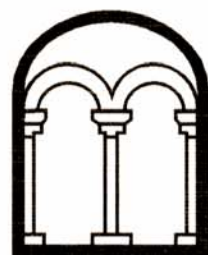


**CHASE PARK FARM
YARDLEY HASTINGS
NORTHAMPTONSHIRE**

**RESULTS OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL
INVESTIGATION**

Albion
archaeology



**CHASE PARK FARM
YARDLEY HASTINGS
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**RESULTS OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL
INVESTIGATION**

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Produced for:
Myriad CEG Wind Ltd

On behalf of:
Mr S Armstrong



Contents

Non-Technical Summary	5
1. INTRODUCTION	6
1.1 Planning Background	6
1.2 Site Location and Description	6
1.3 Archaeological and Historical Background	7
2. METHOD STATEMENTS	8
2.1 Methodology	8
2.2 Aims and Objectives	9
3. RESULTS	10
3.1 Introduction	10
3.2 Overburden and Geological Strata	10
3.3 Archaeological Remains	10
3.4 Recut Ditch	10
3.5 Summary	11
4. BIBLIOGRAPHY	13
5. APPENDIX 1: ARCHAEOLOGICAL DEPOSITS	14

List of Figures

Figure 1: Site location

Figure 2: Previously recorded sites

Figure 3: All-features plan and sections

Figure 4: Selected images 1 and 2

Figure 5: Selected images 3 and 4

The figures are bound at the back of the document.



Preface

Every effort has been made in the preparation and submission of this document and all statements 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.

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Key Terms

Throughout this document, the following terms or abbreviations are used:

AAA	Assistant Archaeological Advisor
Client	Myriad CEG Wind Ltd on behalf of Mr S Armstrong
HER	NCC Historic Environment Record
IfA	Institute for Archaeologists
LPA	Local Planning Authority
NCC	Northamptonshire County Council
<i>Procedures Manual</i>	<i>Procedures Manual Volume 1 Fieldwork</i> , 2nd ed, 2001 Albion Archaeology



Non-Technical Summary

Albion Archaeology was commissioned by Myriad CEG Wind Ltd on behalf of their client Mr Armstrong of Chase Park Farm, to undertake a programme of archaeological work associated with the construction of a wind turbine at Chase Park Farm, Yardley Hastings, Northamptonshire.

In response to the submission of a Screening Opinion and Pre-application Enquiry to South Northamptonshire Council, the Council determined that an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) was not required, but that there was potential for archaeological remains to be present on the site. The Assistant Archaeological Advisor (AAA) of Northamptonshire County Council (NCC) advised that the proposed development was in a potentially archaeologically sensitive area. In line with the guidance contained in the National Planning Policy Framework, further information on the significance of any heritage assets on the site was required to enable an assessment of the potential impact of the development to be made. This initially involved the opening of a trial trench within the footprint of the turbine base. Following discussions with the AAA, this was extended to the full footprint of the turbine base and all archaeological features were investigated in accordance with an agreed updated methodology.

Chase Park Farm is situated to the south-west of the village of Yardley Hastings, with the proposed wind turbine situated in a field to the west of the farm buildings, centred at grid reference SP (4)84865 (2)54897. At the time of the archaeological works this field was under arable cultivation.

The investigation revealed a substantial recut ditch aligned roughly N-S, with the later form having a slightly divergent alignment to the south. The form of several fills may suggest the presence of an associated bank to the west. Other features included the very truncated remains of a possible structural slot aligned obliquely to the ditch in the area immediately to the east. A shallow darker patch of material is interpreted as a variation in the geological strata rather than the base of a pit or tree-throw. No finds were recovered from the ditch fills or any other features.

The location and alignment of the ditch does not correspond to any boundaries shown on historic maps. Despite the opening of two sections, no artefacts were recovered, suggesting that the feature is not post-medieval or modern in date. It is possible that it is associated with Roman finds previously recovered from the area to the south.



1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 *Planning Background*

Albion Archaeology was commissioned by Myriad CEG Wind Ltd. to undertake a programme of archaeological works associated with the construction of a wind turbine at Chase Park Farm, Yardley Hastings, Northamptonshire.

