Parkside Link

Newton-le-Willows

Archaeological Evaluation Report

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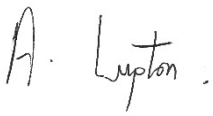
Prepared by:	Aidan Parker (Project Officer)
Checked by:	Karl Taylor (Project Manager)
Approved by:	Alan Lupton (Operations Manager)
Signature:	

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OA South
Janus House
Osney Mead
Oxford
OX2 0ES

t. +44 (0)1865 263 800

OA East
15 Trafalgar Way
Bar Hill
Cambridge
CB23 8SG

t. +44 (0)1223 850 500

OA North
Mill 3
Moor Lane Mills
Moor Lane
Lancaster
LA1 1QD
t. +44 (0)1524 880 250

e. info@oxfordarch.co.uk
w. oxfordarchaeology.com
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Parkside Link, Newton-le-Willows

Archaeological Evaluation Report

Written by Aidan Parker

With contributions illustrations by Mark Tidmarsh

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Summary

Oxford Archaeology North (OA North) was commissioned by The Environment Partnership (TEP) on behalf of Ramboll UK, to undertake a trial trench evaluation comprising 14 No. trenches on land either side of the M6 motorway close to Junction 22 (centred on NGR: SJ 608 949). The work is part of a proposed new link road connecting the M6 to the proposed Parkside Development, as well as providing a link between the A49 and M6.

The work was undertaken in association with the submission of a planning application and Merseyside Environmental Advisory Service (MEAS) and Cheshire Archaeology Planning Advisory Service (CAPAS), in their capacity as advisors to the local planning authorities, advised that a scheme of archaeological works, including two geophysical surveys (2007 and 2017) and subsequent trial trenching, to assess the archaeological potential of the development site, was appropriate. To this end, a written scheme of investigation was produced by TEP outlining the methodology for the work necessary to inform the planning process/discharge the planning condition.

The aims of the evaluation were to identify any archaeological deposits within the investigation area both within and outside of those areas subject to the geophysical surveys. The 2017 geophysical survey was restricted by poor ground conditions and access issues, those areas that were surveyed were found to have been significantly affected widely by so-called 'green waste' that contains small metallic fragments. This resulted in much of the survey areas consisting of broad di-polar, ferrous-type responses that mask any weaker responses from archaeological features. Subsequently, no archaeological features were identified during the 2017 survey.

The excavation of 14 trenches took place between 27/11/17 and 5/12/17 and was undertaken without hindrance, although Trench 3 was relocated approximately 10m to the north of its original location due to flooding. The excavations were quite shallow, with most trenches being under 0.5m in depth. Features were present in seven of the 14 trenches, and were broadly categorised as linear ditches cut for land division and drainage. Three trenches were targeted on suspected features highlighted by the geophysical survey (Trenches 3, 4 and 5), and confirmed the presence of corresponding features.

The soil sequence between all trenches was fairly uniform. The natural geology of red/orange sandy-clay was overlain by was overlain by a mid-grey/brown humic clay topsoil. Only Trench 3 contained a separate subsoil.

A small amount of artefactual evidence was recovered, most of which was pottery and brick of post-medieval date. No deposits suitable for sampling and radiocarbon dating were present.

While some of the responses abstracted from the geophysical survey were revealed, they are probably related to drainage or are field boundaries of post-medieval origin. It is likely therefore, that the proposed development will not impact upon any archaeological remains of any significance.

Acknowledgements

Oxford Archaeology North would like to thank The Environment Partnership (TEP) for commissioning this project. Thanks is also extended to Douglas Moir of Merseyside Environmental Advisory Service for his advice and guidance.

The project was managed for Oxford Archaeology North by Karl Taylor. The fieldwork was directed by Aidan Parker , who was supported by Jon Onraet, Zoe Clarke and Emma Fishwick. CAD and digitizing was carried out by Mark Tidmarsh.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Scope of work

1.1.1 Oxford Archaeology (OA) was commissioned by The Environment Partnership (TEP) on behalf of Ramboll UK, to undertake a trial trench evaluation comprising 14 No. trenches on land either side of the M6 motorway close to Junction 22 (centred on NGR: SJ 608 949; Fig 1). The work is part of a proposed new link road connecting the M6 to the proposed Parkside Development, as well as providing a link between the A49 and M6 . This work was completed over a period of seven days between 27/11/17 and 5/12/17.

1.1.2 Two geophysical surveys were carried out in 2007 (Stratascan 2007) and 2017 (Magnitude Surveys 2017). The 2007 survey identified a number of responses of archaeological potential (Figs 5 and 6) that were targeted with a number of trenches. The 2017 geophysical survey was restricted by poor ground conditions and access issues, those areas that were surveyed were found to have been significantly affected widely by so-call 'green waste' resulting in much of the survey areas consisting of broad di-polar, ferrous-type responses that mask any weaker responses from archaeological features. Subsequently, no archaeological features were identified during the 2017 survey. However, Trenches 6 and 7 were located within the 2017 survey area, neither of which revealed any features of archaeological origin.

1.1.3 The work was undertaken in association with the submission of a planning application and Merseyside Environmental Advisory Service (MEAS) and Cheshire Archaeology Planning Advisory Service (CAPAS) in their capacity as advisors to the local planning authorities, advised that a scheme of archaeological works, including geophysical survey and subsequent trial trenching, to assess the archaeological potential of the development site, was appropriate. To this end, a written scheme of investigation was produced by TEP (TEP 2017) outlining the methodology for the work necessary to inform the planning process/discharge the planning condition. This document outlines how OA implemented the specified requirements.

1.2 Location, topography and geology

1.2.1 The site area lies to the east and west of J22 of the M6, in fields to the north and south of Winwick Lane A579 (Fig 1).

1.2.2 The area of proposed development consists of arable farmland.

1.2.3 The geology of the area is mapped as Chester formation sandstone overlain by Devensian till clay and silt deposits (BGS 2017). The soils on the south side of the site area are classified as slowly permeable, seasonally wet, slightly acid but base-rich loamy and clayey soils, whilst those on the north side are classified as freely draining, slightly acid sandy soils (Farewell *et al* 2011).

1.3 Archaeological and historical background

1.3.1 The archaeological and historical background of the site is discussed in a desk-based assessment produced by TEP in 2017 and summarised in the WSI. The summary background from the WSI is reproduced below.

1.3.2 ***Prehistoric:*** there is an absence of evidence for early prehistoric activity within the vicinity of the proposed development, with the exception of a broadly dated prehistoric flint dagger found during the 1960s at Croft. However, there is evidence to suggest that the area and beyond was a focus of Bronze Age funerary activity. In Newton le Willows lies Castle Hill scheduled monument. It is believed to be a Bronze Age barrow. To the south of the proposed development site lies the scheduled monument Bowl Barrow West of Highfield Lane, a Bronze Age round barrow. There are also a number of non-designated barrows within the study area; Kenyon Hall tumulus, Southworth Hall Barrow (NDHA1) and Highfield Lane East Barrow, the former containing a number of cremation burials.

1.3.3 ***Roman:*** the route of the Wilderspool to Wigan Roman road is believed to broadly follow the alignment of the modern A49, which runs east of the site.

1.3.4 There is evidence for Romano-British rural settlement within the area. To the south east of the site lies Southworth Hall Farm Romano-British farmstead, found through cropmarks identified during aerial reconnaissance in 1992, and confirmed through a later programme of trial trenching and excavation. The finds evidence indicates a relatively brief two-phase period of occupation during the mid-2nd century.

1.3.5 ***Early medieval and Medieval:*** There is evidence to suggest varied and continuous occupation of the area of the proposed development site throughout the early to later medieval period. South east of site lies Southworth Hall Farm Cemetery: an extensive Anglo-Saxon Christian cemetery containing several hundred grave plots, and church, were revealed around and over a Bronze Age burial mound. There is further evidence of re-use of prehistoric monuments, Castle Hill was occupied during the Bronze Age Period and later re-used as a motte and bailey.

1.3.6 During the early medieval period, a site of religious veneration was located south of the site; St Oswald's Well, a holy well just north of the hamlet Hermitage Green. It is believed to be a site referred to by Bede in AD 642. The monument includes a stone well chamber supposedly on the spot where St Oswald was killed at the battle of Maserfelth. Therefore, it is possible that the battle between Oswald of Northumbria and Penda of Mercia took place within or near to the study area during the mid-7th century.

