Land East of Mursley Road, Norbury Farm

Little Horwood, Buckinghamshire

Archaeological Evaluation Report for trial trenching of Geophysical Survey Areas 1, 2, 4 and 6

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Prepared by:	Emily Abrehart (Fieldwork Project Officer)
Checked by:	Louise Moan (Senior Project Manager)
Edited by:	Tom Phillips (Senior Project Manager, Post-Excavation)
Approved for Issue by:	Elizabeth Popescu (Head of Post-Excavation & Publications)
Signature:	

Oxford office
Janus House
Osney Mead
Oxford
OX2 0ES

t. +44 (0)1865 980 700

Cambridge office
15 Trafalgar Way
Bar Hill
Cambridge
CB23 8SQ

t. +44 (0)1223 850 500

Lancaster office
Mill 3
Moor Lane Mills
Moor Lane
Lancaster
LA1 1QD

t. +44 (0)1524 880 250

E: info@oxfordarchaeology.com
W: oxfordarchaeology.com
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Land East of Mursley Road, Norbury Farm, Little Horwood, Buckinghamshire

Archaeological Evaluation Report for trial trenching of Geophysical Survey Areas 1, 2, 4 and 6

Written by Emily Abrehart BSc PGCert PCIfA

With contributions from Lawrence Billington PhD, Martha Craven BA PCIfA, Carole Fletcher BA (Hons) ACIfA Ted Levermore MA (cantab) MA, Carlotta Marchetto MA PCIfA, and Denis Sami PhD

Illustrations by David Brown BA

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SUMMARY

Between 21st October and 11th November 2024 Oxford Archaeology undertook a programme of archaeological trial trenching across Geophysical Survey Areas 1, 2, 4 and 6 at land to the east of Mursley Road, Norbury Farm, Little Horwood, Buckinghamshire. This followed on from a previous phase of work which evaluated Geophysical Survey Areas 3 and 5. The second phase comprised 55 trenches, some of which targeted anomalies recoded during the geophysical survey.

Only a small number of archaeological features were recorded during the trial trenching, and few finds were retrieved. Most of the features comprised ditches of probable post-medieval to modern date, which corresponded to former field boundaries and the boundary of Whaddon Chase. In Area 1, multiple natural features were revealed, which most likely represent the clearing of woodland.

In Area 2 a curvilinear gully was revealed, possibly the remnants of an eaves drip gully belonging to a roundhouse or agricultural building. The gully contained charcoal, burnt flint and some small fragments of fired clay. Two small pits uncovered in Areas 4 and 6 also contained charcoal and burnt flint. A definite date for the gully and small pits could not be determined due to the lack of datable finds, although their characteristics suggest a broadly prehistoric date.

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The project was managed for Oxford Archaeology by Louise Moan. The fieldwork was directed by Emily Abrehart, who was supported by George Nuth and Cain Redmayne. Surveying and digitising were carried out by Emily Abrehart and Donald Horne. Thanks are extended to the various finds and environmental staff, illustrator, editor and specialists for their contributions.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Scope of work

1.1.1 Oxford Archaeology (OA) was commissioned by RPS Consulting on behalf of Elgin Energy EsCo Ltd to undertake an archaeological evaluation on the site of a proposed new solar farm to the east of Mursley Road, Norbury Farm, Little Harwood in Buckinghamshire (centred on SP 80420 30382; Fig. 1). Fieldwork was carried out across Geophysical Survey Areas 1, 2, 4 and 6 between 21st October and 8th November 2024.

1.1.2 The work was undertaken as a condition of planning permission (Planning Ref. APP/J0405/W/22/3302716). Although the local planning authority did not set a brief for the work, discussions with Phil Markham of Buckinghamshire Council Archaeology Services (BCAS) established the scope of work required. An overarching written scheme of investigation (WSI) was produced by RPS Consulting for the works (Masefield 2024), with a supplementary method statement (MS) produced by OA (Moan 2024). This report gives an overview of the methodology employed and details the results of the investigation.

1.1.3 All work was carried out in accordance with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' *Code of Conduct* (2014a), *Standard and guidance for archaeological field evaluation* (2014b) and *Universal guidance for archaeological field evaluation* (2023).

1.2 Location, topography and geology

1.2.1 The village of Little Horwood is located within the north-east of Buckinghamshire, around 5km south-west of Milton Keynes and 9km south-east of Buckingham (Fig. 1).

1.2.2 The wider proposed development area covered a total of *c.*53ha (Areas 1-6; Fig. 1). This phase of trial trenching encompassed four fields that extended from the north-eastern side of the village down to the railway.

1.2.3 Area 1 was bounded on all sides by agricultural fields and hedgerows, with Norbury Coppice also located on the south-western edge of the area. The geology is mapped as West Walton formation mudstone, with superficial deposits of Till diamicton (British Geological Survey online viewer). Area 1 varied in height from *c.*139m OD to *c.*133m OD.

1.2.4 Area 2 was also bounded on all sides by agricultural fields and hedgerows. The mapped geology is the same as for Area 1 and heights varied between c.138m OD and *c.*135m OD.

1.2.5 Area 4 formed part of a larger field which was bounded on all sides by agricultural fields and hedgerows. The mapped geology for the majority of the area matches that of Area 1 and 2, but the eastern edge of Area 4 is mapped as being devoid of any superficial deposits. The field varied in height from *c.*135m OD to *c.*132m OD.

1.2.6 Area 6 was bounded on two sides by agricultural land and hedges, with Lower Grove Farm located to the south-west and the railway line running along the eastern edge of the field. The bedrock geology across this area is

mapped as West Walton formation mudstone, with three different superficial geologies also being recorded: Till diamicton, Glaciofluvial deposits of sand and gravel, and Head deposits of clay, silt, sand and gravel. Area 6 varied in height from *c.*130m OD to *c.*125m OD.

1.3 Archaeological and historical background

1.3.1 The heritage statement (Rawlings 2020) and WSI (Masefield 2024) both detail a comprehensive assessment of all known heritage assets within the immediate environs of the site (under Buckinghamshire Historic Environment Record Copyright License Agreement 1534). Therefore, only a summary of the most pertinent information is provided below.

1.3.2 The site is located within Whaddon Chase (MCB11506), a medieval royal hunting forest. A series of possible post-medieval trackways (MCB23194 and MCB685) have been recorded through analysis of aerial photographs towards the north-west corner of Whaddon Chase, with a probable medieval field boundary visible on 20th-century aerial photographs. Two findspots have been recovered from the site during metal detecting: a 13th- to 15th-century finger ring (MCB36700) and a 14th-century coin (MBC36631).

1.3.3 Just to the north of the site is the archaeological notification area of the deserted medieval village of Nod (MCB684).

1.4 Phase 1 evaluation

1.4.1 During August 2024, an evaluation comprising 17 trial trenches was undertaken on Areas 3 and 5 of the overall scheme (Arrow 2024). The majority of the identified archaeological features comprised field boundary ditches of probable post-medieval date. A small pit produced a single sherd of Roman pottery; however, the abraded nature of the sherd suggested that it was residual. One trench, which was targeting a curvilinear cropmark, revealed a ditch in its approximate location although this feature did not produce any finds. To the west of this ditch, there was a large pit, which contained a notable concentration of burnt sandstone and flint. Its fill shared similarities with deposits recorded in association with burnt mound complexes, which may tentatively suggest a possible Bronze Age date for this feature.

1.5 Geophysical survey (Magnitude Surveys 2024)

1.5.1 A geophysical survey has been undertaken across the entirety of the proposed development area (Fig. 2). The summary findings for the areas pertinent to this evaluation report are as follows:

- Area 1: former field boundaries which are shown on the historic Ordnance Survey maps as well as undetermined linear anomalies.
- Area 2: undetermined linear features and magnetic responses.
- Area 4: agricultural former field boundary (not present of historic Ordnance Survey maps) and linear drainage features.
- Area 6: possible enclosure/s in the central southern part of the surveyed area. Two former agricultural boundaries and a former trackway, as well as geological variations and linear drainage features.

2 AIMS AND METHODOLOGY

2.1 Aims

2.1.1 The project aims and objectives were as follows:

i. to determine or confirm the general nature of any archaeological remains present; and

ii. to determine or confirm the approximate date or date range of any archaeological remains, by means of artefactual or other evidence.

2.2 Fieldwork methodology

2.2.1 Full details of the project methodology are outlined in the WSI (Masefield 2024) and the MS (Moan 2024). Fifty-five trenches were excavated, each measuring 60m long by 1.8m wide. Mechanical excavation was carried out by a tracked 360^{0} excavator provided by David Beecroft Ltd, under constant supervision of a suitably qualified and experienced archaeologist. Soil was stripped in *c.*0.1m spits.

2.2.2 The locations of trenches were scanned prior to excavation by a CAT scanner and genny to identify any buried services. Trench locations were also scanned with a metal detector prior to excavation, with metal detecting continuing throughout the soil stripping. Trench baulks and all identified features and deposits were also scanned with a metal detector.

2.2.3 Surveying was carried out using a Leica GS08 GPS with SmartNET. All archaeological features were recorded using OA's pro-forma sheets and digital recording system (DRS). Sections were drawn at appropriate scales and digital photographs were taken of all relevant features.

2.3 Archiving

2.3.1 The physical project archive is presently held by OA and will be deposited in due course with Discover Bucks Museum, under the accession code AYBCM:2024.59 and following Buckinghamshire Council Museum (2013) guidelines. The digital archive will be deposited with the Archaeological Data Service (ADS). Both the physical and digital archives will be deposited following the transfer of title of ownership, which has been submitted to the client for completion.

3 RESULTS

3.1 Introduction and presentation of results

3.1.1 The results of the evaluation across Geophysical Survey Areas 1, 2, 4 and 6 are presented below, and this comprises a stratigraphic description of the trenches that contained archaeological remains and a short summary of the archaeologically blank trenches. Full details of all trenches with dimensions and depths of all deposits can be found in Appendix A. Artefact and environmental reports can be found in Appendices B and C respectively.

3.2 General soils and ground conditions

3.2.1 The soil sequence in the trenches was uniform. A thin layer (c.0.1m) of subsoil was present in some places but it was more of an interface between the topsoil and natural geology than a distinct layer. There was a consistent layer of topsoil (0.3m thick) across all four areas.

3.2.2 Ground conditions throughout the evaluation were generally good and the site remained dry. Due to the underlying clay geology, a small amount of ground water did permeate into some of the trenches. Archaeological features, where present, were easy to identify against the underlying natural geology.

3.3 General distribution of archaeological deposits

3.3.1 In general, few archaeological features were identified during the evaluation. The majority of features uncovered were former field boundary ditches, which often continued through multiple trenches, and these were mainly located in Area 6. A small number of discrete features were uncovered within Areas 2, 4 and 6. Across Areas 1 and 6 various natural features were present; some of these were geological and some were formed by the removal of trees.

3.4 Area 1 (Trenches 60-72, Figs 3-4)

3.4.1 This area contained 13 trenches of which three were blank (Plate 1) and ten contained natural features associated with the removal of trees. The geophysical survey showed two unidentified anomalies in this field that turned out to be geological. The east to west aligned natural feature crossing Trenches 69 and 70 (Fig. 3) corresponded to an undulation in the landscape, possibly a paleochannel (Plate 2). The historic maps indicate that this area was part of the woodland of Haddon Chase and the southern half continued to be covered by trees into the 20th century (Fig. 4).

3.4.2 A single large piece of Roman brick was recovered from the topsoil of Area 1, possibly indicating Roman occupation in the vicinity.

Burnt out tree roots

3.4.3 Of the 11 natural features uncovered in this area, seven were investigated and four were recorded (**76**, **78**, **80** and **82**; Fig. 3). They were consistently sub-circular or irregular in plan with irregular bases (Plate 3). They were filled with a dark brownish grey silty clay with frequent flecks of charcoal and occasional fragments of degraded wood.

3.5 Area 2 (Trenches 41-59, Fig. 5)

3.5.1 This area contained 19 trenches, all except two of which were devoid of archaeological features (Plate 4). The first edition Ordnance Survey map showed this area as part of the woodland comprising Whaddon Chase. From the second edition onwards, the outline of the field has remained the same.

Trench 42, Gully 71 (=84, 89) (Figs 6-7)

3.5.2 At the southern end of Trench 42 a curvilinear gully was uncovered. To better characterise this feature the trench was extended to the east. A terminus was revealed and the gully appeared to represent the partial remnants of an eaves drip gully, possibly associated with a roundhouse or an agricultural structure (Plate 5).

