

**LAND ADJACENT TO ROUND WOOD
CHURCH LANE, GRAVELEY
(NES PHASE III)**

HERTFORDSHIRE

ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRIAL TRENCHING

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Compiled by	Checked by	Approved by
Wesley Keir	Robert Wardill	Drew Shotliff

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Produced for:
Croudace Strategic Ltd
Croudace House
Caterham
Surrey CR3 6QX



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Preface

Every effort has been made in the preparation of this document to provide as complete an assessment as possible, within the terms of the specification. All statements and opinions in this document are offered in good faith. Albion Archaeology cannot accept responsibility for errors of fact or opinion resulting from data supplied by a third party, or for any loss or other consequence arising from decisions or actions made upon the basis of facts or opinions expressed in this document.

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This report has been prepared by Wesley Keir (Project Officer). Fieldwork was carried out by Richard Gregson (Archaeological Supervisor), Ben Barker (Project Officer) and Wesley Keir. Artefacts were reported on by Jackie Wells (Finds Officer). Joan Lightning (CAD Technician) digitised the plans and produced the report figures.

Albion Archaeology
 St Mary's Church
 St Mary's Street
 Bedford, MK42 0AS
 ☎: 01234 294001
 Fax: 01234 294008
 e-mail: office@albion-arch.com
 Website: www.albion-arch.com

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Key Terms

Throughout this document the following terms or abbreviations are used:

AS	Archaeological Solutions Ltd
CHEU	Hertfordshire County Council Historic Environment Unit
HER	Hertfordshire Historic Environment Record
IfA	Institute for Archaeologists
RTK GPS	Real Time Kinematic Global Positioning System



Non-Technical Summary

Land adjacent to Round Wood in Graveley is being proposed for residential development. Due to the archaeological potential of the site the County Council Historic Environment Unit requested that it be subject to archaeological evaluation comprising geophysical survey followed by trial trenching. Albion Archaeology was commissioned by Croudace Strategic Ltd to carry out the evaluation.

The trial trenching comprised the excavation of twenty 50m long trenches and was undertaken between 2nd and 9th August 2010. The trenches were positioned to investigate a selection of anomalies identified by the geophysical survey, as well as areas where no anomalies were detected.

Archaeological features were uncovered in seven trenches, including a gully dating to the late Bronze Age/early Iron Age, and a pit and posthole dating to the early Iron Age. The nature of these features and the quantity of pottery recovered suggests that they are most likely to be associated with small-scale settlement activity.

Later periods were represented by features associated with post-medieval agriculture and land division. These consisted of several probable boundary/drainage ditches, two of which correspond with boundaries marked on the 1838 tithe map, and a pit.

The prehistoric remains are considered to be regionally important due to their rarity and their potential to contribute to the understanding of landscape development and settlement patterns during the late Bronze Age and early Iron Age. The remains of the post-medieval agrarian landscape are only of limited local interest.

The vast majority of targeted geophysical anomalies proved not to be archaeological in origin. It was also the case that many of the archaeological features identified in the trial trenches were not detected by the geophysical survey. This may have been due to the lack of magnetic contrast between the features and surrounding geological deposits.



1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project Background

Land adjacent to Round Wood in Great Ashby is being proposed for residential development (planning app. ref. 10/00583/1). Due to the archaeological potential of the site the County Council Historic Environment Unit (CHEU) requested that it be subject to archaeological evaluation. The results of this work will be used to inform future decisions concerning the archaeological potential of the site with regard to any proposed development.

The CHEU issued a brief (CHEU 2010) outlining the requirements for the evaluation which were to comprise geophysical survey followed by trial trenching. Albion Archaeology were commissioned by Croudace Strategic Ltd to undertake the evaluation.

This report presents the results of the trial trenching and includes summary information on the geophysical survey. The detailed findings of the geophysical survey are described separately (Stratascan 2010).

1.2 Site Location and Description

The site lies to the north-east of Stevenage, within the Parish of Graveley, and is centred on grid reference TL25150 27710 (Figure 1). It comprises a single, roughly rectangular field of flat, arable land bounded by mature hedges and ditches, measuring around 11ha in area.

To the west lies a small wood called Round Wood, to the north are open fields and to the south and east lie the suburbs of Stevenage.

The geology of the area comprises boulder clay over chalk.

1.3 Archaeological Background

A desk-based assessment carried out in 2008 (Albion Archaeology 2008) indicated that the site has been used as open farm land since at least the medieval period, with no archaeological remains having been recorded within the site itself. The closest recorded remains comprise possible Iron Age activity, found during archaeological evaluation (AS 2003a and b) c. 400m to the east, and Roman coins found 200-300m to the north (HER 11399).

1.4 Summary of Geophysical Survey Results

Detailed magnetic survey (gradiometry) was used to investigate the site. The survey identified a large number of positive area anomalies with the largest concentration being located in the south-west of the field (Figure 5). These were believed to represent archaeological remains or geological/pedological variations. A smaller number of positive and negative linear anomalies, more likely to indicate the presence of archaeological remains, were detected at the north and south ends of the site.



1.5 Project Objectives

The principal objective of the evaluation was to determine whether archaeological remains were present at the site and, if so, to determine their extent, condition, nature and significance. This information was to be used in the formulation of an appropriate mitigation strategy for the archaeological remains, if present.

The broader objectives of the project were to add to the knowledge and understanding of the origins and nature of settlement in the area and to produce an archive report that fully described the archaeological works.



2. METHODOLOGY

2.1 Standards

Throughout the project the standards and guidance in the following documents were adhered to:

• Albion Archaeology	<i>Procedures Manual: Volume 1 Fieldwork</i> (2nd edn, 2001).
• ALGAO (east)	<i>Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England</i>
• CHEU	<i>Round Wood, Church Lane, Great Ashby, Graveley: Design Brief for Archaeological Geophysical Survey and Evaluation</i> (2010)
• English Heritage	<i>Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE) Project Managers' Guide</i> (2006)
	<i>Environmental Archaeology: A guide to the theory and practice of methods, from sampling and recovery to post-excavation</i> (2002/01)
• IfA	<i>By-Laws and Code of Conduct</i>
	<i>Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation</i> (updated 2008) and <i>finds</i> (updated 2008)

2.2 Trial Trench Excavation

The trial trenching was undertaken between 2nd and 9th August 2010 and comprised the excavation of twenty 50m long trenches (Figure 2). The trial trenches were positioned to investigate a selection of both area and linear geophysical survey anomalies (see 1.4 above), as well as areas where no anomalies were detected.

The trial trenching was carried out in accordance with a Project Design (Albion Archaeology 2010) and the CHEU's brief (2010). In summary:

- The trial trenches were set out using a Network RTK GPS to ensure accurate positioning.
- All machine excavation was supervised by an archaeologist and was undertaken using a mechanical excavator fitted with a flat-edged ditching bucket.
- Cultivation soil and modern overburden were removed by machine down to the top of archaeological deposits, or undisturbed geological deposits, whichever was encountered first.
- Recording took place on pro-forma sheets in accordance with the Albion Archaeology *Procedures Manual* (2nd edition, 2001).
- The trenches were inspected by the CHEU prior to backfilling.

