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Archaeological Evaluation Report

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Summary

Between the 1st and 19th of February 2021 Oxford Archaeology East undertook a trial trench evaluation on the site of Lufkins Farm, Great Bentley Road, Frating, Essex (TM 09737 21975). The work was carried out to inform a forthcoming planning application for sand and gravel extraction, prior to the construction of a reservoir.

A total of 92 trial trenches were excavated during the evaluation; nine trenches were unable to be opened due to flooding on the site. Forty trenches exposed archaeology consisting of ditches, pits and one cremation. The ditches probably made up part of a field system with at least one larger boundary ditch aligned approximately north to south across the centre of the site. Only five sherds of abraded pottery were recovered – two sherds of medieval pottery and one sherd of possible Beaker pottery – otherwise the features could not be closely dated. The cremation found in Trench 88 could point to further cremations nearby. The lack of artefactual evidence and the indeterminate pattern of the ditches suggests peripheral activity to that uncovered in excavations to the north, and could be either Roman or prehistoric in date.

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The project was managed for Oxford Archaeology by Nick Gilmour and the fieldwork was directed by Kelly Sinclair, who was supported by Jack Eason, Jack Everett, and Lindsey Kemp. Survey and digitising was carried out by Valerio Pinna. Thanks are also extended to the teams of OA 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 Oxford Archaeology (OA) was commissioned by Andrew Joseph Associates to undertake a trial trench evaluation at the site of Lufkins Farm, Frating, Essex, to inform a forthcoming planning application for sand and gravel extraction, prior to the construction of a reservoir.

1.1.2 The work was undertaken to inform a planning application (planning ref. 20/01735/CMTR). A Brief was set by Essex Place Services detailing the Local Authority's requirements for work and a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) was produced by OA, outlining how OA would implement the specified requirements.

1.2 Location, topography and geology

1.2.1 The site lies between the villages of Frating, to the west, and Great Bentley, to the east (TM 09737 21975; Fig. 1). The site consists of two fields under arable use and lies at 25m OD. It is bounded by arable fields and a reservoir to the north, Great Bentley Road to the west, and an arable field and farmyard to the south.

1.2.2 The geology of the area is mapped as Thames Group clay, silt and sand, with superficial deposits of Cover Sand clay, silt and sand (<https://www.bgs.ac.uk/map-viewers/geology-of-britain-viewer/> accessed 06/01/2021).

1.3 Archaeological and historical background

1.3.1 The following provides a brief period summary of known heritage assets within 1km of the site provided by the Essex Historic Environment Record (Fig. 2).

Prehistoric

1.3.2 Immediately to the north of the site, excavations uncovered a series of Neolithic pits (Pooley 2018; MEX 55432, 59559), most probably related to the enclosure located in the field to the east. One of these pits contained four Early Neolithic bowls and associated flints, burnt flints and conglomerate stones.

1.3.3 A possible Beaker burial barrow was identified during a Cropmark Enclosure Project (MEX 10982), located approximately 575m to the north-east of the site.

1.3.4 Within the 1km study area, an axehead (MEX 10978), two lithic implements (MEX 1045485) and an Early Mesolithic/Middle Neolithic adze and blade (MEX 1042605) have been discovered.

Romano-British

1.3.5 A Roman field system was identified in excavations in the adjacent field to the north, along with an associated trackway (Pooley 2018; MEX 55432, 59559). This trackway probably links with another, 650m to the south-west of the development area (MEX 8325, 9269).

- 1.3.6 A Late Iron Age/Early Roman harness fitting (MEX 1043746) was found within the 1km study area.

Medieval

- 1.3.7 During the cropmark survey to the north-east of the development area, a medieval windmill was uncovered, which produced 12th/13th century pottery (MEX 10982).
- 1.3.8 Evidence of a possible moat and building were identified from cropmarks to the north-west of the church in Great Bentley (MEX 11639), roughly 900m to the south-east of the development area.

Post-medieval

- 1.3.9 Several 16th to 19th century buildings have been recorded in the study area, and include Hill House (MEX 1009681), The Field House (MEX 1009683), Gardeners Cottage at the rear of The Field House (MEX 1009684), Lufkins Farmhouse (MEX 1009710) and Ivy Lodge (MEX 1009865).

Undated

- 1.3.10 Undated cropmarks have been discovered at several sites within the 1km study area (MEX 10982, 11612, 1031579, 1031585, 1031623, 1049640). These have identified many trackways, field systems, enclosures, and ring ditches.
- 1.3.11 Roughly 1km to the north-west, a sub-rectangular enclosure with an entrance to the north-west was identified.

2 AIMS AND METHODOLOGY

2.1 Aims

2.1.1 The project aims and objectives were as follows:

- i. To establish the presence or absence of archaeological remains on the site, characterise where they were found (location, depth and extent), and establish the quality of preservation of any archaeology and environmental remains.
- i. Provide sufficient coverage to establish the character, condition, date and purpose of any archaeological deposits.
- i. Provide sufficient coverage to evaluate the likely impact of past land uses, and the possible presence of masking deposits.
- i. Provide – in the event that archaeological remains were 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 92 trenches measuring 30m x2m were excavated (Fig. 3). Due to flooding and surface water on the field, nine trenches were unable to be opened (6, 7, 48, 56, 70, 71, 84, 85, 89).

2.2.2 All machine excavation took place under the supervision of a suitably qualified and experienced archaeologist. Trial trenches were excavated by a mechanical excavator to the depth of geological horizons, or to the upper interface of archaeological features. A toothless ditching bucket with a minimum bucket width of 2m was used to excavate the trenches. Overburden was excavated in spits not greater than 0.1m thick.

2.2.3 Due to flooding and high water levels on site, a representative sample of archaeological features were excavated and recorded. All other archaeological features encountered were hand planned to indicate their location and character prior to trenches flooding. All excavation of features was done by hand. Investigation slots through all linear features were at least 1m in width.

2.2.4 Records comprise survey, drawn, written and photographic data. A register of all trenches, features, photographs, survey levels, and small finds were kept. All features were individually documented on context sheets and hand drawn as sections. Written descriptions were recorded on pro forma sheets comprising factual data and interpretive elements. Sections and plans were drawn at appropriate scales and digital photographs were taken of all relevant features and deposits. Surveying was done using a survey-grade differential GPS connected to Leica Smartnet providing an accuracy of 5mm horizontal and 10mm vertical.

2.2.5 Metal detector searches took place at all stages of the excavation by an experienced metal detector user. Excavated areas were detected immediately before and after mechanical stripping. Both excavated areas and spoil heaps were checked.

- 2.2.6 Possible human remains encountered were excavated in accordance with all appropriate legislation and Environmental Health regulations, after obtaining a Ministry of Justice exhumation license.
- 2.2.7 A total of five bulk soil samples were taken in order to assess the quality of preservation of plant remains.
- 2.2.8 Site conditions were poor. The site was waterlogged with areas of standing water, but this did not in the end affect the interpretation of the results. All field drains uncovered below the surface released fast flowing water into the trenches, resulting in flooding. Snow and bad weather also affected the site in the second week of the evaluation.

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 each of the trenches. A full inventory of all contexts, including topsoil and subsoil depths, can be found in Appendix A. Finds and environmental reports are presented in Appendices B and C respectively.

3.2 General soils and ground conditions

3.2.1 The soil sequence in the trenches was fairly uniform. Natural geology of Thames group clay and Cover sand was overlain by a mid greyish brown clayey silt subsoil and in turn by a mid greyish brown sandy clay plough soil. In some trenches the subsoil did not appear to be present (See Appendix A), probably due to the depth of cultivation on the site (Plate 1).

3.2.2 Ground conditions throughout the evaluation were generally poor, and the site remained wet and waterlogged throughout, with almost all trenches in the larger south field becoming flooded within a day of being opened. Snowstorms covered all trenches with a thick layer of snow in the second week of the evaluation which halted work for two days. Archaeological features, where present, were easy to identify against the underlying natural geology before trenches became flooded.

3.3 General distribution of archaeological deposits

3.3.1 Archaeological features were present in 40 trenches (Fig. 3), the rest of those opened being devoid of archaeological features. There appeared to be two main concentrations of archaeological activity, one in the centre of the site (Fig. 5) and the other to the north-east (Figs 9 and 10). There were discrete areas of features to the west and north, but these were less significant.

3.4 Trench 1 (Fig. 4)

3.4.1 Trench 1 was located in the west of the site on a north-west to south-east alignment. At the north-western end of the trench was natural feature **106** which was only partially revealed in the trench. The part of the feature observed measured over 0.93m wide and 0.4m deep and contained a single fill of mid greyish brown sandy silt (107). This appeared to be the edge of a naturally infilled hollow at the edge of the field. To the south of this, along the north-eastern trench edge was a partially revealed ditch (**103**). It measured 0.54m wide and 0.5m deep and contained two deposits, a mid greyish brown sandy silt (104), overlain by a mid brown silty sand (105).

3.5 Trench 2 (Fig. 4)

3.5.1 Trench 2 lay to the south of Trench 1 on a north-east to south-west alignment. Due to the high levels of water on the site this trench flooded after opening and so was unable to be hand excavated. A linear feature was observed and planned towards the eastern end of the trench on a north to south alignment. To the east of this was another possible linear feature on a west-north-west to east-south-east alignment, along with a probable geological band running along the northern edge of the trench.

3.6 Trench 3 (Fig. 3)

3.6.1 Trench 3 was located in the western part of the site aligned north-west to south east. No archaeological features were present in this trench.

3.7 Trenches 4 and 5 (Fig. 3)

3.7.1 Trench 4 lay in the south-western corner of the site on a north-east to south-west alignment, with Trench 5 to its south, extending perpendicular. No archaeological remains were uncovered in either trench.

3.8 Trenches 6 and 7 (Fig. 3)

3.8.1 Trenches 6 and 7 were both located in the south western corner of the site along the southern boundary of the field. Neither trench was opened due to high levels of surface water and flooding.

3.9 Trenches 8 -11 (Fig. 3)

3.9.1 Trenches 8 to 11 were all located in the south-western corner of the site, aligned either north-east to south-west or north-west to south-east. None of these trenches contained archaeological remains.

3.10 Trench 12 (Fig. 4)

3.10.1 Trench 12 was located to the north-east of Trench 1, aligned north-east to south west along the line of the modern field boundary. A ditch was revealed, aligned on almost the same axis as the trench but only partially visible towards the southern end of the trench. Two slots were hand-excavated to establish the character of the ditch; the first (**1203**) measured 0.63m wide and 0.25m deep where it was visible and was filled with a mid greyish brown silty sand with frequent flint inclusions. A further slot was excavated to the south (**1207**) but flooded mid-way through excavation and could therefore only confirm the presence of the ditch's terminus. This slot produced two sherds (26g) of medieval pottery, dated as c. AD 1175-1250/75 although it could be later (Appendix B.1).

3.11 Trenches 13-18 (Fig. 3)

3.11.1 These trenches were all located in the western area of the site and were alternatively aligned north-west to south-east and north-east to south-west. All of these trenches revealed no archaeological remains.

3.12 Trench 19 (Fig. 5)

3.12.1 Trench 19 was located along the southern edge of the site on a north-east to south-west alignment. One ditch was observed towards the north end of the trench aligned north to south. Due to severe flooding the ditch was recorded through hand planning only.

3.13 Trenches 20 to 29 (*Figs 3 and 5*)

3.13.1 These trenches were located just to the west of the centre of the site and alternated between north-west to south-east and north-east to south west alignments. All of these trenches contained no archaeological remains.

3.14 Trench 30 (*Fig. 5*)

3.14.1 Trench 30 was located just south of the centre of the site on a north-west to south-east alignment. At the centre of the trench lay gully **3002** which measured 0.37m wide and 0.08m deep with a single light yellowish grey sandy silt fill (3003). The gully appeared to have been mostly truncated with only a remnant left, probably due to the deep cultivation activity seen across the site (Plate 1).

3.15 Trench 31 (*Fig. 5*)

3.15.1 Trench 31 lay in the centre of the site, towards the south of the field, aligned north-east to south west. It contained two ditches, one aligned approximately east to west at the centre of the trench, and the second to the south of this aligned north-west to south-east. Due to flooding occurring immediately after opening the trench, the features were hand planned to record their location.

3.16 Trenches 32 and 33 (*Fig. 5*)

3.16.1 Trench 32 was located towards the southern boundary of the site, aligned north-west to south-east, while Trench 33 was to the north-east on the same alignment. Both trenches contained no archaeological remains.

3.17 Trench 34 (*Fig. 5*)

3.17.1 Trench 34 was located to the north of Trench 33 on a north-east to south-west alignment. This trench contained one possible ditch located in the western half of the trench on an approximate north to south alignment. It was recorded through hand planning due to immediate flooding. This ditch could be the same as the ditch uncovered in Trench 36 to the north, which then continues northwards and appears in Trenches 44, 43, and 42 (**4202, 4302**) (Fig. 5).

3.18 Trench 35 (*Fig. 5*)

3.18.1 Trench 35 was located in the centre of the site on a north-west to south east alignment and contained no archaeological remains.

3.19 Trench 36 (*Fig. 5*)

3.19.1 Trench 36 lay in the centre of the site aligned north-east to south-west and revealed two parallel ditches. Ditch **3602** (Fig. 12, Section 9, Plate 4) lay at the north-eastern end of the trench on a north-west to south-east axis. This ditch measured 1.3m wide and 0.4m deep, containing a basal fill of light brownish grey sandy clay (3603) overlain by a mid blueish grey sandy clay (3604). No finds were retrieved from its fills. This ditch appears to be a continuation of the same ditch in Trenches 42, 43 (**4202, 4302**) and 44.

