

**A507 RIDGMONT BYPASS  
AREAS 5, 6 AND 7**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELD EVALUATION**

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## Preface

*Every effort has been made in the preparation of this document to provide as complete an assessment as possible, within the terms of the specification. 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

After the introductory Section 1, the relevant results of the previous non-intrusive and intrusive surveys are summarised in Section 2. The results of the trial trenching are presented in Section 3. A synthesis of the results and their significance is presented in Section 4. Section 5 contains the bibliography. More detailed information on the recovered artefacts and the contextual data is presented as appendices (Section 6).



## Key Terms

Throughout this report the following terms or abbreviations are used:

Albion	Albion Archaeology (formerly Bedfordshire County Archaeology Service (BCAS))
Designer's Archaeologist	Scott Wilson Ltd
BCAO	Bedfordshire County Archaeological Officer
Client	Bedfordshire Highways
GPS	Global Positioning System
IFA	Institute of Field Archaeologists
<i>Procedures Manual</i>	<i>Procedures Manual Volume 1 Fieldwork, 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition 2001.</i> Albion Archaeology



## **Non-Technical Summary**

*This report presents the results of a trial trench investigation, commissioned as a condition of planning consent for the construction of the A507 Ridgmont Bypass and Mill Road improvement scheme.*

*The route of the bypass road corridor is parallel to the M1 motorway, north of Ridgmont village, extending from TL (4/2) 9666 2372 in the north-west to TL (4/2) 9828 2366 in the south-east. Associated road improvements will also be undertaken along Mill Road, south of the M1 motorway.*

*A combination of non-intrusive survey techniques had previously been undertaken along the bypass road corridor. Based on these results, an evaluation strategy was devised by Scott Wilson Ltd, which was approved by the Bedfordshire County Archaeological Officer.*

*Between 21<sup>st</sup> November and 4<sup>th</sup> December 2006 fifteen trial trenches were excavated in three defined locations, known as: Areas 5, 6 and 7. A further three trenches, situated to the western margin of the bypass road corridor, are still to be excavated once the land becomes available.*

*The trial trench excavation identified two zones of significant archaeological evidence, located on the crest and on the east-facing slope of the sandy ridge in Area 6. The Western focus of archaeology, contained early-middle Saxon (AD 400-850) features, characteristic of settlement, whilst the Eastern focus of archaeology, contained predominantly early-middle Iron Age remains (650-350 BC), also probably associated with settlement. These remains are of regional significance, which, if they cannot be protected from construction of the bypass, are likely to require archaeological investigation in advance of the commencement of development.*

*Other archaeological features of less significance relating to the medieval and post-medieval rural landscape were also found within Areas 6 and 7.*

*The site archive, which contains all records of the project (Project number RGT 1024), is currently held at St Mary's Church. It will eventually be transferred to Bedford Museum, under Accession Number BEDFM 2003/331.*

**It is essential that the above summary is read in conjunction with the main body of the report.**



## 1. INTRODUCTION

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### 1.1 *Planning Background*

Bedfordshire County Council has granted permission for the construction of the A507 Ridgmont Bypass. The scheme involves the construction of a bypass running parallel with the M1 motorway, together with road improvements on Mill Road.

A condition of the planning consent was for archaeological works to be carried out along the proposed route in order to assist in determining a mitigation strategy. The archaeological works aimed to determine the nature, survival and location of any archaeological remains impacted by the scheme through a combination of intrusive and non-intrusive survey. These comprised: geophysical survey (BCAS 2001, Pre-Construct Geophysics 2003 and 2006), desk-based assessment (Jacobs Babbie 2002), systematic surface artefact collection survey (Albion Archaeology 2003) and trial excavation (Albion Archaeology 2006a).

Albion Archaeology was commissioned by Bedfordshire Highways to undertake further trial trench excavation in three areas (Areas 5, 6 and 7). The project was undertaken in accordance with the methodology outlined by Scott Wilson Ltd (2006) and Albion Archaeology (2006b).

### 1.2 *Site Location and Description*

The bypass road corridor is located to the north of the village of Ridgmont, towards the south-west boundary of Bedfordshire. It extends from TL (4/2) 9666 2372 in the north-west to TL (4/2) 9828 2366 in the south-east (Fig. 1). This corridor is approximately 1.6km long, extending a minimum of 100m north of the M1 motorway. Areas 5 and 6 are located within the south-eastern half of the road corridor, whilst Area 7 is located near the western end adjacent to Ridgmont Station.

The topography of the site is variable with the highest ground in the south-east, where Area 6 is located at *c.*106m OD. The ground slopes steeply down to the centre of the bypass road corridor at *c.*87m OD.

The geology of the site is variable reflecting the topography. The predominant underlying geology is Oxford Clay, with bands of sand and gravel. On the sloping ground at the south-eastern end of the bypass road corridor, the geology changes to a thin band of Head deposit. At the eastern limit of the bypass road corridor, the high ground consists of an exposure of Woburn Sands Formation, with an area of Till immediately to the north.

### 1.3 *Archaeological Background*

Previously recorded archaeological evidence is present in the areas adjacent to the road scheme, with several sites identified within the road corridor. These date from the Mesolithic to the modern period. Recently, as part of the evaluation of the bypass route, a combination of non-intrusive and intrusive survey has also been undertaken (Albion Archaeology 2003 and 2006a; BCAS 2001; Pre-



Construct Geophysics 2003 and 2006; Jacobs Babbie 2002). The relevant results of this work are summarised in Section 2.

The earliest evidence comprises Mesolithic flint scatters recovered at the eastern end of the bypass road corridor in the vicinity of Area 6. This area was also a possible focus of activity in the Neolithic and Bronze Age periods, indicated by flint artefact scatters.

Roman activity has been identified at five locations along the road scheme, comprising both artefacts and archaeological features at its western end. The putative line of a Roman road runs to the west of Ridgmont Station.

Medieval dispersed settlement is known in this area, with settlements existing at Husbourne Crawley, Segenhoe, Brogborough and the possible site of a castle at Ridgmont. In the medieval period, much of the land around Ridgmont is thought to have been common open fields. The English Heritage 'Medieval Fields Project' in 1996 also identified medieval field traces at the western end of the bypass.

Modern activity in the area consists of two former brickwork sites at the western end of the bypass and Crawley Mill on the western side of Mill Road. Post-medieval field barns were recorded in the centre of the road scheme, one of which is marked on the 1891 1<sup>st</sup> Edition OS Map as two rectangular buildings forming an 'L' shape, together with a possible associated courtyard.

Crawley Mill appears on the 1760 Pre-Enclosure Map and 1891 1<sup>st</sup> Edition OS Map, showing associated leats, bypass channel and outbuildings. A painting by T. Fisher in 1810 depicts the north-eastern side of the watermill, showing several alterations to the mill building and the leat. This representation of the mill building reflects the layout illustrated on the 1760 map, implying that some of the information in the painting is reliable. It is recorded that in 1884 the mill pond was drained (BCC 1983), although no pond is obvious on the 1760 or 1891 maps.





## **2. PREVIOUS ARCHAEOLOGICAL WORK**

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### **2.1 Introduction**

A combination of non-intrusive and intrusive survey has previously been undertaken along the bypass road corridor. This has comprised geophysical survey (BCAS 2001, Pre-Construct Geophysics 2003 and 2006), desk-based assessment (Jacobs Babbie 2002), a programme of systematic surface artefact collection (Albion Archaeology 2003) and trial excavation (Albion Archaeology 2006a).

The most recent stage of geophysical survey (Pre-Construct Geophysics 2006) examined the central and eastern areas of the bypass corridor, identifying two areas (5 and 6) of archaeological potential. This survey revealed a variety of features which were of possible archaeological significance. The third area (7), adjacent to Ridgmont railway station, was the subject of geophysical survey by Pre-Construct Geophysics in 2003.

Area 6 is also within the area that was subject to systematic surface artefact collection (Albion Archaeology 2003) and more recently, to test pitting (Albion Archaeology 2006a).

The relevant results of the above work are summarised by area below.

### **2.2 Area 5**

#### **2.2.1 Geophysics**

The geophysical survey (Pre-Construct Geophysics 2006) (Figs. 2 – 3) recorded land drains and ephemeral linear features, interpreted as cultivation furrows within the area. Two parallel linear anomalies were identified and correlated with a field boundary marked on the 1891 1<sup>st</sup> Edition OS Map. A possible ditch and two possible pits were also identified.

### **2.3 Area 6**

#### **2.3.1 Surface Artefact Collection**

Surface artefact collection was undertaken along the bypass route in late October 2003 by Albion Archaeology. As well as post-medieval pottery and ceramic building material, four worked flints and a burnt flint were recovered from within or near to Area 6. This corresponds to the vicinity of a previously recorded flint scatter dating to the Mesolithic, Neolithic and Bronze Age. A single very small sherd of undiagnostic pottery was also recovered from Area 6. This may be medieval or earlier in date, though the very small size prevented definite identification.

#### **2.3.2 Test Pits**

Ten 2.0m x 2.0m test pits were excavated within Area 6 (Albion Archaeology 2006a) (Figs. 4, 5 and 8), with the aim of investigating the surface artefact scatters previously identified by Albion Archaeology in 2003. Only one test pit, Test Pit



22, contained archaeological features in the form of an undated pit and posthole. Test Pits 14, 15, 17, 18, 19, 20, 22 and 23 contained a mixture of pottery dating from the early-middle Iron Age to the late medieval period. Test Pits 14, 15, 17 and 23 contained eleven prehistoric worked flints.

### **2.3.3 Geophysics**

Magnetic anomalies of potential archaeological significance were recorded within Area 6 (Pre-Construct Geophysics 2006) (Figs. 2 and 4). Several possible ditches and pits were identified, including a curvilinear ditch interpreted as a sub-circular enclosure and a possible ring ditch.

A series of east-west aligned anomalies were identified as ridge and furrow, as well as the traces of two former boundaries recorded on the 1891 1<sup>st</sup> Edition OS Map.

## **2.4 Area 7**

### **2.4.1 Geophysics**

Geophysics was undertaken in this area in 2003 by Pre-Construct Geophysics, but other than two modern service pipes, no features were detected. However, recent aerial photographs indicate traces of north-east to south-west aligned ridge and furrow that have been revealed as a result of differential vegetation growth.



### 3. TRIAL TRENCHING

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#### 3.1 Introduction

The trenching strategy (Scott Wilson 2006) was devised by the Designer's Archaeologist in consultation with, and the approval of, the Bedfordshire County Archaeological Officer (BCAO). This strategy was supplemented by a method statement produced by Albion Archaeology (2006b). The trenching strategy targeted features detected by the previous geophysical surveys (Pre-Construct Geophysics 2003 and 2006), as well as taking into consideration the results of the previous trial trenching (Albion Archaeology 2006a). The evaluation was undertaken between 21<sup>st</sup> November and 4<sup>th</sup> December 2006. Three trenches situated to the western margin of the bypass road corridor are still to be opened (Trenches 1 to 3), though non-archaeological restrictions are currently preventing access to this area.

#### 3.2 Evaluation Objectives

The objectives of the trial trench investigation were:

- to establish the importance, nature, character and extent of the anomalies identified by previous geophysical survey;
- to determine the condition or state of preservation of any archaeological deposits or features encountered;
- to determine the range, quality and quantity of artefactual and environmental evidence present;
- to provide a factual and interpretative report on the archaeological remains identified in order to inform any necessary further archaeological mitigation design;
- to disseminate the results of the investigation through the deposition of an ordered archive at the appropriate local museum, and the deposition of the fieldwork report at the county Historic Environment Record.

#### 3.3 Method Statement

Throughout the project the standards set in the IFA *Standard and Guidance for Field Evaluation* (2001), Albion Archaeology's *Procedures Manual Vol. 1: fieldwork* (2001), the IFA *Code of Conduct* (2001) and English Heritage's *Management of Archaeological Projects* (1991) were adhered to.

The detailed trial trench excavation methodology was as follows:

- The trial trenches were set out using a differential GPS system to ensure accurate location;
- All machine excavation was supervised by an archaeologist and was undertaken using a mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless bucket;
- Cultivation soil and modern overburden were removed by machine down to the top of archaeological deposits, or undisturbed geological deposits, whichever was encountered first;



- The trenches were then cleaned by hand in order to define any archaeological features and deposits;
- Subsequently, each trench was recorded and photographed using digital format and black and white 35mm film where appropriate;
- Each trench was recorded using a unique number system. For example: Trench 105 was issued context numbers commencing at 10500;
- Recording took place on pro-forma sheets in accordance with the Albion Archaeology *Procedures Manual* (2001);
- Backfilling of the trial trenches only occurred after the Designer's Archaeologist and BCAO had inspected them.

All archaeological deposits and features (known as 'contexts') were assigned an individual number. Within this report, numbers in brackets refer to these context numbers. Cut features (*i.e.* pits, ditches *etc.*) are expressed [\*\*\*], layers and deposits within cut features are expressed (\*\*\*)). Detailed descriptions of all the contexts are contained within Appendix 2.

### **3.4 Area 5 Results**

Two trial trenches (101 and 102) were excavated towards the middle of the route of the bypass, adjacent to the M1 bridleway over-bridge (Figs.1-3). The trenches were designed to target two possible linear features identified by the geophysical survey (Pre-Construct Geophysics 2006) (Fig. 2 and 3).

Trench 101 was subsequently relocated 4 metres to the south-west of its original location in order to avoid a bridleway. This bridleway appears to correspond with the targeted geophysical anomaly and follows a similar course to a boundary depicted on the 1891 1st Edition OS Map.

No archaeological features or deposits were present in these trenches.

#### **3.4.1 Soils and geological deposits**

The overburden was consistent in colour and composition throughout the two trenches, and was between 0.82m and 0.94m thick. The upper deposit was homogenous ploughsoil between 0.29m and 0.53m thick.

The ploughsoil sealed a deposit that consisted of a plastic mid yellow-brown silty clay (10101/10201), ranging between 0.49m thick in Trench 102 and 0.65m thick at the north end of Trench 101 (Fig. 3). The relative lack of inclusions, suggest this is an alluvial deposit formed within the shallow valley.

The trenches were excavated down to the light yellow brown clay undisturbed geological strata, at a depth of 0.82m to 0.94m below the present ground level.

