

1EW03 - Enabling Works Contract

AWH C2a Interim Report for Trial Trenching at C21011 Upper Wendover Dean Farm – Wendover - Buckinghamshire (AC210/6)

MDL:

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1 Executive Summary

- 1.1.1 An archaeological evaluation was undertaken on land at Upper Wendover Dean Farm, located between Great Missenden and Wendover, Buckinghamshire by Infra.
- 1.1.2 The site was located on the east side of the A413 immediately north of Wendover Dean (central NGR 487969 205521, Figure 1).
- 1.1.3 The site comprised a single land parcel of 20.67ha (C21011), one of three that form the Upper Wendover Dean – Rocky Lane site. These land parcels are required to enable the construction of the Small Dean South Embankment and excavation of the Rocky Lane Cutting.
- 1.1.4 A total of 24 trenches were excavated producing several pits, ditches and postholes. Four of the features produced pottery and bone fragments, while a large quarry pit, which is located near to Upper Wendover Dean Farm, is thought to be associated with the use of the farm.

2 Introduction

- 2.1.1 This report details the results of an archaeological evaluation, conducted during February 2019, on land designated as Upper Wendover Dean Farm, north of Wendover Dean, Buckinghamshire (NGR SP 487969 205521). The work was undertaken by Infra for Fusion on behalf of HS2.
- 2.1.2 A total of 51 trenches were identified within the Project Plan (1EW03-FUS-EV-REP-CS03_CLo5-002524) for excavation, however due to land access constraints only 24 were excavated during this phase of works.
 - Further reporting will follow when the rest of the trenching works are undertaken.
- 2.1.3 The site code for C21011 was 1C19RLATT.

2.1 Aims

- 2.1.4 The general aims of the evaluation were to:
 - confirm the presence/absence, extent and depth of any surviving archaeological remains within the Site;
 - determine the nature, date, condition, state of preservation including any preservation bias, complexity and significance of any archaeological remains;
 - determine the likely range, quality and quantity of artefactual and environmental evidence present;
 - suggest measures, if appropriate and feasible, for further archaeological investigation, and
 - mitigate identified significant impacts; and contribute to the delivery of GWSI:

HERDS Specific Objectives as specified in Section 4.2 of the project plan.

2.1.5 The specific aims of the evaluation were:

- KC5: Identifying settlement location and developing models for settlement patterns for the Mesolithic, Neolithic and Early Bronze Age.
- KC15: Can we identify regional patterns in the in the form and location of Late Bronze Age and Iron Age settlements across the route, and are there associated differences in landscape organisation and enclosure?
- KC21: Assess the evidence for regional and cultural distinctiveness along the length of the route in the Romano-British period, with particular regard to the different settlement types encountered along the route.
- KC23: Identify evidence for late Roman occupation and attempt to identify any continuity in settlement patterns between the end of the Romano-British period and the Early Medieval period.
- KC31: Identify the location of Middle to Late Saxon settlement, explore processes of settlement nucleation and understand the development of associated field types and agricultural regimes
- KC40: Identify patterns of change within medieval rural settlement from the 11th to mid-14th century.

2.2 Project Plan

2.2.1 The trial trench evaluation at Upper Wendover Dean Farm was implemented to address a Project Plan designed and prepared by Fusion (doc. ref. 1EW03-FUS-EV-REP-CS03_CLO5-002524).

3 Preliminary Results

3.1 Site Geology

3.1.1 The natural geology comprised chalk with bands of flint and sandy clays on the lower southern slopes of site.

3.1.2 All archaeological features were sealed by natural subsoil and/or topsoil.

3.2 Trench Summary

3.2.1 Archaeological features were recorded in 8 of the 24 trenches (Figure 3). Three trenches (109, 130, 132) were 4m wide. Trench 131 was widened at its north west end to enable manual investigation of an archaeological feature.

