GREAT NORTH ROAD
ALCONBURY
CAMBRIDGESHIRE

ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELD EVALUATION

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Preface

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

The project was commissioned by Alconbury Recreation Field Charity. It was monitored on behalf of the Local Planning Authority by Eliza Gore of the Cambridgeshire Archaeology, Planning and Countryside Advice office.

Fieldwork for this project was undertaken by David Ingham (Project Officer), Adam Lodoen (Archaeological Supervisor), Adam Williams (Assistant Archaeological Supervisor) and Gary Manning (Archaeological Technician). This report has been prepared by David Ingham with contributions from Joan Lighting (CAD Technician) and Jackie Wells (Finds Officer). All Albion projects are under the overall management of Drew Shotliff (Operations Manager).

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Structure of the Report

Section 1 is an introduction to the project. The methodology and results of the fieldwork are presented in Sections 2 and 3. Section 4 comprises a synthesis of the results of the fieldwork. Section 5 is a bibliography.

Appendix 1 contains detailed descriptions of the archaeological deposits recorded on the site. Appendix 2 contains detailed descriptions of the artefacts and ecofacts recovered. Appendix 3 contains an OASIS form.

Key Terms

Throughout this report the following terms or abbreviations are used:

ALGAO	Association of Local Government Archaeological Officers
CAPCA	Cambridgeshire Archaeology, Planning and Countryside Advice office

CCC	Cambridgeshire County Council
CHER	Cambridgeshire Historic Environment Record
Design Brief	CAPCA 2008. *Design Brief for Archaeological Evaluation: Great North Road, Alconbury*
EMIA	Early to middle Iron Age
IFA	Institute of Field Archaeologists
LPA	Local Planning Authority
Procedures Manual	Albion Archaeology 2001. *Procedures Manual. Volume 1: Fieldwork*, 2nd edn

Non-Technical Summary

Planning permission for the construction of all-weather playing fields and a multi-use games area at Great North Road, Alconbury (NGR TL 1816 7624) included a condition requiring the implementation of a programme of archaeological works, due to the high archaeological potential of the site. A Design Brief issued by the Cambridgeshire Archaeology, Planning and Countryside Advice office stated that further information on the archaeological impact of the proposed work was required.

Albion Archaeology, commissioned by Alconbury Recreation Field Charity, undertook an archaeological field evaluation of the proposed development site in May 2008, the results of which are presented in this report.

The development site lies in an area of Oxford Clay, overlain by First and Second Terrace River Deposits. Crop-marks adjacent to the site show evidence of medieval cultivation systems and house platforms (CHER 9036 and 10506). Medieval finds are also known from the area (CHER 801). To the north-west, within the same field as the proposed development, are strip lynchets and ridge and furrow crop-marks (CHER 798).

The evaluation revealed the remains of previously unknown Iron Age and Saxon settlement activity, as well as medieval ridge and furrow earthworks, and a number of other features of archaeological origin whose date could not be determined. The Iron Age and Saxon remains are considered to be of regional significance.

The depth of overburden is sufficient that the development will cause negligible damage to the archaeological remains, which will be preserved largely in situ beneath the development.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project Background

The proposed development includes the construction of two large all-weather playing fields and a smaller multi-use games area on the site at Great North Road, Alconbury, centred on NGR TL 1816 7624 (Fig. 1).

Because of the archaeological potential of the site, a condition was placed on planning consent requiring the implementation of a programme of archaeological works. The LPA's archaeological advisors, the CAPCA, issued a Design Brief (CAPCA 2008) outlining the requirements of a field evaluation, which constituted the initial phase of investigation. The results of this phase, presented in this report, will be used to determine whether any further archaeological work is required at the site.

Albion Archaeology was commissioned by Alconbury Recreation Field Charity to carry out the evaluation.

1.2 Site Background

Alconbury lies approximately 6km north-west of Huntingdon (Fig. 1). The development area is located on the western edge of the village, south-west of the Alconbury Brook, at a height of 17m OD. The underlying geological deposits comprise Oxford Clay, overlain by First and Second Terrace River Deposits. The area being evaluated was *c*. 11,800m^2 and lay fallow at the time of fieldwork.

The proposed development is adjacent to crop-mark evidence of medieval cultivation systems and house platforms (CHER 9036 and 10506). Medieval finds are also known from the area (CHER 801). To the north-west, within the same field as the proposed development area, are strip lynchets and ridge and furrow crop-marks (CHER 798).

1.3 Project Objectives

The principal objectives of the evaluation were to test for the presence of archaeological remains within the development area, and to define the extent, condition, nature and significance of any that were revealed.

Attention was paid to determining the amount of truncation that had affected the remains, and whether palaeosols or 'B' horizons were present. The evaluation also aimed to determine what impact the proposed development would have on any remains that were present.

2. METHODOLOGY

Trial trenching took place between 6th and 16th May 2008. Initially, six trenches were opened, covering a total area of 355m^2 (Fig. 1). The trench plan was agreed by the CAPCA before the trenching began. Trench 2 was subsequently extended laterally at the request of the CAPCA, in order to help define the character of the archaeological remains identified within it.

The trenches were opened by a mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless bucket, under close archaeological supervision. Overburden was removed down to the top of the archaeological deposits or undisturbed geological deposits, whichever were encountered first. The spoil heaps and archaeological deposits were scanned for artefacts using a metal detector.

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The bases and sides of all trenches were cleaned by hand. Any potential archaeological features were noted, cleaned, excavated by hand and recorded using Albion Archaeology's *pro forma* sheets. Each trench was subsequently drawn and photographed as appropriate. All deposits were recorded using a unique number sequence, commencing at 100 for Trench 1, 200 for Trench 2 *etc*. Not all of the features could be excavated to their full depth, due to concerns regarding health and safety, and also due to the level of the water table.

A full methodology is provided in the Project Design (Albion Archaeology 2008).

