



EAST PARK ENERGY

East Park Energy

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Environmental Statement

Volume 2 – Technical Appendices

**Appendix 6-9: Site D Trial Trench Evaluation Interim
Report**

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Appendix 6-9: Site D Trial Trench Evaluation Interim Report

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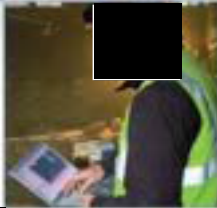
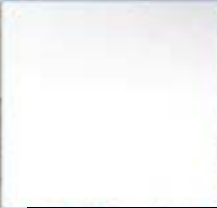
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East Park Energy, Area D, Cambridgeshire: Archaeological Trial Trench Evaluation Interim Report

National Grid Reference: TL 14435 63065;

AOC Project Number: 80210

Event Number: ECB7315



East Park Energy, Area D, Cambridgeshire: Archaeological Trial Trench Evaluation Interim Report

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Contents

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	4
1 INTRODUCTION	6
2 PROJECT BACKGROUND	6
3 SITE LOCATION, TOPOGRAPHY AND GEOLOGY	7
4 METHODOLOGY	7
5 FACTUAL SUMMARY OF KEY ARCHAEOLOGICAL FINDINGS	8
6 INTERIM ARTEFACTUAL SUMMARY	11
7 PROVISIONAL INTERPRETATION AND DISCUSSION	11
8 PROVISIONAL CONTRIBUTION TO SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES	13
9 PROVISIONAL CONCLUSION	14
10 BIBLIOGRAPHY	15
11 FIGURES	16

Figures

Figure 1. Scheme Overview
Figure 2. Area D Proposed Trenches
Figure 3. D01 Excavated Trenches
Figure 4. D03 Excavated Trenches
Figure 5. D04 and D05 Excavated Trenches
Figure 6. to Figure 100. Individual Trench Plans and Excavated Features

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This interim report has been prepared on behalf of RNA Energy Ltd to support a proposal for the proposed East Park Energy comprising a new ground-mounted solar photovoltaic energy generating station and an associated on-site Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) on land to the north-west of St Neots, Cambridgeshire (the Scheme).

The works were undertaken to assess the presence or absence of archaeological remains, depth, condition and significance as suggested by the geophysical survey previously undertaken by AOC Archaeology (AOC 2024b). A Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) was prepared by AOC Archaeology (AOC 2024a), which detailed the scope and methodology of the archaeological evaluation. The works were conducted by AOC Archaeology in accordance with current and best practices, standards, and guidelines. The works were monitored by the Historic England (HE) Inspector for Ancient Monuments and Senior Archaeologist at the Cambridgeshire Historic Environment Team (CHET) at Cambridgeshire County Council (CCC).

The evaluation at Area D comprised the excavation of trenches across four Sub-Areas D01 and D03 to D05. Sub-Area D02 was not included in this phase of work and will be investigated at a later date. Of the 117 trenches excavated, 44 yielded archaeological evidence, while 74 were negative. Modern truncations in the form of field drains and plough scars were indicative of agricultural practices occurring in the area, however generally, preservation of archaeological features was moderate. One trench in Sub-Area D03, 11 trenches in Sub-Area D04 and four trenches in Sub-Area D05 revealed topsoil directly overlying the natural geology. A small number of trenches revealed colluvium comprising four trenches in Sub-Area D03 and six trenches in Sub-Area D04. Ninety-two trenches revealed a similar stratigraphic sequence of topsoil overlying subsoil above natural geology. The depth the archaeological features were recorded at was fairly consistent, generally with between 0.03m to 0.24m of subsoil and between 0.14m and 0.44m of topsoil overlying the archaeological remains.

Overall, a fairly clear correlation was evident between the features uncovered during the evaluation and the geophysical survey across Area D, particularly in Sub-Area D04. Whilst the areas presumed blank by the geophysical survey generally matched the findings within the evaluation, there were a few archaeological features present in trenches not targeting geophysical anomalies across all sub-areas.