3.5.3 Gully **71** (=**84**, **89**) measured 0.7m wide and 0.17-0.24m deep with steep sides and a flat base (Fig. 13, Section 29). It contained up to four fills, with the basal fill consisting of a mid grey silty clay with occasional charcoal flecks (85, 90). Above this was a slump of natural material from the interior side of the gully (north-east) which was a mid brownish yellow silty clay (86, 91). The fill above this varied along the length of the feature; in the original trench it consisted of a mid brownish grey silty clay containing occasional charcoal flecks but in the extension it was a dark grey clayey silt containing frequent flecks of charcoal and occasional burnt stones (87). It also contained 13 undiagnostic pellets (50g) of fired clay (App. B.5). From an environmental sample taken from this fill, frequent small fragments of charcoal and a small undiagnostic flint flake (App. B.2) were recovered. Closer to the terminus was a final tertiary fill (88) consisting of a mid greyish brown clayey silt.

Trench 50, pit 73 (Fig. 6)

3.5.4 At the far southern end of Trench 50, a single circular pit (**73**) was uncovered. Pit **73** had a diameter of 0.58m and a depth of 0.1m. It had gently sloping sides and a flat base. The edges of the cut had been heat-affected, shown by red colouration (Plate 6). The basal fill of the pit (74) was a dark grey sandy clay and contained frequent charcoal. The environmental sample from this fill produced abundant charcoal, occasional carbonised seeds of docks (*Rumex sp.*) and untransformed rushes. Above this was a mid brownish grey sandy clay (75) that appeared to be redeposited natural mixed with the charcoal rich deposit beneath it. A fairly large quantity of charcoal was recovered from the environmental sample taken from this fill.

3.6 Area 4 (Trenches 37-40, Fig. 8)

3.6.1 This area comprised a small part of a larger field and contained four trenches, one of which was blank. The geophysical survey and an Ordnance Survey map dating to 1813 (see Fig. 12) suggest the presence of a former boundary running north-west to south-east across Trenches 38 and 40.

Trenches 38 and 40, Ditch 58 (=67)

3.6.2 Ditch **58** (=**67**) was aligned north-west to south-east and corresponded to the location of the boundary indicated by the geophysics and historic map. It was partially excavated in Trenches 38 and 40 but a complete profile could

not be excavated due to the presence of a land drain running along its length, which needed to be retained.

3.6.3 The ditch was 2-2.66m wide and 0.86m deep. It had steep sides, a flat base and three fills (Fig. 13, Section 26). The lowest fill (68) was a mid brownish grey silty clay *c*.0.36m thick. This was overlain by a mid greyish brown silty clay (59, 69) with some charcoal flecks. An environmental sample taken from this fill produced negligible charcoal and a small amount of hammerscale. The uppermost fill (60, 70) was a mid greyish brown silty clay which produced frequent charcoal flecks and flecks of fired clay. An iron hand-forged nail (App. B.1), five sherds (10g) of Middle/Late Iron Age pottery (App. B.4) and a single piece of fired clay (2g) – too small to be datable – were recovered from this fill.

Trench 39, pit 61

3.6.4 Towards the south-western end of Trench 39 lay a small sub-rectangular pit (**61**) that measured 0.42m wide and 0.11m deep. It had steep sides and a flat base and was filled with a dark brownish grey silty clay which yielded small fragments of burnt flint (8g), abundant charcoal and some flecks of burnt clay (Plate 7). The environmental sample from this fill produced abundant charcoal.

3.7 Area 6 (Trenches 18-36, Fig. 9)

3.7.1 This area contained 19 trenches, of which 10 were blank. The Ordnance Survey map of 1813 (Fig. 12) indicated several field boundaries within this area although only one was clearly identified during the geophysical survey. The geophysics also identified several anomalies interpreted as geological and a cluster of linear features, possibly indicating an enclosure. Trenches 31 and 32 were targeted across the linear features but only the post-medieval field boundaries shown on the historic map were present (Plate 8).

Trenches 18 and 19 (Fig. 10)

3.7.2 The geophysical survey and the 1813 Ordnance Survey map showed a ditch running broadly north-east to south-west through trenches 18 and 19. The ditch was revealed in both trenches but only excavated in Trench 18. Ditch **48** was 3.1m wide and 0.54m deep with gently sloping sides and a flat base. It contained two fills, the lower of which – a light yellowish grey sandy clay – was a slump of material (49) from the north-west side. The main fill was a mid brownish grey silty clay with occasional flecks of charcoal (50). Some fragments of CBM (16g), possibly of a Roman fabric (App. B.6), and two small (2g) fragments of fired clay were recovered from this fill.

Trench 22 (Fig. 11)

3.7.3 Trench 22 contained two ditches, including one located at the eastern end of the trench (**35**), which corresponded to a field boundary shown on historic maps and was also potentially encountered in Trench 32. Ditch **35** was 1.1m wide and 0.23m deep with gently sloping sides and a concave base. It was filled with a mid brownish grey sandy clay with occasional charcoal flecks (36).

3.7.4 Ditch **37** was more diffuse than ditch **35**. It was aligned north-west to south-east and faint traces of it could also be seen in Trenches 21 and 30. Measuring 1.2m wide and 0.12m deep with gently sloping sides and a slightly irregular base, it was filled with a light greyish brown sandy silt.

Trench 26 (Fig. 10)

3.7.5 Located at the north-western end of Trench 26 were two possible postholes (Plate 9). Postholes **44** and **46** were both sub-circular in plan, measuring 0.44m by 0.25m and 0.3m by 0.25m respectively. Posthole **44** was slightly deeper (0.12m) and had steep sides. Posthole **46** was only 0.06m deep and had gently sloping sides. Both contained a single fill of mid to dark brownish grey silty clay.

Trenches 27 and 27A (Fig. 10)

3.7.6 A ditch revealed in Trench 27 did not correspond to any feature identified in the geophysical survey. In order to better characterise the ditch and its alignment, an additional trench (27A) was opened 18m to the north-west and this indicated that the ditch continued.

3.7.7 Ditch **51** (=**63**) was 1.86-2m wide and 0.5m deep. It was not fully excavated in Trench 27A but in Trench 27 it was found to have steep sides and a concave base. The geology varied between the two trenches and therefore so did the fills of the ditch. In Trench 27 only one fill consisting of a light greyish brown silty sand was identified (52). From this fill a single sherd (5g) of post-medieval red earthenware pottery was recovered (App. B.3). In Trench 27A, where only the upper part of the ditch was excavated (Fig. 13, Section 25), it was found to have a slumping fill on either side (64, 65) and a main fill consisting of a dark brownish grey silty clay (66), from which several fragments (62g) of probable medieval to post-medieval CBM were recovered.

3.7.8 Also revealed in Trench 27 was a natural feature (**56**), which was tested and found to have gently sloping sides and a concave base. It was filled with a light reddish brown sandy silt.

Trench 28 (Fig. 10)

3.7.9 The geophysical survey indicated several geological features in the vicinity of Trench 28. Two interventions were excavated by hand into the large amorphous features uncovered within the trench (**40**, **42**). The trench was extended, and a sondage was excavated by machine (**53**) to confirm that these were natural deposits (Plate 10).

Trench 30 (Fig. 11)

3.7.10 Excavation within Trench 30 was limited by the ingress of water. When the trench was first opened a large feature broadly corresponding with the location of a field boundary ditch shown on historic maps was identified. A horseshoe was recovered from the surface of the feature. Due to flooding of the north-eastern end of the trench no further investigation was possible (Plate 11).

3.7.11 In the centre of the trench a small sub-circular pit was partially revealed. Pit **33** was 0.89m wide and 0.22m deep with gently sloping sides and a concave

base (Fig. 13, Section 15). It was filled with a dark grey sandy clay (34) which contained frequent burnt stones and flecks of charcoal. An environmental sample taken from this feature produced abundant charcoal alongside occasional untransformed rush (*Juncus sp.*) seeds.

Trench 32 (Fig. 11)

3.7.12 The geophysical survey suggested that this trench would contain multiple linear features but only two were present. At the south-western end lay ditch **27**, which was aligned north-west to south-east. This did not directly correspond to any feature on the geophysical survey. It was 1.02m wide and 0.44m deep with gently sloping sides and a concave base (Fig. 13, Section 12). It was filled with a sterile light orangey grey sandy clay (28).

3.7.13 At the north-eastern end of the trench lay a boundary ditch identified on historic maps and also revealed in Trench 22. Due to the size of the feature it was only partially excavated. Ditch **29** measured 3.6m wide and over 0.68m deep. It had steep sides and was filled with a mixed mid brownish grey sandy clay (30) that contained some flecks of charcoal and fragments of rotten wood.

Trench 35 (Fig. 11)

3.7.14 This trench contained a single ditch that was aligned north-west to south-east and did not correspond to any feature in the geophysical survey. Ditch **31** was 0.83m wide and 0.38m deep with steep sides and a concave base. It was filled with a sterile light yellowish grey sandy clay (32) (Plate 12).

3.8 Artefacts summary

Metalwork

3.8.1 Excavation of ditch **58** in Trench 38 (Area 4, Fig. 8) yielded an incomplete iron hand-forged nail of which only the tapering stem with quadrangular cross-section remains. The undiagnostic nature of this stem means it could date from the Roman to the post-medieval periods.

Flint

3.8.2 A very small assemblage of one worked flint and 63 fragments of unworked burnt flint weighing 26g were recovered, all from the sieved residues of bulk samples.

3.8.3 The single worked flint, a small undiagnostic flint flake, came from ditch **89**, Trench 42 (Area 2, Fig. 7), whilst small quantities of heavily fractured burnt flint were recovered from pits **73**, **33** and **61** (Trenches 50, 30 and 39 respectively).

Post-medieval pottery

3.8.4 The evaluation produced a single sherd of post-Roman pottery, an irregular, moderately abraded, thin-walled post-medieval red earthenware body sherd (5g, *c.*1550-1800) from Trench 27, ditch **51** (Area 6, Fig. 10). The sherd may be the result of general rubbish deposition originating from settlement in the vicinity of the evaluated area.

Iron Age pottery

3.8.5 An assemblage of five sherds of Middle/Late Iron Age pottery (10g) was recovered from ditch **58** in Trench 38 (Area 4, Fig. 8). The sherds are fragmentary and small and cannot be closely dated, but the character of the fabric is typical of pottery dating from the Middle or Late Iron Age in the region (c.350 BC-AD 50).

Fired clay

3.8.6 A small assemblage of fired clay totalling 16 fragments (54g) was collected during the evaluation. The assemblage is fragmentary and abraded and is not closely datable. It is likely to be of prehistoric to Roman in origin.

CBM

3.8.7 A small assemblage of abraded Ceramic Building Material (CBM) was recovered during trial trenching (26 fragments, 280g). It offers limited archaeological insight due to the poor survival of the original forms. It probably reflects considerable post-discard erosion and perhaps intrusion into the parent features. A single large piece of Roman brick from Area 1 is a good sign of local Roman occupation.

3.9 Environmental summary

3.9.1 Six bulk samples were taken from the evaluation from features within Trenches 30, 38, 39, 42 and 50. The samples produced a modest assemblage of archaeobotanical material. This material primarily comprises carbonised remains, mostly in the form of charcoal. The few carbonised weed seeds within the samples were entirely comprised of docks, a plant which grows in a variety of habitats including wasteland, fields and field margins. The untransformed, likely waterlogged, rush seeds are typical of wet/marshy environments and suggest the features held water at least seasonally.

4 DISCUSSION

4.1 Reliability of field investigation

4.1.1 The results of the evaluation broadly corresponded with the results of the geophysical survey (Magnitude Surveys 2024). The geophysical survey results did suggest a complex of linear features possibly representing an enclosure within Area 6 (Trenches 31 and 32) but these were not encountered in the trial trenches. Some of the other small linear and discrete features revealed during the evaluation were also not identified on the geophysics.

4.1.2 Most of the linear features identified corresponded to field boundaries marked on historic maps. Overall, the results of the evaluation can be considered reliable.

4.2 Evaluation objectives and results

4.2.1 The aims of the evaluation (Section 2.1) have been achieved in terms of characterising the nature of the archaeological remains present across the site and ground truthing the geophysical survey results. Most of the linear features identified during the evaluation and the geophysical survey corresponded to field boundaries marked on historic maps. Although some did contain Iron Age and Roman finds, these are probably residual. The discrete features such as the burnt pits could not be confidently dated due to a lack of datable finds.

