

**An Archaeological Evaluation Phase 1 at  
Lockington Quarry Extension,  
Warren Lane, Lockington-Hemington, Leicestershire  
SK 470 280**

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**For: Lafarge Aggregates Ltd.**

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## **An Archaeological Evaluation at Lockington Quarry Extension Phase 10, Warren Lane, Lockington-Hemington, Leicestershire SK 470 280**

**Alastair Macintosh**

### **Summary**

*An archaeological evaluation was undertaken on land adjacent to Warren Lane, Lockington, Leicestershire by ULAS in March and April 2008. The work was commissioned by Lafarge Aggregates.*

*A total of 38 trial trenches were excavated across four fields, in order to assess the potential survival of archaeological deposits.*

*The area is primarily situated on a gravel terrace with a number of palaeochannels cutting through. Potential features were identified by remote sensing techniques, and trenches were placed accordingly.*

*The northernmost field (field 1) was found to contain several features of archaeological potential, including a linear feature that contained two sherds of Neolithic pottery.*

*No dating evidence was recovered from other fields, although several features of possible archaeological interest were recorded, along with a number of palaeochannels.*

*Although the trenching yielded little archaeological material overall, it is apparent that Field 1 has some potential for archaeological survival despite the obvious truncation of the features found.*

### **1. Introduction**

In accordance with Planning Policy Guidelines 16 (PPG 16, Archaeology and Planning, para 30), this document presents the results of an archaeological evaluation by trial trenching on land adjacent to Warren Lane, Lockington, Leicestershire.

The work was undertaken in advance of a planning application for aggregates extraction by Lafarge Aggregates Ltd covering a total area of 47ha across four fields.

The work was carried out during March-April 2008 during which a total of 38 trenches was excavated and recorded. An interim report was issued for this work in April 2008.

The application area is situated south and east of an area of known archaeological activity, including scheduled monuments of a Roman Villa and Iron Age / Roman settlement immediately to the north. Lockington Barrow cemetery is located to the south-east and an Iron Age and Romano-British settlement site has recently been recorded, to the north-west.



Figure 1: Location of the Evaluation Area

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## 2. Geology

The geology of the fields under consideration consists of drift deposits of alluvium, sand and river terrace gravel over Triassic mudstone bedrock. Between the junction of the M1/A453 and the midland Mainline Railway are deposits of Wanlip, Syston and Hemington sand and gravel river terraces.

## 3. Previous Work

The investigation area lies immediately to the south of the scheduled Roman villa and Iron Age - Romano British settlements (LE140, LE126; Clay 1985). Cropmark evidence appears to suggest that related features, specifically a possible trackway and pit alignment, extend southwards into field 1. In order to assess this possibility, the area has been subjected to a fieldwalking survey (Priest 2000) and a programme of Magnetic Susceptibility and detailed Magnetometry (Butler and Coward 2000; Bartlett 2007).

## 4. Objectives

The main objectives of the evaluation were:

- To identify the presence/absence of any archaeological deposits.

- To establish the character, extent and date range for any archaeological deposits to be affected by the proposed ground works.
- To produce an archive and report of results.

## 5. Methodology

A total of 38 trenches was excavated. The trenches were placed in order to target geophysical anomalies, features identifiable by LiDAR and cropmarks interpreted from aerial photography. Where none of these was in evidence, trenches were placed to assess the archaeological potential of 'blank' areas.

Trenches were excavated using a Komatsu PC240 tracked excavator with a 2.2m toothless bucket. After topsoil removal, any subsoils were excavated in 6-10 inch spits down to archaeological deposits or undisturbed natural sands and gravels. Each trench was 50m long by 2.2m wide. Trenches were oriented either north-south or east-west according to the features targeted.

After machining, all archaeological features were hand cleaned, excavated to the appropriate extent and recorded at an appropriate scale. All spoil was scanned using a metal detector, and a final inspection was carried out visually to ensure maximum recovery of artefacts.

Trench positions were recorded using a Topcon HiperPro GPS system, and drawings were finalised in TurboCAD version 11.

All work followed the Written Scheme of Information produced by *Archaeologica* (2008), the Institute of Field Archaeologists *Code of Conduct* and adhered to their *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological evaluations*.

## 6. Results

Where archaeological deposits are discussed, square brackets are used to indicate a feature cut number, while rounded brackets indicate a feature fill number. When a feature is under consideration as a whole, it is referred to by its cut number.

### *Field 1 (Figure 4)*

Initial stripping of the trenches in this field removed a layer of grey-brown sandy silt topsoil to a depth of approximately 250-300mm. Beneath this was a layer of friable red-brown sandy silt subsoil with an average thickness of 250mm, which was removed in spits. Natural sands and gravels lay immediately below. The exceptions to this were trenches **15** and **16**, which both contained palaeochannel material to significant depths directly under the topsoil. These two trenches were in an uncultivated area, which had been left as set-aside due to poor drainage.

#### **Trench 06**

*Length: 50m*

*Width: 2.2m*

*Depth: 0.46m (min) - 0.65m (max)*

*Orientation: N-S*

*Targeting: Geophysical anomalies*

This trench contained two shallow east-west aligned ditches, [42] with a greyish brown silty sand fill, and [46] with an orange silty sand fill. There was also a single small pit, [44], with a compact orange brown silty sand fill. The pit may correspond to the geophysical anomaly. The ditches may be the remains of truncated ridge and furrow. No dating evidence was recovered from this trench.

**Trench 07**

*Length: 50m*

*Width: 2.2m*

*Depth: 0.4m (min) - 0.5m (max)*

*Orientation: E-W*

*Targeting: NA*

This trench contained a modern field drain, but was otherwise devoid of archaeological features or finds.

**Trench 08**

*Length: 50m*

*Width: 2.2m*

*Depth: 0.42m (min) - 0.50m (max)*

*Orientation: N-S*

*Targeting: Geophysical anomalies*

Three ditches were present, two ([15] and [16]) running north-west to south-east, each with brown silty sand fills, and one, [28], running south-west to north-east, with a grey silty sand fill. There was also a single pit, [25], with two silty sand fills. Ditch [15] seems to correspond with a linear anomaly, while the pit appears to confirm the presence of a discrete anomaly on the geophysical interpretation. No dating evidence was recovered from this trench.

**Trench 09** (*Figure 11 & 12*)

*Length: 50m*

*Width: 2.2m*

*Depth: 0.37m (min) - 0.52m (max)*

*Orientation: E-W*

*Targeting: Aerial Photography*

Four north-south aligned ditches were present ([001], [007], [009] and [011]), all with similar fills of orange-brown silty-sand, as well as a large pit-like feature [003]. The pit contained three fills, with a fine sand layer at the top, becoming siltier towards the base of the feature. The easternmost ditch, [011] produced two sherds of pottery, which have been identified as Neolithic (appendix).

Allowing for possible error in aerial photograph rectification, one of the ditches, [001], may correspond to a linear cropmark, while the pit [003] may be part of the north-south pit alignment indicated by the aerial photographic survey (Fig. 4). These features were also indicated by linear trends in the geophysical survey (Fig. 3). There was also a truncated feature, [013], which appears to be the result of animal disturbance.

### **Trench 10**

*Length: 50m*

*Width: 2.2m*

*Depth: 0.48m (min) - 0.52m (max)*

*Orientation: E-W*

*Targeting: Geophysical anomalies*

This trench initially appeared to contain a pair of pit like archaeological features. Upon investigation these features quickly proved to be natural in origin, and were therefore not recorded. The trench contained no archaeological finds or contexts.

### **Trench 11**

*Length: 50m*

*Width: 2.2m*

*Depth: 0.46m (min) - 0.59m (max)*

*Orientation: N-S*

*Targeting: Geophysics*

This trench contained a single south-west to north-east aligned shallow ditch, [61], which may be the remnant of a furrow. This feature contained a grey-brown silty-sand fill, with a large proportion of gravel. No dating evidence was recovered from this trench.

### **Trench 12**

*Length: 50m*

*Width: 2.2m*

*Depth: 0.31m (min) - 0.70m (max)*

*Orientation: E-W*

*Targeting: Geophysical anomalies*

Excavation of this trench revealed two ditches, [053] and [055], on a roughly north-south alignment. The larger of the two, [053] contained several large fragments of modern field drain, which may have been ploughed into the feature over time, and had a grey-brown clayey sand fill. The smaller feature [55] may be the remnants of a tree throw, although its fill was much the same as that seen in [53]. No dating evidence was recovered from either feature.

