

**Land adjacent to Manton Quarry, Manton,
North Lincolnshire, DN21 4JT**

Archaeological Evaluation

NGR:	SE 93740 02310
Planning Refs:	PA 1997/1527
PCAS Site code:	MANE 16
PCAS Job No.:	1596
NLMS Site Code:	MTDO
Oasis ref:	preconst3-245065

Prepared for
Hughes Craven Ltd.

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March 2016



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Fig. 4: Trenching plan based on geophysics (Bunn, 2015) and representative trench sections at scale 1: 1250 and 1:20

Non-Technical Summary

Archaeological evaluation trenching took place on land adjacent to Manton Quarry, Manton, to inform an application to extend an existing mineral extraction site.

A preceding geophysical survey of the site revealed only a scatter of discrete anomalies, thought to be archaeological in origin. Fieldwalking of this same area yielded a small group of finds, including a Neolithic worked flint, Romano-British pottery and slag (the latter suggestive of small scale iron working in the vicinity), as well as medieval and post-medieval pottery, thought to have resulted from agricultural manuring.

A total of ten 40m by 2m trenches were excavated, targeting geophysical anomalies and areas where relative concentrations of finds had been retrieved during fieldwalking. The results of the evaluation proved negative; the geophysical anomalies being identified as variations in the natural limestone brash, together with numerous solution features.

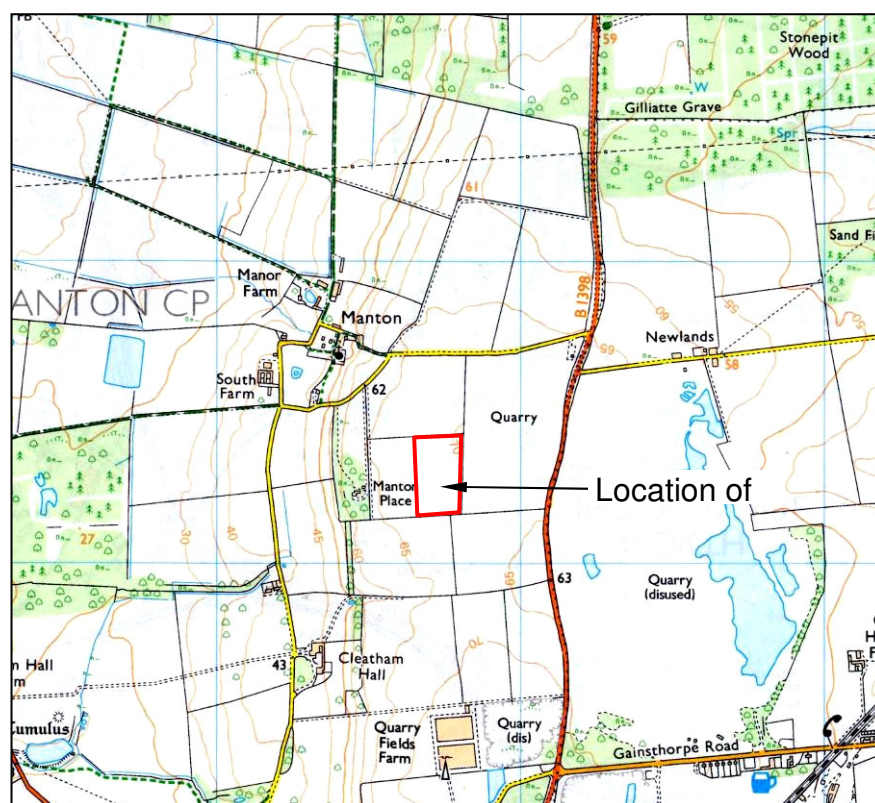


Figure 1: Site location plan at scale 1:25,000: the survey area is marked in red. OS mapping © Crown copyright. All rights reserved. PCAS licence no. 100049278.

1.0 Introduction

Pre-Construct Archaeological Services Ltd (PCAS) was commissioned Hughes Craven Ltd. to undertake an archaeological evaluation on land adjacent to Manton Quarry, Manton, North Lincolnshire.

This programme of work was recommended by the Historic Environment Officer for North Lincolnshire Council to inform a review of the existing planning permission for mineral extraction, in association with an application to extend the quarry.

