

RPS



**THE WIXAMS
ELSTOW
BEDFORDSHIRE**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELD EVALUATION
AREAS 1 AND 2**

Document: 2005/71
Project: WX1138

8th December 2005

Produced for:
RPS Planning
On behalf of:
Gallagher Estates

© Copyright Albion Archaeology 2005, *all rights reserved*



Contents

Structure of the Report	3
Key Terms	3
Non-Technical Summary	4
1. INTRODUCTION	5
1.1 Project Background	5
1.2 Site Location	5
1.3 Archaeological Background	5
1.4 Aims and Objectives	5
2. TRIAL TRENCHING	7
2.1 Introduction	7
2.2 Methodology	7
2.3 Results	7
2.4 Area 1	8
2.5 Area 2	8
3. SYNTHESIS	11
3.1 Discussion	11
3.2 Summary	11
4. BIBLIOGRAPHY	12
5. APPENDICES	13
5.1 Appendix 1, Context Summary	13
5.2 Appendix 2, Artefact Summary	28



LIST OF FIGURES

Figure 1: Site location

Figure 2: Phased all features plan. Trenches 1-12

Figure 3: Trenches 1, 2, 5 and 6

Figure 4: Trenches 3, 4, 7 and 8

Figure 5: Trenches 9, 10, 11 and 12

Figure 6: Trench 13

The figures are bound at the back of the report.



Preface

Every effort has been made in the preparation of this document to provide as complete a summary as possible within the terms of the method statement. 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.

This report has been prepared by Ian Turner (Archaeological Supervisor), Joe Abrams (Project Manager) and Jackie Wells (Finds Officer). Joan Lightning (CAD Technician) produced the figures. Trial trenching, hand excavation and recording were undertaken by Ian Turner, Sian Ellis and Laura Hill (Archaeological Technicians). All Albion projects are under the overall management of Drew Shotliff (Operations Manager). RPS were The Wixams Archaeological Project Managers.

*Albion Archaeology
St Mary's Church
St Mary's Street
Bedford, MK42 OAS
☎: 01234 294017
Fax: 01234 294008
e-mail: office@albion-arch.com*

Structure of the Report

After the introductory Section 1, the results of the fieldwork are presented in Section 2. Section 3 presents a synthesis of the results of the fieldwork. Section 4 is a bibliography. Appendix 1 contains detailed descriptions of the archaeological deposits recorded on the site. Appendix 2 contains a summary of the artefacts and ecofacts recovered during the fieldwork.

Key Terms

Throughout this report the following terms or abbreviations are used:

<i>Albion</i>	Albion Archaeology
<i>RPS</i>	Overall Archaeological Project Managers
<i>AO</i>	Bedfordshire County Council's Archaeological Officer
<i>Consultant</i>	RPS Planning, Transport and Environment
<i>Client</i>	Gallagher Estates
<i>IFA</i>	Institute of Field Archaeologists
<i>Procedures Manual</i>	<i>Procedures Manual Volume 1 Fieldwork, 2nd Edition 2001.</i> Bedfordshire County Council



Non-Technical Summary

In November 2005 Albion Archaeology undertook an intrusive archaeological field evaluation (trial trenching) at Areas 1 and 2, The Wixams, Elstow, Bedfordshire. This project was under RPS management. The work was occasioned by a development proposal, by Gallagher Estates, for the construction of The Wixams residential development and the associated realignment of the A6 south of Bedford.

Area 1 (Figure 1) was located south-west of Elstow, centred on National Grid Reference (NGR) TL 04865 46150. A single trial trench was required along this section of the proposed new road easement. The trench was targeted on the site of a possible ring ditch (HER 1361). However, the ring ditch was not identified in the trial trench. Three minor ditches of possible local significance and a number of tree throw holes were revealed.

Area 2 (Figure 1) was located north-west of Wilstead. It was c.2.84ha in size and was centred on National Grid Reference (NGR) TL 05490 44925. Topsoil samples, retrieved by Stratascan during the geophysical survey evaluation, suggested the possibility of human occupation in this area. An array of twelve trial trenches was used to evaluate the area and test this possibility.

One probable and three possible Roman ditches were identified in the south-west quadrant of Area 2. A further un-phased enclosure or field boundary ditch was located close to the southern limit of Area 2 in Trench 3.

The remains of a medieval / post-medieval ridge and furrow field system were also recorded in Area 2. These were formerly much more common in this area and are of local significance.



1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project Background

RPS Planning (acting on behalf of their client, Gallagher Estates) are the archaeological project managers for The Wixams development. RPS Planning commissioned Albion Archaeology to undertake a trial trenching evaluation on two sites adjacent to the existing A6 south of Bedford.

The two sites, Areas 1 and 2, required intrusive evaluation work as part of an integrated strategy for the completion of archaeological fieldwork and historic building analysis. Non-intrusive evaluation work (research in the Historic Environment Record, topsoil sample analysis and geophysical survey) has already been completed on Areas 1 and 2 (RPS 2005). This identified the existence of a possible ring ditch (Area 1) and possible settlement activity (Area 2).

Following a meeting between RPS and the County Archaeological Officer (28th September 2005) it was decided intrusive archaeological evaluation (trial trenching) was required to provide further information on the archaeological potential of these two areas.

Albion Archaeology was commissioned to undertake the intrusive evaluation on behalf of the client. A Written Scheme of Investigation (RPS/Albion 2005) set out how the evaluation would be completed. This was followed by the intrusive evaluation and the production of a report on its results (this document).

1.2 Site Location

Area 1 (Figure 1) is located south-west of Elstow. A single trial trench was required along this section of the proposed new road easement. The trench was targeted on the site of a possible ring ditch (HER1361). Area 1 is centred on National Grid Reference (NGR) TL 04865 46150.

Area 2 (Figure 1) is located north-west of Wilstead. Topsoil samples retrieved by Stratascan during the geophysical survey evaluation, suggested the possibility of human occupation in this area. Twelve arrayed trial trenches were used to evaluate it and test this possibility. Area 2 is c.2.84ha in size and is centred on National Grid Reference (NGR) TL 05490 44925.

1.3 Archaeological Background

The archaeological and historical background to Areas 1 and 2 is fully discussed in the written scheme of investigation (RPS 2005).

1.4 Aims and Objectives

In line with the requirements of the brief (Section 3), the aims of the trial trenching were to address the following specific issues:

- Does Area 1 contain the remains of a ring ditch (HER 1361)?
- Does Area 2 contain the ploughed out remains of settlement activity?

In broader terms, it was also designed to determine:



- the location, extent, nature and date of any archaeological features or deposits that might be present;
- the integrity and state of preservation of any archaeological features or deposits that might be present.



2. TRIAL TRENCHING

2.1 Introduction

Trial trenching took place between 7th and 11th November 2005 (Area 2) and 28th and 29th November 2005 (Area 1). A total of thirteen trenches were opened.

Detailed technical information on all deposits and archaeological features discussed below can be found in Appendix 1. Only Trenches 1,2,3 and 6 contained significant archaeological deposits.

2.2 Methodology

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

- IFA's *Codes of Conduct and Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation*;
- Albion Archaeology's *Procedures Manual: Volume 1 Fieldwork* (2nd edn, 2001).
- *Environmental Archaeology* (EH, 2002)

The trench plan (Figures 1 and 2) was discussed with, and agreed by the CAO, prior to any trial trenching taking place. The main objectives of the trial trenching have already been summarised in Section 1.4. Essentially, it was designed to gain more information on the archaeological potential of the proposed development area.

