



Land at Woollam Park, North St Albans, Hertfordshire, AL3 6BZ

Archaeological evaluation report

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Summary

An archaeological evaluation on the land at Woollam Park, North St Albans, Hertfordshire (centered NGR TL 15366 09775) was conducted by Canterbury Archaeological Trust between 01 September and 11 September 2025. The work was commissioned by Orion Heritage on behalf of their Client, Hallam Land Management, who propose to develop the land for: *'the relocation and replacement of existing playing fields and erection of pavilion annex and outline planning application for the construction of up to 1000 new homes, care homes, primary school, green infrastructure, new access and alterations to existing access'*.

The proposed development area lies within a region of high archaeological potential, with the Roman town of *Verulamium* lying 1.8km south of the proposed development area. Finds of Palaeolithic and Neolithic date have been recorded in the wider area. The Scheduled Monument of Beech Bottom Dyke, an Iron Age territorial boundary, lies a distance to the south.

Previous archaeological investigations within the development area comprised a fieldwalking survey conducted in 2019, and a geophysical survey undertaken in 2024. Neither survey produced results indicative of a high archaeological potential for the area. However, a fieldwalking survey undertaken in 2009 on land immediately to the west, did recover an assemblage of Neolithic to early Bronze Age worked and burnt flint, suggesting the potential for settlement of this date in this area.

This report presents the results of 40 archaeological evaluation trenches excavated within the northern region of the proposed development area (Phase 1). In total, 36 potential archaeological features were recorded across 20 widely spread trenches. Features comprised linear ditches, small pits, post-holes, and two possible stake-holes. The earliest feature, a post-hole in Trench 3, produced pottery dated late Bronze Age to Iron Age. This was the only find of this date, although a group of post-holes in Trench 14 may also be prehistoric in origin. No evidence for activity during the later prehistoric, Roman, or early medieval periods was recorded, but a range of features identified in Trenches 18, 31, 32 and 40 produced post-medieval cultural material.

In all cases the archaeological features were very shallow, and the evaluation demonstrated that agricultural practices have, and continue to, truncate the upper surface of the underlying geology and any potential archaeological features. Archaeological features were recorded at a depth range of 0.24m–0.40m below the present ground level.

Overall, very little cultural material was recovered during the evaluation and the preceding fieldwalking survey. This may suggest that any activity in within the proposed development area during the prehistoric and subsequent periods was low-level. The results therefore suggest that the archaeological resource within the study area is of low significance.

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The project was commissioned by Orion Heritage Ltd, on behalf of their client Hallam Land Management.

The archaeological evaluation was monitored by Richard Havis, District Archaeologist, St Albans City and District Council.

1 Introduction

1.1 Project background

1.1.1 An archaeological evaluation on land at Woollam Park, North St Albans, Hertfordshire (centred NGR TL 15366 09775; Figure 1) was conducted by Canterbury Archaeological Trust (CAT) between 01 September 2025 and 11 September 2025.

1.1.2 The work was commissioned by Orion Heritage on behalf of their client, Hallam Land Management, who have sought planning permission to develop the land for the following:

'...the relocation and replacement of existing playing fields and erection of pavilion annex and outline planning application for the construction of up to 1000 new homes, care homes, primary school, green infrastructure, new access and alterations to existing access' (Planning Application Ref: 5/2024/2271).

1.1.3 The planning application was submitted to the Local Planning Authority (LPA), St Albans City and District Council. In response to the application, the St Albans District Archaeologist recommended the following:

'1a No development or preliminary groundworks of any kind shall take place until a programme of archaeological investigation has been secured in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) which has been submitted by the applicant, for approval by the Local Planning Authority.

1b No development or preliminary groundworks of any kind shall take place until the completion of the programme of archaeological evaluation identified in the WSI defined in Part 1 and confirmed by the archaeological advisors to the Local Planning Authority.

1c No development or preliminary groundworks of any kind shall take place until the submission of a mitigation WSI detailing the excavation/ preservation strategy informed by the trial trenching for approval by the Local Planning Authority.

1d No development or preliminary groundworks can commence on those areas containing archaeological deposits until the satisfactory completion of fieldwork, as detailed in the mitigation WSI, and approved by the Archaeological Advisors to the Local Planning Authority.

2. Publication and Dissemination Following the completion of the fieldwork and the post-excavation assessment in Condition 1, appropriate resources will be agreed with the Local Planning Authority for the post-excavation project generated by the archaeological work. This will include all necessary works up to and including an appropriate publication and archiving and will include an agreed timetable and location for that publication. Consideration should also be given to the enhancement/promotion of Beech Bottom Dyke.'

1.1.4 The archaeological evaluation is to be undertaken in two phases; Phase 1, reported on here, comprised the excavation of 40 trenches positioned across the north of the PDA, Phase 2 is to comprise a further 295 trenches.

1.1.5 The Phase 1 archaeological works followed a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) compiled by Orion Heritage (2025), which was submitted to and approved by the St Albans District Archaeologist. The purpose of the evaluation was to inform on the potential below ground archaeological resource surviving within the proposed development area (PDA). The results will enable the LPA to formulate the scope of any further archaeological mitigation works that may be required in line with existing national and local planning policy and guidance.

1.1.6 This report sets out the results of the Phase 1 evaluation and will seek to define the extent and nature, so far established, of any significant archaeological resource within this area of the PDA. The evaluation was monitored by Richard Havis, District Archaeologist, St Albans City and District Council.

1.2 Location, geology and topography

1.2.1 The overall PDA is an irregular plot of land, located to the north of St. Albans and comprises enclosed agricultural land, immediately east of the A1081 Harpendon Road, with Sandridgebury Lane running through its centre (Figure 1).

1.2.2 The Phase 1 evaluation was situated at the north of the PDA in a roughly rectangular area measuring approximately 305m by 215m and covering an area of 7 hectares. The area was bounded by agricultural land to the north, east and south, with Woollam Playing Fields situated to the west.

1.2.3 There are no known impacts to the PDA and the area has remained in agricultural use since at least the nineteenth century (Orion Heritage 2025).

1.2.4 Bedrock geology within the PDA is shown as Lewes Nodular Formation and Seaford Chalk Formation, partially overlain by superficial geology of Clay-with-flints Formation and the Kesgrave Catchment Subgroup – sand and gravel (BGS 2025).

1.2.5 The existing ground within the PDA slopes slightly from approximately 121.96m Ordnance Datum (OD) at the north-west to 116.10m OD at the south-east.

2 Archaeological and historical background

2.1 Introduction

2.1.1 The archaeological and historical potential is based on the proximity of known archaeological and historical remains to the PDA; this was set out within the WSI (Orion Heritage 2025) and in a Heritage Desk-Based Assessment (Orion Heritage 2024), sections of which are reproduced below. The results give reference to data from the Hertfordshire Historic Environment Record (HER), maintained by Hertfordshire County Council, for a search radius of 1km from the centre of the site (NGR TL 15366 09775). HER reference numbers are shown in brackets.

2.2 Designated heritage assets

2.2.1 The PDA does not affect or directly impact upon any World Heritage Sites, Scheduled Monuments, Registered Battlefields, Registered Parks and Gardens, or Conservation Areas.

2.2.2 The Scheduled Monument of Beech Botton Dyke (List Entry No. 1019136) lies 600m south of the PDA. The dyke is believed to be a territorial boundary which once surrounded the late Iron Age settlements located near the present St Albans and Wheathampstead.

2.2.3 Batch Wood moated manorial site (Scheduled Monument List Entry No. 1012407) lies 1.2km to the south-east.

2.3 Previous investigations

2.3.1 The site has been subject to a fieldwalking survey which was conducted over a wider area and undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology (CA) in 2019. Overall, the survey recorded 70 sherds of pottery, eight fragments of iron and 2,265 fragments of undiagnostic ceramic building material. No concentrations of material likely to be indicative of, or derived from sub-surface

features were identified, and no lithics were recovered to suggest a continuation of Neolithic and Bronze Age flint scatters previously identified to the west of the site, at the former Cheapside Farm. Recovered flint comprised just four pieces, all subsequently determined to be unworked/ of natural origin (CA 2019).

- 2.3.2 Only two sherds of pottery, one sherd of locally produced Roman pottery and a single sherd of Midlands purple ware, of broad late fourteenth- to sixteenth-century date, were of archaeological significance. Both of these sherds are likely to have derived from manuring processes. The remaining pottery was of later post-medieval and modern date (eighteenth to twentieth century) and, as with the other material recovered, is again almost certainly derived from manuring processes (CA 2019).
- 2.3.3 A magnetometer survey of the site was undertaken in August/September 2024 (Sumo 2024). The survey recorded no magnetic responses that could be interpreted as being of definite archaeological interest. Responses of uncertain origin were detected; while archaeological origins cannot be entirely discounted for some of the anomalies, the majority are probably due to natural and agricultural processes. Geological and pedological responses dominated the results and include former palaeochannels meandering across the site. Two service pipes have been marked in the west of Area 3 and ferrous responses plus zones of magnetic disturbance in Area 2 are due to sports pitches.
- 2.3.4 The archaeological investigation in closest vicinity to the study site is fieldwalking at Cheapside Farm (HHER EHT4355), 250m north of the study site boundary. The fieldwalking recovered a large assemblage of worked flint, largely of late Neolithic date but also including early Neolithic and early Bronze Age pieces (HHER 9607). Some burnt flint was also retrieved, indicating the possible presence of a settlement of Neolithic date in the vicinity.
- 2.3.5 Intrusive archaeological investigation within the study area is largely associated with the area around scheduled Beach Bottom Dyke, at Townsend and various phases of work at 150 St Albans Road. Localised investigations have also occurred within the settlement of Townsend.

2.4 Prehistoric (500,000 BP – AD 43)

- 2.4.1 Evidence of prehistoric activity across the search area comprises the find spots of Palaeolithic flint tools (1052) and handaxe (13540), as well as an assemblage of Neolithic worked flint (9607). Neolithic to early Bronze Age worked and burnt flint was also recovered from an area immediately west of the PDA during fieldwalking in 2009 (4355).
- 2.4.2 The site lies c 250m north of the Iron Age territorial boundary known as Beech Bottom Dyke (1019136), thought to be the boundary of a substantial estate and other evidence of Iron Age activity includes features and features north of the dyke (29870) and the find spot of a copper alloy mount (24875), although this may also date to the medieval period.

2.5 Roman (AD 43–450)

- 2.5.1 The site is located c 1.8km north of the Roman town of *Verulamium*, with the site being located to the east of Watling Street, although the road from *Verulamium* to Braughing passes c 100m to the south of the site, as does a possible crossing of the road to Colchester with Beech Bottom (14627). An assemblage of tile (656) may suggest the presence of Roman building. Other evidence of Roman activity comprises the find spots of pottery (30061, 20708, 10722), coins (14549, 19542, 29874) and a brooch (19542).

2.6 Anglo-Saxon (AD 450–1066) and Medieval (AD 1066 – 1540)

- 2.6.1 Evidence of early medieval and medieval activity includes an area of wastes (12409), woodland earthworks (16528) and the find spot of a strap-end (28864).

2.7 Post-Medieval and Modern (AD 1540 – present)

- 2.7.1 Post-medieval to modern assets recorded within the search area include Childwickbury Park and Garden (9568), the nineteenth-century estate of Marshalswick (15775) as well examples of numerous industrial and agricultural assets.

3 Aims and objectives

- 3.1.1 The aim of an archaeological field evaluation as defined by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA; 2023a) is to:

determine, record and report on the nature, extent, preservation and significance of archaeological remains within a defined area. The scope of the work will be described in a project design that is fit for purpose and will be carried out by suitably competent persons in accordance with that design and the CIfA Code of conduct and give due regard to the guidance for archaeological field evaluation. All archaeological field evaluations will result in a report, published accounts where appropriate, and a stable, ordered, accessible archive.

- 3.1.2 The principal objective of the evaluation work is to determine whether any significant archaeological remains survive on site, and to ascertain their extent, depth below ground surface, character, significance and condition.

- 3.1.3 The principal aims were outlined in the WSI (Orion Heritage 2025), as follows:

- Determine the presence or absence of archaeological remains.
- Determine the character, extent, date, complexity, integrity, state of preservation and quality of any archaeological remains present, therefore ensuring their preservation by record.
- To provide robust baseline information to inform the scoping of a mitigation strategy, should this be required.

- 3.1.4 The general objectives were to ensure:

- The protection and recording of archaeological assets discovered during the archaeological works.
- That any below-ground archaeological deposits exposed are promptly identified.
- The recording of archaeological remains, to place this record in its local context and to make this record available.

- 3.1.5 Assessment of the results will provide guidance on what mitigation measures would be appropriate. Such measures may, for example, include preservation *in situ* and/or further detailed archaeological excavation prior to development and/or an archaeological watching brief during construction work. Mitigation measures will be subject to other documents or specifications which will need to be agreed with the LPA and the St Albans District Archaeologist.

