

Fendyke Solar Farm, Sutton St James, Lincolnshire

An Archaeological Evaluation



Alasdair Wright



CAMBRIDGE ARCHAEOLOGICAL UNIT

Archaeological Evaluation

**Fendyke Solar Farm, Sutton St James,
Lincolnshire**

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SUMMARY

Between 10th and 28th March 2025, the Cambridge Archaeological Unit carried out an archaeological evaluation ahead of the development of the proposed Fendyke Solar Farm, Sutton St James, Lincolnshire. The fieldwork comprised a programme of test pitting and trenching. Sixty test pits were excavated by machine to investigate the site's Fenland deposits and 55 trenches targeted the roddons (relict silt and sand-choked tidal channels) to assess potential archaeological remains.

The test pitting revealed up to 5m of the Terrington Beds, an intertidal deposit underlying the northern Fens consisting of blanket tidal silt with an extensive network of roddon channels. No earlier deposits of the Fenland sequence (e.g. Upper/Lower Peat, Fen clay) were encountered, presumably remaining buried at depth.

The only archaeological remains exposed in the trenching were ditches belonging to an extensive type of medieval/post-medieval field system known as Dylings, similar to ridge and furrow but unique to the silt lands of Lincolnshire and the drainage required in this low-lying landscape (Hallam 1965). These were constructed across the site in two distinct phases. Both phases featured grid-like land divisions, with fields sub-divided into long strips by regularly spaced drainage ditches. Dating evidence suggests that large parts of the field system remained in use until the late 19th century, and the overall field complex appears to be ancestral to the modern field boundary layout. No earlier archaeology was encountered.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The evaluation was commission by Hayley Goacher of Orion Heritage Ltd on behalf of their client Enray Power Ltd. Thanks to Stuart Hammond from Enray for his help and organisation during the project. The landowner was Jim Baylock, and we are grateful for their help during fieldwork.

The Written Brief was prepared by Ruben Lopez Catalan of Lincolnshire Historic Places Team (LHPT), who also monitored the work on site. The CAU is grateful for their advice and interest throughout the project.

The Project Manager was David Gibson, and site work was overseen by Alasdair Wright and Len Middleton. Project administration and logistics was provided by Samantha Smith, Claudia Miranda Rodrigues and Fabrizio Canu. The field team was made up of Emily Norton, Andrea Frasca and Sam Winstanley. Survey was carried out by Jordan Paddison, Jane Mathews and Jon Moller. Graphics were prepared Charlotte Walton. Plant was provided by Lattenbury Services Ltd. Finally, thanks to Francis Pryor and Maisie Taylor who visited the site and informed us about the Dylings field system of Lincolnshire.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project background

1.1.1 The site is located approximately 1.2 km west of the village of Sutton St James in the Lincolnshire Fens (Fig. 1) and covers an area of 44.4 hectares. The proposed development area (PDA) consists of four large fields, bounded by Inley Drove to the northwest, Thistlewood Farm to the northeast, Inley Farm and Barling Deer Farm to the southwest, and Oaklands on Broadgate Drove to the southwest. Bardlings Drove runs through the southern half of the PDA. The site lies within an arable landscape, with fields under light crop separated by drainage ditches. Tree cover is sparse, limited to a small coppice surrounding Inlay Farm and ditch-line borders.

1.1.2 The client, Enray Power Ltd, proposes to develop the land for a solar farm and battery energy storage system, with supporting cabling, infrastructure, vehicular access, and landscaping. A planning condition imposed by the Lincolnshire Historic Places Team (LHPT) required an archaeological evaluation of the site. A Written Brief, via email discussion, outlining the archaeological requirements was issued by Ruben Lopez Catalan of LHPT.

1.1.3 The archaeological evaluation was conducted in accordance with an approved Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) prepared by the Cambridge Archaeological Unit (Wiseman 2025) and approved by LHPT. The fieldwork included a programme of test pitting and trenching, with 60 mechanically excavated test pits investigating the site's sequence of Fenland deposits and 55 trenches targeting the surface of the roddons to assess any archaeological remains associated with these features.

1.2 Geology and topography

1.2.1 The bedrock comprises the West Walton Formation (Jurassic Mudstone), overlain by a 10–20m sequence of Holocene Fenland deposits (see Waller 1994). In the local area, these deposits predominantly consist of the Terrington Beds (intertidal silt and roddon channels), with Upper Peat (Nordelph Peat), Fen Clay (Barrow Way Drove Beds), and Lower Peat buried at greater depths (British Geological Survey website, <http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html>; accessed 31-03-25). These deposits were further examined as part of the current fieldwork programme (see Results, below).

1.2.2 The surrounding Fenland landscape is characteristically flat, at approximately 1m AOD, with minor undulations (<0.5m) corresponding to roddons in the underlying tidal deposits (Fig. 2).

2. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 Previous investigations in the PDA

- 2.1.1 Previous investigations included a geophysical survey conducted across the entire PDA (Galagher and Dyulgerski 2023; Fig. 3 and 4). The survey identified several roddons, some of which were substantial and meandered across the site. Additionally, a small number of linear features, likely associated with historic or recent agricultural activity, were recorded. No other archaeological features were identified.

2.2 Archaeology in the wider area

- 2.2.1 This section summarises findings of a desk-based assessment prepared for the PDA (Willis 2023).
- 2.2.2 No prehistoric archaeology has been recorded in the wider area. Given that the Terrington Beds underlying the site ceased forming around the Roman period (Waller 1994), any prehistoric archaeology is likely to be deeply buried. Consequently, any archaeological remains present on the surface of these deposits are likely to date to the Roman period or later.
- 2.2.3 Several Roman settlements and field systems have been identified nearby. These include pottery scatters and cropmarks located 285m northwest (MLI22253) and 550m northwest (MLI22249, MLI20449), as well as cropmarks of a possible Roman field system 1.2km northwest (MLI22252). Additionally, an area containing rectilinear enclosures, field systems, droveways, and watercourses is recorded approximately 1km to the west (MLI20446). To the southwest, several well-preserved Roman sites with upstanding earthworks are now protected as scheduled monuments, the nearest being 3km away (ML1004982, Romano-British settlement south of Shell Bridge). Evidence of Roman salt production has also been widely documented, particularly in association with major roddon features to the south of the site (Lane 2018).
- 2.2.4 There is no recorded evidence of Anglo-Saxon or early medieval remains within 1km of the PDA. Sutton St James is absent from the Domesday Book of 1086, while Long Sutton was recorded as unpopulated. Likewise, medieval finds and sites within 1km of the PDA are scarce, limited to a medieval boundary cross at Old Fendyke and Broadgate Road (NHLE 1010672), now a scheduled monument. Medieval field systems, known locally as Dylings, have been recorded in the general area (Hallam 1965). Similar to ridge and furrow in terms of their allotment – comprising large blocks of land subdivided into long, linear strips – Dylings differ in that they were primarily constructed for drainage in the low-lying silt landscapes of the Lincolnshire Fens. This type of farming continued well into the post-medieval period. Significant drainage for farming occurred in the post-medieval period, particularly from the 17th century onwards. The Lincolnshire HER does not record any post-medieval or modern finds or features within the PDA, although several farmsteads, some now demolished, are present in the surrounding area.

3. ORIGINAL RESEARCH THEMES, OBJECTIVES AND QUESTIONS

- 3.1.1 As set out in the WSI (Wiseman 2025) the evaluation investigated a sample of areas and features to determine the location, geoarchaeological context, extent, date, character, condition, significance and quality of any surviving archaeological remains potentially affected by the proposed development.
- 3.1.2 In particular, the trenching assessed anomalies identified in the geophysical survey.
- 3.1.3 The results of this evaluation will be used by LHPT to:
- assess the significance of the archaeological resources, and
 - define the nature and extent of any mitigation works which may be required.
- 3.1.4 This evaluation report provides sufficient information for an archaeological contractor to accurately plan and cost any future mitigation which may be required.
- 3.1.5 The results of the evaluation, both positive and negative, will contribute to the East Midlands Historic Environment Research Framework (2021, <https://researchframeworks.org/emherf/>). Considering the local archaeological setting (see above), two specific research objectives are particularly relevant:
- Research Objective 5H: Investigate the landscape context of (Roman) rural settlement
 - Research Objective 8E: Identify agricultural improvement of the 16th to 18th centuries

4. EVALUATION METHODOLOGY

- 4.1.1 The archaeological work was carried out in accordance with the Written Scheme of Investigation (Wiseman 2025) approved by LHPT prior to commencement of works. The excavation was undertaken in accordance with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' *Code of Conduct* (2014, updated 2020) and *Standard for Archaeological Field Evaluation* (CIfA 2023) and the *Universal Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation* (CIfA 2023).
- 4.1.2 Fieldwork was conducted between 10th and 28th March 2025. It consisted of a programme of test pitting and trenching, excavated with a 360 excavator. A total of 60 test pits, each measuring 2 × 2m, were mechanically excavated across five site-wide transects (Fig. 4). These were dug to the full reach of the machine arm or until the deposits became unstable (typically between 3–5m deep). The primary focus of the test pitting was geoarchaeological, aimed to investigate and model the site's underlying Fenland deposits, while also assessing the potential for deeply buried archaeology.
- 4.1.3 A total of 55 trenches were excavated, amounting to 3725m of trenching in total. These were primarily targeted on the roddons and were excavated to the surface of the channel sediments. The trenches covered just over a 3% sample of these features.
- 4.1.4 All machine excavation was carried out under direct archaeological supervision, using a tracked 360° excavator fitted with a 2.1m trenching bucket. Topsoil and subsoil from trenches were removed in spits down to the surface level of undisturbed natural geological deposits (in this case, the Terrington Beds), allowing for the identification and recording of any archaeological features.
- 4.1.5 Due to the post-medieval/modern date of the linear features reveal on site, only one feature was investigated per trench. Of these, 75% were excavated mechanically, while the remaining 25% were hand-excavated (1m slot) to facilitate finds recovery. This sampling strategy was established and agreed on site with Ruben Lopez Catalan of LHPT.
- 4.1.6 Metal-detecting was carried out during the topsoil and subsoil stripping and throughout the excavation process. Archaeological features and spoil heaps were scanned by metal-detector.
- 4.1.7 Archaeological features and deposits were surveyed by GPS and recorded using the CAU recording system and pro-forma sheets.
- 4.1.8 Photographs were taken of all features using a high resolution digital camera and sections were hand-drawn at an appropriate scale (either 1:10 or 1:20).

5. PROJECT ARCHIVE

5.1 Evaluation Records

- 5.1.1 All site records have been collated, and key data entered into an excel spreadsheet. Hand-drawn plans and sections have been scanned and stored in the digital archive. The number of records is shown in Table 5.1.

Record Type	Number
Contexts	39
Features	39
Context register sheets	2
Context Sheets	39
Feature register sheets	2
Trench Sheets	55
Test Pit Sheets	60
Section register sheets	1
Large drawing sheets (A0, A1 and A2)	1

Table 5.1: Quantification of excavation archive

5.2 Finds and Environmental material

- 5.2.1 Finds have been washed and dried, counted and weighed, bagged and labelled and placed in archive boxes. A spreadsheet of all finds and quantities has been created.
- 5.2.2 The assemblage comprises two sherds of pottery, weighing 5g, and 15 fragments of post-medieval CBM that was discarded on-site.

5.3 Digital archive

- 5.3.1 Upon completion of the project the digital archive will be deposited with the University of Cambridge Apollo repository. This holds full CoreTrustSeal certification and is publicly accessible.

Resources	Format
Project Design (the project budget will be redacted)	.pdfa
Final project report (both .pdf and .doc)	.pdfa, .doc
CAD/survey files	.dwg, .dxf, .shp
Site registers (database or spreadsheet)	.xls, .csv, .accdb
Context sheets (database)	.xls, .csv, .accdb
Finds registers (database or spreadsheet)	.xls, .csv, .accdb
Scans of site plans and section drawings	.tiff
Specialist databases, spreadsheets, diagrams	.xls, .csv, .accdb
Selected site photographs (estimated 110 files)	.tiff, .raw

Table 5.2: Summary of digital archive

6. EVALUATION RESULTS

- 6.1.1 The fieldwork comprised a programme of test pitting and trenching. The test pits were excavated to investigate the site's Holocene Fenland sediments. The trenches targeted potential archaeological features on the surface of these deposits, particularly the roddons. Features identified in the trenching consisted of ditches belonging to a medieval/post-medieval field system.

