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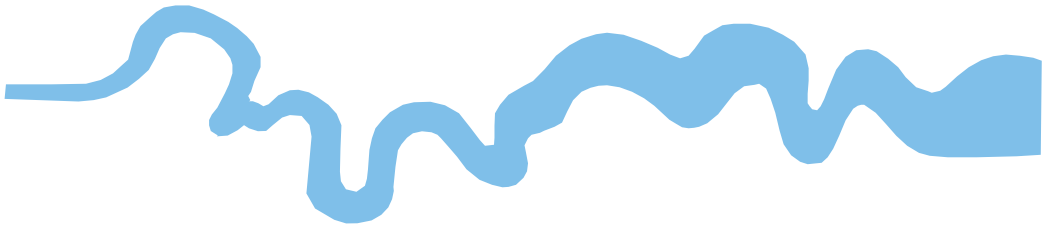

EAST MIDLANDS

Cemetery Extension, Mill Lane Cemetery, King's Sutton, Northamptonshire

Archaeological Evaluation

by Joshua Hargreaves

Site Code: KSC22/234

(SP 5019 3551)

Cemetery Extension, Mill Lane Cemetery, King's Sutton, Northamptonshire

An Archaeological Evaluation

For King's Sutton Parish Council

By Joshua Hargreaves

TVAS East Midlands

Event Number: ENN110935

Site Code KSC 22/234

December 2022

Summary

Site name: Cemetery Extension, Mill Lane Cemetery, King's Sutton, Northamptonshire.

Grid reference: SP 5019 3551

Site activity: Field Evaluation

Date and duration of project: 13th-14th December 2022

Project coordinator: Jo Pine

Site supervisors: Joshua Hargreaves

Site code: KSC 22/234

Area of site: circa 0.5ha

Summary of results: A total of six trenches were excavated and revealed evidence of a large enclosure and a scattering on internal features that were initially identified via aerial photography. No dating evidence was recovered but the morphology of the enclosure suggests a date of Iron Age into early Roman.

Location and reference of archive: The archive is presently held at TVAS, East Midlands and will be deposited at Northamptonshire archives store in due course.

Report edited/checked by:	Steve Ford✓ 22.12.22
	Steve Preston✓ 22.12.22

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Cemetery Extension, Mill lane Cemetery, King's Sutton, Northamptonshire
An Archaeological Evaluation

By Joshua Hargreaves

Report 22/234

Introduction

This report documents the results of an archaeological field evaluation carried out on a cemetery extension for Mill Lane cemetery, King's Sutton, Northamptonshire (SP 5019 3551) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Ms Liz Hart, clerk to King's Sutton Parish Council, Kings Sutton Millennium Memorial Hall, Astrop Road, King's Sutton.

The c. 0.5 hectare site lies on the east side of Mill Lane which itself lies to the south of King's Sutton, Northamptonshire (SP 5019 3551) Planning permission (WNS/2021/1521/FUL) has been gained from West Northamptonshire Council to extend the parish cemetery. The consent includes a condition relating to archaeology. As a consequence of the possibility of archaeological deposits on site which may be damaged or destroyed by groundworks, a field evaluation has been requested by the county archaeological officer to address the planning condition. The is in accordance with the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF 2021) and the District Council's policies on archaeology. Two components of work were proposed, fieldwalking and field evaluation by machine dug trenching. The field investigation was carried out to a specification approved by Ms Liz Mordue the Archaeology Advisor to West Northamptonshire Council. The fieldwork was undertaken by Jo Pine and Josh Hargreaves between 13th and 14th December 2022 and the site code is KSC 22/234. The archive is presently held at TVAS East Midlands and will be deposited at Northamptonshire archives store in due course.

Location, topography and geology

The site is located c. 350m south of the centre of King's Sutton on the southern limit of the modern village extent (Fig. 1). The proposed development site lies within agricultural land and has been heavily ploughed and used for arable farming. It lies at a height of 95m above Ordnance Datum and the underlying geology is interbedded siltstones and mudstones of the Dyrham formation (BGS 1982). The Dyrham formation also includes silts and clays formerly identified as Middle Lias Silts and Clays. This matched the geology observed in the trenches.

Archaeological background

The archaeological potential of the site has been highlighted in the brief for the project prepared by Ms Liz Mordue of North Northamptonshire Council drawing on data within the Northamptonshire Historic Environment Record. In summary the site lies within an 'Area of Archaeological Interest' in the local plan which corresponds with a rectangular enclosure visible from the air. From its morphology, the enclosure is expected to be of Iron Age into Roman date. The air photography suggests that there may be internal features (at least one ditch) with the enclosure ditch possibly re-cut on more than one occasion. Additional undated crop marks are also visible to the west and include smaller enclosures, linear features and pit-like maculae.

Objectives and methodology

The purpose of the evaluation was to determine the presence/ absence, extent, condition, character, quality and date of any archaeological or palaeo-environmental deposits within the area of development. This work was be carried out in a manner which will not compromise the integrity of archaeological features or deposits which warrant preservation in-situ or might better be excavated under conditions pertaining to full excavation.