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

- IFA — *Code of Conduct*; *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation*
- Albion Archaeology — *Procedures Manual: Volume 1 Fieldwork* (2nd edn, 2001)
- ALGAO (east) — *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England*
- CCC — *Deposition of Archaeological Archives in the Cambridgeshire County Council Archaeology Store* (HER 2004/1)
- CAPCA — *Design Brief for Archaeological Evaluation*
- English Heritage — *The Management of Archaeological Projects (2nd edn*, 1991)

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

3. RESULTS

All the deposits and features of archaeological interest are summarised below in chronological order and by feature type. Their location and extent are shown on Figures 2 to 4. Detailed technical information on all archaeological features / deposits and artefacts can be found in Appendices 1 and 2.

3.1 Overburden and undisturbed geological deposits

The overburden was homogenous in character across the site. The topsoil comprised a *c*. 0.3m thick deposit, and contained a number of modern artefacts (not retained) which were recovered from the spoil heaps with a metal detector. The subsoil varied in thickness from 0.1m at the southern end of the development area to 0.3m at the northern end. A number of modern artefacts (not retained) were found in the topsoil using a metal detector. The undisturbed geological deposits comprised silty gravel with patches of clay, which occurred more frequently towards the north of the area.

3.2 Iron Age

Trenches 2 and 4 both produced evidence of activity dating to the Iron Age. This comprised three ditches and a pit in Trench 2, and two ditches in Trench 4.

Trench 2 revealed a concentration of Iron Age activity near its centre, where ditch [212], which was 2.7m wide and produced the majority of the Iron Age finds assemblage (Appendix 2), cut across ditch G[228] and pit [220] (Fig. 3). Ditch [208], similar in size and profile to G[228], was located at the eastern end of the trench. Soil samples taken from these ditches produced only negligible quantities of charred plant remains, although they contained a small amount of fuel ash slag and hammerslag from ditch [212] and several fragments of burnt animal bone from [208].

The ditches in Trench 4 were comparable in size to [212], measuring 1.9–2m wide and *c*. 0.8m deep, but contained a much smaller finds assemblage. The soil samples taken from these were similarly unproductive.

3.3 Early – Middle Saxon

A sub-rectangular pit [206] in Trench 2 (1.7m long, 1.4m wide and 0.48m deep) produced a small assemblage of early to middle Saxon pottery, along with a moderate amount of animal bone. A soil sample taken from the pit produced only a negligible quantity of charred plant items, although a small quantity of burnt animal bone was recovered. There is no indication that the pit formed part of a *grubenhaus*.

3.4 Medieval / Post-medieval

The remains of medieval ridge and furrow earthworks were recorded in Trenches 1 to 4 (Fig. 2). All the furrows were aligned approximately NE–SW and had been heavily truncated by modern ploughing. The only other feature artefactually dated to the post-medieval period is pit [304], which contained a small fragment of ceramic building material.

Land drains were identified in all six trenches; one that was revealed in Trench 5 and the south-western end of Trench 4 was contained within a ditch.

3.5 Undated

A total of six pits, eight ditches and a tree-throw hole produced no artefactual dating evidence. Quarry pit [408] in Trench 4 contained five tiny sherds of Iron Age pottery, weighing a total of 3g, but this meagre ceramic assemblage is inadequate to label the feature with confidence as dating to the Iron Age.

The undated ditches were all small (no more than 1m wide); most were identified in Trench 5, on a comparable alignment to that of (and perhaps contemporary with) the furrows (Fig. 4). Pit [226] and ditch [218] were located amidst the concentration of activity in Trench 2, and are likely to be either Saxon or Iron Age in date. Pit [410] was the most substantial of the undated features, measuring 1.9m in diameter and at least 0.65m deep; its profile suggests it may have been a storage pit.

4. SYNTHESIS

4.1 Summary and Discussion of Archaeological Remains

The development area contains the remains of Iron Age and Saxon settlement activity, medieval ridge and furrow earthworks, and a number of other features of archaeological origin whose date could not be determined.

The Iron Age remains were confined to Trenches 2 and 4, with a particular concentration in Trench 2, from which the majority of the finds assemblage was recovered. It is likely that the remains in Trench 2 formed part of an Iron Age settlement.

Ceramic evidence for the Iron Age features (Appendix 2) suggests a date range from the early – middle Iron Age (EMIA) through to the late Iron Age. However, stratigraphic evidence, particularly with regard to ditches G[228] and [215], suggests either that the EMIA pottery was residual within later Iron Age features, or that it should perhaps be dated to the middle – late Iron Age: ceramic dating sequences for the Iron Age in Cambridgeshire are insufficiently refined to be more precise over the date of individual sherds.

Saxon pit [206] was located amidst the concentration of Iron Age activity in Trench 2. There is a growing body of evidence from across the country for the Saxon re-use of Iron Age sites, and this may be another example.

4.2 Significance of Archaeological Remains

The Iron Age remains are believed to represent part of a previously unknown Iron Age settlement, with associated field systems. They are therefore considered to be of regional significance. The Saxon remains are also of regional significance, as they are previously unknown evidence for small-scale settlement activity within the development area, perhaps even related to the original settlement from which the modern village of Alconbury developed.

4.3 Impact of Development on Archaeological Remains

Construction of the all-weather playing fields and multi-use games area will entail the removal of 200mm of topsoil from the area of the two large playing fields, and 300mm for the multi-use games area in the southern corner of the development area. It will also involve the excavation of NE–SW aligned drainage channels at 8m intervals across the development area, to a depth of 0.45m, and along its north-eastern perimeter, to a depth of 0.6m. These drainage channels will be 0.3m wide, covering *c*. 4% of the development area.

Overburden within the development area is 0.4–0.6m deep, shallowest in the southern corner and deeper towards the north. The removal of topsoil across the area of the playing pitches will therefore have no negative impact on the underlying archaeological deposits. The drainage channels will have only a minor negative impact on the underlying archaeological deposits, as the few that will extend below the archaeological horizon shall do so by no more than 0.1m. The

archaeological remains, therefore, will largely be preserved *in situ* beneath the development.

