

Ancient Monuments Laboratory
Report 41/93

REPORT ON GEOPHYSICAL SURVEY AT
GEDDING HALL, SUFFOLK, MAY 1993

Mark Cole

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Summary

Resistivity survey was undertaken at Gedding Hall, Suffolk, in response to a request from the Suffolk Archaeological Unit. All that remains of this 15th-century to early 16th-century moated house is the gatehouse. The aim of the survey was to attempt to locate the remains of any buried ranges of buildings in the area of the moated "island" now under grass. In the event, although a number of walls and other features were located, these do not form a complete pattern.

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GEDDING HALL, SUFFOLK

Report on resistivity survey, 1993

Introduction

Geophysical survey at Gedding Hall, Suffolk (NGR TL 9535 5860), was requested by the Suffolk Archaeological Unit. All that remains of this 15th-century to early 16th-century building is the gatehouse with a Victorian extension. The aim of the survey was to investigate the remainder of the island (the majority of which is now under grass) in an attempt to determine the layout of any former building ranges. Gedding Hall is currently listed Grade II* and is being considered for scheduling under the Monuments Protection Programme.

The site is underlain by boulder clay over Cretaceous chalk.

Method

The nature of the site and the type of the features under investigation suggested that resistivity survey would be the most appropriate technique to adopt.

A baseline was set up along the W side of the island and a grid of 30m squares was established (see location plan). Each of these squares was then surveyed using a Geoscan RM15 resistivity meter, with the Twin Electrode configuration and a mobile probe separation of 0.5m. Readings were recorded at 0.5m intervals along N-S traverses 0.5m apart. The resulting data is illustrated using grey-tone plots (Plots 1 and 2, Plan A).

Buried stonework is indicated on the plots by alignments of high resistance (shown as white), as well as broader more amorphous areas of high resistance. In order to clarify visual recognition of significant anomalies, the raw data has been statistically enhanced (see plot 2, Plan A).

Results

Most readily apparent on the plots is an arrangement of linear anomalies aligned on the principal axes of the moat. These can quite confidently be attributed to buried walls and presumably indicate the presence of buildings. Significantly, these foundations do not appear to extend along the entirety of the E and W sides of the island; had they indeed existed here it is possible that they have subsequently been robbed out.

Apparently associated with the walls are areas of high resistance (see overlain interpretation) indicative of accumulations of building rubble. Such areas are very poorly defined, however, and blend into a generalised background variation, making their interpretation rather difficult.

A broad, high resistance anomaly runs N-S through the centre of the surveyed area for about 15m and then appears to

cont/

continue as two parallel, reduced anomalies to the N. This is perhaps a central path or roadway although it does not appear to have any obvious relationship with the surviving gatehouse.

Also apparent in the S of the moated area is a linear low resistance anomaly, detectable for about 30m, which runs parallel with and to the E of the central pathway (see above). It apparently curves to the SW cutting across the supposed pathway, to the NW of the gatehouse. This may represent a ditch, drain, or perhaps a robbed out structural feature.

Interpretation of the survey has been hindered by the response to modern flower beds, the outlines of which have been clearly detected as circles of low resistance (see overlay).

Conclusion

This resistivity survey has succeeded in locating a variety of features, some of which are clearly wall foundations. At least one of the latter alignments was seen to extend from foundations visible in an open excavation trench. It may thus be assumed that other linear high resistance anomalies are of a similar nature. Such remains seem to be restricted mainly to the N half of the moated area, but may not be detectable elsewhere due to robbing out. A roadway or path appears to run through the centre of the site, although its alignment is offset from the extant gatehouse.

Other anomalies are too poorly defined, or are obscured by the response to surface land use, to be satisfactorily interpreted.