3.20 Trench 37 (Fig. 5)

3.20.1 Trench 37 was located at the centre of the site, to the north-west of Trench 36. This trench was aligned north-west to south-east and contained one ditch in the north of the trench. Ditch **3702** (Fig. 12, Section 22) measured 0.84m wide and 0.15m deep, filled by a light greyish brown silty clay (3703). A soil sample was taken from its fills, which produced a small amount of charcoal (Appendix C.2).

3.21 Trenches 38 and 39 (Fig. 5).

3.21.1 Trenches 38 and 39 lay to the north-east of Trench 37. Trench 38 was aligned north-east to south-west, and Trench 39 was oriented north-west to south-east. Both revealed no evidence of archaeological remains.

3.22 Trench 40 (Figs 5 and 6)

3.22.1 Trench 40 was located in the centre of the site, along the northern boundary of the larger field, aligned north-east to south-west. At the south-western end of the trench lay a discrete feature, possibly a pit. Due to the immediate flooding of the trench when opened, the feature was hand planned to record its location.

3.23 Trench 41 (Fig. 5 and 6)

3.23.1 Trench 41 was located to the north-east of Trench 40 on a north-west to south-east alignment. It contained no archaeological remains.

3.24 Trench 42 (Figs 5 and 6)

3.24.1 Trench 42 was located in the centre of the site aligned north-east to south-west. This trench contained one ditch, as well as two discrete features which were tested and found to be natural. Ditch **4202** (Fig. 12, Section 17), aligned north-west to south-east, lay at the northern end of the trench. Measuring 1.28m wide and 0.26m deep, it contained a mid-greyish brown silty clay fill (4203). A soil sample was taken from its fill, which produced a small amount of charcoal. This ditch appeared to be the same as **4302** in Trench 43 and an unexcavated ditch in Trench 34.

3.25 Trench 43 (Fig. 5)

3.25.1 Trench 43 lay in the centre of the site, to the south-east of Trench 42 (Plate 5). It was aligned north-west to south-east and contained one ditch on an approximately north-west to south-east alignment. Ditch **4302** measured 1.12m wide and 0.14m deep, filled with a light greyish brown sandy clay (4303). This ditch may be a continuation of ditch **4202** in Trench 42.

3.26 Trench 44 (Fig. 5)

3.26.1 Trench 44 was located in the centre of the site on a north-east to south-west alignment. Two linear features were revealed, one of which, at the southern end of the trench, is probably a continuation of the ditch in Trench 43 (**4302**). A further linear feature was observed at the northern end of the trench aligned approximately north-east to south-west. Both features were recorded through hand planning as the trench suffered severe flooding.

3.27 Trench 45 to 47 (Fig. 5)

3.27.1 Trenches 45 to 47 were located south of the centre of the site. Trenches 45 and 47 were aligned north-west to south-east and Trench 46 was aligned north-east to south-west. All three trenches contained no archaeological remains and were subject to flooding.

3.28 Trench 48 (Fig. 3)

3.28.1 Trench 48 was located in the south-east corner of the site, along the southern boundary of the larger field, but was not opened due to high levels of surface water and flooding.

3.29 Trench 49 (Fig. 5)

3.29.1 Trench 49 lay to the south-east of the site, aligned north-east to south-west. It contained two possible linear features, one aligned north to south and the second aligned north-west to south-east. These were either part of a continuous ditch that made a turn within the trench, or two separate features forming a corner. Due to flooding of the trench the features became obscured and were only recorded through hand planning.

3.30 Trenches 50 – 52 (Fig. 5)

3.30.1 Trenches 50 to 52 were located in the central area of the site; Trenches 50 and 52 were aligned north-west to south-east whereas Trench 51 was aligned north-east to south-west. All these trenches were devoid of archaeology and subject to flooding.

3.31 Trench 53 (Fig. 5)

3.31.1 Trench 53 was located to the north-west of Trench 52, on a north-east to south-west alignment. It contained gully **5302**, which was oriented north-east to south-west and cut across the northern end of the trench at an oblique angle. The ditch contained a single fill of mid brown clayey silt with occasional small stone inclusions (5303).

3.32 Trench 54 (Figs 5 and 6)

3.32.1 This trench was located towards the northern central part of the site and was orientated north-west to south-east. It contained two linear features; one was a north to south aligned ditch which appeared to have a dark greyish brown fill. A further narrower gully just to the south of this was observed, aligned north-east to south-west. Both ditches were recorded through hand planning due to immediate flooding of the trench following machine excavation.

3.33 Trench 55 (Figs 5 and 6)

3.33.1 This trench, aligned north-east to south-west, was located along the northern boundary of the larger field in the centre of the site and contained one ditch (Plates 4 and 5). Ditch **5502** measured 1.7m wide and 0.44m deep, filled by a mid greyish brown sandy clay (5503). To the north of this a possible linear feature was tested and found to be natural.

3.34 Trench 56 (Fig. 3)

3.34.1 Trench 56 was located on the boundary between the two fields of the site. It was not opened due to the presence of an irrigation pipe.

3.35 Trench 57 (Fig. 7)

3.35.1 This trench was located in the north-western part of the site in the smaller field, aligned north-east to south-west. It contained no archaeological remains.

3.36 Trench 58 (Fig. 7)

3.36.1 Trench 58 was located in the north-western area of the site on a north-west to south-east axis. Towards the south of the trench a possible pit was excavated (**5803**), which measured 0.4m wide and 0.08m deep with a single light brownish grey clayey sand fill (5804). The shallow depth and light coloured fill suggest it could possibly be a natural feature rather than a pit.

3.37 Trenches 59 to 62 (Fig. 3)

3.37.1 These trenches were located in the north-western area of the site, with Trenches 59 and 61 aligned north-west to south-east and Trenches 60 and 62 aligned north-east to south-west. All trenches contained no archaeological remains.

3.38 Trench 63 (Fig. 7)

3.38.1 This trench was also located in the smaller field to the north-west of the site, aligned north-west to south-east. It contained posthole **6303** which measured 0.34m wide and 0.14m deep. It contained one fill of a light brownish grey clayey sand with frequent charcoal inclusions (6304). A sample from this fill produced some charcoal.

3.39 Trench 64 (Fig. 8)

3.39.1 Trench 64 was located in the north-west of the site in the smaller field. It was aligned north-east to south-west and contained a possible posthole (**6403**). This feature measured 0.3m wide and 0.14m deep with a single fill of a light yellowish grey clayey sand (6404). Due to the character of the feature, it is possibly natural in origin.

3.40 Trenches 65 and 66 (Figs 3 and 8)

3.40.1 These trenches were located in the northern corner of the smaller field to the north of the site. Trench 65 was aligned north-west to south-east and Trench 66 north-east to south-west. Both trenches contained no archaeological remains.

3.41 Trench 67 (Fig. 8)

3.41.1 This trench was located in the northern-most corner of the site and lay on a north-west to south-east alignment. Four discrete features located in the centre of the trench were investigated, including two linear features and two sub-circular features. Feature **6703** measured 0.6m wide and 0.15m deep and while it could be interpreted as a shallow gully, it was possibly natural. Feature **6705** (Fig. 12, Section 28) measured 0.9m wide and 0.18m deep and was probably a tree throw. To the south of this lay feature **6707** which was a natural feature measuring 0.5m wide and 0.09m deep. Lastly, a

second linear feature (**6709**) measured 0.6m wide and 0.13m deep. All features contained a similar single fill of light yellowish grey sandy silt, which could suggest that they were all natural in origin.

3.42 Trench 68 (Fig. 3)

3.42.1 Trench 68 was located in the north of the site, aligned north-east to south-west. It contained no archaeological remains.

3.43 Trench 69 (Fig. 7)

3.43.1 Trench 69 was located in the northern part of the site, to the south-east of Trench 68, and was aligned north-west to south-east (Plate 6). It contained one small possible posthole (**6903**), which measured 0.21m wide and 0.12m deep, filled with a light greyish brown silty sand fill (6904).

3.44 Trenches 70 and 71 (Fig. 3)

3.44.1 Trenches 70 and 71 were located on the boundary between the two fields in the north of the site. Neither were machine excavated, due to severe flooding and standing water in this area.

3.45 Trenches 72 to 74 (Fig. 5)

3.45.1 These trenches were located in the central area of the site and contained no archaeological remains.

3.46 Trench 75 (Figs. 5 and 9)

3.46.1 Trench 75 was located east of the centre of the site, aligned north-west to south-east. Three linear features were observed, including a ditch close to the centre of the trench aligned north-east to south-west. To the south-east of this lay another possible ditch on the same alignment. At the south of the trench was a ditch terminus (**7503**), which was aligned approximately east to west and continued beyond the western baulk. It contained a sherd (16g) of pottery on the surface of its upper fill (7505), which was tentatively identified as Early Bronze Age Beaker pottery (Appendix B.1). Due to overflowing field drains in the ground, this trench flooded almost immediately and therefore features were recorded by hand planning.

3.47 Trenches 76 to 80 (Fig. 3)

3.47.1 These trenches were all located in the south-east of the site alternating between north-west to south-east and north-east to south-west alignments. They all contained no archaeological remains.

3.48 Trench 81 (Fig. 9)

3.48.1 Trench 81 lay towards the north of the site on a north-east to south-west alignment. At the centre of the trench probable tree throw **8102** was revealed, which measured 1.6m wide and 0.26m deep with single light bluish grey sandy clay fill (8103).

3.49 Trenches 82 and 83 (Fig. 9)

3.49.1 Trench 82 lay towards the north of the site and was aligned north-west to south-east. Trench 83 was aligned north-east to south west and lay north-west of Trench 82. Both trenches contained no archaeology.

3.50 Trenches 84 and 85 (Fig. 3)

3.50.1 Trenches 84 and 85 lay within the smaller field to the north of the site. It was not possible to open either trench due to a large amount of surface water and flooding in the area.

3.51 Trench 86 (Fig. 9)

3.51.1 This trench was located in the north of the site. It was aligned north-west to south-east and contained two ditches. Ditch **8602** was revealed in the centre of the trench, orientated east to west and measuring 0.62m wide and 0.12m deep. It contained a single fill of light bluish grey sandy clay (8603). To the south-east, aligned more north-east to south-west but slightly curvilinear in plan, lay ditch **8604**, which measured 0.6m wide and 0.28m deep with a light greyish brown sandy clay fill (8605).

3.52 Trench 87 (Fig. 9)

3.52.1 Trench 87 was located south-east of Trench 86, on a north-west to south-east alignment. It contained no archaeological remains.

3.53 Trench 88 (Fig. 9)

3.53.1 This trench was located in the eastern, central part of the site, aligned north-north-west to south-south-east in order to respect the line of overhead cables directly to the east. At the northern end of the trench a possible east to west aligned ditch was observed but was unable to be excavated due to flooding. At the southern end of the trench cremation **8803** was revealed, measuring 0.46m by 0.3m and 0.18m deep (Fig. 12, Section 7, Plate 7). It contained two fills, a primary light greyish brown sandy clay fill (8804), sealed by a secondary dark greyish brown clayey silt (8805), which contained abundant charcoal and flecks of burnt bone. A soil sample taken from the upper fill produced abundant charcoal and a small quantity (2g) of calcined bone (Appendix C.1).

3.54 Trench 89 (Fig. 3)

3.54.1 This trench lay in the south-west corner of the site along the field boundary and was oriented north-west to south-east. Due to severe flooding and high surface water levels this trench was not opened.

3.55 Trenches 90 and 91 (Fig. 10)

3.55.1 These trenches lay in the eastern area of the site. Trench 90 was oriented north-east to south-west and Trench 91 lay north-west to south-east. Both trenches contained no archaeological remains.

3.56 Trench 92 (Fig. 10).

3.56.1 This trench was located in the eastern part of the site and lay on a north-west to south-east orientation. At the southern of the trench, ditch **9203** was revealed aligned east-north-east to west-south-west, which measured 1.08m wide and 0.18m deep, filled by a mid brownish grey sandy clay (9204). A small sherd of pottery recovered from the fill, an abraded body sherd (2g), is not closely datable (Appendix B.1).

3.57 Trench 93 (Figs 10 and 11)

3.57.1 Trench 93 was located in the eastern part of the site, orientated north-east to south-west. It contained a ditch and two postholes at its south-western end. Ditch **9303** was aligned approximately north to south and measured 0.84m wide and 0.12m deep (Fig. 12, Section 13). It was filled by a single mid greyish brown sandy clay fill (9304). Posthole **9305** was cut by this ditch on its north-eastern side and measured 0.2m wide and 0.08m deep. A further posthole to the east of this (**9507**) was excavated which measured 0.3m wide and 0.06m deep.

3.58 Trench 94 (Fig. 10)

3.58.1 Trench 94 was located in the east of the site, aligned north-west to south-east. There was a large modern feature at the centre of the trench containing modern debris, probably related to the farm and its activity. Due to the trench flooding upon opening, the feature was recorded through hand planning.

3.59 Trench 95 (Fig. 10)

3.59.1 This trench, orientated north-west to south-east, was located in the eastern part of the site, and contained two ditches. Ditch **9503** was exposed towards the southern end of the trench, aligned north-east to south-west. It measured 0.5m wide and 0.1m deep with a light brownish grey sand clay fill (9504). A very small fragment (1g) of pottery was recovered from the fill (9504), but it is heavily abraded and therefore not closely datable (Appendix B.1). To the north of this another ditch was exposed on a roughly east to west orientation. Due to flooding it was not excavated; however, its location was recorded through hand planning.

3.60 Trench 96 (Fig. 10)

3.60.1 This trench was situated in the eastern part of site, orientated north-east to south-west. Due to the fast ingress of water and flooding, possible features were quickly recorded by hand planning. Two parallel ditches were observed at the southern end of the trench, along with two discrete features in the centre of the trench which could be pits. At the northern end of the trench a small gully was observed which appeared to be aligned north-west to south-east.

