Millbrook Power, Bedfordshire

Archaeological Evaluation Report

May 2020

Client: DRAX Power

Issue No:	2
OA Report No:	2383
NGR:	TL 0183 4013

oxfordarchaeology

Client Name:	Drax Power Ltd
Document Title:	Millbrook Power, Bedfordshire
Document Type:	Evaluation Report
Report No.:	2383
Grid Reference:	TL 0183 4013
Site Code:	BEDFM2019.67
Invoice Code:	XBDMIP19
Receiving Body:	Bedford Museum
Accession No.:	BEDFM2019.67
OA Document File Location:	X:\Active Projects_Use KT\Bedfordshire\XBDMIP19\Project Reports
OA Graphics File Location:	X:\Active Projects_Use KT\Bedfordshire\XBDMIP19\Project Data\Graphics
Issue No:	2
Date:	March 2020
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Millbrook Power, Bedfordshire

Archaeological Evaluation Report

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Summary

Between 10th September and 2nd October 2019 Oxford Archaeology East (OAE) conducted an evaluation to the north of the village of Millbrook, Bedfordshire, on behalf of Drax Power Ltd. A total of 40 trenches were opened by machine, as part of a development consent order (DCO) for the Millbrook Power Scheme. The proposed development was for an electricity sub-station and a gas pipeline.

The evaluation revealed the continuation of a known Romano-British settlement in the north-west of the development area and scattered archaeological features of indeterminate date along the route of a proposed pipeline to the east and south-east.

The Romano-British activity was concentrated within the area of a proposed electricity sub-station, where Trenches 1-9 were located. The majority of features, which consisted of ditches, a pit and a posthole, were encountered in Trench 9. This part of the site was directly adjacent to a known farmstead, previously excavated by Albion Archaeology, which originated in the Middle Iron Age and continued in use until the Late Roman period. Romano-British features from the evaluation produced pottery dating to the 1st-2nd centuries AD (136 sherds, 682g) and animal bone.

A small number of features (seven in total) were found in the remaining 31 trenches, which were spread along the route of the proposed pipeline. All the features were undated and the only dating evidence from the pipeline trenches came from a layer in Trench 40, which contained post-medieval pottery, a single iron nail and two fragments of animal bone.

Acknowledgements

Oxford Archaeology would like to thank Drax Power Ltd for commissioning this project, as well as the Tompkins of Little Pillinge Farm and the Parishes of Manor Farm for kindly assisting with access. Thanks are also extended to Sławomir Utrata, who monitored the work on behalf of Central Bedfordshire Council Archaeology Team (CBCAT), and Wesley Keir of Albion Archaeology, for providing information on their works.

The project was managed for Oxford Archaeology by Nick Gilmour. The fieldwork was directed by Tom Collie & Tim Lewis who were supported by Tamara Hadnagyev, Kerree Kendall & Stephen Foster. Survey and digitising was carried out by Isobelle Ward. Thanks are also extended to the teams of OAE staff that cleaned and packaged the finds under the supervision of Natasha Dodwell, processed the environmental remains under the supervision of Rachel Fosberry and prepared the archive under the supervision of Katherine Hamilton.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Scope of work

1.1.1 OAE was commissioned by DRAX Power Ltd to undertake a trial trench evaluation on land near the village of Millbrook, Bedfordshire (centred TL 0183 4013; Fig. 1), proposed for the construction of a gas fired power station which will include a new power generation plant, an underground gas pipeline connection and an electrical connection sub-station. Part of the development area (the proposed location of the power station building) has been investigated previously (Albion Archaeology 2017) and this evaluation deals solely with the areas proposed for the gas pipeline connection and electrical sub-station.

1.1.2 The work was undertaken as required by Schedule 2, requirement 9 of the development consent order (DCO) for the Millbrook Power Scheme, which forms part of the pre-application process. A written scheme of investigation was produced by OA detailing Central Bedfordshire County Council's requirements for work necessary to inform the planning process. This document outlines how OA implemented the specified requirements.

1.2 Location, topography and geology

1.2.1 The area of proposed development consists of farmland. The northern part of the evaluation area is bounded to the west by Millbrook Station and Station Road. The pipeline route is bounded by open farmland to the east and west and crosses Millbrook Road.

1.2.2 The geology of the area is mapped as Peterborough Member Mudstone in the northern areas and undifferentiated deposits of Stewartby and Weymouth Mudstone in the south (http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html, accessed 30/10/2019).

1.2.3 The site sits at roughly 48m OD at its northern end, sloping upwards to 70m OD at its southern end. Some modern disturbance is present at the northern end of the site nearest to the clay quarry.

1.3 Archaeological and historical background

1.3.1 The following is a chronological summary of known heritage assets within 1km of the site. This is based on the WSI prepared by Blackbourn & Gilmour (2019) for OA East. Central Bedfordshire and Luton HER entries are listed in the text and referenced in Figure 2.

1.4 Prehistoric

1.4.1 Very little evidence from the prehistoric period has been identified within the vicinity of the development area. Three Mesolithic worked flints have been recovered during fieldwalking, these include a flake 900m south-east of the site (BHER 7468), a flint blade 400m east of the site (BHER 7485) and a worked flint 750m east of the site (BHER 7486; not illustrated).

1.4.2 Evidence for a ring ditch dating to the Bronze Age has been identified 300m south of the northern part of the scheme via cropmarks (BHER 16566).

1.4.3 Recent excavation within the larger development area revealed four Bronze Age burnt mounds (Albion Archaeology 2017) although no dateable finds were recovered during the excavation of these features.

1.5 Iron Age and Roman

1.5.1 Within the wider development area an excavation has revealed the remains of a Middle Iron Age to Romano-British settlement directly to the north-east of Trenches 1-9 of the current evaluation (EBD 1172 and Albion Archaeology 2017). This enclosed settlement comprised ditches, pits, roundhouses and postholes and was bordered by a palaeochannel thought to be broadly contemporary. Finds recovered from the features on site included a large quantity of pottery, animal bone, ceramic building material (CBM), quern fragments and a leather shoe.

1.5.2 Late Iron Age and Roman pottery sherds have been recovered 1km to the north-west within isolated excavated features (EBD 102) and may suggest the presence of settlement of this date in the area.

1.5.3 A Roman road is suggested to have run through the parish of Millbrook (BHER 5020) with the route of a second Roman road thought to be located 1km south-east of the southern end of the site (BHER 5158).

1.5.4 Only two Roman finds have been recovered from the area, a small fragment of Roman quern 400m east of the site (BHER 7485) and a Roman coin of Tiberius 1km to the south (BHER 18358; not illustrated).

1.6 Anglo-Saxon

1.6.1 Anglo-Saxon remains were recorded during excavations within Ampthill Park to the south-east (BHER 18265). These remains comprised structural remains including beam slots and evidence of partitions that yielded a small quantity of Anglo-Saxon pottery and animal bone.

1.6.2 At the south-east edge of Marston Moretaine (1km north-west of the site) extensive evidence for Saxon activity has been recorded (EBD 102, 665). Features identified included a large area of intercutting pits, ditches and postholes representing boundaries. The finds recovered were typical of the period comprising Anglo-Saxon pottery, animal bone, loom weights, a worked bone comb, metalwork and daub.

1.7 Medieval and post-medieval

1.7.1 Millbrook village is believed to have medieval origins with a loose scatter of dwellings focused on two parallel roads and the church isolated on higher ground between them (BHER 16996). St Michaels Church is located approximately 725m from the southern end of the development area (BHER 923). The church is thought to have 13th century origins with much of the current building dating to the 15th century (the north aisle, the tower and the chancel).

1.7.2 At the northern end of the scheme, 350m to the north-west, is the location of Marston Pillinge medieval settlement, once aligned along a north to south road (BHER 17038). A possible DMV, evidenced by visible earthworks, has also been recorded immediately to the west of the northern part of the scheme (BHER 8330).

1.7.3 A possible moat has been recorded immediately west of the northern part of the site (BHER 3270). This possible moat remains as an earthwork representing a square arrangement of ditches around an orchard.

1.7.4 Ampthill Castle is located 1km south-east of the southern end of the development area (BHER 810). Built in the early 15th century, the property was later passed to Henry VIII and was the residence of Katherine of Aragon; it was later demolished in 1649. The Castle is surrounded by Ampthill Park (BHER 1369) covering an area of 140ha. This park comprises a deer park which originated in the 15th century with the parkland becoming landscaped in the 18th century.

1.7.5 A small number of find spots dating to the medieval period have been recorded. A gold pendant recovered 1km south-east of the site (BHER 15419) dates to the 14th century and is of French origin. A medieval harness pendant was recovered to the south-west (BHER 18488) dating to the 13th to 14th century and 300m to the west a coin dating to the 13th century was recovered (BHER 18536).

1.7.6 Medieval ridge and furrow have been recorded 1.8km to the north-west (BHER 2791) and to the west of the site (BHER 5449). Cropmarks thought to represent a field system dating to the medieval to post-medieval periods also lies within the southern part of the development area (BHER 14743).

1.7.7 Mills have been recorded in the area, including the site of a medieval mill located 500m south-west of the southern part of the scheme (BHER 3163), although this is based on conjectural evidence. The site of a mill (BHER 2630) dating to the 18th century is located 500m south of the northern part of the site and is thought to have been demolished in 1762. A watermill is tentatively located 500m west of the development area (BHER 2798) and is thought to date to before the 17th century.

1.7.8 Fieldwalking identified a brick and tile scatter 350m south-east of the site dating to the 18th and 19th centuries (BHER 7484).

1.7.9 A post-medieval quarry is visible as an earthwork 1km south-west of the southern end of the site (BHER 2976).

1.8 Modern

1.8.1 Immediately north of the development area is Rookery pit (BHER 6681), a clay extraction pit dating to the 20th century.

1.9 Undated Cropmarks

1.9.1 An undated earthwork is recorded 700m south of the southern end of the development area (BHER 2975). This linear earthwork can be seen on the 1880s Ordnance Survey map and takes the form of a contour ditch around a spur of land and may represent a track or a path.

1.9.2 Immediately to the east of the site two parallel cropmarks have been recorded with a single linear cropmark crossing over it (BHER 4469).

2 AIMS AND METHODOLOGY

2.1 Aims

2.1.1 The project aims and objectives were as follows:

i. establish the presence or absence of archaeological remains on the site, characterise where they are found (location, depth and extent), and establish the quality of preservation of any archaeology and environmental remains in order to determine or confirm the approximate date or date range of any remains, by means of artefactual or other evidence.
ii. provide sufficient coverage to establish the character, condition, date and purpose of any archaeological deposits.
iii. provide sufficient coverage to evaluate the likely impact of past land uses, and the possible presence of masking deposits.
iv. provide – in the event that archaeological remains are found – sufficient information to construct an archaeological mitigation strategy, dealing with preservation, the recording of archaeological deposits, working practices, timetables, and orders of cost.

2.2 Methodology

2.2.1 A total of 40 trenches measuring 40m x 2m were excavated, equivalent to 5% of the development area. The location of two trenches was changed during the evaluation: Trench 6 as it was wholly within the access track and Trench 7 as it was within a wooded area. A further three trenches were modified. Trenches 2 and 7 were reoriented to avoid fence lines while several meters in the middle of Trench 40 were left unexcavated due to the location of buried services not marked on the service plans.

2.2.2 The trenches were set out by a survey-grade differential GPS (Leica GS08) fitted with "smartnet" technology with an accuracy of 5mm horizontal and 10mm vertical. Before excavation each trench was scanned by a qualified and experienced operator using a CAT and Genny with a valid calibration certificate.

2.2.3 Trial trenches were excavated by a mechanical excavator equipped with a toothless ditching bucket with a minimum width of 2m. Trenches were excavated to the upper interface of archaeological features, deposits or geological horizons, whichever was encounter first. All machine excavation was supervised by a suitably qualified and experienced archaeologist.

2.2.4 Overburden was excavated in spits not greater than 0.1m thick with spoil stored alongside trenches. Topsoil, subsoil, and archaeological deposits were kept separate, allowing for sequential backfilling of excavations after approval from the Central Bedfordshire County Archaeologists.

2.2.5 The depth and nature of the colluvial deposits was established across the site. The top of the first archaeological deposit was cleared by machine, then cleaned off by hand with exposed surfaces cleaned by trowel and hoe to locate features and deposits.

2.2.6 All archaeological features were investigated and recorded to provide an accurate evaluation of archaeological potential, whilst at the same time minimising disturbance to archaeological structures, features, and deposits. All relationships between features or deposits were investigated and recorded. Evaluation characterised the full archaeological sequence down to undisturbed natural deposits. In consultation with the Central Bedfordshire archaeologist, test slots were excavated in several natural features to demonstrate they were of natural origin. These test slots were not assigned context numbers.

2.2.7 All excavation of archaeological deposits was done by hand with all discrete features half sectioned and a 1m slot excavated through all linear features.

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 that contained archaeological remains. The full details of all trenches with dimensions and depths of all deposits can be found in Appendix A. Finds data and spot dates are tabulated in Appendix B. Environmental data is reported in Appendix C. Trenches that lacked any archaeological features (10, 12-18, 21, 22, 24-28, 30-32 & 34-39; see Plates 3 and 8) will not be further discussed. Trenches measured 40m long unless stated otherwise. Test slots were excavated through several natural features, but they were not assigned context numbers.