### **3.5 Area 6 Results**

A total of twelve trial trenches (103–113 and 115) were excavated in Area 6, centred on the sandy ridge at the eastern end of the route of the bypass (Figs. 1 and 4). A further trench, Trench 114, was originally located in Area 6, but was removed when Scott Wilson revised the trenching strategy, prior to commencement of work.



Following consultation with the Designer's Archaeologist and BCAO, Trenches 104, 107 and 108 were enlarged in order to better characterise the archaeological deposits. It was agreed that features in these enlarged areas would not require excavation but recording in plan would be sufficient.

Two distinct concentrations of archaeology were revealed: a Western focus, centred on Trenches 107 and 108, which contained features associated with Saxon activity; and an Eastern focus, centred on Trenches 104, 105 and 110, which contained features associated with early-middle Iron Age activity. Elements of the medieval and post-medieval landscape were also revealed in Trenches 106, 108, 109 and 113. Trenches 103, 111, 112 and 115 contained no archaeological features or deposits.

### 3.5.1 Soils and geological deposits

The overburden was consistent in colour and composition throughout these trenches, and varied in thickness between 0.30m at the top of the ridge to 0.71m at the bottom. The uppermost layer in each trench was a homogenous cultivation soil resulting from recent daffodil bedding trenches. This layer varied between 0.19m thick on the top of the ridge and 0.45m thick at the bottom. Beneath the cultivation soil was a homogenous subsoil varying between 0.11m and 0.46m thick. A single worked flint was recovered from cultivation layer (10400) in Trench 104.

Undisturbed geological strata were reached at depths of 0.30m - 0.71m below the ground surface, dependent on the slope of the land. These deposits predominantly consisted of Woburn Sands Formation and were located on the upper parts of the ridge (Trenches 103-105, 107-111, 113 and 115). On the lower slopes in Trenches 106 and 112, clay with bands of sandy gravel was present. Variations in the undisturbed geological strata probably account for some of the recorded geophysical anomalies, such as the anomalies seen in Trench 112 and the ferrous anomaly, visible on Fig. 4 as a white patch, in the north end of Trench 113.

### 3.5.2 Western focus of archaeology – early-middle Saxon activity (Trenches 107 and 108)

These trenches were targeting two large geophysical anomalies interpreted as pit-like features (henceforth referred to as anomaly A) and a linear anomaly interpreted as a ditch (henceforth referred to as anomaly B). A total of ten pits (several of them intercutting), three ditches, two postholes and a furrow were revealed in the two trenches (see Table 1; Figs. 4-7 and Appendix 3). The small amount of pottery recovered from two of the stratigraphically late features, suggest this may be a focus for early-middle Saxon activity. Situated on the crest of the sandy ridge, the overburden sealing the features was relatively shallow at 0.30m.

	Posthole	Pit	Ditch	Furrow	Tree throw / rooting
Trench 107	-	7	3	-	1
Trench 108	2	3	-	1	1

**Table 1:** Features revealed within Area 6; Western focus



### 3.5.2.1 Intercutting pits and ditches within Trench 107

A series of intercutting pits were revealed in Trench 107 (see Appendix 3 for matrix). This area of intercutting pits correlates with anomaly A (Fig. 5 and Fig. 6). The earliest feature stratigraphically, [10724], was only revealed in section due to truncation by later pits [10720] and [10728] (Fig. 5, Section 1; Fig. 6, Photo 1). It could not be fully excavated due to the confines of the trench, but measured at least 1.16m across and at least 0.72m deep, with three visible fills. The lower fill (10727) consisted of a loose, dark brown-grey silty sand and was overlain by a markedly different fill (10726), consisting of a dark brown-orange sandy silt. The uppermost fill (10725) consisted of mid red-brown silty sand. As this feature did not extend further into Trench 107 or Trench 108, it has been interpreted as a pit. Pits [10720] and [10728] were smaller; both contained several fills. The lower fill of [10720] consisted of a brown-grey silty clay with occasional charcoal flecking, whereas the upper fills consisted of re-deposited silty sand.

Pit [10720] was truncated by ditch [10710/10716], aligned north-west to south-east, measuring up to 2.66m wide and 0.6m deep. This ditch also truncated a larger sub-circular pit [10733], measuring up to 5.5m across.

Stratigraphically later than the above features, were pits [10706] and [10704/10714] (Fig. 5, Section 2). Pit [10706] was only partially visible due to truncation by pit [10704/10714], but would appear to have been up to 0.5m deep and 2.65m wide, with a slightly concave base. It contained a single fill, comprised of brown-grey clay silt (10705) which contained two large unabraded early-middle Saxon pottery sherds. The fill contrasted strongly with the geological deposits into which the pit was cut, suggesting it had been deliberately backfilled from a separate source over a short period of time.

Pit [10704/10714] was sub-rectangular in plan with a shallow, concave profile and appears to have been truncated by the modern daffodil bedding trenches. It measured up to 2.5m wide and 0.37m deep, with a single fill (10703) comprised of light yellow-grey silty sand. This fill contained a representative domestic assemblage, including an early-middle Saxon pottery sherd, animal bone and a prehistoric worked flint.

Two further ditches [10735] and [10739] may form part of an enclosure. Ditch [10735] appeared to be truncated by pit [10704/10714]. It was orientated north-east to south-west and was joined by perpendicular ditch [10739], possibly forming two sides of an enclosure. The ditches measured between 0.85m and 1.25m wide and were filled by brown silty sand with frequent small stones.

The latest feature stratigraphically within the above sequence was a sub-circular pit [10713]. It truncated pit [10706] and pit [10704/10714], and had markedly different fills, consisting of light grey silty sands (Fig. 5, Section 2).

Several sherds of early-middle Saxon pottery, recovered from previously excavated Test Pit 14 (Fig. 5) corroborate the Saxon date for the activity in this location. No Saxon pottery was recovered from Test Pit 15.



### 3.5.2.2 Pits and postholes in Trench 108

Three pits were revealed in Trench 108. Pits [10807] and [10813] were irregular in shape and measured between 1m and 2.1m across. Pit [10807] appeared to truncate pit [10813], though both contained similar fills to the possible enclosure ditches [10735] and [10739] in Trench 107. A large pit [10809] was only partially revealed, but measured at least 4.10m across and appeared to be sub-rectangular in plan (Fig. 7, Photo 3). It is possible that this was a Sunken Feature Building (SFB). In close proximity to these features, were two small sub-circular features [10815] and [10817], measuring up to 0.75m and 0.4m across respectively. The size of the two features suggests they may be postholes rather than pits. Both were filled by dark brown silty sand with frequent charcoal flecks.

### 3.5.2.3 Furrow

Located further to the south-east was a south-west to north-east orientated furrow [10805] (Fig. 5, Section 3), in the vicinity of geophysical anomaly B. Rather than being a ditch, the latter appears to be one of a series of linear anomalies, resulting from medieval cultivation.

### 3.5.3 Eastern focus of archaeology – Iron Age activity (Trenches 104, 105 and 110)

These trenches targeted a series of geophysical anomalies, henceforth referred to as anomalies C – F (Fig. 8). These comprised curvilinear anomaly C interpreted as an enclosure, a long linear anomaly D interpreted as a ditch, an area of discrete anomalies E interpreted as pit-like features or sites of burning, and a short linear anomaly F. A total of three pits, four ditches and two possible postholes were revealed in the three trenches (Table 2 and Figs. 8-9). The pottery recovered from three of these features dates to the early-middle Iron Age. Evidence of later activity is indicated by a mid-late 1<sup>st</sup> century brooch recovered from the upper fill of the enclosure ditch. In addition, two sherds of early-middle Iron Age pottery were recovered from Test Pit 19, located to the south of Trench 105.

Being located lower down the slope of the sandy ridge, the overburden was slightly thicker in these trenches than in the trenches of the Western focus. The overburden, measuring at least 0.40m thick, was derived from a combination of cultivation soil from the raised daffodil beds and colluvium.

	Posthole	Pit	Ditch
Trench 104	-	3	-
Trench 105	-	-	3
Trench 110	2	-	1

**Table 2:** Features revealed within Area 6; Eastern focus

#### 3.5.3.1 Early-middle Iron Age pits (Trench 104)

Two sub-circular pits [10403] and [10407] measuring at least 1.8m across and a larger more amorphous pit like feature [10405] were revealed.

Pit [10403] had a shallow concave profile, at least 1.80m across and c.0.15m deep (Fig. 8, Section 5). It contained mid orange brown, silty sand (10404). Four early-middle Iron Age potsherds from more than one vessel were recovered from



this deposit. Pit [10407] was not excavated, but the visible fill consisted of dark grey brown silty sand (10408), characterised by frequent large burnt stones and occasional charcoal flecking. Pit [10403] corresponds with one of the discrete anomalies in the area of pit-like anomalies E, whilst the location of pit [10407] suggests it may account for the short linear anomaly F (see Fig. 8).

Larger pit [10405] measured at least 3m across and only 0.27m deep. It contained three fills, with the secondary fill (10406) containing 59 sherds of early-middle Iron Age pottery, including 54 large unabraded sherds from the same vessel. Pit [10405] was not detected by the geophysical survey, though it is in the location of linear anomaly D. This anomaly interpreted as a ditch, was not revealed in Trench 104 or Trench 105.

### **3.5.3.2 Enclosure – Trench 105**

Ditches [10503] and [10505] form part of a curvilinear enclosure measuring approximately 18m across as detected by geophysical survey (anomaly C on Fig. 8). Ditch [10503] had a U-shaped profile with steeply sloping concave sides, 0.75m wide and 0.37m deep (Fig. 8, Section 4; Fig. 9, Photo 5). It was filled by a single deposit, a friable mid grey brown sandy silt (10504). Although the excavated deposit did not contain any pottery, it did contain near the top of the deposit, a fragment of a copper alloy brooch (Registered Artefact 1) dating to the mid to late 1st century AD. Ditch [10505] was not excavated, but was wider and filled with a similar deposit.

A further ditch [10507] was revealed to the south of ditch [10503]. It was of a similar width to [10503] and contained a similar mid grey brown sandy silt (10508), suggesting it is of a similar date and possibly associated with the enclosure.

### **3.5.3.3 Early-middle Iron Age ditch and postholes – Trench 110**

An east-west orientated ditch [11005], measuring 1m wide and 0.23m deep, was revealed within Trench 110 (Fig. 8, Section 6; Fig. 9, Photo 4). Though it contained no dating evidence, it was located immediately adjacent to sub-circular posthole [11003] which had a similar fill of grey-brown sandy silt and contained 13 early-middle Iron Age pottery sherds from three separate vessels. The fill of the posthole also contained four moderate sized stones, interpreted as possible packing for a timber post. It had steeply sloping concave sides and rounded base, measuring 0.47m across and 0.33m deep. A further similar, unexcavated posthole [11007] was located immediately adjacent to posthole [11003] (Fig. 8, Section 6; Fig. 9, Photo 4).

Previously excavated Test Pit 22, located to the north of Trench 110, contained an undated pit and posthole. However, the similarity of their fills to the fills of the features in Trench 110, suggests the possibility that they too are early-middle Iron Age in date.

### **3.5.4 Medieval and post-medieval remains (within Trenches 106, 108, 109 and 113)**

Though no discrete, medieval or post-medieval features were revealed, elements of the medieval and post-medieval rural landscape were identified (Fig. 10).





Medieval furrows, orientated east to west, are clearly visible in the geophysical survey. These were revealed archaeologically in Trench 108 as [10805] and Trench 109 as [10903] (Fig. 10, Section 8).

A boundary ditch [10603] orientated north to south was revealed within Trench 106 (Fig. 10, Section 7). It contained no finds, but corresponds to a boundary marked on the 1891 1<sup>st</sup> Edition OS map and a linear geophysical anomaly. It appears to be respected by the ridge and furrow, indicating that a boundary in this location was in existence at least by the medieval period.

A series of sub-circular features [11303], [11305], [11307] and [11309], caused by vegetation disturbance were revealed in Trench 113. These were characterised by a fill consisting of friable red-brown silty sand with frequent stones. These features appear to account for a discrete ferrous anomaly and a linear trend of pit-like features identified by the geophysical survey. They may relate to a relict hedge line or boundary, orientated north-north-west to south-south-east. Its relationship with the anomalies interpreted as furrows is not clear, though it does not appear to be respected by them.

### **3.6 Area 7 Results**

A single trench (Trench 116) was excavated near the western end of the road corridor adjacent to Ridgmont Station (Fig. 11). Its purpose was to determine if archaeological deposits survived below the medieval ridge and furrow cultivation visible on aerial photographs. These earthworks, levelled in recent times, are no longer visible on the surface.

#### **3.6.1 Soils and geological deposits**

A thin homogenous ploughsoil (11600), 0.33m thick, sealed a thin subsoil (11601), 0.12m thick. The trench was excavated down to the undisturbed geological strata, which consisted of light blue grey clay, at 79.44m OD.

#### **3.6.2 Ridge and furrow**

Three shallow furrows [11607] were revealed within the trench, orientated north-west to south-east (Fig. 11 and Section 9). They follow the pattern of ridge and furrow visible on aerial photographs. The extent of the ridges relative to the furrows suggests the size of the ridges has been reduced by later truncation.

No other archaeological features were revealed, but evidence of earlier root disturbance [11603] was preserved beneath the ridge and furrow.



## 4. SYNTHESIS

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### 4.1 Discussion

The trial trench investigation has identified two zones of significant archaeological evidence, located on the crest and on the east-facing slope of the sandy ridge in Area 6. The first zone, the Western focus of archaeology, contained evidence for early-middle Saxon activity, whilst the second zone, the Eastern focus of archaeology, contained evidence for Iron Age activity. Other archaeological features of less significance were also found within Areas 6 and 7. The trenches in Area 5 revealed alluvial deposits that had formed within the shallow valley.

#### 4.1.1 Western focus of archaeology: early-middle Saxon activity

Ten pits, three ditches and two postholes were revealed in two trenches located on the crest of the Woburn Sands Formation within Area 6. It is possible that the large sub-rectangular pit [10809] could be a Sunken Feature Building (SFB) which is often associated with Saxon settlement. Large sherds of unabraded early-middle Saxon pottery were recovered from two of these features in Trench 107. Whilst only two stratigraphically late features within a sequence of twelve intercutting pits and ditches contained pottery, the clustering suggests that the majority of these features are Saxon in date.

