Stenigot to Benniworth Pipeline Lincolnshire

Archaeological Evaluation Report

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August 2013

Client: Anglian Water Services Ltd.

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Archaeological Evaluation Report

Stenigot to Benniworth Pipeline, Lincolnshire

Archaeological Evaluation

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Illustrator: Louise Bush BA MA PIfA

Report Date: August 2013

Report Number:	1503
Site Name:	Stenigot to Benniworth Pipeline, Lincolnshire
HER Event No:	-
Date of Works:	July 2013
Client Name:	Anglian Water Services Ltd.
Client Ref:	-
Planning Ref:	-
Grid Ref:	TF 2314 7857
Site Code:	SBWM13
Finance Code:	XLISBP13
Receiving Body:	Lincolnshire County Store
Accession No:	LCNCC: 2013.128
Prepared by:	Louise Bush
Position:	Project Officer
Date:	August 2013
Checked by:	Richard Mortimer
Position:	Senior Project Manager
Date:	August 2013
Signed:	

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Summary

Between the 25th and the 31st July 2013 Oxford Archaeology East carried out an archaeological evaluation in the areas east and south of Market Stainton, Lincolnshire ahead of the construction of a new water pipeline. A total of eight trenches were excavated along the 4.8km long, 12m wide easement.

A small number of features were identified during the archaeological works. Medieval activity was seen in Trenches 1 and 2 at Ranby. A single stuck flint was collected from the subsoil next to an undated gully in Trench 4 near Market Stainton and a series of natural features were seen in Trenches 7 and 8 near to Stenigot.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Location and scope of work

1.1.1 An archaeological evaluation was conducted along the route of a water pipeline between Stenigot (526128, 381163) and Benniworth (520933, 381956), Lincolnshire (Fig. 1).

1.1.2 This archaeological evaluation was undertaken in accordance with a Brief issued by Louise Jennings of Lincolnshire County Council Historic Environment Team (LCC HET) and supplemented by a Specification prepared by OA East.

1.1.3 The work was designed to assist in defining the character and extent of any archaeological remains within the proposed easement, in accordance with the guidelines set out in *National Planning Policy Framework* (Department for Communities and Local Government March 2012). The results will enable decisions to be made by LCC HET with regard to the treatment of any archaeological remains found.

1.1.4 The site archive is currently held by OA East and will be deposited with the appropriate county stores in due course.

1.2 Geology and topography

1.2.1 The proposed route is approximately 4.8km in length and is located about 10km south-west of Louth. It extends across open farmland from 2km north-east of Market Stainton to 1km south of Ranby. It reaches a maximum elevation of *c.*100m OD at its mid-point, and *c.*70m at the northern and southern ends.

1.2.2 The northern end of the route is on Cretaceous Wealden group mudstone. The southern half of the route is on a bedrock of Jurassic clay (Ampthill and Kimmeridge clay), beneath a boulder clay drift deposit.

1.3 Archaeological and historical background

1.3.1 The pipeline route passes through several areas of known prehistoric, Roman and Medieval archaeology. Toward the northern end of the pipeline in the region of Stenigot, a barbed and tanged arrowhead, flint scraper and possible Beaker pottery (HER 40782) have been collected from the northern side of the field in which Trenches 7 and 8 are located. This field is also believed to contain two parallel pit alignments (HER 44857) seen as cropmarks.

1.3.2 A number of Bronze Age barrows also dot the landscape around Stenigot. For example, to the south-east of the pipeline, a barrow cemetery has been identified at Moses Farm (HER 44845). Situated in the adjacent field to the immediate north of Trenches 7 and 8 a number of barrows can be seen (HER 44100). Also located in this field are possible Prehistoric/Roman enclosures (HER 46972), as identified via cropmarks.

1.3.3 Toward the southern end of the pipeline route near Ranby prehistoric or Roman boundary/enclosure ditches can seen as cropmarks (HER 44920) in the field immediately east of Trench 2. And passing close to the southernmost tip of the pipeline is the known route of the Roman road (HER 40319) which runs from Lincoln to Burgh le Marsh.