3.2 General soils and ground conditions

3.2.1 The soil sequence in trenches showed little variation. The natural geology of sandy clay mudstone was overlain by a clayey silt subsoil with an average depth of 0.28m, which in turn was overlain by ploughsoil with an average depth of 0.32m.

3.2.2 Ground conditions throughout the evaluation were generally good, with infrequent showers causing few problems. 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 1-9, 19, 20, 23, 29, 33 & 40. Trenches 1-9 were located in the area of the proposed electrical sub-station area. Archaeologically they formed a distinct zone fringing the Romano-British settlement partially excavated by Albion Archaeology between 2011-2015.

3.3.2 The remaining trenches covered the proposed gas pipeline route and contained disparate and isolated features.

3.4 The sub-station area

Trench 1 (Fig. 3, plate 1)

3.4.1 A 30m north-west to south-east aligned trench contained no features of definite archaeological origin. However, it did contain a large paleochannel at the north-west end. A section of this was excavated by machine, which revealed several naturally accumulated fills that did not display any evidence of human interaction (Fig. 12, Section 29).

Trench 2 (Fig. 3 and 5)

3.4.2 Aligned north-west to south-east, Trench 2 was located 75m north-east of Trench 1, also contained a large paleochannel. In the eastern half of the trench was a small undated oval pit (**48**) measuring 0.65m long, 0.42m wide and 0.22m deep with a fill (49) of dark greyish brown silty clay.

Trench 3 (Fig. 3 and 5)

3.4.3 Measuring 38m long and aligned north-east to south-west, Trench 3 contained five undated features, consisting of three discrete pits (**59**, **61** and **63**) and two intercutting pits (**66** and **69**). All five pits were steep sided with concave bases.

3.4.4 Oval pit **59** measured 0.45m x 0.6m and was 0.15m deep with a single fill (60) of firm mid greyish brown silty clay. Pits **61** and **63** measured 0.63-0.65m wide and 0.15m deep and were filled by 62 and 64 respectively, a mid greyish brown silty clay. Pit **69**, which measured 0.97m wide and 0.44m deep contained a basal fill (71) of loose mid greyish orange silty clay and an upper fill (70) of soft dark greyish brown silty clay. This pit was cut by pit **66**, an irregular sub-circular pit measuring 1.11m wide and 0.35m deep. It was filled by (68), a loose dark greyish brown silty clay with an upper fill (67) of soft dark greyish brown silty clay (Figure 12 Section 28). Both of these intercutting pits extended beyond the eastern limit of excavation, meaning that their true extent is unknown.

Trench 4 (Fig. 3 and 5)

3.4.5 Two features were investigated within Trench 4, which was orientated north to south. To the north was a small sub-rectangular pit (**41**) or ditch terminus (the feature continued beyond the limit of excavation), measuring 0.45m wide and 0.14m deep with steep sides and a concave base. It contained a basal fill (42) of mid blueish grey firm silty clay and an upper fill (43) of mid reddish brown silty clay with occasional small sub angular stone.

3.4.6 Further south was a sub-circular pit (**44**) measuring 0.5m wide and 0.13m deep with gradually sloping sides and a concave base. It contained a single fill (45) of dark greyish brown firm silty clay.

Trench 5 (Fig. 3 and 4)

3.4.7 Trench 5, which was orientated north-west to south-east, contained one ditch (**20**; Fig. 12, Section 11) and three paleochannels. The paleochannels varied in alignment from roughly north to south, to north-east to south-west. Test slots (not numbered) were excavated through these to show that they were natural features. None of these showed any evidence of human activity.

3.4.8 Ditch **20**, aligned north-east south-west, measured 3.45m wide and 0.45m deep with gently sides and a concave base. It contained seven fills including a basal fill (21) of well compacted mid reddish-brown silty clay with frequent gravel inclusions. Fill 22 was a light orangey grey firm silty clay with occasional sub-angular and sub-rounded stones and rare charcoal flecks. Both were sealed by fill 23, a mid reddish-brown silty clay with frequent gravel and rare charcoal flecks. The remaining deposits (24, 25, 26 and 27) formed the upper fills. Eight fragments of animal bone (horse and cattle where identifiable) were recovered from upper fills 24, 26 and 27 (479g; Appendix C.2).

Trench 6 (Fig. 3 and 5)

3.4.9 Three shallow pits measuring 0.35-0.68m wide and 0.11-0.13m deep were excavated within this north to south orientated trench. A sub-rectangular pit (**57**) was centrally located in the trench with a single fill of mid grey plastic silty clay and rare sub-angular stone inclusions.

3.4.10 Further south was a circular pit (**55**) containing a mid-blueish grey plastic silty clay fill (56) and a sub-rectangular pit (**53**) containing a dark greyish brown plastic silty clay fill (54).

Trench 7 (Fig. 3 and 4)

3.4.11 Trench 7 measured 30m long and was orientated north-west to south-east. No archaeological features were present; however, a large paleochannel on a roughly east to west alignment occupied the southern 8m of the trench. A test slot (not numbered) demonstrated that this was found to be shallow and lacked any evidence of human activity.

Trench 8 (Fig. 3 and 4)

3.4.12 Orientated north-east to south-west, Trench 8 contained only one ditch (**16**), which truncated an in-filled paleochannel. Ditch **16** was orientated north to south, measuring 0.98m wide and 0.09m deep with gently sloping sides and an irregular base. Its single fill (17), a light whiteish grey silty sand with occasional sub-angular stone inclusions, contained a single sherd (5g) of Late Iron Age pottery (Appendix B.2).

Trench 9 (Fig. 3 and 4)

3.4.13 Trench 9 was orientated north-west to south-east and contained six ditches, one pit and one posthole, mostly dating to the Romano-British period.

3.4.14 At the south-eastern end of the trench was the terminus of a north-east south-west orientated ditch (**18**). It extended 0.75m into the trench and measured 0.72m wide and 0.23m deep with a U-shaped profile. Its single fill (19) of friable dark greyish brown silt contained Roman pottery (27 sherds, 134g) dated to the 2nd century AD. An environmental sample contained charcoal and a single cereal grain that is too heavily abraded for positive identification (Appendix C.1).

3.4.15 Further north-west lay ditch **37** (Fig. 12, Section 13)**,** a north-east to south-west aligned ditch, measuring 1.28m wide and 0.21m deep with steep sides, a flat base and a fill (38) of mid orangey grey soft clayey silt with occasional charcoal flecks. One small sherd (1g) of 1st-2nd century pottery was recovered.

3.4.16 Ditch **37** was truncated by a curvilinear ditch (**30**) measuring 0.33m wide and 0.21m deep with steep sides and a concave base (Fig. 12, Section 13). It contained a dark brownish grey soft clayey silt (31), which produced Romano-British pottery dating from the mid 1st to early 2nd century AD (13 sherds, 60g) and a small fragment of animal bone (2g). An environmental sample contained a small quantity of relatively well-preserved molluscs.

3.4.17 Ditch **30** was truncated by pit **28**, (figure 12 section 12) a sub circular pit measuring up to 0.39m wide and 0.1m deep. Pit **28** contained two fills (29 and 32) which produced a total of 66 sherds (288g) of pottery spanning the Romano-British period, along with a fragment of animal bone (74g). An environmental sample contained only rare charcoal.

3.4.18 Ditch **50** was in the centre of the trench, aligned north to south (Fig. 12, Section 21). It measured 0.45m wide and 0.27m deep with steep sides and a concave base A basal fill (52) of mid brownish grey silty clay was sealed by an upper fill (51) of dark brownish grey silty clay. Both fills produced Romano-British pottery (24 sherds, 155g), mostly dating to the 1st and 2nd centuries. An environmental from the upper fill contained a single dock seed and a possible wild basil seed (Appendix C.1).

3.4.19 A Posthole (**46**) was located in the north-western end of the trench. Measuring 0.32m wide and 0.08m deep, it was filled by a dark brownish grey silty clay (47) with occasional small sub-angular stone and rare charcoal flecks. The posthole contained two very small sherds (1g) of Post-medieval pottery.

3.4.20 At the very northern end of the trench were two intercutting ditches. The earliest (35) was aligned north-west to south-east, measured 0.3m wide and 0.1m deep and was filled with a soft mid greyish brown silty clay (36). It was truncated by a slightly larger ditch 33, which measured 0.62m wide and 0.29m deep and was also orientated north-west to south-east. Its single fill (34) comprised a mid greyish brown soft silty clay with sub-angular stone inclusions and rare charcoal flecks. Ditch 33 produced three sherds (43g) of Romano-British pottery and four fragments of animal bone (517g) including a cattle femur and calcaneus. An environmental sample from the ditch contained only rare charcoal.

3.5 The pipeline area

Trench 11 (Fig. 6)

3.5.1 Located in the northern part of the pipeline area, Trench 11 was orientated ENE-WSW. Two small pits were investigated in Trench 11 (Plate 2), the first being a sub-circular pit (**7**), measuring 0.87m wide and 0.12m deep with steep sides and a flat base. Its single fill (8) comprised a mid greyish brown silty clay. The second pit (**9**), which was circular in plan, measured 1.23m wide and 0.15m deep with steep sides and an irregular base. Four modern field drains present in this trench were not excavated.

Trench 19 (Fig. 7, Plate 4)

3.5.2 Trench 19 was orientated NNW-SSE and contained a single sub-circular posthole (**11**), measuring 0.35m wide and 0.12m deep with steep sides and an irregular base. Its fill (12) was a compacted dark brownish black silty clay which was similar to the subsoil.

Trench 20 (Fig. 7, Plate 5)

3.5.3 Trench 20 measured 37m long trench, aligned NNW-SSE. It contained a single undated sub-circular pit (**39**) measuring 0.75m wide, 0.45m long and 0.11m deep. It contained a fill (40) of firm mid greyish brown silty clay with occasional sub angular stone.

Trench 23 (Fig. 8, Plate 6)

3.5.4 Trench 23, which was orientated north-west to south-east, contained one ditch (**5**), located in the centre of the trench. Aligned ENE-WSW, ditch **5** measured 0.93m wide and 0.23m deep with steep sides and a flat base. It contained a single dumped fill (6) of dark grey silty clay with occasional sub angular stone and rare burnt clay inclusions.

Trench 29 (Fig. 9, Plate 7)

3.5.5 Trench 29, to the north of Millbrook Road, was aligned north-east to south-west. At the southern end was a single sub-circular pit (**1**) measuring 0.72m wide and 0.12m deep. The single fill (2) of dark greyish brown silty clay contained frequent charcoal and a sample was taken for assessment. From this sample, 8L were processed and found to contain little of significance beyond a small quantity of charcoal.

Trench 33 (Fig. 10, Plate 9)

3.5.6 Immediately north of Millbrook Road, Trench 33 contained one small north-west to south-east orientated gully (**3**), visible for 1.27m from the centre of the trench to the eastern limit of excavation. It measured 0.56m wide and 0.1m deep and was filled with a friable dark greyish brown silty clay (4) containing occasional small stones and rare charcoal flecks.

Trench 40 (Fig. 11)

3.5.7 Located to the south of Millbrook Road, Trench 40 was orientated NNE-SSW (Plates 10a and 10b). It contained a single curvilinear ditch, although the presence of a gas main within the footprint of the trench necessitated an exclusion zone, which meant the ditch could not be excavated.

3.5.8 Two other deposits were identified in Trench 40. Layer 15 was interpreted as a post-medieval deposit of dark grey clay with occasional stones, from which a single iron nail (Appendix B.1), three fragments of animal bone (45g) and post-medieval pottery (9 sherds, 217g; Appendix B.3) were recovered. This deposit was 0.07m thick and spread across 18m of the trench. Also present was layer 14, a 0.2m thick layer of dark greyish brown silty clay with frequent sub-rounded stones and rare charcoal flecks. This deposit produced a small quantity of modern CBM and animal bone.

3.6 Finds summary

3.6.1 A single, incomplete, iron nail (Appendix B.1) recovered from layer 15 in Trench 40 is likely to relate to post-medieval activity, as are the five fragments of CBM (weight 0.155kg; Appendix B.3) recovered from layer 14 in the same trench.

3.6.2 The bulk of the pottery (136 sherds, 682g) dated to the Early-Mid Romano-British period, with the entire assemblage coming from features in Trench 9 (Appendix B.2). A single sherd (5g) of Late Iron Age pottery was recovered from the fill (17) of ditch **16** in Trench 8. Post-medieval pottery was recovered from a posthole (**46**) in Trench 9 and a layer (15) in Trench 40; in total, 10 sherds weighing 218g were recovered. Layer 15 in Trench 40 produced the bulk of the post-medieval assemblage (9 sherds, 0.217kg), which dated from the mid 16th to the end of the 18th century.

3.6.3 Seventeen fragments of animal bone (1117g; Appendix C.2) were recovered from across the site, primarily from Trenches 1-9 and Trench 40. Sheep/goat, cattle and horse bones were identified within the assemblage, which is considered to be poorly preserved and fragmentary.

4 DISCUSSION

4.1 Reliability of field investigation

4.1.1 Despite the conditions at the time of excavation and difficulty positioning some trenches due to the ground cover the results are deemed to be reliable.

4.2 Evaluation objectives and results

4.2.1 The project aims and objectives defined in the WSI (Blackbourn & Gilmour 2019) are listed in Section 2.1. The following statements outline the remains encountered on the site and how these help in achieving those objectives.

4.2.2 Archaeological features were encountered in fourteen out of forty trenches. The majority of features were clustered in the sub-station area to the north-west with a smaller number of features along the route of the pipeline.