All archaeological deposits and features (known as 'contexts') were recorded using a unique recording number sequence commencing at (100) for Trench 1, (200) for Trench 2 *etc.* Within this report, numbers in brackets refer to these context numbers. Cut features (*i.e.* pits, ditches *etc.*) are expressed as [***]; layers and deposits within cut features are expressed as (***). Detailed descriptions of all the contexts are contained within Appendix 2.



2.3 Archive

The full archive of finds and records will be deposited at Stevenage Museum, Hertfordshire. Details of the project and a copy of the report will also be submitted to the online OASIS database maintained by the Archaeology Data Service (See Appendix 3).



3. RESULTS

3.1 Introduction

The archaeological features found within the trial trenches are summarised below and shown on Figures 3 and 4. Detailed descriptions of artefacts can be found in Appendix 1 and detailed technical information on all deposits and archaeological features can be found in Appendix 2.

3.2 Overburden and Geological Deposits

The overburden was consistent in colour and composition across the site, comprising a 0.25–0.3m thick ploughsoil of mid to dark brown silty clay. This overlay undisturbed geological strata consisting of firm orange clay with flints, at a height of between 140.4m OD and 143.5m OD. No discernable subsoil was present.

3.3 Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age

A small gully [102] terminated within Trench 1 at the southern end of the site (Figure 3). It was filled with grey-brown clay silt and contained several small pottery sherds broadly datable to the late Bronze Age/early Iron Age period.

3.4 Early Iron Age

A shallow pit [404] and an adjacent posthole [402] both containing pottery dating to the early Iron Age were revealed near the southern end of the site in Trench 4 (Figure 3).

The pit was only partially revealed within the trench but measured at least 2.5m across. Its fill was similar to that of the neighbouring posthole, both of which contained frequent charcoal flecks suggesting they had been deliberately backfilled.

3.5 Post-medieval

Three large post-medieval ditches were revealed in Trenches 2, 17 and 20 (Figures 3 and 4). Two of these, [1702] and [2004], correspond closely with field boundaries marked on the 1838 tithe map (Figure 6). Ditches [202] and [2004] correspond with linear anomalies identified by the geophysical survey and contained late medieval/early post-medieval pottery and brick and roof tile.

Located towards the middle of the site in Trench 10 was a pit [1002] that measured in excess of 6.5m across (Figure 3). Its fill contained fragments of post-medieval roof tile and was similar in character to those of other features of this period at the site, typically comprising grey/brown silty clays, and being generally lighter hued than the fills of the prehistoric features.

3.6 Undated

No dating material was recovered from two ditches, [602] and [2002], and a gully [406] revealed in Trenches 4, 6 and 20 (Figures 3 and 4). The similar nature of the fills of the two ditches to those of the post-medieval features, as well as the proximity and similar alignment of [2002] to that of ditch [2004], suggest they are all of a similar date.



Gully [406] truncated Iron Age pit [404] and was filled with orange-brown silty clay with moderate amounts of small stones. Its form suggests it is most likely to be a relatively recent drainage gully.



4. SYNTHESIS

4.1 *Summary of Findings*

Archaeological remains were found in seven of the twenty trial trenches. They included a gully, broadly dating to the late Bronze Age/early Iron Age period, and a pit and posthole dating to the early Iron Age. These features were found in two trenches located at the southern end of the site. Their nature and the quantity of pottery recovered suggests that they are most likely to be related to small-scale settlement activity.

The other archaeological remains found are likely to represent features associated with post-medieval agriculture and land division. They comprised six probable field boundary/drainage ditches, two of which correspond with boundaries marked on the 1838 tithe map, and a pit. The function of the pit is unclear but it may have formed as a result of small-scale clay extraction, or may have been designed to collect water.

The geophysical survey identified a large number of anomalies, a selection of which were targeted by the trial trenches. The vast majority of these, particularly the area anomalies, were found not to be caused by archaeological remains and are therefore probably the result of geological or pedological variations. Only two of the investigated anomalies were found to be archaeological in origin — the linear anomalies corresponding with post-medieval ditches.

Other archaeological features were found within the trenches, including sizable pits and ditches, which were not detected by the geophysical survey. This may be because the fills of these features have similar magnetic properties to the surrounding geological deposits. This would result in there being insufficient magnetic contrast between the two for archaeological features to be detected.

4.2 *Significance of Findings*

Although small in number, the later prehistoric remains found at Round Wood are of interest due to their rarity in the locality and their potential to contribute to the understanding of landscape development and settlement patterns in the region.

Settlement form and function during the late Bronze Age and early Iron Age has been identified as an important area of research in the regional research framework (Medlycott and Brown 2008). Of particular interest is the late Bronze Age/early Iron Age transition due to the apparent contrast between settlement patterns of the late Bronze Age and middle Iron Age periods.

Of less significance are the remains of the post-medieval agrarian landscape, which are only of limited, local interest.



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6. APPENDIX 1: ARTEFACT SUMMARY

6.1 Introduction

The evaluation produced a finds assemblage comprising pottery, brick and roof tile (Table 1). The material was scanned to ascertain its nature, condition and, where possible, date range.

Tr.	Feature	Feature type	Context	Spot date*	Finds summary
1	102	Ditch	103	Late Bronze Age/early Iron Age	Pottery (53g)
2	202	Ditch	203	Late medieval/early post-medieval	Pottery (52g); roof tile (132g)
4	402	Post-hole	403	Early Iron Age	Pottery (13g)
	404	Pit	405	Early Iron Age	Pottery (139g)
10	1002	Pit	1003	Post-medieval	Roof tile (40g)
17	1702	Ditch	1703	Post-medieval	Roof tile (160g)
20	2004	Ditch	2005	Late medieval/early post-medieval	Pottery (4g); brick (610g)

* - spot date based on date of latest artefact in context

Table 1: Artefact summary by trench and feature

6.2 Pottery

Thirty-five pottery sherds, weighing 261g were recovered. These were examined by context and quantified using minimum sherd count and weight. Sherds are small, with an average weight of 7g, and uniformly abraded. Eight fabric types were identified using common names and type codes in accordance with the Ceramic Type Series, currently held by Albion Archaeology. Fabrics are listed below (Table 2) in chronological order.

Fabric type	Common name	Sherd no.	Context/sherd no.
<i>Prehistoric</i>			
F01A	Coarse flint	3	(103):3
F01B	Fine flint	7	(103):7
F01C	Flint and quartz	1	(103):1
F28	Fine sand	4	(405):4
F29	Coarse sand	10	(403):3, (405):7
<i>Medieval</i>			
E02	Late medieval oxidised	7	(203):7
E03	Late medieval smooth	2	(203):2
UNID	Undatable/undiagnostic	1	(2005):1

Table 2: Pottery type series

The fill of ditch [102] yielded eleven-flint tempered, hand-made body sherds (53g) representing four vessels, broadly datable to the late Bronze Age/early Iron Age. The sherds derive from fine-walled pots and the interior surface of one vessel has been smoothed/wiped. Hand-made, sand-tempered pottery of early Iron Age date (14 sherds, weighing 152g) was recovered from the fills of pit [404] and post hole [402]. A range of vessel sizes are represented, with body thicknesses ranging from 5–15mm, although no diagnostic forms occur. Several sooted examples are present, indicating the use of vessels as cooking pots.



