LAND AT CANON'S CLOSE
WOOTTON
BEDFORDSHIRE

ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELD EVALUATION

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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.

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Structure of the Report

After the introductory Section 1, the results of the fieldwork are presented in Sections 2 to 4. Section 5 presents a synthesis of the results of the fieldwork. Section 6 is a bibliography. Appendix 1 contains detailed descriptions of the archaeological deposits recorded on the site. Appendix 2 contains a detailed description of the artefacts recovered during the fieldwork.

Key Terms

Throughout this report the following terms or abbreviations are used:

Albion	Albion Archaeology
Client	Martin Grant Homes Ltd
IFA	Institute of Field Archaeologists
Procedures Manual	*Procedures Manual Volume 1 Fieldwork, 2nd Edition 2001*. Bedfordshire County Council

Non-Technical Summary

Martin Grant Homes Ltd have been granted planning permission for a residential development on land off Canon's Close, Wootton. Acting on behalf of the local planning authority, Bedfordshire County Council's County Archaeological Officer advised that the area of the development was archaeologically sensitive. A condition was placed on the planning permission to secure a programme of archaeological investigation. To address the condition, Albion Archaeology was commissioned by Martin Grant Homes Ltd to undertake an archaeological evaluation of the site, with the aim of establishing its archaeological potential.

The development area lies on the north-western edge of Wootton village, immediately adjacent to the local cemetery. It comprises an area c.0.69ha in extent and is centred on OS grid reference TL 0045 4558. There is evidence that the land surrounding Wootton village has been a focus of human activity and settlement from the Palaeolithic period to the modern day.

The evaluation succeeded in recording the presence of, and demonstrating the relatively low importance of, the limited quantity of archaeological remains within the development area.

A series of damaged, medieval ridge and furrow earthworks were present on part of the development area. The sub-surface archaeological remains consisted of a single posthole and a drainage ditch. Both contained residual artefactual material, which did not provide a firm date for either feature. Their stratigraphic position below subsoil suggests they are post-medieval or earlier in date. The ditch may represent a field boundary associated with the ridge and furrow.

A series of artefact-bearing colluvial layers were recorded in the northern, lowest lying part of the site. These deposits demonstrate that human activity (possibly manuring) has taken place, probably over several centuries, within, and/or close to, the development area. However, they are considered to be of only low archaeological significance.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Planning Background

A planning application (02/2531) was submitted for residential development on land at Canon's Close, Wootton (Figure 1). Acting on behalf of the local planning authority, Bedfordshire County Council's County Archaeological Officer (CAO) advised that the area of the development was archaeologically sensitive and lay within an area of high archaeological potential. The local planning authority attached a condition to the planning permission, requiring the implementation of a programme of archaeological investigation. Two briefs were issued by the CAO (BCC 2004a, BCC 2004b). These detailed the work required to fulfil the condition.

Subsequently, Albion Archaeology was commissioned by Martin Grant Homes Ltd to prepare a project design (Albion Archaeology 2004) for archaeological evaluation of the site. In accordance with the CAO's brief this work comprised earthwork survey and trial trenching. In addition, Albion Archaeology also carried out a programme of archaeological observation during the installation of an amphibian fence around the perimeter of the site. The results of all stages of work are presented in this report.

1.2 Site Location and Description

The site lies on the north-western edge of Wootton village, immediately adjacent to the local cemetery. It comprises an area *c.*0.69ha in size, centred on grid reference TL 0045 4558.

The development area lies within the Marston Vale, a low-lying clay vale located between the valley of the Great Ouse and the Greensand Ridge. The geology is predominantly Oxford Clay. The soils comprise moderate to imperfectly draining non-calcareous gleys of the Rowsham Association (British Geological Survey 2001).

1.3 Archaeological Background

There is evidence that the land surrounding Wootton village has been a focus of human activity and settlement from the Palaeolithic period to the modern day.

Mineral extraction on the river gravel terraces of the river Great Ouse has revealed lower Palaeolithic activity, including worked stone tools. At Marsh Leys Farm, *c.*2km to the north-east of the application area, an excavation revealed Iron Age and Roman activity (Albion Archaeology 2002). Near Broadmead Farm, *c.*2km to the south-west, a series of cropmark enclosures have been dated provisionally to the Iron Age and Roman periods (on the basis of pottery collected from the surface of the field).

A Roman settlement site revealed by excavation (HER 15804) is located near Keeley Lane *c.*0.75km to the north. Finds from this site included fired clay objects that may have come from a kiln. In a field to the south of the site, a series of crop marks have been identified and these are likely to be remains of Iron Age or Roman enclosures (Albion Archaeology 2003).

BCC's Historic Environment Record (HER) lists several sites at the northern end of Wootton village. These include two medieval moated sites, HER 3435, a moated site and earthworks associated with Keeley farm *c.*1.5km to the north-east of the site, and HER 8276, a moated site off Bedford Road *c.*1.5km to the east.

Ridge and furrow earthworks survive within the development area. These represent the remains of the medieval open field system of agriculture, which operated before enclosure in the post-medieval period. Well preserved ridge and furrow earthworks are relatively rare in Bedfordshire. Those within the development area have been subject to some disturbance and are, therefore, less significant than other, similar earthworks within the vicinity of Wootton.

The Marston Vale has been the focus of large-scale brick production since the late 19th century, and remains of this industry have been assessed as of regional or local importance.

1.4 Aims and Objectives

In line with the requirements of the CAO's brief (Section 2), the aims of the earthwork survey and trial trenching were to gain information on:

- 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. EARTHWORK SURVEY

2.1 Introduction

Prior to any groundworks or trial trenching taking place on the site, an earthwork survey was undertaken in order to record the location, condition and alignment of any extant earthworks (Figures 2, 3, 4 and 5). This survey was undertaken on 5th April 2005. The aims of the survey were:

- To accurately locate and plot any remnant medieval ridge and furrow.
- To identify other earthworks of potential archaeological interest, and subsequently to locate, plot and characterise these.
- To create an accurate plan of the site related to the Ordnance Survey national grid.

2.2 Methodology

A total station EDM was used to survey the location and extent of the earthworks. A written description was made for each earthwork and measuring tapes were used to produce supplementary plans and sketches. These are included in the project archive.

2.3 Results

The remains of eight ridge and furrow furlongs were recorded at the site (Figure 5). These are likely to have been part of an extensive field system, lying to the north of the medieval settlement at Wootton.

The earthwork hachure plan (Figure 4) demonstrates that the earthworks were more clearly defined in the southern half of the development area. Indeed no ridge and furrow earthworks were detected in the northern quarter of the site (Figure 5). It is suggested that this is because these northern parts of the site have always been too low-lying and wet to have been useful for arable purposes. As a result the ridge and furrow furlongs had not been extended into this area.

The low-lying character of the site is most clearly demonstrated by the contour survey (Figure 2). The marginal character of this land was explored further during the trial trenching phase of the project (Section 4).

3. ARCHAEOLOGICAL OBSERVATION OF AMPHIBIAN FENCE

3.1 Introduction

Archaeological observation of the groundworks required ahead of the construction of an amphibian fence were undertaken on 27th April 2005. During this visit all groundworks requiring archaeological monitoring were completed.

Detailed technical information on the deposits discussed below can be found in Appendix 1 (Trench 7).

3.2 Methodology

The archaeological observation adhered to the field methods normally required by BCC's CAO on projects of this type, specifically;

- All excavation was monitored to try to identify *in situ* archaeological deposits.
- All disturbed soil was scanned for artefacts.
- Potential archaeological deposits were investigated to determine stratigraphic relationships and to recover artefactual material.
- All deposits were fully recorded in accordance with Albion's *Procedures Manual* and the Project Design.
- All archaeological observations were recorded at a suitable scale on base plans that were tied in to the OS national grid.
- Significant features would have been recorded using a digital camera had they been encountered.

3.3 Extent and Nature of Groundworks

The groundworks consisted of the excavation of a single trench (Figure 6). The area covered by this fence extended beyond the limits of the development area (Figure 1). The trench was excavated using a mechanical excavator. It was 0.30m wide and 0.10m deep.

The shallow nature of the groundworks ensured that only the topsoil (700) and the surface of the subsoil (701) were disturbed. No significant archaeological remains were revealed as a result of these works, although several remnant ridge and furrow earthworks were truncated during excavation of the trench.

4. TRIAL TRENCHING

4.1 Introduction

Trial trenching took place between 2nd June and 7th June 2005. A total of six trenches were opened.

