

**LAND OFF NOTTINGHAM ROAD
MELTON MOWBRAY
LEICESTERSHIRE**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL STRIP, PLAN AND RECORD
FINAL REPORT**

Albion
archaeology



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FINAL REPORT**

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On behalf of:
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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.

Acknowledgements

The project was commissioned by Paul Clark of CgMs Consulting Ltd on behalf of Davidsons Developments Ltd and monitored on behalf of the Local Planning Authority by Richard Clark (Principal Planning Archaeologist) of Leicestershire County Council.

The fieldwork was undertaken by Ben Barker (Project Officer) and Allan King (Assistant Supervisor). All finds were processed by Jackie Wells (Finds Officer) and ecofact samples processed by Heather White under the supervision of Gary Edmondson (Project Manager).

The report has been prepared by Ben Barker and Mike Luke (Project Manager), with contributions from Gary Edmondson (ecofacts) and Jackie Wells (artefacts). All Albion projects are under the overall management of Drew Shotliff

Version History

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<i>1.2</i>	<i>11/12/2017</i>	<i>Updated after discussions with Leicestershire Museum Service to reflect that they did not want the finds</i>
<i>1.1</i>	<i>27/05/2016</i>	<i>Consultant's comments</i>
<i>1.0</i>	<i>26/05/2016</i>	<i>n/a</i>

Key Terms

The following abbreviations are used throughout this report:

Client	Davidsons Developments Ltd
CIfA	Chartered Institute for Archaeologists
Consultant	CgMs Consulting Ltd
DA	Development area
DBA	Desk-based assessment
PPA	Principal Planning Archaeologist (Leicestershire County Council)
WSI	Written Scheme of Investigation



Non-Technical Summary

Outline planning permission was granted for residential development of land off Nottingham Road, Melton Mowbray (SK 74576 20769). Condition 16 of the planning permission required a programme of archaeological work. Geophysical survey, trench evaluation and earthwork survey had previously been undertaken on the site. The trench evaluation had indicated that one part of the development area contained an archaeological asset. Therefore, the final phase of archaeological fieldwork (strip, plan and record) was focussed on this area and undertaken to the requirements contained in the approved Written Scheme of Investigation. Albion Archaeology was commissioned to undertake this work which took place between 4th and 6th May 2016. This report presents the results of the investigations.

It was possible to determine a chronological sequence of three phases of activity, largely based on stratigraphic relationships between features. However, as was the case in the evaluation, the precise dating of the features was problematic because of the absence of datable artefacts; they have, therefore, been assigned to broad chronological periods.

The earliest phase of activity (Phase 1) comprised a linear NW-SE boundary that had been re-defined on at least two occasions. It is possible that this boundary and the adjacent features (two postholes and two pits) were Iron Age in date. Although the suggested Iron Age date is tentative, it does (if correct) fit the observed trend for the creation of extensive linear boundaries during the first millennium BC.

The presence of ridge and furrows, assigned to Phase 2, indicates that this area was part of an open field system during the medieval period. Phase 3 activity comprised modern disturbance which was limited to a probable geotechnical trial pit.

In summary, archaeological investigations within the development area have produced evidence for what may be an extensive Iron Age boundary and for medieval furrows. The remains add to existing knowledge of the Iron Age and medieval landscapes. However, the boundary is not firmly dated and no further analysis would enhance understanding of it.

No further analysis and reporting beyond that presented in this report will be undertaken. A summary of the work will be published in the county archaeological journal and this report will be uploaded onto the OASIS website (ref. no.: albionar1-249772). The project archive will be deposited with Leicestershire Museum Service (accession no. X.A56.2016).



1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 **Project background**

Outline planning permission was granted for residential development of land off Nottingham Road, Melton Mowbray (Melton Borough Council ref. 14/00078/OUT). Condition 16 of the planning permission required a programme of archaeological work:

Condition 16

Prior to the submission of any reserved matters a programme of archaeological work, informed with an initial phase of trial trenching, will be detailed within a written scheme of investigation which shall have first been submitted to and approved in writing by the local planning authority. No development shall take place other than in accordance with the written scheme of investigation. The scheme shall include an assessment of significance and research questions, and:

- 1. The programme and methodology of site investigation and recording.*
- 2. The programme for post-investigation assessment.*
- 3. Provision to be made for analysis of the site investigation and recording.*
- 4. Provision to be made for publication and dissemination of the analysis and records of the site investigation.*
- 5. Provision to be made for archive deposition of the analysis and records of the site investigation.*
- 6. Nomination of a competent person or persons/organisation to undertake the works set out within the written scheme of investigation.*

Albion Archaeology was commissioned by CgMs Consulting Ltd, on behalf of Davidsons Developments Ltd, to undertake the final phase of archaeological work (strip, plan and record) in accordance with the approved Written Scheme of Investigation (CgMs 2015). This report presents the results of that investigation.

1.2 **Site location and description**

The development area (DA) lies to the east of Nottingham Road on the northern side of Melton Mowbray (Fig. 1). It is centred on SK 7459 2070 and is *c.* 4.2 hectares in extent. The DA is bounded by Nottingham Road (A606) to the south-west, by the approach and grounds of Sysonby Lodge to the north, by open countryside to the north-east, and by housing to the south-east. A stream runs through the centre of the DA, within a narrow valley aligned NW-SE.

The area of archaeological strip, plan and record was located in the northern part of the eastern field within the DA, *c.* 100m to the south-east of Sysonby Lodge. It was situated on a south-facing slope at 100–102m OD (Fig. 2).

The site is shown by the British Geological Survey¹ to occupy the mudstone of the Charmouth Mudstone formation. The solid geology is overlain by Diamiction belonging to the Oadby Member, with clay/silt/sand/gravel along the minor stream

¹ <http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html> [accessed 20/03/2016]



course. The overlying slowly permeable clayey and fine loamy soils belong to the Ragdale Formation.

1.3 Archaeological background

A full archaeological background to the DA is presented in the desk-based assessment (DBA) (CgMs 2013, 10-12). The most significant archaeological discoveries in the vicinity can be summarised as follows:

- The earliest evidence for human activity comprises two lithic artefacts of Neolithic date.
- Iron Age/Roman settlement and field systems were identified by a geophysical survey at Sysonby Farm, *c.* 400m to the north-west of the DA (Allen Archaeology 2014). Evidence for contemporary activity was identified at Melton Country Park, 1km to the east of the DA; at Welby, 600m to the west; and in the vicinity of Framland Hospital *c.* 500m to the east.
- Evidence for post-Roman activity comprises a probable Anglo-Saxon cemetery site at Sysonby Lodge Farm, 900m north-west of the DA and records of a medieval monastic farm at Sysonby Grange, 700m west of the DA.

