

# Northamptonshire Archaeology

Archaeological trial excavation of  
land south-east of  
Lancaster Way Business Park  
Ely, Cambridgeshire  
ECB 2862  
March – April 2008



Mark Holmes

July 2008  
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Report 08/121

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**OASIS REPORT FORM**

<b>PROJECT DETAILS</b>		
Project name	Archaeological trial excavation of land south-east of Lancaster Way Business Park, Ely, Cambridgeshire, ECB2860, March – April 2008	
Short description	Northamptonshire Archaeology undertook an archaeological evaluation of land south-east of Lancaster Way Business Park, Ely, Cambridgeshire, in March and April 2008. The site was formerly part of a World War II RAF base but is currently given over to agriculture. The evaluation comprised trial trenching on c 36ha of land proposed for development. The excavations confirmed the presence of Iron Age and early Roman enclosures and settlement remains at the north end of the application site, and smaller areas of Iron Age or Roman remains within the south-west and central-eastern parts of the site. The remains were characterised by boundary and enclosure ditches but few discrete domestic features such as pits were found. In the remaining parts of the application area no evidence for pre-medieval activity was found. There was no evidence of Anglo-Saxon activity found at the site and the suggestion that a previously identified burial site of this period to the south might extend into the proposed development area or that it was the location for the early settlement of Cratendune was not supported by the excavations. Later activity comprised extensive medieval ridge and furrow cultivation and post-medieval field boundaries.	
Project type	Trial Trenching	
Site status	None	
Previous work	DBA: CgMs Consulting 2008 Fieldwalking Survey: Northamptonshire Archaeology 2008 (ECB 2860), Geophysical Survey: Northamptonshire Archaeology 2008 (ECB 2861)	
Current land use	Agricultural	
Future work	Unknown	
Monument type and period		
Significant finds		
<b>PROJECT LOCATION</b>		
County	Cambridgeshire	
Site address	Land south-east of Lancaster Way Business Park, Ely, Cambridgeshire	
Easting	5519	
Northing	2782	
Study area	36ha	
Height OD	16m OD	
<b>PROJECT CREATORS</b>		
Organisation	CgMs Consulting	
Project brief originator	Cambridgeshire Archaeology Planning & Countryside Advice section	
Project Design originator	CgMs Consulting	
Director/Supervisor	Mark Holmes	
Project Manager	Adam Yates	
Sponsor or funding body	Grovemere Property Limited	
<b>PROJECT DATE</b>		
Start date	10-03-08	
End date	18-04-08	
<b>ARCHIVES</b>		
	Location	Content
Physical	Cambridgeshire County Archaeology Store	2 boxes; pottery, animal bone, fired clay
Paper	Cambridgeshire County Archaeology Store	2 files, 7 plan sheets, 6 section sheets, B&W and colour photographs
Digital		
<b>BIBLIOGRAPHY</b>		
Title	Archaeological trial excavation of land south-east of Lancaster Way Business Park, Ely, Cambridgeshire, ECB 2862, March – April 2008	
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**ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRIAL EXCAVATION**  
**OF LAND SOUTH-EAST OF LANCASTER WAY BUSINESS PARK,**  
**ELY, CAMBRIDGESHIRE**

**ECB 2862**

**MARCH – APRIL 2008**

*Abstract*

*Northamptonshire Archaeology undertook an archaeological evaluation of land south-east of Lancaster Way Business Park, Ely, Cambridgeshire, in March and April 2008. The site was formerly part of a World War II RAF base but is currently given over to agriculture. The evaluation comprised trial trenching on c 36ha of land proposed for development. The excavations confirmed the presence of Iron Age and early Roman enclosures and settlement remains at the north end of the application site, and smaller areas of Iron Age or Roman remains within the south-west and central-eastern parts of the site. The remains were characterised by boundary and enclosure ditches but few discrete domestic features such as pits were found. In the remaining parts of the application area no evidence for pre-medieval activity was found. There was no evidence of Anglo-Saxon activity found at the site and the suggestion that a previously identified burial site of this period to the south might extend into the proposed development area or that it was the location for the early settlement of Cratendune was not supported by the excavations. Later activity comprised extensive medieval ridge and furrow cultivation and post-medieval field boundaries.*

## **1 INTRODUCTION**

### **1.1 Background**

Northamptonshire Archaeology (NA) was commissioned by CgMs Consulting, on behalf of Grovemere Property Limited, to undertake an archaeological trial excavation on land immediately at the south-east of the Lancaster Way Business Park, Ely, Cambridgeshire (centred on NGR TL 519782; Fig 1). The evaluation was undertaken to inform consideration of an application submitted to East Cambridgeshire District Council for extension of the business park.

The evaluation formed the third stage of fieldwork on this c 36ha site which comprised a single triangular shaped field. An initial fieldwalking and metal detecting survey over the whole site (NA 2008a) was followed by a detailed geophysical survey (NA 2008b).

The trial excavation, which is the subject of this report, took place between March and April 2008 and comprised the excavation of 79 trenches (Fig 2).

The trial evaluation was undertaken in accordance with a specification, which was agreed with the Cambridgeshire County Council's Cambridgeshire Archaeology Planning & Countryside Advice section (CAPCA) on behalf of the local planning authority (CgMs 2008a). The specification was based upon a brief issued by CAPCA, dated 25 October 2007 (CAPCA 2007).

The specific purpose of the trial excavation was to establish the survival, date, nature and extent of any archaeological remains within the area of the proposed development. The results of all the archaeological fieldwork will be used to inform an Environmental Statement to support the planning application.

## **1.2 Location and topography**

The Lancaster Way Business Park is situated on the west side of the village of Witchford, 2km south-west of Ely, Cambridgeshire and south of the A142 road. The proposed extension is located immediately east of the current Business Park, and formed part of a former Second World War RAF airfield (RAF Witchford) (Fig 1, Plates 1 and 2).

The site is a roughly triangular piece of arable farmland, its boundaries formed by Wellington Road and the existing Business Park to the west and by concrete farm tracks on its south and north-east sides. These tracks follow the courses of the three runways of the disused airfield. The eastern side of the site contains an area of rough ground that is used to stack hay bales and other agricultural items and was therefore excluded from the survey.

The site is a continuation of the 'Isle' of Ely, an area of higher ground rising above the southern Cambridgeshire Fens. The underlying bedrock of the site and surrounding area is almost entirely Kimmeridge Clay, capped by glacial till and Boulder Clay deposits. The site is located on a low promontory of higher land around 15mOD above Grunty Fen to the south and Cawdle Fen/Hall Fen to the east. The development site drops gently from approximately 20mOD in the north and west of the site, to a 10mOD height east of the south-east corner of the site. The soils are calcareous loams of the Milton series, overlying river terrace gravels and Gault Clay (CgMs 2008b).

## **2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND**

A desk-based study and an assessment of the aerial photographic evidence by CgMs Consulting identified a number of areas of potential archaeological interest in relation to the proposed development area (CgMs 2008b). The study found that although there was little significant archaeology known within the area, Iron Age, Roman and Anglo-Saxon remains had previously been discovered immediately adjacent to the site and there was the potential for these remains to extend into the proposed development area.

Northamptonshire Archaeology undertook a fieldwalking and metal detector survey in 2008. The fieldwalking recovered a spread of Roman pottery as well as a moderate scatter of medieval pottery and a considerably greater recovery of post-medieval material. It was concluded that most of the finds probably related to field manuring, but the concentration of post-medieval pottery was centred on the site of a 19th-century farm, demolished for the creation of the airfield. Only two fragments of prehistoric pottery and a single sherd of middle Saxon pottery were retrieved. The metal detector finds were minimal, but included a fragment of a medieval silver ring brooch and a quarter of a lead seal (NA 2008a).

The subsequent geophysical survey identified a complex enclosure system with roundhouses and possible industrial activity. It also mapped medieval ridge and furrow cultivation, field boundaries and land drains (NA 2008b).

## **3 METHODOLOGY**

A total of 79 trenches were excavated (Fig 2). These were all 2m wide and were positioned using a Global Positioning System (GPS) with an accuracy of +/- 0.50m. The trenches targeted features known from the geophysical and fieldwalking surveys and aimed to provide an even coverage across the site. In order to maintain consistency throughout the project, the trench numbers presented in the report use the sequence established in the original Project Design. The work was undertaken in accordance with IFA guidelines (1994) and standard Northamptonshire Archaeology procedures.

The excavation of the trial trenches was continuously supervised by an archaeologist. All trenches were excavated using a 360 degree tracked excavator equipped with a toothless ditching bucket. Topsoil, subsoil and overburden were removed until archaeologically sensitive deposits or clean natural horizons were revealed. All deposits were cleaned sufficiently to identify their nature. Recording was by Northamptonshire Archaeology pro-forma context sheets, supplemented by drawing plans at scales of 1:50 and 1:100, as appropriate, and sections at a scale of 1:10. A photographic record in black and white and colour slides of all trenches and

features was completed. All levels taken during the trial trenching were related to the Ordnance Survey Datum, which was established using the GPS.

All trenches were *c* 2m wide except for Trench 20 which was excavated to a double width of 4m in order to maximise the potential of locating suggested burial remains. With the agreement of CAPCA Trenches 26, 27 and 28 were not excavated due to the presence of ground water.

#### 4 THE EVALUATION EVIDENCE

Potentially significant archaeological features were found in eighteen trenches (Figs 3, 5 and 7). These trenches are described below. The remaining trenches contained features interpreted as medieval plough furrows, land drains, post-medieval field boundaries and features associated with the former airfield. Due to the extensive nature of these latter features, for clarity they have not been illustrated. A detailed Context Inventory is appended (Appendix 1), whilst the finds reports, environmental evidence and animal bone reports follow in Section 5.

The natural geology remained relatively consistent across the field. It comprised a mid brown sandy clay with occasional patches of light grey clay and degraded chalky gravel. It contained chalk and flint inclusions. This was interpreted as the Glacial Till. Occasionally in places, this geology gave way to areas of sandy gravel, presumably also glacial in origin. The subsoil comprised mid brown sandy clay, generally varying in depth between 0.20m – 0.30m. All significant archaeological features across the site were sealed by this subsoil. Pottery and tile recovered from the subsoil suggests increased activity during the post-medieval period, probably indicative of ploughing and manuring.

The topsoil was a dark modern plough soil which remained fairly consistent in character and depth, approximately 0.20m – 0.30m, throughout the field.

##### 4.1 Trench 1 (Figs 3 and 4)

Trench 1 was aligned north-east to south-west and was located in the south-western corner of the proposed development area. It contained a single ditch of Roman date as well as a concrete duct, a post pit and a dump of concrete all associated with the former airfield. A silver sixpence of Elizabeth I was recovered from the topsoil.

##### *Ditch [109]*

A ditch, aligned north–south [109], crossed the central part of the trench (Fig 4, Section 1; Plate 3). It had a broad U–shaped profile and measured 1.60m wide by 0.67m deep. The primary fill was a very dark grey silty clay with occasional flint inclusions (0108). The latest

surviving, upper fill was a dark brown silty clay with occasional flint inclusions (0107). The pottery suggests an early – mid 1st-century date for the feature and the possible remains of a fibula brooch were recovered from the primary fill. Bulk soil samples were taken from both fills but produced little of intrinsic interest

#### **4.2 Trench 3** (Figs 3 and 4)

Trench 3 was aligned north-north-west to south-south-east in the south-western corner of the proposed development area. It was positioned to cross a linear anomaly detected by the geophysical survey. The anomaly was shown to be a modern land drain but a small undated pit was also found in the trench.

##### ***Pit [308]***

The rectilinear pit was found towards the northern end of the trench [308]. It extended beyond the edge of the trench edge and so its full dimensions could not be ascertained. It was 1.10m wide, 0.43m deep and contained four separate fills (Fig 4, Section 2). The primary fill was a friable dark brown – grey sandy clay with frequent gravel and charcoal inclusions (307). The overlying fills (306, 305, 304) comprised clayey silts with varying amounts of charcoal inclusions. A bulk soil from fill (308) produced small pieces of charcoal but no significant ecofacts. There were no finds and the pit remains undated.

#### **4.3 Trench 4** (Figs 3 and 4)

Trench 4 was aligned east-north-east to west-south-west. It was positioned so as to cross the line of the geophysical anomaly detected by the geophysical survey which also ran through Trench 3. As in Trench 3, the anomaly was proven to be a modern drain. A single Roman pit was the only archaeological find from the trench.

##### ***Pit [0405]***

The pit was found at the western end of Trench 4 [0408]. As it extended beyond the limits of the trench its full dimensions were not ascertained but it appeared to have a diameter of *c* 1.40m and was 0.42m deep (Fig 4, Section 3). It had a single fill of a dark grey clayey silt (404) from which a large assemblage of pottery dating to the late 1st century AD to the early 2nd century AD was recovered. A bulk soil sample taken from the fill revealed only a number of mollusc shells. A small amount of animal bone was also present.

#### 4.4 Trench 31 (Figs 4 and 5)

Trench 31 was a T-shaped trench aligned north-south and east west. No archaeological features were present but the trench contained a buried soil (3104) which was sealed by a modern dump of soil (3105).

##### *Buried soil (3104)*

The buried soil comprised a dark brown loam. It was distributed over the entire trench varying in depth between 0.15m to 0.30m and sealed the underlying subsoil (Fig 4, Section 8). Where sampled it produced post-medieval finds and is interpreted as a former pasture surface which was sealed by a modern dumped soil (3105).

#### 4.5 Trench 32 (Figs 5 and 6)

Trench 32 was aligned north to south. Aside from a number of land drains, it also contained the western side of an Iron Age ring gully [3205]. A second trench (Trench 32a) was subsequently dug immediately to the east in order to establish the nature of this gully. It was shown to continue in a curve.

##### *Ring gully [3205]*

Ring gully [3205] was 0.60m wide and 0.30m deep (Fig 6, Section 10). It had a sharp U-shaped profile and contained a fill of mid dark greyish brown silty clay. Where the gully was traced into Trench 32A, the northern arm maintained the same profile, although it appeared to form a possible terminal at this point. The profile of the southern side of the enclosure, however, suggested that the original gully had been recut at this point to a deeper more 'V' – shaped ditch [32A06] (Fig 6, Section 11). The feature here was filled with a dark greyish brown silty clay with chalk and charcoal inclusions (32A05). The pottery from the fills of the gully comprised an assemblage of Middle - Late Iron Age date and includes sherds of scored ware. A single animal bone was the only faunal remain. If continued as a circular enclosure the feature would have a diameter of *c* 12m, a not unreasonable size for the eaves drip of an Iron Age round house or similar. It is slightly unclear whether the ditch would enclose a perfect circle and it may be simply be a curvilinear enclosure. The apparent presence of a ditch terminal on the northern side of the feature perhaps supports the conclusion that the ditches simply represent a small enclosure as conventionally (but not exclusively) entrances to roundhouses tend to be located at the east.

#### **4.6 Trench 37** (Figs 4 and 5)

Trench 37 was a cross-shaped trench aligned east to west and north to south. It was designed to test the geophysical anomalies which suggested the presence of a small square enclosure. The trench exposed a single Iron Age ditch [3709]. It is suggested that the original geophysical interpretation was misled by the coincidence of a furrow with the ditch.

##### ***Ditch [3709]***

Ditch [3709] was a U-shaped ditch 1.70m wide and 1.72m deep and aligned north-south (Fig 4, Section 4; Plate 4). It contained a succession of five fills suggesting a gradual infilling over time. The primary fill was a dark greyish brown silty clay with occasional charcoal and flint inclusions (3708). Subsequent fills comprised clays and silty clays with charcoal inclusions (3704, 3705, 3706, 3707). The ditch produced a large assemblage of Middle to Late Iron age pottery and bulk soil samples taken revealed the presence of charred grain, weed seeds and molluscs.

#### **4.7 Trench 55** (not illustrated)

Trench 55 was aligned east to west. It contained a single undated ditch which was aligned north-west to south east.

##### ***Ditch [5505]***

Ditch [5505] was filled with a mid brown sandy clay (5504). The ditch had a rounded U-shaped profile and was 0.60m wide and 0.30m deep.

#### **4.8 Trench 56** (Figs 7 and 8)

Trench 56 was L-shaped and aligned north-west to south-east and north-east to south-west. It contained the terminal of a ditch dated to the Roman period [5605].

##### ***Ditch [5605]***

The ditch was 1.60m wide and 0.30m deep. It had shallow sides meeting a flattish base and was filled with greyish brown silty clay (5604). The fill produced a number of sherds which date the feature to the late 1st to early 2nd century AD.



#### **4.9 Trench 59** (Fig 5)

Trench 59 was situated toward the centre of the site and aligned north to south. It contained a single undated ditch was present.

##### ***Ditch [5905]***

Ditch [5905] was aligned north-west to south-east. It was 1.07m wide and 0.42m deep with steep sides and a rounded base. It contained a single fill of mid yellowish brown sandy clay (5904).

#### **4.10 Trench 70** (Figs 7 and 8)

Trench 70 was at the north-east edge of the site. It was aligned east to west. In addition to a modern concrete duct and land drains two undated ditches were found [7006]and [7008].

##### ***Ditch [7006]***

Ditch 7006 was aligned north-west to south-east. It was 1.40m wide and 0.44m deep (Plate 5). The western side sloped down at about 45 degrees whilst the eastern side was slightly more shallow. It had a rounded base and was filled with a greyish brown sandy clay which was frequently flecked with orangey red panning. A single piece of undiagnostic fired clay was found in the base of the cut.

##### ***Ditch [7008]***

Lying *c* 5m to the west of ditch [7006] was the rounded terminal of a ditch on a similar north-west to south-east alignment. It was 1.15m wide and 0.40m deep and filled with a greyish brown silty clay. Unlike its neighbour, this ditch had a more V-shaped profile. No finds were present in its fill.

#### **4.11 Trench 73** (Figs 4, 7 and 8)

Trench 73 was aligned north-west to south-east. It was positioned to sample the ditches and interior of a rectilinear enclosure identified by the geophysical survey. Two Roman ditches, possibly equated with the enclosure ditches, were located, set *c* 15m apart [7305] and [7307]. In addition the terminals of a further two undated ditches to the east of the enclosure were also found [7309][7311]. No internal features were present.

***Ditch [7305]***

Ditch [7305] was 0.90m wide and 0.27m deep and aligned north to south. It had a rounded U-shaped profile and was filled with a very dark grey black silty clay (7304). Pottery from the fill indicates a middle to late 1st century AD date for the feature. The fill also contained a small unidentified copper fragment and some animal bone. A bulk soil sample taken from the feature proved to be the most productive from the site, revealing a relatively large quantity of charred grain and weed seeds.

***Ditch [7307]***

Ditch [7307] was wider than its neighbour and on a slightly differing east–north-east to west–south-west alignment. It was 1.76m wide and 0.49m deep (Fig 4, Section 5). The fill was a greyish brown silty clay (7306) from which some fired clay and a large assemblage of middle to late 1st-century pottery was recovered.

***Ditches [7309] and [7311]***

The terminals of two ditches converged within the trench (Fig 4, Section 6). The earliest of these [7311] was 0.70m wide, 0.34m deep and filled with a light greyish brown silty clay (7310). This was cut through by ditch [7309] which was 0.76m wide and 0.36m deep. The fill (7308) was similar to ditch [7311] and contained a small amount of animal bone. The profiles of both ditches were similar with moderately steep sides and flattish, slightly sloping bases. It is likely that the later feature is a re-cut of the earlier ditch.