4 Methodology

- 4.1.1 The archaeological investigations were carried out in accordance with the WSI (Orion Heritage 2025), and to professional standards as set out in ClfAs' *Standard for archaeological field evaluation* (2023a) and *Universal guidance for archaeological field evaluation* (2023b). CAT is a Registered Archaeological Organisation (RAO) with ClfA and conforms to their by-laws, standards and policy statements.
- 4.1.2 In undertaking all works, the archaeological contractor abides to ClfAs' *Code of Conduct* (2022).
- 4.1.3 All archaeological work was undertaken by professional archaeologists in the employ of CAT. All fieldwork and subsequent reporting were conducted by an archaeologist of recognised competence, suitably experienced in work of this character.
- 4.1.4 The archaeological evaluation comprised the excavation of 40 evaluation trenches (Trenches 1–40). The trenches measured approximately 30m in length and 2m wide. At the request of the District Archaeologist, Trench 33 was extended either side of the trench, by approximately 5m, around an area of identified archaeological features.
- 4.1.5 Mechanical excavation was limited to the removal of overburden and topsoil to expose the uppermost archaeological deposits or the natural geological surface, whichever was higher. Ground reduction was undertaken under constant archaeological supervision using a 20 tonne 360° tracked mechanical excavator fitted with a flat-bladed grading bucket. All undifferentiated overburden was removed in spits of c 100–200mm thickness.
- 4.1.6 Following mechanical clearance, the archaeological features and the exposed soil profiles were photographed and recorded on CAT *pro forma* trench record sheets. Archaeological features and deposits were excavated by hand. Environmental samples were recovered where suitable deposits survived. The archaeological features and deposits were mapped, recorded and photographed in accordance with accepted professional standards. The survey was carried out using a Leica GNSS connected to Leica SmartNet. All survey data was recorded to the Ordnance Survey (OS) national grid (EPSG: 277700 OSGB1936).
- 4.1.7 Care was taken not to damage any archaeological deposits or structures by unnecessary excavation. In particular, the underlying geological deposits were not reduced but identified and recorded in terms of extent and depth below the present surface (also expressed as height above OD).
- 4.1.8 Trenches were visually inspected and completed to the satisfaction of Richard Havis, District Archaeologist prior to backfilling. All trenches were backfilled on completion.

4.2 Health, safety and welfare

- 4.2.1 All site investigation works were conducted in accordance with a project specific risk assessment and method statement (CAT 2025), and CAT's *Company Policy and Procedural Manual for Health, Safety and Welfare* (CAT 2024).
- 4.2.2 All CAT Supervisors have CITB Site Supervisor Safety Training Scheme (SSSTS) certification. All CAT personnel hold CITB Health, Safety and Environment (HS&E) test certification. CAT is a member of Constructionline and is Acclaim SSIP (Safety Schemes in Procurement) accredited.
- 4.2.3 All necessary precautions to the satisfaction of the statutory or other service authorities and the landowner concerned were taken to avoid interference with, or damage to, their services, and to comply with any applicable codes of practice. Prior to excavation, all trench locations were scanned using a cable avoidance tool.

4.3 Project archive

- 4.3.1 The project archive has been prepared in accordance with the procedures laid down in Historic England's 2015 *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment* (MoRPHE), the archiving guidelines set out by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA 2020), and the Archaeological Archives Forum guidelines (Brown 2011).
- 4.3.2 The results from this work are held within the site archive under project code EV WPSA 25, archive number 5400.
- 4.3.3 All fieldwork records have been collated and checked for consistency and a full digital copy made. A digitised plan of the archaeological resource has been compiled using AutoCAD and QGIS. Photographic records have been catalogued and cross-referenced with trench records.
- 4.3.4 All retained artefacts recovered during the project have been processed, catalogued, and packaged in accordance with the United Kingdom Institute for Conservation guidelines (UKIC 1990). The finds have all been washed and marked where appropriate.
- 4.3.5 All bulk finds are presently retained as part of the project archive and are stored by context in polybags held in 'standard' (0.4 × 0.3 × 0.2m³ with 0.1m deep lift off lid, capacity 0.03m³) or 'half sized' (0.4 × 0.3 × 0.1m² with 0.1m deep lift off lid, capacity 0.015 cubic metres) brass wire-stitched museum boxes (1.9mm double kraft-lined, pH 6.5–8) supplied by the Ryder Box Co.
- 4.3.6 All registered finds have been stabilised and are stored in sealable plastic containers, with silica gel and a humidity indicator strip, as required.
- 4.3.7 The project archive is presently held in the offices of CAT (92a Broad Street, Canterbury, Kent, CT1 2LU). Upon completion of the project, the project archive will be transferred to an approved local archive receiving body.

5 Archaeological Results

5.1 Summary

- 5.1.1 The archaeological evaluation comprised the excavation of 40 evaluation trenches (Trenches 1–40), which were set out in accordance with the approved WSI (Orion Heritage 2025). At the request of the District Archaeologist, Trench 33 was extended either side of the trench around an area of identified archaeological features.
- 5.1.2 Potential archaeological features were recorded in 20 trenches (Trenches 1–4, 6–10, 13–14, 18, 20, 22–23, 31–33, 37 and 40) the details of which are presented below in sections 5.3–5.22. Archaeologically negative trenches are summarised in section 5.23. The overall trench results are presented in Appendix 1.

5.2 Geology and soil profile

- 5.2.1 The geology observed throughout the trenches appeared to comprise Clay-with-flints superficial deposits, which broadly corresponds with the current geology mapping (BGS 2025). These deposits were recorded at a depth of between 0.24m to 0.40m BGL.
- 5.2.2 Across the PDA there was no clear evidence for a developed subsoil, and the current ploughsoil (topsoil) was recorded directly overlying the surface of geology.

5.3 Trench 1

(Figures 2, 3 and 7; Photo 1)

- 5.3.1 Trench 1 was located in the far north-west corner of the site. Two parallel linear features [102] and [104] were located towards the centre of the trench and cut geological deposits. The ditches were both approximately 0.8m wide and had surviving depths of 0.39m and 0.21m respectively. Both features were aligned north-east to south-west but could not be traced beyond this trench. No dateable material was recovered from either ditch.

5.4 Trench 2

(Figures 2, 3 and 7; Photo 2)

- 5.4.1 Trench 2 was located towards the north-west extent of the site. A broadly east to west aligned linear feature [203], which contained a single deposit (202), was recorded towards the north of the trench. This feature, which could potentially represent the terminus of a ditch, measured 0.9m wide and 0.14m deep with a visible length of 1.7m. No dateable material was recovered.

5.5 Trench 3

(Figures 2, 3 and 7; Photo 3)

- 5.5.1 Trench 3 was located towards the north of the site. A post-hole [302] with a diameter of 0.2m and a depth of 0.12m was located towards the eastern end of the trench. This feature contained a single deposit (301) which produced a very small fragment of pottery spot dated late Bronze Age to Iron Age.

5.6 Trench 4

(Figures 2 and 3)

- 5.6.1 Trench 4 was located at the north of the site. A single small possible stake-hole [402], which contained a single deposit (401) with common inclusions of charcoal flecks, was located towards the centre of the trench. The feature had a diameter of 0.09m and a depth of 0.05m. No dateable artefacts were recovered.

5.7 Trench 6

(Figures 2, 4 and 8; Photo 4)

- 5.7.1 Trench 6 was located towards the north of the site. Two adjacent small pits [602] and [605] were located towards the west end of the trench. Pit [602] measured 0.70m by 0.51m with a depth of 0.04m, and pit [605] had a diameter of 0.39m and a depth of 0.04m. No dateable material was recovered.

5.8 Trench 7

(Figures 2, 4 and 8)

- 5.8.1 Trench 7 was located towards the north-east of the site. One small pit [702], measuring 0.5m by 0.34m and 0.03m deep, and containing a single deposit with occasional inclusions of charcoal (701), was situated towards the centre of the trench. To the north of the pit, a second feature [704] was investigated, but it is thought that this was a natural feature. No dateable material was recovered from these features.

5.9 Trench 8

(Figures 2, 4 and 8)

- 5.9.1 Trench 8 was located at the far north-east corner of site. Three parallel aligned north-west to south-east aligned linear features [802], [804], and [806] were situated at the east of the trench. However, investigation of these features found them all to be very shallow, no greater than 0.05m deep, with irregular bases, and they have therefore been interpreted as recent plough scars.

5.10 Trench 9

(Figures 2, 5 and 9; Photo 5)

- 5.10.1 Trench 9 was located at the far western extent of the site. Two linear features, interpreted as ditches, were identified towards the centre of the trench. Linear feature [902] was aligned broadly north-west to south-east, with a slight curve at the northern end. This feature measured 0.45m wide with a surviving depth of 0.04m. Cutting this ditch was linear feature [904], which was aligned east to west and measured 0.31m wide and 0.02m deep. Although very shallow it was thought that these features could represent severely truncated ditches. However, the ditches could not be traced beyond this trench, and no dateable material was recovered.

5.11 Trench 10

(Figures 2 and 3)

- 5.11.1 Trench 10 was located to the western extent of site. One small circular feature [1004], interpreted as a possible stake-hole, was identified in the southern end of this trench. The feature had a diameter of 0.11m and a depth of 0.04m. No dateable artefacts were recovered.

5.12 Trench 13

(Figures 2, 3 and 9)

- 5.12.1 Trench 13 was located toward the northern extent of site.
- 5.12.2 One pit [1302] measuring 0.62m by 1m and 0.08m deep was situated towards the centre of the trench. To the west of this pit, a second feature [1304] was investigated, but it is thought that this was a natural feature. No dateable material was recovered from these features.

5.13 Trench 14

(Figures 2, 4 and 9; Photo 6)

- 5.13.1 Trench 14 was located toward the north-eastern extent of site. At the southern end of the trench, a north-east to south-west aligned ditch [1417] was recorded. The feature measured 1.1m wide, with a visible length of 7m and a depth of 0.27m. The ditch could not be traced beyond the trench.
- 5.13.2 To the north of the ditch was a cluster of seven post-holes [1402], [1404], [1406], [1408], [1410], [1412] and [1414]. The features had dimensions ranging from 0.2m to 0.38m in diameter with depths up to 0.16m. All post-holes had carbon-rich fills, but no dateable pottery was recovered. Environmental sampling of the features revealed the presence of burnt flint and heat-affected clay, and post-hole [1408] produced a fragment of hazelnut shell and a fruit stone.

5.14 Trench 18

(Figures 2, 3 and 10)

- 5.14.1 Trench 18 was situated in the eastern extent of site. One linear feature interpreted as a ditch [1802] was identified toward the centre of this trench. Broadly aligned north-west to south-east, the ditch measured 0.81m wide, with a visible length of 2.2m and a depth of 0.23m. One fragment of medieval / post-medieval tile was recovered from the fill of the ditch. The ditch could not be traced beyond the trench.

5.15 Trench 20

(Figures 2, 3 and 10)

- 5.15.1 Trench 20 was located toward the centre of site. Two linear features [2002] and [2004] interpreted as ditches were situated at the south end of this trench. The earliest ditch [2004] was on an east to west alignment and measured 0.41m wide and 0.3m deep. Cutting this ditch, feature [2002] was aligned north-west to south-east and measured 0.9m wide and 0.3m deep. No dateable material was retrieved from either feature. The ditches could not be traced beyond the trench.

5.16 Trench 22

(Figures 2, 4 and 10; Photo 7)

- 5.16.1 Trench 22 was situated toward the eastern extent of site. One linear feature [2202], interpreted as a ditch, was situated at the northern end of the trench. Aligned north-east to south-west, the ditch measured 0.95m wide and 0.27m deep. The ditch could not be traced beyond the trench.
- 5.16.2 At the southern end of the trench a spread of chalky material (2203) was also recorded. This feature measured 5.8m in length and extended beyond the limits of the trench, the deposit was considered to be of modern date.

5.17 Trench 23

(Figures 2, 4 and 11; Photo 8)

- 5.17.1 Trench 23 was situated toward the eastern extent of site. One linear feature [2302], broadly aligned north-west to south-east, was located at the western extent of the trench. The feature measured 0.39m wide with a visible length of 2m and a depth of 0.36m. It could not be traced beyond the trench and produced no dateable features.

5.18 Trench 31

(Figures 2, 4 and 11; Photo 9)

- 5.18.1 Trench 31 was situated at the east of the site. One linear feature [3102] was located in the north of the trench. Aligned east to west, and measuring 0.74m wide and 0.2m deep, the feature produced fragments of medieval / post-medieval tile, two sherds of pottery broadly dated sixteenth to nineteenth century along with one residual worked flint. The feature could not be traced beyond the trench.

5.19 Trench 32

(Figures 2, 5 and 11)

- 5.19.1 Trench 32 was situated in the south-western end of site. Situated centrally within the trench was small pit [3202] with a diameter of 0.3m and a depth of 0.05m. No dateable material was recovered from this feature.
- 5.19.2 To the north-east, was a spread of material (3205) comprising light grey silty clay and gravel with one fragment of medieval / post-medieval tile. This deposit was cut by pit [3204] which measured 0.5m wide with a visible length of 0.5m and a depth of 0.1m and also produced medieval / post-medieval tile fragments.

5.20 Trench 33

(Figures 2, 5 and 12; Photo 10)

- 5.20.1 Trench 33 was located at the south of the site. Towards the south end of the trench, two pits were recorded [3303] and [3305] each measuring 1m in diameter and 0.9m by 1.7m respectively. This trench was extended to either side of these features to determine the presence / absence of potential additional features, but none were identified. No dateable material was recovered from these features.

5.21 Trench 37

(Figures 2, 6 and 12; Photos 11 and 12)

- 5.21.1 Trench 37 was located in the south-east of site. A row of four small circular post-holes [3702], [3704], [3706] and [3708] was situated towards the north-west end of this trench. Each of these features had a diameter of approximately 0.2m and a depth up to 0.06m. The features contained occasional charcoal flecking but produced no dateable material.

5.22 Trench 40

(Figures 2, 6 and 12; Photo 13)

- 5.22.1 Trench 40 was situated at the south-east of the site. Two post-holes [4002] and [4004] were located at the eastern end of the trench. Both had a diameter around 0.38m and a depth of 0.06m. The fill of [4003] produced one fragment of medieval / post-medieval tile.

