

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGY
NORTHAMPTONSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL
JUNE 2004

NGR TL 102 513 – TL 159 554

A421 GREAT BARFORD BYPASS, BEDFORDSHIRE
TRIAL TRENCH EVALUATION
INTERIM REPORT (PART 3) ZONE 4
MAY 2004

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Abstract

A trial excavation was carried out by Northamptonshire Archaeology along the proposed route of the Great Barford Bypass, Bedfordshire. The route extends from the Black Cat Roundabout on the A1 and runs to the north and west of Great Barford, linking up at its western end to the Bedford Southern Bypass near Water End. The route has been divided into four zones.

The first part of the interim report (Part 1) includes the introduction and background to the project, the general archaeological background, the excavation methodology and details of the archaeological findings in Zones 1 and 2. Part 2 of the report details the archaeological findings from Zone 3. This report (Part 3) details the archaeological findings from Zone 4, which extends from just beyond the stream to the west of Green End (Barford) Road as far as the pasture to the west of Renhold Road at Water End. The trial excavation identified four key areas of archaeological interest in Zone 4.

The earliest site, tentatively dated to the early middle Iron Age, lay c 150m to the south-west of the crouched inhumation burial discovered in Trench 149, Zone 3, and probably represents a small farming settlement that extends to the south of the road corridor.

Further to the south-west, trial excavation confirmed the presence of a second small farming settlement, dating to the late Iron Age/ early Roman period. The remains comprised a number of ditches, gullies and pits, and a small assemblage of pottery was recovered. The site had previously been identified from cropmarks shown on aerial photographs.

In the pasture to the east of Renhold Road, a geophysical survey had shown extensive archaeological remains extending from north to south across the centre of the field. Trial excavation revealed that these were Romano-British in date and formed a sizeable farming settlement, probably consisting of several phases. A cremation burial site was also discovered, containing at least seven deposits, some associated with pottery vessels

With the exception of ridge and furrow, which was evident across the entire zone, medieval activity was confined to either side of Renhold Road, at Water End. This consisted of boundary ditches, pits and postholes, with some evidence for stock fences and possibly buildings. The remains probably represent plots forming a small hamlet near to the road.

1 INTRODUCTION

Northamptonshire Archaeology (NA), acting on behalf of JacobsGIBB, has carried out a trial excavation along the proposed route of the Great Barford Bypass, Bedfordshire (Fig 1). The route was divided into four zones and the fieldwork has now been completed.

The first two parts of the interim report have previously been issued. Part 1 (NA 2004a) includes the introduction and background to the project, the general archaeological background, the excavation methodology and details of the archaeological findings in Zones 1 and 2. Part 2 (NA 2004b) details the results of the trial trenching carried out in Zone 3. This report (Part 3) presents the results of the trial trenching carried out in Zone 4, which extends from just beyond the stream to the west of Green End (Barford) Road (NGR TL 113 527) as far as the pasture to the west of Renhold Road at Water End (NGR TL 159554).

The trial excavation in Zone 4 commenced on 30th April 2004 and was completed on 24th May 2004. The excavation of the two remaining trenches in Zone 2 (Trenches 84 and 85), which had been delayed due to access problems, was carried out on 26th May 2004. The results of the excavation of these two trenches are reported on in Appendix 3 at the end of this report.

2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

The proposed route of the bypass passes close to or cuts through three general areas of archaeological interest registered on the Bedfordshire County Council Heritage and Environment Section (BCHES) Historic Environment Record (HER).

Extending across the boundary between Zones 3 and 4 is HER 9963 (Field 18). It lies on the north-east facing slope above the small stream that flows south-westwards, past the medieval moated manor site of 'The Creakers', towards Green End. The road corridor cuts through the centre of this area. From available information this site appears to comprise an area of ploughed out ridge and furrow earthworks.

Further to the south-west the road corridor cuts through the centre of HER 15340 (Field 20), a site of late Iron Age/early Roman rural settlement and activity, previously identified from cropmarks shown on aerial photographs. It is likely that this site forms part of a wider late Iron Age/early Roman settlement pattern in the immediate vicinity. Remains dating to this period were discovered c 0.3km to the south-east of HER 15340 during the construction of gas pipelines in the 1990s (HER 15492), and similar cropmarks have been identified immediately to the south (HER 1800).

At Water End, immediately to the south of the present A421 and just outside the route of the road corridor, is Howbury Ringwork (HER 2806). This scheduled monument is believed to date to the 12th century and probably forms the focus of a wider pattern of medieval settlement and activity within the landscape. Ridge and furrow earthworks, the remnants of medieval common fields, are still extant in the pasture to the west of Renhold

Road (Field 23), although it is not clear how these relate to the ringwork. This area of pasture lies in the grounds of Howbury Hall and forms part of the parkland that was created in the mid 19th century (HER 7004).

Currently unrecorded in the HER is an extensive area of archaeological remains in the pasture field to the east of Renhold Road. These were identified by the geophysical survey carried out by Northamptonshire Archaeology (2001) and comprise a complex pattern of ditches, gullies and pits on a north to south axis. Subsequent fieldwork has shown that these largely date to the Roman period (see 3.4 below).

3 EXCAVATION RESULTS

A total of 38 trenches (Trenches 151 to 188) were excavated in Zone 4 (Fig 2), each trench being 50m long and 2.0m wide. It was not possible to excavate Trench 189 as it lay within an area of woodland. Zone 4 incorporates the remainder of Field 18 and Fields 19 to 23. A summary of the features and related finds is given in Appendix 1. The suggested dates for the features are provisional and may be subject to change once the records and finds have been assessed in more detail.

The topsoil and subsoil cover was generally the same as that recorded in Zones 1 to 3. The topsoil typically varied in thickness between 0.20m and 0.33m; the subsoil was rarely more than 0.35m thick and was occasionally intermittent. In most cases where they occurred, alluvial and colluvial deposits were generally associated with late Pleistocene/early Holocene environmental trends and probably formed under periglacial conditions. The natural substrate across the zone was boulder clay.

Archaeological remains were generally encountered at a depth of between 0.20m and 0.45m below ground level across the zone. Damage to the upper surfaces of archaeological features by modern ploughing was generally low, with some deeper damage to individual features being caused by the insertion of land drains.

For clarity, the medieval/post-medieval furrows have been separated from the other archaeological features and are shown on separate figures (Figs 9 to 14), and land drains and other modern features have not been shown.

3.1 Field 18, Trenches 151 to 153 (Figs 3 and 9)

The field lies on the north-east facing slope above the small stream that flows south-eastwards, past the medieval moated manor site of 'The Creakers', towards Green End. A hedgerow lined the crest of the slope and separated it from Field 19 to the south-west. The field lay within HER 9963, an area of ploughed out ridge and furrow. In places the furrows could be seen as faint cropmarks, running downslope towards the stream. The field contained five trenches, three of which (Trenches 151 to 153) lay within Zone 4. The two easternmost trenches (Trenches 149 and 150) were included in Zone 3.

Archaeological remains were only revealed in Trench 153 and were confined to the south-east half of the trench. These comprised two large ditches, a smaller ditch, a possible gully terminal, a pit and a posthole.

The two large ditches, which were only excavated to a depth of c 0.5m due to the ingress of groundwater, were approximately 2.6m wide and appeared to be converging to a point to the north-east of the trench. The ditches may have formed part of an enclosure or have served as boundary ditches. The fills of both ditches produced a reasonably large assemblage of pottery sherds that probably dates to the early middle Iron Age. Pottery of a similar date was also recovered from the smaller ditch.

The relatively large assemblage of pottery recovered from such a concentrated area suggests that the ditches lie within or close to an early middle Iron Age settlement site, possibly a small farmstead. Given the absence of archaeological remains in the trenches to the north of Trench 153, it is likely that this lies to the south-east of the road corridor. It is possible that the crouched burial excavated in Trench 149 at the base of the slope (NA 2004b, sections 3.7 and 5.2) is associated with this settlement.

A single plough furrow, aligned downslope from south-west to north-east, was revealed at the north-west end of the trench.

3.2 Field 19, Trench 154 (Figs 3 and 9)

Field 19 is located on gently sloping ground, dipping to the south-west towards a small stream and a modern drainage ditch. Due to the presence of two gas pipelines crossing the field, only one trench (Trench 154) could be excavated in this field.

Excavation of this trench revealed two small gullies, one aligned north-east to south-west, the other east to west, and a small pit. No dating evidence was recovered from any of these features. In addition there were four medieval/post-medieval furrows, aligned from north-east to south-west.

3.3 Field 20, Trenches 155 and 159 (Figs 4, 5, 10 and 11)

This field is situated on a gentle south-west to south facing slope, a continuation of the gradual descent from the higher ground to the north-east towards the river terrace gravels at Water End. Five trenches were located in this field (Trenches 155-159), two of which (Trenches 157 and 158) had been positioned to investigate cropmarks previously identified from aerial photographs (HER 15340). Trench 157 was T-shaped and had a total length of 100m (2x50m).

Excavation demonstrated that the cropmarks related to ditches and gullies dating to the late Iron Age/early Roman period. Several small pits were also revealed. The focus of activity was centred on Trenches 157 and 158, with more marginal activity in the other three trenches. Several of the ditches in the central area were fairly substantial, with a width of up to c 2.3m, though the majority was approximately 1.0m wide. These features probably form enclosures or field boundaries associated with a small farming settlement, which extends to the north of the road corridor.

Medieval/post-medieval plough furrows were revealed in all of the trenches with the exception of Trench 158. The ditch in Trench 159 cut the subsoil and is probably relatively modern.

3.4 Field 21, Trenches 160 to 174 (Figs 5, 6, 7, 11, 12 and 13)

Field 21 largely comprises a sizeable area of pasture to the east of Renhold Road, with some arable on the eastern side, separated from the pasture by an electric fence. A high-pressure water pipeline crosses the centre of the field. The ground slopes very gently down to the south and south-west, towards an infilled palaeochannel that crosses the southern edge of the field. The water table was noticeably high in this field, limiting the depth to which many of the deeper features could be excavated. Twelve trenches were excavated in this field (Trenches 160 to 166, and 170 to 174). Trenches 162 and 163 were T-shaped and each had a total length of 100m (2x50m).

The earliest archaeological remains revealed in this field are broadly dated to the Roman period. They lay in the centre of the field and formed a concentrated band of activity running from north to south. This site had previously been identified by geophysical survey (NA 2003).

Amongst the features revealed in the trenches were several large enclosure or field boundary ditches, and a network of smaller ditches and gullies. Some of the larger ditches were up to c 3.5m wide, over 1.5m deep, and formed complex intersections with the smaller ditches and gullies. Within the narrow confines of the trenches it was not always possible to determine the relationships and exact alignments of some of these features. This was particularly the case in Trenches 162, 165 and 171. The edges of some of the features in Trenches 165 and 171 were also masked by a layer of dark grey silty clay, which probably accumulated in hollows around the silted or flooded ditches during periods of increased rainfall. There were fewer discrete features, although pits and postholes were revealed in most of the trenches.

A reasonably large assemblage of pottery sherds was collected from this area, along with animal bone, some shell and several Roman coins. The coins date from the late 1st to the 4th centuries AD.

Of particular interest was a cremation burial site in Trench 171. This consisted of at least five tight scatters of cremated bone and one possible infant/neonate inhumation burial. The tight scatters may have been contained within cloth or leather bags. A sixth cremation burial was contained within a near complete pottery vessel, which was stacked with several other vessels including an unstamped Samian dish (Drag. 36) (Johns 1977) and a greyware dish. The carbonised remains of a rectangular box or casket may contain a further cremation burial. No cuts were visible for any of the burials, but they were deposited within a layer of discoloured natural, suggesting that excavated soil may have been piled up over them, possibly to form a mound. All of these cremation deposits and the associated pottery vessels have been left *in situ*. The pottery vessels were protected with rigid plastic trays and the burial area was covered with geo-textile. This was sealed with subsoil, followed by a plastic sheet to draw attention to the buried remains during any future machining. The area was then levelled off with topsoil.

Running from north to south across the field, on a slightly different axis to many of the Roman features, was a large ditch, which appears to be aligned with the hedgerow in the field to the north of the road corridor. No dating evidence was recovered from this feature, however, as it is not shown on enclosure maps it may be medieval in origin. A medieval date for this ditch is supported by the direction of the furrows to the west of it, which run parallel. The ditch in Trench 170 is probably of a similar date, and formed a southern boundary to an area of medieval enclosure.

On the western side of the field, in Trenches 172 and 174, there was a scatter of postholes, several gullies and a possible ditch. These features appear to pre-date the ridge and furrow. Pottery dating to the 11th century was recovered from one of the postholes. These features probably relate to the medieval remains revealed to the west of Renhold Road (see section 3.6).

3.5 Field 22, Trenches 167 to 169 (Fig 7)

Field 22, which lies to the south of Field 21, is situated on level ground and is bordered by Renhold Road to the east and the current A421 to the south. It had once been common land and was enclosed in the early 19th century. Howbury Ring (HER 2806) lies directly to the south of this field, on the opposite side of the A421.