**4.12 Trench 74 (Figs 4, 7 and 8)**

Trench 74 was aligned north-east to south-west to sample a possible enclosure identified by the geophysical survey. In addition to land drains, three possible Roman ditches [7408], [7410] and [7412] and a small undated pit [7406] were identified.

***Pit [7406]***

The pit extended beyond the edge of the trench and so it was impossible to establish its full dimensions. It had an oval shape in plan and was 0.50m long by 0.54m deep, with a flattish base. The primary fill was a yellowish brown silty clay which was in turn overlain by a mid grey silty clay. No finds were retrieved from either fill.

***Ditch [7408]***

Ditch [7408] was aligned north to south. It was 0.80m wide and 0.18m deep with a U-shaped profile. It contained a fill of brownish grey silty clay (7407) but there were no finds.

***Ditch [7410]***

Ditch [7410] was aligned north-east to south-west. It was filled with a light grey clay with small chalk flecks (7409) (Fig 4, Section 7). It was 1.15m wide and 0.34m deep with a rounded profile. It contained a large assemblage of Roman pottery dating to the middle to late 1st century AD.

***Ditch [7412]***

This possible ditch was aligned east to west. It appeared to cut through earlier ditch [7408] and was 1.00m wide and 0.42m wide. Its alignment and wide shallow profile with a slightly rounded base suggested that it might be the remains of a medieval furrow but its dark greyish brown sandy clay fill produced twelve sherds of Roman pottery.

**4.13 Trench 75 (Figs 7, 8 and 9)**

Trench 75 was aligned north-east to south-west (Plate 6). It was placed so as to cut across a number of ditches which had been plotted through the geophysical survey. The complex of ditches was confirmed by the excavations which identified four separate ditches, all of which may date to the Iron Age.

***Ditch [7506]***

At the northern end of the trench was a large, broad curvilinear ditch (Fig 9, Section 12; Plate 6). Before it was ascertained that the feature represented a single ditch, each excavated section was given separate context numbers in order to keep the finds separate. The ditch [7506][7509][7514] was *c* 3.00m wide. Its full depth could not be ascertained due to being inundated with water but was estimated to be at least 1.00m. The primary fill (7505)(7508)(7513) was a greyish brown silty clay and is suggestive of a gradual infilling of the ditch. It contained pottery of both the middle to late Iron Age and the transitional period between the Late Iron Age and Early Roman periods ('Belgic' ware) but soil samples taken showed only small amounts of charred cereal grain. The secondary fills (7504)(7507)(7512) produced no dating evidence.

***Ditch [7511]***

Ditch [7511] was aligned north to south. It was 1.43m wide and 0.41m deep. It had a concave U-shaped profile. It was filled with a greyish brown clay (7510) but there were no finds recovered. A soil sample revealed only small amounts of charred grain.

***Ditch [7517]***

Ditch [7517] was 1.20m wide and 0.52m deep. It was aligned north-east to south-west with a rounded profile (Fig 9, Section 13). The primary fill was a yellowish grey clay (7516). This was overlain by a light grey silty clay (7515). This upper fill produced a single sherd of Iron Age shell tempered pottery

***Ditch [7519]***

Set at right angles to [7511], ditch [7519] was aligned east to west. It had similar dimensions to ditch [7511] being some 1.50m wide and 0.40m deep. However, the base of the ditch was more V-shaped than [7511] suggesting that they are separate features. The fill was a dark greyish brown silty clay (7518) from which a large assemblage of Middle to Late Iron Age pottery was recovered along with some animal bone. A bulk soil sample, however, produced no ecofacts.

**4.14 Trench 76 (Figs 7 and 8)**

Trench 76 was aligned north-east to south-west. It was positioned to determine whether ditches located by the geophysical survey continued to the east. Two possible features were discovered [7605] and [7608]. On excavation, the character of [7605] and the presence of post-medieval pottery in its fill, suggested that the feature was probably a furrow. Feature [7608], however, presented a more ditch-like profile and was interpreted as an Iron Age or Roman ditch.

***Ditch [7608]***

The ditch was aligned north-west to south-east and was 1.46m wide and 0.42m deep. It had a rounded profile with a base which sloped slightly. A primary fill (7607) of light brownish yellow clay was overlain by a grey silty clay (7606) from which three sherds of Iron Age pottery were recovered.

**4.15 Trench 78 (Figs 7, 8 and 9)**

Trench 78 was placed so as to sample a number of features, including a possible Iron Age ring ditch, identified by the geophysical survey. The north-eastern and south western sides of the ring ditch were located [7807] and [7810]. The distance between them suggests that the feature had a diameter of 12m. It cut through a possible earlier ditch [7812] and was itself cut through by a later Roman pit [7826]. Three wide, similarly aligned, east to west features were also present in the trench. The shallow nature of two of them may indicate that they simply

represent the remains of medieval furrows [7818] and [7820]. The third, however, had a more ditch like profile and may represent a Roman ditch [7823]. A narrow gully also ran on the same alignment as these features [7805]. Two small features, interpreted as animal disturbance, were located at the western end of the trench.

#### ***Gully [7805]***

Gully [7805] was aligned east to west. It was 1.00m wide but only 0.21m deep, with a rounded profile (Plate 7). It was filled with a light grey silty clay (7804) from which a single sherd of Iron Age pottery was recovered. A small number of ecofacts were retrieved from a bulk soil sample..

#### ***Gully [7807]***

A narrow gully was located at the eastern end of the trench. Aligned north-west to south-east it was 1.04m wide and 0.32m deep (Fig 9, Section 17). It had uneven sides sloping down at a shallow angle towards a flattish base. It was filled with a brownish black silty clay with charcoal flecks (7806). There were seven sherds of Iron Age pottery and some animal bone in the fill. A bulk soil sample only produced small quantities of ecofacts. The position of the gully suggests that it represents the north-eastern arm of the ring ditch identified by the geophysical survey.

#### ***Gully [7810]***

Gully [7810] was equated with the probable south-western arm of the ring gully. It was 1.12m wide and 0.41m deep (Fig 9, Section 16). It had a similar profile to gully [7807] but with a slightly more rounded profile. It contained a single fill of light brownish yellow silty clay (7809) from which three sherds of Iron Age pottery were recovered. The gully cut through an earlier feature [7812] and was in turn cut through by a later pit [7826].

#### ***Possible ditch [7812]***

A shallow, linear feature aligned east to west. It was cut away by gully [7810] and only survived to a length of 1.50m (Fig 9, Section 16). It was 0.50m wide but only 0.07m deep. Its fill, a light grey silty clay (7811), produced no finds.

#### ***Possible ditch [7818]***

Linear feature [7818] was 2.20m wide and aligned east to west. On excavation it proved to be only 0.07m deep filled with a mid brown silty clay (7817) from which Iron Age and Roman sherds were recovered. A modern land drain ran down one side of the feature.

***Possible ditch [7820]***

Linear feature [7820] was also on an east to west alignment. It was 2.80m wide and 0.28m deep (Fig 9, Section 14). Its base sloped down towards the south and it was filled with a greyish brown silty clay (7819). A small assemblage of Iron Age pottery along with some animal bone was recovered.

***Ditch [7823]***

Ditch [7823] was aligned east to west and was 2.95m wide and 0.95m deep (Fig 9, Section 15). Its fill was a mid greyish brown silty clay from which an assemblage of Roman pottery and some animal bone was recovered. A modern land drain had been dug into the top of the ditch (7821).

***Pit [7826]***

Pit [7826] cut through earlier ring gully [7810]. The pit was oval in plan 0.94m long by 0.60m wide and 0.21m deep (Fig 9, Section 16). It had shallow sides and a flattish base and was filled with a black silty clay containing frequent charcoal flecks (7808). Twenty sherds of early to mid 1st-century pottery was recovered along with some animal bone from the fill.

**4.16 Trench 79 (Figs 4, 7 and 8)**

Trench 79 was aligned north to south and positioned towards the northern end of the proposed development area. In addition to a number of furrows, two Roman ditches [7905] and [7907] and a large feature of uncertain purpose [7909] were revealed.

***Ditch [7905]***

Ditch 7905 was aligned east to west, 2.16m wide and 0.70m deep with a U-shaped profile. It contained a fill of dark greyish brown sandy clay from which derived a large assemblage of Roman pottery and animal bone.

***Ditch [7907]***

Ditch [7907] was aligned east to west and was 1.20m wide and 0.40m deep with a rounded profile. The fill was dark brown silty clay from which a large assemblage of Roman pottery was recovered.

***Feature [7909]***

Feature [7909] was situated at the southern end of the trench. It was 7.40m wide and approximately 0.92m deep (Fig 4, Section 9). Its northern side sloped down at approximately

45 degrees towards a flattish base. It had a primary fill containing a dark greyish brown gleyed silty clay (7908), from which twelve sherds of Roman pottery were recovered. However, this appeared to be sealed by a layer of mid brown silty clay which contained frequent chalk flecks and small pieces of coal (7911). This was in turn sealed by a layer of mixed brown and orange sandy clay (7910) which replaced the subsoil at this point in the trench. To the south of the feature and extending beyond the end of the trench, a dump of modern crushed tarmac was seen in section. The overlying layers of modern material would perhaps indicate that the feature is of relatively modern date, possibly an infilled pond. However, it may be that the feature is of some antiquity and that the modern material is an infilling of what would otherwise have been a damp or waterlogged hollow. A bulk soil sample produced little in the way of ecofacts.

#### **4.17 Trench 81** (Figs 7, 10 and 11)

Trench 81 was a T-shaped trench aligned north-east to south-west and north-west to south-east in the north-east corner of the proposed development area. The trench contained a small pit and three ditches of Iron Age date. Two of these ditches were relatively substantial in size. The ditches appear to continue to the east where the terminals of at least one of them was observed in the cross arm of the trench. However, the presence of a furrow in this area confused the relationship.

##### ***Pit [8105]***

Pit [8105] was in the northern end of the trench and extended beyond the edge of excavation. It was 0.82m wide but only 0.20m deep (Fig 11, Section 20). It was filled with a dark grey silty clay (8104) from which eight sherds of Iron Age pottery and a small assemblage of animal bone were retrieved. A soil sample produced moderately high amounts of carbonised cereal and weed seeds.

##### ***Ditch [8110]***

Ditch [8110] was aligned east to west. It was 2.04m wide and 0.96m deep with a rounded U-shaped profile (Fig 11, Section 18; Plate 8). Two primary fills, possibly representing initial silting of the feature, comprised light yellowish brown silty clay (8107) and (8108). A secondary fill of mid greyish brown silty clay (8109) produced a single sherd of Middle to Late Iron Age pottery. The final surviving infilling of mid brown silty clay (8106) produced twenty sherds of similar date.

***Ditch [8112]***

Ditch [8112] was aligned north-east to south-west. It was 1.00m wide and 0.36m deep and contained a single fill of mid brown silty clay (8111) (Fig 11, Section 19). It met ditch [8110] and appeared to be cut away by it, however, the similarity of fills meant that this relationship was equivocal.

***Ditch [8114]***

Ditch [8114] was a wide ditch, 4.40m across and 0.60m deep (Fig 11, Section 21). It had relatively shallow sides and a flattish base and was filled with a dark greyish brown silty clay (8113). The feature produced an assemblage of late Iron Age pottery.

**4.18 Trench 82** (Figs 7 and 8)

Trench 82 was aligned north-west to south-east in the extreme northern tip of the proposed development area. The terminal of a single undated ditch [8206] was the only archaeological feature present.

***Ditch [8206]***

The ditch was aligned north-west to south-east. Its terminal was rounded, 1.20m wide and 0.52m deep. The primary fill, possibly representing initial silting in the base of the feature, comprised a light grey silty clay (8205). This was overlain by a secondary fill of mid brown silty clay. The feature produced no pottery or other dating evidence.

**5 THE FINDS AND ENVIRONMENTAL EVIDENCE**

**5.1 The pottery** by Ed McSloy

Pottery amounting to 927 sherds (7753g) was recovered. A small quantity of ceramic building material of late medieval or post-medieval type was also recovered (Table 1). The ceramic material was recovered from 47 separate contexts, relating to 26 evaluation trenches. The bulk of the assemblage derived from the northern part of the site, including areas of archaeological activity identified from the geophysical survey.

The condition of the pottery, excepting material from topsoil deposits was good. Surfaces and calcareous inclusions are well-preserved and among larger pottery groups from deposits (3704, 7409, 7906) a number of vessels are reconstructable below shoulder level. A relatively low mean sherd weight (8.4g) reflects high levels of fragmentation, including some at the time of or following recovery.



The pottery dates primarily between the Middle to Late Iron Age (4th to 1st centuries BC) and earlier Roman (1st to 2nd centuries AD) periods, with a small number of glazed earthenware sherds of post-medieval type from topsoil and subsoil horizons.

Pottery of Middle to Late Iron Age type was recovered from 20 deposits, relating to Trenches 32, 37, 75, 76, 78 and 81. The majority occur in a similar handmade medium-coarse sandy or sand/organic fabrics, with a smaller quantity of sherds (deposits 3704, 3707, 7515, 7518) in a coarse shell-tempered fabric. A notable presence, in deposit (3704) is a sherd containing a fragment of calcined bone (although in isolation it is unclear whether this was an intentional inclusion). Identifiable forms among the Iron Age material comprise jars or bowls with slack-shoulders, upright simple rims and plain, flat bases. Decoration was rarely present, limited to instances of vertical scoring (deposits 3204, 7515, 7518 and 8106) and fingernail impressions to the rim upper (deposits 3704 and 8109).

Material characteristic of the ceramic style spanning the Late Iron Age/Early Roman periods was recovered from six deposits from within Trenches 73, 74, 75, 78 and 81. Grogged fabrics characteristic of 'Belgic'-type pottery styles most typical of central/southern England during this period was recovered from deposits (7513) and (7808). The majority of material occurs in a black-firing sandy fabric. Forms in grogged and sandy type fabrics comprise necked jars or bowls, including examples with neck/shoulder cordons. Decoration includes instances of vertical combing (deposits 7304 and 7306) and lightly incised criss-cross to the shoulder of a large jar from (7808). Deposit (8113) was notable in including a majority of handmade Iron-Age type vessels, with a single wheelthrown vessel in sandy fabric.

Romano-British type wares were recovered from within Trenches 1, 4, 56, 74, 78 and 79. The bulk of the pottery consists of reduced (typically dark grey/black-firing) wares probably of local origin. A sherd in a fine greyware fabric with compass-scribed decoration from deposit (107) probably derives from a bowl in imitation of samian form Drag. 37. This is likely a product from the Lower Nene valley, known to be producing London type wares in the early 2nd century (Perrin 1980). A white-firing fabric, which includes at least one (ring-necked) flagon from deposit (7904), might derive from the Lower Nene valley, though similar material is also known to be produced in the area of Godmanchester, Cambridgeshire (Evans 2003). Identifiable forms among the majority coarser reduced fabrics consist primarily of necked jars, some with horizontal, combed decoration (deposits 7409 and 7906). Flat, reeded-rim bowls and a possible butt-beaker were recognisable from among large groups from deposits (7904) and (7906). The most unusual of forms is represented by a small sherd from deposit (404) which appears to be from a vessel with a vertical lug which is perforated for

suspension. Similar forms, sometimes referred to as ‘buckets’ are known from a number of 1st and 2nd century contexts in an area of central/eastern England between Northamptonshire and Hertfordshire (Stead and Rigby 1986).

The scarcity of non-jar forms is a factor making dating problematical, however, some characteristics of form, and of fabric or decoration, together with the absence of certain common traded wares such as Lower Nene colour-coated wares, combine to suggest dating between the later 1st and mid 2nd centuries.

### ***Summary***

The characteristics of form and decoration noted with the Iron Age pottery are consistent with the apparently long-lived potting tradition encompassing ‘Scored Wares’ common across a large area of central eastern England (Elsdon 1992). The fabrics, forms and the scarcity of decoration compares with material from Wardy Hill, Coveney, Ely (Hill and Horne 2003, 145–84), where it was suggested that most material (termed Later Iron Age) dated between the 3rd/2nd century BC to the mid-1st century AD. The Late Iron Age to Early Roman assemblage also shares characteristics of fabric and form with material of this date from Wardy Hill (Hill and Horne 2003, 168–9). A notable aspect of the Roman assemblage is its restricted chronological range – with no evidence for continuation after the mid-2nd century AD.

*Table 1: Quantification of ceramics*

<b>Trench</b>	<b>Context/feature</b>	<b>Count</b>	<b>Wt (g)</b>	<b>Comments</b>	<b>Date</b>
1	107/ditch 109	6	32	Fine grey (London ware type); black sandy; resid. Iron Age sandy	EMC1
2	202/subsoil	1	8	Unglazed earthenware	PMED/ modern
4	404/pit 405	71	669	Black sandy fabric; coarse grey; whiteware. Bar lug vessel.	LC1- EC2
5	506/ditch 507	1	27	Transfer-print china	C19+
7	702/subsoil	1	33	Flat tile fragment	MED- PMED
8	805/ditch 806	2	30	English stoneware bottle; resid. RB	C19- C20
16	1603/furrow	1	20	Flat tile fragment	MED- PMED
18	1802/layer	2	31	Flat tile fragment	MED- PMED
24	2402/subsoil	2	42	Flat tile fragment	MED- PMED
31	3102/subsoil	1	56	Black-sandy (v. abr.)	RB?
	3104/buried soil	4	47	Creamware; glazed earthenware; bottle glass	PMED
32	3203/ditch 3205	2	36	Iron Age sandy fabric. Handmade slack-sh.	MLIA

				jar	
	3204/ditch 3205	3	38	Iron Age sandy fabric. Scored sherds	MLIA
	3205/ditch 3205	9	28	Iron Age sandy fabric. Handmade slack-sh. jar	MLIA
34	3402/subsoil	1	14	Glazed earthenware. Clear glaze	PMED
37	3704/ditch 3709	63	38	Iron Age sandy and shell-tempered fabrics; Handmade slack-sh. jars; fn. dec to rim x 1	MLIA
	3707/ditch 3709	15	145	Iron Age sandy and shell-tempered fabrics; Handmade slack-sh. jar	MLIA
51	5102/subsoil	1	21	Flat tile fragment	MED-PMED
54	5404/ditch 5406	2	56	Glazed earthenware sherds, abr.	PMED
56	5604/ditch 5605	8	77	Sherds, black sandy and oxidised fabrics	LC1-C2
70	7002/layer	2	17	Glazed earthenware sherds, abr.	PMED
73	7304/ditch 7305	8	87	Black-sandy fabric. Cordoned jar. Combed sherd	MLC1
	7306/ditch 7307	30	121	Black-sandy and sand/grog fabrics. Combed sherd	MLC1
74	7409/ditch 7410	62	476	Black-sandy and sandy whiteware. Necked jars, some with horiz. combing	LC1-EC2
	7411/ditch 7412	12	297	Sand/grog fabrics. Cordoned necked jar/bowl	MLC1
75	7504/ditch 7506	5	17	Iron Age sand/org fabric	IA+
	7505/ditch 7506	1	5	Iron Age sandy fabric	IA+
	7508/ditch 7509	2	26	Iron Age sand/org fabric	MLIA
	7513/ditch 7514	33	461	Iron Age sandy and (wheel-thrown) black-sandy and sand/grog fabrics	MLC1
	7515/ditch 7517	1	75	Iron Age sandy/shell-tempered fabric	MLIA
	7518/ditch 7519	49	467	Iron Age sandy and shell-tempered fabrics; scored	MLIA
76	7604/furrow 7605	2	9	sand/grog (C1) and glazed earthenware	PMED
	7606/ditch 7608	3	20	Iron Age sandy	IA+
78	7804/ditch 7805	1	14	Iron Age sandy. Abr.	IA+
	7806/ditch 7807	7	10	Iron Age sand/org fabric. Crumbs	IA+
	7808/ditch 7810	20	478	Grog-tempered; necked jars	EMC1
	7809/ditch 7810	3	9	Iron Age sandy	IA
	7815/ditch 7816	2	110	Iron Age sandy	IA+
	7817/ditch 7818	7	85	Iron Age sandy; RB grey/oxid fabrics	IA;RB+
	7819/ditch 7820	5	47	Iron Age sandy	IA
	7822/ditch 7823	14	122	Black sandy fabric; combed	LC1-EC2
79	7904/ditch 7905	98	1015	Black sandy, coarse grey, sandy whiteware fabrics; ring-necked flagon	LC1-MC2
	7906/ ditch 7907	309	1882	Black sandy, coarse grey, sandy whiteware fabrics; jars; beaker (butt-beaker?)	LC1-EC2
	7908/pond 7909	12	94	Iron Age sandy; RB black-sandy fabrics	LC1-C2
81	8104/pit 8105	8	69	Iron Age fine sandy	IA
	8106/ditch 8110	20	182	Iron Age sandy and shell-tempered fabrics; scored	MLIA
	8109ditch 8110	1	20	Iron Age sandy. Handmade slack-sh. jar; fn. to rim	MLIA
	8113/ditch 8114	17	237	Iron Age sandy + wheelthrown sandy	LIA-C1

## 5.2 The other finds by Tora Hylton

The excavations produced a small group of 13 other finds, dating from the Roman to post-medieval period. Finds were recovered from tentrenches (1, 8, 15, 20, 23, 31, 47, 70, 73 and 79), five from topsoil and subsoil deposits overlying Trenches 1, 15, 20, 47 and 79, and eight from archaeological features in Trenches 1, 8, 23, 31, 70, 73 and 79.