The archaeological evaluation has revealed archaeological remains broadly corresponding with the geophysical survey. The artefacts recovered from Area D have not been processed and no information about finds quantification or spot dates is available at this time. Accordingly, it is not possible to provide a detailed summary about the likely date of features recorded across Area D. Although based on a very limited visual inspection of the unwashed pottery it is considered likely that it encompasses the Iron Age and Roman periods. Overall, the artefact assemblage included animal bone, pottery of uncertain date, Ceramic Building Material (CBM) of uncertain date, along with a small quantity of flint and possible slag and stone and metalwork. The assemblage will be processed and assessed by specialists in due course for the final report.

Area C to the west of Area D revealed evidence for Roman activity spanning the post-Conquest to the 4th century AD. Notably, a Roman Small Town (Scheduled Monument Historic England List Entry Number 1491190) lies at the northeast edge of Area C, approximately 583.30m to the west of Area D (Sub-Area D01). The earliest activity recorded across Sub-Areas C01 to C04 comprised enclosure ditches, boundaries and pits of early 1st to mid-2nd century AD date. It is considered possible that the remains recorded across Sub-Areas D01 and D03 to D05 broadly relate to this activity in Area C

predating the establishment of the town or representing contemporary rural activity outside the main area of settlement.

Area C also revealed evidence for later activity spanning the 9th century onwards comprising activity typical of medieval rural activity. It is possible that some of the remains recorded across Area D relate to a similar phase of activity.

It is also considered likely that some of the ditches recorded in Area D are representative of field boundaries depicted on 19th century Ordnance Survey Maps which have since gone out of use but represent the continued agricultural use of the land to the modern period.

1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 This report details the interim results of an archaeological trial trench evaluation undertaken in support of a planning proposal for the development of new ground-mounted solar photovoltaic energy generating station and an associated on-site Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) on land to the north-west of St Neots, Cambridgeshire. The entire scheme measures approximately 768 ha and is subdivided into East Park Areas A to D (Figure 1).
- 1.2 This report focuses on the initial results of the pre-determination stage of trenching in Area D (measuring 65.22 ha) which is centred at National Grid Reference TL 14435 63065 (Figures 1 and 2). The evaluation in Area D was carried out in one phase spread across four fields within farmland to the southeast of Great Staughton Highway, Huntingdonshire.
- 1.3 Area D comprises five sub-areas identified as D01 to D05 inclusive, however Sub-Area D02 was not included in this stage of work (Figure 2). A total of 126 trenches were proposed within the Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for Area D, however due to ecological and service constraints on site, nine trenches were unable to be excavated. In total 117 trenches were excavated across Sub-Area D01 and D03 to D05 between 13th August 2025 and 12th September 2025 (Figures 3 to 5). The scope of the evaluation in Area D was set out in the WSI by AOC Archaeology (AOC 2024a). Area D is located within the administrative area of Huntingdonshire Council which is advised on archaeological matters by the Cambridgeshire Historic Environment Team (CHET).
- 1.4 The works were conducted by AOC Archaeology in accordance with current best practice, standards and guidelines, including the professional standards issued by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA), specifically the Standard and Universal Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation (CIfA 2023a and 2023b). The works were monitored by the Cambridgeshire Historic Environment Team (CHET). The results of the evaluation will be used to formulate an appropriate archaeological mitigation strategy for the proposed development site, if one is required. With the decision coming from the Local Planning Archaeologist and the LPA.

