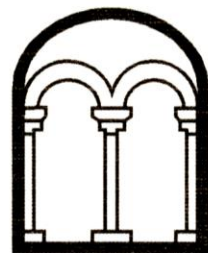


**LAND AT NEWBOROUGH
PETERBOROUGH
PE6 7QT**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL
TRIAL TRENCH EVALUATION**

Albion
archaeology



**LAND AT NEWBOROUGH
PETERBOROUGH
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**ARCHAEOLOGICAL
TRIAL TRENCH EVALUATION**

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

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On behalf of:
Jelson Ltd



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Preface

Every effort has been made in the preparation of this document to provide as complete a summary as possible within the terms of the method statement. All statements and opinions in this document are offered in good faith. Albion Archaeology cannot accept responsibility for errors of fact or opinion resulting from data supplied by a third party, or for any loss or other consequence arising from decisions or actions made upon the basis of facts or opinions expressed in this document.

Acknowledgements

The project was commissioned by CgMs Consulting Ltd on behalf of Jelson Ltd, and was monitored on behalf of the Local Planning Authority by Rebecca Casa-Hatton, the Peterborough City Council Archaeologist (PCCA).

The fieldwork was undertaken by Slavomir Utrata, assisted by Gary Manning. This report was prepared by David Ingham, who oversaw the fieldwork. The project was managed for Albion by Gary Edmondson, under the overall management of Drew Shotliff.

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Version History

Version	Issue date	Reason for re-issue
1.0	20/05/2016	n/a
1.1	23/05/2016	Incorporating comments from Consultant

Key Terms

The following abbreviations are used throughout this report:

CIfA	Chartered Institute for Archaeologists
PCCA	Peterborough City Council Archaeologist
WSI	Written Scheme of Investigation



Non-Technical Summary

Jelson Ltd has submitted a planning application to Peterborough City Council for a residential development at Newborough. Because of the archaeological potential of the site, the Peterborough City Council Archaeologist (PCCA) advised the Local Planning Authority that the site should be subject to an archaeological evaluation to provide more detailed information concerning the potential impact of the proposed development on any archaeological remains. CgMs Consulting Ltd, acting on behalf of Jelson Ltd, appointed Albion Archaeology to carry out the evaluation, the results of which are set out in this report.

Newborough lies c. 8km north of Peterborough, with the development site covering c. 2.1ha on the north-western edge of the village. Archaeological finds dating to the Mesolithic, Neolithic and Bronze Age have been made in the area, while an extensive complex of crop-marks that probably relate to prehistoric activity is known to the north-west of the site.

Trial trenching of the site revealed a sequence of natural deposits, with peat overlying fen clays. Only two archaeological features were identified: a pit, which had been dug through the peat and is therefore assumed to be post-medieval or modern; and a shallow ditch or drainage channel, which is undated. These features are of limited archaeological interest.



1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 *Planning Background*

Jelson Ltd has submitted a planning application to Peterborough City Council for a residential development at Newborough. Because of the archaeological potential of the site, the Peterborough City Council Archaeologist (PCCA) advised the Local Planning Authority that the site should be subject to an archaeological evaluation to provide more detailed information concerning the potential impact of the proposed development on any archaeological remains.

CgMs Consulting Ltd, acting on behalf of Jelson Ltd, appointed Albion Archaeology to carry out a programme of trial trenching. This was undertaken in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) agreed by the PCCA (CgMs 2016). The results of the trial trenching are set out in this report.

1.2 *Site Location and Description*

The village of Newborough lies *c.* 8km north of Peterborough, between the rivers Nene and Welland. The development site covers *c.* 2.1ha on the north-western edge of the village, lying between Soke Road, St. Martin's Road and Thorney Road. It had been agricultural land until shortly before the evaluation, with hedged boundaries to three sides and an open ditch to the Soke Road frontage.

The solid geology of the study site area is Oxford Clay, with outcrops of Fen gravels. Overlying this is a marine deposit of Barroway Drove Beds (fen clay), a mixed deposit of soft, bluish grey clays and silts that are believed to have formed during the Neolithic or Bronze Age (French and Pryor 1993, 5–7). These in turn are covered by a layer of peat.