Surveyed by: Mark Cole
Peter Cottrell

Date of survey: 19-21 May 1993

Reported by: Mark Cole

Date of report: 3rd June 1993

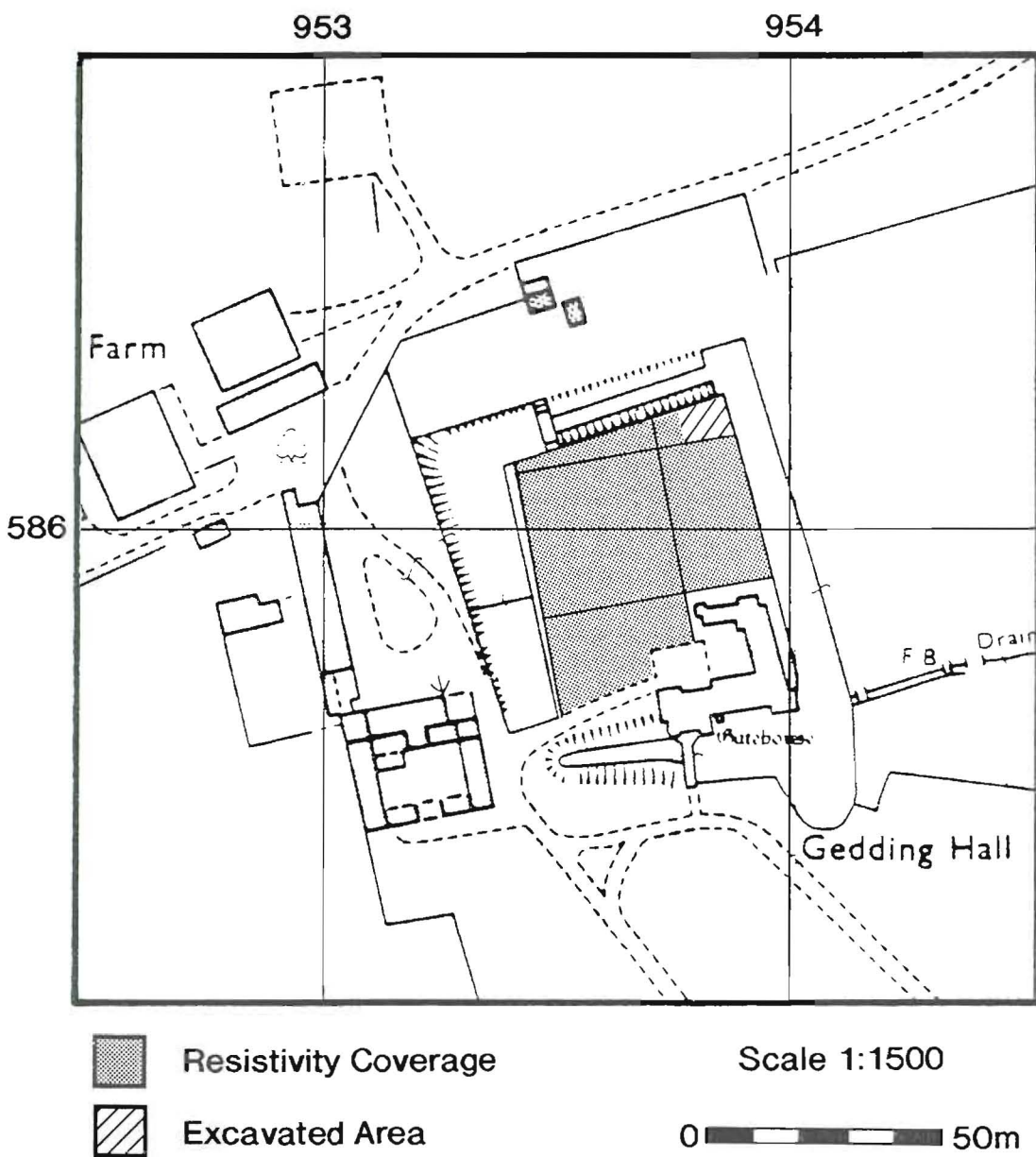
Archaeometry Branch
Ancient Monuments Laboratory
Science and Conservation Services Division, RPS