5. BIBLIOGRAPHY

Albion Archaeology 2001. *Procedures Manual Volume 1 Fieldwork*, 2nd edition

ALGAO (east) 2003. *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England*, East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Paper 14

CAPCA 2008. *Design Brief for Archaeological Evaluation: Great North Road, Alconbury*

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English Heritage 1991. *The Management of Archaeological Projects, 2nd edition* (London)

IFA 1999a. *Code of Conduct*

IFA 1999b. *Standard and Guidance* documents *(Desk-Based Assessments, Watching Briefs, Evaluations, Excavations, Investigation and Recording of Standing Buildings)*

6. APPENDIX 1

6.1 Context Summary

Trench: 1

Max Dimensions: **Length: 25.00 m. Width: 1.60 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.55 m. Max: 0.6 m.**

Co-ordinates: **OS Grid Ref.: TL** *(Easting: 18120: Northing: 76354)*

OS Grid Ref.: TL *(Easting: 18129: Northing: 76332)*

Reason: **Evaluate archaeological potential of development area**

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
100	**Topsoil**	**Firm dark grey brown clay silt**	☑	☐
101	**Subsoil**	**Firm dark brown clay silt**	☑	☐
104	**Furrow**	**Linear NE-SW profile: concave base: flat dimensions: max breadth 1.55m, max depth 28.m**	☑	☐
102	Fill	Firm mid brown clay silt	☑	☐
103	Fill	Firm mid brown grey silty clay	☑	☐
105	**Natural**	**Firm mid yellow orange clay gravel**	☐	☐

Trench: 2

Max Dimensions: Length: 50.00 m. Width: 1.60 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.5 m. Max: 0.6 m.

Co-ordinates: OS Grid Ref.: TL *(Easting: 18093: Northing: 76281)*

OS Grid Ref.: TL *(Easting: 18138: Northing: 76298)*

Reason: Evaluate archaeological potential of development area

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
200	**Topsoil**	**Firm dark grey brown clay silt**	☑	☐
201	**Subsoil**	**Firm mid yellow brown silty clay**	☑	☐
202	**Alluvium**	**Firm light yellow brown silty clay 0.1m thick. Only present in a small section of trench west of [208]**	☑	☐
203	**Natural**	**Firm mid yellow brown silty gravel**	☐	☐
204	**Furrow**	**Linear NE-SW profile: convex base: flat dimensions: max breadth 1.7m, max depth 0.15m**	☑	☐
205	Fill	Firm mid brown clay silt	☑	☐
206	**Pit**	**Sub-rectangular profile: concave base: flat dimensions: max length 1.7m, max breadth 1.4m, max depth 0.48m**	☑	☐
207	Upper fill	Firm dark grey brown clay silt	☑	☑
217	Lower fill	Firm mid orange brown silty clay	☑	☑
208	**Ditch**	**Linear NW-SE profile: concave base: concave dimensions: max breadth 0.7m, max depth 0.4m**	☑	☐
209	Fill	Firm dark grey brown clay silt	☑	☑
210	**Furrow**	**Linear NE-SW profile: concave base: flat dimensions: max breadth 1.1m, max depth 0.16m**	☑	☐
211	Fill	Firm mid brown clay silt	☑	☐
212	**Ditch**	**Curving linear profile: 45 degrees dimensions: max breadth 2.7m, min depth 0.75m Not bottomed**	☑	☐
213	Primary fill	Firm mid brown grey clay silt	☑	☐
214	Upper fill	Firm dark brown grey clay silt	☑	☑
215	**Ditch**	**Linear E-W profile: concave base: concave dimensions: max breadth 0.6m, max depth 0.35m**	☑	☐
216	Fill	Firm mid grey brown clay silt	☑	☑
218	**Ditch**	**Linear NE-SW profile: concave base: concave dimensions: max breadth 0.3m, max depth 0.1m**	☑	☐
219	Fill	Firm mid grey brown clay silt	☑	☐
220	**Pit**	**profile: concave base: v-shaped dimensions: max length 1.25m, min breadth 0.75m, max depth 0.57m**	☑	☐
221	Primary fill	Firm light orange brown silty clay	☑	☐
222	Upper fill	Firm mid orange brown silty clay	☑	☑
223	**Ditch**	**Linear E-W profile: concave base: concave dimensions: max breadth 0.6m, max depth 0.19m**	☑	☐
224	**Fill**	**Firm mid grey brown clay silt**	☑	☐

Trench: 3

Max Dimensions: Length: 40.00 m. Width: 1.60 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.45 m. Max: 0.5 m.

Co-ordinates: OS Grid Ref.: TL *(Easting: 18202: Northing: 76271)*

OS Grid Ref.: TL *(Easting: 18171: Northing: 76269)*

Reason: Evaluate archaeological potential of development area

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
300	**Topsoil**	**Firm dark grey brown clay silt moderate flecks charcoal**	☑	☐
301	**Subsoil**	**Firm mid orange brown silty clay**	☑	☐
304	**Pit**	**Oval NE-SW profile: concave base: concave dimensions: max length 2.15m, min breadth 1.35m, max depth 0.37m**	☑	☐
302	Fill	Firm mid grey brown silty silt	☑	☐
303	Primary fill	Loose mid grey yellow sandy gravel	☑	☑
307	**Pit**	**Oval NE-SW profile: concave base: concave dimensions: max length 1.55m, min breadth 0.55m, max depth 0.33m**	☑	☐
305	Fill	Firm mid grey brown silty silt	☑	☐
306	Primary fill	Friable mid grey brown silty gravel	☑	☐
308	**Natural**	**Compact mid orange yellow clay gravel**	☐	☐
309	**Furrow**	**Linear NE-SW profile: concave base: concave dimensions: max breadth 1.4m, max depth 0.1m**	☑	☐
310	Fill	Firm mid brown clay silt	☑	☐

Trench: 4

Max Dimensions: Length: 50.00 m. Width: 1.60 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.45 m. Max: 0.55 m.