### *Roman*

The only datable object on stylistic grounds is a possible iron brooch which was recovered from context (108), the fill of ditch [109]. The possible brooch comprises a bow and spring, but the presence of corrosion deposits makes identification difficult. Other iron finds from stratified deposits include an iron looped fitting and nail from fill (805) from ditch [806], an object with a spatulate terminal from fill (7906) ditch [7907], a nail from buried soil (3104) and a sheet fragment from fill (2304) ditch [2305]. In addition an undiagnostic fragment of copper alloy sheet was located in fill (7304) ditch [7305].

### *Medieval and post-medieval*

Medieval finds are represented by a silver Elizabeth I sixpence recovered from Trench 1 and dated 1575 (North 1991, 1997). Post-medieval finds include two barely legible George III half pennies, from Trenches 15 and 47 and a key for a mounted lock from Trench 79.

### *Finds Catalogue*

#### Silver

SF 2 Coin, silver. Elizabeth I sixpence dated 1575.  
Context 101, Trench 1, Topsoil

Obv: ELIZABETH D G ANG FRA ET HIB REGINA.  
Crowned bust facing left with rose behind the head.

Rev: POSUI DEU ADIUTOREM MEU  
Shield on long cross fourchee dividing the legend, date above shield (Ref: JJ North, 1997)

#### Copper alloy

SF 3 Strip, copper alloy. Four fragments of flat-sectioned sheet metal, no apparent joins.  
Nature of object impossible to determine. Largest piece measures: 48 x 12mm  
Context 2002, Trench 20, subsoil

SF 4 George III Half penny, almost illegible  
Context 1501, trench 15, topsoil

SF 6 George III Half penny, barely legible  
Context 4701, Trench 47, topsoil

- SF 8 Sheet, copper alloy. Undiagnostic copper alloy fragment. Measurements: 33 x 2mm  
Context 7304, ditch 7305, Trench 73

Iron

- SF 1 Possible fibula, iron. Incomplete with spring and part of bow. Covered in corrosion products so it is difficult to be absolutely certain. Length: 46mm  
Context 108, ditch 109, Trench 1
- SF 5 Looped fitting, iron. Incomplete, circular-sectioned loop only. Ferruginous wood adhering to corrosion deposits. No measurements.  
Context 805, ditch 806, Trench 8
- SF 9 Unidentified object, iron. Incomplete, most of object missing. Rectangular sectioned shank with possible spatulate terminal. Nature of object difficult to determine. No measurements.  
Context 7906, ditch 7907, Trench 79
- SF 11 Nail, iron. Flat sub-circular head with square-sectioned shank tapered to a point. Covered in corrosion deposits. Length: 85mm  
Context 3104, buried soil, Trench 31
- SF 12 Key, iron. Key for mounted lock, incomplete part of bow missing. Solid shank with simple bit and kidney-shaped bow. Length (incomplete): 115mm  
Context 7901, topsoil, Trench 79
- SF 13 Sheet fragment, iron. Rectangular-shaped with corrosion deposits adhering to the surface. Measurements: 38 x 15mm  
Context 2304, ditch 2305, Trench 23
- SF 14 Nail, iron. Incomplete, end of shank missing. Sub-circular head with square-sectioned shank. Length (incomplete): 52mm  
Context 805, ditch 806, Trench 8

Fired clay

- SF 10 Amorphous fragment of fired clay. Grey interior/buff exterior, tempered with sand, shell and flint.  
Context 7005, ditch 7006, Trench 70

**5.3 The ceramic building material by Pat Chapman**

***Tile***

There are 11 fragments of tile, weighing 644g (Table 2). A tile, from fill (2304) of undated ditch [2305], is 40mm thick. The fabric is hard and reddish with occasional flint and calcareous inclusion up to 7mm thick. There is one smooth though slightly uneven surface and the remnants of a rougher sandier opposing surface. This could be a Roman *bessalis*-type brick or tile but the presence of medieval or post-medieval brick remains in the same context would suggest a post-medieval date may be more likely. Of the ten roof tile sherds, three

fragments are 11mm thick, reddish brown in a fine silty sand fabric, typical of medieval/post-medieval roof tile, from fill (105) of modern post-pit [106], medieval furrow [1603] and ditch fill (5104) of undated ditch [5108]. However, eight tile fragments, including three curved, are 13mm thick and made in a pink fabric coated in a white slip weathered to pale yellow, and come from ditch fill (603), furrow [1603] and fill (5404) of post-medieval ditch [5406]. These could be from a coloured roof tile pattern of post-medieval date.

*Table2: Quantification of tile*

<b>Context/ feature</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Wt (g)</b>	<b>Comment</b>
105 / post-pit 106, modern	1	110	Medieval/post-medieval
603 / fill ditch undated	1	43	Post-medieval, pink with white slip
1603 / medieval furrow	3	75	Post-medieval, 2 pink with white slip
2304 / ditch 2305	1	273	Possible Bessalis Roman
5104 / ditch 5108 undated	1	10	Medieval/post-medieval
5404 / ditch 5406 p-med	4	133	Post-medieval, pink with white slip
<b>Totals</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>644</b>	

### ***Brick***

The brick header end from fill (2304), ditch [2305], is 114mm (4 inches) wide by 39mm (1½ inches) thick, made from well-mixed white clay weathered to yellow. Three further fragments from the same fill are pale yellow with pink streaks, which are fragments of early handmade bricks. There is also one very abraded piece made from red coarse sand, with flint and calcareous inclusions from fill (805) of modern field boundary ditch [806]. These fragments date from the 14th century onwards.

### ***Fired clay***

The total assemblage comprises 27 fragments, the majority from Iron Age and Roman contexts, weighing 257g (Table 3). Most of these are typically small, 25mm in diameter, irregular in shape, and either hard, red brown to brown with black or orange brown and brittle and slightly soft. However, one larger flatter sherd from fill (8113), from the late Iron Age ditch [8114], is 10-25mm thick with the surfaces having opposing curves. It is a very hard orange with a dark grey core and sparse small shell, slightly vesicular from exposure to a very high temperature and is perhaps indicative of a manufacturing process in the wider vicinity. The sparse scatter of small fragments is not informative.

*Table3: Quantification of fired clay*

<b>Context/feature</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Wt (g)</b>
107 / post-pit 106 modern	2	11
404 / pit 405 Roman	1	12
3104 / buried soil, post-medieval	1	6
7306 / ditch 7307, Roman	5	23
7505 / ditch 7506, Iron Age-Roman	1	35

7513 / ditch 7514, Iron Age-Roman	4	8
7806 / ring gully 7507, Iron Age	3	19
7817 / gully 7515, possibly Iron Age	1	21
7908 / pond 7909, possibly Roman	1	11
8104 / pit 8105, Iron Age	1	10
8106 / ditch 8110, Iron Age	2	25
8113 / ditch 8114, Iron Age	4	76
<b>Totals</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>257</b>

#### 5.4 The environmental evidence by Karen Deighton

##### *Introduction*

Twenty samples were collected by hand during the course of trial trenching. These were assessed to determine the presence, nature and preservation of ecofacts, as well as informing any future sampling strategies.

##### *Method*

All samples were processed using a modified siraf tank fitted with a 250 micron mesh and flot sieve. The resulting flots were dried and sorted using a microscope (10x magnification). Any ecofacts were identified where possible with the aid of atlases (see references). The author's reference collection was also used to aid with seed identification.

##### *Results*

Preservation was entirely by charring for plant remains. Seeds and grains exhibited a moderate level of fragmentation and abrasion as did molluscan remains. Charcoal was heavily fragmented which precludes any further analysis or discussion.

The molluscs present included the land species *Cepaea Nemoralis*, *Cochilopa lubrica/lubricella*, *Pupilla muscorum*, *Vertigo pygmaea*, and *Trichia sp.* The water taxa *Planorbis sp.*, *Bithynia* and *Lymnaea* (cf *Radix*, cf *stagnalis*) were present in ten samples. The cereal grain types present included spelt (*Triticum spelta*) and spelt chaff was noted in three samples. Wild/weed taxa include fat hen (*Chenopodium album*), dock (*Rumex sp.*), grass (*Poa sp.*), cleavers (*Galium aparine*) and small Cruciferae (cabbage family). Amphibian remains are those of either frog or toad.

Table 4: Ecofacts by sample and context

Sample	Cut/ fill	Feature	Volume (litres)	Charcoal*	Cereal	Wild/weed	Mollusc*	Amph
1#	109/108	Ditch	20					
2	109/107	Ditch	20	4		6	4	
3	307/304	Pit	30	10		2		
4	405/404	Pit	40	4			8	
5	604/605	Ditch	20	4	3		6	
6	3707	Ditch	40	5	14	7	5	3
7	3704	Ditch	20	6			5	
8	7904	Ditch	20	2	3	1	7	
9	7826/7808	Ditch	20	6	14	18	1	3
10	7820/7819	Ditch	20	2		1	10	
11	7823/7821	Ditch	20	5	1		5	
12	8105/8107	Pit	20		22	1	1	
13	7305/7304	Ditch	40		<500	20	2	
14	7307/7306	Ditch	40	6	20	6	7	3
15	7514/7513	Ditch	40	4	4		2	
16	7511/7510	Ditch	40	5	2	1	2	
17	7518/7519	Ditch	40					
18	7909/7908	Pond	40		1		2	
19	7805/7804	Gully	40	4	4	1	4	
20	7807/7806	Gully	20	2	2		1	

# = sterile

Key for charcoal and molluscs

+ = present, 1=2-10, 2=10-20, 3=20-30, 4=30-50, 5=50-100, 6=100-200, 7=200-300, 8=300-500, 9=500-1,000, 1=1,000+

### ***Discussion***

Eighteen of the twenty samples collected produced ecofacts. Sample 13 was the most productive sample. Wheat type cereal predominates; where this could be identified spelt was indicated which was confirmed by small quantities of spelt forklets and glume bases (chaff). The wild/weed taxa present in this sample are fat hen, small brassicas, rumex type and grass type seeds. The mixed nature and context of the deposit suggest refuse disposal. The small quantities of seeds/grains in the remaining samples suggest “background”, ie material washed or blown in. The snail assemblage suggests moist conditions and the presence of fresh water.

### ***Conclusion***

Assessment has shown the presence of two well preserved classes of ecofacts and that further work in the event of future excavation would be viable.



## 5.5 The animal bone by Karen Deighton

### *Introduction*

Animal bones, totalling 5.6kg, were collected by hand during the course of excavation. This material was assessed to ascertain the condition of the bone, the species present and potential contribution to the understanding of the site and to inform on future collection strategies.

### *Method*

Material was scanned and the following were noted: species, preservation, ageing evidence and measurements available.

### *Results*

Fragmentation varied from moderate to heavy across contexts. Surface condition was reasonable. Canid gnawing was noted in nine contexts. Burnt fragments were noticed from one context only, which could suggest that burning was not a preferred method of disposal. A single instance of butchery was noted.

*Table 5: Species by trench*

<b>Trench</b>	<b>Equus</b>	<b>Bos</b>	<b>Ovicaprid</b>	<b>Sus</b>	<b>Canid</b>	<b>Gallus</b>	<b>S. ung</b>	<b>L.ung</b>	<b>total</b>
1			1						<b>1</b>
4		2							<b>2</b>
23		1							<b>1</b>
32			1						<b>1</b>
37		6	10	3					<b>19</b>
51			1						<b>1</b>
73	1	2	2						<b>5</b>
74	1	1	1	1			1		<b>5</b>
75	1	8	31	3		1	1	1	<b>46</b>
76				1					<b>1</b>
78			2	5				1	<b>8</b>
79	1	2	4						<b>7</b>
81	2	7	4		1				<b>14</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>111</b>

*Table 6: Identified bone from sieved samples*

<b>Sample</b>	<b>Context/feature</b>	<b>Bos</b>	<b>Ovicaprid</b>	<b>Sus</b>
17	7518/ditch 7519			1
18	7908/pond 7909	1		
20	7806/ditch 7807		1	
<b>Total</b>		<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>

A single pathology was noted; this was a pig mandible with an abscess on the buccal side.

### ***Ageing and metrical analysis***

Due to the nature of fragmentation no suitable measurements of tooth eruption, wear and bone fusion could be taken.

### ***Discussion***

Any comments are tentative due to the small size of the assemblage. The assemblage appears to be dominated by sheep/goat followed by cattle. The relatively lower numbers of pigs is usual, possibly due to the limited range of secondary products available from the species and that fact that pig bone survives less well than other species. Although only one canid element was present gnawing also suggests the presence of dogs or maybe foxes. The number of horse bones was low because generally the species has other uses than for food.

### ***Potential***

The condition of the bone and range of species identified suggests if more bone was to be collected during the course of any subsequent excavations; some idea of the animal economy of the site could be gained. This will add to the existing corpus of work and provide comparanda for any future work.

## **6 DISCUSSION**

### **6.1 Conclusion**

The archaeological trial trenching confirmed and expanded upon the evidence from the previous geophysical survey, with Iron Age and Roman remains being revealed in three separate areas of the site. The remains would appear to indicate the presence of agricultural settlement which was taking advantage of the raised land on this part of the Isle of Ely. Fieldwalking and other survey has identified a number of such sites on the Isle and it would appear that these Iron Age sites often continue into the Roman period (Hall and Coles 1994, 92). However, the features at the Lancaster way site do not appear to continue after the early 2nd century AD unlike longer lived sites such as at West Fen Road (Mudd 2000) and Prickwillow Road (Mudd 2001). The tighter chronological range for the site coupled with the possibility of settlement shift makes the site an interesting addition to the settlement pattern of the area.

There was no evidence of Anglo-Saxon activity found at the site. The suggestion that a previously identified burial site of this period to the south might extend into the proposed development area or that it was the location for the early settlement of Cratendune was not supported by the excavations.

Later archaeological features were confined to the remains of medieval ridge and furrow cultivation and later field boundaries. The establishment and subsequent removal of the RAF station does not appear to have significantly impacted upon the underlying archaeological features at the site.

## **6.2 The Iron Age features**

Iron Age features were encountered at the north of the proposed development area and at the south-east. On the basis of the ceramic evidence, this activity appears to span from the Middle to Late Iron Age through to the transitional 'Belgic' period.

The discovery of a possible ring ditch in Trench 32 indicates that a separate settlement focus may exist in the central-eastern part of the application area and the ditch in Trench 37 may be associated. The dearth of other Iron Age features in the surrounding trenches, however, indicates that this is somewhat isolated activity and may represent an early unenclosed settlement that predates the settlement to the north. Such a sequence appears to be typical for the period in the East Anglian Region (Bryant 1997, 23 -26).

The main focus of activity occurs at the northern end of the site in Trenches 75, 76 and 78 and this may represent a shift in settlement from the south. Gullies, which the geophysical survey showed belonged to ring ditches, indicate the presence of structures. Other ditches probably represent field boundaries and settlement enclosures. Although quantities of pottery were recovered from the ditches, there were few smaller discrete features such as pits present and little in the way of other midden type material. It is therefore perhaps possible that the features are located at the periphery of settlement rather than at its core. This interpretation maybe supported by the environmental evidence, since the bulk soil samples produced only occasional seeds and grains indicative of stray material.

The substantial features in Trench 81 show that Iron Age activity is also located in the north-east corner of the site, whilst the undated ditches in Trench 70 possibly indicate that field boundaries may extend to the eastern edge of the proposed development area.

## **6.3 The Roman features**

Roman activity was located at the north and in the south-west corner of the proposed development area. The features in Trenches 1 and 4 can probably be seen as marking the easternmost extent of the Roman site previously excavated to the west. However, the absence of further features in other trenches adjacent to the western edge of the development site

indicates that the previously identified remains do not extend greatly into the current site. Also, unlike the previously excavated site to the west and the Roman site to the north, the Roman remains in this south-west part of the site do not appear to have been preceded by earlier Iron Age activity.

The main Roman features appear to be enclosure ditches in the northern part of the site. Although there are significant quantities of pottery in these ditches, as with the Iron Age features, there appears to be a lack of smaller domestic features such as pits. No evidence of industrial or other such activity was recovered from the site, however, the presence of a large amount of charred grain in one ditch indicates the potential for environmental survival at the site which would help to characterise the nature and function of the activity.

#### **6.4 The medieval and later activity**

There does not appear to be any activity at the site after the early 2nd century AD until the appearance of medieval ridge and furrow cultivation. The furrows survive over the majority of the site and curiously often match the alignment of the earlier Roman and Iron Age ditches. Whether this is due to common topological constraints or whether the earlier ditches survived as earthworks influencing the later agrarian practice is unclear. It appears that the furrows were used to site land drains, presumably when the agricultural regime changed, possibly in the 19th century (Plate 9).

Occasional ditches, whose fills produced late 19th and early 20th century finds, occur within the southern part of the site. These have been interpreted as former field boundaries, possibly predating the construction of the airfield. The only major elements connected with the airfield which survive within the application area appear to be the drains and concrete culverts which cross the site. The impact of the airfield on the archaeology of the site seems to have been restricted to the stripping of subsoil from areas immediately adjacent to the field's perimeter when the runways were removed. A possible earthen mound, identified through aerial photography in the central-eastern area and thought to date to the 1940s (Palmer 2007, 5), was not found. However, the deposition of a layer of soil containing brick fragments and other detritus was noted in Trenches 31 and 24, sealing the buried soil. This equates roughly with a circular area of magnetic anomalies shown on the geophysics plots (Fig 2) and it is suggested that these dumps of soil may possibly represent the destruction and spread of the mound material.