3.2.2 A summary of the findings is in table 1, below.

Table 1: Summary table of findings

| Trench | Features | Provisional Date |
|--------|----------------|------------------|
| 87 | Pit | Unknown |
| 88 | None | N/A |
| 89 | None | N/A |
| 90 | None | N/A |
| 91 | None | N/A |
| 92 | None | N/A |
| 93 | None | N/A |
| 97 | None | N/A |
| 98 | 2 x Pits | Prehistoric |
| 102 | Gully | Unknown |
| 103 | 2 x Pits | Prehistoric |
| 108 | Ditch Terminus | Unknown |
| 109 | 3 x Post-holes | Unknown |
| 119 | None | N/A |
| 120 | None | N/A |
| 121 | Ditch | Prehistoric |
| 125 | None | N/A |
| 126 | None | N/A |
| 127 | None | N/A |
| 128 | None | N/A |
| 129 | None | N/A |
| 130 | None | N/A |
| 131 | Quarry Pit | Unknown |
| 132 | None | N/A |

3.3 Archaeological Results

- 3.3.1 The initial results of the positive trenches are discussed below, in numerical order (Figure 2). All features had single fills unless otherwise stated.

Trench 87

- 3.3.2 A pit [308703] was located towards the south end of this trench. This feature was 0.5m deep and contained neither charcoal nor any finds and was interpreted as a natural feature.

Trench 98

- 3.3.3 Two features, located adjacent to one another, were recorded at the south-west end of this trench. Pit [309804] was a shallow subcircular pit, which contained a small sherd of prehistoric pottery and several fragments of animal bone.
- 3.3.4 A large feature [309806], interpreted as either a ditch terminus or an ovoid-shaped pit, extended beyond the Limit of Excavation (LoE). No finds were retrieved from this feature. A relationship between the two features in this trench could not be determined.

Trench 102

- 3.3.5 A N – S aligned ditch [310203] was recorded at the south end of this trench. It was 0.5m wide by 0.15m deep, and no finds were retrieved from it.

Trench 103

- 3.3.6 Two small pits were located in the south half of this trench.
- 3.3.7 Pit [310303] was sub-circular, 0.7m long x 0.65m wide x 0.12m deep. It contained two fills. The top fill, (310305), was a charcoal-rich deliberate deposition sealing the lower fill, (310304), a redeposited basal fill comprising mixed chalk and light brown silts. No finds were recovered.
- 3.3.8 Pit [310306] was an oval pit, 0.6+m long x 0.6m wide x 0.5m deep, which extended beyond the LoE of the trench. The upper fill, (310808), was 0.4m deep, had occasional charcoal flecks, and contained a small abraded sherd of prehistoric pottery. The lower fill (310307), was 0.1m deep, and contained several bone fragments and two abraded sherds of prehistoric pottery.

Trench 108

- 3.3.9 A N - S oriented ditch terminus [310804], 1.4m long x 0.83m wide x 0.35m deep was recorded in this trench. No finds were retrieved from this feature. It is possible that this is the terminus to ditch [310203], recorded in trench 102, as both share similar alignment.

Trench 109

- 3.3.10 Three shallow postholes, [310904], [310906], and [310908] were excavated in this trench. Any relationship or association between these features was not apparent from their spatial configuration within the trench. No finds were retrieved from any of the three features.

Trench 121

- 3.3.11 This trench was targeted over a geophysical *trend* that extended westward upslope. The anomaly correlated with a WNW – ESE oriented ditch [312103], measuring 2.2m long x 1.3m wide x 0.6m deep. The upper fill (312105) contained a small abraded sherd of pottery, and the basal fill (312104) consisted solely of redeposited chalk.

