

**LAND SOUTH OF BARROW ROAD, BARTON-ON-HUMBER,  
NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE**

**SPECIFICATION FOR AN  
ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION**

NGR:	TA 0418 2160
Planning Ref.:	Pre-application
PCAS job no.	2668
Site code:	SBRE 22
NLM site code:	TBC

Prepared for  
RPS Consulting Ltd.

by  
R. D. Savage and L. Brocklehurst

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PCAS Archaeology Ltd  
47, Manor Road  
Saxilby  
Lincoln  
LN1 2HX  
Tel. (01522) 703 800  
e-mail [info@pcas-archaeology.co.uk](mailto:info@pcas-archaeology.co.uk)

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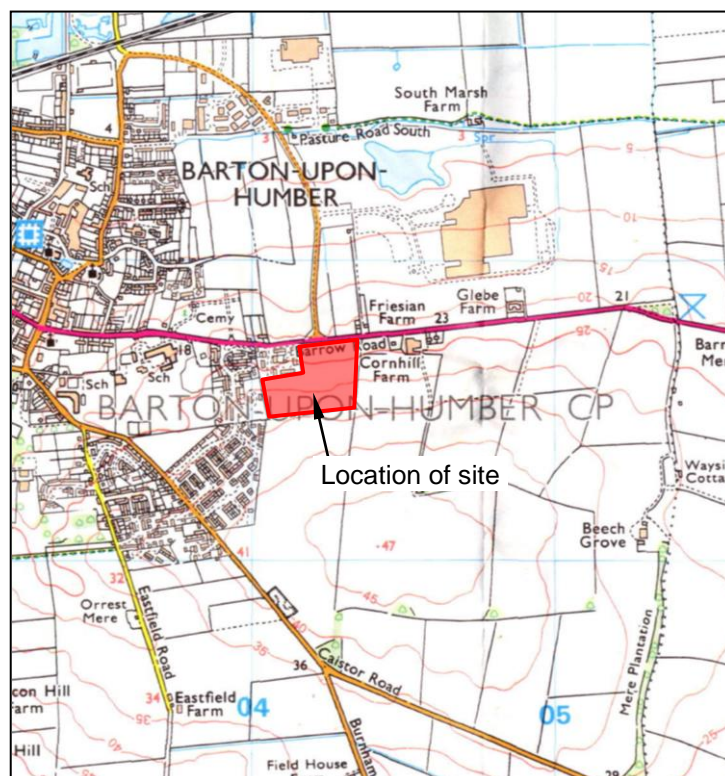
## Non-Technical Summary

A programme of archaeological evaluation trenching is to take place in advance of a proposed residential development on land to the south of Barrow Road, on the eastern edge of the town of Barton-on-Humber in North Lincolnshire. If exposed, any archaeological deposits or remains will be assessed and recorded.

The proposed development site lies on the opposite side of Barrow Road from a site where a programme of archaeological works has exposed a palimpsest Iron Age to Roman landscape, incorporating ditched trackways and enclosures demarcated by ditches. A further double-ditched road or trackway may have been of early medieval date.

Geophysical surveying on the proposed development site has identified two parallel alignments of linear anomalies, indicative of double-ditched trackways, running north-west to south-east across the south side of the site – no features on this alignment appear on any historic mapping from the 18<sup>th</sup>-century enclosure award plan onwards. Another pair of linear anomalies run north to south within the south-west quadrant of the site: scattered single linear features in the area suggest field systems associated with the potential trackways.

This document describes the archaeological methodology that will be adopted as part of the scheme in order to support an application for planning permission, and the reporting and archive procedures that will follow.



**Figure 1:** Location plan of the site at scale 1:25,000. OS mapping © Crown copyright. All rights reserved. PCAS licence no. 100049278.

## 1.0 Introduction

PCAS Archaeology Ltd. was commissioned by RPS Consulting Ltd. to prepare a specification for a scheme of archaeological evaluation trenching in advance of a proposed residential development on land to the south of Barrow Road, on the eastern edge of the town of Barton-on-Humber in North Lincolnshire.