Several sherds of early-middle Saxon pottery, recovered from previously excavated Test Pit 14 (Fig. 5) corroborate the Saxon date for the activity in this location. No Saxon pottery was recovered from the adjacent Test Pit (15).

Pit [10704/10714] contained a representative domestic assemblage, including an early-middle Saxon pottery sherd and animal bone, while the unabraded pottery sherds in pit [10706] indicate localised deposition. This, together with the fact that the majority of features are pits rather than ditches, suggests that they are associated with settlement activity.

In addition, two of the ditches, [10735] and [10739], possibly form two sides of a small enclosure.

The overburden sealing the features in this area, at 0.30m thick, was very shallow. The level of preservation of the features is good, although the shallow nature of the overburden makes the underlying archaeology vulnerable to damage. Any removal of overburden in this area could have a significant damaging impact on the archaeological remains.

#### 4.1.2 Eastern focus of archaeology: Iron Age activity

A total of four ditches, three pits and two postholes were revealed within three trenches located on the east-facing slope of the sandy ridge in Area 6. Two of the ditches, [10503] and [10505], form part of a curvilinear enclosure previously detected by geophysical survey, whilst a third ditch [10507] also appears to be associated.



Although the overburden is fairly shallow in places, it is generally thicker than in the Western focus, making any archaeological remains less vulnerable to damage by development. Any activity relating to construction of the road could have a significant and damaging impact on the buried remains. The risk of damage would be accentuated by removal of overburden, by reducing the thickness of the protective covering.

Pottery was recovered from three of the features and all dates to the early-middle Iron Age. However, a brooch recovered from the top of the enclosure ditch fill, indicates that activity in the vicinity continued through to the late Iron Age, though probably at a less intense level.

Of pits [10405] and [10407], only [10405] contained pottery, dating it to the early-middle Iron Age. However, both pits contained frequent medium to large sized burnt stones and charcoal flecks. This, together with the amount of pottery (and its unabraded condition), suggests both features are likely to be of a similar date and associated with settlement activity.

The proximity and nature of the undated pit and posthole, identified previously in Test Pit 22, suggests they too may date to the Iron Age period.

Early-middle Iron Age activity, including a probable settlement (Albion Archaeology 2006a and forthcoming), has also recently been discovered on the clay geology approximately 1km to the west. This indicates substantial early-middle Iron Age activity in the area, extending from between the sandy ridge of Area 6 and the clay soils to the west.

#### **4.1.3 Medieval and post-medieval remains**

A small number of features of less significance, relating to the medieval and post-medieval rural landscape, were revealed in Areas 6 and 7.

Remains of ridge and furrow cultivation were detected by the geophysical survey in Area 6. This was confirmed archaeologically by revealing the remains of furrows in Trenches 108 and 109. Ridge and furrow cultivation was also identified from aerial photographs in Area 7 and revealed within Trench 116.

The ridge and furrow in Area 6 appeared to respect a boundary detected by the geophysical survey and revealed in Trench 106. The boundary is depicted on the 1891 1<sup>st</sup> Edition OS map, but its relationship with the ridge and furrow indicates it originates much earlier. Features caused by vegetation disturbance in Trench 113 also appear to represent a probable boundary, though its relationship with the ridge and furrow is unclear.

#### **4.1.4 Evidence from other trenches**

No archaeological features or deposits were contained within Trenches 101, 102, 111, 112 and 115. However, Trenches 101 and 102 in Area 5 revealed a thick alluvial deposit that had formed within the shallow valley.



## 4.2 Summary of Significance

The evaluation has clarified the results of the geophysical survey, confirming some of the results – such as the presence of the curvilinear ditch C – whilst some of the other geophysical anomalies correspond to variations in the underlying geological strata.

The evaluation identified two distinct areas of significant archaeological evidence located on the ridge of Woburn Sands at the eastern end of the road corridor. Saxon features were revealed on the crest of the ridge, whilst Iron Age remains were located on the east-facing slope. The evidence suggests that both are related to settlement activity.

Any Saxon settlement remains in this area are of regional significance. The nature and structure of early and middle Saxon settlements are important themes requiring further research (Oake, forthcoming) and Brown and Glazebrook (2000). Similarly, little detailed work has been carried out on the characterisation of rural settlements in the Iron Age (Oake, forthcoming). The early-middle Iron Age settlement and nearby penannular ditch identified in Areas 2 and 3 further to the west (Albion Archaeology 2006a and forthcoming), together with the current evidence, illustrate an early-middle Iron Age landscape stretching from the Woburn Sands ridge at the eastern end of the road corridor to the clay soils situated in the western half of the road corridor. The location and distribution of sites in understanding Iron Age landscapes has been identified as an important area of research (English Heritage 1997; Brown and Glazebrook 2000; Champion *et al* 2001).

Both of these areas of significant archaeological evidence are beyond the cutting for the road, though the Iron Age activity is in close proximity to both the road and an access route to the construction site. The Saxon activity is bisected by a proposed diversion to the bridleway, though the details of construction of this are still to be finalised. If these areas can be excluded from the development and associated enabling works, it should be possible to devise a strategy to preserve them *in situ*. Otherwise a programme of archaeological investigation in advance of development will be required.

In addition, though of less significance, remains of the medieval and post-medieval landscape were revealed within Areas 6 and 7, comprising field boundaries and ridge and furrow. These are likely to be of local significance.



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## 6. APPENDICES

### 6.1 Appendix 1: Artefact Summary

The evaluation produced a small finds assemblage comprising mainly pottery. The material was scanned to ascertain its nature, condition and, where possible, date range. Artefacts were only recovered from four trenches, three of which are situated within the Eastern focus (Table 3).

	Trench	Feature	Feature type	Context	Spot date*	Pottery	Other finds
<b>E Focus</b>	<b>104</b>	10400	Topsoil	10400	-		Worked flint (3g)
		10403	Pit	10404	E-M Iron Age	4:109	
		10405	Pit	10406	E-M Iron Age	59:1576	Burnt stone (86g), worked flint (1g) Brooch fragment (RA 1)
	<b>105</b>	10503	Ditch	10504	1st century AD		
	<b>110</b>	11003	Posthole	11004	E-M Iron Age	13:81	
<b>W Focus</b>	<b>107</b>	10704	Pit	10703	E-M Saxon	1:21	Animal bone (15g), worked flint (4g)
		10706	Pit	10705	E-M Saxon	2:82	
						<b>Total</b>	<b>79:1869</b>

\* - spot date based on date of latest artefact in context E-M Iron Age – early to middle Iron Age  
(sherd count : weight in grammes)

**Table 3: Artefact summary by trench and feature**

#### 6.1.1 Pottery

Seventy-nine pottery sherds, weighing 1.8kg were recovered. These were examined by context and quantified using minimum sherd count and weight. Sherds are fairly small (average weight 23g) although not particularly abraded. Six fabric types were identified using common names and type codes in accordance with the Bedfordshire Ceramic Type Series, currently held by Albion Archaeology. Fabrics are listed below (Table 4) in chronological order.

Fabric type	Common name	Sherd No.	Context/Sherd No.
<i>Early to Middle Iron Age</i>			
Type F19	Sand and organic	5	(10406):2, (11004):3
Type F28	Fine sand	10	(10404):2, (10406):2, (11004):6
Type F29	Coarse sand	59	(10404):1, (10406):54, (11004):4
Type F35	Micaceous	2	(10404):1, (10406):1
<i>Early to Middle Saxon</i>			
Type A16	Coarse sand	2	(10705):2
Type A19	Sand and organic	1	(10703):1

**Table 4: Pottery type series**

#### **Eastern focus: Iron Age**

Seventy-six hand made sherds (1.7kg) of early to middle Iron Age date (c. 650-350 BC) were recovered from pits [10403], [10405], and posthole [11003]. Fabric types are mainly sand tempered, commonly occurring during this period throughout the county and likely to be of local manufacture. Diagnostic elements comprise a round shouldered jar, a number of flat, everted and upright rim sherds and a flat base. One sherd has scored or incised decoration.

***Western focus: Saxon***

Two well-fired, hand made sand tempered sherds and a sand/organic sherd (103g) of early to middle Saxon date (*c.* AD 400-850) were recovered from the fills of pit [10704] and pit [10706]. The sherds have oxidised exterior surfaces and reduced interiors, and range between 8-12mm in thickness.

**6.1.2 Other finds**

Three residual worked flints weighing 8g were collected from the Eastern focus. Single flakes derived from Iron Age pit [10405] and Saxon pit [10704], and an unstratified example from Trench 104.

A copper alloy brooch fragment (Registered Artefact 1) derived from the fill of ditch [10503]. The object comprises a bow fragment and iron hinged pin, and is probably datable to the mid-later 1st century AD.

**6.1.3 Animal bone**

Seven abraded rib fragments (15g) were recovered from the fill of Saxon pit [10704].



## **6.2 Appendix 2: Trial Trench Summary**





**Trench:** 101

**Max Dimensions:** Length: 11.99 m. Width: 4.00 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.82 m. Max: 0.94 m.

**Co-ordinates:** OS Grid Ref.: TL4976023694

OS Grid Ref.: TL4976223692

**Reason:** To investigate linear geophysical anomaly.

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
10100	Ploughsoil	Plastic dark grey brown silty clay frequent small sand, occasional small stones . Ploughsoil is 0.29m thick.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
10101	Alluvium	Plastic mid yellow brown silty clay occasional medium stones 0.65m thick.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
10102	Natural	Plastic light yellow brown clay	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>



**Trench:** 102

**Max Dimensions:** Length: 19.99 m. Width: 3.99 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.87 m. Max: 0.87 m.

**Co-ordinates:** OS Grid Ref.: TL4975723689

OS Grid Ref.: TL4975723687

**Reason:** To investigate linear geophysical anomaly.

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
10200	Ploughsoil	Plastic dark grey brown silty clay frequent small sand . Ploughsoil is 0.37m - 0.53m thick.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
10201	Alluvium	Plastic mid yellow brown silty clay occasional medium stones 0.34m - 0.49m thick.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
10202	Natural	Plastic light yellow brown clay	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>



**Trench: 103**

**Max Dimensions: Length: 11.49 m. Width: 4.03 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.5 m. Max: 0.7 m.**

**Co-ordinates: OS Grid Ref.: TL4982823676**

**OS Grid Ref.: TL4982823674**

**Reason: To investigate geophysical anomalies.**

<b>Context:</b>	<b>Type:</b>	<b>Description:</b>	<b>Excavated:</b>	<b>Finds Present:</b>
10300	Topsoil	Friable dark grey brown silty sand occasional medium stones . Frequent rooting. Topsoil derived from recent raised daffodil beds, 0.27m thick.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
10301	Subsoil	Friable mid grey brown silty sand moderate medium stones . Subsoil is 0.33m thick.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
10302	Natural	Friable mid yellow brown sand	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>



**Trench: 104**

**Max Dimensions: Length: 49.99 m. Width: 1.90 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.3 m. Max: 0.4 m.**

**Co-ordinates: OS Grid Ref.: TL4981823670**

**OS Grid Ref.: TL4982123666**

**Reason: To investigate geophysical anomalies, including anomalies D, E and F.**

<b>Context:</b>	<b>Type:</b>	<b>Description:</b>	<b>Excavated:</b>	<b>Finds Present:</b>
10400	Topsoil	Friable dark grey brown silty sand . Frequent root action and daffodil bulbs. Topsoil derived from recent raised daffodil beds, 0.21m thick. A prehistoric flint flake was recovered.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
10402	Natural	Friable mid orange brown sand occasional flecks manganese staining, occasional small-medium stones	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
10403	Pit	Curving linear NE-SW profile: convex base: uneven dimensions: max breadth 1.8m, max depth 0.15m	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
10404	Fill	Friable dark orange brown silty sand frequent medium stones . Deposit is 0.15m thick. Contained medium sized early - mid Iron Age potsherds from three different vessels.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
10405	Pit	Profile: convex dimensions: min breadth 2.98m, min depth 0.27m, min length 6.6m . Partially excavated. Only partially visible within confines of trench.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
10406	Secondary fill	Friable dark grey brown silty sand frequent medium burnt stones, moderate flecks charcoal, moderate small fired clay, moderate medium stones . Deposit contained a discarded burnt micaceous sandstone, a worked flint and early - middle Iron Age pottery fragments from three different vessels. 54 large, unbraded sherds came from a single vessel.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
10411	Tertiary fill	Friable mid grey brown silty sand moderate medium stones	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
10412	Primary fill	Friable mid grey brown silty sand moderate small charcoal	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
10407	Pit	Sub-circular E-W dimensions: max breadth 0.51m, min length 1.6m	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
10408	Fill	Friable dark grey brown sandy silt frequent large burnt stones, occasional flecks charcoal, moderate small-medium stones	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
10409	Furrow	Linear E-W profile: concave base: flat dimensions: max breadth 0.73m, max depth 0.25m, min length 1.6m . Series of furrows visible in section associated with recent raised daffodil beds.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
10401	Fill	Friable mid orange brown silty sand Frequent root action.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
10410	Subsoil	Friable mid grey brown silty sand moderate medium stones . Subsoil is 0.21m thick.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
10413	Natural	Friable light yellow brown silty sand	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>



**Trench: 105**

**Max Dimensions: Length: 30.43 m. Width: 1.97 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.52 m. Max: 0.66 m.**

**Co-ordinates: OS Grid Ref.: TL4982223670**

**OS Grid Ref.: TL4982323667**

**Reason: To investigate curvilinear geophysical anomaly C.**

<b>Context:</b>	<b>Type:</b>	<b>Description:</b>	<b>Excavated:</b>	<b>Finds Present:</b>
10500	Topsoil	Friable mid grey brown sandy silt occasional small stones . Contained frequent root and worm action. Topsoil derived from recent raised daffodil beds, 0.30m thick.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
10501	Subsoil	Friable mid grey brown sandy silt occasional small charcoal, occasional small fired clay, occasional small-medium stones Subsoil with moderate worm action. Deposit is 0.15m - 0.20m.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
10502	Natural	Friable mid yellow brown sand occasional small stones	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
10503	Ditch	Curving linear E-W profile: near vertical base: concave dimensions: max breadth 0.75m, max depth 0.37m, min length 1.6m	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
10504	Fill	Friable mid grey brown sandy silt occasional small stones Part of an early Roman copper alloy brooch RA 1 was recovered.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
10505	Ditch	Linear E-W dimensions: max breadth 2.5m, min length 1.6m	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
10506	Fill	Friable mid yellow brown silty sand moderate medium stones	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
10507	Ditch	Linear E-W dimensions: max breadth 1.m	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
10508	Fill	Friable mid grey brown sandy silt occasional small stones	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>