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## Appendix 1: Context Inventory

Trench	Context No	Type	Description	Width in M	Length in M	Depth in M
<b>Trench 1</b>	A Roman ditch, a modern pit and dump of concrete, a concrete duct.					
	0101	Topsoil	Very dark greyish brown loamy clay			0.32
	0102	Subsoil	Light brown silty clay			0.30
	0103	Natural	Orangey brown sandy clay. Occasional chalk inclusions			-----
	0104	Fill of post pit [106]	Mid brown sandy loam with patches of burnt and degraded wood			0.35
	0105	Fill of post pit [106]	Burnt and rotted wood post or tree			
	0106	Post pit	Oval post-pit	1.45		0.35
	0107	Fill of ditch [109]	Dark brown silty clay. Occasional flint inclusions. Occasional charcoal flecks			0.48
	0108	Fill of ditch [109]	Very dark grey silty clay. Occasional flint inclusions			0.19
	0109	Ditch	North to south aligned ditch	1.60		0.67
<b>Trench 2</b>	No archaeology					
	0201	Topsoil	Very dark greyish brown loamy clay			0.35
	0202	Subsoil	Mid brown silty clay			0.13
	0203	Natural	Orangey brown sandy clay. Occasional chalk inclusions			----
<b>Trench 3</b>	An undated pit and a north-west to south-east aligned land drain					
	0301	Topsoil	Medium, brown, loamy clay.			0.32
	0302	Subsoil	Yellow, orange loamy clay.			0.20
	0303	Natural	Yellow brown silty clay			----
	0304	Fill of pit [308]	Firm, light yellow brown clayey silt, frequent stones and charcoal.	0.82		0.12
	0305	Fill of pit [308]	Very firm, mid grey brown very clayey silty loam, with some burning and gravel.	0.70		0.13
	0306	Fill of pit [308]	Firm dark grey brown clay with silty loam, with frequent charcoal.	0.90		0.10
	0307	Fill of pit [308]	Friable dark brown grey sandy clay with charcoal and frequent gravel.	0.82		0.07
	0308	Cut of pit	Square pit, with sharp sloping sides and concave uneven base.	1.10		0.43
<b>Trench 4</b>	Roman pit and an east to west land drain					
	0401	Topsoil	Dark brown, black loamy soil, with some small stones.			0.32
	0402	Subsoil	Light brown, orange silty clay.			0.30
	0403	Natural	Light brown orange, silty clay, with small stones, gravel and chalk.			----
	0404	Fill of pit [0405]	Dark grey clay silt, with moderate small stone inclusions	1.20	1.40	0.42
	0405	Cut of pit	Circular pit, gentle sloping sides and concave base.	1.20	1.40	0.42
<b>Trench 5</b>	Modern east-west ditch, several land drains					
	0501	Topsoil	Medium brown loamy clay, with some small stones.			0.28
	0502	Subsoil	Orange yellow silty clay.			0.26
	0503	Natural	Orange yellow silty clay.			----
	0504	Fill of ditch [507]	Firm, dark brown black silty clay, with some small stones and calk.	1.00		0.16

Trench	Context No	Type	Description	Width in M	Length in M	Depth in M
	0505	Fill of ditch [507]	Firm, light brown, orange yellow clay silt, with small pieces of flint and chalk.	1.20		0.14
	0506	Fill of ditch [507]	Firm, dark brown, black, organic, loamy soil, with small stones.	1.50		0.46
	0507	Cut of ditch	Linear ditch, with shallow sides and concave base.	1.50		0.70
<b>Trench 6</b>	Modern ditch, land drains, patches of modern gravel					
	0601	Topsoil	Dark brown silty loam.			0.25
	0602	Natural	Light yellow sandy clay.			----
	0603	Fill of ditch [604]	Firm, dark brown, grey silty clay, with occasional stones, flint and chalk.	0.60		0.26
	0604	Cut of ditch	Linear, shallow ditch with concave base.	0.60		0.26
<b>Trench 7</b>	No archaeology					
	0701	Topsoil	Mid brown grey, loamy clay.			0.20
	0702	Subsoil	Yellow orange silty clay.			0.23
	0703	Natural	Yellow orange, sandy clay.			----
<b>Trench 8</b>	Modern north-south boundary ditch, land drain					
	0801	Topsoil	Very dark brown, stony earth.			0.24
	0802	Natural	Mid yellow brown sandy clay.			----
	0803	Fill of ditch [806]	Firm, mid grey, yellow brown, mottled orange silty clay, with large medium stones.	0.98		0.38
	0804	Fill of ditch [806]	Firm, mid yellow brown, clay silt.	0.34		0.16
	0805	Fill of ditch [806]	Friable, dark brownish black, silt organic and occasional small stones.	1.09		0.18
	0806	Cut of ditch	Linear ditch, with gentle uneven sloping sides with concave, uneven base.	2.05		0.58
<b>Trench 9</b>	No archaeology .Modern drains and land drains					
	0901	Topsoil	Medium brown, loamy clay.			0.29
	0902	Natural	Yellow, orange very silty clay, occasional stones.			----
<b>Trench 10</b>	No archaeology, land drains					
	1001	Topsoil	Medium brown yellow silty clay, occasional small stones.			0.28
	1002	Natural	Yellow, orange, light brown silty clay.			----
<b>Trench 11</b>	Furrows and land drains					
	1101	Topsoil	Dark brown silty loam.			0.23
	1102	Natural	Mid orange yellow brown sandy clay.			----
<b>Trench 12</b>	Furrows and drains					
	1201	Topsoil	Dark brown loamy clay.			0.30
	1202	Natural	Light yellow brown sandy clay.			----
<b>Trench 13</b>	Furrows and land drains					
	1301	Topsoil	Dark brown grey loamy clay.			0.24
	1302	Natural	Yellow orange, silty clay, flint and chalk.			----
<b>Trench 14</b>	Modern debris layer					
	1401	Topsoil	Dark brown, black loam, occasional small stones.			0.33
	1402	Rubble layer	Man made, building debris, black with brick, slag, concrete.			0.30
	1403	Natural	Yellow, orange silty clay.			----
<b>Trench 15</b>	Furrow, land drain modern ditch					
	1501	Topsoil	Dark brown, black, loam, occasional stones.			0.24
	1502	Subsoil	Yellow, orange silty clay, with gravel, flint and			0.19



Trench	Context No	Type	Description	Width in M	Length in M	Depth in M
			chalk.			
	1503	Natural	Orange sandy clay.			----
	1504	Fill of [1505]	Dark greyish brown, sandy clay, occasional small gravel.			0.23
	1505	Cut of ditch	Cut of shallow terminal of linear ditch.	0.52		0.23
<b>Trench 16</b>	Modern boundary ditch, furrows, land drains					
	1601	Topsoil	Medium brown grey, loamy clay, occasional stones.			0.30
	1602	Natural	Orange yellow silty clay, occasional stones, flint and chalk.			
	1603	Fill of furrow	Orangey brown sandy clay			0.60
	1604	Cut of furrow	Linear north-south cut with shallow sides meeting a rounded base	1.30		0.60
	1605	Fill of ditch	Firm, mid/light yellow brown, silty clay, sand, with small stones and charcoal.	1.02		0.57
	1606	Cut of ditch	Linear ditch, steep sloped v-shaped base.	1.02		0.57
<b>Trench 17</b>	Furrow, land drains					
	1701	Topsoil	Dark brown loam clay, occasional small stones.			0.25
	1702	Natural	Yellow/orange sandy clay, occasional small stones			----
<b>Trench 18</b>	Land drains and debris layer from former runway					
	1801	Topsoil	Dark brown black silty loam, occasional small stones.			0.30
	1802	Layer	Man made debris, with clean natural, brick and concrete.			0.40
	1803	Natural	Orange brown sandy clay.			----
<b>Trench 19</b>	No archaeology, land drain					
	1901	Topsoil	Dark brown loamy clay, occasional small stones.			0.34
	1902	Natural	Orange yellow silty clay, with flint and chalk,			----
<b>Trench 20</b>	No archaeology, land drain					
	2001	Topsoil	Medium brown loamy clay, occasional small stones.			0.35
	2002	Subsoil	Light brown orangey sandy clay			0.30
	2003	Natural	Light brown, orange sandy clay with occasional small stones.			----
<b>Trench 21</b>	No archaeology, Land drains					
	2101	Topsoil	Dark black/grey loamy clay.			0.29
	2102	Subsoil	Bright orange sandy clay.			0.20
	2103	Natural	Gritty clay, sand, with flint and chalk.			----
<b>Trench 22</b>	No archaeology, land drains					
	2201	Topsoil	Grey silty clay.			0.15
	2202	Subsoil	Mid brown silty clay.			0.20
	2203	Natural	Yellow brown silty clay.			----
<b>Trench 23</b>	Modern boundary ditch (continuation of 24A05)					
	2301	Topsoil	Dark grey brown loam.			0.25
	2302	Subsoil	Orange, mid brown, with chalk.			0.24
	2303	Natural	Light orange, grit/sand/clay, with flint and chalk inclusions.			----
	2304	Fill of ditch [2305]	Firm, dark brown black, mottled red, silty clay with chalk inclusions.			0.75

Trench	Context No	Type	Description	Width in M	Length in M	Depth in M
	2305	Cut of ditch	Linear shallow ditch, with steep sides and concave base.	0.80		0.75
<b>Trench 24</b>	No archaeology, modern tree root or hedge disturbance					
	2401	Topsoil	Black grey silty clay.			0.24
	2402	Subsoil	Mid brown silty clay.			0.15
	2403	Natural	Light yellowish brown sandy clay			----
	2404	Buried Soil	Loose dark brown loam.			0.15
<b>Trench 24A</b>	Modern field boundary (continuation of 2305)					
	24A01	Topsoil	Dark grey silty clay.			0.26
	24A02	Subsoil	Mid brown silty clay.			0.31
	24A03	Natural	Yellowish brown silty clay.			----
	24A04	Fill of ditch [24A05]	Friable mid grey mixed with black silty clay.	0.92		0.40
	24A05	Cut of ditch	Linear ditch with sharp sides and concave base.	0.92		0.40
<b>Trench 25</b>	No archaeology					
	2501	Topsoil	Mid grey silty clay.			0.31
	2502	Subsoil	Mid brown silty clay			0.24
	2503	Natural	Light yellowish brown silty clay			----
<b>Trench 29</b>	Furrows, land drains					
	2901	Topsoil	Dark grey brown.			0.22
	2902	Subsoil	Dark brown clay silt.			0.25
	2903	Natural	Dark brown sandy clay			----
<b>Trench 30</b>	Land drains, drains					
	3031	Topsoil	Dark brown.			0.27
	3032	Subsoil	Mid brown clay silt.			0.20
	3033	Natural	Mid brown/orange clay silt with flint.			----
<b>Trench 31</b>	Post-medieval buried soil layer					
	3101	Topsoil	Grey brown.			0.40
	3102	Subsoil	Dark brown orange.			0.40
	3103	Natural	Light brown orange with flint.			----
	3104	Buried soil Layer	Loose dark brown loam.			0.15
	3105	Modern soil layer	Mixed brown and orange sandy clay with frequent brick and tile			0.20
<b>Trench 32</b>	Iron age ring ditch					
	3201	Topsoil	Dark brown loamy clay.			0.26
	3202	Subsoil	Yellow orange silty clay.			0.30
	3203	Natural	Yellow orange silty clay.			----
	3204	Fill of ditch [3205]	Moderate, mid-dark grey and orange brown silty clay, with gravel and charcoal inclusions.	0.6		0.3
	3205	Cut of ditch	Curvilinear, shallow sides and shallow rounded base.	0.6		0.3
<b>Trench 32A</b>	Two sides of Iron Age ring ditch					
	32A01	Topsoil	Dark brown loamy clay.			0.24
	32A02	Subsoil	Yellow orange silty clay.			0.30
	32A03	Fill of ditch [32A04]	Firm dark brown silty clay, with occasional small stones and chalk inclusions.	0.50		0.42
	32A04	Cut of ditch	Linear shallow ditch, with sharp sloping sides	0.50		0.42

Trench	Context No	Type	Description	Width in M	Length in M	Depth in M
			and concave base.			
	32A05	Fill of ditch [32A06]	Firm, dark brown silty clay, with occasional chalk and charcoal inclusions.	1.50		0.65
	32A06	Re -Cut of ditch [32A06]	Linear, rounded cut ditch with concave base.	0.85		0.65
	32A07	Cut of ditch	Shallow sided flat based ditch	0.65		0.32
	32A08	Fill of [32A07]	Firm, dark brown silty clay, with occasional chalk.			0.32
	32A09	Natural	Yellow orange silty clay			----
<b>Trench 33</b>	No archaeology, land drain					
	3301	Topsoil	Dark grey clay loam			0.24
	3302	Subsoil	Orange brown sandy clay.			0.38
	3303	Natural	Yellowish brown sandy clay, frequent chalk.			----
<b>Trench 34</b>	Modern ditch and drain (continues in Trench 35)					
	3401	Topsoil	Greyish brown clay loam.			0.35
	3402	Subsoil	Mid brown silty clay, occasional charcoal flecks.			0.20
	3403	Natural	Mid yellow brown chalky gravel.			----
	3404	Ditch	Orange brown gravel fill of ditch (Unexcavated)			----
	3405	Fill of ditch or culvert /drain	Grey brown sandy loam, with frequent large brick and concrete. (Unexcavated)			----
<b>Trench 35</b>	Modern ditch, land drains (continues in Trench 34)					
	3501	Topsoil	Dark brown silty clay earth.			0.26
	3502	Subsoil	Mid brown silty clay, occasional small stones.			0.32
	3503	Natural	Mid orange yellow sandy clay with chalk gravel.			----
	3504	Cut of ditch	Linear ditch, with steep sides and flat base.	1.00		0.87
	3505	Fill of ditch [3504]	Firm, mixed mid brown yellowish brown, silty clay, with chalky flecks.	1.00		0.87
<b>Trench 36</b>	Furrows					
	3601	Topsoil	Dark brownish black clay loam.			0.28
	3602	Subsoil	Mid orange brown sandy clay			0.20
	3603	Natural	Mid brown orange sandy clay.			----
<b>Trench 37</b>	Iron Age ditch					
	3701	Topsoil	Dark brown loamy clay.			0.30
	3702	Subsoil	Mid orange brown sandy clay.			0.25
	3703	Natural	Mid brown orange sandy clay with gravel.			----
	3704	Fill of ditch [3709]	Moderate black clay, with occasional shell inclusions.			0.26
	3705	Fill of ditch [3709]	Moderate yellow to brown clay, with charcoal, shell and natural flint inclusions.			0.28
	3706	Fill of ditch [3709]	Moderate grey brown sandy silt, with shells charcoal and natural flint inclusions.			0.07
	3707	Fill of ditch [3709]	Moderate black clay, with charcoal, shells and natural flint inclusions.			0.09
	3708	Fill of ditch [3709]	Dark greyish brown silty clay, with occasional charcoal and flint inclusions.			0.15
	3709	Cut of ditch	Linear ditch, sharp sloping sides.	1.70		1.72
<b>Trench 38</b>	Furrows and land drains					
	3801	Topsoil	Dark brownish black loamy clay.			0.28

Trench	Context No	Type	Description	Width in M	Length in M	Depth in M
	3802	Subsoil	Mid orange brown sandy clay.			0.24
	3803	Natural	Mid brown orange sandy clay with gravel.			----
<b>Trench 39</b>	No archaeology, furrows and land drains					
	3901	Topsoil	Dark brownish black clay loam.			0.26
	3902	Subsoil	Mid orange brown sandy clay.			0.17
	3903	natural	Mid brown orange sandy clay, with gravel.			
<b>Trench 40</b>	No archaeology, land drains					
	4001	Topsoil	Grey clay loam.			0.35
	4002	Subsoil	Brown sandy clay.			0.40
	4003	Natural	Orange brown sandy clay, frequent chalk and gravel.			----
<b>Trench 41</b>	No archaeology, land drain					
	4101	Topsoil	Grey loamy clay.			0.30
	4102	Subsoil	Mid brown sandy clay.			0.38
	4103	natural	Orange brown sandy clay, with chalk and gravel.			----
<b>Trench 42</b>	No archaeology, furrows and land drains					
	4201	Topsoil	Very dark brown loam			0.27
	4202	Natural	Mid orange brown sandy clay.			----
<b>Trench 43</b>	No archaeology					
	4301	Topsoil	Grey clay loam.			0.23
	4302	Subsoil	Orange brown sandy loam.			0.25
	4303	Natural	Orange brown sandy clay.			----
<b>Trench 44</b>	No archaeology, land drain					
	4401	Topsoil	Dark greyish brown loamy clay.			0.30
	4402	Subsoil	Mid brown sandy clay.			0.32
	4403	Natural	Orange brown sandy clay.			----
<b>Trench 45</b>	Modern ditch					
	4501	Topsoil	Dark grey clay loam.			0.28
	4502	Subsoil	Orange brown sandy clay.			0.30
	4503	Natural	Orange brown sandy clay.			----
	4504	Fill of ditch [4505]	Moderate black silt with charcoal and gravel inclusions.	0.50		0.30
	4505	Cut of ditch	Linear ditch with sharp sides and concave base.	0.50		0.30
<b>Trench 46</b>	Possible post hole					
	4601	Topsoil	Greyish brown clay loam.			0.30
	4602	Subsoil	Orange brown sandy clay.			0.30
	4603	Natural	Orange brown sandy clay			----
	4604	Fill of post hole [4605]	Soft-moderate dark grey silt clay with charcoal inclusions.	0.42	0.39	0.20
	4605	Cut of post hole	Circular, gentle sloping sides and concave base.	0.42	0.39	0.20
<b>Trench 47</b>	Modern ditch, land drains					
	4701	Topsoil	Dark brown silt loam.			0.20
	4702	Subsoil	Dark brown silt loam.			0.20
	4703	Natural	Orange brown sandy clay			----
<b>Trench 48</b>	No archaeology, land drains					
	4801	Topsoil	Dark brown silt loam.			0.30

