

Archaeological Research in Crummack Dale



A Batty

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Front Cover; Looking South East across the Northern end of Crummack Dale.

Photograph A Batty

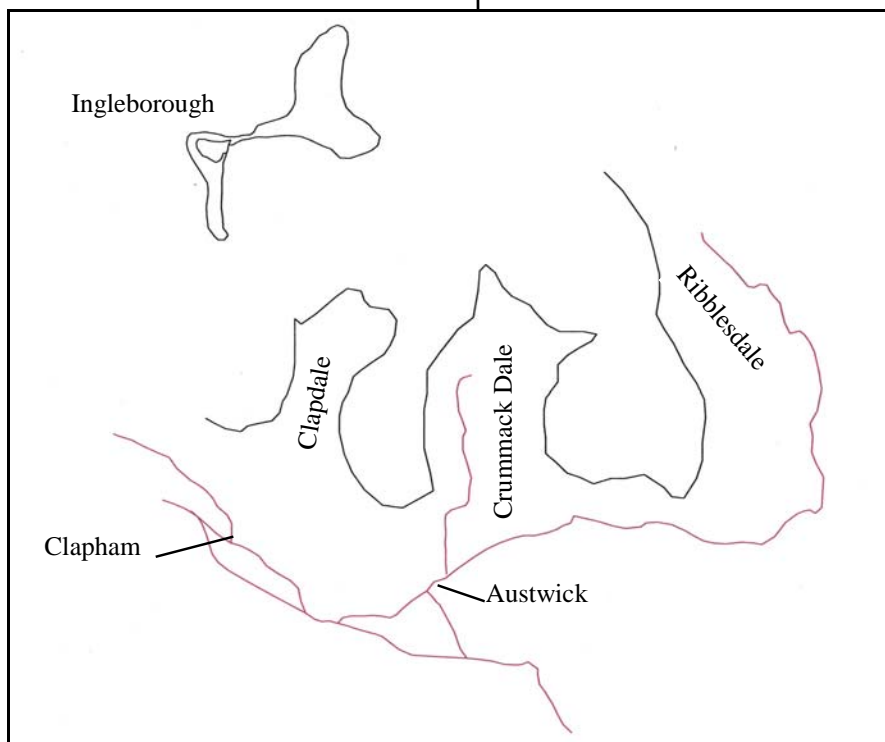
Acknowledgements

Mr and Mrs Haw of Crummack Farm for granting access onto their land and supporting this research.

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Mrs A Batty for desktop publishing and editing.



Location map.

Archaeological Research in Crummack Dale

In 2011 we carried out research of the archaeological remains in Crummack Dale SD 7750 7240. This involved a GPS survey (Fig 1), geophysical surveys and aerial photography. The GPS survey shows enclosure remains covering a large area, also several rectangular features which possibly represent dwellings, crop storage, and stock housing. These features were recorded on a map of 1619 where it shows 'Cromock enclofures' (Fig 2) in the same area as our survey. Crummack Dale is a typical glacial formed valley with limestone terraces overlaid with rendzina soils. As can be seen from the geological map (Fig 3) shows the entire NW area as Great Scar limestone, (Dunham, 1953) and this is also the location for most of the archaeological remains shown on the survey. A limestone cliff terminates the whole northern end of Crummack Dale.

I have divided the survey into five main areas to make it easier to describe the archaeology, with all measurements having been taken from the centre of the visible wall remains. As can be seen on the full survey there are some features that are outside these areas on which no research has been carried out. These are classified on the digital version of the survey (see accompanying DVD).

Area 1

Located in the NW of this area there is a rectangular structure (1) that has an internal cross wall, there does not appear to be any other structure related to it only enclosure walls on the NE side. This may represent a dwelling or an agricultural structure. The cross wall may be more likely to indicate a dwelling, but the location of any doorways could not be defined. In the SE of this area there is a limekiln structure (2) adjacent to circular stone remains (3). It is unknown if these two features are contemporary, I am inclined to the view that they are not. It is also difficult to know if this has been a dwelling, agricultural building or an enclosure as there are some enclosure remains situated nearby to the north, which may be related. No other research has been carried out in this area. Structures (2) and (3) are also shown on Plate 1.

Structure 1 measures 7.6m x 3.5m.

Structure 2 limekiln.

Structure 3 measures 9.7m in diameter

Area 2

Within this area there are the remains of five rectangular structures; enclosure walls, a water source and a small circular structure. The rectangular structures numbered (1) to (5) probably represent dwellings and agricultural buildings. A gradiometer survey (Fig 4) of structure (4) shows areas of high readings. A core taken into one of these readings revealed burnt deposits near the ground surface that represents recent burning. No other research was carried out in this area. Structures (2), (3), (4) and (6) are shown on Plate 2.

Structure 1 measures 9.0m x 3.8m.

Structure 2 measures 11.8m x 3.8m.

Structure 3 measures 14.8m x 5.3m.

Structure 4 measures 11.3m x 5.0m.

Structure 5 measures 10.7m x 4.4m

Structure 6 is 2m in diameter.

Area 3

This area has the remains of 6 rectangular structures; a square sunken structure adjacent to structure 4 and a small, square structure to the south of structure (1). A gradiometer survey (Fig 5) of structures (1) and (2) shows no high readings within them, any high readings are around the outside, possibly indicating they are agricultural buildings rather than dwellings. A gradiometer scan of structure (3) revealed a high reading in the NE corner, this was scanned with a metal detector and the artefact shown in Plate 5 was found along with charcoal from the same context. This context was thought to be a floor surface as it was under laid by bedrock. No research was carried out on structure (4). A gradiometer survey (Fig 6) revealed a high reading in the doorway of structure (5) this was the spearhead shown in Plate 7. Structure (6) had several high readings one proved to be metal, this was the girdle hanger shown in Plate 6. All structures are also shown on the aerial photographs (Plates 3/4).

Structure 1 measures 8.8m x 4.2m.

Structure 2 measures 10.6m x 5.0m.

Structure 3 measures 7.0m x 3.4m.

Structure 4 measures 12.8m x 5.4m.

Structure 5 measures 18.6m x 5.3m.

Structure 6 measures 6.8m x 4.5m.