1.3.4 With regard to Medieval remains, on the eastern side of Ranby village a number of crofts, mounds, building platforms, tofts and ridge and furrow can all be seen in the

form of earthworks (HER 44921), indicating the original location of the Medieval settlement.

1.4 Acknowledgements

1.4.1 The author would like to extend thanks to Anglian Water Services Ltd. for commissioning and funding the archaeological works. Thanks also go to Lewis Maxwell of Balfour Beatty for his cooperation on site.

1.4.2 The archaeological trenching was carried out by the author with the assistance of Patrick Moan. Machine excavation was undertaken by Spence Plant Hire. Richard Mortimer managed the project and Louise Jennings from LCC HET monitored the evaluation.

2 Aims and Methodology

2.1 Aims

2.1.1 The objective of this evaluation was to determine as far as reasonably possible the presence/absence, location, nature, extent, date, quality, condition and significance of any surviving archaeological deposits within the easement of the pipeline.

2.2 Methodology

2.2.1 The Brief required that eight 40m trenches be excavated along the route of the pipeline and stated that trenches be placed:

- To correspond with Ranby SMV (Trench 1)
- To try and see the limits of the settlement (Trench 2)
- Over the location of a possible pit alignment, as identified via the geophysical survey and where pottery was found (Trenches 3 and 4)
- Over anomalies identified via geophysics (Trenches 5 and 6)
- To investigate prehistoric material in the area (Trenches 7 and 8)

2.2.2 Machine excavation was carried out under constant archaeological supervision with a wheeled JCB-type excavator using a 1.42m wide toothless ditching bucket.

2.2.3 The site survey was carried out by Patrick Moan using a Leica 1200 GPS.

2.2.4 All archaeological features and deposits were recorded using OA East's *pro-forma* sheets. Trench locations, plans and sections were recorded at appropriate scales and colour and monochrome photographs were taken of all relevant features and deposits.

2.2.5 Conditions on site varied from hot and sunny to torrential rain with thunder and lightning.

3 RESULTS

3.1 Introduction

3.1.1 The results of the trial trenching will be discussed chronologically by trench. Unless otherwise stated, no finds, datable or otherwise, were recovered from features. A list of relevant trench depths, descriptions and related context data can be found in Appendix A.

3.2 Trench Results

Trench 1 (Fig. 2)

3.2.1 Topsoil in Trench 1 consisted of a mid brown sandy silt, 0.45m in thickness and contained occasional small stones and chalk pieces. The subsoil was made up of a 0.1m thick mid brown orange sandy silt containing occasional chalk inclusions. Natural geology consisted of chalky silt.

3.2.2 Two features were identified within the trench. Ditch **05** was orientated north-east to south-west. It was 0.85m wide and 0.1m deep with gently sloping sides and a concave base. It was filled with a light brown sandy silt (06) which contained a single small sherd of late Saxon/medieval pottery (2g).

3.2.3 Pit **07** (Plate 1) had a diameter of 0.65m and was 0.2m deep with steeply sloping sides and a concave base. It was filled with a mid grey brown sandy silt (08) and contained four small sherds of late Saxon/medieval pottery (5g).

Trench 2 (Fig. 2, Plate 2)

3.2.4 The topsoil in Trench 2 consisted of a mid brown sandy silt, 0.35m in thickness and contained occasional small stones and chalk pieces. There was no subsoil. Natural geology consisted of silty chalk. Trench 2 was originally targeted over a linear geophysical anomaly, but the trench had to be moved due to it being situated directly beneath overhead power cables.

3.2.5 Two ditches were seen within the trench. Ditch **09** ran in an east to west direction. It was 1m wide and 0.22m deep with gently sloping sides and a concave base. It was filled with a dark brown grey silt (10).

3.2.6 Ditch **11** was orientated north to south. It was 0.5m wide and 0.1m deep with gently sloping sides and a concave base. It was filled with a light grey brown silt (11).

