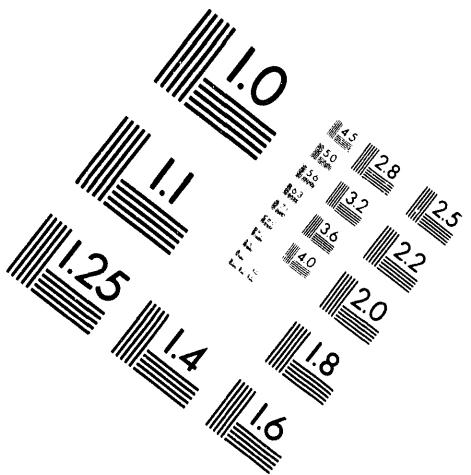




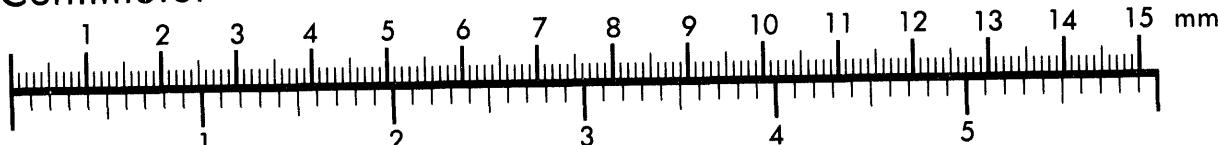
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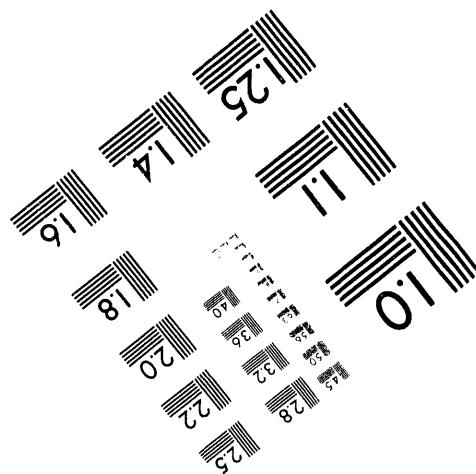
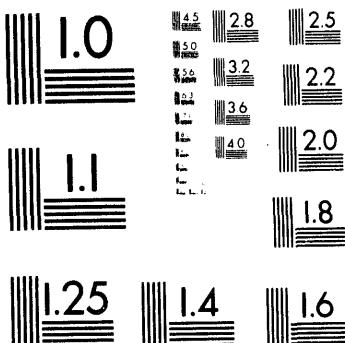
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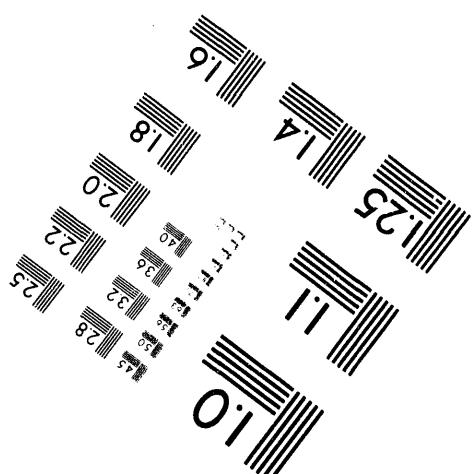
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<b>AUG 30 1994</b> <b>11</b> <b>ENGINEERING DATA TRANSMITTAL</b>						Page 1 of 1 <b>1. EDT</b> <b>606909</b>					
<b>2. To: (Receiving Organization)</b> <b>Distribution</b>		<b>3. From: (Originating Organization)</b> <b>86940</b>		<b>4. Related EDT No.:</b> <b>N/A</b>							
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1/2	1	Cog. Eng.	J.P. Kiesler	8/4/94	H6-06	Central Files	(2)			L8-04	3
1/2	1	Cog. Mgr.	J.W. Fassett	8/4/94	H6-06	EDMC	(2)			H6-06	3
		QA				Geophysics Files				H6-06	3
		Safety				K.E. Smith				G6-47	3
		Env.				D.R. Duncan				H5-31	3
						D.C. Derosa				H5-31	3
						OSTI (2)				L8-07	
<b>18.</b> J.P. Kiesler <i>JPK</i> Signature of EDT Originator			<b>19.</b> Date			<b>20.</b> J.W. Fassett <i>J.W. Fassett 8/4/94</i> Cognizant Manager			<b>21. DOE APPROVAL (if required)</b> Ctrl. No. <input type="checkbox"/> Approved <input type="checkbox"/> Approved w/comments <input type="checkbox"/> Disapproved w/comments		
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- I. Summary - Integrated Interpretation.
- II. EMI Contour Map.

## 1.0 INTRODUCTION

This report contains the results of a geophysical investigation conducted to characterize Trench 4, located in Burial Ground 218-W-4C, 200 West Area (Figure 1). Trench 4, one of 25 trenches in the 200 Area, is where transuranic (TRU) waste is stored. TRU waste was generated by the national defense programs and was stored in a form that is retrievable pending decisions on its permanent disposal. The work described in this report will be used in the Phase I, Definitive Design, of Project W113, Solid Waste Retrieval Facility.

## 2.0 OBJECTIVES

The primary objective of the geophysical investigations was to determine the outer edges of the trench/modules and select locations for plate load-bearing tests. The test locations are to be 5 to 8 ft beyond the edges of the trench. Secondary objectives include differentiating between the different types of waste containers within a given trench, determining the amount of soil cover over the waste containers, and to locate the module boundaries. Ground-penetrating radar (GPR) and electromagnetic induction (EMI) were the methods selected for this investigation.

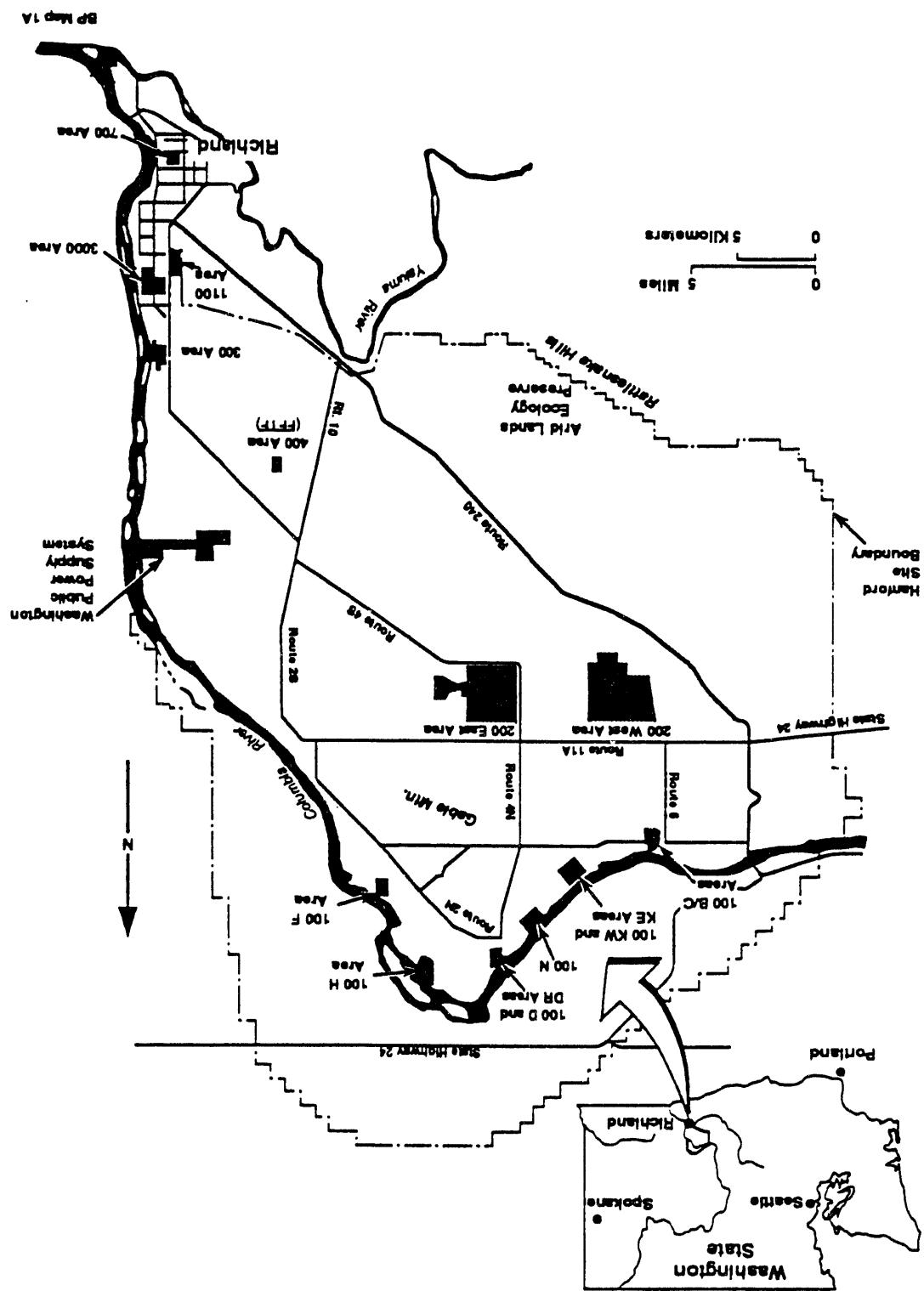
## 3.0 METHODOLOGY

### 3.1 GROUND-PENETRATING RADAR METHODOLOGY

The GPR system used for this work utilized a 300-megahertz (MHz) transducer. The transducer transmits electromagnetic energy into the ground. Buried objects such as pipes, barrels, foundations, and buried wires can cause all, or a portion, of the transmitted energy to be reflected back towards a receiving antenna. Geologic features such as crossbedding, caliche horizons, paleosols, and clays can also cause reflections of the transmitted energy. The reflected energy provides the means for mapping the subsurface features of interest, whether man-made or geologic.

The maximum depth of investigation varies from site to site and is a function of the transmit power, receiver sensitivity, frequency of the antenna, and attenuation of the transmitted energy. The attenuation of the energy is primarily a function of the local soil conditions. Depth of investigation is also affected by highly conductive material, such as metal drums and pipes which essentially reflect all the energy. The method cannot "see" directly below areas of highly reflective material since "all" of the energy is reflected. Maximum depth of penetration for these surveys ranged from 8 to 12 ft.

Figure 1. General Site Location Map.



Display and interpretation of GPR data are similar to that of seismic reflection data (i.e., data displayed as horizontal distance vs. time, depicting pseudo cross-sections of the earth). The approach to an interpretation is quite variable and influenced by the objectives of the survey and the experience of the interpreter. There are also numerous data processing techniques available that may or may not aid in the interpretation process. In some areas, interpretations can be straight forward, but often a highly variable subsurface yields complex data that are difficult to interpret. A common end product is a plan-view map showing the locations and depths of the features that were detected within the survey area.

GPR data in these surveys were collected with a Geophysical Survey Systems Inc. (GSSI) Subsurface Interface Radar (SIR)<sup>TM</sup> (a trademark of Geophysical Survey Systems, Inc., [GSSI]) System 8, model 4800, and digitally stored on a GSSI DT6000A tape drive. A recording window of 100 nanoseconds, two-way travel time, was used.

### 3.2 ELECTROMAGNETIC INDUCTION

EMI techniques are used to determine the electrical conductivity of the subsurface soil, rock, and groundwater. They are generally used for shallow investigations. The method is based on a transmitting coil radiating an electromagnetic (EM) field which induces eddy currents in the earth. A resulting secondary EM field is measured at a receiving coil as a voltage which is linearly related to the subsurface conductivity.

Terrain or ground conductivity is a function of the natural soil matrix and pore-fluid electrical conductivity. The depth of investigation is dependent upon the electrical conductivity of the subsurface, the distance between the transmitting and receiving coils, sensitivity of the equipment, and the power of the source. The conductivity value resulting from a measurement is a composite, and represents the combined effects of the thickness of the stratigraphic layers, their depths, their specific conductivity, and any man-made conductive objects such as metal objects that may be present. Metallic objects generally overwhelm the natural conductivity of the ground.

A Geonics' EM-31D<sup>TM</sup> (a trademark of Geonics Limited) ground conductivity meter was used for the survey . It has a maximum depth of penetration of approximately 18 ft.

EMI is a very effective reconnaissance method used to locate buried metallic objects. The interpretation of EMI data does not yield reliable quantitative information such as depths and the shape and size of objects. However, in areas where the effectiveness of GPR is limited by the surrounding terrain, EMI often yields valuable information. The most reliable interpretations are a result of the integration of GPR and EMI.

### 3.3 ACCURACY/RELIABILITY OF THE RESULTS

EMI and GPR investigations are based on very accurate measurements. However, the results of an investigation are based on the interpretation of these data, which is a very subjective process. The only way to measure the accuracy of an interpretation is by ground-truthing (i.e. excavating the subsurface). A better way to assess interpretations is in terms of reliability. Reliability is defined here as the degree of confidence the interpreter(s) have in their interpretation of the data. There are many factors that affect the reliability of an interpretation. Two of the most important factors are the

density of the data points/profiles (which is determined by the objectives of the survey) and the experience of the interpreter(s). Other factors that directly affect the reliability of an interpretation are soil conditions, topography, availability of accurate drawings and photographs, geologic knowledge, and the accessibility to the area which is to be investigated. The more direct control or knowledge the interpreter has over these factors the more reliable the interpretation. To complicate matters, the control or knowledge of these factors may vary significantly within the area being investigated.

The only effective way to communicate the reliability of an interpretation is by constant and direct communication between the user and the interpreters. Reliability and accuracy of an interpretation should be discussed openly during the course of a project. An interpretation map should never be taken at face value without communication with the interpreters.

#### **4.0 SURVEY GRID PARAMETERS**

The survey boundary is a rectangle, measuring 50 ft by 480 ft (Figure 2). The long axis of the survey strikes approximately east-west. All distances were measured and posted in feet. Painted stakes are located every 100 ft and mark the corners of the grid. The grid is also tied to the state-plane coordinate system via the orange survey stakes. The southwestern corner of the grid is designated E100/N100 and serves as the "origin" for the survey locations. The letters "E" or "N" refer to a direction that trends generally east or north, respectively. The number refers to a distance in feet. For example, grid point E135/N120 lies 35 ft "east" and 20 ft "north" of grid point E100/N100.

GPR data were collected along two sets of profiles perpendicular to each other. The centers of the profiles were spaced 2.5 ft apart. EMI profile spacing varied from 2.5 to 10 ft. EMI data points along each profile were spaced 2.5 ft apart.

#### **5.0 GEOLOGIC SETTING**

In the 200 West Area, the unsaturated zone is about 200 ft thick. The upper geologic unit, the Hanford formation, is approximately 100 ft thick and consists of two stratigraphic sequences. The first is a coarse-grained sequence of inter-stratified gravel, sand, and to some degree silt. The second sequence is much finer-grained, consisting of silt, silty sand, and sand interbedded with coarse sand. The sediments that were a factor for this investigation were primarily the uppers sands and gravels that were "reworked" during the excavation and subsequent refilling of the trench. The only strata that appears not to have been disturbed are near the southern and northern edges of the survey area, just outside of the boundaries of the trench.

## Burial Ground 218-W-04C, Trench 4

1	W77482
2	W77509
3	W77536
4	W77563
5	W77590
6	W77616
7	W77642
8	W77668
9	W77694
10	W77720
11	W77746
12	W77772
13	W77798
14	W77824
15	W77850
16	W77876
17	W77902
18	W77928
19	W77954
	W77966

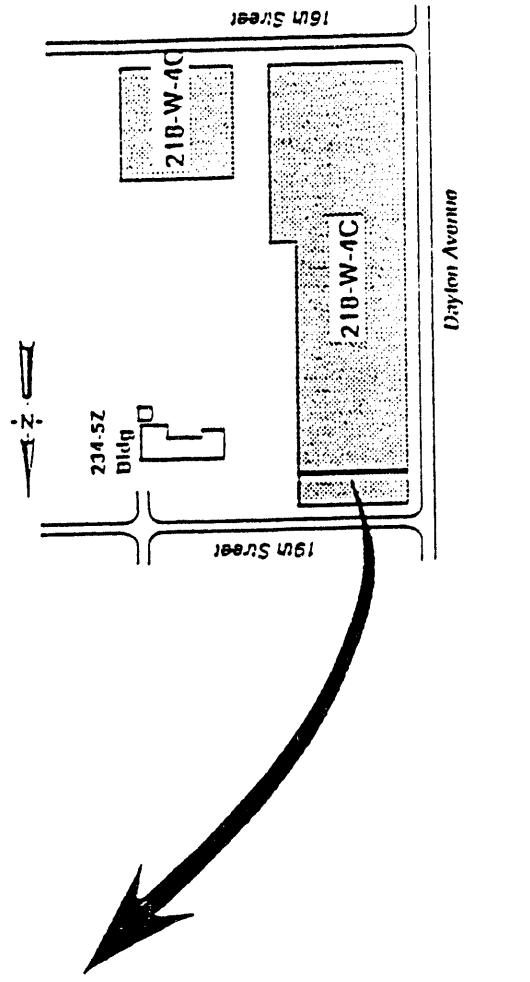


Figure 2. The location of Burial Ground 218-W-4C, Trench 4, 200 West Area.

## 6.0 RESULTS

Trench 4 has been divided into three sections: Section (Western), E100 to E300; Section II (Central), E300 to E500; and Section III (Eastern), E500 to E580. Plates I and II should be referred to throughout the following discussion of the results. Plate I shows the integrated interpretation of the GPR and EMI data. The documented distribution of the waste in tier 4, taken from drawing H-2-87544, Rev.0, is shown on Plate II, which is a contour map of the EMI data.

In general, GPR was effective at determining the thickness of the fill that overlies the waste containers and identifying the outer edges of the modules. However, the reliability of the interpreted locations of the outer boundaries of the waste within the trench varied throughout the length of the trench.

Interpreted boundaries between some of the modules were identified. EMI appears to be an effective method for identifying the module boundaries. To identify a boundary between two modules at least one or more of the following conditions is required. These include:

1. A change in the type of waste containers (e.g. barrels in module A, Casks in module B)
2. A gap between modules that is large enough to be resolved by GPR and/or EMI
3. A change in the depth of burial between modules (e.g. three-tier stack of barrels to a four-tier stack)
4. A vertical conductivity boundary between modules.

In several areas, the resolving power of the methods was degraded by the rough terrain above the trench. In general, the smoother the topography the more reliable the results. The results primarily represent the waste in the upper one or two tiers. Some information on the deeper/lower tiers may be in the data; however, it may be impossible to extract the information from the data with any confidence.