This document is a specification (written scheme of investigation) for a programme of archaeological evaluation trenching. It follows current best practice and appropriate national guidance including:

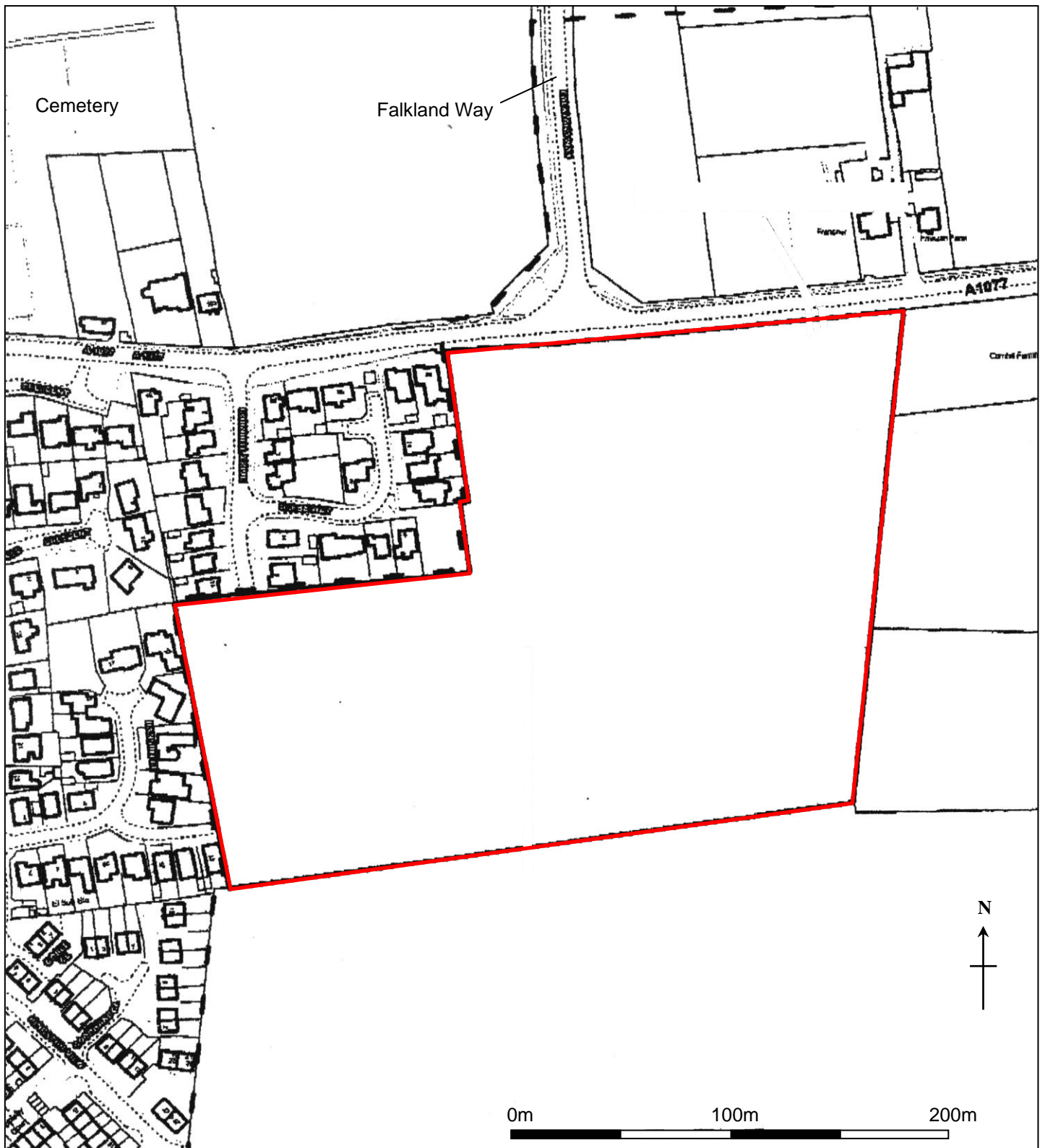
- National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), 2021 revision;
- Chartered Institute of Field Archaeologists (CIFA) Code of Conduct, 2019 revision;
- CIFA Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Evaluations, 2020 revision;
- Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE ver. 1.2, 2015, Historic England).

The purpose of the evaluation that is the subject of this WSI is to ensure that any significant archaeological remains within the development footprint are taken fully into consideration prior to the development process, to ensure their proper recording in the county Historic Environment Record, and to determine whether any further archaeological intervention is required in order to mitigate any potential damage to the archaeological record (by preservation *in situ* or by further investigation and recording).

## 2.0 Site Location and Description (figs. 1 and 2)

The town of Barton-on-Humber is situated at the northern edge of the county of North Lincolnshire, approximately 18km north-east of Scunthorpe and 11km south-west of Kingston upon Hull. Barton lies on the south side of the River Humber estuary, and is connected to it by a number of short streams. Originally with a small port at Barton Haven, the town is now somewhat isolated from the water and on either side lie flat, marshy land and long, muddy beaches. Below lies a clay suitable for brickmaking, and the former brickworks with associated clay pits are located just outside the town (NLC, 2002). Barton lies at the northern edge of the Open Rolling High Farmland zone of the Lincolnshire Wolds Escarpment Top Landscape Character Area, at its border with the Humber Estuary Character Area (NLC, 1999).