Nine late medieval sand-tempered sherds (52g) representing three vessels derived from ditch [202]. Diagnostic forms are shallow bowls, two of which are sooted.

An abraded sand-tempered body sherd (4g), possibly of early Iron Age date, occurred as a residual find in late medieval / early post-medieval ditch [2004].

6.3 Brick and tile

Two abraded fragments of a coarse sand-tempered brick (610g) measuring W90 x D47mm derived from ditch [2004]. Their condition suggests they may be of late medieval / early post-medieval date. The fills of ditch [1702] and pit [1002] yielded six sand-tempered pieces of post-medieval peg tile (200g), ranging in thickness from 14–15mm.



7. APPENDIX 2: CONTEXT DATA



Trench: 1

Max Dimensions: Length: 50.00 m. Width: 2.10 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.3 m. Max: 0.3 m.

Co-ordinates: OS Grid Ref.: TL 25002 27567

OS Grid Ref.: TL 25048 27547

Reason: Evaluate area and target geophysical anomalies

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
100	Ploughsoil	Mid brown silty clay 0.3m thick	☒	☐
101	Natural	Firm orange clay with flints	☐	☐
102	Gulley	Linear NW-SE sides: near vertical base: concave dimensions: max breadth 0.25m, max depth 0.14m, min length 1.15m	☒	☐
103	Fill	Firm dark brown grey clay silt occasional flecks charcoal, occasional small stones	☒	☒



Trench: 2

Max Dimensions: Length: 50.00 m. Width: 2.10 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.3 m. Max: 0.3 m.

Co-ordinates: OS Grid Ref.: TL 25068 27516

OS Grid Ref.: TL 25116 27528

Reason: Evaluate area and target geophysical anomalies

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
200	Ploughsoil	Dark brown silty clay 0.3m thick	☒	☐
201	Natural	Firm orange clay with flints	☐	☐
202	Ditch	Linear NW-SE dimensions: max breadth 2.m, min length 3.m	☐	☐
203	Fill	Firm mid brown silty clay	☐	☒



Trench: 3

Max Dimensions: Length: 50.00 m. Width: 2.10 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: m. Max: m.

Co-ordinates: OS Grid Ref.: TL 25172 27510

OS Grid Ref.: TL 25172 27560

Reason: Evaluate area and target geophysical anomalies

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
300	Ploughsoil	Mid brown silty clay 0.25m thick	☒	☐
301	Natural	Firm orange clay with flints	☐	☐



Trench: 4

Max Dimensions: Length: 50.00 m. Width: 2.10 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.3 m. Max: 0.3 m.

Co-ordinates: OS Grid Ref.: TL 25126 27606

OS Grid Ref.: TL 25132 27556

Reason: Evaluate area and target geophysical anomalies

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
400	Ploughsoil	Mid brown silty clay 0.25m thick	☒	☐
401	Natural	Firm orange clay with flints	☐	☐
402	Posthole	Oval sides: near vertical base: flat dimensions: max breadth 0.38m, max depth 0.2m, max length 0.33m	☒	☐
403	Fill	Firm mid brown grey silty clay	☒	☒
404	Pit	Sub-rectangular sides: concave base: flat dimensions: max breadth 2.5m, max depth 0.23m, min length 1.1m	☒	☐
405	Fill	Firm mid brown silty clay frequent flecks charcoal	☒	☒
406	Gulley	Linear NE-SW sides: near vertical base: flat dimensions: max breadth 0.3m, max depth 0.15m, min length 3.5m	☒	☐
407	Fill	Firm light orange brown silty clay moderate small stones	☒	☐
408	Fill	Firm light grey silty clay occasional small stones	☒	☐



Trench: 5

Max Dimensions: Length: 50.00 m. Width: 2.10 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: m. Max: m.

Co-ordinates: OS Grid Ref.: TL 25083 27625

OS Grid Ref.: TL 25076 27576

Reason: Evaluate area and target geophysical anomalies

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
500	Ploughsoil	Mid brown silty clay 0.25m thick	☒	☐
501	Natural	Firm orange clay with flints	☐	☐



Trench: 6

Max Dimensions: Length: 50.00 m. Width: 2.10 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.3 m. Max: 0.3 m.

Co-ordinates: OS Grid Ref.: TL 25016 27620

OS Grid Ref.: TL 25049 27583

Reason: Evaluate area and target geophysical anomalies

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
600	Ploughsoil	Dark brown silty clay 0.25m thick	☒	☐
601	Natural	Firm orange clay with flints	☐	☐
602	Ditch	Linear N-S sides: concave base: concave dimensions: max breadth 1.4m, max depth 0.12m, min length 2.75m	☒	☐
603	Fill	Firm mid orange brown clay silt moderate small stones, occasional medium-large stones	☒	☐



Trench: 7

Max Dimensions: Length: 50.00 m. Width: 2.10 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: m. Max: m.

Co-ordinates: OS Grid Ref.: TL 25037 27654

OS Grid Ref.: TL 25086 27663

Reason: Evaluate area and target geophysical anomalies

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
700	Ploughsoil	Dark brown silty clay 0.25m thick	☒	☐
701	Natural	Firm orange clay with flints	☐	☐



Trench: 8

Max Dimensions: Length: 50.00 m. Width: 2.10 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: m. Max: m.

Co-ordinates: OS Grid Ref.: TL 25156 27609

OS Grid Ref.: TL 25206 27613

Reason: Evaluate area

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
800	Ploughsoil	Mid brown silty clay 0.25m thick	☒	☐
801	Natural	Firm orange clay with flints	☐	☐



Trench: 9

Max Dimensions: Length: 50.00 m. Width: 2.10 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: m. Max: m.

Co-ordinates: OS Grid Ref.: TL 25179 27666

OS Grid Ref.: TL 25229 27666

Reason: Evaluate area and target geophysical anomalies

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
900	Ploughsoil	Mid brown silty clay 0.25 - 0.3m thick	☒	☐
901	Natural	Firm orange clay with flints	☐	☐



Trench: 10

Max Dimensions: Length: 50.00 m. Width: 2.10 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.25 m. Max: 0.25 m.

Co-ordinates: OS Grid Ref.: TL 25133 27703

OS Grid Ref.: TL 25143 27654

Reason: Evaluate area and target geophysical anomalies

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
1000	Ploughsoil	Dark brown silty clay 0.25m thick	☒	☐
1001	Natural	Firm orange clay with flints	☐	☐
1002	Pit	Sub-circular sides: convex dimensions: min breadth 1.85m, min depth 0.35m, min length 6.55m	☒	☐
1003	Fill	Firm mid grey brown clay silt occasional flecks chalk, occasional small-medium stones	☒	☒



Trench: 11

Max Dimensions: Length: 50.00 m. Width: 2.10 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: m. Max: m.

Co-ordinates: OS Grid Ref.: TL 25052 27701

OS Grid Ref.: TL 25089 27736

Reason: Evaluate area and target geophysical anomalies

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
1100	Ploughsoil	Dark brown silty clay 0.25m thick	☒	☐
1101	Natural	Firm orange clay with flints	☐	☐



Trench: 12

Max Dimensions: Length: 50.00 m. Width: 2.10 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: m. Max: m.

