

**LAND AT SUTTON MILL ROAD,
POTTON, BEDFORDSHIRE**

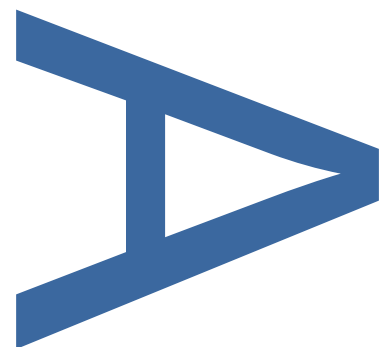
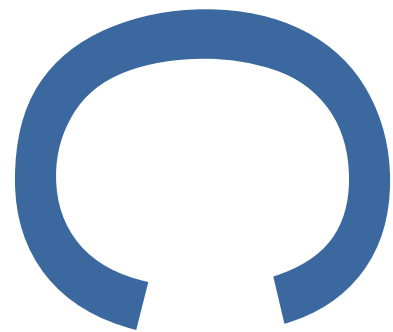
**AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL
EVALUATION**

**LOCAL PLANNING AUTHORITY:
CENTRAL BEDFORDSHIRE COUNCIL**

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PRE-CONSTRUCT ARCHAEOLOGY

LAND AT SUTTON MILL ROAD,
POTTON, BEDFORDSHIRE:

AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL
EVALUATION

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Land at Sutton Mill Road, Potton, Bedfordshire: An Archaeological Evaluation

Local Planning Authority: Central Bedfordshire Council

Planning Reference: CB/19/04009/FULL

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ABSTRACT

This report details the results of a trial trench evaluation undertaken in advance of developments on the land at Sutton Mill Road, Potton, Bedfordshire (NGR TL 21794 48987). The site is located to the immediate east of Sutton Mill Road and covers an area of c.3ha. The archaeological fieldwork was carried out between the 2nd and 4th December 2019.

Although not all the features contained datable finds assemblages, the principal result of the fieldwork was the identification of a small number of post-medieval/19th century features. These included ditches and the remains of a brick wall footing. The location and alignment of the features, as well as a small assemblage of artefacts dating to the post-medieval period (1700-1900), suggest that they mainly relate to the use of the Sandy and Potton Private Railway, established in 1857 which crossed the site from east to west. It is also possible that the features relate to the later route of the Sandy and Potton Line, which was moved slightly to the north of the site in 1861 when the railway was incorporated into the Bedford to Cambridge line, before the line was closed and tracks removed in 1968. Some of the features may also represent post-medieval field boundaries.

1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 A programme of archaeological trial trench evaluation was undertaken by Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd (PCA) on land at Sutton Mill, Potton, Bedfordshire (centred on Ordnance Survey National Grid Reference (NGR) TL 21794 48987) from the 2nd to 4th December 2019 (Figure 1).
- 1.2 The archaeological work was commissioned by RPS prior to the proposed redevelopment of the site into residential housing with associated access and landscaping. The work was required due to the high archaeological significance of the proposed development area (PDA). The work was undertaken in line with National Planning Policy Framework 2018, Section 16 'Conserving and enhancing the historic environment'.
- 1.3 The evaluation was carried out in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) prepared by Matt Jones of PCA (Jones 2018), in response to an agreement between RPS and Central Bedfordshire Council's Archaeology Team (CBCAT) requiring a programme of trial trenching.
- 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 A total of fourteen evaluation trenches totalling 420m (30m x 2m trenches) were excavated and recorded (Figures 2 & 3). This report describes the results of the evaluation.
- 1.6 Following Transfer of Title, the site archive will be deposited at The Higgins Art Gallery and Museum.

2 GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY

2.1 Geology

- 2.1.1 The bedrock geology within the site is of the Woburn Sands Formation- sandstone sedimentary bedrock formed approximately 101-126 million years ago in the Cretaceous Period when the local environment was dominated by shallow seas (BGS; Website 1).
- 2.1.2 There is no recorded data for the superficial geology within the boundaries of the site, but areas of alluvium and Head are recorded in the vicinity of the site (BGS; Website 1).

2.2 Topography

- 2.2.1 The site is located in the southern part of the town of Potton, which lies c. 4.5km east of Sandy, and 11km southeast of St. Neots. It consists of an irregular c. 3ha block of land, currently used for pasture, bounded to the north and east by residential housing, to the west by Sutton Mill Road and open agricultural land to the south.
- 2.2.2 Topographically, the site is situated in an area of relatively flat ground at around c.45m above Ordnance Datum (AOD). The area of the site itself is subject to considerable variation in height, with the site sloping steeping down from west to east and north to south, from 44.99m to 40.95m, a fall of just over 4m (Plate 1).

3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 3.1.1 The archaeological background detailed below is based on the desk-based assessment (Archaeological Solutions 2018) undertaken for the site, supplemented by data from an online search of the Bedfordshire HER.

Roman

- 3.1.2 A single findspot of Roman date is recorded in the vicinity of the site, this being a Roman silver coin recovered from 30A Sutton Mill Road (HER 11307). This suggests there may be the presence of Roman activity on the site.

Medieval to post-medieval

- 3.1.3 Sherds of Medieval and post-medieval pottery have been recovered from a number of Test Pits excavated in the vicinity of the current site as part of the Cambridgeshire University Archaeology Field Unit's Potton Test Pit Programme (Report No. SBD11756). Medieval and post-medieval pottery has been recorded at 46 Biggleswade Road (HER 19459), 22 Station Road (HER 19462), Burgoyne Middle School (HER 19463), 26a Nursery Close (HER 19460), 33 Horslow Street (HER 19798), 46 The Ridgeway (HER 19461), 4 Sun Street (HER 19799) 34 Sandy Road (HER 19477) and Sutton Mill Lane (HER 19478).
- 3.1.4 A system of Ridge and Furrow has been recorded in a geophysical survey at Land east of Biggleswade Road, Potton (Stratascan 2012; HER 19801). This identified a regular pattern of closely spaced positive parallel linear anomalies likely to relate to ridge and furrow.
- 3.1.5 In the fields immediately to the south of the site a linear cropmark has been recorded in an aerial photograph (HER 15105). This currently is undated but could represent a post-medieval field boundary.
- 3.1.6 A number of Listed Buildings are recorded in the to the north of the site clustered around Bull Street (HER 2186), Biggleswade Road (HER 2208), Station Road, Horslow Street (HER 2185, HER 2182) and Sun Street (HER 2206). These relate to 17th to 18th Century timber framed houses and public houses.
- 3.1.7 The 19th century Red Lion public house is located to the c.200m north of the current site (HER 16434).

- 3.1.8 Some industrial buildings are also noted to the north of the site. These include a former railway engine shed off Biggleswade Road (HER 1944), the former passenger building relating to Potton railway station at 48 Station Road (HER 7084), a timber yard the site of the former Kitcheners Foundry (HER 4809), a former coffin-makers workshop at 9 Chapel Street (HER 20241) and 19th Century coprolite workings to the west of Sutton Mill Road (HER 16120; BCAS Report No. 186).
- 3.1.9 The site is bisected by the route of the Sandy and Potton Private Railway, the route of which is roughly preserved by a raised strip of land, crossing the site area from east to west. The engine shed (HER 1944) for this railway is located directly to the south of this route. This route was established in 1857, before it was moved slightly to the north, outside the bounds of the current site when the railway was incorporated into the Bedford to Cambridge line, before the line was closed and tracks removed in 1968.

Cartographic Resources

- 3.1.10 The cartographic resources show that the current site has remained as open fields since 1882. The railway may have impacted on the western limit of the site, but no major developments are recorded within the boundaries of the current site.
- 3.1.11 To the north of the current site the OS Third Edition map (XVII NE 1927) indicates the presence of a disused sand extraction pit associated with the construction of railway sidings (HER 10706). This may suggest that parts of the site may have evidence for post-medieval quarrying.

Geophysical Survey Results

- 3.1.12 In April 2018 a magnetic gradiometer survey was undertaken on the site (Costa 2018). This survey identified a number of positive and linear anomalies which were considered to have a likely archaeological origin. The evaluation subsequently identified a number of these features, whereupon most were found to either be geological in nature or relating to post-medieval activity.

4 METHODOLOGY

4.1 General

- 4.1.1 The archaeological evaluation comprised of fourteen 2m x 30m trial trenches, totalling 420m. Some of these trenches were located to test geophysical anomalies, with the remainder being distributed evenly across the site, in order to provide a representative sample of the development area.

4.2 Excavation methodology

- 4.2.1 Ground reduction during the evaluation was carried out using a 22 ton 360° tracked mechanical excavator (Plate 2). Topsoil and other overburden of low archaeological value was removed in spits down to the level of the undisturbed natural geological deposits, where potential archaeological features could be observed and recorded.
- 4.2.2 Exposed surfaces were cleaned by trowel and hoe as appropriate and all further excavation was undertaken manually using hand tools.

4.3 Recording and Finds Recovery

- 4.3.1 The limits of excavations, heights above Ordnance Datum (m OD) and the locations of archaeological features and interventions were recorded using a GEOMAX GPS rover unit with RTK differential correction, giving three-dimensional accuracy of 20mm or better.
- 4.3.2 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). Archaeological processes recognised by the deposition of material are signified in this report by round brackets (thus), while events constituting the removal of deposits are referred to here as 'cuts' and signified by square brackets [thus]. Where more than one slot was excavated through an individual feature, each intervention was assigned additional numbers for the cutting event and for the deposits it contained (these deposits within cut features being referred to here as 'fills'). The record numbers assigned to cuts, deposits and groups are entirely arbitrary and in no way reflect the chronological order in which events took place. All

features and deposits excavated during the evaluation and excavation are listed in Appendix 2. Artefacts recovered during excavation were assigned to the record number of the deposit from which they were retrieved.

4.3.3 Metal-detecting was carried out during the topsoil and subsoil stripping and throughout the excavation process. Archaeological features and spoil heaps were scanned by metal-detector periodically. Only objects of modern date were found and were not retained for accession.

4.3.4 High-resolution digital photographs were taken of all relevant features and deposits and were used to keep a record of the excavation process.

4.4 Sampling Strategy

4.4.1 Discrete features were half-sectioned, photographed and recorded by a cross-section scaled drawing at an appropriate scale (either 1:10 or 1:20).

4.4.2 Linear features were investigated by means of regularly spaced slots. Slots were a minimum of 1m in width. Where stratigraphic relationships between features could not be discerned in plan, relationship slots were also excavated, and these were recorded as part of the GPS survey and noted on the relevant context sheets.