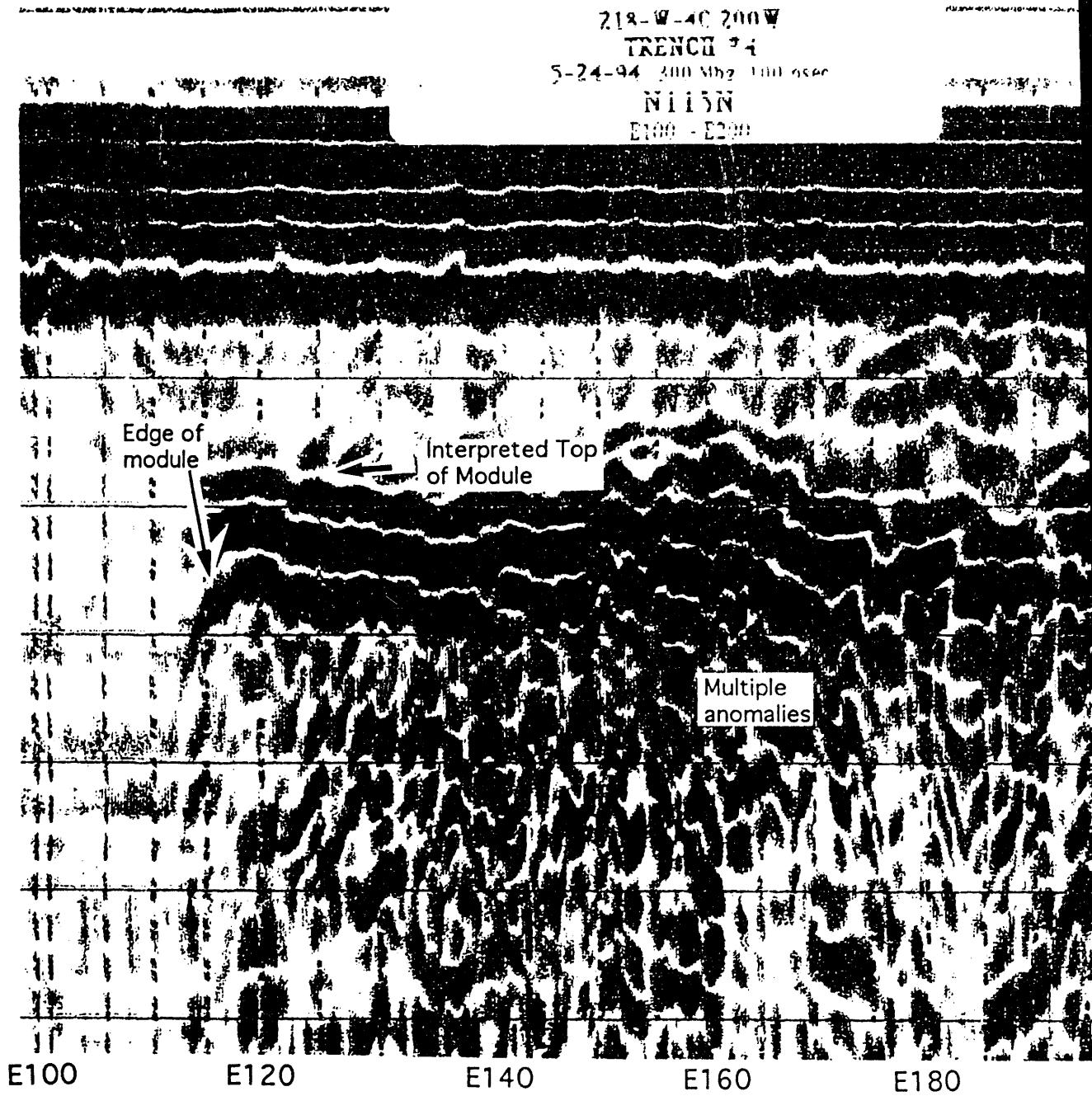
A persistent reflector is evident in most of the GPR records (Figure 3). The reflector is believed to be primarily from the upper surface of the waste containers and/or affiliated with the cover (i.e. tarp/plywood) that is typically installed directly over the waste containers. Generally 4 to 5 ft of soil fill covers the waste containers.

The interpreted outer boundaries of the modules are believed to be relatively accurate to within 3 to 5 ft. In general, the northern and southern boundaries correlate very well with the documented module boundaries. A more detailed discussion of the results within each of the three sections of the trench are given below.

### 6.1 SECTION I, E100 TO E300

Section I includes the western end of Trench 4. The topography is relatively flat with minimal vegetation. The highest quality GPR data are from section I. Generally, about 4 to 5 ft of soil fill covers the modules.

218-W-4C 200W  
TRENCH 74  
5-24-94 300 MHz 1000 ns/ft  
N115N  
E100 - E200



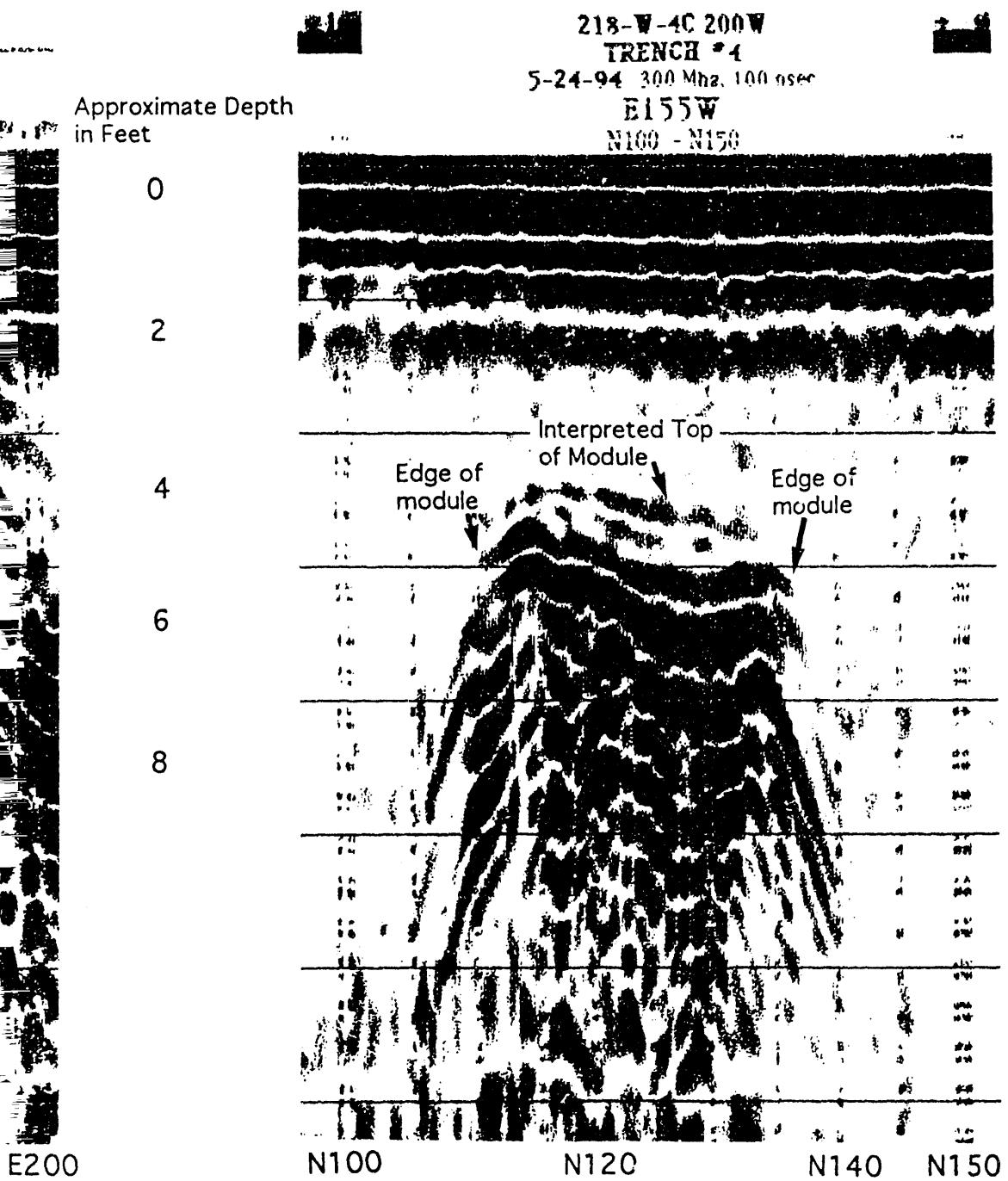


Figure 3. Ground-penetrating radar profiles from Section I, showing the persistent reflector 4-5 feet below the surface, interpreted to be from the "top" of the modules. Note the anomalies below this reflector. Profile E155 is a north-south profile and profile N115 is an east-west profile.

The geophysical data, primarily GPR, indicate a relatively variable western edge of the waste containers in contrast to documentation which indicates a straight row of barrels, twelve across. Several scenarios were considered to explain this discrepancy. First, the documented distribution of the waste may not be entirely correct, or the outer barrels have been knocked over leaving an edge that is no longer a sharp distinct row of barrels. Another possibility is that the tarp cover and associated plywood, typically covering the waste containers, extends irregularly beyond the barrel edge producing the irregular edge in the GPR results. A final scenario is that the containers of waste within the northwest corner are "soft waste" (e.g. cardboard, wood) and were overlooked in the interpretation.

In some areas within the documented module boundaries, the reflector interpreted to be associated with the top of the waste containers is missing. These areas are believed to represent gaps between waste containers, different types of waste containers (i.e., barrels vs. wood casks) with different dielectric properties, or variations in properties of the cover which overlies the modules.

## 6.2 SECTION II, E300 TO E500

There is a distinct character change in the GPR, and to some degree EMI, data near E300. The strong reflector that was observed in the GPR data in Section I changes to a subtle, more intermittent reflector in most of Section II (Figure 4). Documentation indicates that most of Section II (modules 5-10) is a solid mass of barrels with the only exception a gap between modules 4 and 5. The EMI data in Plate II, Section II show a series of seven evenly spaced highs, all about the same size and character, unlike Section I where the EMI data consist of a more complex pattern of highs and lows. Each EMI high in Section II correlates with the documented center of a module. The EMI data suggest that there is a barrier or small gap between the modules.

It is very difficult to pinpoint the primary cause of the change in the character of the GPR data between Section I and Section II. The directly observable changes between Section I and Section II are the topography and the ground cover. The topography in Section II is much rougher and there is a notable increase in the amount of surface vegetation as compared to Section I. Rougher topography and vegetation will generally degrade the quality of GPR data, but not nearly to the extent observed.

The changes in the GPR data are probably a consequence of the type of buried debris and/or the tarps/wood used to cover the waste (Figure 5). A change in the properties of the soil overlying the waste could be a contributing factor. But at the surface, the soil "looks" the same and appears to be the same soil observed in and around the other trenches.

A couple of scenarios were considered that could, in part, explain the data sets from Section II. The first is that there is some "soft waste" in wood or cardboard type containers above the documented drums. Barrels would be more difficult to detect with GPR through this debris. These types of waste usually do not notably effect the EMI data. Therefore the EMI data would still be responding primarily to the barrels stacked below the "random debris."

218-1

TR

5-25-94

N

E3

Interpreted Top  
of Module

E275 E280

E300

E320

E34

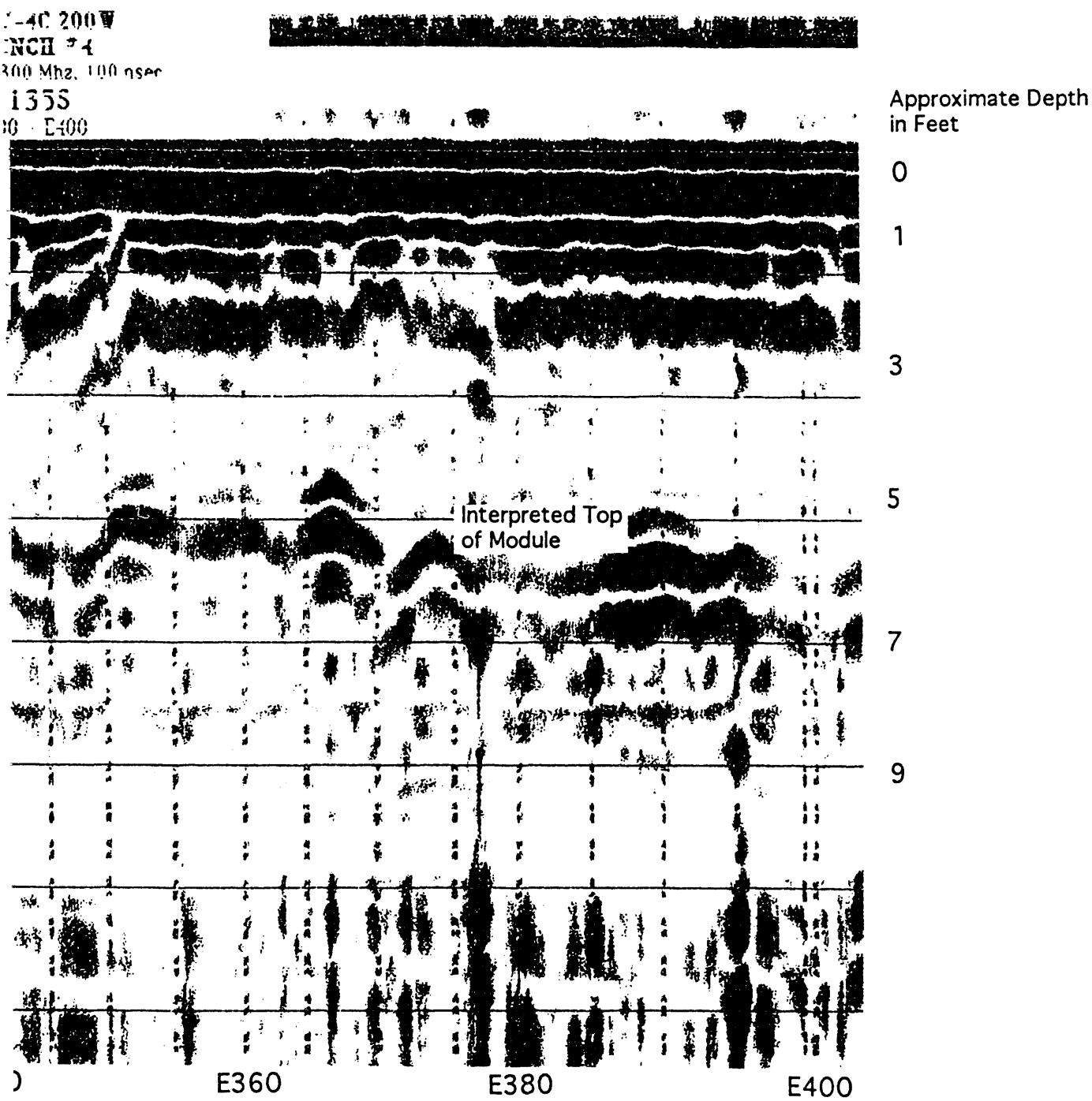


Figure 4. Ground-penetrating radar profile along N135, extending from Section I to Section II, from E275 to E400. Note the significant character change of the reflector, 4-5 feet below the surface, at E305. This reflector is interpreted to be from the top of the modules.

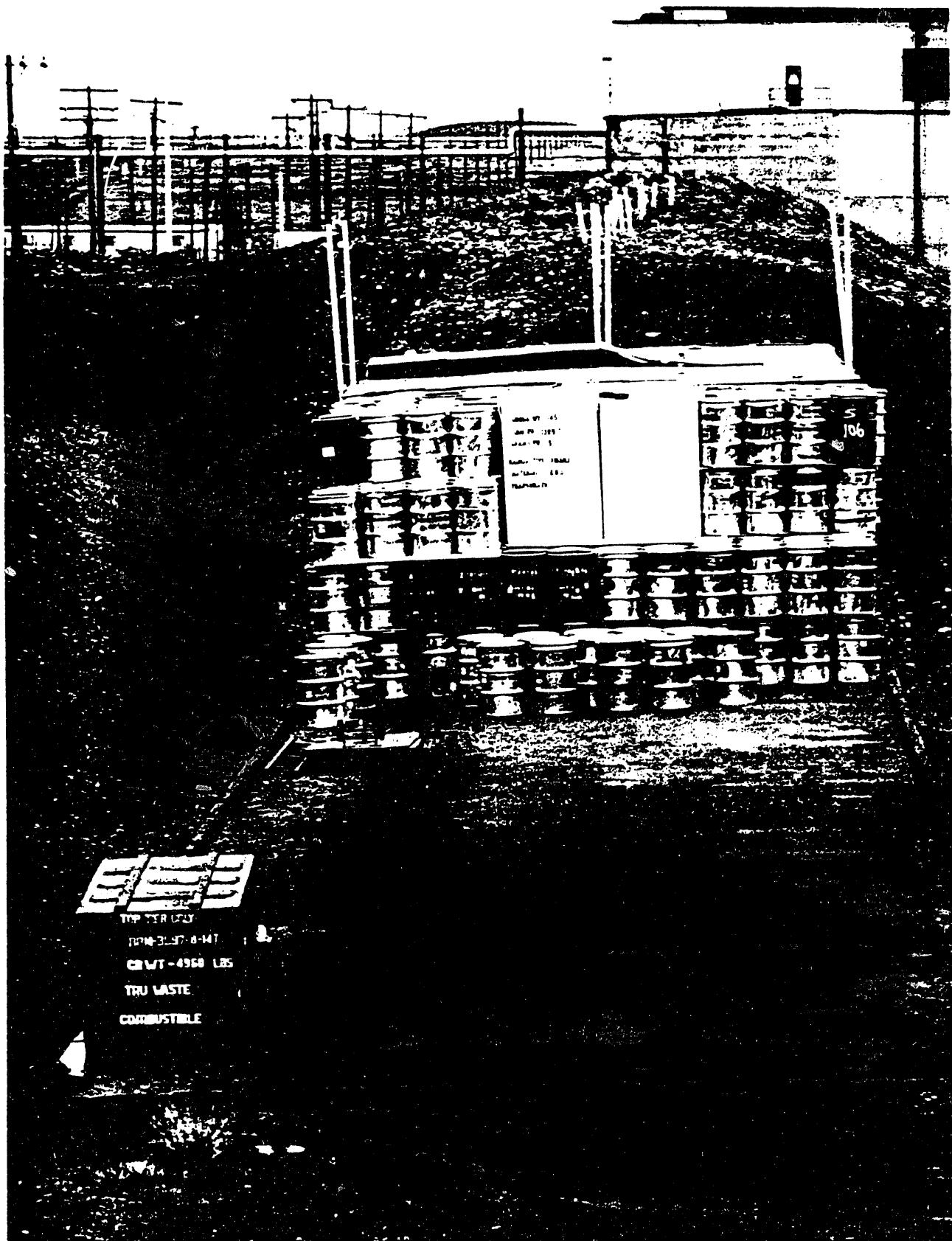


Figure 5. Photograph of partially exposed Trench 4 waste containers.

A second scenario is that the waste barrels are covered by a different type of tarp/liner/wood than was used to the west. The cover could be attenuating the electromagnetic energy transmitted by the GPR system. In this case, the GPR would be misleading and the EMI, for the most part, would support the documented module layout.

There were enough good GPR data in this section to determine the thickness of the fill to be 4 to 5 ft, overlying the reflector interpreted to represent the top of the waste containers. The northern and southern boundaries of the modules are at approximately N140 and N110, respectively. The EMI was used to estimate the module to module boundaries, assuming the observed character changes were a result of a gap or barrier between modules. The GPR data should be used with discretion in this section until the enigmas in the data are better understood. Ground-truthing is the only known way to verify the data and determine to what extent the GPR data can be used.

### 6.3 SECTION III E500 TO E580

The terrain in Section III is the roughest of all three sections. This section essentially is on a 10- to 15-ft-high mound with steeply dipping slopes to the south, north, and east. As a result, the grid is only 30 ft wide in this section. Documentation shows a four tier high, tightly packed stack of barrels throughout the section with small gaps between modules 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5. Additionally, there is a fifth tier of barrels in modules 1 and 2.

The GPR data show a strong, but discontinuous, reflector 2 to 4 ft below the surface. However, numerous gaps in the reflector (see Figure 6) are not consistent with a tightly packed stack of barrels shown in the documentation. The EMI was affected by surface cable and wires that severely hampered the data in the vicinity of E535. Despite the surface interference, the EMI data show three relatively similar highs that correspond with the documented centers of the modules as shown in the documentation. The highs are very similar in character to the EMI highs discussed for Section II.

Similar to Section II, the GPR, EMI, and documentation in Section III give somewhat conflicting information. The explanations for the differences in the data sets in the discussions of Section II are also applicable for Section III.

Once again, the GPR data should be used with discretion in this section until the enigmas in the data are better understood.