6.2 Test pitting: geoarchaeological investigations

- 6.2.1 The test pits were excavated by machine to depths of 3–5m. The sediments recorded in the test pits (see Appendix 2, below) can be grouped into two broad deposit types: blanket tidal silts and roddon sediments (Figures 5 and 6). Both are parts of Terrington Beds: a tidal-flat deposit covering large parts of the northern Fens (see Waller 1994). Earlier deposits of the Fenland sequence (e.g., Upper/Lower Peat and Fen Clay) were not encountered and are presumed to remain buried at greater depths.

Blanket tidal silt

- 6.2.2 The blanket silt consisted of a thick orange-brown silty clay, which became unoxidized (blue-grey in colour) below depths of 1.6–1.8m. This deposit was remarkably uniform across the site, except for occasional thin organic beds (0.2–0.3m thick) recorded in Test Pits 2, 3, 16, 17, 20–22, 36–7, 49 and 51 (Fig. 6). These perhaps represent discrete temporary lagoons. Marine shells/shell fragments were also present in several test pits (TP25, 45 and 46), sometimes occurring in thin horizons.

Roddon sediments

- 6.2.3 As shown in Figures 2, 3, and 4, the site and the wider area are underlain by numerous roddon channels. These vary considerably in size, from 75m wide to small dendric channels 1–2m across. These channels contain a complex sequence of fills that vary with channel size. Larger roddon channels were typically infilled with finely bedded orange-brown sand, although other deposits were also recorded, including sand interbedded with thin layers of silt, organic silt, and homogeneous pale blue silt/silty clay, which tended to form capping fills. Such deposits were encountered in Test Pit 52 (Fig. 5 and 6) and in a section partially cut through the roddon in Trench 43 (Fig. 6). Silt or sandy silt was the dominant sediment type within the smaller channels. This type of deposit was sometimes difficult to distinguish from the surrounding Terrington Beds. However, based on their exposure in the trenches, the minor channels appeared far more numerous than suggested by geophysical survey results.

6.3 Trenching: archaeological features

- 6.3.1 In total, 79 linear features were exposed in the trenches (Fig. 7–13), all of which formed part of a medieval/post-medieval field system complex known locally as 'Dylings' (discussed in Archaeological Background, above, and Discussion, below).
- 6.3.2 A small number of these ditches (F.5 in Trenches 7 and 8, F.21 in Trench 38, and unexcavated ditches in Trenches 44 and 55) were identified in the geophysical survey (Fig. 4). However, the majority of those found in the trenching had failed to produce a strong magnetic response detectable in the geophysical survey.
- 6.3.3 A total of 37 ditches were excavated – one per trench – following the sampling strategy agreed on-site with LHPT (see Methodology, above). Of these, nine were hand-excavated for finds

recovery, while 28 were machine-excavated. The field system could be divided into two distinct phases, as shown in Figure 13. Phase 1 was stratigraphically earlier than Phase 2, indicated where the two overlapped in Trench 39.

Medieval/post-medieval field system: Phase 1

- 6.3.4 Fifteen linear features were assigned to Phase 1, of which six were excavated (shown in Fig. 13; summarised in Table 6.1). These formed the surviving elements of a grid-like field system aligned north–south/east–west. The shallow ditches had been heavily truncated or largely removed by modern ploughing, though they survived best in the north-eastern part of the site. In Trenches 36 and 42, regularly spaced parallel ditches were exposed, likely representing agricultural strips within the field system in this area.

Phase	Feature	Feature Type	Trench	Shape	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Find
Phase 1	8	Ditch	21a	Linear	1.30	0.15	
	10	Ditch	25	Linear	1.10	0.10	
	15	Ditch	36	Linear	1.20	0.20	
	17	Ditch	42	Linear	2.05	0.22	
	19	Ditch	40	Linear	2.10	0.15	
	31	Field boundary	44	Linear	2.40	0.75	
Phase 2	2	Ditch	13	Linear	1.60	0.10	
	5	Ditch	8	Linear	2.05	0.30	Pot: 1(3g)
	6	Ditch	18	Linear	1.75	0.22	Pot: 1(2g)
	7	Field Boundary	17	Linear	1.92	0.65	
	9	Ditch	22	Linear	1.10	0.25	
	11	Ditch	32	Linear	1.70	0.20	
	12	Ditch	27	Linear	2.70	0.20	Tile frag: 1
	13	Ditch	35	Linear	1.10	0.40	
	14	Ditch	34	Linear	1.80	0.20	
	16	Ditch	37	Linear	1.90	0.25	
	18	Field Boundary	41	Linear	2.30	0.80	Tile frag: 2
	20	Ditch	39	Linear	2.30	0.25	
	21	Field Boundary	38	Linear	2.40	1.90	Brick frag: 1
	22	Field Boundary	30	Linear	2.90	1.10	Brick frag: 1 Tile frag: 2
	23	Ditch	29	Linear	1.90	0.20	
	24	Ditch	24	Linear	2.10	0.20	
	25	Ditch	26	Linear	1.30	0.27	
	26	Ditch	33	Linear	2.02	0.25	
	27	Ditch	28	Linear	1.55	0.40	
	28	Ditch	55	Linear	1.10	0.20	
	29	Field Boundary	54	Linear	1.80	0.60	
	30	Ditch	52	Linear	2.20	0.40	Tile frag: 2
	32	Ditch	50	Linear	1.40	0.33	
	33	Ditch	47	Linear	2.15	0.35	Tile frag: 3
	34	Ditch	46	Linear	2.70	0.25	
	35	Ditch	48	Linear	1.10	0.15	
	36	Ditch	45	Linear	2.50	0.15	Tile frag: 3
	37	Ditch	43	Linear	2.70	0.45	
	38	Ditch	53	Linear	3.10	0.40	
	39	Ditch	49	Linear	2.30	0.20	

Table 6.1: summary of medieval/post-medieval fieldsystem ditches.

- 6.3.5 Overall, the ditches were broad but shallow, ranging from 1.10m to 2.05m wide and 0.10m to 0.22m deep, with steeply sloping sides and flat bases. There was one exception: F.31 in Trench 44, which was V-shaped in profile and notably more substantial, measuring 2.4m wide and 0.75m deep. Given its larger size, this ditch likely served as a major field boundary rather than a simple strip division within the field system. All ditches, regardless of size, were filled with a generally sterile brown clayey silt, from which no material remains were recovered.

Medieval/post-medieval field system: Phase 2

- 6.3.6 The 41 ditches of the Phase 2 field system (31 excavated; summarised in Table 6.1) were better preserved than those of Phase 1. As shown in Figure 13, a clear grid-like system was visible, with regularly spaced linear strips within large land blocks. However, some features had been plough-truncated, with some ditches discontinuous between trenches. This later field system had been re-aligned relative to Phase 1, and lay on a northeast–southwest axis, similar to the modern field boundaries. This change in orientation indicated a significant reorganisation from Phase 1.
- 6.3.7 Most of the ditches were broad and shallow, with steep sides and flat bases, measuring 1.10m to 2.70m wide and 0.10m to 0.45m deep. However, a smaller group (F.7, F.18, F.21, F.22, and F.29) were significantly more substantial, with V-shaped profiles and measuring 1.80m to 2.90m wide and 0.60m to 1.95m deep. The smaller ditches likely served as divisions between agricultural strips, while the larger ditches functioned as field boundaries (see Fig. 11 section drawing for F.6 and F.7; Fig. 15 photographs).
- 6.3.8 The Phase 2 ditches were infilled with a mid to dark brown clayey silt, although some (e.g. F.6 in Trench 18 and F.13 in Trench 35) also contained a basal deposit of dark grey silt. A small assemblage of post-medieval brick and tile was recovered from these features, along with two sherds (5g) of late 18th–19th century pottery (see Table 6.1; Appendix 3). Additionally, some ditches were aligned with field boundaries present on the first edition OS map (Fig. 14). This included F.21 in Trenches 38 and 39, F.22 in Trench 30–2, as well as unexcavated ditches in Trenches 44, 52 and 53. This would suggest that certain ditches were retained or re-cut into the late 19th century.

7. DISCUSSION, SIGNIFICANCE AND CONCLUSIONS

- 7.1.1 The geoarchaeological investigations indicate that in this part of the Fens, the Terrington Beds extend to a depth of over 5m (c. -4m AOD). At Fendyke and more widely, these deposits represent an intertidal environment where fine silt gradually accumulated across salt flats, interspersed with occasional small discrete lagoons (indicated by thin organic beds) and intersected by a network of tidal channels (roddons). As is typical of roddons, sedimentation in these channels consisted primarily of fine sand, laid down incrementally and relatively rapidly in thin beds. However, the fieldwork has shown that the channel deposits displayed a more complex stratigraphy, including deposition of fine silts, organic beds and interbedded sands and silts, indicating considerable variability in fluvial activity. Notably, the smaller roddons, associated with finer silts, were numerous, criss-crossing the entire site, and represent a network of temporary shifting dendritic channels that developed rapidly over time.
- 7.1.2 The Terrington Beds are generally poorly dated. Although no dating evidence was recovered at Fendyke, it is widely accepted that deposition ceased and the landscape dried out during the Roman period, as significant Roman settlement is known in the local area (Waller 1994; Lane 2018). Despite this, the earliest evidence of activity at the site dates to the medieval/post-medieval period. During this time, an extensive field system known as Dylings was constructed across the site in two distinct phases. Both phases consisted of grid-like land divisions, with fields sub-divided into long strips by regularly spaced drainage ditches, similar to ridge and furrow but specific to the silt lands of Lincolnshire, where drainage was more necessary in this wet, low-lying landscape (Hallam 1965). Phase 1 was aligned north–south while Phase 2 was aligned northeast–southwest; the change between the two represented a major landscape re-organisation.
- 7.1.3 Little dating evidence was recovered from the field system. This was limited to a small amount of post-medieval material, and also, some of the ditches align with those shown on the first edition OS map (1880) of the area (Fig. 14), indicating that certain boundaries remained in use or were re-cut in the late 19th century. Despite this, like other Dylings, it is likely that the field system originated in the medieval period, and it represents a continuous development of the agricultural landscape to the present day; the field system clearly being ancestral to the modern field layout.

In conclusion, the evaluation offers an interesting perspective on the site's intertidal environmental phase, approximately two millennia ago, as well as the site's medieval and post-medieval agricultural development. However, these findings align closely with previous research: intertidal deposits have been widely recorded and studied across the northern Fens (see Waller 1994), and Dylings field systems are well documented across the Lincolnshire silt lands (e.g. Hallam 1965; Trimble and Cope-Faulkne 2014). Finally, based on the results of this investigation, Fendyke appears to have been largely unoccupied prior to the medieval/post-medieval period, representing something of a blank in the archaeological landscape before this time. It is, however, feasible that prehistoric remains could be buried beneath the Terrington Beds, which in this part of the Fen are between 10 and 20 m deep. As such, it is highly unlikely that the proposed solar farm development would have any impact on them.

