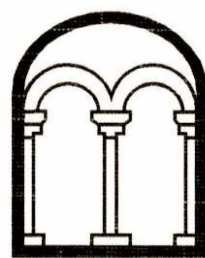


**LAND OFF NORTHAMPTON ROAD  
CHAPEL BRAMPTON  
NORTHAMPTONSHIRE**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELD EVALUATION**

**Albion**  
archaeology



**LAND OFF NORTHAMPTON ROAD  
CHAPEL BRAMPTON  
NORTHAMPTONSHIRE**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELD EVALUATION**

Project: CB2522  
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24th November 2014

Compiled by	Checked by	Approved by
David Ingham	Gary Edmondson	Drew Shotliff

Produced for:  
CgMs Consulting Ltd



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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.

Albion Archaeology was commissioned to undertake the project by CgMs Consulting Ltd, on behalf of Mulberry Developments Ltd, and was monitored on behalf of the Local Planning Authority by Lesley-Ann Mather, Northamptonshire County Council's Archaeological Advisor.

The project was managed for Albion by Gary Edmondson (Project Manager). David Ingham (Project Officer) conducted the fieldwork with the assistance of Richard Gregson (Archaeological Supervisor) and prepared this report, which includes a contribution from Jackie Wells (Finds Officer). The report was approved by Drew Shotliff (Operations Manager), who is responsible for the overall management of all Albion projects.

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## Version History

Version	Issue date	Reason for re-issue
1.0	21/11/14	n/a
1.1	24/11/14	Incorporating comments from Archaeological Consultant

## Structure of the Report

Section 1 is an introduction to the project, the methodology for which is described in Section 2. The results of the fieldwork are presented in Section 3, with a summary in Section 4. Section 5 is a bibliography. The appendix (Section 6) contains detailed trench and context descriptions.

## Key Terms

The following terms or abbreviations are used throughout this report:

CAA	Northamptonshire County Council Archaeological Advisor
HER	Historic Environment Record
IFA	Institute for Archaeologists
NCC	Northamptonshire County Council
PDA	Proposed development area



## **Non-Technical Summary**

*Mulberry Developments Ltd is submitting a planning application to Daventry District Council for the development of land off Northampton Road, Chapel Brampton, Northamptonshire. Following advice from the County Archaeological Advisor that there was insufficient information to assess the potential archaeological impact of the development, CgMs Consulting Ltd commissioned a geophysical survey by Stratascan in October 2013, before commissioning Albion Archaeology to carry out a programme of trial trenching in November 2014.*

*The potential development area comprises a roughly rectangular piece of arable land to the west of Northampton Road, on the southern edge of the village of Chapel Brampton, Northamptonshire. It measures c. 2.5 ha and is centred on NGR SP 729 662, at a height of c. 90–100m OD, on ground that rises to the west. The underlying geology is Northampton Sand, constituting a mixture of degraded ironstone and sandstone.*

*Seven trenches were excavated in order to test anomalies identified by the geophysical survey, as well as the supposedly blank areas. The trenching confirmed the results of the geophysical survey, with the Iron Age enclosure defined by a pair of large ditches, which contained a possible roundhouse and other settlement-related features. A linear feature also crossed the eastern half of the site on a WNW–ESE alignment; this was either a repeatedly re-cut ditched boundary of uncertain date, or more likely a hollow-way, with traces of associated flanking ditches. This would appear to roughly correlate with a boundary shown on the 1758 ‘Isted’ Estate Map.*

*The Iron Age remains have local to regional significance, and are able to shed light on aspects of Iron Age landscape development and morphology, whereas the possible hollow-way has local significance. Areas outside of the Iron Age enclosure and away from the possible hollow-way hold only low potential for the presence of archaeological remains.*



## 1. INTRODUCTION

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### 1.1 *Planning Background*

Mulberry Developments Ltd is submitting a planning application to Daventry District Council for the development of land off Northampton Road, Chapel Brampton, Northamptonshire.

The County Archaeological Advisor (CAA) advised CgMs Consulting Ltd that there was insufficient information to assess the potential archaeological impact of any development, or for an appropriate mitigation strategy to be prepared. In line with guidance contained in the National Planning Policy Framework, the CAA therefore recommended that a pre-determination programme of archaeological field evaluation should be carried out to assess the potential of the proposed development area (PDA).

CgMs Consulting Ltd commissioned a geophysical survey in October 2013 (Stratascan 2013), before commissioning Albion Archaeology to carry out a programme of trial trenching in November 2014. This report presents the results of the investigation.

### 1.2 *Site Location, Topography and Geology*

The site comprises a roughly rectangular piece of arable land to the west of Northampton Road, on the southern edge of the village of Chapel Brampton, Northamptonshire (Fig. 1). It measures *c.* 2.5 ha and is centred on NGR SP 729 662, at a height of *c.* 90–100m OD, on ground that rises to the west. The underlying geology is Northampton Sand, constituting a mixture of degraded ironstone and sandstone.