1.3.7 The site is situated south of Newton le Willows. The settlement is first mentioned in 1086 in the Domesday Book as Neweton. Newton is a very common name that derives from Old English, meaning 'the new farmstead, estate, or village'. The affix, le Willows, means 'by the Willows' (TEP 2017). Newton-le-Willows developed as a medieval market town that was focused on a typical linear 'High Street' plan. The economy of the town and surrounding area was agricultural with marked associated commodities. At this time, the site was likely situated within the agricultural land that supported the local town.

1.3.8 From the 14th century, the site was partly within Newton Park(s), with the earliest documentary evidence for Newton Park dating to 1322. There are a number of subsequent sales documented in the historical record. The park was used to graze cattle and sheep until the 17th century, when arable cultivation was also introduced.

In the mid-17th century Newton Parks is recorded as having two hundred acres of 'closes closures and parcells of land…and barn'.

1.3.9 From the mid-15th century, gallows were located to the south west of Newton Park. The place name 'Gawlehille' occurs in the estate survey of 1465, later named Gallows Croft on the Tithe map of 1839.

1.3.10 ***Post-Medieval:*** In the 17th century, a Civil War battle took place to the south of the site. Red Bank Civil War Battle (also known as the Battle of Winwick and the Battle of Winwick Pass), took place on the 19th August 1648. Conflict took place between Lieutenant-General Cromwell and the rear of the Duke of Hamilton's retreating army, commanded by Lieutenant-General Bailey. Hamilton's army was defeated, and the foot soldiers took refuge in Winwick Church. Local tradition records that some soldiers were executed in Gallows Croft, on the opposite side of Hermitage Green Lane to Red Bank.

1.3.11 The population and settlement size of Newton-le-Willows altered little until the mid-18th century, when the rapid industrialisation of nearby St Helen's, along with the arrival of the North Western Railway and Viaduct, resulted in a population increase. A number of listed buildings and former sites of post-medieval houses testify to this period of growth within the study area.

1.3.12 Despite the expansion of the nearby town, Newton Parks continued into the later post medieval period.

1.3.13 ***Modern:*** During the modern period the area was urbanised, with the introduction of more residential housing around Newton-le-Willows, the construction of the M6, and the establishment of Parkside Colliery. The development site is partially within the area of the former colliery.

1.3.14 In the decade following Nationalisation, the National Coal Board embarked on a major programme of investment in the industry, most of which was spent on reconstructing existing pits rather than sinking new ones. One of the few new pits to be established was Parkside Colliery, which was one of the results of an intensive programme of deep boring carried out in the Lancashire coalfield in the 1950s. The first shaft of this colliery was sunk in 1957, and the colliery was closed in 1993.

2 EVALUATION AIMS AND METHODOLOGY

2.1 Aims

2.1.1 The project aims and objectives were as follows:

i. To establish the presence or absence of any previously unsuspected archaeological deposits identified from a geophysical survey carried out by Stratascan in 2007 (Section 4.4 of the WSI);
ii. To determine the nature, depth and quality of preservation of any remains;
iii. To determine or confirm the approximate date or date range of any remains by means of artefactual or other evidence;
iv. Establish the requirements for any further mitigation work.

2.2 Methodology

2.2.1 The full methodology is outlined in the WSI produced by TEP, and comprised the excavation of 14 trenches measuring 30m x 2m (Fig 2). Topsoil and subsoil was removed by a 13-tonne tracked excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket. Excavation proceeded in a stratigraphical manner under archaeological supervision in shallow spits of no more than 0.1m down to the first archaeological horizon/natural deposit. No trench was excavated deeper than 1.2m without adequate stepping/shoring in keeping with health and safety constraints. Each trench was then hand cleaned and inspected for archaeological features.

2.2.2 Those trenches found to be devoid of archaeology were subjected to basic recording by means of photographs and written records on *pro forma* trench record/context sheets.

2.2.3 Any archaeological features found in trenches were sample excavated to characterise them in line with the project aims as outlined in *Section 2.1.1*. All investigation of intact archaeological deposits was exclusively manual.

2.2.4 All information identified during the site works was recorded stratigraphically, using a system adapted from that used by the former Centre for Archaeology of English Heritage, with an accompanying pictorial record. Primary records were available for inspection at all times.

2.2.5 Results of all field investigations were recorded on *pro forma* context sheets. The site archive includes both a photographic record and accurate large-scale plans and sections at an appropriate scale (1:50, 1:20 and 1:10). All artefacts were recorded using the same system, and will be handled and stored according to standard practice (following current Chartered Institute for Archaeologists guidelines (CIfA 2014a, b and c).

3 RESULTS

3.1 Introduction and presentation of results

3.1.1 The results of the evaluation are presented below, and include a stratigraphic description of the trenches which contained archaeological remains. The full details of all trenches with dimensions and depths of all deposits form the content of Appendix A.

3.1.2 Context numbers reflect the trench numbers unless otherwise stated e.g. pit ***102*** is a feature within Trench 1, while ditch ***304*** is a feature within Trench 3.

3.2 General soils and ground conditions

3.2.1 The soil sequence between all trenches was fairly uniform. The natural geology of red/orange sandy clay was overlain by was overlain by a mid grey/brown humic clay topsoil. Only Trench 3 contained a separate subsoil.

3.2.2 Ground conditions throughout the evaluation were generally good, and the trenches remained relatively dry throughout. However, Trench 3 had to be relocated due to flooding from a broken land drain. Archaeological features, where present, were easy to identify against the underlying natural geology.

3.3 General distribution of archaeological deposits

3.3.1 Archaeological features were present in Trenches; 3, 4, 5, 7, 8, 9 and 13 (Figs 3 – 6). The remaining seven trenches did not contain any features and are not discussed in any detail. Descriptions of their various depths and stratigraphy are presented in *Appendix A*.

3.4 Trenches 3, 4 and 13 (South Fields, east of M6)

3.4.1 ***Trench 3:*** this trench had to be relocated due to its position lying south of a broken land drain, flooding the original excavation. The new trench was excavated approximately 10m to the north. Topsoil ***300*** and subsoil ***301*** were removed to a maximum depth of 0.65m exposing a varying light yellow-grey to mid-red-orange sandy-clay natural ***302***. Cut into the natural layer was east/west aligned ditch ***304,*** a feature identified within Area 13 of the geophysical survey (Fig 3). Situated 5.2m from the eastern end of the trench, the ditch measured 1.54m wide and 0.6m deep with a rounded base giving a V-shaped profile. Single fill ***303*** was a homogenous dark grey silty clay suggesting a fairly rapid silting process. A pottery fragment and unfrogged brick within this fill indicated a post-medieval date for the feature, which is interpreted as a field boundary ditch.

Plate 1: South-facing section of Ditch ***304***, Trench 3

3.4.2 ***Trench 4:*** this trench was located within Area 14 of the geophysical survey and targeted a linear geophysical response, topsoil ***400*** was removed to a depth of 0.45m to expose natural clay ***401***. Ditch cut ***403*** was situated at the southern end of the trench on a north/south alignment (Fig 4). This shallow ditch measured 0.95m wide and 0.16m deep with an exposed length of 2m. No finds were recovered from the single silty-clay fill ***402***.

Plate 2: South-facing section of Ditch ***403***, Trench 4

3.4.3 ***Trench 13:*** this trench contained topsoil deposit ***1300*** removed to depth of 0.4m to expose natural layer ***1301***. Approximately half way along Trench 13, boundary ditch

1304 was uncovered on a north-east/south-west alignment (Fig 6). Measuring 1.8m wide and 0.44m deep with a V-shaped profile, the ditch contained two natural silting fills, deposits ***1302*** and lower fill ***1303***. Upper fill ***1302*** contained a large fragment of post-medieval pottery. This trench was not located in a geophysical survey area.

Plate 3: East-facing section of Ditch ***1304***, Trench 13

3.5 Trenches 5, 7 and 8 (North Fields, East of M6)

3.5.1 ***Trench 5:*** this trench had topsoil deposit ***500*** removed to a depth of 0.4m exposing natural clay ***501***. At 8.8m from the south-eastern end of the trench, boundary ditch ***504*** crossed with smaller linear ***506*** running for 14m further west (Fig 4). Ditch ***504*** measured 1.22m wide and 0.55m deep, with a narrow, rounded base and V-shaped profile. Sandy-silt fill ***503*** formed via a series of natural silting events indicated by several laminations of silts and sands, it contained no finds. Linear ***506*** measured 0.8m wide and only 0.09m deep, no finds were present in single fill ***505***. It is likely both features related to drainage and/or field division. This trench targeted responses within Area 13 of the geophysical survey.