The specific research aims of this project are;

a) to determine/confirm that the crop mark anomalies identified are of archaeological origin.

b) to determine the date and form of the possible enclosure and determine the extent to which there are internal features within

c) to provide information that allows a decision to be made on the planning application and to draw up a mitigation strategy, appropriate to the significance of the archaeology.

d) To determine seemingly ‘blank’ areas on the aerial photographs and geophysical survey

It was proposed to dig 5 trenches, 25m long and 1.6-2m wide. The trenches were intended to target both aerial photographic anomalies but include other ‘blank’ areas as well as provide a good spatial coverage of the whole development area. Topsoil and overburden was to be removed by a machine equipped with a toothless ditch bucket and under constant archaeological supervision. All archaeological features found were to be cleaned and recorded using the appropriate hand tools.

Results

Evaluation

All trenches were excavated, but with trench 5 was split into two parts (Trenches 5 and 6) in order to avoid a protected tree (Fig. 2). They ranged in length from 5.3m to 26.2m and in depth from 0.33m to 0.64m. A complete list of trenches giving lengths, breadths, depths and a description of sections and geology is given in Appendix 1. The excavated features, with dating evidence, are summarized in Appendix 2.

Trench 1 (Figs 2, 3, 4, 5 and 7, Plates 1 and 6)

Trench 1 was aligned roughly N-S and was 26.15m long and 0.48m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.39m of topsoil; a mid reddish brown sandy silt, overlying the natural geology; mid reddish brown mudstone in silt with areas of yellow sandy silt to the north. A linear was observed and investigated 15m from the south end of the trench. It was excavated in two slots (3 and 4) in order to properly identify its limits. It was filled (52 and 53 respectively) with a reddish brown sandy silt with occasional mottled yellow lenses. A bulk environmental soil sample was taken. This ditch appears to correspond with crop mark of the enclosure ditch. No finds were recorded from this trench.

Trench 2 (Figs 2, 3, 4, 6 and 7, Plates 2 and 8)

Trench 2 was aligned roughly NW-SE and was 24.95m long and 0.33m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.33m of topsoil, overlaying the natural geology; mid reddish brown mudstone in silt with patches of yellow sandy silt. At c. 8m from its northern end a ditch [6] was observed. It was filled with (56) a dark reddish brown sandy silt with occasional mudstone inclusions. A bulk environmental soil sample was taken from this feature. This ditch appears to correspond with the enclosure ditch identified by crop marks. At the southern end of the trench a very dubious pit [7] was investigated, it had a diameter of 0.6m and a depth of 0.07m. It had an irregular base and gradual sides and was filled with (57) a light grey brown sandy silt with no inclusions. Upon investigation the possible pit was shown to be a tree hole. No finds were recovered from this trench.

Trench 3 (Figs 2, 3, 4, 5 and 7)

Trench 3 was aligned N-S and was 25.10m long and 0.41m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.37m of topsoil overlying the natural geology; a mid reddish brown mudstone in sandy silt. A ditch [2] was recorded 18m from the south west end of the trench with a width of 0.99m and a depth of 0.26m, it had steep sides and a flat base.

Its fill (54) was mid red brown sandy silt with very occasional inclusions of mudstone, with frequent evidence of large rooting activity. No finds were recovered from this feature.

Trench 4 (Figs 2, 3, 4, 5 and 7, Plates 3 and 5)

This was aligned E-W and was 24.60m long and 0.38m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.38m of topsoil this overlay the natural geology; a mid reddish brown mudstone in sandy silt. At 17.4m from the western end of the trench ditch [1] was observed. It had a width of 1.70m and an excavated depth of 0.58m although it was not bottomed. Its fill (51) was a dark reddish brown sandy silt with occasional mudstone inclusions. A very poorly preserved human skull was recorded in the fill of this ditch but covered and left in-situ as specified in the project brief. A soil sample was taken from this ditch but no finds were recovered. This ditch appears to roughly correspond with crop mark anomalies of internal enclosure features identified on the aerial photographs.

Trench 5 (Figs 2, 3 and 7)

Trench 5 was aligned E-W and was 5.25m long and 0.37m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.3m of topsoil, A mid-dark red brown sandy silt. This sealed the natural geology; mid yellow brown clayey silt with frequent mudstone.. No archaeological features were recorded in this trench.

Trench 6 (Figs 2, 3, 4, 6 and 7, Plates 4 and 7)

This was aligned NE-SW and was 19.70m long and 0.64m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.37m of topsoil overlaying the natural geology; a mid yellowish brown clayey silt with frequent mudstone. A ditch [5] was recorded 12.80m from the west end of the trench. Its fill (55) was a dark reddish brown sandy silt with occasional mudstone inclusions. The ditch had gradual sides and a flat base, its depth was 0.71m and excavated to a width of 1.6m. An environmental soil sample was taken from this feature.

Field conditions were not suitable for fieldwalking and this was not undertaken

Finds

Macrobotanical remains by Joanna Pine

A total of four samples were processed from the deposits encountered during the evaluation. The samples were 10 litres and were wet-sieved to 0.25mm and air dried. The flots were examined under a low-power binocular

microscope at magnifications betweenx10 and x40. No charred plant remains or charcoal were recovered. A full list of the samples is summarised in Appendix 3.

