

**A507 RIDGMONT BYPASS
AREA 8**

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 results of the trial trenching are presented in Section 2. A synthesis of the results and their significance is presented in Section 3. Section 4 contains the bibliography. More detailed information on the recovered artefacts and the contextual data is presented as appendices (Section 5).



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 |
| BCAS | Bedfordshire County Archaeology Service |
| Client | Bedfordshire Highways |
| GPS | Global Positioning System |
| IFA | Institute of Field Archaeologists |
| OD | Ordnance Datum |
| <i>Procedures Manual</i> | <i>Procedures Manual Volume 1 Fieldwork, 2nd Edition 2001.</i> Albion Archaeology |



Non-Technical Summary

This report presents the results of a trial trench investigation, undertaken 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 SP (4/2) 9666 2372 in the north-west to SP (4/2) 9828 2366 in the south-east. Area 8 is located at the north-western end of the road corridor, centred at SP (4/2) 9622 3743.

A combination of non-intrusive and intrusive survey has already been undertaken along the bypass road corridor. These have 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 2006 and 2007). In June 2007, Albion Archaeology undertook the evaluation of Area 8, the last remaining area of the bypass road corridor to be evaluated.

Previous to this investigation, Area 8 had been subject to desk-based assessment (Jacobs Babbie 2002) and geophysical survey (Pre-Construct Geophysics 2003). Features revealed by the geophysical survey included traces of possible medieval cultivation, some discrete anomalies and two possible curvilinear features. In accordance with a trenching strategy, originally devised by Jacobs Babbie (2005), approved by the Bedfordshire County Archaeological Officer and subsequently reassessed by the Designer's Archaeologist, three trial trenches were excavated within Area 8 targeting these geophysical anomalies. The fieldwork was carried out between 4th and 13th June 2007.

The trial trench investigation revealed a series of predominantly north-east to south-west aligned features in the form of cultivation furrows and boundary ditches. A further ditch was revealed aligned east to west. The small amount of dating evidence recovered raises the possibility that some of the north-east to south-west ditches were late Iron Age and/or Roman boundaries. However, the highly abraded nature of the pottery suggests that it may be residual, making the date of the ditches uncertain. Two phases of furrows were revealed, representing the truncated remnants of ridge and furrow arable cultivation, characteristic of the medieval period.

Apart from the furrows, no other features appeared to correlate with the identified geophysical anomalies, indicating that the other targeted anomalies represent a combination of objects in the ploughsoil and geological variation.

The uncertain dating of the ditches makes their significance somewhat debatable. However, the relative lack of artefacts does suggest that these features are peripheral to any settlement; they are likely to be boundaries associated with the rural landscape. Regional research themes associated with early field systems and landscape development have been identified as important areas of enquiry. However, even within this framework, the furrows and boundary ditches revealed during the evaluation are of limited significance.



1. INTRODUCTION

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. This programme 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) and systematic surface artefact collection survey (Albion Archaeology 2003), leading to the formulation of an intrusive evaluation strategy.

Albion Archaeology was commissioned by Bedfordshire Highways to carry out the intrusive evaluation, the majority of which has already been undertaken (Albion Archaeology 2006 and 2007). In June 2007, Albion Archaeology undertook the evaluation of Area 8, the last remaining area of the bypass route to be evaluated and the subject of this report. The project was undertaken in accordance with the methodology outlined in *Archaeological Investigation and Associated Works* (Jacobs Babbie 2005).

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 SP (4/2) 9666 2372 in the north-west to SP (4/2) 9828 2366 in the south-east (Figure 1). This corridor is approximately 1.6km long, extending a minimum of 100m north of the M1 motorway.

Area 8 lies on relatively flat ground at *c.*81m OD, towards the north-western end of the road corridor, centred on SP (4/2) 9622 3743. The underlying geology consists of Second River Terrace Deposits overlying Oxford Clay (British Geological Survey 1992).

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 and were the subject of a desk-based assessment (Jacobs Babbie 2002). Recent archaeological fieldwork undertaken to evaluate and mitigate for the bypass include, archaeological field evaluation (Albion Archaeology 2006 and 2007); archaeological excavation (Albion Archaeology forthcoming); geophysical survey (BCAS 2001; Pre-Construct Geophysics 2003 and 2006) and surface artefact collection (Albion Archaeology 2003).



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

Evidence of early-middle Iron Age activity has been identified during fieldwork to the east of Area 8 in the centre and eastern end of the bypass route (Albion Archaeology 2006; 2007; and forthcoming). This included settlement remains and a possible ploughed out barrow.

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 within Area 8.

Trial trench evaluation at the eastern end of the bypass revealed early-middle Saxon remains in the form of several intercutting pits and ditches. They are possibly representative of settlement activity (Albion Archaeology 2007).

Medieval dispersed settlement is known in the vicinity of the bypass, with settlements 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 to the east and west of Area 8.

The site of the post-medieval Redfield Farm is located in the south-eastern corner of Area 8 and two post-medieval field barns have been recorded further to the east in the centre of the road scheme.

Modern activity in the vicinity of the bypass consists of two former brickwork sites at the western end of the bypass and Crawley Mill, on the western side of Mill Road.

1.4 Results of the Geophysical Survey

The route of the bypass has been subject to various geophysical surveys (BCAS 2001; Pre-Construct Geophysics 2003 and 2006). Area 8 was included in the Pre-Construct Geophysics survey of 2003 (Figure 3), the results of which are summarised here.

Few significant anomalies were detected in Area 8, the majority appearing to reflect modern activities such as debris from previous road construction and the sewer aligned south-east to north-west across the area (Pre-Construct Geophysics 2003). However, traces of possible medieval cultivation (Figure 3 and Figure 4, anomaly **A**) were revealed in the south of the area, aligned north-east to south-west.

