

**SCRAPYARD EXTENSION
SKELTONS DROVE, BECK ROW
MILDENHALL
SUFFOLK**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRIAL TRENCH
EVALUATION**

Albion
archaeology



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EVALUATION**

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Preface

Every effort has been made in the preparation of this document to provide as complete an assessment as possible, within the terms of the specification. All statements and opinions in this document are offered in good faith. Albion Archaeology cannot accept responsibility for errors of fact or opinion resulting from data supplied by a third party, or for any loss or other consequence arising from decisions or actions made upon the basis of facts or opinions expressed in this document.

The project was commissioned by Andrew S. Campbell Associates Ltd on behalf of Mr and Mrs T Buckley and monitored on behalf of the Local Planning Authority by Kate Batt of Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service.

The fieldwork was undertaken by Benjamin Carroll (Archaeological Supervisor) with the assistance of Heather White, Marcin Synus and Michael Emra (Archaeological Technicians). The report has been prepared by Benjamin Carroll with contributions from Joan Lightning (CAD Technician) and Jackie Wells (Finds Officer). All Albion projects are under the overall management of Drew Shotliff (Operations Manager).

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Key Terms

The following terms and abbreviations are used throughout this report:

Albion	Albion Archaeology
CI/A	Chartered Institute for Archaeologists
Client	Mr and Mrs T Buckley
EAA	East Anglian Archaeology
ESF	Event Suffolk
FHDC	Forest Heath District Council
HER	Historic Environment Record
HLC	Historic Landscape Characterisation
DA	Development area
WSI	Written Scheme of Investigation
SCCAS	Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service



Non-Technical Summary

Forest Heath District Council (FHDC) granted planning permission (DC/13/0143/FUL) for the change of use of agricultural land to extend the existing scrapyards at Skeltons Drove, Beck Row, Mildenhall, Suffolk, IP28 8DN.

As the development area lies in an area of archaeological significance the Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service advised that a programme of archaeological evaluation, comprising trial trenching would be required.

The trial trenching took place between 25th and 27th January 2016. A total of nine trenches were opened to sample the 1.2ha site.

Archaeological remains dating from the late Bronze Age to the modern period were identified in eight of the nine trenches. A total of fifty-four archaeological features were recorded, including twenty-one ditches (at least six of which were firmly dated to the Roman period), fourteen pits (at least one of which is Roman), and twenty-one postholes (at least one of which is dated to the Roman period).

Only one piece of late Bronze Age pottery was recovered (from peat deposit (618)). However, some of the lighter, leached ditches and pits that differ significantly from others excavated within the DA are likely to pre-date the Roman occupation of the site. A significant number of features, including postholes, pits and ditches, represent the remains of Roman settlement activity.

The Roman settlement activity and earlier prehistoric remains are of regional significance in light of research objectives relating to rural settlement and its relationship with the wider agrarian landscape.



1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 *Planning Background*

Forest Heath District Council (FHDC) granted planning permission (DC/13/0143/FUL) for the change of use of agricultural land to extend the existing scrapyards at Skeltons Drove, Beck Row, Mildenhall, Suffolk, IP28 8DN. The existing scrapyards and facilities building will be retained.

As the development area (DA) lies in an area of archaeological significance the Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service (SCCAS) advised FHDC that a programme of archaeological evaluation comprising trial trenching would be required. Accordingly, FHDC attached an archaeological condition (no. 3) to the planning consent in accordance with national planning guidelines in the form of the *National Planning Policy Framework – Section 12: Conserving and enhancing the historic environment*, which was published on 27 March 2012¹.

Albion Archaeology was commissioned by Andrew S Campbell Associates Ltd on behalf of Mr and Mrs Buckley to carry out the trial trench evaluation. The work was carried out in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) that was agreed with SCCAS prior to commencement of site works (Albion Archaeology 2016).

1.2 *Site Location and Description*

Beck Row lies c. 2.5km to the north-west of Mildenhall, in the western part of Suffolk, 5km east of the Cambridgeshire-Suffolk border. The development area (DA) is situated to the north of the village of Beck Row, on the west side of the junction of Rockery Drove and Skeltons Drove, centred on grid reference TL 68470, 78550 (Figure 1).

At the time of the fieldwork the DA comprised pasture and rough ground on the north-west side of the existing scrapyards. It was bordered to the north, east and west by hedges or fences and beyond these were fields of pasture.

The site measures approximately 1.8ha in area, excluding the access track. Approximately 1.2 ha of this area was open and available for evaluation (Figure 1).

The ground was relatively level at c. 14m OD and the underlying bedrock comprises Chalk of the West Melbury Marly Formation, formed 94 to 100 million years ago in the Cretaceous Period. The overlying superficial deposits comprise River terrace sands and gravels².

1.3 *Archaeological Background*

The DA lies within a significant historical landscape, with an archaeological site (MNL 065) indicative of multi-phased settlement immediately to the west and further prehistoric and Roman sites to the north and east. In preparation for this

¹ National Planning Policy Framework, published by the Department for Communities and Local Government (2012). Available at: <http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/planningandbuilding/nppf>.

² <http://www.bgs.ac.uk/>



report a search of the Suffolk County Council Historic Environment Record (HER) was carried out to identify all heritage assets and “Events” within a 1 km radius of the DA. The following provides a summary of those results.

Historic landscape characterisation (HLC) has identified the DA as being within former marsh or fenland (HLC Sub-category 5), situated on the edge of the Beck Row built-up area (HLC Sub-category 4). Former common arable or heathland (HLC Sub-category 1) is situated to the south of the DA. Preserved soil deposits of the original natural landscape were identified during archaeological monitoring *c.* 90m to the west of the DA, at Willow Park (ESF 19255).

The earliest evidence of activity is represented by a single findspot of Mesolithic worked flint (MNL 096) recorded on Skeltons Drove. More abundant were findspots of Neolithic pottery and worked flint, including a polished axehead (MNL 112) and leaf-shaped arrowheads (MNL 113) in the fields surrounding the DA and along Skeltons Drove. A Neolithic flint scatter (MNL 113, 096) was recorded just 60m to the north-west of the DA.

Bronze Age and Iron Age settlement evidence has been identified on land adjoining and to the rear of Smoke House Inn (MNL 502, 536), *c.* 400–500m to the south-east of the DA. Findspots of Bronze Age and Iron Age artefacts have also been recorded in fields surrounding Beck Row and the DA. In particular, a Bronze Age ‘rapier/dagger’, a burnt black area containing beaker sherds and an Iron Age silver Icenic coin (MNL 065) were recorded on land immediately to the west of the DA.

The DA lies *c.* 150m to the west of an extensive area of Roman occupation debris, including evidence of metal working (MNL 136), scatters of pottery (MNL 066), tile, bone, oyster shell (MNL 078, 075, 065), a coin (MNL 065) and a brooch hoard (MNL 543). At the northern extent of this area, *c.* 980m to the north-east of the DA, cropmarks (MNL 075) were identified that are likely to be of the same date. As yet, no archaeological excavation has occurred in this area. Further Roman settlement evidence was investigated on land adjoining the Smoke House Inn (MNL 502), on Washington Street (MNL 570) and to the west of Beck Row at RAF Mildenhall (MNL 509, 505, 510, 639).

Beck Row does not appear in Domesday Book and the nearest Anglo-Saxon settlements or manors were at Worlington and Barton Mills, *c.* 4.5km to the south, and 4km to the east at Eriswell. Accordingly, evidence for this period in the vicinity of the Beck Row comprises just two findspots: a Saxon *sceatta*, *c.* 740m to the north-east of the DA (MNL 351); and a scatter of metalwork (MNL 584) *c.* 660m to the south-east of the DA in a field.

The historic core of Beck Row, as defined in the HER (MNL 675) dates to the medieval period. Its sprawling layout encompasses the area of Shippea Hill Road and The Street (A1101) in Beck Row, spreads along Breach Drove and Holmsey Green in the direction of Wilde Street and extends as far as Holmsey Row to the south-east. No buildings dating to this period exist in Beck Row and the only activity is represented by findspots. These comprise a scatter of medieval metalwork (MNL 584) recorded *c.* 600m to the south-east of the DA and pottery (MNL 058) *c.* 550m north-east of the DA.



All of the extant listed buildings within Beck Row are dated to the post-medieval period. Both are Grade II listed and comprise a 17th-century house (DSF 275892) and an 18th-century house (DSF 275893) known as The Sycamores. The below-ground remains of a 16th/17th-century domestic building and associated outbuilding (MNL 536) were also identified during archaeological excavation (ESF 2084) on land adjacent to Skeltons Road, c. 370m to the south of the DA. In the same area a post-medieval field boundary (MNL 502) was identified. Archaeological investigations immediately to the west of the DA (ESF 19255, 19980, 20931) have revealed undated pits and ditches. Although undated, several of the ditches were considered to be associated with fenland drainage and a possible droveway.

1.4 Project Objectives

The principal objective of the trial trenching was to determine whether archaeological remains were present within the DA and, if so, to establish their extent, date, condition, nature and significance.

The relevant archaeological research frameworks and agenda for the region were provided by *Research and Archaeology: A Framework for the Eastern Counties* (Cambridgeshire, Norfolk, Hertfordshire and Essex) (Glazebrook 1997, Brown and Glazebrook 2000) and *Research and Archaeology Revisited: A Revised Framework for the East of England* (Medlycott 2011).

The broader objective of the project was to add to the knowledge and understanding of the origins and nature of past activity in the area and to produce an archive report that fully described the archaeological works. The close proximity of known prehistoric and Roman remains indicated that there was the potential for the investigation to contribute to regional research topics identified within the regional research framework. The site offered potential to examine prehistoric and Roman activity / settlement in the vicinity of known archaeological multi-phased sites to the north, east and west of the DA.

The research framework for this region has highlighted that further work to understand the inter-relationship between settlements, together with variation and change is required for the Bronze Age through to the Roman period (Medlycott 2011; 20, 31, 47). The transition between these three periods also needs further analysis to gauge the scale, rate and nature of the changes in terms of settlement type, landscape management and material culture etc. (ibid; 21, 31).



2. METHODOLOGY

The methodological approach to the project is summarised below and full methodology is provided in the WSI.

