

Minutes

BUCKINGHAMSHIRE HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT FORUM

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE BUCKINGHAMSHIRE HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT FORUM HELD ON THURSDAY 12 SEPTEMBER 2019 IN MEZZANINE ROOM 2, COUNTY HALL, AYLESBURY, COMMENCING AT 2.05 PM AND CONCLUDING AT 4.25 PM.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Members

Mr W Chapple OBE (Chairman)
Mr M Farley
Mr C Harriss
Mr H McCarthy
Newcombe
Mr C Williams

Organisation

Buckinghamshire County Council
Bucks Archaeological Society
Buckinghamshire County Council
Wycombe District Council
Aylesbury Vale District Council
Natural Environment Partnership

Officers

Mrs E Alqassar
Mr P Clements

Ms L Lawrence
Levitt
Shave
Ms J Wise

Organisation

Buckinghamshire County Council
Buckinghamshire County Council - Historical
Records Officer
Buckinghamshire County Council
Aylesbury Vale District Council
Buckinghamshire Museum Trust
Buckinghamshire County Council

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE / CHANGES IN MEMBERSHIP

Apologies were received from Mr N Crank, Mr G Marshall, Mr M Petchey, Mr B Thorn, Mr A Wood, Mr D Sutherland and Mr P Markham

The Chairman gave his apologies for needing to leave the meeting at 3.30pm. Mr H McCarthy would step in as Chairman from that point.

2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were none.

3 MINUTES

The following changes would be made to the minutes of the last meeting:

- Ms E Alqassar's name would be corrected throughout.
- Under item 7 – “Scheduled 17 works- planning applications were outside of parliament and therefore not automatically covered by the act.”
 - The full name of act would be included - “HS2 Schedule 17 applications for works are not covered by the Phase 1 Act of Parliament.”

RESOLVED: The minutes of the meeting held on 4 March 2019 were AGREED as an accurate record with the above changes and signed by the Chairman.

4 MATTERS ARISING

The following points from the meeting held on 4 March 2019 were discussed:

Item 5 – HS2 update, relocation of grassland habitat.

- It was confirmed that the relocation site was large enough to include the requested 120% like for like replacement of habitat at just over 2 hectares.

Item 7 – Quarrendon, Aylesbury, site update.

- Ms E Alqassar, Environment Manager, Buckinghamshire County Council (BCC), had had no further communication about building works. Ms Alqassar would invite the Bucks Conservation Trust to report at the next meeting.

ACTION: Ms Alqassar

Item 13 - HBSMR-web and the archaeology web pages – query over link with Landscape First project

- Ms J Wise, Historic Environment Records Officer, BCC, confirmed she had been involved with the project but had not seen the recently circulated draft paper. Ms Wise would contact Mr D Sutherland, Head of Planning and Environment, BCC, for more information.

ACTION: Ms Wise

5 HS2 UPDATE

Dr D Hounsell, Fusion, gave a presentation a copy of which would be appended to these minutes.

Dr Hounsell highlighted the following areas:

- Updates on the sites in C1 of the programme.
- An overview of the upcoming actions for C2a and C2b sites.

The following points were discussed as a result of questions from members of the forum:

- Dr Hounsell stated the long house at site C2a North Portal, Great Missenden was approximately 8m by 15m with datable material from 7th Century.
- Dr Hounsell stated there would be further examination of a Roman farm at Doddershall deserted medieval village (DMV).

- A member of the forum asked what would happen to St Mary's churchyard in the event of HS2 being cancelled. It was felt there should be mitigation work to restore the churchyard as well as the publication of information gathered to date. Dr Hounsell would raise the issue with HS2 colleagues.

ACTION: Dr Hounsell

- There were concerns that HS2 had not been sharing findings with the wider public as promised. It was noted that no Historic Environment Records (HER) had been published in some time. Dr Hounsell confirmed that Fusion and HS2 were still in discussions as to what form the archive would take. Likely options were to use existing local storage authorities or to create their own central database. Following Heritage Sub Group meeting on 18 September Ms Lawrence would approach HS2 if there had been no satisfactory update.

ACTION: Ms Lawrence

- Dr Hounsell confirmed that Fusion would be working to a programme and did not expect there to be any changes to timescales if expected HS2 delays were formalised.
- Members of the forum asked that a representative from HS2 be invited to the next meeting so questions could be addressed directly.

ACTION: Ms Alqassar

RESOLVED: Members of the forum NOTED the update.

6 BEACONS OF THE PAST

Dr W Morrison, Chiltern Conservation Board (CCB), gave a presentation **a copy of which would be appended to these minutes.**

Dr Morrison highlighted the following:

- The Chilterns LiDAR (Light Detection and Ranging) Portal was now online at <https://chilternsbeacons.org/wp/>:
 - The portal contained data from a bespoke LiDAR survey of the Chilterns and some surrounding areas which was now available to view online. Dr Morrison had also presented Buckinghamshire County Council's Archaeology staff with a hard drive containing the data.
 - The survey was the largest LiDAR survey for archaeology purposes in the country covering 1400 km².
 - The project was seeking volunteers to review data flagging potential sites of interest. Free e-learning would be provided and anyone could join.
- Tier one projects:
 - Magnetometer surveys at Desborough Castle had been inconclusive. Natural England had been sympathetic to plans for trench work in 2020.
 - Work at Seven Ways Plain, Burnham Beeches, was ongoing with the support of volunteers.
- Education and outreach:
 - The CCB were in the process of building an online portal to support teachers with continued personal development (CPD) and delivering

- prehistory lessons. The aim was to promote the inclusion of prehistory on the National Curriculum and to provide accurate teaching resources.
- CCB were working with local artists to produce work based on the LiDAR survey.
- Various pop up and training events were planned.
- Events:
 - Chilterns Walking Festival, 5 – 10 October 2019.
 - Aylesbury Waterside Festival 14 September 2019.
 - Historic Routeways Walk, CCB - 13 October 2019
 - Grimm’s Ditch Walk, CCB – 16 October 2019

Dr Morrison agreed with Ms S Shave, Buckinghamshire Museum Trust (BMT), that she and colleagues would promote the Buckinghamshire Museum Trust’s own prehistory events.

<https://www.buckscountymuseum.org/museum/schools/our-workshops/prehistory-workshop/>

RESOLVED: Members of the forum NOTED the update.

7 NATIONAL TRUST UPDATE

An update had been received from Mr G Marshall, The National Trust, and circulated as a supplement to the agenda.

RESOLVED: Members of the forum NOTED the update.

8 BUCKS NATURAL ENVIRONMENT PARTNERSHIP UPDATE

Mr C Williams, Natural Environment Partnership (NEP) gave a verbal update.

Mr Williams highlighted the following:

- The partnership currently had three areas of focus:
 - Ensuring all local plans addressed environmental issues and biodiversity offsetting. Included commenting on local proposals such as the Heathrow expansion consultation.
 - The Oxford/Cambridge arch proposal. The partnership had produced a map and environmental strategy for the ARC. Their proposal was currently out for consultation with five partnership agencies and would be shared once finalised.
 - Project work on:
 - River Ouse.
 - Parkland garden.
 - Aylesbury Garden Town woodland including the planting of black poplar trees.
 - Reopening Milton Keynes to Bedford canal branch.
 - Burnham Beeches.

The following points were discussed as a result of questions from members of the forum:

- It was confirmed the NEP and Ms E Alqassar, Environment Manager, BCC, had already spoken about the issues of pasture verses woodland and the importance of supporting the historic environment
- Local Area Plans would help to identify preferred areas of development. NEP would be asking for a 20% replacement of biodiversity along with carbon offsetting for all schemes either directly or via funding.
- It was confirmed the NEP would work within urban areas for example with the Aylesbury Garden Town (AGT) project. For AGT this would involve supporting the inclusion of wooded areas around the town, promoting green areas on new estates and joining green areas across different estates to form green walkways.

RESOLVED: Members of the forum NOTED the update.

9 CONSERVATION OFFICER UPDATE

Jo Horton, Aylesbury Vale District (AVDC) gave a verbal update.

The following points were highlighted by the AVDC officers:

- A review of the [Mentmore conservation area](#) would be out for consultation from Monday 16 September until Friday 8 November 2019.
- The [Little Horwood conservation area](#) review had been completed. Proposed boundary changes would go before AVDC Cabinet Members at their Council meeting on 18 September 2019.

The following points were discussed as a result of questions from members of the forum:

- Mentmore Towers – there had been proposals put forward for work on the tower but those were on hold. AVDC were currently working with the owner to ensure the building was watertight. There would be no further plans for restoration following the construction of the golf course.

RESOLVED: Members of the forum NOTED the update.

10 MUSEUM UPDATE

Ms S Shave, Director of The Bucks Museum Trust (BMT), gave a verbal update.

Ms Shave highlighted the following:

- Current exhibitions at the County Museum included:
 - Buckinghamshire prehistory.
 - Wildlife gallery.
 - How people live.
 - A new multi media guide based on Cecily Baker, one of the first curators of the museum, had been developed. The hard launch would be in the November half term however guides were already available on request.

- Building works to be undertaken included:
 - Improvements to the downstairs galleries which included the creation of a flexible learning space. Possible start date was March 2020.
 - Improvements in the Tudor rooms.
 - The wider museum would remain open during the works with individual areas being unavailable as necessary.
- BMT were actively developing relationships with members of the community who might not normally use the museum. To support this goal they had been hosting events such as:
 - Community Iftar celebrations.
 - Festival of Colour celebrations.
 - Festival of Light celebrations.
 - LGBTQ Pride (November 2019).
 - Touch tours for disabled visitors.

RESOLVED: Members of the forum NOTED the update.

11 MK UPDATE

Mr N Crank, Senior Archaeological Officer, MKC, had sent his apologies.

12 BUCKS ARCHAEOLOGY TEAM

Ms L Lawrence, Archaeology Officer, BCC, tabled a report **which would be appended to the minutes.**

Ms Lawrence highlighted the following:

- The policy had been written in response to issues relating to a large hoard of coins found during a metal detecting rally on the Hambleden Estate in March 2019.
- The policy acknowledged that BCC did not have the resources for officers to attend such events. Instead the policy would give detectorists and officers clear information about their responsibilities and the implications of failing to meet them.
- The policy would be available on the BCC website and would be publicised among large groups and organisations of detectorists.

The following points were discussed as a result of questions from members of the forum:

- There was concern that the policy put the onus on the detectorists to pay a private company to assess finds. It was acknowledged that some people may not follow the policy but that it aimed to balance limited resources with advising on best practice.
- Officers were asked to review the terminology used to ensure accessibility. It was also queried if reference to detectorists rallies should be removed

ACTION: Ms Lawrence

- It was confirmed that Ms Lawrence, Ms E Alqassar, Ms A Wood, Mr B. Thorn and

Mr N Crank had reviewed the document which had not been published online yet.

RESOLVED: Members of the forum AGREED the policy subject to the changes listed above.

13 BUCKS AND MILTON KEYNES METAL DETECTING POLICY

Ms L Lawrence, Archaeology Officer, BCC, tabled a report **which would be appended to the minutes.**

Ms Lawrence highlighted the following:

- The policy had been written in response to issues relating to a large hoard of coins found during a metal detecting rally on the Hambleton Estate in March 2019.
- The policy acknowledged that BCC did not have the resources for officers to attend such events. Instead the policy would give detectorists and officers clear information about their responsibilities and the implications of failing to meet them.
- The policy would be available on the BCC website and would be publicised among large groups and organisations of detectorists.

The following points were discussed as a result of questions from members of the forum:

- There was concern that the policy put the onus on the detectorists to pay a private company to assess finds. It was acknowledged that some people may not follow the policy but that it aimed to balance limited resources with advising on best practice.
 - Officers were asked to review the terminology used to ensure accessibility. It was also queried if reference to detectorists rallies should be removed
- ACTION: Ms Lawrence**
- It was confirmed that Ms Lawrence, Ms E Alqassar, Ms A Wood, Mr B. Thorn and Mr N Crank had reviewed the document which had not been published online yet.

RESOLVED: Members of the forum AGREED the policy subject to the changes listed above.

14 EMERGENCY ARCHAEOLOGICAL RECORDING FUND

Ms E Alqassar, Environment Manager, BCC, tabled an updated copy of the protocol a copy of which would be appended to the minutes.

Ms Alqassar highlighted the following points:

- The forum held a small emergency fund toward the cost of recording findings that may otherwise be lost or harmed. The fund was rarely used.
- The terms of the fund would need to be reviewed following the creation of the new council, however there were no confirmed timescales at the time of the meeting.

RECOMMENDATION: Ms Alqassar asked if the forum whether they wished to seek a top up payment into the Emergency Archaeological Recording Fund.

RESOLVED: Members of the forum AGREED Ms Alqassar would request a top of payment be made to the Emergency Archaeological Recording Fund this financial year.

15 UNITARY UPDATE

The Chairman referred to the report circulated with the agenda and offered to answer questions.

The following points were discussed as a result of questions from members of the forum:

- Ms E Alqassar, Environment Manager, BCC, confirmed relevant officers across all five councils were already working together to reflect on how they could combine their knowledge and workloads.
- The Chairman confirmed that the Shadow Executive had already begun budget discussions for the new council. However there had been no decisions as to when budget scrutiny and publication of those budgets would take place. The Chairman stated that he would continue to advocate for consistent funding levels for the immediate future.
- It was confirmed there would be no additional monies available from central government to support the transition including integrating computer systems. Existing local arrangements would remain in place as of 1 April 2020. Officers from across all five councils were working with the Transition Team to confirm the service's requirements in the longer term.

RESOLVED: Members of the forum NOTED the update.

16 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

No other business was discussed.

17 DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

Thursday 05 March 2020, 2-4pm. Mezzanine 3, NCO - Provisional.

Thursday 10 September 2020, 2-4pm. Mezzanine 3, NCO - Provisional.

CHAIRMAN

C1 and C2a – Stage ones Sites Undertaken to Date

North Portal:
 Arch Evaluation consisting of
 19 trenches undertaken
 in July 2018

North Portal
 Excavation site, 2.59ha undertaken
 in April 2019

Kings Pond Cottage
 Arch Evaluation, 19 trenches
 undertaken in February 2019

Pipers Wood Cottages
 Arch Evaluation, 22 trenches
 undertaken, access refusal,
 may change at a meeting on 23/05/2019

Whielden Lane, trial trench
 undertaken on site, 5 trenches. Site
 access refusal.

Upper Bottom House Farm
 Arch evaluation, 48 trenches

Excavated at end of 2018
 to be undertaken in
 2019

Excavating 9 trenches are currently
 refused (Mr Swirling).



C2b – Stage ones Sites Undertaken to Date

Widmore Farm, trial trench evaluation, 30 trenches, undertaken March 2019

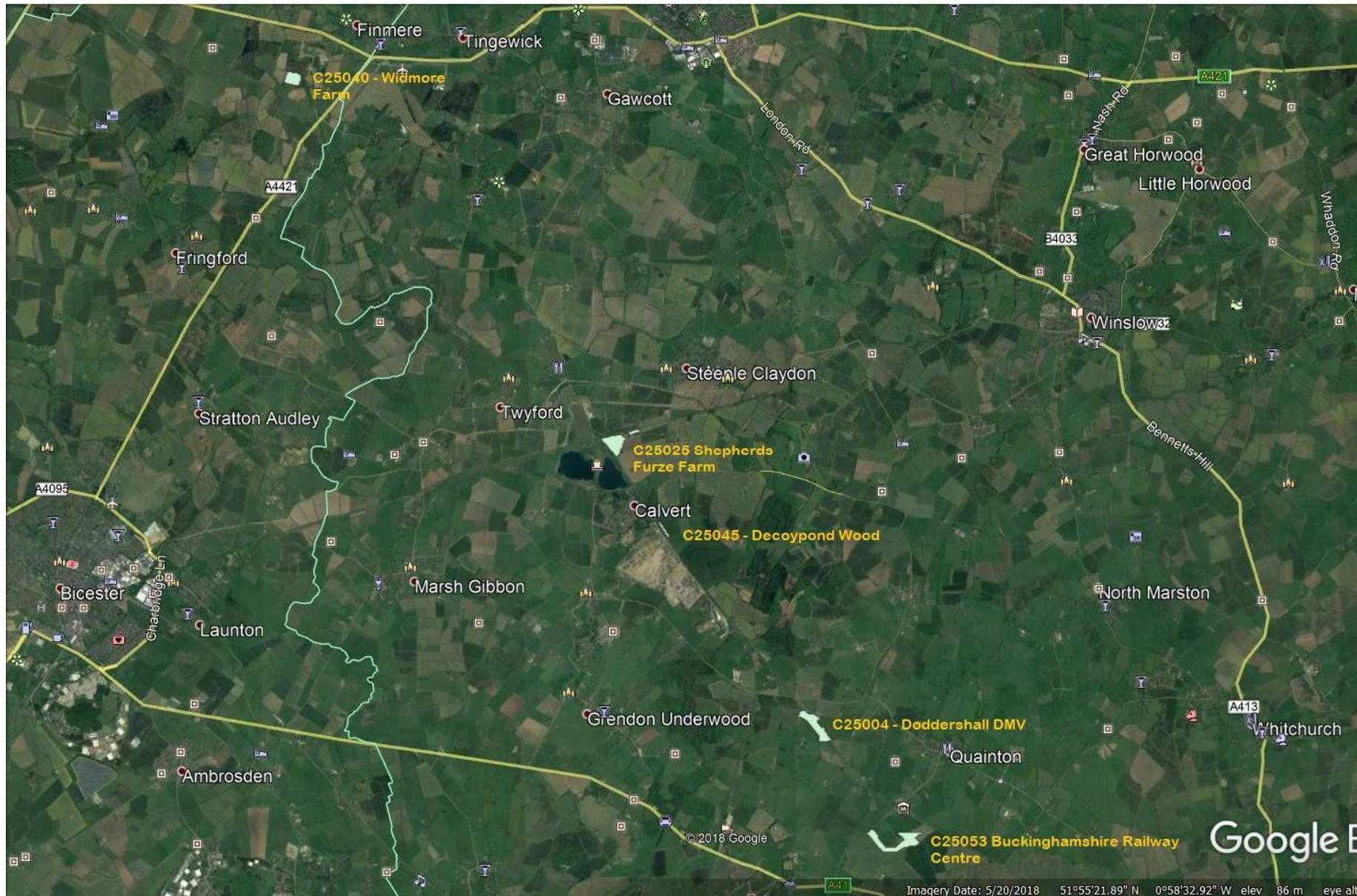
Shepherds Furze Farm, trial trench evaluation, 118 trenches planned. U&A 1020 meant 100 trenches were de-scoped down to 18 trenches. Undertaken Feb – March 2019

Decoypond Wood, trial trench evaluation, bore hole transect and geophysical landscape survey. Undertaken between October 2018 and January 2019

Doddershall DMV 102 1mx 1m test pits excavated (Jan '19). U&A 1020 to test depth of archaeology. U&A 1020 location being undertaken

Two box areas of the site subject to archaeological mitigation.