1.3 *Archaeological and Historical Background*

A detailed overview of the archaeological and historical background of the development site's surroundings is provided in a Heritage Statement (CgMs 2013). This also includes a report on the magnetometry survey of the development area (GSB Prospection 2013), which identified no remains within the development site itself that were likely to be archaeological in origin.

In summary, the development site's location within Borough Fen means that it lies within an area of high archaeological potential. This is evidenced by the presence of scheduled ancient monuments *c.* 1.2km to the north-west and south-west — an Iron Age fort (SAM 1006811) and a group of three bowl barrows and a ring ditch (SAM 1021318) respectively.

In the more immediate vicinity, stray (and poorly provenanced) finds dating to the Mesolithic, Neolithic and Bronze Age (HER 30300, 3006 and 7927 respectively) have been recovered. Crop-marks point towards extensive activity 300–600m to the north-west, with probable Bronze Age barrows (HER 10195 and 50116), and a network of tracks and enclosures (HER 50085, 50086, 50089, 50090, 50091 and 50092) that are presumed to be prehistoric.



1.4 Project Objectives

The general aim of the evaluation was to establish the character, date and function of any archaeological features remains within the proposed development area, and to determine whether a programme of archaeological mitigation would be required. Particular attention was paid to determining the amount of truncation that may have affected these remains, and whether palaeosols or old land surfaces were present.



2. METHOD STATEMENT

The methodological approach to the project is summarised below. A more detailed statement can be found in the WSI (CgMs 2016).

2.1 Standards

The project adhered throughout to the standards prescribed in the following:

• Albion Archaeology	<i>Procedures Manual: Volume 1 Fieldwork</i> (2nd edn, 2001).
• ALGAO	<i>Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England</i> (Gurney 2003). <i>EAA Occasional Paper No. 14</i>
• ClfA ¹	<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)
• Historic England	<i>Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE) Project Managers' Guide</i> (2015)
	<i>Environmental Archaeology: A guide to the theory and practice of methods, from sampling and recovery to post-excavation</i> (2011)

2.2 Archaeological Trial Trenching

The trial trenching was undertaken between 10th and 12th May 2016. It comprised the excavation of five trenches that were each 50m long and 1.8m wide (Fig. 2). Two of the trenches (3 and 4) were targeted on a geophysical anomaly of possible archaeological origin, while the remainder were designed to achieve an even coverage of the area.

The trenches were opened by a mechanical excavator fitted with a flat-edged ditching bucket. The machine was operated by an experienced driver under the supervision of an archaeologist. Overburden was removed down to the top of the undisturbed geological deposits, and the spoil heaps were scanned for artefacts.

Any potential archaeological features were investigated by hand and recorded using Albion Archaeology's *pro forma* sheets. Each trench was subsequently drawn and photographed as appropriate. A combination of heavy rain and a high water table meant that little time was available after machining before many parts of the trenches were underwater, but confidence is high that the trenches were able to be characterised accurately in the limited time available. All deposits were recorded using a unique number sequence, commencing at 100 for Trench 1, 200 for Trench 2 *etc.*

The trenches were inspected by the PCCA prior to their backfilling.

¹ All ClfA codes, standards and guidelines are available at: <http://www.archaeologists.net/codes/ifa>.



3. RESULTS

3.1 *Introduction*

All deposits found during the trial trenching are summarised below. More detailed information on the deposits can be found in Appendix 1 and on Figure 3.

3.2 *Overburden, Marine and Geological Deposits*

The ploughsoil comprised a 0.3–0.4m thick layer of peaty clay, beneath which a thin layer of subsoil survived in Trenches 1 and 2. These overlay a deposit of peat that was mostly 0.3–0.4m thick.

The uppermost of the ‘natural’ deposits was a band of fen clay, which sealed a thin, intermittent palaeosol that contained frequent twigs and other fragments of unworked wood. In places, particularly in Trench 3, this deposit filled a series of what appeared to be periglacial features. The deepest deposit encountered was an orange, sometimes gravelly deposit of fen clay, which in places protruded through the light bluish grey fen clay to the base of the peat.

3.3 *Archaeological Features*

Only two archaeological features were revealed. One was a shallow ditch or drainage channel [503] in Trench 5, whose fill was indistinguishable from the layer of peat (501) above it. No northward continuation of it was evident in Trench 4. The other feature was steep-sided pit [206] in Trench 2, which was dug through the layer of peat (202) and may have been a quarry pit for extracting either peat or clay.