2.1 Methodological Standards

The standards and requirements set out in the following documents were adhered to throughout the project:

Albion Archaeology	<i>Procedures Manual: Volume 1 Fieldwork</i> (2nd edn, 2001).
CIfA	<i>Charter and By-law; Code of Conduct</i> (2014)
	<i>Standard and guidance for archaeological field evaluation</i> (2014)
	<i>Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials</i> (2014)
EAA	<i>Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England</i> (Gurney 2003)
Historic England (formerly English Heritage)	<i>Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE) Project Managers' Guide</i> (2015)
	<i>Environmental Archaeology: A guide to the theory and practice of methods, from sampling and recovery to post-excavation</i> , 2nd edition (2011)
SCCAS	<i>Requirements for a Trenched Archaeological Evaluation</i> (2011)
SCCAS Conservation Team	<i>Archaeological Archives in Suffolk. Guidelines for preparation and deposition</i> (2014)

The archive of finds and records generated during the project will be kept secure at all stages of the operation. All records and materials produced will be archived to the standards outlined in Historic England's *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment* and the SCCAS Conservation Team's guidelines.

Permission will be sought from the landowner for transfer of title of all finds to the SCCAS in Bury St Edmunds on completion of the project.

The SCCAS HER event number for the trial trenching is ESF23325. The parish code issued by the HER is MNL 763.

Albion Archaeology employs a full time Archives Officer to ensure that all archives are completed to the correct standards and deposited according to the relevant guidelines.



2.2 Trial Trenching

The trial trenching took place between 25th and 27th January 2016. A total of nine trenches were opened to sample the 1.2ha site. Trenches 2–8 were 2.2m wide and at least 25m long. Trench 1 was reduced to 24m from the west, due to a bund around the edge of site. Trench 9 was reduced in length to 22.5m from the west, due to fence lines obstructing the path of the mechanical excavator.

The trenches were opened by a mechanical excavator fitted with a flat-edged bucket, operated by an experienced driver under close archaeological supervision. Overburden was removed down to the top of the archaeological deposits or undisturbed geological deposits, whichever were encountered first.

The bases and sides of the trenches were cleaned by hand. Any potential archaeological features were cleaned, excavated by hand and recorded using Albion Archaeology's *pro forma* sheets. All features and deposits were assigned a unique context number commencing at 100 for Trench 1, 200 for Trench 2 *etc.* Each trench was subsequently drawn and photographed as appropriate. The trenches were inspected by the SCCAS on 27th January 2016.



3. RESULTS

3.1 Introduction

All significant deposits and features found within the trial trenches are described below and shown on Figures 2–5. A representative selection of photographs is also presented at the back of the report.

The remains are discussed by trench and chronological period. Context numbers in square brackets refer to the cuts [***] and round brackets to fills or layers (***). Trench 9 did not contain any archaeological remains.

Appendix 1 presents details on the finds recovered from the archaeological features. Detailed technical information on all deposits and archaeological features is provided in Appendix 2.

3.2 Overburden and Geological Deposits

Overburden varied across the DA but generally consisted of recently dumped material spread out over the topsoil. A thin subsoil sealed geological sand deposits. Peat deposits were present on the eastern margins of the DA, sealed by a sequence of recently dumped material, topsoil, subsoil and alluvial deposits.

Topsoil was present in all the trenches and was 0.12–0.48m thick; it comprised mid-dark grey-brown to brown-grey sandy silt. The subsoil comprised mid grey-brown to yellow-brown clay sand and sandy silt. It was 0.1–0.43m thick and was revealed in Trenches 3, 6 and 7.

Deposits of modern dumped material in Trenches 1, 3–5 and 9 were 0.08–0.5m thick and comprised dark grey-brown sandy silt. This material was particularly thick in the far northern and southern trenches; it became thinner towards the centre of the DA. In addition, Trench 2 revealed a modern tarmac surface (200), which overlay the topsoil. It was 0.08m thick at the northern end of the trench, extending for 1.62m to the south.

Trenches 5 and 9 revealed up to 0.27m of mid yellow-orange redeposited sand (502) and (903), presumably used to level the area prior to its use as a scrapyard.

Trenches 3 and 5–9 also revealed alluvial deposits. These layers comprised dark brown-grey clay silt that was 0.12–0.4m thick. In Trenches 6 and 9 these deposits were underlain by light brown-white chalk silt layers (617) and (904) that were 0.1–0.15m thick.

Overall, the thickness of overburden varied significantly between and within the trenches. It was 0.32–1m thick in Trenches 1–8 and more than 1.2m thick in the lower parts of Trenches 5 and 9. Generally, thicker overburden formed at the edges of the sand geology and into the more peaty deposits.

Undisturbed geological strata within the majority of the trenches comprised light white-yellow to orange-yellow sand, with dark grey-black alluvial clay silt and peat deposits revealed in the trenches along the eastern boundary of the DA.



3.3 **Archaeological Features and Deposits**

Archaeological remains were identified in eight of the nine trenches; they dated from the late Bronze Age to the modern periods. A total of fifty-four archaeological features were identified including twenty-one ditches (six of which are firmly dated to the Roman period), fourteen pits (at least one of which is Roman), and twenty-one postholes (at least one of which is Roman).

3.3.1 **Trench 1**

Trench 1 contained two undated archaeological features, ditch [104] and pit [108], as well as two large modern refuse pits.

NE-SW aligned ditch [104] was U-shaped with steep straight sides and a rounded base. It was at least 18m long by 1.25m wide and 0.67m deep. It was cut by oval pit [108]. The ditch contained three fills, the lower of which (105) was below the current water-table and along with (106) was derived from natural silting processes. Upper fill (107) was most likely from deliberate backfilling due to larger amounts and sizes of inclusions.

Pit [108] was U-shaped with steep to vertical sides and a concave base. It was at least 0.55m long by 0.5m wide and 0.36m deep. The lower darker fill (109), which contained charcoal and small flecks of burnt bone, was sampled <1>. This material appears to be derived from routine disposal of waste from the NW side of the feature. The upper fill (110) contained no evidence of charcoal or burnt bone; the presence of occasional small stones suggests it was most likely deposited via natural silting processes after the feature had gone out of use.

The two modern pits extended beyond the trench limits and contained refuse, including car parts, oil drums, cables and plastic items.

3.3.2 **Trench 2**

Trench 2 contained one Roman ditch [241] as well as nineteen undated archaeological features — two ditches [211], [233], five pits [207], [209], [215], [217], [239] and twelve postholes [205], [219]-[231], [235], [237]. A modern posthole, signs of animal burrows and two patches of root disturbance or variations in the natural were also present in the trench.

Roman ditch [241] was located in the south of the trench and was aligned NNW-SSE. It was U-shaped with steep straight sides and a flat base. It was at least 5.6m long by 0.64m wide and 0.34m deep. It contained three fills, of which the lower two (242) and (243) derived from natural silting processes. The upper fill (244) was most likely from deliberate backfilling due to the larger amounts and sizes of inclusions.

A group of undated features were revealed in the north of the trench including two sub-circular pits [207]/ [209] and a posthole [205], close to which was a curvilinear U-shaped gully [211] (2.35m long by 0.4m wide and 0.18m deep). Pits [207]/ [209] were U-shaped with straight, steep to vertical sides and concave bases. They were 0.55–1.46m in diameter and up to 0.16m deep. Posthole [205] was U-shaped with straight vertical sides and a concave base; it was 0.15m in diameter and 0.1m



deep. These features contained single light grey to mid brown-grey silty sand fills (208)–(212), derived from natural silting processes.

Undated posthole [213] and pit [215] were 0.29m and 0.5m in diameter respectively; they were 0.05m deep. Both contained just a single light grey silty sand fill (214) and (216) derived from natural silting processes.

Isolated undated sub-circular pit [217] was 0.49m by 0.32m and 0.15m deep within an area of animal burrows. It contained a single light grey silty sand fill (218) derived from natural silting processes.

A cluster of seven undated postholes [219]–[231] occupied the approximate centre of the trench. They formed no discernible pattern. They were 0.2–0.33m in diameter and 0.04–0.13m deep, with steep or vertical sides and flat or concave bases. All contained a single light grey sandy silt fill (220)–(232), derived from natural silting processes.

NW-SE aligned undated ditch [233] was U-shaped with steep concave sides and base. It was 2.75m long by 0.26m wide and 0.11m deep. Its dark brown-black sandy silt fill (234) derived from deliberate backfilling. It contained patches of re-deposited sand, similar to that found within modern fence foundations elsewhere on site, possibly indicating a relatively recent date for the feature.

Two undated postholes [235] and [237] and pit [239] were located at the southern end of the trench on a rough N-S alignment. The features all had broadly U-shaped profiles with shallow, concave sides and bases. They were 0.24–0.45m in diameter and up to 0.11m deep. Both the postholes and pits contained a light grey to mid grey-brown sandy silt fill (236)–(240), derived from natural silting processes.

3.3.3 Trench 3

Trench 3 contained one Roman ditch [304] as well as nine undated archaeological features, including seven ditches [312]–[327] and two pits [307], [310].

N-S aligned Roman ditch [304] was broadly perpendicular to ditches [312] and [316] to the NE. It was U-shaped with steep concave sides and base; it was at least 1.4m long by 1.6m wide and 0.38m deep. It contained two fills (305) and (306), derived from natural silting processes.

Undated pits [307] and [310] had U-shaped profiles and steep concave bases and sides. They were 1.1–1.5m in diameter and 0.14–0.25m deep. Pit [307] contained two fills — lower fill (308) was a dark brown-black clay sand; upper fill (309) was a mid-yellow-brown silty sand. Pit [310] contained a single fill (311) of brown-grey silty sand. All derive from natural silting processes.

Undated ditch terminus [312] was on an E-W alignment. It was U-shaped in profile with steep concave sides and base. It was at least 0.52m long by 0.58m wide and 0.12m deep. It contained a single fill (313) of mid brown-grey sandy silt, derived from natural silting processes. While undated, pit [312] is aligned broadly perpendicular to Roman ditch [304] suggesting it may be of a contemporary date.



E-W aligned, parallel, undated ditches [314] and [316] were located roughly centrally within the trench; ditch [316] was the later of the two. Both were U-shaped with steep concave sides and bases; they were at least 2.75m long by 0.23–0.67m wide and up to 0.2m deep. Both contained single, silty fills, (315) and (317), derived from natural silting processes. Both are broadly perpendicular to Roman ditch [304], suggesting that they may be of a contemporary date.

Two segments [318] and [320] were dug through a N-S aligned ditch in the centre of the trench. Although parallel to Roman ditch [304], neither segment produced datable artefacts. The ditch had a U-shaped profile with steep concave sides and base. It was at least 3.4m long by 0.64m wide and 0.21m deep. It contained a single fill (319) / (321), derived from natural silting processes.

NW-SE aligned, undated ditch [322] had a U-shaped profile with steep concave sides and a narrow concave base. It was 2.2m long by 0.9m wide and 0.24m deep. Its fill (323) comprised dark grey sandy silt, derived from natural silting processes.

NW-SE aligned ditch terminus [325] was undated. It was U-shaped with steep concave sides and base; it was 0.7m long by 0.4m wide and 0.18m deep. It contained a single, silty fill (326) derived from natural silting processes.