3.61 Trench 97 (Fig. 10)

3.61.1 Trench 97 was located in the far north-east corner of the site and was oriented north-west to south-east. Due to the severe ingress of water when the trench was opened, any possible features were immediately hand planned before flooding. At the centre of the trench two linear features were observed which could be interpreted as ditches

or gullies. To the northern end of the trench a large area of mid brownish fill and gravel was observed, which appeared to be part of the infilling of a quarry located just north of this location, extant as a pond.

3.62 Trench 98 (Fig. 10)

3.62.1 Trench 98 was situated in the north-east of the site on a north-west to south-east alignment. It contained a linear feature at the southern end of the trench and two intercutting pits partially revealed along the southern trench baulk further to the north. Pit **9805** measured 0.6m wide and 0.3m deep with a mid grey silty sand fill (9806). This was cut by pit **9803** which measured 0.65m wide and 0.25m deep, filled by a dark grey silty sand (9804). The linear feature, most probably a ditch, could not be excavated due to flooding.

3.63 Trench 99 (Fig. 10)

3.63.1 Trench 99 was situated in the north-east corner of the site, aligned north-east to south-west. Due to severe flooding any potential archaeological features were recorded through hand planning. At the north end of the trench was a darker band of gravel and silt which was similar to that in Trench 97 and is probably backfill from the old quarry to the north. At the south-east end of the trench, a linear feature and a pit were also observed.

3.64 Trench 100 (Fig. 10)

3.64.1 Trench 100 lay in the north-east corner of the site, aligned north-east to south-west. It contained no archaeological remains and flooded soon after opening.

3.65 Trench 101 (Fig. 9)

3.65.1 This trench was located along the northern boundary of the site, oriented west-north-west to east-south-east. At its north-western end there was a feature (**10104**), which was only partially visible in the trench, measuring 0.9m wide and 0.25m deep where seen. An investigative slot was excavated to determine its character, which revealed its fill to be a dark greyish brown sandy silt with frequent gravel inclusions. This feature is probably related to the old quarry to the north which has now been established as a pond.

3.66 Finds summary

3.66.1 A very small assemblage of finds was recovered from features across the site, exclusively pottery, totalling 5 sherds (45g). The material was very abraded and two sherds were not closely datable. One sherd was identified as possibly of Early Bronze Age (Beaker) and two sherds as of medieval date (Appendix B.1). On-site metal detecting of both features and spoil heaps yielded no finds.

3.67 Environmental summary

3.67.1 A very small amount of calcined bone, probably human, was recovered from a shallow, charcoal rich pit (**8803**) in Trench 88 (Appendix C.1).

3.67.2 Five soil samples were taken in total to assess the presence of plant remains and identified a small amount of charcoal and molluscs (Appendix C.2).

4 DISCUSSION

4.1 Reliability of field investigation

4.1.1 Site conditions were poor throughout the investigation. Persistent rain and snow at the time of the evaluation led to waterlogging of the ground and several areas of standing surface water, creating difficult conditions for machining. Although features could be observed with some clarity in the geology, the flooding on site resulted in the inability to excavate many features as the majority of trenches flooded within a short period of time. Where archaeology could be observed but not excavated, hand plans were drawn to plot features, but the large volume of water made this difficult.

4.2 Evaluation objectives and results

4.2.1 The project's aims and objectives are set out above in Section 2.1.1. The objectives of the evaluation have been achieved in so far as the presence of archaeological remains has been established at this site. The trenching located a few small concentrations of features, one mainly in the central area of the site and another in the north-eastern part of the site. These appear to potentially form small enclosures and the presence of at least one boundary ditch (Fig. 5). One cremation was identified in Trench 88, which could further the potential for more within this area. The recovery of only a small amount of charcoal and some mollusca remains indicate there is limited potential for the preservation of plant remains at this site.

4.3 Interpretation

4.3.1 The linear ditches revealed in the evaluation could represent parts of a field system. There appears to be at least one substantial boundary ditch aligned north-west to south-east in the centre of the site (Figs 3 and 5), extending through Trench 34, Trench 36 (**3602**), Trench 42 (**4202**), Trench 43 (**4302**) and Trench 44, which could relate to one of the ditches found in the excavation to the north on a similar alignment. Further ditches extending perpendicular to this boundary could be part of the same system, for example ditch **3702** in Trench 37, ditch **5302** in Trench 53 and an unexcavated ditch in Trench 44. In general, the ditches identified are on various alignments, with seven aligned east to west, and the others varying between north-east to south-west and north-west to south-east.

4.3.2 Of the ditches uncovered in the north-east corner of the site, there was a possible correlation between ditches in Trenches 95-98 (Fig. 10), which could suggest part of a field system, and although no reliable dating evidence was recovered, it could be peripheral continuation of the Roman field system found in the adjacent field to the north.

4.3.3 The cremation uncovered in Trench 88 was shallow in nature but could indicate evidence for further cremations within the vicinity of this trench. Although it was not datable, there is evidence of Neolithic and Bronze Age activity to the north identified in the Cropmark Enclosure Project (MEX 10982) (Fig. 2) and the excavations to the north.

4.4 Significance

- 4.4.1 Features have been encountered in the central and northern parts of this site which may represent peripheral settlement activity relating to the enclosures found in excavations beyond the development area to the north of the site (Fig. 2). Due to the paucity of finds the features cannot be closely dated but the possible field systems could be Roman if they relate to those in nearby excavations. The cremation burial along with a sherd of Beaker pottery recovered could represent small scale prehistoric activity within the area. The lack of artefacts and limited environmental evidence suggests an absence of settlement on the site.
- 4.4.2 Overall, the archaeology is of local significance, although its relationship to the excavated archaeology to the north could add to our knowledge of prehistoric and Roman field systems that would assist in addressing regional research objectives.

4.4.3 Context Inventory

Context	Trench	Category	Feature Type	Cut No	Filled by	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Colour	Fine components	Coarse composition	Compaction	Shape in Plan	Side	Base	Orientation
100	1	layer	topsoil	0			0.3								
101	1	layer	subsoil	0			0.15								
102	1	layer	natural	0											
103	1	cut	ditch	0	104, 105	0.56	0.54					linear	steep	not fully seen	NW-SE
104	1	fill	ditch	103			0.24	mid brown	silty sand	occa small stones	loose				
105	1	fill	dich	103			0.28	mid greyish brown	sandy silt	infrequent gravel/charcoal	soft				
106	1	Cut	natural	0		0.93	0.4					linear	steep	flat/concave	
107	1	fill	natural	106		0.93	0.4	mid greyish brown	silty sand	infreq flint	soft				
200	2	layer	topsoil	0			0.3	dark greyish brown							
201	2	layer	subsoil	0			0.15								
202	2	layer	natural	0					sandy clay and gravel						
300	3	layer	topsoil	0			0.3	dark greyish brown							
301	3	layer	subsoil	0			0.15								
302	3	layer	natural	0											
400	4	layer	topsoil	0			0.35	dark greyish brown							
401	4	layer	subsoil	0			0.15								
402	4	layer	natural	0											

Context	Trench	Category	Feature Type	Cut No	Filled by	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Colour	Fine components	Coarse composition	Compaction	Shape in Plan	Side	Base	Orientation
500	5	layer	topsoil	0			0.2	dark greyish brown							
501	5	layer	subsoil	0			0.15								
502	5	layer	natural	0											
800	8	layer	topsoil	0			0.3	dark greyish brown							
801	8	layer	subsoil	0			0.1								
802	8	layer	natural	0											
900	9	layer	topsoil	0			0.25	dark greyish brown							
901	9	layer	subsoil	0			0.15								
902	9	layer	natural	0											
1000	10	layer	topsoil	0			0.3	dark greyish brown							
1001	10	layer	subsoil	0			0.1								
1002	10	layer	natural	0					silty clay						
1100	11	layer	topsoil	0			0.2	dark greyish brown							
1101	11	layer	subsoil	0			0.1								
1102	11	layer	natural	0					silty clay						
1200	12	layer	topsoil	0											
1201	12	layer	subsoil	0			0.3								
1202	12	layer	natural	0			0.13								
1203	1	cut	ditch	0	1204	0.63	0.25					linear	gentle	concave	SW-NE
1204	12	fill	ditch	1203			0.25	mid greyish brown	silty sand	freq flint	soft				
1205	12	cut	natural	0	1206							linear	gradual	concave	SW-NE

Context	Trench	Category	Feature Type	Cut No	Filled by	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Colour	Fine components	Coarse composition	Compaction	Shape in Plan	Side	Base	Orientation
1206	12	fill	natural	1205				light brownish grey	sandy clay	occa small stones, freq manganese	soft				
1207	12	cut	ditch	0								linear	not seen	not seen	NE-SW
1208	12	fill	ditch	1207				mid brownish grey	sandy clay	frequent gravel	loose				
1300	13	layer	topsoil	0			0.28	dark greyish brown							
1301	13	layer	subsoil	0			0.1								
1302	13	layer	natural	0					silty clay						
1400	14	layer	topsoil	0			0.3	dark greyish brown							
1401	14	layer	subsoil	0			0.15								
1402	14	layer	natural	0					silty clay						
1500	15	layer	topsoil	0			0.31	dark greyish brown							
1501	15	layer	subsoil	0			0.1								
1502	15	layer	natural	0					silty clay						
1600	16	layer	topsoil	0			0.25	dark greyish brown							
1601	16	layer	subsoil	0			0.15								
1602	16	layer	natural	0					silty clay						
1700	17	layer	topsoil	0			0.35	dark greyish brown							
1701	17	layer	subsoil	0			0.1								
1702	17	layer	natural	0					silty cay						
1800	18	layer	topsoil	0			0.25	dark greyish brown							

Context	Trench	Category	Feature Type	Cut No	Filled by	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Colour	Fine components	Coarse composition	Compaction	Shape in Plan	Side	Base	Orientation
1801	18	layer	subsoil	0			0.15								
1802	18	layer	natural	0					silty clay						
1900	19	layer	topsoil	0			0.25	dark greyish brown							
1901	19	layer	subsoil	0			0.15								
1902	19	layer	natural	0					silty clay						
2000	20	layer	topsoil	0			0.3	dark greyish brown							
2001	20	layer	subsoil	0			0.1								
2002	20	layer	natural	0					silty clay						
2100	21	layer	topsoil	0			0.3	dark greyish brown							
2101	21	layer	subsoil	0			0.1								
2102	21	layer	natural	0					silty clay						
2200	22	layer	topsoil	0			0.25	dark greyish brown							
2201	22	layer	subsoil	0			0.1								
2202	22	layer	natural	0					silty clay						
2300	23	layer	topsoil	0			0.25	dark greyish brown							
2301	23	layer	subsoil	0			0.1								
2302	23	layer	natural	0					silty clay						
2400	24	layer	topsoil	0			0.35	dark greyish brown							
2401	24	layer	subsoil	0			0.1								
2402	24	layer	natural	0					silty clay						
2500	25	layer	topsoil	0			0.3	dark greyish brown							

Context	Trench	Category	Feature Type	Cut No	Filled by	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Colour	Fine components	Coarse composition	Compaction	Shape in Plan	Side	Base	Orientation
2501	25	layer	subsoil	0			0.1								
2502	25	layer	natural	0					silty clay						
2600	26	layer	topsoil	0			0.35	dark greyish brown							
2601	26	layer	subsoil	0			0.05								
2602	26	layer	natural	0					silty clay						
2700	27	layer	topsoil	0			0.3	dark greyish brown							
2701	27	layer	subsoil	0			0.08								
2702	27	layer	natural	0					silty clay						
2800	28	layer	topsoil	0			0.3	dark greyish brown							
2801	28	layer	subsoil	0			0.1								
2802	28	layer	natural	0					silty clay						
2900	29	layer	topsoil	0			0.3	dark greyish brown							
2901	29	layer	subsoil	0			0.1								
2902	29	layer	natural	0					silty clay						
3000	30	layer	topsoil	0			0.3	dark greyish brown	clayey silt	freq small stones	soft				
3001	30	layer	natural	0			0.11	mid orange brown	gravelly clay						
3002	30	cut	gully	0	3003	0.37	0.08					linear	gradual	concave	N-S
3003	30	fill	gully	3002			0.08	light yellowish grey	sandy clay	gravel; - infrequent	soft				
3100	31	layer	topsoil	0			0.3	dark greyish brown							
3101	31	layer	subsoil	0			0.1								
3102	31	layer	natural	0					silty clay						

Context	Trench	Category	Feature Type	Cut No	Filled by	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Colour	Fine components	Coarse composition	Compaction	Shape in Plan	Side	Base	Orientation
3200	32	layer	topsoil	0			0.3	dark greyish brown							
3201	32	layer	subsoil	0			0.1								
3202	32	layer	natural	0					silty clay						
3300	33	layer	topsoil	0			0.22	dark greyish brown							
3301	33	layer	subsoil	0			0.13								
3302	33	layer	natural	0					silty clay						
3400	34	layer	topsoil	0			0.27	dark greyish brown							
3401	34	layer	subsoil	0			0.18								
3402	34	layer	natural	0					silty clay						
3500	35	layer	topsoil	0			0.3	dark greyish brown							
3501	35	layer	subsoil	0			0.12								
3502	35	layer	natural	0					silty clay						
3600	36	layer	topsoil	0			0.35								
3601	36	layer	natural	0			0.15								
3602	36	cut	ditch	0	3603, 3604	1.3	0.4					linear	steep	concave	SE-NW
3603	36	fill	ditch	3602			0.26	light brownish/orange grey	sandy clay	gravel - infrequent	soft				
3604	36	fill	ditch	3602			0.3	light bluish grey	sandy clay	gravel - infreq	soft				
3700	37	layer	topsoil	0			0.3								
3701	37	layer	natural	0			0.15								
3702	37	cut	ditch	0	3703	0.84	0.15					linear	moderate	flat	E-W