### 1.3 *Archaeological Background*

Chapel Brampton lies within the Brampton Complex, an almost continuous area of crop-marks that covers at least 175ha within Chapel Brampton and Church Brampton (RCHME 1981, 16–20). Though essentially undated, finds recovered both from within this area of crop-marks and from the surrounding fields include items dating to all periods between the Neolithic and the Saxon period, suggesting that the crop-marks relate to extensive activity over the course of several millennia.

Crop-marks in the vicinity of Brampton Grange, to the south of the PDA, are suggestive of settlement-related enclosures, with a short pit alignment to the south-west. Two larger enclosures are visible to the north of these, along with a ring-ditch. Worked flints have been found in the vicinity of both sets of crop-marks. Possible ditched trackways are visible *c.* 400m west of the PDA, with further enclosures and other features connected with them. A trackway and enclosures can also be seen north-west of the PDA, between Brampton Hill and the edge of the modern village; it was in this area (SP 7227 6645) that a middle Bronze Age cremation cemetery was found in 1970–1 (*Northamptonshire Archaeology* 8 (1973), 3).

Chapel Brampton is likely to be a shrunken medieval village, following its enclosure in *c.* 1640: shrinkage is evident at Church Brampton, but cartographic evidence for Chapel Brampton is incomplete (Partida *et al.* 2013, 58). A large hollow-way, representing the former Pitsford Road, survives immediately east of the modern village (RCHME 1981, 16–20), in the vicinity of which are earthworks that may



represent building platforms. Evidence of ridge-and-furrow cultivation is seen in the north and east of the parish, but is rarely evident on the lighter soils in the south.

#### **1.4 Project Objectives**

The overall objective of the evaluation was to provide information on any archaeological remains present, thereby providing sufficient information to allow any planning application to be determined. Specifically, it was designed to establish the location, extent, nature and date of any archaeological features and deposits present within the site, as well as their integrity and state of preservation.

The results of the evaluation are examined in this report in relation to their local, regional and national context. The report also examines the significance of the results with reference to regional research frameworks (Knight *et al.* 2012).



## 2. METHODOLOGY

The methodological approach to the project is summarised below and detailed in the Written Scheme of Investigation (Albion Archaeology 2014).

### 2.1 Methodological Standards

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

• Albion Archaeology	<i>Procedures Manual: Volume 1 Fieldwork</i> (2nd edn, 2001)
• Archaeological Archives Forum	<i>Archaeological Archives: A Guide to best practice in creation, compilation, transfer and curation</i> (2nd ed. 2011)
• English Heritage	<i>Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment PPN3: Archaeological Excavation</i> (2008)
	<i>Environmental Archaeology: A guide to the theory and practice of methods, from sampling and recovery to post-excavation. 2nd ed. (2011)</i>
• IfA	<i>By-Laws and Code of Conduct</i>
	<i>Standard and Guidance for archaeological field evaluation (2008) and finds (2008)</i>
• Northamptonshire Archaeological Resource Centre	<i>Northamptonshire Archaeological Archives Standard</i> (2014)

### 2.2 Trial Trenching

Trial trenching took place on 10th–13th November 2014 in a period of changeable weather, which allowed the trenches to be examined under varying conditions. Seven trenches were excavated, all of them 1.9m wide (Fig. 1); Trench 1 was 62m long, and the other six 50m.

Trenches were opened by a mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless bucket, under close archaeological supervision. Overburden was removed down to the top of the archaeological deposits or undisturbed geological deposits, whichever were encountered first. The soil heaps were scanned for artefacts.

Any potential archaeological features were investigated by hand and recorded using Albion Archaeology's *pro forma* sheets. Each trench was 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.* Context numbers in square brackets refer to the cuts [\*\*\*] and round brackets to fills or layers (\*\*\*)

All trenches were inspected by the CAA prior to their backfilling.

### 2.3 Archiving

An integrated project archive (including both artefacts/ecofacts and project documentation) will be prepared upon completion of the project. There is currently no archaeological archive depository able to accept material from this part of the county, although the issue is being actively addressed and it is hoped that suitable facilities





will be available within 3–5 years. The digital archive will be deposited with the Archaeology Data Service (ADS).



### 3. RESULTS

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#### 3.1 Introduction

The results of the evaluation are summarised below, with the finds data integrated. Detailed information on the deposits revealed can be found in Appendix 1.

