

GDFS22



Land at Gibbet Fen, Donington, Lincolnshire

Archaeological Trial Trench Evaluation

PLANNING REF. DC/21/03781/STPLFE

Headland Archaeology Scotland
13 Jane St | Edinburgh EH6 5HE

for Clarke Construction Group
on behalf of Ian Pick Associates Ltd

Draft v.1.0
25/04/2022

PROJECT INFORMATION:

PROJECT NAME	Land at Gibbet Fen, Donington, Lincolnshire
TYPE OF WORK	ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRIAL TRENCH EVALUATION
PLANNING REF.	DC/21/03781/STPLFE
MUSEUM ACCESSION NO	LCNCC : 2022.56
CONSULTANT/AGENT	Ian Pick Associates Ltd
CLIENT	Clarke Construction Group Ltd
PROJECT CODE	GFDS22
NGR	TF 19296 35859
PARISH	Donington Parish
LOCAL AUTHORITY	Lincolnshire County Council
FIELDWORK DATES	29/03/2022 – 01/04/2022
OASIS REF.	headland1-506160
ARCHIVE REPOSITORY	Lincolnshire County Council Historic Environment Record

PROJECT TEAM:

PROJECT MANAGER	David Harrison
AUTHOR	Armi Utriainen
FIELDWORK	Armi Utriainen and Stephanie McCulloch
GRAPHICS	Click or tap here to enter text.
ENVIRONMENTAL	N/A
FINDS	N/A

PROJECT SUMMARY

Headland Archaeology (UK) Ltd was commissioned by Ian Pick Associates Ltd on behalf of Clarke Construction Group Ltd to undertake an archaeological evaluation at Land at Gibbet Fen, Donington, Lincolnshire, to support a planning application (DC/21/03781/STPLFE) for the construction of 6 No. poultry houses and associated infrastructure as well as the construction of 2 No. of agricultural workers dwellings.

The works comprised the excavation of 11 trial trenches. A single post-medieval drainage/boundary ditch was encountered. No finds were encountered. No further archaeological work is anticipated.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1.	<u>INTRODUCTION</u>	1
	1.1. SITE LOCATION AND DESCRIPTION	1
	1.2. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND	1
	1.3. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES	1
2.	<u>METHODOLOGY</u>	2
	2.1. SITE WORKS	2
	2.2. RECORDING	2
	2.3. REPORTING AND ARCHIVES	2
3.	<u>RESULTS</u>	2
	3.1. FEATURES	2
	3.2. STERILE TRENCHES	2
4.	<u>DISCUSSION</u>	2
5.	<u>REFERENCES</u>	3
6.	<u>APPENDICES</u>	4
	APPENDIX 1 SITE AND CONTEXT REGISTERS	4
	APPENDIX 2 OASIS ENTRY	9

LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS

Illus 1 Site Location

Illus 2 Archaeological Features In Trenches 04, 05 And 06

Illus 3 Slot In Trench 4 of Post-Medieval Ditch T04006

Land at Gibbet Fen, Donington, Lincolnshire

Archaeological Evaluation

1. INTRODUCTION

Headland Archaeology (UK) Ltd was commissioned by Ian Pick Associates Ltd on behalf of Clarke Construction Group Ltd to undertake an archaeological evaluation at Land at Gibbet Fen, Donington, Lincolnshire (NGR TF19296 35859) in support of a planning application (DC/21/03781/STPLFE) for the construction of 6 No. poultry houses and associated infrastructure as well as the construction of 2 No. of agricultural workers dwellings.

The work was undertaken in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation (Harrison 2022) which was submitted to and approved by Ian Marshman (Historic Environment Officer at Lincolnshire County Council) and conforms with current industry best practices and the National Planning Policy Framework (CfA 2020a & b, 2021 and 2021).

1.1. SITE LOCATION AND DESCRIPTION

The Application Boundary comprises a pentagonal-shaped parcel of land within the north-western end on an arable field on Gibbet Fen, 1km west of Donington village and centred at TF 1900 3592. It is bound to the north-east by a railway line between Sleaford and Spalding, to the north-west by the Hammond beck and by arable land and irrigation ditches on all other sides. The PDA connects to the A52 by existing farm

The bedrock geology comprises Oxford Clay Formation - Mudstone. This is overlain by Tidal Flat Deposits 1 - Clay And Silt (NERC 2022).