4.3 Interpretation

Prehistoric features

4.3.1 The three small pits containing burnt flint and charcoal uncovered in Area 2 (pit **73**), Area 4 (pit **61**) and Area 6 (pit **33**) have tentatively been dated as prehistoric despite the lack of dating evidence. During the first phase of the evaluation (Arrow 2024), a larger pit (**14**) was identified that also contained a concentration of burnt sandstone and flint. The burnt stones were possibly utilised in the boiling of liquids. The concentration of burnt stone within the fills share similarities with deposits associated with burnt mound complexes, which predominantly date to the Bronze Age (e.g. Crowson 2004). Tentatively, this could indicate that pits **33** and **61** are of Bronze Age date, although concentrations of burnt stone have been recorded across a wide range of sites of different periods in the region.

4.3.2 The curvilinear gully uncovered in Area 2, Trench 42 (**71**=**84**=**89**) also contained burnt stone along with some small, undiagnostic fragments of fired clay and a small amount of struck flint. Morphologically, this feature is similar to a roundhouse eaves drip gully, typically of Iron Age or Early Roman date. The gully was shallow and possibly truncated at its northern end, and it is possible that more of its circuit survives to the north-east. The projected diameter of the structure is *c*.10m, which is within the typical size range of roundhouses defined by eaves drip gullies. There was no dating evidence to support this interpretation and even if it is an eaves drip gully, the lack of any other activity in the vicinity – either occupation areas or any evidence for field systems/enclosures – suggest that the structure could have been an agricultural out-building rather than a domestic living-space.

Post-medieval features

Whaddon Chase (Fig. 12)

4.3.3 The 1813 Ordnance Survey map shows that the majority of the site was located within the boundary of Whaddon Chase. Area 6 partially straddles the boundary with the south-eastern part being within an area of fields. Two ditches identified in Area 4 (ditch **58**=**67**, Trenches 38 and 40) and Area 6 (ditch **48**, Trench 18) corresponded with the southern and eastern boundaries of the woodland respectively. The other ditches in Area 6 possibly correspond to the field divisions shown on the 1813 plan beyond the south-eastern border of the wood. The ditches in this area certainly followed the same north-west to south-east alignment.

4.3.4 Pit **73**, located in Area 2, has been interpreted as a possible charcoal making pit due to its similarity to known features of this type. It is possible that ad-hoc charcoal production occurred within the woodland.

Forest clearance and field system

4.3.5 During the mid-19th century the forest was cleared, and the land was divided into parcels of farmland. The field boundaries demarcating Areas 1, 2 and 4 appear the same today as those shown on the first edition Ordnance Survey map of 1880.

4.3.6 An area of woodland was retained (Norbury Coppice) which is shown on early 20th century maps to have extended into the southern half of Area 1 (see Fig. 4). Irregular features found across the southern part of Area 1, often containing charcoal flecks, are consistent with the practice of burning tree roots and stumps to aid in removal.

4.4 Significance

4.4.1 The trial trench evaluation revealed archaeological remains of limited significance, with most of the ditches recorded probably comprising part of the former post-medieval to modern agricultural field system and the boundary of Whaddon Chase. The curvilinear ditch uncovered in Area 2 (Trench 42) could have some local significance, possibly representing prehistoric activity within the vicinity of the site.

APPENDIX A TRENCH DESCRIPTIONS AND CONTEXT INVENTORY

A.1 Trench Descriptions

Trench	Area	Orientation	Length	Topsoil (m)	Subsoil (m)	Total depth (m)	Archaeology
18	6	NW-SE	60	0.3	-	0.3	Y
19	6	NW-SE	60	0.28	0.05	0.33	Y
20	6	NW-SE	60	0.3	-	0.3	
21	6	NE-SW	60	0.25	0.1	0.35	Y
22	6	E-W	60	0.25	0.15	0.4	Y
23	6	NE-SW	60	0.3	0.1	0.4	
24	6	NNE-SSW	60	0.35	0.1	0.45	
25	6	NE-SW	60	0.28	0.15	0.43	
26	6	NW-SE	60	0.32	0.1	0.42	Y
27	6	NE-SW	60	0.3	0.1	0.4	Y
28	6	NW-SE	60	0.3	0.15	0.45	
29	6	NE-SW	60	0.3	0.1	0.4	
30	6	NE-SW	60	0.25	0.1	0.35	Y
31	6	NW-SE	30	0.3	0.1	0.4	
32	6	NE-SW	60	0.3	0.1	0.4	Y
33	6	NW-SE	60	0.3	0.05	0.35	
34	6	NW-SE	60	0.25	0.1	0.35	
35	6	NE-SW	60	0.25	0.1	0.35	Y
36	6	NW-SE	60	0.25	0.1	0.35	
37	4	NE-SW	60	0.25	0.05	0.3	
38	4	NW-SE	60	0.28	0.05	0.33	Y
39	4	NE-SW	60	0.25	0.1	0.35	Y
40	4	NE-SW	60	0.25	0.1	0.35	Y
41	2	NNW-SSE	60	0.4	0.1	0.5	
42	2	N-S	60	0.3	0.1	0.4	Y
43	2	N-S	60	0.25	0.1	0.35	
44	2	E-W	60	0.25	0.15	0.4	
45	2	N-S	60	0.3	0.1	0.4	
46	2	E-W	60	0.25	0.1	0.35	
47	2	N-S	60	0.25	0.12	0.37	
48	2	E-W	60	0.25	0.1	0.35	
49	2	E-W	60	0.25	0.1	0.35	
50	2	N-S	60	0.25	0.1	0.35	Y
51	2	N-S	60	0.2	0.1	0.3	
52	2	E-W	60	0.3	0.05	0.35	
53	2	N-S	60	0.35	0.05	0.4	
54	2	NE-SW	60	0.35	0.15	0.5	
55	2	NNW-SSE	60	0.25	0.1	0.35	
56	2	NE-SW	60	0.25	0.1	0.35	
57	2	NNE-SSW	60	0.3	0.1	0.4	
58	2	NW-SE	60	0.2	0.1	0.3	

Trench	Area	Orientation	Length	Topsoil (m)	Subsoil (m)	Total depth (m)	Archaeology
59	2	NE-SW	60	0.3	0.1	0.4	
60	1	N-S	60	0.3	-	0.3	
61	1	NE-SW	60	0.32	-	0.32	
62	1	NE-SW	60	0.3	-	0.3	
63	1	NNW-SSE	60	0.33	-	0.33	
64	1	NNW-SSE	60	0.3	-	0.3	
65	1	N-S	60	0.3	-	0.3	
66	1	ENE-WSW	60	0.3	0.1	0.4	
67	1	NW-SE	60	0.35	-	0.35	
68	1	NE-SW	60	0.35	-	0.35	
69	1	NNE-SSW	60	0.35	-	0.35	
70	1	NNW-SSE	60	0.35	0.1	0.45	
71	1	NE-SW	60	0.3	-	0.3	
72	1	NW-SE	60	0.35	-	0.35	

A.2 Context Inventory

Cxt	Trench	Area	Cxt. type	Filled by	Interpretive Category	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Colour	Fine component	Shape in plan	Side	Base
27	32	6	cut	28	ditch	1.02	0.44			linear	gentle	concave
28	32	6	fill		ditch		0.44	Light orangey grey	sandy clay			
29	32	6	cut	30	ditch		0.68			linear	steep	unknown
30	32	6	fill		ditch		0.68	mid brownish grey	sandy clay			
31	35	6	cut	32	ditch	0.83	0.38			linear	steep	concave
32	35	6	fill		ditch		0.38	light yellowish grey	sandy clay			
33	30	6	cut	34	pit	0.89	0.22			sub-circular	gentle	concave
34	30	6	fill		pit		0.22	dark yellowish brown	sandy clay			
35	22	6	cut	36	ditch	1.1	0.23			linear	gentle	concave
36	22	6	fill		ditch		0.13	mid brownish grey	sandy clay			
37	22	6	cut	38	ditch?	1.2	0.12			linear	gentle	irregular
38	22	6	fill		ditch?		0.12	light greyish brown	sandy silt			
39	Void											
40	28	6	cut	41	natural feature	2.3	0.65			linear	steep	gradual
41	28	6	fill		natural feature		0.65	mid greyish brown	clayey sand			
42	28	6	cut	43	natural feature		0.35			irregular	steep	gradual
43	28	6	fill		natural feature		0.35	mid yellowish brown	clayey sand			
44	26	6	cut	45	post hole	0.25	0.12			sub-circular	steep	gradual
45	26	6	fill		post hole		0.12	mid brownish grey	silty clay			
46	26	6	cut	47	post hole	0.25	0.06			sub-circular	gentle	gradual
47	26	6	fill		post hole		0.06	dark brownish grey	silty clay			
48	18	6	cut	49, 50	ditch	3.1	0.54			linear	gentle	gradual
49	18	6	fill		ditch		0.18	light yellowish grey	sandy clay			
50	18	6	fill		ditch		0.54	mid brownish grey	silty clay			
51	27	6	cut	52	ditch	1.86	0.48			linear	steep	gradual
52	27	6	fill		ditch		0.48	light greyish brown	silty sand			
53	28	6	cut	54	natural feature					unknown	steep	unknown
54	28	6	fill		natural feature			mid reddish brown	sandy silt			
55	Void											
56	27	6	cut	57	natural feature	3	0.22			sub-circular	gentle	concave
57	27	6	fill				0.22	mid greyish brown	Sandy silt			
58	38	4	cut	59, 60	ditch	2	0.64			linear	steep	unknown
59	38	4	fill		ditch		0.29	mid brownish grey	silty clay			
60	38	4	fill		ditch		0.36	mid greyish brown	silty clay			

Cxt	Trench	Area	Cxt. type	Filled by	Interpretive Category	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Colour	Fine component	Shape in plan	Side	Base
61	39	4	cut	62	pit	0.42	0.11			sub-rectangular	steep	gradual
62	39	4	fill		pit		0.11	dark brownish grey	silty clay			
63	27A	6	cut	64, 65, 66	ditch	2	0.5			linear	steep	unknown
64	27A	6	fill		ditch		0.5	mid yellowish grey	silty clay			
65	27A	6	fill		ditch		0.1	mid reddish brown	sandy silt			
66	27A	6	fill		ditch		0.5	dark brownish grey	silty clay			
67	40	4	cut	68, 69, 70	ditch	2.66	0.86			linear	steep	unknown
68	40	4	fill		ditch		0.36	mid brownish grey	silty clay			
69	40	4	fill		ditch		0.19	mid greyish brown	silty clay			
70	40	4	fill		ditch		0.35	mid greyish brown	sandy clay			
71	42	2	cut	72	gully	0.47	0.22			curvilinear	steep	gradual
72	42	2	fill		gully		0.22	mid greyish brown	silty clay			
73	50	2	cut	74, 75	pit	0.58	0.1			circular	gentle	gradual
74	50	2	fill		pit		0.03	dark grey	sandy clay			
75	50	2	fill		pit		0.07	mid brownish grey	sandy clay			
76	66	1	cut		natural feature					irregular	gentle	gradual
77	64	1	cut		natural feature		0.22					
78	68	1	cut	79	natural feature	0.46	0.28			curvilinear	Steep, undercut	irregular
79	68	1	fill		natural feature		0.28	mid yellowish grey	silty clay			
80	63	1	cut	81	natural feature	0.52	0.05			sub-circular	irregular	irregular
81	63	1	fill		natural feature		0.05	mid brownish grey	sandy clay			
82	61	1	cut	83	natural feature	0.65	0.1			sub-circular	gentle	flat
83	61	1	fill		natural feature		0.1	mid brownish grey	sandy clay			
84	42	2	cut	85, 86, 87, 88	gully	0.7	0.17			curvilinear	steep	flat
85	42	2	fill		gully		0.06	mid grey	silty clay			
86	42	2	fill		gully		0.08	mid brownish yellow	silty clay			
87	42	2	fill		gully		0.1	dark grey	clayey silt			
88	42	2	fill		gully		0.05	mid greyish brown	clayey silt			
89	42	2	cut	90, 91, 92	ditch	0.65	0.24			curvilinear	steep	flat
90	42	2	fill		ditch		0.06	mid grey	silty clay			
91	42	2	fill		ditch		0.2	mid brownish yellow	silty clay			

Cxt	Trench	Area	Cxt. type	Filled by	Interpretive Category	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Colour	Fine component	Shape in plan	Side	Base
92	42	2	fill		ditch		0.14	mid brownish grey	silty clay			

APPENDIX B ARTEFACT REPORTS

B.1 Metalwork

By Denis Sami

B.1.1 Excavation of ditch **58** in Trench 38 yielded an incomplete iron hand-forged nail of which only the tapering stem with quadrangular cross-section remains.

B.1.2 Hand-forged iron nails are notoriously difficult objects to date and given the incomplete status and the undiagnostic nature of this stem, its chronology crosses a very broad period of time spanning from the Roman to the post-medieval periods.