Area 4

This area is situated on a wide limestone terrace at the NW end of Crummack Dale and comprises of two rectangular structures; a water source and enclosures. Structure (1) has an internal cross wall and also enclosure walls abutting the outside, structure (2) is smaller and also has enclosure walls abutting. These may represent a farmstead but no other research was carried out in this area.

Structure 1 measures 12m x 3.1m.

Structure 2 measures 6.4m x 3.6m.

Area 5

This area is situated below a high limestone cliff at the NE end of Crummack Dale. The area contains the remains of three structures. Structure (1) is roughly circular; (2) and (3) are small square structures. There are enclosure remains related to these structures that also connect with Areas 2 and 3 which suggests they may be contemporary. No other research has been carried out in this area.

Structure 1 measures 8m in diameter.

Structure 2 measures 3.5m x 3m.

Structure 3 measures 2.9m x 2.5m.

Iron Artefacts

No 1 (Plate 5)

This was found in the NE corner of structure (3) in Area 3. Identification of this is problematic, it is pointed at one end and socketed at the other, so it could be a very crude spearhead but equally probable is its purpose as a hand tool fitted with a short wooden handle and used as a piercing tool e. g. For leather working.

No 2 (Plate 6)

This was found at the eastern end of structure (6) in Area 3 and is identified as a Girdle Hanger. These were worn by women and hung from a belt around the waist. This is thought to be a symbolic item showing that a woman was probably married and held the keys to the house. These were popular in the Anglo Saxon period.

No 3 (Plate 7)

This is a Spearhead found in the doorway of structure (5) in Area 3. The socket has either broken off or been removed, possibly to adapt it for some other purpose. This type of spearhead is common to both the Anglo Saxon and Norse period.

Dating

Charcoal found with artefact No 1 was identified as *Corylus* (Hazel) this was sent to SUERC for C14 dating (Fig 7) and returned a date of AD 760 to AD900 (Ref: GU-25025)

Conclusions

There are many similarities between the archaeological sites in this report and those in previous research at Clapham Bottoms in Clapdale (Batty, 2010). The radiocarbon date from structure (3) Area 3 is identical to the one for Site 1 in the Clapham Bottoms report. Structures from both sites are of rectangular form with similar construction methods being used, but they may not have been used for the same purpose. Further research and surveys at Clapham Bottoms and Long Lane (Batty, 2011) revealed that three of the rectangular structures had circular features built into the gable wall, where as structure (3) in Area 3 does not have this kind of construction form.

The big question is, of which cultural origin were the occupants of these settlements? There is no conclusive evidence, either from artefacts or radiocarbon dating, that the settlements in Clapham Bottoms or Crummack Dale are occupied by people of Norse or Anglo Saxon descent. They may be native British settlements, representing more permanent habitation of the higher land, rather than a more transient pastoral use of the uplands that may have applied in the pre Roman Iron Age. All the dates obtained for rectangular structure in both of these dales are in the period AD 500 to AD 900 which may suggest they are more likely to represent Anglo Saxon **period settlement** if not the Anglo

Saxon culture. Research on the girdle hanger suggests it is may be more representative of the Anglo Saxon period rather than the Norse. Any rectangular structures described here but not radiocarbon dated **cannot** be assumed to be contemporary with those dated in this report. As there are dates for late Iron Age/Pre Roman **rectangular** structures from the local area that are very similar in design and construction, it is important not to assign them all to the Anglo Saxon/Norse period without more conclusive evidence.

Research is continuing into these types of settlements, and several other have been identified within the wider area of our research and will be published in due course.

Bibliography

Batty, A. (2010) *Archaeological Remains in Clapham Bottoms*.

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Batty, A. (2011) *Long Lane Settlement*.

Dunham, K.C., Hemingway, J.E., Versey, H.C. and Wilcockson, W.H. (1953)

A guide to the geology of the district round Ingleborough. Proceedings of the Yorkshire Geological Society. Vol. 29 Part 2 No 6 .

WEB Ref This publication can be accessed at www.ingleborougharchaeology.org.uk

Radiocarbon Dating Reference

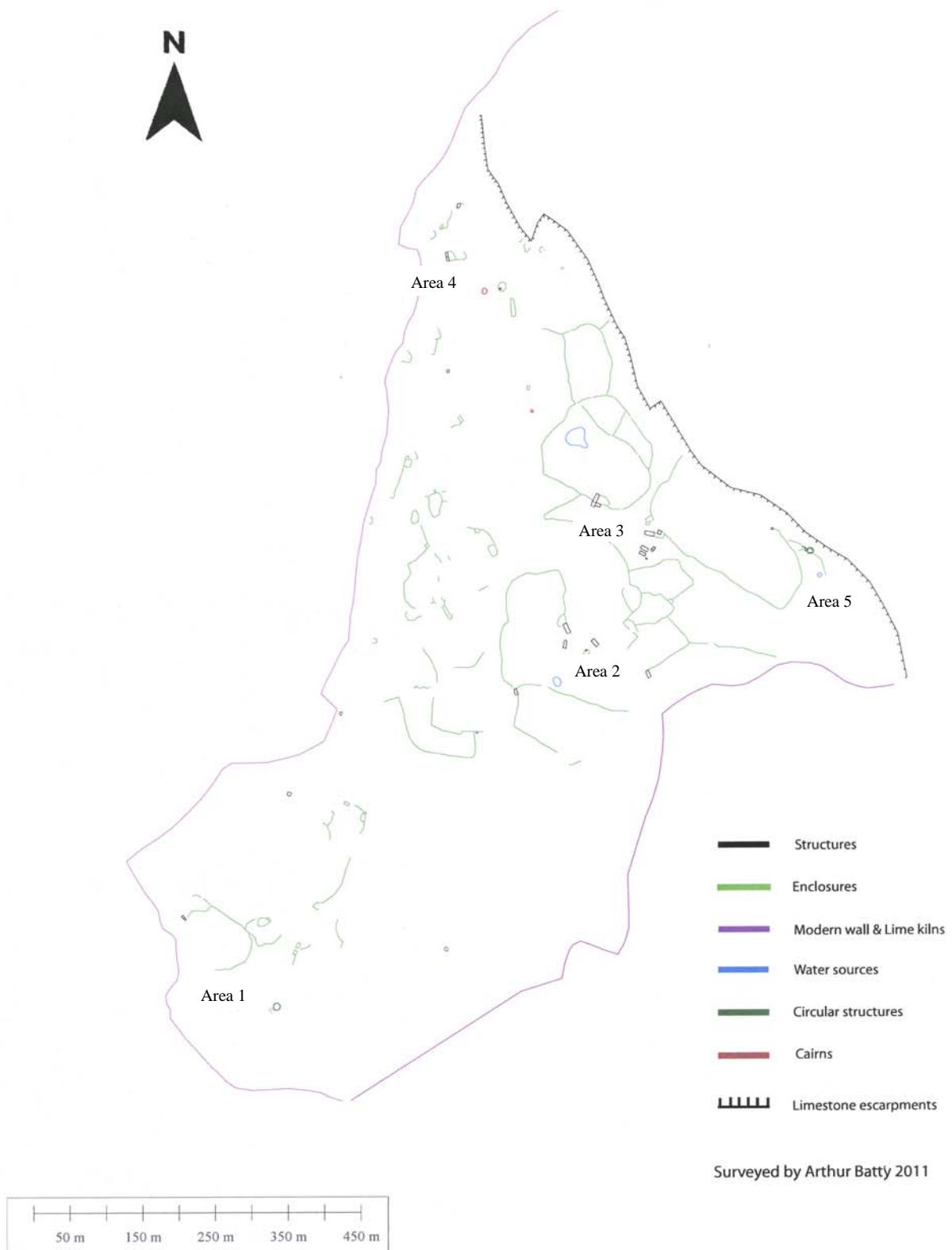
Radiocarbon dating was carried out by SUERC (Scottish Universities Environmental Research Centre).

