

**LAND AT GARDEN CLOSE,
SUTTON,
CAMBRIDGESHIRE**

**AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL
EVALUATION**

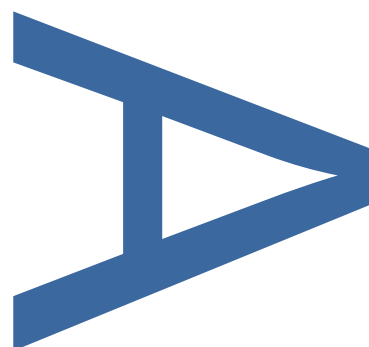
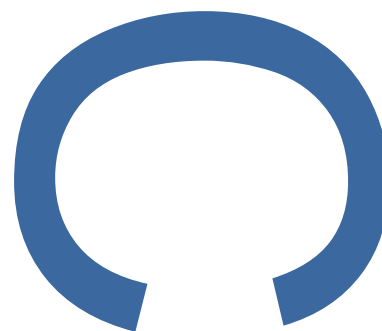
**LOCAL PLANNING AUTHORITY: EAST
CAMBRIDGESHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL**

PRE-APPLICATION

REPORT NO: 12901

SITE CODE: ECB5113

SEPTEMBER 2017




PRE-CONSTRUCT ARCHAEOLOGY

LAND AT GARDEN CLOSE, SUTTON,
CAMBRIDGESHIRE

AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRIAL TRENCH
EVALUATION

Quality Control

Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd	
Project Number	K5113
Report Number	R12901

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Revision No.	Date	Checked	Approved

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Land off Garden Close, Sutton, Cambridgeshire

An Archaeological Evaluation

Local Planning Authority: East Cambridgeshire District Council

Planning Reference: Pre-application

Central National Grid Reference: TL 4494 7876

Site Code/Event Number: ECB 5113

Report No. 12901

OASIS No. preconst1-287039

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September 2017

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ABSTRACT

This report describes the results of an archaeological trial trench evaluation carried out by Pre-Construct Archaeology at land off Garden Close, Cambridgeshire (NGR TL 449 787) on the 22nd to the 25th May 2017. The archaeological work was commissioned by CgMs Consulting in response to a brief prepared by the Cambridgeshire County Council Historic Environment Team. The aim of the work was to characterise the archaeological potential of the proposed development area prior to the determination of planning consent.

Ten ditches and one small pit were revealed in the evaluation trenches. Four of the ditches correspond to landscape features on the site, including a hedgerow and ground depressions, and represent former boundaries of backyard plots extending southwards from the back of properties fronting onto Sutton High Street.

Three ditches contained fragments of Roman pottery and brick while four of the ditches contained fragments of medieval pottery. All artefacts were small and abraded and most likely residual. The paucity of the material suggests that the area has always been agricultural and/or pasture land some distance away from any potential Roman occupation and at the periphery of the medieval settlement of Sutton, evidence of which was recorded south of the High Street to the west of the site. However, the presence of the material and the alignment of archaeological ditches with extant field boundaries confirms that the surviving field boundaries originated in the medieval period.

1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 An archaeological trial trench evaluation was undertaken by Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd (PCA) on land at Garden Close, Sutton, CB6 2RF, on land proposed for residential development. The site is centred on Ordnance Survey National Grid Reference (NGR) TL 4494 7876, and the work was carried out on the 22nd to 25th May 2017 (Figure 1).
- 1.2 The archaeological work was commissioned by CgMs Consulting in response to advice issued by the Cambridgeshire County Council Historic Environment Team (CCCHET) in line with the National Planning Policy Framework 2012. The aim of the investigation was to characterise the archaeological potential of the proposed development area prior to the determination of planning consent.
- 1.3 The evaluation was carried out in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) prepared by Christiane Meckseper of PCA (Meckseper 2017) in response to a Brief for archaeological evaluation issued by Kasia Gdaniec (Gdaniec 2017) of Cambridgeshire County Council Historic Environment Team (CCC HET).
- 1.4 The aim of the evaluation was to determine the location, date, extent, character, condition and quality of any archaeological remains on the site, to assess the significance of any such remains in a local, regional, or national context, as appropriate, and to assess the potential impact of the development proposals on the site's archaeology.
- 1.5 This report describes the results of the evaluation and aims to inform the design of an appropriate archaeological mitigation strategy, if required. The site archive will be deposited at Cambridgeshire County Council Archaeology Store.

2 GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY

2.1 Geology

2.2 Sutton lies on a ridge of Ampthill and Kimmeridge clay with localised deposits of glacio-fluvial sands and gravels that have been quarried since medieval times (British Geological Survey 2017 and CCCHER 2017).

2.3 Topography

2.4 Sutton is also called Sutton-on-the-Isle because it lies at the western end of the Isle of Ely. The village stands on a southern slope of the isle (Atkinson et al 2002) and the proposed development site slopes from c.10m AOD in the north to 5m AOD in the south.

3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

3.1 General

3.2 The following archaeological background is taken from the Heritage Appraisal (CgMs 2016) and the Archaeological Brief (CCC HET 2017), which also provides an up to date data set for the site from the Cambridgeshire HER.

3.3 The proposed development site lies at the south-eastern edge of Sutton to the south of Station Road (Fig 1). It comprises land which is part of three pasture fields which extend southwards from the properties fronting Station Road. The proposed development site is bordered by modern development in the west (Garden Close) and further pasture fields in the east and south. Hedges form the boundaries between the fields on the proposed development site.

3.4 The archaeological appraisal has established that the study area has moderate/high potential for settlement remains related to the medieval settlement of Sutton village and late Saxon/medieval 'backyard activity', a moderate potential for Roman settlement remains and burials, and a low potential for post-medieval remains other than former land divisions.

3.5 Undated

3.6 Incomplete enclosures (HER 11460) plotted from aerial photographs are located to the east of the proposed development site. The enclosures are bounded by drainage ditches and also have some more recent drainage features. The enclosures match the alignment of the elongated ponds which are to the south-east of the proposed development site.

3.7 Prehistoric

3.8 Very little prehistoric evidence has been found in the immediate vicinity of the proposed development site. A Palaeolithic hand axe (HER 05622) was found c.460m to the south of the site, and residual Iron Age pottery was recovered during an evaluation at 87 High Street c.680m to the west of

Garden Close (MCB 18505).

3.9 Roman

3.10 Part of a Middle Iron Age to Roman settlement was revealed in the north-western corner of a development site to the north of The Brook (MCB16274) c.800m to the north-west of Garden Close.

3.11 Roman ditches and pottery were revealed in an evaluation at Red Lion Lane, to the south of the High Street, c.400m west of the proposed development site. The large size of the ditches suggests that they may have been part of a boundary or enclosure which was re-cut at least three times. Ditches forming a trackway were also recorded. Pottery from the fills indicates a date of around the 3rd century.

3.12 A Roman cremation of probably 2nd century date was revealed during the cutting of a drainage trench along Oates Lane (HER 05744) c 80m west of the proposed development site. Human remains in the form of two east-west aligned burials also were found during installation of a land drain in a garden at 7 Oates Lane (HER 16587) c 70m west of the proposed development site. The remains were undated but due to their proximity to the Roman cremation may also be Roman in date.

3.13 Saxon

3.14 Sutton has an entry in the Domesday Survey of 1086 when it is listed as a small manor worth 10 hides (Atkinson et al 2002).

3.15 An evaluation at Lawn Lane, c.45m east of the proposed development site, revealed late Saxon to Saxo-Norman activity characteristic of back plot activity (HER 16887). This was in the form of an east-west aligned ditch, possibly marking the southern boundary of properties fronting the High Street, and some small quarry pits. A number of undated postholes may also date to this phase.

3.16 Medieval

3.17 The 14th century medieval church of St Andrews lies c.200m to the north of the proposed development site, and the medieval settlement most likely extended along the High Street.

3.18 Saxo-Norman and medieval archaeological remains comprising ditches, postholes, gullies, rubbish pits and a number of large quarry pits were excavated at 31 High Street (HER 15736) c.250m west of the proposed development site. The majority of the features dated to the 13th century.

3.19 Post-Medieval

3.20 The layout of the linear fields which comprise the proposed development site suggest that they were part of the post-medieval settlement core of Sutton village. Most likely they represent backyard plots extending southwards from properties along the High Street.

3.21 A lawsuit of 1623 recorded that parts of Sutton were enclosed in the 17th century as a result of a dispute between the dean and chapter of Ely and the tenants of their manors of Mepal and Sutton, regarding the rights of common in the fen. It is uncertain how much land was affected by this enclosure but it is likely that it was the whole of the fenland reclaimed by that date (Atkinson et al 2002).

3.22 The parish of Sutton was enclosed by parliamentary act in 1838 which affected about one quarter of the parish, in particular the 'high lands' (Atkinson et al 2002) of which the proposed development site is a part.

3.23 A north-south aligned low earthen bank within the proposed development site most likely represents a former field boundary, recorded on historic maps. The earthwork is of negligible archaeological interest (CgMs 2017).

4 METHODOLOGY

4.1 Excavation and Sampling

4.2 The Written Scheme of Investigation for the evaluation proposed the excavation of nine trial trenches, distributed evenly across the site, access routes and footprints of the proposed buildings, to obtain a representative sample of the area. Environmental constraints, including a newt buffer around the pond in the southern part of the site and existing underground services were taken into consideration in the layout of the trenches (Figure 2).

4.3 Five 40m long trenches, plus two 20m long, one 30m long and one 15m long trench, totalling nine 2m wide trenches were excavated and recorded. Trenches were located to investigate features recorded during a geophysical survey of the site (Figure 3) and to investigate blank areas. Following the monitoring meeting, Trench 7 was extended eastwards in order to ascertain whether the extant hedge boundary was present as an archaeological feature and to determine its age.

4.4 Ground reduction was carried out under archaeological supervision using a 360° mechanical excavator with toothless ditching bucket. Topsoil and subsoil deposits were removed in spits down to the level of the undisturbed natural geological deposits where potential archaeological features could be observed and recorded if present. Exposed surfaces were cleaned by trowel and hoe as appropriate and all further excavation was undertaken manually using hand tools.

4.5 Overburden deposits were set aside beside each trench and examined visually and with a metal-detector for finds retrieval. Bucket sampling was carried out at each end of the trenches. This bucket sampling took the form of 90 litres of topsoil and subsoil being separated and subsequently sorted through the recover any artefacts. The quantity of artefacts was poor, with a small amount of medieval and post medieval pottery sherds, animal bone and modern brick and tile recovered, none of which were retained. The artefacts are described and quantified in Appendix 1.

4.6 Metal-detecting was carried out during the topsoil and subsoil stripping. Spoilheaps created were scanned by metal-detector.

4.7 Field excavation techniques and recording methods are detailed in the PCA Fieldwork Induction Manual (Operations Manual I; Taylor & Brown 2009).

4.8 Recording Methodology

4.9 The limits of excavations, heights above Ordnance Datum (m OD) and the locations of archaeological features and interventions were recorded using a Leica 1200 GPS rover unit with RTK differential correction, giving three-dimensional accuracy of 20mm or better.