This document follows current best practice and national guidance, including:

- NPPF, National Planning Policy Framework, 2012;
- CIFA Code of Conduct (2014);
- CIFA Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Evaluations (2014);
- Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE v1.1, English Heritage 2009)

2.0 Site Location and Description (figs: 1 & 2)

The village and civil parish of Manton lies within the county of North Lincolnshire, approximately 4km to the north of Kirton in Lindsey and 8km to the south-west of Brigg. It is located off the west side of the B1398 (North Cliff Road/Middle Street), which runs along the west side of the crest of the Lincoln Edge, roughly parallel to the A15 (Ermine Street). Manton is a Shrunken Medieval Village, with a scatter of dwellings centring on the parish church, and two outlying farms; the former rectory, built in 1854 and now known as Manton Place (HER ref. 7333), is also some distance outside the village, to the west of the site.

The site is approximately 500m to the south-east of Manton village, at the southwest corner of the existing Manton Quarry. It is rectangular, oriented north-to-south, and encompasses an area of approximately 4 hectares; slightly more than half of a large, rectilinear arable field. It is bordered on the east side by the existing Manton limestone quarry, and by farmland on its other sides (Bunn, 2015).

The approximate central National Grid Reference of the site is SE 93740 02310.

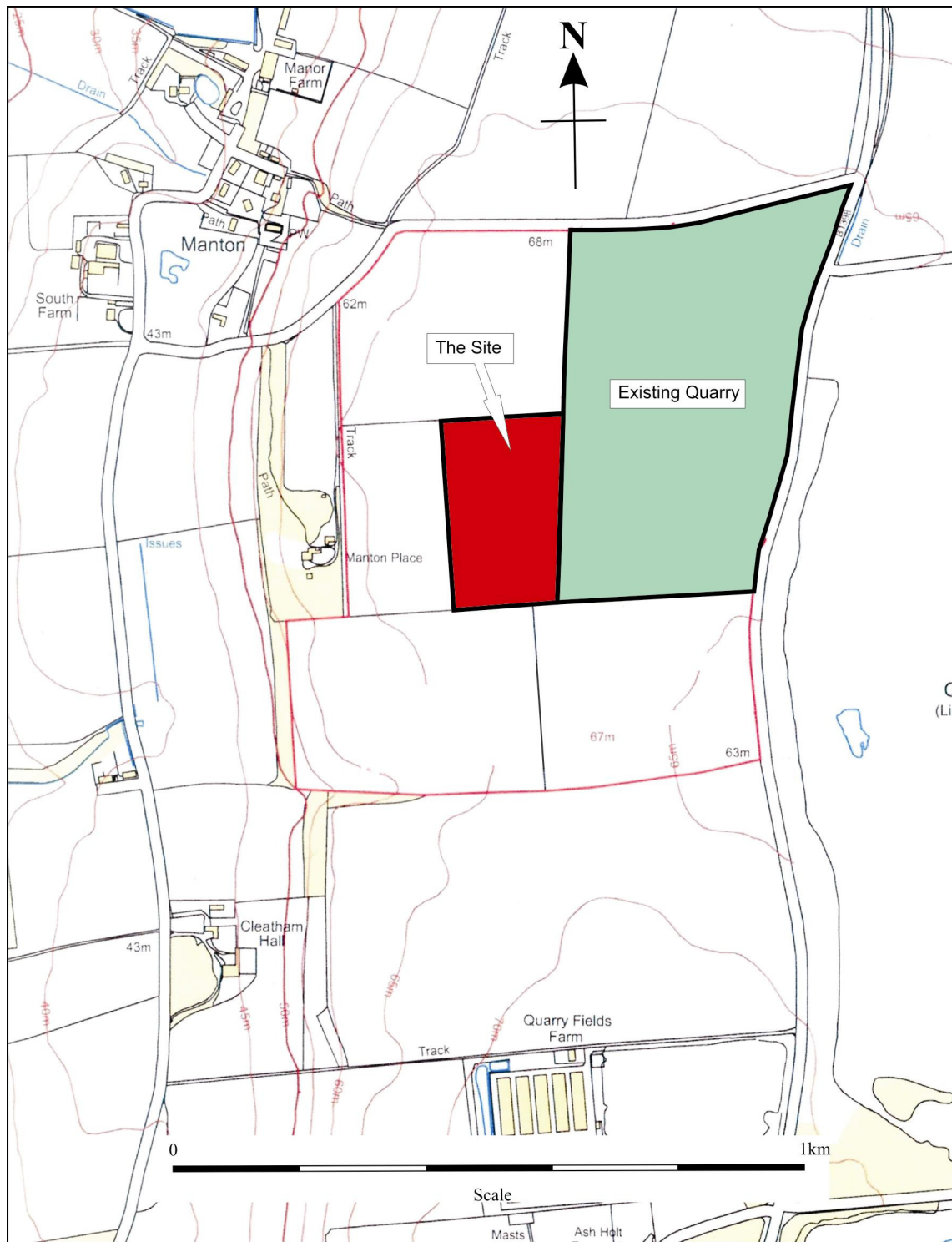


Figure 2: Site location plan, proposed extension to Manton Quarry.

