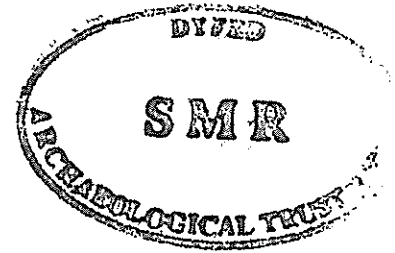


ARCHAEOLEG CAMBRIA ARCHAEOLOGY



01/02/2000

A40 FISHGUARD WESTERN BYPASS

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF, FEBRUARY 2000

Report prepared for Welsh Office Highways Directorate
by Neil Ludlow

Archaeoleg CAMBRIA Archaeology
Shire Hall
8 Carmarthen Street
Llandeilo
SA19 6AF
Tel: (01558) 823121/823131
Fax: (01558) 823133
Email: cambria@acadat.com



ARCHAEOLEG
CAMBRIA
ARCHAEOLOGY

**A40 FISHGUARD WESTERN BYPASS,
PEMBROKESHIRE:
ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF, MARCH 1999
REPORT, FEBRUARY 2000**

Project Record No. 40362

CONTENTS

1.0 INTRODUCTION	3
1.1. Summary	3
1.2. Development proposals and brief	3
 2.0 METHODOLOGIES AND RESULTS	 4
2.1. Site description	4
2.2. Observations	6
 3.0 CONCLUSIONS	 8
 4.0 THE FINDS	 9
 5.0 ARCHIVE DEPOSITION	 9
 6.0 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	 9
 7.0 REFERENCES	 9

FIGURES

Fig. 1	Site location	5
--------	---------------	---

PHOTOGRAPHS

Photo 1	Boundary 1 from the southeast	10
Photo 2	Boundary 2 from the northwest	11
Photo 3	Boundary 7 from the southeast	12
Photo 4	Boundary 11 from the southeast	13
Photo 5	Boundary A from the west	14
Photo 6	Boundary 12a from the northeast	15
Photo 7	Boundary 12b from the southeast	16
Photo 8	Boundary B from the northwest	17
Photo 9	Boundary 14 from the west	18
Photo 10	Boundary 15 from the east	19

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 SUMMARY

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by *Archaeoleg CAMBRIA Archaeology* Field Operations during the groundworks for the construction of the A40(T) Fishguard Western Bypass, in an area south-west of the town of Fishguard. The archaeological impact of the scheme was assessed in 1994 when field boundaries were considered to be affected. The cut sections of 10 boundaries were recorded.

Four main boundary types were represented -

- hedgebanks with regular, coursed rubble facing with an earth core
- hedgebanks with loose rubble facing with an earth core
- earth banks without facing
- loose rubble 'walls' of post-1839 date.

The area lies immediately east of a common, but the boundaries cannot be closely dated. They appear to belong to a period(s) of landscape clearance, and the present pattern of fields and farms was largely in place by 1839.

1.2 DEVELOPMENT PROPOSALS AND BRIEF

Archaeoleg CAMBRIA Archaeology Field Operations were invited by Welsh Office Highways Directorate, in January 1999, to undertake an archaeological watching brief on the groundworks, undertaken by WS Atkins - Wales, for the construction of the A40(T) Fishguard Western Bypass, according to recommendations made by Dyfed Archaeological Trust 1994 *A40 Fishguard Western Bypass: Archaeological Assessment and Preliminary Evaluation of the Preferred Route* (Project Record no. 28279), by K Murphy. Section 2.0 of the report, 'Recommendations for Future work' (p.3), stated:

'The only future archaeological work required is the recording of field boundaries during or immediately following the topsoil strip phase of road construction.'

The cut sections of all field boundaries affected by the scheme were recorded on 16 March 1999.