4.2.3 The paucity of artefacts recovered from the features in the pipeline trenches can only be used as tentative dating evidence. However, the assemblage of Romano-British pottery (136 sherds, 682g) from features in Trench 9 (ditches **18**, **30**, **33**, **37** and **50**, pit **28** and the single sherd (5g) of Late Iron Age pottery from ditch **16** in Trench 8, provide convincing dates for these features.

4.2.4 The sparse faunal material and plant remains recovered during the evaluation indicates that the potential for the survival of faunal remains and plant material is low.

4.3 Interpretation

4.3.1 The evidence for Romano-British occupation in the north-west of the study area was anticipated based on the results of earlier work carried out by Albion Archaeology to the immediate north-east (Albion Archaeology 2017). A large farmstead (covering at most of the 4.6ha excavation area) was discovered, originating in the Middle Iron Age and continuing in use until the Late Roman period. Elements of the Romano-British field-system, including enclosure/boundary ditches, clearly extended westwards beyond the north-western edge of the excavation area, particularly in the area adjacent to Trench 9 of the current evaluation (Fig. 13). This correlates with the cluster of Romano-British features in Trench 9, whilst the form of the features encountered (boundary ditches, a pit and a posthole) is consistent with what was found to the north-east. Further south, adjacent to Trenches 3, 6 and 7, it was less clear that the farmstead extended into the current evaluation area. The Romano-British pottery, all of which came from Trench 9, dates mostly to the 1st and 2nd centuries AD. The dominance of domestic wares and low evidence for abrasion on the sherds suggest they are in their primary location of discard or deposition.

4.3.2 The presence of a single sherd of Late Iron Age pottery in Trench 8 bolsters the evidence of occupation in the area spanning at least the Iron Age and Romano-British periods.

4.3.3 Features in the pipeline area totalled four small pits, two ditches and a posthole. All were undated and were scattered across seven out of 31 trenches (Trenches 11, 19, 20, 23, 29, 33 and 40, with large areas devoid of archaeological features. The only

dating evidence came from layer 15 in Trench 40, which contained post-medieval pottery (9 sherds, 217g), a single iron nail and two fragments of animal bone.

4.4 Significance

4.4.1 The low density of features in the pipeline area suggests there is little of significance in these areas. However, the activity within Trenches 1-9, and prevalence of Romano-British domestic pottery types in the assemblage represents a continuation of the settlement to the north-east, encountered during an earlier excavation by Albion Archaeology.

APPENDIX A TRENCH DESCRIPTIONS AND CONTEXT INVENTORY

A.1 Trench Descriptions

Trench 1		
General description	**Orientation**	NW-SE
Trench devoid of archaeology, although there was a paleochannel. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of silty clay.	**Length (m)**	37
	Width (m)	2
	Avg. depth (m)	0.95
Trench 2		
General description	**Orientation**	NW-SE
One small pit **48** with a paleochannel to the west. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of silty clay.	**Length (m)**	40
	Width (m)	2
	Avg. depth (m)	0.70
Trench 3		
General description	**Orientation**	NE-SW
Five pits recorded in this trench **59**, **61**, **63**, **66** and **69**. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of silty clay.	**Length (m)**	37
	Width (m)	2
	Avg. depth (m)	0.52
Trench 4		
General description	**Orientation**	N-S
Two pits, **41** and **44**. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of silty clay.	**Length (m)**	40
	Width (m)	2
	Avg. depth (m)	0.70
Trench 5		
General description	**Orientation**	NW-SE
Single large ditch **20**. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of silty clay. A single paleochannel was present in this trench.	**Length (m)**	38
	Width (m)	2
	Avg. depth (m)	0.92
Trench 6		
General description	**Orientation**	N-S
Three pits **53**, **55** and **57.** Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of silty clay with sandy patches.	**Length (m)**	40
	Width (m)	2
	Avg. depth (m)	0.70
Trench 7		
General description	**Orientation**	NW-SE
Trench devoid of archaeology but has paleochannel to southern extent. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of silty sand.	**Length (m)**	29
	Width (m)	2
	Avg. depth (m)	0.45
Trench 8		
General description	**Orientation**	NE-SW
Single ditch **16** cutting paleochannel. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of silty sand.	**Length (m)**	34
	Width (m)	2
	Avg. depth (m)	0.75

Trench 9		
General description	**Orientation**	NW-SE
Pit **28**, posthole **46** and several ditches – **18**, **30**, **37**, **50**, **33** & **35**. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of silty clay.	**Length (m)**	31
	Width (m)	2
	Avg. depth (m)	0.52
Trench 10		
General description	**Orientation**	NW-SE
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of silty clay.	**Length (m)**	36
	Width (m)	2
	Avg. depth (m)	0.76
Trench 11		
General description	**Orientation**	E-W
Two small pits (**7**) and (**9**) cut into the subsoil. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of silty sand.	**Length (m)**	39
	Width (m)	2
	Avg. depth (m)	0.83
Trench 12		
General description	**Orientation**	NW-SE
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of silty clay.	**Length (m)**	35
	Width (m)	2
	Avg. depth (m)	0.62
Trench 13		
General description	**Orientation**	NE-SW
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of silty clay.	**Length (m)**	39
	Width (m)	2
	Avg. depth (m)	0.85
Trench 14		
General description	**Orientation**	N-S
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of silty clay.	**Length (m)**	38
	Width (m)	2
	Avg. depth (m)	1.0
Trench 15		
General description	**Orientation**	NW-SE
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of silty clay.	**Length (m)**	39
	Width (m)	2
	Avg. depth (m)	1.0
Trench 16		
General description	**Orientation**	NW-SE
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of silty clay.	**Length (m)**	39
	Width (m)	2
	Avg. depth (m)	0.44
Trench 17		
General description	**Orientation**	NW-SE
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of silty clay.	**Length (m)**	38
	Width (m)	2
	Avg. depth (m)	0.45

Trench 18		
General description	**Orientation**	NW-SE
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of silty clay.	**Length (m)**	38
	Width (m)	2
	Avg. depth (m)	0.32
Trench 19		
General description	**Orientation**	E-W
Single small pit (**11**). Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of silty clay.	**Length (m)**	37
	Width (m)	2
	Avg. depth (m)	0.37
Trench 20		
General description	**Orientation**	NW-SE
Single pit (**39**). Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of silty clay.	**Length (m)**	37
	Width (m)	2
	Avg. depth (m)	0.57
Trench 21		
General description	**Orientation**	NW-SE
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of silty clay.	**Length (m)**	37
	Width (m)	2
	Avg. depth (m)	0.60
Trench 22		
General description	**Orientation**	NW-SE
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of silty clay.	**Length (m)**	37
	Width (m)	2
	Avg. depth (m)	0.6
Trench 23		
General description	**Orientation**	E-W
Small ditch (**5**), only feature found apart from modern field drains. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of silty clay.	**Length (m)**	30
	Width (m)	2
	Avg. depth (m)	0.30
Trench 24		
General description	**Orientation**	NW-SE
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of silty clay.	**Length (m)**	37
	Width (m)	2
	Avg. depth (m)	0.80
Trench 25		
General description	**Orientation**	NW-SE
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of silty clay.	**Length (m)**	38
	Width (m)	2
	Avg. depth (m)	0.70
Trench 26		
General description	**Orientation**	N-S
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of silty clay.	**Length (m)**	39
	Width (m)	2
	Avg. depth (m)	0.9

Trench 27		
General description	**Orientation**	NW-SE
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of silty clay.	**Length (m)**	37
	Width (m)	2
	Avg. depth (m)	0.65
Trench 28		
General description	**Orientation**	N-S
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of silty clay.	**Length (m)**	39
	Width (m)	2
	Avg. depth (m)	0.51
Trench 29		
General description	**Orientation**	NE-SW
Single pit (**1**) excavated within trench. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of silty clay.	**Length (m)**	39
	Width (m)	2
	Avg. depth (m)	0.56
Trench 30		
General description	**Orientation**	N-S
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of silty clay.	**Length (m)**	39
	Width (m)	2
	Avg. depth (m)	0.65
Trench 31		
General description	**Orientation**	NW-SE
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of silty clay.	**Length (m)**	38
	Width (m)	2
	Avg. depth (m)	0.70
Trench 32		
General description	**Orientation**	NW-SE
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of silty clay.	**Length (m)**	36
	Width (m)	2
	Avg. depth (m)	0.75
Trench 33		
General description	**Orientation**	NE-SW
Single undated ditch cut into the subsoil layer. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of silty clay.	**Length (m)**	40
	Width (m)	2
	Avg. depth (m)	0.78
Trench 34		
General description	**Orientation**	NE-SW
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of silty clay.	**Length (m)**	40
	Width (m)	2
	Avg. depth (m)	0.70
Trench 35		
General description	**Orientation**	NW-SE
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of silty clay.	**Length (m)**	37
	Width (m)	2
	Avg. depth (m)	0.60

Trench 36		
General description	**Orientation**	NE-SW
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of silty clay.	**Length (m)**	38
	Width (m)	2
	Avg. depth (m)	0.80
Trench 37		
General description	**Orientation**	NW-SE
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of silty clay.	**Length (m)**	40
	Width (m)	2
	Avg. depth (m)	0.80
Trench 38		
General description	**Orientation**	E-W
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of silty clay.	**Length (m)**	38
	Width (m)	2
	Avg. depth (m)	0.6
Trench 39		
General description	**Orientation**	NW-SE
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of silty clay.	**Length (m)**	38
	Width (m)	2
	Avg. depth (m)	0.55
Trench 40		
General description	**Orientation**	NE-SW
Trench has 2 layers containing post-medieval artefacts and one unexcavated (and therefore not numbered) ditch. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of silty clay.	**Length (m)**	37
	Width (m)	2
	Avg. depth (m)	0.70

Table 1: Trench descriptions

A.2 Context Inventory

Context	Trench	Category	Breadth (m)	Depth (m)	Feature Type	Shape in Plan	Side	Break of Slope	Base	Orientation	Colour	Fine component	Coarse component	Compaction
1	29	cut	0.41	0.12	pit	circular	steep	sharp	flat					
2	29	fill	0.41	0.12	pit						dark greyish brown	silty	clay	firm
3	33	cut	0.56	0.1	gully	linear	steep	gradual	flat	NW-SE				
4	33	fill	0.56	0.1	gully						dark greyish brown	clayey	silt	friable
5	23	cut	0.93	0.23	ditch	linear	steep	gradual	flat	NE-SW				
6	23	fill	0.93	0.23	ditch						dark grey	silty	clay	firm
7	11	cut	0.87	0.12	pit	sub circular	steep	sharp	flat					
8	11	fill	0.87	0.12	pit						mid greyish brown	silty	clay	firm
9	11	cut	1.23	0.15	pit	circular	steep	sharp irregular	irregular					
10	11	fill	1.23	0.15	pit						mid greyish brown	silty	clay	firm
11	19	cut	0.35	0.12	posthole	sub circular	steep	sharp	concave					
12	19	fill	0.35	0.12	posthole						dark brownish black	silty	clay	concrete
13	40	VOID									VOID	VOID	VOID	VOID
14	40	layer	2	0.2							dark greyish brown	silty	clay	firm
15	40	layer	0.76	0.07							dark grey		clay	firm
16	8	cut	0.98	0.09	ditch	rectangular	gentle	gradual	irregular	NW-SE				
17	8	fill	0.98	0.09	ditch						light whitish grey	silty	sand	firm
18	9	cut	0.72	0.23	ditch	linear	irregular	sharp	concave					
19	9	fill	0.72	0.23	ditch						dark greyish brown		silt	friable
20	5	cut	3.45	0.45	ditch	linear	steep	sharp	concave	NE-SW				
21	5	fill	0.6	0.15	ditch						mid reddish brown	silty	clay	firm
22	5	fill	0.95	0.2	ditch						light orangey grey	silty	clay	firm

Context	Trench	Category	Breadth (m)	Depth (m)	Feature Type	Shape in Plan	Side	Break of Slope	Base	Orientation	Colour	Fine component	Coarse component	Compaction
23	5	fill	1.85	0.1	ditch						mid reddish brown	silty	clay	firm
24	5	fill	0.12	0.15	ditch						light orangey grey	silty	clay	firm
25	5	fill	0.85	0.25	ditch						light orangey grey	silty	clay	firm
26	5	fill	1.25	0.2	ditch						mid brownish grey	sandy	clay	firm
27	5	fill	0.9	0.2	ditch						mid brownish grey	silty	clay	firm
28	9	cut	0.36	0.1	pit	sub circular	steep	gradual	concave	N-S				
29	9	fill	0.36	0.1	pit						dark greyish brown	silty	clay	soft
30	9	cut	0.29	0.24	ditch	curvilinear	steep	sharp	concave					
31	9	fill	0.29	0.24	ditch						dark brownish grey	clayey	silt	soft
32	9	fill	0.05	0.09	ditch						light brownish grey	silty	clay	firm
33	9	cut	0.62	0.29	ditch	rectangular	steep	sharp	v-shaped	NW-SE				
34	9	fill	0.62	0.29	ditch						mid greyish brown	silty	clay	soft
35	9	cut	0.3	0.1	ditch	rectangular	gentle	sharp	concave					
36	9	fill	0.3	0.1	ditch						mid greyish brown	silty	clay	soft
37	9	cut	1.28	0.21	ditch	linear	steep	gradual	concave	NE-SW				
38	9	fill	1.07	0.21	ditch						mid orangey grey	clayey	silt	soft
39	20	cut	0.45	0.11	ditch	sub-circular	gentle	gradual	concave					
40	20	fill	0.45	0.11	ditch						mid greyish brown	silty	clay	firm
41	4	cut	0.45	0.14	pit	sub-circular	steep	gradual	concave					
42	4	fill	0.45	0.14	pit						mid blueish grey	silty	clay	firm
43	4	fill	0.28	0.06	pit						mid reddish brown	silty	clay	firm
44	4	cut	0.5	0.13	pit	linear	gradual	imperceptible	concave	N-S				