4.10 Deposits or the removal of deposits judged by the excavating archaeologist to constitute individual events were each assigned a unique record number (often referred to within British archaeology as 'context numbers') and recorded on individual pre-printed forms (Taylor and Brown 2009). All deposits recorded during the evaluation are listed in Appendix 2.

4.11 High-resolution digital photographs were taken at all stages of the evaluation process. Digital Photographs were taken of all deposits.

5 ARCHAEOLOGICAL SEQUENCE

5.1 Introduction

5.2 The trenches are described below in numerical order, with technical data tabulated. All features were sealed by subsoil (101) unless otherwise stated.

5.3 The evaluation revealed ten ditches, four of which contained material dating to the medieval and post medieval periods. These ditches represent part of the medieval and post medieval backyard plots that are extending southwards from Sutton High Street (Figures 5 and 6). A shallow pit containing material dating to the medieval period was recorded in the southern part of the site, and a section was recorded through an earthen bank or mound, visible above ground. The features are discussed by trench below.

5.4 Overburden and natural geological deposits

5.5 Overburden in all trenches comprised a friable dark brown sandy clay silt topsoil which was between 0.3m and 0.5m thick. Subsoil comprised a compact mid brownish grey clay with occasional small pebbles which ranged from 0.28m to 0.77m in thickness. In some trenches a thin gravel layer was located at the topsoil and subsoil interface.

5.6 Natural comprised mid brownish grey sandy clay with moderate small to medium gravel inclusions.

5.7 Trench 1

5.8 The trench contained no archaeologically significant features or deposits (Plate 1).

TRENCH 1	Figure 2		Plate 1	
Trench Alignment: N-S	Length: 40m	Depth to Natural (m OD): 6.18m		
Deposit	Context No.	Average Depth (m)		
		S End	N End	
Topsoil	(100)	0.32m	0.52m	
Rubble spread	(126)	0.04m	0.10m	

Subsoil	(101)	0.28m	0.77m
Natural (max machined depth)	(102)	0.64m+	0.87m+
Summary			
Trench 1 was located in the northwest of the site.			
The trench contained no archaeologically significant features or deposits.			

5.9 Trench 2

5.10 The trench contained a single ditch [105], located to the north of the trench on a north-to-south alignment which extended beyond the limits of the trench (Figure 7 Section 1). The ditch had a shallow, rounded profile, measuring 1.07m wide and 0.12m deep and contained a mid grey clay fill (104) from which one small abraded sherd of Saxo-Norman St Neots ware and medieval Ely Ware respectively were recovered.

TRENCH 2		Figure 7	
Trench Alignment: NW-SE	Length: 40m	Depth to Natural (m OD): 7.2m	
Deposit	Context No.	Average Depth (m)	
		NW End	SE End
Topsoil	(100)	0.41m	0.26m
Rubble spread	(126)		0.10m
Subsoil	(101)	0.31m	0.26m
Natural (max machined depth)	(102)	0.72m+	0.60m+
Summary			
Trench 2 was located in the northwest of the site.			
The trench contained a single ditch.			

5.11 Trench 3

5.12 The trench contained four ditches, three of which were located to the south of the trench, on a roughly east-to-west alignment. The fourth ditch was located to the north, on a northwest-to-southeast alignment.

5.13 Ditch [107] (Figure 8 Section 5) was located to the south of the trench, on a northeast-to-southwest alignment, extending beyond the limits of the trench. The ditch had steep sides and a narrow tapered base, measuring 0.5m wide

and 0.24m deep and contained a mid to light grey clay fill (106).

- 5.14 Ditch [109] (Figure 8 Section 6, Plate 3) was located to the south of the trench, on an east-to-west alignment, extending beyond the limits of the trench. The ditch had steep sides and a flat base, measuring 0.93m wide and 0.32m deep and contained a mid greyish brown clay fill (108) from which a small quantity of animal bone (cattle) and one small fragment of medieval Ely Ware was recovered.
- 5.15 Ditch [111] (Figure 8 Section 7, Plate 4) was located to the south of the trench, on an east-to-west alignment, extending beyond the limits of the trench. The ditch had a rounded profile, measured 0.73m wide and 0.20m deep and contained a light orange brown mottled greyish brown clay fill (110) from which no finds were recovered.
- 5.16 Ditch [125] (Figure 8) was located to the north of the trench, on a northwest-to-southeast alignment, extending beyond the limits of the trench. The ditch had a shallow rounded profile, measured 0.4m wide and 0.05m deep and contained a mid greyish brown clay fill (124) which contained a fragment of an oolitic ragstone Roman paving slab and a medieval peg tile.

TRENCH 3		Figure 8	
Trench Alignment: N-S		Length: 40m	Depth to Natural (m OD): 5.41-4.59m
Deposit	Context No.	Average Depth (m)	
		N End	SE End
Topsoil	(100)	0.30m	0.32m
Subsoil	(101)	0.35m	0.37m
Natural (max machined depth)	(102)	0.65m+	0.69m+
Summary			
Trench 3 was located in the southwest of the site.			
The trench contained four ditches, three of which were on a roughly east-to-west alignment; one was on a northwest-to-southeast alignment.			

5.17 Trench 4

- 5.18 The trench contained two ditches, one on an east-to-west alignment and the

other aligned north-to-south. A mound or bank was located to the northeast end of the trench, which was formed by three layers of probable upcast material.

- 5.19 Ditch [118] (Figure 9 Section 8, Plate 7) was located to the southwest of the trench, on an east-to-west alignment, extending beyond the limits of the trench. The ditch had moderate sloping sides and a concave base, measuring 1.45m wide and 0.29m deep and contained a mid greyish brown clay fill (119) from which no finds were recovered.
- 5.20 Ditch [121] (Figure 9 Section 9, Plate 8) was located to the centre of the trench, on a north-to-south alignment, extending beyond the limits of the trench. The ditch had steep, stepped sides and a flat base, measured 2.22m wide and 0.76m deep and contained a light blue grey clay fill (120) from which two small, abraded fragments of Roman pottery and several small fragments of animal bone were recovered. The ditch was truncated through its centre by a modern drain pipe.
- 5.21 Layer (127) (Figure 9 Section 10) was located at the northeast end of the trench and was overlain by topsoil (100). The layer comprised light greyish brown clay from which no finds were recovered and extended 19.70m along the length of the trench and was 0.40m deep at its maximum thickness.
- 5.22 Layer (128) (Figure 9 Section 10) was sealed by layer (127) and comprised mid greyish brown clay from which no finds were recovered. The layer extended 20m along the length of the trench and was 0.40m at its maximum thickness.
- 5.23 Layer (129) (Figure 9 Section 10) was sealed by layer (128) and comprised light greyish brown clay with occasional chalk inclusions. The layer extended over 20m along the length of the trench and was 0.55m deep at its maximum thickness.

TRENCH 4	Figure 9		
Trench Alignment: NE-SW	Length: 40m	Depth to Natural (m OD): 5.96-4.78m	
Deposit	Context No.	Average Depth (m)	
		NE End	SW End

Topsoil	(100)	0.30m	0.25m
Rubble spread	(126)	0.15m	
Subsoil	(101)		0.35m
Natural (max machined depth)	(102)	1m+	0.60m+
Summary			
<p>Trench 4 was located in the south of the site.</p> <p>The trench contained two ditches, one of which was on an east-to-west alignment; one was aligned north-to-south. A mound or bank was located at the northeast end of the trench and comprised of three sterile layers (127), (128) and (129).</p>			

5.24 Trench 5

- 5.25 The trench contained two ditches, one on an east-to-west alignment and the other aligned northwest-to-southeast. A shallow pit, possibly dating to the medieval period was located to the north end of the trench.
- 5.26 Ditch [113] (Figure 10 Section 2) was located to the southeast of the trench, on an east-to-west alignment, extending beyond the limits of the trench. The ditch had moderately sloping sides and a flat base, measuring 1.59m wide and 0.34m deep and contained a mid greyish brown clay fill (112) from which as small quantity of animal bone was recovered. The ditch truncated ditch [115].
- 5.27 Ditch [115] (Figure 10 Sections 2 & 3) was located to the immediate north of Ditch [113], on a northwest-to-southeast alignment, extending beyond the limits of the trench. The ditch had steep, stepped sides and a flat base, measured 2.22m wide and 0.76m deep and contained a mid greyish brown clay fill (114) from which no finds were recovered. The ditch was truncated at its south-eastern end by Ditch [113].
- 5.28 Pit [117] (Figure 10 Section 4, Plate 6) was located at the northwest end of the trench and measured 0.92m in length, over 0.8m wide and 0.08m deep. The pit had a shallow rounded profile and contained a fill of dark grey clay with occasional charcoal inclusions (116). Three sherds of medieval pottery and an iron nail were recovered from the fill.

TRENCH 5	Figure 10			
Trench Alignment: NW-SE	Length: 40m	Depth to Natural (m OD): 5.02-5.00m		
Deposit	Context No.	Average Depth (m)		
		NW End	SW End	
Topsoil	(100)	0.34m	0.28m	
Rubble spread	(126)	0.26m	0.14m	
Subsoil	(101)		0.42m	
Natural (max machined depth)	(102)	0.60m+	0.76m+	
Summary				
Trench 5 was located in the south of the site.				
The trench contained two ditches, one of which was on an east-to-west alignment; one was aligned northwest-to-southeast. A shallow pit was recorded at the north end of the trench.				

5.29 Trench 6

5.30 The trench contained no archaeologically significant features or deposits.

5.31 Following the monitoring meeting the section of Trench 6 was cleaned in intervals to check whether the subsoil/natural interface showed indication of the existence of possible agricultural features like medieval furrows, the north-south lines of which are discernible on Google maps satellite images. However, upon cleaning, the interface was horizontal and no archaeological features were discernible (Plate 2).

TRENCH 6	Figure 2		Plate 2	
Trench Alignment: NE-SW	Length: 20m	Depth to Natural (m OD): 6.03--5.61m		
Deposit	Context No.	Average Depth (m)		
		NE End	SW End	
Topsoil	(100)	0.30m	0.30m	
Subsoil	(101)	0.36m	0.30m	
Natural (max machined depth)	(102)	0.66m+	0.60m+	
Summary				
Trench 6 was located in the east of the site.				
The trench contained no archaeologically significant features or deposits.				

5.32 Trench 7

5.33 The trench contained a single ditch which was aligned with a hedgerow still present on the site. A modern rubbish pit was also recorded to the northwest end of the trench.

5.34 Ditch [123] (Figure 11 Section 11, Plate 10) was located within a small L-shaped extension of Trench 7, at the southeast end of the trench. The ditch was aligned north-to-south and followed the path of a hedgerow; it measured 1.82m wide and 0.38m deep with a u-shaped profile. Ditch [123] contained a mid greyish brown clay fill (122) from which a Roman brick fragment with attached *opus signinum* (Plate 11), 5 sherds of medieval pottery and a small quantity of animal bone were recovered.