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9. APPENDIX 1: TRENCH SUMMARY

<i>Trench</i>	<i>Length (m)</i>	<i>Alignment</i>	<i>Topsoil/total depth (m)</i>	<i>Archaeological features</i>
1	50	NW–SE	0.4–0.55	
2	75	NE–SW	0.4–0.55	
3	50	NW–SE	0.4–0.55	
4	50	N–S	0.5–0.58	
5	50	NW–SE	0.55	
6	25	N–S	0.5	
7	50	NE–SW	0.5–0.6	Ditch x 1
8	75	NE–SW	0.4–0.5	Ditch x 1
9	50	NW–SE	0.4–0.5	
10	50	NE–SW	0.4–0.5	
11	100	NE–SW	0.4–0.5	
12	50	NE–SW	0.4	Ditch x 1
13	75	E–W	0.4–0.5	
14	50	N–S	0.4–0.55	
15	25	NW–SE	0.4–0.55	
16	100	NE–SW	0.4–0.55	
17	50	NE–SW	0.5–0.58	Ditch x 1
18	75	N–S	0.4–0.5	Ditch x 1
19	50	NW–SE	0.4–0.5	
20	50	NE–SW	0.4–0.5	
21a	50	NW–SE	0.4–0.5	Ditch x 1
21b	65	NW–SE	0.4–0.5	Ditch x 1
22	50	NE–SW	0.4	Ditch x 1
23	50	N–S	0.4–0.5	
24	50	E–W	0.4–0.5	
25	50	E–W	0.4–0.5	Ditch x 1
26	50	E–W	0.4–0.5	Ditch x 1
27	50	NW–SE	0.4–0.5	Ditch x 1
28	75	NE–SW	0.4–0.5	Ditch x 1
29	50	E–W	0.4–0.55	Ditch x 1
30	75	NE–SW	0.4–0.5	Ditch x 1
31	100	NE–SW	0.5–0.58	Ditch x 2
32	50	NW–SE	0.4–0.5	Ditch x 2
33	50	NW–SE	0.4–0.55	Ditch x 1
34	100	NE–SW	0.4–0.55	Ditch x 4
35	75	NE–SW	0.4–0.5	Ditch x 1
36	100	NE–SW	0.4–0.5	Ditch x 4
37	100	N–S	0.4–0.55	Ditch x 5
38	100	E–W	0.4–0.5	Ditch x 4
39	100	NE–SW	0.4–0.5	Ditch x 5
40	75	N–S	0.4–0.5	Ditch x 3
41	75	NE–SW	0.4–0.5	Ditch x 1
42	100	NW–SE	0.4–0.5	Ditch x 5
43	100	NW–SE	0.4–0.5	Ditch x 4
44	50	E–W	0.4	Ditch x 4
45	75	N–S	0.4–0.45	Ditch x 4
46	100	E–W	0.4	Ditch x 5
47	50	NE–SW	0.4	Ditch x 1
48	50	E–W	0.4	Ditch x 3
49	100	NE–SW	0.4–0.45	Ditch x 4
50	100	NE–SW	0.4	Ditch x 2
51	50	NW–SE	0.4	
52	100	NE–SW	0.4	Ditch x 5

<i>Trench</i>	<i>Length (m)</i>	<i>Alignment</i>	<i>Topsoil/total depth (m)</i>	<i>Archaeological features</i>
53	75	NE-SW	0.4	Ditch x 3
54	25	NW-SE	0.4	Ditch x 1
55	75	NE-SW	0.4	Ditch x 6

10. APPENDIX 2: TEST PIT SUMMARY

Test Pit	Depth from top (m)	Deposits
1	0.4	Topsoil
	5	Blanket tidal silt: orange-brown/blue-grey silty clay
2	0.5	Topsoil
	4.5	Blanket tidal silt: orange-brown/blue-grey silty clay with thin (0.2m) organic beds
3	0.4	Topsoil
	4.5	Blanket tidal silt: orange-brown/blue-grey silty clay with thin (0.2m) organic beds
4	0.4	Topsoil
	1.5	Roddon: blue-grey silt with organic lenses
	2.5	Roddon: blue-grey silt
	3.5	Roddon: interbedded thin lenses of blue-grey silt and fine sand
5	0.4	Topsoil
	4	Blanket tidal silt: orange-brown/blue-grey silty clay
6	0.4	Topsoil
	3.8	Blanket tidal silt: orange-brown/blue-grey silty clay
7	0.4	Topsoil
	4	Blanket tidal silt: orange-brown/blue-grey silty clay
8	0.4	Topsoil
	4	Blanket tidal silt: orange-brown/blue-grey silty clay
9	0.4	Topsoil
	2	Roddon: finely bedded blue-grey sand
	2.8	Roddon: blue-grey silt
	4	Roddon: finely bedded blue-grey sand
10	0.4	Topsoil
	0.6	Roddon: blue-grey silt
	4.2	Blanket tidal silt: orange-brown/blue-grey silty clay
11	0.4	Topsoil
	0.6	Roddon: blue-grey silt
	4.2	Blanket tidal silt: orange-brown/blue-grey silty clay
12	0.4	Topsoil
	0.7	Roddon: blue-grey silt
	4	Blanket tidal silt: orange-brown/blue-grey silty clay
13	0.4	Topsoil
	4.5	Blanket tidal silt: orange-brown/blue-grey silty clay
14	0.4	Topsoil
	4	Blanket tidal silt: orange-brown/blue-grey silty clay
15	0.4	Topsoil
	4	Blanket tidal silt: orange-brown/blue-grey silty clay
16	0.4	Topsoil
	4.5	Blanket tidal silt: orange-brown/blue-grey silty clay with thin (0.2m) organic beds
17	0.4	Topsoil
	4.5	Blanket tidal silt: orange-brown/blue-grey silty clay with thin (0.2m) organic beds
18	0.4	Topsoil
	1.2	Roddon: blue-grey silt
	4	Blanket tidal silt: orange-brown/blue-grey silty clay
19	0.4	Topsoil
	1.5	Roddon: blue-grey silt
	4.5	Blanket tidal silt: orange-brown/blue-grey silty clay
20	0.4	Topsoil
	4.7	Blanket tidal silt: orange-brown/blue-grey silty clay with thin (0.2m) organic beds
21	0.4	Topsoil
	4.2	Blanket tidal silt: orange-brown/blue-grey silty clay with thin (0.2m) organic beds
22	0.4	Topsoil

Test Pit	Depth from top (m)	Deposits
	4.5	Blanket tidal silt: orange-brown/blue-grey silty clay with thin (0.2m) organic beds
23	0.4	Topsoil
	3.5	Blanket tidal silt: orange-brown/blue-grey silty clay
24	0.4	Topsoil
	3.5	Blanket tidal silt: orange-brown/blue-grey silty clay
25	0.4	Topsoil
	3	Blanket tidal silt: orange-brown/blue-grey silty clay with thin shell bed
26	0.4	Topsoil
	3.5	Blanket tidal silt: orange-brown/blue-grey silty clay
27	0.4	Topsoil
	4	Blanket tidal silt: orange-brown/blue-grey silty clay with thin (0.2m) organic beds
28	0.4	Topsoil
	4	Blanket tidal silt: orange-brown/blue-grey silty clay
29	0.4	Topsoil
	3.5	Blanket tidal silt: orange-brown/blue-grey silty clay
30	0.4	Topsoil
	2.5	Roddon: finely bedded orange-brown/blue-grey sand
31	0.4	Topsoil
	0.8	Roddon: orange sand
	2.4	Roddon: finely bedded blue-grey sand
	5	Blanket tidal silt: orange-brown/blue-grey silty clay
32	0.4	Topsoil
	5	Blanket tidal silt: orange-brown/blue-grey silty clay
33	0.4	Topsoil
	5	Blanket tidal silt: orange-brown/blue-grey silty clay
34	0.4	Topsoil
	5	Blanket tidal silt: orange-brown/blue-grey silty clay
35	0.4	Topsoil
	4	Blanket tidal silt: orange-brown/blue-grey silty clay
36	0.4	Topsoil
	4	Blanket tidal silt: orange-brown/blue-grey silty clay with thin (0.2m) organic beds
37	0.4	Topsoil
	4	Blanket tidal silt: orange-brown/blue-grey silty clay with thin (0.2m) organic beds
38	0.4	Topsoil
	3.5	Blanket tidal silt: orange-brown/blue-grey silty clay
39	0.4	Topsoil
	4	Blanket tidal silt: orange-brown/blue-grey silty clay
40	0.4	Topsoil
	3.5	Blanket tidal silt: orange-brown/blue-grey silty clay
41	0.4	Topsoil
	4	Blanket tidal silt: orange-brown/blue-grey silty clay
42	0.4	Topsoil
	3	Roddon: finely bedded orange-brown/blue-grey sand
43	0.4	Topsoil
	0.8	Roddon: blue-grey silt
	1.5	Roddon: finely bedded blue-grey sand
	2	Roddon: finely bedded blue-grey sand with organic lenses
	3	Roddon: finely bedded blue-grey sand
44	0.4	Topsoil
	4	Blanket tidal silt: orange-brown/blue-grey silty clay
45	0.4	Topsoil
	4	Blanket tidal silt: orange-brown/blue-grey silty clay with thin shell bed
46	0.4	Topsoil
	0.7	Roddon: blue-grey silt
	4	Blanket tidal silt: orange-brown/blue-grey silty clay with thin shell bed
47	0.4	Topsoil
	1.5	Roddon: orange sand
	2.3	Roddon: blue-grey silt

Test Pit	Depth from top (m)	Deposits
	4	Roddon: finely bedded blue-grey sand
48	0.4	Topsoil
	4.7	Blanket tidal silt: orange-brown/blue-grey silty clay
49	0.4	Topsoil
	4	Blanket tidal silt: orange-brown/blue-grey silty clay with thin (0.2m) organic beds
50	0.4	Topsoil
	1.1	Roddon: Blue sandy silt
	4	Blanket tidal silt: orange-brown/blue-grey silty clay
51	0.4	Topsoil
	4.5	Blanket tidal silt: orange-brown/blue-grey silty clay with thin (0.2m) organic beds
52	0.4	Topsoil
	0.9	Roddon: blue-grey silt
	4	Roddon: finely bedded orange-brown/blue-grey sand
53	0.4	Topsoil
	1.2	Roddon: orange sand
	4	Blanket tidal silt: orange-brown/blue-grey silty clay
54	0.4	Topsoil
	3.5	Roddon: finely bedded blue-grey sand with organic lenses
55	0.4	Topsoil
	4	Blanket tidal silt: orange-brown/blue-grey silty clay
56	0.4	Topsoil
	4	Blanket tidal silt: orange-brown/blue-grey silty clay
57	0.4	Topsoil
	3.5	Blanket tidal silt: orange-brown/blue-grey silty clay
58	0.4	Topsoil
	3.5	Blanket tidal silt: orange-brown/blue-grey silty clay
59	0.4	Topsoil
	4	Blanket tidal silt: orange-brown/blue-grey silty clay
60	0.4	Topsoil
	4	Blanket tidal silt: orange-brown/blue-grey silty clay

11. APPENDIX 3: POST-MEDIEVAL MATERIALS

Andy Hall and Alasdair Wright

Introduction and methodology

- 11.1.1 A small assemblage of post-medieval ceramic building material (CBM) and pottery was recovered from the site. This comprised two brick fragments, 13 tile fragments, and two sherds of pottery weighing 5g. The brick and tile were quantified (but not weighed) and discarded on-site after a sample was examined and recorded by a relevant specialist. The pottery was retained, analysed, and quantified by a post-medieval pottery specialist. All material was documented in an Excel spreadsheet.

Assemblage breakdown

- 11.1.2 A breakdown of the quantities and context of all material types is shown in Table 11.1.
- 11.1.3 The two fragments of brick recovered from F.21 and F22 were pale red in colour, non-handmade brick-type, that probably date to the late 18th or 19th century.
- 11.1.4 The tile comprised 13 fragments of probable land drain, which came from a range of six different features. They all display a similar cylindrical profile and fabric-type (pale red-buff) and are likely to date to the 19th to early 20th century.
- 11.1.5 The two small sherds of glazed 'Blue and White Transfer Printed Pottery' were recovered: one from F. 5 and one from F.6. They both appear to be printed with 'Willow Pattern'. The pottery type spans the late 18th to early 20th century, but is most likely to date to the 19th century.

<i>Material</i>	<i>Quantity</i>	<i>Feature</i>	<i>Context</i>	<i>Trench</i>	<i>Total</i>
Pottery	1 (3g)	5	4.01	8	2 (5g)
	1 (2g)	6	5.01	18	
Tile	1	12	11.01	27	13
	2	18	17.01	41	
	2	22	21.02	30	
	2	30	21.02	52	
	3	33	32.01	47	
	3	36	35.01	45	
Brick	1	21	20.01	38	2
	1	22	21.01	30	

Table 11.1: Breakdown of post-medieval material

Discard

- 11.1.6 The CBM was discarded on site and the pottery will be discarded follow receipt of the evaluation report.