Context	Trench	Category	Breadth (m)	Depth (m)	Feature Type	Shape in Plan	Side	Break of Slope	Base	Orientation	Colour	Fine component	Coarse component	Compaction
45	4	fill	0.5	0.13	pit						dark greyish brown	silty	clay	firm
46	9	cut	0.32	0.08	posthole	sub-circular	gentle	gradual	flat					
47	9	fill	0.32	0.08	posthole						dark brownish grey	silty	clay	firm
48	2	cut	0.42	0.22	pit	linear	steep	sharp	v-shaped	N-S				
49	2	fill	0.42	0.22	pit						dark brownish grey	silty	clay	plastic
50	9	cut	0.45	0.27	ditch	curvilinear	steep	sharp	concave					
51	9	fill	0.45	0.13	ditch						dark brownish grey	silty	clay	firm
52	9	fill	0.34	0.24	ditch						mid brownish grey	silty	clay	firm
53	6	cut	0.4	0.12	pit	sub-rectangular	gentle	gradual	concave irregular					
54	6	fill	0.4	0.12	pit						dark brownish grey	silty	clay	plastic
55	6	cut	0.35	0.11	pit	sub-circular	gentle	gradual	concave					
56	6	fill	0.35	0.11	pit						mid blueish grey	silty	clay	plastic
57	6	cut	0.68	0.13	pit	sub-rectangular	irregular	gradual	irregular					
58	6	fill	0.68	0.13	pit						mid grey	silty	clay	plastic
59	3	cut	0.45	0.15	pit	circular	steep	sharp	concave					
60	3	fill	0.45	0.15	pit						mid greyish brown	silty	clay	plastic
61	3	cut	0.63	0.15	terminus/ pit	linear poss?	steep	sharp	concave					
62	3	fill	0.63	0.15	pit						mid greyish brown	silty	clay	firm
63	3	cut	0.65	0.15	pit	sub-circular	steep	sharp	concave					
64	3	fill	0.65	0.15	pit						mid greyish brown	silty	clay	firm
65	9	fill	0.83	0.1	ditch						mid reddish grey	silty	clay	soft

Context	Trench	Category	Breadth (m)	Depth (m)	Feature Type	Shape in Plan	Side	Break of Slope	Base	Orientation	Colour	Fine component	Coarse component	Compaction
66	3	cut	1.11	0.35	pit	sub-circular	steep	sharp	irregular					
67	3	fill	0.9	0.18	pit						dark brownish grey	silty	clay	soft
68		fill	0.95	0.23	pit						dark orangey grey	silty	clay	loose
69		cut	0.97	0.44	pit	sub-circular	steep	sharp	concave					
70		fill	0.62	0.26	pit						dark brownish grey	silty	clay	soft
71		fill	0.3	0.2	pit						mid-greyish orange	silty	clay	loose

Table 2: Context inventory

APPENDIX B FINDS REPORTS

B.1 Ironwork

By Carole Fletcher

Introduction and Methodology

B.1.1 The evaluation produced a single iron object: a near-complete nail from Trench 40. The functional category used is that defined by Crummy in 1983 and 1988: Category 11 fastenings and fittings. Hand-forged nails (Category 11) are a long-lived form and dating is problematic. The nail will be described in general terms in the text; it does not closely match the description of Roman nails given by Manning (1985 133-137).

Assemblage and Discussion

B.1.2 Category 11 fastenings and fittings: Layer (15) in Trench 40 produced a moderately corroded, hand-forged iron nail, square in section (7 x 7mm), the shank tapering slightly towards the shaped tip, which is absent, perhaps broken more recently (width 4 x 4mm). The shank survives to a length of 38mm and has been slightly bent in antiquity, suggesting usage. The head is irregular and slightly domed (10 x 8mm and 5mm high).

B.1.3 Dating is uncertain, as is usage, although most nails were used in constructing wooden structures or objects. However, the nail was recovered alongside 17-18th century pottery, including a sherd from a Staffordshire Slipware (P30) bowl. The nail is very probably post-medieval and represents a random loss or is present due to middening and manuring.

Retention, dispersal or display

B.1.4 The ironwork assemblage is fragmentary and of little significance. Should further work be undertaken, additional iron objects may be recovered, and this ironwork report should be incorporated into any later archive.

B.2 The Iron Age and Roman Pottery

By Nick Gilmour, with Roman pottery catalogue completed by Alice Lyons and Severine Bezie

Introduction

B.2.1 The evaluation yielded 137 sherds of Late Iron Age and Romano-British pottery (687g) with a low mean sherd weight (MSW) of 4.6g. All but one sherd of this pottery was recovered from Trench 9, with a single sherd recovered from Trench 8.

B.2.2 The pottery predominantly dates from the Early-Mid Romano-British period, with a single sherd of Late Iron Age pottery also recovered. It comprises an assemblage of local coarsewares supplemented by imported Gaulish samian fine table wares, with fabrics and forms typically associated with this ceramic tradition in the region.

B.2.3 The pottery is in moderate to poor condition, as reflected in the low MSW, although the surface of most sherds is not abraded.

Methodology

B.2.4 All the pottery has been fully recorded. Sherds from all contexts were counted, weighed (to the nearest whole gramme) and assigned to a fabric group, with equivalent code in the Bedfordshire ceramic type series (see Parminter and Slowikowski, 2004; 442-455) also recorded. Sherd type was recorded, along with evidence for surface treatment, decoration, and the presence of soot and/or residue. Rim and base forms were described in the catalogue and were assigned vessel numbers. Where possible, rim and base diameters were measured, and surviving percentages noted.

The Iron Age pottery

B.2.5 Only a single sherd (5g) of pre-Roman pottery was recovered during this evaluation. This body sherd was recovered from context 17 (ditch **16**) within Trench 8. The sherd is in a sandy fabric, which is typical of the Late Iron Age in this region. The fabric is F34, also identified within the adjacent excavation area (Wells 2017, 21).

Discussion

B.2.6 The Roman pottery was all recovered from Trench 9, suggesting Early-Mid Roman activity in this area. The pottery is typical of that recovered from Roman rural sites in this region.

B.2.7 The single sherd of Late Iron Age pottery represents such a small assemblage that it is difficult to draw significant conclusions from it. However, this sherd does imply pre-Roman activity at the site.

B.2.8 If further work is conducted at this site, then this pottery should be analysed together with any additional material recovered.

Trench	Context	Cut	Fabric Family	Fabric Dsc	Fabric code (Bedforshire)	Pot date	No of Sherds	Weight (g)
8	17	16	Iron Age	F34	F34	LIA	1	5
9	19	18	SAM	LGF SA	R01	c AD 130-LC2	1	2
9	19	18	SGW	SGW(BLUE)	RO6	LC1-C2	17	80
9	19	18	SGW	SGW(BLUE)	RO6	MC2+	1	3
9	19	18	SGW	SGW(GROG)	RO6	MC1-C2	4	33
9	19	18	STW	STW	R13	MC1-C2	4	16
9	29	28	SGW	SGW	RO6	MC1-EC2	1	3
9	29	28	SGW	SGW (BS)	RO6	LC2-C3	60	174
9	29	28	STW	STW (=SGW SHELL)	R13	C3-LC4	1	23
9	29	28	VER WH	VER WH	R03A	AD 50-C2	1	16
9	31	30	RW	RW(OX/FINE)	R05	MC1-MC2	1	3
9	31	30	RW	RW(Q)	RO5	MC1-EC2	1	6
9	31	30	SGW	SGW	RO6	MC1-EC2	7	22
9	31	30	SGW	SGW	RO6	MC1-MC2	1	1
9	31	30	SGW	SGW(BS)	RO6	AD 210-300	1	4
9	31	30	SGW	STW(GROG)	R13	MC1-C4	1	10
9	31	30	STW	STW	R13	MC1-C4	1	14
9	32	28	RW	RW(Q)	RO5	C1-EC2	1	20
9	32	28	SGW	SGW(BLUE)	RO6	MC1-MC2	1	12
9	32	28	VER OW	VER OW	R03A	MC1-C2	1	40
9	34	33	RW	RW(Q)	RO5	C1-EC2	1	3
9	34	33	SAM	LMV SA	R01	c AD 100-120	1	24
9	34	33	SGW	SGW	RO6	MC1-C2	1	16
9	38	37	RW	RW(F/G)	RO5	C1-EC2	1	1
9	47	46	OW	OW(Unsourced)	RO5	C1-C4	2	1
9	52	50	SGW	SGW	RO6	C1-C4	1	3
9	52	50	SGW	SGW(SANDWICHED)	RO6	MC1-C2	2	22
9	52	50	SGW	SGW(SANDWICHED/Q)	RO6	MC1-C2	1	4
9	52	50		SGW(SANDWICHED/SHELL)	RO6	MC1-C2	1	1
9	52	50	STW	STW	R13	MC1-C2	1	7
9	51	50	SAM	LEZ SA 2	R01	M-M/LC1	1	10
9	51	50	SGW	SGW(BLUE)	RO6	LC1-C4	2	6
9	51	50		SGW(SANDWICHED)	RO6	MC1-C2	12	75
9	51	50	STW	STW	R13	MC1-C2	3	27
Total							**137**	**687**

Table 3: Pottery catalogue

B.3 Post-Roman Pottery

By Carole Fletcher

Introduction and Methodology

B.3.1 Post-medieval pottery was recovered from a posthole in Trench 9 and a layer in Trench 40; in total, 10 sherds weighing 0.218kg were recovered.

B.3.2 The Prehistoric Ceramics Research Group (PCRG), Study Group for Roman Pottery (SGRP), and The Medieval Pottery Research Group (MPRG), 2016 *A Standard for Pottery Studies in Archaeology*, and the MPRG *A guide to the classification of medieval ceramic forms* (MPRG 1998) act as standards. Recording was carried out using OA East's in-house system, based, for the medieval pottery, on that previously used at the Museum of London. Fabric classification has been carried out for all sherds, and previously described post-medieval types, named using Bedfordshire fabric codes (Albion Archaeology 2002) where possible. A simplified method of recording has been undertaken, with fabric, basic description, weight and count recorded in the text. The pottery and archive are curated by Oxford Archaeology East until formal deposition or dispersal.

Assemblage and Discussion

B.3.3 From posthole **46** in Trench 9, a single undiagnostic, abraded body sherd from a 19th century Glazed White earthenware vessel (P55, 0.001kg) was recovered. The sherd is small and is not necessarily reliable dating for the feature.

B.3.4 Layer 15 in Trench 40 produced the bulk of the post-medieval assemblage (9 sherds, 0.217kg). Abraded sherds from three Glazed Red earthenware vessels were recovered: a rim sherd (upright externally thickened) from an internally and externally glazed jar (0.073kg, Glazed Red Earthenware (coarse) P02), and a moderately abraded and an abraded body sherd from two Glazed Red Earthenware (fine) P01 vessels, possibly bowls (0.032kg).

B.3.5 Two moderately abraded sherds from a bichrome Glazed Red Earthenware (coarse) P02 bowl base (base angle flat obtuse, 0.068kg) were also recovered, alongside two moderately abraded sherds from a Black-Glazed Earthenware (Staffs) P03 bowl, glazed externally and internally (0.024kg). The final pieces are a body sherd from a relatively unabraded Staffordshire Slipware (P30) press-moulded dish with internal slipped decoration (0.016kg), and a fragment from the base of a Nottingham-type Stoneware (P36B) vessel (0.004kg), possibly a tankard or mug.

B.3.6 The pottery recovered from the layer dates from the mid 16th to the end of the 18th century; however, the presence of the Nottingham-type Stoneware (P36b), alongside the Staffordshire slipware (P30) dish sherd suggest the layer is 18th century and may relate to demolition of a domestic or other structure in the vicinity of the site, with some of the resulting debris subsequently reworked and redistributed, possibly by ploughing.

Retention, Dispersal or Display

B.3.7 Should further work be undertaken, the pottery should be incorporated into any later catalogue. Further work is likely to produce additional post-medieval material; however, the sherds are likely to be sparsely distributed and concentrated around the area of Trench 40.

B.4 Ceramic Building Material and Fired Clay

By Carole Fletcher

Introduction and Methodology

B.4.1 A small assemblage of CBM, five fragments weighing 0.155kg, was recovered from layer 14 in Trench 40.

B.4.2 The assemblage was quantified by context, counted, weighed, and form recorded where this was identifiable. Only complete dimensions were recorded, which was most commonly thickness. Dating is broad and McComish (2015) and Warry (2006) form the basis for identification.

Assemblage and Discussion

B.4.3 The CBM recovered from layer 14 in Trench 40 consists of five different flat tiles, unabraded to moderately abraded and all almost certainly roof tiles. This is a fragmentary assemblage of not closely datable CBM, which represents a background scatter of material and, like the post-medieval pottery recovered from layer 15 in the same trench, may relate to demolition of a domestic or other structure in the vicinity of the site, with some of the resulting debris subsequently reworked and redistributed possibly by ploughing.