Plate 4: South-facing section of Ditch ***504***, Trench 5

3.5.2 ***Trench 7:*** topsoil deposit ***700*** was removed to a max depth of 0.4m, exposing natural clay ***701***. Two east/west aligned linear features ***703*** and ***706*** were revealed (Fig 4). Ditch cut ***703*** was shallow measuring 0.54m wide by 0.1m deep with a wide concave base. Ditch ***706*** was a slightly larger feature measuring 1.04m wide and 0.25m deep with an irregular base. Both features had silted naturally and contained no finds. Two other irregular features were investigated and interpreted as natural/geological in nature. This trench was not located in a geophysical survey area.

3.5.3 ***Trench 8:*** topsoil deposit ***800*** was removed to a maximum depth of 0.55m. Two features were identified, cut into natural clay ***801*** (Fig 5). Linear feature ***805*** was aligned north-east/south-west across Trench 8, it measured 0.6m wide and 0.16m deep, extensive rooting within the sides and base suggest this linear may have been the remains of a hedgeline or similar feature. The second feature ***803*** was a shallow ovoid cut measuring 0.6m x 0.5m and 0.05m deep. No finds were recovered from either feature. This trench was not located in a geophysical survey area.

Plate 5: North-facing section of Ditch ***703***, Trench 7

Plate 6: North-facing section of Ditch ***706***, Trench 7

3.6 Trench 9 (West of M6)

3.6.1 ***Trench 9:*** topsoil deposit ***900*** was removed to a depth of 0.3m exposing natural clay ***901***. This revealed several land drains and a linear ***902*** that was aligned east/west across the north-western corner of the trench (Fig 9). Linear ***902*** measured 1.4m wide and 0.22m deep, had a wide flat based profile and was truncated by a modern land drain along the southern edge. Fill deposit ***903*** contained no finds and was formed by natural silting processes. This trench was not located in a geophysical survey area.

Plate 7: North-facing section of Ditch ***902***, Trench 9

3.7 Finds summary

3.7.1 Nearly all the features excavated were devoid of finds. Those that did contain finds were of post-medieval date and were not retained.

4 DISCUSSION

4.1 Reliability of field investigation

4.1.1 Other than the need to relocate Trench 3, all trenches were sufficiently excavated in according to the methodology set out in the WSI. Similarly, all archaeological features and suspected features were excavated to determine their character. To this end the results of the investigation can be considered reliable and the data collected can contribute to the discussion element of this report.

4.2 Evaluation objectives and results

4.3 The objectives outlined in *Section 2* relate to the identification and characterisation of any surviving archaeological remains and the potential need for further mitigation work during subsequent development. The field investigation was able to address each objective in the following ways.

4.3.1 Seven of the 14 trenches contained features of archaeological potential, three of which were targeted on suspected features highlighted by the geophysical survey (Trenches 3, 4 and 5), confirming that potential archaeological activity could exist within the area of proposed development. The remaining four trenches (7, 8, 9 and 13) were located in unsurveyed areas, indicating that potential archaeological activity lies outside that identified within the limits of the geophysical survey.

4.3.2 Excavation of the features identified indicated that preservation is good enough to properly identify such remains and potential dating material (artefactual) is also evident.

4.4 Interpretation

4.4.1 Most of the features observed were linear ditches of varying depth and form. Due to the spacing of the trenches, it cannot be confirmed if any of the features observed were related to or contemporary with each other, this also applies to those features appearing within the same trench as no direct relationships were observed. In broad terms it appears that the function of these linear features would be related to drainage or land division.

4.4.2 The three ditches ***304***, ***504*** and ***1304*** (Trenches 3, 5 and 13 respectively) were similar in form with V-shaped profiles and fairly substantial depths (between 0.44m and 0.6m). Their size and depth are significant enough to suggest their purpose as boundary divisions. Finds of post-medieval pottery recovered from the fills of ***304*** and ***1304*** provide provisional dating evidence and although no artefacts were recovered from ditch ***504***, the physical form of the feature is similar enough to suggest a similar origin and date to the others.

4.4.3 The remaining linear features; ***403***, ***506***, ***703***, ***706*** and ***902*** (Trenches 4, 7 and 9) were shallower features (between 0.1m and 0.25m) with wider flatter profiles. The exact function of these features is difficult to identify due to the limited survival of the remains. The shallow depths observed particularly in examples ***403***, ***506*** and ***703*** suggest that the upper portions of these ditches may have been truncated by ploughing over time. The high silt content of their respective fills lends weight to the

suggestion of drainage channels or ditches. No artefactual dating evidence was recovered from any of these shallower examples.

4.4.4 The features in Trench 8 comprised linear feature ***805*** bordered by a small shallow 'pit' ***803***, heavy rooting was observed within Trench 8 and within linear ***805***. The trench's location was adjacent to a significantly waterlogged area of the field and it is possible therefore, that a combination of former vegetation such as a hedge and the effects of perturbation can explain the features within Trench 8.

4.5 Significance

4.5.1 Comparing the results of the evaluation with the objectives outlined in *Section 2.1.1* and the geophysical survey results, the following conclusions can be drawn. Features are evident within the investigation area both within and without those areas subjected to geophysical survey. The depths of these deposits were easily ascertained as in most of cases they were directly underneath the modern level of topsoil. A small amount of artefactual evidence was recovered most of which was of post-medieval date. No deposits suitable for sampling and radiocarbon dating were present, and although some attempt to quantify these remains has been possible, this has been limited by the nature of a trial trench evaluation. The features recorded within Trenches 3, 4 and 13, and one of the two within Trench 5 can all be related to field boundaries visible on nineteenth-century mapping (Ordnance Survey 1st edition 6 In:1 mile map of 1849). Similarly, the remaining feature within trench 5 and those recorded within trenches 7, 8 and 9 cannot be identified on this or later maps, which might suggest an earlier date for these features.

4.5.2 While some of the responses abstracted from the geophysical survey were revealed, it is likely that the majority are related to drainage or are field boundaries of post-medieval origin. Some features uncovered have no such correlation and may therefore be more antiquated in origin. It is possible, therefore, that the proposed development may impact upon some unquantified archaeological remains.

APPENDIX A TRENCH DESCRIPTIONS AND CONTEXT INVENTORY

Trench 1						
General description					**Orientation**	E-W
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil overlying natural geology of sandy-clay.					**Length (m)**	30
					Width (m)	2
					Avg. depth (m)	0.32
Context No.	**Type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Description**	**Finds**	**Date**
100	Layer	-	0.30	Topsoil	-	-
101	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-

Trench 2						
General description					**Orientation**	E-W
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil overlying natural geology of sandy-clay.					**Length (m)**	30
					Width (m)	2
					Avg. depth (m)	0.52
Context No.	**Type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Description**	**Finds**	**Date**
200	Layer	-	0.45	Topsoil	-	-
201	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-

Trench 3						
General description					**Orientation**	N-S
Trench containing boundary ditch. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of sandy-clay.					**Length (m)**	30
					Width (m)	2
					Avg. depth (m)	0.65
Context No.	**Type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Description**	**Finds**	**Date**
300	Layer	-	0.40	Topsoil	-	-
301	Layer	-	0.15	Subsoil	-	-
302	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-
303	Fill	1.54	0.60	Fill of ditch	Pottery, Brick	Post-Med
304	Cut	1.54	0.60	Boundary ditch	-	Post-Med

Trench 4						
General description					**Orientation**	NW-SE
Trench containing linear feature. Consists of topsoil overlying natural geology of sandy-clay.					**Length (m)**	30
					Width (m)	2
					Avg. depth (m)	0.50
Context No.	**Type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Description**	**Finds**	**Date**
400	Layer	-	0.45	Topsoil	-	-

401	Layer	-	0.15	Natural	-	-
402	Fill	0.95	0.16	Fill of linear	-	-
403	Cut	0.95	0.16	Linear	-	-

Trench 5						
General description					**Orientation**	NW-SE
Trench containing two linear features. Consists of topsoil overlying natural geology of sandy-clay.					**Length (m)**	30
					Width (m)	2
					Avg. depth (m)	0.40
Context No.	**Type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Description**	**Finds**	**Date**
500	Layer	-	0.38	Topsoil	-	-
501	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-
502	Fill	1.22	0.32	Fill of linear	-	-
503	Fill	0.77	0.22	Fill of linear	-	-
504	Cut	1.22	0.55	Cut of linear	-	-
505	Fill	0.80	0.09	Fill of linear	-	-
506	Cut	0.80	0.09	Cut of linear	-	-