Conclusion

The evaluation has been successful in assessing the archaeological potential of the proposed development site. Six trenches were opened successfully to cover the required percentage and confirmed the presence of the large enclosure that was identified as a cropmark. The lack of material culture to be recovered was surprising and might suggest that the enclosure was primarily used for stock rather than occupation. The paucity of artefacts makes the close dating of the enclosure impossible to do at this stage. Trench 4 and 6 identified possible internal features of the enclosure. Trench 4 examined a previously recorded large ditch but the feature in trench 6 was previously unidentified.

A ditch of unknown date which also was not visible on the aerial photographs was excavated in trench 3. The fill and profile of the ditch including the evidence of a lot of rooting suggest that this linear could have been a field boundary or hedgerow, perhaps pre-dating 19th century enclosure.

The evaluation has confirmed that the archaeological potential of this site is high.

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References

BGS, 1982, *British Geological Survey*, 1:50000, Solids and Drift Edition, Sheet 201, Keyworth
NPPF, 2021, *National Planning Policy Framework*, Dept Communities and Local Govt, London

APPENDIX 1: Trench details

0m at South or West end

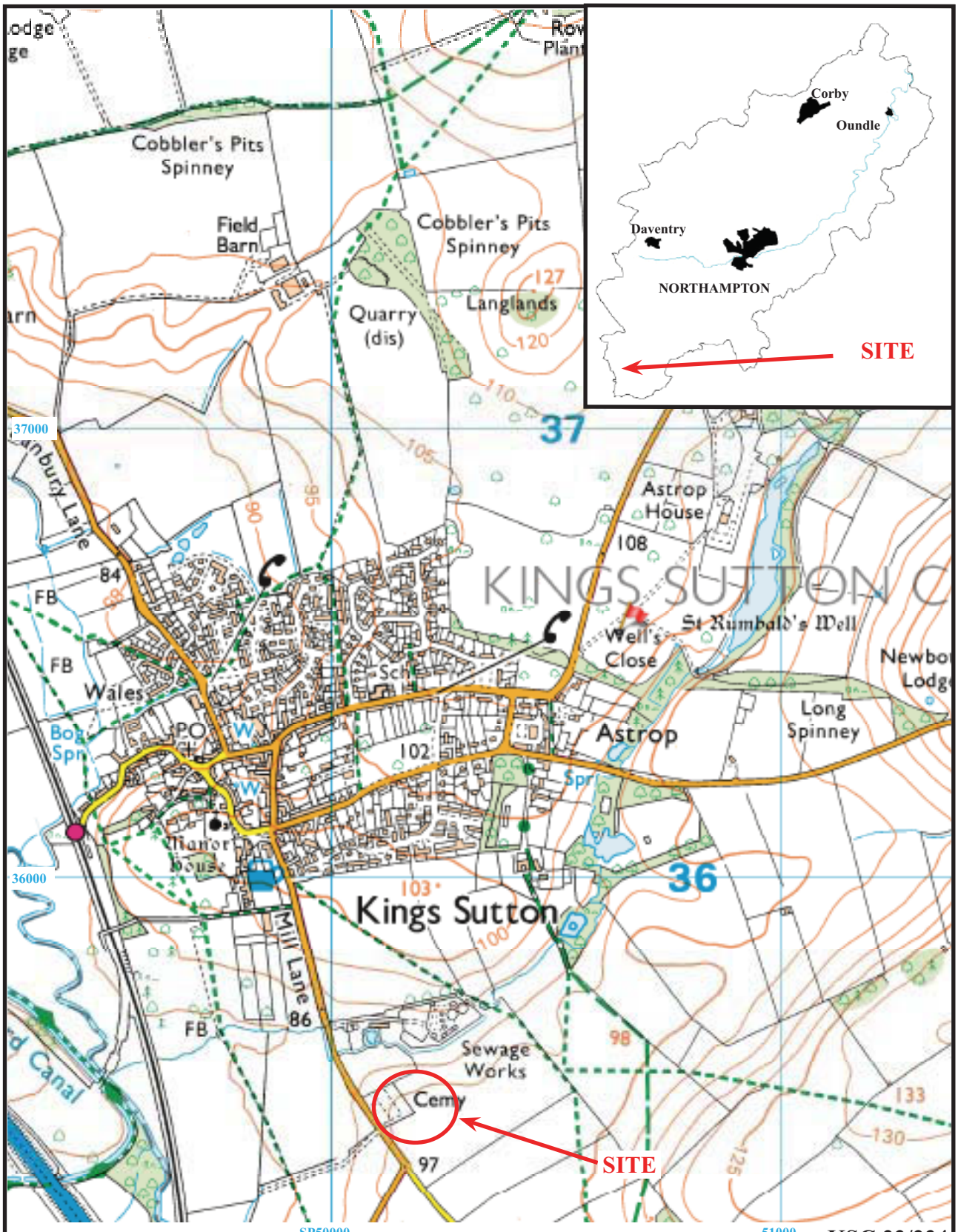
Trench	*Length (m)*	*Breadth (m)*	*Depth (m)*	*Comment*
1	26.15	1.60	0.48	0.0-0.39m mid reddish brown sandy silt topsoil; .0.39m+ mid reddish brown mudstone in a sandy silt natural geology, Ditches 1 and 2, **[Pls 1 and 6]**
2	24.95	1.60	0.33	0.0-0.33m mid reddish brown sandy silt topsoil; .0.33m+ natural geology, Ditch 6, tree hole 7, **[Pls 2 and 8]**
3	25.10	1.60	0.41	0.0-0.37m mid reddish brown sandy silt topsoil; .0.37m+ natural geology,. Ditch 2
4	24.60	1.60	0.38	0.0-0.38m mid reddish brown sandy silt topsoil; .0.38m+ natural geology, Ditch 1, [**Pls 3 and 5]**
5	5.25	1.60	0.37	0.0-0.37m mid reddish brown sandy silt topsoil; .0.37m+ natural geology,
6	19.7	1.60	0.64	0.0-0.37m mid reddish brown sandy silt topsoil; .0.37m+ natural geology,. Ditch 5, [**Pls 4 and 7]**

