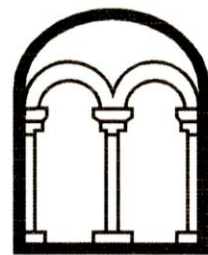


**NEW ROAD NURSERIES  
GREAT BARFORD  
BEDFORDSHIRE**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION**

**Albion**  
archaeology



**NEW ROAD NURSERIES  
GREAT BARFORD  
BEDFORDSHIRE**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION**

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Anmat Holdings Ltd



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## Preface

*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 this Report

Section 1 serves as an introduction to the project, describing the site's location, its archaeological background and the aims of the archaeological work. Section 2 contains data from the desk-based assessment of previously recorded sites in the area, with the project methodology described in Section 3. The results of the archaeological works are summarised in Section 4; Section 5 is the conclusion, whilst Section 6 is a bibliography. Detailed contextual data is contained in Section 7.

BBC	Bedford Borough Council
CI/A	Chartered Institute for Archaeologists
HER	Bedford Borough Council's Historic Environment Record
HET	Bedford Borough Council's Historic Environment Team
PDA	Proposed development area
WSI	Written Scheme of Investigation



## **Non-Technical Summary**

*Albion Archaeology was commissioned by G C Planning Partnership Ltd, on behalf of their client Annmat Holdings Ltd, to undertake an archaeological evaluation in support of possible redevelopment of the remaining area of the former New Road Nurseries, Great Barford, Bedfordshire. Pre-application planning advice (15/00606/PREAPP) was sought regarding the proposed redevelopment, which would involve a change of use and the erection of industrial/office buildings. The Historic Environment Team of Bedford Borough Council recommended that the developer should submit a heritage statement/desk-based assessment and the results of an archaeological evaluation in support of the application.*

*The Bedford Borough Historic Environment Record (HER) shows that the development site lies in a locally designated Area of Archaeological Interest, based upon a number of known archaeological cropmarks — a scatter of ring ditches (probable ploughed-out Bronze Age burial mounds) and a group of rectilinear enclosures (HER 604). At least two ring ditches and a group of linear features have been recorded immediately beneath New Road Nurseries on a number of aerial photographs.*

*The archaeological field evaluation comprised seven trenches of various lengths totalling 340m. Due to various constraints, the central part of the PDA was not accessible, as the area was being utilised by a number of businesses; the archaeological investigation focused on two areas to the north and south of it.*

*The distribution of archaeological features discovered across the site showed a marked contrast between the two areas. The Northern Area contained a concentration of archaeological features including pits and postholes as well as sequential ditches, dating to the Roman period. Generally, the ditches appear to be a continuation of linear cropmarks identified in the adjacent area. Archaeological remains in Southern Area comprised several ditches, quarrying (possibly Roman and modern in date) and layers of probably alluvial origin. The possible E-W aligned trackway, identified as two closely spaced parallel cropmarks to the east of the PDA on aerial photographs correlate to a concentration of ditches in Trench 7, although there is some discrepancy in the alignments. Modern disturbance appears to have destroyed the western continuation of these features.*

*The Roman pottery assemblage ranges from the 1st to late 2nd centuries AD. It includes both local wares as well as those from the wider region. A single, heavily abraded sherd of possibly early Iron Age pottery was identified from one of the ditches in south-east corner of the site, at least suggesting contemporary activity in the vicinity.*

*Despite disturbance associated with the nurseries and subsequent activity, the site revealed a variety of Roman features which appear to define the southern margin of the settlement revealed as cropmarks on aerial photographs. The southern part of the site appears to contain associated peripheral activity, such as possible quarrying towards the watercourse. This area has the potential to shed light on the character of Roman rural settlement and how it changed, as well as the interaction with the wider landscape over time. Overall the remains are of local to regional significance with the potential to address a number of key research objectives identified for this period in county and regional research frameworks.*



## 1. INTRODUCTION

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### 1.1 *Planning Background*

Anmat Holdings Ltd sought pre-application planning advice (15/00606/PREAPP) regarding the redevelopment of the remaining area of the former New Road Nurseries, Great Barford, Bedfordshire, MK44 3LH. The proposed redevelopment will involve the change of use and the erection of industrial/office buildings to create a B1/B8 employment site.

As the proposed development area (PDA) lies within an area of archaeological sensitivity, the Historic Environment Team (HET) of Bedford Borough Council has recommended that the developer should submit a heritage statement/desk-based assessment and the results of an archaeological evaluation in support of the application. This advice is in accordance with National Planning Policy Framework – para. 128.

### 1.2 *Site Location and Description*

The PDA is located on previously developed land at New Road Nurseries to the east of Great Barford village (centred on NGR: TL (5)1355 (2)5245), c. 400m to the west of the River Great Ouse (Figure 1). It is an L-shaped plot of land which covers an area of c. 2.25ha.

The site of the former nursery is situated in open countryside; the perimeter is bounded by mature trees and high hedgerows. At the time of the investigation, the site was partially occupied by mixed-use light industry, storage and a small horticultural/landscape gardening business. The north-eastern corner of the former nursery has previously been redeveloped and now contains a tool hire depot and a religious meeting house. The existing buildings within the PDA (red line on Figure 1) are currently in use, but a large number of former nursery greenhouses have been demolished or are derelict.

The bedrock comprises Oxford Clay Formation, which is overlain by First and Second Terrace deposits of the Ouse Valley Formation (Geology of Britain Viewer).

### 1.3 *Project Objectives*

The principal purpose of the evaluation was to gather information on possible sub-surface archaeological heritage assets within the PDA, in particular to determine:

- the date, nature, and extent of any archaeological remains present;
- the integrity and state of preservation of any archaeological features or deposits present;
- the relationship of any remains found to the surrounding contemporary landscapes;
- the potential of any palaeo-environmental remains to determine local environmental conditions.



The PDA had the potential to address research themes identified in the local and regional research frameworks. It was anticipated that the following areas could be relevant:

- Early prehistoric land-use and landscape development, in particular in relation to ceremonial and burial monuments;
- Subsequent occupation and use of the heavily settled Great Ouse terraces in the later prehistoric, Romano-British, Saxon and medieval periods. The investigation of prehistoric, Roman, and Saxon settlements to examine diversity, characterise settlement forms and understand how they appear, grow, shift and disappear is a local and regional archaeological research objective (Oake et al. 2007; and Medlycott 2011).





## **2. DESK-BASED ASSESSMENT**

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In order to put the results of the evaluation into context, an examination of historical maps and records of previous discoveries, together with the results of earlier investigations held by the Bedford Borough Council's Historic Environment Record (HER), were examined. A c. 500m-radius search area, centred on the PDA (red hatched area on Figure 2), was used.

### **2.1 Historical Maps**

#### **2.1.1 The 1824 Inclosure Award**

The land parcel containing the PDA is under different ownership to the adjacent land. The surrounding land to the west and north comprises three land parcels at this time. The land parcel containing the PDA extends westwards from the road, a turnpike, whilst to the south it is bounded by a 'public drain' which flows along the northern margin of Great Barford village, before discharging into the River Great Ouse, a short distance to the east.

#### **2.1.2 Ordnance Survey maps**

The First Edition map of 1884 shows the land parcel as depicted on the earlier map with no change. Particularly from the Second Edition map of 1900, there is expansion of buildings within the village, as well as more houses along the roads beyond the village, apart from New Road. A gravel pit is shown to the NW of the PDA.

### **2.2 Historic Environment Record**

A search of the Bedford Borough Historic Environment Record (HER) showed that the PDA lies in a locally designated Area of Archaeological Interest, based upon a number of known archaeological cropmarks in the vicinity.

#### **2.2.1 Scheduled Monuments**

The search identified a single monument of national importance Barford Bridge (scheduled monument HER 996), which crosses the river some distance to the south of the PDA (grey feature on Figure 2).

#### **2.2.2 Conservation Areas**

There are three conservation areas within the search radius; Great Barford, Green End at the NW margin of Great Barford (not shown on Figure 2) and a third to the north of the PDA, in the vicinity of the junction of New Road and the Bedford to Roxton Road (black areas on Figure 2). The nearest conservation area is within Great Barford, situated some 250m to the SW of the PDA. Peripheral hedges and trees screen the PDA from the village.

#### **2.2.3 Historic Environment Record**

The search identified 28 monuments, 25 of which are post-medieval buildings or structures, within the settlement of Great Barford. The other three are earlier, comprising Barford Bridge (see above), and two buildings — All Saints' Church, which dates from the 15th century onwards and Saville Cottage on the High Street, which dates from the 16th century onwards.