Detailed technical information on all deposits and archaeological features discussed below can be found in Appendix 1. Trenches 1, 2, 3 and 4 contained archaeological remains.

4.2 Methodology

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

- IFA's Standards and Guidance for Field Evaluation;
- Albion Archaeology's Procedures Manual for Archaeological Fieldwork and the Analysis of Fieldwork Records (2000);
- IFA's Code of Conduct;
- English Heritage's Management of Archaeological Projects (1991).

The trench plan (Figure 7) 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 development area and to build on the data gathered during the earthwork survey and archaeological observation phases of the project.

The location of the trenches was marked out on the ground in advance of machine excavation, using a total station EDM, which ensured that they were accurately set out.

Topsoil and modern overburden were mechanically removed by a wheeled mechanical 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.

The trenches were inspected by the CAO prior to backfilling.

4.3 Results

4.3.1 Topsoil and undisturbed geological deposits

Topsoil (100), (200), (300), (400), (500) (600) and (700) consisted of friable dark brown clay silt, ranging from 0.20m to 0.30m in depth.

Undisturbed geological deposits varied from sandy gravel and sandy silt, on the relatively high ground (Trenches 4 and 5), to clay in the lower parts of the site (Trenches 1, 2, 3 and 6). This pattern is interesting as it matches the contour plan (Figure 2), suggesting that the southern part of the site lies on the northern periphery of the higher sand/gravel geology on which modern Wootton has been built. The central and northern parts of the site are located on relatively low-lying clay geology.

4.3.2 Trench 1 (Figures 7, 8 and 10)

Trench 1 was aligned WNW to ESE and was located in the north-western part of the development area. No archaeological features or artefacts were revealed within this trench.

Topsoil (100) sealed two colluvial layers (101) and (102), which in turn sealed the undisturbed geological deposit (103). Layers (101 and (102) appear to have gradually built up in the lowest lying part of the site (Figure 9). There was a notable similarity in the character of deposit (102) in Trench 1 and deposit (202) in Trench 2. It is suggested that these, in effect, represent the same colluvial deposit.

4.3.3 Trench 2 (Figures 7, 8 and 10)

Trench 2 was aligned N to S and was located in the centre of the development area. No archaeological features were revealed within this trench.

Topsoil (200) sealed three colluvial layers (201), (202) and (203), which in turn sealed the undisturbed geological deposit (204).

Deposit (202) produced sherds of abraded pottery ranging in date from the late Iron Age to the early medieval periods. Pieces of abraded animal bone were also recovered (Appendix 2). Deposit (203) also produced abraded pottery dating to the late Iron Age and a worked flint.

The abraded condition of the pottery recovered from this trench suggests it may have been originally deposited during manuring (fertilising) of fields close to the development area. Colluvial processes appear to have eventually brought these artefacts onto the lowest part of the development area from its immediate environs.

4.3.4 Trench 3 (Figures 7, 8 and 10)

Trench 3 was aligned N to S and was located in the western part of the development area. This trench contained one archaeological feature.

Topsoil (300) sealed colluvial layer (301), which in turn sealed the undisturbed geological deposit (302). A possible furrow [303], aligned broadly N to S, was identified in the base of the trench.

4.3.5 Trench 4 (Figures 7, 8 and 10)

Trench 4 was aligned WNW to ESE and was located in the southern part of the development area.

Topsoil (400) sealed colluvial layer (401), which in turn sealed two archaeological features: posthole [404] and ditch [406]. Both of these features truncated the undisturbed geological deposit (402).

Ditch [406] was 5.95m wide and 0.86m deep (Figure 10, section 8). It contained four distinct deposits (407), (408), (409) and (410) from which a variety of artefactual material was recovered. This included a single fragment of Roman pottery from deposit (410) and a flint flake and a flint core fragment from deposit (408) (Appendix 2).

The north-south alignment of this ditch takes it downhill from the higher ground to the south of the site, into the low-lying clay which occupies the centre of it. This location suggests that this wide feature may have served as a drainage ditch.

Posthole [404] contained a single deposit (405) from which a single piece of fired clay and a worked flint flake were recovered (Appendix 2). It is not known whether or not this posthole forms part of a structure.

4.3.6 Trench 5 (Figures 7 and 8)

Trench 5 was aligned NNE to SSW and was located in the south-eastern part of the development area. This trench did not contain any archaeological features or artefacts.

Topsoil (500) sealed two colluvial layers (501) and (502), which in turn sealed the undisturbed geological deposit (503).

4.3.7 Trench 6 (Figures 7 and 8)

Trench 6 was aligned N to S and was located in the eastern part of the development area. This trench did not contain any archaeological features or artefacts.

Topsoil (600) sealed two colluvial layers (601) and (602), which in turn sealed the undisturbed geological deposit (603).

5. SYNTHESIS

5.1 Discussion

The most significant archaeological remains on the site were recorded within Trench 4. They consisted of a posthole [404] and a drainage ditch [406]. Both features contained residual artefactual material and remain essentially undated. Despite this, their stratigraphic position (sealed beneath subsoil) suggests they are of considerable antiquity, probably post-medieval or earlier in date.

Ditch [406] was aligned downslope and is therefore likely to have served as a drainage ditch. It may also represent a field boundary as it appears to lie in a break between the medieval ridge and furrow earthworks (Figure 9).

The other advance in our knowledge of the site comes from Trenches 1 and 2, in which several layers of artefact-bearing colluvium were encountered. The abraded, residual artefactual material derives from a variety of periods. It appears that manuring of nearby land has ultimately led to the deposition of cultural material in colluvial deposits, which formed in the low-lying northern part of the site.

5.2 Summary

The evaluation has succeeded in recording the presence of limited archaeological remains within the development area. It has also successfully characterised them as being of relatively low significance.

The remnant medieval ridge and furrow earthworks are in a damaged state and cover only part of the development area. The sub-surface archaeological remains consist of a single posthole and drainage ditch. Both contained residual artefactual material which could not refine the post-medieval or earlier date, derived from their stratigraphic position.

A series of artefact-bearing colluvial layers were recorded in the lowest lying part of the site. These deposits demonstrate that (possibly over the course of several centuries) human activity (possibly manuring) has taken place within, and/or in the vicinity of, the development area. However, this evidence is considered to be of only local archaeological significance.

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7. APPENDICES

7.1 Appendix 1, Context Summary

Trench: 1
Max Dimensions: Length: 40.00 m. Width: 1.60 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: m. Max: m.
OS Co-ordinates: Ref. 1: TL0039745636 Ref. 2: TL0043645628
Reason: To test the archaeological potential of the site

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
100	Topsoil	Friable dark brown clay silt occasional small-medium stones Deposit c.0.20m in depth.	☑	☐
101	Colluvium	Firm mid grey brown silty clay occasional flecks chalk, moderate small-medium stones Deposit c.0.60m in depth.	☑	☐
102	Colluvium	Firm mid grey clay silt occasional flecks charcoal, occasional small-large stones Deposit c.0.30m in depth and displayed occasional orange mottling.	☑	☐
103	Natural	Firm mid grey clay silt frequent medium-large stones A depth of c. 0.43m of this deposit was recorded.	☑	☐

Trench: 2
Max Dimensions: Length: 10.00 m. Width: 1.60 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: m. Max: m.
OS Co-ordinates: Ref. 1: TL0043945620 Ref. 2: TL0043845610
Reason: To test the archaeological potential of the site

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
200	Topsoil	Friable dark brown clay silt occasional small stones Deposit c.0.20m in depth.	☑	☐
201	Colluvium	Firm mid grey brown silty clay occasional flecks chalk, moderate small-medium stones Deposit c.0.32m in depth.	☑	☐
202	Colluvium	Firm dark brown grey clay silt occasional flecks charcoal, occasional small-medium stones Deposit c.0.36m in depth and displayed moderate orange mottling.	☑	☑
203	Colluvium	Firm mid brown grey silty clay occasional small stones Deposit c.0.40m in depth and displayed frequent orange mottling.	☑	☑
204	Natural	Firm light grey clay A depth of c.0.04m of this deposit was recorded. Deposit displayed frequent orange mottling.	☑	☐

Trench: **3**
Max Dimensions: **Length: 11.00 m. Width: 1.60 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: m. Max: m.**
OS Co-ordinates: **Ref. 1: TL0043145589 Ref. 2: TL0043045579**
Reason: **To test the archaeological potential of the site**