Buckinghamshire Railway Centre, trial trench evaluation, 54 trenches excavated during March 2019



C1 and C2a – Stage ones Sites Undertaken to Date

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 Arch Evaluation consisting of
 19 trenches undertaken
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 Archaeological site, 2.59ha undertaken
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Pipers Wood Cottages
 Arch Evaluation, 22 trenches
 undertaken, access refusal,
 may change at a meeting on 23/05/2019

Whielden Lane, trial trench
 on site, 5 trenches. Site
 access refusal.

Upper Bottom House Farm
 Arch evaluation, 48 trenches

Excavations completed at the
 end of 2018
 to be undertaken in
 2019

Excavating 9 trenches are currently
 on hold (Mr Swirling).



C1 – Kings Pond Cottage

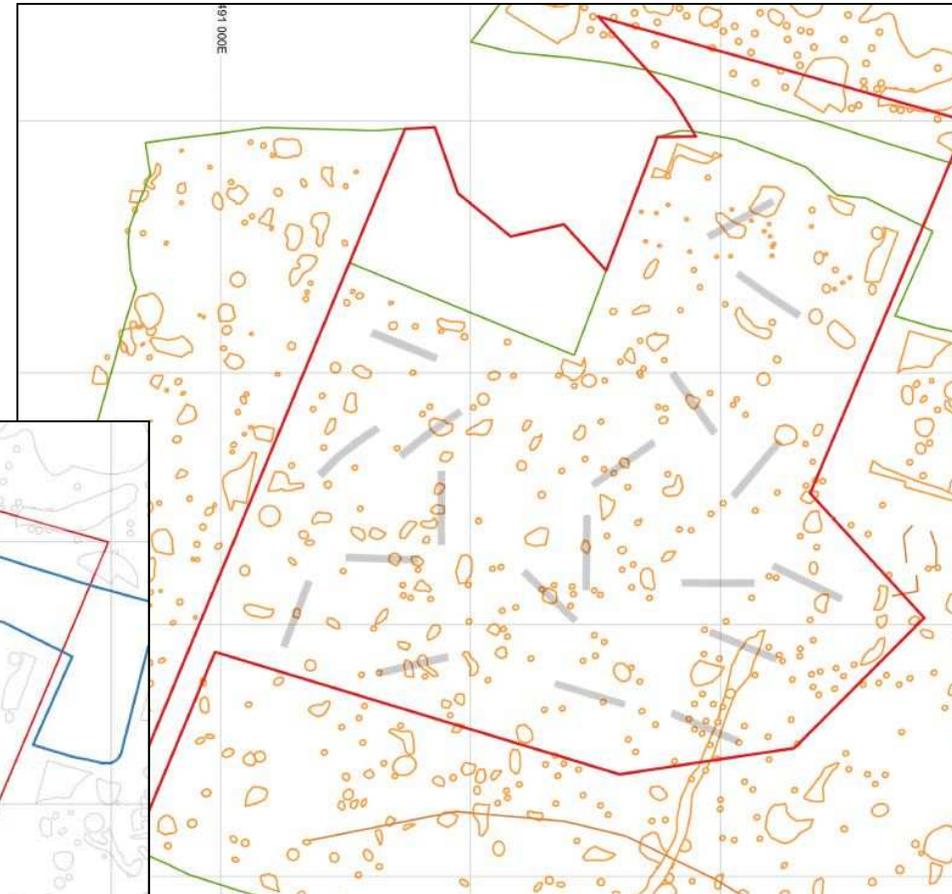
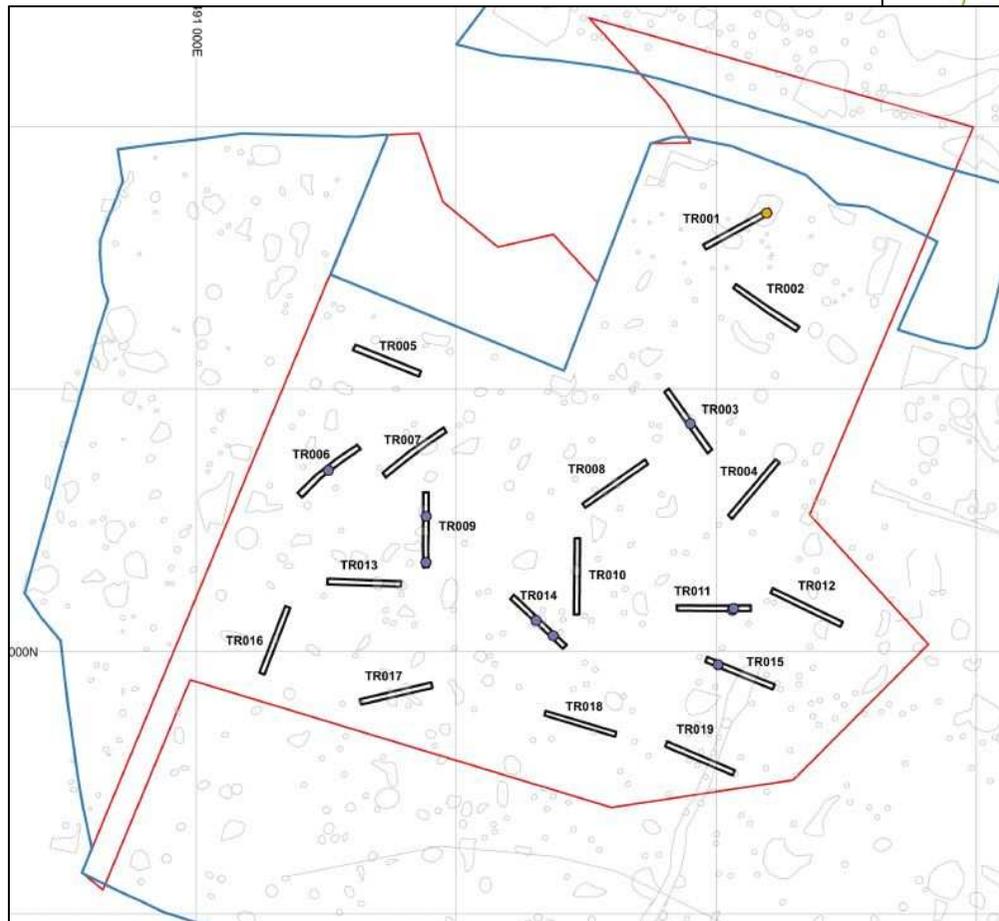
undertaken in advance of the vent shaft main works.
7 trenches were excavated. Of these 7 contained a total of 10 possible
archaeological features.

consisted of 8 linear ditch type features which represented a mix of land
boundaries, field divisions and drainage features.

The ditch in trench 1 was
dated (via recovered
pottery) to the 13th – 15th
centuries AD.

Other two features were
of uncertain date
and function

Recovered flora
analysis indicated a
ground of medieval
agricultural use, including
barley and wheat grain.



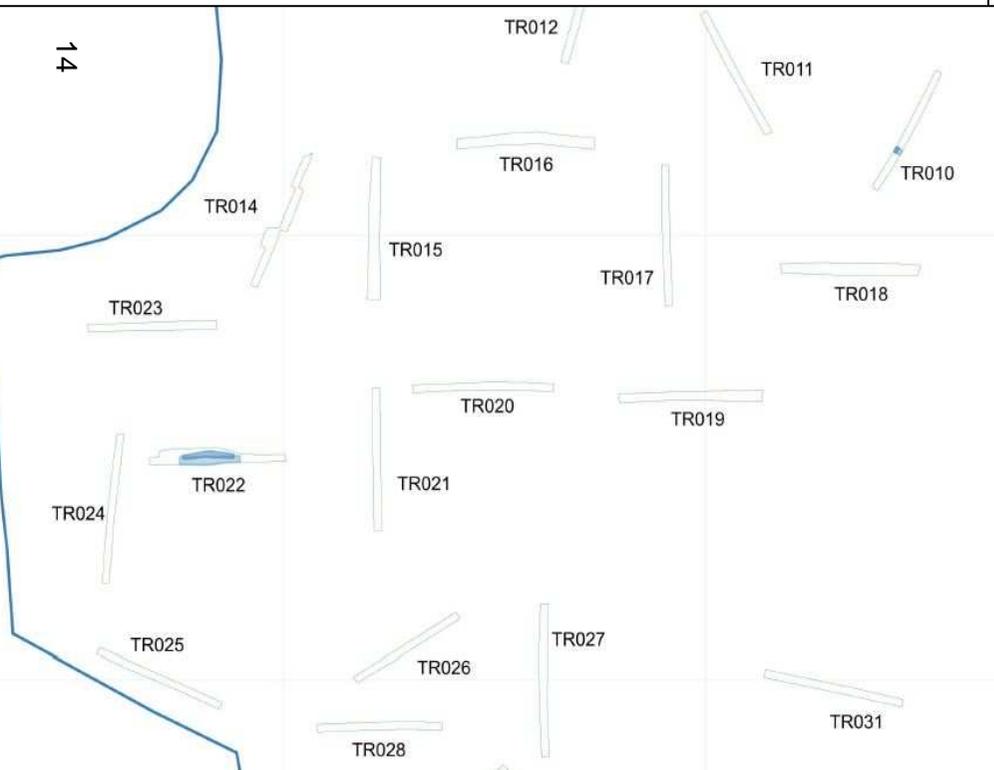
Geophysics did not indicate anything
of archaeological significance

C1– Upper Bottom House Farm

trenches planned. Access issues have meant that so far only 12 of the 32 at the southern end have been done. A wide variety of linear features noted by the geophysics.

Trench TR10 contained a ditch – which may have represented the remains of a hedgerow, provisionally dated to the medieval / post medieval period. Confirms similar features seen on geophysics.

Trench TR22 revealed a large pit that contained a fragment of medieval CBM. Appeared to sit on the line of a geophysical signal.



Work was largely indicative that the geophysical signals were not present as archaeological remains in the ground. Appear to be the remains of more modern hedgerows present in topsoil / subsoil. Outstanding 16 trenches to be done later this year (in two stages due to access issues).

C1 and C2a – Stage ones Sites Undertaken to Date

North Portal:
Arch Evaluation consisting of
trenches undertaken
July 2018

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undertaken, access refusal,
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Whielden Lane, trial trench
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Upper Bottom House Farm
Arching evaluation, 48 trenches

Excavated end of 2018
sites to be undertaken w/c
2019

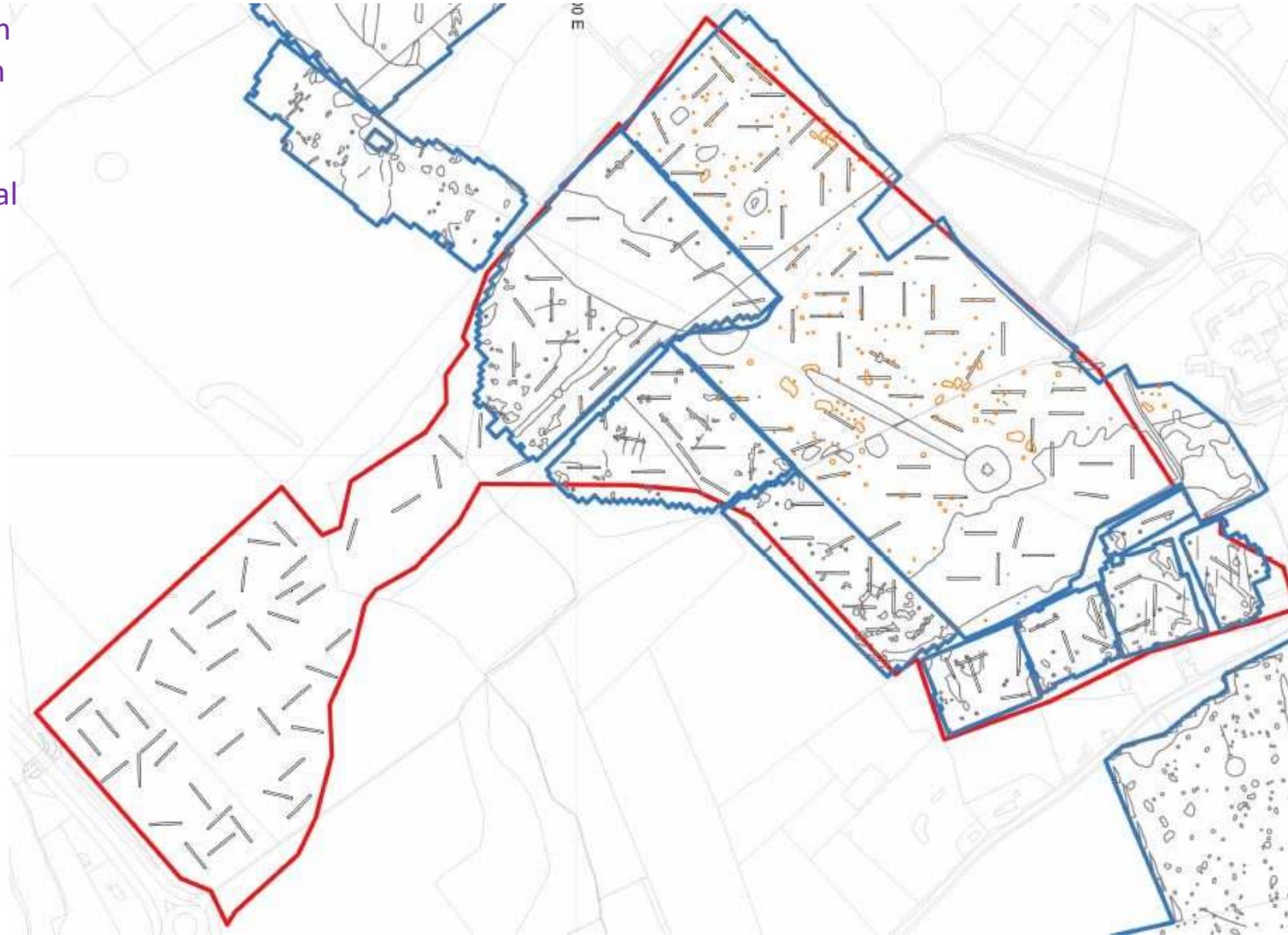
Excavating 9 trenches are currently
on access refusal (Mr Swirling).



C2a – North Portal (Trial Trench Evaluation)

advance of haul road to access North
geophysical survey undertaken only in
part of site.

trenches excavated, targeting geophysical
and blank areas.