5 QUANTIFICATION OF ARCHIVE

5.1 Paper Archive

| | |
|-------------------------------|----|
| Context register sheets | 2 |
| Context sheets | 36 |
| Plan registers | 0 |
| Plans at 1:50 | 0 |
| Plans at 1:20 | 0 |
| Plans at 1:10 | 0 |
| Plans at 1:5 | 0 |
| Section register sheets | 1 |
| Sections at 1:10 & 1:20 | 14 |
| Trench record sheets | 14 |
| Photo register sheets | 3 |
| Small finds register sheets | 0 |
| Environmental register sheets | 0 |

5.2 Digital Archive

| | |
|------------------|-----|
| Digital photos | 154 |
| GPS survey files | 6 |
| Digital plans | 1 |
| GIS project | 0 |
| Access database | 1 |

5.3 Physical Archive

| | |
|---------------------------------|--------------|
| Pottery | 8/131g |
| Ceramic building material (CBM) | 13/4390g |
| Clay tobacco pipe | 2 |
| Glass | 1/10g |
| Animal bone | 12 (refit 6) |

6 ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESULTS BY TRENCH

6.1 Introduction

- 6.1.1 The trenches are described below in numerical order, with technical data tabulated (Appendix 2). Features and deposits are first split into feature type, and then described in numerical cut order. Archaeological features and deposits were sealed by the topsoil and subsoil, unless otherwise stated.
- 6.1.2 Some of the geophysical anomalies (Costa 2018) were confirmed as archaeological features, although the majority were not reflected in the archaeological record. In other locations archaeological features were revealed which had not been picked up by the geophysical survey.
- 6.1.3 The principal result of the fieldwork was the identification of a small number of post-medieval, most likely 19th century, features. These included ditches and the partial remains of a wall.

6.2 Overburden Deposits

- 6.2.1 The topsoil (100) was observed across all fourteen trenches on the site. It consisted of a loose, dark brownish-grey silty sand which ranged in thickness from 0.27m to 0.56m. Subsoil (101) was also observed in all the trenches and was a loose, light to mid-brownish-grey/mid-to light reddish-brown sand which ranged in thickness from 0.05m to 0.8m+.
- 6.2.2 The depth of the overburden was commonly at the thinner end of this range, apart from in Trench 10, which was located in a narrow, low-lying part of the site, which had led to the formation of a considerable depth of subsoil, most likely colluvial, up to 1.39m in thickness.

6.3 Trench 1 (Figure 4)

- 6.3.1 Trench 1 was located over an east-north-east to west-south-west aligned geophysical anomaly. Upon excavation this was not present within the trench.
- Ditch [104]
- 6.3.2 Ditch [104] (Plate 3) was located in the southern end of Trench 1 and was east to west aligned. The feature had moderate sides with a concave base, with a

width of 0.7m and a depth of 0.27m. The feature contained a single fill (103), which contained no finds.

Treethrows [106] and [108]

6.3.3 Treethrow [106] was located centrally within Trench 1 and measured 1m in length, 1.6m in width, and 0.46m in depth. The feature contained a single fill (105), which contained no finds.

6.3.4 Treethrow [108] was located in the northern end of Trench 1 and measured 1.86m in length, 1.3m in width, and 0.6m in depth. The feature contained a single fill (107), which contained no finds.

6.3.5 Trench 3 was located in an area of extant trees, so the presence of treethrows in the trench could be related to the possible use of the area as an orchard.

6.4 Trench 2 (Figure 4)

6.4.1 Trench 2 was located over a north-east to south-west aligned geophysical anomaly. Upon excavation this was present within the trench as Ditch [111].

Ditch [111]

6.4.2 Ditch [111] (Plate 4) was located centrally within Trench 2 and was north-east to south-west aligned. The feature had vertical sides and a flat base, with a width of 5.8m and a depth of 0.24m. The feature contained two fills; an upper fill (109), which was 0.24m thick and contained four sherds (100g) of pottery, dating from the Late Medieval period to the mid-19th century AD, a small assemblage of Late post-medieval to Modern brick, a single fragment of clay tobacco pipe, dating to c.1730-1910 AD and a single mid-19th century fragment of glass. The feature's lower fill (110) was 0.1m thick and contained no finds. The function of the ditch is unclear.

6.5 Trench 3 (Figure 4)

6.5.1 Trench 3 was located over two geophysical anomalies; an east-north-east to west-south-west aligned linear and a discrete feature. Neither was present as an archaeological feature within the trench, with the circular anomaly probably relating to a localized differentiation in the superficial geology.

6.5.2 No features were present in Trench 3.

6.6 Trench 4

6.6.1 Trench 4 was located over two linear geophysical anomalies; one north-east to south-west and one east-north-east to west-south-west aligned. Neither was present within the trench.

6.6.2 No features were present in Trench 4.

6.7 Trench 5 (Figure 5)

Treethrow [133]

6.7.1 Treethrow [133] was located centrally within Trench 5 and measured 1.55m in length, 0.8m in width, and 0.28m in depth. The feature contained a single fill (132), which contained no finds.

6.8 Trench 6 (Figure 5)

6.8.1 Trench 6 was located over two linear geophysical anomalies; both east-north-east to west-south-west aligned. Neither was present within the trench.

Ditch [113]

6.8.2 Ditch [113] was located centrally within Trench 6 and was north-east to south-west aligned. The feature had moderate sides and a flat base, with a width of 0.95m and a depth of 0.23m. The feature contained a single fill (112), which contained no finds.

6.9 Trench 7

6.9.1 No features were present in Trench 7.

6.10 Trench 8

6.10.1 No features were present in Trench 8.

6.11 Trench 9

6.11.1 No features were present in Trench 9.

6.12 Trench 10

6.12.1 Trench 10 was located over a north-east to south-west aligned geophysical anomaly. This was not identifiable as an archaeological feature within the

trench. The level of the natural geology could not be reached across the majority of the trench, due to the considerable depth of overburden making safe working or ingress/egress impossible. This overburden is a reflection of the position of the trench at the topographically lowest point of the site, between two relatively steep slopes.

6.12.2 No features were present in Trench 10.

6.13 Trench 11 (Figure 6)

6.13.1 Trench 11 was located over a north-east to south-west aligned geophysical anomaly. This was correlated with Ditch [135] within the trench.

Ditch [135]

6.13.2 Ditch [135] was located in the western end of Trench 11 and was north-east to south-west aligned. The feature had steep sides and a concave base, with a width of 1.07m and a depth of 0.75m. The feature contained a single fill (134), which contained no finds. This feature was visible on the geophysical survey of the site.

6.14 Trench 12 (Figure 6)

Ditch [121]

6.14.1 Ditch [121] (Plate 5) was located centrally within Trench 12 and was east to west aligned. The feature had gentle sides and a concave base, with a width of 1.92m and a depth of 0.39m. The feature contained a single fill (120), which contained a single cattle radius.

6.15 Trench 13 (Figure 6)

6.15.1 Trench 13 was located over two linear geophysical anomalies; one north-east to south-west and one east to west aligned. Only one of these anomalies was visible as a feature within the trench.

Ditch [115]

6.15.2 Ditch [115] (plate 6) was located centrally within Trench 13 and was north-east to south-west aligned. The feature had steep sides and a concave base, with a width of 1.76m and a depth of 0.39m. The feature contained a single fill (114), which contained a single equid radius. This feature was visible on the

geophysical survey of the site.

Treethrow [117]

- 6.15.3 Treethrow [117] was located in the north-western end of Trench 13 and measured 0.79m in length, 0.58m in width, and 0.18m in depth. The feature contained a single fill (116), which contained no finds.

6.16 Trench 14 (Figure 7)

- 6.16.1 Trench 14 was located over two linear geophysical anomalies; both east-south-east to west-south-west aligned. Neither were present within the trench, although they may have related to the features in the trench that were located directly to the north of the anomalies.

Ditch [123]

- 6.16.2 Ditch [123] was located centrally within Trench 14 and was north-west to south-east aligned. The feature had moderate sides and a concave base, with a width of 1.21m and a depth of 0.42m. The feature contained a single fill (122), which contained two sherds (16g) of 19th century pottery, a small assemblage of late post-medieval to Modern brick as well as a single cattle-sized rib, which had been sawn through. This feature was not visible on the geophysical survey of the site, although it was located just to the north of a linear anomaly, which may relate to it. The feature was cut by Ditch [126], to the north.

Ditch [126]

- 6.16.3 Ditch [126] (Plate 7) was located centrally within Trench 14 and was east to west aligned. The feature had moderate sides and a concave base, with a width of 2.63m and a depth of 0.56m. The feature contained two fills; an upper fill (124), which was 0.56m thick and contained two sherds (15g) of pottery, dating to 1840-1900 AD, a small assemblage of late post-medieval to Modern brick, a single fragment of clay tobacco pipe, dating to c.1730-1910 AD as well as a small assemblage of animal bone, comprising a pig humerus, cattle-sized rib and a sheep-sized limb bone fragment. The feature's lower fill (125) was 0.16m thick and contained no finds. The feature cut Ditch [123], to the south and truncated the upper extent of Wall [129].

Wall [129]

6.16.4 Wall [129] (Plate 7) was located centrally within Trench 14, under the southern edge of Ditch [126] and was east to west aligned. The wall cut had vertical sides, with a width of 0.6m and a depth of 0.15m+. The feature contained two fills; the robbed out wall (128), which was composed of whole and broken late post-medieval to modern brick rubble, bonded with a hard cemented mortar and a primary fill (127), which contained no finds. The upper extent of the robbed out wall (128) was truncated by Ditch [126]. While the wall construction cut [129] is stratigraphically earlier than the ditch, the features may have been broadly contemporary at their inception.

7 THE FINDS AND ENVIRONMENTAL EVIDENCE

7.1 Post-Roman pottery

Chris Jarrett

- 7.1.1 A small assemblage of pottery was recovered by hand from this archaeological work amounting to eight sherds, weighing 131g. The pottery dates to the late medieval and post-medieval periods and was recovered from three contexts. The alphanumeric fabric codes conform where possible to the Bedfordshire Ceramic Type Series (held by Albion Archaeology, St Mary's Church, St Mary's Street, Bedford (Slowikowski 2013; Website 2)).
- 7.1.2 Fill (109) of Ditch [111] produced four sherds (100g) of pottery derived from different vessels. The pottery dates from the late medieval period through to the 19th century and consists of a non-diagnostic unglazed sherd of a late mediaeval reduced ware (EO1), a rim of an high-fired post-medieval orange ware dish with an internal red slip and brown glaze, a body sherd of a porringer made in Staffordshire slipware (P30) and the latest item is a robust moulded handle of a transfer-printed ware (P45) jug with a mid-late 19th century foliage pattern.
- 7.1.3 Fill (122) of Ditch [123] produced two sherds (16g) of 19th-century pottery, which consists of a sherd of refined whiteware/china possibly derived from a chamber pot and a sherd of a pearlware carinated bowl with a horizontal combed band painted blue. The two types of pottery occurring together in this deposit indicate a deposition date of c. 1805–40 AD.
- 7.1.4 Fill (124) of Ditch [126] only produced two sherds (15g) of pottery, both of which are rim sherds from a medium rounded bowl made in transfer-printed ware (P45) with an internal and external 'Fibre'-type design. The latter dates from c. 1840–1900 AD.
- 7.1.5 The pottery has no significance as it occurs in such a small fragmentary quantity. The only potential of the pottery is to date the context it was found in.

7.2 Ceramic Building Material

Amparo Valcarcel

- 7.2.1 The material recovered from the archaeological evaluation at Sutton Mill Road, Potton consists of a group of late post-medieval and modern bricks (13 fragments, 4,39kg). The fragments present sharp arises and are well fired suggesting a late 19th century and early 20th century date. Four different fabrics were identified. Some of the fragments are bonded with hard cemented mortars and concrete. The material was collected from Wall [128] and fills of Ditches [126] and [123] located in Trench 14 and from fill (109) of Cutting [111] situated in Trench 2.
- 7.2.2 The building material assemblage is dominated by late post-medieval and modern bricks and represents activity of these dates. The assemblage is of low to negligible significance and only serves to broadly date the features it was found in.