Of the seven sites identified on the HER, five are post-medieval or later — two 19th-century mileposts MBD 9909 and MBD 9910; and three post-medieval or later gravel pits MBD 9856, MBD 9913 and MBD 9931 (red dots or areas on Figure 2).

The other two sites are older and of greater relevance to the PDA and its environs (pale yellow areas on Figure 2). The most significant is HER 604, a complex of cropmarks identified on aerial photographs in the vicinity of the PDA. They comprise a scatter of ring ditches (probable ploughed-out Bronze Age burial mounds) and a group of rectilinear enclosures. At least two ring ditches and a group of linear features have been recorded immediately beneath New Road Nurseries on a number of aerial photos (particularly ALH 96 taken on 01.07.1965) held in the Historic England Archives (former National Monuments Record) (Figure 2).

The second site is HER 15269, situated some 500m to the NNE of the PDA. It comprises another ring ditch identified by cropmarks on aerial photographs in the area to the east of Ousebank Farm.

The BBC HET has commented that the immediate surrounding area would seem to contain the remains of a prehistoric ritual landscape and to potentially also include the remains of a later Roman settlement.

#### **2.2.4 Previous work in the vicinity**

The HER records three previous archaeological investigations (or “Events”) in the search area (pale green areas on Figure 2). The nearest of these is immediately to the NE of the PDA. It comprises archaeological observation and recoding during the construction of the tool hire depot (Albion 2014; HER Event EBB 939). The work identified three ditches that contained small amounts of animal bone and Romano-British pottery dated to the 1st/2nd century AD; and a shallow, flat-bottomed pit that contained a small amount of animal bone and Saxon pottery. The Romano-British ditches appeared to form a continuation of rectilinear enclosure cropmarks (HER 604) recorded to the north and south-west of the development. The form of the Saxon pit suggests that it could be the remains of a sunken-featured building.

Approximately 300m to the south of the PDA at a site known as College Farm archaeological work in advance of housing development identified: Bronze Age pits and postholes, representing settlement; a middle Iron Age pit alignment (major land boundary) alongside three contemporary parallel ditches; the entrance to a Romano-British enclosure; and a scatter of late Saxon/Saxo-Norman settlement features (Abrams et al, forthcoming; HER Event EBB 628).

An archaeological investigation to the rear of The Hoo, 31 High Street, Great Barford (HER Event EBB 819), revealed no archaeological remains.



### **2.2.5 Portable Antiquities Scheme Finds**

A total of twelve finds from three findspots in the area at the northern boundary of the PDA and in the area immediately to the NW are recorded (dark green dots on Figure 2). They are mostly metal objects found during metal detecting. The items include a Neolithic to early Bronze Age flint scraper; Roman artefacts including coins and brooches; a medieval harness pendant and a strap end; and a post-medieval belt mount. The number and type of Roman finds in particular indicates a focus of contemporary activity, with the majority apparently being recovered from the northern margins of the PDA.



### 3. METHOD STATEMENT

The methodological approach to the project is summarised below and detailed in the Written Scheme of Investigation (Albion Archaeology 2016).

#### 3.1 Standards

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

• Albion Archaeology	<i>Procedures Manual: Volume 1 Fieldwork</i> (2nd edn, 2001).
• CIfA	<i>Charter and by-law; Code of conduct</i> (2014)
	<i>Standard and guidance for archaeological field evaluation</i> (2014)
	<i>Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials</i> (2014)
• EAA	<i>Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England</i> (2003)
• Historic England (formerly English Heritage)	<i>Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment PPN3: Archaeological Excavation</i> (2015)
	<i>Environmental Archaeology: A guide to the theory and practice of methods, from sampling and recovery to post-excavation. 2nd ed.</i> (2011)
• Bedford Museum	<i>Procedure for Preparing Archaeological Archives for Deposition with Registered Museums in Bedfordshire. Version 2.8</i> (2010).

#### 3.2 Trial Trenching

Due to various constraints, the central part of the PDA was not accessible; the investigation focused on the Northern and Southern Areas.

The archaeological field evaluation comprised seven trenches of various lengths totalling 340m. The trench layout is shown on Figure 1. Minor variations from trench positions proposed in WSI were necessary to avoid buried services, fixed surface obstacles or constraints related to the existing tenants. This most noticeably impacted Trench 7, which had to be split to either side of a possible service.

The trenches were opened using a mechanical excavator fitted with a flat-edged bucket, operated by an experienced driver under close archaeological supervision. All excavation and recording was carried out by experienced Albion staff. Four deposits were environmentally sampled during the investigation.



## 4. RESULTS

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### 4.1 Introduction

The archaeological investigation was undertaken in February 2016, during a period of bright and dry weather.

In the following summary contexts in brackets refer to deposits recorded on site. Each trench was allocated a block of numbers commencing at 100 for Trench 1, 200 for Trench 2 and so on. Cut features are represented with square brackets, e.g. [103], a ditch in Trench 1, whereas deposits or layers are in curved brackets, e.g. undisturbed geological strata (102) in the same trench. Figure 3 shows trench locations and an all-features plan. Figure 4 focuses on the Northern Area with selected images of this area in Figures 5 and 6. A detailed plan of the Southern Area is presented in Figure 7 with associated images in Figures 8 and 9. Selected artefacts are presented in Figure 10.

The results are summarised below with details of the contexts in Appendix 1.

### 4.2 Overburden / Modern Deposits

The soil profiles across Northern Area of the site (Trenches 1–3) consisted of a dark brown-grey clay silt topsoil (0.3–0.39m thick) and an underlying mid grey-brown clay silt subsoil (0.11–0.3m thick). The same sequence of deposits was observed in the Southern Area (Trenches 4–7), though it appeared to have been truncated in the area between Trenches 6 and 7. The thickness of the topsoil indicates cultivation of the soil, related to both the nursery and probably earlier, as part of a larger arable field.

Trenches 6 and 7 also revealed extensive modern made-ground, up to 1.04m thick. It comprised dark grey/black sandy silt (603), (700), containing fragments of wood, broken concrete slabs and plastic (Figure 5: image 2). These deposits filled a depression, extending from the northern part of Trench 7 westwards to Trench 6; remnants of the material were present in the northern part of Trench 7 after machining below a depth of 1m (Figure 7 – red area). Below this was a buried topsoil of dark grey-brown silty clay (604), (703) and a mid brown silty clay subsoil (704) (Figure 5: image 2). These deposits were observed in SE part of the PDA, well below the level of similar deposits to the south and west. They are thought to be recent deposits, forming in a cavity following recent, extensive ground reduction. The combined thickness of these deposits did not exceed 0.34m. Given the degree of ground reduction, it is thought unlikely that archaeological remains survive in this area.

Two modern pits [608] and [716] and a service trench [714] were revealed (red features on Figure 7). There was also evidence of diesel contamination in Trench 6, which probably relates to the use of the area as a lorry park.

### 4.3 Geological Deposits

The undisturbed geological strata across most of the site consisted of mid brown silty gravels with grey-brown silt patches. In the NW part of PDA it gradually



changed into mid red-brown clayey silt (209), (302). Investigation of deeper features revealed a band of mid orange-yellow sand with occasional silt inclusions within the gravel (Figure 6: image 4).

#### 4.4 Archaeological Remains

For the following discussion the PDA has been subdivided into the Northern and Southern Areas, based on the contrast in the nature of the features as shown in Tables 1 and 2. The concentration of archaeological remains in the Northern Area indicates a focus of activity, whilst the trenches in Southern Area revealed several ditches, particular in the eastern margin, with evidence of quarrying and several layers of probably alluvial origin. The distribution of features is likely have been affected by modern ground reduction in the SE of the site.

##### 4.4.1 Northern Area (Trenches 1–3)

A concentration of archaeological features was identified in Trenches 1 and 2 (Figure 4), comprising ditches, pits and postholes (Table 1). Over 1kg of pottery as well as other finds were recovered from these features, suggesting a focus of human activity in the early Roman period. The presence of intercutting features indicates sequential activity, with some evidence for a change in ditch alignments that may suggest reorganisation of the boundaries.

Trench	Ditch	Gulley	Pit	Posthole	Other
1	5	2	5	3	-
2	3	-	1	-	-
3	-	-	-	-	-

**Table 1:** Summary of features in the Northern Area

##### Ditches

Eight ditches were identified in Trenches 1 and 2. Most had a NE-SW or perpendicular alignment or a very similar WNW-ESE alignment. They are likely to be associated with the adjacent cropmarks HER 604 (Figure 3 and Appendix 1). The ditches were 0.65–1.75m wide and 0.25–0.56m deep, with concave to V-shaped profiles (Figure 4: section 2 and Figure 6: image 4). Like ditch [109] on a similar alignment to the north, ditch [203] was a substantial ditch — at least 1.3m wide and continuing northwards beyond the trench. Two of the ditches can probably be traced between the two trenches (pecked lines on Figure 4), though ditch [123] in the NW had an apparently intermediate NNE-SSW alignment.