B.2 Flint

By Lawrence Billington

B.2.1 A very small assemblage of one worked flint and 63 fragments of unworked burnt flint weighing 26g were recovered, all from the sieved residues of bulk samples (Table 1).

B.2.2 The single worked flint, a small undiagnostic flint flake, came from ditch **89**, Trench 50, whilst small quantities of heavily fractured burnt flint were recovered from pits **73**, **33** and **61** (Trenches 50, 30 and 39 respectively).

B.2.3 The assemblage is of very limited significance and probably relates to low level prehistoric activity at the site.

Trench	Context	Cut	Type	Sample	Flake	Unworked burnt flint
30	34	33	Pit	4		10 (3g)
39	62	61	Pit	6		20 (8g)
50	74	73	Pit	7		30 (13g)
50	75	73	Pit	8		3 (2g)
71	87	89	Ditch	9	1	

Table 1. Summary of the flint assemblage by context

B.3 Post-Roman Pottery

By Carole Fletcher

B.3.1 Archaeological works produced a single sherd of post-Roman pottery, an irregular, moderately abraded, thin-walled post-medieval red earthenware body sherd (5g, *c.*1550-1800) from Trench 27, ditch **51**. The fabric is a fine sandy orange-red with a clear orange-brown glaze internally and partially externally. The overall paucity of post-medieval material from the site

suggests the sherd may be the result of general rubbish deposition originating from settlement in the vicinity of the evaluated area.

B.3.2 If further work is undertaken, additional finds may be recovered, and this report should be incorporated into any later archive. If no further work is undertaken, this statement acts as a full record. The pottery may be dispersed prior to archival deposition, if not required by the receiving body.

B.4 Iron Age Pottery

By Carlotta Marchetto

B.4.1 An assemblage of five sherds of Middle/Late Iron Age pottery (10g) was recovered from ditch **58** in Trench 38, with a MSW of 2g. The sherds comprise fragments in a sandy fabric with sparse fine to medium grog inclusions. One diagnostic sherd appears to be an externally lipped rim, but it is too small and abraded to identify its exact form. The sherds are fragmentary and small and cannot be closely dated, but the character of the fabric is typical of pottery dating from the Middle or Late Iron Age in the region (*c.* 350 BC-AD 50). The sherds should be retained as part of the project archive.

B.5 Fired Clay

By Ted Levermore

B.5.1 A small assemblage of fired clay was collected during trial trenching (16 fragments, 54g). The material was collected from three trenches across Areas 2, 4 and 6. A summary catalogue is presented in Table 2. The assemblage is fragmentary and abraded, so is not closely dateable. It is likely to be of prehistoric to Roman origin.

Methodology

B.5.2 The fired clay was assessed following the *Oxford Archaeology Guidelines for the Sampling, Recording and Discard of Ceramic Building Material and Fired Clay* (Poole, 2006). As such, the assemblage was quantified by context, fabric and form and counted and weighed to the nearest whole gram. Fragments were identified as 'amorphous' when they possessed no discernible features beyond weight and fabric, 'structural' when they presented at least one diagnostic feature (e.g. a flattened surface, a rounded corner, an arris, a wattle/rod impression or any other traces of hand-forming) or as an 'object' when the diagnostic features were such that the original form could be identified or implied. Fabrics were examined in hand-specimen using a x20 hand lens and were described by the main inclusions present.

B.5.3 The full catalogue and fabric series are stored on an Excel spreadsheet submitted with this report to the digital archive. The material is presently curated by Oxford Archaeology (Cambridge).

Fabrics

B.5.4 Two fabrics were seen: a compact sparse sandy material (F1) and a compact silty clay with minimal inclusions (F2). F1 has a variant that includes minimal organic matter (F1a).

B.5.5 These fine pastes will have derived from the underlying tills and/or the nearby glaciofluvial and alluvial deposits. Paste preparation is evident in the addition of organic tempering material to the fine micaceous paste (F1a). Modification is not as clear in the other fabrics.

Assemblage

B.5.6 The fired clay was recovered from three interventions, one in each of three trenches across Areas 2, 4 and 6. This material offers limited archaeological insight; it is very sparse evidence for probable prehistoric to Roman occupation.

Area	Trench	Cut	Feature	Fabric	Notes	Count	Weight (g)
2	18	48	ditch	F2	Small pale pellets of compact silty clay	2	2
4	38	58	ditch	F1	Small pellet with remnant surface; mid-orange with dark grey core. Compact, sparse mica sandy	1	2
6	42	84	ditch	F1a	Small brown-orange pellets; remnant faces and hackly textures. Compact, sparse mica sandy with possible organics.	13	50
					Total	**16**	**54**

Table 2: Summary Fired Clay Quantification by Trench

Retention, Discard and Further Work

B.5.7 This material has been adequately recorded for this report. This material/data should be included in any subsequent excavation reporting for this site. The assemblage is not recommended for retention.

B.6 Ceramic Building Materials

By Ted Levermore

Introduction

B.6.1 A small assemblage of abraded Ceramic Building Material (CBM) was recovered during trial trenching (26 fragments, 280g). The material was collected from topsoil in Area 1 and two trenches in Area 6. A summary catalogue is presented in Table 3. It is a particularly abraded assemblage with only tentative dating assigned. It is possible that some of the sandy CBM was fired clay. The levels of abrasion are very high for both classes of material at this site, so conclusions are limited.

Methodology

B.6.2 The ceramic building material was assessed following the Oxford Archaeology Guidelines for the Sampling, Recording and Discard of Ceramic

Building Material and Fired Clay (Poole 2006). As such, the assemblage was quantified by context, fabric and form and counted and weighed to the nearest whole gram. Fabrics were examined in hand-specimen using a x20 hand lens and were described by the main inclusions present.

B.6.3 The data and fabric series are stored on an Excel spreadsheet submitted with this report to the digital archive. The material is presently curated by Oxford Archaeology (Cambridge).

Fabrics

B.6.4 Five distinct fabrics were recorded amongst this assemblage: two tile and three brick fabrics. The fabrics are typical of the region but little more can be said about how they relate to certain forms or dates. This assemblage is too limited a dataset for provenance or distribution analysis.

Assemblage

B.6.5 The assemblage was collected in Area 1 at the north of the site and Trenches 18 and 27A in Area 6 at the south end of the site. It offers limited archaeological insight due to the poor survival of the original forms. It probably reflects considerable post-discard erosion and perhaps intrusion into the parent features. The single large pieces of Roman brick from Area 1 are a good sign of local Roman occupation.

Area	Trench	Cut	Feature	Form	Date	Comment	Count	Weight (g)
1	-	-	topsoil	Brick	Roman	Body fragment of thick Roman brick; probably pedalis or lydion type. Wear-smoothed upper face, fairly flat coarse sanded base. Compact fine sandy clay with medium to coarse light and dark pellets. Orange faces, grey core with streaks of lighter grey.	1	202
6	18	48	ditch	Undiag.	?Roman	Several flakes from a hard-fired ceramic; probable splinter of a tile or a pottery vessel. Appears to be a Roman fabric.	20	16
	27A	63	ditch	?Brick	?med-pmed	Three severely abraded pellets of dark orange sandy clay, possible remnant faces. May derive from a late brick.	3	12
		63	ditch	Tile	med-pmed	Edge fragment of a thin flat tile; smoothed upper, sanded base and edges. Compact fine clay with sparse coarse sandy minerals. Pale orange-buff with orange margins and thin grey core. Probably Med-Pmed, but could be Roman	1	18
		63	ditch	Undiag.	?med/ ?Rom	A chunk of fired clay/CBM. Retains at least one face, maybe two. Compact fine sandy material, mid-orange with grey core. May be Roman fabric.	1	32
						Total	**26**	**280**

Table 3: Summary CBM Catalogue by Trench

Statement of Potential

B.6.6 This is a scattered and fragmentary assemblage of probable Roman and post-medieval CBM. A fragment of brick is evidence of Roman occupation in the north of the site. Otherwise, the assemblage is of limited significance.

Retention, Discard and Further Work

B.6.7 The material has been satisfactorily recorded for this report. The assemblage should be considered for discard. This material/data should be included in any subsequent excavation reports for this site.

APPENDIX C ENVIRONMENTAL REPORTS

C.1 Environmental Samples

By Martha Craven

Introduction

C.1.1 Six bulk samples were taken during the evaluation. The bulk environmental samples were taken primarily in order to assess the quality of preservation of plant remains and their potential to provide useful data as part of further archaeological investigations. Samples were taken from a series of features within Trenches 30, 38, 39, 42 and 50. Prehistoric and post-medieval activity was identified during the course of the evaluation.

Methodology

C.1.2 Bulk samples (up to 24 litres) were processed by tank flotation using modified Sīraf-type equipment for the recovery of preserved plant remains, dating evidence and any other artefactual evidence that might be present. The floating component (flot) of the samples was collected in a 0.3mm nylon mesh and the residue was washed through 10mm, 5mm, 2mm and a 0.5mm sieve.

C.1.3 A magnet was dragged through each residue fraction for the recovery of magnetic material prior to sorting for artefacts. Any artefacts present were noted and reintegrated with the hand-excavated finds.

C.1.4 The flots were scanned using a binocular microscope at magnifications up to x 60 and an abbreviated list of the recorded remains are presented in Table 4. Identification of plant remains is with reference to the *Digital Seed Atlas of the Netherlands* (Cappers *et al*. 2006) and OA's reference collection. Nomenclature is according to Zohary and Hopf (2000) for cereals and Stace (2010) for other plants. Plant remains have been identified to species where possible. The identification of cereals has been based on the characteristic morphology of the grains and chaff as described by Jacomet (2006).

Quantification

C.1.5 For the purpose of this initial assessment, items such as grains have been scanned and recorded qualitatively according to the following categories:

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

Items that cannot be easily quantified such as snail shells have been scored for abundance:

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

Key to table:

U=untransformed

Results

C.1.6 Plant remains are preserved within the samples primarily through the process of carbonisation (charring). This material is preserved when burnt in a reducing atmosphere and is biased towards the survival of certain plant elements, such as cereal grains (Boardman and Jones 1990, 10).

C.1.7 Untransformed material was also noted, these are usually seeds with tough outer coatings which are particularly resistant to decay. These seeds may be contemporary with the sampled deposit or may perhaps be modern intrusions.

C.1.8 Snail shells were generally absent within the sampled features but where present were recorded in moderate to large quantities and were found to be relatively well-preserved.

Trench 30

C.1.9 Sample 4, fill 34 of pit **33**, contains abundant charcoal alongside occasional untransformed rush (*Juncus* sp.) seeds. The charcoal was found to be heavily coated in mineral concretions. Finds within the sample are sparse consisting of a small amount of burnt flint.

Trench 38

C.1.10 Negligible charcoal was recovered from Sample 5, fill 59 of ditch **58**. A small amount of hammerscale was recorded, this quantity is insufficient to suggest metalworking taking place nearby.

Trench 39

C.1.11 Sample 6, fill 62 of pit **61** contains a large quantity of charcoal. This material was heavily coated in mineral concretions which could obscure future identification attempts. Burnt flint and frequent burnt mammal bone were also recorded within the feature.

Trench 42

C.1.12 Frequent charcoal was recovered from Sample 9, fill 87 of ring gully terminal **84**. This charcoal was present mostly as very small fragments. A small amount of struck flint was also recovered from the sample residue.

Trench 50

C.1.13 A large volume of charcoal was found within Sample 7, taken from an *in-situ* burnt deposit (74) within pit **73**. The charcoal appeared to be quite fragile and was prone to fragmenting. Occasional carbonised seeds of docks (*Rumex* sp.) and untransformed rushes were also noted within this context. A fairly large quantity of charcoal was also recorded in sample (8), taken from the upper fill (75) of the same feature. Finds within the contexts consist of burnt flint only.

Trench Number	Sample Number	Context Number	Cut Number	Feature Type	Volume Processed (L)	Flot Volume (ml)	Weed Seeds	Wetland/Aquatic Plants	Tree/Shrub Macrofossils	Snail Shells	Charcoal Volume(ml)
30	4	34	33	Pit	23	100	0	#w	0	0	255
38	5	59	58	Ditch	18	20	0	0	0	+++	2
39	6	62	61	Pit	24	30	0	0	0	0	81
50	7	74	73	Pit	14	50	#	#w	0	0	320
50	8	75	73	Pit	9	15	0	0	0	++	18
42	9	87	84	Ring Gully	18	30	0	0	0	0	36

Table 4: Bulk Environmental Samples

Discussion

C.1.14 The bulk samples taken from the evaluation at Norbury Farm have produced a modest assemblage of archaeobotanical material. This material is comprised primarily of carbonised remains, mostly in the form of charcoal.