NW-SE aligned ditch [327] was U-shaped with steep concave sides and base. It was 2.2m long by 0.4m wide and 0.22m deep. It contained a single fill (328) comprising a mid grey-brown sandy silt derived from natural silting processes.

3.3.4 Trench 4

Trench 4 contained three undated archaeological features — two ditches [403], [405] and a single pit [407]. Also present were animal burrows and root disturbance towards the east end of the trench.

N-S aligned ditch [403] had a V-shaped profile with straight steep sides and a narrow concave base. It was 2.9m long by 0.34m wide and 0.28m deep. Its single silty fill (404) was derived from natural silting processes.

NW-SE aligned ditch [405] had a U-shaped profile with steep concave sides and base; it was 4.3m long, 0.49m wide and 0.21m deep. Its single silty fill (406) was derived from natural silting processes.

Sub-circular pit [407] had an irregular profile, uneven sides and a flat base. It was 0.4m by 0.3m and 0.16m deep. Its single silty fill (408) derived from natural silting processes.

3.3.5 Trench 5

Trench 5 contained one undated archaeological feature, ditch [505], as well as two modern rectangular machine-dug features and the foundation of a modern fence that was still standing on site before machining commenced.

NE-SW aligned ditch [505] was at the southern end of the trench and was completely truncated to the NE. It had a U-shaped profile with shallow concave



sides and base; it was 1.7m long by 0.37m wide and 0.12m deep. Its single fill (506) derived from natural silting processes.

3.3.6 Trench 6

Trench 6 contained three Roman ditches [604], [606], [610], an undated posthole [602], an undated pit [608] and the foundation of a modern fence that was still standing on site before machining commenced.

The Roman ditches were all aligned NW-SE. Ditch [604] was a probable recut of ditch [606]. They were all U-shaped with steep concave sides and concave or flat bases. They varied in width (<1.4m) and were up to 0.3m deep. Ditches [604] and [606] contained a single silty fill. The more northerly ditch [610] contained a dark grey-black peaty fill, most likely derived from alluvial activity. It was located at the change from sand geology to peat deposits and may have been designed to alleviate flooding.

Posthole [602] had a U-shaped profile with concave sides and base; it was 0.28m in diameter and 0.15m deep. Its single fill (603) derived from natural silting processes.

Sub-circular pit [608] showed evidence of *in-situ* burning. It had a U-shaped profile with a concave base; it was 0.7m in diameter and 0.35m deep. One of its four fills (609) was sampled <2>, as it comprised heat-affected light white-red sandy silt. Fills (612) and (613) both derived from natural silting processes. Fill (614) was a more “humic” mid grey-black sandy silt, probably derived from deliberate backfilling with organic material.

3.3.7 Trench 7

Trench 7 contained a Roman pit [710], a possible Roman post hole [725] and post-pipe [728], and eight undated archaeological features — three pits [716], [722], [730] and six postholes [704]–[708], [714], [718], [720]. Also present in the trench were the foundations for two modern fences that were still standing on site before machining commenced.

Rectangular Roman pit [710] had a wide U-shaped profile, steep straight sides and a flat base. It was at least 1.75m long by 0.6m wide and 0.37m deep. Of its three fills, (711) and (712) derived from natural silting processes; (713) appeared to derive from deliberate backfilling.

Postholes [708] and [714] were rectangular with U-shaped profiles, steep concave sides and bases. They were up to 0.77m long by 0.4m wide and 0.32m deep. Their single fills (709) and (715) derived from natural silting processes. Due to their similarity it is assumed that the two postholes are contemporary. They date to the Roman period or earlier as posthole [708] was cut by the dated pit [710].

Sub-circular, possible Roman posthole [725] was U-shaped with very steep concave sides and a flat base. It was 1.6m in diameter and 0.84m deep. Lower fill (726) was a mid to dark brown-grey clay sand, forming part of the construction of the feature, possibly to protect the main packing material (727) against water damage. Upper fill (727) contained medium to large chalk clunch pieces, forming packing material for a post. Post-pipe [728] was circular with straight vertical sides



and a flat base; it was 0.45m in diameter and 0.8m deep. Its single fill (729) comprised brown-grey silty sand, with no sign of any post remaining. A small piece of Roman pottery may date the feature, though it could also be residual.

Pits [716], [722] were U-shaped with concave sides and bases; they were up to 0.8m in diameter and 0.23m deep. Their fills appeared to derive from natural silting processes. Due to their similarity it is assumed that the pits are contemporary; they are likely to date to the Roman period or earlier as pit [722] was cut by posthole [725].

A group of undated postholes [704], [706], [718], [720] formed no discernible pattern. Postholes [718] and [720] were rectangular in plan and located on the edge of alluvial deposits (303). They were not excavated due to flooding of the trench. Posthole [718] was filled with a mid-grey-white chalk, similar to that found within posthole [725] to the west, possibly indicating it is of similar date. Posthole [704] was circular, while [706] was rectangular. Both had a U-shaped profile, concave sides and base; they were up to 0.45m in diameter and 0.32m deep.

Undated pit [730] was U-shaped with steep concave sides and a flat base; it was 0.95m in diameter and 0.16m deep. Its single silty fill (731) derived from alluvial processes.

3.3.8 Trench 8

Trench 8 contained a Roman ditch terminus [805] and an undated ditch [807]. Also present were the foundation of two modern fences and three postholes from a shed, both of which were still standing on site before machining commenced.

Ditch terminus [805] was located at the NE end of the trench at a change in the natural geology from sand (804) to alluvial and peat deposits (802). It was aligned NW-SE terminating to the SE. It had a U-shaped profile, steep straight sides and a narrow concave base. It was 1.15m long by 1m wide and 0.46m deep. Its mid yellow-brown fill (806) derived from alluvial processes.

E-W aligned ditch [807] was located centrally within the trench. It had a concave profile, steep straight sides and a flat base. It was 3.2m long by 0.67m wide and 0.21m deep. Its single sandy fill (808) derived from natural silting processes.

3.3.9 Trench 9

No archaeological features were present within the trench, which was machined down to 1.2m, revealing peat and sand layers (905) and (906). Layer (905) produced finds including animal bone and pieces of burnt flint.



4. DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSION

4.1 *Summary of the Archaeological Remains*

Archaeological features were identified in eight of the nine trenches and included remains dating from the late Bronze Age to the modern periods. The features comprised sparse prehistoric remains, dense Roman remains probably representing settlement activity, and dense undated remains. The summary of the principal features revealed and their significance is discussed below.

4.1.1 **Natural features and deposits**

In Trenches 5–9 (generally to the east of the DA) the sand geology transitioned to alluvial and peat deposits. This transition marked the edge of the archaeological remains; the land to the east was probably marshy and waterlogged in the past and, therefore, unsuitable for settlement. Some waste material, including animal bone, burnt flint and pottery was recovered, suggesting these areas were used to dispose of refuse during the occupation of the site on the higher ground to the west.

4.1.2 **Prehistoric remains**

Only one piece of late Bronze Age pottery was recovered from peat deposit (618). However, some of the lighter, leached ditches and pits that differ significantly from others excavated within the DA are likely to pre-date the Roman occupation. Such features include NW-SE aligned ditches [505] and [807] and pit [730].

4.1.3 **Roman settlement remains**

Several Roman features, suggestive of settlement-related activity, were revealed within Trenches 1-4 and 6–8. Multiple postholes, pits and ditches concentrated in the area of Trenches 2–3 and 6–7 suggest a focus of activity in the vicinity. Notable features include a large posthole [725] and post-pipe [728], possibly representing a substantial structure. Many of the ditches in these trenches are also likely to date to the Roman period. Ditches [604], [606] and [610] contained high concentrations of Roman pottery, including sherds from a samian plate or bowl.

Several clusters of ditches are likely to represent either late prehistoric or Roman field systems; the densest were revealed within Trenches 3 and 6. Lesser concentrations of Roman features are likely to represent low-level activity areas, located away from or on the periphery of settlement foci. These include mainly ditches within Trenches 1, 4, and 8 where several sherds of Roman pottery were recovered from ditch terminus [805]. Many of the ditches were aligned parallel to or followed the transition from sandy geology to peat deposits, suggesting a possible drainage function.

Occasional pits within Trenches 2, 3 and 7 may date to the Roman period — pottery was recovered from pit [710] and pits [307], [310] close to ditches of the same period. These features are likely to represent activity located on the periphery of settlement foci.

Clusters of postholes within Trenches 2 and 7 are likely to date to the Roman period, with at least one cut by a Roman pit. No artefacts were recovered from



these features, except for a sherd fragment from post-pipe [728]. These features are suggestive of some level of settlement activity within the area.

4.1.4 Modern remains

Two large modern refuse pits were revealed in Trench 1. Two modern machine-dug pits were located at the north end of Trench 5.

Several modern fences visible in Trenches 5–8 and used for animal enclosures were present above ground, cutting into the geological horizon and truncating some of the archaeological remains.

4.2 Significance of the Archaeological Remains

In summary, significant archaeological remains were discovered within the evaluation trenches. They comprised evidence of limited prehistoric activity and extensive remains indicative of Roman settlement.

The Roman settlement activity and earlier prehistoric remains are of regional significance in light of research objectives relating to rural settlement and its relationship with the wider agrarian landscape.



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6. APPENDIX 1: FINDS REPORTS

6.1 Introduction

Fifteen deposits across seven trenches yielded an assemblage comprising pottery, animal bone, oyster shell, and unmodified burnt flint. No finds were recovered from Trenches 4 or 5. Datable artefacts are later prehistoric and Roman (Table 1).

Tr.	Feature	Description	Fill	Date	Finds Summary
1	108	Pit	109	Undated	Animal bone (51g); modern safety glass (1g)
2	241	Ditch	242	Roman	Pottery (49g)
3	304	Ditch	205	Roman	Pottery (24g)
	397	Pit	308	Undated	Animal bone (33g)
	314	Ditch	315	Undated	Animal bone (3g)
	322	Ditch	323	Undated	Animal bone (38g)
6	604	Ditch	605	Roman	Pottery (1.5kg); animal bone (1.2kg); oyster shell (443g)
	608	Pit	609	Undated	Animal bone (2g); modern safety glass (1g)
	610	Ditch	611	Roman	Pottery (9g)
	618	Peat layer	618	Late Bronze Age	Pottery (8g); animal bone (89g); burnt flint (23g)
7	710	Pit	713	Roman	Pottery (18g)
	722	Pit	723	Undated	Animal bone (2g)
	728	Post-pipe	729	Roman	Pottery (2g)
8	805	Ditch	806	Roman	Pottery (8g)
9	905	Peat and sand layer	905	Undated	Animal bone (66g); burnt flint (210g)

Table 1: Artefact summary by trench and feature

6.2 Pottery

Later prehistoric pottery collected from peat layer (618) comprises a flint-tempered body sherd (8g) with pinched finger-nail decoration. Flint tempering is typical of late Bronze Age Post-Deverel Rimbury assemblages in Suffolk and parts of Eastern England (Brudenell 2012, 9), and the sherd is likely to be of this date.