12. APPENDIX 4: ARCHIVE

- 12.1 The archive is currently held in the CAU's Cambridge facilities, pending a decision on any further mitigation and report approval.

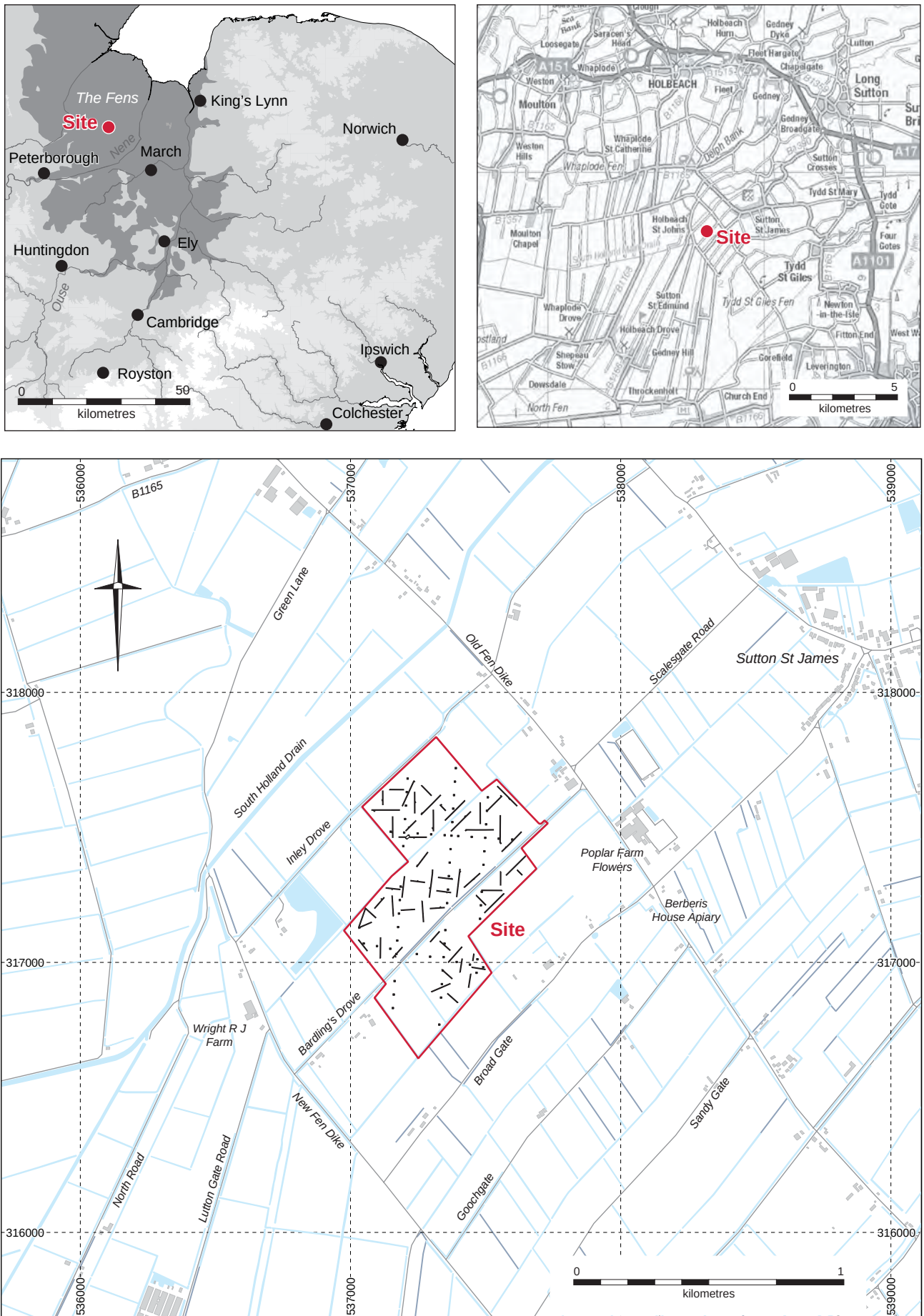
12.2 Standards

- 12.2.1 The project archive will be prepared and deposited in line with the MoRPHE guidelines (Historic England 2006, reissued 2015), ClfA Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials (2014, updated 2020), the ClfA Standard and Universal Guidance for archaeological evaluation (2023), the United Kingdom Institute for Conservators Conservation Guidelines No. 2 (2012) and the requirements of the LHPT.

12.3 Physical archive, discard, and transfer of title agreement

- 12.3.1 The physical archive consists of two sherds of post-medieval pottery, which will be discarded pending no further mitigation and approval of the report.