5.23 Negative trenches

- 5.23.1 No archaeological features or deposits were observed in Trenches 5, 11–12, 15–17, 19, 21, 24–30, 34–36, and 38–39. Details of the deposit sequences are presented in Appendix 1.

6 Finds

6.1 Quantification and provisional dating

- 6.1.1 A small assemblage of finds was recovered during the evaluation; these are summarised in Table 1.

Trench No.	Context No.	Material	Type	Quantity	Weight (g)	Spot date	Notes
3	302	Pottery		1	1	Late Bronze Age / Iron Age	
18	1801	CBM	Tile	1	19	Medieval / Post-medieval	

31	3101	Flint	Worked	1	2	Prehistoric	
31	3101	CBM	Tile	4	5	Medieval / Post-medieval	
31	3101	Pottery		2	4	Sixteenth – nineteenth century AD	
32	3203	CBM	Tile	6	96	Medieval / Post-medieval	1 fragment with a circular hole
32	3205	CBM	Tile	1	4	Medieval / Post-medieval	
40	4003	CBM	Tile	1	23	Medieval / Post-medieval	

Table 1. Finds assemblage.

7 Environmental evidence

7.1 Introduction & methods

- 7.1.1 Seven bulk environmental samples (BS/GBA samples *sensu* Dobney *et al.* 1992) were taken from a cluster of small, shallow features thought to be post-holes, that were revealed in Trench 14. No finds were recorded, and the date of the features is currently unknown.
- 7.1.2 Each sample was soaked overnight in water containing washing soda (sodium carbonate) before carrying out wet-sieving with flotation for recovery of biological material (Kenward *et al.* 1980). Flots were collected on 0.3mm mesh, and heavy residues on nested 2mm and 1mm sieves. All fractions were air-dried. The original sample volumes ranged from 0.5–5 litres (see Table 2 for details of individual samples).
- 7.1.3 The dried residue fractions >2mm were examined in their entirety for biological remains and cultural material. A proportion of the fine residue fractions (>1mm) was scanned briefly under a low power stereoscopic microscope (x10) to check the efficiency of flotation, and a magnet was used to check for the presence of hammerscale. The dried sample flots were scanned using a stereoscopic low-power microscope (x10) to assess the quality of the charcoal and ascertain if other types of charred plant material were present. Abundance of remains in the flots was recorded semi-quantitatively as: trace, + present but infrequent, ++ moderately frequent, +++ frequent, ++++ abundant (see Table 2). The flots and >1mm residues have been retained in plastic mini-grip bags.

7.2 Results

- 7.2.1 Remains noted in the >2mm residue and flot of each sample are summarised in Table 2.

Context No.	Sample No.	Description of deposit	Litres washed	>2mm Residue (kg)	Contents >2mm residue	Flot (ml)	Contents flot/washover
1401	1	Fill of possible post hole	5	0.311	Burnt flint 21g; heat-affected clay 2g; charcoal +	25	Fine charcoal ++; vacuolated 'tarry' fragments (possibly very poorly preserved unidentifiable charred plant remains) +; uncharred (presumed recent) seeds ++; <i>Cenococcum</i> -type sclerotia +; fine root fragments +; trace coal

1403	2	Fill of possible post hole	0.8	0.08	Burnt & heat-affected (reddened) flint 15g; charcoal +	10	Fine charcoal +; <i>Cenococcum</i> -type sclerotia +; fine root fragments +; natural mineral material +
1405	3	Fill of possible post hole	10	1.35	Burnt flint 4g; heat-affected clay 2g	70	Fine charcoal +++; fine roots +; natural mineral material +
1407	4	Fill of possible post hole	0.5	0.035	Heat-affected (reddened) flint pebble 6g; charcoal +	5	Fine charcoal +; charred hazelnut shell fragment (x1); charred fruitstone fragment (x1) +; possible traces of other poorly preserved charred plant remains; <i>Cenococcum</i> -type sclerotia +; fine root fragments +
1409	5	Fill of possible post hole	4	0.286	Burnt flint 15g; charcoal +	30	Charcoal (some fragments >4mm) ++; charred seed (x1) +; modern plant material ++; fine roots ++; trace coal
1411	6	Fill of possible post hole	0.4	0.045	Burnt flint 14g	5	Fine charcoal +; <i>Cenococcum</i> -type sclerotia +; fine root fragments +; natural mineral material +
1413	7	Fill of possible post hole	3.5	0.31	Burnt flint 98g; heat-affected clay 4g; charcoal +	50	Charcoal (some fragments >4mm) ++; <i>Cenococcum</i> -type sclerotia +; modern plant material and seeds +; fine roots +

Table 2. The bulk environmental samples (Semi-quantitative recording as follows: trace (occasional tiny fragments), + present but rare, ++ moderately frequent, +++ frequent, abundant ++++)

- 7.2.2 Burnt flint, heat-affected clay, and small amounts of charcoal were recovered from the >2mm residues. No dateable artefacts, animal bone or marine mollusc shell were recovered. The fine residue fractions (>1mm) contained varied proportions of small charcoal fragments. Magnetic material in this fraction appears to be of natural origin.
- 7.2.3 The flots have volumes of 5–70ml and are chiefly composed of fine charcoal. Larger pieces of charcoal (>4mm) were present in two samples. Single fragments of charred hazelnut shell and fruit stone were recovered from context 1407 (sample <4>) together with occasional vacuolated ‘tarry’ fragments that may represent other very poorly preserved charred plant remains. Occasional fragments of similarly vacuolated ‘tarry’ material were recovered from context 1401 (sample <1>). A single small charred seed was noted in the flot from context 1409 (sample <5>).
- 7.2.4 Small amounts of fine modern rootlets are present in all the flots. Uncharred seeds that are almost certainly of recent origin are present in the flots from contexts 1401 and 1413 (samples <1> and <7>). Such seeds are of common occurrence on many archaeological sites and, since a limited range of taxa is involved (mainly Chenopodiaceae), they are easily distinguished from more ancient, charred material.

7.3 Conclusions

- 7.3.1 The only identifiable charred plant remains other than charcoal were hazelnut and fruit stone fragments from context 1407 (sample <4>). The evidence they provide is too slight to provide an indication of the nature of human activities on the site: they may be a remnant of domestic diet, but in the absence of other identifiable remains they might simply relate to the burning of brushwood with occasional nuts or fruit attached. The fragments could be used to obtain a radiocarbon date for the feature, however, especially the hazelnut shell fragment which is larger and better preserved. Similarly, some of the larger charcoal fragments (>4mm in cross section - the size required for confident identification of the species represented) from contexts 1409 and 1413 (samples <5> and <7>) might also be used for dating but for this to be reliable it will be necessary to identify both the species represented and whether the fragments are from sapwood.

8 Discussion and conclusions

8.1 Summary of results

- 8.1.1 Superficial geological deposits of Clay-with-flints were observed across the PDA within every trench. These deposits were recorded at a depth of between 0.24m to 0.40m BGL and it was noted that they were directly overlain by the current ploughsoil (topsoil). The sharp interface between the ploughsoil and the geology suggests that any potential surviving archaeological horizon has likely been truncated and impacted by agricultural processes. This was further demonstrated by the very shallow depths of the surviving features.
- 8.1.2 A total of 36 potential archaeological features were recorded, comprising linear ditches, small pits, post-holes, and two possible stake-holes. These features were recorded in 20 of the 40 trenches excavated. No clear pattern of distribution of features could be determined, and the features were widely scattered. In addition, where linear features were identified, these features could not be traced into adjacent trenches.
- 8.1.3 The earliest dated activity within the PDA is represented by a single post-hole recorded in Trench 3, which produced pottery dated late Bronze Age to early Iron Age. The recovery of hazelnut shell from one post-hole recorded in Trench 14, could also be indicative of a prehistoric date for this group of features.
- 8.1.4 Undated features were recorded across the area, and some of which have to potential to be associated with this early phase of activity. However, this cannot be stated with certainty.
- 8.1.5 No evidence for activity within the PDA during the later prehistoric, Roman, or early medieval periods was recorded during the evaluation. Fragments of tile broadly dated to the medieval / post-medieval periods and recovered from a ditch Trench 18, the soil spread deposit and later pit in Trench 32, and a post-hole in Trench 40, are likely to indicate a post-medieval date for these features. In addition, pottery dated sixteenth to nineteenth century was recovered from a ditch in Trench 31.
- 8.1.6 The results of the geophysical survey, as depicted in Appendix 1 of the WSI (Orion Heritage 2025), show very few anomalies of potential archaeological origin. One potential linear feature indicated in the north-west of the PDA could potentially be associated feature [203] in Trench 2. However, this feature was not observed in Trench 11 as might be expected. In the south-west corner of the PDA, Trenches 25 and 32 were positioned across other potential linear features, and at the south-east, Trench 37 was positioned across a potential curvi-linear feature. None of these features were located during the evaluation trenching.

- 8.1.7 A fieldwalking survey undertaken in 2019 (CA), covered an area of five fields comprising just over 60 hectares. The current PDA falls within fieldwalking 'Field 3'. The fieldwalking finds for the PDA area broadly correspond with the findings of this evaluation, with post-medieval finds of pottery, ceramic building material and iron being recorded.

8.2 Statement of Significance

- 8.2.1 A scatter of potential archaeological features was recorded during the archaeological evaluation. The earliest of which produced pottery of late Bronze to Iron Age date. However, few features produced dateable material to support the potential for prehistoric activity in the area, and where other features could be dated, a likely post-medieval date was indicated.
- 8.2.2 The results indicated that any potential archaeological features or deposits have been heavily truncated. Whilst it could be argued that many shallower features have been lost to agricultural activities, it is also worth noting that very little cultural material was recovered during both the evaluation and the preceding fieldwalking survey. This may therefore suggest that any activity in within the PDA during the prehistoric and subsequent periods was low-level. The overall results therefore suggest that the archaeological resource within the Phase 1 area is of low significance.

8.3 Development impact

- 8.3.1 Proposals for development of the PDA include relocation and replacement of existing playing fields and erection of pavilion annex and outline planning application for the construction of up to 1000 new homes, care homes, primary school, green infrastructure, new access and alterations to existing access. Such development will include a variety of groundworks, including but not exclusively, landscaping, foundation trenches and/or piling, drainage and utility trenches. These groundworks are highly intrusive and have the potential to impact on the archaeological resource.
- 8.3.2 The archaeological resource lies at a shallow depth range of 0.24m–0.40m BGL. Any groundworks associated with the development which extend beyond 0.24m BGL therefore have the potential to impact on any surviving archaeological resource.

8.4 Confidence rating

- 8.4.1 The evaluation is considered to have determined the nature, character, and extent of archaeology surviving within the PDA.
- 8.4.2 The evaluation was sufficiently resourced and was conducted in good weather.
- 8.4.3 The overall confidence rating is therefore considered good.

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Appendix 1. Trench tables

TR 1							
Length: 30.00m		Width: 2.10m		Orientation: N-S		Ground level: 121.94m OD (N) – 121.22m OD (S)	
Context	Interpretation	Description			Thickness (m)	Depth BGL (m)	Date
100	Topsoil	Dark grey-brown silty-clay loam with frequent angular flint and rare CBM			0.29–0.30	-	Modern
101	Fill of ditch [102]	Mid brown, firm, silty-clay with occasional rounded flint			0.39	0.29	Undated
102	Cut of ditch	North-east to south-west aligned ditch with steep sides and a gradual break of slope onto a concave base (W. 0.74m, L. 2m+, D. 0.39m)			0.39	0.29	Undated
103	Fill of ditch [104]	Mid mottled brown, firm, silty-clay with occasional manganese flecks.			0.21	0.34	Undated
104	Cut of ditch	North-east to south-west aligned ditch with concave sides onto a concave base (W. 0.80m, L. 2m+, D. 0.21m)			0.21	0.34	Undated
105	Geology	Clay-with-flints			-	0.29–0.30	-

TR 2							
Length: 29.10m		Width: 2.10m		Orientation: NE-SW		Ground level: 121.26m OD (NE) – 121.01m OD (SW)	
Context	Interpretation	Description			Thickness (m)	Depth BGL (m)	Date
200	Topsoil	Dark grey-brown silty-clay loam with frequent angular flint and rare CBM			0.30	-	Modern
201	Geological feature	Pale yellow, firm, silty-clay with common small sub-angular and rounded flint			0.50m +	0.30	-
202	Fill of feature [203]	Dark grey-brown, firm, silty-clay			0.14	0.30	Undated
203	Cut of linear feature/ terminus	Broadly east to west aligned linear feature with gradual sloping sides and gradual break of slope onto sloping base (W. 0.90m, L. 1m+, D. 0.14m)			0.14	0.30	Undated
204	Geology	Clay-with-flints			-	0.30	-

TR 3							
Length: 29.10m		Width: 2.10m		Orientation: E-W		Ground level: 120.60m OD (E) – 121.27m OD (W)	
Context	Interpretation	Description			Thickness (m)	Depth BGL (m)	Date
300	Topsoil	Dark grey-brown silty-clay loam with frequent angular flint and rare CBM			0.27–0.33	-	Modern
301	Fill of post-hole [302]	Mid grey-brown, firm, silty-clay with inclusions of rare charcoal flecks and rare pottery			0.12	0.27	Late Bronze Age to Iron Age
302	Cut of post-hole	Cut of circular post-hole with gradual sloping sides and gradual break of slope onto a concave base (W. 0.20m, L. 0.20m, D. 0.12m)			0.12	0.27	Late Bronze Age to Iron Age
303	Geology	Clay-with-flints			-	0.27–0.33	-