3.0 Topography and Geology

Manton village is situated close to the foot of the west-facing slope of the Lincoln Edge. The proposed mineral extraction site occupies the higher ground above the village, near the crest of the slope, between the 65m and 70m OS contour lines. The site itself is relatively level.

Along the Lincoln Edge, the bedrock geology varies. The top edge and slope of the cliff are formed by bands of Santon Oolite Limestone and Kirton Cementstone – Mudstone and Limestone. BGS mapping records the latter as the bedrock of the site, although the former may be encountered along the eastern or western boundaries. There are no recorded superficial deposits within the boundary of the site (<http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html>).

4.0 Planning Background

The existing planning permission for mineral extraction at Manton Quarry (PA 1997/1527) is subject to review in association with the extension of the quarry into the survey site. The Historic Environment Officer has advised that the archaeological potential of the site is unknown, and requires investigation to advise the review.

This programme of evaluation trenching was targeted based on the results of a geophysical survey and further informed by archaeological fieldwalking. The three components of the archaeological investigations may be used to compile an appropriate archaeological mitigation strategy to inform the review of the planning permission and to inform any further archaeological intervention, if required.

5.0 Archaeological and Historical Background (Fig: 3)

An extensive programme of fieldwalking was carried out in fields to the south-east of Manton village in 1999 and 2000, and substantial evidence for occupation from the prehistoric period onwards has been recorded in fields around the presently proposed mineral extraction site. North Lincolnshire HER records three findspots within the field whose east side is formed by the present survey area. Struck flints ranging in date from the Late Mesolithic to the early Bronze Age were retrieved during fieldwalking in 2000, along with small amounts of Roman, medieval and post-medieval pottery (HER refs. 19920-1), while a Roman bronze finger ring was found towards the north side of the field (HER ref. 19472).

Directly to the south of the site, three barbed and tanged arrowheads and 5 sherds of Bronze Age pottery were found at the northern edge of the next field to the south during fieldwalking in 1999, suggesting possible Bronze Age occupation. A large assemblage of worked flint, with dates weighted towards the Neolithic period but also including Mesolithic and early Bronze Age material, with two Iron Age potsherds and substantial quantities of medieval pottery and CBM and post-medieval pottery, were retrieved further to the south in the field by the same programme (HER No. 19860-2). The fieldwalking also produced a substantial assemblage of Roman material, including 83 pottery sherds, 6 pieces of Roman tile, two Roman coins and 161 undated pieces of slag, with a lump of fired clay identified as furnace body from its western side (HER ref. 19863) and a Roman coin pierced for later re-use as an ornament from near its eastern edge (HER ref. 19864).

Fieldwalking directly to the south of the existing quarry produced a large assemblage of struck flint, again ranging from the Mesolithic to the early Bronze Age, with an even distribution of Roman pottery and tile, and medieval and post-medieval pottery (HER refs. 19872-4).

The field directly to the north of the survey area, 'Eye Gorge Field', has produced Roman pottery and tile, with a fragment of worked building stone, suggesting Romano-British occupation (HER ref. 2160), as well as Neolithic to early Bronze Age struck flints (HER ref. 19474) and an Anglo-Saxon silver pinhead found by metal-detecting (HER ref. 22061). Further to the north, on the opposite side of the Manton road, fieldwalking retrieved 17 sherds of Anglo-Saxon pottery, much of which was early; finds of a spear and loom weights have been reported from the same area, suggesting a possible occupation site (HER ref. 20234).

Fieldwalking to the north-west of the field containing the present site in 2000 retrieved worked flint again ranging in date from the Late Mesolithic to the early Bronze Age, a sherd of probable Iron Age pottery and small amounts of Roman, medieval and post-medieval pottery (HER refs. 19917-9).

