

**PETERBOROUGH REGIONAL COLLEGE  
PARK CRESCENT  
PETERBOROUGH**

**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 Paul Gajos of CgMs Ltd on behalf of David Shaw Planning. It was monitored by Ben Robinson of the Peterborough City Council Archaeological Service.*

*Fieldwork for this project was undertaken by Lennard Anderson (Archaeological Supervisor), Anna Rebisz-Niziolek and Adam Williams (Assistant Archaeological Supervisors). This report has been prepared by David Ingham (Project Officer) with contributions from Joan Lighting (CAD Technician) and Jackie Wells (Finds Officer). It was edited by Joe Abrams (Project Manager). 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 for which is presented in Section 2. Section 3 comprises the results of the fieldwork and their significance for the proposed development. Section 4 is a bibliography. Appendix 1 contains detailed descriptions of the deposits recorded on the site.*

## Key Terms

Throughout this report the following terms or abbreviations are used:

<i>ALGAO</i>	Association of Local Government Archaeological Officers
<i>Client</i>	CgMs Ltd
<i>IFA</i>	Institute of Field Archaeologists
<i>PCCAS</i>	Peterborough City Council Archaeological Service
<i>PCHER</i>	Peterborough City Historic Environment Record
<i>Procedures Manual</i>	<i>Procedures Manual. Volume 1: Fieldwork</i> , 2nd edition, 2001 Albion Archaeology



## **Non-Technical Summary**

*Peterborough Regional College are proposing to redevelop their Park Crescent campus in Peterborough. Peterborough City Council Archaeological Service (PCCAS) issued a brief for archaeological evaluation of the site, following which a written specification for the archaeological works was produced (CgMs 2008).*

*Albion Archaeology was commissioned by CgMs, on behalf of David Shaw Planning, to undertake a programme of trial trenching, the results of which are presented in this report.*

*The Park Crescent campus covers c. 12ha in extent and is located approximately 1km north-east of the historic core of Peterborough (Fig. 1). The campus is centred at (NGR) TF 200 002, at a height of c. 14m OD, and was occupied by college buildings, playing fields, car parks, and landscaped open space at the time of fieldwork.*

*The underlying geological deposits comprise Second River Terrace Gravels, Kellways Sand, Kellways Clay and Cornbrash Limestone.*

*No archaeological remains are recorded in the Peterborough City Historic Environment Record within the development area, and a geophysical survey of the development area (Northamptonshire Archaeology 2008) also failed to identify any archaeological features. However, there are numerous records of early prehistoric, Iron Age, Roman and medieval activity in the vicinity of the campus.*

*No significant archaeological remains were identified by trial trenching. Despite the presence of modern features and deposits in several of the trenches, the area evaluated had not been significantly truncated by modern activity. The absence of evidence for pre-modern activity therefore suggests a genuine lack of archaeological remains within the evaluated area. Although the central part of the study area was not subjected to trial trenching, it is reasonable to extrapolate that the redevelopment area as a whole has negligible archaeological potential.*



## 1. INTRODUCTION

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### 1.1 *Project Background*

Peterborough Regional College are proposing to redevelop their Park Crescent campus in Peterborough. Peterborough City Council Archaeological Service (PCCAS) issued a brief for archaeological evaluation of the site, in order to determine specific archaeological mitigation requirements for the proposed development. Following discussions between CgMs and Ben Robinson of PCCAS, a written specification for the archaeological works was produced (CgMs 2008).

Albion Archaeology was commissioned by CgMs, on behalf of David Shaw Planning, to undertake a programme of trial trenching, the results of which are presented in this report.

### 1.2 *Site Location, Topography and Geology*

The Park Crescent campus covers *c.* 12ha in extent and is located approximately 1km north-east of the historic core of Peterborough (Fig. 1). The campus is centred at (NGR) TF 200 002, at a height of *c.* 14m OD, and was occupied by college buildings, playing fields, car parks, and landscaped open space at the time of fieldwork.

The underlying geological deposits comprise Second River Terrace Gravels, Kellways Sand, Kellways Clay and Cornbrash Limestone.

### 1.3 *Archaeological Background*

No archaeological remains are recorded in the Peterborough City Historic Environment Record within the development area. A geophysical survey of the area due to be affected by the development (Northamptonshire Archaeology 2008) also failed to identify any features of clear archaeological origin. However, there are numerous records of early prehistoric, Iron Age, Roman and medieval activity in the vicinity of the campus.

