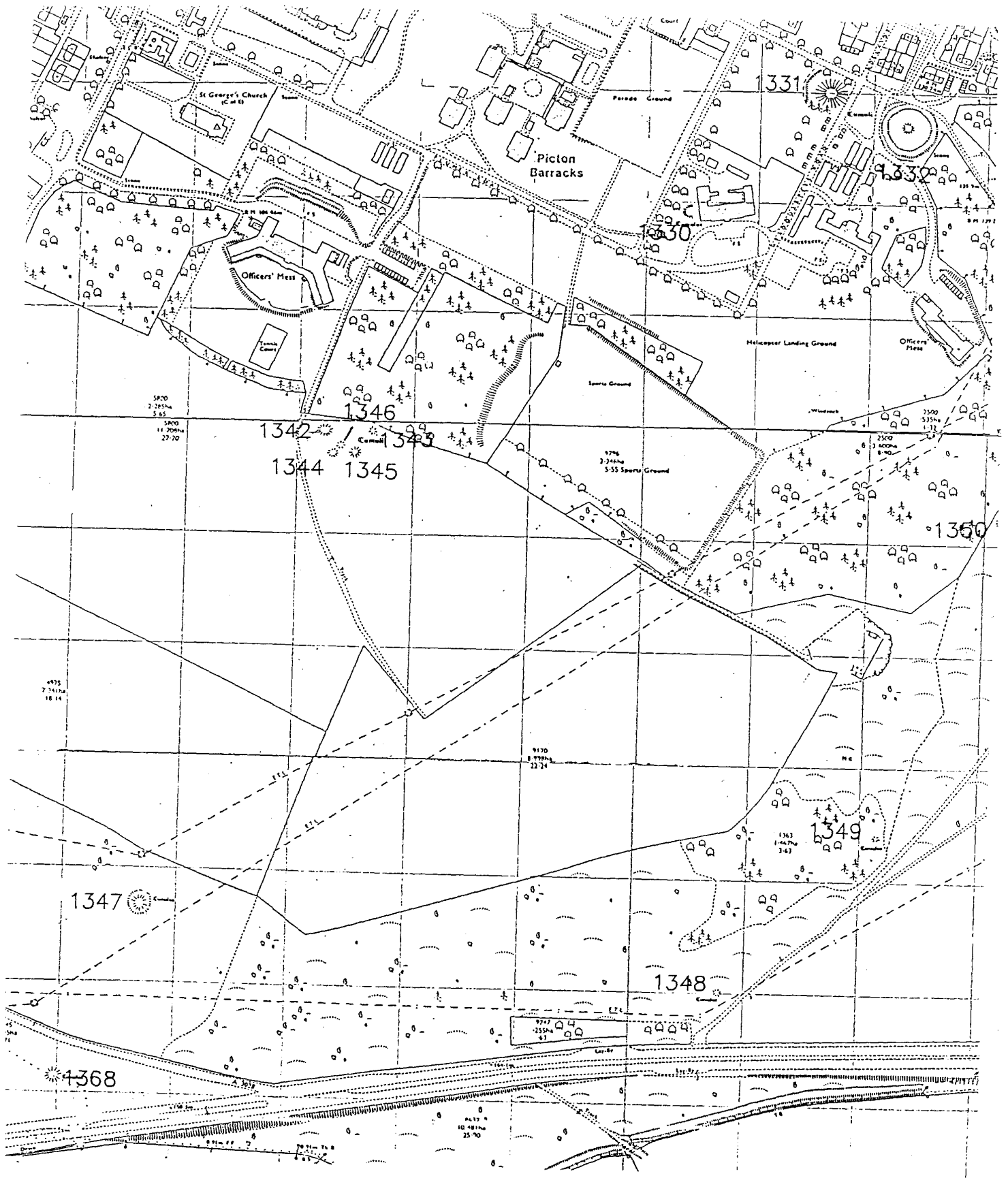
d. **1335 and 1336** — fenced off, although the fence should be repaired. This area makes a pleasant hill top vantage point overlooking Boscombe Down to the south and Bulford Village to the north.

G1 - HQ SPTA Group



24. **Group 2 — Bulford Barracks (1330 - 1332, 1342 - 1250, 1368) — see Map G2**

- a. **General.** These barrows should be star signed to protect and draw attention to them. Where scrub exists on or near the barrows it should be removed to make the barrows more obvious. Where cultivation threatens a barrow, star signs or bollards should be used to deflect agricultural activities. The area of the barrows is let with adjoining arable land. Protection measures and compensation is the responsibility of English Heritage.
- b. **1342, 1344 and 1346** — are in rank grass and light scrub, the barrows should be star signed and the scrub removed.
- c. **1343** — is inside the forestry fence but is unplanted. It is infested with rabbits and covered in brambles.
- d. **1345** — is being clipped by the plough.
- e. **1347** — is in rank grass but should be star signed with the adjoining dew pond in an envelope in order to protect the area from agriculture in the interests of both archaeology and natural history.
- f. **1368** — is on the boundary between MOD and private ownership. The MOD part is in forestry unplanted and not under threat. The arable side of the barrow is being damaged by the plough. The only solution is a joint management agreement initiated by English Heritage involving both ownerships.
- g. **1330, 1331 and 1332** — are within the barrack area. They should be signed and ideally an information board should be erected between barrows 1331 and 1332 in order to increase archaeological awareness.
- h. **1348, 1349 and 1350** — are in grassy scrub on Beacon Hill. Ideally they should be identified by star signing, managed so that scrub is contained and further rabbit infestation prevented.



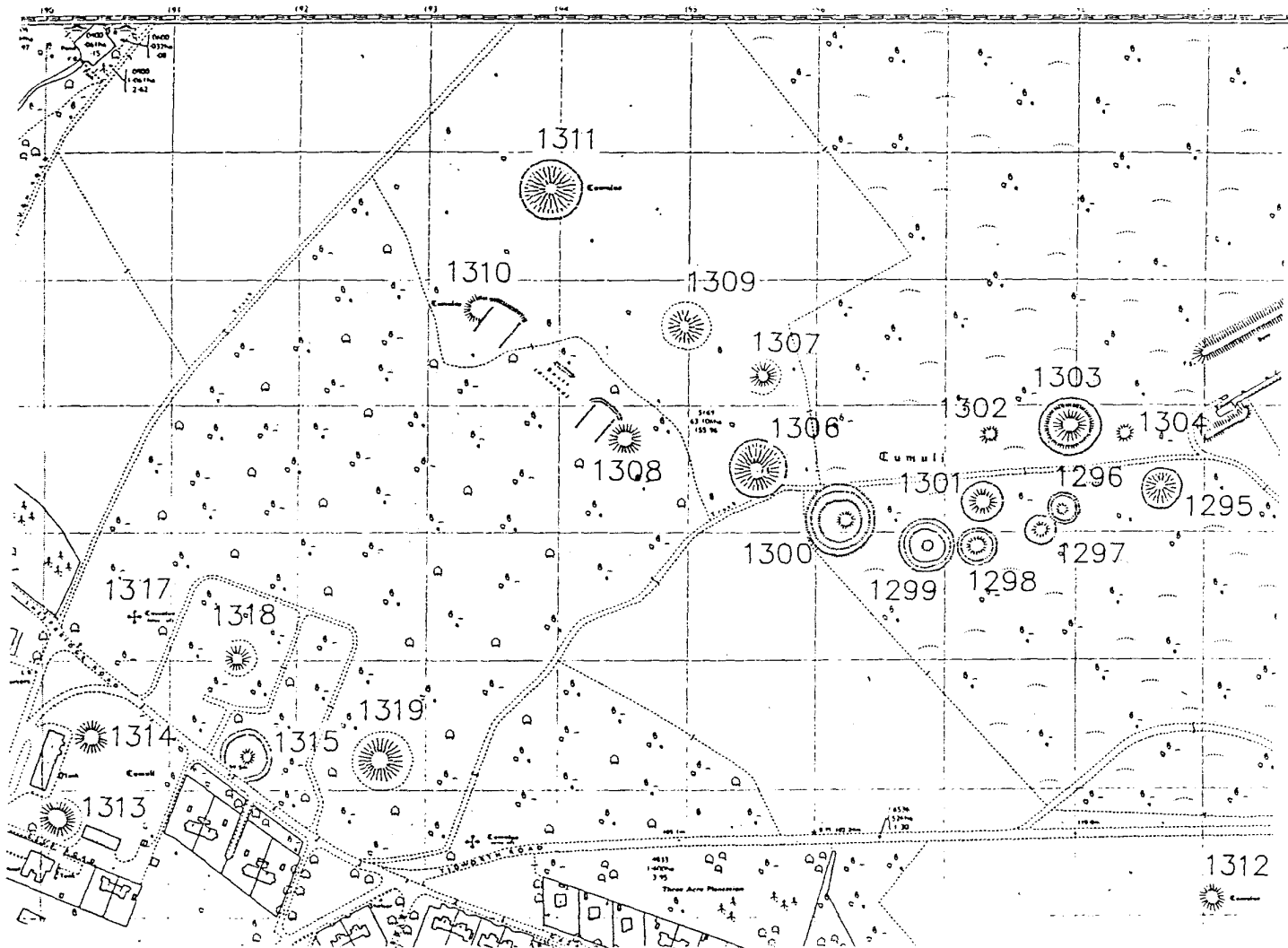
G2 — Bulford Barrack Group

25. Group 3 — Sling Camp Barrow (1295 - 1304, 1306 - 1315, 1317 - 1319) — see Map G3

a. **General.** This barrow group is generally well managed, partly because it is within the garrison and partly because agricultural and military activities are restricted. It is proposed that this area be integrated by limited scrub removal and regular mowing. This will have the additional benefit of providing a recreational area for the garrison. Rabbits should be controlled, the flag pole repositioned and the track which damages a barrow diverted.

b. **1300, 1301, 1303, 1315, 1317 - 1319** — scrub clearance required.

c. **1306** — remove flag pole, protect barrow with bollards and re-align track to prevent encroachment.