### 7.0 SUMMARY

A combination of GPR and EMI were effective at determining the thickness of the fill that overlies the waste containers, identifying the outer edges of the modules, and to some extent the boundaries between modules and variability of waste containers. The outer edges of the modules were delineated to within 3 to 5 ft and the overlying soil covering the modules was typically 4 to 5 ft thick. The interpretation presented in this report only summarizes the data. There is additional

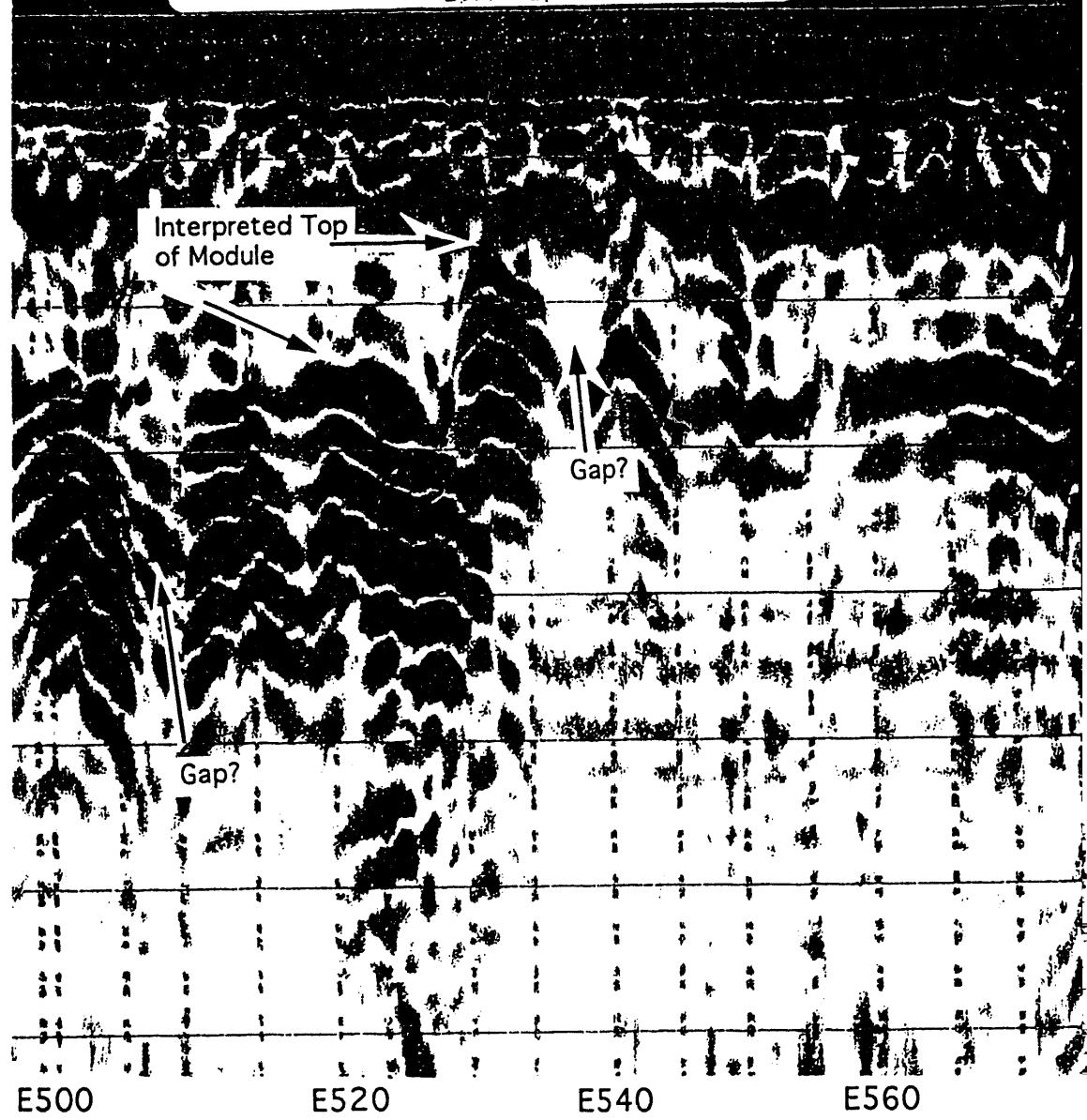
218-W-4C 200W

TRENCH #4

5-25-94 300 Mhz. 100 nsec

Ni25S

E500 - E580



Approximate Depth  
in Feet

218-W-4C 200W  
TRENCH #4  
5-25-94 300 Mhz, 100 nsec  
E550E  
N110 - N140

0

2

4

6

8

E580

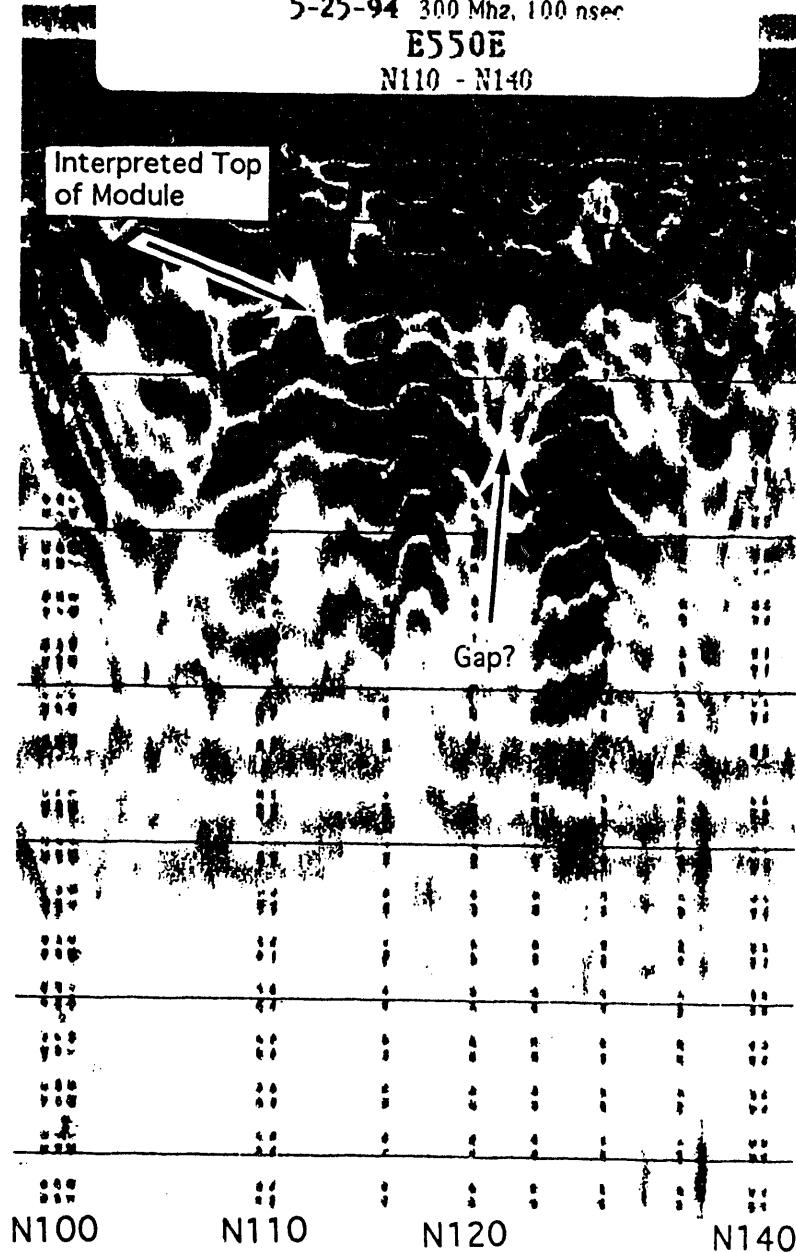
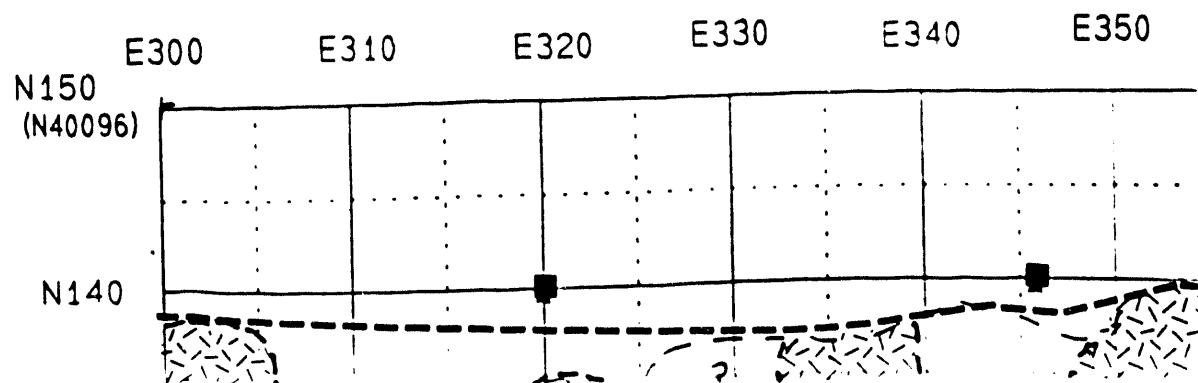
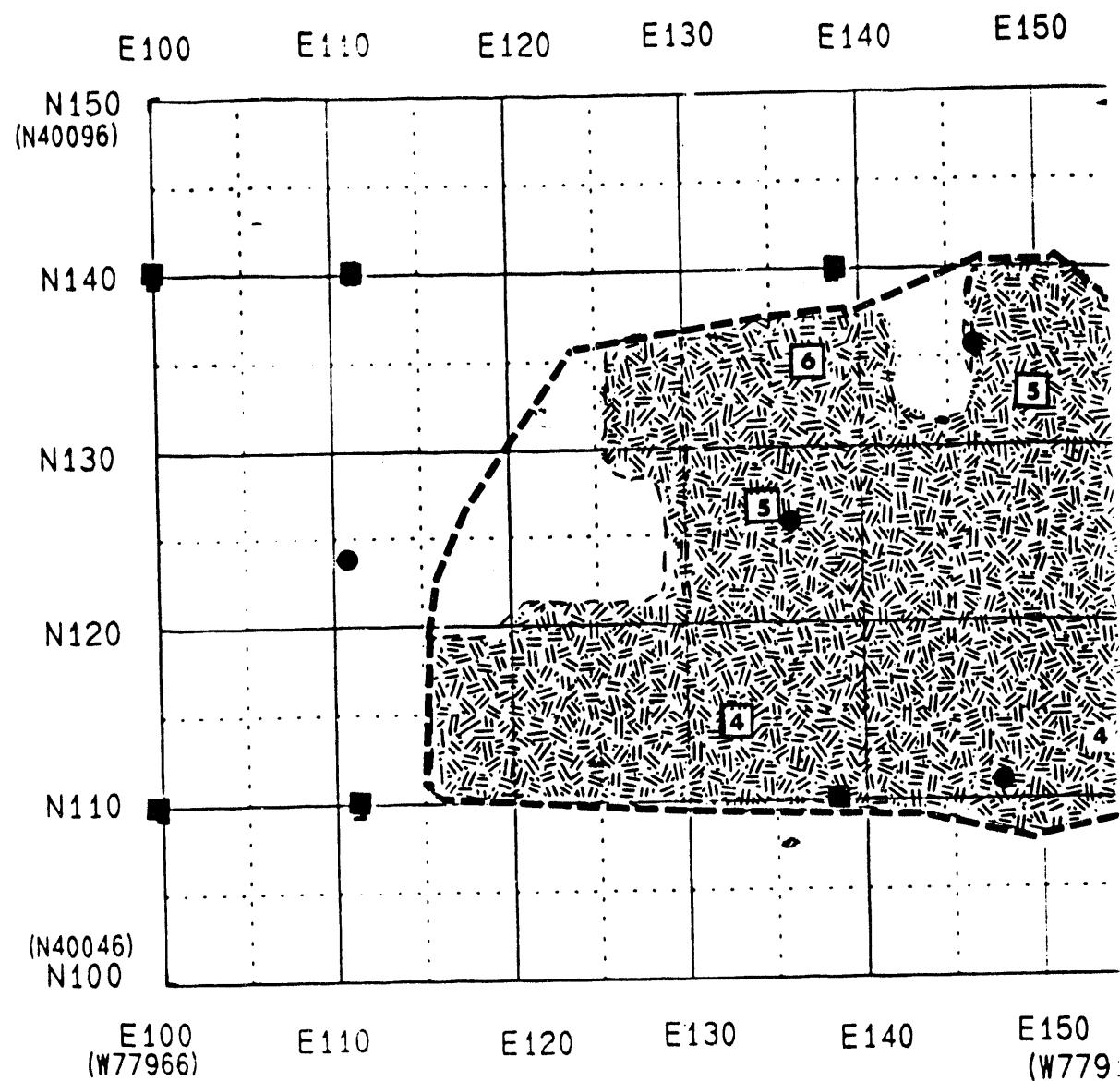


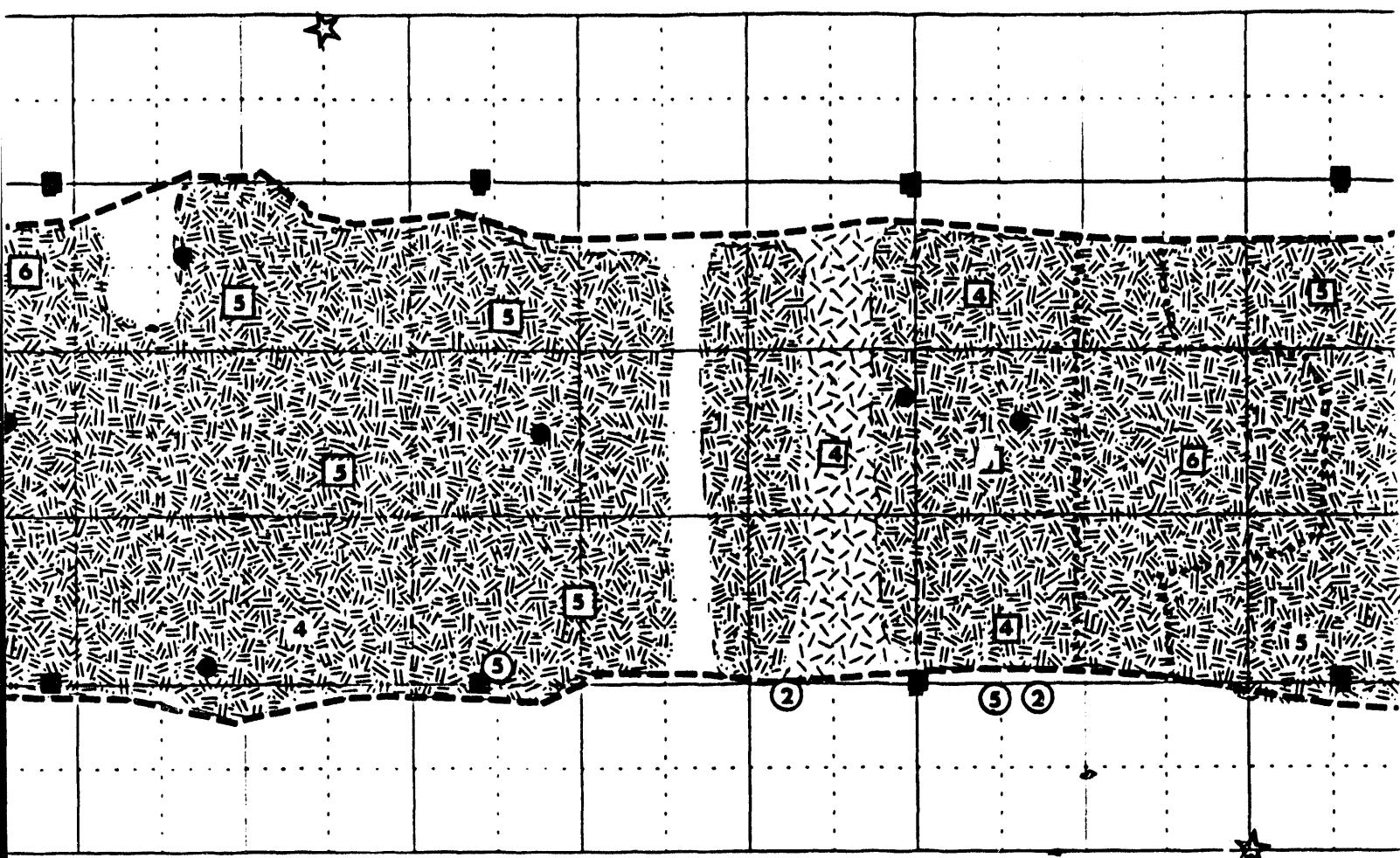
Figure 6. Ground-penetrating radar profiles from Section III, showing the strong but laterally discontinuous reflector, 2-4 feet below the surface. Profile E550 trends north-south and profile N125 trends east-west. Note the module height change at E530 in profile N125, interpreted to be the transition from 4-tier to 5-tier drum stacks.

site-specific information that was not included on Plate I. It is recommended that the authors be contacted prior to any site-specific excavations, tests, drillings, etc., for the more detailed, site-specific information that may be available.

Eight sites for plate load-bearing tests (see Plate I) were determined to be greater than 5 ft from the module edges and not over any other geophysical anomalies.