A Roman assemblage totalling 141 sherds (1.6kg), and representing approximately 39 vessels was recovered from seven features (Trenches 2, 3, 6, 7 and 8). Roman pottery is uniformly abraded and sherds have a mean weight of 12g. With the exception of ditch [604], which contained the majority of the assemblage (132 sherds: 1.5kg), sherd count per deposit is low (fewer than two sherds).

The assemblage is primarily local in character (Table), comprising reduced sandy coarse wares, and grey wares, the latter including highly micaceous examples characteristic of products from Wattisfield (Tomber and Dore 1998) and West Stow (West 1990). Fine wares include colour-coated wares from Colchester, the Lower Nene Valley and unsourced examples, some possibly of more local origin. Continental imports are three Gaulish samian sherds, including a rim from a probable form 18/31 plate/bowl.

Diagnostic vessels are mainly generic coarse ware jars. Datable forms include a micaceous grey ware poppy-head beaker with barbotine dot decoration, a straight-sided grey ware bowl, and colour-coated beaker, all of 2nd-century date. Two sherds from an oxidised sandy bowl with stamped boss decoration, likely to be of



later Roman date, also occur. The latter has a drilled hole in the neck, indicating repair.

Fabric description	Sherd No.	Wt (g)	Fill / sherd No.
<i>Later prehistoric</i>			
Fine flint	1	8	(618):1
<i>Roman</i>			
Samian	3	88	(605):3
Reduced sandy coarse ware	61	493	(605):61
Oxidised sandy coarse ware	3	18	(713):3
Buff sandy coarse ware	3	114	(605):3
Grey ware - fine	43	541	(605):41, (611):1, (806):1
Grey ware - coarse	4	24	(605):4
Grey ware - micaceous	9	241	(242):2, (305):1, (605):5, (729):1
Grey ware - Nene Valley	2	26	(605):2
Nene Valley colour-coated ware	2	23	(605):2
Colchester colour-coated ware	1	4	(605):1
Unsources colour-coated ware	10	71	(605):8, (806):2

Table 2: Pottery Summary by Type

6.3 Other Finds

Unworked burnt flint pieces (233g) were collected from peat layers (618) and (905). Undated pits [108] and [608] yielded fragments of modern safety glass (2g), which have not been retained.

6.4 Ecofacts

Seven deposits (Trenches 3, 6, 7 and 9) contained 53 hand-collected animal bone fragments (1.4kg), the largest assemblage (1.2kg) occurring in Roman ditch [604]. Twenty-six oyster shells (443g) were collected from the same feature. Individual bone fragments have a mean weight of 27g, and generally display surface erosion. Diagnostic post-cranial elements are limb and foot bones, with a smaller number of rib, vertebra, scapula and pelvis fragments. A number of skull and mandible fragments also occur. Most bones appear to derive from medium to large mammals, and include pig, sheep/goat and cattle. No evidence for butchery or bone modification was observed.

Partially burnt animal bone fragments (51g) were collected from the sieved residues of environmental sample <1> (pit [108]). Sample <2> (pit [608]) yielded a number of small bone fragments (2g) including probable rodent remains.

6.5 Environmental Samples

Two samples were taken to assess for the presence of charred plant remains.

Sample <1> (109). The 10 litres of this was processed using 250 micron mesh due to the possibility of organic remains being present. The flot contained a very small quantity of very fine organic material, possibly peat, as well as very fine charred material. Occasional small abraded lumps of charcoal were also present; this was recovered from the residue, as iron concretion prevented the material from flotting. The sample residue contained frequent small fragments of calcined bone, which was heavily concreted with iron. A small quantity of intrusive modern safety glass (probably from a vehicle) was also present.



Sample <2> (609). The 17 litres from this sample were processed. The small flot contained modern green vegetation, seeds and small mammal bones indicating burrowing animals. The flot also contained moderate small snails from a variety of species and a very small amount of charcoal.

The residue contained abundant ‘tubes’ of dark orange brown iron concretion, up to several centimetres long, which appears to have formed around roots. The deposit showed no evidence of burning, with two small unburnt fragments of unburnt bone and single small fragments of white plaster and brick, as well as intrusive fragments of vehicle safety glass.



7. APPENDIX 2: TRENCH TABLES

Trench: 1

Max Dimensions: Length: 24.00 m. Width: 2.20 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.5 m. Max: 0.6 m.

Co-ordinates: OS Grid Ref.: TL (Easting: 68480; Northing: 78545)

OS Grid Ref.: TL (Easting: 68457; Northing: 78533)

Reason: Archaeological evaluation.

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
100	Dump material	Friable dark grey black sandy gravel frequent small-medium CBM, frequent small stones Up to 0.1m thick, with modern metal inclusions.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
101	Buried topsoil	Friable mid grey brown clay sand occasional small stones Up to 0.35m thick.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
102	Subsoil	Friable mid brown grey clay sand occasional small stones Up to 0.12m deep.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
103	Natural	Compact mid orange yellow silty sand occasional small stones	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
104	Ditch	Linear NE-SW sides: concave base: concave dimensions: max breadth 1.25m, max depth 0.67m, max length 1m	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
105	Fill	Friable dark brown grey silty sand occasional small stones Up to 0.19m thick, waterlogged lower fill of ditch.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
106	Fill	Friable mid brown grey silty sand occasional small stones Up to 0.3m thick, middle fill.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
107	Fill	Friable mid grey brown clay sand occasional small stones Up to 0.44m thick, upper fill.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
108	Pit	Oval NW-SE sides: concave base: concave dimensions: max breadth 0.55m, max depth 0.36m, max length 0.5m	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
109	Fill	Friable dark brown black silty sand occasional small charcoal, occasional small stones Up to 0.24m thick, occasional small fragments of burnt bone (animal). Lower fill derived from deliberate backfilling. Sample taken (No. 1).	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
110	Fill	Friable mid grey brown silty sand occasional small stones Up to 0.21m thick, upper fill.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**Trench: 2**

Max Dimensions: Length: 25.00 m. Width: 2.20 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.45 m. Max: 0.48 m.

Co-ordinates: OS Grid Ref.: TL (Easting: 68442: Northing: 78580)

OS Grid Ref.: TL (Easting: 56844: Northing: 78555)

Reason: Archaeological evaluation.

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
200	Tarmac	Compact dark black Compact black tarmac extending for 1.62m from the northern end of the trench, up to 0.08m thick.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
201	Topsoil	Loose dark brown black silty sand moderate small CBM Up to 0.48m thick, with moderate inclusions of modern hardcore, metal, glass and CBM.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
202	Natural	Loose mid orange yellow sand occasional small stones Infrequent red sand patches.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
203	Posthole	Sub-circular N-S sides: concave base: concave dimensions: max breadth 0.12m, max depth 0.05m, max length 0.18m Partially exposed at L.O.E.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
204	Fill	Loose light grey sandy silt occasional flecks charcoal, occasional small stones Sole fill of post hole.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
205	Posthole	Circular sides: steep base: concave dimensions: max depth 0.1m, max diameter 0.15m	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
206	Fill	Loose mid brown red sandy silt occasional small stones	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
207	Pit	Sub-circular E-W sides: vertical base: uneven dimensions: max breadth 0.45m, max depth 0.16m, max length 0.55m	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
208	Fill	Loose light grey sandy silt occasional flecks charcoal, occasional small stones	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
209	Pit	Irregular sides: vertical base: concave dimensions: max breadth 1.05m, max depth 0.11m, max length 1.46m Amorphous asymmetric profile, possible shallow pit or tree bowl. Cut by linear [211].	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
210	Fill	Loose light grey sandy silt occasional small stones	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
211	Gulley	Curving linear NW-SE sides: steep base: concave dimensions: max breadth 0.2m, max depth 0.18m, max length 2.35m Cuts pit [209].	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
212	Fill	Loose mid grey sandy silt occasional flecks charcoal, occasional small stones	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
213	Posthole	Sub-circular NW-SE sides: concave base: concave dimensions: max breadth 0.2m, max depth 0.05m, max length 0.29m Posthole extends beyond L.O.E to the west.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
214	Fill	Loose light grey sandy silt occasional flecks charcoal, occasional small stones	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
215	Pit	Sub-circular NW-SE sides: concave base: uneven dimensions: max breadth 0.43m, max depth 0.05m, max length 0.5m	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
216	Fill	Loose light grey sandy silt occasional flecks charcoal, occasional small stones	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
217	Pit	Sub-circular NNE-SSW sides: concave base: concave dimensions: max breadth 0.32m, max depth 0.15m, max length 0.49m	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
218	Fill	Loose light grey sandy silt Also comprised red mottling patches.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
219	Posthole	Sub-circular sides: steep base: concave dimensions: max breadth 0.25m, max depth 0.1m, max length 0.28m	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
220	Fill	Loose light grey sandy silt occasional flecks charcoal, occasional small stones	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
221	Posthole	Sub-circular NW-SE sides: steep base: concave dimensions: max breadth 0.14m, max depth 0.05m, max length 0.2m Posthole is truncated by animal burrows.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
222	Fill	Loose light grey sandy silt occasional flecks charcoal, occasional small stones	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>