Trench 6						
General description					**Orientation**	NW-SE
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil overlying natural geology of sandy-clay.					**Length (m)**	30
					Width (m)	2
					Avg. depth (m)	0.40
Context No.	**Type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Description**	**Finds**	**Date**
600	Layer	-	0.40	Topsoil	-	-
601	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-

Trench 7						
General description					**Orientation**	NW-SE
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of silty-sand.					**Length (m)**	30
					Width (m)	2
					Avg. depth (m)	0.40
Context No.	**Type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Description**	**Finds**	**Date**
700	Layer	-	0.40	Topsoil	-	-
701	Layer	-	0.15	Natural	-	-
702	Fill	0.54	0.10	Fill of linear	-	-
703	Cut	0.54	0.10	Linear	-	-
704	Fill	1.04	0.13	Fill of linear	-	-
705	Fill	1.04	0.12	Fill of linear		
706	Cut	1.04	0.25	Linear		

Trench 8		
General description	**Orientation**	N-S
Trench containing a linear and pit features. Consists of topsoil overlying natural geology of sandy-clay.	**Length (m)**	30
	Width (m)	2

					Avg. depth (m)	0.40
Context No.	**Type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Description**	**Finds**	**Date**
800	Layer	-	0.40	Topsoil	-	-
801	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-
802	Fill	0.60	0.05	Fill of pit	-	-
803	Cut	0.60	0.05	Cut of pit	-	-
804	Fill	0.60	0.16	Fill of linear	-	-
805	Cut	0.60	0.16	Cut of linear	-	-

Trench 9						
General description					**Orientation**	E-W
Trench containing a linear feature. Consists of topsoil overlying natural geology of sandy-clay.					**Length (m)**	30
					Width (m)	2
					Avg. depth (m)	0.40
Context No.	**Type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Description**	**Finds**	**Date**
900	Layer	-	0.40	Topsoil	-	-
901	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-
902	Cut	1.4	0.22	Cut of linear	-	-
903	Fill	1.4	0.22	Fill of linear	-	-

Trench 10						
General description					**Orientation**	E-W
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of silty-sand.					**Length (m)**	30
					Width (m)	2
					Avg. depth (m)	0.32
Context No.	**Type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Description**	**Finds**	**Date**
1000	Layer	-	0.18	Topsoil	-	-
1001	Layer	-	0.14	Subsoil	-	-
1002	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-

Trench 11						
General description					**Orientation**	SW-NE
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil overlying natural geology of silty-sand.					**Length (m)**	30
					Width (m)	2
					Avg. depth (m)	0.28
Context No.	**Type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Description**	**Finds**	**Date**
1100	Layer	-	0.28	Topsoil	-	-
1101	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-

Trench 12			
General description		**Orientation**	SW-NE
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil overlying natural geology of silty-sand.		**Length (m)**	30
		Width (m)	2

					Avg. depth (m)	0.35
Context No.	**Type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Description**	**Finds**	**Date**
1200	Layer	-	0.35	Topsoil	-	-
1201	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-

Trench 13						
General description					**Orientation**	NW-SE
Trench containing a linear feature. Consists of topsoil and overlying natural geology of silty-sand.					**Length (m)**	30
					Width (m)	2
					Avg. depth (m)	0.40
Context No.	**Type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Description**	**Finds**	**Date**
1300	Layer	-	0.40	Topsoil	-	-
1301	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-
1302	Fill	1.85	0.31	Fill of linear	Pottery	Post-Med
1303	Fill	0.55	0.13	Fill of linear	-	Post-Med
1304	Cut	1.85	0.44	Cut of linear	-	Post-Med

Trench 14						
General description					**Orientation**	NW-SE
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of sandy-clay.					**Length (m)**	30
					Width (m)	2
					Avg. depth (m)	0.41
Context No.	**Type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Description**	**Finds**	**Date**
1400	Layer	-	0.20	Topsoil	-	-
1401	Layer	-	0.21	Subsoil	-	-
1402	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-

APPENDIX B BIBLIOGRAPHY AND REFERENCES

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APPENDIX E SITE SUMMARY DETAILS

Site name:	Parkside Link, Newton-le-Willows
Site code:	PLR17
Grid Reference	SJ 608 949
Type:	Evaluation
Date and duration:	November 2017
Summary of Results:	14 trenches excavated over geophysical survey responses and blank areas revealed a total of three ditches and seven shallow features. Some of which were identified within the geophysical survey. Nearly all the features excavated were devoid of finds. Those that did contain finds were of post-medieval date and were not retained. While some of the responses abstracted from the geophysical survey were revealed, it is likely that they are related to drainage or are field boundaries of post-medieval origin. It is likely therefore, that the proposed development will not impact upon any archaeological remains of any significance.
Location of archive:	The archive is currently held at OA, Janus House, Osney Mead, Oxford, OX2 0ES.