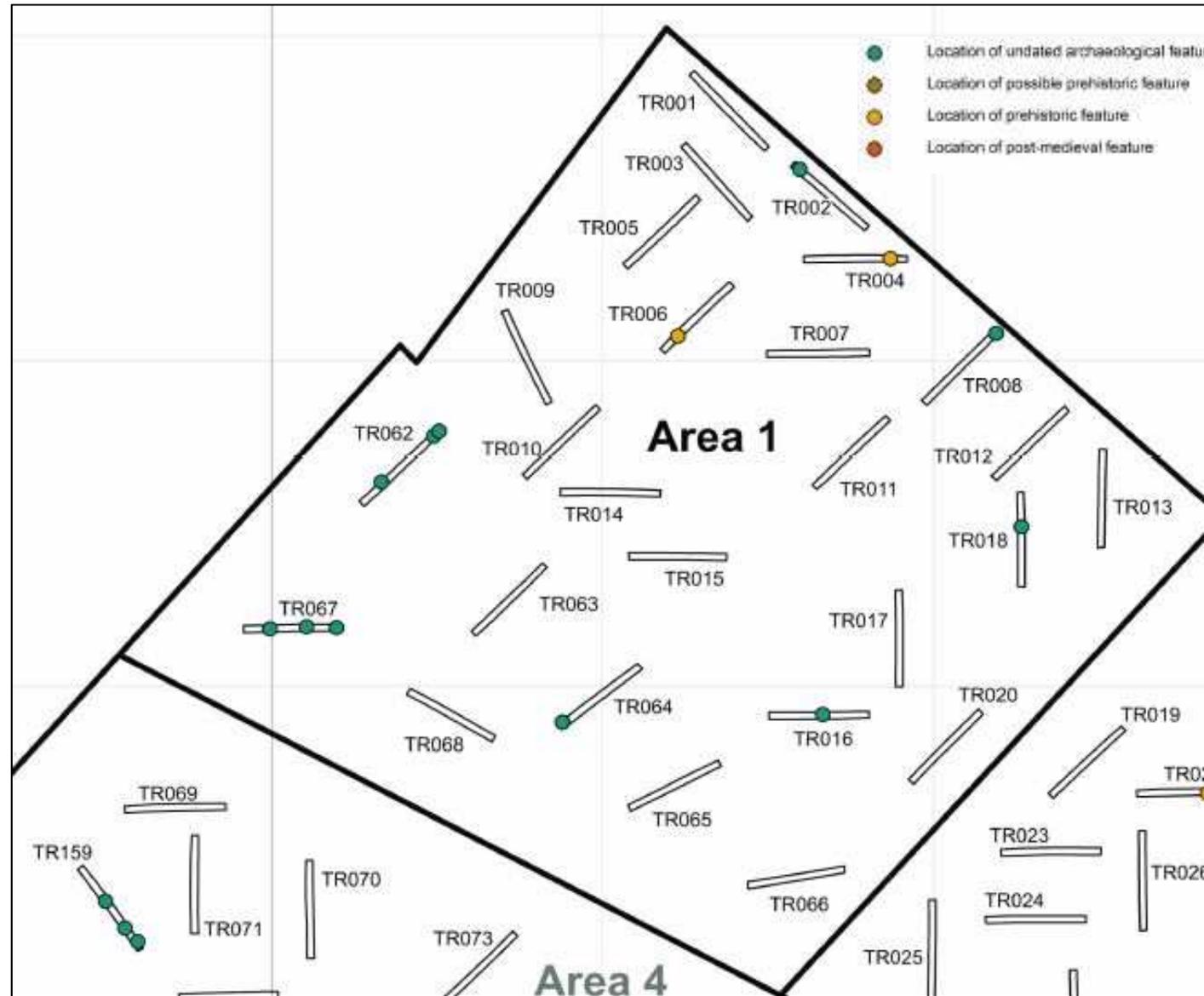


C2a – North Portal (Area 1)

Area 1
trenches excavated, 17 empty.

use 9 trenches which contained archaeology
ealed a number of pits, possible postholes
ditches. A few of these were dateable
ed on pottery) to the late prehistoric period.

e number of tree boles also present.



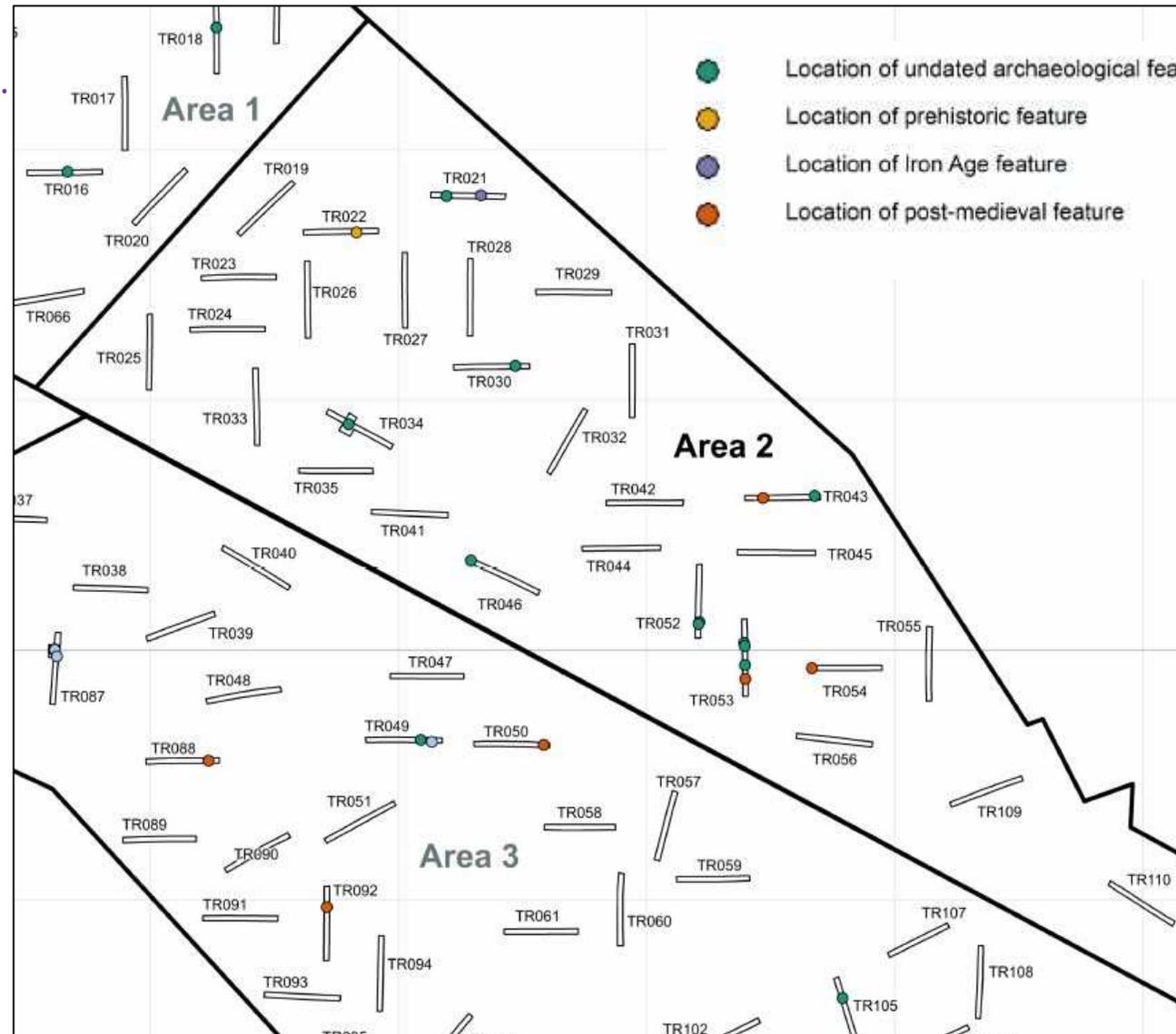
C2a – North Portal (Area 2)

Area 2

trenches excavated in this area, of these 22 were blank.

contained archaeology. Those features which were revealed consisted of a number of circular pits and postholes. A small number of these contained late prehistoric pottery / Early – Mid Anglo-Saxon pottery with one containing some metal working debris.

A number of shallow linear features were also noted - indicative of ridge and furrow.



C2a – North Portal (Area 3)

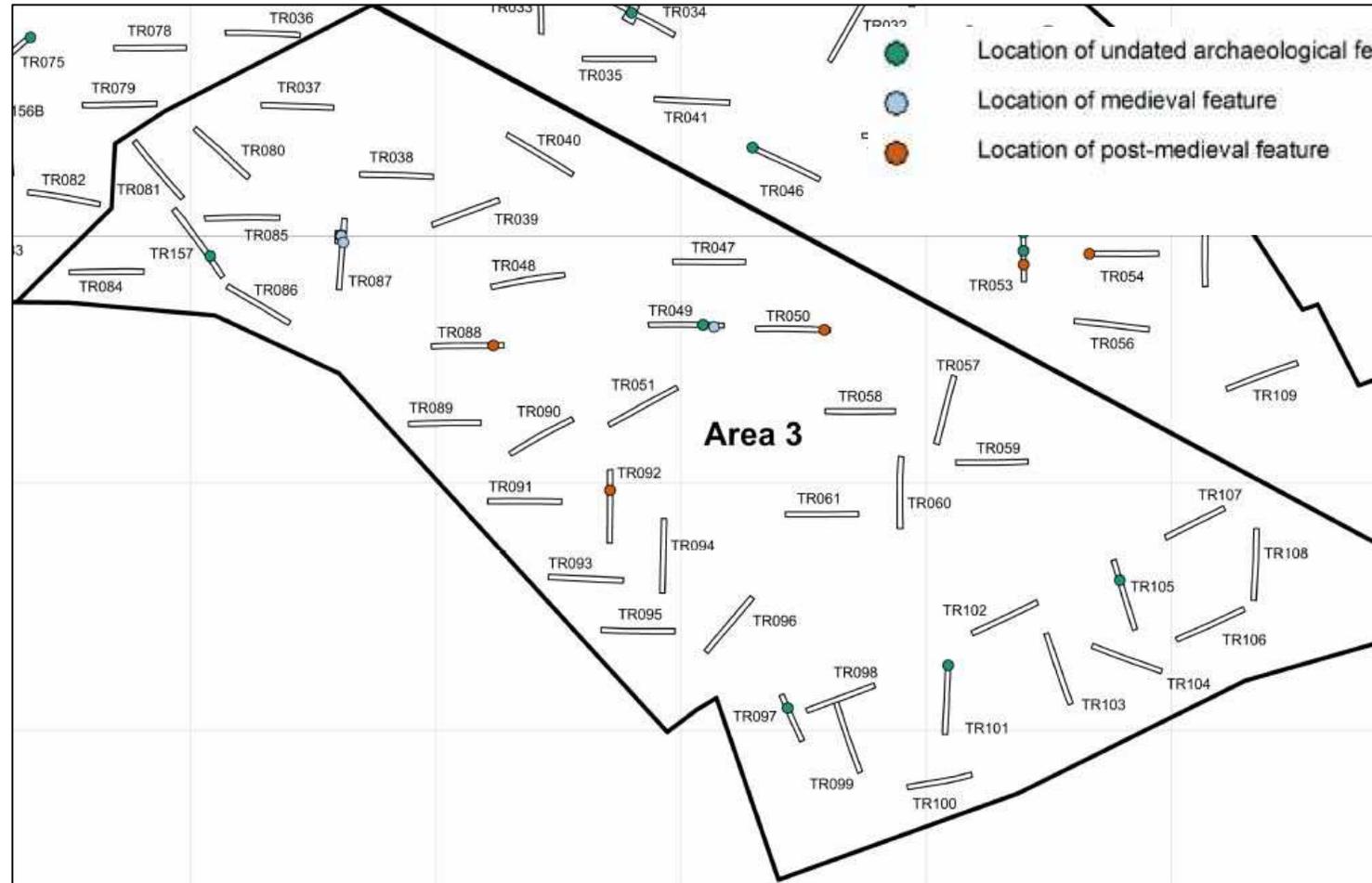
3

trenches excavated in this area. 33 were

trenches contained archaeological features, primarily these remains consisted of gullies and lines indicative of ridge and furrow and other field boundaries. Where dating evidence was available they were seen to be of medieval / post medieval date.

6

most significant feature discovered in this area was found in trench 87 – this was a large, circular pit (2.5m in diameter and 1.80m deep) with an associated posthole. The basal fill of the large pit contained an almost intact medieval ploughshare. This is thought to have dated from AD 1000 – 1400 and appears to have been dropped rather than deliberately deposited.



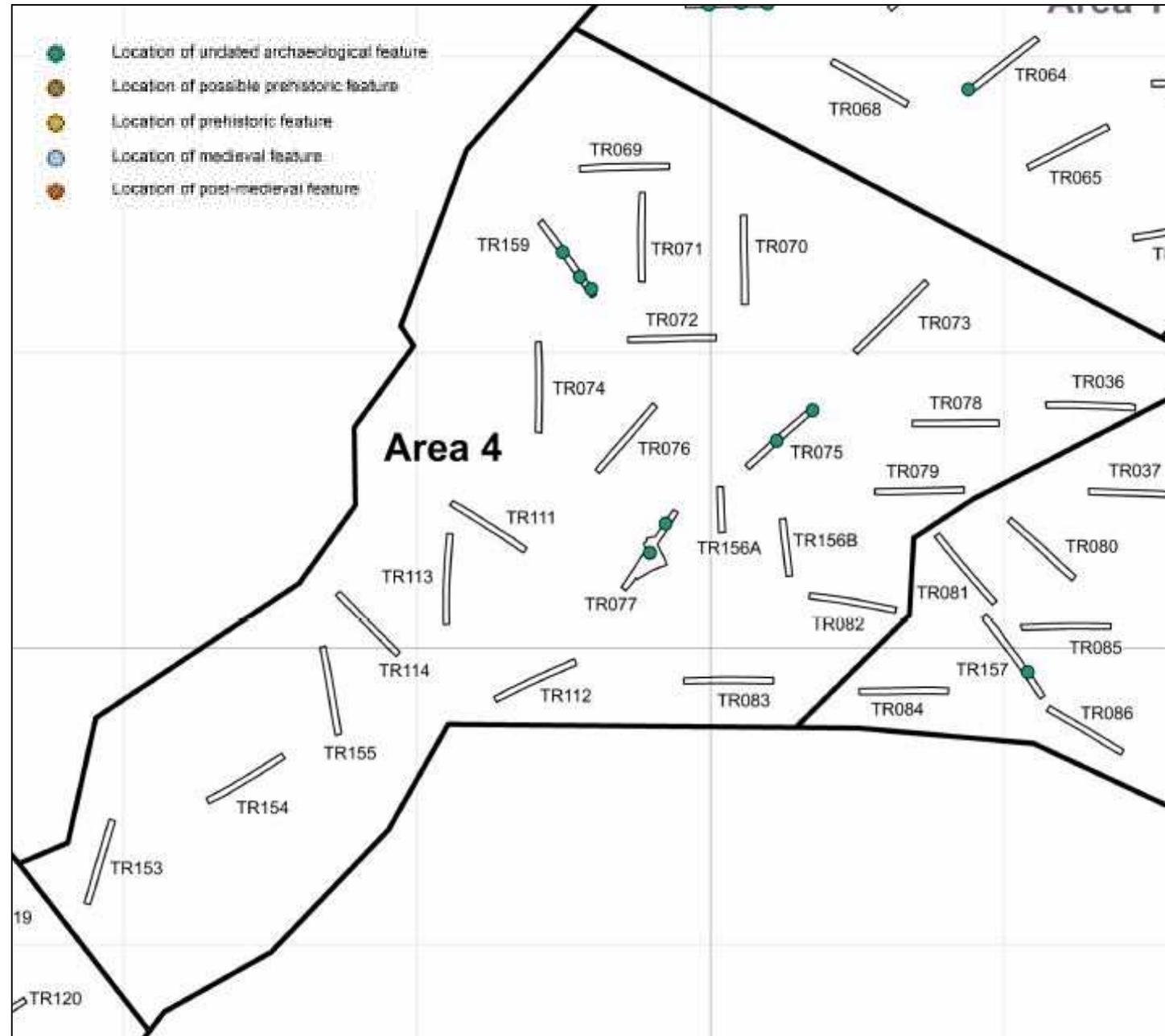
C2a – North Portal (Area 4)

Area 4

Trenches excavated. Of these 21 were empty.

3 trenches which contained archaeological features revealed further boundary / field division type ditches as well as a number of circular features (pits and post holes) of uncertain date.

The most significant feature was a large (1.55m dia x 2.26m deep) pit in Tr.77 which contained a significant "burnt" deposit. Marginal heating of the deposit was noted and the deposit below indicated that at least the material had not been heated *in situ* but had been dumped whilst still hot.



C2a – North Portal (Area 5)

Area 5

Trenches in this area, 26 blank.

Trenches 12 which contained archaeological features revealed:

Very large (>7m wide and >1.8m) features which were initially identified as possibly forming a settlement site enclosure ditch (Tr. 115, 118 and 130). Undated at the time.

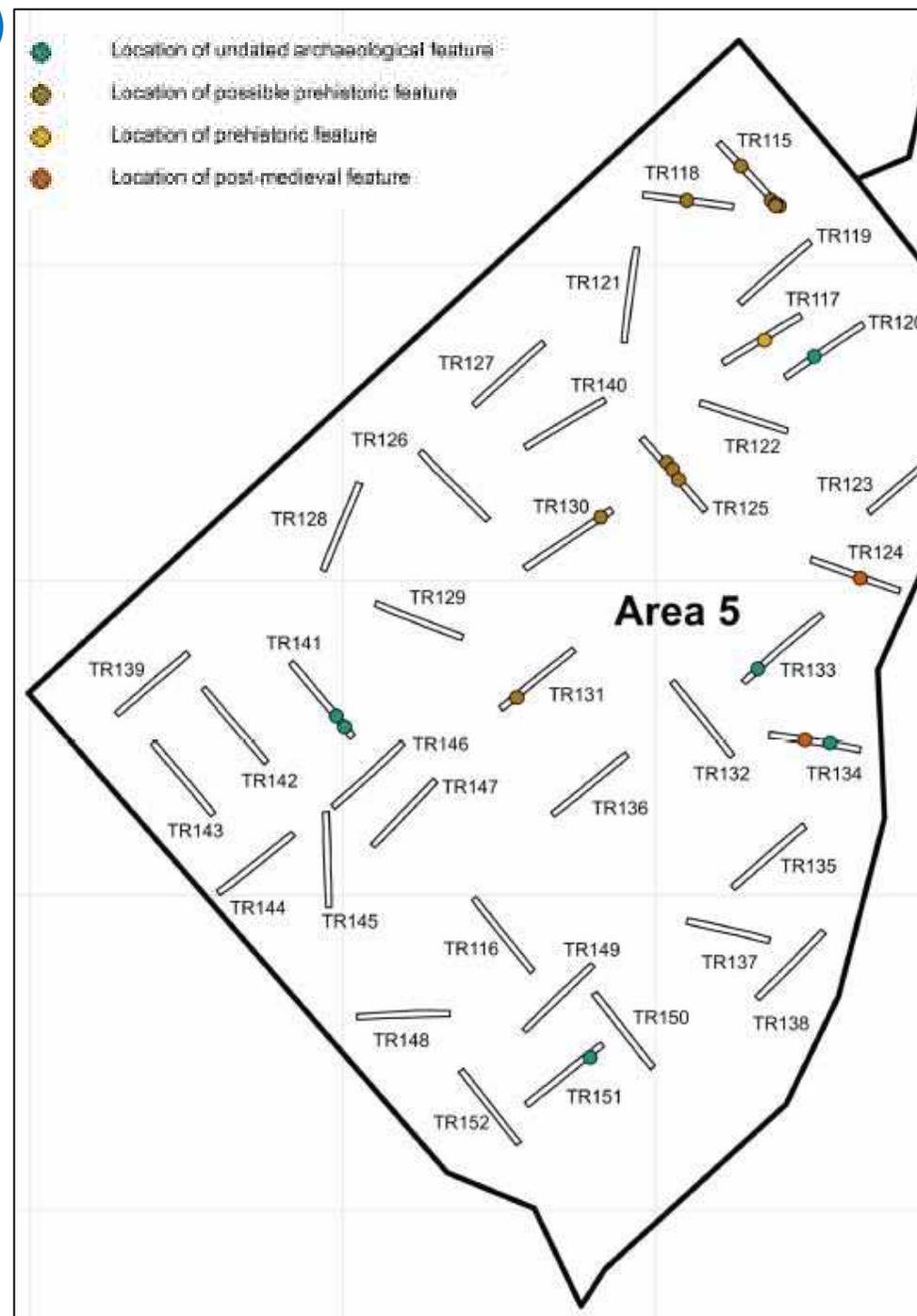
A number of moderate to large pits of uncertain date and function.

