

**THREE VALLEYS WATER PIPELINE DIVERSION
A505 BALDOCK BYPASS**

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

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Preface

Every effort has been made in the preparation of this document to provide as complete an assessment as possible, within the terms of the specification. All statements and opinions in this document are offered in good faith. Albion Archaeology cannot accept responsibility for errors of fact or opinion resulting from data supplied by a third party, or for any loss or other consequence arising from decisions or actions made upon the basis of facts or opinions expressed in this document.

This report has been prepared by Reuben Thorpe, Julian Watters, Christopher Mallows and Jackie Wells. The watching brief was undertaken by Julian Watters, Chris Mallows and Mark Phillips, under the management and guidance of Reuben Thorpe. Surveying of features was carried out by Mark Phillips and Joan Lightning. The finds were analysed by Jackie Wells, the human remains by Christopher Mallows and Joan Lightning produced the figures.

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Structure of this report

After an introduction to the project in Section 1, this report presents the results of the archaeological watching brief on the diversion of the Three Valleys water main in advance of the construction of the A505 Baldock Bypass. Section 2 describes the methodology, both of the contractors and of Albion Archaeology. A chronological summary of the results of the investigations is presented in Section 3, together with details on the finds assemblages. The results of the work are summarised and their significance considered in Section 4.



Non-Technical Summary

Between 4th July and 15th August 2003 Albion Archaeology carried out a watching brief associated with the re-routing of a water main to the east of Baldock, Hertfordshire. The course of the new pipeline followed the line of the proposed A505 Baldock Bypass, extending from TL 2541/3301, south of Cambraii Farm, to TL 2772/3598, adjacent to the existing A505 Baldock to Royston Road.

The initial stage of the work involved the stripping of a 10m wide easement, for vehicular access. Stripping was carried out under archaeological supervision using a 360 degree mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless bucket. Topsoil and subsoil were removed by machine down to the top of the archaeological deposits, or clean natural deposits, whichever was encountered first. Archaeological features were sample excavated and their positions recorded using a total station theodolite.

The second stage of the work was the cutting of the pipe trench. This stage was monitored periodically, particularly when work was taking place in the vicinity of suspected archaeological deposits or features.

A total of 25 archaeological features were discovered during the watching brief. Of these, 24 had not been identified or excavated during previous archaeological work. In summary, the archaeological evidence included:

- *Several boundary ditches, dating from the Iron Age, Roman, medieval and post-medieval periods, together with several undated boundaries.*
- *A group of features, including a grave, water pit and elements of a possible structure, all of which represent evidence for a previously unidentified area of Roman occupation or activity.*
- *A hollow way, which probably dates to the medieval or early post-medieval period and may have been a forerunner to the existing Baldock to Wallington Road.*
- *A wheel-rutted trackway, which is clearly an earlier version of the present-day A507.*



1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 *Project Background*

Albion Archaeology was commissioned by Hertfordshire County Council to undertake an archaeological watching brief during the re-routing of a water main in advance of the construction of the A505 Baldock Bypass on land to the east of Baldock, Hertfordshire (Figure 1). The work was carried out in accordance with a brief issued by AOC Archaeology Group (AOC 2003).

This report summarises the results of the watching brief in accordance with the AOC Archaeology Group brief. In addition, and where appropriate, the results of the watching brief will also be incorporated into the wider programme of post-fieldwork assessment and analysis associated with the overall bypass scheme.

1.2 *Site Location and Description*

The course of the new pipeline is just over 4km long and approximately follows the line of the proposed A505 Baldock Bypass. The re-routed section starts just south of Cambraii Farm at TL 2541/3301 and runs in a north-easterly direction along the north-western side of the proposed road corridor. At TL 2572/3372 it crosses the proposed road corridor and continues on the south-eastern side before terminating at TL 2772/3598, adjacent to the existing A505 Baldock to Royston road.

The underlying geology consists of boulder clay with flints, with silts becoming more predominant towards the northern end. This, in turn, is underlain by a solid geology of middle chalk beds with some deposits of upper chalk separated by outcrops of Melbourn rock.

At the time of the watching brief the fields to the north of the A507 were under arable cultivation, whilst the field to the south of Cambraii Farm was uncultivated grassland.

Topographically the route of the new pipeline cuts into the lower western slope of the Weston Hills to the south, which rises from 120m to 145m OD. It then skirts round the western slope of Windmill Hill and Bird Hill between the 70m and 75m OD contours where it joins the A505.

1.3 *Archaeological Background*

Previous archaeological work has been carried out along the proposed route of the A505 Baldock Bypass. This has consisted of desk-based assessment, aerial photographic analysis, geophysical survey, surface artefact collection, trial excavation and borehole survey.

The most recent work was an archaeological evaluation, undertaken by Albion Archaeology in early 2003. This identified a wide range of features within a landscape of some antiquity, ranging in date from the Neolithic to the post-medieval periods (Albion 2003).



2. METHODOLOGY

2.1 Introduction

A two stage working methodology was adopted in the laying of the water main. Initially a 10m wide easement was stripped of topsoil in order to create vehicular access along the length of the pipeline. This was followed by the excavation of a pipe trench, 0.7m wide and approximately 1m deep, within the footprint of the easement. Both stages of works were monitored by experienced staff from Albion Archaeology.

2.2 Method Statement

The standards outlined in the IFA's *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs* were adhered to, in concert with those detailed in Albion Archaeology's *Procedures Manual for Archaeological Fieldwork and the Analysis of Fieldwork Records* (1996) and English Heritage's *Management of Archaeological Projects* (1991).

In brief the following methodological techniques were specifically employed during fieldwork in accordance with and in addition to those techniques laid out in the brief.

1. Stripping of the easement was supervised by an archaeologist and was undertaken using a 360⁰ mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless bucket. The excavation of the pipe trench was monitored periodically, in particular when it took place in areas of potential archaeological sensitivity.
2. Topsoil and subsoil were removed by machine down to the top of archaeological deposits, or undisturbed geological deposits, whichever was encountered first.
3. Spoil tips and archaeological features were scanned for artefacts by eye and by metal detector. Artefacts recovered from spoil tips, were assigned to the relevant context number.
4. The location of the easement and all archaeological features were surveyed in using a total station theodolite.
5. Features were excavated according to guidelines laid out in the brief.
6. All archaeological deposits and features were recorded using a unique recording number sequence commencing at 10,000.
7. Recording took place on pro-forma sheets.
8. Excavated features were planned at 1:20 or at 1:10 if of greater complexity or significance.