Their Reference is SUERC-36242 (GU-25025)

Photography

All the aerial photographs were taken by A Batty.

Fig 1 Survey of Archaeological remains in Crummack Dale.



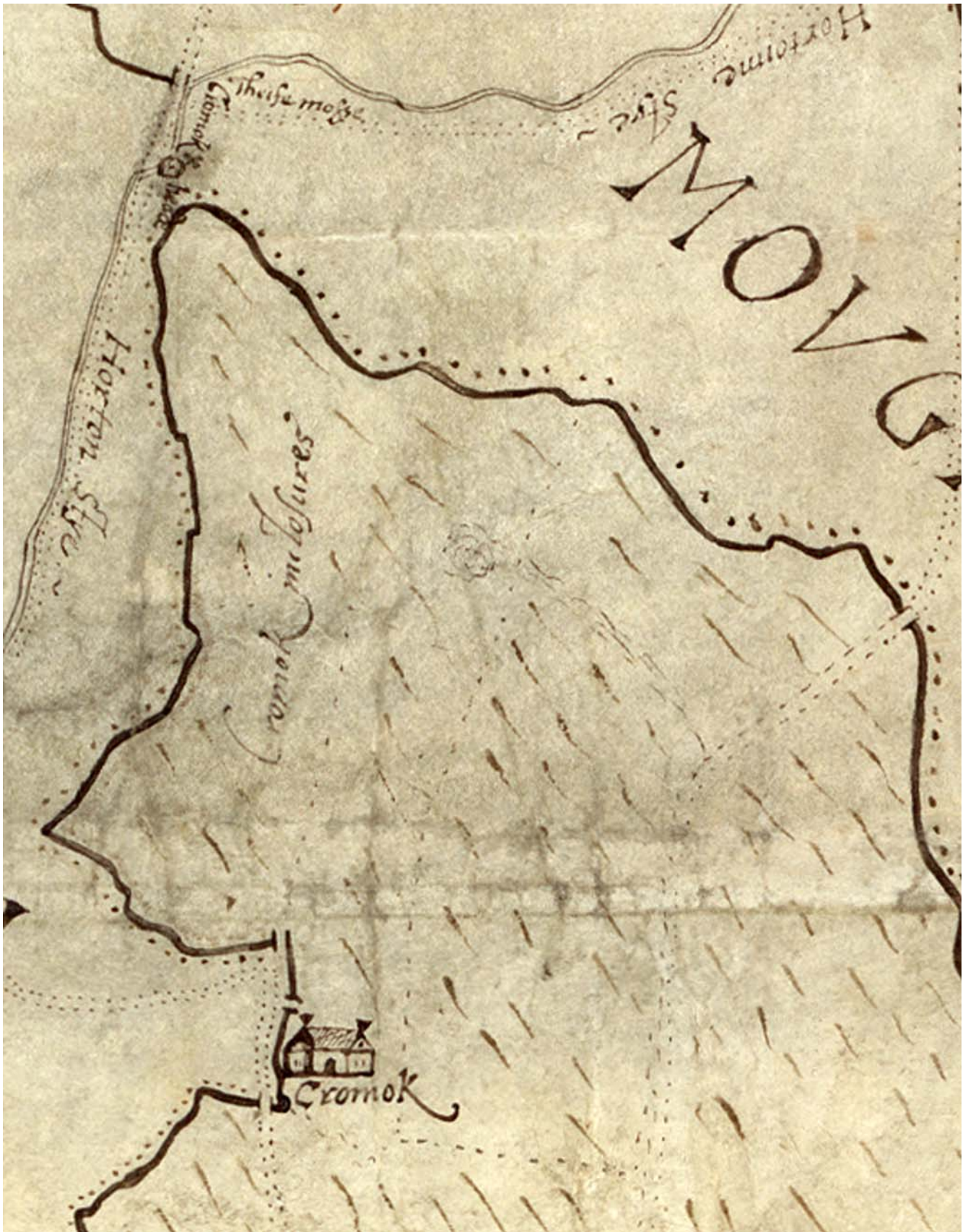


Fig 2: Map of Crummack Dale 1619 Showing location of enclosures.
National Archives MPC1/235, 'Map of Austwick by Richard Newby 1619'.