In response to the submission of a Screening Opinion and Pre-application Enquiry to South Northamptonshire Council, the Council determined that an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) was not required, but that there was potential for archaeological remains to be present on the site.

The Assistant Archaeological Advisor (AAA) of Northamptonshire County Council (NCC) advised that the proposed development was in a potentially archaeologically sensitive area. In line with the guidance contained in the *National Planning Policy Framework*, further information on the significance of any heritage assets on the site was required to enable an assessment of the potential impact of the development to be made.

The AAA issued a brief detailing a programme of archaeological investigation which would address the archaeological potential of the proposed development area (NCC 2012a).

The programme was to comprise three stages:

- Stage I: archaeological field evaluation of the site to locate, define and characterise any archaeological remains that exist.
- Stage II: appraisal of the results of the field evaluation and their significance with regard to the proposed development, which might lead to a programme of investigation and recording of archaeological remains which would be unavoidably destroyed by the development.
- Stage III: implementation of an agreed programme of archaeological investigation and recording.

The AAA issued a brief for the Stage I archaeological field evaluation (NCC 2011b), comprising trial trenching. In response Albion formulated a Written Scheme of Investigation (Albion Archaeology 2012) which outlined the circumstances of the project and scope of work required.

1.2 *Site Location and Description*

Chase Park Farm is situated to the south-west of the village of Yardley Hastings at the southern end of Chase Park Road / Howcut Lane. The site is at the south-east edge of Castle Ashby Park. The location of the proposed wind turbine is centred at grid reference SP (4)84865 (2)54897 in the field immediately to the west of the buildings of Chase Park Farm (Figure 1).

At the time of the archaeological works a crop of maize, standing up to 2m high, was under cultivation. The area is roughly level at c. 110m OD,



occupying a slight ridge with the land sloping down gently towards the north and south.

The underlying geology of the site consists of Great Oolite Limestone overlain by glacial till deposits. However, the investigation revealed yellowish brown clay till up to 0.37m thick above blue grey clay characteristic of Oxford Clay.

1.3 Archaeological and Historical Background

1.3.1 Previously recorded sites

The Historic Environment Record (HER) data from a 1km-radius search area around the proposed wind turbine was examined in the WSI, to provide the archaeological and historical background to the site (Figure 2). The data was largely dominated by records relating to the use of the area as a military installation during WW2, comprising an ordnance depot and associated defence installations, some of which have sometimes been misinterpreted as possible prehistoric burial mounds, based on aerial photographic evidence. There is however, evidence of the medieval/post-medieval (green highlighted tags on Figure 2) and Iron Age to Roman (yellow highlighted tags on Figure 2) utilisation of the landscape.

1.3.2 Medieval/post-medieval

Chase Park Farmhouse is a Grade II Listed Building (DNN5437) and lies just inside the southern end of the designated area of Castle Ashby park and garden (DNN6543). The gardens are registered at Grade I; the landscape park was improved by Lancelot Brown in the 1760s and the formal gardens were laid out in the 1860s. The southern end of the registered park lies in the area of Yardley Chase (MNN2792), a medieval/early post-medieval deer and hunting park.

1.3.3 Iron Age to Roman

Two possible areas of activity were identified in the vicinity of the site — a dispersed scatter to the north-east comprising a possible Roman road (MNN5287), a possible Iron Age-Roman settlement (MNN5288) and find spot (MNN34954). A number of undated, though possibly associated cropmarks, have also been identified, such as MNN23013.

To the south-west of the proposed turbine, is the find spot of a number of Romano-British pottery sherds (MNN27750) and an undated cropmark of a possible settlement enclosure (MNN5373).

1.3.4 Historical maps

The maps show changes from the first edition Ordnance Survey map of the 1880s with the amount of trees declining as arable cultivation extends. The area to the south-west of Chase Park Farm is part of a large land parcel, the boundary with the farm aligned NW-SE. The area is bisected by footpaths which head in a roughly westerly direction.



2. METHOD STATEMENTS

2.1 Methodology

The investigation was undertaken between 4th and 5th October 2012, in a period of generally dry conditions, though with overnight rain.