Trench	Context No	Type	Description	Width in M	Length in M	Depth in M
	4802	Subsoil	Mid orange brown silt loam.			0.25
	4803	Natural	Mid brown sandy clay.			----
<b>Trench 49</b>	No archaeology, land drains modern disturbance					
	4901	Topsoil	Dark brown silt loam.			0.20
	4902	Subsoil	Mid orange brown silt loam.			0.30
	4903	Natural	Mid brown sandy clay.			----
<b>Trench 50</b>	No archaeology, land drains, modern disturbance					
	5001	Topsoil	Dark grey brown silt loam.			0.30
	5002	Subsoil	Mid orange brown silt loam.			0.40
	5003	Natural	Mid brown sandy clay.			----
<b>Trench 51</b>	Modern ditch					
	5101	Topsoil	Dark grey silty loam.			0.30
	5102	Subsoil	Brown grey sandy silt.			0.30
	5103	Natural	Mid brown sandy clay.			
	5104	Fill of ditch [5108]	Firm, medium brown silty clay, with flint inclusions.	1.52		0.42
	5105	Fill of ditch [5108]	Firm, orange, mid brown silty clay.	1.30		0.34
	5106	Fill of ditch [5108]	Firm, light orange silty clay.	1.22		0.22
	5107	Fill of ditch [5108]	Firm, mid-light grey black silty clay, with small stones and chalk inclusions.	1.76		0.37
	5108	Cut of ditch	Linear, shallow sides with concave base.	1.76		0.90
<b>Trench 52</b>	No archaeology, land drain					
	5201	Topsoil	Dark brown/greyish brown silty loam.			0.30
	5202	Subsoil	Mid orange brown silty loamy clay.			0.30
	5203	Natural	Brown yellow clay.			----
<b>Trench 53</b>	No archaeology, land drain					
	5301	Topsoil	Dark grey brown silt loam.			0.25
	5302	Subsoil	Mid orange brown sand silt loam.			0.30
	5303	Natural	Orange brown silt clay.			----
<b>Trench 54</b>	Modern ditch, land drain					
	5401	Topsoil	Dark brown silt loam.			0.20
	5402	Subsoil	Mid orange brown silt loam.			0.15
	5403	Natural	Orange brown silt clay.			----
	5404	Fill of ditch [5406]	Firm, grey mid brown silt clay, rare small stones, occasional flint inclusions.	1.68		0.76
	5405	Fill of ditch [5406]	Firm, mid brown sandy clay, with rare small stones and shells.	1.30		0.60
	5406	Cut of ditch	Linear, sharp sides with flat base.	1.68		0.80
<b>Trench 55</b>	Undated ditch					
	5501	Topsoil	Dark brown silt.			0.20
	5502	Subsoil	Mid orange brown silt loam.			0.20
	5503	Natural	Orange brown silt clay.			----
	5504	Fill of ditch [5505]	Firm, mid brown, orange yellow silty clay with chalk.	0.60		0.30
	5505	Cut of ditch	Linear curved ditch moderate sloping sides, concave base.	0.60		0.30

Trench	Context No	Type	Description	Width in M	Length in M	Depth in M
<b>Trench 56</b>	Roman ditch terminal					
	5601	Topsoil	Mid brown black loamy clay, occasional stones,			0.25
	5602	Subsoil	Light brown, orange silty clay.			0.20
	5603	Natural	Orange brown silt clay.			----
	5604	Fill of ditch [5605]	Moderate firm mid grey, brown silty clay, occasional stones and flint inclusions.	1.60		0.30
	5605	Cut of ditch terminal	Linear, with gradual sloping sides, flat base.	1.60		0.30
<b>Trench 57</b>	No archaeology, land drains					
	5701	Topsoil	Mid grey silty clay.			0.25
	5702	Subsoil	Mid brown silty clay.			0.20
	5703	Natural	Brown yellow silty clay.			----
<b>Trench 58</b>	No archaeology					
	5801	Topsoil	Dark brown silt loam.			0.25
	5802	Subsoil	Mid orange brown sandy silt loam.			0.25
	5803	Natural	Mid orange brown silty clay.			----
<b>Trench 59</b>	Undated ditch					
	5901	Topsoil	Dark grey black clay loam.			0.27
	5902	Subsoil	Mid orange brown sandy clay			0.22
	5903	Natural	Mixed brown orange sandy clay.			----
	5904	Fill of ditch [5905]	Firm, mid yellowish brown sandy clay, occasional stones and gravel.	1.07		0.42
	5905	Cut of ditch.	Linear, steep sides, rounded and regular base.	1.07		0.42
<b>Trench 60</b>	No archaeology, furrows, land drains					
	6001	Topsoil	Dark brown black loamy clay.			0.28
	6002	Subsoil	Mid orange brown sandy clay.			0.10
	6003	Natural	Mid orange brown clay.			----
<b>Trench 61</b>	No archaeology, furrows, land drains					
	6101	Topsoil	Dark grey loam.			0.24
	6102	Subsoil	Dark brown silt clay.			0.15
	6103	Natural	Mid orange brown silty clay.			----
<b>Trench 62</b>	No archaeology, furrows, land drains					
	6201	Topsoil	Mid brown silt loam.			0.22
	6202	Subsoil	Mid orange brown sandy silt loam.			0.25
	6203	Natural	Mid orange brown silty clay.			----
	6204	Fill of furrow [6205]	Firm mid brown grey silty clay, with occasional gravel.	0.63		0.13
	6205	Cut of furrow	Linear, shallow sides rounded base.	0.63		0.13
<b>Trench 63</b>	No archaeology, land drains					
	6301	Topsoil	Brown grey loam.			0.25
	6302	Subsoil	Dark brown orange clay sand.			0.21
	6303	Natural	Light brown gritty sand/clay, with flint and chalk.			----
<b>Trench 64</b>	No archaeology, land drains					
	6401	Topsoil	Grey brown loam.			0.20
	6402	Subsoil	Orange silt clay, with flint and chalk.			0.20
	6403	Natural	Orange sandy clay.			----
<b>Trench 65</b>	No archaeology, land drains					

Trench	Context No	Type	Description	Width in M	Length in M	Depth in M
	6501	Topsoil	Grey dark brown clay loam.			0.20
	6502	Subsoil	Dark brown clay, with chalk.			0.30
	6503	Natural	Light brown silt clay sand, with chalk and flint inclusions.			
<b>Trench 66</b>	No archaeology, land drains					
	6601	Topsoil	Grey brown loam.			0.33
	6602	Subsoil	Dark brown silt clay.			0.21
	6603	Natural	Light brown silt sand clay, flint and chalk inclusions.			----
<b>Trench 67</b>	No archaeology, land drains					
	6701	Topsoil	Dark brown black loamy clay.			0.27
	6702	Subsoil	Dark brown silt clay.			0.26
	6703	Natural	Light brown silt sand clay, with flint and chalk inclusions.			----
<b>Trench 68</b>	No archaeology, modern debris layer and land drains					
	6801	Topsoil	Dark brown loam.			0.25
	6802	Layer	Concrete/asphalt, brick.			0.13
	6803	Subsoil	Dark orange brown clay/silt.			0.22
	6804	Natural	Dark orange brown clay/silt.			----
<b>Trench 69</b>	No archaeology, concrete duct					
	6901	Topsoil	Dark grey/brown loam.			0.30
	6902	Subsoil	Mid orange brown clay, flint and chalk inclusions.			0.26
	6903	Natural	Orange/brown silt/sand clay.			----
<b>Trench 70</b>	Two undated ditches, modern debris layer, concrete duct					
	7001	Topsoil	Dark brown clay.			0.20
	7002	Modern redeposit	Concrete, brick.			0.30
	7003	Subsoil	Light orange- mid brown silt clay.			0.20
	7004	Natural	Orange soft clay.			
	7005	Fill of ditch [7006]	Moderate greyish brown sandy clay, occasional small stone inclusions.			0.44
	7006	Cut of ditch	Linear, moderate sloping sides with rounded base.	1.40		0.44
	7007	Fill of ditch [7008]	Moderate grey brown sandy clay, with moderate small gravel inclusions.			0.40
	7008	Cut of ditch	Linear v-shaped sloped sides with slightly rounded base.	1.15		0.40
<b>Trench 71</b>	No archaeology, modern debris layer and land drains					
	7101	Topsoil	Dark grey/black loam.Clay.			0.24
	7102	Subsoil	Redeposited modern brick and concrete.			0.30
	7103	Subsoil	Mid brown orange silt clay			0.30
	7104	Natural	Orange/yellow clay.			----
<b>Trench 72</b>	No archaeology, land drains					
	7201	Topsoil	Dark grey/black loam.Clay.			0.30
	7202	Subsoil	Mid brown orange silt clay			0.15
	7203	Natural	Orange/yellow clay.			----
<b>Trench 73</b>	Roman and other undated ditches					
	7301	Topsoil	Dark brown loamy clay.			0.21

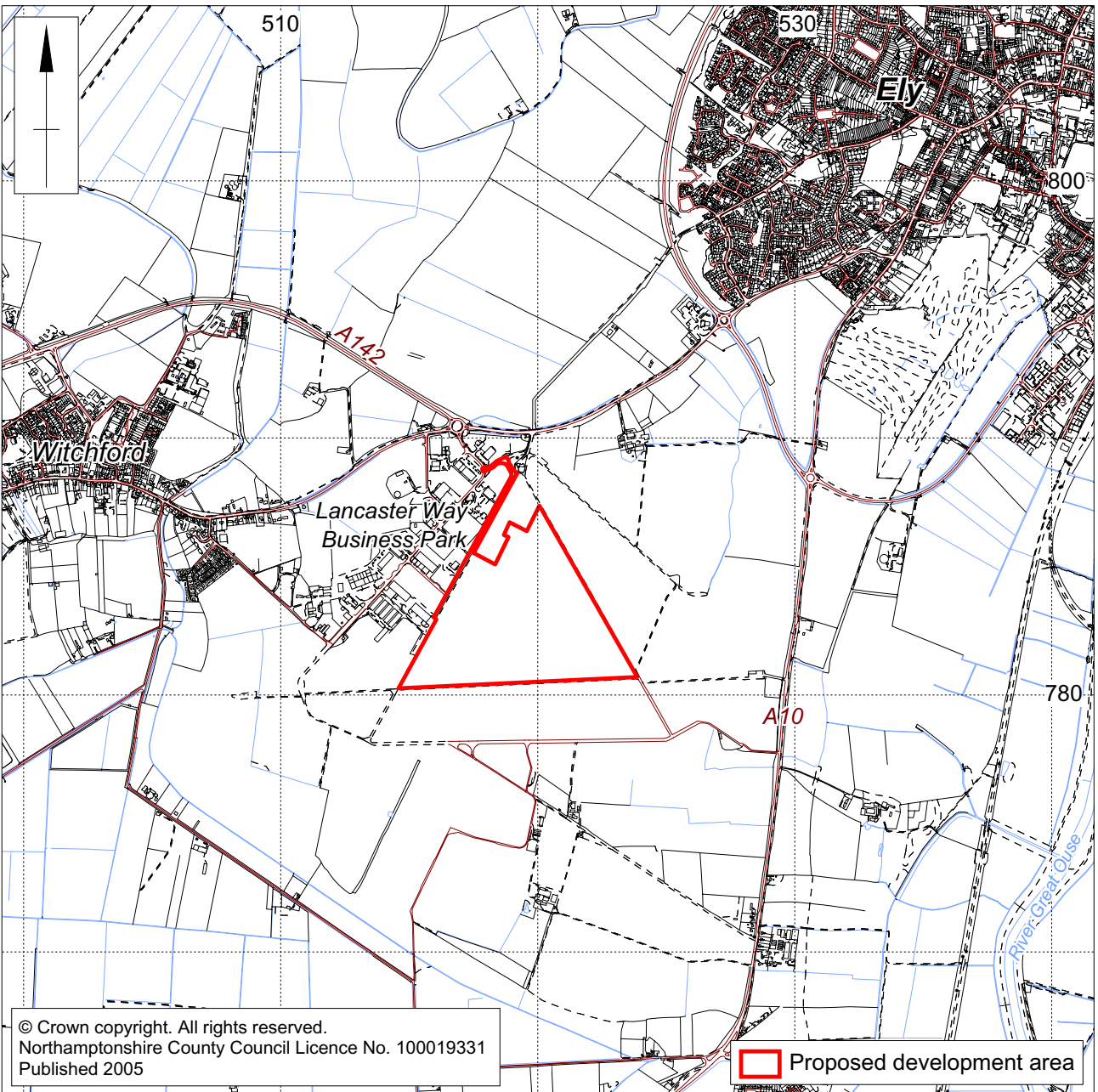
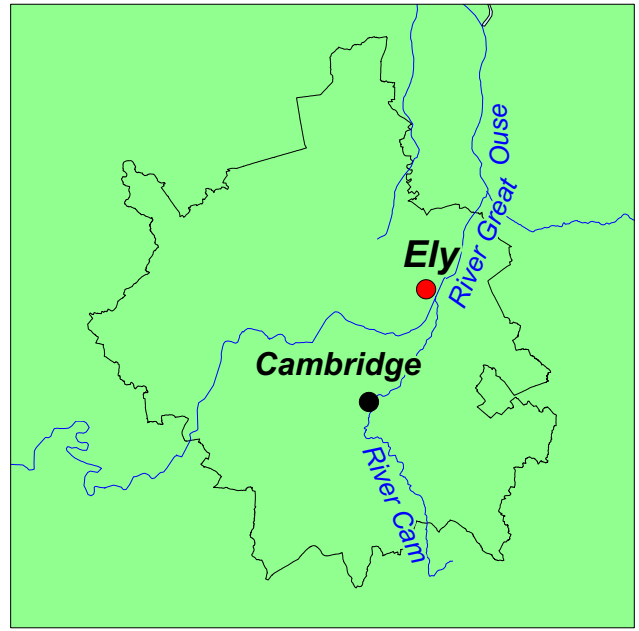
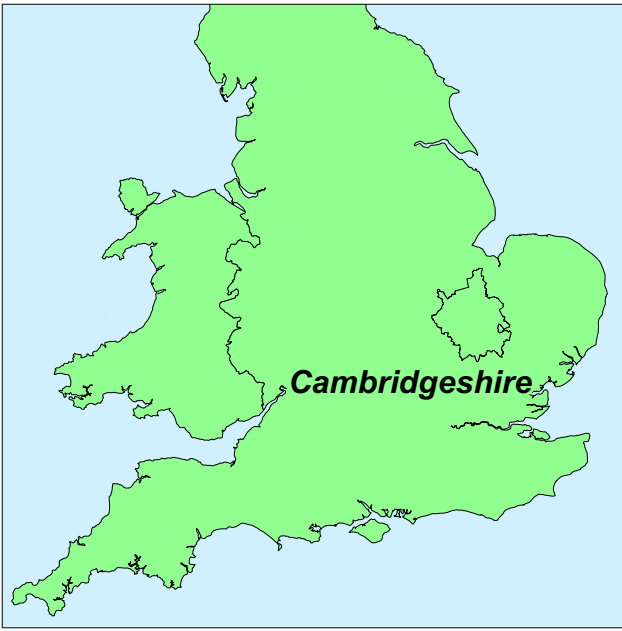
Trench	Context No	Type	Description	Width in M	Length in M	Depth in M
	7302	Subsoil	Mid brown orange silty clay.			0.19
	7303	Natural	Light brown orange silty clay.			----
	7304	Fill of ditch [7305]	Moderate firm, black silty clay, rare small stone inclusions.	0.90		0.27
	7305	Cut of ditch	Linear, moderate sloping sides with concave base.	0.90		0.27
	7306	Fill of ditch [7307]	Firm, mid brown grey silty clay, occasional small stones and chalk inclusions.	1.76		0.49
	7307	Cut of ditch	Linear, shallow sloped ditch, with shallow concave base.	1.76		0.49
	7308	Fill of ditch [7309]	Firm, light brown grey silty clay, rare small flint inclusions.	0.76		0.86
	7309	Cut of ditch	Linear cut of butt end of ditch, with shallow blunt point.	0.76		0.86
	7310	Fill of ditch [7311]	Firm, light grey light brown silty clay.	0.20		0.34
	7311	Cut of ditch	Ditch terminal with flattish blunt point.	0.20		0.34
<b>Trench 74</b>	Roman pit and ditches, land drains					
	7401	Topsoil	Mid grey silty clay.			0.20
	7402	Subsoil	Yellowish brown silty clay.			0.33
	7403	Natural	Orange yellow silty clay.			----
	7404	Fill of pit [7406]	Firm, mid grey silty clay.	0.54		0.22
	7405	Fill of pit [7406]	Firm, yellowish brown silty clay.	0.09		0.14
	7406	Cut of pit	Oval, medium sloping sides with flat base.	0.54	0.50	0.22
	7407	Fill of ditch [7408]	Moderate firm, mid brownish grey clay, with rare small stones.	0.80		0.18
	7408	Cut of ditch	Linear, u shaped sides with concave base.	0.80		0.18
	7409	Fill of ditch [7410]	Moderate firm, light grey chalky clay, with rare small charcoal and stone inclusions.	1.15		0.34
	7410	Cut of ditch	Linear, sharp sloping sides with concave base.	1.15		0.34
	7411	Fill of ditch [7412]	Dark greyish brown sandy clay	2.16		0.42
	7412	Possible ditch cut	Linear with shallow sides and a rounded base	2.16		0.42
<b>Trench 75</b>	Iron Age ditches, land drains					
	7501	Topsoil	Mid brown loamy clay with flint.			0.22
	7502	Subsoil	Mid brown sandy clay.			0.22
	7503	Natural	Light brown sandy clay.			----
	7504	Fill of ditch [7506]	Moderate firm, medium grey silty clay, rare natural flint inclusions.	2.83		0.38
	7505	Fill of ditch [7506]	Firm greyish mid brown clay, rare natural flints.	2.70		0.30
	7506	Cut of ditch	Linear, moderate sides with concave base.	3.00		0.68
	7507	Fill of ditch [7509]	Firm, light yellowish brown silty clay, rare small stones and natural flints.	0.20		0.40
	7508	Fill of ditch [7509]	Firm, medium grey silty clay, rare small stones and natural flints.	1.35		0.40
	7509	Cut of ditch	Linear, sharp sloping sides with concave base.	1.35		0.40
	7510	Fill of ditch [7511]	Firm grey light brown clay, rare small stones.	1.43		0.41



Trench	Context No	Type	Description	Width in M	Length in M	Depth in M
	7511	Cut of ditch	Linear, moderate sloping sides with concave base.	1.43		0.41
	7512	Fill of ditch [7514]	Firm orange brown sandy clay, with flint inclusions.	0.30		0.59
	7513	Fill of ditch [7514]	Firm dark brown loamy clay, flint inclusions.	1.26		0.59
	7514	Cut of ditch	Linear, sloped sided ditch with concave base.	1.26		0.59
	7515	Fill of ditch [7517]	Firm light grey silty clay.	1.20		0.30
	7516	Fill of ditch [7517]	Firm medium yellowish grey clay, rare small flint inclusions.	1.05		0.22
	7517	Cut of ditch	Linear, sharp sloped sides with concave base.	1.20		0.52
	7518	Fill of ditch [7519]	Firm, dark brown grey silty clay, occasional stoned and chalk inclusions.	1.50		0.40
	7519	Cut of ditch	Linear, shallow sloped ditch with concave base.	1.50		0.40
<b>Trench 76</b>	Possible ditch and furrows					
	7601	Topsoil	Mid grey loamy clay			0.28
	7602	Subsoil	Medium brown clay.			0.20
	7603	Natural	Light brown yellow clay.			----
	7604	Fill of furrow [7605]	Firm, mid brown sandy clay, some irregular flint inclusions.	1.80		0.26
	7605	Cut of furrow	Rectangular, shallow concave furrow.	1.80		0.28
	7606	Fill of ditch [7608]	Firm, light grey silty clay, rare small stones and natural flint inclusions.	1.21		0.40
	7607	Fill of ditch [7608]	Firm, light brown yellow clay, rare small stones.	0.29		0.36
	7608	Cut of ditch	Linear, sharp sloping sides concave base ditch.	1.46		0.42
<b>Trench 78</b>	Iron Age and roman ditches, furrows and land drains					
	7801	Topsoil	Medium grey silty clay.			0.20
	7802	Subsoil	Dark brown silty clay.			0.14
	7803	Natural	Light brownish yellow silty clay.			----
	7803	Fill of ditch [7805]	Firm, light grey silty clay, rare small stones.	1.00		0.21
	7805	Cut of ditch	Linear, moderate sloping sides, concave base.	1.00		0.21
	7806	Fill of ditch [7807]	Firm mid brown-black silty clay, some small stones and flecks of charcoal.	1.04		0.32
	7807	Cut of ditch	Linear, shallow sloped sides with concave base.		1.04	0.32
	7808	Fill of ditch [7810]	Firm black silty clay with charcoal.	0.94		0.21
	7809	Fill of ditch [7810]	Firm light brownish yellow silty clay, occasional stones.	0.60		0.24
	7810	Cut of ditch	Linear sharp sloping sides, with concave base.	1.12		0.41
	7811	Fill of ditch [7812]	Firm light grey silty clay, rare small stones.	0.5		0.07
	7812	Cut of ditch	Linear, moderate sloping sides with concave base.	0.5		0.07
	7813	Fill of ditch [7814]	Firm grey/dark brown silty clay.	0.37		0.17
	7814	Cut of ditch	Linear, shallow curve sides and base.	0.37	1.10	0.17
	7815	Fill of ditch [7816]	Firm, grey/mid brown silt clay.	0.37		0.14
	7816	Cut of ditch	Linear, shallow curving sides and base.	0.37	0.80	0.14