223	Posthole	Sub-circular sides: concave base: flat dimensions: max breadth 0.27m, max depth 0.05m, max length 0.32m	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
224	Fill	Loose mid grey sandy silt occasional flecks charcoal, occasional small stones	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
225	Posthole	Sub-circular E-W sides: concave base: concave dimensions: max breadth 0.19m, max depth 0.05m, max length 0.25m	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
226	Fill	Loose mid grey sandy silt occasional flecks charcoal, occasional small stones	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
227	Posthole	Sub-circular NW-SE sides: vertical base: flat dimensions: max breadth 0.18m, max depth 0.04m, max length 0.21m	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
228	Fill	Loose mid grey sandy silt occasional flecks charcoal, occasional small stones	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
229	Posthole	Sub-circular NW-SE sides: concave base: concave dimensions: max breadth 0.27m, max depth 0.06m, max length 0.33m	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
230	Fill	Loose mid grey sandy silt occasional flecks charcoal, occasional small stones	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
231	Posthole	Circular sides: concave base: concave dimensions: max depth 0.13m, max diameter 0.29m	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
232	Fill	Loose dark grey brown silty sand occasional flecks charcoal, occasional small stones	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
233	Gulley	Linear NW-SE sides: concave base: concave dimensions: max breadth 0.26m, max depth 0.11m, max length 2.75m	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
234	Fill	Loose dark brown black silty sand	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
235	Posthole	Sub-circular N-S sides: concave base: flat dimensions: max breadth 0.3m, max depth 0.08m, max length 0.4m	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
236	Fill	Loose mid grey sandy silt occasional flecks charcoal, occasional small stones	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
237	Posthole	Circular NE-SW sides: concave base: uneven dimensions: max depth 0.08m, max diameter 0.24m	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
238	Fill	Loose light grey sandy silt occasional small stones	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
239	Pit	Linear E-W sides: concave base: flat dimensions: max breadth 0.4m, max depth 0.11m, max length 0.45m	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
240	Fill	Compact mid grey brown silty sand occasional flecks charcoal, occasional small stones	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
241	Ditch	Linear NNW-SSE sides: vertical base: flat dimensions: max breadth 0.04m, max depth 0.34m, max length 5.6m Boundary ditch, extends beyond the L.O.E to the west.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
242	Fill	Loose light grey sandy silt moderate small stones Up to 0.12m thick, lower fill derived from natural silting processes.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
243	Fill	Loose mid grey sandy silt occasional flecks charcoal, occasional small stones Up to 0.17m thick, middle fill derived from natural silting processes.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
244	Fill	Loose mid orange sand Up to 0.06m thick, upper fill derived from deliberate backfilling.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**Trench: 3**

Max Dimensions: Length: 25.00 m. Width: 2.20 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.5 m. Max: 0.75 m.

Co-ordinates: OS Grid Ref.: TL (Easting: 68413; Northing: 78585)

OS Grid Ref.: TL (Easting: 68426; Northing: 78606)

Reason: Archaeological evaluation.

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
300	Dump material	Firm dark grey black sandy gravel frequent small stones Up to 0.18m thick. Contained frequent modern metal inclusions.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
301	Buried topsoil	Friable mid grey brown clay sand occasional small stones Up to 0.15m thick.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
302	Subsoil	Friable mid brown grey clay sand occasional small stones Up to 0.15m thick.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
303	Alluvium	Friable mid orange brown clay occasional small stones Extends for 12m from the SW end of the trench, up to 0.28m thick.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
304	Ditch	Linear N-S sides: concave base: concave dimensions: max breadth 1.6m, max depth 0.38m, max length 1.4m	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
305	Fill	Friable mid grey brown silty sand occasional small stones Up to 0.2m thick. Lower fill, derived from natural silting processes.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
306	Fill	Friable mid yellow brown clay sand occasional small stones Up to 0.18m thick. Upper fill derived from natural silting processes.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
307	Pit	Oval NE-SW sides: concave base: concave dimensions: max breadth 1.5m, max depth 0.25m, max length 1.4m	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
308	Fill	Friable mid brown black clay sand occasional small stones Up to 0.07m, lower fill.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
309	Fill	Friable mid yellow orange silty sand occasional small stones Up to 0.18m thick, upper fill derived from natural silting processes.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
310	Pit	Oval NE-SW sides: concave base: concave dimensions: max breadth 1.1m, max depth 0.14m, max length 1.05m	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
311	Fill	Friable mid brown grey silty sand occasional small stones	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
312	Ditch	Linear E-W sides: concave base: concave dimensions: max breadth 0.58m, max depth 0.12m, max length 0.52m Ditch terminating to the east.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
313	Fill	Friable mid brown grey silty sand occasional small stones	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
314	Ditch	Linear N-S sides: steep base: concave dimensions: max breadth 0.23m, max depth 0.18m, max length 0.85m Cut by parallel linear [316] to the NE.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
315	Fill	Friable light grey sandy silt	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
316	Ditch	Linear N-S sides: concave base: concave dimensions: max breadth 0.67m, max depth 0.2m, max length 1.22m Cuts parallel linear [314] to the SW and truncates perpendicular linear [318] to the NE.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
317	Fill	Friable dark grey sandy silt	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
318	Ditch	Linear E-W sides: concave base: concave dimensions: max breadth 0.64m, max depth 0.11m, max length 1.1m Truncated by perpendicular linear [316] to the SW. Same as linear [320].	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
319	Fill	Friable dark grey sandy silt	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
320	Ditch	Linear N-S sides: V-shaped base: v-shaped dimensions: max breadth 0.48m, max depth 0.21m, max length 0.9m Cuts linear [322] to the north and is the same as linear [318]	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
321	Fill	Friable mid grey sandy silt	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
322	Ditch	Linear N-S sides: concave base: concave dimensions: max breadth 0.9m, max depth 0.24m, max length 1.08m Cut by linear [320] to the NW.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
323	Fill	Friable dark grey sandy silt	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
325	Ditch	Linear NE-SW sides: concave base: concave dimensions: max breadth 0.4m, max depth 0.18m, max length 0.7m Terminates to the SE.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
326	Fill	Friable dark brown sandy silt	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
327	Ditch	Linear NE-SW sides: concave base: concave dimensions: max breadth 0.4m, max depth 0.22m, max length 0.8m	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
328	Fill	Friable mid grey sandy silt occasional small stones	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**Trench: 4**

Max Dimensions: Length: 25.00 m. Width: 2.20 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.57 m. Max: 0.6 m.

Co-ordinates: OS Grid Ref.: TL (Easting: 68390; Northing: 78615)

OS Grid Ref.: TL (Easting: 68412; Northing: 78627)

Reason:

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
400	Dump material	Loose dark brown silty loam Up to 0.32m thick, with frequent inclusions of modern hardcore/tarmac-metal, plastic.CBM.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
401	Buried topsoil	Loose grey brown silty sand frequent large CBM, frequent large stones Up to 0.29m thick.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
402	Natural	Loose light orange sand Occasional patches of maganise staining.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
403	Ditch	Linear N-S sides; vertical base; concave dimensions: max breadth 0.34m, max depth 0.28m, max length 2.9m	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
404	Fill	Loose light grey sandy silt	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
405	Ditch	Linear NW-SE sides; concave base; concave dimensions: max breadth 0.49m, max depth 0.21m, max length 4.3m	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
406	Fill	Loose mid grey sandy silt occasional flecks charcoal, occasional small stones	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
407	Pit	Sub-circular sides; irregular base; v-shaped dimensions: max breadth 0.3m, max depth 0.16m, max length 0.4m	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
408	Fill	Loose light grey sandy silt occasional small stones	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Trench: 5

Max Dimensions: Length: 25.60 m. Width: 2.20 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.32 m. Max: 1. m.

Co-ordinates: OS Grid Ref.: TL (Easting: 68435; Northing: 78645)

OS Grid Ref.: TL (Easting: 68441; Northing: 78621)

Reason: Archaeological evaluation.

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
500	Topsoil	Friable dark grey brown sandy silt occasional small stones Up to 0.32m thick.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
501	Natural	Loose light orange yellow sand occasional small stones	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
502	Redeposited natural	Loose mid yellow orange sand occasional small stones. Up to 0.27m thick, re-deposited sand for leveling area.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
503	Dump material	Friable dark brown grey sandy silt moderate small-medium CBM, frequent small-medium stones Up to 0.5m thick, with moderate modern inclusions of metal,glass and scrapyard rubbish including plastics.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
504	Peat	Firm dark grey black silty peat Organic "humic" waterlogged peat deposit, with moderate inclusions of roots and wood.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
505	Gulley	Linear NE-SW sides; concave base; concave dimensions: max breadth 0.37m, max depth 0.12m, max length 1.7m	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
506	Fill	Loose mid grey blue silty sand occasional small stones Fill derived from silting and alluvial processes.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>



Trench: 6

Max Dimensions: Length: 25.70 m. Width: 2.20 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.75 m. Max: 0.8 m.

Co-ordinates: OS Grid Ref.: TL (Easting: 68464; Northing: 78615)

OS Grid Ref.: TL (Easting: 68459; Northing: 78590)

Reason: Archaeological evaluation.

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
600	Topsoil	Friable mid grey brown clay sand occasional small stones Up to 0.32m thick.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
601	Natural	Friable mid orange yellow sand	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
602	Posthole	Circular sides: concave base: concave dimensions: max depth 0.15m, max diameter 0.28m	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
603	Fill	Friable mid grey sandy silt	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
604	Ditch	Linear NW-SE sides: concave base: concave dimensions: max breadth 1.02m, max depth 0.3m, max length 1.m Roman ditch cuts parallel linear [606] to the SW.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
605	Fill	Friable dark grey sandy silt moderate small-medium stones	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
606	Ditch	Linear NW-SE sides: concave base: flat dimensions: max breadth 0.78m, max depth 0.22m, max length 1.m Roman ditch cut by parallel linear [604] to the NE.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
607	Fill	Friable mid grey sandy silt occasional small stones	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
608	Pit	Oval NE-SW sides: concave base: concave dimensions: max depth 0.35m, max diameter 0.7m Contains possible evidence of in-situ burning, cut by a modern fence foundation to the SW.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
609	Fill	Friable mid yellow red sandy sand Up to 0.09m thick. Upper fill shows evidence of heating activity.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
612	Fill	Friable light blue grey clay sand Up to 0.26m thick, lower fill derived from natural silting processes.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
613	Fill	Friable light yellow white sand Up to 0.22m thick, middle fill derived from natural silting processes.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
614	Fill	Friable mid blue grey clay sand Up to 0.13m thick, derived from deliberately backfilled waste material.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
610	Ditch	Linear NW-SE sides: concave base: flat dimensions: max breadth 2.m, max depth 0.27m, max length 1.m Roman ditch parallel to linears [604], [606] to the SW.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
611	Fill	Firm dark black peat	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
615	Subsoil	Friable mid brown sandy silt Up to 0.34m thick.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
616	Alluvium	Friable dark brown sandy silt Up to 0.16m thick.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
617	Alluvium	Firm dark yellow white chalky silt frequent small-medium chalk Up to 0.15m thick.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
618	Peat	Firm dark black peat Organic "humic" waterlogged peat deposit, with moderate inclusions of roots and wood.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

**Trench: 7**

Max Dimensions: Length: 25.00 m. Width: 2.20 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.58 m. Max: 0.7 m.

Co-ordinates: OS Grid Ref.: TL (Easting: 68496: Northing: 78574)

OS Grid Ref.: TL (Easting: 68471: Northing: 78572)

Reason: Archaeological evaluation.