A single trial trench measuring 5m by c. 1.8m wide was initially opened, revealing a ditch cut into the underlying geological deposits. The AAA visited the site on the morning of 4th October. It was agreed to complete characterisation of the ditch (including the attempted recovery of dating evidence through the sieving of a 10 litre sample of the fill for finds) and to confirm the extent of the turbine base. To avoid potential delays during construction work a methodology was agreed with the AAA for the investigation of the full extent of the base — confirmed as a 5m by 5m area the next day. The machining was undertaken by an experienced operator using a midi digger fitted with a 1.5m wide toothless ditching bucket. The deposits were removed down to either the top of possible archaeological remains or undisturbed geological strata, whichever were encountered first.

The deposits and any potential remains were noted, cleaned, excavated by hand and recorded using Albion Archaeology's *pro forma* sheets. All deposits were recorded using a unique recording number sequence commencing at 1.

Throughout the project the standards set out in the following documents were adhered to:

- Albion Archaeology's *Procedures Manual for Archaeological Fieldwork and the Analysis of Fieldwork Records* (2001);
- Archaeological Archive Forum *Archaeological Archives: A Guide to best practice in creation, compilation, transfer and curation* (2007);
- IfA's *Code of Conduct* (2010);
- IfA's *Standards and Guidance for Field Evaluation* (2008);
- IfA's *Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Excavation* (updated 2008);
- English Heritage's *Management of Archaeological Projects* (1991);
- English Heritage *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE)* (2006)
- English Heritage' *Environmental Archaeology* (second edition 2011).

Following completion of the investigation of the full area to the agreed methodology, the area was backfilled with the consent of the AAA.

During construction of the turbine, the connecting cable will utilise a trenchless cable layer to avoid disturbance to the existing land drains. This will also minimise the impact on any buried archaeological deposits. The AAA has confirmed this is acceptable and, therefore, no further fieldwork is required. This report summaries all components of the archaeological investigation.



The project archive will be deposited in Northamptonshire, once an approved repository is available.

2.2 Aims and Objectives

Although recorded HER data provides an archaeological and historical background to the site, there was, prior to the current investigation, no specific information on archaeological deposits which might be found within the development area.

The general aims of the investigation were to:

- establish the location, extent, nature and date of any archaeological features and deposits present within the site;
- establish the integrity and state of preservation of any such archaeological features;
- recover artefacts to assist in the development of types series within the region;
- recover palaeo-environmental remains to determine local environmental conditions.



3. RESULTS

3.1 Introduction

The results of the investigation of the turbine base are summarised below. More detailed information on deposits can be found in Appendix 1.

3.2 Overburden and Geological Strata

The ploughsoil (1) was 0.33–0.36m thick and consisted of friable mid brownish slightly sandy silty clay. Subsoil (2) consisted of mid yellowish brown silty clay, up to 0.24m thick. This has been disturbed by deep ploughing and mole ploughing.

Below the overburden was a disturbed geological stratum (3) up to 0.09m thick. Only below this level were clean geological strata (4) and archaeological features defined. The undisturbed geological strata comprised two deposits. The stratigraphically higher was a compact yellow brown silty clay, with frequent chalk flecks and small rounded chalk pebbles with lesser quantities of rounded stones and angular flints. This deposit also contained patches of orange brown friable silty sand. At a depth of *c.* 0.37m, a more compact bluish grey clay was exposed in the base of the ditch. The character of this deposit is similar to Oxford Clay.

3.3 Archaeological Remains

None of the features contained datable material, so they will be discussed by feature type. Figure 3 shows an all-features plan of the turbine base footprint, with associated sections. Figures 4 and 5 contain a selection of images of the main features.

The main feature was a substantial recut ditch. The very truncated remains of a possible structure slot were revealed in the area immediately to the east of the ditch. Towards the north-west corner of the area, a shallow feature is interpreted as a variation in the geological strata rather than a tree-throw or pit

3.4 Recut Ditch

The slightly curving ditch was aligned roughly NNW-S, situated roughly centrally within the area (Figure 3 and Figure 4: images 1, 2 and Figure 5 image 3).

