



UNIVERSAL DESTINATIONS & EXPERIENCES UK PROJECT

Former Kempston Hardwick Brickworks
and adjoining land, Bedford

Environmental Statement Volume 3

Appendix 10.2 - Archaeological Trial Trench Evaluation Report Part 1/3

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Environmental Statement Volume 3

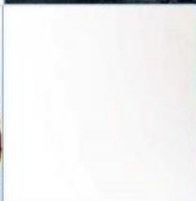
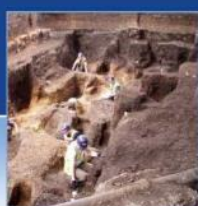
Appendix 10.2 - Archaeological Trial Trench Evaluation Report

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Universal Destinations & Experiences UK Project

ES Appendix 10.2 (Volume 3): Archaeological Trial Trench Evaluation Report



ARCHAEOLOGY

HERITAGE

CONSERVATION

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This appendix, detailing results of evaluation trenching has been prepared in support of the planning proposal for the Proposed Development as described in **Chapter 2: Description of the Proposed Development (Volume 1)** of the Environmental Statement (ES).

The trial trench evaluation was undertaken to assess the potential for the survival of sub-surface archaeological remains within the Site that may be affected by the Proposed Development. A Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) was prepared by WSP and AOC Archaeology (WSP/AOC 2024) which detailed the scope and methodology of the archaeological evaluation. The WSI was approved by the Archaeological Officer at Bedford Borough Council (Bedford BC), and the works were conducted by AOC Archaeology in accordance with the WSI and current and best practices, standards, and guidelines. The works were monitored by the Archaeological Officer at Bedford BC, and by WSPs Cultural Heritage and Archaeology team.

The archaeological evaluation was informed by **Appendix 10.1: Historic Environment Desk-Based Assessment (Volume 3)** comprising an historic environment desk-based assessment (HEDBA) which included the results of geophysical survey and trial trenching undertaken in 2019 for a previous planning application (MOLA, 2019). This revealed evidence of multi-period activity, notably extensive Iron Age, Romano-British, and medieval occupation, with some evidence of early prehistoric activity.

The present evaluation comprised 321 trenches out of a proposed 322 trenches located across three zones:

- *Lake Zone: a 3% sample of the total area, excluding former brickworks and clay extraction areas. This area was subject to geophysical survey in 2019 but no trenching;*
- *Core Zone: This zone was subject to trenching in 2019, comprising a 0.5% sample by area, with the understanding that further evaluation would be required. As part of this current phase of work, an additional 2.5% sample was undertaken where the previous work revealed significant remains, with a 1.5% sample for the remaining areas where there were few or no features; and*
- *West Gateway Zone; a 2% sample. This zone was subject to trenching in 2019, comprising a 0.5% sample.*

No evaluation was undertaken within the East Gateway Zone due to ecological constraints including in-situ badger setts and extensive tree coverage.

Archaeological remains were present in all three zones, and largely matched the geophysical survey results, with activity focussed within defined areas; Late Iron Age to Romano-British (100 BC – AD 410) settlement in the Lake Zone; Late Iron Age – Romano-British farmstead, Romano-British trackway and settlement, and medieval (AD 1066 – AD 1485) moated

enclosure in the Core Zone; and further Romano-British trackway and peripheral agricultural activity within the West Gateway Zone.

Geoarchaeological investigation in the Lake Zone found that in situ alluvium survives within the base of the Elstow Brook, although only c. 0.25m in thickness. Alluvial infilling of a palaeochannel to the northeast is more substantial, reaching up to 1.10m in thickness. These deposits present potential for preservation of palaeoenvironmental remains which could be utilised for the reconstruction of environmental conditions throughout the Holocene and provide context for the archaeological remains identified across the Site.

The results of the evaluation have been used to inform the Archaeological Mitigation Strategy which forms **Appendix 10.3: Archaeological Mitigation Strategy (Volume 3)**

An OASIS form (OASIS ID: aocarcha1-526819) has been compiled and an electronic copy of the report will be deposited with the Archaeological Data Service (ADS). The Site archive will be prepared for deposition at the Higgins Museum (under Site Code: BEDFM.2023.270) in accordance with local and national guidance at the end of the project.

1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 This report details the results of an archaeological trial trench evaluation undertaken in support of a planning proposal for the Proposed Development, as described in **Chapter 2: Description of the Proposed Development (Volume 1)** of the Environmental Statement, at land to the southwest of Bedford, Bedfordshire (henceforth 'the Site'). The evaluation was completed between April and May 2024.
- 1.2 The evaluation was undertaken across three areas (**Figure 1; Figure 2**) as set out in the Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) by WSP and AOC Archaeology (WSP/AOC 2024); 321 of a planned 322 trenches were excavated across these three areas; the Lake Zone, Core Zone and West Gateway Zone.
- 1.3 The works were conducted by AOC Archaeology in accordance with current best practice, standards and guidelines, including the professional standards issued by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA), specifically the Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation (CIfA 2020b). The works were monitored by the Geoff Saunders, Archaeological Officer at Bedford BC, and by Ray Kennedy and Alastair Hancock of WSPs Cultural Heritage and Archaeology team.
- 1.4 The results of the evaluation have been used to inform the Archaeological Mitigation Strategy which forms **Appendix 10.3: Archaeological Mitigation Strategy (Volume 3)**.

2 SITE LOCATION, TOPOGRAPHY AND GEOLOGY

- 2.1 The Site is located to east of the A421 road and Marsh Leys Business Park (NGR 502500, 244000; **Figure 1**), in a semi-rural landscape located immediately to the south of Kempston, which is 3km to the southwest of Bedford town centre. It primarily comprises undeveloped agricultural (arable) land, though extensive remains of a 20th-century brickworks are present at the centre and northeast within the Lake Zone.
- 2.2 Topographically, the Site is relatively flat at heights of between 29–33m Ordnance Datum (OD) in the Lake Zone; 32-27m aOD in the Core Zone; and 33-35m aOD in the West Gateway Zone.
- 2.3 The British Geological Survey (BGS) (2024) identifies the solid geology of the Site as Peterborough Member mudstone (part of the Oxford Clay Formation). A band of alluvium flanked by extensive head deposits follows the existing course of the Elstow Brook at the southwest and its former, now canalised, course at the north of the Site. A band of head runs parallel with Manor Road, with additional alluvium and head flanking the unnamed stream located toward the southeast of the Site.

- 2.4 To the north of Manor Road, a large area of made ground is recorded at the former brickyard and an adjoining raised area of scrub, with artificial made ground recorded across the former quarry pit area to the east.

3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

- 3.1 A considerable amount of development-led work has been undertaken around Bedford over the past two decades, particularly to the west and south of the town, within the floodplain of the River Great Ouse and its tributary the Elstow Brook, providing a wealth of information about the settlement pattern of the local area, from prehistory through to the modern period (WSP/AOC 2024).
- 3.2 The following sections are derived from the baseline information presented in an HEDBA report **Appendix 10.1: Historic Environment Desk-Based Assessment (Volume 3)** produced prior to the evaluation trenching, and have not been amended to reflect the results presented in this report.

Earlier Prehistoric (Palaeolithic to Bronze Age)

- 3.3 The Site has moderate potential to reveal earlier prehistoric remains. The area of the Great Ouse is rich in earlier prehistoric archaeological remains.

Palaeolithic

- 3.4 The river terraces of the Great Ouse are known to contain unstratified and stratified Quaternary paleoenvironmental and Palaeolithic artefactual evidence. Finds include hundreds of Lower Palaeolithic artefacts recorded from 19th century gravel pits near Biddenham (Luke 2007, 24), to the west of Bedford, c.6km to the north of the Site. Wymer noted that these gravel pits have 'the distinction of being the first prolific Palaeolithic sites to have been discovered in England' (Wymer 1999, 123). Hundreds of Lower Palaeolithic handaxes were also found in similar circumstances at Kempston, around 4km to the northeast, with their precise provenance again uncertain (Luke 2007, 24).

Mesolithic

- 3.5 The Mesolithic period is represented by mobile hunter-gatherer communities exploiting natural resources, with archaeological evidence usually limited to scatters of worked flint tools. Archaeological features defining settlement evidence of the Mesolithic period are extremely rare, but dense flint scatters found at areas such as the Biddenham Loop, near the Great Ouse, suggest that Mesolithic hunter-gatherers may have returned to favoured locations on a seasonal basis.

- 3.6 Among the assemblage at Biddenham Loop, c.4km north, were blades, blade cores, a four leafed arrowhead, a pick, a knife and a concentration of struck flint, although the flint here was residual in later features (Luke 2007, 25). Close by, c.3km to the north of the Site at Kempston, Mesolithic flints were recovered as residual material in later features, however one pit contained exclusively Mesolithic flint (Crick and Dawson 1996).

Neolithic

- 3.7 The Neolithic saw the gradual introduction of a more sedentary lifestyle, with the rearing of domestic animals and the cultivation of early forms of cereal. Settlement evidence is rare and often restricted to clustered pits, but significant activity of this period is evident in the archaeological record around the Great Ouse Valley with the river seemingly acting as a focus of settlement and ritual activity.
- 3.8 Areas, notably at the confluence of a watercourse, saw focussed construction of monuments which may have defined areas of ritual and communal significance. Some of Bedfordshire's most well-known Neolithic monuments are found in the Bedford area, including putative cursus monuments recorded at Biddenham Loop (3.5km north), Kempston (4.5km north), and Cardington (8km north), although the identification of many of these features as cursus remains speculative (Luke 2007, 33).
- 3.9 Excavations at Marsh Leys Farm (Luke and Preece 2011), immediately west of the Site, has produced residual evidence for Late Neolithic to Early Bronze Age activity in the form of worked flint, although no settlement features of this period were identified.
- 3.10 Eight flint blades and flakes of probable Neolithic date were recovered from the surface of a potential colluvial deposit identified at the southwest of the Site, slightly to the west of the Elstow Brook (Trenches 11 and 12: MOLA 2019b, 15).

Bronze Age

- 3.11 Settlement evidence of this period remains rare and as for the Neolithic, it is often restricted to clustered pits such as examples revealed c.5km north, at Biddenham Loop (Luke and Barker 2016) and at the Bedford Western Bypass near Biddenham (Luke and Barker 2022).
- 3.12 Other settlement evidence includes a middle-late Bronze Age ditched and palisaded enclosure also found during work near Biddenham (ibid.).
- 3.13 Bronze Age funerary monuments (ring ditches) are widespread near the Great Ouse. For example, cropmarks of probable Bronze Age ring ditches are recorded alongside the Neolithic monuments at Cardington, and early Bronze Age Beaker burials have

been found nearby (ibid., 39-41). Excavations at Elstow, around 3km away, have revealed Bronze Age ring ditches. (ibid.).

- 3.14 To the south of Manor Road and immediately to the west of the Site, circular cropmarks (HER ref: MBD14756) of potential ring ditches are recorded slightly to the east of the Elstow Brook.

Iron Age and Roman

- 3.15 The Site contains known Iron Age to Roman remains. A few nearby sites have produced evidence for earlier Iron Age activity (e.g. at Land North of Biddenham, where a small unenclosed settlement set within a field system was occupied between the Early and Middle Iron Age (Luke and Barker 2022). The creation of pit alignments during the Early Iron Age, as recorded at Biddenham Loop, may evidence increasing population density and territoriality (Oake et al 2007, 61).
- 3.16 The landscape of the River Great Ouse valley became increasingly settled from the Middle Iron Age onwards. Continuity of some settlement from the Middle Iron Age into the Roman period is known, although in some cases it is evident that settlement was abandoned in the Late Iron Age, with new settlements established on previously unoccupied land (Luke and Barker 2022).
- 3.17 In the early to mid-Roman period a reorganisation of the landscape occurred, a phenomenon known within the Bedford area and further afield in southern Britain, where settlements occupied in the Late Iron Age and early Roman period were often subject to radical transformation in the late 1st or 2nd centuries AD. This transformation may have been associated with agricultural expansion to meet the growing needs of the Roman state (Fulford and Smith 2016, 410; Allen and Lodwick 2017). Excavations of such settlements often reveal associated cemeteries. For example, at Marsh Leys Farm, Late Iron Age and Early Roman urned cremation burials, and mid-late Roman inhumation and cremation burials were also found (Luke and Preece 2011).

Lake Zone

- 3.18 A geophysical survey within the Site identified an extensive area (c.250m x c.170m) of rectilinear magnetic anomalies originating from ditches and enclosures of a probable multi-phased settlement (MOLA, 2019). A few potential roundhouses are also visible and discrete magnetic anomalies may indicate pits, hearths and industrial activity. The geophysical results are like those collected immediately to the west at Marsh Leys Farm where subsequent excavation identified dense remains of Iron Age and Romano-British rural settlement (Luke and Preece 2011).

- 3.19 Disparate linear magnetic anomalies in the surrounding area, along with a seemingly isolated rectilinear enclosure to the southeast and an isolated sub-square enclosure to the northeast of the dense area of settlement activity, may bound stock enclosures or field systems.

Core Zone

- 3.20 Geophysical survey results (MOLA 2019a) suggest that the southwest of this area contains limited archaeological remains consistent with agricultural use. Preliminary trenching (MOLA 2019b) may confirm that activity here is generally limited to furrows, dispersed field system and associated trackway ditches, though a limited assemblage of Roman pot sherds recovered from several ditches and a spread of material at the north (T5) suggest proximity to settlement.
- 3.21 For consistency the following text uses the 'Site' nomenclature defined in the preliminary trenching report for the densest areas of archaeology (MOLA 2019b).

Site 1

- 3.22 *Early Roman farmstead:* The geophysical survey suggests that the core area of archaeological remains covers around 3ha and is situated at the plateau of high ground at the northeast of this area; it comprises a north-northeast to south-southwest aligned series of relatively small rectilinear enclosures with large potential stock or field system enclosures extending to the south and west (Trenches 51 and T56). A network of trackway ditches is evident from geophysics results to the west, southwest and east of the enclosure system though it is currently unclear whether these are of Roman date or belong to Iron Age or medieval phases of activity.
- 3.23 A small assemblage of Roman pottery, mainly dating 1st century AD, was recovered from investigated enclosure ditches, along with one fragment of slag likely derived from a smithing hearth and a fragment of roof tile. Pottery dated to the 3rd century AD was recovered from the surface of the fills of one of the southern enclosure ditches, suggesting that the farmstead may have been abandoned by the latter part of the Roman period.

Site 2

- 3.24 *Iron Age farmstead and trackway:* Encompasses a core area of c.4ha which includes a north-northeast to south-southwest aligned broad trackway with sub-square enclosures situated to its east and west. The settlement core may be located at the north, adjacent to the unnamed stream present immediately to the east, perhaps comprising four roundhouses within an enclosure (Trench 21). A small assemblage of pot sherds suggests that the settlement core was in use during the mid to late Iron Age, with

minimal evidence of Roman activity observed, though smaller enclosures and sections of the trackway extending to the south may have remained in use during the Iron Age/Roman transition.

- 3.25 The results of previous work suggest that the core settlement layout may be relatively simple. However, very few of its features have currently been investigated, this fact and a possible unenclosed roundhouse to the west (Trench 20) along with some other isolated potential features, suggest that more complexity may be revealed by forthcoming investigation.

Site 3

- 3.26 *Iron Age and early Roman trackway and enclosures. Late Roman settlement enclosures:* The densest area of archaeology covers a core area of c.4.5ha. The Iron Age trackway and enclosures at Site 2 extend south into Site 3 and seem to have remained in use into the early Roman period with some sub-rectangular enclosures added.
- 3.27 During the late Roman period a large rectilinear enclosure system was constructed, perhaps on a slightly different orientation over the mainly disused remains of the earlier trackway and enclosures. Several smaller trackways and numerous new enclosure ditches were established, though some of the earlier enclosure ditches may have been incorporated into the new enclosure system.

Anglo-Saxon (early medieval)

- 3.28 The Site has low to moderate potential to contain early-medieval remains. The period immediately following the end of Roman administration in Britain in the early 5th century was a time of considerable change. Settlement pattern altered with dispersed Anglo-Saxon farmsteads or isolated hamlets often focused on river valleys, and many of the local Roman sites appear to have been abandoned in the fifth or sixth centuries, though some show limited continued use.
- 3.29 In the 9th and 10th centuries, the dispersed settlement pattern began to be replaced with nucleated settlements often focused on a manor house and a parish church.
- 3.30 Rural Anglo-Saxon activity has been found in several locations around Bedford. At Wixams Northern Expansion Area, residual Anglo-Saxon pottery was recovered (Barker and Guy 2023) and at Land North of Biddenham a pit contained early Anglo-Saxon pottery (Luke and Barker 2022).
- 3.31 Notably, at Biddenham Loop, Anglo-Saxon activity was concentrated in three settlement areas, with at least one coincident with one of the earlier Roman farmsteads. Over twenty early Anglo-Saxon SFBs (Sunken-Featured Buildings) were identified, some

with evidence for bone and antler working, mostly focussed at one of the Roman enclosures (Oake et al 2016). The Roman nucleated settlement at Church End, Kempston, also produced evidence for some continuity into the Anglo-Saxon period (Dawson 2004), as did Newnham, Bedford (Ingham *et. al.* 2016).

- 3.32 Previous archaeological investigations at the Site have not identified early-medieval remains.

Medieval

- 3.33 The Site has known medieval remains. The medieval period at this area is characterised by open field farming systems controlled by manorial estates usually including a principal settlement situated around a parish church. Each manor or village had two or three large open fields, which were divided into narrow strips (ridge and furrow) cultivated by peasants. However, the area may have retained significant tracts of woodland subject to gradual assarting (piecemeal woodland clearance) throughout this period.
- 3.34 The Site is in a landscape densely populated with moated sites, which became popular in the 12th and 13th centuries and were often built as a show of status and wealth.

Lake Zone

- 3.35 This area may have mainly seen agricultural use during the medieval period though the results of geophysical survey show no definitive evidence of the presence of ploughed out ridge and furrow (MOLA 2019a).
- 3.36 At the south adjacent to Manor Road, a shrunken settlement (HER Ref: MBD3286) is identified from mid-20th century aerial photographs. The shrunken settlement lay adjacent to a moated site, the remains of which are now a scheduled monument (Kempston Hardwick Moated Site. NHLE Ref: 1012312). An area of ancient enclosures (HER ref: MBD22920), since removed by quarrying, is recorded to the east of the scheduled moated site and perhaps identifies an area of medieval assarting.

Core Zone

- 3.37 The shrunken settlement located adjacent to Manor Road may have extended into the north of this area, though any above ground evidence will have been removed by late 20th century ploughing. Irregular extant field boundaries at the northeast may identify a remnant of the ancient enclosures removed by quarrying to the north.
- 3.38 A 13th-15th century Preceptory of the Knights Hospitaller (HER ref: MBD14757) is recorded at this area adjacent to Manor Road. The presence of a Preceptory at Kempston Hardwick is known from documentary evidence, but its location is uncertain with no physical evidence currently locating it within the Site.

- 3.39 The geophysical survey (MOLA 2019a) identified extensive evidence of ploughed out ridge and furrow across this area, illustrating that much of it was located within open field systems.

Site 4

- 3.40 At the south of this area adjacent to Broadmead Road the location of a moated site (HER ref: MBD8294), known from documentary sources, was defined by the geophysical survey (MOLA 2019a) and was subsequently tested by trenching (MOLA 2019b).
- 3.41 The moat is known to have been deliberately infilled in the late 20th century; a trench opened across it (Trench 38) showed that the c.2.4m wide V-shaped moat ditch contained c.0.8m of modern infill overlying c.1m of organic moat fills. A single internal pit was revealed at the platform within the moat and late 12th to mid-14th century pot sherds were recovered from its fill.
- 3.42 The geophysics results showed that the area surrounding the moated site contained curvilinear and rectilinear enclosures: the densest area of enclosures is located to the northwest of an extant pond, numerous ditches were identified by trenching (Trenches 37 and 39) and a small assemblage of 12th century pot sherds was recovered.
- 3.43 A deserted medieval village (Wooton Broadmead: HER ref: MBD16992) is located immediately to the south of the moated site.

Post-Medieval and Modern

- 3.44 The Site has high potential to contain post-medieval and modern remains. A small area at the northeast may fall within the boundary of a late 18th-mid 19th century racecourse (HER ref: MBD13312). The medieval open fields had been subdivided and enclosed with hedgerow field boundaries by the early 19th century, though much of the Site remained in agricultural use throughout the post-medieval period.
- 3.45 The Marston Vale Railway Line was constructed across the southwest and at the west of the Site in the early 19th century, opening in 1846. The line was incorporated into a wider network of railways from 1854 to 1862 to become part of the Varsity Line, which connected Oxford and Cambridge, until sections of it were closed in 1967.
- 3.46 Brickworks were established at the area during the late 19th and 20th centuries, including the Kempston Hardwick Brickworks (HER ref: MBD6678) which is located within the Site. The most successful brickworks, Stewartby Brickworks, opened to the south of the Site in 1897 and during part of the 20th century it was the largest brickworks, in terms of output, in the world (Morrison, 2018). The brickworks had significant effects on the area, including large scale extraction and establishment of the

model village of Stewartby in 1926; they were instrumental in the creation of Bedfordshire's rich multi-cultural society.

- 3.47 Archaeological investigation to the south of Manor Road (MOLA 2019b, 30) has identified a number of probable post medieval enclosure field boundary ditches.

4 PROJECT AIMS

- 4.1 The trenches were targeted at known features (geophysical anomalies, geoarchaeological features, or earthworks), as well as seemingly blank areas where no anomalies or features have been previously detected.

- 4.2 The aims of the archaeological evaluation were based on the archaeological potential as identified in the **Appendix 10.1: Historic Environment Desk- Based Assessment (Volume 3)** previous archaeological work, and as laid out in the approved WSI (WSP/AOC 2024). These are as follows as defined by the East of England research agenda (EAA 2011; 2021), and informed by the appropriate Historic England guidance (Historic England 2023, 2024):

- LBA [Late Bronze Age] - MIA [Middle Iron Age] 04 - How can we increase our understanding of the Early to Middle Iron Age transition?;
- LBA-MIA 06 – Can we identify and characterise regional differences during the LBA to MIA?;
- Can the works further the objective of further understanding of prehistoric and Romano- British field systems, and their relationship to preceding and succeeding systems?;
- Is there evidence of early contact or Roman presence in Bedfordshire pre-conquest? Did the native elite remain in place post-conquest; did they adopt, adapt or resist? Can the impact of conquest be detected in settlement changes in this period?;
- LIA-Rom 13 - Can we increase our understanding of Late Iron Age and Roman farmsteads?;
- What are the origins and development of the different rural medieval settlement type, and is there any evidence of industrial activity?;
- What is the role of water management and land reclamation in the medieval period?; and
- What are the nature and levels of natural deposits, and has there been any modern disturbance?

5 METHODOLOGY

- 5.1 The archaeological evaluation was conducted according to the detailed methodology laid out in the approved WSI (WSP/AOC 2024).

- 5.2 The WSI outlined a proposed 322 trial trenches to be excavated across the Site, with a 2% contingency plan if significant archaeological remains were found. In total, 321 trenches were excavated during the evaluation, the majority measuring 50m by 1.80m, with the exception of Trenches 419, 420 and 421 which were moved in location and shortened due to onsite constraints. Only one trench (Trench 176) was removed from the scope of works after discussion with the WSP Cultural Heritage and Archaeology Team and the Bedford BC Archaeological Officer, as the location was within a pond and hedgerow (**Figure 2**).
- 5.3 The trenches were positioned to an accuracy of $\pm 100\text{mm}$ of the specified trench location using survey-grade Trimble DGPS. Prior to excavation the trench area was surveyed using a CAT 4+.
- 5.4 The evaluation trenches were opened by a mechanical excavator under the supervision of a suitably qualified and competent member of AOC staff. Excavation occurred in successive spits down to the first significant archaeological horizon, or natural substratum, whichever was encountered first. All trenches, and any archaeological features found, were recorded using AOC Archaeology's Field Data Manager (FDM) application and surveyed to be tied to the national grid using a Trimble GPS. A sample of archaeological features were characterised through excavation in all three zones in agreement with WSP and Bedford BC. Where features represented complex intercutting features, they were generally not excavated. During investigation of features, where the base of features was not reached, due to flooding, safe depth etc, features were hand augured to ascertain depths and profiles.
- 5.5 An accession number (BEDFM.2023.270) was issued by The Higgins Bedford (the Project Archive Repository) and used as a Site code.

6 RESULTS

Introduction

- 6.1 A range of confirmed and potential archaeological features were encountered in all three zones during the trial trench evaluation, a summary of which follows for each zone.
- 6.2 The results of each area are discussed in turn, with those trenches containing archaeological features described in full. A full list of contexts is provided in Annex 1. Deposits are enclosed in (parentheses) and cut features in [square brackets]. Levels are provided in metres above Ordnance Datum (m AOD). The dimensions (length, width, depth) of excavated features are provided in the ensuing text and Annex 1, while dimensions of unexcavated features (length, width) are provided in Annex 1 only. Photographs presented in this section feature a 1m photographic scale, unless stated otherwise in the plate caption.

- 6.3 The majority of trenches were excavated at the standard dimension of 50m length by 1.8m width, and as such dimensions are not listed below unless they deviate from this standard measurement. An area overview and detailed trench plans are illustrated (**Figures 3–8**), along with associated section drawings of features (**Figure 9**) and representative trench sections, including a selection of blank trenches (**Figure 10**).

Lake Zone

- 6.4 The geophysical survey (MOLA, 2019a) suggested that a series of boundaries and enclosure complexes of potential archaeological significance underlie the Lake Zone. Major clusters of anomalies were situated in the following locations, and their formative interpretations based upon the geophysical survey, are detailed below:
- The presence of a rectangular enclosure complex, morphologically appropriate for the Iron Age and Romano-British periods, was postulated in the southeast part of the Lake Zone (Trenches 321, 322 and 325–7 targeted this area; **Figure 3**);
 - The presence of a series of conjoined enclosures and boundaries, morphologically appropriate for the Romano-British period, were postulated to underlie the west-central part of the Lake Zone, interpreted as the core of a putative Late Iron Age to Romano-British settlement (Trenches 335, 340, 345, 348–52, 354–5, 357–9, 361, 363, 375, 377, 380–1, 383, 387 and 421–20 targeted this area; **Figure 3**);
 - A sub-rectangular enclosure complex, morphologically appropriate for the Iron Age or Romano-British periods, was postulated to underlie the Lake Zone to the immediate northeast of the putative core of Late Iron Age to Romano-British settlement (Trenches 395 and 398 targeted this area; **Figure 3**);
 - A linear geophysical anomaly, and a curvilinear geophysical anomaly, which may represent an enclosure complex and/or field boundaries of uncertain date, were postulated to underlie the northeast corner of the Lake Zone (Trench 415 targeted this area; **Figure 3**);
 - A series of discrete linear geophysical anomalies were identified in the southern part of the Lake Zone and were tested through the excavation (Trenches 315, 317, 320 and 332; **Figure 3**); and
 - The remaining trenches targeted areas of the geophysical survey where no anomalies were identified, to test its accuracy in this regard (**Figure 3**).
- 6.5 These interpretations have been tested through the excavation of the evaluation trenches that are noted above in parentheses. The interpretations provided above are

updated in the paragraphs that follow, in light of the evidence revealed through the excavation of the archaeological evaluation trenches.

6.6 In addition to the evaluation trenches, geoarchaeological test pits were also dug, to investigate the following paleoenvironmental sequences:

- TP323 and TP343 investigated the backfilled Elstow Brook; and
- TP341A, TP341B, TP348A and TP348B were excavated to target a palaeochannel, the presence of which was suggested by the geophysical survey.

Description/Interpretation	Thickness	Height of Deposit (aOD)
Topsoil	0.18m to 0.49m	29.75m to 30.37m
Subsoil	0.15m to 0.30m	28.81m to 30.15m
Natural geology: stiff light yellow brown clay, to a stiff mid-orange brown clay	0.10m+	28.60m to 30.20m

Table 1: Lake Zone stratigraphic sequence

6.7 A total of 107 trenches were excavated in the Lake Zone (**Figures 3 and 4**). Archaeological remains were found in 36 trenches (Trenches 321, 322, 325, 326, 327, 335, 340, 345, 347, 349, 351, 352, 354, 357, 358, 359, 361, 366, 368, 369, 375, 377, 380, 381, 383, 387, 395, 396, 398, 408, 411, 415, 417, 418, 420 and 421). All remaining trenches were archaeologically sterile.

6.8 The natural deposits in the Lake Zone ranged from a stiff light yellow brown clay, to a stiff mid-orange brown clay. Natural was recorded at heights of between 28.60m aOD to 30.20m aOD. Unless stated otherwise, all archaeologically significant features pre-dating the recent past were cut from this level. Overlying this horizon was a mid-orange brown subsoil which varied in depth across the Zone, but on average measured 0.21m in depth. Overlying the subsoil, was a firm topsoil of mid-brown grey clay with rare stone inclusions. Trench depth, on average, measured 0.56m.

Lake Zone South

Trenches 315, 317, 320 and 332 (Figure 3)

6.9 These trenches targeted a series of discrete geophysical anomalies in the southern part of the Lake Zone, however they proved to be archaeologically sterile (**Figure 3**). The geophysical anomalies in this part of the Site may therefore not be of archaeological significance.

Trench 321 (Figure 3; Figure 4-1)

- 6.10 Trench 321 was situated in the southern part of the Lake Zone. The geophysical survey suggests that it was positioned within a rectangular enclosure to the southeast of the core of a putative Late Iron Age to Romano-British settlement that is presumed to underlie the Site (**Figure 3**). It contained five features: three pit-like features ([32107], [32104], [32109]), a pit or ditch, [32111], and a probable ditch [32113] (**Figure 4-1**). Only pit feature [32104] was investigated through excavation.
- 6.11 Pit [32104] cut the natural geology at a level of 30.30m aOD (Plate 1). It was irregular in plan with shallow sloping sides and a flat base, measuring 0.15m in width by 0.30m in length, with a depth of 0.30m as exposed within the limits of the trench. The pit was initially suspected to be a deposit forming a layer, but the shallow sloping sides instead suggest the presence of a pit. The pit was filled by a friable dark brown black sandy clay (32105), from which 105 sherds of pottery dated to the period AD 70–150 were recovered, along with 10 fragments of ceramic building material (CBM), 13 pieces of fired clay and a bone hair pin (Annex 2). The pit may therefore represent an earlier Roman rubbish pit associated with nearby settlement.
- 6.12 Ditch [32113] in the southern end of the trench coincided with a northwest–southeast geophysical anomaly, that is presumed to represent a boundary ditch associated with Late Iron Age to Romano-British settlement of the Lake Zone. This ditch may be associated with one or more iterations of a large rectangular enclosure encountered variously in Trenches 321, 322, 325, 327 and 326 (**Figure 3**). This may represent an outlying zone of settlement or farming activity situated to the south of the core of the putative Late Iron Age to Romano-British settlement that is presumed to have occupied the Site in antiquity (**Figure 3**).



Plate 1: Pit [32104], looking northwest

Trench 322 (Figure 3; Figure 4-2)

- 6.13 Trench 322 was situated to the immediate northwest of Trench 321 towards the southern end of the Lake Zone, within the west corner of the aforementioned rectangular enclosure, as suggested by the geophysical survey (**Figure 3**). It contained three probable ditch features: [32204], [32207], and [32209]. The features were not excavated.
- 6.14 Putative ditches [32207] and [32204] corresponded with geophysical anomalies potentially representative of Late Iron Age to Romano-British settlement (**Figure 4-2**). These geophysical anomalies suggest the presence of two co-axial ditches at approximate right-angles to one another, orientated northwest–southeast ([32207]) and northeast–southwest ([32204]). As suggested by the geophysical survey, and illustrated on **Figure 3**, this collection of features may be associated with one or more iterations of a large rectangular enclosure encountered variously in Trenches 321, 322, 325, 327 and 326 (**Figure 3**).
- 6.15 Putative ditch [32209] was similarly orientated northwest–southeast, parallel with [32207], but was not detected during the geophysical survey (**Figure 4-2**). Two other linear geophysical anomalies in the southern part of the trench were not identified by excavation (**Figure 4-2**).

Trench 325 (Figure 3; Figure 4-3)

- 6.16 Trench 325 was situated to the immediate northeast of Trench 322 in the southern third of the Lake Zone, again falling within the predicted confines of a rectangular enclosure as suggested by the geophysical survey (**Figure 3**). It contained one demonstratable feature, a probable ditch [32503], which was orientated northeast–southwest and cut the natural geology at a level of 29.70m aOD. A small intervention into the ditch revealed shallow sloping sides, however the base was not reached due to the high-water table. An auger showed the depth of the feature to be 0.58m. The ditch was filled by a compacted brown grey silty clay (32504), from which 12 sherds of pottery dated to the period AD 1–100 were recovered, along with nine sherds of Roman CBM, that together date this context to the early post-Conquest period (Annex 2). Although ditch [32503] did not directly corresponded with geophysical anomalies, its orientation suggests that it could have formed part of the large rectangular enclosure encountered variously in Trenches 321, 322, 325, 327 and 326 (**Figure 3**). It may therefore date that enclosure to the early Roman period.
- 6.17 A geophysical anomaly forming an ‘L’-shape in plan was detected to the northwest of ditch [32503], but was not identified archaeologically (**Figure 4-3**).

Trench 326 (Figure 3; Figure 4-4)

- 6.18 Trench 326 was situated to the east of Trench 325 in the southern third of the Lake Zone, again within the confines of a rectangular enclosure as suggested by the geophysical survey (**Figure 3**). It contained four features, ditches [32604], [32606], [32613], and [32608], all of which were orientated northwest to southeast and corresponded with similarly orientated geophysical anomalies (**Figure 4-4**).
- 6.19 The most northerly feature in the trench, ditch [32604], truncated the natural geology at a level of 29.70m aOD. It was irregular in plan with shallow sloping sides and a flat base. It was 1.05m wide and 0.5m deep, continuing beyond the trench edges to the northwest and southeast. A single fill was present that comprised a moderately compact silty clay (32605). As shown on **Figure 4-4**, the geophysical survey suggests that this feature may form the northern side of a rectangular enclosure.
- 6.20 To the southwest of ditch [32604], ditch [32606] was identified (**Figure 4-4**). As exposed within the confines of the trench, this feature proved to be 0.8m wide and 0.25m deep, again continuing beyond the edges of the intervention to the northwest and southeast. It may have formed the opposing side of the aforementioned rectangular enclosure, as suggested by the geophysical survey results (**Figure 4-4**).
- 6.21 A third ditch, [32613], was situated to the immediate southwest of the rectangular enclosure, which was not excavated (**Figure 4-4**). The location of this putative ditch

coincided with a geophysical anomaly orientated northwest–southeast, which may represent a boundary that respected the orientation of the rectangular enclosure (**Figure 4-4**).

- 6.22 Situated further still to the southwest was ditch [32608] which was truncated by a field drain. It measured 3m wide and up to 0.79m deep (**Figure 4-4**; Plate 2) determined by auguring due to a high-water table. It contained a yellow brown silty clay primary fill (32610/32611) which looked to be a natural silting or perhaps representative of edge collapse. The secondary fill comprised mid-brown silty clay (32609), that produced one micro-mammal bone (Annex 2). This feature coincided with a geophysical anomaly orientated northwest–southeast, and may represent another boundary ditch that may be associated with the others in this trench. One possibility is that this feature formed the southwest side of a trackway or trackway within the aforementioned Romano-British settlement, to the immediate west of the small rectangular enclosure. Such a feature may have been bounded to the northeast by [32613] and/or [32606] (**Figure 4-4**).
- 6.23 As suggested by the geophysical survey, and illustrated on **Figure 3**, this collection of features may be associated with one or more iterations of a large rectangular enclosure encountered variously in Trenches 321, 322, 325, 327 and 326 (**Figure 3**), including a small appended enclosure (ditch [32604]). It is possible that trackways bounded this feature to the northeast and southwest, and that the northeast trackway crossed this evaluation trench.



Plate 2: Ditch [32608], looking northwest

Trench 327 (Figure 3; Figure 4-5)

- 6.24 Trench 327 was situated to the immediate west of Trench 326 in the southern third of the Lake Zone, crossing the predicted location of the northern part of the aforementioned rectangular enclosure, as suggested by the geophysical survey (**Figure 3**).
- 6.25 Two putative ditches were exposed in the trench, [32709] and [32707], neither of which were excavated. Both were aligned northwest–southeast. The most northerly of the two, ditch [32709], was aligned with a geophysical anomaly to the immediate south, and this therefore suggests that this anomaly represents a ditch that extends further to the northwest than the geophysical survey suggests (**Figure 4-5**). It is congruent with [32606] in Trench 326 to the southeast. The location of the more southerly of the two, ditch [32707], corresponded with a geophysical anomaly and appears to be congruent with [32608] in Trench 326 to the southwest.
- 6.26 As suggested by the geophysical survey, and illustrated on **Figure 3**, these ditches appear to be associated with one or more iterations of a large rectangular enclosure encountered variously in Trenches 321, 322, 325, 327 and 326 (**Figure 3**). It is possible that trackways bounded this feature to the northeast and southwest, and that the two ditches encountered in this trench were associated with the northeastern example.
- 6.27 A third feature was noted in the southern end of the trench [32705], which may represent a narrow gully or beamslot. The feature was not excavated, therefore any interpretation is speculative. The orientation of the feature was at an approximate right-angle with the aforementioned enclosure ditches, which suggests an association.

Trench 335 (Figure 3; Figure 4-6)

- 6.28 Trench 335 was located to the northwest of Trench 327 in the southern third of the Lake Zone, close to the southwestern periphery of the main core of Romano-British settlement, as suggested by the geophysical survey (**Figure 3**).
- 6.29 One feature, [33503], was noted in the north of the trench, which was orientated northeast–southwest but was not excavated. The location and orientation of the feature coincided with a linear geophysical anomaly (**Figure 4-6**). The geophysical survey suggests that this putative ditch may form part of a large ‘L’-shaped boundary or enclosure, initially presumed to be associated with the Romano-British settlement, however two small probable early-mid Anglo-Saxon pot sherds were recovered from the fill of an excavated portion of this ditch at Trench 340. This ditch was also predicted to fall within Trench 349 (discussed subsequently).

- 6.30 In addition to the putative enclosure ditch, two furrows were encountered in this trench, which are presumed to be of relatively recent origin (**Figure 4-6**).

Trench 340 (Figure 3; Figure 4-7)

- 6.31 Trench 340 was situated to the immediate northeast of Trench 327 in the southern third of the Lake Zone, again seemingly on the southwestern periphery of the core of the Romano-British settlement, as suggested by the geophysical survey (**Figure 3**). One archaeological feature was noted in the trench, ditch [34003].
- 6.32 Ditch [34003] was orientated northeast–southwest (Plate 3). The excavated intervention demonstrated that it was 1.5m wide and 0.52m deep, having been cut through the natural geology from a level of 30.40m aOD. One fill was present, (34004), a mid-greyish brown silty clay from which two small sherds of probable Anglo-Saxon pottery dated to the period AD 400–850 were recovered. The geophysical survey suggests that this feature is congruent with [33503] in Trench 335 to the immediate southwest. It may therefore form part of an ‘L’-shaped boundary or enclosure ditch with the recovered dating evidence suggesting an Anglo-Saxon or later date for this landscape feature, rather than a Romano-British or earlier date. This feature was also predicted to cross the southern part of Trench 349 (discussed subsequently).
- 6.33 The geophysical survey suggested that a second northeast–southwest orientated linear feature would be present in the southern end of this trench, however it was not detected archaeologically.



Plate 3: Ditch [34003], looking northeast

Lake Zone Central

Trench 345 (Figure 3; Figure 4-8)

- 6.34 Trench 345 was positioned to the northeast of Trench 327 in the west-central part of the Lake Zone (**Figure 3**). The trench revealed three archaeological features, detailed here from southeast to northwest: putative ditches [34513], [34503] and [34507] (**Figure 4-8**). Of these, ditch [34503] was excavated and the remaining features were unexcavated.
- 6.35 Ditch [34503] was orientated northeast–southwest, and was 0.90m wide and 1.30m deep, cut into the natural geology from a level of 30.30m aOD. The feature contained three fills; two deposits on the eastern side of the ditch comprising grey brown silty clay (34506) and (34505) which were thought to possibly represent edge collapse. The secondary of these fill (34505) contained 25 sherds of pottery dated to the period AD 1 – 100; some of the sherds likely being of the same vessel. A final fill of light brown compact sandy clay (34504) overlay (34506) and (34505) and filled the majority of the ditch exposed. Twelve sherds of pottery also dating to AD 1 – 100 were recovered from this fill (Annex 2). The ditch was aligned with the northwest side of a geophysical linear anomaly that may form part of a sub-rectangular enclosure associated with Late Iron Age to Romano-British settlement of this area of the Lake Zone (**Figure 3**).

- 6.36 Putative ditch [34513] in the southeast end of this trench was also aligned with a geophysical anomaly that resembles a ring ditch, and three fragments of pottery dated to the period AD 1–100 were recovered from the surface, along with four Middle Iron Age sherds, which may be residual (Annex 2). This feature may therefore represent a ditch terminus, perhaps bounding an entrance to that feature that faced towards the northeast (**Figure 4-8**). It is possible that the feature represents a roundhouse, however this is not clear at this stage.
- 6.37 Putative ditch remnant [34507] was suggestive of a pit or ditch terminus in plan, however, its location coincided with a linear geophysical anomaly orientated northeast–southwest, with which it may be congruent (**Figure 4-8**). If so, it may form part of an enclosure ditch that was also predicted to be present in Trench 349 (discussed subsequently; **Figure 3**), however an alternative interpretation as a pit or ditch terminus should not be ruled out at this stage.

Trench 347 (Figure 3; Figure 4-9)

- 6.38 Trench 347 was situated in the east-central part of the Lake Zone, seemingly on the southeastern periphery of the putative Late Iron Age to Romano-British settlement as suggested by the geophysical survey (**Figure 3**). It contained one archaeological feature, putative ditch [34704], which was not excavated. The ditch did not directly coincide with a geophysical anomaly, but could be associated with a linear geophysical anomaly to the northwest (**Figure 4-9**). It is possible, though presently unproven, that the ditch represents a continuation of that anomaly, if it curves southwards towards the location of this trench. If so, it may also form part of a boundary associated with the settlement.

Trench 349 (Figure 3; Figure 4-10)

- 6.39 Trench 349 was located in the west-central part of the Lake Zone, to the immediate west of Trench 345 (**Figure 3**). The trench contained three unexcavated features, listed here from south to north: putative ditches [34911], [34907] and [34909] (**Figure 4-10**). It also contained two excavated features, pit or posthole [34903] and ditch [34906].
- 6.40 Pit or posthole [34903] (Plate 4) was dug through the natural from a level of 29.90m aOD. It was 0.70m in diameter and was up to 0.26m deep. A single fill was recorded within it, (34904), which was a mid-yellowish brown clayey sand. This produced one sherd of pottery dated to the period AD 1–100, which may date this feature to that period (Annex 2).



Plate 4: Pit [34903], looking northwest

- 6.41 Putative ditch [34911] was seemingly orientated east–west, however the location of the feature also coincided with a northwest–southeast linear geophysical anomaly, with which it could be congruent (**Figure 4-10**). If so, it may form part of a large ‘L’-shaped boundary or enclosure (**Figure 3**). This ditch was also identified within the northern part of Trench 335 as [33503] and the central part of Trench 340 as [34003], where two small pot sherds of probable early-mid Anglo-Saxon date were recovered from its fill (**Figures 4-6 and 4-7**). The geophysical survey suggests that this same enclosure complex, or an earlier or later iteration of it, may continue northwards as a northeast–southwest boundary. The geophysical anomaly associated with this supposed continuation also crossed this trench, but was not visible archaeologically.
- 6.42 To the north of this was ditch [34906], the location of which coincided with a northwest–southeast geophysical anomaly, with which it is almost certainly congruent. The feature truncated the natural, the top being at a level of 29.84m aOD. A slot was excavated through the feature, which demonstrated that it was 1.32m wide and 0.23m deep. This putative ditch may terminate in a butt end to the north and may be associated with the small pit or posthole, [34903], located to the immediate north of the probable terminus. The date of this feature is uncertain.
- 6.43 To the north of this, two parallel linear features were noted, which may represent ditches orientated northwest–southeast. The features did not coincide with a geophysical

anomaly. The date of these features is uncertain. They were found in an area of the trench where an aforementioned anomaly on a northeast–southwest alignment was detected during the geophysical survey, but this was not evident archaeologically.

Trench 351 (Figure 3; Figure 4-11)

- 6.44 Trench 351 was situated in the central part of the Lake Zone, northwest of Trench 347 (**Figure 3**). Seven features were identified in the trench, detailed here from southeast to northwest: putative ditches [35116] and [35114], pit or posthole [35112], putative ditch [35110], ditch [35105] and pits or postholes [35108] and cremation [35103] (**Figure 4-11**). Of these, ditch [35105] and cremation [35103] were excavated. Included within the unexcavated features was pit [35108], however it should be noted here that during fieldwork it was suspected that this feature represents a cremation burial.
- 6.45 Ditch [35105] truncated the natural geology, the top of the feature having been identified at a level of 29.40m aOD. It was 0.79m wide and up 0.22m deep, continuing beyond the edges of the trench. Two fills were present, a dark grey silty clay primary fill (35106), sealed by a mid-brownish grey silty clay secondary fill (35107). The primary fill produced a noteworthy assemblage of cereal caryopses that included oat (17), hulled barley (118), barley (22), rye/wheat (7), emmer/spelt (63), wheat (185) and a further (461) grains that could not be identified to species. One glume of spelt and one cereal culm node was present. This material may represent burnt food waste indicative of nearby occupation. The secondary fill produced three sherds of Late Iron Age to early Roman pottery dated to the period AD 1–100 (Annex 2). The location of the feature corresponded with that of a north–south geophysical anomaly, which may form a boundary within the Late Iron Age to Romano-British settlement that appears to have occupied this part of the Lake Zone. The dating evidence recovered suggests that at least some components of that settlement date to the 1st century AD.
- 6.46 The geophysical survey suggests that this trench was positioned over a small D-shaped enclosure, that may have extended westwards from the aforementioned north–south boundary. The western side of this small enclosure may have been detected archaeologically through the discovery of putative ditch [35116] in the southwestern end of this trench, which was not excavated (**Figure 4-11**).
- 6.47 In the northeast part of the trench, cremation [35103] was excavated. The top of the feature was identified at a level of 29.40m aOD. It proved to be up to 0.40m in diameter and survived to a depth of 0.07m. A single fill was noted, (35104), which comprised a mid-greyish brown silty clay from which the cremated remains of at least one human individual, at least 9-10 years old and of unknown biological sex, was recovered. Two sherds of Late Iron Age to early Roman pottery were also recovered, which may date

this deposit to that period. A possible fragmented iron awl was also present, as were the remains of two nails and two possible tool bits, none of which were closely datable. A noteworthy find was a heat-affected glass object that may represent an Iron Age to Romano-British bead. This pit is therefore interpreted as a cremation burial. The metal tools and the glass object could represent grave goods, at least one of which was burnt on the pyre (Annex 2).

- 6.48 The remaining features within this trench did not correspond with any geophysical anomalies, and were not excavated (**Figure 4-11**).

Trench 352 (Figure 3; Figure 4-12)

- 6.49 Trench 352 was located in the west-central part of the Lake Zone, west of Trench 351, to the immediate north of Trench 345 (**Figure 3**). Three features were present within the trench, pit [35203] and ditch slots [35207] and [35205], all of which were excavated and all of which truncated the natural geology (**Figure 4-12**).
- 6.50 The most southeasterly feature in the trench comprised a probable pit, [35203], the top of which was uncovered at a level of 29.50m aOD. The pit was 0.71m in diameter and 0.34m deep. A single fill (35204) was noted, which comprised a gravelly clay that was mid-brown in colour, from which a single square or rectangular vessel sherd of glass was recovered (Annex 2). This may date the infilling of this pit to the Romano-British period.
- 6.51 Two ditch slots, [35207] and [35205] were excavated through a ditch to the northwest of the pit, which may represent the same linear geophysical anomaly (**Figure 4-12**). Together this suggests the presence of a northwest–southeast enclosure ditch in this location. Together these slots demonstrated the presence of a ditch that was up to 2.08m wide and 0.30m deep. Each slot contained a single fill, respectively termed (35208) and (35206), which comprised mid-brownish grey gravelly clay. The boundary is again presumed to be associated with a Late Iron Age to Romano-British settlement that is presumed to underlie this part of the Lake Zone.

Trench 354 (Figure 3; Figure 4-13)

- 6.52 Trench 354 was positioned to the immediate west of Trench 352, close to the western edge of the central part of the Lake Zone (**Figure 3**). A single feature was identified in the trench, putative ditch [34403], which was orientated northwest–southeast and was not excavated.
- 6.53 Putative ditch [34403] did not coincide with a geophysical anomaly, however it was aligned with a northwest–southeast anomaly that was detected to the immediate southeast of Trench 354 (**Figure 4-13**). As such, it may represent a continuation of that

anomaly, which may in turn represent a boundary ditch that was more extensive than the geophysical survey suggests.

Trench 357 (Figure 3; Figure 4-14)

- 6.54 Trench 357 was situated to the northeast of Trench 354 in the west-central part of the Lake Zone, near the core of the Late Iron Age to Romano-British settlement as suggested by the geophysical survey (**Figure 3**). One feature was noted in the southern end of the trench, ditch [35703], which truncated the natural geology (**Figure 4-14**).
- 6.55 Ditch [35703] was orientated northeast–southwest, and was 1.22m wide and up to 0.4m deep. It contained a single mid-brownish grey silty clay fill, (35704), from which one sherd of pottery of general Roman date was recovered (Annex 2). The ditch is presumed to be congruent with a more extensive northeast–southwest geophysical anomaly, which may represent another enclosure boundary associated with the Late Iron Age to Romano-British settlement that is thought to underly this part of the Lake Zone (**Figure 4-14**).

Trench 358 (Figure 3; Figure 4-15)

- 6.56 Trench 358 was positioned to the immediate west of Trench 351 in the central part of the Lake Zone, near the core of the Late Iron Age to Romano-British settlement as suggested by the geophysical survey (**Figure 3**). One archaeological feature [35803] was noted, which truncated the natural geology (**Figure 4-15**).
- 6.57 Feature [35803] was not fully excavated due to a high-water table, and interpretation is unclear. It may represent a wide ditch orientated northeast–southwest, or more probably a series of intercutting ditches or pits on this approximate alignment. It was 8m wide and over 0.27m deep, the top of the feature having been identified at a level of 29.57m aOD. The western end coincided with a geophysical anomaly that resembled a 'T'-shaped boundary, however the overlap was imprecise, making it hard to determine whether the two are congruent (**Figure 4-15**). Either way, the presence of this feature, or series of intercutting features, provides further evidence for settlement activity in this part of the Lake Zone.

Trench 359 (Figure 3; Figure 4-16)

- 6.58 Trench 359 was situated in the central part of the Lake Zone to the northeast of Trench 358, near the core of the Late Iron Age to Romano-British settlement as suggested by the geophysical survey (**Figure 3**). Three features were noted in the trench, ditch [35907], putative ditch [35909] and ditch [35904], detailed here from east to west. Of these, ditches [35904] and [35907] were excavated. Both truncated the natural geology.

- 6.59 Ditch [35907] was orientated northeast–southwest, the top of the feature being at a level of 29.39m aOD. It was 1.39m wide and survived to a depth of 0.58m, the basal 0.32m of the feature having been defined via auguring. The ditch as excavated contained a single light brown silty clay fill, (35908), from which seven sherds of pottery of Roman date were recovered (Annex 2).
- 6.60 To the west, ditch [35904] was orientated northwest–southeast, the top of the feature having been uncovered at a level of 29.40m aOD. The ditch was 1.08m wide and 0.37m deep. It contained primary fill (35905), a deposit of loose dark brown silty clay, sealed by secondary fill (35906), a compact gravelly clay that was mid-orange brown in colour. The primary fill produced one sherd of Late Iron Age to Roman pottery dated to the period AD 1–400 (Annex 2).
- 6.61 All three features in this trench corresponded with linear geophysical anomalies (**Figure 4-16**). As suggested by the geophysical survey, they may represent one or more iterations of an enclosure, or series of adjacent enclosures, probably of Late Iron Age to Roman date (**Figure 3**).