Contains Ordnance Survey data © Crown copyright and database right 2018

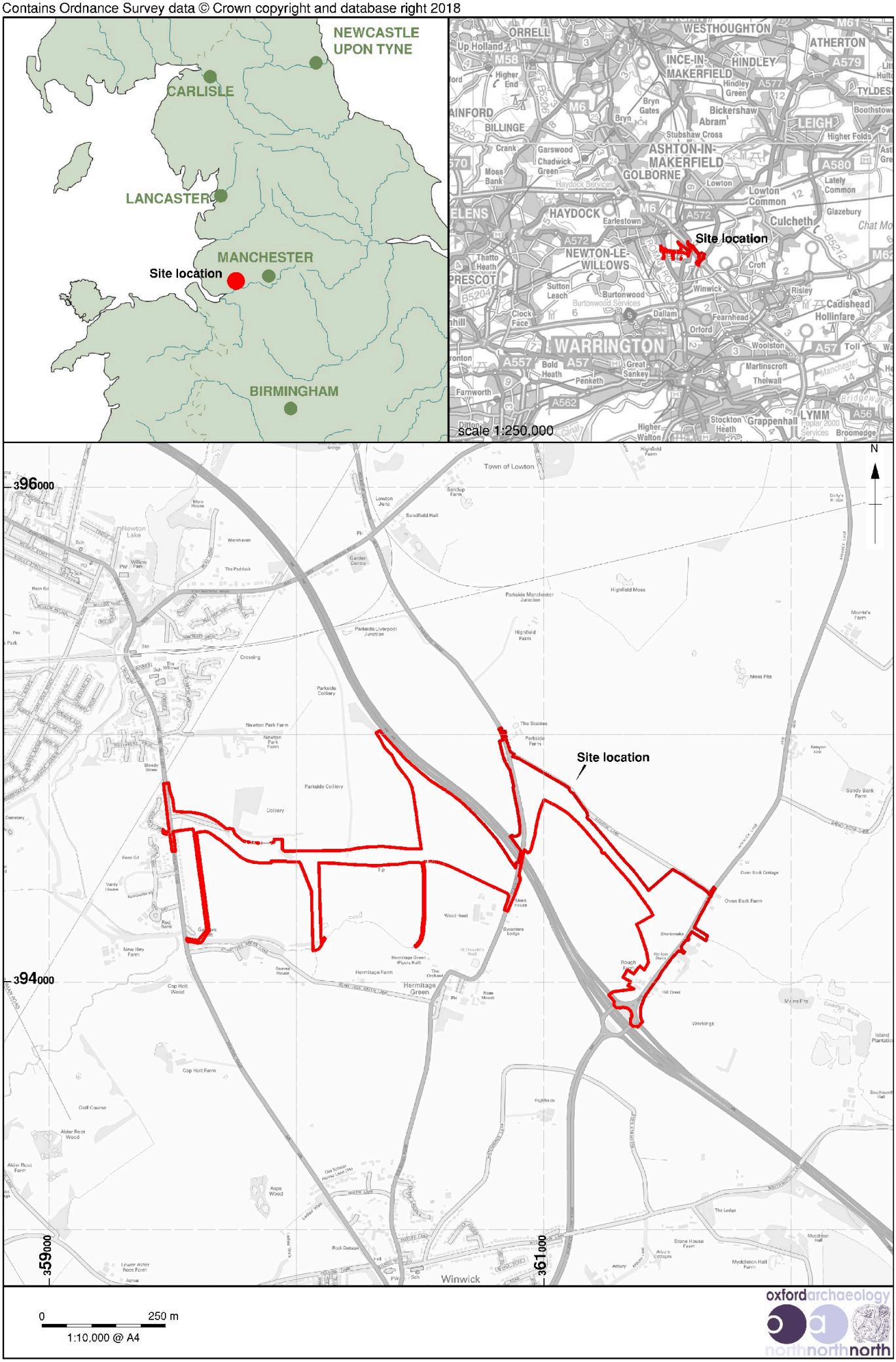


Figure 1: Site location

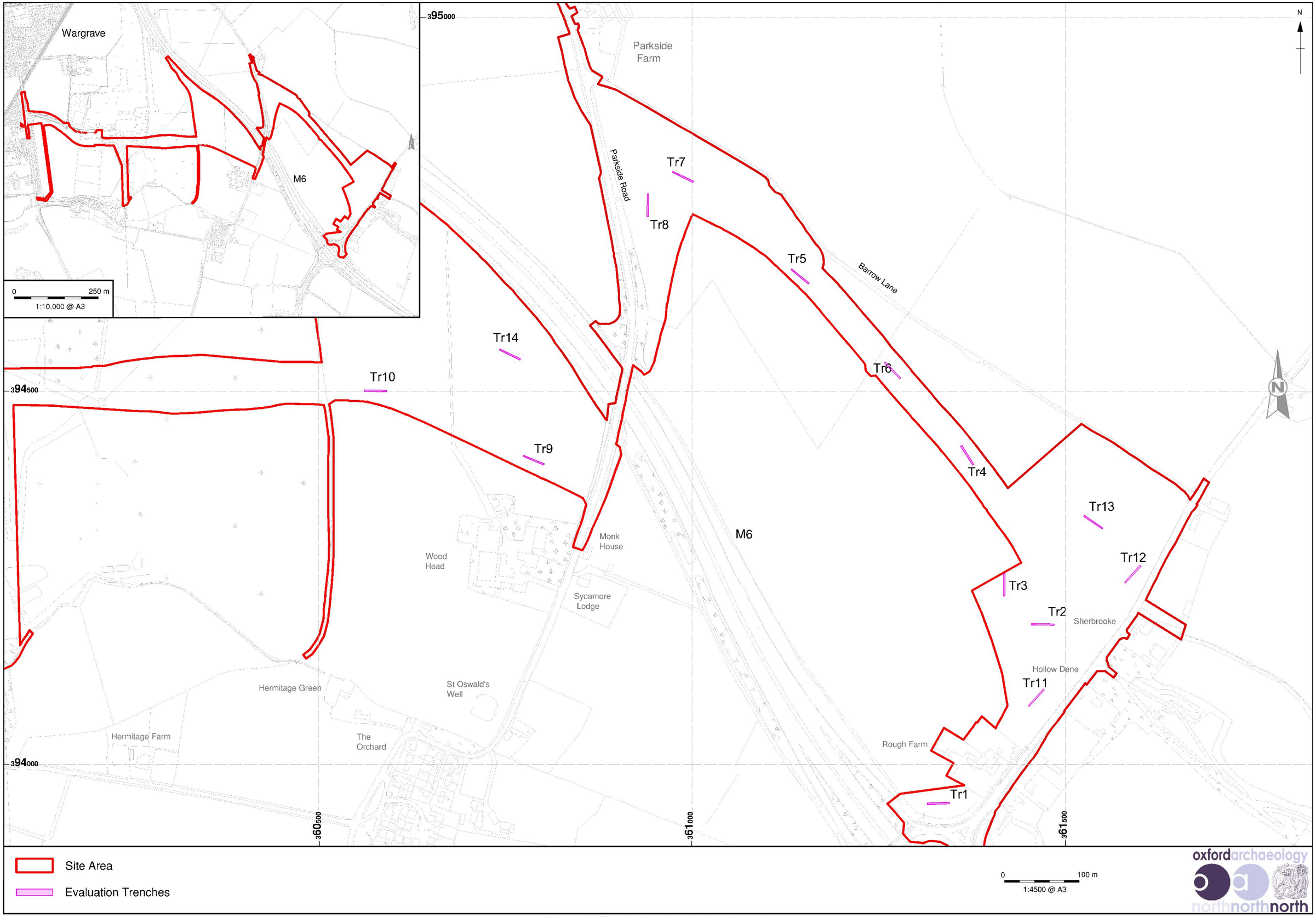


Figure 2: Evaluation trench location plan

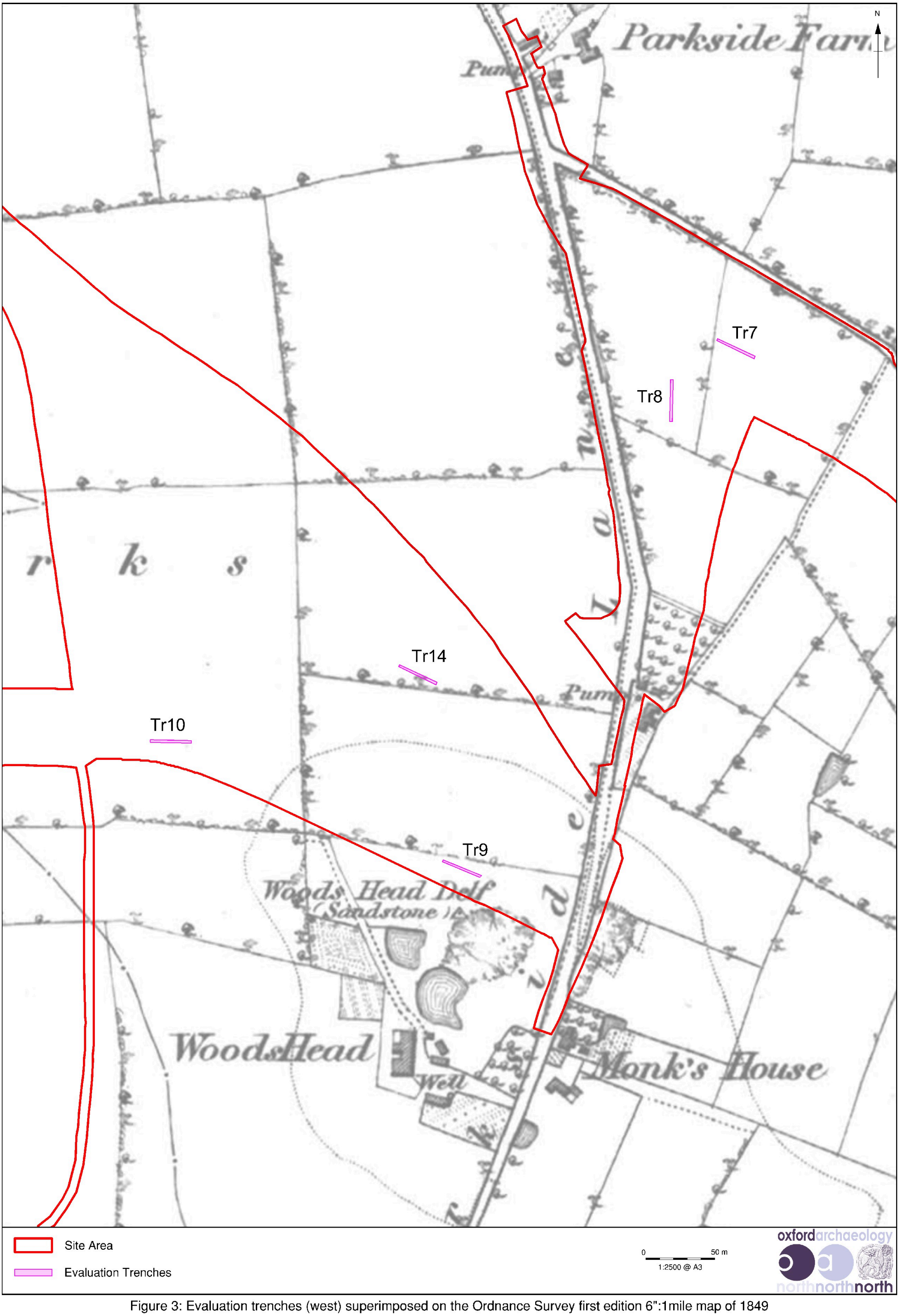


Figure 3: Evaluation trenches (west) superimposed on the Ordnance Survey first edition 6":1mile map of 1849