TRENCH 7		Figure 11	
Trench Alignment: NW-SE		Length: 30m (+9m)	Depth to Natural (m OD): 7.12-7.09m
Deposit	Context No.	Average Depth (m)	
		NW End	SE End
Topsoil	(100)	0.32m	0.34m
Subsoil	(101)		0.22m
Natural (max machined depth)	(102)		0.56m+
Summary			
Trench 7 was located in the northeast of the site.			
The trench contained a single ditch dating to the medieval period. A modern rubbish pit was located at the northern end of the trench.			

5.35 Trench 8

5.36 The trench contained no archaeologically significant features or deposits.

TRENCH 8		Figure 2	
Trench Alignment: NE-SW		Length: 15m	Depth to Natural (m OD): 7.62—7.09m
Deposit	Context No.	Average Depth (m)	
		NE End	SW End
Topsoil	(100)	0.40m	0.43m
Subsoil	(101)	0.25m	0.17m
Natural (max machined depth)	(102)	0.65m+	0.60m+
Summary			

Trench 8 was located in the northeast of the site.
 The trench contained no archaeologically significant features or deposits.

5.37 Trench 9

5.38 The trench contained no archaeologically significant features or deposits.

TRENCH 9		Figure 2	
Trench Alignment: NW-SE		Length: 20m	Depth to Natural (m OD): 6.16-6.10m
Deposit	Context No.	Average Depth (m)	
		NW End	SE End
Topsoil	(100)	0.49m	0.33m
Subsoil	(101)	0.25m	0.27m
Natural (max machined depth)	(102)	0.74m+	0.60m+
Summary			
Trench 9 was located in the east of the site.			
The trench contained no archaeologically significant features or deposits.			

6 THE FINDS AND ENVIRONMENTAL EVIDENCE

6.1 Pottery

6.2 Two sherds of Roman pottery weighing 17g were recovered from the evaluation. This comprised one coarse sandy greyware (7g) and one black-slipped ware (10g). Both sherds were recovered from fill (120) of ditch [121] and dated to the mid-later Roman period, c. AD150-300. The fragments were abraded and most likely redeposited.

6.3 In addition a small assemblage of post-Roman pottery was recovered from the site, amounting to 12 sherds, weighing 61g. The fabrics were examined under x20 magnification and the sherds were recorded by fabric, form, sherd count and weight (see Table 1). As far as possible these comply with the published fabric codes for the region (Spoerry 2016).

6.4 A crude and low-fired chalk tempered sherd, possibly from a flat-based vessel, might represent the earliest material recovered, provisionally dated to Late Bronze Age to Middle Iron Age. The sherd is small and abraded, however, so the identification remains tentative at best.

6.5 The remaining pottery is of late Saxon to medieval date, including types common to the Cambridgeshire fenland (Spoerry 2016), but including a few unsourced or provisionally identified sherds. These include two medieval coarsewares and two oxidised wares from ditch fill [122]. The larger of the two coarseware sherds has a buff core and oxidised surfaces, characterised by abundant fine to medium sand (some iron-stained) and moderate iron ore. The smaller sherd contains moderate medium rounded sand, occasional calcareous inclusions and has a grey core and pale orange surfaces. The latter is visually similar to South-east Fenland Medieval Calcareous Buff Ware (SEFEN), with a suggested source somewhere to the south and east of Ely, but as this ware does not seem to penetrate far into the fenland, perhaps due to the prolific output of the Ely kilns, an alternative source remains possible (Spoerry 2016, 196).

6.6 The unsourced oxidised wares include a jug sherd with thick white slip and

green speckled clear glaze. The latter has a hard, orange fabric with a clean fracture containing moderate finely sorted small quartz and calcareous inclusions. Macroscopically the sherd looks very much like an East Anglian/Essex redware, in both firing and decoration, but the calcareous inclusions suggest a source further west, or perhaps to the north, although it is not a good match to Potterspury or Lyveden wares. The second unsourced oxidised sherd is unglazed and contains iron-stained quartz and burnt out organics.

6.7 The small size of the sherds and moderate to high level of abrasion indicate they are likely to be redeposited, perhaps arriving on site through field manuring. The small number recovered would certainly suggest the site was peripheral to settlement, but the assemblage does attest to the existence of occupation in the vicinity, potentially dating from the 10th to the 14th century.

6.8 Table: The post-Roman pottery

Context	Fabric	Form	No (wg)	Date range	Spot date
104	St Neots-type ware (NEOT)	Body sherd	1 (1g)	900 – 1150	1150 - 1350
	Medieval Ely Ware (MEL)	Body sherd, hard, oxidised outer surface	1 (10g)	1150 – 1350	
108	Medieval Ely Ware (MEL)	Body sherd	1 (12g)	1150 – 1350	1150 - 1350
	Pre-historic chalk-tempered ware?	Base sherd?, abraded	1 (5g)	Late Bronze Age – Middle Iron Age?	
116	Medieval sandy ware (MSW)	Jar, squared rim, abraded	1 (5g)	1150 – 1400	1175 - 1400
	Huntingdonshire Fen Sandy ware	Body sherd	1 (2g)	1175 – 1300	

Context	Fabric	Form	No (wg)	Date range	Spot date
	(HUNFSW)				
	Huntingdonshire Fen Sandy ware (HUNFSW)	Base sherd, abraded	1 (3g)	1175 – 1300	
122	Miscellaneous coarseware (MISC CW)	Body sherd, buff-core, oxidised surfaces	1 (4g)	1000 – 1400	1175 - 1400
	Miscellaneous coarseware (MISC CW)/ ?South-east Fenland Medieval Calcareous Buff Ware (SEFEN)	Body sherd, small, high-fired	1 (1g)	1150 – 1450	
	Huntingdonshire Fen Sandy ware (HUNFSW)	Body sherd, dark grey core, oxidised surfaces	1 (1g)	1175 – 1300	
	Un sourced oxidised ware (MISC OX)	Body sherd, oxidised throughout.	1 (3g)	1150 – 1400	
	Un sourced oxidised ware (MISC OX)	Jug, body sherd with white slipped decoration and clear glaze, speckled with green (copper)	1 (14g)	1150 – 1400	

6.9 Ceramic Building Material

6.10 This very small building material assemblage (3 examples 1.3kg), consists of a mixture of Roman stone and brick and one thick medieval peg or bat tile recovered from ditch fills (122) and (124).

6.11 Of greatest interest is a paving slab of oolitic ragstone, from fill (124) with very fine white ooids set in a hard grey calcareous matrix. This rock is probably Roman and its source Rutland/South Lincolnshire (Middle Jurassic – Bajocian) e.g. Stamford Marble or local equivalent suggests derivation from the nearby Middle Jurassic ridge.

6.12 The Roman brick from fill (122) has *opus signinum* attached (Plate 11) which may be indicative of waterproofing in what could be a heated building.

6.13 The very thick 16mm glazed tile from fill (124) suggests 12th to 13th century roofing material.

6.14 Animal Bone

6.15 A small quantity of animal bone was collected by hand from three ditch fills. More material was recovered from the residue of an environmental sample (mesh sizes 2mm and 10mm) from a further ditch fill. The contexts containing bone and taxa present are listed in the table below. Preservation was reasonable. Most bone exhibited fresh breaks possibly resulting from excavation from a clay matrix. Bones surfaces were slightly eroded. No evidence of butchery or canid gnawing was noted.

6.16 Table: Taxa by context

Context	108	112	120	122	Total
Cut	109	113	121	123	
Feature	ditch	ditch	ditch	ditch	
Sample			1		
Cattle	1				1
Cattle size		1	1#		2
Sheep size				1	1
Horse				3*	3
Total	1	1	1	4	7

*Including multiple fragments of scapula recorded as a single bone, # multiple fragments

6.17 The potential and significance of the current assemblage is greatly limited by its small size. No further work is recommended.

6.18 Environmental Remains

6.19 Two bulk samples, of sixteen and eighteen litres in volume from fills (120) and (108) respectively, were processed using the flotation method. Both of the processed samples produced flots, of twenty-four millilitres and nine millilitres in volume respectively. As with the heavy residues, molluscs were the most abundant ecofact, though small to moderate amounts of macrobotanical material were also present in both samples. The highest abundance of seeds was recorded in sample <1>, the majority of which were of the genus *Lemna*, a group of aquatic perennial plants native to ponds, ditches and canals. A small amount of elder (*Sambucus sp.*), buttercup (*Ranunculus sp.*), calamint (*Clinopodium sp.*), goosefoot (*Chenopodium sp.*) and cabbage (*Brassicaceae undiff.*) seeds were also reported. Sample <2> contained a small number (<10) of weed seeds, as well as a low frequency of heavily fragmented wood charcoal.

6.20 Regarding the molluscan assemblage, sample <1> was again found to have the largest concentration of material, with over three hundred individual shells. As with the corresponding heavy residue, the most abundant genus was *Planorbis sp.*, though a moderate amount of *Candidula sp.* shells were also reported, along with a low concentration of several other species. Sample <2> contained between thirty and one-hundred specimens in total, including both freshwater and terrestrial species.

6.21 In terms of other environmental material, sample <2> additionally contained a small amount of insect remains, as well as a low frequency of fragmented animal bone (<10 pieces). Root material was discovered in both of the assessed samples, in small to moderate amounts. This may be an indication that bioturbation has taken place.

6.22 Table: Environmental samples

Sample No.	1	2
Context No.	120	108
Feature No.	121	109
Feature Type	Ditch	Ditch
Trench No.	3	4
Volume of bulk (liters)	16	18

Sample No.		1	2
Context No.		120	108
Feature No.		121	109
Volume of flot (milliliters)		24	9
Method of processing		F	F
HEAVY RESIDUE			
Molluscs			
<i>Bithynia</i> sp.	Freshwater	1	
<i>Candidula</i> sp.	Terrestrial	2	1
<i>Cochlicella</i> cf.	Terrestrial	1	
<i>Helix</i> sp.	Terrestrial		1
<i>Lymnaeasp.</i>	Freshwater	1	1
<i>Oxychilus</i> sp.	Terrestrial	1	1
<i>Planorbis</i> sp.	Freshwater	4	1
<i>Vallonia</i> sp.	Terrestrial	2	
<i>Valvata macrostoma</i>	Freshwater	1	
<i>Valvata piscinalis</i>	Freshwater	1	
<i>Vertigo</i> sp.	Terrestrial	1	
Juveniles (misc.)		3	1
Operculum		1	
Snail eggs		1	
Shell fragments		4	1

6.23 Generally, seeds and other macrobotanical material were poorly preserved in these samples, and there is little in the assemblage to suggest how the site functioned on a day-to-day basis, or pinpoint any particular domestic or industrial use. The mollusc record is the most promising environmental archive identified in the samples. No further assessment is recommended.