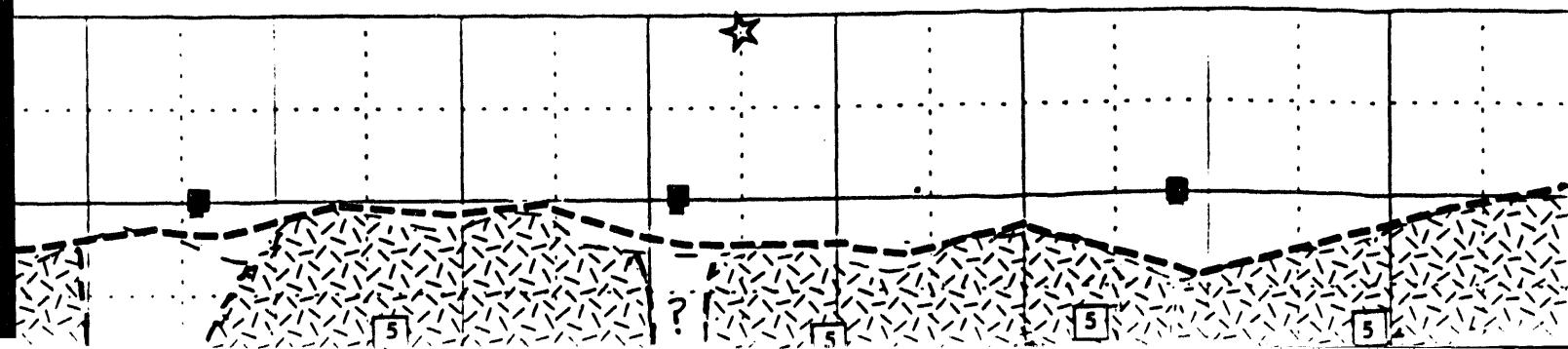


E140 E150 E160 E170 E180 E190 E200 E210 E

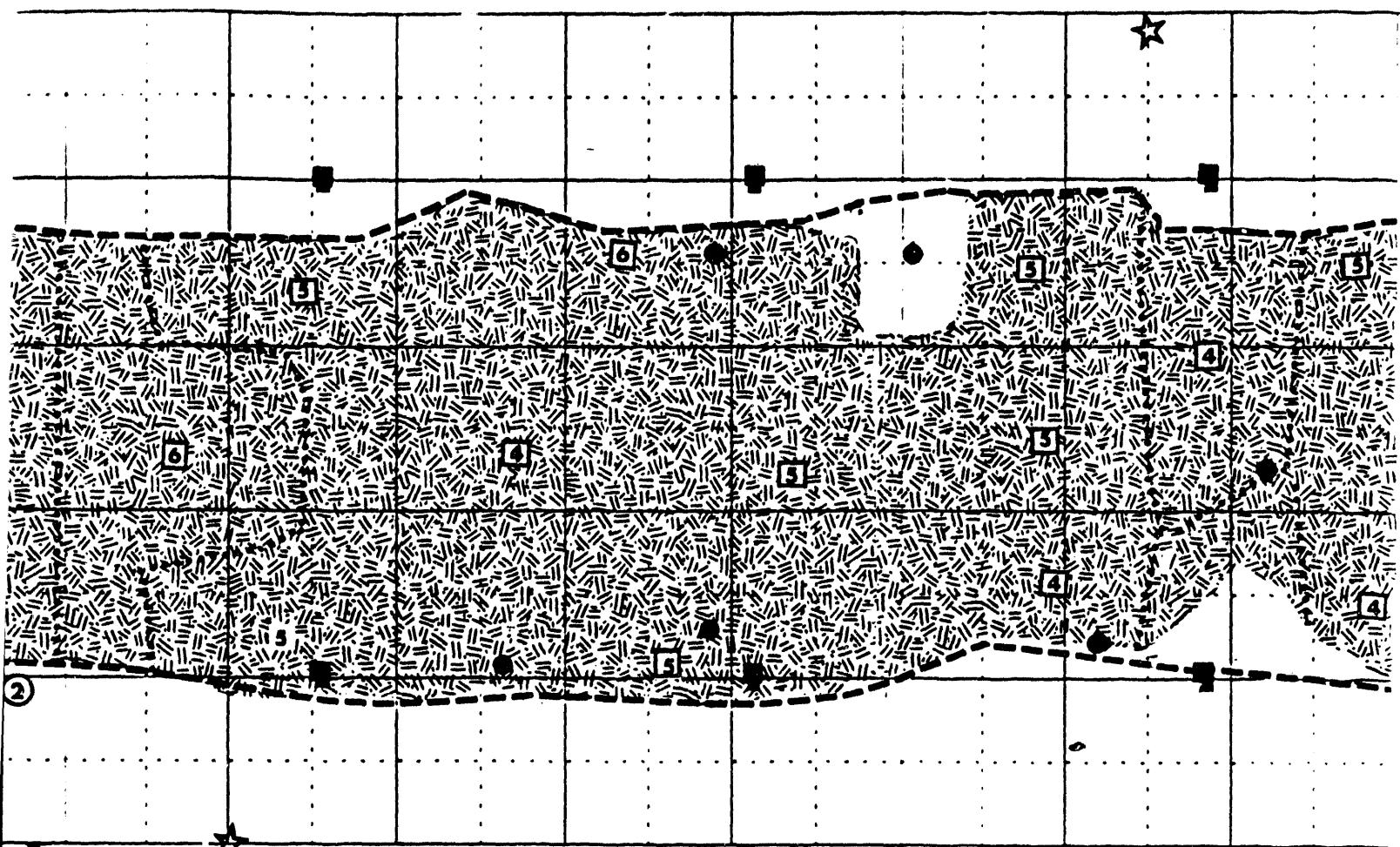


E140 E150 (W77916) E160 E170 E180 E190 E200 (W77866) E210 E2

E340 E350 E360 E370 E380 E390 E400 E410 E

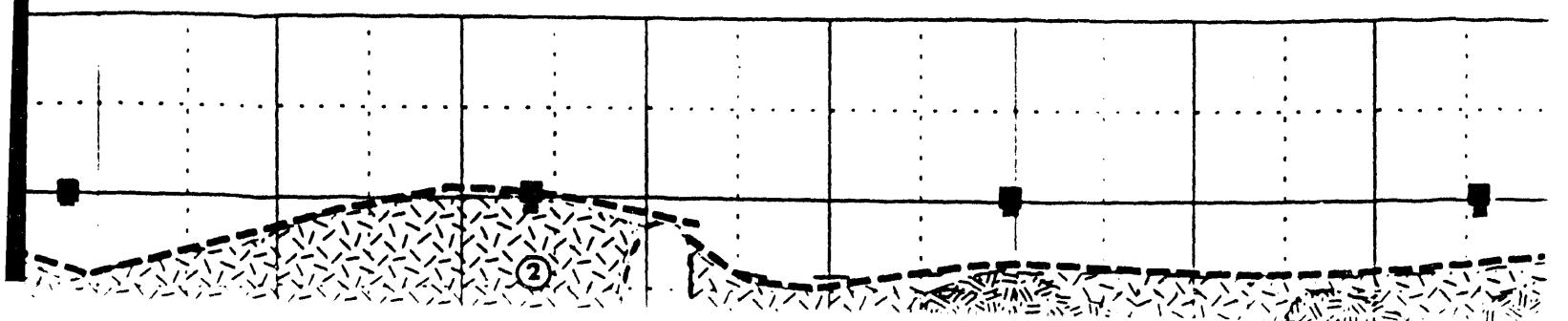


E200 E210 E220 E230 E240 E250 E260 E270 E2



E200 E210 E220 E230 E240 E250 (W77816) E260 E270 E2

E400 E410 E420 E430 E440 E450 E460 E470 E4



E240

E250

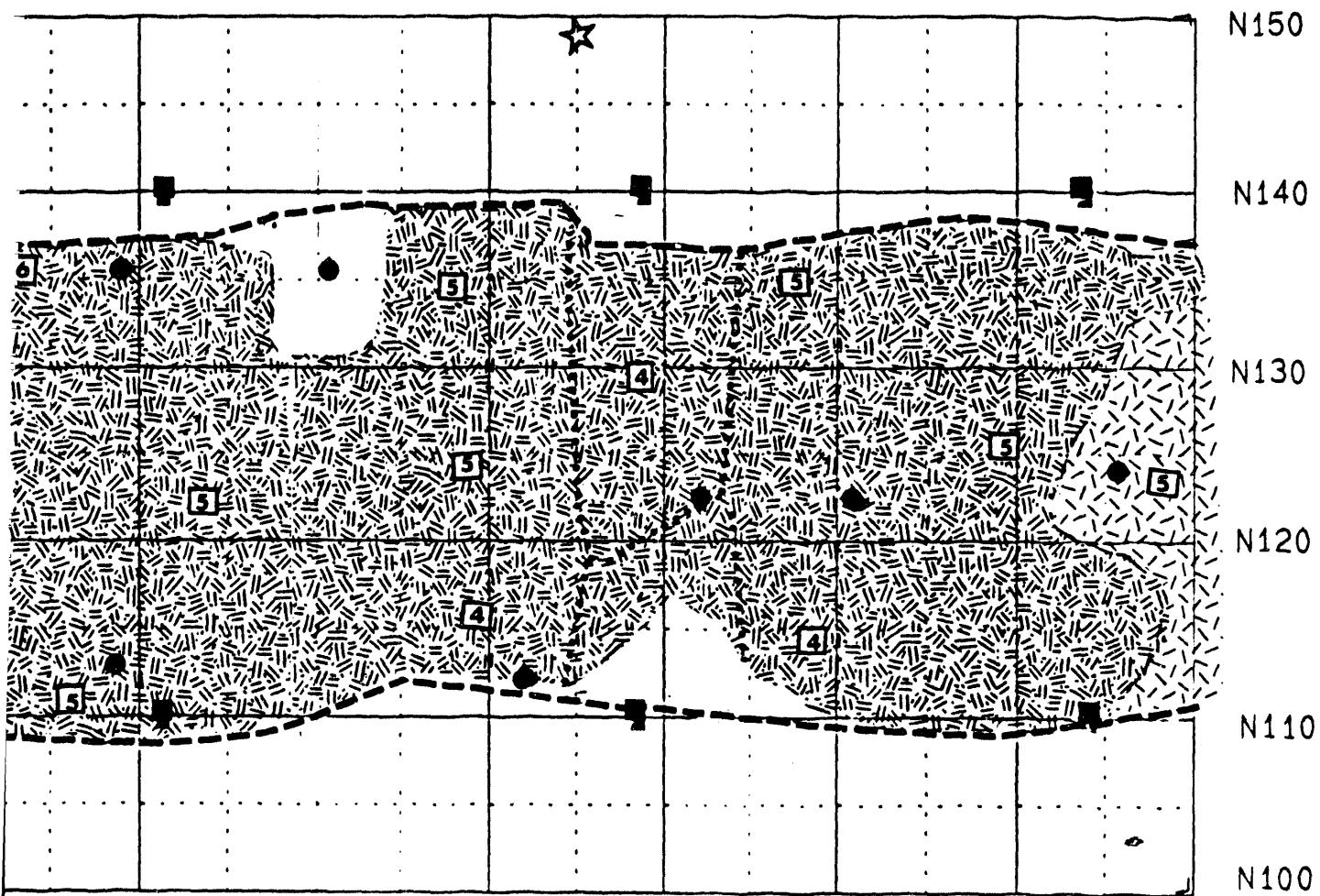
E260

E270

E280

E290

E300



E240

E250  
(W778:16)

E260

E270

E280

E290

E300  
(W77766)

E440

E450

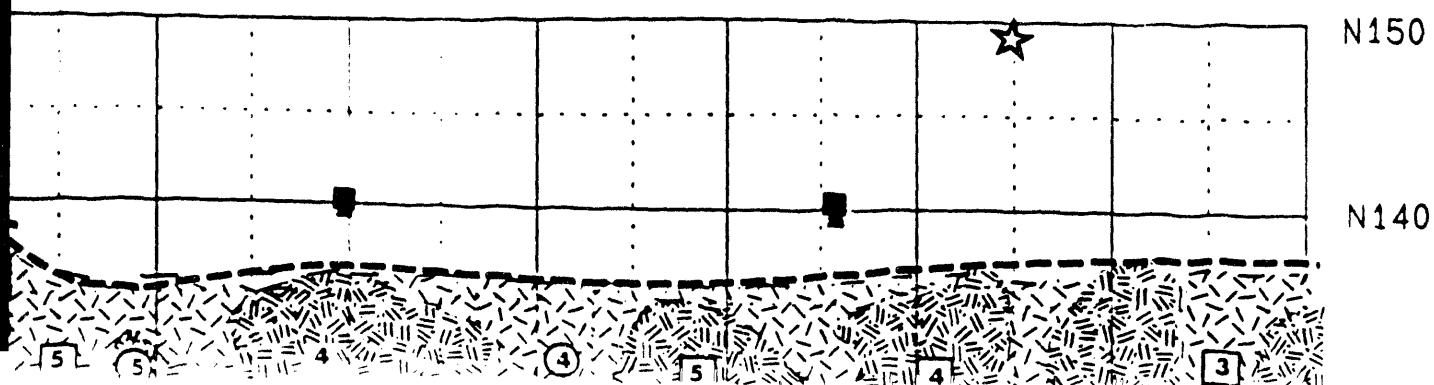
E460

E470

E480

E490

E500



(W77966)

E110

E120

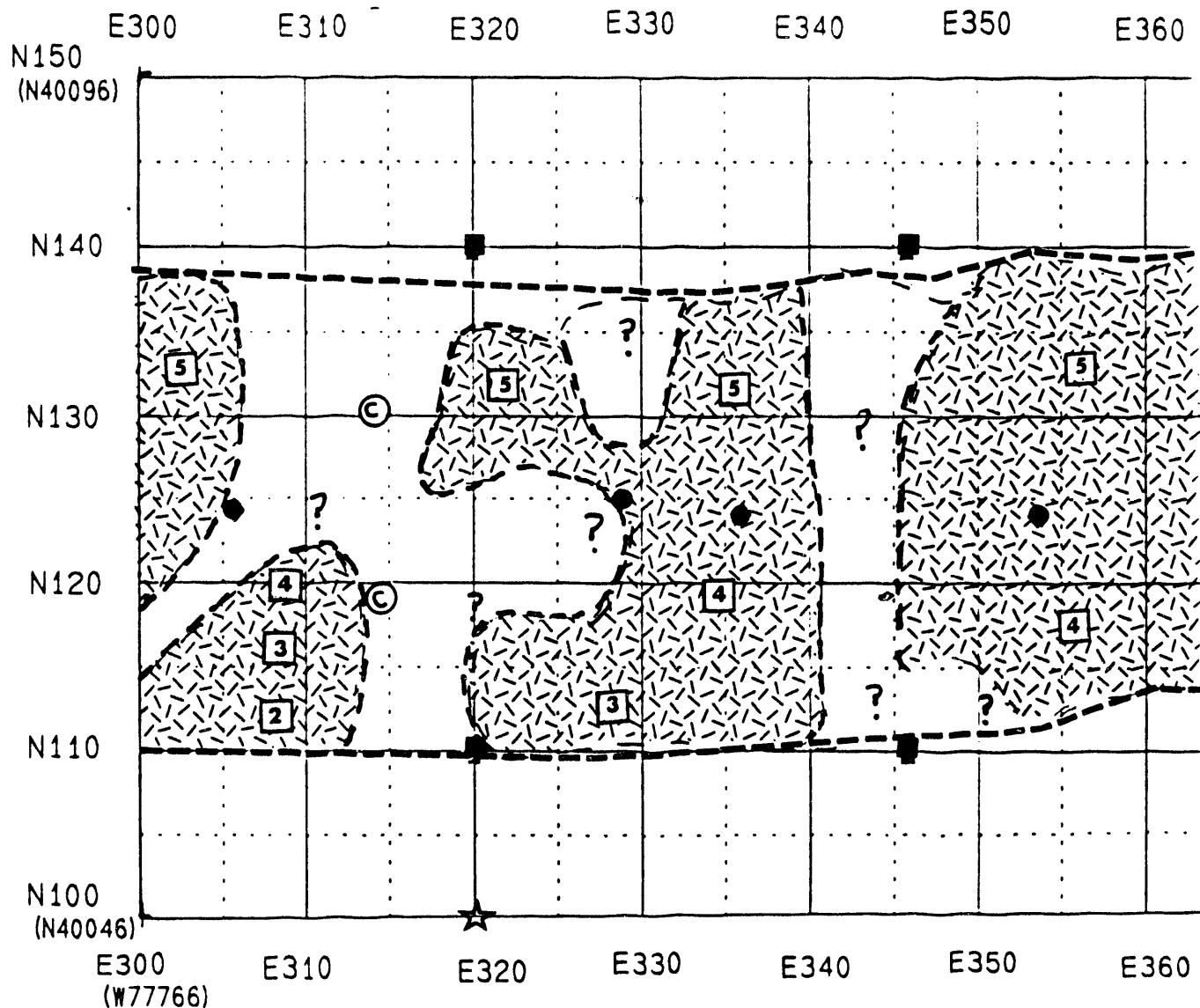
E130

E140

E150

(W77916)

E160



E500

E510

E520

E530

E540

E550

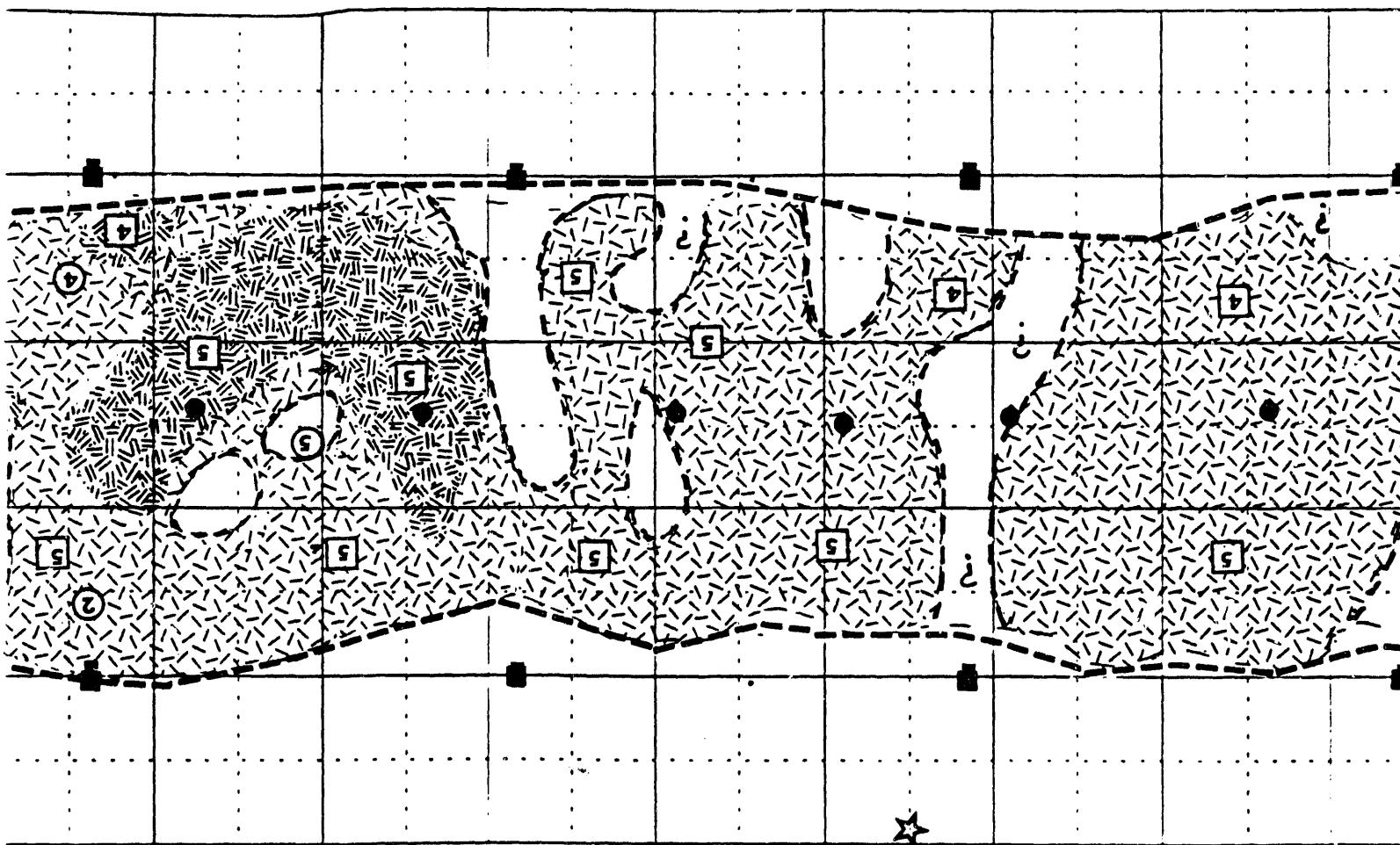
E560

Wells  
Wells

E550 E560 E570 E580

Plate

E E350 E360 E370 E380 E390 E400 E410 E420

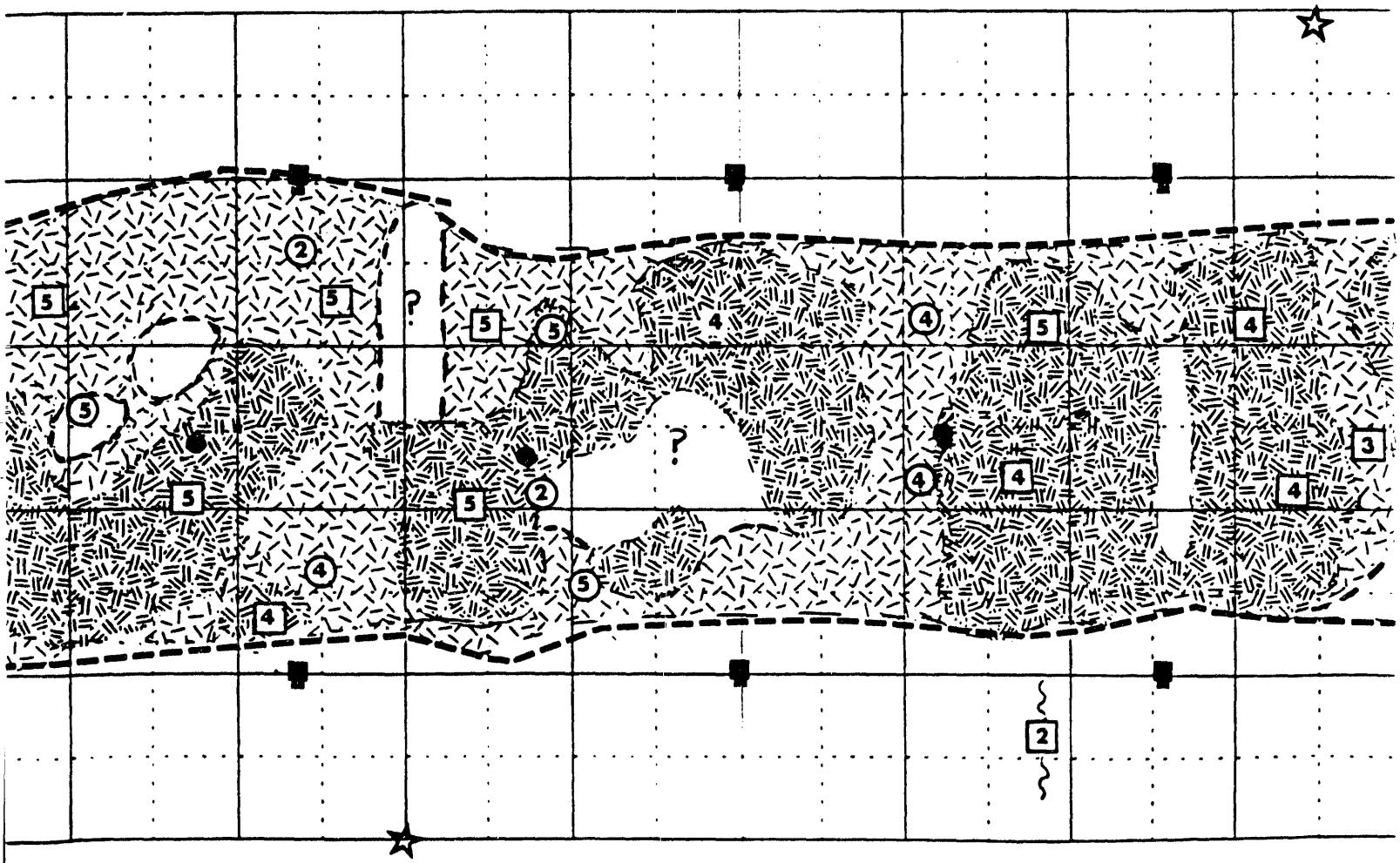


E E350 E360 E370 E380 E390 E400 E410 E420

E E150 E160 E170 E180 E190 E200 E210 E220  
(W77916) (W77866)