Other anomalies identified by Pre-Construct Geophysics and targeted by the trenches comprised a curvilinear feature (Figure 4, anomaly **B**) possibly representing a ditch, a vaguely penannular feature (Figure 4, anomaly **C**) most



likely to be geological in origin, and two discrete anomalies (Figure 4, anomaly **D**).

Though not identified by Pre-Construct Geophysics, there appear to be other curvilinear anomalies visible on the geophysics greyscale plot that are fainter, though similar in character to anomaly **C** (Figure 3). They form roughly linear band and are probably geological in origin.



2. TRIAL TRENCHING

2.1 Introduction

The trenching strategy for Area 8 was devised by Jacobs Babbie (2005) in consultation with, and the approval of, the Bedfordshire County Archaeological Officer (BCAO). The Designer's Archaeologist agreed that this original strategy was still appropriate.

The trenching strategy was based on the results of geophysical survey (Pre-Construct Geophysics 2003) as well as the examination of previously recorded sites and historic maps. The evaluation was undertaken between 4th and 13th June 2007.

2.2 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 trial trenching was undertaken in accordance with the methodology outlined in *Archaeological Investigation and Associated Works* (Jacobs Babbie 2005). The main points were 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 35mm film where appropriate;
- Each trench was recorded using a unique number system. For example: Trench 3 was issued context numbers commencing at 300;
- 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 BCAO and Designer's Archaeologist 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.



2.3 Results

Three trial trenches were excavated within Area 8. All contained archaeological features, largely comprising a series of ditches and furrows orientated north-east to south-west (Figure 2).

| Trench | Ditch | Furrow | Natural depression |
|---------------|----------|-----------|--------------------|
| 1 | 1 | 7 | - |
| 2 | 1 | 4 | - |
| 3 | 4 | 9 | 1 |
| Totals | 6 | 20 | 1 |

Table 1: Features revealed in the trenches

All the deposits and features revealed in the trenches are summarised below. Detailed context information is contained in Appendix 2.

2.3.1 Soils and geological deposits

The overburden consisted of a ploughsoil generally between 0.28m and 0.35m thick, which sealed all the archaeological features. The thickness of the ploughsoil increased to 0.46m towards the middle of Trench 3, where it overlay a deposit of clay silt (333) which was infilling a natural depression.

Each trial trench was excavated to the top of the undisturbed geological strata, reached at between 80.70 and 81.20m OD. This consisted of clay with bands of sandy silt containing frequent amounts of small to large stones.

2.3.2 Natural depression

A deposit of clay silt (333) was revealed beneath the ploughsoil towards the middle of Trench 3 (Figure 2). This deposit is the result of silting within a natural depression clearly visible on the surface in this area of the field.

2.3.3 Boundary ditches

Five ditches, broadly aligned north-east to south-west, were revealed in Trenches 2 and 3. One of these ditches, [309], is discussed separately in Section 2.3.5 due to its relationship with the furrows. A further ditch was revealed in Trench 1 orientated east to west.

Ditch [205], orientated north-east to south-west, was revealed in the south-eastern end of Trench 2. It was 2m wide and 0.8m deep (Figure 2, Section 3; Figure 5, Photograph 1). The deposit within the ditch was a mid grey clay silt with patches of re-deposited natural clay. It contained five abraded pottery sherds (weighing 9g) from a single late Iron Age/early Roman vessel.

The location of ditch [205] coincides with the south-eastern end of geophysical anomaly **B** (Figure 4). However, the orientation of the ditch and anomaly do not match. In addition, the other end of the anomaly did not correlate with a feature in the trench, all of which indicate that the geophysical interpretation is incorrect.



Three ditches [305], [313] and [315] of a similar size and character were revealed in Trench 3. Like ditch [205] and the furrows, they were broadly orientated north-east to south-west, albeit on a slightly different alignment. However, they were much smaller than ditch [205], measuring approximately 1m wide and 0.5m deep with moderately sloping sides and a flat base (Figure 2, Section 4; Figure 5, Photograph 3). Their dark grey-brown sandy silt fills also differed. Three abraded Roman pottery sherds, weighing 21g and belonging to one vessel, were recovered from ditch [315].

Ditch [101] was revealed in the eastern end of Trench 1 (Figure 2, Section 1). It was orientated east to west, in contrast to the alignment of the other ditches and the furrows. Its mid orange-grey silty clay fill also distinguished it from the other ditches. It contained a small, very abraded fragment (3g) of late medieval/post-medieval tile.

2.3.4 Furrows

A total of twenty furrows were identified within the three trenches (Figure 2, Section 2; Figure 5, Photograph 2). They were all orientated approximately north-east to south-west and formed two distinct sets, probably representing different phases of cultivation on the site.

The two series of furrows were largely distinguishable by their size — one typically containing much wider furrows than the other. The generally larger furrows are referred to as phase A on Figure 2. Both series of furrows were regularly spaced at intervals of between 8.5m and 11m.

The furrows appear to approximately correlate with the geophysical anomalies (Figure 5, anomaly A) interpreted as medieval cultivation.

Two of the narrower furrows [203] and [207] contained three very abraded pottery sherds: one tentatively identified as late Iron Age/early Roman and the others as Roman, as well as a fragment of worked flint. Artefacts recovered from the wider furrows included late medieval/post-medieval tile fragments and pottery, as well as a residual abraded fragment of Roman tile.

2.3.5 Boundary ditch post-dating the furrows

Ditch [309] orientated north-east to south-west was located within Trench 3. This ditch was narrower and contained a darker fill than the other boundary ditches identified in Trench 3. It also post-dated one of the narrower furrows. On the basis of this evidence, this ditch is unlikely to be contemporary with the other three ditches in Trench 3.