Trench 361 (Figure 3; Figure 4-17)

- 6.62 Trench 361 was located to the southwest of Trench 359 in the central part of the Lake Zone, within the core of the Late Iron Age to Romano-British settlement as suggested by the geophysical survey (**Figure 3**). Two features were present, ditch [36107] in the western end of the trench, and ditch [36104] to the east (**Figure 4-17**). Both ditches truncated the natural geology and were partially excavated.
- 6.63 Ditch [36107] was unearthed at a level of 29.90m aOD. It was 1.8m wide and 0.70m deep. The ditch contained primary fill (36108), a deposit of mid-greyish brown sandy silty clay, which was sealed by secondary fill (36109), a deposit of dark grey-brown silty clay. The primary fill produced six sherds of pottery dated to the period AD 50–100, which may indicate an initial phase of infilling or may be residual in this context, while the secondary fill produced a further six sherds of later Roman pottery that appear to date the final infilling of this feature to the period AD 250–400. Also present in the fills of this ditch were 30 micro-mammal bones, five frog or toad bones, and five concoidal snail shells, which derive from animals that lived and died in the damp or wet environment that this ditch provided (Annex 2). The ditch was orientated northwest–southeast, and appeared to be congruent with a linear geophysical anomaly on this same alignment. The geophysical survey strongly suggests that this feature represents another enclosure boundary within the Late Iron Age to Romano-British settlement that is presumed to underlie this part of the Lake Zone, the dating evidence recovered being suggestive of the presence of both early Roman and later Roman activity in this location.

- 6.64 Ditch [36104] was investigated through the excavation of a small test slot in the western side, which established that this was indeed a cut feature, however this intervention was not substantial enough to characterise the form of this putative ditch. A single sherd of pottery was recovered from this, which was dated to 1375–1550, however this could be intrusive (Annex 2). Again, this ditch appears to be congruent with a northeast–southwest linear geophysical anomaly that branches in different directions to the north of Trench 361 on the geophysical survey (**Figure 3; Figure 4-17**). The anomaly may therefore represent different components of an enclosure complex of probable Romano-British date, of which ditch [36104] forms a part, however a later date of formation for this ditch should not be ruled out at this stage, given the dating evidence that was recovered from it.

Trench 366 (Figure 3; Figures 4-18 and 4-19)

- 6.65 Trench 366 was positioned to the immediate west of Trench 361 in the west-central part of the Lake Zone within the core of the Late Iron Age to Romano-British settlement as suggested by the geophysical survey (**Figure 3**). Nine features were identified in the trench, detailed here from south to north: pit or posthole [36603], putative ditch [36607], putative ditches [36613], [36609], [36611] and [36615], pit [36605] and ditch [36617] (**Figure 4-18**). Of these, pits or postholes [36603] and [36605] were excavated. All features appeared to truncate the natural geology.
- 6.66 Pit [36605] was 1.35m long, 0.60m wide and 0.25m deep, cut from a level of 29.60m aOD. It contained fill (36606), a deposit of mid-brownish grey sandy silty clay from which two sherds of Late Iron Age to early Roman pottery and one sherd of Roman CBM were recovered, which collectively date this deposit to the early post-Conquest period (Annex 2). This feature may therefore be associated with early Romano-British settlement in this part of the Lake Zone.
- 6.67 The ditches in the central part of the Lake Zone exhibited a degree of apparent stratification, although the relationships were not tested by excavation. Ditch [36611], orientated north-northeast–south-southwest, may be the earliest, later being truncated by northwest–southeast ditch [36613] (**Figure 4-19**). This in turn appeared to have been truncated by [36609], a northeast–southwest boundary (**Figure 4-19**). These features corresponded with geophysical anomalies and most probably represent enclosure ditches associated with different phases of Late Iron Age to Romano-British settlement activity (**Figure 4-18**). The remaining features in this trench, ditch [36607] and ditch [36617], did not correspond with any geophysical anomalies and are of uncertain date.
- 6.68 Further to the north was putative ditch [36615], which was not excavated. It appeared to be congruent, at least in part, with a curvilinear geophysical anomaly that curves to

the west and south of the trench (**Figure 4-18**). This feature may represent, for example, a partially preserved ring gully associated with a dwelling, or a small semi-circular enclosure (**Figure 4-18**). It is also possible that ditch [36615] represents more than one feature, and could also be related to a northwest–southeast geophysical anomaly situated to the immediate southeast (**Figure 4-18**). Either way, the ditch is presumed to be associated with Late Iron Age to Romano-British settlement activity.

- 6.69 Pit or posthole [36603] was 0.26m in diameter and 0.08m deep, the top being at a level of 29.71m aOD. It contained fill (36604), a deposit of mid-brownish grey silty clay from which a Manning Type 1b nail was recovered, along with two fragments of scrap iron and some lead pipe (not closely datable). Also present was a length of machined iron threaded rod, the presence of which could date this feature to the modern period (Annex 2).

Trench 368 (Figure 3; Figure 4-20)

- 6.70 Trench 368 was situated to the immediate northeast of Trench 366 in the west-central part of the Lake Zone, within the eastern part of the core of the Late Iron Age to Romano-British settlement as suggested by the geophysical survey (**Figure 3**). Four features were present, listed here from southeast to northwest: ditch [36803], pit or posthole [36805] and putative ditches [36809] and [36807] (**Figure 4-20**). Of these, ditch [36803] and posthole [36805] were excavated, the remaining features were unexcavated. All features truncated natural geology.
- 6.71 The top of ditch [36803] was observed at a level of 29.56m aOD, it was 1.52m wide and 0.35m deep. It contained a single silty clay fill (36804) that produced one cattle bone (Annex 2). It was orientated northeast–southwest, and is presumed to be congruent with a geophysical anomaly on the same alignment (**Figure 4-20**). It is therefore presumed to represent another enclosure associated with the Late Iron Age to Romano-British settlement that is thought to underlie this part of the Lake Zone.
- 6.72 To the northwest of this was pit or posthole [36805], the top of which was identified at a level of 29.50m aOD (**Figure 4-20**; Plate 5). The feature was circular in plan with a diameter of 0.75m and a depth in excess of 0.17m. A single fill was observed, fill (36806), which comprised mid-brown silty clay. This produced three sherds of pottery dated to the period AD 1–100, which may date this deposit to that period (Annex 2).



Plate 5: Pit [36805], looking northeast

- 6.73 The remaining features in this trench, putative ditches [36809] and [36807], were not excavated, but were orientated northeast–southwest. They appeared to represent two parallel geophysical anomalies on the same alignment that are interpreted as more enclosure ditches of probable Late Iron Age to Romano-British date.

Trench 369 (Figure 3; Figure 4-21)

- 6.74 Trench 369 was located to the northeast of Trench 368 in the central part of the Lake Zone, to the immediate northeast of the core of the Romano-British settlement, as suggested by the geophysical survey (**Figure 3**). It contained a single feature, ditch [36904].
- 6.75 Ditch [36904] did not correspond to a geophysical anomaly. It was orientated east–west, with a terminus towards the east, and was found to be 0.78m wide and up to 0.27m deep. The top of the feature was observed at a level of 29.50m aOD. A single deposit was present within the feature, fill (36903), which comprised mid-greyish brown silty clay. This produced seven sherds of pottery dated to the period AD 120–400, which may date this deposit to this period, and a nail fragment (not closely datable). Ecofacts included three micro-mammal bones and three frog or toad bones, which may represent the remains of creatures that lived and died within this feature before it was fully infilled

(Annex 2). The feature may therefore represent another enclosure boundary of Romano-British date.

Trench 375 (Figure 3; Figure 4-22)

- 6.76 Trench 375 was positioned to the southwest of Trench 369 in the west-central part of the Lake Zone, within the western part of the core of the Late Iron Age to Romano-British settlement that the geophysical survey suggests underlies this part of the Lake Zone (**Figure 3**). Four features were present in the trench, detailed here from southwest to northeast: ditch [37507], putative ditches [37508] and [37510] and ditch [37504] (**Figure 4-22**). Of these, [37507] and [37504] were excavated, while the remaining features were not excavated. All features within the trench are presumed to truncate or overlie the natural geology.
- 6.77 The top of ditch [37507] was identified at a level of 29.50m aOD. It was 0.86m wide and 0.28m deep, and orientated northwest–southeast. The feature was aligned with a geophysical anomaly, which it presumably represents. A primary fill was present in the base of the feature, fill (37506), which comprised light orange brown silty sand, from which seven sherds of pottery dated to the period AD 250–400 were recovered (Annex 2). This was sealed by secondary fill (37505), which comprised mid-greyish brown clay. The ditch is presumed to represent an enclosure boundary close to the western periphery of the core of the Late Iron Age to Romano-British settlement that is presumed to underlie this part of the Lake Zone. The dating evidence recovered suggests that it may date to the later Roman period.
- 6.78 Ditch [37504] was identified at a level of 29.45m aOD. It was 2.23m wide and 0.72m deep, and orientated northwest–southeast. The feature was aligned with a geophysical anomaly, which it presumably represents. A single fill was present, fill (37503), which comprised mid-brown silty clay, from which seven sherds of pottery dated to the period AD 250–400 were recovered (Annex 2). Ecofacts present included three micro-mammal bones, three frog or toad bones, 16 discoidal snail shells and three conoidal snail shells, which may represent the remains of creatures that lived and died within this feature before it was fully infilled (Annex 2). The ditch is presumed to represent enclosure associated with the Late Iron Age to Romano-British settlement.

Trench 377 (Figure 3; Figure 4-23)

- 6.79 Trench 377 was situated to the immediate northwest of Trench 375 in the west-central part of the Lake Zone, on the northwest fringe of the core of the Late Iron Age to Romano-British settlement that the geophysical survey suggests underlies this part of the Lake Zone (**Figure 3**). Two features were present in the southwestern end of the trench, ditch [37703] and ditch [37705] which cut the natural at a level of 29.30m aOD.

- 6.80 Ditch [37703] was an 'L'-shaped feature that was 1.05m wide and 0.51m deep. The feature was orientated northeast–southwest, before turning at an angle of c.90 degrees at the southwest end, and continuing towards the southeast. The feature therefore continuing beyond the limits of the trench to the northeast and southeast (**Figure 4-23**). It contained a single deposit of light brownish grey silty clay, fill (37704). The ditch appeared to form part of a northeast–southwest linear geophysical anomaly, and it is therefore interpreted as an enclosure boundary situated on the periphery of the core of the Romano-British settlement, with which it may be associated (**Figure 3; Figure 4-23**).
- 6.81 Ditch [37705] was situated to the immediate northwest of ditch [37703], orientated parallel to the northeast–southwest part of that feature (**Figure 4-23**). It was 0.74m wide and 0.45m deep and contained a single fill, (37706), a deposit of light greyish brown silty clay. The feature was aligned with the same geophysical anomaly as [37703], which appears to represent both ditches. It is possible that [37705] represents an earlier or later iteration of [37703].

Trench 380 (Figure 3; Figure 4-24)

- 6.82 Trench 380 was located to the northwest of Trench 375 in the west-central part of the Lake Zone, within the northern part of the core of the Late Iron Age to Romano-British settlement that the geophysical survey suggests underlies this part of the Lake Zone (**Figure 3**). It contained 10 features, detailed here from southeast to northwest: putative ditches [38013], [38003], [38009], [38011], [38007], [38015] and [38017], ditch [38004], putative pit [38019] and deposit (38014). Of these, ditch [38004] and deposit (38014) were excavated (**Figure 4-24**). The features in this trench generally corresponded with linear geophysical anomalies, the only exceptions being putative ditches [38013], [38003] and [38011] and putative pit [38019] (**Figure 4-24**).
- 6.83 Ditch [38004] was orientated northeast–southwest and was 0.60m wide and 0.60m deep (**Figure 4-24**) and cut the natural at a level of 29.80m aOD. It contained fill (38005), a deposit of mid-greyish brown firm sandy clay, from which 122 sherds of Roman pottery dated to AD 120–300, along with nine fragments of Roman CBM and a fragment of fired clay. Ecofacts included four micro-mammal bones and five frog or toad bones, which may represent the remains of creatures that lived and died within this feature before it was fully infilled. Food waste may be represented by one oyster shell, one cattle bone, four sheep or goat bones and one bird bone (Annex 2). As with the other linear features described above, ditch [38004] is presumed to represent a boundary ditch associated with the Late Iron Age to Romano-British settlement that is presumed to underlie this part of the Lake Zone. As demonstrated by the stratigraphic

sequence and the dating evidence described above, this activity appears to be multi-phase, with ditch [38004] pertaining to a later Roman phase of occupation.

- 6.84 Deposit (38014) corresponded with a sub-circular geophysical anomaly. As recorded within the confines of the trench, its dimensions were 2.5m by over 1m in plan, with a thickness of 0.05m. It comprised a layer of dark grey brown firm sand silt that produced 17 fragments of pottery dated to AD 120–300, three fragments of fired clay and 71 small, non-magnetic, amorphous, porous, fragments of vitrified material. Ecofacts included two micro-mammal bones and an oyster shell (Annex 2). It may represent the very base of a waste pit, the upper reaches of which have been lost to horizontal truncation (for example, by modern ploughing), or else it may represent a dump layer of domestic and perhaps industrial waste, derived from mid- to late Roman settlement in the vicinity.
- 6.85 The archaeological sequence within this trench appears to be multi-phase, with some possible stratigraphic relationships noted in the southeastern half of the trench, although it should be stated that these were not verified by excavation. If the stratigraphy as recorded is taken at face value, it is possible that putative ditches [38017], [38015] and [38011] belong to an earlier phase (or phases) of activity within this trench, perhaps the Late Iron Age to early Roman period (**Figure 4-24**).
- 6.86 Ditch [38007] seemingly truncated these features, and therefore appears to belong to a subsequent phase of activity (**Figure 4-24**). Although the ditch was not fully excavated, a total of 22 fragments of pottery were recovered from its uppermost fills, which together appeared to date it to the period AD 150–300. Also recovered from this feature was a possible iron awl, an iron hook and a Manning Type 10 hobnail, none of which were closely datable. A single fragment of late post-medieval glazed tile was also present, which is presumed to be intrusive (Annex 2). This was in turn truncated by ditch [38003], which may represent an even later phase of activity (**Figure 4-24**). The remaining features in this trench did not possess stratigraphic relationships with each other, and cannot be phased through their stratigraphy.

Trench 381 (Figure 3; Figure 4-25)

- 6.87 Trench 381 was situated to the immediate west of Trench 380, in the west-central part of the Lake Zone, within the core of the putative Romano-British settlement, as suggested by the geophysical survey (**Figure 3**). A total of 12 features were identified within the confines of the trench, listed here from southwest to northeast: putative ditch [38124], putative pit [38122], ditch [38126], putative ditches [38120], [38118], [38116] and [38114], putative pit or spread [38112], ditch or furrow [38106] and ditches [38108], [38110] and [38103] (**Figure 4-25**). Of these, ditches [38103], [38110], [38108] and [38106] were excavated (**Figure 4-25**). The locations of these features generally

coincided with geophysical anomalies, the exceptions being putative pit or spread [38122], ditch [38126] and putative ditches [38118] and [38114] (**Figure 4-25**).

- 6.88 Ditch [38126] was 0.80m wide and 0.23m deep, and was orientated northwest–southeast (**Figure 4-25**), cutting the natural at a level of 29.63m aOD. The feature contained one deposit, fill (38127), which comprised loose gravelly clay that was mid-yellowish brown in colour (**Figure 9-10**). The deposit produced four sherds of pottery that were broadly dated to the period AD 1–400 (Annex 2). It did not coincide with a geophysical anomaly (**Figure 4-25**), but is nevertheless presumed to represent an enclosure boundary associated with the Late Iron Age to Romano-British settlement that is presumed to underlie this part of the Lake Zone. It was recut as ditch [38128] (recorded in section only), which was 1.14m wide and up to 0.30m deep. The recut contained fill (38129), a deposit of dark greyish brown, moderately compact clayey silt, from which a single sherd of pottery, broadly dated to the period AD 1–400, was recovered (**Figure 9-10**; Annex 2).
- 6.89 Ditch [38103] cut the natural at 29.50m m aOD, was orientated northwest–southeast, continuing beyond the northwest side of the trench, and was 0.53m wide and 0.26m deep. It had been truncated by a later feature (ditch [38108], discussed subsequently) towards the southeast (**Figure 4-25**). It contained two fills. Primary fill (38104) comprised a loose to compact clayey gravel that was mid-brownish yellow in colour and no more than 0.11m deep. This produced a circular or cylindrical glass vessel sherd, that is probably Romano-British in date (Annex 2). Secondary fill (38105) infilled the remainder of the feature and consisted of mid-greyish-brown, moderately compact silty clay, from which two sherds of pottery dated to the period AD 120–400 were recovered (**Figure 9-10**; Annex 2). It may represent a boundary ditch associated with the Late Iron Age to Romano-British settlement that is presumed to underlie this part of the Lake Zone.
- 6.90 The eastern corner of a probable ditch [38110] was excavated in the far northern end of this trench. The excavated intervention suggested that the feature was over 0.53m in diameter and over 0.26m deep, continuing beyond the limit of the excavation to the southeast. It contained fill (38111), a deposit of loosely compact clayey gravel containing abundant angular stones that was mid-brownish yellow in colour (**Figure 9-10**). The deposit produced a single sherd of pottery, broadly dated to the period AD 1–400 (Annex 2). It is possible that this feature represents the corner of a boundary ditch that continues to the southeast and the southwest, as suggested by the geophysical survey (**Figure 4-25**), forming part of the Late Iron Age to Romano-British settlement that is presumed to underlie this part of the Lake Zone.

- 6.91 Ditches [38103] and [38110] were truncated by ditch [38108], which must relate to a later phase of activity in the vicinity of this trench (**Figure 4-25; Figure 9-10**). It was 0.65m wide as seen, and up to 0.51m deep. The ditch contained fill (38109), a deposit of moderately compact silty gravel, mid-yellowish brown in colour that resembled redeposited natural. It is possible, though uncertain, that this represents a later incarnation of boundary ditch [38110], with which this ditch was approximately aligned.
- 6.92 Ditches [38103], [38110] and [38108] were truncated to varying degrees by a linear feature, [38106] (**Figure 4-25**). It was orientated northeast–southwest and was 0.46m wide and over 10.50m long. A small relationship slot was excavated through this feature, which demonstrated its late stratigraphic position relative to other features in this trench (**Figure 9-10**). This slot also demonstrated that this feature was 0.46m wide and 0.36m deep and that it contained a single fill, (38107), a moderately compact clayey gravel that was mid-greyish brown in colour, from which a single sherd of pottery of general Roman date was recovered (Annex 2). This feature was interpreted in the field as an agricultural furrow of relatively recent origin, although an earlier date and an alternative mode of formation should not be entirely ruled out at this stage.

Trench 383 (Figure 3; Figure 4-35)

- 6.93 Trench 383 was situated to the immediate east of Trench 420 in the northwestern part of the Lake Zone close to the northern limit of the core of Late Iron Age to Romano-British settlement within the Lake Zone, as suggested by the geophysical survey (**Figure 3**). Six linear features and one pit were uncovered within the trench; from southwest to northeast; putative ditches [38311] and [38313], ditches [3805] and [38303], putative pit [38315], and putative ditches [38309] and [3817]. All features cut the natural geology and the ditches were all orientated northwest-southeast; most of which concorded with similarly orientated geophysical anomalies, with the exception of putative ditch [38309] which did not concord with geophysical anomalies.
- 6.94 Two ditch slots, [38303] and [38305] were excavated through two parallel ditches cut at a level of 29.80m aOD. Ditch [38305] was 1.1m wide and 0.55m deep. It had been truncated by a later feature (ditch [38303], discussed subsequently) (**Figure 4-25**). It contained three fills. Primary fill (38303) comprised an orange silty clay, likely representative of edge collapse of the ditch. Secondary fill (38307) infilled the majority of the base of the feature and feature and consisted of mid-yellow sandy gravel. The final fill (38308) comprised a black sandy clay.
- 6.95 Ditch [38305] was truncated by ditch [38303], which must relate to a later phase of activity in the vicinity of this trench (**Figure 4-35**). It was 2.1m wide as seen, and up to 0.82m deep. The ditch contained fill (38304), a deposit of moderately compact silty

gravel, mid-grey brown in colour. A flint blade and a flake, both of uncertain date, were recovered along with ecofacts of two micro-mammal bones and one horse or donkey bone (Annex 2). These ditches together may represent phases of a boundary ditch associated with the Late Iron Age to Romano-British settlement.



Plate 6: Ditch [38305] and [38303], looking northwest

Trench 387 (Figure 3; Figure 4-26)

- 6.96 Trench 387 was situated to the west of Trench 383 in the northwestern part of the Lake Zone, close to the western limit of the Zone and the northern limit of the core of Late Iron Age to Romano-British settlement, as suggested by the geophysical survey (**Figure 3**). Seven features were identified within the trench, detailed here from southeast to northwest: putative narrow ditch or beamslot [38707], ditch [38709], pit [38703], putative ditch [38711], putative pits [38713] and [38715], and curvilinear ditch or gully [38705] (**Figure 4-26**). Of these, ditch or gully [38705] and pit [38703] were excavated (**Figure 4-26**). The locations of most features in the trench concorded with the predicted locations of features as suggested by the geophysical survey, the only exceptions being narrow ditch or beamslot [38707], small pit [38713], and narrow ditch or curvilinear gully [38705] (**Figure 4-26**).

- 6.97 Pit [38703] was 1.30m long by 0.85m wide as seen within the confines of the trench and cut the natural at a level of 29.50m aOD. A slot excavated through it demonstrated that it was up to 0.16m deep. It contained fill (38704), a deposit of dark brownish grey silty clay from which five sherds of pottery date to the period AD 70–160 were recovered (**Figure 9-10** Annex 2). The function of the pit is uncertain, suffice to note that it is probably associated with the Late Iron Age to Romano-British settlement that is presumed to underlie this part of the Lake Zone, indicating the presence of late 1st to 2nd century pitting activity in this area.
- 6.98 Narrow ditch or curvilinear gully [38705] cut the natural at 29.50m aOD and appeared to terminate or lens out towards the west, continuing beyond the limit of excavation to the east. The observable portion of the feature was over 0.48m wide and in excess of 2m in length. A slot excavated through it demonstrated that it was up to 0.13m deep and contained a single fill, (38706), a deposit of dark brownish grey silty clay that produced a single sherd of pottery dated to the period AD 50–400 (**Figure 9-10**: Annex 2). The purpose of the feature is uncertain, however it is of the correct width to represent a feature such as a drip gully or construction trench for a roundhouse, however this interpretation remains speculative given the short length that could be investigated within the confines of this trench. A Roman date is possible, given the presence of the pottery sherd.

Lake Zone Northwest

Trench 395 (Figure 3; Figure 4-28)

- 6.99 Trench 395 was positioned to the northeast of Trench 383 in the northwestern part of the Lake Zone. The trench targeted the predicted location of a sub-rectangular enclosure situated to the immediate northeast of the core of the Romano-British settlement, as suggested by the geophysical survey (**Figure 3**).
- 6.100 A single linear feature was uncovered within the confines of this trench, ditch [39502], which coincided with a geophysical anomaly orientated northeast–southwest and cut the natural at a level of 29.30m aOD (**Figure 4-28**). A slot dug through ditch [39502] demonstrated that it was 1.80m wide and over 2m long, continuing beyond the trench edges to the northeast and southwest. The feature was over 0.5m in depth, and the excavated portion contained a single deposit, fill (35903), which comprised mid-greyish brown silty gravel (**Figure 9-10**). Ecofacts recovered included four micro-mammal bones and two discoidal snail shells, which may represent the remains of creatures that lived and died within this feature before it was fully infilled (Annex 2). The feature is interpreted as a boundary ditch that formed the northwest side of the sub-rectangular enclosure that is presumed to underlie this part of the Lake Zone.

Trench 398 (Figure 3; Figure 4-29)

- 6.101 Trench 398 was situated to the immediate north of Trench 395 in the northwest part of the Lake Zone (**Figure 3**). The trench targeted the predicted location of a sub-rectangular enclosure that is presumed to have been situated to the immediate northeast of the core of the Romano-British settlement, as suggested by the geophysical survey (**Figure 3**). The presence of the outer boundary of this enclosure was demonstrated in Trench 395 (see above).
- 6.102 Two features orientated northwest–southeast were uncovered in this trench, ditch [39803] to the southwest and putative ditch [39805] to the northwest. Of these, ditch [39803] was subject to excavation (**Figure 4-29**).
- 6.103 Ditch [39803] cut the natural at a level of 29.10m aOD, was 1.12m wide and 0.41m deep, continuing beyond the edges of the trench to the northwest and southeast (**Figure 4-29**). It contained fill (39804), a deposit of mid-brownish grey compact silty clay from which 20 sherds of pottery were recovered, broadly dated to the period AD 50–400 (**Figure 9-10**). Ecofacts included six discoidal snail shells and two concoidal snail shells, which may represent the remains of creatures that lived and died within this feature before it was fully infilled (Annex 2). Both ditch [39803] and putative ditch [39805] coincided with the locations of geophysical anomalies orientated northwest–southeast, which they are presumed to represent (**Figure 4-29**). It therefore seems probable that ditch [39805] formed the northeast side of the sub-rectangular enclosure that was predicted to underlie this part of the Lake Zone, while ditch [39803] may represent an internal division within that same enclosure (**Figure 4-29**). A Roman date for this landscape feature is suggested, given the nature of the dating evidence that was recovered.

Trench 411 (Figure 3; Figure 4-31)

- 6.104 Trench 411 was situated some distance to the west of Trench 408, in the northwest corner of the Lake Zone. The geophysical survey did not detect any anomalies of potential archaeological significance in this location (**Figure 3**). Two archaeological features were noted: a narrow ditch or beamslot [41106] in the southern end of the trench, and pit [41104] in the northern end of the trench (**Figure 4-30**). Of these, pit [41104] was excavated.
- 6.105 Pit or posthole [41104] cut the natural at a level of 29.01m aOD, was sub-circular in plan, with a maximum diameter of 0.62m and a depth of up to 0.14m. The pit contained fill (41105), a deposit of very dark grey silty clay (**Figure 9-10**). This suggests that this feature may represent a waste pit for the disposal of burnt debris that may be associated with nearby Romano-British settlement.

Trench 417 (Figure 3; Figure 4-34)

- 6.106 Trench 417 was situated in the far northwest corner of the Lake Zone, to the northeast of Trench 411. The trench was situated in part of the Lake Zone in which no geophysical anomalies deemed to be of archaeological significance were detected (**Figure 3**). The trench contained three features, detailed here from southeast to northwest: putative pit [41705], pit [41703] and putative pit [41707] (**Figure 4-34**). Of these, pit [41703] was subject to excavation.
- 6.107 Pit [41703] cut the natural at a level of 28.90m aOD, was ovoid in plan, being 0.64m in length and 0.38m in width, with a depth of 0.08m. The pit contained fill (41704), a deposit of compact sandy clay that was mid-greyish brown in colour (**Figure 9-10**). The function of the feature is uncertain, one possibility being a waste pit that was associated with nearby Romano-British settlement, however no finds were recovered to imply a function or secure date.

Trench 418 (Figure 3; Figure 4-34)

- 6.108 Trench 418 was again located in the far northwest corner of the Lake Zone, to the immediate north of Trench 417. The trench was therefore once again situated in part of the Lake Zone where no geophysical anomalies deemed to be of archaeological significance were detected (**Figure 3**). The trench contained five features, detailed here from southeast to northwest: pits [41805], [41807] and [41803] and putative pits [41809] and [41811] (**Figure 4-34**). Of these, the first three features detailed here were subject to excavation, while the latter two remained unexcavated.
- 6.109 All three pits cut the natural at a level of 28.90m aOD. Pit [41805] was ovoid in plan, with a length of 0.71m, a width of 0.66m and a depth of 0.19m (**Figure 4-34**). It contained fill (41806), a deposit of dark greyish brown compact silty clay (**Figure 9-10**). Pit [41807] was also ovoid in plan with a length of 0.38m, a width of 0.31m and a depth of 0.11m (**Figure 4-34**). It contained fill (41808), a deposit of mid-greenish grey compact silty clay (**Figure 9-10**). Pit [41803] was similarly ovoid in plan but was considerably more substantial in terms of size, with a length of 1.88m, a width of 0.72m and a depth of 0.22m (**Figure 4-34**). It contained fill (48104), a deposit of dark greyish brown silty clay (**Figure 9-10**). The functions of these features are uncertain, with waste pits associated with nearby Late Iron Age to Romano-British settlement again being a possibility.

Trench 420 (Figure 3; Figure 4-35)

- 6.110 Trench 420 was situated to the immediate west of Trench 383 in the northwestern part of the Lake Zone close to the northern limit of the core of Late Iron Age to Romano-British settlement within the Lake Zone, as suggested by the geophysical survey

(**Figure 3**). Two linear features were uncovered within the trench, putative ditch [42005] to the southwest and putative ditch [42003] to the northeast. Both ditches were orientated northwest–southeast, and concorded with similarly orientated geophysical anomalies. Ditch [42005] may be congruent with ditch [38303] in Trench 383 to the southeast (**Figure 4-35**). A single sherd of pottery was recovered from the top of ditch [42003] that was dated to the post-medieval period (AD 1550–1900), however this could be intrusive (Annex 2). The ditches are therefore presumed to form enclosure boundaries within the Late Iron Age to Romano-British settlement that is presumed to underlie this part of the Site, with the caveat that a considerably later date of formation cannot be entirely ruled out for ditch [42003], given the dating evidence recovered from it.

Trench 421 (Figure 3; Figure 4-33)

- 6.111 Trench 421 was located to the east of Trench 351 and to the north of Trench 347 in the east-central part of the Lake Zone (**Figure 3**). The trench targeted a curvilinear geophysical anomaly that was either situated to the immediate east of the core of the Late Iron Age to Romano-British settlement that is presumed to underlie this Site, or formed part of the settlement core (**Figure 3**). Two features were present, excavated ditch [42105] and unexcavated pit [42103]. It should be noted here that it was suspected in the field that pit [42103] could represent a cremation burial, however this remains unproven.
- 6.112 Ditch [42105] was situated to the south of the predicted location of the curvilinear geophysical anomaly. The ditch was orientated east–west, cutting the natural at a level of 29.30m aOD, continuing beyond the edges of the trench, and was 1m wide and up to 0.50m deep. It contained fill (42106), a deposit of light greyish brown moderately compact silty clay containing occasional sub-rounded stones (**Figure 9-10**). The feature may represent a boundary ditch associated with the Late Iron Age to Romano-British settlement that may underlie this part of the Site.
- 6.113 The curvilinear geophysical anomaly was not identified by excavation in this trench (**Figure 4-33**).

Lake Zone Northeast

Trench 396 (Figure 3; Figure 4-28)

- 6.114 Trench 396 was situated some distance to the east of Trench 395 in the northeast corner of the Lake Zone. The geophysical survey did not detect any anomalies of potential archaeological significance in this location (**Figure 3**). Four features were present in the trench, detailed here from southwest to northeast: putative pits [39609],

[39607] and [39505] and pit [39603]. Of these, pit [39603] was subject to excavation (**Figure 4-28**).

- 6.115 Pit [39603] cut the natural at a level of 28.80m aOD, was sub-circular in plan, with a diameter of up to 0.53m and a depth of no more than 0.09m. This shallow depth suggests that much of this feature has been lost to horizontal truncation, for example via modern ploughing. A single fill was present, (39604), a deposit of dark grey silty clay (**Figure 9-10**). The function of the feature is uncertain given its poor survival.

Trench 408 (Figure 3; Figure 4-30)

- 6.116 Trench 408 was positioned to the north of Trench 396 in the northeast corner of the Lake Zone. The geophysical survey did not detect any anomalies of potential archaeological significance in this location (**Figure 3**). Two features were noted in the trench, putative ditch [40803] in the central portion of the trench, which was orientated roughly north–south, and putative pit [40805] towards the east end of the trench. Neither feature was excavated, therefore their interpretations are uncertain.

Trench 415 (Figure 3; Figure 4-32)

- 6.117 Trench 415 was situated in the northeast corner of the Lake Zone, to the immediate north of Trench 408 (**Figure 3**). It targeted a linear geophysical anomaly orientated northwest–southeast, and an adjacent curvilinear geophysical anomaly (**Figure 3**). The former was not archaeologically detectable, and therefore does not appear to relate to an archaeological feature, whereas the latter may have been detected within the trench.
- 6.118 Three features of potential archaeological significance were uncovered within the trench, detailed here from southwest to northeast: putative curvilinear feature [41507], putative pit [41505] and putative ditch [41503], none of which were excavated (**Figure 4-31**). Of these, putative ditch [41503] coincided with the approximate location of the curvilinear geophysical anomaly, which it may represent (**Figure 4-32**).

Geoarchaeological Test Pits (Figure 3)

- 6.119 Six geoarchaeological sondages (Test Pits (TP) 323, 341A, 341B, 343, 348A, and 348B), were excavated at Lake Zone targeting a channel of the Elstow Brook which is known to have been infilled in the 20th century and a palaeochannel located to the south. The palaeochannel to the south was identified in Trenches 341 and 348. The intention of the sondages was to identify whether there is survival of *in situ* Holocene peat or alluvium within the channels, and upon identification to sample the sequence for potential assessment of palaeoenvironmental remains and radiocarbon dating. The log tables for the geoarchaeological sondages undertaken by AOC are presented below.

TP323

6.120 TP323 was carried out within Trench 323, targeting the backfilled Elstow Brook.

Top depth (m bgl)	Base depth (m bgl)	Thickness (m)	Description	Interpretation
0.00	0.25	0.25	Topsoil: Dark brownish grey. Sandy (medium to coarse), silty CLAY. Moderate gravel (fine to medium, subrounded to angular. Grass cover.	Topsoil
0.25	1.39	1.14	Backfill of Elstow Brook. Very irregular, patchy deposits, including: Mid-yellow brown sandy (fine to coarse) CLAY. Light grey, stiff CLAY. Dark bluish grey, soft CLAY. Pockets of woody fragments at 1.20m bgl, on ESE end of exposed base, within a matrix of soft, grey, silty CLAY. Gradual lower boundary.	Backfill - Made Ground (1980's) comprising mixed local geologies
1.39	1.64	0.25	Mid to dark bluish grey. Stiff. Silty CLAY. Frequent wood fragments, shells, rootlets. Occasional (fine, subrounded to subangular) gravel. Occasional yellow patches. Sharp lower boundary.	Holocene Alluvium
1.64	3.20	1.56	Stiff. Mid-grey. Bedded/laminated. Very frequent shell. Occasional brownish laminations. Very stiff from 1.80m bgl. Silty CLAY.	Mudstone - Peterborough Member

Table 2 Deposit log for TP323

6.121 The base of the sequence identified Peterborough Member mudstone, a pre-quaternary bedrock. It was identified at a depth of 1.64m bgl. Pleistocene head, comprising yellow-brown clayey gravel, is recorded to the west and east of the channel, suggesting the watercourse to have incised into the existing surface. Erosion through the coarse sediment of the head may indicate a period of high velocity during the lifetime of the channel.

- 6.122 At the base of the channel, 0.25m of in situ Holocene alluvium was recorded, which contained inclusions of frequent wood fragments. This indicates potential suitability for plant macrofossil assessment and radiocarbon dating. The deposit was exposed with a width (WNW to ESE) of approximately 2.5 to 3.0m across the sondage. The woody alluvium has been sampled as part of hand auguring at 1.20m bgl.
- 6.123 The intervention identified approximately 1.14m of backfill within the channel, which comprised a mixture of local geologies including mudstone, head, and alluvium. The backfill extended approximately 7.5m in width across the palaeochannel.
- 6.124 Backfill was overlain with an average of c. 0.25m of topsoil.

TP341A

- 6.125 At the southern end of Trench 341, a sondage (TP341A) was excavated to target the palaeochannel identified by geophysical survey. The intervention aimed to target the centre of the channel.

Top depth (m bgl)	Base depth (m bgl)	Thickness (m)	Description	Interpretation
0.00	0.30	0.30	Topsoil. Dark greyish brown. Friable. Moist. Very silty CLAY. Very frequent rootlets and roots. Occasional small stones (subrounded to subangular). Gradual lower boundary. Firm. Grass cover.	Topsoil
0.30	0.40	0.10	Subsoil/alluvium. Mid to light brownish yellow silty CLAY. Firm. Moist. Friable. Frequent rootlets. Gradual lower boundary.	Subsoil/Alluvium
0.40	0.80	0.40	Alluvium. Light to mid-bluish grey with orange and yellow mottling. Moist. Firm. Friable. Frequent rootlets. Moderate lower boundary. Silty CLAY.	Holocene Alluvium
0.80	1.10	0.30	Highly oxidised alluvium. Slightly sand (fine to medium) clayey SILT. Mid-reddish orange with light blue-grey mottling. Moist to	

Top depth (m bgl)	Base depth (m bgl)	Thickness (m)	Description	Interpretation
			wet. Firm to soft. Sharp lower boundary.	
1.10	1.20	0.10	Higher energy alluvium. Light blue grey with yellow and occasional orange mottling. Slightly clayey, very silty SAND (fine to coarse). Wet. Soft. Moderate (fine) gravel (subangular to subrounded).	
1.20	1.50	0.30	Mid-blue-grey clayey GRAVEL. Coarser grade of the above.	
1.50	1.65	0.15	Head. Mid-yellow brown clayey GRAVEL (fine to coarse, rounded to subangular).	Pleistocene Head

Table 3 Deposit log for TP341A

- 6.126 Mid-yellow brown clayey gravel was recorded at the base of the sondage, representative of Pleistocene head and thus the probable early Holocene ground surface. The head was shown to be 1.50m bgl in this sondage.
- 6.127 Unlike the Elstow Brook sequence, this palaeochannel indicates a full, in-situ alluvial infill. The undisturbed alluvium, reaching approximately 1.1m in thickness, is separated into four units, indicative of changing depositional environment. The basal infill of gravelly alluvium may represent high energy deposition, or infiltration of fine-grained alluvium into the surface of the underlying Pleistocene head deposits. It represents the earliest deposition within the channel. A decline in depositional energy is suggested, and thus the former theory of basal deposition, by an overlying sand-based alluvium. Highly oxidised fine grained minerogenic alluvium overlies the sand, indicating a decline in water levels and periods of exposure to the air during this period. A further increase in water levels is suggested by the less oxidised upper alluvium.
- 6.128 Subsoil development was seen in the uppermost alluvium, with a thickness of 0.10m. Topsoil was recorded with an average thickness of 0.30m. A monolith sequence was obtained from the section of this sondage.

TP341B

6.129 TP341B was located approximately 5m to the south of TP341A. It was excavated to target the southern edge of the palaeochannel. However, a land drain to the south limited excavation to determine the edge.

Top depth (m bgl)	Base depth (m bgl)	Thickness (m)	Description	Interpretation
0.00	0.35	0.35	Topsoil. Dark greyish brown. Friable. Moist. Very silty CLAY. Very frequent rootlets and roots. Occasional small stones (subrounded to subangular). Gradual lower boundary. Firm. Grass cover.	Topsoil
0.35	0.55	0.20	Subsoil/alluvium. Mid to light brownish yellow silty CLAY. Firm. Moist. Friable. Frequent rootlets. Gradual lower boundary.	Subsoil/Alluvium
0.55	0.65	0.10	Alluvium. Light blue grey with yellowish orange mottling. Moist. Firm. Very silty CLAY. Occasional rootlets. Sharp, irregular lower boundary.	Holocene Alluvium
0.65	1.10	0.45	Alluvium. Light to mid-blue grey with dark orange mottling. Very occasional small stones (subrounded to subangular). Firm to stiff. Moist. Becomes slightly softer at 0.95 m bgl. Silty CLAY.	
1.10	1.20	0.10	Alluvium. Mid to light brown slightly sandy (fine to coarse), clayey SILT. Firm to soft. Moist. Occasional small stones (subrounded to	

Top depth (m bgl)	Base depth (m bgl)	Thickness (m)	Description	Interpretation
			subangular). Very sharp lower boundary.	
1.20	1.22	0.02	Wet to saturated clayey GRAVEL (fine to medium, rounded to subangular). Bluish grey, yellowish brown, and reddish grey. Early alluvium or mixing of alluvium with underlying head surface.	
1.22	1.30	0.08	Mid-yellow brown clayey GRAVEL (fine to coarse, subrounded to subangular). Wet and loose. Head.	Pleistocene Head
1.30	1.60	0.30	Mid-yellow brown clayey GRAVEL. Head.	

Table 4 Deposit log for TP341B

- 6.130 The overall sequence was similar to that of TP341A. A basal deposit of mid-yellow brown clayey gravel Pleistocene Head was identified at 1.22m bgl.
- 6.131 Basal alluvium was a thin 0.02m deposit of mixed blue-grey, yellow-brown, and red-grey clayey gravel. It likely incorporates a significant portion of reworked head. The overlying alluvial deposit was finer than that of TP348A, likely reflecting the position closer to the channel edge. Oxidised alluvium was recorded overlying this deposit, although not as oxidised as that towards the north. Again, a further increase in water level is indicated by the uppermost alluvium unit, with a decline in oxidation shown. The full alluvial sequence was 0.87m in thickness within this intervention.
- 6.132 Subsoil formed of alluvium was recorded here as well, reaching 0.20m in thickness. The topsoil averaged approximately 0.35m within this intervention.

TP343

- 6.133 A further intervention (TP343) was carried out within the Elstow Brook, within Trench 343.

Top depth (m bgl)	Base depth (m bgl)	Thickness (m)	Description	Interpretation
0.00	0.28	0.28	Topsoil: Dark brownish grey. Friable. Firm. Moist. Grass cover. Sandy (fine to coarse) silty CLAY. Frequent gravel (fine to medium) of flint (rounded to subangular). Frequent rootlets. Very irregular lower boundary, sharp. Occasional CBM fragments.	Topsoil
0.28	1.21	0.93	Backfill of palaeochannel. Patchy, mixed: Stiff mid-grey CLAY with yellow brown patches and mottling. Firm to stiff, mid-bluish grey silty CLAY with small (<1mm) shell fragments. Dark bluish grey, soft to firm, very silty CLAY with rootlets. Mid-bluish grey with dark orange brown mottling, soft to firm, frequent rootlets. Very silty CLAY. Mid-yellowish brown sandy, clayey GRAVEL (fine to medium, subangular to subrounded). Light yellowish brown, gravelly (fine to coarse, subangular to subrounded), sandy CLAY. Overall, wet to moist. Some friable. Some collapse.	Backfill - Made Ground (1980's) comprising mixed local geologies
1.21	1.35	0.14	Alluvium. Mid-grey with mid-orange brown mottling. Moist. Soft to firm. Occasional rootlets. Silty CLAY.	Holocene Alluvium
1.35	1.47	0.12	Dark greyish blue, silty CLAY. Firm to stiff. Moist. Almost black in places. Basal alluvium.	
1.47	1.50	0.03	Head. Yellow, clayey, sandy GRAVEL. Wet.	Pleistocene Head
1.50	1.60	0.10	Mudstone. Stiff/very stiff. Grey, shelly CLAY.	Mudstone - Peterborough Member

Table 5 Deposit log for TP343

- 6.134 Head was identified at 1.47m bgl in a very thin bed measuring only 0.03m in thickness, overlying mudstone at 1.50m bgl. This may further represent high velocity erosional action within the channel.
- 6.135 The sondage revealed in situ alluvium of similar thickness (0.26m) to that in TP341, although distinguishable as two deposits different to that within TP341A and TP341B to the south. Although the deposits did not present wood fragments, the lower of the two was very dark in colour and directly overlay the below Pleistocene head deposits. This may represent organic content, and present potential for preservation of palaeoenvironmental remains. Bulk samples were obtained from the deposit for potential palaeoenvironmental assessment, as part of the excavation below 1.20m bgl, as hand auguring to the east did not encounter the deposit.
- 6.136 Within this sondage, approximately 14.6m of backfill was shown in section (WNW to ESE), likely due to the intervention capturing a turn in the channel here. The backfill comprises the same mixed lithologies of local geologies. Topsoil of an average 0.28m sealed the sequence.

TP348A

- 6.137 Trench 348 appeared to align with the route of the palaeochannel, and as such sondages were placed in the eastern end and centre of the trench to determine the sequence. TP348A was situated at the eastern end of the trench. A monolith sequence was obtained from this sondage.

Top depth (m bgl)	Base depth (m bgl)	Thickness (m)	Description	Interpretation
0.00	0.30	0.30	Topsoil. Dark brownish grey. Friable. Firm. Frequent rooting and rootlets - grass cover. Occasional small stones (subangular to subrounded). Very silty CLAY. Irregular, gradual lower boundary.	Topsoil
0.30	0.40	0.10	Subsoil/alluvium. Mid to light brownish yellow. Firm. Moist. Friable. Frequent rootlets. Gradual lower boundary. Silty CLAY.	Subsoil/Alluvium

Top depth (m bgl)	Base depth (m bgl)	Thickness (m)	Description	Interpretation
0.40	0.60	0.20	Alluvium. Light to mid-blue-grey with orange and yellow mottling. Moist. Firm. Frequent rootlets. Semi-friable. Moderate lower boundary. Silty CLAY.	Holocene Alluvium
0.60	1.30	0.70	Alluvium. Oxidised to very oxidised. Light blue grey with dark orange mottling. Band in middle is more orange than blue. Moist to wet. Firm to soft. Clayey SILT, slightly sandy (fine to medium). Moderate lower boundary.	
1.30	1.40	0.10	Alluvium/Gravel. Light blue-grey, little orange mottling. Clayey GRAVEL (fine to medium, rounded to subangular). Early alluvium in/on head surface.	
1.40	1.50	0.10	Head. Mid-brownish yellow gravelly (fine to coarse) CLAY.	Pleistocene Head

Table 6 Deposit log for TP348A

- 6.138 The earliest deposit recorded in TP348A was of Pleistocene head, a mid-brownish yellow gravelly clay. It was encountered at 1.40m bgl.
- 6.139 Three overlying alluvium units were observed, with a total thickness of 1.00m. The earliest alluvium was of 0.10m of light blue-grey clayey gravel, which likely represents an early, high velocity depositional environment. Clayey silt overlay the gravel, indicating declining fluvial energy with deposition of finer sediment. The deposit is oxidised to heavily oxidised, with frequent dark orange mottling, indicating periods of air exposure, and extends through 0.70m. The uppermost alluvium again suggests an increase in water levels, with reduced oxidation, and comprises 0.20m of the sequence. However, in comparison with the sequence recorded in TP341A and B, this deposit appears to be more weathered with a more friable structure.
- 6.140 Subsoil formed on the surface of the alluvium reached 0.10m in thickness. Topsoil within this intervention averaged 0.30m in thickness.

TP348B

6.141 The sequence within TP348B was very closely related to that of TP348A to the south.

Top depth (m bgl)	Base depth (m bgl)	Thickness (m)	Description	Interpretation
0.00	0.30	0.30	Topsoil. Dark brownish grey. Friable. Firm. Frequent rooting and rootlets - grass cover. Occasional small stones (subangular to subrounded). Very silty CLAY. Irregular, gradual lower boundary.	Topsoil
0.30	0.40	0.10	Subsoil/alluvium. Mid to light brownish yellow. Firm. Moist. Friable. Frequent rootlets. Gradual lower boundary. Silty CLAY.	Subsoil/Alluvium
0.40	0.50	0.10	Alluvium. Light to mid-blue-grey with orange and yellow mottling. Moist. Firm. Frequent rootlets. Semi-friable. Moderate lower boundary. Silty CLAY.	Holocene Alluvium
0.50	1.20	0.70	Alluvium. Oxidised to very oxidised. Light blue grey with dark orange mottling. Band in middle is more orange than blue. Moist to wet. Firm to soft. Clayey SILT, slightly sandy (fine to medium). Moderate lower boundary.	
1.20	1.35	0.15	Alluvium/Gravel. Light blue-grey, little orange mottling. Clayey GRAVEL (fine to medium, rounded to subangular). Early alluvium in/on head surface.	
1.35	1.60	0.25	Head. Mid-brownish yellow gravelly (fine to coarse) CLAY.	Pleistocene Head

Table 7 Deposit log for TP348B

- 6.142 Pleistocene head was recorded at 1.35m bgl, comprising mid-yellowish brown gravelly clay.
- 6.143 Alluvium, which was recorded to be 0.95m in thickness, was divided into three units. The lowermost, a blue-grey clayey gravel, representing the earliest deposition within the palaeochannel reached 0.15m in thickness. An oxidised, fine-grained alluvium 0.70m thick was identified overlying the gravel, suggesting periods of drying to have occurred. An upper alluvium indicative of rising water levels was observed, which was 0.10m in thickness and showed signs of weathering.
- 6.144 Subsoil formed in the surface of the alluvium was recorded with a thickness of 0.10m. Topsoil in this sondage averaged 0.30 m in thickness.

Core Zone

- 6.145 The geophysical survey (MOLA, 2019) suggested that a co-axial field system and a series of enclosure complexes of potential archaeological significance underlie the Core Zone. Major clusters of anomalies were situated in the following locations, and their formative interpretations based upon the geophysical survey are detailed below:
- The presence of a series of widely spaced, roughly co-axial ditches were suggested in the southern portion of the Core Zone, which could represent a field system associated with pastoral or arable farming of uncertain date (Trenches 156, 158–60, 164, 169, 173, 174, 178, 180 and 185 targeted these potentially related anomalies; **Figure 5-1**);
 - A sub-rectangular enclosure complex, presumed to represent a medieval moated manor, was postulated to underlie the southern part of the Core Zone to the immediate west of the putative field system (Trenches 162 and 166 targeted this area; **Figure 5-1**);
 - A series of seemingly related and sometimes conjoined curvilinear and straight anomalies were found in the western and central parts of the Core Zone, that are morphologically appropriate for a Bronze Age, Iron Age or Roman enclosure complex, or a series of conjoined enclosure complexes (Trenches 177, 179, 183–4 and 187–8 targeted these potentially related anomalies; **Figure 5-1**);
 - To the north and west of this, in the southwest, west-central and north-central parts of the Core Zone, a series of conjoined enclosures and associated linear boundaries that were more generally co-axial in nature were identified. These were morphologically appropriate for a Romano-British settlement, although an earlier date cannot be ruled out on the basis of the geophysical survey alone. Trenches 189, 190, 199, 201, 204, 207–8, 210, 213, 216, 218, 224 targeted

linear anomalies that may be associated with the southern part of this putative settled area. Trenches 237, 242–4, 254, 258–9 targeted anomalies in the northern part of this putative settlement. Trenches 223, 233, 236 and 240 targeted a broad trackway or a long, narrow enclosure that may have connected the southern and northern parts of this settlement (**Figure 5-1**);

- Trenches 197, 207, 212, 217, 228 and 230 targeted a series of linear anomalies leading from the southern part of the aforementioned putative settlement core into the surrounding landscape. It is therefore suggested that these linear geophysical anomalies could be associated with a series of trackways that connected the settlement core with the surrounding landscape (**Figure 5-1**);
- To the northeast of this settled area, a third focus of possible settlement was identified on the geophysical survey. This again comprised a series of conjoined enclosures that were more co-axial in nature and could again represent a Romano-British settlement, although an earlier, prehistoric date cannot be ruled out on the basis of the geophysical survey alone. Trenches 296–8, 301–4 and 311 targeted anomalies associated with this putative enclosure complex (**Figure 5-2**);
- Trench 295 targeted an outlying sub-rectangular enclosure in the eastern corner of the Core Zone, seemingly located beyond the main areas of settlement (**Figure 5-2**);
- Trenches 265, 277 and 310 targeted a pair of northwest–southeast aligned linear anomalies in the northern corner of the Core Zone. These anomalies could not be detected archaeologically and may not be of archaeological significance (**Figure 5-2**);
- A series of linear anomalies were noted in the northwest corner of the Site, targeted by Trenches 270, 286 and 266. One possibility is that they are associated with a potential crossroads, although this is speculative, given that Trenches 270 and 286 appeared blank (**Figure 5-2**); and
- The remaining trenches targeted areas of the geophysical survey where no anomalies were identified, to test its accuracy in this regard (**Figures 5-1 and 5-2**).