Archaeological investigations to the east of Manton have identified the site of a possible settlement or farmstead, with agricultural features associated with ceramic building materials indicating the presence of a building in the vicinity (LHER ref: 12528).

Manton has its origins as a Saxon settlement, and is recorded in the Domesday Book as a small settlement of five villagers and 4 smallholders held by St. Peters Abbey in Peterborough. Manton developed into a more substantial village in the medieval period, however the settlement contracted again in the early post-medieval period, leaving behind a complex of earthworks surrounding the modern settlement (LHER ref: 2147). The settlement had a church which was replaced in the 19th century by the present Church of St. Hybald; a Saxon saint. Cleatham Hall, which lies c.730m southwest of the site boundary, lies in designated parkland and is a Grade II Listed house built in c.1855 as a private country home. Manton Place, the former village rectory, was built around the same time and lies c.230m east of the site.

Historic mapping indicates this site has remained agricultural land throughout the 20th century. There are a number of small quarries to the northeast of Manton, with mapping indicating quarrying commenced on the adjacent site in the early 1970's.

The site itself was subject to geophysical survey and fieldwalking. The geophysical survey undertaken by Pre-Construct Geophysics in August 2015 (Bunn, 2015), recorded magnetic variation interpreted as resulting from geological factors and strong responses from modern disturbance and agricultural practices. A low number of discrete anomalies were interpreted as possible archaeological features.

Fieldwalking by Pre-Construct Archaeological Services Ltd. in January 2016 yielded a single early Neolithic flint flake from the western side of the site and a small group of pottery, including Roman dated material primarily from the northern half of the site and medieval and early post-medieval pottery and ceramic building material from across the site; probably reflecting agricultural manuring in this period (Sleap, 2016, Fig. 3). Fragments of late prehistoric – early Roman iron-working slag were recovered from the southern half of the site.