TR 4	Length: 29.00m	Width: 2.10m	Orientation: N-S	Ground level: 120.76m OD (N) – 119.87m OD (S)		
Context	Interpretation	Description		Thickness (m)	Depth BGL (m)	Date
400	Topsoil	Dark grey-brown silty-clay loam with frequent angular flint and rare CBM		0.27–0.30	-	Modern
401	Fill of stake-hole [402]	Dark grey, firm, silty-clay with common charcoal inclusions		0.05	0.30	Undated
402	Cut of ?stake-hole	Cut of sub-circular possible stake-hole with steep sloping sides and gradual break of slope onto a concave base (W. 0.09m, L. 0.12m, D. 0.05m)		0.05	0.30	Undated
403	Geology	Clay-with-flints		-	0.27–0.30	-

TR 5	Length: 29.10m	Width: 2.10m	Orientation: E-W	Ground level: 121.09m OD (E) – 121.05m OD (W)		
Context	Interpretation	Description		Thickness (m)	Depth BGL (m)	Date
500	Topsoil	Dark grey-brown silty-clay loam with frequent angular flint and rare CBM		0.27–0.30	-	Modern
501	Geology	Clay-with-flints		-	0.27–0.30	-

TR 6	Length: 29.10m	Width: 2.10m	Orientation: E-W	Ground level: 121.06m OD (E) – 121.37m OD (W)		
Context	Interpretation	Description		Thickness (m)	Depth BGL (m)	Date
600	Topsoil	Dark grey-brown silty-clay loam with frequent angular flint and rare CBM		0.26–0.27	-	Modern
601	Fill of pit [602]	Mid grey-brown silty-clay with rare flint		0.04	0.26–0.27	Undated
602	Cut of pit	Cut of sub-oval pit with gradual sloping sides and gradual break of slope onto a concave base. (W. 0.51m, L. 0.70m, D. 0.04m)		0.04	0.26–0.27	Undated
604	Fill of pit [605]	Mid grey-brown silty-clay with rare flint		0.04	0.26	Undated
605	Cut of pit	Cut of sub-oval pit with gradual sloping sides and gradual break of slope onto a concave base. (Dia. 0.39m, D. 0.04m)		0.04	0.26	Undated
603	Geology	Clay-with-flints		-	0.26–0.27	-

TR 7	Length: 28.50m	Width: 2.10m	Orientation: N-S	Ground level: 121.12m OD (N) – 120.32m OD (S)		
Context	Interpretation	Description		Thickness (m)	Depth BGL (m)	Date
700	Topsoil	Dark grey-brown silty-clay loam with frequent angular flint and rare CBM		0.33–0.35	-	Modern
701	Fill of pit [702]	Mid orangey-brown, firm, silty-clay with occasional charcoal flecks		0.03	0.35	Undated
702	Cut of pit	Basal remains of sub-oval pit. (W. 0.34m, L. 0.50m, D. 0.03m).		0.03	0.35	Undated
703	Fill of feature [704]	Pale-yellow silty-clay with frequent flecks of manganese		0.10	0.35	Undated
704	Feature/Geology	Interface of sub-oval manganese deposit with steep sloping sides and undulating base		0.10	0.35	Undated

705	Geology	Clay-with-flints	-	0.35	-
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TR 8	Length: 28.70m	Width: 2.10m	Orientation: E-W	Ground level: 119.56m OD (E) – 120.30m OD (W)		
Context	Interpretation	Description	Thickness (m)	Depth BGL (m)	Date	
800	Topsoil	Dark grey-brown silty-clay loam with frequent angular flint and rare CBM	0.28–0.29	-	Modern	
801	Fill of linear feature [802]	Mid grey-brown, firm, silty-clay with frequent small to medium sub-angular flint	0.04	0.40	Undated	
802	Cut of linear feature	North-west to south-east aligned linear feature with gradual sloping sides and irregular base (W. 0.36m, L. 3.5+m, D. 0.04m)	0.04	0.40	Undated	
803	Fill of linear feature [804]	Mid grey-brown, firm, silty-clay with frequent small to medium sub-angular flint	0.05	0.30	Undated	
804	Cut of linear feature	North-west to south-east aligned linear feature with gradual sloping sides and irregular base (W. 0.47m, L. 3.5+m, D. 0.05m)	0.05	0.30	Undated	
805	Fill of linear feature [806]	Mid grey-brown, firm, silty-clay with frequent small to medium sub-angular flint	0.05	0.33	Undated	
806	Cut of linear feature	North-west to south-east aligned linear feature with gradual sloping sides and irregular base (W. 0.37m, L. 3.5+m, D. 0.05m)	0.05	0.33	Undated	
807	Geology	Clay-with-flints	-	0.28–0.29	-	

TR 9	Length: 28.40m	Width: 2.10m	Orientation: N-S	Ground level: 120.71m OD (N) – 120.21m OD (S)		
Context	Interpretation	Description	Thickness (m)	Depth BGL (m)	Date	
900	Topsoil	Dark grey-brown silty-clay loam with frequent angular flint and rare CBM	0.24–0.29	-	Modern	
901	Fill of linear feature [902]	Mid brown-grey, firm, silty-clay with frequent sub-angular and rounded flints	0.04	0.24	Undated	
902	Cut of linear feature	North-west to south-east aligned linear feature with gradual sloping sides and gradual break of slope onto a concave base (W. 0.45m, L. 1.2+m, D. 0.04m)	0.04	0.24	Undated	
903	Fill of linear feature [904]	Mid grey, firm, silty-clay with common inclusions of sub-angular flint gravel	0.02	0.24	Undated	
904	Cut of linear feature	East to west aligned linear feature with gradual sloping sides and gradual break of slope onto a concave base (W. 0.31m, L. 6.4+m, D. 0.02m)	0.02	0.24	Undated	
905	Geology	Clay-with-flints	-	0.24–0.29	-	

TR 10	Length: 28.00m	Width: 2.10m	Orientation: N-S	Ground level: 120.71m OD (N) – 119.94m OD (S)		
Context	Interpretation	Description	Thickness (m)	Depth BGL (m)	Date	
1000	Topsoil	Dark grey-brown silty-clay loam with frequent angular flint and rare CBM	0.29–0.30	-	Modern	
1001	Subsoil	Medium brown silty-clay with no inclusions. Infrequent across trench, only present in south side.	0.08	0.29	Undated	
1002	Geology	Clay-with-flints	-	0.30–0.37	-	

1003	Fill of possible stake-hole [1004]	Medium grey-brown silty-clay with rare inclusions of CBM flecking	0.04	0.38	Undated
1004	Cut of possible stake-hole	Steep sides and pointed base. Moderate truncation	0.04	0.38	Undated

TR 11	Length: 29.30m	Width: 2.10m	Orientation: N-S	Ground level: 120.30m OD (N) – 120.46m OD (S)		
Context	Interpretation	Description	Thickness (m)	Depth BGL (m)	Date	
1100	Topsoil	Dark grey-brown silty-clay loam with frequent angular flint and rare CBM	0.30–0.39	-	Modern	
1101	Geological feature	Pale yellow, firm, silty-clay with common small sub-angular and rounded flint	0.12	0.39	-	
1102	Geology	Clay-with-flints	-	0.30–0.39	-	

TR 12	Length: 30.30m	Width: 2.10m	Orientation: E-W	Ground level: 119.43m OD (E) – 119.57m OD (W)		
Context	Interpretation	Description	Thickness (m)	Depth BGL (m)	Date	
1200	Topsoil	Dark grey-brown silty-clay loam with frequent angular flint and rare CBM	0.32–0.40	-	Modern	
1201	Geology	Clay-with-flints	-	0.32–0.40	-	

TR 13	Length: 29.70m	Width: 2.10m	Orientation: E-W	Ground level: 120.25m OD (E) – 120.17m OD (W)		
Context	Interpretation	Description	Thickness (m)	Depth BGL (m)	Date	
1300	Topsoil	Dark grey-brown silty-clay loam with frequent angular flint and rare CBM	0.26	-	Modern	
1301	Fill of pit [1302]	Mid-brown silty-clay with occasional sub-angular flint gravel inclusions	0.07	0.26	Undated	
1302	Cut of pit	Oval pit with sloping sides and concave base (W. 0.62m, L. 1m, D. 0.08m)	0.08	0.37	Undated	
1303	Fill of [1304]	Mid-brown silty-clay with occasional sub-angular flint gravel inclusions	0.13	0.37	Undated	
1304	Natural feature	Oval feature with sloping sides and concave base (W. 0.85m, L. 0.8m, D. 0.03m)	0.03	0.37	Undated	
1305	Geology	Clay-with-flints	-	0.26	-	

TR 14	Length: 30m	Width: 2.10m	Orientation: N-S	Ground level: 120.64m OD (N) – 119.90m OD (S)		
Context	Interpretation	Description	Thickness (m)	Depth BGL (m)	Date	
1400	Topsoil	Dark grey-brown silty-clay loam with frequent angular flint and rare CBM	0.30	-	Modern	
1401	Fill of post-hole [1402]	Mid brownish-orange firm silty-clay with common flint and charcoal inclusions	0.06	0.30	Undated	
1402	Cut of post-hole	Oval feature with gentle sloping sides and concave base	0.06	0.30	Undated	
1403	Fill of post-hole [1404]	Mid brownish-orange firm silty-clay with common flint and charcoal inclusions	0.05	0.30	Undated	

1404	Cut of post-hole	Oval feature with steep sloping sides and concave base	0.05	0.30	Undated
1405	Fill of post-hole [1406]	Mid brownish-orange firm silty-clay with common flint and charcoal inclusions	0.16	0.30	Undated
1406	Cut of post-hole	Oval feature with very steep sloping sides and concave base.	0.16	0.30	Undated
1407	Fill of post-hole [1408]	Mid brownish-orange firm silty-clay with common flint and charcoal inclusions	0.03	0.30	Undated
1408	Cut of post-hole	Oval feature with gentle sloping sides and concave base	0.03	0.30	Undated
1409	Fill of post-hole [1410]	Mid brownish-orange firm silty-clay with common flint and charcoal inclusions	0.04	0.30	Undated
1410	Cut of post-hole	Oval feature with gentle sloping sides and an irregular concave base	0.04	0.30	Undated
1411	Fill of post-hole [1412]	Mid brownish-orange firm silty-clay with common flint and charcoal inclusions	0.02	0.30	Undated
1412	Cut of post-hole	Oval feature with gentle sloping sides and a shallow concave base	0.02	0.30	Undated
1413	Fill of post-hole [1414]	Mid brownish-orange firm silty-clay with common flint and charcoal inclusions	0.06	0.30	Undated
1414	Cut of post-hole	Oval feature with gentle sloping sides and a shallow concave base.	0.06	0.30	Undated
1415	Geology	Clay-with-flints	-	0.30	-
1416	Fill of ditch [1417]	Mid orange grey-brown compact silty-clay. Inclusions consist of small to large sub-angular flint and rare flecks of daub	0.25	0.27	Undated
1417	Cut of ditch	North-east to south-west aligned feature. Steep sides on eastern part of feature and gradual sloping on the western part. Sharp break of slope top and flattish base (W. 1.1m, L. 7+m, D. 0.27m)	0.25	0.27	Undated

TR 15	Length: 28.80m	Width: 2.10m	Orientation: E–W	Ground level: 119.50m OD (E) – 120.00m OD (W)		
Context	Interpretation	Description	Thickness (m)	Depth BGL (m)	Date	
1500	Topsoil	Dark grey-brown silty-clay loam with frequent angular flint and rare CBM	0.32	-	Modern	
1501	Geology	Clay-with-flints	-	0.32	-	

TR 16	Length: 29.00m	Width: 2.10m	Orientation: N–S	Ground level: 119.42m OD (N) – 118.56m OD (S)		
Context	Interpretation	Description	Thickness (m)	Depth BGL (m)	Date	
1600	Topsoil	Dark grey-brown silty-clay loam with frequent angular flint and rare CBM	0.27–0.30	-	Modern	
1601	Geology	Clay-with-flints	-	0.27–0.30	-	

TR 17	Length: 29.40m	Width: 2.10m	Orientation: E–W	Ground level: 119.12m OD (E) – 119.87m OD (W)		
Context	Interpretation	Description		Thickness (m)	Depth BGL (m)	Date
1700	Topsoil	Dark grey-brown silty-clay loam with frequent angular flint and rare CBM		0.27–0.30	-	Modern
1701	Geology	Clay-with-flints		-	0.27–0.30	-

TR 18	Length: 28.70m	Width: 2.10m	Orientation: E–W	Ground level: 118.97m OD (E) – 119.90m OD (W)		
Context	Interpretation	Description		Thickness (m)	Depth BGL (m)	Date
1800	Topsoil	Dark grey-brown silty-clay loam with frequent angular flint and rare CBM		0.29–0.31	-	Modern
1801	Fill of linear [1802]	Dark greyish-brown silty-clay with occasional rounded flint inclusions and tile		0.23	0.33	Medieval / post-medieval
1802	Cut of linear	North-south aligned linear ditch feature with gradually sloping sides and a wide concave base (W. 0.81m, L. 2.2+m, D. 0.23m)		0.23	0.33	Medieval / post-medieval
1803	Geology	Clay-with-flints		-	0.29–0.31	-

TR 19	Length: 29.20m	Width: 2.10m	Orientation: N–S	Ground level: 118.97m OD (N) – 117.89m OD (S)		
Context	Interpretation	Description		Thickness (m)	Depth BGL (m)	Date
1900	Topsoil	Dark grey-brown silty-clay loam with frequent angular flint and rare CBM		0.27–0.30	-	Modern
1901	Geology	Clay-with-flints		-	0.27–0.30	-

