CORRANURE LANDFILL

1.0 INTRODUCTION

The site for the proposed landfill is located along the Cavan to Cootehill Road (R188 Regional Road) approximately 3 kilometres North-East of Cavan Town. The general character of the site is drumlin country in agricultural use and the extension site itself being pastureland.

The proposed extension is directly to the North-West of the existing landfill site. The site is bounded to the South by R188 Regional Road, to the East by a lane giving access to existing farm buildings and to the North and West by a series of hedgerows and small clumps of woodland. To the North-West of the existing landfill site there is a stream, which fed the now disappeared Lismagratty Lough.

1.1 TOPOGRAPHY

The subject site slopes from the boundary at the R188 at a height of between 112 and 113m O.D. upwards to the ridge of the reinstated landfill form at a highest point of over 127m O. D. From this point the land slopes down in a northwest direction to the low point of the reinstated land form at a height of 113m O.D. The land to the north-west of this point is currently in operation and with varying heights, with the highest point at present being to the west of the site at a height of 118m O.D. To the north-west of this land is the future area to be filled with a high point at the south-east of 118m O.D. falling to a low point of 104m O.D. in the north-west (Fig 1).

1.2 SLOPE REGIME

Slope angles vary from between 1 in 5 and 1 in 10 at the steeper end of the scale, to an angle of between 1 in 10 and 1 in 50 on the shallower slopes. (Fig. 2) The site morphology indicates large areas of steeper slopes in the southern portion of the subject, adjacent to the existing landfill operation on the reinstated landfill area.

1.3 EXISTING VEGETATION

The existing vegetation consists of hedgerows and small clumps of woodland, the predominant species being Hawthorn *(Crataegus monogyna),* Bramble *(Rubus fruiticosa),* Gorse *(Ulex europaeus),* and with some Ash *(Fraxinus excelsior)* and Holly *(Ilex aquifolium).*

There is a hedgerow along the boundary at the R188 Regional Road which consists of Alder *(Alnus glutinosa)* (Fig. 3). The main ground-cover over the site is rough grassland.

1.4 LAND USE

The existing remediated landfill is located immediately to the South of the subject site; with a pocket of associated buildings adjacent to the South-East corner. Three single-family dwellings are located on land to the South-East of the site, as part of a farmhouse cluster.

The predominant land use surrounding the site is one of agricultural pastureland. There are isolated farmhouses scattered around the landscape, the only other land use being the existing landfill (Fig. 4).

1.5 VISUAL ANALYSIS

The landscape locally is visually-dominated by the existing landfill and its associated buildings (Fig. 5 & 8; Plates 1& 2). It is situated in the middle of agricultural pastureland with a haphazard field pattern enclosed by hedgerows and small clumps of woodland. Areas of steep slopes are confined to the existing landfill site and the Southern end of the subject site. Views into the site are confined to the R188 Regional Road and to the laneway giving access to the existing farm buildings (Fig. 5). There are also views into the site from isolated housing units surrounding the site located to the west, the east and south-east of the site (Fig. 8).

1.6 IMPACT AND MITIGATION

The requirement to further increase the capacity of the Corranure Landfill Site will have an insignificant and neutral impact on the landscape. The existing landfill site will remain at its present height of approximately 127.95 m O.D. The proposed further extension to the North will be raised to a height of approximately 128.5m O.D., so it will be partially obscured by the existing landfill.

Primary mitigation of the Corranure Landfill Site will be achieved by virtue of the scale of the visual catchment area within which the site is located. The scale and sweep of the landscape will absorb the mass of the proposed landfill into its natural fabric. Therefore there will little visual change in terms of the perceived mass of the landfill when viewed from a distance (Fig. 6).

Visual mitigation of the short term views into the site will be mitigated by:

a. by virtue of the proposed level of the landfill site being at the same height as the existing thus being obscured from view from the South of the site, from the R188.

b. through the configuration and grading of the proposed landfill volume to create a form in the landscape that will be visually compatible with the surrounding landscape by mimicking a natural weathered landform.

c. through the selection and planting of the appropriate vegetation cover utilizing a combination of scrub woodland and wild grasses which will further visually reduce the apparent mass of volume in the landscape.

d. Mitigation will also be by the implementation of appropriate site management in keeping the site tidy and dust to a minimum.

The planting of the mound with a natural pattern of scrub woodland will further serve to mitigate the apparent mass in the landscape. It is intended that the utilization of a scrub woodland mix of Hawthorn, Alder, Beech, Oak and Blackthorn will create a stable and visually - appropriate plant community on the flanks of the mound. The remaining areas of mounding will be covered by an appropriate mix of wild grasses and wildflowers as a low ground cover and visual foil to the scrub-woodland. The matrix from which these plant communities will be grown will consist of 100mm topsoil, overlying 300 - 400m imported subsoil, which will allow for the development of an adequate root zone for the proposed plant material (Fig. 7).

1.7 DEFINITIONS

The structure used for assessing the landscape impact of the development is based on draft guidelines prepared by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). In the case of both impact on character and visual impact the following scale is used to assess effect.

The degree of impact is described as-**Imperceptible** *An impact capable of measurement but without noticeable consequences.*

Slight

An impact which causes changes in the character of the environment which are not significant or profound.

Significant

An impact which, by its magnitude, duration or intensity alters an important aspect of the environment.

Profound
An impact which obliterates all previous characteristics.