6.146 These interpretations have been tested through the excavation of the evaluation trenches that are noted above. The interpretations provided above are updated in the paragraphs that follow, in light of the evidence revealed through the excavation of the archaeological evaluation trenches.

Description/Interpretation	Thickness	Height of Deposit (aOD)
Topsoil	0.18m to 0.49m	30.21m to 37.93m
Subsoil	0.18m	30.03m to 37.35m
Natural geology: stiff light yellow brown clay, to a stiff mid-orange brown clay		29.85m to 37.35m

Table 8: Core Zone stratigraphic sequence

- 6.147 A total of 158 trenches were excavated in the Core Zone (**Figures 5 and 6**). Archaeological remains were found in 60 trenches (Trenches 156, 158, 160, 162, 164, 166, 169, 172, 174, 179, 180, 183, 184, 185, 187, 188, 189, 190, 194, 195, 197, 199, 201, 202, 204, 207, 208, 209, 210, 212, 213, 216, 217, 218, 220, 223, 224, 228, 230, 233, 239, 242, 243, 244, 246, 247, 254, 258, 259, 266, 275, 282, 295, 296, 297, 298, 301, 302, 303 and 304). All remaining trenches were negative.
- 6.148 The natural deposit in the Core Zone was a moderately compact mid-yellow grey clay. Natural was recorded at 29.85m aOD to 37.35m aOD. Overlying the natural was a mid-orange brown subsoil which varied in depth across the Zone, but on average measure 0.18m in depth. Overlying the subsoil, was a firm topsoil of mid-brown grey clay with rare stone inclusions. Trench depth, on average, measured 0.42m.

Core Zone Southeast

Trench 156 (Figure 5-1; Figure 6-1)

- 6.149 Trench 156 was situated in the southern corner of the Core Zone (**Figure 5-1**). The northern end of the trench targeted a linear geophysical anomaly, orientated northeast–southwest, that was interpreted on morphological grounds as forming part of a broadly co-axial field system (**Figure 5-1**).
- 6.150 One archaeological feature was noted in the trench, putative ditch [15603], which was not excavated. The feature coincided with the location of the geophysical anomaly, with which it may be congruous (**Figure 6-1**). The results from this trench therefore support the notion that a co-axial field system may have occupied this part of the Site in antiquity.

Trench 158 (Figure 5-1; Figure 6-2)

- 6.151 Trench 158 was situated to the immediate northwest of Trench 156 in the southern corner of the Core Zone (**Figure 5-1**). It targeted a linear geophysical anomaly that was

formatively interpreted as forming part of a co-axial field system in antiquity (**Figure 6-1**).

- 6.152 A single feature was noted in this trench, ditch [15802]. The ditch was orientated northwest–southeast. It was 1.8m wide and 0.55m deep, cut through the natural geology from a level of 33.65m aOD. The ditch contained fill (15803), a deposit of mid-brownish grey compact silty clay that produced one sherd of Late Iron Age to early Roman pottery and 141 pieces of Roman CBM, which refine the date of this deposit to the post-Conquest period. Eight fragments of fired clay were also present, as was a single small shatter sherd of glass that may date to the medieval period but is almost certainly intrusive in this context (Annex 2).
- 6.153 The location of the ditch coincided with the geophysical anomaly, with which it appears congruent. As with Trench 156, this supports the notion that a broadly co-axial field system characterised this part of the Core Zone during the Roman period.

Trench 159 (Figure 5-1; Figure 6-3)

- 6.154 Trench 159 was situated to the immediate northwest of Trench 158 in the southern corner of the Core Zone (**Figure 5-1**). It targeted two linear anomalies that were interpreted as forming part of a co-axial field system in antiquity (**Figure 6-3**).
- 6.155 Two features were identified in Trench 159, putative ditches [15905] to the south and [15903] to the north, neither of which were excavated (**Figure 6-3**). The locations and orientations of these features respectively coincided with a northwest–southeast linear geophysical anomaly, and a northeast–southwest geophysical anomaly, both of which may have formed part of the aforementioned co-axial field system, the presence of which was also verified through the excavation of Trenches 156 and 158 (above).

Trench 160 (Figure 5-1; Figure 6-4)

- 6.156 Trench 160 was situated to the immediate northeast of Trench 156 in the southern corner of the Core Zone (**Figure 5-1**). It targeted a linear geophysical anomaly that was formatively interpreted as forming part of a co-axial field system in antiquity (**Figure 6-3**).
- 6.157 One linear feature was identified in this trench, putative ditch [16002], which was not excavated (**Figure 6-3**). The location of the feature coincided with the geophysical anomaly that was detected in the location of this trench, thus verifying the presence of the probable co-axial field system in this location. The existence of this putative field system was also verified through the excavation of Trenches 156 and 158–9 (above).

Trench 164 (Figure 5-1; Figure 6-6)

- 6.158 Trench 164 was situated to the immediate northeast of Trench 160 in the southern corner of the Core Zone (**Figure 5-1**), and targeted a linear geophysical anomaly that was formatively interpreted as forming part of a co-axial field system (**Figure 6-6**).
- 6.159 A single feature was uncovered in the trench, ditch [16402], which was orientated northeast–southwest (**Figure 6-6**; Plate 7). The ditch was 1m wide and 0.3m deep, with the top of the feature observed at a level of 32.84m aOD. A single deposit was present within the ditch, fill (16403), a mid-brownish grey silty clay. The location and orientation of this feature was congruent with the geophysical anomaly, which it is presumed to represent. Its discovery therefore adds further weight to the premise that a coaxial field system occupied this part of the Site in antiquity. Evidence for this field system was also observed in Trenches 156 and 158–60 (above).



Plate 7: Ditch [16402], looking southwest

Trench 169 (Figure 5-1; Figure 6-8)

- 6.160 Trench 169 was situated to the northeast of Trench 164 in the southern corner of the Core Zone, and targeted a linear geophysical anomaly that was formatively interpreted as forming part of a co-axial field system in antiquity (**Figure 5-1**; **Figure 6-8**).

- 6.161 A single feature was identified in this trench, putative ditch [16904], which was not excavated (**Figure 6-8**). The location of this northeast–southwest orientated ditch was congruent with the geophysical anomaly, which it is presumed to represent. Its discovery supports the premise that a coaxial field system occupied this part of the Site in antiquity. Evidence for this field system was also observed in Trenches 156, 158–60 and 164 (above).

Trenches 173 and 178 (Figure 5-1)

- 6.162 These trenches were situated in the southern corner of the Core Zone and targeted a series of co-axial geophysical anomalies that were interpreted as forming part of a co-axial field system (**Figure 5-1**). Within the confines of these trenches, these features were not archaeologically visible, but were detected in Trench 159 to the southwest of Trench 173, and Trench 180 to the north of Trench 178 (**Figure 5-1**).

Trench 174 (Figure 5-1; Figure 6-9)

- 6.163 Trench 174 was situated in the southern corner of the Core Zone to the west of Trench 173. It targeted a single geophysical anomaly, formatively interpreted as forming part of a co-axial field system.
- 6.164 A single feature was unearthed in this trench, ditch [17404]. This ditch was orientated northwest–southeast, the top being visible from a level of 34.21m aOD. It was 0.55m wide and 0.26m deep, and contained a single deposit, fill (17405), a mid-brownish grey and moderately compact silty clay. The location and orientation of this ditch was congruent with the geophysical anomaly, which it is presumed to represent. Its discovery again supports the premise that a coaxial field system occupied this part of the Site in antiquity. Evidence for this field system was also observed in Trenches 156, 158–60, 164 and 169 (above).

Trench 180 (Figure 5-1; Figure 6-11)

- 6.165 Trench 180 was situated to the northwest of Trench 169 in the southern corner of the Core Zone, and targeted a linear geophysical anomaly that was formatively interpreted as forming part of a co-axial field system (**Figure 5-1**). This geophysical anomaly was not detected by excavation within the confines of this trench (**Figure 6-11**).
- 6.166 Two features were present in the trench: pit [18002] to the northeast, and ditch [18004] c.2.5m further to the southwest (**Figure 6-11**). The ditch is presumed to represent a field boundary of relatively recent origin and was therefore not excavated, however the pit was subject to excavation (**Figure 6-11**).
- 6.167 Pit [18002] was sub-ovoid in plan, with a length of 0.88m, a width of 0.3m and a depth of 0.14m, the top of the feature having been observed at a level of 32.52m aOD (**Figure**

6-11). It contained a single fill (18003), a dark greyish brown moderately compacted silty clay. The feature may represent a waste pit, however this is uncertain.

Trench 185 (Figure 5-1; Figure 6-14)

- 6.168 Trench 185 was situated to the northwest of Trench 180 in the southern part of the Core Zone, and targeted two linear geophysical anomalies orientated northwest–southeast that were formatively interpreted as forming part of a co-axial field system (**Figure 5-1**).
- 6.169 Three features were uncovered in this trench, detailed here from northeast to southwest: a probable field boundary of recent origin, ditch [18505], ditch [18503] and putative ditch [1807]. Of these, ditch [18503] was excavated and the remainder were unexcavated (**Figure 6-14**).
- 6.170 Ditch [18503] was orientated northwest–southeast, the top of the feature having been observed at a maximum height of 32.88m aOD (**Figure 6-14**). The ditch was 0.86m wide and up to 0.32m deep, continuing beyond the edges of the trench to the northwest and southeast. It contained fill (18504), a light grey moderately compact clay, from which a single sherd of pottery dated to the period AD 1000–1300 was recovered (Annex 2). The location of the ditch coincided with that of the more northerly geophysical anomaly, which it is presumed to represent. Similarly, unexcavated feature [18507] coincided with the location of the more southerly geophysical anomaly, which it is presumed to be congruent with. The discovery of these features in this trench provides further evidence for the probable existence of a co-axial field system in this part of the Site, evidence for which was also detected in Trenches 156, 158–60, 164, 169 and 174. The dating evidence recovered from this trench is suggestive of a medieval date for this field system, however the single sherd of pottery that was recovered may alternatively be intrusive to an earlier ditch system.

Trench 194 (Figure 5-1; Figure 6-18)

- 6.171 Trench 194 was located in the eastern side of the Core Zone in an area in which no geophysical anomalies were detected. A single feature, pit [19404], was discovered. The top of the pit was observed at a height of 33.20m aOD, and the feature possessed a diameter of 0.67m and a depth of 0.43m. It contained primary fill (19406) and secondary fill (19405), deposits of dark grey moderately compact clayey silt. A single sherd of Late Iron Age to Roman pottery was recovered from the secondary fill (Annex 2). The purpose of the feature is uncertain, one possibility being a waste pit associated with nearby settlement. A Late Iron Age to Roman date of formation is possible given the presence of the pottery, however the sherd in question was small and could be residual or intrusive in this context.

Trench 195 (Figure 5-1; Figure 6-19)

- 6.172 Trench 195 was situated in the eastern side of the Core Zone, to the immediate east of Trench 194. Again, it was situated in an area where no geophysical anomalies were detected. Three features were identified in the trench, detailed here from northwest to southeast: excavated ditches [19505] and [19508] and unexcavated putative ditch [19511]. These features were all orientated northeast–southwest (**Figure 6-19**).
- 6.173 Ditch [19505] was 1.02m wide and up to 0.33m deep, continuing beyond the limits of the excavation to the northeast and southwest (**Figure 6-19**). The top of the feature was observed at a height of 32.96m aOD. It contained primary fill (19506), a deposit of mid-brownish orange moderately compact silty clay, and secondary fill (19507), a deposit of mid-greyish brown moderately compact silty clay. Ditch [19508], to the immediate southeast, was 0.75m wide and up to 0.28m deep. The top of the feature was observed at a height of 32.93m aOD. It contained primary fill (19509) and secondary fill (19510), both moderately compact silty clays that were respectively mid-greyish brown and mid-orange brown in colour.
- 6.174 The purposes of these features are uncertain, however their orientations suggest that they could represent a continuation of the co-axial field system that was identified to the south of this trench. If so, they may either represent different incarnations of the same boundary, or a double ditch field boundary.

Trench 197 (Figure 5-1; Figure 6-20)

- 6.175 Trench 197 was situated towards the eastern side of the Core Zone, to the north of the putative co-axial field system. The trench targeted two linear anomalies that were formatively interpreted as parallel ditches flanking a possible trackway that connected the core of the Late Iron Age to Romano-British settlement with farmland or open land to the southeast (**Figure 5-1**).
- 6.176 Five features were identified in this trench. The most northerly two were interpreted as furrows of relatively recent origin, and were not excavated (**Figure 6-20**). Towards the southeast, two parallel linear features on a northwest–southeast alignment were identified, excavated ditch [19704] and unexcavated putative ditch [19708]. Posthole [19706] was also present, to the immediate southwest of ditch [19704] (**Figure 6-20**).
- 6.177 Ditch [19704] was orientated northeast–southwest, the top of the feature having been identified at a height of 33.68m aOD. It was 1m wide and up to 0.35m deep and contained fill (19705), a deposit of mid-grey, moderately compact clayey silt. Its location was congruent with the more easterly of the two geophysical anomalies, which it is presumed to represent. Its identification therefore appears to verify the existence of the boundary ditch that is formatively interpreted as bounding the northeast side of the

putative trackway. Posthole [19706] was directly to the southwest of [19704], the top of the feature having been identified at a height of 33.70m aOD. It was 0.67m in diameter and up to 0.21m deep and contained fill (19707), a deposit of mid-grey, moderately compact clayey silt .

- 6.178 Unexcavated putative ditch [19708] was uncovered c. 2m to the southwest of ditch [19704]. This did not coincide with the second geophysical anomaly, which did not appear to be present within the confines of this trench. The feature could still form the southwestern side of a trackway, however this would have been rather narrow, and is perhaps better interpreted as an earlier or later iteration of ditch [19704], or a double ditched boundary, if it is contemporary with ditch [19704]. These results cannot confirm the existence of the trackway as proposed above.

Trench 202 (Figure 5-1; Figure 6-23)

- 6.179 Trench 202 was situated in the eastern side of the Core Zone (**Figure 5-1**). The presence of a field boundary of relatively recent origin, and possible ridge and furrow were deemed to be present based in this area based upon the geophysical survey. These features were identified archaeologically, the only variance being that two probable instances of ridge and furrow were identified rather than the one example that was predicted. As anticipated, both were orientated northwest–southeast (**Figure 6-23**). In addition to these features, two adjacent pits were found in the north of the trench, pit [20203] and pit [20205] (**Figure 6-23**).
- 6.180 Pit [20203] was circular in plan, the top of the feature having been identified at a height of 33.83m aOD (**Figure 6-23**). It was 0.71m in diameter and 0.13m deep. A single fill was present, deposit (20204), which comprised mid-orange brown compact sandy silt. Pit [20205] was also circular in plan, the top having been observed at a height of 33.80m aOD. It was 0.59m+ in diameter, continuing beyond the edge of the trench to the east, and was 0.18m deep. The pit contained fill (20206), a deposit of mid-brown silty clay with frequent angular stones. The functions of these pits are uncertain, one possibility again being waste pits.

Core Zone Southeast

Trench 162 (Figure 5-1; Figure 6-5)

- 6.181 Trench 162 was situated in the central part of the southern end of the Core Zone, to the west of the putative co-axial field system (**Figure 5-1**). The trench targeted a moated site known from APs, trenched in 2019, and recorded by the HER as having been deliberately backfilled in the 1980s.

- 6.182 Two archaeological features were uncovered within this trench, detailed here from northwest to southeast: ditch [16201] and a posthole [16206].
- 6.183 Ditch [16201] was orientated northeast–southwest, the top of the feature was observed at a level of 33.56m aOD. The feature was 3.68m wide and up to 0.52m deep, continuing beyond the edges of the trench to the northeast and southwest. The ditch contained primary fill (16202), a 0.32m thick deposit of dark, humic-rich material resembling peat, from which two small fragments of CBM of uncertain date were recovered, along with two fragments of medieval pottery, seven fragments of iron wire (not closely datable) and a fragment of post-medieval or later vessel glass, which may be intrusive. If the potentially intrusive vessel glass is factored out, this suggests a deposition date between AD 1000–1300 (Annex 2). This was sealed by secondary fill (16203), a deposit of mid-brownish orange loose sandy clay with abundant inclusions of brick that is presumably considerably later in date than the primary fill, pertaining to the post-medieval period. The former deposit no doubt accumulated naturally in a wet environment while this feature was open, while the latter deposit appears to represent a deliberate backfilling episode. The location of ditch [16201] coincided with the aforementioned geophysical anomaly that was presumed to represent a moat surrounding a manorial dwelling of medieval date. The archaeology unearthed in this trench supports that interpretation.
- 6.184 Posthole [16206] was situated in the southeast end of the trench, the top observed at a level of 33.93m aOD. It was roughly circular in plan, with a diameter of 0.42m and a depth of just 0.05m. A silty grey fill was present, (16207), from which two sherds of pottery suggested a deposition date between AD 1100–1200 (Annex 2). The function of this probable posthole remains uncertain, however the dating evidence recovered from it suggests that it was associated with the manorial dwelling that was situated in this part of the Site.

Trench 166 (Figure 5-1; Figure 6-7)

- 6.185 Trench 166 was situated in the central part of the southern end of the Core Zone, to the northeast of Trench 162 and to the west of the putative co-axial field system (**Figure 5-1**). Three geophysical anomalies, presumed to represent boundaries associated with a medieval manorial complex (positively identified in Trench 162), were targeted by this trench (**Figure 6-7**).
- 6.186 Five archaeological features were present within the trench, none of which coincided with the geophysical survey, detailed here from northwest to southeast: putative pits [16612], [16610], [16608] and [16606] and ditch [16604]. Of these, only the latter was subject to excavation.

- 6.187 Ditch [16604] was orientated northeast–southwest, continuing beyond the edges of the trench in both directions. It was up to 0.62m wide and up to 0.22m deep, the top of the feature being encountered at a level of 34.32m aOD. The ditch contained fill (16605), a deposit of mid-greyish brown very compact silty clay that produced a sherd of pottery indicative of a deposition date between AD 1100–1200 (Annex 2). The function of the feature is uncertain, one possibility being that it was associated with the nearby moated manorial complex, with which it is aligned.

Trench 172 (Figure 5-1; Figure 6-9)

- 6.188 Trench 172 was situated in the southern corner of the Core Zone to the west of Trench 174.
- 6.189 A single feature was unearthed in this trench, pit [17203]. This pit was circular in plan and visible from a level of 34.70m aOD. It was 0.30m in diameter and 0.21m deep, and contained a single deposit, fill (17204), a mid-brownish grey and moderately compact silty clay. The function of the feature is uncertain.

Trench 177 (Figure 5-1)

- 6.190 This trench was situated in the south-central part of the Core Zone, to the west of the putative co-axial field system (**Figure 5-1**). It targeted a north–south geophysical anomaly that was formatively interpreted as extending southwards from a curvilinear enclosure complex of later prehistoric or Roman date (**Figure 5-1**). This feature could not be detected within the confines of this trench, and may therefore not be archaeological .

Trench 179 (Figure 5-1; Figure 6-10)

- 6.191 Trench 179 was situated to the northwest of Trench 177 (**Figure 5-1**). It targeted one linear geophysical anomaly that may be associated with a curvilinear enclosure complex, presumed on morphological grounds to be of medieval date (**Figure 5-1**).
- 6.192 Three archaeological features were uncovered in this trench, listed here from west to east: pit [17904], putative pit [17903], putative field boundary [17907] (**Figure 6-10**). The field boundary may be of relatively recent origin. With the exception of the modern field boundary, the features did not coincide with geophysical anomalies.
- 6.193 Pit [17904] was 1.6m in diameter, as seen, and 0.5m deep, however only half the feature was observed within the confines of the trench (**Figure 6-10**; Plate 8). For this reason, the feature could alternatively represent the terminus of a ditch, rather than a pit. The top was observed at a level of 33.40m aOD. Two deposits were recorded within the feature, primary fill (17905), a deposit of mid-greyish blue moderately compact silty clay, from which a single fragment of fired clay was retrieved, which was sealed by

secondary fill (17906), a mid-yellowish grey silty clay that contained up to a further 30 crumbs of fired clay and a fragment of worked bone. The worked bone consisted of a thin sub-rectangular fragment in a burnt and distorted condition. The identification of this object is currently unknown, but it is possible that this is a fragment of furniture or box inlay. An extremely small fragment of medieval to post-medieval tile was also recovered from the primary fill, while the secondary fill produced five fragments of pottery that together suggested a deposition date of AD 1100–1200 (Annex 2). The functions of the features are uncertain, with waste pits being one possibility. They may represent peripheral medieval settlement activity in farmland to the northwest of the aforementioned manorial dwelling.

- 6.194 The enclosure boundary that was predicted to cross this trench as suggested by the geophysical survey was not observed, thus no evidence of a medieval enclosure was found in this location.



Plate 8: Pit/Ditch [17904], looking north

Trench 183 (Figure 5-1; Figure 6-12)

- 6.195 This trench was situated in the south-central part of the Core Zone, to the west of the putative co-axial field system (**Figure 6-11**). It targeted two linear geophysical anomalies orientated northwest–southeast that were interpreted as being associated

with an enclosure complex, that was in turn interpreted as being of medieval date on morphological grounds (**Figure 5-1**).

- 6.196 Seven archaeological features were noted in the trench, detailed here from north to south: ditches [18314], [18312] and [18310], putative ditch [18305] and ditches [18308] and [18306]. The most southerly feature in this trench, ditch [18303], is presumed to represent a field boundary of relatively recent origin and will not be discussed further (**Figure 6-12**). Ditches [18314], [18312] and [18310], putative ditch [18305] and ditches [18308] and [18306] were parallel with one another on a northwest–southeast alignment (**Figure 6-12**).
- 6.197 The most northerly feature in this trench, ditch [18314], was 1.23m wide and 0.17m deep, the top being observed at a level of 33.47m aOD (**Figure 6-12**). The ditch contained a single deposit, fill (18315), a mid-brownish grey moderately compact silty clay that produced a single sherd of pottery dated to the period AD 1100–1400 (Annex 2).
- 6.198 To the immediate south of this was ditch [18312], which was 1.21m wide and up to 0.20m deep, the top being visible from a height of 33.30m aOD. A single fill was present, (18313), a moderately compact silty clay that was mid-brownish grey in colour, from which five pottery sherds were retrieved. These together provided a context considered date range of AD 1100–1200 for the accumulation of this deposit (Annex 2).
- 6.199 Further south still was ditch [18310], which was 0.86m wide and 0.22m deep, the top of the feature having been visible from a height of 33.41m aOD (**Figure 6-12**). The ditch contained a single fill, (18311), a moderately compacted silty clay that was mid-brownish grey in colour, from which seven medieval pottery sherds indicative of a deposition date of AD 1000–1200 were recovered (Annex 2). Also present was a single medieval to post-medieval fragment of tile and an iron object that may represent a hinge fragment or hook, which is not closely datable. The location of this feature coincided with the more northerly of the two geophysical anomalies that were predicted to be present in this trench, which it is presumed to represent. The other ditches noted above could represent earlier or later iterations of this boundary, or alternatively the boundary may have been double or triple ditched. The finds recovered suggest a medieval date of infilling dated to the period AD 1000–1200.
- 6.200 Ditch [18305] was situated c.3m to the south of ditch [18310]. This largely unexcavated feature coincided with the more southerly of the two geophysical anomalies that were predicted to be present in this trench. Five sherds of pottery extracted from the top of fill (18304) of this feature suggested a deposition date of AD 1100–1300. A Manning Type 1b nail was also recovered that was not closely datable (Annex 2). Along with

ditch [18310], this discovery verifies the presence of medieval field or enclosure boundaries in this location.

- 6.201 Further south still, two narrow boundaries were encountered, situated side-by-side, that did not appear on the geophysical survey: ditch [18308] to the north, and ditch [18306] to the south. Ditch [18308] was 0.62m wide and up to 0.08m deep, the top being observed at a height of 33.50m aOD (**Figure 6-12**). A single fill was present, (18309), a moderately compacted silty clay that was mid-greyish brown in colour. The more southerly example, ditch [18306], was 0.55m wide and up to 0.12m deep. It contained fill (18307), a mid-brownish grey, moderately compact silty clay from which a single amphora sherd dated to the period AD 50–300 was recovered, as were four sherds of pottery dated to the period AD 1000–1300 (Annex 2). This suggests that this ditch may also represent a medieval enclosure ditch or field boundary. It could represent an earlier or later iteration of ditch [18306], or could have formed a double ditched boundary if the two were extant at the same time.
- 6.202 In conclusion, the geophysical anomalies that were targeted by this trench were presumed to be associated with a medieval enclosure complex, which the results indicate.

Trench 184 (Figure 5-1; Figure 6-13)

- 6.203 This trench was situated in the south-central part of the Core Zone, to the west of the putative co-axial field system and to the east of Trench 183. It targeted two curvilinear geophysical anomalies that were interpreted on morphological grounds as forming part of a curvilinear enclosure complex of medieval date (**Figure 5-1**).
- 6.204 One feature, putative ditch [18404], was noted in the southern end of this trench, which was not excavated. To the north of this, deposit (18403) was noted, which was subject to excavation.
- 6.205 Deposit (18403) was 2.3m in length, over 1.8m in width (continuing beyond the trench edges to the east and west) and up to 0.08m deep, the top being observed at a height of 33.91m aOD (**Figure 6-13**). It comprised moderately compact silty clay containing occasional sub-rounded stones that was light greyish brown in colour, from which eight small fragments of Saxo-Norman to high medieval pottery were recovered, the latest dated of which post-dated AD 1000, as were two crumbs of fired clay and a fragment of possibly worked iron-rich sandstone (Annex 2). The location of the deposit coincided with the more southerly of the two geophysical anomalies that were detected in this location. It is suggested here that the deposit represents the disturbed remains of this anomaly, which could denote the presence of an enclosure boundary that was subject to heavy post-depositional disturbance, for example via modern ploughing (**Figure 6-**

13). This may also explain why the more northerly geophysical anomaly in this trench was not visible upon excavation. The dating evidence recovered suggests that this enclosure, if it did indeed exist, dated to the medieval period. It was plausibly associated with the nearby medieval manorial complex, targeted by Trenches 162 and 166 (discussed above).

Trench 187 (Figure 5-1; Figure 6-15)

- 6.206 Trench 187 was situated to the east of Trench 184. Other than a modern field boundary, no geophysical anomalies were detected within the footprint of the trench (**Figure 5-1**).
- 6.207 Seven features were identified in the trench, detailed here from northeast to southwest: putative ditch [18709] and pit [18711], pits [18704], [18706], [18702], putative pit [18713] and ditch [18715], which may represent a field boundary of relatively recent origin (**Figure 6-15**). Of these, pits [18704], [18706] and [18702] were excavated, while two sherds of pottery dated to the period AD 875–1150 were extracted from the uppermost reaches of ditch [18709] (**Figure 6-15**; Annex 2).
- 6.208 Pit [18704] was circular in plan with a diameter of 0.88m and a depth of 0.28m. The top of the feature was observed at a height of 33.94m aOD. It contained a single deposit, fill (18705), which comprised a moderately compact silty clay that was mid-greyish brown in colour. A single sherd of medieval pottery was recovered, dated to the period AD 1100–1300, as was a small fragment of Roman to post-medieval CBM (**Figure 6-15**; Plate 9; Annex 2).
- 6.209 To the south of this was pit [18706], which was semi-circular in plan, continuing beyond the edge of the trench to the west (**Figure 6-15**). The top of the feature was observed at a height of 33.97m aOD, and its dimensions, as seen within the confines of the trench, were 0.56m in diameter with a depth of 0.15m. It contained fill (18707), a very dark grey, moderately compact silty clay.
- 6.210 To the south of this feature was pit [18702], which was circular in plan with a diameter of 0.93m and a depth of 0.28m, the top having been observed at a height of 33.97m aOD (**Figure 6-15**). The pit contained fill (18703), a mid-brownish grey moderately compact silty clay from which one small fragment of CBM dated to the Roman to post-medieval period was recovered, as were two sherds of pottery suggestive of a deposition date of AD 1100–1300 and six crumbs of fired clay (Annex 2).

- 6.211 The functions of these features are uncertain, one possibility being waste pits associated with nearby settlement and/or farming activity. The dating evidence that was collectively recovered from them strongly suggests that they date to the medieval period between AD 1100–1300.



Plate 9: Pit [18704], looking north

Trench 188 (Figure 5-1; Figure 6-15)

- 6.212 This trench was situated in the south-central part of the Core Zone. It targeted a linear geophysical anomaly orientated northwest–southeast that was interpreted as being associated with a curvilinear enclosure complex to the east. This enclosure was interpreted on morphological grounds as being of later prehistoric or Roman date (**Figure 5-1**).
- 6.213 The trench contained four features, detailed here from north to south: putative ditch or beamslot [18805], ditch [18803], ditch or pit [18807] (which may be associated with a relatively modern field boundary) and ovoid pit [18811]. Of these, ditch [18803] was subject to excavation, the remainder being unexcavated (**Figure 6-15**).
- 6.214 Ditch [18803] was orientated northwest–southeast, the top of the feature having been observed at a height of 33.70m aOD. It was 0.50m wide and up to 0.50m deep. The

feature contained fill (18802), a deposit of dark greyish brown, moderately compact sandy clay that produced three sherds of Roman to post-medieval CBM, four sherds of pottery suggestive of a deposition date between AD 1100–1200 and one crumb of fired clay (Annex 2).

- 6.215 This ditch was situated in the same location as the geophysical anomaly that was targeted by this trench, which it is presumed to represent. The dating evidence recovered suggests that it forms a medieval field boundary and may therefore not be associated with the curvilinear enclosure complex situated further to the east (**Figure 5-1**).

Trench 189 (Figure 5-1; Figure 6-16)

- 6.216 Trench 189 was situated in the southern part of the Core Zone, towards the far western side (**Figure 5-1**). It targeted a linear geophysical anomaly that may be associated with the southern part of a locus of Late Iron Age to Romano-British settlement activity in the west-central part of this zone (**Figure 6-16**).
- 6.217 Two features were unearthed within this trench: pit [18902] in the northwest end of the trench, and ditch [18906] further towards the southeast (**Figure 6-17**). Ditch [18906] was not excavated, however its location and orientation resembled that of the geophysical anomaly, which it may represent.
- 6.218 Pit [18902] was sub-circular in plan with a diameter of 0.60m and a depth of 0.15m, the top of the feature having been observed at a height of 33.35m aOD (**Figure 6-16**; Plate 10). The pit contained fill (18903), a deposit of moderately compact silty clay that was dark greyish brown in colour, from which three sherds of Late Iron Age to early Roman pottery were recovered (Annex 2). The function of the pit is uncertain, one possibility being a waste pit associated with nearby settlement. This may date to the Late Iron Age to early Roman period, given the presence of the pottery.



Plate 9: Pit [18904], looking southeast

Trench 190 (Figure 5-1; Figure 6-17)

- 6.219 Trench 190 was situated in the southwest part of the Core Zone, east of Trench 189. It targeted a linear geophysical anomaly that was formatively interpreted as being associated with the southern part of a locus of Late Iron Age to Romano-British settlement activity (**Figure 6-17**). This same anomaly was also targeted by Trench 199. The geophysical survey suggests that this probable settled area spanned the southwestern and west-central parts of the Core Zone, extending as far north as Trench 259 (**Figures 5-1 and 5-2**).
- 6.220 Two archaeological features, one modern field drain and one modern service were present in this trench. The archaeological features comprised putative ditch [19002] and putative pit or ditch [19004] to the south, neither of which was excavated (**Figure 6-17**). The location of putative ditch [19002] was congruous with the geophysical anomaly, which it is presumed to represent. This therefore provides evidence for the presence of settlement in this area of the Site in antiquity, which may date to the Roman period (see Trench 199, below).

Core Zone Central

Trench 199 (Figure 5-1; Figure 6-21)

- 6.221 Trench 199 was situated in the southern part of the Core Zone, towards the far western side. It targeted a curvilinear geophysical anomaly that was formatively interpreted as forming a small sub-enclosure within the southern part of a locus of Late Iron Age to Romano-British settlement activity in this part of the Site. This anomaly was also targeted by Trench 190, which returned a positive result.
- 6.222 Four features were encountered within this trench, detailed here from northwest to southeast: putative curvilinear ditch [19909], intercutting ditches [19906] and [19904], and a straight boundary in the form of ditch [19902] (**Figure 6-21**).
- 6.223 Ditch [19902] was orientated northwest–southeast, the top of the feature having been observed at a height of 33.80m aOD (**Figure 6-21**). It was 0.67m wide and 5m long, with a depth of just 0.07m. The feature terminated towards the east and was truncated by a later feature towards the west (**Figure 6-21**). It contained fill (19903), a deposit of mid-brownish grey silty clay. This feature did not coincide with a geophysical anomaly, therefore its purpose is uncertain. It is possible, however, that it formed part of the same enclosure complex as the other features in this trench.
- 6.224 Ditch [19904] possessed a curve that trended east–south–east. The top of the feature was identified at a height of 33.60m. aOD, and it was 1m wide, over 2.80m long and up to 0.35m deep as seen within the confines of the trench (**Figure 6-21**). The ditch contained fill (19908), a deposit of mid-grey, moderately compact silty clay from which one small sherd of Late Iron Age to early Roman pottery was recovered (Annex 2). Ditch [19904] was then recut as ditch [19906] on a near identical alignment. This feature was 0.67m wide and up to 0.21m deep. It also appeared to truncate northwest–southeast ditch [19902] to the east, however this relationship was not confirmed by excavation. The feature contained two fills, primary fill (19905) and secondary fill (19907), both of which respectively comprised dark and light grey silty clay. Six pieces of Late Iron Age to Roman pottery and a single sherd of CBM of probable Roman date were recovered from the primary fill, along with a relatively large ecofact assemblage that could represent crop processing waste. An abraded fragment of Roman amphora dated to the period AD 50–300 was retrieved from the secondary fill. A micro-mammal bone and 30 discoidal snail shells were also present, which may represent the remains of creatures that lived and died within this feature before it was fully infilled (Annex 2). Together these remains suggest a Roman date of deposition, post-AD 50.
- 6.225 Unexcavated ditch [19909] may represent a continuation of ditch [19904] and its recut, ditch [19906], in a north-westerly direction (**Figure 6-21**). The locations of these features

coincided with those of the geophysical anomalies that were targeted by this trench. These results therefore seem to confirm the presence of the sub-enclosure previously identified in Trench 190, and a Roman date for this landscape feature is suggested.

Trench 201 (Figure 5-1; Figure 6-22)

- 6.226 Trench 201 was situated in the far southwest of the Core Zone, to the northeast of Trench 189 (**Figure 5-1**). It targeted a linear geophysical anomaly that was formatively interpreted as being associated with the southern part of a locus of Late Iron Age to Romano-British settlement activity. A potentially associated anomaly was also targeted by Trench 189, which returned a positive result (**Figure 5-1**).
- 6.227 Trench 201 contained a single archaeological feature, pit [20102], the top of which was observed at a height of 34.11m aOD. The pit was ovoid in plan, being 0.93m long by 0.53m wide, with a depth of no more than 0.1m. It contained a single fill, (20103), a deposit of compact silty clay that was mid-grey in colour (**Figure 6-22**). The function of the feature is uncertain, with one possibility being a waste pit.
- 6.228 No physical trace of the geophysical anomaly was found within this trench, although a potentially related anomaly was found in Trench 189 (discussed above).

Trench 204 (Figure 5-1; Figure 6-24)

- 6.229 Trench 204 was situated in the southwestern part of the Core Zone, to the northeast of Trench 201 (**Figure 5-1**). It targeted two geophysical anomalies that appeared to form part of a series of conjoined sub-rectangular enclosures that may together form a core of settlement activity in this part of the Site (**Figure 6-24**). Trenches 210, 213 and 216 targeted this same sub-rectangular block of putative enclosure boundaries (**Figure 5-1**; discussed subsequently).
- 6.230 Three archaeological features were identified in the trench, listed here from northwest to southeast: putative ditch [20408], ditch [20405] and ditch [20403] (**Figure 6-24**). Of these, the latter two were subject to excavation, the remainder being unexcavated.
- 6.231 Ditch [20405] was orientated northeast–southwest, the top having been observed at a height of 33.55m aOD (**Figure 6-24**). It was 5m wide and up to 0.24m deep, continuing beyond the edges of the trench to the northeast and southwest. As shown in section, the profile of the feature suggests that it may originally have been narrower than is suggested here; it is possible that the northwest side was subject to damage and post-depositional dispersal of the fill towards the northwest, effectively as a spread, for example as a result of plough damage. This feature contained a single fill, (20406), a deposit of light brownish-grey moderately compact silty clay. Cultural material recovered from this included 44 sherds of pottery dated to the period AD 250–400, a

Manning Type 1b nail (not closely datable) and industrial material in the form of a non-magnetic, vitrified, amorphous, residue fragment, with charcoal visible on the surface. Ecofacts included one frog or toad bone and one oyster shell. Taken together, this artefact and ecofact assemblage suggests the disposal of domestic and perhaps industrial waste in this location during the later part of the Roman period (Annex 2).

- 6.232 Ditch [20403] was located to the immediate southeast of ditch [20405] and was parallel with it. The top of the ditch was observed at a height of 34m aOD and it was 1.05m wide and 0.27m deep, continuing beyond the edges of the trench to the northeast and southwest. It contained fill (20404), a deposit of light brownish grey silty sand with angular stones from which nine sherds of coarse ware pottery was recovered, which provided a general Roman date of deposition for this deposit (Annex 2). Ecofacts included one pig bone, one fish bone and an oyster shell, which may represent domestic waste from nearby settlement, as well as three discoidal snail shells, which either represent accidental inclusions or the remains of creatures that lived and died within this feature while it was open.
- 6.233 It is possible that these features intercut in antiquity, however the relationship between their fills was hard to distinguish, leaving open the possibility that they were open at the same time, perhaps forming a double-ditched boundary. This boundary may be congruent with the northeast–southwest anomaly that was noted on the geophysical survey. The adjacent curvilinear boundary was not obviously present, however it remains possible that [20405] curves westwards immediately beyond the trench edge. If so, it could plausibly represent this feature (**Figure 6-24**). The results from this trench therefore broadly support the results of the geophysical survey, and appear to confirm the premise that Romano-British enclosure complexes underlie this part of the Site. The dating evidence also suggests that mid- to late Roman activity took place in this location, as demonstrated by the presence of 44 sherds of pottery dated to the period 250–400 AD within ditch [20405].

Trench 207 (Figure 5-1; Figure 6-25)

- 6.234 Trench 207 was situated to the northwest of Trench 204 in the southwest part of the Core Zone (**Figure 5-1**). The trench targeted two parallel linear anomalies that appeared to lead into the west corner of the putative sub-rectangular enclosure complex (**Figure 5-1; Figure 6-25**). These anomalies were interpreted as the vestiges of a northwest–southeast trackway, the presence of which may also have been detected in Trenches 149 and 153 in the West Gateway Zone to the northwest (discussed below).

- 6.235 Four archaeological features were noted in this trench, listed here from northeast to southwest: ditch [20707], putative ditch [20710] and gully or beamslots [20705] and [20703] (**Figure 6-25**).
- 6.236 Ditch [20707] was orientated northwest–southeast, the top of the feature having been observed at a height of 34.73m aOD (**Figure 6-25**). It was 1.43m wide and 0.37m deep, continuing beyond the edges of the trench to the northwest and southeast. The ditch contained fill (20708), a deposit of mid-yellowish brown, moderately compact gravelly clay from which six sherds of pottery from a ring neck flagon dated to the period AD 120–150 were recovered (Annex 2). To south of this feature was putative ditch [20710], which was parallel with this feature. The locations and approximate orientations of both ditches [20710] and [20707] correlated with the geophysical anomalies that were targeted by this trench. Their presence therefore appears to verify the existence of the aforementioned trackway in this location. The presence of the flagon suggests that this landscape feature may have been extant during the earlier part of the Roman period, with fills amassing from the early second century onwards.
- 6.237 Gully or beamslot [20705] was orientated northeast–southwest, the top of the feature having been observed at a height of 34.87m aOD (**Figure 6-25**). It was 0.52m wide and up to 0.11m deep and continued beyond the edges of the trench to the northeast and southwest. A single fill was present, deposit (20706), a loose gravelly clay that was very dark greyish brown in colour. Situated to the immediate south of gully or beamslot [20705] and arranged at a right-angle to it was gully or beamslot [20703] (**Figure 6-25**). The top of the feature was present at a height of 34.86m aOD, and it was 0.22m wide and 0.26m deep, continuing beyond the edges of the trench to the northwest and southeast. A single fill (20704) was present, which comprised very dark greyish brown moderately compact gravelly clay.



Plate 11: Ditches [20703] and [20705], looking north

Trench 208 (Figure 5-1; Figure 6-26)

- 6.238 Trench 208 was situated in the southcentral part of the Core Zone, to the northeast of Trench 204 (**Figure 5-1**). It targeted four geophysical anomalies that appeared to form a block of conjoined sub-rectangular enclosures that were formatively interpreted on morphological grounds as forming a core of Late Iron Age to Romano-British settlement activity (**Figure 5-1**). These expansive enclosure complexes together appeared to cover the southwestern and south-central parts of the Core Zone, at least as far as Trench 259 to the north (**Figure 5-2**).
- 6.239 Seven archaeological features were present within the trench, detailed here from southwest to northeast: putative pit [20806], putative ditches [20804] and [20808], putative posthole [20812], ditch [20816], putative ditch [20810], and pit [20814] (**Figure 6-26**). Of these, ditch [20816], and pit [20814] were excavated and the remaining features were unexcavated. A linear feature was also present in the far northwestern end of the trench, which may represent a furrow associated with ridge and furrow farming, which was not excavated (**Figure 6-26**).
- 6.240 Ditch [20816] was a northwest–southeast orientated feature, the top of which was noted at a height of 33.82m aOD (**Figure 6-26**; Plate 12). It was 0.7m wide and up to 0.23m deep, continuing beyond the edges of the trench to the northwest and southeast. A

single fill was present, deposit (20817), that was a moderately compact silty clay that was mid-brownish grey in colour. A total of 32 small, non-magnetic, amorphous, porous fragments of vitrified material were recovered from an environmental sample taken from this fill, which may derive from an industrial process or a domestic hearth (Annex 2). The feature coincided with the location of a curvaceous geophysical anomaly, that may delineate a sub-enclosure within a larger enclosure complex (**Figure 6-26**).



Plate 12: Ditch [20816], looking northwest

- 6.241 Pit [20814] in the northern part of the trench comprised a sub-circular pit with a length of 1.33m, a width of 1.10m and a depth of 0.15m (**Figure 6-26**). The top of the feature was identified at a height of 33.82m aOD. It contained fill (20815), a deposit of mid-brownish grey, firm silty clay.
- 6.242 Unexcavated putative ditches [20810] to the north and [20808] to the south also coincided with the locations of geophysical anomalies, and are interpreted in an identical fashion to ditch [20816] (discussed above). The remaining features in this trench did not coincide with geophysical anomalies, while the most southerly anomaly was not identified. These results therefore broadly support the geophysical survey, and appear to confirm the premise that probable Romano-British enclosure complexes underlie this part of the Site, although some deviations evidently exist within the confines of this trench.

Trench 209 (Figure 5-1; Figure 6-27)

- 6.243 Trench 209 was situated in the eastern side of the Core Zone within an area of the Site where no geophysical anomalies were detected (**Figure 5-1**). A single feature was present, posthole or pit [20903] (**Figure 6-27**). The top of the posthole was observed at a height of 33.57m aOD, and it was circular in plan with a diameter of 0.39m and a depth of 0.19m. It contained fill (20904), a deposit of very dark greyish-green moderately compact silty clay that produced a single flint flake that may be residual in this context (Annex 2). The function of the feature is uncertain, with possibilities including a waste pit, or the remains of a posthole for a wooden structural upright, presumably associated with nearby settlement activity.

Trench 210 (Figure 5-1; Figure 6-28)

- 6.244 Trench 210 was again situated in the southwestern part of the Core Zone, to the northeast of Trench 204 (**Figure 5-1**). It targeted four geophysical anomalies that appeared to form part of a series of conjoined sub-rectangular enclosures that may together form a core of settlement activity in this part of the Site (**Figure 6-28**). Trenches 204, 213 and 216 targeted this same sub-rectangular block of geophysical anomalies (**Figure 5-1**). Trench 204 returned a positive result, while Trenches 213 and 216 are discussed subsequently.
- 6.245 Seven archaeological features and a deposit were revealed in this trench, detailed here from southeast to northwest: ditch [21014], pit [21007], pit [21005], ditch [21012], layer (21010), ditch [21014], and probable ditch terminus [21003] (**Figure 6-28**).
- 6.246 The top of ditch [21014] was unearthed at a height of 33.94m aOD. It was investigated via 14 auger holes, that were drilled in a transect across the feature (**Figure 6-28**). These suggested that the ditch was 5.5m wide and 0.80m deep, continuing beyond the edges of the trench to the northeast and southwest. The location of this ditch was congruent with a northeast–southwest geophysical anomaly, which it is presumed to represent.
- 6.247 To the north of ditch [21014] were intercutting pits [21005] and [21007] cutting the natural at a height of 33.90m aOD. The more southerly of the two, pit [21005], was 1m long and 0.66m wide as seen, continuing beyond the edge of the trench to the southwest. It was 0.06m deep and contained fill (21006), a deposit of moderately compact silty clay that was light grey in colour, from which a single scrap of Late Iron Age to early Roman pottery was recovered. This was small, however, and could therefore be intrusive or residual in this context. A bone from a sheep or goat was also present, which may represent domestic waste, while four micro-mammal bones could represent the remains of animals who fell into the pit (Annex 2). If so, this suggests that

this feature may have been left open for a period of time before it was fully infilled. The pit was truncated to the northwest by [21007], which was 0.70m wide and over 0.77m deep, again continuing beyond the edge of the trench to the southwest (**Figure 6-28**). It was 0.09m deep and contained fill (21008), a deposit of mid-brownish grey moderately compact silty clay.

- 6.248 Towards the southeast was ditch [21012], which was orientated northeast–southwest, the top of the feature being visible from a height of 33.82m aOD. It was 3m wide and over 1.80m wide, continuing beyond the edges of the trench to the northeast and southwest. The ditch was not fully excavated, and was instead investigated via nine auger holes, that together formed a northwest–southeast transect across the feature (**Figure 6-28**). These demonstrated that the ditch was c.0.45m deep, and that it contained a single fill, (21013), a deposit of mid-brownish grey moderately compact silty clay with frequent sub-rounded stones from which four sherds of Roman pottery and one small sherd of medieval to post-medieval CBM were recovered (Annex 2). The latter could date this feature to the medieval period or later, however it is suggested here that it was intrusive, given its small size. To the immediate northwest was ditch [21015], the top of which was observed at a height of 33.82m aOD. It was 3m wide and orientated northeast–southwest, continuing beyond the trench edges in both directions. The ditch was not fully excavated, and was instead investigated via 10 auger holes, again arranged in a northwest–southeast transect across the feature (**Figure 6-28**). These demonstrated that the ditch was c.0.89m deep, and that it contained a single fill, (21009), a deposit of mid-brownish grey moderately compact silty clay with frequent sub-rounded stones. It is possible that these features either formed a double-ditched boundary, or that they represent successive incarnations of the same boundary. The location of the more northerly ditch coincided with a geophysical anomaly within the trench, which it is presumed to represent.
- 6.249 Sealing the ditches, and obscuring the stratigraphic relationship that may existed between them, was layer (21010), a deposit of very dark greyish brown moderately compact clay containing rare sub-rounded stones (**Figure 6-28**). The layer was 4m long and over 1.80m wide, continuing beyond the edges of the trench to the northeast and southwest (**Figure 6-28**). Six sherds of pottery dated to the period AD 200–400 were recovered, which together could be taken to suggest a deposition date during the mid-to late Roman period (Annex 2).
- 6.250 To the north of ditch [21015] was ditch terminus [21003] (**Figure 6-28**). This was 0.80m wide and over 0.80m long, continuing beyond the edge of the trench, presumably towards the northeast. The top of the feature was observed at a height of 34.28m aOD. It contained fill (21004), from which 17 sherds of pottery dated to the period AD 200–

400 were recovered, as was a single, presumably prehistoric flint flake, which is probably residual, and 10 clasts of burnt flint. Ecofacts included charred cereal caryopses of oat (26), rye/wheat (4), bread/club wheat (27), emmer/spelt (11), wheat (104) and unidentified cereal (35), as well as spelt glumes (6), vetch (8) and a hazel nut shell fragment (1). This probably represents discarded food waste from nearby settlement (Annex 2). The feature was interpreted as a ditch due to the presence of a linear geophysical anomaly with a probable terminus in the same approximate location.

- 6.251 Linear features in this trench all coincided with the predicted locations of geophysical anomalies. These results therefore support the geophysical survey, and appear to confirm the premise that enclosure complexes of probable Romano-British date underlie this part of the Site. Within this area, at least some components of these enclosures appear to date to the latter half of the Roman period, as suggested by the pottery that was recovered.

Trench 212 (Figure 5-1; Figure 6-29)

- 6.252 Trench 212 was located in the central part of the Core Zone (**Figure 5-1**). It targeted two parallel linear geophysical anomalies that were interpreted as forming a putative trackway leading from the core of the Late Iron Age to Romano-British settlement to the northwest towards open land to the southeast. These parallel anomalies were also targeted by Trench 217 (discussed subsequently).
- 6.253 Four features were revealed in Trench 212, detailed here from southwest to northeast: putative ditches [21205] and [21203] and intercutting ditches [21207] and [21209] (**Figure 6-29**). Of these, the latter two were excavated, the others being unexcavated.
- 6.254 Ditch [21207] and later recut [21209] were orientated northeast–southwest, continuing beyond the trench edges in both directions (**Figure 6-29**). The top of ditch [21207] was observed at a height of 34m aOD. It was 1.3m wide and up to 0.65m deep, and continued beyond the edges of the trench to the northeast and southwest. A single fill was present, (21208), a deposit of very dark grey compact clay containing rare sub-rounded stones. The ditch appeared to have been recut to the northeast by ditch [21209], although the stratigraphic relationship between the two was not captured in section (Section 212.01). Ditch [21209] was 2m wide and up to 0.65m deep, again continuing beyond the trench edges to the northwest and southeast. It contained fill (21210), a moderately compact silty clay that was mid-grey in colour with white chalk-like mottling.
- 6.255 Ditch [21207], recut [21209] and unexcavated putative ditch [21203] were found in the same location as a pair of geophysical anomalies, which they are presumed to represent (**Figure 6-29**). The results from this trench therefore appear to confirm the

presence of ditches in this part of the Site that may be associated with the aforementioned putative trackway. Dating evidence obtained from Trench 217 suggests that ditches associated with this landscape feature began to silt up during the later 3rd to 4th century AD (see below).