C.1.15 The lack of cereal grains or other foodstuffs within the sampled features could imply that they did not serve a domestic function or perhaps that any such activity was ephemeral. The large volumes of charcoal within a number of the features could possibly be related to some sort of industrial processes taking place at the site, such as charcoal production. During the evaluation, a number of the sampled features were recorded as being rich in heat-affected clay and/or stones. Large quantities of burnt stone were also recorded within a pit (**14**) uncovered during the first phase of the evaluation carried out in August 2024, where they were thought to possibly have been used in order to heat up liquids (Billington and Lound, 2024).

C.1.16 The few carbonised weed seeds within the samples were entirely comprised of docks, a plant which grows in a variety of habitats including wasteland, fields and field margins. The untransformed, likely waterlogged, rush seeds are typical of wet/marshy environments and suggest the features held water at least seasonally.

C.1.17 Three bulk samples were taken from features associated with the first phase of this evaluation and produced similarly scant remains (Craven 2024). These samples derive from two ditches and a pit that are thought to be post-medieval/modern in date. Small amounts of charcoal were present within all three samples in addition to flora associated with wetland environments such as sedges (*Carex* sp.) and rushes. The general lack of archaeobotanical remains within this phase is unsurprising given that the features uncovered are thought to largely relate to an agricultural field system with no evidence of settlement identified.

C.1.18 This evaluation has demonstrated that there is potential for the recovery of archaeobotanical plant remains if further work is undertaken. It is recommended that any future environmental sampling is carried out in accordance with Historic England guidelines (2011).

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APPENDIX E OASIS REPORT FORM

Project Details

OASIS Number	oxfordar3-530229
Project Name	Land East of Mursley Road, Norbury Farm, Little Horwood, Buckinghamshire (Phase 2)

Start of Fieldwork	21/10/2024	End of Fieldwork	11/11/2024
Previous Work	Yes	Future Work	Unknown

Project Reference Codes

Site Code	XBUNFH24	Planning App. No.	APP/J0405/W/22/3302716
HER Number		Related Numbers	AYBCM:2024.59

Prompt	Planning condition
Development Type	Other
Place in Planning Process	After full determination (eg. As a condition)

Techniques Used

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

Monument	Period
Ditch	Post Medieval (1540 to 1901)
Ditch	Uncertain
Gully	Uncertain
Pit	Uncertain

Object	Period
Pottery	Post Medieval (1540 to 1901)
Pottery	Iron Age (- 800 to 43)
Fired clay	Uncertain
CBM	Roman (43 to 410)
CBM	Post Medieval (1540 to 1901)
Burnt flint	Uncertain

Project Location

County	Buckinghamshire
District	Buckinghamshire
Parish	Little Horwood
HER office	Buckinghamshire Council
Size of Study Area	38ha
National Grid Ref	SP 80420 30382

Address (including Postcode)

Mursley Road
Little Horwood
Buckinghamshire
MK17 0PH

Project Originators

Organisation	Oxford Archaeology (OA)
Project Brief Originator	Phil Markham (Buckinghamshire Council)
Project Design Originator	Lousie Moan (OA)
Project Manager	Lousie Moan (OA)
Project Supervisor	Emily Abrehart (OA)

Project Archives

	Location	ID
Physical Archive (Finds)	Discover Bucks Museum	AYBCM:2024.59
Digital Archive	ADS	AYBCM:2024.59/XBUNFH24
Paper Archive	Discover Bucks Museum	AYBCM:2024.59

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

Digital Media		**Paper Media**	
Database	☒	Aerial Photos	☐
GIS	☒	Context Sheets	☒
Geophysics	☐	Correspondence	☐
Images (Digital photos)	☒	Diary	☐

Illustrations (Figures/Plates)	☒	Drawing	☐
Moving Image	☐	Manuscript	☐
Spreadsheets	☐	Map	☐
Survey	☒	Matrices	☐
Text	☒	Microfiche	☐
Virtual Reality	☐	Miscellaneous	☒
		Research/Notes	☐
		Photos (negatives/prints/slides)	☐
		Plans	☐
		Report	☒
		Sections	☒
		Survey	☐

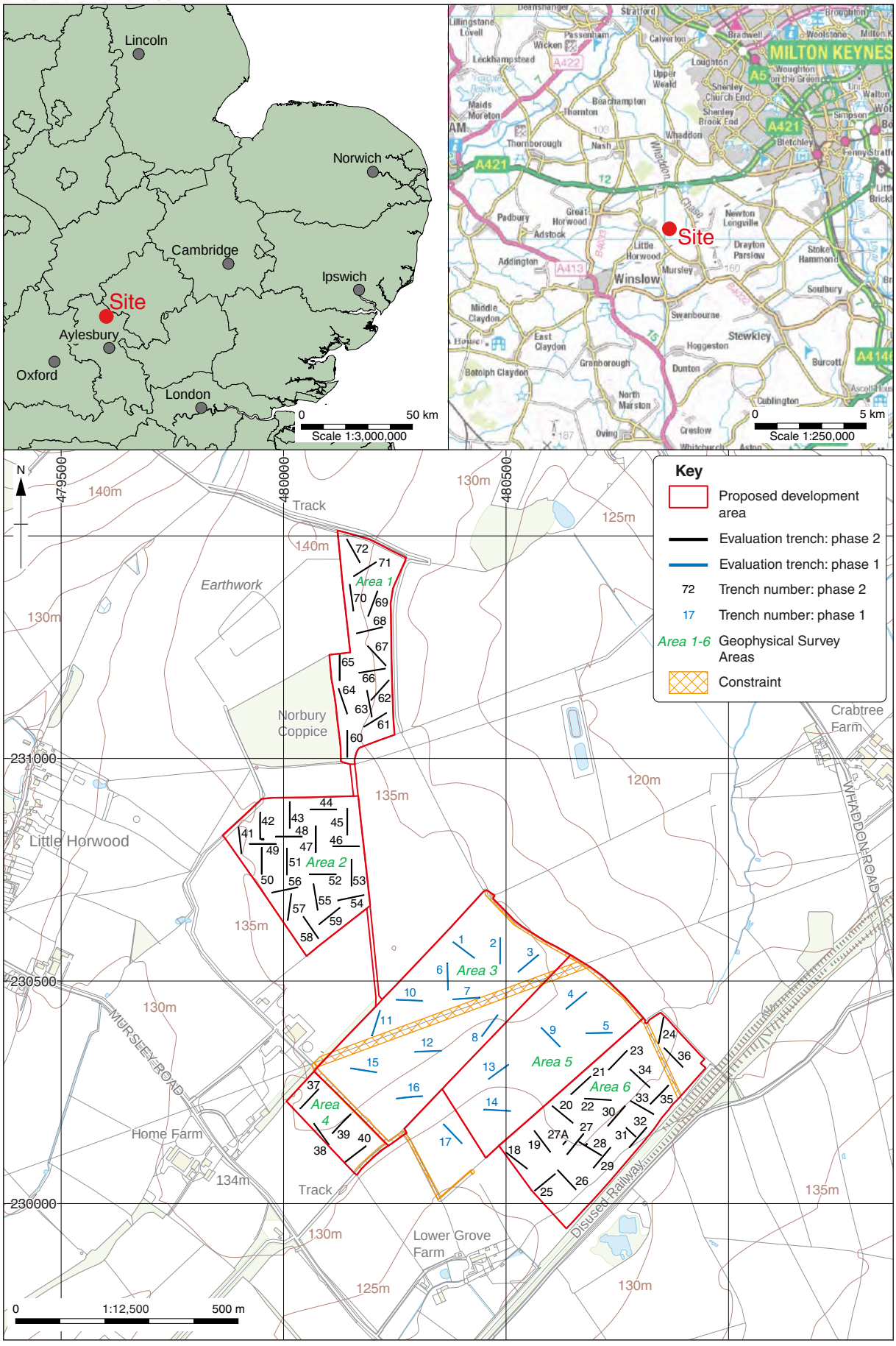

Figure 1: Site location

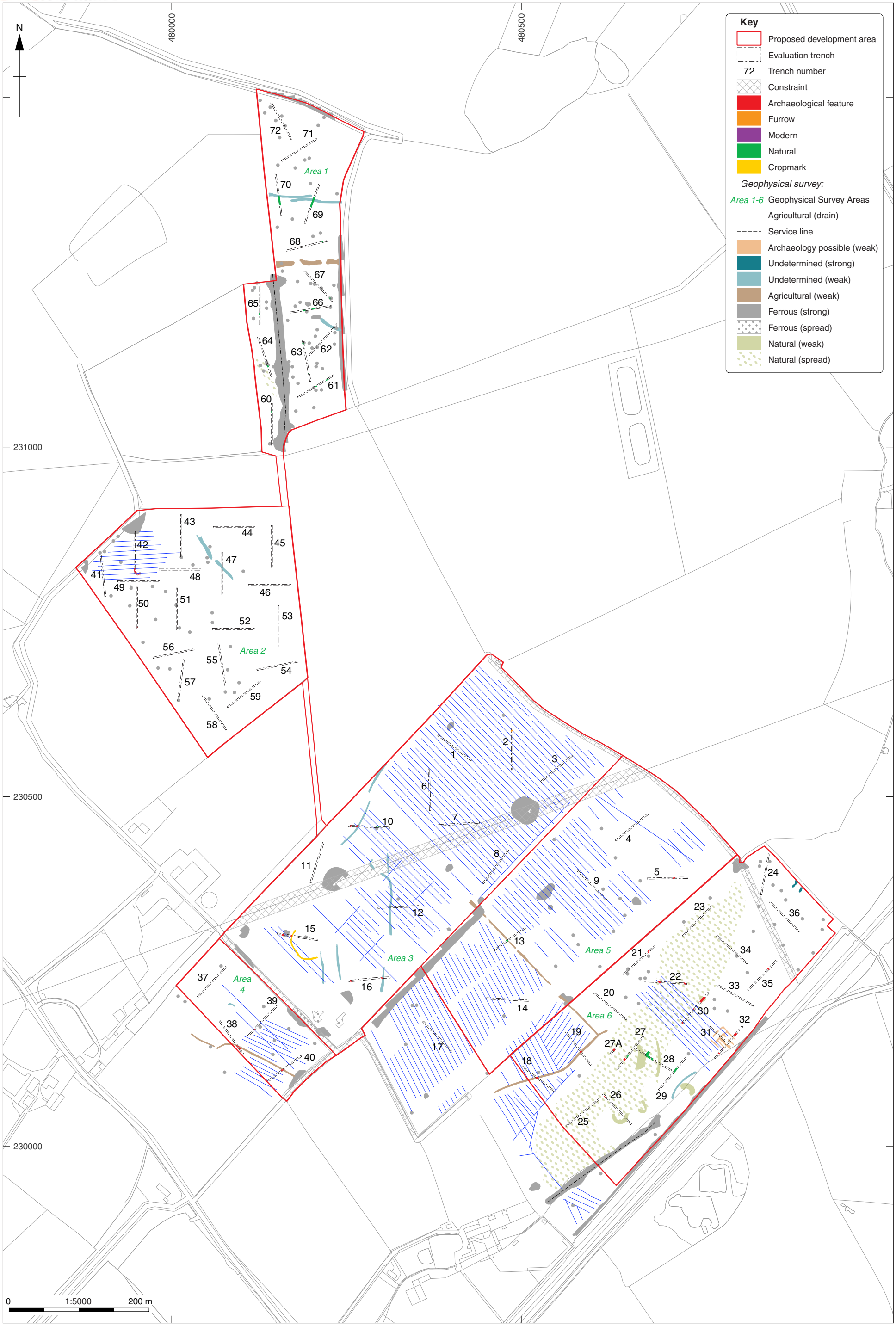

Figure 2: Overall site plan with geophysical survey results (Magnitude Surveys Ltd)