7 DISCUSSION

- 7.1 The archaeological evaluation revealed 10 ditches and one pit. Ditches [109], [121] and [113] in Trenches 3, 4 and 5 correspond with earthwork ditches on the site and are likely to represent former field boundaries. Ditch [123] in Trench 7 follows the same alignment as an extant hedgerow and contained several fragments of abraded medieval pottery.
- 7.2 A mound, or bank earthwork was located towards the south of the site and a slot excavated through the feature revealed it comprised of three sterile layers, probably upcast from nearby ditch excavations, or from pond excavations to the south (Plate 9). A shallow pit was recorded in Trench 5, though so little of the pit remained its function is unclear.
- 7.3 Medieval pottery was retrieved from three of the ditches and the pit, however the pottery was small and abraded and most likely residual and/or spread through manuring. Similarly, the Roman pottery and building material that was retrieved from three of the ditches can only be residual. The presence of Roman and medieval material in the features is not surprising as settlement evidence of that date has been recorded to the south of the High Street which lies c.200m to the north of the site.
- 7.4 However, the paucity of finds suggests that the proposed development site was located at some distance from any potential Roman settlement sites and at the periphery of the Saxon and medieval settlement of Sutton and has always been agricultural and/or pasture land.
- 7.5 The existence of residual Roman pottery and building material and medieval pottery in some of the ditches, which are parallel or perpendicular to existing boundaries (Figure 5), suggests that the extant field boundaries originated in the medieval period or earlier. The geophysical survey shows faint marks, parallel to the field boundaries that could represent further internal boundaries (Figure 3). Their presence was not confirmed through intrusive investigation. However, they could still represent further subdivisions of the narrow fields (Gdaniec, pers comm).

7.6 The paucity of finds may also be due to the high water table on the site, in conjunction to the heavy clay natural geology of the area. This high water table is likely to have encouraged settlement related activity to be focussed on the higher ground to the north towards the centre of the main village core. The high water table may also account for the longevity of some of the ditches which probably served as boundaries as well as drainage ditches.

8 INTERPRETATION

- 8.1 The evaluation has demonstrated a good survival of elements of the ancient medieval field system to the south of Sutton High Street, both in the archaeological record and as extant features in the landscape. There was no evidence for settlement of any period on the proposed development site.
- 8.2 Early Ordnance Survey maps show the survival of long narrow medieval closes or burgage type plots, similar to those on the proposed development site, at the backs of properties along the High Street and along the southern edge of Sutton. Most of the plots were used for orchards and/or pasture in the late 19th century (Figure 6). The survival of medieval or pre-enclosure field boundaries on the site is most likely due to the fields being used for pasture since enclosure, and due to the fact that the ditches were necessary for drainage on the clay geology of the site.

9 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- 9.1 Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd would like to thank Alexandra Gillard of CgMs Consulting for commissioning the work. PCA are also grateful to Kasia Gdaniec of Cambridgeshire County Council Historic Environment Team for her advice and for monitoring the work.
- 9.2 The project was supervised by Clare Jackson (Archaeological Supervisor), who also prepared the report, and managed by Christiane Meckseper (Project Manager). The author would like to thank the project team Ryszard Molenda and Jaime Kohler for their hard work.
- 9.3 The pottery report was prepared by Berni Sudds with a comment on the Roman pottery added by Katie Anderson, the CBM report by Kevin Hayward, the environmental report by Kate Turner and the animal bone report by Karen Deighton. The bucket sample finds were quantified and spot-dated by Clare Jackson. Tilia Cammegh of PCA's CAD department prepared the figures.

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11 APPENDIX 1: CONTEXT INDEX

Context Number	Cut	Type	Category	Interpretation	Trench Number
100	0	Layer	Topsoil	Overburden	
101	0	Layer	Subsoil	Overburden	
102	0	Layer	Natural	Natural	
103	0	VOID	VOID	VOID	
104	105	Fill	Ditch	Drainage	2
105	105	Cut	Ditch	Drainage	2
106	107	Fill	Ditch	Drainage	3
107	107	Cut	Ditch	Drainage	3
108	109	Fill	Ditch	Boundary	3
109	109	Cut	Ditch	Boundary	3
110	111	Fill	Ditch	Drainage	3
111	111	Cut	Ditch	Drainage	3
112	113	Fill	Ditch	Boundary	5
113	113	Cut	Ditch	Boundary	5
114	115	Fill	Ditch	Drainage	5
115	115	Cut	Ditch	Drainage	5
116	117	Fill	Pit		5
117	117	Cut	Pit		5
118	118	Cut	Ditch		4
119	118	Fill	Ditch		4
120	121	Fill	Ditch	Boundary	4
121	121	Cut	Ditch	Boundary	4
122	123	Fill	Ditch	Boundary	7
123	123	Cut	Ditch	Boundary	7
124	125	Fill	Ditch	Drainage	3
125	125	Cut	Ditch	Drainage	3
126	0	Layer	Made Ground	Overburden	

Context Number	Cut	Type	Category	Interpretation	Trench Number
127	0	Layer	Upcast		4
128	0	Layer	Upcast		4
129	0	Layer	Upcast		4

12 APPENDIX 2: QUANTIFICATION OF BUCKET SAMPLED FINDS

Trench	Find Type	Weight (g)	Quantity	Period
1	Pottery	221	2	Post medieval
1	Pottery	12.5	1	Medieval
1	Animal Bone	14	2	
2	CBM	29.5	1	
3	Fe Nail	3.5	1	
3	Fe object	194.5	1	
4	CBM	23.5	1	
4	Fe Nail	24.5	1	
4	Pottery	6.5	1	Medieval
4	CTP	1.5	1	
6	Pottery	35	5	Medieval
6	Pottery	5	1	Post medieval
7	Animal Bone	88.5	2	
7	Animal Bone	42	2	
7	CBM	152	6	
7	Fe Nail	15	3	
8	Fe Nail	10	1	
9	Pottery	22.5	1	Post medieval
9	Pottery	7	2	Medieval
9	CBM	6.5	1	

13 APPENDIX 3: OASIS FORM

OASIS ID: preconst1-287039

Project details

Project name	Garden Close, Sutton, Cambridgeshire
Short description of the project	Trial trench evaluation at Garden Close, Sutton, Cambridgeshire. The evaluation revealed several ditches which were medieval and post-medieval in date. The alignment of the archaeological ditches was parallel to existing field boundaries and suggest the continuation of medieval closes and paddocks from the medieval period onwards. Some residual Roman material was found in the ditch fills.
Project dates	Start: 22-05-2017 End: 25-05-2017
Previous/future work	No / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	ECB5113 - HER event no.
Type of project	Field evaluation
Monument type	DITCH Medieval, DITCH Post Medieval, DITCH Uncertain, PIT Uncertain,
Significant Finds	CBM Roman, POTTERY Roman, POTTERY Medieval, POTTERY Post Medieval

Project location

Country	England
Site location	CAMBRIDGESHIRE EAST CAMBRIDGESHIRE SUTTON Garden Close, Sutton, Cambridgeshire
Postcode	CB62RF
Study area	2.3 Hectares
Site coordinates	TL 4494 7876 52.387251472107 0.130029787176 52 23 14 N 000 07 48 E Point

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited
Project originator	brief CCC Historic Environment Team
Project originator	design Pre-Construct Archaeology
Project director/manager	Christiane Meckseper
Project director/manager	Charlotte Matthews
Project supervisor	Clare Jackson
Type of sponsor/funding body	Developer

Project archives

Physical recipient	Archive	Cambridgeshire County Council Archaeology Store
Physical Contents		"Animal Bones", "Ceramics", "Environmental"
Digital recipient	Archive	Cambridgeshire County Council Archaeology Store
Digital Contents		"Animal Bones", "Ceramics", "Environmental"
Digital available	Media	"Images raster / digital photography", "Spreadsheets", "Survey", "Text"
Paper recipient	Archive	Cambridgeshire County Council Archaeology Store
Paper available	Media	"Context sheet", "Correspondence", "Photograph", "Plan", "Report", "Section", "Unpublished Text"

Project bibliography 1

Publication type		Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title		Land off Garden Close, Sutton, Cambridgeshire: An Archaeological Evaluation
Author(s)/Editor(s)		Jackson, C. Meckseper, C.
Other bibliographic details		Report no: 12901
Date		2017
Issuer publisher	or	Pre-Construction Archaeology Ltd.
Place of issue or publication	or	Pampisford
Description		Ring-bound paper report with PCA branded cover.

Entered by		Christiane Meckseper (chmeckseper@gmail.com)
Entered on		12 June 2017

14 PLATES



Plate 1: Trench 1, looking north



Plate 2: Trench 6, sample section, looking northeast



Plate 3: Trench 3 Ditch [109], looking east



Plate 4: Trench 3, Ditch [111], looking east



Plate 5: Trench 5, Ditches [113] and [115], looking southwest



Plate 6: Trench 5, Pit [117], looking southwest



Plate 7: Trench 4, Ditch [118], looking west



Plate 8: Trench 4, Ditch [121] with modern drainage pipe, looking north



Plate 9: Trench 4, sample section through mound/bank showing layers (127), (128) and (129), looking southeast

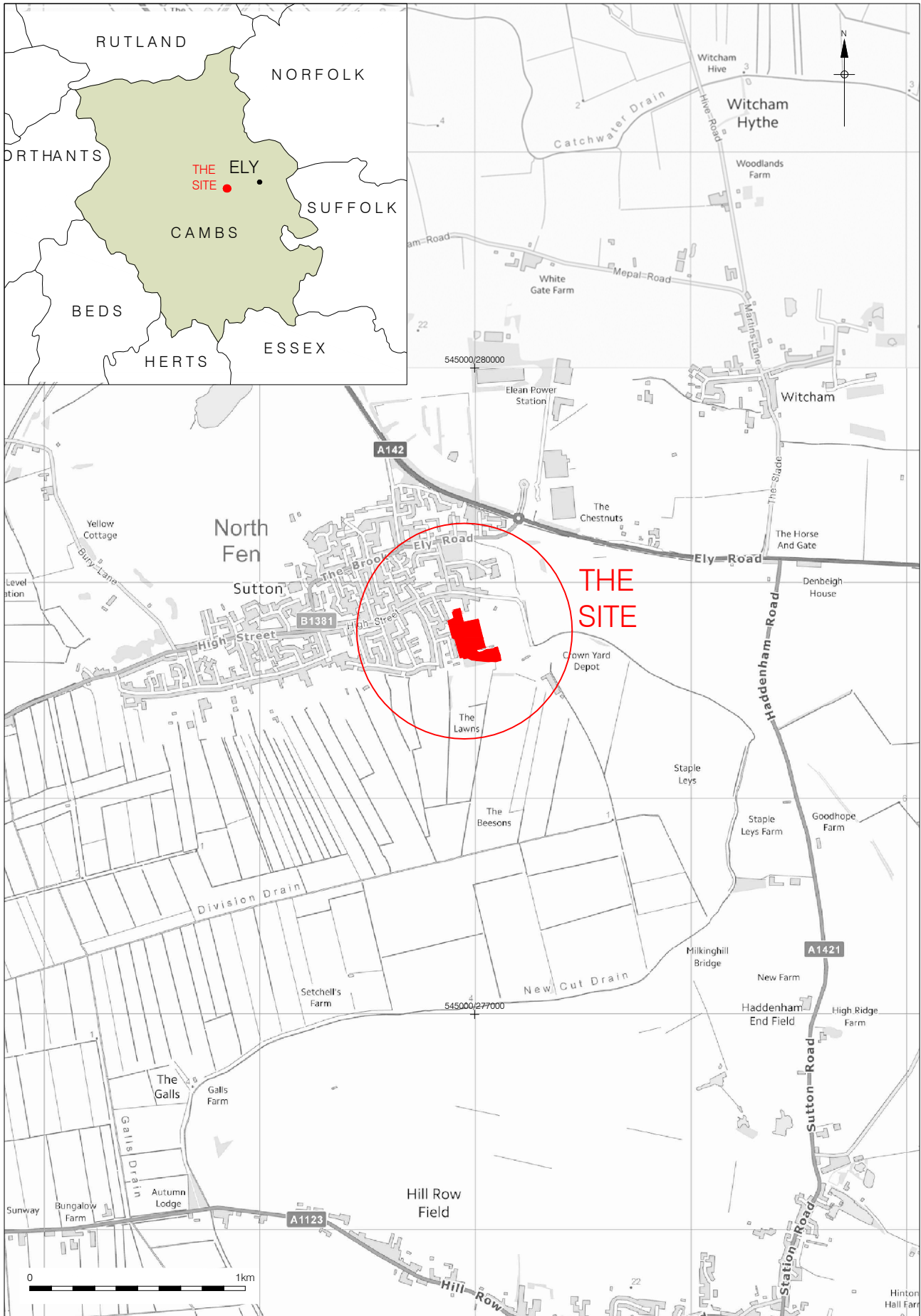


Plate 10: Trench 7, Ditch [123], looking northwest



Plate 11: Roman brick with attached *Opus Signinum*
(brick measures 70 x 50mm)