Co-ordinates: OS Grid Ref.: TL 25136 27745

OS Grid Ref.: TL 25186 22745

Reason: Evaluate area

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
1200	Ploughsoil	Dark brown silty clay 0.25m thick	☒	☐
1201	Natural	Firm orange clay with flints	☐	☐



Trench: 13

Max Dimensions: Length: 50.00 m. Width: 2.10 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: m. Max: m.

Co-ordinates: OS Grid Ref.: TL 25232 27707

OS Grid Ref.: TL 25232 27757

Reason: Evaluate area

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
1300	Ploughsoil	Mid brown silty clay 0.25m thick	☒	☐
1301	Natural	Firm orange clay with flints	☐	☐



Trench: 14

Max Dimensions: Length: 50.00 m. Width: 2.10 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: m. Max: m.

Co-ordinates: OS Grid Ref.: TL 25280 27765

OS Grid Ref.: TL 25293 27813

Reason: Evaluate area and target geophysical anomalies

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
1400	Ploughsoil	Mid brown silty clay 0.25m thick	☒	☐
1401	Natural	Firm orange clay with flints	☐	☐



Trench: 15

Max Dimensions: Length: 50.00 m. Width: 2.10 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: m. Max: m.

Co-ordinates: OS Grid Ref.: TL 25187 27792

OS Grid Ref.: TL 25237 27792

Reason: Evaluate area and target geophysical anomalies

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
1500	Ploughsoil	Mid brown silty clay 0.25m thick	☒	☐
1501	Natural	Firm orange clay with flints	☐	☐



Trench: 16**Max Dimensions:** Length: 50.00 m. Width: 2.10 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: m. Max: m.**Co-ordinates:** OS Grid Ref.: TL 25102 27828

OS Grid Ref.: TL 25102 27778

Reason: Evaluate area and target geophysical anomalies

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
1600	Ploughsoil	Dark brown silty clay 0.27m thick	☒	☐
1601	Natural	Firm orange clay with flints	☐	☐



Trench: 17

Max Dimensions: Length: 50.00 m. Width: 2.10 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.25 m. Max: 0.25 m.

Co-ordinates: OS Grid Ref.: TL 25072 27870

OS Grid Ref.: TL 25122 27870

Reason: Evaluate area and target geophysical anomalies

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
1700	Ploughsoil	Dark brown silty clay 0.25m thick	☒	☐
1701	Natural	Firm orange clay with flints	☐	☐
1702	Ditch	Linear NE-SW dimensions: max breadth 5.5m, min length 2.m	☐	☐
1703	Fill	Firm mid brown silty clay	☐	☒



Trench: 18

Max Dimensions: Length: 50.00 m. Width: 2.10 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: m. Max: m.

Co-ordinates: OS Grid Ref.: TL 25165 27877

OS Grid Ref.: TL 25165 27827

Reason: Evaluate area and target geophysical anomalies

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
1800	Ploughsoil	Dark brown silty clay 0.30m thick	☒	☐
1801	Natural	Firm orange clay with flints	☐	☐



Trench: 19

Max Dimensions: Length: 50.00 m. Width: 2.10 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: m. Max: m.

Co-ordinates: OS Grid Ref.: TL 25233 27855

OS Grid Ref.: TL 25283 27855

Reason: Evaluate area

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
1900	Ploughsoil	Mid brown silty clay 0.25 - 0.3m thick	☒	☐
1901	Natural	Firm orange clay with flints	☐	☐



Trench: 20

Max Dimensions: Length: 50.00 m. Width: 2.10 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.25 m. Max: 0.25 m.

Co-ordinates: OS Grid Ref.: TL 25342 27846

OS Grid Ref.: TL 25341 27796

Reason: Evaluate area and target geophysical anomalies

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
2000	Ploughsoil	Mid brown silty clay 0.25m thick	☒	☐
2001	Natural	Orange clay with flints	☐	☐
2002	Ditch	Linear NE-SW sides: 45 degrees base: concave dimensions: max breadth 1.4m, max depth 0.35m, min length 4.5m	☒	☐
2003	Fill	Mid grey brown silty clay occasional small-medium stones	☒	☐
2004	Ditch	Linear NE-SW sides: 45 degrees base: flat dimensions: max breadth 2.5m, max depth 0.4m, min length 5m	☒	☐
2005	Fill	Mid brown silty clay	☒	☒



8. APPENDIX 3: OASIS DATA COLLECTION FORM

OASIS ID: albionar1-81226

Project details

Project name	Land Adjacent to Round Wood, Church Lane, Graveley
Short description of the project	The trial trenching comprised the excavation of twenty 50m long trenches and was undertaken between 2nd and 9th August 2010. The trenches were positioned to investigate a selection of anomalies identified by the geophysical survey, as well as areas where no anomalies were detected. Archaeological features were uncovered in seven trenches, including a gully dating to the late Bronze Age/early Iron Age, and a pit and posthole dating to the early Iron Age. The nature of these features and the quantity of pottery recovered suggests they are most likely to be related to small scale settlement activity. Later activity was represented by features associated with the post-medieval agricultural and land division activity. These consisted of several probable boundary/drainage ditches, two of which correspond with boundaries marked on the 1838 tithe map, and a pit. The prehistoric remains are considered to be regionally important due to their rarity and potential to contribute to the understanding of landscape development and settlement patterns during the late Bronze Age and early Iron Age. The remains of the post-medieval agrarian landscape are likely to be only of limited local interest. The vast majority of targeted geophysical anomalies proved not to be archaeological in origin. It was also the case that many of the archaeological features identified in the trial trenches were not detected by the geophysical survey. This may have been due to the lack of magnetic contrast between the features and surrounding geological deposits.
Project dates	Start: 07-08-2010 End: 09-08-2010
Previous/future work	Yes / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	RW1660 - Contracting Unit No.
Type of project	Field evaluation
Current Land use	Cultivated Land 3 - Operations to a depth more than 0.25m
Monument type	PIT Iron Age
Monument type	DITCH Post Medieval
Significant Finds	POTTERY Iron Age
Significant Finds	CBM Post Medieval

Project location

Country	England
Site location	HERTFORDSHIRE NORTH HERTFORDSHIRE GRAVELEY Land Adjacent to Round Wood, Church Lane, Graveley
Postcode	SG1



Study area 11.00 Hectares
 Site coordinates TL 25150 27710 51.9333635923 -0.179451631697 51 56 00 N 000 10 46 W Point
 Lat/Long Datum Unknown
 Height OD / Depth Min: 140.40m Max: 143.50m

Project creators

Name of Organisation Albion Archaeology
 Project brief originator Local Planning Authority (with/without advice from County/District Archaeologist)
 Project design originator Albion Archaeology
 Project director/manager Robert Wardill
 Project supervisor Wesley Keir
 Type of sponsor/funding body Developer

Project archives

Physical Archive recipient Stevenage Museum
 Paper Archive recipient Stevenage Museum

Entered by Helen Parslow (hl.parslow@albion-arch.com)
 Entered on 19 August 2010

OASIS: Please e-mail English Heritage for OASIS help and advice
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9. APPENDIX 4: HER SUMMARY SHEET