G3 - Sling Camp Group

26. **Group 4 — Bulford Down (2049, 2051 - 2058) — see Map G4**

a. **General.** This scattered barrow group on the top of Beacon Hill is threatened by scrub and by tracks. Since the area is being renotified as an SSSI, there will be restrictions on the removal of elements of the scrub, especially juniper. The flag pole will be removed from barrow 2055 as soon as byelaw revision permits, and there is a need to rationalize the system of tracks near the flag and determine whether the eyesore formerly used as an observation post can be removed. It is hoped that rabbit damage will be curtailed. Most of this group lies under rough grass, but part is in arable.

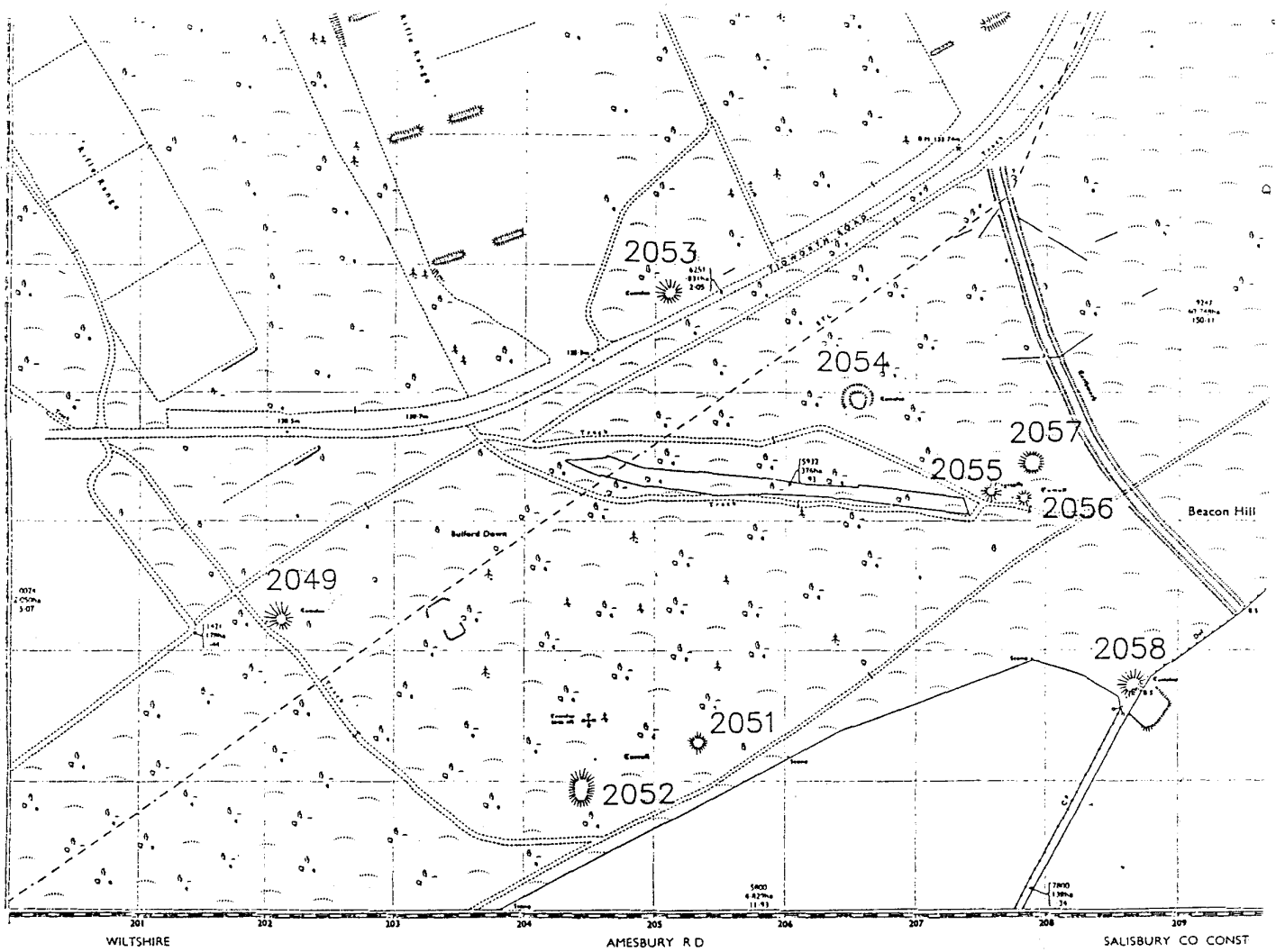
b. **2052** — some scrub to be removed.

c. **2053** — a substantial monument covered in trees and scrub, under attack from rabbits. Protect with bollards from encroachment.

d. **2054** — unlocated in juniper thicket on scarp edge.

e. **2055** — remove flag pole.

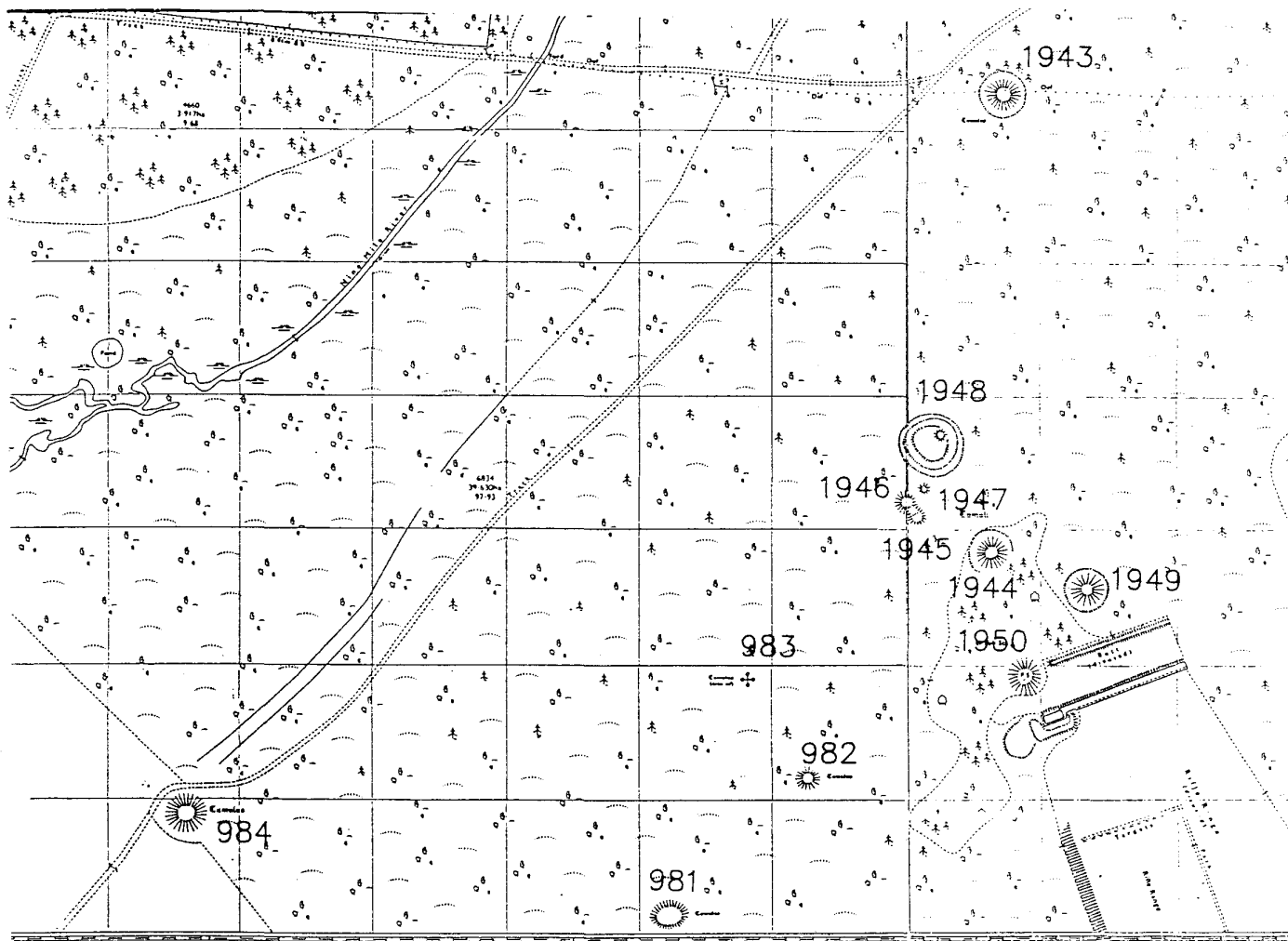
f. **2049, 2055** — vehicle tracks too close.