3. RESULTS OF THE WATCHING BRIEF

3.1 Introduction

The most intensive phase of the watching brief took place between 4th July and 15th August 2003 with additional, less intensive attendance during October 2003. A total of 25 archaeological features were investigated and recorded. In the following sections these are discussed by period, where period is known or can be extrapolated.

3.2 Iron Age

3.2.1 Boundary ditch (TL 2537/3309)

A substantial ditch [10108], orientated NE-SW, was revealed to the south of Cambraii Farm (Figure 2). Measuring up to 2.30m wide and 0.75m deep, with stepped sides and a concave base (into which had been cut a narrow slot), ditch [10108] followed the contour of the north-facing slope into which it had been cut. The basal slot, a deliberately created aspect of the feature, may have acted as an “ankle breaker”, possibly suggesting that the ditch had a defensive element, though such features are often interpreted as silt traps allowing for easy cleaning during renewal or maintenance of boundaries.

Two separate, heavily root-mixed fills (10109) (10110) were identified. They consisted of friable, brown or greyish brown, silts with frequent small inclusions of fragmented and re-deposited chalk. Significant quantities of early to middle Iron Age pottery, animal bone and a pierced canine tooth pendant (RA 10100) were recovered. The presence of these finds, in such quantities, indicates that ditch [10108] was located near to settlement activity. No obvious continuation of the ditch was observed in any of the previously excavated trial trenches (Albion 2003).

3.2.2 Field boundary (TL 2565/3352)

A NW-SE aligned ditch [10005/10013] was excavated in two segments, some 22m to the south of an existing footpath (Figure 3). It was 2m wide, 0.69m deep and had a stepped profile. A 45 degree northern edge sloped to a flat ledge, with a deeper slot to the south of the cut forming the base of the ditch. This slot was particularly pronounced in excavated segment [10005].

The primary fill (10006/10012) of the ditch comprised fine silts in a matrix of re-deposited chalk. It totally infilled the basal slot.

Directly above the primary fill lay a deposit (10008), which was rich in animal bone (some butchered) and also produced a small, probably Iron Age sherd. The tertiary infilling/silting (10007) consisted of a mix of friable, light yellowish brown, chalky silt and re-deposited chalk nodules; it was uniformly distributed within the feature. This material was 0.28m thick and was possibly formed through a combination of natural weathering and deliberate deposition. The uppermost fill (10010/10009) of the ditch consisted almost entirely of re-deposited



chalk. This appears to represent deliberate backfill, probably derived from the slighting and levelling of an associated bank.

3.3 Late Iron Age/Early Roman

3.3.1 Quarry pit (TL 2546/3337)

Pit [10017] was found 18.50m to the north of the existing A507 (Figure 3). It was irregularly shaped in plan and extended from the SE side of the pipeline easement. It was excavated in two segments. The SE segment [10026] revealed a wide (up to 3.85m) pit, 1m deep, with concave sides and a flat base. The NW segment [10014], however, exhibited a much shallower profile with a maximum depth of 0.28m.

A full sequence of fills was present in the SE segment. The lower four fills (10021-24) comprised a combination of re-deposited chalk and silts and had the appearance of being deliberate events of infilling. The upper two fills (10020) (10019) consisted of friable, light brown to yellowish brown, silts, which were well sorted and evenly distributed throughout the feature, seemingly deriving from the natural. Seven sherds of pottery recovered from (10019) date to the late Iron Age/early Roman period. Similar pottery of the same date was also found in primary fill (10021).

The form of pit [10017] suggests that it was probably a quarry, excavated to provide raw materials for the precursor of the A507. It was infilled fairly rapidly following its disuse in the late 1st century BC / early 1st century AD.

3.4 The Roman Period

3.4.1 Field Boundary (TL 2644/3455)

An isolated, NW-SE orientated ditch [10098] was found to the south of the barrow cemetery next to the A505 (Figure 5). It was excavated in two segments [10091] [10095]. Both segments revealed the feature to have a shallow profile, with 45 degree sides and a flat base.

The pattern of infilling revealed in both excavated segments comprised a primary fill (10092/10096) of firm, mid reddish brown silt with frequent chalk fragments. Present only on the eastern edge of the ditch it appeared to be slumped material, possibly from a low bank. The upper two fills (10097/10093) and (10094) probably derived from natural silting. Single sherds of Roman pottery were recovered from the primary and secondary fills. This feature probably formed a Roman field boundary.

3.4.2 Feature Group (TL 2623/3433)

A group of four features was discovered on high ground to the north of Wallington Road (Figure 4). They are particularly significant as they represent the only evidence for settlement discovered during the watching brief. Only the late Roman grave [10115] could be dated by its artefactual content. The remaining features are discussed in this section because of their proximity to and possible association with the grave. However, they could be either earlier or later in date.



3.4.2.1 Water pit (TL 2626/3435)

Feature [10120] was 3.50m long, 2.20m wide and up to 1.40m deep. It had a distinctive profile, with a 45 degree upper break of slope leading to a near vertical to vertical lower slope, with an elliptical depression cut into the base towards the northern side.

This large pit contained three fills, each comprising a mixture of re-deposited chalk and silt. The lowest fill (10121) consisted of fine silts in a matrix of 80% chalk fragments, up to 1.05m deep, and appeared to be a single, deliberate backfilling event. Secondary fill (10122) comprised of an even mix of chalk nodules and fine silt and also appeared to be a deliberate backfill. Conversely, the final fill (10123) appeared to have formed as a result of natural silting.

The distinctive form of this feature suggests it may have functioned as a water pit.

3.4.2.2 Post holes (TL 2623/3432 and 2622/3431)

Two small, elliptical post holes [10117] [10119] were discovered to the SW of [10120]. They were 13.10m apart and were both 0.50m long by 0.14m deep with concave sides and a flat base. Their fills were also similar but displayed no evidence of post pipes. The similarities in form and location suggest that the two features were probably contemporary. Whether they formed part of the same structure was, however, impossible to determine, within the narrow pipeline easement.