Trench 213 (Figure 5-1; Figure 6-30)

- 6.256 Trench 213 was situated in the southwestern part of the Core Zone, to the northeast of Trench 210 (**Figure 5-1**). It targeted three linear geophysical anomalies that appeared to form part of a series of conjoined sub-rectangular enclosures that may together form a core of settlement activity in this part of the Site. Trenches 204, 210 and 216 targeted this same sub-rectangular block of putative enclosure boundaries. Trenches 204 and 210 returned positive results; Trench 216 is discussed subsequently.
- 6.257 Ten archaeological features were uncovered in this trench, detailed here from northwest to southeast: putative ditch [21325], pit or ditch [21313] and recut [21312] and [21314], putative ditches [21323], [21321] and [21319], ditch [21302], pit or ditch terminus [21304] and ditch [21303] (**Figure 6-30**). Of these, ditches [21302], [21304], and [21303] were subject to excavation, the other features being unexcavated. A putative furrow was also revealed in the far southeastern end of the trench, which was not excavated (**Figure 6-30**).
- 6.258 Pit or ditch [21313] appeared sub-ovoid in plan, continuing beyond the edges of the trench to the northeast and southwest. The top was observed at a height of 33.94m aOD, and it possessed a length in excess of 2m, a width of 1.80m and a depth of 0.5m. It contained fill (21315), a deposit of mid-greyish brown sandy silty clay. The feature appeared to have been recut as feature [21312], which could point towards this feature being the terminus of a ditch rather than a pit, however this is uncertain. This recut was 0.46m wide and up to 0.60m deep. It contained primary fill (21316), secondary fill (21317). A further recut of the ditch took place as feature [21314]. This seemingly final recut was 1.80m in length and up to 0.20m deep. It contained a single fill (21318) of dark brown silty clay.
- 6.259 Ditch [21303] was orientated northwest–southeast, the top of the feature having been observed at a height of 34.50m aOD (**Figure 6-30**). It was over 0.56m wide, continuing beyond the edge of the trench to the northwest, and was over 18m long, again continuing beyond the edge of the trench to the northwest. It either terminated or was truncated by a later furrow towards the southeast (**Figure 6-3**). It also appeared to truncate putative ditch [21319], however this relationship was not tested by excavation. The ditch contained primary fill (21305) and secondary fill (21306), which comprised compact silty clay that was respectively very dark grey and mid-brownish grey in colour.

This deposit produced 11 sherds of pottery of general Roman date, and three small fragments of CBM that could date this deposit to the medieval or post-medieval period, however this material may alternatively be intrusive (Annex 2).

- 6.260 Ditch [21303] was truncated in part by pit or ditch terminus [21304], the top of which was identified at a height of 34.50m aOD (**Figure 6-30; Figure 9-4**: Section 213.01). This was 0.7m wide and over 1.8m long, continuing beyond the end of the trench to the southwest. It contained primary fill (21307) and secondary fill (21308), deposits of silty clay that were respectively mid-greyish brown and mid-grey in colour. Two small sherds of Late Iron Age to Roman pottery were recovered from latter, however given their small size, they could be intrusive or residual in this context (Annex 2).
- 6.261 Ditch [21303] was also partially truncated by ditch [21302], which was orientated northeast–southwest, continuing beyond the edges of the trench in both directions (**Figure 6-30**). The top the ditch was observed at a height of 34.48m aOD, and it was 0.7m wide and 0.33m deep, continuing beyond the trench edges to the northwest and southeast. The ditch contained primary fill (21309), secondary fill (21310) and tertiary fill (21311), which comprised compact silty clays that varied in colour from mid-greyish orange to mid-brownish grey. A single sherd of pottery of general Roman date was recovered from the primary fill (Annex 2).
- 6.262 Of the three geophysical anomalies that were targeted by this trench, one was obviously present, represented by northwest–southeast orientated ditch [21303]. It is possible that putative ditch remnant [21323] represents the very poorly preserved vestiges of a second geophysical anomaly orientated northeast–southwest, however this is uncertain (**Figure 6-30**). It is also possible that the third geophysical anomaly in the far southeast of the trench was obscured by ditch [21303] and the later furrow. These results therefore broadly support the geophysical survey, and appear to confirm the premise that probable Romano-British enclosure complexes underlie this part of the Site. The presence of six additional features that did not correspond with geophysical anomalies suggests that the archaeological sequence in this part of the Site is more complex than the geophysical survey suggests.

Trench 216 (Figure 5-1; Figure 6-31)

- 6.263 Trench 216 was situated towards the southcentral part of the Core Zone, to the northeast of Trench 213 (**Figure 5-1**). It again targeted linear geophysical anomalies that appeared to form part of a series of conjoined sub-rectangular enclosures that may together form a core of settlement activity in this part of the Site. Trenches 204, 210 and 213 targeted this same sub-rectangular block of geophysical anomalies, all of which

returned positive results that broadly concurred with the geophysical survey (**Figure 5-1**).

- 6.264 Trench 216 revealed seven archaeological features, detailed here from northwest to southeast: putative ditch [21614], ditch [21616], putative ditch [21610] and putative recut or later incarnation [21612], putative ditch [21608], ditch [21603] and pit or posthole [21606] (**Figure 6-31**). Of these ditches [21616], [21603] and pit or posthole [21606] were excavated.
- 6.265 Ditch [21616] was situated in the northwest end of the trench. It was orientated northeast–southwest, the top having been observed at a height of 34.57m aOD (**Figure 6-31**). It was 0.56m wide and up to 0.11m deep, and continued beyond the trench to the northeast and southwest. It contained a single fill (21004), a deposit of mid-brownish grey moderately compact silty clay. The feature was aligned with the southwest part of a ‘Y’-shaped geophysical anomaly, which it is presumed to represent.
- 6.266 Ditch [21603] was situated in the southeast end of the trench. It was orientated northeast–southwest, the top being at a height of 33.99m aOD (**Figure 6-31**). The ditch was 2.7m wide and over 0.45m deep, continuing beyond the edges of the trench to the northeast and southwest. It contained a single fill, (21604), a deposit of mid-brownish grey very compact silty clay from which three shelly pottery sherds dated to the period AD 50–400 were recovered (Annex 2).
- 6.267 Small pit or posthole [21606] was circular in plan with a diameter of 0.76m and a depth of 0.11m (**Figure 6-31**). It contained a single fill, (21605), a deposit of mid-brownish grey silty clay. It is tempting to interpret this feature as the remains of a posthole associated with a fence flanking ditch [21603], however it may alternatively represent a pit, for example a waste pit or robber cut for the removal of a post, given its 0.76m diameter.
- 6.268 The remaining geophysical anomalies that were targeted by this trench appeared to be represented in the archaeological record by putative ditch [21614] in the northern end of the trench and ditch [21612] further towards the southeast. A curvilinear geophysical anomaly to the immediate south of this and the most southerly geophysical anomaly in this trench were not detected, however this may be due to the fact that the bulk of these anomalies were actually located beyond the edges of this trench (**Figure 6-31**). The results from this trench therefore broadly conform with the results of the geophysical survey, supporting the premise that an enclosure complex underlies this part of the Site. The scant dating evidence recovered from this trench supports a Roman date for this landscape feature.



Plate 13: Ditch [21603] with pit [21606], looking northeast

Trench 217 (Figure 5-1; Figure 6-32)

- 6.269 Trench 217 was located in the central part of the Core Zone, to the immediate northwest of Trench 212 (**Figure 5-1**). It targeted two parallel linear geophysical anomalies that were interpreted as forming a putative trackway leading from the core of the Late Iron Age to Romano-British settlement to the northwest towards open land to the southeast. These parallel anomalies were also targeted by Trench 212, which returned a positive result that supported the presence of this putative trackway. The geophysical survey also suggested the presence of a small ditch spur that presumably intersects with the northeastern putative trackway ditch. If the interpretation of these features as a trackway is correct, it is possible that this spur relates to an earlier or later phase of activity, as its construction would have partially blocked the trackway, were these features extant at the same time.
- 6.270 Trench 217 contained four features, detailed here from northeast to southwest: putative ditches [21712] and [21703], ditch [21705] and posthole or pit [21707]. Of these, only the latter two were excavated (**Figure 6-23**). A later linear feature, presumed to represent a furrow, was also recorded above ditch [21705] (**Figure 6-23**).
- 6.271 Pit [21707] was 0.47m in diameter and up to 0.2m deep, the top being present at a height of 34.06m aOD. It contained fill (21708), a deposit of mid-grey moderately

compact silty clay from which five very small sherds of Late Iron Age to early Roman pottery was recovered (Annex 2). This was truncated to the northeast by a later ditch [21705].

- 6.272 Ditch [21705] was orientated northeast–southwest, the top being observed at a height of 34.06m aOD (**Figure 6-23**). It was 1.1m wide and 0.37m deep, continuing beyond the edges of the trench to the northeast and southwest. The ditch contained fill (21706), a deposit of very dark grey moderately compact silty clay, from which 43 sherds of pottery dated to the period AD 270–400, one fragment of Roman CBM, 10 crumbs of fired clay and an iron bar (not closely datable) were recovered (Annex 2). This strongly suggests a date of deposition in the late 3rd or 4th century AD.
- 6.273 Putative ditch [21712] and ditch [21705] were found in the same location as a pair of geophysical anomalies, which they are presumed to represent (**Figure 6-29**). The results from this trench therefore appear to confirm the presence of ditches in this part of the Site that may be associated with the aforementioned putative trackway, while the dating evidence obtained suggests that this portion of the trackway ditches began to silt up during the late 3rd to 4th century AD. The small spur extending across the trackway was also identified archaeologically as putative ditch [21703], however this was not subject to excavation and its relationship with the trackway ditches therefore cannot be determined at this stage.
- 6.274 If the dating evidence recovered from features in this trench is taken at face value, it collectively suggests that a nucleus of settlement activity existed in this part of the Site that straddled the Late Iron Age to Roman transition period, through to the later Roman period.

Trench 218 (Figure 5-1; Figure 6-33)

- 6.275 Trench 218 was situated in the southcentral part of the Core Zone, to the east of Trench 216 (**Figure 5-1**). It targeted a single geophysical anomaly that appeared to form part of a block of conjoined sub-rectangular enclosures. These were also targeted by Trenches 204, 210, 213 and 216, all of which returned positive results that broadly concurred with the geophysical survey (**Figure 6-33**).
- 6.276 Two features were noted in the approximate centre of Trench 218, northwest–southeast ditch [21804] and an associated narrow gully or beamslot [21808], which extended from this feature towards the east. Both were subject to excavation (**Figure 6-33**).
- 6.277 Ditch [21804] was 2.5m wide and up to 0.64m deep, the top being observed at a height of 34.4m aOD. The base of the ditch was not reached, however as seen, the ditch contained a primary fill of (21805) of light orange yellow sandy clay which was thought

to be a silting deposit. The ditch was then filled by secondary deposit (21806), a mid-orange grey sandy clay, and then final fill (21807), a mid-grey sandy clay.

- 6.278 Ditch [21804] partially truncated to the east a gully or beamslot [21808] (**Figure 6-33**). This was orientated northeast–southwest and was 1m long, 0.4m wide and up to 0.1m deep. It contained fill (21809), a deposit of mid-brownish grey silty clay (**Figure 6-33**).
- 6.279 The location of ditch [21804] was congruent with the geophysical anomaly that was targeted by this trench. Its discovery therefore supports the notion that this part of the Site is underlain by a series of conjoined sub-rectangular enclosures in antiquity.

Trench 220 (Figure 5-1; Figure 6-34)

- 6.280 Trench 220 was situated towards the east-central part of the Core Zone, in an area that did not contain any geophysical anomalies of archaeological significance (**Figure 5-1**). A single feature was uncovered, pit [22003], which was circular in plan with a diameter of 0.65m and a depth of 0.14m, the top being at a height of 33.73m aOD (**Figure 6-34**). The pit contained fill (22004), a deposit of moderately compact silty clay that was mid-greyish brown in colour. The purpose of this feature is uncertain, one possibility being a waste pit associated with nearby settlement.

Trench 222 (Figure 5-1; Figure 6-35)

- 6.281 Trench 222 was situated to the immediate north of Trench 220 in an area of the Site that was devoid of any geophysical anomalies (**Figure 5-1**). A single feature was uncovered, pit [22202], which was circular in plan with a diameter of 0.68m and a depth of 0.12m, the top being at a height of 33.85m aOD (**Figure 6-34**). The pit contained fill (22003), a deposit of moderately compact clayey sand that was very dark grey in colour. The purpose of this feature is uncertain, one possibility being a waste pit associated with nearby settlement.

Trench 223 (Figure 5-1; Figure 6-36)

- 6.282 Trench 223 targeted two geophysical anomalies that may represent the northwest boundary of a broad trackway or narrow, elongated rectangular enclosure that may have joined a nucleus of Romano-British enclosures to the southwest with a second, related nucleus to the northeast. This broad trackway or narrow enclosure was also targeted by Trench 233.
- 6.283 One archaeological feature was identified, putative ditch [22303], which was not excavated. The ditch was orientated northwest–southeast, continuing beyond the trench edges in both directions. Its location coincided with the geophysical anomaly, and its discovery therefore appears to confirm the presence of the broad trackway or narrow enclosure that is presumed to underlie this part of the Site. The second

curvilinear geophysical anomaly was not identified, however it was located very close to the northeast edge of the trench, and may therefore be situated immediately beyond its confines (**Figure 6-36**).

Trench 224 (Figure 5-1; Figure 6-37)

- 6.284 Trench 224 was located in the central part of the Core Zone to the northwest of Trench 217 (**Figure 5-1**). It targeted a linear geophysical anomaly that was interpreted as forming the northeast side of a putative trackway the connected the core of the Late Iron Age to Romano-British settlement to the northwest with open land to the southeast.
- 6.285 A single feature was identified in the trench, northeast–southwest orientated ditch [22402] (**Figure 6-37**). The top of the feature was observed at a height of 34.11m aOD, and it proved to be 1.5m wide and 0.48m deep. A single fill was present, (22403), which comprised mid-greyish brown moderately compact silty clay. The discovery of this feature appears to confirm the presence of the northwest–southeast boundary that was suggested by the geophysical survey, and by extension, the putative trackway.

Trench 228 (Figure 5-2; Figure 6-38)

- 6.286 Trench 228 was situated in the far western part of the Core Zone, to the southeast of Trench 155. It targeted a northwest–southeast linear geophysical anomaly that is possibly synonymous with a similarly orientated boundary in Trench 155. It was speculated on the basis of the geophysical survey that this was associated with one side of a trackway or a farmland boundary leading from the core of the putative Late Iron Age to Romano-British settlement towards land situated towards the northwest.
- 6.287 One archaeological feature was present, probable ditch terminus [22803], the top of which was identified at a height of 33.44m aOD. The ditch was over 1.4m long, 0.97m wide and 0.56m deep, continuing beyond the confines of the trench to the southeast. A primary fill (22805) was a mid-bluish grey silty clay, which was 0.06m thick, perhaps representing edge collapse, given the presentation of this deposit against the northeast side of the ditch. This was sealed by secondary fill (22804), a deposit of mid-greyish brown very compact silty clay, which filled the remainder of the ditch in its entirety. The ditch may be congruent with a geophysical anomaly on the same alignment, that was detected to the immediate southeast of the trench.
- 6.288 The geophysical anomaly that was targeted by this trench was not identified within its confines, which could be taken to suggest that the trackway that it was presumed to be associated with did not exist in this location. However, possible ditch terminus [22803] appears congruent with a geophysical anomaly that was interpreted as forming the opposing side of the trackway, therefore it remains possible that this landscape feature was indeed present in this location in antiquity.

Trench 230 (Figure 5-1; Figure 6-39)

- 6.289 Trench 230 was located in the central part of the Core Zone (**Figure 5-1**). It targeted two parallel linear geophysical anomalies that were interpreted as forming a putative trackway leading from the core of the Late Iron Age to Romano-British settlement to the southeast towards open land to the northwest. These parallel anomalies were also targeted by Trenches 212, 217 and 223, all of which returned positive results that broadly concurred with the geophysical survey.
- 6.290 Two archaeological features were identified in the trench, orientated northwest–southeast. The most southwesterly of these, putative ditch [23005], was not excavated, while the northeasterly example, ditch [23003], was subject to excavation.
- 6.291 The top of ditch [23003] was identified at a height of 34.16m aOD and it was 0.75m wide and 0.20m deep, continuing beyond the edges of the trench to the northwest and southeast. It contained fill (23005), a deposit of moderately compact clay that was mid-blueish grey in colour, however this did not extend across the entirety of the feature and was therefore not recorded in section. This primary fill was sealed by (23004), a deposit of mid-blueish grey compact silty clay, which infilled the remainder of the feature in its entirety.
- 6.292 The locations of the ditches coincided with the geophysical anomalies that were targeted by this trench. Consequently, their identification appears to support the notion of the presence of a trackway in this part of the Site in antiquity.

Trench 233 (Figure 5-1; Figure 5-2; Figure 6-40)

- 6.293 Trench 233 targeted two geophysical anomalies that may represent the northwest and southeast sides of a broad trackway or narrow, elongated rectangular enclosure that may have joined a nucleus of Romano-British enclosures to the southwest with a second, related, nucleus to the northeast (**Figure 5-1; Figure 5-2**). This northwest anomaly was also targeted by Trench 224 (discussed subsequently).
- 6.294 Two archaeological features were recorded within the trench, pit [23305] to the northwest, which was not excavated, and ditch [23303] further towards the southeast, which was subject to excavation.
- 6.295 Ditch [23303] was orientated northeast–southwest, the top being uncovered at a height of 34.22m aOD. It was 0.62m wide and 0.26m deep, and continued beyond the edges of the trench to the northeast and southwest. A single fill was present, (23304), a friable silty clay that was light greyish brown in colour.
- 6.296 Ditch [23303] was situated to the immediate northwest of the northwestern geophysical anomaly that was targeted by this trench, and the two were aligned. The ditch could

therefore be congruent with the geophysical anomaly, however the variance in location is more suggestive of an earlier or later iteration of a single boundary. The second geophysical anomaly that was targeted by this trench clipped the far southwest end of the intervention, and is therefore most probably situated immediate beyond its confines to the southeast. The results obtained therefore approximate the geophysical survey, but do not directly conform with it. Nevertheless, they may still point towards the presence of boundaries of some antiquity within this area of the Site, that could conceivably be associated with the aforementioned broad trackway or narrow, elongated rectangular enclosure.

Trench 239 (Figure 5-2; Figure 6-41)

- 6.297 Trench 239 was situated in the western part of the Core Zone, within an area of the Site where no geophysical anomalies were detected (**Figure 5-2**). Three features were present, detailed here from south to north: pits [23902], [23904], and [23906], observed from a maximum height of 34.47m aOD (**Figure 6-41**). These circular features were between 0.62m and 0.48m in diameter and 0.26m and 0.15m in depth. They contained friable silty clay fills that were light grey in colour, respectively termed (23903), (23905) and (23907). No datable material was retrieved from the pits. The functions of the features are uncertain, however they could represent waste pits associated with nearby settlement.

Trench 242 (Figure 5-2; Figure 6-42)

- 6.298 Trench 242 was situated towards the western side of the northern half of the Core Zone (**Figure 5-2**). It targeted a linear geophysical anomaly that may be associated with the northern part of a locus of Late Iron Age to Romano-British settlement activity characterised by enclosures. The geophysical survey suggests that this probable settled area spanned the southwestern and west-central parts of the Core Zone, extending northwards at least as far as Trench 259. Trenches 237, 243–4, 254, 258–9 also targeted anomalies that may be associated with the northern part of this putative settlement.
- 6.299 Two archaeological features were observed in the trench, pit [24205] to the north and ditch [24203] to the south, both of which were excavated. Two later furrows were also noted in the northern part of the trench; the location of the more southerly of the two was predicted by a geophysical anomaly in that location. Neither furrow was excavated.
- 6.300 Pit [24205] was identified at a height of 34.84m aOD. It was 0.50m in diameter and 0.09m deep, and it contained a single fill, (24206), a deposit of moderately compact silty clay. The function of the feature is uncertain due to lack of datable material; one possibility being a waste pit associated with nearby settlement activity.

- 6.301 Ditch [24203] was orientated northeast–southwest, the top being present at a height of 34.45m aOD. It was over 0.45m wide and over 0.5m long, continuing beyond the edge of the trench to the east (**Figure 6-42**). A single fill was present, (24204), a deposit of dark brownish grey moderately compact silty clay. No datable material was retrieved.
- 6.302 The location of ditch [24203] was congruent with the geophysical anomaly that was targeted by this trench. This supports the notion that an enclosure complex underlay this part of the Site in antiquity.

Trench 243 (Figure 5-2; Figure 6-43)

- 6.303 Trench 243 was situated towards the western side of the northern half of the Core Zone, to the east of Trench 242 (**Figure 5-2**). It targeted two geophysical anomalies that may be associated with the northern part of a locus of Late Iron Age to Romano-British settlement activity characterised by enclosures. The geophysical survey suggests that this probable settled area spanned the southwestern and west-central parts of the Core Zone, extending northwards at least as far as Trench 259. Trenches 237, 242–3, 254, 258–9 also targeted anomalies that may be associated with the northern part of this putative settlement.
- 6.304 Three archaeological features were unearthed in this trench, detailed here from southeast to northwest: Ditch [24303], pit or ditch terminus [24305] and putative ditch [24307]. The latter was not excavated, while the remaining features were subject to excavation.
- 6.305 Pit or ditch terminus [24305] was orientated northeast–southwest and was 1.1m wide and over 1.54m long, continuing beyond the edge of the trench to the northeast (**Figure 6-43**). The top of the feature was observed at a height of 33.99m aOD and it was 0.24m deep as seen. It did not coincide with the location of a geophysical anomaly. The ditch contained a single fill, (24396), which comprised dark grey, slightly compact silty clay. No datable material was retrieved.
- 6.306 Ditch [24303] was orientated northwest–southeast and was over 5m long, continuing beyond the edges of the trench in both directions, 1.51m wide and 0.21m deep (**Figure 6-43**). The top of the feature was observed at a height of 33.99m aOD. It contained fill (24304), a deposit of very dark brown moderately compact silty clay. No datable material was retrieved.
- 6.307 The location of ditch [24303] coincided with the locations of the two geophysical anomalies that were targeted by this trench, however the correlation between the two was imperfect. The evaluation trench appeared to verify the presence of the anomalies that were orientated northeast–southwest, but appeared to indicate that a gap between the two that was predicted to be present in the southeast end of the trench did not exist.

The excavation also failed to identify the southerly return of the more westerly of the two anomalies. The results from this evaluation trench therefore refine the results of the geophysical survey, but do support the notion that an enclosure complex underlay this part of the Site in antiquity.

Trench 244 (Figure 5-2; Figure 6-44)

- 6.308 Trench 244 was situated towards the western side of the northern half of the Core Zone, to the immediate west of Trench 242 (**Figure 5-2**). It targeted two geophysical anomalies that may be associated with a small sub-rectangular sub-enclosure, associated with the northern part of a locus of Late Iron Age to Romano-British settlement activity characterised by enclosures (**Figure 5-2; Figure 6-44**). The geophysical survey suggests that this probable settled area spanned the southwestern and west-central parts of the Core Zone, extending northwards at least as far as Trench 259 (**Figure 5-2**). Trenches 237, 242–3, 254, 258–9 also targeted anomalies that may be associated with the northern part of this putative settlement.
- 6.309 Two archaeological features and two probable furrows, all orientated northeast–southwest, were identified within the trench: ditch [24403] to the southwest and putative ditch [24410] to the northeast. The former was subject to excavation while the latter was not.
- 6.310 The top of ditch [24403] was identified at a height of 34.52m aOD. It was up to 0.96m wide and up to 0.30m deep, and it contained primary fill (24405) and secondary fill (24404) (Section 244.01) was drawn after the removal of fill (24404)). These comprised silty clays that were respectively light greyish brown and mid-greyish brown in colour. No datable material was retrieved.
- 6.311 The location of ditch [24403] coincided with the southern side of the putative sub-rectangular sub-enclosure that was targeted by this trench. The northern side was not identified. Putative ditch [24410] was situated to the immediate northwest of the northern boundary of a second sub-enclosure, as suggested by the geophysical survey, and was aligned with it. It is therefore possible that this boundary continues further to the northwest than the geophysical survey suggests. Taken together, the results from this evaluation trench refine those of the geophysical survey, but are an imperfect fit. They do, however, broadly support the notion that a series of sub-enclosure complexes underlay this part of the Site in antiquity.

Trench 246 (Figure 5-2; Figure 6-45)

- 6.312 Trench 246 was situated to the east of Trench 243, in an area of the Core Zone where no geophysical anomalies were detected (**Figure 5-2**). A single feature was recognised, ditch [24602], which was orientated northeast–southwest (**Figure 6-45**). It was 1.1m

wide and up to 0.28m deep, continuing beyond the edges of the trench in both directions. The top of the ditch was identified at a height of 33.53m aOD, and a single fill was present, (24603), a deposit of mid-greyish brown moderately compact clayey silt, which yielded five sherds of Late Iron Age to early Roman pottery (Annex 2). The function of the feature is uncertain, however it is reasonable to suppose that it represents yet another boundary ditch that could be associated with the enclosure complexes that appear to have been situated close to this trench in antiquity, to the north, west and south (**Figure 5-2**). If so, it indicates that some components of these more probably date to the Late Iron Age to early Roman period.

Trench 247 (Figure 5-2; Figure 6-46)

- 6.313 Trench 247 was situated to the north of Trench 246, again in an area of the Core Zone where no geophysical anomalies were detected (Figure 5-2). A single feature was present, pit [24703], the top of which was observed at a height of 34.04m aOD (**Figure 6-46**). The pit was sub-circular in plan, with a diameter in excess of 2m. It was up to 0.38m deep, and contained a single fill (24704), a moderately compact silty clay that was mid-greyish brown in colour. The function of the feature is uncertain due to no material being retrieved; one possibility being a waste pit associated with nearby settlement.

Trench 250 (Figure 5-2; Figure 6-47)

- 6.314 Trench 250 was situated in the western part of the Core Zone, to the north of Trench 239, within an area of the Site where no geophysical anomalies were detected. A single feature was present, pit [25003], the top of which was observed at a height of 34.94m aOD (**Figure 6-46**). The pit was circular in plan, with a diameter of 0.80m. It was no more than 0.10m deep, and contained a single fill (25004), a moderately compact silty clay that was very dark grey in colour. The function of the feature is uncertain due to no material being retrieved; one possibility being a waste pit for the disposal of organic matter that has left no archaeologically visible trace.

Trench 254 (Figure 5-2; Figure 6-48)

- 6.315 Trench 254 was situated in the northwest part of the Core Zone, to the north of Trench 247 (**Figure 5-2**). It targeted four geophysical anomalies that may be associated with the northern part of a locus of Late Iron Age to Romano-British settlement activity characterised by enclosures. The geophysical survey suggests that this probable settled area spanned the southwestern and west-central parts of the Core Zone, extending northwards from there at least as far as Trench 259. Trenches 237, 242–4, and 258–9 also targeted anomalies that may be associated with the northern part of this putative settlement.

- 6.316 Three archaeological features were encountered in this trench, detailed here from southwest to northeast: ditch [25403], ditch [25405] and putative ditch [25407]. The former two were excavated, the latter was unexcavated (**Figure 6-48**).
- 6.317 Ditch [25403] was orientated northeast–southwest, the top having been identified at a height of 33.80m aOD (**Figure 6-48**). It was 0.71m wide and up to 0.18m deep. A single fill was present, (25404), a deposit of light brown moderately compact silty clay. No datable material was retrieved.
- 6.318 Ditch [25405] was orientated northeast–southwest, the top having been identified at a height of 33.60m aOD. It was up to 0.90m wide and up to 0.25m deep. A single fill was present, (25406), a deposit of mid-brownish grey silty clay. No datable material was retrieved.
- 6.319 The locations of the three features in this trench coincided with three of the four geophysical anomalies that were targeted by this intervention. Taken together, the results from this trench therefore strongly support those of the geophysical survey, suggesting the presence of a series of enclosure complexes in this part of the Site.

Trench 257 (Figure 5-2; Figure 6-49)

- 6.320 Trench 257 was situated to the north of Trench 250 in the northwest part of the Core Zone (**Figure 5-2**). The trench targeted a single circular geophysical anomaly that resembled an elongated pit of uncertain date and function (**Figure 6-49**). This anomaly is one of seven that were detected in an apparent northeast–southwest alignment within this part of the Site.
- 6.321 A single feature was uncovered in this trench, ditch [25703], which was orientated east–west (**Figure 6-49**; Plate 14). The top of the feature was encountered at a height of 35.14m aOD, and it was 2.54m in width and up to 0.42m deep. The length of the feature remains uncertain as it continued beyond the edges of the trench to the east and west. A single fill was noted, (25704), a mid-greyish brown and very compact sandy clay from which eight sherds of medieval pottery were recovered, as was a single post-medieval sherd dated to the period 1550–1900, an iron strip and a Manning Type 3 nail (not closely datable). The post-medieval glass may be intrusive (Annex 2).
- 6.322 The location of this probable ditch coincided with the location of the circular anomaly, suggestive of a pit, on the geophysical survey (**Figure 6-49**). This indicates that the circular anomaly represents one small part of a larger east–west ditch, rather than a pit, while the dating evidence recovered suggests a medieval date for this probable farmland boundary (**Figure 5-2**).



Plate 14: Ditch [25703] with pit [21606], looking northeast

Trench 258 (Figure 5-2; Figure 6-50)

- 6.323 Trench 258 was situated in the northwest part of the Core Zone, to the north of Trench 254 (**Figure 5-2**). It targeted two geophysical anomalies that may be associated with the northern part of a locus of Late Iron Age to Romano-British settlement activity characterised by enclosures (**Figure 6-50**). The geophysical survey suggests that this probable settled area spanned the southwestern and west-central parts of the Core Zone, extending northwards from there at least as far as Trench 259. Trenches 237, 242–4, 254 and 259 also targeted anomalies that may be associated with the northern part of this putative settlement.
- 6.324 A single feature was identified within the confines of the trench, ditch [25803], which was orientated northeast–southwest (**Figure 6-49**). The top of the feature was encountered at a height of 33.17m aOD, and it was 2.53m in width and up to 1.20m deep. The length of the feature remains uncertain as it continued beyond the edges of the trench to the east and west. A single fill was noted, (25804), a dark greyish brown and moderately compact sandy clay from which seven sherds of Late Iron Age to early Roman pottery were recovered (Annex 2).
- 6.325 The location of ditch [25803] coincided with the location of a geophysical anomaly, which it is presumed to represent. The second anomaly that was targeted by this

intervention was not encountered. The results from this trench support the results of the geophysical survey in this location, suggesting that a series of enclosure complexes characterised this part of the Site in antiquity. Dating evidence obtained suggests that, in this location, at least one enclosure boundary was of Late Iron Age to early Roman date.

Trench 259 (Figure 5-2; Figure 6-51)

- 6.326 Trench 259 was situated in the northwest part of the Core Zone, to the north of Trench 258 (**Figure 5-2**). It targeted three ditch-like geophysical anomalies one circular pit-like anomaly that may be associated with the northern part of a locus of Late Iron Age to Romano-British settlement activity characterised by enclosures (**Figure 6-51**). The geophysical survey suggests that this probable settled area spanned the southwestern and west-central parts of the Core Zone, extending northwards from there at least as far as Trench 259. Trenches 237, 242–4, 254 and 258 also targeted anomalies that may be associated with the northern part of this putative settlement.
- 6.327 Four archaeological features were encountered in this trench, detailed here from northwest to southeast: curvilinear ditches [25903] and [25907], pit or posthole [25905] and putative pit or curvilinear ditch [25909] (**Figure 6-51**). Of these, ditch [25903] and pit or posthole [25905] were excavated. Small exploratory slots were dug into the sides of ditch [25907] and [25909], which demonstrated that they were indeed cut features, but were not expansive enough to characterise their profiles.
- 6.328 Curvilinear ditch [25903] expressed a gentle curve from the north to the southwest, the top of the feature being visible from a height of 32.82m aOD (**Figure 6-51**). The ditch was 1.28m wide, up to 0.78m deep and over 1.80m long, continuing beyond the edges of the trench to the north and southwest. It contained a single deposit (25904), a mid-orange brown moderately compact silty clay that yielded four fragments of Late Iron Age to early Roman pottery and one fragment of medieval to post-medieval CBM, which could be intrusive (Annex 2). This feature may represent an enclosure boundary.
- 6.329 To the south was pit or posthole [25905], the top of which was observed at a height of 32.48m aOD (**Figure 6-51**). It was circular in plan, with a diameter of 0.52m and a depth of 0.27m. A single fill (25906) was present, a deposit of mid-brownish grey compact silty clay. The function of the feature is uncertain, one possibility being the vestiges of a posthole with a possible structural function or a waste pit associated with nearby settlement.
- 6.330 Of the three ditch-like geophysical anomalies targeted by this trench, two were identified archaeologically as ditches [25903] and ditch remnant [25909]. The third and most southerly linear geophysical anomaly was not identified. However, this trench only

appears to have clipped the far eastern side of this anomaly, therefore the physical remains associated with it may lie to the immediate west, rather than within the confines of this trench (**Figure 6-51**). Ditch [25907] coincided with the location of the circular anomaly, initially thought to represent a pit, however the results of this evaluation instead suggest the presence of another enclosure boundary ditch in this location (**Figure 6-51**). The results obtained from Trench 259 therefore support and refine the results of the geophysical survey, suggesting that a series of adjacent enclosures underlay this part of the Site in antiquity.

- 6.331 Dating evidence obtained from this trench suggests that at least one curvilinear ditch, [25903], is of Late Iron Age to early Roman date, however the presence of the single sherd of possibly intrusive medieval CBM in this feature means that a later date of formation cannot be entirely ruled out at this early stage.

Trench 275 (Figure 5-1, Figure 5-2; Figure 6-53)

- 6.332 Trench 275 was situated in the eastern part of the Core Zone in an area that appeared blank on the geophysical survey (**Figure 5-1**; **Figure 5-2**). A single feature was present, pit [27503], a sub-ovoid feature that was 1.60m long, 1.40m wide and up to 0.19m deep, the top having been recorded at a height of 32.02m aOD (**Figure 6-53**). It contained fill (27504), a deposit of mid-brownish grey moderately compact silty clay. No datable material was retrieved. The purpose of the feature is uncertain, however it may represent a waste pit associated with nearby settlement.

Trench 282 (Figure 5-1; Figure 6-54)

- 6.333 Trench 282 was situated towards the eastern side of the Core Zone in an area that contained a single geophysical anomaly that is presumed to be associated with a furrow, perhaps medieval to early post-medieval ridge and furrow farming (**Figure 5-1**; **Figure 6-54**).
- 6.334 Two features were encountered in the trench, ditch [28204] to the north and a probable furrow to the south (**Figure 6-54**).
- 6.335 Ditch [28204] was 0.80m wide and 0.18m deep, the top of the feature having been observed at a height of 32.30m aOD (**Figure 6-52**). It contained fill (28205), a deposit of silty clay that was light greyish brown in colour which produced no datable material. It may represent another boundary ditch, perhaps of some antiquity, that may be associated with putative settlement activity to the north. If so, this has the potential to be somewhat more extensive than the geophysical survey suggests.
- 6.336 A probable furrow of possible medieval date was identified in the trench that was not excavated. It was fractionally offset to the immediate east of its predicted location

according to the geophysical survey (**Figure 6-54**). Despite this, it is possible that the anomaly and the furrow are related. For example, the geophysical anomaly could coincide with part of an associated ridge that was not encountered archaeologically, while the archaeological feature could represent the remains of the furrow. Alternatively, it is possible that the furrow was wider than the geophysical anomaly and the archaeological feature individually suggest.

Core Zone Northwest

Trenches 265, 277 and 310 (Figure 5-2)

- 6.337 These trenches targeted two parallel geophysical anomalies that were formatively interpreted as forming a northwest–southeast trackway in the northern part of the Core Zone (**Figure 5-2**). These geophysical anomalies could not be detected archaeologically, and may therefore not be archaeological.

Trench 266 (Figure 5-2; Figure 6-52)

- 6.338 Trench 266 targeted two parallel linear geophysical anomalies that were presumed to represent a northwest–southeast aligned trackway, perhaps associated with a crossroads to the northwest (the ‘cross-roads’ was not detected by excavation, however; see Trenches 270 and 286, below).
- 6.339 Two archaeological features were identified in this trench, ditch [26606] to the north and ditch [26603] to the south. Both were orientated northeast–southwest.
- 6.340 Ditch [26606] was 1.92m wide and 0.84m deep, the top of the feature having been observed at a height of 32.60m aOD (**Figure 6-52**). It contained primary fill (26607) and secondary fill (26605), deposits of silty clay that were respectively mid-orange brown and dark grey brown in colour. The primary fill produced a lump of fired clay of uncertain function that possessed a knife trimmed edge and a flat outer surface, as well as two, presumably prehistoric flint flakes, which may be residual. Of particular note from the secondary fill were 147 sherds of pottery dated AD 50–120, which came from a number of different vessels, that included the lower wall of a jar with perforations in the base and more fragmentary sherds from at least two other vessel with base perforations and one vessel with a large perforation in the shoulder. These could represent deliberately damaged pottery vessels, probably forming a structured deposit. A fragment of fired clay was also present (Annex 2).
- 6.341 Ditch [26603] was situated to the south of ditch [26606]. It was 0.57m wide and 0.15m deep, the top of the feature having been observed at a height of 32.60m aOD (**Figure 6-52**; Plate 15). It contained fill (26604), a deposit of silty clay that was dark greyish brown in colour.

- 6.342 The locations of these ditches coincided with those of the geophysical anomalies that were targeted by this trench, which they are presumed to represent. Consequently, the results obtained from Trench 266 verify the results of the geophysical survey, thus supporting the notion that a northwest–southeast aligned trackway was located in this position in antiquity. Dating evidence obtained appears to point towards an earlier Roman date for this feature during the 1st to early 2nd century AD.



Plate 15: Ditch [26603] looking southeast

Trench 270 and 286 (Figure 5-2)

- 6.343 These trenches targeted a series of seemingly related geophysical anomalies that were formatively interpreted as being associated with activity surrounding a putative crossroads (**Figure 5-2**). However, these geophysical anomalies were not detected archaeologically, and may therefore not be archaeological.

Core Zone Northeast

Trench 295 (Figure 5-2; Figure 6-55)

- 6.344 Trench 295 was situated in the eastern corner of the Core Zone. It targeted a geophysical anomaly that may represent an outlying sub-rectangular enclosure located beyond the main areas of settlement to its west and north (**Figure 5-2**).

- 6.345 Two features were encountered in this trench: putative ditch [29504] and ditch [29502], both of which were orientated east–west. The former was not excavated, while the latter was subject to excavation.
- 6.346 Ditch [29502] was observed at a maximum height of 33.61m aOD and it was 0.80m wide, up to 0.17m deep and over 1.80m in length, continuing beyond the edge of the trench to the east and west. It contained a single deposit, fill (29503), which comprised mid-greyish brown silty clay and produced no datable material.
- 6.347 Neither ditch coincided with the location of the geophysical anomaly, which was not detected archaeologically. The results from this trench therefore do not support the results of the geophysical survey for this section of the Site, but do suggest the presence of ditches, and by extension enclosed land, in this location. These ditches are presumably associated with the putative settled area that was presumed to occupy this part of the Site in antiquity.

Trench 296 (Figure 5-2; Figure 6-56)

- 6.348 Trench 296 was situated in the northeast corner of the Core Zone (**Figure 5-2**). The trench targeted a northwest–southeast linear geophysical anomaly that appeared to extend in a southeasterly direction from a third putative enclosure complex, potentially of Romano-British date, situated in the northeast part of the Core Zone (**Figure 5-2; Figure 6-56**).
- 6.349 Three archaeological features were identified in this trench: excavated ditch [29603] and two excavated agricultural furrows of medieval or later date, [29605] and [29607] (**Figure 6-56**). All features identified in this trench were orientated northwest–southeast.
- 6.350 Ditch [29603] was 0.83m wide, over 1.80m long, continuing beyond the edges of the trench to the northwest and southeast. It was 0.29m deep, the top of the feature having been identified at a height of 36.40m aOD (**Figure 6-56**). A single fill was present, (29604), which comprised moderately compact silty clay, from which seven sherds of Late Iron Age to early Roman pottery were recovered (Annex 2). The ditch had been truncated along its entire length by a later furrow, [29605]. Its location coincided with the geophysical anomaly that was targeted by this trench, which it is presumed to represent.
- 6.351 Furrow [29605] was 2.82m wide and over 1.80m long, continuing beyond the limits of excavation to the northwest and southeast. It was up to 0.12m deep, the top having been encountered at a height of 36.50m aOD. It contained a mid-greyish brown deposit of silty clay, fill (29606), from which 10 sherds of early Roman pottery were recovered, along with a partially re-corticated flint awl or piercer, possibly of Mesolithic or Neolithic date (Annex 2). This feature was presumed to represent an agricultural feature of

medieval or later date, therefore these artefacts are presumed to be residual, however an earlier date of formation should not be ruled out, given the presence of the pottery.

- 6.352 Furrow [29607] was 1.30m wide and over 1.80m long, continuing beyond the limits of excavation to the northwest and southeast. It was up to 0.09m deep, the top having been encountered at a height of 36.42m aOD. It contained a mid-greyish brown deposit of silty clay, fill (29608), which produced two sherds of Late Iron Age to early Roman pottery, and one presumably residual sherd of Early to Middle Iron Age pottery (Annex 2). As with furrow [29605], it is presumed to represent an agricultural feature of medieval or later date.
- 6.353 Ditch [29604] was uncovered in the same location as the geophysical anomaly that was targeted by this trench, which it is presumed to represent (**Figure 6-56**). These results therefore support the premise that a boundary ditch associated with a putative enclosure complex to the north occupies this part of the Core Zone in antiquity. The dating evidence recovered from this feature and several others in this trench collectively points towards the existence of a zone of Late Iron Age to early Roman activity in the vicinity of this trench.

Trench 297 (Figure 5-2; Figure 6-57)

- 6.354 Trench 297 was situated in the northeast part of the Core Zone to the south of Trench 296 (**Figure 5-2**). The trench targeted a north–south linear geophysical anomaly that again appeared to be associated with the aforementioned enclosure complex situated in the northeast part of the Core Zone (**Figure 6-57**). A field drain of relatively recent origin was also predicted to be present in the far western portion of the trench.
- 6.355 A single feature was uncovered in the trench, north–south ditch [29703] (**Figure 6-57**). The ditch was over 1.80m long, continuing beyond the edges of the trench to the north and south, 1.90m wide and 0.21m deep. It contained a single fill (29704), a deposit of mid-yellowish brown very compact silty clay.
- 6.356 The location of ditch [29703] coincided with the location of the geophysical anomaly that was targeted by this trench, which it is presumed to represent. The discovery of this feature therefore supports the accuracy of the geophysical survey for this part of the Site, and suggests the presence of an enclosure complex of some antiquity within this part of the Site.

Trench 298 (Figure 5-2; Figure 6-58)

- 6.357 Trench 298 was again situated in the northeast part of the Core Zone, to the north of Trench 297 (**Figure 5-2**). The trench targeted three geophysical anomalies that appeared to be associated with a third enclosure complex, potentially of Romano-British

date, in the northeast part of the Core Zone (**Figure 5-2; Figure 6-58**). Trenches 302, 303 and 304 also targeted geophysical anomalies potentially associated with this same putative enclosure complex (discussed subsequently).

- 6.358 Three archaeological features were uncovered in this trench, detailed here from northwest to southeast: pit or ditch fragment [29807], putative ditch [29808] and pit [29805]. Of these, putative ditch [29808] was unexcavated and the remaining features were subject to excavation (**Figure 6-58**).
- 6.359 Pit or ditch remnant [29807] was 1.6m wide and over 0.7m long, continuing beyond the edge of the trench to the south. The top of the feature was identified at a height of 37m aOD, and it was no more than 0.11m deep. It contained fill (29806), a deposit of very compact silty clay that was mid-greyish brown in colour that produced 46 sherds of mid- to late Roman pottery dated to the period AD 150–400 a (Annex 2). The feature could represent a pit, however it coincided with the location of a linear geophysical anomaly, meaning that it may instead represent the poorly preserved remnants of a ditch.
- 6.360 Further towards the southeast was pit [29805]. This was sub-ovoid in plan with a length of 0.95m, a width of 0.73m and a depth of 0.13m, the top having been observed at a height of 36.74m aOD. It contained primary fill (29804) and secondary fill (29803), which comprised silty clays that were respectively mid-brownish grey and light brownish-grey in colour. The function of the pit is uncertain, one possibility being that it represents a waste pit associated with nearby settlement.
- 6.361 Of the three geophysical anomalies that were targeted by this trench, two were identified in the form of probable ditch remnant [29805] (perhaps associated with a curvilinear anomaly to the northwest) and putative ditch [29808] (a northeast–southwest linear feature that appeared to be congruent with a northeast–southwest geophysical anomaly, seemingly forming part of a larger enclosure). The third curvilinear anomaly, targeted by the southeast end of the trench, was not apparent. However, the trench only appeared to graze the very edge of this anomaly, therefore it remains possible that the physical remains associated with it lie beyond the edge of this intervention to the south (**Figure 6-58**). Consequently, it can be concluded that the results obtained from this trench support the results of the geophysical survey in this part of the Site, suggesting the presence of ditches associated with enclosures of some antiquity in this location. The only dating evidence obtained from this trench is suggestive of mid- to later Roman activity in this part of the Site.

Trench 301 (Figure 5-2; Figure 6-59)

- 6.362 Trench 301 was situated in the northeast part of the Core Zone, to the east of Trench 296 (**Figure 5-2**). The trench targeted two parallel linear geophysical anomalies that

appeared to be associated with an enclosure complex, potentially of Romano-British date, in the northeast part of the Core Zone (**Figure 6-59**).

- 6.363 Five archaeological features were uncovered in the northwest end of the trench, detailed here from northwest to southeast: pits [30110], [30103], [30107] and [30105], and layer (30109), all of which were subject to excavation (**Figure 6-59**).
- 6.364 Layer (30109) sealed the natural geology, the top of the deposit having been unearthed at a height of 35.70m aOD. As seen, the deposit was 0.35m wide, 0.40m long and 0.07m deep, comprising mid-brownish grey moderately compact silty clay. It was subsequently truncated by pits [30105] and [30107].
- 6.365 Pits [30110], [30103], [30107] and [30105] were sub-circular in plan with diameters that varied between 0.28m and 0.82m and depths that varied between 0.12m and 0.20m. They each contained a single fill, respectively termed (30111), (30104), (30108) and (30106). These fills comprised silty clay that was mid-greyish brown in colour, with (30106) yielding a single sherd of crude prehistoric pottery of uncertain date (Annex 2). The functions of these features remain uncertain, one possibility being that they represent waste pits associated with nearby settlement.
- 6.366 The trench did not produce evidence for the geophysical anomalies that it targeted. Consequently, the results obtained suggest that settlement activity may have taken place in the vicinity of this area of the Site in the past (hence the pits that were uncovered), however enclosures in this vicinity may have been less extensive than the geophysical survey suggests. Little conclusive dating evidence was obtained from this trench.

Trench 302 (Figure 5-2; Figure 6-60)

- 6.367 Trench 302 was situated in the northeast part of the Core Zone, to the north of Trench 298 (**Figure 5-2**). The trench targeted two geophysical anomalies that appeared to be associated with an enclosure complex, potentially of Romano-British date, in the northeast part of the Core Zone (**Figure 6-60**). Trenches 298, 303 and 304 also targeted geophysical anomalies that may be associated with this same putative enclosure complex (**Figure 5-2**). Trench 298 produced results that supported the geophysical survey; the other trenches are discussed subsequently. A field drain of relatively recent origin was also predicted to be present in the northwest of the trench (**Figure 6-60**).
- 6.368 Two archaeological features were discovered in the trench: excavated ditch [30203] to the northwest and unexcavated putative ditch [30205] further towards the southeast. Both features were orientated northeast–southwest.

- 6.369 Ditch [30203] was over 1.80m long, continuing beyond the edges of the trench to the northeast and southwest, 0.77m wide and 0.19m deep. It contained a single fill (30204), a deposit of mid-yellowish grey, compact silty clay from which a single sherd of Late Iron Age to early Roman pottery was recovered (Annex 2). The feature is presumed to represent a boundary ditch.
- 6.370 The locations of ditch [30203] and putative ditch [30205] coincided with the locations of the two geophysical anomalies that were targeted by this trench. Consequently, the results of the archaeological evaluation support those of the geophysical survey in this location, suggesting the presence of an enclosure complex in this part of the Core Zone in antiquity (**Figure 6-60**). The only dating evidence recovered from this trench, though scant, was suggestive of Late Iron Age to early Roman activity in the vicinity. The presence of the modern field drain in the northwest of this trench, as suggested by geophysical survey, was also confirmed by excavation (**Figure 6-60**).

Trench 303 (Figure 5-2; Figure 6-61)

- 6.371 Trench 303 was situated in the northeast part of the Core Zone, to the north of Trench 299 and to the south of Trench 302 (**Figure 5-2**). The trench targeted four geophysical anomalies that appeared to be associated with an enclosure complex, potentially of Romano-British date, in the northeast part of the Core Zone (**Figure 6-61**). Trenches 298, 302 and 304 also targeted geophysical anomalies that may be associated with this same putative enclosure complex. The former two trenches produced positive results that supported the results of the geophysical survey; the latter trench is discussed subsequently.
- 6.372 A total of 11 archaeological features were encountered within this trench, detailed here from northeast to southwest: ditch [30305], putative ditch [30307], putative pit or large posthole [30309], curvilinear ditch [30303], putative ditch [30311], putative pit [30313], putative pit or ditch terminus [30315], intercutting ditches [30323] and [30321] and putative intercutting ditches [30317] and [30319]. Of these, ditches [30305], [30303], [30323] and [30321] were excavated and the remaining features were not subject to excavation. The stratigraphic relationship between ditches [30317] and [30318] was therefore not tested via excavation, however the former appeared to truncate the latter (**Figure 6-61**).
- 6.373 Ditch [30305] was orientated northeast–southwest and was over 0.27m wide, over 3.5m in length, continuing beyond the edge of the excavation to the south, and no more than 0.07m deep, the top of the feature having been observed at a height of 35.87m aOD (**Figure 6-61**). It contained fill (30306), a deposit of loosely compact clayey silt that was mid-greyish brown in colour. The location of the feature was congruent with that of a

geophysical anomaly, which it is presumed to represent. It therefore appears to form part of a longer northeast–southwest boundary ditch.

- 6.374 Ditch [30303] was curvilinear in plan, trending northeast–southwest, the top being observed at a height of 36.76m aOD (**Figure 6-61**). It was 0.43m wide, over 1.80m long, continuing beyond the edges of the trench in both directions, and it was up to 0.09m deep. A single fill was present, (30304), a deposit of moderately compact silty clay that was very dark grey in colour, from which seven sherds of Late Iron Age to early Roman pottery were recovered, along with a presumably residual flint flake and a bone from a sheep or goat (Annex 2). The feature did not coincide with a geophysical anomaly, so accurate interpretation is limited. Possibilities include another boundary ditch associated with an enclosure, or a drip gully or construction trench forming part of a circular structure. If the latter interpretation is correct, it is possible that the opposing, northeast side of the circular structure was represented by unexcavated pit or large posthole [30309], however this is speculative (**Figure 6-61**). The contents of the feature suggest it was infilled, at least in part, with domestic waste from nearby settlement when it fell out of use.
- 6.375 Situated further towards the southwest were intercutting ditches [30321] and [30323], both of which were orientated northwest–southeast. The earliest of the two, ditch [30321], was 0.92m wide as seen, over 1.80m long, continuing beyond the edges of the trench to the northwest and southeast, and up to 0.30m deep, the top of the feature having been observed at a height of 36.80m aOD. It contained fill (30322), a deposit of mid-brownish grey silty clay. Truncating the southwest side of this ditch was probable recut [30323], which may represent a later incarnation of the same boundary. The top of this recut was observed at an identical height, and it proved to be 1.03m wide and up to 0.27m deep. It contained fill (30324), a deposit of moderately compact silty clay that was light brownish grey in colour. The locations of these intercutting ditches coincided with a geophysical anomaly, which they are presumed to represent. This suggests that they form part of a longer boundary orientated northwest–southeast (**Figure 6-61**).
- 6.376 The results obtained from Trench 303 corroborate the geophysical survey in all respects, suggesting the presence of an enclosure complex in this part of the Site. They also demonstrate that human activity in this part of the Core Zone was more intensive than the geophysical survey suggests, given the presence of six additional archaeological features that were not evident on the survey (**Figure 6-61**). At least one of these suggested the presence of Late Iron Age to early Roman activity in this part of the Site.

