

**Archaeological Excavations on land at Main Road,
Sellindge, Kent TN25 6ET**
Interim Post-Excavation Assessment and Updated Project Design
Phase 1

NGR Site Centre: **610900E 137900N**
Planning Application Number: Y/16/1122/SH



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SWAT ARCHAEOLOGY

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Archaeological Excavations on Land at Main Road, Sellindge, Kent TN25 6ET Interim Post-Excavation Assessment

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Abstract

An archaeological excavation was undertaken by Swale & Thames Survey Company (SWAT) at Grove Park, Sellindge, Kent, during 2022 and 2023. The excavation was undertaken in response to recommendations from Kent County Council following archaeological evaluations undertaken in 2022.

Archaeological excavations have revealed the presence of vast Bronze Age barrow cemetery, which appears to have close parallels with similar sites (including those that have been designated as nationally important), which are also on the c.70m high promontories on the south side of the East Stour river (to the south of the site). It appears that potential burial mounds were removed and area was turned into agricultural land in medieval period; however there was one central burial in one of the two double-ring barrows.

There was also significant occupation on site from the Late Bronze Age to the Late Iron Age and Roman Period. Probable agricultural and settlement activity comprising field boundary ditches, pits, enclosures, structures and a trackway. Funerary practises appeared to take place in the west of the site during the Mid to Late Bronze Age and Early Romano- British period, before dwindling in the late 2nd and 3rd centuries, the site being abandoned probably in the 4th century. The agricultural activity resumed in 13th Century and persisted until Post Medieval and modern Periods.

Central and western extent of Area 4 (4b) containing two Bronze Age ring barrows and series of Roman rectilinear enclosures was designated for preservation in-situ. Two located the most to the west ring barrows were preserved under recently reconstructed mounds which will become a permanent part of a future park and will be accompanied by two heritage lecterns providing information for the public about discoveries on the site and how they relate to similar discoveries in surrounding area.

The client Quinn Estates by agreeing to undertake this reconstruction project are significantly contributing to the dissemination of the results of archaeological investigation and will create another worth-visit heritage-related place in the County. It will also help with integration and add a character to the newly build housing estate in the Village.

Acknowledgements

SWAT Archaeology would like to thank Quinn Estates for commissioning the project. Thanks are also extended to Casper Johnson, senior archaeological officer at Kent County Council for his advice and assistance.

Django Rayner supervised the archaeological fieldwork. Site survey and illustrations were produced by Bartek Cichy. This report was written by Peter Cichy. On behalf of the client project was directed by Dr Paul Wilkinson, MCIFA.

The pottery and flint analysis was undertaken by Paul Hart, the central Bronze Age burial microexcavation and analysis was undertaken by Archaeological Research Services Ltd. (ARS). The environmental samples processing is on-going and 6 subsamples were selected to obtain radiocarbon dates; four from ring barrows and two from prehistoric enclosure to the east.

Archaeological Excavations on Land at Main Road, Sellindge in Kent Post-Excavation Assessment

NGR Site Centre: 551793E 169810N

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project background

- 1.1.1 The developer is planning to develop the land at Main Road, Sellindge in Kent. The land has outline planning permission (Y/16/1122/SH) for a neighbourhood extension for the creation of up to 162 houses including affordable, self-build and retirement housing, up to 929 sq metres. Class B1 Business floor space, allotments, recreational ground and multi-use games area, nature reserve and associated access, parking, amenity space and landscaping.

1.2 Scope of the Post-Excavation Assessment Report

- 1.2.1 In accordance with the Specification (SWAT Archaeology 2022), this report comprises a summary of the project background (Section 1), the geological and archaeological background (Section 2) and the project aims (Section 3). Generic and specific methodologies are detailed in Section 4. Section 5 provides an overview Stratigraphic Assessment of archaeological features recorded within each area and is followed by an assessment of ceramic finds in Section 6. A period- specific Archaeological Narrative, Statement of Potential, and recommendations for further analysis, reporting, publication and archiving constitute Sections 7-10.

1.3 Planning background

- 1.3.1 The land has outline planning permission (Y/16/1122/SH) for a neighbourhood extension for the creation of up to 162 houses including affordable, self-build and retirement housing, up to 929 sq metres. Class B1 Business floor space, allotments, recreational ground and multi-use games area, nature reserve and associated access, parking, amenity space and landscaping of archaeological works were attached to Planning Decision Notice and an archaeological condition was attached to the outline planning permission and it was:

(7) No development shall take place until the applicant, or their agents or successors in title, has secured the implementation of:

i) Archaeological field evaluation works in accordance with a specification and written timetable which has been submitted to and approved by the Local Planning Authority in writing. A report detailing the results of the field evaluation works shall be provided to the local Planning Authority prior to the submission of any reserved matters application and:

ii) Following on from the evaluation, any safeguarding measures required to ensure preservation in situ of important archaeological remains and/or further archaeological investigation and recording shall be undertaken in accordance with a specification and timetable which has first been submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority

Reason: *To ensure that features of archaeological interest are properly examined and recorded.*

- 1.3.2 The methodology of the archaeological strip map and sample phase of investigation is identified within approved specification which is based on KCC site specific specification in the KCC Manual Strip Map and Sample requirements Part B.

1.4 Site Description and Topography

- 1.4.1 The application site is located in the south east of England, towards the south east of the county of Kent and within the village of Sellindge. The village is south of the Kent downs, located centrally between Ashford and Folkestone, on the A20/M20, 3.8 miles from the coastline at Hythe. The villages of Monks Horton, 2 Stanford and Westenhanger lie one mile to the north, east and southeast respectively.
- 1.4.2 The PDA (NGR: 610900 137900) is located to the east of the village, bounded to the south by the M20. Open fields meet the northeast and southeast boundary and a high residential housing estate envelopes the western boundary with the Ashford Road (A20) and Swan Lane just beyond.
- 1.4.3 The Geological Survey of Great Britain (1:50,000) shows that Sellindge is situated on Bedrock Geology of Sandgate Formation- Sandstone, siltstone and mudstone - formed approximately 112 to 125 million years ago in the Cretaceous Period when shallow seas dominated the local environment. To the north of the PDA is a small area of Folkestone formation – Sandstone. Superficial deposits found with the Sandgate Formation are Head – Clay and Silt, formed up to 3 million years ago in the Quaternary Period, when subaerial slopes dominated the local environment. The PDA sits at an average height of 70m AOD.

2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 Introduction

- 2.1.1 Prior to any work being carried out on the site, the potential of this area had been gauged in relation to the proximity of known archaeological remains and is defined in the Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment (SWAT 2016 and 2023) along with the results of the initial evaluation. Subsequently further archaeological evaluation was carried out on the site (SWAT Archaeology 2022).

2.2 Recent investigations in the surrounding area

- 2.2.1 The Proposed Development Area (PDA) is located in the vicinity of many archaeological findings. In 1999, a programme of archaeological investigations was commissioned by Union Railways (South) Ltd along the route of the Channel Tunnel Rail Link, East Stour Diversion. An evaluation (EKE5092) carried out by Canterbury Archaeological Trust, c.100m southeast of the site, revealed a feature that was identified as part of the old course of the East Stour River which had been filled in during the construction of the present motorway. Further investigation revealed three archaic stages to the river course dating from the late post-medieval period (TR13NW64). An Alluvial Deposit Report (EKE5093) carried out by Wessex Archaeology, suggested that the archaic river course may be prehistoric. Geotechnical investigations (EKE10767) reported no features or deposits.
- 2.2.2 In 2002, an evaluation (EKE10095) at Cedars, Barrow Hill, c.50m to the south, by CgMs Consulting, uncovered a possible Paleochannel (TR13NW173), based on mid grey blue clay silt, however no other archaeological deposits or features were found. Talbot House, a Grade II Listed Medieval hall house, c.50m to the south, was dismantled and relocated in advance of the construction of the Channel Tunnel Rail Link.
- 2.2.3 A Building survey was carried out by Oxford Archaeology (EKE11015) and found that it was a four bay timber framed Wealden hall house dating from the mid 15th century with later alterations in the 16th and 17th and 19th centuries. The surviving medieval feature of five “combed daub panels are unusual and the representation of a human figure is unique (TR13NW147). A Dendrochronology report of the inserted floors (EKE11801) dated them to 1546-1566. In 2013, a Desk Based Assessment (EKE14583) and a Detailed Gradiometer Survey.
- 2.2.4 Report (EKE14585) were carried out by CgMs Consulting in advance of a proposed development at Ashford Road. The results prompted an excavation (EKE14587) by Wessex Archaeology of 6 trial trenches measuring 25m x 1.8m and one trench of 3.5m x 2.6m, c.200m west of the PDA. Three of the trenches revealed archaeological evidence of intercutting medieval ditches with finds of pottery, roof tile, animal bone and iron objects, a cobbled surface of chalky limestone fragments and an undated drainage ditch and burnt pit. The results suggested there may have been a

domestic structure nearby (TR13NW198). A cropmark of a possible ring ditch is recorded to the south of Barrowhill (TR13NW190). (Proposed Development of Land at Main Road, Sellindge, Kent TN25 6ET -Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment SWAT Archaeology DBA).

- 2.2.5 More detailed Historical and Archaeological background is presented in Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment produced by SWAT Archaeology

2.3 Recent investigations on-site

- 2.3.1 An archaeological evaluation was carried within Phase 1 area by SWAT Archaeology in 2022.
- 2.3.2 The archaeological evaluation has recorded the presence of Late Bronze Age to Earliest Iron Age agricultural activity, mostly in form of north-east; south-west aligned rectilinear field system with a trackway possibly leading towards nearest settlement of that date although located outside evaluated areas. Within central-western extent of the site a Roman burial ground was exposed containing at least two cremation urns containing grave goods.