Context	Trench	Category	Feature Type	Cut No	Filled by	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Colour	Fine components	Coarse composition	Compaction	Shape in Plan	Side	Base	Orientation
3703	37	fill	ditch	3702			0.15	light greyish brown	silty clay	v rare stones, occa manganese	soft				
3800	38	layer	topsoil	0			0.27	dark greyish brown							
3801	38	layer	subsoil	0			0.15								
3802	38	layer	natural	0					silty clay						
3900	39	layer	topsoil	0			0.27	dark greyish brown							
3901	39	layer	subsoil	0			0.16								
3902	39	layer	natural	0					silty clay						
4000	40	layer	topsoil	0			0.3	dark greyish brown							
4001	40	layer	subsoil	0			0.1								
4002	40	layer	natural	0					silty clay						
4100	41	layer	topsoil	0			0.32	dark greyish brown							
4101	41	layer	subsoil	0			0.14								
4102	41	layer	natural	0					silty clay						
4200	42	layer	topsoil	0			0.3								
4201	42	layer	natural	0											
4202	42	cut	ditch	0	4203	1.28	0.26					linear	gentle	concave	NW-SE
4203	42	fill	ditch	4202			0.26	mid greyish brown	silty clay	none	soft				
4300	43	layer	topsoil	0			0.3								
4301	43	layer	natural	0											
4302	43	cut	ditch	4302		1.12	0.14					linear	gradual	flat	N-S

Context	Trench	Category	Feature Type	Cut No	Filled by	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Colour	Fine components	Coarse composition	Compaction	Shape in Plan	Side	Base	Orientation
4303	43	fill	ditch	4303			0.14	light greyish brown	sandy clay	infreq gravel	soft				
4400	44	layer	topsoil	0			0.3	dark greyish brown							
4401	44	layer	subsoil	0			0.08								
4402	44	layer	natural	0					silty clay						
4500	45	layer	topsoil	0			0.25	dark greyish brown							
4501	45	layer	subsoil	0			0.1								
4502	45	layer	natural	0					silty clay						
4600	46	layer	topsoil	0			0.3	dark greyish brown							
4601	46	layer	subsoil	0			0.2								
4602	46	layer	natural	0					silty clay						
4700	47	layer	topsoil	0			0.3	dark greyish brown							
4701	47	layer	subsoil	0			0.15								
4702	47	layer	natural	0					silty clay						
4900	49	layer	topsoil	0											
4901	49	layer	subsoil	0											
4902	49	layer	natural	0					silty clay						
5000	50	layer	topsoil	0											
5001	50	layer	subsoil	0											
5002	50	layer	natural	0					silty clay						
5100	51	layer	topsoil	0											
5101	51	layer	subsoil	0											
5102	51	layer	natural	0					silty clay						

Context	Trench	Category	Feature Type	Cut No	Filled by	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Colour	Fine components	Coarse composition	Compaction	Shape in Plan	Side	Base	Orientation
5200	52	layer	topsoil	0			0.28	dark greyish brown							
5201	52	layer	natural	0					silty clay						
5300	53	layer	topsoil	0			0.3								
5301	53	layer	natural	0											
5302	53	cut	gully	0	5303	0.26	0.08					linear	shallow	concave	NE-SW
5303	53	fill	gully	5302			0.08	mid brown	clayey silt	occa small stones	soft				
5400	54	layer	topsoil	0			0.3	dark greyish brown							
5401	54	layer	subsoil	0			0.1								
5402	54	layer	natural	0					silty clay						
5500	55	layer	topsoil	0			0.26								
5501	55	layer	natural	0											
5502	55	cut	ditch		5503	1.7	0.44					linear	moderate	concave	E-W
5503	55	fill	ditch	5502			0.44	mid greyish brown	sandy clay	occa flint/gravel	soft				
5700	57	layer	topsoil	0			0.34	dark greyish brown							
5701	57	layer	subsoil	0			0.09								
5702	57	layer	natural	0					silty clay						
5800	58	layer	topsoil	0			0.3								
5801	58	layer	subsoil	0											
5802	58	layer	natural	0											
5803	58	cut	pit	0	5804	0.4	0.08					sub-circular	gradual	flat	
5804	58	fill	pit	5803			0.08	light brownish grey	clayey sand	occa gravel	soft				

Context	Trench	Category	Feature Type	Cut No	Filled by	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Colour	Fine components	Coarse composition	Compaction	Shape in Plan	Side	Base	Orientation
5900	59	layer	topsoil	0			0.31	dark greyish brown							
5901	59	layer	subsoil	0			0.08								
5902	59	layer	natural	0					silty clay						
6000	60	layer	topsoil	0			0.27	dark greyish brown							
6001	60	layer	subsoil	0			0.1								
6002	60	layer	natural	0					silty clay						
6100	61	layer	topsoil	0			0.29	dark greyish brown							
6101	61	layer	subsoil	0			0.11								
6102	61	layer	natural	0					silty clay						
6200	62	layer	topsoil	0			0.3	dark greyish brown							
6201	62	layer	subsoil	0			0.11								
6202	62	layer	natural	0					silty clay						
6300	63	layer	topsoil	0			0.32								
6301	63	layer	natural	0											
6303	63	cut	post hole	0	6304	0.34	0.14					sub-circular	SE sloping, NW steep	sloping	
6304	63	fill	post hole	6303		0.34	0.14	light brownish grey	clayey sand	occa gravel, occa charcoal	soft				
6400	64	layer	topsoil	0			0.28								
6401	64	layer	subsoil	0			0.12								
6402	64	layer	natural	0											
6403	64	cut	post hole	0	6404	0.3	0.14					sub-circular	steep	flat	
6404	64	fill	post hole	0			0.14	light yellowish grey	clayey sand	occa gravel small stones	soft				

Context	Trench	Category	Feature Type	Cut No	Filled by	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Colour	Fine components	Coarse composition	Compaction	Shape in Plan	Side	Base	Orientation
6500	65	layer	topsoil	0			0.26	dark greyish brown							
6501	65	layer	subsoil	0			0.15								
6502	65	layer	natural	0					silty clay						
6600	66	layer	topsoil	0			0.26	dark greyish brown							
6601	66	layer	subsoil	0			0.17								
6602	66	layer	natural	0					silty clay						
6700		layer	topsoil	0			0.3	dark grey brown	silty clay	occa stones	firm to loose				
6702	67	layer	subsoil	0			0.08	mid reddish brown	clay sand	occa stones	loose				
6703	67	cut	gully	0	6704	0.6	0.15					linear	moderately concave	concave	N-S
6704	67	fill	gully	6703			0.15	light yellow grey	sandy silt	occa stone	firm				
6705	67	cut	tree throw	0	6706	0.9	0.18					linear	steep to NW gentle to SE	concave	SW-BE
6706	67	fill	tree throw	6705			0.18	light yellowish grey	sandy silt	occa stone	firm				
6707	67	cut	natural	0		0.5	0.09					circular	moderate	concave	
6708	67	fill	natural	6707			0.09	light yellowish grey	sandy silt	occa stone	firm				
6709	67	cut	tree throw		6710	0.6	13					linear	gentle	concave	E-W
6710	67	fill	natural	6709			0.13	light yellowish grey	sandy silt	occa stones	firm				
6800	68	layer	topsoil	0			0.32	dark greyish brown							
6801	68	layer	subsoil	0			0.12								
6802	68	layer	natural	0											

Context	Trench	Category	Feature Type	Cut No	Filled by	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Colour	Fine components	Coarse composition	Compaction	Shape in Plan	Side	Base	Orientation
6900	69	layer	topsoil	0			0.27								
6901	69	layer	subsoil	0			0.1								
6902	69	layer	natural	0											
6903	69	cut	post hole	0	6904	0.21	0.12					circular	steep	concave	
6904	69	fill	post hole	6903			0.12	light greyish brown	silty sand		soft				
7200	72	layer	topsoil	0											
7201	72	layer	subsoil	0											
7202	72	layer	natural	0											
7300	73	layer	topsoil	0											
7301	73	layer	subsoil	0											
7302	73	layer	natural	0											
7400	74	layer	topsoil	0											
7401	74	layer	subsoil	0											
7402	74	layer	natural	0											
7500	75	layer	topsoil	0											
7501	75	layer	subsoil	0											
7502		layer	natural	0											
7503	75	cut	ditch	0	7504							linear	not seen	not seen	E-W
7504	75	fill	ditch	0				mid brownish grey	clayey silt	occa small stones	soft				
7600	76	layer	topsoil	0											
7601	76	layer	subsoil	0											
7602	76	layer	natural	0											
7700	77	layer	topsoil	0			0.3	dark greyish brown							

Context	Trench	Category	Feature Type	Cut No	Filled by	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Colour	Fine components	Coarse composition	Compaction	Shape in Plan	Side	Base	Orientation
7701	77	layer	natural	0					silty clay						
7800	78	layer	topsoil	0			0.34	dark greyish brown							
7801	78	layer	natural	0					silty clay						
7900	79	layer	topsoil	0			0.3	dark greyish brown							
7901	79	layer	natural	0					silty clay						
8000	80	layer	topsoil	0			0.36								
8001	80	layer	subsoil	0			0.1								
8002	80	layer	natural	0											
8003	80	cut	pit	0	8004	1.1	0.39					circular	steep	concave	
8004	84	fill	pit	8003			0.39	light greyish brown	sandy clay	gravel	soft				
8005	80	cut	ditch	0	8006	1.1	0.3					linear	gentle	concave	E-W
8006	80	fill	ditch	8005			0.3	light greyish brown	sandy clay	gravel	soft				
8100	81	layer	topsoil	0			0.34								
8101	81	layer	natural	0											
8102	81	cut	natural	0		0.98	0.26					sub-circular	gradual	irregular	
8103	81	fill	tree throw?	8102			0.26	light bluish grey	sandy clay	gravel - infrequent	soft				
8200	82	layer	topsoil	0			0.34	dark greyish brown							
8201	82	layer	natural	0					silty clay						
8300	83	layer	topsoil	0			0.28	dark greyish brown							
8301	83	layer	natural	0					silty clay						
8600	86	layer	topsoil	0			0.36								

Context	Trench	Category	Feature Type	Cut No	Filled by	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Colour	Fine components	Coarse composition	Compaction	Shape in Plan	Side	Base	Orientation
8601	86	layer	natural	0											
8602	86	cut	ditch	0	8603	0.62	0.12					linear	gradual	flat	E-W
8603	86	fill	ditch	8602			0.12	light bluish grey	sandy clay	occa gravel	soft				
8604	86	cut	ditch	0	8605	0.6	0.28					linear	steep	concave	E-W
8605	86	fill	ditch	8604			0.28	light greyish brown	sandy clay	infreq gravel	concave				
8700	87	layer	topsoil	0			0.34	dark greyish brown							
8701	87	layer	subsoil	0			0.12								
8702	87	layer	natural	0					silty clay						
8800	88	layer	topsoil	0			0.3								
8801		layer	subsoil	0			0.1								
8802		layer	natural	0											
8803	88	cut	cremation	0		0.46	0.18					sub-circular	steep	flat	
8804	88	fill	cremation	8803			0.04	light brownish grey	clayey sand	occa charcoal, freq gravel	loose				
8805	88	fill	cremation	8803			0.14	dark greyish black	clayey silt	abundant charcoal, burnt bone	soft				
9000	90	layer	topsoil	0			0.3	dark greyish brown							
9001	90	layer	natural	0					silty clay						
9100	91	layer	topsoil	0			0.32	dark greyish brown							
9101	91	layer	natural	0					silty clay						
9200	92	layer	topsoil	0			0.32								
9201	92	layer	subsoil	0											

Context	Trench	Category	Feature Type	Cut No	Filled by	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Colour	Fine components	Coarse composition	Compaction	Shape in Plan	Side	Base	Orientation
9202	92	layer	natural	0											
9203	92	cut	ditch	0	9204	1.08	0.18					linear	gradual	flat	E-W
9204	92	fill	ditch	9203			0.18	mid brownish grey	sandy clay	gravel – occa manganese	soft				
9300	93	layer	topsoil	0			0.3								
9301	93	layer	subsoil	0											
9302	93	layer	natural	0											
9303	93	cut	ditch	0	9304	0.84	0.12					linear	gentle	concave	NW-SE
9304	93	fill	ditch	9303			0.12	mid greyish brown	sandy clay	gravel	soft				
9305	93	cut	post hole	0	9306	0.2	0.08					circular	gentle	concave	
9306	93	fill	post hole	9305			0.08	mid greyish brown	sandy clay	gravel	soft				
9307	93	cut	post hole	0	9308	0.3	0.06					circular	gentle	concave	
9308	93	fill	post hole	9307			0.06	light greyish brown	sandy clay	gravel	soft				
9400	94	layer	topsoil	0			0.38	dark greyish brown							
9401	94	layer	natural	0					silty clay						
9500	95	layer	topsoil	0			0.18								
9501	95	layer	subsoil	0			0.12								
9502	95	layer	natural	0											
9503	95	cut	ditch	0	9504	0.5	0.1					linear	gradual	flat	NE-SW
9504	95	fill	ditch	9503		0.5	0.1	light brownish grey	sandy clay	occa gravel	soft				
9600	96	layer	topsoil	0			0.3	dark greyish brown							

Context	Trench	Category	Feature Type	Cut No	Filled by	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Colour	Fine components	Coarse composition	Compaction	Shape in Plan	Side	Base	Orientation
9601	96	layer	natural	0					silty clay						
9700	97	layer	topsoil	0			0.3	dark greyish brown							
9701	97	layer	subsoil	0			0.2								
9702	97	layer	natural	0					silty clay						
9800	98	layer	topsoil	0			0.25								
9801	98	layer	subsoil	0			0.2								
9802	98	layer	natural	0											
9803	98	cut	pit	0	9804	0.65	0.25					sub-circular	steep	concave	
9804	98	fill	pit	9803			0.25	dark grey	silty sand	freq stones	loose				
9805	98	cut	pit	0	9806	0.6	0.3					sub-circular	vertical	not seen-flooded	
9806	98	fill	pit	0			0.3	mid grey	silty sand	freq stones	loose				
9900	99	layer	topsoil	0			0.3	dark greyish brown							
9901	99	layer	natural	0					silty clay						
10000	100	layer	topsoil	0											
10001	100	layer	natural	0					silty clay						
10100	101	layer	topsoil	0			0.35								
10101	101	layer	subsoil	0			0.11								
10102	101	fill	quarry	0		0.9	0.25	dark greyish brown	sandy silt	grave	loose				
10103	101	fill	pit	10104				dark greyish brown	sandy silt	freq gravel	loose				
10104	101	cut	quarry	0	10103		0.25					indeterminate	gradual	not seen	

APPENDIX A FINDS REPORTS

A.1 Pottery

By Carole Fletcher

Introduction

A.1.1 Archaeological works produced a small assemblage of pottery, five sherds in total weighing 45g, recovered from four ditches. The condition of the overall assemblage is abraded.