**Trench: 106**

**Max Dimensions: Length: 39.82 m. Width: 1.99 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.3 m. Max: 0.7 m.**

**Co-ordinates: OS Grid Ref.: TL4980323669**

**OS Grid Ref.: TL4980723669**

**Reason: To investigate a linear geophysical anomaly.**

<b>Context:</b>	<b>Type:</b>	<b>Description:</b>	<b>Excavated:</b>	<b>Finds Present:</b>
10600	Topsoil	Friable dark grey brown silty sand occasional small stones Topsoil derived from recent raised daffodil beds, 0.35m thick.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
10601	Subsoil	Friable mid orange brown silty sand occasional flecks charcoal, occasional small stones Subsoil is 0.38m thick.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
10602	Natural	Friable mid brown orange silty sand frequent small stones	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
10603	Ditch	Linear N-S profile: concave base: v-shaped dimensions: max breadth 0.88m, max depth 0.43m, min length 1.6m	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
10604	Fill	Friable dark grey brown silty sand moderate small stones	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>



**Trench: 107**

**Max Dimensions: Length: 49.26 m. Width: 2.00 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.2 m. Max: 0.4 m.**

**Co-ordinates: OS Grid Ref.: TL4981523668**

**OS Grid Ref.: TL4981423663**

**Reason: To investigate large amorphous geophysical anomaly A and linear geophysical anomaly B.**

<b>Context:</b>	<b>Type:</b>	<b>Description:</b>	<b>Excavated:</b>	<b>Finds Present:</b>
10700	Topsoil	Friable dark brown grey silty sand frequent small stones Topsoil derived from recent raised daffodil beds, 0.19m thick.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
10701	Subsoil	Friable dark orange brown silty sand moderate small stones . Subsoil is 0.11m - 0.20m thick.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
10702	Natural	Friable light yellow orange silty sand occasional small stones	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
10704	Pit	Sub-rectangular NW-SE profile: concave base: flat dimensions: max breadth 2.5m, max depth 0.37m, min length 1.6m . Same as [10714].	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
10703	Primary fill	Friable light yellow grey silty sand occasional small stones Deposit 0.63m wide and 0.12m thick. Contained animal bone, a prehistoric patinated flint flake and a moderately sized early - middle Saxon potsherd.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
10707	Secondary fill	Friable light brown grey silty sand occasional small stones Deposit 2.50m wide and 0.37m thick.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
10706	Pit	Sub-oval NW-SE profile: concave base: uneven dimensions: max depth 0.19m, max length 2.65m, max length 3.75m	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
10705	Fill	Compact mid brown grey clay silt occasional small charcoal, occasional small stones Deposit contained a large unabraded fragment of a Saxon pot base.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
10710	Ditch	Linear NW-SE dimensions: min breadth 1.25m, min depth 0.45m, min length 5.6m . Same as [10716].	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
10708	Primary fill	Friable dark orange grey silty sand occasional small stones	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
10709	Secondary fill	Friable mid yellow grey silty sand frequent small stones	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
10713	Pit	Profile: near vertical base: flat dimensions: max breadth 1.35m, max depth 0.71m	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
10711	Secondary fill	Friable light grey silty sand occasional small stones	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
10712	Primary fill	Friable light grey yellow silty sand moderate small stones	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
10714	Pit	Sub-rectangular NW-SE profile: concave base: flat dimensions: max breadth 3.3m, max depth 0.24m, min length 1.6m Same as [10704].	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
10715	Fill	Compact mid grey brown sandy silt frequent small stones	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
10716	Ditch	Linear NW-SE profile: concave base: uneven dimensions: max breadth 2.66m, max depth 0.58m, min length 1.6m . Same as [10710].	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
10717	Tertiary fill	Loose dark brown orange silty sand frequent small stones Deposit 1.92m wide and 0.41m thick.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
10718	Secondary fill	Loose mid grey brown silty sand occasional flecks charcoal, frequent small stones Deposit 0.86m wide and 0.28m thick.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
10719	Primary fill	Loose dark brown grey silty sand occasional flecks charcoal, moderate small stones Deposit 1.61m wide and 0.23m thick.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
10720	Pit	Linear NW-SE profile: near vertical dimensions: max breadth 1.29m, min depth 0.9m, min length 1.6m	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
10721	Tertiary fill	Loose dark brown orange silty sand frequent small stones Deposit 0.79m wide and 0.24m thick.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
10722	Secondary fill	Loose dark brown orange silty sand frequent small stones, occasional medium stones Deposit 1.09m wide and 0.18m thick.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>



**Trench: 107**

**Max Dimensions: Length: 49.26 m. Width: 2.00 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.2 m. Max: 0.4 m.**

**Co-ordinates: OS Grid Ref.: TL4981523668**

**OS Grid Ref.: TL4981423663**

**Reason: To investigate large amorphous geophysical anomaly A and linear geophysical anomaly B.**

<b>Context:</b>	<b>Type:</b>	<b>Description:</b>	<b>Excavated:</b>	<b>Finds Present:</b>
10723	Primary fill	Loose dark brown grey silty sand occasional flecks charcoal, frequent small stones Deposit 0.90m wide, with a minimum thickness of 0.18m as the feature was not bottomed due to depth.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>10724</b>	<b>Pit</b>	<b>NW-SE dimensions: min breadth 1.16m, min depth 0.72m, min length 1.m . Severely truncated feature. Not fully excavated due to excessive depth.</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
10725	Upper fill	Friable mid red brown silty sand occasional small stones Deposit is 0.83m wide and 0.38m thick.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
10726	Fill	Loose dark brown orange silty sand frequent small stones Deposit is 1.08m wide and 0.27m thick.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
10727	Fill	Loose dark brown grey silty sand occasional flecks charcoal, frequent small stones, occasional medium stones Deposit is 0.86m wide and has a minimum thickness of 0.18m.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>10728</b>	<b>Pit</b>	<b>Sub-rectangular NW-SE profile: convex base: concave dimensions: max breadth 1.4m, max depth 0.62m</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
10729	Tertiary fill	Friable mid red brown silty sand Deposit 0.24m wide and 0.18m thick.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
10730	Secondary fill	Loose dark brown orange silty sand frequent small stones Deposit 1.18m wide and 0.46m thick.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
10731	Primary fill	Loose dark brown orange silty sand frequent small stones Deposit 0.34m wide and 0.13m thick.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
10732	Upper fill	Firm mid grey yellow sandy silt occasional small stones Deposit 1.34m wide and 0.13m thick.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>10733</b>	<b>Pit</b>	<b>Sub-circular dimensions: min breadth 5.5m, min length 4.5m</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
10734	Fill	Loose mid grey brown silty sand frequent small-medium stones	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>10735</b>	<b>Ditch</b>	<b>Linear NE-SW dimensions: max breadth 1.25m, min length 6.m</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
10736	Fill	Loose mid yellow brown silty sand moderate small stones	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>10737</b>	<b>Treethrow</b>	<b>Sub-circular dimensions: max breadth 2.5m, max length 2.5m</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
10738	Fill	Loose dark grey brown silty sand frequent small-medium stones	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>10739</b>	<b>Ditch</b>	<b>Linear E-W dimensions: max breadth 0.85m, min length 4.5m</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
10740	Fill	Loose dark grey brown silty sand frequent small-medium stones	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>10741</b>	<b>Natural</b>	<b>Friable mid yellow brown sand</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>





**Trench: 108**

**Max Dimensions: Length: 39.41 m. Width: 1.98 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.35 m. Max: 0.78 m.**

**Co-ordinates: OS Grid Ref.: TL4981523665**

**OS Grid Ref.: TL4981823662**

**Reason: To investigate geophysical anomalies, including anomaly B.**

<b>Context:</b>	<b>Type:</b>	<b>Description:</b>	<b>Excavated:</b>	<b>Finds Present:</b>
10800	Topsoil	Friable dark grey brown sandy clay occasional medium stones Topsoil derived from recent raised daffodil beds, 0.20m - 0.28m.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
10801	Subsoil	Friable dark grey brown sandy clay moderate medium stones Subsoil is 0.17m - 0.38m thick.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
10802	Natural	Friable mid orange brown sand	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
10803	Treethrow	Sub-circular profile: irregular base: uneven dimensions: min breadth 0.61m, max depth 0.26m, max length 0.97m	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
10804	Fill	Friable dark grey brown silty sand frequent medium stones	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
10805	Furrow	Linear E-W profile: concave base: flat dimensions: max breadth 3.78m, max depth 0.12m, min length 1.6m	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
10806	Fill	Friable dark grey brown silty sand moderate small-medium stones	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
10807	Pit	Sub-circular dimensions: min breadth 2.m, min length 2.m	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
10808	Fill	Loose dark grey brown sandy silt frequent medium stones	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
10809	Pit	Sub-rectangular dimensions: max breadth 4.1m, min length 0.5m This may be a Sunken Feature Building (SFB).	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
10810	Fill	Loose dark brown grey silty sand frequent small-medium stones	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
10812	Natural	Loose light yellow brown sandy silt occasional small stones	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
10813	Pit	Sub-circular dimensions: max breadth 2.1m, min length 4.m	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
10814	Fill	Loose mid orange brown sand	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
10815	Posthole	Sub-circular dimensions: max breadth 0.65m, max length 0.75m	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
10816	Fill	Loose dark grey brown sandy gravel frequent small charcoal	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
10817	Posthole	Sub-circular dimensions: max breadth 0.3m, max length 0.4m	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
10818	Fill	Loose dark grey brown sandy gravel frequent small charcoal	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>



**Trench: 109**

**Max Dimensions: Length: 29.93 m. Width: 1.96 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.4 m. Max: 0.7 m.**

**Co-ordinates: OS Grid Ref.: TL4981423661**

**OS Grid Ref.: TL4981523658**

**Reason: To investigate geophysical anomalies.**

<b>Context:</b>	<b>Type:</b>	<b>Description:</b>	<b>Excavated:</b>	<b>Finds Present:</b>
10900	Topsoil	Friable mid grey brown sandy silt occasional small stones Topsoil derived from recent raised daffodil beds, 0.35m - 0.45m thick.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
10901	Subsoil	Friable dark grey brown silty sand moderate small stones Subsoil is 0.33m thick.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
10902	Natural	Loose mid brown yellow sand occasional small stones	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
10903	Furrow	Linear NE-SW profile: concave base: concave dimensions: max breadth 1.05m, max depth 0.11m, min length 1.55m	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
10904	Fill	Friable mid grey brown silty sand frequent small stones	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>



**Trench: 110**

**Max Dimensions: Length: 30.29 m. Width: 1.99 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.71 m. Max: 0.76 m.**

**Co-ordinates: OS Grid Ref.: TL4982523668**

**OS Grid Ref.: TL4982523665**

**Reason: To investigate geophysical anomalies.**

<b>Context:</b>	<b>Type:</b>	<b>Description:</b>	<b>Excavated:</b>	<b>Finds Present:</b>
11000	Topsoil	Friable mid grey brown sandy silt occasional small stones Topsoil derived from recent raised daffodil beds, 0.34m - 0.40m thick.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
11001	Subsoil	Friable mid orange brown sandy sand occasional small ceramic building material, moderate small stones Subsoil is 0.31m thick.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
11002	Natural	Firm mid pinkish brown silty clay occasional small stones	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
11003	Posthole	Sub-circular E-W profile: near vertical base: concave dimensions: max breadth 0.47m, max depth 0.33m, min length 0.43m	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
11004	Fill	Friable mid grey brown sandy silt moderate small chalk, occasional flecks charcoal, occasional small stones Deposit was also composed of occasional patches of iron staining. Four moderate stones were found, and interpreted as packing stones. Thirteen early - middle Iron Age potsherds were recovered.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
11005	Ditch	Linear E-W profile: irregular base: uneven dimensions: max breadth 1.m, max depth 0.23m, min length 1.6m	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
11006	Fill	Friable mid grey brown sandy silt occasional small charcoal, occasional small stones	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
11007	Posthole	Sub-circular dimensions: max breadth 0.45m, min length 0.5m	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
11008	Fill	Friable mid grey brown sandy silt occasional flecks charcoal, occasional small stones	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>



**Trench:** 111

**Max Dimensions:** Length: 30.60 m. Width: 2.14 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.47 m. Max: 0.68 m.

**Co-ordinates:** OS Grid Ref.: TL4980723661

OS Grid Ref.: TL4981023661

**Reason:** To investigate geophysical anomalies.

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
11100	Topsoil	Friable dark grey brown sandy silt moderate medium stones Topsoil derived from recent raised daffodil beds, 0.26m - 0.32m thick.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
11101	Subsoil	Friable mid yellow brown sandy silt occasional medium stones Subsoil is 0.15m - 0.46m thick.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
11102	Natural	Friable mid orange brown sand moderate medium stones	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>



**Trench:** 112

**Max Dimensions:** Length: 40.00 m. Width: 2.20 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.6 m. Max: 0.7 m.

**Co-ordinates:** OS Grid Ref.: TL4980923672

OS Grid Ref.: TL4980823668

**Reason:** To investigate geophysical anomalies.

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
11200	Topsoil	Friable dark grey brown silty sand moderate small stones Topsoil derived from recent raised daffodil beds, 0.30m thick.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
11201	Subsoil	Friable mid orange brown silty sand moderate small-medium stones Subsoil is 0.31m thick.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
11202	Natural	Firm mid brown grey silty sand frequent small-medium stones	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>



**Trench: 113**

**Max Dimensions: Length: 39.50 m. Width: 1.98 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.38 m. Max: 0.5 m.**

**Co-ordinates: OS Grid Ref.: TL4981223674**

**OS Grid Ref.: TL4981423670**

**Reason: To investigate geophysical anomalies.**

<b>Context:</b>	<b>Type:</b>	<b>Description:</b>	<b>Excavated:</b>	<b>Finds Present:</b>
11300	Topsoil	Friable dark grey brown silty sand moderate medium stones Topsoil derived from recent raised daffodil beds, 0.34m thick.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
11301	Subsoil	Friable mid yellow brown silty sand moderate medium stones Subsoil is 0.20m thick.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
11302	Natural	Friable mid yellow yellow sand occasional flecks manganese staining, occasional medium stones	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
11303	Treethrow	Irregular dimensions: max breadth 4.15m, min length 1.6m	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
11304	Fill	Friable mid red brown silty sand frequent medium-large stones	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
11305	Treethrow	Irregular dimensions: max breadth 1.m, max length 1.15m	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
11306	Fill	Friable mid red brown silty sand frequent medium-large stones	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
11307	Treethrow	Irregular dimensions: max breadth 1.75m, min length 0.35m	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
11308	Fill	Friable mid red brown silty sand frequent medium-large stones	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
11309	Treethrow	Irregular dimensions: max breadth 0.9m, min length 1.05m	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
11310	Fill	Friable mid red brown silty sand frequent medium-large stones	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>



**Trench:** 115

**Max Dimensions:** Length: 19.46 m. Width: 1.97 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.43 m. Max: 0.59 m.