3.4.1 Earlier ditch

The profile of the earlier ditch was severely truncated by the later recut; however, the surviving elements of both cuts [5] and [13] indicate a substantial feature at least 0.85m wide and 0.42m deep, with steep sides and a flat base (Figure 3: sections 1 and 2, Figure 4: image 2 and Figure 5: image 3). The concave upper part of the profile in the southern section (Figure 3: section 2) is the result of differential erosion of a patch of softer orange brown sand in the upper part of the geological strata. The ditch cut did not extend far into the compact blue grey clay. A series of fills were identified, with lenses of chalk possibly being derived from weathering of an associated bank to the



west. The profiles of the deposits are variable but suggest that they accumulated in dry conditions, comprising both relatively dark deposits (probably derived from an unstable upper soil profile) as well as material derived from the geological strata. This may suggest the ditch is a field boundary, with the adjacent area being ploughed.

3.4.2 *Recut ditch*

There appears to have been a slight shift in the northern part of the ditch to the west (Figure 3). The recut ditch [8]/[17] was generally less substantial — up to 0.85m wide and 0.4m deep, with a less angular and more concave profile, as it was dug into softer ditch fills rather than the more resistant geological strata.

There were two main fills, comprising a lower mid brown silty clay (9)/(18) and a more yellowish upper fill (12)/(19). This may suggest the normal silting pattern was interrupted, possibly by the slighting of the postulated bank. These deposits had a roughly horizontal boundary which may suggest that the lower deposit accumulated in wet conditions. However, small lenses of material have profiles indicative of accumulation in dry conditions — contexts (10) and (11) on Figure 3: section 1. The upper horizontal boundary of this feature is the result of plough truncation. To confirm the absence of finds, a 10 litre sample was taken from fill (9) for sieving; no finds were recovered from this material.

3.4.3 *Slot*

Aligned roughly NE-SW, the tapering linear feature [24]/[26] was 1.35m long and up to 0.28m wide, with well defined, squared terminals to both limits. The profile was very truncated, being a maximum of 0.06m deep (Figure 3: sections 3 and 4 and Figure 5: image 4), though the squared terminals apparently define the full extent of the feature. The slot's south-west limit had been disturbed by later animal burrowing [22].

The form of this slot may suggest it represents part of the foundations of a structure. However, its proximity and oblique alignment to the recut ditch would suggest that the two were not associated.

3.4.4 *Probable geological feature*

A roughly circular patch of slightly yellowish brown silty clay, up to 0.06m thick with an irregular profile [20]/(21) (Figure 3: section 5) is interpreted as a discrete variation in the geological strata rather than the very truncated remains of a pit or a three-throw.

3.5 *Summary*

Despite the small extent of the investigation, it revealed a number of undated features, all of which had to some degree been affected by later plough truncation. Neither the substantial N-S aligned ditch nor its later recut on a slightly divergent alignment corresponds to boundaries, or the general alignment of boundaries, shown on historical maps. This suggests the ditch is related to an earlier period of land division. The form of several fills may suggest the presence of an associated bank to the west.



Other features included the very truncated remains of a possible structural slot, aligned obliquely to the ditch in the area immediately to the east, whilst a shallow darker patch of material is interpreted as a variation in the geological strata rather than the base of a pit or tree-throw

It is possible that these features are associated with evidence for Roman activity in the area, identified previously by the recovery of finds. This activity may be associated with undated cropmarks in the area to the south.



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5. APPENDIX 1: ARCHAEOLOGICAL DEPOSITS



Trench: 1

Max Dimensions: Length: 5.00 m. Width: 5.00 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.65 m. Max: 0.69 m.