The nature of the impact may be described as:

Neutral
Represents a change which does not affect the quality of the environment.

Positive
Represents a change which improves the quality of the environment.

Negative
Represents a change which reduces the quality of the existing environment.

The period of impact is described as-**Temporary Impact** *Impact lasting for one year or less.*

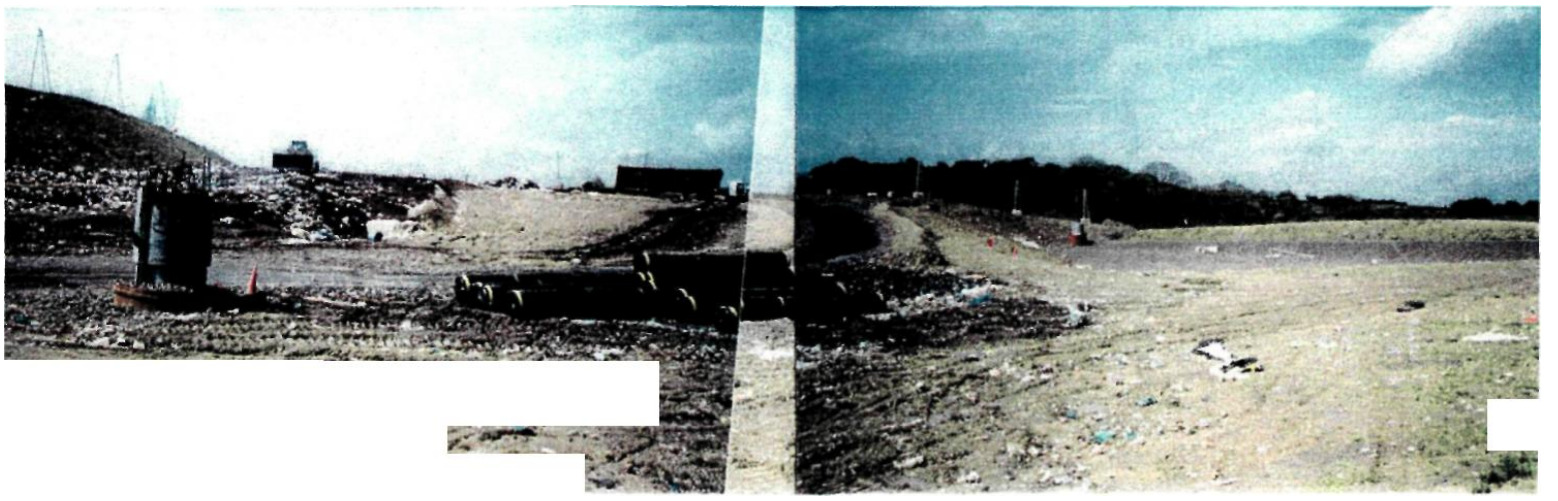
Short Term Impact
Impact lasting for one to seven years

Medium Term Impact
Impact lasting for seven to twenty years.
Long Term Impact
Impact lasting twenty to fifty years

View 1 - from Rl 88 Regional Road looking north west into site

View 2 - from access road to east of site looking west

View 3 - from looking north into site from northern end of existing landfill



View 4 - from looking north-west towards site from south-eastern end of existing Jandfii!