APPENDIX 2: Feature details

Trench	*Cut*	*fill*	*Type*	*Date*	*Dating Evidence*
1-6		50	Topsoil	Unknown	N/A
4	1	51	Colluvium	Unknown	N/A
1	3	52	Post Hole	Unknown	N/A
1	4	53	Post Hole	Unknown	N/A
2	3	54	Gully Slot	Unknown	N/A
6	2	55	Ditch Slot	Unknown	N/A
7	2	56	Pit	Unknown	N/A

APPENDIX 3: Environmental Samples

Trench	*Cut*	*fill*	*Type*	*Sample Number*	*Sample Volume (Litres)*
4	1	51	Ditch Slot	1	16
1	3	52	Ditch Slot	2	16
2	6	53	Ditch Slot	3	16
6	5	54	Ditch Slot	4	16



KSC 22/234

Cemetery Extension, Mill Lane Cemetery, Kings Sutton, Northamptonshire, 2022
Proposal for an archaeological evaluation

Figure 1. Location of site within Kings Sutton and Northamptonshire.

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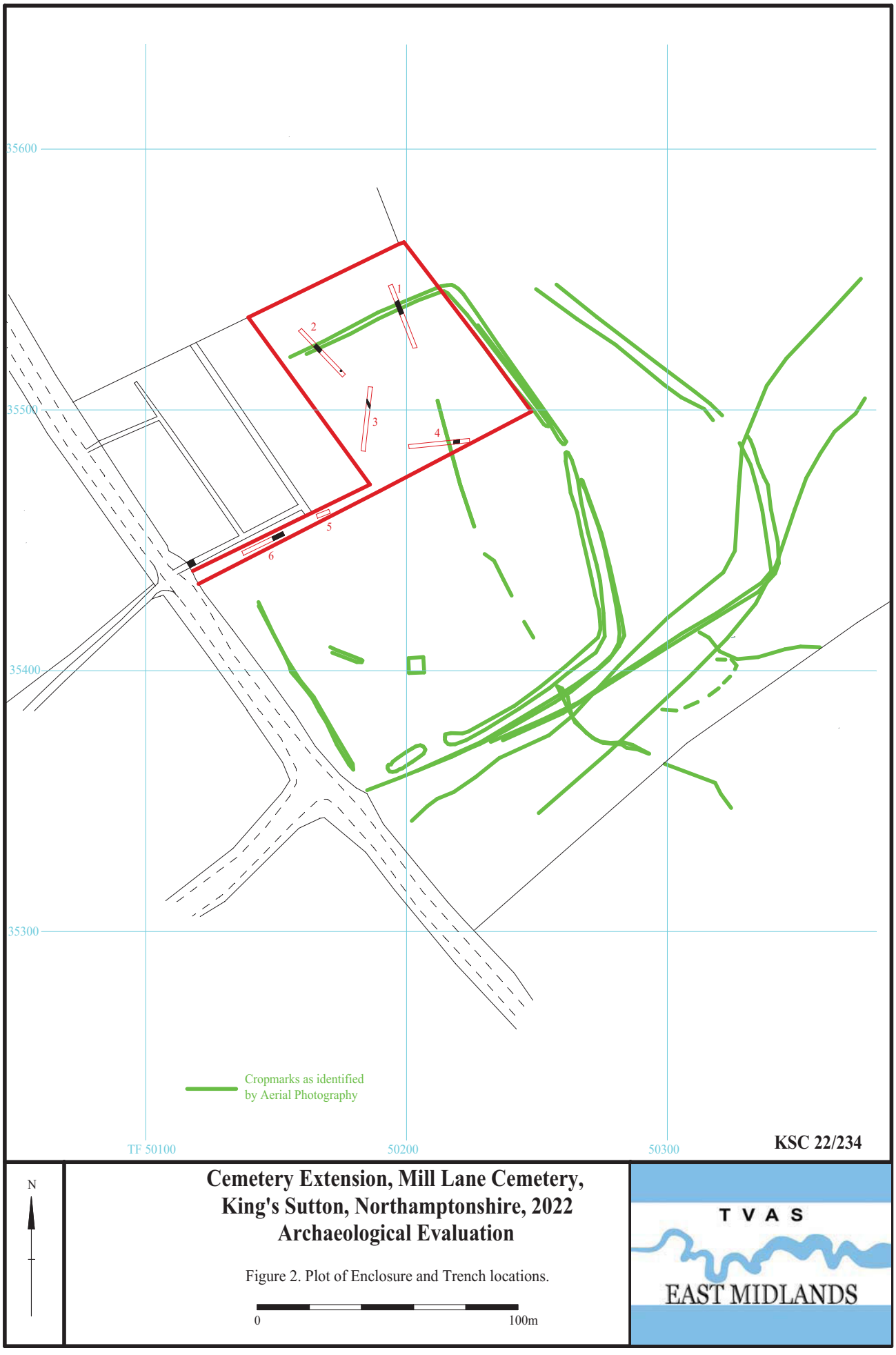

Cemetery Extension, Mill Lane Cemetery, King's Sutton, Northamptonshire, 2022 Archaeological Evaluation

Figure 2. Plot of Enclosure and Trench locations.