Co-ordinates: OS Grid Ref.: SP (Easting: 84865; Northing: 54894)

OS Grid Ref.: SP (Easting: 84865; Northing: 54899)

Reason: 5 x 2m trench to evaluate turbine base - subsequently extended to full footprint

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
1	Ploughsoil	Friable mid brown silty clay occasional small stones Up to 0.36m thick. Contains occasional modern finds of green bottle glass and plastic - not retained.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2	Subsoil	Friable mid yellow brown silty clay moderate small-medium stones Up to 0.24m thick. Mole plough scars visible.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3	Layer	Firm yellow brown silty clay frequent flecks chalk, moderate small stones Up to 0.09m thick. Disturbed geological strata - cleaner than (2) but disturbed by mole plough.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4	Natural	Compact yellow brown silty clay frequent flecks chalk Becomes blue grey with depth - Oxford Clay.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5	Ditch	Linear N-S sides: near vertical base: flat dimensions: min breadth 0.85m, max depth 0.25m, min length 1.m Same as [13].	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6	Fill	Friable mid blue brown silty clay occasional small-medium stones Up to 0.25m thick. Deposit slopes down to west.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7	Fill	Friable orange brown silty sand occasional small stones Up to 0.12m thick. Confined to lower west side of cut.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
8	Ditch	Linear sides: concave base: concave dimensions: max breadth 1.m, max depth 0.4m, min length 1.m Same as [17]. Aligned NNW-S.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
9		Friable mid brown silty clay moderate flecks chalk, occasional small-medium stones Main lower fill up to 0.15m thick. Deposit contains lenses of chalk flecks extending from edge of cut. Sample 1 sieved for finds - none present.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
10	Fill	Firm yellow brown silty clay Up to 0.06m thick. Lens of material sloping down east side of cut.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
11	Fill	Friable light yellow brown silty clay frequent flecks chalk Up to 0.04m thick. Thin band of material down west side of cut.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
12	Upper fill	Friable mid yellow brown silty clay occasional large stones, occasional small-medium stones Up to 0.2m thick.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
13	Ditch	Linear N-S sides: Assymetrical base: flat dimensions: max breadth 0.85m, max depth 0.4m, min length 0.45m Same as [5]. Upper western edge concave, becoming vertical with depth.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
14	Lower fill	Friable dark orange brown silty sand Up to 0.19m thick. Contains lens of chalk flecks.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
15	Fill	Friable mid grey brown silty clay Roughly horizontal deposit up to 0.06m thick.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
16	Upper fill	Friable mid orange brown silty clay Up to 0.15m thick.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
17	Ditch	Linear N-S sides: Assymetrical base: concave dimensions: max breadth 0.85m, max depth 0.44m, min length 0.45m Same as [8].	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
18	Lower fill	Friable mid brown silty clay occasional small stones Up to 0.15m thick.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
19	Upper fill	Mid yellow brown silty clay Up to 0.24m thick. Occasional lenses of chalk flecks.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
20	Natural	Circular sides: irregular base: uneven dimensions: max breadth 0.8m, max depth 0.06m, max length 0.8m	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
21	Natural	Friable yellow brown silty clay occasional flecks chalk Up to 0.06m thick.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>



Trench: 1

Max Dimensions: Length: 5.00 m. Width: 5.00 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.65 m. Max: 0.69 m.

Co-ordinates: OS Grid Ref.: SP (Easting: 84865: Northing: 54894)

OS Grid Ref.: SP (Easting: 84865: Northing: 54899)

Reason: 5 x 2m trench to evaluate turbine base - subsequently extended to full footprint

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
22	Modern disturbance	Irregular sides: concave base: concave dimensions: max depth 0.05m, max diameter 0.28m Animal burrow comprising base of chamber and associated tunnel.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
23	Fill	Mid brown silty clay Fill of animal burrow, up to 0.05m thick.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
24	Slot	Linear NE-SW sides: steep base: flat dimensions: max breadth 0.28m, max depth 0.06m, max length 0.46m	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
25	Fill	Friable mid brown silty clay frequent flecks chalk Up to 0.06m thick.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
26	Slot	Linear NE-SW sides: steep base: concave dimensions: max breadth 0.24m, max depth 0.05m, max length 0.25m	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
27	Fill	Friable mid brown silty clay frequent flecks chalk Up to 0.05m thick.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