The proposed development site is located at the eastern edge of the modern town, outside the Barton-on-Humber Conservation Area, at the central National Grid Reference of TA 0418 2160,. It lies on the south side of Barrow Road (the A1077), directly opposite a junction with Falkland Way, a relatively new road built in the mid 1980s. It is a single L-shaped field some 5.9 hectares in area, lying to the east and south of a recent housing development off Barrow Road. The site is otherwise surrounded by farmland: at the time of a site visit made during an archaeological desk-based assessment commissioned in 2006, the field directly to the east, adjoining Cornhill Farm, was in use as horse pasture, while the site and the other fields adjoining it were arable land. The DBA noted that the site was bounded by the garden hedges and fences of the residential properties to the north-west, while its other boundaries consisted of incomplete hawthorn hedges (Gardner and Bunn, 2006); a recently completed geophysical survey noted that that the site had most recently been under a cereal crop, and that overhead cables run north-west to south-east across its north-eastern corner (Terry, 2022).



**Figure 2:** As-existing plan of the application area (outlined in red) at scale 1:2500. OS mapping © Crown copyright. All rights reserved. PCAS licence no. 100049278.

### 3.0 Topography and Geology

Barton-on-Humber lies on the southern slope of the Lincolnshire Wolds, divided from the Yorkshire Wolds by the valley of the River Humber. The town is sited on the south bank of the Humber, at the narrowest point of the estuary: a historically favoured site for ferry services, and now the location of the south end of the Humber Bridge. The Wolds rise to the south of the town; to the west, they fall away to the valley of the River Ancholme, a tributary of the Humber, and to the east towards the coast. The site lies near the top of a gentle north-facing slope, descending to the flood plain of the estuary.

The local drift geology is Till, overlying a solid geology of Welton Chalk (BGS, 1983). Local soils are slightly acidic loamy and clayey soils with impeded drainage (Terry, 2022).

### 4.0 Planning Background

Planning permission for the construction of a hotel on the site was granted in 2006, but has since expired (application ref. PA/2006/0602). A planning application for a residential development is being compiled: as the planning permission for the previously proposed development included archaeological conditions, a Written Scheme of Investigation for a programme of archaeological evaluation trenching (this document) will be presented in support of the application.

### 5.0 Archaeological and Historical Background

A programme of archaeological works on land at the junction of Barrow Road and Falkland Way, opposite the present site to the north-west, retrieved Neolithic to Bronze Age struck flint and possible Iron Age pottery during fieldwalking and in the fill of a medieval furrow, although no stratified finds of this period were recorded (HER refs. 20001, 20769). The archaeological works exposed a palimpsest Iron Age to Roman landscape, with an initial phase comprising three ring gullies, one associated with a cremation burial, and six enclosures demarcated by ditches; this was followed by a possible droveway represented by a pair of parallel ditches, with a final phase of three ditches believed to represent a new series of land divisions established during the Roman period (HER ref. 21250). The site appeared to have continued in occupation during the Roman period, with a realignment of the field divisions during the third phase of the settlement. Further linear features identified as enclosure ditches might also have been Roman, although early medieval dating evidence was present in greater quantities. A double-ditched road or trackway, probably connecting Barton with Barrow, could be dated to the early medieval period; other ditches produced both Roman and early medieval finds, and may have been a post-Norman Conquest field system or part of the Romano-British landscape (HER ref. 20113-4).

The name 'Barton' first appears in The Domesday Survey of AD 1086 as *Bertune*, deriving from the Old English *boer*, 'barley' and *tūn*, 'outlying farm or grange' (Cameron, 1998). At this time Barton upon Humber was already a large and prosperous town. It lay almost entirely within the estate of Gilbert de Ghent and included enough arable land to occupy 27 ploughs, with a taxable population of 188 households, a church with a priest, two mills, a market and a ferry (Williams and Martin, 2002). The land including the current site would later be detached from this estate, as all the land between Barrow Road and what is now Caistor Road has been identified as that granted to Bardney Abbey by Walter de Ganto in 1115. Like many of the Lincolnshire religious houses, Bardney was prominent in the wool trade, and this area on the rising slope of the Wolds may have been used for pasturing the abbey's sheep (Gardner and Bunn, 2006).

Land South of Barrow Road, Barton-on-Humber  
Specification for an archaeological evaluation



**Figure 3:** Interpretive plot of the 2022 geophysical survey (Terry, 2022) at scale 1:2000.

A windmill stood on the south side of Barrow Road in 'the second field beyond the stone pit' from the 17<sup>th</sup>-century to the late 19<sup>th</sup>. The early structure, presumably of timber, had been replaced by a 'brick mill' by 1773: this mill had been demolished before the compilation of a local history in 1905, but at the time, its foundations were still impeding ploughing in the field where it had stood. The mill appears to have stood directly to the north-west of the site, within the new development, although it is also possible that it stood within the western part of the site, as a mill would normally be built on higher ground where this was available (Gardner and Bunn, 2006; HER ref. 20335).