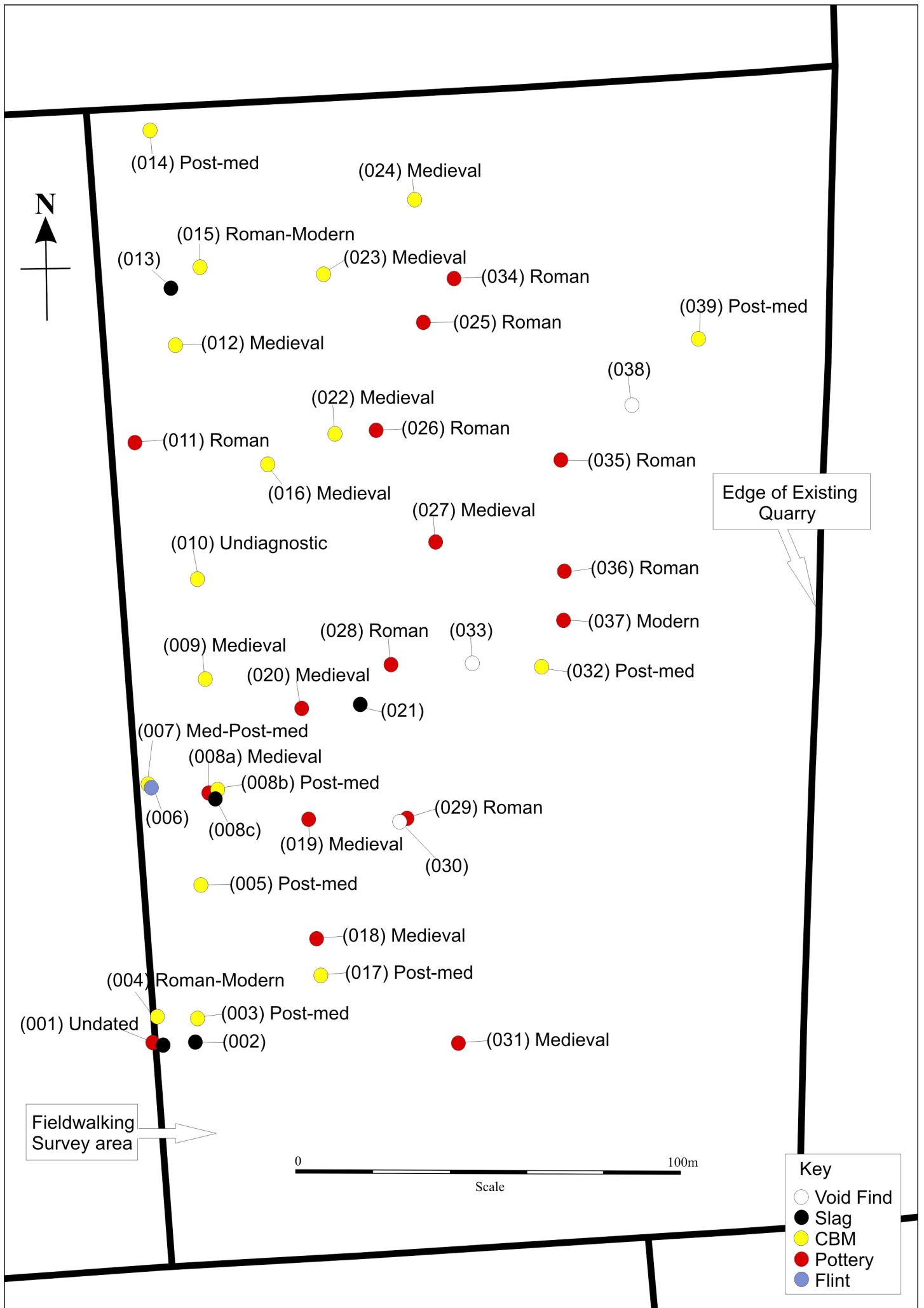


Figure 3: Plan of the fieldwalked area at scale 1:1250, showing the locations of all finds.

6.0 Methodology (fig. 4)

The evaluation was undertaken according to an approved Written Scheme of Investigation (Lane, 2016). Work was undertaken by R. Savage between 16th – 18th February 2016.

Ten trenches, measuring 40m by 2m were plotted and opened by machine, using a toothless bucket under archaeological supervision. Trenches were recorded by measured plan and representative section drawings were produced at appropriate scales (1:20 or 1:50). A written record of each significant stratigraphic horizon/deposit was made on standard PCAS context recording forms, supplemented by a narrative account in the form of a site diary. A digital photographic record, supplemented by colour slide and monochrome, was maintained during the course of the project.

No artefacts were recovered during the evaluation.

7.0 Results (fig: 4)

Trenches 1 - 10

Summary

All ten trenches were deemed archaeologically negative, exposing only natural limestone brash and deposits of sandy clay.

The earliest deposit encountered throughout the site comprised natural limestone brash with numerous solution features and irregular patches of mid-brown sandy clay. A possible subsoil was observed within Trenches 6 and 8. This material, a fine mid brown sandy clay approximately 0.25m thick appeared similar in composition to that which filled the voids within the brash and was probably naturally accumulated sands and forming an interface between the substrate and the overlying topsoil.

8.0 Discussion and Conclusion

The evaluation revealed only natural substrate and deposits of sandy clay filling solution features within a fractured brash. These naturally occurring features had been interpreted as possible pits during the geophysical survey (Bunn 2016).

No obvious variation in the natural substrata could account for a sinuous northwest - southeast linear anomaly picked up on the geophysical (Fig: 4a), although this may be in part due to the density of the limestone brash which in Trench 6 was noted as being divided between 'bedded' material and more fractured, gravels and loose brash.

9.0 Effectiveness of Methodology

Intrusive evaluation was an appropriate method for gathering further information about the sites archaeological potential. The body of data produced by this evaluation is considered sufficient to inform the planning and development process. The site is considered to be archaeologically sterile.

10.0 Project Archive

The site records, currently in the custody of PCAS, will be deposited with a printed copy of this report at North Lincolnshire Museum, where it can be accessed using the NLMS archaeology site code: MTDO. A digital copy of this report will be uploaded to OASIS, where it will be accessible via the ADS website.

11.0 Acknowledgements

Pre-Construct Archaeological Services would like to thank Hughes Craven Ltd for this commission.

12.0 References

Bunn, D., 2015, *Archaeological Geophysical Survey: Land at Manton, North Lincolnshire*. Report by Pre-Construct Geophysics

Ordnance Survey, 2012, *Ancholme Valley: Scunthorpe, Brigg and Barton-upon-Humber. Explorer 1:25 000 Series no. 281*. Ordnance Survey, Southampton.

Savage, R, D, 2015, *Land adjacent to Manton Quarry, Manton, North Lincolnshire: Specification for an Archaeological Fieldwalking Survey. PCAS job no. 1595*.