The ditches were filled with mid to dark brown and orange-brown deposits that ranged from clay silt to silty clay. Most of the finds were recovered from the ditches (Table 3). The fills appear to have accumulated naturally, possibly from a cultivation soil, though the quantity of finds suggests several were associated with occupation. A small fragment of clay pipe stem of was recovered from the sole deposit within ditch [111]; this is considered to be intrusive as the fill also contained Roman pottery.

A single ditch [103] had a contrasting, more E-W alignment. It had a concave profile up to 0.3m deep and was filled with orange-brown clay silt. Over 300g of pottery were recovered from the fill of this feature.



### Gulleys

The two examples [107] and [113] had orientations similar to the majority of the ditches. They were 0.68–0.76m wide, with slightly irregular concave profiles *c.* 0.2m deep (Figure 4: section 1 and Figure 6: image 5). The main deposits within both comprised mid grey-brown clay silt. An additional lower fill [113] comprised mid orange-brown clay sand. The fill of [107] contained a concentration of pottery. Over 240g were recovered from the shallow feature (Table 3); several fabrics were present, including one shelly ware vessel which had been converted into a strainer by the drilling of holes after the vessel had been fired (Figure 10: image 9).

Two samples were taken from boundary features. Sample <1> from ditch [207] contained occasional cereal grains as well as a very small quantity of charcoal. Sample <4> from the fill of gully [107] contained slightly more grain; two types were present, although they were poorly preserved. A small quantity of charcoal was also noted.

### Pits

Six probable pits were identified in this area; however, as most of them continued beyond the trenches their type, form and function cannot be determined. Most appeared to be elongated and sub-oval in form, e.g. [105], the smallest of the range at 0.8m long, 0.5 wide and 0.11m deep. The largest [119] was also sub-oval; it was at least 3m long, 1.4m wide and 0.64m deep with an asymmetrical concave profile (Figure 4: section 3).

Pits [125] and [135] truncated gully [113] and ditch [103] respectively, while pit [119] was cut by ditch [109]. The relationship between pit [129] and gully [107] was uncertain. Several deposits within pits [119], [135] and [211] were similar in character to fills of the ditches. They ranged from light orange-brown clay sand to mid brown clay silt. Sole or upper deposits (106), (121), (126) within three of the pits [125], [119] and [125] were notably different — clay silt which was more humic, ranging in colour between darker brown-grey and black. The only finds from the pits was a very small quantity of fired clay weighing 3g (Table 3). Sample <2> from the lower fill of pit [119] contained occasional cereal grains as well as a small quantity of charcoal.

### Postholes

Three circular postholes [116], [127] and [131] were 0.5–0.65m in diameter. The excavated example [116] was 0.39m deep, with a steep U-shaped profile (Figure 4: section 4). Two of these features [116] and [127] were in close proximity, some 1.3m apart centre to centre (Figure 3), with [127] cutting a gully. Deposits within these features comprised mainly mid brown to orange-brown clay sand. There was no evidence for post packing within the fills of [116]. No finds were recovered from the fills.

#### 4.4.2 Southern Area (Trenches 4–7)

Archaeological remains in this area were markedly different to those in the northern area. They comprised several ditches, mostly in the east, with a possible



pit, quarrying and alluvial layers (Table 2 and Figure 6). The evidence indicates a different pattern of land use in the Southern Area.

Trench	Ditch	Pit	Quarry	Other
4	-	-	-	-
5	1	-	-	Alluvium
6	-	-	1	Alluvium
7	3	1	-	-

**Table 2:** Summary of features in the Southern Area

### Alluvial layers

Extensive layers of probable alluvial origin were identified in Trenches 5 and 6. They comprised mid grey-brown to mid brown silty clay (506), (602) and clay silt (502). A distinctive green tinge was observed in deposit (602). The combined thickness of these layers in Trench 5 increased to 0.45m in the north. In the central part of Trench 6 the deposits were 0.75m thick, shallowing towards the SW and NE. The only find was recovered from (602) — a modified fragment of Roman brick (Figure 10: image 10).

A clean light yellow-brown layer (702), revealed in the southern part of Trench 7, is also possibly alluvial in origin (Figure 5: image 1). It is considered to be a recent accumulation following ground reduction in the area.

### Ditches

In the southern part of Trench 7 three shallow ditches were identified. They were 0.55–1.65m wide with shallow concave profiles up to 0.22m deep (Figure 7: sections 2 and 3 and Figure 8 images 6 and 7). Ditch [706] displayed a marked contrast in alignment compared to the other two ditches [708] and [710], which were aligned roughly E-W, some 4m apart. The close spacing of these ditches may suggest that they were associated. They appear to be to the south of the projected continuation of a possible trackway, defined by cropmarks to the east of New Road. Only the northern element of the trackway appears to continue west of the road into the PDA (pecked blue line on Figure 3).

The ditch fills were similar, ranging from mid brown-grey to mid grey-brown. Only a single heavily abraded sherd of possibly early Iron Age pottery was recovered from the fill of the southernmost ditch [710]. This could be residual, perhaps derived from an earlier, darker possible pit [712].

Ditch [503] was revealed at the northern limit of Trench 5. It was at least 1.65m wide and 0.28m deep (Figure 7: section 2). It was sealed by alluvial deposit (506). No dating material was recovered from this feature. A sample from the upper fill of the ditch <3> contained a very small amount of charcoal.

### Pit

Situated in the south of Trench 7, pit [712] was least 1.3m long, 1.2m wide and 0.24m deep. It was truncated by later ditch [710], which had a lighter coloured fill (Figure 7: section 3 and Figure 8: image 6). The dark red-brown clay silt fill contained no finds. This feature is tentatively identified as an elongated pit rather than a ditch, due to its tapering form in plan.





## Quarrying

Deposits similar in character to the alluvium described above were observed in a quarry pit [605] located at the northern end of Trench 6. This was at least 7.25m in extent and up to 0.68m deep, with an undulating base (Figure 9: image 8). The mid grey-brown silty clay fill yielded no finds but could have been deposited in the same flooding episode as the alluvial layers.

## 4.5 Artefacts

An assemblage comprising pottery, ceramic building material and animal bone was collected from thirteen features, the majority within Northern Area Trenches 1 and 2 (Table 3)

Tr.	Feature	Description	Fill	Date range	Finds summary
<b>Northern Area</b>					
1	103	Ditch	104	Early Roman	Pottery (302g)
	107	Gulley	108	Early Roman	Pottery (242g); fired clay (189g); animal bone (202g)
	109	Ditch	110	Early Roman	Pottery (4g)
	111	Ditch	112	Early Roman	Pottery (37g); clay tobacco pipe (2g); animal bone (126g)
	113	Gulley	115	Early Roman	Pottery (40g)
	123	Ditch	124	Early Roman	Pottery (122g); animal bone (179g)
	133	Ditch	134	Early Roman	Pottery (346g)
	135	Pit	138	Undated	Fired clay (3g)
2	203	Ditch	204	Undated	Animal bone (137g)
	205	Ditch	206	Undated	Animal bone (171g)
	207	Ditch	208	Early Roman	Pottery (61g); animal bone (114g)
<b>Southern Area</b>					
6	602	Alluvium	-	Roman	Brick fragment (328g)
7	710	Ditch	711	Iron Age	Pottery (12g)

**Table 3:** Finds Summary

### 4.5.1 Pottery

Sixty-six pottery sherds (1.1kg) representing approximately 43 vessels were collected from nine features, all but one in the Northern Area. The material displays variable fragmentation, with single sherds ranging in weight from 1g to 116g (mean sherd weight 18g). Late Iron Age and early Roman pottery is represented, and a single sherd of probable early Iron Age date, the latter collected from Southern Area ditch [710]. Fabric types are identified in accordance with the Bedfordshire Ceramic Type Series (Table 4).