### 1.4 *Project Objectives*

The principal objective of the evaluation was to test for the presence of archaeological remains within the development area, and to define their extent, condition, nature, artefactual and ecofactual potential, and significance. This would provide further information on the historic character of the study area and the development of Peterborough, and enable any remains to be placed within their local, regional and national context.



## 2. METHODOLOGY

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The trial trenching took place between 28th July and 5th August 2008. Nine trenches were opened, covering a total area of *c.* 505m<sup>2</sup> (Fig. 1). The trench plan was agreed by the PCCAS before trenching began.

The trenches were opened by a mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless bucket, under close archaeological supervision. As no significant archaeological deposits were identified, overburden was removed down to the top of the undisturbed geological deposits. The spoil heaps were visually scanned for artefacts.

A photographic record was compiled of each trench. All deposits were recorded using a unique number sequence, commencing at 100 for Trench 1, 200 for Trench 2 *etc.* A full methodology is provided in the written specification (CgMs 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 edition)*
- ALGAO (east) *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England*
- CgMs *Specification for an Archaeological Evaluation:  
Peterborough Regional College, Park Crescent,  
Peterborough*
- English Heritage *The Management of Archaeological Projects, 2nd  
edition*

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



### 3. RESULTS AND CONCLUSIONS

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#### 3.1 Results

The location and extent of all archaeological features are shown on Figure 1. Detailed technical information on them can be found in Appendix 1.

##### 3.1.1 Overburden

A fairly uniform layer of topsoil was revealed throughout the trenches, which was mostly 0.2–0.3m thick. The only exceptions were in the northern half of Trench 7, where the topsoil was buried by a layer of made ground (701), and in the southern half of Trench 8, where a thin layer of hardcore was present in the base of the topsoil. The made ground and layer of hardcore are both likely to have been generated during construction of the neighbouring car parks.

The subsoil across the trenches was fairly uniform in character, but varied between 0.1m and 0.4m in thickness. The only exception was in the south-western half of Trench 2, where the subsoil had been disturbed and was possibly more recent in origin than elsewhere.

##### 3.1.2 Archaeological features

A modern feature, the precise nature of which could not be determined, was recorded near the centre of Trench 2. It was irregular in plan, but may have been linear; its backfill of heavy blue clay contained numerous modern artefacts, which were not retained.

A possible tree-throw hole was observed in section in Trench 3. Its date is uncertain, but it was stratigraphically later than the subsoil.

#### 3.2 Interpretation and Significance of Results

Trial trench evaluation of the proposed redevelopment area at Peterborough Regional College identified no significant archaeological remains. This tallies with the results of the earlier geophysical survey (Northamptonshire Archaeology 2008).

Despite the presence of modern features and deposits in several of the trenches, the trial trenching demonstrated that the area evaluated had not been significantly truncated by modern activity. The absence of evidence for pre-modern activity therefore suggests a genuine lack of archaeological remains within the evaluated area. Although the central part of the study area was not subjected to trial trenching, it is reasonable to extrapolate that the redevelopment area as a whole has negligible archaeological potential.



## 4. BIBLIOGRAPHY

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- Northamptonshire Archaeology 2008. *An Archaeological Geophysical Survey on Land at Peterborough Regional College, Peterborough, Cambridgeshire*, report 08/126





## 5. APPENDIX 1

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### 5.1 Context Summary



**Trench: 1**

**Max Dimensions: Length: 30.00 m. Width: 1.60 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.46 m. Max: 0.65 m.**

**Co-ordinates: Easting: 519827: Northing: 300141**

**Easting: 519807: Northing: 300118**

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

<b>Context:</b>	<b>Type:</b>	<b>Description:</b>	<b>Excavated:</b>	<b>Finds Present:</b>
100	Topsoil	Friable mid brown grey silt 0.25m thick	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
101	Subsoil	Friable light yellow grey silty sand moderate medium stones 0.2m thick	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
102	Subsoil	Firm mid orange yellow sand occasional small stones 0.2m thick	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
103	Natural	Firm mid orange yellow sandy gravel frequent small stones	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>



**Trench: 2**

**Max Dimensions: Length: 30.00 m. Width: 1.60 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.55 m. Max: 0.65 m.**