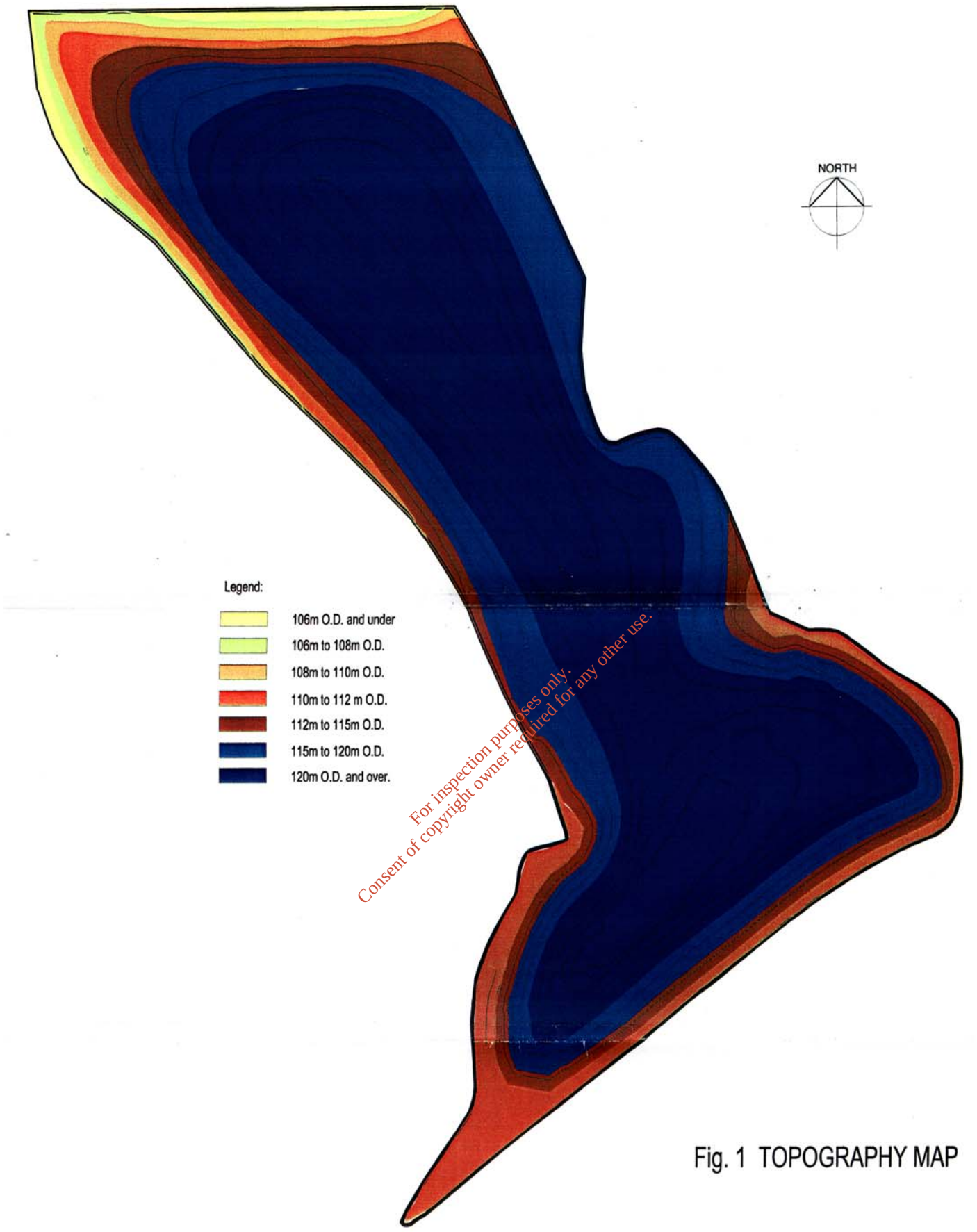


Fig. 1 TOPOGRAPHY MAP