Site name and address: Land adjacent to Round Wood, Church Lane		
County: Hertfordshire	District: North Hertfordshire	
Village/Town: Graveley	Parish: Graveley	
Planning application reference: 10/00583/1		
Client name, address: Croudace Strategic Ltd, Croudace House, Caterham, Surrey CR3 6QX		
Nature of application: Residential development of up to 360 dwellings		
Present land use: Arable field		
Size of application area: 11ha	Size of area investigated: 11ha	
NGR (to 8 figures): TL 25152771		
Site code (if applicable): RW1650		
Site director/Organization: Robert Wardill/Albion Archaeology		
Type of work: Trial trench evaluation		
Date of work	Start: 07/08/10	Finish: 09/08/10
Location of finds and site archive/curating museum: Stevenage Museum		
Related HER Nos: None	Periods represented: Late Bronze Age/early Iron Age; early Iron Age; post-medieval	
Relevant previous summaries/reports: North Stevenage Phase III, Hertfordshire: Desk-Based Assessment (Albion Archaeology 2008); Land Adjacent to Round Wood, Church Lane, Graveley, (North East Stevenage Phase III), Hertfordshire: Project Design for Archaeological Evaluation (Albion Archaeology 2010).		
Summary of fieldwork results: <i>Land adjacent to Round Wood in Graveley is being proposed for residential development. Due to the archaeological potential of the site the County Council Historic Environment Unit requested that it be subject to archaeological evaluation comprising geophysical survey followed by trial trenching. Albion Archaeology was commissioned by Croudace Strategic Ltd to carry out the evaluation.</i> <i>The trial trenching comprised the excavation of twenty 50m long trenches and was undertaken between 2nd and 9th August 2010. The trenches were positioned to investigate a selection of anomalies identified by the geophysical survey, as well as areas where no anomalies were detected.</i> <i>Archaeological features were uncovered in seven trenches. They included a gully dating to the late Bronze Age/early Iron Age, and a pit and posthole dating to the early Iron Age. The nature of these features and the quantity of pottery recovered suggests they are most likely to be related to small-scale settlement activity.</i> <i>Later activity was represented by features associated with post-medieval agriculture and land division. These consisted of several probable boundary/drainage ditches, two of which correspond with boundaries marked on the 1838 tithe map, and a pit.</i> <i>The prehistoric remains are considered to be regionally important due to their rarity and potential to contribute to the understanding of landscape development and settlement patterns during the late Bronze Age and early Iron Age. The remains of the post-medieval agrarian landscape are only of limited local interest.</i> <i>The vast majority of targeted geophysical anomalies proved not to be archaeological in origin. It was also the case that many of the archaeological features identified in the trial trenches were not detected by the geophysical survey. This may have been due to the lack of magnetic contrast between the features and surrounding geological deposits.</i>		
Author of summary: W. Keir		Date of summary: 17/08/2010

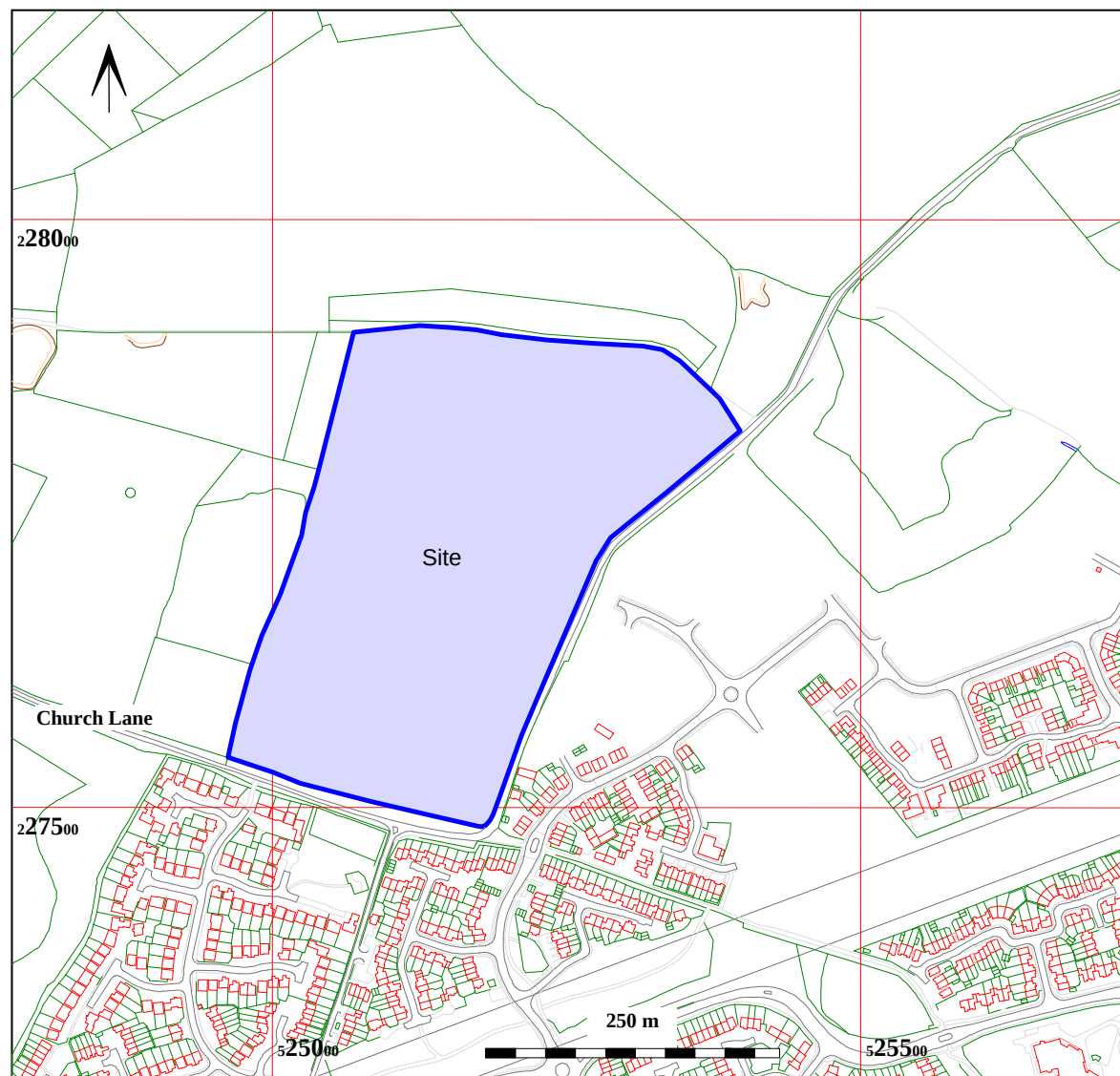
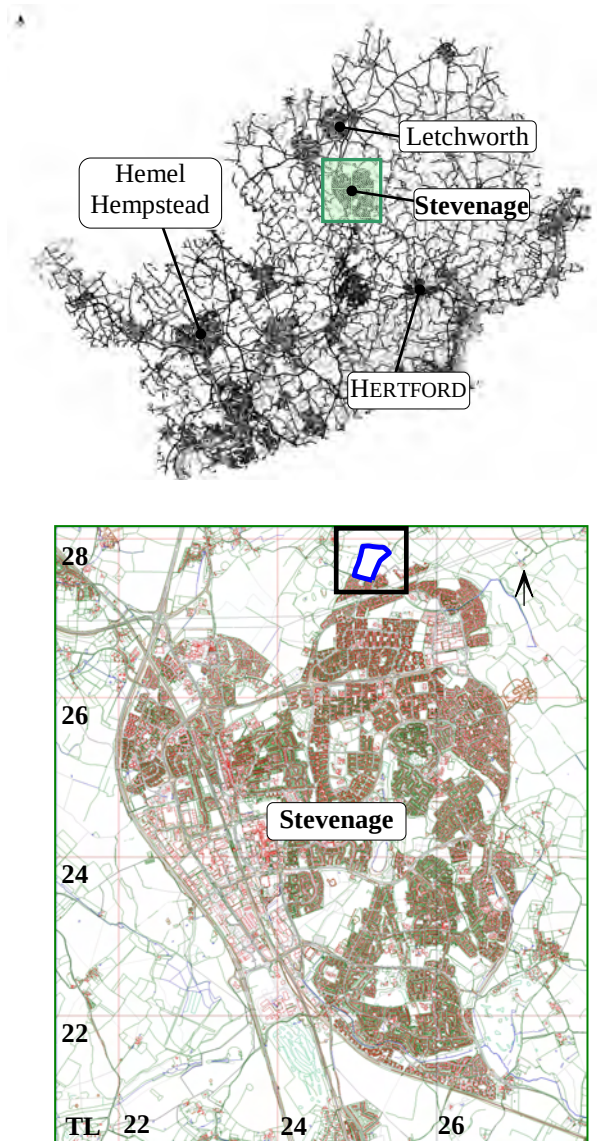