3 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

3.1 Primary Aims

- 3.1.1 The Strip, map and sample excavation aimed to ascertain the range of past activities, and specifically whether the evidence suggests transient human activity, domestic/settled occupation, burial, industry, agriculture and/or combinations of these. Linked to this, the excavations also sought to recover stratified assemblages of artefacts and ecofacts which are capable of analysis and research to assist in determining the date and function of the site during different periods.
- 3.1.2 In accordance with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' guidance (CIfA 2014a), the general aims of the programme of archaeological works were to:
- to examine the archaeological resource within the site;
 - within a framework of defined research objectives, to seek a better understanding of and compile a lasting record of that resource;
 - to analyse and interpret the results; and disseminate them.
- 3.1.3 All excavation and post-excavation procedures were conducted in compliance with the standards outlined in the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' Standard and Guidance Archaeological Excavation (2014a), and Historic England guidance and the Standard Conditions for Archaeological Fieldwork in Kent (KCC Manual Part B) were adhered to.

3.2 Project Specific Objectives

- 3.2.1 The South East Research Framework (SERF) sets out a draft research agenda for improving the understanding of the Prehistoric period in the region (Booth 2013).
- 3.2.2 One of the primary objectives is acquiring pottery and accompanied C14 samples to improve accuracy in pottery dating in the local area.
- 3.2.3 Given the presence of burials of likely Romano-British date as well as evidence for Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age field systems, one the aims of the work is to map and understand the transition of land use and settlement through the Iron Age and into the Romano-British period.
- 3.2.4 Answering the question; what is the nature of Late Bronze Age/ Early Iron Age occupation and/or agrarian activity within the site? How the occupation on-site relates to discoveries in broader landscape? Understanding the nature and extend and retrieving dating evidence of yet not securely dated agrarian remains and how they relate to discoveries in broader landscape.
- 3.2.5 Establishing presence/ absence of early prehistoric features that may be present but obscured by later Late Bronze Age/ Early Iron Age, Roman and Medieval activity.
- 3.2.6 Establishing the extend and potential association of burial ground with Roman remains in the immediate area.
- 3.2.7 The opportunity will also be taken during the course of the SMS to place and assess any archaeology revealed within the context of other recent archaeological investigations in the

immediate area and within the setting of the local landscape and topography. Specific research questions that may be answered are to include the origins of the Bronze Age Barrow cemetery and its full extent to the east and adjacent Roman ditched rectilinear enclosures. In general the work is to ensure compliance with the archaeological planning condition and to publish the results on line, or through OASIS and/or in a local journal.

4 METHODOLOGY

4.1 Introduction

4.1.1 The archaeological excavation was undertaken in accordance with a Specification (SWAT Archaeology 2022), and in accordance with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIFA 2014a) Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Excavation.

4.2 Fieldwork

4.2.1 The site was divided into seven areas; (Figure 2). The designation of each of the areas was maintained throughout the duration of the fieldwork and for the 'signing off' procedure.

4.2.2 A 21 ton 360° tracked mechanical excavator, fitted with a flat bladed ditching bucket was used to remove overlying topsoil and subsoil deposits to expose the underlying natural geology. Overlying deposits were removed in spits of c.100mm thickness under constant archaeological supervision. Machined deposits were examined, and any artefacts were bagged by context.

4.2.3 A site grid was established using an EDM and tied to the National Grid. On completion of hand-cleaning, a site plan was produced at a scale of 1:100. Spray paint line marker was used to mark the edges of unexcavated features prior to mapping. Levels were taken across the site prior to excavation of archaeological features and added to the site plan.

4.2.4 The broad sampling strategy implemented across the site, in agreement with KCC Senior Archaeological Officer can be summarised as follows:

- All targeted archaeological features were hand-cleaned prior to excavation in order to more clearly define edges and relationships in plan.
- Sections were excavated at all intersections between mapped archaeological features to clarify stratigraphic relationships and inform the overall phasing of the site.
- Slots were excavated across linear ditch features at appropriate intervals measuring no less than 1m in length. All terminal ends of features were investigated through appropriate sized interventions.
- All discrete features including pits and post-holes were half-sectioned at a minimum. Where necessary, features were fully excavated to facilitate retrieval of datable artefacts and/or environmental samples.
- Charred and cremated deposits or potential 'placed deposits' were 100% excavated.

4.2.5 All artefacts recovered during the excavations were bagged and marked by context. Bulk finds were bagged together by context and small-finds were individually bagged by context and their locations recorded in three-dimensions using an EDM.

4.2.6 All features, deposits and finds were recorded in accordance with accepted professional standards. The following broad recording strategy was followed:

- All archaeological contexts were recorded individually on SWAT Archaeology context record sheets.
- All excavated sections were drawn on polyester drawing film at a scale of 1:10 and fully labelled with context numbers and other appropriate recording numbers and levelled with respect to m. OD.
- Features were planned at a scale of 1:20, labelled and levelled with respect to m. OD. All archaeological interventions including linear slots, intercutting relationship slots and half-sections were also marked on the overall site plan.
- Registers of contexts, small finds, environmental samples, site drawings and photographs were maintained and monitored by the site supervisor.
- A full photographic record including digital photographs was maintained; all excavated sections and features were photographed pre and post-excavation, and a selection of working and site photos were also taken.
- In general, multi-context recording was adopted across the site, however single-context recording was completed for deposits/features considered to be possible placed deposits or cremations.

4.3 Monitoring

4.3.1 Curatorial monitoring was made available to Casper Johnson, Senior Archaeological Officer, Kent County Council throughout the archaeological investigation. Site visits were undertaken, and weekly updates were maintained. Any variations to the methodology set out in the Specifications were agreed between parties during monitoring meetings.

5 RESULTS/STRATIGRAPHIC ASSESSMENT

5.1 Introduction

5.1.1 This section of the report will include a descriptive stratigraphic assessment of the archaeological records, detailing physical relationships between all contexts recorded during the excavation. For ease of reference the descriptive text has been divided into the site areas (see Section above) as shown on Figure 2. All features with multiple interventions (excavated slots) have been grouped to form a single Group Number (i.e. G1101), as have groups of features with specific form, i.e. post holes representing a structure(s) etc. The descriptive text and plans are supplemented by selected photographs provided within the Appendices.

5.2 Phasing

5.2.1 The assessment of artefacts retrieved from archaeological features is on-going and will enhance the results by providing data so these features can be chronologically phased. Seven provisional phases of activity have been identified and are listed in Table 2 below:

Phase No.	Chronological Period	Dates
1	Mid and Mid-Late Bronze Age (MBA, MBA-LBA)	<i>c.1550-1150 BC</i>
2	Late Iron Age (LIA)	<i>c.50 BC – 50 AD</i>
3	Early Roman (ER)	<i>c.50-250 AD</i>
4	Late Roman (LR)	<i>c.250-430 AD</i>
5	Medieval (M)	<i>c.1066-1540 AD</i>
6	Post Medieval (PM)	<i>c.1540-1901 AD</i>
7	Modern	<i>c.1901+</i>

Table 3 Chronological Periods used for this Assessment (provisional)

5.3 Stratigraphic Sequence

5.3.1 A relatively consistent soil sequence was recorded across the Site. The underlying natural geology comprised mid yellowish grey to mid reddish-brown clay, the surface of which generally formed the level of machining. Slightly different geology comprising grey-orange sandy-silt was revealed at the top of the hill (Area 4) where Bronze Age Barrow Cemetery was discovered

5.3.2 The majority of archaeological features were cut into this natural and sealed by mid-greyish brown silty clay subsoil (where present) (0.2–0.25m deep). The overlying topsoil consisted of a dark greyish brown clay-silt and sand-silt deposits (0.2–0.3 m deep).

5.4 Area 1

5.4.1 Area 1 was located in south western extent of the site (Figure 2) and measured approximately x,xxx sq. metres. It was stripped to a level of between xxm aOD in the southwest and xxm in the northeast prior to the commencement of archaeological investigation.

Linear Features

- 5.4.2 Series of field ditches in north-east; south-west and in north-west; south-east alignment were exposed and investigated here. The main ditch comprising interventions 36, 08, 14, 27, 44, 20, 30, 161 and 158 contained residual calcined human bones.

Grouped Features

5.5 Area 1e

- 5.5.1 Area 1e was located in western extent of the site (Figure 2) and measured approximately x,xxx sq. metres. It was stripped to a level of between xxm aOD in the west and xxm in the east prior to the commencement of archaeological investigation.

Linear Features

- 5.5.2 Series of boundary ditches in north-east; south-west and in north-west; south-east alignment were exposed and investigated here.

Roman Cremations

- 5.5.3 Inside rectilinear Roman enclosure defined by ditch groups D10, D12, D15 and D16 five Roman burials were discovered containing multiple cremation urns and assorted grave good comprising auxiliary vessels including Terra Sigillata wares and glass jars.

Grouped Features

- 5.5.4 A number of discrete features discovered inside Roman Mortuary enclosure could constitute a small structure, potentially a mausoleum or a shrine.

Linear Features

- 5.5.5 Series of field boundaries to the south indicates evolving field system and changes to the established rectilinear plots.

5.6 Area 4 (including 4b and 4c)

- 5.6.1 Area 4 was located in western extent of the site (Figure 2) and measured approximately x,xxx sq. metres. It was stripped to a level of between xxm aOD in the west and xxm in the east prior to the commencement of archaeological investigation.

Ring ditches

- 5.6.2 Five ring barrows of Bronze Age date were exposed and investigated within this area. Two of those were double-ring formations (Barrows 3 and 5) of which one (Barrow 3) contained a central inverted-urn burial.

Rectilinear Enclosures

- 5.6.3 At least five rectilinear enclosures of Roman date were exposed in Area 4 partially overlapping into Area 1e. The enclosures comprise ditch groups D10, D12, D15, D16, D17, D18 and D21. Located the most to the east enclosure (mostly exposed in Area 1e) contained Roman cremation urns. Second enclosure to the west defined by ditch group D15 contained Roman refuse pit with

demolished kiln/ furnace walls. The function of further enclosures to the west was not established apart from estimating its date which is consistent with other enclosures to the east.

- 5.6.4 At the western end of the area potentially earlier enclosures or rectilinear fields were exposed. These formation are in north-south and east-west alignment and seems to be truncated by previously described formations in north-west; south-east arrangement.