Within the DA a geophysical survey was undertaken in 2013 (ASWYAS 2013) and trial trenching and LiDAR analysis in 2015 (Wessex Archaeology 2015).

The geophysical survey identified clear evidence for ridge and furrow strip cultivation across the whole DA, mirroring the extant earthworks, but no additional anomalies of archaeological interest were identified. The DBA concluded that the DA lay well outside the settlement core of Melton Mowbray and had remained in agricultural use throughout the post-medieval and modern periods.

The 2015 trial trenching comprised 15 trenches which identified few archaeological features. Two ditches and an adjacent small pit or posthole were located within Trenches 12 and 15. No firm dating evidence was recovered, although the features were sealed beneath medieval ridge and furrow earthworks, thus predating them.

1.4 Project/research objectives

The aim of the programme of archaeological works was to record and advance understanding of the significance of any archaeological remains within the DA before development through a scheme of ‘Strip, Plan and Record’ (CgMs 2015, section 2). The specific aims of the archaeological work were to:

- Ascertain whether any associated archaeological features survived in the immediate vicinity of the three undated features identified in the trial trenching, and to further investigate these features.
- Determine the date, character, function and significance of any features encountered.
- Produce a site archive for deposition with an appropriate museum and to provide information for accession to the Leicestershire HER.
- Undertake a programme of post-excavation analysis, assessing the potential of the remains to contribute to wider research agendas and the scope for dissemination of the project results to a wider audience.



The programme of archaeological investigation was conducted within the general research parameters and objectives defined by *East Midlands Heritage: An updated research Agenda and Strategy* (Knight *et al.* 2012) and the earlier *Archaeological Resource Assessment and Research Agenda for the East Midlands* (Cooper 2006).

The investigation also took into account of the national research programmes outlined in English Heritage's *Strategic Framework for historic Environment Activities and Programmes in English Heritage (SHAPE)* first published in 2008. (This part of English Heritage has since changed its name to Historic England).

1.5 Methodologies

The methodological approach to the project was detailed in the Written Scheme of Investigation (CgMs 2015) and is therefore not repeated here. Throughout the project the standards set out in the following documents were adhered to:

- CIfA's *Code of conduct* (2014)
- CIfA's *Standard and guidance for archaeological excavation* (2014)
- CIfA's *Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials* (2014)
- Albion Archaeology's *Procedures Manual: Volume 1 Fieldwork 2nd Edition* (2001).

1.6 Fieldwork and monitoring

An area of *c.* 0.1ha was stripped to the archaeological level under archaeological supervision. The subsequent investigations were undertaken between 4th and 6th May 2016. They were monitored on behalf of the client by CgMs Consulting Ltd and on behalf of the local planning authority by the Principal Planning Archaeologist (PPA). The fieldwork was 'signed off' by the PPA at a site meeting on 6th May 2015, subject to the completion of machine excavation and recording tasks. The site was then backfilled.

1.7 Project archive

The project archive will be deposited with Leicestershire Museum Service (accession no. X.A56.2016). Details of the project and its findings will be submitted to the OASIS database (reference no.: albionar1- albionar1-249772) in accordance with the guidelines issued by Historic England and the Archaeology Data Service. During discussions with Leicestershire Museum Service they stated they did not want the finds.



2 RESULTS

2.1 *Introduction*

The results are described below by chronological sequence, artefacts and ecofacts. The features recorded on site (Fig. 2) are discussed by the Phase and Group numbers assigned during analysis. Appendix 1 presents a summary of these assignments linked to feature and context numbers.

2.2 *Chronological sequence*

The following section is divided into broad chronological order on the basis of the interpreted sequence of features/deposits. Detailed descriptions of every individual context are provided in Appendix 2 and this should be consulted for information such as alignment, nature of fills, dimensions etc. The Phases and Groups are illustrated on Figs 3, 4 and 6. Representative photographs of the investigation area are shown in Fig. 7.

2.2.1 *Geological deposits*

The natural geological deposits comprised light yellow-brown silty clay with frequent inclusions of stones of various sizes and geological origin, consistent with glacial till.

2.2.2 *Phase 1: Prehistoric*

Phase 1 was characterised by three boundary ditches G1/G2/G3, two postholes G5 and two pits G4 (Fig. 3). The ditches were all broadly aligned NNW-SSE and two (G2 and G3) corresponded with ditches identified during the trial trenching. All three ditches were less than 1.5m wide and 0.45m deep with reasonably shallow, concave profiles that are likely to have been truncated by medieval ploughing. The fills consisted of very similar sterile silty clay that was likely to be the product of natural silting-up of the ditches. No finds or significant organic content were present within the ditch fills.

The earliest ditch G1 was truncated by both ditch G2 and G3 and was visible for a length of *c.* 14m but its full extent could not be determined because to north-west and south-east it had been entirely truncated by the later ditches. However, it is likely to have continued on the same alignment as ditch G2 to the north-west and G3 to the south-east.

Ditch G2 corresponded with ditch [1505] identified in Trench 15 (Wessex Archaeology 2015). It was over 28m long and continued beyond the limits of excavation to the north-west and south-east. It had a concave profile, was 0.45m deep and 1–1.5m wide. Its variation in width is likely to have been associated with its relationship with ditch G1, which it clearly cut following the same course.

The northernmost segment excavated through ditch G2 also appeared to show that the ditch cut an earlier posthole [124]. This posthole, assigned to G5, was less than 0.5m in diameter and 0.3m deep. It was similar to posthole [1205] identified in Trench 12, *c.* 6m to the west.



Ditch G3 corresponded with ditch [1207]/[1209] in Trench 12. It was up to 1.15m wide and under 0.3m deep, with a concave profile. Within an extension to Trench 12 the ditch 'soon petered out into a shallow, narrow terminal' (Wessex Archaeology 2015, 4) suggesting it was truncated by modern ploughing. Within the excavation area the ditch continued, like the others, beyond the limit of investigation to the south-east. As with ditch G2, it was found to cut earlier ditch G1 at its south-eastern end.