Retention, Dispersal or Display

B.4.4 The CBM assemblage is fragmentary, and its significance is uncertain. Should further work be undertaken, additional CBM would probably be recovered. If no further work is undertaken, this statement acts as a full record and the CBM.

CBM Catalogue

Context	Tile Description	Thickness	Weight	Date
14	Unabraded to moderately abraded, sub-rectangular fragment of flat tile, dull red tile, slightly curved, distortion through drying or firing, part of the edge survives and this and the base surface are sanded from the mould. The fabric is sandy with some larger inclusions, including grog	15-16 mm	0.057	18th-19th century or later
	Unabraded to moderately abraded roughly triangular fragment of flat tile brick red surfaces and margins with mid grey core. Part of edge survives, and edge and base surface are lightly sanded from the mould. Quartz-tempered, with occasional grog	13-14 mm	0.050	Post-medieval
	Moderately abraded small fragment of flat tile. Partial upper and lower surfaces survive, lower surfaces sanded, brick red surfaces and thin margins, mid grey core. Quartz-tempered, occasional calcareous inclusions and voids, occasional grog	14-15 mm	0.004	Post-medieval
	Moderately abraded sub-triangular fragment of flat tile, dull yellow red fabric, quartz-tempered, grog and various other inclusions. Lightly sanded base, oxidized margins and narrow pale grey core	15 mm	0.032	Late medieval/post-medieval

Context	Tile Description	Thickness	Weight	Date
	Small sub-rectangular fragment of moderately abraded to abraded flat tile, in a poorly mixed pale brick red fabric with some grey lenses. Quartz-tempered, with moderately large inclusions that appear to be grog, possibly calcareous material. A small section of outer sanded edge survives, and fragments of upper and lower surfaces survive; surface is also sanded from the mould	14-15 mm	0.012	Post-medieval

Table 4: CMB catalogue

APPENDIX C ENVIRONMENTAL REPORTS

C.1 Environmental Samples

By Martha Craven

Introduction

C.1.1 Seven bulk samples were taken from features within the evaluated area in order to assess the quality of preservation of plant remains and their potential to provide useful data as part of further archaeological investigations. Samples were taken from features encountered within Trenches 9 and 29.

Methodology

C.1.2 The samples were soaked in a solution of sodium carbonate for 24hrs prior to processing to break down the heavy clay matrix. The total volume (up to 18L) of each of the samples was processed by tank flotation using modified *Sīraf* -type equipment for the recovery of preserved plant remains, dating evidence and any other artefactual evidence that might be present. The floating component (flot) of the samples was collected in a 0.3mm nylon mesh and the residue was washed through 10mm, 5mm, 2mm and a 0.5mm sieve.

C.1.3 The dried flots were scanned using a binocular microscope at magnifications up to x 60 and an abbreviated list of the recorded remains are presented in Table 5. Identification of plant remains is with reference to the Digital Seed Atlas of the Netherlands (Cappers *et al*. 2006) and the authors' own reference collection. Nomenclature is according to Zohary and Hopf (2000) for cereals and Stace (2010) for other plants. Plant remains have been identified to species where possible. The identification of cereals has been based on the characteristic morphology of the grains and chaff as described by Jacomet (2006).

Quantification

C.1.4 For the purpose of this initial assessment, items such as seeds and cereal grains have been scanned and recorded qualitatively according to the following categories:

= 1-5, ## = 6-25, ### = 26-100, #### = 100+ specimens

C.1.5 Items that cannot be easily quantified such as charcoal and molluscs have been scored for abundance

+ = occasional, ++ = moderate, +++ = frequent, ++++ = abundant

Results

C.1.6 Preservation of plant remains is by carbonisation and is generally poor; many of the flots contain rootlets which may have caused movement of material between contexts.

C.1.7 The samples from this site are either devoid of or contain a small quantity of charcoal. Only two samples contain botanical remains other than charcoal. Sample 2, fill 19 of ditch **18** (Trench 9), contains a single cereal grain that is too heavily abraded for positive

identification. Sample 6, fill 51 of ditch **50** (Trench 9), contains a single dock seed (*Rumex* sp.) and a possible wild basil (cf. *Clinopodium vulgare*) seed.

C.1.8 Sample 4, fill 31 of ditch **30** (Trench 9), contains a small quantity of relatively well-preserved molluscs.

C.1.9 Several of the samples contain pottery fragments which may be suitable for dating.

Trench No.	Sample No.	Context No.	Cut No.	Feature Type	Volume Processed (L)	Flot Volume (ml)	Cereals	Weed Seeds	Snails from Flot	Charcoal volume (ml)	Pottery	Large Mammal Bones
9	2	19	18	Ditch	16	5	#	0	0	3	##	0
9	3	29	28	Pit	4	<1	0	0	0	<1	0	0
9	4	31	30	Ditch	8	1	0	0	+	0	#	#
9	5	34	33	Ditch	16	5	0	0	0	<1	#	0
9	6	51	50	Ditch	17	5	0	#	0	0	##	0
9	7	52	50	Ditch	18	5	0	0	0	0	#	0
29	1	2	1	Pit	8	1	0	0	0	3	0	0

Table 5: Environmental samples

Discussion

C.1.10 The recovery of such a small quantity of charred grain, weed seeds and charcoal indicates that there is limited potential for the preservation of plant remains at this site. The remains probably represent a background scatter rather than a deliberate deposition.

C.2 Animal Bone

By Zoë Uí Choileáin

Introduction

C.2.1 Seventeen fragments of recordable animal bone weighing 1117g were recovered during the evaluation (Table 7). The material was recovered from ditches and a single pit. All bone was identified using Schmid (1972). Surface preservation was evaluated using the 0-5 scale devised by Brickley and McKinley (2004 14-15).

Results

C.2.2 The surface condition of the bone on average represents a 2-3 on the scale devised by Brickley and McKinley (*ibid.*). Most surfaces are masked by erosion; notably concretion from the soil. The fragmentation levels are high, limiting the amount of information which can be recorded for each fragment.

Taxon	NISP	NISP %	MNI	MNI %
Sheep/goat	2	28.57	1	33.33
Cattle	3	42.86	1	33.33
Horse	2	28.57	1	33.33
Totals	**7**	**100**	**3**	**100**

Table 6: MNI analysis

C.2.3 Only seven fragments of bone are identifiable to taxon; sheep/goat, cattle and horse. No repeated elements are present giving an MNI (minimum number of individuals) of one for each taxa (Table 6). Both cattle femurs have fused epiphyses suggesting an age over 42 months at time of death (Silver 1969). Nothing else of note is present.

Summary and Recommendations

C.2.4 The assemblage is small, highly fragmentary and poorly preserved. There is little further information that can be gleaned from the material. If further excavations take place this material should be integrated into the wider data set.

Tr.	Ctxt.	Cut	Feature	Phase	Taxon	Element	Weight	Count
40	15		Layer	C18	Large mammal	Rib	10	1
40	15		Layer	C18	Sheep/Goat	Calcaneus	10	1
40	15		Layer	C18	Large mammal	Scapula	25	1
5	24	20	Ditch	Unphased	Cattle	Femur	12	1
5	24	20	Ditch	Unphased	Large mammal	Indet	13	1
5	26	20	Ditch	Unphased	Horse	Pelvis	271	1
5	26	20	Ditch	Unphased	Large mammal	Rib	24	3
5	26	20	Ditch	Unphased	Horse	Pelvis	130	1
5	27	20	Ditch	Unphased	Large mammal	Pelvis	29	1
9	29	28	Pit	Unphased	Large mammal	Femur	74	1
9	31	30	Ditch	MC1-EC2	Sheep/Goat	M1/2 tooth	2	1
9	34	33	Ditch	MC1-EC2	Cattle	Calcaneus	34	1
9	34	33	Ditch	MC1-EC2	Large mammal	Metapodial	65	1

Tr.	Ctxt.	Cut	Feature	Phase	Taxon	Element	Weight	Count
9	34	33	Ditch	MC1-EC2	Cattle	Femur	400	1
9	34	33	Ditch	MC1-EC2	Large mammal	Atlas	18	1
			Totals				**1117**	**17**

Table 7: Total weight count taxon and elements present

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APPENDIX E OASIS REPORT FORM

Project Details

OASIS Number	oxfordar3-374561
Project Name	Millbrook Power, Bedfordshire

Start of Fieldwork	10/09/19	End of Fieldwork	02/10/19
Previous Work	No	Future Work	

Project Reference Codes

Site Code	BEDFM2019.67	Planning App. No.	n/a
HER Number	n/a	Related Numbers	n/a

Prompt	NPPF
Development Type	Power Station
Place in Planning Process	Pre-application

Techniques used (tick all that apply)

☐ Aerial Photography – interpretation	☐ Grab-sampling	☐ Remote Operated Vehicle Survey
☐ Aerial Photography - new	☐ Gravity-core	☒ Sample Trenches
☐ Annotated Sketch	☐ Laser Scanning	☐ Survey/Recording of Fabric/Structure
☐ Augering	☐ Measured Survey	☐ Targeted Trenches
☐ Dendrochonological Survey	☐ Metal Detectors	☐ Test Pits
☐ Documentary Search	☐ Phosphate Survey	☐ Topographic Survey
☐ Environmental Sampling	☐ Photogrammetric Survey	☐ Vibro-core
☐ Fieldwalking	☐ Photographic Survey	☐ Visual Inspection (Initial Site Visit)
☐ Geophysical Survey	☐ Rectified Photography	

Monument	Period
Ditch	Roman (43 to 410)
Pit	Roman (43 to 410)
Posthole	Roman (43 to 410)
Ditch	Late Iron Age (- 100 to 43)
Layer	Post Medieval (1540 to 1901)

Object	Period
Pottery	Roman (43 to 410)
Pottery	Late Iron Age (- 100 to 43)
Animal bone	Roman (43 to 410)
Ironwork	Post Medieval (1540 to 1901)
Ceramic Building Material	Modern (1901 to present)
Pottery	Post Medieval (1540 to 1901)

Insert more lines as appropriate.

Project Location

County	Bedfordshire
District	Central Bedfordshire
Parish	Millbrook
HER office	Central Beds. and Luton
Size of Study Area	7 ha
National Grid Ref	TL 0183 4013

Address (including Postcode)

Millbrook Road, Millbrook, Bedfordshire,

Project Originators

Organisation	Central Bedfordshire County Council
Project Brief Originator	No brief issued
Project Design Originator	Kathryn Blackbourn and Nick Gilmour
Project Manager	Nick Gilmour
Project Supervisor	Tim Lewis

Project Archives

	Location	ID
Physical Archive (Finds)	The Higgins Museum, Bedford	BEDFM2019.67
Digital Archive	OA East	XBDMIP19
Paper Archive	The Higgins Museum, Bedford	BEDFM2019.67

Physical Contents	Present?	Digital files associated with Finds	Paperwork associated with Finds
Animal Bones	☒	☐	☐
Ceramics	☒	☐	☐
Environmental	☒	☐	☐
Glass	☐	☐	☐
Human Remains	☐	☐	☐
Industrial	☐	☐	☐
Leather	☐	☐	☐
Metal	☒	☐	☐
Stratigraphic		☐	☒
Survey		☒	☐
Textiles	☐	☐	☐
Wood	☐	☐	☐
Worked Bone	☐	☐	☐
Worked Stone/Lithic	☐	☐	☐
None	☐	☐	☐
Other	☐	☐	☐

Digital Media		Paper Media	
Database	☒	Aerial Photos	☐
GIS	☐	Context Sheets	☒
Geophysics	☐	Correspondence	☐
Images (Digital photos)	☒	Diary	☐
Illustrations (Figures/Plates)	☒	Drawing	☒
Moving Image	☐	Manuscript	☐
Spreadsheets	☐	Map	☐
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Virtual Reality	☐	Miscellaneous	☒
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Plans	☐
Report	☐
Sections	☒
Survey	☐