The site was already privately owned when Barton's common land and open fields were enclosed in 1793. The eastern portion of the site formed a single plot, while the western portion formed part of a larger allotment in different ownership: the boundary between the two plots can be identified on early Ordnance Survey mapping and has been located by the geophysical survey (Gardner and Bunn, 2006; fig. 3)

Metal-detecting on the site has retrieved a medieval lead ampulla flask and a post-medieval copper buckle, both recorded by the Portable Antiquities Scheme (refs. NLM-8E3EE6, NLM-D761B8).

A geophysical survey carried out in August 2022 identified two parallel alignments of linear anomalies, indicative of double-ditched trackways, running north-west to south-east across the south side of the site. No features on this alignment appear on any historic mapping from the 18<sup>th</sup>-century enclosure award plan onwards. Another pair of linear anomalies run north to south within the south-west quadrant of the site. Scattered single linear features in this area are suggestive of field systems associated with the potential trackways. Straight features running across the full length and width of the site can be associated with post-medieval field boundaries; other linear and curvilinear features could not confidently be identified and may have been archaeological, agricultural or natural. A number of disturbed areas are present, some of which may represent small-scale quarrying: it is possible that some remains of the demolished 18<sup>th</sup>-century windmill may also be present on the site (Terry, 2022; fig. 3).

## **6.0 Archaeological Requirement (fig. 4)**

The previous grant of planning permission for development on the site noted that it was in an area of archaeological interest, and set conditions for a scheme of archaeological works to be undertaken in association with the proposed development. In order to ascertain the archaeological potential of the site, an initial phase of evaluation trenching, consisting of 36 40m x 2m trenches, will take place. The trench positions shown in figure 4 are provisional, and may need to be altered on site if hazards such as overhead cables (known to be present on the site), rubble deposits or active field drains are encountered during machining.

The purpose of the evaluation should be to gather sufficient information to establish the presence or absence, extent, depth, condition, character, quality and date of any archaeological deposits. Environmental evidence should be taken into account.

The site should not be treated in isolation, and reference should be made to relevant historical sources and previous archaeological work in the area when interpreting the results.

The results of the evaluation will be used in assessing the potential impact of the development on any significant archaeological deposits. It will inform a planning application currently in preparation, allowing for a programme of archaeological mitigation to be included, should it be deemed advisable.

An online record of the project data shall be initiated with the Archaeological Data Service (OASIS database) before fieldwork commences, and completed at the end of the project, including an uploaded digital copy of the report.

## 7.0 Methodology: Fieldwork and Recording

The evaluation trenches will be located on the site by GPS, and their positions will be checked for live services both visually (for overhead cables) and by CAT (for buried services) before work commences; if live services or other hazards are identified, the trenches will be repositioned. The trenches will then be opened under archaeological supervision to the first archaeologically significant horizon, the maximum safe working depth or the natural geology, whichever is encountered first. Archaeological deposits encountered will then be cleaned and defined by hand. Features that may be considered worthy of preservation *in situ* will be avoided as far as possible. Unless ground conditions (e.g. concrete or compacted rubble) dictate otherwise, a **toothless** bucket will be used for machine excavation; routinely, topsoil will be removed separately from underlying material and piled on the other side of the trench, in order to facilitate reinstatement.

Where identified, archaeological features will be examined sufficiently to determine their date, character and survival condition and then recorded by measured plan and section drawings at appropriate scales (normally 1:10 or 1:20), incorporating Ordnance Survey datum heights. As a minimum, 50% of discrete features and 10% of linear features will be excavated where the whole of the feature is exposed, with a minimum sample of a 1m wide slot in a short exposed length of linear feature; partially exposed features will be excavated as practicable, up to the whole of the exposed portion. Features that appear to require more extensive excavation than can be accommodated within the evaluation trench, or to warrant preservation *in situ*, will be cleaned and recorded, and excavated only so far as is necessary to ascertain their nature. Trenches in which archaeological remains are encountered will be planned at scale 1:20 or 1:50 as appropriate; where no features are encountered, the trench will be recorded by a sample section.

A written record of each significant stratigraphic horizon and archaeological feature will be made on standard PCAS context recording forms. These will be supplemented by a narrative account in the form of a site diary. The archaeologist will pay due attention to the landscape aspect of any exposed remains – both the cultural and the natural landscape – which may require a brief assessment to be made of neighbouring conditions (e.g. visible earthworks in adjacent areas, surface observation, standing buildings, vegetation cover etc).