Two shallow adjacent pits G4 lay *c.* 8m to the south-west of ditch G3. They were slightly irregular sub-oval features, measuring *c.* 1.25m by 1m. Both were less than 0.2m deep and are likely to have been truncated by modern ploughing. The fills were a largely sterile mid orange-brown silty clay, similar to those of the adjacent ditches. However, the south-eastern pit [118] yielded one small sherd of possible Iron Age pottery.

2.2.3 Phase 2: medieval

Phase 2 (Fig. 4) represents medieval activity and comprised seven parallel furrows aligned NNE-SSW (G10). The overall layout of the ridge and furrow within the DA has been described in detail by the analysis of the LiDAR data (Wessex Archaeology 2015). Within the excavation area the furrows were generally less than 1.8m wide and, where excavated, less than 0.15m deep. Their fills consisted of mid grey-brown silty clay with common accumulations of small and medium-sized stones towards the base. No finds were recovered. The evaluation report concluded that the earthworks were typical of the standard form of such features within the English Midlands.

2.2.4 Phase 3: modern

Phase 3 (Fig. 4) represents modern disturbance and comprised a rectangular pit G20, *c.* 0.8m by 4.4m located close to the eastern limit of excavation. The straight-sided rectilinear shape of the feature and its fill of clean but disturbed natural geology suggest that it is a machine-cut geotechnical trial pit.

2.3 Artefacts

The only artefact recovered was a single sherd of pottery which has been examined with reference to the Prehistoric Ceramic Research Group's Guidelines (PCRG 1997).

One pottery sherd (2g) with coarse flint inclusions and traces of incised decoration was recovered from fill (119) of pit [118] within pit group G4. The small size of the sherd precludes firm identification of date or vessel type; however, it is likely to be hand-made and later prehistoric in date, possibly Iron Age. After consultation with Leicestershire Museum Service this pottery was not retained.

2.4 Ecofacts

2.4.1 Introduction

No deposits of dark soils or deposits containing charred material were observed. However, two samples were taken from fills of boundary ditches G2 and G3. The soil from each sample was processed using a Siraf-style type flotation tank and meshes of 0.3mm and 1mm for the recovery of the flot and residue respectively. Once dried, the charred plant remains were sorted, identified and compared to the



results from the samples taken during the trial trenching (Wessex Archaeology 2015, 7–8).

2.4.2 Results

Sample No.	Context	Feature	Vol (l)	Vol (l) processed	Flot (ml)	Roots (%)	Chaff	Other	Charcoal (ml)
1	121	120	30	10	<10	90	n/a	Mollusc frags	<1
2	123	122	30	10	<5	95	n/a	Mollusc frags, insect eggs	n/a

Table 1: Summary of the ecofact samples

Both flots were small with relatively high numbers of modern roots, seeds and insect eggs that may be indicative of stratigraphic movement and the possibility of contamination by later intrusive elements. Charred material was poorly preserved and no artefactual material was present.

Ecofact sample <1> from context (121) derived from the sole fill of ditch G3 and was the equivalent of sample <2> from the trench evaluation. The flot contained a few fragments of indeterminate snail and charcoal fragments.

Ecofact sample <2> from context (122) derived from the upper fill of ditch G2 and was the equivalent of sample <1> from the trench evaluation. The flot contained very occasional fragments of indeterminate snail fragments.

2.4.3 Summary

The results of the sampling during the excavation are similar to those of the trial trenching. Neither the flots nor the residues contained sufficient quantities of organic matter to provide environmental indicators or secure dating. The large quantities of modern roots, and evidence for burrowing insects, highlights the high level of bioturbation that these deposits have been subjected to and, therefore, the possibility that the charred plant and molluscan remains in the samples are intrusive.

As with the results of the trial trenching, there is no potential for further analysis of the charcoal or molluscs from these samples. After consultation with Leicestershire Museum Service this material was not retained.



3 DISCUSSION

The results of the excavations at Land off Nottingham Road have revealed three phases of activity based largely on stratigraphic relationships between features. However, as was the case in the evaluation, the precise dating of the features has been problematic because of the absence of datable artefacts. They have, therefore, been assigned to broad chronological periods. Furthermore, the evidence produced from the ecofact samples suggests a degree of intrusiveness that would mean that even the broad dating of the one sherd of pottery should be treated with a degree of caution. As such, the proposed dating for each phase represents the best possible estimation given the evidence available.

3.1 *Phase 1 (?Iron Age)*

3.1.1 Introduction

The earliest phase of activity comprised a linear NW-SE boundary that had been re-defined on at least two occasions. Two postholes and two pits were found in its vicinity and may be contemporary with the boundary.

3.1.2 Linear boundary

The linear boundary was evidenced by a ditch and its recuts and, although it is likely to have been associated with a bank and hedge, there was no evidence for the former in the nature and positioning of the ditch fills. A c. 14m length of the original ditch G1 survived slightly to the east of the recut G2 which followed the original course and continued beyond the limits of the excavation area. The second and final recut G3 truncated the first recut; it followed the same course to the south but diverged from it to the north. No evidence was identified to explain this but it may suggest that the boundary existed for a sufficient period of time for the ditch to be not entirely visible when it was recut for the final time.

With the benefit of hindsight a faint (and obscured by the anomalies corresponding with the ridge and furrow) but discernible, linear geophysical anomaly can be seen on the greyscale plot to the south-east of the excavation area (Fig. 5). It could represent the continuation of the boundary ditches.

3.1.3 Pits and postholes

The association of the pits G4 and the postholes G5 with the linear boundary is based on their proximity and similarity in their fills. Posthole [124], which was found at the base of ditch G2, could represent a “marking out” post for the ditch. Unfortunately it was the least convincing feature within the excavation area because of its poor definition.

3.1.4 Dating evidence

Only one sherd of possible Iron Age pottery was recovered from one of the pits G4. Although not a reliable piece of dating evidence, because it is a small undiagnostic sherd, it is at least compatible with the fact that all these features were sealed beneath medieval ridge and furrow earthworks, thus predating them. The charred plant remains from the evaluation trenches would be compatible with this date ‘as hulled wheat is the predominant cereal together with barley (*Hordeum vulgare*) on later prehistoric sites (Greig 1991) and has been recorded from other Iron age and



Romano-British deposits in the area such as at Scalford Brook Melton Mowbray (Beamish 1991) and Leicester/Dalby Road Melton Mowbray (Harvey 2010)' (Wessex Archaeology 2015, 7).