3.4.2.3 Grave (TL 2623/3432)

A single, oval grave [10115], aligned approximately north-south was discovered within this feature group. It was 1.05m long, 0.90m wide and 80mm deep and contained the crouched inhumation of a child or young adult, aged 12 to 13 years. A late Roman globular glass bead (RA 10102) and a copper alloy sheet fragment (RA 10101), possibly part of a toiletry spoon, were found next to the skull. This inhumation is reported in more detail below (section 3.8.5.3).

3.5 Late Medieval/Post-Medieval

3.5.1 Field Boundary (TL 2543/3320)

A NE-SW orientated ditch [10083] was discovered to the south of Cambraii Farm (Figure 2). It extended in a NE direction from the western side of the easement. Its NE extent lay beneath a layer of subsoil. As revealed, the ditch was 26.50m long, up to 1m wide and contained a single fill of pale grey silt. This shallow feature appears to have been deliberately backfilled though its inception probably dates to the late medieval or early post-medieval periods. It is likely to have been a field boundary.

3.5.2 Drainage Gullies (TL 2536/3304)

A group of five narrow, linear gullies [10070] [10072] [10074] [10079] [10081] was identified towards the southern end of the easement (Figure 2). They were all aligned NE-SW. Three displayed a shallow profile (0.10m maximum), with gently sloping sides and flat or concave bases. Feature [10070], however, was more substantial measuring up to 0.87m wide and 0.26m deep.



Given the fact that they run down the north facing slope, it seems probable that these features represent drainage gullies. Fragments of ceramic building material in their fills suggest a late medieval / early post-medieval date.

3.6 Modern features

3.6.1 Field Boundary (TL 2661/3471)

A shallow, NW-SE aligned gully [10124] was found to the north of the barrow cemetery next to the A505 (Figure 5). It corresponds with the location of an extant field boundary. It measured 1.60m wide and 0.13m deep with uneven but gently sloping sides. It represented either the base of a shallow ditch or, more likely, evidence for the removal of a hedge line.

3.7 Undated Features

3.7.1 Field boundaries (TL 2730/3532 and 2731/3533)

Two NW-SE orientated linear features [10126] [10088] were discovered within 13.50m of each other (Figure 6). The wider of the two [10126] was located furthest to the NE. Its two excavated segments showed it to be up to 1.75m wide and 0.11m deep, with concave sides and a flat base. Both segments contained a single fill of friable, light brown, silt with frequent small chalk fragments, which appeared to have been derived from the erosion of the surrounding subsoil.

Gully [10088] was situated to the SW of [10126] and was 0.30m and 90mm deep. Its fill was similar to that of [10126], suggesting a similar process of infilling.

The function of ditch [10126] and gully [10088] is uncertain, although their dimensions suggest that they formed field boundaries, possibly accompanied by a bank or hedge line.

3.7.2 Gully (TL 2752/3563)

A single, shallow linear represented the most north-easterly archaeological feature discovered during the watching brief. Gully [10044/10046] extended from the western side of the pipeline easement on a NE-SW alignment, for a distance of 3.40m, before terminating (Figure 7). It is of unknown date and function.

3.7.3 Hollow ways and trackways

3.7.3.1 Hollow way (TL 2618/3426)

A linear, 3.30m wide, east-west aligned depression [10107] with a wide, shallow profile and a wide, flat base was discovered approximately 250m NE of Wallington Road (Figure 4). This probable hollow way preserved evidence of wheel ruts in the form of three narrow gullies [10102] [10104] [10106] also on an east-west alignment.

The infill of hollow way [10107] comprised a deposit of homogenous, greyish brown, silts (10100) representing the accumulation of deposits within the hollow



way during its use and disuse. No artefacts were recovered from this fill but it is likely that the hollow way dated from the medieval or early post-medieval period.

3.7.3.2 **Trackway** (TL 2545/3336)

Several narrow, linear features were identified, excavated and recorded, immediately to the north of the present A507 (Figure 3). These features [Group 10039] followed the same NW-SE alignment as the existing road and are interpreted as a trackway.

Within this trackway a complex of narrow, east-west orientated, gullies and slots, interpreted as wheel ruts, was discovered flanked to the south by a re-cut ditch [10037]. The re-cut of this ditch was 1.20m wide, 0.24m deep and had a U-shaped profile and flat base. Three of the narrow slots were also excavated and were between 0.10m and 0.20m wide, steep-sided with flat bases, and 0.13m deep. No corresponding ditch was found on the northern side of the wheel ruts, probably due to the slope of the ground at this point.

Unfortunately, no artefacts were recovered from the drainage ditches or wheel ruts and the date of the trackway, therefore, remains unknown.

3.7.4 **Isolated pits** (TL 2598/3400 and 2722/3524)

Two isolated pits [10048] (not illustrated) [10052] (Figure 6) of unknown date and function were discovered during the stripping of the easement. Both features were elliptical in plan and measured 0.90m long by 0.70m wide, and between 90mm and 0.21m deep.

3.7.5 **Tree bowl** (TL 2537/3308)

A single tree bowl [10111] was recorded (Figure 2). Oval in plan, with 45 degree sides and a steep-sided depression on its southern side, it cut ditch [10108] (see section 3.2.1), causing severe root disturbance to the earlier feature.



3.8 Finds Assemblages

3.8.1 Introduction

The watching brief produced an assemblage comprising mainly pottery, ceramic building material and animal bone. The material was scanned to ascertain its nature, condition and, for the artefacts, date range.