3. SYNTHESIS

3.1 Discussion

The trial trench investigation revealed a series of predominantly north-east to south-west aligned features in the form of furrows and boundary ditches. A further ditch was revealed aligned east to west.

In keeping with the furrows, five of the six boundary ditches were orientated north-east to south-west. However, the three similar ditches in Trench 3 appeared to be on a slightly, but noticeably different, alignment.

The dating evidence for the boundary ditches is limited. Of the north-east to south-west orientated ditches, ditch [205] contained a sherd of late Iron Age pottery and ditch [315] contained a Roman pottery sherd. However, ditch [309] was demonstrated to be later than the furrows, though was different in character to the other ditches. Ditch [101] orientated east to west, contained a fragment of post-medieval tile. None of these ditches correspond with any boundaries depicted on the 1889 1st Edition OS map.

The dating evidence, though scant, raises the possibility that some of the north-east to south-west ditches represent late Iron Age and/or Roman boundaries. In addition, the Roman tile fragment and the two pottery sherds, one dating from the Roman period and the other from the late Iron Age/Roman transitional period, recovered from the furrows indicate there may be features of this date in the vicinity. However, the much abraded nature of all the recovered pottery raises the possibility that they may not provide reliable dating for these features, so making the dating of the ditches very uncertain.

Twenty furrows were revealed on the site, representing the truncated remnants of ridge and furrow arable cultivation characteristic of the medieval period. They formed two distinct sets, both broadly orientated north-east to south-west and likely to represent different phases of cultivation. They were largely distinguishable by their size – one typically containing much wider furrows than the other.

The furrows approximately correlate with the geophysical anomalies (Figure 3, anomaly **A**) interpreted as medieval cultivation. Other evidence of ridge and furrow cultivation is known from the vicinity. A combination of aerial photography and excavation has identified ridge and furrow approximately 500m to the north-west of the site and to the east of Ridgmont Station in Area 7 of the road corridor (Albion Archaeology 2006; Jacobs Babbie 2005).

Apart from the furrows, no other features appeared to correlate with the identified geophysical anomalies. It is likely that discrete anomaly **D** reflects objects in the ploughsoil, whilst anomalies **B** and **C** may reflect geological variation. It should also be noted that other potential curvilinear anomalies, similar and near to anomaly **C**, are visible on the geophysics greyscale plot of the area. These too could not be correlated with any of the features revealed in the trenches.



3.2 Summary of Significance

The limited amount and abraded nature of the ceramic material contained within the ditches means that their date and, therefore, significance is somewhat debatable. However, the relative lack of finds does suggest that these features are peripheral to any settlement. They are likely to be boundaries associated with the rural landscape.

Early field systems and landscape development have been identified as important regional research priorities. However, within this framework, the boundary ditches and furrows revealed during the evaluation are of limited significance.

If any of the boundary ditches are interpreted as late Iron Age or Roman, then they provide an important resource in aiding the understanding and origins of the landscape. These are research themes referred to in Champion *et al.* (2001) and Oake (forthcoming). Of note, is the possibility that the late Iron Age/Roman ditches and ridge and furrow are broadly on the same alignment, indicating the possibility of continuity in the landscape from the Iron Age through to the medieval period.

Medieval field systems have also been identified as an important area of study for the eastern region (Oake forthcoming). The prevalence of common open fields in Bedfordshire, as represented by the ridge and furrow, bears more similarities to Buckinghamshire and Northamptonshire rather than towards the east. This distinctiveness from the rest of the region means that the origins and development of field systems, and their relationships to other regions, is a subject for further research (Oake forthcoming).

The evaluation has also clarified the results of the geophysics survey. It has confirmed the presence of the ridge and furrow, but demonstrated that the curvilinear anomalies were not archaeological in nature, but more likely reflect variations in the underlying geology.



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5. APPENDICES

5.1 Appendix 1: Artefact Summary

5.1.1 Introduction

The evaluation produced a finds assemblage comprising pottery, ceramic building material, fired clay and worked flint (Table 2). The material was scanned to ascertain its nature, condition and, where possible, date range.

| Tr. | Feature | Type | Context | Spot date* | Pottery (sherds:wgt (g)) | Other finds |
|-----|---------|--------|---------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1 | 101 | Ditch | 102 | - | | Roof tile (3g) |
| | 117 | Furrow | 118 | Late medieval/post-medieval | | Brick (280g) |
| 2 | 203 | Furrow | 201 | - | 2:6 | Worked flint (2g) |
| | 205 | Ditch | 206 | Late Iron Age/early Roman | 5:9 | Fired clay (3g) |
| | 207 | Furrow | 208 | - | 1:7 | |
| | 210 | Furrow | 209 | Late medieval/post-medieval | | Roof tile (5g) |
| 3 | 315 | Ditch | 316 | Roman | 3:21 | |
| | 320 | Furrow | 321 | - | | Fired clay (4g) |
| | 320 | Furrow | 322 | Late medieval/post-medieval | | Roof tile & brick (47g) |
| | 323 | Furrow | 324 | Post-medieval | 1:126 | |
| | 325 | Furrow | 326 | Roman | | Roof tile (24g) |
| | | | | Total | 12:169 | |

* - spot date based on date of latest artefact in context

sherd / frag count : weight in g

Table 2: Artefact summary by trench and feature

5.1.2 Pottery

Twelve pottery sherds, weighing 169g were recovered. These were examined by context and quantified using minimum sherd count and weight. Sherds are small (average weight 14g) and all are highly abraded. Five fabric types were identified using common names and type codes in accordance with the Bedfordshire Ceramic Type Series, currently maintained by Albion Archaeology on behalf of Bedfordshire County Council. Fabrics are listed below (Table 3) in chronological order.