3.1.5 Overview

The clay soils in this part of Leicestershire are often thought not to have been particularly attractive for settlement until the late Iron Age when there was an apparent increase in pastoral farming at a time of population growth (Bowman and Liddle 2004, 46).

The nature of the boundary ditches and adjacent features and the absence of domestic debris demonstrate that the features are located away from settlement. However, it is likely that the boundary was an extensive landscape feature that could have linked in with field systems and settlements. Although the suggested Iron Age date is tentative, it does (if correct) fit the observed trend for the creation of extensive linear boundaries during the first millennium BC (Willis 2006, 121), 'implying a new concern with the stricter control of land resources' (Knight and Howard 2004, 90).

Similar isolated lengths of poorly dated ditches were identified during the evaluation trenching of land to the north of the DA (Thomas 2014). It is not impossible that the boundary investigated within the DA was part of the same boundary/trackway identified by geophysical survey north of Sysonby Farm (Allen Archaeology 2014). Although on the same alignment, there was a gap of *c.* 500m between the two features, so it is impossible to be certain that they were associated (Fig. 5).

3.2 Phases 2 and 3 (medieval and modern)

Phase 2 represented those elements of the site associated with medieval fields, whilst Phase 3 comprised later modern intrusions.

The ridge and furrow within the DA and the furrows within the excavation area demonstrate the presence of an open field system during the medieval period. The geophysical survey had revealed the overall layout of the ridges and furrows (Fig. 5). The arrangement appears to have been heavily influence by the natural topography, presumably to enhance the drainage of the clay-rich soils.

Modern (Phase 3) disturbance was minimal, limited to a single geotechnical test pit.

3.3 Conclusion

The archaeological investigations have produced evidence for what may be part of an extensive, Iron Age boundary and for medieval furrows. The remains, therefore, add to existing knowledge of the Iron Age and medieval landscapes. However, the boundary is not firmly dated and no further analysis would enhance understanding of it.

It has therefore been agreed with the PPA that no further analysis and reporting are required, beyond that presented in this report. A summary of the work will be published in the county archaeological journal and this report will be uploaded onto the OASIS website (ref. no.: albionar1-249772).



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5 APPENDIX 1: CONTEXT ASSIGNMENTS

Phase	Group	Description	Contexts
1	G1	Earliest boundary ditch	[104], (105) [110], (111) [130], (131)
	G2	North-easternmost boundary ditch	[108], (109) [112], (113) [122], (126), (123) [132], (133)
	G3	South-westernmost boundary ditch	[106], (107) [114], (115) [120], (121) [134], (135)
	G4	Two pits	[116], (117) [118], (119)
	G5	Two* postholes	[124], (125)
2	G10	Seven furrows	[136], (137)
3	G20	Modern intrusions	-

* = includes posthole [1205] from Trench 12 (Wessex Archaeology 2015)



6 APPENDIX 2: CONTEXT DATA

Area: 1
 Extent (ha): 0.1
 OS Co-ordinates: SK7457720769
 Description: Small open area excavation focused on evaluation trenches 12, 14 and 15 (Wessex 2015).

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
101	Topsoil	Firm dark brown grey silty clay occasional small stones. 0.25m thick.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
102	Subsoil	Firm mid brown grey silty clay frequent small stones, occasional large stones. 0.20m thick.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
103	Natural	Firm light yellow brown silty clay moderate flecks chalk, frequent small-medium stones, occasional large stones	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
104	Ditch	Linear NNW-SSE sides: U-shaped dimensions: min breadth 0.43m, min depth 0.16m, max length 1.m. Full profile not seen due to truncation by later features. Part of ditch [130].	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
105	Fill	Firm light brown grey silty clay occasional flecks chalk, occasional small-medium stones. >0.16m thick.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
106	Ditch	Linear NNW-SSE sides: U-shaped base: concave dimensions: max breadth 0.68m, max depth 0.27m, max length 1.m. Part of ditch [134].	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
107	Fill	Firm mid brown grey silty clay occasional flecks chalk, occasional small-large stones. 0.27m thick.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
108	Ditch	Linear NNW-SSE sides: U-shaped base: concave dimensions: max breadth 0.94m, max depth 0.3m, max length 1.m. Part of ditch [132].	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
109	Fill	Firm mid grey brown silty clay occasional small-large stones. 0.30m thick.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
110	Ditch	Linear NNW-SSE sides: U-shaped dimensions: min breadth 0.45m, min depth 0.11m, max length 1.m. Full profile not seen due to truncation by later features. Part of ditch [104].	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
111	Fill	Firm light brown grey silty clay occasional flecks chalk, occasional small-medium stones. 0.11m thick.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
112	Ditch	Linear NNW-SSE sides: U-shaped base: concave dimensions: max breadth 0.91m, max depth 0.42m, max length 1.m. Part of ditch [132].	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
113	Fill	Firm mid grey brown silty clay occasional small-large stones. 0.42m thick.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
114	Ditch	Linear NW-SE sides: U-shaped base: concave dimensions: max breadth 0.77m, max depth 0.26m, max length 1.m. Part of ditch [134].	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
115	Fill	Firm mid brown grey silty clay occasional flecks chalk, occasional small-large stones. 0.26m thick.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
116	Pit	Sub-oval NW-SE sides: irregular base: uneven dimensions: max breadth 0.64m, max depth 0.09m, max length 1.37m	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
117	Backfill	Firm mid orange brown silty clay occasional small-medium stones. 0.09m thick.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
118	Pit	Sub-oval NW-SE sides: U-shaped base: concave dimensions: max breadth 0.75m, max depth 0.21m, max length 1.17m	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
119	Backfill	Firm mid orange brown silty clay occasional small-large stones. 0.21m thick.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
120	Ditch	Linear NW-SE sides: concave base: concave dimensions: max breadth 1.m, max depth 0.22m, max length 1.m. Part of ditch [134].	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
121	Fill	Firm mid grey brown silty clay occasional flecks chalk, occasional small stones. 0.22m thick.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>