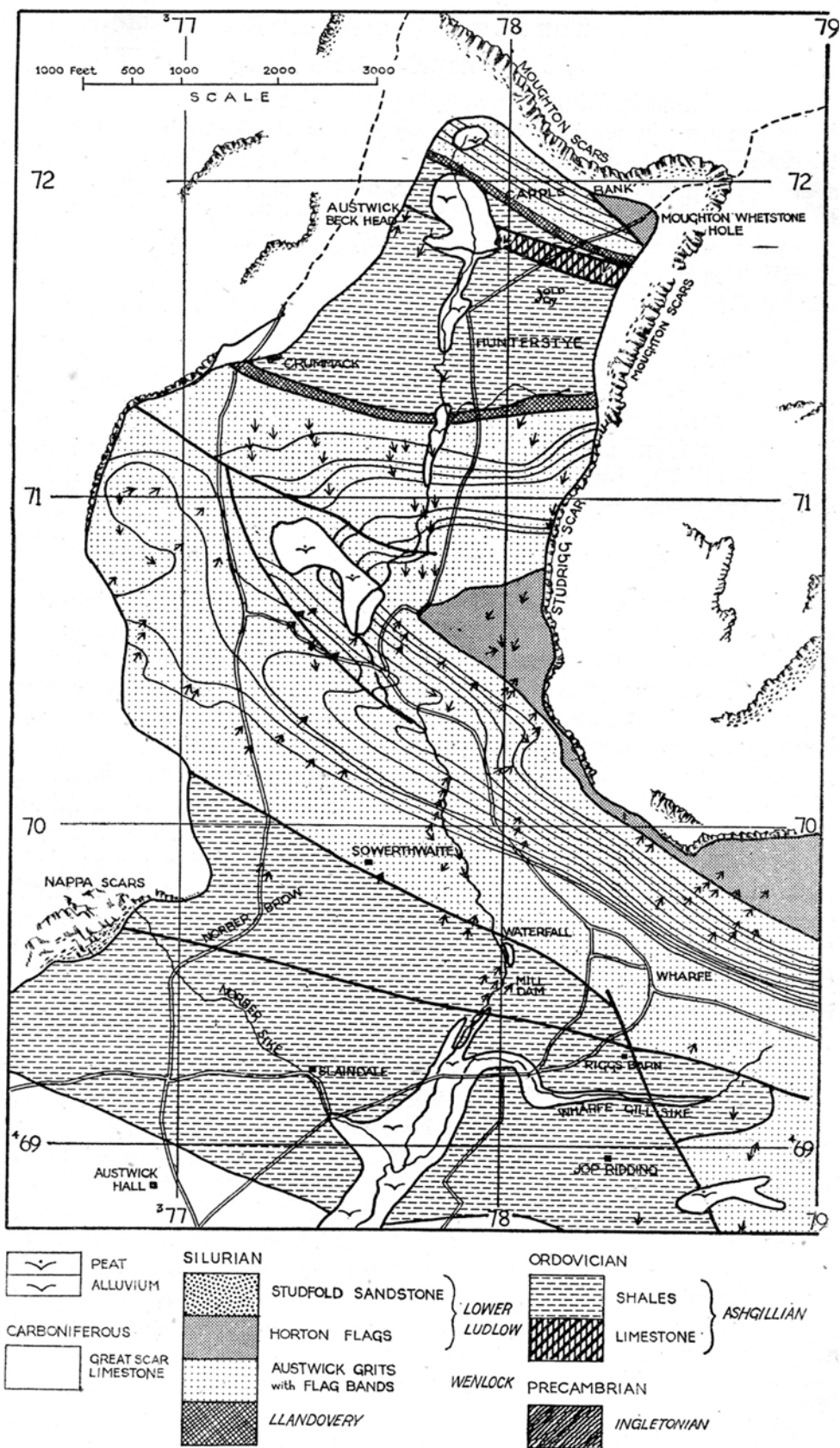
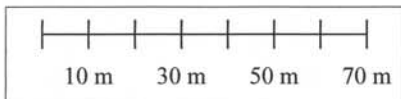
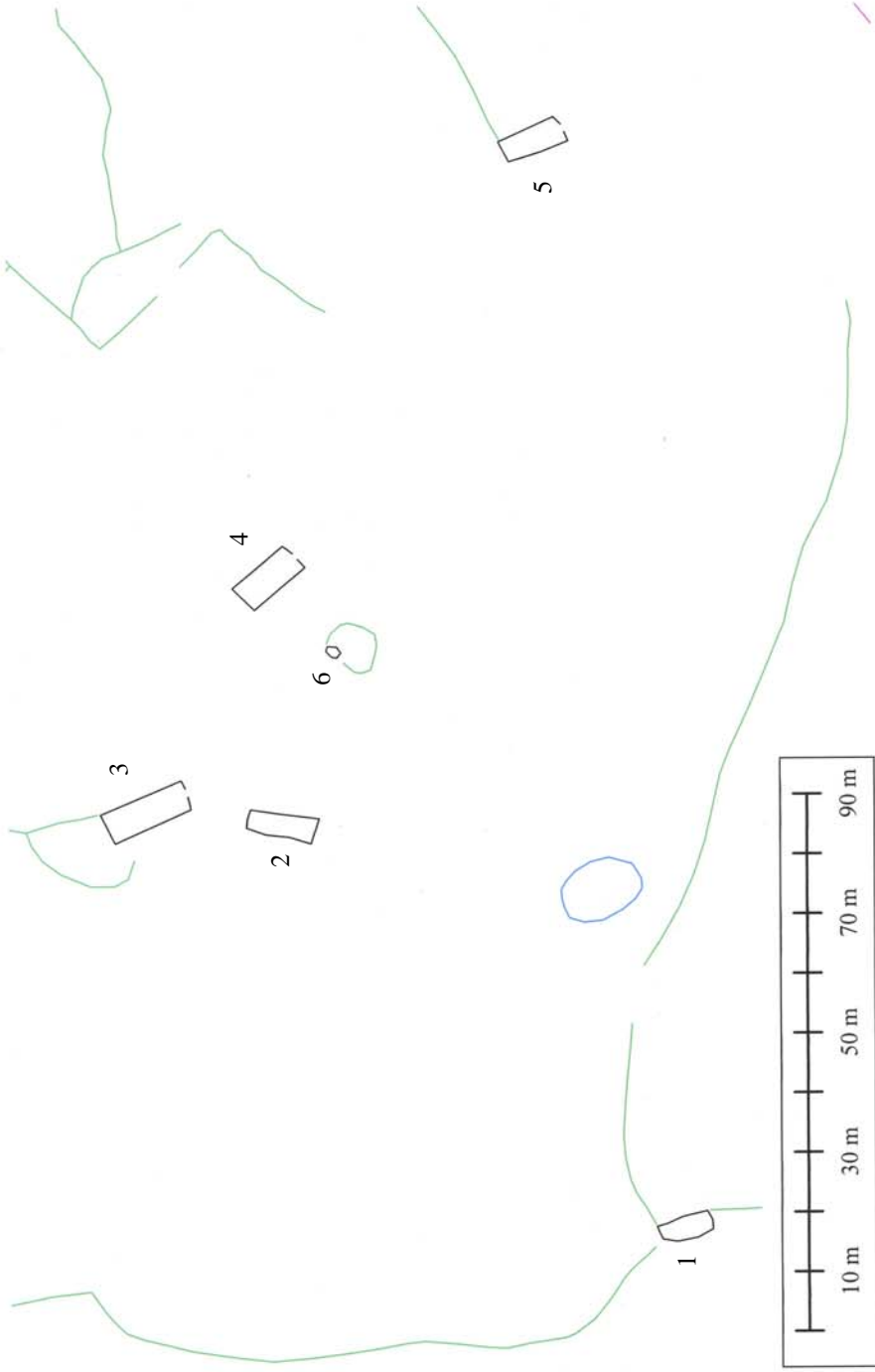