Evidence for medieval terracing of the land (Lynchets) Tr. 124, 134 and 133.²¹

Evidence for old Hedgerows

Most interesting feature was the inhumation of an adult male in Tr.117. Buried with arms and legs flexed towards the chest and lying on his side, aligned NW – SE with head facing NE. No Grave goods.

Most animal bone was found no datable material (pottery etc was).

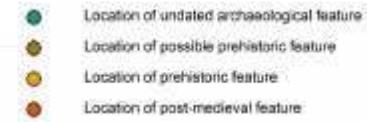




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C2a – North Portal (Trial Trench Evaluation)

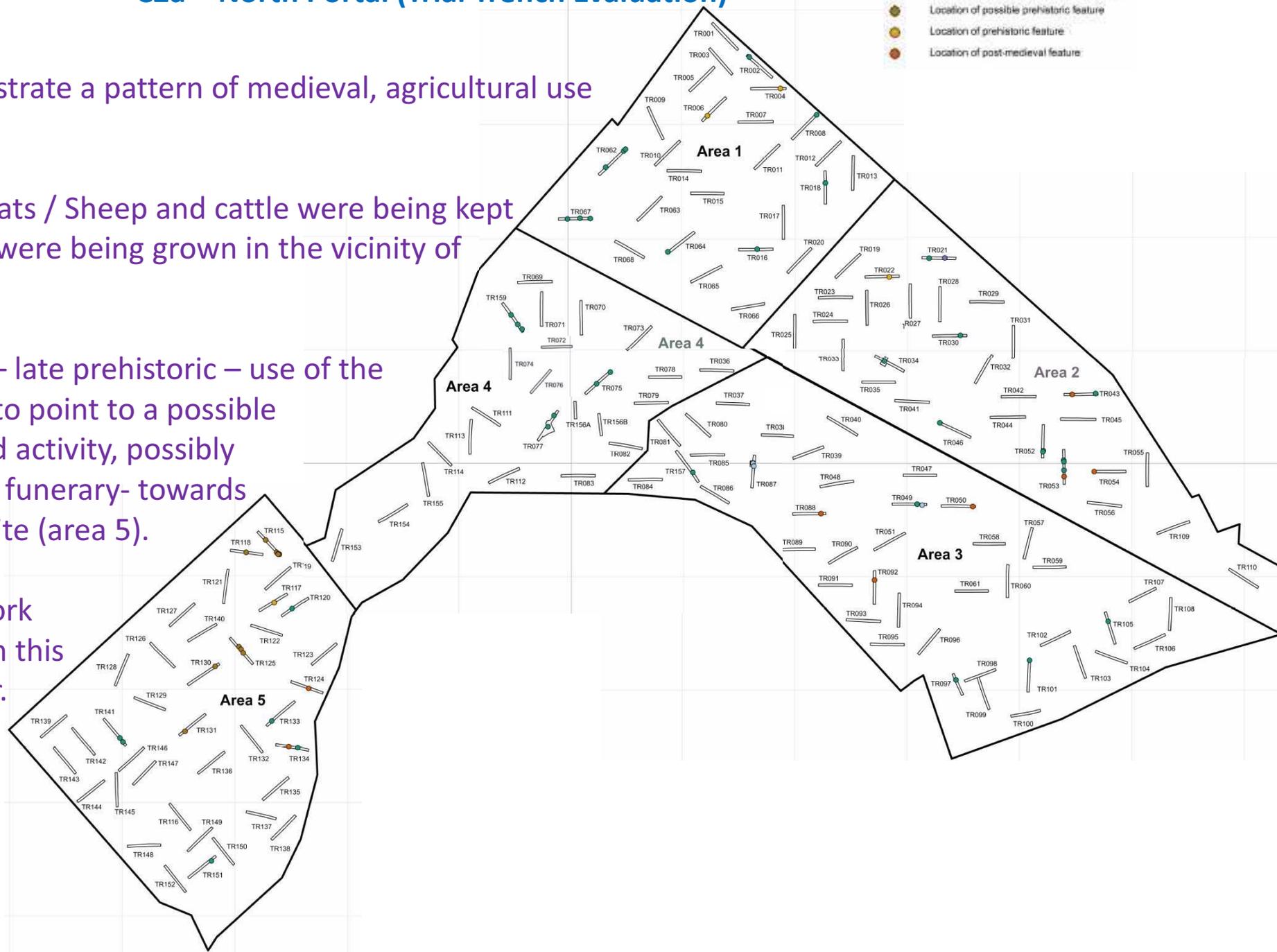


appeared to demonstrate a pattern of medieval, agricultural use of the land.

al bone indicated Goats / Sheep and cattle were being kept and that Oats and Wheat were being grown in the vicinity of the woodland.

Evidence of earlier – late prehistoric – use of the site appeared to point to a possible area of increased activity, possibly domestic, industrial and funerary- towards the southern part of the site (area 5).

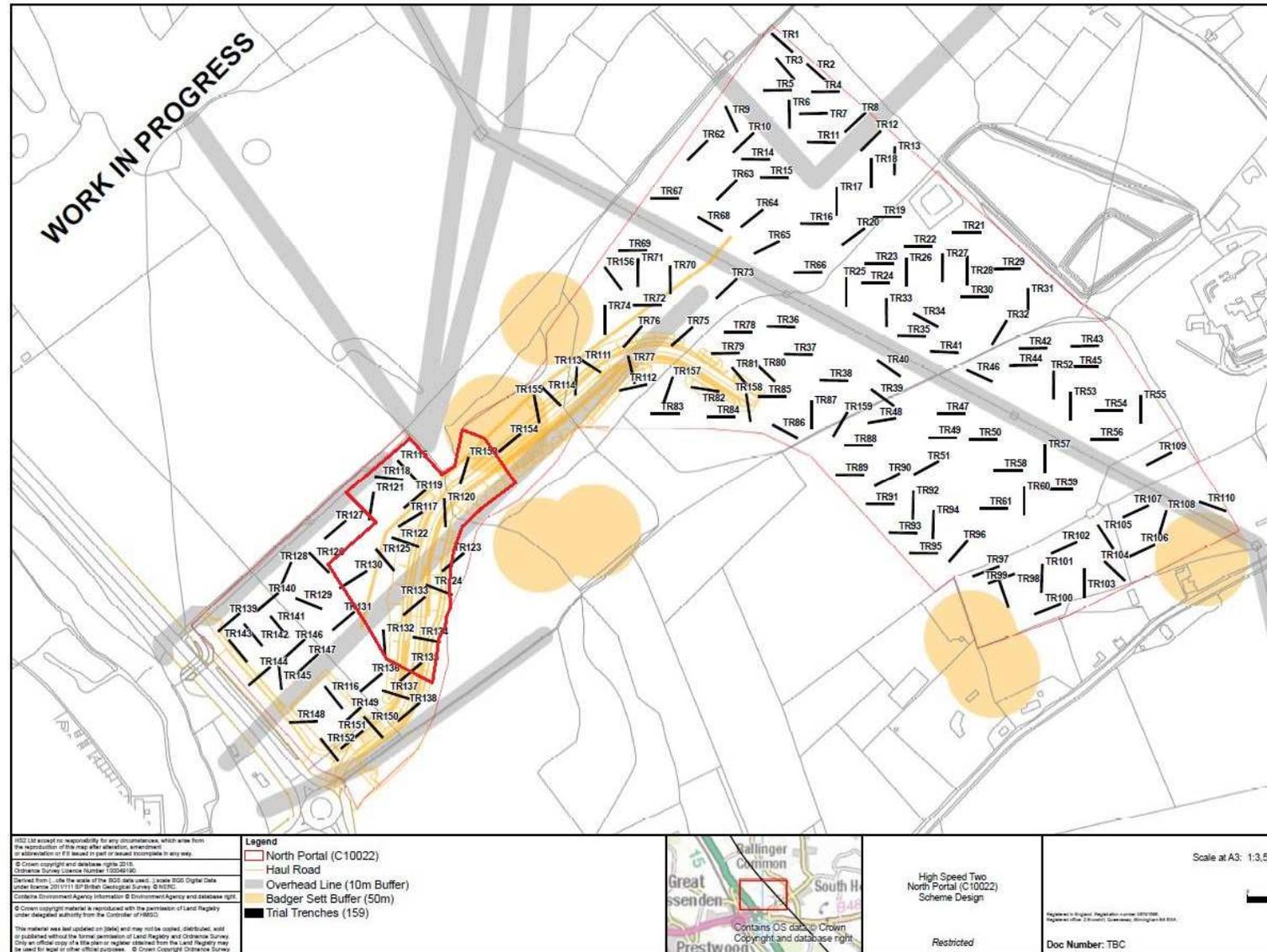
It was concluded that further work (excavation) was needed in this area to examine it further.



C2a – North Portal (Mitigation)

mitigation work designed to focus on the
 of possible significant archaeology to
 SW of the site (Area 5) and to check that
 southern end of “Area 4” was really as
 k as it appeared.

ha subject to full strip and archaeological
 rding.



C2a – North Portal (Mitigation)

Area A

Dominated by a number of moderate to very large chalk / flint quarry pits, including one very large feature c.10m wide, 8m long and almost 3m deep which was accessed by a long ramp like cut leading into / out of it on its SW edge. Very little dating material was recovered from this area but fragments of pottery and CBM indicate a medieval date.

Area C

Largely empty – confirming the results of the eval

Area D

Dominated by a lynchet field system. The large amounts of CBM, and pottery recovered from these features indicated a date of 18th – 19th century. There is also a small number of undated and post medieval pits in this area, of unclear function.

The inhumation found during the evaluation was located towards the NW edge of Area D. Examination of this area did not reveal any further inhumations nor any features directly associated with the one found. It appeared to exist in total isolation.

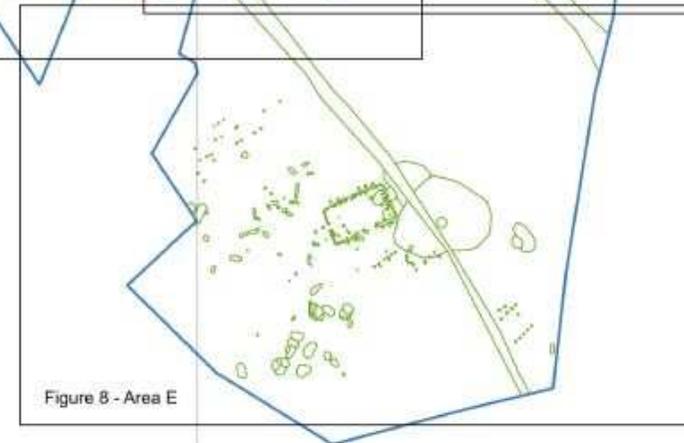
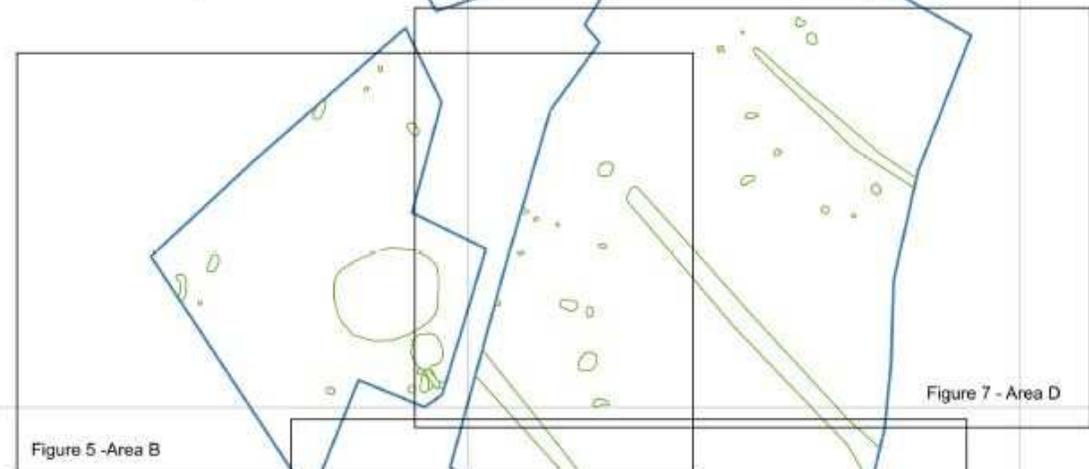
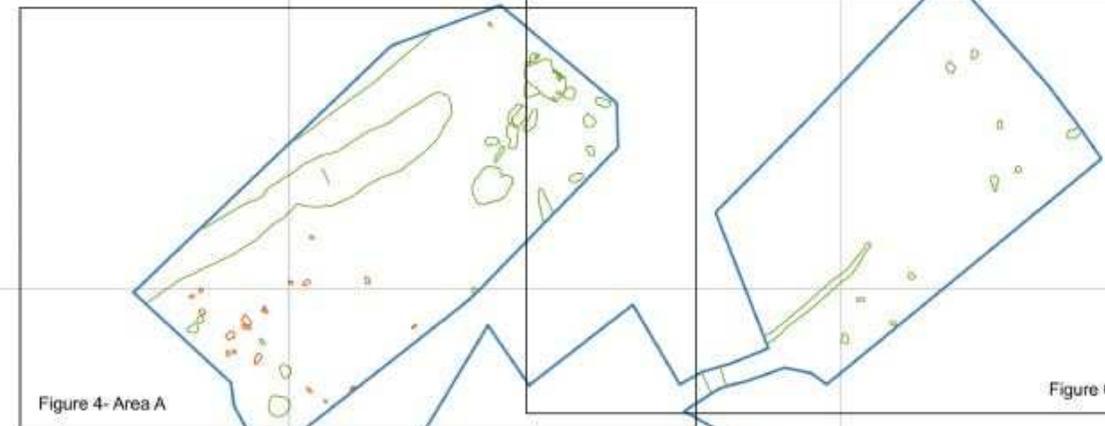


Figure 6

Figure 7 - Area D

Figure 5 -Area B

Figure 8 - Area E

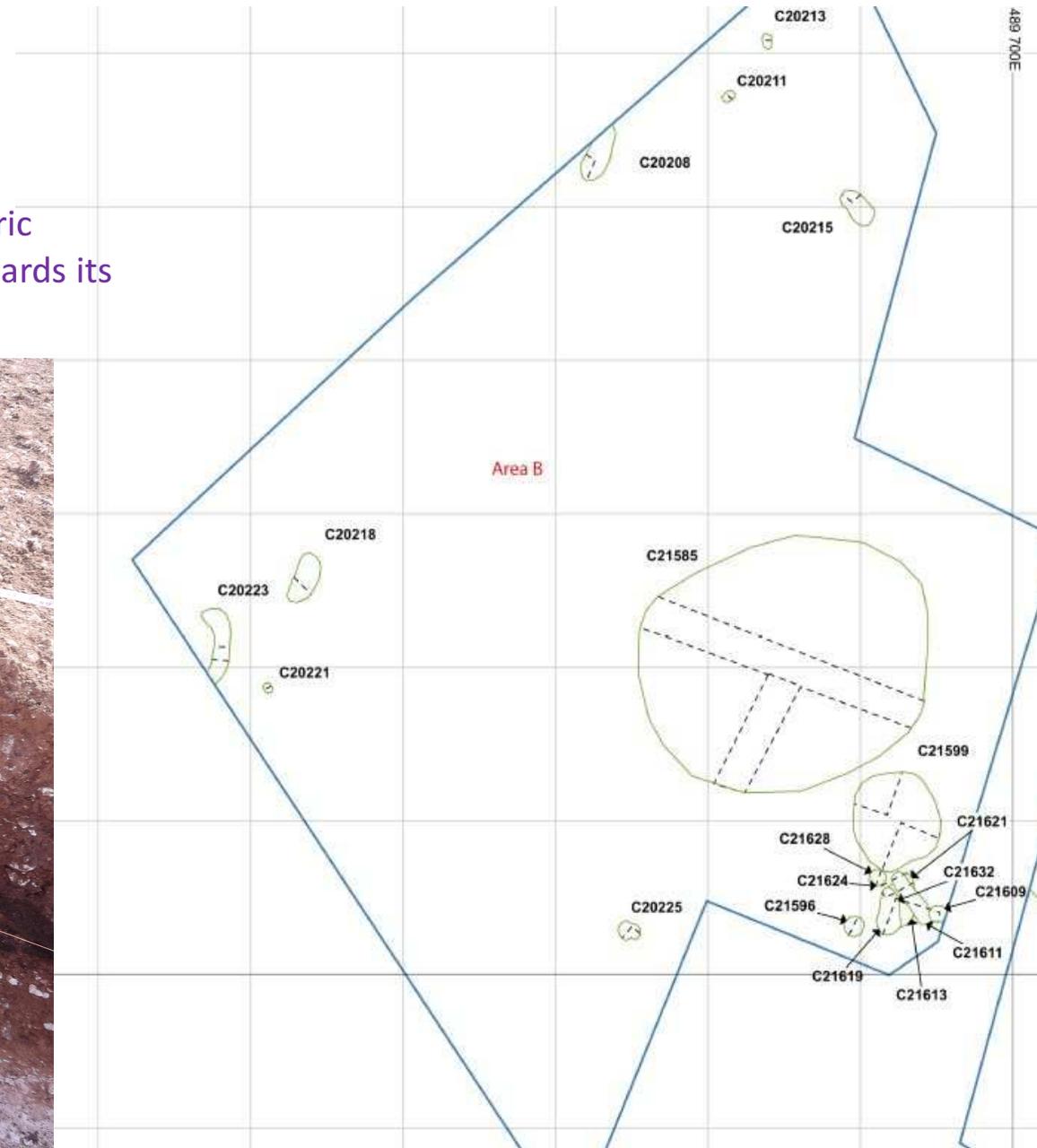
C2a – North Portal (Mitigation)