2 PROJECT BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The heritage assets identified within Area D included cropmarks of ditches thought likely to form an enclosure of Iron Age to Roman date, a possible medieval moated site and the eastern extent of a post-medieval quarry. An aerial investigation and mapping project recorded an undated bank, wall or path in the northwestern part of Area D and a medieval boundary bank and earthwork remains of medieval ridge and furrow as extending into the eastern area of Area D.
- 2.2 The geophysical survey, undertaken by AOC Archaeology in 2023-2024 identified scattered archaeological anomalies within Area D in the form of settlement or enclosure systems and possible trackways which could relate to the area of ditched enclosure cropmarks noted in the HER data (AOC 2024b). Linear positive anomalies that correlate to field boundaries on historic mapping were identified across Area D and modern and historic agricultural practices were recorded in form of historic ridge and furrows regimes, modern ploughing, and drains. Further, possible archaeological anomalies were recorded within Area D in forms that could not be more confidently interpreted due to being inconsistent or slightly ephemeral. An anomaly of unclear origin was also identified which may be related to post-medieval quarrying but could also be natural in origin.

- 2.3 In close proximity to Area D, the geophysical survey (AOC 2024b) identified an extensive area of archaeological activity within the northern part of Area C approximately 583.30m to the west of Area D. Archaeological remains were identified spreading across approximately 31ha which reflects a well organised and advanced settlement of probable Roman date with a network of roads, internal divisions and possible central main square (AOC 2024b). This area has since been excluded from the proposed development and designated as a Scheduled Monument (Historic England List Entry Number: 1491190).

3 SITE LOCATION, TOPOGRAPHY AND GEOLOGY

- 3.1 The fields within Area D are predominantly flat, set between 33m above Ordnance Datum (aOD) and 35m aOD with a west to east aligned raised area running through its centre which is set between 41m aOD and 43m aOD.
- 3.2 The British Geology Survey (BGS) (2025) identifies the solid geology of the East Park Scheme as Oxford Clay Formation. BGS mapping of superficial geology shows a diversity of deposits.
- 3.3 The superficial deposits recorded within the Scheme are more variable and include large areas of river terrace (sands and gravels) and sinuous areas of alluvial deposits (clays and silts) in the northern half of Area D. There are also isolated areas of Diamicton of the Oadby Formation that is recorded as extending within the southern part of Area D.
- 3.4 The land use within the Scheme has a generally open character and comprises arable farmland with fields divided by drainage ditches (or in some places bound by the River Kym or its associated brooks) with mature hedgerows and mature trees also generally bounding the fields. There are also blocks of woodland, surrounded by fields, within Area D.

4 METHODOLOGY

- 4.1 The archaeological evaluation was conducted according to the detailed methodology laid out in the WSI (AOC 2024a).
- 4.2 Area D comprises c.65.22ha total development area. The WSI outlined a proposed 126 trenches to be excavated across Area D (Figure 2) which equated to the below:
- High Development Impact Areas = 37 trenches (c.3.5% of c.9.41 hectares)
 - Area of Archaeological Activity = 21 trenches (c.2.5% of c.6.92 hectares)
 - Archaeology Activity 30m buffer = 22 trenches (c.3 to 4% of c.6.57 hectares)
 - Areas with no activity = 46 trenches (c.1.5% of c.42.32 hectares)
- 4.3 Although 126 trenches were proposed across Area D (Figure 2), only 117 trenches were excavated due to onsite constraints including ecological constraints and stewardship areas (Figures 3 to 5).
- 4.4 In total, 117 trenches measuring 50m by 1.80m were excavated in Area D across four sub-areas identified as D01, D03, D04 and D05 as shown on Figures 3 to 5, designed to target different geophysical anomalies. Sub-area D02 was not included at this stage and will be investigated at a later date.
- 4.5 The trenches were positioned to an accuracy of ± 100 mm of the specified trench location using survey-grade Trimble DGPS. Prior to excavation the trench area was surveyed using a CAT 4+.

- 4.6 The trenches were opened by a mechanical excavator under the supervision of a competent member of AOC staff. Excavation occurred in successive spits down to the first significant archaeological horizon, or natural substratum, whichever was encountered first. All trenches, and any archaeological features found were recorded using AOC's pro-form context and trench record sheets and surveyed to be tied to the national grid using a Trimble GPS. An Event number (ECB7315) was issued by Cambridgeshire Historic Environment Record (CHER) and used as a site code.