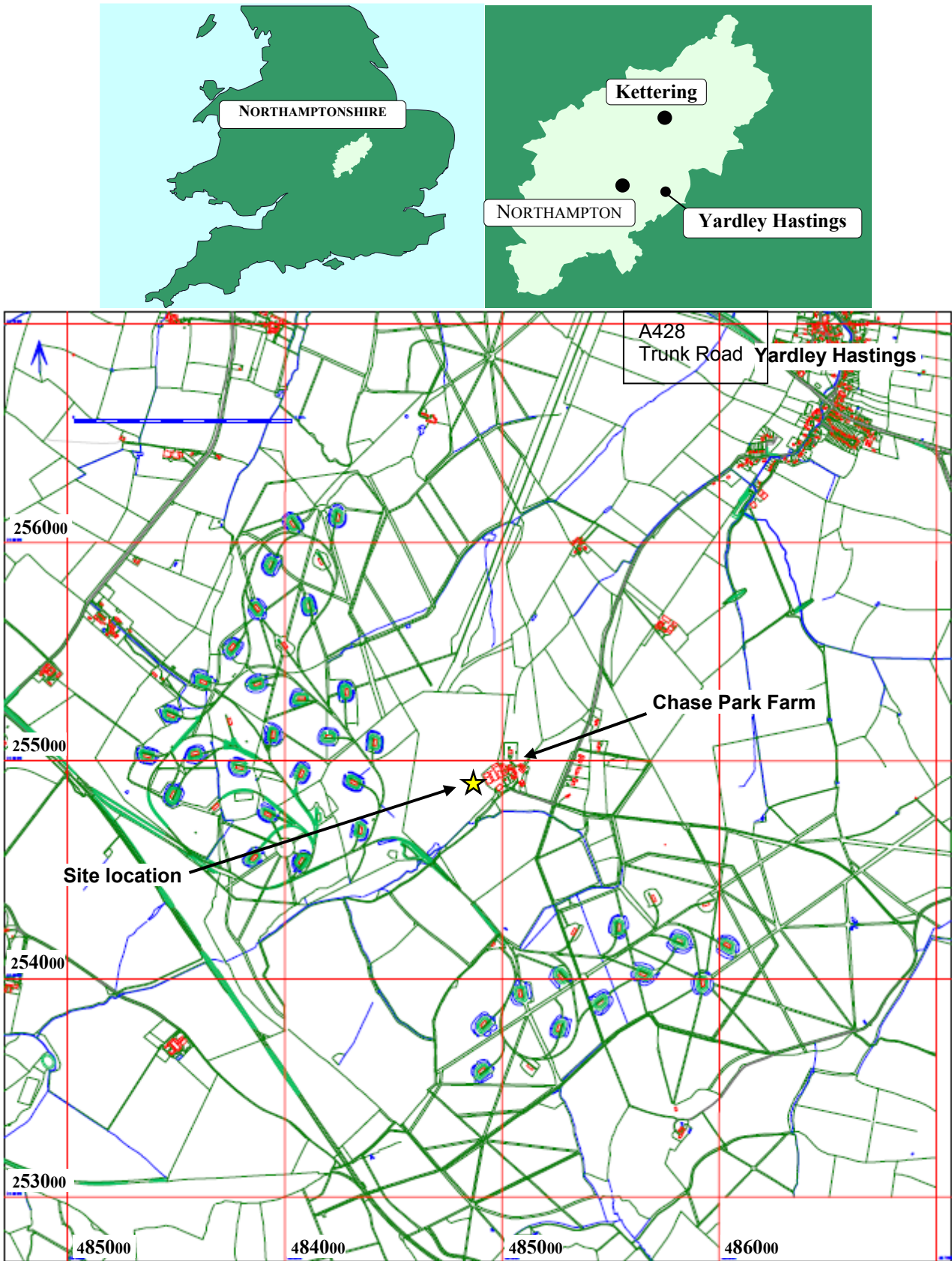


Figure 1: Site location

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