### **Trench 13**

*Length: 50m*

*Width: 2.2m*

*Depth: 0.41m (min) - 1.18m (max)*

*Orientation: E-W*

*Targeting: Geophysical anomalies*

This trench contained two north-south aligned ditches, [048] and [050] and a single post-hole, [052]. Both ditches were somewhat deeper than their width initially indicated, and it is possible that they are the remnants of a hedgerow. Both ditches also had similar mid-brown silty sand fills. These features were indicated by linear trends in the geophysical survey (Fig. 3). The post-hole appeared somewhat truncated,

with an orange silty sand fill. No dating evidence was recovered from any of these features.

#### **Trench 14**

*Length: 50m*

*Width: 2.2m*

*Depth: 0.34m (min) – 0.78m (max)*

*Orientation: E-W*

*Targeting: Geophysics*

This trench initially appeared to contain two linear archaeological features, one of which was revealed to be a modern field drain, and the other a fluvial feature such as a small stream bed. There were no archaeological finds or contexts found in this trench.

#### **Trench 15**

*Length: 50m*

*Width: 2.2m*

*Depth: 0.56m (min) – 0.71m (max)*

*Orientation: E-W*

*Targeting: LiDAR feature*

Trench **15** was targeted on an area of potentially deeper soil, thought to be a palaeochannel located by LiDAR survey. Excavation showed no trace of palaeochannel material in this trench, but did reveal several archaeological features. Towards the eastern end of the trench there was a single 10m wide feature, which was further excavated by machine to reveal a series of intercutting ditches and a well preserved bank (plate 2). The machine excavated section proved too unstable for full cleaning and recording, although a photographic record was made before the section collapsed.

Immediately to the west of this was a double ditch ([036] and [040]), which was hand excavated. Both ditches contained similar sequences of fills, starting with a silty-sand (30%/70%) in the top fill and becoming siltier towards the base, with a lower fill of sandy-silt (30%/70%). [040] was clearly cut by [036].

At the western end of the trench was a single southeast-northwest aligned ditch ([031]) with a red clay fill. No dating evidence was recovered from this trench.

#### **Trench 16**

*Length: 50m*

*Width: 2.2m*

*Depth: 0.43m (min) – 0.82m (max)*

*Orientation: E-W*

*Targeting: Aerial Photography*

The trench contained no archaeological features, but cut into a deep palaeochannel deposit (plate 1). A machine section was cut through this deposit to the natural gravels, but, at approximately 2.5m deep, it was considered unsafe for work in the

trench. A photograph was taken, but both sections collapsed before any further record could be made.

The palaeochannel material comprised a homogenous blue-grey silty deposit to a depth of 1.5m, with a 0.5m deposit of yellow silt beneath it. At the base of the channel there were organic deposits approximately 150mm deep. This deposit was immediately above the natural gravel. The local water table appeared stable at a depth of 1.5m.

### ***Field 2 (Figure 5)***

The stratigraphy of the trenches in this field was similar to that in field 1. The topsoil maintained an average depth of 300-350mm, with a similar depth of subsoil below. The natural sands and gravels were encountered at a depth of around 650-700mm.

#### **Trench 01**

*Length: 50m*

*Width: 2.2m*

*Depth: 0.4m (min) – 0.68m (max)*

*Orientation: E-W*

*Targeting: NA*

Other than a modern blue plastic water pipe was encountered at the west end of the trench, this trench contained no archaeological finds or contexts.

#### **Trench 02**

*Length: 50m*

*Width: 2.2m*

*Depth: 0.33m (min) – 0.56m (max)*

*Orientation: N-S*

*Targeting: Aerial Photography*

Trench 2 was targeted on two large features indicated by aerial photography. These features were verified by excavation, and were found to extend across the whole width of the trench, one at the north end, [064], and another, [068], at the south. [064] had three fills of sandy silt, while [068] had a single fill of silty sand. Although the full extent of the features was not revealed by the trench, they were found to have flat bases and contained post medieval pottery. They have therefore been identified as post-medieval quarry pits. Another, smaller, pit feature, [070] was identified at the extreme south end of the ditch, with a yellowish-grey silty sand fill, but this was devoid of finds.

#### **Trench 03**

*Length: 50m*

*Width: 2.2m*

*Depth: 0.35m (min) – 0.43m (max)*

*Orientation: E-W*

*Targeting: Aerial Photography*

This trench initially appeared to contain a north-south aligned linear feature, but on excavation this proved to be a natural feature, most likely a tree-throw. There were no other archaeological finds or contexts.

#### **Trench 04**

*Length: 50m*

*Width: 2.2m*

*Depth: 0.30m (min) – 0.52m (max)*

*Orientation: N-S*

*Targeting: NA*

Trench 04 contained only one feature, a sub-circular pit, [063], approximately 1.6m across, with a brown silty-sand fill. No finds were recovered, and there are morphological indications that this feature may be a tree throw.

#### **Trench 05**

*Length: 50m*

*Width: 2.2m*

*Depth: 0.27m (min) – 0.4m (max)*

*Orientation: E-W*

*Targeting: Aerial Photography*

Trench 5 was targeted on a cropmark, which indicated the presence of a linear feature. This may correspond to a linear found in the trench. This feature, [073], was 1.5m wide and 34cm deep, and cut through subsoil. The fill was very dark brown loose silty-sand, and a single sherd of modern pottery was found on the surface of the feature. It is likely that this feature is of no great antiquity.

#### **Trench 17**

*Length: 50m*

*Width: 2.2m*

*Depth: 0.38m (min) – 0.63m (max)*

*Orientation: E-W*

*Targeting: NA*

The trench contained a wide storm drain made of cream ceramic, but produced no archaeological finds or features.

#### **Trench 18**

*Length: 50m*

*Width: 2.2m*

*Depth: 0.3m (min) – 0.35m (max)*

*Orientation: E-W*

*Targeting: NA*

This trench contained no archaeological finds or features. However, the natural gravels had been firmly compressed between halfway along the trench and the eastern end. The landowner indicated that this trench included part of the haul-road between the borrow-pit to the north and the slip road on the M1 to the south-west, and was used in the construction of J24a.

**Field 3 (Figure 6)**

The trenches were broadly divisible into two types. Beneath the ubiquitous 300mm ploughsoil, trenches 21, 35, 36 and 37 all contained clay layers to varying depths, and in 36 it was not possible to reach natural sands and gravels due to rising groundwater. The trenches to the south of the set-aside area were stratigraphically similar to those seen in fields 1 and 2.

**Trench 19**

Length: 50m

Width: 2.2m

Depth: 0.45m (min) – 0.55m (max)

Orientation: N-S

Targeting: Aerial Photography

The feature indicated by the cropmark was verified by this trench, and comprised a demolition layer of house-bricks and clinker. This was revealed by the landowner to be the remnants of “Tiny Cottage” which can be seen on the 1886 OS 1<sup>st</sup> Edition Map (fig.2 below) of the area and was demolished some twenty years ago. There were no other finds or features of archaeological significance.



Figure 2

1<sup>st</sup> Edition Ordnance Survey Map showing location of Tiny Cottage

### **Trench 20**

*Length: 50m*

*Width: 2.2m*

*Depth: 0.42m (min) – 0.72m (max)*

*Orientation: E-W*

*Targeting: Palaeochannel/LiDAR*

This trench contained a single feature, which proved to be of a modern field drain. Finds included modern blue and white china and a fragment of clay pipe.

### **Trench 21**

*Length: 50m*

*Width: 2.2m*

*Depth: 0.36m (min) – 0.72m (max)*

*Orientation: E-W*

*Targeting: NA*

No archaeological features or finds were seen in this trench, although a faint linear was observed on the same alignment as the palaeochannel material in trench 35. On investigation, this feature proved to be no more than 10-15mm deep, indicating that it had been significantly truncated. It was not visible in the subsoil of this trench.

### **Trench 22**

*Length: 50m*

*Width: 2.2m*

*Depth: 0.4m (min) – 0.47m (max)*

*Orientation: N-S*

*Targeting: Geophysical anomalies*

No archaeological finds or features were observed. A modern field-drain was present in this trench, which may have been picked up by the geophysical survey.

### **Trench 23**

*Length: 50m*

*Width: 2.2m*

*Depth: 0.42m (min) – 1.35m (max)*

*Orientation: N-S*

*Targeting: Geophysical anomalies*

It was necessary to move this trench a short distance to the south, as it had been placed over an existing hedgerow. This trench was originally located to target a feature identified as a possible Bronze Age round barrow. A modern pit, containing black soil and rubble, was found at the north end of the trench, but nothing to indicate the presence of a barrow was encountered.

### **Trench 24**

*Length: 50m*

*Width: 2.2m*

*Depth: 0.38m (min) – 0.48m (max)*

*Orientation: N-S*

*Targeting: Geophysical anomalies*

A number of features were initially identified in this trench, but all turned out to be ephemeral. No finds were recovered. It may be that these features were heavily truncated, as there was no evidence of them in the subsoil.