1.2. Archaeological background

The proposed development was located directly southwest of the construction of Triton Knoll and Viking Link, which have revealed evidence of Iron Age and Roman settlements some of which were previously unknown. Lincolnshire Environment Record (HER) entries of known remains consisted of cropmarks and an Iron Age/Roman beehive quern stone, discovered in the plough soil on the southern side of the railway, west of area of the evaluation area. Due to the discoveries at Viking Link there was a likelihood of previously unknown archaeological remains within the site boundary.

1.3. Aims and objectives

The main aim of the evaluation was to identify and assess the significance of any element of the historic environment that might have been affected by the proposal, including the affect on the setting of the heritage assets.

As detailed in the WSI document this was achieved by determining the nature, function and character of the site, in its cultural and environmental setting.

The specific information collection was focused on:

- The location, extent, nature and date of any archaeological features or deposits present.
- The integrity and state of preservation of any archaeological features or deposits present.

The archive that was compiled during the field work has been prepared in accordance to the Archaeological Archive Deposition Policy as detailed by Lincolnshire County Council's Lincolnshire Archaeological Handbook, 2019.

2. METHODOLOGY

All trenches were set-out using differential GPS. A cable avoidance tool (CAT Scanner) was used to scan trenches in advance of opening.

2.1. SITE WORKS

Works were conducted with a 360° tracked excavator equipped with toothless ditching bucket. All trenches were excavated by machine under direct archaeological supervision to remove topsoil deposits were excavated in controlled spits. Machine excavation terminated at the top of the natural geology or the first significant archaeological horizon, whichever was encountered first. Any further excavation required to satisfy the objectives of the evaluation was continued by hand. On completion of machine excavation, all faces of the trench that require examination or recording were cleaned using appropriate hand tools. The stratigraphic sequence was recorded in full in each of the trenches, even where no archaeological deposits were identified. All excavation by machine and hand was undertaken with a view to avoid damage to archaeological deposits or features which appear worthy of preservation in situ or more detailed investigation than for the purposes of evaluation.

2.2. RECORDING

All recording followed ClfA Standards and Guidance (2020a). All contexts, small finds and environmental samples were given unique numbers. All recording was undertaken on pro forma record cards.

A photographic record of all contexts was taken using digital photography; a graduated metric scale was clearly visible. The digital photographs will be submitted to the Archaeological Data Service (ADS) for long-term archive storage.

A site plan including all identified features, areas of excavation and other pertinent information was recorded digitally. The site plan was accurately linked to the National Grid and heights to OD. Where appropriate, sections and stratigraphic sequences were recorded digitally. Digital recording was undertaken using a differential GPS linked to a hand-held computer in order to allow data checking while in the field.

2.3. REPORTING AND ARCHIVES

The archive and report will be provided to the client and deposited to the Lincolnshire County Council

Heritage Environment Record in digital (PDF/CD format) for public access to the site discoveries.

3. RESULTS

Full context descriptions and trench descriptions are presented in the Appendices along with a full photographic register.

No significant archaeological remains were encountered during the evaluation. Eleven trenches were excavated, of which three contained the same post-medieval boundary ditch (Illus 2). Each trench measured 2m by 50m and the orientations of each trench and their detailed descriptions can be found in Appendix 1.1.

3.1. FEATURES

Trenches 4, 5, and 6, contained two large ditches running along the northeaster edge of the site they were excavated in Trench 4. Ditch [T04004] 4.32m in width and 0.97m in depth, with a U-shaped profile and slightly concave sides. The fill (T04003) consisted of soft dark greyish brown silty clay with frequent shell inclusions. Ditch [T04006] running north to south was much shallower measuring 3.80m in width and 0.57m in depth. The profile of the ditch is a U-shape with a flat base, straight sloping sides and a gradual break of slope. The fill of the ditch (T04005) consisted of soft mid-greyish brown silty clay with frequent mollusc and shell inclusions. Both of the ditches were likely infilled slowly over time and frequently contained enough water for the shell and molluscs.