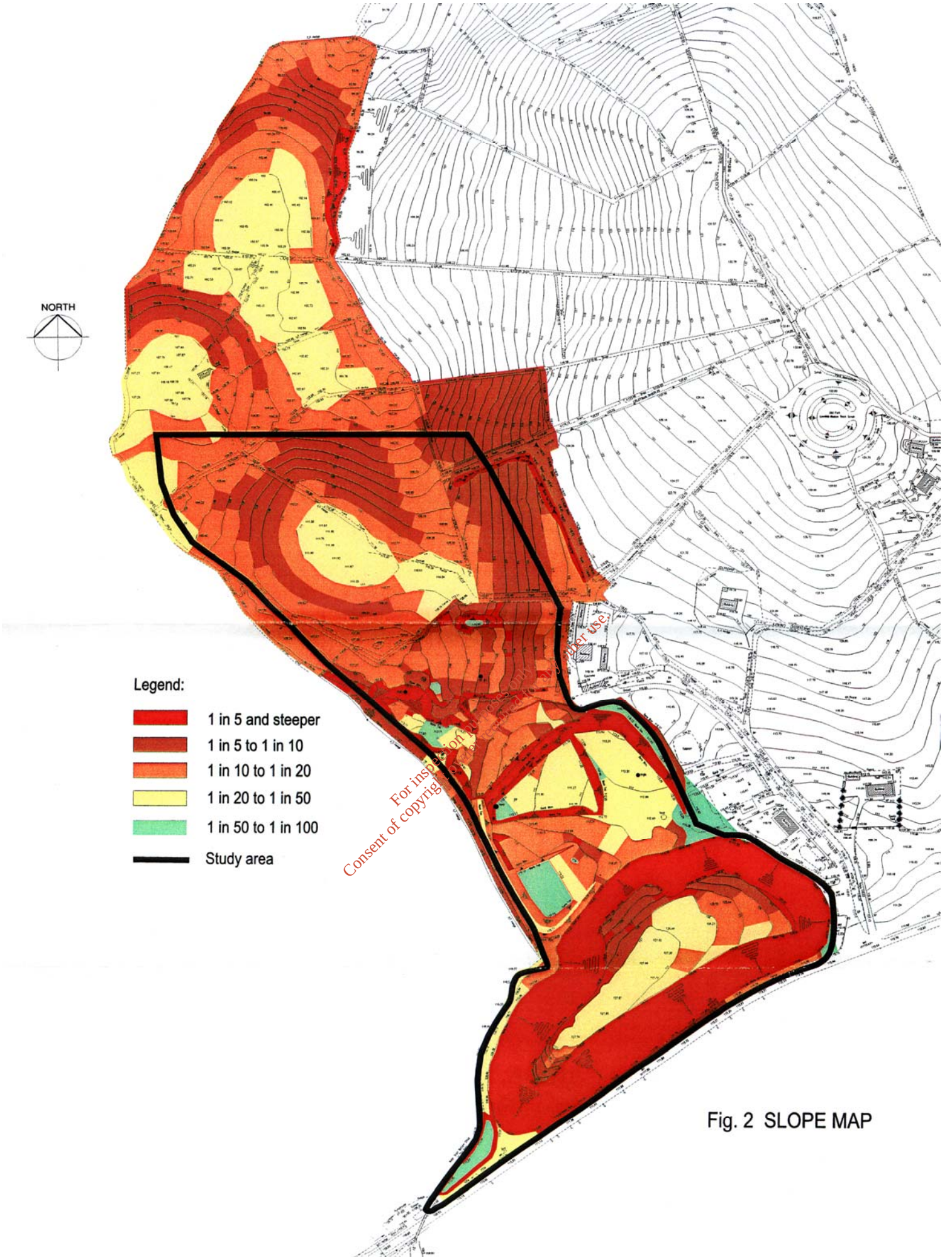


Fig. 2 SLOPE MAP