**Trench 25**

*Length: 50m*

*Width: 2.2m*

*Depth: 0.4m (min) – 0.54m (max)*

*Orientation: E-W*

*Targeting: NA*

No archaeological finds or features were identified in this trench. Two patches of cleaner sand were investigated but proved to be of natural origin.

**Trench 26**

*Length: 50m*

*Width: 2.2m*

*Depth: 0.34m (min) – 0.51m (max)*

*Orientation: N-S*

*Targeting: NA*

No archaeological features were encountered in this trench. The subsoil was found to be very thin across the trench, and was almost completely absent at the north end.

**Trench 27**

*Length: 50m*

*Width: 2.2m*

*Depth: 0.39m (min) – 0.52m (max)*

*Orientation: E-W*

*Targeting: NA*

After stripping, it appeared that there were two potential features in this trench, a pit and a linear. These proved to be a tree throw and a field drain respectively. No archaeological features were found, and no finds were recovered.

**Trench 28**

*Length: 50m*

*Width: 2.2m*

*Depth: 0.31m (min) – 0.53m (max)*

*Orientation: N-S*

*Targeting: NA*

A single linear feature, [075], was encountered in this trench, running approximately east-west. On excavation, it proved to be approximately 0.5m deep, with two fills of brown silty-clay. No finds were recovered from this feature, so it remains undated. It was cut by a modern field drain.

**Trench 29**

*Length: 50m*  
*Width: 2.2m*  
*Depth: 0.34m (min) – 0.47m (max)*  
*Orientation: N-S*  
*Targeting: NA*

Upon stripping, it was seen that there was no obvious subsoil in this trench. It was also evident that there were no archaeological remains either.

### **Trench 35**

*Length: 50m*  
*Width: 2.2m*  
*Depth: 0.52m (min) – 0.73m (max)*  
*Orientation: N-S*  
*Targeting: Palaeochannel/LiDAR*

Although no archaeological remains were recovered from this trench, the suspected palaeochannel was found, running approximately east-west. It was approximately 400mm deep, and filled with sticky red clay. It appeared to cut through the subsoil.

### **Trench 36**

*Length: 50m*  
*Width: 2.2m*  
*Depth: 0.55m (min) – 1.35m (max)*  
*Orientation: E-W*  
*Targeting: Palaeochannel/LiDAR*

The trench was positioned to intercept a palaeochannel identified by a previous LiDAR survey. The palaeochannel was verified by excavation. It was seen through most of the trench starting at 10m in from the east and extending beyond the western edge. Unfortunately, the water table was very high at this point, and rapid ingress of water meant it was impossible to excavate or draw the feature. A number of samples were taken, however, and the channel was photographed extensively. No archaeological features or finds were recovered.

### **Trench 37**

*Length: 50m*  
*Width: 2.2m*  
*Depth: 0.55m (min) – 0.95m (max)*  
*Orientation: N-S*  
*Targeting: Palaeochannel/LiDAR*

Further palaeochannel material was identified in this trench. It appeared very similar to the material in Trench 36. The material was sampled and photographed. No archaeological features or finds were identified in this trench.

### **Trench 38**

*Length: 50m*  
*Width: 2.2m*  
*Depth: 0.5m (min) – 0.64m (max)*

*Orientation: N-S*

*Targeting: Palaeochannel/LiDAR*

The field drain observed in trench 38 was also seen in this trench. Otherwise no archaeological remains were discovered.

#### ***Field 4 (Figure 7)***

This field is slightly lower-lying than the others, as can be seen from the LiDAR imaging, and this is reflected in the different nature of the soil profile revealed by excavation. The topsoil has the same dark grey-brown colour as in the other areas, but contains a much higher proportion of clay. It is also typically half again as deep, approximately 450mm. The subsoil is radically different, being largely composed of reddish clay-silts, again to a greater depth than in the preceding fields, of around 400-450mm.

#### **Trench 30**

*Length: 50m*

*Width: 2.2m*

*Depth: 0.46m (min) – 0.75m (max)*

*Orientation: N-S*

*Targeting: NA*

A modern field drain was observed in this trench running south-east/north-west. There were no features of archaeological significance in this trench.

#### **Trench 31**

*Length: 50m*

*Width: 2.2m*

*Depth: 0.5m (min) – 0.64m (max)*

*Orientation: E-W*

*Targeting: NA*

Two parallel gullies were identified in this trench. The trench was extended to the south-west in order to follow the features further. [078] contained a single fill of mid-grey silty sand. [080] also contained a single fill, of grey-brown silty sand. Only one of the gullies, [078] could be seen in the extension, suggesting that the other, [080], is either very truncated or terminates in that area. No other archaeological features were identified.

#### **Trench 32**

*Length: 50m*

*Width: 2.2m*

*Depth: 0.75m (min) – 1.2m (max)*

*Orientation: N-S*

*Targeting: Fieldwalking*

The trench was positioned to investigate a cluster of flints found during the earlier fieldwalking survey. No archaeological features were found in the trench to account

for the cluster. However, machining exposed a large amount of palaeochannel material before flooding rendered the trench unsafe for further work.

### **Trench 33**

*Length: 50m*

*Width: 2.2m*

*Depth: 0.86m (min) – 1.04m (max)*

*Orientation: E-W*

*Targeting: NA*

A single north-south aligned ditch, [085] was identified in the base of the trench. This was excavated and recorded before being inundated by rising groundwater, and proved to be approximately 350mm deep with three main fills of silty clay. It is possible that this feature is a truncated palaeochannel. No finds were recovered, although environmental samples were taken.

### **Trench 34**

*Length: 50m*

*Width: 2.2m*

*Depth: 0.75m (min) – 0.93m (max)*

*Orientation: E-W*

*Targeting: NA*

No archaeological finds or features were recorded in this trench.

## **7. Conclusions**

### ***Field 1***

Although a number of archaeological features were identified across the entire field, little dating evidence was recovered. The main areas of activity appear to be in the vicinity of trenches **8**, **9** and **15**. There is no material evidence to suggest a continuation of the Roman villa site to the north into this field other than the ditch and pit alignment indicated by the cropmarks and seen in trench **9**, and these provided no direct dating evidence. Most of the archaeological features identified are narrow linear features or small irregular pits and it seems likely that these features, if of a similar date to the scheduled monument, could well be part of a peripheral field system. In comparison to the features identified on the settlement site to the west, these features are often shallow with sandy, silty fills mixed with gravel suggesting there has been significant truncation by agricultural activity.

Likewise, there is little indication of earlier activity which would relate to the barrow cemetery to the south. The two sherds of Neolithic pottery discovered in ditch [11] indicate that there is a possibility of some early prehistoric activity in the vicinity, but given the lack of further evidence and the height of the sands and gravels in the area, any such features are likely to be ephemeral and truncated.

### ***Field 2***

The trenches in this field were, for the most part, devoid of archaeological remains. Trenches **2** and **5** were targeted on features observed from aerial photography, and these features were verified. However, none of these features appeared to be of archaeological significance, being evidently post-medieval.

### ***Field 3***

The northern part of this field is largely made up of palaeochannel material, as can be seen from the descriptions of trenches **21** and **35-37**. This part of the field is given over to set-aside. The southern part of the field is under cultivation, and here the soil profile is more akin to that seen in the first two fields. However, there is still little evidence of archaeological activity other than in trench **28** and possibly in trench **24**, and in the case of the latter it is not likely that the archaeological remains survive to any significant degree.

### ***Field 4***

Of the five trenches excavated in this field, two contained archaeological remains. In trench 31 a pair of ditches/gullies were recorded that may represent a prehistoric phase, possible Neolithic or Early Bronze Age. This would not be unexpected given the proximity of this field to the Lockington barrow cemetery. Also, a ditch was found at the extreme south of this field, in trench 33. Although undatable, it is evidence that there may be archaeological activity in this area, where previously it was thought that the environment may have been too marshy.

To summarise there is little evidence of archaeological occupation in the areas examined, with few archaeological deposits or finds. The ditches, although undated may be evidence of field systems connected to the Iron Age and Roman settlements known to the east and north. Of note however was the presence of Neolithic pottery in Ditch [11] which is a rare example and adds to the areas of the Trent valley known to have been exploited during this period.

## **8. Acknowledgements**

Fieldwork for the evaluation was carried out by the author, with the assistance of Alice Forward, James Harvey, Jamie Patrick, Roy Poulter and Emma Wells. The project was managed by Patrick Clay and Vicki Score for ULAS. The excavator was driven by Martin O'Donnell.

## **9. Archive & Publication**

The site archive comprises:

38 Trench Recording Sheets

85 Context Record Sheets

3 Photo Record Sheets

2 Context Record Sheets

1 Drawing Record Sheet

72 monochrome negative and contact prints

233 digital colour photographs

5 A2 Drawing Sheets

10 A3 Drawing Sheets

This will be deposited with Leicestershire County Council under accession number X.A64.2008.