A digital photographic record will be maintained during the course of the archaeological intervention. Photographs will incorporate an identification board, north arrow and vertical/horizontal scales as appropriate. The photographic record will include:

- general location shots depicting the area of works;
- working shots chronicling the progress and recording the methodology of the groundworks;
- individual features in plan and/or section as appropriate;
- groups of features, where relationships are important.

If human remains are encountered, they will be left *in situ* where possible, and only disturbed if backfilling and re-excavation is likely to damage them or the site cannot be secured. The landowner and/or developer, the Historic Environment Officer for North Lincolnshire County Council and the coroner will be informed of the discovery; if excavation during the evaluation is necessary, a Ministry of Justice exhumation licence will be obtained. If the remains are likely to be affected by the proposed groundworks, a scheme for their excavation and

retention or reburial will form part of the subsequent mitigation strategy. All reasonable requests of interested parties concerning the methods of removal, reinterment or disposal of the remains and associated items will be complied with, and attempts will be made at all times not to cause offence to interested parties; as a standard, pre-Christian remains are retained in a museum of record for possible future study following initial specialist assessment post-excavation, and the terms of the exhumation licence will be arranged to reflect this (Christian burials are not expected on this site). The treatment of human remains will be at all times in accordance with the requirements of civil law and all relevant IFA and Historic England (formerly English Heritage) guidance, including *Human Bones from Archaeological Sites: Guidelines for Producing Assessment Documents and Analytical Reports* (EH, 2004).

All artefacts will be treated in accordance with UKIC guidelines, *First Aid for Finds* (Watkinson & Neale 1998). All finds will be bagged and labelled according to the individual deposit from which they were recovered, ready for later cleaning, marking and analysis.

All finds that qualify as 'treasure' under the 1996 Treasure Act (Treasure Act Code of Practice: 2002 revision) will be treated in accordance with the Act; HM Coroner and the regional Finds Liaison Officer for the Portable Antiquities Scheme will be informed and the finds will be safely stored. PCAS will be deemed to be 'the finder' with regard to treasure (or potential treasure) as defined under the Treasure Act 1996, and the Applicants' and PCAS' obligations will cease with regard to the artefacts on the handing over of any such items to the party designated by the Coroner (or to the Coroner's Office) and will not recommence unless the items are declared not to be Treasure under the Act or if they are returned further to being declined for acquisition by appropriate bodies.

In line with the recommendations made in *Environmental Archaeology: A Guide to the Theory and Practice of Methods, from Sampling and Recovery to Post-Excavation*, palaeoenvironmental samples will be taken from interpretable and datable archaeological deposits (EH, 2011, p.5). The topography and geology of the site suggest that palaeoenvironmental preservation is likely to be poor, with charred plant remains and mollusc shells most likely to survive. Recommended sample sizes are 40-60 litres, or the whole of smaller features (*ibid.*, p.12). Bulk samples for environmental processing will be taken in 10-litre capacity lidded plastic buckets. Where the deposit to be sampled is large, the sample will be taken from several locations within the deposit, at different depths; material from each location will be divided among all the sample buckets being filled, rather than filling one bucket from each of four different places in the deposit, to ensure that any one bucket being processed as an initial sub-sample will still contain material from several places in the deposit. Fills from large, multiply recut ditches should routinely be avoided as subjects for sampling, as these deposits are likely to have been reworked and redeposited, possibly several times, and material within them cannot be considered securely stratified. All samples will be 'whole earth': visible finds will not be removed unless they are likely to be adversely affected by sample processing or their nature demands special treatment (e.g. precious metal, human remains or artefacts in need of immediate conservation). The removal of any such material will be noted on the sample record. All samples will be labelled with the site code, context number and sub-sample count (e.g. '1 of 4', '2 of 4') with indelible pen on plasticized labels; two labels will be sealed inside each bucket, and two attached to the exterior of each bucket. Smaller and specialised samples may be kept in polythene finds bags: these will be double-bagged, with the site code, context number and sub-sample count written on the white panels of both bags, and a label placed in the inner bag and between the inner and outer bags, duplicating this information.

## **8.0 Methodology: Post-Fieldwork**

Following completion of site works, all archaeological records and finds will be taken to the offices of PCAS prior to processing, dispatch to specialists and/or in-house assessment.

Stable finds (e.g. pottery, bone etc) will be washed, marked and packaged at PCAS prior to dispatch. Unstable finds will be dispatched for remedial conservation as a prelude to assessment. Following the completion of site works, the processed finds will be dispatched for specialist identification and assessment, and bulk and specialist environmental samples will be dispatched for processing and reporting. PCAS have used the services of the following specialists in the past and may use any/all of the following again, depending on suitability, availability etc.