Fabric Code	Common name	Sherd No.	Wt (g)	Fill/Sherd No.
<i>Early Iron Age</i>				
F28	Fine sand	1	12	(711):1
<i>Late Iron Age</i>				
F03	Grog and sand	3	29	(124):3
F05	Grog and shell	4	10	(108):1, (208):3
F06C	Coarse grog	1	23	(108):1
F07	Shell	1	27	(108):1
F09	Sand and grog	1	2	(108):1
F34	Sand	4	36	(108):4
<i>Roman</i>				
R03	Gritty white ware	1	14	(112):1
R03E	Fine white ware	2	7	(108):2



Fabric Code	Common name	Sherd No.	Wt (g)	Fill/Sherd No.
R06B	Coarse grey ware	7	61	(104):4, (108):2, (208):1
R06C	Fine grey ware	2	10	(108):1 (208):1
R06E	Calcareous grey ware	1	7	(112):1
R06F	Grog and sand grey ware	1	6	(108):1
R06H	White-slipped grey ware	4	61	(104):4
R07B	Sandy black ware	4	57	(124):4
R07C	Gritty black ware	3	6	(108):1, (110):2
R13	Shelly ware	17	732	(104):2, (108):1, (112):1, (115):1, (124):1(134):9, (208):2
R13B	Shelly ware with sand	1	9	(115):1
R14	Sandy red-brown harsh	6	26	(108):6
R29	Sand and calcareous	2	31	(208):2

**Table 4:** Pottery Type Series

#### *Late Iron Age*

Fourteen abraded late Iron Age sherds (127g) were collected from ditches [123] and [207], and gulley [107]. Both hand-built and wheel-thrown vessels occur, in a range of grog-, sand- and shell-tempered fabrics. The only diagnostic form is a neckless rippled/corrugated jar with a lid-seated rim, datable to the 1st century AD.

#### *Roman*

Fifty-one sherds (1kg) are datable to the early Roman period (c. mid 1st to late 2nd century AD). They mainly comprise locally manufactured shelly wares and reduced sand-tempered coarse wares, the latter including imitation Black-burnished ware. A single white ware sherd from the Verulamium (St Albans) region and two fine white ware sherds of uncertain origin complete the assemblage.

Vessel forms are two lid-seated jars, a neckless jar with an everted rim and burnished exterior, and a rouletted beaker. Post-firing drilled holes (one complete; two partial), observed in a shelly ware base sherd, suggest modification to form a strainer (Figure 10: image 9).

A similar range of Roman wares was recovered from features observed during the construction of the tool hire depot (Albion 2014).

#### **4.5.2 Other finds**

The fill of gulley [108] contained two pieces of a hand-made fired clay slab (thickness 30mm), a commonly occurring find on sites of late Iron Age and early Roman date. An amorphous fired clay fragment was collected from pit [135], and an intrusive post-medieval clay tobacco pipe stem from Roman ditch [111].

A modified Roman brick fragment (328g) was recovered from alluvium (602). The edges of the object had been roughly chipped to form a lid or stopper measuring 108mm x 80mm x 45mm (Figure 10: image 10).

#### **4.5.3 Animal bone**

Five of the Northern Area ditches and a gulley contained 24 pieces of animal bone (929g). Individual bone fragments have a mean weight of 39g, and are largely unabraded. Diagnostic post-cranial elements are rib, pelvis and limb fragments,



the latter including a fused cattle radius and ulna. Pieces of skull, mandible and cattle horn core also occur. No evidence for butchery or bone modification was observed.

### **Ecofact samples**

A total of four samples were taken, comprising two from a ditch and gulley in the Northern Area, and a sample from a ditch in the Southern Area, together with one from a pit in the Northern Area. All of the flots were small and rooty. Only small to very small quantities of charcoal were present, comprising flecks and very small often abraded lumps. In the Northern Area, samples <1> and <2> from ditches [207] and pit [119] respectively each contained a couple of cereal grains or fragments. Sample <4> from gulley [107] contained slightly more grain, often poorly preserved, though with evidence of two cereal types being present.

Sample <3> from the upper fill of ditch [503] in the Southern Area contained sparse, very abraded charcoal lumps.

The quantities of grain recovered and the generally fragmentary state suggests reworking of the material within the features. Whilst the small quantities recovered have no analytical potential, they do suggest that deposits in the vicinity could preserve assemblages that could shed light on aspects of diet and farming. The charcoal lumps were very small and abraded, again suggestive of reworking of the material; the material has very low analytical potential for species identification.



## 5. CONCLUSIONS

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### 5.1 *Summary and Significance of the Evaluation Results*

The distribution of archaeological features across the PDA showed a marked contrast between the Northern and Southern Areas. The Northern Area contained a concentration of archaeological features which were largely a continuation of linear cropmarks identified in the adjacent fields. The quantities of finds suggest that at least some of the enclosures were associated with human activity. The presence of grain and animal bone indicate a mixed farming economy, with the settlement having connections with the wider region, indicated by the variety of pottery types recovered.

Archaeological remains in Southern Area comprise a smaller number of ditches, possibly defining at least elements of one trackway, as well as possible pitting and quarrying, suggestive of zoning of activity. The possible identification of several alluvial deposits may suggest contemporary flooding in this area, resulting in its utilisation for peripheral activities, associated with the settlement to the north.

It is possible that modern disturbance in the east of the PDA, between Trenches 6 and 7 (where the geological strata were only exposed at considerable depth), may have removed any archaeological deposits that might have existed in this area.

Most of the features identified date to Roman period. The pottery assemblage from these features does not include anything conclusively later than the 3rd century AD, although various local fabrics are present that were in production for much of the Roman period. Only one heavily abraded sherd of possibly early Iron Age pottery was identified from one of the ditches in south-east corner of the PDA.

### 5.2 *Impact Assessment*

The investigation of those parts of the PDA available for evaluation has demonstrated that there is potential for heritage assets to be preserved in relatively good condition in the northern and south-eastern margin of the PDA. Cropmarks also suggest the presence (at least in the past) of archaeological remains in the central part of the PDA to the north of Trench 5. The evaluation has revealed that the archaeological deposits have suffered from varying degrees of truncation, due to previous activity, particularly cultivation.

The heritage assets identified across PDA are of local and regional significance, with the potential to add to the developing understanding of the Roman landscape associated with the River Great Ouse terraces. They have moderate potential to address regional research objectives with regard to the development and organisation of the rural landscape during this period.

The intended development will have an adverse impact on these heritage assets. As they are fairly typical of remains from this period throughout Bedfordshire and do not warrant preservation *in situ*, the negative impact can best be mitigated by the excavation and recording of these assets prior to their destruction.



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## 7. TRENCH SUMMARY

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**Trench: 1**

**Max Dimensions: Length: 43.50 m. Width: 1.50 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.5 m. Max: 0.68 m.**

**Co-ordinates: OS Grid Ref.: TL** (Easting: 13572; Northing: 52513)

**OS Grid Ref.: TL** (Easting: 13603; Northing: 52483)

**Reason: To investigate vicinity of cropmarks**

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
100	Topsoil	Friable dark brown grey clay silt occasional small-large CBM, moderate small stones The deposit was 0.39m thick. The modern CBM was not retained.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
101	Subsoil	Friable mid grey brown clay silt frequent small-medium stones The deposit was 0.11-0.3m thick.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
102	Natural	Firm mid orange brown clay gravel frequent small-medium stones	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
103	Ditch	Straight linear E-W sides: assymetrical base: concave dimensions: max breadth 0.98m, max depth 0.3m, min length 1.m Truncated by [135]. Relationships with [131] and [133] uncertain.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
104	Fill	Loose mid orange brown clay silt occasional small-medium stones The deposit contained pottery.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
105	Pit	Sub-oval E-W sides: U-shaped base: uneven dimensions: max breadth 0.5m, max depth 0.11m, max length 0.8m	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
106	Fill	Loose black clay silt occasional flecks charcoal, occasional small-medium stones	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
107	Gulley	Straight linear ESE-WNW sides: assymetrical base: concave dimensions: max breadth 0.76m, max depth 0.2m, min length 1.m Relationship with pit [129] uncertain.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
108	Fill	Loose mid grey brown clay silt occasional small-medium stones The deposit contained pottery, fired clay and animal bone. Sample <4> was taken from this deposit.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
109	Ditch	Straight linear ESE-WNW sides: U-shaped base: concave dimensions: max breadth 1.26m, max depth 0.6m, min length 1.m Truncates fill of ditch [123] and fill of pit [119].	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
110	Fill	Loose dark brown silty clay occasional small stones The deposit contained pottery.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
111	Ditch	Straight linear NE-SW sides: U-shaped base: concave dimensions: max breadth 1.75m, max depth 0.36m, min length 1.m	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
112	Fill	Cemented mid brown silty clay occasional flecks charcoal, occasional small stones The deposit was up to 0.36m thick and contains pottery, animal bone and a fragment of clay tobacco pipe stem.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
122	Lower fill	Hard mid orange brown silty clay frequent small stones The deposit was up to 0.18m thick.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
113	Gulley	Straight linear NW-SE sides: irregular base: concave dimensions: max breadth 0.68m, max depth 0.19m, min length 1.m Truncated by pit [125] and posthole [127].	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
114	Lower fill	Loose mid orange brown clay sand frequent small stones, occasional medium stones The deposit was 0.15m thick.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
115	Main fill	Friable mid grey brown clay silt occasional flecks charcoal, occasional small stones The deposit was 0.14m thick and contained pottery.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
116	Posthole	Circular sides: steep base: concave dimensions: max depth 0.39m, max diameter 0.5m	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
117	Lower fill	Loose mid orange brown clay sand moderate small-medium stones The deposit was 0.25m thick.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**Trench: 1**