Assemblage and Discussion

A.1.2 A small fragment (1g) recovered from fill 9504 (ditch **9503**) is quartz and organic tempered (the organics have burnt or leached out). It is heavily abraded so is not closely datable.

A.1.3 A base sherd (16g) recovered from the surface of ditch **7503** (7504) in Trench 75 is a heavily abraded prehistoric base sherd which could be Beaker (2600-1600 BC). It is heavily abraded, so identification is tentative (Gilmour 2021, pers. comm.)

A.1.4 An abraded body sherd (2g) from fill 9204 (ditch **9203**) has dull grey brown surfaces, (almost looks fumed), and oxidised dull red-brown margins with greyer core, fine quartz temper and some mica. It is not closely datable.

A.1.5 Two sherds (26g) were recovered from context 1208 (ditch **1207**) from the same moderately abraded vessel. These are probably from a jug, a body sherd and strap handle (crescent shaped in section) with some thumbled decorations, possibly applied, running down the centre of the handle. The handle flares outwards towards the join with the body of the vessel. The fabric is quartz tempered and tentatively identified as oxidised Fabric 20, although it could be Fabric 13T. The handle style fits better with medieval fabric and is probably from the earlier end of the date range for the fabric c. AD 1175=1250/75 but could be later.

Retention, Dispersal or display

A.1.6 Due to the fragmentary nature of the assemblage, it is of little significance, beyond indicating low levels of domestic rubbish relating to manuring scatters.

APPENDIX B ENVIRONMENTAL REPORTS

B.1 Cremated Bone

By Natasha Dodwell

Assemblage and Discussion

- B.1.1 A very small quantity (2g) of calcined bone was recovered from a shallow, charcoal rich pit **8803** in Trench 88. The bone is probably human and the size and robustness of the fragments suggest that they derive from an older subadult/adult. The largest fragment is 25.23mm long and is a forelimb shaft. The bone is a buff white colour indicative of complete oxidisation of the organic part of the bone and high pyre temperatures. The surface texture of the fragments is chalky and abraded which may be the result of the burial environment. Without dating of the feature, no further interpretation can be made.

B.2 Environmental remains

By Martha Craven

Introduction

- B.2.1 Five bulk samples were taken from features within the evaluated area at Lufkins Farm, 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 37, 42, 63 and 88 from deposits that are as yet undated.

Methodology

- B.2.2 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.
- B.2.3 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 1. 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

B.2.4 For the purpose of this 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

B.2.5 Items that cannot be easily quantified such as charcoal and molluscs have been scored for abundance

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

Results

B.2.6 Preservation of plant remains from this site is through carbonisation and consists solely of charcoal fragments. The majority of the samples contain small quantities of charcoal. The largest quantity of charcoal, approximately 125 millilitres, was recovered from fill 8805, from a possible cremation **8803** (Trench 88).

B.2.7 The samples are either devoid of or contain occasional, relatively well-preserved molluscs.

Sample No.	Context No.	Cut No.	Trench No.	Feature Type	Volume Processed (L)	Flot Volume (ml)	Molluscs	Charcoal Volume (ml)	Human skeletal remains
1	8804	8803	88	Cremation	8	5	++	24	0
2	8805	8803	88	Cremation	8	50	+	125	#?
3	6304	6303	63	Posthole	4	5	0	12	0
4	4203	4202	42	Ditch	16	<1	0	2	0
5	3703	3702	37	Ditch	18	5	0	2	0

Table 1: Environmental samples from Lufkins Farm

Discussion

B.2.8 The recovery of only moderate quantities of charcoal indicates that there is limited potential for the preservation of plant remains at this site.

B.2.9 The large quantity of charcoal recovered from possible cremation **8803** is likely to be the remains of pyre material. Unfortunately, little else can be inferred about the plant usage on this site due to the low density and diversity of plant taxa.

B.2.10 If further excavation is planned for this area, it is recommended that environmental sampling is carried out in accordance with Historic England guidelines (2011).

APPENDIX C BIBLIOGRAPHY

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www.seedatlas.nl

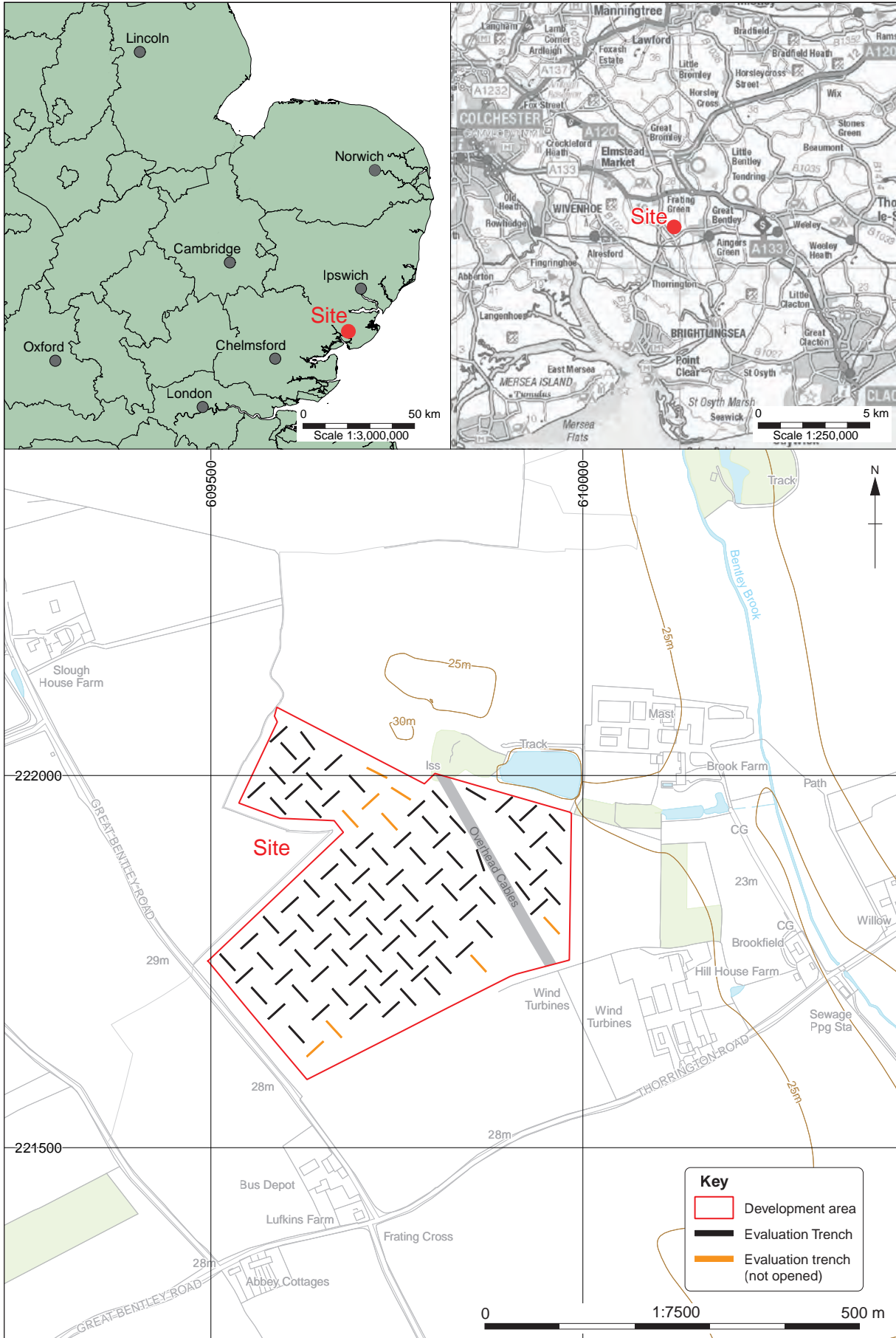
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Figure 1: Site location