TR 20	Length: 28.60m	Width: 2.10m	Orientation: N–S	Ground level: 119.83m OD (N) – 118.84m OD (S)		
Context	Interpretation	Description		Thickness (m)	Depth BGL (m)	Date
2000	Topsoil	Dark grey-brown silty-clay loam with frequent angular flint and rare CBM		0.29–0.30	-	Modern
2001	Fill of linear [2002]	Medium grey-brown firm silty-clay with rare rounded flint inclusions and some CBM flecking		0.04	0.30	Undated
2002	Cut of linear	North-west to south-east aligned linear ditch with gradual sloping sides and flat base (W. 0.90m, L. 2.0+m, D. 0.30m)		0.04	0.30	Undated
2003	Fill of linear [2004]	Medium orange-brown firm silty-clay with occasional rounded flint inclusions		0.04	0.30	Undated
2004	Cut of linear	East to west aligned linear feature with gradual sloping sides and a flat base (W. 0.41m, L. 2.0+m, D. 0.30m)		0.04	0.30	Undated
2005	Geology	Clay-with-flints		-	0.29–0.30	-

TR 21	Length: 29.20m	Width: 2.10m	Orientation: E–W	Ground level: 118.88m OD (E) – 119.24m OD (W)		
Context	Interpretation	Description	Thickness (m)	Depth BGL (m)	Date	
2100	Topsoil	Dark grey-brown silty-clay loam with frequent angular flint and rare CBM	0.26–0.27	-	Modern	
2101	Geology	Clay-with-flints	-	0.26–0.27	-	

TR 22	Length: 29.20m	Width: 2.10m	Orientation: N–S	Ground level: 119.37m OD (N) – 118.22m OD (S)		
Context	Interpretation	Description	Thickness (m)	Depth BGL (m)	Date	
2200	Topsoil	Dark grey-brown silty-clay loam with frequent angular flint and rare CBM	0.26–0.28	-	Modern	
2201	Fill of ditch [2202]	Medium grey-brown firm silty-clay with rare rounded flint inclusions	0.26	0.27	Undated	
2202	Cut of ditch	North-east to south-west aligned linear ditch with sloping sides and flat base (W. 0.95m, L. 2.0+m, D. 0.27m)	0.26	0.27	Undated	
2203	Chalk spread	Medium grey-brown firm silty-clay with frequent chalk flecking and frequent small-medium rounded flints	-	0.27	?Modern	
2204	Geology	Clay-with-flints	-	0.32–0.30	-	

TR 23	Length: 28m	Width: 2.10m	Orientation: E–W	Ground level: 117.78m OD (E) – 118.40m OD (W)		
Context	Interpretation	Description	Thickness (m)	Depth BGL (m)	Date	
2300	Topsoil	Dark grey-brown silty-clay loam with frequent angular flint and rare CBM	0.30–0.32	-	Modern	
2301	Fill of linear [2302]	Medium grey-brown firm silty-clay with occasional flint inclusions	0.09	0.36	Undated	
2302	Cut of linear	North-west to south-east aligned linear feature with gradual sloping sides and an irregular base (W. 0.39m, L. 2.0+m, D. 0.36m)	0.09	0.36	Undated	
2303	Geology	Clay-with-flints	-	0.30–0.32	-	

TR 24	Length: 29.20m	Width: 2.10m	Orientation: NW–SE	Ground level: 119.58m OD (NW) – 118.70m OD (SE)		
Context	Interpretation	Description	Thickness (m)	Depth BGL (m)	Date	
2400	Topsoil	Dark grey-brown silty-clay loam with frequent angular flint and rare CBM	0.27–0.32	-	Modern	
2401	Geology	Clay-with-flints	-	0.27–0.32	-	

TR 25	Length: 28.70m	Width: 2.10m	Orientation: NE–SW	Ground level: 118.46m OD (NE) – 118.90m OD (SW)		
Context	Interpretation	Description	Thickness (m)	Depth BGL (m)	Date	
2500	Topsoil	Dark grey-brown silty-clay loam with frequent angular flint and rare CBM	0.28–0.29	-	Modern	
2501	Geology	Clay-with-flints	-	0.28–0.29	-	

TR 26	Length: 29m	Width: 2.10m	Orientation: N-S	Ground level: 119.01m OD (N) – 118.34m OD (S)		
Context	Interpretation	Description		Thickness (m)	Depth BGL (m)	Date
2600	Topsoil	Dark grey-brown silty-clay loam with frequent angular flint and rare CBM		0.28	-	Modern
2601	Geology	Clay-with-flints		-	0.28	-

TR 27	Length: 29.10m	Width: 2.10m	Orientation: E-W	Ground level: 116.99m OD (E) – 117.92m OD (W)		
Context	Interpretation	Description		Thickness (m)	Depth BGL (m)	Date
2700	Topsoil	Dark grey-brown silty-clay loam with frequent angular flint and rare CBM		0.27–0.30	-	Modern
2701	Geology	Clay-with-flints		-	0.27–0.30	-

TR 28	Length: 29.70m	Width: 2.10m	Orientation: E-W	Ground level: 118.11m OD (E) – 118.13m OD (W)		
Context	Interpretation	Description		Thickness (m)	Depth BGL (m)	Date
2800	Topsoil	Dark grey-brown silty-clay loam with frequent angular flint and rare CBM		0.27–0.30	-	Modern
2801	Geology	Clay-with-flints		-	0.27–0.30	-

TR 29	Length: 29.60m	Width: 2.10m	Orientation: N-S	Ground level: 118.54m OD (N) – 117.58m OD (S)		
Context	Interpretation	Description		Thickness (m)	Depth BGL (m)	Date
2900	Topsoil	Dark grey-brown silty-clay loam with frequent angular flint and rare CBM		0.27–0.30	-	Modern
2901	Geology	Clay-with-flints		-	0.27–0.30	-

TR 30	Length: 28.90m	Width: 2.10m	Orientation: E-W	Ground level: 117.54m OD (E) – 117.94m OD (W)		
Context	Interpretation	Description		Thickness (m)	Depth BGL (m)	Date
3000	Topsoil	Dark grey-brown silty-clay loam with frequent angular flint and rare CBM		0.25	-	Modern
3001	Fill of [3002]	Dark grey firm silty-clay with common small to large flint gravel inclusions		0.02	0.25	-
3002	Natural feature	Circular feature. (Dia. 0.43m, D. 0.02m)		0.02	0.25	-
3003	Geology	Clay-with-flints		-	0.25	-

TR 31	Length: 27.60m	Width: 2.10m	Orientation: N-S	Ground level: 117.63m OD (N) – 116.83m OD (S)		
Context	Interpretation	Description	Thickness (m)	Depth BGL (m)	Date	
3100	Topsoil	Dark grey-brown silty-clay loam with frequent angular flint and rare CBM	0.25–0.27	-	Modern	
3101	Fill of linear feature [3102]	Dark grey firm silty-clay with common small to large flint gravel inclusions, worked flint, pottery, and tile	0.20	0.27	Medieval / post-medieval	
3102	Cut of linear feature	East to west aligned linear feature with sloping sides and uneven concave base (W. 0.74m, L. 2.0+m, D. 0.20m)	0.20	0.27	Medieval / post-medieval	
3103	Geology	Clay-with-flints	-	0.25–0.27	-	

TR 32	Length: 27.60m	Width: 2.10m	Orientation: NE–SW	Ground level: 117.72m OD (NE) – 118.01m OD (SW)		
Context	Interpretation	Description	Thickness (m)	Depth BGL (m)	Date	
3200	Topsoil	Dark grey-brown silty-clay loam with frequent angular flint and rare CBM	0.36–0.40	-	Modern	
3201	Fill of pit [3202]	Mid grey-brown silty-clay with common flint gravel	0.05	0.40	Undated	
3202	Cut of pit	Oval pit with moderate sloping sides and concave base (Dia. 0.30m, D. 0.05m)	0.05	0.40	Undated	
3203	Fill of pit [3204]	Dark grey-brown silty-clay with common flints and peg-tile	0.10	0.36	Medieval / post-medieval	
3204	Cut of pit	Oval pit with gentle sloping sides and irregular base (W. 0.50m, L. 0.50m, D. 0.10m)	0.10	0.36	Medieval / post-medieval	
3205	Spread layer	Mid-light grey silty-clay with common flint gravel and tile	-	0.36	Medieval / post-medieval	
3206	Geology	Clay-with-flints	-	0.36	-	

TR 33	Length: 29.30m	Width: 2.10m	Orientation: N–S	Ground level: 117.00m OD (N) – 116.31m OD (S)		
Context	Interpretation	Description	Thickness (m)	Depth BGL (m)	Date	
3300	Topsoil	Dark grey-brown silty-clay loam with frequent angular flint and rare CBM	0.30–0.32	-	Modern	
3301	Geology	Clay-with-flints	-	0.27–0.30	-	
3302	Fill of pit [3303]	Pale grey-brown silty-clay with frequent angular flint	-	0.27	Undated	
3303	Cut of pit	Circular pit (Dia. 1m)	-		Undated	
3304	Fill of pit [3305]	Pale grey-brown silty-clay with moderate angular flint	-	0.27	Undated	
3305	Cut of pit	Circular pit (W. 0.90m, L. 1.7m)	-	0.27	Undated	

TR 34	Length: 29.20m	Width: 2.10m	Orientation: N-S	Ground level: 117.10m OD (N) – 115.95m OD (S)		
Context	Interpretation	Description		Thickness (m)	Depth BGL (m)	Date
3400	Topsoil	Dark grey-brown silty-clay loam with frequent angular flint and rare CBM		0.25–0.38	-	Modern
3401	Geology	Clay-with-flints		-	0.25–0.38	-

TR 35	Length: 29.50m	Width: 2.10m	Orientation: E-W	Ground level: 117.01m OD (E) – 116.92m OD (W)		
Context	Interpretation	Description		Thickness (m)	Depth BGL (m)	Date
3500	Topsoil	Dark grey-brown silty-clay loam with frequent angular flint and rare CBM		0.29	-	Modern
3501	Geology	Clay-with-flints		-	0.29	-

TR 36	Length: 29.20m	Width: 2.10m	Orientation: N-S	Ground level: 117.18m OD (N) – 116.24m OD (S)		
Context	Interpretation	Description		Thickness (m)	Depth BGL (m)	Date
3600	Topsoil	Dark grey-brown silty-clay loam with frequent angular flint and rare CBM		0.26–0.32	-	Modern
3601	Geology	Clay-with-flints		-	0.26–0.32	-

TR 37	Length: 28.40m	Width: 2.10m	Orientation: NW-SE	Ground level: 117.43m OD (NW) – 116.31m OD (SE)		
Context	Interpretation	Description		Thickness (m)	Depth BGL (m)	Date
3700	Topsoil	Dark grey-brown silty-clay loam with frequent angular flint and rare CBM		0.25–0.27	-	Modern
3701	Fill of post-hole [3702]	Mid orange-brown firm silty-clay with occasional charcoal flecking		0.04	0.33	Undated
3702	Cut of post-hole	Circular feature with concave sides and base (Dia. 0.18m, D. 0.04m)		0.04	0.33	Undated
3703	Fill of post-hole [3704]	Mid orange-brown firm silty-clay with occasional charcoal flecking		0.03	0.33	Undated
3704	Cut of post-hole	Circular feature with concave sides and base (Dia. 0.19m, D. 0.03m)		0.03	0.33	Undated
3705	Fill of post-hole [3706]	Mid orange-brown firm silty-clay with occasional charcoal flecking		0.06	0.33	Undated
3706	Cut of post-hole	Circular feature with concave sides and base (Dia. 0.20m, D. 0.06m)		0.06	0.33	Undated
3707	Fill of post-hole [3708]	Mid orange-brown firm silty-clay with occasional charcoal flecking		0.03	0.34	Undated
3708	Cut of post-hole	Circular feature with concave sides and base (Diam. 0.17m, D. 0.03m)		0.03	0.34	Undated
3709	Geology	Clay-with-flints		-	0.25–0.27	-