These features were determined to be the same features that appeared in trenches 5 and 6 so were not investigated within these trenches

3.2. STERILE TRENCHES

Trenches 1, 2, 3, 7, 8, 9, 10, and 11 were all archaeologically sterile trenches. They all showed similar deposits of a topsoil at approximately 0.40m depth with little to no subsoil present, that were overlying the natural blueish grey clay. This was tested in Trench 1 with a sondage at the northern end, down to a depth of 0.75m.

4. DISCUSSION

No significant archaeological remains were encountered during the evaluation. The large ditch recorded in Trench 4 and present in Trenches 5 and 6 corresponds to a former boundary depicted on first edition OS mapping.

No further archaeological work is recommended.

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6. APPENDICES

APPENDIX 1 SITE AND CONTEXT REGISTERS

1.1 Trench register

Trench No	Width (m)	Length (m)	Trench Alignment	Min Depth (m)	Max Depth (m)	Archaeological Status
1	2	50	N-S	0.53	0.75	Archaeologically Sterile
2	2	50	N-S	0.37	0.42	Archaeologically Sterile. 1 land drain and mottled geological deposits
3	2	50	NW-SE	0.32	0.42	Archaeologically Sterile. 1 land drain
4	2	50	NE-SW	0.41	1.65	2 ditches. Drainage predating railway. Machine excavated.
5	2	50	E-W	0.45	0.53	2 ditches same as seen in trench 4
6	2	50	NE-SW	0.39	0.52	1 possible ditch same as [040004]. Modern land drain
7	2	50	N-S	0.52	0.63	Archaeologically Sterile. 3 land drains
8	2	50	E-W	0.45	0.49	Archaeologically Sterile. 1 flint land drain
9	2	50	NW-SE	0.43	0.59	Archaeologically Sterile
10	2	50	N-S	0.33	0.58	Archaeologically Sterile. 2 land drains
11	2	50	SW-NE	0.52	0.97	One possible ditch excavated and determined to be a natural deposit

1.2 Context register

Trench No	Context No	Type	Dimensions (m)	Description
1	1001	D	0.43	Topsoil, mid greyish brown, silty clay
1	1002	D	-	Natural, compact, mottled yellowish grey, clay
2	2001	D	0.29	Topsoil, mid greyish brown, silty clay
2	2002	D	0.13	Natural, mottled blueish grey yellow, clay
2	2003	D	-	Natural, compact, light greyish yellow, silty sand

3	3001	D	0.34	Topsoil, mid greyish brown, silty clay
3	3002	D	-	Natural, compact, mottled yellowish grey, clay
4	4001	D	0.28	Topsoil, mid greyish brown, silty clay
4	4002	D	-	Natural, compact, mottled yellowish grey, clay
4	4003	F	0.97	Soft, dark greyish brown, silty sand
4	4004	C	4.32m wide	Cut of large ditch with flattish base and curved sides running NW/SE
4	4005	F	0.57	Soft, mid greyish brown, silty sand. Containing molluscs
4	4006	C	3.8m wide	Cut of shallow ditch with flattish base and vertical sides and running NW/SE
5	5001	D	0.31	Topsoil, mid greyish brown, silty clay
5	5002	D	-	Natural, compact, mottled reddish brown and bluish grey, clay
6	6001	D	0.33	Topsoil, mid greyish brown, sandy silt
6	6002	D	-	Natural, compact, mottled yellowish brown and blueish grey, clay
7	7001	D	0.45	Topsoil, mid greyish brown, sandy silt
7	7002	D	-	Natural, compact, mottled yellowish brown and blueish grey, clay
8	8001	D	0.34	Topsoil, mid greyish brown, silty clay
8	8002	D	-	Natural, compact, mottled yellowish brown and blueish grey, clay
9	9001	D	0.34	Topsoil, mid greyish brown, silty clay
9	9002	D	-	Natural, compact, mottled yellowish brown and blueish grey, clay
10	10001	D	0.3	Topsoil, mid greyish brown, silty clay
10	10002	D	-	Natural, compact, mottled yellowish grey, clay
11	11001	D	0.42	Topsoil, mid greyish brown, silty clay
11	11002	D	0.11	Subsoil, mid greyish yellow, sandy clay
11	11003	D	-	Natural, compact, mid blueish grey, clay