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
300	Topsoil	Friable dark brown clay silt occasional small-medium stones Deposit c.0.21 m in depth.	☑	☐
301	Colluvium	Firm mid grey brown clay silt moderate small-large stones Deposit c.0.12m in depth.	☑	☐
302	Natural	Firm mid orange sandy clay moderate small-large stones A depth of c.0.13m of this deposit was recorded. Patches of grey clay were observed in this boulder clay deposit.	☑	☐
303	**Furrow**	**Linear N-S dimensions: max breadth 0.9m Possible furrow**	☐	☐
304	Fill	Firm mid grey brown clay silt occasional flecks chalk, frequent small-medium stones Feature was not excavated.	☐	☐

Trench: 4
Max Dimensions: Length: 15.00 m. Width: 3.20 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.52 m. Max: 0.6 m.
OS Co-ordinates: Ref. 1: TL0044345563 Ref. 2: TL0045745560
Reason: To test the archaeological potential of the site

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
400	Topsoil	Friable dark brown clay silt occasional small-medium stones Deposit c.0.28m in depth.	☑	☐
401	Colluvium	Firm mid orange brown clay silt moderate small-medium stones Deposit c.0.35m in depth.	☑	☐
402	Natural	Firm mid brown orange clay silt occasional flecks chalk, frequent small-medium stones A depth of c.0.20m of this deposit was recorded.	☑	☐
403	Natural	Loose mid orange yellow sandy gravel A depth of c.0.06m of this deposit was recorded.	☑	☐
404	**Posthole**	**Circular profile: near vertical base: concave dimensions: max breadth 0.23m, max depth 0.26m**	☑	☐
405	Posthole	Firm mid brown clay silt occasional flecks charcoal, occasional small-medium stones Deposit c.0.26m in depth.	☑	☑
406	**Ditch**	**Linear N-S profile: concave base: concave dimensions: max breadth 5.95m, max depth 0.86m Possible drainage ditch.**	☑	☐
407	Fill	Firm light grey silty clay occasional small-medium stones Deposit c. 0.20m in depth. Deposit displayed frequent orange mottling.	☑	☐
408	Fill	Firm mid grey clay silt moderate small-large stones Deposit c. 0.24m in depth. Deposit displayed occasionalt orange mottling.	☑	☑
409	Fill	Firm mid brown grey clay silt moderate small-large stones Deposit c. 0.30m in depth. Deposit displayed frequent orange mottling.	☑	☐
410	Fill	Firm mid grey brown clay silt moderate small-large stones Deposit c. 0.36m in depth.	☑	☑
411	Natural	Firm mid grey silty clay occasional small stones A depth of c. 0.34m of this deposit was recorded. Deposit displayed occasional orange mottling.	☑	☐

Trench: 5
Max Dimensions: Length: 10.00 m. Width: 1.60 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: m. Max: m.
OS Co-ordinates: Ref. 1: TL0046845564 Ref. 2:
Reason: To test the archaeological potential of the site

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
500	Topsoil	Friable dark brown clay silt occasional small-medium stones Deposit c. 0.30m in depth.	☑	☐
501	Colluvium	Firm mid brown clay silt moderate small-medium stones Deposit c. 0.20m in depth.	☑	☐
502	Colluvium	Firm mid orange brown silty clay moderate small-medium stones Deposit c. 0.15m in depth.	☑	☐
503	Natural	Firm mid brown orange sandy silt moderate flecks chalk, frequent small-medium stones A depth of c. 0.05m of this deposit was recorded.	☑	☐

Trench: 6
Max Dimensions: Length: 15.00 m. Width: 1.60 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: m. Max: m.
OS Co-ordinates: Ref. 1: TL0046945596 Ref. 2: TL0046845581
Reason: To test the archaeological potential of the site

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
600	Topsoil	Friable dark brown clay silt moderate small-medium stones Deposit c. 0.20m in depth.	☑	☐
601	Colluvium	Firm mid orange brown clay silt moderate small-medium stones Deposit c. 0.35m in depth.	☑	☐
602	Colluvium	Firm mid brown clay silt occasional small-large stones Deposit c. 0.27m in depth.	☑	☐
603	Natural	Firm mid brown orange clay silt occasional small-medium stones A depth of c. 0.18m of this deposit was recorded.	☑	☐

Trench: 7
Max Dimensions: **Length:** 430.00 m. **Width:** 0.30 m. **Depth to Archaeology Min:** m. **Max:** m.
OS Co-ordinates: **Ref. 1:** **Ref. 2:**
Reason: Watching brief on amphibian fence

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
700	Topsoil	Loose dark grey brown silty clay moderate small stones . Turf layer removed in trench excavated for amphibian protection.	☑	☐
701	Colluvium	Firm mid red brown silty clay moderate small stones . Observed below turf layer in shallow trench for amphibian protection.	☐	☐

7.2 Appendix 2, Artefact Summary

7.2.1 Introduction

The evaluation produced a small artefact assemblage comprising mainly pottery (Table 1). The material was scanned to ascertain the nature, condition and, where possible, date range of the artefact types present. No finds were recovered from Trenches 1, 3, 5, 6 or 7.

Trench	Feature	Type	Context	Spot date*	Pottery	Other Finds
2	202	Colluvium	202	Saxo-Norman/early med	18:87	Animal bone (106g); iron nail shank
	203	Colluvium	203	Late Iron Age	2:7	Flint flake (6g)
4	404	Post hole	405	-	1:1	Fired clay (1g), flint flake (13g)
	406	Ditch	408	-		Flint flake & core frag (41g)
	406	Ditch	410	Roman	1:3	
				Total	**22:98**	

***** - spot date based on date of latest artefact in context
(sherd count : weight in grammes)

Table 1: Artefact summary by trench and context

7.2.2 Pottery

Twenty-two pottery sherds, weighing 98g were recovered. These were examined by context and quantified using minimum sherd count and weight. Sherds are small (average weight 4g) and exhibit variable degrees of abrasion. The latter is particularly evident on sherds recovered from colluvial layers (202) and (203).

Ten fabric types were identified using common names and type codes in accordance with the Bedfordshire Ceramic Type Series, held by Albion Archaeology. Fabrics are listed below (Table 2) in chronological order.

Fabric type	Common name	Sherd No.	Context/Sherd No.
Late Iron Age			
Type F06B	Medium grog	**2**	(202):1, (203):1
Type F07	Shell	**2**	(202):1, (203):1
Roman			
Type R06C	Fine greyware	**1**	(410):1
Saxon			
Type A16	Coarse mixed quartz	**1**	(202):1
Saxo-Norman			
Type B01	St Neots-type ware	**2**	(202):2
Type B01B	St Neots-type ware (fine)	**9**	(202):9
Type B04	St Neots-type ware (coarse)	**1**	(202):1
Early medieval			
Type C01	Sand	**2**	(202):2
Type C	Non-specific medieval ware	**1**	(202):1
UNID	Unidentified ware	**1**	(405):1

Table 2: Pottery type series

Although small, the pottery assemblage displays a wide date range, spanning the late Iron Age to the early medieval periods. The former is represented by four undiagnostic sherds (13g) with grog and shell tempering (types F06B and F07 respectively), recovered from colluvial layers in Trench 2. All are abraded and those sherds containing shell are highly leached.

The deposit within ditch [406] Trench 4 yielded a small greyware base sherd (3g), broadly datable to the Roman period. An undiagnostic sand tempered sherd (3g) of early to middle Saxon date (type A16) was recovered from colluvium (202). The presence of a Saxon sherd is of interest, as pottery of this date is generally poorly represented across the county.

Twelve sherds (57g) derive from shell tempered vessels in the St Neots-type tradition (type B01, B01A and B04), datable to the 10th-11th centuries. Although all are abraded and leached, diagnostic elements include an everted rim jar, square rim (?) bowl and vessel with a sagging base. All were recovered from colluvium (202). The latter also contained three undiagnostic sand tempered sherds (21g) datable to the early medieval period.

7.2.3 Flint

Three crudely fashioned waste flakes and a blade core fragment (total weight 60g) were recovered from colluvium (203), post hole [404] and ditch [406]. All have sustained edge damage.

7.2.4 Animal bone

The faunal assemblage comprises 31 long bone fragments (106g) recovered from colluvial layer (202). All are abraded and undiagnostic of species.