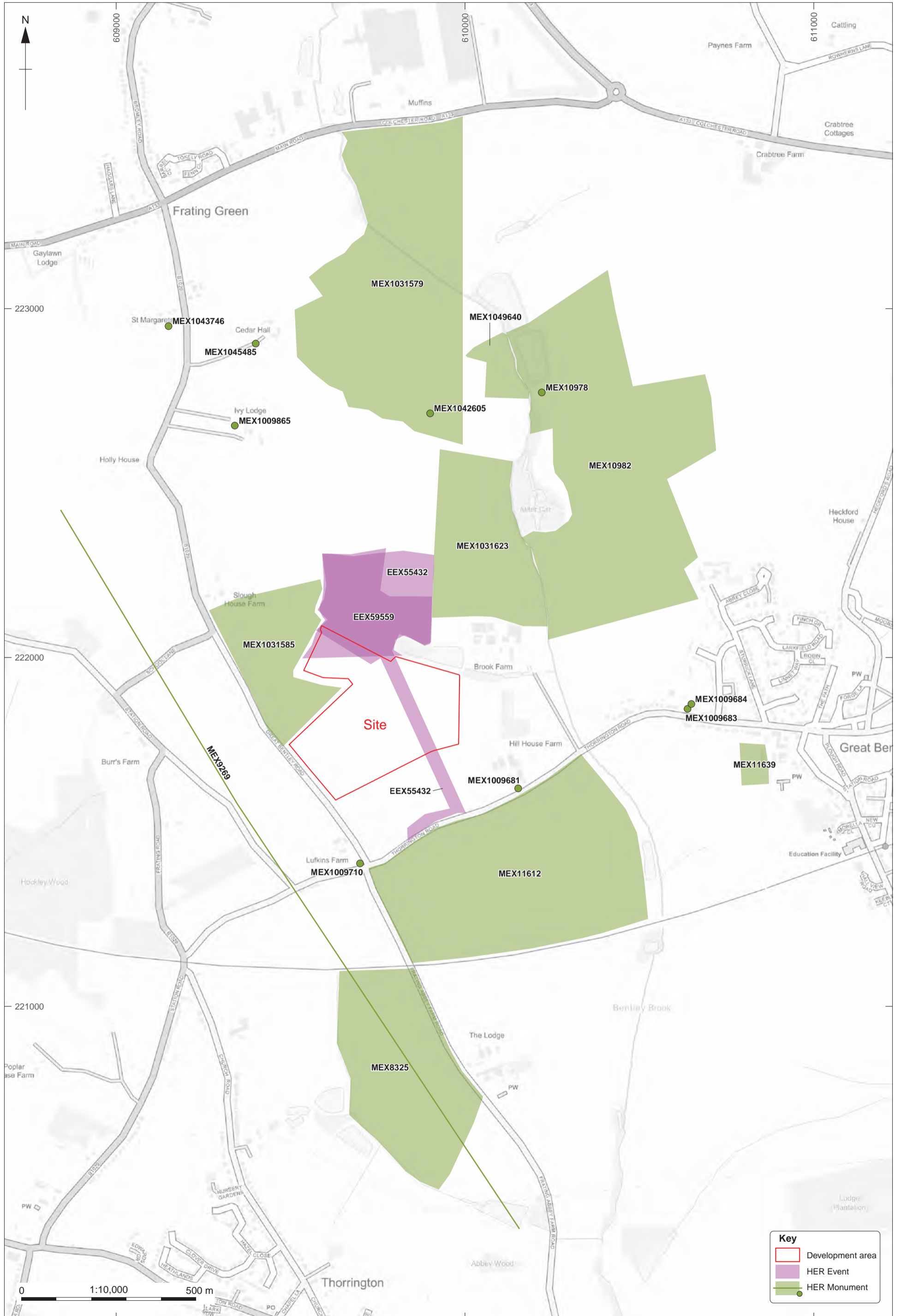


Figure 2: Selected HER entries

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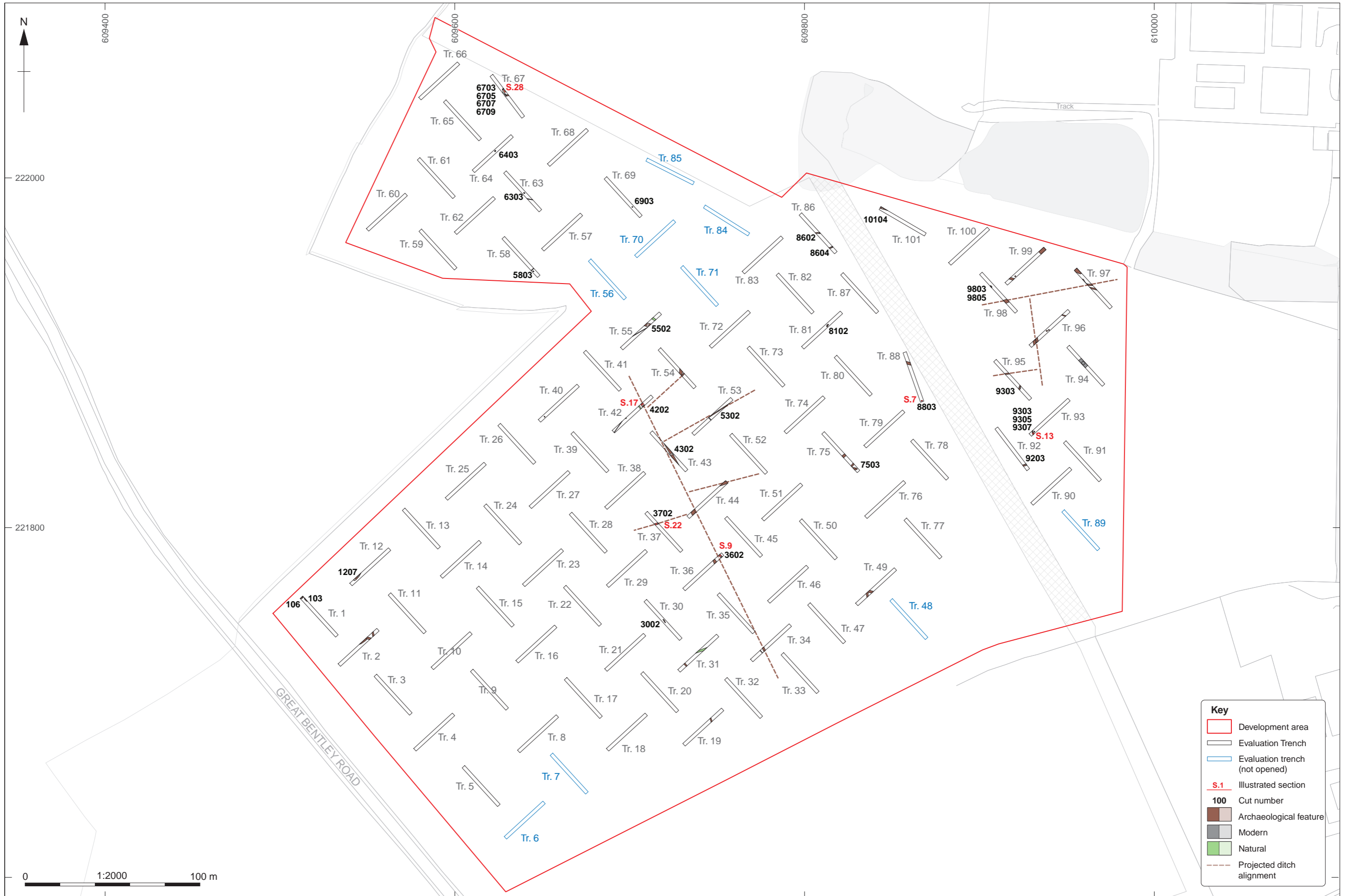


Figure 3: Site plan

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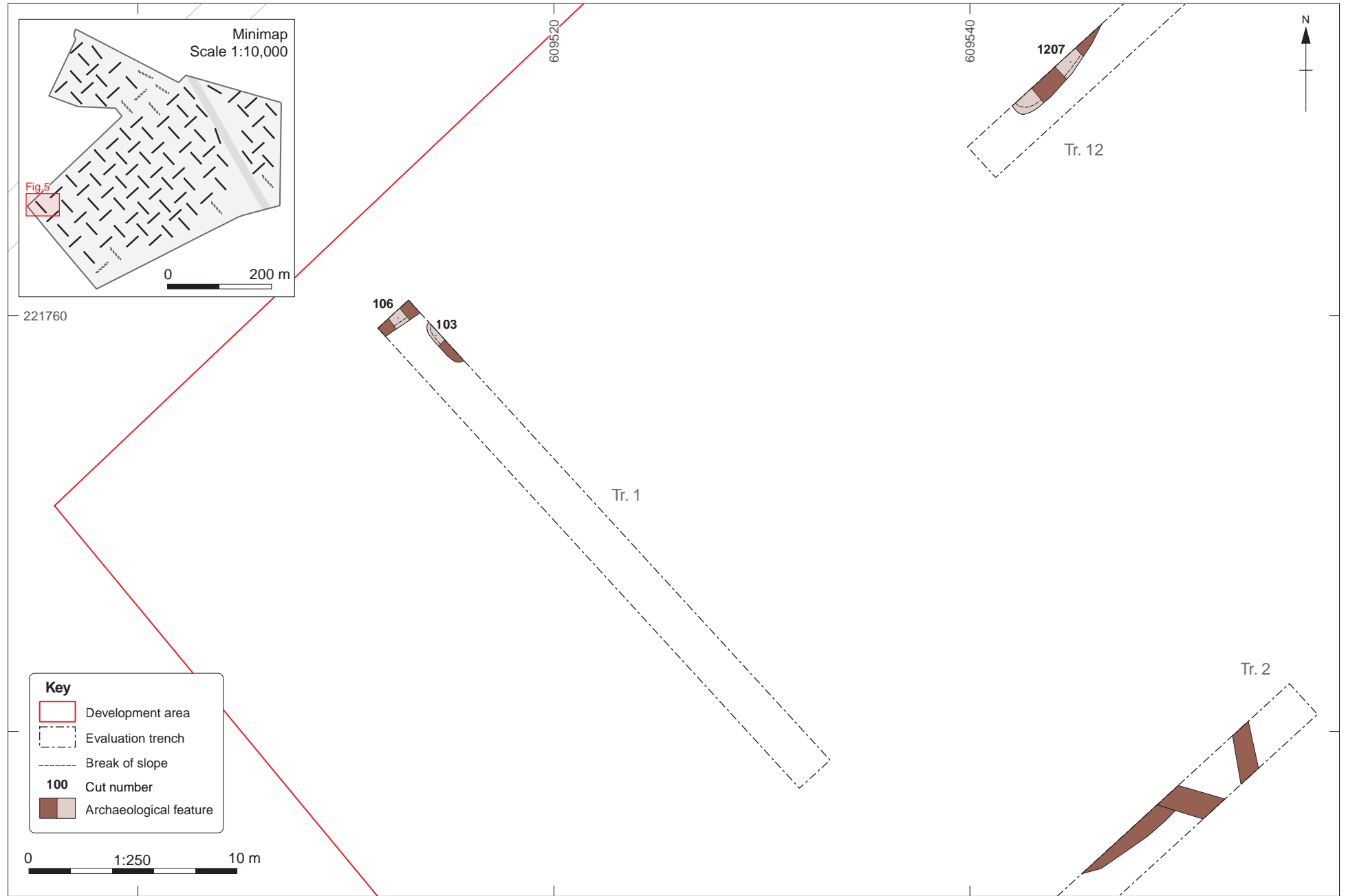


Figure 4: Trenches 1, 2 and 12 detailed plan

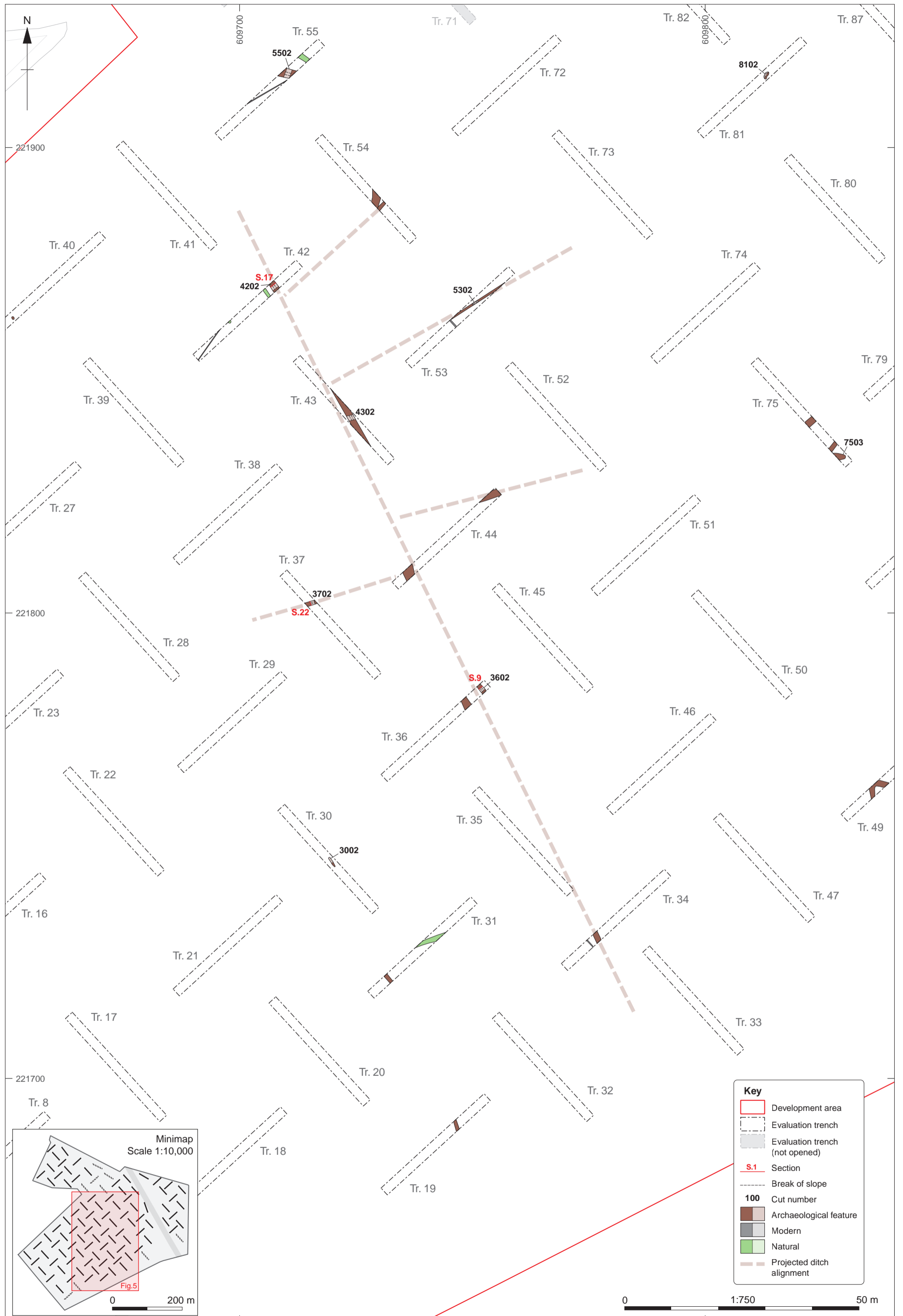


Figure 5: Trenches 30, 31, 34, 36-37, 42-43, 49, 55, 75 and 81 detailed plan

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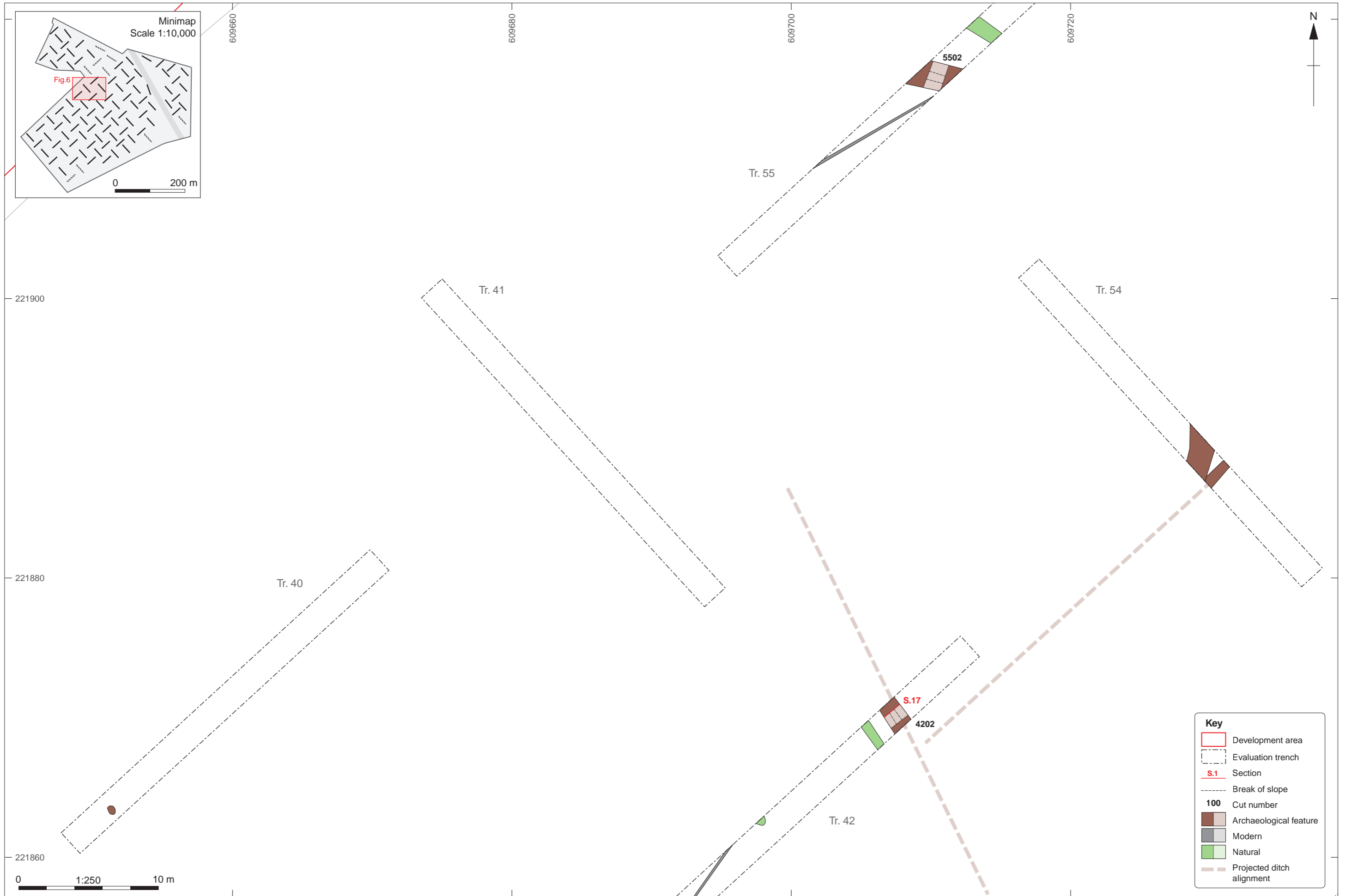