**Co-ordinates: Easting: 519832: Northing: 300114**

**Easting: 519812: Northing: 300092**

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

<b>Context:</b>	<b>Type:</b>	<b>Description:</b>	<b>Excavated:</b>	<b>Finds Present:</b>
200	Topsoil	Friable mid brown grey silt 0.2m thick	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
201	Subsoil	Firm mid orange sandy clay 0.35m thick	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
202	Natural	Firm mid red orange sandy clay	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
211	Feature	Irregular N-S profile: near vertical base: uneven dimensions: max breadth 6.4m, max depth 0.61m, min length 1.6m	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
203	Backfill	Firm mid yellow brown sandy silt moderate small ceramic building material, moderate medium stones, moderate small stones	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
204	Backfill	Firm blue grey clay	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
205	Backfill	Firm brown sandy gravel	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
206	Backfill	Firm mid orange blue clay	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
207	Backfill	Firm mid brown sandy clay moderate medium stones, moderate small stones	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
208	Backfill	Firm gravel frequent small stones	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
209	Backfill	Firm orange blue clay	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
210	Backfill	Firm brown silty gravel occasional medium stones	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>



**Trench: 3**

**Max Dimensions: Length: 50.00 m. Width: 1.60 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.6 m. Max: 0.68 m.**

**Co-ordinates: Easting: 519862: Northing: 300124**

**Easting: 519889: Northing: 300081**

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

<b>Context:</b>	<b>Type:</b>	<b>Description:</b>	<b>Excavated:</b>	<b>Finds Present:</b>
300	Topsoil	Friable mid grey silt 0.25m thick	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
301	Subsoil	Friable mid yellow grey sand 0.25m thick	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
302	Subsoil	Friable mid orange yellow sand 0.2m thick	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
303	Natural	Firm mid brown yellow sandy gravel	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
304	Treethrow	profile: near vertical base: flat dimensions: max depth 0.25m, max length 1.2m	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
305	Fill	Firm mid yellow grey silty sand	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>



**Trench:** 4

**Max Dimensions:** Length: 50.00 m. Width: 1.60 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.47 m. Max: 0.5 m.

**Co-ordinates:** Easting: 519931: Northing: 300121

Easting: 519881: Northing: 300121

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

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
400	Topsoil	Friable mid brown grey silt 0.25m thick	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
401	Subsoil	Firm mid yellow grey silty sand 0.2m thick	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
402	Subsoil	Firm mid yellow orange silty sand 0.2m thick	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
403	Natural	Firm mid yellow orange sandy gravel	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>



**Trench: 5**

**Max Dimensions: Length: 50.00 m. Width: 1.60 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.54 m. Max: 0.6 m.**

**Co-ordinates: Easting: 519917: Northing: 300155**

**Easting: 519947: Northing: 300115**

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

<b>Context:</b>	<b>Type:</b>	<b>Description:</b>	<b>Excavated:</b>	<b>Finds Present:</b>
500	Topsoil	Firm mid brown grey silt 0.2m thick	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
501	Subsoil	Firm mid yellow grey silty sand 0.25m thick	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
502	Subsoil	Firm mid yellow orange silty sand 0.15m thick	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
503	Natural	Firm mid orange yellow sandy clay	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>



**Trench: 6**

**Max Dimensions: Length: 30.00 m. Width: 1.60 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.51 m. Max: 0.7 m.**

**Co-ordinates: Easting: 519877: Northing: 300274**

**Easting: 519901: Northing: 300257**

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

<b>Context:</b>	<b>Type:</b>	<b>Description:</b>	<b>Excavated:</b>	<b>Finds Present:</b>
600	Topsoil	Friable mid brown grey silt 0.2m thick	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
601	Subsoil	Firm light orange brown sandy silt occasional small stones 0.35m thick	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
602	Natural	Firm light brown orange sandy gravel	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>



**Trench: 7**

**Max Dimensions: Length: 20.00 m. Width: 1.60 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.45 m. Max: 0.75 m.**

**Co-ordinates: Easting: 519866: Northing: 300313**

**Easting: 519858: Northing: 300294**

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

<b>Context:</b>	<b>Type:</b>	<b>Description:</b>	<b>Excavated:</b>	<b>Finds Present:</b>
700	Topsoil	Friable mid brown green silt 0.1m thick	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
701	Make up layer	Firm light orange brown sandy clay 0.2m thick	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
702	Natural	Firm mid orange brown sandy gravel	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
703	Buried topsoil	Firm mid grey brown silt 0.25m thick	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
704	Subsoil	Firm mid orange brown sandy clay 0.3m thick	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>