Trenches 167 to 169 were excavated in this field. Due to constraints imposed by a high-pressure water pipeline and overhead electricity cable, Trenches 167 and 168 were moved, with the agreement of BCCHES, from their proposed positions and Trench 167 had to be shortened to 30m.

The only archaeological features revealed in this area were a ditch, 1.7m wide and 0.6m deep, in Trench 168 and an intersection between two ditches of a similar size in Trench 167. No dating evidence was recovered from either feature. No archaeological remains were revealed in Trench 169.

3.6 Field 23, Trenches 175 to 188 (Figs 7, 8, 13 and 14)

Field 23 incorporates an area of pasture to the west of Renhold Road, in the parkland belonging to Howbury Hall (HER 7004). Pronounced earthworks relating to medieval ridge and furrow were clearly visible in the northern and eastern parts of the field, where the ground is relatively level. Feint traces of ridge and furrow were also discernible on the far western side of the field.

The natural topography of this field is relatively complex as it lies on boulder clay masking river terrace gravel, and there are several incised features along the southern margins of the valley slope. The River Great Ouse lies only c 250m to the south. In the southern part of the field the ground slopes steeply towards a small, deeply incised stream that flows from east to west along the boundary of the field. Running from north to south across the western part of the field there is an incised dry channel cutting back into the south-facing slope. There are several other minor topographic features. Thirteen trenches (Trenches 175 to 188) were excavated in this field.

In the base of the incised dry channel running through the centre of Trenches 185 and 186 there was a ditch, probably a field boundary. The ditch was relatively well defined in Trench 185 and was at least 0.5m wide. Its exact width could not be determined, as it had been truncated along its length by a modern pipe trench. In Trench 186, near the base of the slope, the ditch splayed out and was very indistinct. Three sherds of middle to late Iron Age pottery were recovered from the machined surface of the ditch, but due to extensive flooding in this area it was not possible to excavate the ditch.

Although there were no features clearly dating to this period, evidence for middle Saxon activity in the area comes from a small assemblage of pottery recovered from a furrow in Trench 178. The pottery is Maxey-type ware, which dates approximately to AD650-850. It is likely that the pottery is residual and has been ploughed out of a feature in the immediate vicinity.

In the northern and eastern part of the field there was evidence for early medieval occupation and activity. Extending through Trenches 175 and 176 on a north east to west alignment there was a ditch, 1.3m wide and at least 0.5m deep. Sherds of St Neots ware (11th century) were recovered from the fill of the ditch. To the south of the ditch there were three, possibly four gullies running roughly parallel to the ditch and a spread of small pits or postholes, three of which produced sherds of pottery of a similar date. Four of the postholes in Trench 175 were in alignment and may have formed a fence or part of a structure.

Similar features were also revealed in Trenches 177, 178 and 179, including three ditches in the eastern half of Trench 178 and a line of postholes in Trench 179. No dating evidence was recovered from any of these features but they probably date to the early medieval period and are associated with the features in the northern part of the field.

To the south and slightly removed from the main concentration of features, Trench 183 revealed a second area of medieval activity. The trench cut across a shallow ledge or hollow, c 30m across, near the top of the slope above the stream. Other subtle undulations in the ground suggested slight earthworks and a possible holloway running downslope to the south-west. Excavation revealed a ditch, at least two gullies and a pit. Excavation of the features was limited by extensive flooding of the trench by groundwater. However, a sherd of late medieval reduced ware (late 14th century) was recovered from the ditch and the pit produced two sherds of mid 12th century Lyveden/Stanion 'A' ware. Near the centre of the trench there was a spread of loose, rounded cobbles, from which a copper alloy object was recovered during machining. The age and identification of the item is uncertain.

Not surprisingly, given the extent of the earthworks in the field, furrow bases were recorded in many of the trenches. In some cases these cut earlier medieval features, indicating a reorganisation of land use during the course of the medieval period.

No archaeological remains were revealed in Trenches 182, 184, 187 and 188.

4 THE FINDS

4.1 The Iron Age pottery by Andy Chapman

An assemblage of Iron Age pottery was recovered from ditches and gullies in Trench 153. In addition, three sherds were recovered from a ditch in Trench 186. A total of 2012g (182 sherds) came from seven contexts, although a single context produced 1400g (113 sherds). The characteristics of this assemblage are summarised in Table 1.

Table 1: Quantification of Iron Age pottery

Context	No. of sherds	Weight (g)	Comments
15312	15	50	Small body sherds. Fabrics: fine shell and grog Reduced with brown surfaces
15318	113	1400	Most of the assemblage is from a single vessel: 1) Thick-walled, plain body sherds from jar with an expanded, flat-topped rim. Fabric: small pellets of grog and sparse, fine shell, reduced core, light brown surfaces. Probably 3 other vessels 2) Rim from small shouldered bowl. Fabric: grog and sparse shell 3) & 4) Sherds from plain jars. Orange/brown exterior. Fabric: dense coarse shell
15322	19	100	Thick-walled, plain body sherds. Fabrics: fine shell and grog. Beaded rim from small, oxidised
15326	22	270	Thick-walled, plain body sherds, mainly from a single jar with oxidised surfaces. Fabric: dense coarse shell, 1-4mm.
15328	1	30	Thick-walled plain sherd, with oxidised exterior. Fabric: grog and sparse fine shell
15329	9	120	Thick-walled plain body sherds. Fabrics: fine shell and grog.
18604	3	42	Thick-walled base sherds, well-fired, from a jar. Fabric: sandy, with fine quartz grains and some grog.
Totals	182	2012	

The fabrics from Trench 153 have two broad groups of inclusions:

- Fine pellets (1-2mm) of soft orange-brown grog and sparse fine shell (up to 1mm).
- Moderate to dense coarse shell (1-4mm).

Thick-walled, plain body sherds, from handmade storage jars, dominate the assemblage. Only a single jar rim sherd is present, from context 15318, and this is a simple expanded,

flat-topped rim. There are jars in both fabric types, and these typically have reduced cores but oxidised brown to orange external surfaces predominate over fully reduced fabrics.

There are two examples of finer handmade bowls (from contexts 15318 and 15322). One is a shouldered bowl with an upright neck and a plain rim, in a reduced fabric, while the other has an everted bead rim and is in an oxidised fabric.

The assemblage lacks useful diagnostic elements to provide an unequivocal chronology beyond a broad Iron Age date. However, despite the reasonable size of the assemblage there are no evident later Iron Age forms such as burnished globular bowls. It is also noticeable that vessels with oxidised surfaces predominate and Dennis Jackson (pers comm) had argued that such a predominance is more characteristic of the early middle Iron Age. A date in the earlier middle Iron Age would also be consistent with the two more finely potted bowls, and especially the shouldered bowl.

The three sherds from the ditch in Trench 186 come from the base of a single vessel, probably a jar. The fabric is sandy, containing fine quartz grains, and some grog. The fabric is well fired, with a grey core and a grey to dark brown surface. A middle to late Iron Age date may be tentatively suggested.

4.2 The Roman pottery by Tora Hylton

The trial trenches within Zone 4 produced a group of late Iron Age and Roman pottery. A total of 342 sherds with a combined weight of 5,834g was recovered from 48 individual deposits in 13 trenches. A quantitative summary of the pottery by context is given in Appendix 2.

The assemblage appeared to be concentrated in two discrete areas lying to the east of Renhold Road. The highest concentration (98.5% by weight) derived from a complex of features adjacent to Water End (specifically Trenches 162-67, and to a lesser extent Trenches 171 and 173-175). The second concentration (1.3% by weight) was recovered from a series of features lying just to the west of Brewers Hall Farm (Trenches 157-158). Smaller amounts (0.2%) were recovered from outlying trenches, one to the north-east (Trench 155) and one to the west of Renhold Road (Trench 175).

Much of the pottery appears to be of local origin. Chronologically the earliest forms appear to be Gallo-Belgic type wares in grog-tempered fabrics. However most of the assemblage is represented by a range of storage vessels, cooking pots and tableware in greyware and shell-gritted fabrics. While much of the assemblage appears to be 1st/2nd century in date, the presence of a Nene Valley colour coat shallow dish (Howe et al, Fig 77, 87) and a rim sherd from a flanged bowl in Oxford Ware (Young Type C51) extends the date range to the 3rd/4th century.

Imported wares are represented by 9 sherds of Samian, including two sherds with moulded decoration and a body sherd from a Type ?15/17 platter (Webster 1996, 30). In addition a group of cremation burials were found at the north-east end of Trench 171. The associated vessels (which were left *in situ*) include a Dragendorf Type 36 dish, decorated with a barbotine motif (Ibid, 46), and a range of greyware dishes and jars.

4.3 The medieval pottery by Paul Blinkhorn

The pottery assemblage comprised 23 sherds with a total weight of 244g. It was entirely Saxo-Norman or medieval in date apart from sherds from two middle Saxon Maxey-ware bar-lug vessels, both from the same context.

The following fabric types were noted:

Maxey-type Ware: Exact chronology uncertain, but generally dated c. AD650-850 (eg. Hurst 1976). Wet-hand finished, reddish-orange to black surfaces. Soft to fairly hard, with abundant Jurassic fossil shell platelets up to 10mm. Vessels usually straight sided bowls with simple rims, and/or 'bar-lugs'. 6 sherds, 72g.

St. Neots Ware type T1(2) c. AD1000-1200 (Denham 1985). Wheel-thrown. Fabric as other types, although inclusions tend to be sparser, larger and more ill-sorted, usually weak to strong red, reddish-brown or black. Vessels generally larger, usually jars, some with thumb applied strips, 'Top Hat' vessels, large, upright rimmed bowls, lamps and (rarely) pitchers. 13 sherds, 94g.

Lyveden/Stanion 'A' Ware (McCarthy 1979). c. AD1150-?1400. Handmade/Wheel finished. Moderate to dense, ill-sorted shelly limestone platelets up to 3mm, sparse to moderate red ironstone up to 10mm, occasional quartz, oolites, black ironstone. Produced at numerous kilns in the villages of Lyveden and Stanion in north-east Northants. 2 sherds, 28g.

Late Medieval Reduced Ware, late 14th – 15th century. Hard, grey sandy fabric manufactured at a number of centres in the south-east midlands (eg. McCarthy and Brooks 1988, 437). Range of utilitarian late medieval vessel forms. 2 sherds, 20g.

The pottery occurrence by number and weight of sherds per context by fabric type is shown in Table 1. Each date should be regarded as a *terminus post quem*.

Table 2: Quantitative summary of medieval pottery

	Maxey		St Neots		Lyveden		LMR		
Context	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	Date
17205			1	3					11thC
17512			1	3					11thC
17528			2	48					11thC
17531			3	7					11thC
17623			6	33					11thC
17816							1	8	L14thC
17818	6	72							MSAX
18312					2	58			M12thC
18315B							1	12	L14thC
Total	6	72	13	94	2	58	2	20	

5 ENVIRONMENTAL EVIDENCE

5.1 Geological overview by Steve Critchley

In Zone 4 the natural substrate was predominately boulder clay overlying Oxford Clay. At the south-west end of the road corridor, on the lower slopes in Field 23, it is likely that the boulder clay overlies river terrace gravel, although this was not exposed in any of the trenches and its presence cannot be confirmed.

There was little variation in the boulder clay across the zone. It was generally composed of stiff light grey to light brown clays with a variable clast content and morphology. Clasts were predominantly of chalk and limestone, with some flint, sandstone, quartzite, derived Jurassic fossils and the occasional igneous or metamorphic rock type. Clast size varied from gravel to cobble, mostly angular to sub-rounded, depending upon rock type and corresponding hardness. A few diffuse ground ice features were seen in some of the trenches.

In Trenches 166, 168 and 170 a colluvial deposit had infilled a former post-glacial channel that ran from east to west. The pond in Field 21 forms a remnant of this channel. A yellowish brown, gravely channel fill was also seen in Trench 177. This probably forms part of the incised north-south channel cut by Trenches 182, 185 and 186.

5.2 Animal Bone by Karen Deighton

Animal bone recovered from the excavation was scanned to assess the potential for future work. Identifiable bones were noted. Ageable and measurable bones (after Von Den Driesch 1976) were also noted. Ageable elements included cheek tooth rows and bones with fusion and neonatal bones. The bones had previously been washed. A summary of the species present by trench is given in Table 3.

Fragmentation was moderate to heavy and a high frequency of surface abrasion was noted. However, the level of fragmentation was generally lower than in Zones 1-3 with a proportion of complete or nearly complete bones recovered. Two instances of canid gnawing were noted and burnt bone was observed in two contexts. There was no evidence of butchery. Trenches 154, 167 and 174 produced indeterminate bone fragments only.

The assemblage consists of the major domesticates plus horse and dog. Single fragments of bird and small mammal bone were observed; unfortunately, neither fragment could be identified to species at this stage. The major concentration of bone derives from the Romano-British settlement site in Field 21.

Approximately 80%-90% of the bone was identifiable to species and some of the assemblage could be aged and measured. As with previous zones, this would indicate that if more bone were collected during subsequent excavations some statements could be made regarding the economy and animal husbandry practices at the site.