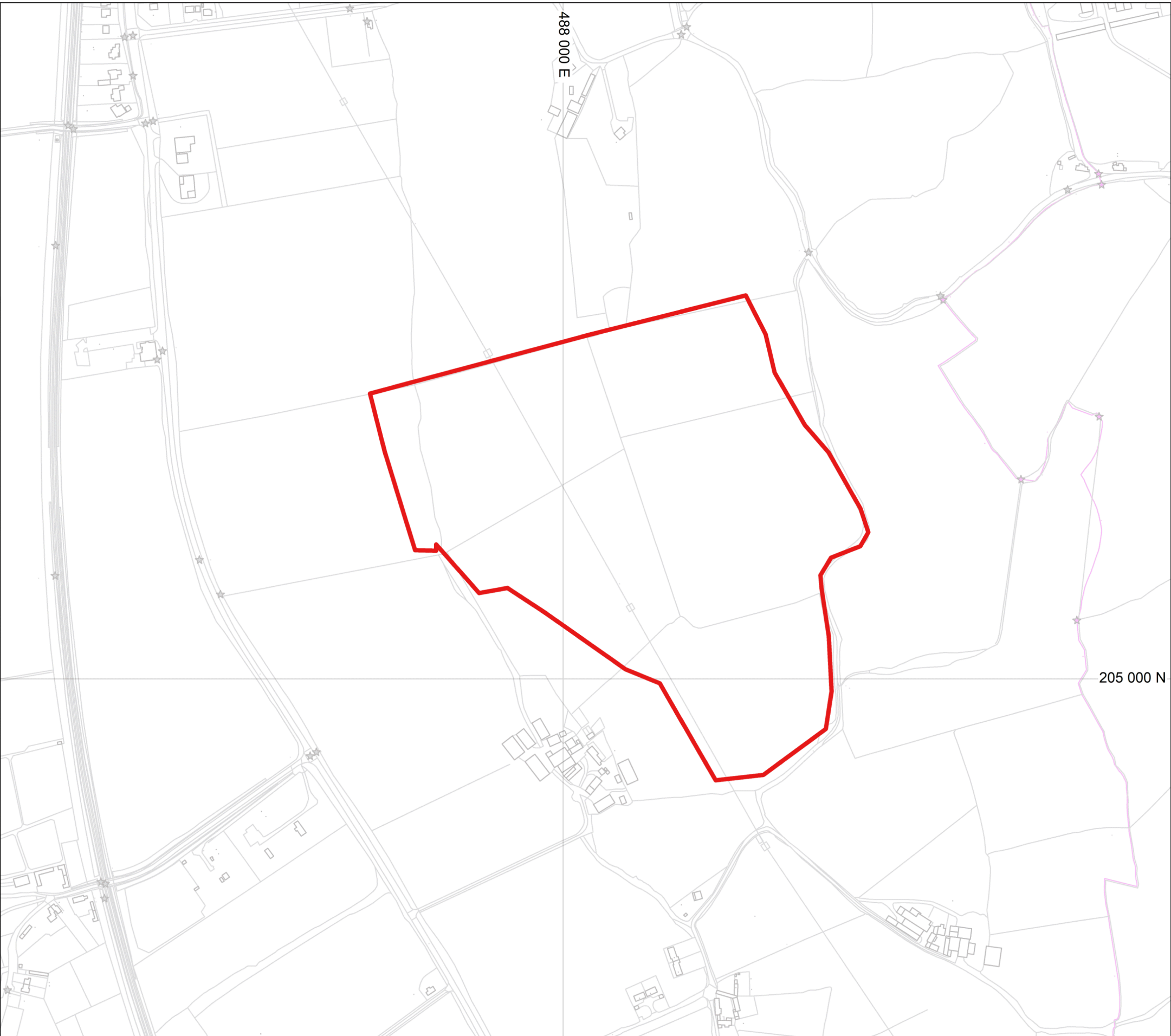
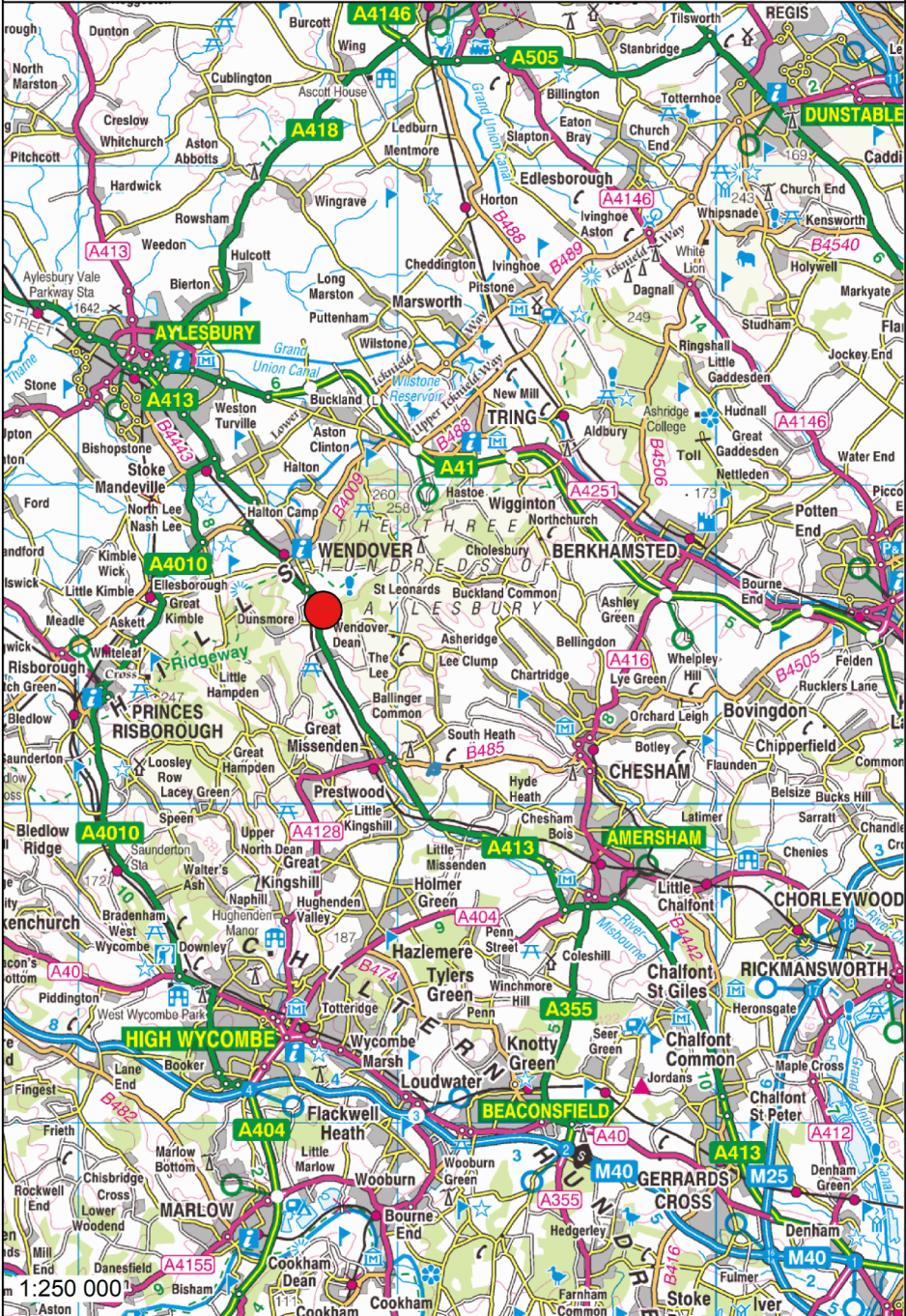
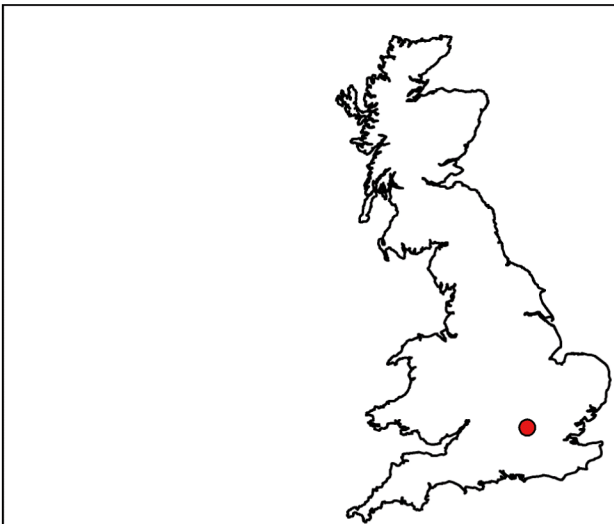
Trench 131