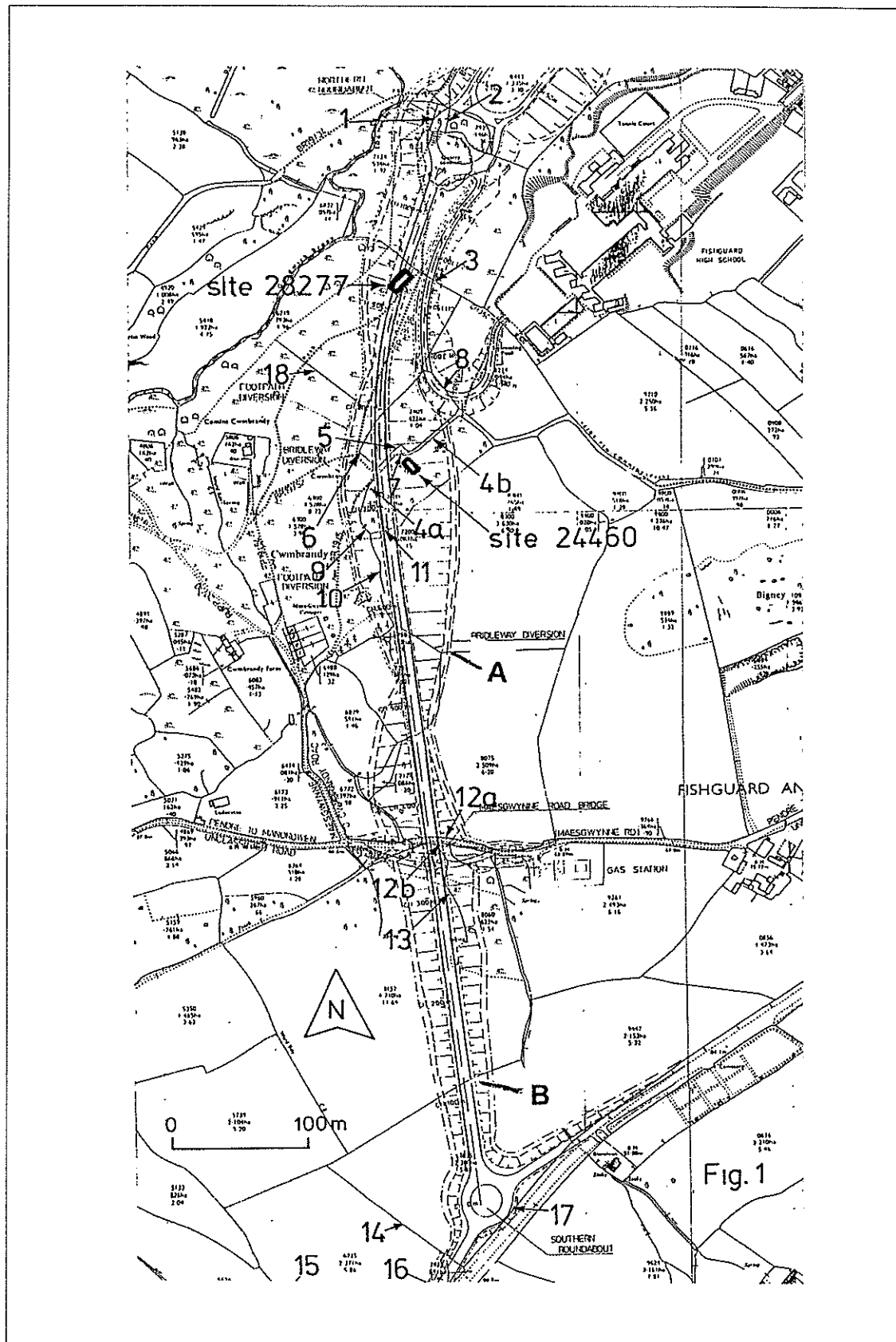
2.0 METHODOLOGIES AND RESULTS

2.1 SITE DESCRIPTION

The area affected by the scheme lies 3.5km south-west of the town of Fishguard, occupying grid squares NGR SM 9436 and SM 9437. The area, which comprises Ordovician shales of the Llandeilo series outcropping within an extruded area of acid lava and tuff but overlain by loamy glacial deposits, generally occupies a north-west facing slope between 5m and 85m OD, east of Cwm Brandy brook which flows northwards, through level marshy ground, to Goodwick Bay.