No anthropogenic material was recovered from either feature to assist with dating them. However, channel [503] seems to have filled up contemporaneously with the formation of the peat, while pit [206], which cut through the peat, postdates the cessation of peat formation in the mid-17th century when the fens were drained (French and Pryor 1993, 7).



4. CONCLUSIONS

4.1 *Summary of Results*

Evaluation of the development site revealed a sequence of natural deposits, with peat overlying fen clays. The date at which these formed is uncertain, but the fen clays are believed to date back to at least the Bronze Age, with the peat forming at some point between then and the mid-17th century when the fens were drained (French and Pryor 1993, 5–7).

Only two features of anthropogenic origin were identified. Pit [206] was cut through the peat and is therefore assumed to be post-medieval or modern in date. Shallow ditch or drainage channel [503] had been filled by the peat, and therefore must have been dug before the mid-17th century, but no artefacts were recovered from it to help refine its date.

4.2 *Significance of the Archaeological Remains*

Only two archaeological features were identified, one of which is post-medieval or modern, the other undated. Neither feature is indicative of settlement activity, and their archaeological interest is limited, pertaining to no more than the local area.



5. BIBLIOGRAPHY

CgMs 2013: *Heritage Statement: Land at Newborough, Peterborough, PE6 7QT*

CgMs 2016: *A Specification for an Archaeological Trial Trench Evaluation. Land at Newborough, Peterborough, PE6 7QT*

French, C. and Pryor, F. 1993: *The South-West Fen Dyke Survey Project 1982–86*, East Anglian Archaeology 59

GSB Prospection 2013: *Geophysical Survey Report G1307: Newborough, Peterborough*



6. APPENDIX 1: TRENCH SUMMARIES

Trench: 1
Length: 50m **Width: 1.8m** **Depth to archaeological horizon: Min. 0.68m Max. 0.73m**

Context	Type	Description
100	Ploughsoil	Friable dark brownish black peaty clay. 0.3m thick
101	Subsoil	Spongy mid reddish brown silty peat. 0.1m thick
102	Peat	Spongy dark greyish black peat. 0.3m thick
103	Fen clay	Firm light blue grey silty clay. Minimum 0.05m thick
104	Palaeosol	Friable mid brownish grey silty clay. Occasional twigs and organic material. Maximum 0.1m thick
105	Fen clay	Firm mid orange yellow clay, occasional gravel inclusions

Trench: 2
Length: 50m **Width: 1.8m** **Depth to archaeological horizon: Min. 0.66m Max. 0.78m**

Context	Type	Description
200	Ploughsoil	Friable dark brownish black peaty clay. 0.3m thick
201	Subsoil	Spongy mid reddish brown silty peat. 0.1m thick
202	Peat	Spongy dark greyish black peat. 0.3m thick
203	Fen clay	Firm light blue grey silty clay. Minimum 0.05m thick
204	Palaeosol	Friable mid brownish grey silty clay. Occasional twigs and organic material. Maximum 0.1m thick
205	Fen clay	Firm mid orange yellow clay, occasional gravel inclusions
206	Pit	Vertical sides, 2.7m long, >0.5m deep
207	Lower fill	Firm mid blue grey clay
208	Upper fill	Friable mid grey brown silty clay
209	Upper fill	Spongy dark greyish black silty peat

Trench: 3
Length: 50m **Width: 1.8m** **Depth to archaeological horizon: Min. 0.79m Max. 0.85m**

Context	Type	Description
300	Ploughsoil	Friable dark brownish black peaty clay. 0.35m thick
301	Peat	Spongy dark greyish black peat. 0.35m thick
302	Fen clay	Firm light blue grey silty clay
303	Fen clay	Firm mid orange yellow clay, occasional gravel inclusions

Trench: 4
Length: 50m **Width: 1.8m** **Depth to archaeological horizon: Min. 0.7m Max. 0.85m**

Context	Type	Description
400	Ploughsoil	Friable dark brownish black peaty clay. 0.3–0.4m thick
401	Peat	Spongy dark greyish black peat. 0.2m thick
402	Fen clay	Firm light blue grey silty clay
403	Fen clay	Firm mid orange yellow clay, occasional gravel inclusions

Trench: 5
Length: 50m **Width: 1.8m** **Depth to archaeological horizon: Min. 0.55m Max. 0.6m**