A summary of the work will be published in *Transactions of the Leicestershire Archaeological and Historical Society* in due course.

## **10. Bibliography**

Cottrell, P. M., and Bartlett, A. *Lockington Quarry Leicestershire Southern Extension: Report on Archaeogeophysical Survey 2007*

Butler A., and Coward J. 2000. *A Geophysical Survey at the Proposed Fulcrum Site, Kegworth, Leicestershire* ULAS report 2000/57

Clay, P., 1985 A survey of two cropmark sites at Lockington-Hemington, Leicestershire, *Transactions of the Leicestershire Archaeological and Historical Society* **59**, 17–26.

Priest V. 2000. *A Fieldwalking Survey at the Fulcrum Site, Kegworth, Leicestershire.* ULAS report 2000/56

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20.08.2008

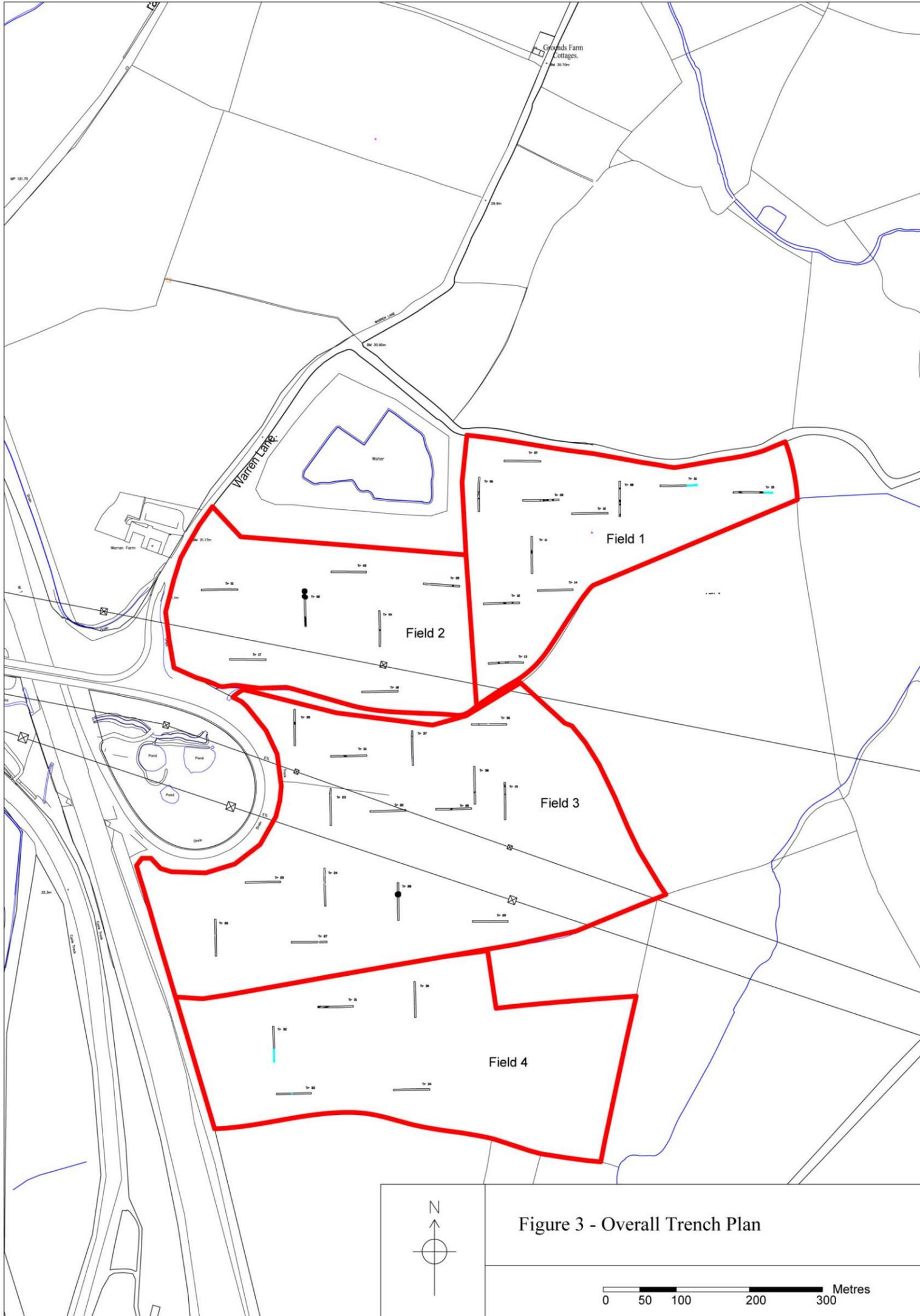


Figure 3 - Overall Trench Plan

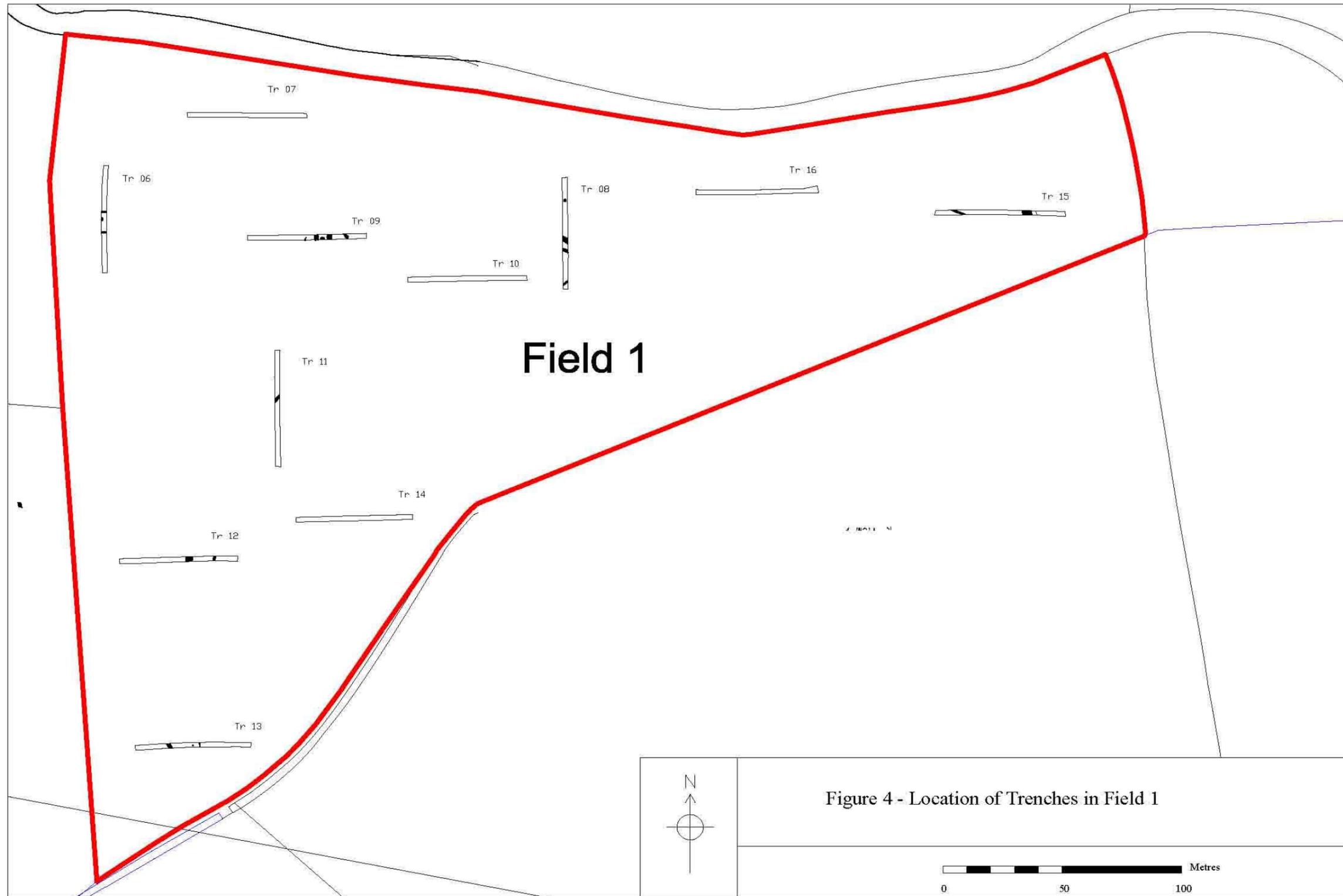
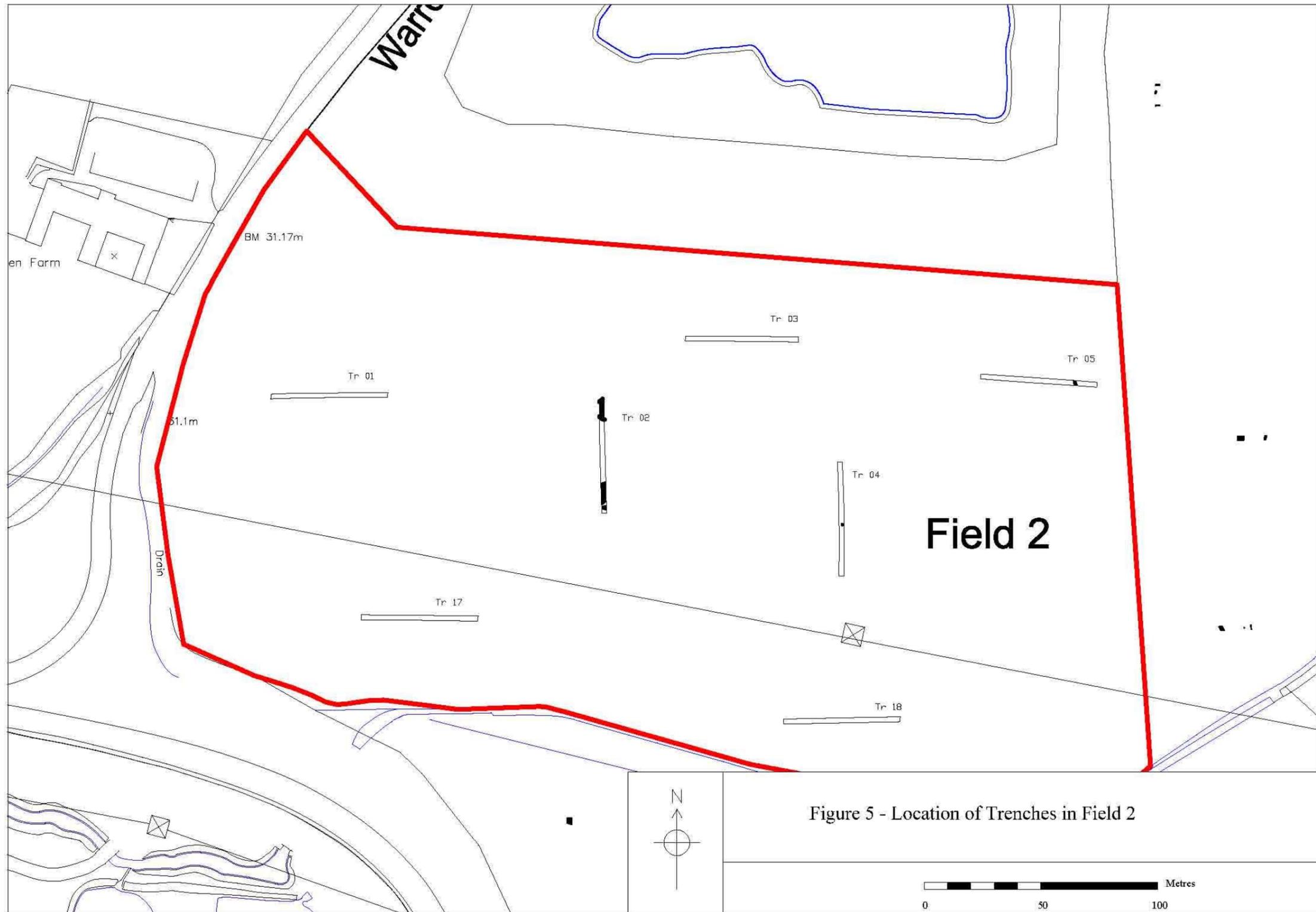
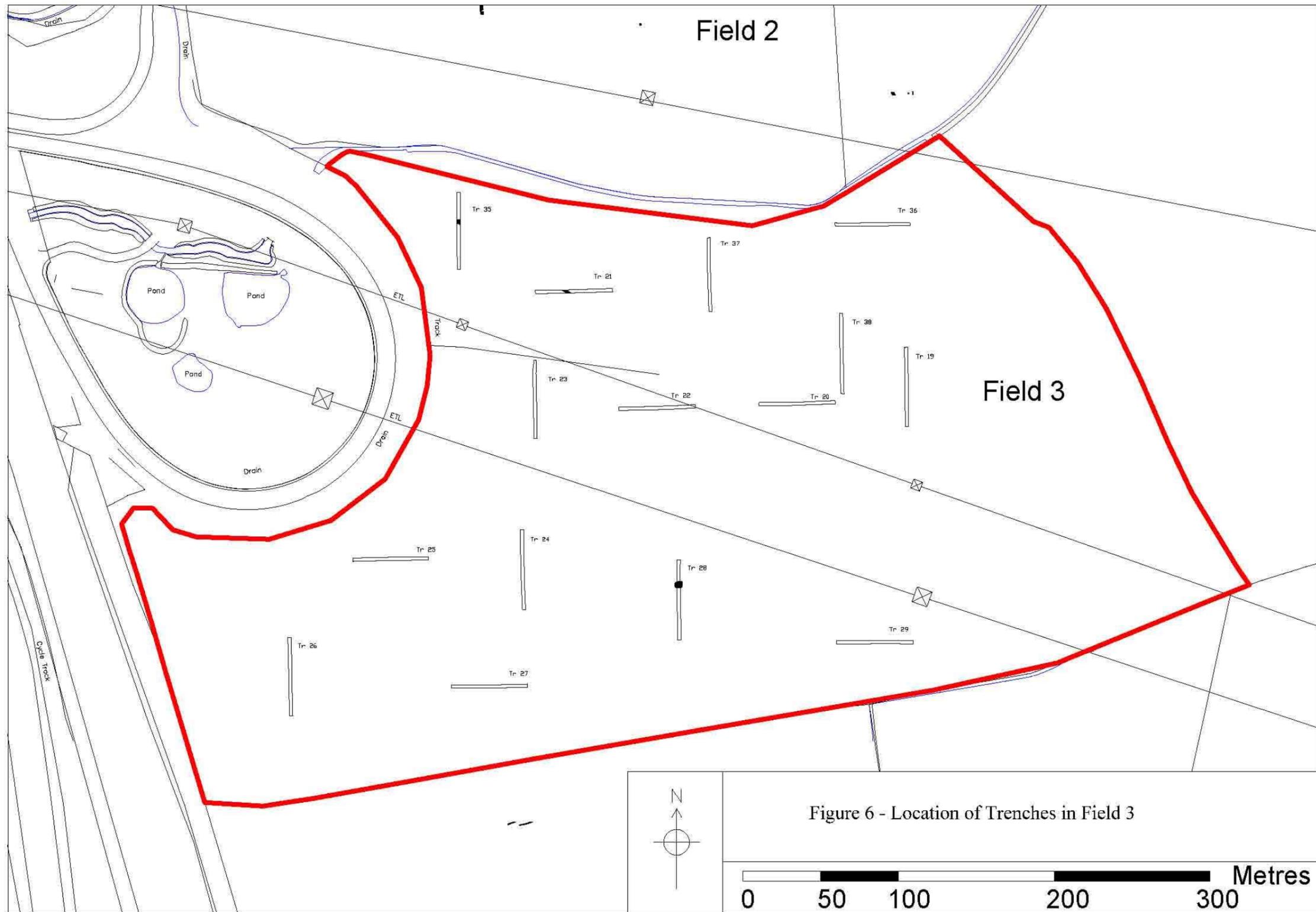