Table 3: Identifiable bones by trench

Trench No.	Cow (<i>Bos</i>)	Sheep/goat (<i>Ovicaprid</i>)	Pig (<i>Sus</i>)	Dog (<i>Canid</i>)	Horse (<i>Equus</i>)	Bird (<i>Avis</i>)	Small mammal	<i>L. ungulate</i>	<i>S. ungulate</i>	Total
153	1	1								2
155			1							1
157	1	6	1					1	2	11
158	1									1
162	4	7			1			3	2	17
163	7	7		1			1	3	2	21
165	8	3			2			6		19
166	6									6
171	7	2						2		11
173	3							3		6
175	1							1		2
176	2		1			1		2		6
178	1	1								2
183	5	3								8
Total	47	29	3	1	3	1	1	21	6	110

5.3 Environmental Indicators

A total of 18 environmental samples have been taken from dateable contexts in Zone 4. However, it has been agreed with BCCCHES that the processing and analysis of the environmental samples at this stage of the project is not required.

6 INTERPRETATION AND CONCLUSIONS

Trial excavation in Zone 4 identified four key areas of archaeological interest along the proposed route of the road corridor. The sites dated from the early middle Iron Age to the medieval period. Two of these areas had previously been identified from aerial photographs, geophysical survey or chance discovery.

The earliest site, tentatively dated to the early middle Iron Age, lay *c* 150m to the south-west of the crouched inhumation burial discovered in Trench 149, Zone 3. It is possible that the burial is related to this site. Two large ditches, possibly enclosure or field boundary ditches, and a number of smaller features were revealed, and it is likely that they relate to a small farming settlement that extends to the south of the road corridor. Excavation produced a reasonable assemblage of early middle Iron Age pottery sherds.

Further to the south-west, trial excavation confirmed the presence of a second small farming settlement, dating to the late Iron Age/early Roman period. The remains

comprised a number of ditches, gullies and pits, and a small assemblage of pottery was recovered. The site had previously been identified from cropmarks shown on aerial photographs. Cropmarks believed to be of a similar date have also been identified immediately to the south of this site (HER 1800) and late Iron Age/early Roman remains were also discovered c 0.3km to the south-east during the construction of a gas pipeline in the 1990s (HER 15492).

In the pasture to the east of Renhold Road a geophysical survey had shown extensive archaeological remains extending north to south across the centre of the field. Trial excavation revealed that these were Romano-British in date and formed a sizeable farming settlement, probably consisting of several phases. A cremation burial site was also discovered, containing at least seven individual deposits, some associated with or contained in pottery vessels.

With the exception of ridge and furrow, which was evident across the entire zone, medieval activity was confined to either side of Renhold Road, at Water End. This consisted of boundary ditches, pits and postholes, with some evidence for stock fences and possibly buildings. The remains probably represent plots forming a small hamlet near to the road.

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APPENDIX 1

Summary of features

Abbreviations

P pottery; *residual artefact; EMIA early middle Iron Age; LIA late Iron Age

Field no.	Trench no.	Feature type	Artefacts	Provisional date
18	151	No archaeology	-	-
	152	No archaeology	-	-
	153	Ditch [15311]	P	EIA/MIA
		Ditch [15321]	P	EIA/MIA
		Ditch [15317]	P	EIA/MIA
		Pit [15319]	-	EIA/MIA?
		Pit [15309]	-	EIA/MIA?
		Posthole [15313]	-	EIA/MIA?
		Furrow [15330]	-	Medieval/post-medieval
19	154	Pit [15427]	-	Unknown
		Gully [15429]	-	Unknown
		Gully [15431]	-	Unknown
		Furrow [15419]	-	Medieval/post-medieval
		Furrow [15421]	-	Medieval/post-medieval
		Furrow [15423]	-	Medieval/post-medieval
		Furrow [15425]	-	Medieval/post-medieval
20	155	Pit [15506]	-	LIA/ Roman?
		Ditch [15524]	P	LIA/ Roman
		Gully [15510]	-	LIA/ Roman?
		Gully [15515]	-	LIA/ Roman?
		Furrow [15508]	-	Medieval/post-medieval
		Furrow [15517]	-	Medieval/post-medieval
	156	Pit [15613]	-	LIA/ Roman?
		Gully [15607]	-	LIA/ Roman?
		Gully [15609]	-	LIA/ Roman?
		Furrow [15605]	-	Medieval/post-medieval
		Furrow [15611]	-	Medieval/post-medieval
	157	Ditch [15705]	-	LIA/ Roman?
		Ditch [15707]	-	LIA/ Roman?
		Ditch [15714]	-	LIA/ Roman?
		Ditch [15724]	P	LIA/ Roman
		Gully [15712]	-	LIA/ Roman?
		Gully [15716]	-	LIA/ Roman?
		Gully [15718]	-	LIA/ Roman?
		Gully [15720]	-	LIA/ Roman?
		Gully [15722]	-	LIA/ Roman?
		Pit [15732]	-	LIA/ Roman?
		Furrow [15710]	-	Medieval/post-medieval
	158	Ditch [15805]	-	LIA/ Roman
		Ditch [15807]	-	LIA/ Roman
		Ditch [15811]	P	LIA/ Roman
		Ditch [15813]	P	LIA/ Roman
		Pit [15809]	-	LIA/ Roman?

Field no.	Trench no.	Feature type	Artefacts	Provisional date
	159	Ditch [15907] Furrow [15905]	- -	Post-medieval/modern Medieval/post-medieval
21	160	No archaeology	-	
	161	Furrow [16105]	-	Medieval/post-medieval
		Furrow [16107]	-	Medieval/post-medieval
		Furrow [16109]	-	Medieval/post-medieval
		Furrow [16111]	-	Medieval/post-medieval
	162	Ditch [16208]	P	Roman
		Ditch [16224]	P	Roman
		Ditch [16232]	P	Roman
		Ditch [16237]	P	Roman
		Ditch [16244]	-	Roman
		Ditch [16246]	P	Roman
		Ditch [16248]	P	Roman
		Ditch [16250]	P	Roman
		Ditch [16252]	P	Roman
		Ditch [16260]	P	Roman
		Ditch [16266]	P	Roman
		Pit [16211]	P	Roman
		Pit [16221]	P	Roman
		Pit [16268]	P	Roman
		Furrow [16205]	-	Medieval/post-medieval
		Furrow [16213]	-	Medieval/post-medieval
		Furrow [16215]	-	Medieval/post-medieval
		Furrow [16217]	-	Medieval/post-medieval
		Furrow [16219]	-	Medieval/post-medieval
		Furrow [16226]	-	Medieval/post-medieval
		Furrow [16228]	-	Medieval/post-medieval
		Furrow [16230]	-	Medieval/post-medieval
		Furrow [16234]	-	Medieval/post-medieval
		Furrow [16239]	-	Medieval/post-medieval
		Furrow [16241]	-	Medieval/post-medieval
		Furrow [16254]	-	Medieval/post-medieval
		Furrow [16256]	-	Medieval/post-medieval
		Furrow [16262]	P*	Medieval/post-medieval
		Furrow [16264]	-	Medieval/post-medieval
		Furrow [16270]	P*	Medieval/post-medieval
		Furrow [16272]	-	Medieval/post-medieval

Field no.	Trench no.	Feature type	Artefacts	Provisional date
	163	Ditch [16305]	-	Roman?
		Ditch [16309]	-	Roman?
		Ditch [16311]	-	Roman?
		Ditch [16321]	-	Medieval?
		Ditch [16331]	P	Roman
		Ditch [16337]	-	Roman?
		Ditch [16339]	P	Roman
		Ditch [16341]	-	Roman?
		Ditch [16343]	P	Roman
		Ditch [16350]	P	Roman
		Gully [16307]	P	Roman
		Gully [16313]	-	Roman?
		Gully [16317]	-	Roman?
		Gully [16347]	-	Roman?
		Gully [16352]	-	Roman?
		Gully [16354]	-	Roman?
		Gully [16358]	-	Roman?
		Pit [16315]	-	Roman?
		Pit [16323]	P	Roman
		Pit [16328]	P	Roman
		Pit [16333]	-	Roman?
		Pit [16345]	P	Roman
		Occupation layer 16318	-	Roman?
		Furrow [16311]	-	Medieval/post-medieval
		Furrow [16313]	-	Medieval/post-medieval
		Furrow [16317]	-	Medieval/post-medieval
		Furrow [16325]	-	Medieval/post-medieval
	164	Ditch [16410]	-	Roman?
		Ditch [16412]	-	Roman?
		Ditch [16418]	P	Roman
		Ditch [16422]	-	Roman?
		Furrow [16405]	-	Medieval/post-medieval
		Furrow [16407]	-	Medieval/post-medieval
		Furrow [16414]	-	Medieval/post-medieval
		Furrow [16420]	-	Medieval/post-medieval
	165	Ditch [16507]	P	Roman
		Ditch [16520]	P	Roman
		Ditch [16523]	P	Roman
		Ditch? [16535]	-	Roman?
		Posthole [16527]	P	Roman
		Posthole [16529]	-	Roman?
		Furrow [16509]	-	Medieval/post-medieval
		Furrow [16511]	-	Medieval/post-medieval
		Furrow [16513]	-	Medieval/post-medieval
		Furrow [16515]	-	Medieval/post-medieval
		Furrow [16517]	-	Medieval/post-medieval
		Furrow [16525]	-	Medieval/post-medieval
		Furrow [16531]	-	Medieval/post-medieval
		Furrow [16533]	-	Medieval/post-medieval
		Furrow [16537]	-	Medieval/post-medieval
	166	Gully [16607]	P	Roman
		Gully [16609]	-	Roman?

Field no.	Trench no.	Feature type	Artefacts	Provisional date
	170	Ditch [17005]	-	Medieval?
	171	Ditch [17112]	-	Roman
		Ditch [17114]	P	Roman
		Ditch [17116]	-	Roman
		Ditch [17119]	P	Roman
		Ditch [17122]	P	Roman
		Ditch [17131]	-	Roman
		Ditch? [17105]	-	Roman
		Ditch? [17107]	-	Roman
		Gully [17126]	-	Roman
		Gully [17129]	-	Roman
		Occupation layer 17103	-	Roman
		Cremation burials	P	Roman
		Furrow [17110]	-	Medieval/post-medieval
		Furrow [17133]	-	Medieval/post-medieval
	172	Pit [17213]	-	Medieval?
		Pit [17225]	-	Medieval?
		Pit [17227]	-	Medieval?
		Furrow [17206]	P*	Medieval/post-medieval
		Furrow [17208]	-	Medieval/post-medieval
		Furrow [17210]	-	Medieval/post-medieval
		Furrow [17215]	-	Medieval/post-medieval
		Furrow [17217]	-	Medieval/post-medieval
		Furrow [17219]	-	Medieval/post-medieval
		Furrow [17221]	-	Medieval/post-medieval
		Furrow [17223]	-	Medieval/post-medieval
	173	Ditch [17317]	P*	Medieval?
		Furrow [17306]	-	Medieval/post-medieval
		Furrow [17308]	-	Medieval/post-medieval
		Furrow [17310]	-	Medieval/post-medieval
		Furrow [17313]	-	Medieval/post-medieval
	174	Ditch [17415]	-	Medieval?
		Gully [17407]	-	Medieval?
		Gully [17409]	P*	Medieval?
		Gully [17411]	-	Medieval?
		Gully [17413]	-	Medieval?
		Pit [17405]	-	Medieval?
		Pit [17417]	-	Medieval?
22	167	Ditch [16705]	-	Unknown
		Ditch [16707]	-	Unknown
	168	Ditch [16805]	-	Unknown
	169	No archaeology	-	

Field no.	Trench no.	Feature type	Artefacts	Provisional date
23	175	Ditch [17525]	-	Medieval
		Slot [17515]	-	Medieval?
		Gully [17535]	-	Medieval?
		Pit? [17527]	-	Medieval?
		Posthole [17506]	-	Medieval?
		Posthole [17508]	-	Medieval?
		Posthole [17511]	-	Medieval?
		Posthole [17513]	P	Medieval
		Posthole [17530]	P	Medieval
		Posthole [17533]	P	Medieval
		Furrow? [17517]	-	Medieval/post-medieval
		Furrow [17519]	-	Medieval/post-medieval
		Furrow [17521]	-	Medieval/post-medieval
	176	Ditch [17626]	P	Medieval
		Gully [17614]	-	Medieval?
		Gully? [17618]	-	Medieval?
		Gully? [17620]	-	Medieval?
		Pit [17610]	-	Medieval?
		Pit [17622]	-	Medieval?
		Pit? [17612]	-	Medieval?
		Posthole [17629]	-	Medieval?
		Posthole [17631]	-	Medieval?
		Posthole [17608]	-	Medieval?
		Posthole [17634]	-	Medieval?
		Furrow [17605]	-	Medieval/post-medieval
		Furrow [17606]	-	Medieval/post-medieval
		Furrow [17616]	-	Medieval/post-medieval
		Furrow [17617]	-	Medieval/post-medieval
		Furrow [17619]	-	Medieval/post-medieval
	177	Gully [17705]	-	Medieval?
		Gully [17707]	-	Medieval?
		Gully [17709]	-	Medieval?
		Pit [17711]	-	Medieval?
		Slot [17713]	-	Medieval?
		Furrow? [17715]	-	Medieval/post-medieval
	178	Ditch [17805]	-	Medieval?
		Ditch [17809]	-	Medieval?
		Ditch [17813]	-	Medieval?
		Gully [17811]	-	Medieval?
		Stakehole [17823]	-	Medieval?
		Stakehole [17825]	-	Medieval?
		Stakehole [17827]	-	Medieval?
		Stakehole [17829]	-	Medieval?
		Furrow [17807]	-	Medieval/post-medieval
		Furrow [17815]	-	Medieval/post-medieval
		Furrow [17817]	P*	Medieval/post-medieval
		Furrow [17819]	P*	Medieval/post-medieval
		Furrow [17821]	-	Medieval/post-medieval