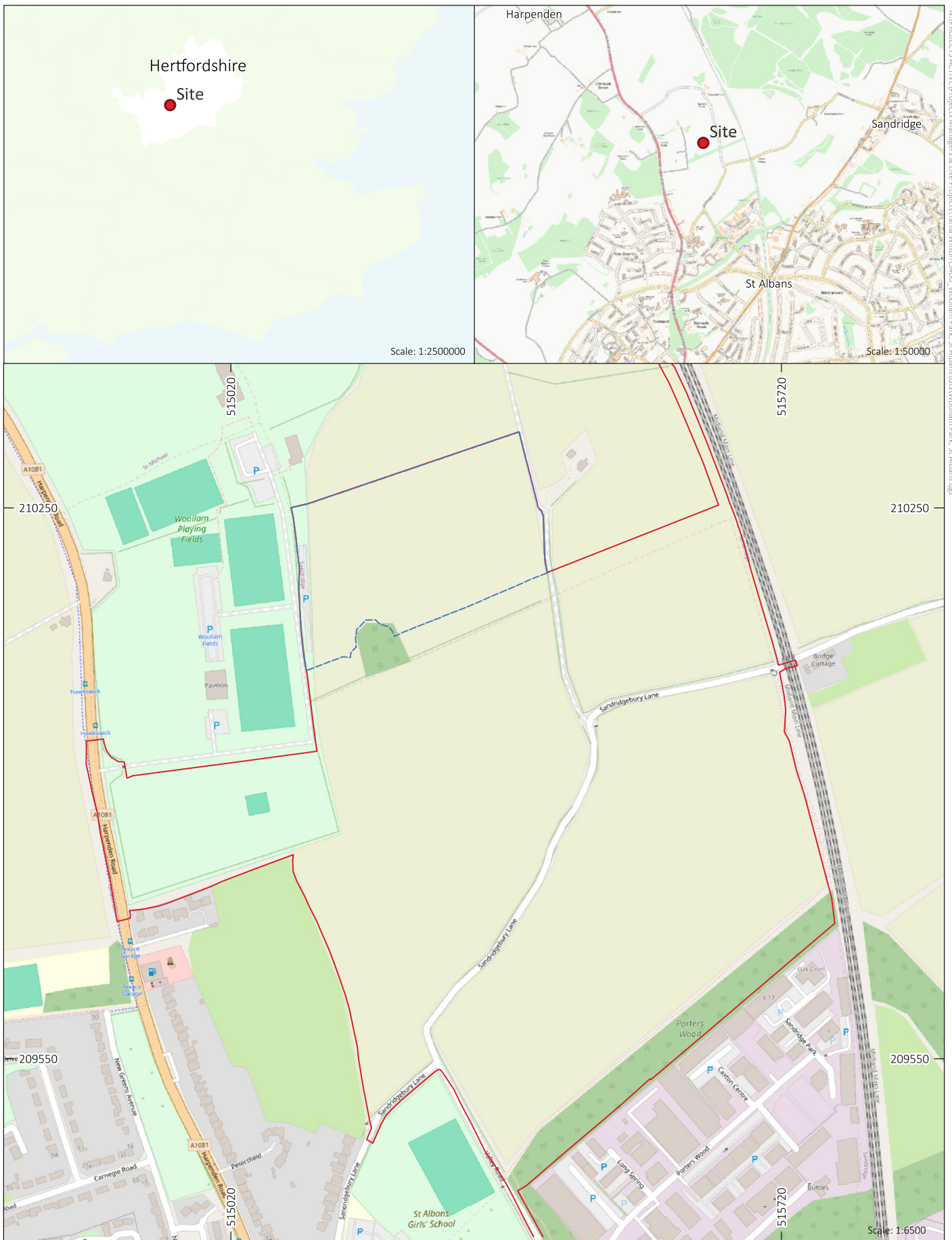
TR 38	Length: 28.60m	Width: 2.10m	Orientation: E–W	Ground level: 115.41m OD (E) – 115.95m OD (W)		
Context	Interpretation	Description		Thickness (m)	Depth BGL (m)	Date
3800	Topsoil	Dark grey-brown silty-clay loam with frequent angular flint and rare CBM		0.30–0.32	-	Modern
3801	Geology	Clay-with-flints		-	0.30–0.32	-

TR 39	Length: 29.00m	Width: 2.10m	Orientation: NE–SW	Ground level: 116.20m OD (NE) – 115.88m OD (SW)		
Context	Interpretation	Description		Thickness (m)	Depth BGL (m)	Date
3900	Topsoil	Dark grey-brown silty-clay loam with frequent angular flint and rare CBM		0.29–0.32	-	Modern
3901	Geology	Clay-with-flints		-	0.29–0.32	-

TR 40	Length: 27.80m	Width: 2.10m	Orientation: E–W	Ground level: 116.07m OD (E) – 116.58m OD (W)		
Context	Interpretation	Description		Thickness (m)	Depth BGL (m)	Date
4000	Topsoil	Dark grey-brown silty-clay loam with frequent angular flint and rare CBM		0.28–0.30	-	Modern
4001	Fill of post-hole [4002]	Mid orange-brown firm silty-clay with sub-angular flint inclusions		0.06	0.35	Undated
4002	Cut of post-hole	Sub-circular feature with concave sides and base (W. 0.35m, L. 0.38m, D. 0.06m)		0.06	0.35	Undated
4003	Fill of post-hole [4004]	Dark grey-brown firm silty-clay with angular flint inclusions and tile		0.03	0.35	Medieval / post-medieval
4004	Cut of post-hole	Sub-circular feature with concave sides and base (W. 0.35m, L. 0.37m, D. 0.03m)		0.03	0.35	Unknown
4005	Geology	Clay-with-flints		-	0.28–0.30	-

OASIS Summary for canterbu3-537751

OASIS ID (UID)	canterbu3-537751
Project Name	Land at Woollam Park, North St Albans, Hertfordshire. Archaeological evaluation report
Sitename	Land at Woollam Park, North St Albans, Hertfordshire
Sitecode	EV WPSA 25
Project Identifier(s)	2025-148 Land at Woollam Park, North St Albans, Hertfordshire AL3 6BZ
Activity type	Evaluation
Planning Id	5/2024/2271
Reason For Investigation	Planning: Between application and determination
Organisation Responsible for work	Canterbury Archaeological Trust
Project Dates	01-Sep-2025 - 11-Sep-2025
Location	Land at Woollam Park, North St Albans, Hertfordshire NGR : TL 15264 10242 LL : 51.77898371688755, -0.33061566450894 12 Fig : 515264,210242
Administrative Areas	Country : England County/Local Authority : Hertfordshire Local Authority District : St Albans Parish : Sandridge
Project Methodology	A total of 40 evaluation trenches were excavated across the northern area (Phase 1) of the proposed development area
Project Results	In total, 36 potential archaeological features were recorded across 20 widely spread trenches. Features comprised linear ditches, small pits, post-holes, and two possible stake-holes. The earliest feature, a post-hole in Trench 3, produced pottery dated late Bronze Age to Iron Age. This was the only find of this date, although a group of post-holes in Trench 14 may also be prehistoric in origin. No evidence for activity during the later prehistoric, Roman, or early medieval periods was recorded, but a range of features identified in Trenches 18, 31, 32 and 40 produced post-medieval cultural material.
Keywords	Post Hole - LATE BRONZE AGE - FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types Post Hole - UNCERTAIN - FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types Boundary Ditch - UNCERTAIN - FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types Post Hole - POST MEDIEVAL - FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types Ditch - POST MEDIEVAL - FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types
Funder	Private or public corporation Hallam Land Management
HER	St Albans City and District UAD - unRev - STANDARD Hertfordshire HER - unRev - STANDARD
Person Responsible for work	Tania Wilson
HER Identifiers	
Archives	



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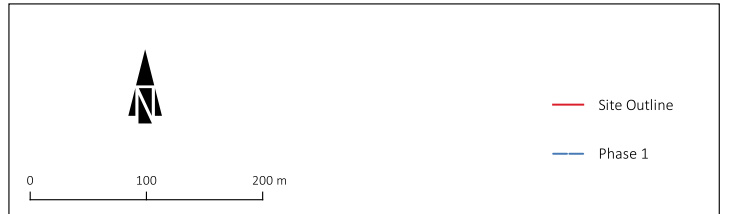
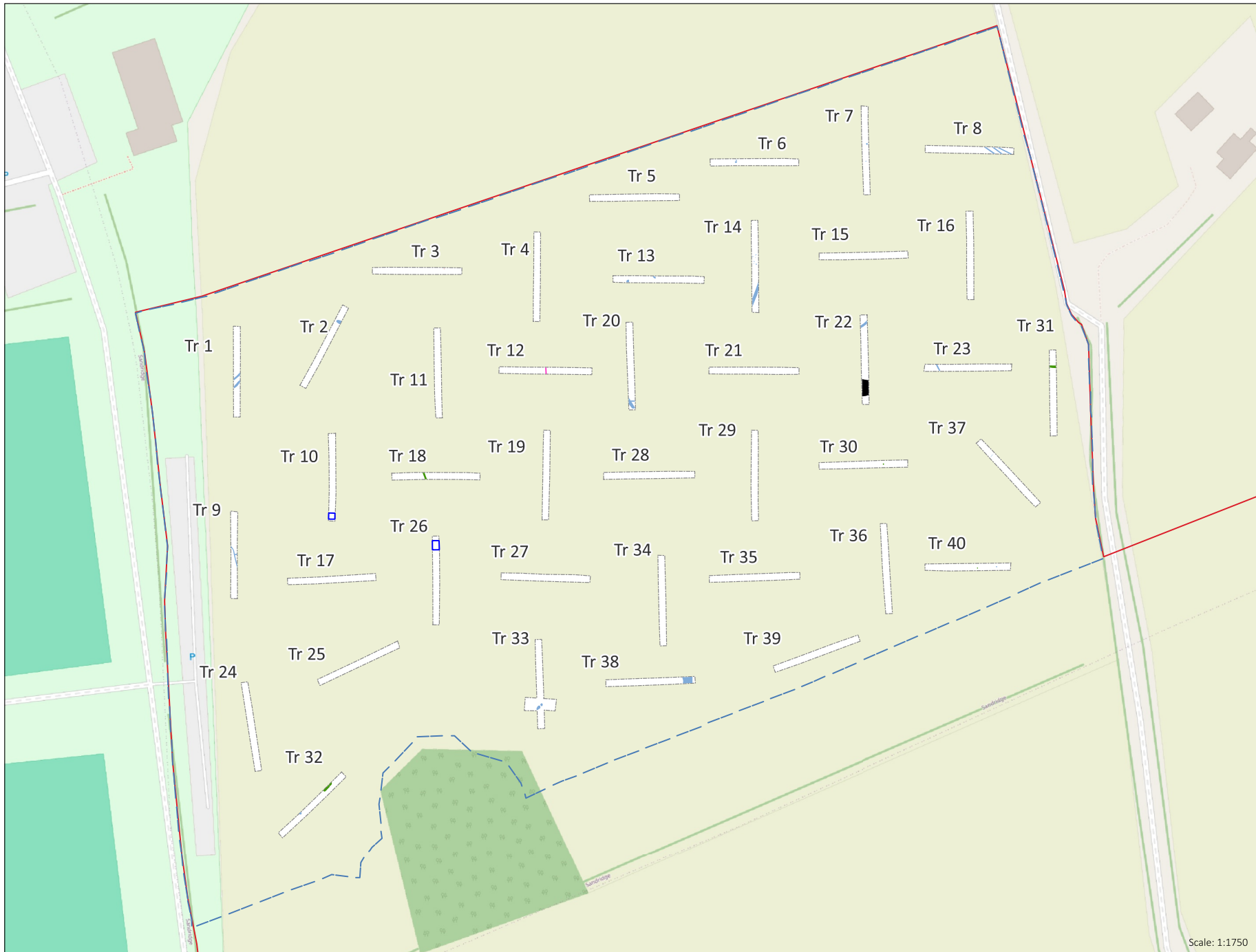


Figure 1. Site location



0 20 40 m

- Site Outline
- - - Phase 1
- Trenches
- Test pit
- Undated
- Geological
- LBA/IA
- Post-medieval
- Modern
- Water pipe

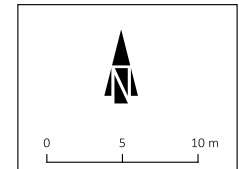
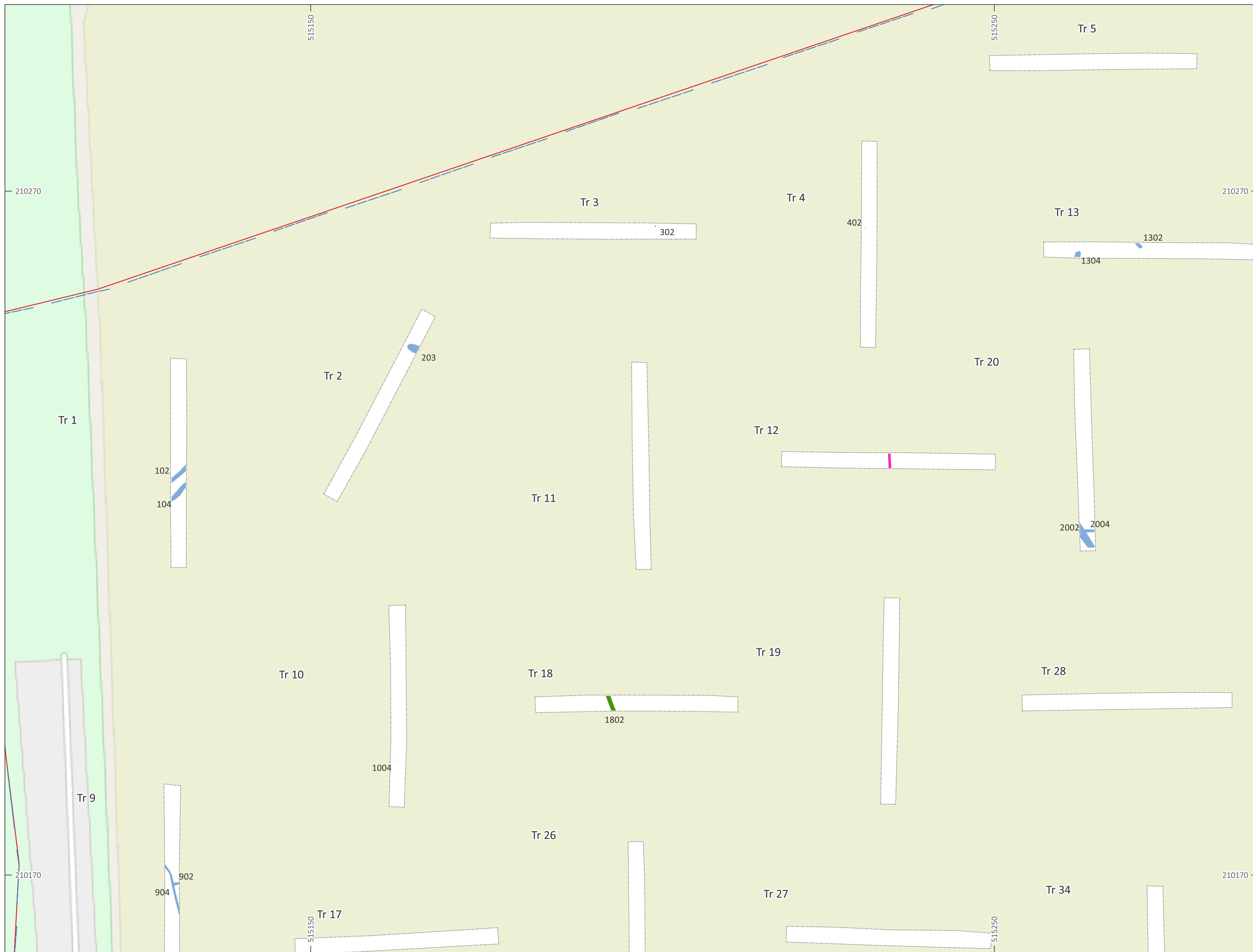
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Figure 2. Trench location plan