122	Ditch	Linear NNW-SSE sides: concave base: concave dimensions: max breadth 1.m, max depth 0.45m, max length 1.m. Part of ditch [132].	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
123	Upper fill	Firm dark grey brown silty clay occasional small stones. 0.28m thick.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
126	Lower fill	Firm mid grey brown silty clay occasional small stones. 0.17m thick	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
124	Posthole	Sub-circular sides: steep base: flat dimensions: max breadth 0.47m, min depth 0.3m, max length 0.6m. Possible posthole, truncated by ditch [122]. Not well defined.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
125	Backfill	Friable dark brown grey silty clay occasional small-medium stones. 0.30m thick.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
127	Layer	Firm mid grey brown silty clay frequent small-medium stones. 0.07m thick. Probable extension of subsoil between ditches [132] and [134].	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
130	Ditch	Linear NNW-SSE dimensions: min breadth 0.5m, min length 14.m. General number for unexcavated segments. Truncated by later activity.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
131	Fill	Light brown grey silty clay occasional flecks chalk, occasional small-medium stones. General number for unexcavated segments.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
132	Ditch	Linear NNE-SSW dimensions: max breadth 1.5m, min length 28.m. General number for unexcavated segments.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
133	Fill	Mid grey brown silty clay occasional small-large stones. General number for unexcavated segments.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
134	Ditch	Linear NW-SE dimensions: max breadth 1.15m, min length 34.m. General number for unexcavated segments.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
135	Fill	Mid grey brown silty clay occasional flecks chalk, occasional small-large stones. General number for unexcavated segments.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
136	Furrow	Linear NNE-SSW sides: concave base: concave dimensions: max breadth 1.8m, max depth 0.15m, min length 30.m. General number for excavated and unexcavated segments.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
137	Fill	Firm mid brown grey silty clay moderate small-medium stones. <0.15m thick.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