#### 3.2 Western Area (Trenches 1–2)

Geophysical survey of the PDA (Stratascan 2013) revealed several linear and discrete anomalies at the western end, which were suggestive of a double-ditched enclosure containing settlement-related features (Figs 2–3). Investigation of the presumed enclosure ditches in Trench 1 confirmed their interpretation, revealing them to be large, steep-sided ditches [103] and [106] measuring 2.1–2.4m wide and 1m or more deep (Fig. 3: Photograph B). Whereas the geophysical survey indicated a break in the outer ditch, the results of the trial trenching suggest that it may have been continuous. Despite the size of the ditches, there was no positive evidence for the presence of a bank on either side.

The geophysical survey's evidence for activity within the enclosure amounted to a semi-circular linear anomaly and several discrete ones. The former is likely to represent the eaves-drip gully of a roundhouse [109] (Fig. 3: Section 1) — although the excavated feature was found not quite in the location suggested by the survey — while the latter are likely to relate to features such as [111] and [113]. Neither of these was excavated, but [111] betrayed evidence of burning, and may well have been a hearth located within the putative roundhouse. A single tree-throw [207] was identified in Trench 2.

##### 3.2.1 Finds

Finds from the western area are restricted to a handful of objects from the two enclosure ditches.

Pottery from inner ditch [103] comprises six abraded Iron Age body sherds (28g) from upper fill (105), representing two vessels: five sherds are sand-tempered, while the sixth contains grog and quartz sand. An incomplete hard-hammer-struck tertiary flint flake, broadly datable to the late Neolithic to late Bronze Age, was also recovered. The object has suffered post-depositional damage to its lateral edges. Faunal remains are represented by eleven poorly preserved pieces probably deriving from a single tooth (2g), and four burnt, indeterminate postcranial fragments (1g).

The outer ditch yielded just two sherds of pottery: an abraded grog-tempered sherd of Iron Age pottery (4g) from the surface of unexcavated ditch segment [205]; and a chunky body sherd (39g) in a grog / sandy fabric from fill (108) of segment [106]. Boldly executed scoring on the latter suggests the sherd is of middle Iron Age date (*c.* mid-3rd to 1st century BC). Ditch fill (108) also yielded an incomplete tertiary flint flake, with heavy post-depositional damage to its edges, while two pieces of unfired blue-grey clay (86g), measuring approximately 10mm in thickness, were recovered from basal fill (106). These fragments have uniformly smoothed surfaces and irregular undersides, and are thought to represent lining material; the unburnt nature suggesting lining of a pit, possibly to retain water.



### 3.3 *Eastern Area (Trenches 3–7)*

A linear geophysical anomaly, also visible on modern aerial photographs as a crop-mark, was identified crossing Trenches 4 and 5 (Figs 2 and 4). Trial trenching found no trace of it in Trench 4, but did reveal an eastward continuation through to Trench 6. Its interpretation and date are uncertain: it was recorded as a series of re-cut ditches [503] – [513], measuring 0.3–0.6m deep and occupying a total width of *c.* 4m (Fig. 4: Section 1), but this was suggested more by undulations in the base of the overall feature than by evidence of re-cutting visible in section. An alternative explanation is that it was a hollow-way, with traces of associated flanking ditches — although no wheel ruts were visible within the excavated segment. The only finds recovered from this feature were three abraded fragments of undiagnostic animal bone (2g) from deposit (514), whose survival within acidic soils is perhaps supportive of a medieval or post-medieval date rather than a prehistoric one. This feature would appear to roughly correlate with a boundary shown on the 1758 ‘Isted’ Estate Map (Fig. 4).

The only other features identified in Trenches 3–7 were a modern pit [403] (unexcavated, but with a patently modern metal object protruding from its surface — Fig. 4: Photograph A) and a small post-medieval pit [603] (Fig. 4: Photograph B). The fill of the latter produced an olive green body sherd from an 18th–19th-century wine bottle (24g); an undiagnostic sherd (1g) from a glass vessel of indeterminate form, likely to be of similar date; and a stem fragment (1g) from a post-medieval / modern clay tobacco pipe.

### 3.4 *Overburden and Geological Deposits*

While the ploughsoil had a fairly consistent depth of 0.3–0.35m, the subsoil varied from no more than a thin smear in Trenches 5 and 6, to a maximum depth of 0.5m in Trench 7. Trenches 1 and 2 had a combined depth of *c.* 0.6m of overburden sealing the double-ditched enclosure. The ploughsoil contained occasional modern artefacts such as an unretained sherd (6g) of mass-produced 19th–20th-century white ware (Northants CTS Code F1000) from deposit (700), but no artefacts were observed in the subsoil.

The underlying geological deposits comprised a mixture of sandstone and ironstone in varying degrees of degradation. Trench 7 in particular was notable for having bands of stone running through sandier material, which may account for the magnetic disturbance noted by the geophysical survey (Stratascan 2013). A few quasi-archaeological features were noted (Fig. 2), although only [115] was excavated; these are almost certainly periglacial in origin.