The history of the site is fully described in Dyfed Archaeological Trust 1994 *A40 Fishguard Western Bypass: Archaeological Assessment and Preliminary Evaluation of the Preferred Route* (Project Record no. 28279), Section 3.0 'Landscape History of Cwm Brandy Common' by Anne Eastham (pp.3-5). The area represents a block of enclosed land east of Cwm Brandy Common, which occupies the marshy ground to the west and is first recorded in the late 18th century but presumably has earlier origins; there were still four rights of pasture, one of estovers and one of turbary in 1994. The study area itself had been enclosed by 1839 when the tithe map of Fishguard parish shows that the present pattern of field boundaries, and scattered farmsteads, was already more-or-less in place. An old quarry at the north end of the area is first recorded on the Ordnance Survey 1:2500 of 1889.

Fig. 1 - Location map



2.2 OBSERVATIONS (FIG. 1; PHOTOS 1-9)

A total of 10 field boundaries were cut by the groundworks associated with the bypass construction scheme. They are among the 18 boundaries described, prior to the works, by Murphy in Dyfed Archaeological Trust 1994 *A40 Fishguard Western Bypass: Archaeological Assessment and Preliminary Evaluation of the Preferred Route* (Project Record no. 28279), Section 4.0 'Characterisation of Field Boundaries affected by the Proposed Road (p. 5), the numbering system within which is followed here (Fig. 1). Murphy's descriptions have been updated and amended in the light of the groundworks evidence, and new descriptions of boundaries not included in Murphy's study have been added, as A, B etc.

1. Forms north-west side of trackway. 1m high, 1.5m wide with roughly coursed, shale facing stones. No evidence of an earth core. Not shown on 1839 tithe map; possibly shown on Ordnance Survey 1:2500 maps of 1889 and 1908 (Photo 1).
2. Forms south-east side of trackway. 1m high, 1.5m wide with shale facing stones in a herringbone pattern laid over an earth core. Not shown on 1839 tithe map; possibly shown on Ordnance Survey 1:2500 maps of 1889 and 1908 (Photo 2).
3. (Not affected)
4. (Not affected)
5. (Not affected, existing gap utilised. Forms north-west side of trackway. Not shown on 1839 tithe map; shown on Ordnance Survey 1:2500 map of 1889. See Photo 3).
6. (Not affected)
7. Forms south-east side of trackway. 1.7m high, 2m wide. Constructed entirely from limestone rubble, loosely laid with a loose soil matrix, some in a herringbone pattern. Contains some very large 'slabs'. Shown on 1839 tithe map (Photo 3).
8. (Not affected)
9. (Not affected)
10. (Not affected)
11. 1.5m high, 2m wide. Constructed from limestone rubble, loosely laid with a loose soil matrix, laid both horizontally and in a herringbone pattern. Shown on 1839 tithe map (Photo 4).
- A. 0.9m high, 1.5m wide. Earth bank with some loose limestone rubble forming a crude facing. Contains some very large 'slabs'. Shown on 1839 tithe map (Photo 5).
- 12a. Forms north side of trackway. 1.2m high, 1.2m wide. Facing of medium limestone rubble, regularly laid in horizontal coursing and perpendicular, with an earth core. Shown on 1839 tithe map (Photo 6).
- 12b. Forms north side of trackway. 1m high, 1.2m wide. Looser limestone rubble facing of medium stones, irregular and sloping, with an earth core. Shown on 1839 tithe map (Photo 7).

- B.** 1m high, 1m wide. Facing of medium limestone rubble, regularly laid in horizontal coursing and almost perpendicular, with an earth core. Shown on 1839 tithe map (Photo 8).
- 13.** (Not affected)
- 14.** 0.7m high, 2m wide. Facing of medium limestone rubble, regularly laid in horizontal coursing and almost perpendicular, with an earth and loose stone core. Shown on 1839 tithe map (Photo 9).
- 15.** 1.5m high, 3m wide . Earth bank with some loose limestone rubble forming a crude facing. Shown on 1839 tithe map (Photo 10).