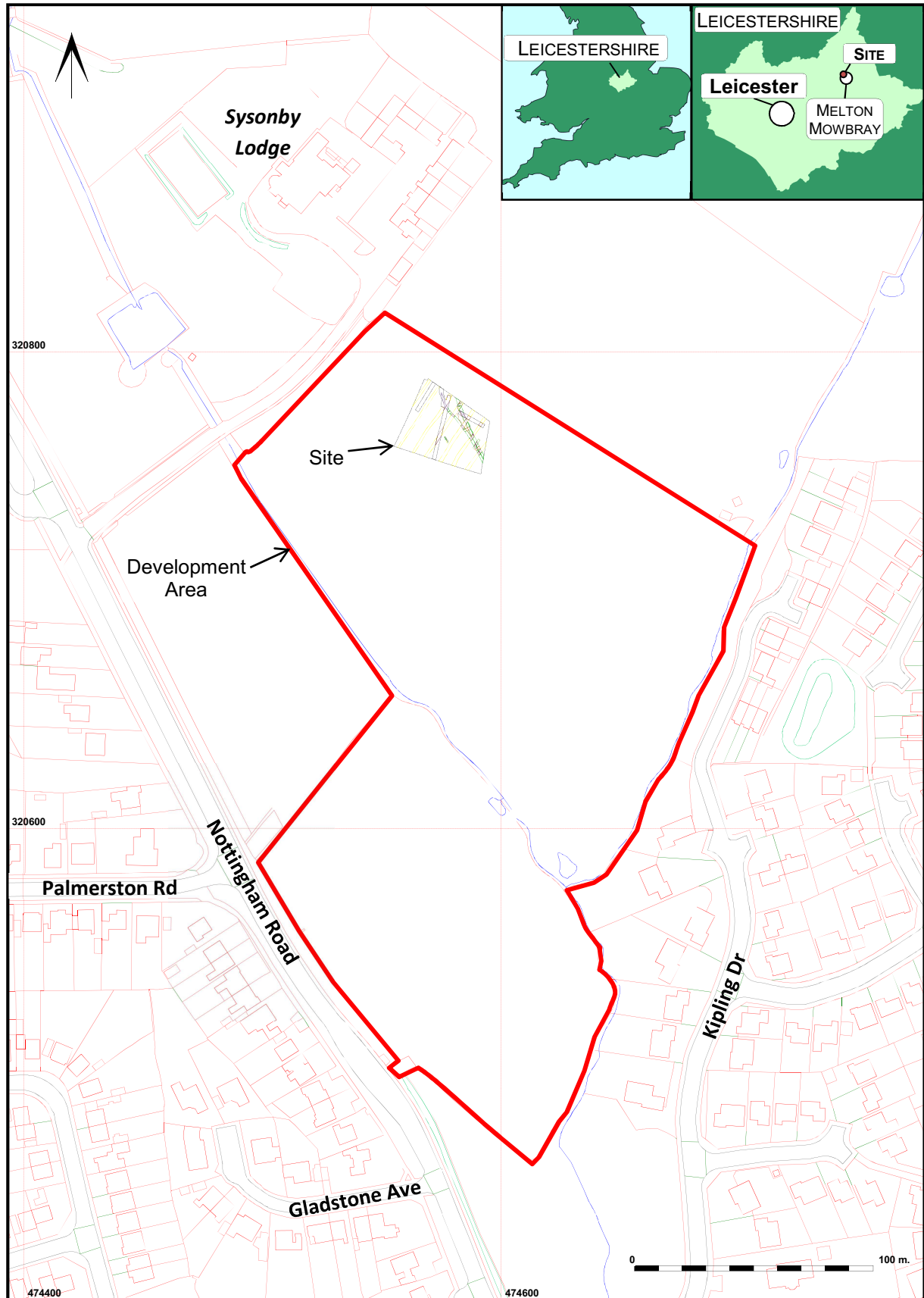


Figure 1: Site location

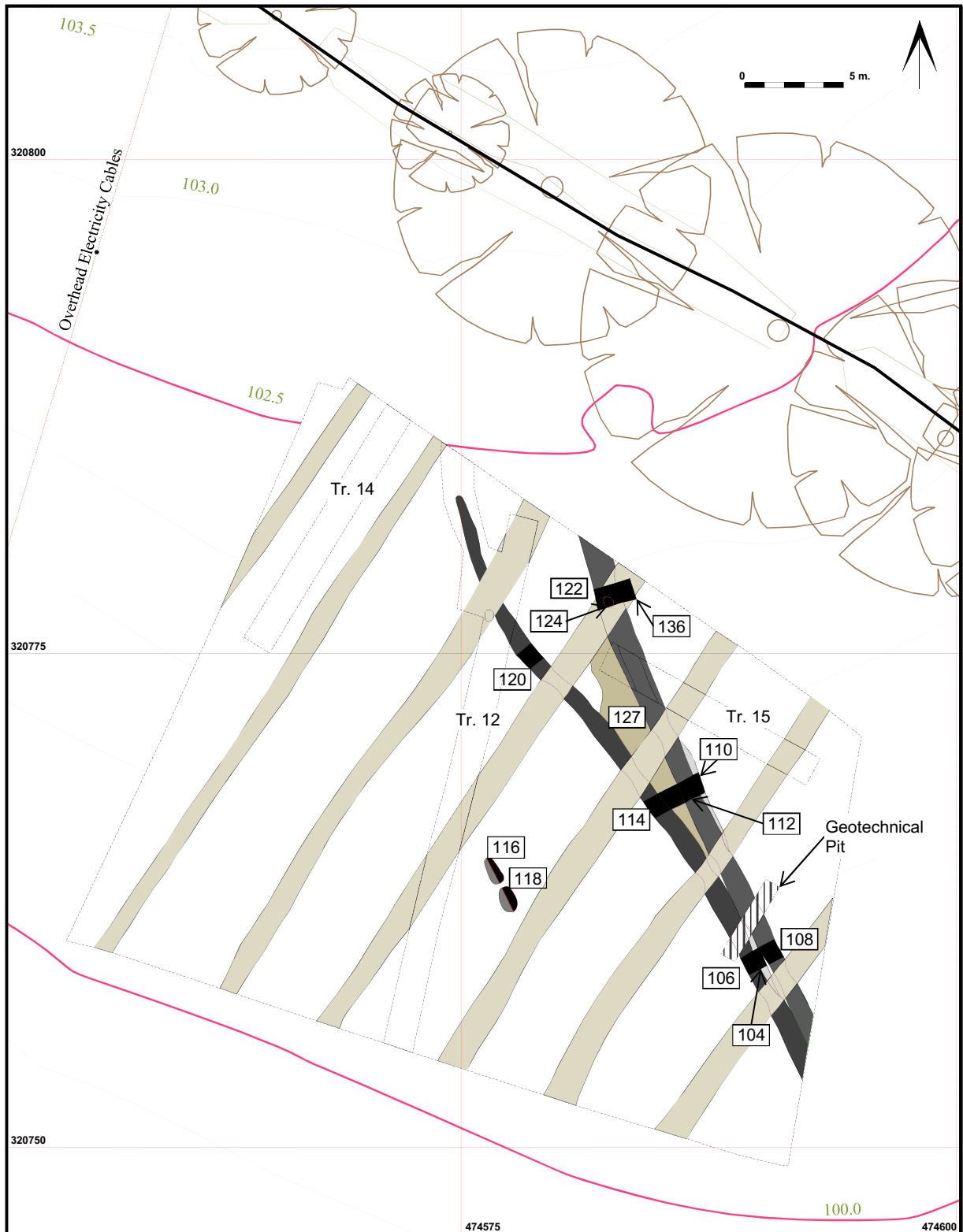


Figure 2: All features plan

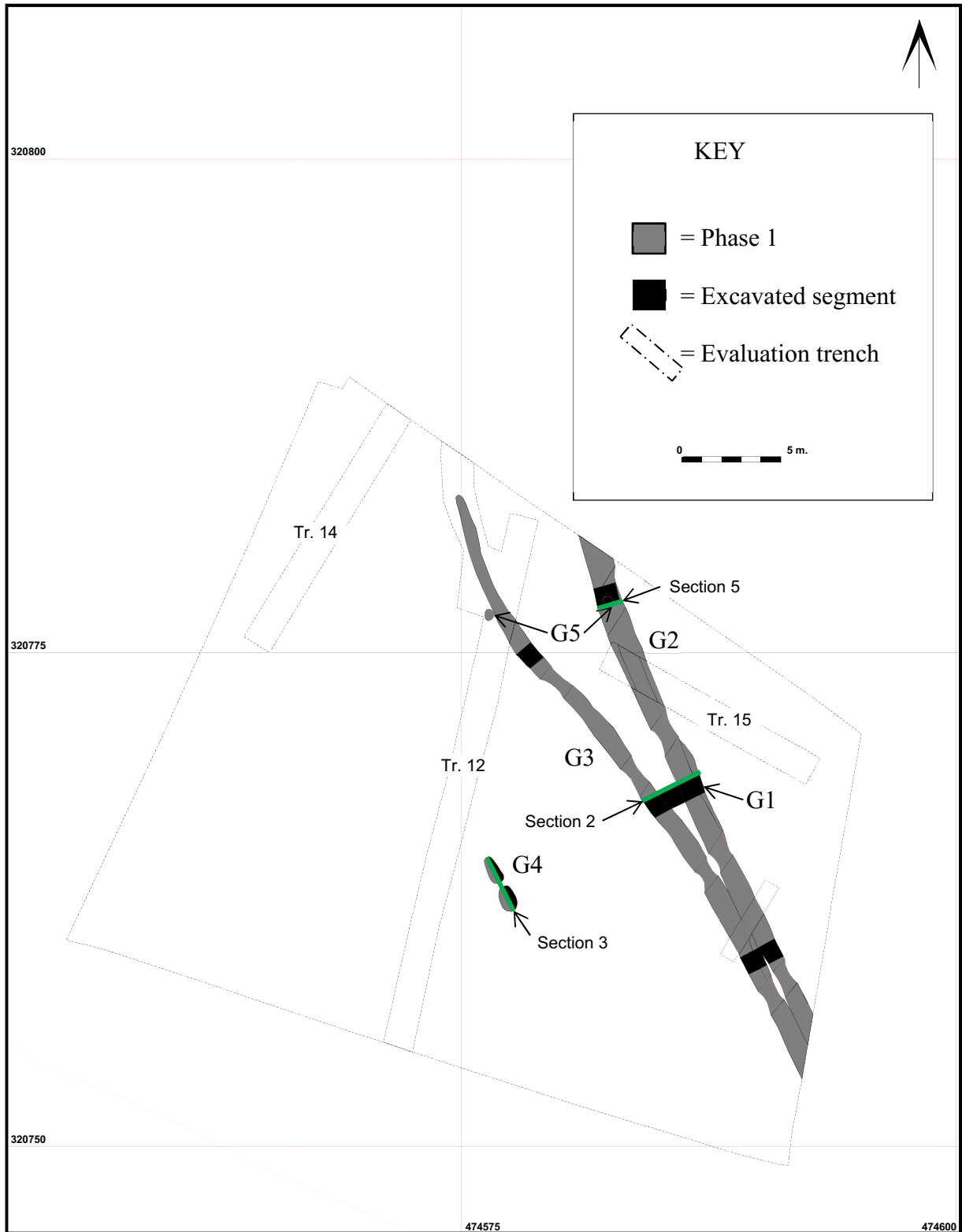


Figure 3: Phase 1 plan

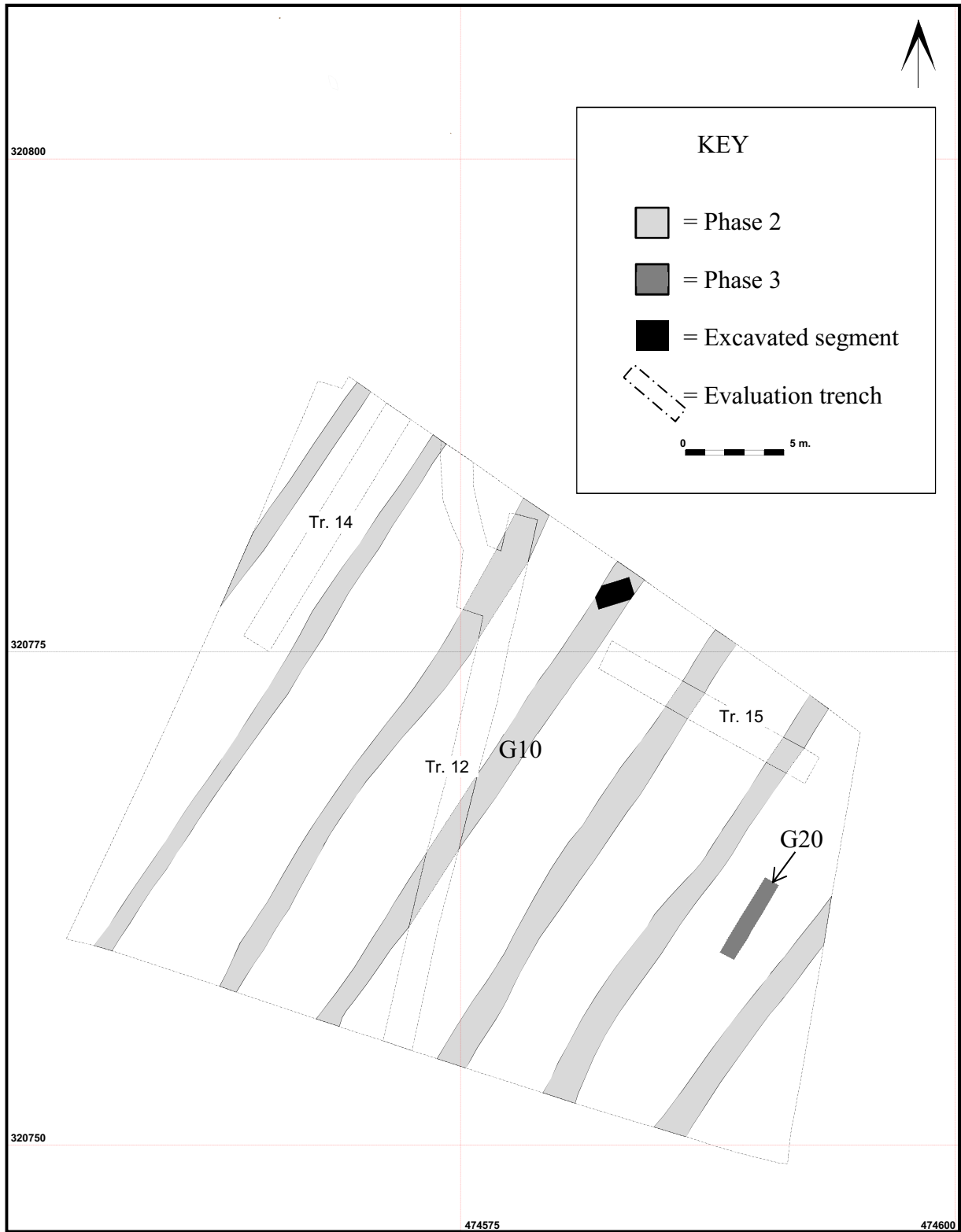


Figure 4: Phase 2 and Phase 3 plan