Discrete Features

- 5.6.5 A number of various discrete features were exposed and investigated across Area 4. Many of those features did not produce any suitable dating evidence and the larger ones were thought to be sand extraction pits.

Other enclosures

- 5.6.6 At the northern end of Area 4c a curvilinear ditch was exposed and investigated. As feature was exposed in a very narrow window it's thought that it might be a part of another ring barrow extending to the west or just agrarian enclosure similar to the one exposed and investigated in Area 6a and is described below.

Linear Features

- 5.6.7 Series of field ditches in east-west alignment were exposed and investigated here but mainly within eastern extent of Area 4 and including spine road Area 4c.

5.7 Area 6a

- 5.7.1 Area 6a was located in central-northern extent of the site (Figure 2) and measured approximately x,xxx sq. metres. It was stripped to a level of between xxm aOD in the west and xxm in the east prior to the commencement of archaeological investigation.

Other enclosures

- 5.7.2 A large angular enclosure of Late Bronze Age date was exposed and investigated north-western part of the area. It was well established by deep and fairly wide enclosing ditch containing decent amounts of charcoal flecks and powder in its fills. Inside the enclosure a small stake-hole structure was revealed. Stakes were surrounding a shallow rectilinear pit containing charcoal and daub in its infill.

Linear Features

- 5.7.3 Several field ditches in north-south alignment were exposed and investigated within Area 6a. These features did not produced enough dating evidence to firm up their dating but it is though that these features are medieval. Within the area of BA enclosure these ditches are truncated by east-west aligned linears of which one is dated to the Post Medieval period.
- 5.7.4 Within the eastern part of Area 6a a trackway in northeast; southwest alignment was exposed and investigated. Feature had drainage ditches at its sides and could be of a Bronze Age date.

- 5.7.5 At south-eastern end of the area three ditches were found in north-east; south-west and north-west; south-east alignment. Although these features did not produced enough dating evidence at this stage it's believed that they are continuation of Early Roman rectilinear enclosures exposed in Areas 1e and 4b.

Discrete Features

- 5.7.6 A number of discrete features were exposed and investigated within Area 6a outside BA enclosure. These produced sparse dating evidence comprising late prehistoric potsherds and residual flintwork.

6 FINDS

6.1 Introduction

- 6.1.1 A number of pottery sherds, grave vessels, glass vessels and metal objects were retrieved during the course of investigation. These items are being washed, re-bagged and sent-off to the relevant specialists.

6.2 Ceramic Assessment

- 6.2.1 Ceramic assessment for Phase 1 is on-going however due to high amounts of findings from another sites dedicated specialist will complete his work early next year.

6.3 Lithic Assessment

- 6.3.1 Lithics assessment for Phase 1 is on-going however due to high amounts of findings from another sites dedicated specialist will complete his work early next year.

6.4 Faunal Assessment

- 6.4.1 On-going

6.5 Small Finds Assessment

- 6.5.1 On-hold

6.6 Roman Cremations

- 6.6.1 Micro excavation of urn content is completed and retrieved calcined material is pending further osteoarchaeological analyses.

6.7 Bronze Age Burial

- 6.7.1 Micro excavation of the content is completed and retrieved material is pending further analyses including peptide sexing, destructive sexing and isotope analyses.
- 6.7.2 It was proposed by Archaeological Research Services that beautiful Bronze Age cremation urn will be transferred to the Durham University for further conservation.

7 ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

7.1 Introduction

- 7.1.1 So far 97 environmental soil samples were acquired during the course of Phase 1 investigation. That to include 13 monoliths acquired from ring ditches and central burial and 6 dedicated radiocarbon samples, four from ring ditches and two from angular enclosure in 6a.
- 7.1.2 Environmental processing is on-going.

8 ARCHAEOLOGICAL NARRATIVE

8.1 Introduction

- 8.1.1 Archaeological excavations have revealed the presence of vast Bronze Age barrow cemetery, which appears to have close parallels with similar sites (including those that have been designated as nationally important), which are also on the c.70m high promontories on the south side of the East Stour river (to the south of the site). It appears that potential burial mounds were removed and area was turned into agricultural land in medieval period; however there was one central burial in one of the two double-ring barrows.
- 8.1.2 There was also significant occupation on site from the Late Bronze Age to the Late Iron Age and Roman Period. Probable agricultural and settlement activity comprising field boundary ditches, pits, enclosures, structures and a trackway. Funerary practises appeared to take place in the west of the site during the Mid to Late Bronze Age and Early Romano- British period, before dwindling in the late 2nd and 3rd centuries, the site being abandoned probably in the 4th century. The agricultural activity resumed in 13th Century and continued into Post Medieval and modern Periods.
- 8.1.3 Central and western extent of Area 4 (4b) containing two Bronze Age ring barrows and series of Roman rectilinear enclosures was designated for preservation *in-situ*. Two located the most to the west ring barrows were preserved under recently reconstructed mounds which will become a permanent part of a future park and will be accompanied by two heritage lecterns providing information for the public about discoveries on the site and how they relate to similar discoveries in surrounding area.
- 8.1.4 The client Quinn Estates by agreeing to undertake this reconstruction project are significantly contributing to the dissemination of the results of archaeological investigation and will create another worth-visit heritage-related place in the County. It will also help and add a character to the newly build housing estate in the Village.

8.2 Bronze Age

- 8.2.1 Five Bronze Age barrows were revealed in Area 4. Potentially another large barrow or enclosure was narrowly exposed at northern end of Area 4c. Large angular enclosure of the same date was exposed in northern part of Area 6a. A trackway belonging potentially to the same period was exposed in the eastern part of Area 6a.

8.3 Iron Age

- 8.3.1 Series of potential field ditches were exposed across Area 1, 1e, 4 and 6a

8.4 Romano-British

- 8.4.1 Series of Roman enclosures were exposed in Areas 1e, 4b and at south-eastern end of Area 6c. These are believed may continue throughout not yet stripped Area 6b.

8.5 Medieval

- 8.5.1 Several field boundaries and drain ditches in north-south and east-west alignment were exposed in Areas 4 and 6a.

8.6 Post-medieval

- 8.6.1 At least couple of field ditches of confirmed Post-Medieval date were exposed in Areas 4, 4c and 6a.

8.7 Modern

- 8.7.1 Several recent field boundaries were exposed in Areas 1, 4 and 6c

8.8 Undated

- 8.8.1 Several undated ditches although believed to be Late Iron Age were exposed in Areas 1e, 4 and 6a

9 UPDATED PROJECT DESIGN AND RECOMMENDATION FOR FURTHER ANALYSIS

9.1 Introduction

- 9.1.1 The archaeological excavations at Grove Park, Sellindge have revealed multiple phases of occupation dating from the Mid to Late Bronze Age, Iron Age into the Early- Mid Romano- British period, with domestic, funerary, animal husbandry and agrarian activity being replaced by the latter before activity dying out. The site only appears to be in serious usage again in the 13th century when a series of field systems and pits suggest further agricultural activity. Ongoing assessment should allow for more detailed interpretation of the various elements of the site.
- 9.1.2 In light of the potential of the results of the fieldwork to answer not only the original research aims but other questions raised during the course of the excavation, this section provides revised research aims, and details of the further analyses recommended to achieve them.

9.2 Stratigraphic

- 9.2.1 Detailed assessment for Phase 1 is on-going

9.3 Finds

Ceramics

- 9.3.1 Ceramics assessment is on-going

Lithics

- 9.3.2 Lithics assessment is on-going

9.4 Environmental

- 9.4.1 Environmental processing and archbot assessments are on-going

9.5 Statement of Potential

- 9.5.1 As there is still on-going strip and investigation for Phase 2 development comprising areas 6b, 6c and 3 a statement of potential below will refer to the potential of finding more remains from already identified periods

Early Prehistoric

- 9.5.2 Low – only sporadic finds from early prehistoric period are expected to be revealed during Phase 2.

Bronze Age

- 9.5.3 High – there is substantial chance to reveal more ring barrows to the east in Area 6b
- 9.5.4 There is also a high potential for more agrarian enclosures in Area 6 and potential at least one ring-ditch to be revealed in Area 3

Late Iron Age

- 9.5.5 Very high potential for scatter of Late Iron Age ditches to be exposed in Areas 6b, 6c and 3

Romano-British

- 9.5.6 Very high potential for Roman rectilinear enclosures to be revealed in southern part of Area 6b and potentially also in southern part of Area 3.

Saxon and Medieval

- 9.5.7 There is low to moderate potential to reveal Saxon remains and very high potential for Medieval and Post-Medieval field ditches to be exposed in Areas 6b, 6c and moderate potential for Area 3.

9.6 Significance of the Data

- 9.6.1 The data recorded within Area 4 is very significant and indicated regional if not national importance of discovered Bronze Age Barrow cemetery.

9.7 Original Research Aims and Objectives (ORAO's)

- *ORAO 1* – One of the primary objectives is acquiring pottery and accompanied C14 samples to improve accuracy in pottery dating in the local area.

- 9.7.1 *Response* – Several samples including two radiocarbon-designated ones were retrieved from Bronze Age enclosure in Area 6a. These were accompanied by a decent amount of pottery sherds.

- *ORAO 2* – Given the presence of burials of likely Romano-British date as well as evidence for Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age field systems, one the aims of the work is to map and understand the transition of land use and settlement through the Iron Age and into the Romano-British period.

- 9.7.2 *Response* – The most accurate sequence of land development was established. A surprising was a discovery of extensive Bronze Age barrow cemetery in Area 4 what imposed additional questions to be raised – eg. What is an ultimate extend of Bronze Age burial ground to the east.

9.8 Updated Project Design - Revised Research Aims and Objectives for Further Analysis (RRAO's)

- 9.8.1 In light that further archaeological strip map and sample investigation is needed to the east of recently completed Phase 1 investigation, an updated project design will be put on-hold until further remains are revealed.

9.9 Method Statements

Stratigraphic

- 9.9.1 Tailoring up stratigraphic relations recorded between the features with respect to oncoming spot-dates and other information from specialists.

Artefactual

- 9.9.2 This section is pending recommendations from relevant specialists

10 RESOURCES AND PUBLICATION

10.1 Introduction

- 10.1.1 Final version of this report will be published in PDF A format for publication with OASIS.