5 FACTUAL SUMMARY OF KEY ARCHAEOLOGICAL FINDINGS

Introduction

- 5.1 A total of 117 trenches were excavated across D01 and D03 to D05 (Figures 3 to 5) comprising 36 trenches in D01, 18 trenches in D03, 47 trenches in D04 and 16 trenches in D05. Of the 117 trenches, 44 contained archaeological features that were investigated during the evaluation (comprising Trenches 861, 872 and 874 in D01, Trenches 902, 904-906, 910, 912 and 913 in D02, Trenches 919, 922, 924-925, 927, 930, 932-933, 935-936, 938, 940-952, 957 and 964-965 in D04 and Trenches 966, 968-972 and 978 in D05, as further detailed below). Three trenches in Sub-Area D04 revealed archaeological remains that were recorded on the pre-excavation survey plan but not excavated in keeping with the strategy outlined below. The remaining 70 trenches were negative and will not be discussed further in any detail.
- 5.2 Due to the level of archaeological remains revealed in Area D and the likely requirement for further archaeological work in advance of development, it was agreed with the Senior Archaeologist at CHET that not every feature required excavation during the evaluation. This strategy was applied in Sub-Area D04 with the greatest concentration of archaeological remains. If a linear feature was present within two or more trenches and appeared to correspond with the geophysical survey it was only investigated in one trench. When this strategy was employed, the unexcavated features were included in the pre-excavation survey, but they were not allocated context numbers.
- 5.3 Possible archaeological features were identified within 17 trenches during the pre-excavation survey comprising seven trenches in Sub-Area D01, seven trenches in Sub-Area D03, and three trenches in Sub-Area D05 that were tested and proved not to be of archaeological origin. Although some trenches in Sub-Areas D01, D03 and D05 still have features showing on the pre-ex-survey plan (Figures 6 to 100) these trenches were all proved to be negative.
- 5.4 A total of 36 trenches were excavated in Sub-Area D01 (Trenches 857 to 865 and Trenches 870-897), with three of these containing archaeological features (Trenches 861, 872 and 874). The remaining 33 trenches (Trenches 857-860, 862-871, 873 and 875-897) excavated in Sub-Area D01 were negative.
- 5.5 A total of 18 trenches were excavated in Sub-Area D03 (Trenches 898 to 915), with seven of these containing archaeological features (Trenches 902, 904 to 906, 910, 912 and 913). The remaining 11 trenches (Trenches 898-901, 903, 911-912 and 914-915) excavated in Sub-Area D03 were negative.
- 5.6 A total of 47 trenches were excavated in Sub-Area D04 (Trenches 919 to 965), with 27 of these containing archaeological features (Trenches 919, 922, 924-925, 927, 930, 932-933, 935-936, 938, 940-952, 957 and 964-965). Three trenches in Sub-Area D04 (Trenches 928, 934 and 939) revealed archaeological features that were recorded on the pre-excavation survey but not

investigated in keeping with the strategy outlined above. The remaining 17 trenches (Trenches 920-921, 923, 926, 929, 931, 937, 953-956 and 958-963) excavated in Sub-Area D04 were negative.

- 5.7 A total of 16 trenches were excavated in Sub-Area D05 (Trenches 966 to 981), with seven of these containing archaeological features (Trenches 966, 968-972 and 978). The remaining nine trenches (Trenches 967, 973-977 and 979-981) excavated in Sub-Area D05 were negative.
- 5.8 A range of confirmed and potential archaeological features were encountered across the four fields (Figures 3 to 5). The artefacts recovered during the evaluation have not yet been processed and examined by specialists. Accordingly, the following is intended as an initial summary in advance of the full report. The final survey of Area D is included in this report, and Figures 3 to 5 show the excavated trenches. Figures 6 to 100 show individual trench plans and excavated features but are not specifically referred to in the summary below. The individual archaeological features are not discussed in detail, rather an overview of the type of archaeological features and level of archaeological remains is provided.
- 5.9 The majority of the archaeological remains in Area D were concentrated in the central and central southern part of the area in Sub-Area D04. In total 27 trenches in Sub-Area D04 revealed archaeological remains. Due to the density of remains revealed a fully summary of the remains is not detailed for Sub-Area D04 at this stage.