15 FIGURES



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Figure 1
 Site Location
 1:25,000 at A4

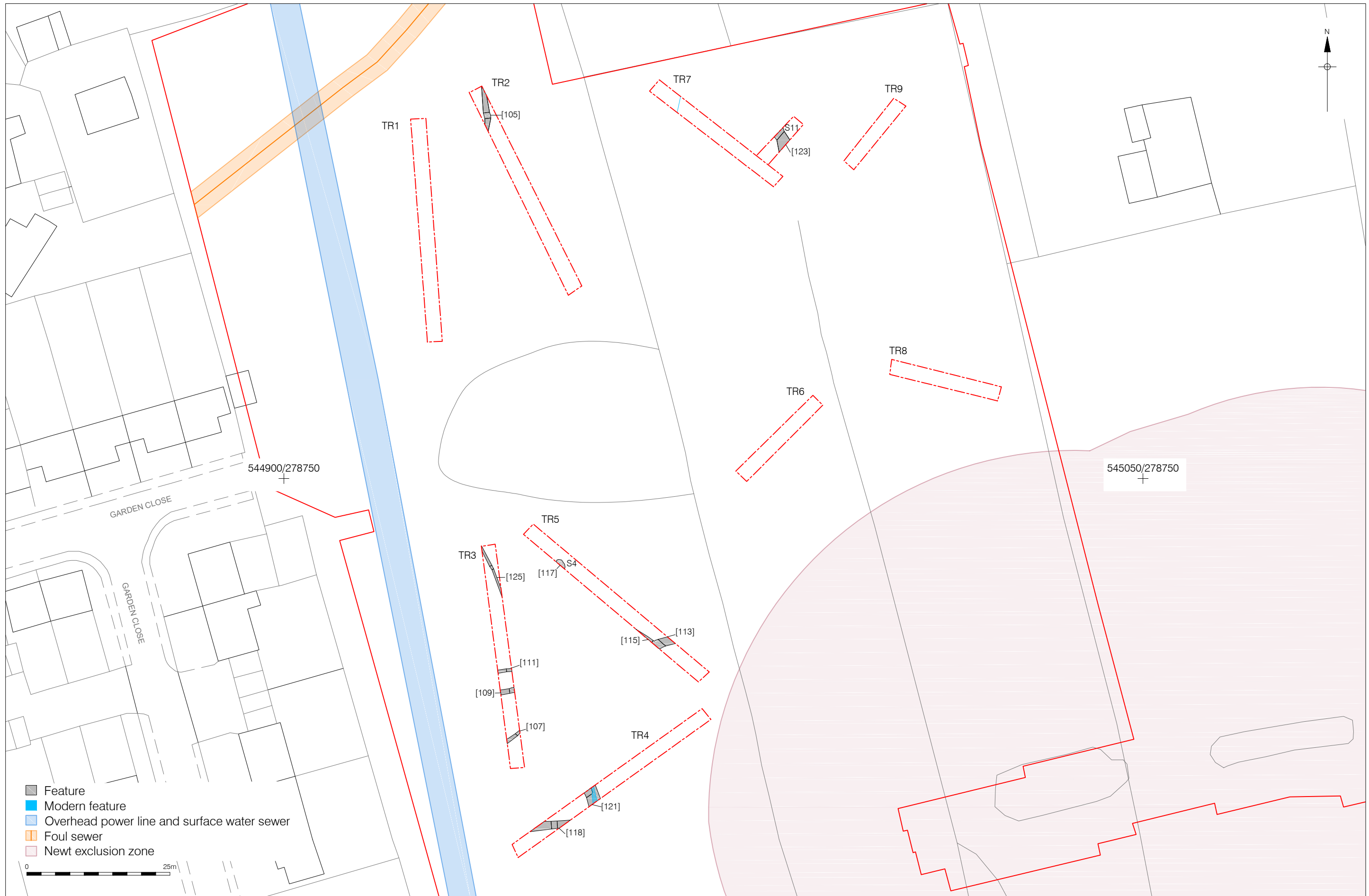
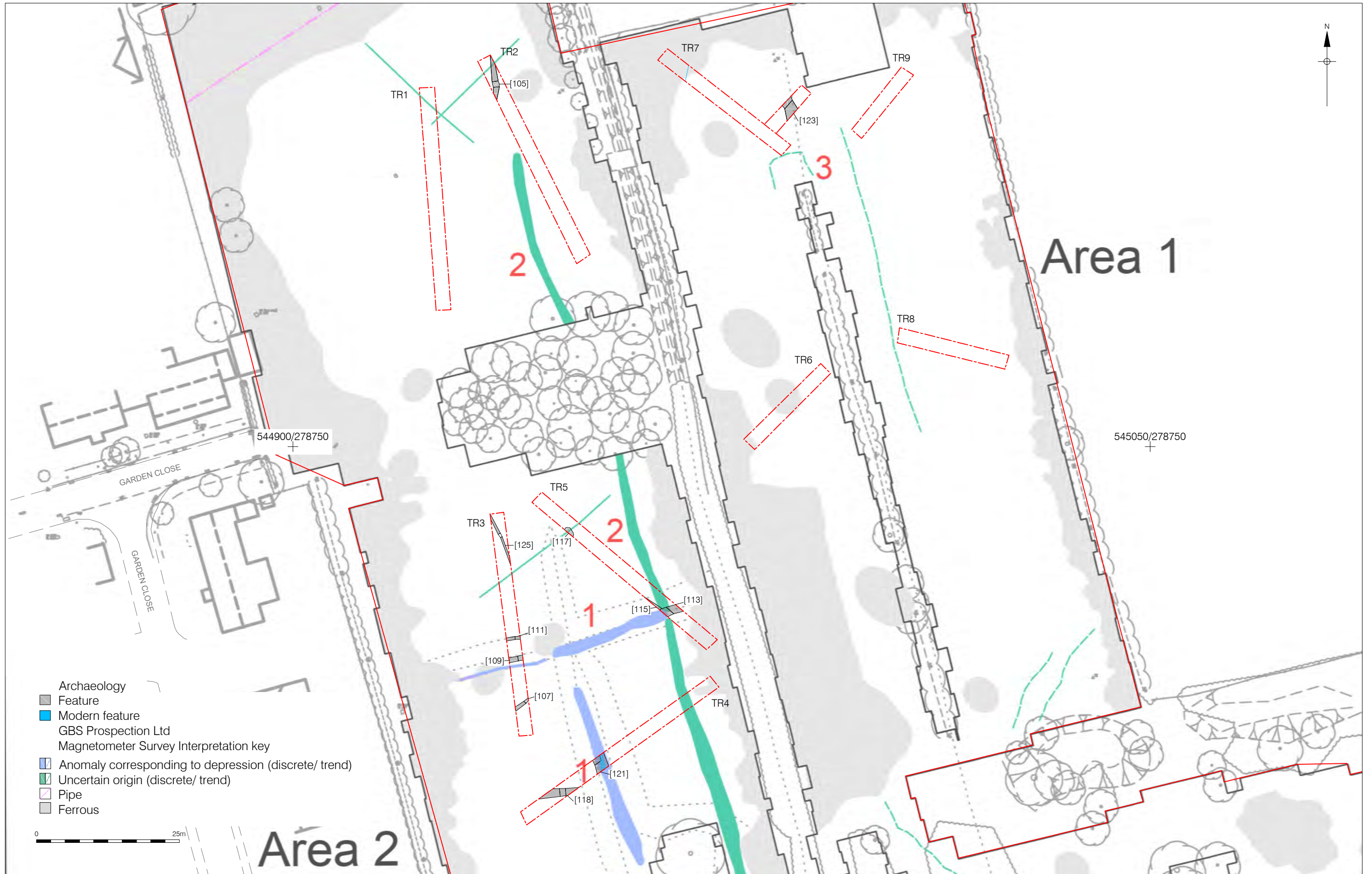
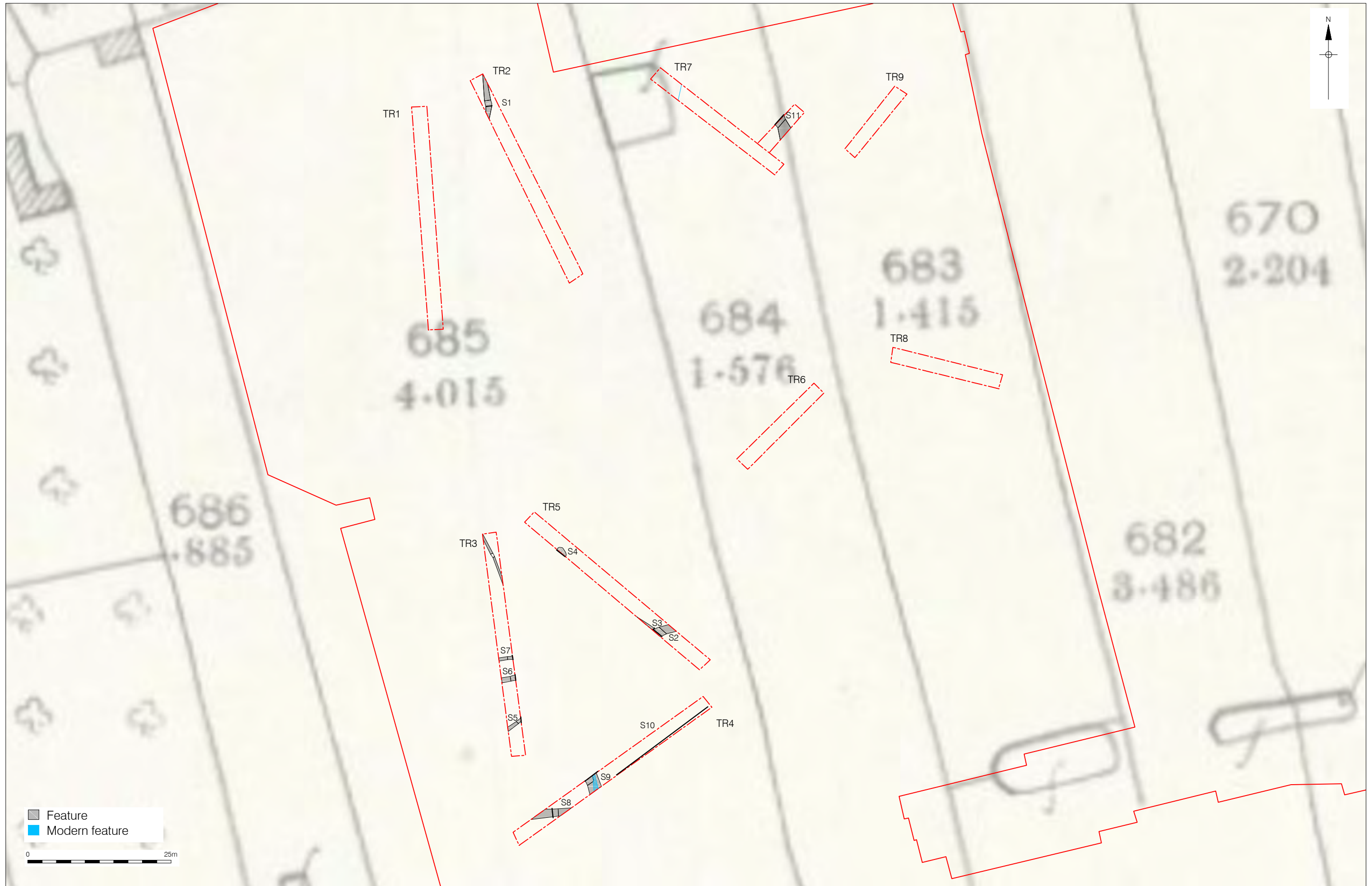