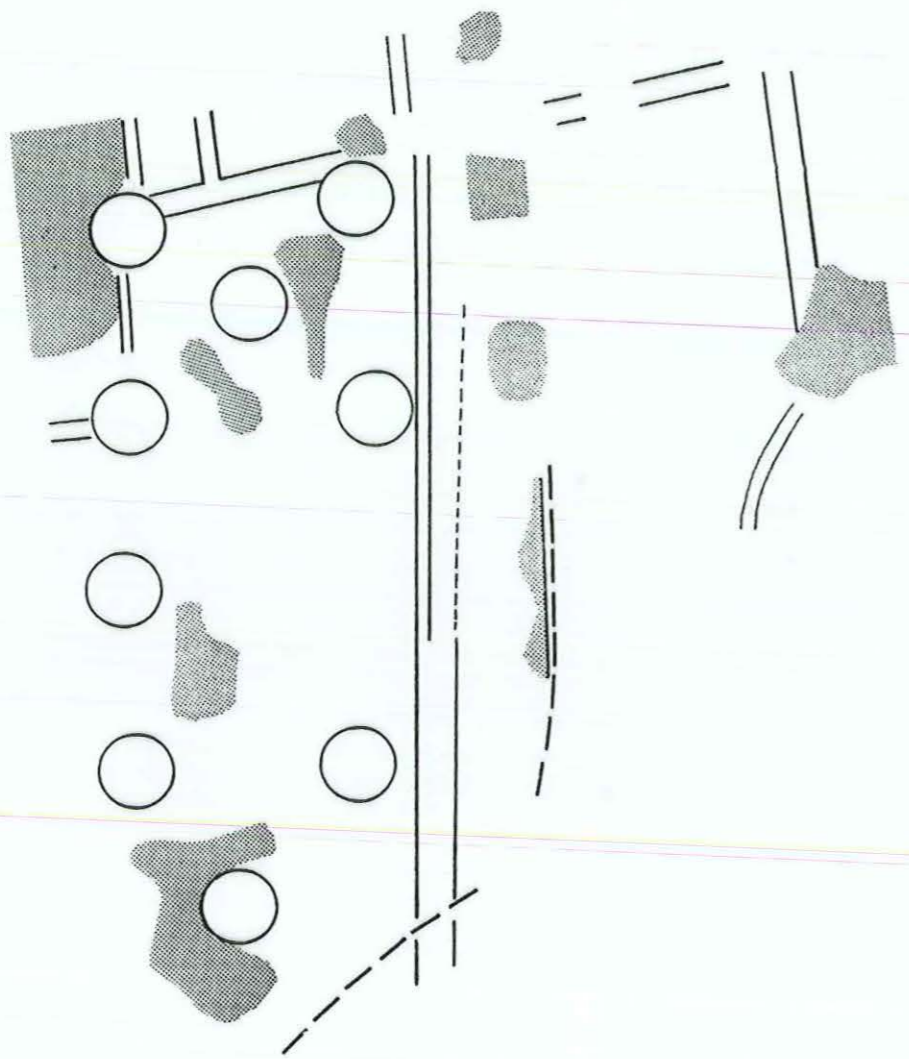
GEDDING HALL, SUFFOLK

Resistivity Survey May 1993