7.3 Clay Tobacco Pipe

Chris Jarrett

- 7.3.1 Two fragments of clay tobacco pipe were recovered and were found in different contexts: fill (109) of Ditch [111] and fill (124) of Ditch [126]. Both fragments consist of plain thin stems with fine bores that can only be broadly dated c. 1730–1910.
- 7.3.2 The clay tobacco pipe stems have little meaning and are therefore of no significance, while the only potential of the finds is to broadly date the contexts the items were found in.

7.4 Glass

Chris Jarrett

- 7.4.1 A single fragment (10g) of glass was recovered from the archaeological work and this was found in fill (109) of Ditch [111]. The glass consists of the rim of a dark olive green, probably French wine bottle dating to the mid-19th-century. It survives with a rounded fire polished finish, with almost immediately below this an applied narrow, relatively deep squared collared string finish attached to the conical neck.

7.4.2 The glass is of no significance and the only potential of the find is to broadly date the context it was found in.

7.5 Animal Bone

Kevin Reilly

7.5.1 The site provided a total of twelve bones, reducing to six following refitting, all hand collected, with two in poor condition. They were all retrieved from 19th century ditches i.e. [121] (Trench 12), [115] (Trench 13) and [123] and [126] (Trench 14), the first two ditches providing a cattle radius and an equid radius, while [123] produced a cattle-size rib and [126] a pig humerus, another cattle-size rib and a sheep-size limb bone fragment. Those bones in poor condition include the equid radius and the latter cattle-size rib. One of the ribs, from the fill (122) of ditch [123] has been sawn through, the use of the saw for butchery purposes confirming the late date of this deposit (see Albarella 2003, 74). This is a rather small quantity of bones and the noted preservation is suggestive of a degree of redeposition.

8 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

- 8.1.1 Although not all the features uncovered contained datable finds assemblages, the principal result of the fieldwork was the identification of a small number of post-medieval, most probably 19th century, features, including ditches and the remains of a brick wall footing. Previous geophysical survey data (Costa 2018) highlighted linear markings of possible archaeological origin. Upon excavation some of these anomalies were confirmed as archaeological features, although the majority were not reflected in the archaeological record. Although speculative, the cause for these false positives may lie in localised differences in the underlying geology, for example areas with seams of iron-rich stone deposits.
- 8.1.2 Artefact assemblages recovered from the features suggest that they mainly relate to the use of the Sandy and Potton Private Railway, established in 1857, the route of which crosses the site from east to west. The engine shed for this railway is located just outside the sites eastern edge. This hypothesis is most convincing for the ditches that are either broadly parallel with the route of this track, as in Trenches 1, 12 and 14, or are broadly at right angles to it, as is the case with Trenches 2, 11 and 13.
- 8.1.3 The post-1884 AD cartographic sources do not show any boundaries matching the features excavated during the evaluation, and as such a post-railway date for these features is unlikely. However, the roughly north-east to south-west aligned ditches, in Trenches 2, 6 and 11 can be extrapolated as continuing from field boundaries that cease outside the current site area on the 1884 OS map, and therefore could represent the land subdivision in the post-medieval period prior to the establishment of the railway.
- 8.1.4 The robbed-out wall present in Trench 14 is in relatively close proximity to the railways extant engine shed, located to the north-east. Based on this, as well as its broadly complementary alignment it is plausible that it represents the line of a railway yard or working area that may have been associated with the engine shed.

9 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

9.1 Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd would like to thank RPS for commissioning and funding the work on behalf of Kier Living. PCA are also grateful to Martin Oake of Central Bedfordshire County Council Historic Environment Team for monitoring the work on behalf of the Local Planning Authority. The project was managed for PCA by Christiane Meckseper and for RPS by Myk Flitcroft and was supervised by Lawrence Morgan-Shelbourne. The author would like to thank the site team: Stu Stokes, Rachel Turner, and Gareth Morgan for their hard work. Figures accompanying this report were prepared by Rosie Scales of PCA's CAD Department.

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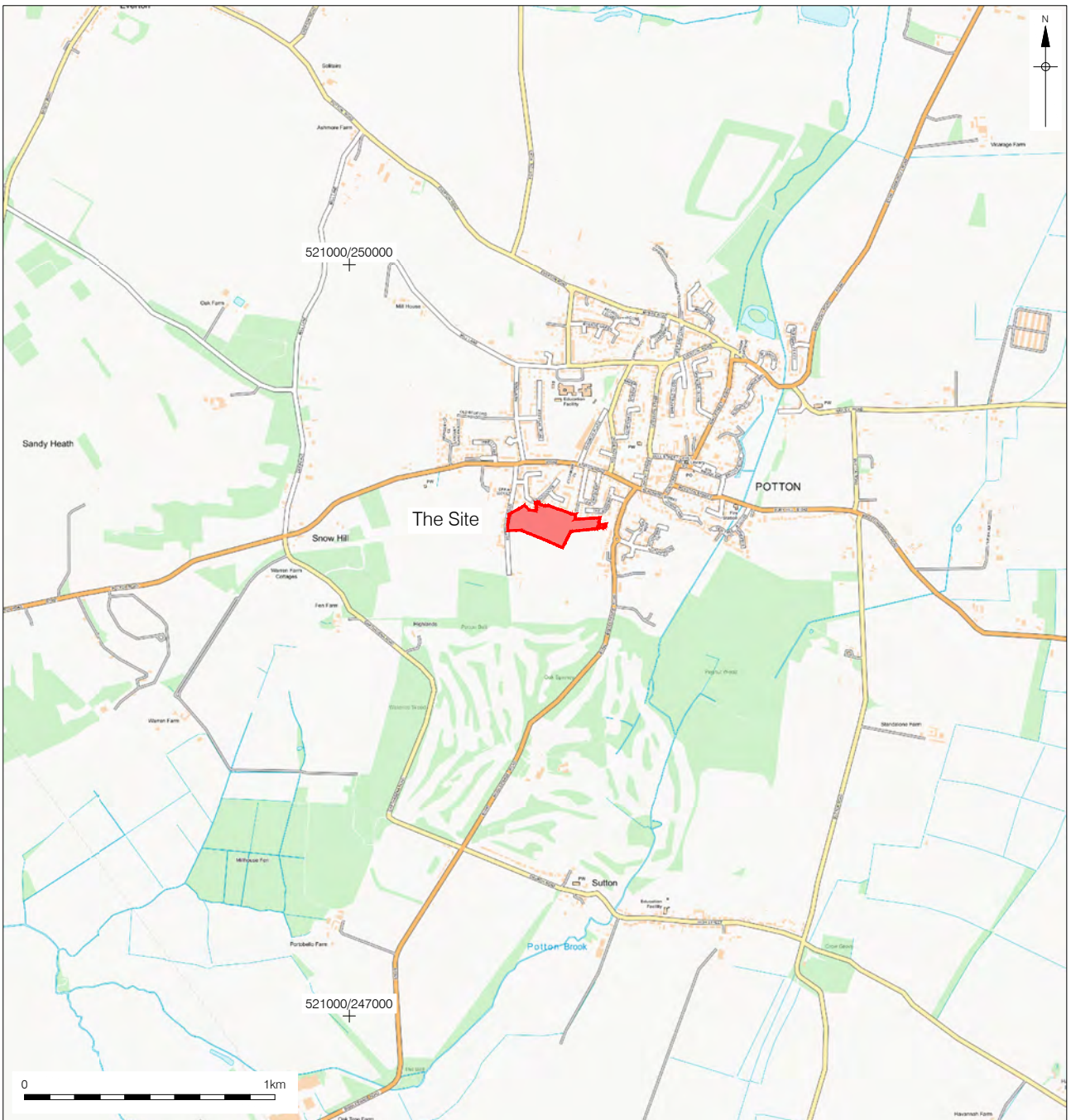
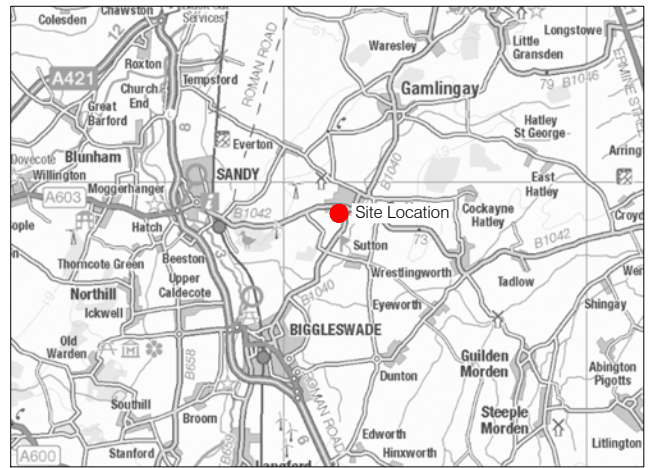
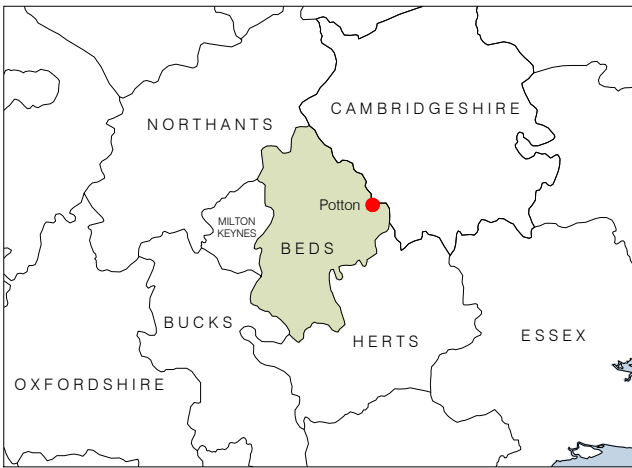
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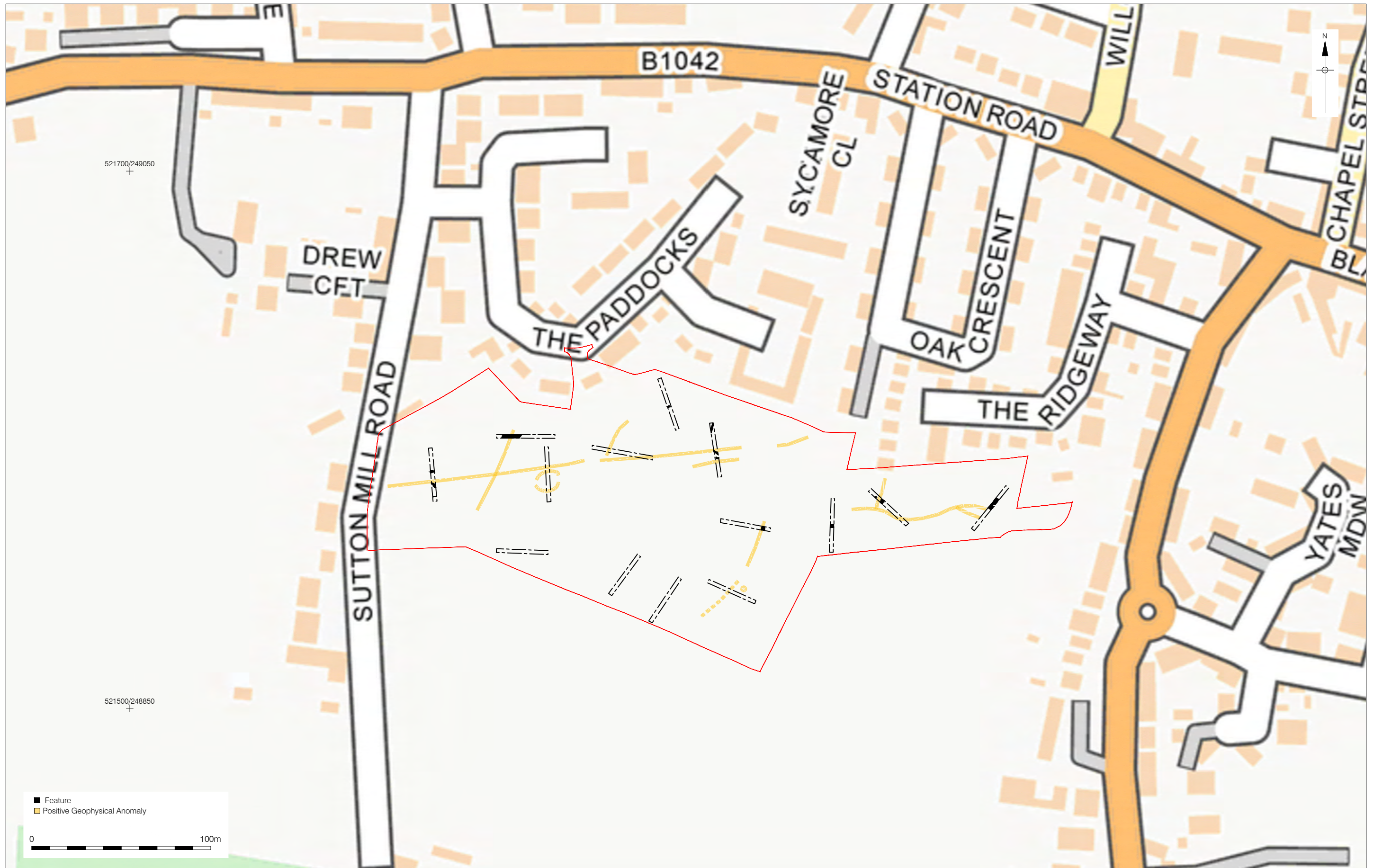
10.2 Websites