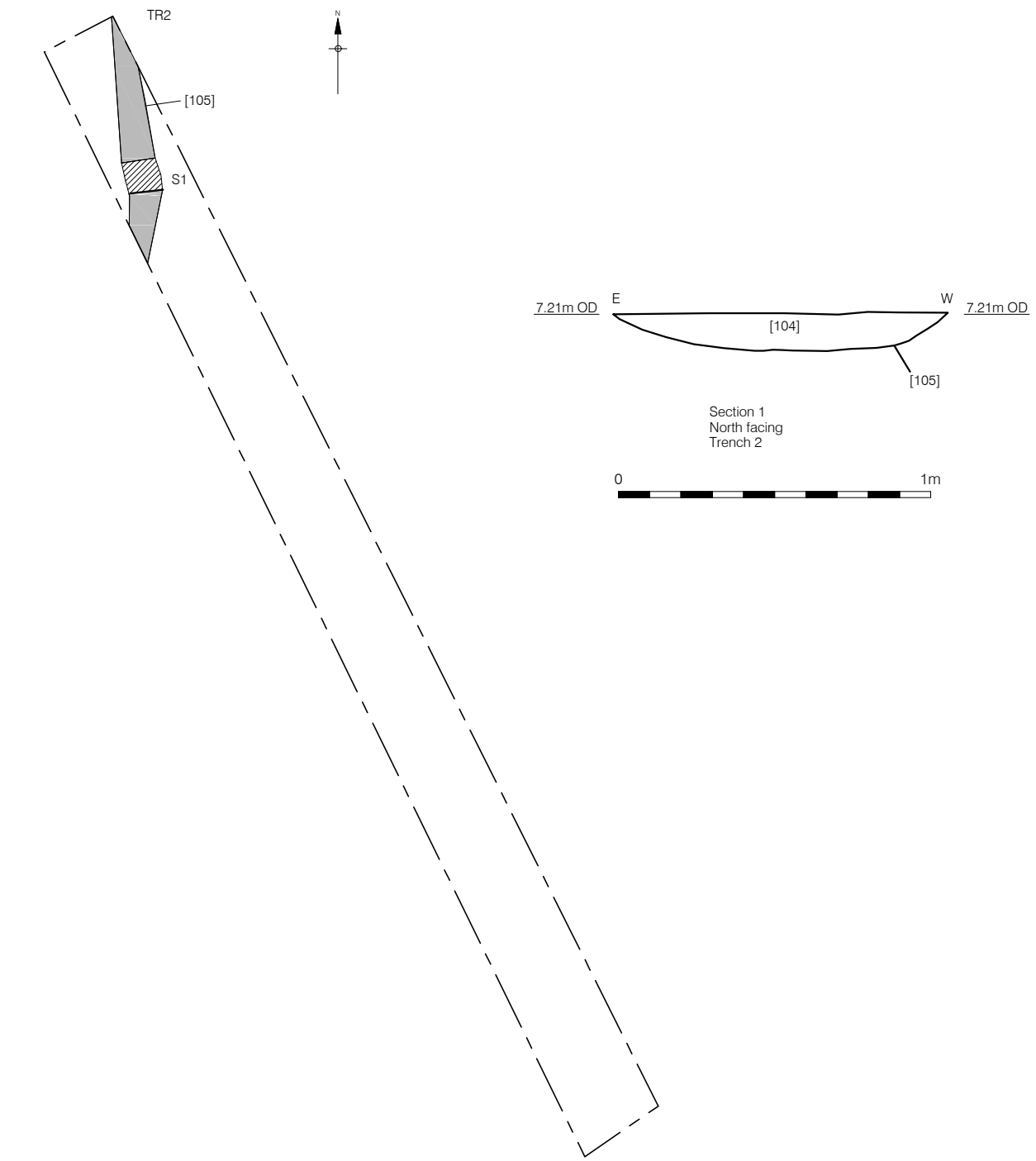
Figure 2
 Trench Location
 1:625 at A3



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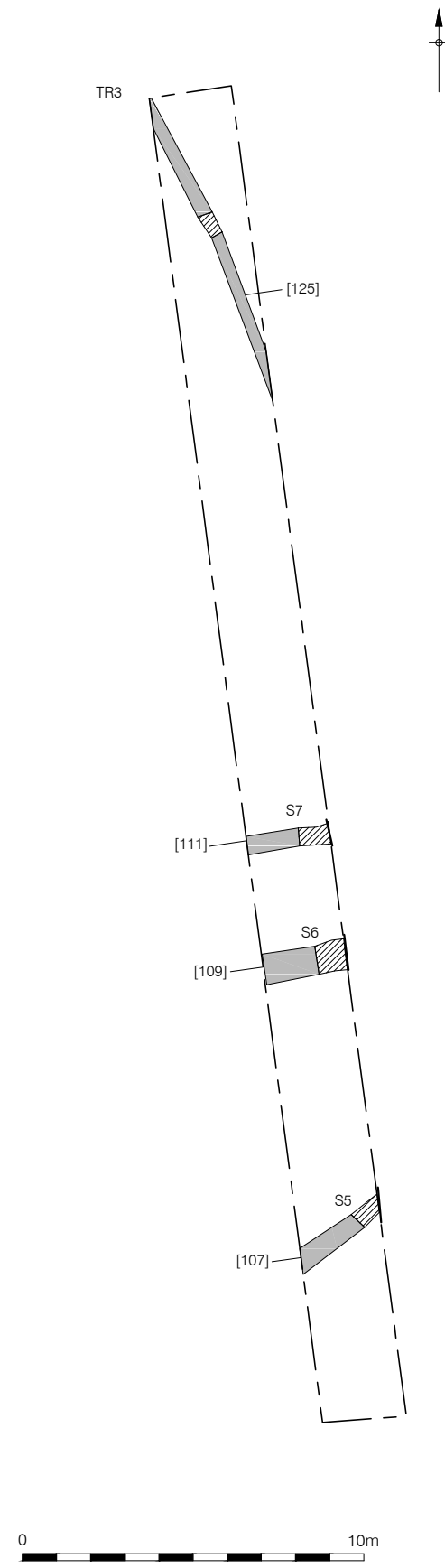
Figure 3
 Geophysical survey plan showing trenches and features
 1:625 at A3