E210 E220 E230 E240 E250  
(W77816) E260 E270 E280 E29

E410 E420 E430 E440 E450 E460 E470 E480 E49



E410 E420 E430 E440 E450 E460 E470 E480 E49

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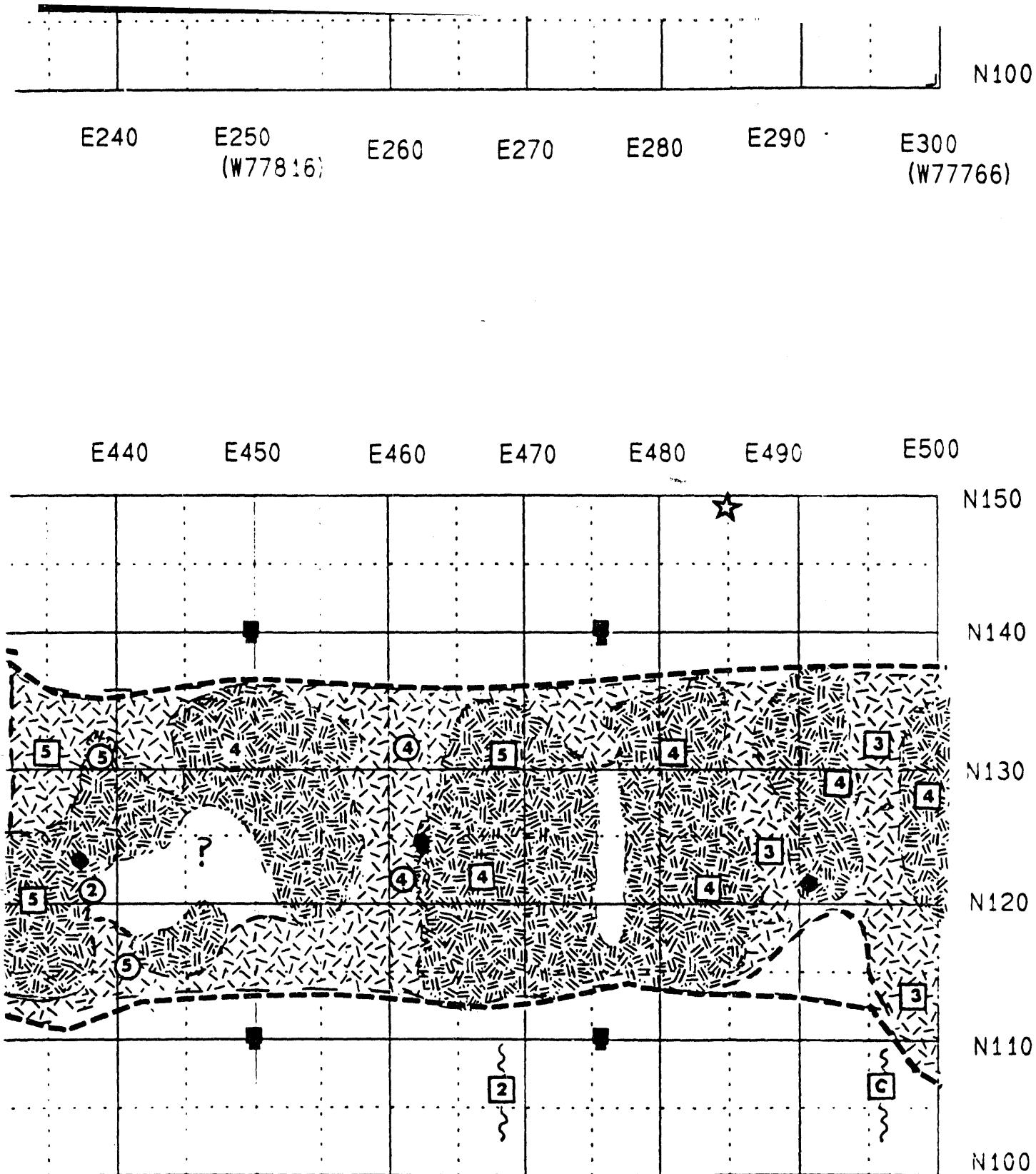
Plate I. Geophysical Interpretation Summary Map  
of Trench #4, Burial Ground 218-W-4C.

Legend



Strongest Reflector

Scale (Feet)

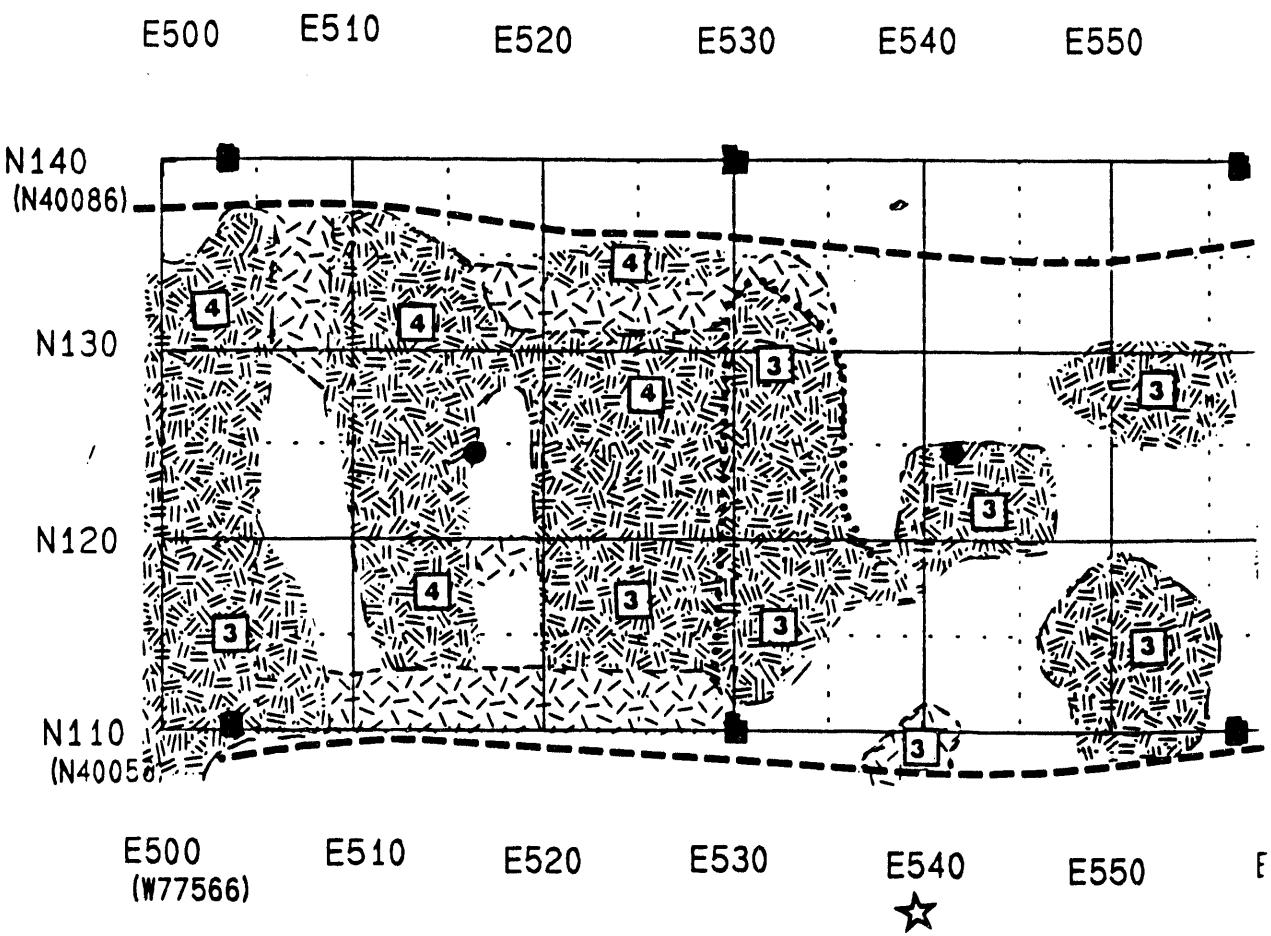
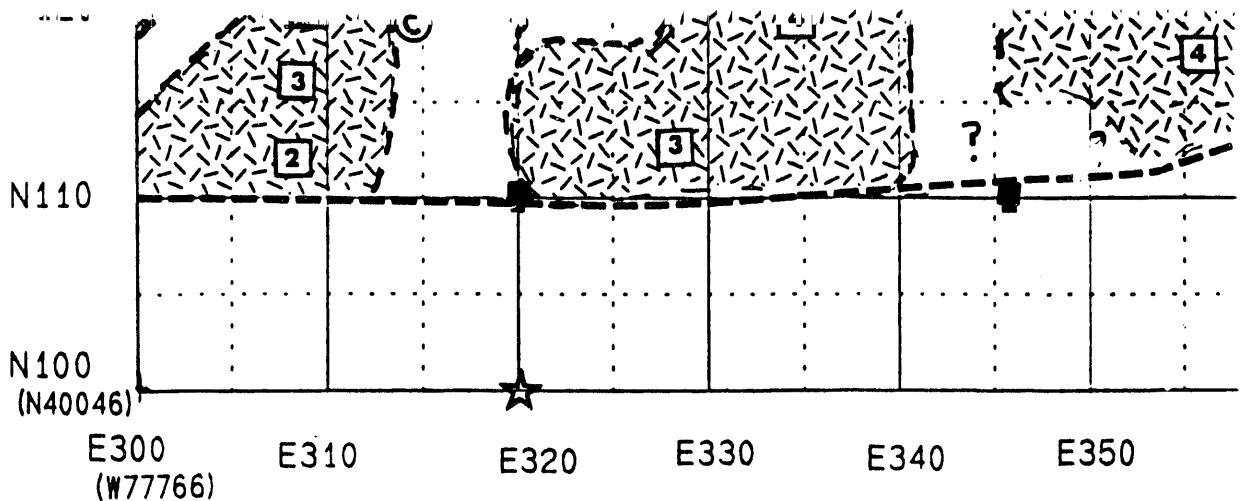


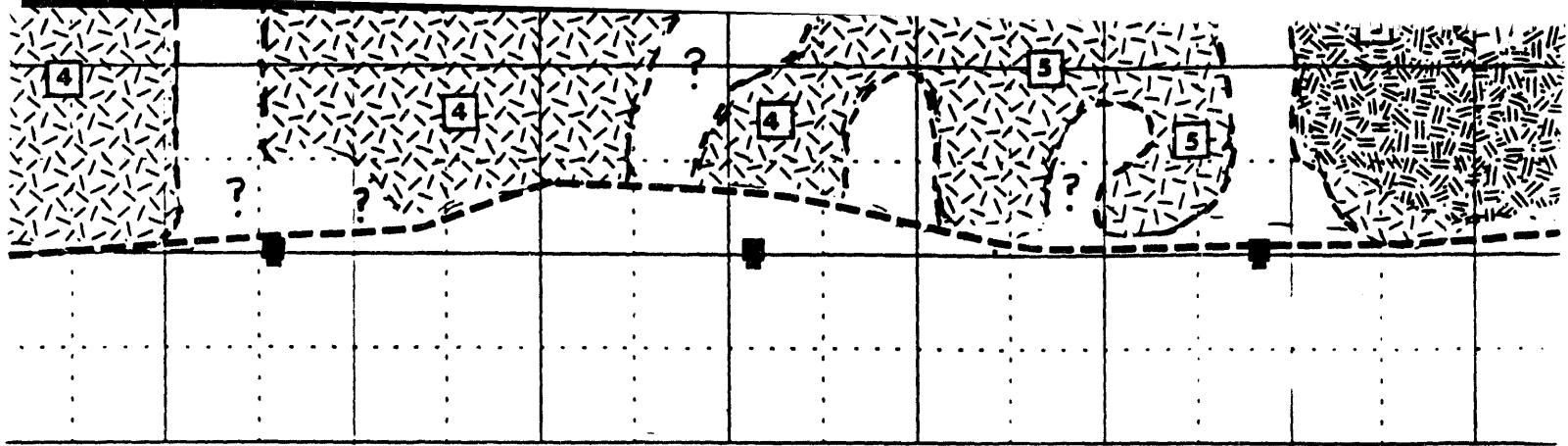
WHD-SD-EN-TI-285, Rev.0

Geophysical Interpretation Summary Map  
of Trench #4, Burial Ground 218-W-4C.

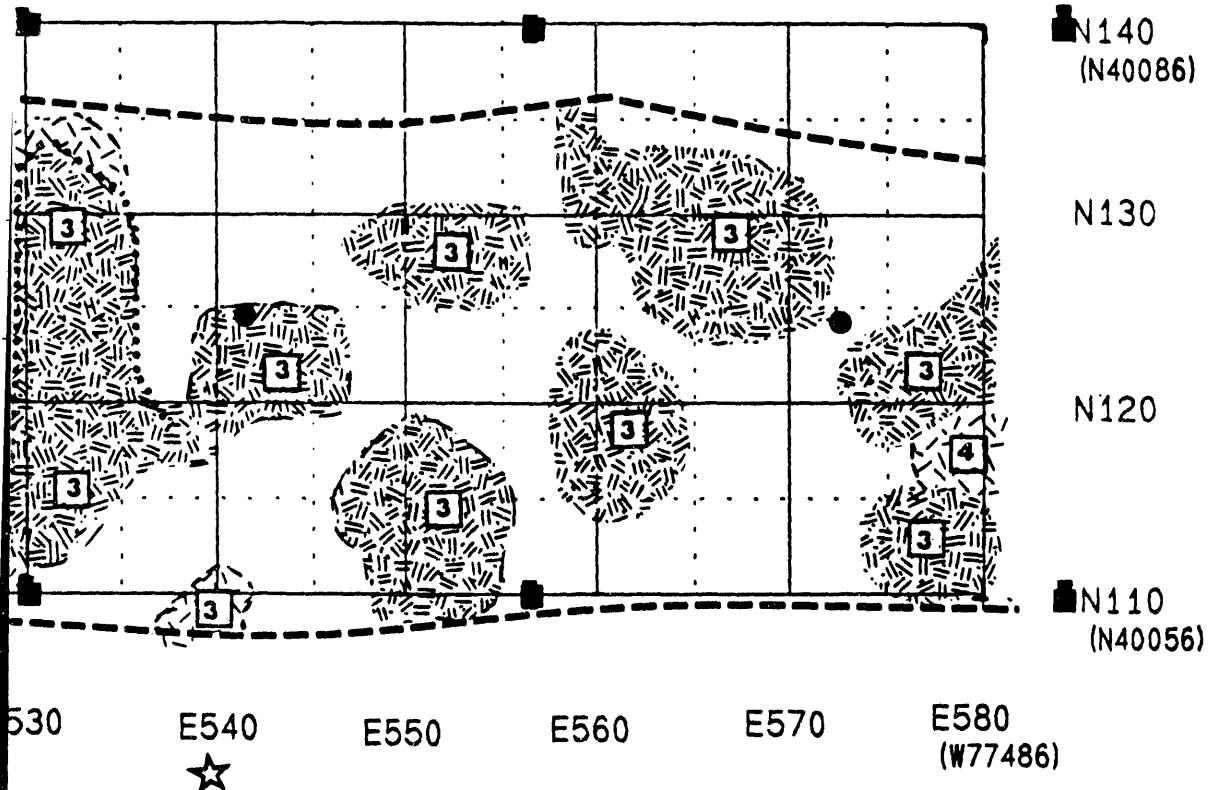
Legend

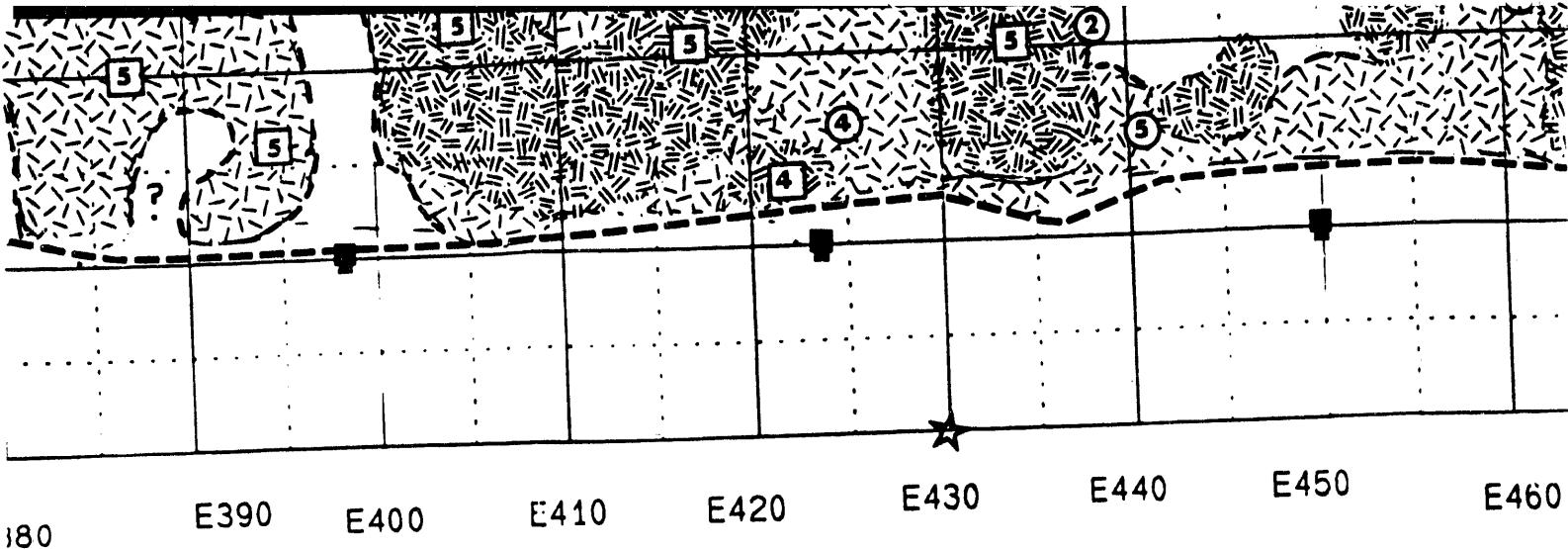
Scale (Feet)