### **Archaeological Contractors:**

- University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS) – provides a comprehensive service in all areas of post-excavation analysis.
- Durham University Archaeological Services (DUAS) – provides environmental archaeology services.
- York Archaeological Trust (YAT) – identification and assessment of registered special finds; X-Ray analysis and Conservation Services.
- Archaeological Project Services (APS) staff – provides a comprehensive service in most areas of post-excavation analysis.

### **Other Freelance Specialists:**

- T. Lane – specialising in the identification and assessment of lithic materials and tools.
- Dr. K. Leahy – specialising in the identification and assessment of post-Roman and early medieval artefacts, particularly metalwork.
- Dr. R. Mackenzie – specialising in the identification and assessment of waste metalworking residues.
- Q. Mould – specialising in the identification and assessment of leather artefacts.
- Sarah Percival – specialising in the identification and assessment of prehistoric pottery and ceramics.
- I. Rowlandson – specialising in the identification and assessment of Iron Age and Roman pottery.
- M. Taylor/M. Bamforth – specialising in the identification and assessment of waterlogged wood.
- Dr. R. Tyson – specialising in the identification and assessment of glass.
- J. Wood – specialising in the identification and assessment of animal bone & human remains.
- J. Young – specialising in the identification and assessment of post-Roman pottery and ceramic building material (with Z. Tomlinson).

A full report on the results of the project will normally be submitted within two months of the completion of the groundworks. If a full report cannot be made within this time, due to large or unusual finds assemblages requiring more specialist assessment time, an interim report

may be produced, in agreement with the client and the Historic Environment Officer. The final report will be prepared in accordance with current guidelines and will include the following minimum information:

- A non-technical summary
- Museum accession number, site code and project number
- Planning reference number
- Grid reference, site location, topography and geology
- Archaeological and historical background
- A statement of aims and objectives of the project
- A description and analysis of the fieldwork undertaken
- A geo-referenced location plan at a minimum scale of 1:10,000
- A scaled overall site plan showing the accurately surveyed location of the development site in relation to known and speculated archaeological features (if appropriate)
- Scaled section and plan drawings of all archaeological features encountered within the excavated area.
- Discussion and conclusions, including the importance of the findings in local, regional and national basis and a critical review of the effectiveness of methodology
- Tables summarising features and artefacts with full descriptions and brief interpretation
- Specialist artefact and environmental reports, as necessary, with reference made to appropriate published type-series
- Colour photographs, including general views and appropriate detail
- Acknowledgements
- Bibliography of sources used
- Archive deposition location and agreed deposition date
- A summary of the report's presence and location on the OASIS online database

Copies of the evaluation report will be sent to the client, the North Lincolnshire Historic Environment Record (HER) and the Historic Environment Officer. Copies of the report will also be deposited with the North Lincolnshire Museums Service as part of an ordered and indexed project archive. The data from the project, along with a digital copy of the report, will be uploaded to the Archaeology Data Service OASIS (Online AccesS to the Index of archaeological investigationS) database for public consultation.

## **9.0 Archive and Deposition**

Following acceptance of the report, a project archive (documentary and material) will be prepared in accordance with the guidelines contained in *Guidelines for the Preparation of Excavation Archives for Long Term Storage* (UKIC 1990) and *Standards in the Museum Care of Archaeological Collections* (Museums and Galleries Commission 1992). The entire archive will be prepared at the offices of PCAS, prior to deposition with the appointed museum of record, expected to be North Lincolnshire Museum.

Following acceptance of the final report, the project archive will be deposited within six months of the completion of site works. Following deposition, the archive will be available for public consultation: a NLM site code has been applied for.

## **10.0 Publication and Dissemination**

Deposition of the report with the HER, where it will be incorporated into their database for public consultation, and uploading the project data to OASIS will be considered as placing the results of the project in the public domain. Where the significance of the results warrants it, wider publication of the results will be considered: the content and place of publication will be dependent on what is found (e.g. discoveries of regional interest could appear in a county journal), and will be subject to discussion with the archaeological advisor to the planning authority.

Working under the terms of the Copyright, Design and Patents Act 1988, PCAS shall retain full copyright with regard to written, digital and graphic material. However, following project completion, the commissioning body, the North Lincolnshire HER and the Archaeology Data Service may all, in the interest of informing and advancing the profession, make responsible use of the data, provided that any material copied or cited in reports is duly acknowledged and all copyright conditions observed.

## **11.0 Health and Safety**

All work will be carried out in compliance with the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974 and its related regulations and codes of practice.