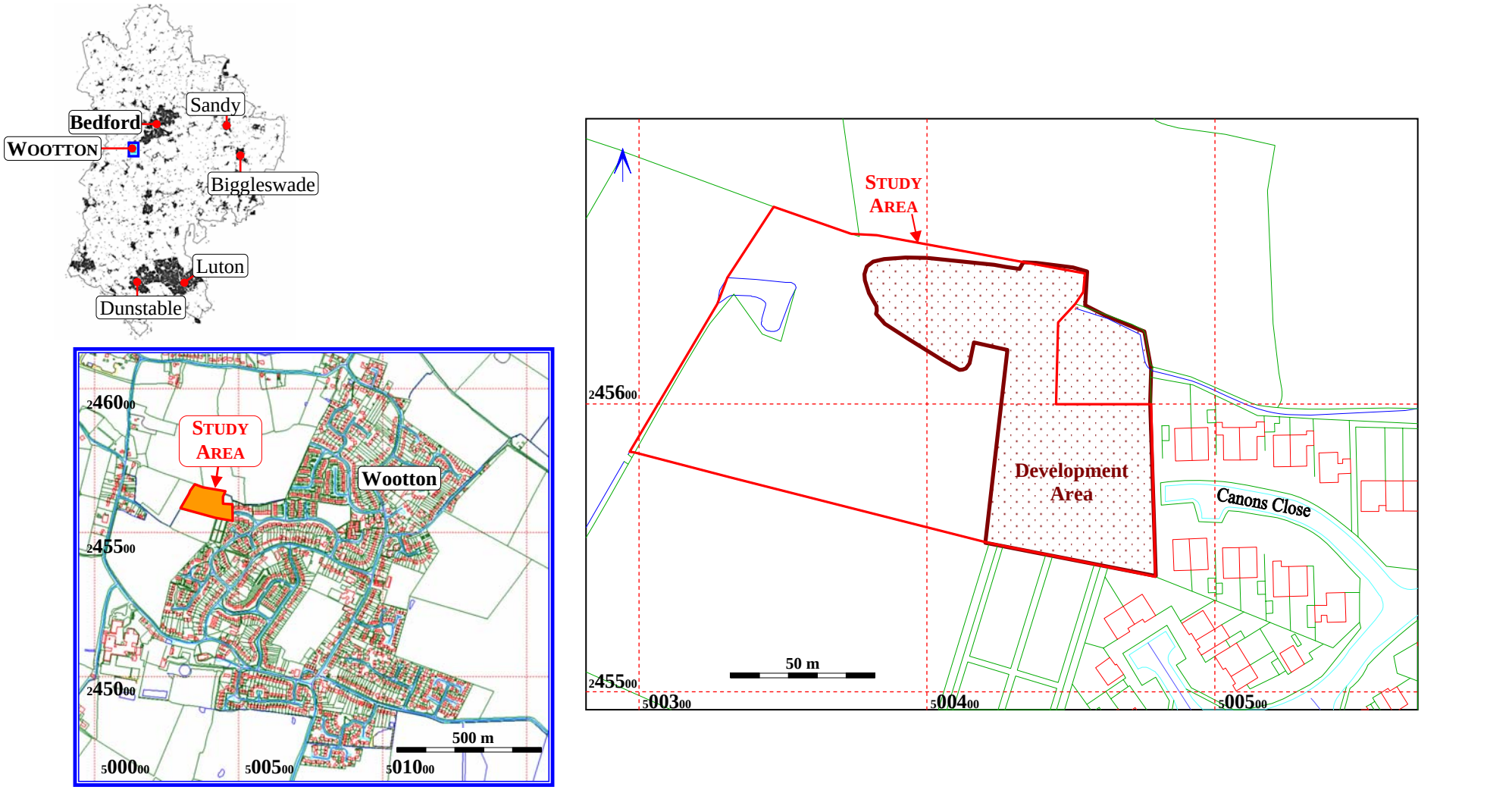


Figure 1: Site location map

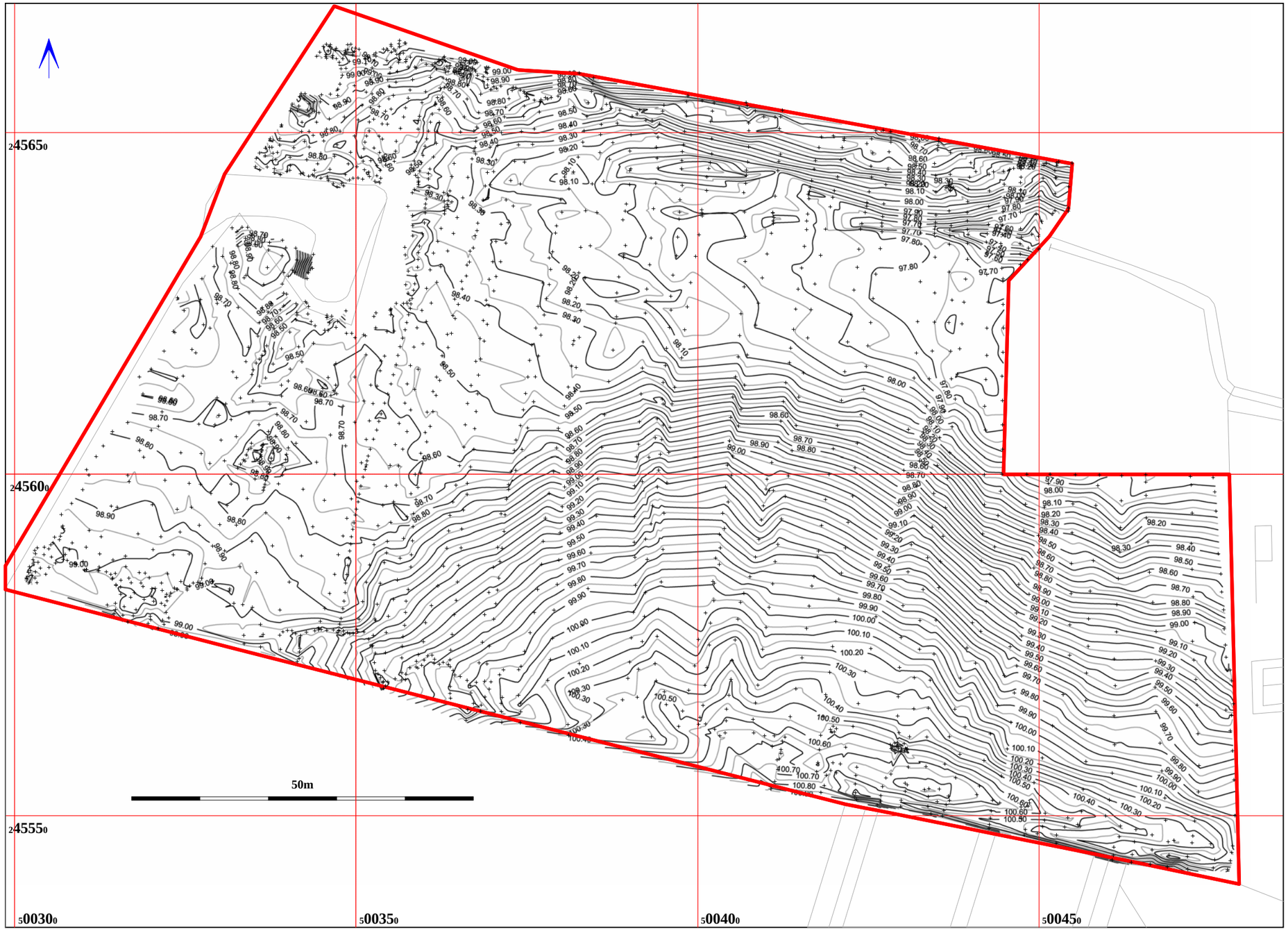
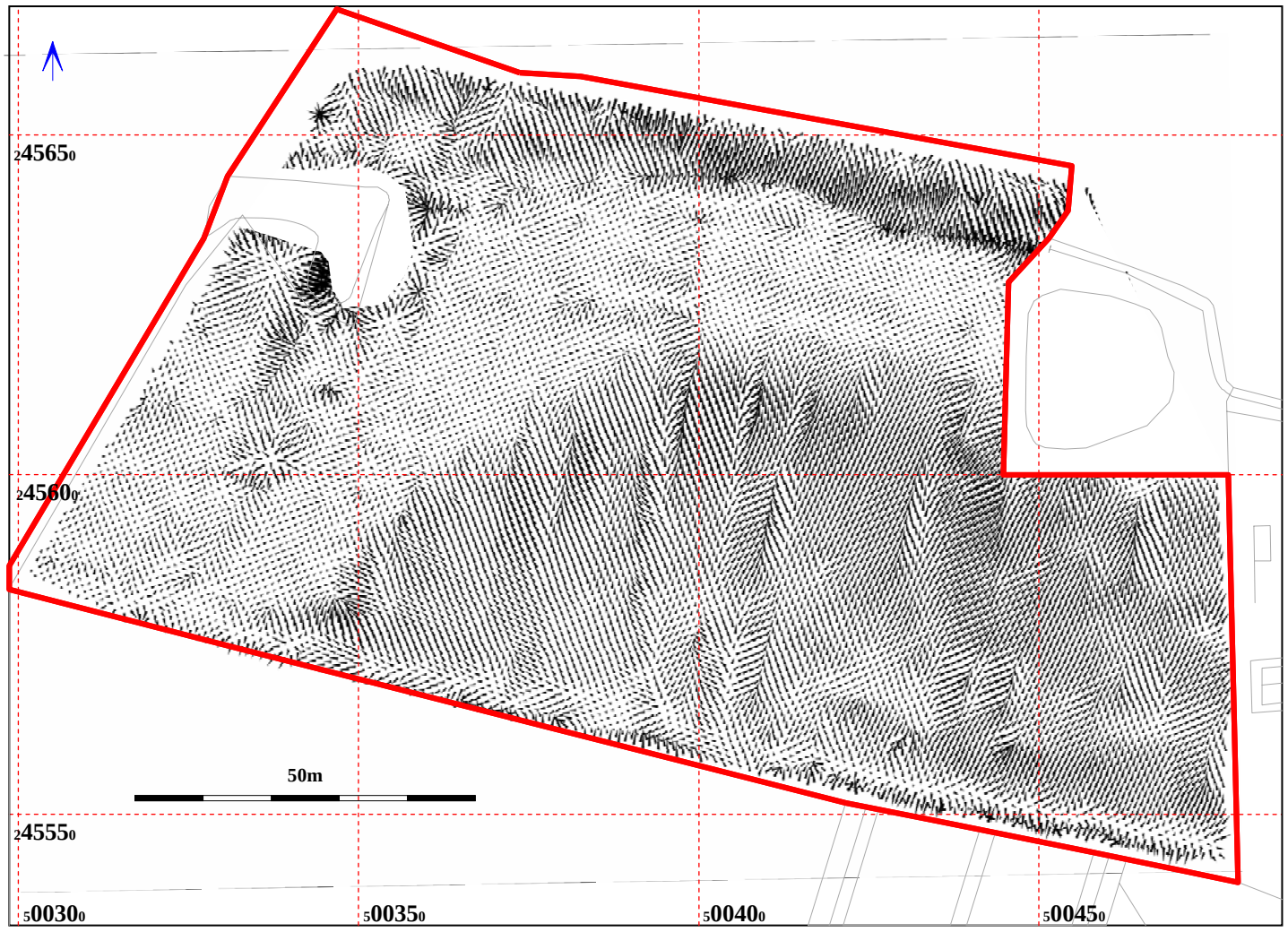
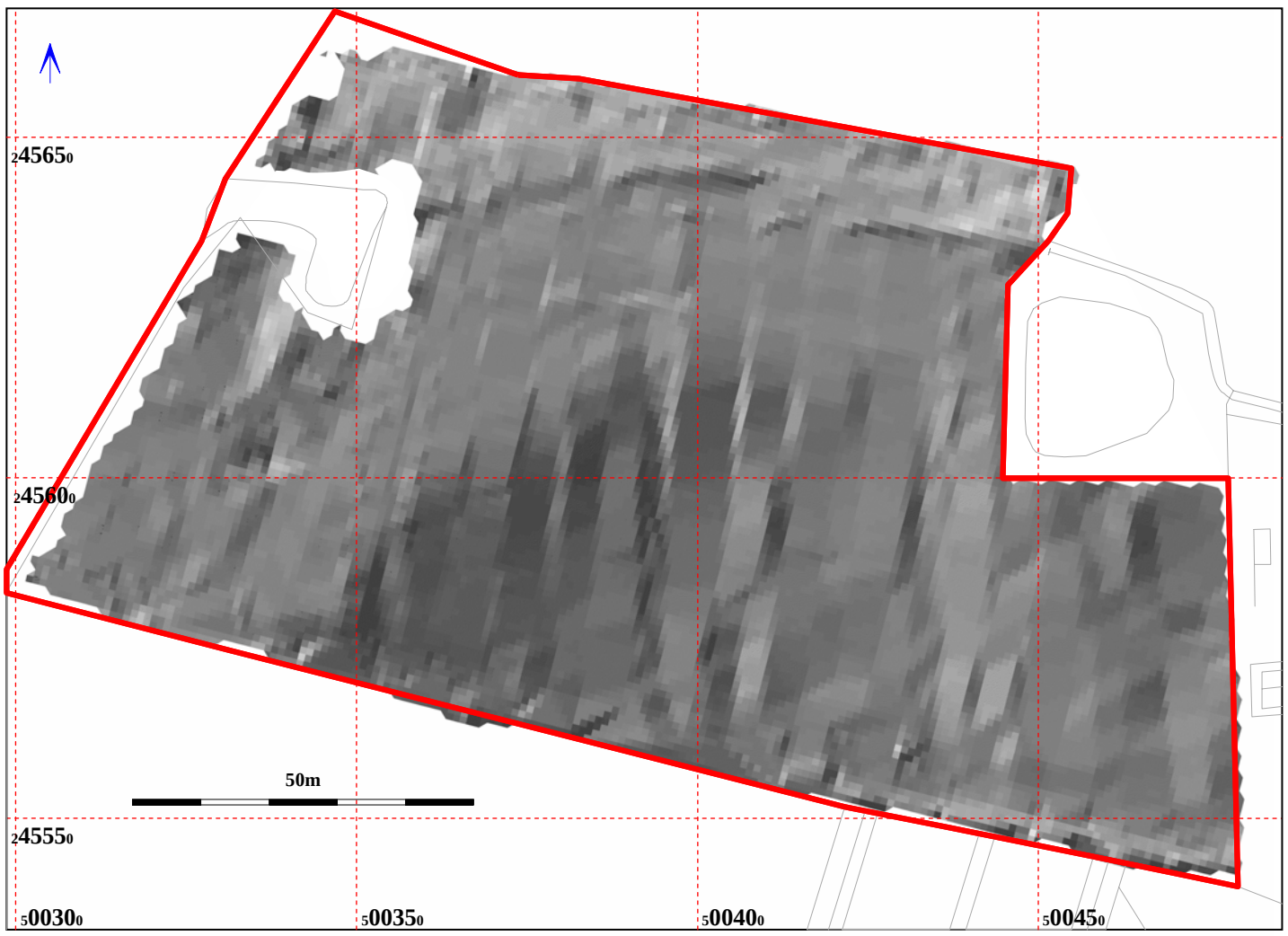


Figure 2: Earthwork survey, contour plan



Vector plot. Size and direction of arrows reflect steepness and direction of slope



Position of light source

Shadow plot.