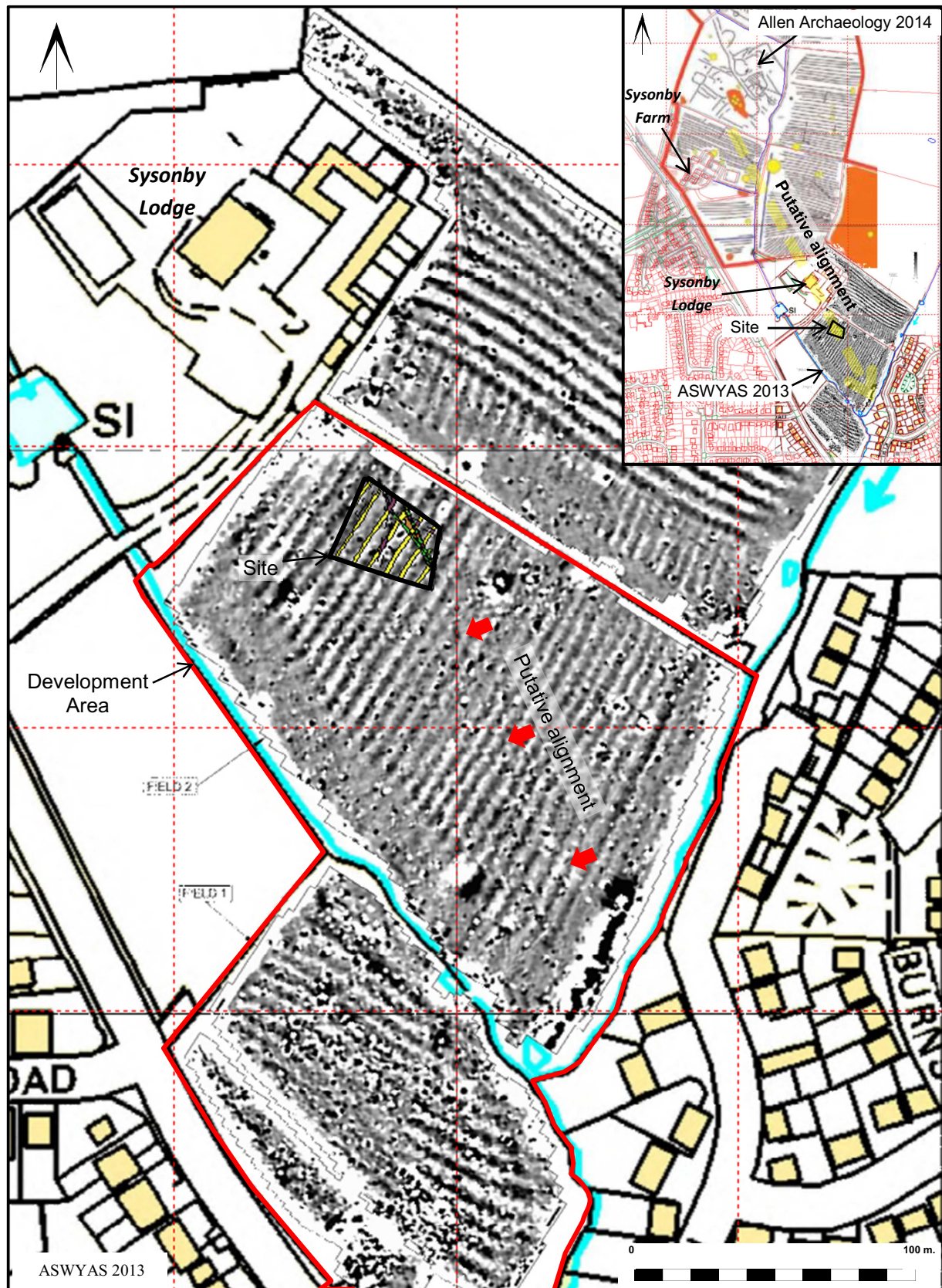


Figure 5: The boundary ditch within excavation area and its putative continuation as seen on the geophysical greyscale plot within the development area, with inset showing geophysical greyscale plot for land adjacent to Sysonby Farm.