| Fabric type | Common name | Sherd No. | Context/Sherd No. |
|---|-----------------------------|-----------|-------------------|
| <i>Late Iron Age/early Roman</i> Type F06B | Medium grog | 5 | (206):5 |
| <i>Roman</i> Type R05A | Oxidised sand | 2 | (201):2 |
| Type R06E | Calcareous greyware | 3 | (316):3 |
| <i>Post-medieval</i> Type P01 | Fine glazed red earthenware | 1 | (324):1 |
| UNID | Undatable | 1 | (208):1 |

Table 3: Pottery type series

Five late Iron Age/early Roman grog tempered sherds representing a single undiagnostic vessel (9g) were recovered from the fill of ditch [205]. All are highly abraded and survive in poor condition. Sand tempered Roman pottery derived from furrow [203] and ditch [315], which respectively yielded two residual sherds (6g) and three abraded sherds (21g), the latter deriving from one vessel. The fill of furrow [207] contained a shell tempered rim fragment (7g) which may be of late Iron Age/early Roman date, although is too leached



and abraded to be positively identified. A glazed earthenware bowl rim of 17th-18th century date derived from the fill of furrow [323].

5.1.3 Other finds

Three sand tempered pieces of late medieval/post-medieval flat roof tile (18g) and two brick fragments (317g) of similar date derived from the fills of undated ditch [101] and furrows [117], [210] and [320]. A highly abraded fragment (24g) recovered from furrow [326] has been identified as part of a Roman roof tile (*tegula*).

An amorphous sand tempered fired clay fragment (3g) was recovered from the fill of late Iron Age/early Roman ditch [205]. A second fragment (4g), probably representing a degraded piece of late medieval/post-medieval roof tile, derived from the fill of furrow [320].

A broken piece of a worked flint flake or blade (2g) was recovered from the fill of furrow [203].



5.2 Appendix 2: Trial Trench Summary



Trench: 1

Max Dimensions: Length: 38.00 m. Width: 1.60 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.24 m. Max: 0.34 m.

Co-ordinates: OS Grid Ref.: SP9617337501

OS Grid Ref.: SP9620837483

Reason: Trench to evaluate geophysical anomalies A and D.

| Context: | Type: | Description: | Excavated: | Finds Present: |
|-----------------|--------------|--|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 100 | Ploughsoil | Friable dark brown grey clay silt occasional small stones 0.28-0.34m thick | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 101 | Ditch | Linear E-W profile: concave base: concave dimensions: max breadth 0.93m, max depth 0.27m, min length 2.75m | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 102 | Fill | Firm mid orange grey silty clay occasional small-medium stones Contained a 3g sherd of abraded late med/post med tile | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 103 | Treethrow | Oval NE-SW profile: concave base: uneven dimensions: max breadth 0.8m, max depth 0.27m, min length 0.9m | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 104 | Fill | Firm mid orange grey clay silt occasional medium stones | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 105 | Furrow | Linear NE-SW dimensions: max breadth 2.25m, min length 1.6m | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 106 | Fill | Firm dark orange grey sandy silt moderate small-medium stones | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 107 | Furrow | Linear NE-SW profile: concave base: concave dimensions: max breadth 1.18m, max depth 0.19m, min length 1.6m | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 108 | Fill | Firm mid grey orange silty sand frequent small-medium stones | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 109 | Furrow | Linear NE-SW dimensions: max breadth 1.55m, min length 1.6m | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 110 | Fill | Firm dark orange grey sandy silt moderate small-medium stones | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 111 | Furrow | Linear NE-SW profile: concave base: uneven dimensions: max breadth 1.35m, max depth 0.23m, min length 1.6m | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 112 | Fill | Firm mid orange grey sandy silt occasional small-medium stones | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 113 | Furrow | Linear NE-SW dimensions: max breadth 1.45m, min length 1.6m | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 114 | Fill | Firm mid orange grey sandy silt occasional small-medium stones | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 115 | Furrow | Linear NE-SW profile: concave base: concave dimensions: max breadth 1.4m, max depth 0.23m, min length 1.6m | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 116 | Fill | Firm mid orange grey sandy silt occasional small manganese staining, occasional small-medium stones | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 117 | Furrow | Linear NE-SW dimensions: max breadth 1.75m, min length 1.6m | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 118 | Fill | Firm mid orange grey sandy silt occasional small-medium stones Contained a fragment of late medieval/post-medieval brick | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 119 | Natural | Compact frequent small-large stones Mixture of light grey clay and light orange sandy silt | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

**Trench: 2**

Max Dimensions: Length: 25.00 m. Width: 1.60 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.31 m. Max: 0.35 m.

Co-ordinates: OS Grid Ref.: SP9618737473

OS Grid Ref.: SP9620837457

Reason: Trench to evaluate geophysical anomalies A and B.