C2a – North Portal (Mitigation)

Area B

Area B is dominated by large chalk / flint quarry features. Most of the features were undated or geological. However, the large pit produced flint tempered pottery of possible prehistoric date. The smaller pit contained a thick layer of burnt material towards its base, this contained a few sherds of Roman grey ware



C2a – North Portal (Mitigation)

Area E

Area of settlement and construction evidence for around 5 post built structures, the most complete being the central one with beam slots, post holes and 4 entrance points. Typically Anglo Saxon in date (4th – 7th Century). Two fragments of pottery were recovered from the beam slots of the central structure which appear to be Anglo – Saxon in date (currently being analysed)

28
Remnants of wattle and daub recovered from a number of the other post holes in this area.

To the east of this area was dominated by another large flint / chalk quarry pit. Which predated the long house and its associated structures. Extensions cut into the edge of this quarry pit yielded Samian pottery – further attesting Roman presence on the site.

The pits to the South were undated but appeared to be small, possibly early, quarry pits



C2a – North Portal (Mitigation)

Early (prehistoric), low level, use of the site for quarrying flint and possible transient occupation.

Possible Roman occupation (low level) and continued use of the site for quarrying – evidence for some sort of industrial activity in pyrotechnic deposits.

Significant Anglo Saxon occupation of the area – long houses etc. Use of the site not clear but likely to be related to quarrying.

Continued Medieval use of the site for large scale quarrying activity.

Post medieval agricultural use of the site.



C2b – Stage ones Sites Undertaken to Date

Widmore Farm, trial trench evaluation, 30 trenches, undertaken March 2019

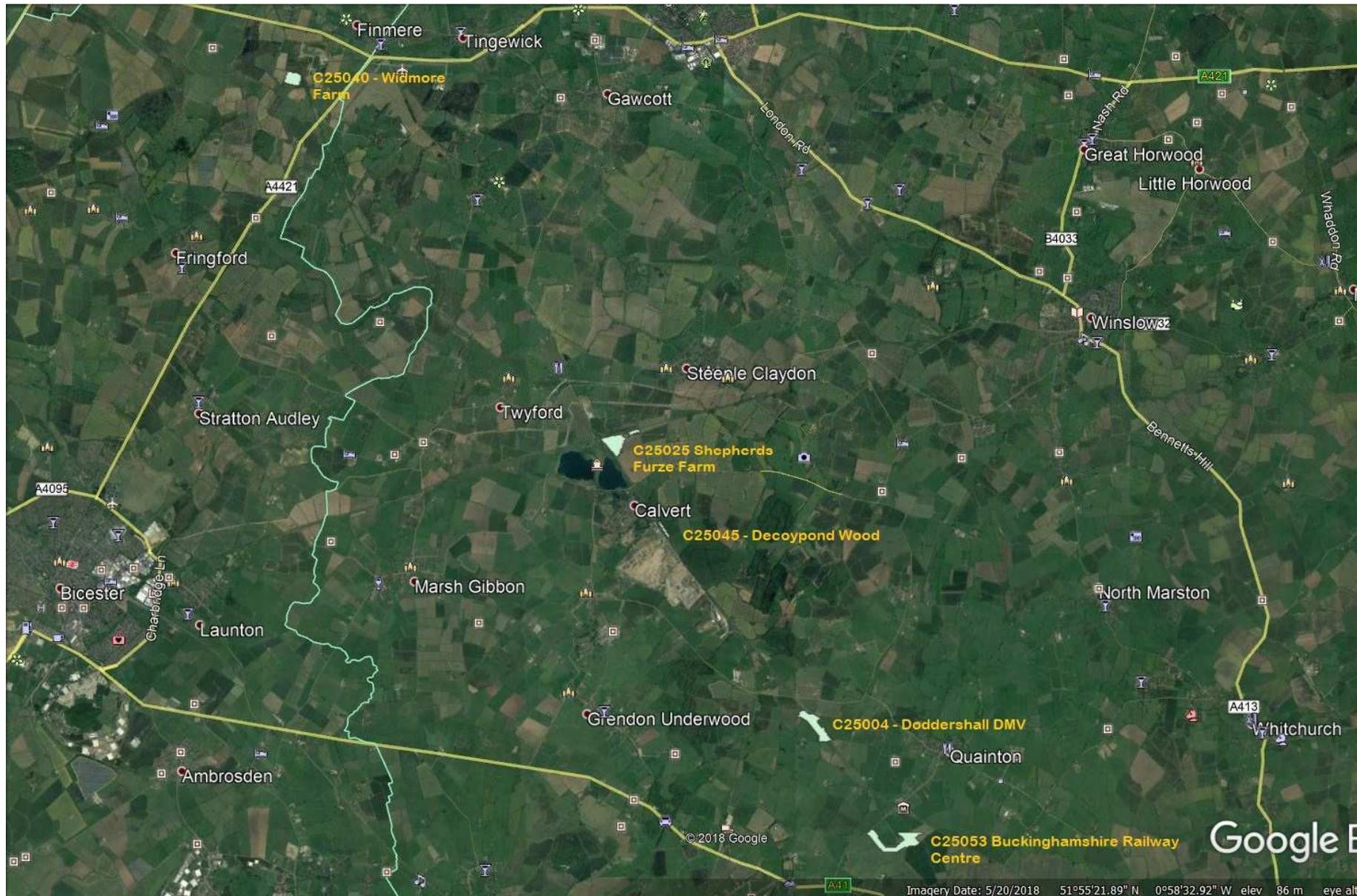
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Two box areas of the site subject to archaeological mitigation.

Buckinghamshire Railway Centre, trial trench evaluation, 54 trenches excavated during March 2019



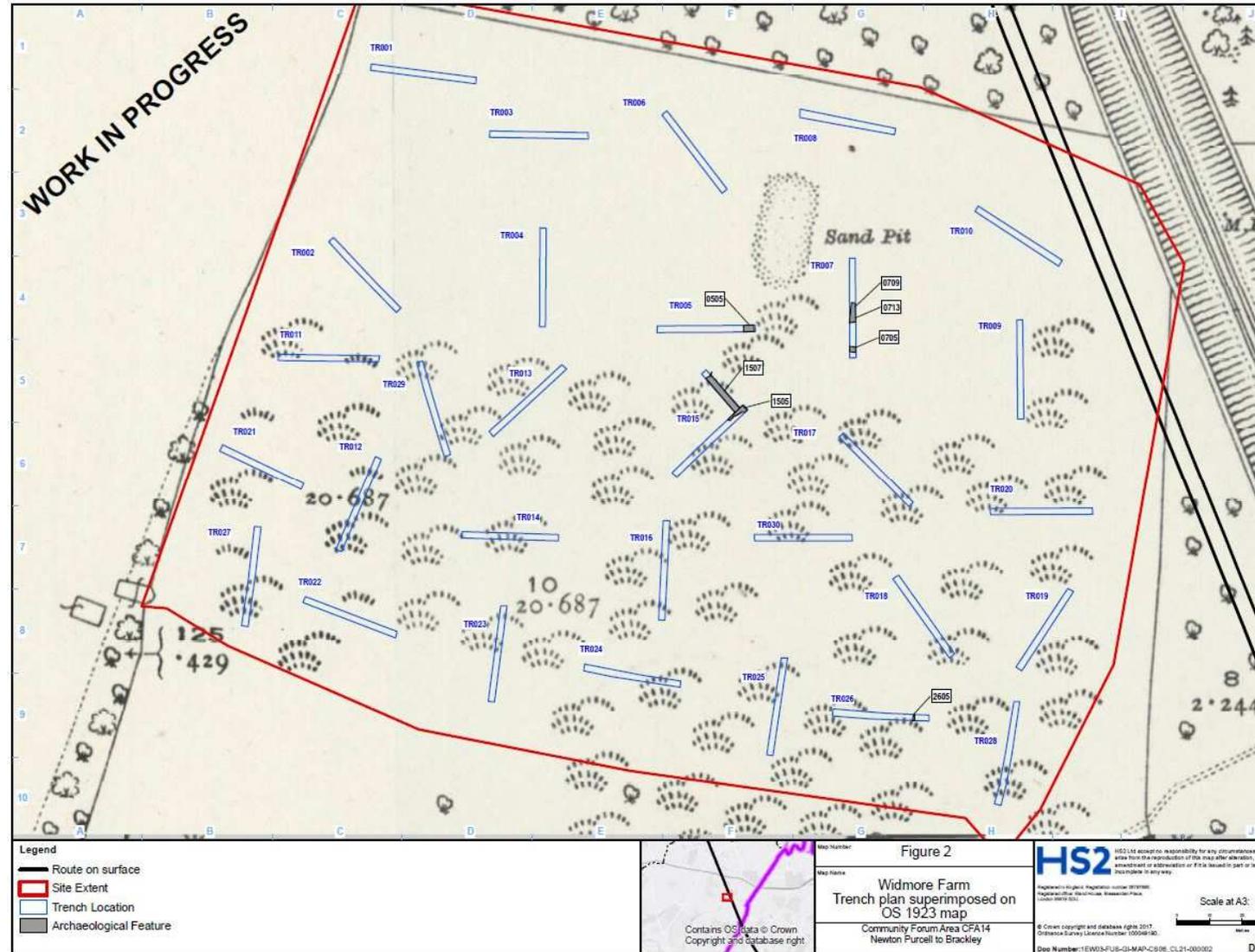
C2b – Widmore Farm (Trial Trench Evaluation)

Trenches excavated in February 2019 in the vicinity of the HS2 rail alignment. Of these 30 trenches 4 produced archaeological results.

Preliminary analysis of the site indicated it had been affected by sand quarrying in the post medieval period.

Archaeological features in trenches 5, 7 and 10 comprised the remains of a 19th century sand quarry and possible related linear features (possibly associated, but undated, boundary ditches). A sand pit is illustrated on the 1923 OS map and the noted features are likely associated with this.

An undated ditch to the south (Tr 26) does not appear to relate to the above, and does not appear on the historical maps. Possible related to management of the high-water table (drainage) or part of an early field boundary.



C2b – Stage ones Sites Undertaken to Date

Widmore Farm, trial trench evaluation, 30 trenches, undertaken March 2019

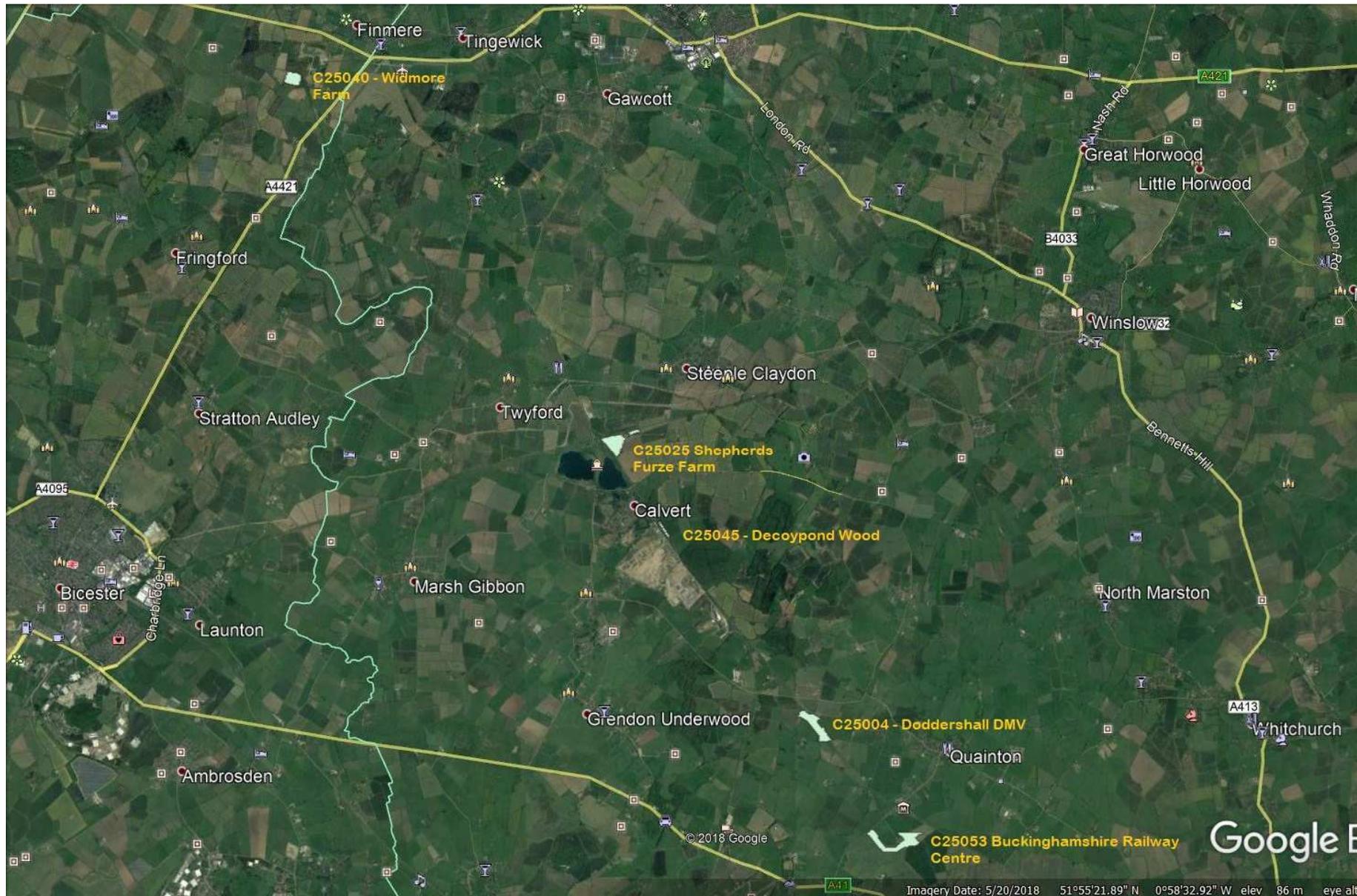
Shepherds Furze Farm, trial trench evaluation, 118 trenches planned. U&A 1020 meant 100 trenches were de-scoped down to 18 trenches. Undertaken Feb – March 2019

Decoypond Wood, trial trench evaluation, bore hole transect and geophysical landscape survey. Undertaken between October 2018 and January 2019

Doddershall DMV 102 1mx 1m test pits excavated (Jan '19). U&A 1020 to test depth of archaeology. U&A 1020 location being undertaken

Two box areas of the site subject to archaeological mitigation.