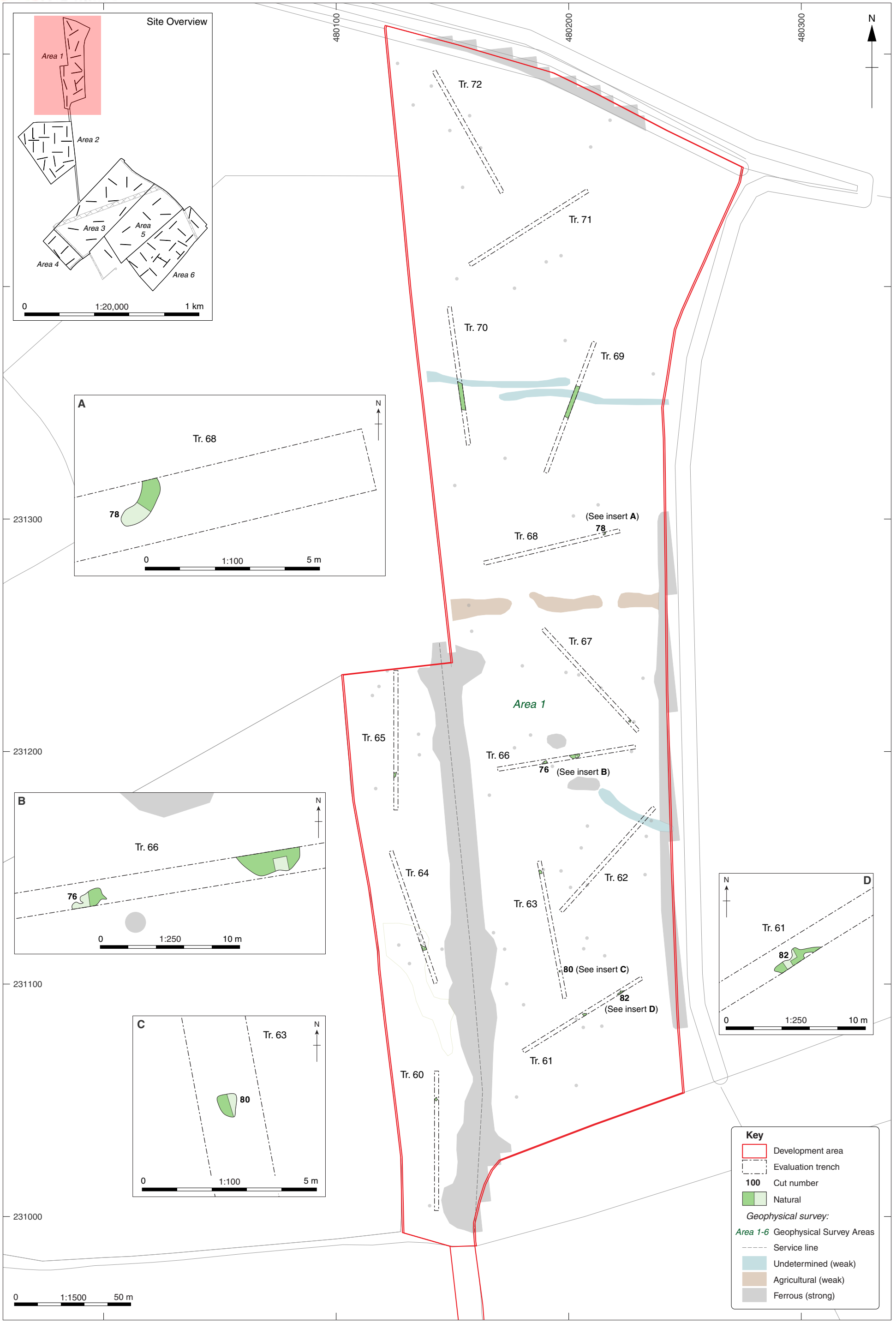

Figure 3: Area 1

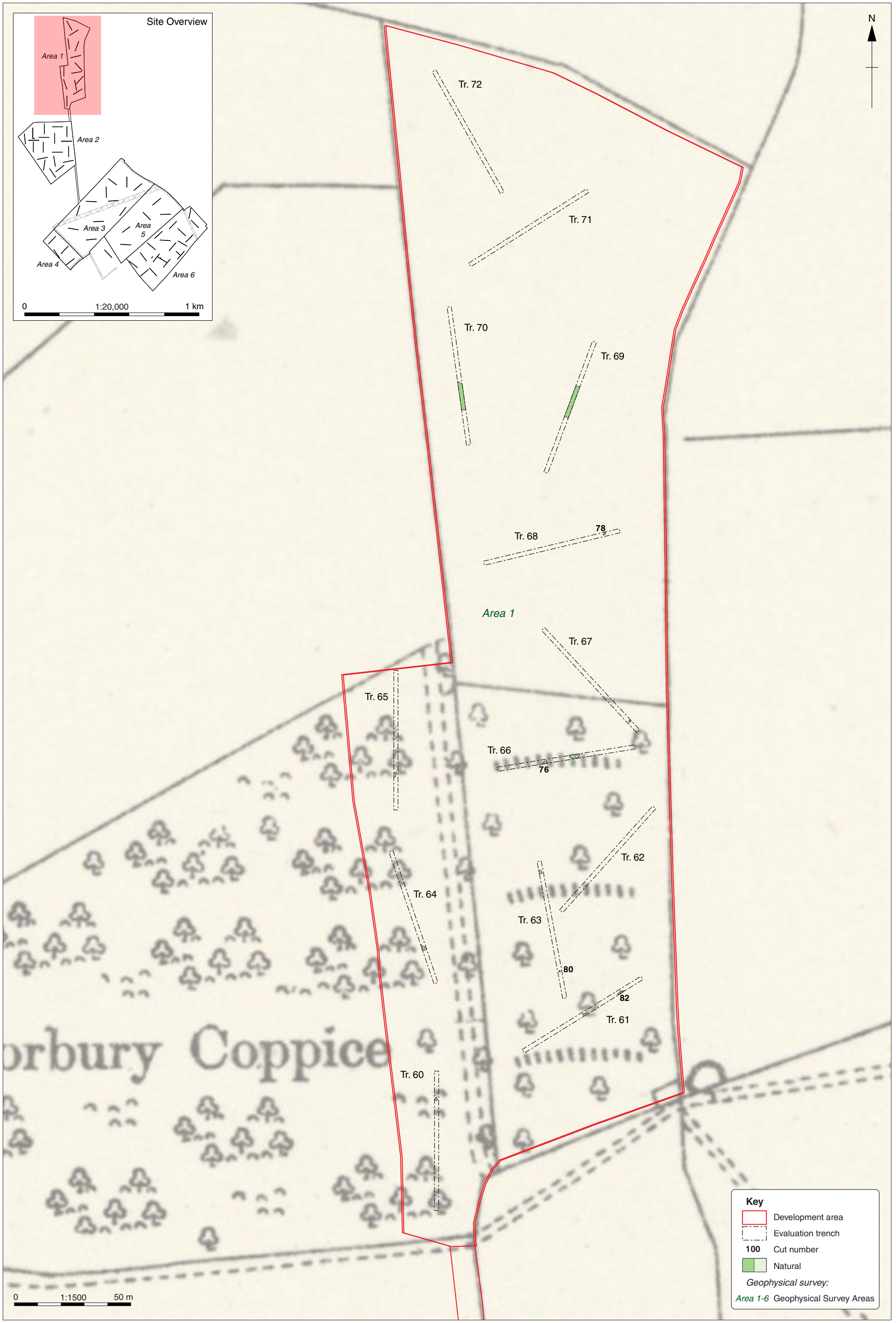

Figure 4: Area 1 overlain on Second Edition Ordnance Survey Map, 1900 (reproduced with the permission of the National Library of Scotland)

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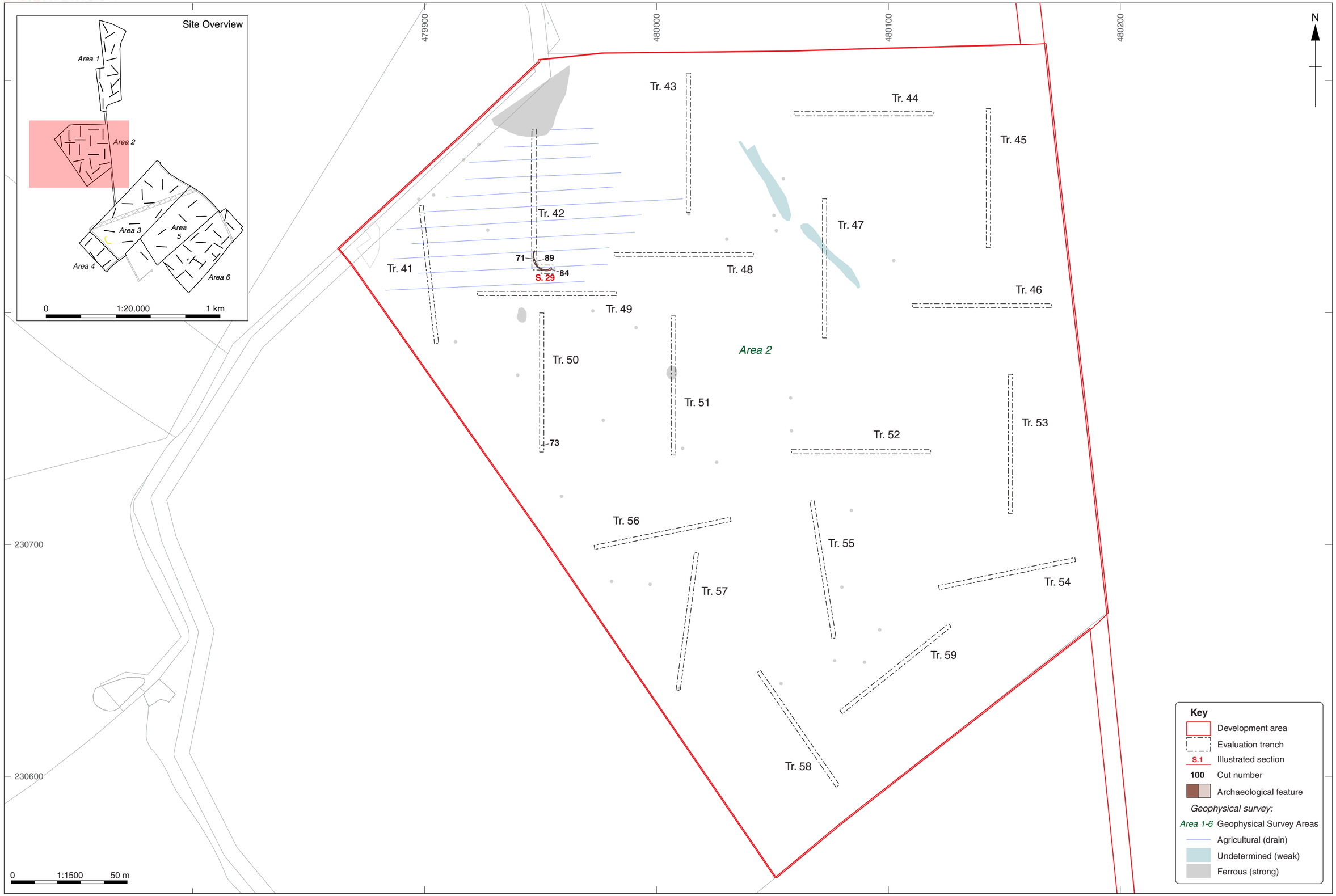