Figure 3: Earthwork survey, vector and shadow plot

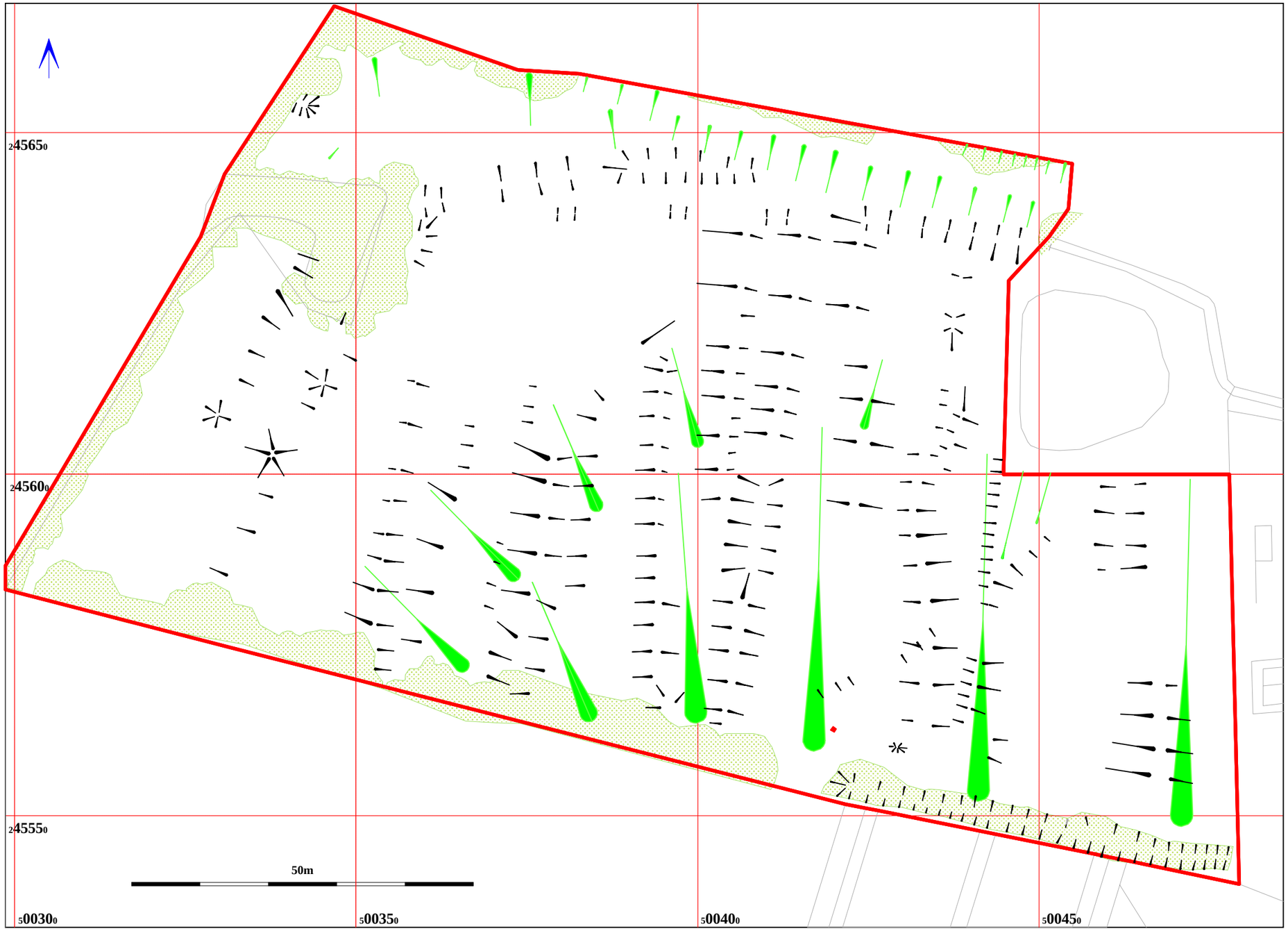


Figure 4: Earthwork survey, hachure plan

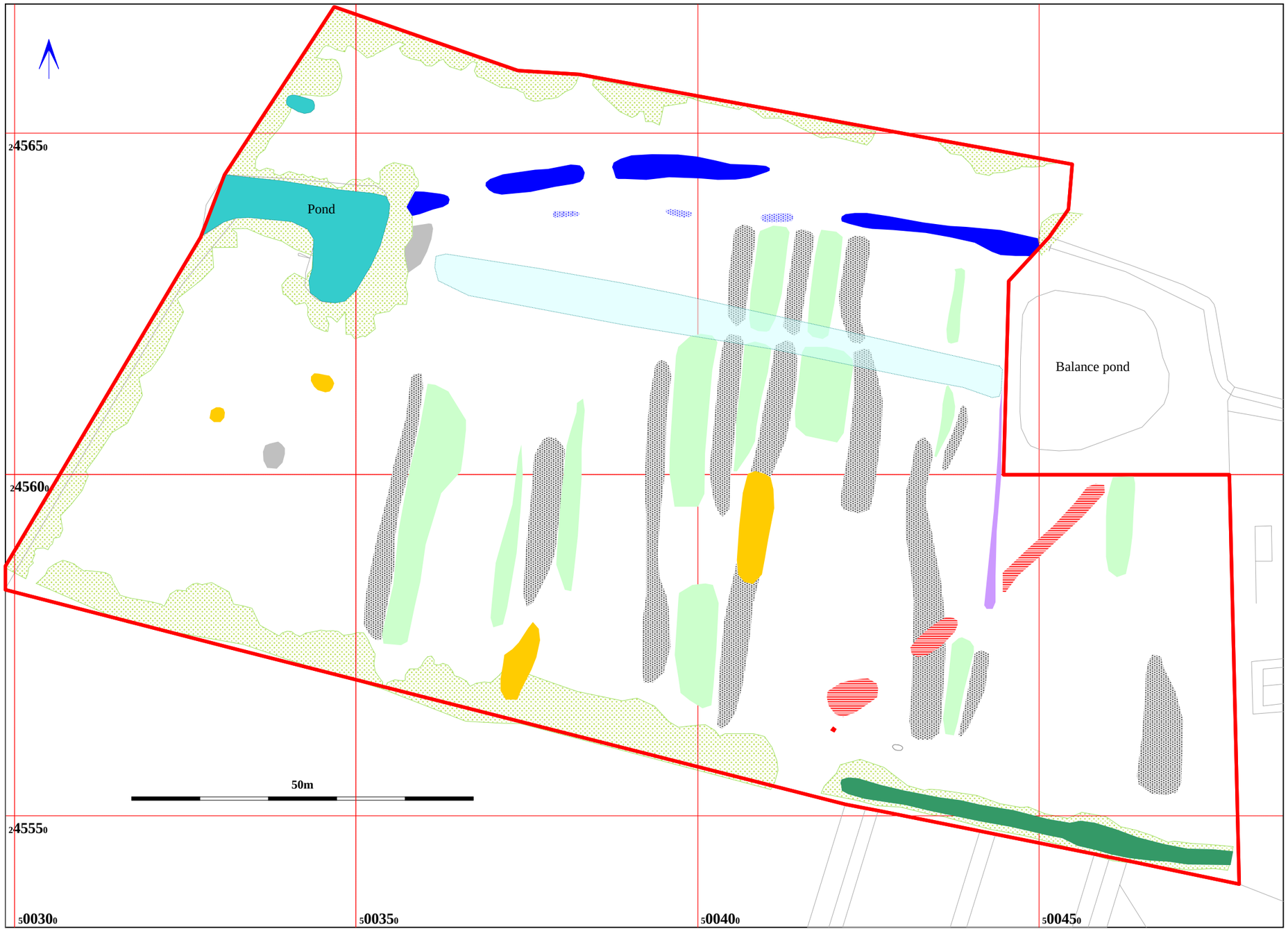


Figure 5: Earthwork survey, interpretive plan

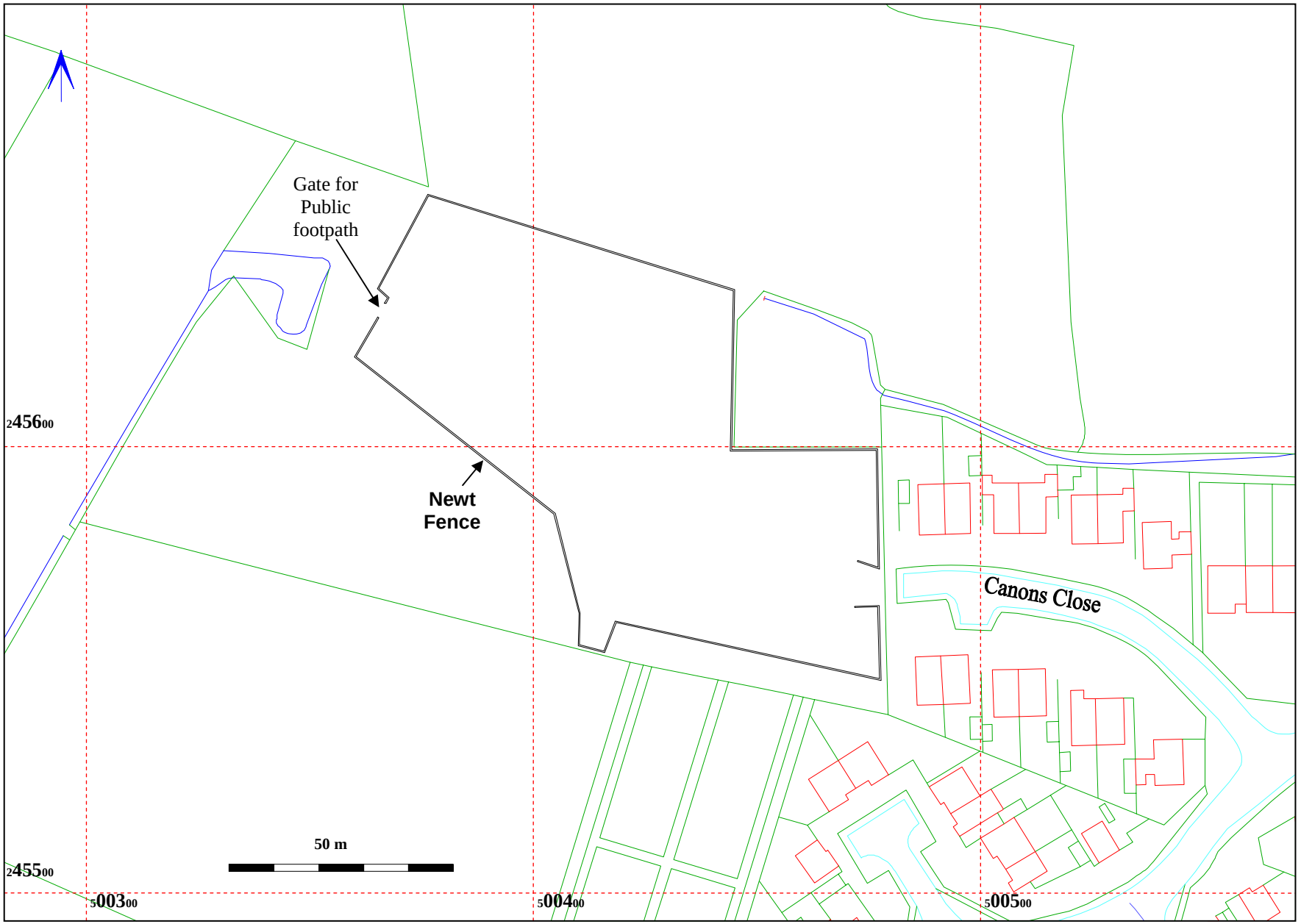


Figure 6: Course of newt fence observations

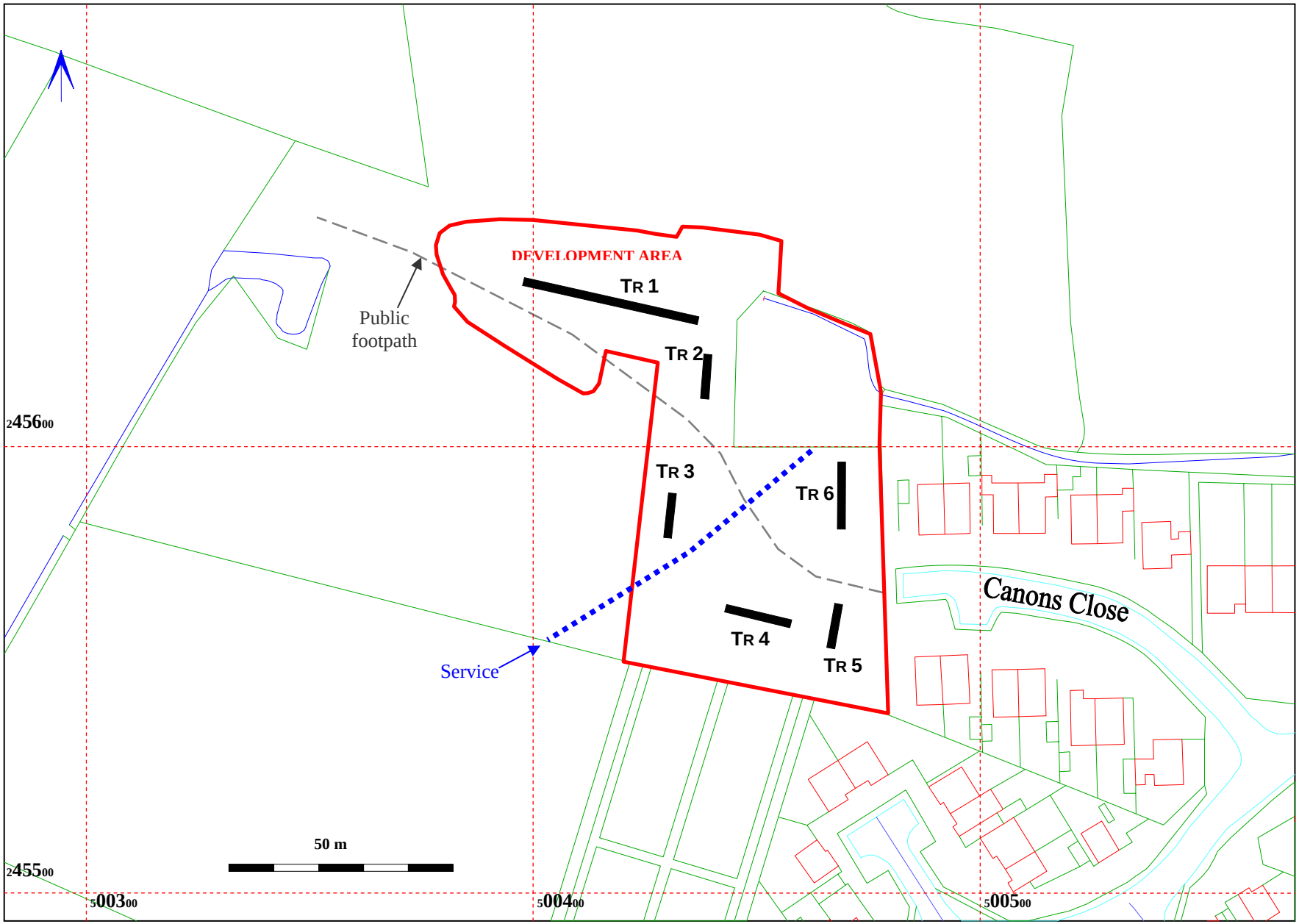


Figure 7: Trench location plan

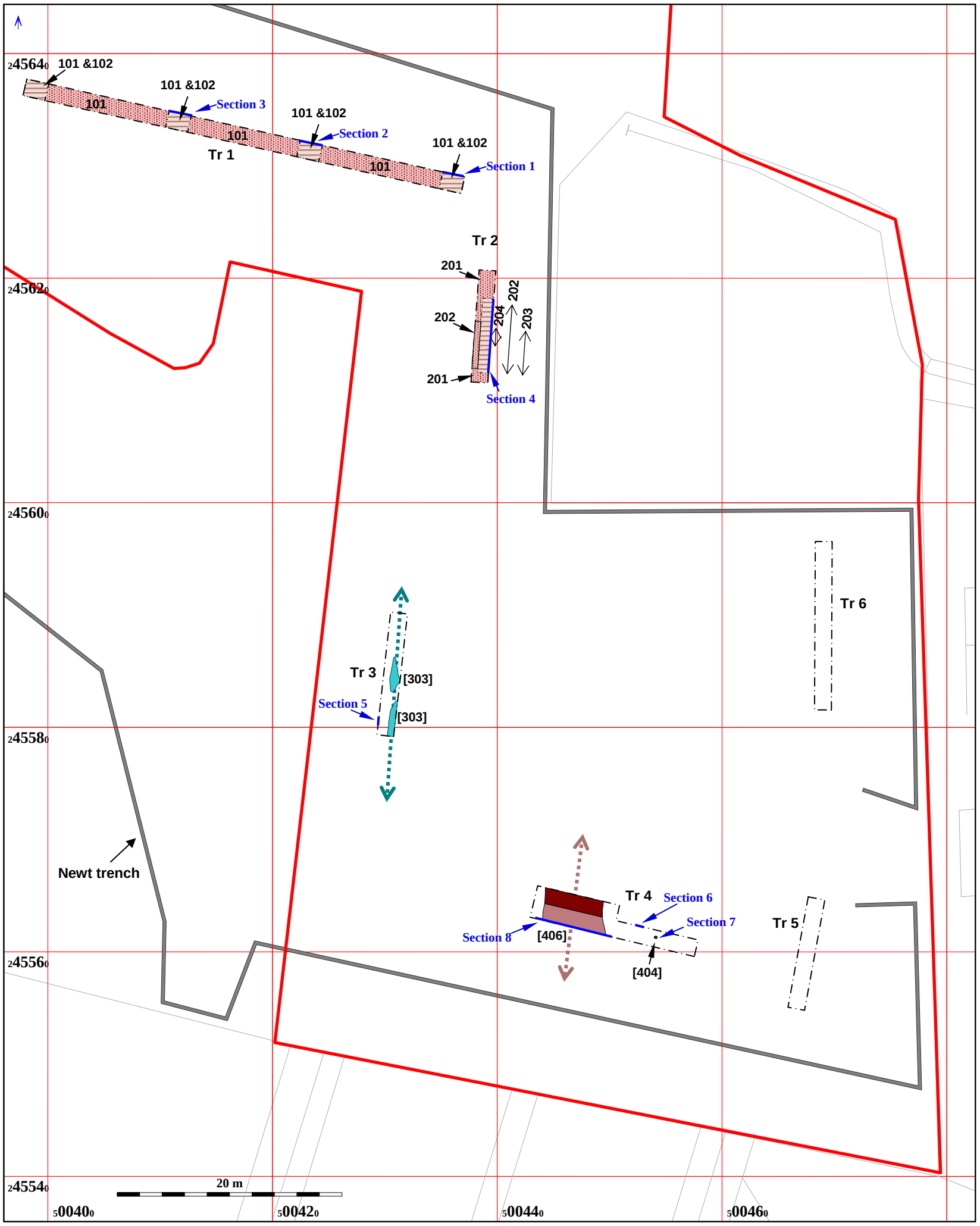