13. APPENDIX 5: FIGURES



Contains OS Open Data © Ordnance Survey 2024

Figure 1. Site Location

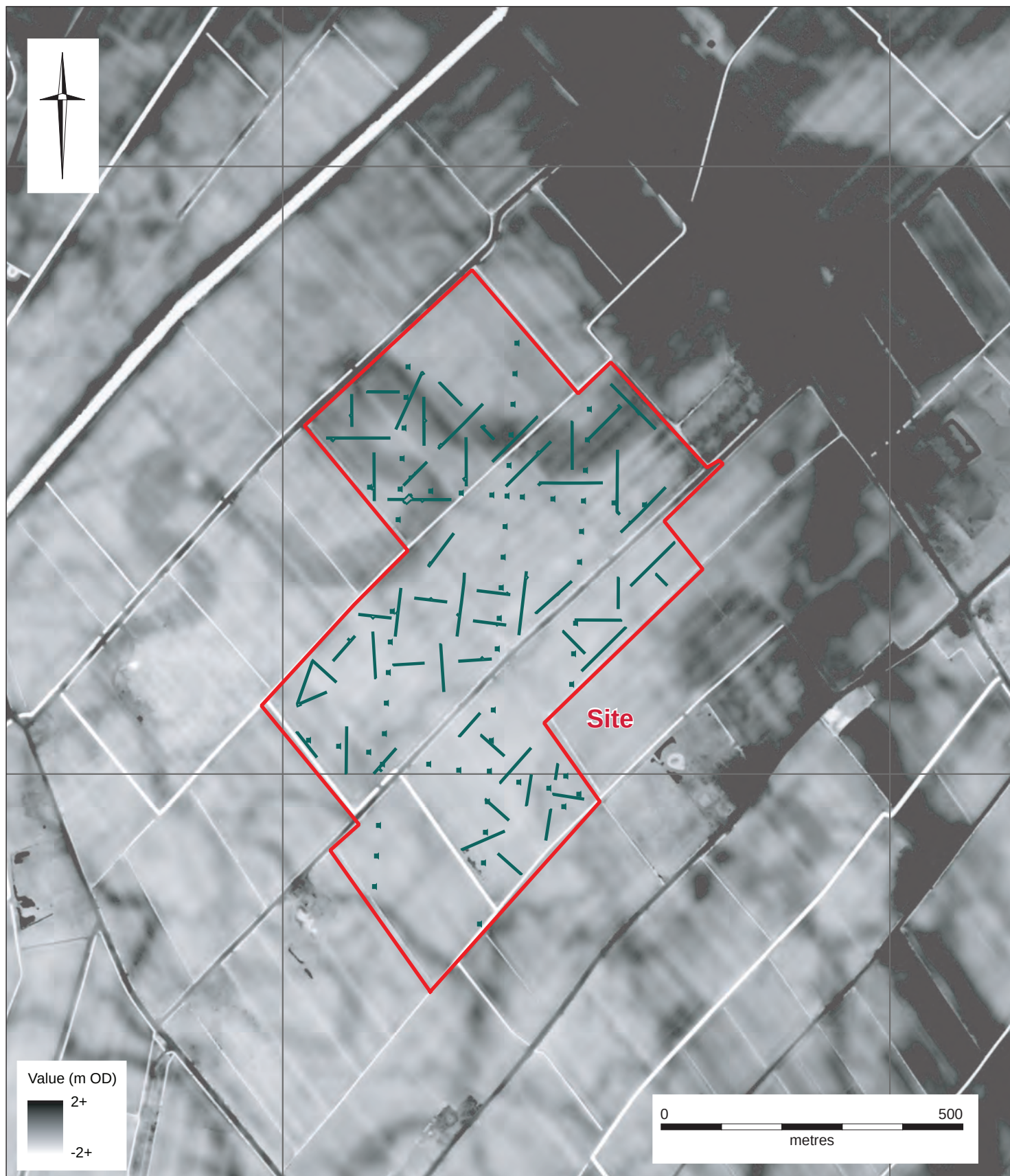


Figure 2. Trenches overlaid onto LiDAR data © Environment Agency 2025

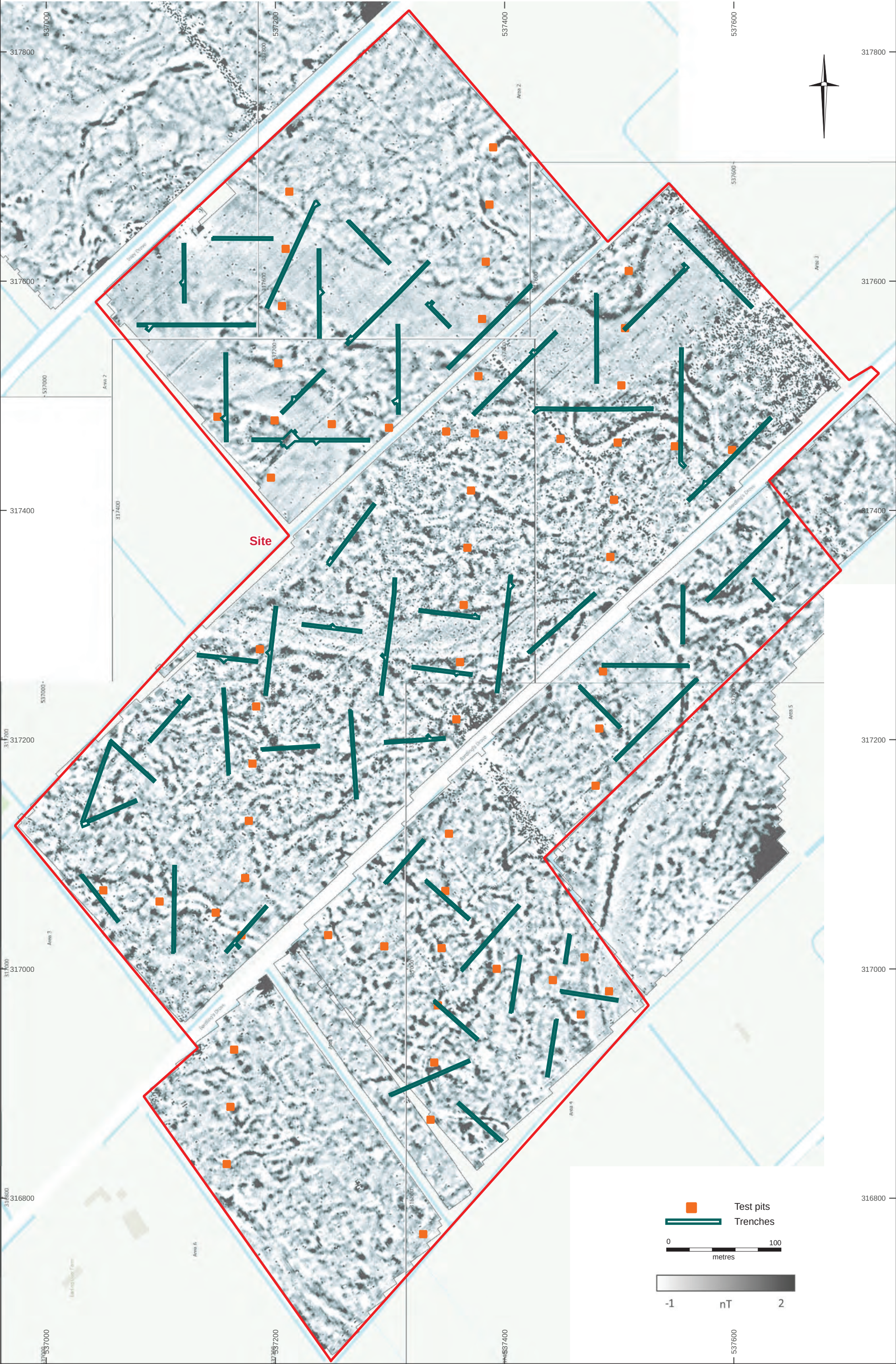


Figure 3. Trench plan overlaid onto geophysics © Magnitude Surveys 2023

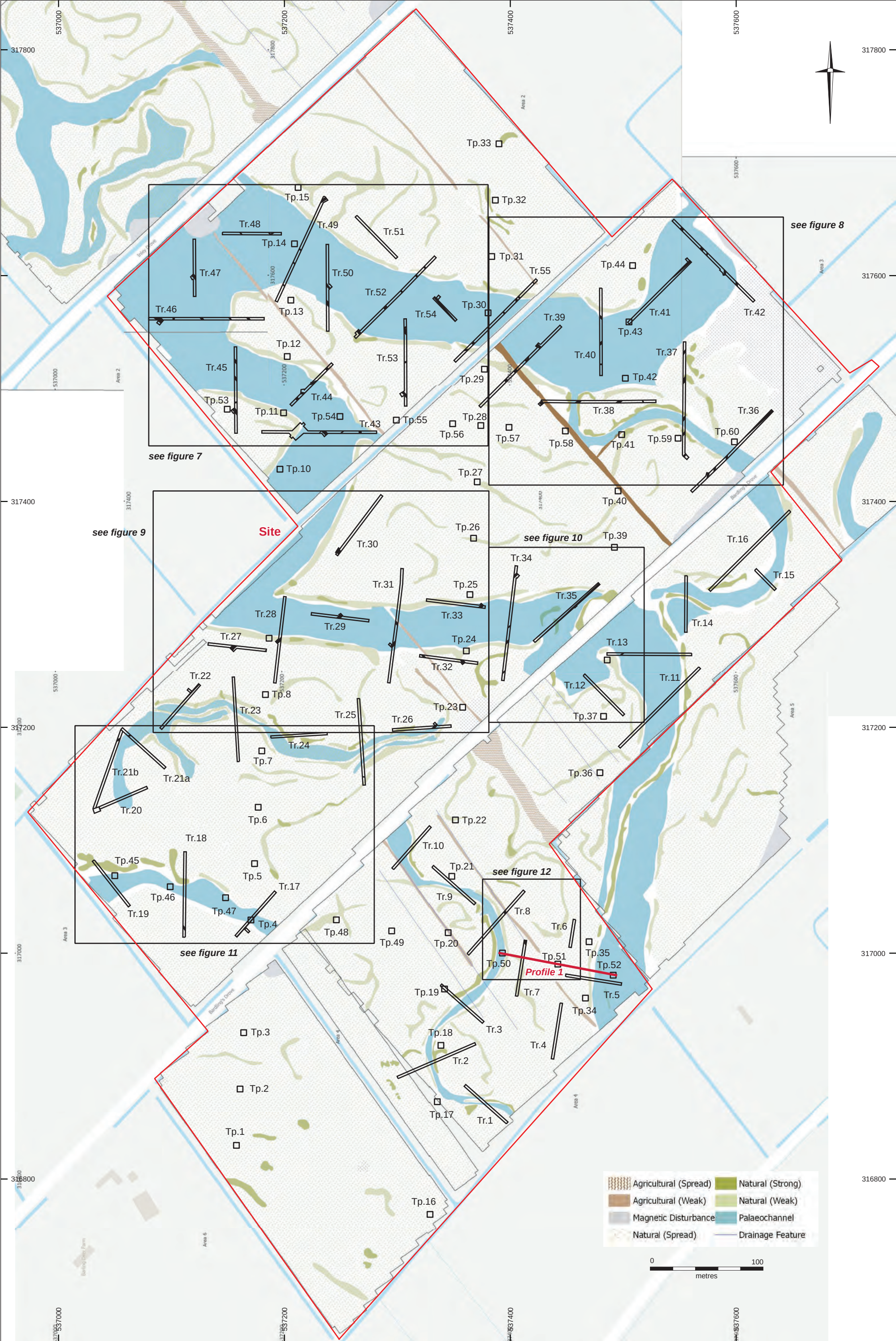


Figure 4. Trench plan overlaid onto interpreted geophysics © Magnitude Surveys 2023

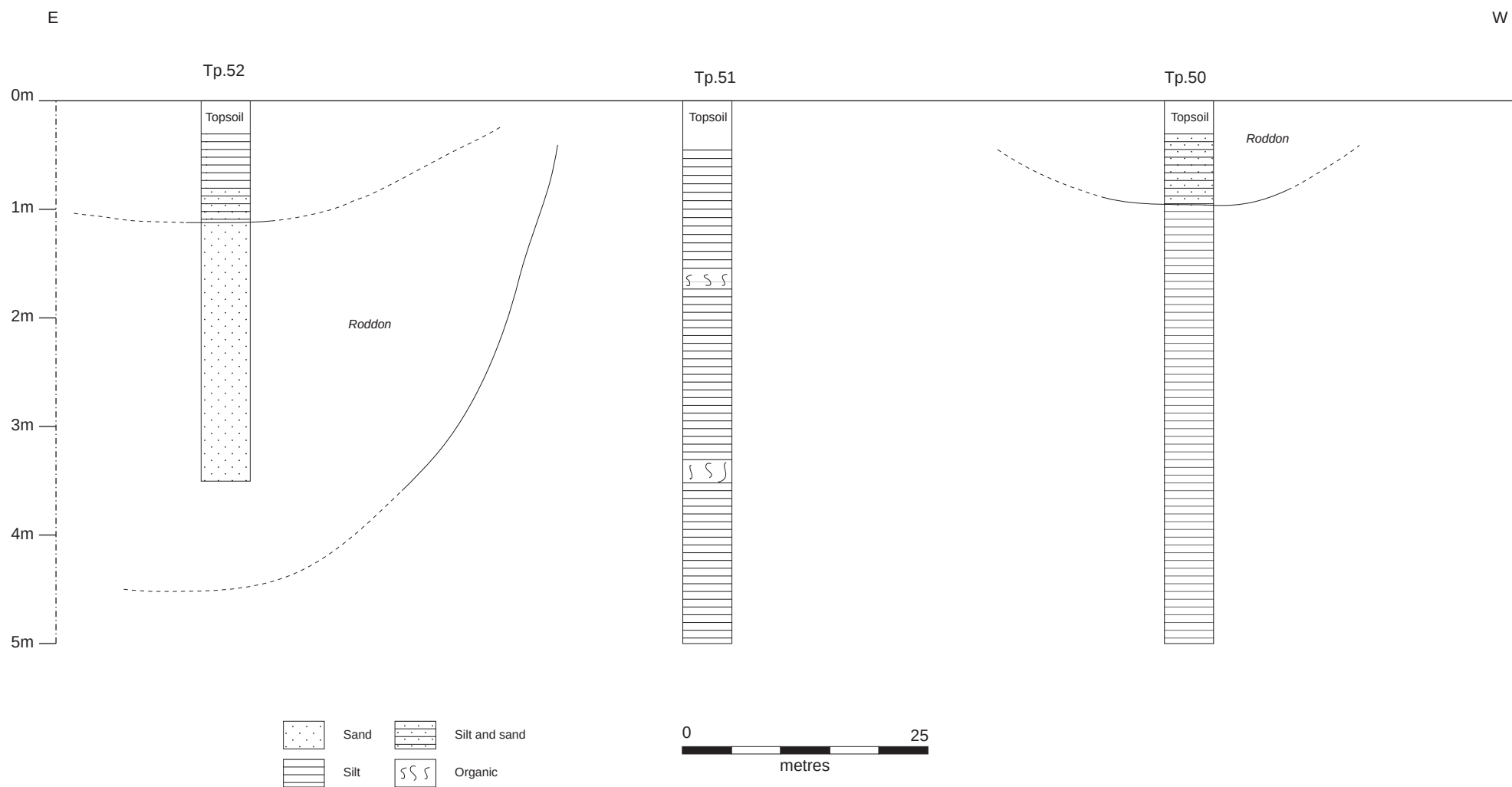


Figure 5. Profile 1: Interpretive profile of Terrington Beds, based on deposits in test pits 50-52; showing blanket tidal silt and projected extent of roddon sediments