10.2 Final Analysis Report

- 10.2.1 Following completion and acceptance of final Post-excavation Assessment report and final report will be prepared within 6 to 12 months following completion of PXA.

10.3 Publication

- 10.3.1 The results of the fieldwork are of regional if not national significance. It is therefore proposed that, following the further assessment and analyses outlined above, the results of the fieldwork will be prepared for publication in monograph comprising c. 12,500 words, up to 14 illustrations (excluding finds) and 2 tables.
- 10.3.2 All publication works will be carried out in consultation with KKCHC.

10.4 Personnel

- 10.4.1 The team consists primarily of self-employed specialist staff. The post-excavation project will be managed by Dr Paul Wilkinson of SWAT Archaeology. The following staffs (Table 3) are scheduled to undertake the work as outlined in the task list (Table 4) and the programme.

Name	Position
Dr Paul Wilkinson	Post-Excavation Manager
Peter Cichy	Project Manager
Django Rayner	Project Officer/ Surveyor
Bartek Cichy	Project Officer/ Surveyor/ illustrator
Archaeological Research Services	Bronze Age burials
KORA, C Dieter	Roman Cremations
Carol White	Animal bones
Paul Hart	Pottery specialist
Paul Hart	Lithics
Lisa Gray	Environmental specialist
Mike Allen	Archaeobotany
SWAT Archaeology	Archiving
Dr Paul Wilkinson	Publication Manager

Table 1 *List of Contributing Personnel*

10.5 Proposed publication and dissemination

- 10.5.1 It is therefore proposed that following final approval of post-excavation assessment, a final Full Report and publication draft will be submitted to the Senior Archaeological Officer at Kent County Council within 6-12 months following completion of post-excavation assessment.

10.6 Task list

- 10.6.1 Table 4 lists the stages and tasks, the personnel and scheduled work duration required to achieve the project objectives. Specialist recommendations are not yet taken into consideration in the table below, so the required resources are estimate at this stage;

Task No.	Description	Days	Staff
Management			
1	Project management	24	P. Wilkinson, P. Cichy
Analysis and reporting			
2	Stratigraphic assessment	36	D. Rayner, B. Campbell
3	Phasing and grouping	16	B. Cichy, D. Rayner
4	Background research	4	B. Cichy
Finds			
5	Selection of material, illustration and catalogue	10-12	SWAT Archaeology
6	Report and comparison to other sites	5	SWAT Archaeology
7	Illustrations	4-12	SWAT Archaeology
Environmental Assessment and Analysis			
8	Monoliths	12	Dr Mike Allen
9	Bulk Samples	24	SWAT Archaeology
Analysis Report			
10	Main text	10	SWAT Archaeology
11	Illustrations	6	SWAT Archaeology
12	Integration	3	SWAT Archaeology
Publication			
13	Main text	5	SWAT Archaeology
14	Illustrations	5	SWAT Archaeology
15	Liaising with journal editor	£75 p.page	SWAT Archaeology
Archive			
16	Preparation	2	SWAT Archaeology
17	Deposition	1+d. cost	SWAT Archaeology
Lecterns			
18	Heritage boards (Lecterns) project, production	£4950 per unit	SWAT Archaeology
	Installation		Fitzpatrick Woolmer

Table 2 Task List- provisional estimates not including full recommendations from specialists

11 ARCHIVING

11.1 General

- 11.1.1 Following approval of the final Full Report and publication draft, a final site archive will be ordered in accordance with Guidelines for the preparation of excavation archives for long-term storage (UKIC 1990). SWAT Archaeology will retain the site archive until designated museum is capable of receipt and deposition in a suitable archive facility.

11.2 Client's Statement

- 11.2.1 Hereby, Quinn Estates is guaranteeing to secure necessary funding to cover all expenses associated with post-excavation tasks listed above and with publication of the site in Monograph.

ADS 2013. Caring for Digital Data in Archaeology: a guide to good practice, Archaeology Data Service & Digital Antiquity Guides to Good Practice

Brown, D.H., 2011. Archaeological archives; a guide to best practice in creation, compilation, transfer and curation, Archaeological Archives Forum (revised edition)

Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, 2009, Standard and Guidance for the creation, compilation, transfer and deposition of archaeological archives, Institute for Archaeologists

Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, 2014, Standard and guidance: for field evaluation.

Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, 2014, Standard and guidance for the creation, compilation, transfer and deposition of archaeological archives.

Department of the Environment, 2010, Planning for the Historic Environment, Planning (PPS 5) HMSO.

English Heritage 2002. Environmental Archaeology; a guide to theory and practice of methods, from sampling and recovery to post-excavation, Swindon, Centre for Archaeology Guidelines

English Heritage, 2006, Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE).

SMA 1993. Selection, Retention and Dispersal of Archaeological Collections, Society of Museum Archaeologists. SMA 1995. Towards an Accessible Archaeological Archive, Society of Museum Archaeologists

Specification for an Archaeological Evaluation of land at Main Road, Sellindge, Kent TN25 6ET (SWAT 2021)

Specification for an Archaeological Strip Map and Sample of land at Main Road, Sellindge, Kent TN25 6ET (SWAT 2022)

APPENDIX 1

Core Personnel Structure

Project Management - Fieldwork	Role
Dr Paul Wilkinson, MCIfA, FSA	Director
Peter Cichy	Project Manager
Django Rayner	Site Supervisor
Bartek Cichy	Project Officer/ Surveyor
Finds	Specialist
Flint	Paul Hart
Early Prehistoric Pottery	Paul Hart
Later prehistoric and Roman pottery	Paul Hart
Saxon, Medieval and Post Medieval pottery	Luke Barber
Metal finds, glass and oyster	Ges Moody
Conservation support and x-ray photography	Dana Goodburn-Brown, MSc
Samples and human remains	Specialist
Environmental soil processing	Lisa Grey
Faunal, floral micro and macro remains	Dr Mike Allen
Animal Remains (Bones)	Carol White
Palaeomagnetism	Peter Cichy
Human Remains (Roman)	Dr Chris Dieter
Micro-excavation (BA cremation burials)	Archaeological Research Services (ARS)
Post-Excavation and publication	Role
Peter Cichy	Author
Bartek Cichy	Illustrations

APPENDIX 2 HER FORM

HER FORM

Site Name: Archaeological Strip Map and Sample investigation (Phase 1) of land at Main Road, Sellindge, Kent TN25 6ET

SWAT Site Code: SEL-EX-22

Site Address: As above

Summary: *An archaeological excavation was undertaken by Swale & Thames Survey Company (SWAT) at Grove Park, Sellindge, Kent, during 2022 and 2023. The excavation was undertaken in response to recommendations from Kent County Council following archaeological evaluations undertaken in 2022.*

Archaeological excavations have revealed the presence of vast Bronze Age barrow cemetery, which appears to have close parallels with similar sites (including those that have been designated as nationally important), which are also on the c.70m high promontories on the south side of the East Stour river (to the south of the site). It appears that potential burial mounds were removed and area was turned into agricultural land in medieval period; however there was one central burial in one of the two double-ring barrows.

There was also significant occupation on site from the Late Bronze Age to the Late Iron Age and Roman Period. Probable agricultural and settlement activity comprising field boundary ditches, pits, enclosures, structures and a trackway. Funerary practises appeared to take place in the west of the site during the Mid to Late Bronze Age and Early Romano- British period, before dwindling in the late 2nd and 3rd centuries, the site being abandoned probably in the 4th century. The agricultural activity resumed in 13th Century and lasted until Post Medieval and modern Periods.

Central and western extent of Area 4 (4b) containing two Bronze Age ring barrows and series of Roman rectilinear enclosures was designated for preservation in-situ. Two located the most to the west ring barrows were preserved under recently reconstructed mounds which will become a permanent part of a future park and will be accompanied by two heritage lecterns providing information for the public about discoveries on the site and how they relate to similar discoveries in surrounding area.

The client Quinn Estates by agreeing to undertake this reconstruction project are significantly contributing to the dissemination of the results of archaeological investigation and will create another worth-visit heritage-related place in the County. It will also help with integration and add a character to the newly build housing estate in the Village.

Preservation in-situ where possible and strip map and sample prior to commencement of construction works.

District/Unitary: Folkestone & Hythe District Council

Period(s): Prehistoric, Bronze Age, Iron Age, early Roman, Medieval, Post-Medieval and modern
NGR (centre of site to eight figures) NGR 610900 137900

Type of Archaeological work: Archaeological Strip Map and Sample investigation

Date of recording: September 2022- August 2023

Unit undertaking recording: Swale and Thames Survey Company (SWAT Archaeology)

Geology: Bedrock Geology of Sandgate Formation- Sandstone, siltstone and mudstone - formed approximately 112 to 125 million years ago in the Cretaceous Period

Title and author of accompanying report: SWAT Archaeology (P Cichy 2022) Archaeological Post-Excavation Assessment (Phase 1) Interim report of land at Main Road, Sellindge, Kent TN25 6ET

Location of archive/finds: SWAT. Archaeology. Graveney Rd, Faversham, Kent. ME13 8UP

Contact at Unit: Paul Wilkinson

Plates



Plate 1: The site viewing from the west. Area 4 (in foreground) and 6 (in background), showing two reconstructed barrows.



Plate 2: Bronze Age Barrow cemetery in Area 4



Plate 3: Showing section through ring-ditch [1077]. Looking north with one-metre scale.