Some boundaries contain very large rubble 'slabs' which are now recumbent. These are most conspicuous in boundary **7** and boundary **A**.

3.0 CONCLUSIONS

With the exception of boundaries 1, 2 and 5, the field boundaries are all depicted on the tithe map of Fishguard parish, 1839, when the present pattern of enclosures and small farms had by-and-large been established.

However, the boundaries cannot be otherwise dated. They occupy an area immediately bordering the east side of Cwm Brandy Common, which may have medieval origins, but there is no reason to suppose that the common formerly extended into the study area - the common was in fact probably always coterminous with the marshy ground either side of Cwm Brandy Brook. However, this does not necessarily imply that the study area was enclosed at an early date.

Three main constructional methods are represented, in addition to the rubble 'walls' of post-1839 date -

- hedgebanks with regular, coursed rubble facing with an earth core
- hedgebanks with loose rubble facing with an earth core
- earth banks without facing

The three types may belong to at least three different periods.

The second and third types both can contain large rubble 'slabs'. The size and nature of these slabs suggest that they may belong to an initial period of landscape clearance, when glacial boulders were collected from the landscape and piled either into clearance cairns or banks, as a preliminary to agriculture. The main period of landscape clearance in the British Isles is generally ascribed to the Bronze Age (c.2500 - 800 BC), and indeed field systems from the prehistoric period have been recorded on the St Davids peninsula nearby (Murphy forthcoming). However, field clearance could occur at any subsequent date, particularly in regions which primarily operated a pastoral economy. Common grazing in southwest Wales is still undertaken in areas that retain glacial boulders, for example Felindre Sawdde common near Llangadog, Carmarthenshire (Murphy and Ludlow 2000), while many 18th-19th century farm buildings in north Pembrokeshire are constructed from weathered rubble presumably derived from clearance.

In summary, the boundaries may largely belong to a period or periods of landscape clearance, which had been undertaken prior to 1839 but cannot be securely dated.

4.0 THE FINDS

No artefactual material was encountered during the watching brief.

5.0 ARCHIVE DEPOSITION

The archive, which will be indexed according to the National Monuments Record (NMR) material categories, is held by Dyfed Archaeological Trust, Llandeilo, and contains the following:-

- A. Copy of the final report and disk
- B. Field notes
- C. Copies of planning specifications
- G. List of references
- J. Final drawings
- L. General administrative notes
- M. Project correspondence

There is no material for classes D, E, F, H, I, K and N.

6.0 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The fieldwork and reporting were undertaken by Neil Ludlow, of *Archaeoleg CAMBRIA Archaeology*. Acknowledgements to Tony Dillon and Lyn Williams of WS Atkins - Wales.

7.0 REFERENCES

National Library of Wales, Ordnance Survey 1:2500, First and Second Editions, Pembs Sheet IX.3, 1889 and 1908

National Library of Wales, parish of Fishguard, tithe map and apportionment, 1839

Murphy, K, 1994 *A40 Fishguard Western Bypass: Archaeological Assessment and Preliminary Evaluation of the Preferred Route* (unpublished client report by Dyfed Archaeological Trust)

Murphy, K, forthcoming *A Prehistoric Field System and Related Monuments on St Davids Head and Carn Llidi, Pembrokeshire*

Murphy, K and Ludlow, N, 2000 *The Cadw Historic Landscape Characterisation Project: Carmarthenshire* (unpublished client report by *Archaeoleg CAMBRIA Archaeology*)