Context	Feature	Feature Type	Spotdate*	Pottery <i>Sherd/g</i>	CBM <i>Frag/g</i>	Animal Bone <i>Frag/g</i>	Other Finds
10000	10000	Ploughsoil				3:334	Copper alloy coin (RA 10103), Lead musket ball (RA 10104)
10007	10005	Ditch	?Iron Age	1:13			
10008	10005	Ditch		1:1		68:221	
10011	10013	Ditch	Belgic Iron Age	4:11			
10015	10014	Ditch	Late medieval		1:9		
10016	10014	Ditch	Late medieval		1:12		Iron strip (RA 10105)
10019	10026	Quarry pit	Belgic Iron Age	7:75	1:20	4:18	Fired clay (11g)
10021	10026	Quarry pit	Belgic Iron Age	1:8			
10050	10049	Ditch	Late medieval	1:11	4:1582	1:11	
10053	10052	Pit		1:1			
10059	10058	Gully	Late medieval / early post-medieval		2:75		
10065	10064	Gully	Late medieval / early post-medieval		2:31		
10085	10086	Ditch	Post-medieval	1:5	5:133	1:1	Snail shell (17g), iron nail (19g)
10093	10091	Ditch	-		1:10		Iron nail (5g)
10096	10095	Ditch	Roman	3:9			
10097	10095	Ditch	Roman	1:1			
10100	10100	Hollow way infill	-		1:1		
10109	10108	Ditch	Early-middle IA	8:185	4:93	92:756	Burnt stone (162g)
10110	10108	Ditch	Early-middle IA	5:90	2:25	16:100	Pierced tooth pendant (RA 10100) Flint flakes (21g)
10113	10115	Grave	Late Roman	1:1			Copper alloy fragment (RA 10101) and bead (RA 10102)
10114	10115	Grave					Human bone (58g)
Total				35:411	24:1991	185:1441	

* Spotdates are based on the latest date of all artefacts from the context

CBM – ceramic building material

RA – registered artefact

Table 1: Artefact Summary

3.8.2 Pottery

Thirty-five sherds, weighing 411g were recovered. These were examined by context and quantified by number of sherds and weight.

Fourteen fabric types were identified, using common names and type codes in accordance with the Bedfordshire Ceramic Type Series, held by Albion Archaeology. Fabrics are listed below (Table 2) in chronological order. Late Iron Age and Roman fabrics are correlated, where possible, with those from the Baldock excavations (Stead and Rigby 1986). It should be noted that concordances are based on written descriptions only. The pottery ranges in date from the early-middle Iron Age to the post-medieval period.



Fabric type	Common name	Sherd No.	Context / Sherd No.
Early-middle Iron Age (650-350BC)			
Type F19	Sand and Organic	1	(10109):1
Type F28	Fine sand	12	(10109):7, (10110):5
Belgic Iron Age (100BC-AD50)			
Type F05 (Baldock Fabric 3)	Grog and shell	1	(10019):1
Type F06B (Baldock Fabric 2)	Medium Grog	1	(10019):1
Type F06C (Baldock Fabric 2)	Coarse Grog	7	(10011):4, (10019):2, (10050):1
Type F07 (Baldock Fabric 4)	Shell	1	(10019):1
Type F09	Sand and Grog	2	(10019):1; (10021):1
Type F	Non-specific Iron Age	1	(10008):1
Roman (50-400)			
Type R06C (Baldock Fabric 7)	Fine greyware	1	(10097):1
Type R06D	Micaceous greyware	1	(10096):1
Type R19	Amphorae	1	(10096):1
Type R22A (Baldock Fabric 7)	Hadham oxidised wares	1	(10096):1
Post-medieval (1500-1750)			
Type P30	Staffordshire Slipware	1	(10085):1
UNID	Unidentified ware	5	(10007):1, (10019):1, (10053):1, (10113):1

Table 2: Pottery Type Series

Early-middle Iron Age

Thirteen undiagnostic sherds (275g) of early-middle Iron Age pottery were collected from boundary ditch [10108]. Although slightly abraded, the sherds are sizeable (average weight 21g). One shoulder sherd is decorated with a poorly executed circular impression. The sand tempered fabric types identified are consistent with those recovered from the evaluation (Albion 2003).

Late Belgic Iron Age

Twelve late 'Belgic' Iron Age sherds (104g) were recovered from field boundary [10013], ditch [10049] and quarry pit [10026]. Fabric types mainly consist of grog tempered wares corresponding with Baldock fabrics 2 and 3 (Rigby 1986, 260), which are characteristic of the period. A single sherd in a shell tempered fabric, Baldock fabric 4 (ibid, 261) was also recovered. All 'Belgic' sherds are small (average weight 8g) and abraded. A cordoned jar is the only diagnostic form.

Roman

Four undiagnostic, abraded sherds (4g) of Roman pottery were collected from field boundary [10095]. Three are of probable local origin, corresponding to Baldock fabric 7, and a possible amphora sherd represents a continental import.

Post-medieval

An undiagnostic sherd (5g) of 17th-18th century Staffordshire slipware was recovered from ditch [10086].

3.8.3 Ceramic Building Material

Twenty-four fragments (1.9kg) of brick and tile were recovered. All are late medieval/post-medieval in date and are sand tempered, flat roof tile and brick fragments.



3.8.4 Registered Artefacts

Of the six registered artefacts recovered, four are typologically datable. The fill of ditch [10108] contained a pierced canine tooth pendant (RA 10100) of Iron Age or Roman origin. Grave [10115] yielded a late Roman globular glass bead (RA 10102) associated with a copper alloy sheet fragment (RA 10101). The latter is possibly part of a toiletry spoon. The fill of ditch [10014] contained a miscellaneous, undatable iron strip fragment (RA 10105). An unstratified Roman copper alloy coin (RA 10103) and a post-medieval lead musket ball (RA 10104) were recovered from topsoil (10000).

3.8.5 Ecofactual Evidence

3.8.5.1 Animal Bone

Faunal remains weighing 1.4kg were recovered, the majority deriving from boundary ditch [10108]. The assemblage is highly fragmented with an average fragment weight of 7g. Bone preservation is generally poor, with a high degree of surface erosion. Several fragments from ditch [10005] bear cut marks. The assemblage comprises fragments of large mammal bone including scapula, rib and long bones. Identifiable species are sheep/goat, cow and dog.

3.8.5.2 Environmental Samples

A number of features with apparent environmental potential were sampled. The initial results of the processing are set out below.

Sample	Context	Feature	Feature type	Potential
50	10019	10026	Quarry pit	Abundant snail shells. Small amount of charred material, including at least one grain.
51	10056	10057	Gully	Moderate snail shells, though a large proportion are the burrowing species, <i>ceciloides acicula</i> . Small amount of wood charcoal.
52	10113	10115	Grave	Abundant snail shells. Small amount of wood charcoal. Abundant modern straw/chaff debris may indicate a degree of modern disturbance.