Figure 6: Trenches 42, 40 and 54-55 detailed plan

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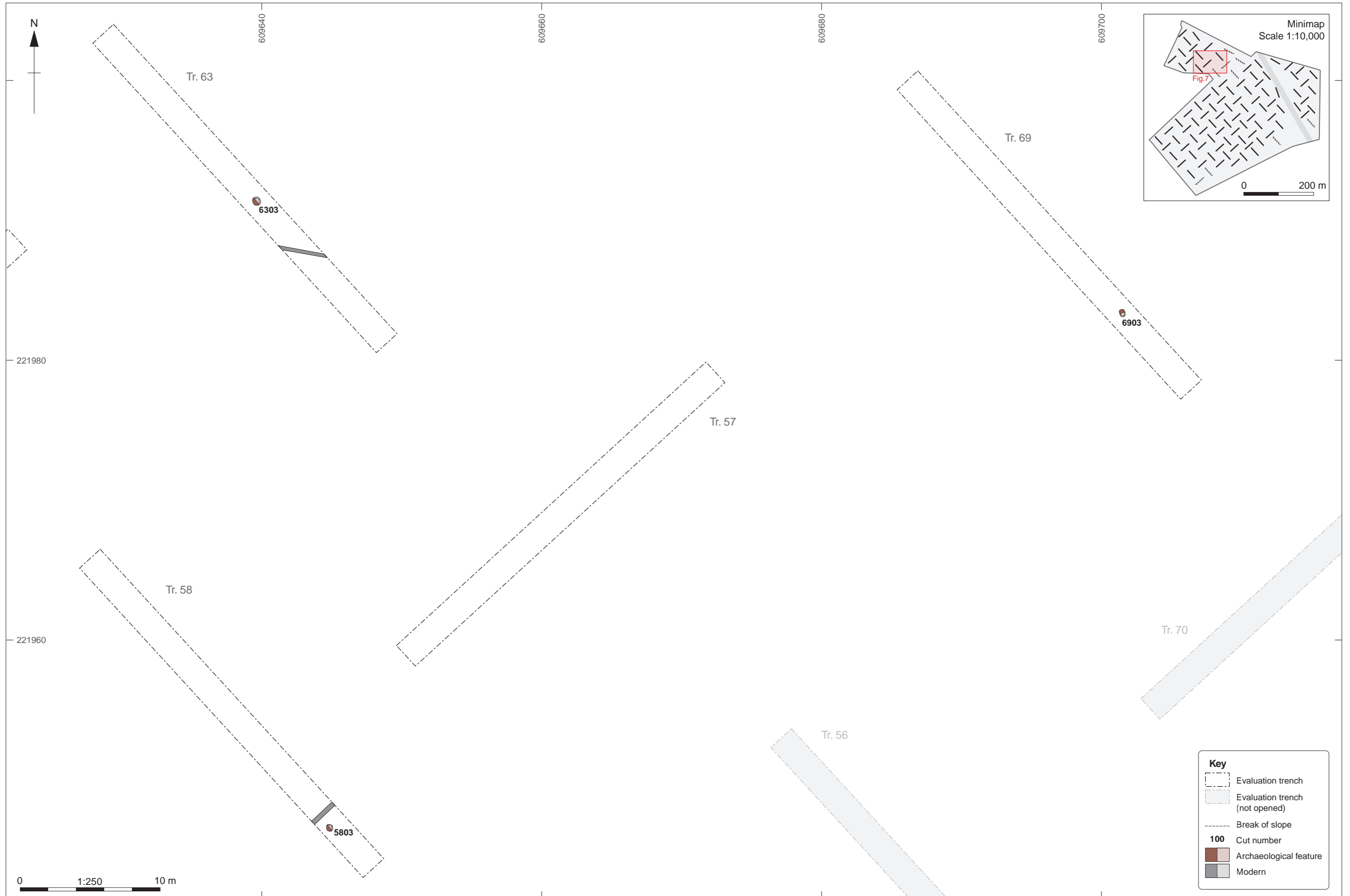


Figure 7: Trenches 57-58, 63 and 69 detailed plan

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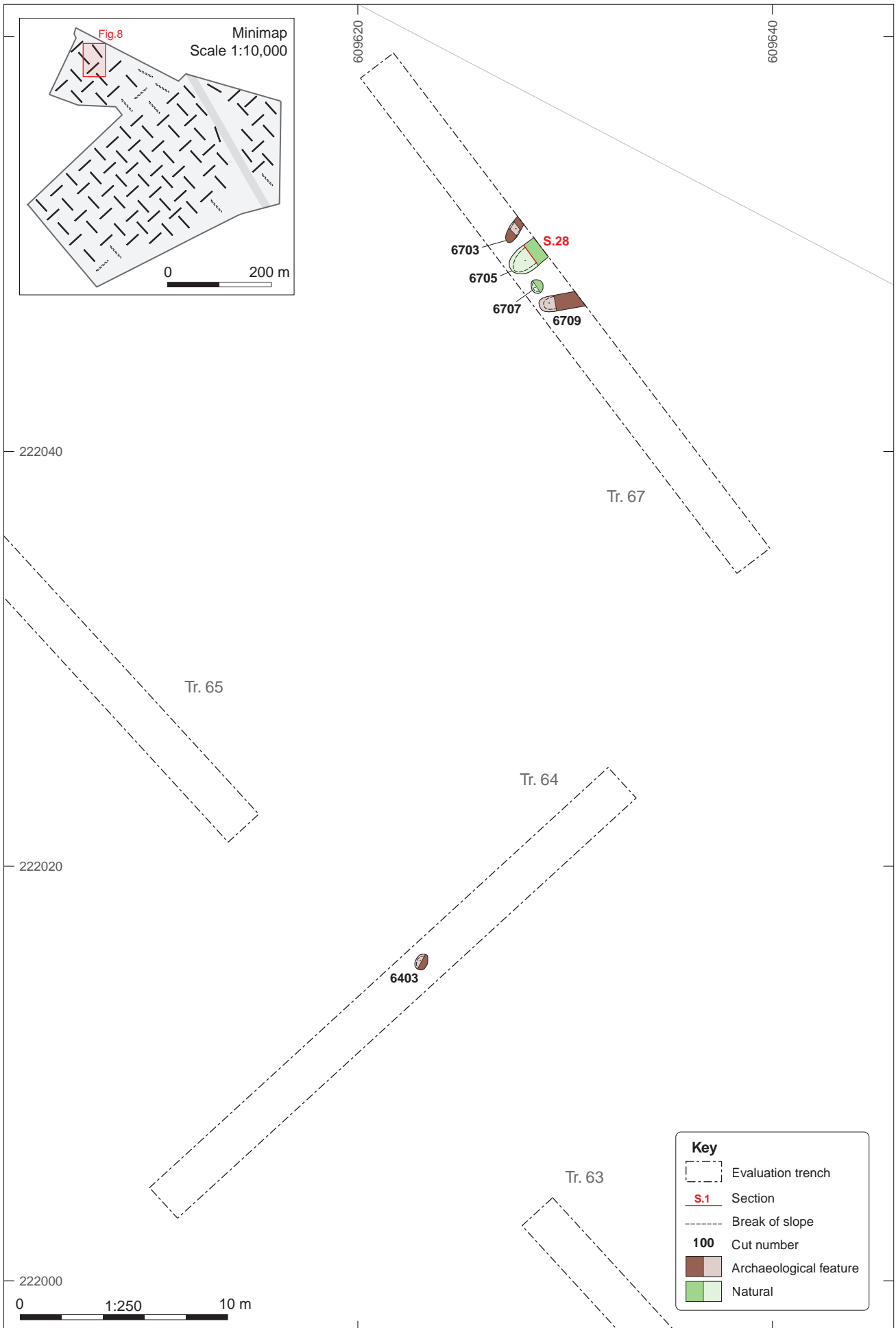