Field no.	Trench no.	Feature type	Artefacts	Provisional date
	179	Posthole [17906] Posthole [17908] Posthole [17910] Posthole [17912] Posthole [17914]	- - - - -	Medieval?? Medieval?? Medieval?? Medieval?? Medieval??
	180	Furrow [18005] Furrow [18007] Furrow [18009] Furrow [18011]	- - - -	Medieval/post-medieval Medieval/post-medieval Medieval/post-medieval Medieval/post-medieval
	181	Furrow [18105]	-	Medieval/post-medieval
	182	No archaeology	-	
	183	Ditch [18311] Gully [18305] Gully [18307] Pit [18313] Gravel layer 18308 Gravel layer 18309	P - - P - -	Medieval Medieval? Medieval? Medieval Medieval?? Medieval??
	184	No archaeology	-	
	185	Ditch [18506]	-	EMIA??
	186	Ditch [18605]	P	EMIA??
	187	No archaeology	-	
	188	No archaeology	-	

APPENDIX 3

ADDENDUM TO ZONE 2

Trenches 84 and 85 (Fig 15)

Due to problems relating to the removal of the hedgerows around Field 10 and the erection of stock fencing, it was not possible to excavate Trenches 84 and 85 as part of the rolling programme of trenching. It was therefore necessary, once the problems had been resolved, to return to this area to complete the evaluation. The work was carried out on 26th May 2004.

The two trenches were excavated using a JCB-type mechanical excavator fitted with a 1.8m wide toothless ditching bucket. Otherwise the methodology followed was that outlined in Part 1 of this report (NA 2004a). The field was under pasture and lies on level ground.

The excavation of Trench 84 revealed three gullies. All three gullies were approximately 0.6m wide, and the two excavated features were *c* 0.35m deep. The north-westernmost gully, which was aligned from north to south, had a U-shaped profile and a flat base. A single undiagnostic sherd of Iron Age pottery was recovered from its fill. The other two gullies, which lay towards the south-eastern end of the trench, were parallel, *c* 3m apart and aligned from north-north-east to south-south-west. The excavated gully had a V-shaped profile with a concave base. Where it occurred, the subsoil sealed the features.

At the north-east end of Trench 85 there was a broad, linear feature, up to 3.2m wide. Although no more than a single cut was evident on the surface, the feature appeared to be an intersection between two or more ditches or gullies. An excavated section on the northern side of the feature revealed a shallow gully, 0.54m wide and 0.33m deep, with a steep U-shaped profile and a flat base. No dating evidence was recovered.

Immediately to the south of this feature was a large pit, 1.6m long and at least 1.1m wide. It had been heavily disturbed by the insertion of a land drain. Excavation demonstrated that it had steeply concave sides, a flat base and contained at least two fills, the upper fill having a high charcoal content. A triangular loomweight, an undiagnostic sherd of Iron Age pottery and fragments of animal bone were recovered from this feature.

A V-shaped gully, similar to the one excavated in Trench 84, crossed the centre of Trench 85 on a north-west to south-east alignment. It contained a single undiagnostic sherd of Iron Age pottery. Three possible furrows crossed the trench on the same alignment.

APPENDIX 2

Quantitative summary of Roman pottery

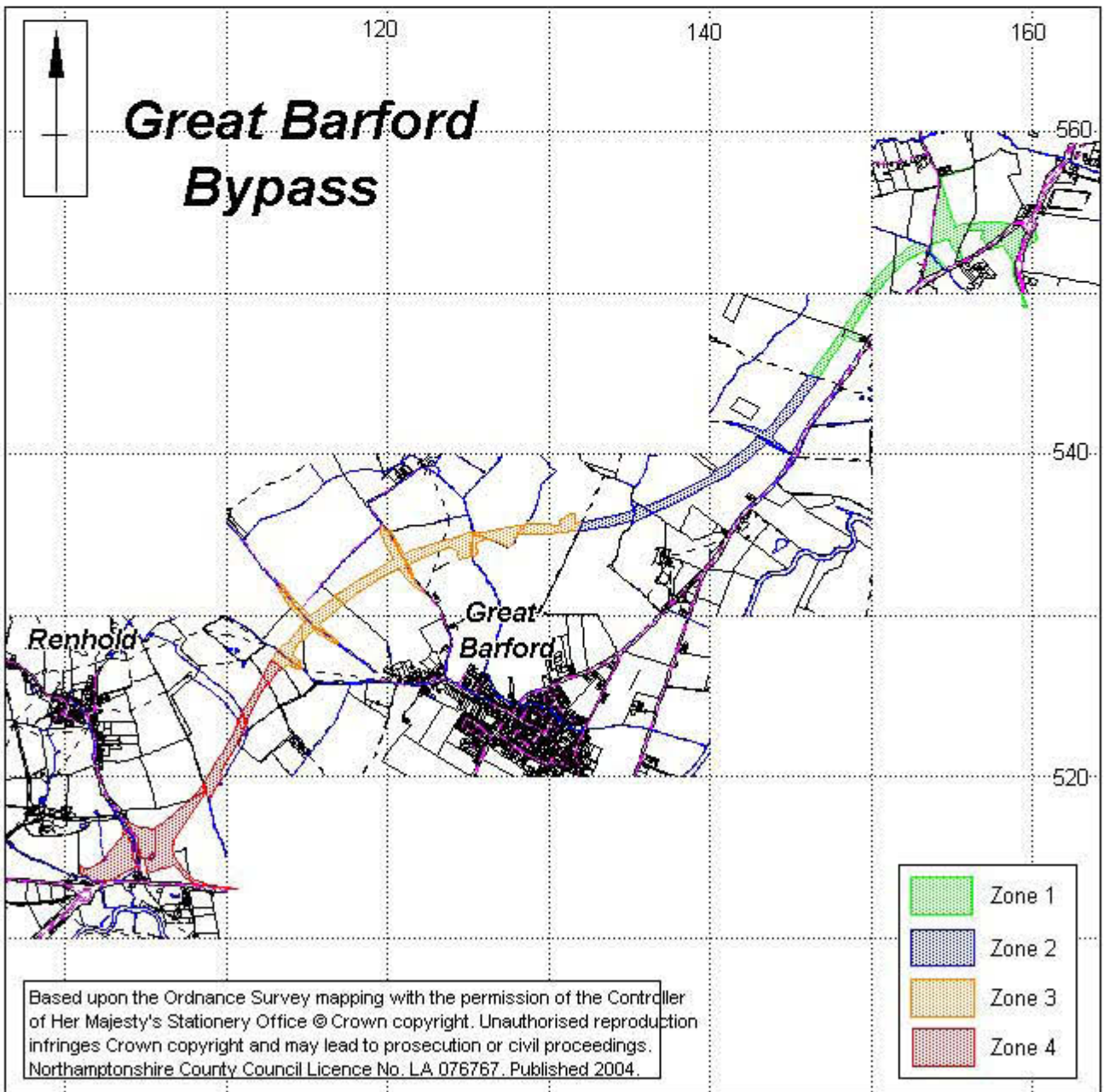
FABRIC TYPE	TRENCH/CONTEXT NUMBER																			
	15523		15723		15810		15812		16206		16207		16209		16210		16220		16222	
	No/Wg		No/Wg		No/Wg		No/Wg		No/Wg		No/Wg		No/Wg		No/Wg		No/Wg		No/Wg	
Amphora																				
Grog tempered wares			11	69					1	2			4	110	10	235			6	102
Greyware											9	127					13	196	5	28
Colour coated wares																				
Oxford ware																				
Oxidised wares																				
Mortaria																				
Samian											1	1	2	5					3	12
Shell-gritted ware	1	1			1	5	1	2					1	4	3	118			4	36
Whiteware																				
Total	1	1	11	69	1	5	1	2	1	2	10	128	7	119	13	353	13	196	18	178

FABRIC TYPE	TRENCH/CONTEXT NUMBER																			
	16223		16231		16236		16245		16247		16249		16251		16258		16529		16261	
	No/Wg		No/Wg		No/Wg		No/Wg		No/Wg		No/Wg		No/Wg		No/Wg					
Amphora											1	915								
Grog tempered wares	5	82			1	28					1	17			1	40	3	59		
Greyware			4	66	2	3			6	81	1	6	4	62	4	79	4	33	1	10
Colour coated wares									3	20	1	6								
Oxford ware																				
Oxidised wares			1	5																
Mortaria			1	52																
Samian											1	6	1	39						
Shell-gritted ware			4	31	1	9	2	7	2	305	2	22	1	25	1	36				
Whiteware											1	60								
Total	5	82	10	154	4	40	2	7	11	406	8	1032	6	126	6	155	7	92	1	10

FABRIC TYPE	TRENCH/CONTEXT NUMBER																			
	16265		16267		16269		16306		16322		16326		16327		16329		16342		16344	
	No/Wg		No/Wg		No/Wg		No/Wg		No/Wg		No/Wg		No/Wg		No/Wg		No/Wg		No/Wg	
Amphora																				
Grog tempered wares	1	6	2	18							1	4	2	20	5	52			5	46
Greyware	6	38	4	15			6	76			7	69	1	1	30	266	1	1		
Colour coated wares																				
Oxford ware																				
Oxidised wares																				
Mortaria																				
Samian																				
Shell-gritted ware					1	10			3	10	4	35			8	368	3	24		
Whiteware																				
Total	7	44	6	33	1	10	6	76	3	10	12	108	3	21	43	686	4	25	5	46

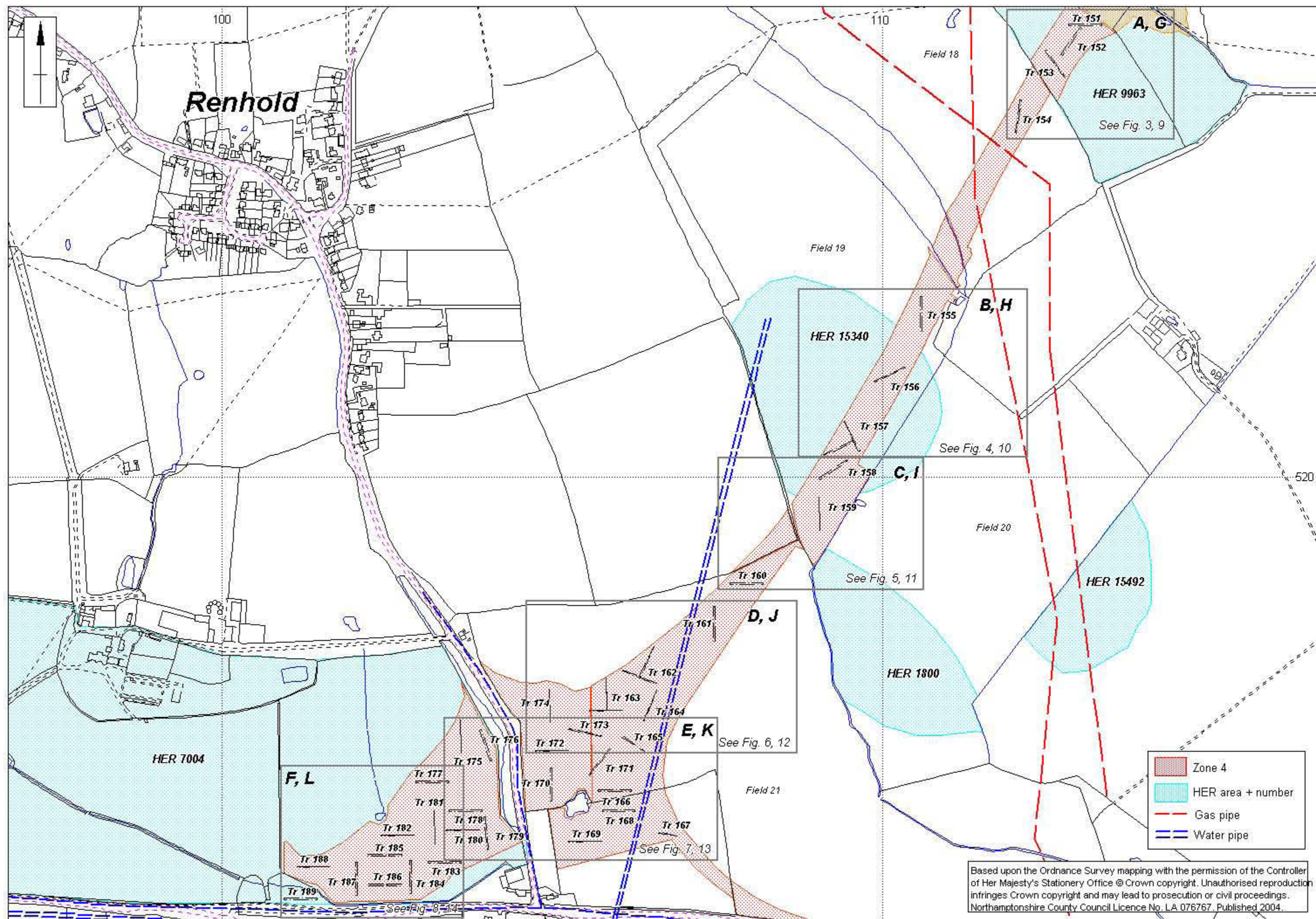
FABRIC TYPE	TRENCH/CONTEXT NUMBER																			
	16348		16355		16415		16416		16423		16504		16518		16521		16526		16606	
	No/Wg		No/Wg		No/Wg		No/Wg		No/Wg		No/Wg		No/Wg		No/Wg		No/Wg		No/Wg	
Amphora																				
Grog tempered wares	8	84	2	11							1	6	1	4						
Greyware	12	76	3	15	2	8	2	33			3	9	1	25	13	185				
Colour coated wares																				
Oxford ware			1	7															1	31
Oxidised wares													1	4	1	7				
Mortaria																				
Samian																				
Shell-gritted ware	6	112	1	6	4	161			2	48	2	18	5	92	4	196	1	11	2	15
Whiteware																				
Total	26	272	7	39	6	169	2	33	2	48	6	33	8	125	18	388	1	11	3	46