Figure 8: All features plan

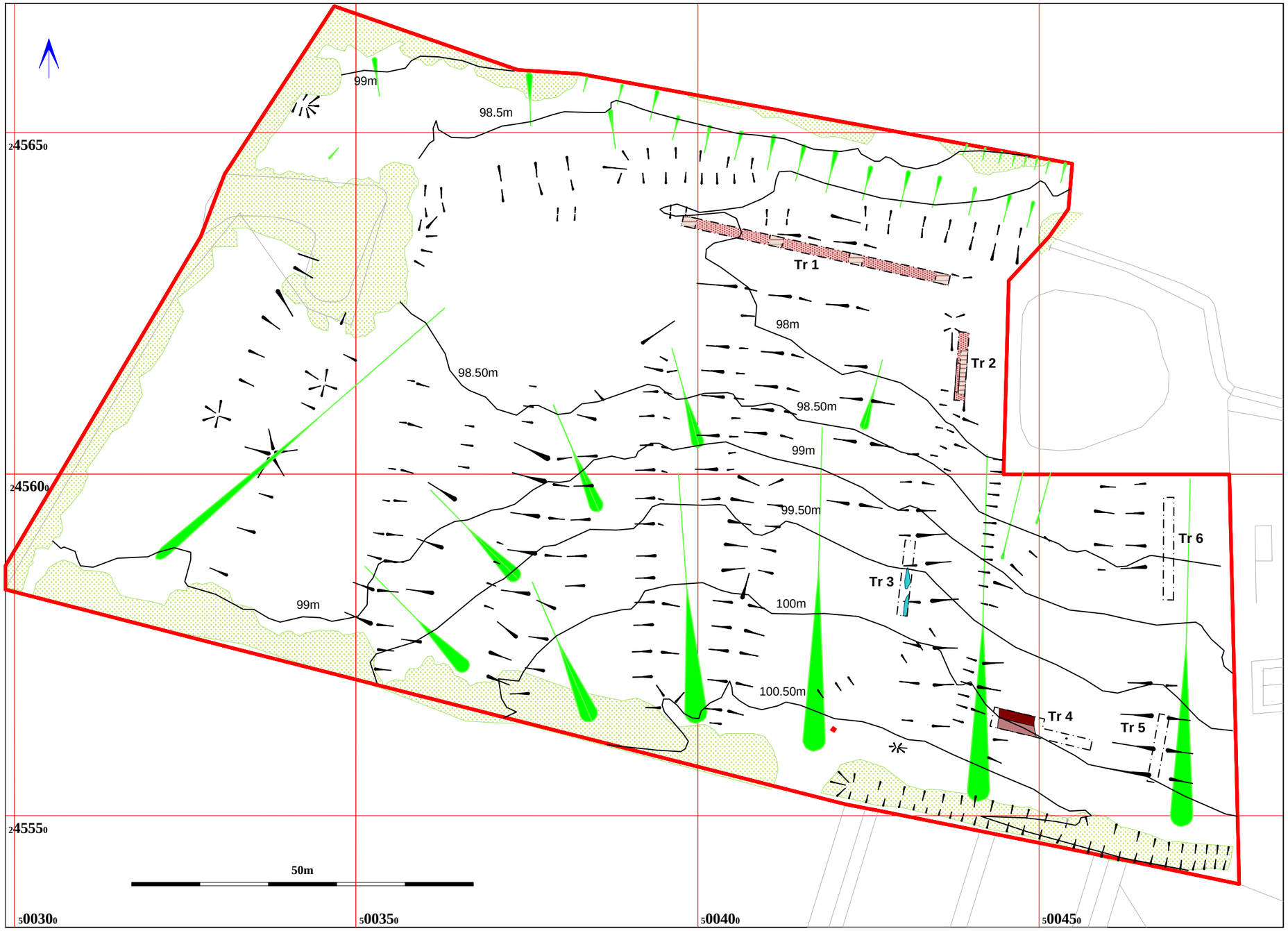
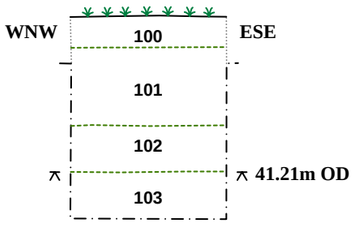
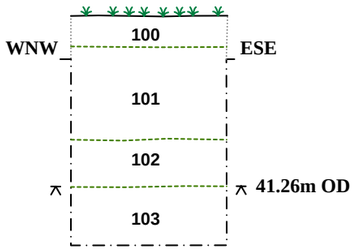


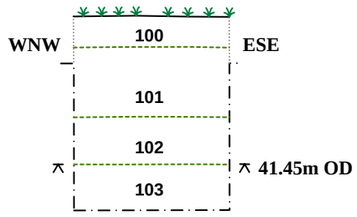
Figure 9: Plan showing the relationship between trial trenches and topography



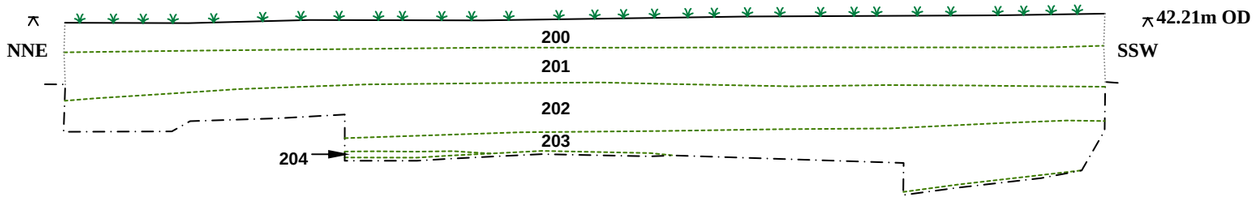
Section 1



Section 2



Section 3



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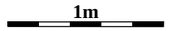