Buckinghamshire Railway Centre, trial trench evaluation, 54 trenches excavated during March 2019



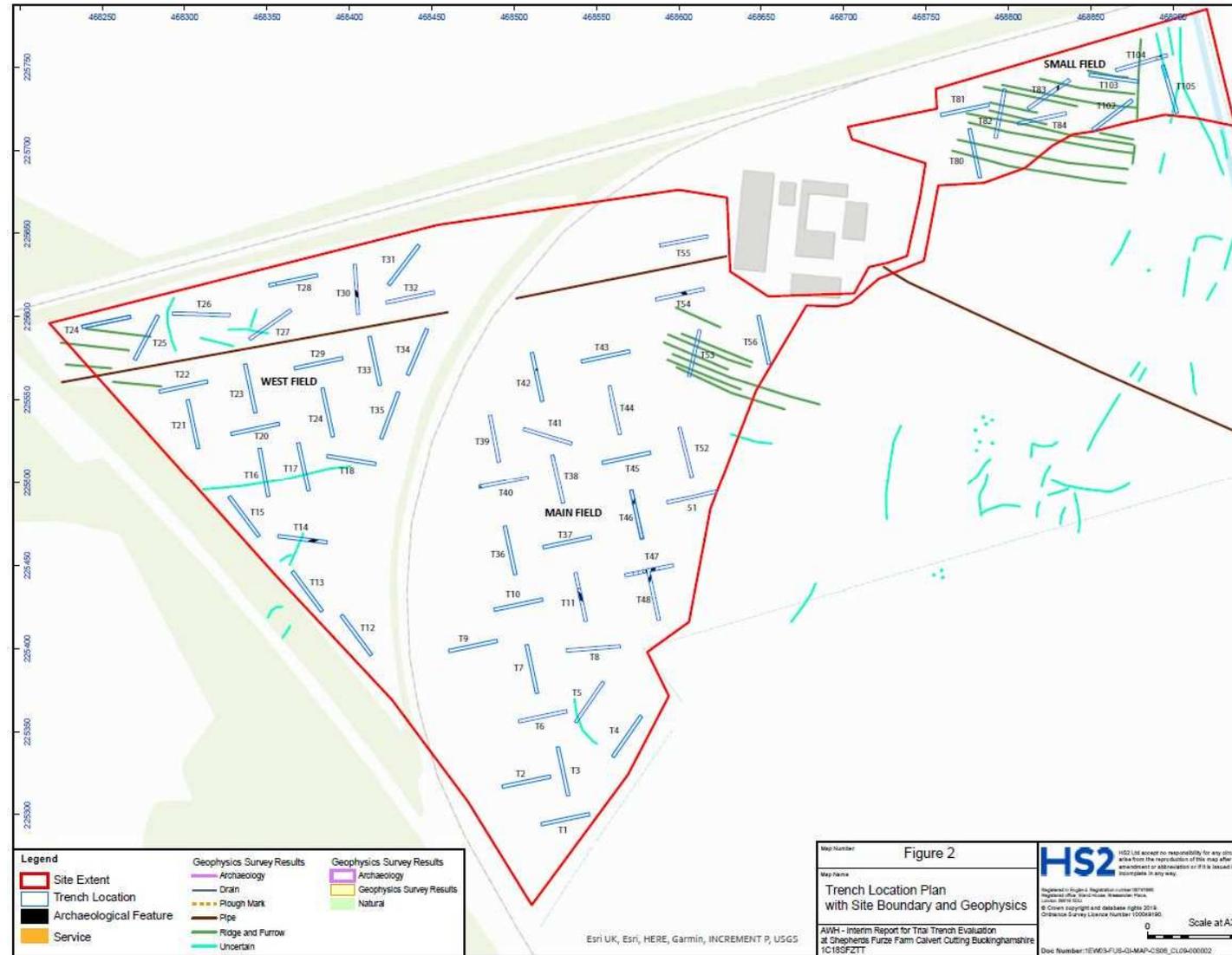
C2b – Shepherds Furze Farm (Trial Trench Evaluation)

Trenches excavated in advance of attenuation and rail alignment. Of these 11 revealed archaeological features. Previous geophysical survey revealed a combination of suspected Ridge and Furrow activity and “uncertain” signals.

Archaeological features primarily consisted of post holes, to shallow linear ditches and gullies – strongly indicative of old field boundaries, old drainage features, and historic hedgerow. The date could not be dated, but where dating material was recovered (pottery and CBM) it indicated a post medieval date for the features.

Post holes were identified in trenches 47, 11 and 12. It is thought that structure these once formed part of was a barn, but fencing seems likely. Again most features could not be dated, but a post medieval clay pipe was recovered from the post hole in Tr.28.

At a number of bulk samples were collected no environmental data could be gleaned from



C2b – Stage ones Sites Undertaken to Date

Widmore Farm, trial trench evaluation, 30 trenches, undertaken March 2019

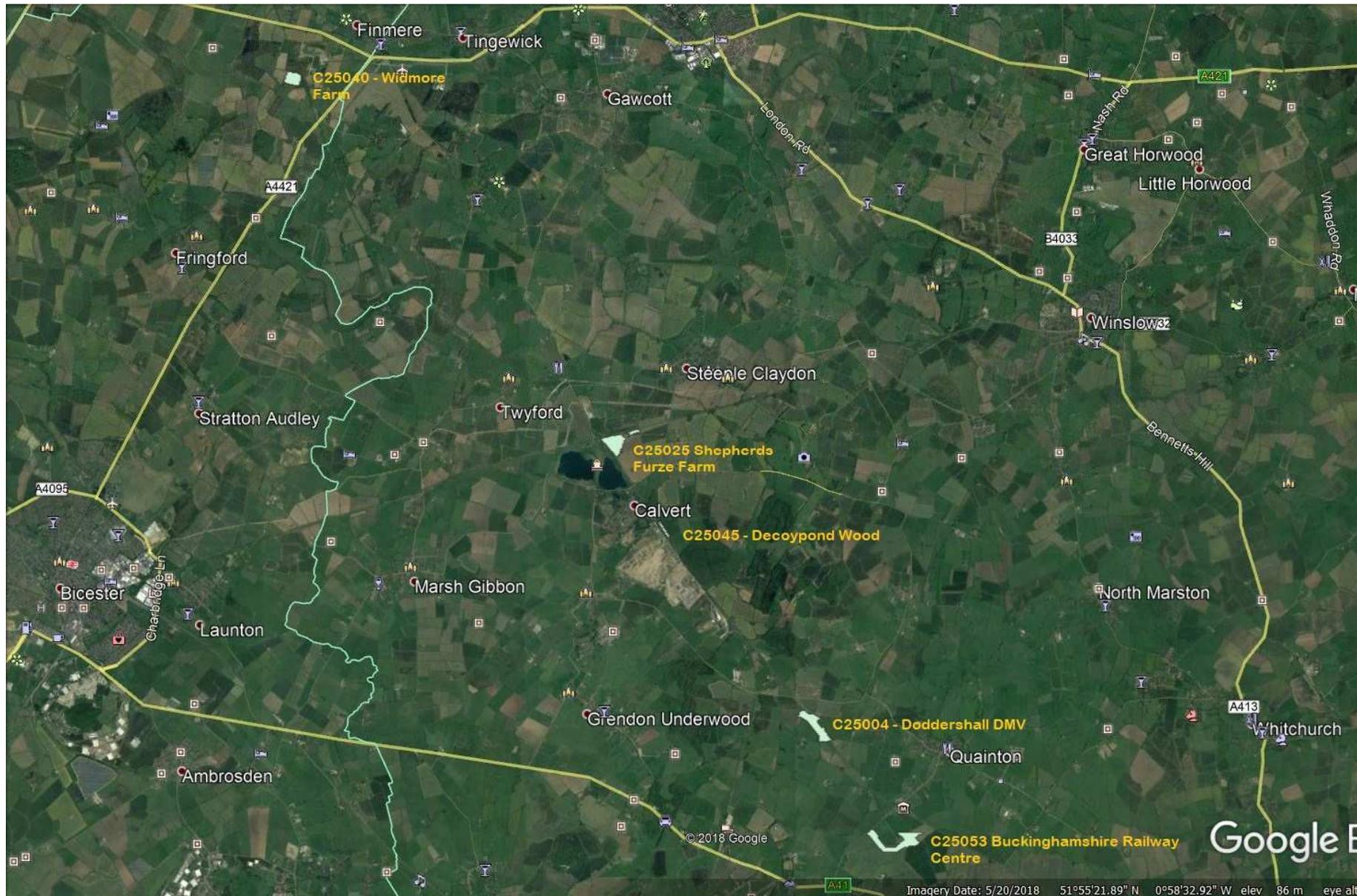
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Buckinghamshire Railway Centre, trial trench evaluation, 54 trenches excavated during March 2019



C2b – Decoy Pond Wood (Test pit Evaluation and historic landscape survey)

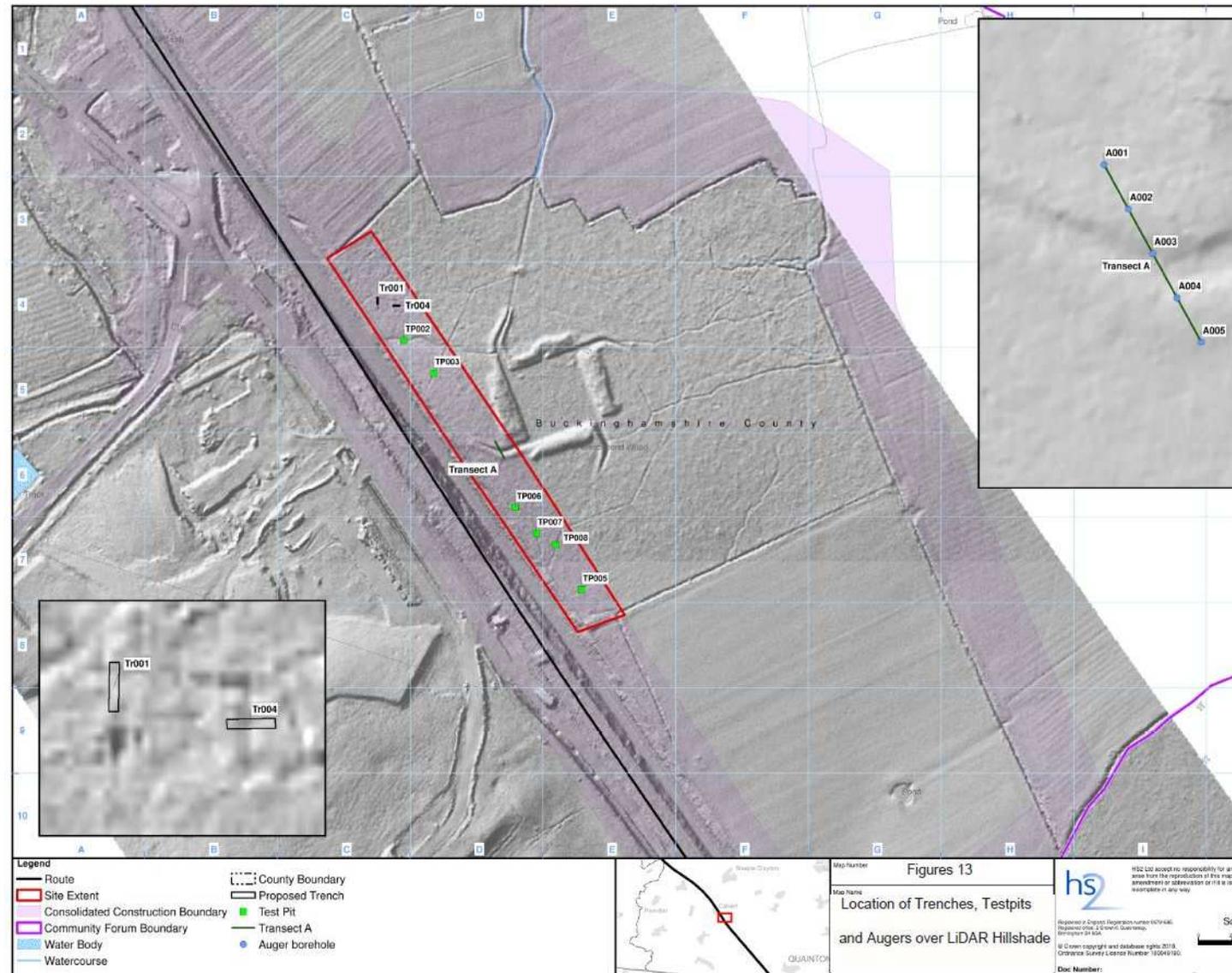
excavation of 6 small test pits (1m x 1m), 2
 or test pits (5m x 1m) and a transect of hand
 red bore holes, in advance of rail alignment
 ation works.

within an Ancient Woodland and designed to
 features identified in LiDAR including
 ected ridge and furrow and, most significantly,
 e pipe of a known 18th Century duck decoy

35

noted an undulating ditch – likely a natural
 of channel associated with the pond.
 noted a shallow ditch – likely a remnant of
 ctagonal boundary ditch around the pond.
 5 and 7 also contained ditches but the
 rial recovered from them indicated a modern

uger transect gained a useful profile of the
 pipe, but did not yield any significant buried



C2b – Stage ones Sites Undertaken to Date

Widmore Farm, trial trench evaluation, 30 trenches, undertaken March 2019

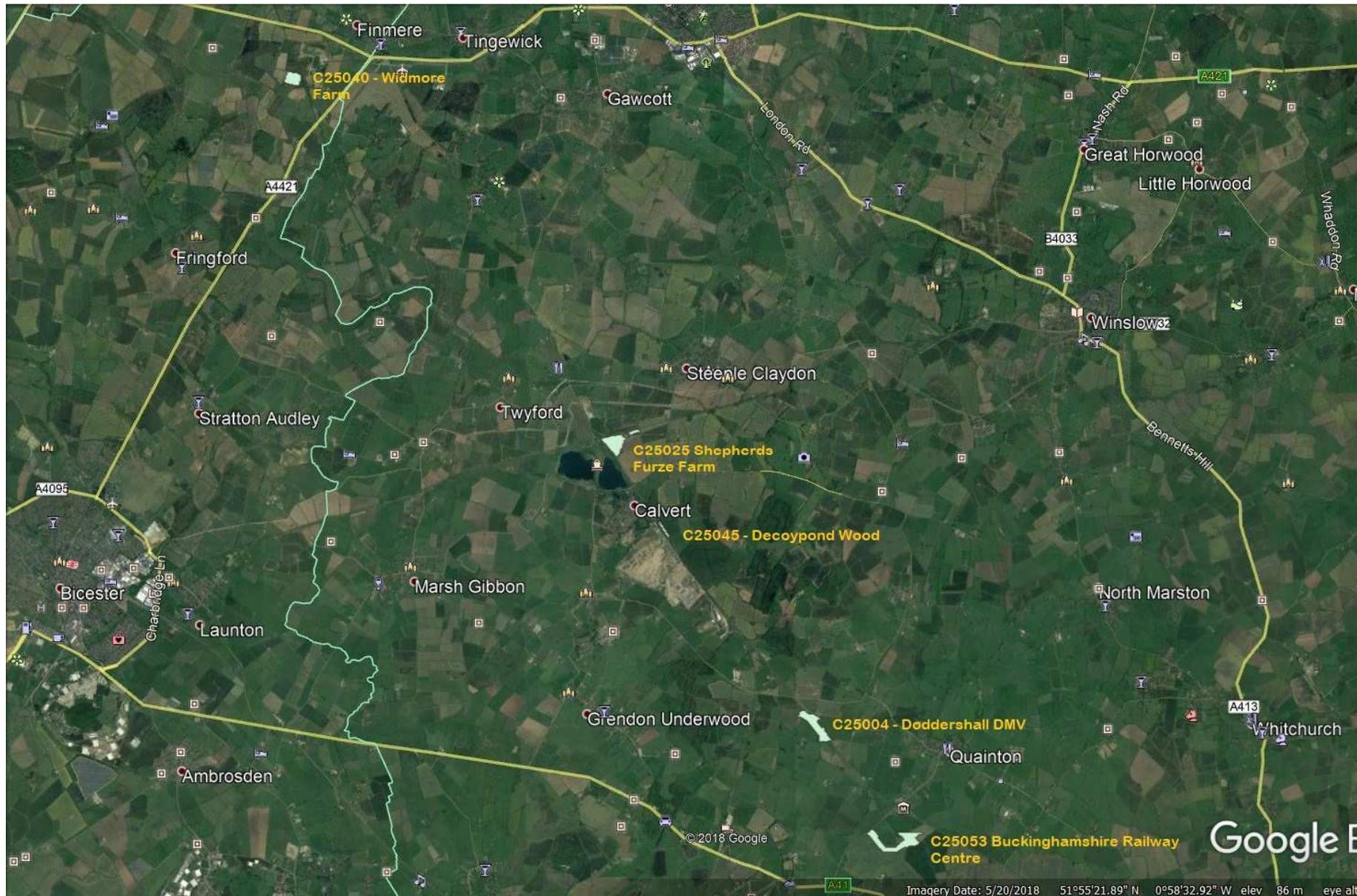
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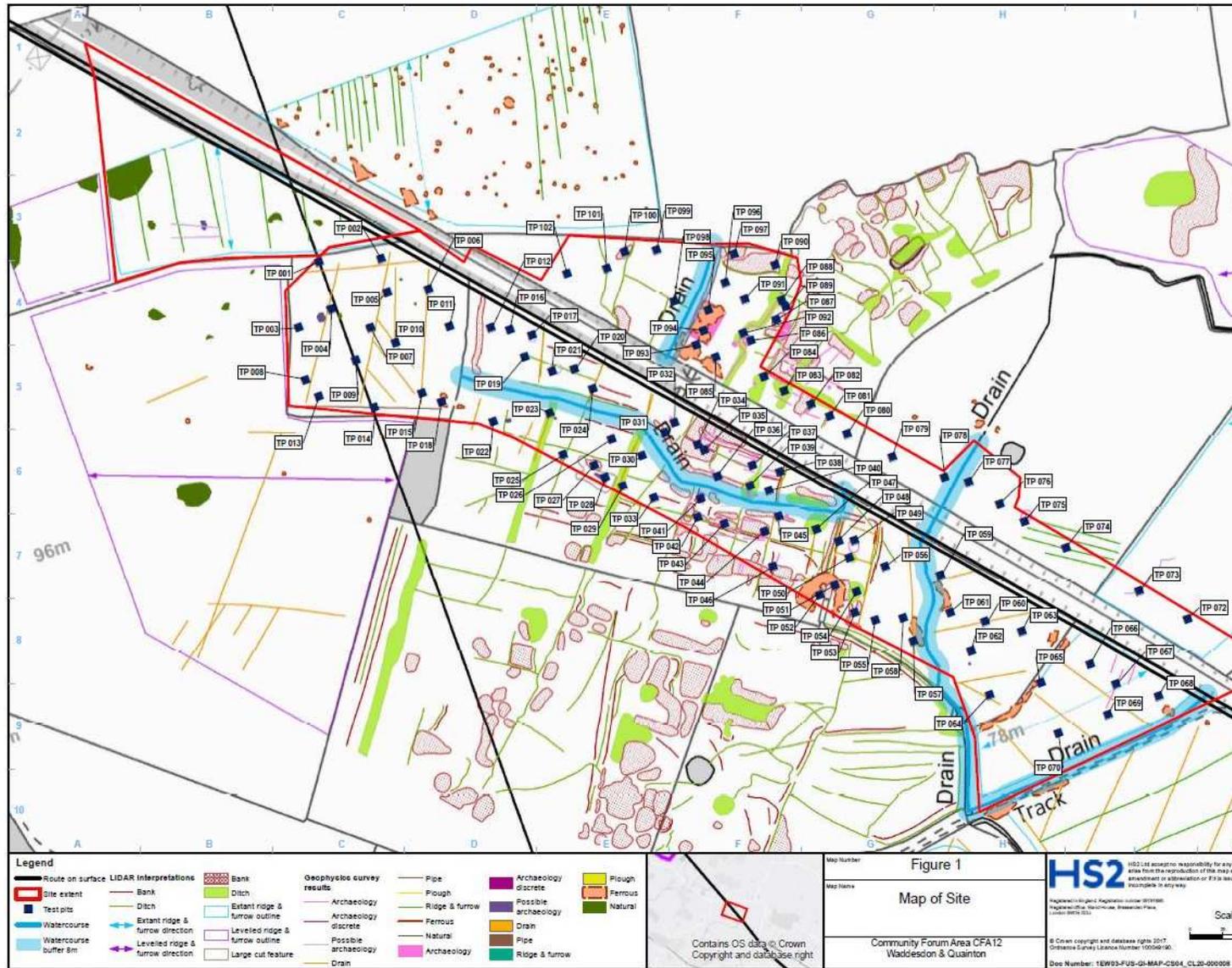


C2b – Dodderhall DMV (Test Pit Evaluation)

1m x 1m test pits hand excavated across the site of Dodderhall DMV. This followed an extensive desk based assessment and a number of non-intrusive survey's which identified key features of the DMV (building footprints, back roads through the site etc).