Sleap, J, 2016, *Land adjacent to Manton Quarry, Manton, North Lincolnshire: Results of Archaeological Fieldwalking. PCAS job no. 1595*

<http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html>

<http://www.heritagegateway.org.uk/gateway/>

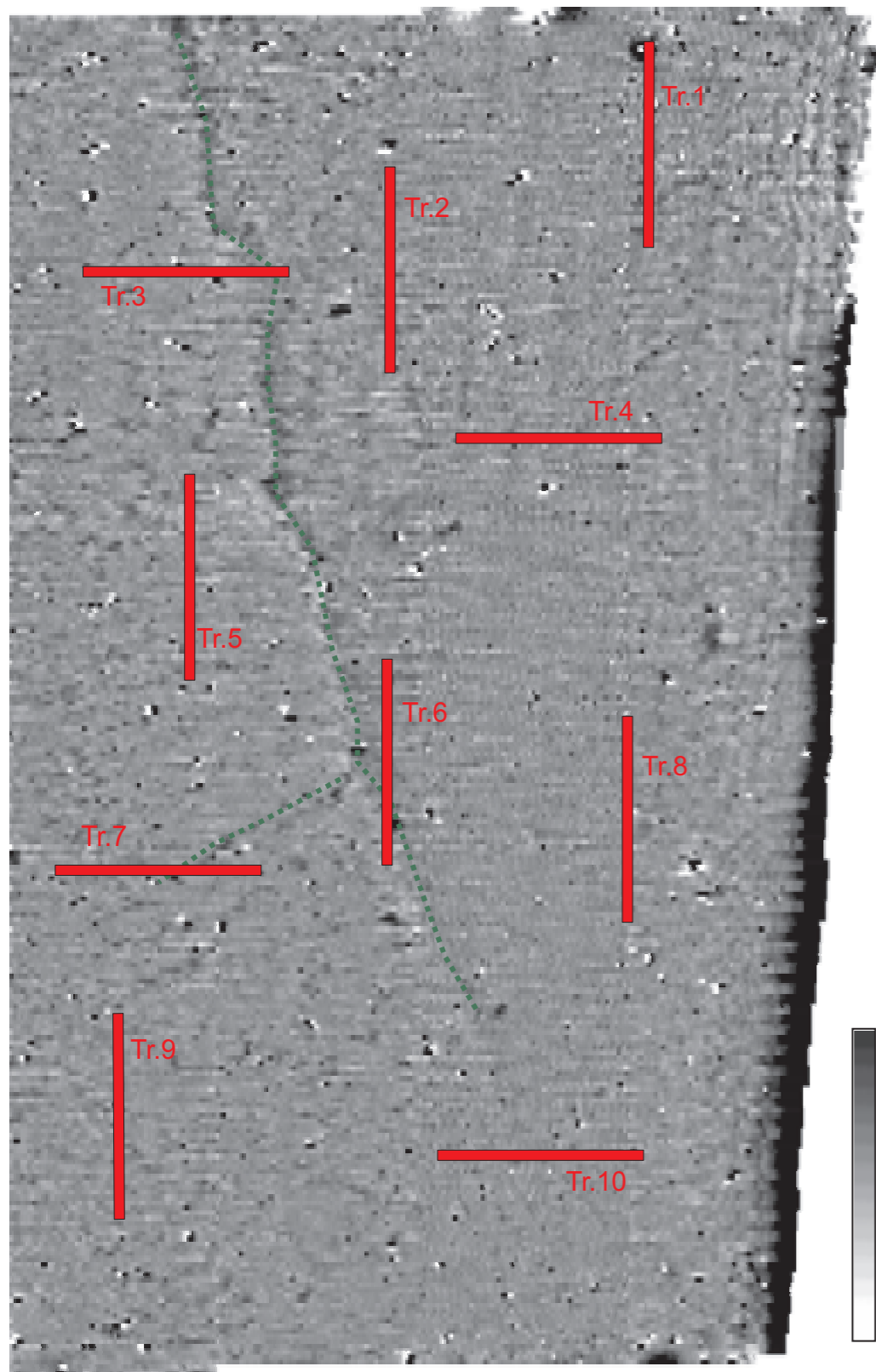


Figure 4a: Greyscale image of processed data

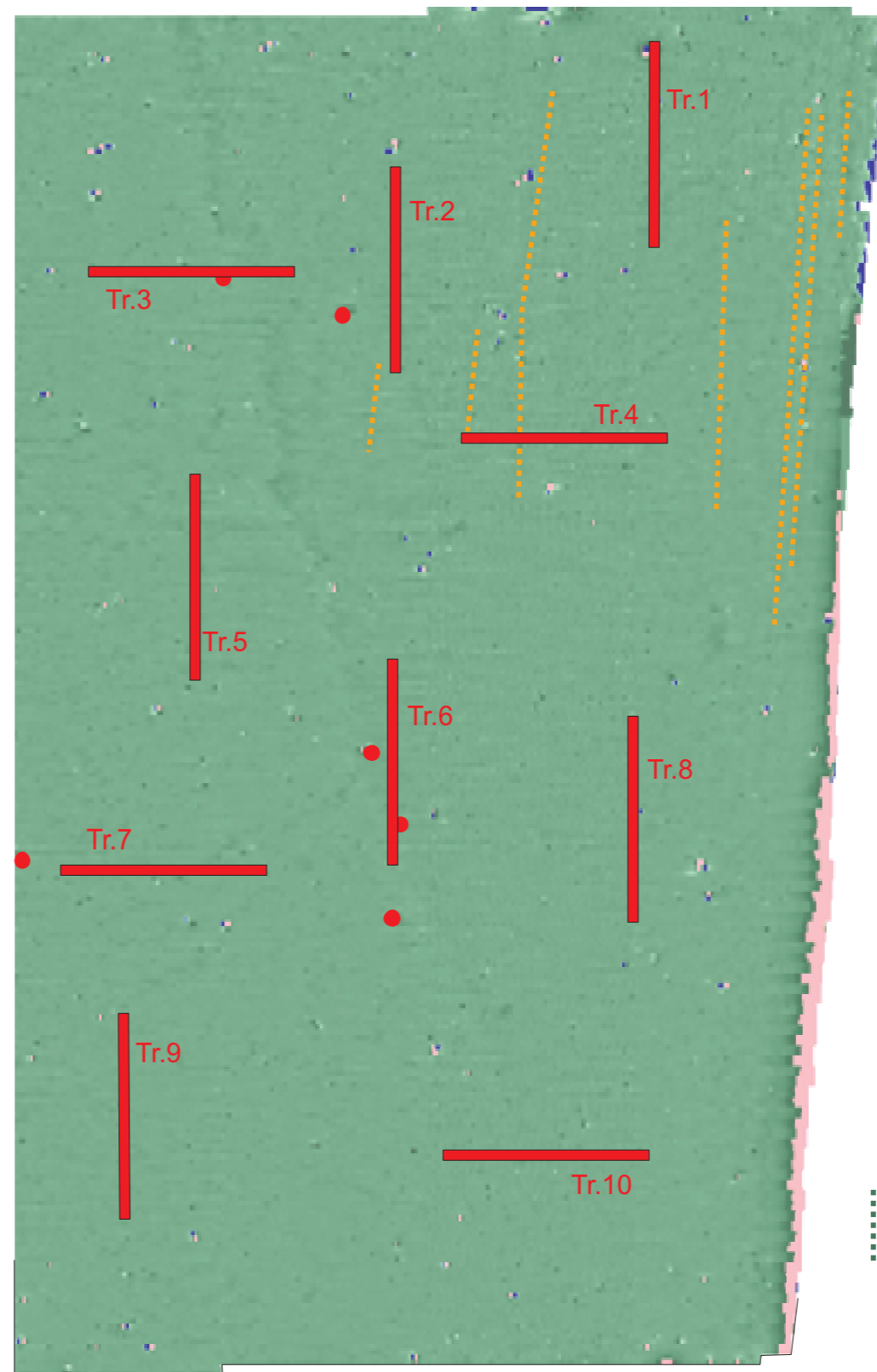


Figure 4b: Interpretation of Geophysics and Trench location

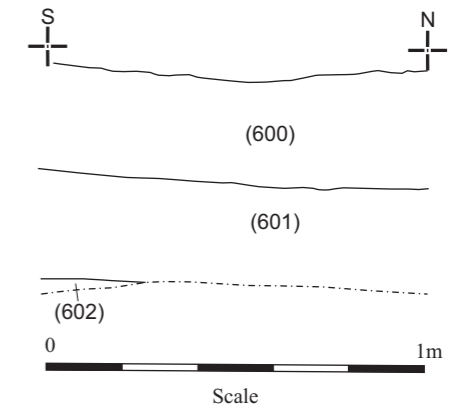


Figure 4c
Representative section Trench 6

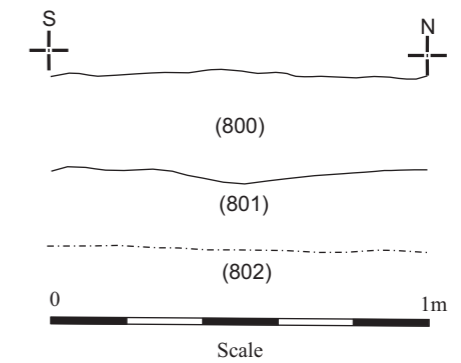


Figure 4d
Representative section Trench 8

- 40mx 2m trench location
- >Predominately modern (rubble, metal objects/fencing etc)
- Predominately natural, although archaeological remains typically produce weak magnetic anomalies within this range (e.g. ditches/pits). Exceptions include fired material (e.g. tile/pottery, kilns, hearths and other sites subject to intense heat).
- < Predominately modern (rubble, metal objects/fencing etc)
- Pit-type anomaly
- Cultivation

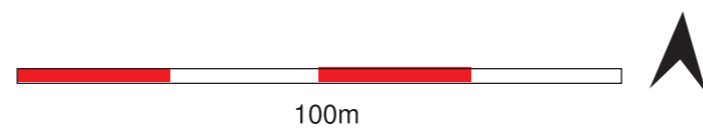


Figure 4: Trenching plan based on geophysics (Bunn, 2015) and representative sections at scale 1:1250 and 1:20.

Appendix 1: Colour Plates



Plate 1: General shot of site looking east-southeast.