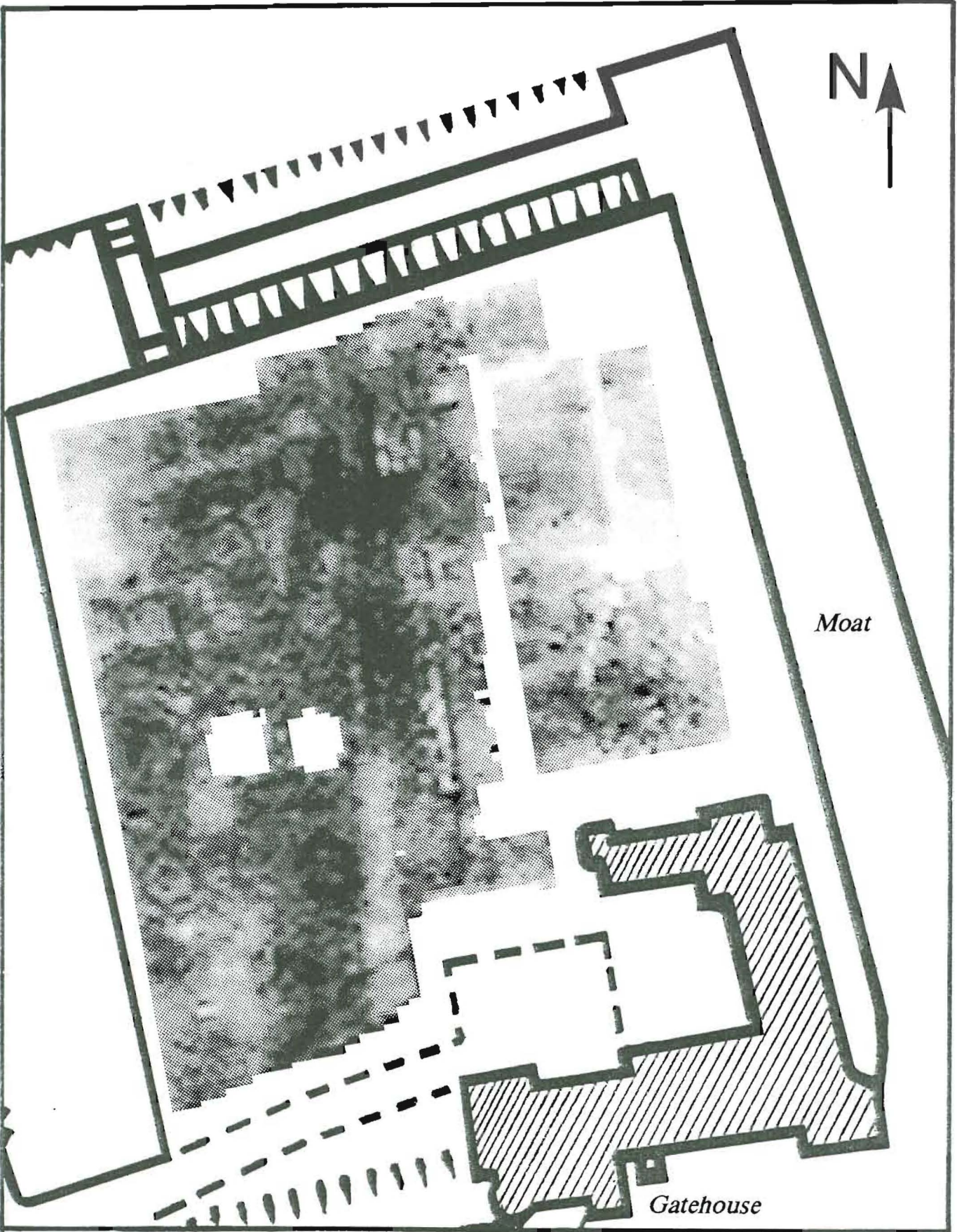
Location plan of survey

TL 9558





Interpretive Guide.