**Max Dimensions:** Length: 43.50 m. Width: 1.50 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.5 m. Max: 0.68 m.

**Co-ordinates:** OS Grid Ref.: TL (Easting: 13572; Northing: 52513)

OS Grid Ref.: TL (Easting: 13603; Northing: 52483)

**Reason:** To investigate vicinity of cropmarks

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
118	Upper fill	Loose mid orange brown clay sand frequent small-medium stones The deposit was 0.13m thick.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
119	Pit	Linear N-S sides: 45 degrees base: concave dimensions: max breadth 1.4m, max depth 0.64m, min length 3.m Truncated by ditch [109].	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
120	Lower fill	Loose light orange brown clay sand frequent small-medium stones Sample <2> was taken from this deposit. The deposit was 0.11m thick.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
121	Main fill	Friable dark brown grey clay silt occasional small stones The deposit was 0.51m thick.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
123	Ditch	Linear NNE-SSW dimensions: max breadth 1.1m, min length 1.2m Truncated by ditch [109]. Possibly continues as [207] to the SW.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
124	Fill	Friable mid brown silty clay occasional small stones The deposit contained pottery and animal bone.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
125	Pit	Sub-oval dimensions: min breadth 0.5m, min length 3.05m Truncates ditch [113].	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
126	Fill	Friable dark brown grey clay silt occasional small stones	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
127	Posthole	Sub-circular dimensions: max diameter 0.65m Truncates ditch [113].	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
128	Fill	Friable mid brown silty clay occasional small stones	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
129	Pit	Sub-circular E-W dimensions: min breadth 0.35m, max length 1.5m Merges into [107].	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
130	Fill	Friable mid orange brown sandy clay moderate small stones	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
131	Posthole	Circular dimensions: max diameter 0.5m Relationship with ditch [103] uncertain.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
132	Fill	Friable mid orange brown silty clay occasional medium stones	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
133	Ditch	Linear NE-SW dimensions: min length 1.55m Relationship with ditch [103] uncertain. Possibly continues as [205] to the SW.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
134	Fill	Friable dark orange brown silty clay moderate small stones Pottery was recovered from the surface of the deposit.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
135	Pit	Sub-circular sides: steep base: concave dimensions: max breadth 0.75m, max depth 0.48m, max length 0.9m Truncates the fill of ditch [103].	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
136	Lower fill	Loose mid brown clay gravel frequent small sand The deposit formed a thin lens extending down the upper southern side of the cut, tapering down from 0.05m thick.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
137	Lower fill	Friable mid brown clay sand moderate small stones The deposit was 0.21m thick.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
138	Upper fill	Friable mid orange brown clay silt occasional small fired clay, frequent small sand, occasional small stones The deposit was 0.28m thick and contained fired clay.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>





**Trench:** 2

**Max Dimensions:** Length: 58.50 m. Width: 1.50 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.51 m. Max: 0.53 m.

**Co-ordinates:** OS Grid Ref.: TL (Easting: 13539; Northing: 52480)

OS Grid Ref.: TL (Easting: 13594; Northing: 52463)

**Reason:** To investigate vicinity of cropmarks

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
200	Topsoil	Friable dark brown grey clay sand moderate small stones, occasional medium stones The deposit was 0.35m thick.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
201	Subsoil	Friable mid grey brown clay silt moderate small stones The deposit was 0.18m thick.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
202	Natural	Loose light orange brown sandy gravel	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
203	Ditch	Linear NW-SE sides: steep base: concave dimensions: min breadth 1.3m, min depth 0.4m, min length 1.m Truncated by ditch [205].	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
204	Fill	Friable mid brown clay sand moderate small stones, occasional medium stones The deposit contained animal bone.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
205	Ditch	Straight linear NE-SW sides: concave base: concave dimensions: max breadth 0.65m, max depth 0.25m, min length 1.6m Truncates fill of ditch [203]. Possibly continues as [133] to the NE.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
206	Fill	Friable mid brown clay sand frequent small-medium stones The deposit contained animal bone.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
207	Ditch	Straight linear NE-SW sides: concave base: concave dimensions: max breadth 1.35m, max depth 0.56m, min length 1.6m Possibly continues as [123] to the NE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
208	Fill	Friable mid brown clay silt occasional small-medium stones The deposit contained pottery and animal bone. Sample <1> was taken from this deposit.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
209	Natural	Friable mid red brown clay gravel frequent small sand The deposit was 0.34m thick.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
210	Natural	Hard mid red brown clay silt occasional small stones The deposit was 0.22m thick.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
211	Pit	Oval sides: steep base: flat dimensions: max breadth 0.3m, max depth 0.25m, max length 1.35m	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
212	Fill	Friable mid grey brown clay silt occasional small stones	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>



**Trench:** 3

**Max Dimensions:** Length: 20.00 m. Width: 1.50 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.7 m. Max: 0.85 m.

**Co-ordinates:** OS Grid Ref.: TL (Easting: 13529; Northing: 52467)

OS Grid Ref.: TL (Easting: 13521; Northing: 52449)

**Reason:** To evaluate archaeological potential

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
300	Topsoil	Firm dark brown grey clay silt occasional small stones The deposit was 0.3m thick.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
301	Subsoil	Firm mid grey brown silty clay occasional small stones The deposit was 0.2m thick.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
302	Natural	Firm mid red brown clay silt The deposit was 0.2-0.35m thick.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
303	Natural	Firm light orange brown clay silt frequent small-medium stones	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>



**Trench:** 4

**Max Dimensions:** Length: 54.00 m. Width: 1.50 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: m. Max: m.

**Co-ordinates:** OS Grid Ref.: TL (Easting: 13483: Northing: 52351)

OS Grid Ref.: TL (Easting: 13532: Northing: 52339)

**Reason:** To evaluate archaeological potential

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
400	Topsoil	Firm dark brown grey clay silt occasional small stones The deposit was 0.28m thick .	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
401	Subsoil	Firm mid grey brown silty clay occasional small stones The deposit was 0.22-0.24m thick.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
402	Natural	Compact mid brown silty gravel frequent small-medium stones	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
403	Natural	Loose mid brown yellow sand occasional small stones	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>



**Trench:** 5

**Max Dimensions:** Length: 43.95 m. Width: 1.50 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.41 m. Max: 0.93 m.

**Co-ordinates:** OS Grid Ref.: TL (Easting: 13546: Northing: 52368)

OS Grid Ref.: TL (Easting: 13540: Northing: 52326)

**Reason:** To evaluate archaeological potential

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
500	Topsoil	Firm dark brown grey silty clay The deposit was 0.21-0.34m thick.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
501	Subsoil	Firm mid grey brown silty clay The deposit was 0.15-0.27m thick.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
502	Alluvium	Firm mid grey brown clay silt occasional small stones The deposit was 0.20m thick.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
503	Ditch	Straight linear NE-SW sides: concave base: flat dimensions: max breadth 1.65m, max depth 0.28m, min length 0.7m	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
504	Lower fill	Firm mid grey brown silty clay occasional flecks charcoal, frequent small-medium stones The deposit was 0.11m thick.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
505	Upper fill	Firm mid brown grey silty clay occasional flecks charcoal, moderate small-medium stones The deposit was 0.17m thick. Sample <3> was taken from this deposit.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
506	Alluvium	Firm mid brown grey silty clay occasional small stones The deposit was 0.25m thick.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
507	Natural	Loose mid orange brown silty gravel moderate small sand	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
508	Natural	Firm mid orange brown silty clay occasional small stones	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
509	Natural	Loose mid orange brown silty gravel frequent small sand	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
510	Natural	Firm mid orange brown silty clay occasional small stones	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
511	Natural	Compact mid orange yellow sand occasional flecks manganese staining	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>



**Trench: 6**

**Max Dimensions: Length: 50.00 m. Width: 1.50 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.27 m. Max: 0.77 m.**