Test pit 51, Blanket tidal silts



Test pit 52, Roddon sediments



Roddon in Trench 43

Figure 6. Selected photos of Terrington Beds

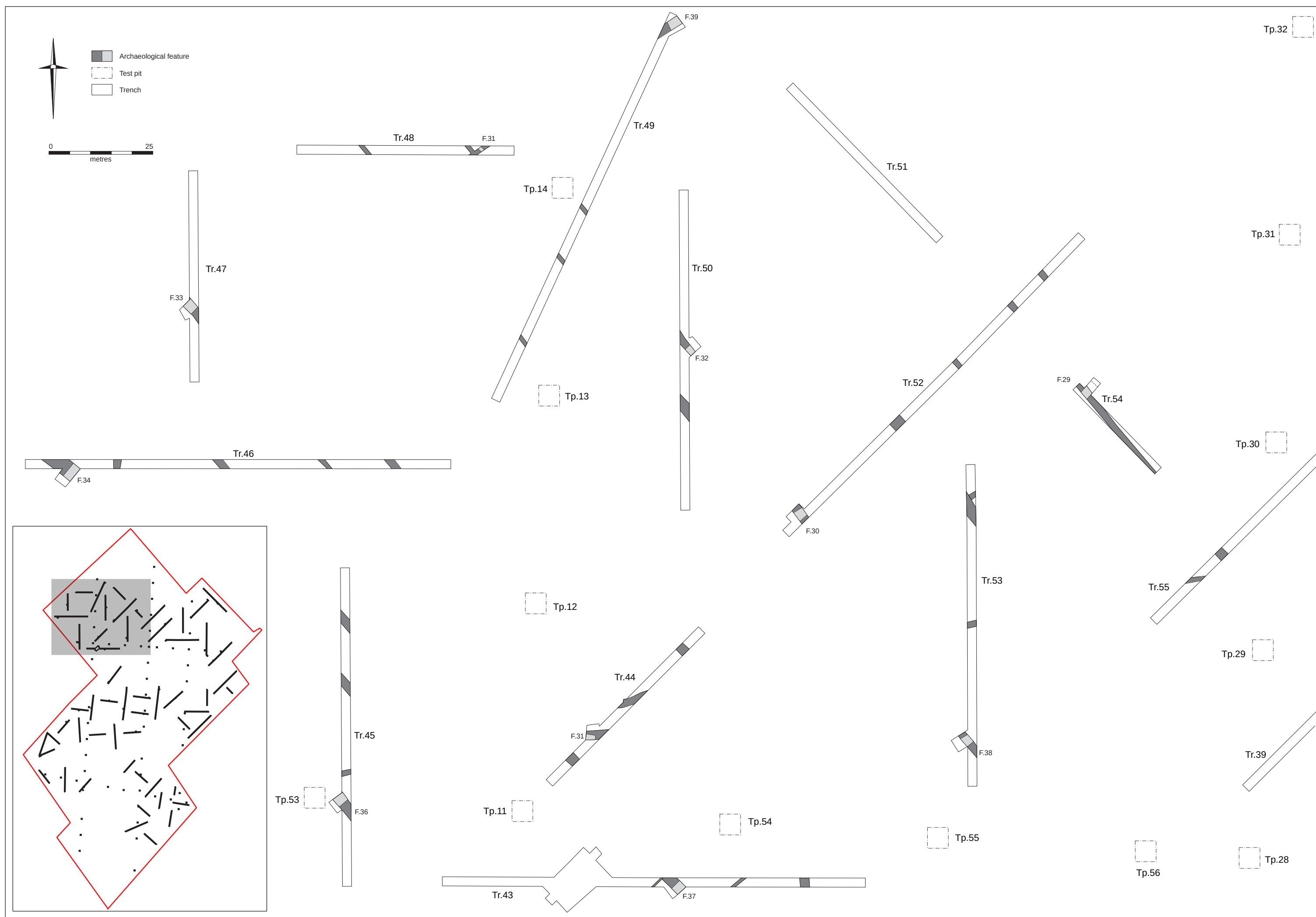


Figure 7. Detail plan A

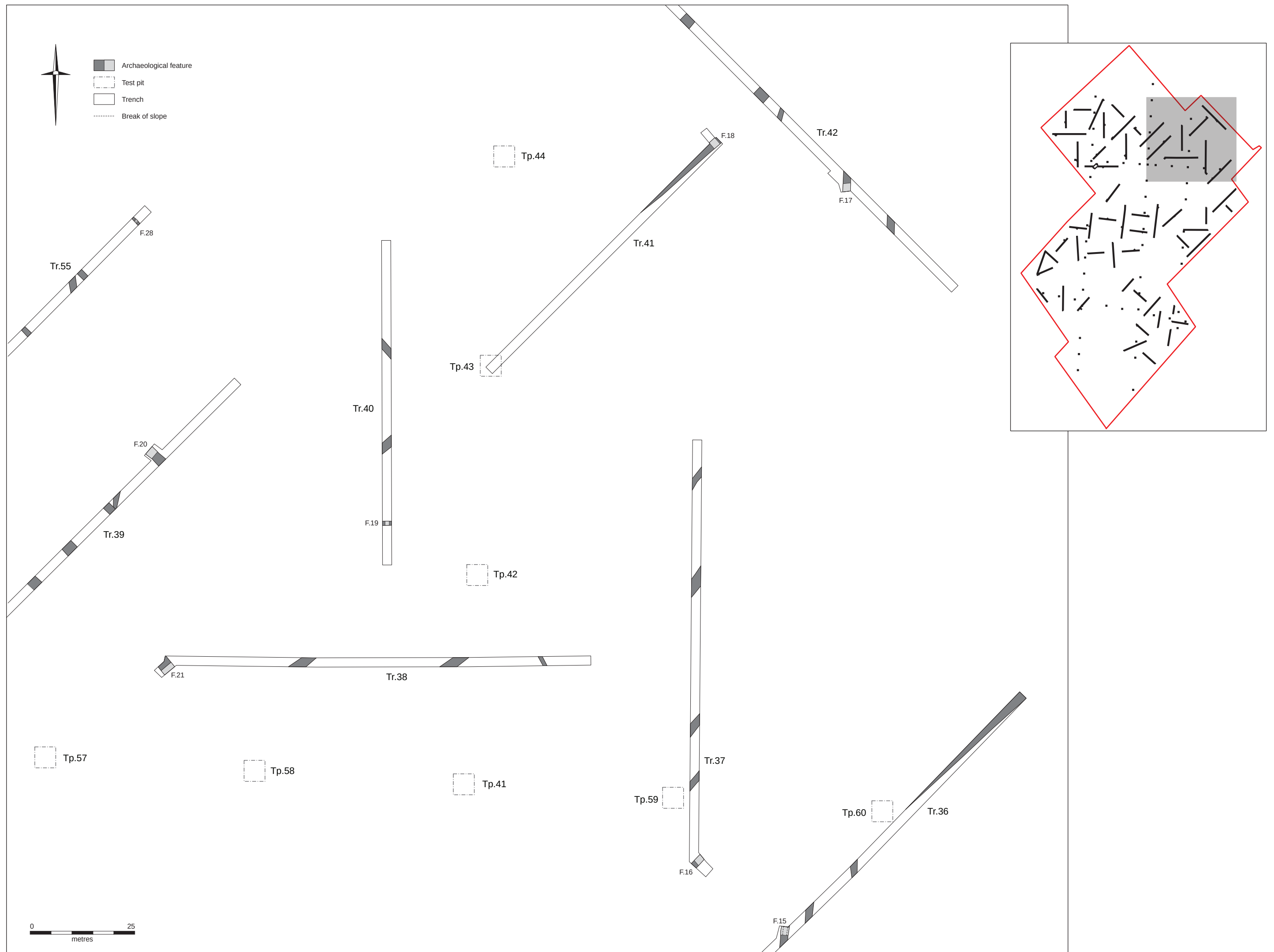


Figure 8. Detail plan B

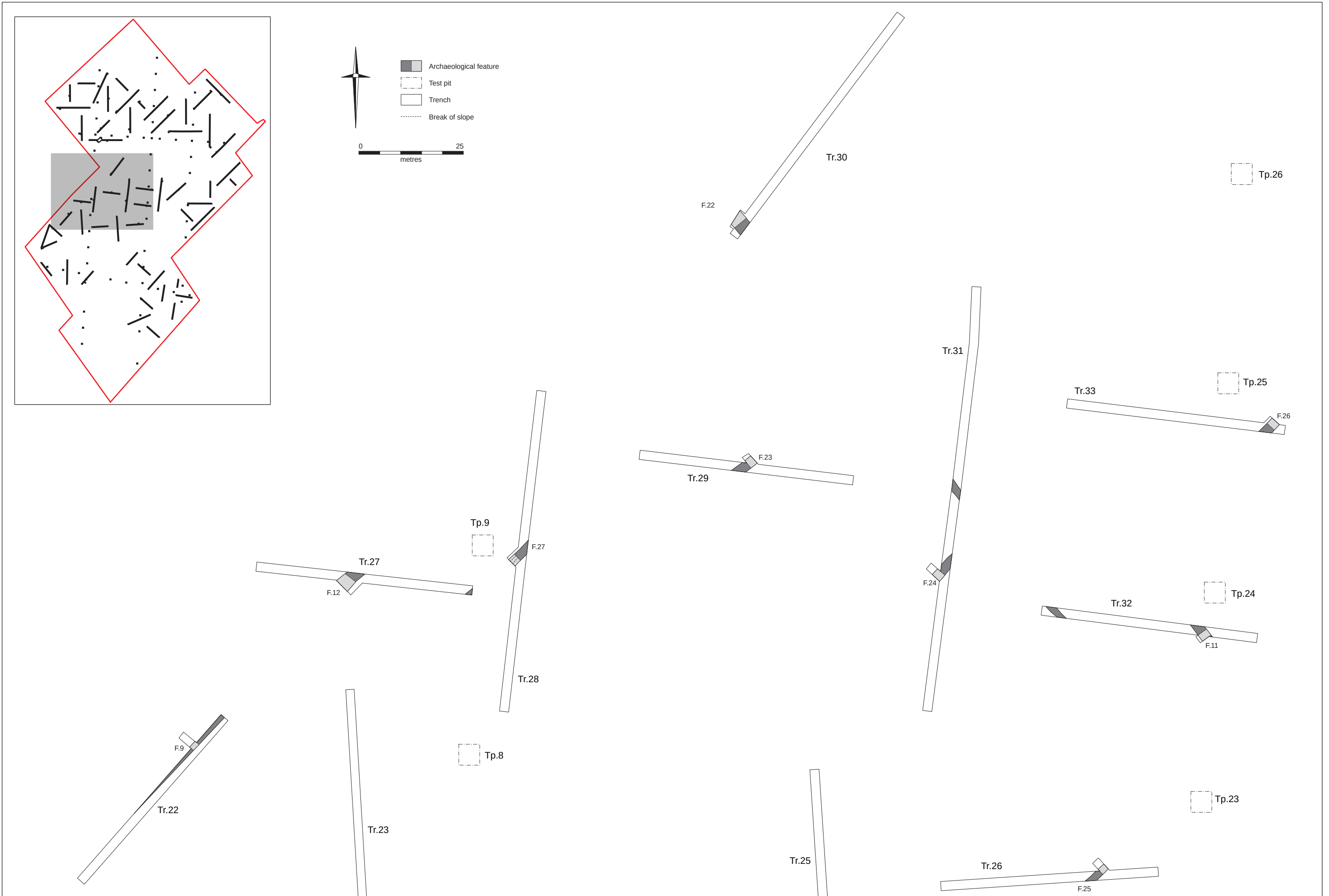


Figure 9. Detail plan C

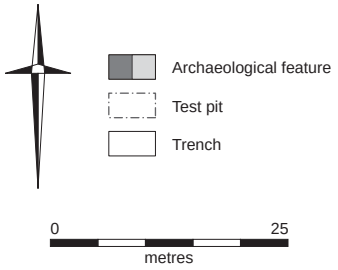
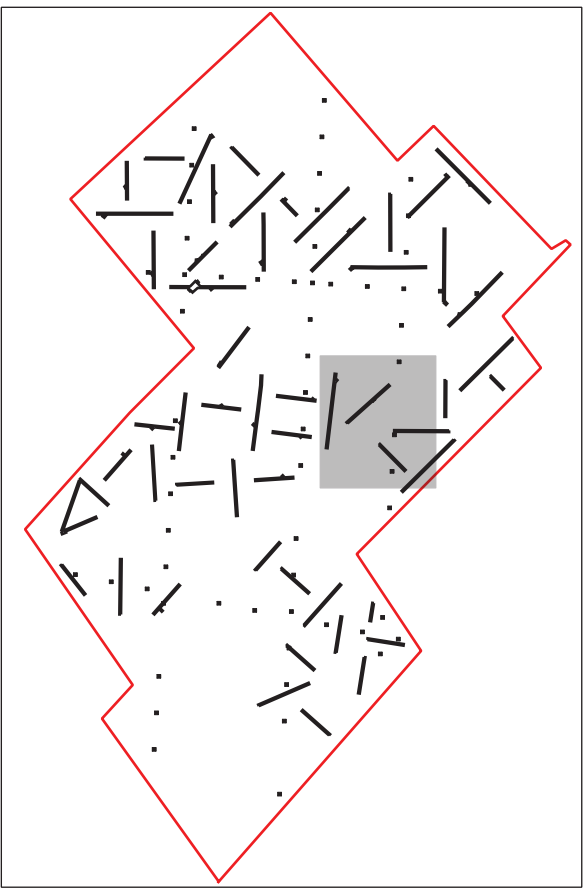
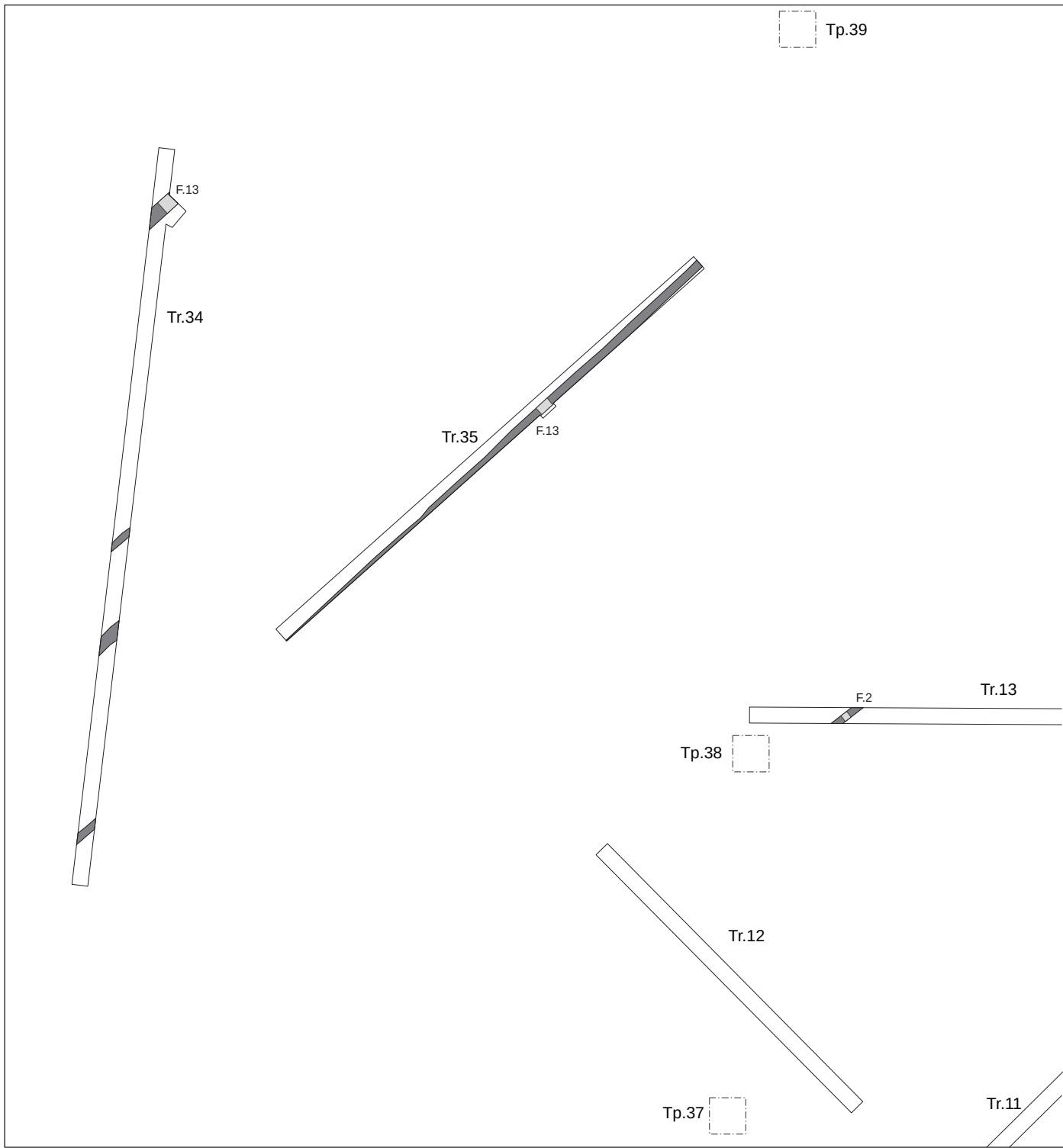