Photo 1 Boundary 1 from the southeast

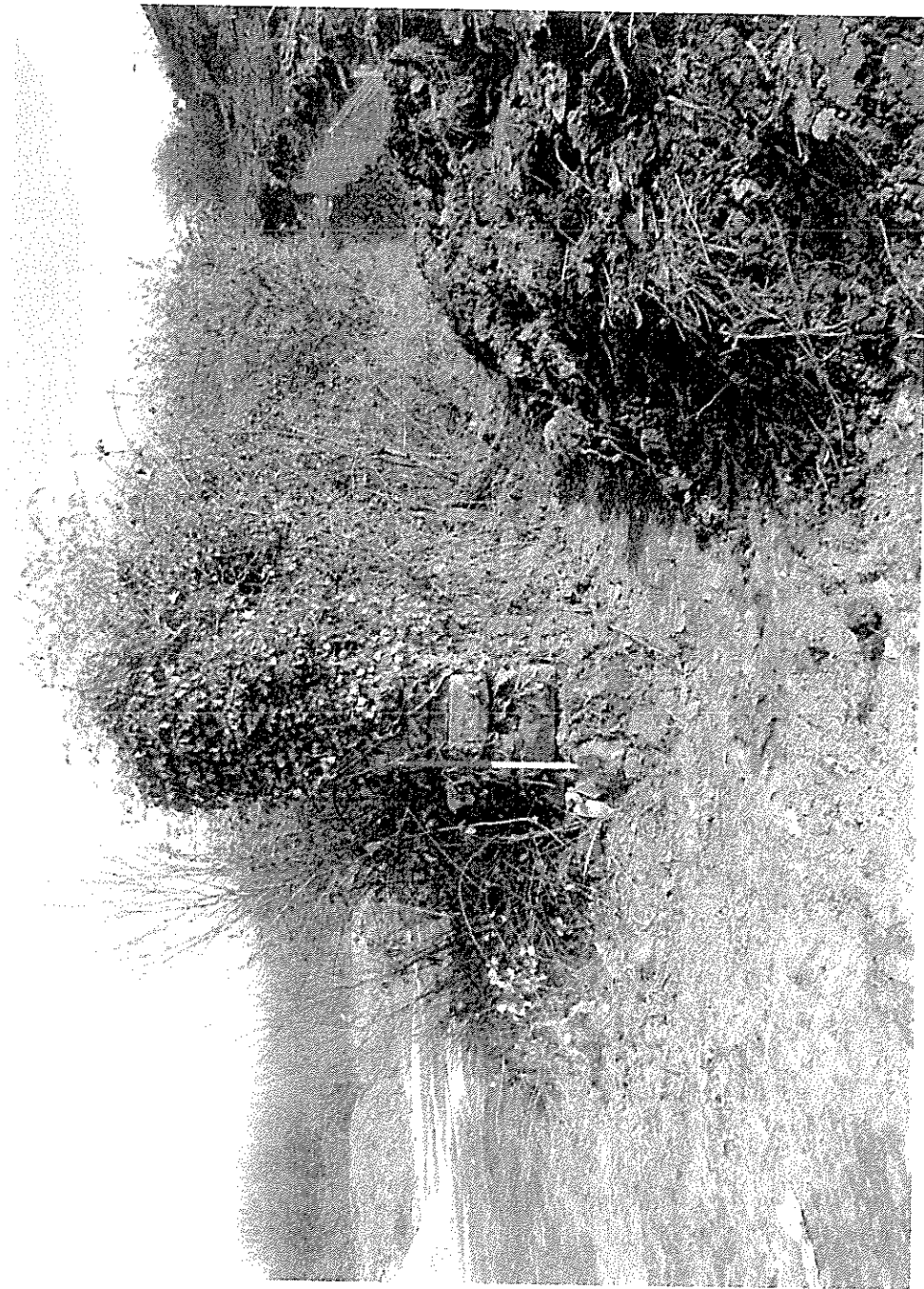


Photo 2 *Boundary 2 from the northwest*



Photo 3 *Boundary 7 from the southeast*



Photo 4 Boundary 11 from the southeast



Photo 5 Boundary A from the west



Photo 6 Boundary 12a from the northeast



Photo 7 *Boundary 12b from the southeast*



Photo 8 *Boundary B from the northwest*