Trench 304 (Figure 5-2; Figure 6-62)

- 6.377 Trench 304 was situated in the northeast part of the Core Zone, to the northwest of Trench 302 (**Figure 5-2**). The trench targeted a single geophysical anomaly that appeared to be associated with an enclosure complex, potentially of Romano-British date, in the northeast part of the Core Zone (**Figure 5-2; Figure 6-62**). Trenches 298, 302 and 303 also targeted geophysical anomalies that may be associated with this same putative enclosure complex, all of which produced positive results that appeared to corroborate the geophysical survey.
- 6.378 Ditch [30403], orientated northwest–southeast, was uncovered in the southwest part of this trench, which was subject to excavation (**Figure 6-62**). A northwest–southeast putative furrow, perhaps associated with medieval or late agriculture, was uncovered further towards the northeast, which was not subject to excavation (**Figure 6-62**).
- 6.379 Ditch [30403] was 0.62m wide, over 1.80m long, continuing beyond the edges of the trench to the northwest and southeast, and was 0.32m deep, the top having been observed at a height of 35.30m aOD (**Figure 6-62**). It contained fill (30404), a deposit of mid-greyish brown silty clay which produced no datable material.
- 6.380 The location of ditch [30403] was congruent with the location of the geophysical anomaly that was targeted by this trench, which it is presumed to represent (**Figure 6-62**). The results obtained from this trench therefore appear to support the notion that an enclosure complex characterised this part of the Core Zone in antiquity.

Trench 311 (Figure 5-2)

- 6.381 This trench targeted a curvilinear geophysical anomaly that was formatively interpreted as forming the western boundary of an enclosure complex of possible Romano-British date situated in the northeast corner of the Core Zone (**Figure 5-2**). However, this geophysical anomaly was not archaeologically visible within this trench, and may not be of archaeological significance

West Gateway Zone

- 6.382 The geophysical survey suggested that up to three enclosure complexes of potential archaeological significance underlie the West Gateway Zone, along with at least one trackway. Major clusters of anomalies were situated in the following locations, and their formative interpretations based upon the geophysical survey are detailed below:

- The presence of at least two putative co-axial ditches were detected in the east corner of the Core Zone (Trench 155 targeted this; **Figure 7**). These may form part of a co-axial field system or a poorly preserved enclosure complex;
- A pair of parallel anomalies orientated northwest–southeast were apparent in the west of the West Gateway Zone and continued to the northwest (Trenches 127, 132, 139, 149 and 153 targeted this);
- An ‘L’-shaped geophysical anomaly was detected to the immediate south of the putative trackway, which could represent the remains of an enclosure (Trench 128 targeted this);
- Three parallel anomalies were identified towards the western side of the Site, orientated northeast–southwest. Their functions were not clear, and they may represent field boundaries, or may alternatively be associated with a poorly preserved enclosure complex (Trench 121 targeted the southerly boundary; Trenches 115, 116 and 118 targeted the longest and more northerly boundary; Trench 123 targeted a shorter boundary situated towards the northern boundary of the West Gateway Zone);
- A series of co-axial geophysical anomalies in the northwest of the West Gateway Zone may represent an enclosure complex. Far more internal divisions orientated northeast–southwest were noted, relative to divisions orientated northwest–southeast, and the bulk of the former could therefore represent internal features such as bedding trenches, rather than enclosure ditches (Trenches 107 and 108 targeted this area); and
- The remaining trenches targeted blank areas of the West Gateway Zone where no geophysical anomalies were detected, to test the accuracy of the geophysical survey in this regard.

6.383 These interpretations have been tested through the excavation of the evaluation trenches that are noted above. The interpretations provided above are updated in the paragraphs that follow, in light of the evidence revealed through the excavation of the archaeological evaluation trenches.

Description/Interpretation	Thickness	Height of Deposit (aOD)
Topsoil	0.18m to 0.49m	32.55m to 35.57m
Subsoil	0.19m	32.29m to 35.39m

Description/Interpretation	Thickness	Height of Deposit (aOD)
Natural geology: stiff light yellow brown clay, to a stiff mid-orange brown clay		32.10m to 35.20m

Table 9: West Gateway Zone stratigraphic sequence

- 6.384 A total of 56 trenches were excavated in the West Gateway Zone (**Figures 7 and 8**). Archaeological remains were found in 15 trenches (Trenches 107, 108, 115, 116, 118, 121, 123, 127, 132, 139, 149, 150, 153, 154 and 155). All remaining trenches were negative.
- 6.385 The natural deposits in the West Gateway Zone ranged from a firm light yellow grey clay, to a firm mid-orange brown clay. Natural was recorded at 32.10m aOD to 35.20m aOD. Unless stated otherwise, all archaeological cut features truncated this deposit. Overlying the natural was a mid-orange brown subsoil which varied in depth across the Zone, but on average measure 0.19m in depth. Unless stated otherwise, this overlay the archaeological features that were uncovered. Overlying the subsoil was a firm topsoil of mid-brown grey clay with rare stone inclusions. Trench depth, on average, measured 0.45m.

Trench 107 (Figure 7; Figure 8-1)

- 6.386 Trench 107 targeted an area to the northwest of a concentration of geophysical anomalies in the northwest of the West Gateway Zone, including those of a sub-square or rectangular enclosure. The trenches also aimed to determine whether archaeological features continued into this area.
- 6.387 Two features were recorded in this trench. Feature [10705] in the far southeast of the trench no doubt represents a modern field drain and was not excavated. To the northwest of this was a single excavated ditch, [10703], the top of which was observed at a height of 33.19m aOD (**Figure 8-1**). It was 1.20m wide, over 1.80m long and up to 0.28m deep and contained fill (10704), a deposit of mid-brownish grey silty clay that produced two small fragments of pottery dated to the Late Iron Age to the early Roman period (Annex 2). The location of the feature was congruent with that of the geophysical anomaly that was targeted by this trench. Its discovery therefore supports the notion that an enclosure complex was situated in this area of the Site in antiquity, perhaps during the Late Iron Age to early Roman period, and also that archaeological features do not extend to the northwest of the enclosure in this area.

Trench 108 (Figure 7; Figure 8-2)

- 6.388 Trench 108 was situated in the northwest part of the West Gateway Zone, to the south of Trench 107 (**Figure 7**). It targeted a single geophysical anomaly in the northwest of the West Gateway Zone, which may form part of an enclosure complex (**Figure 7; Figure 8-2**). This putative enclosure was also investigated through the excavation of Trench 107, which yielded positive results in support of the geophysical survey (**Figure 7**).
- 6.389 One archaeological feature was uncovered within Trench 108, ditch [10803], which was orientated northwest–southeast (**Figure 8-2**). The ditch was 1.80m wide, over 1.80m long, continuing beyond the edges of the trench to the northwest and southeast, and was 0.50m deep, the top of the feature having been identified at a height of 33.12m aOD. It contained a single fill (10804), a deposit of moderately compact mid-greyish brown silty clay. This produced 68 sherds from a well-fired wide-mouthed jar dated to the period AD 200–400, which may have been complete or near complete when deposited (Annex 2).
- 6.390 The location of ditch [10803] coincided with that of the geophysical anomaly that was targeted by this trench, which it is presumed to represent. Consequently, and in accord with the geophysical survey, the results obtained from this trench support the notion that an enclosure system was situated in this part of the Site in antiquity. The pottery dating obtained is suggestive of a mid--to late Roman date for this feature.

Trench 115 (Figure 7; Figure 8-3)

- 6.391 Trench 115 was situated in the southern side of the western third of the West Gateway Zone (**Figure 7**). It targeted a linear anomaly detected in the western side of the West Gateway Zone, orientated northeast–southwest, formatively interpreted as a field boundary (**Figure 7**). Trench 115 targeted a single geophysical anomaly, which was also targeted by Trenches 116 and 118, but also clipped the very edge of a second geophysical anomaly (**Figure 7; Figure 8-3**).
- 6.392 Two archaeological features were uncovered in the trench: ditch [11505] to the west and putative ditch [11503] to the east. Of these, the former was subject to excavation, while the latter was not excavated.
- 6.393 Ditch [11505] was orientated northeast–southwest, the top of the feature having been observed at a height of 33.67m aOD (**Figure 8-3**). It was over 1.80m long, continuing beyond the edges of the trench to the northeast and southwest, with a width of 2.78m wide and a depth of 0.73m. A single fill (11506) was present, a deposit of moderately compact silty clay. The location of the ditch was identical to that of an anomaly that was detected by the geophysical survey, which it is presumed to represent. Consequently,

it is interpreted as forming part of a longer boundary ditch orientated northeast–southwest.

- 6.394 In addition to ditch [11505], the unexcavated ditch [11503] may be associated with a second geophysical anomaly orientated northwest–southeast. Almost all of this anomaly, bar one small portion, was situated beyond the edge of this trench to the southeast and was better investigated through the excavation of Trenches 127, 132 and 139 (discussed subsequently; **Figure 7**). Within the confines of this trench, putative ditch [11503] appeared to have been truncated by a later furrow and an even later field drain of relatively recent origin (**Figure 8-3**). Consequently, very little of this feature remained within the confines of the trench, but it is nevertheless interpreted as forming part of a northeast–southwest boundary or trackway in antiquity.

Trench 116 (Figure 7; Figure 8-4)

- 6.395 Trench 116 was situated in the western third of the West Gateway Zone, to the immediate south of Trench 115 (**Figure 7**). It targeted a geophysical anomaly likely representing a boundary or field system ditch at the west, and a potential ditch at the east of the Zone (**Figure 7; Figure 8-4**).
- 6.396 One ditch was identified in the northwest end of the trench, ditch [11603], which was not excavated. Its location coincided with that of the geophysical anomaly that was targeted by this trench, thus supporting the geophysical survey and the interpretation provided above.
- 6.397 A putative furrow of medieval or later date was identified to the southeast, which was not excavated (**Figure 8-4**)

Trench 118 (Figure 7; Figure 8-5)

- 6.398 Trench 118 was situated to the immediate northeast of Trench 115 in the western third of the West Gate Zone (**Figure 7**). It targeted a linear anomaly detected in the western side of the West Gateway Zone, orientated northeast–southwest, formatively interpreted as a field boundary. This anomaly was also targeted by Trenches 115 and 116, both of which returned positive results in support of the geophysical survey.
- 6.399 One ditch was identified in the northwest end of the trench, ditch [11803], which was not excavated. Its location coincided with that of the geophysical anomaly that was targeted by this trench, thus supporting the geophysical survey and the interpretation provided above.
- 6.400 A putative furrow of medieval or later date was identified to the southeast, which was not excavated, as were two field drains (**Figure 8-5**).

Trench 121 (Figure 7; Figure 8-6)

- 6.401 Trench 121 was situated to the immediate east of Trench 118, towards the centre of the West Gateway Zone (**Figure 7**). It targeted the most southerly of three parallel anomalies detected in the western side of the Site, all of which were orientated northeast–southwest.
- 6.402 Five archaeological features were identified in the trench, detailed here from southwest to northeast: postholes or pits [12108] and [12110], pit [12104], unexcavated feature [12112], which may be associated with field drain of relatively recent origin, as suggested by the geophysical survey, and ditch [12106]. Of these pit [12104] and ditch [12106] were subject to excavation; the remaining features were unexcavated.
- 6.403 Pit [12104] was semi-circular in plan, continuing beyond the edge of the trench to the northwest. It was 1.80m long and over 0.72m wide, with a depth of 0.21, the top of the feature having been identified at a height of 33.80m aOD (Plate 16). It contained a single fill (12105), a deposit of dark brownish grey silty clay that produced two fragments of fired clay (Annex 2). Its function is uncertain, a waste pit associated with nearby settlement being one of several possibilities, however no datable material was recovered.
- 6.404 In the northeast part of the trench was ditch [12106], which was orientated northeast–southwest, the top having been uncovered at a height of 33.30m aOD. The feature was over 5m long, with a width of 0.94m and a depth of 0.31m. It contained a single fill (12107), a deposit of mid-greyish brown sandy clay with no datable material. The location of the feature was congruent with the location of the geophysical anomaly that was targeted by this trench.
- 6.405 Pit [12108] was circular in plan with a diameter of 0.41m and 0.30m in depth. It contained mid-brownish grey clay, fill (12109). Present in the fill were charred macroplant remains that included 350 unidentified cereal caryopses, 62 wheat caryopses, 22 emmer/spelt caryopses and two bread/club wheat caryopses, which no doubt represents discarded food waste from nearby settlement. No datable material was recovered.



Plate 16: Pit [12104], looking southwest

Trench 123 (Figure 7; Figure 8-7)

- 6.406 Trench 123 was situated to the north of Trench 121, close to the northern boundary of the West Gateway Zone (**Figure 7**). It targeted the shortest of three parallel anomalies detected in the western side of the Site, all of which were orientated northeast–southwest (**Figure 7; Figure 8-7**).
- 6.407 One feature was identified in the northeast end of the trench, northeast–southwest orientated ditch [12304], which was subject to excavation (**Figure 8-7**). It was 1.52m wide, over 1.80m long and up to 0.40m deep, the top of the feature having been observed at a height of 33.51m aOD. It contained fill (12305), a deposit of mid-greyish brown silty clay that produced two burnt sherds of pottery date to the period AD 150–400 (Annex 2). Its location coincided with that of the geophysical anomaly that was targeted by this trench, thus supporting the geophysical survey and the interpretation provided above. The pottery dating obtained, though scant, suggests a mid-to later Roman date for this landscape feature.
- 6.408 Three field drains were uncovered within this trench to the west, which were of relatively recent origin (**Figure 8-7**).

Trench 126 (Figure 7)

- 6.409 Trench 126 was situated in the approximate centre of the West Gateway Zone, to the south of Trench 123 (**Figure 7**). The trench targeted four of a series of 10 parallel geophysical anomalies orientated northeast–southwest. Their spatial regularity as suggested by the geophysical survey was variously suggestive of bedding trenches, perhaps of some antiquity, field drains of relatively recent origin, or natural variations in the geology. The features were not encountered within Trench 126, which proved to be entirely negative.

Trench 127 (Figure 7; Figure 8-8)

- 6.410 Trench 127 was situated in the approximate centre of the West Gateway Zone (**Figure 7**). The southern end of the trench targeted two parallel geophysical anomalies that were interpreted, on the grounds of morphology, as defining a potential trackway that, in this location, was orientated northwest–southeast (**Figure 7**). Trenches 132 and 139 also investigated this putative landscape feature (discussed subsequently). The northern end of this trench also targeted two out of a series of 10 parallel features orientated northeast–southwest, the purpose of which was uncertain. Their regularity was suggestive of bedding trenches, field drains or natural variations in the geology. These features were also investigated by Trench 126, which returned a negative result that did not support this aspect of the geophysical survey.
- 6.411 Two features were uncovered in this trench: unexcavated putative ditch [12705], which was orientated northwest–southeast, and a probable furrow orientated east–west. The location of the ditch was congruent with the location of the geophysical anomaly interpreted as a trackway ditch, which this archaeological feature is presumed to represent. This therefore supports the premise that this trackway underlay this part of the Site in antiquity.
- 6.412 The two parallel features of uncertain origin that were predicted to be present in the northern part of the trench were not evident.

Trench 128 (Figure 7)

- 6.413 Trench 128 was situated in the approximate centre of the West Gateway Zone, to the immediate southwest of Trench 127 (**Figure 7**). An 'L'-shaped geophysical anomaly was detected to the immediate south of the putative trackway, which was formatively interpreted as representing an enclosure. Trench 128 targeted this anomaly, but did not identify it, nor did it reveal any other archaeological features. The results from this trench therefore do not support those of the geophysical survey, nor do they suggest the presence of an enclosure in this location.

Trench 132 (Figure 7; Figure 8-9)

- 6.414 Trench 132 was situated in the east of the West Gateway Zone (**Figure 7**). Along with Trench 127 to the west and Trench 139 to the east, the trench targeted two parallel geophysical anomalies that were interpreted, on the grounds of morphology, as defining a potential trackway that in this location was orientated northwest–southeast. Trench 127 returned a positive result in support of the geophysical survey; Trench 139 is discussed subsequently.
- 6.415 Three archaeological features were identified in the trench, detailed here from southwest to northeast: ditch [13202], ditch [13204] and putative ditch [13206]. The former two were excavated, while the latter was unexcavated.
- 6.416 Ditch [13202] was orientated northwest–southeast and was 1.1m wide and 0.56m deep, continuing beyond the edges of the trench to the northwest and southeast. It contained a single fill, (13203), a deposit of mid-yellowish brown compact silty clay from which an undiagnostic flint blade of uncertain date was recovered (Annex 2). The location of the ditch correlated with that of a geophysical anomaly, which it is presumed to represent. This was interpreted as the southwest side of the aforementioned trackway. Although unexcavated, the location of putative ditch [13206] correlated with the northeastern side of the assumed trackway, which it also probably represents.
- 6.417 Central to these features was a narrow ditch or gully [13204], which was 0.30m wide and 0.15m deep. It contained fill (13205), a compact deposit of mid-yellowish brown silty clay (**Figure 9-2**: Section 132.02). The purpose of this northwest–southeast aligned feature remains uncertain, one possibility being a rut generated by a wheeled vehicle. Its location did not concord with any geophysical anomalies.

Trench 139 (Figure 7; Figure 8-10)

- 6.418 Trench 139 was situated in the east of the West Gateway Zone. Along with Trench 132 to the east, the trench targeted two parallel geophysical anomalies that were interpreted, on the grounds of morphology, as defining a potential trackway that, in this location, was orientated east–west.
- 6.419 One archaeological feature was uncovered in the trench, ditch [13902]. This was 1.1m wide and 0.1m deep, continuing beyond the trench edges to the east and west. The ditch contained a single deposit, fill (13903), which comprised mid-greyish brown silty clay. The location of this feature coincided with that of an east–west geophysical anomaly that was interpreted as forming the southern boundary of the aforementioned trackway. The northern trackway boundary was not identified archaeologically within the confines of this trench.

- 6.420 This landscape feature may be congruous with the putative trackway that was also identified through excavation and geophysical survey in Trench 132.

Trench 149 (Figure 7; Figure 8-11)

- 6.421 Trench 149 was situated to the southeast of Trench 139 in the east of the West Gateway Zone. The trench was positioned to the immediate northwest of two parallel linear geophysical anomalies, interpreted as a possible trackway. This anomaly was also targeted by Trench 153 to the southeast (discussed subsequently).
- 6.422 Two archaeological features were uncovered in the trench, pit [14905] to the southwest and ditch [14903] to the northwest, both of which were excavated.
- 6.423 Pit [14905] was circular in plan with a diameter of 1.01m and a depth of 0.25m, the top of the feature being at a height of 33.69m aOD. The pit contained a single fill (14906), which comprised loose clayey silt that was mid-orange brown in colour, however produced no datable material. The function of the feature is uncertain, one possibility being a waste pit associated with nearby settlement.
- 6.424 Ditch [14903] was orientated northwest–southeast. It was 2.21m wide and 0.28m deep (**Figure 8-11**). A single fill was present (14904), a deposit of mid-greyish brown silty clay, the top of which was identified at a height of 33.69m aOD. No datable material was retrieved. The location of the feature did not coincide with a geophysical anomaly, and it is therefore difficult to interpret with confidence. It was situated between two putative trackway ditches, if extrapolated further towards the southeast, however these were not evident within the confines of the trench, therefore the relationship between them and this feature cannot be determined (**Figure 8-11**). Possible functions include a boundary ditch that pertains to an earlier or later phase of activity relative to the putative trackway, or an earlier or later iteration of one of the putative trackway ditches.

Trench 150 (Figure 7; Figure 8-13)

- 6.425 Trench 150 was situated in the east of the West Gateway Zone, to the south of Trench 149. It was situated in an area in which no geophysical anomalies (other than field drains of recent origin) were detected (**Figure 8-13**). Two features were present, pit [15005] to the northwest, and pit [15003] closer towards the centre (**Figure 8-13**).
- 6.426 Pit [15005] was circular in plan with a diameter of 1.01m and a depth of 0.15m, the top being visible at a height of 34.49m aOD (**Figure 8-13**). It contained fill (15006), a deposit of mid-greyish brown silty clay which produced no datable material. Pit [15003] was also circular in plan, with a diameter of 0.44m and a depth of 0.18m, the top being observed at a height of 34.52m aOD. It contained a visually similar deposit to pit [15005], fill (15004).

Trench 153 (Figure 7; Figure 8-13)

- 6.427 Trench 153 was situated to the southeast of Trench 149 in the east of the West Gateway Zone. It targeted two parallel linear geophysical anomalies, formatively interpreted as a possible trackway (**Figure 7**). Two archaeological features were identified in the trench, both of which were orientated northwest–southeast: ditches [15308] to the west and [15304] to the east.
- 6.428 Ditch [15308] was 2.2m wide and was 1.2m deep, the top of the feature having been observed at a height of 35.00m aOD. It contained a single silty grey clay fill, (15309). Ditch [15304] was similarly sized, with a width of 1.79m and a depth of 0.60m (Plate 17). Two fills were present, primary fill (15306) and secondary fill (15305), which comprised clayey silt that was respectively mid-yellowish brown and dark greyish brown in colour. Two small pieces of Late Iron Age to early Roman pottery was recovered (Annex 2). The locations of these features coincided the geophysical anomalies that were targeted by this trench, therefore their discovery supports the premise that a possible trackway occupied this location in antiquity (**Figure 8-13**). The dating evidence suggests an early Roman date for this trackway, however the fragments of pottery were small and could therefore be residual.



Plate 17: Ditch [15304], looking northwest

Trench 154 (Figure 7; Figure 8-14)

- 6.429 Trench 154 was situated in the east part of the West Gateway Zone, to the north of Trench 153 (**Figure 7**). Two geophysical anomalies were present in the vicinity of this trench, comprising a furrow and a field drain of relatively recent origin. These features were identified, but were not excavated.
- 6.430 The only feature of potential archaeological significance within the trench was a circular pit or posthole [15404], unearthed in the southwest end of the trench (**Figure 8-14**). It was 0.25m in diameter and 0.13m deep and contained a single fill (15405), which comprised mid-orange brown silty clay.

Trench 155 (Figure 7; Figure 8-15)

- 6.431 Trench 155 was situated in the far eastern part of the West Gateway Zone, to the north of Trench 154 (**Figure 7**). It targeted one of two putative co-axial ditches that may together form part of a co-axial field system or an enclosure (**Figure 7; Figure 8-15**). It is possible that the anomaly detected in Trench 155 is synonymous with the most westerly of the anomalies that were detected in Trench 228 in the Core Zone (**Figure 7**), however it should be noted here that this anomaly was not confirmed within Trench 228 (discussed above). A furrow was also predicted to be present within this trench, but was not encountered (**Figure 8-15**).
- 6.432 One archaeological feature was identified in the trench in the form of ditch [15505], which was orientated northwest–southeast. It was 0.60m wide, over 1.80m long and 0.21m deep, the top of the feature having been observed at a height of 33.35m aOD. It contained fill (15504), a deposit of mid-brownish green compact silty clay that produced two small scraps of Late Iron Age to early Roman pottery from an environmental sample (Annex 2).
- 6.433 Ditch [15505] was uncovered in the same location as the geophysical anomaly that was targeted by this trench, and the two are presumed to be congruent (**Figure 8-15**). The presence of the pottery could suggest a Late Iron Age to early Roman date for this landscape feature, however the quantities were small and could be residual.

7 FINDS

- 7.1 The finds have been assessed by respective specialists in their class, and the reports of these specialists are included in Annex 2. The main findings of these reports are summarised below. Each specialist has provided recommendations for further work to be done on the material, as well as recommendations for discard of material of low significance. Following acceptance of the report, discard of finds will be carried out as

per the specialists' recommendations with the agreement of the Bedford BC Archaeological Advisor.

Prehistoric and Roman Pottery

A moderate assemblage of Late Iron Age and Roman pottery, totalling 1266 sherds, weighing 17.2 kg, was recovered during the evaluation. The assemblage spans the Late Iron Age to early Roman period, through to the later Roman period, and was predominantly distributed in the Lake Zone and the Core Zone.

- 7.2 The assemblage is probably indicative of Roman settlement activity in the Core Zone and the Lake Zone and there are a few possible hints of structured deposition involving pottery vessels. It clearly has the potential to form part of a locally or regionally significant assemblage, should further archaeological mitigation take place. This could provide comparative data which would help in understanding the Site's relationships with other settlements in the wider Bedford area.

The Post-Roman Pottery

- 7.3 A total of 96 sherds of post-Roman pottery was recovered from the Site, representing a minimum number of 79 vessels (ENV) and weighing 855g. The post-Roman assemblage includes pottery of Anglo-Saxon, medieval and post-medieval date, although ceramic continuity cannot be demonstrated. The majority of the pottery recovered dates to the 11th to 13th century. The pottery has an average sherd weight of just under 9g, fairly typical of rural assemblages, although condition is somewhat variable. The pottery of Late Saxon and medieval date is generally in better condition than the smaller quantities of Anglo-Saxon and post-medieval material.
- 7.4 The majority of the pottery was collected from the Core Zone, including all of the medieval material, with particular concentrations in Trenches 179 and 183. Small quantities were retrieved from two other areas, with two sherds of Anglo-Saxon pottery and a single sherd of late medieval pot retrieved from the Lake Zone, and post-medieval pottery retrieved from the Lake Zone and the West Gateway Zone. The small and fragmentary nature of most of the feature assemblages is suggestive of secondary deposition, although some of the medieval groups may have been disposed of more directly from occupation in close proximity. The post-medieval pottery is particularly dispersed and abraded, with this material probably representing household waste brought onto the Site as part of the agricultural manuring process and becoming worked into the top of earlier features.
- 7.5 The assemblage is of local significance in providing evidence for the date and nature of activity on the Site and has the potential to add further to an understanding of the ceramic profile of the local area during the medieval period in particular.

Ceramic Building Materials

- 7.6 A moderate assemblage of ceramic building material (CBM) consisting of 40 fragments, collectively weighing 1.219kg, was hand collected during the excavations, with a further 370 fragments, weighing 320g, collected from environmental samples. The assemblage is in poor condition, mostly consisting of small, abraded fragments. No complete, or near complete, items were recovered. A small quantity of Roman material was recorded, although the state suggests that much of this is residual, even where found in Roman contexts. The bulk of the assemblage is composed of flat roof tile of broadly medieval to post-medieval date.
- 7.7 Due to the small quantity of Roman material, the Roman assemblage has little archaeological significance and potential beyond indicating the presence of a Roman building in the wider locality. The post Roman CBM is in poor condition with little closely datable material. The large quantity of tile fabrics for the size of the assemblage and the lack of any significant clusters of material suggests that this assemblage is largely residual, or the result of manuring practices. As such, it has little archaeological significance and potential.

Fired Clay

- 7.8 A small assemblage of c. 319 fired clay pieces, weighing a total of 1.167 kg, was recovered from twenty-eight separate contexts. This includes a large amount of material recovered from environmental bulk samples and overburden. The mean fragment weight (MFW) for this material is 1.66g, compared to 6.65g for the hand collected fired clay and therefore this material has not been assessed fully.
- 7.9 Although the fired clay mostly derives from contexts of Late Iron Age or Roman date, the vast majority is undiagnostic of form and function. It is therefore of minimal significance to the Site narrative.

Clay Tobacco Pipe

- 7.10 A single clay tobacco pipe stem fragment (mass: 4g) was recovered from the fill of a furrow of relatively recent origin within Trench 211, within the Core Zone. This trench was otherwise devoid of archaeological features. The pipe fragment was recovered from the field as a bulk find. The presence of the pipe confirms the recent origin of the furrow from which it was recovered but adds little further to the Site narrative with regards to earlier periods of occupation. The stem fragment is not significant to our understanding of the Site.

The Glass

- 7.11 A small glass assemblage (mass: 9.1g) was recovered from the Site. This comprises seven shards from five contexts and one unstratified find from the Core Zone, and three shards from three contexts within the Lake Zone. The assemblage is of Roman, medieval and post-medieval date and comprises vessel and bottle shards and unclassified fragments, as well as a single, heavily heat-affected and runned fragment (<63>) of greyish green-blue fabric with an opaque white twist that may represent a bead recovered from the fill (35104) of the cremation burial [35103].
- 7.12 The small glass assemblage is considered to be of local significance, with Romano-British fragments representing the residual remains of settlement activity within both the Lake and Core Zones. The most significant find is that of the heat-affected glass associated with the cremation burial, which represents a likely personal item present with the deceased on the pyre.

The Industrial Materials

- 7.13 The industrial materials comprised 59 fragments (mass: 228.4g) recovered from five separate contexts. The assemblage consisted of fragments of magnetic and non-magnetic vitrified residues and coal obtained from pits and ditches across the Lake Zone and the Core Zone. These remains may be indicative of industrial processes, however, are not diagnostic enough to determine the nature of these. The assemblage is therefore considered to be of limited archaeological significance but is worthy of further consideration during any subsequent assessment, with emphasis on the fragments that were obtained from Romano-British contexts.

The Worked and Burnt Flint

- 7.14 A combined total of 13 pieces of struck flint were recovered from nine separate contexts across the Lakes Zone, the Core Zone and the West Gateway Zone, the majority coming from the Core Zone. No single context produced more than two pieces. Of most interest, though unfortunately unstratified, was a bifacially retouched barbed and tanged arrowhead of Conygar Hill type. With the exception of this, the small quantity of struck material is not particularly diagnostic and the assemblage as a whole is of no more than local significance.
- 7.15 A very small quantity of burnt unworked flint was present in 10 separate contexts across the Core Zone and comprised 28 very small-small clasts weighing less than 21g in total. The negligible quantities involved are uninterpretable.

The Metal Finds

- 7.16 A small metal finds assemblage comprising 49 objects and fragments (mass: 565.4g) was recovered from the Site. This included 46 in ferrous metal (518.3g), two copper alloy (1.1g), and one in lead (46.0g), as well as a single bulk object that represents a natural iron stone fragment. The metal finds variously dated to the Roman, medieval and post-medieval periods. The finds survive in a range of conditions, although the vast majority survive in a heavily corroded and fragmented state. Many of the finds recovered are not considered to be closely dateable due to their fragmented state, or to their long-lived functional forms which were subject to very little change over a broad period of time. The most significant finds within the assemblage are those recovered from the fill (35104) of the cremation burial [35103] from Trench 351 in the Lake Zone, which comprise a number of small fragments possibly representing fine craftworking tools including fragments of a possible awl or awls (<62>), two possible tool bits with flattened tapering terminals (<62>b-c); two likely nail tips, one with copper alloy adhered (<63>a, d), and a second degraded lump of copper alloy (RF 10) displaying possible evidence of having been heat-affected.
- 7.17 The metal assemblage is considered to be of site-specific and local archaeological significance, with the recovered finds representing periods of settlement and agricultural activity focused around the Romano-British and medieval periods.

The Worked Bone

- 7.18 Two objects of worked bone (RF 20 and RF 23) were recovered from pits in Trenches 321 and 179 respectively. RF 20 consists of a complete hair pin (Crummy Type 2) surviving in two fragments, having broken transversely across the shank. Pins of Type 2 form have been found at Colchester in contexts dating from c.50 AD to c.200 AD. RF 23 consists of a thin sub-rectangular fragment of worked bone in a burnt and distorted condition. The identification of this object is currently unknown and further research will be required to classify it closely, but it is possible that this is a fragment of furniture or box inlay or similar. Alternatively, it may be part of a burnt and distorted perforated disc-shaped gaming piece of Roman or medieval date. The artefacts are of local significance.

Animal Bone

- 7.19 A total of 450 refitted, hand-collected animal bones and teeth were recovered from numerous features of which 176 could be identified to taxon. The environmental samples produced further mammal, bird, fish, amphibian, terrestrial and marine shell fragments. The zooarchaeology was in fair condition, recovered largely from the Lake Zone and Core Zone in association with the Late Iron Age and Roman settlements, with

a few additional remains from the medieval moated complex. A basic analysis of the local diet and economy is possible for the Roman period but small sample sizes mean there is limited potential to provide an understanding of the transition from Iron Age to Roman farming, or for a detailed investigation of status, foodways or the animal economy in any period.

Human Remains

- 7.20 Three probable cremation deposits were recognised within Trenches 351 and 421, buried in earthen pits. Of these, one was excavated, [35103]. A preliminary assessment of the date of the pottery found throughout the area suggests the remains date to between the Late Iron Age and the Romano-British period. The remains from [35103] were confirmed to comprise at least one individual, at least 9-10 years old of unknown biological sex. The remains are of local significance, and full osteological analysis and radiocarbon dating is recommended.

Macroplant

- 7.21 A total of 102 bulk samples were submitted for environmental assessment from the Site. The ecofacts recovered from the Site were carbonised macroplant and charcoal fragments. The crops were a mix of oat, hulled barley, barley, rye/wheat, bread/club wheat, spelt, emmer/spelt and wheat which have been cultivated in England from the prehistoric period onwards. The cereal has derived from the haphazard disposal and reworking of both crop processing waste and domestic food refuse within the excavated features. The vegetables were a mix of peas, common vetch and vetch. It is possible the vetch may belong to a wild species but the presence of peas and common vetch demonstrates that the population during a period of occupation had access to green vegetables. As shown by the charcoal assemblage both hazel and blackthorn grew nearby making the nuts and fruits available to this community when in season. Evidence for the collection of the nuts and fruits was limited. Once the chronology of the Site has been established it may be possible to gather further information concerning which plant species were more economically important at this Site and if this changed over time. The weeds present on the Site tend to grow in a range of landscapes including arable fields, waste ground and damp habitats. Many of these species such as fat hen, black bindweed, dock, wild radish and sedge may have been collected for food and building materials but as the assemblage is so small it is difficult to draw any conclusions about what role these species may have played. Nor can the weeds provide further information in understanding the development of the surrounding landscape nor how this may have developed over time. The macroplant remains are of site level to local significance

7.22 Charcoal recovered from the Site includes tree species native to Britain that probably grew in the surrounding landscape. Apple/pear/hawthorn/rowan, hazel, ash, blackthorn and cherry are usually found in hedgerows, scrub or more open woods, while oak is adaptable to a variety of growing conditions (Stace 2010, Linford 2009). The charcoal assemblage derived from the reworking and redeposition of fuel debris. There was no evidence that any structural elements or wooden artefacts were burnt or disposed of on the Site. Given the small size of the assemblage its potential for answering further research questions concerning the role of wood at the Site or if this changed over time is negligible.

8 POTENTIAL CONTRIBUTION TO SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES

8.1 The following section provides a review of the significance of the results of the trial trench evaluation in relation to the objectives laid out in the WSI (WSP/AOC 2024) which were defined by the East of England research agenda (EAA 2011; 2021), and informed by the appropriate Historic England guidance (Historic England 2023, 2024):

Objective	Potential Contribution
LBA [Late Bronze Age] – MIA [Middle Iron Age] 04 – How can we increase our understanding of the Early to Middle Iron Age transition?	Other than a small amount of Middle Iron Age pottery from Trench 296, which appears to be residual, no remains were identified that could contribute to this objective. However, were further work undertaken, a potential future contribution cannot be ruled out, as the residual pottery present suggests a Middle Iron Age presence in the vicinity.
LBA-MIA 06 – Can we identify and characterise regional differences during the LBA to MIA?	Other than the small amount of residual Middle Iron Age pottery from Trench 296, no remains of Late Bronze Age to Middle Iron Age date were identified. As the pottery was in a residual context and is not particularly diagnostic in terms of fabric and form, it cannot contribute to this research objective. Were further work undertaken on this Site, a potential contribution to this objective cannot be ruled out, given the presence of the residual pottery.
Can the works further the objective of further understanding of prehistoric and Romano-British field systems, and their relationship to preceding and succeeding systems?	The LIA and RB enclosures, field systems and putative trackways identified within the Lake Zone, the Core Zone and the West Gateway Zone appear comparable to similar features of this date in the surrounding area. Further investigation of these remains therefore has the potential to contribute to this objective. However, this will be limited in scope, given the small sample size evaluated, relative to the expanse of remains as suggested by the geophysical survey. Further fieldwork would enable this objective to be more thoroughly addressed, as this would enable these landscape features to be better phased, characterised and understood. Similarly, further fieldwork and desk-based research

Objective	Potential Contribution
	would be required to better understand their relationship with earlier and later field systems in terms of continuity and discontinuity of land use, boundary orientation and location, for example following an approach similar to that applied by Rippon <i>et al</i> (2015). At present, this cannot be undertaken at site level without further excavation and thorough phasing of the Site through stratigraphy, dating evidence and an exploration of spatial relationships. Following this, comparative analysis with patterns from elsewhere in the vicinity of the Site and the region more generally would be required to fully maximise the potential contribution of the remains on the Site to this objective at local and regional scales.
Is there evidence of early contact or Roman presence in Bedfordshire pre-conquest? Did the native elite remain in place post-conquest; did they adopt, adapt or resist? Can the impact of conquest be detected in settlement changes in this period?	The features dating to the Late Iron Age – Roman period may have potential to contribute to this objective, however the extent of their potential contribution to this objective is hard to assess, given the total area excavated to date relative to the extent of the remains as suggested by the geophysical survey. Were further fieldwork undertaken on this Site, it is possible that the remains will have the potential to contribute to this research question, given the wealth of Late Iron Age to early Roman archaeology that appears to underlie the Site.
LIA-Rom 13 – Can we increase our understanding of Late Iron Age and Roman farmsteads?	Evidence from the LIA – Romano-British settlements or farmsteads recorded in Core Zone, the Lake Zone and possibly the West Gateway Zone could contribute to this objective. As set out above, further fieldwork and desk-based research would be required to better understand this Site and set it within a local and regional context with regards to Late Iron Age to Roman settlement and farmstead types.
	Palaeoenvironmental assessment and radiocarbon dating may aid in identification of landscape management and agricultural practices of the Late Iron Age and Roman period.
What are the origins and development of the different rural medieval settlement type, and is there any evidence of industrial activity?	The moated enclosure could contribute to the present baseline data with regards to our existing understanding of rural high-status medieval residences. The artefact and ecofact signatures could be compared to the Deserted Medieval Village (DMV) located to the south of the Site, to better understand differences between these

Objective	Potential Contribution
	settlement types at a local level, for example in terms of wealth, status and material culture. Further comparative research between the remains found on this Site and other moated manors elsewhere in the region would also be necessary to maximise the contribution of this Site to this objective, as would further fieldwork. No clear evidence of industrial activity was found, however this may change, should further fieldwork be undertaken.
What is the role of water management and land reclamation in the medieval period?	Signs of water management may show in diatom, ostracod, and foraminifera evidence from the palaeochannels, if radiocarbon dating reflects the medieval period.
	Other than the moat that appears to have surrounded the manorial complex, the ditches with medieval dating suggest they form enclosures associated with field boundaries within an agricultural or pastoral landscape rather than drainage and therefore are unlikely to contribute to this objective. Further fieldwork may alter this conclusion, however.
What are the nature and levels of natural deposits, and has there been any modern disturbance?	The results of the trial trench evaluation can contribute to this objective in that the trenching has identified the height of the natural geology across the Site. Assessment of the lack of subsoil across the majority of Site, along with assessment of preservation of features across each zone will contribute to answering this question. Further excavation would better characterise and refine the topographic model as suggested by the evaluation.
	The nature of the deposits may be further investigated through the assessment, and possibly later analysis, of palaeoenvironmental proxies including plant macrofossils, pollen, diatoms, ostracods, and foraminifera, in combination with radiocarbon dating. Suitable remains are likely to survive within the alluvial sequences on Site.

Table 11: Contribution to Objectives

9 DISCUSSION

- 9.1 The archaeological remains found during the trial trenching evaluation show evidence of activity in all three zones of the Site, the majority of which date to the Late Iron Age to Roman period, with a localised number of features relating to the medieval period,

and post-medieval to modern agricultural practices. Fragments of Middle Iron Age pottery was also recovered from Trench 296 which is indicative of some earlier activity, and although possibly residual, is indicative of trace amounts of activity pre-dating the Late Iron Age. Earlier activity is also evidenced by the recovery of a flint arrowhead found residually in the topsoil within the Lake Zone, which may date to the Late Neolithic to Early Bronze Age. The majority of flints recovered were residual or unstratified finds dispersed across the Site, and therefore their presence is likely suggestive of occasional loss or discard rather than any focus of activity.

The Lake Zone (Figure 3)

- 9.2 Of the 107 trenches excavated in the Core Zone, 36 produced archaeological remains (Trenches 321, 322, 325, 326, 327, 335, 340, 345, 347, 349, 351, 352, 354, 357, 358, 359, 361, 366, 368, 369, 375, 377, 380, 381, 383, 387, 395, 396, 398, 408, 411, 415, 417, 418, 420 and 421). All remaining trenches were archaeologically sterile. Many of these evaluation trenches targeted geophysical anomalies to verify or disprove their existence. The following paragraphs detail the landscape features that were anticipated to be present in this area of the Site, as suggested by the geophysical survey, and the interpretations provided below are updated in light of the evaluation.
- 9.3 The presence of a rectangular enclosure complex, morphologically appropriate for the Iron Age and Romano-British periods, was postulated to underlie the southeast part of the Lake Zone. Ditches associated with it were positively identified by excavation in Trenches 321, 326 and 327 (**Figure 3**). The enclosure was not identified in Trenches 322 and 325, both of which targeted the west side. This either suggests that this landscape feature was lost to horizontal truncation to the west, or that the geophysical anomaly that was targeted by these trenches does not represent a genuine archaeological feature, meaning that this enclosure was in fact open to the west. Features that did not occur on the geophysical survey were present in Trenches 322 and 325, excavated examples of which were respectively dated to the early Roman period and the Late Iron Age to early Roman period.
- 9.4 This enclosure discussed above may supplement a larger locus of settlement represented by a series of conjoined enclosures and boundaries. Again these were morphologically appropriate for the Late Iron Age to Romano-British period, and were postulated to underlie the west-central part of the Lake Zone (Trenches 335, 340, 345, 348–52, 354–5, 357–9, 361, 363, 375, 377, 380–1, 383, 387 and 421–20 targeted this area; **Figure 3**). Copious evidence for this possible enclosure complex was found. It may represent a small settlement, for example an enclosed, complex farmstead (Allen and Smith 2016). Dating evidence recovered from several trenches was generally suggestive of a Late Iron Age to early Roman date for this settlement. It may be

possible, however, that a later phase of early to middle Anglo-Saxon activity is situated in this same location, as suggested by the retrieval of two small pot sherds of probable early-mid Anglo-Saxon date from Trench 340.

- 9.5 Three cremations were also unearthed in this part of the Site, towards the eastern periphery of this enclosure complex, in Trenches 351 and 421. The location of the three cremations relative to the enclosure system and the palaeochannel in the vicinity is of note as this may indicate a particular focus of settlement in this area.
- 9.6 A sub-circular enclosure, morphologically appropriate for the Iron Age or Romano-British periods, was postulated to underlie the Lake Zone to the immediate northeast of the putative core of Late Iron Age to Romano-British settlement (Trenches 395 and 398 targeted this area; **Figure 3**). Trenches 395 and 398 yielded positive results that support the existence of this enclosure. An excavated portion of the ditch in Trench 398 appeared to date it to the general Roman period through the discovery of pottery dated AD 50–400. It could supplement the main focus of settlement in the west central part of the Lake Zone.
- 9.7 A linear geophysical anomaly, and a curvilinear geophysical anomaly, which may represent an outlying enclosure complex and/or field boundaries, were postulated to underlie the northeast corner of the Lake Zone (Trench 415 targeted this area; **Figure 3**). Trench 415 produced positive evidence for the existence of the curvilinear boundary, but did not produced evidence for the straight boundary, which may not represent a genuine archaeological feature. The curvilinear boundary was not excavated and its date therefore remains uncertain. The linear anomaly was not identified.
- 9.8 A series of discrete linear geophysical anomalies were identified in the southern part of the Lake Zone that were tested through the excavation of Trenches 315, 317, 320 and 332 (**Figure 3**). No evidence of any of these discrete anomalies was found and they therefore do not appear to be of archaeological origin.
- 9.9 Geoarchaeological test pits TP323 and TP343 investigated the backfilled Elstow Brook in the southern part of the Lake Zone. They revealed an *in situ* alluvial sequence that may have some geoarchaeological potential, however this was no more than 0.25m thick, having been sealed by a large quantity of deliberately dumped backfill. Geoarchaeological test pits TP341A, TP341B, TP348A and TP348B targeted a palaeochannel, the presence of which was suggested by the geophysical survey to curve from the west to the northeast in the east central part of the Site. Alluvial infilling associated with this palaeochannel was substantial and these deposits possess the potential for the preservation of palaeoenvironmental evidence relating to Holocene

environmental change, including landscape management, agricultural practices and signs of water management.

The Core Zone (Figure 5-1 and Figure 5-2)

- 9.10 Of the 158 trenches that were excavated in the Core Zone, 60 produced archaeological remains (Trenches 156, 158, 160, 162, 164, 166, 169, 172, 174, 179, 180, 183, 184, 185, 187, 188, 189, 190, 194, 195, 197, 199, 201, 202, 204, 207, 208, 209, 210, 212, 213, 216, 217, 218, 220, 223, 224, 228, 230, 233, 239, 242, 243, 244, 246, 247, 254, 258, 259, 266, 275, 282, 295, 296, 297, 298, 301, 302, 303 and 304). All remaining trenches were archaeologically sterile. Numerous evaluation trenches in the Core Zone targeted geophysical anomalies to verify or disprove their existence. The following paragraphs detail the landscape features that were anticipated to be present in this area of the Site, as suggested by the geophysical survey, and the interpretations provided below are updated in light of the evaluation.
- 9.11 The presence of a series of widely spaced, roughly co-axial ditches were suggested in the southern portion of the Core Zone, which could represent a field system associated with pastoral or arable farming of uncertain date (Trenches 156, 158–60, 164, 169, 173, 174, 178, 180 and 185 targeted these potentially related anomalies; **Figure 5-1**). Evidence for the existence of this putative field system was revealed in all trenches except Trenches 173, 178 and 180, therefore this putative field system may not be as extensive as the geophysical survey suggests. Dating evidence was more suggestive of an early Roman date, however one sherd of pottery from Trench 185 could alternatively date it to the period AD 1000–1300, with the caveat that this single sherd could be intrusive.
- 9.12 A medieval moated manor was postulated to underlie the southern part of the Core Zone to the immediate west of the putative field system (Trenches 162 and 166 targeted this area; **Figure 5-1**). Positive evidence of this landscape feature was uncovered in both trenches, and excavated portions of the feature were dated to the period AD 1000 and 1300, with some context dates post-dating AD1100. The waterlogged nature of the lower moat fills could indicate potential for good archaeological survival in these areas. The moated enclosure was more truncated to the south, where modern backfill also sealed the medieval primary fill. The trenching in the interior spaces suggested limited archaeological survival, as features in these areas were shallow and potentially disturbed by agricultural ploughing and the modern backfilling event.
- 9.13 A series of seemingly related and sometimes conjoined curvilinear and straight anomalies were found in the western and central parts of the Core Zone, that were deemed to be morphologically appropriate for a medieval enclosure complex, or a

series of conjoined enclosure complexes (Trenches 177, 179, 183–4 and 187–8 targeted these potentially related anomalies; **Figure 5-1**). Trenches 177 and 179 did not reveal any archaeological evidence for the anomalies that they targeted, suggesting that they may not have an archaeological origin and do not form part of this enclosure complex. Other features, namely pits and ditches, were revealed in these trenches. The remaining trenches did uncover evidence for this enclosure complex, confirming a medieval date (AD 1000–1300) that may be contemporary with the manorial complex to the south.

- 9.14 To the north and west of this, in the south-west, west-central and north-central parts of the Core Zone, a series of conjoined enclosures and associated linear boundaries that were more generally co-axial in nature were identified. These were morphologically appropriate for a Late Iron Age to Romano-British settlement. Trenches 189, 190, 199, 201, 204, 207–8, 210, 213, 216, 218, 224 targeted linear anomalies that may be associated with the southern part of this putative settled area. Trenches 237, 242–4, 254, 258–9 targeted anomalies in the northern part of this putative settlement. Trenches 223, 233, 236 and 240 targeted a broad trackway or a long, narrow enclosure that may have connected the southern and northern parts of this settlement (**Figure 5-1**). Copious evidence for the existence of these landscape features was uncovered, and an occupation date spanning the period Late Iron Age to later Roman period was suggested by artefacts. The stratigraphy and dating evidence uncovered point towards multiple phases of activity that may include the Late Iron Age to Roman transition period (1st century AD), the early Roman period (mid-1st to early 2nd century AD), the mid-Roman period (2nd century AD) and the later Roman period (3rd to 4th century AD).
- 9.15 Trenches 197, 207, 212, 217, 228 and 230 targeted a series of linear anomalies leading from the southern part of the aforementioned putative settlement core into the surrounding landscape. It is therefore suggested that these linear geophysical anomalies could be associated with a series of trackways that connected the settlement core with the surrounding landscape (**Figure 5-1**). Trenches 207 produced results that supported the presence of a putative northwest–southeast trackway ditch that appeared to lead into the west corner of an enclosure complex. Trenches 212 and 217 targeted two parallel linear geophysical anomalies that were interpreted as forming another putative trackway leading from the core of the Late Iron Age to Romano-British settlement to the northwest towards open land to the southeast. Positive evidence for the existence of this feature was found in both trenches, and it was dated by pottery to the later 3rd to 4th century AD. Trench 228 targeted a northwest–southeast linear geophysical anomaly that was interpreted as one side of a trackway or a farmland boundary leading from the core of the putative Late Iron Age to Romano-British settlement towards land situated to the northwest with the West Gateway Zone. The

geophysical anomaly that was targeted by this trench was not identified, however a ditch terminus that may be congruent with the opposing side of the trackway was found, leaving open the possibility that this landscape feature existed in antiquity. Trench 230 targeted two parallel linear geophysical anomalies that were interpreted as forming a putative trackway or a long, narrow enclosure leading from the core of the Late Iron Age to Romano-British settlement to the southeast towards open land to the northwest, in a field within the Site boundary, but which was not excavated within this phase of trial trenching. The results from the trench approximated the geophysical survey, but did not directly conform with it, again leaving open the possibility that this landscape feature existed in antiquity. Trench 197 did not detect the presence of anomalies associated with the putative trackway, although other features including pits and ditches associated with nearby Late Iron Age to Romano-British settlement were present.

- 9.16 To the northeast of this settled area, a third focus of possible settlement was identified on the geophysical survey. This again comprised a series of conjoined enclosures that were more co-axial in nature and could again represent a Romano-British settlement. Trenches 296–8, 301–4 and 311 targeted anomalies associated with this putative enclosure complex (**Figure 5-2**). The presence of this was supported by the results from Trenches 296–8 and 302–4, with dating evidence variously suggesting a Late Iron Age to early Roman date (Trench 296) and a mid- to later Roman date (Trench 298) for this locus of potential settlement activity. However, a small amount of material dating from the Early Neolithic to the Middle Iron Age were retrieved from Trench 296 suggesting earlier activity in the vicinity. Further work would be necessary to determine whether multiple phases of activity characterise this part of the Site, or whether the earlier remains in Trench 298 and 302 are residual. Trenches 301 and 311 did not produce evidence in support of the presence of the anomalies that they targeted, suggesting that elements of this enclosure may not have survived in that location, or were not of archaeological significance. Other features associated with settlement, including pits and ditches, were present in 301, however.
- 9.17 Trench 295 targeted an outlying sub-rectangular enclosure in the eastern corner of the Core Zone, seemingly located beyond the main areas of settlement (**Figure 5-2**). The existence of this was supported by the results obtained from this trench. Dating evidence suggested a Late Iron Age to early Roman date for this locus of activity, however the presence of a single sherd of possibly intrusive medieval CBM means that a later date of formation cannot be entirely ruled out as yet.
- 9.18 Trenches 265, 277 and 310 targeted a pair of northwest–southeast aligned linear anomalies in the northern corner of the Core Zone. These geophysical anomalies could

not be detected archaeologically and may not be of archaeological significance (**Figure 5-2**).