Trench 3 (Fig. 3)

3.2.7 The topsoil in Trench 3 was made up of a dark brown silty clay, 0.3m in thickness, and contained a moderate amount of small to medium stones. There was no subsoil. Natural geology consisted of gravelly clay.

3.2.8 No features were identified within the trench.

Trench 4 (Fig. 3)

3.2.9 The topsoil in Trench 4 consisted of a dark brown silty clay, 0.3m in thickness, and contained a moderate amount of small to medium stones. The subsoil was made up of a 0.1m thick mid orange brown silty clay. Natural geology consisted of gravelly clay.

3.2.10 A single gully (**01**) was seen running through the trench. It was orientated north-east to south-west but was slightly curvilinear in plan. The gully was 0.25m wide and 0.1m deep with a U-shaped profile. It was filled with a mid brown grey silty clay (02). No finds were recovered from the feature but a single flint flake was collected during machining from the subsoil immediately next to the feature.

Trench 5 (Fig. 3)

3.2.11 Topsoil in Trench 5 consisted of a 0.2m thick mid grey brown silty clay containing high levels of modern debris and lower levels of small stones. The subsoil was made up of a 0.1m thick mid brown orange silty clay, 0.1m in thickness. The natural geology consisted of gravelly clay.

3.2.12 No archaeological features were identified within the trench. However, the trench was situated over a prominent ridge/bank (Plate 3) which ran from close to the gated entrance to the field, across the trench and northwards to another field boundary by the road. Upon machine excavation it was evident that there had been modern disturbance or highly differential ploughing either side of the bank. .

3.2.13 It is possible that this bank marked the position of a hedge line or other such boundary and the land to the south of it had potentially had the topsoil and subsoil removed and just a thin layer of topsoil relaid. This was evident due to the southern half of the trench having a topsoil overburden of just 0.15m which came straight down onto the natural geology with a sharp horizon. Whereas the northern portion of the trench looked undisturbed with both a topsoil and subsoil present.

Trench 6 (Fig. 3)

3.2.14 Topsoil in Trench 6 consisted of a 0.2m thick mid grey brown silty clay containing moderate levels of modern debris with lower levels of small stones. The subsoil was made up of a 0.1m thick mid brown orange silty clay, 0.15m in thickness. The natural geology consisted of gravel.

3.2.15 No archaeological features were identified within the trench.

Trench 7 (Fig. 4)

3.2.16 The topsoil in Trench 7 was made up of a 0.3m thick mid grey sandy silt containing rare small stones. The subsoil consisted of a 0.2m thick mid brown orange sandy silt which also contained low levels of small stones. The natural geology was sandy silt with areas of iron stone.

3.2.17 A single diffuse geological feature (**03**) was seen within Trench 7. It was 1m wide and 0.2m deep with a bowl shaped profile and ran in a north-west to south-east direction. It was filled with a mid yellow brown sandy silt (04).

Trench 8 (Fig. 4, Plate 4)

3.2.18 The topsoil in Trench 8 was made up of a 0.3m thick mid grey sandy silt containing rare amounts of small stones. The subsoil consisted of a 0.4m thick mid brown orange sandy silt which also contained low levels of small stones. The natural geology was sandy silt with areas of iron stone.

3.2.19 A number of natural features were seen within Trench 8. Four linears were seen running north-west to south-east across the trench. They varied in width from *c.*0.8m to 2.3m. The westernmost of the four was excavated (**13**) and found to be 0.1m deep.

They were all filled with a mid brown orange sandy silt (14) which looked to be the same as the colluvial subsoil. These features are likely to be geological.

3.2.20 Small possible tree throw **15** had a diameter of 1.1m and was 0.15m deep with gently sloping sides and an irregular base. It was filled with a mid brown orange sandy silt (16).

3.2.21 A further geological feature was seen toward the centre of the trench. Natural feature **17** was 2.3m long and 0.4m deep and filled with a dark grey silt fill (18).