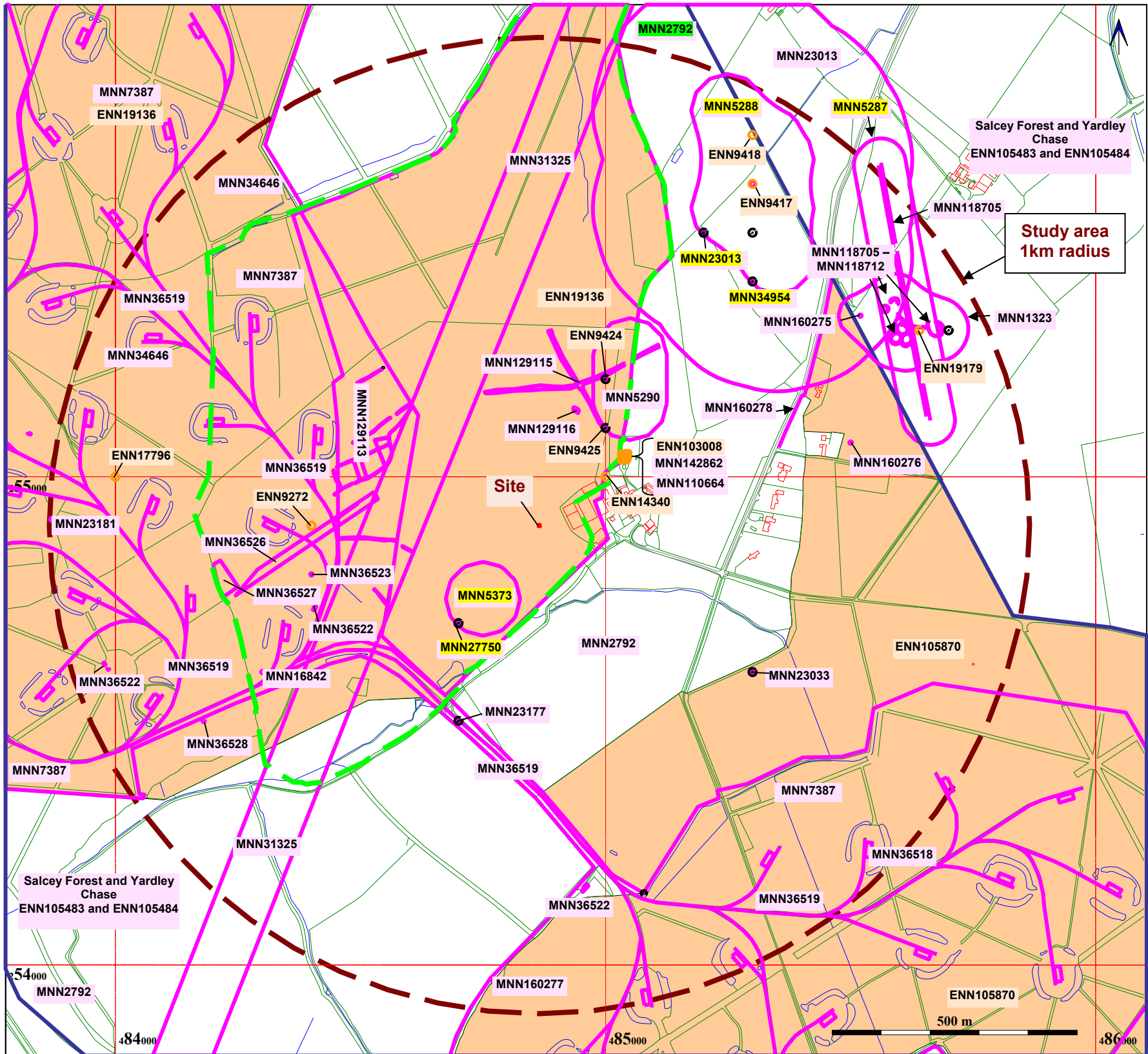


Figure 2: Previously recorded sites
(MNN = monument; ENN = event)