Figure 1: Site location map

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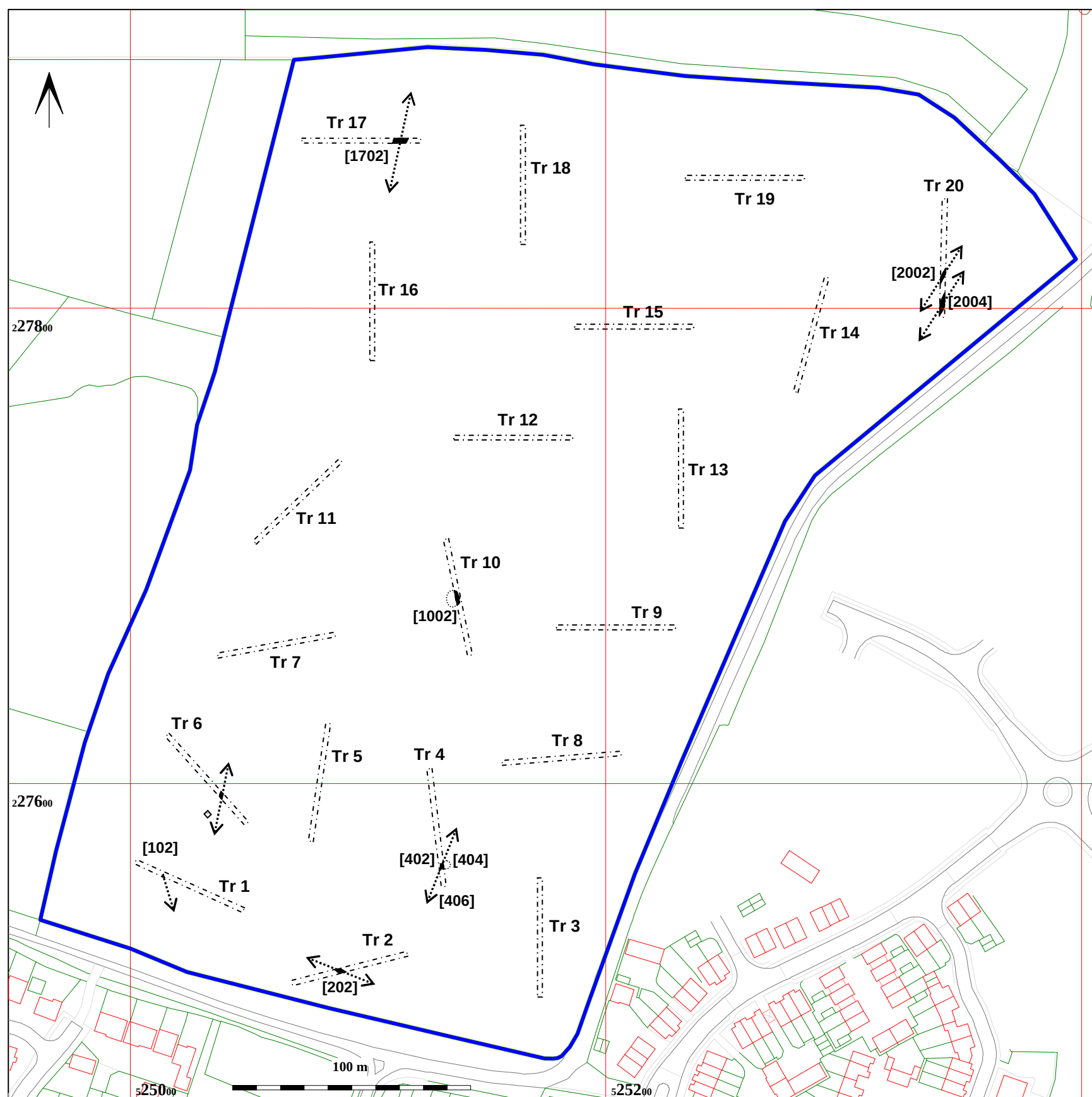
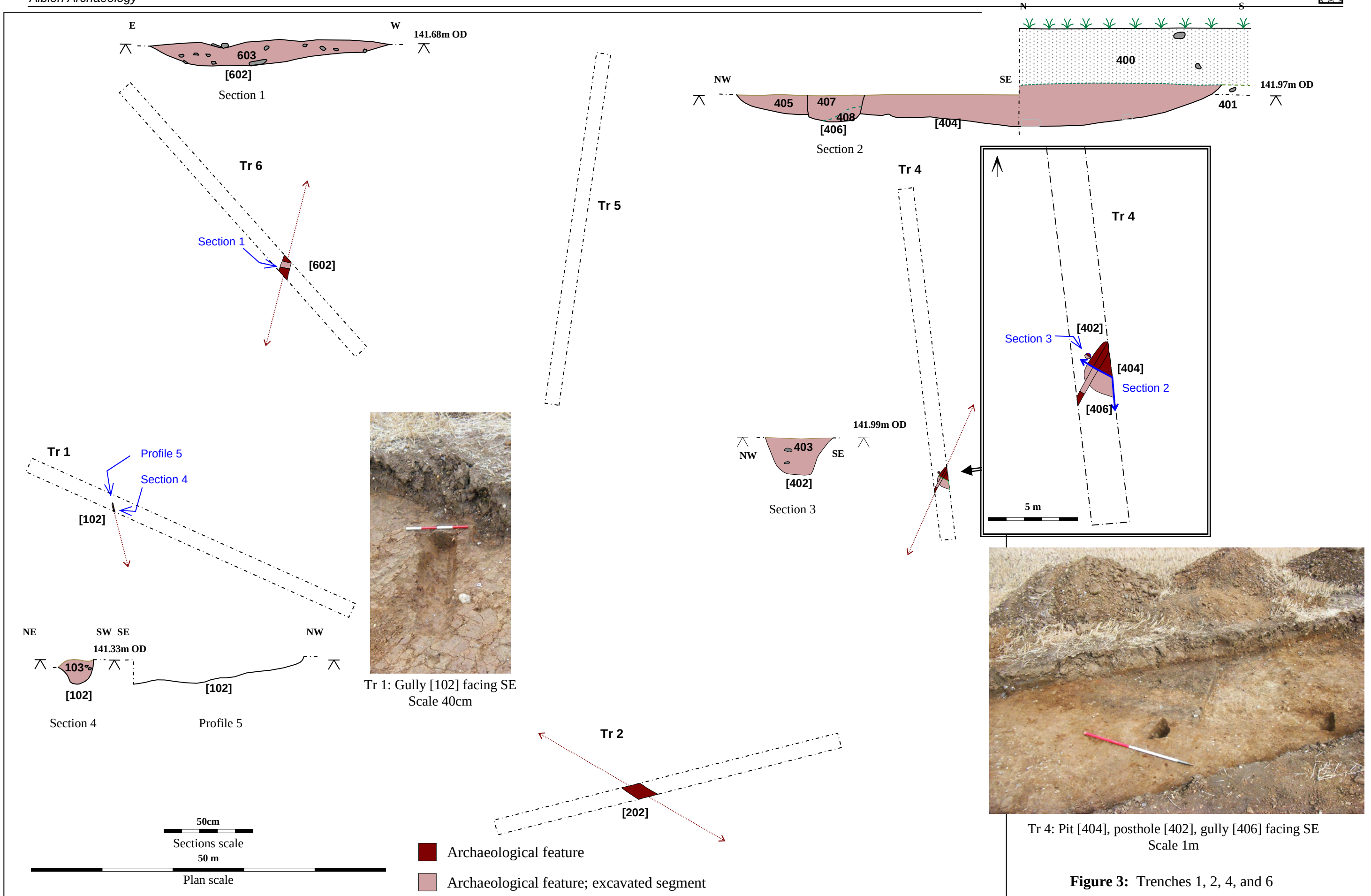