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
700	Topsoil	Friable mid grey brown clay sand occasional small stones Up to 0.12m thick.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
701	Subsoil	Friable mid brown grey clay sand Up to 0.3m thick.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
702	Alluvium	Friable mid orange brown clay sand Up to 0.3m thick.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
703	Natural	Loose mid orange yellow sand	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
704	Posthole	Circular sides: concave base: concave dimensions: max depth 0.3m, max diameter 0.45m	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
705	Fill	Friable mid brown grey silty sand occasional small stones	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
706	Posthole	Rectangular N-S sides: concave base: concave dimensions: max breadth 0.27m, max depth 0.06m, max length 0.19m	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
707	Fill	Friable mid brown grey silty sand occasional small stones	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
708	Posthole	Oval E-W sides: concave base: concave dimensions: max breadth 0.3m, max depth 0.32m, max length 0.45m Extends beyond the L.O.E to the north and cut by rectangular pit [710] to the east.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
709	Fill	Friable mid brown grey silty sand occasional small stones	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
710	Pit	Rectangular sides: concave base: concave dimensions: max breadth 1.75m, max depth 0.37m, max length 0.6m Roman pit, extends beyond the L.O.E to the north and cuts posthole [708] to the west.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
711	Fill	Friable dark brown grey silty sand occasional small stones Up to 0.1m thick, lower fill.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
712	Fill	Friable mid brown grey silty sand occasional small stones Up to 0.14m thick, lower fill.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
713	Fill	Friable mid grey brown clay sand occasional small stones Up to 0.25m thick, upper fill.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
714	Posthole	Rectangular NE-SW sides: concave base: concave dimensions: max breadth 0.4m, max depth 0.16m, max length 0.77m	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
715	Fill	Friable mid brown grey silty sand occasional small stones	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
716	Pit	Oval NE-SW sides: concave base: concave dimensions: max breadth 0.5m, max depth 0.23m, max length 0.85m Truncated by modern fence foundation to the SW.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
717	Fill	Friable mid brown grey silty sand occasional small stones	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
718	Posthole	Circular dimensions: max diameter 0.4m Unexcavated posthole.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
719	Fill	Friable mid grey white chalky clay occasional small stones	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
720	Posthole	Circular dimensions: max diameter 0.4m Unexcavated posthole.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
721	Fill	Friable mid grey white silty chalk frequent small-medium chalk, occasional small stones Comprised of chalk clunch similar to packing (727).	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
722	Pit	Oval E-W sides: concave base: concave dimensions: max breadth 0.8m, max depth 0.18m, max length 0.8m Truncated by Roman posthole [725] to the west and a modern fence foundation to the east.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
723	Fill	Friable mid brown grey silty sand occasional small stones Up to 0.18m thick, lower fill.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>



724	Fill	Friable mid grey brown clay sand occasional small stones Up to 0.1m thick, upper fill.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
725	Posthole	Oval E-W sides: concave base: concave dimensions: max breadth 1.6m, max depth 0.84m, max length 1.35m Roman posthole cuts pit [722] and contains packing material and postpipe [728].	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
726	Packing	Friable mid brown grey sandy clay occasional small stones Up to 0.23m thick, lower packing material.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
727	Packing	Firm light yellow white sandy chalk frequent small-medium stones Up to 0.77m thick, upper packing material comprised of chalk clunch.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
728	Postpipe	Circular sides: vertical base: flat dimensions: max depth 0.8m, max diameter 0.45m	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
729	Fill	Friable mid brown grey silty sand occasional small stones.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
730	Pit	Circular sides: steep base: flat dimensions: max depth 0.16m, max diameter 0.95m	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
731	Fill	Loose light blue grey sand occasional small stones Fill derived from natural silting processes, very pale and leached.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Trench: 8

Max Dimensions: Length: 26.00 m. Width: 2.20 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.51 m. Max: 0.6 m.

Co-ordinates: OS Grid Ref.: TL (Easting: 68509; Northing: 78560)

OS Grid Ref.: TL (Easting: 68503; Northing: 78536)

Reason: Archaeological evaluation.

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
800	Topsoll	Friable mid grey brown silty sand occasional small-medium stones Up to 0.45m thick.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
801	Alluvium	Friable dark brown grey clay silt occasional small stones Up to 0.15m thick, with patches of orange silt inclusions.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
802	Peat	Friable dark brown grey peat occasional small stones Organic "humic" waterlogged peat deposit, with moderate inclusions of roots and wood.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
803	Natural interface	Loose light yellow white sand occasional small stones Up to 0.15m thick, with frequent root disturbance.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
804	Natural	Loose light yellow white sand occasional small stones	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
805	Ditch	Linear NW-SE sides: steep base: concave dimensions: max breadth 1m, max depth 0.46m, max length 1.15m Roman ditch terminating to the SE, at the edge of the transition from sand to peat deposits.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
806	Fill	Friable mid yellow brown silty sand occasional small stones	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
807	Ditch	Linear E-W sides: steep base: flat dimensions: max breadth 0.67m, max depth 0.21m, max length 3.2m	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
808	Fill	Loose light blue grey silty sand occasional small stones	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>



8. APPENDIX 3: OASIS FORM

9. OASIS ID: albionar1-233611

Project details

Project name	Scrapyard Extension, Skeltons Drove, Becks Row
Short description of the project	Forest Heath District Council (FHDC) granted planning permission)for the change of use of agricultural land to extend the existing scrapyard at Skeltons Drove, Beck Row, Mildenhall, Suffolk, IP28 8DN. As the development area lies in an area of archaeological significance the Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service advised that a programme of archaeological evaluation, comprising trial trenching would be required. A total of nine trenches were opened to sample the 1.2ha site. Archaeological remains dating from the late Bronze Age to the modern period were identified in eight of the nine trenches. A total of fifty-four archaeological features were recorded, including twenty-one ditches (at least six of which were firmly dated to the Roman period), fourteen pits (at least one of which is Roman), and twenty-one postholes (at least one of which is dated to the Roman period). Only one piece of late Bronze Age pottery was recovered (from peat deposit (618)). However, some of the lighter, leached ditches and pits that differ significantly from others excavated within the DA are likely to pre-date the Roman occupation of the site. A significant number of features, including postholes, pits and ditches, represent the remains of Roman settlement activity. The Roman settlement activity and earlier prehistoric remains are of regional significance in light of research objectives relating to rural settlement and its relationship with the wider agrarian landscape.
Project dates	Start: 25-01-2016 End: 27-01-2016
Previous/future work	No / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	SD2744 - Contracting Unit No.
Any associated project reference codes	DC/13/0143/FUL - Planning Application No.
Any associated project reference codes	ESF23325 - HER event no.
Type of project	Field evaluation
Monument type	DITCHES Roman
Monument type	PITS Roman
Monument type	PITS Uncertain
Monument type	DITCHES Uncertain
Monument type	POST HOLES Uncertain
Monument type	POSTHOLES Roman
Significant Finds	POTTERY Roman
Significant Finds	POTTERY Bronze Age
Significant Finds	ANIMAL BONE Roman



Significant Finds	OYSTER SHELL Roman
Methods & techniques	""Sample Trenches""
Development type	Scrapyard Extension
Prompt	National Planning Policy Framework - NPPF
Position in the planning process	After full determination (eg. As a condition)

Project location

Country	England
Site location	SUFFOLK FOREST HEATH MILDENHALL Scrapyard Extension, Skeltons Drove, Becks Row
Study area	1.2 Hectares
Site coordinates	TL 68470 78550 52.378611029318 0.475394159799 52 22 43 N 000 28 31 E Point

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Albion Archaeology
Project brief originator	No Brief
Project design originator	Albion Archaeology
Project director/manager	Robert Wardill
Project supervisor	Ben Carroll

Project archives

Physical Archive recipient	Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service Conservation Team
Physical Contents	"Animal Bones", "Ceramics", "Environmental"
Physical Archive notes	ESF23325 is the Event number used on all finds etc Parish code is MNL 763
Digital Archive recipient	Albion Archaeology
Digital Contents	"Animal Bones" ,"Ceramics", "Environmental",
Digital Media available	"Database" ,"GIS", "Images raster / digital photography", "Text"
Paper Archive recipient	Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service Conservation Team
Paper Contents	"Animal Bones", "Ceramics" ,"Environmental", "other"
Paper Media available	"Context sheet" ,"Correspondence" ,"Miscellaneous Material" ,"Photograph" ,"Plan" ,"Report" ,"Section"
Paper Archive notes	ESF23325 is the Event number used on all finds etc Parish code is MNL 763

Project

**bibliography 1**

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Scrapyard Extension, Skeltons Drove, Beck Row Mildenhall Suffolk: Archaeological Trial Trench Evaluation
Author(s)/Editor(s)	'Carroll, B'
Author(s)/Editor(s)	'Wardill, R'
Other bibliographic details	2016/200
Date	2016
Issuer or publisher	Albion Archaeology
Place of issue or publication	Bedford
<hr/>	
Entered by	Helen Parslow (hl.parslow@albion-arch.com)
Entered on	5 March 2018