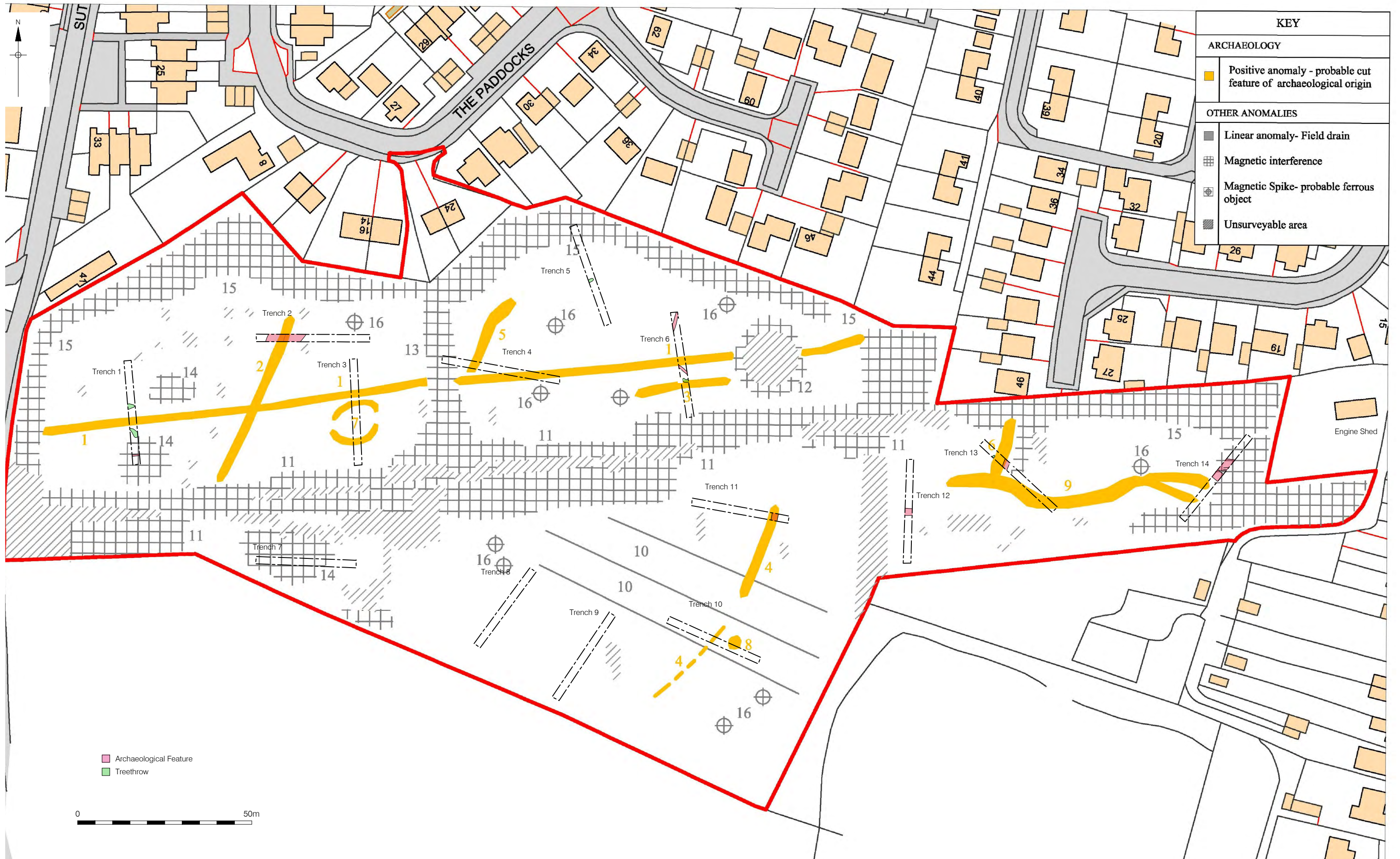
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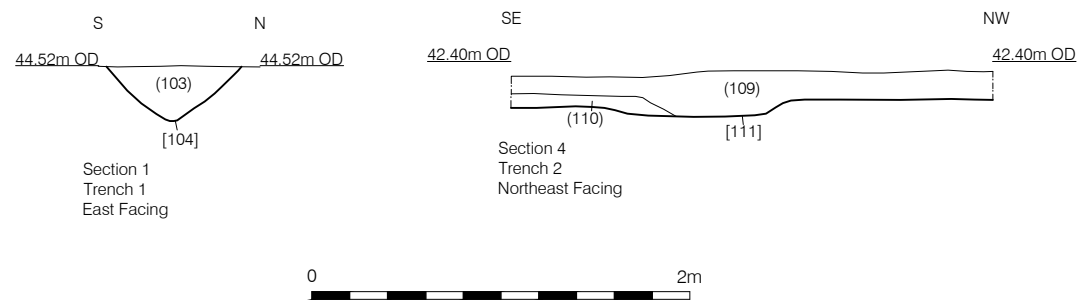
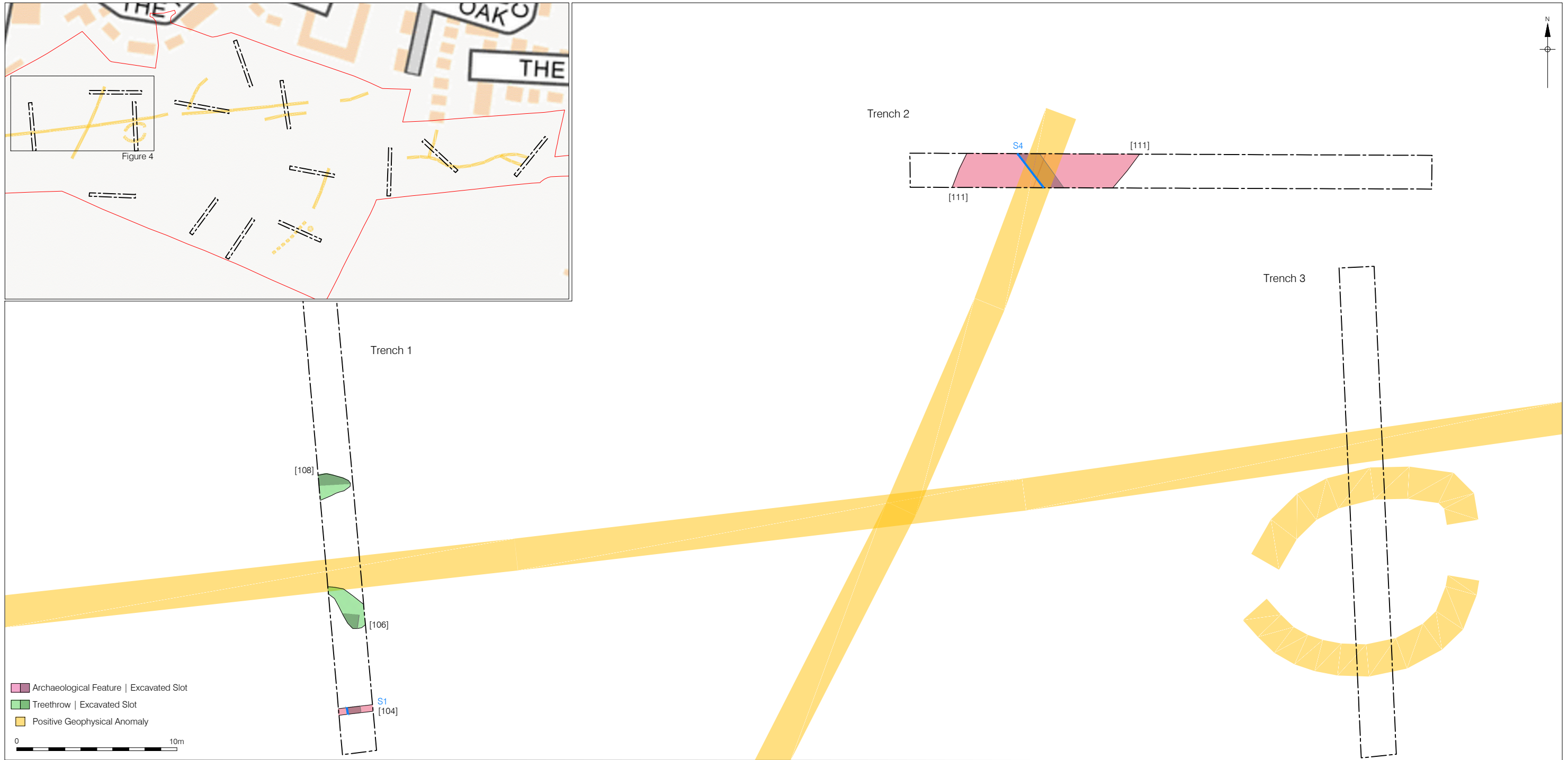
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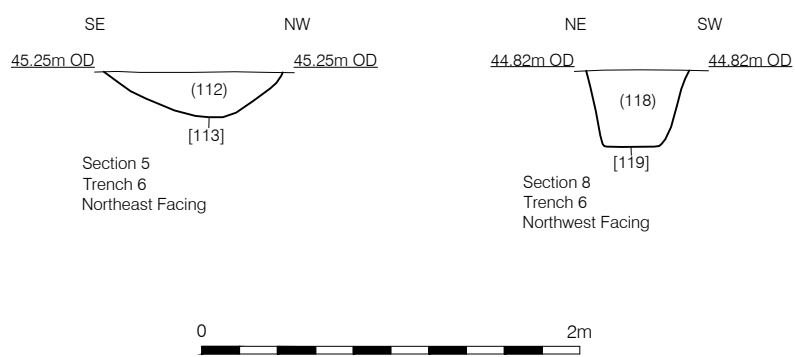
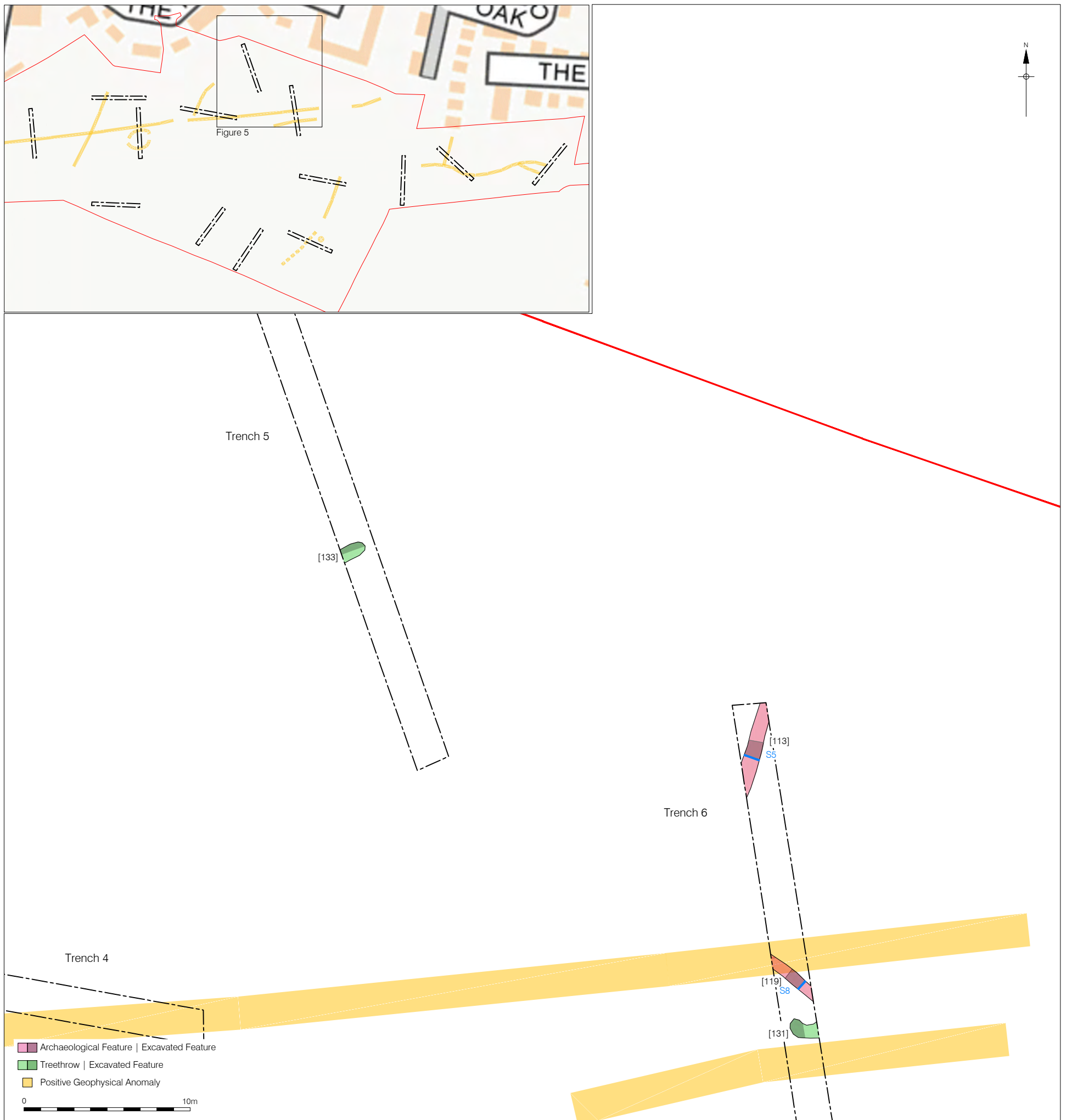
11 FIGURES