- Feature: unexcavated
- ▨ Feature: excavated

Figure 5
Trench 2: Plan and section
Plan at 1:200 and section at 1:20 at A4



■ Feature: unexcavated
 ▨ Feature: excavated

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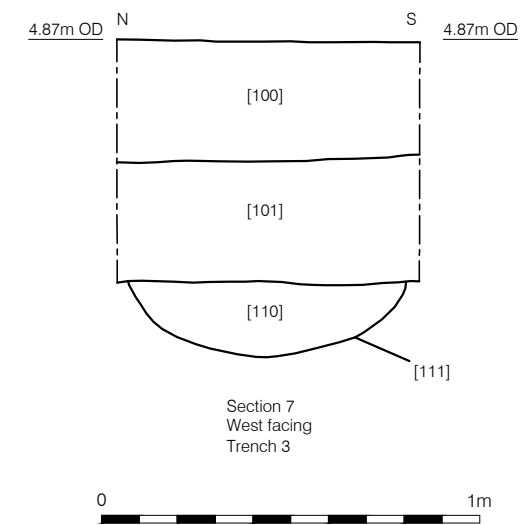
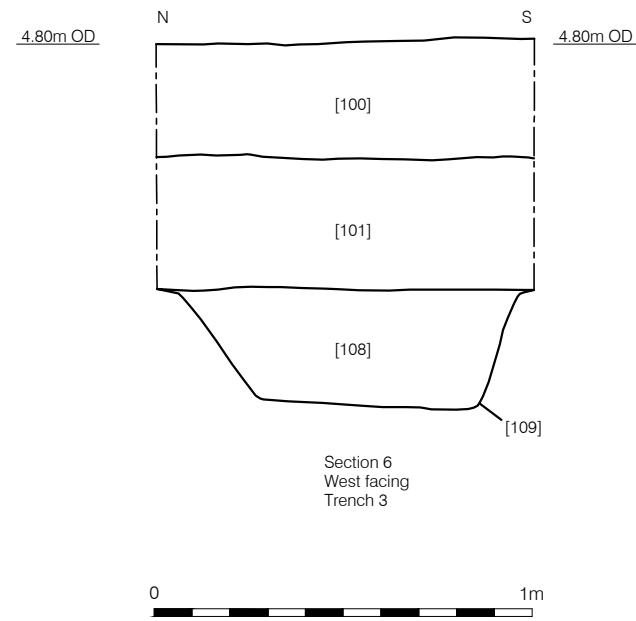
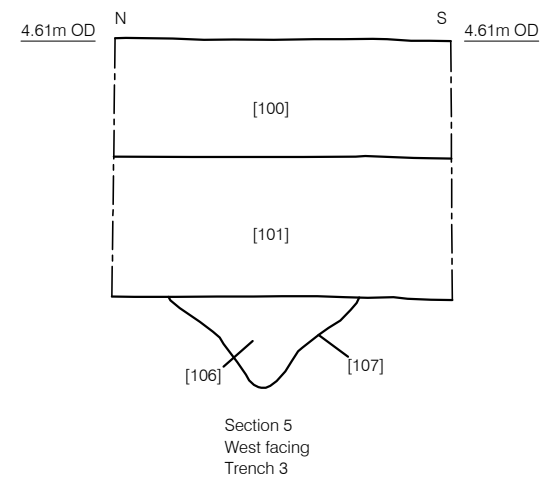
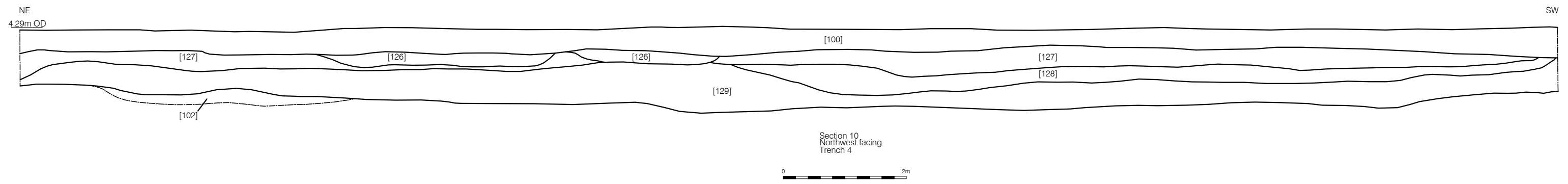
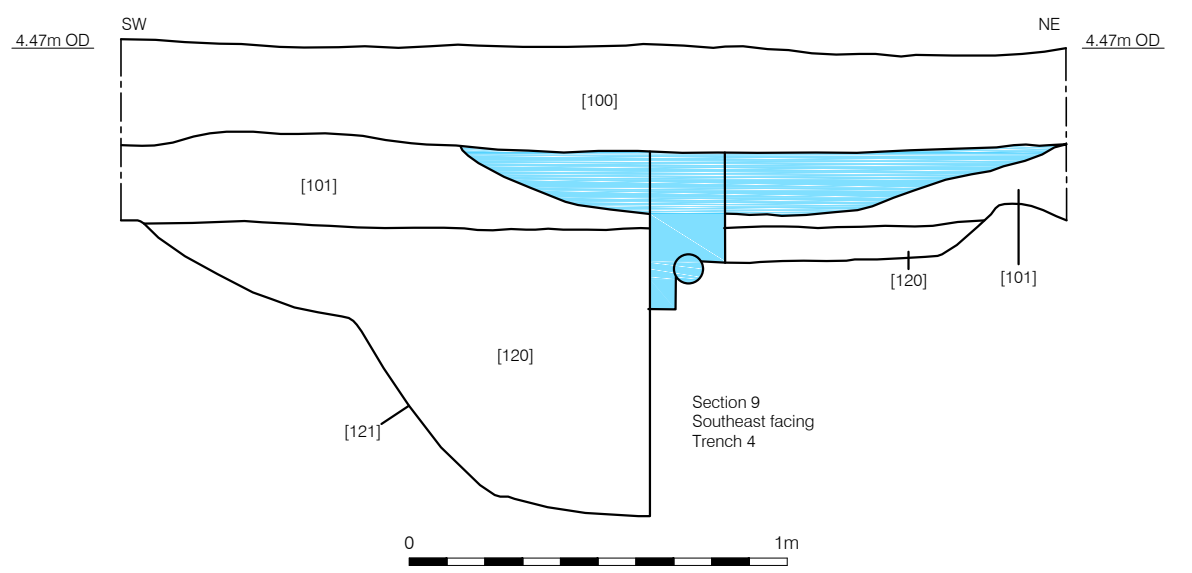
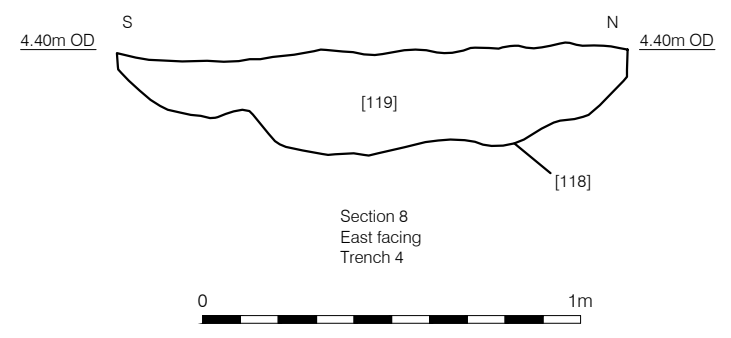
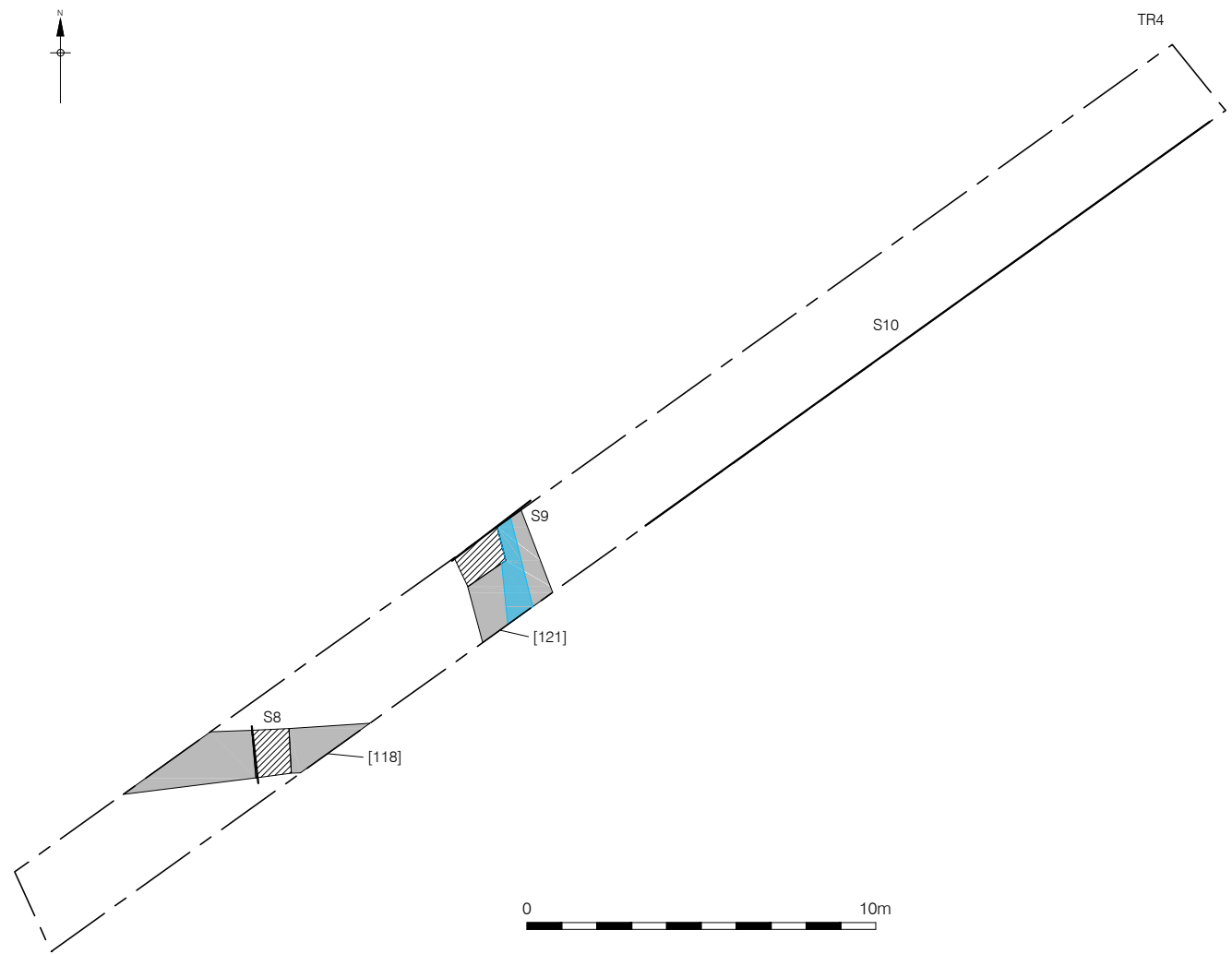
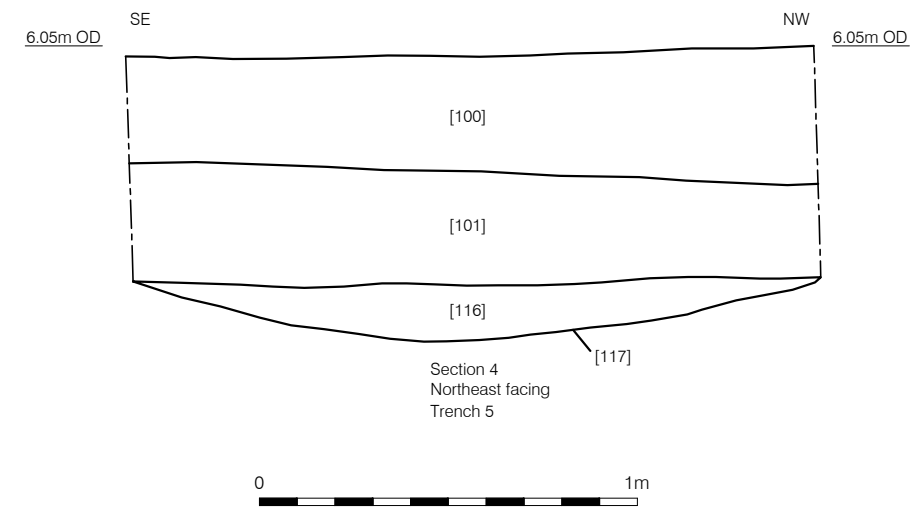
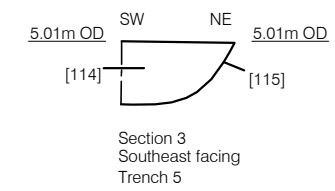
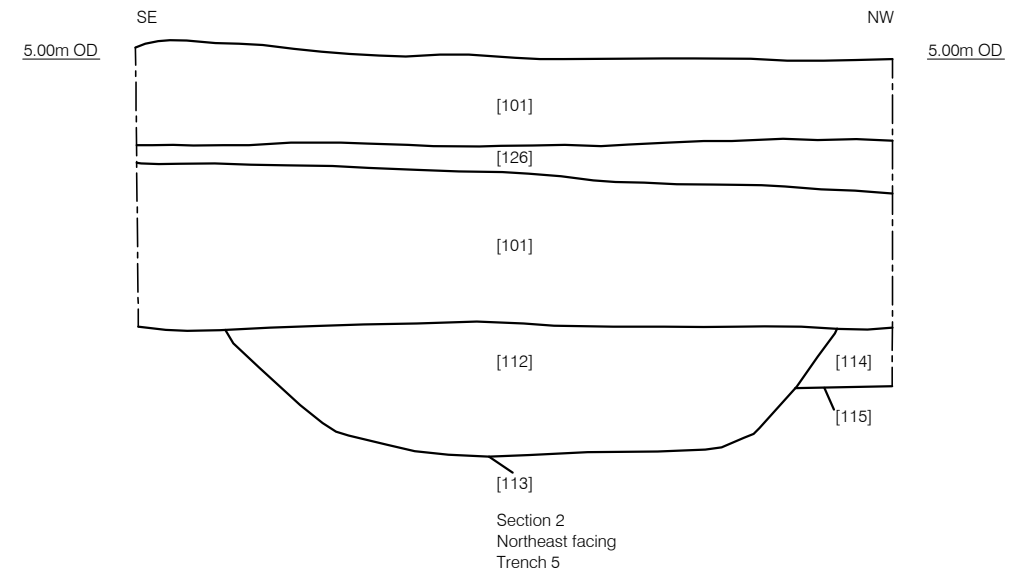
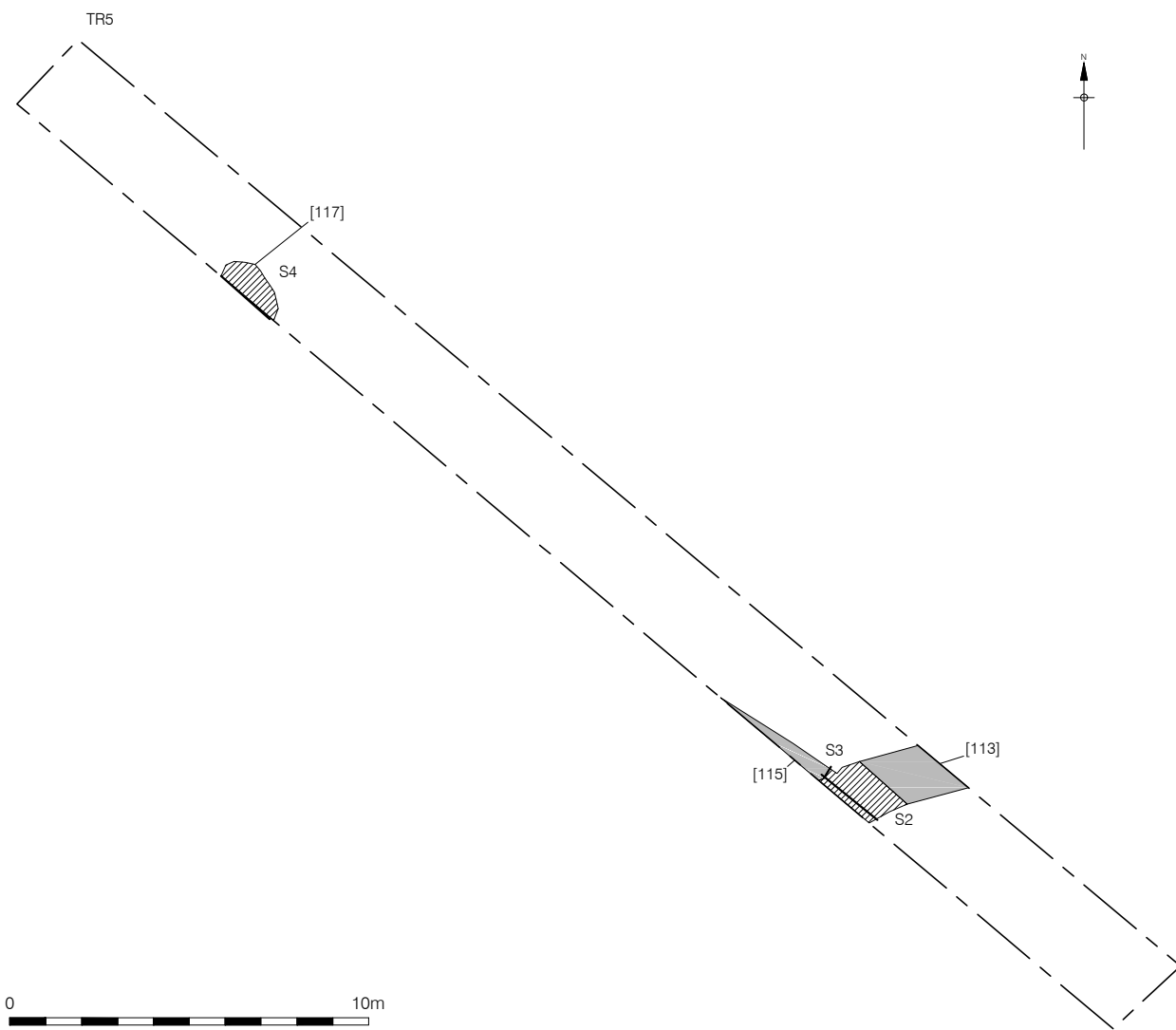