TVAS EAST MIDLANDS

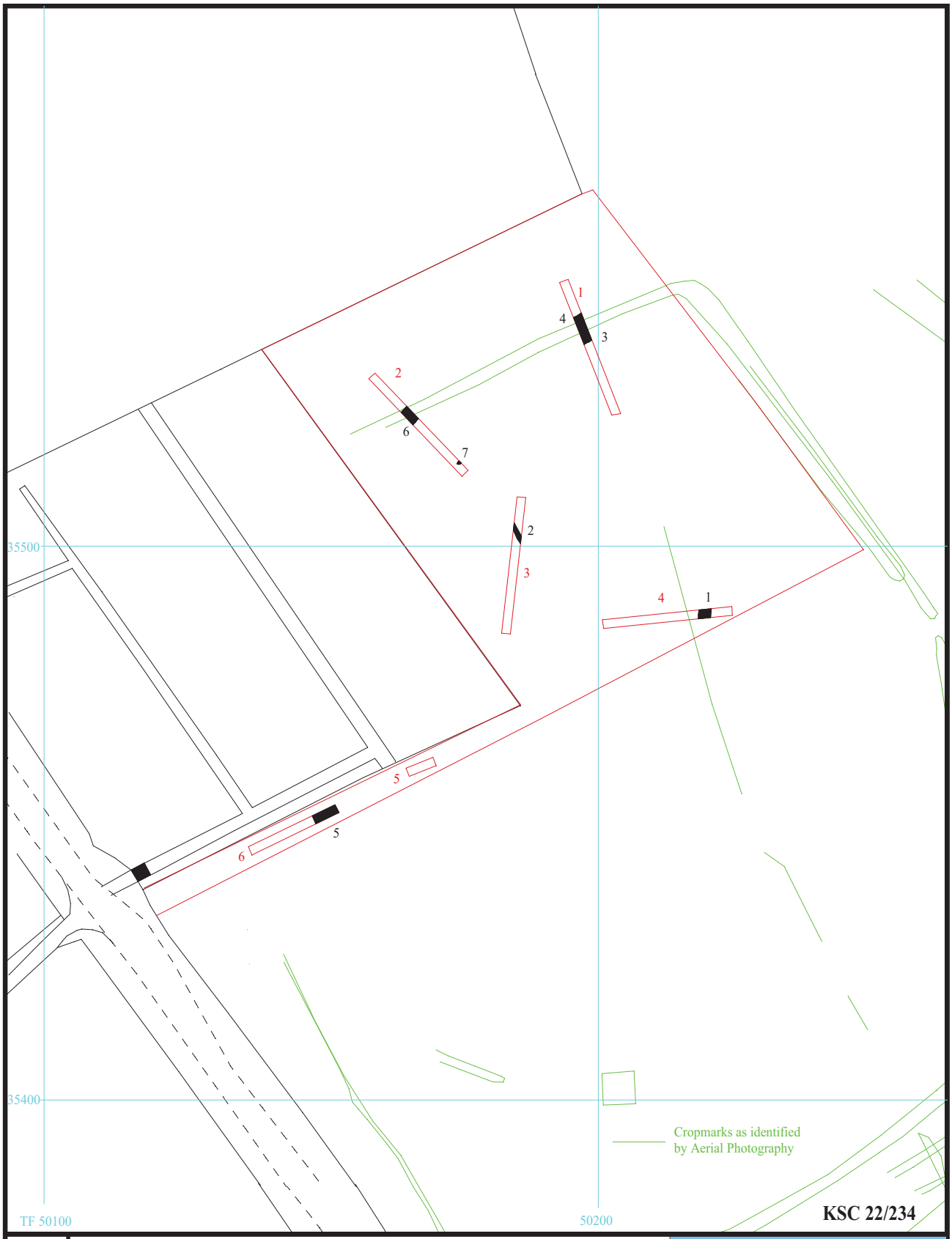

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Figure 3. Trench locations.

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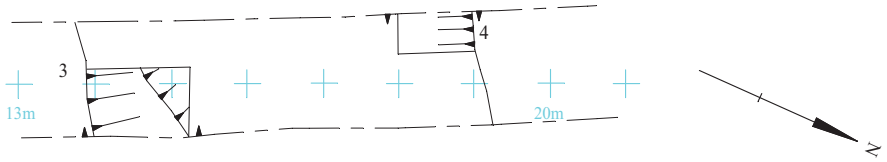
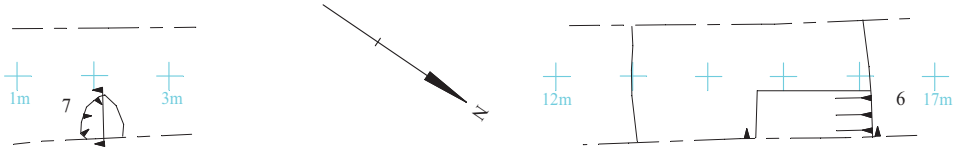
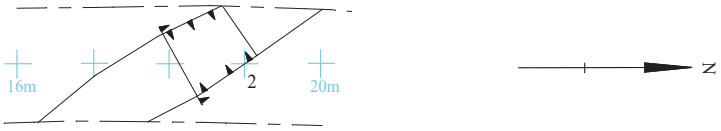
Trench 1