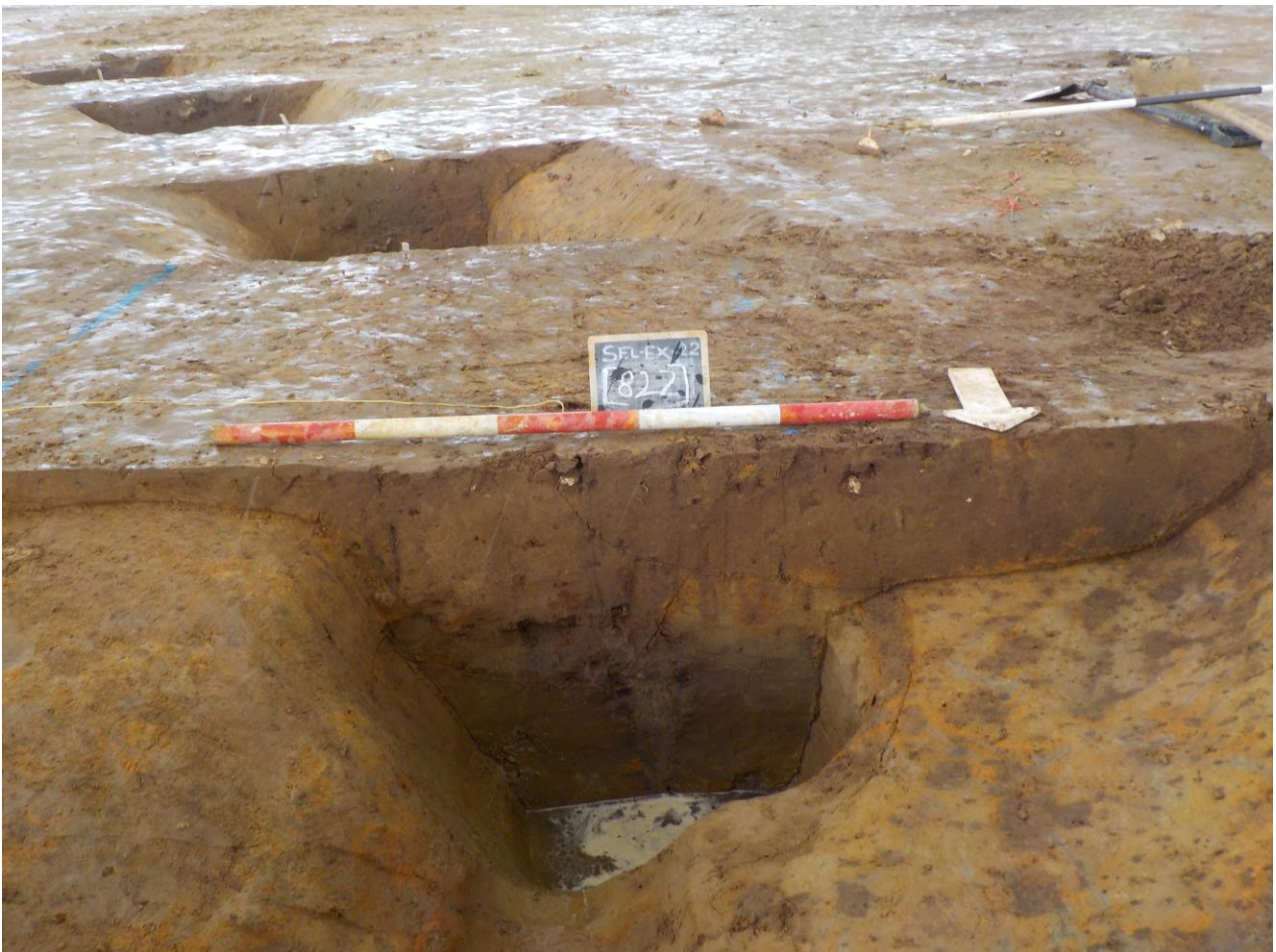


Plate 4: Showing section through ring ditch [822]. Looking south with one metre scale.



Plate 4: Showing central Bronze Age burial [1068](inverted urn) in Area 4 (Barrow no.3). Looking south with one and half-metre scales.



Plate 5: Showing Roman cremation urn prior to block-lifting. Looking east with half and point two metres scales.



Plate 6: Large Roman burial bowl unearthed in Area 1e. It contains multiple cremation urns and Roman glass jar and flask.



Plate 7: Roman funerary urn in grave [243] with Terra Sigillata wares.



Plate 8: Angular Bronze Age enclosure revealed in Area 6a. Looking east.



Plate 9: Working shot of small structure inside angular enclosure in Area 6a. Looking northeast with point three metre scale.



Plate 10: Two reconstructed ring barrows in Area 4 are getting overgrown with vegetation. Looking northwest.

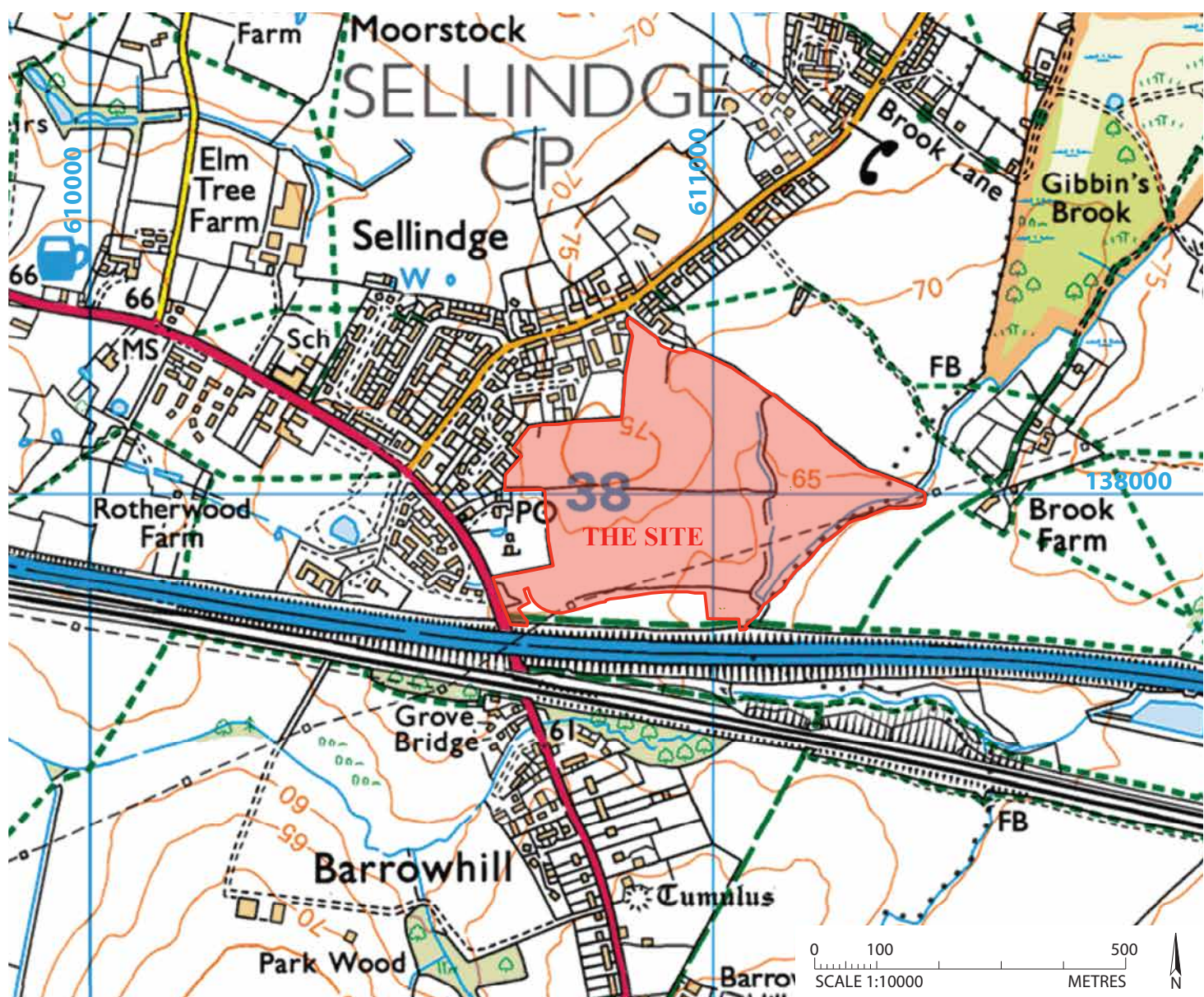
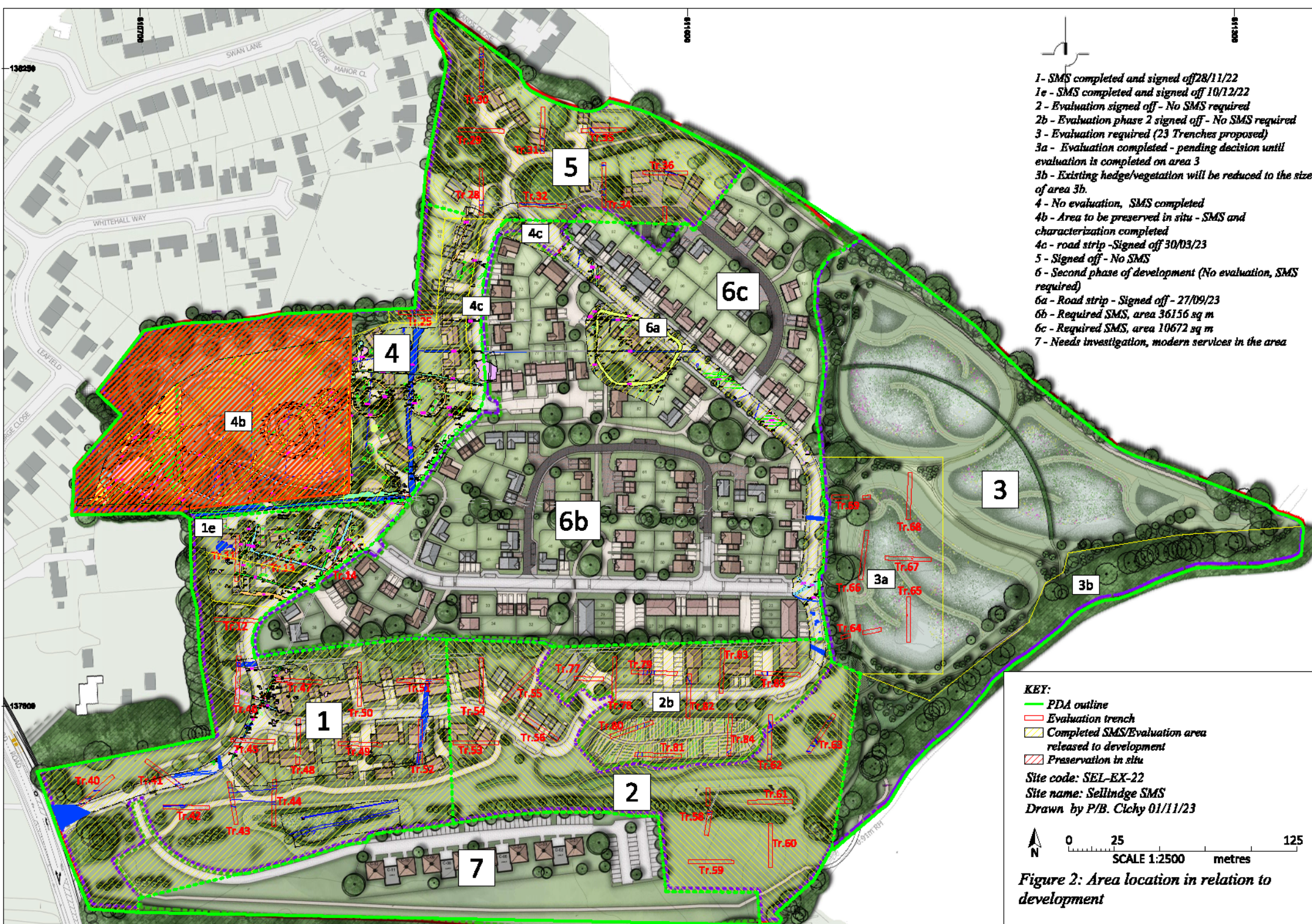