Figure 4 - Location of Trenches in Field 1





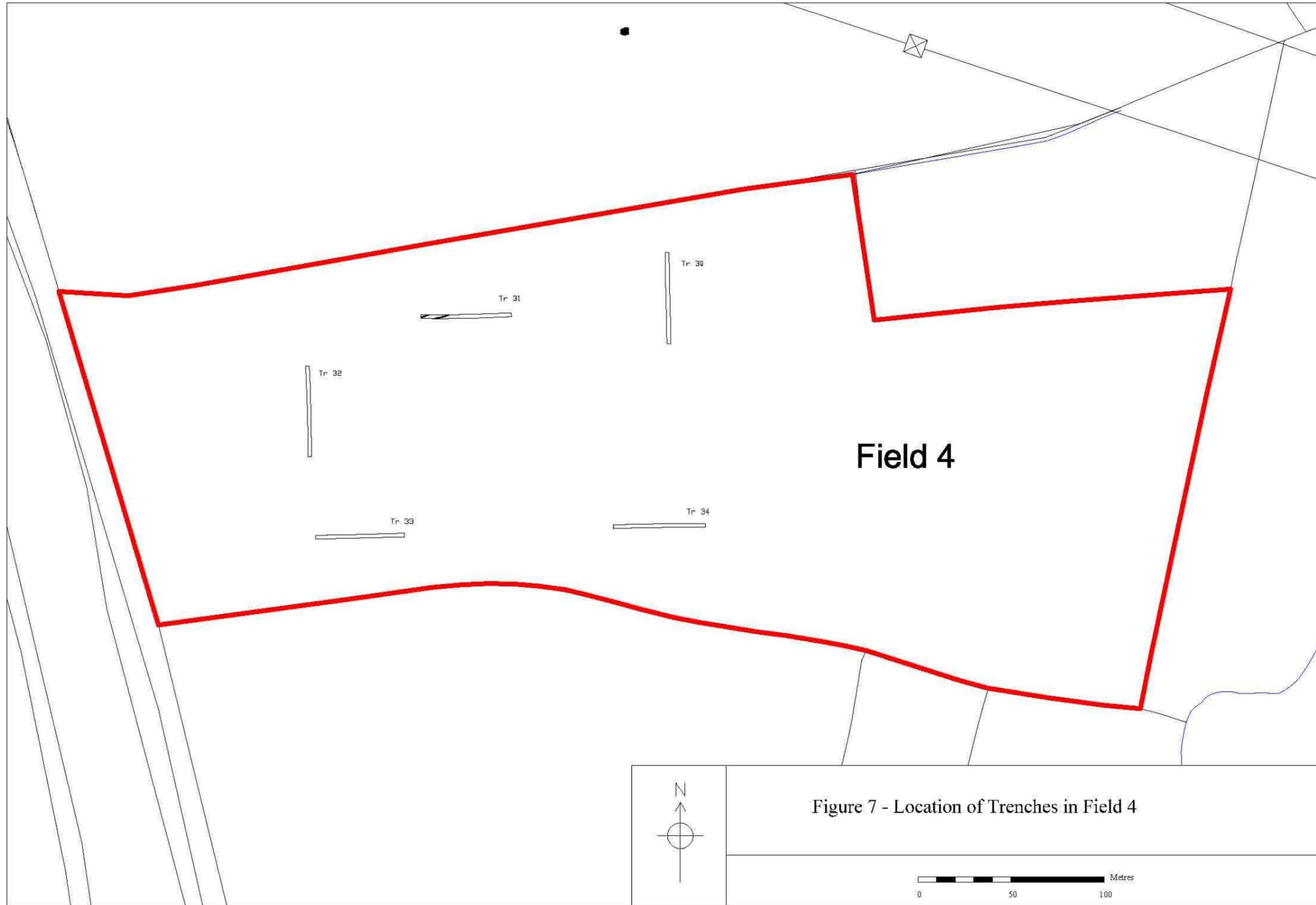


Figure 7 - Location of Trenches in Field 4

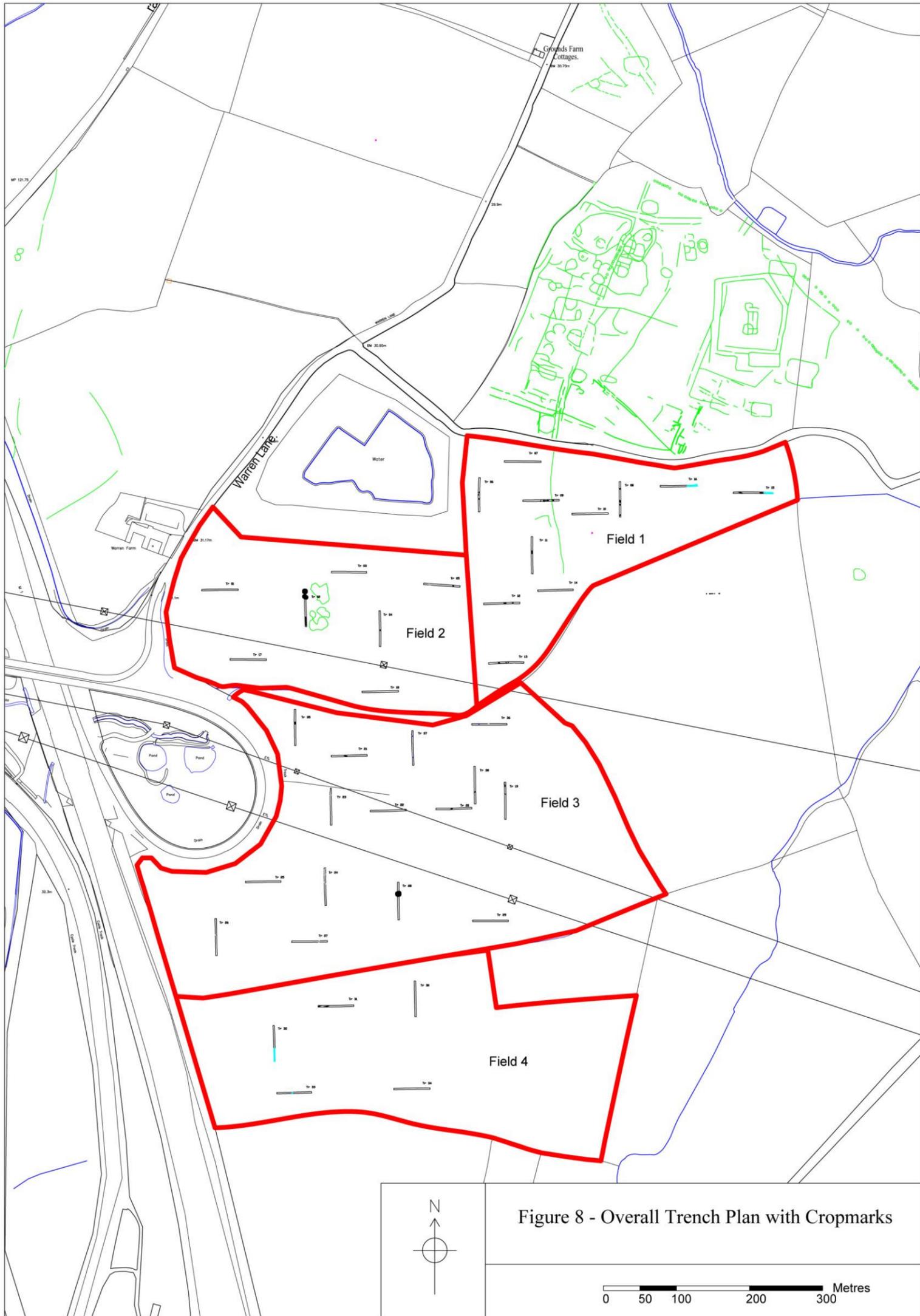


Figure 8 - Overall Trench Plan with Cropmarks

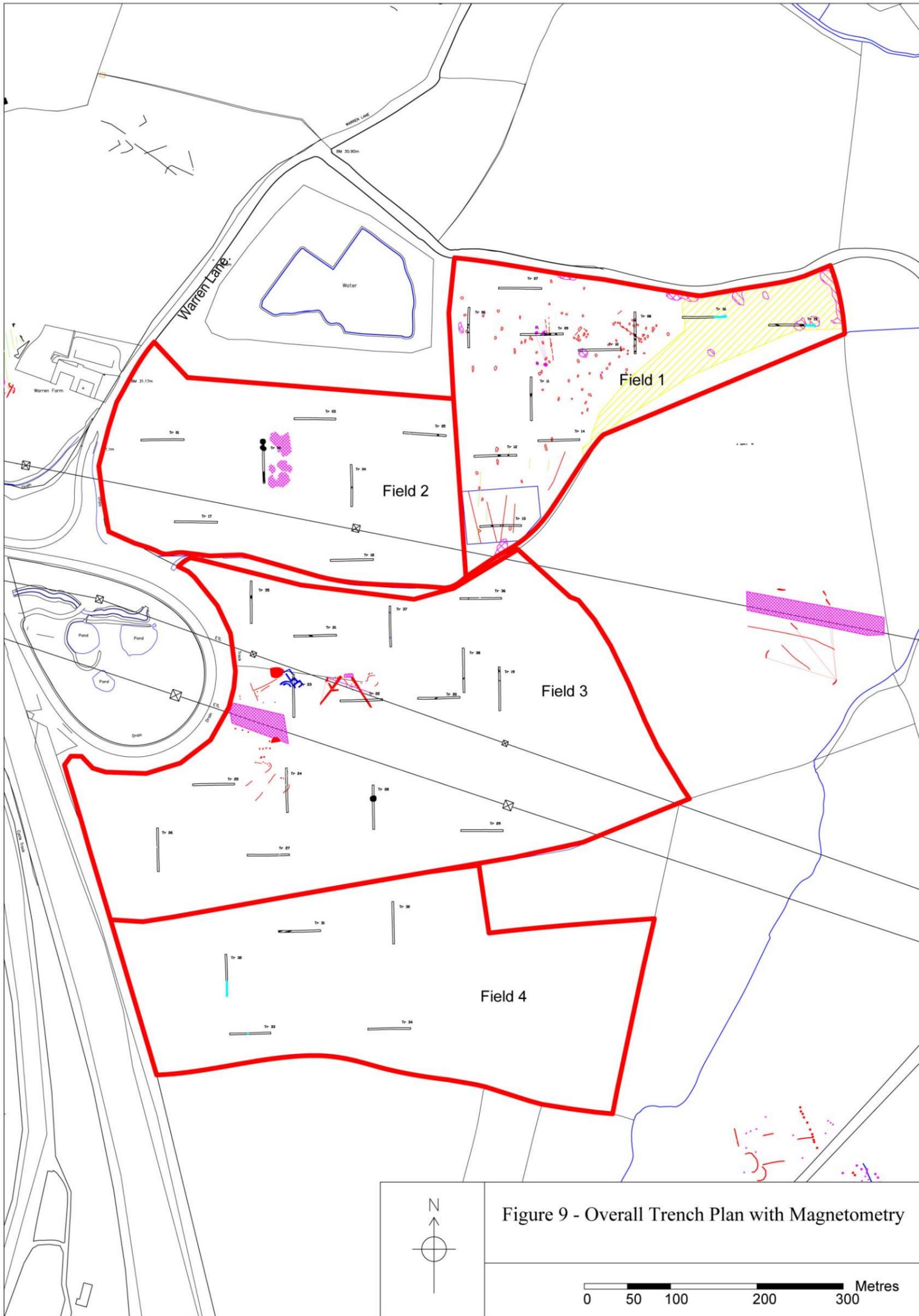


Figure 9 - Overall Trench Plan with Magnetometry