The function of the work was to:
 - Identify if archaeological deposits / features were actually present
 - Understand the degree of preservation of the remains
 - Understand the depth at which the remains were encountered in order to inform the planned soil translocation work, which is to take place across the site due the environmental sensitivity and species diversity of the grassland.

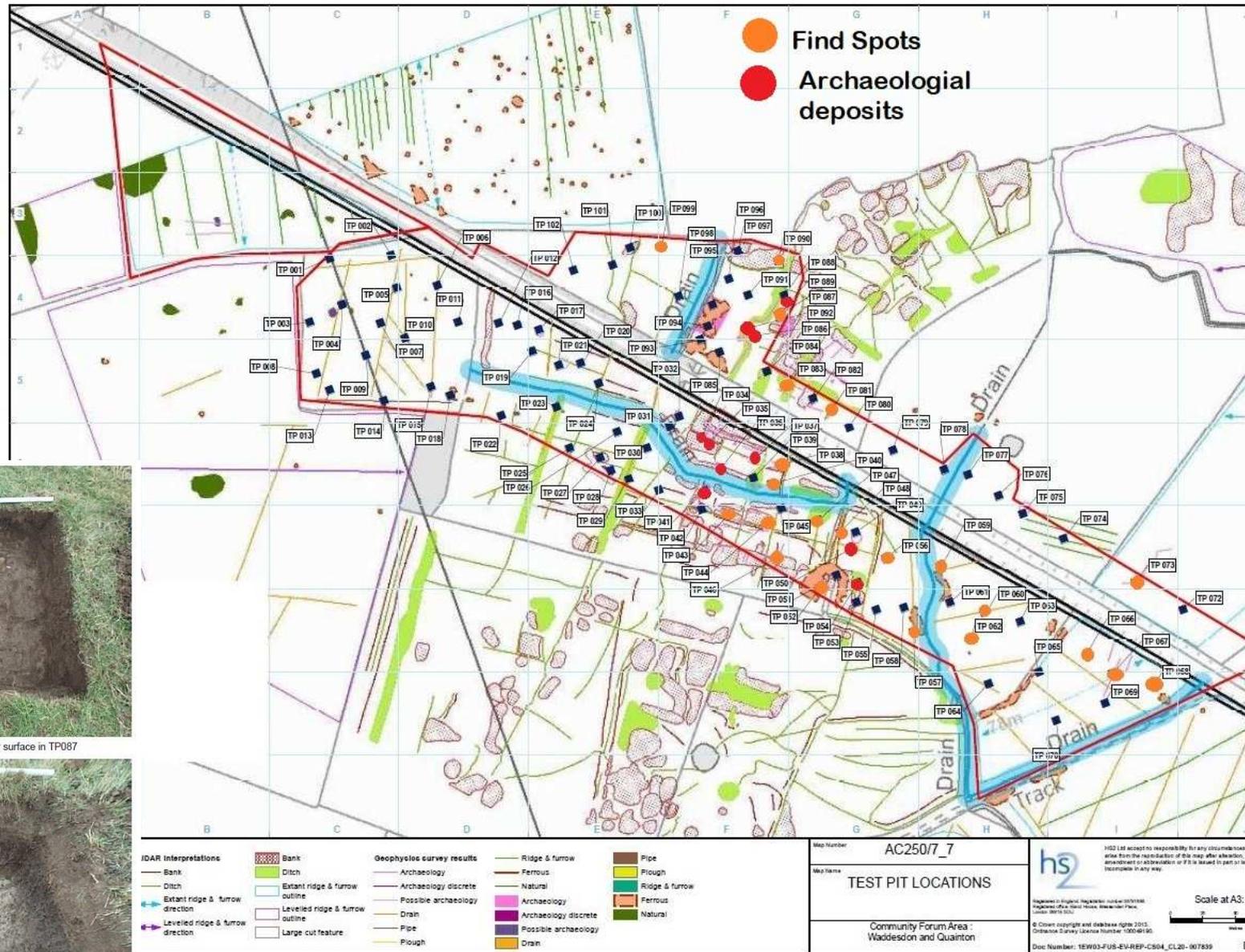
The site is intersected by modern, live, railway the construction of which will have had an impact on the DMV.



C2b – Dodderhall DMV (Test Pit Evaluation)

Successfully identified what appeared to be the remains of the village through archaeological test pits which consisted of:
 - Levelled surfaces, wall foundations, possible occupation deposits, floor areas and levelling deposits
 - Features such as ditches and postholes

Findings included:
 - Finds of pottery (typically Brill / Borstal wares), animal bone (cattle, pig, sheep/goat and deer) and metalwork (chiefly nails) and timber. This evidence indicated a medieval date for the site – dated around the 13th Century.



Photograph showing deposit of cobbles, burnt clay and charcoal area in TP035



Figure 11: Post Ex shot of possible floor surface in TP087



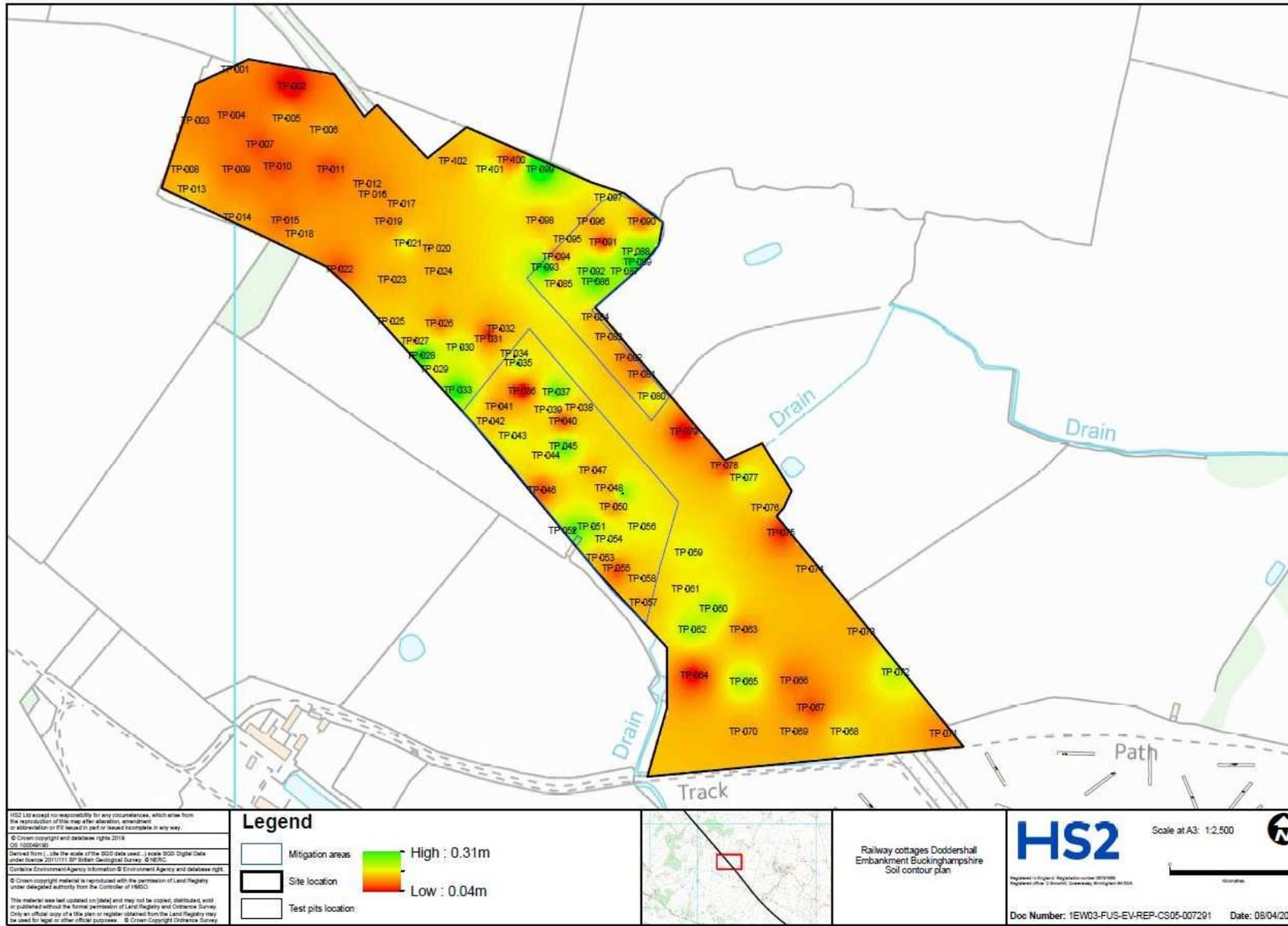
Post Ex shot of deposit containing timber in TP089



Figure 13: East facing section of TP092

C2b – Dodderhall DMV (Test Pit Evaluation)

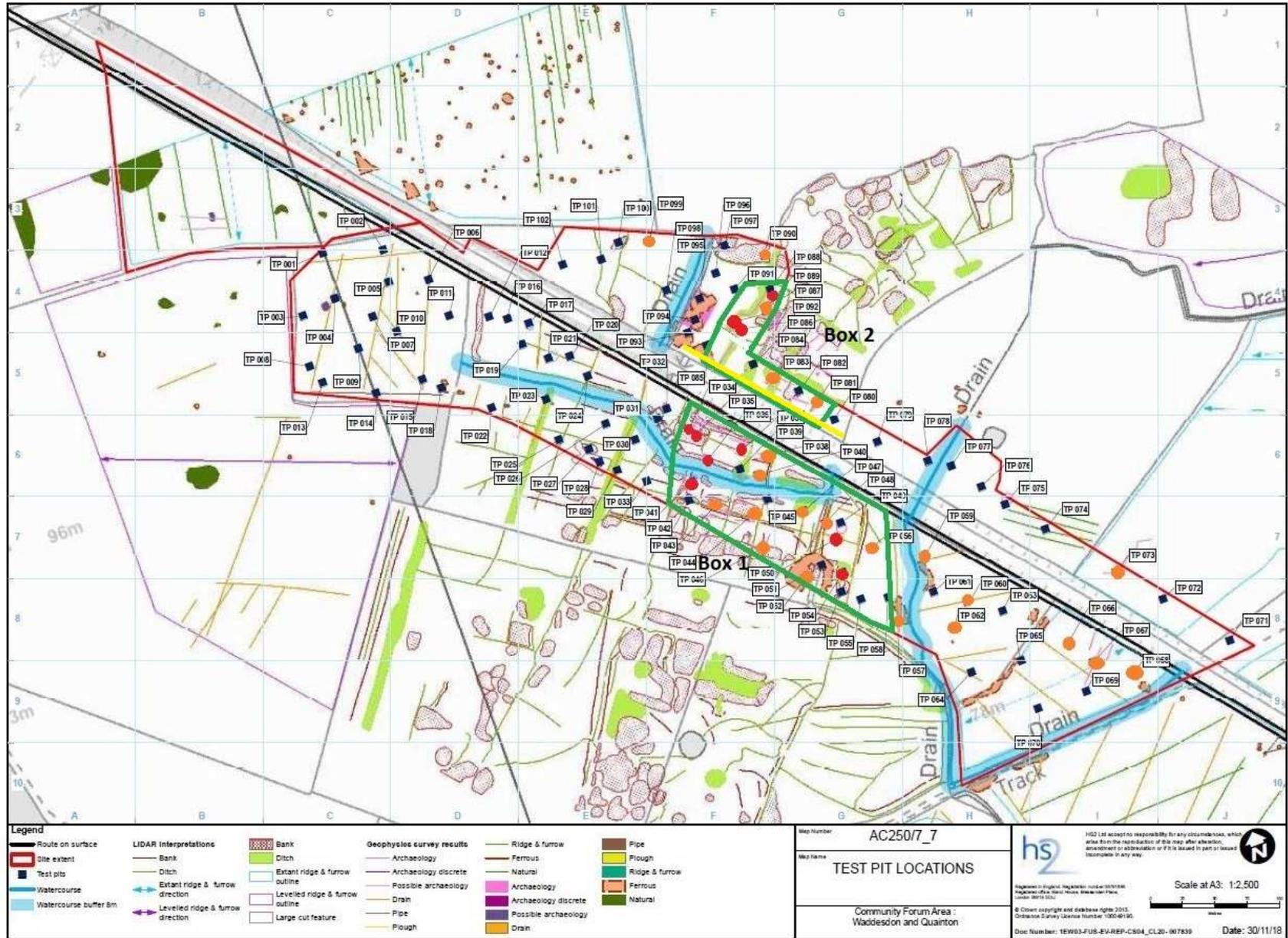
both of remains varied from 0.4m – 0.45m, sitting typically around 0.20m



C2b – Dodderhall DMV (Test Pit Evaluation)

Structure Works –
 Archaeological recording of
 two box areas focused on
 the identified core of the
 DMV