Figure 1: Site location map, scale 1:10000.



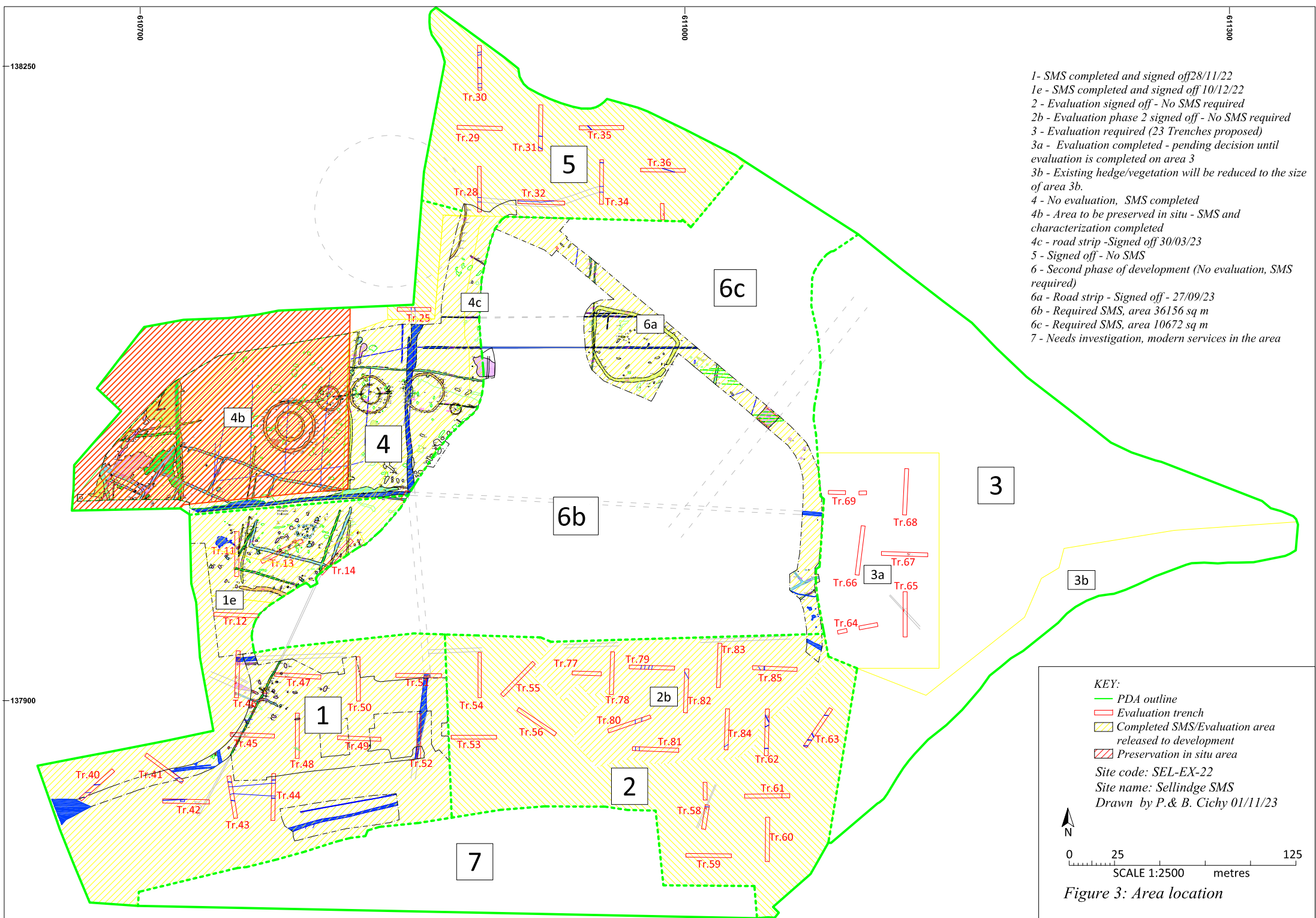
KEY:
 — PDA outline
 Evaluation trench
 Completed SMS/Evaluation area released to development
 Preservation in situ

Site code: SEL-EX-22
 Site name: Sellindge SMS
 Drawn by P/B. Cichy 01/11/23

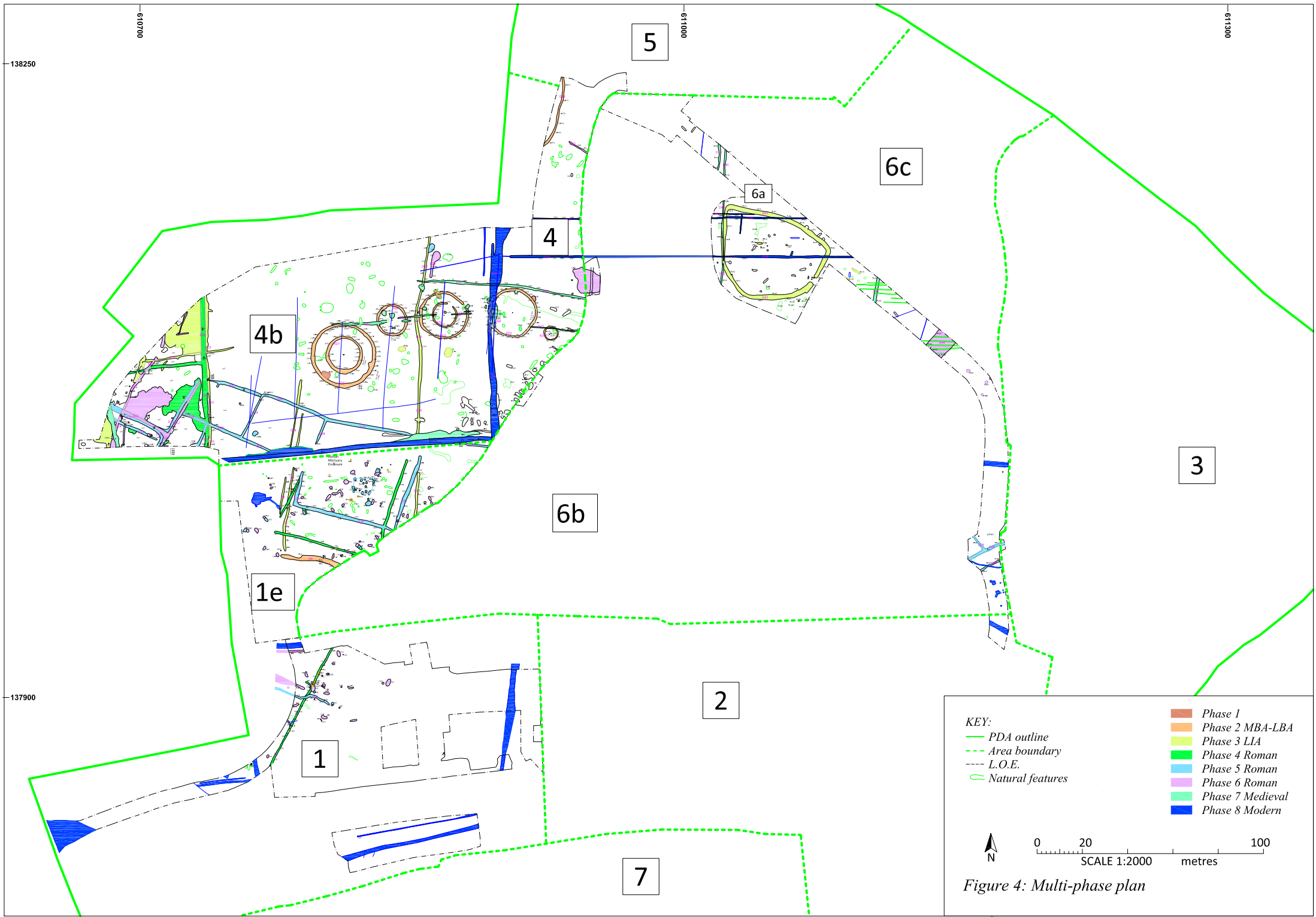
0 25 125
 SCALE 1:2500 metres

Figure 2: Area location in relation to development

- 1 - SMS completed and signed off 28/11/22
- 1e - SMS completed and signed off 10/12/22
- 2 - Evaluation signed off - No SMS required
- 2b - Evaluation phase 2 signed off - No SMS required
- 3 - Evaluation required (23 Trenches proposed)
- 3a - Evaluation completed - pending decision until evaluation is completed on area 3
- 3b - Existing hedge/vegetation will be reduced to the size of area 3b.
- 4 - No evaluation, SMS completed
- 4b - Area to be preserved in situ - SMS and characterization completed
- 4c - road strip - Signed off 30/03/23
- 5 - Signed off - No SMS
- 6 - Second phase of development (No evaluation, SMS required)
- 6a - Road strip - Signed off - 27/09/23
- 6b - Required SMS, area 36156 sq m
- 6c - Required SMS, area 10672 sq m
- 7 - Needs investigation, modern services in the area