Figure 2: Results of trial trenching

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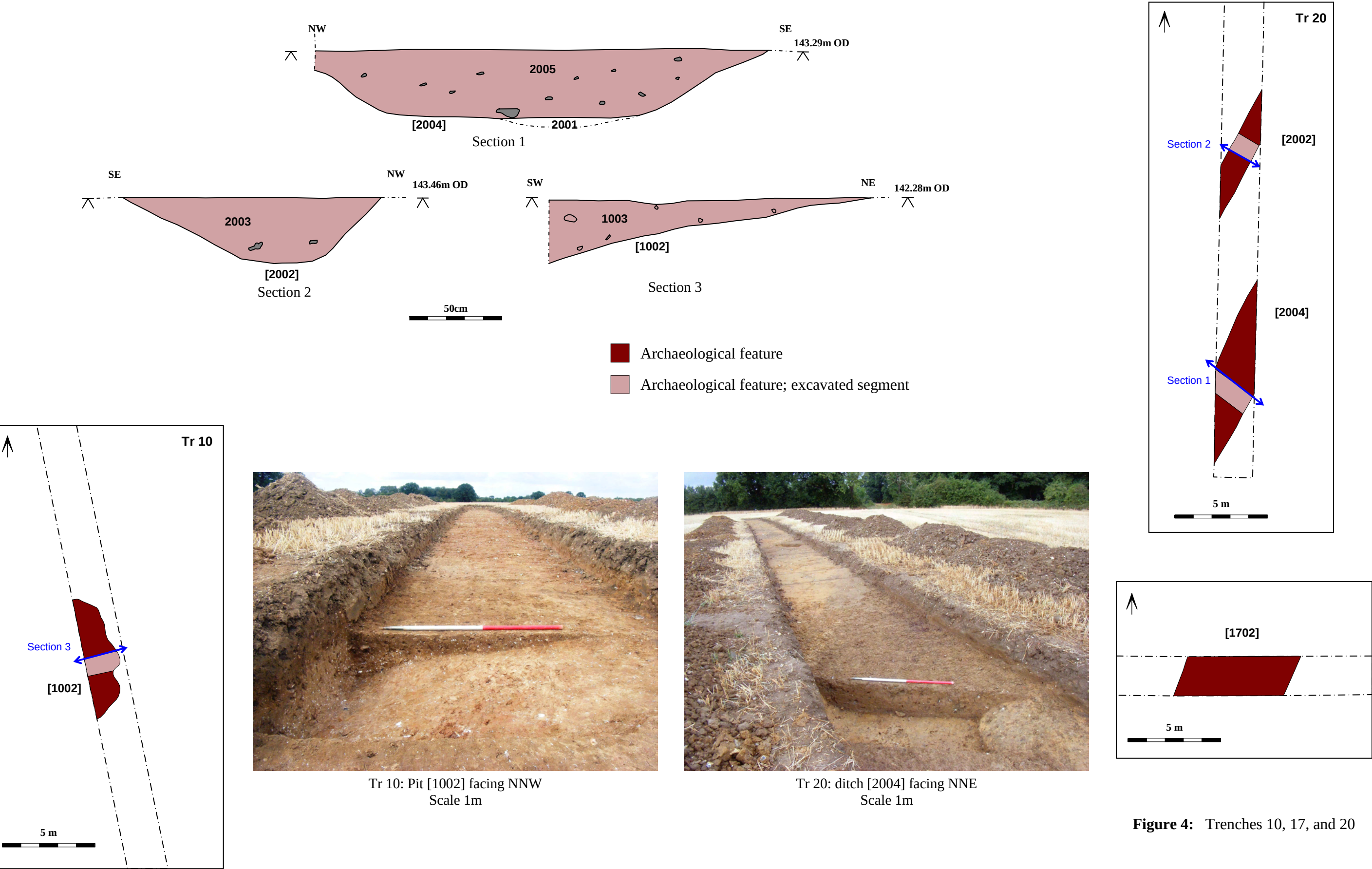