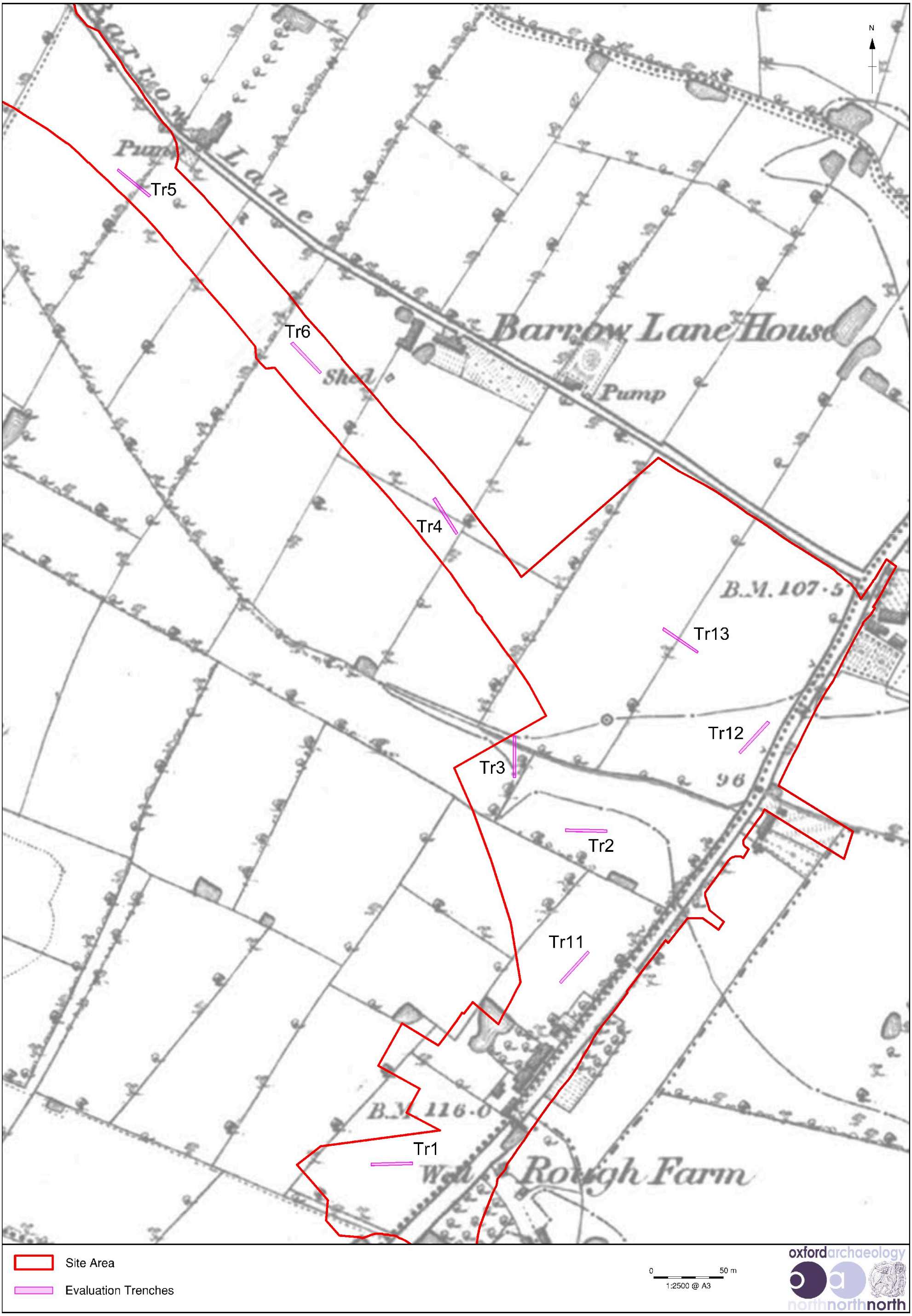


Figure 4: Evaluation trenches (east) superimposed on the Ordnance Survey first edition 6":1mile map of 1849

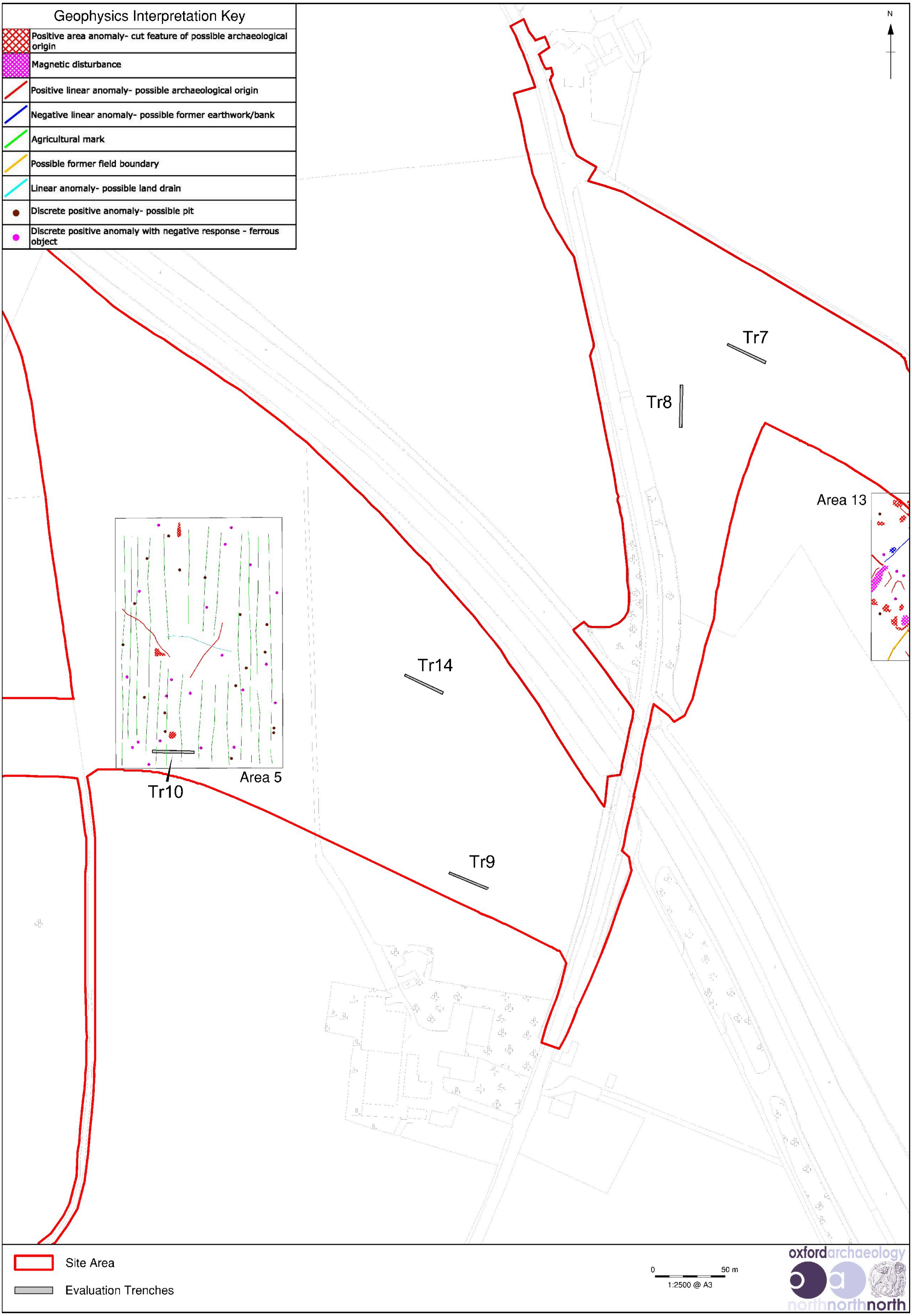


Figure 5: Evaluation trenches (west) superimposed on the interpretation of the processed gradiometer data