FABRIC TYPE	TRENCH/CONTEXT NUMBER															
	16704		17106		17115		17120		17123		17315		17408		17504	
	No/Wg		No/Wg		No/Wg		No/Wg		No/Wg		No/Wg		No/Wg		No/Wg	
Amphora																
Grog tempered wares															1	6
Greyware	1	2	8	97	1	16	4	18	1	14	1	3	1	3		
Colour coated wares			1	12					1	43						
Oxford ware																
Oxidised wares	1	1														
Mortaria																
Samian			1	12												
Shell-gritted ware	1	4	2	16			1	8	3	97	8	102				
Whiteware																
Total	3	7	12	137	1	16	5	26	5	154	9	105	1	3	1	6



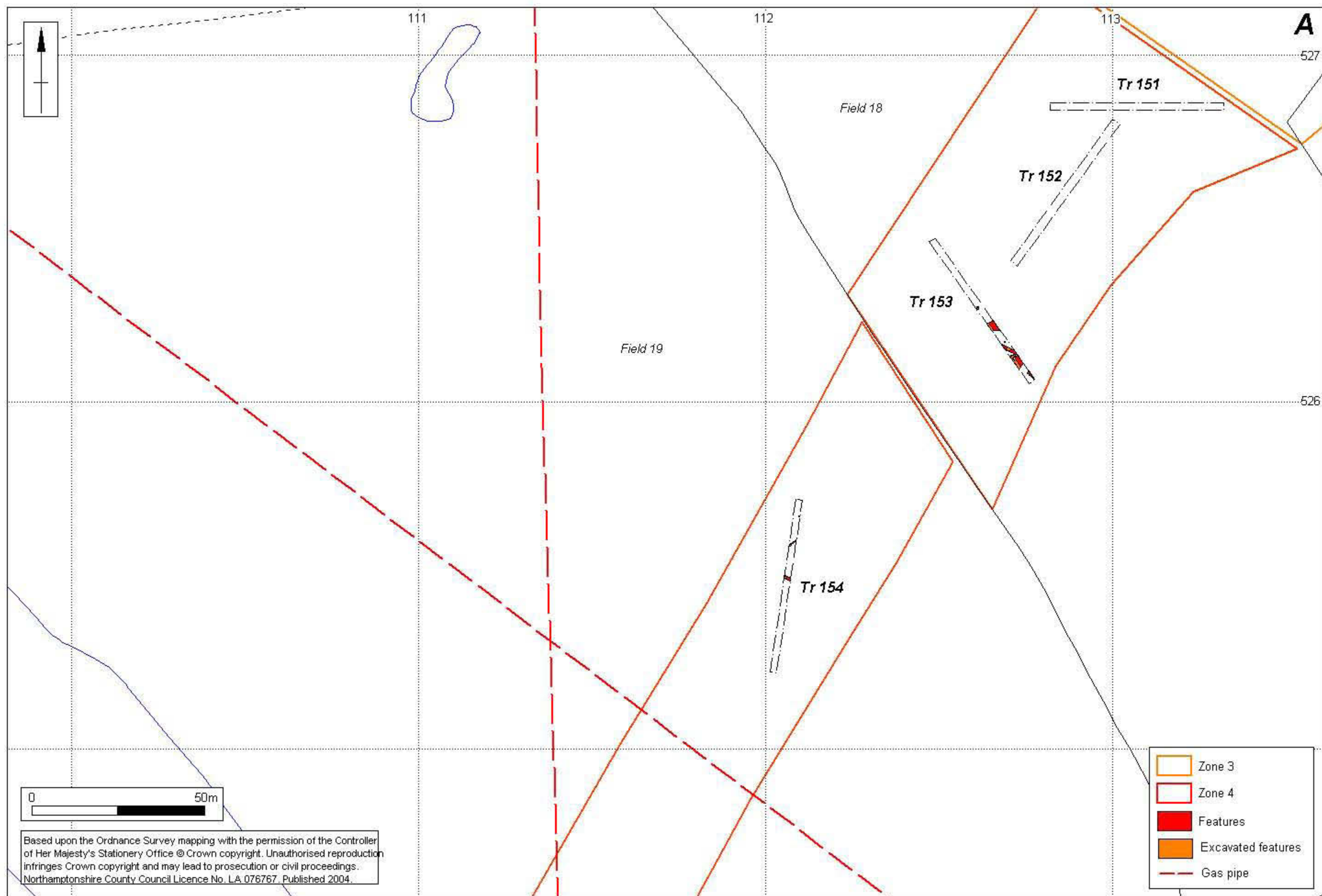
Scale 1:40,000

Fig. 1



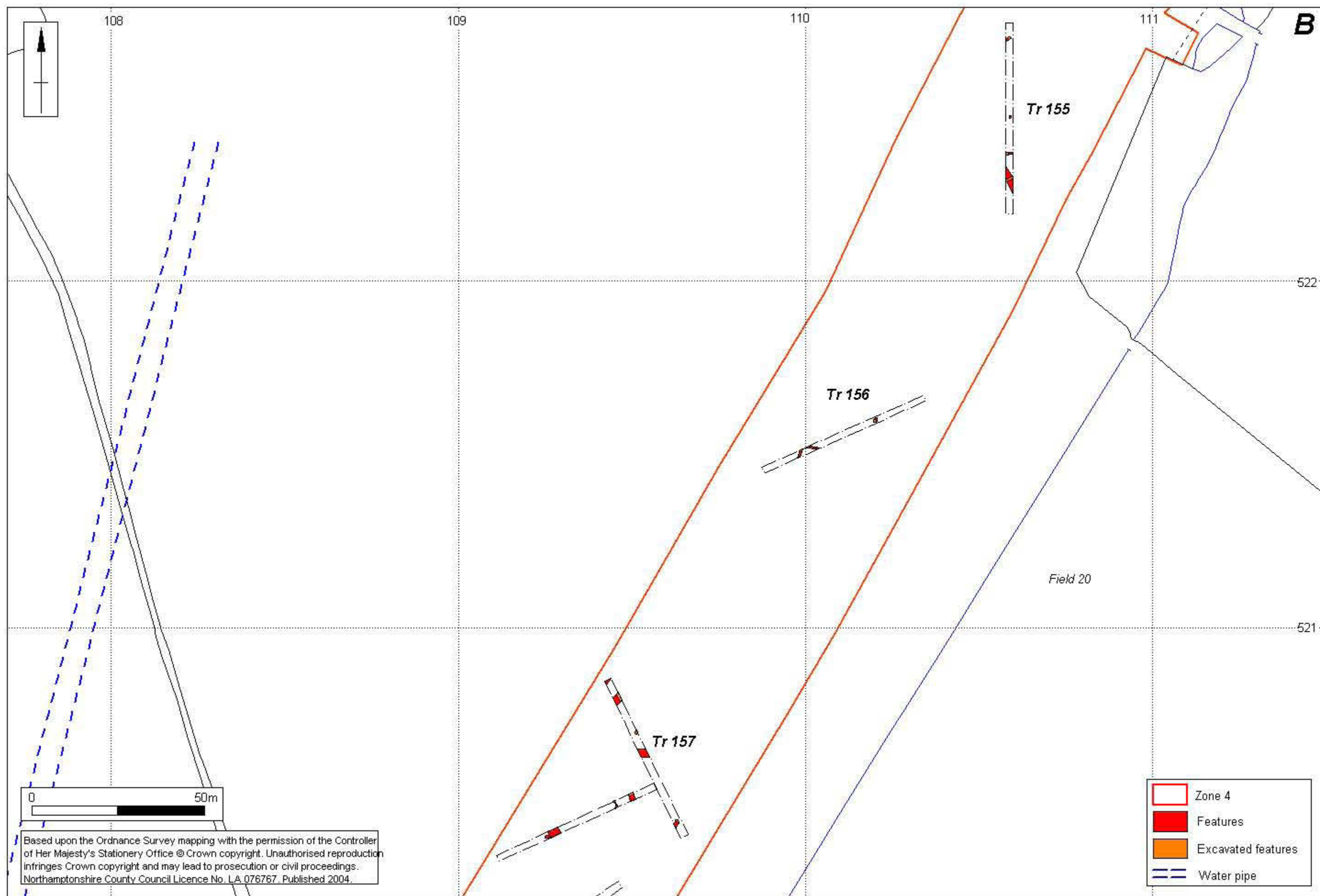
Scale 1:5000

Fig. 2



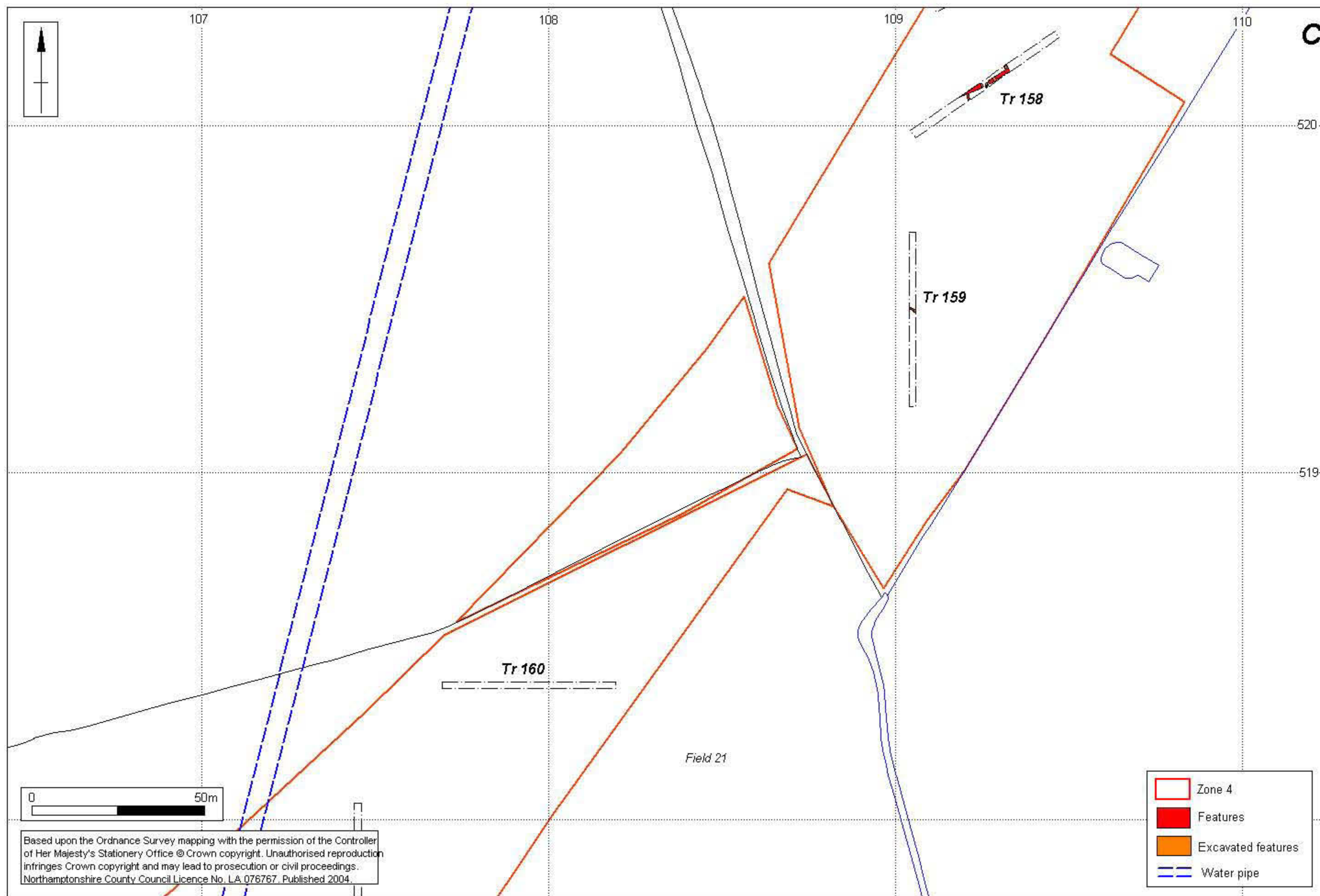