Figure 6
 Trench 3: Plan and sections
 Plan at 1:200 and sections at 1:20 at A3



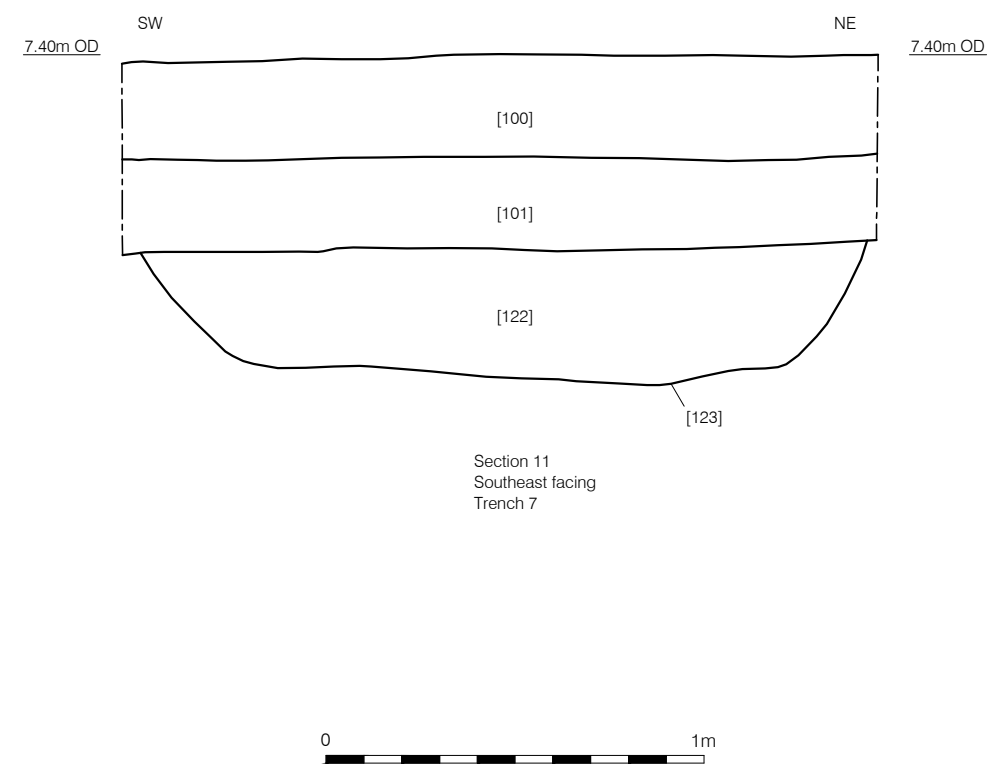
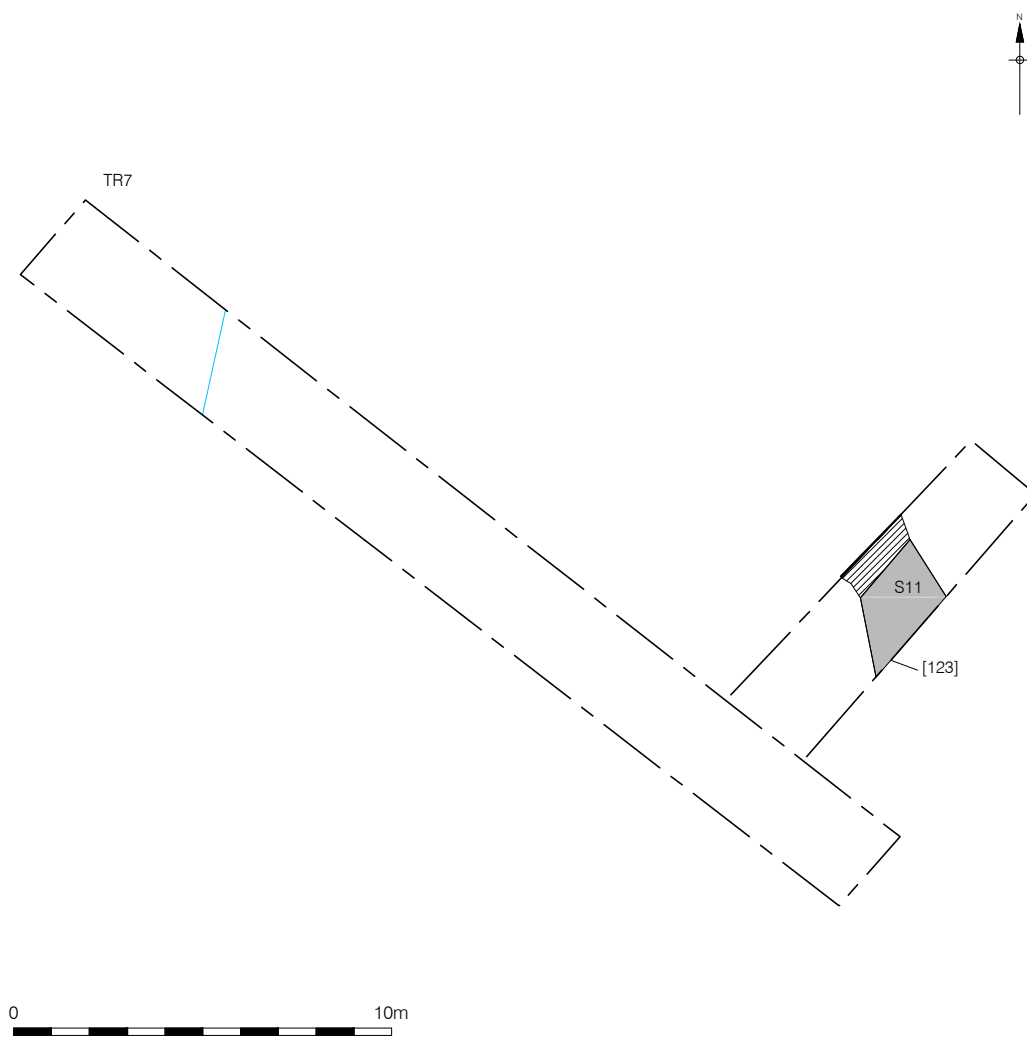
- Feature: unexcavated
- ▨ Feature: excavated
- Modern feature

Figure 7
Trench 4: Plan and sections
Plan at 1:200, sections at 1:20 (section 10 at 1:50) at A3



■ Feature: unexcavated
 ▨ Feature: excavated
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Figure 8
 Trench 5: Plan and sections
 Plan at 1:200 and sections at 1:20 at A3



- Feature: unexcavated
- ▨ Feature: excavated
- Modern feature

Figure 9
Trench 7: Plan and section
Plan at 1:200 and sections at 1:20 at A3

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