- 3.3.12 A large quarry pit [313104] was recorded at the north end of this trench. It measured 8m long and was mechanically excavated to a depth of 1.5m below the present ground level. The pit had several tip-lines of material along the south edge of the feature, including a charcoal-rich fill (313105), which was bulk sampled. No finds were retrieved from this feature, though as it is relatively close to the Upper Wendover Dean Farm buildings, this could infer a possible relationship, meaning the pit might be post-medieval.

4 Summary

- 4.1.1 The trial trenching exposed a small scatter of prehistoric features, including four pits and a ditch in three trenches. A further four trenches exposed another pit, gully, ditch and three post holes which are undated. This indicates moderate human activity within the site but no obvious concentration such as a settlement or farmstead.
- 4.1.2 One further feature, a quarry pit, is possibly associated with the nearby farm and may therefore be post-medieval.

5 Appendix - Figures



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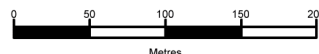
- Site location
- Site extent

High Speed Two
Figure 1. Site location

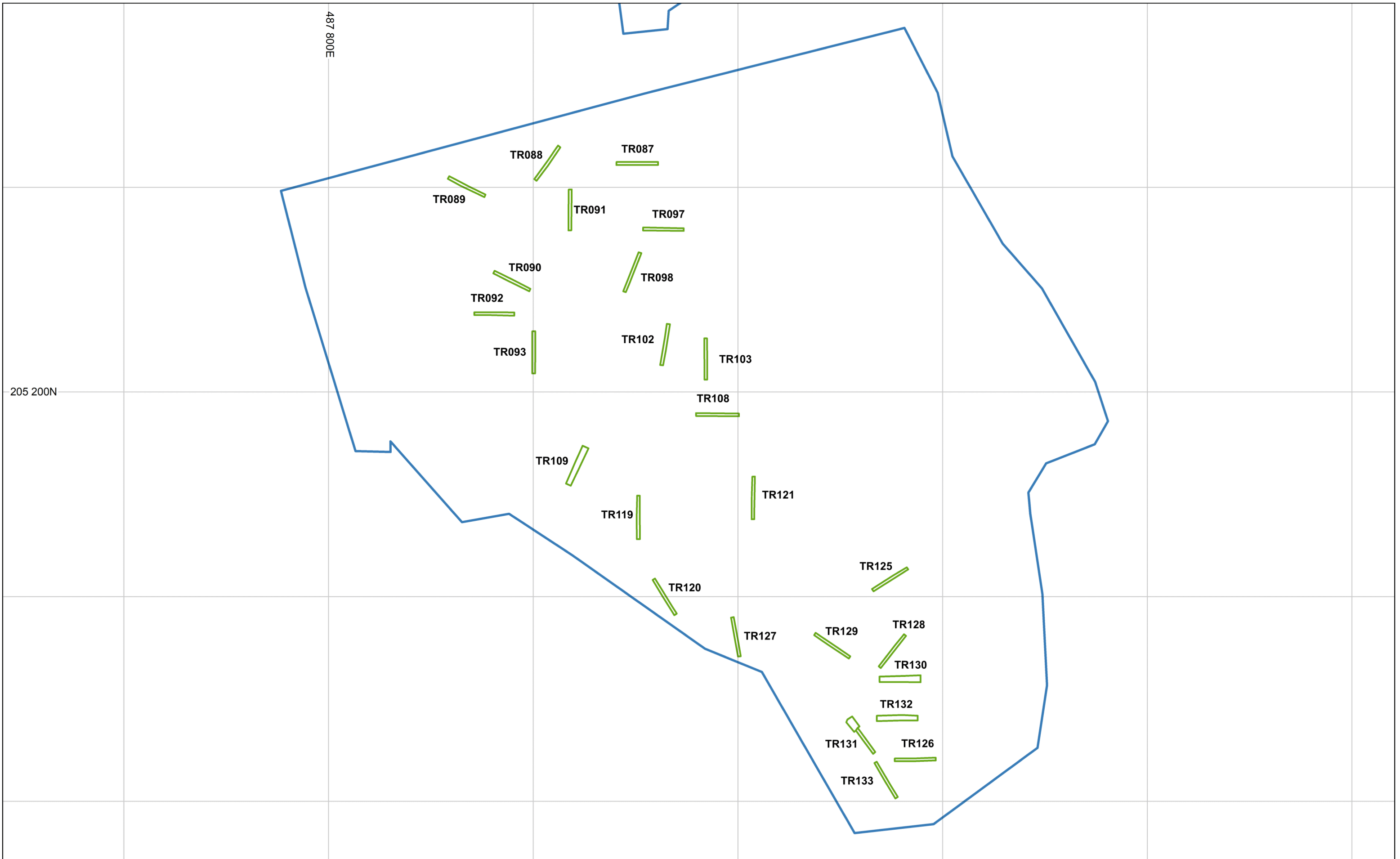
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Legend

- Excavated evaluation trench
- Site extent

High Speed Two

Figure 2. Overview of excavated evaluation trenches

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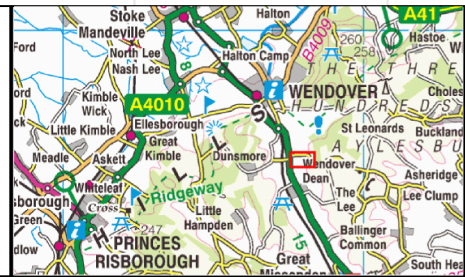


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Archaeological feature

Excavated evaluation trench

Site extent



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Figure 3. Overview of archaeological features