Co-ordinates: OS Grid Ref.: TL *(Easting: 18152: Northing: 76237)*

OS Grid Ref.: TL *(Easting: 18182: Northing: 76275)*

Reason: Evaluate archaeological potential of development area

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
400	**Topsoil**	**Firm dark grey brown clay silt**	☑	☐
401	**Subsoil**	**Firm mid yellow brown clay silt**	☑	☐
402	**Ditch**	**Linear NW-SE profile: concave dimensions: max breadth 2.m, min depth 0.75m Not bottomed**	☑	☐
403	Fill	Firm mid grey brown silty clay	☑	☑
414	Fill	Firm mid brown grey clay silt	☑	☐
415	Fill	Firm mid brown grey clay silt	☑	☐
416	Fill	Firm dark brown grey sandy silt	☑	☐
404	**Ditch**	**Curving linear profile: 45 degrees base: concave dimensions: max breadth 1.15m, max depth 0.4m**	☑	☐
405	Fill	Firm mid grey brown silt	☑	☑
417	Fill	Firm mid brown grey silt	☑	☐
406	**Pit**	**Sub-oval profile: concave base: concave dimensions: max length 0.75m, min breadth 0.7m, max depth 0.27m**	☑	☐
407	Fill	Firm mid brown grey clay silt	☑	☐
408	**Quarry**	**Irregular profile: near vertical dimensions: max length 3.6m, min breadth 1.6m, min depth 0.6m Not bottomed**	☑	☐
409	Fill	Firm mid grey brown silt	☑	☑
421	Fill	Firm mid brown orange silty silt	☑	☐
422	Fill	Firm mid grey brown clay silt	☑	☐
423	Fill	Firm mid orange silty silt	☑	☐
424	Fill	Firm mid brown grey sandy silt	☑	☐
410	**Pit**	**Sub-circular profile: near vertical dimensions: max diameter 1.88m, min depth 0.65m Not bottomed**	☑	☐
411	Fill	Firm dark brown grey clay silt	☑	☑
412	**Ditch**	**Linear NW-SE profile: concave base: concave dimensions: max breadth 1.8m, max depth 0.8m**	☑	☐
413	Fill	Firm light brown grey sandy silt	☑	☑
425	Fill	Firm mid grey clay silt	☑	☑
420	**Subsoil**	**Firm mid brown grey clay silt**	☑	☐
426	**Natural**	**Firm mid brown orange silty gravel**	☐	☐

Trench: 5

Max Dimensions: Length: 40.00 m. Width: 1.60 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.45 m. Max: 0.45 m.

Co-ordinates: OS Grid Ref.: TL *(Easting: 18158: Northing: 76214)*

OS Grid Ref.: TL *(Easting: 18126: Northing: 76239)*

Reason: Evaluate archaeological potential of development area

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
500	**Topsoil**	**Firm dark grey brown clay silt**	☑	☐
501	**Subsoil**	**Firm mid yellow brown silty clay**	☑	☐
503	**Ditch**	**Linear NW-SE profile: concave base: v-shaped dimensions: max breadth 0.49m, max depth 0.27m**	☑	☐
502	Fill	Firm mid yellow grey silty gravel	☑	☐
505	**Ditch**	**Linear NW-SE profile: concave base: concave dimensions: max breadth 0.7m, max depth 0.2m**	☑	☐
504	Fill	Firm mid brown grey sandy silt	☑	☐
507	**Ditch**	**Linear NW-SE profile: concave base: concave dimensions: max length 1.m, max breadth 0.74m, max depth 0.3m**	☑	☐
506	Fill	Firm mid yellow grey silty clay	☑	☐
509	**Ditch**	**Linear NW-SE profile: concave base: concave dimensions: max length 1.m, max breadth 1.m, max depth 0.29m**	☑	☐
508	Fill	Firm mid yellow grey silty clay	☑	☐
511	**Pit**	**Irregular NE-SW profile: concave base: concave dimensions: max length 1.28m, max breadth 0.96m, max depth 0.22m**	☑	☐
510	Fill	Firm mid orange brown sandy silt	☑	☐
513	**Ditch**	**Linear NW-SE profile: concave base: concave dimensions: max length 1.m, max breadth 0.87m, max depth 0.3m**	☑	☐
512	Fill	Firm mid yellow grey sandy silt	☑	☐
514	**Natural**	**Compact mid orange yellow clay gravel**	☐	☐
515	**Ditch**	**Linear E-W profile: concave base: concave dimensions: max breadth 1.35m, max depth 0.15m**	☑	☐
516	Fill	Firm mid brown clay silt	☑	☐
517	**Furrow**	**Linear NE-SW profile: concave base: concave dimensions: max breadth 0.95m, max depth 0.1m**	☑	☐
518	Fill	Firm mid brown clay silt	☑	☐

Trench: 6

Max Dimensions: Length: 15.00 m. Width: 1.60 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.4 m. Max: 0.45 m.

Co-ordinates: OS Grid Ref.: TL *(Easting: 18173: Northing: 76182)*

OS Grid Ref.: TL *(Easting: 18183: Northing: 76171)*

Reason: Evaluate archaeological potential of development area

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
600	**Topsoil**	**Firm dark grey brown clay silt**	☑	☐
601	**Subsoil**	**Firm mid orange brown silty clay**	☑	☐
602	**Subsoil**	**Firm light yellow brown silty gravel**	☑	☐
603	**Natural**	**Firm light orange brown silty gravel**	☐	☐
604	**Treethrow**	**Irregular profile: irregular base: uneven dimensions: max length 1.5m, max breadth 1.3m, max depth 0.2m**	☑	☐
605	Fill	Firm mid brown grey clay silt	☑	☐
606	**Pit**	**Sub-oval profile: concave base: flat dimensions: max length 0.6m, min breadth 0.5m, max depth 0.3m**	☑	☐
607	Fill	Firm mid brown grey clay silt	☑	☐

7. APPENDIX 2

7.1 Context Summary

The evaluation produced a small finds assemblage comprising mainly pottery and faunal remains, the majority associated with features in Trench 2 (Table 1). The material was scanned to ascertain its nature, condition and, where possible, date range. No finds were recovered from Trenches 1, 5, or 6.