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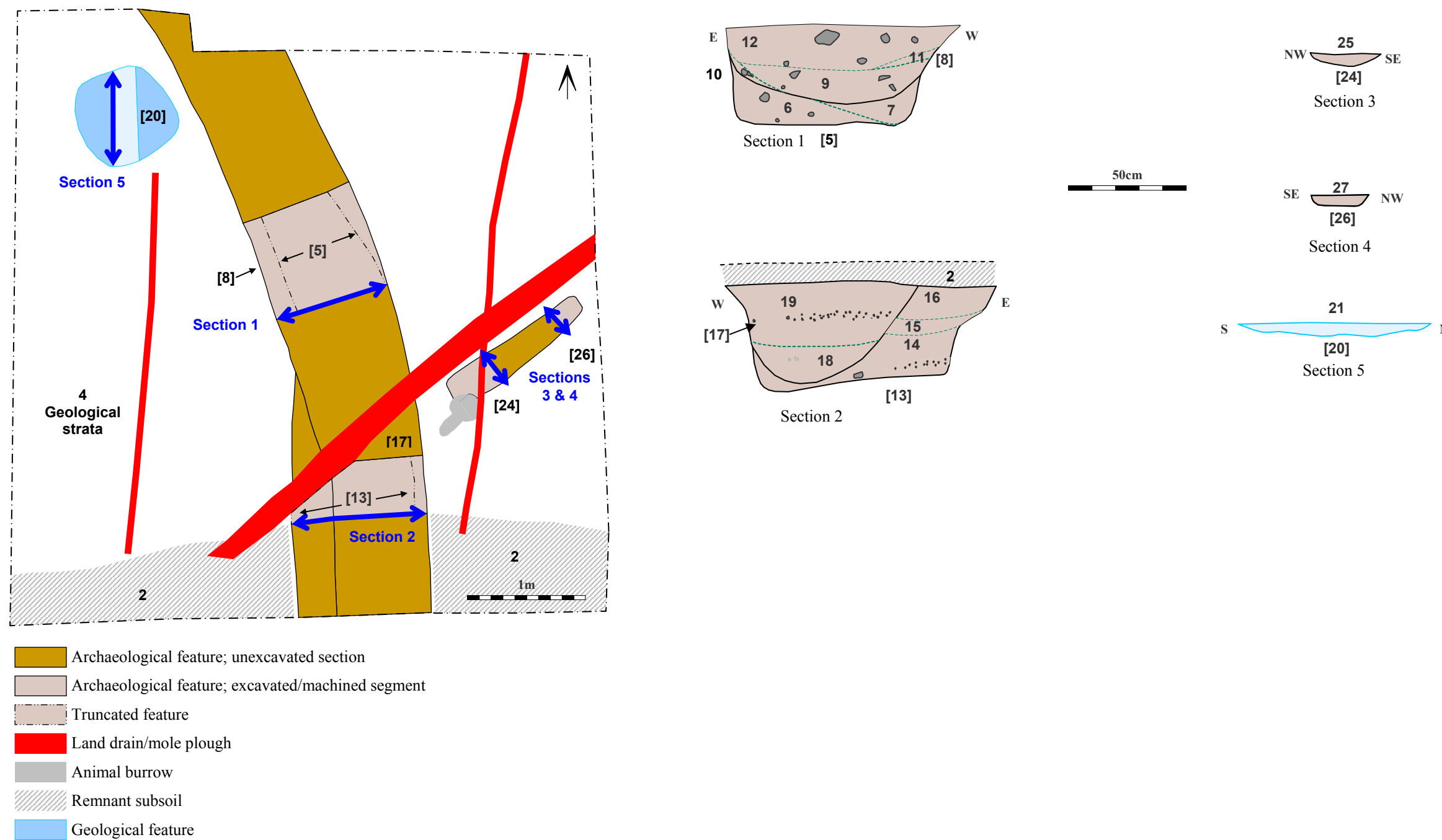


Figure 3: All-features plan and sections



Image 1: General view of fully stripped area looking to the SE corner. Scale 1m in 50cm divisions.



Image 2: Ditches [5] and [8]; the yellow lens of (10) on the left of the image and the orange brown of (7) to the right help to define the boundary between the two features. Note the blue grey clay forming the base of the cut. Scale 1m in 50cm divisions.

Figure 4: Selected images 1 and 2



Image 3: Southern section through recut ditch [13]/[17] darker fills define the less substantial concave profile of the recut [17]. Scale 1m in 50cm divisions.

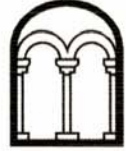


Image 4: Oblique view of eastern end of slot, showing section [24] with animal disturbance [22] to right. Scale 25cm in 5cm divisions.

Figure 5: Selected images 3 and 4



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