Figure 8: Trenches 64-65 and 67 detailed plan

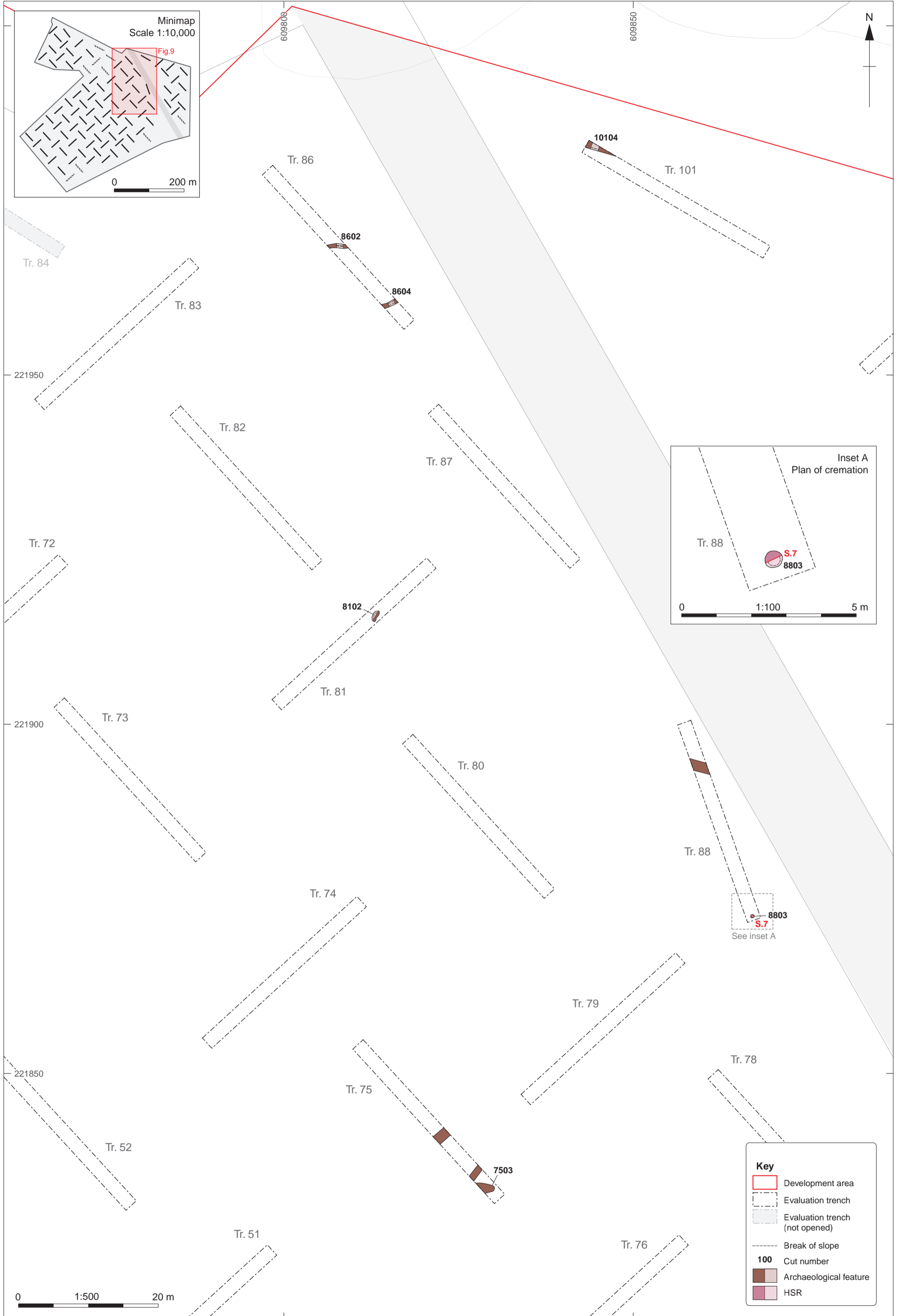


Figure 9: Trenches 75, 81, 86, 88 and 101 detailed plan

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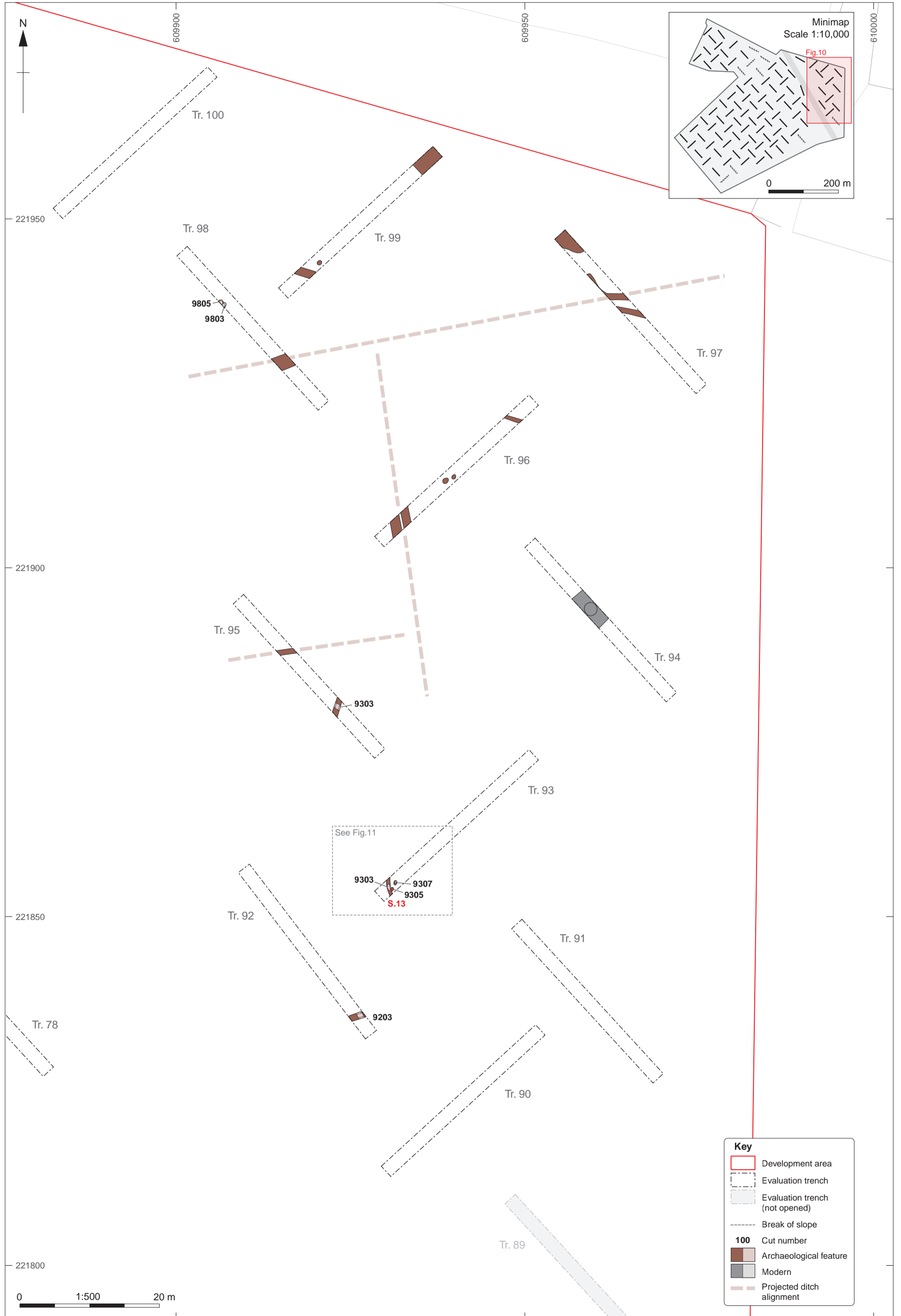


Figure 10: Trenches 92-99 detailed plan

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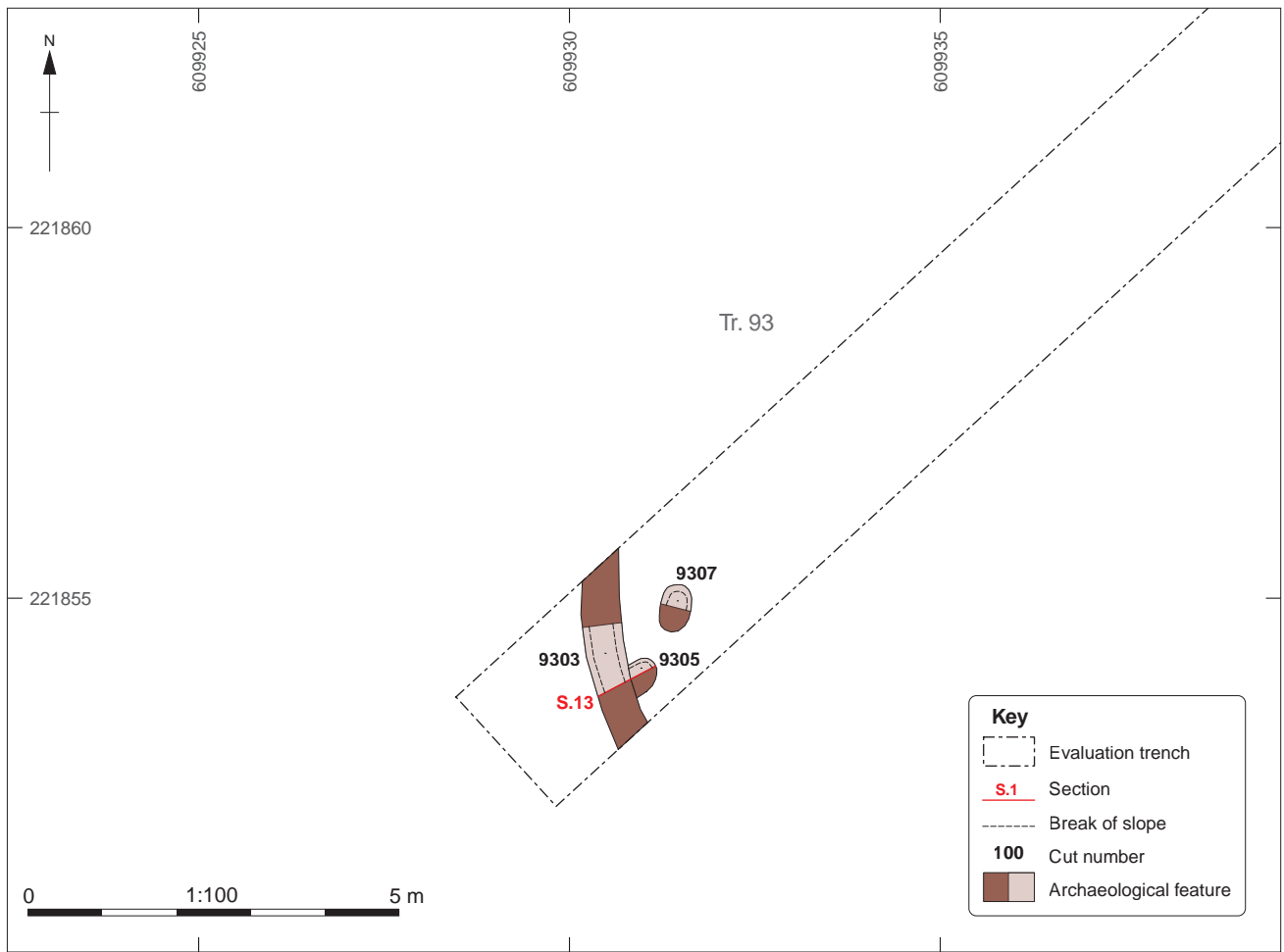


Figure 11: Trench 93 detailed plan

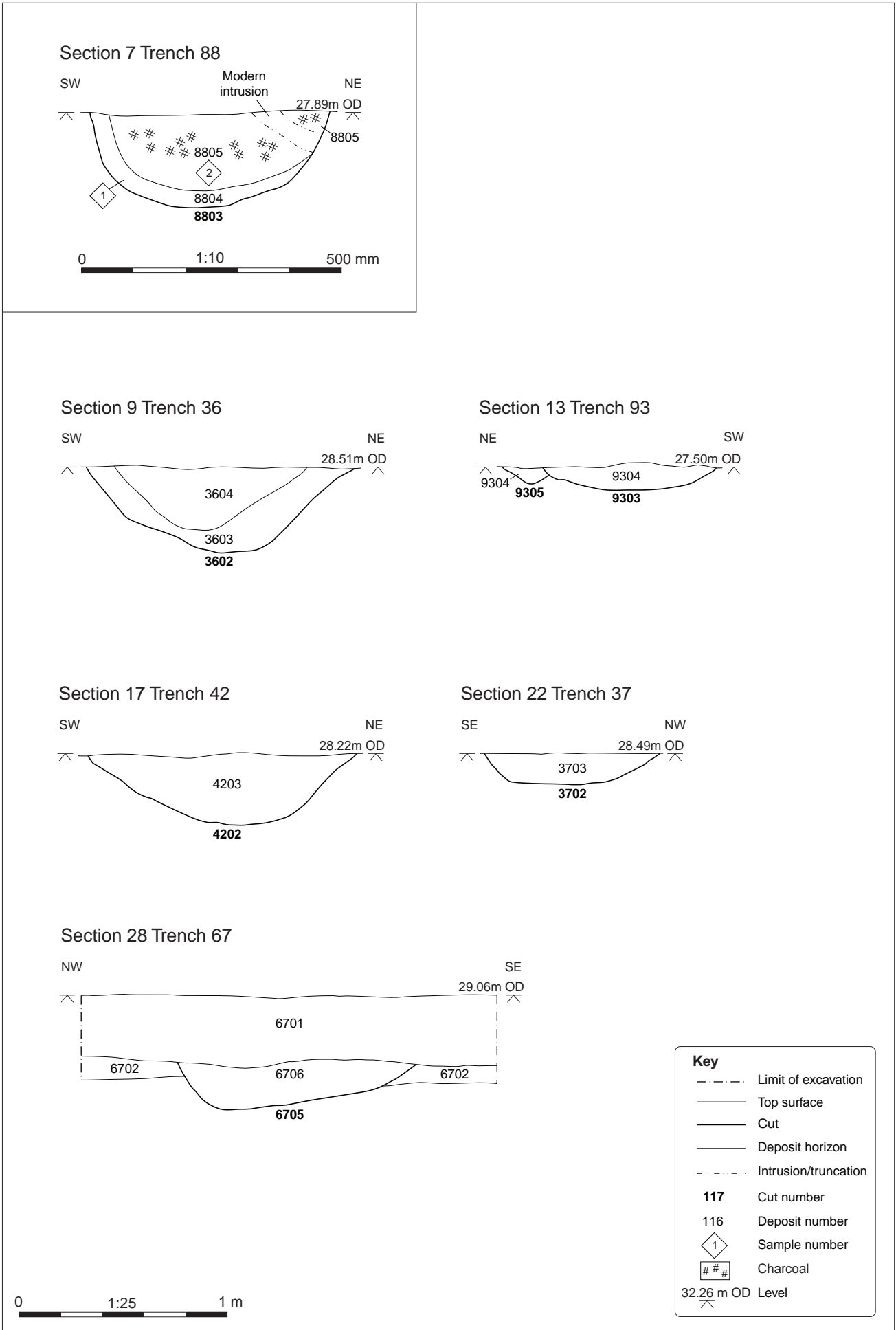


Figure 12: Selected sections



Plate 1: Deep agricultural activity



Plate 2: Trench 36, Ditch 3602 from the south-east



Plate 3: Trench 43, from the south-east



Plate 4: Trench 55, Ditch **5502** from the east



Plate 5: Trench 55 from the north-east



Plate 6: Trench 69, from the north-west

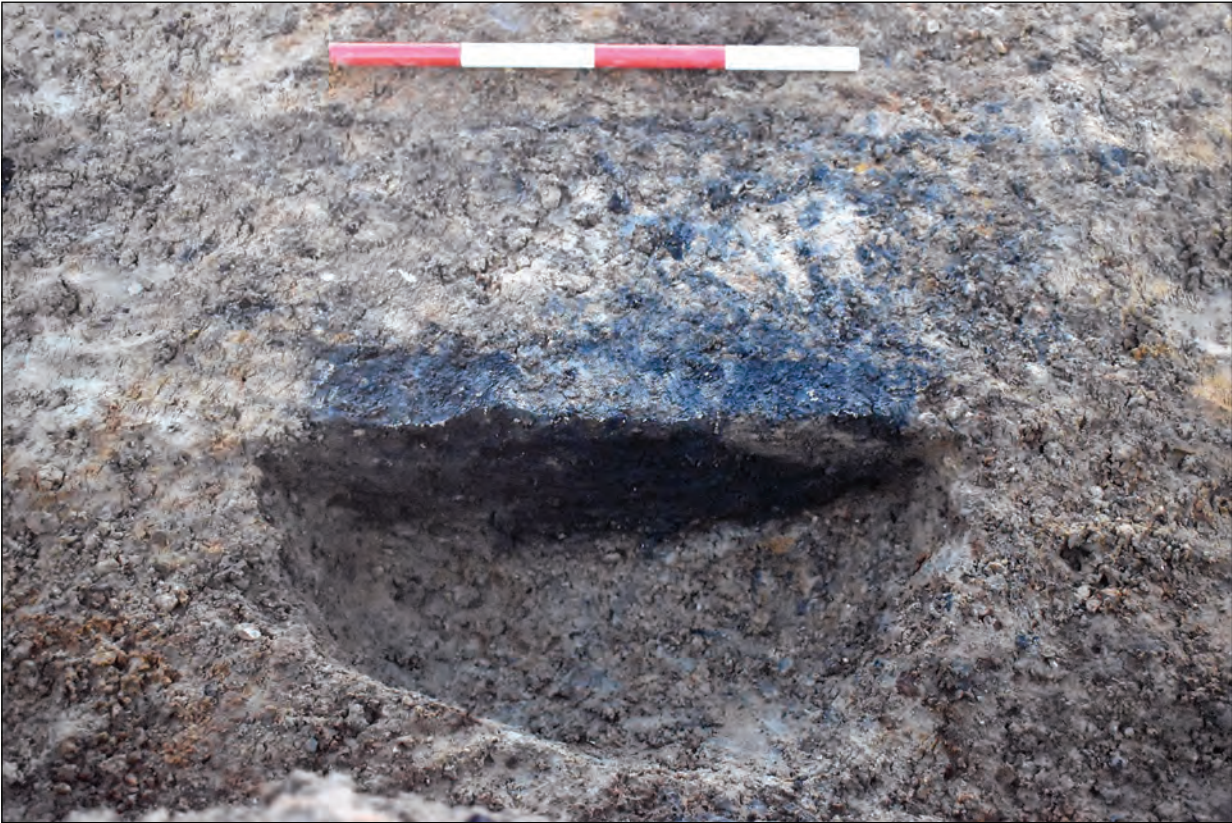


Plate 7: Trench 88, cremation **8803** from the south-east

Plate 8: Trench 88, cremation **8803** from the south-east



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