The location of the trenches was marked out on the ground in advance of machine excavation, using dGPS, which ensured they were accurately located on the OS National Grid.

Topsoil and modern overburden were mechanically removed by an excavator (JCB) fitted with a toothless bucket. This was conducted under close archaeological supervision. These deposits were removed down to the top of the archaeological deposits, or undisturbed geological deposits, whichever was encountered first. The spoil heaps were scanned for artefacts.

The bases and sections of all trenches were cleaned by hand. The deposits and any potential archaeological features were noted, cleaned, excavated by hand and recorded using Albion Archaeology's pro forma sheets. The trenches were subsequently drawn and photographed as appropriate. All deposits were recorded using a unique number sequence commencing at 100 for Trench 1, 200 for Trench 2 etc.

2.3 Results

Deposits and features of archaeological interest are summarised below in chronological order by trench. Further detailed descriptions can be found in Appendix 1.



2.4 Area 1

Trench 13 was opened in Area 1 to investigate a possible ring ditch (HER 1361). However, the ring ditch was not revealed within the trench.

2.4.1 Topsoil, Subsoil and Undisturbed Geological Deposits

Topsoil (1300) was a dark grey brown clay silt, which was 0.32m deep.

Subsoil (1301) was a mid orange grey silty clay, which was 0.10m deep.

The undisturbed geological deposit (1302) was a mid grey orange clay silt with irregular patches of light grey clay.

2.4.2 Un-phased

One ditch and two ditch terminals, [1311], [1313] and [1325], were identified in Trench 13 (Figure 6). The ditches ranged from 0.58m to 0.60m wide, and 0.11m to 0.27 deep and contained a deposit of silty clay.

The only artefact recovered from the ditches was a fragment of burnt flint in ditch [1311]. This single item cannot be considered to provide a reliable date for the ditches. However, the ditches truncated the subsoil and may be of similar date to the surrounding tree throws, some of which contained post-medieval brick and roof tile fragments.

2.4.3 Tree Throws and Root disturbance

Thirteen probable tree throw holes [1303], [1305], [1307], [1309], [1315], [1317], [1319], [1321]/[1332], [1323], [1328], [1330], [1334] and [1336] were identified in Trench 13 (Figure 6). The tree throws contained naturally derived silty clay deposits. Five treethrows [1322], [1327], [1331], [1333] and [1335] contained post-medieval brick and roof tile fragments.

2.5 Area 2

2.5.1 Topsoil, Subsoil and Undisturbed Geological Deposits

Topsoil (100), (200), (300), (400), (500), (600), (700), (800), (900), (1000), (1100), (1200) was a dark grey brown clay silt, which ranged from 0.18m to 0.30m deep.

Subsoil (101), (201), (301), (401), (501), (601), (701), (801), (901), (1001), (1101), (1201) was a mid grey brown silty clay, which ranged from 0.05m to 0.23m deep.

The subsoil varied in thickness in a consistent pattern across the site. The determining factor appeared to be the existence of backfilled furrows, in the vicinity of which the subsoil was deeper.

The undisturbed geological deposit (102), (202), (302), (402), (502), (602), (702), (802), (902), (1002), (1102), (1202) was a mid grey orange clay silt with irregular patches of light orange grey clay.



2.5.2 Roman (AD43 – c.AD450)

A ditch of probable late Roman date was revealed within Trench 6; towards the centre of the site.

Ditch [605] was aligned NW-SE and measured 1.24m wide and 0.43m deep. The primary deposit (606) contained the base of a Roman beaker (drinking vessel) and a piece of animal bone, in close association (Appendix 2, Section 5.2).

Fragments of post-medieval roof tile were also recovered from (606). The presence of this later material might indicate that the feature dates to the post-medieval period. The tile may be intrusive within this feature; it may have been introduced during excavations for a land drain which truncated this feature.

2.5.3 Medieval (1150 – 1500AD)

A ridge and furrow field system is visible as an extant earthwork in the field immediately south-east of Area 2. Such features may be of medieval and/or post-medieval date.

The backfilled remnants of several furrows were identified below the topsoil in the bases and sides of Trenches 2, 4, 5, 7, 9, 10 and 12 (Figure 2). The furrows were broadly aligned NE-SW. This alignment was best demonstrated in Trench 9 in which a furrow was clearly visible running along the base of, and at a slight angle to, the orientation of the trench. Such features were in common usage in the region during the medieval period.

2.5.4 Post-medieval (1500 – 1750AD)

Two pits [105] and [207] were identified in Trenches 1 and 2 (Figure 3). The pits varied from 1.35m to 4.85m long, 0.85m to 0.95m wide and 0.15m to 0.17m deep.

A piece of 19th century willow pattern pottery was recovered from deposit (108), part of pit [105]. Deposit (208), within pit [207], contained an unidentifiable piece of abraded pottery and a fragment of coal (Appendix 2, Section 5.2). Both pits appear to be post-medieval in date.

2.5.5 Un-phased

Curvilinear ditch [303] was revealed within Trench 3 (Figure 4). It was aligned broadly NE-SW, 0.60m wide and 0.34m deep. Two pottery sherds of probable late Iron Age date were recovered from this feature (304). Both sherds are abraded and likely to be residual within [303]. Therefore there is now way of determining how the sherds were abraded and how long the process took. Accordingly, the ditch has been classified as un-phased.

Three ditches [103], [209] and [603] were identified in Trenches 1, 2, and 6 which were in the southern part of the site (Figure 3). The ditches ranged from 0.32m to 0.73m wide, and 0.14m to 0.21 deep and contained a deposit of silty clay.

No finds were recovered from these ditches and they remain un-phased. However ditch [603] was located close to, and parallel with, the probable



Roman ditch [605]. This may be a coincidental location, or it might suggest that the ditches are contemporary.

2.5.6 Tree Throws and Root disturbance

Four probable tree throws / tree boles [203], [211], [403] and [1203] were identified in Trenches 2, 4 and 12 (Figures 3 and 5). The tree throws contained charcoal flecks or fragments and naturally derived silty clay deposits. It is possible that fire was used in their removal.

2.5.7 Geological feature

A relatively large feature [1003] was investigated in Trench 10 (Figure 5). The feature was 13.60m long and 1.60m wide within the trench, although it is certain to have been much larger than this. A segment was excavated by machine in order to ascertain the feature's full depth. However, the base had not been detected when machining halted at a depth of 1.35m.

No artefacts were recovered and both the upper and lower deposits (1004) and (1005) appeared to be natural in origin.

[1003] is likely to have been formed by natural processes and may be either the remains of a pond, a periglacial feature, or possibly the edge of a palaeochannel. However, the last option seems unlikely as no similar deposit was visible in the other trenches.



3. SYNTHESIS

3.1 Discussion

The evaluation of Area 1 has demonstrated the presence of three minor ditches, which are possibly post-medieval in date. The ring ditch (HER1361) was not revealed within the trench.

The evaluation of Area 2 has demonstrated the presence of probable Roman, medieval and post-medieval remains.