Employees and sub-contractors of Pre-Construct Archaeological Services Ltd will perform their duties in accordance with company safety policy (revised 2022). Where employees are temporarily engaged at other workplaces, they are to respect relevant local regulations, both statutory and as imposed by other employers within the Health and Safety at Work Act.

In furtherance of the duty of care imposed by the Health & Safety at Work Act, the Employer shall make available to his employees whatever reasonable facilities are required by particular circumstances, e.g. appropriate protective clothing, safety equipment, rest breaks for specialised tasks, etc.

A site risk assessment will be prepared prior to any site works taking place; this will be reviewed and updated as appropriate, and a copy will be available on site.

## **12.0 Insurance**

PCAS Archaeology Ltd has the following insurance cover:

Employers' Liability:	£10,000,000
Public Liability:	£5,000,000
Professional Indemnity:	£1,000,000

### 13.0 Monitoring Arrangements

Internal monitoring will be the responsibility of Leigh Brocklehurst, Project Manager, PCAS. The Historic Environment Officer for North Lincolnshire County Council will be informed, with not less than one week's notice, of the start of the monitoring programme. She will be kept informed of any unexpected discoveries and regularly updated on the project's progress, and will be free to visit the site by prior arrangement with the site director.

### 14.0 Contacts

Alison Williams, HER Officer, NLC	(01724) 297 471
Martin Forman, PAS FLO	(01742) 843 533
Leigh Brocklehurst, Project Manager, PCAS	(01522) 703 800

### 15.0 References

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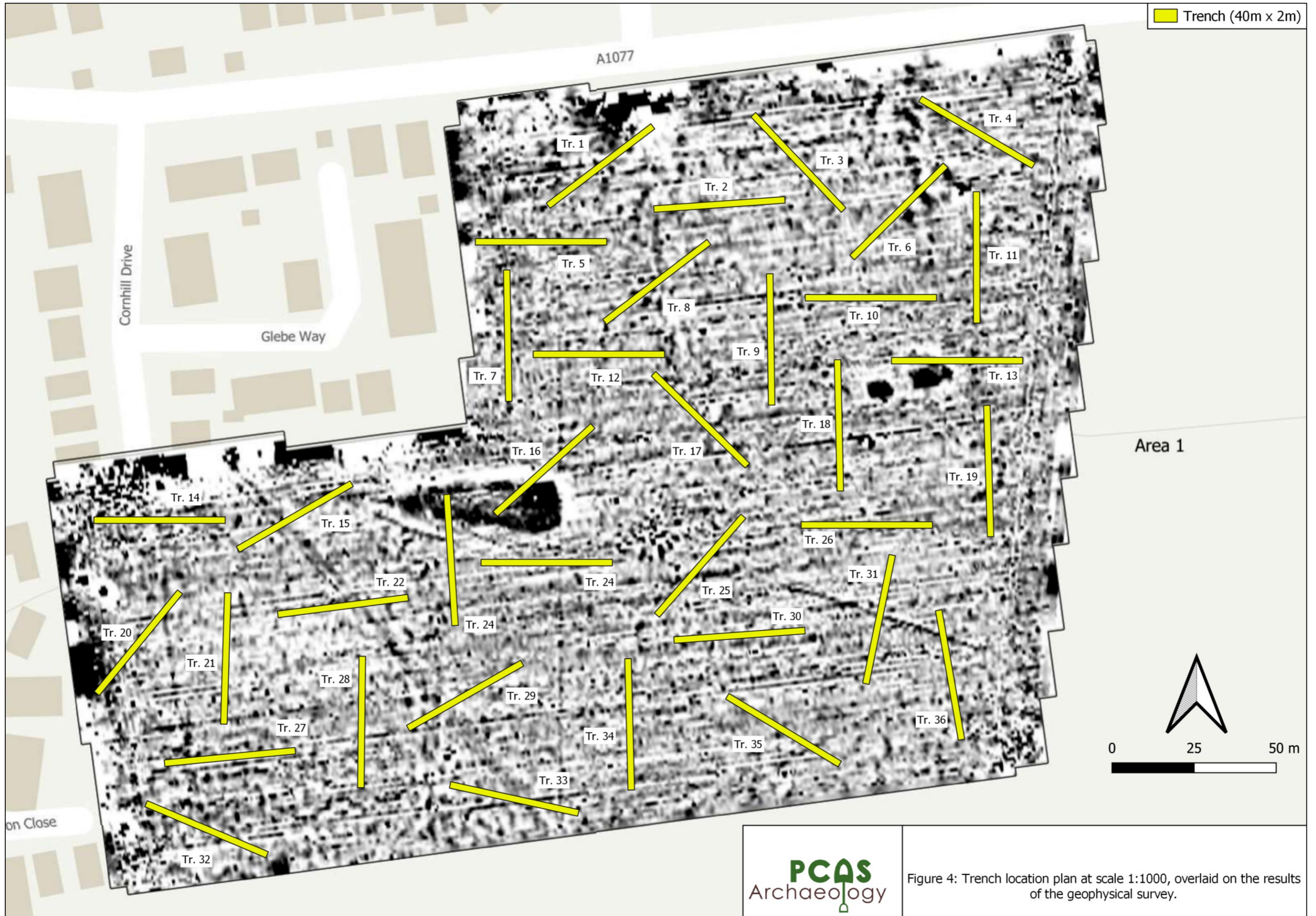


Figure 4: Trench location plan at scale 1:1000, overlaid on the results of the geophysical survey.