Context	Type	Description
500	Ploughsoil	Friable dark brownish black peaty clay. 0.3m thick
501	Peat	Spongy dark greyish black peat. 0.4m thick
502	Fen clay	Firm light blue grey silty clay
503	Ditch	Linear, N–S, concave sides, flat base. 1.6m wide, 0.21m deep
504	Fill	Firm dark brownish black peaty clay



7. APPENDIX 2: OASIS SUMMARY FORM

OASIS ID: albionar1-250107

Project details

Project name	Land at Newborough, Peterborough
Short description of the project	Trial trench evaluation on land between Soke Road, St. Martin's Road and Thorney Road at Newborough. Peat was found overlying fen clays. One modern pit was found dug through the peat, and one undated ditch that was sealed by it. No artefacts were recovered.
Project dates	Start: 10-05-2016 End: 12-05-2016
Previous/future work	No / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	NP2156 - Contracting Unit No.
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Current Land use	Cultivated Land 3 - Operations to a depth more than 0.25m
Monument type	DITCH Uncertain
Monument type	PIT Post Medieval
Methods & techniques	"Sample Trenches","Targeted Trenches"
Development type	Housing estate
Prompt	Planning condition
Position in the planning process	After full determination (e.g. As a condition)

Project location

Country	England
Site location	CAMBRIDGESHIRE PETERBOROUGH NEWBOROUGH Land at Newborough, Peterborough
Postcode	PE6 7QT
Study area	2.1 Hectares
Site coordinates	TF 201 061 52.638972586489 -0.224933386712 52 38 20 N 000 13 29 W Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 0.5m Max: 1m

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Albion Archaeology
Project brief originator	No Brief
Project design originator	Consultant - CGMS Consulting
Project director/manager	Gary Edmondson
Project	David Ingham



director/manager
 Project supervisor Slawomir Utrata
 Type of sponsor/funding body Developer
 Name of sponsor/funding body Jelson Ltd

Project archives
 Physical Archive Exists? No
 Digital Archive recipient Peterborough City Museum
 Digital Contents "Stratigraphic"
 Digital Media available "Database","GIS","Images raster / digital photography","Text"
 Paper Archive recipient Peterborough City Museum
 Paper Contents "Stratigraphic"
 Paper Media available "Context sheet","Drawing","Plan","Report","Section"

Project bibliography
 1

Publication type Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
 Title Land at Newborough, Peterborough, PE6 7QT: Archaeological Field Evaluation
 Author(s)/Editor(s) Ingham, D
 Other bibliographic details Report 2016/101
 Date 2016
 Issuer or publisher Albion Archaeology
 Place of issue or publication Bedford
 Description Ring-bound A4 colour unpublished document