The artefacts recovered from the probable Roman ditch [605] indicate settlement activity within the vicinity. Ditch [605] may have served as a boundary ditch related to any such putative settlement. However, the absence of Roman features in the majority of the trenches and the paucity of the artefact assemblage suggest that Area 2 itself was not a focus of settlement in the Roman period.

The undated minor ditches may represent a field system, acting either as boundary ditches or as a drainage system, possibly dating to the Roman period.

Curvilinear ditch [303] produced two abraded sherds of probable late Iron Age date. However, the date of the ditch itself is uncertain. It may have acted as a field or enclosure boundary ditch to activity focused in the fields to the south-east of the development area.

The medieval / post-medieval furrows, identified in the majority of the trenches, indicate the former presence of a ridge and furrow field system. Similar remains are visible as earthworks in land immediately south-east of the development area.

3.2 Summary

The ring ditch (HER1361) was not present in the single trial trench in Area 1. Three minor ditches of possible local significance were revealed.

One probable and three possible Roman ditches were identified in the south-west quadrant of Area 2. A further un-phased enclosure or field boundary ditch was located close to the southern limit of Area 2 in Trench 3. These remains are of local significance.

The remains of a medieval / post-medieval ridge and furrow field system were also recorded. These were formerly much more common in this area and are of local significance.



4. BIBLIOGRAPHY

Albion Archaeology 2001 *Procedures Manual Vol 1: Fieldwork*.

EH 1991 *The Management of Archaeological Projects, 2nd edition*. English Heritage (London).

IFA 1999a Institute of Field Archaeologists' *Code of Conduct*.

IFA 1999b Institute of Field Archaeologists' *Standard & Guidance documents (Desk-Based Assessments, Watching Briefs, Evaluations, Excavations, Investigation and Recording of Standing Buildings)*.

RPS/Albion 2005 *The Wixams, Elstow: A Written Scheme Of Investigation For Evaluation Of Archaeology Areas 1 And 2 (RPS 80 And 81)*. RPS document JLG0570/R01.



5. APPENDICES

5.1 Appendix 1, Context Summary



Trench: 1

Max Dimensions: Length: 30.00 m. Width: 1.60 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.34 m. Max: 0.45 m.

OS Co-ordinates: Ref. 1: TL0571944305 Ref. 2: TL0574444322

Reason: General coverage

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
100	Ploughsoil	Firm dark grey brown clay silt occasional medium stones, occasional small stones	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
101	Subsoil	Firm mid grey brown silty clay occasional medium stones, occasional small stones	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
102	Natural	Friable mid grey orange clay silt with irregular patches of light orange grey clay	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
103	Ditch	Linear NW-SE profile: concave base: concave dimensions: min length 1.6m, min breadth 0.32m, min depth 0.19m	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
104	Fill	Firm mid brown silty clay	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
105	Pit	Irregular profile: concave base: flat dimensions: min length 4.85m, min breadth 0.95m, min depth 0.15m	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
106	Fill	Firm light brown orange silty clay occasional flecks charcoal, frequent small-medium stones	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
107	General Number	Irregular profile: concave base: flat dimensions: min length 4.85m, min breadth 0.95m, min depth 0.15m General number for unexcavated part of pit [105].	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
108	General Number	Firm light brown orange silty clay occasional flecks charcoal General number for unexcavated part of fill of pit [105].	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>



Trench: 2

Max Dimensions: Length: 30.00 m. Width: 1.60 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.42 m. Max: 0.45 m.

OS Co-ordinates: Ref. 1: TL0577744316 Ref. 2: TL0576044341

Reason: General coverage

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
200	Ploughsoil	Firm dark grey brown clay silt occasional medium stones, occasional small stones	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
201	Subsoil	Firm mid grey brown silty clay occasional medium stones, occasional small stones	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
202	Natural	Friable mid grey orange clay silt occasional medium stones, occasional small stones with irregular patches of light orange grey clay	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
203	Treethrow	Irregular profile: concave base: uneven dimensions: min length 2.2m, min breadth 0.4m, min depth 0.22m	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
204	Fill	Firm light grey brown silty clay occasional small stones	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
205	Furrow	Linear NE-SW profile: convex base: flat dimensions: min length 1.7m, min breadth 1.m, min depth 0.23m	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
206	Fill	Firm light brown grey silty clay frequent small stones	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
207	Pit	Oval profile: near vertical base: flat dimensions: min length 1.35m, min breadth 0.85m, min depth 0.17m	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
208	Fill	Firm light brown grey silty clay moderate small stones	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
209	Ditch	Linear NE-SW profile: 45 degrees base: flat dimensions: min length 1.6m, min breadth 0.73m, min depth 0.21m	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
210	Fill	Friable light brown grey clay silt	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
211	Treethrow	Irregular profile: concave base: flat dimensions: min length 3.9m, min breadth 0.25m, min depth 0.26m	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
212	Fill	Friable light brown grey clay silt occasional small charcoal, occasional small stones	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
213	Furrow	Linear NE-SW profile: concave base: concave General number for furrows identified in Trench 2.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
214	Fill	Firm mid grey brown silty clay General number for fill of furrows identified in Trench 2.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>



Trench: 3

Max Dimensions: Length: 30.00 m. Width: 1.60 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.3 m. Max: 0.53 m.

OS Co-ordinates: Ref. 1: TL0579044341 Ref. 2: TL0581544358

Reason: General coverage

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
300	Ploughsoil	Firm dark grey brown clay silt occasional medium stones, occasional small stones	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
301	Subsoil	Firm mid grey brown silty clay occasional medium stones, occasional small stones	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
302	Natural	With irregular patches of light orange grey clay	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
303	Ditch	Curving linear NE-SW profile: concave base: v-shaped dimensions: min length 11.5m, min breadth 0.6m, max depth 0.34m The base varied from pointed to flat within the excavated section	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
304	Fill	Firm dark orange brown silty clay occasional flecks charcoal, occasional medium stones, occasional small stones	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>



Trench: 4

Max Dimensions: Length: 30.00 m. Width: 1.60 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.51 m. Max: 0.53 m.

OS Co-ordinates: Ref. 1: TL0582444383 Ref. 2: TL0584044358

Reason: General coverage

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
400	Ploughsoil	Firm dark grey brown clay silt occasional medium stones, occasional small stones	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
401	Subsoil	Firm mid grey brown silty clay occasional medium stones, occasional small stones	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
402	Natural	Friable mid grey orange clay silt occasional medium stones, occasional small stones with irregular patches of light orange grey clay	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
403	Treethrow	Sub-oval profile: irregular base: uneven dimensions: min length 0.6m, min breadth 0.72m, min depth 0.17m	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
404	Fill	Firm dark brown black silty clay moderate small charcoal	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
405	Furrow	Linear NW-SE profile: concave base: concave General number for furrows identified in Trench 4.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
406	Fill	Firm mid grey brown silty clay General number for fill of furrows identified in Trench 4.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>



Trench: 5

Max Dimensions: Length: 30.00 m. Width: 1.60 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.33 m. Max: 0.5 m.