530 E540 E550 E560 E570 E580





WHC-SD-EN-TI-285, Rev 1

Plate I. Geophysical Interpretation  
of Trench #4, Burial Ground  
Legend

- \*\*Strongest Reflector
- \*\*Moderate or Intermittent Reflector
- \*\*No Notable Reflector Present
- \*\* It is assumed that the reflector is primarily a reflection from the cover overlying the buried waste container.
- Kaiser Survey Monument
- PVC Stand Pipe
- - - - Interpreted Outer Edge of Modules
- ..... Zone with unique character relative to surrounding area.
- ~~~~ Isolated buried debris
- ③ Average thickness of fill over upper reflector
- ★ Load Bearing Plate Test Location
- ② Prominent Anomaly  
Anomaly <2 feet below surface
- (W77456) Location tied to surface stake  
W77457 Documented location off drawing H-2-87544

580

N140  
(N40086)

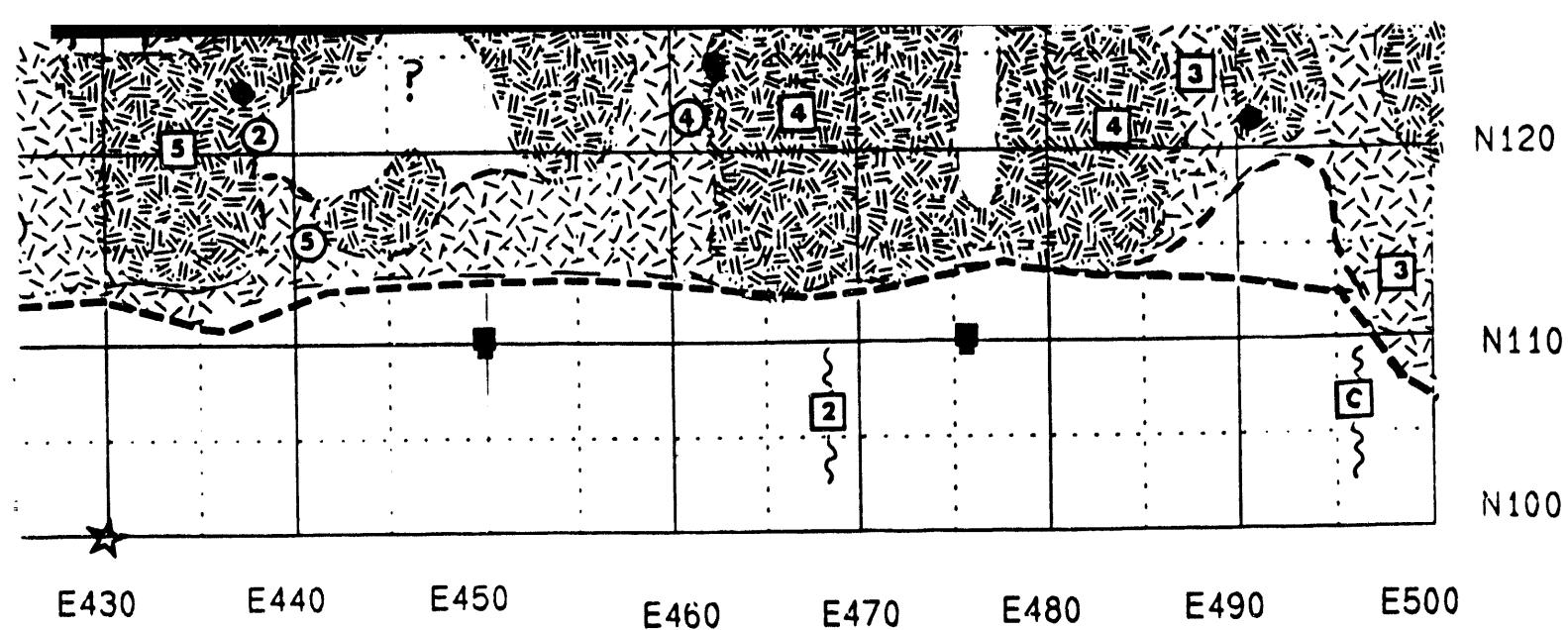
N130

N120

4

N110  
(N40056)

E580  
(W77486)



WHC-SD-EN-TI-285, Rev.0

e I. Geophysical Interpretation Summary Map  
of Trench #4, Burial Ground 218-W-4C.

Legend

Strongest Reflector

Scale (Feet)

0 5 10

Moderate or Intermittent Reflector