Trench	Context No	Type	Description	Width in M	Length in M	Depth in M
	7817	Fill of ditch [7818]	Firm mid brown black silty clay/soil, flint and chalk inclusions.	2.20		0.07
	7818	Cut of ditch	Linear, shallow sloping sides and base.	2.20		0.07
	7819	Fill of ditch [7820]	Firm mid brown grey silty clay, some chalk and gravel inclusions.	2.80		0.28
	7820	Cut of ditch	Linear, gentle sloping sides, concave base.	2.80		0.28
	7821	Fill of ditch [7823]	Firm light grey silty clay.	0.80		0.82
	7822	Fill of ditch [7823]	Firm mid greyish brown silty clay, rare small flints.	2.90		0.63
	7823	Cut of ditch	Linear ditch with concave base.	2.90		0.95
	7824	Fill of ditch [7825]	Firm dark brown silt clay, with flint inclusions.	0.32		0.04
	7825	Cut of ditch	Linear, very shallow ditch with flat base.	0.32		0.04
<b>Trench 79</b>	Roman ditches, possible pond, furrows					
	7901	Topsoil	Mid brown loamy clay, occasional stones.			0.50
	7902	Subsoil	Orange silty clay, occasional stones.			0.40
	7903	Natural	Orange silty clay.			----
	7904	Fill of ditch [7905]	Firm dark grey brown sandy clay, occasional flint inclusions.	2.16		0.70
	7905	Cut of ditch	Linear, steep sloping sides with concave base.	2.16		0.70
	7906	Fill of ditch [7907]	Firm, dark/medium brown silty clay, with flint, chalk and light gravel inclusions.	1.20		0.40
	7907	Cut of ditch	Linear, shallow sloping sides, concave/slight flat base.	1.20		0.40
	7908	Fill of pond (7909)	Gleyed dark greyish brown silty clay containing occasional small stones and chalk fragments.			0.50
	7909	Cut of ?pond	Large pond. Northern side slopes down at 45 degrees towards flattish base. Southern side not excavated.	7.40		0.92
	7910	Fill of pond (7909)	Mid brown silty clay mixed with occasional orange clay patches.			0.20
	7911	Fill of pond (7909)	Mid brown clay containing frequent chalk flecks and small stones. Occasional coal inclusions.			0.22
<b>Trench 80</b>	No archaeology, land drains concrete duct					
	8001	Topsoil	Dark brown black loam.			0.42
	8002	Subsoil	Orange/grey with flint inclusions.			0.28
	8003	Natural	Light orange, flint and chalk inclusions.			----
<b>Trench 81</b>	Iron Age pit and ditches, furrows and land drains					
	8101	Topsoil	Dark brownish grey loam			0.37
	8102	Subsoil	Dark brown clay.			0.20
	8103	Natural	Orange yellow silty clay.			----
	8104	Fill of pit [8105]	Firm dark grey silty clay, rare small flint inclusions.	0.82		0.20
	8105	Cut of pit	Oval pit with moderate sloping slides and concave base.	0.82		0.20
	8106	Fill of ditch [8110]	Firm mid brown silty clay, some small stones and chalk inclusions.	1.94		0.64
	8107	Fill of ditch [8110]	Firm light brown silty clay, some small stones, flint and chalk inclusions.	0.32		0.92
	8108	Fill of ditch [8110]	Firm light brown yellow silty clay, some gravel and small stones.	0.26		0.82

<b>Trench</b>	<b>Context No</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Width in M</b>	<b>Length in M</b>	<b>Depth in M</b>
	8109	Fill of ditch [8110]	Firm mid grey/brown silty clay, some chalk and gravel.	0.96		0.32
	8110	Cut of ditch	Linear steep sided ditch with concave base.	2.04		0.96
	8111	Fill of ditch [8112]	Firm mid brown silty clay, small chalk and flint inclusions.	1.00		0.36
	8112	Cut of ditch	Linear shallow sided ditch with concave base.	1.00		0.36
	8113	Fill of ditch [8114]	Firm grey/dark brown silt clay, with some flint and chalk inclusions.	5.00	2.00	0.60
	8114	Cut of ditch	Linear, gradual sloping sides, with flat base.	5.00	2.00	0.60
<b>Trench 82</b>	Undated ditch, land drain					
	8201	Topsoil	Dark greyish brown silty loam.			0.35
	8202	Subsoil	Mid brown silty clay.			0.30
	8203	Natural	Light brownish yellow silty clay.			----
	8204	Fill of ditch [8206]	Hard medium brown silty clay, occasional small stones and flints.	1.20		0.42
	8205	Fill of ditch [8206]	Firm light grey silty clay, occasional small stones.	0.56		0.10
	8206	Cut of ditch terminal	Linear cut of terminal of ditch, with moderate sloping sides and flat base.	1.20		0.52



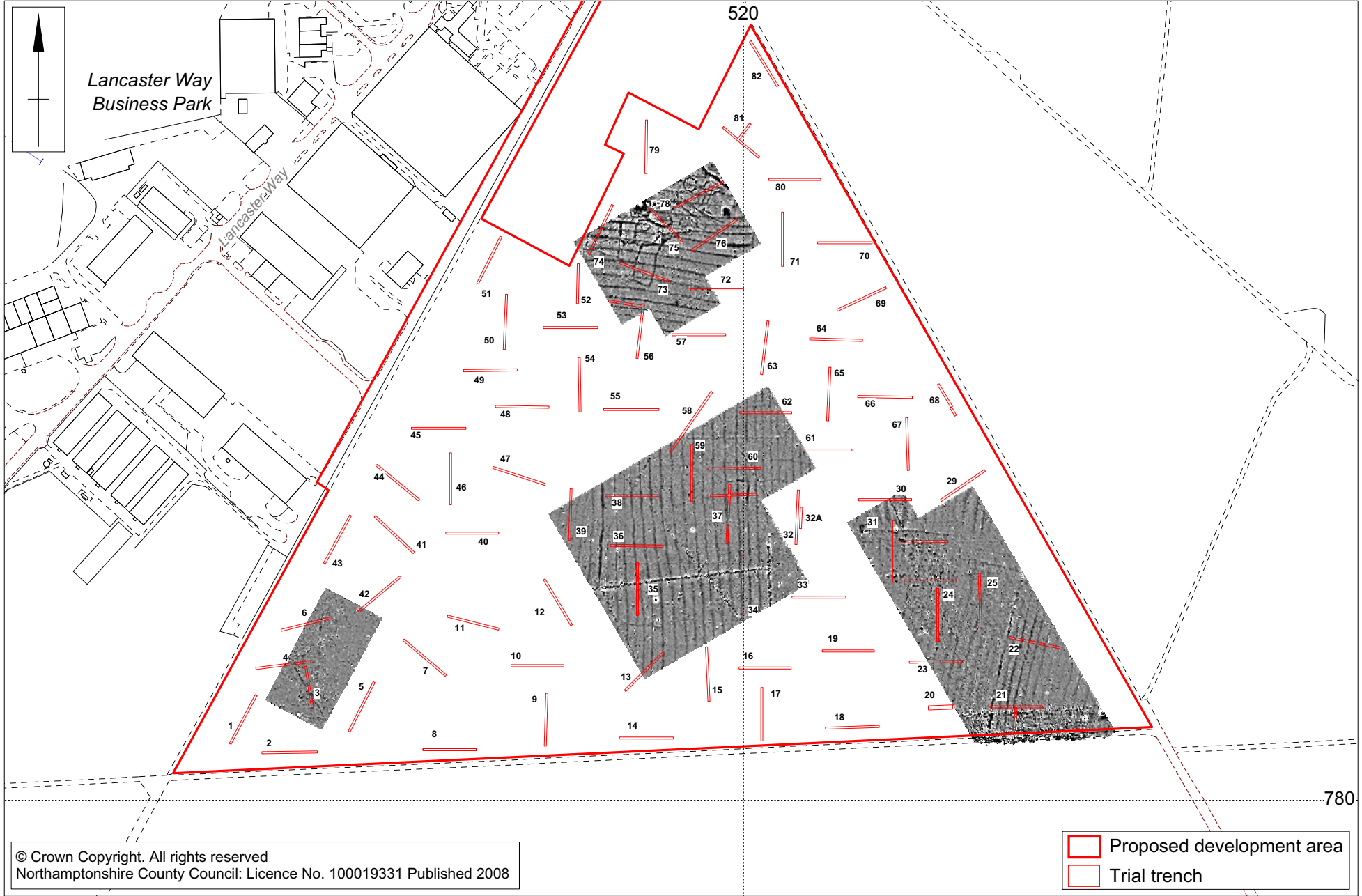
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Site location Fig 1

Scale 1:5,000

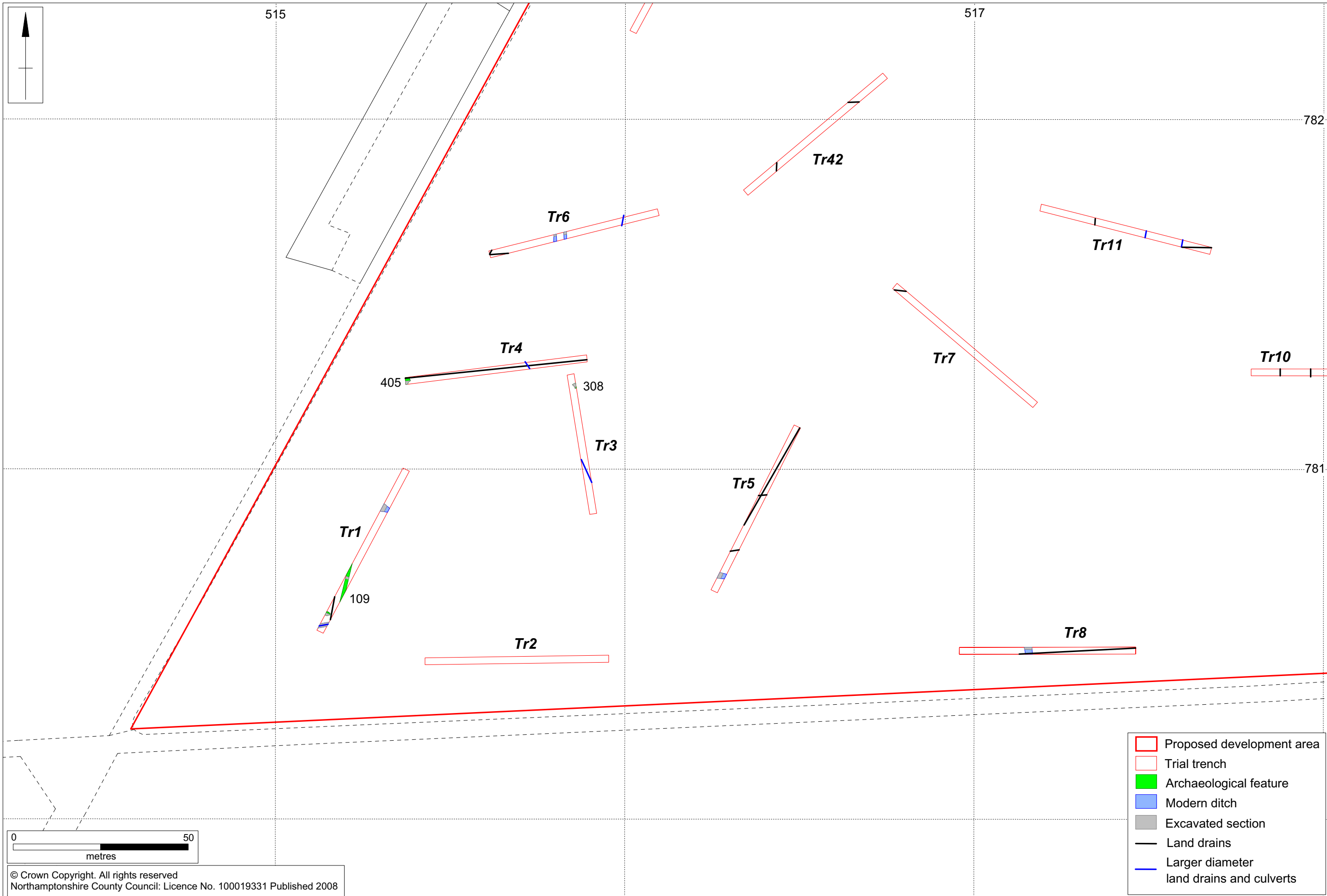
Trial Trench location with geophysical survey results

Fig 2



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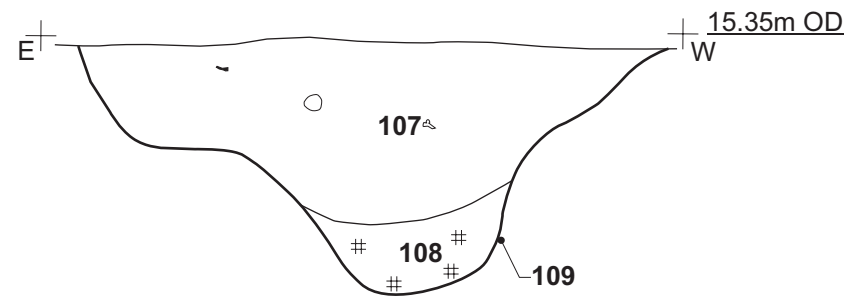
Proposed development area  
Trial trench



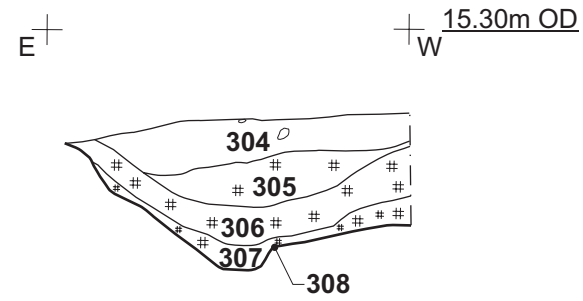
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South-western area Fig 3

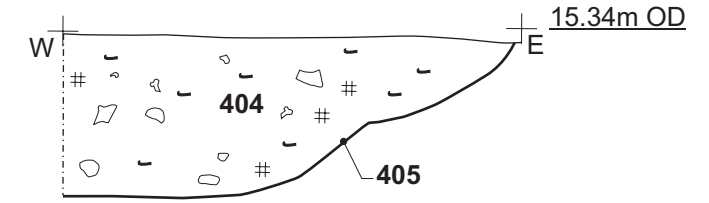
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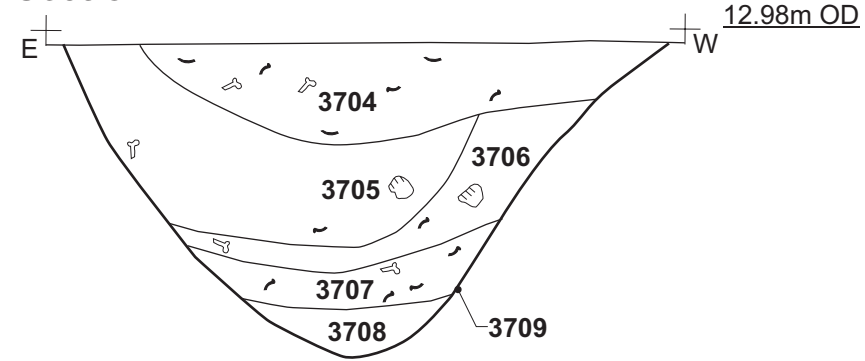
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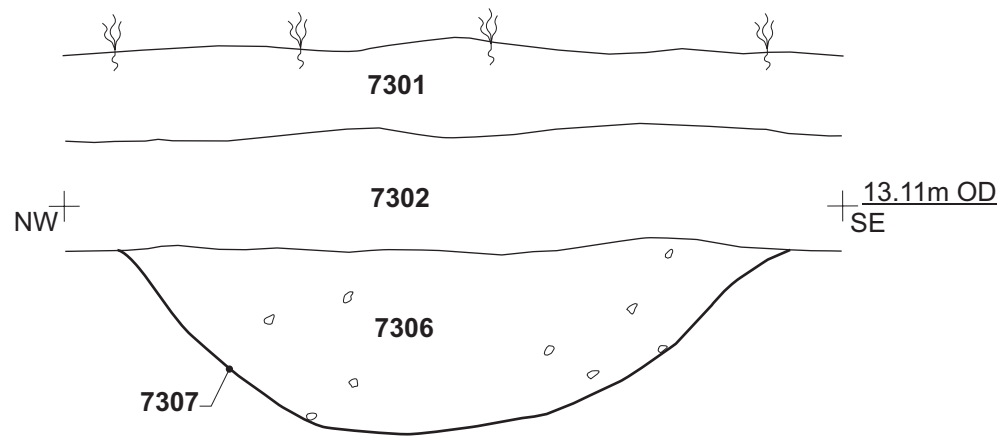
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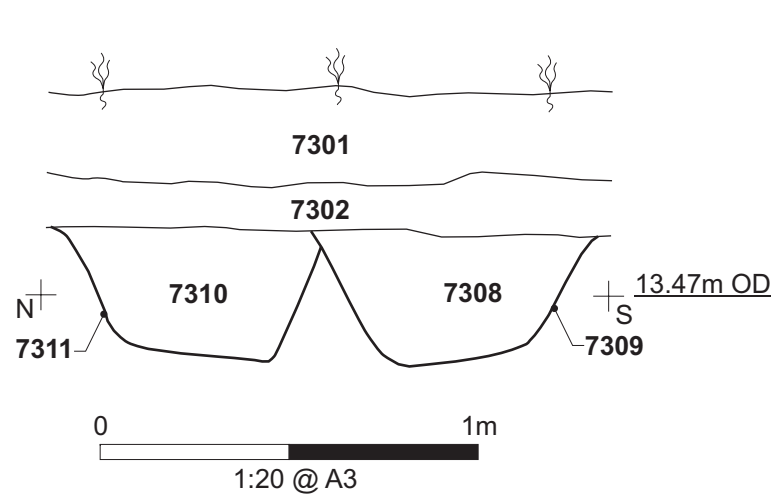
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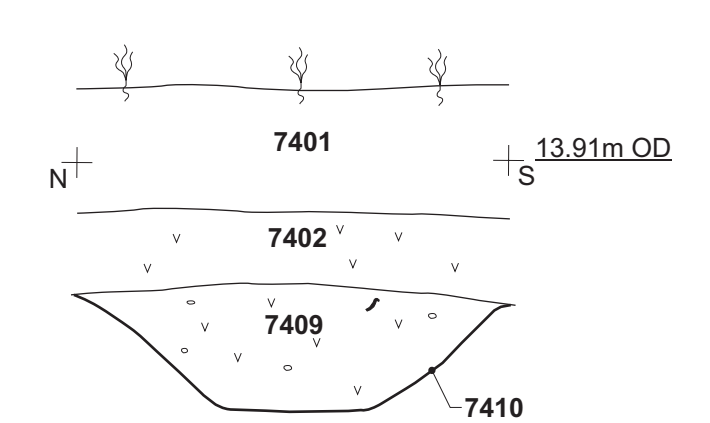
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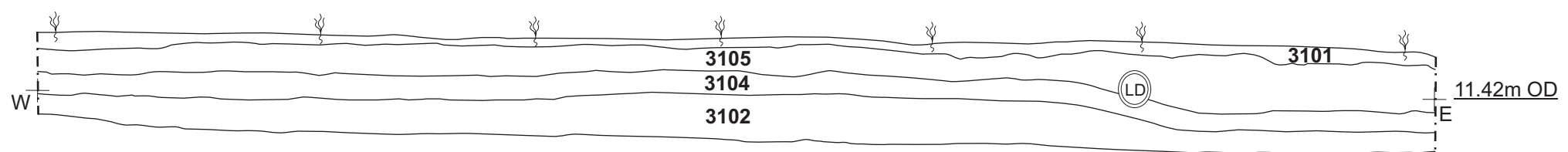
**Section 6**