Tr.	Feature	Type	Context	Spot date	Finds Summary
2	206	Pit	207	Early – middle Saxon	Pottery (25g); animal bone (87g); charcoal (1g)
	206	Pit	217	Early – middle Saxon	Pottery (37g); animal bone (184g)
	208	Ditch	209	Late Iron Age	Pottery (97g); animal bone (226g); fired clay (2g)
	212	Ditch	214	EMIA	Pottery (92g); animal bone (568g); fired clay (3g); fuel ash slag (22g); hammerslag (1g)
	215	Ditch	216	Late Iron Age	Pottery (8g)
	220	Pit	222	EMIA	Pottery (2g)
3	304	Pit	303	Post-medieval	Roof tile / brick fragment (11g)
4	402	Ditch	403	EMIA	Pottery (12g); animal bone (33g); worked flint (13g)
	404	Ditch	405	-	Fired clay (3g); iron nail shank (2g)
	408	Quarry pit	409	Iron Age	Pottery (3g)
	410	Pit	411	-	Animal bone (1g); iron strip fragment (1g); hammerscale & hammerslag (1g)
	412	Ditch	413	EMIA	Pottery (5g); roof tile / brick fragment (6g)

Table 1: Artefact summary by trench and context

7.2 Pottery

Thirty-seven pottery sherds weighing 281g were recovered. These were examined by context and quantified using minimum sherd count and weight. Sherds are small (average weight 8g) and generally abraded, although several vessels are represented by more than one sherd. Fourteen fabric types were identified. In the absence of a county-wide fabric series for Cambridgeshire, common names and type codes are in accordance with the Bedfordshire Ceramic Type Series, currently maintained by Albion Archaeology on behalf of Bedfordshire County Council. Fabrics are listed below in chronological order (Table 2).

Fabric type	Common name	Sherd No.	Context:Sherd No.
Early to middle Iron Age			
Type F03	Grog and sand	**2**	(214):2
Type F14	Fine mixed inclusions	**4**	(214):3, (222):1
Type F15	Coarse mixed inclusions	**1**	(214):1
Type F16	Coarse shell	**6**	(214):3, (222):1, (403):2
Type F18	Fine sand and shell	**3**	(214):3
Type F19	Sand and organic	**2**	(214):1
Type F29	Coarse sand	**3**	(217): 2, (413):1
Type F37	Mixed calcareous	**1**	(413):1
Late Iron Age			
Type F05	Grog and shell	**1**	(216):1
Type F07	Shell	**1**	(209):1
Type F09	Sand and grog	**5**	(209):5
Type F	Non-specific Iron Age	**5**	(409):5
Early to middle Saxon			
Type A23	Sandstone	**2**	(207):1; (217):1
UNID	Undatable	**1**	(214):1

Table 2: Pottery type series

The earliest pottery is broadly datable to the EMIA and comprises twenty-two sherds tempered with a range of sand (types F03, F29), organic (F19) and calcareous inclusions (types F14, F15, F16, F18, F37), the latter predominating. Diagnostic forms are a flat-rimmed vessel with 'restricted' fingernail decoration along the rim top. The majority of the assemblage appears to comprise thin-walled vessels, although a small number of thicker-walled sherds occur in shelly fabrics and attest the presence of larger vessels. One scored/incised sherd may belong to the East Midlands Scored Ware tradition, suggesting a middle Iron Age date. The majority of the assemblage derived from the infill of ditch [212].

Seven sherds in shell-, sand- and grog-tempered fabrics (types F07, F09 and F05) datable to the late Iron Age period derived from ditches [208] and [215]. All sherds are abraded, and the only diagnostic form is a rim and body sherd from a hand-made jar with wavy incised decoration.

Two undiagnostic sherds of sand-tempered pottery (50g) of early to middle Saxon date derived from the upper (207) and lower (217) fills of pit [206].

7.3 Other Finds

Two abraded pieces of sand-tempered brick or tile (total weight 17g) derived from post-medieval pit [304] and EMIA ditch [412]. Their fragmentary nature precludes positive dating, although they may be of post-medieval origin. A strip/sheet fragment was recovered from undated pit [410], which also contained a small quantity of flake hammerscale and one piece of spheroidal hammerslag. The infill of EMIA ditch [212] yielded fuel ash slag weighing 22g and two fragments of hammerslag. A crudely finished flint side scraper was a probably residual find in EMIA ditch [402].

7.4 Animal Bone

Ninety fragments of animal bone (1.1kg) were recovered from Iron Age and Saxon features, the majority deriving from EMIA ditch [212]. Fragments are small (average weight 12g) and bone preservation is moderate. Diagnostic elements are long bone, rib, vertebra, mandible fragments and teeth. Most of these are of indeterminate species, although the Iron Age assemblage includes a pig tooth and long bone from ditch [212] and horse teeth from ditch [402], while cow teeth were recovered from Saxon pit [206]. Several pieces recovered from late Iron Age ditch [208] and Saxon pit [206] are burnt.

7.5 Plant Remains

Six soil samples of 10 litres each were taken, three from the Iron Age ditches, one from Saxon pit [206] and two from the undated ditches in Trench 4. Processing of the samples recovered only a negligible quantity of charred plant items, along with a small amount of charcoal.

8. APPENDIX 3

OASIS DATA COLLECTION FORM: England

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OASIS ID: albionar1-41354

Project details

Project name	Great North Road, Alconbury
Short description of the project	Planning permission for the construction of all-weather playing fields and a multi-use games area at Great North Road, Alconbury included a condition requiring the implementation of a programme of archaeological works, due to the high archaeological potential of the site. A Design Brief issued by the Cambridgeshire Archaeology, Planning and Countryside Advice office stated that further information on the archaeological impact of the proposed work was required. Albion Archaeology was commissioned to undertake an archaeological field evaluation of the proposed development site. The development site lies in an area of Oxford Clay, overlain by First and Second Terrace River Deposits. Crop-marks adjacent to the site show evidence of medieval cultivation systems and house platforms (CHER 9036 and 10506). Medieval finds are also known from the area (CHER 801). To the north-west, within the same field as the proposed development, are strip lynchets and ridge and furrow crop-marks (CHER 798). The evaluation revealed the remains of previously unknown Iron Age and Saxon settlement activity, as well as medieval ridge and furrow earthworks, and a number of other features of archaeological origin whose date could not be determined. The Iron Age and Saxon remains are considered to be of regional significance. The depth of overburden is sufficient that the development will cause negligible damage to the archaeological remains, which will be preserved largely in situ beneath the development.
Project dates	Start: 06-05-2008 End: 16-06-2008
Previous/future work	No / No
Any associated project reference codes	GNR1359 - Contracting Unit No.
Any associated project reference codes	ECB2919 - HER event no.
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Current Land use	Community Service 2 - Leisure and recreational buildings
Monument type	DITCHED ENCLOSURE Late Iron Age
Monument type	OPEN SETTLEMENT Early Medieval
Significant Finds	POTTERY Late Iron Age
Significant Finds	POTTERY Early Medieval
Significant Finds	ANIMAL BONE Late Iron Age