**Co-ordinates:** OS Grid Ref.: TL4982323675

OS Grid Ref.: TL4982423673

**Reason:** To investigate geophysical anomalies.

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
11500	Topsoil	Friable dark grey brown silty sand moderate small stones Topsoil derived from recent raised daffodil beds, 0.25m - 0.35m thick.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
11501	Subsoil	Friable mid yellow brown silty sand occasional medium stones Subsoil is 0.18m - 0.24m thick.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
11502	Natural	Friable mid brown yellow sand moderate flecks manganese staining, frequent small stones	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>



**Trench:** 116

**Max Dimensions:** Length: 23.41 m. Width: 1.97 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.52 m. Max: 0.57 m.

**Co-ordinates:** OS Grid Ref.: TL4964323599

OS Grid Ref.: TL4964223597

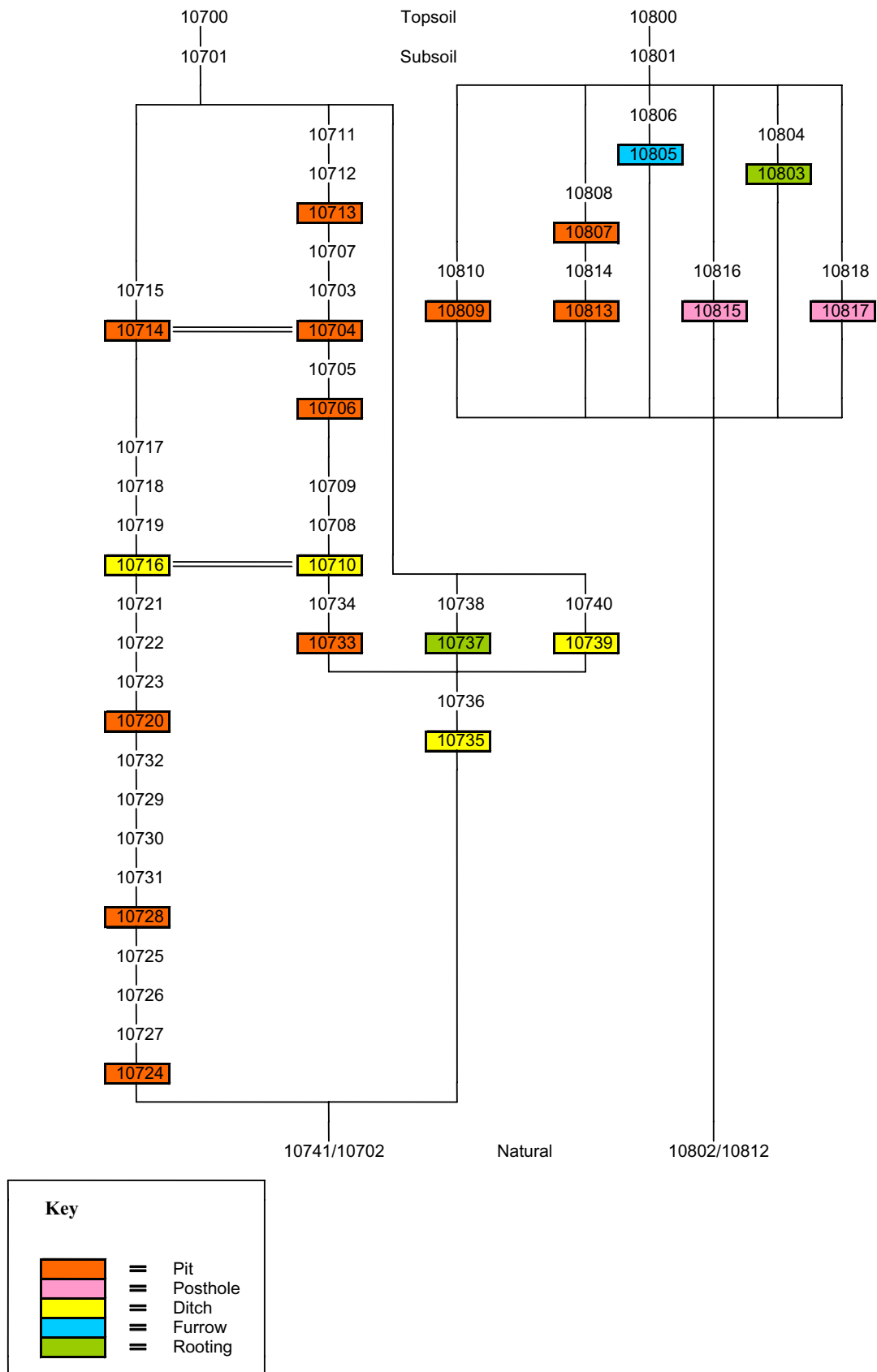
**Reason:** To assess the survival of any earlier archaeological features beneath the expected ridge and furrow.

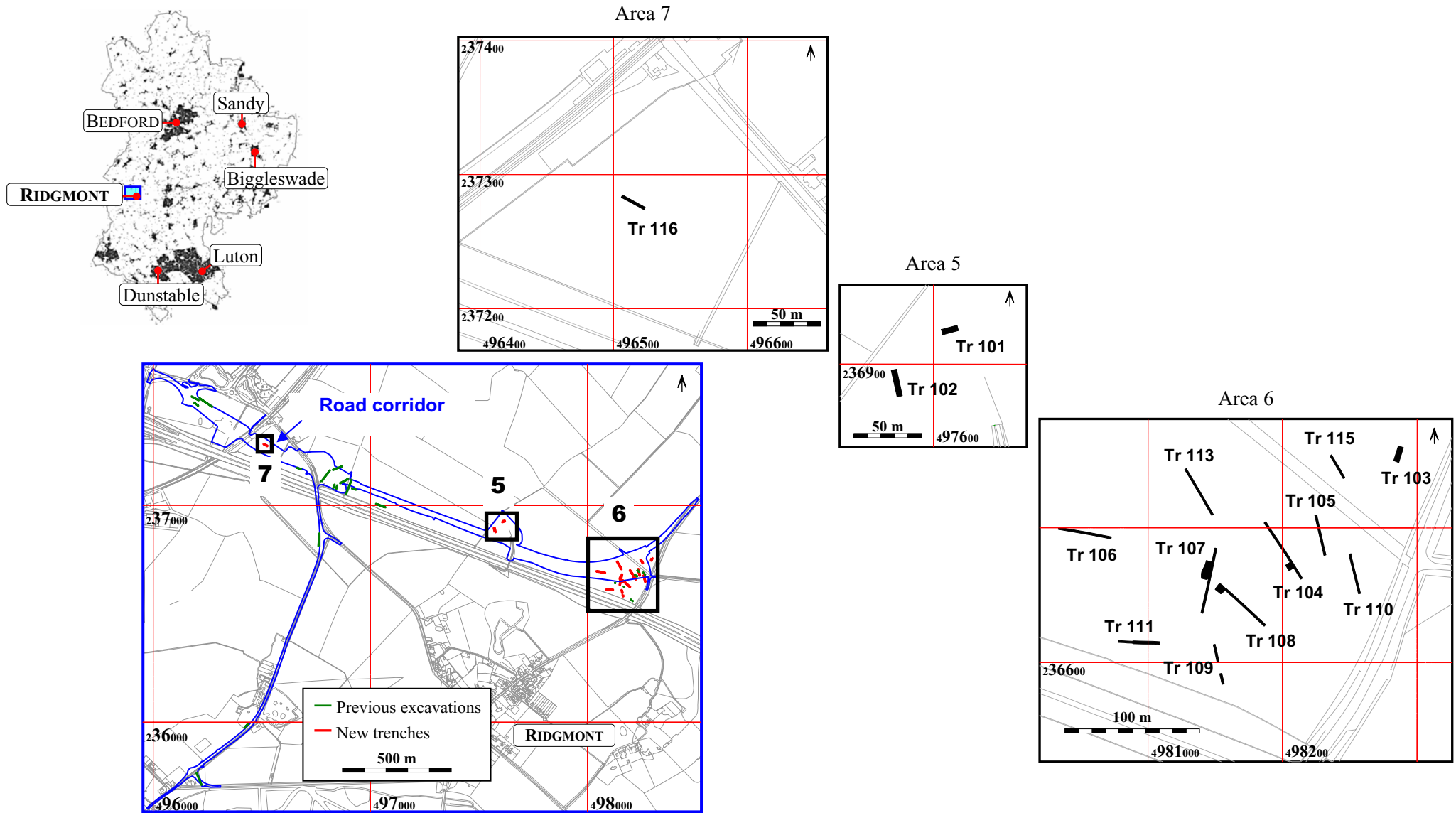
Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
11600	Ploughsoil	Friable dark grey clay silt occasional small stones Ploughsoil is 0.33m thick.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
11601	Subsoil	Friable light orange grey clay sand Subsoil is 0.12m thick.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
11602	Natural	Firm mid blue grey clay	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
11603	Treethrow	Sub-circular profile: irregular base: concave dimensions: max breadth 1.17m, max depth 0.38m, max length 0.3m	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
11604	Tertiary fill	Friable dark brown black clay silt occasional small-medium stones	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
11605	Secondary fill	Friable dark brown black clay silt occasional small-medium stones Deposit 0.38m thick.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
11606	Primary fill	Friable light yellow grey silty clay	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
11607	Furrow	Linear N-S profile: concave base: concave dimensions: max breadth 5.5m, max depth 0.05m, min length 1.6m	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
11608	Fill	Friable mid red grey clay silt	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>





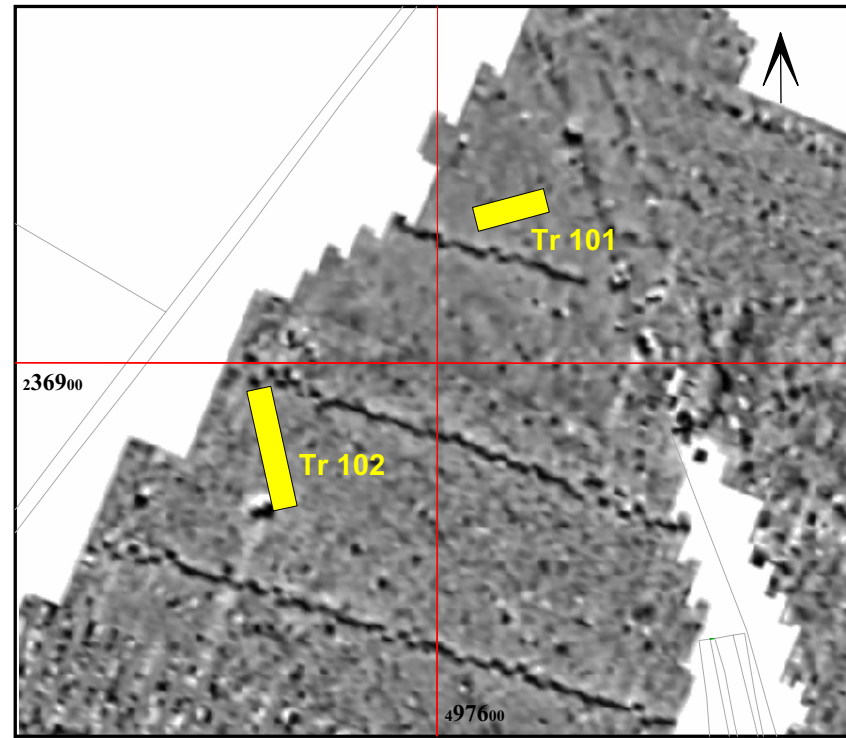
### 6.3 Appendix 3: Matrix for Western Focus, Area 6