Further Comments

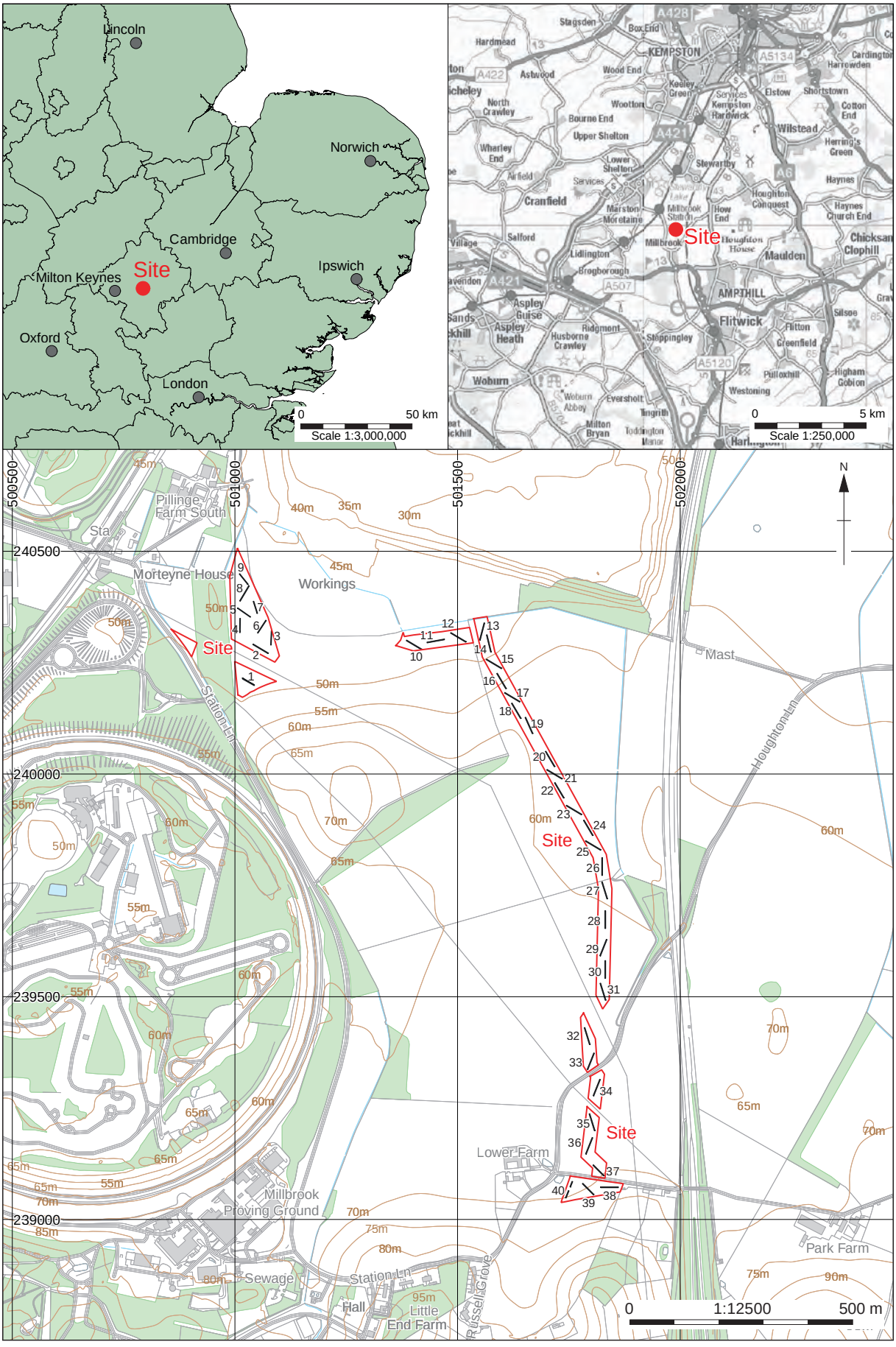


Figure 1: Site location showing archaeological trenches (black) in development area (red)

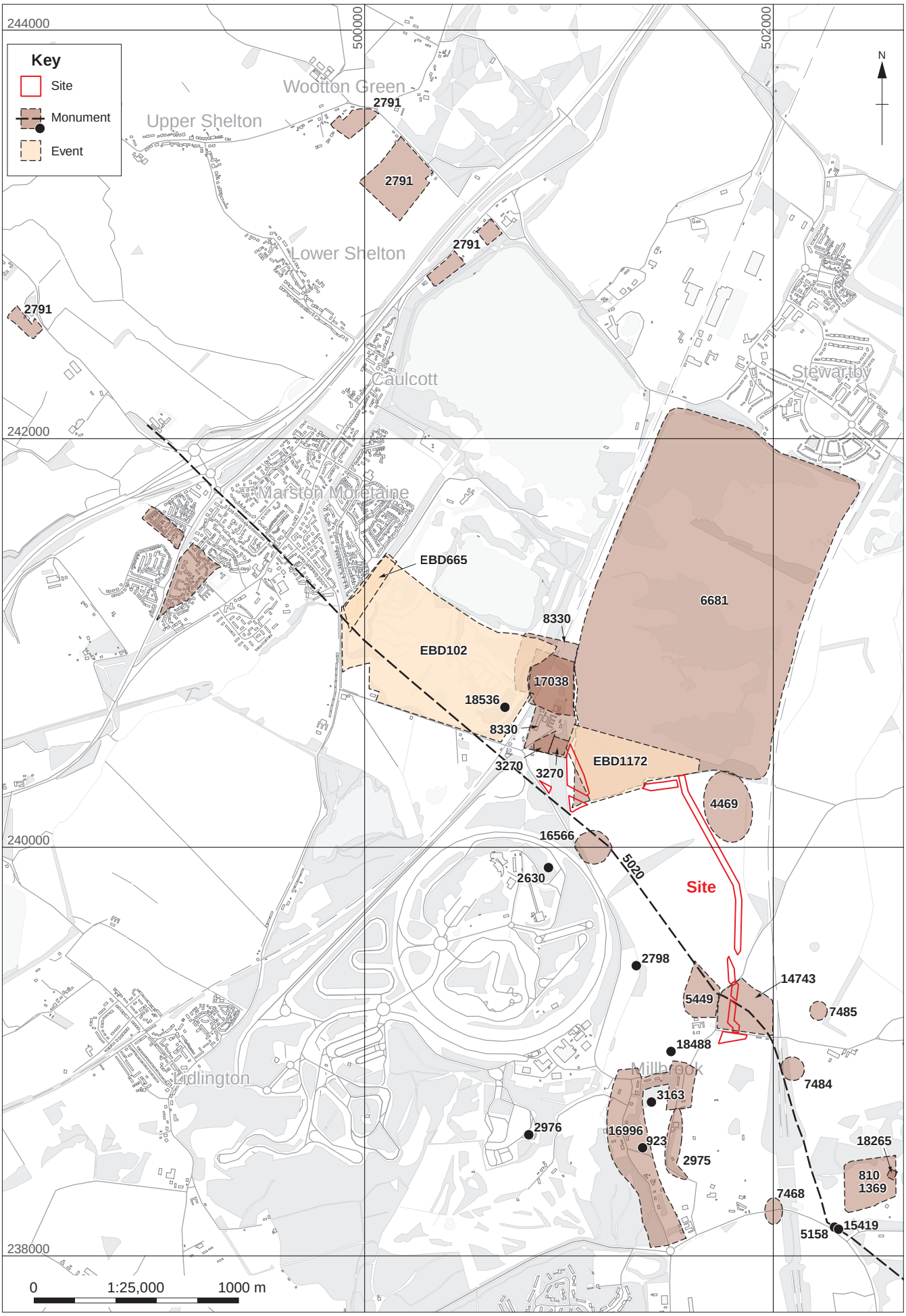


Figure 2: HER plot

500950 501000 501050 501100

240450 240400 240350 240300 240250

N

Mini-Map
Trench Location
Fig.3
0 1:10,000 500 m

Tr.9
35
33
46
S.21
50
30
S.12
S.13
28
37
18

Tr.8
16

Tr.7

Tr.5
S.11
20

Tr.4
41
44

Tr.3
66
69
S.28
63
61
59

Tr.6
57
55
53

Tr.2
48

Tr.1
S.29

Key
Development area
Evaluation Trench
S.1 Section
Break of slope
100 Cut number
Archaeological feature
Natural

0 1:750 50 m

Figure 3: Trench 1-9 overview (see Figs. 4 and 5 for detail)

501000
501020
501040
240440
240420
240400
240380

Tr.9
35
33
46
50
S.21
30
S.12
S.13
28
37
18

Tr.8
16

Tr.7

Tr.5
20
S.11

N

Mini-Map
Trench Location
Fig.4
9
8
7
5
3
4
6
2
0
1:5000
200 m

Key
Development area
Evaluation Trench
S.1 Section
Break of slope
100 Cut number
Archaeological feature
Natural

0
1:250
10 m

Figure 4: Trenches 5-9

501000 501020 501040 501060 501080

240320 240300 240280

N

Tr.4

Tr.3

Tr.6

Tr.2

41

44

59

61

63

66

69

S.28

57

55

53

53

48

Mini-Map
Trench Location

N

9 8 7 5 3 4 6 2

Fig.5

0 1:5000 200 m

Key

- Development area
- Evaluation Trench
- S.1 Section
- Break of slope
- 100 Cut number
- Archaeological feature
- Natural