FIGURES

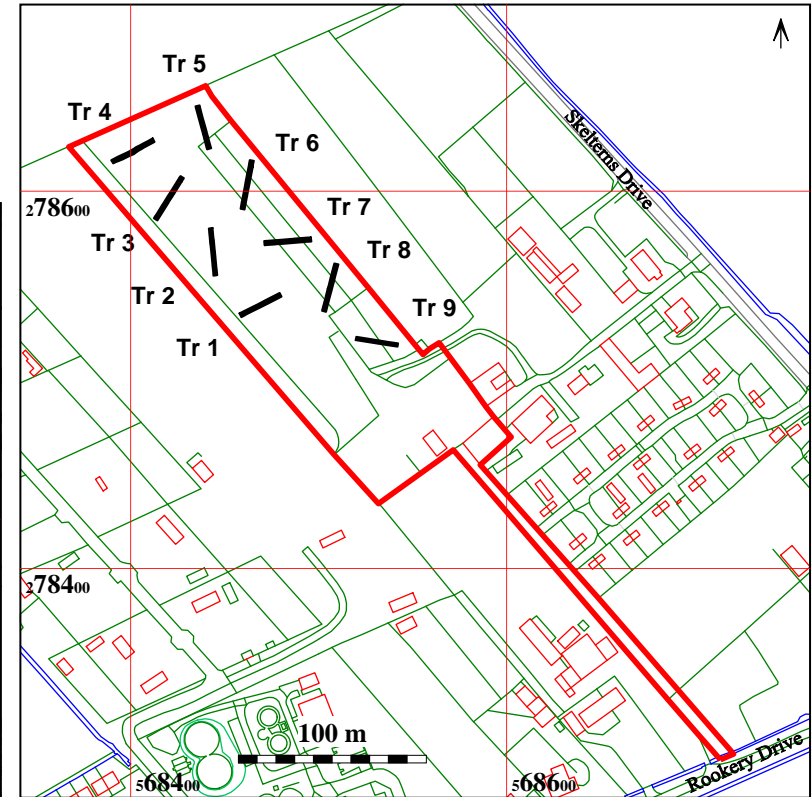
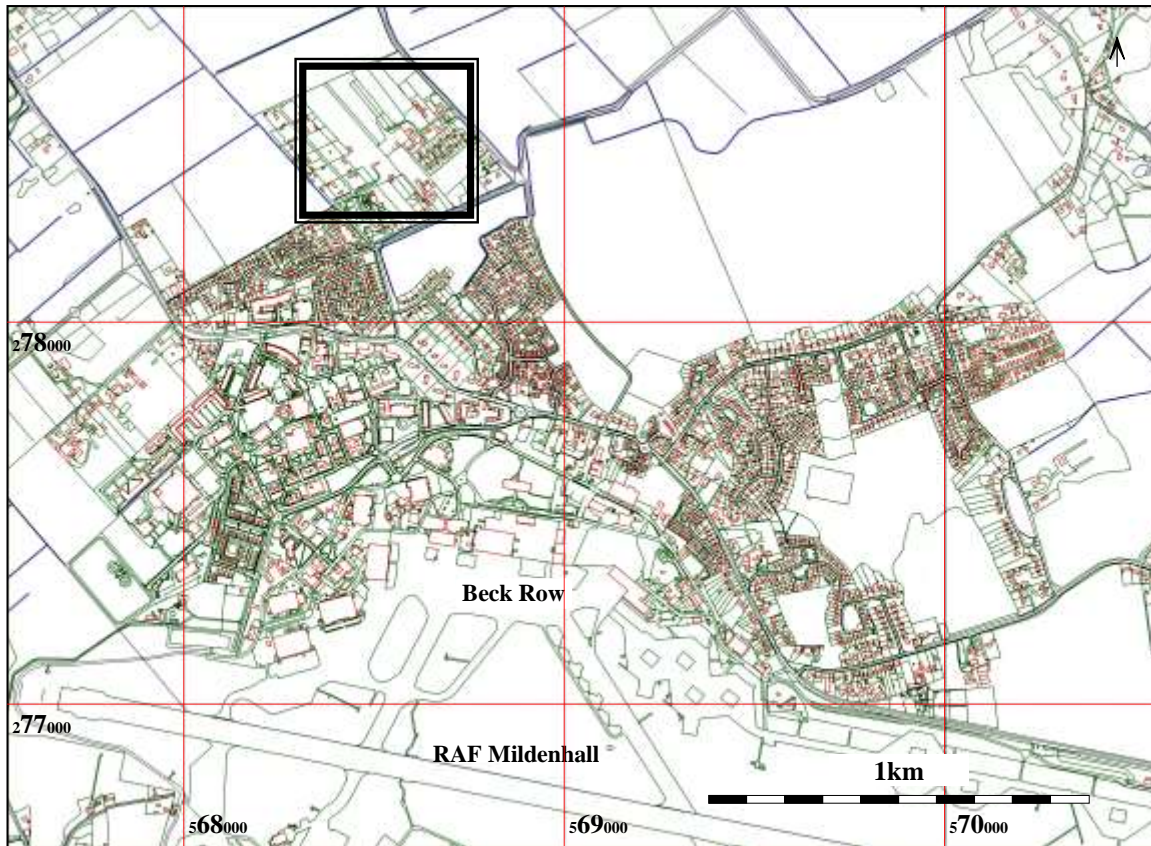
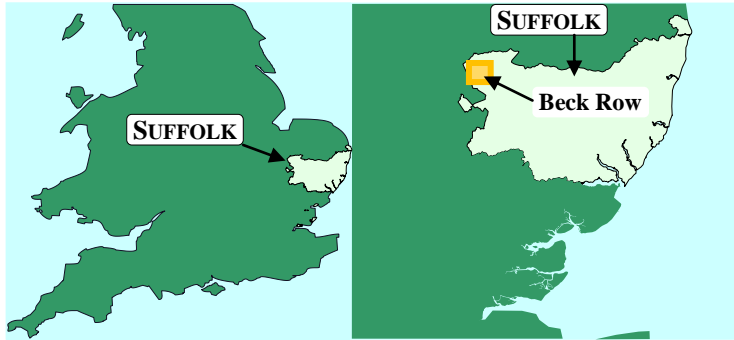


Figure 1: Site location

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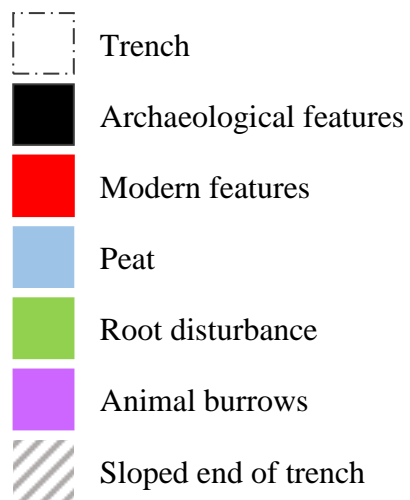
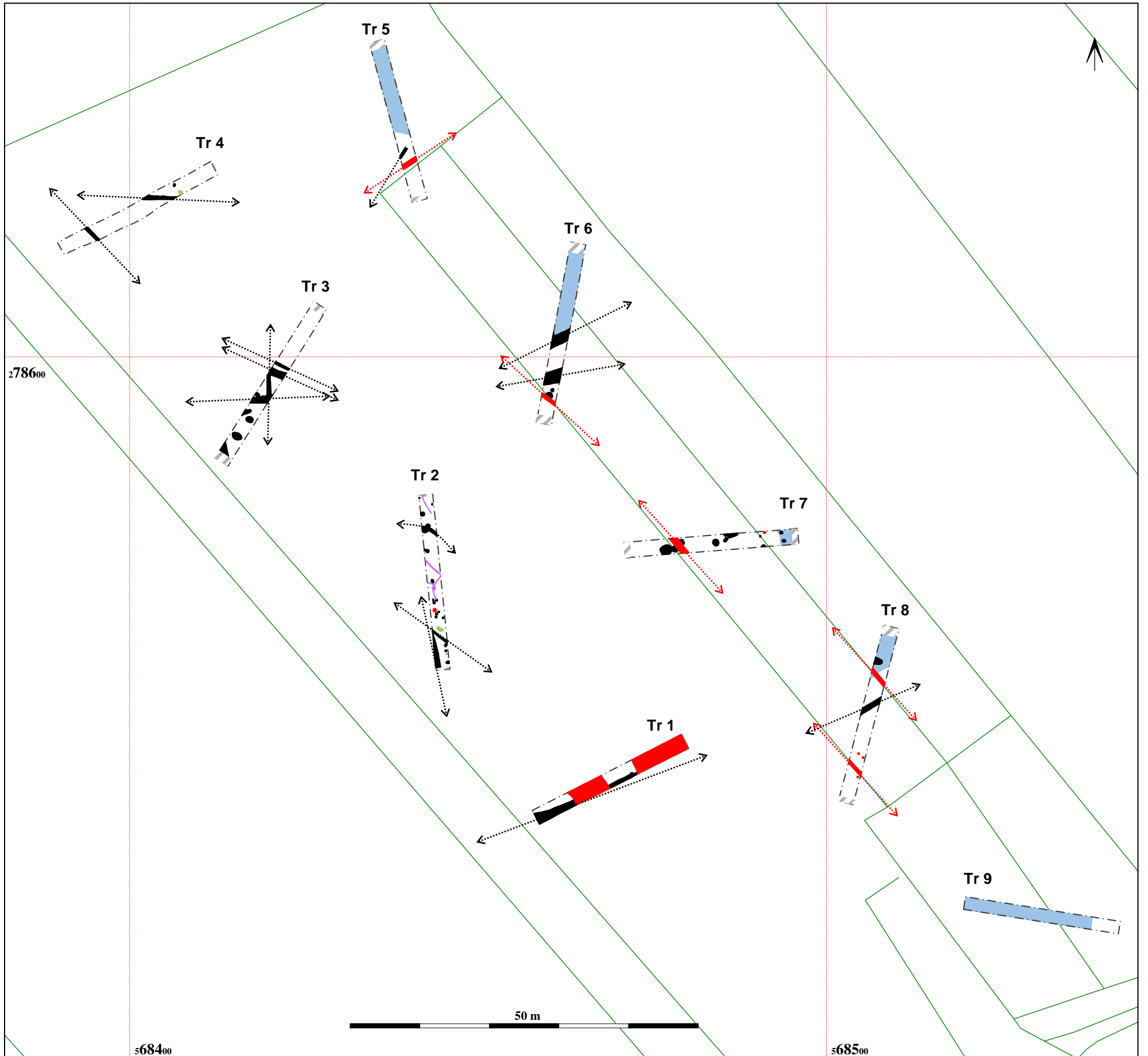