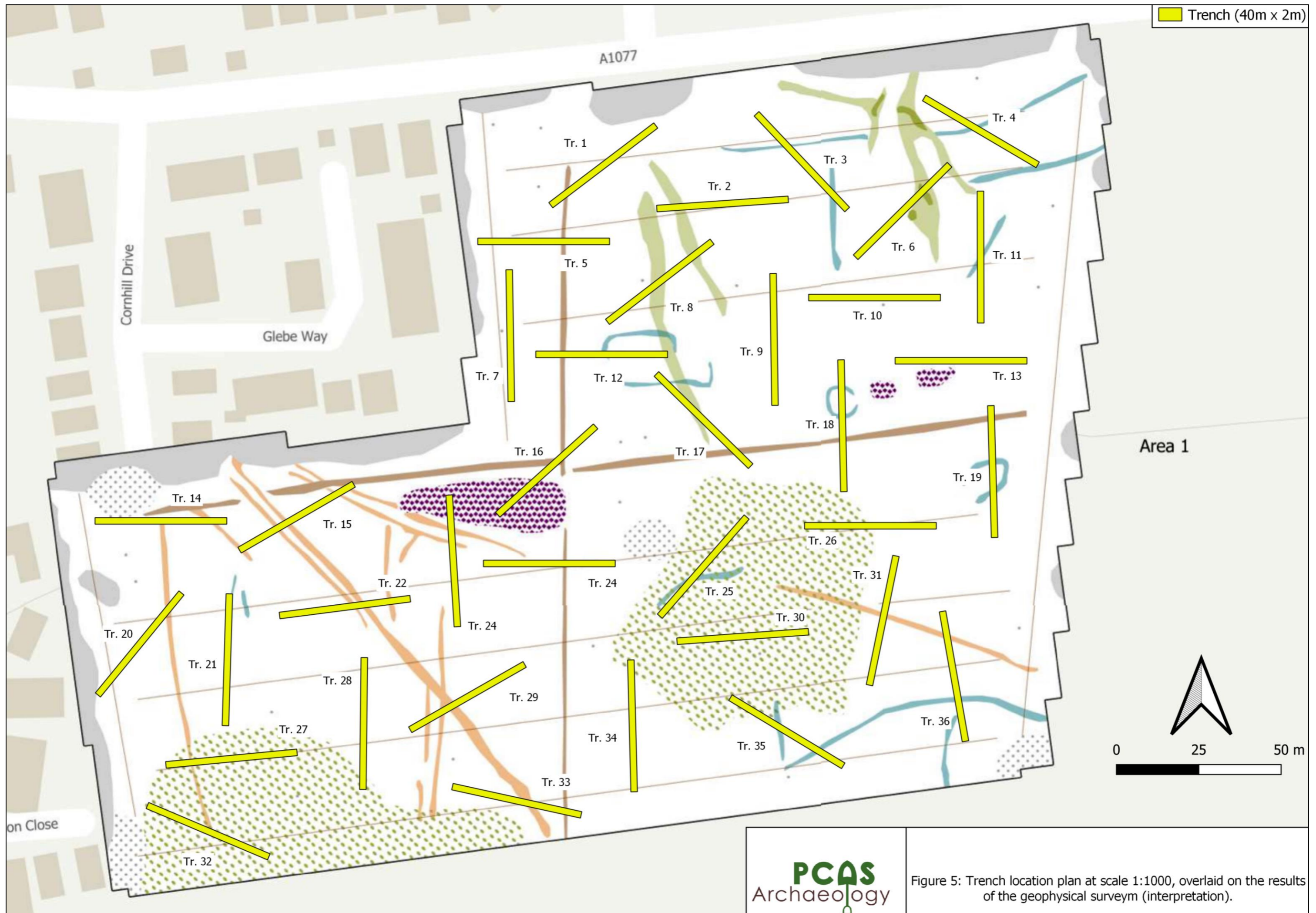


Figure 5: Trench location plan at scale 1:1000, overlaid on the results of the geophysical survey (interpretation).