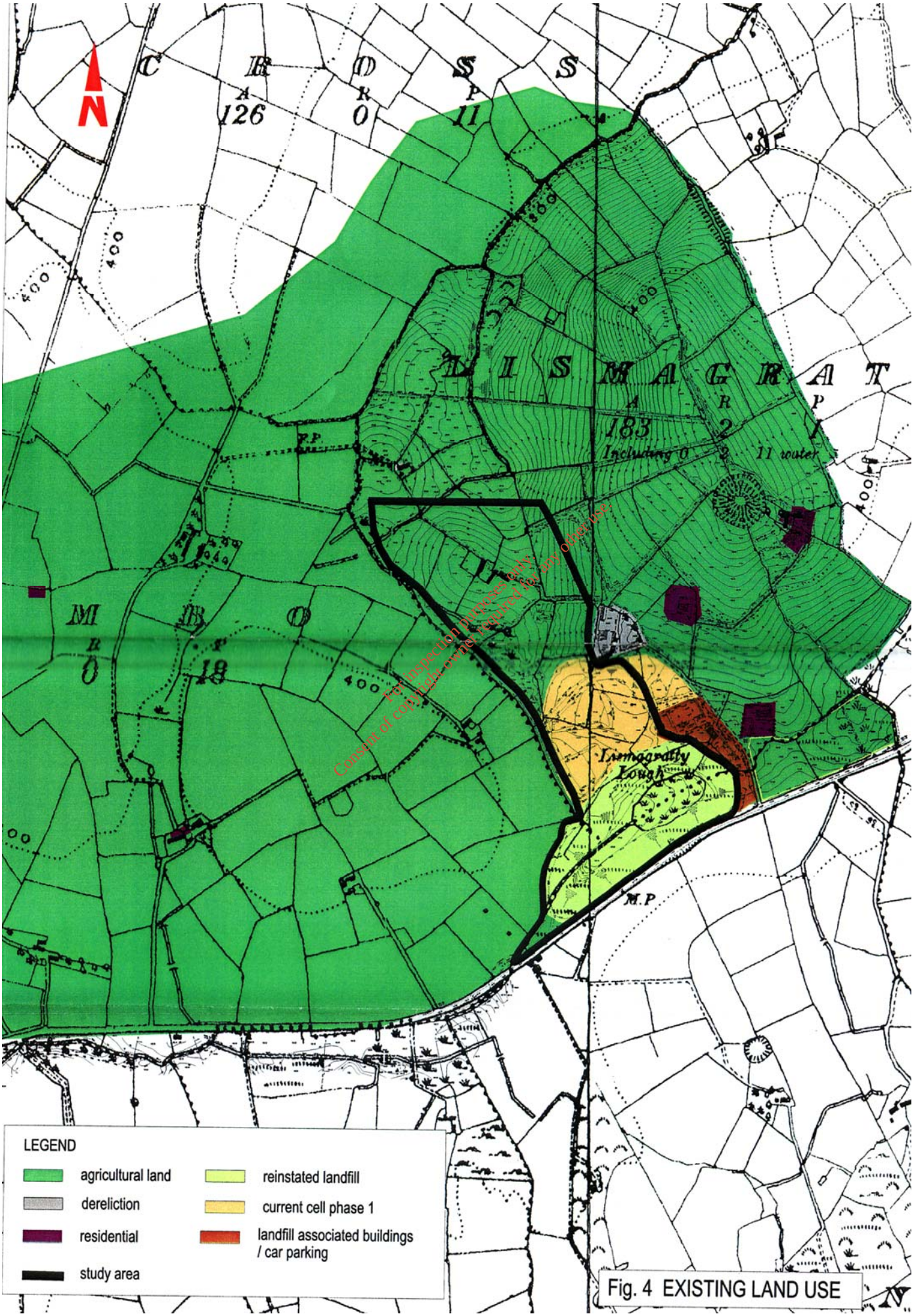
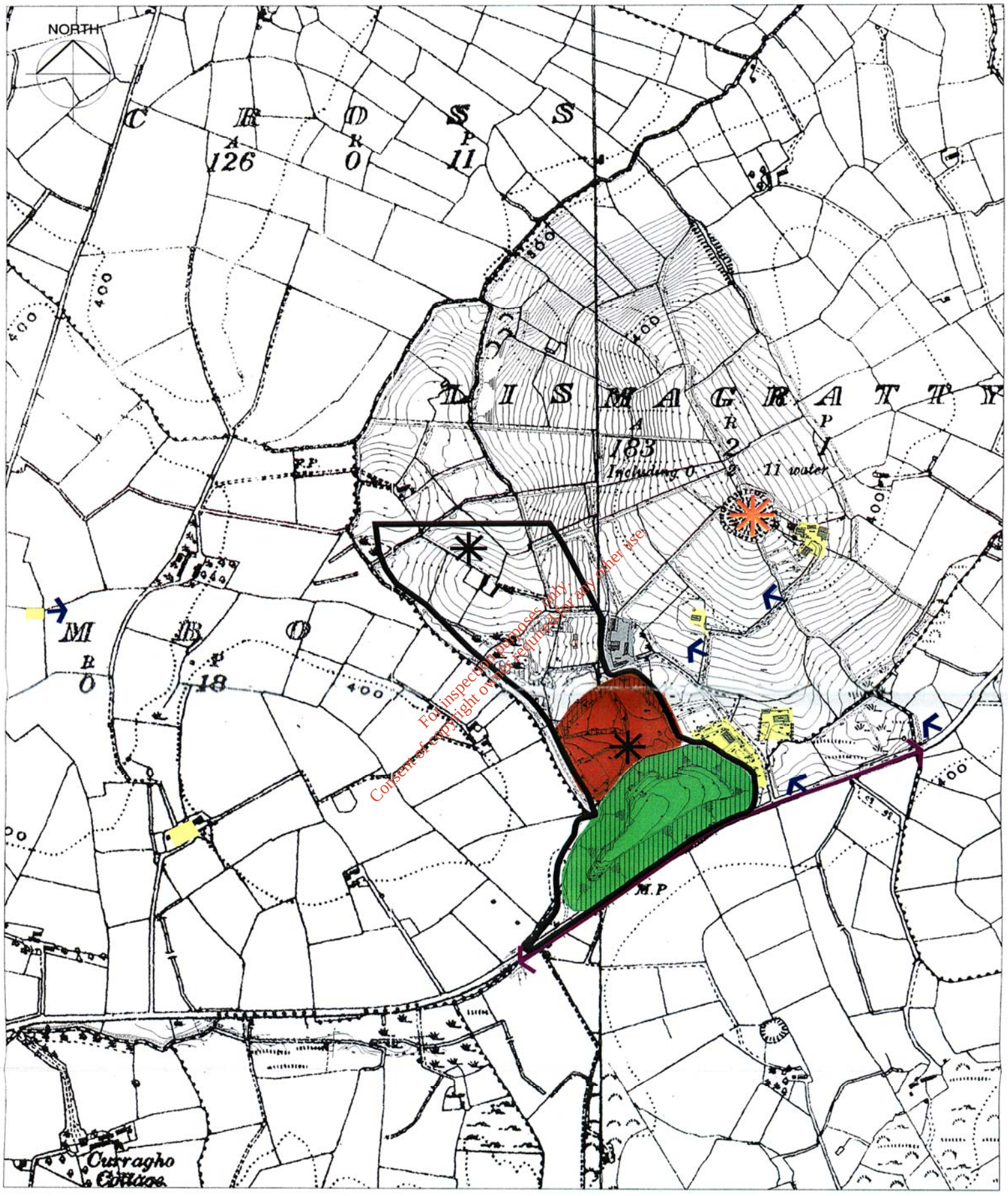