Area D01

- 5.10 Thirty-six trenches were opened in Sub-Area D01 (Trenches 857 to 865 and Trenches 870-897). Of the 36 trenches, only three had archaeological features that were investigated (Trenches 861, 872 and 874). The naturally-lain deposits generally consisted of yellow clay with colour variations. The subsoil comprised mid greenish to greyish brown silty clay to reddish brown silty clay, varying in depth from 0.05m to 0.13m. The topsoil consisted of a mid-blackish brown soft silt to mid brown silty clay, varying in depth from 0.15m to 0.34m. All 36 trenches in Sub-Area D01 revealed a similar stratigraphic sequence of topsoil overlying subsoil above natural geology.
- 5.11 Trenches 861, 872 and 874 revealed archaeological remains comprising five features producing a very small assemblage of artefacts including pottery and animal bone.
- 5.12 Three features were recorded in Trench 861 comprising a linear feature interpreted as a possible drainage ditch, a linear feature interpreted as a possible boundary ditch and a feature interpreted as a possible hedgerow. A single linear feature was recorded in Trench 872, and a single linear feature was recorded in Trench 874.

Area D03

- 5.13 Eighteen trenches were opened in Sub-Area D03 (Trenches 898 to 915). Of the 18, only seven had archaeological features that were investigated (Trenches 902, 904 to 906, 910, 912 and 913). The naturally lain deposits generally consisted of yellow clay to grey clay with colour variations. The subsoil comprised mid brown silty clay to dark brown silty clay, varying in depth from 0.05m to 0.15m. The topsoil consisted of a dark brown silty clay to mid greyish brown silty clay, varying in depth from 0.15m to 0.40m. Fourteen trenches in Sub-Area D03 revealed a similar stratigraphic sequence of topsoil overlying subsoil above natural geology. Four trenches in Sub-Area D03 revealed colluvium, in three trenches this was underlying subsoil (Trenches 906, 907 and 913) and in one trench this was directly underlying topsoil (Trench 912).

- 5.14 Trenches 902, 904 to 906, 910, 912 and 913 revealed archaeological remains comprising 11 features. Only one feature, ditch [90411] contained any finds, comprising pottery recovered from fill (90410). The remaining features in Sub-Area DO3 were sterile.
- 5.15 A shallow linear feature and shallow pit were recorded in Trench 902, it was thought possible that the later could be part of a post-medieval quarry pit although there was no dating evidence. Four linear features were investigated in Trench 904 interpreted as a possible boundary ditch and three possible enclosure ditches. Linear features were recorded in Trench 905, 910, 912 and 913 that were interpreted as a possible boundary ditches.