- 9.19 A series of linear anomalies were noted in the northwest corner of the Site, targeted by Trenches 266, 270 and 286. One possibility is that they are associated with a potential crossroads, although this is speculative, given that Trenches 270 and 286 appeared blank (**Figure 5-2**). The results from Trench 266 supported the geophysical survey, and a potential structured deposit was found within one of the features in this trench. Such deposits have previously been noted as having been associated with crossroads in the Roman period (Woodward and Woodward 2004). However, in this instance, no other evidence for the existence of the crossroads was evidenced in Trenches 270 and 286.

The West Gateway Zone

- 9.20 A total of 56 trenches were excavated in the West Gateway Zone (**Figures 7 and 8**). Archaeological remains were found in 15 trenches (Trenches 107, 108, 115, 116, 118, 121, 123, 127, 132, 139, 149, 150, 153, 154 and 155). All remaining trenches were negative.
- 9.21 The geophysical survey suggested that up to three enclosure complexes of potential archaeological significance underlie the West Gateway Zone, along with at least one trackway. The interpretations provided below are updated in light of the evaluation.
- 9.22 Two potential coaxial ditches are evident on the geophysical survey results identified in the east corner of the Core Zone (Trench 155 targeted this; **Figure 7**). One of the ditches was identified in Trench 155, and the ditches may form part of a co-axial field system or a poorly preserved enclosure complex. This was not dated by artefacts, but in keeping with the bulk of the activity encountered on this Site, it is presently assumed to be of Late Iron Age to Roman date.
- 9.23 A pair of parallel anomalies orientated northwest–southeast were apparent in the southeast corner of the West Gateway Zone, which could together define a trackway (Trenches 149 and 153 targeted this). Only one ditch was observed in T149, therefore the presence of a trackway/routeway at this location is uncertain.
- 9.24 The trackway detailed above may have continued to the northwest, as evidenced by another pair of parallel geophysical anomalies. Alternatively, this could represent a separate trackway (Trenches 127, 132 and 139 targeted this). The presence of this landscape feature was supported by discoveries in these trenches. A feature that could represent an associated wheel rut was also noted in Trench 132. The putative trackway is undated, but is presumed on the balance of probability to date to the Late Iron Age to early Roman period.

- 9.25 An 'L'-shaped geophysical anomaly was detected to the immediate south of the putative trackway, which could represent the remains of an enclosure (Trench 128 targeted this). This feature was not identified in Trench 128, and it is suggested that this anomaly may not be of archaeological origin.
- 9.26 Three parallel anomalies were identified towards the western side of the Site, orientated northeast–southwest. Their functions were not clear, but they may represent field boundaries. Trench 121 targeted the southerly boundary and returned a positive result; Trenches 115, 116 and 118 targeted the longest and more northerly boundary and also returned positive results; Trench 123 targeted a shorter boundary that may also be associated with this landscape feature. It was discovered in Trench 123, and dating evidence, though scant, suggested a mid- to later Roman date of infilling.
- 9.27 A series of 10 parallel geophysical anomalies orientated northeast–southwest were detected in the approximate centre of the West Gateway Zone, the purpose of which was deemed uncertain. Their regularity was perhaps suggestive of field drains rather than archaeological features, or natural variations in the geology, or alternatively they could represent a series of parallel bedding trenches of greater antiquity (Trenches 126 and 127 targeted examples of these).
- 9.28 A series of co-axial geophysical anomalies in the north centre of the West Gateway Zone may represent an enclosure complex. Far more internal divisions orientated northeast–southwest were noted on the geophysical survey, relative to divisions orientated northwest–southeast, and the bulk of the former could therefore represent internal features such as bedding trenches, rather than enclosure ditches (Trenches 107 and 108 targeted this area). Both Trenches 107 and 108 returned positive results, with the latter also producing 68 sherds from a well-fired wide-mouthed jar dated to the period AD 200–400, which may have been complete or near complete when deposited. This appears to date this enclosure to the mid- to late Roman period.

10 CONCLUSIONS

- 10.1 To conclude, it can be stated that, in the Lake Zone, the core of the activity is localised in the middle and western edge of that area and that the bulk represents Late Iron Age to Romano-British settlement, with the Roman phase more probably dating to the earlier part of that period. The main core of settlement was situated in the west-central part of the Lake Zone and was targeted by Trenches 335, 340, 345, 348–52, 354–5, 357–9, 361, 363, 375, 377, 380–1, 383, 387 and 421–20, which produced copious evidence for its existence. The settlement was dated by excavation to the Late Iron Age to early Roman period, however evidence for potential early-mid Anglo-Saxon activity was also uncovered at a single 'L'-shaped boundary ditch at Trench 340, though this was not

necessarily directly related to the settlement and does not in itself demonstrate continuity of land use in this location. This Late Iron Age to early Roman settlement may represent a complex enclosed farmstead, as defined by the Roman Rural Settlement Project (Allen and Smith, 2016).

- 10.2 Also present were smaller, rectangular enclosure complexes in the southern and northern ends of the Lake Zone, respectively identified in Trenches 321, 326 and 327 (southern enclosure) and Trenches 395 and 398 (northern enclosure; **Figure 3**). Dating evidence was again suggestive of a Late Iron Age to early Roman date for the former and a general Roman date for the latter, leaving open the possibility that they were associated with the main locus of settlement in the west and central parts of the Lake Zone. A curvilinear ditch of uncertain date was also confirmed to be present in the far northeast corner of this part of the Site.
- 10.3 Geoarchaeological investigation in the Lake Zone found that *in situ* alluvium survives within the base of the Elstow Brook. Alluvial infilling of the other palaeochannel to the northeast is more substantial. These deposits present potential for preservation of palaeoenvironmental remains which could be utilised for the reconstruction of environmental conditions throughout the Holocene and provide context for the archaeological remains identified across the Site.
- 10.4 The activity recorded within the Core Zone was spread over the zone, however defined areas of activity were established, largely in accord with the geophysical survey. The most significant locus of activity comprised probable enclosures associated with a Late Iron Age to Romano-British settlement, bordering a northeast-southwest aligned trackway or large rectilinear enclosure in the west-central part of the Site, extending as far north as Trench 259 (**Figures 5-1 and 5-2**). These enclosures appeared to span the Late Iron Age to later Roman periods, suggesting that this settlement was long-lived, dating from the 1st century AD through to the 3rd or 4th century. This appeared to possess a ladder-like settlement structure, and in accord with the Roman Rural Settlement Project, could represent a large complex farmstead or a village (Allen and Smith, 2016).
- 10.5 To the northeast, another locus of potentially related settlement activity was positively identified in Trenches 296–8 and 302–4, with dating evidence again suggestive of multi-phase occupation of Late Iron Age to early Roman date (Trench 296) and mid- to later Roman date (Trench 298). A caveat must be applied here, however, as the earlier material recovered from Trench 296 of Early to Middle Iron Age pottery has the potential to be residual. The presence of an outlying square enclosure further to the east was also confirmed through the excavation of Trench 295 (**Figure 5-2**). Dating evidence generally suggested a Late Iron Age to early Roman date, however a single sherd of

possibly intrusive medieval CBM was also present, which could alternatively date this enclosure to a later period.

- 10.6 A possible crossroads was targeted by Trenches 266, 270 and 286, however only Trench 266 found evidence in support of the geophysical survey in this instance. Of note here is the presence of a potential structured deposit in the form of 'killed' pots within the ditch that was uncovered in Trench 266. Such deposits have previously been noted as having been associated with crossroads in the Roman period (Woodward and Woodward 2004).
- 10.7 Remains associated with a probable medieval moated manor were encountered in Trenches 162 and 166, and the features were dated through artefacts to the period AD 1000–1300 (**Figure 5-1**). A series of curvilinear enclosures to the north of this, identified in Trenches 183–4 and 187–8, were broadly contemporary with the medieval moated manor.
- 10.8 A putative co-axial field system was identified in the southern part of the Core Zone, positively identified in Trenches 173, 178 and 180 (**Figure 5-1**). Dating evidence was more suggestive of an early Roman date, however one sherd of pottery from Trench 185 could alternatively date it to the period AD 1000–1300, with the caveat that this single sherd could be intrusive. This system could therefore be related to the Iron Age to Roman activity evidence in the Core Zone, or the later medieval moated manor.
- 10.9 The activity within the West Gateway Zone appeared to represent relatively small scale enclosure and agriculture, peripheral to the concentration of Late Iron Age to Romano-British settlement identified in the Core Zone. Remains associated with this were positively identified in Trenches 107–8, 115–6, 118, 121 and 155 (**Figure 7**). A curving E-W aligned trackway was recorded in the West Gateway Zone that linked settlement activity to the west with that in the Core Zone to the east and the Elstow Brook (identified in Trenches 127, 132 and 139; **Figure 7**). Associated trackway or boundary ditches were also positively identified in Trench 153 further to the east (**Figure 7**).
- 10.10 The Late Iron Age to Romano-British settlement sites identified across the Site appear to be consistent with and comparable to a number of other sites which have recently been investigated, and situate the settlements sit within a wider landscape of such activity. Multiple sites, which have been recently investigated, can situate the settlements within a wider network of trackways and farmsteads, including settlement features at Wixams to the east of the Site (Luke and Guy 2023) which included Early Bronze Age pits; one which contained a very similar barbed and tanged arrowhead to the one identified in the Lake Zone; and Late Iron Age to Romano-British settlement that had evidence for a mixed farming economy. Also, directly to the west of the Lake

Zone, at Marsh Leys, a series of Roman period farmsteads were located to the north of Elstow Brook (Luke and Preece 2011, 168-70). They were recorded at regular intervals comprising rectangular enclosures with integrated trackways extending between them and beyond the settlement areas. It is feasible that the trackways identified in the Core Zone and West Gateway Zone, heading east and perhaps north, would once have linked directly to these likely contemporary sites and it may be the activity recorded in the Lake Zone is potentially part of a wider settlement related to Marsh Leys and Wixams.

- 10.11 The evidence from the evaluation work indicates that the archaeological remains identified in the Core, Lake and West Gateway Zones is commensurate with other Late Iron Age to Romano-British settlements in the region with mixed-farming economies, perhaps with a focus on livestock management. The settlement in the north has an associated small scale cremation cemetery, indicating this may have been a particular focus of settlement. Further work would be necessary to better explore the possibilities outlined above.
- 10.12 The moated enclosure was characterised during the evaluation confirming that the moat survives in a more truncated form to the south than at the northeast (MOLA 2019). The trenching in the interior spaces and to the north of the moat indicated potential for limited archaeological survival, as features in these areas were very shallow and potentially disturbed by agricultural ploughing and the modern backfilling event. The waterlogged nature of the lower moat fills could indicate potential for good archaeological survival in these areas. Further medieval enclosures were recorded to the northwest of the moated enclosure, and may be contemporary.
- 10.13 The results of the trial trench evaluation indicate defined areas of archaeological activity within each zone; Late Iron Age to early Romano-British settlement in the Lake Zone; Late Iron Age to later Romano-British settlement, trackways, and a medieval moated enclosure in the Core Zone; and further Late Iron Age to Romano-British trackways and settlement activity within the West Gateway Zone. Remains found may have the potential to contribute to a number of the specific objectives as outlined above. The results of the evaluation have been used to inform the draft Archaeological Mitigation Strategy which forms **Appendix 10.3: Archaeological Mitigation Strategy (Volume 3)**. That document will be finalised, in consultation with the Bedford BC Archaeological Advisor.

11 STATEMENT OF CONFIDENCE

- 11.1 Trial trenching at the Site has successfully established the archaeological potential across the Site and confirmed the geophysical survey results (i.e. geophysical

anomalies were found to be archaeological in nature, whilst trenches in areas where there were no geophysical anomalies were confirmed to be devoid of any remains). The trial trenching established archaeological remains were present in all three zones, and largely matched the geophysical survey results, with activity focussed within defined areas; Late Iron Age to Romano-British settlement in the Lake Zone; Late Iron Age – Romano-British farmstead, Romano-British trackway and settlement, and a medieval moated enclosure along with further medieval enclosure in the Core Zone; and further Romano-British trackway and peripheral agricultural activity within the West Gateway Zone.

12 PUBLICATION AND ARCHIVE DEPOSITION

- 12.1 Copies of the evaluation report will be issued to Universal Destinations & Experiences (UDX) and the Bedford BC Archaeological Advisor. UDX holds copyright of the evaluation report, and any copies of the report, documentation and images will not be distributed without prior consent of UDX
- 12.2 After a period of time, a copy of the evaluation report will be issued to the local studies library, on the understanding that it will become a public document. A digital copy of the report will also be submitted to the Historic Environment Record and the Archaeology Data Service (ADS). A summary of the findings will be submitted to the ADS (Annex 3 – OASIS Form).
- 12.3 Following consideration of the evaluation results by the Bedford BC Archaeological Advisor, further publication of the results may be required. In addition, if further stages of archaeological fieldwork are required, publication may be deferred until such time as the project works are substantially complete. The format of any publication shall be commensurate with the importance of the results and be agreed in advance with UDX and Bedford BC.
- 12.4 The Site archive will comprise all artefacts, environmental samples, written, drawn, and photographic records. It is to be consolidated after completion of the whole project, with records and finds collated and ordered as a permanent record. Archaeological finds rarely have any monetary value, but they are an important source of information for future research, included in museum exhibits and teaching collections. The Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA 2014) and the Society of Museum Archaeologists (SMA 1993) recommend that finds are publicly accessible and that landowners donate archaeological finds to a local museum.
- 12.5 On completion of the project AOC will discuss arrangements with the developer/landowner for the archive to be deposited with the The Higgins Museum, the relevant project archive repository for the project archive. Following completion of the

full extent of the fieldwork, the Site archive will be prepared in the format agreed with the recipient museum, and according to their guidelines.

- 12.6 Landowner consent will be required to allow transfer of the finds to the museum. This will require the completion of a Deed of Transfer form accompanied by a Legal Title Consent Request Letter from the Landowner. A complete finds inventory can be provided to the Landowner on request.
- 12.7 The Site archive will be deposited on the completion of the project. It will then become publicly accessible.
- 12.8 Quantifications of the finds are contained within the respective specialist reports (Annex 2). Each specialist has made recommendations on the need for further work relating to the finds and/or recommendations for discard of material. Following acceptance of the report these recommendations will be carried out with advice and approval from the Bedford BC Archaeological Advisor.

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14 FIGURES

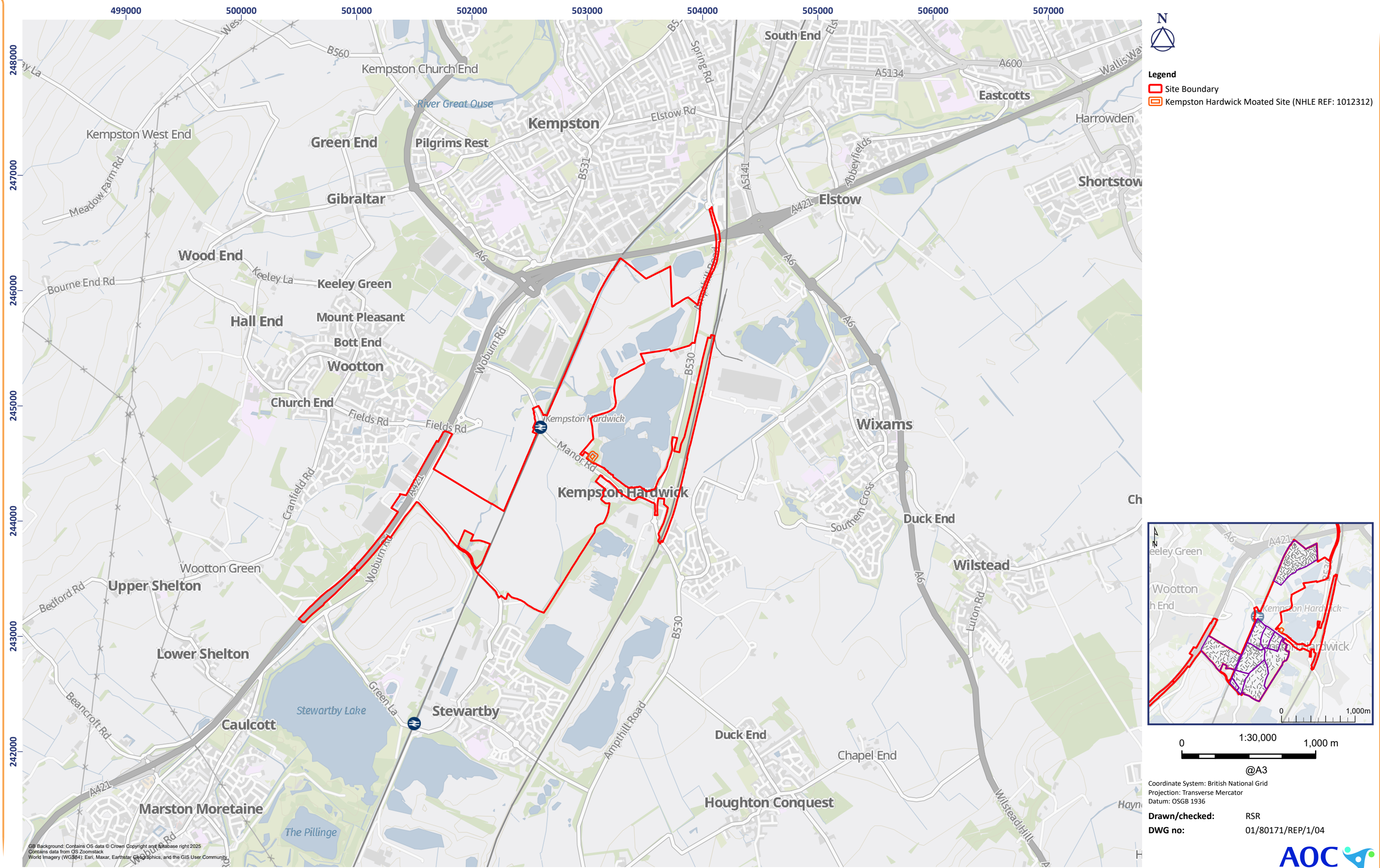


Figure 1: Site Location Plan

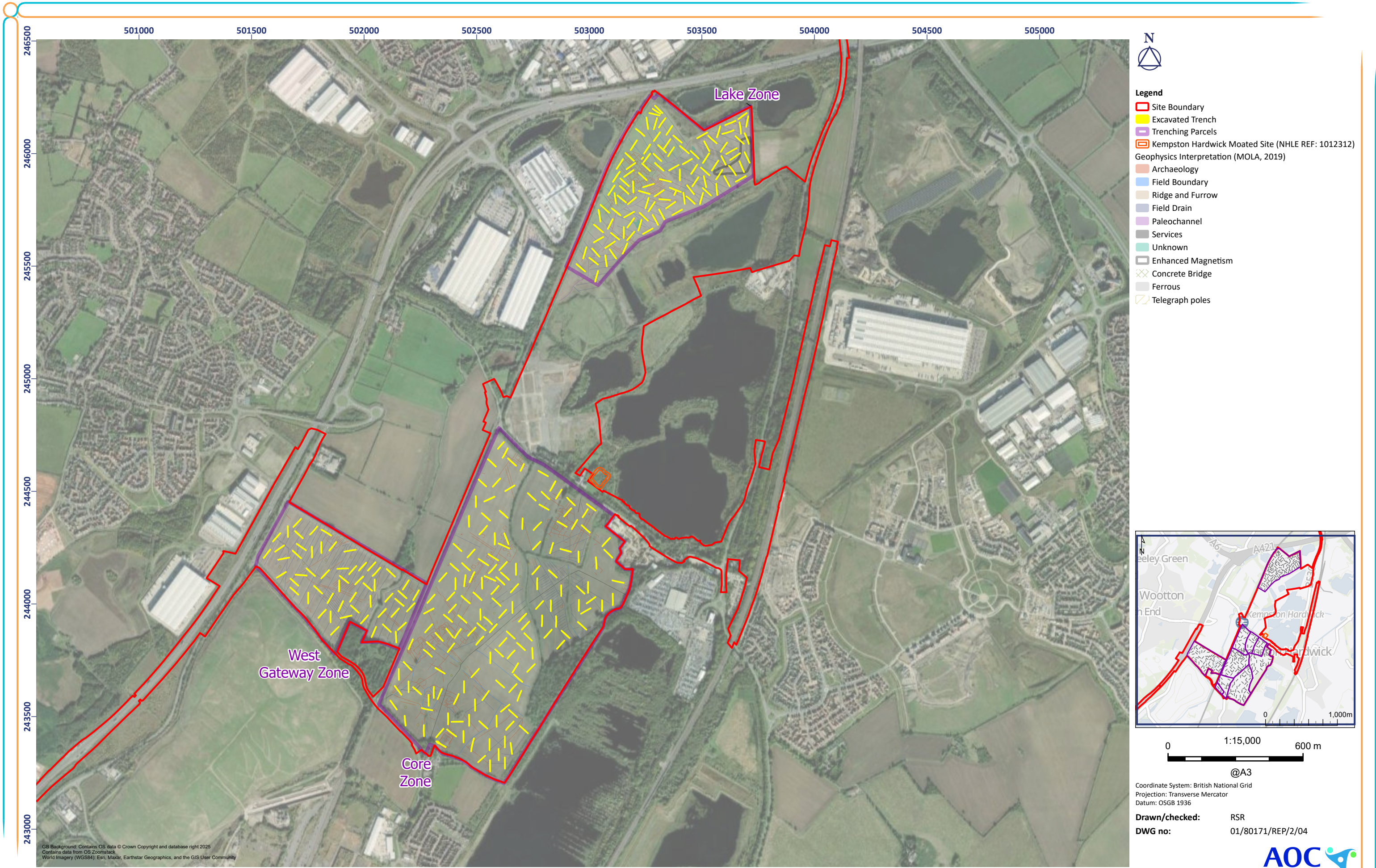


Figure 2: Trench Location Plan

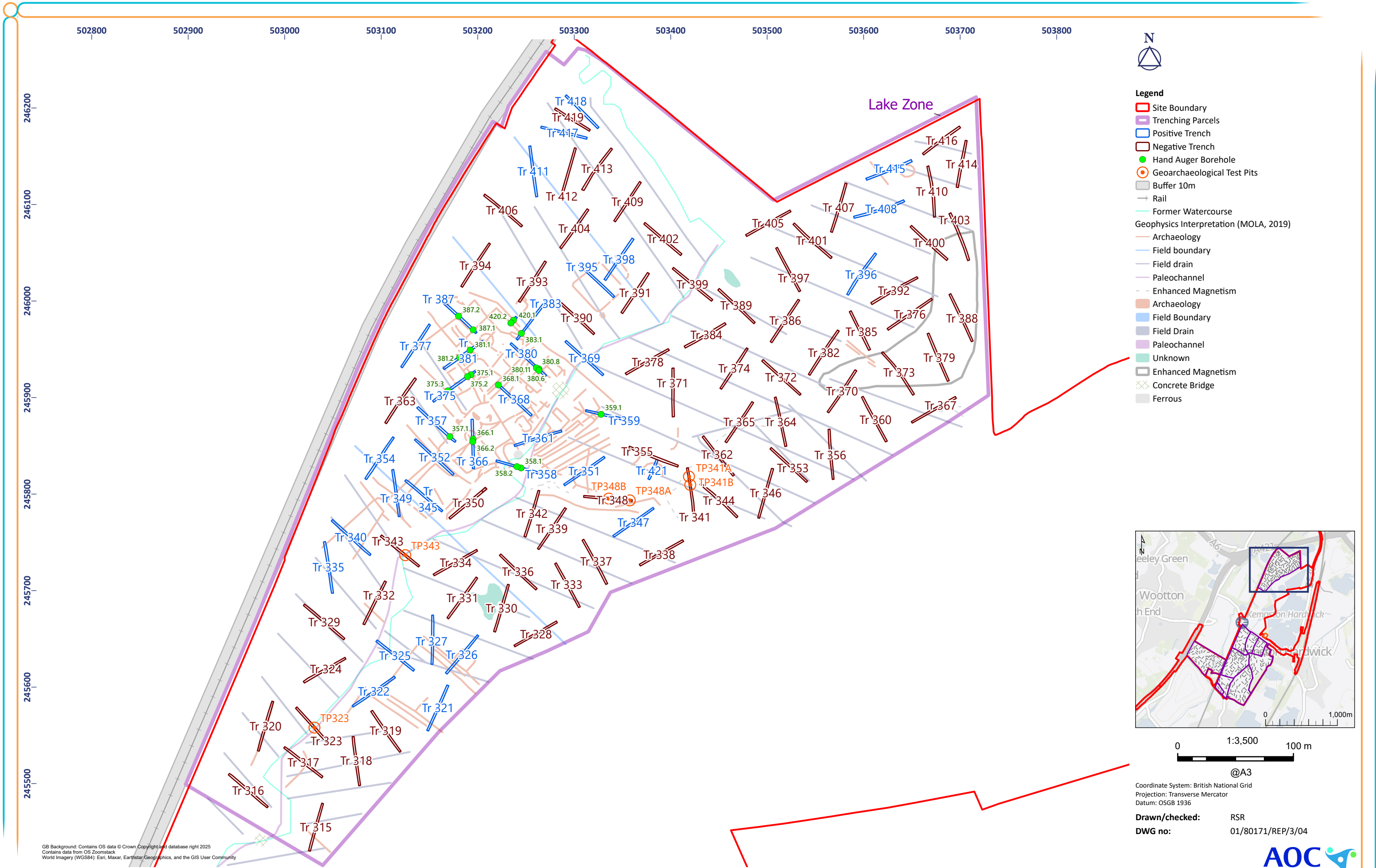
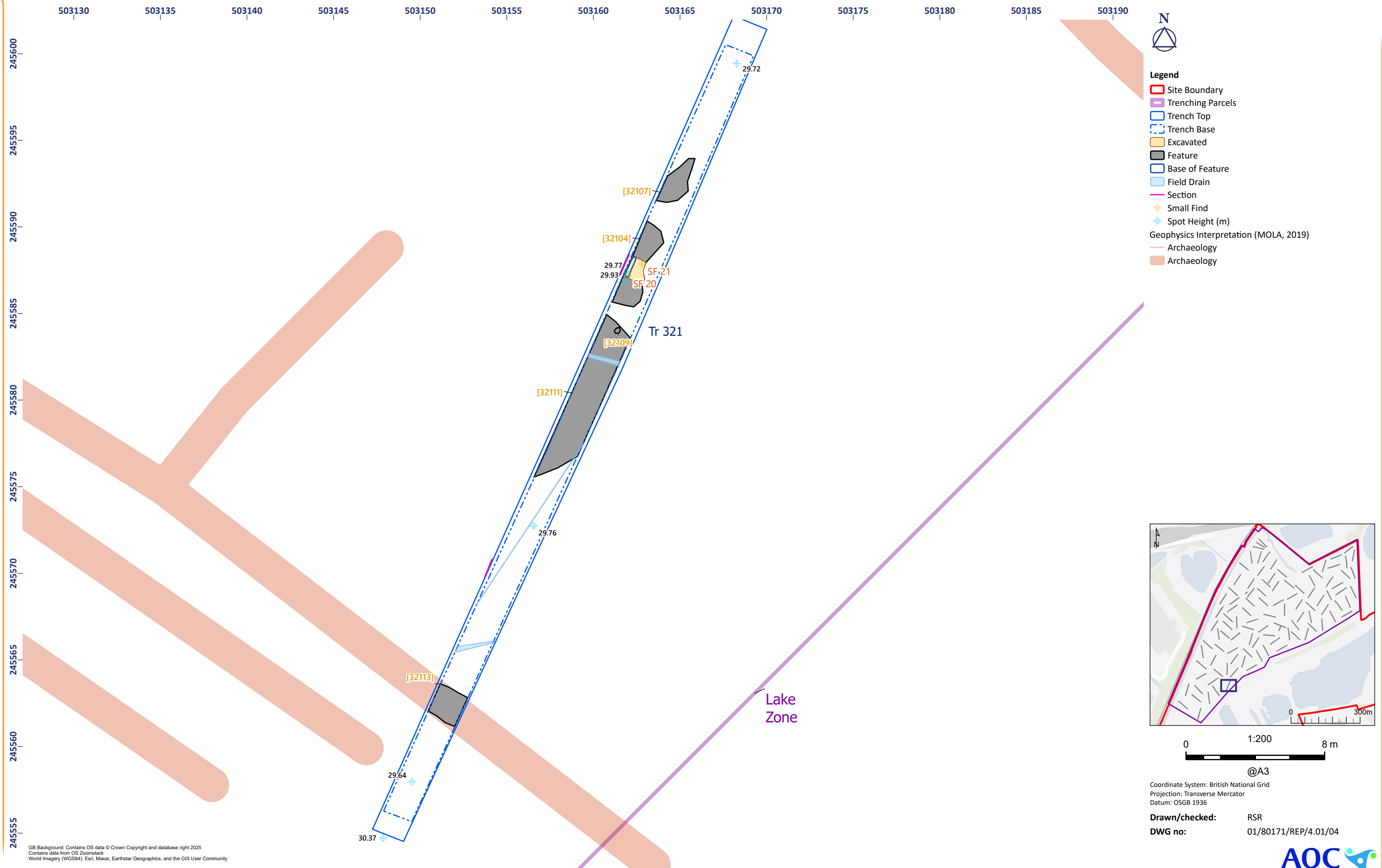
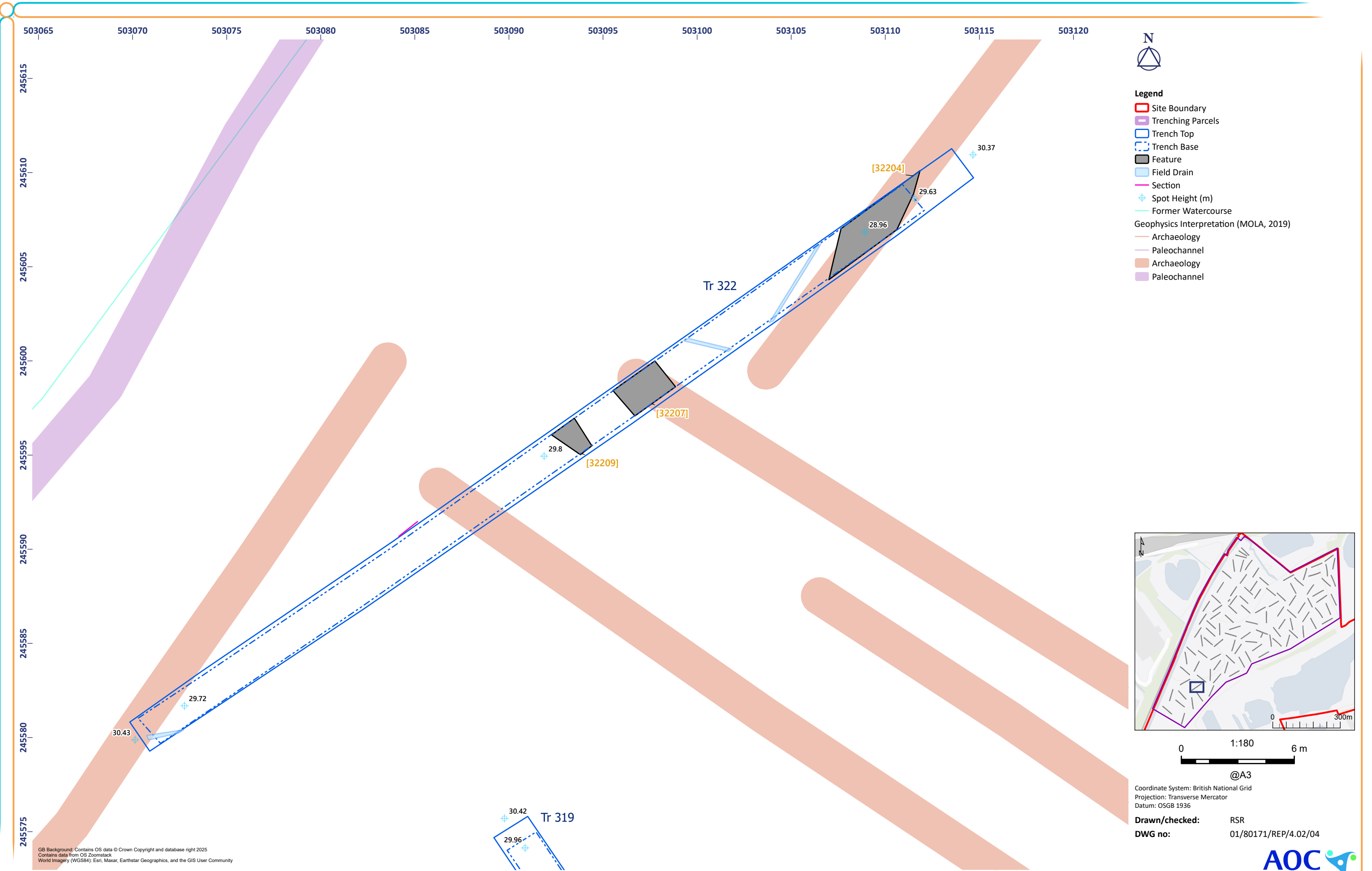


Figure 3: Lake Zone Overview





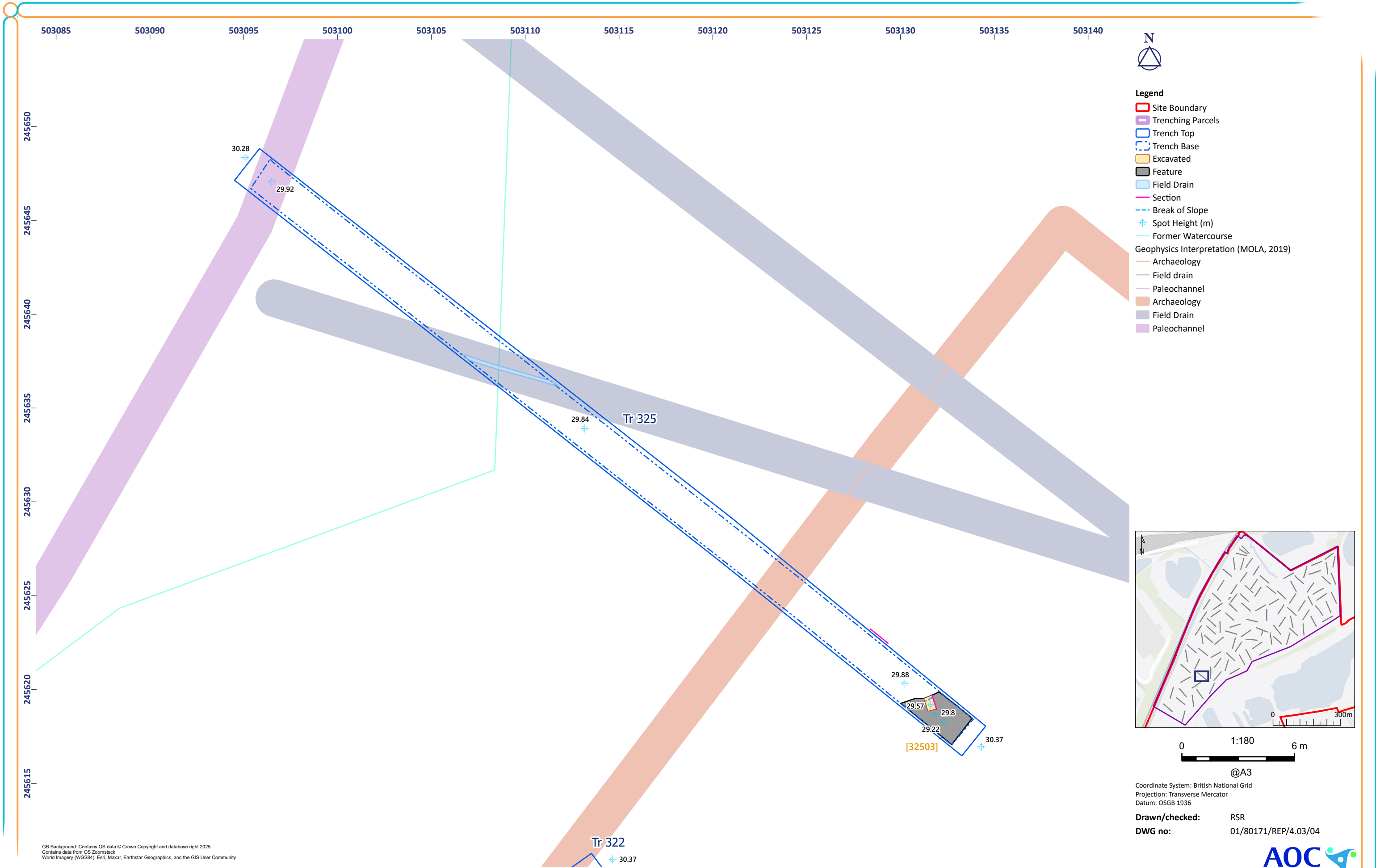


Figure 4-3: Lake Zone - Detail of Trenches

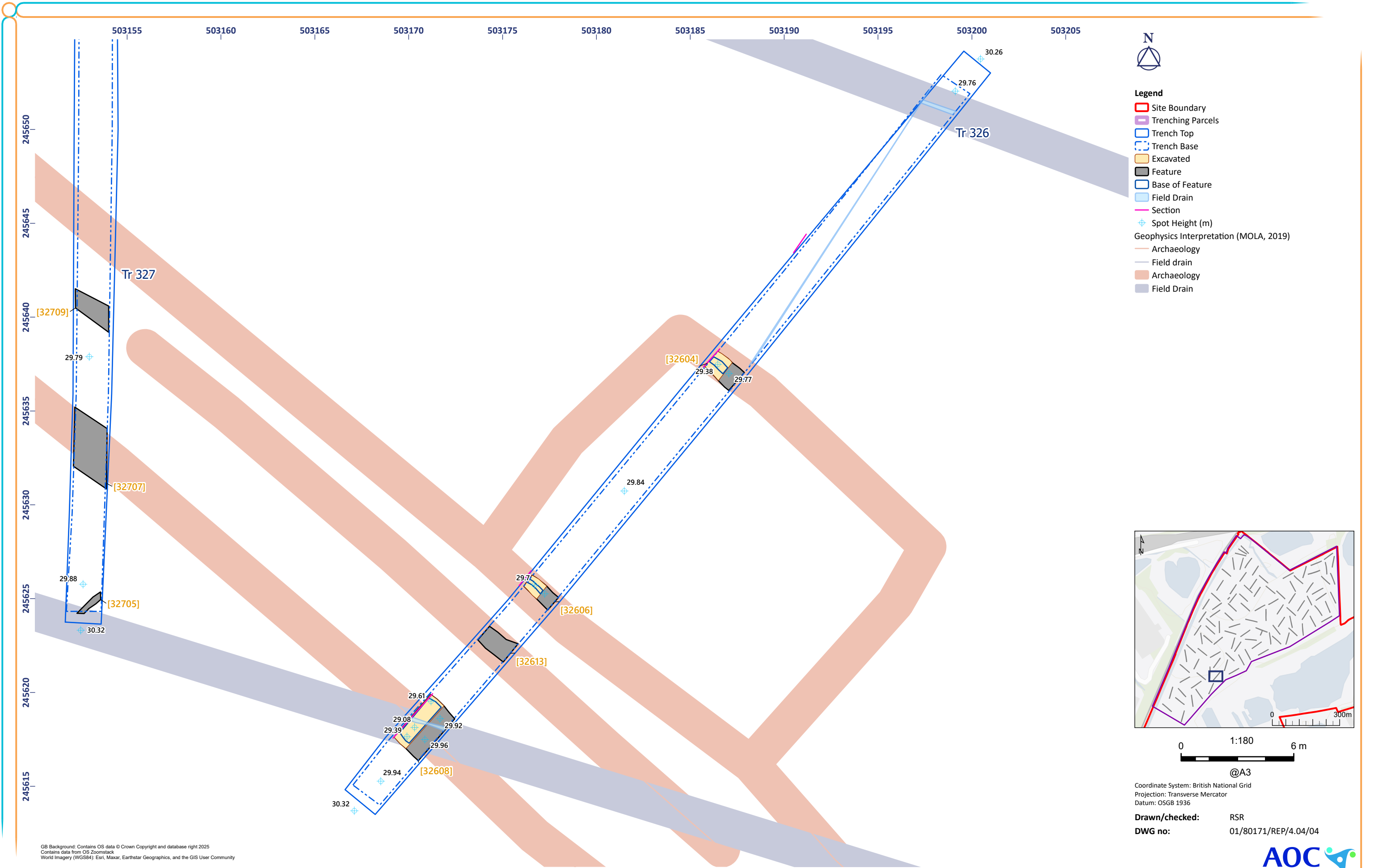


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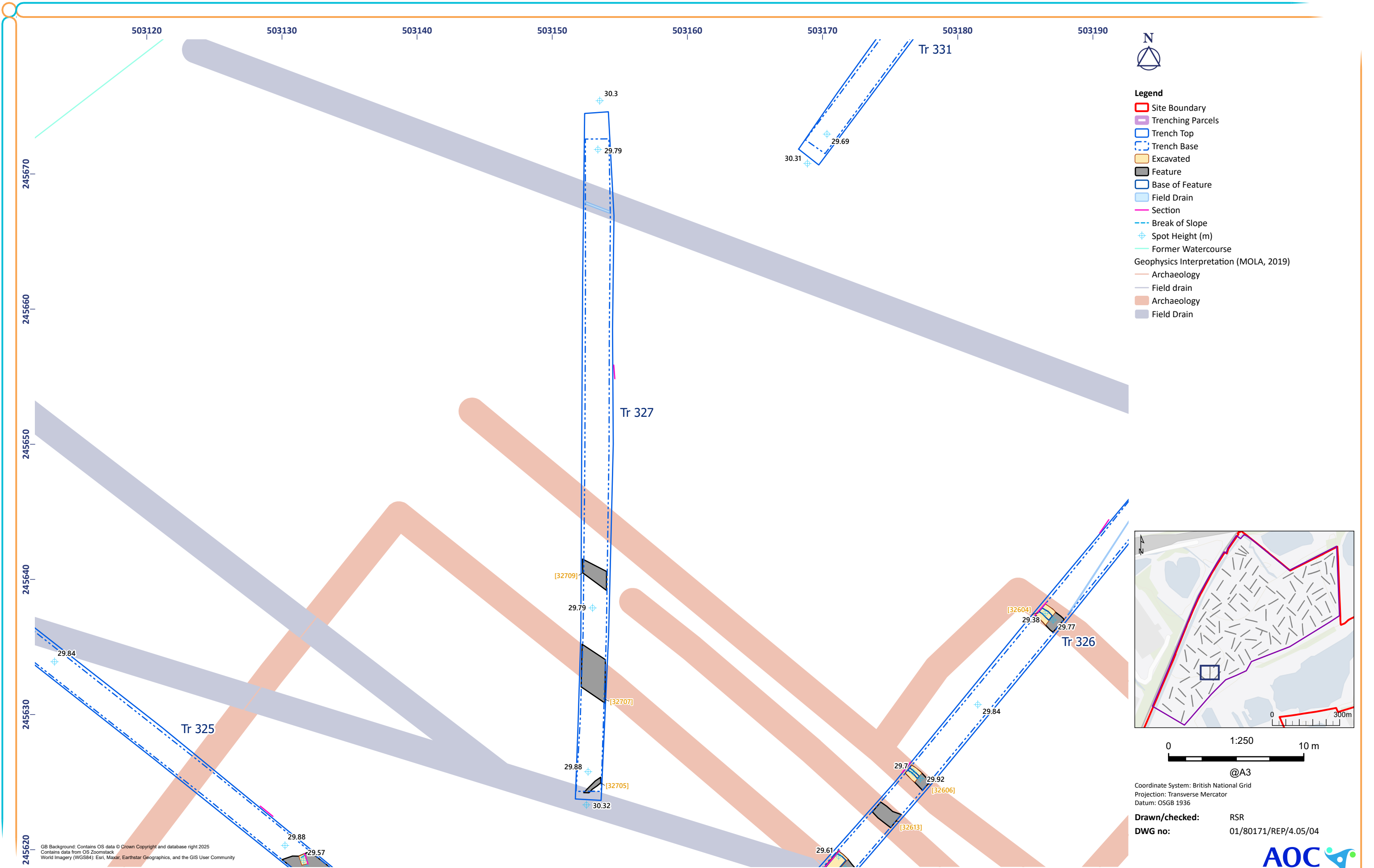
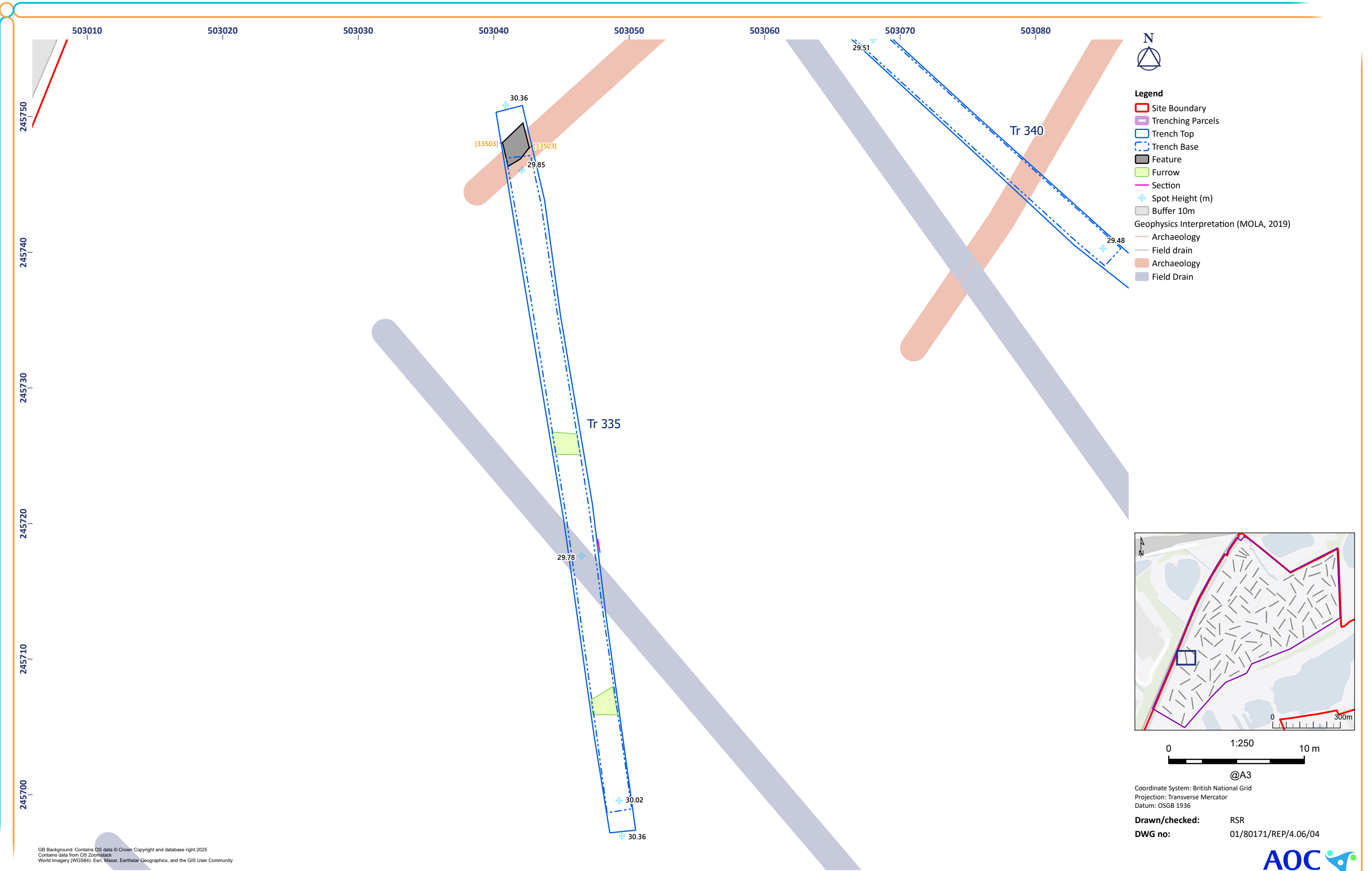
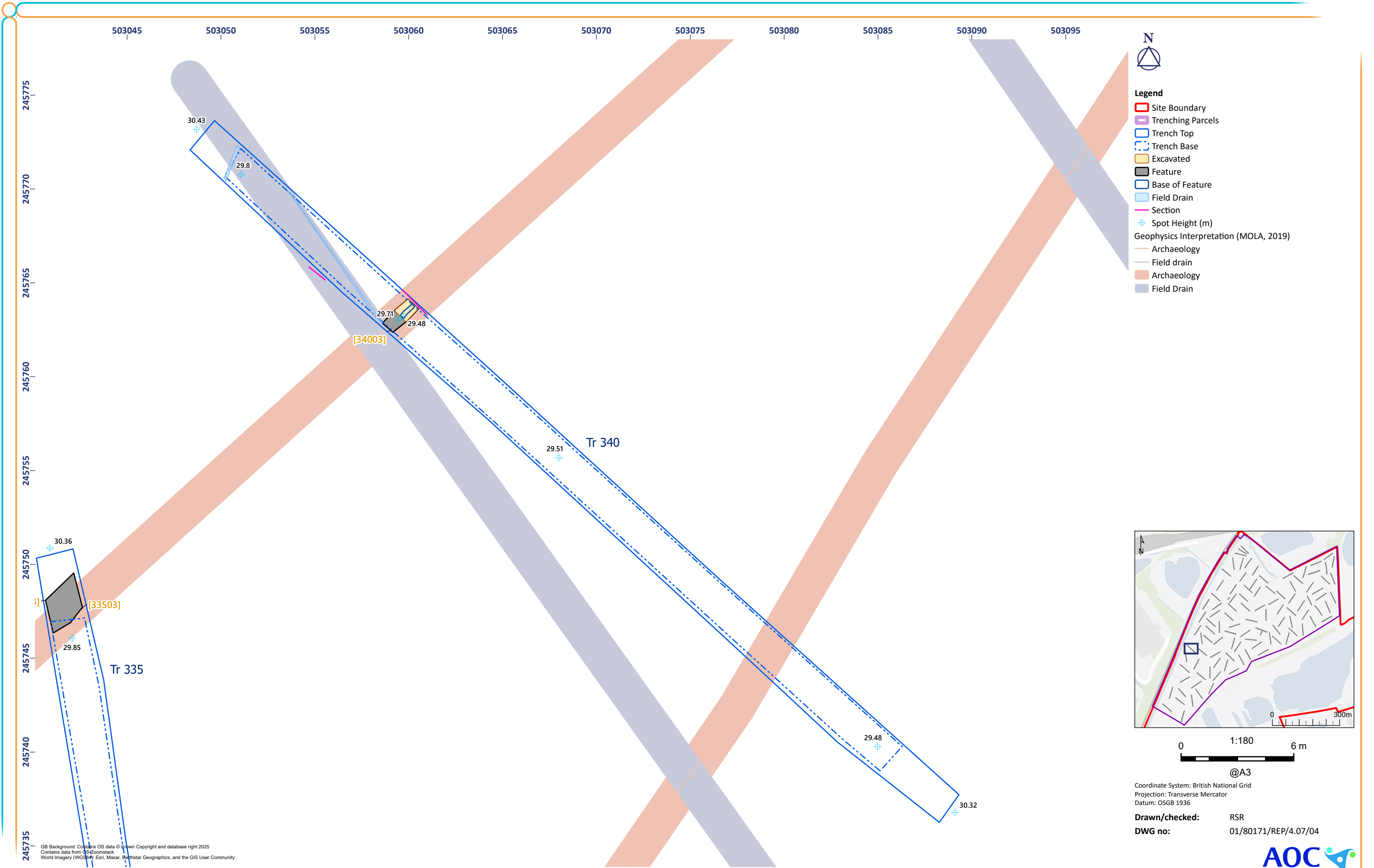