G4 — Bulford Down Group

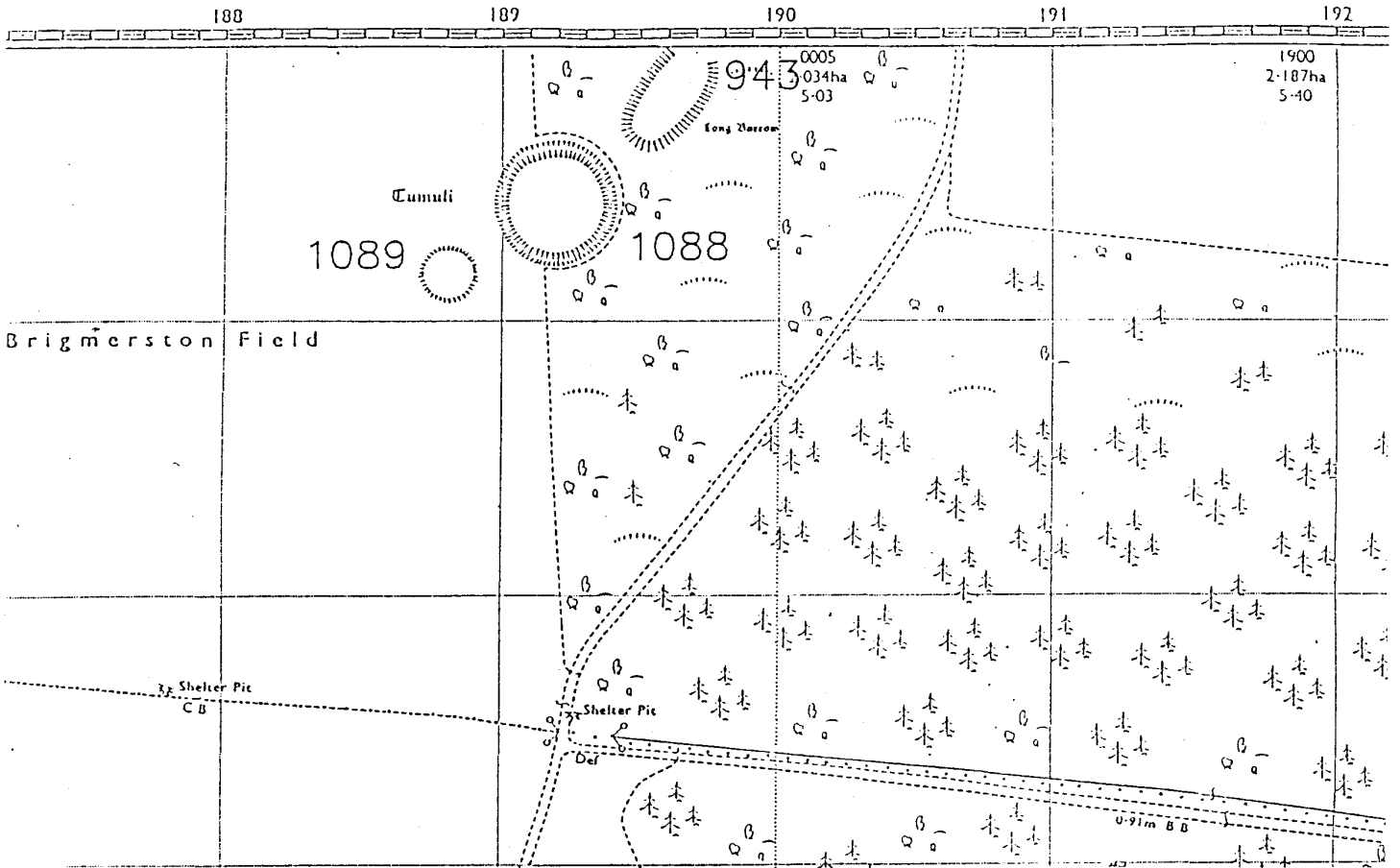
27. **Group 5 — Small Arms Ranges (981 - 984, 1943 - 1950) — see Map G5**

- a. **General.** This group lies in rough downlands behind B Range. The barrows are generally well preserved. The group should be cleared of scrub and star signed, perhaps as an envelope, and when possible grazed to prevent scrub regrowth. Rabbits will continue to be a problem until a satisfactory method of control is devised.
- b. **984** — a large barrow around which the Hungerford turnpike kinks. This section of track should be hardened up and diverted round the barrow.
- c. **1943** — has pine trees and scrub growing on it and is heavily infested with rabbits.
- d. **1944** — needs scrub clearance urgently.



G5 - Small Arms Range Group

28. **Group 6 — Milston Firs (1943, 1088, 1089)** — see Map G6. This is a small group consisting of a long barrow and two bowl barrows. Part of the area is regularly ploughed, the rest remains in scrub. It is proposed to curtail ploughing sufficiently to prevent direct or indirect damage to the archaeology. The scrub will be removed and the group protected by an envelope of star signs, thus removing 1089 from the plough and diverting vehicles.

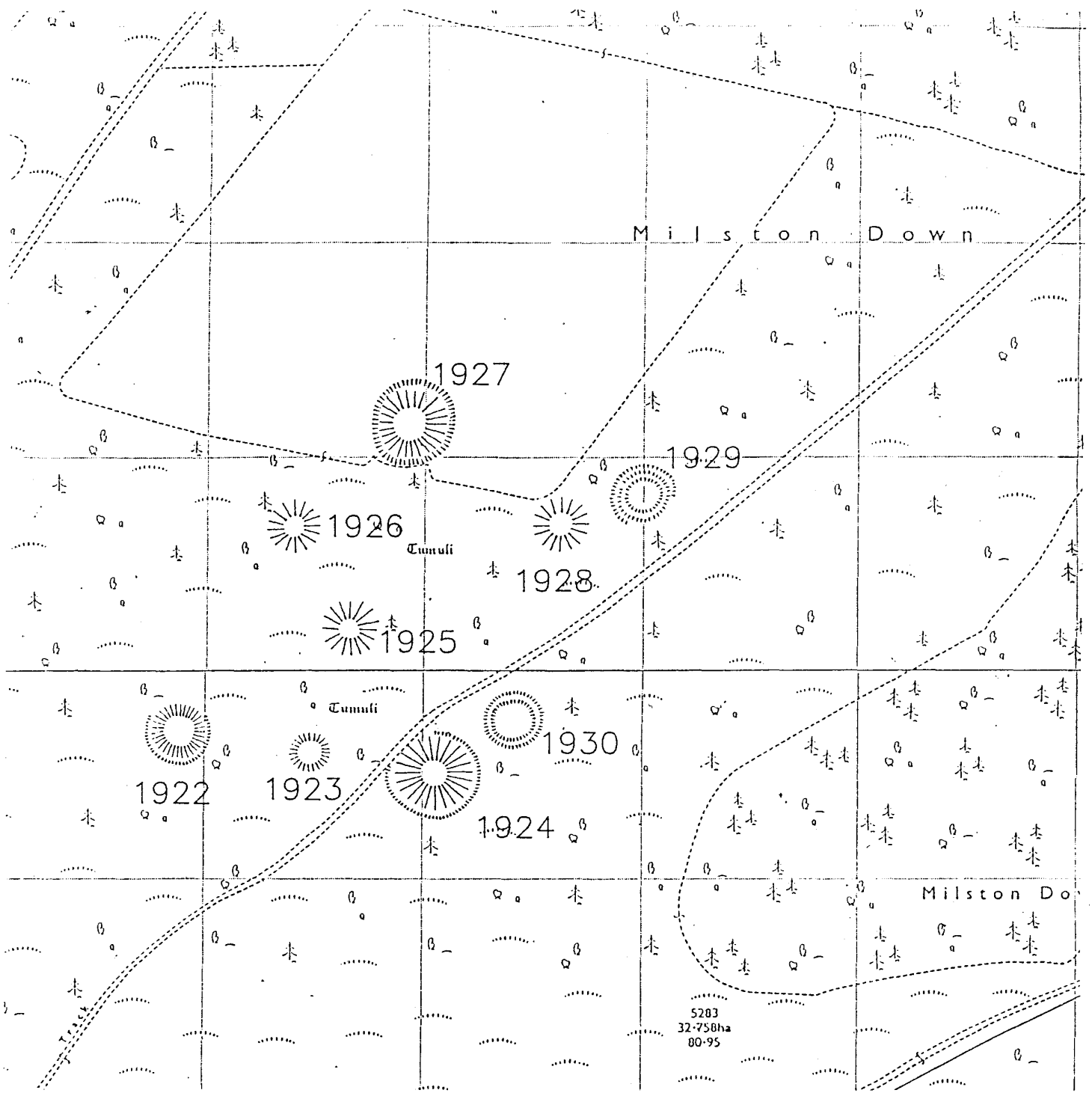


G6 - Milston Firs Group

29. **Group 7 — Milston Down 1 (1922 - 1930) — see Map G7**

a. **General.** The current pattern of land use fragments the group. To the north of the track, seven round barrows of three different types have been isolated by plough. To the south of the track two further barrows, a rare pond barrow and a large bowl barrow, are in grass but masked by trees. The unit of the Bronze Age cemetery has thus been lost, the track itself is causing damage, and rabbits are a problem in the barrows.

- b. The track will be hardened and moved to the south.
- c. The area around the barrows will be grassed.
- d. The trees which divide the group will be felled.
- e. The group will be star signed.
- f. Grazing of the group with appropriate livestock levels will be encouraged.



G7 — Milston Down Group 1.