40



C2b – Stage ones Sites Undertaken to Date

Widmore Farm, trial trench evaluation, 30 trenches, undertaken March 2019

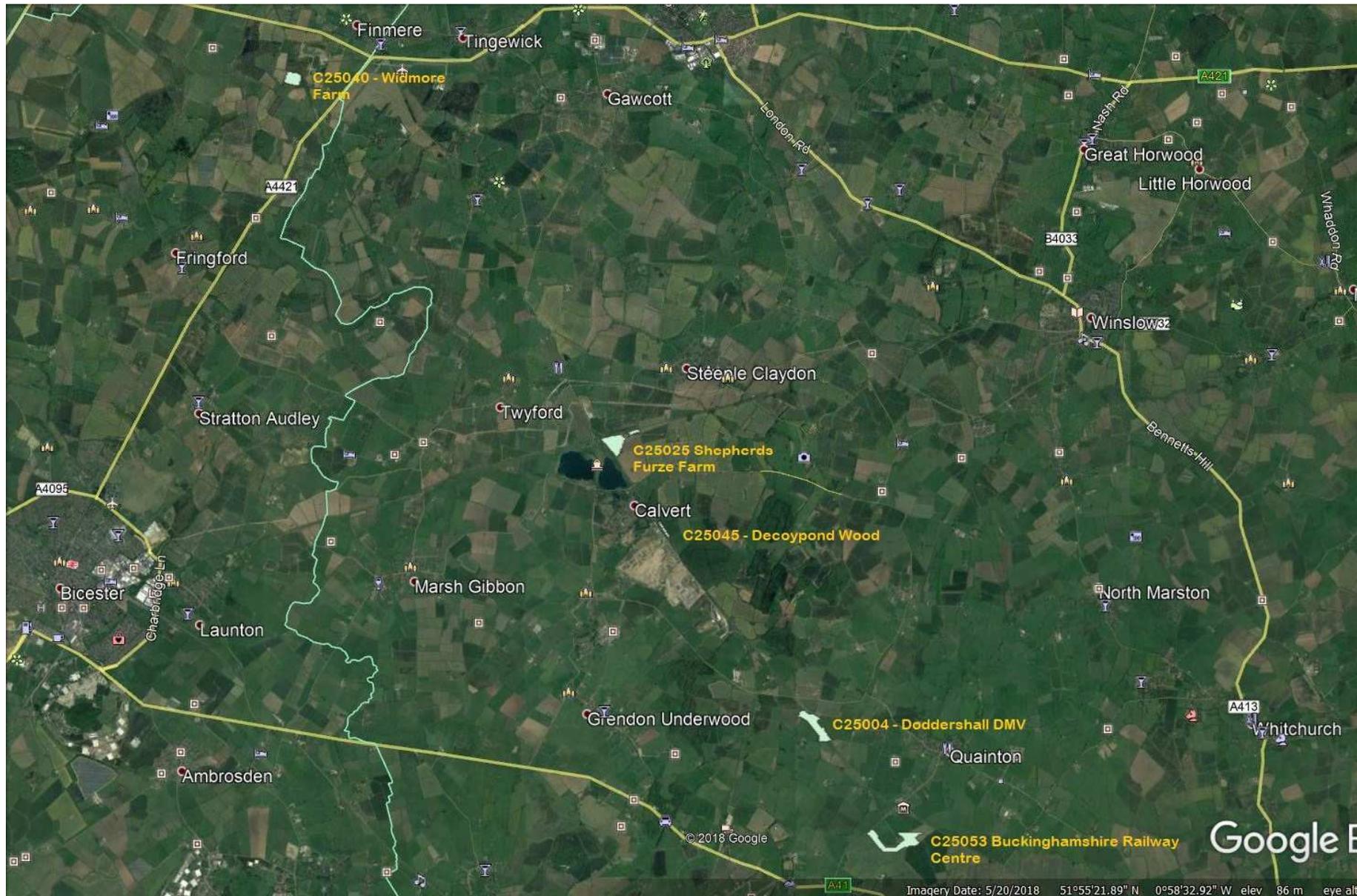
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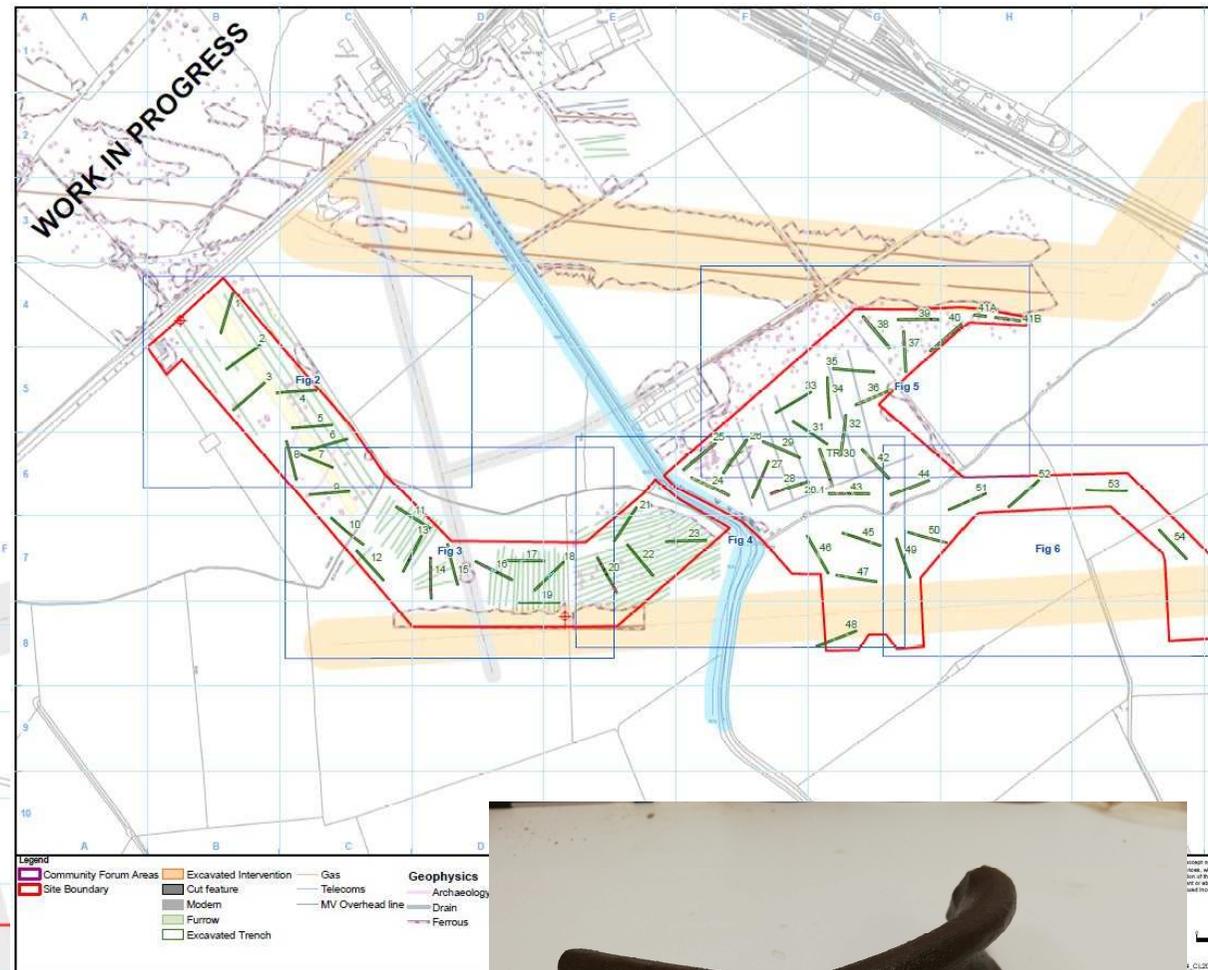
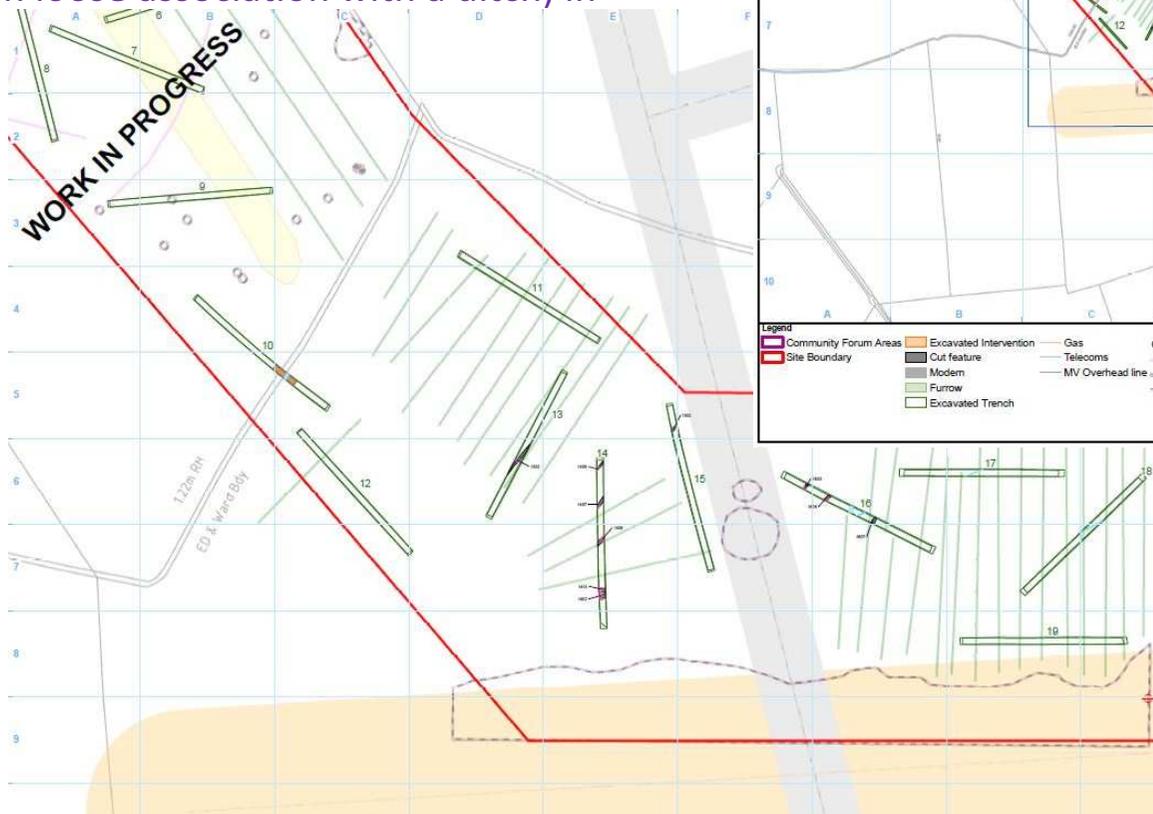
C2b – Bucks Railway Centre (Test Pit Evaluation)

Geophysics indicated extensive Ridge and furrow as well as areas of uncertainty. 54 trenches were excavated. Of these 15 contained archaeological remains. The vast majority of these features were linear “ditch” type features - representing drainage features, land / field boundaries and remains of post medieval or later date. 6 post holes were noted, of a modern date, in tr.43 – thought to represent remains of a fence line.

Iron pottery was discovered within the fill of a ditch in tr. 15. It was found in the subsoil (in loose association with a ditch) in tr. 15.

It is likely that this material was deposited, by plough, from a known site to the SW, represented the cultural hinterland associated with this site to the SW.

Useful floral or faunal assemblages were recovered.

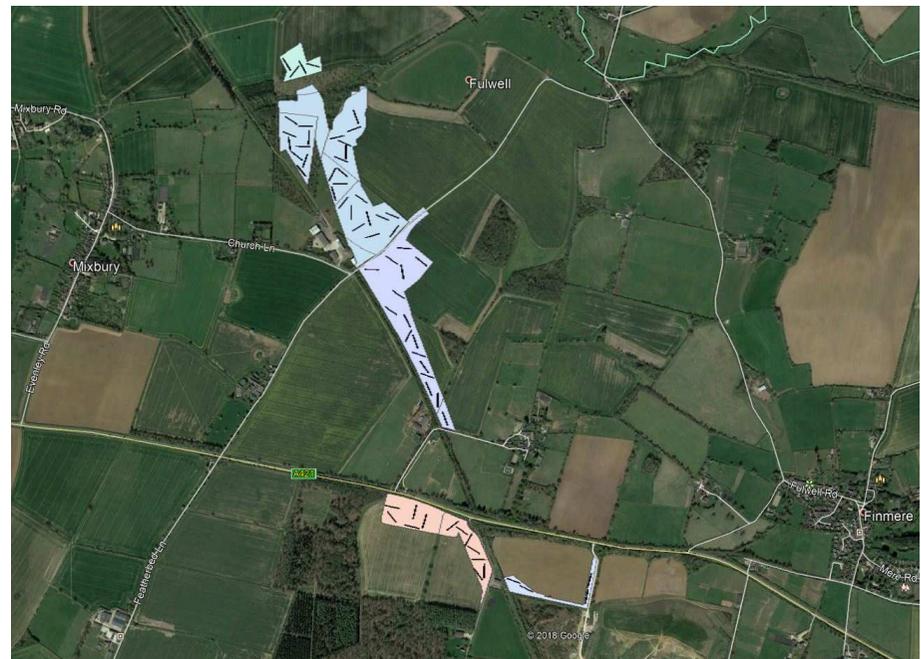


Upcoming Works

Mitigation works at Doddershall DMV and Railway Cottages



Trail Trench At Turweston



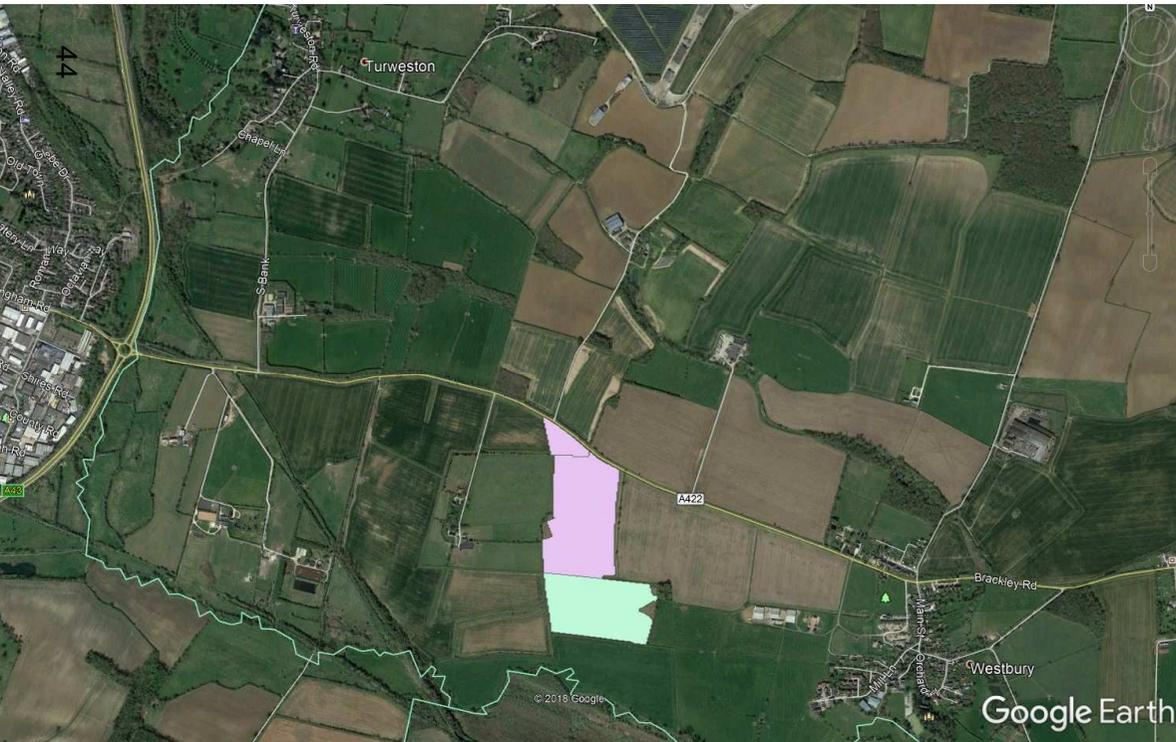
Trail Trench At Finmere



Trail Trench Eval
At Three Bridge
Mill



Trail Trench Eval
At Newton Purcell



Trail Trench Eval
At Grove Hill Farm

Protocol for the Operation of the Emergency Recording Fund by the Buckinghamshire Historic Environment Forum (BHEF)

1. Purpose

The purpose of the fund is to enable the emergency recording of important archaeological remains (including above and below ground features, artefacts and associated environmental deposits) which are unavoidably under imminent threat of significant damage or destruction without adequate provision for their recording. The fund covers the administrative areas of Aylesbury Vale District Council, Chiltern District Council, Milton Keynes Council, South Bucks District Council and Wycombe District Council. This will be amended after Unitary to cover Buckinghamshire Council and Milton Keynes Council.

2. Criteria

To be eligible for funding the following criteria must be met:

1. Where applicable, the procedures for obtaining archaeological advice set out in the National Planning Policy Framework must have been followed and appropriate safeguards secured through the planning process.
2. There must be good reason to believe that the remains are likely to be of more than local importance (as defined in the Buckinghamshire Archaeological Management Plan, 2006).
3. There must be an imminent threat of significant damage or destruction and all reasonable efforts must have been made to avoid or minimise that threat.
4. The cost of the proposed work should be no more than is necessary to record, and where appropriate recover, the threatened remains. *Wider survey to establish the context of discoveries is not covered. All reasonable efforts should be made to ensure that the work is undertaken in a cost-effective manner. Projects costs should include the consolidation of the archive and preparation of a summary report but not full analysis and publication which should be the subject of a post-excavation assessment submitted to BHEF (see below).*
5. All reasonable efforts must have been made to secure funding or "contributions in kind" from the developer and other sources (e.g. Historic England for remains of national importance) although in some cases it is accepted that speed is of the essence and this is not possible. In such cases, efforts should be made to source funding to cover post-excavation work. *In some cases the fund might be used to provide "match funding". Public bodies and utilities with legal obligations to the environment will be expected to discharge their legal and ethical obligations in full.*

3. Procedure for release of funds

Funds may be released by the Treasurer on combined request from the relevant BCAS (Buckinghamshire County Archaeological Service) and

MKCCA (Milton Keynes Council Conservation & Archaeology) Archaeological Officers or, for portable antiquities, the Curator, to the Treasurer. The Treasurer will consult the Chair, or in their absence the Vice-Chair, of the Buckinghamshire Historic Environment Forum prior to any expenditure exceeding £1000. A written report must be submitted to the next BHEF meeting explaining:

- The circumstances of the investigation
- Its outcome, including an assessment of importance
- The justification for the expenditure in relation to the criteria specified in section 2 above
- Any proposals for further analysis and publication with appropriate justifications and costings

4. Procedure for the maintenance of the fund

The fund is to be a rollover fund administered by the Treasurer of BHEF. The Treasurer should seek to maintain the fund between upper and lower limits defined by BHEF. The treasurer should report to each BHEF meeting on:

- The current level of the fund
- The need for additional contributions to the fund
- The suitability of the current upper and lower limits

The failure of any voting organisation on BHEF to contribute to the fund may, at the discretion of the BHEF, lead to a review of this protocol.

Contacts (2019)

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BCAS – Phil Markham pmarkham@buckscc.gov.uk 01296 382705 or in his absence Eliza Alqassar (Environment Team Leader)

ealqassar@buckscc.gov.uk 01296 383798

MKCCA – Nick Crank nick.crank@milton-keynes.gov.uk 01908 254259 or in his absence Simon Peart (Conservation & Archaeology Manager)

simon.peart@milton-keynes.gov.uk 01908 252613

BHEF Treasurer - Eliza Alqassar (BCC Environment Team Leader)

ealqassar@buckscc.gov.uk 01296 383798

Updated September 2019