- Buried Wall
- ?Buried Wall
- - - ?Ditch

- Modern Flower Bed
- Area of Anomalous High Resistance

Scale

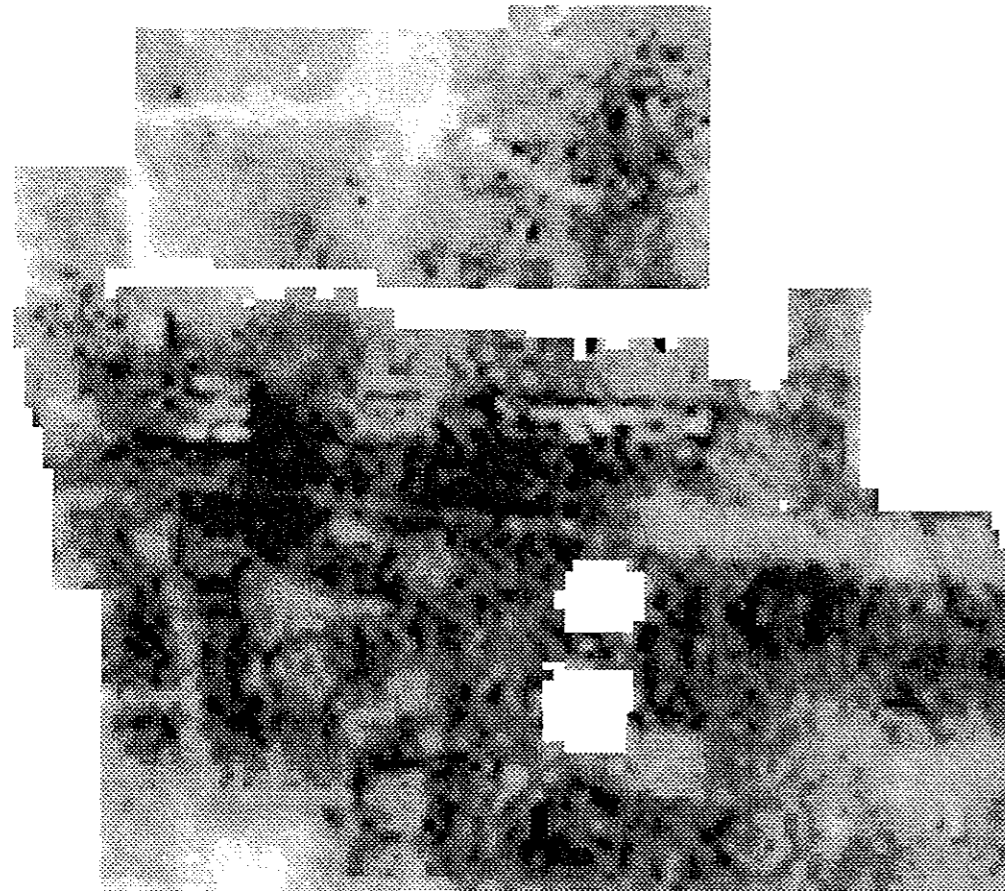


GEDDING HALL, SUFFOLK
Resistivity survey May 1993

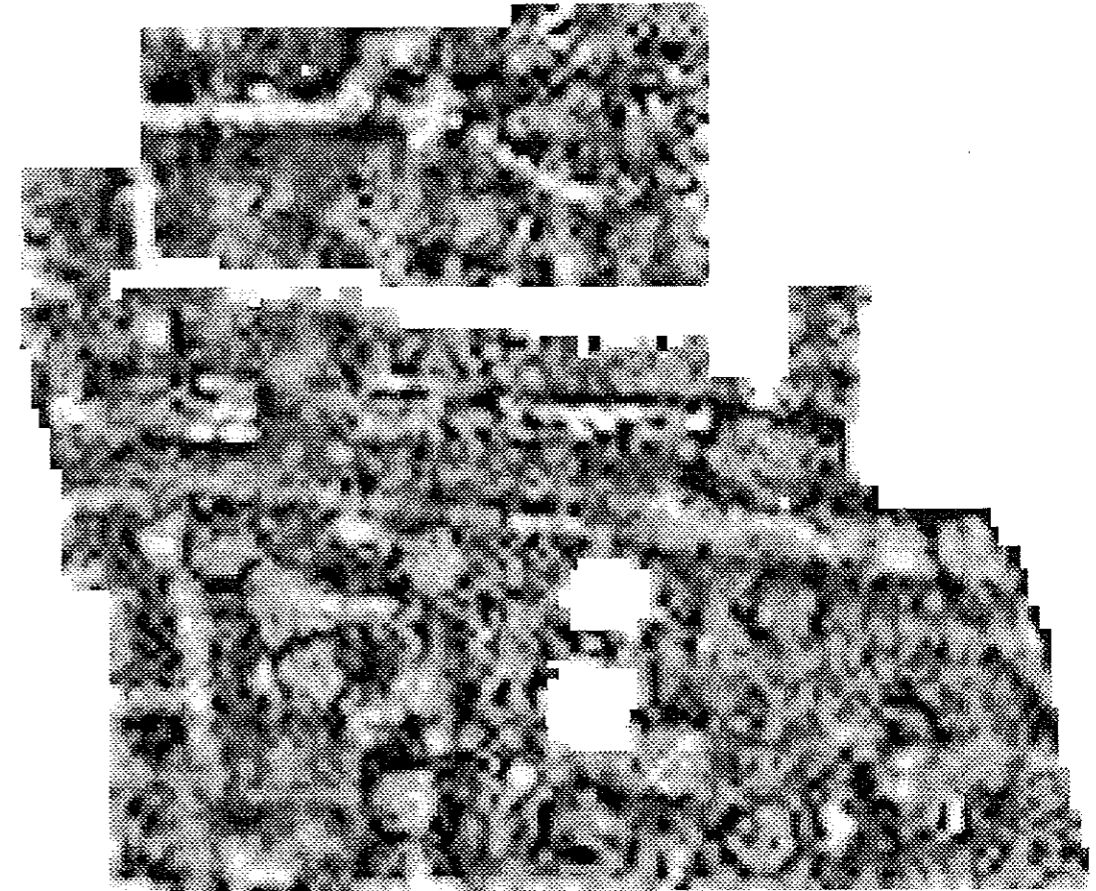
PLAN A.



1. Raw data



2. Enhanced data



-ve ■ ◀ ▶ □ +ve

0 ————— 30m
1:375