1.3 Photographic register

Photo No	Context	Description	Direction
00001	T01	Trench 1 Overall shot	N
00002	T01	Trench 1 Overall shot	N
00003	T01	Trench 1 Overall shot	S
00004	T01	Trench 1 Overall shot	S
00005	T01	East facing rep sec	W
00006	T01	East facing rep sec	W
00007	T01	East facing rep sec	W
00008	T04	Trench 4 Overall shot	W

00009	T04	Trench 4 Overall shot	W
00010	T04	Trench 4 Overall shot	E
00011	T04	Trench 4 Overall shot	E
00012	40004	Eastern ditch in T4 040004	W
00013	T04	Old land drain in T4	P
00014	40006	Wester ditch in T4 040006	E
00015	T04	North facing rep sec	S
00016	T04	North facing rep sec	S
00017	T04	North facing rep sec	S
00018	T05	Trench 5 Overall shot	W
00019	T05	Trench 5 Overall shot	W
00020	T05	Eastern ditch in T5	W
00021	T05	Wester ditch in T5	E
00022	VOID	VOID	VOID
00023	T05	Land drain in T5	P
00024	T05	Land drain in T5	P
00025	T05	Modern land drain in T5 west end of trench	W
00026	T05	Trench 5 Overall shot	E
00027	T05	South facing rep sec	N
00028	T06	Trench 6 Overall shot	W
00029	T06	Trench 6 Overall shot	W
00030	T06	South facing rep sec	N
00031	T06	Eastern ditch in T6	W
00032	T06	Trench 6 Overall shot	E
00033	T07	Trench 7 Overall shot	E
00034	T07	Trench 7 Overall shot	E
00035	T07	North facing rep sec	S
00036	T07	North facing rep sec	S
00037	T07	Land drain in T7	P
00038	T07	Land drain in T7	P
00039	T07	Eastern land drain in T7	P
00040	T07	Trench 7 Overall shot	E
00041	T07	Trench 7 Overall shot	E
00042	T07	Flint stone land drain in T7	P

00043	T03	South west facing rep sec	SE
00044	T03	Trench 7 Overall shot	E
00045	T03	Trench 7 Overall shot	E
00046	T03	Trench 7 Overall shot	E
00047	T03	Trench 7 Overall shot	W
00048	T03	Trench 7 Overall shot	W
00049	T03	South western land drain :	P
00050	T03	Northern land drain	P
00051	T02	South facing rep sec	N
00052	T02	Trench 2 Overall shot	N
00053	T02	Trench 2 Overall shot	N
00054	T02	Possible feature/ geology S side	P
00055	T02	Land drain	P
00056	T02	Trench 2 Overall shot	S
00057	T02	Trench 2 Overall shot	S
00058	T08	North facing rep sec	S
00059	T08	Flint stone land drain in T8	P
00060	T10	West facing rep sec	N
00061	T10	Possible land drain	P
00062	T10	Land drain	P
00063	T10	Trench 10 Overall shot	N
00064	T10	Trench 10 Overall shot	N
00065	T10	Trench 10 Overall shot	N
00066	T09	East facing rep sec	W
00067	T09	Trench 09 Overall shot	SE
00068	T09	Trench 09 Overall shot	SE
00069	40004	East facing section of machine slot through ditch in trench 4	W
00070	40004	East facing section of machine slot through ditch in trench 4	W
00071	40004	East facing section of machine slot through ditch in trench 4	W
00072	40004	East facing section of machine slot through ditch in trench 4	W
00073	40004	East facing section of machine slot through ditch in trench 4	W
00074	T11	North facing rep sec	S
00075	T11	North facing rep sec	S
00076	T11	Trench 11 Overall shot	W