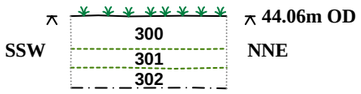
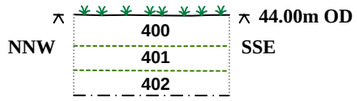




Section 5



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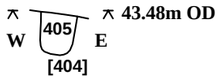

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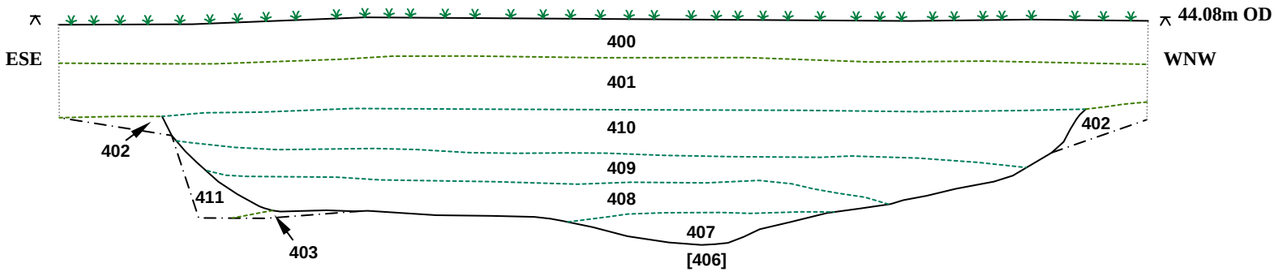

Section 8

Key to Section Drawings

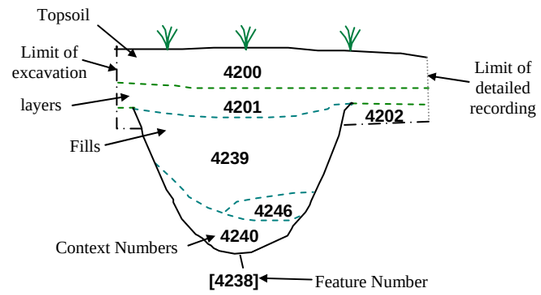

Figure 10: Sections