OS Co-ordinates: Ref. 1: TL0569944365 Ref. 2: TL0571644340

Reason: General coverage

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
500	Ploughsoil	Firm dark grey brown clay silt occasional medium stones, occasional small stones	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
501	Subsoil	Firm mid grey brown silty clay occasional medium stones, occasional small stones	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
502	Natural	Friable mid grey orange clay silt occasional medium stones, occasional small stones with irregular patches of light orange grey clay	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
503	Furrow	Linear NE-SW profile: concave base: concave General number for furrows identified in Trench 5.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
504	Fill	Firm mid grey brown silty clay General number for fill of furrows identified in Trench 5.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>



Trench: 6

Max Dimensions: Length: 30.00 m. Width: 1.60 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.39 m. Max: 0.5 m.

OS Co-ordinates: Ref. 1: TL0571644340 Ref. 2: TL0569944365

Reason: General coverage

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
600	Ploughsoil	Firm dark grey brown clay silt moderate medium stones, occasional small stones	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
601	Subsoil	Firm mid grey brown silty clay occasional medium stones, occasional small stones	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
602	Natural	Friable mid grey orange clay silt occasional medium stones, occasional small stones with irregular patches of light orange grey clay	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
603	Ditch	Linear NW-SE profile: 45 degrees base: concave dimensions: min length 1.6m, min breadth 0.45m, min depth 0.14m	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
604	Fill	Firm mid brown silty clay	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
605	Ditch	Linear NW-SE profile: concave base: flat dimensions: min length 1.6m, min breadth 1.24m, min depth 0.43m	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
606	Primary fill	Firm mid grey brown silty clay occasional flecks charcoal, occasional small stones This fill contained the base of a Roman beaker and a piece of animal bone found in association.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
607	Secondary fill	Firm mid orange brown silty clay occasional flecks charcoal, occasional small stones	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>



Trench: 7

Max Dimensions: Length: 30.00 m. Width: 1.60 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.35 m. Max: 0.36 m.

OS Co-ordinates: Ref. 1: TL0572844365 Ref. 2: TL0576444408

Reason: General coverage

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
700	Ploughsoil	Firm dark grey brown clay silt occasional medium stones, occasional small stones	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
701	Subsoil	Firm mid grey brown silty clay occasional medium stones, occasional small stones	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
702	Natural	Friable mid grey orange clay silt occasional medium stones, occasional small stones with irregular patches of light orange grey clay	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
703	Furrow	Linear NE-SW profile: concave base: concave General number for furrows identified in Trench 7.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
704	Fill	Firm mid grey brown silty clay General number for fill of furrows identified in Trench 7.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>



Trench: 8

Max Dimensions: Length: 30.00 m. Width: 1.60 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.4 m. Max: 0.55 m.

OS Co-ordinates: Ref. 1: TL0579244407 Ref. 2: TL0581744423

Reason: General coverage

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
800	Ploughsoil	Firm dark grey brown clay silt occasional medium stones, occasional small stones	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
801	Subsoil	Firm mid grey brown silty clay occasional medium stones, occasional small stones	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
802	Natural	Friable mid grey orange clay silt occasional medium stones, occasional small stones with irregular patches of light orange grey clay	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>



Trench: 9

Max Dimensions: Length: 30.00 m. Width: 1.60 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.29 m. Max: 0.49 m.

OS Co-ordinates: Ref. 1: TL0566344395 Ref. 2: TL0568844411

Reason: General coverage

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
900	Ploughsoil	Firm dark grey brown clay silt occasional medium stones, occasional small stones	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
901	Subsoil	Firm mid grey brown silty clay occasional medium stones, occasional small stones	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
902	Natural	Friable mid grey orange clay silt occasional medium stones, occasional small stones with irregular patches of light orange grey clay	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
903	Furrow	Linear NE-SW profile: concave base: flat dimensions: min length 16.6m, min breadth 1.m, min depth 0.1m	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
904	Fill	Firm mid grey brown silty clay	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
905	General Number	Linear NE-SW dimensions: min length 16.6m, min breadth 1.m General number for unexcavated part of the furrow [903].	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
906	General Number	Mid grey brown silty clay General number for the unexcavated deposit filling furrow [903].	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>



Trench: 10

Max Dimensions: Length: 30.00 m. Width: 1.60 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.55 m. Max: 0.64 m.

OS Co-ordinates: Ref. 1: TL0569844436 Ref. 2: TL0571444411

Reason: General coverage

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
1000	Ploughsoil	Firm dark grey brown clay silt occasional medium stones, occasional small stones	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
1001	Subsoil	Firm mid grey brown silty clay occasional medium stones, occasional small stones	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
1002	Natural	Friable mid grey orange clay silt occasional medium stones, occasional small stones with irregular patches of light orange grey clay	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
1003	Pond	Oval dimensions: min length 13.6m, min breadth 1.6m, min depth 1.35m	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
1004	Fill	Firm mid blue grey clay occasional large stones with orange flecks.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
1005	Upper fill	Firm mid brown grey clay occasional medium stones, occasional small stones	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
1006	Furrow	Linear NE-SW profile: concave base: concave General number for furrows identified in Trench 10.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
1007	Fill	Firm mid grey brown silty clay occasional medium stones, occasional small stones General number for fill of furrows identified in Trench10.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>



Trench: 11

Max Dimensions: Length: 30.00 m. Width: 1.60 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.41 m. Max: 0.54 m.

OS Co-ordinates: Ref. 1: TL0572844437 Ref. 2: TL0575344454

Reason: General coverage

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
1100	Ploughsoil	Firm dark grey brown clay silt occasional medium stones, occasional small stones	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
1101	Subsoil	Firm mid grey brown silty clay occasional medium stones, occasional small stones	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
1102	Natural	Friable mid grey orange clay silt occasional medium stones, occasional small stones with irregular patches of light orange grey clay	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>



Trench: 12

Max Dimensions: Length: 30.00 m. Width: 1.60 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.4 m. Max: 0.48 m.

OS Co-ordinates: Ref. 1: TL0576244479 Ref. 2: TL0577944454

Reason: General coverage

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
1200	Ploughsoil	Firm dark grey brown clay silt occasional medium stones, occasional small stones	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
1201	Subsoil	Firm mid grey brown silty clay occasional medium stones, occasional small stones	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
1202	Natural	Friable mid grey orange clay silt occasional medium stones, occasional small stones with irregular patches of light orange grey clay	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
1203	Treethrow	Irregular profile: concave base: uneven dimensions: min length 0.9m, min breadth 0.67m, min depth 0.12m	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
1204	Fill	Firm dark brown black silty clay moderate small charcoal	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
1205	Furrow	Linear NE-SW profile: concave base: concave General number for furrows identified in Trench 12.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
1206	Fill	Firm mid grey brown silty clay occasional medium stones, occasional small stones General number for fill of furrows identified in Trench 12.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>



Trench: 13

Max Dimensions: Length: 70.00 m. Width: 1.60 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.47 m. Max: 0.48 m.