Table 3: Environmental Samples

3.8.5.3 Human Bone

An isolated, solitary crouched burial (10114) was recovered from grave [10115]. The inhumation was aligned south to north, with the head to the south. The cranium was positioned on its left side, facing west.

The bone was extremely poorly preserved and very friable to the slightest touch. Only three areas of significance remained: the tibiae shafts, the cranium and the maxillary and mandibular dentition. Although the dental enamel was extremely denuded, the surviving dentition gave an age range estimate of 12.7 to 13.3 years. It was not possible to sex the individual.



4. SYNTHESIS

The archaeological discoveries and observations made during the re-routing of the Three Valleys water main, in advance of the construction of the A505 Baldock Bypass, have augmented and enhanced the existing state of knowledge of the archaeology of the area.

A total of 25 archaeological features were discovered during the watching brief. Of these, 24 had not been identified or excavated during previous archaeological work. It is likely that ditch [10005/10013] is a continuation of [4803], excavated during the recent trial trench evaluation (Albion 2003, section 2.1.3.8.1).

In summary, the archaeological evidence included:

- Several boundary ditches, dating from the Iron Age, Roman, medieval and post-medieval periods, together with several undated boundaries.
- A group of features, including a grave, water pit and elements of a possible structure, all of which represent evidence for a previously unidentified area of Roman occupation or activity.
- A hollow way, which probably dates to the medieval or early post-medieval period and may have been a forerunner to the existing Baldock to Wallington Road.
- A wheel-rutted trackway, which is clearly an earlier version of the present-day A507.



5. BIBLIOGRAPHY

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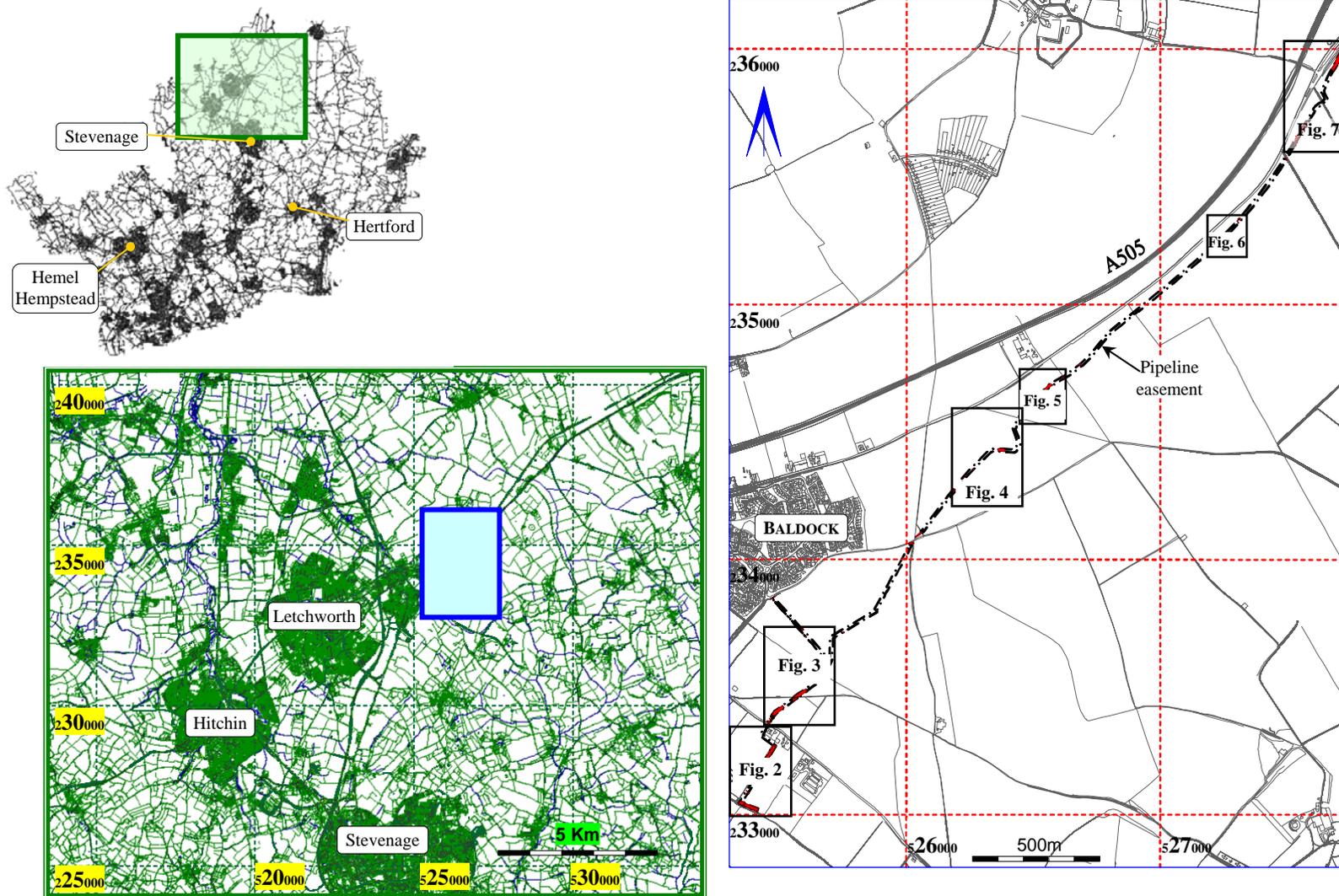