Scale 1:1000

Fig. 3



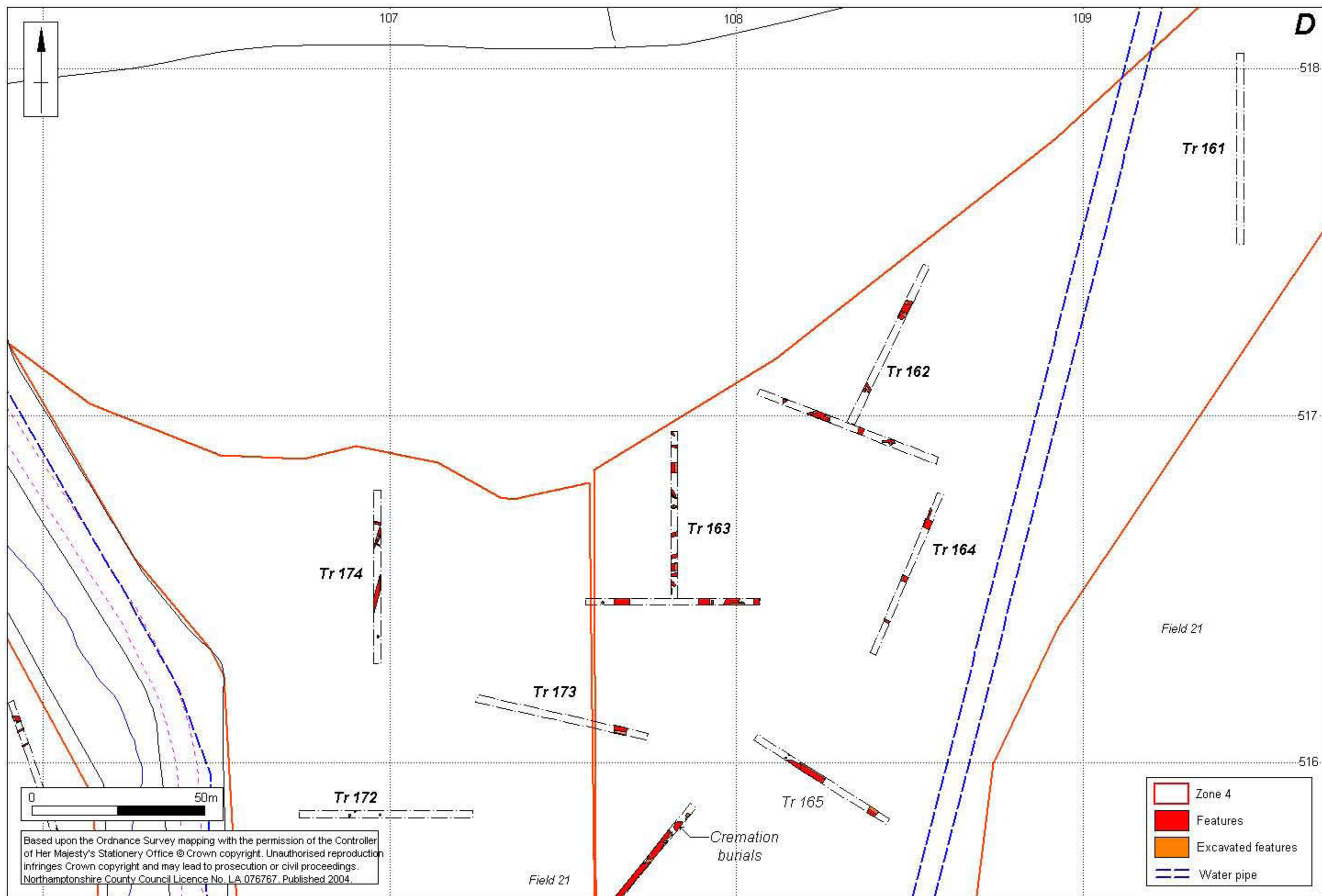
Scale 1:1000

Fig. 4



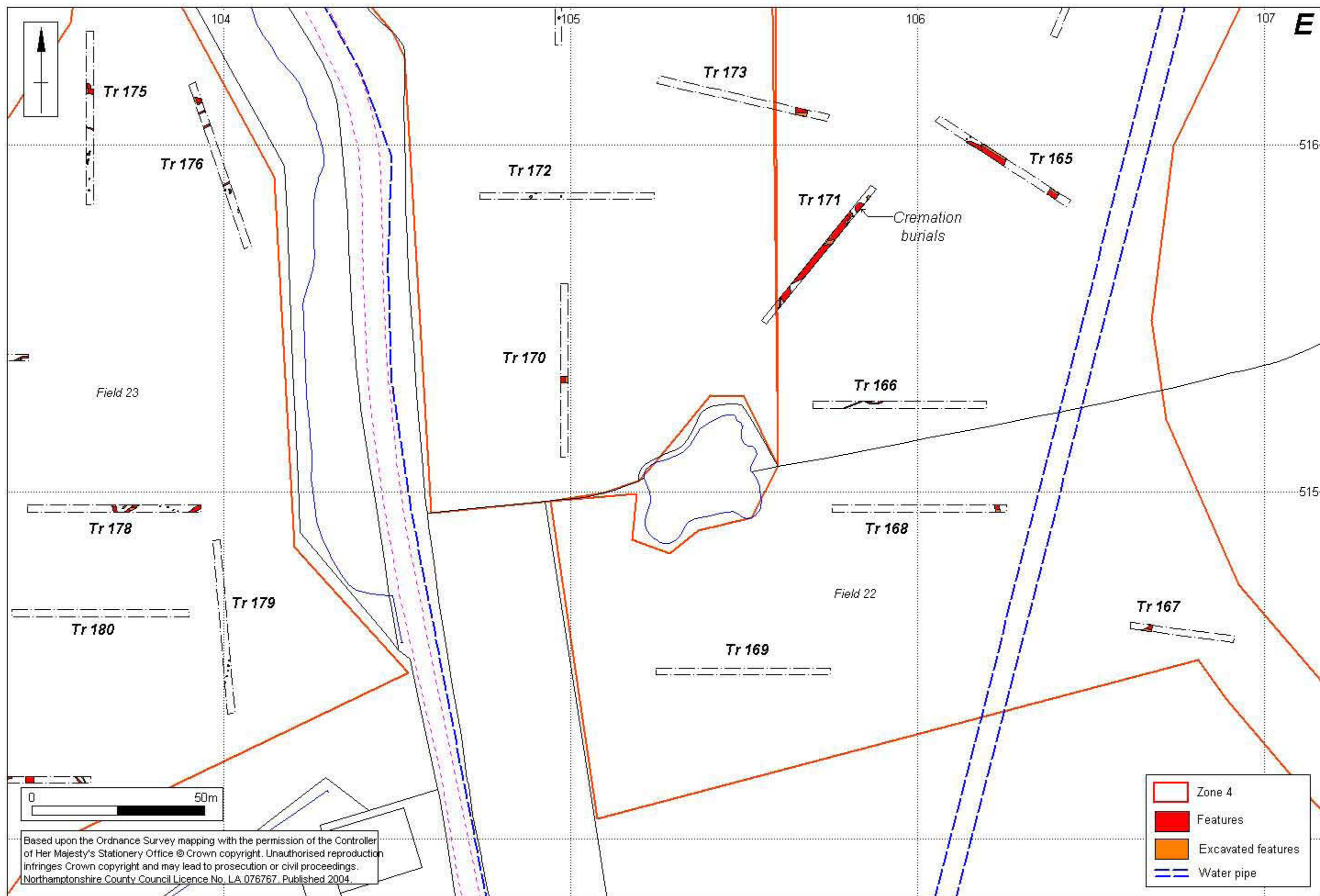
Scale 1:1000

Fig. 5



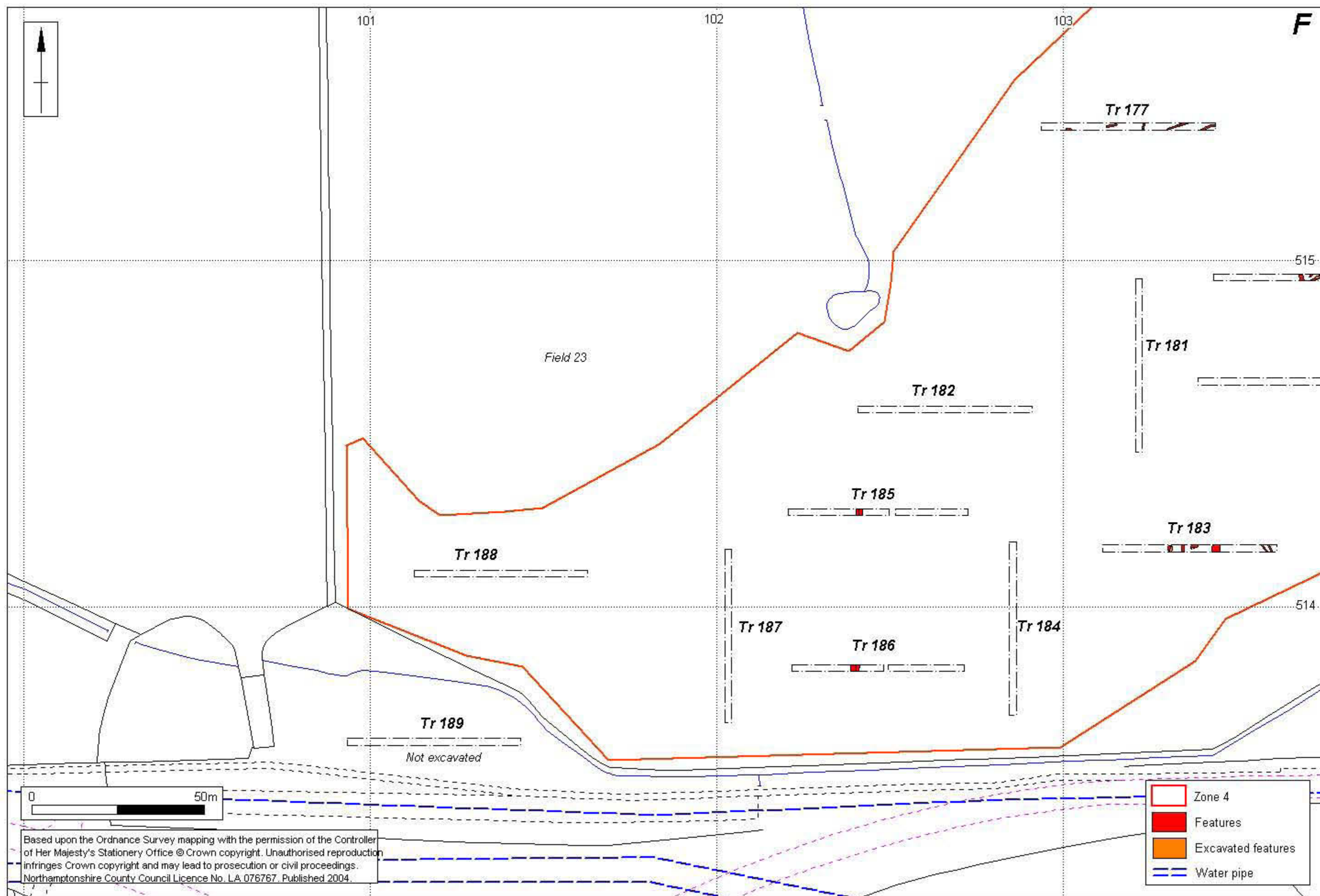
Scale 1:1000

Fig. 6



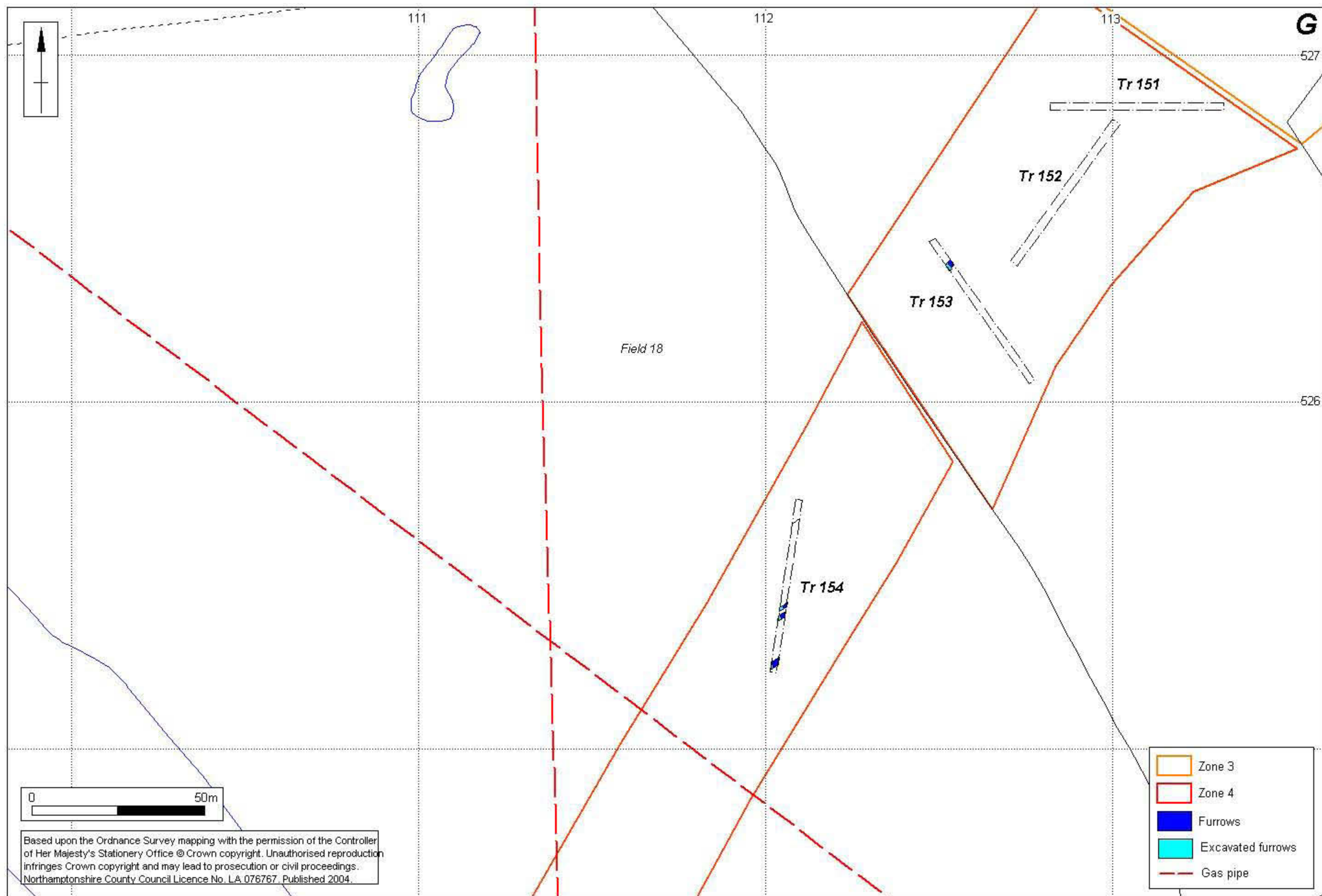
Scale 1:1000

Fig. 7



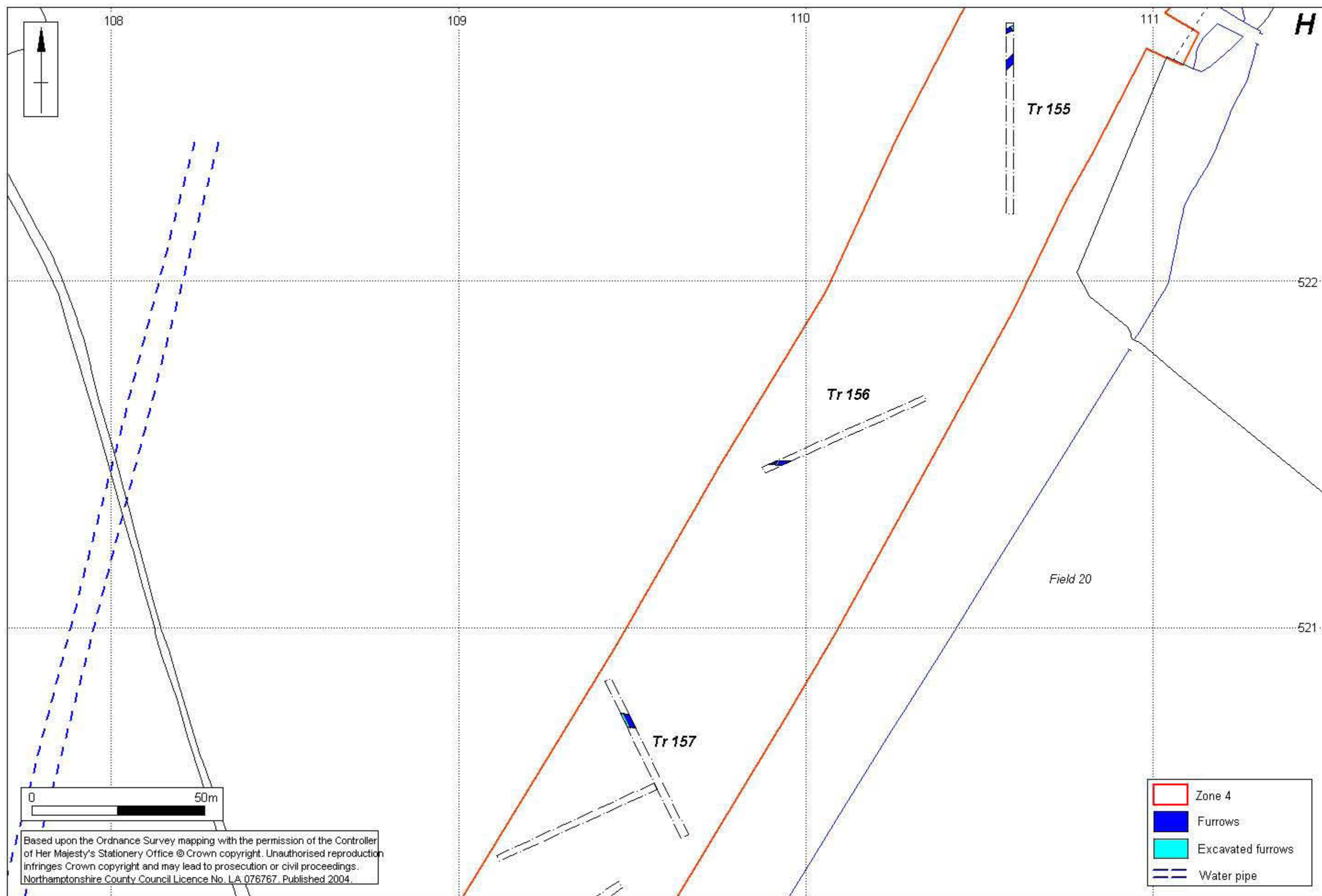
Scale 1:1000