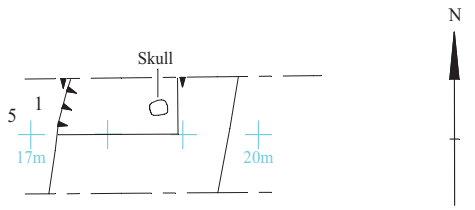
Trench 2



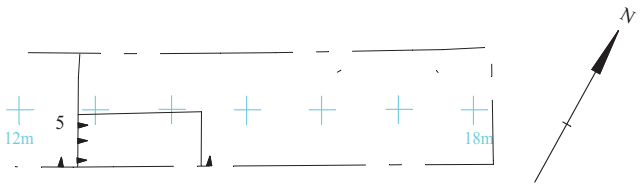
Trench 3



Trench 4



Trench 6



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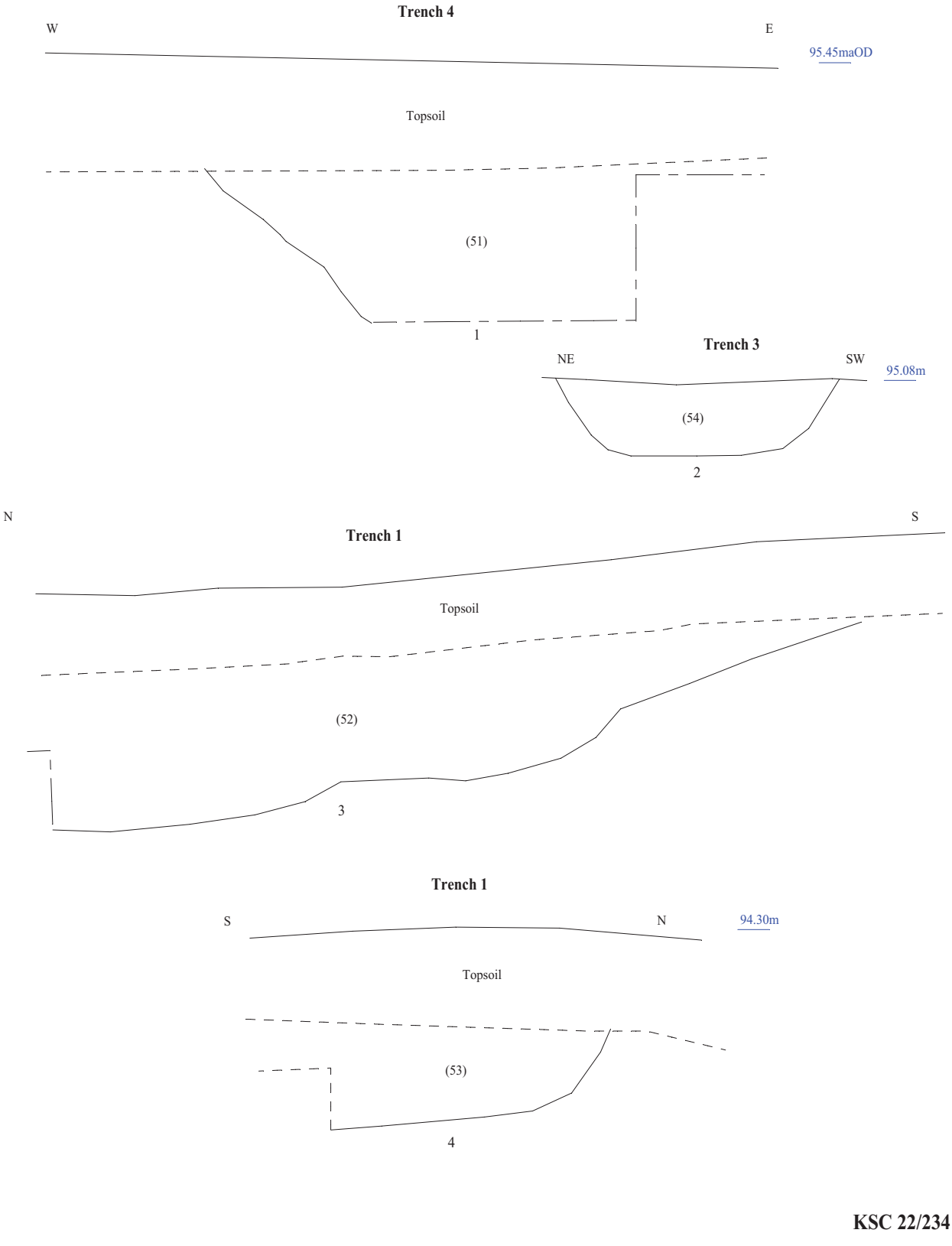
Cemetery Extension, Mill Lane Cemetery
King's Sutton, Northamptonshire 2022
Archaeological Evaluation

Figure 4. Trench Plans.