- 1- SMS completed and signed off 28/11/22
- 1e - SMS completed and signed off 10/12/22
- 2 - Evaluation signed off - No SMS required
- 2b - Evaluation phase 2 signed off - No SMS required
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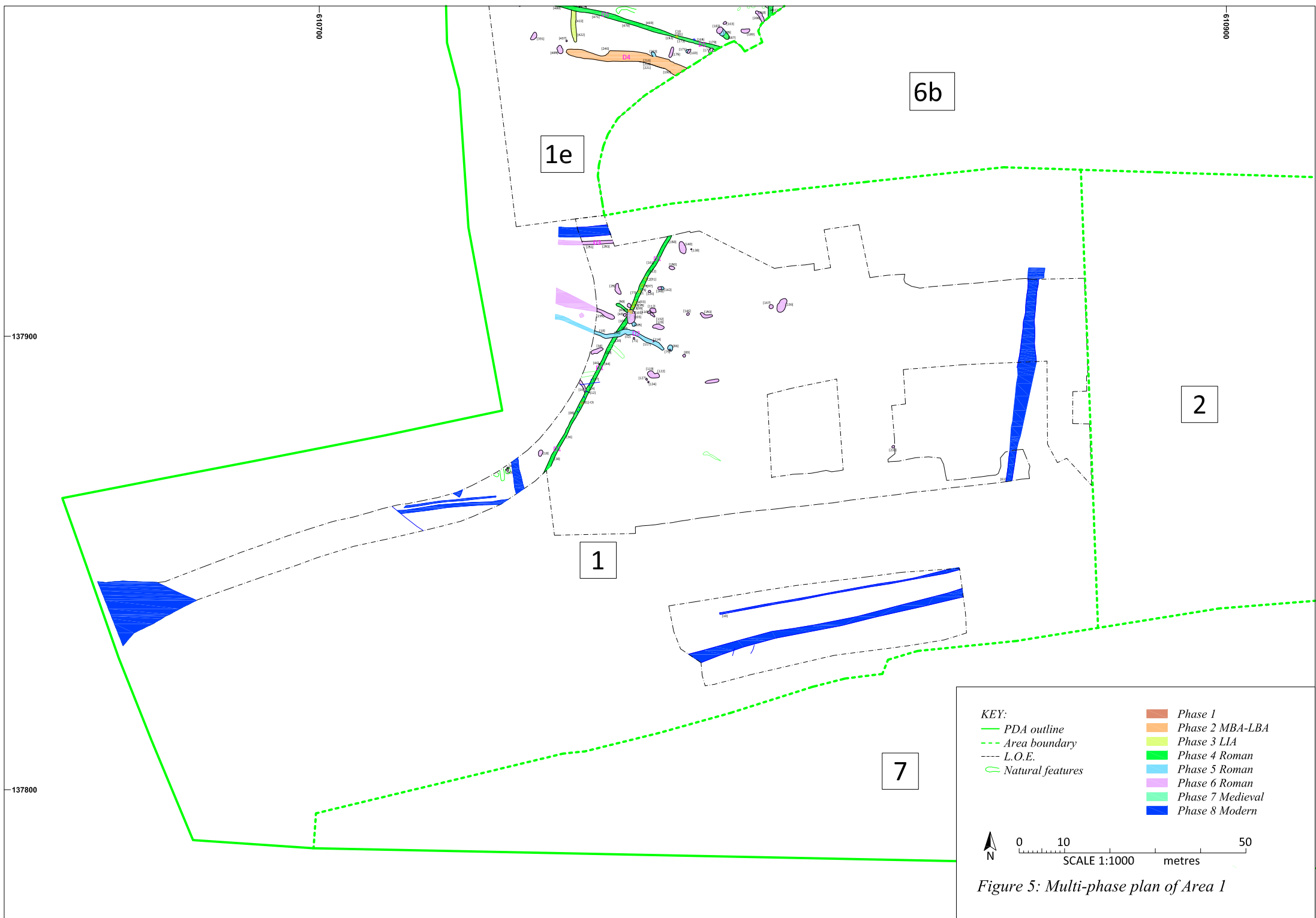
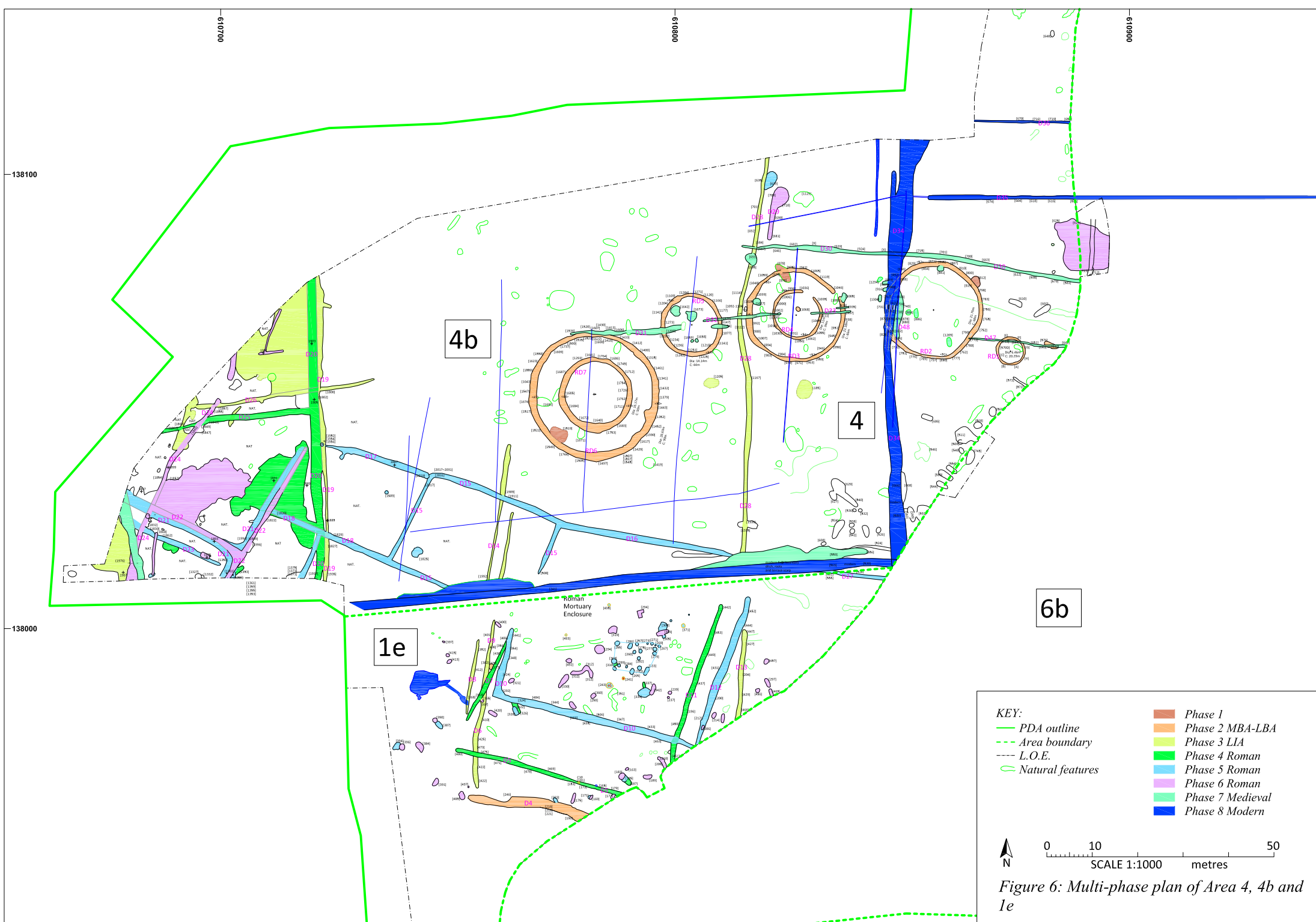