Area D04

- 5.16 Forty-seven trenches were opened in Sub-Area D04 (Trenches 919 to 965). Of the 47, 27 of these had archaeological features that were investigated (Trenches 919, 922, 924-925, 927, 930, 932-933, 935-936, 938, 940-952, 957 and 964-965). The naturally lain deposits generally consisted of grey silty to brown silty clay with colour variations. The subsoil comprised mid greyish brown silty clay to mid yellowish brown silty clay, varying in depth from 0.04m to 0.23m. The topsoil consisted of a dark greyish brown silty clay to dark brownish black silty clay, varying in depth from 0.14m to 0.43m. Thirty trenches in Sub-Area D04 revealed a similar stratigraphic sequence of topsoil overlying subsoil above natural geology. Eleven trenches in Sub-Area D04 revealed a similar stratigraphic sequence of topsoil directly above natural geology (Trenches 929, 950, 953-955, 957 and 961-965). Six trenches in Sub-Area D04 revealed colluvium, in all six trenches this was underlying subsoil (Trenches 919-921, 925, 930 and 933).
- 5.17 Trenches 920-921, 923, 926, 928-929, 931, 934, 937, 939, 953-956 and 958-963 revealed archaeological remains comprising 71 features producing an assemblage of artefacts including pottery, animal bone, CBM, possible slag and metalwork. Notably, a broach (small find 94501) was recovered from the upper fill (94507) of ditch [94506] in Trench 945.
- 5.18 The majority of the archaeological remains revealed in Area D were concentrated in Sub-Area D04 in the central and central southern area. In the main, the features comprised linear features with over forty-nine linear features recorded, interpreted as boundary ditches, enclosure ditches, drainage ditches, gullies and other linear features. One linear feature was interpreted as a possible hedgerow, and a possible trackway [94521] was recorded in Trench 945.
- 5.19 Several recuts were identified in some of the ditches suggesting that features were in use over a sustained period or that there was more than one period of use and features were reused. A number of the linear features produced artefacts and based on a very limited visual inspection it is considered likely that it encompasses the Iron Age and Roman periods. At least one ditch [94307] in Trench 943 was thought to be of later date as it contained CBM that was thought likely to be post-medieval. At least two ditches [93514] and [94106] were investigated that were not present on the geophysical survey.
- 5.20 Only a small number of discreet features (c. ten) were investigated comprising a stakehole, postholes and pits. Some features were identified as terminus/pit. One pit [95208] in Trench 952 was interpreted as a hearth with evidence of in-situ burning and another pit contained burnt bone and CBM.
- 5.21 An additional 3 trenches revealed (Trenches 928, 934 and 939) possible archaeological features that were recorded during the pre-excavation survey but were not investigated as outlined above.

Area D05

- 5.22 Sixteen trenches were opened in Sub-Area D05 (Trenches 966-981). Of the 16, 7 had archaeological features (Trenches 966, 968-972 and 978) that were investigated. The naturally-lain deposits generally consisted of light yellowish brown silty clay to reddish brown silty clay with colour variations. The subsoil comprised light greyish brown silty clay to mid yellowish brown silty clay, varying in depth from 0.03m to 0.24m. The topsoil consisted of a mid greyish brown silty clay to dark yellowish brown silty clay, varying in depth from 0.21m to 0.44m. Twelve trenches in Sub-Area D05 revealed a similar stratigraphic sequence of topsoil overlying subsoil above natural geology. Four trenches in Sub-Area D05 revealed a similar stratigraphic sequence of topsoil directly above natural geology (Trenches 975-977 and 979).
- 5.23 Trenches 966, 968-972 and 978 revealed archaeological remains comprising fifteen features producing a very small assemblage of artefacts including pottery and CBM.
- 5.24 A single linear feature was recorded in Trench 966 interpreted as a gully of possible modern date although no dating evidence was recovered. A single linear feature was recorded in Trench 968 interpreted as a post-medieval field boundary, corresponding with a boundary on Ordnance Survey (OS) mapping. A single linear feature was recorded in Trench 967 interpreted a gully which had been infilled naturally. Three linear features interpreted as two possible boundary ditches and a gully, and a posthole were recorded in Trench 969. The posthole had small fragmented CBM inclusions in the fill that could not be recovered. A narrow linear feature interpreted as a gully and a pit were recorded in Trench 970. An isolated posthole was recorded in Trench 971 and there was no evidence to suggest that it was related to other features. Four linear features were recorded in Trench 972 including a shallow V-shaped ditch producing pottery. An isolated posthole was recorded in Trench 978 containing some small pieces of CBM.

6 INTERIM ARTEFACTUAL SUMMARY

- 6.1 The artefacts recovered from Area D includes animal bone, pottery of uncertain date, CBM of uncertain date along with a small quantity of flint and possible slag, possible stone and metal finds. The assemblage will be processed and assessed by specialists in due course for the final report.
- 6.2 Until the finds from Area D have been processed no information on finds quantification or spot dates can be provided. Although based on a very limited visual inspection, it is considered likely that it encompasses the Iron Age and Roman periods.
- 6.3 Notably, a broach (small find 94501) was recovered from the upper fill (94507) of ditch [94506] in Trench 945 in Sub-Area D04.