0 1:250 10 m

Figure 5: Trenches 2-4 and 6

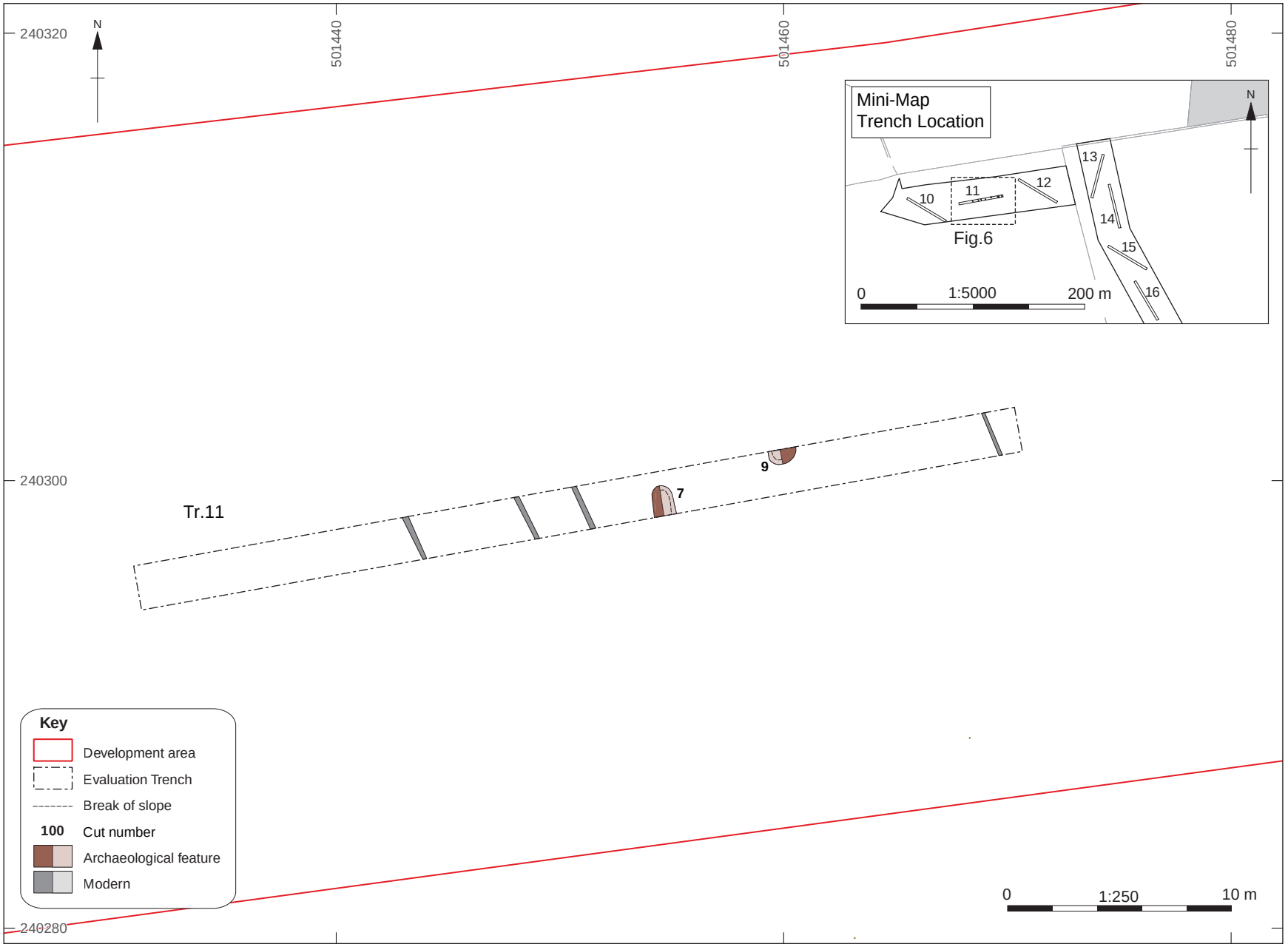


Figure 6: Trench 11

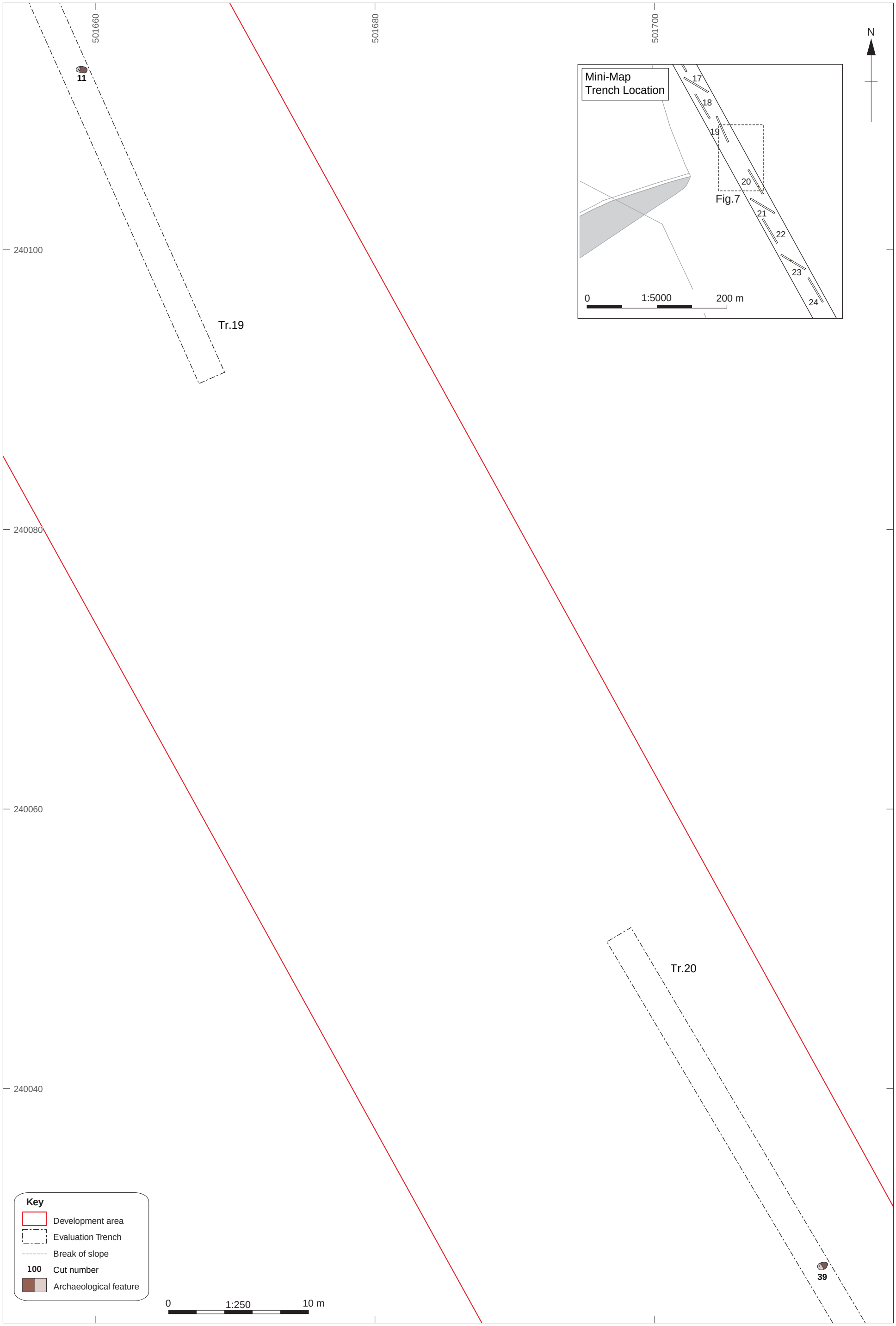


Figure 7: Trenches 19-20

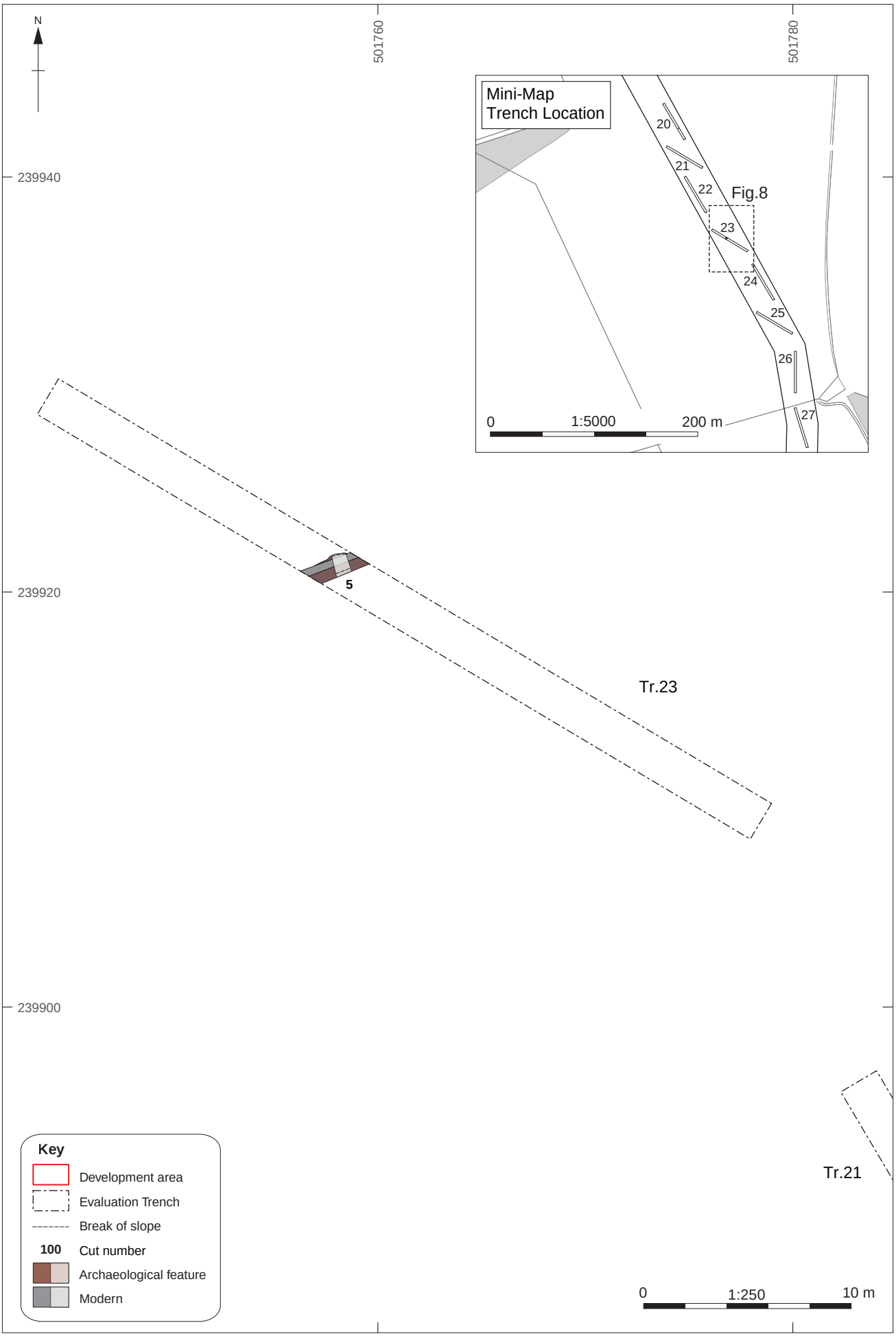


Figure 8: Trench 23

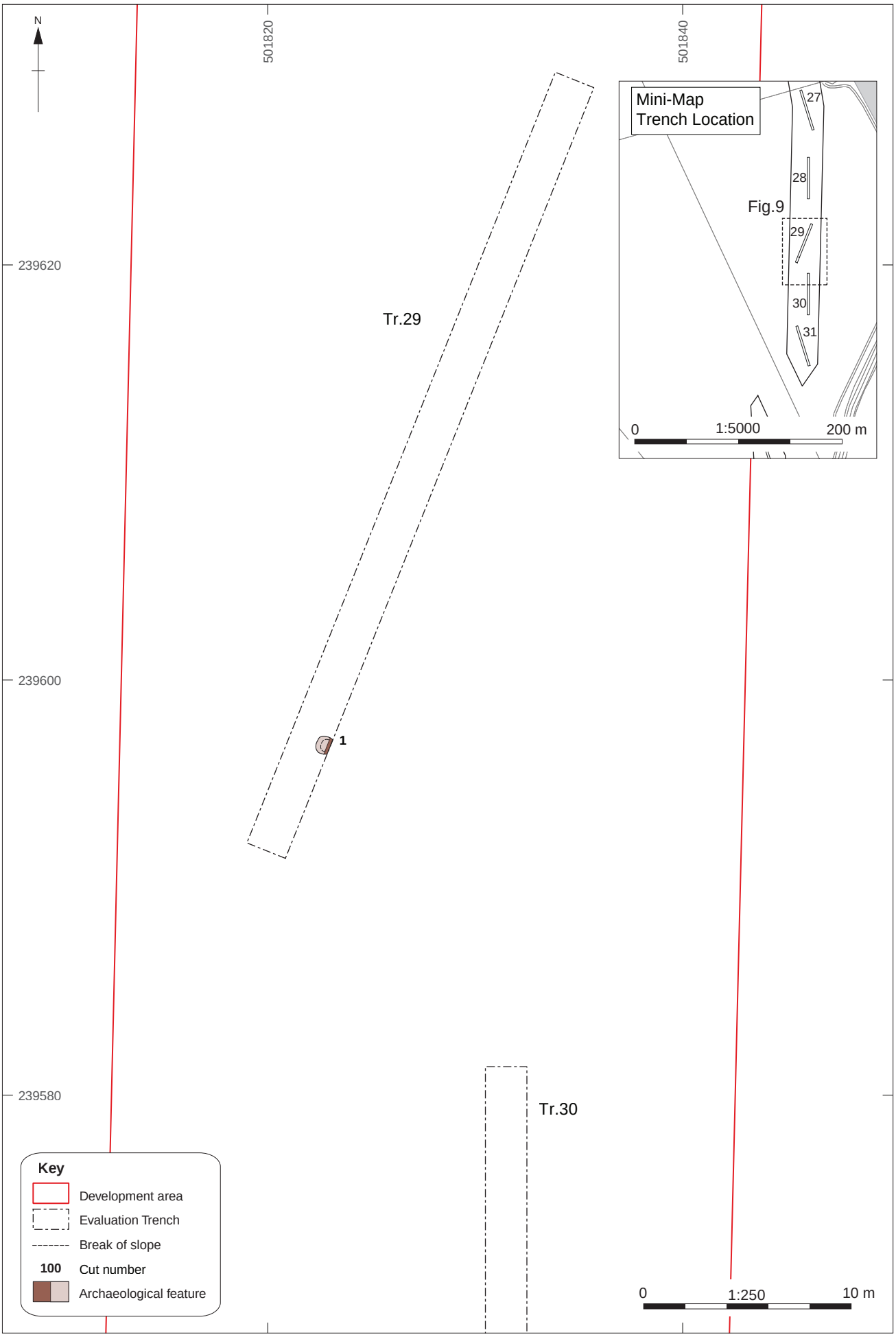


Figure 9: Trench 29

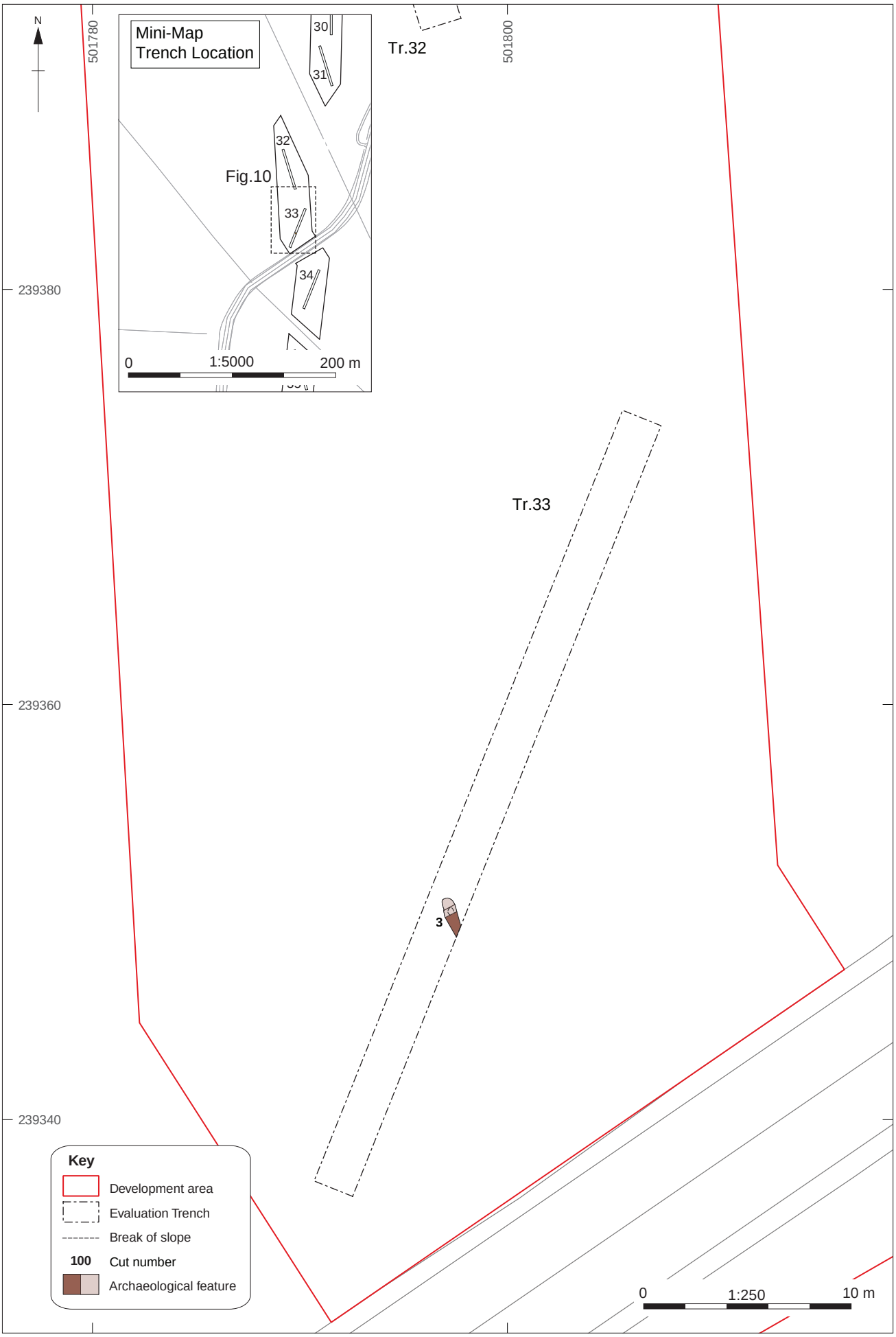


Figure 10: Trench 33

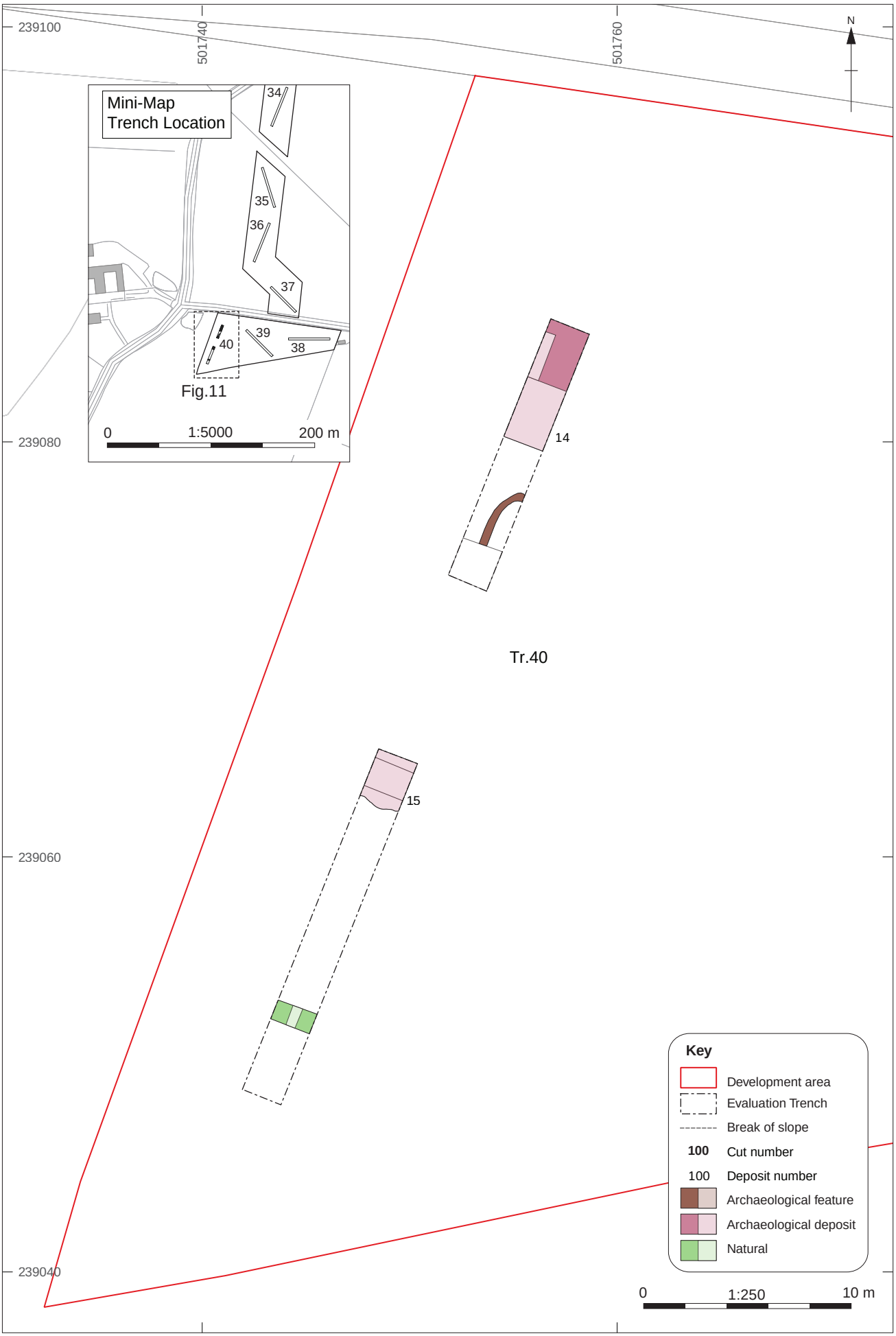
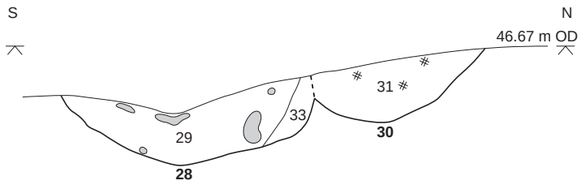
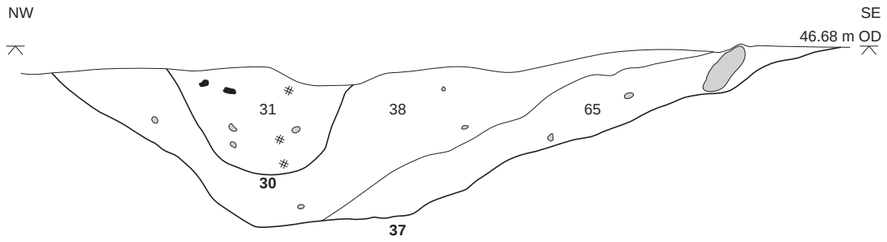


Figure 11: Trench 40

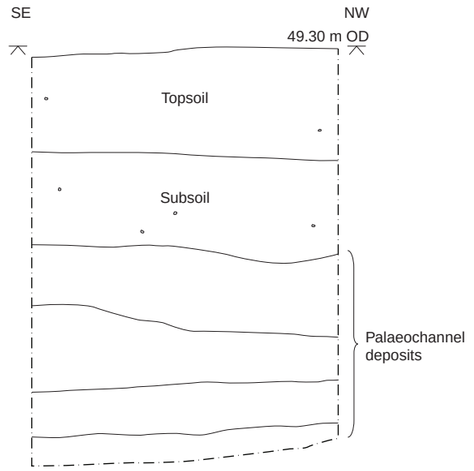
Section 12 Trench 9



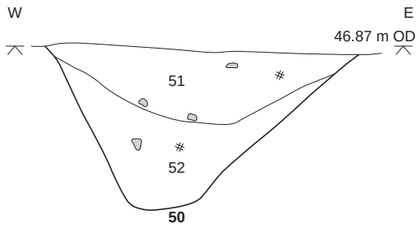
Section 13 Trench 9



Section 29 Trench 1

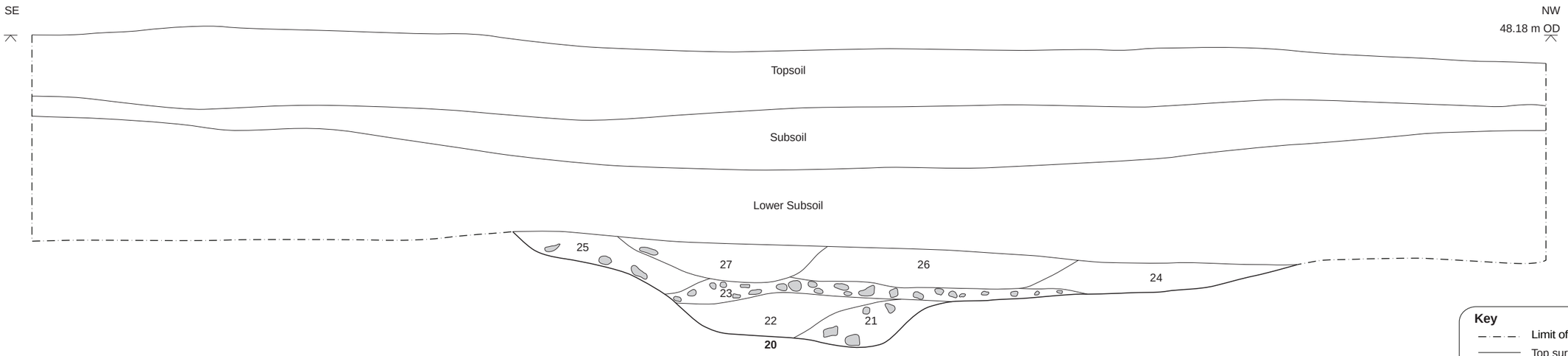


Section 21 Trench 9

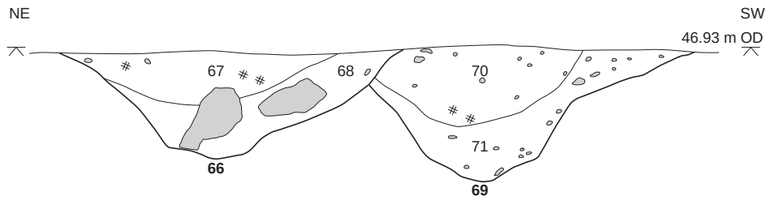


0 1:10 500 mm

Section 11 Trench 5



Section 28 Trench 3



Key

- Limit of Excavation