Fig. 8



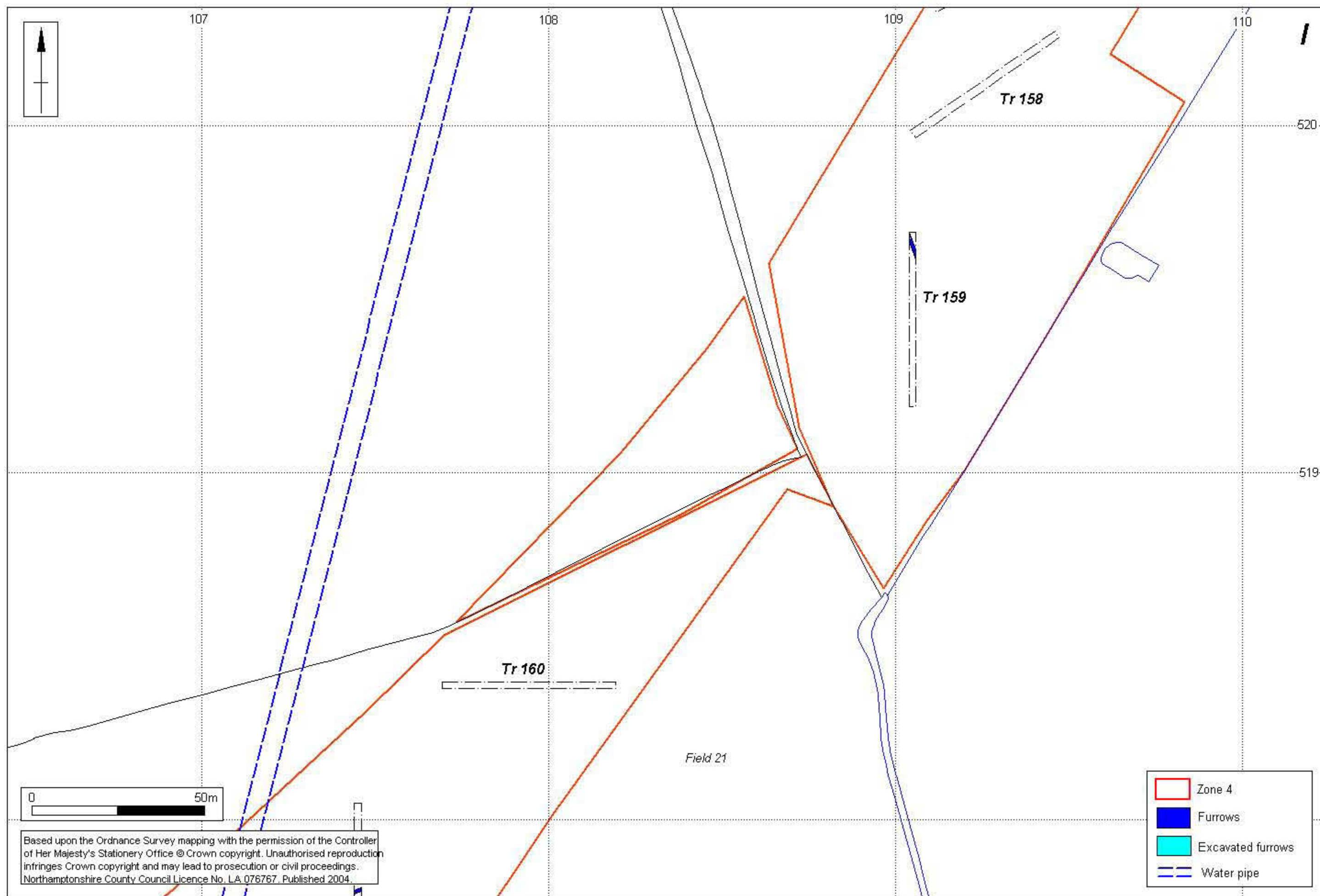
Scale 1:1000

Fig. 9



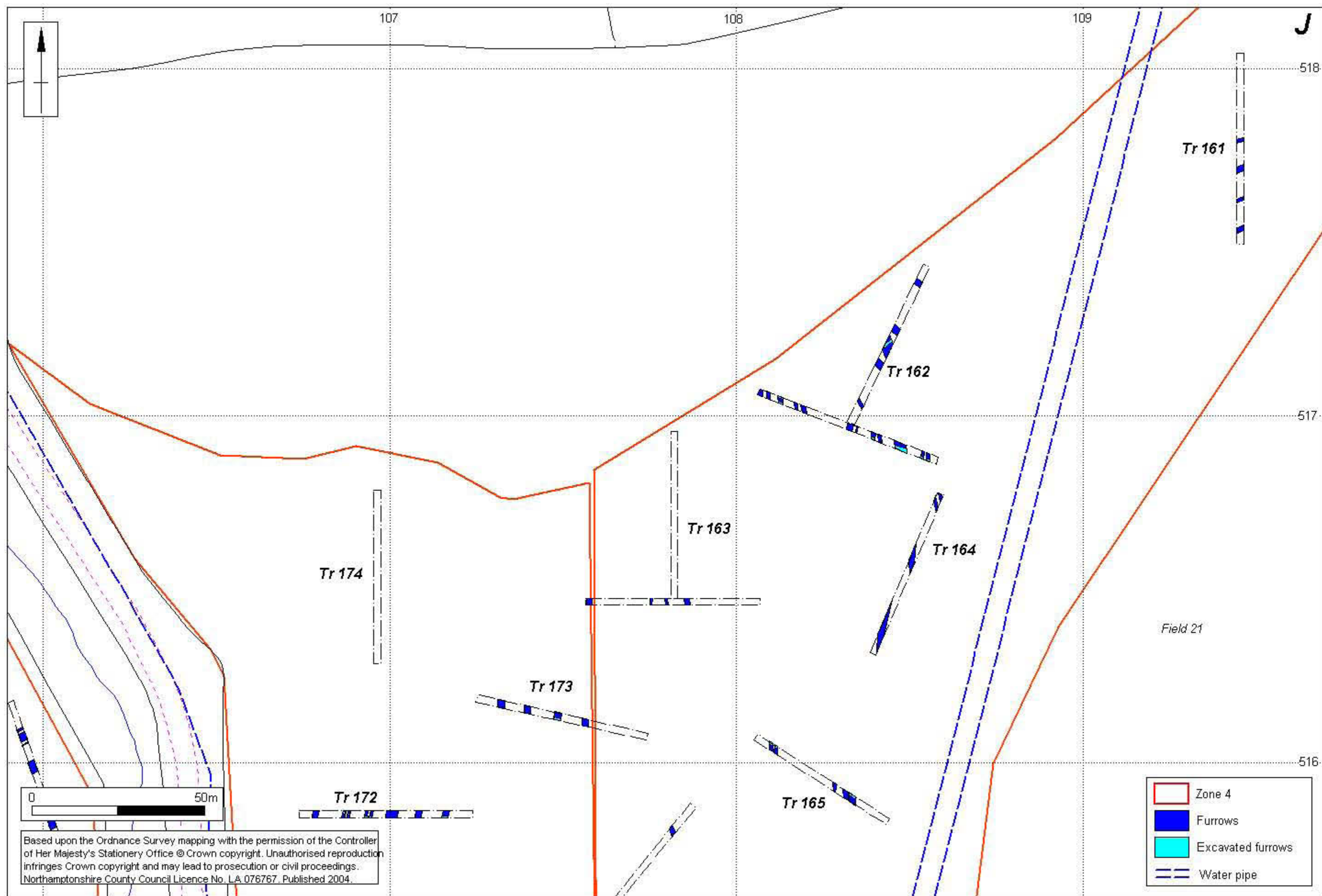
Scale 1:1000

Fig. 10



Scale 1:1000

Fig. 11



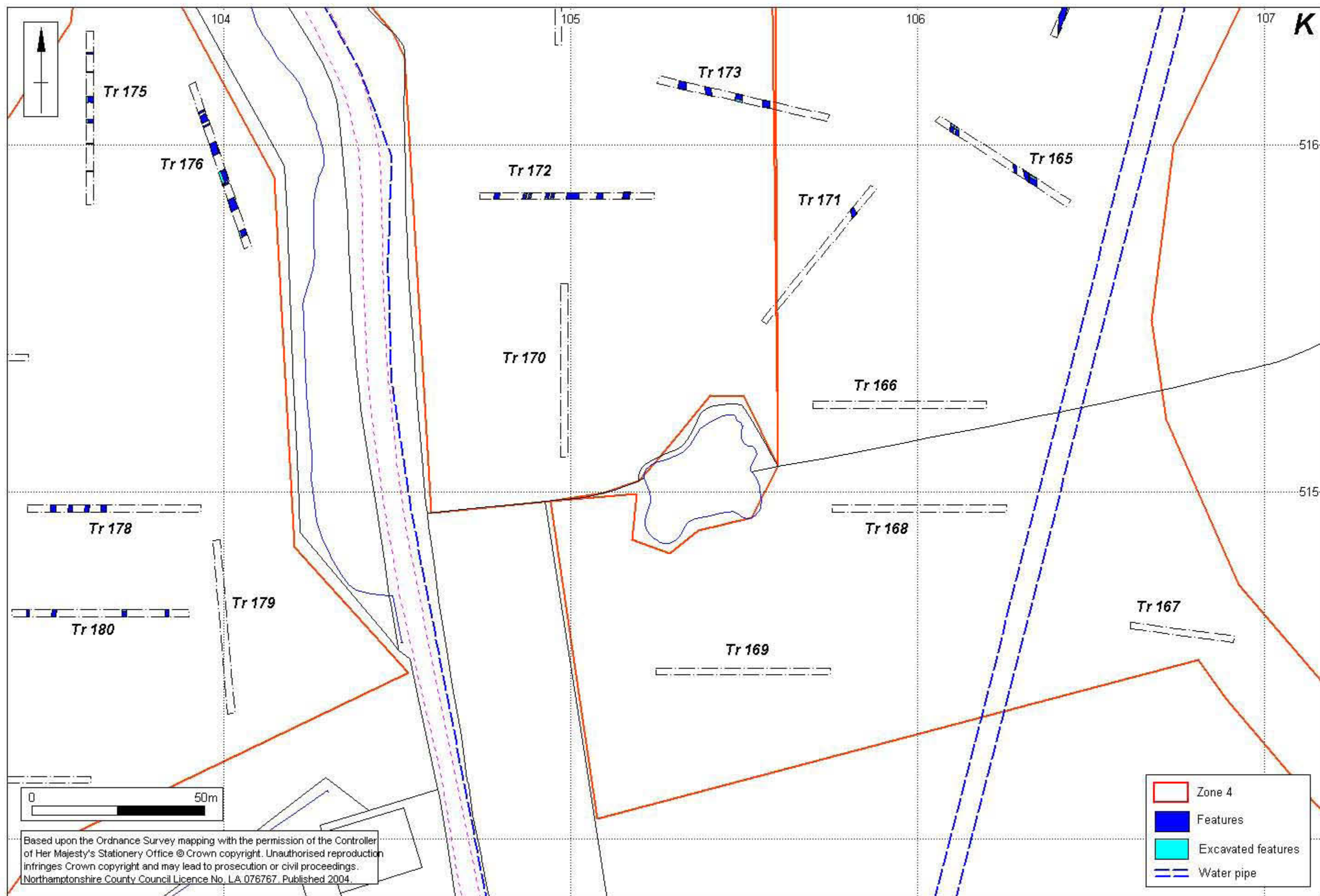
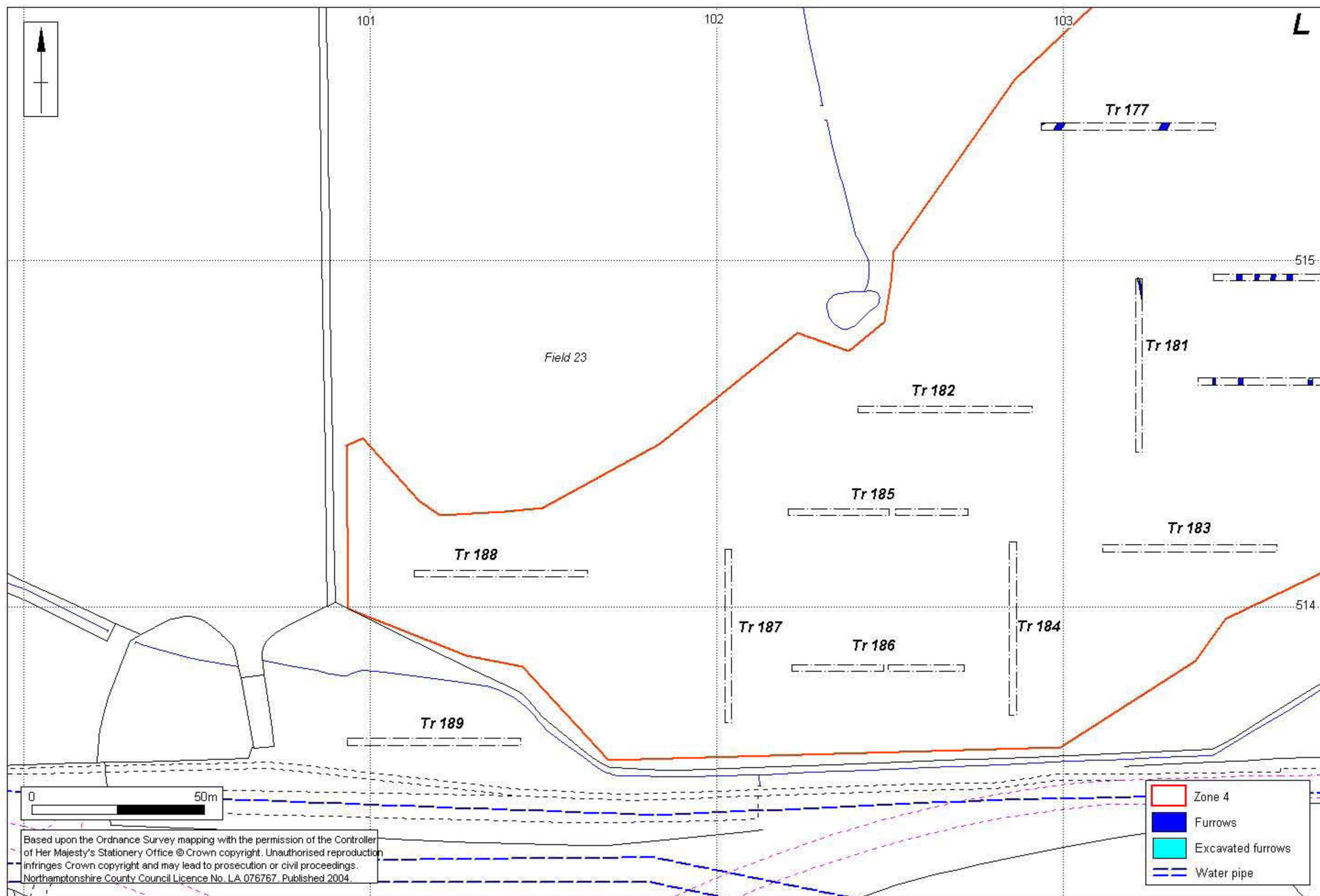
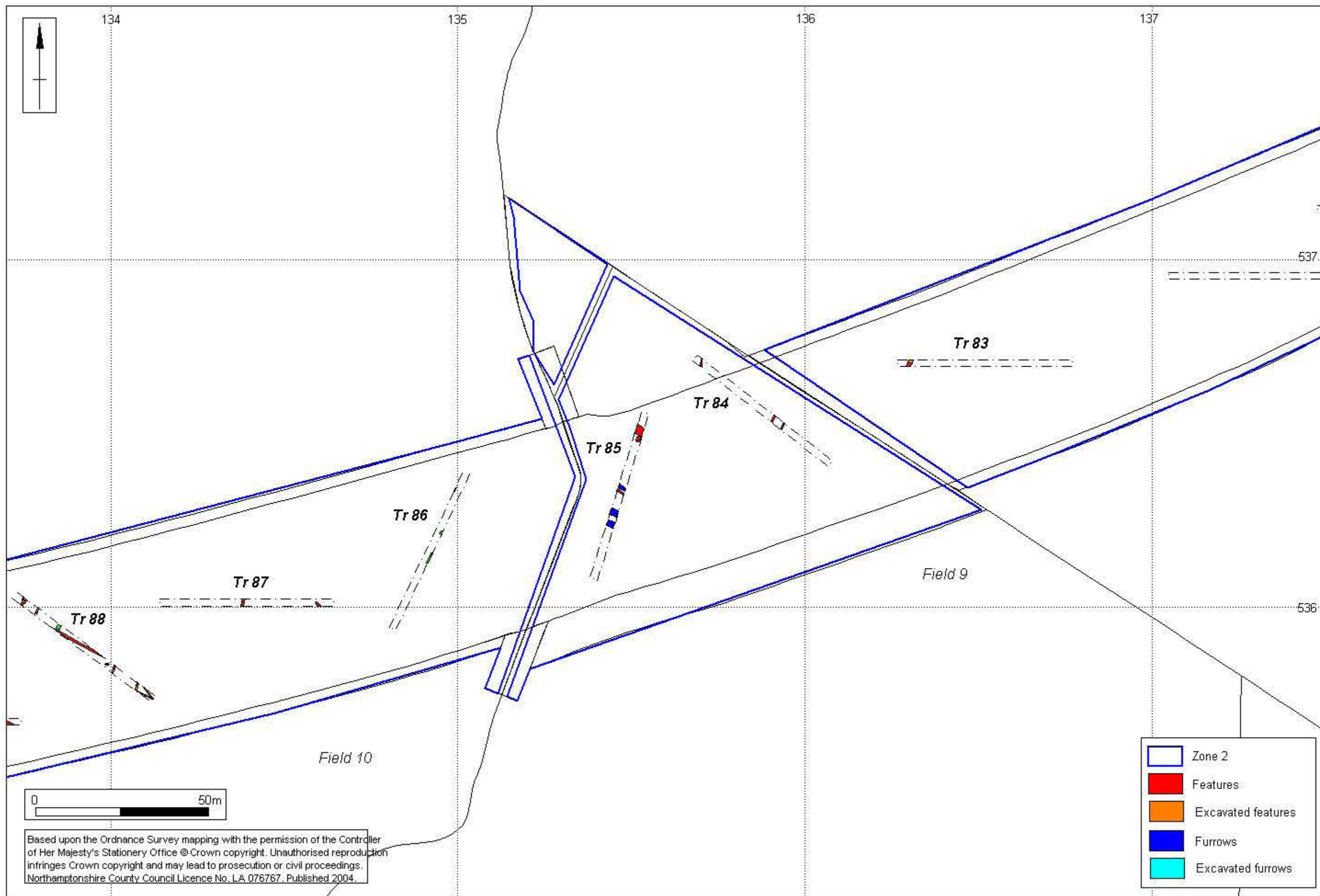


Fig. 13



Scale 1:1000

Fig. 14



Scale 1:1000

Fig. 15