Figure 1: Location of Study Area

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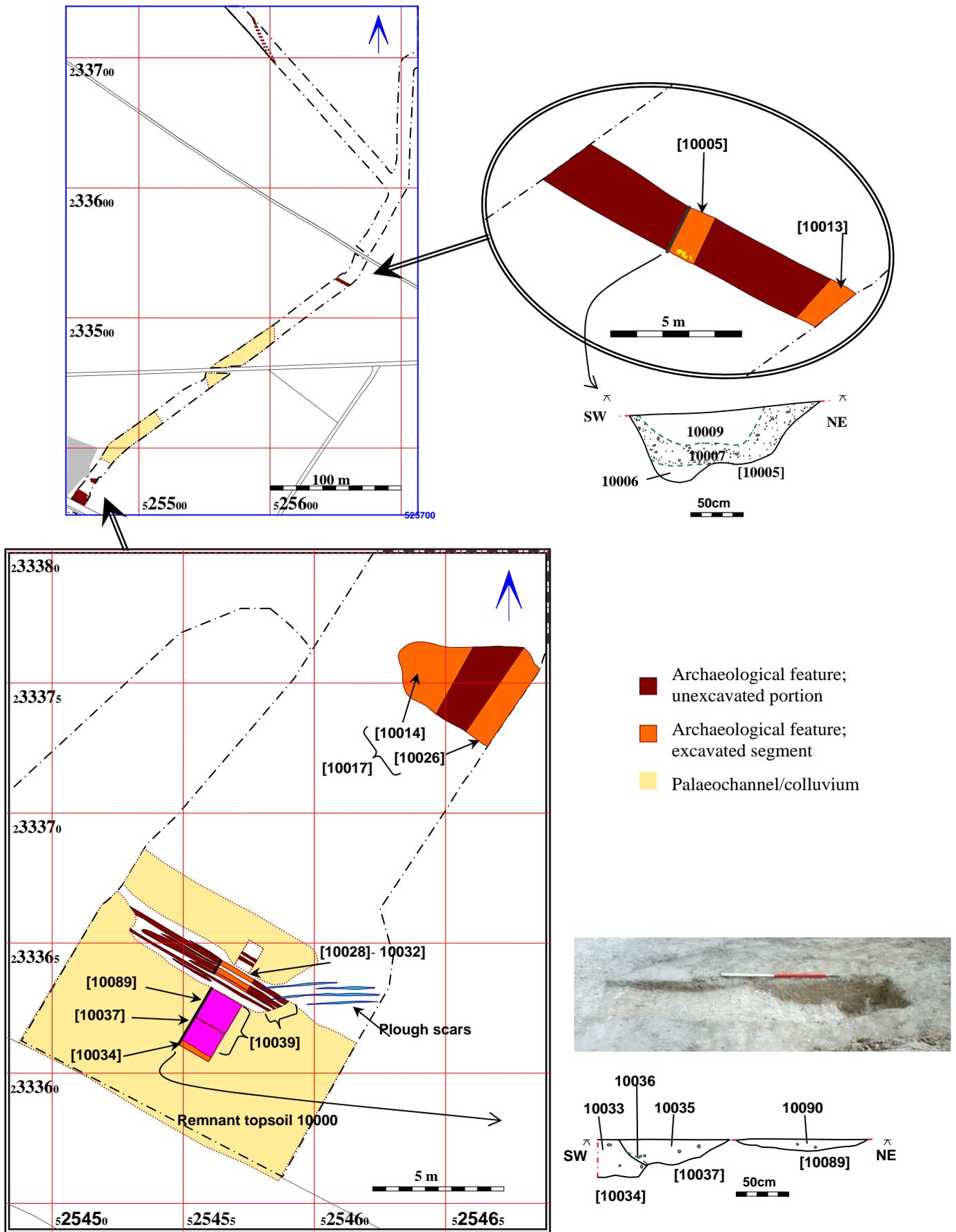