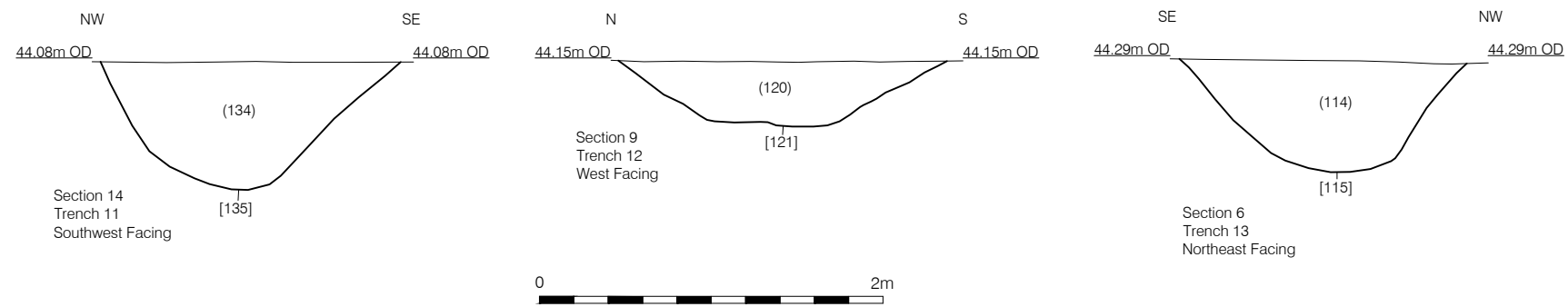
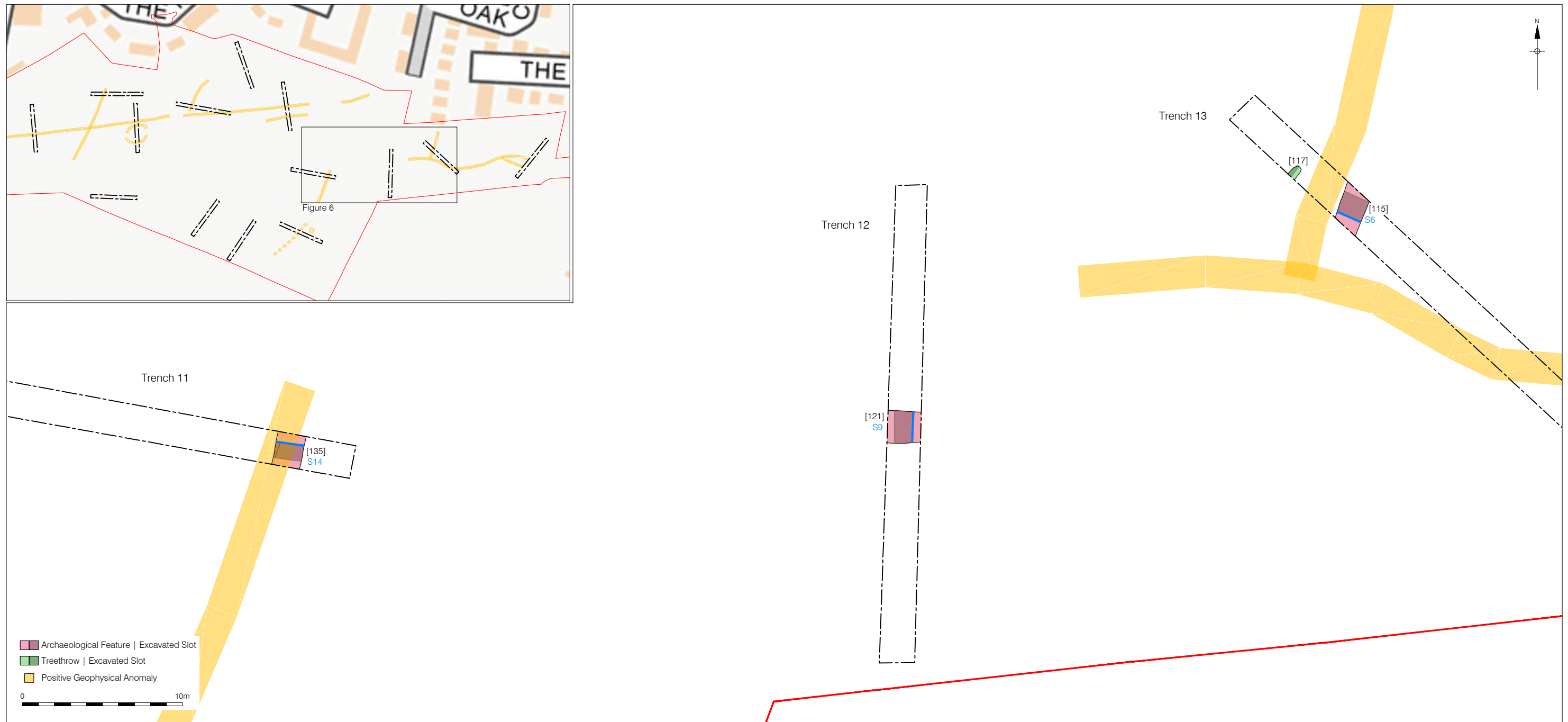