Significant Finds	ANIMAL BONE Early Medieval
Methods & techniques	'Sample Trenches'
Development type	Amenity area (e.g. public open space)
Prompt	Planning condition
Position in the planning process	After full determination (eg. As a condition)

Project location

Country	England
Site location	CAMBRIDGESHIRE HUNTINGDONSHIRE ALCONBURY Great North Road, Alconbury
Postcode	PE28 4EX
Study area	1.20 Hectares
Site coordinates	TL 1816 7624 52.3710533578 -0.264197895491 52 22 15 N 000 15 51 W Point
Height OD	Min: 17.00m Max: 18.00m

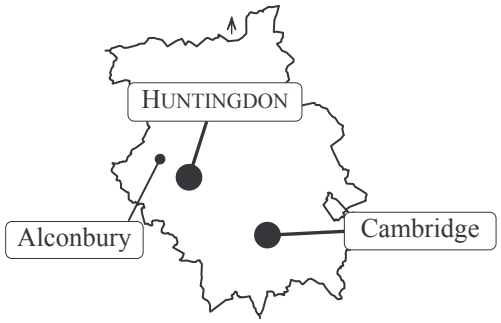
Project creators

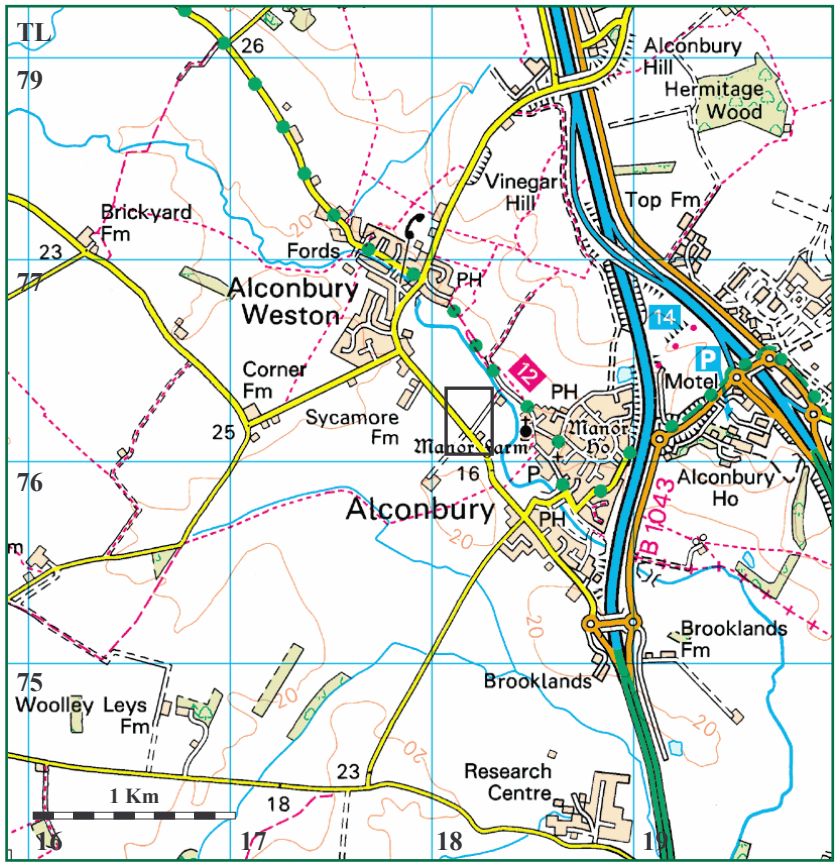
Name of Organisation	Albion Archaeology
Project brief originator	Local Authority Archaeologist and/or Planning Authority/advisory body
Project design originator	Albion Archaeology
Project director/manager	David Ingham
Project supervisor	Adam Lodoen
Type of sponsor/funding body	Developer
Name of sponsor/funding body	Alconbury Recreation Field Charity

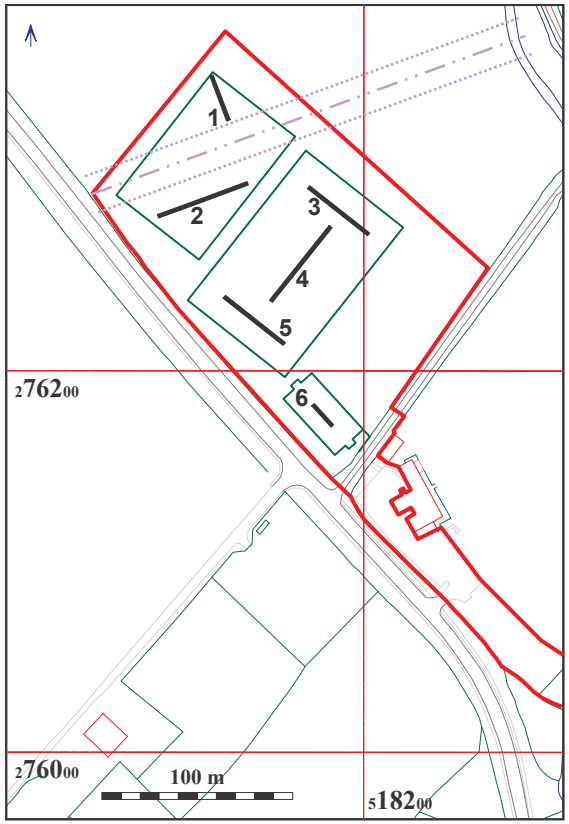
Project archives

Physical Archive recipient	'Cambridgeshire County Store'
Physical Contents	'Animal Bones','Ceramics','Environmental','Industrial','Metal','Worked stone/lithics'
Digital Archive recipient	Cambridgeshire County Store
Digital Contents	'Animal Bones','Ceramics','Environmental','Industrial','Metal','Worked stone/lithics','other'
Digital Media available	'Database','GIS','Images raster / digital photography','Text'
Paper Archive	'Cambridgeshire County Store'

recipient	
Paper Contents	'Animal Bones','Ceramics','Environmental','Industrial','Metal','Worked stone/lithics','other'
Paper Media available	'Context sheet','Correspondence','Microfilm','Miscellaneous Material','Photograph','Plan','Report','Section','Unspecified Archive'
Entered by	David Ingham (dp.ingham@albion-arch.com)
Entered on	22 July 2008