OS Co-ordinates: Ref. 1: TL0484346172 Ref. 2: TL0489046120

Reason: To test cropmark HER 1361

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
1300	Ploughsoil	Firm dark grey black clay silt occasional medium stones, occasional small stones	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
1301	Subsoil	Plastic mid orange grey silty clay	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
1302	Natural	Friable mid yellow orange silt With patches of light grey clay	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
1303	Treethrow	Irregular profile: 45 degrees base: concave dimensions: min length 0.6m, min breadth 0.65m, min depth 0.17m	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
1304	Fill	Firm light orange grey silty clay	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
1305	Treethrow	Oval profile: concave base: concave dimensions: min length 0.9m, min breadth 0.63m, min depth 0.13m	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
1306	Fill	Firm mid brown grey silty clay	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
1307	Treethrow	Oval profile: concave base: concave dimensions: min length 0.38m, min breadth 0.36m, min depth 0.17m	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
1308	Fill	Plastic mid brown grey clay	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
1309	Treethrow	Curving linear profile: concave base: flat dimensions: min length 1.1m, min breadth 0.6m, min depth 0.27m	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
1310	Fill	Firm light orange grey silty clay	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
1311	Ditch	Linear NNE-SSW profile: 45 degrees base: concave dimensions: min length 1.8m, min breadth 0.58m, min depth 0.27m	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
1312	Fill	Firm mid orange brown silty clay occasional medium stones, occasional small stones	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
1313	Ditch	Linear NE-SW profile: convex base: concave dimensions: min length 0.8m, min breadth 0.6m, min depth 0.19m	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
1314	Fill	Firm mid orange brown silty clay occasional medium stones, occasional small stones	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
1315	Treethrow	Circular profile: concave base: concave dimensions: min length 0.42m, min breadth 0.52m, min depth 0.08m	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
1316	Fill	Firm mid brown grey silty clay	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
1317	Treethrow	Irregular profile: 45 degrees base: v-shaped dimensions: min length 0.83m, min breadth 0.5m, min depth 0.13m	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
1318	Fill	Firm mid orange brown silty clay	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
1319	Treethrow	Sub-circular profile: concave base: uneven dimensions: min length 0.5m, min breadth 0.6m, min depth 0.14m	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
1320	Fill	Firm mid brown grey silty clay	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
1321	Treethrow	Irregular profile: concave base: flat dimensions: min length 0.45m, min breadth 0.45m, min depth 0.16m	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
1322	Fill	Firm mid brown grey silty clay	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
1323	Treethrow	Irregular profile: 45 degrees base: concave dimensions: min length 0.85m, min breadth 0.5m, min depth 0.14m	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
1324	Fill	Firm light orange grey silty clay	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
1325	Ditch	Linear NE-SW profile: concave base: concave dimensions: min length 1.4m, min breadth 0.6m, min depth 0.11m	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
1326	Fill	Firm mid orange brown silty clay occasional medium stones, occasional small stones	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
1328	Treethrow	Irregular profile: irregular base: uneven dimensions: min length 0.75m, min breadth 0.7m	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
1329	Fill	Firm mid brown grey silty clay	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>



Trench: 13

Max Dimensions: Length: 70.00 m. Width: 1.60 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.47 m. Max: 0.48 m.

OS Co-ordinates: Ref. 1: TL0484346172 Ref. 2: TL0489046120

Reason: To test cropmark HER 1361

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
1330	Treethrow	Oval dimensions: min length 0.75m, min length 0.6m Not excavated.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
1331	Fill	Firm mid brown grey silty clay	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
1332	Treethrow	Irregular dimensions: min length 5.35m, min breadth 0.45m Unexcavated part of [1321].	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
1333	Fill	Firm mid brown grey silty clay	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
1334	Treethrow	Oval dimensions: min length 2.m, min breadth 0.8m Not excavated.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
1335	Fill	Firm mid brown grey silty clay	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
1336	Treethrow	Irregular dimensions: min length 3.35m, min breadth 0.42m Not excavated.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
1327	Fill	Firm mid grey brown silty clay	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>



5.2 Appendix 2, Artefact Summary

5.2.1 Introduction

The evaluation produced a small finds assemblage comprising pottery, roof tile, fired clay and animal bone, the majority deriving from a single feature in Trench 6 (Table 1). The material was scanned to ascertain its nature, condition and, where possible, date range. No finds were recovered from Trenches 4-5, 7, 8 or 10-12.

Area	Tr.	Feature	Type	Context	Spotdate*	Pottery	Other finds
1	13	1311	Ditch	1312	-	2:3	Burnt flint (1g)
		1321	Tree throw	1322	Modern		Animal bone (10g)
		1330	Tree throw	1331	Post-medieval		Brick fragments (17g)
		1332	Tree throw	1333	Post-medieval		Brick fragments (18g)
		1334	Tree throw	1335	Post-medieval		Brick/roof tile fragment (1g)
		1336	Tree throw	1327	Post-medieval		Brick fragments (162g)
2	1	107	Pit	108	Modern	1:3	
	2	207	Pit	208	-	1:1	
	3	303	Ditch	305	?Late Iron Age	2:5	
	6	605	Ditch	606	Late Roman	3:55	Animal bone (60g); fired clay (1g)
		605	Ditch	607	-	1:2	Fired clay (1g)
	9	905	Furrow	906	-	-	Roof tile (13g); fired clay (17g)
Total						9:69	

* - spot date based on date of latest artefact in context

(sherd / frag count : weight in grammes)

Table 1: Artefact summary by area, trench and context

5.2.2 Pottery

Nine pottery sherds weighing 69g were recovered. All are small (average weight 7g) and generally abraded. The fills of ditch [605] yielded three undiagnostic Roman sherds (8g) in oxidised sand and shell tempered fabric types R05A and R13 respectively¹, and an intact base and lower part of a late Roman colour coat beaker (49g), a regional import from the Nene Valley (type R12B). Ditch [303] contained two sherds (5g) of probable late Iron Age date (types F06B and F09). Pit [207] contained an unidentifiable pottery crumb (1g), and pit [107] a sherd (3g) of 19th century transfer-printed ware (type P45). Two sherds (3g) of modern creamware and white salt-glazed stoneware (types P37 and P38 respectively) derived from tree-throw [1321].

5.2.3 Other finds

The fills of ditch [605] yielded 17 abraded, animal long bone fragments (60g) and two small pieces of fired clay (2g) of probable post-medieval origin. A single piece of burnt flint (1g) derived from the fill of ditch [1311]. Furrow [905] contained a piece of sand tempered post-medieval flat roof tile (13g) and a miscellaneous fired clay fragment (17g). Tree throw [1321] yielded eight undiagnostic animal bone fragments (10g), and tree throws [1330], [1332], [1334] and [1336] a small quantity of abraded brick fragments of probable post-medieval date.

¹ Fabric types identified in accordance with the Bedfordshire Ceramic Type Series, held by Albion Archaeology.