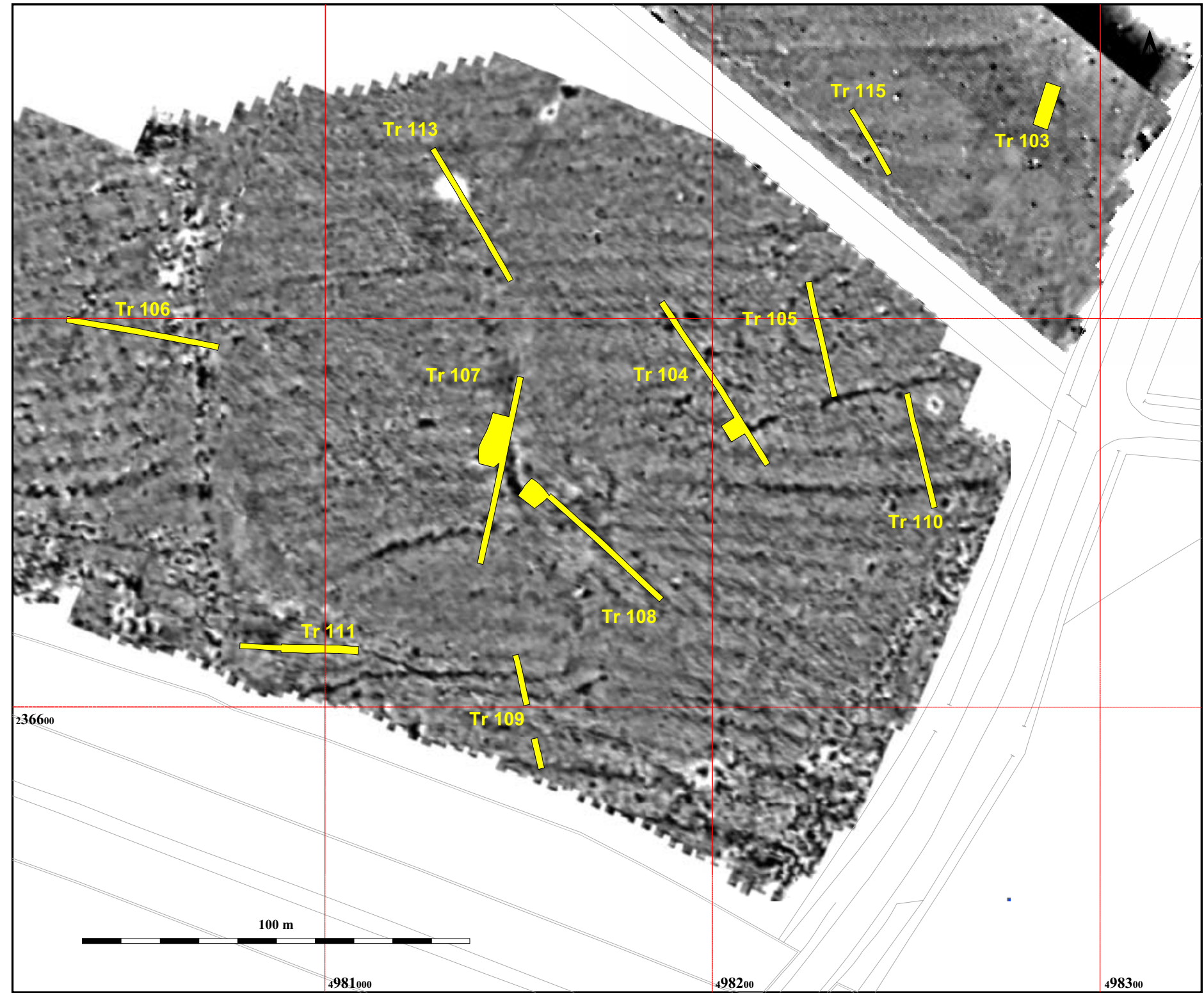


**Figure 1: Site location map**

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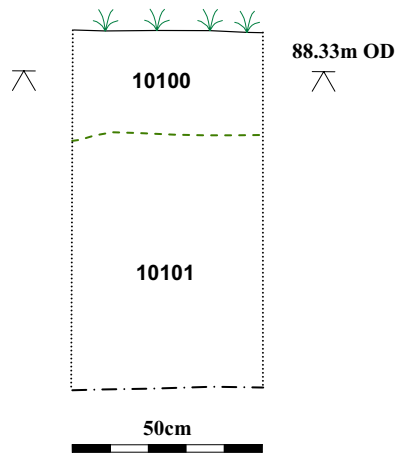
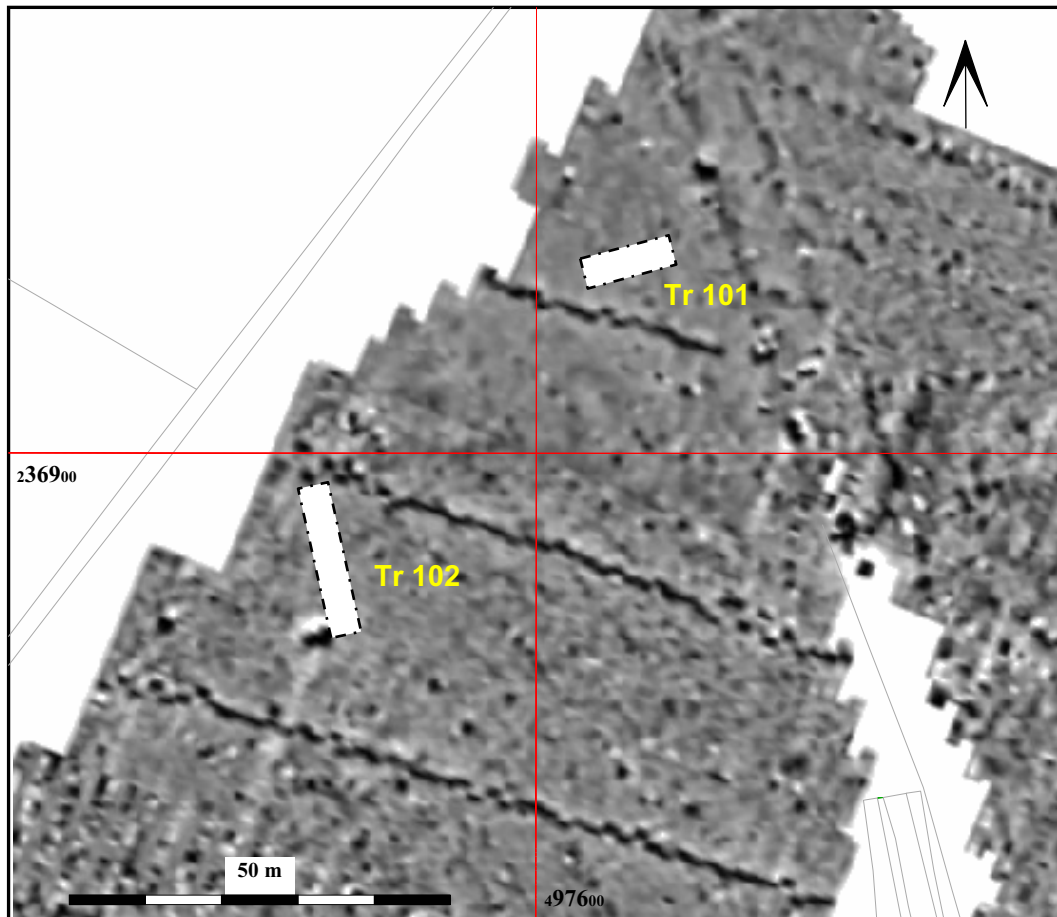
Area 5



Area 6

**Figure 2: Geophysics**

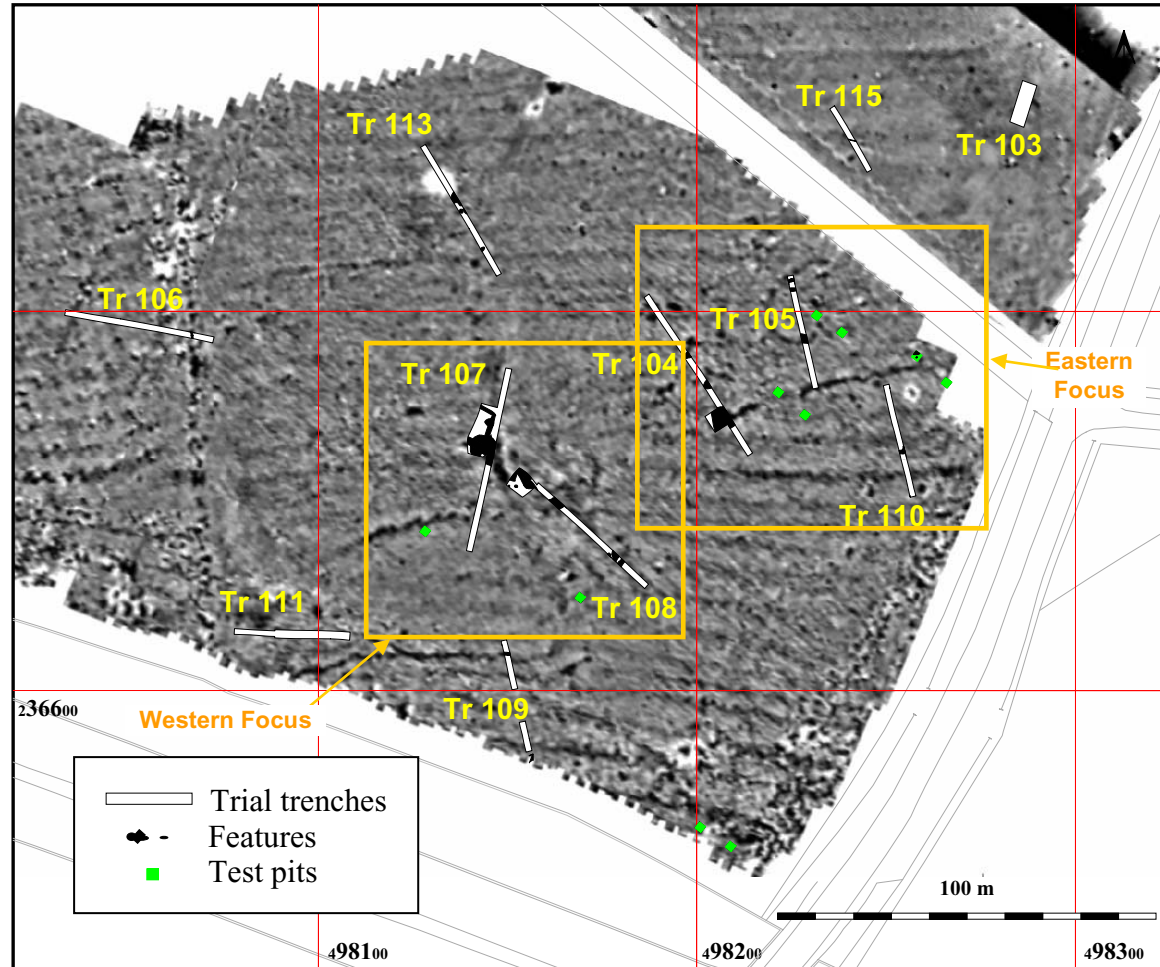
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South-west facing section of Trench 101

**Figure 3:** Area 5; Geophysics and all features

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**Figure 4: Area 6; Geophysics and all features**

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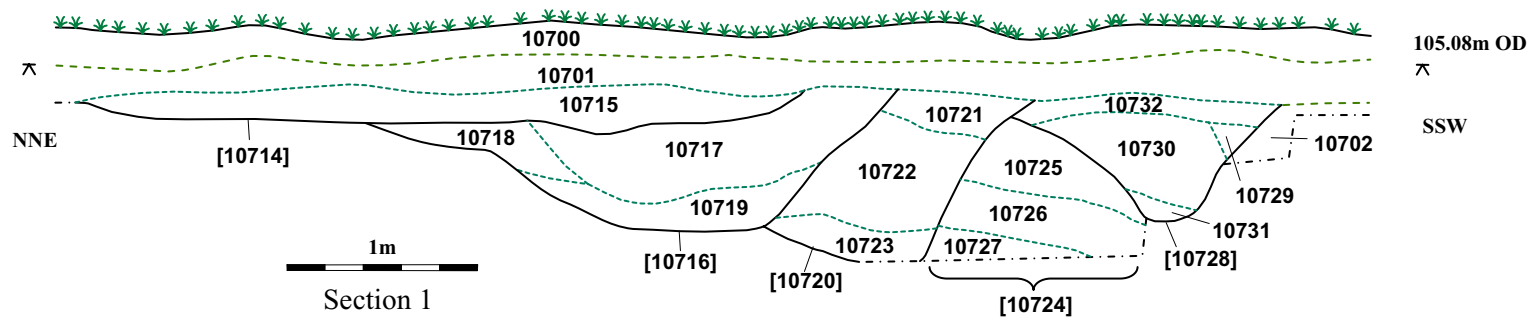
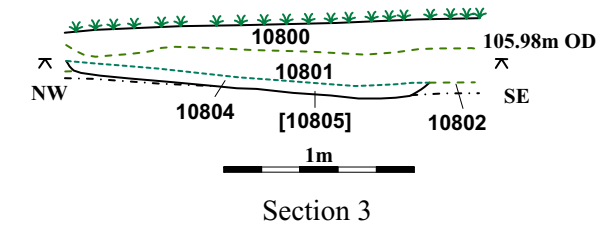
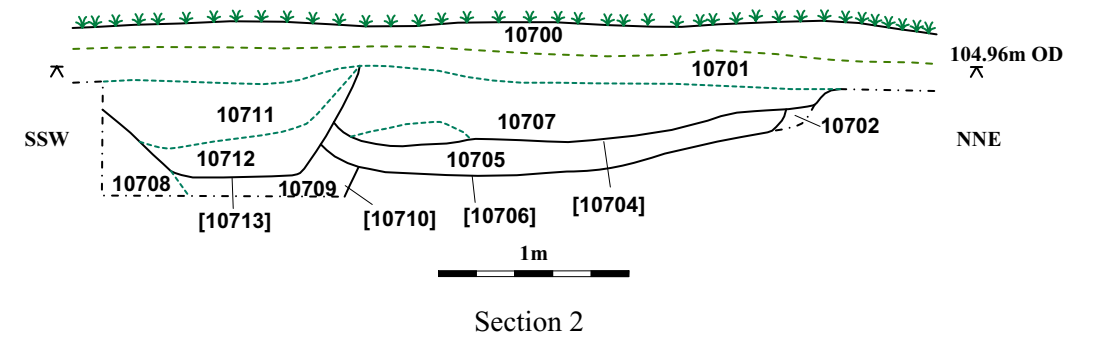
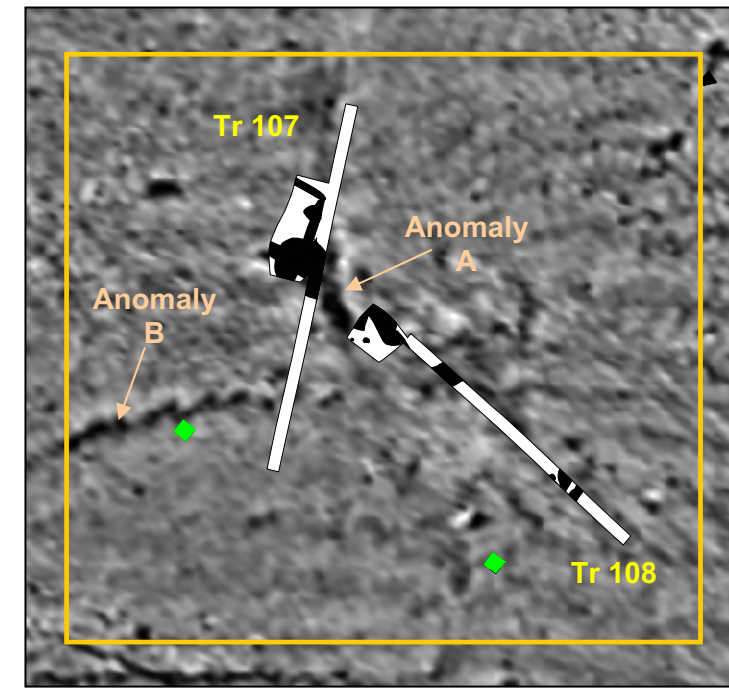
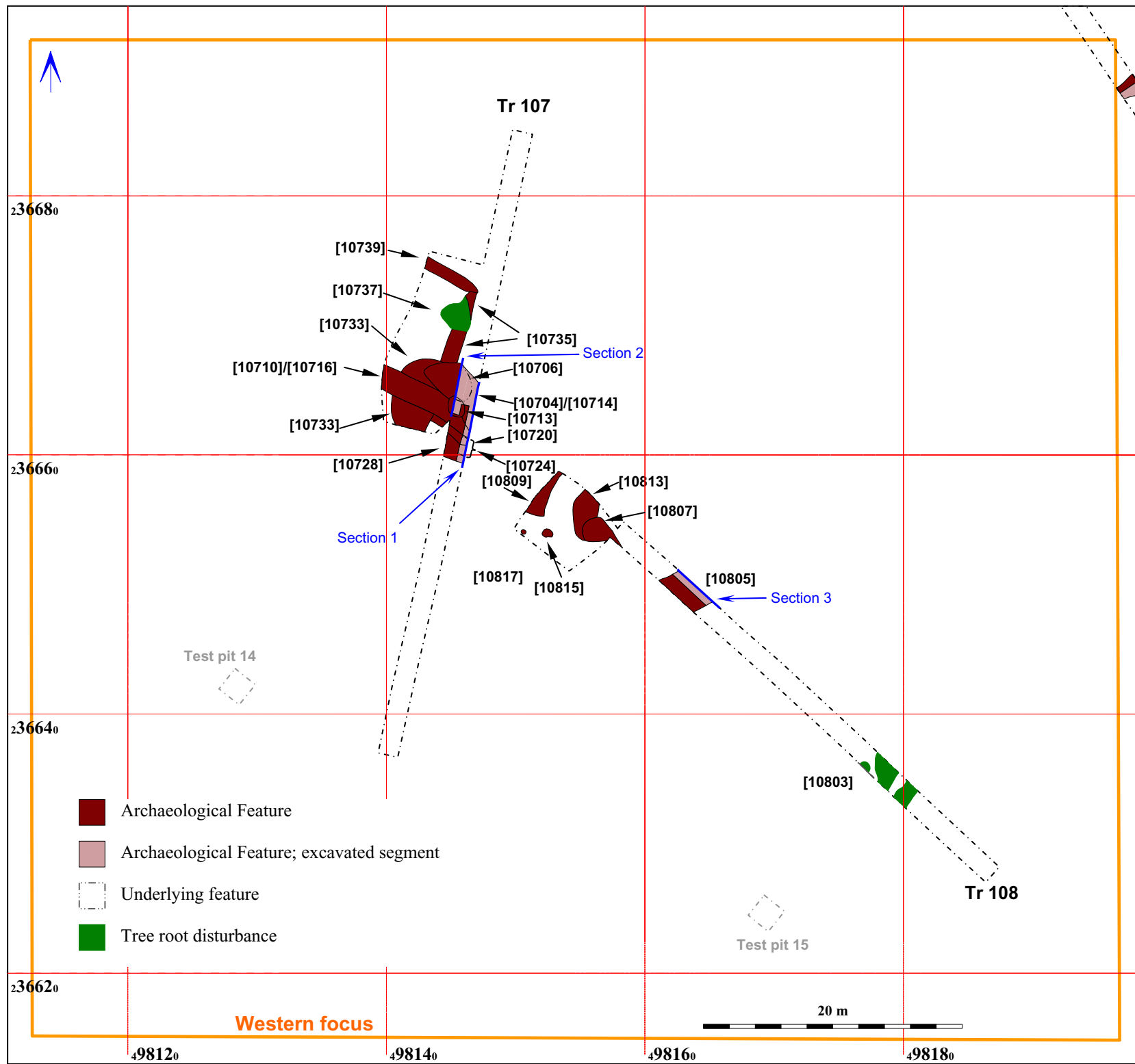