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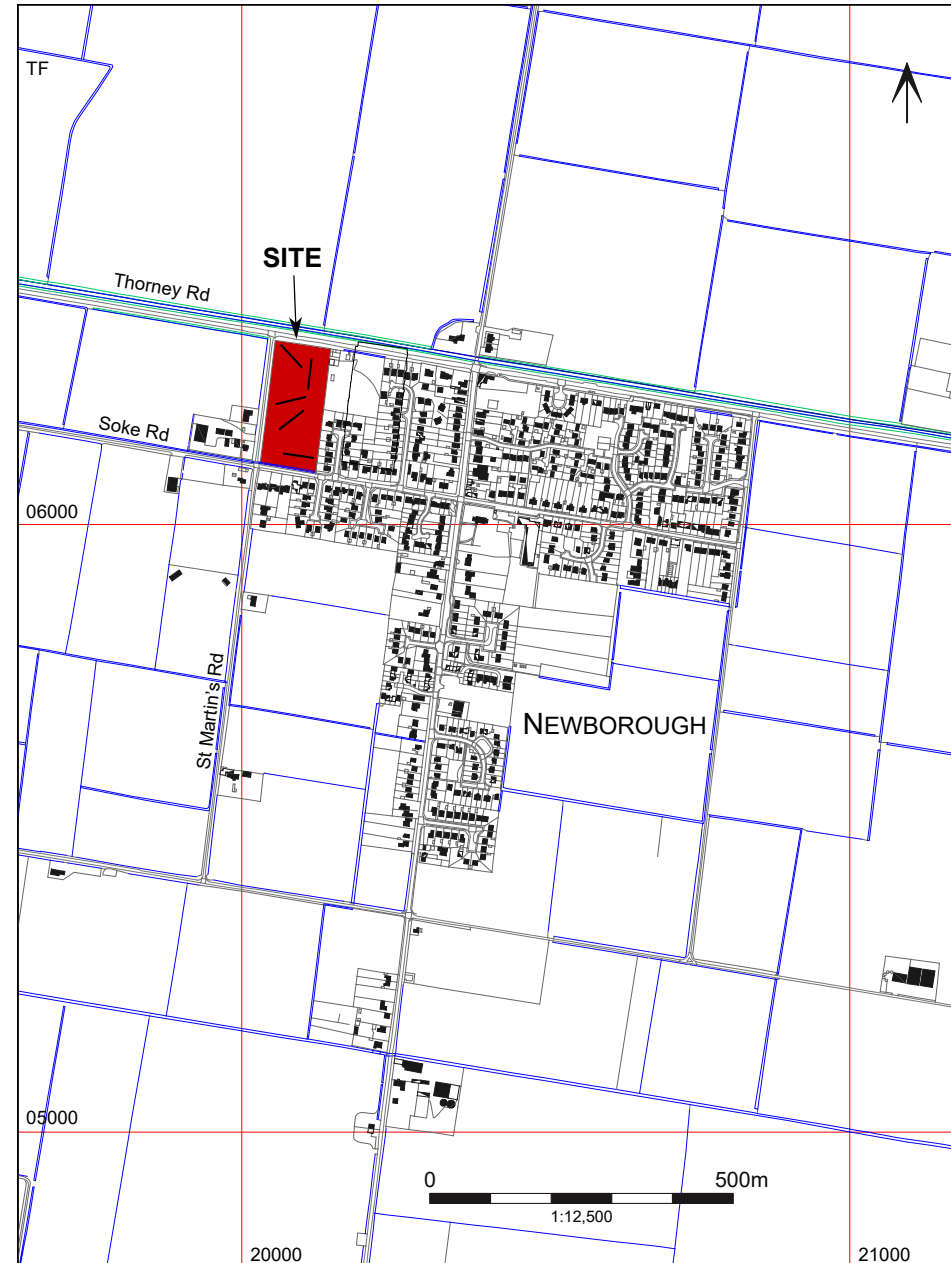
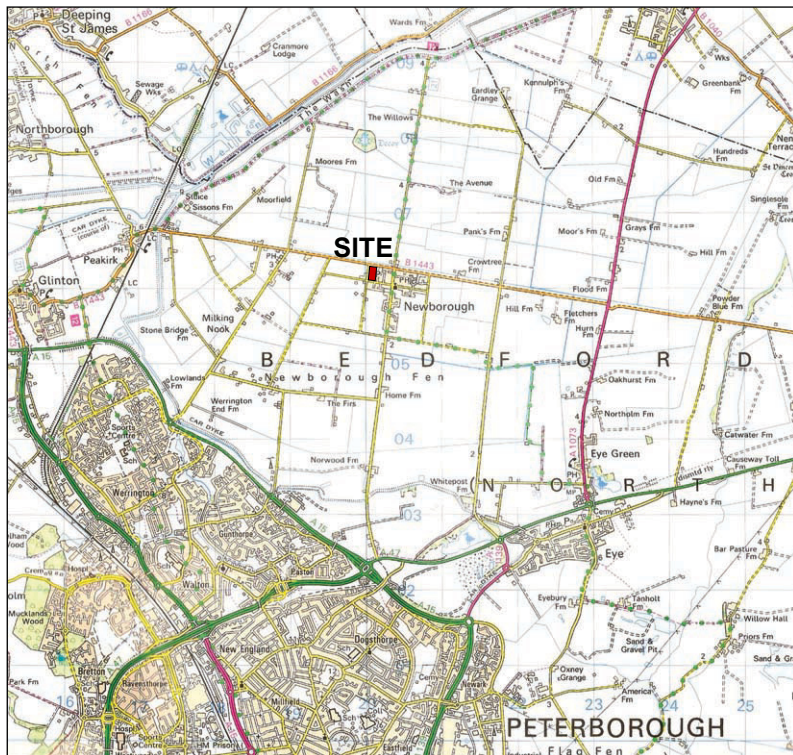
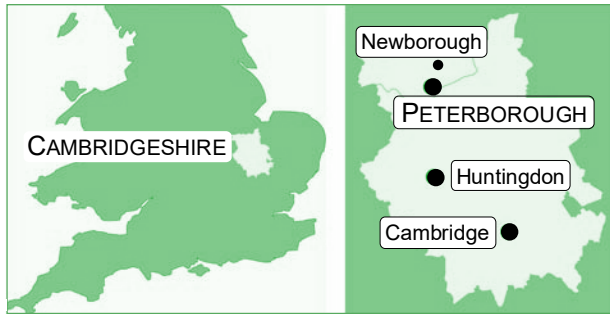