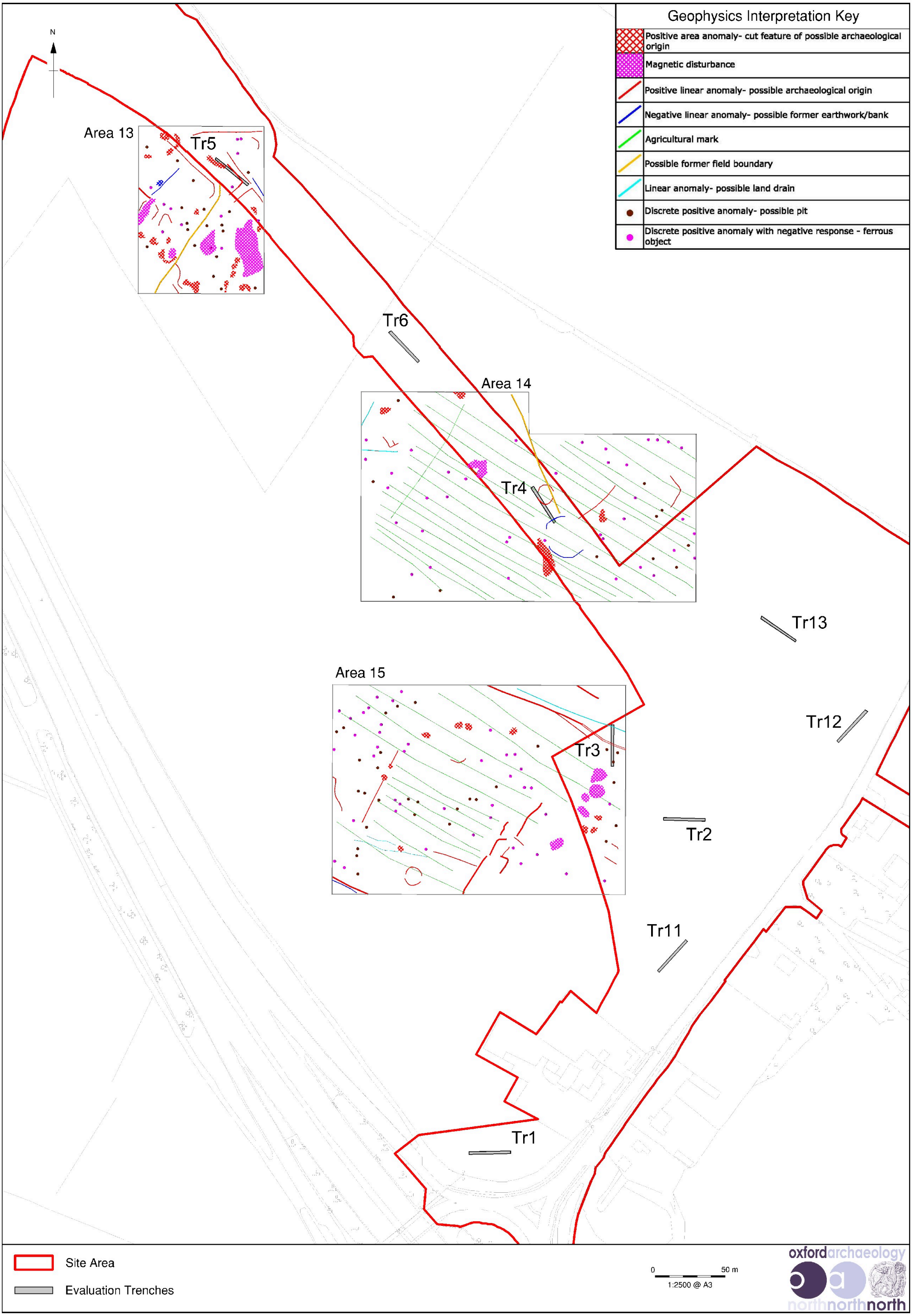


Figure 6: Evaluation trenches (east) superimposed on the interpretation of the processed gradiometer data

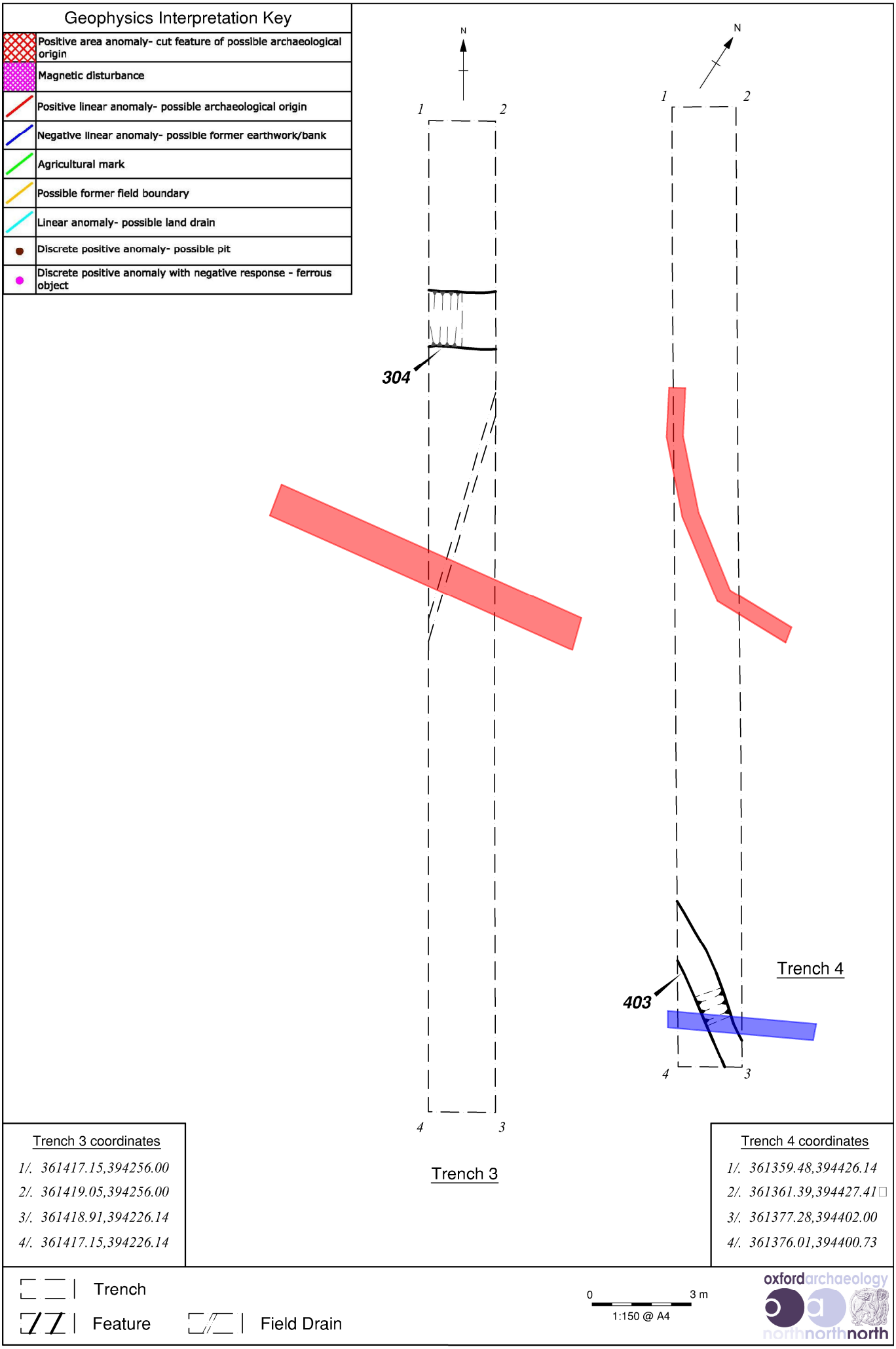


Figure 7: Plans of evaluation trenches 3 and 4 overlaid onto geophysical survey interpretations