Figure 3: Detail

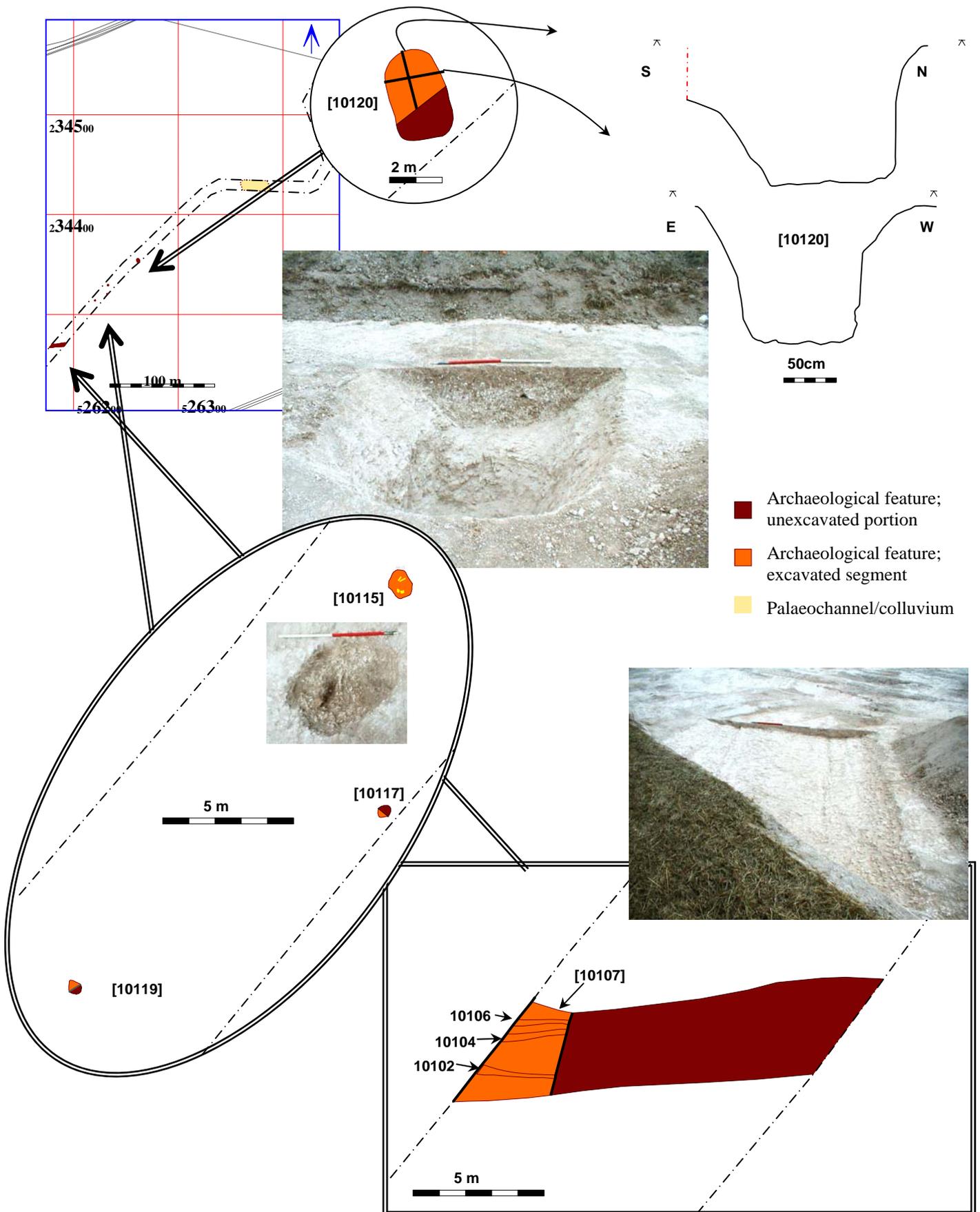


Figure 4: detail

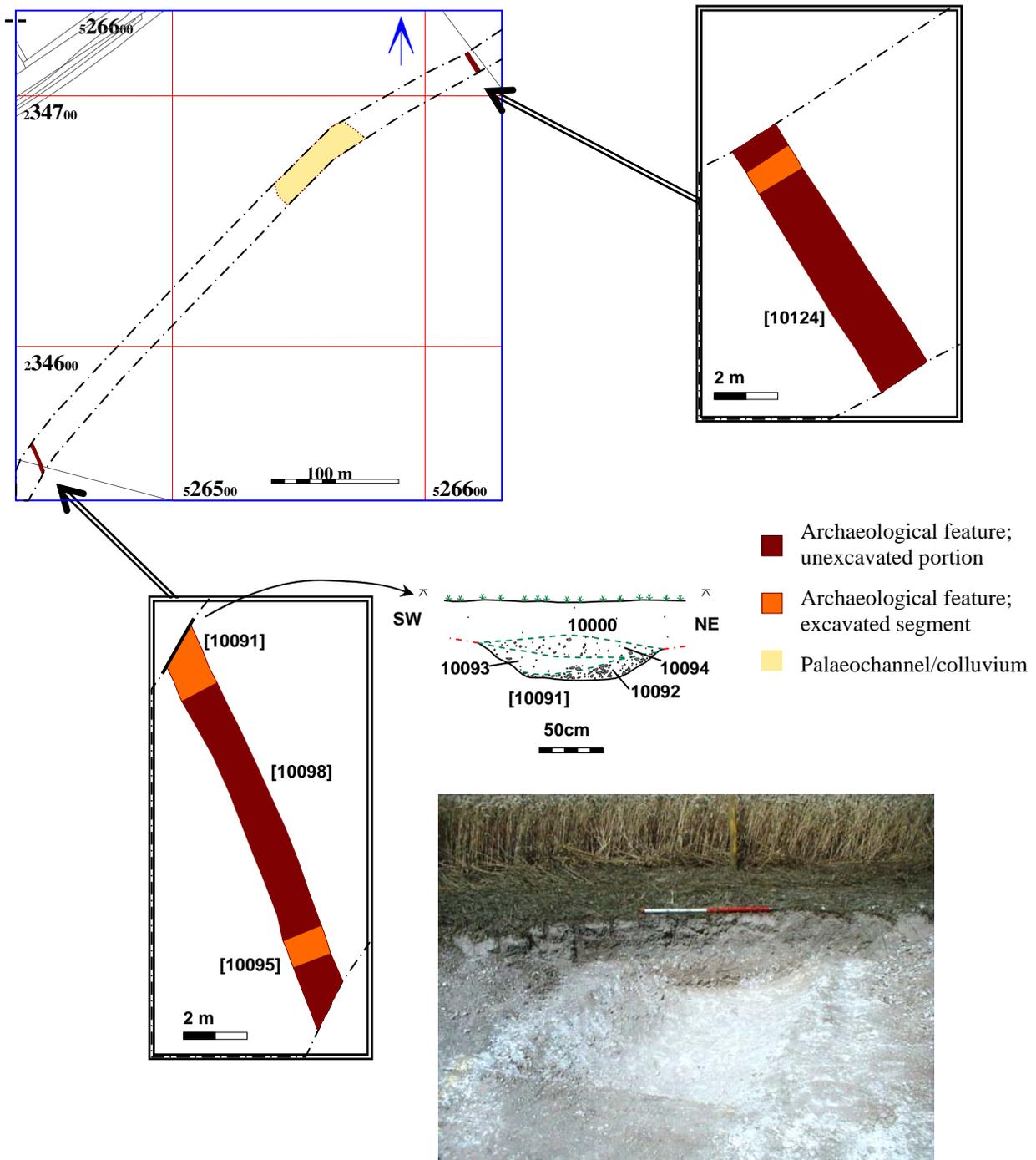
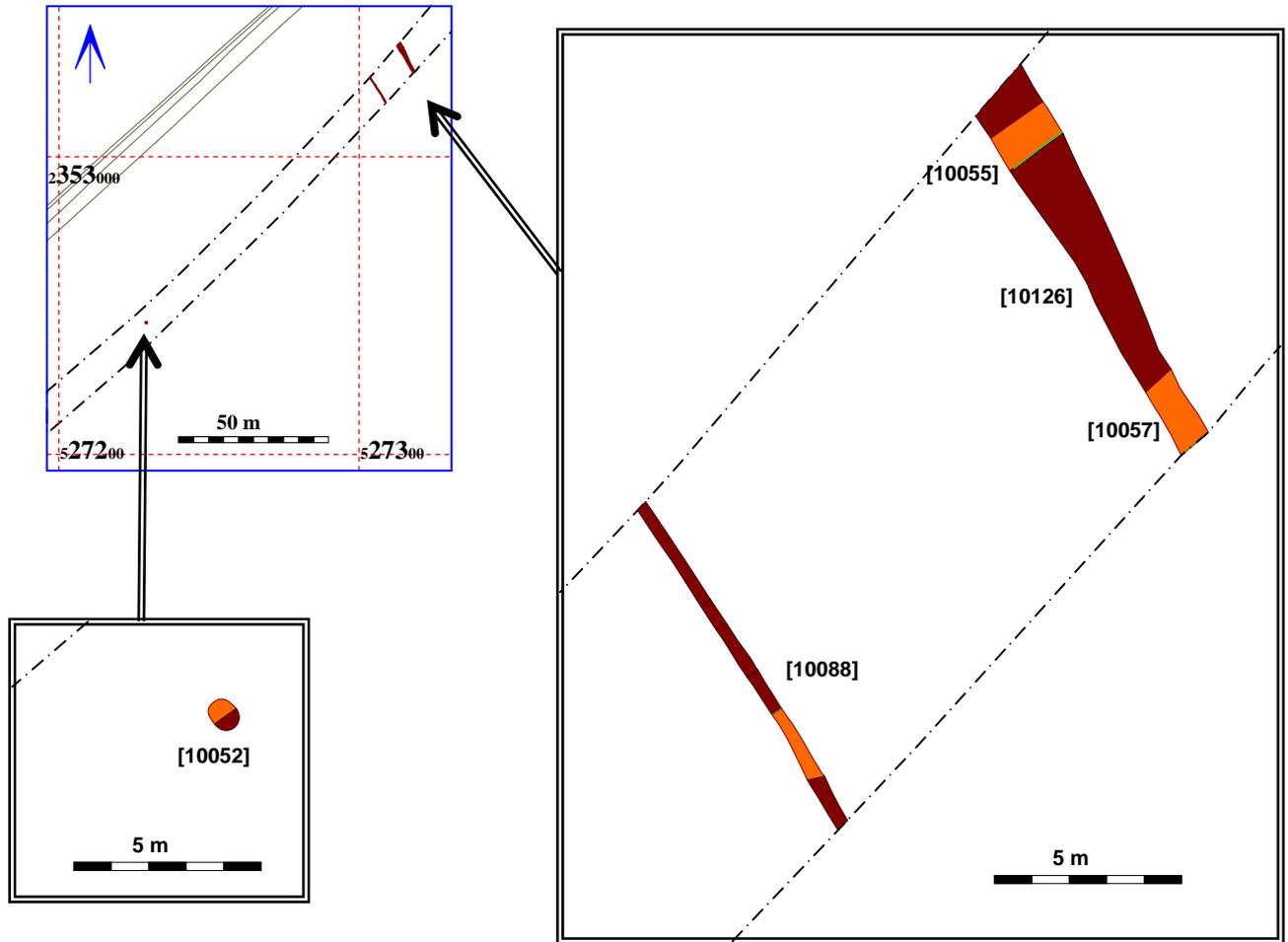