30. Group 8 — Milston Down 2 (1896, 1897, 1931 - 1942) — see Map G8

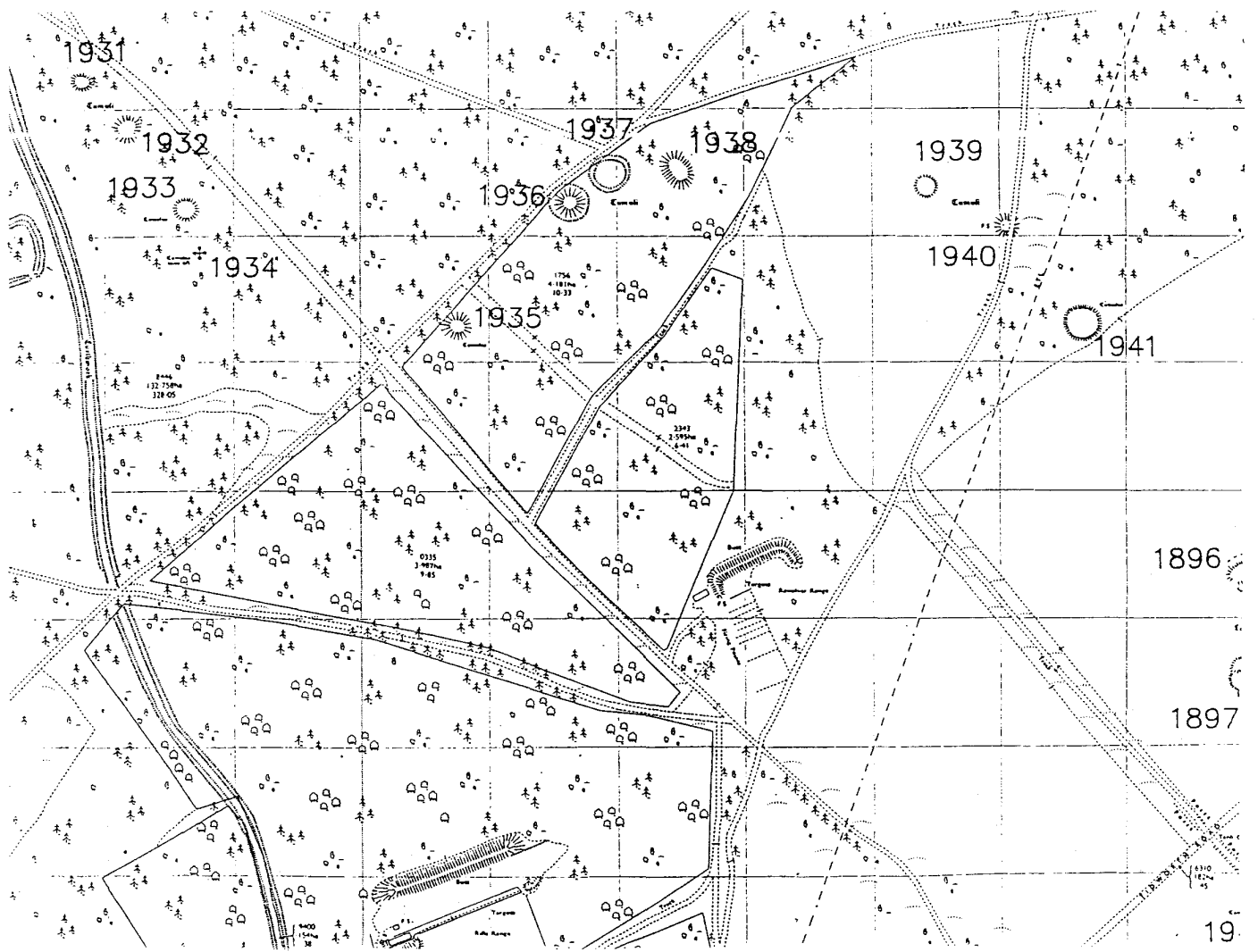
a. **General.** The group consists of a diverse range of archaeological features. Scrub and rabbits are common threats throughout, but certain earthworks are being eroded by plough and by vehicle movement. Individual solutions follow but it is also proposed to divert the tracks which threaten 1935-37 and 1940.

b. **1931 to 1938** — programme of tree and scrub clearance.

c. **1942** — the scrub and tree cover will be removed and measures taken to prevent plough from eroding the ditch on the south-west side of the barrow.

d. **1896, 1897** — the current programme of scrub cutting on these long barrows adjoining the Tidworth Road will continue and where necessary tracks will be diverted around them.

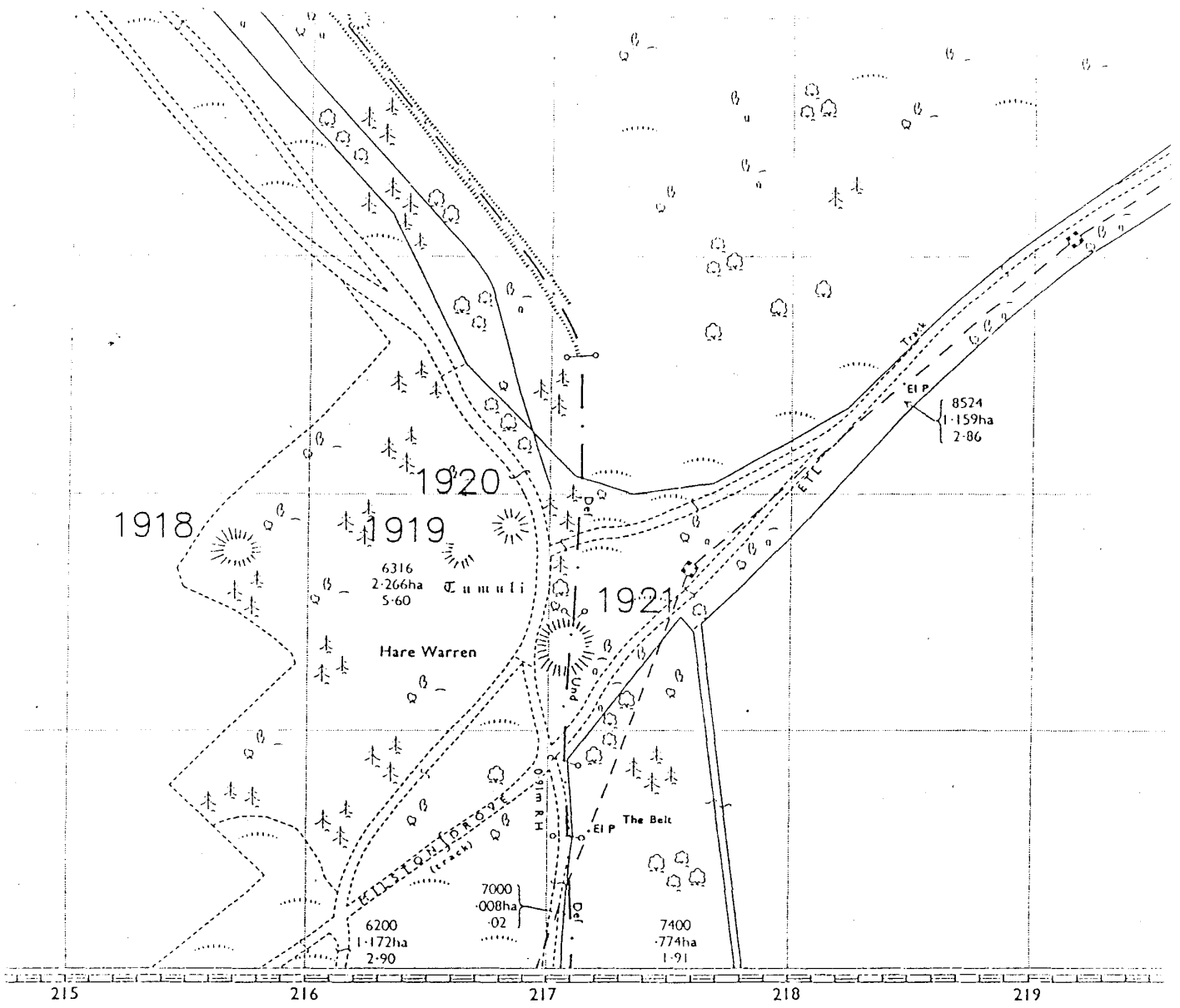
e. **1939** — requires scrub clearance and perhaps restoration. Star signs will curtail ploughing.



G8 – Milston Down Group 2

31. **Group 9 — Hare Warren (1918 - 1921) — see Map G9**

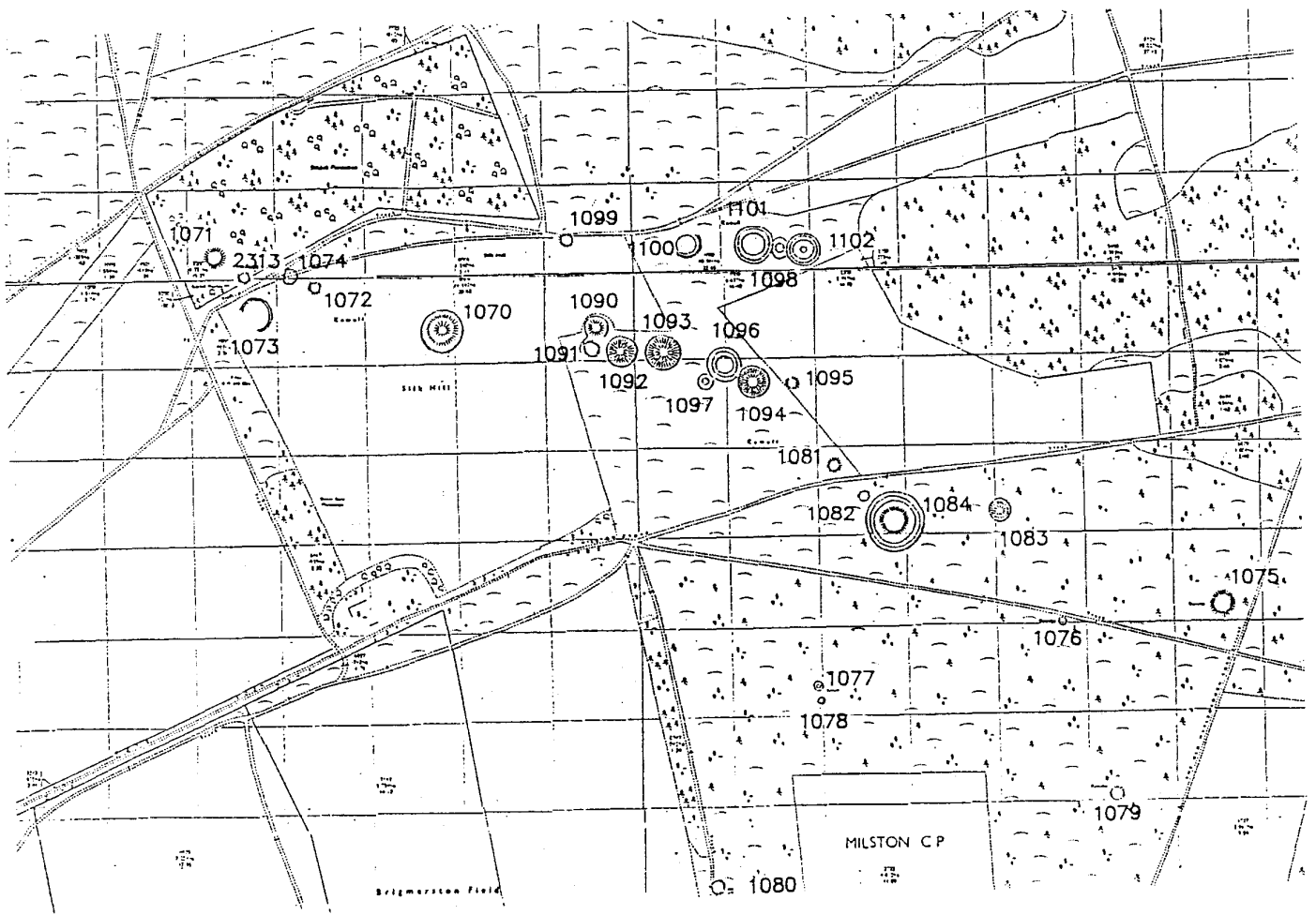
- a. **General.** The principal problem is one of scrub and trees. The group is divided by the range track. The removal of scrub will be limited to the area of barrow 1918 in order to leave undisturbed the known habitat of the grasshopper warbler.
- b. **1918** — clear dense scrub and remove rabbits.
- c. **1919 and 1920** — cannot be located on edge of disturbed ground.
- d. **1921** — a ring of mature beeches on lower part of profile will ultimately need removal when they become over-mature and unsafe. Star signing will serve to prevent track encroachment.