| Context: | Type: | Description: | Excavated: | Finds Present: |
|----------|------------|--|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 200 | Ploughsoil | Friable dark grey clay silt occasional small-medium stones 0.30-0.35m thick | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 202 | Natural | Compact frequent small-large stones Mixture of blue-grey clay and light orange sandy silt | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 203 | Furrow | Linear NE-SW profile: concave base: concave dimensions: max breadth 1.46m, max depth 0.21m, min length 1.6m | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 201 | Fill | Firm mid orange grey clay occasional small stones Deposit was 0.12m thick. Contained a single broken flint flake or blade and 2 sherds of residual Roman pottery | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 204 | Fill | Firm mid orange grey clay silt moderate small chalk, occasional large stones Deposit was 0.13m thick | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 205 | Ditch | Linear NE-SW profile: stepped base: flat dimensions: max breadth 2.1m, max depth 0.55m, min length 1.6m | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 206 | Fill | Firm mid orange grey clay silt moderate small chalk, occasional medium stones Contains patches of redeposited natural. Contained 5 very abraded fragments of a Late Iron Age/Early Roman vessel, and a single piece of fired clay. | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 207 | Furrow | Linear NE-SW profile: concave base: concave dimensions: max breadth 1.55m, max depth 0.26m, min length 1.6m | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 208 | Fill | Firm mid orange grey clay silt occasional small sand, moderate medium-large stones Contained a single abraded fragment of pottery, possibly Late Iron Age/Early Roman in date. | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 210 | Furrow | Linear NE-SW dimensions: max breadth 2.6m, min length 1.6m | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 209 | Fill | Firm dark orange grey clay silt frequent medium stones Contained an abraded fragment of post-medieval roof tile | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 211 | Furrow | Linear NE-SW dimensions: max breadth 3.9m, min length 1.6m | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 212 | Fill | Firm mid orange grey clay silt frequent medium stones | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

**Trench: 3**

Max Dimensions: Length: 72.00 m. Width: 1.60 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.22 m. Max: 0.43 m.

Co-ordinates: OS Grid Ref.: SP9621237493

OS Grid Ref.: SP9627237453

Reason: Trench to evaluate geophysical anomalies A and C.

| Context: | Type: | Description: | Excavated: | Finds Present: |
|----------|------------|--|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 300 | Ploughsoil | Friable dark brown grey sandy silt occasional small-medium stones Deposit is 0.28-0.46m thick | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 301 | Natural | Frequent small-large stones Mixture of Light Orange brown sandy silt and light grey clay | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 302 | Furrow | Linear NE-SW profile: 45 degrees base: uneven dimensions: max breadth 1.85m, max depth 0.22m, min length 1.6m | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 303 | Fill | Plastic mid orange brown clay occasional small-medium stones Deposit was 0.18m thick | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 304 | Fill | Firm silty clay moderate small-medium stones Mottled mid to light yellow-brown and orange-brown in colour. Deposit was 0.16m thick | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 305 | Ditch | Linear NE-SW base: flat dimensions: max breadth 1.1m, max depth 0.46m, min length 1.6m Profile slightly asymmetrical, SE side is ~45 degrees, NW side ~ 60 degrees | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 306 | Fill | Friable dark brown grey silty clay occasional flecks charcoal Deposit was 0.45m thick | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 307 | Fill | Firm clay occasional small stones Mixture of mid orange brown, mid grey and dark grey. Deposit was 0.31m thick | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 308 | Fill | Firm silty clay occasional small-large stones Mixture of light orange brown and yellow brown. Deposit was 0.17m thick | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 309 | Ditch | Linear NE-SW base: flat dimensions: max breadth 0.58m, max depth 0.48m, min length 1.6m Profile Asymmetrical, SE side is near vertical, NW side ~ 45 degrees | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 310 | Fill | Firm dark grey brown sandy silt occasional small-medium stones | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 311 | Furrow | Linear NE-SW base: uneven dimensions: max breadth 0.89m, max depth 0.35m, min length 1.6m Profile asymmetrical | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 312 | Fill | Firm mid orange brown sandy silt | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 313 | Ditch | Linear NE-SW base: flat dimensions: max breadth 0.89m, max depth 0.39m, min length 1.6m Profile slightly asymmetrical, SE side is ~45 degrees, NW side ~ 60 degrees | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 314 | Fill | Firm dark grey sandy silt occasional flecks charcoal, occasional small sand, occasional small-large stones | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 315 | Ditch | Linear NE-SW base: flat dimensions: max breadth 1.05m, max depth 0.57m, min length 1.6m Profile slightly asymmetrical, SE side is ~45 degrees, NW side ~ 60 degrees | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 316 | Fill | Firm dark grey silty clay occasional flecks charcoal, occasional small sand, occasional small-medium stones Deposit was 0.38m thick. Contained 3 very abraded Roman pottery sherds from one vessel | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 334 | Fill | Firm light yellow grey silty clay occasional small-large stones | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 317 | Furrow | Linear NE-SW profile: concave base: uneven dimensions: max breadth 4.25m, min depth 0.16m, min length 1.6m Partially excavated on the NW side. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 318 | Fill | Firm mid orange brown clay occasional flecks charcoal, occasional small stones | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 319 | Fill | Firm dark orange grey sandy silt occasional flecks charcoal, frequent small-medium stones | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 320 | Furrow | Linear NE-SW dimensions: max breadth 3.15m, min length 1.6m | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |



Trench: 3

Max Dimensions: Length: 72.00 m. Width: 1.60 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.22 m. Max: 0.43 m.

Co-ordinates: OS Grid Ref.: SP9621237493

OS Grid Ref.: SP9627237453

Reason: Trench to evaluate geophysical anomalies A and C.

| Context: | Type: | Description: | Excavated: | Finds Present: |
|-----------------|---------------|---|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 321 | Fill | Firm mid grey brown clay silt moderate small-medium stones Contained a small fragment of degraded tile | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 322 | Fill | Firm dark orange grey sandy silt occasional flecks charcoal, frequent small-medium stones Contained fragments of post-medieval brick and roof tile | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 323 | Furrow | Linear NE-SW dimensions: min breadth 1.m, min length 1.6m | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 324 | Fill | Firm mid grey brown clay silt moderate small-medium stones Contained an abraded sherd of a post-medieval bowl rim | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 325 | Furrow | Linear NE-SW dimensions: max breadth 2.75m, max length 1.6m | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 326 | Fill | Firm mid grey brown clay silt moderate small-medium stones Contained a very abraded fragment of possible Roman tegula. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 327 | Furrow | Linear NE-SW dimensions: max breadth 1.7m, min length 1.6m | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 328 | Fill | Firm mid grey brown clay silt moderate small-medium stones | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 329 | Furrow | Linear NE-SW dimensions: max breadth 1.85m, min length 1.6m | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 330 | Fill | Firm mid grey brown clay silt moderate small-medium stones | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 331 | Furrow | Linear NE-SW dimensions: max breadth 2.m, min length 1.6m | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 332 | Fill | Firm mid grey brown clay silt moderate small-medium stones | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 333 | Layer | Firm mid brown grey clay silt occasional small-medium stones Probable alluvial deposit, lying within a natural depression towards the middle of the trench | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