3.3 Finds Summary

3.3.1 An extremely low level of finds were seen from the archaeological trenching. A small flint flake, possibly of Neolithic date, was collected from the subsoil of Trench 4. A single small sherd of mildly abraded 11th/12th century chalk tempered pottery (2g) was recovered from the fill of a ditch in Trench 1 and four small sherds of mildly abraded 11th/2th century chalk tempered pottery (5g) were collected from a pit or tree throw, also in Trench 1.

4 Discussion and Conclusions

4.1.1 The trial trench evaluation along the pipeline between Stenigot and Benniworth has revealed little of archaeological significance.

4.1.2 Trenches 1 and 2 at Ranby were placed to locate further evidence of Medieval settlement. The small size of the archaeological features within these trenches, and the low level of finds material, however is useful insofar as indicating that the Medieval focus of the village of Ranby lies further to the east. The ditches seen within Trenches 1 and 2 (with the exception of ditch **09** which may be post-medieval) are likely to be Late Saxon or Medieval strip or field boundaries.

4.1.3 The geological features seen within Trenches 7 and 8 were sealed (particularly in Trench 8) by a thick layer of colluvium. Prehistoric and Roman finds have previously been collected from the northern side of this field and thus the potential for further archaeological features here was thought high. However the complete absence of finds, either within the tops of the geological features themselves or in the topsoil/subsoil above them may suggest that any archaeological activity is confined to the northern half of the field and beyond.

4.2 Recommendations

4.2.1 Recommendations for any future work based upon this report will be made by the County Archaeology Office.

Appendix A. Trench Descriptions and Context Inventory

Trench 1						
General description					**Orientation**	NNE-SSW
Trench contained a pit and a ditch. Natural made up of chalky silt.					**Avg. depth (m)**	0.55
					Width (m)	1.2
					Length (m)	40
Contexts						
context no	**type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**comment**	**finds**	**date**
5	Cut	0.85	0.1	Ditch	-	-
6	Fill	-	0.1	Ditch	Pottery	Saxon/Medieval
7	Cut	0.65	0.2	Pit	-	-
8	Fill	-	0.2	Pit	Pottery	Saxon/Medieval
Trench 2						
General description					**Orientation**	NE-SW
Trench contained two ditches. Natural made up of silty chalk.					**Avg. depth (m)**	0.4
					Width (m)	1.2
					Length (m)	28
Contexts						
context no	**type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**comment**	**finds**	**date**
9	Cut	1	0.22	Ditch	-	-
10	Fill	-	0.22	Ditch	-	-
11	Cut	0.5	0.1	Ditch	-	-
12	Fill	-	0.1	Ditch	-	-
Trench 3						
General description					**Orientation**	N-S
Trench devoid of archaeology. Natural made up of gravelly clay.					**Avg. depth (m)**	0.3
					Width (m)	1.2
					Length (m)	40
Trench 4						
General description					**Orientation**	N-S
Trench contained a single undated gully. One struck flint recovered from subsoil. Natural made up of gravelly clay.					**Avg. depth (m)**	0.45
					Width (m)	1.2
					Length (m)	40
Contexts						
context no	**type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**comment**	**finds**	**date**
1	Cut	0.25	0.15	Gully	-	-

2	Fill	-	0.15	Gully	-	-

Trench 5		
General description	**Orientation**	N-S
Trench devoid of archaeology. Natural made up of gravelly clay.	**Avg. depth (m)**	0.3
	Width (m)	1.2
	Length (m)	40

Trench 6		
General description	**Orientation**	N-S
Trench devoid of archaeology. Natural made up of gravel.	**Avg. depth (m)**	0.4
	Width (m)	1.2
	Length (m)	34

Trench 7		
General description	**Orientation**	NE-SW
Trench contained a single possible ditch. Natural made up of sandy silt.	**Avg. depth (m)**	0.5
	Width (m)	1.2
	Length (m)	41

Contexts

context no	**type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**comment**	**finds**	**date**
3	Cut	1	0.2	Natural	-	-
4	Fill	-	0.2	Natural	-	-

Trench 8		
General description	**Orientation**	NE-SW
Trench contained four possible ditches and a pit. Natural made up of sandy silt.	**Avg. depth (m)**	0.8
	Width (m)	1.2
	Length (m)	35