Figure 5: Area 6; Western focus, all features

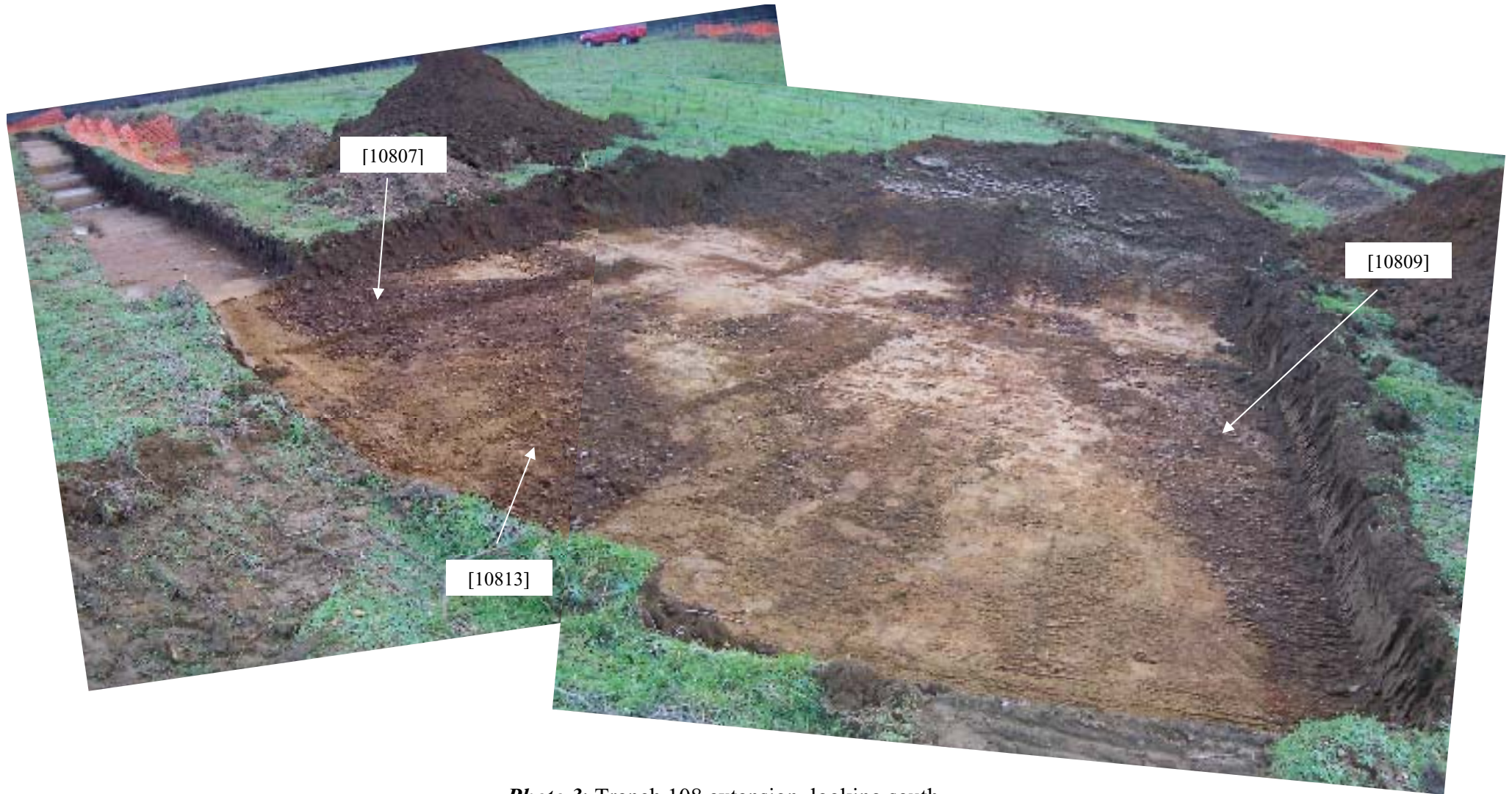


**Photo 1:** Trench 107; section across intercutting ditches, looking north-east  
Scale 2m



**Photo 2:** Trench 107 extension, looking north-west

**Figure 6:** Area 6; Western focus, selected photographs



**Photo 3:** Trench 108 extension, looking south

**Figure 7:** Area 6; Western focus, selected photographs



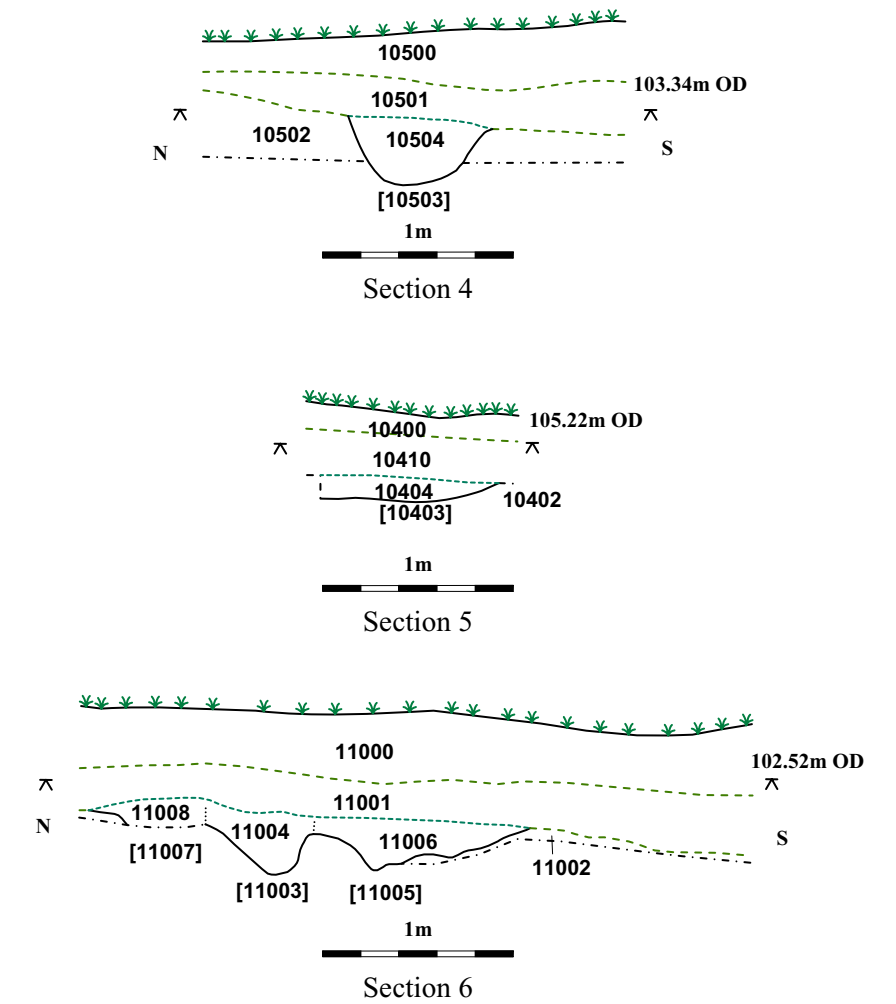
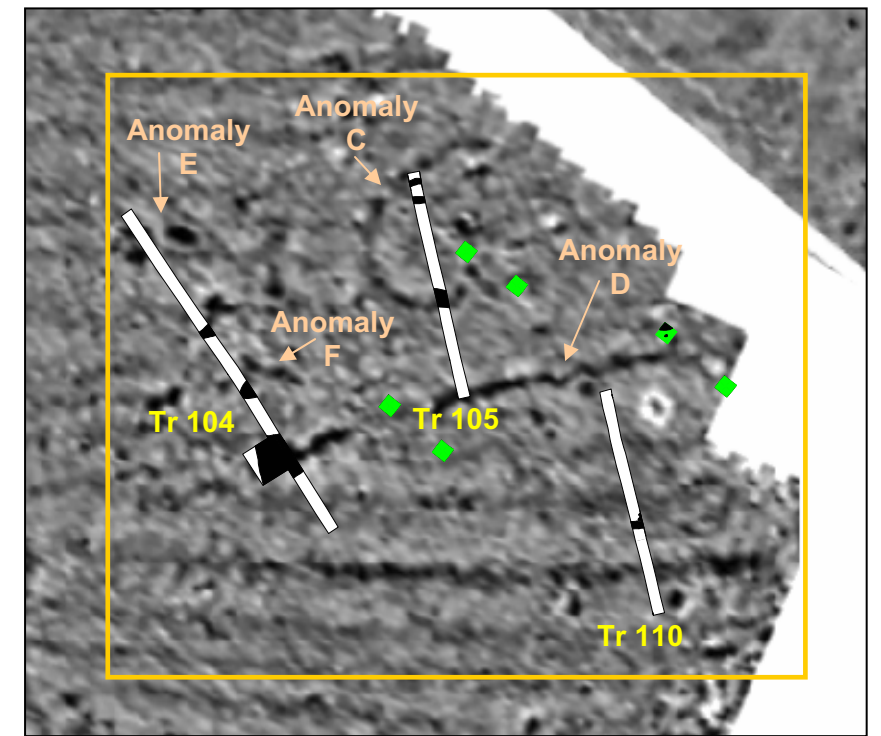
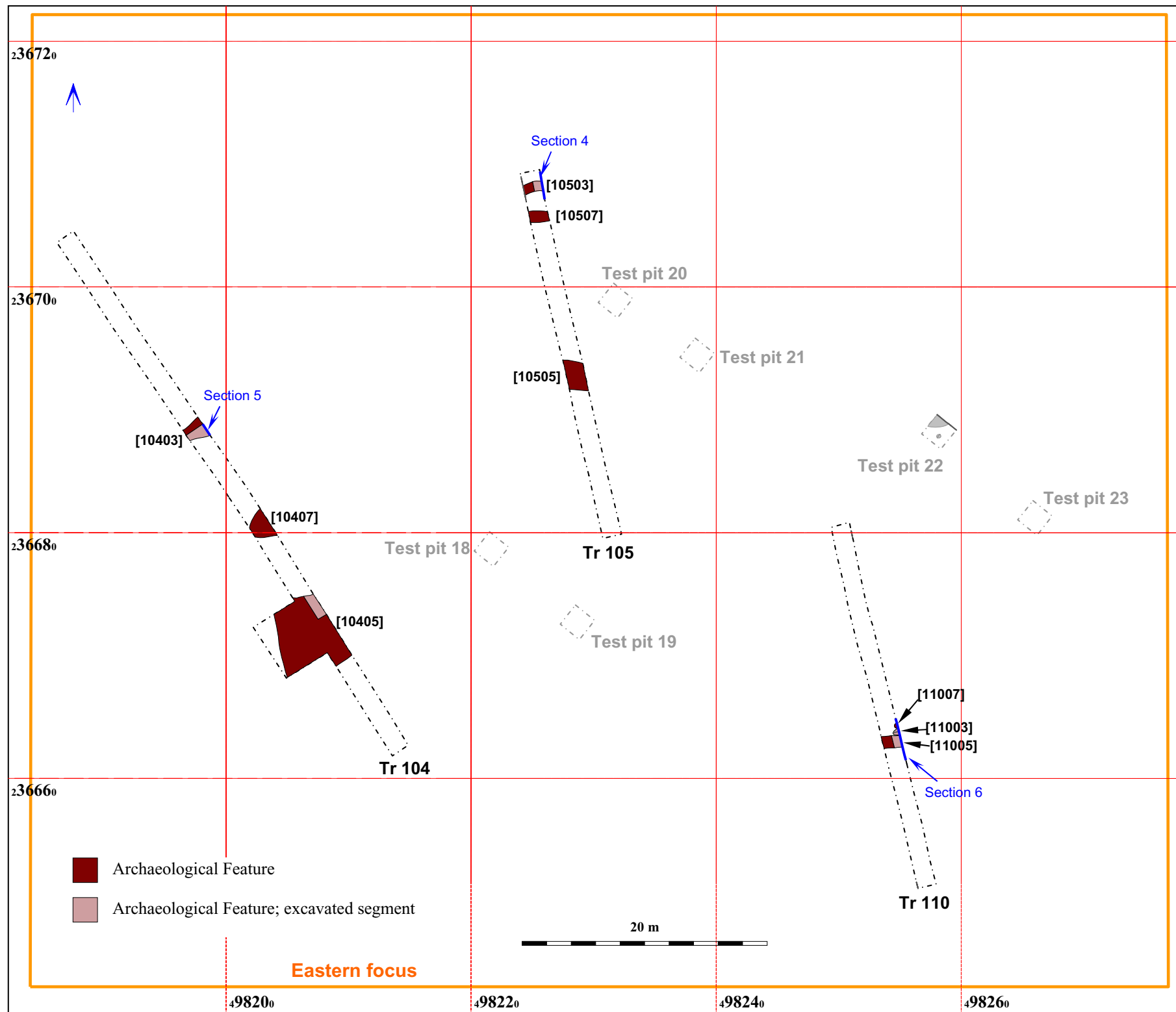