**Co-ordinates: OS Grid Ref.: TL** (Easting: 13617: Northing: 52354)

**OS Grid Ref.: TL** (Easting: 13574: Northing: 52329)

**Reason: To investigate vicinity of cropmarks**

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
600	Topsoil	Hard dark brown grey silty clay moderate small-medium stones The deposit was 0.06-0.19m thick.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
601	Subsoil	Hard mid brown orange silty clay occasional small-medium stones The deposit was 0.21m thick.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
602	Alluvium	Firm mid green brown silty clay occasional small stones The deposit was 0.75m thick and contained Ceramic Building Material.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
603	Make up layer	Loose dark grey brown sandy clay moderate small-large concrete, frequent small-medium stones The deposit was 0.15-0.37m thick. "Concrete" inclusions are actually tarmac/asphalt from lorry park surface.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
604	Buried topsoil	Firm mid grey brown silty clay occasional small-medium stones The deposit was 0.11-0.31m thick.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
605	Quarry	sides: concave base: uneven dimensions: min breadth 1.5m, max depth 0.68m, max length 7.25m	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
606	Fill	Firm mid grey brown silty clay occasional flecks manganese staining, occasional small-large stones	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
607	Natural	Loose mid orange brown silty gravel frequent small sand	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
608	Modern intrusion	Sub-circular dimensions: min breadth 0.4m, max length 1.m	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
609	Fill	Firm light brown yellow silty clay	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>



**Trench: 7**

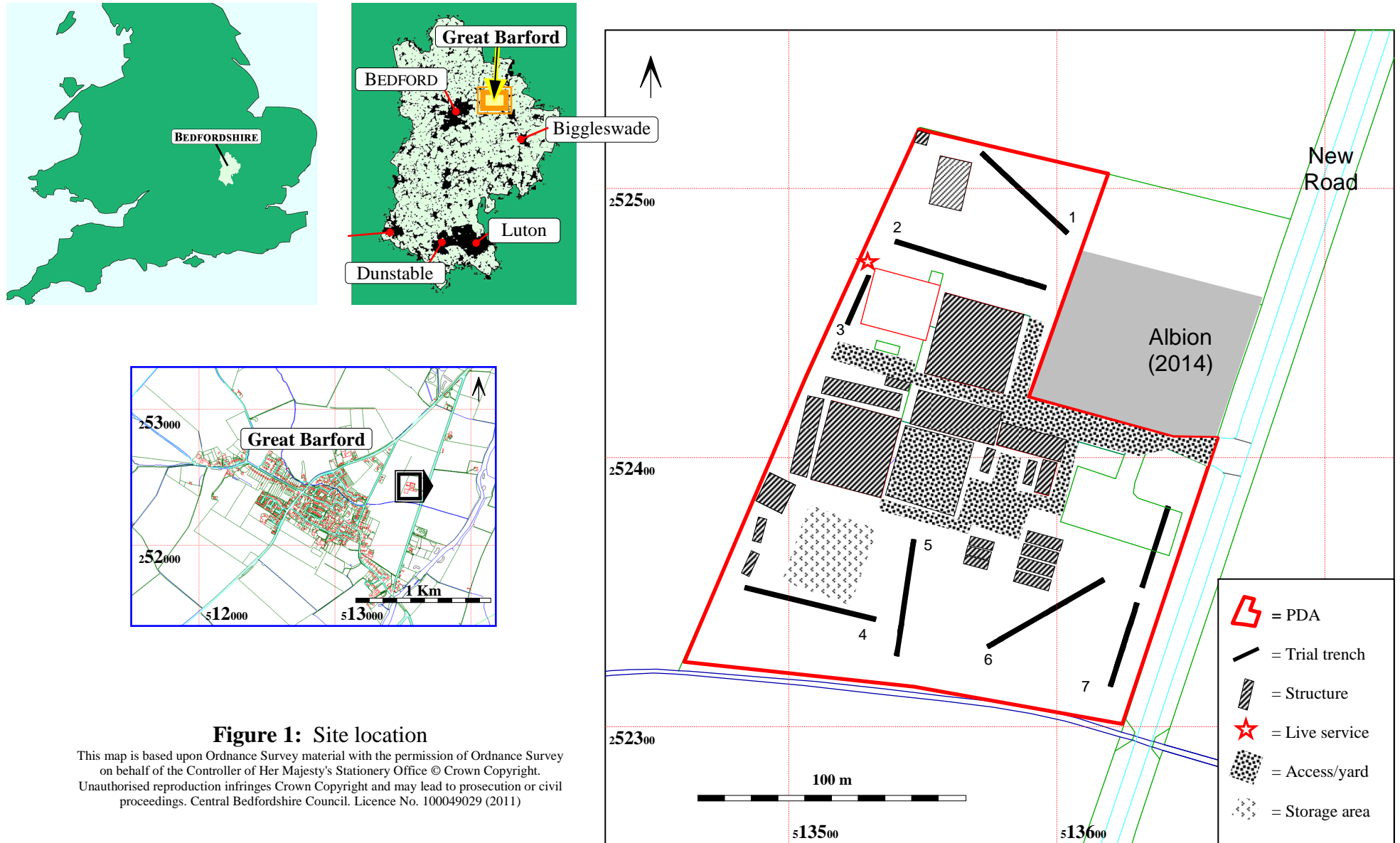
**Max Dimensions: Length: 70.00 m. Width: 1.50 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 1. m. Max: 1.4 m.**

**Co-ordinates: OS Grid Ref.: TL** (Easting: 13619; Northing: 52315)

**OS Grid Ref.: TL** (Easting: 13641; Northing: 52381)

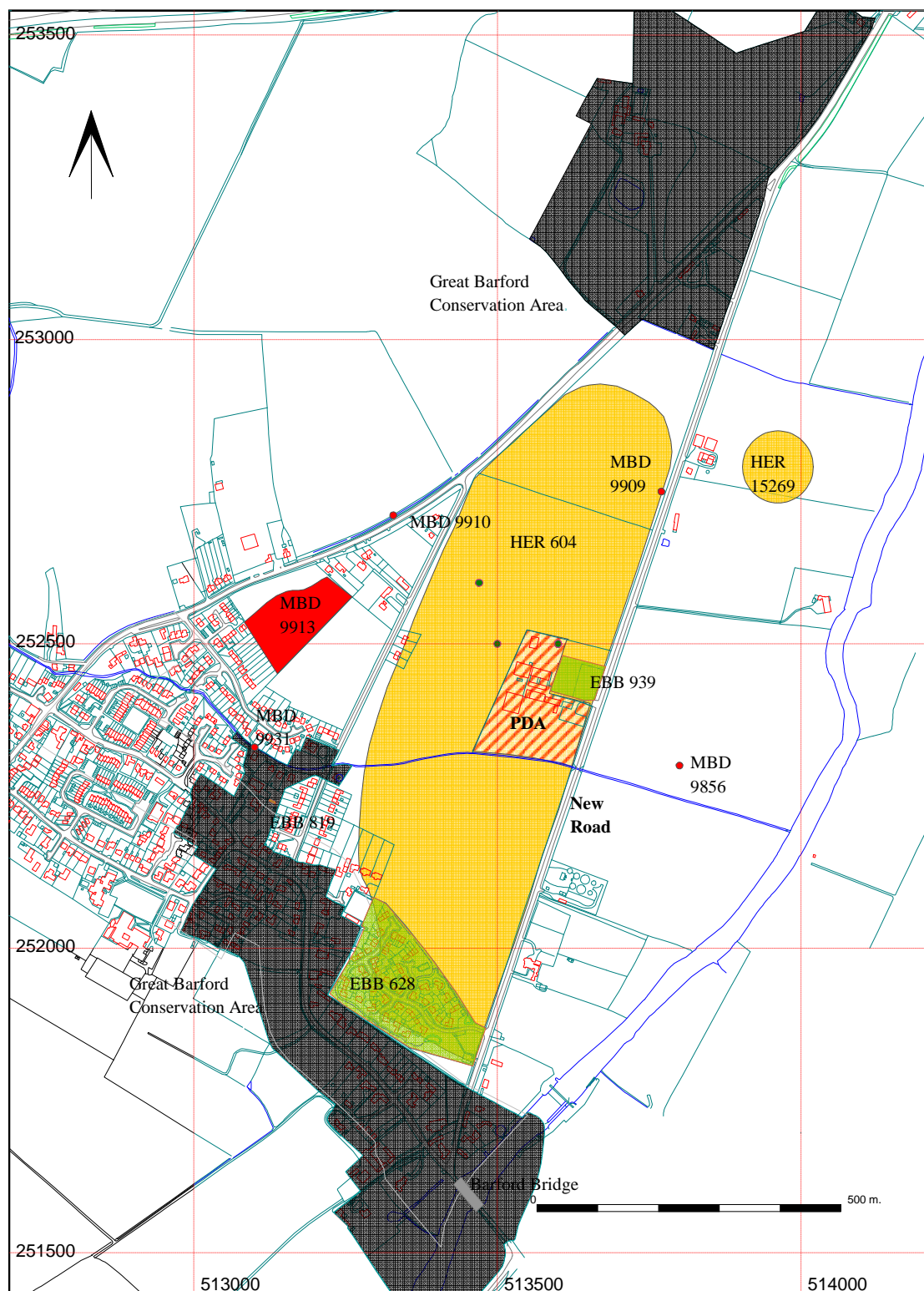
**Reason: To investigate vicinity of cropmarks**