**Trench: 8**

**Max Dimensions: Length: 30.00 m. Width: 1.60 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.45 m. Max: 0.6 m.**

**Co-ordinates: Easting: 519893: Northing: 300405**

**Easting: 519884: Northing: 300376**

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

<b>Context:</b>	<b>Type:</b>	<b>Description:</b>	<b>Excavated:</b>	<b>Finds Present:</b>
800	Topsoil	Friable mid brown grey silt 0.3m thick	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
801	Subsoil	Firm light yellow grey sandy silt 0.3m thick	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
802	Natural	Firm mid brown orange clay sand	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>



**Trench: 9**

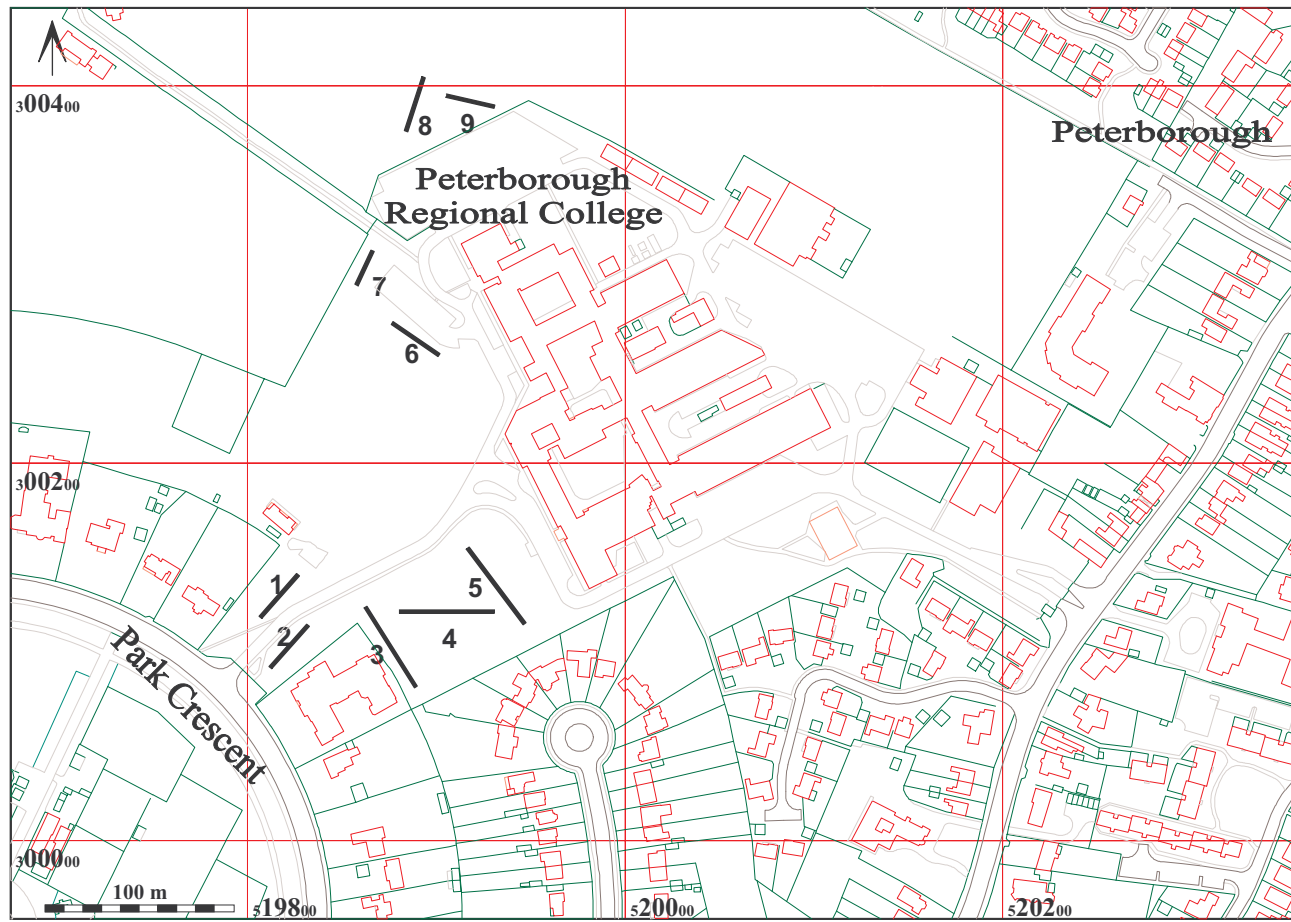
**Max Dimensions: Length: 25.00 m. Width: 1.60 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.56 m. Max: 0.65 m.**