Figure 2: Trenching results

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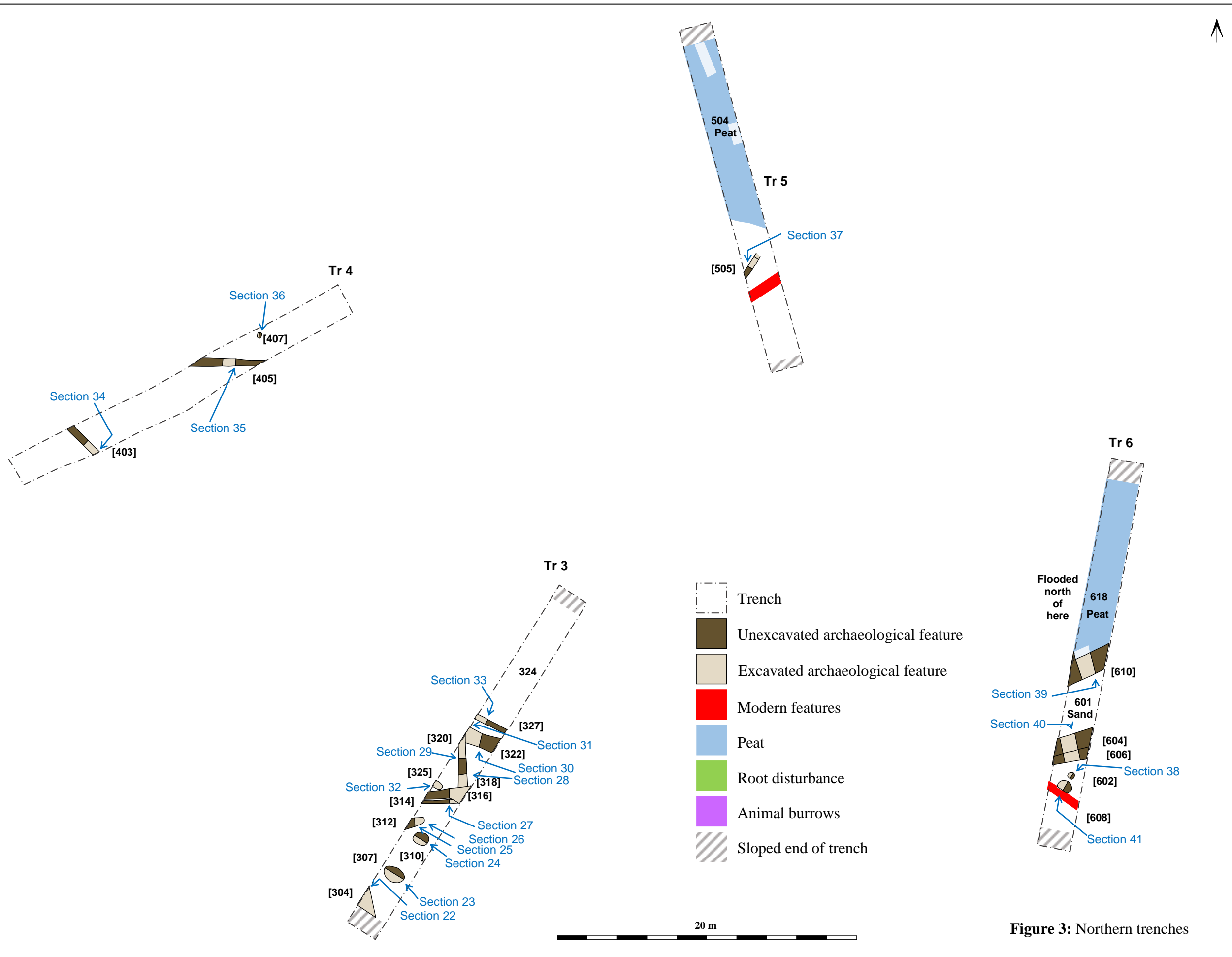


Figure 3: Northern trenches

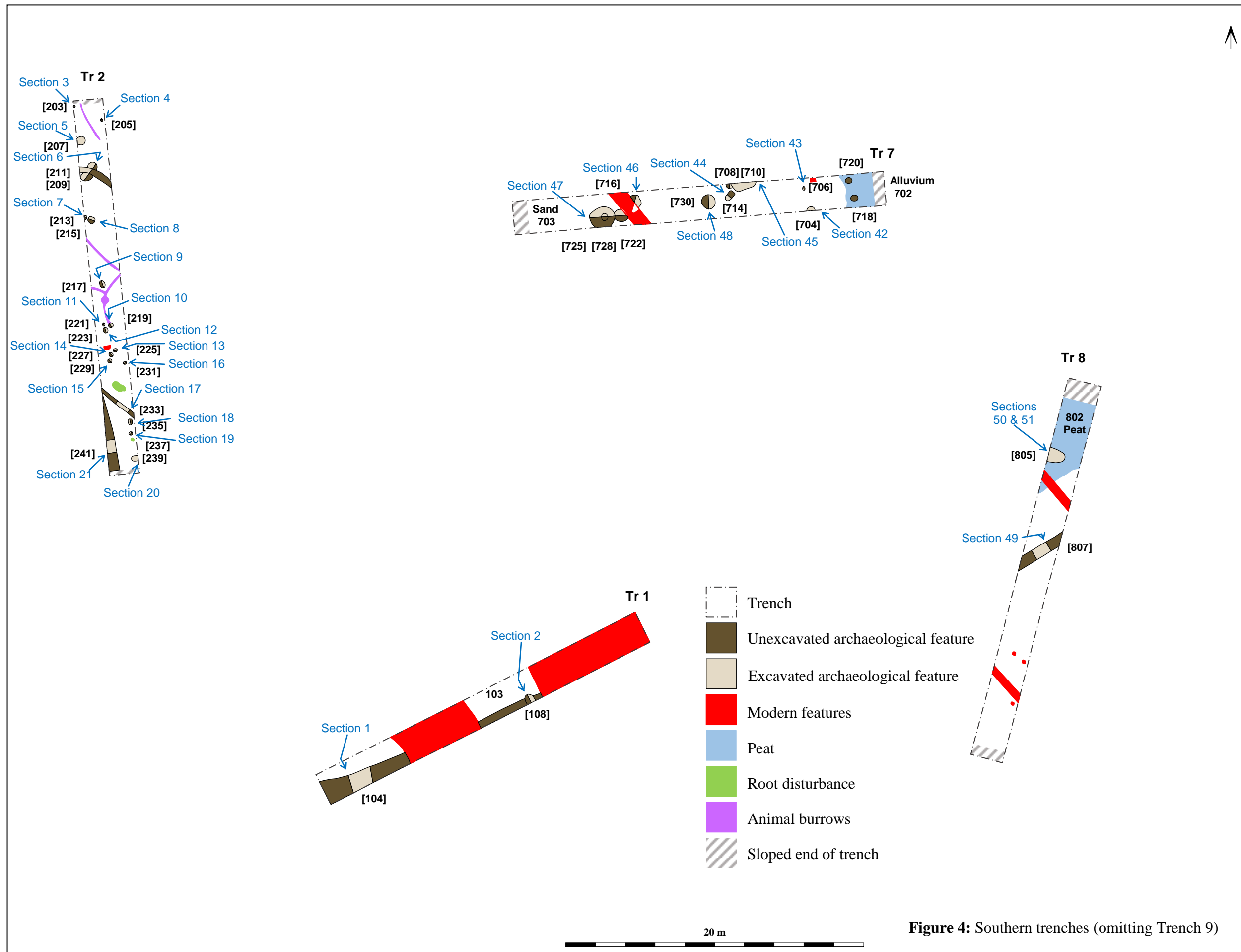


Figure 4: Southern trenches (omitting Trench 9)

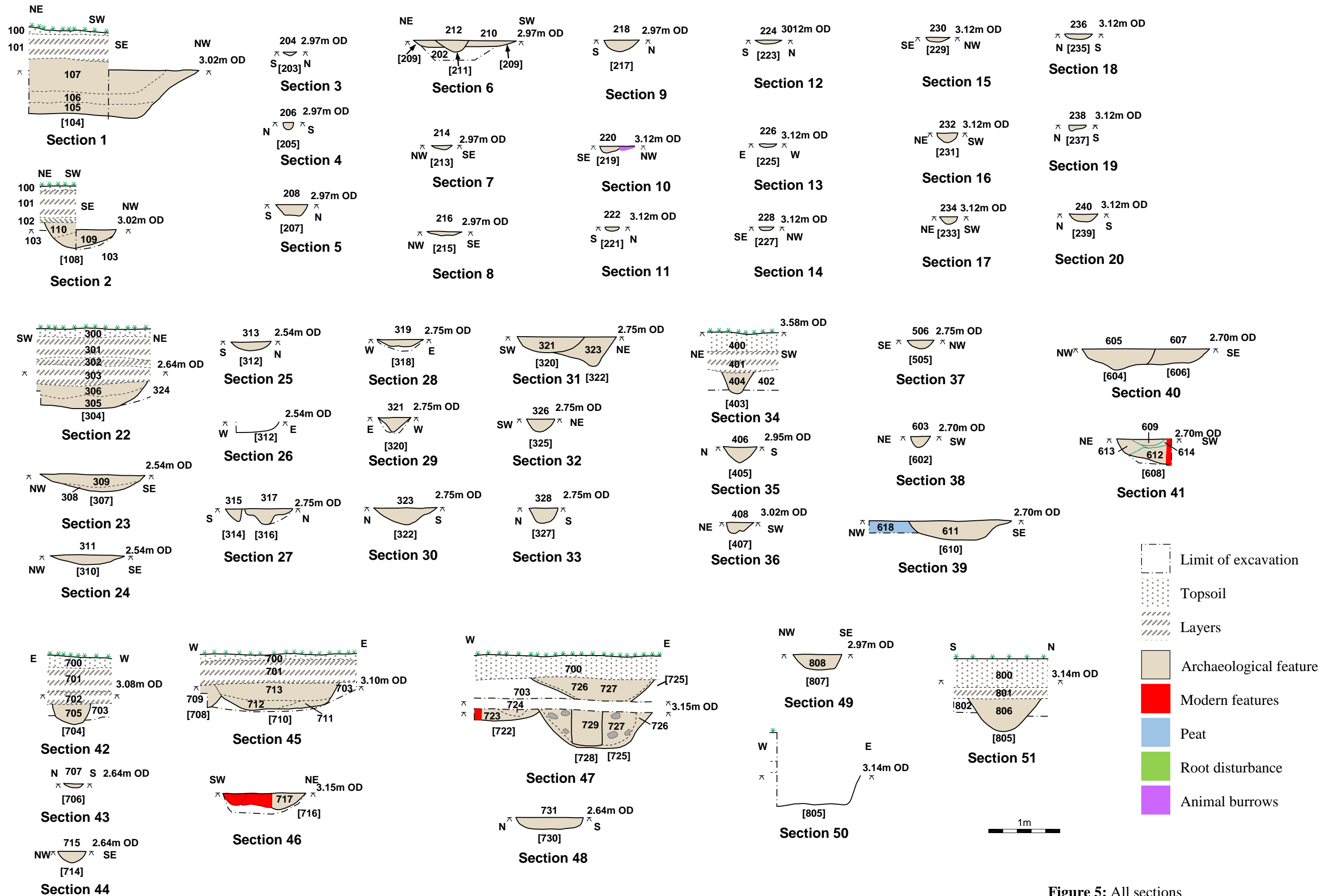


Figure 5: All sections



PHOTOGRAPHS



Trench 2. Ditch [241].
1m & 25cm scale



Trench 2 looking S.
1m scale



Trench 1 looking NW. Ditch [104]
SE-facing section. 1m scale



Trench 3. Ditch [304] NE-facing
section. 1m scale



Trench 4 looking SW. 1m scale



Trench 4 looking NE. Ditch [405].
1m scale



Trench 5 looking N. 1m scale



Trench 6. Ditches [604] & [606]
SW-facing section. 1m scale



Trench 6. Ditches [604] & [606]
SW-facing section. 1m scale



Trench 7 looking E.
1m scale



Trench 7. Pit [722], post
hole [725] & post-pipe
[728] N-facing sections.
1m scale



Trench 8 looking NE. 1m scale



Trench 8. Ditch [807] SW-facing section. 40cm scale



Trench 9 looking W. 1m scale



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