Figure 8: Area 6; Eastern focus, all features



**Photo 4:** Trench 110; sections across features [11003] and [11005], and unexcavated feature [11007], looking east



**Photo 5:** Trench 105; section across ditch [10503].  
Scale 1m

**Figure 9:** Area 6; Eastern focus, selected photographs

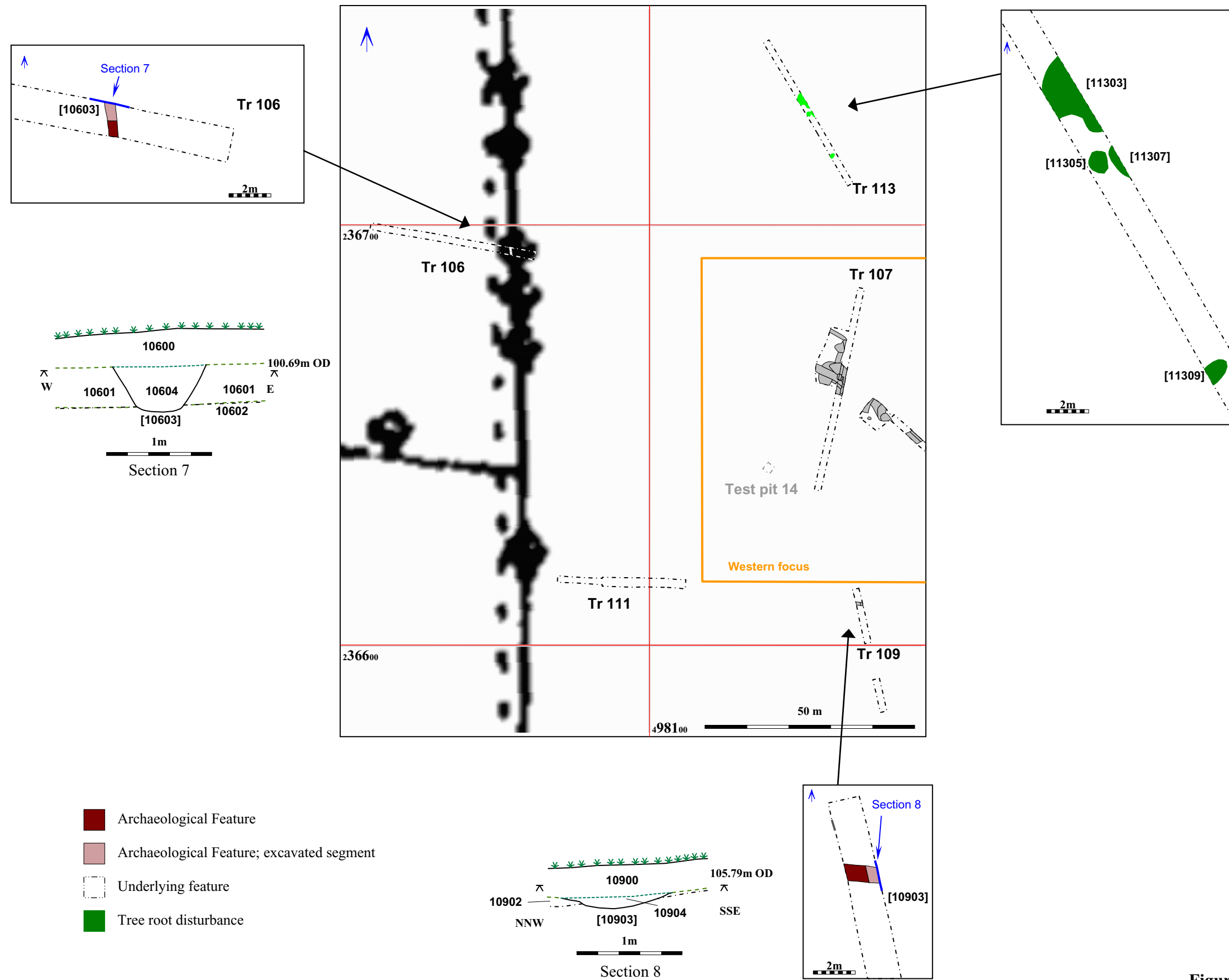


Figure 10: Trenches 106, 109, 111 and 113 overlying OS 1<sup>st</sup> edition map

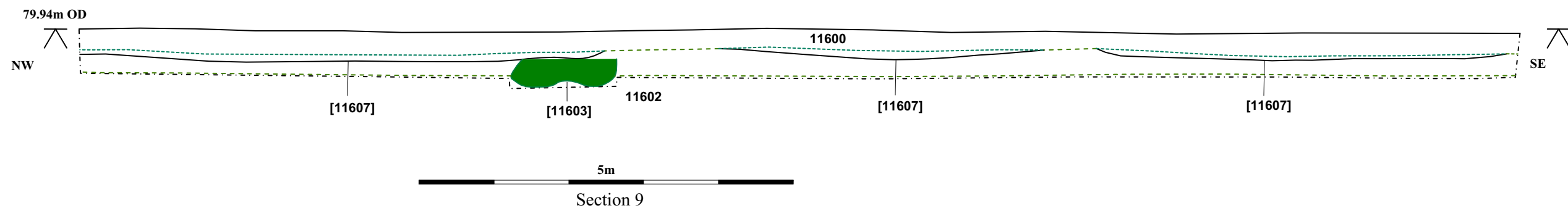
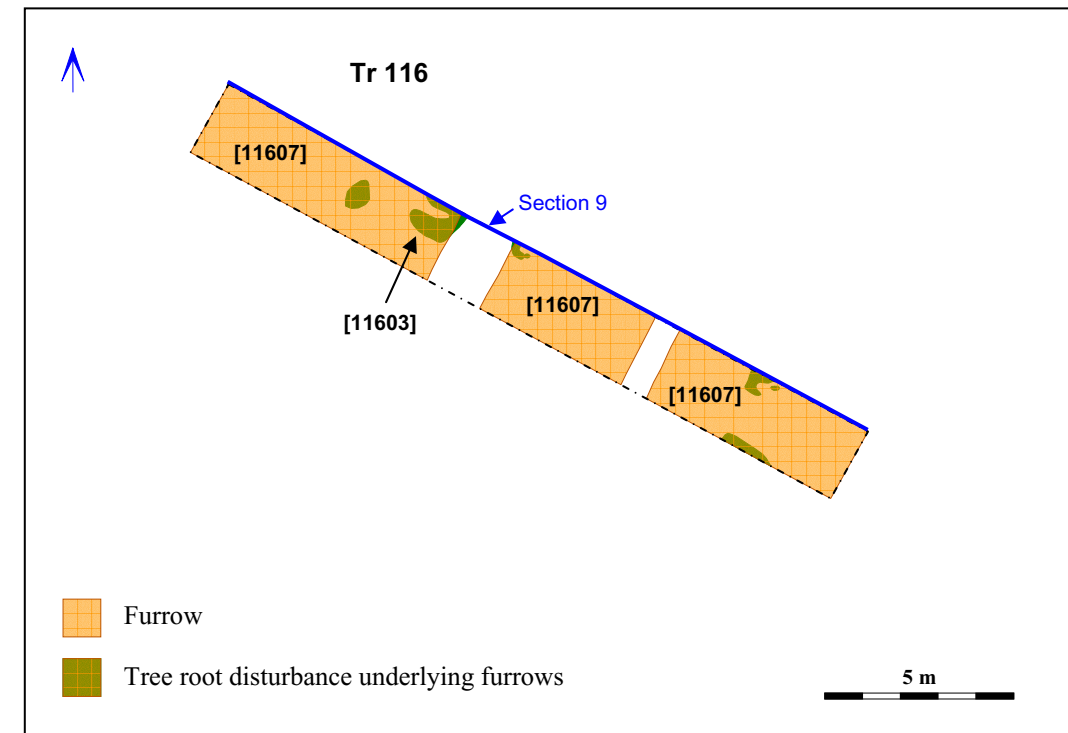
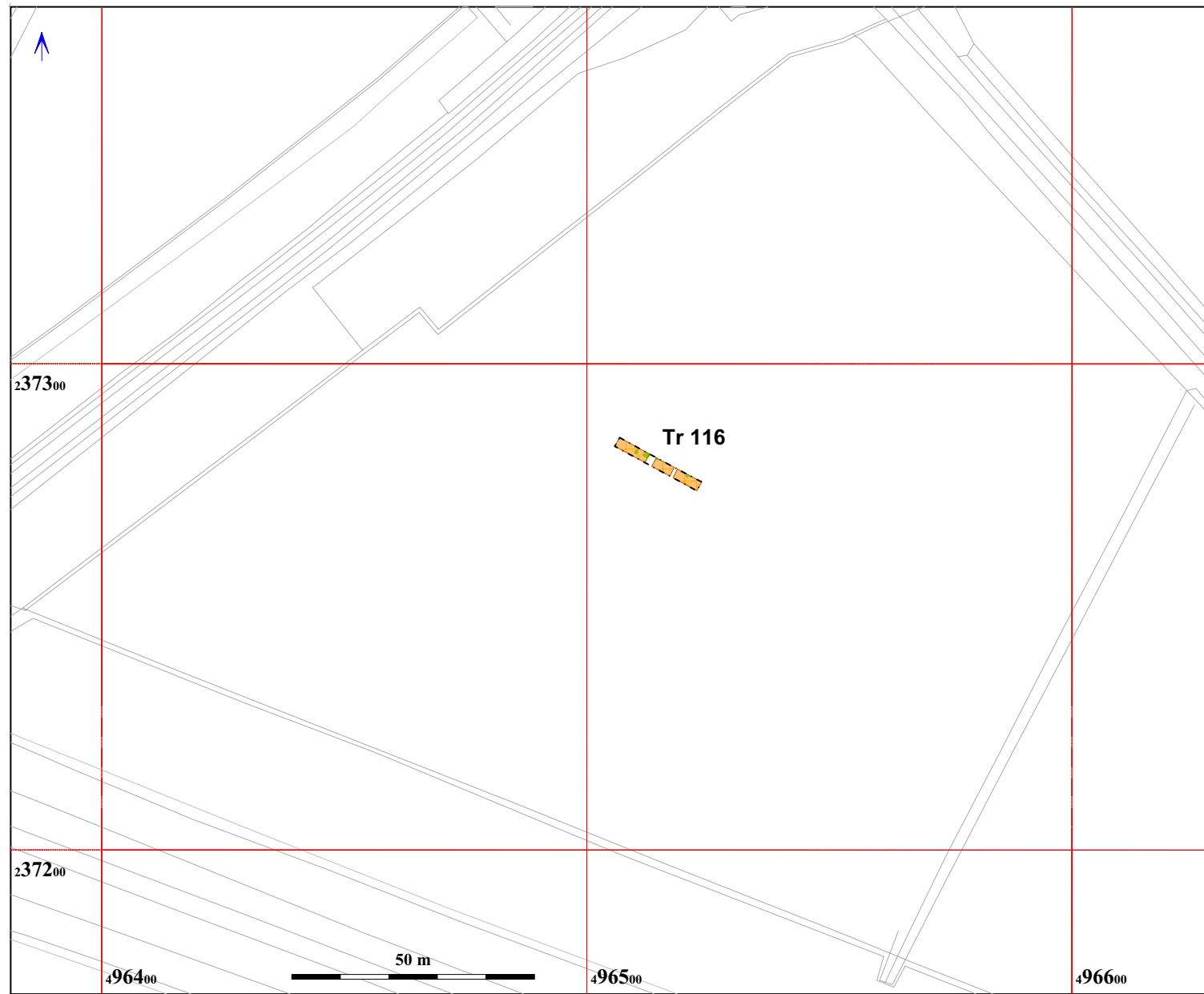


Figure 11: Area 7; Trench 116 all features