Figure 1: Site location plan

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*Land at Newborough, Peterborough, PE6 7QT:
Archaeological Trial Trench Evaluation*

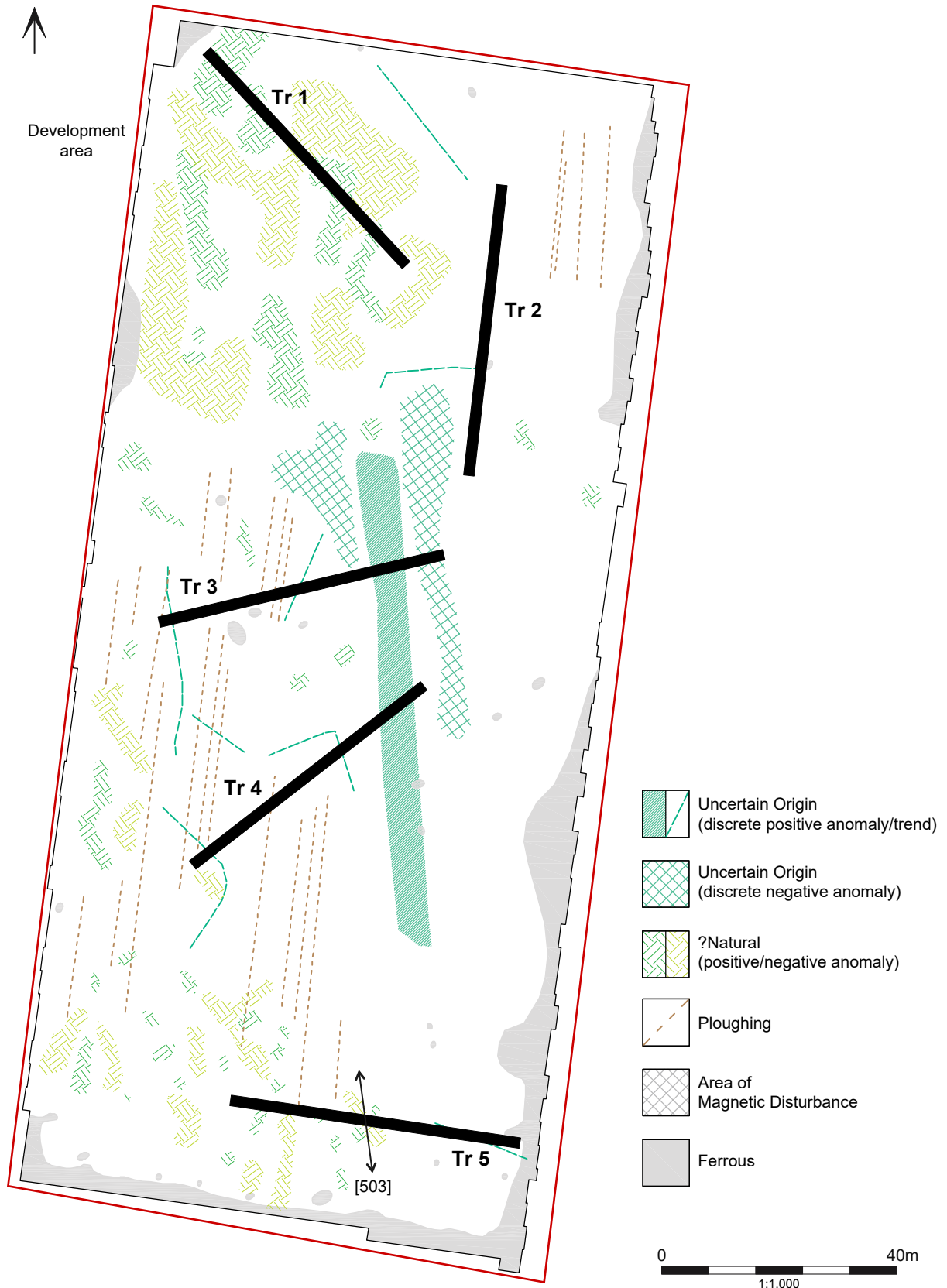
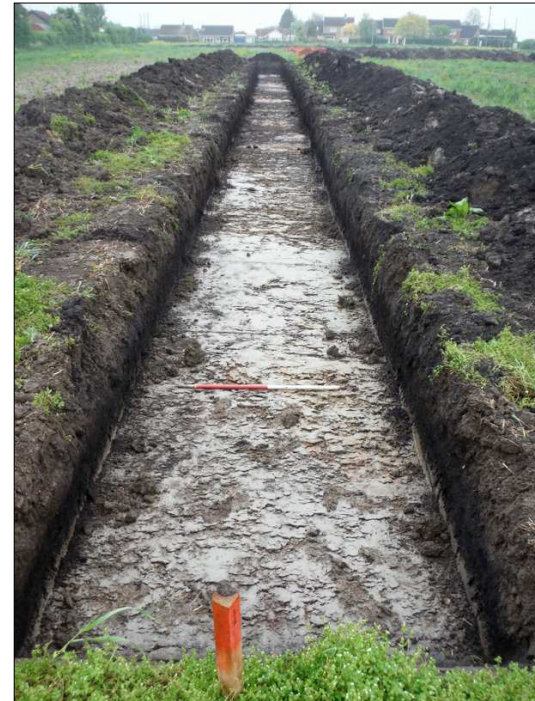