Contexts

context no	**type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**comment**	**finds**	**date**
13	Cut	1.2	0.1	Natural	-	-
14	Fill	-	0.1	Natural	-	-
15	Cut	1.1	0.15	Natural	-	-
16	Fill	-	0.15	Natural	-	-
17	Cut	2.3	0.4	Natural	-	-
18	Fill	-	0.4	Natural	-	-

Appendix B. Bibliography

Jennings. L. 2013 *Archaeological Brief for Trial Trenching: Stenigot to Benniworth Pipeline.* LCC HET. Unpublished

Mortimer, R. 2013 *Specification for Archaeological Evaluation: Stenigot to Benniworth Pipeline.* OA East. Unpublished

Appendix C. OASIS Report Form

All fields are required unless they are not applicable.

Project Details

OASIS Number	oxfordar3-156290		
Project Name	Stenigot to Benniworth Pipeline, Lincolnshire		
Project Dates (fieldwork) Start	25-07-2013	Finish	30-07-2013
Previous Work (by OA East)	No	Future Work	No

Project Reference Codes

Site Code	SBWM13	Planning App. No.	
HER No.	LCNCC: 2013.128	Related HER/OASIS No.	

Type of Project/Techniques Used

Prompt	Select Prompt (this should be in your brief/spec)...
Development Type	Pipelines/Cables

Please select all techniques used:

☐ 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
☐ Dendrochronological 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 Types/Significant Finds & Their Periods

List feature types using the NMR Monument Type Thesaurus and significant finds using the MDA Object type Thesaurus together with their respective periods. If no features/finds were found, please state "none".

Monument	Period	Object	Period
Ditch	Medieval 1066 to 1540	Pottery	Medieval 1066 to 1540
Pit	Medieval 1066 to 1540	Flint	Neolithic -4k to -2k
	Select period...		Select period...

Project Location

County	Lincolnshire	Site Address (including postcode if possible)	
District	East Lindsey	Stenigot (526128, 381163) to Benniworth (520933, 381956), Lincolnshire	
Parish	Stenigot and Benniworth		
HER	Lincolnshire County Store		
Study Area	4.8km	National Grid Reference	

Project Originators

Organisation	OA EAST
Project Brief Originator	Louise Jennings
Project Design Originator	
Project Manager	Richard Mortimer
Supervisor	Louise Bush

Project Archives

Physical Archive	Digital Archive	Paper Archive
Lincolshire County Store	OA East	Lincolnshire County Store
LCNCC: 2013.128	XLISBP13	LCNCC: 2013.128

Archive Contents/Media

	Physical Contents	Digital Contents	Paper Contents
Animal Bones	☐	☐	☐
Ceramics	☒	☐	☐
Environmental	☐	☐	☐
Glass	☐	☐	☐
Human Bones	☐	☐	☐
Industrial	☐	☐	☐
Leather	☐	☐	☐
Metal	☐	☐	☐
Stratigraphic		☐	☐
Survey		☐	☐
Textiles	☐	☐	☐
Wood	☐	☐	☐
Worked Bone	☐	☐	☐
Worked Stone/Lithic	☐	☐	☐
None	☐	☒	☒
Other	☐	☐	☐

Digital Media	Paper Media
☒ Database	☐ Aerial Photos
☐ GIS	☒ Context Sheet
☐ Geophysics	☐ Correspondence
☒ Images	☐ Diary
☒ Illustrations	☐ Drawing
☐ Moving Image	☐ Manuscript
☐ Spreadsheets	☐ Map
☒ Survey	☐ Matrices
☒ Text	☐ Microfilm
☐ Virtual Reality	☐ Misc.
	☐ Research/Notes
	☐ Photos
	☐ Plans
	☒ Report
	☐ Sections
	☐ Survey

Notes:

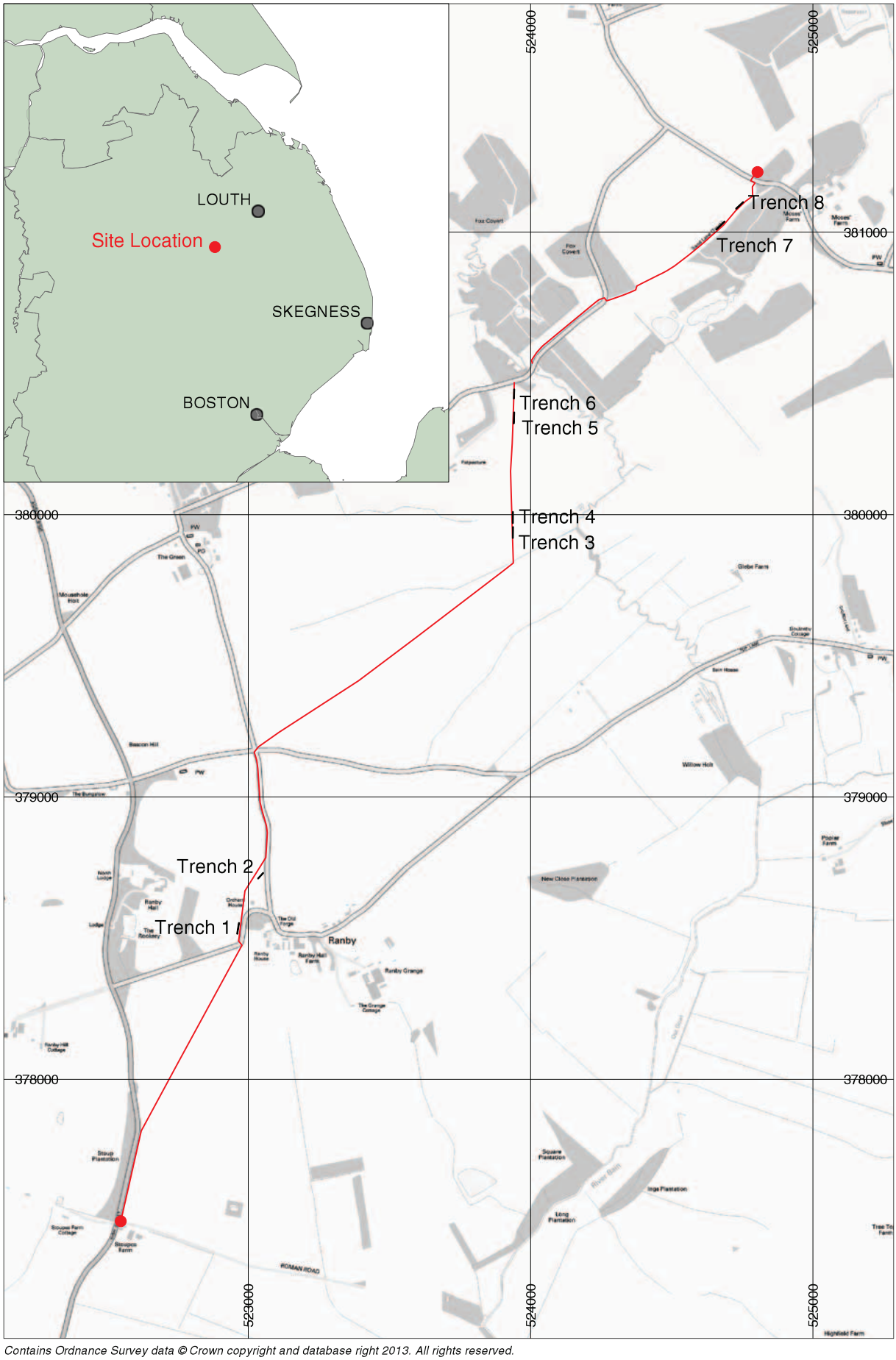

Figure 1: Site location map showing route of pipeline (red) with archaeological trenches (black)