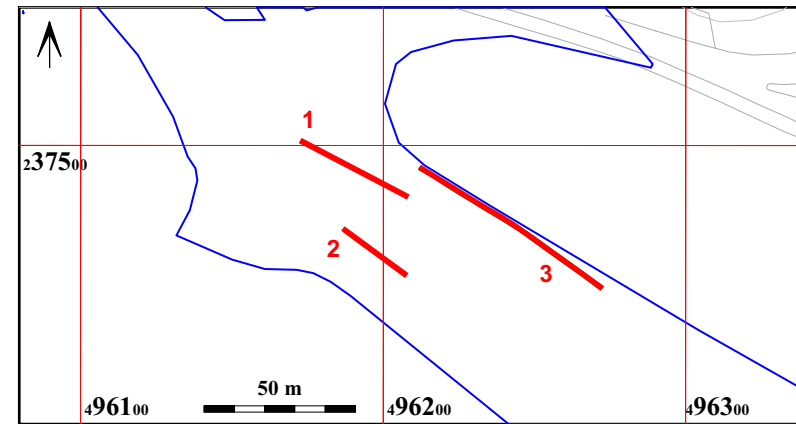
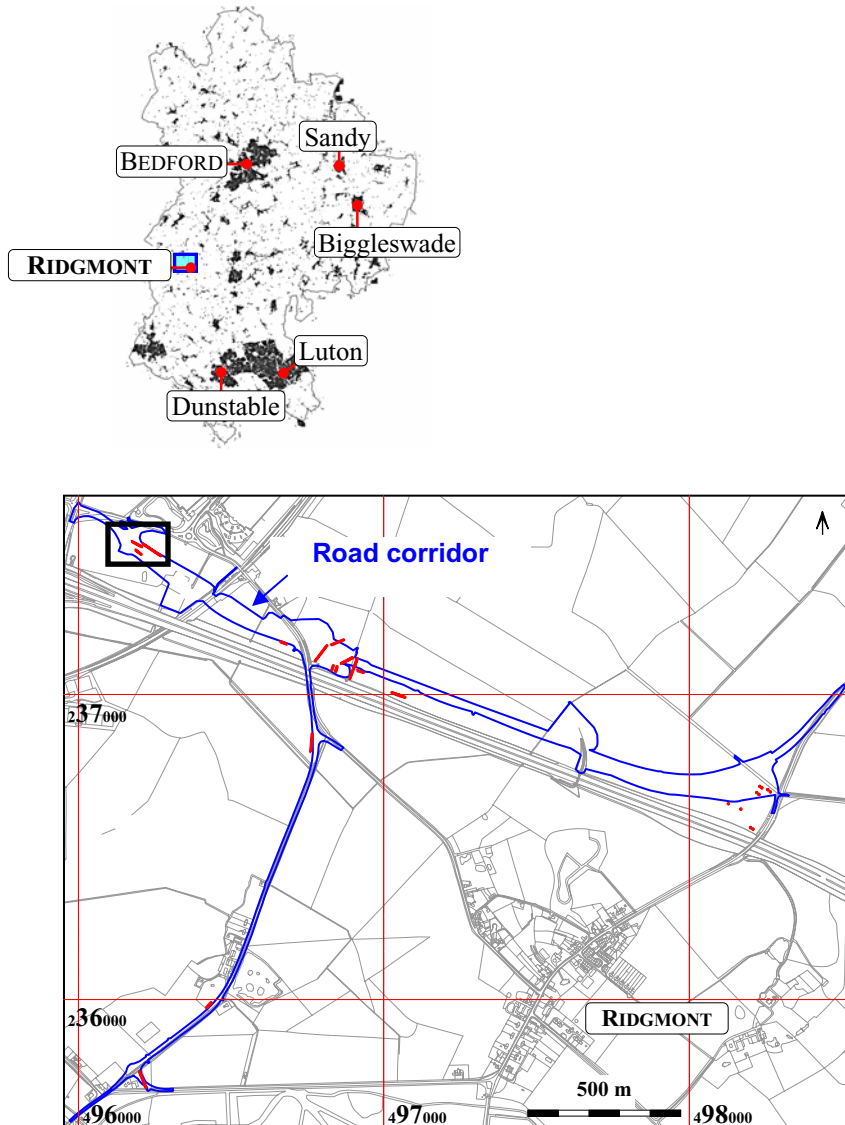