Notable Reflector Present

\*\* It is assumed that the reflector is primarily a response  
to the cover overlying the buried waste containers.

Survey Monument



Stand Pipe

Interpreted Outer Edge of Modules

with unique character relative to surrounding

ted buried debris

age thickness of fill over upper reflector

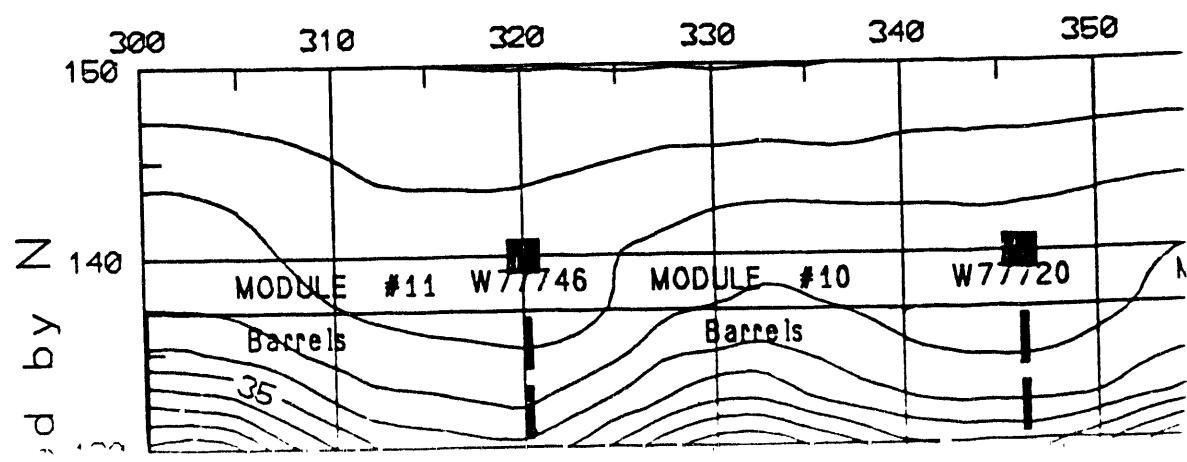
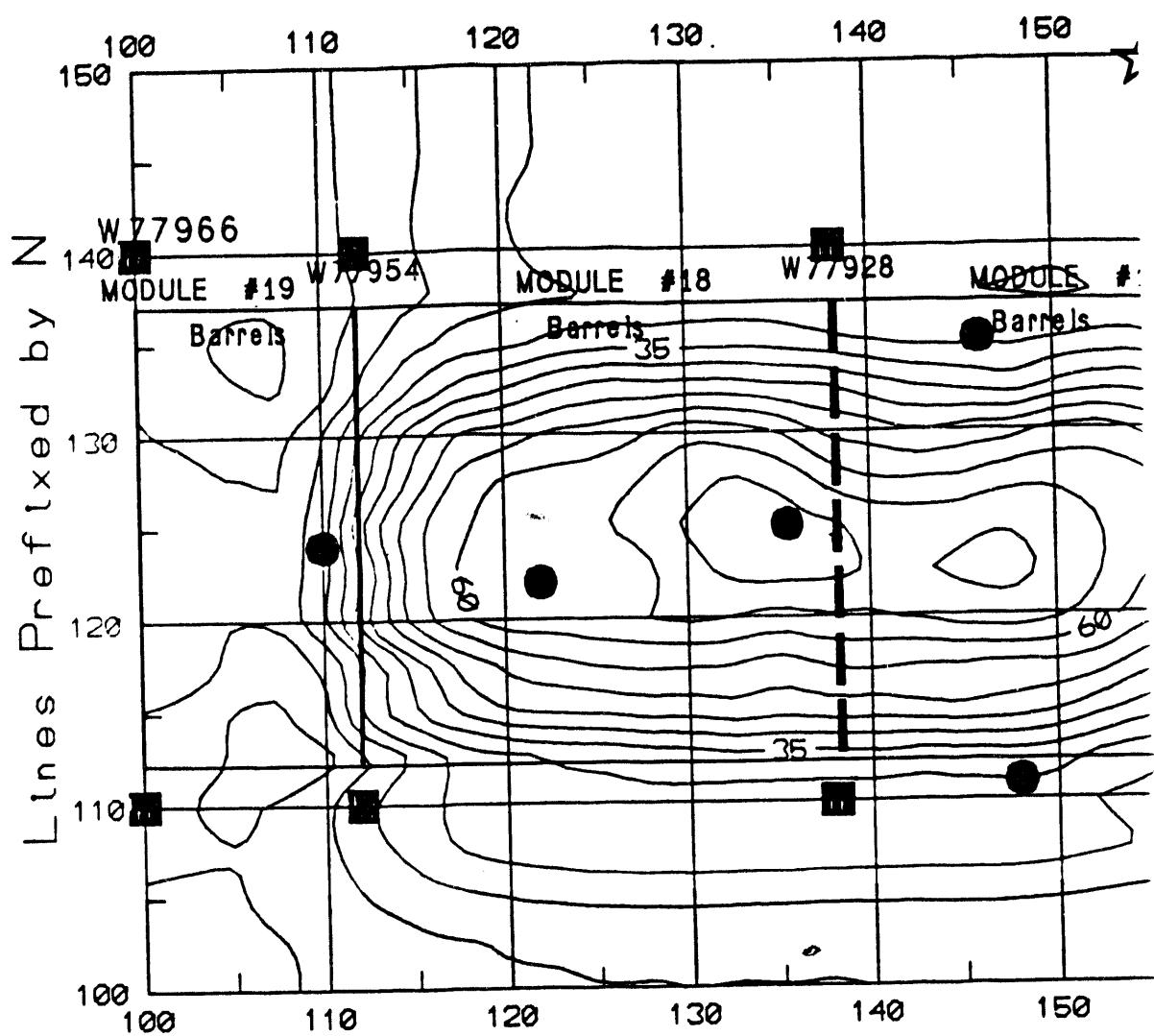
Bearing Plate Test Location

inent Anomaly

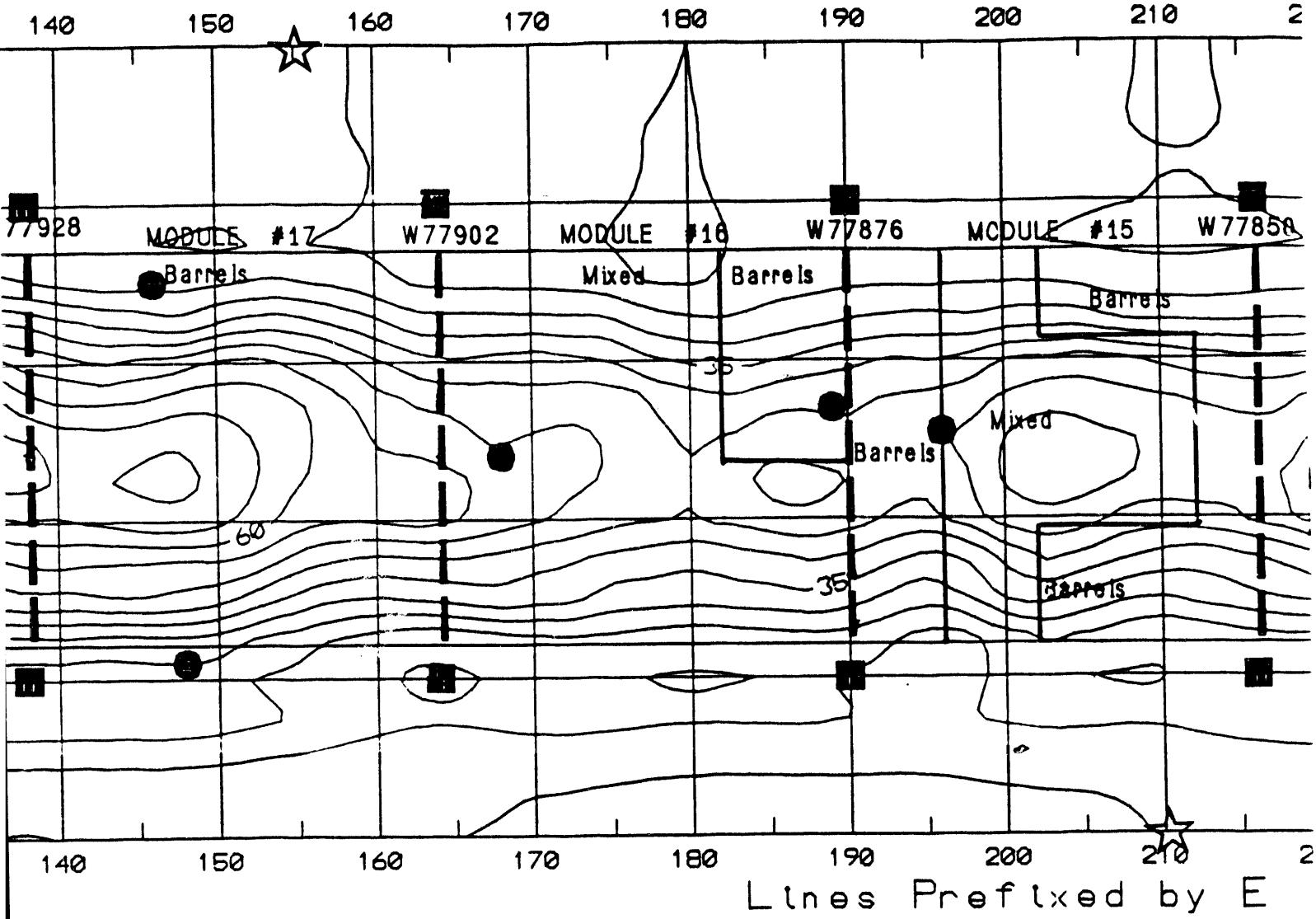
lity <2 feet below surface

456) Location tied to surface stake

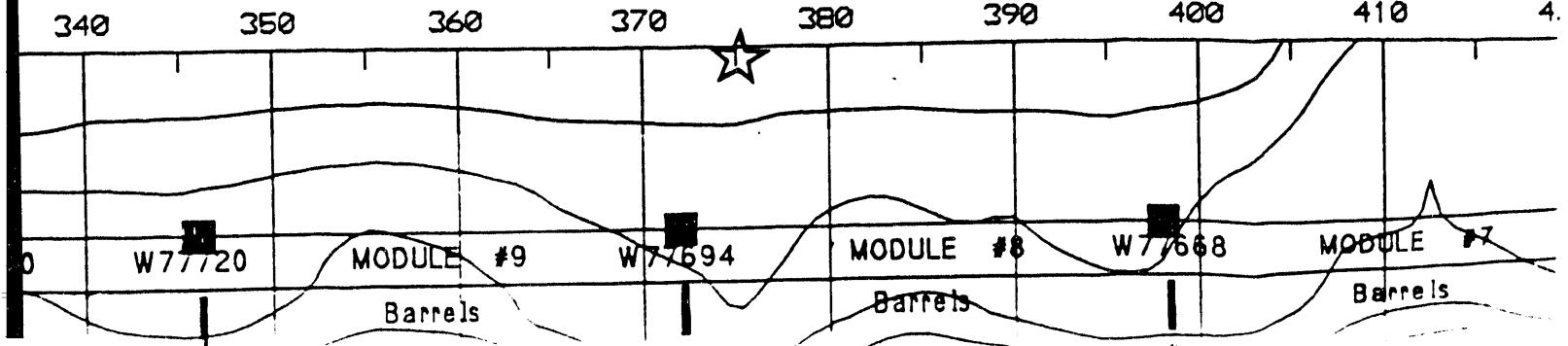
57 Documented location off drawing H-2-87544, Rev.0

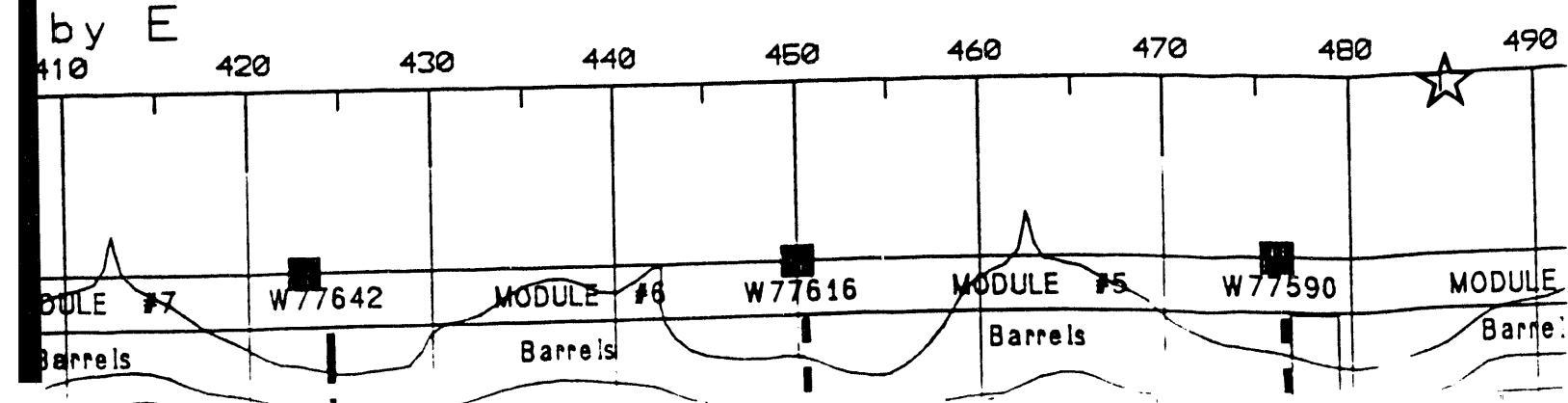
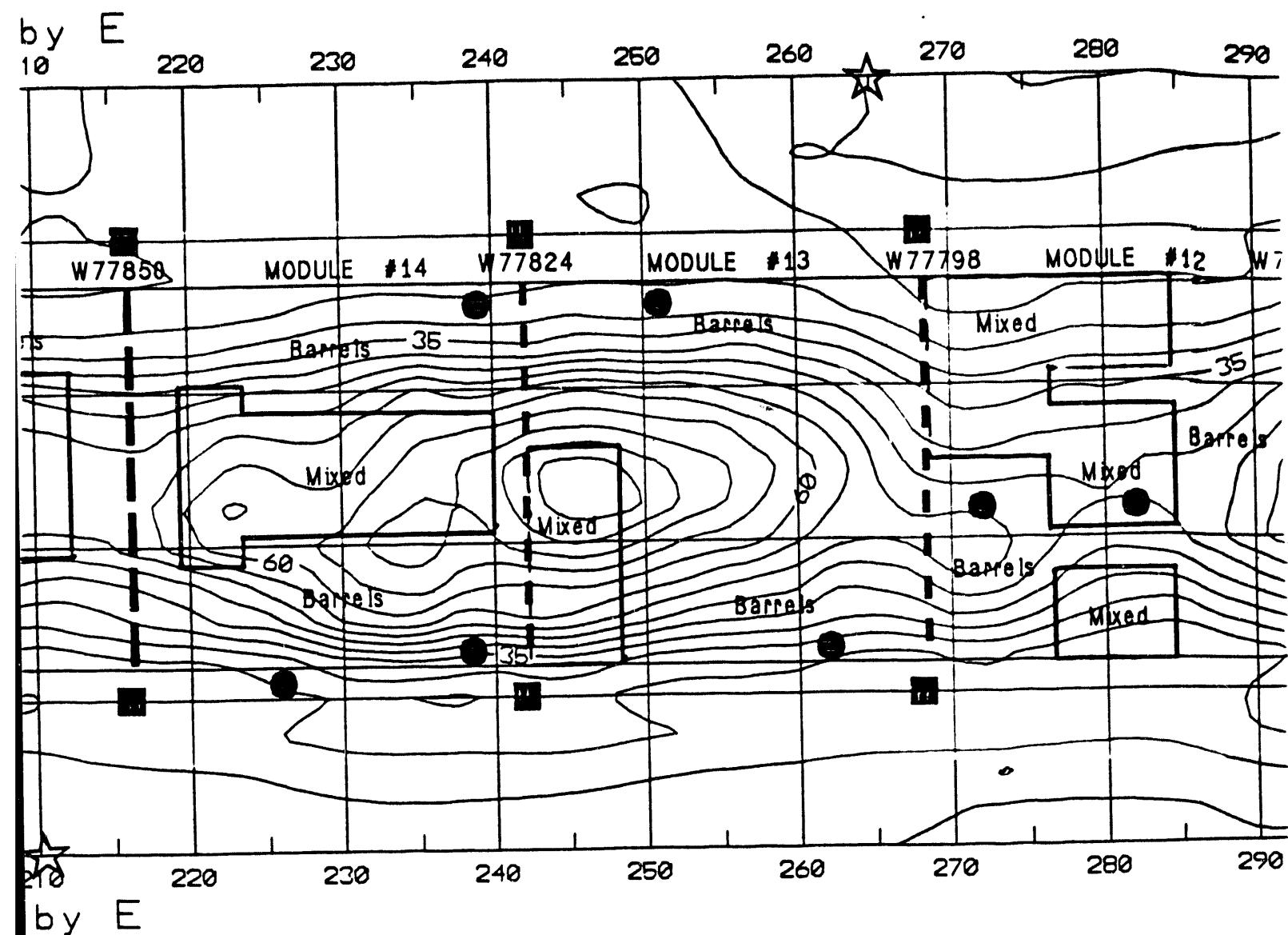


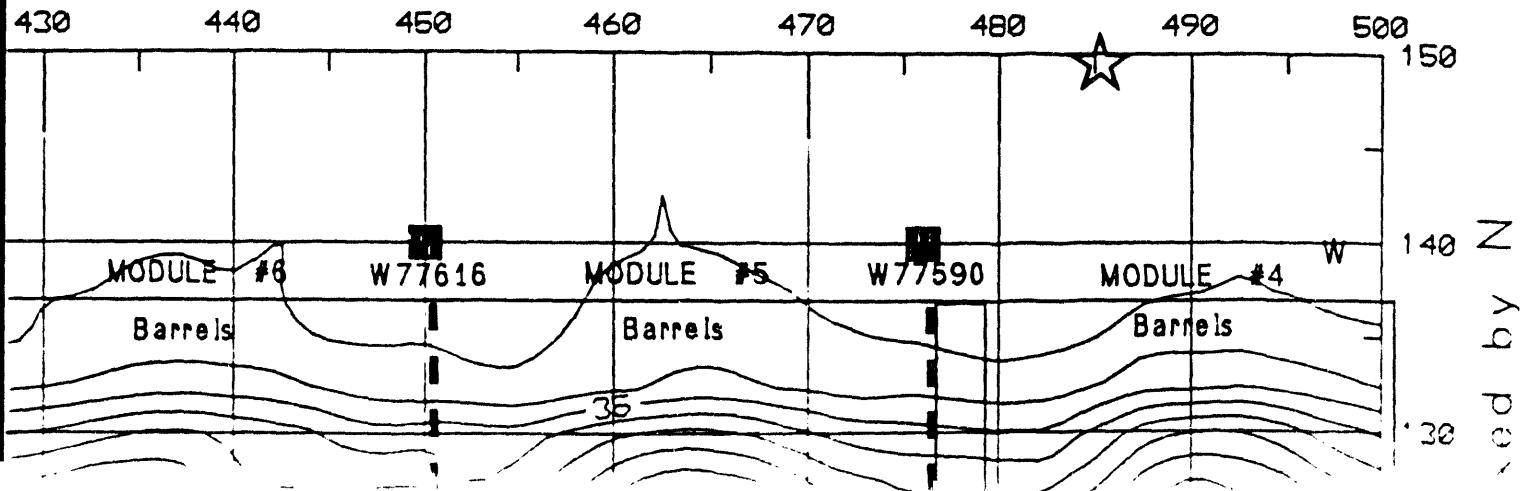
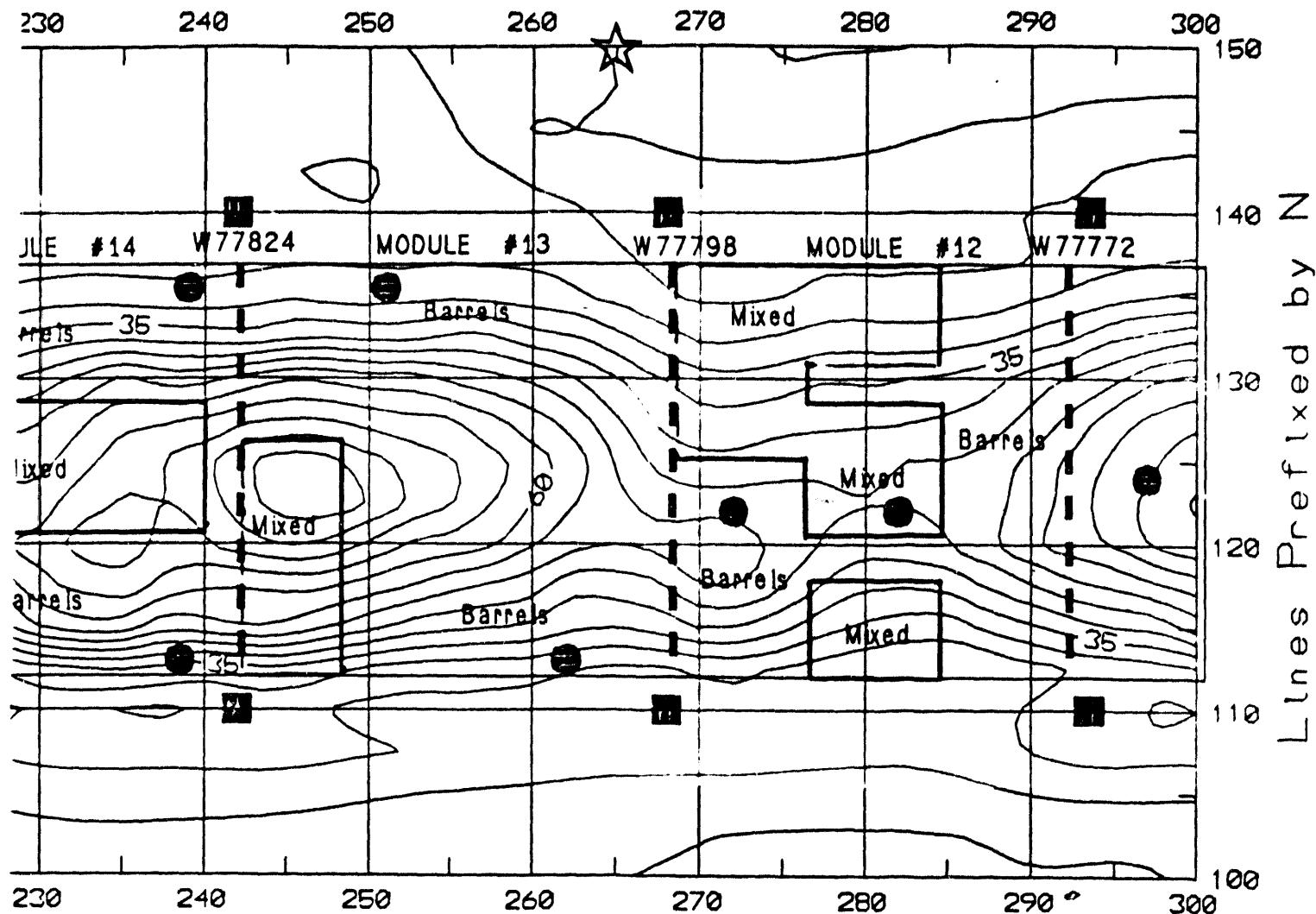
Lines Prefixed by E

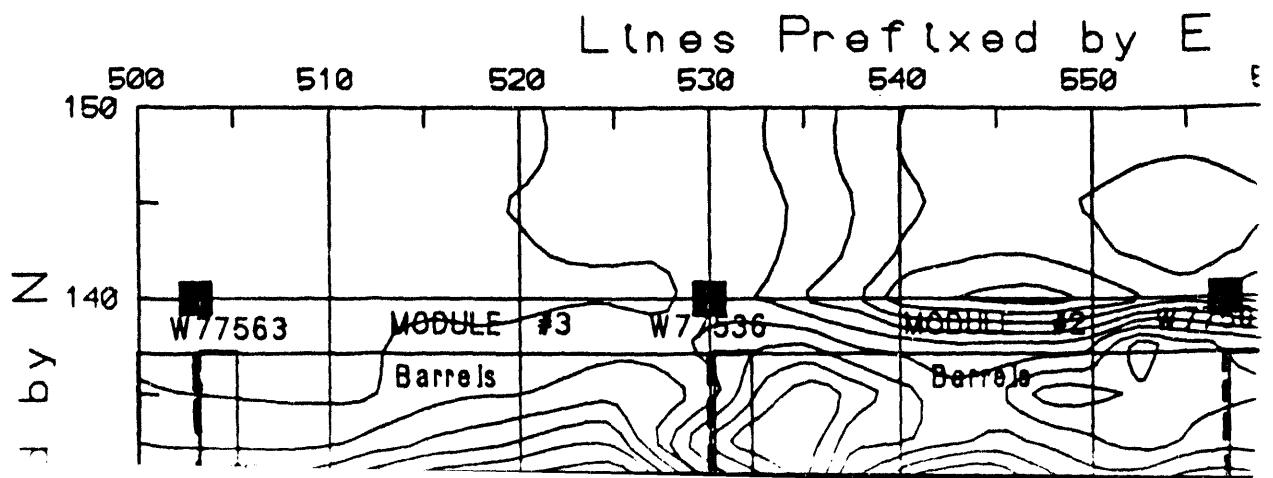
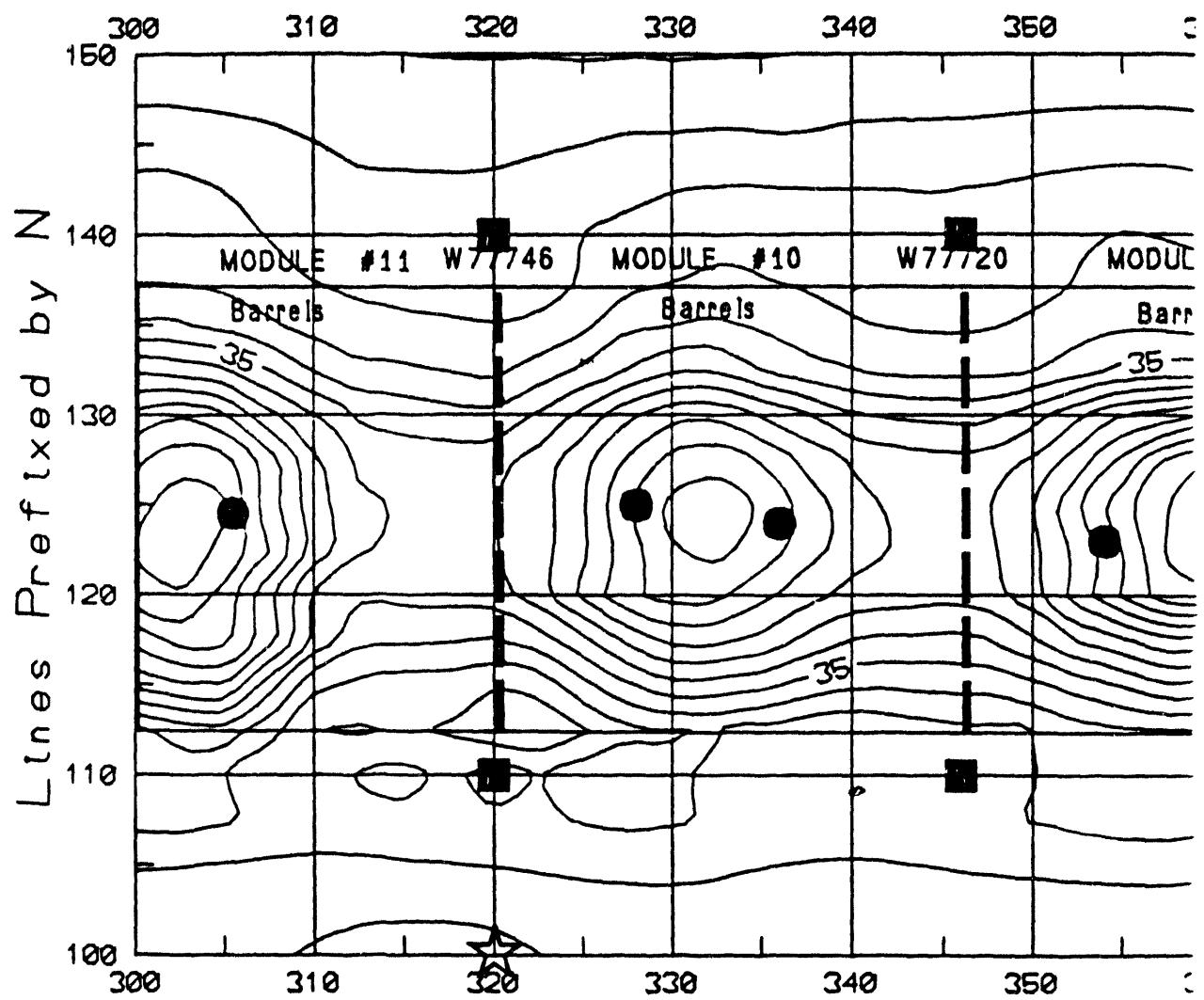


Lines Prefixed by E









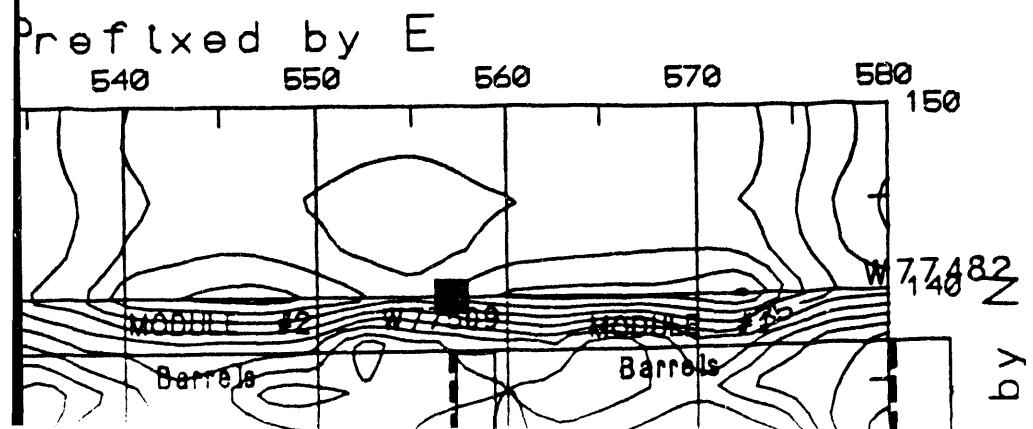
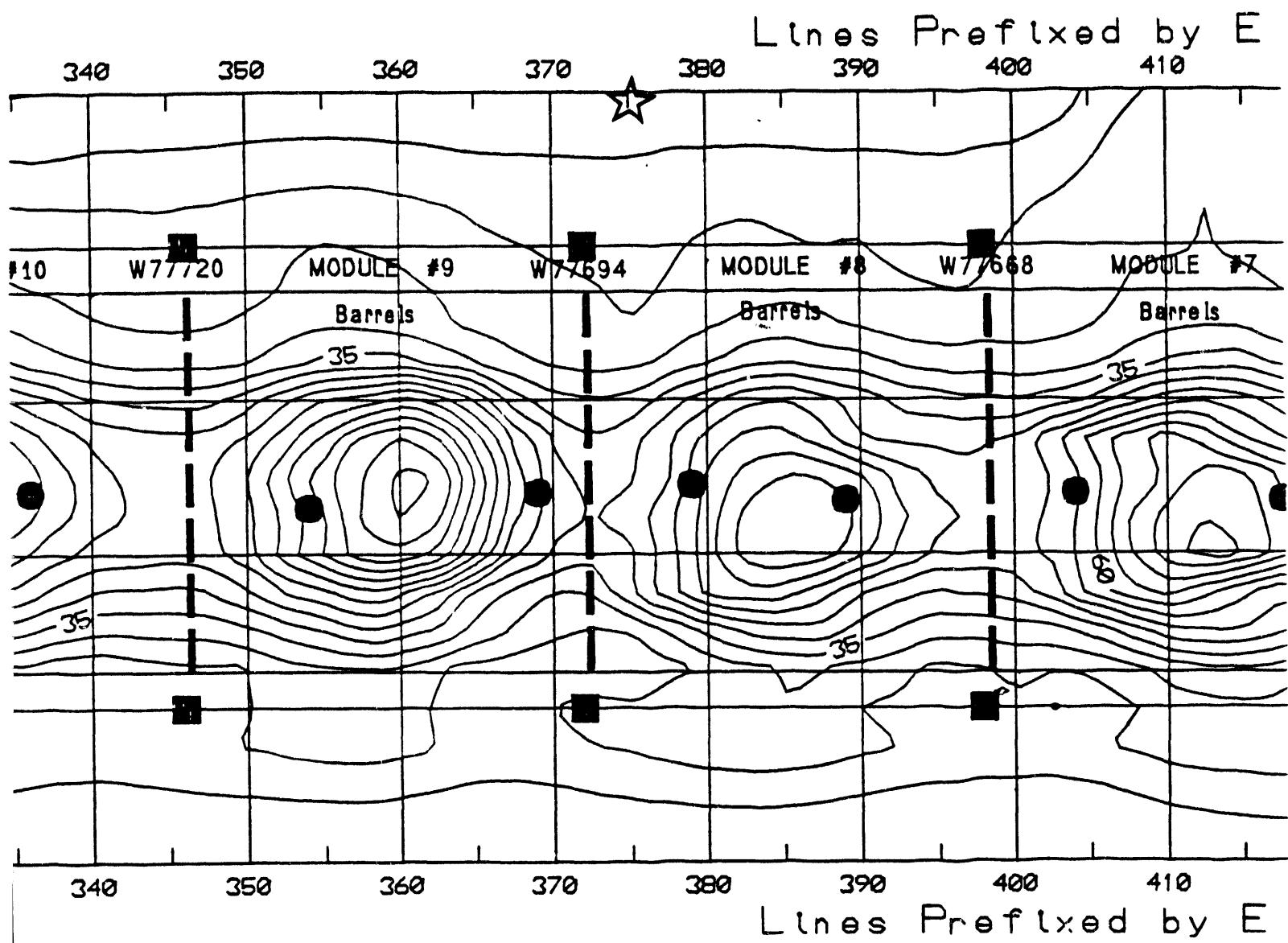
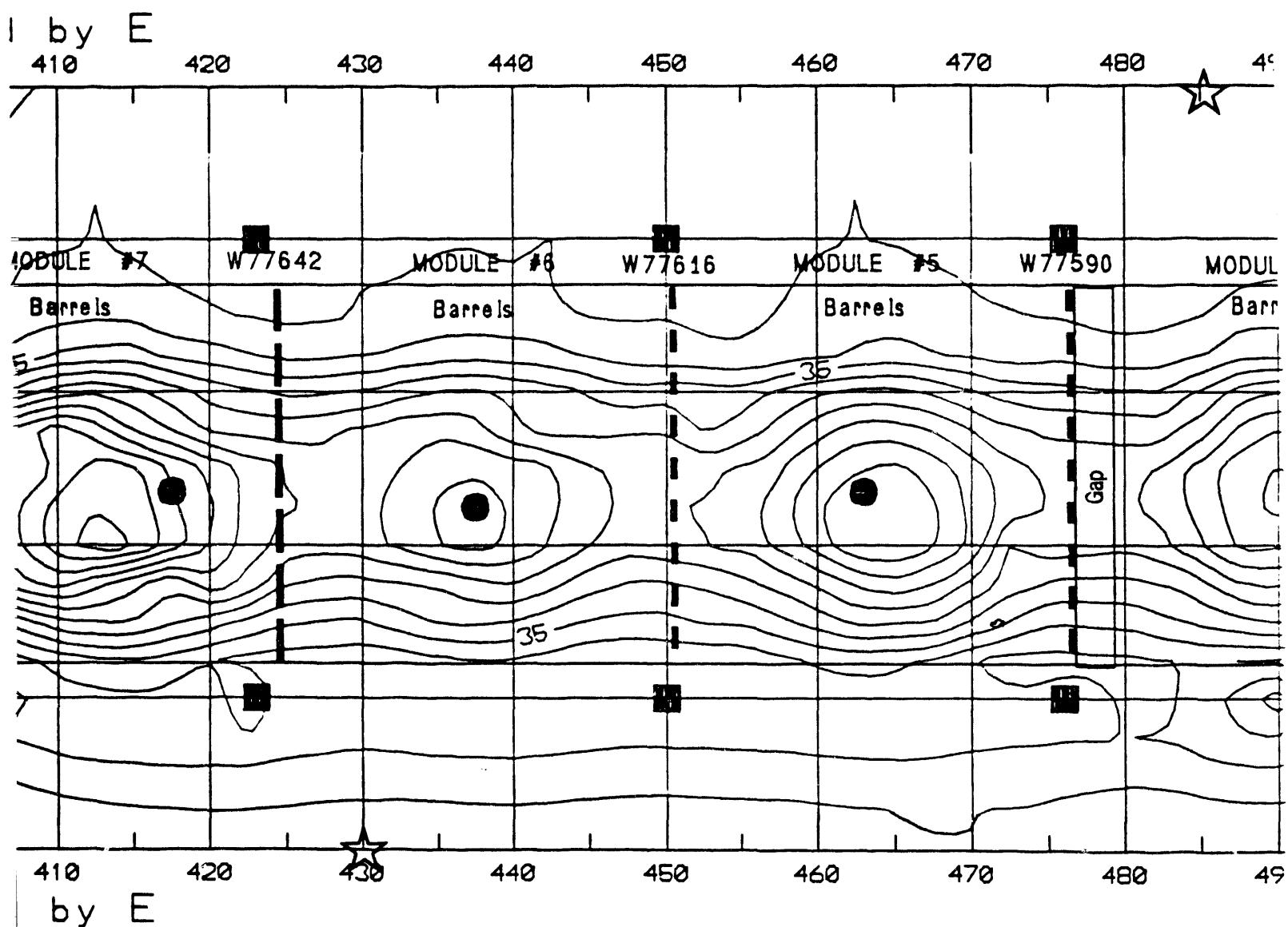