0 1m

TVAS EAST MIDLANDS



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Cemetery Extension, Mill Lane Cemetery King's Sutton, Northamptonshire 2022 Archaeological Evaluation

Figure 5. Sections.

0 1m

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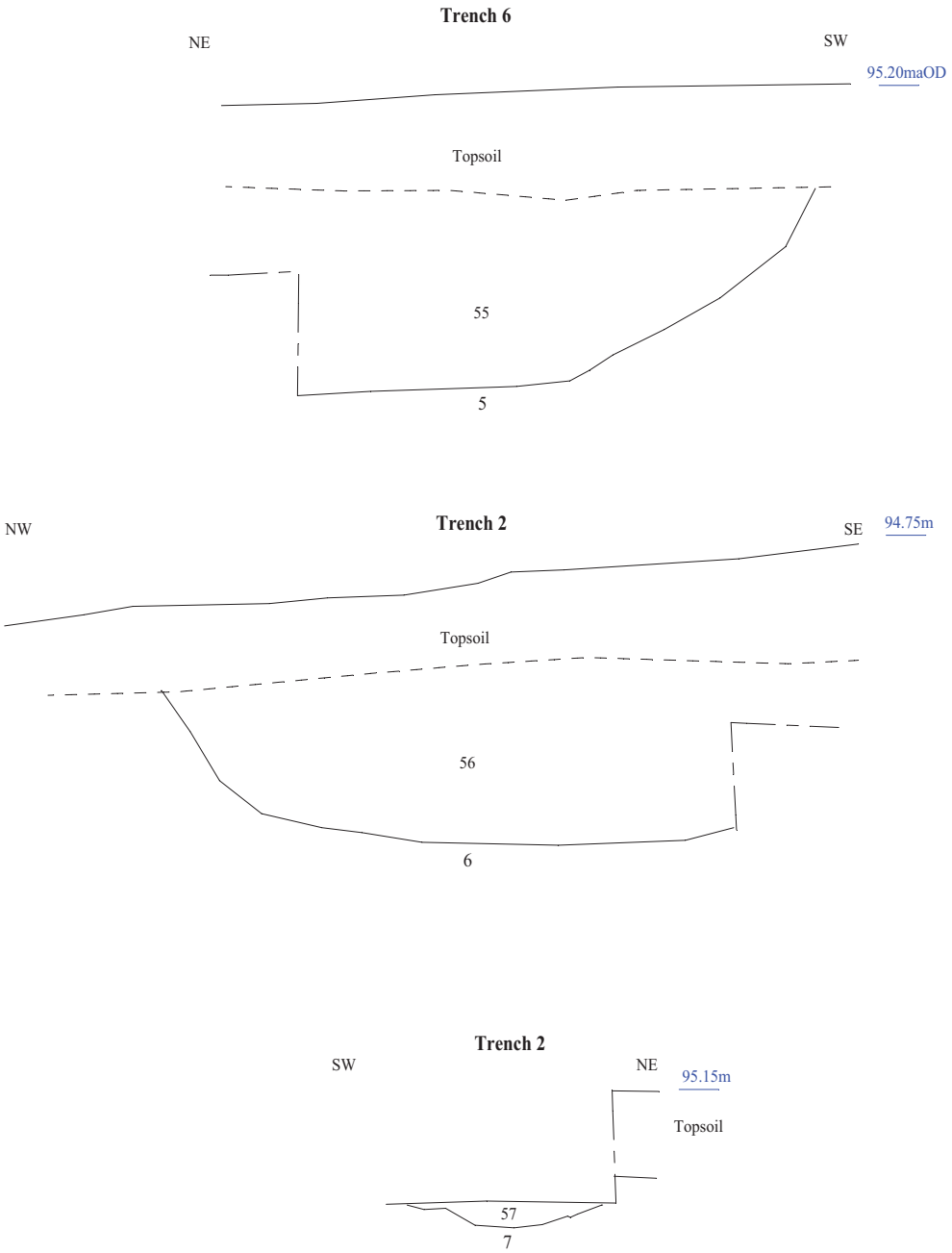

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Figure 6. Sections.