Figure 1: Site location map

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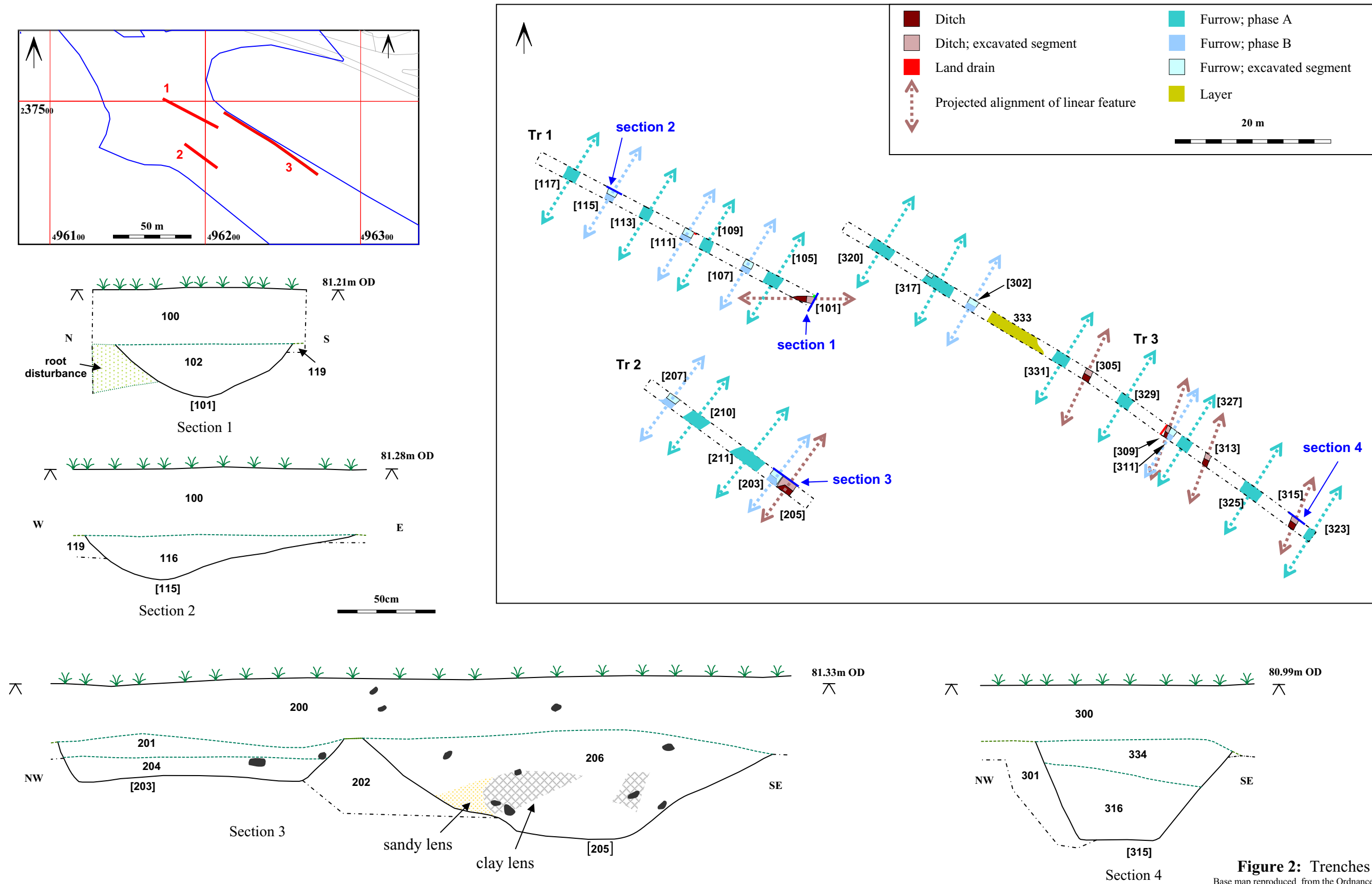


Figure 2: Trenches 1, 2 and 3

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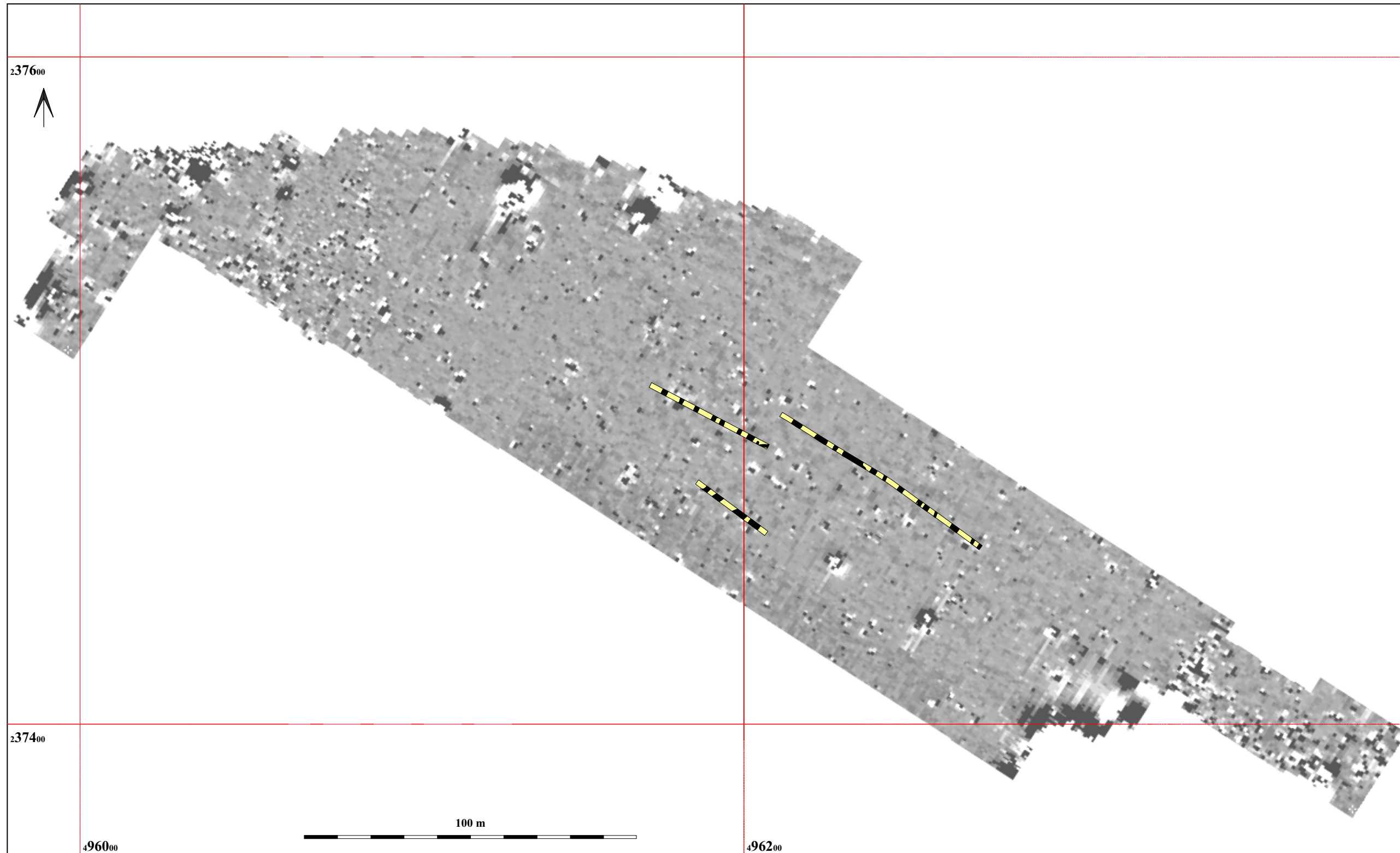