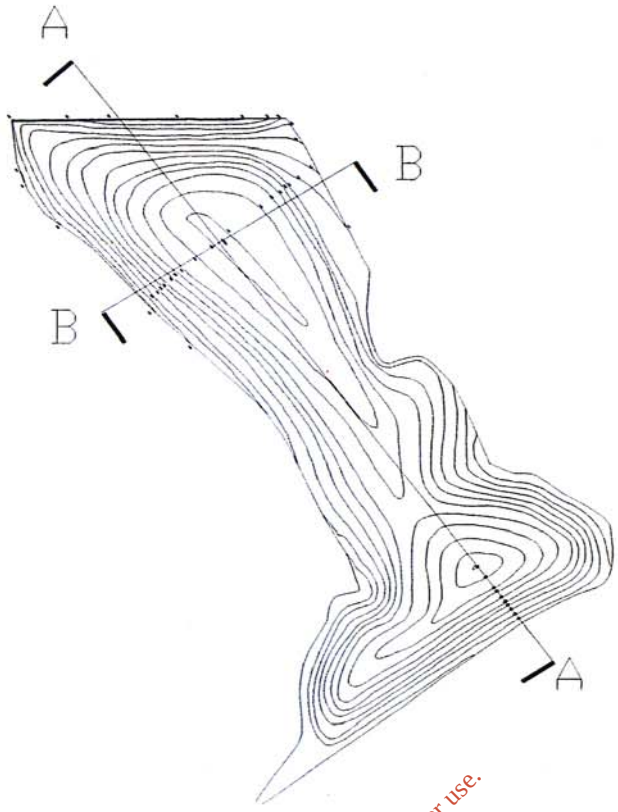
Fig. 4 EXISTING LAND USE



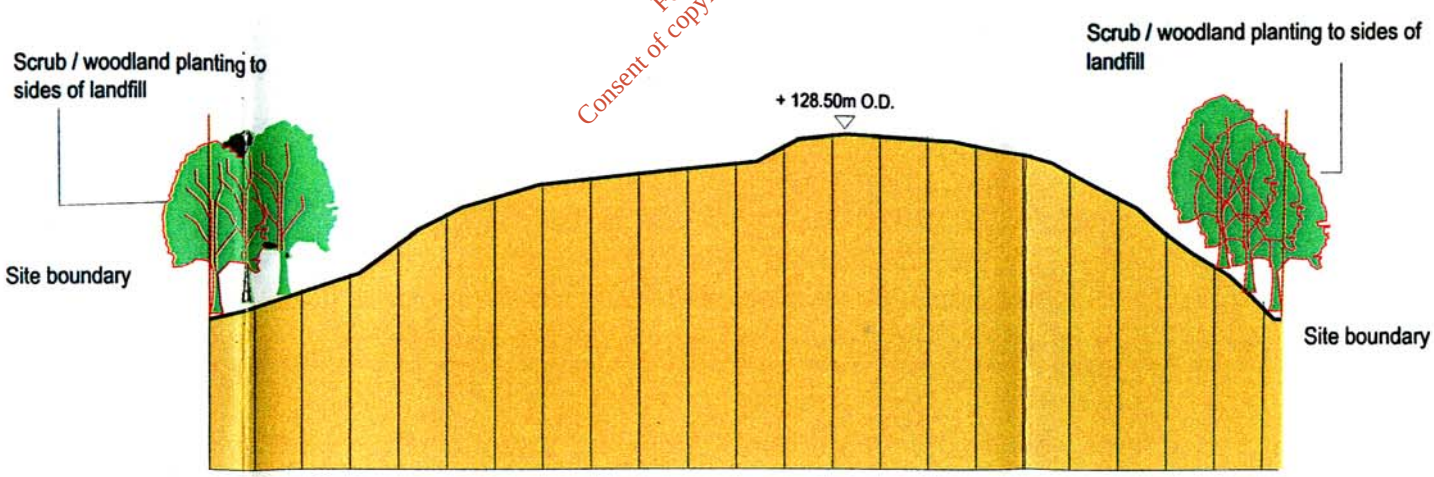
Legend:

- archaeological feature
- study area
- development
- vehicular movement
- disturbed ground
- high points
- visual buffer
- dereliction
- views in
- steep slopes