G9 — Hare Warren Group

32. **Group 10 — Silk Hill (1070 - 1084, 1090 - 1094, 1095, 1096 - 1098, 1100 - 1102) —**
see Map G10

- a. **General.** Groups of barrows will be star signed as envelopes to prevent military traffic taking cover between the monuments. In the eastern part of the group individual barrows tend to be covered with scrub. In two cases diversion or building up of a track will help preserve the barrows. Nearly all the barrows in this group are infested with rabbits. If funds were forthcoming Silk Hill might be the most appropriate place to carry out an extensive re-shaping, wiring and reseedling of barrows to eliminate rabbits.
- b. **1071** — within the plantation trees should be felled and the area star signed to prevent the clearing becoming a focus for military activity.
- c. **1072 - 1074** — this minor group should be star signed within an envelope and a new track constructed to the south. No attempt will be made to close the track which runs over 1074 but chalk will be mounded over it.
- d. **1077 and 1078** — remove rabbits.
- e. **1079** — this large barrow should be cleared of scrub and rabbits.
- f. **1080** — crossed by a track, which should be diverted.
- g. **1099** — recently rediscovered and worthy of protection. The track and the track junction to the west need diversion.
- h. **2313** — badly mutilated and on the edge of the plantation. The trees should be cleared and the barrow clearly marked.

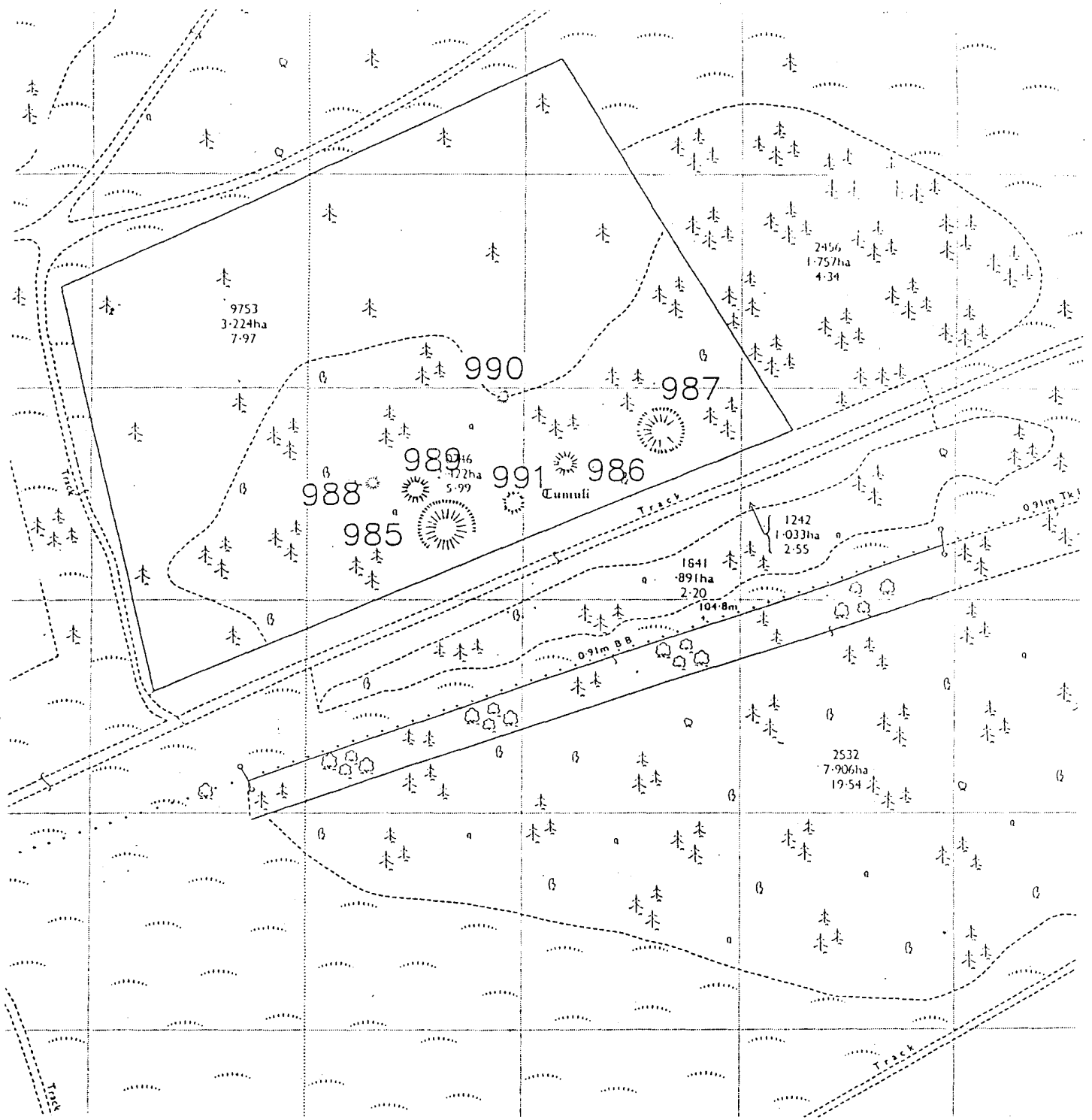


G10 - Silk Hill Group

33. **Group 11 — Briggerston Firs 1 (985 - 991) — see Map G11**

a. **General.** These barrows are protected from military training by the pennings surrounding them. However, they are covered with pine trees and infested with rabbits.

b. **Proposals.** The trees should be felled on and around the barrows, leaving a ring of stumps cut off chest high to act as bollards. These bollards will support a single strand fence in order to keep the majority of cattle away from the barrows to prevent poaching. This internal fence will be star signed.