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
700	Modern overburden	Friable dark grey black sandy silt Deposit was 0.34-1.04m thick and contained large amounts of modern rubbish including fragments of wood, plastic and concrete rubble.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
701	Buried topsoil	Friable dark brown grey silty clay moderate small stones The deposit was 0.18-0.33m thick.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
702	Layer	Friable light yellow brown silty clay occasional small-medium stones The deposit was 0.12m thick. Possibly alluvium.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
703	Buried topsoil	Friable dark grey brown silty clay occasional small stones The deposit was 0.1m thick.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
704	Buried subsoil	Friable mid brown silty clay occasional small stones The deposit was 0.24m thick.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
705	Natural	Loose light brown yellow clay gravel	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
706	Ditch	Linear NE-SW sides: steep base: concave dimensions: max breadth 0.7m, max depth 0.22m, min length 1.25m	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
707	Fill	Firm mid grey brown clay silt occasional small stones	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
708	Ditch	Linear ENE-WSW sides: concave base: concave dimensions: max breadth 0.55m, max depth 0.07m, min length 1.35m	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
709	Fill	Mid grey brown clay silt	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
710	Ditch	Linear E-W sides: concave base: flat dimensions: max breadth 1.05m, max depth 0.15m, min length 1.2m Truncates the fill of pit [712].	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
711	Fill	Firm light brown grey silty clay occasional small-medium stones The deposit contained pottery.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
712	Pit	Irregular sides: concave base: concave dimensions: max breadth 1.3m, max depth 0.24m, min length 1.2m Possible pit, truncated by ditch [710].	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
713	Fill	Friable dark red brown clay silt moderate small stones	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
714	Modern intrusion	Linear NNE-SSW dimensions: max breadth 0.5m, min depth 0.4m, max length 25.m Feature seems to be modern service trench parallel to the road. Tested but not fully excavated.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
715	Fill	Friable dark grey black sandy silt	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
716	Modern intrusion	Asymmetrical N-S dimensions: min breadth 0.25m, max length 2.6m	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
717	Fill	Friable dark grey black sandy silt	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>



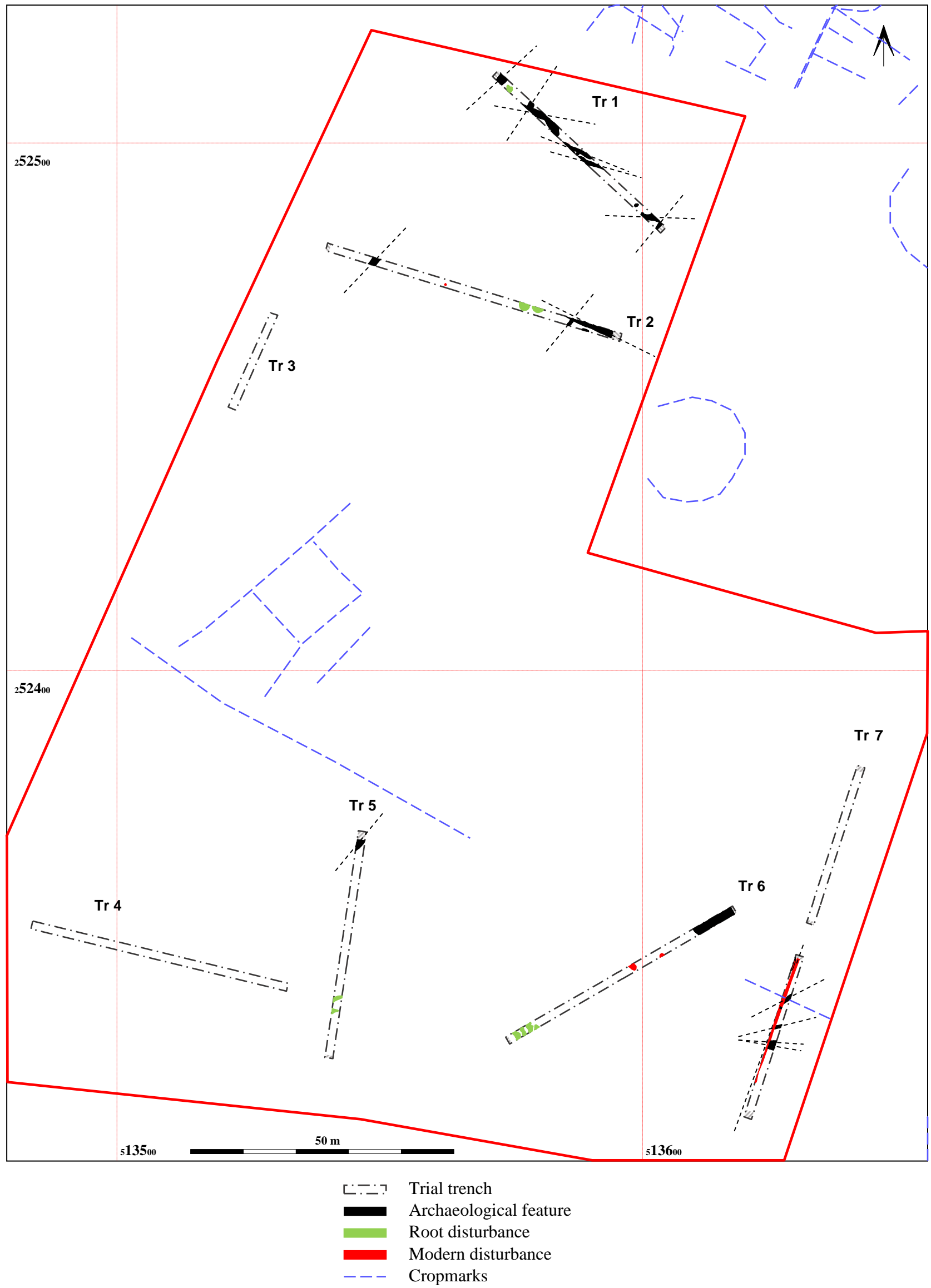
**Figure 1: Site location**

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**Figure 2:** Previously recorded sites in the area