Fig 3 —Geological map of Crummack Dale. Scale 1 : 25000 (about 2½ ins. to 1 mile).

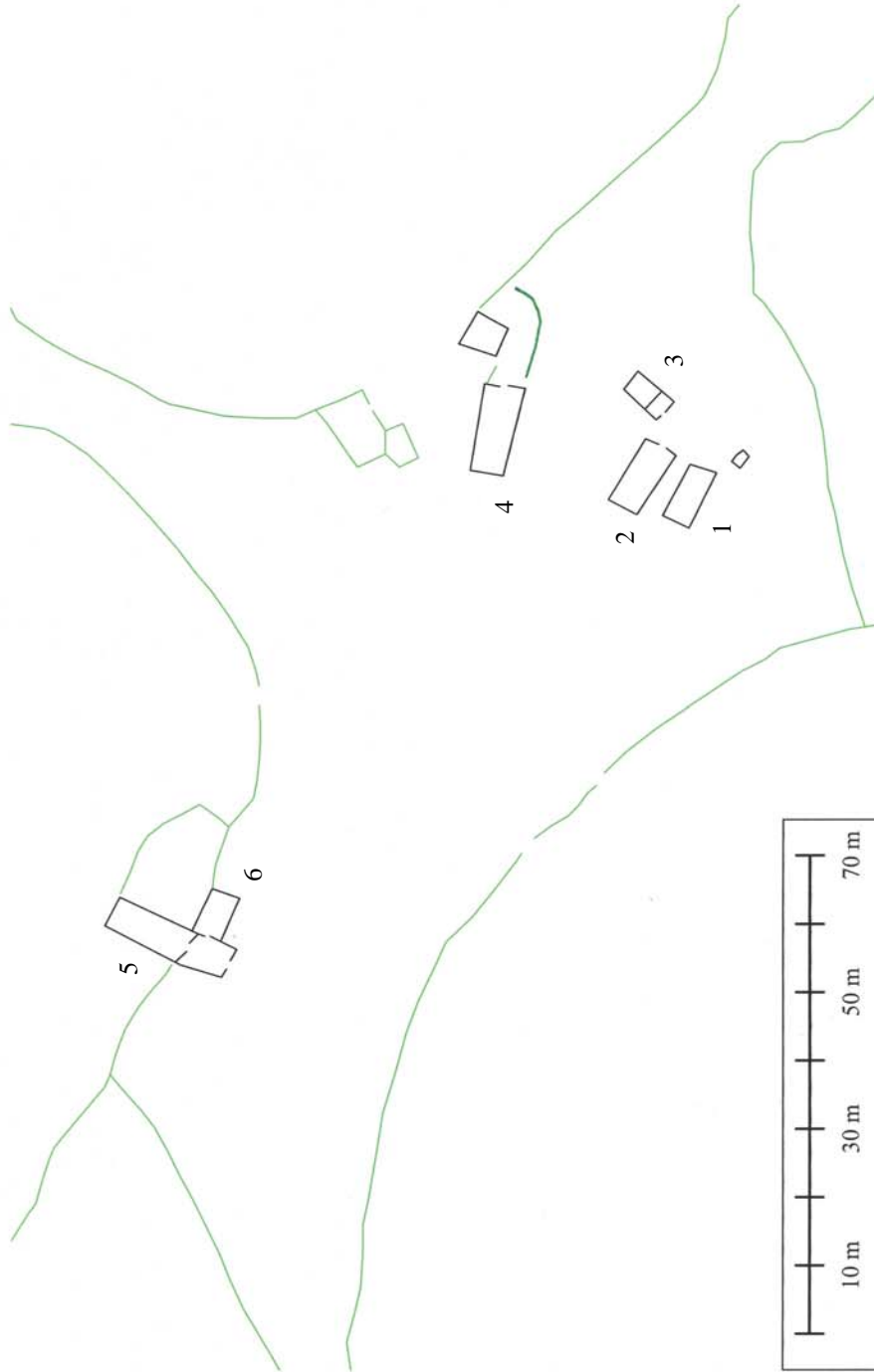
Area No 1



Area No 2

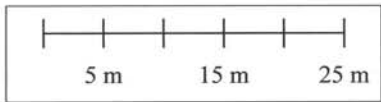
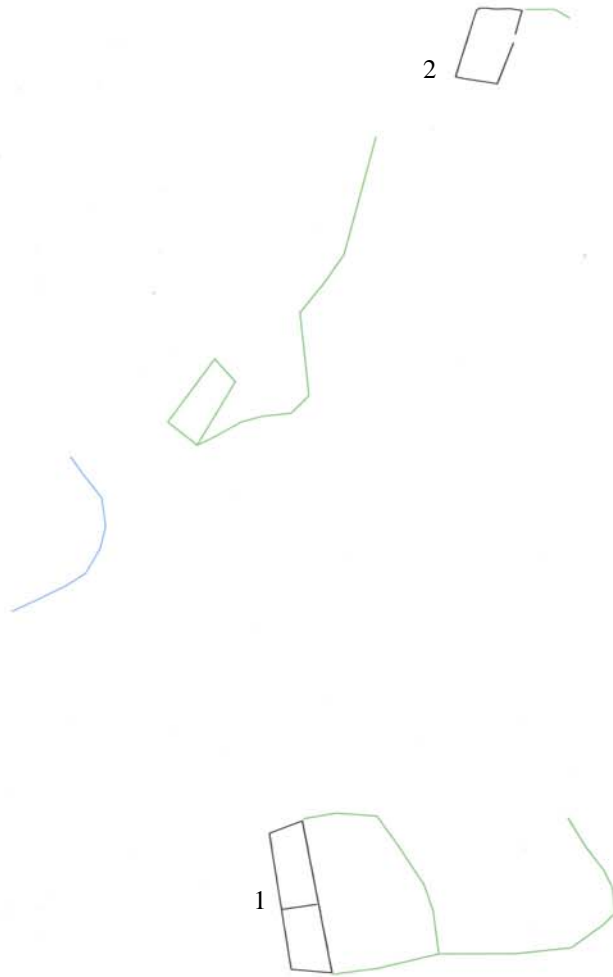


Area No 3





Area No 4