7 PROVISIONAL INTERPRETATION AND DISCUSSION

- 7.1 Overall, the archaeological evaluation has revealed archaeological remains broadly corresponding with the geophysical survey. As detailed above no information about finds quantification or spot dates is available at this time. The assemblage will be processed and assessed by specialists in due course for the final report.
- 7.2 The geophysical survey revealed limited evidence for archaeological features in Sub-Areas D01 and D05 with anomalies largely identified as linear trends (unclear origin, historic feature, agriculture/ ploughing, drainage and service) and ferrous anomalies in both sub-areas. The

result of the evaluation revealed limited evidence for archaeological activity that was in keeping with the geophysics in Sub-Areas D01 and D05 where five features and 15 features were excavated in each sub-area respectively. The geophysical survey revealed evidence for probable archaeology (strong) at the west of D01 but this falls within the exclusion zone that was not included in the evaluation.

- 7.3 The geophysical survey revealed evidence for linear trends of unclear origin across the northern half of Sub-Area D03 and running parallel to the southern boundary. It also identified spread (geology/natural) across most of the area along with some linear trends (agriculture/ ploughing) and magnetic disturbance. The result of the evaluation revealed limited evidence for archaeological activity in Sub-Area D03, and 11 features were excavated in this sub-area with mixed results for geophysical anomalies being confirmed in the trenches.
- 7.4 The geophysical survey revealed evidence for probable archaeology (strong) and possible archaeology at the north/ northwest and west of Sub-Area D04 and across the central part of the sub-area, off set to the west. The results of the evaluation revealed evidence for archaeological activity in Sub-Area D04 concentrated in western central part of the sub-area and 71 features were identified in this sub-area, in keeping with what the geophysics suggested.
- 7.5 The archaeological remains found during the trial trenching evaluation show evidence of past activity across the four fields investigated. Although it is not possible to phase this activity in advance of post-excavation processing, it is considered most likely to predominately represent activity of later prehistoric to modern date, with a focus on the later prehistoric and Roman periods. It is possible that the trial trenching uncovered remains pre-dating the Iron Age as a small assemblage of worked flint was recovered.
- 7.6 The majority of the archaeological remains revealed in Area D were concentrated in Sub-Area D04 in the central and central southern part of Area D. It is likely that the archaeological remains recorded within Sub-Area D04 represent the focus of activity, with the remains recorded in Sub-Areas D01, D03 and D05 representing outlying activity. Alternatively, they could represent activity of earlier or later date, especially given the limited artefact assemblages and dating evidence recovered from features in Sub-Areas D01, D03 and D05.
- 7.7 Area D lies in fairly close proximity to Area C, and the results the evaluation of this area have been written up in full (AOC 2025). Area C to the west of Area D revealed evidence for Roman activity spanning the post-Conquest to the 4th century AD. Notably, a Roman Small Town (Scheduled Monument Historic England List Entry Number 1491190) lies at the northeast edge of Area C, approximately 583.30m to the west of Area D (Sub-Area D01). The earliest activity recorded across Sub-Areas C01 to C04 comprised enclosure ditches, boundaries and pits of early 1st to mid-2nd century AD date. It is considered possible that the remains recorded across Area D in Sub-Areas D01 and D03 to D05 broadly relate to this activity in Area C predating the establishment of the town or representing contemporary rural activity outside the main area of settlement. Area C also revealed evidence for later activity spanning the 9th century onwards comprising activity typical of medieval rural activity. It is possible that some of the remains recorded across Area D relate to a similar phase of activity. It is also considered likely that that some of the features represent post-medieval and modern activity of an agricultural nature.