## 4. SUMMARY

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Evaluation of the PDA at Chapel Brampton has identified the remains of part of an Iron Age double-ditched enclosure, which contains a possible roundhouse and other settlement-related features. These features generally showed good correlation with the geophysical survey. Although the ditches defining the enclosure proved to be substantial, measuring at least 2m wide and 1m deep, the excavated segments produced a low density of artefacts. The acidic soil conditions are not conducive for the survival of animal bone, and no waterlogged deposits were encountered. Conditions of structural preservation within the Iron Age enclosure appear relatively good, however: a potential hearth was identified, and there was no indication of disturbance by either modern or historic ploughing.

An extensive but essentially undated linear feature to the east of the Iron Age enclosure was also revealed. This might represent a long-lived ditched boundary, possibly relating to the Iron Age enclosure, but is perhaps more likely to represent a hollow-way, probably of medieval or post-medieval date. This may be related to trackways visible as crop-marks to the west of Chapel Brampton, on a similar WNW–ESE alignment (RCHME 1981, 16–20). The feature would appear to correlate to a boundary shown on the 1754 ‘Isted’ Estate map reproduce on page 67 of a Tale of Two Villages (2006) by Jack Wagstaff. It is possible that pit [603] was dug close to this boundary.

Despite the magnetic disturbance noted by the geophysical survey, the programme of trial trenching suggests that the results of the survey are broadly accurate. Areas outside of the Iron Age enclosure and away from the possible hollow-way consequently appear to hold only low potential for the presence of archaeological remains. The Iron Age remains have local to regional significance, and are able to shed light on aspects of Iron Age landscape development and morphology, whereas the possible hollow-way has only local significance.



## 5. BIBLIOGRAPHY

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Albion Archaeology 2014: *Land off Northampton Road, Chapel Brampton, Northamptonshire: Written Scheme of Investigation for a Programme of Archaeological Field Evaluation* (unpublished report no. 2014/191)

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Partida, T., Hall, D. and Foard, G. 2013: *An Atlas of Northamptonshire: The Medieval and Early–Modern Landscape*

Stratascan 2013: *Northampton Road, Chapel Brampton, Northamptonshire. Geophysical Survey Report* (job ref: J5851)



## 6. APPENDIX 1: TRENCH SUMMARY

<b>Trench: 1</b>					
<b>Length:</b>	<b>62m</b>	<b>Width:</b>	<b>1.9m</b>	<b>Depth to archaeological horizon:</b>	<b>Min. 0.55m Max. 0.65m</b>
Context	Type	Description	Excavated	Finds	
100	Ploughsoil	Friable dark brown sandy silt. 0.3m thick	✓		
101	Subsoil	Friable mid yellow brown sandy silt. 0.3m thick	✓		
102	Natural	Firm mid yellow brown silty sand with fragments of ironstone			
103	Ditch	Linear, NE-SW, steep sides. 2.1m wide, >0.8m deep	✓		
104	Main fill	Friable mid yellow brown sandy silt	✓		
105	Upper fill	Friable mid brown sandy silt	✓		Pottery, flint, animal bone
106	Ditch	Linear, E-W, straight sides, concave base. 2.4m wide, 1.0m deep	✓		
107	Basal fill	Friable mid yellow brown sandy silt	✓		Unfired clay lining
108	Main fill	Friable mid yellow brown sandy silt	✓		Pottery, flint
109	Gully	Linear, ENE-WSW, steep sides, concave base. 0.45m wide, 0.38m deep	✓		
110	Fill	Friable mid orange brown sandy silt	✓		
111	Hearth	Circular. 0.4m diameter			
112	Fill	Loose light grey silty clay			
113	Pit	Circular. 0.6m diameter			
114	Fill	Friable dark yellow brown sandy silt			
115	Natural feature	Irregularly shaped, concave sides, uneven base	✓		
116	Fill	Friable mid red brown silty sand	✓		

<b>Trench: 2</b>					
<b>Length:</b>	<b>50m</b>	<b>Width:</b>	<b>1.9m</b>	<b>Depth to archaeological horizon:</b>	<b>Min. 0.5m Max. 0.6m</b>
Context	Type	Description	Excavated	Finds	
200	Ploughsoil	Friable dark brown sandy silt. Max. 0.32m thick	✓		
201	Subsoil	Friable mid yellow brown sandy silt. 0.18-0.3m thick	✓		
202	Natural	Firm mid orange/yellow brown silty sand with fragments of ironstone			
203	Ditch	Linear, NW-SE. 2.7m wide			
204	Fill	Friable mid yellow brown sandy silt			
210	Fill	Friable dark brown sandy silt			
205	Ditch	Linear, NW-SE. 2.9m wide			
206	Fill	Friable mid yellow brown sandy silt			Pottery
207	Tree-throw	Sub-oval. 1.2m long, >0.95m wide			
208	Lower fill	Friable mid grey brown sandy silt			
209	Upper fill	Friable mid yellow brown sandy silt			