- Site outline
- Phase 1
- Trenches
- Undated
- LBA/IA
- Post-medieval
- Water pipe

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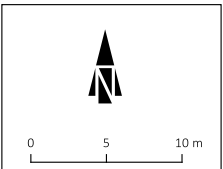
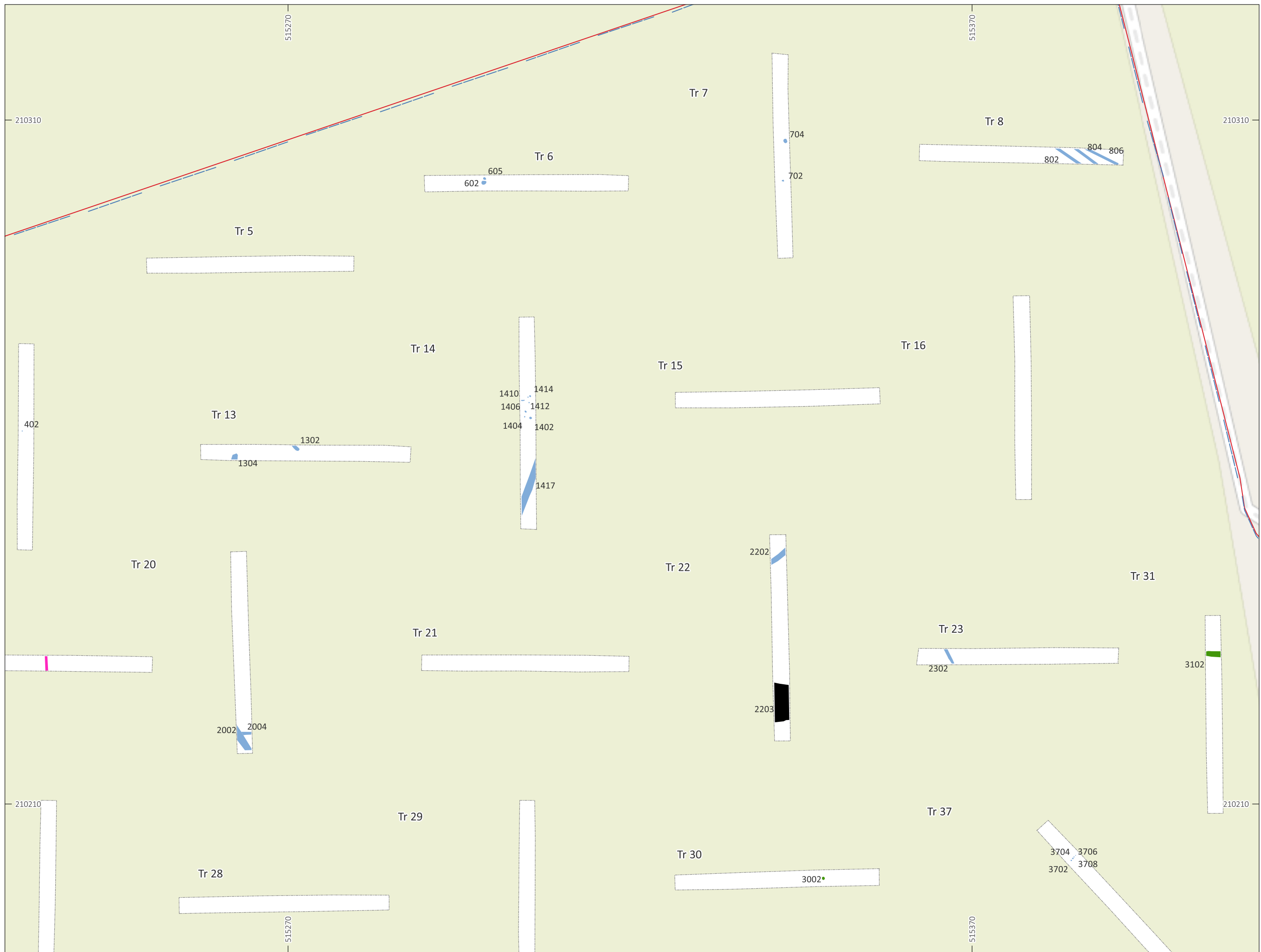
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Figure 3. Archaeological results, north-west area



- Site outline
- - - Phase 1
- Trenches
- Undated
- Post-medieval
- Modern
- Water pipe


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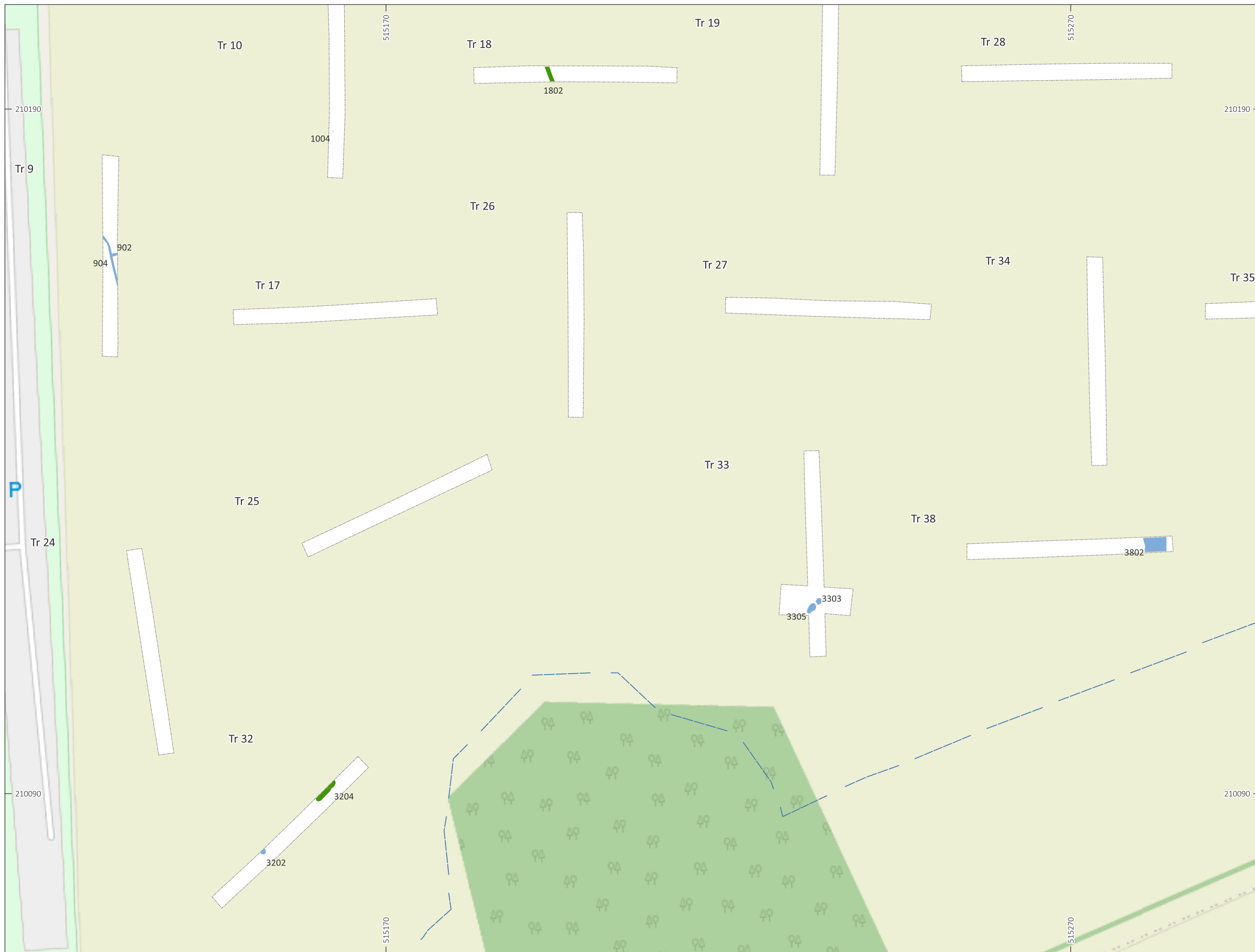
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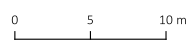
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Figure 4. Archaeological results, north-east area








— Phase 1

□ Trenches

■ Undated

■ Post-medieval



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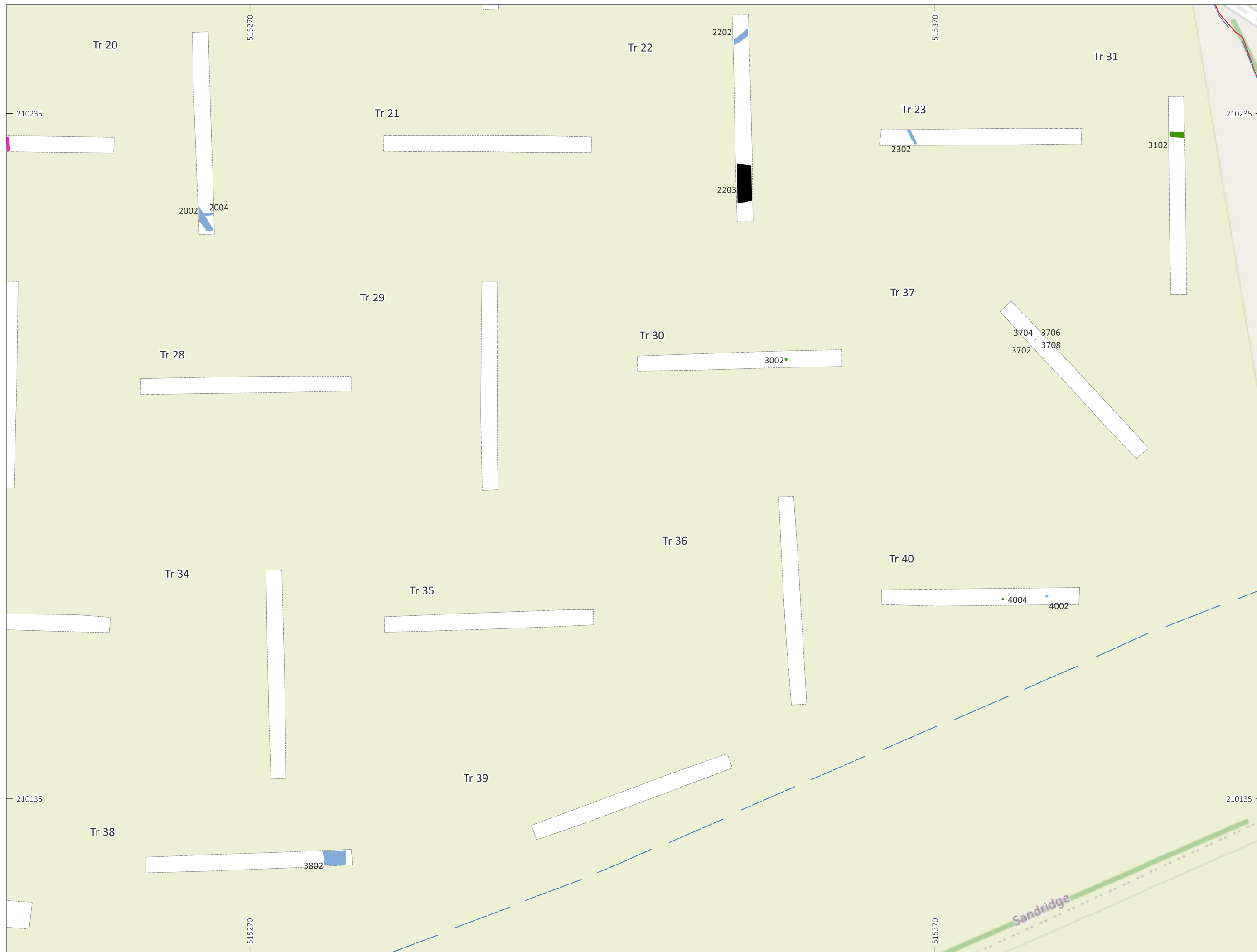
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Figure 5. Archaeological results, south-west area



0 5 10 m

Site outline
Phase 1
Trenches
Undated
Post-medieval
Modern
Water pipe

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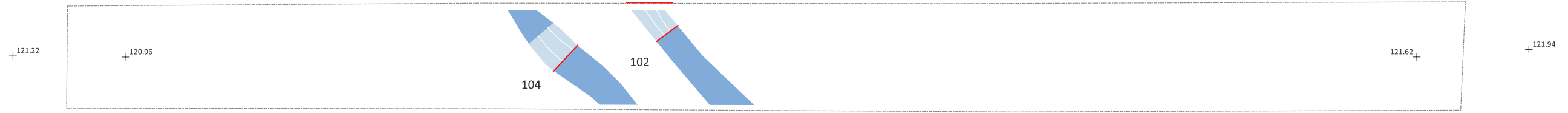
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Figure 6. Archaeological results, south-east area