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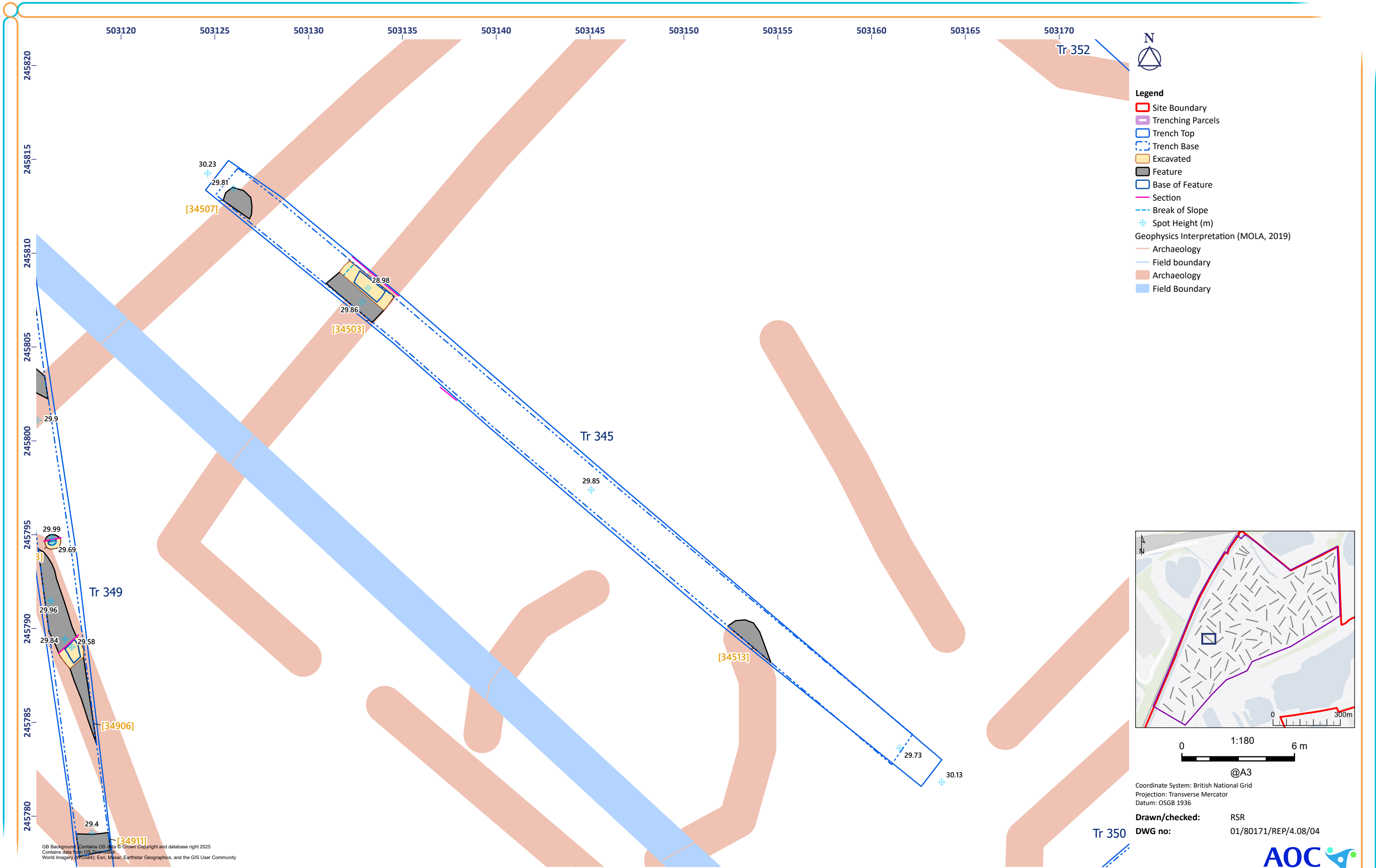
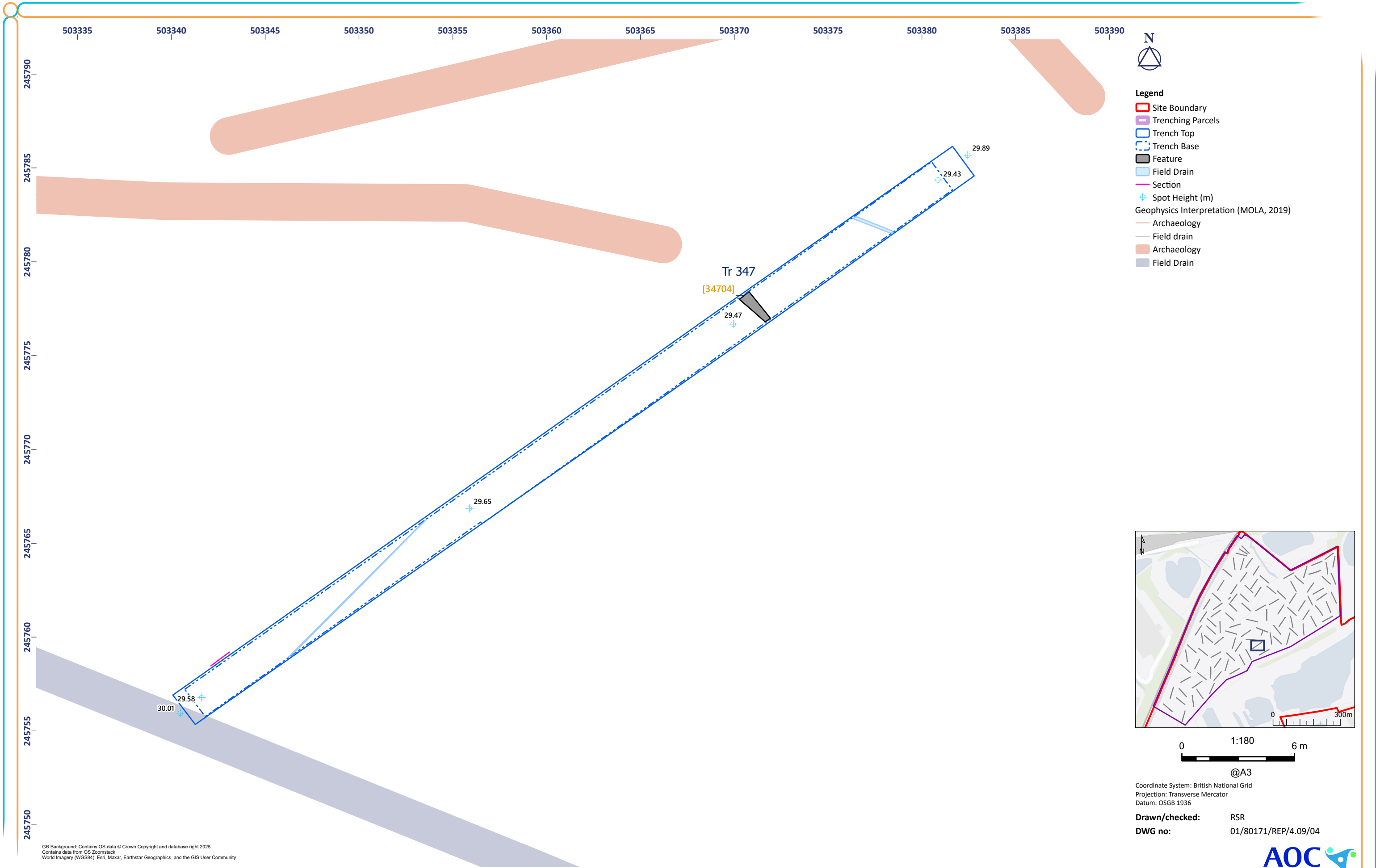


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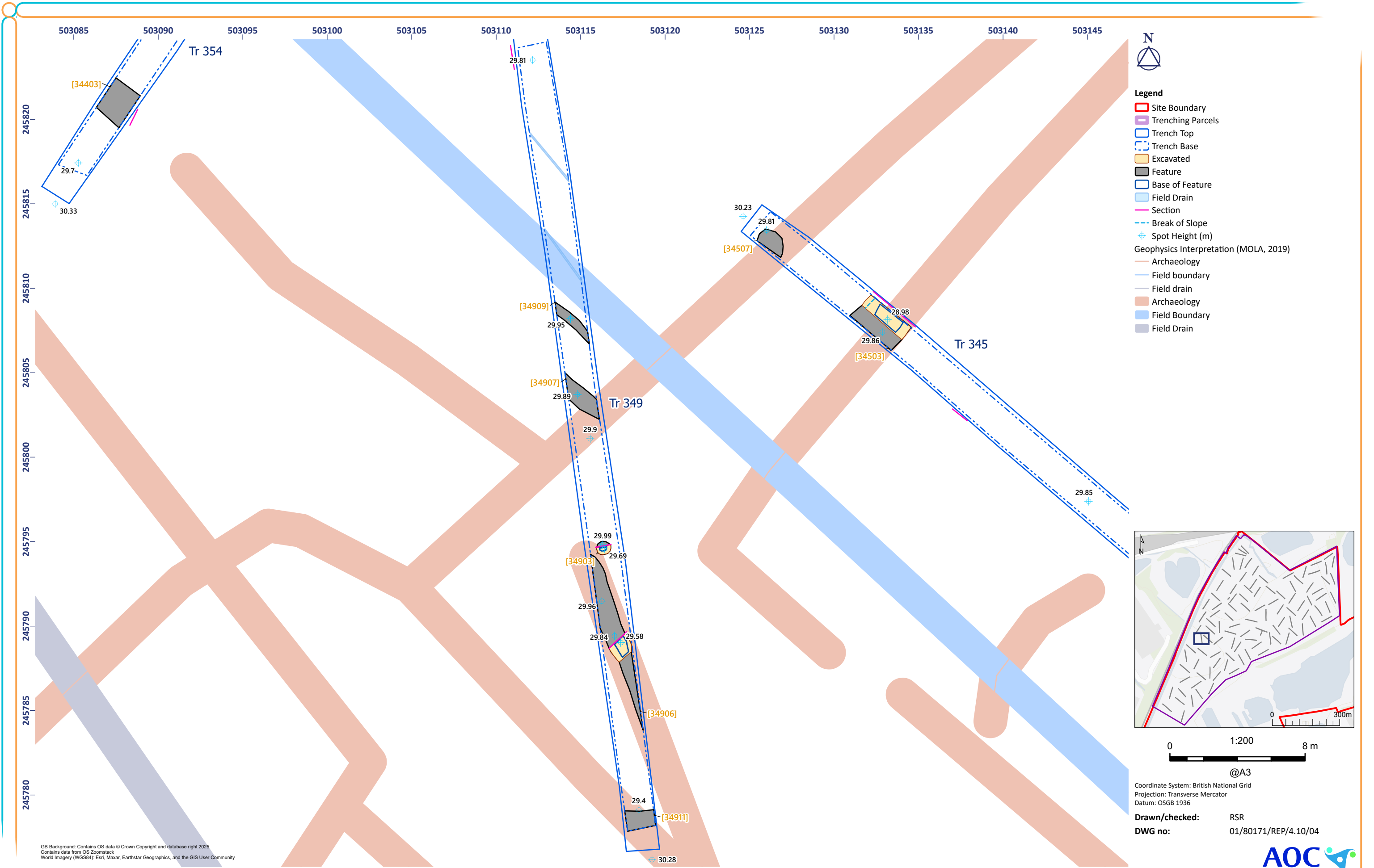
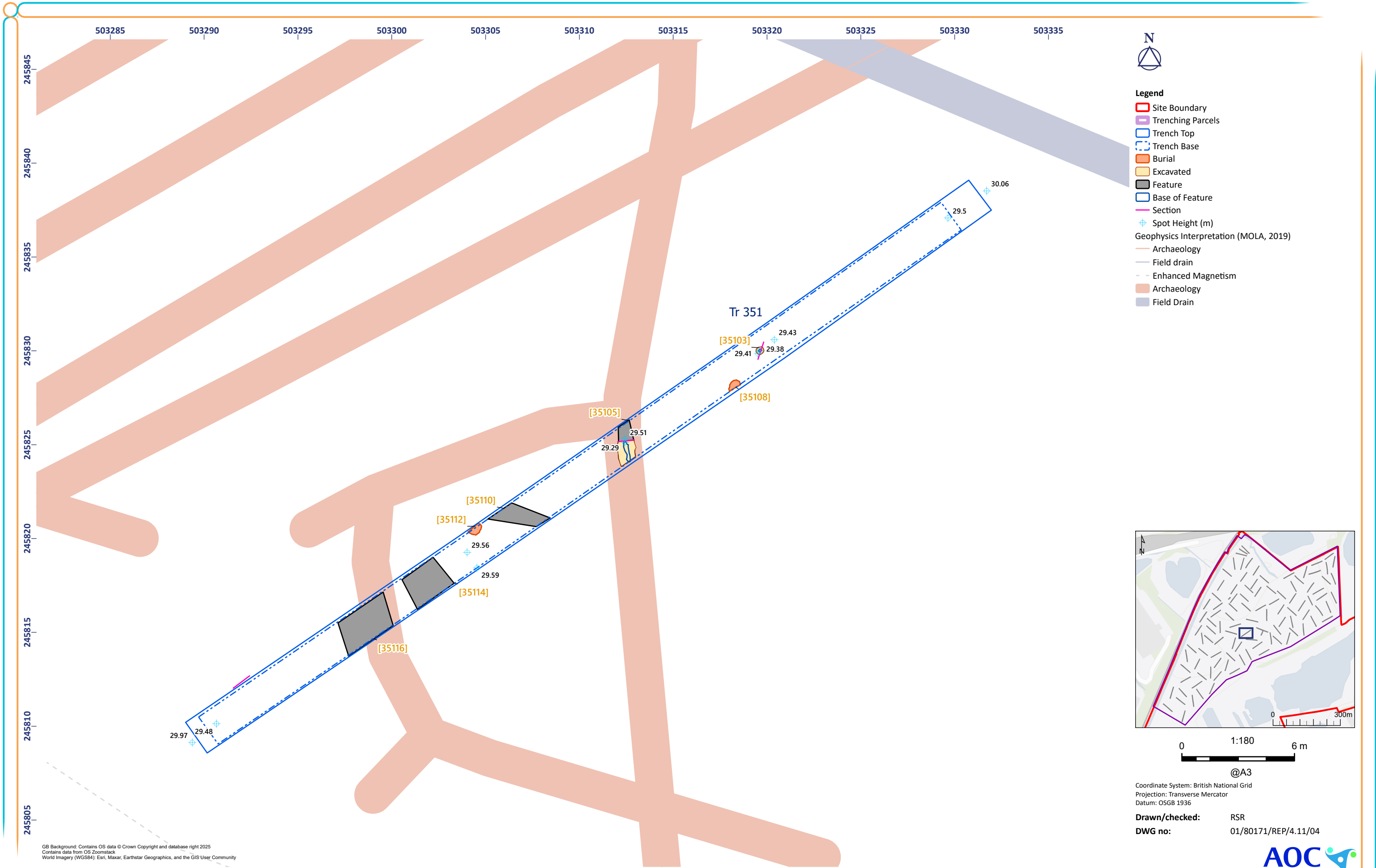


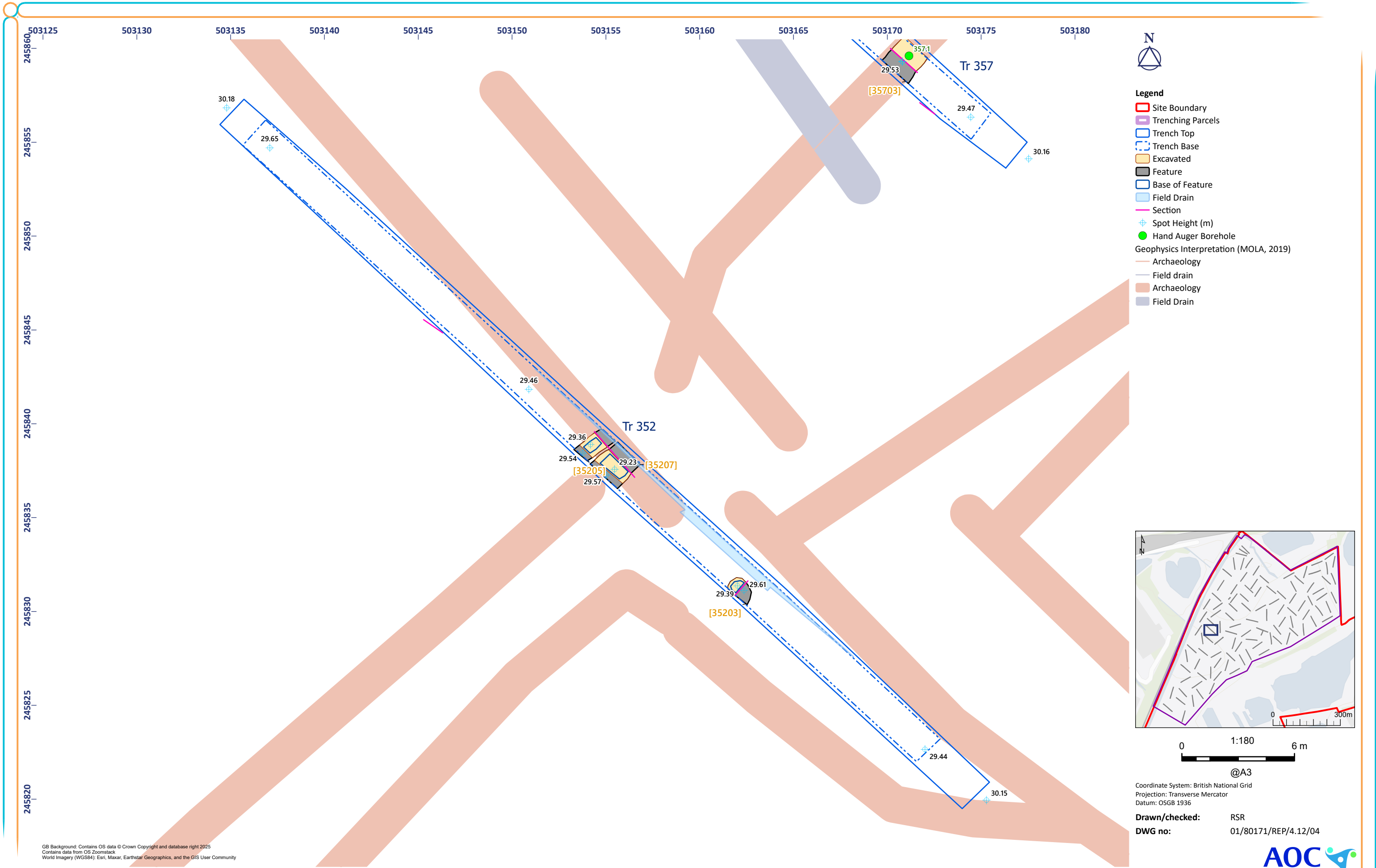
Figure 4-10: Lake Zone - Detail of Trenches



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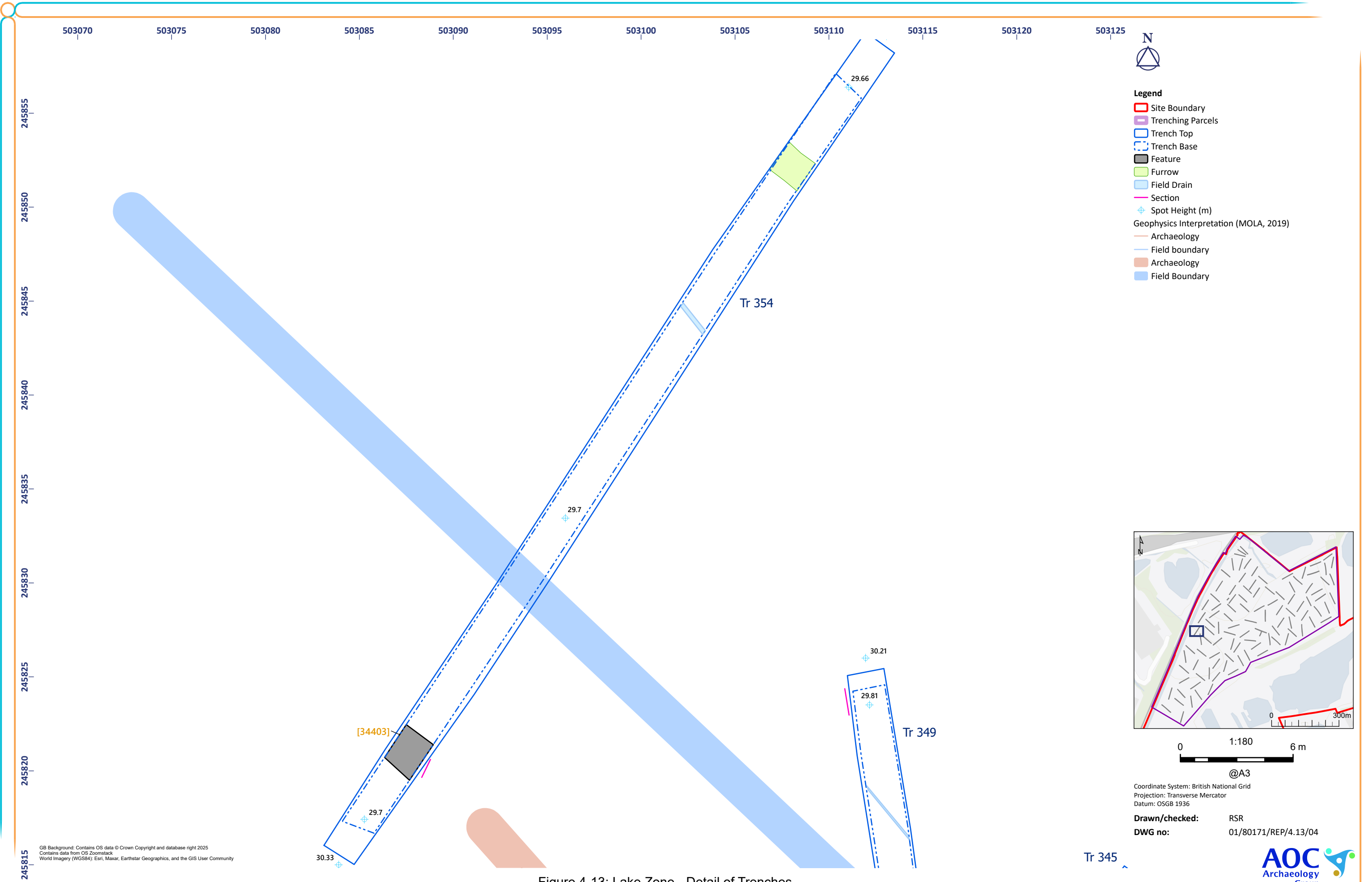
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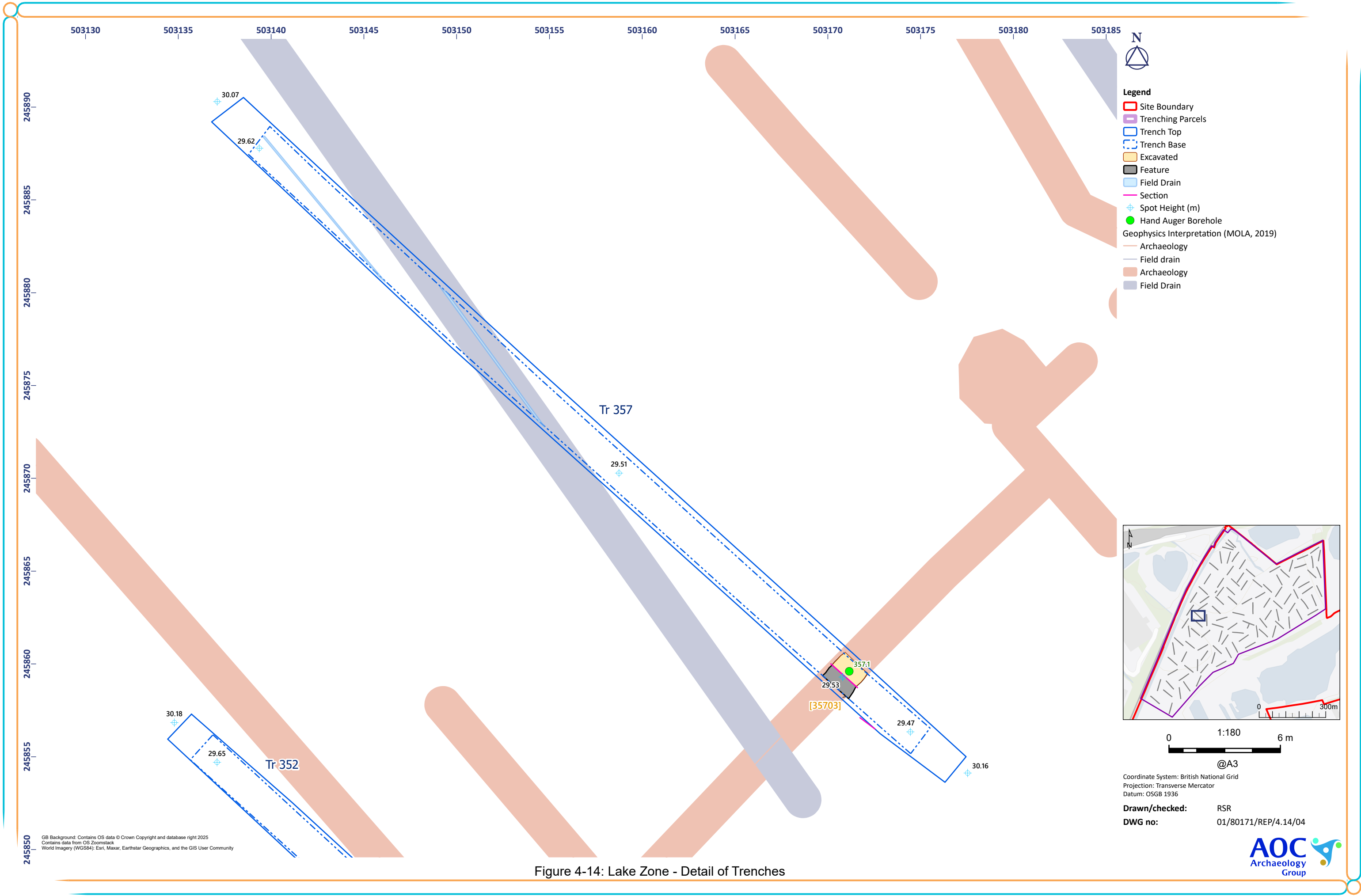
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Figure 4-12: Lake Zone - Detail of Trenches





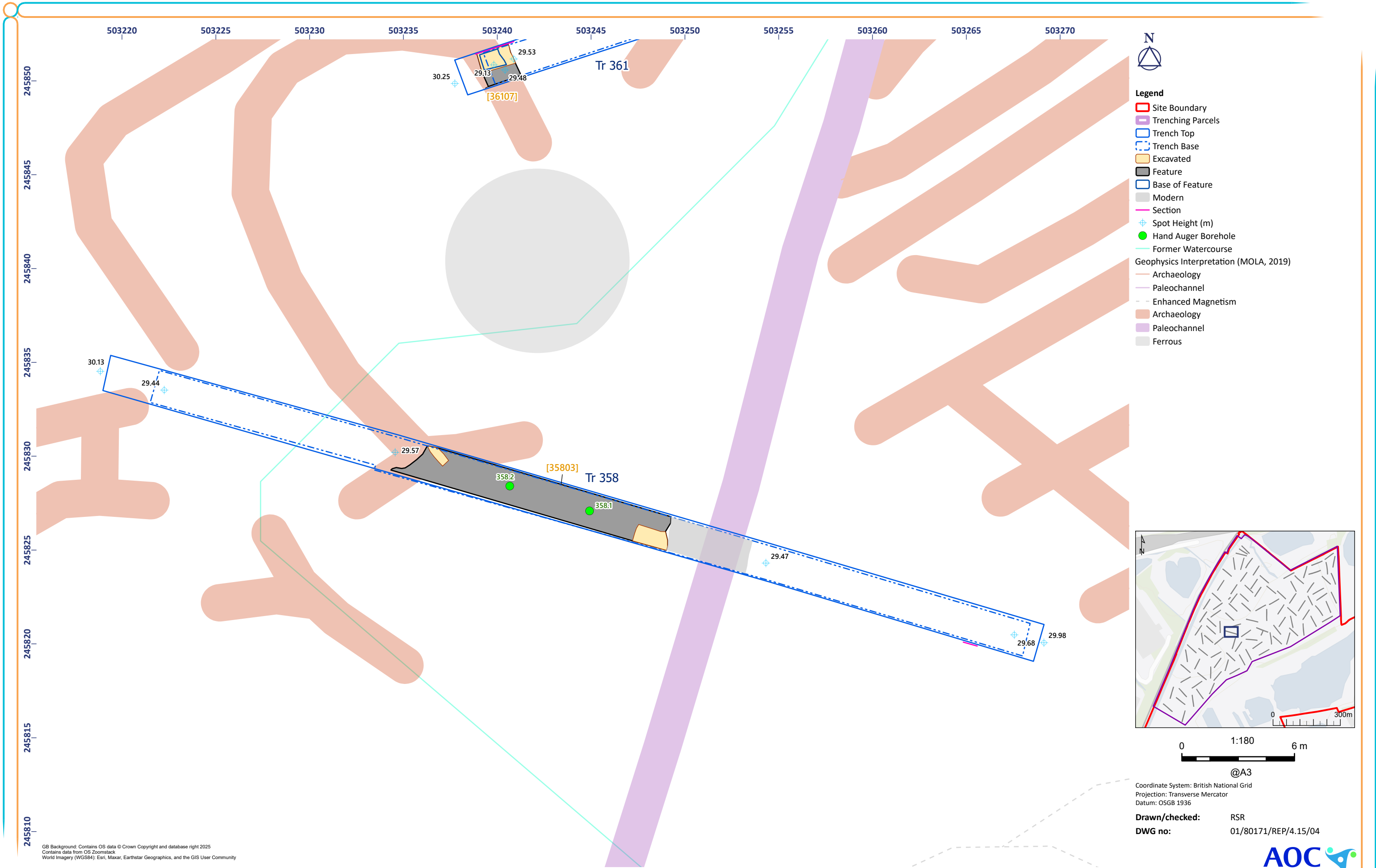


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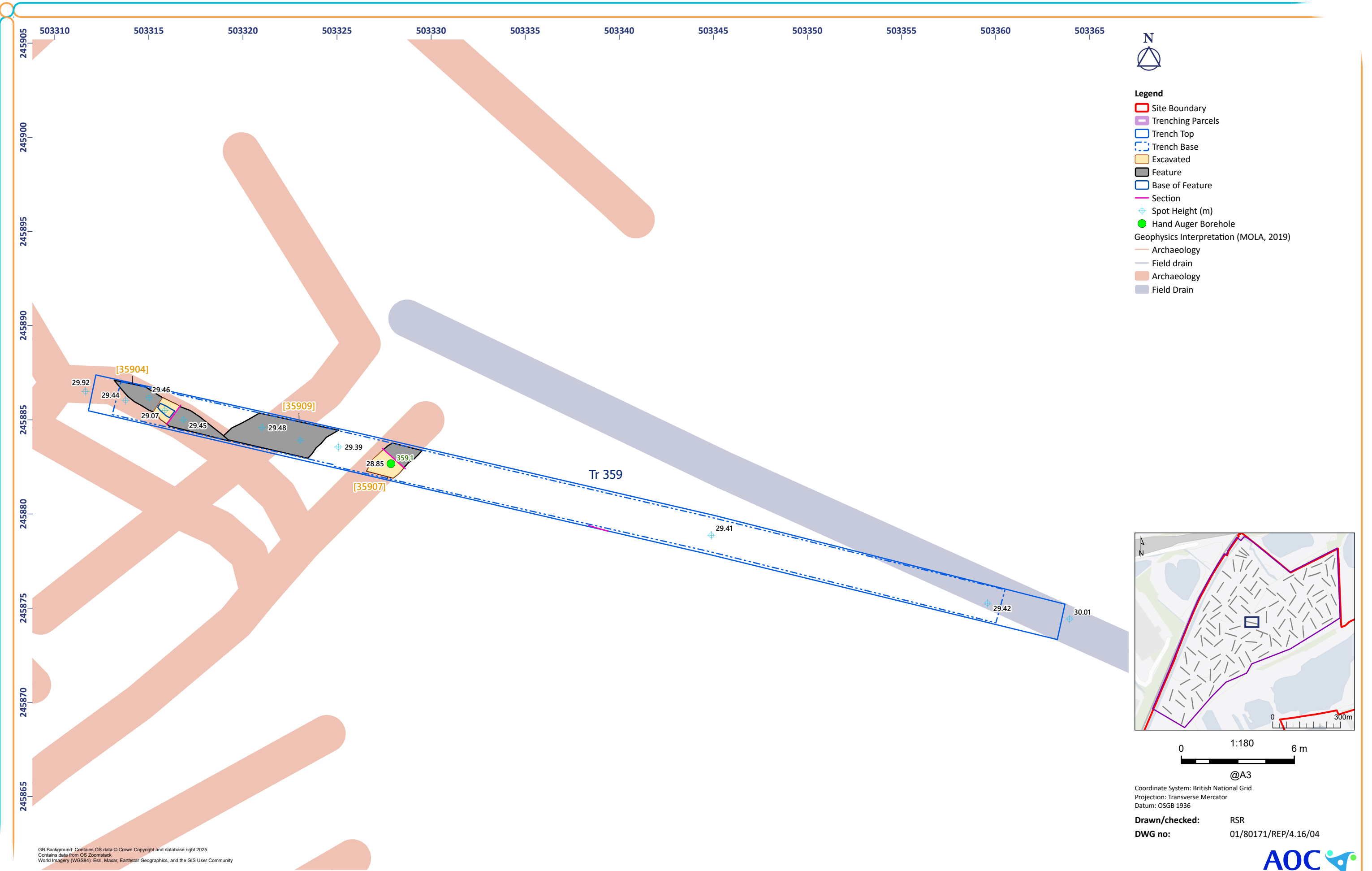
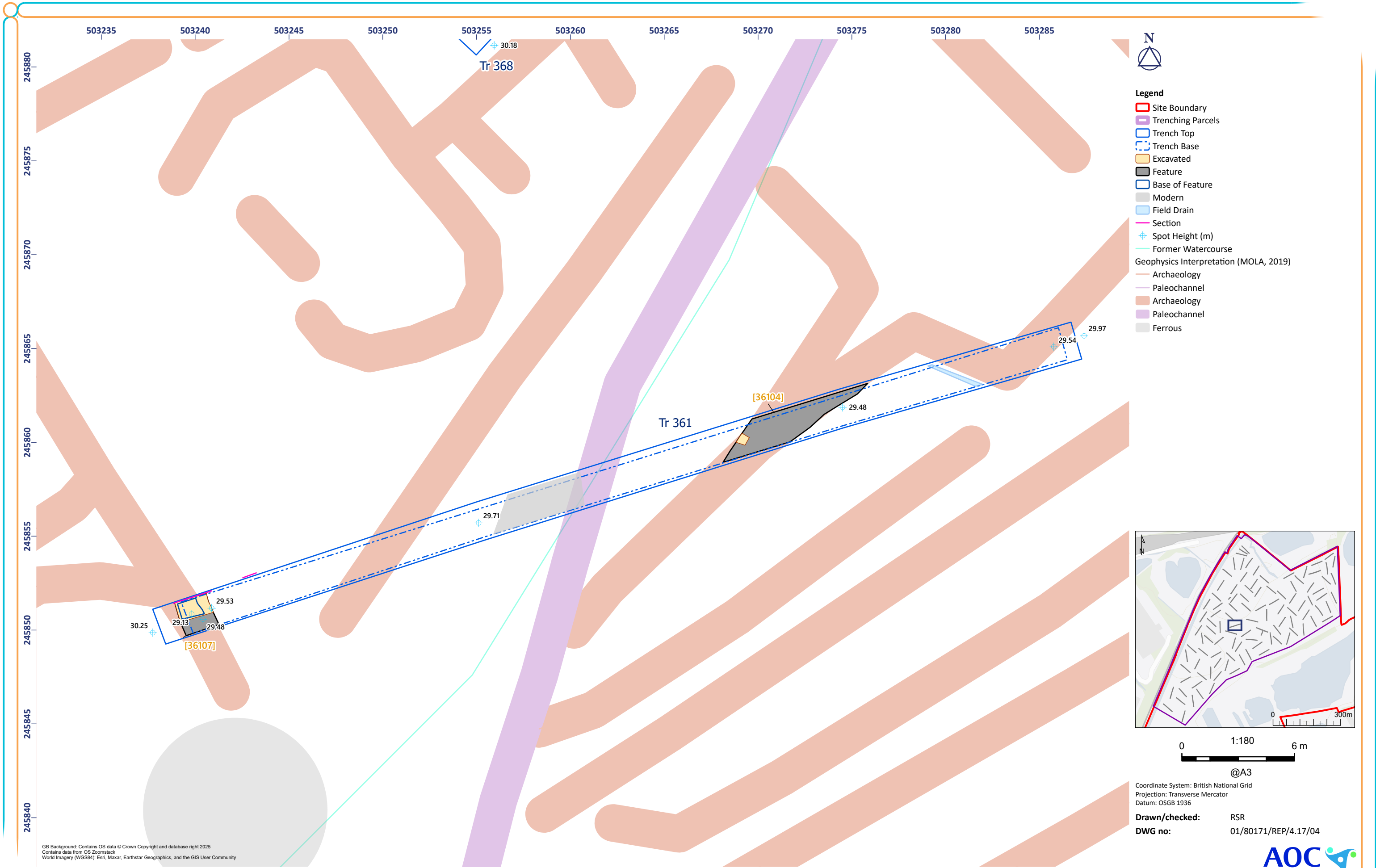
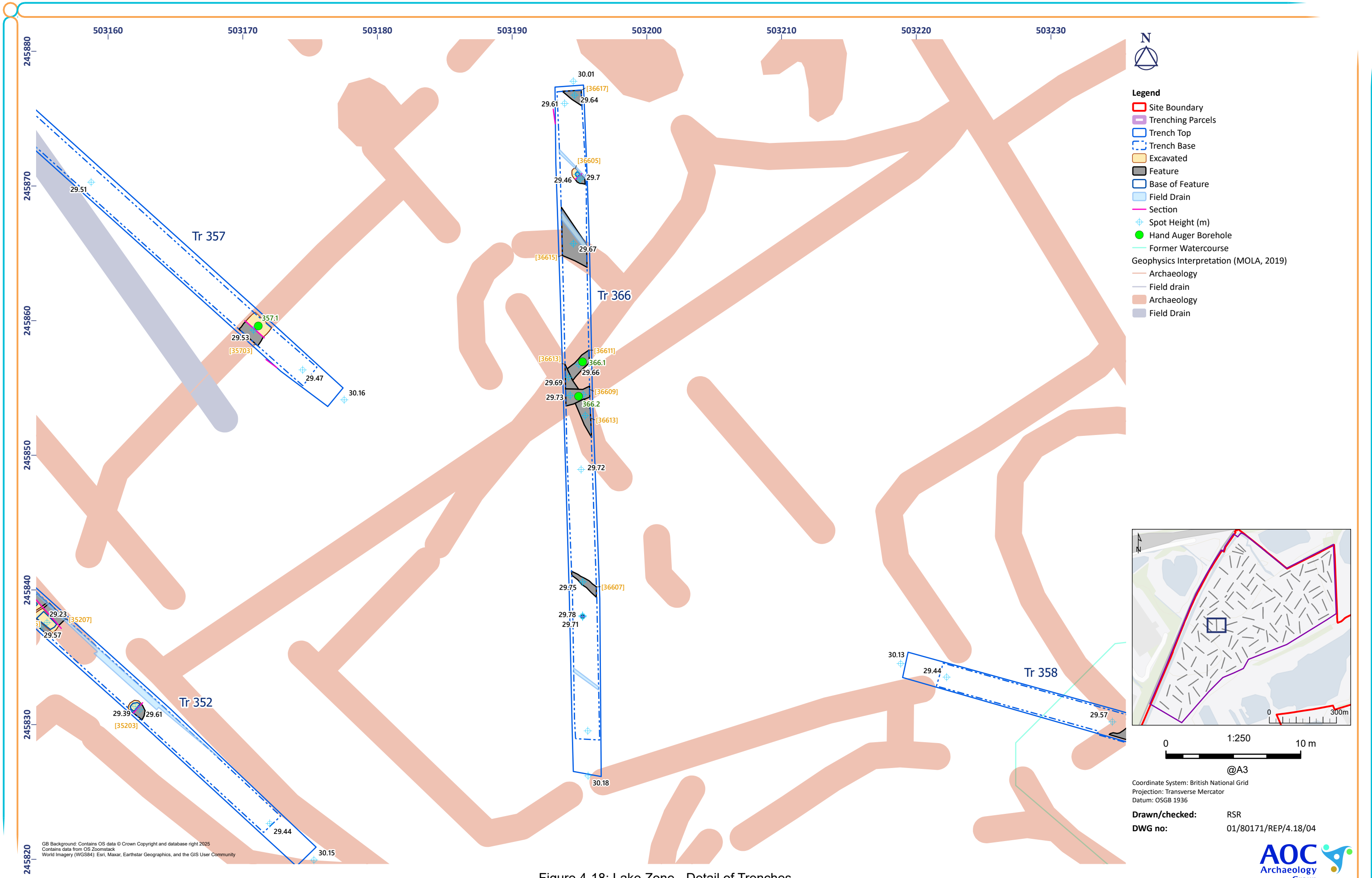
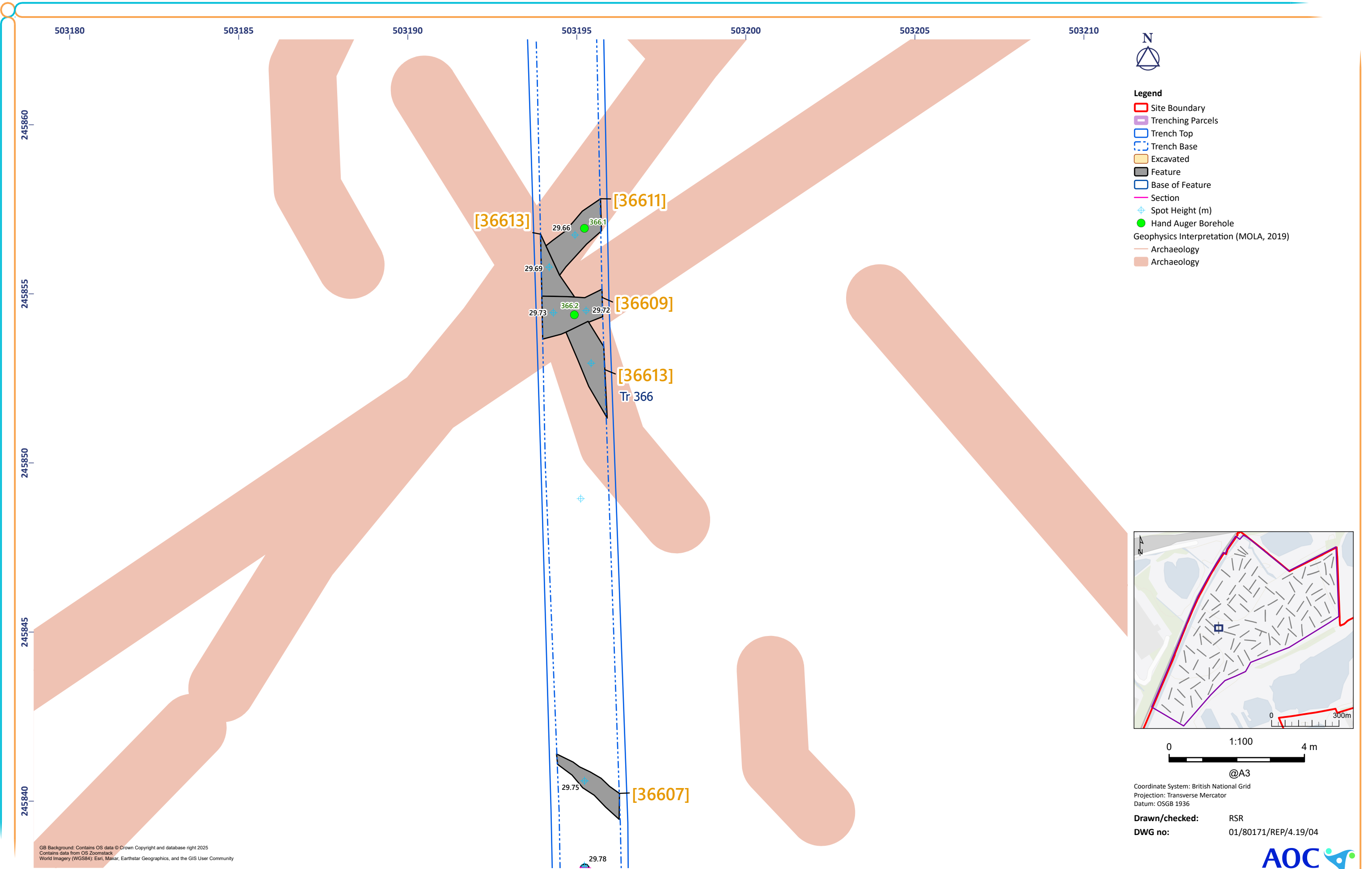
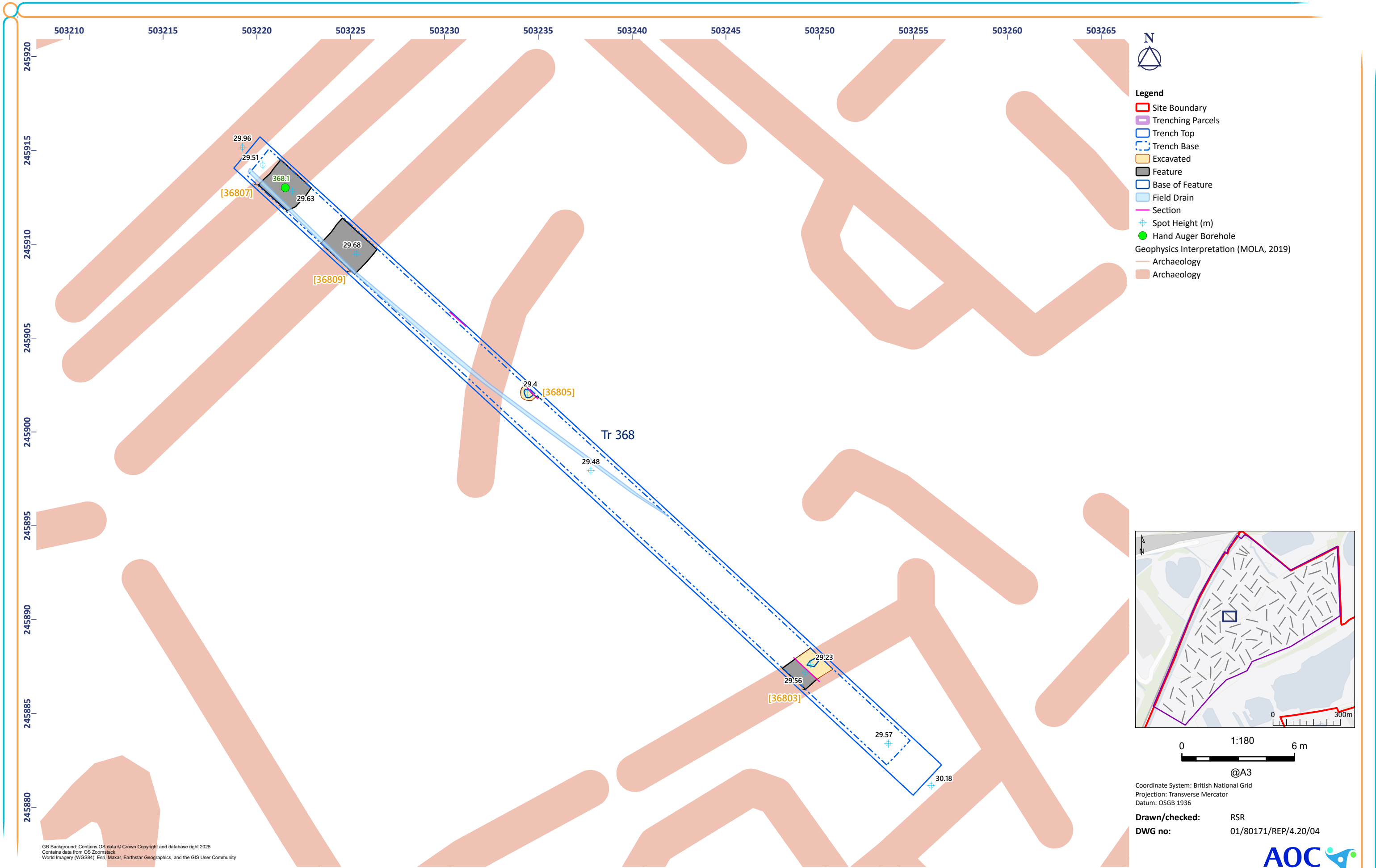


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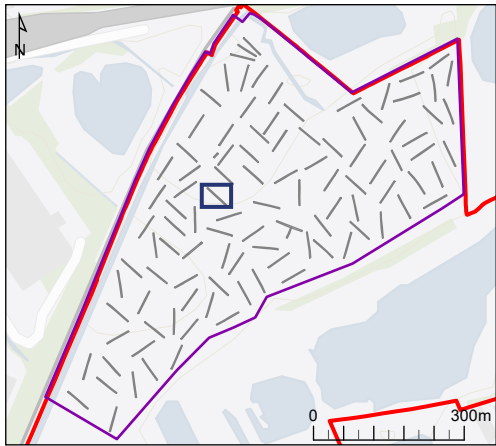






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Figure 4-20: Lake Zone - Detail of Trenches



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Projection: Transverse Mercator
Datum: OSGB 1936