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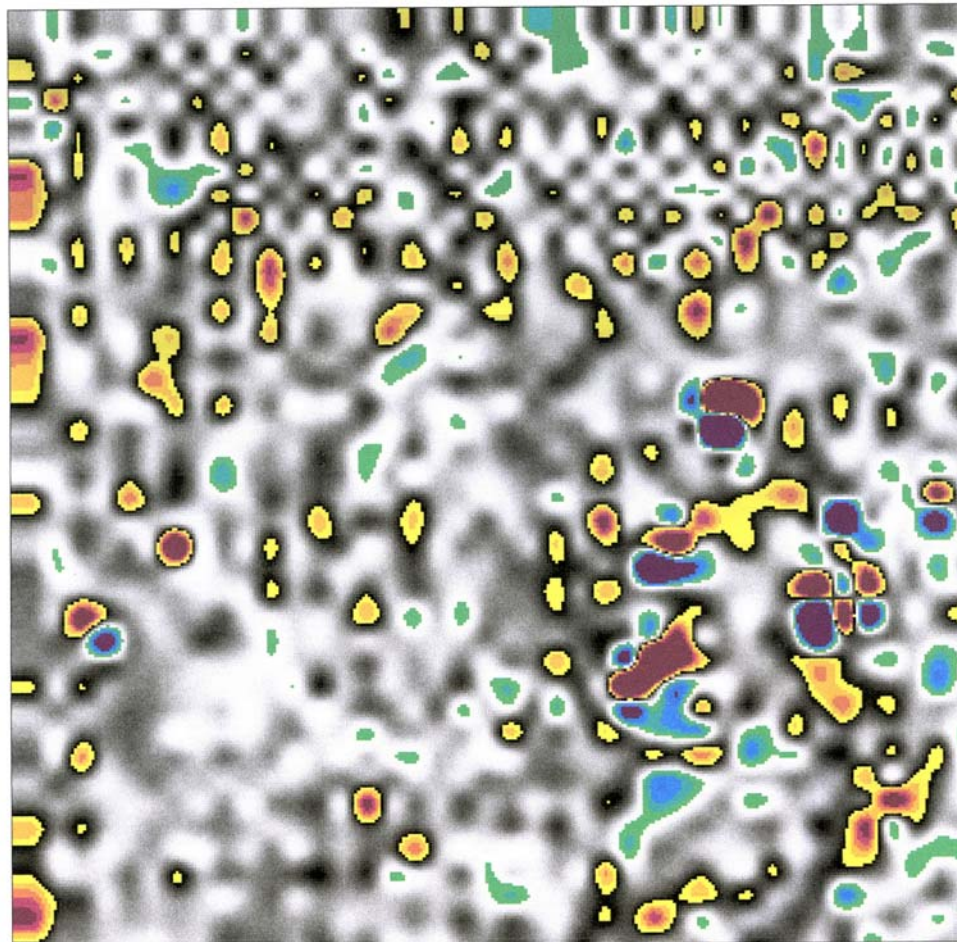
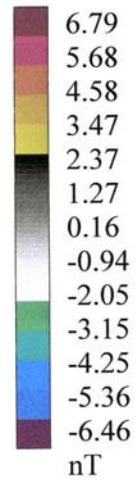


Fig 4: Area 2. 20m x 20m gradiometer survey of structure (4).

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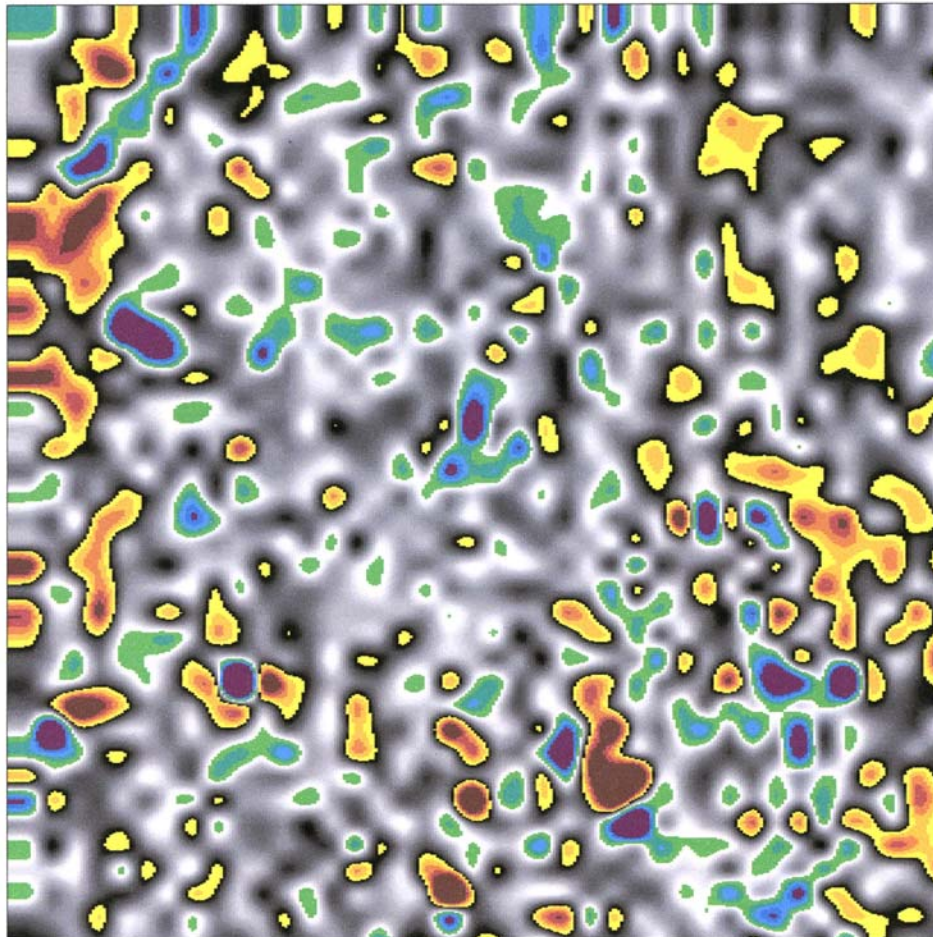
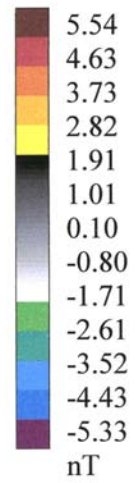