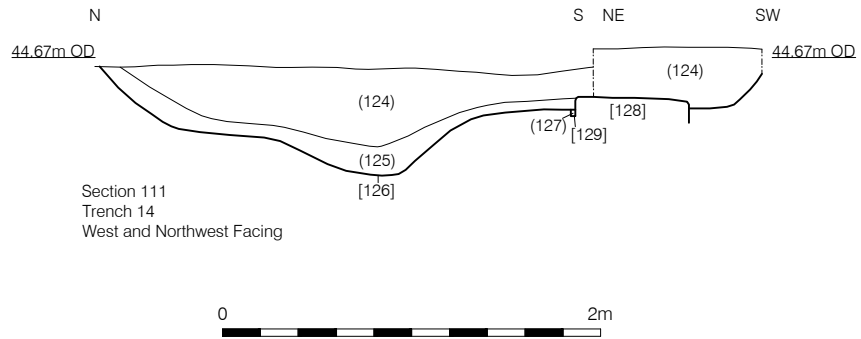
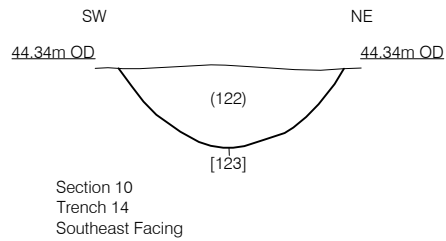
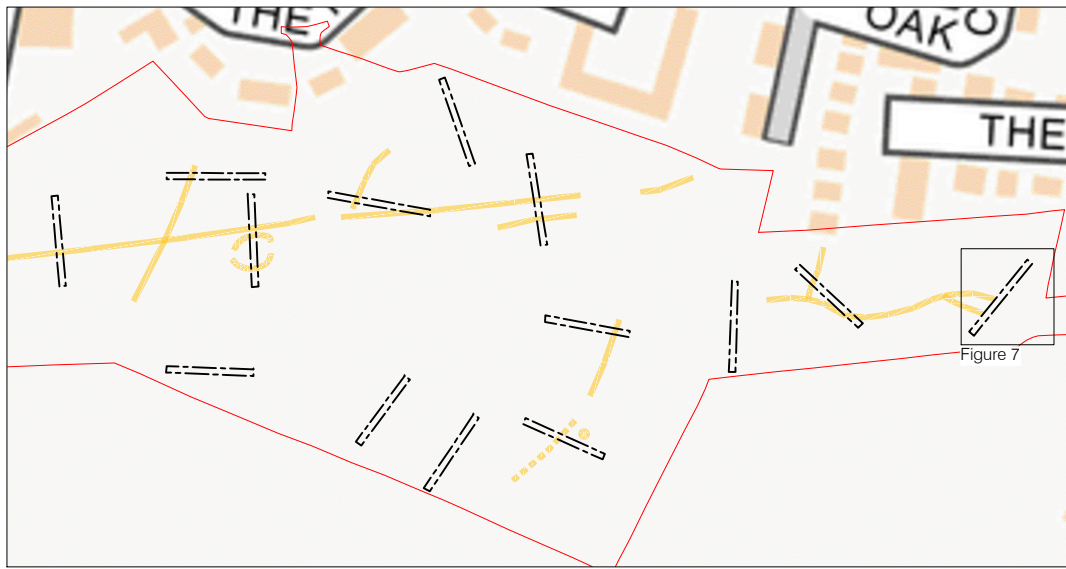
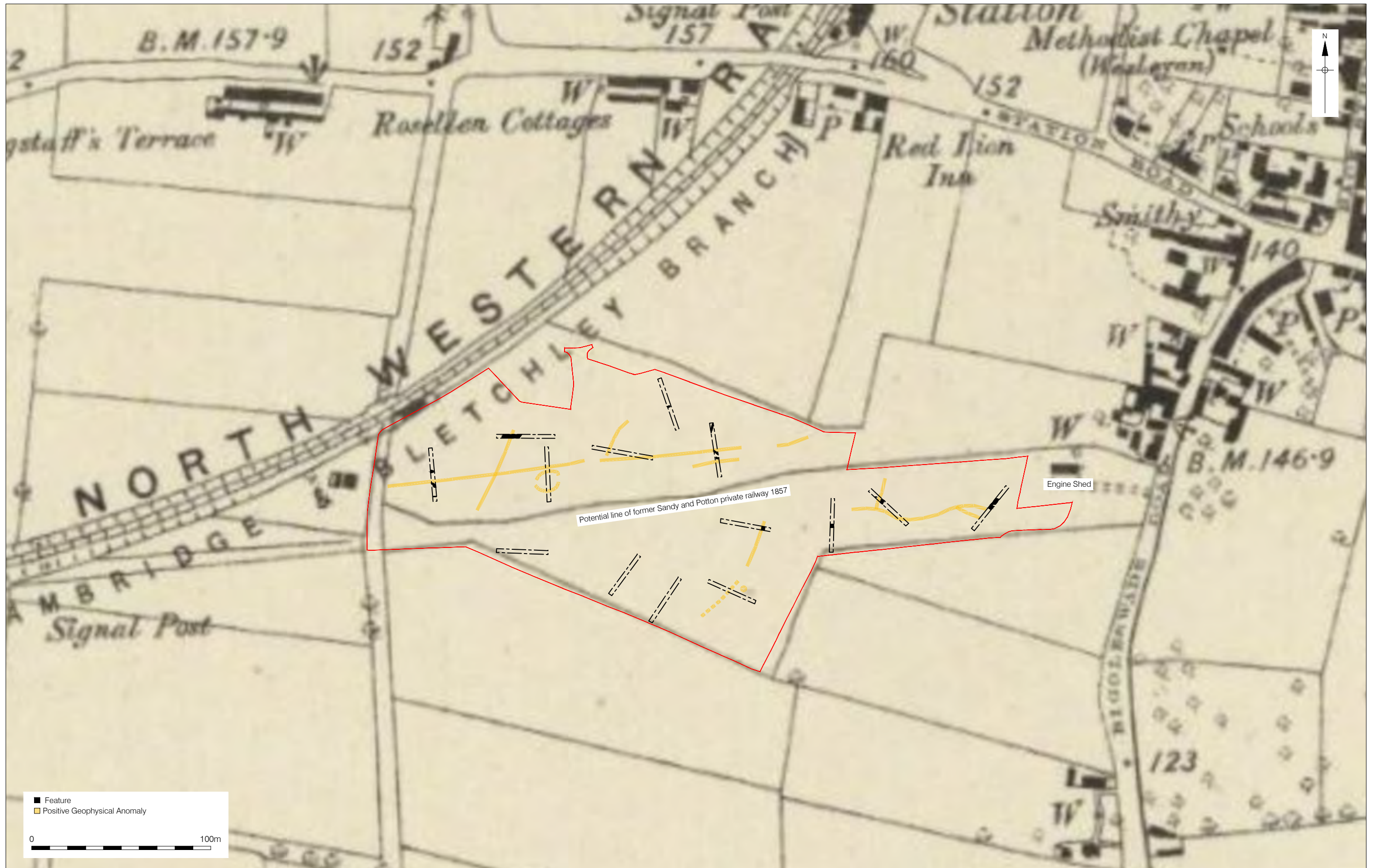


Figure 7
 Trench 14 Plan and Sections
 Inset 1:2500, Plan 1:250, Sections 1:40 at A3