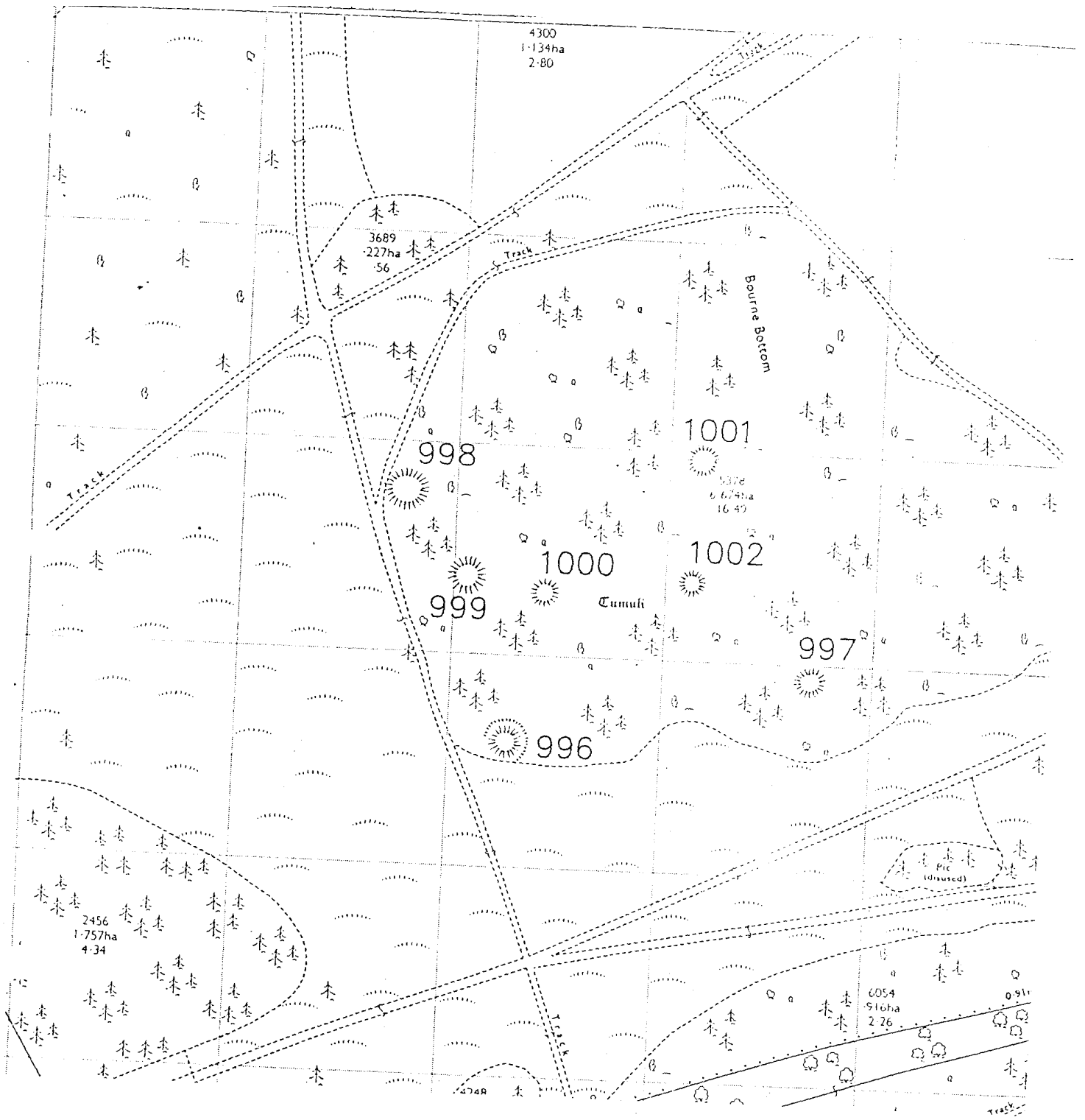


G11 — Brigmerston Firs Group 1

34. **Group 12 — Brigrmerston Firs 2 (996 - 1002) — see Map G12**

a. **General.** This is a ravaged area badly damaged by burrowing animals, scrub, tree growth and military training. The group is liable to military damage from soldiers seeking cover.

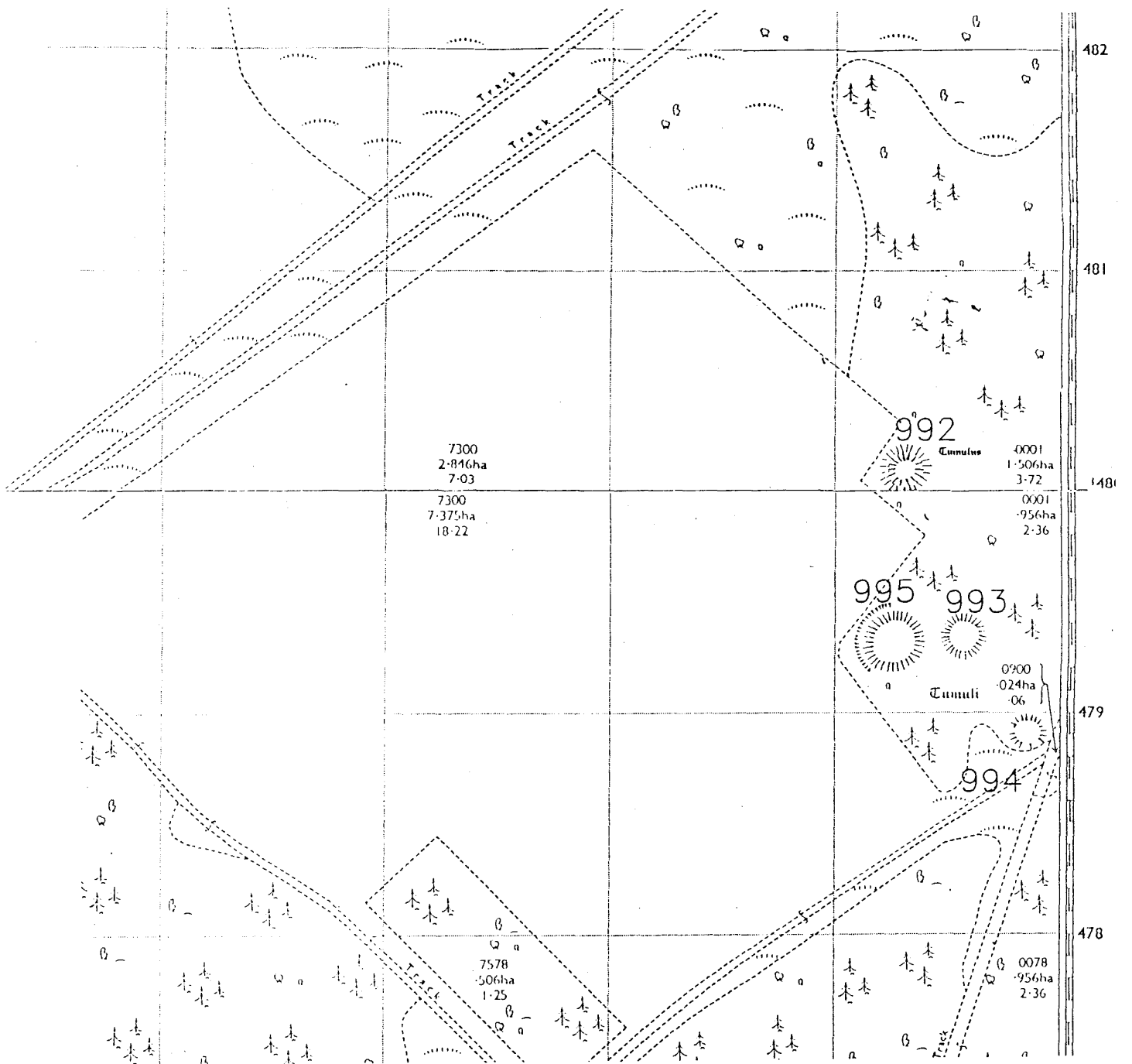
b. **Proposals.** The trees and scrub around each barrow will be cleared sufficiently to enable troops to move between them. Barrows will be star signed or bollarded as appropriate.



G12. — Brigmerston Firs Group 2

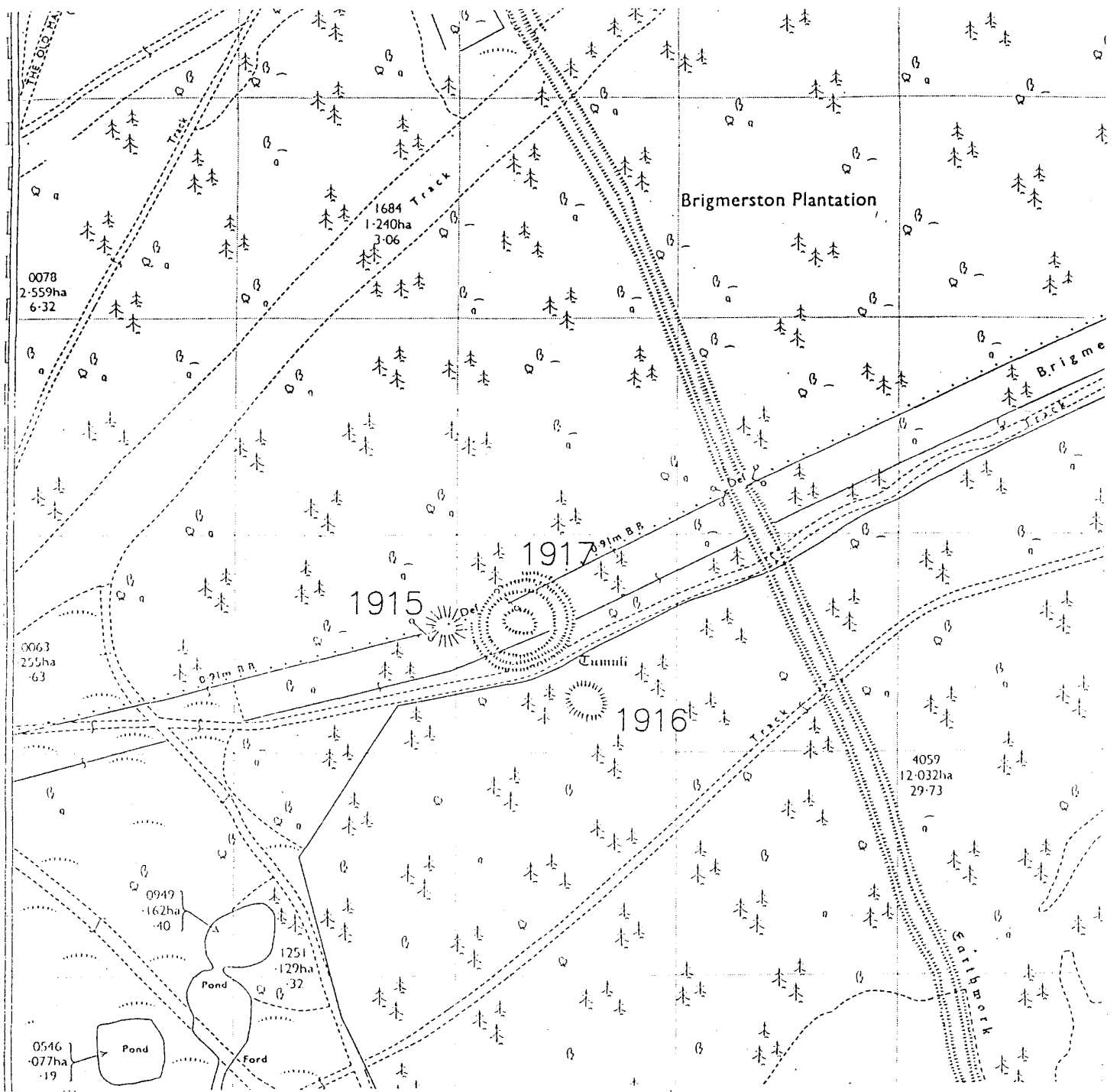
35. **Group 13 — Goat Wood (992 - 995) — see Map G13**

- a. **General.** Barrows on the edge of woodland. This group has suffered from a number of different damaging agencies and needs urgent attention. Rabbits, scrub, tree growth and military training are all causing damage.
- b. **994** — vehicles will be deflected with permanent obstructions.
- c. **992, 993 & 995** — will be cleared leaving trees cut off to act as bollards and to support star signs.