Drawn/checked: RSR
DWG no: 01/80171/REP/4.20/04

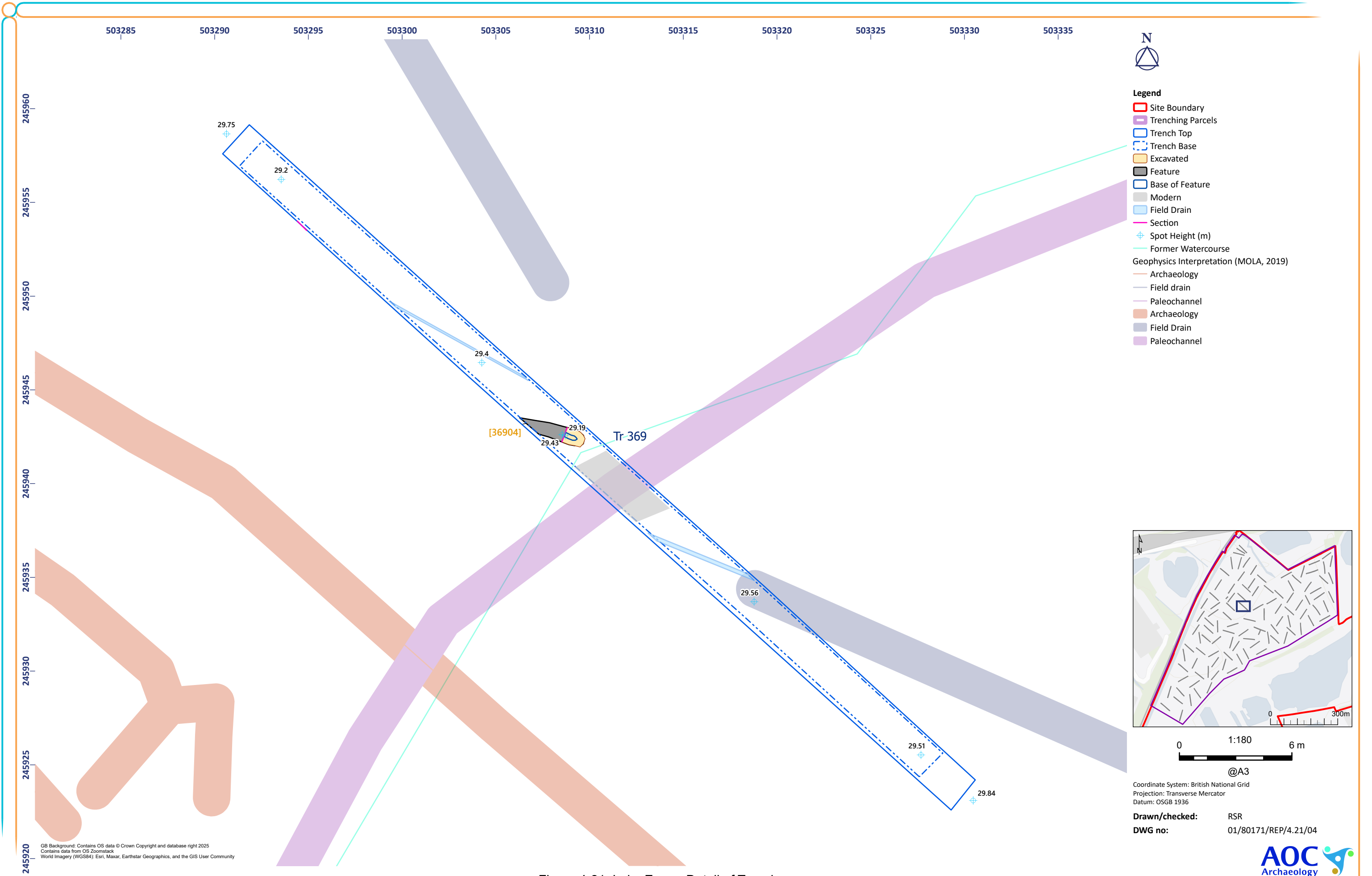
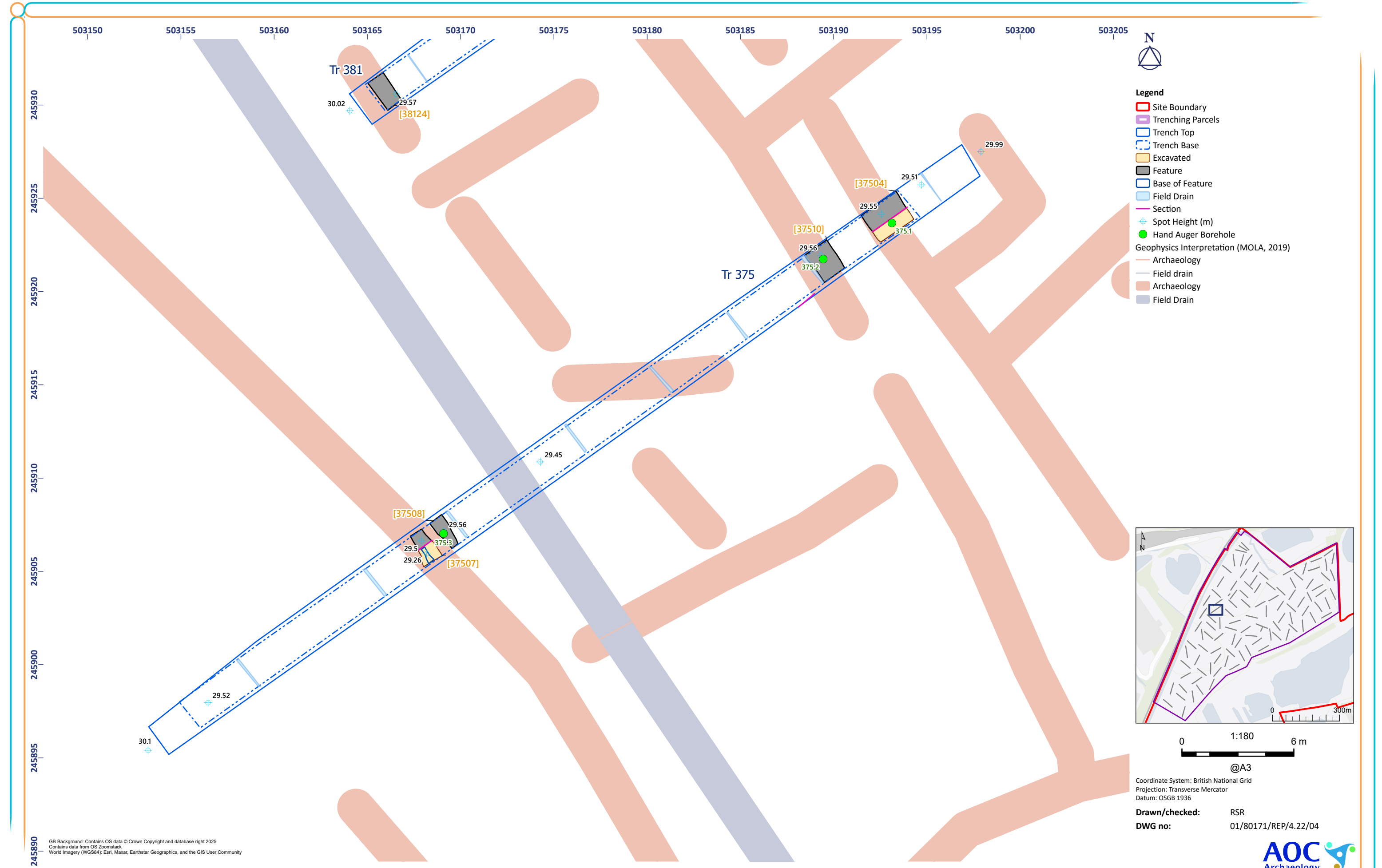
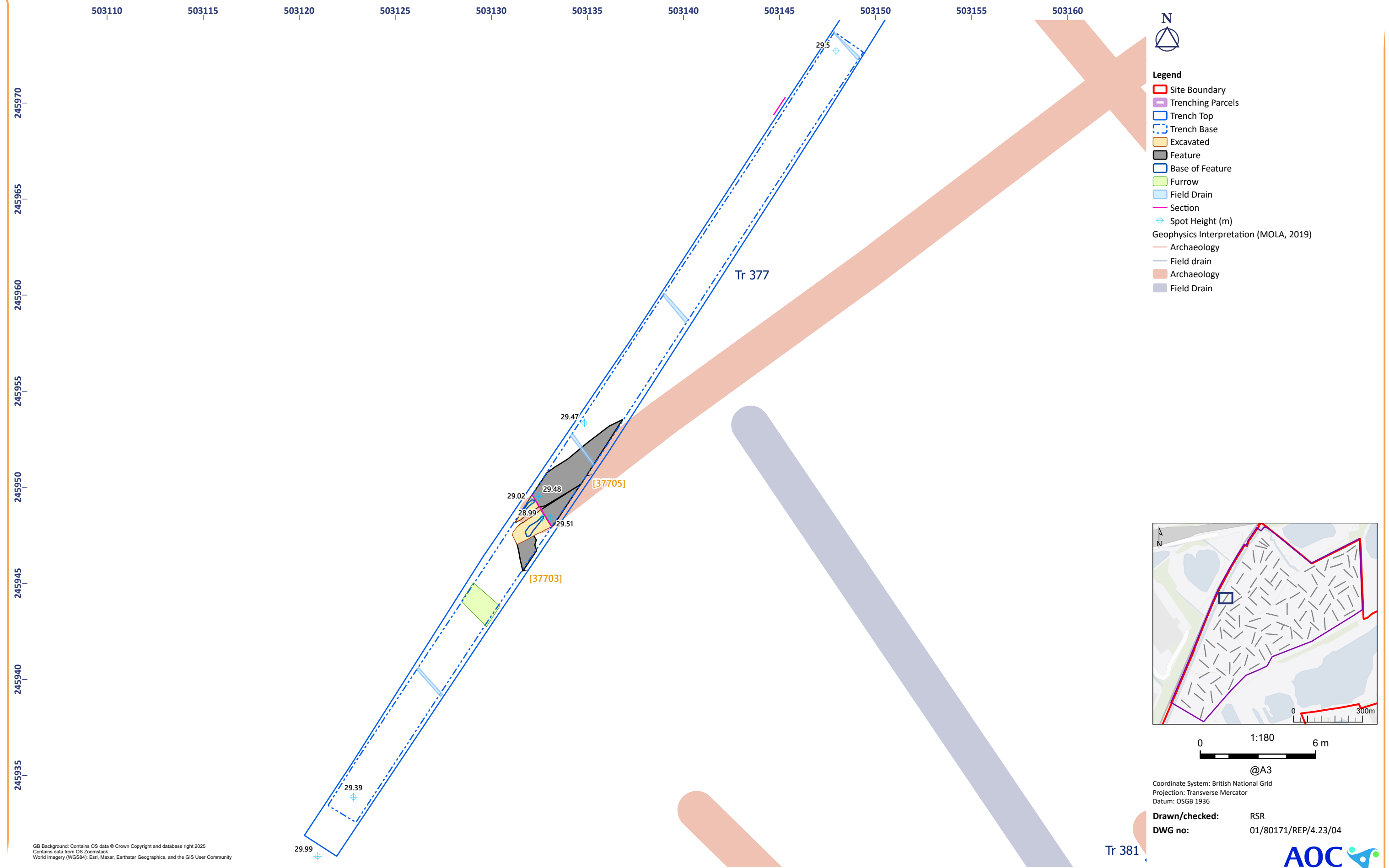
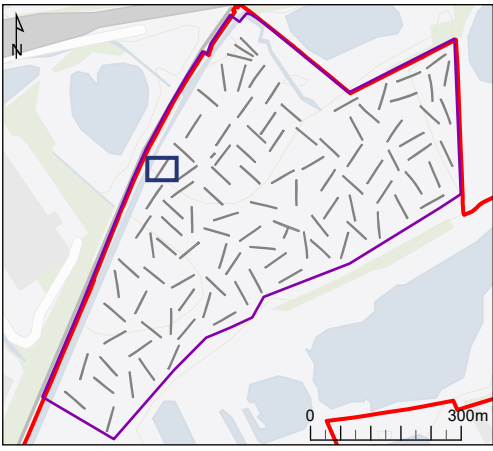


Figure 4-21: Lake Zone - Detail of Trenches





- Legend**
- Site Boundary
 - Trenching Parcels
 - Trench Top
 - Trench Base
 - Excavated
 - Feature
 - Base of Feature
 - Furrow
 - Field Drain
 - Section
 - Spot Height (m)
 - Geophysics Interpretation (MOLA, 2019)
 - Archaeology
 - Field drain
 - Archaeology
 - Field Drain



0 1:180 6 m

@A3
Coordinate System: British National Grid
Projection: Transverse Mercator
Datum: OSGB 1936
Drawn/checked: RSR
DWG no: 01/80171/REP/4.23/04





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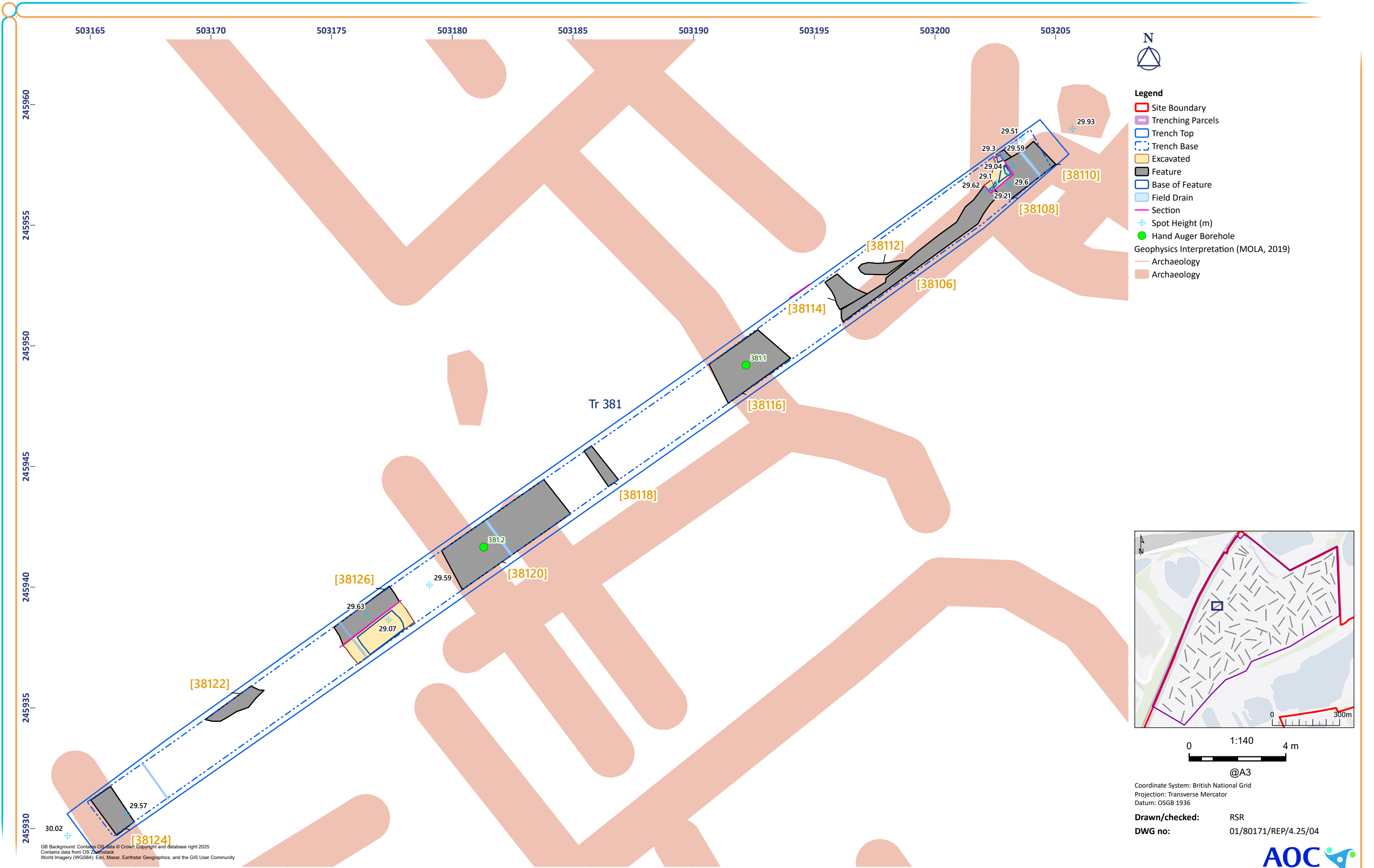
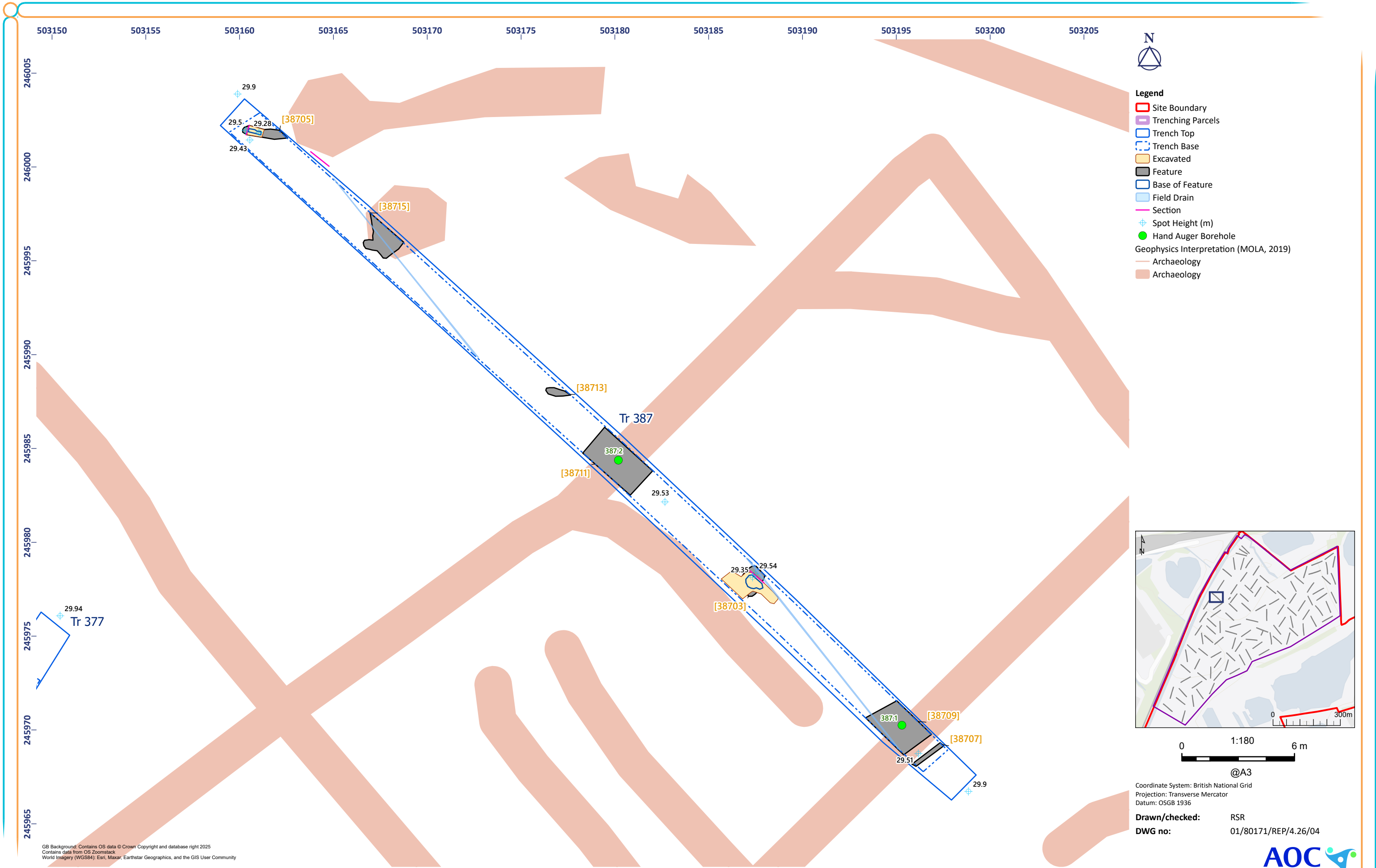
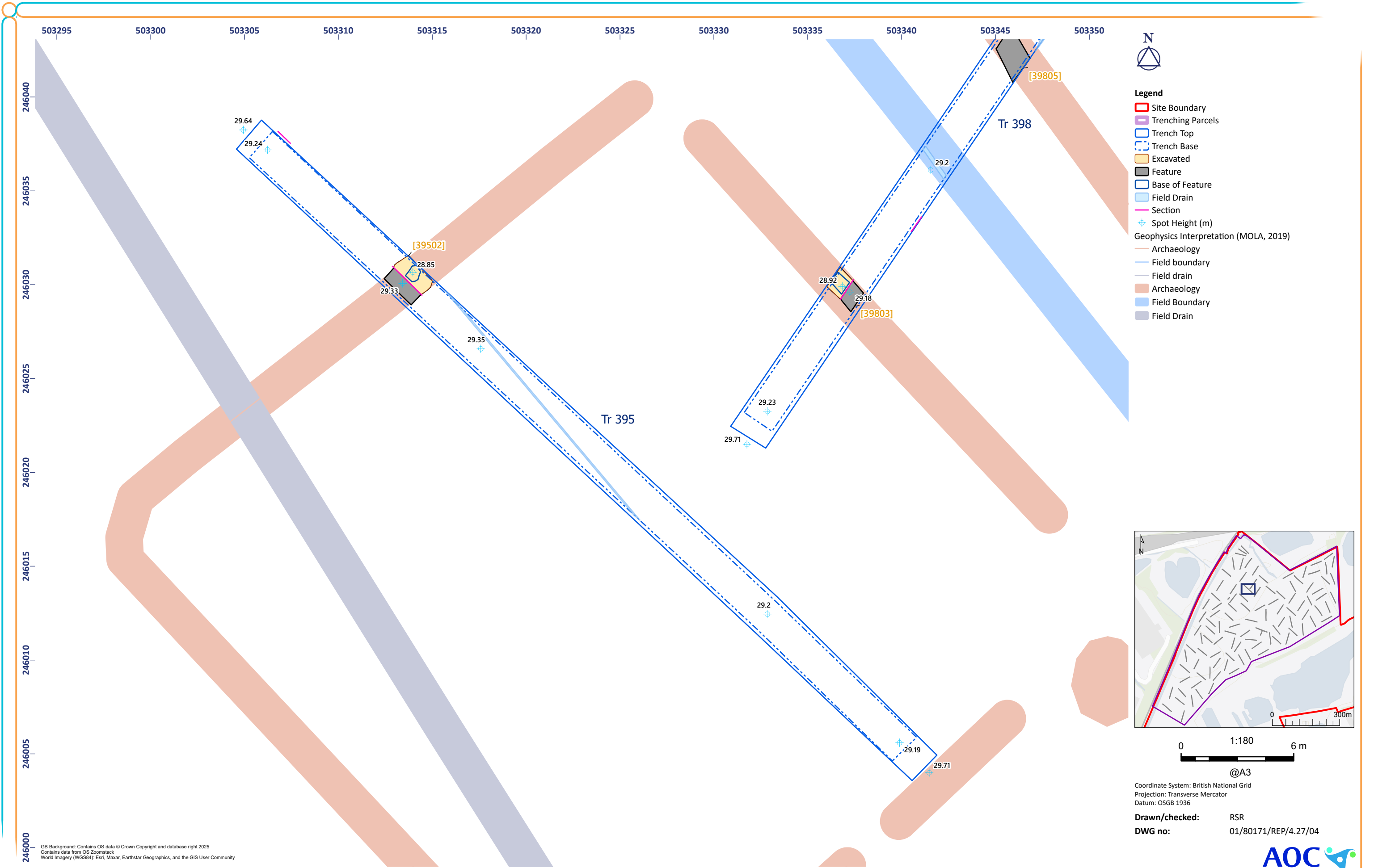
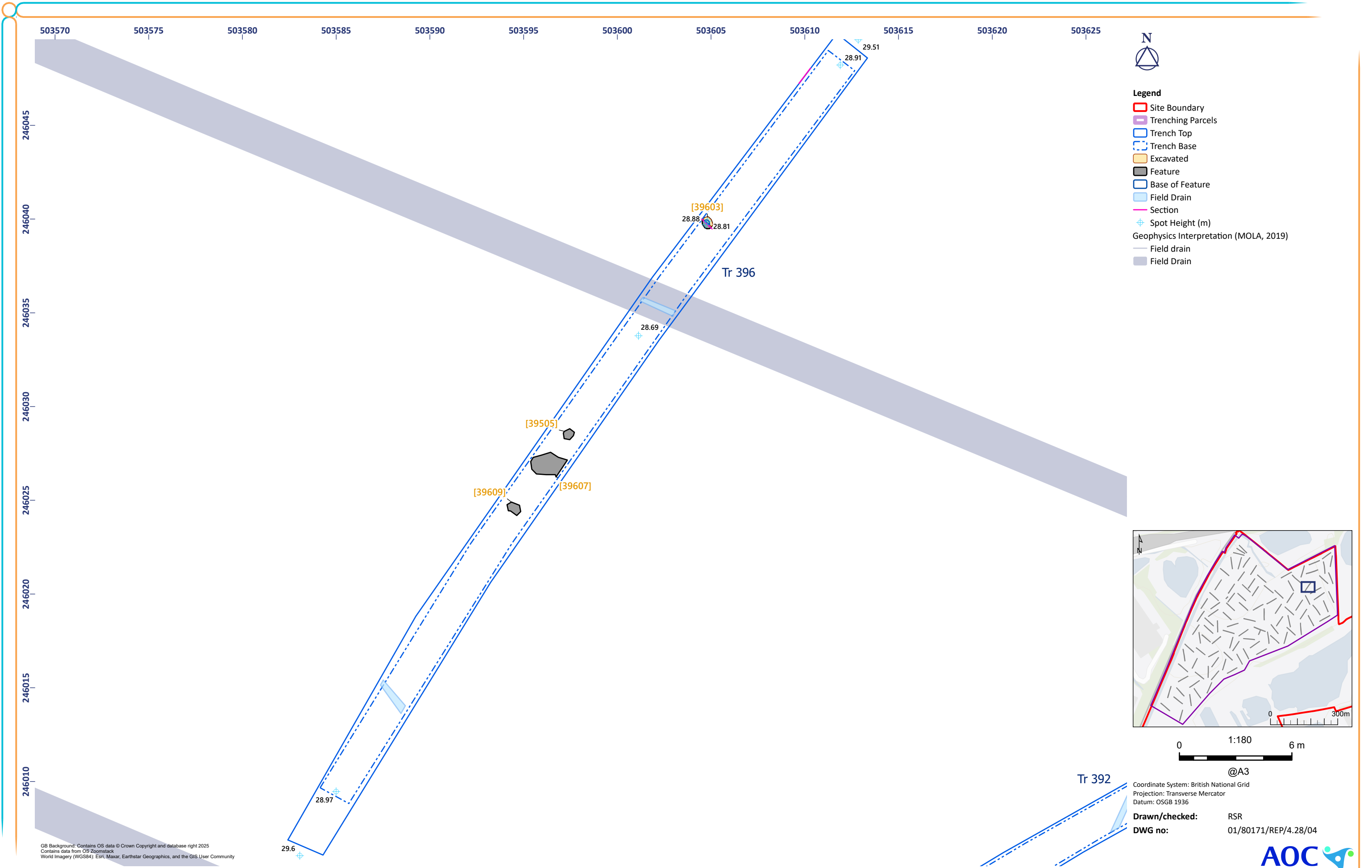


Figure 4-25: Lake Zone - Detail of Trenches







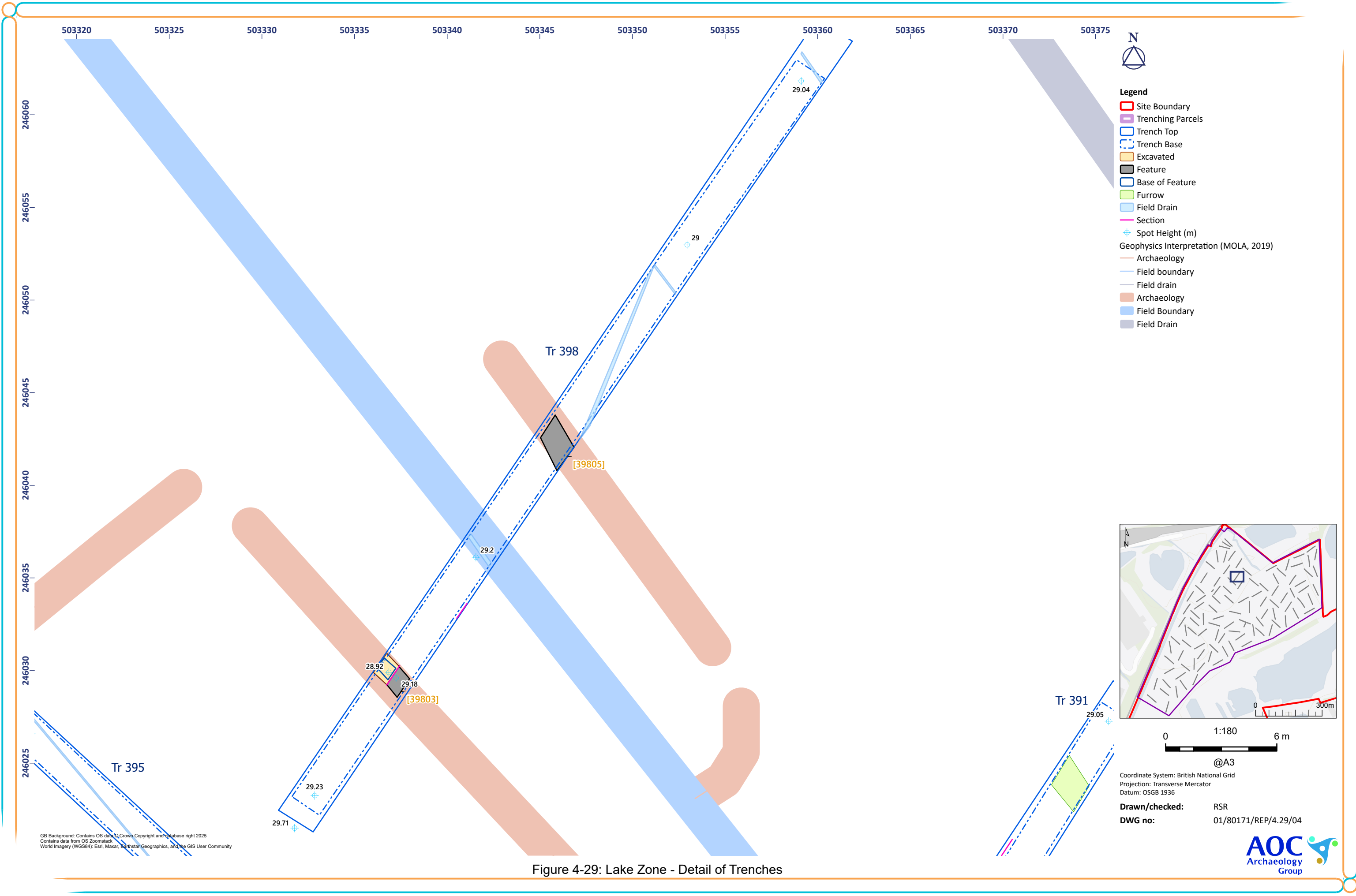
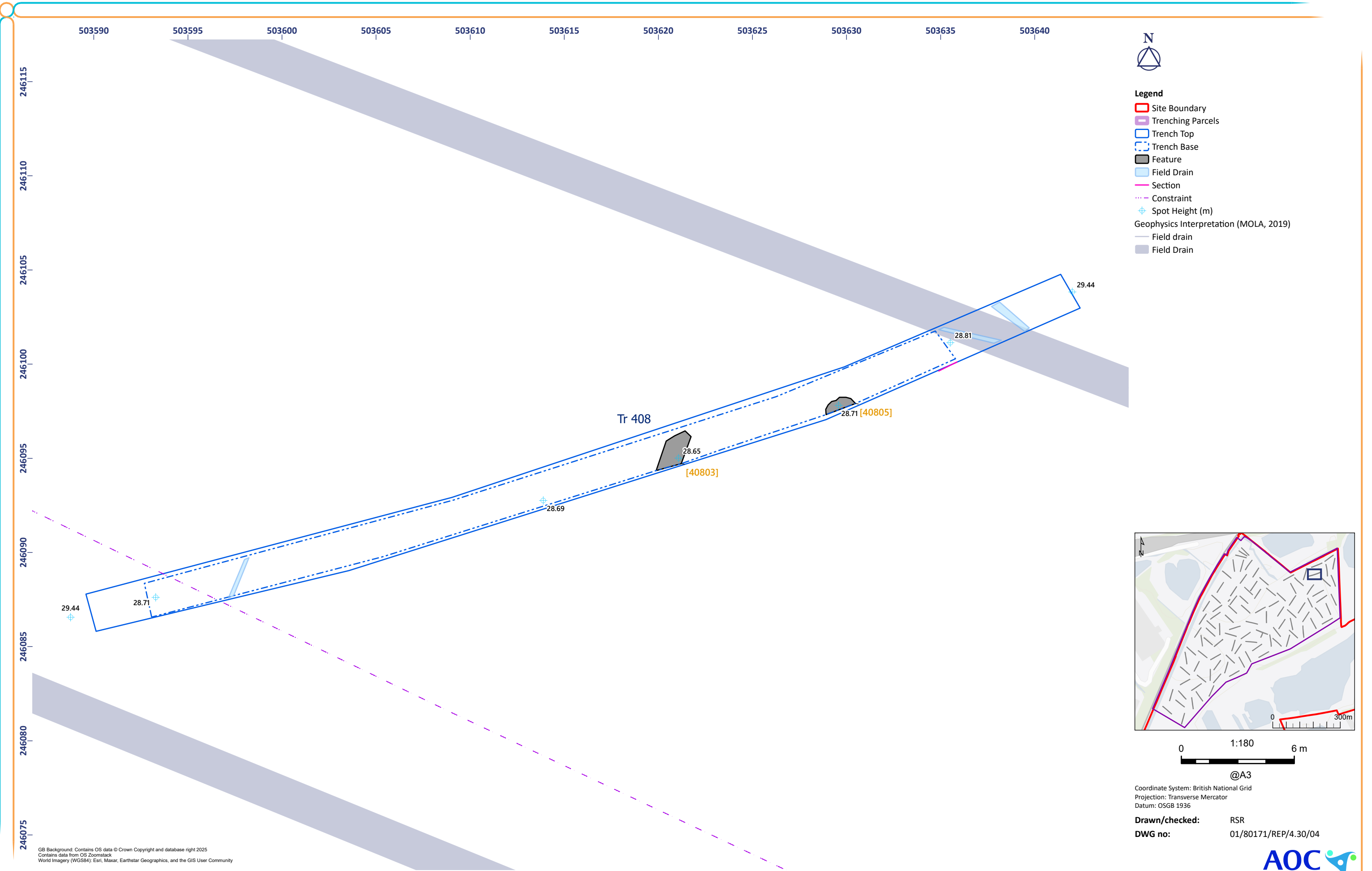


Figure 4-29: Lake Zone - Detail of Trenches



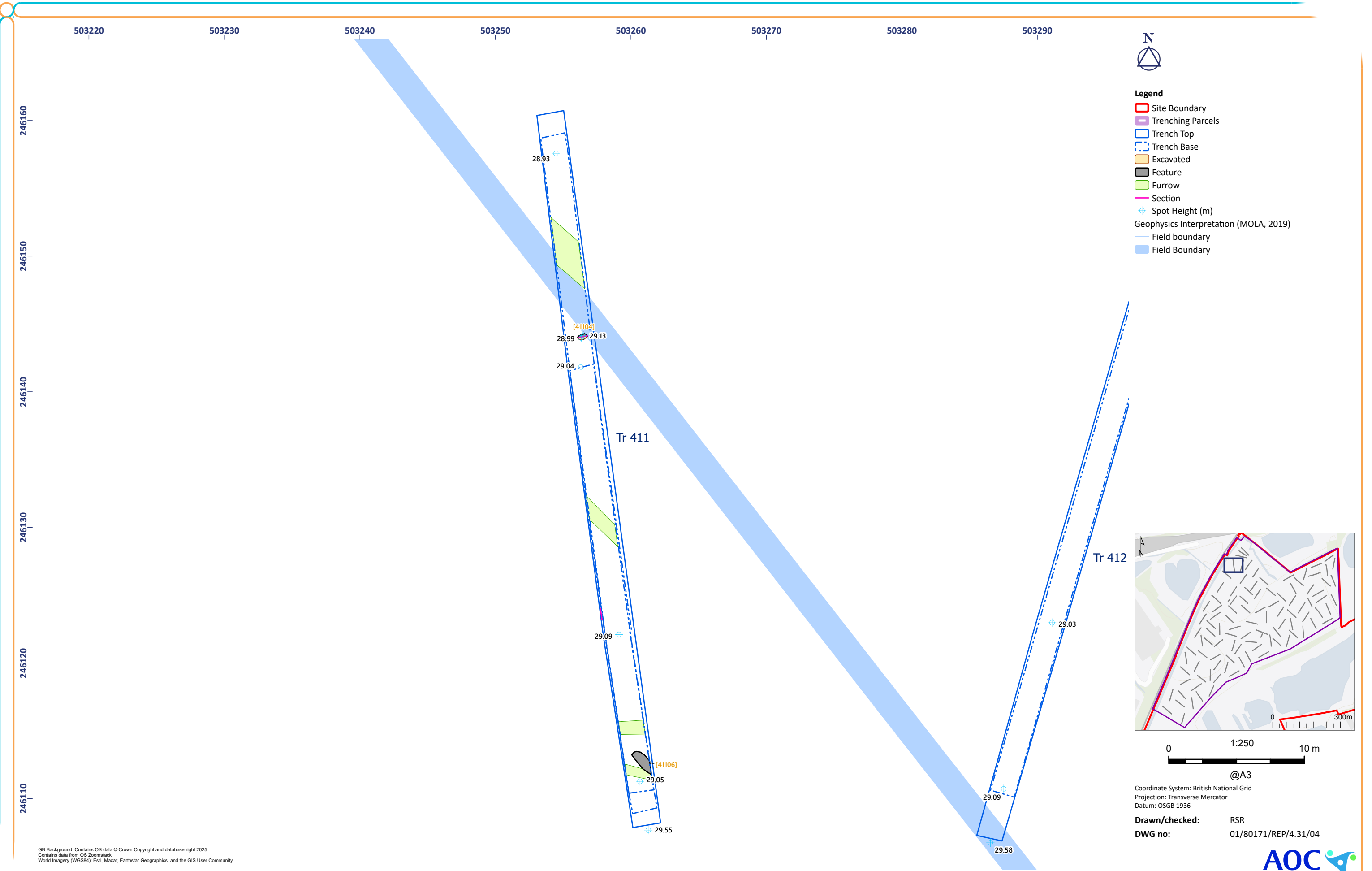


Figure 4-31: Lake Zone - Detail of Trenches

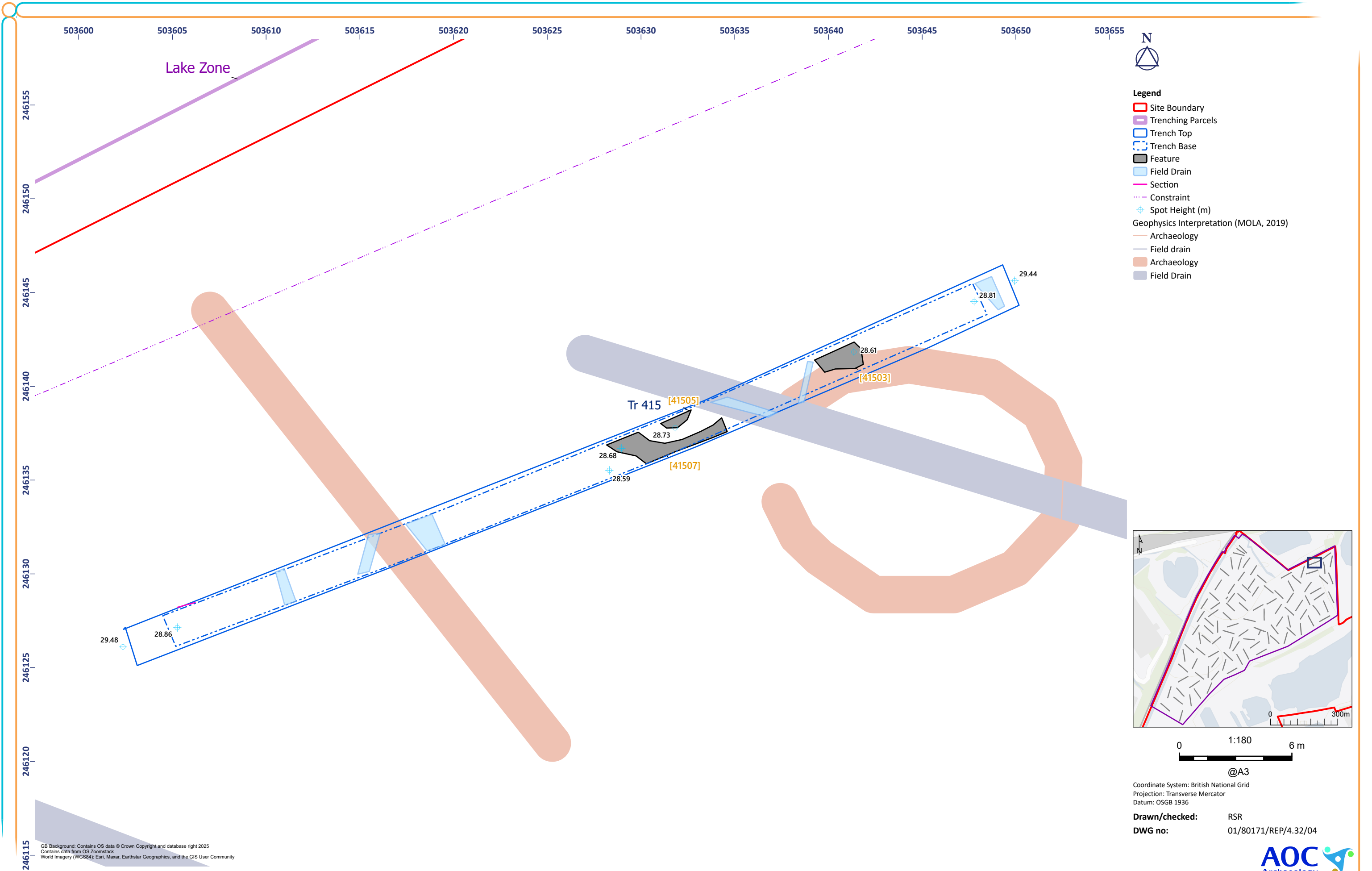


Figure 4-32: Lake Zone - Detail of Trenches

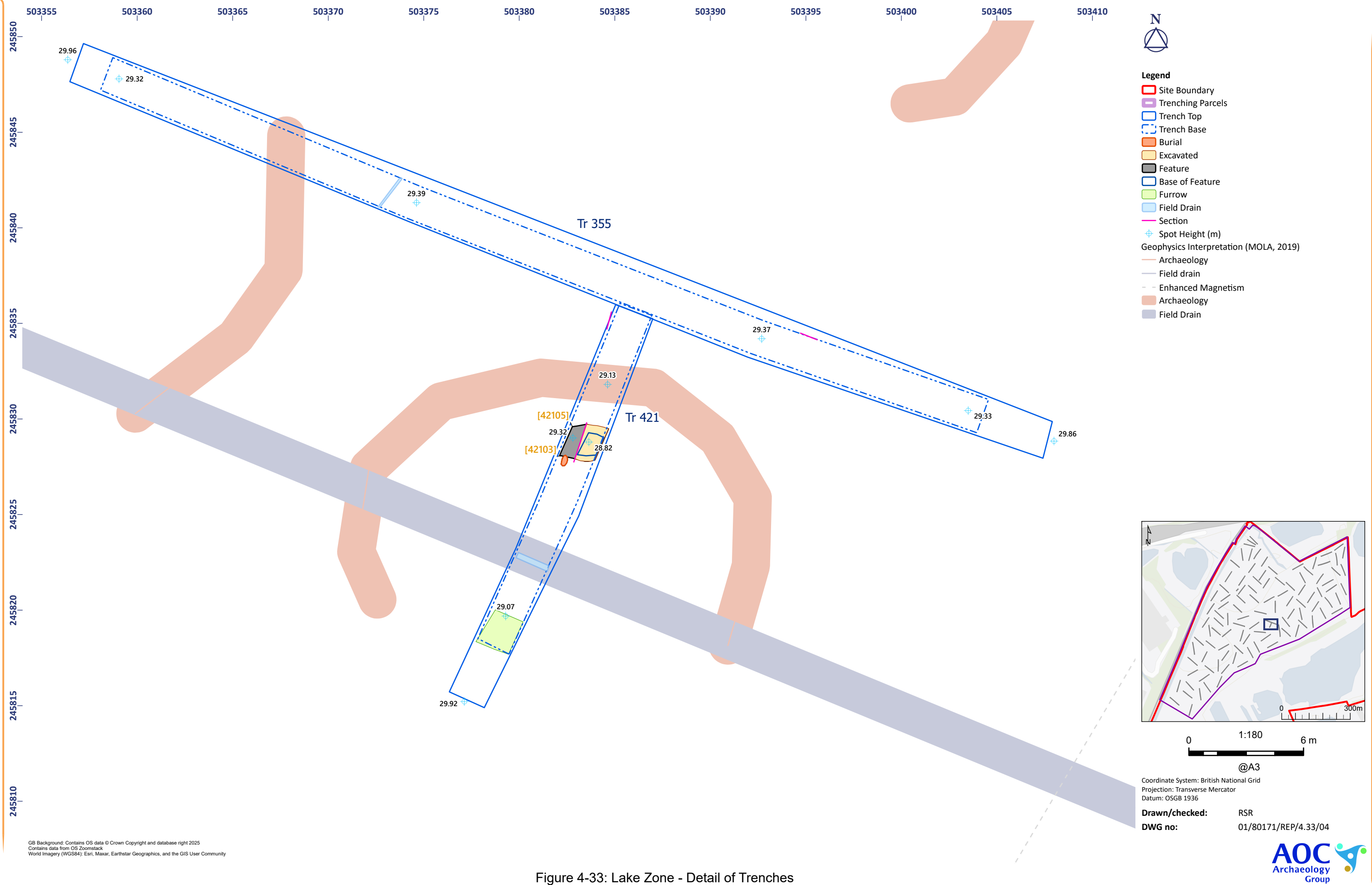
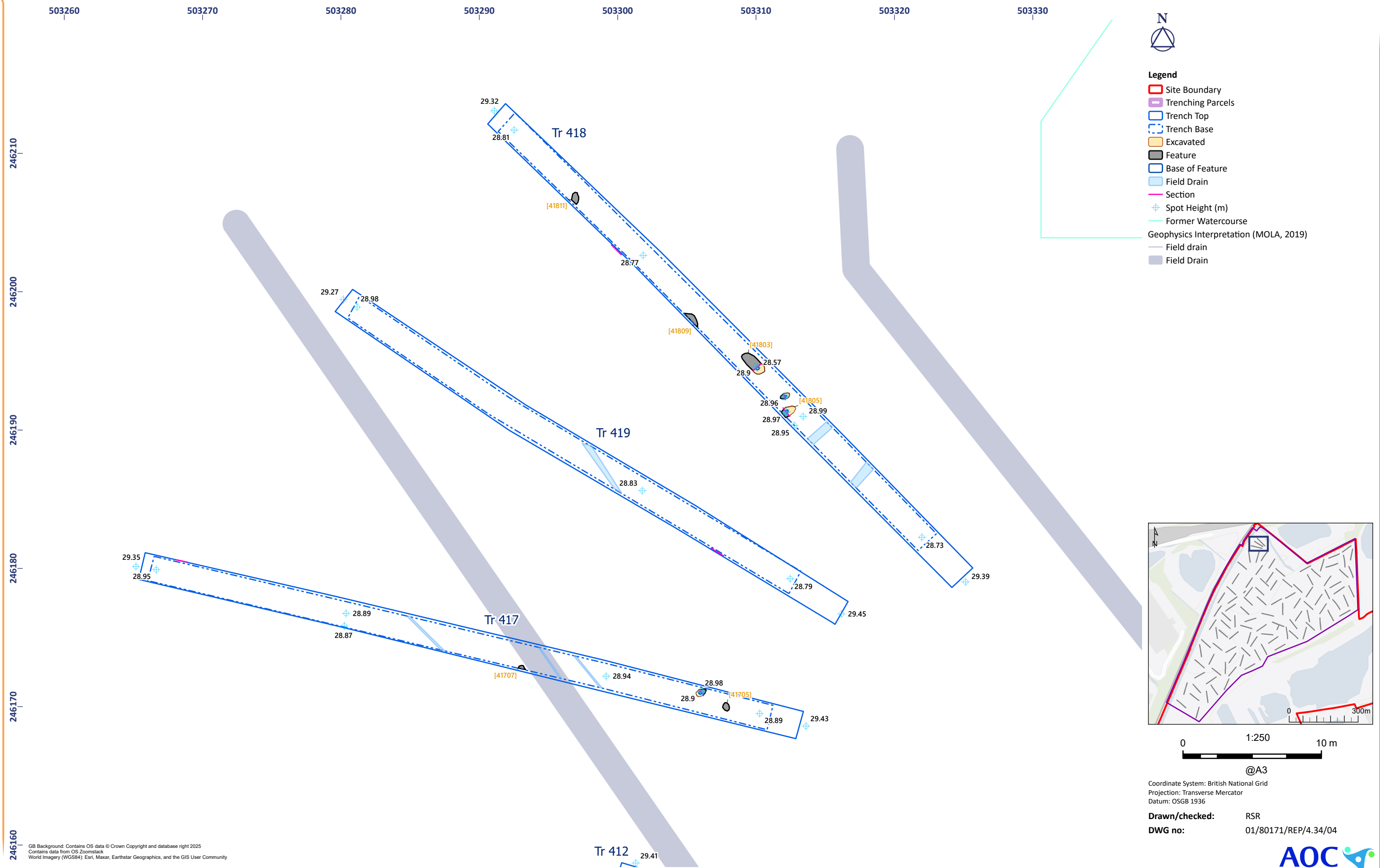


Figure 4-33: Lake Zone - Detail of Trenches



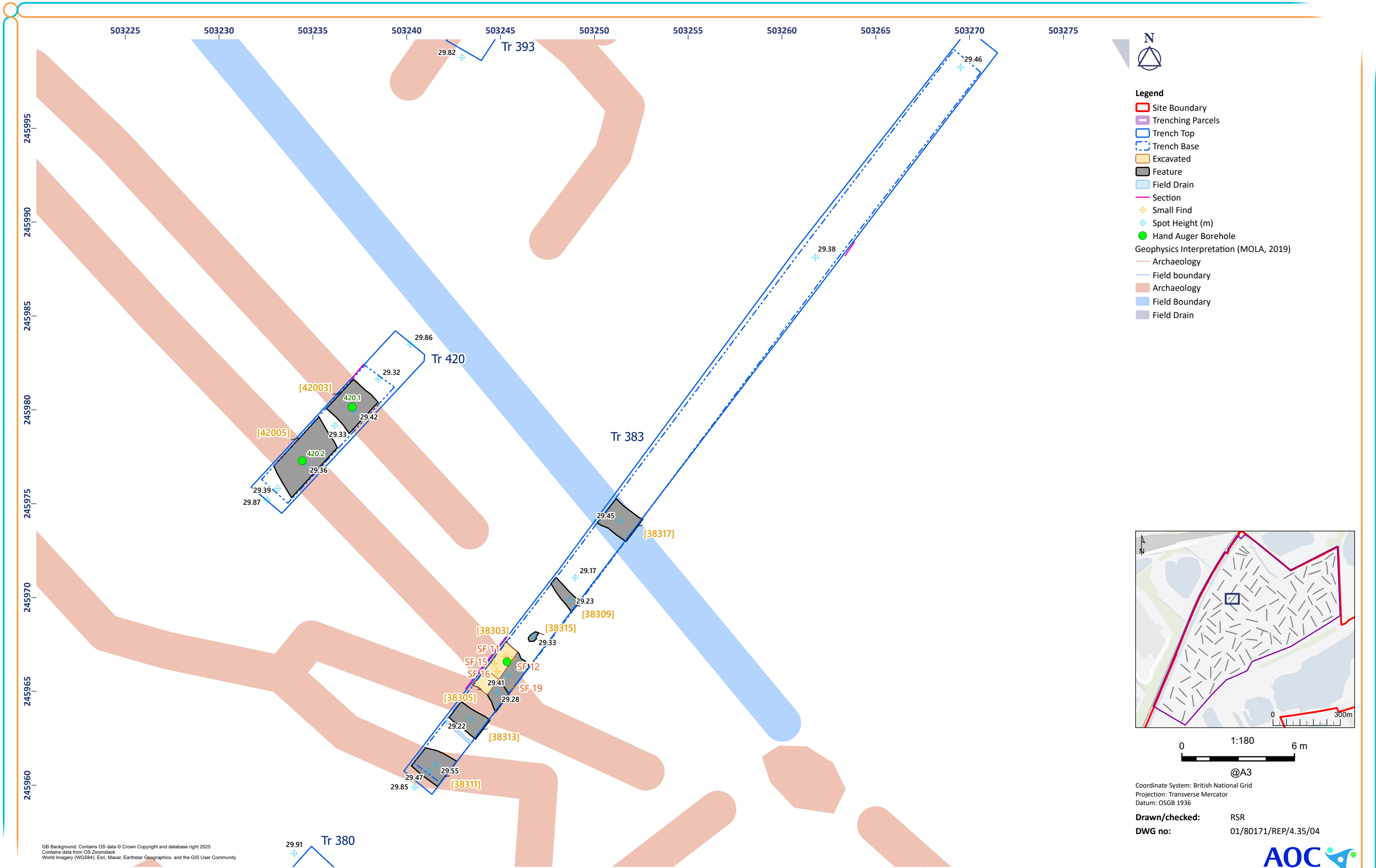


Figure 4-35: Lake Zone - Detail of Trenches