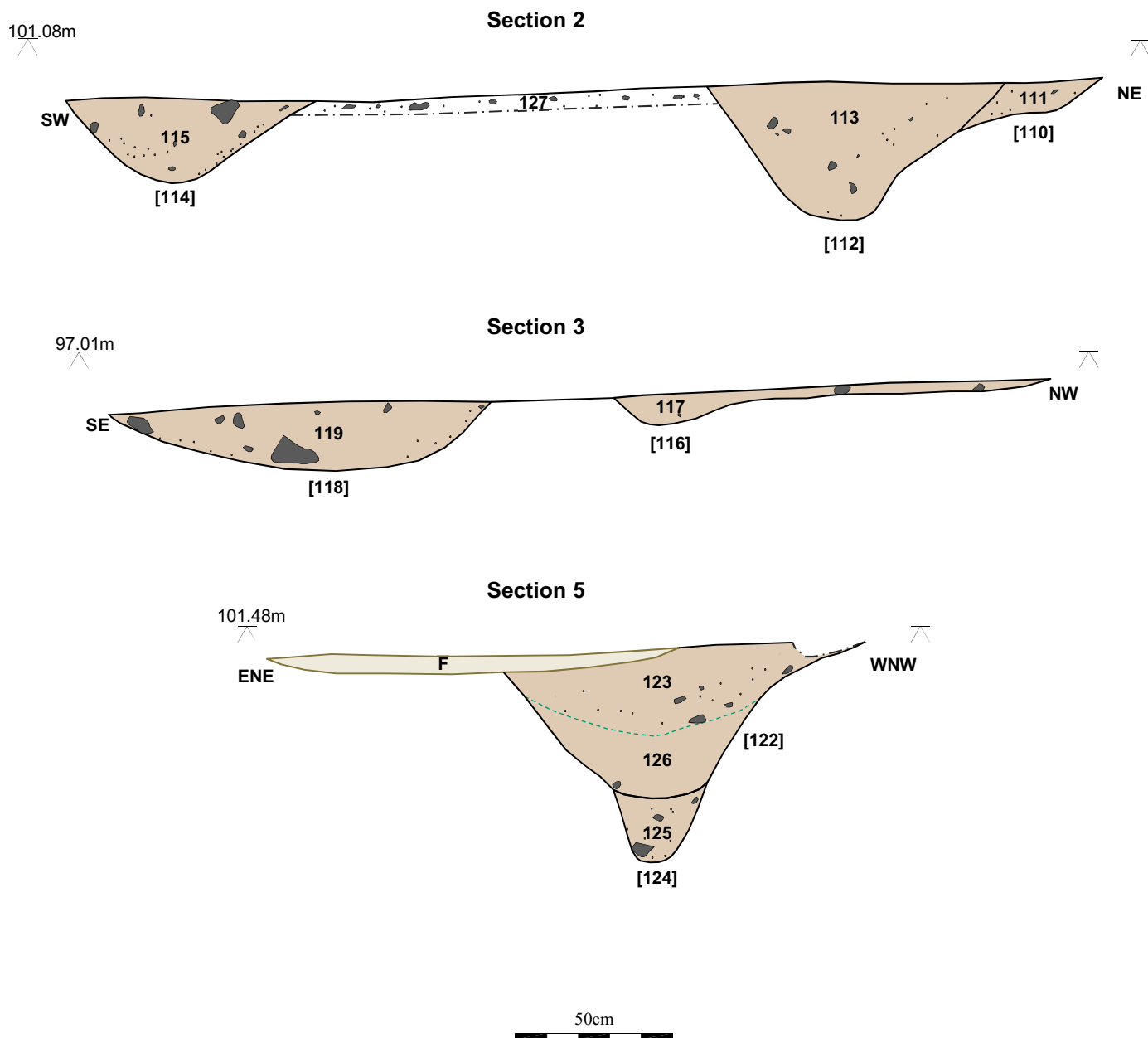


Figure 6: Representative sections



Above: Pre-excavation shot, looking NW.

Below: Post-excavation shot, looking W.



Figure 7: Representative site photographs

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