Plate 2: General shot of site looking south-west.



Plate 3: Trench 1 looking north.



Plate 4: Trench 2 looking north.



Plate 5: Trench 6 looking north.



Plate 6: Excavated natural hollow within Trench 6 looking east.



Plate 7: Representative section of Trench 6 looking west.



Plate 8: Trench 8 looking north.



Plate 9: Representative section of Trench 8 looking west.

Appendix 2: Context Summary

Trench	Ctx	Type	Description	Dimensions
1	100	Layer	Mid grey-brown fine sandy clay topsoil. Frequent small limestone fragments.	0.4m thick
1	101	Layer	Natural light brown-grey sandy clay with frequent small limestone fragments.	
2	200	Layer	Mid grey-brown fine sandy clay topsoil. Frequent small limestone fragments.	0.4m thick
2	201	Layer	Natural limestone brash and patches of mid brown sandy clay.	
3	300	Layer	Mid grey-brown fine sandy clay topsoil. Frequent small limestone fragments.	0.5m thick
3	301	Layer	Natural limestone brash and patches of mid brown sandy clay.	
4	400	Layer	Mid grey-brown fine sandy clay topsoil. Occasional small limestone fragments.	0.4m thick
4	401	Layer	Natural light brown-grey clay sand with occasional patches of limestone brash.	
5	500	Layer	Mid grey-brown fine sandy clay topsoil. Frequent small limestone fragments.	0.33m thick