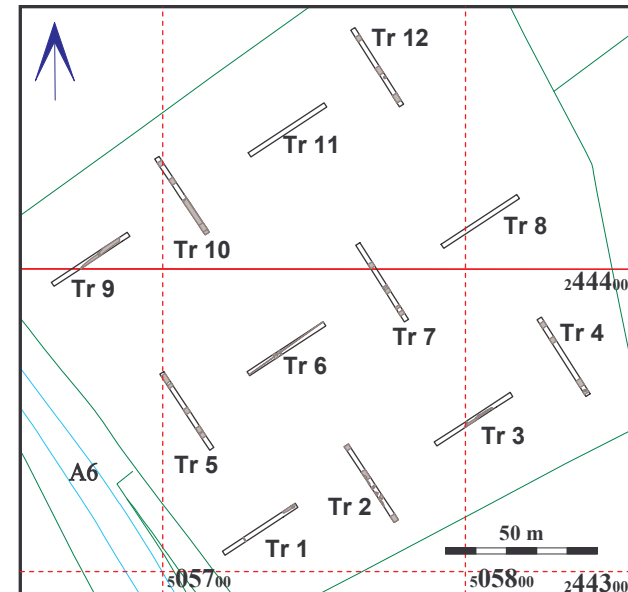
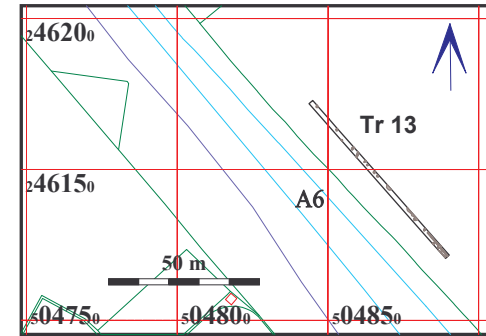
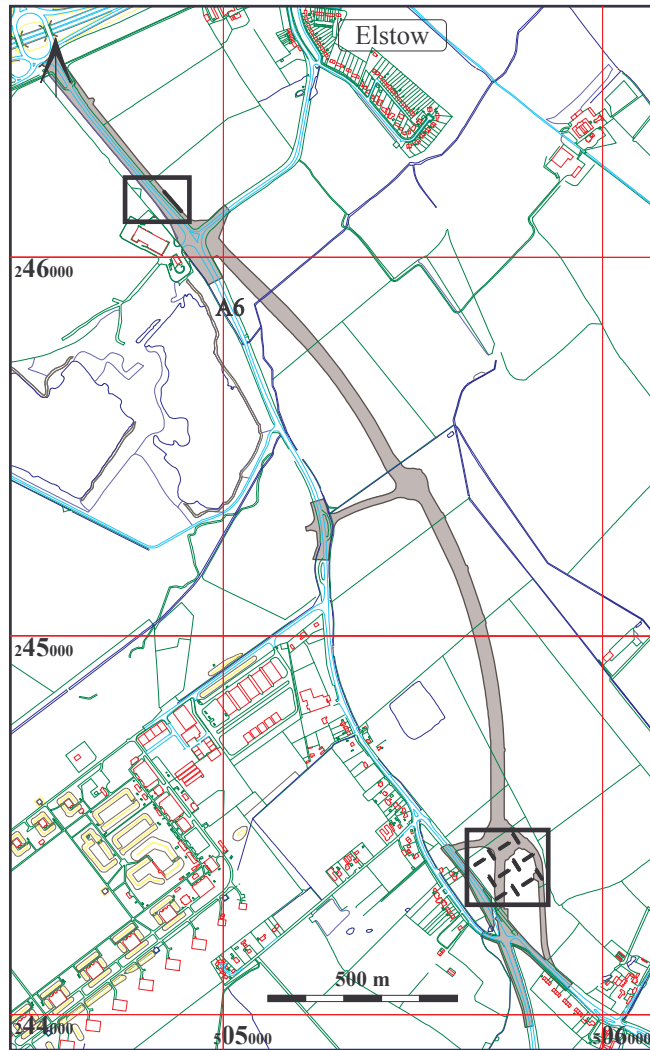
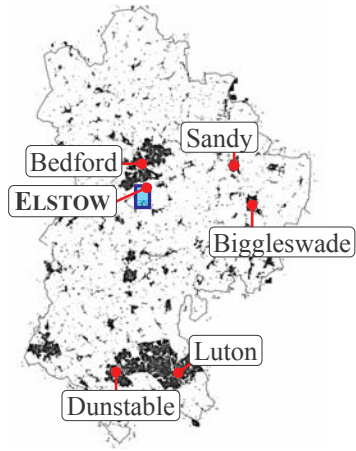


Figure 1: Site location map

Base map reproduced from the Ordnance Survey Land-line Map (2001), with the permission of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office, by Bedfordshire County Council, County Hall, Bedford.
OS Licence No. 076465(LA). © Crown Copyright.