Photo 9 Boundary 14 from the west

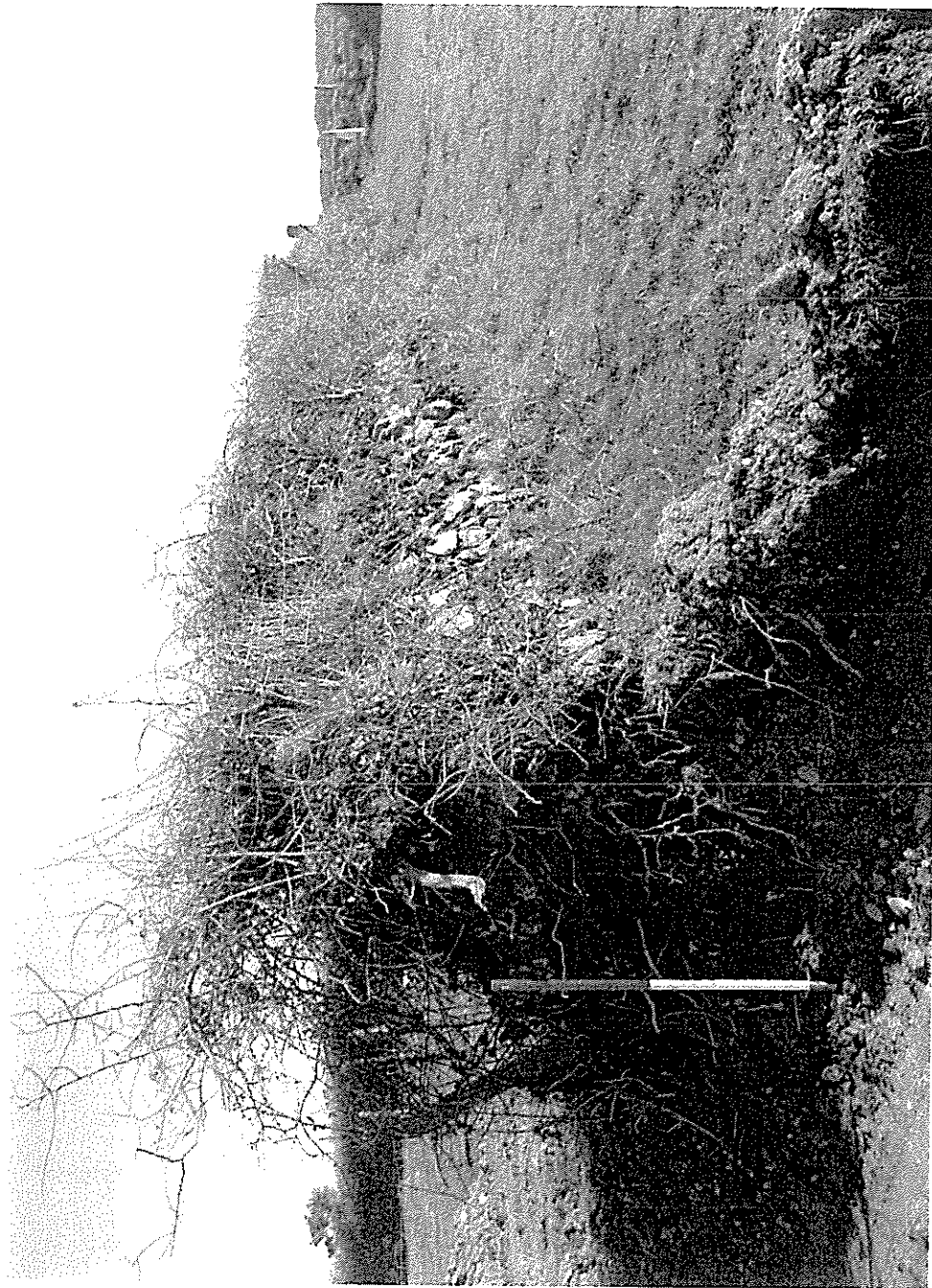


Photo 10 Boundary 15 from the east



1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28
29
30
31
32
33
34
35
36
37
38
39
40
41
42
43
44
45
46
47
48
49
50
51
52
53
54
55
56
57
58
59
60
61
62
63
64
65
66
67
68
69
70
71
72
73
74
75
76
77
78
79
80
81
82
83
84
85
86
87
88
89
90
91
92
93
94
95
96
97
98
99
100