<b>Trench: 3</b>					
<b>Length:</b>	<b>50m</b>	<b>Width:</b>	<b>1.9m</b>	<b>Depth to archaeological horizon:</b>	<b>Min. 0.45m Max. 0.65m</b>
Context	Type	Description	Excavated	Finds	
300	Ploughsoil	Friable dark brown sandy silt. Max. 0.33m thick	✓		
301	Subsoil	Friable mid orange brown sandy silt. 0.12-0.35m thick	✓		
302	Natural	Friable mid orange/yellow brown silty sand			

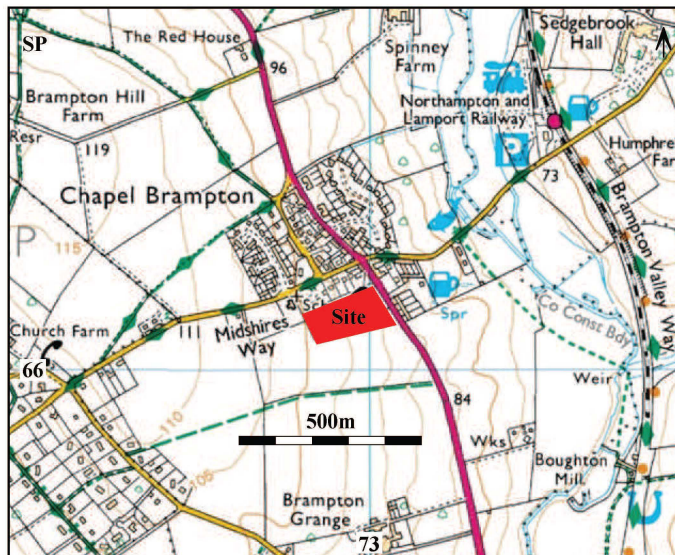
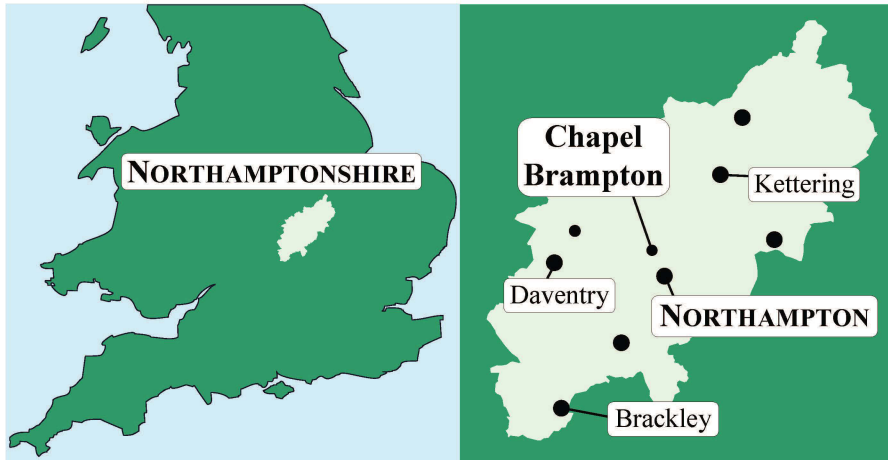


<b>Trench: 4</b>					
<b>Length:</b>	<b>50m</b>	<b>Width:</b>	<b>1.9m</b>	<b>Depth to archaeological horizon:</b>	<b>Min. 0.5m Max. 0.7m</b>
Context	Type	Description	Excavated	Finds	
400	Ploughsoil	Friable dark brown sandy silt. Max. 0.32m thick	✓		
401	Subsoil	Friable mid orange brown sandy silt. 0.18–0.42m thick	✓		
402	Natural	Friable orange/yellow brown silty sand, with patches of compacted small pebbles in a grey matrix			
403	Modern disturbance	Sub-oval. 4.8m long, >1.9m wide			
404	Fill	Friable dark grey brown sandy silt, with patches of redeposited orange brown geological strata			Metal object (not retained)