Figure 10. Detail plan D

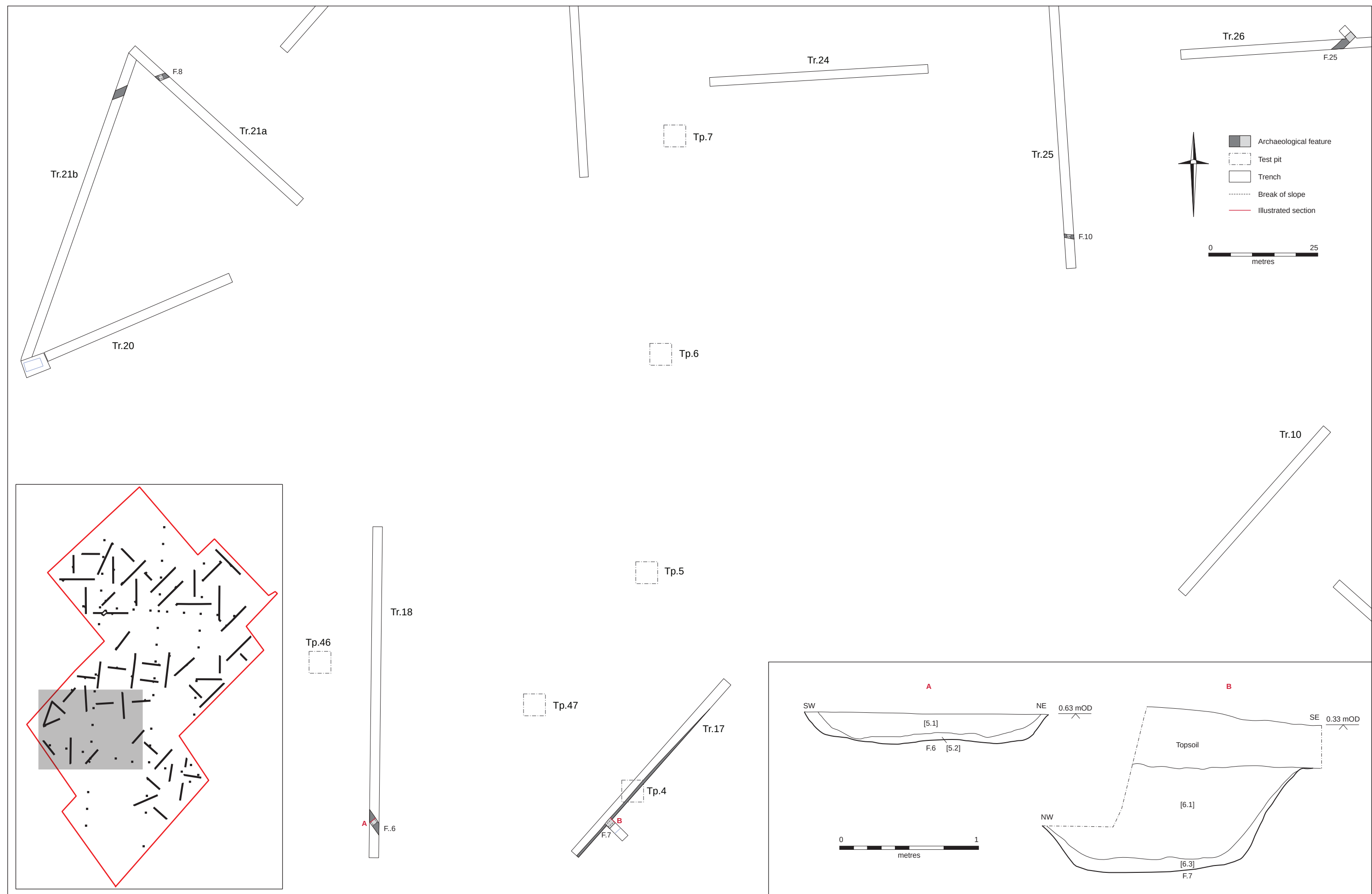


Figure 11. Detail plan E and selected illustrated sections

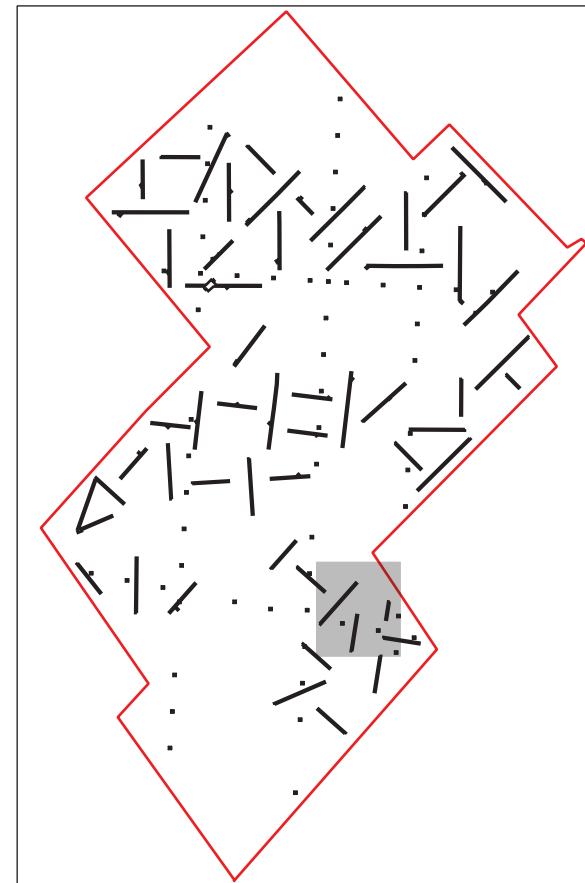
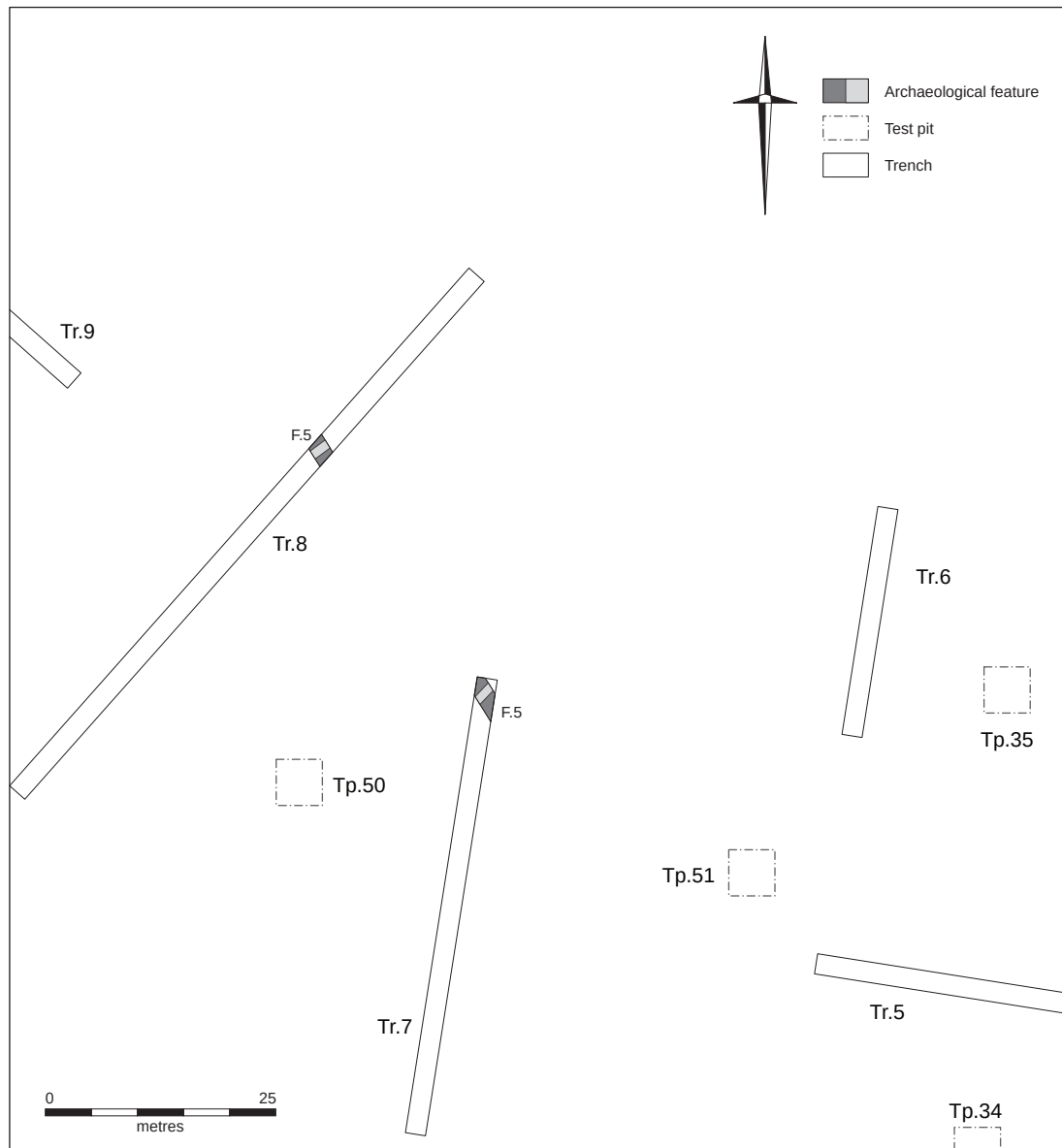