00077	T11	Trench 11 Overall shot	W
00078	T11	Trench 11 Overall shot	E
00079	T11	Sondage showing subsoil in west end of trench 11	NW
00080	T11	Sondage showing subsoil in west end of trench 11	NW
00081	40006	South east facing section of ditch in trench 4	NW
00082	40006	South east facing section of ditch in trench 4	NW
00083	40006	South east facing section of ditch in trench 4	NW
00084	40006	South east facing section of ditch in trench 4	NW
00085	T08	Trench 08 Overall shot	E
00086	T08	Trench 08 Overall shot	E
00087	T08	Trench 08 Overall shot	W
00088	T08	Trench 08 Overall shot	W
00089	T08	Trench 08 Overall shot	W
00090	T11	West facing section of geological feature	E
00091	T11	West facing section of geological feature	E
00092	T11	West facing section of geological feature	E

APPENDIX 2 OASIS ENTRY

Summary for headland1-506160

OASIS ID (UID)	headland1-506160
Project Name	Trial Trench at Land at Gibbet Fen, Donington
Sitename	
Activity type	Trial Trench
Project Identifier(s)	GFDS22
Planning Id	DC/21/03781/STPLFE
Reason For Investigation	Planning requirement
Organisation Responsible for work	Headland Archaeology (UK) Ltd
Project Dates	29-Mar-2022 - 01-Apr-2022
Location	Land at Gibbet Fen, Donington NGR : TF 19296 35859 LL : 52.9069306794306, -0.227623814486712 12 Fig : 519296,335859
Administrative Areas	Country : England County : Lincolnshire District : South Holland Parish : Donington
Project Methodology	Headland Archaeology (UK) Ltd was commissioned by Ian Pick Associates Ltd on behalf of Clarke Construction Group Ltd to undertake an archaeological evaluation at Land at Gibbet Fen, Donington, Lincolnshire, to support a planning application (DC/21/03781/STPLFE) for the construction of 6 No. poultry houses and associated infrastructure as well as the construction of 2 No. of agricultural workers dwellings. The works comprised the excavation of 11 trial trenches. A single post-medieval drainage/boundary ditch was encountered. No finds were encountered. No further archaeological work is anticipated
Project Results	A post-medieval boundary was discovered. No finds were recovered and no other features were present.
Keywords	
Funder	
HER	Lincolnshire HER - unRev - STANDARD
Person Responsible for work	Armi, Utrainen
HER Identifiers	
Archives	

LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS

ILLUS 1 SITE LOCATION

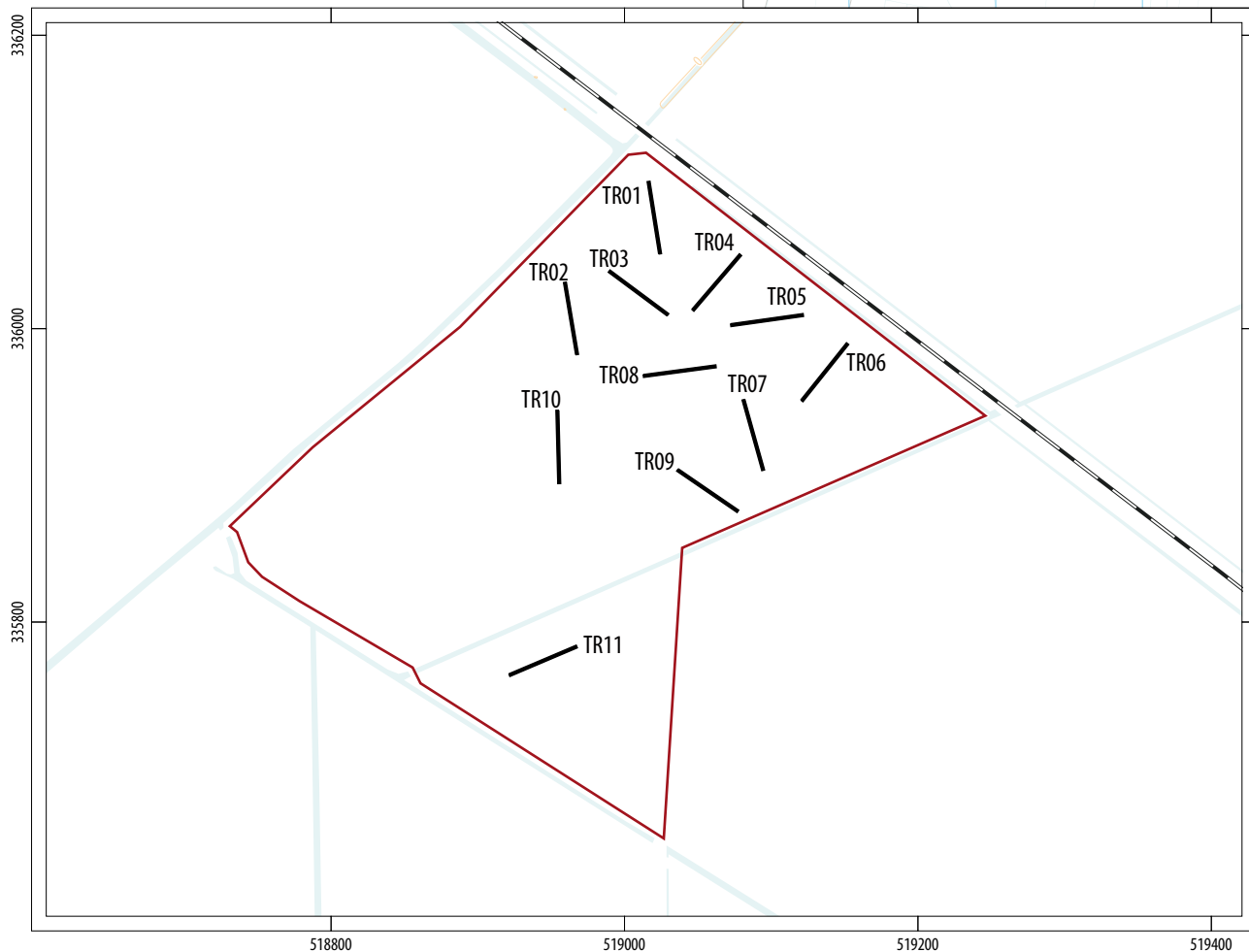
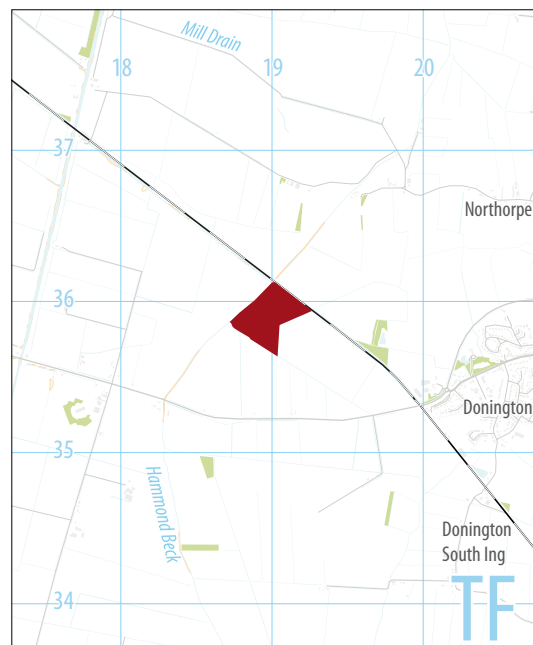
ILLUS 2 POST-MEDIEVAL BOUNDARY IN TRENCHES 4, 5 AND 6