G13 — Goat Wood Group

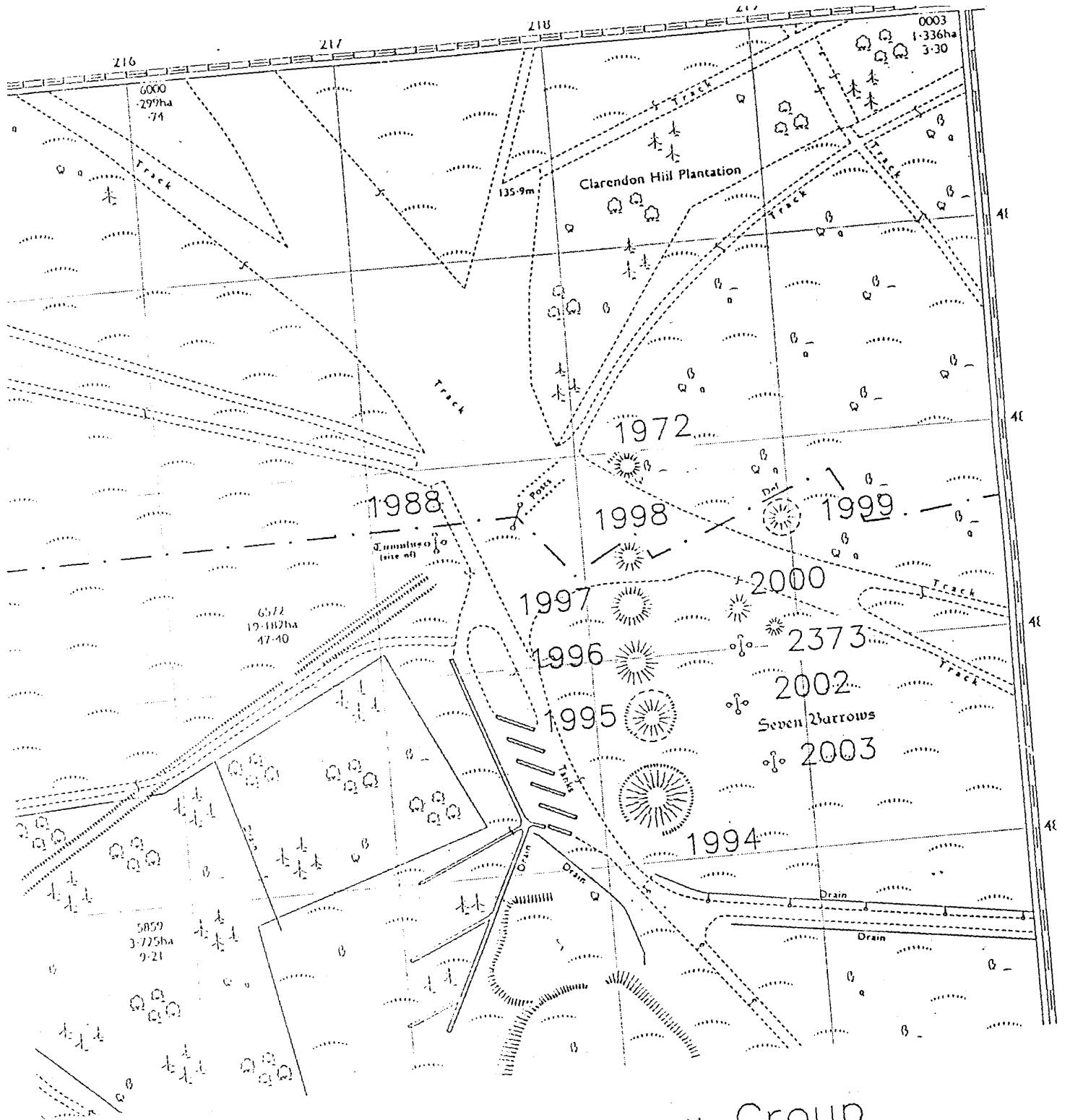
36. Group 14 — Briggerston Plantation (1915 - 1917) — see Map G14. All three barrows are heavily overgrown with scrub, and rabbit damage is also a factor. The large disc barrow (1917) is seriously eroded by the track on its southern side. It is proposed to divert the track to the north of the group and stone a length which includes the crossing of the linear 1971.



G14 - Brigmerston Plantation Group

37. Group 15 — Seven Barrows (1972, 1988, 1994 - 2000, 2002, 2003, 2373) — see Map G15

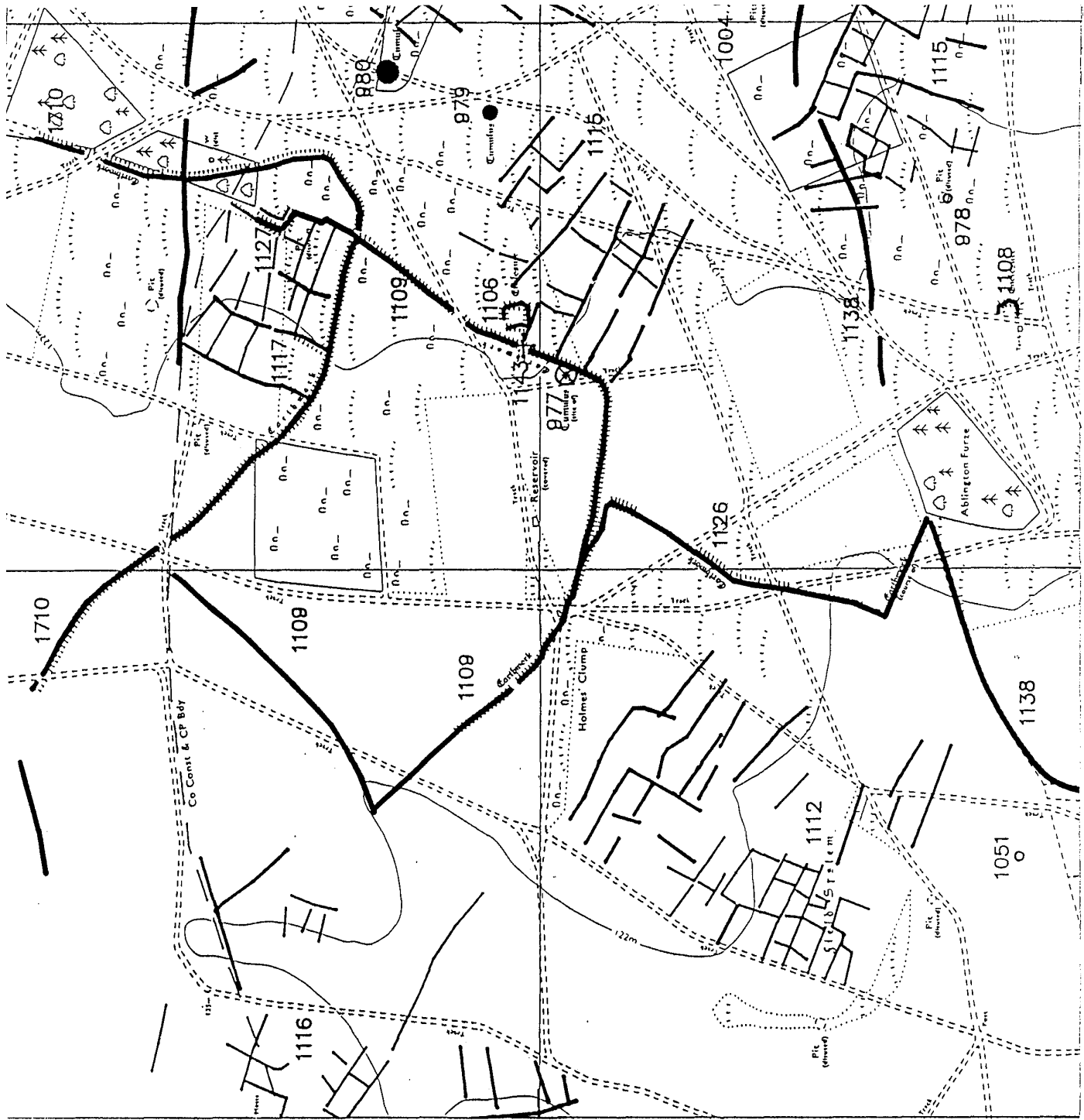
- a. **General.** The group is largely covered with beech trees or scrub, and the proposal is to remove the beech in order to create an island which can then be clearly star signed. A forestry report would be valuable, since some of the beech appear to be in decline. Many of the barrows in the group are infested with rabbits.
- b. **1972** — badly mutilated by track but part still visible.
- c. **1994 to 1998** — under mature beech and scrub. The beech trees should, if possible, be removed or thinned.
- d. **2002 and 2003** — in the plantation. Remove young tree growth.
- e. **2000** — remove or thin the six mature beech.
- f. **2373** — newly discovered, needs removal of scrub.



G15 — Seven Barrow Group

38. Area 16 — Bourne Bottom, Ablington Down and Figheldean Down (1106, 1109, 1115, 1117, 1127)

- a. Lynchets on the east margin and in the northern part of the field-system on Figheldean Down (1115) have been damaged by vehicles. The tracks are unstoned and the damage is spreading laterally. To the west of the field-system, a small earthwork enclosure (1108) has been damaged by tracked vehicles, probably using the adjacent water tower as a landmark.
- b. In Bourne Bottom, a number of very fine earthwork features have been eroded by vehicle activity. The focus of attention seems to be the plantation situated at SU187496. Exercises moving towards this feature have caused considerable damage to the linear earthworks 1109 and 1710, and also the substantial bank and ditch enclosure 1127.
- c. A penning will be introduced into the area to protect 1106 and 1115 and a part of 1109.
- d. Cutting back of the plantation is planned as a long term measure to reduce pressure on the earthworks. In addition, track improvements will be considered as a means of alleviating the pressure on some of the earthwork sites.
- e. Earthwork 1127 will be star signed, and the track crossing its western rampart will be closed.