Figure 2: Trial trench plan overlain on interpretation of magnetometer survey (after GSB 2013)



Photograph 1: Trench 1, looking south-east.
Scale 1m



Photograph 2: Trench 2, looking south.
Scale 1m



Photograph 3: Trench 3, looking west.
Scale 1m



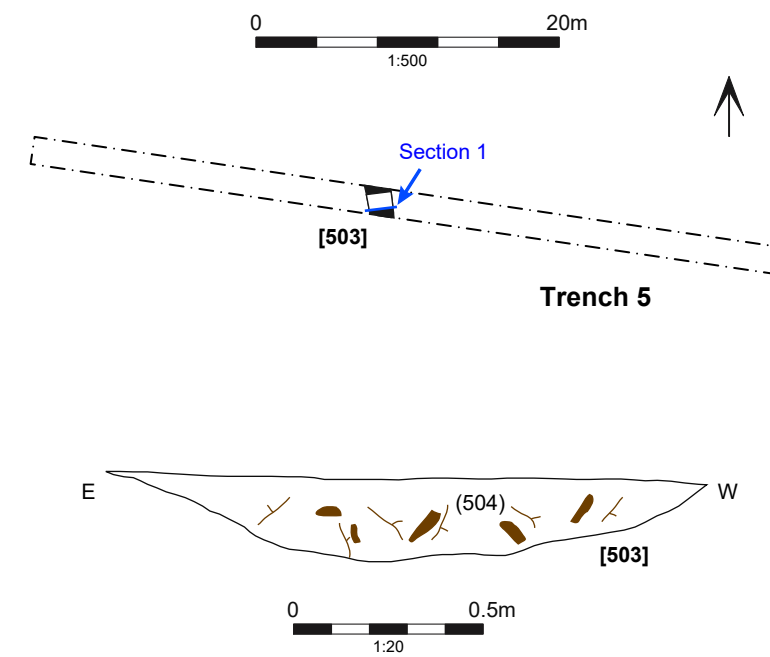
Photograph 4: Soil profile in Trench 3. Scale 1m



Photograph 5: Trench 4, looking south-west.
Scale 1m



Photograph 6: Periglacial features within Trench 4.
Scale 1m



Photograph 7: Pre-excavation view of channel [503]. Scale 1m

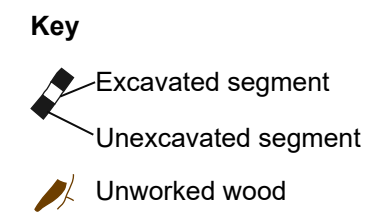


Figure 3: Detail of Trench 5 and selected photographs of other trenches

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