- Top surface
- Cut / conjectured
- Deposit Horizon conjectured
- Intrusion/Truncation
- Break in Section
- **117** Cut Number
- 116 Deposit Number
- 32.26 m OD Level

0 1:20 1 m

Figure 12: Selected sections

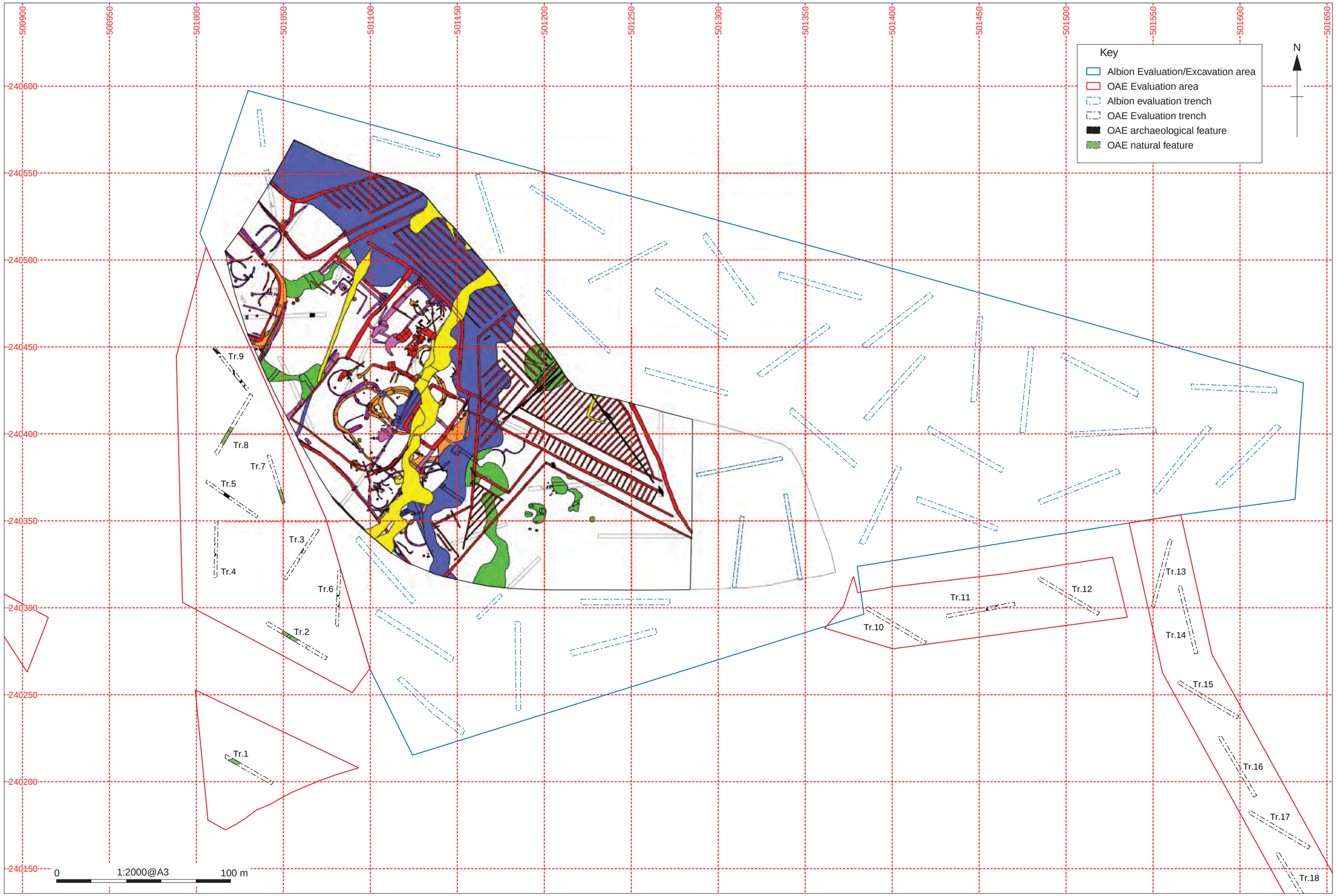


Figure 13: Previous archaeological evaluation/excavation (site plan taken from Albion Archaeology 2017)

Plate 1: Trench 3, section into possible palaeo channel, looking north-east

Plate 2: Trench 11, looking west

Plate 3: Trench 17, looking north

Plate 4: Trench 19, looking north-east

Plate 5: Trench 20, looking south-east

Plate 6: Trench 23, looking north-west

Plate 7: Trench 29, looking north-east

Plate 8: Trench 32, looking south

Plate 9: Trench 33, looking north-east

Plate 10a: Trench 40, looking north

Plate 10b: Trench 40, looking south

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