<b>Trench: 5</b>					
<b>Length:</b>	<b>50m</b>	<b>Width:</b>	<b>1.9m</b>	<b>Depth to archaeological horizon:</b>	<b>Min. 0.4m Max. 0.5m</b>
Context	Type	Description	Excavated	Finds	
500	Ploughsoil	Friable dark brown sandy silt. Max. 0.35m thick	✓		
501	Subsoil	Friable mid orange brown sandy silt. Max. 0.15m thick	✓		
502	Natural	Firm mid yellow brown sandy clay with fragments of limestone			
503	Ditch	Linear, WNW–ESE, stepped sides, concave base. >1.8m wide, 0.62m deep	✓		
504	Lower fill	Friable mid grey brown sandy silt	✓		
505	Middle fill	Friable mid grey brown sandy silt	✓		
506	Upper fill	Friable light yellow brown sandy silt	✓		
507	Ditch	Linear, WNW–ESE, concave sides, concave base. 0.6m wide, 0.29m deep	✓		
508	Lower fill	Friable light yellow brown sandy silt	✓		
509	Upper fill	Friable mid grey brown sandy silt	✓		
510	Ditch	Linear, WNW–ESE, concave sides, concave base. >0.9m wide, 0.3m deep	✓		
511	Lower fill	Friable light yellow brown sandy clay	✓		
512	Upper fill	Friable light yellow brown sandy silt	✓		
513	Ditch	Linear, WNW–ESE, concave sides, concave base. 1.8m wide, 0.5m deep	✓		
514	Fill	Friable light yellow brown silty sand	✓		Animal bone

<b>Trench: 6</b>					
<b>Length:</b>	<b>50m</b>	<b>Width:</b>	<b>1.9m</b>	<b>Depth to archaeological horizon:</b>	<b>Min. 0.35m Max. 0.45m</b>
Context	Type	Description	Excavated	Finds	
600	Ploughsoil	Friable dark brown sandy silt. 0.3m thick	✓		
601	Subsoil	Friable mid orange brown sandy silt. Max. 0.15m thick	✓		
602	Natural	Firm mid orange brown silty sand with fragments of ironstone			
603	Pit	Irregularly shaped, concave sides, concave base. >0.7m long, 0.6m wide	✓		
604	Fill	Friable mid grey brown sandy silt	✓		Glass, clay pipe
605	Ditch	Linear, WNW–ESE. 4m wide			
606	Upper fill	Friable mid yellow brown sandy silt			

<b>Trench: 7</b>					
<b>Length:</b>	<b>50m</b>	<b>Width:</b>	<b>1.9m</b>	<b>Depth to archaeological horizon:</b>	<b>Min. 0.6m Max. 0.85m</b>
Context	Type	Description	Excavated	Finds	
700	Ploughsoil	Friable dark brown sandy silt. Max. 0.38m thick	✓		Pottery
701	Subsoil	Friable mid orange brown sandy silt. Max. 0.5m thick	✓		
702	Natural	Friable mid yellow brown silty sand, with N–S bands up to 3m wide of fractured ironstone			