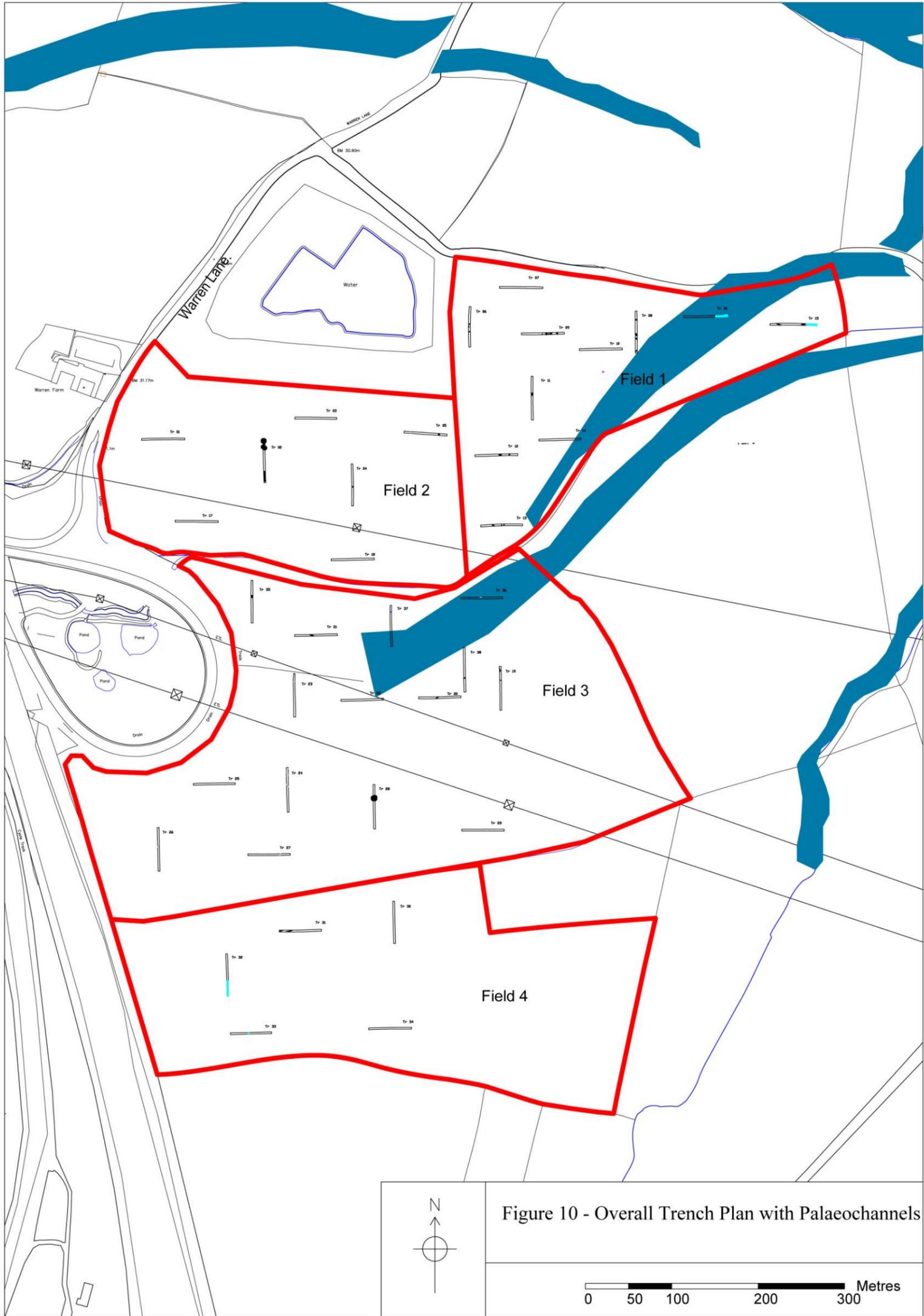


Figure 10 - Overall Trench Plan with Palaeochannels



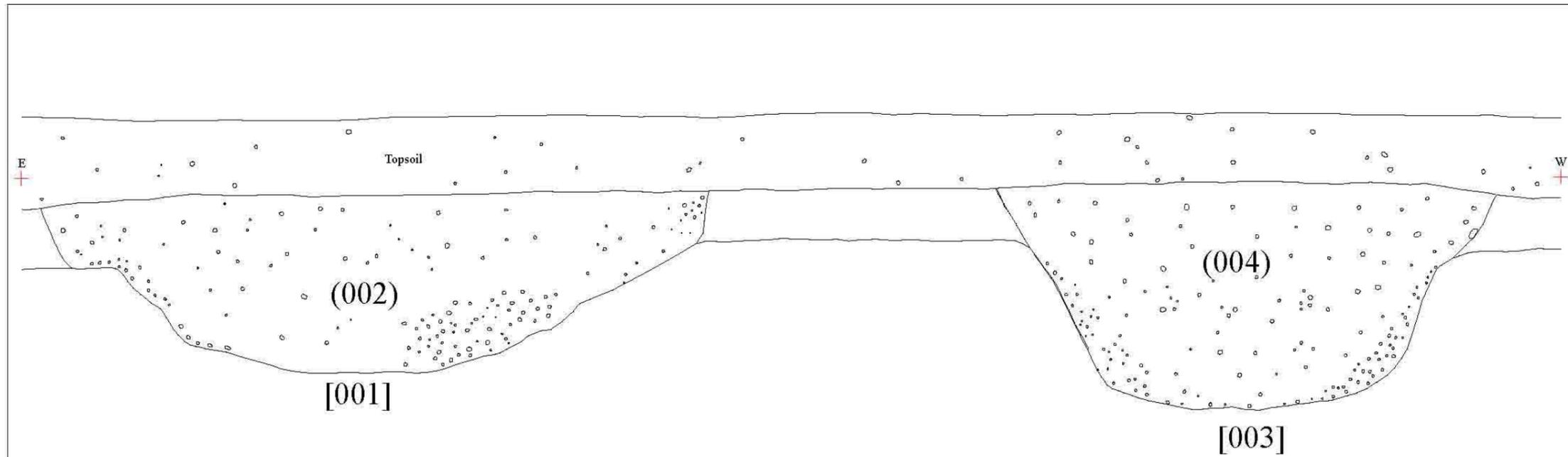


Figure 12.1 - North Facing Section of Ditch [001] and Pit [003]

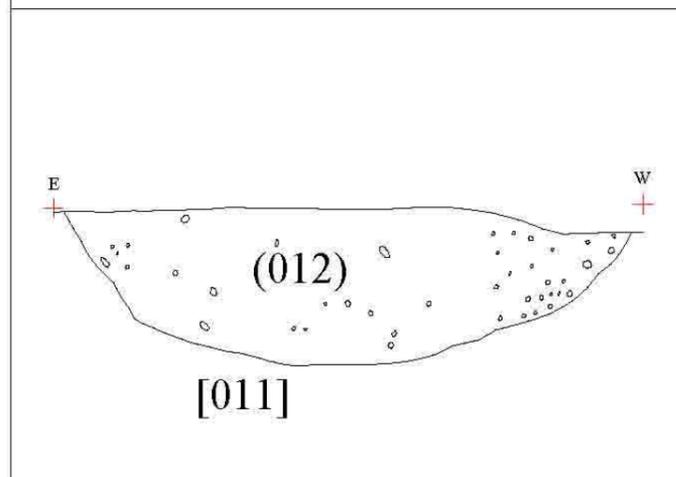


Figure 12.2 - North Facing Section of Ditch [012]