Figure 12. Detail plan F

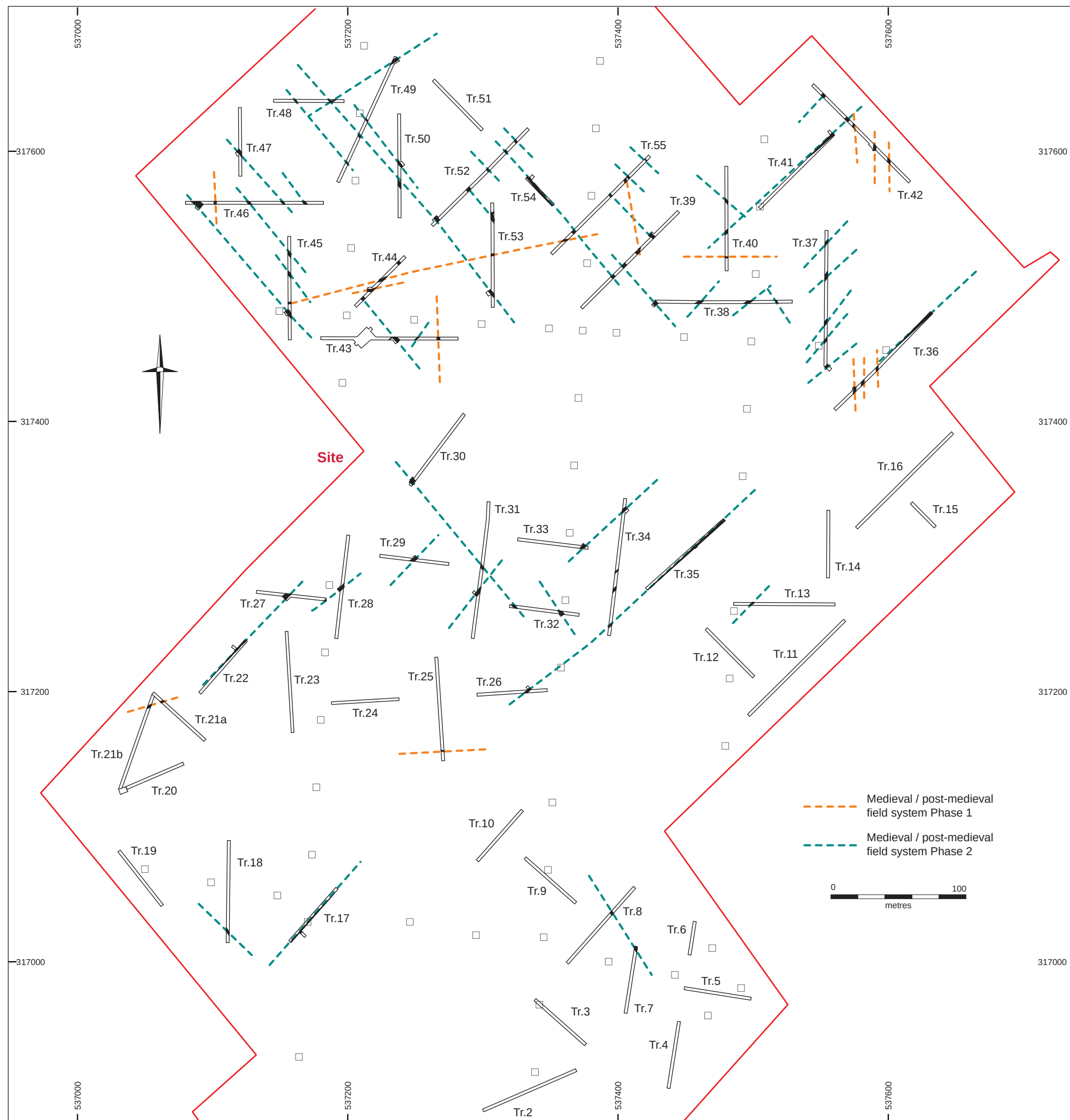


Figure 13. Trench plan showing projected alignments of medieval / post-medieval fieldsystem (phases 1 and 2)

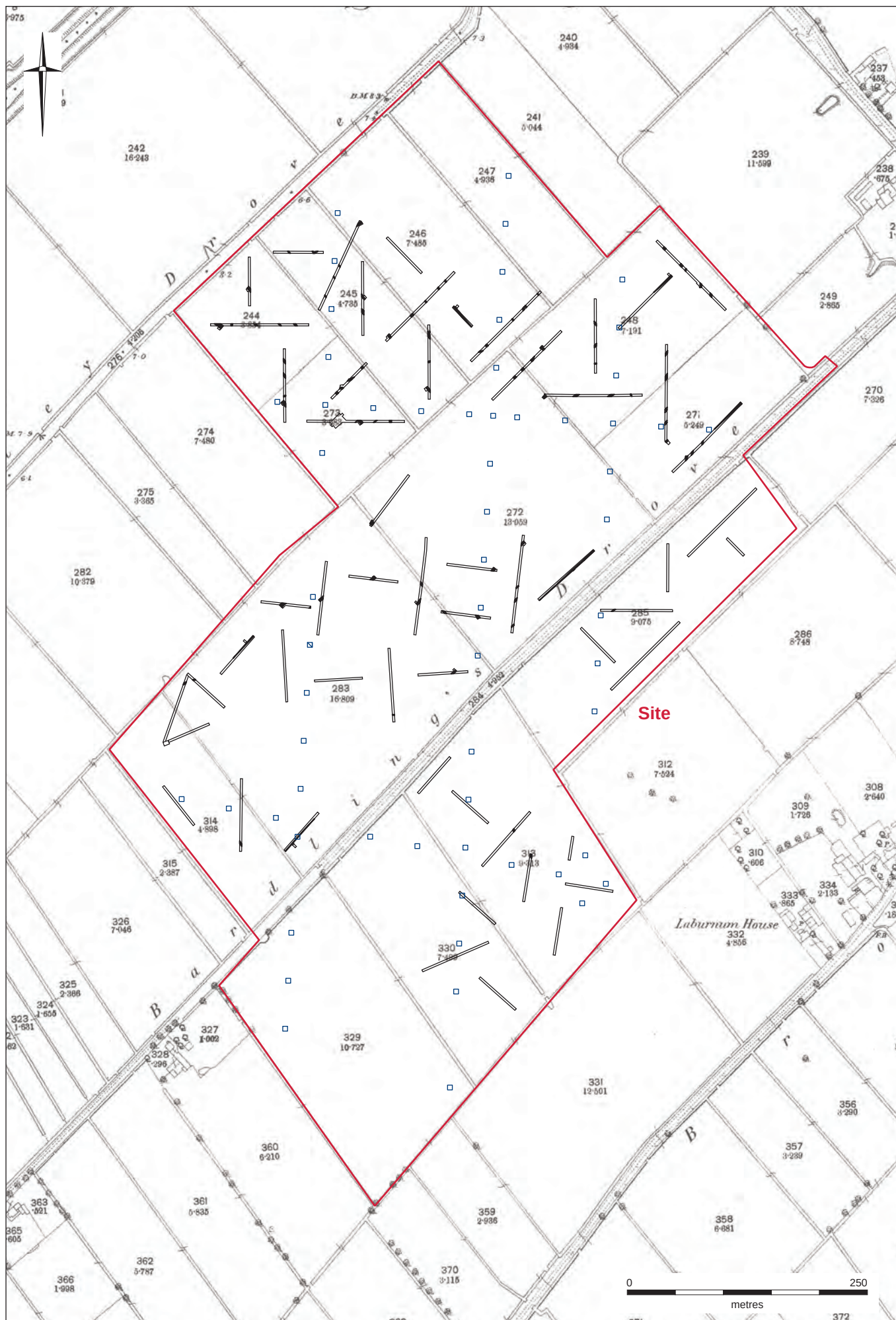


Figure 14. 1st edition OS map



F.13, Trench 35



F.21 Trench 38



F.29, Trench 54

Figure 15. Photographs of medieval / post-medieval features

14. APPENDIX 6: SELECTED TRENCH PHOTOGRAPHS



Trench 18



Trench 26



Trench 28



Trench 31

Appendix Figure 1. Selected trench photographs



Trench 35



Trench 54

Appendix Figure 2. Selected trench photographs

15. APPENDIX 7: OASIS FORM

OASIS Summary for cambridg3-531639

OASIS ID (UID)	cambridg3-531639
Project Name	Evaluation at Land at Fendyke Farm off Old Fendyke, Sutton St James
Sitename	Land at Fendyke Farm off Old Fendyke, Sutton St James
Sitecode	LCNCC2025:30
Project Identifier(s)	LCNCC2025:30
Activity type	Evaluation
Planning Id	H20-1007-24
Reason For Investigation	Planning: Pre application
Organisation Responsible for work	Cambridge Archaeological Unit
Project Dates	10-Mar-2025 - 28-Mar-2025
Location	Land at Fendyke Farm off Old Fendyke, Sutton St James NGR : TF 37764 17356 LL : 52.73629296996817, 0.039003090493707 12 Fig : 537764,317356
Administrative Areas	Country : England County/Local Authority : Lincolnshire Local Authority District : South Holland Parish : Sutton St James

Project Methodology	The archaeological work was carried out in accordance to the Written Scheme of investigation (Wiseman 2025) approved by LHPT prior to commencement of works. The excavation was undertaken in accordance with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Evaluation (CIFA 2014, updated 2020) and Code of Conduct (2014). Fieldwork was conducted between 10th and 28th March 2025 and consisted of a programme of test pitting and trenching. A total of 60 test pits, each measuring 2 × 2m, were mechanically excavated across five site-wide transects (Fig. 4). These were dug to the full reach of the machine arm or until the deposits became unstable (typically between 3–5m deep). The primary purpose of the test pitting was geoarchaeological, aimed to investigate and model the site's underlying Fenland deposits, while also assessing the potential for deeply buried archaeology. A total of 55 trenches were excavated, amounting to 3725m of trenching in total. These were primarily targeted on the roddons and were excavated to the surface of the channel sediments. The trenching programme represented a 3% sample of these features. All machine excavation was carried out under direct archaeological supervision, using a tracked 360° excavator fitted with a 2m trenching bucket. In regard to the trenching, topsoil and subsoil deposits were removed in spits down to the level of undisturbed natural geological deposits (in this case, the Terrington Beds), allowing for the identification and recording of any archaeological features. Due to the post-medieval/modern date of the linear features reveal on site, only one feature was investigated per trench. Of these, 75% were excavated mechanically, while the remaining 25% were hand-excavated (1m slot) to facilitate finds recovery. This sampling strategy was established and agreed on-site with Rubens Lopez Catalan of LHPT. Where linear features were mechanically excavated, a side trench was cut from the main trench to allow a slot to be excavated perpendicular to the alignment of the features. Metal-detecting was carried out during the topsoil and subsoil stripping and throughout the excavation process. Archaeological features and spoil heaps were scanned by metal-detector periodically. Archaeological features and deposits were surveyed by GPS and recorded using the CAU recording system and pro-forma sheets. Photographs were taken of all features using a high resolution digital camera and sections were hand-drawn at an appropriate scale (either 1:10 or 1:20).
Project Results	Between 10th and 28th March 2025, the Cambridge Archaeological Unit carried out an archaeological evaluation ahead of the development of the proposed Fendyke Solar Farm, Sutton St James, Lincolnshire. The fieldwork comprised a programme of test pitting and trenching, with 60 mechanically excavated test pits investigating the site's Fenland deposits and 55 trenches targeting the roddons (relict tidal channels) to assess potential archaeological remains. The test pitting revealed up to 5m of the Terrington Beds, an intertidal deposit underlying the northern Fens, consisting of blanket tidal silt with an extensive network of roddon channels. No earlier deposits of the Fenland sequence (e.g. Upper/Lower Peat, Fen clay) were encountered, presumably remaining buried at depth. The only archaeology exposed in the trenching was ditches belonging to an extensive type of medieval/post-medieval field system known as Dylings, constructed across the site in two distinct phases. Both phases featured grid-like land divisions, with fields sub-divided into long strips by regularly spaced drainage ditches, similar to ridge and furrow but unique to the silt lands of Lincolnshire. Dating evidence suggests that large parts of the field system remained in use until the late 19th century, and the overall field complex appears to be ancestral to the modern field boundary layout. No archaeology early than this was encountered.
Keywords	Ditch - MEDIEVAL - FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types Ditch - POST MEDIEVAL - FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types Sherd - POST MEDIEVAL - FISH Archaeological Objects Thesaurus

Funder	Private or public corporation Enray Power Ltd
HER	Lincolnshire HER - unRev - STANDARD
Person Responsible for work	David Gibson
HER Identifiers	HER Event No - LCNCC2025:30
Archives	Physical Archive, Documentary Archive - to be deposited with Lincolnshire Archives; Digital Archive - to be deposited with Cambridge University Archives;

Report generated on: 04 Apr 2025, 12:02