5	501	Layer	Natural limestone brash and deteriorated limestone gravels and sand.	
6	600	Layer	Mid grey-brown fine sandy clay topsoil. Frequent small limestone fragments.	0.4m thick
6	601	Layer	Mid brown plastic fine sandy clay. Possible subsoil-interface.	0.28m thick
6	602	Layer	Natural limestone brash and solution features filled by mid brown sandy clay.	
7	700	Layer	Mid grey-brown fine sandy clay topsoil. Frequent small limestone fragments.	0.4m thick
7	701	Layer	Natural limestone brash with small patches of brown clay sand.	
8	800	Layer	Mid grey-brown fine sandy clay topsoil. Frequent small limestone fragments.	0.3m thick
8	801	Layer	Mid brown, plastic, fine sandy clay. Subsoil-interface.	0.21 m thick
8	802	Layer	Natural light grey-brown fine sandy clay with occasional limestone patches.	
9	900	Layer	Mid grey-brown fine sandy clay topsoil. Frequent small limestone	0.35m thick

			fragments.	
9	901	Layer	Natural limestone brash with small patches of brown clay sand.	
10	1000	Layer	Mid grey-brown fine sandy clay topsoil. Frequent small limestone fragments.	0.45m thick
10	1001	Layer	Natural limestone brash with large patches of mid brown fine sandy clay.	

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