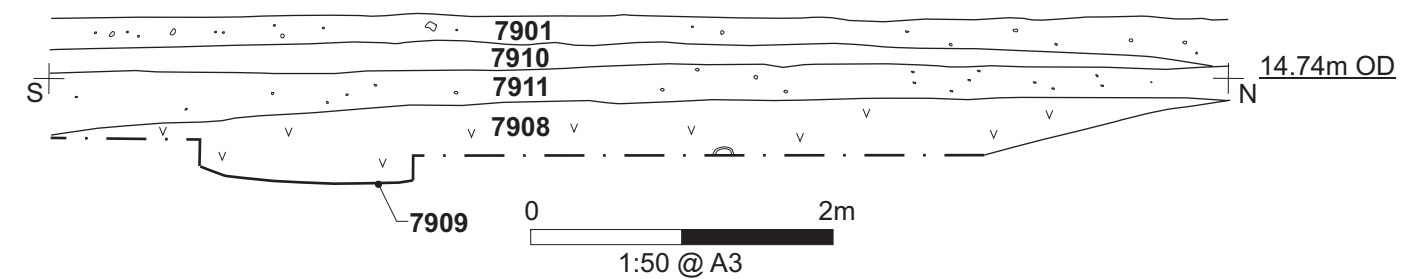
**Section 7**



**Section 8**

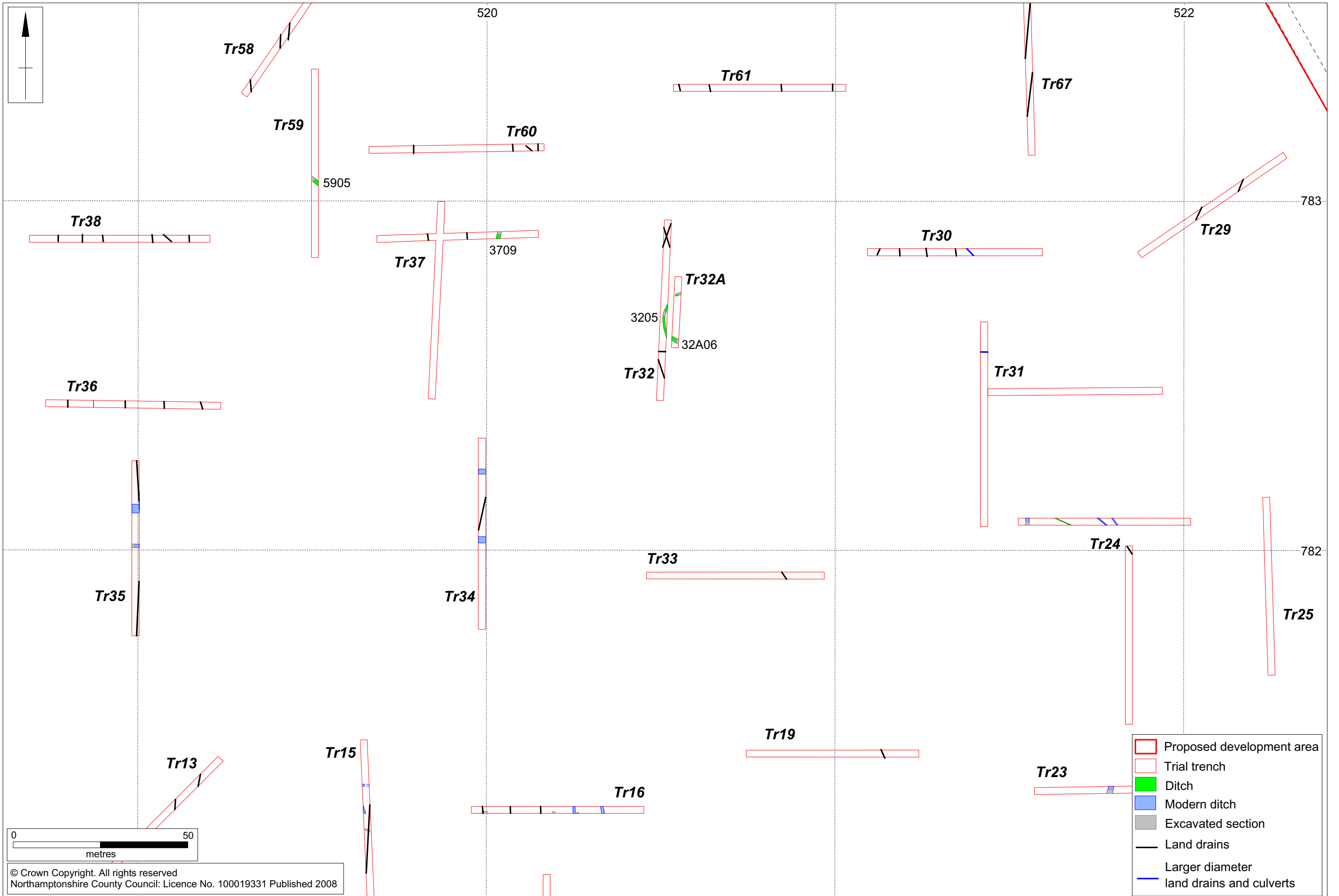


**Section 9**



Key	
#	charcoal
v	chalk
o	stone
⊕	burnt stone
⌢	bone
⌢	pottery

Sections 1-9 Fig 4

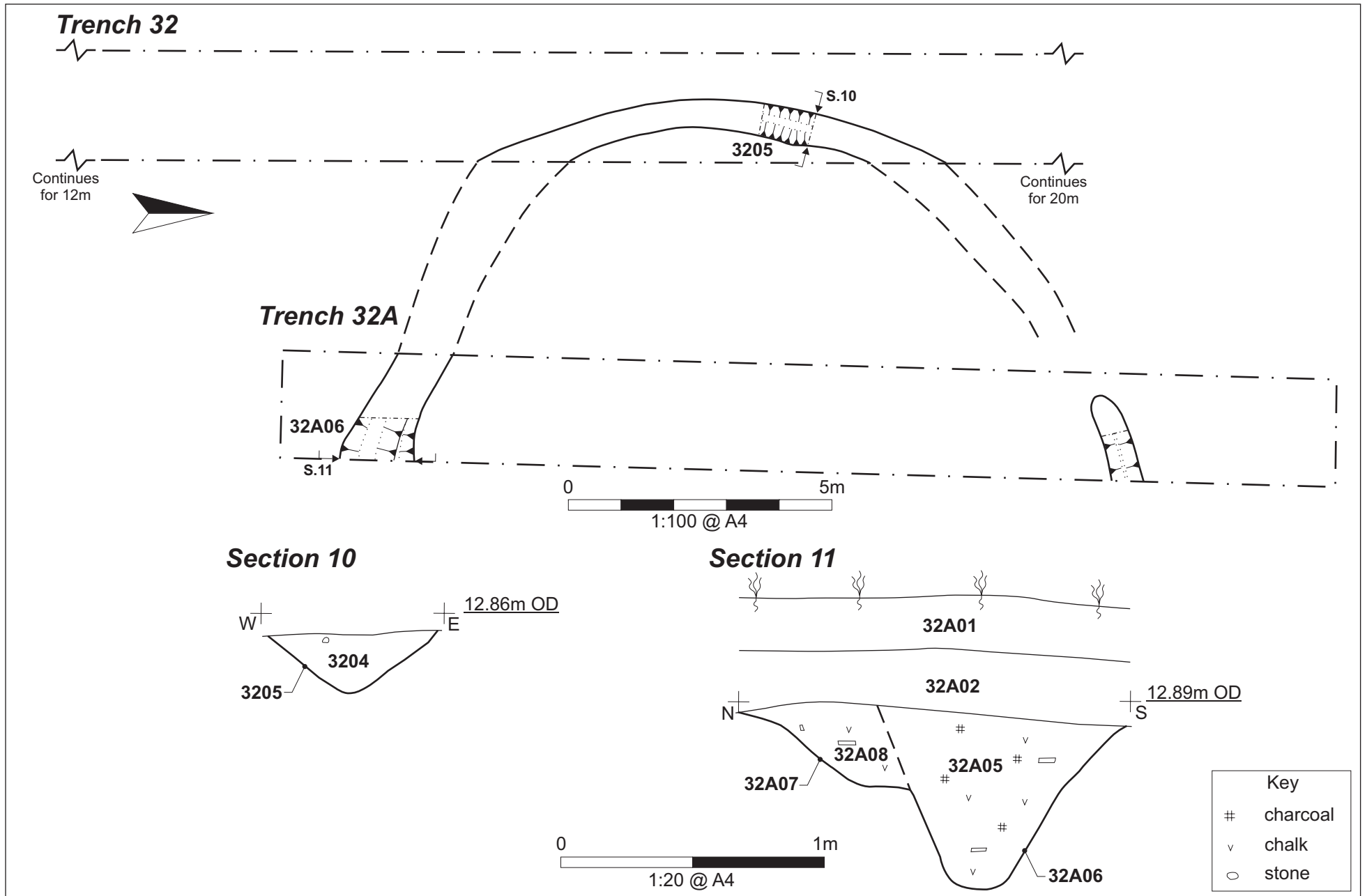


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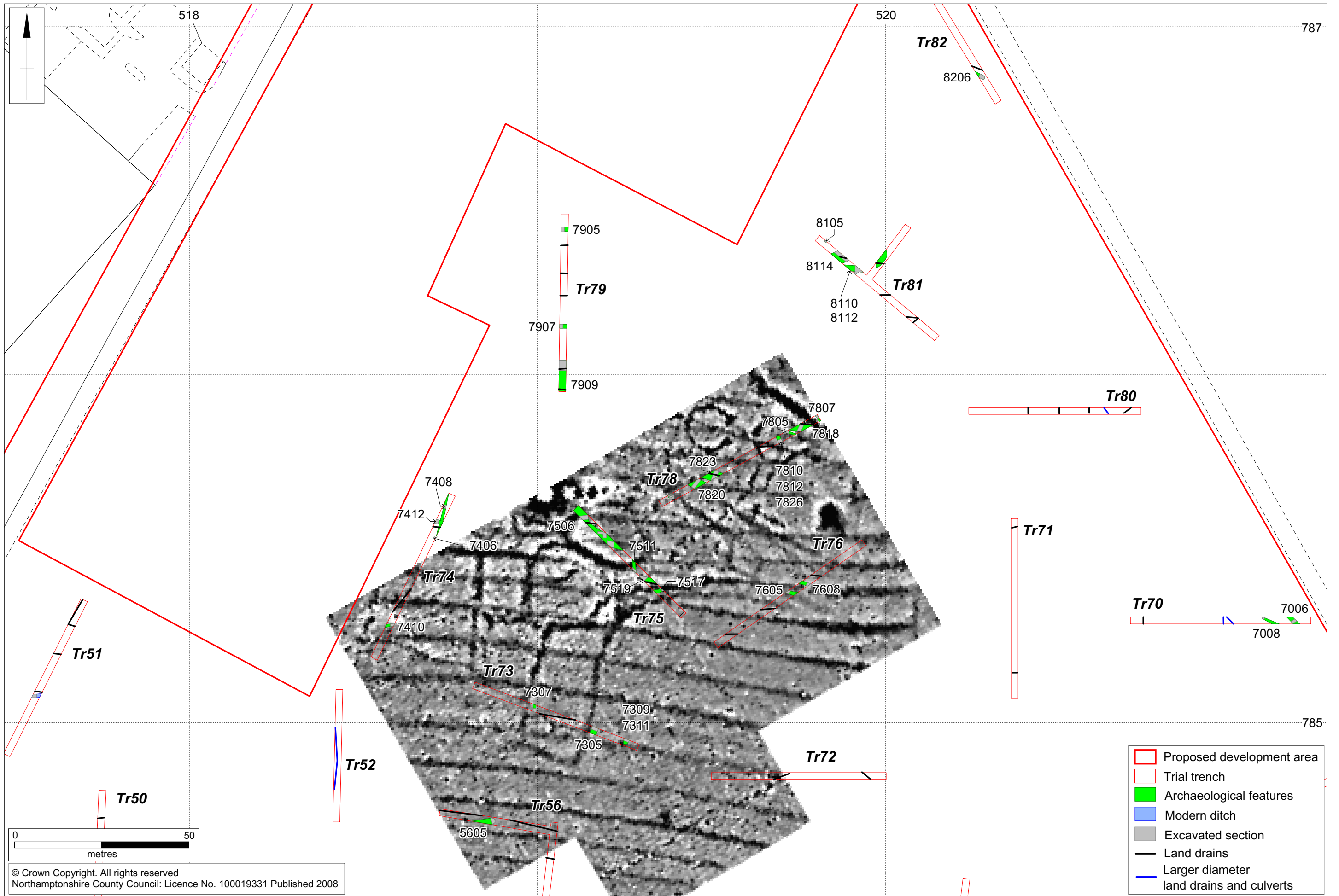
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Central area Fig 5