Figure 5: detail



-  Archaeological feature; unexcavated portion
-  Archaeological feature; excavated segment
-  Palaeochannel/colluvium

Figure 6: detail

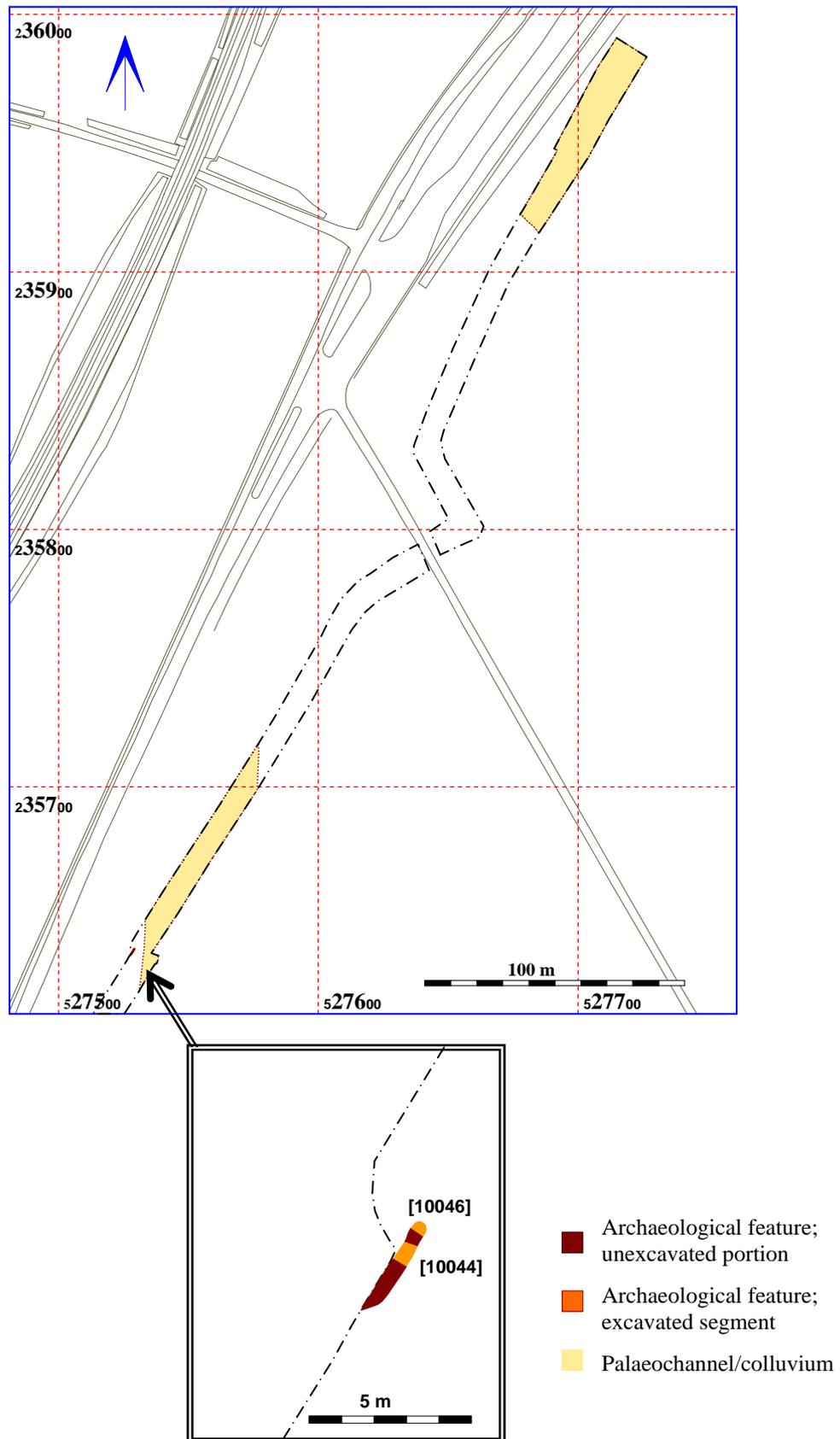


Figure 7: detail