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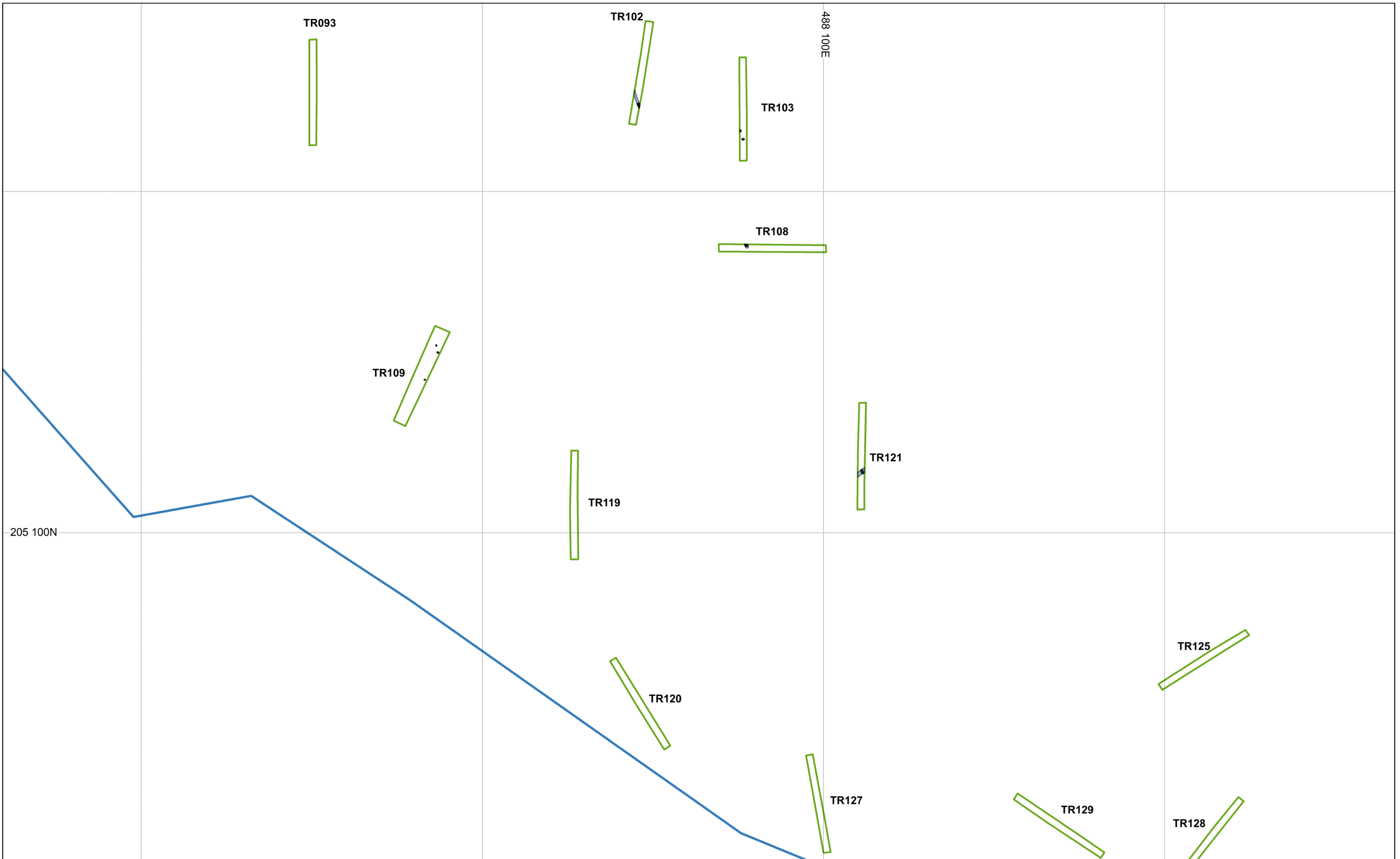
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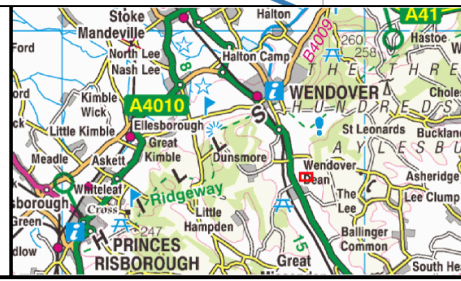
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Archaeological feature