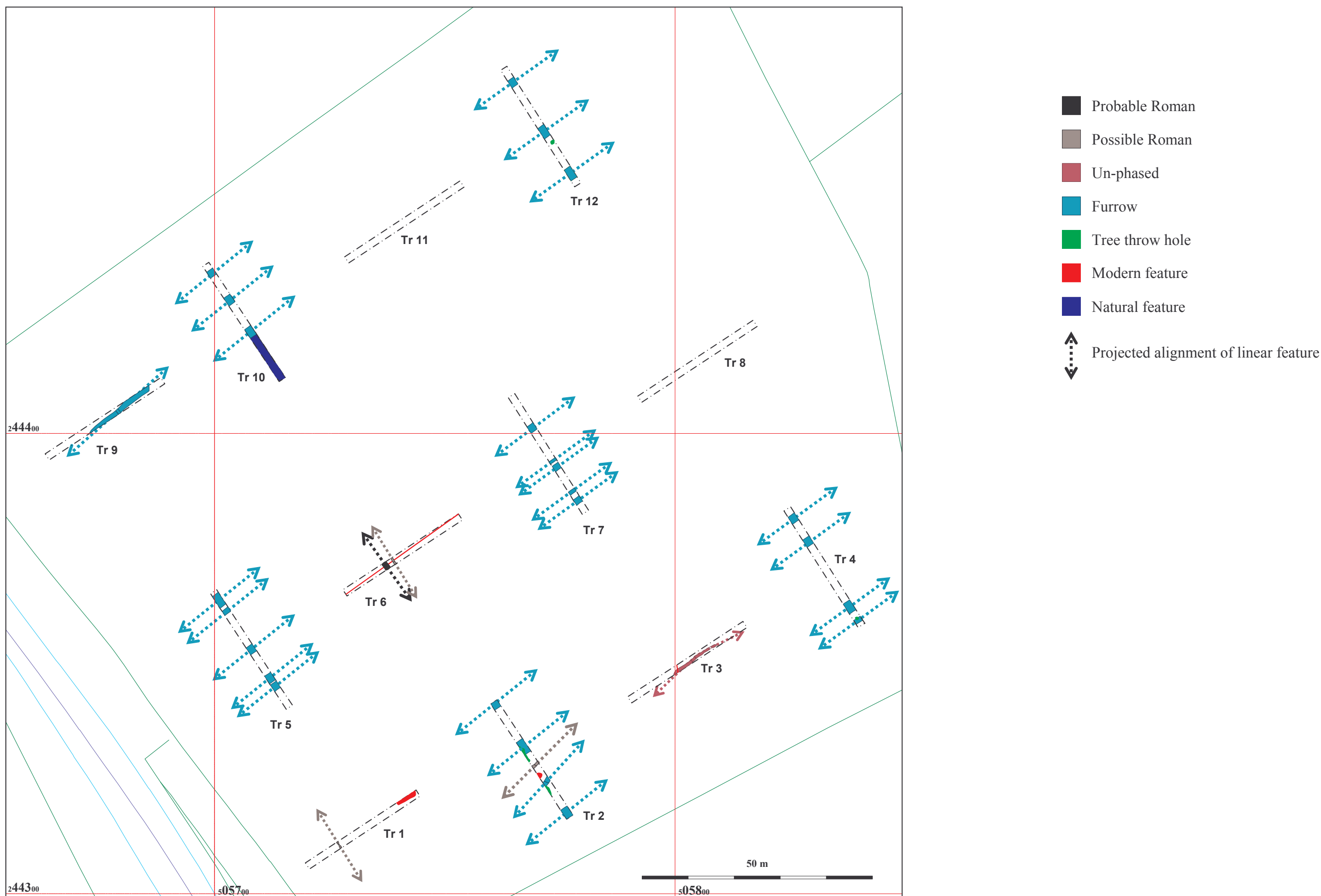
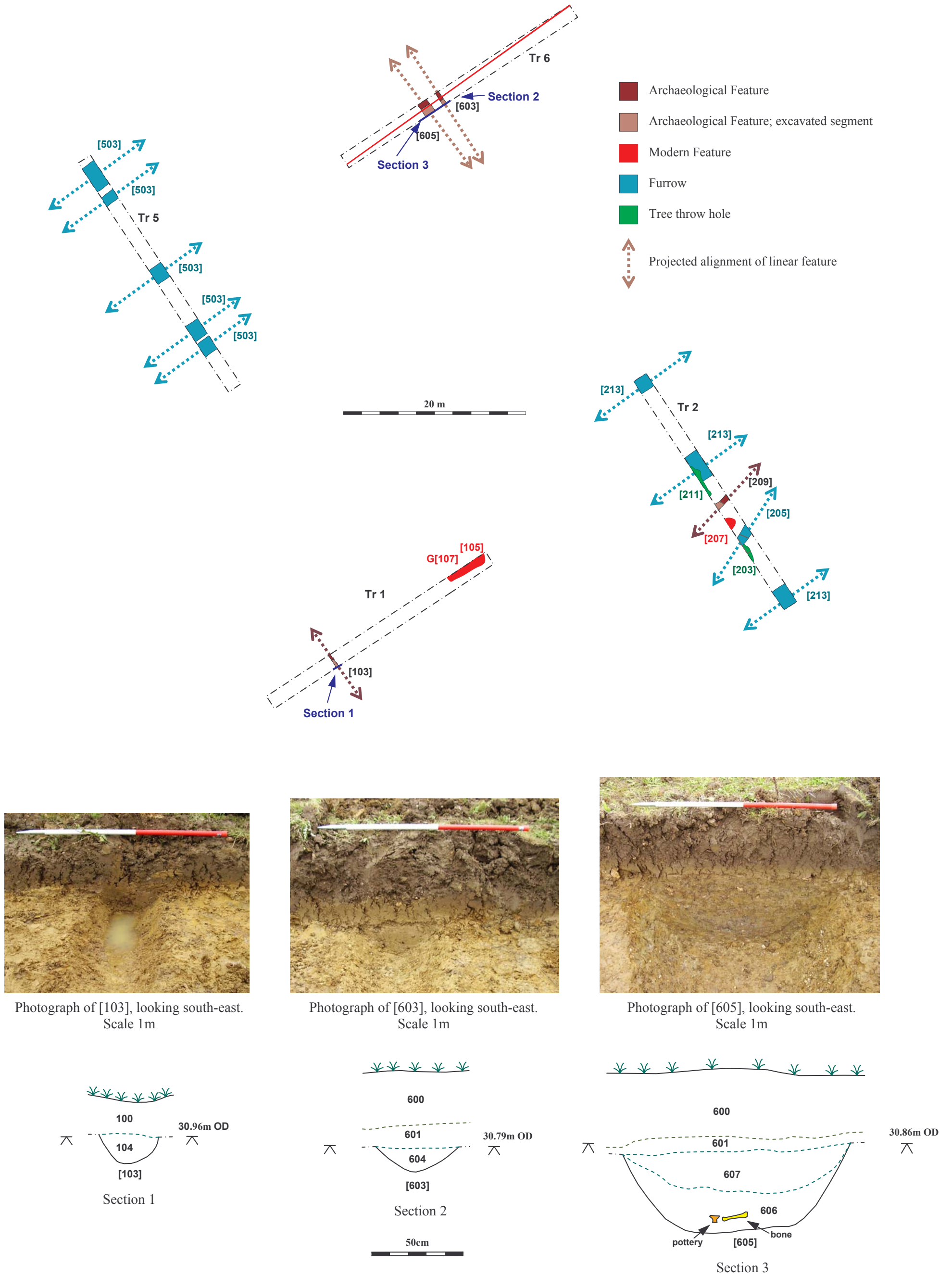