Fig 5: Area 3 . 20m x 20m gradiometer survey of structures (1) and (2).

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Display Parameters

Shade Plot (Clip)

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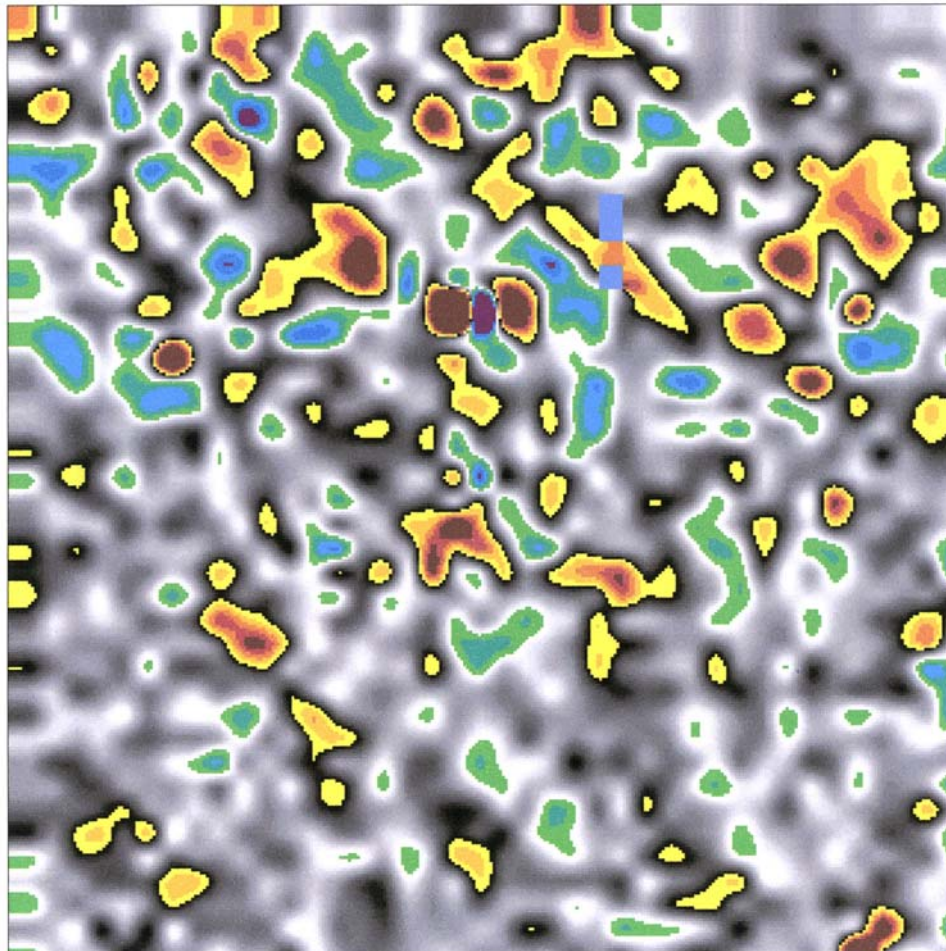
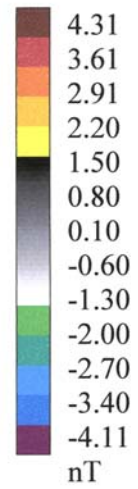


Fig 6: Area 3. 20m x 20m gradiometer survey of structures (5) and (6).



Plate 1: Area 1– structures (2) and (3).