ILLUS 3 SOUTH-EAST FACING SECTION THROUGH POST-MEDIEVAL DITCH IN TRENCH 4

Gibbet Fen
Donington
Spalding
Lincolnshire



0 200km
1:12,500,000 @ A4



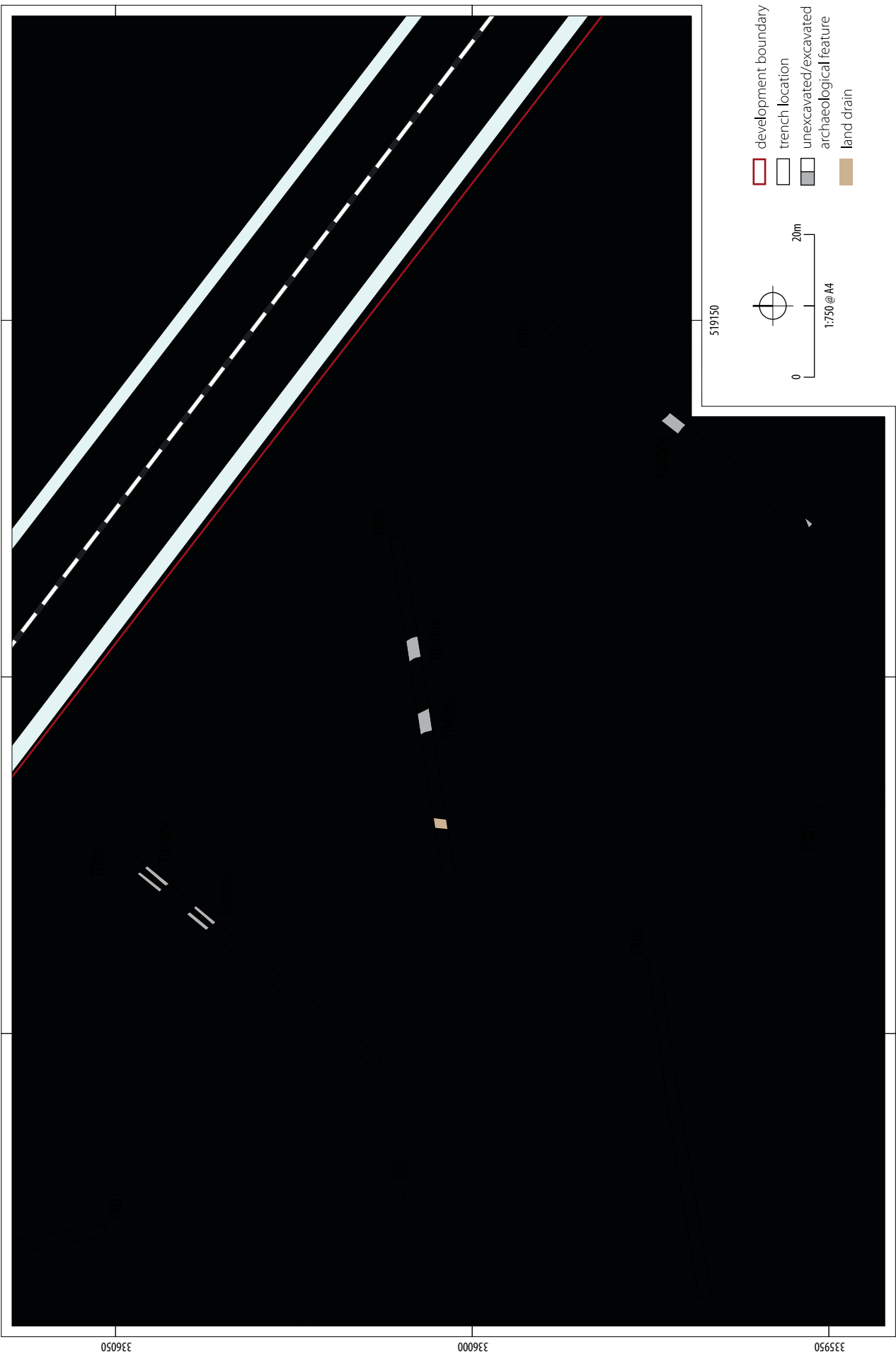
0 200m
1:5,000 @ A4

— development boundary
— trench location

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ILLUS 1 Site location



ILLUS 2 Post-medieval boundary in Trenches 4, 5 and 6



ILLUS 3 South-east facing section through post-medieval ditch in Trench 4