**Figure 1: Site location**

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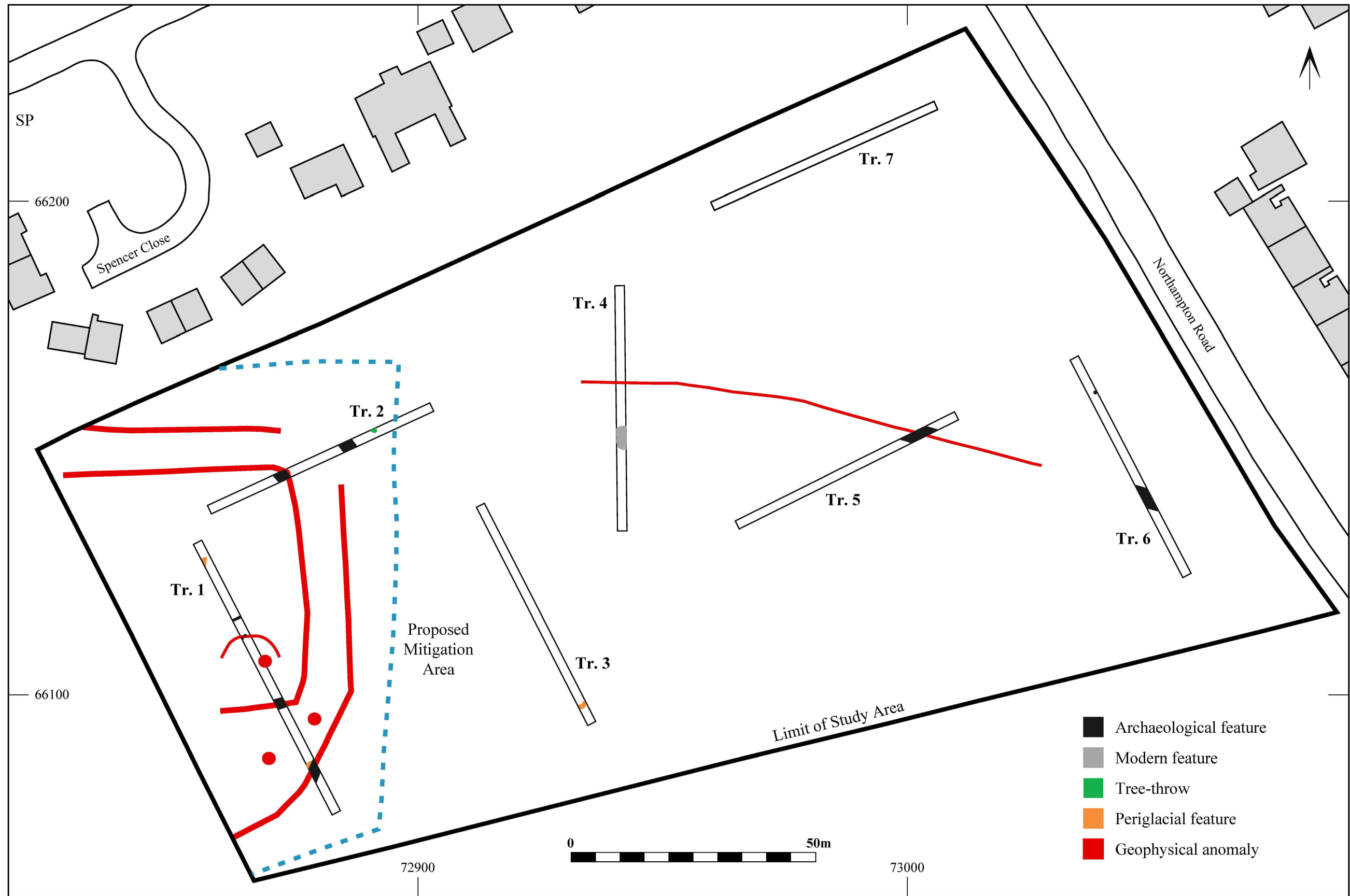
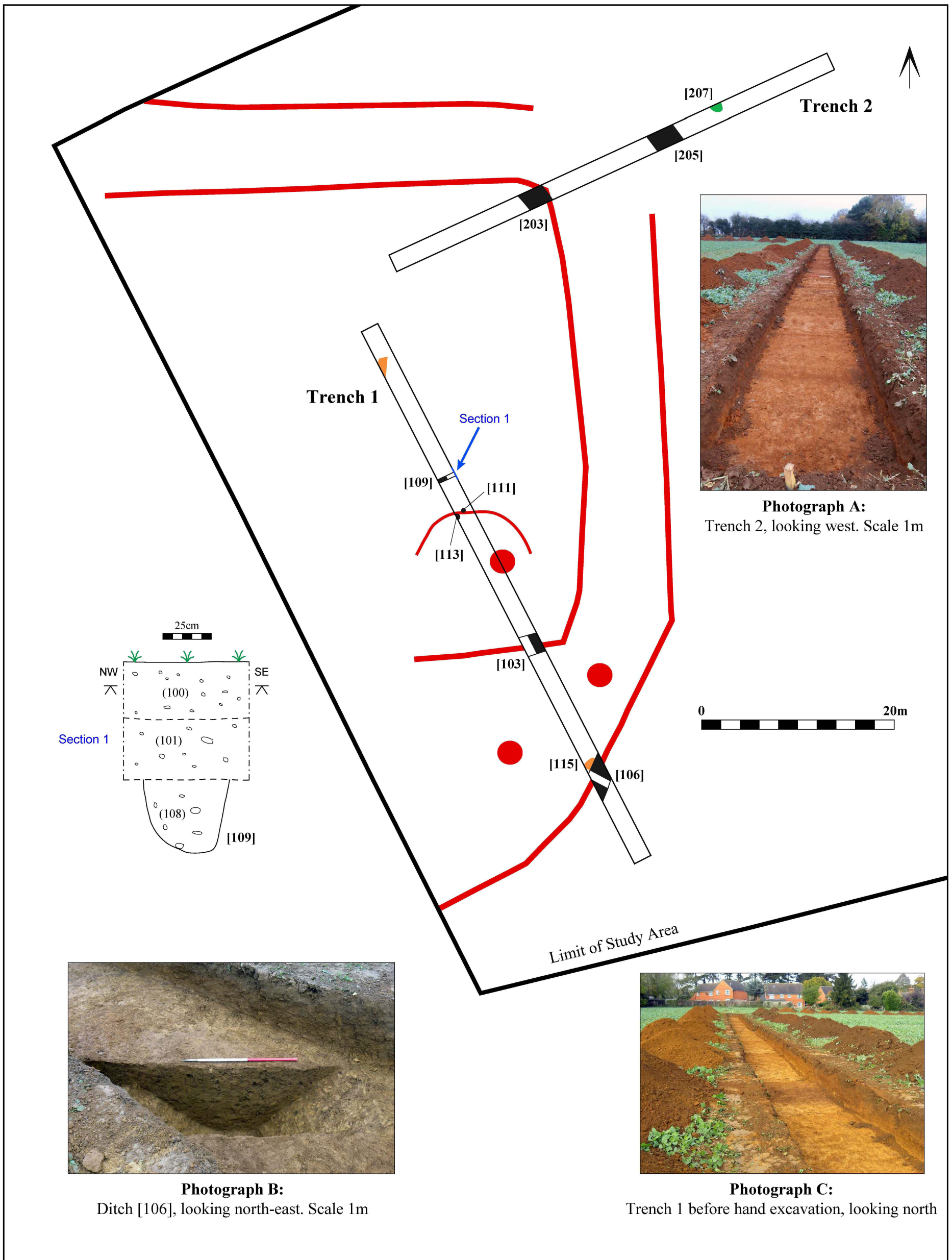