Fig. 5 VISUAL ANALYSIS

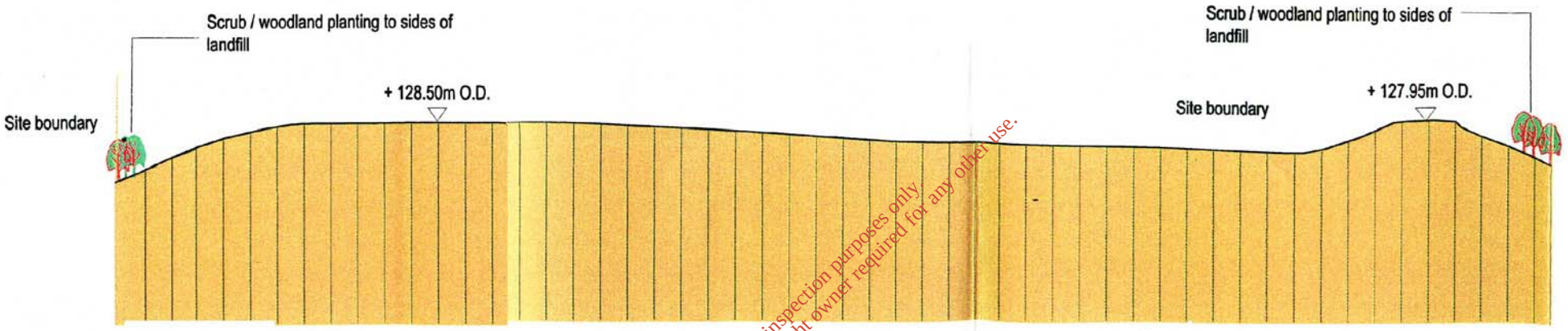


KEY PLAN



Section B - B

Note:
Levels shown before compaction



Section A - A

Fig. 6 SITE TRANSECTS

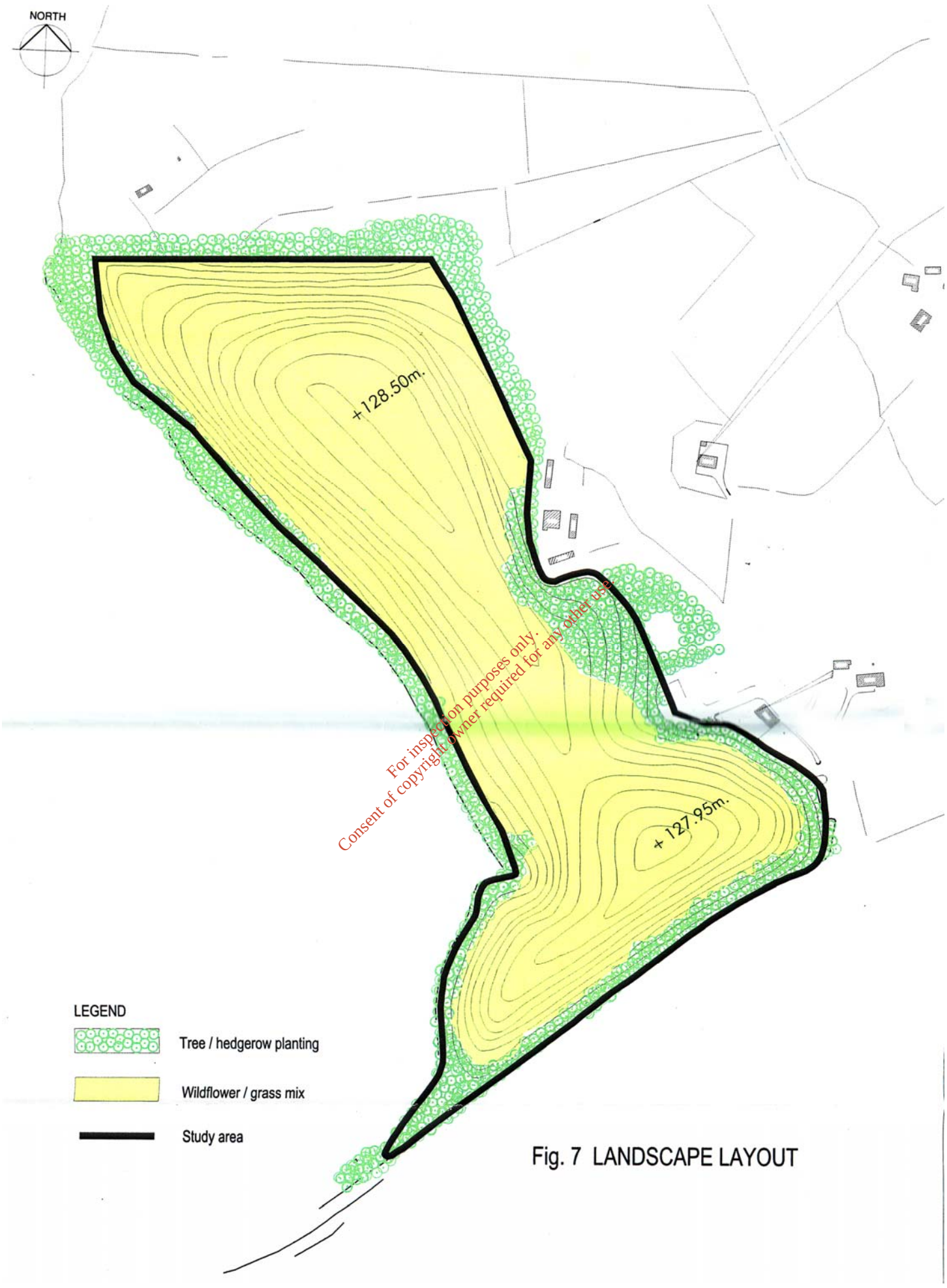


Fig. 7 LANDSCAPE LAYOUT

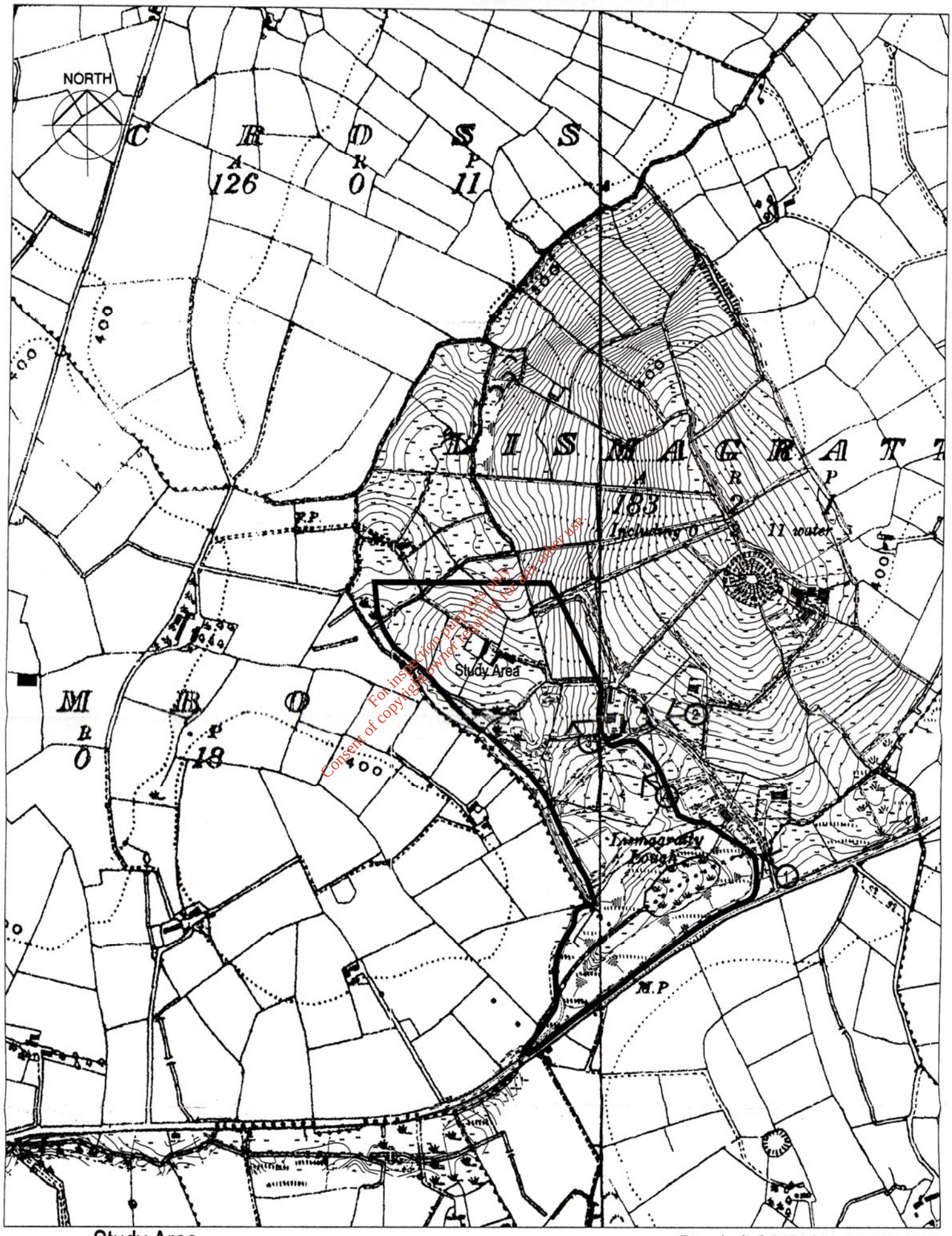
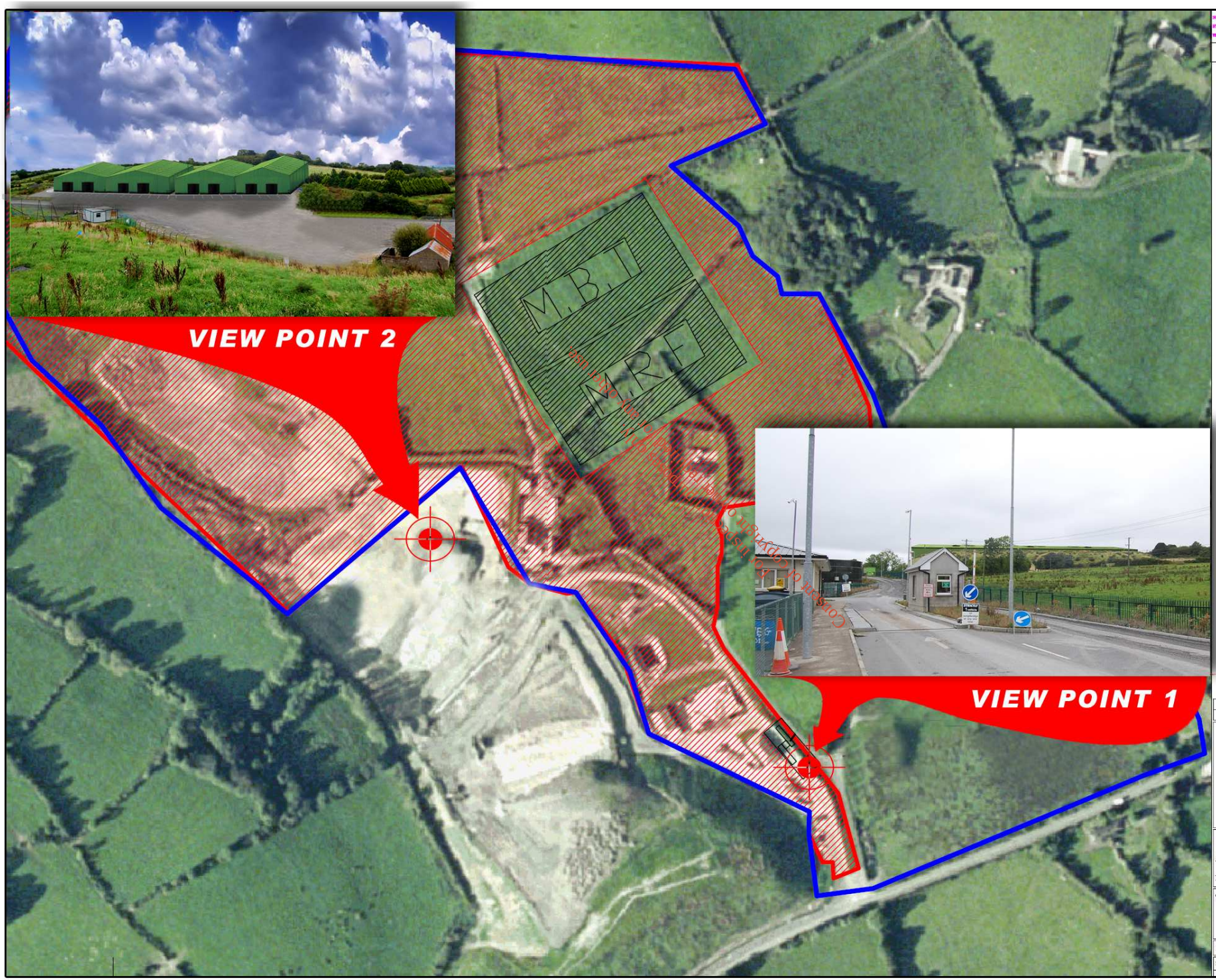


Fig. 8 POSITION OF VIEWS



NO DIMENSIONS TO BE SCALED FROM THIS DRAWING : ALL DIMENSIONS TO BE CHECKED BY THE CONTRACTOR ON SITE : ANY ERRORS OR DISCREPANCIES TO BE REPORTED TO THE ARCHITECT IN CHARGE.

NOTES

EPA LICENCE LAYOUT

OWNERSHIP OUTLINE

Oxigen

OXIGEN ENVIRONMENTAL LIMITED.

CORRANURE LANDFILL

AT CORRANURE, CO. CAVAN

FOR OXIGEN ENVIRONMENTAL

TITLE VIEW POINTS FOR PHOTOMONTAGE

DRAWN F.S	CHK. J.H	APP. P.W
SCALE 1:1000 @A1	NO. 16	
DATE SEPT. 08		