Figure 5: Multi-phase plan of Area 1



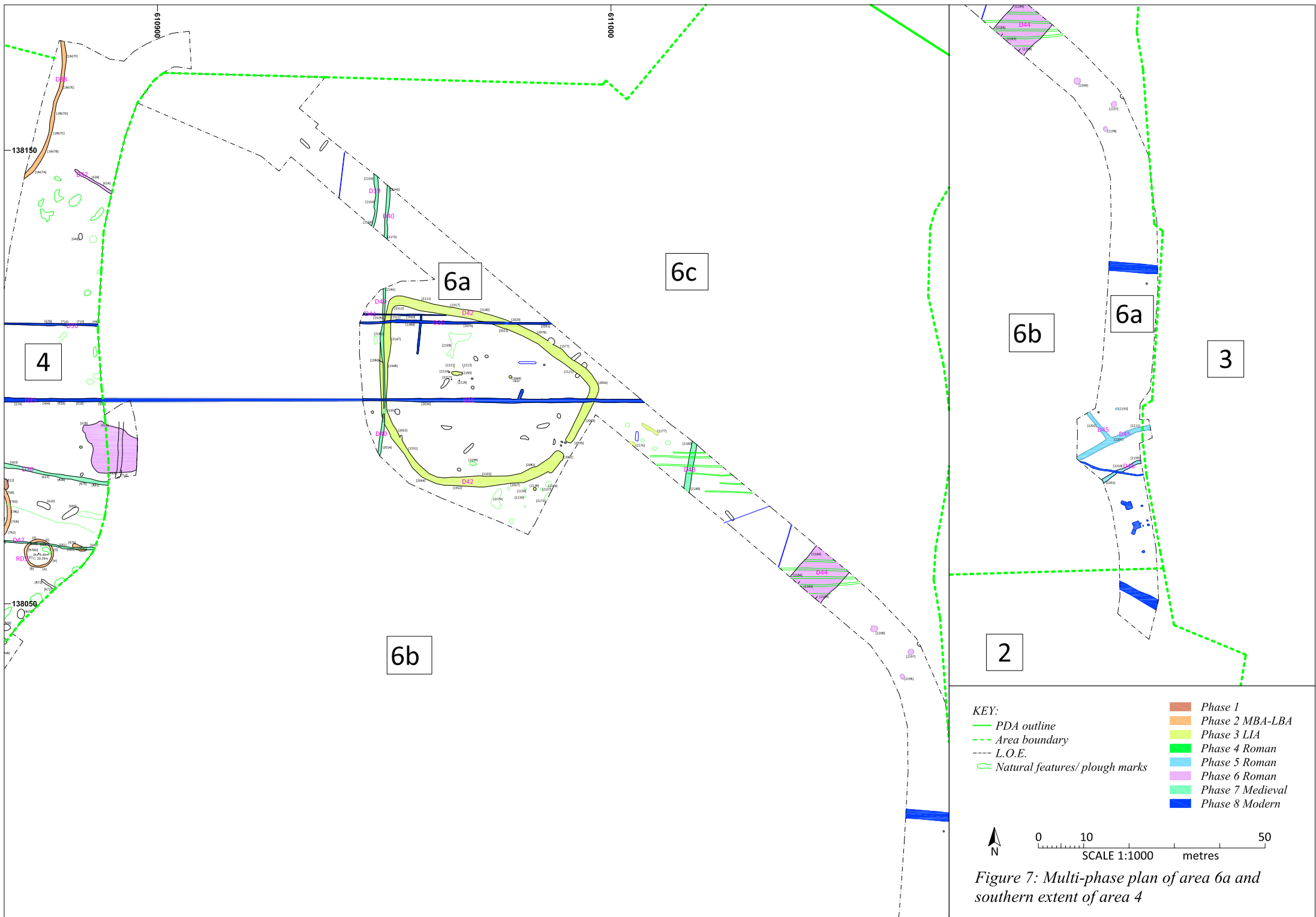




Figure 8: Phase 1

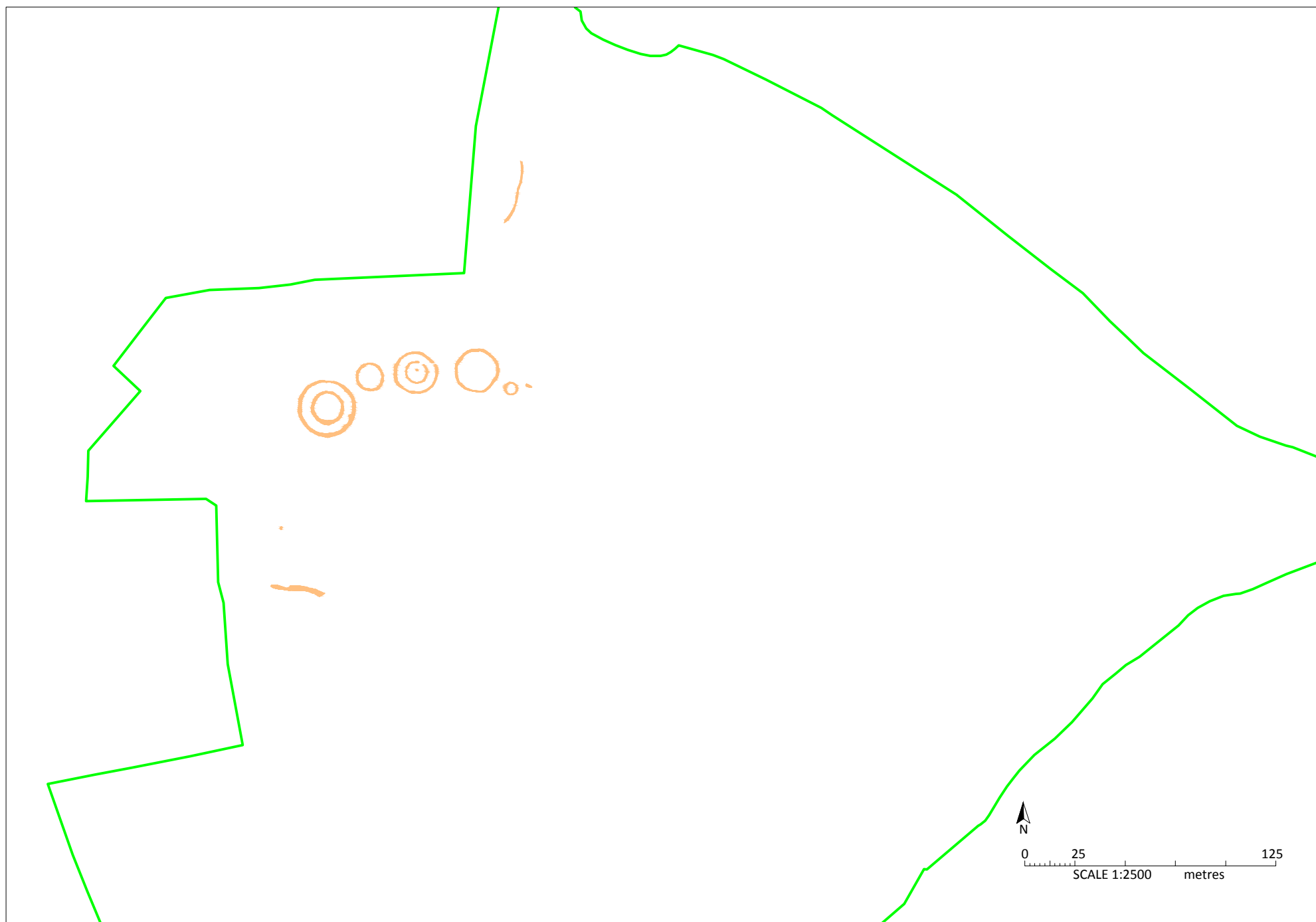


Figure 9: Phase 2



Figure 10: Phase 3



Figure 11: Phase 4



Figure 12: Phase 5

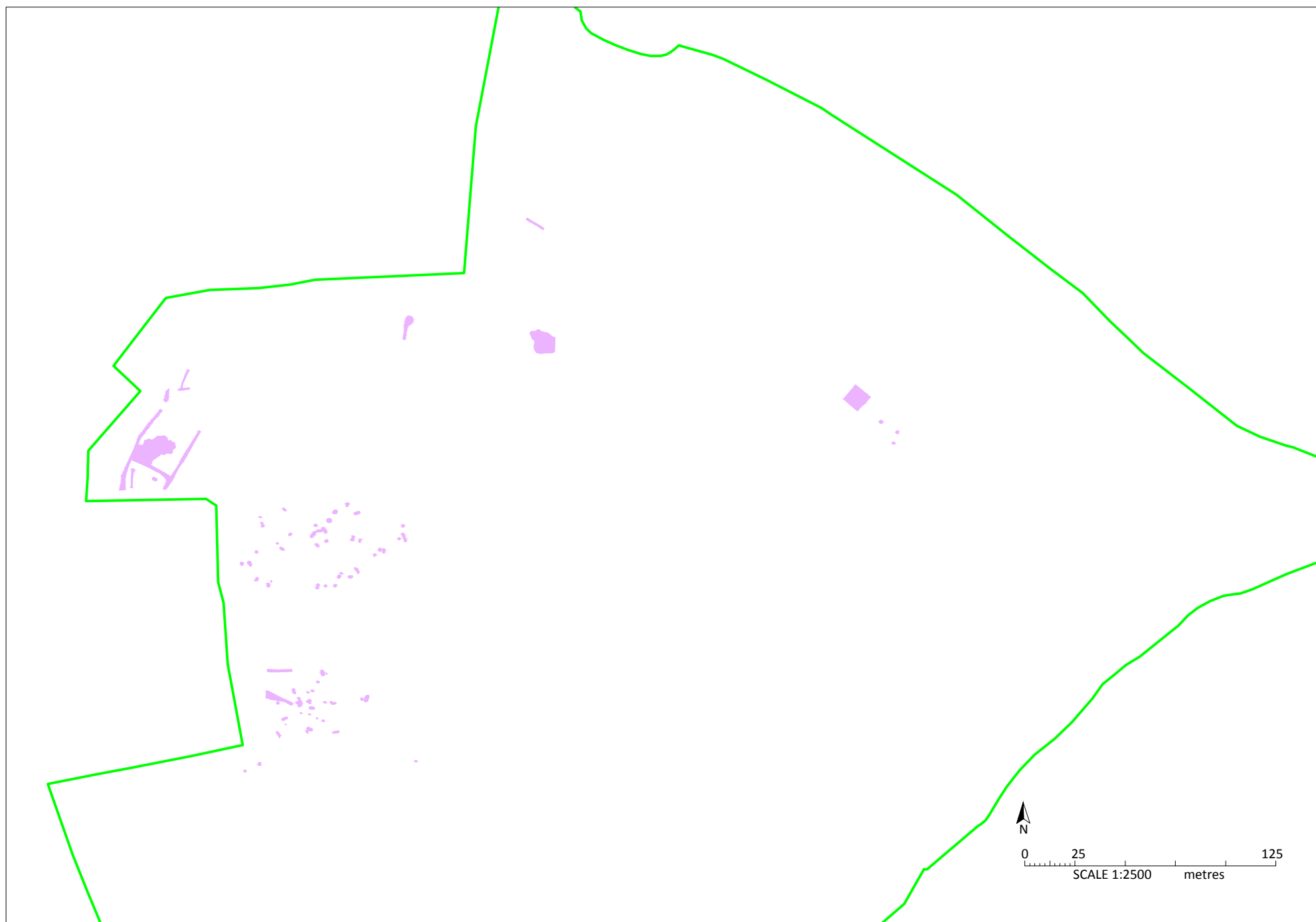


Figure 13: Phase 6



Figure 14: Phase 7



Figure 15: Phase 8 - Modern