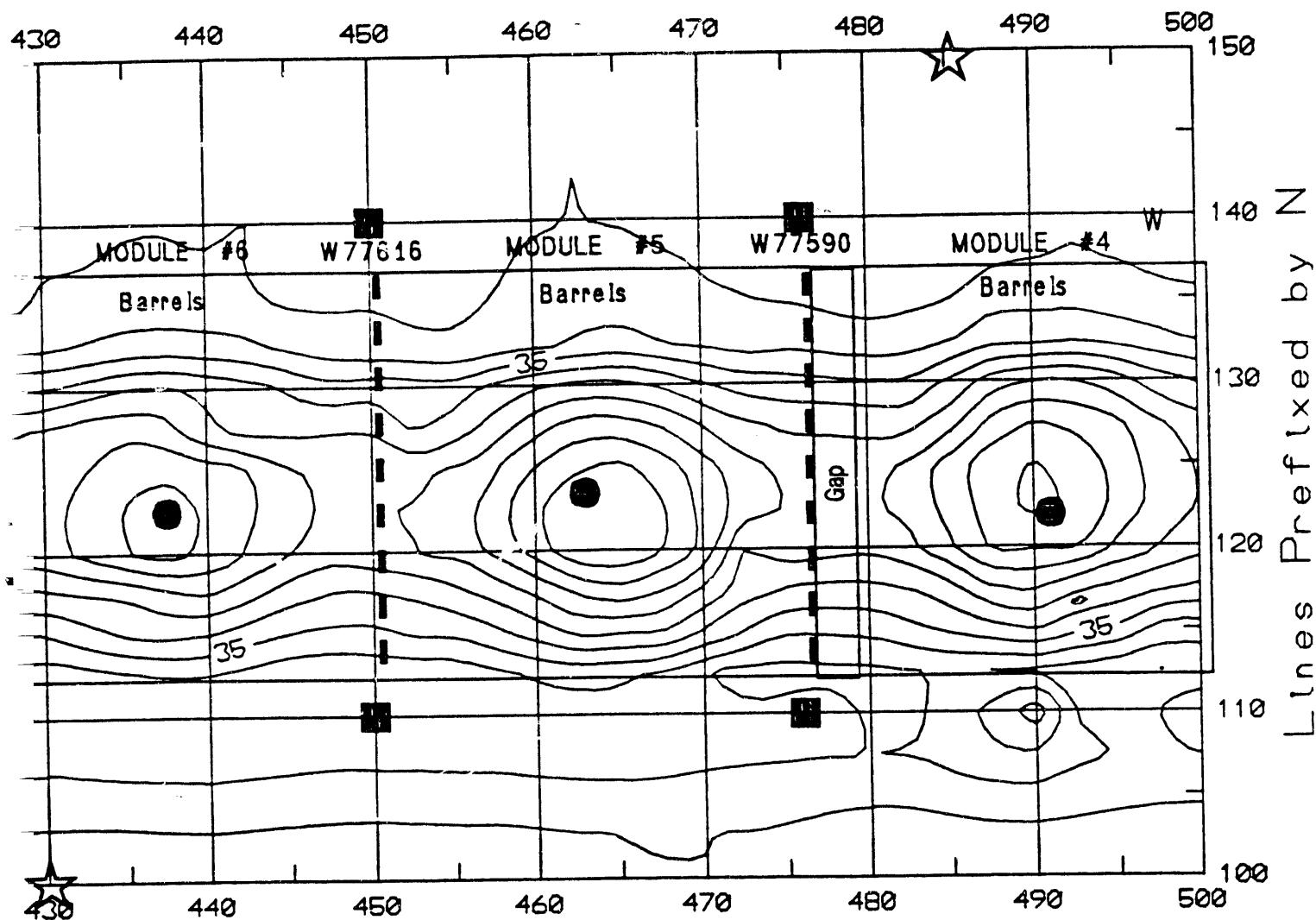


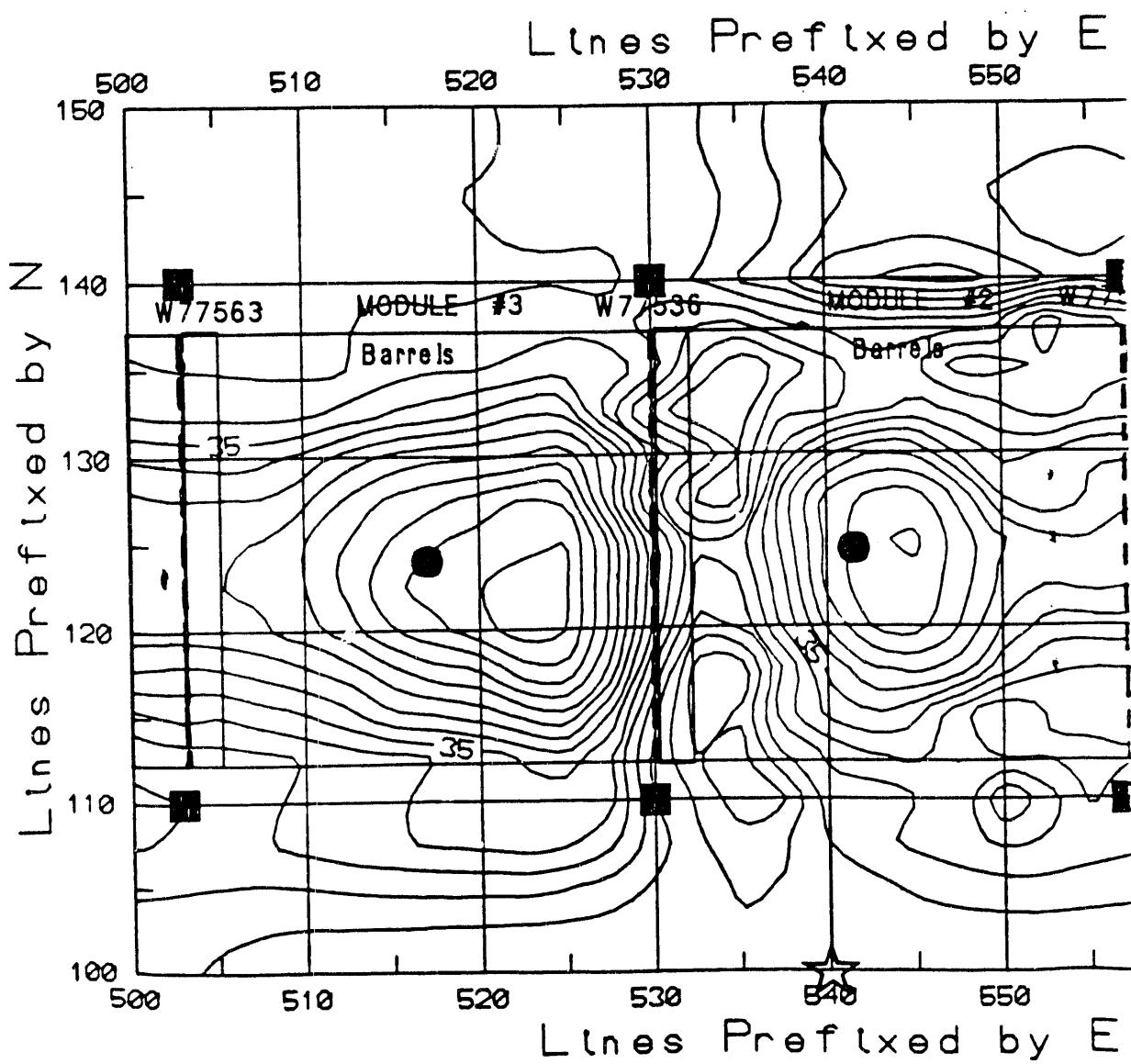
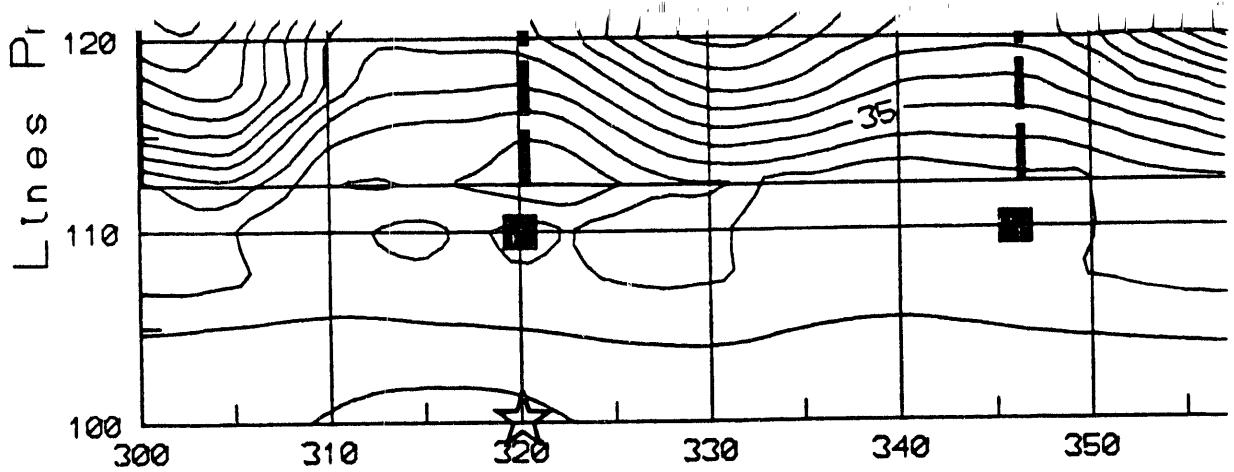
Plate II.  
OF

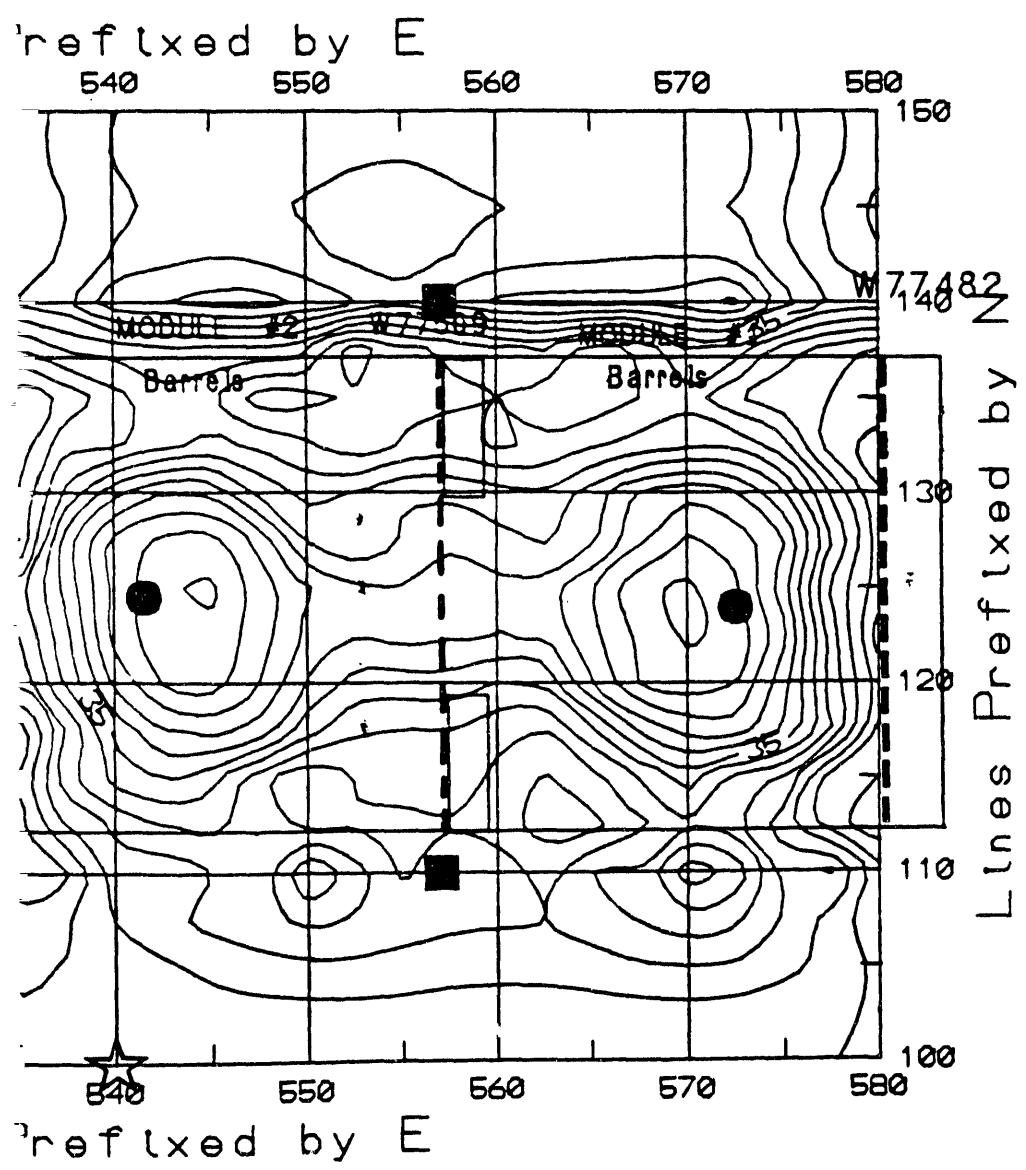
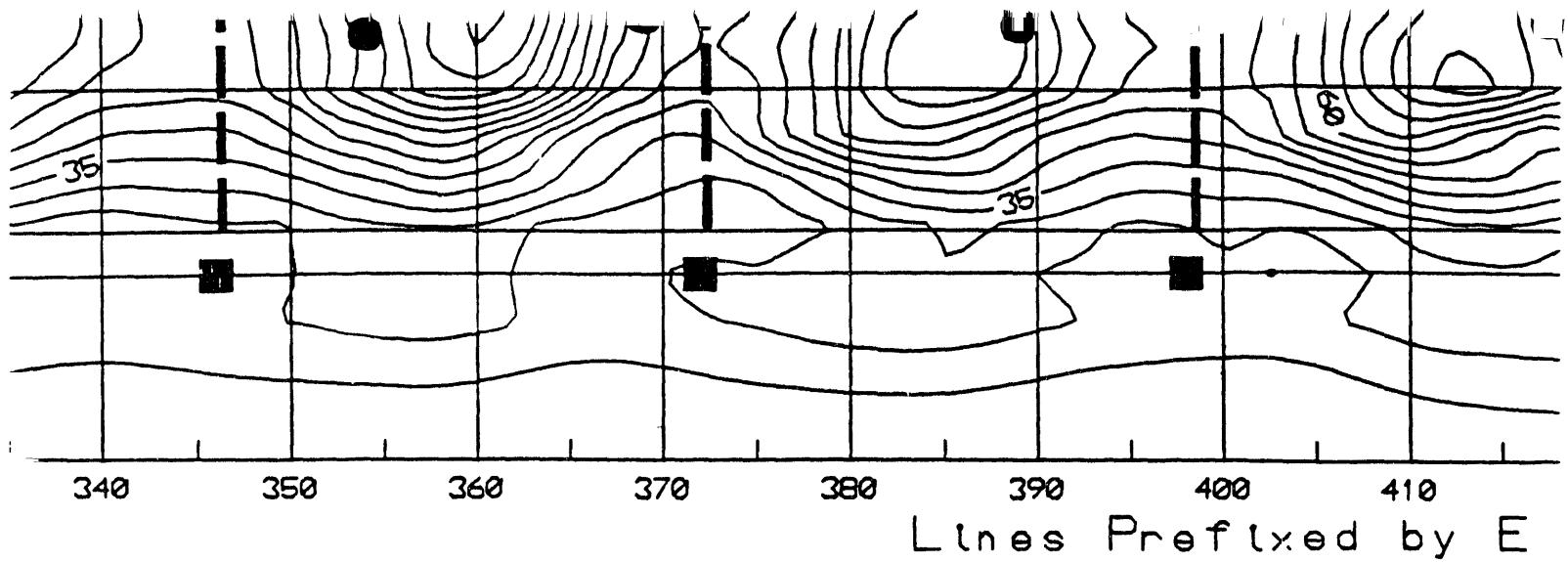


e II. ELECTROMAGNETIC INDUCTION CONTOUR MAP  
OF 218-W-4 BURIAL GROUND: Trench 4



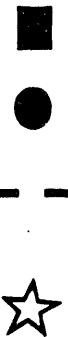
OMAGNETIC INDUCTION CONTOUR MAP  
-4 BURIAL GROUND: Trench 4





## Plate II.

OF



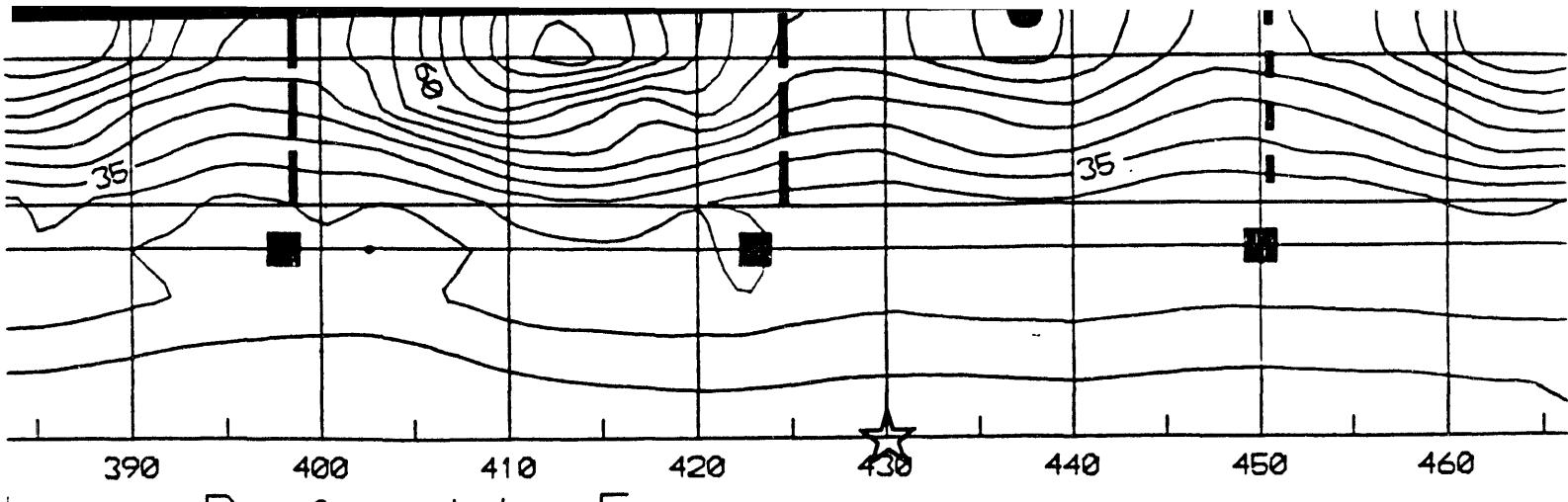


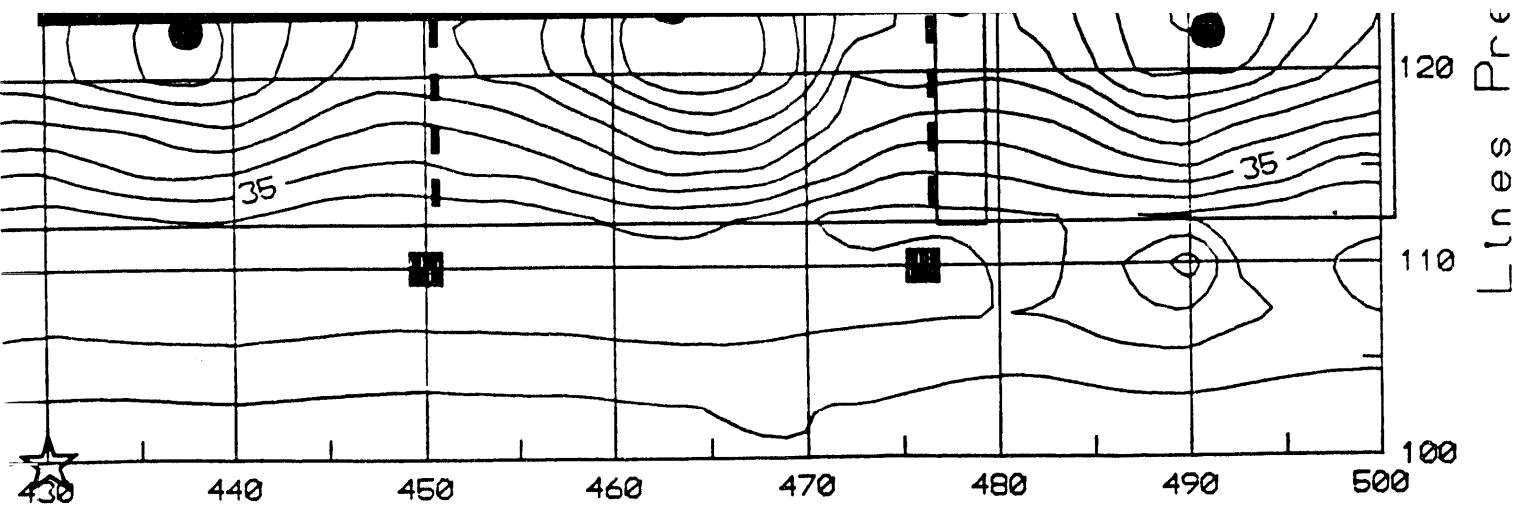
Plate II. ELECTROMAGNETIC INDUCTION CONT  
OF 218-W-4 BURIAL GROUND: Trench

WHC-SD-EN-TI-285, Rev.0

Legend

CONTOUR INTERVAL = 5 mS/m

- Kaiser Survey Monument
  - PVC Stand Pipe
  - — — Module Boundary as per Drawing H-2-87544, Rev.0
  - ★ Load Bearing Plate Test Location
- Scale (Feet)
- 0 5 10



OMAGNETIC INDUCTION CONTOUR MAP  
-4 BURIAL GROUND: Trench 4

SD-EN-TI-285, Rev.0

Legend

CONTOUR INTERVAL = 5 mS/m



Monument

Scale (Feet)

e

ary as per  
37544, Rev.0

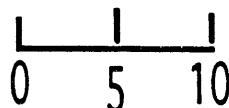


Plate Test Location

DATE  
FILMED

10/13/94

END