Figure 5: Area 2

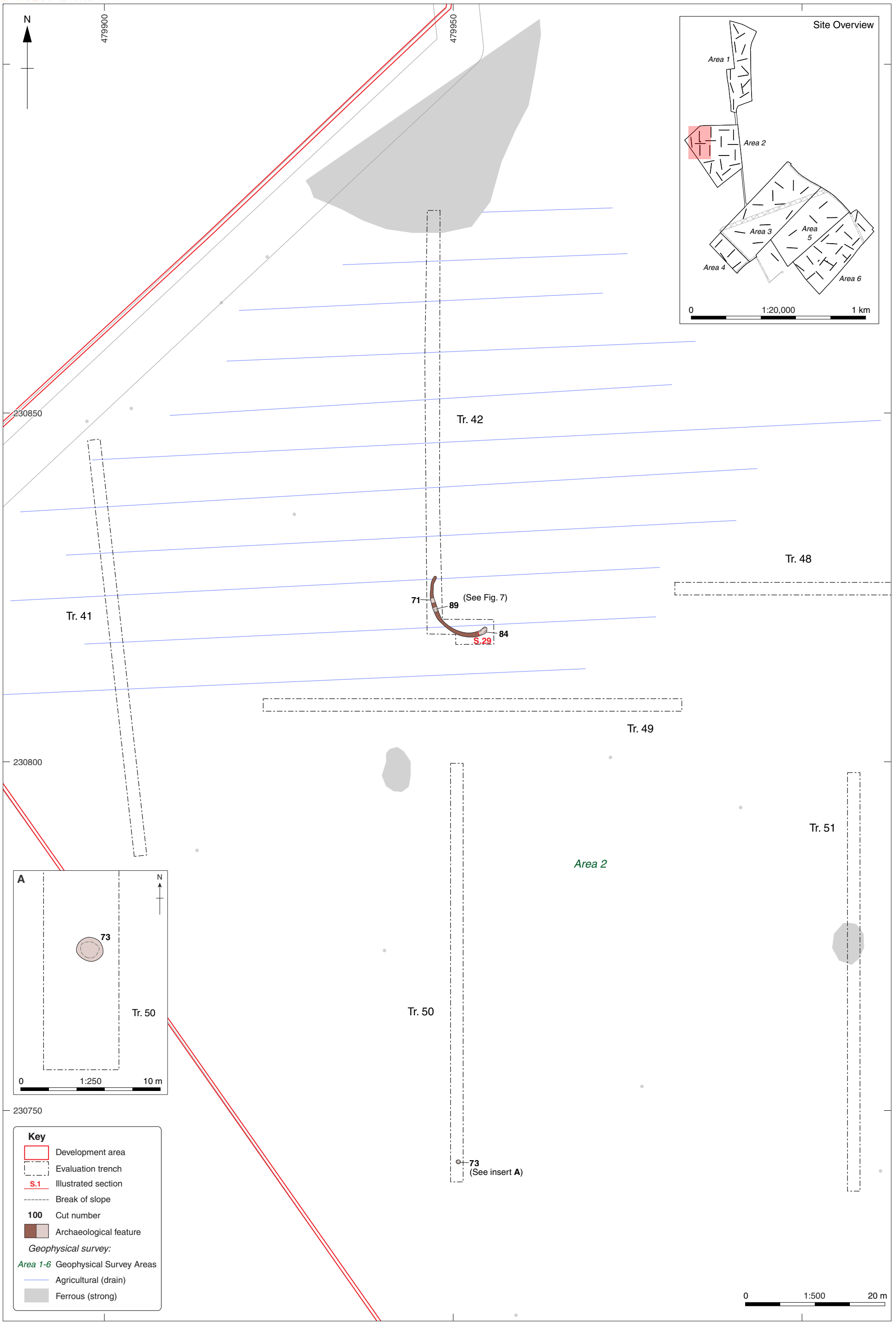

Figure 6: Area 2, detailed plan of Trenches 42 and 50

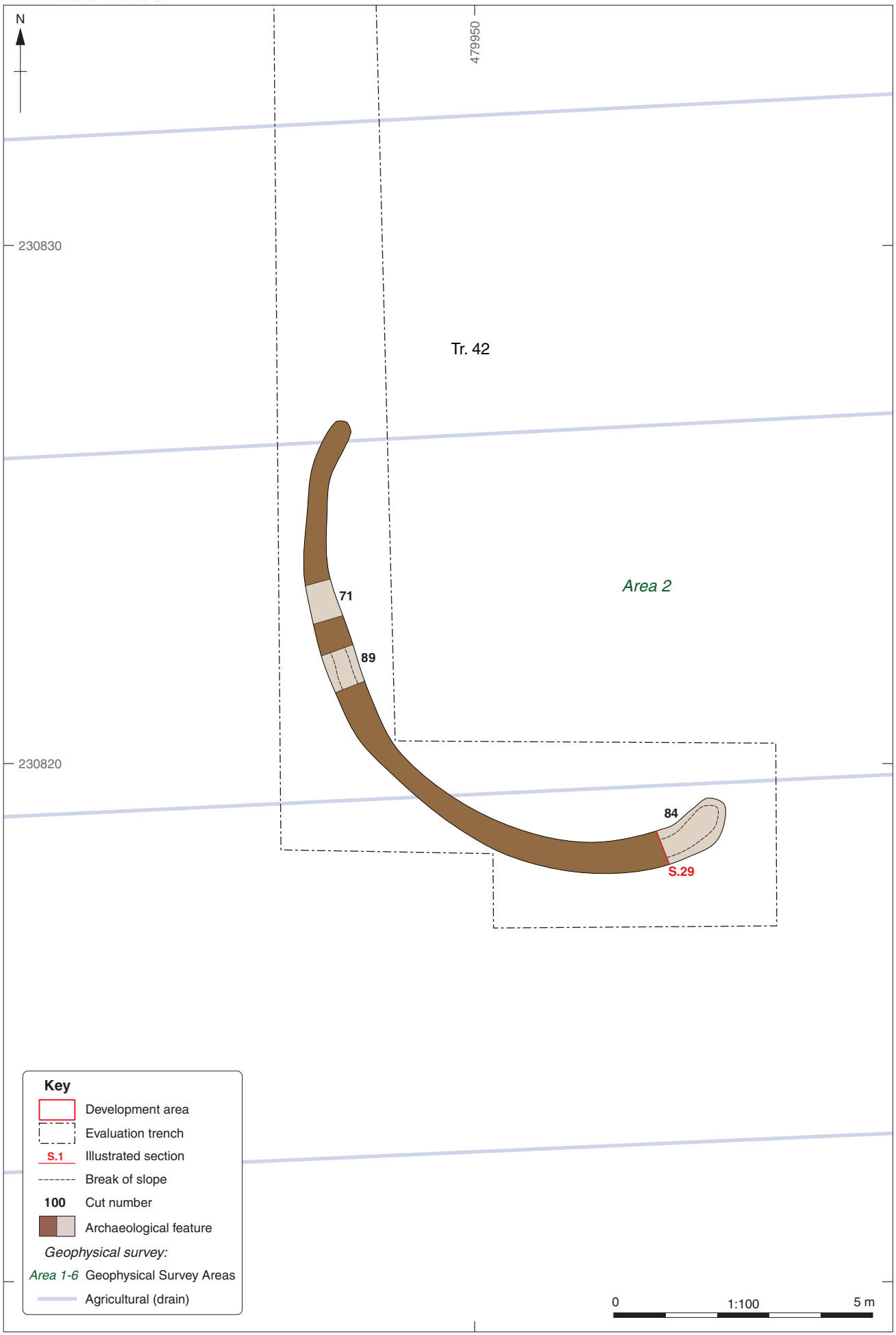

Figure 7: Area 2, Trench 42 detailed plan

Figure 8: Area 4

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Figure 9: Area 6

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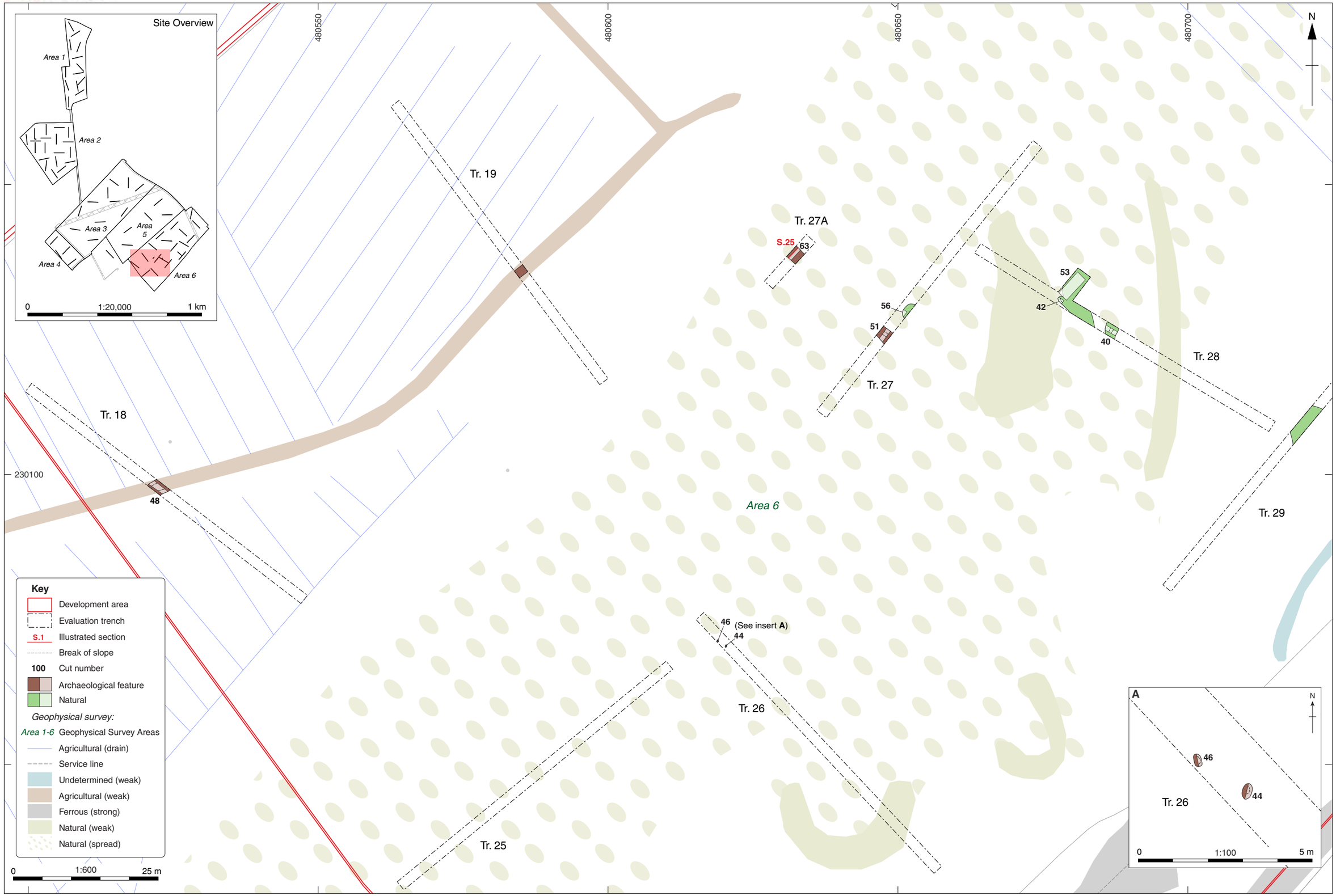