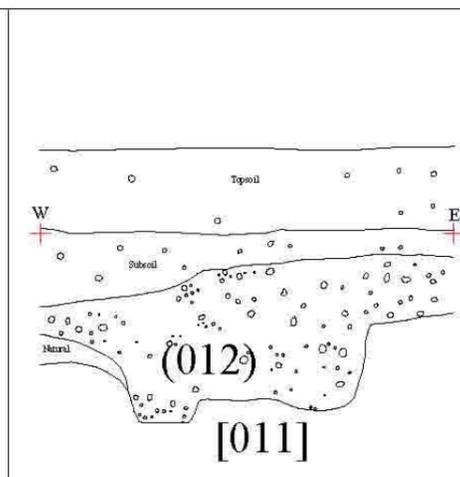


Figure 12.3 - South Facing Section of Ditch [012]

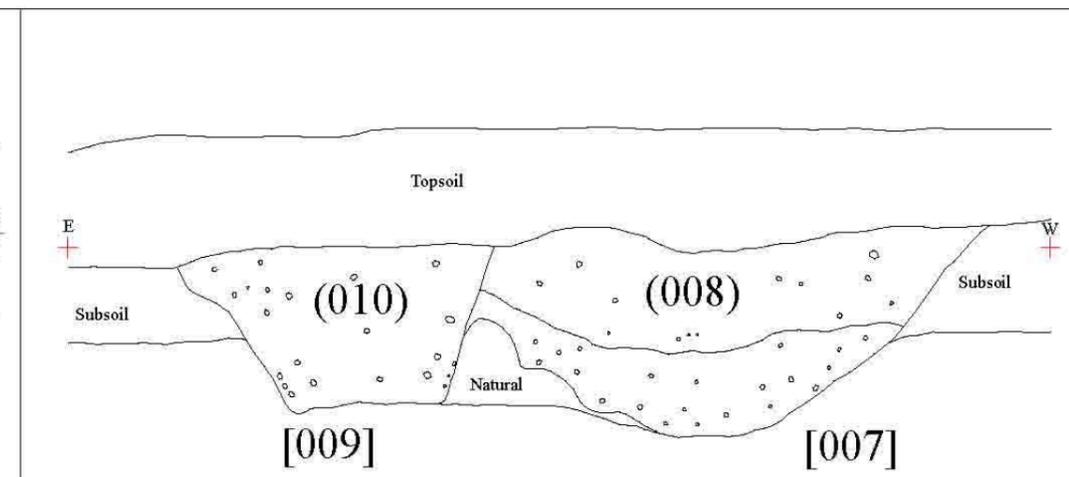


Figure 12.3 - North Facing Section of Ditches [009] and [007]

Figure 12 Sections through features in Trench 9



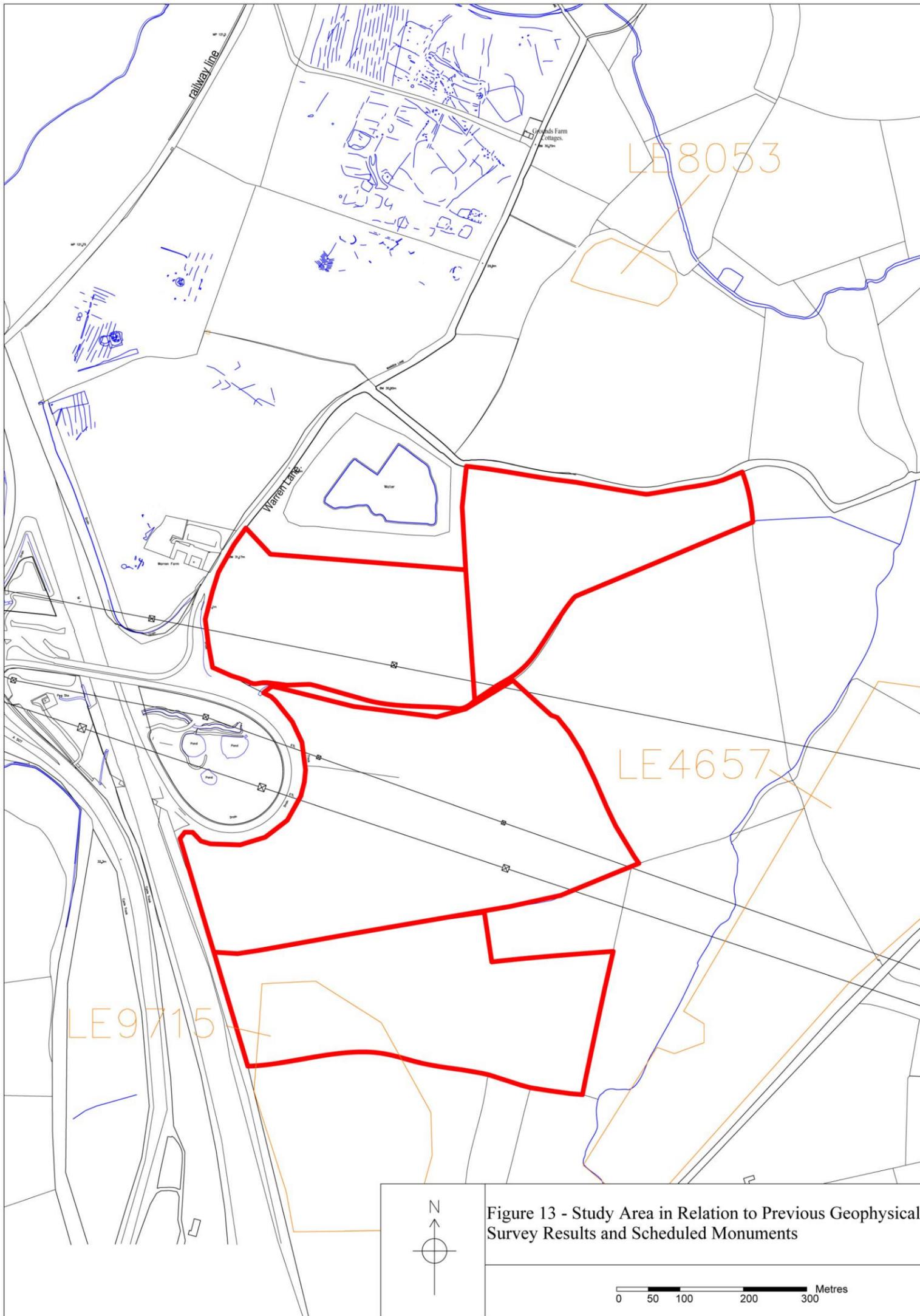


Figure 13 - Study Area in Relation to Previous Geophysical Survey Results and Scheduled Monuments

## Plates



Plate 1: Palaeochannel Material in Trench 16



Plate 2: Ditch System in Trench 15



Plate 3: South Facing Section of Linear [11]

## **Appendix: The Neolithic Pottery**

### ***Patrick Marsden and Nicholas J. Cooper***

Two sherds of rock-tempered handmade pottery were recovered from Trench 9, fill (12) of cut [11].

#### *Peterborough ware?*

Fabric Qu2 (Marsden and Woodward forthcoming), sandy fabric tempered with large angular white crushed pebble quartz fragments of 3-5mm. 29g. Curving undecorated body sherd. External surface and margin oxidised; core, internal margin and surface reduced. Internal surface smoothed; inclusions protrude from external surface. Fabric typical of Neolithic impressed wares (Peterborough ware) found locally at Willington (Marsden forthcoming).

#### *Early Neolithic Plain ware bowl?*

Fabric RO/Qu (Marsden forthcoming), an atypical fabric containing a range of rock fragments (1-3mm) including white crushed pebble quartz as above but also granite with plates of mica, and possibly sandstone fragments. 42g. The body sherd is from the lower side of a bowl with a slight carination towards the top which is defined by the presence of a small horizontal unperforated lug. Above the carination and lug the body becomes thinner as if tapering to a rim, now missing. The sherd is reduced grey throughout; the internal surface and external surface around the lug are smoothed. The identification is questionable given the lack of comparable material locally, but it would appear to belong broadly to the Windmill Hill tradition of plain bowls.

#### *Reference:*

Marsden, P. and Woodward, A., Forthcoming (2009) 'The Neolithic and Bronze Age Pottery' in Beamish, M.G., 'Neolithic and Bronze Age activity on the Trent Valley Floor. Excavations at Egginton and Willington, Derbyshire, 1998-1999', *Derbyshire Archaeological Journal*, 129.