12 APPENDIX 1: PLATES



Plate 1: Site, area of Trench 11, view south-west



Plate 2: Site machining, view west

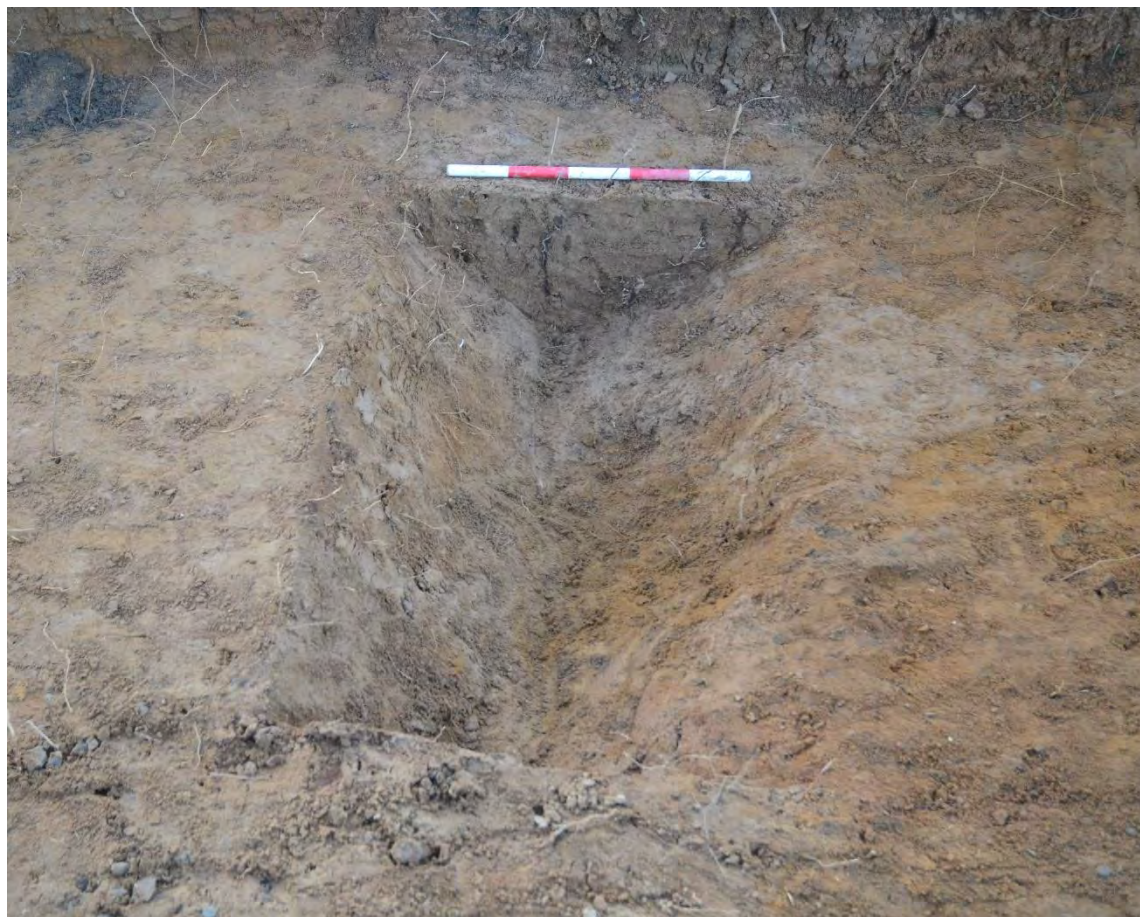


Plate 3: Ditch [104], Trench 1, view west

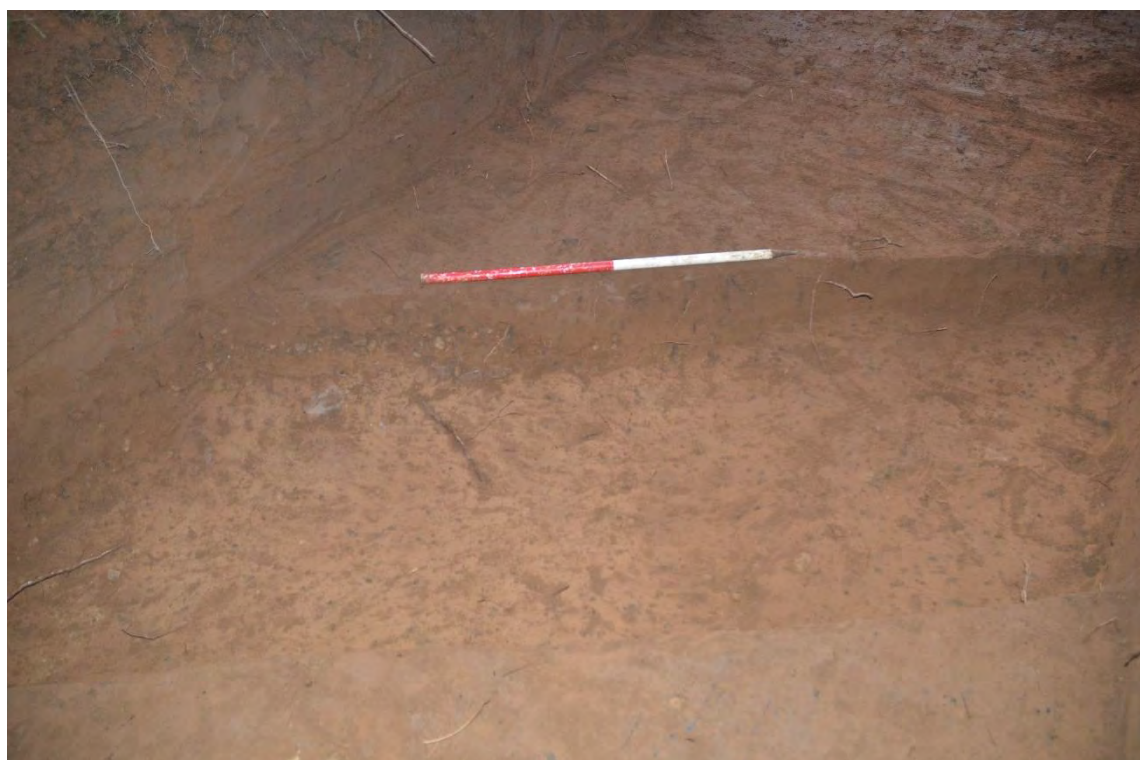


Plate 4: 'Ditch' [111], Trench 2, view south-west

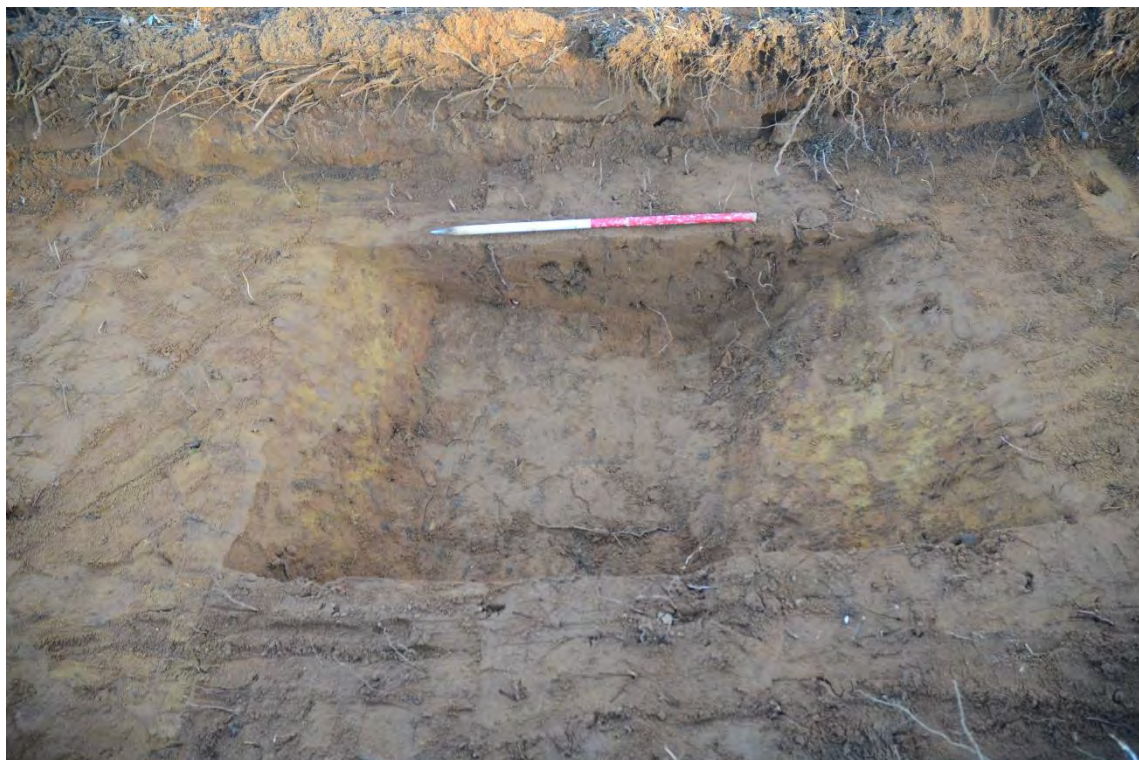


Plate 5: Ditch [121], Trench 12, view east



Plate 6: Ditch [115], Trench 13, view south-west



Plate 7: Ditch [126] & Wall [129], Trench 14, view east

13 APPENDIX 2: TRENCH DETAILS AND CONTENTS INDEX

| | | | |
|--|------------------|---|--------|
| TRENCH 1 | Figures 2, 3 & 4 | Trench Alignment: N-S | |
| Length: 30m | Width: 2m | Level of Natural (m OD): 44.54 - 44.77m | |
| Deposit | Context No. | Max Depth of Deposit (m) | |
| | | N End | S End |
| Topsoil | (100) | 0.25m | 0.37m |
| Subsoil | (101) | - | 0.55m |
| Natural | (102) | 0.41m+ | 0.56m+ |
| Summary | | | |
| Trench 1 was located in the western area of the site. It contained a single ditch and two treethrows | | | |

| | | | |
|---|------------------|---|--------|
| TRENCH 2 | Figures 2, 3 & 4 | Trench Alignment: E-W | |
| Length: 30m | Width: 2m | Level of Natural (m OD): 42.24 - 43.13m | |
| Deposit | Context No. | Max Depth of Deposit (m) | |
| | | E End | W End |
| Topsoil | (100) | 0.4m | 0.34m |
| Subsoil | (101) | 0.86m | 0.63m |
| Natural | (102) | 0.87m+ | 0.64m+ |
| Summary | | | |
| Trench 2 was located in the western area of the site. It contained a single ditch or 'cutting'. | | | |

| | | | |
|--|------------------|--|--------|
| TRENCH 3 | Figures 2, 3 & 4 | Trench Alignment: N-S | |
| Length: 30m | Width: 2m | Level of Natural (m OD): 41.7 - 42.14m | |
| Deposit | Context No. | Max Depth of Deposit (m) | |
| | | N End | S End |
| Topsoil | (100) | 0.4m | 0.4m |
| Subsoil | (101) | 0.8m | 0.75m |
| Natural | (102) | 0.81m+ | 0.76m+ |
| Summary | | | |
| Trench 3 was located in the western area of the site. It contained no archaeological features or deposits. | | | |

| | | | |
|-------------|---------------|---------------------------------------|-------|
| TRENCH 4 | Figures 2 & 3 | Trench Alignment: E-W | |
| Length: 30m | Width: 2m | Level of Natural (m OD): 44.76- 45.2m | |
| Deposit | Context No. | Max Depth of Deposit (m) | |
| | | E End | W End |

| | | | |
|--|-------|--------|--------|
| Topsoil | (100) | 0.3m | 0.3m |
| Subsoil | (101) | 0.48m | 0.61m |
| Natural | (102) | 0.49m+ | 0.62m+ |
| Summary | | | |
| Trench 4 was located centrally within the site. It contained no archaeological features or deposits. | | | |

| | | | |
|--|------------------|--|--------|
| TRENCH 5 | Figures 2, 3 & 5 | Trench Alignment: NW-SE | |
| Length: 30m | Width: 2m | Level of Natural (m OD): 42.78- 42.93m | |
| Deposit | Context No. | Max Depth of Deposit (m) | |
| | | NW End | SE End |
| Topsoil | (100) | 0.3m | 0.31m |
| Subsoil | (101) | 0.49m | 0.41m |
| Natural | (102) | 0.5m+ | 0.42m+ |
| Summary | | | |
| Trench 5 was located in the northern area of the site. It contained a single treethrow | | | |

| | | | |
|--|------------------|---|---------|
| TRENCH 6 | Figures 2, 3 & 5 | Trench Alignment: NNW-SSE | |
| Length: 30m | Width: 2m | Level of Natural (m OD): 44.35 - 45.23m | |
| Deposit | Context No. | Max Depth of Deposit (m) | |
| | | NNW End | SSE End |
| Topsoil | (100) | 0.32m | 0.27m |
| Subsoil | (101) | - | 0.47m |
| Natural | (102) | 0.33m+ | 0.48m+ |
| Summary | | | |
| Trench 6 was located centrally within the site. It contained two ditches and a single treethrow. | | | |

| | | | |
|--|---------------|---|--------|
| TRENCH 7 | Figures 2 & 3 | Trench Alignment: E-W | |
| Length: 30m | Width: 2m | Level of Natural (m OD): 43.84 - 44.23m | |
| Deposit | Context No. | Max Depth of Deposit (m) | |
| | | E End | W End |
| Topsoil | (100) | 0.56m | 0.18m |
| Subsoil | (101) | 0.76m | 0.4m |
| Natural | (102) | 0.77m+ | 0.41m+ |
| Summary | | | |
| Trench 7 was located in the south western area of the site. It contained no archaeological features or deposits. | | | |

| | | | |
|----------|---------------|-------------------------|--|
| TRENCH 8 | Figures 2 & 3 | Trench Alignment: NE-SW | |
|----------|---------------|-------------------------|--|

| | | | |
|---|-------------|---|--------|
| Length: 30m | Width: 2m | Level of Natural (m OD): 41.97 - 43.96m | |
| Deposit | Context No. | Max Depth of Deposit (m) | |
| | | NE End | SW End |
| Topsoil | (100) | 0.47m | 0.28m |
| Subsoil | (101) | 0.67m | 0.43m |
| Natural | (102) | 0.68m+ | 0.44m+ |
| <p>Summary</p> <p>Trench 8 was located in the southern area of the site. It contained no archaeological features or deposits.</p> | | | |

| | | | |
|---|---------------|---|--------|
| TRENCH 9 | Figures 2 & 3 | Trench Alignment: NE-SW | |
| Length: 30m | Width: 2m | Level of Natural (m OD): 41.11 - 43.68m | |
| Deposit | Context No. | Max Depth of Deposit (m) | |
| | | NE End | SW End |
| Topsoil | (100) | 0.4m | 0.37m |
| Subsoil | (101) | 0.68m | - |
| Natural | (102) | 0.69m+ | 0.38m+ |
| <p>Summary</p> <p>Trench 9 was located in the southern area of the site. It contained no archaeological features or deposits.</p> | | | |

| | | | |
|--|---------------|---|---------|
| TRENCH 10 | Figures 2 & 3 | Trench Alignment: ESE-WNW | |
| Length: 30m | Width: 2m | Level of Natural (m OD): 39.72 - 39.93m | |
| Deposit | Context No. | Max Depth of Deposit (m) | |
| | | ESE End | WNW End |
| Topsoil | (100) | 0.44m | 0.51m |
| Subsoil | (101) | 1.2m | 1.38m |
| Natural | (102) | 1.21m+ | 1.39m+ |
| <p>Summary</p> <p>Trench 10 was located in the southern area of the site. It contained no archaeological features or deposits.</p> | | | |

| | | | |
|-------------|------------------|---|---------|
| TRENCH 11 | Figures 2, 3 & 6 | Trench Alignment: ESE-WNW | |
| Length: 30m | Width: 2m | Level of Natural (m OD): 43.49 - 43.96m | |
| Deposit | Context No. | Max Depth of Deposit (m) | |
| | | ESE End | WNW End |
| Topsoil | (100) | 0.32m | 0.37m |
| Subsoil | (101) | - | 0.45m |