**Figure 3:** Trench locations with all-features plan and cropmarks

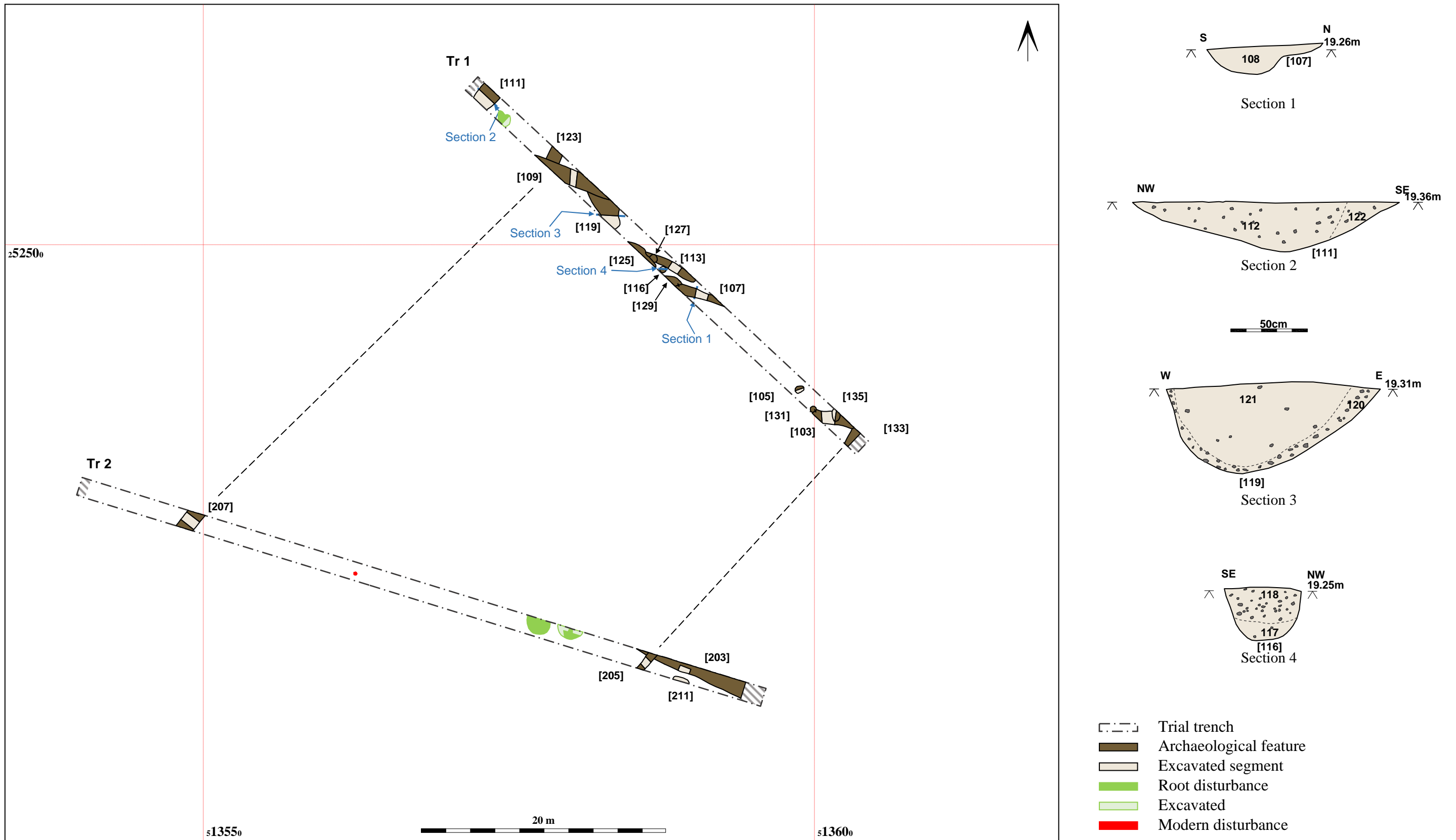


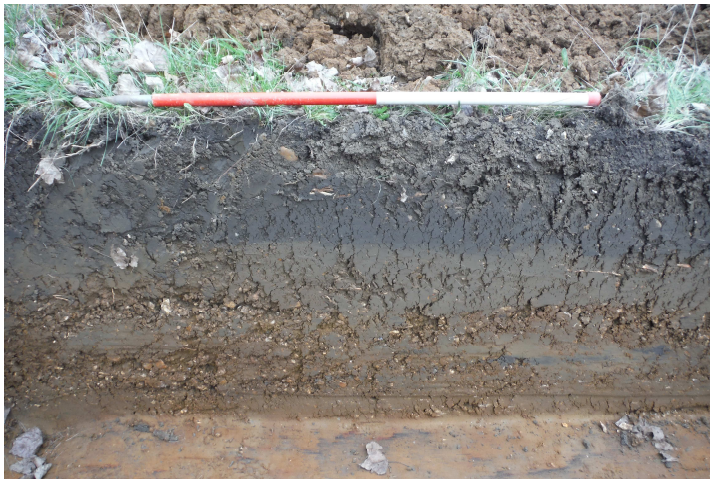
Figure 4: Detail of Northern Area with associated sections



**Image 1:** Section of southern part of Trench 7 showing a normal soil profile above a clean yellow brown layer (702), possibly alluvium. Scale 1m in 50cm divisions.



**Image 2:** Section of northern part of Trench 7 showing a thick band of modern dumped material (700) above a buried soil profile comprising a dark topsoil band (703) and underlying subsoil (704) towards the base of the trench. Scale 1m in 50cm divisions.



**Image 3:** Section of Trench 5 showing a typical soil profile. Scale 1m in 50cm divisions.

**Figure 5:** Selected images 1, 2 and 3



**Image 4:** Section through ditch [109], revealing banding in the geological strata exposed in the sides of the cut. Scale 1m in 50cm divisions.



**Image 5:** View along Trench 1 looking to the NW, with section through gully [113] in the foreground. Scale 1m in 50cm divisions.

**Figure 6:** Selected images 4 and 5

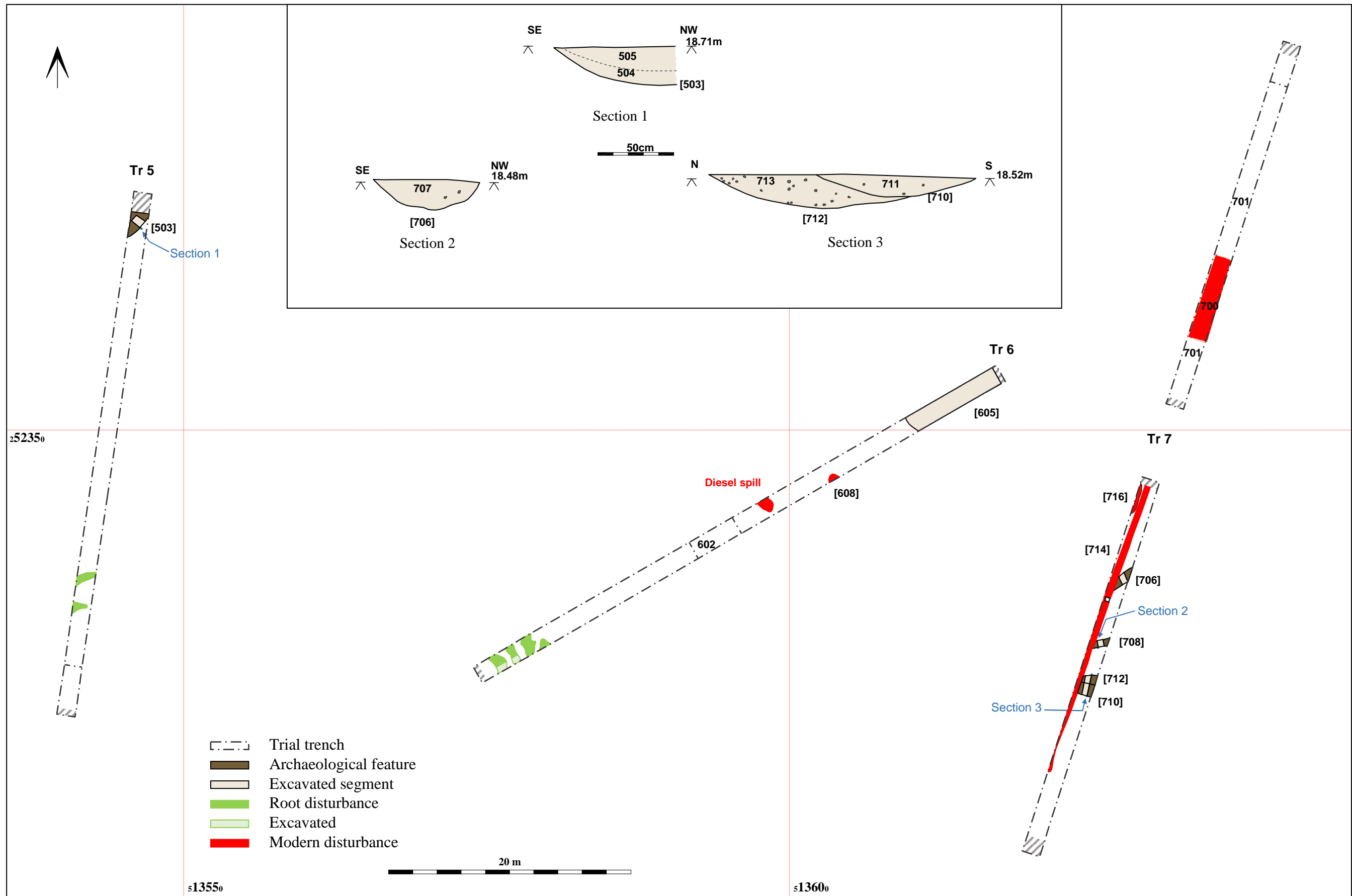


Figure 7: Detail of Southern Area with associated sections



**Image 6:** Excavated section through ditch [710] to the right and possible pit [712] defined by the darker fill to the left. Scale 2m in 1m divisions.



**Image 7:** Section through ditch [708]. Scale 0.5m in 10cm divisions.

**Figure 8:** Selected images 6 and 7



**Image 8:** NW-facing section of quarry [605] showing undulating base.  
Scale 1m in 50cm divisions.

**Figure 9:** Selected image 8



**Image 9:** Selection of pottery sherds from fill (108) of ditch [107] in the Northern Area. Pottery includes the base of a strainer in shelly ware fabric, fine white ware sherds and imitation black-burnished ware. Scale 5cm in 1cm divisions.



**Image 10:** Upper and lower images of a fragment of Roman brick deliberately rounded and tapered to create a stopper. The fragment was recovered from alluvial deposit (602) in the Southern Area. It measures 108mm by 80mm and is 45mm thick.

**Figure 10:** Selected images 9 and 10



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