**Co-ordinates: Easting: 519906: Northing: 300394**

**Easting: 519931: Northing: 300389**

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

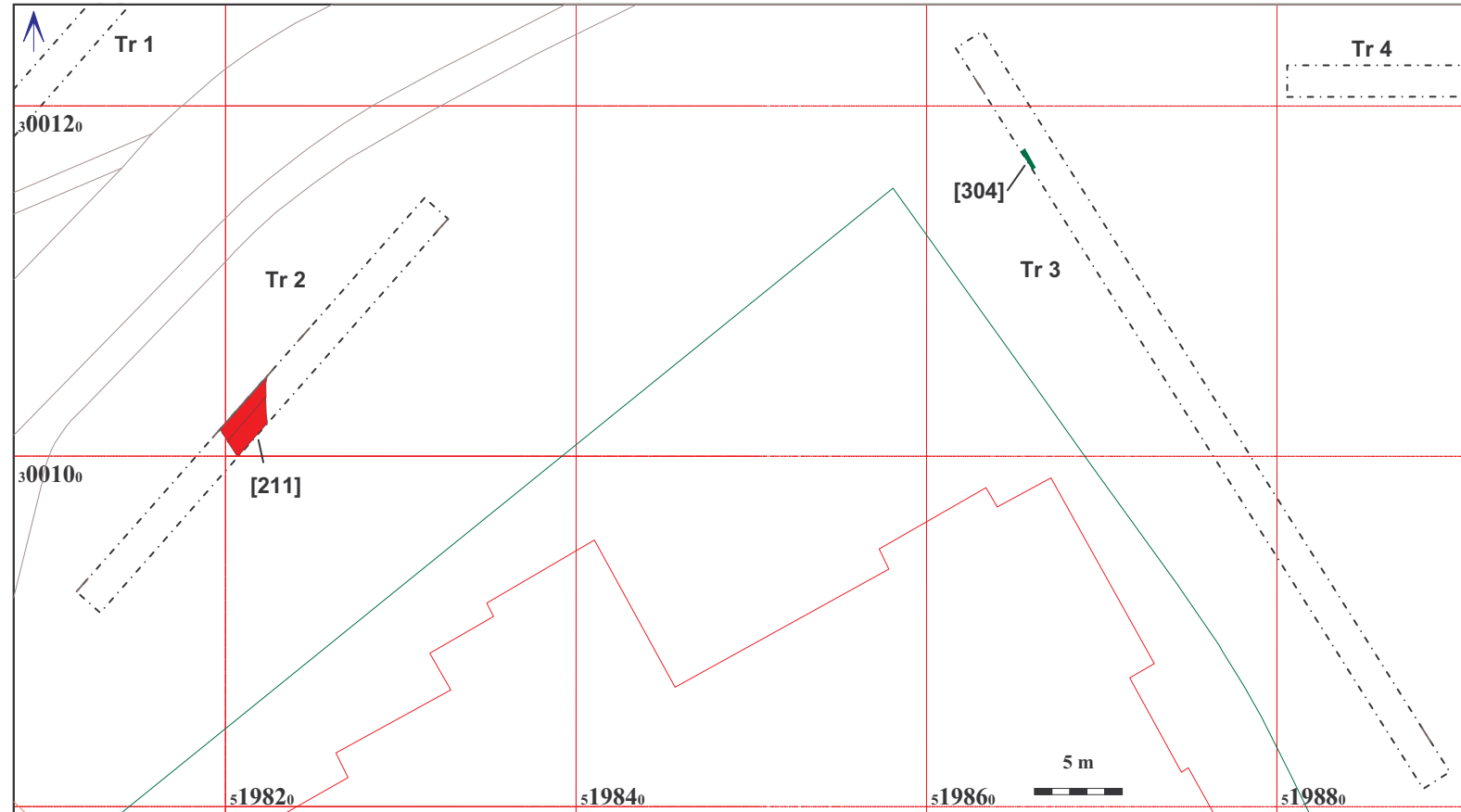
<b>Context:</b>	<b>Type:</b>	<b>Description:</b>	<b>Excavated:</b>	<b>Finds Present:</b>
900	Topsoil	Friable mid brown grey silt 0.25m thick	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
901	Subsoil	Firm mid orange brown silty clay 0.3m thick	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
902	Natural	Firm light grey orange sandy clay	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>



Trench 2: modern feature [211] during excavation. Scale 1m



Trench 6, looking south-east. Scales 1m



**Figure 1: Site location and all features**

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