Development area
Proposed playing pitches
Trial-trenches
Overhead cable
10m standoff

Figure 1: Site location

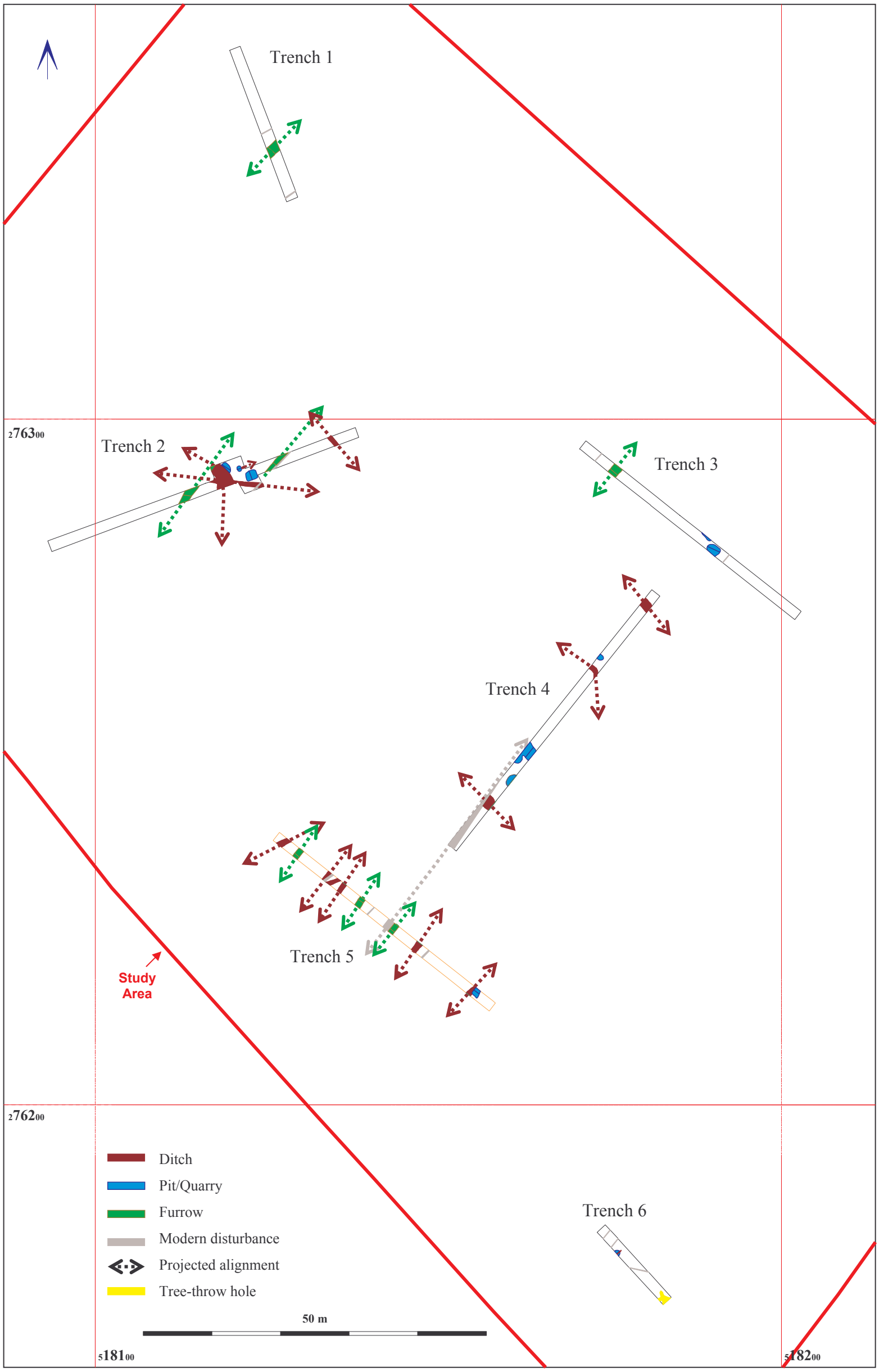


Figure 2: All features

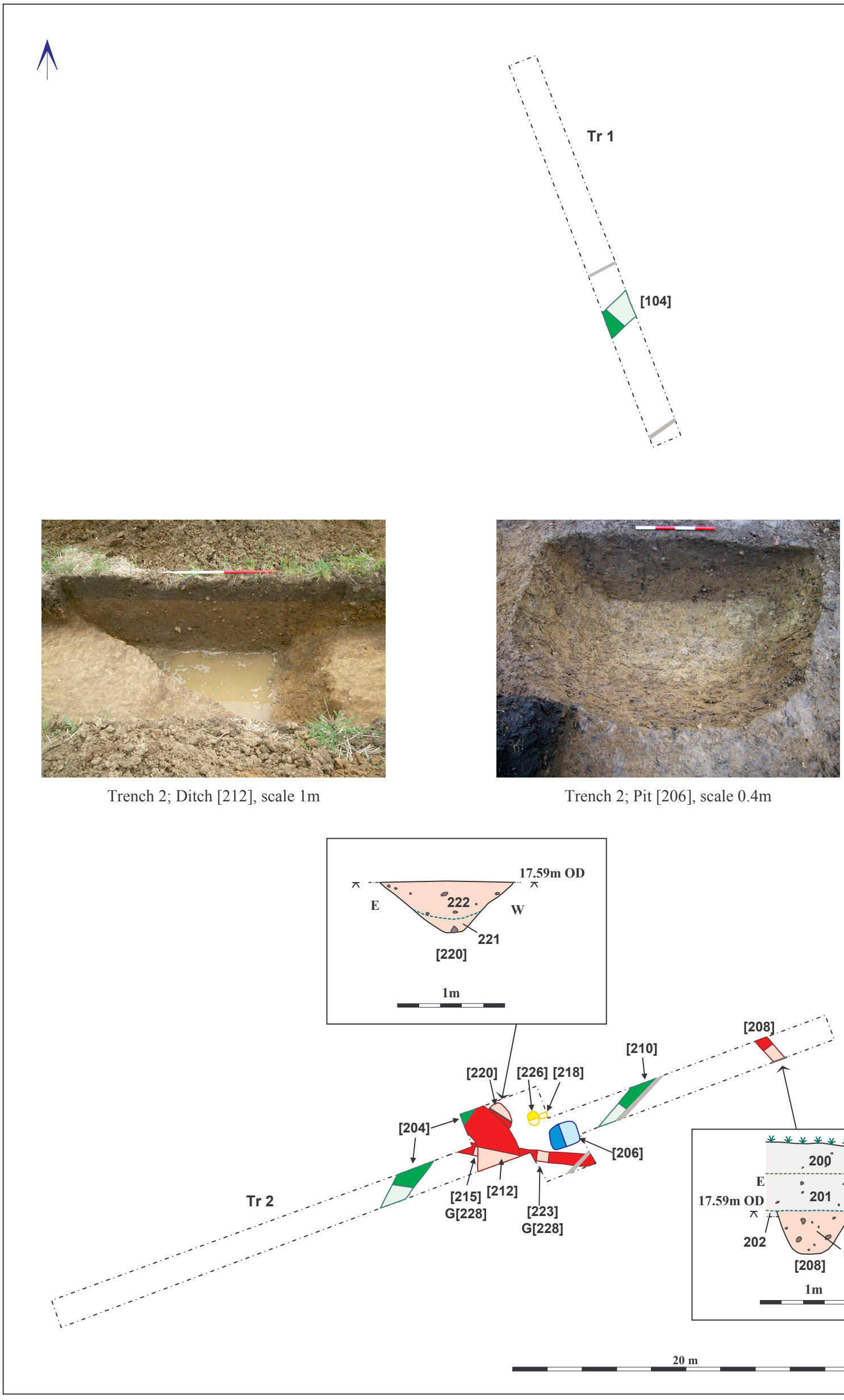
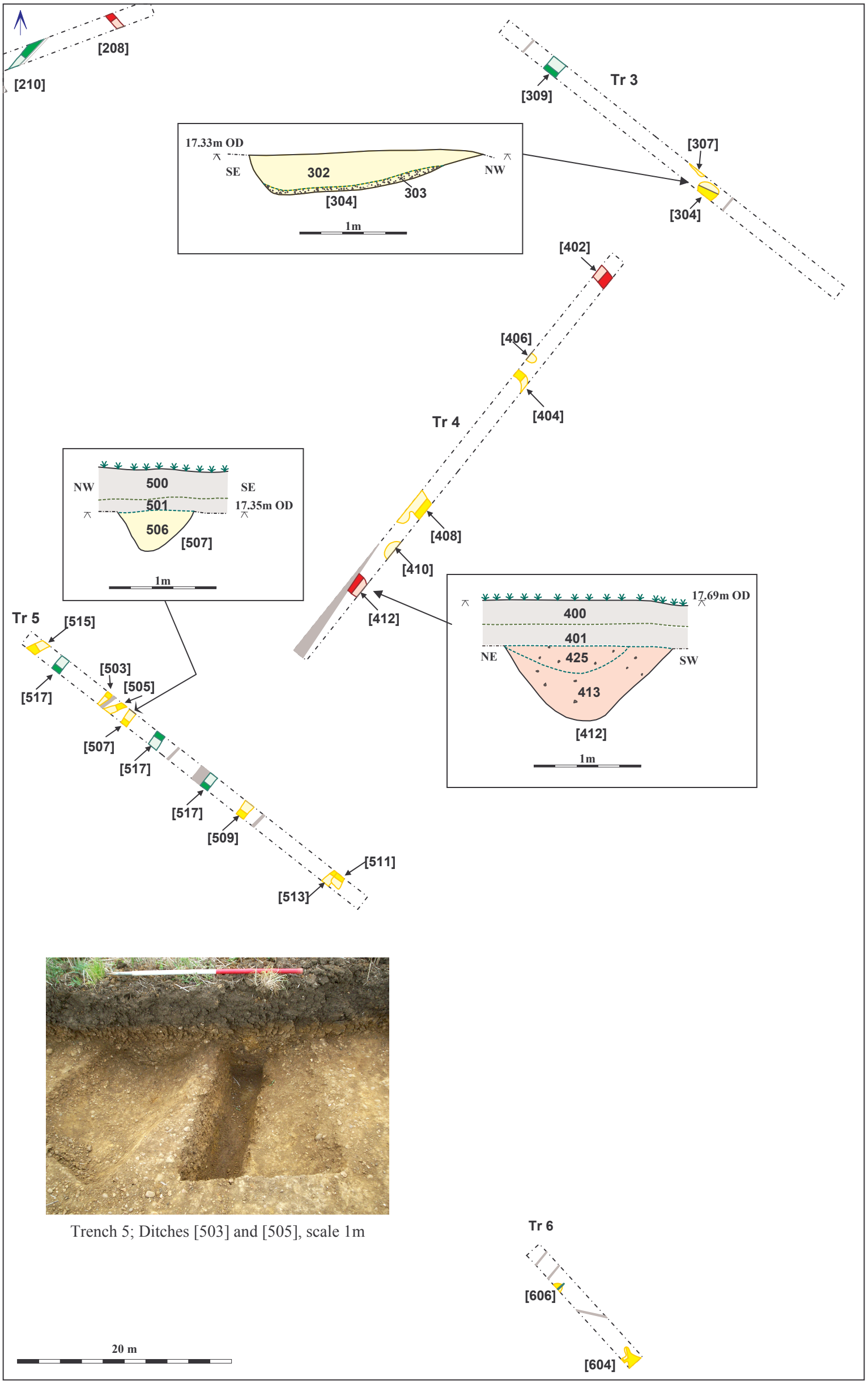


Figure 3: Trenches 1 and 2.



Trench 5; Ditches [503] and [505], scale 1m

Figure 4: Trenches 3 to 6.

Top row	Saxon sherds from pit [206]
Middle row	EMIA sherds from ditch [212]
Bottom row	Late Iron Age sherds from ditch [208]

Scale 5cm

Figure 5: Selected pottery