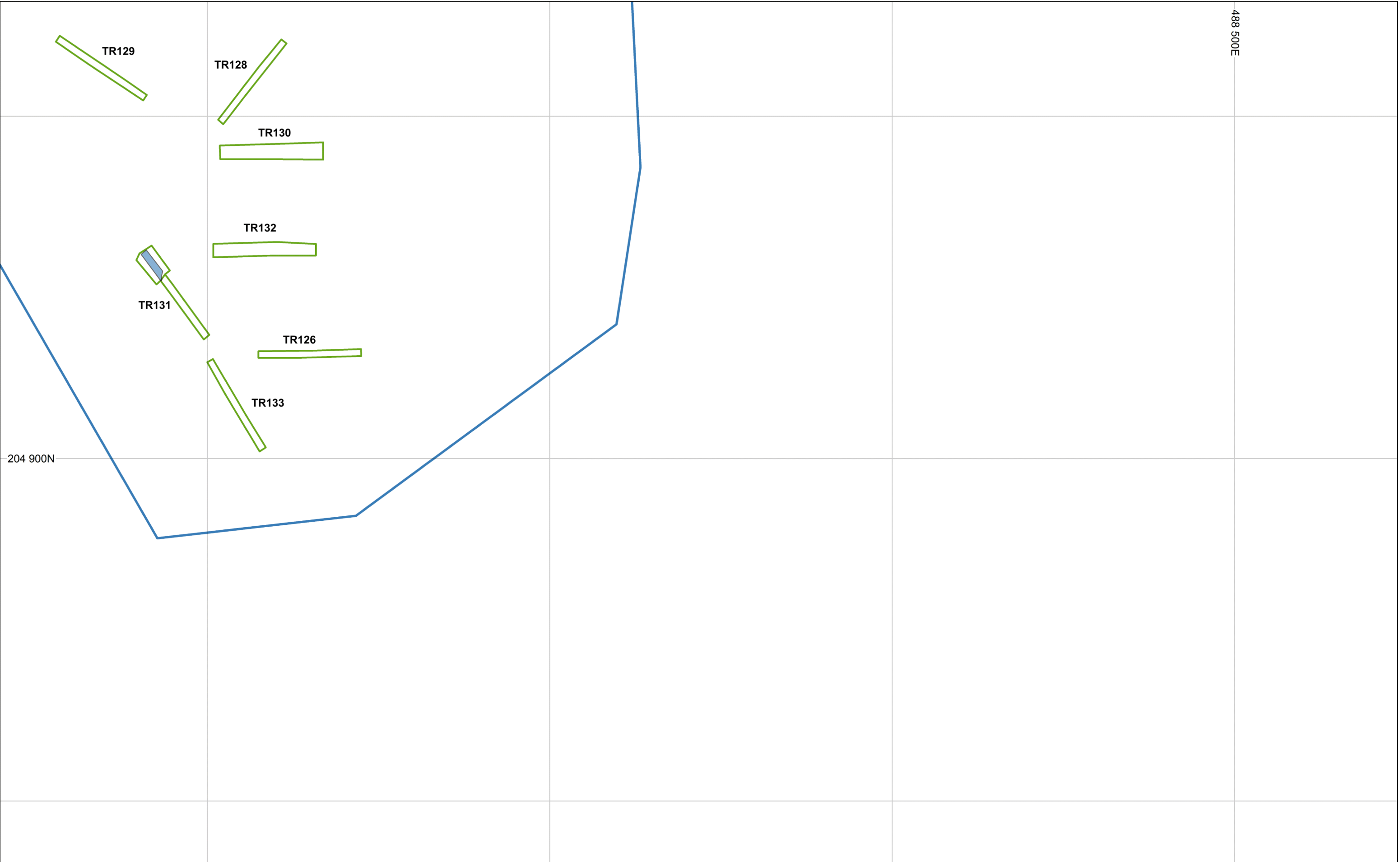
Excavated evaluation trench

High Speed Two
Figure 5. Detail of trench results 2 of 3

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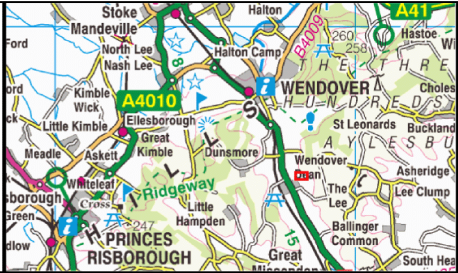
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Legend

-  Archaeological feature
-  Excavated evaluation trench
-  Site extent



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Figure 6. Detail of trench results 3 of 3

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