0 1m

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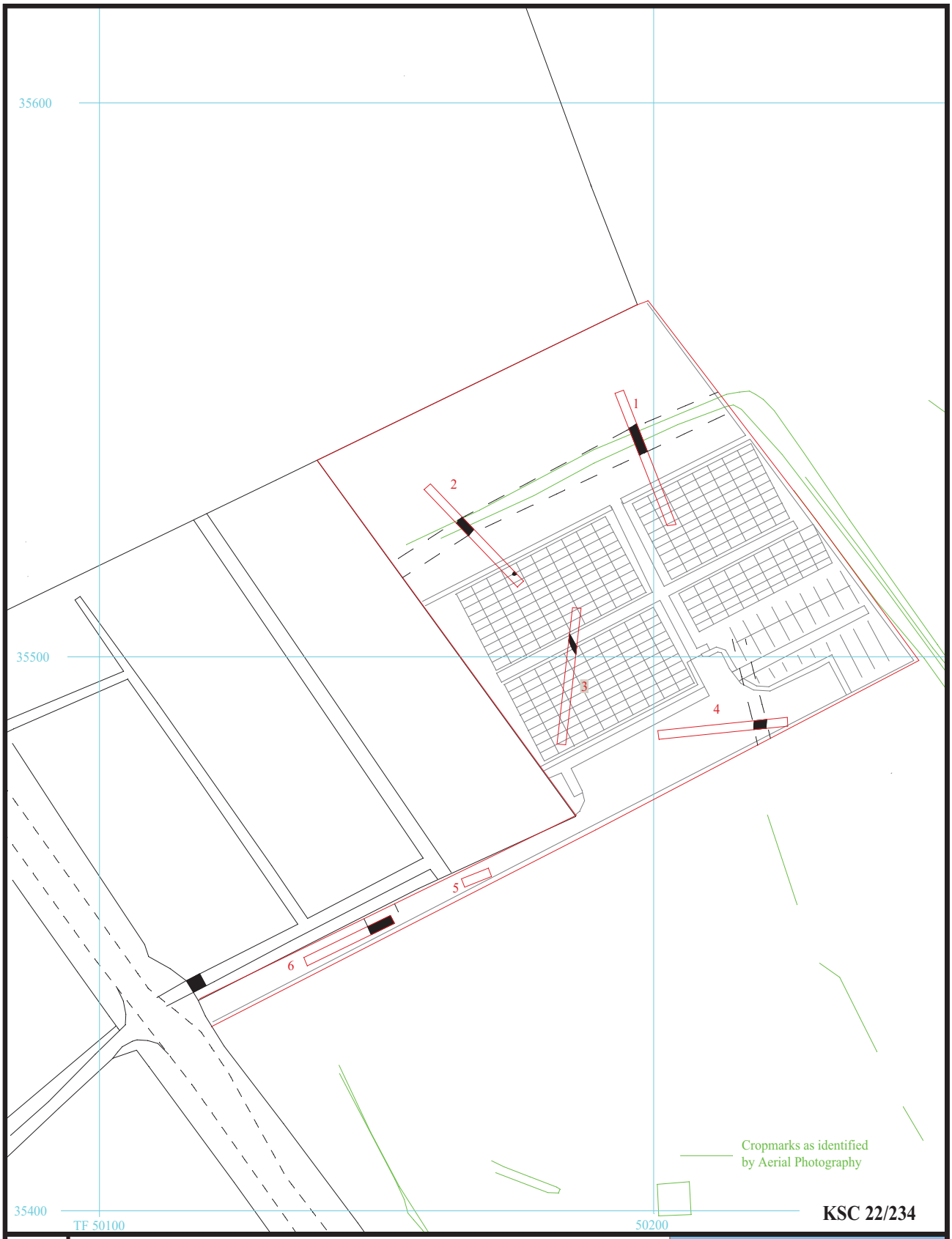

Cemetery Extension, Mill Lane Cemetery, King's Sutton, Northamptonshire, 2022 Archaeological Evaluation

Figure 7. Trench, feature and cropmark locations, with overlay of cemetery extension plan

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Plate 1. Trench 1, looking South,
Scales: 2m, 1m and 0.5m.

Plate 2. Trench 2, looking North West,
Scales: 2m, 1m and 0.5m.

Plate 3. Trench 4, looking East,
Scales: 2m, 1m and 0.5m.

Plate 4. Trench 6, looking East,
Scales: 2m, 1m and 0.5m.

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Cemetery Extension, Mill Lane Cemetery,
King's Sutton, Northamptonshire, 2022
Archaeological Evaluation
Plates 1-4.

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EAST MIDLANDS

Plate 5. Trench 4, Ditch 1, looking North,
Scales: 2m and 1m.

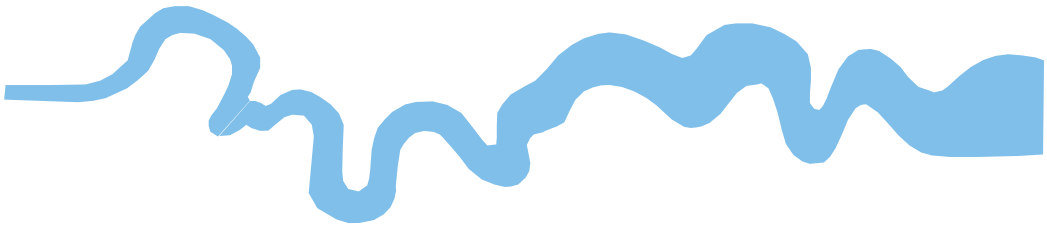
Plate 6. Trench 1, Ditch 3, looking East,
Scales: 2m and 0.5m.

Plate 7. Trench 6, Ditch 5, looking South,
Scales: 2m and 0.5m.

Plate 8. Trench 2, Ditch 6, looking East,
Scales: 2m and 0.5m.

TIME CHART

	Calendar Years
Modern	AD 1901
Victorian	AD 1837
Post Medieval	AD 1500
Medieval	AD 1066
Saxon	AD 410
Roman	AD 43
	AD 0 BC
Iron Age	750 BC
Bronze Age: Late	1300 BC
Bronze Age: Middle	1700 BC
Bronze Age: Early	2100 BC
Neolithic: Late	3300 BC
Neolithic: Early	4300 BC
Mesolithic: Late	6000 BC
Mesolithic: Early	10000 BC
Palaeolithic: Upper	30000 BC
Palaeolithic: Middle	70000 BC
Palaeolithic: Lower	2,000,000 BC



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