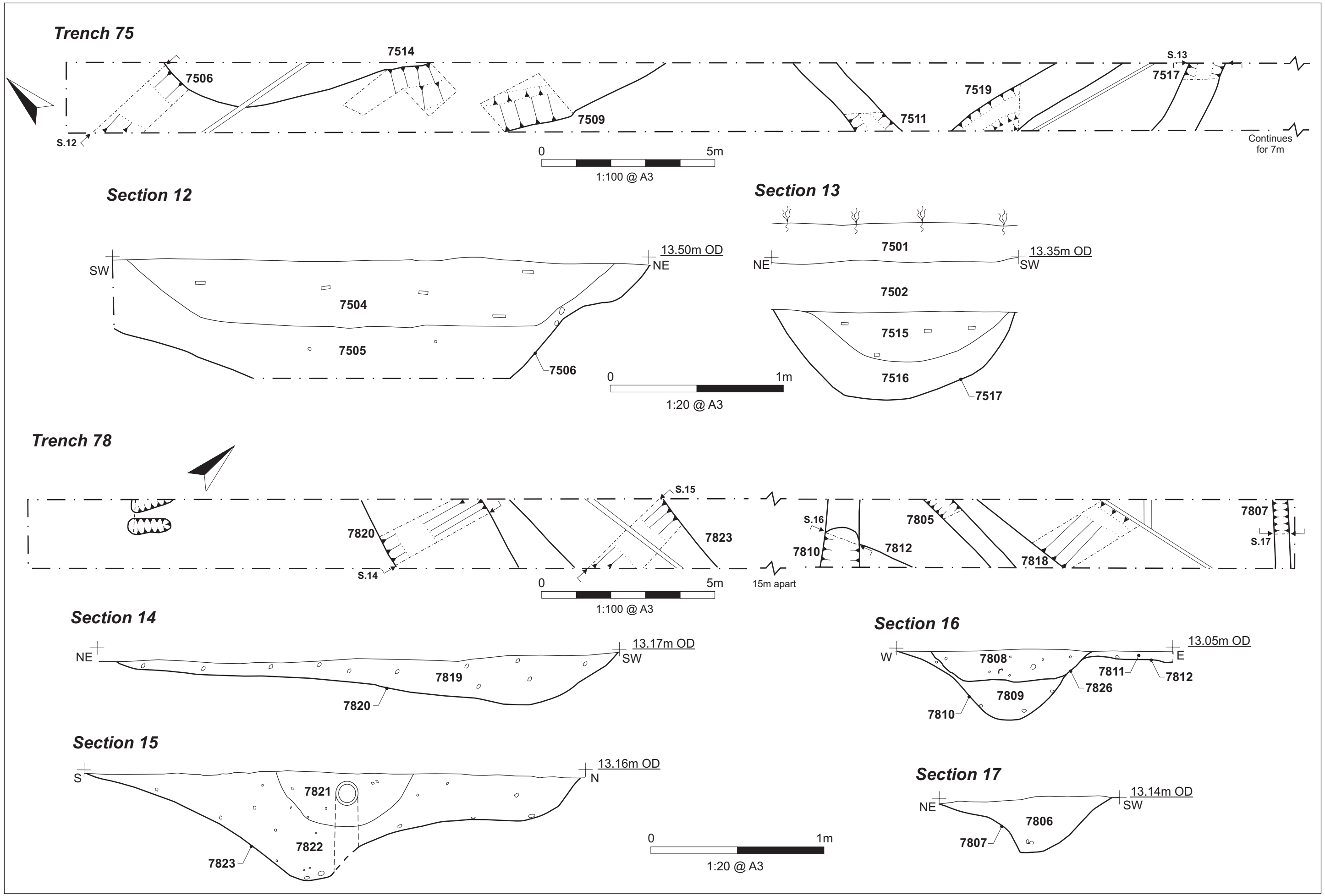






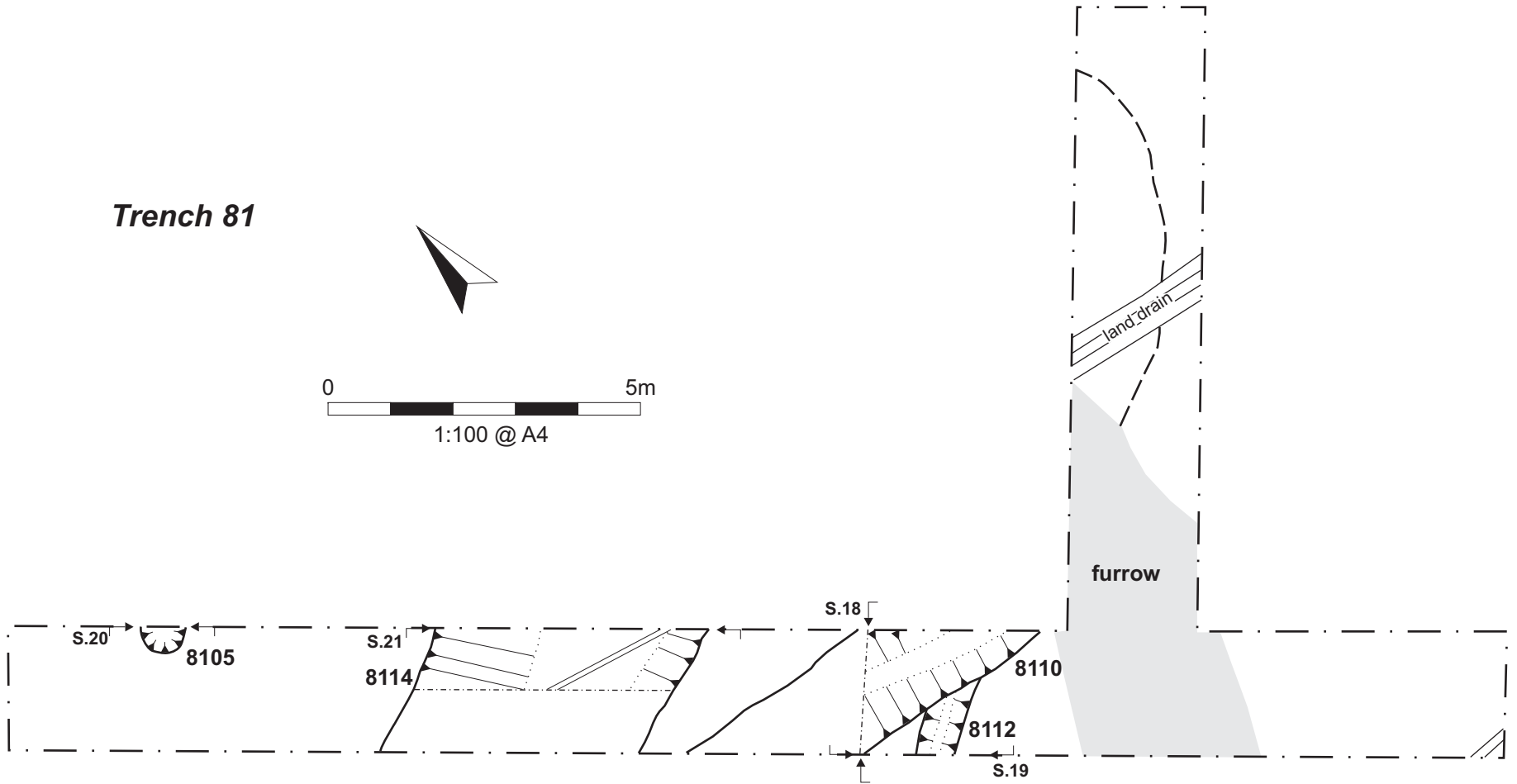
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Northern area with gradiometry results Fig 8



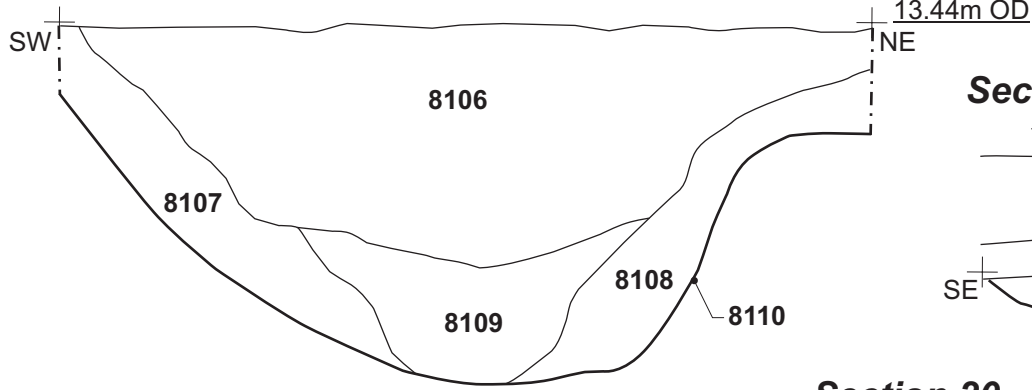
Trenches 75 and 78 plans and sections Fig 9

**Trench 81**

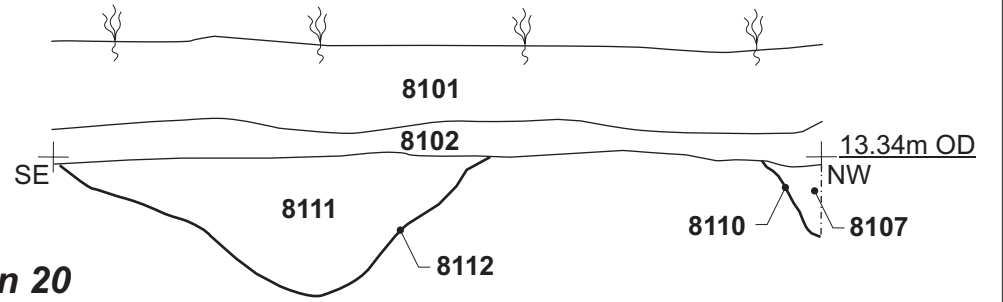


Trench 81, plan Fig 10

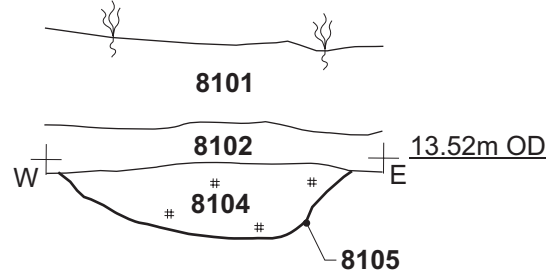
**Section 18**



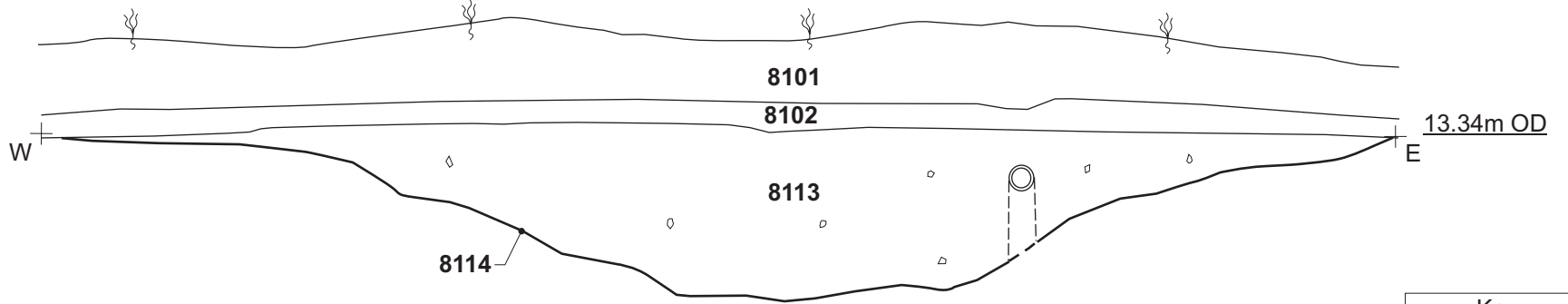
**Section 19**



**Section 20**

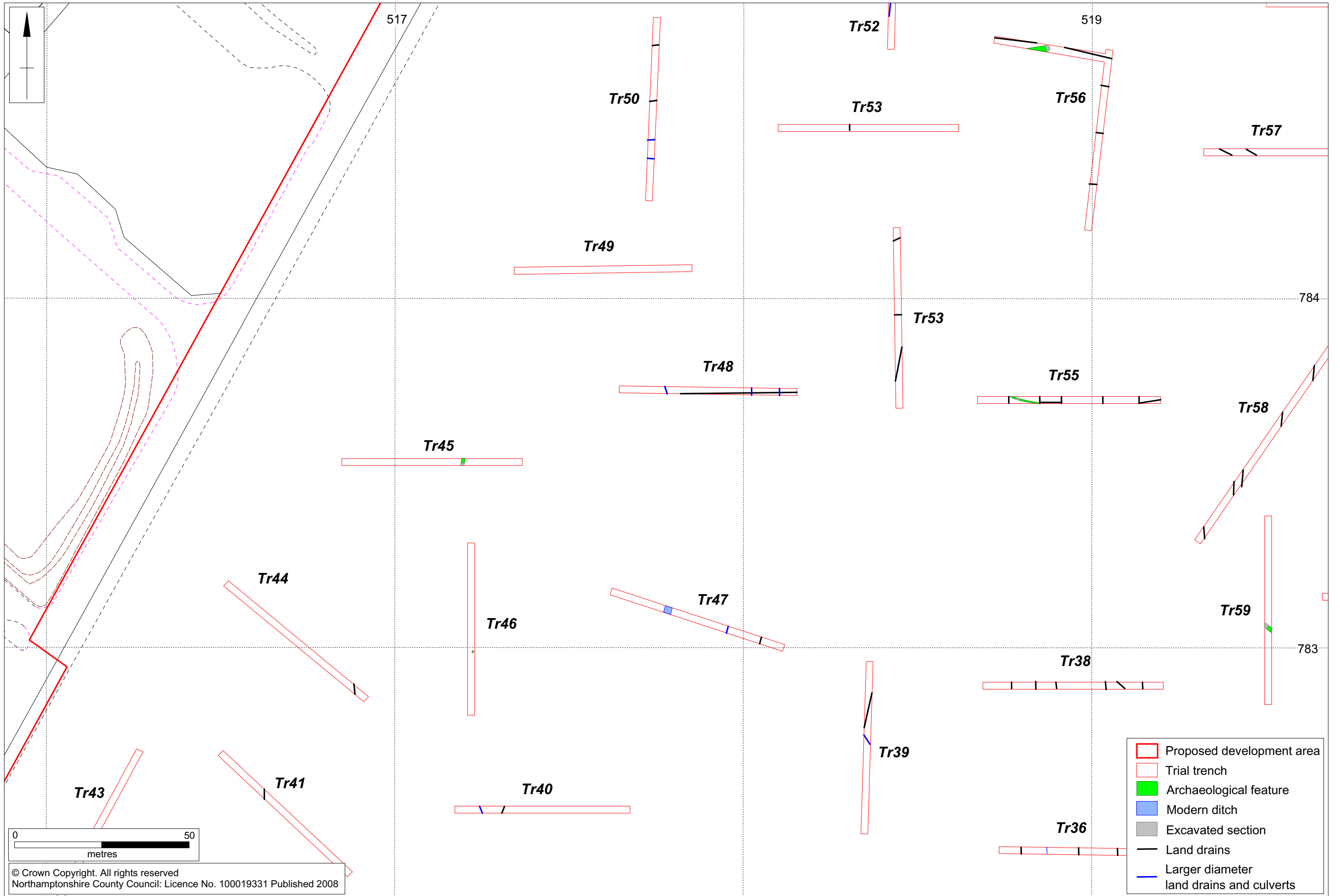


**Section 21**



Key	
#	charcoal
○	stone

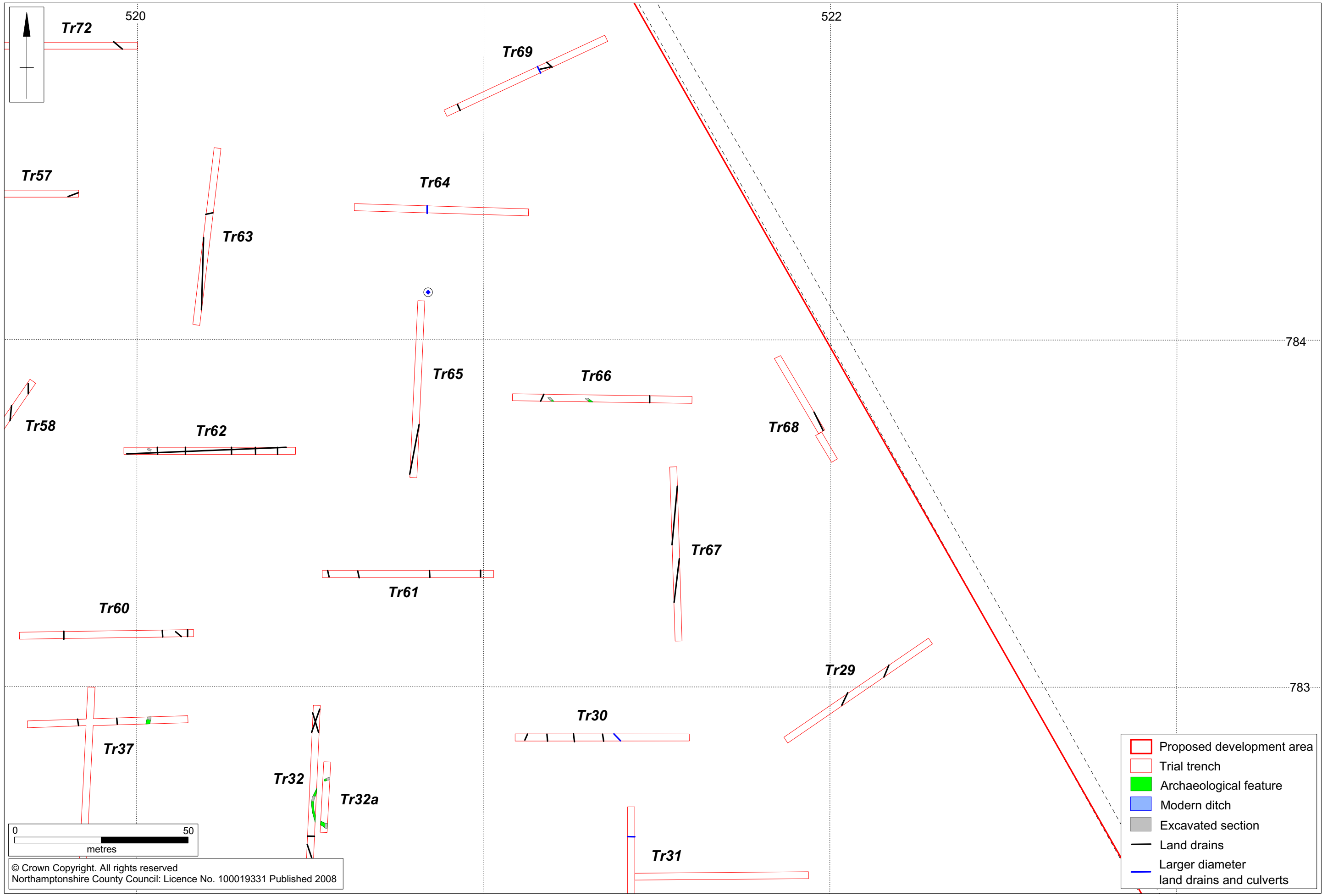
Trench 81, sections 18-21 Fig 11



Scale 1:1,000

Central-western area Fig 12

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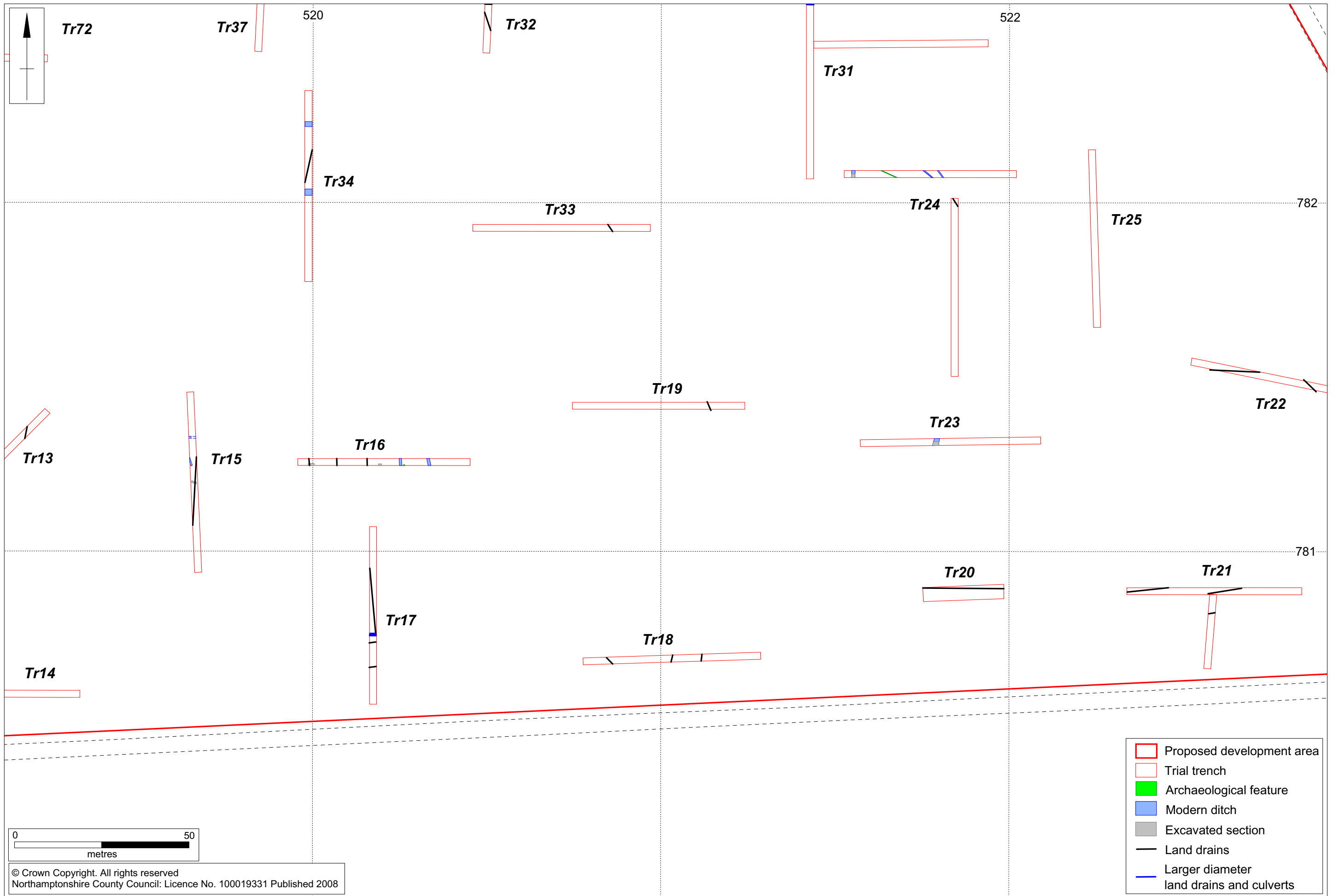


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Central-eastern area Fig 13





Scale 1:1,000

South-eastern area Fig 14

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Plate 1: The site, looking east towards Ely



Plate 2: The site, looking west towards Industrial Estate





Plate 3: Trench 1, Ditch 109, looking south



Plate 4: Trench 37, Ditch 3709, looking south





Plate 5: Trench 70, Ditch 7006, looking north



Plate 6: Trench 75, looking south-east, Ditch 7506 in foreground





Plate 7: Trench 78, Gully 7805, looking west



Plate 8: Trench 81, Ditch 8110, looking north-west





Plate 9: Trench 16, furrow with land drain 1604, looking south