Figure 3: Geophysics greyscale plot (from Pre-Construct Geophysics 2003) with trenches overlaid

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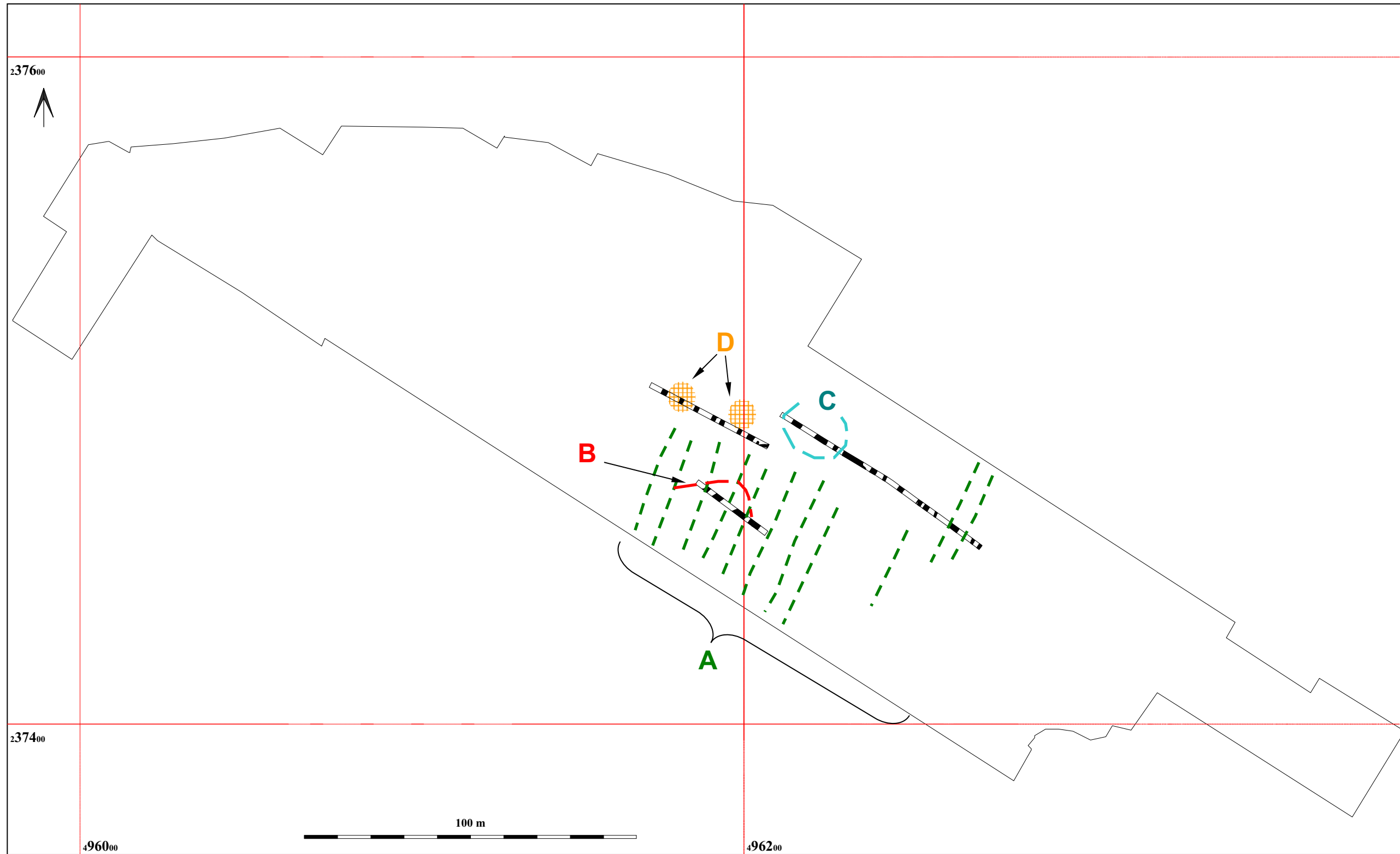


Figure 4: Interpretative plan of selected geophysical anomalies (based on Pre-Construct Geophysics 2003)
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Photograph 1: Section 3, furrow [203] and ditch [205]. Scale 2m



Photograph 2: Furrow [302]. Scale 1m



Photograph 3: Ditch [313]. Scale 1m

Figure 5: Selected photographs