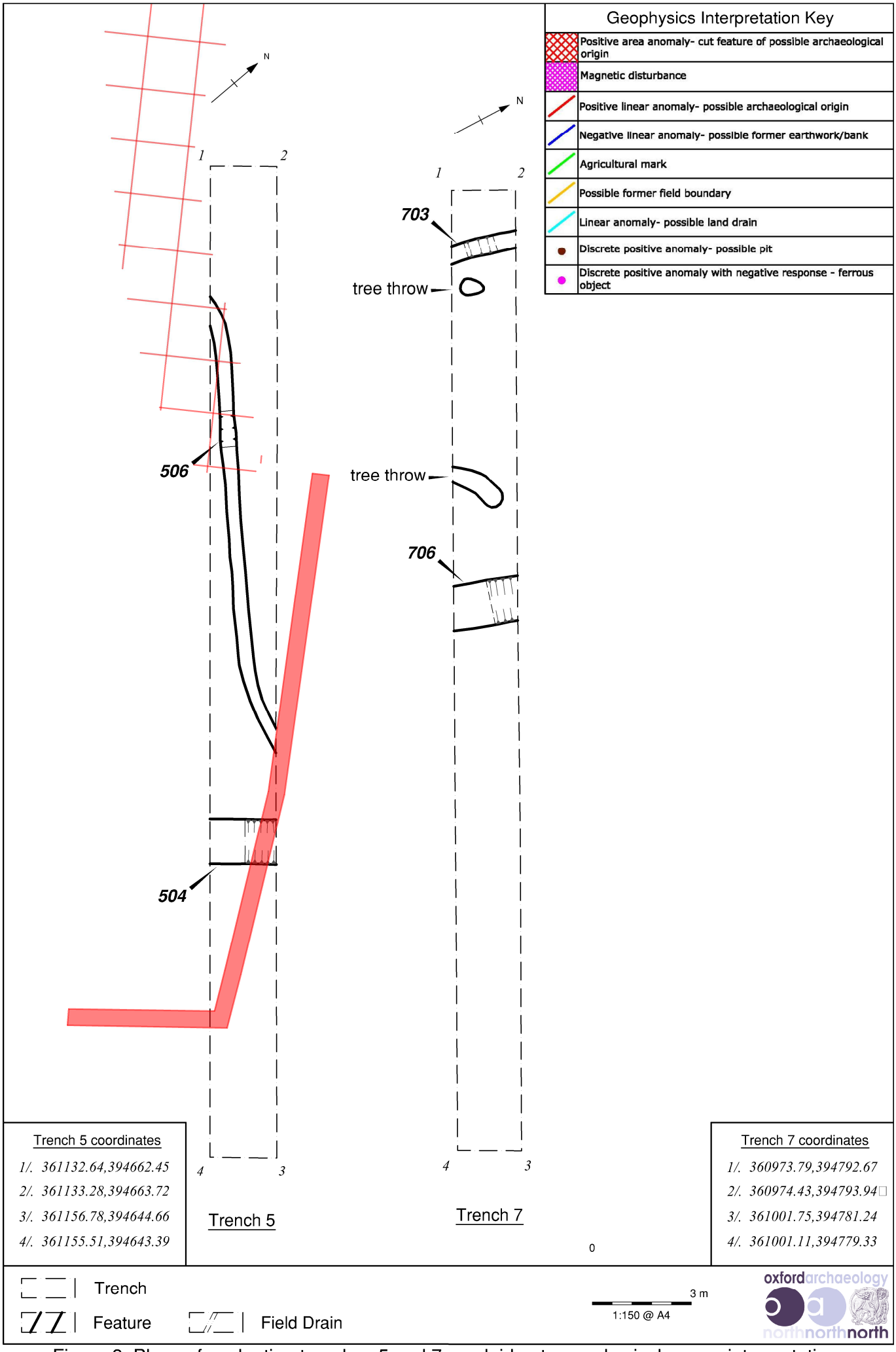
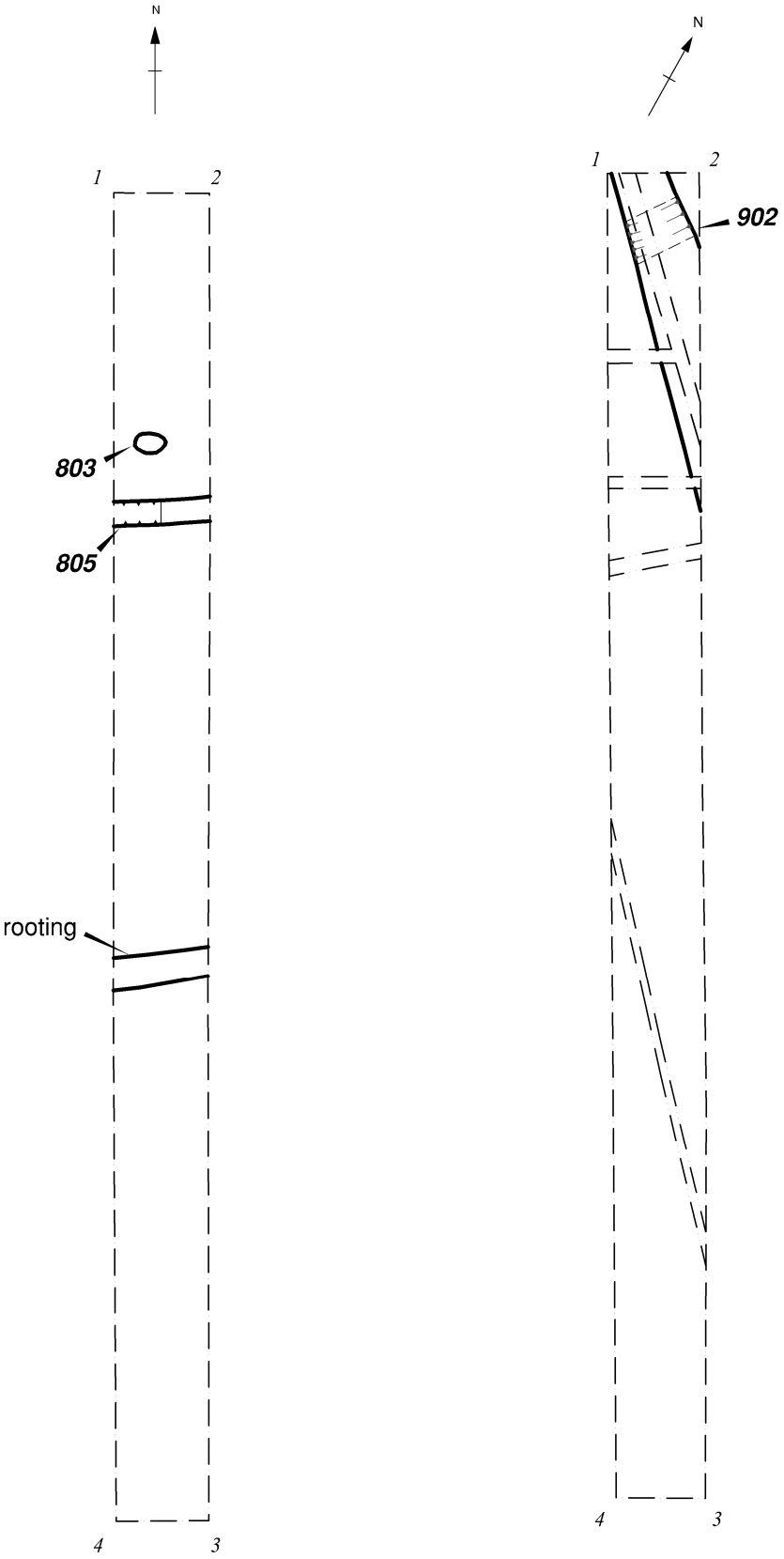


Figure 8: Plans of evaluation trenches 5 and 7 overlaid onto geophysical survey interpretations



Trench 8 coordinates	
1/.	360940.12,394764.07
2/.	360942.03,394764.07
3/.	360941.40,394733.58
4/.	360939.49,394733.58

Trench 8

Trench 9

Trench 9 coordinates	
1/.	360773.71,394412.72
2/.	360774.35,394413.99
3/.	360802.30,394402.56
4/.	360801.03,394401.29

Trench

Feature

Field Drain

0 3 m

1:150 @ A4

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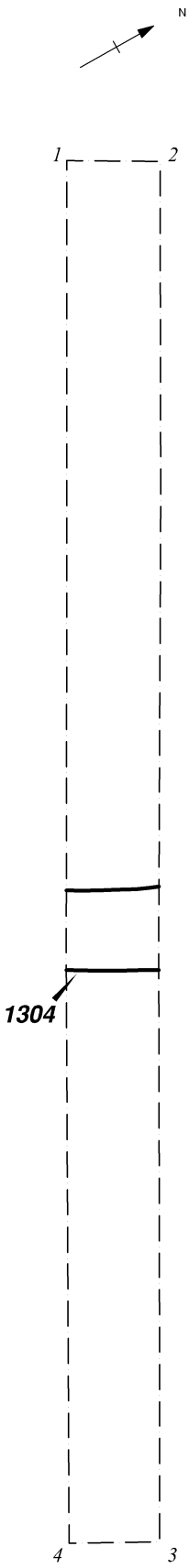
KT*L11104*MAT*Jan 2018

Figure 9: Plans of evaluation trenches 8 and 9



Trench 13

Trench 13 coordinates	
1/.	361524.68,394332.14
2/.	361525.32,394334.04
3/.	361550.10,394316.89
4/.	361549.46,394315.62

Trench

Feature

Field Drain

0 3 m

1:150 @ A4

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Figure 10: Plan of evaluation trench 13

Head Office/Registered Office/ OA South

Janus House
Osney Mead
Oxford OX2 0ES

t: +44 (0) 1865 263 800
f: +44 (0) 1865 793 496
e: info@oxfordarchaeology.com
w: http://oxfordarchaeology.com

OA North

Mill 3
Moor Lane
Lancaster LA1 1QD

t: +44 (0) 1524 541 000
f: +44 (0) 1524 848 606
e: oanorth@oxfordarchaeology.com
w: http://oxfordarchaeology.com

OA East

15 Trafalgar Way
Bar Hill
Cambridgeshire
CB23 8SQ

t: +44 (0) 1223 850500
e: oaeast@oxfordarchaeology.com
w: http://oxfordarchaeology.com

Director: Gill Hey, BA PhD FSA MCIfA
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