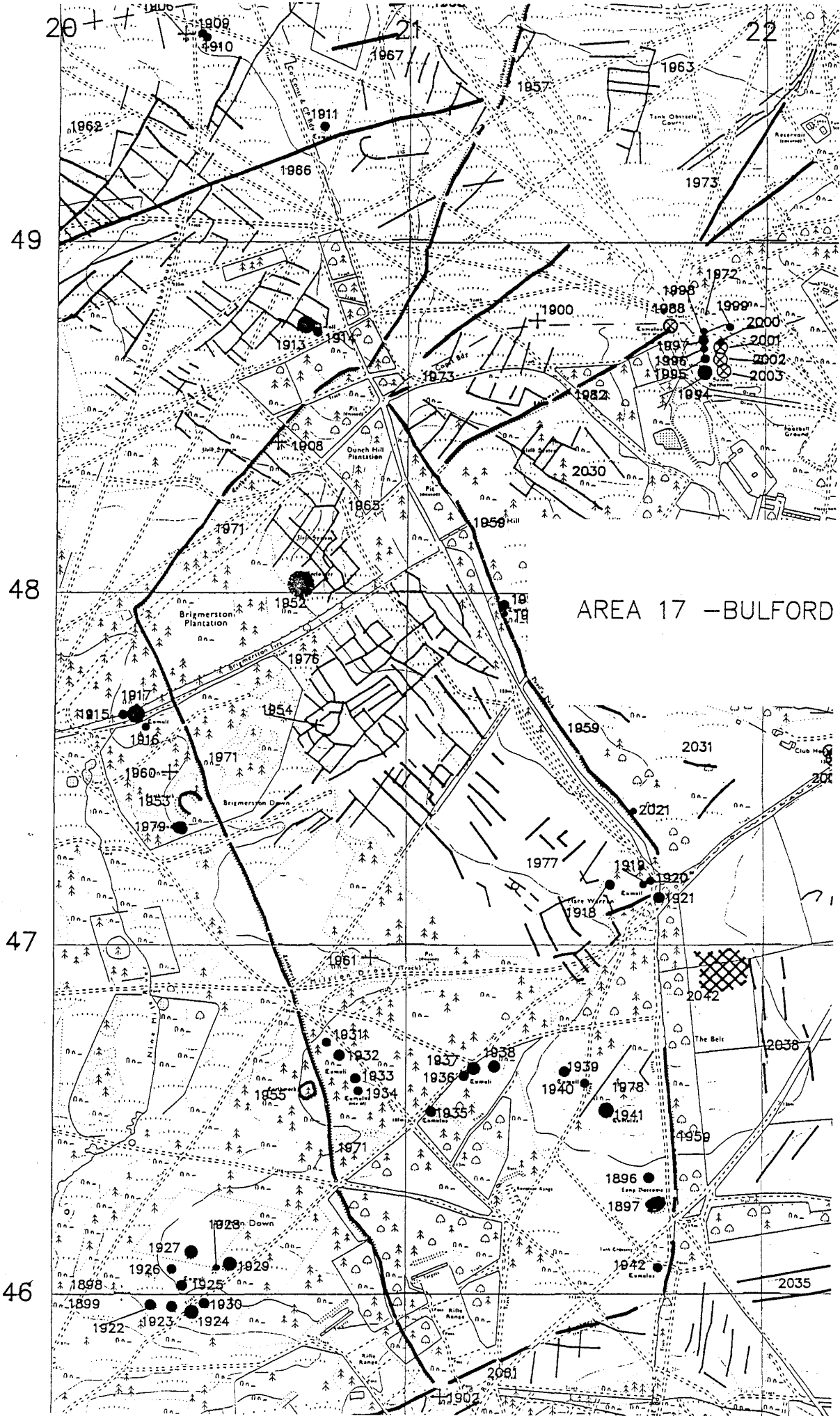


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39. Area 17 — Dispersed Sites in the Bulford Range

- a. A series of linear ditches and earthwork enclosures form a valuable aspect of the archaeology preserved in the Bulford Ranges. Military training has affected them very little, but the regeneration of scrub and woodland is a matter of serious concern.
- b. The Devil's Ditch (1959, 2061) runs for 6 km along the eastern side of the ASG. Those parts in grass require little additional management. Care must however be taken where it runs through forestry or dense scrub. Removal of trees will open a route through plantations which is likely to attract military traffic. This could result in archaeological damage. It will be necessary to bollard the ends of any such clearings to prevent this from happening.
- c. Enclosure 1955 which adjoins the above linear is in thin pine forest. Clearance is recommended over a sufficient area to enable star signs to be clearly visible.
- d. Enclosure 1953 is horsehoe-shaped in grassland and inside a penning. Rabbits are the main threat.
- e. Enclosure 1952 is in need of scrub clearance.



AREA 17 - BULFORD RANGES

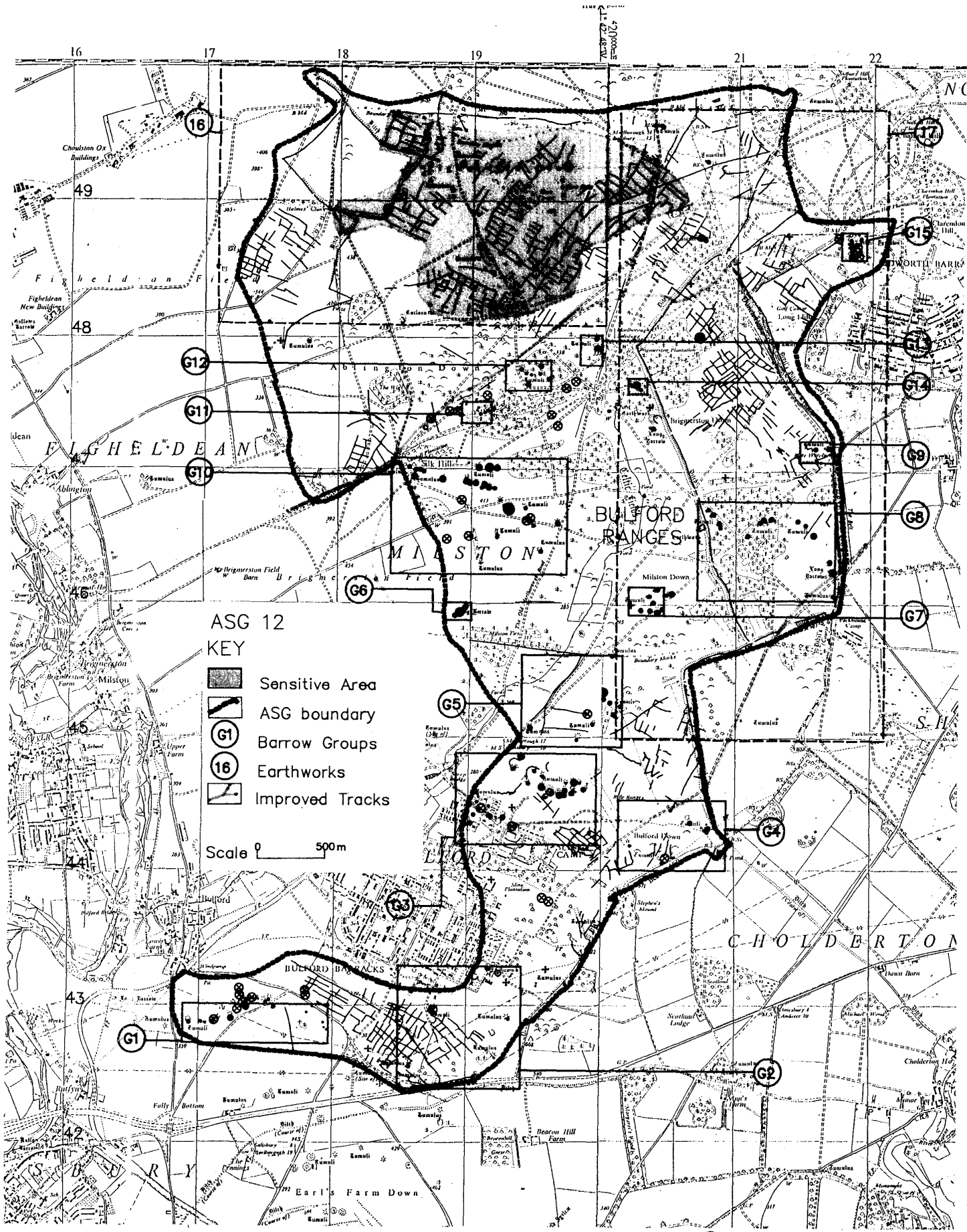
40. Individual Barrows.






- a. The following will receive more adequate signing with stars — 975, 980, 1035, 1909, 1910, 1911.
- b. The following will be cleared — 1992, 1993.

Biological Issues

41. The area is diverse combining unimproved chalk grassland, mixed scrub and river valleys. It has been unaffected by modern farming and supports a wide range of uncommon plants, birds and invertebrates.

42. Under the proposed renotification of a Site or Special Scientific Interest, detailed management proposals will be drawn up. No attempt is being made in this archaeological plan to incorporate natural history. Care has been taken to ensure that potential conflicts between archaeological protection and natural history do not arise.



- ASG 12
KEY
-  Sensitive Area
 -  ASG boundary
 -  Barrow Groups
 -  Earthworks
 -  Improved Tracks

Scale 0 500m