| | | | |
|---|-------|--------|--------|
| Natural | (102) | 0.33m+ | 0.46m+ |
| Summary | | | |
| Trench 11 was located centrally within the site. It contained a single ditch. | | | |

| | | | |
|---|------------------|--|--------|
| TRENCH 12 | Figures 2, 3 & 6 | Trench Alignment: N-S | |
| Length: 30m | Width: 2m | Level of Natural (m OD): 43.8 - 44.71m | |
| Deposit | Context No. | Max Depth of Deposit (m) | |
| | | N End | S End |
| Topsoil | (100) | 0.33m | 0.4m |
| Subsoil | (101) | 0.37m | - |
| Natural | (102) | 0.38m+ | 0.41m+ |
| Summary | | | |
| Trench 12 was located in the eastern area of the site. It contained a single ditch. | | | |

| | | | |
|--|------------------|---|--------|
| TRENCH 13 | Figures 2, 3 & 6 | Trench Alignment: NW-SE | |
| Length: 30m | Width: 2m | Level of Natural (m OD): 43.69 - 44.34m | |
| Deposit | Context No. | Max Depth of Deposit (m) | |
| | | NW End | SE End |
| Topsoil | (100) | 0.35m | 0.27m |
| Subsoil | (101) | 0.42m | 0.3m |
| Natural | (102) | 0.43m+ | 0.31m+ |
| Summary | | | |
| Trench 13 was located in the eastern area of the site. It contained a single ditch and a single treethrow. | | | |

| | | | |
|--|------------------|---|--------|
| TRENCH 14 | Figures 2, 3 & 7 | Trench Alignment: NE-SW | |
| Length: 30m | Width: 2m | Level of Natural (m OD): 44.06 - 44.71m | |
| Deposit | Context No. | Max Depth of Deposit (m) | |
| | | NE End | SW End |
| Topsoil | (100) | 0.32m | 0.32m |
| Subsoil | (101) | 0.43m | 0.44m |
| Natural | (102) | 0.44m+ | 0.45m+ |
| Summary | | | |
| Trench 14 was located in the eastern area of the site. It contained two ditches and a single wall. | | | |

| Context No | Cut | Trench | Type | Category | Length (m) | Width (m) | Depth (m) | Description | Fill Sequence |
|------------|-----|--------|-------|-----------|------------|-----------|-----------|---|---------------|
| 100 | 0 | 0 | Layer | Topsoil | 0 | 0 | 0.56 | Loose, dark brownish-grey silty sand | |
| 101 | 0 | 0 | Layer | Subsoil | 0 | 0 | 0.87 | Loose, light to mid-brownish-grey/mid-to light reddish-brown sand | |
| 102 | 0 | 0 | Layer | Natural | 0 | 0 | 1.4 | Loose to moderate, light to mid-reddish-grey/yellowish-orange sand with occasional patches of stone | |
| 103 | 104 | 1 | Fill | Ditch | 1 | 0.7 | 0.27 | Loose, mid-brown sandy silt | 1/1 |
| 104 | 104 | 1 | Cut | Ditch | 1 | 0.7 | 0.27 | Linear in plan, east to west aligned, moderate sides, concave base | |
| 105 | 106 | 1 | Fill | Treethrow | 1 | 1.6 | 0.46 | Loose, mid-brown sandy silt | 1/1 |
| 106 | 106 | 1 | Cut | Treethrow | 1 | 1.6 | 0.46 | Irregular in plan, gentle to vertical sides, flat base | |
| 107 | 108 | 1 | Fill | Treethrow | 1.86 | 1.3 | 0.6 | Loose, mid-yellowish-grey silty sand | 1/1 |
| 108 | 108 | 1 | Cut | Treethrow | 1.86 | 1.3 | 0.6 | Irregular in plan, steep sides, flat base | |
| 109 | 111 | 2 | Fill | Ditch | 1 | 5.8 | 0.24 | Loose, mid-orangish-brown silty sand | 2/2 |
| 110 | 111 | 2 | Fill | Ditch | 1 | 0.87 | 0.1 | Firm, dark orangish-brown silty sand with abundant stones | 1/2 |
| 111 | 111 | 2 | Cut | Ditch | 1 | 5.8 | 0.24 | Linear in plan, north-east to south-west aligned, vertical sides, flat base | |

| | | | | | | | | | |
|-----|-----|----|------|-----------|------|------|------|--|-----|
| 112 | 113 | 6 | Fill | Ditch | 1 | 0.95 | 0.23 | Loose, mid-brown sand | 1/1 |
| 113 | 113 | 6 | Cut | Ditch | 1 | 0.95 | 0.23 | Linear in plan, north-east to south-west aligned, moderate sides, flat base | |
| 114 | 115 | 13 | Fill | Ditch | 1 | 1.76 | 0.61 | Loose, dark reddish-brown silty sand | 1/1 |
| 115 | 115 | 13 | Cut | Ditch | 1 | 1.76 | 0.61 | Linear in plan, north-east to south-west aligned, steep sides, concave base | |
| 116 | 117 | 13 | Fill | Treethrow | 0.79 | 0.58 | 0.18 | Loose, mid-greyish-yellow silty sand | 1/1 |
| 117 | 117 | 13 | Cut | Treethrow | 0.79 | 0.58 | 0.18 | Irregular in plan, gentle sides, concave base | |
| 118 | 119 | 6 | Fill | Ditch | 1 | 0.55 | 0.4 | Loose, mid-brown sand | 1/1 |
| 119 | 119 | 6 | Cut | Ditch | 1 | 0.55 | 0.4 | Linear in plan, north-west to south-east aligned, steep sides, flat base | |
| 120 | 121 | 12 | Fill | Ditch | 1 | 1.92 | 0.39 | Loose, mid-reddish-brown silty sand | 1/1 |
| 121 | 121 | 12 | Cut | Ditch | 1 | 1.92 | 0.39 | Linear in plan, east to west aligned, gentle sides, concave base | |
| 122 | 123 | 14 | Fill | Ditch | 1 | 1.21 | 0.42 | Loose, mid-orangish-brown sandy silt | 1/1 |
| 123 | 123 | 14 | Cut | Ditch | 1 | 1.21 | 0.42 | Linear in plan, north-west to south-east aligned, moderate sides, concave base | |
| 124 | 126 | 14 | Fill | Ditch | 1 | 2.63 | 0.56 | Loose, mid-orangish-brown sandy silt | 2/2 |
| 125 | 126 | 14 | Fill | Ditch | 1 | 2.6 | 0.16 | Loose, mid-yellowish-brown silty sand | 1/2 |

| | | | | | | | | | |
|-----|-----|----|-----------|-----------|------|------|------|---|-----|
| 126 | 126 | 14 | Cut | Ditch | 1 | 2.63 | 0.56 | Linear in plan, east to west aligned, moderate sides, concave base | |
| 127 | 129 | 14 | Fill | Wall | 1 | 0.07 | 0.05 | Loose, dark greyish-brown sandy silt | 2/2 |
| 128 | 129 | 14 | Structure | Wall | 1 | 0.6 | 0.15 | Brick and rubble rough wall foundation with sandy mortar | 1/2 |
| 129 | 129 | 14 | Cut | Wall | 1 | 0.6 | 0.15 | Linear in plan, east to west aligned, vertical sides, base not reached | |
| 130 | 131 | 6 | Fill | Treethrow | 0.79 | 1.2 | 0.37 | Loose, mid-brown sand | 1/1 |
| 131 | 131 | 6 | Cut | Treethrow | 0.79 | 1.2 | 0.37 | Irregular in plan, moderate sides, concave base | |
| 132 | 133 | 5 | Fill | Treethrow | 1.55 | 0.8 | 0.28 | Loose, mid-greyish-brown silty sand | 1/1 |
| 133 | 133 | 5 | Cut | Treethrow | 1.55 | 0.8 | 0.28 | Irregular in plan, irregular sides, uneven base | |
| 134 | 135 | 11 | Fill | Ditch | 1 | 1.07 | 0.75 | Loose, mid-brown sand | 1/1 |
| 135 | 135 | 11 | Cut | Ditch | 1 | 1.07 | 0.75 | Linear in plan, north-east to south-west aligned, steep sides, concave base | |

14 APPENDIX 3: OASIS FORM

OASIS ID: preconst1-379011

Project details

Project name Land at Sutton Mill Road, Potton, Bedfordshire: An Archaeological Evaluation

Short description of the project This report details the results of a trial trench evaluation undertaken in advance of developments on the land at Sutton Mill Road, Potton, Bedfordshire (NGR TL 21794 48987). The evaluation site is located to the immediate east of Sutton Mill road and covers an area of c.3ha. The archaeological fieldwork was carried out between the 2nd and 4th December 2019. Although not all the features uncovered contained datable finds assemblages, the principal result of the fieldwork was the identification of a series of post-medieval/19th century features. These included ditches and the remains of a brick wall footing. The location and alignment of the features, as well as the 19th century artefact assemblage recovered from the features, suggest that they mainly relate to the use of the Sandy and Potton Private Railway, established in 1857 which crossed the site from east to west. It is also possible that the features uncovered relate to the later route of the Sandy and Potton Line, which was moved slightly to the north of the site in 1861 when the railway was incorporated into the Bedford to Cambridge line, before the line was closed and tracks removed in 1968.

Project dates Start: 02-12-2019 End: 04-12-2019

Previous/future work Yes / Not known

Any associated project reference BEDFM 2018.68 - Sitecode codes

Any associated project reference BEDFM 2018.68 - Museum accession ID codes

Type of project Field evaluation

Site status None

Current Land use Grassland Heathland 3 - Disturbed

Monument type DITCH Uncertain

| | |
|----------------------------------|---|
| Monument type | DITCH Post Medieval |
| Monument type | DITCH Modern |
| Monument type | TREETHROW Uncertain |
| Significant Finds | POTTERY Post Medieval |
| Significant Finds | POTTERY Modern |
| Significant Finds | CLAY PIPE Post Medieval |
| Significant Finds | CLAY PIPE Modern |
| Significant Finds | CBM Post Medieval |
| Significant Finds | CBM Modern |
| Methods & techniques | "Sample Trenches", "Targeted Trenches" |
| Development type | Rural residential |
| Prompt | Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPG16 |
| Position in the planning process | Pre-application |
| Project location | |
| Country | England |
| Site location | BEDFORDSHIRE MID BEDFORDSHIRE POTTON Land at Sutton Mill Road, Potton, Bedfordshire |
| Postcode | SG19 2QB |
| Study area | 420 Square metres |
| Site coordinates | TL 2179 4898 52.125271692529 -0.220730434802 52 07 30 N 000 13 14 W Point |
| Height OD / Depth | Min: 0.42m Max: 1.4m |
| Project creators | |
| Project originator | brief Central Bedfordshire Council Archaeology Team |
| Project originator | design PCA Central |
| Project director/manager | Christiane Meckseper |

Project supervisor Lawrence Morgan-Shelbourne

Type of
sponsor/funding Developer
body

Name of
sponsor/funding RPS on behalf of Kier Living
body

Project archives

Physical Archive
recipient The Higgins Art Galley and Museum

Physical Contents "Animal Bones","Ceramics"

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