Figure 10: Area 6, detailed plan of Trenches 18-19 and 26-28

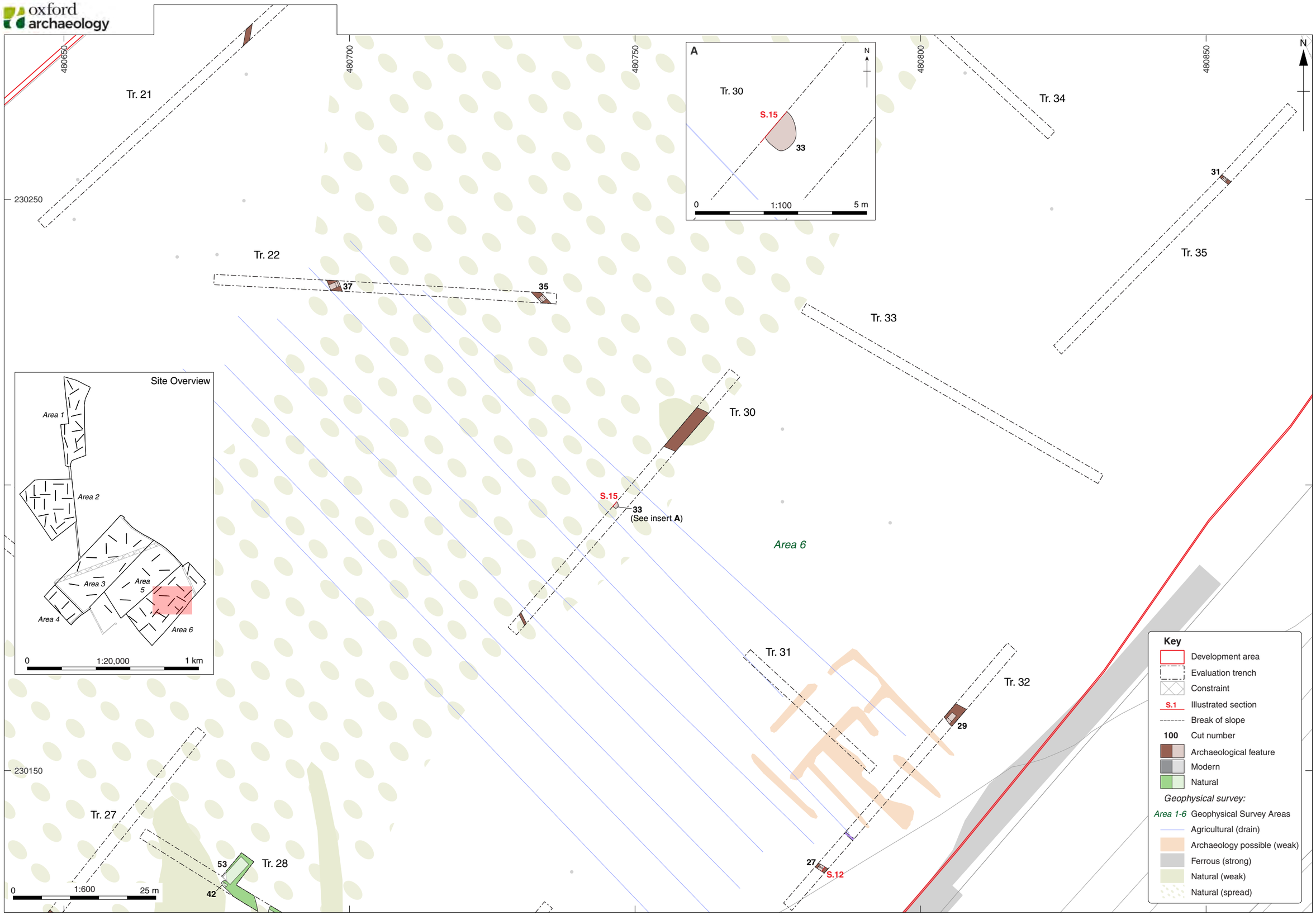

Figure 11: Area 6, detailed plan of Trenches 21-22, 30-32 and 35

Figure 12: Ordnance Survey drawing (1813) showing the boundary of Haddon Chase

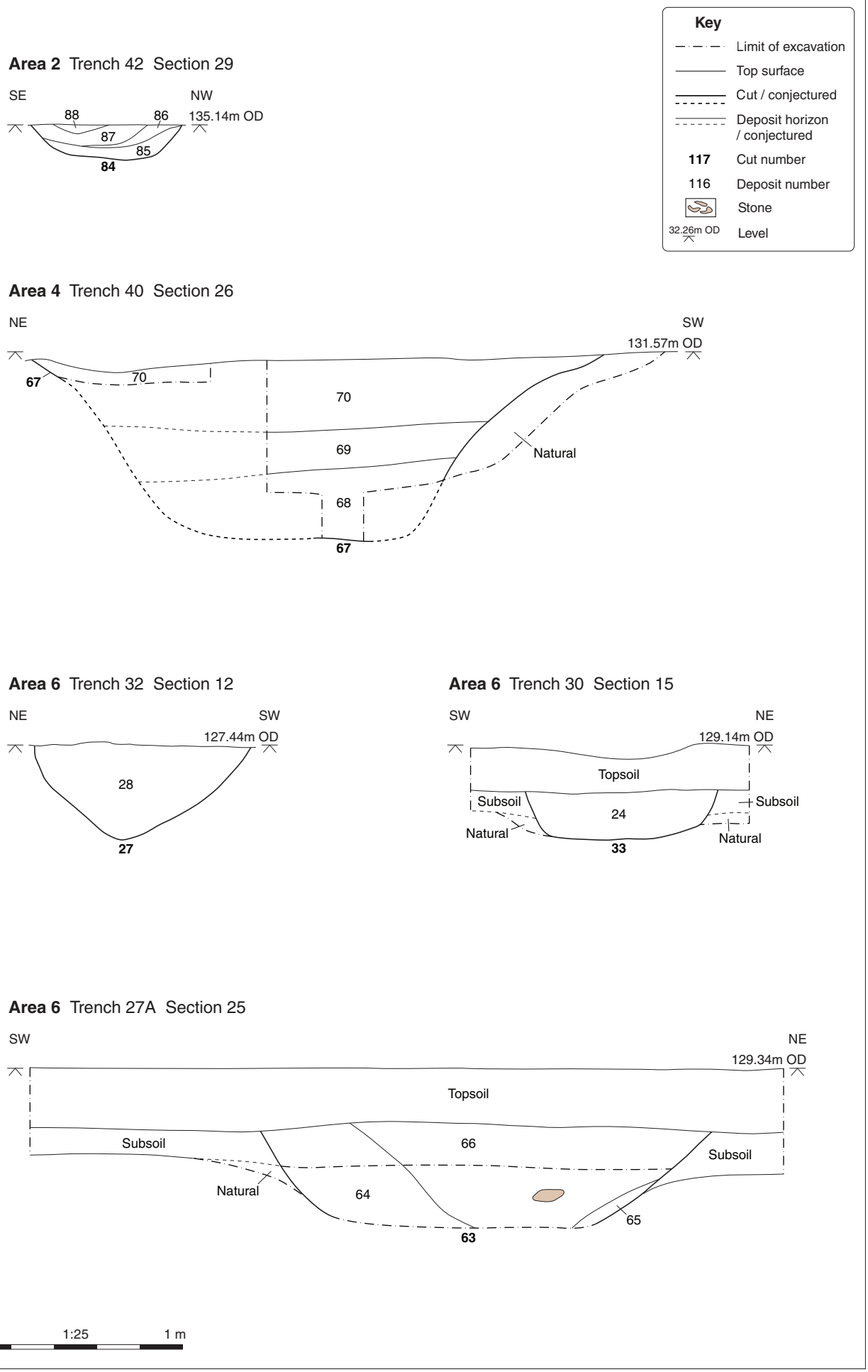

Figure 13: Selected sections

Plate 1: Area 1, Trench 72 (blank), looking north-west

Plate 2: Area 1, paleochannel crossing Trenches 69 and 70, looking south-east

Plate 3: Area 1, Trench 61, natural feature **82**, looking south-east

Plate 4: Area 2, Trench 46 (blank), looking east

Plate 5: Area 2, Trench 42, gully **71**, looking south-east

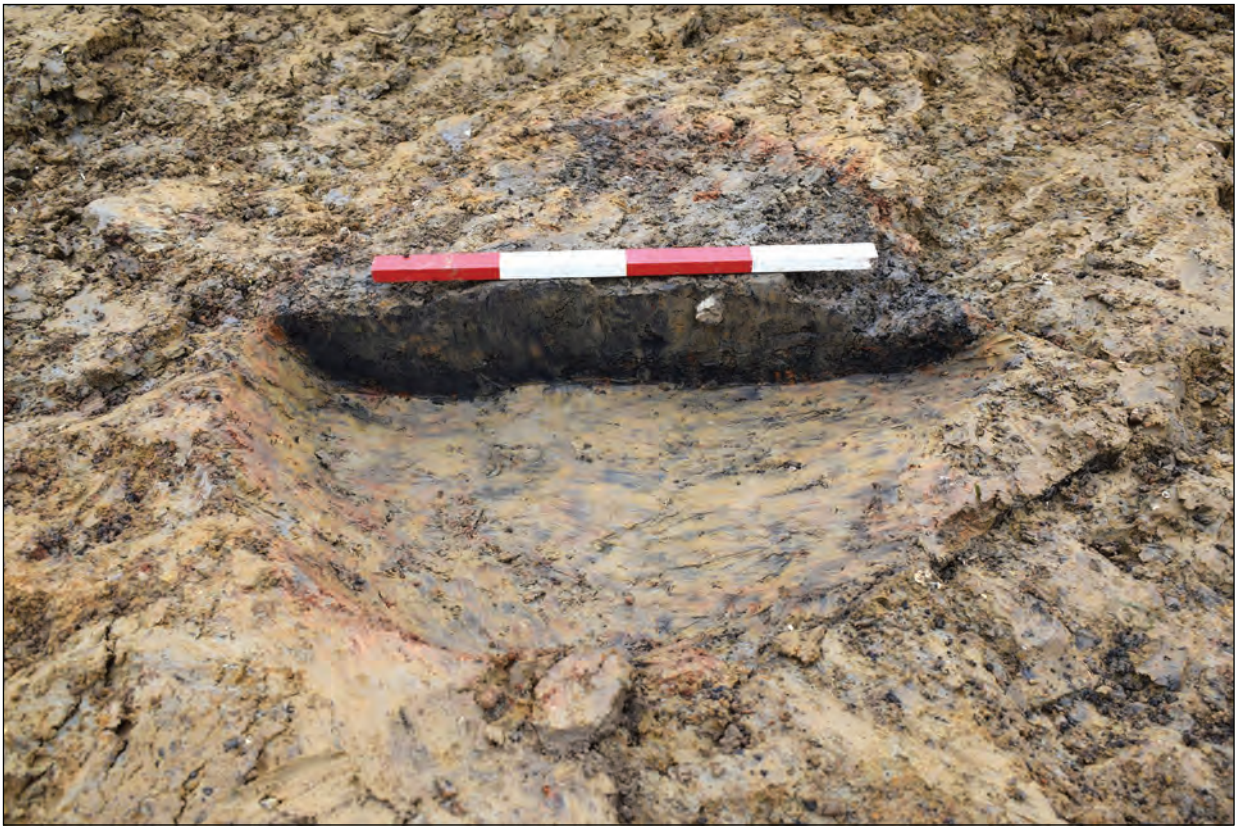

Plate 6: Area 2, Trench 50, pit **73**, looking west

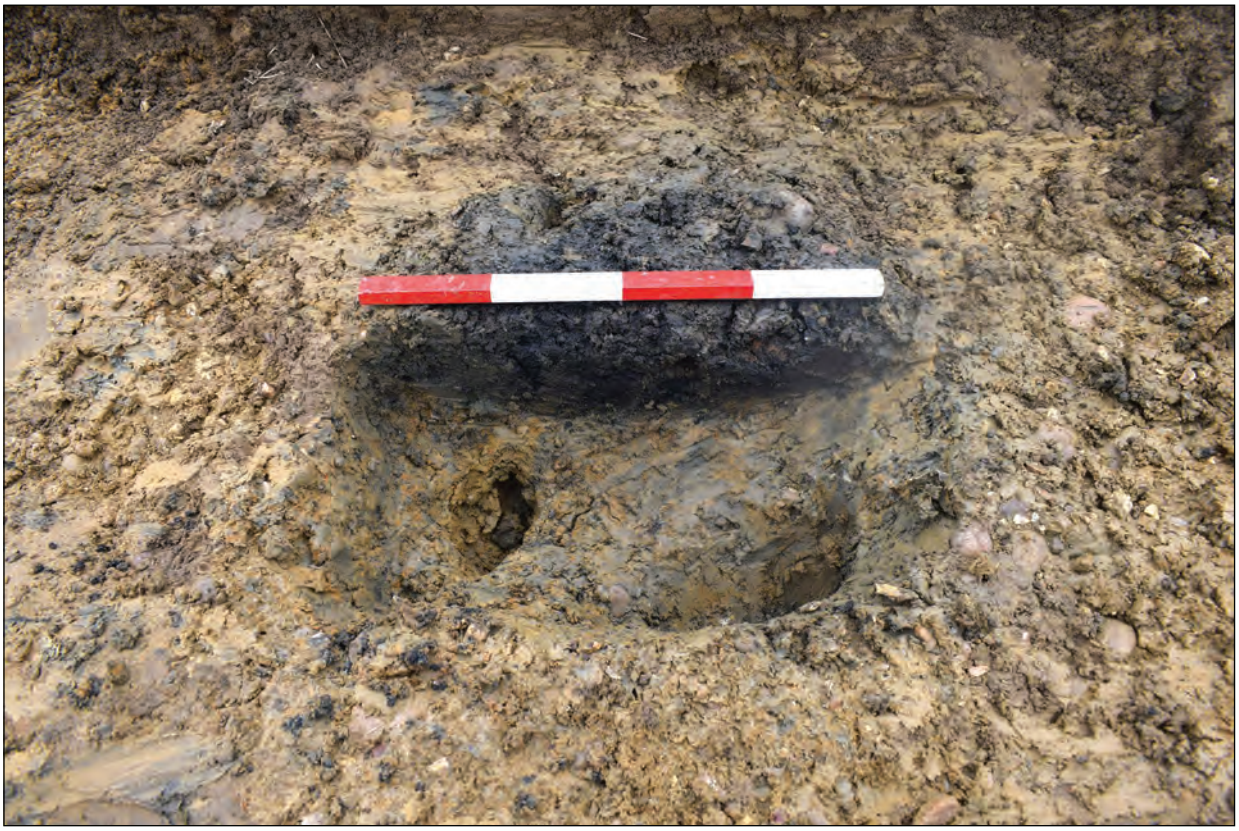

Plate 7: Area 4, Trench 39, pit **61**, looking south-east

Plate 8: Area 6, Trench 31 (blank), looking north-west

Plate 9: Area 6, Trench 26, postholes **44** and **46**, looking north-west

Plate 10: Area 6, Trench 28 extension, natural feature **53**, looking north-east

Plate 11: Area 6, Trench 30, looking north-east

Plate 12: Area 6, Trench 35, ditch **31**, looking south-east

Cambridge office

15 Trafalgar Way,
Bar Hill,
Cambridgeshire, CB23 8SQ

T: +44(0)1223 850500
E: info@oxfordarchaeology.com

Lancaster office

Mill 3,
Moor Lane,
Lancaster, LA1 1QD

T: +44(0)1524 541000
E: info@oxfordarchaeology.com

Oxford office

Janus House,
Osney Mead,
Oxford OX2 0ES

T: +44(0)1865 **980700**
E: info@oxfordarchaeology.com
W: http:\\oxfordarchaeology.com