Photograph: A. Batty



Plate 2: Area 2 - structures (2) (3) (4) and (6) *Photograph: A. Batty*



Plate 3: Area 3 - structures (1) (2) (3) and (4). *Photograph: A. Batty*

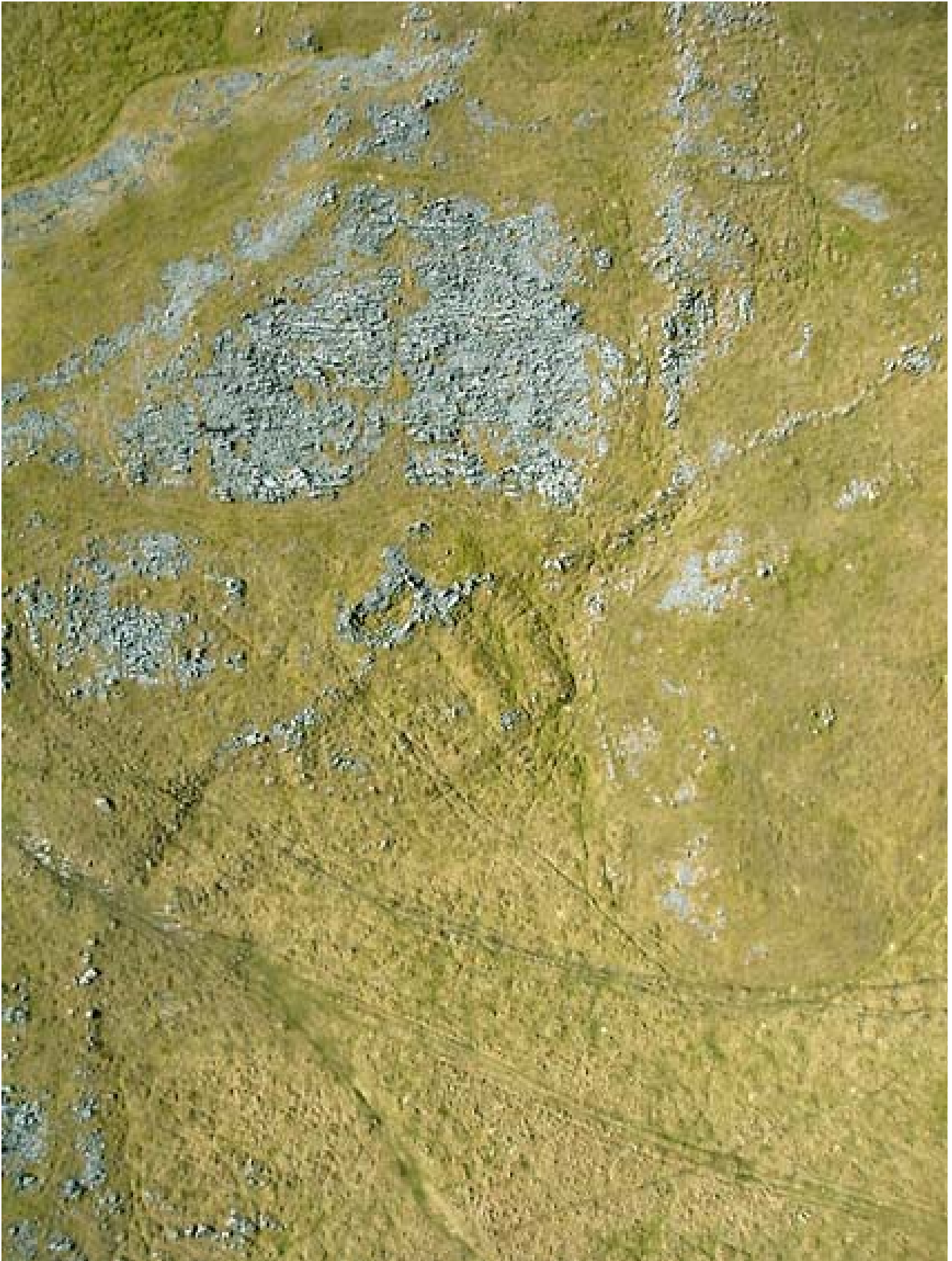


Plate 4: Area 3 - structures (5) and (6). *Photograph: A.Batty*



Plate 5: Socketed Spearhead ? from Area 3 - structure (3).



Plate 6: Girdle Hanger from Area 3 - structure (6).



Plate 7: Spearhead from Area 3 - in doorway of structure (5).

Calibration Plot

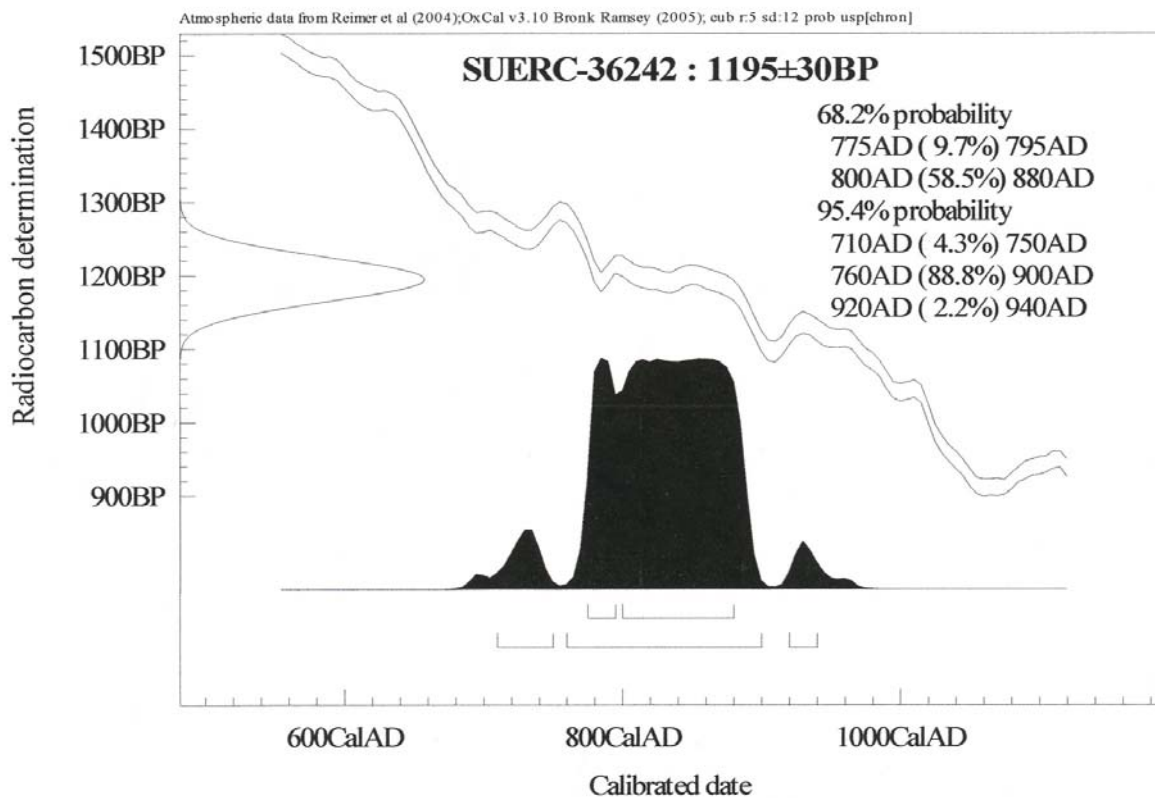


Fig 7: C14 Calibration Plot from charcoal found with spearhead ? Area 3 - structure (3).