TR 1



0 1 2 m



TR 2



TR 3



Tr 3



- Trenches
- Sections
- Spot height
- Undated
- Geological
- LBA/IA
- Post-medieval
- Modern

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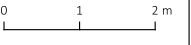
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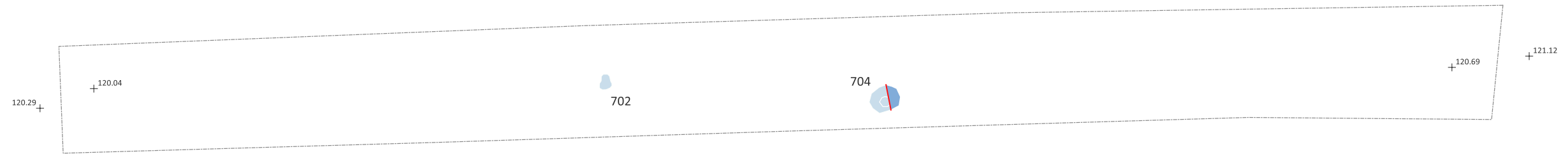
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Figure 7. Trenches 1, 2 and 3

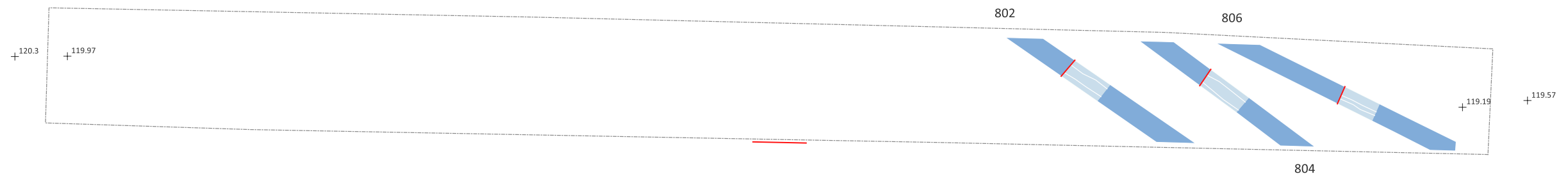
TR 6



TR 7



TR 8



- Trenches
- Sections
- Spot height
- Undated
- Geological
- LBA/IA
- Post-medieval
- Modern



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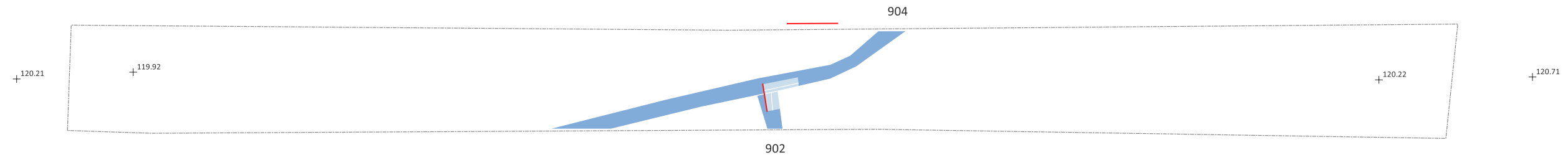
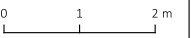
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Figure 8. Trenches 6, 7 and 8

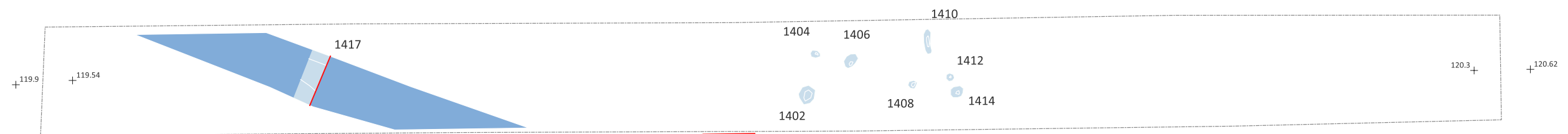
TR 9



TR 13



TR 14



- Trenches
- Sections
- Spot height
- Undated
- Geological
- LBA/IA
- Post-medieval
- Modern



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Figure 9. Trenches 9, 13 and 14

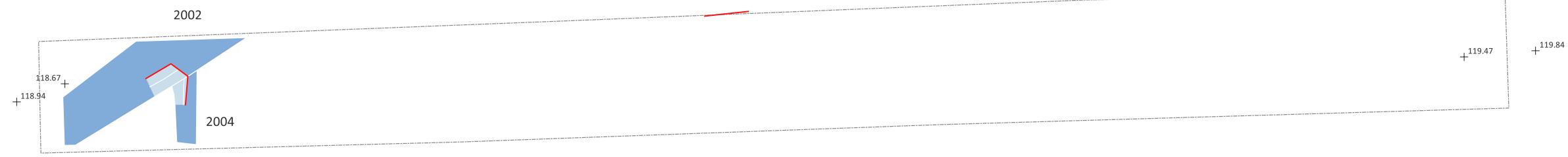
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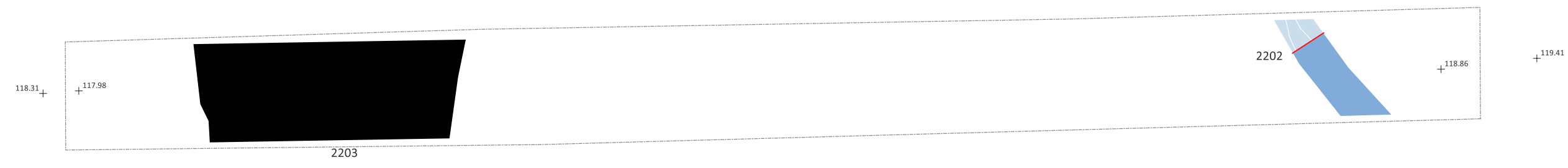
0 1 2 m



TR 20



TR 22



- Trenches
- Sections
- Spot height
- Undated
- Geological
- LBA/IA
- Post-medieval
- Modern

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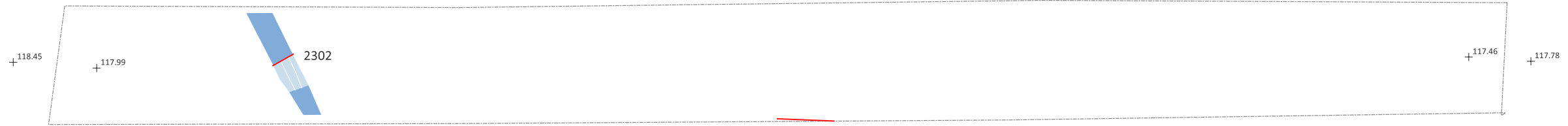
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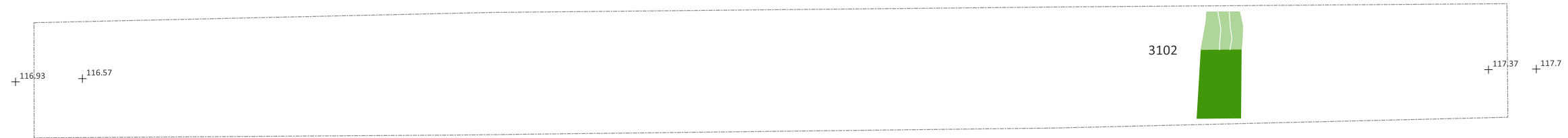
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Figure 10. Trenches 18, 20 and 22

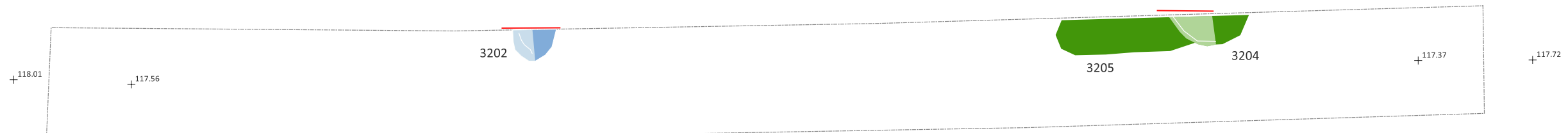
TR 23



TR 31



TR 32



- Trenches
- Sections
- Spot height
- Undated
- Geological
- LBA/IA
- Post-medieval
- Modern

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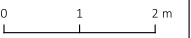
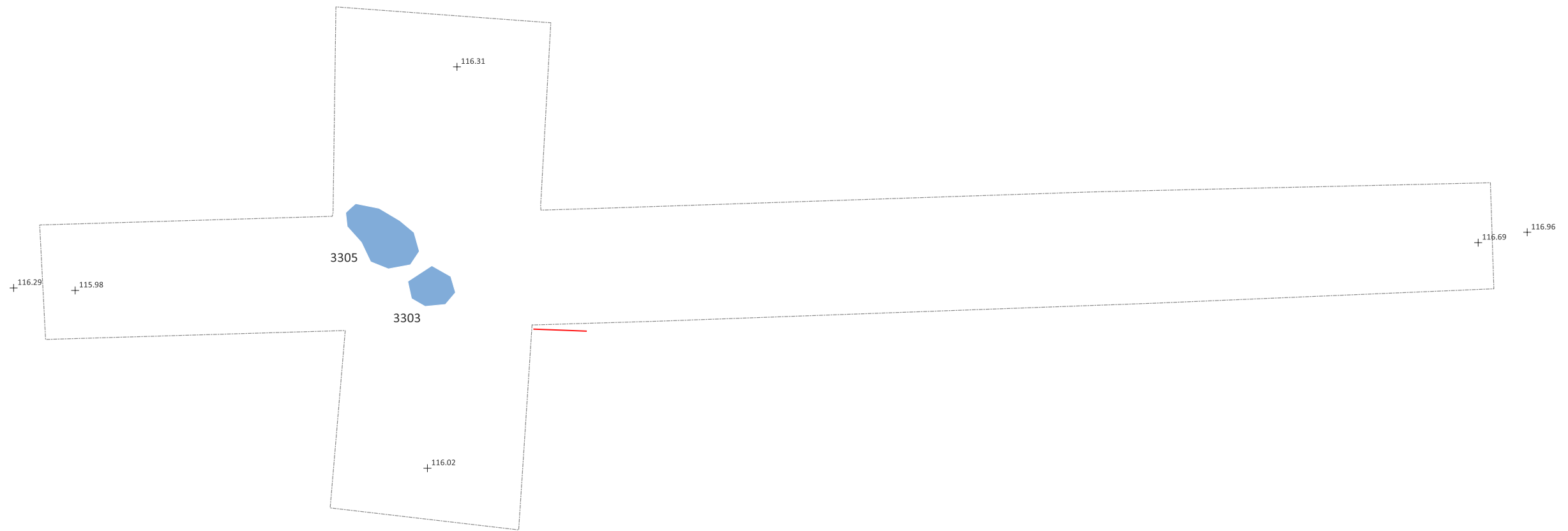
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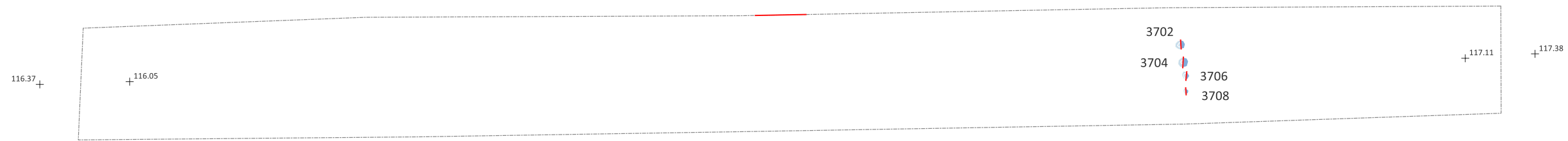
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Figure 11. Trenches 23, 31 and 32

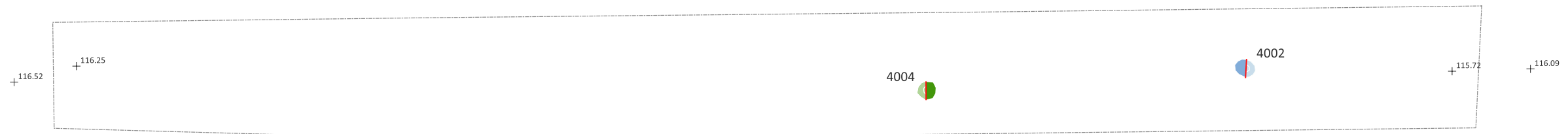
TR 33



TR 37



TR 40



- Trenches
- Sections
- Spot height
- Undated
- Geological
- LBA/IA
- Post-medieval
- Modern

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Figure 12. Trenches 33, 37 and 40



Photo 1. Trench 1 - intervention through ditch [102], looking west. Scale 0.5m.



Photo 2. Trench 2 – intervention through ditch [203], looking east. Scale 1m.



Photo 3. Trench 3 – showing post-hole [302], looking east. Scale 0.1m.



Photo 4. Trench 6 – pit [602], looking north. Scale 1m.



Photo 5. Trench 9 - intercutting ditches [902] and [904], looking north-west. Scale 0.5m.



Photo 6. Trench 14 – post-hole [1408], looking north. Scale 0.1m.



Photo 7. Trench 22 – intervention through ditch [2202], looking west. Scale 0.5m.



Photo 8. Trench 23- representative section 23.1, looking north. Scale 1m.



Photo 9. Trench 31 – intervention through ditch [3102], looking west. Scale 0.5m.



Photo 10. Trench 33- representative section 33.1, looking west. Scale 1m.



Photo 11. Trench 37 – group of post-holes, looking north-west. Scale 1m.



Photo 12. Trench 37 – representative section 37.1, looking north. Scale 1m.



Photo 13. Trench 40- representative section 40.1, looking north. Scale 1m.