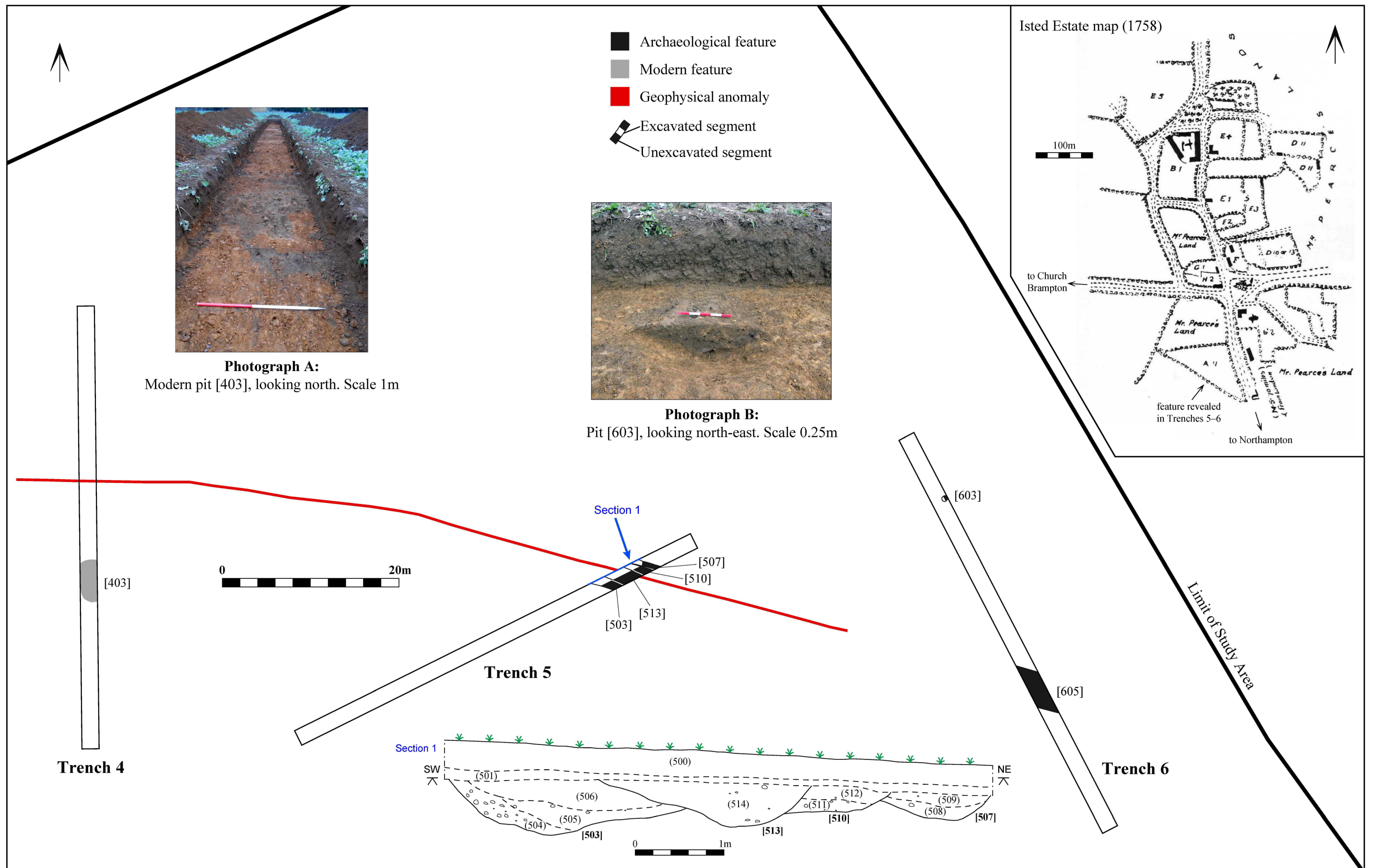
Figure 2: All-features plan overlain on geophysical anomalies



- Archaeological feature
- Tree-throw
- Periglacial feature

- Geophysical anomaly
- Excavated segment
- Unexcavated segment

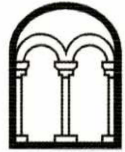
**Figure 3:** Western Area (Trenches 1–2)



**Figure 4:** Eastern Area (Trenches 4-6)



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