Figure 2: Trenches 1 and 2

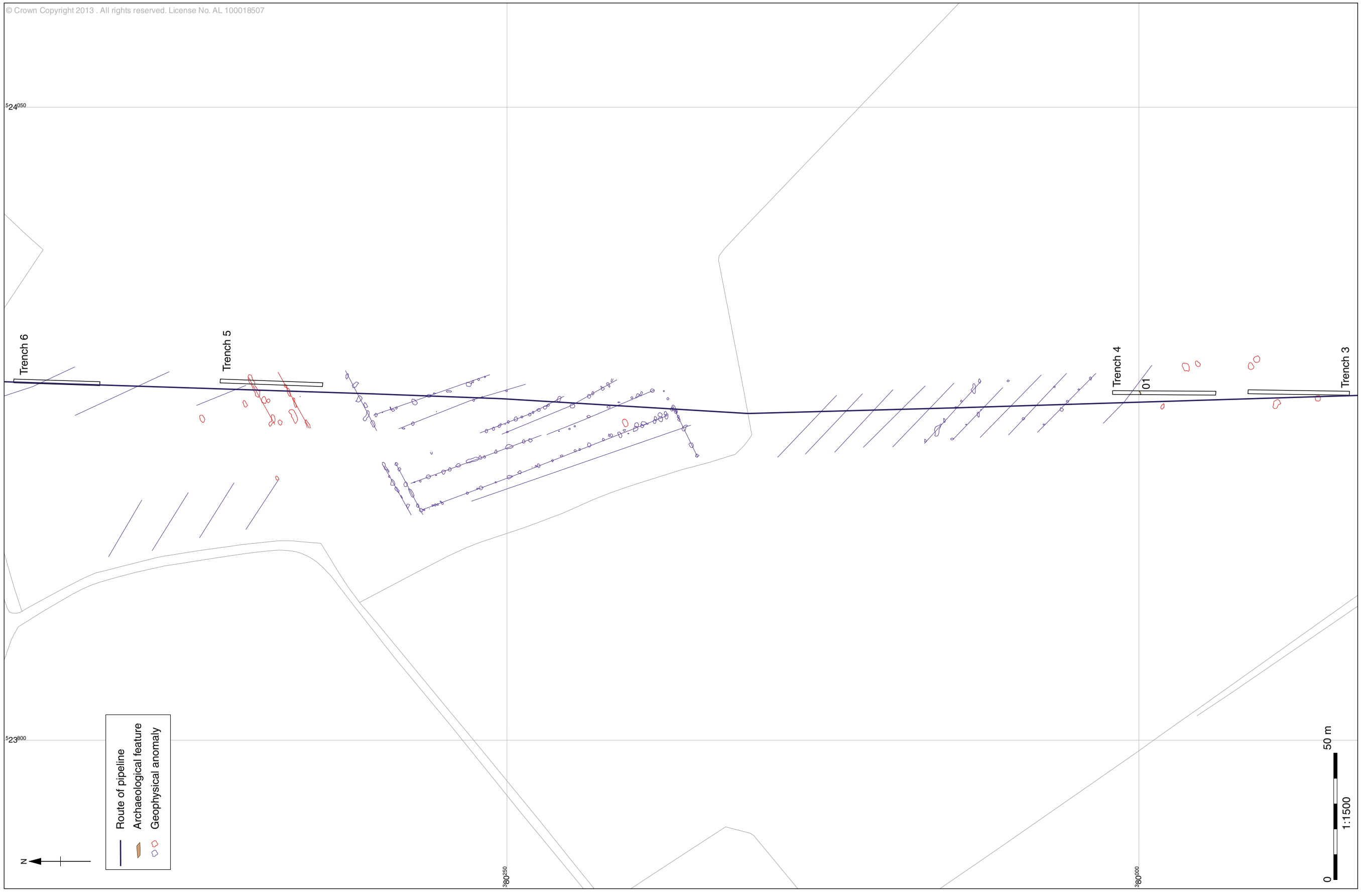

Figure 3: Trenches 3 to 6

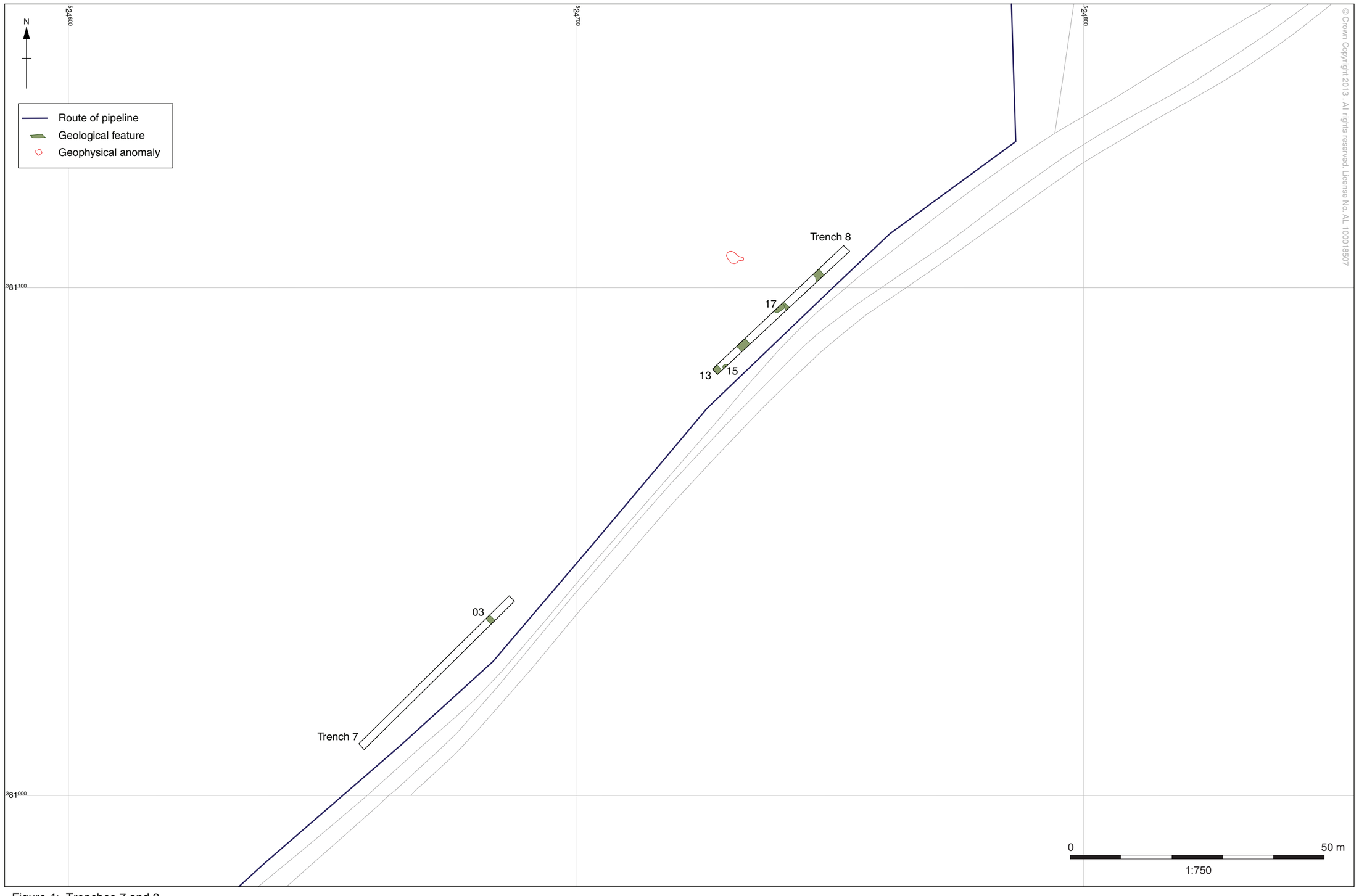

Figure 4: Trenches 7 and 8

Plate 1: Pit **07** (Trench 1), looking north

Plate 2: Trench 2, looking south-west

Plate 3: Modern disturbance to topsoil (Trench 5), looking west

Plate 4: Trench 8, looking south-west

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