Figure 2: Phased all features plan.
Trenches 1-12



Photograph of [103], looking south-east. Scale 1m



Photograph of [603], looking south-east. Scale 1m



Photograph of [605], looking south-east. Scale 1m

Figure 3: Trenches 1, 2, 5, and 6

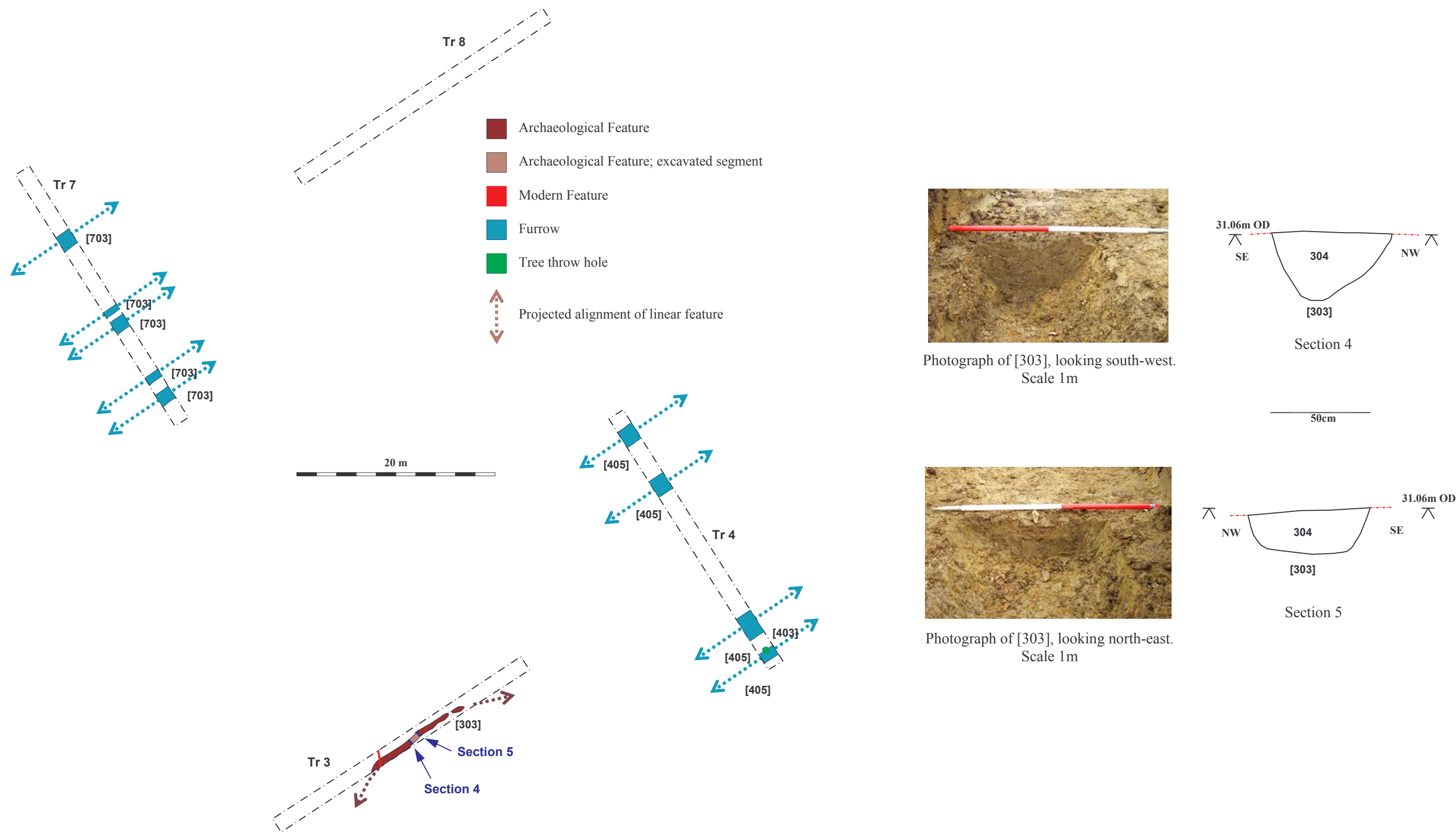
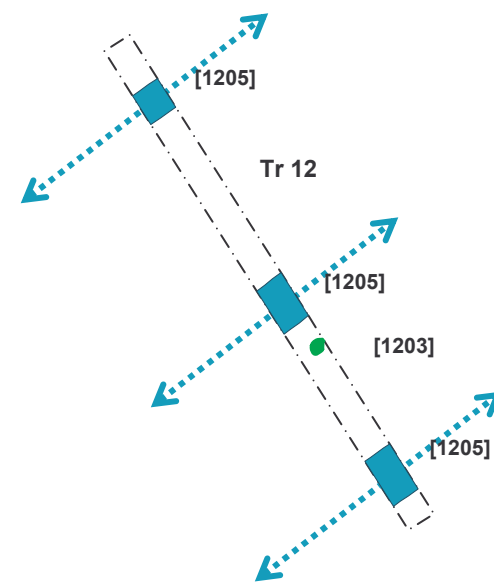
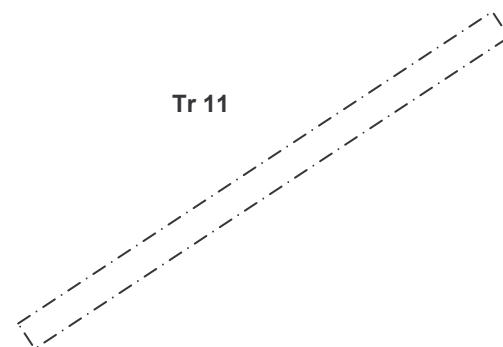
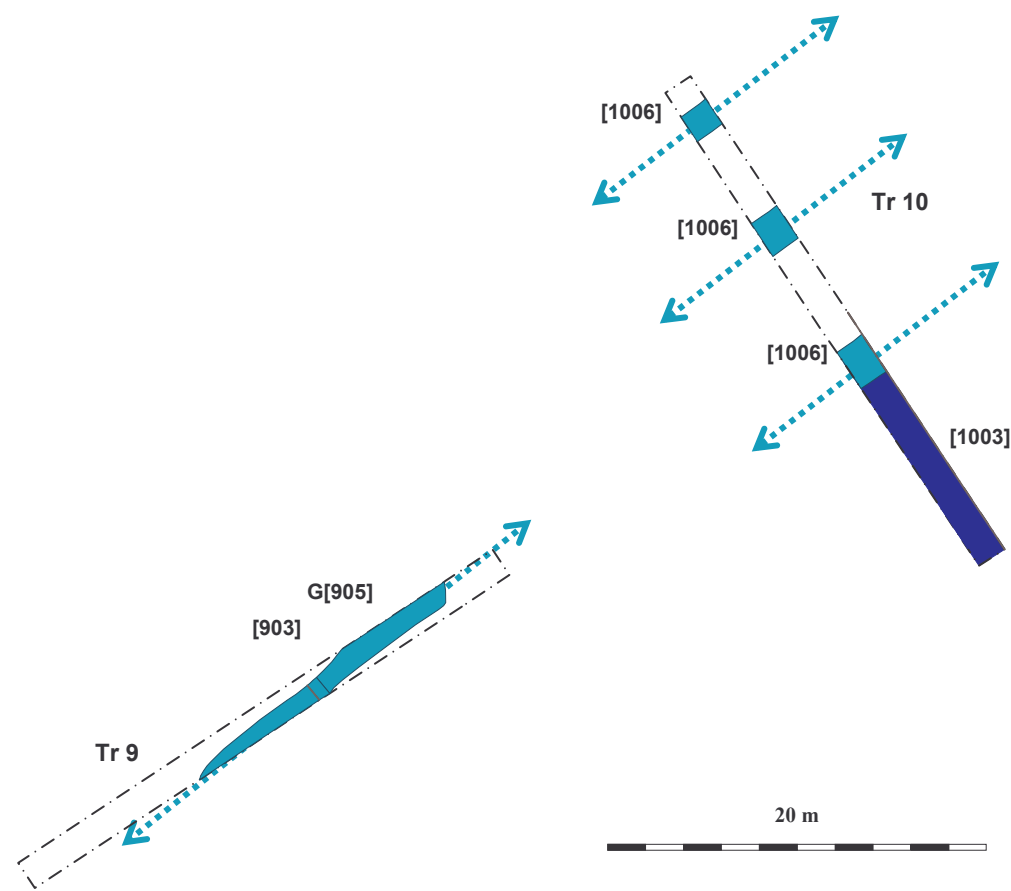


Figure 4: Trenches 3, 4, 7, and 8



Photograph of [903], looking south-west.
Scale 1m



Photograph of Trench 10, looking north-east.

- Natural Feature
- Furrow
- Tree throw hole
- Projected alignment of linear feature

Figure 5: Trenches 9, 10, 11, and 12

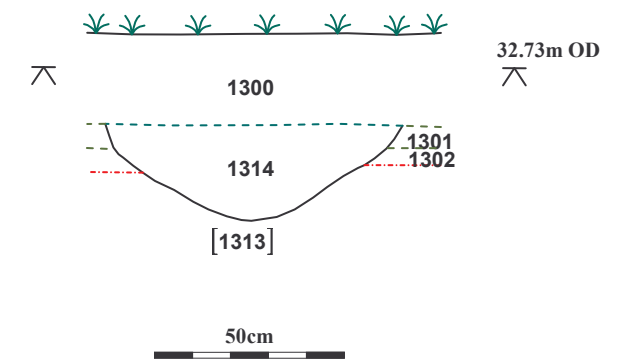
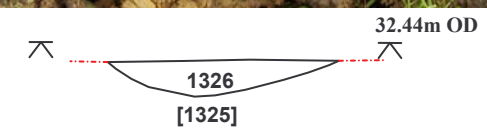
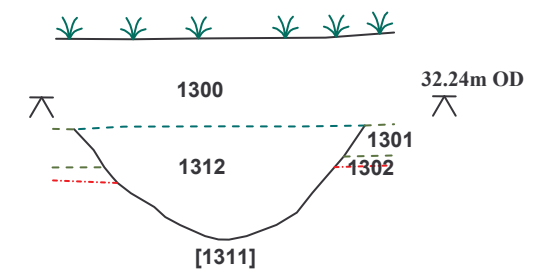


Figure 6: Trench 13