Figure 4: Trenches 10, 17, and 20

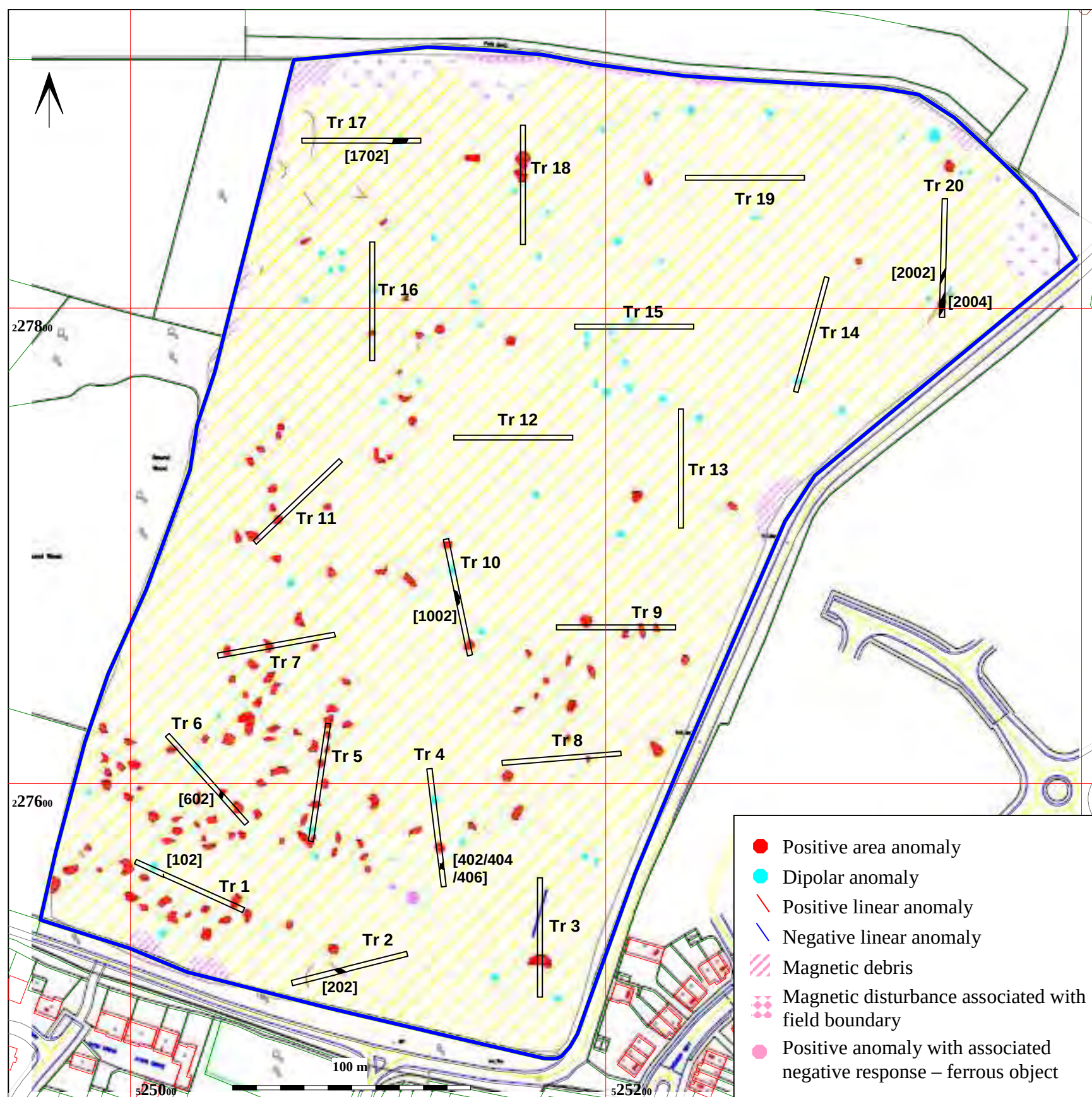


Figure 5: Trenching results overlaid onto geophysics plot

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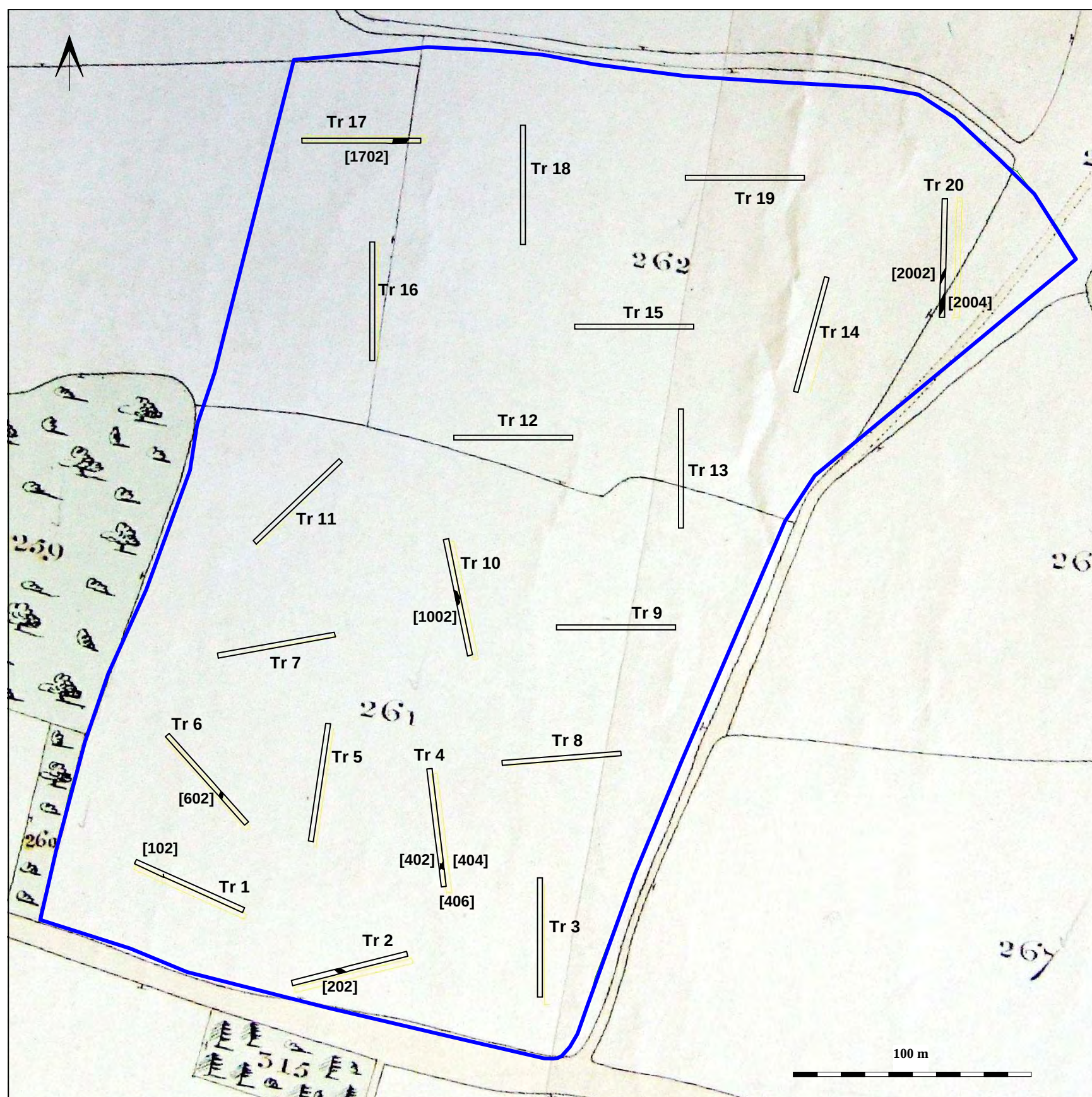


Figure 6: Trenching results overlaid onto 1838 tithe map

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