8 PROVISIONAL CONTRIBUTION TO SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES

8.1 The following section provides a review of the significance of the results of the trial trench evaluation in Area D in relation to the objectives laid out in the WSI (AOC 2024a) which were informed by the East of England Regional Research Framework (2021), and by appropriate Historic England guidance (Historic England 2023, 2024):

Table 1 Contribution to objectives

Objective	Potential Contribution
<p>To ground truth the results of the geophysical survey.</p> <p>To investigate the areas of archaeological activity indicated by the geophysical survey within Areas A, B, C and D.</p> <p>To investigate the areas with no recorded archaeological anomalies within Areas A, B, C and D in order to test whether there is a greater level of archaeology than indicated in the geophysical survey?</p>	<p>The evaluation in Area D has successfully contributed to this objective in that it has tested the geophysical survey results which had a high success rate with many anomalies representing real archaeology.</p> <p>Areas seemingly devoid of archaeology as suggested by the geophysics, did identify some archaeological features, however these tended to be isolated and low in significance.</p>
<p>To determine the character and composition of any structural remains.</p> <p>To determine the date, function and nature of any cut features.</p> <p>To identify any in-situ internal or external surfaces present.</p> <p>To retrieve datable material when available.</p> <p>Are any in situ remains of roads or tracks present?</p> <p>Are any alluvial or colluvial deposits present?</p> <p>Are any palaeosols, old land surfaces or palaeochannels present?</p>	<p>The evaluation successfully investigated and characterised features identified across Area D. These features will be dated in due course.</p> <p>Of the 117 trenches excavated, 44 yielded archaeological remains in D01 and D03 to D05 that were investigated during the evaluation. The remaining 73 trenches were negative or not investigated. Of these 53 were negative and did not reveal any possible archaeological remains, whereas 20 trenches revealed possible archaeological features that were recorded during the pre-excavation survey but were not investigated.</p> <p>The archaeological features found during the trenching were generally representative of rural occupation and farming activity, which corresponds with what was expected from the geophysical survey undertaken prior to the evaluation.</p> <p>No <i>in-situ</i> internal or external surfaces were recorded. However, a pit interpreted as a hearth with in-situ evidence for burning was identified.</p>

Objective	Potential Contribution
	<p>No <i>in-situ</i> remains of roads were recorded.</p> <p>A possible trackway [94521] was recorded in trench 945.</p> <p>Isolated colluvial deposits were present in 4 trenches within Sub-Area D03 and 6 trenches in Sub-Area D04 and likely represented the filling of a hollow in the landscape over time.</p> <p>No palaeosols, old land surfaces or paleochannels were recorded in Area D.</p>
Is there any variation of date or function of the remains across the site. Are any activity zones present?	<p>In advance of the post-excavation processing it is not possible to phase the results in Area D. Based on a very limited visual inspection of the unwashed pottery it is considered likely that it encompasses the Iron Age and Roman periods.</p> <p>The archaeology recorded across Area D most likely represents rural occupation and farming activity of possible Iron Age and Roman date, along with some evidence for later agricultural activity.</p> <p>A comparison of results between all areas of evaluation at East Park (Area A to D) will contribute to this aim and identify variations in date and function of activity across the landscape.</p>
To determine how the results of the evaluation can contribute to the East of England Regional Research Framework (2021). In particular to topics related to Roman Towns, Infrastructure and Finds Studies.	<p>The results of the evaluation across East Park (Area A to D) will contribute to the East of England Regional Research Framework as they will shed light on activity across a landscape bordering Bedfordshire and Cambridgeshire.</p> <p>The results of Area D specifically can contribute to research topics related to activity in the vicinity of Roman Towns and outlying rural occupation and farming activity.</p>

9 PROVISIONAL CONCLUSION

- 9.1 The results of the trial trench evaluation indicate defined areas of archaeological activity within Area D across the four fields evaluated. Based on a very limited visual inspection of the pottery

it is considered likely that the activity encompasses the Iron Age and Roman periods. It is also considered likely that some of the CBM is of post-medieval date.

- 9.2 Full conclusions will be drawn on completion of the trenching in Area D and the specialist assessment of finds and environmental data.

10 BIBLIOGRAPHY

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11 FIGURES

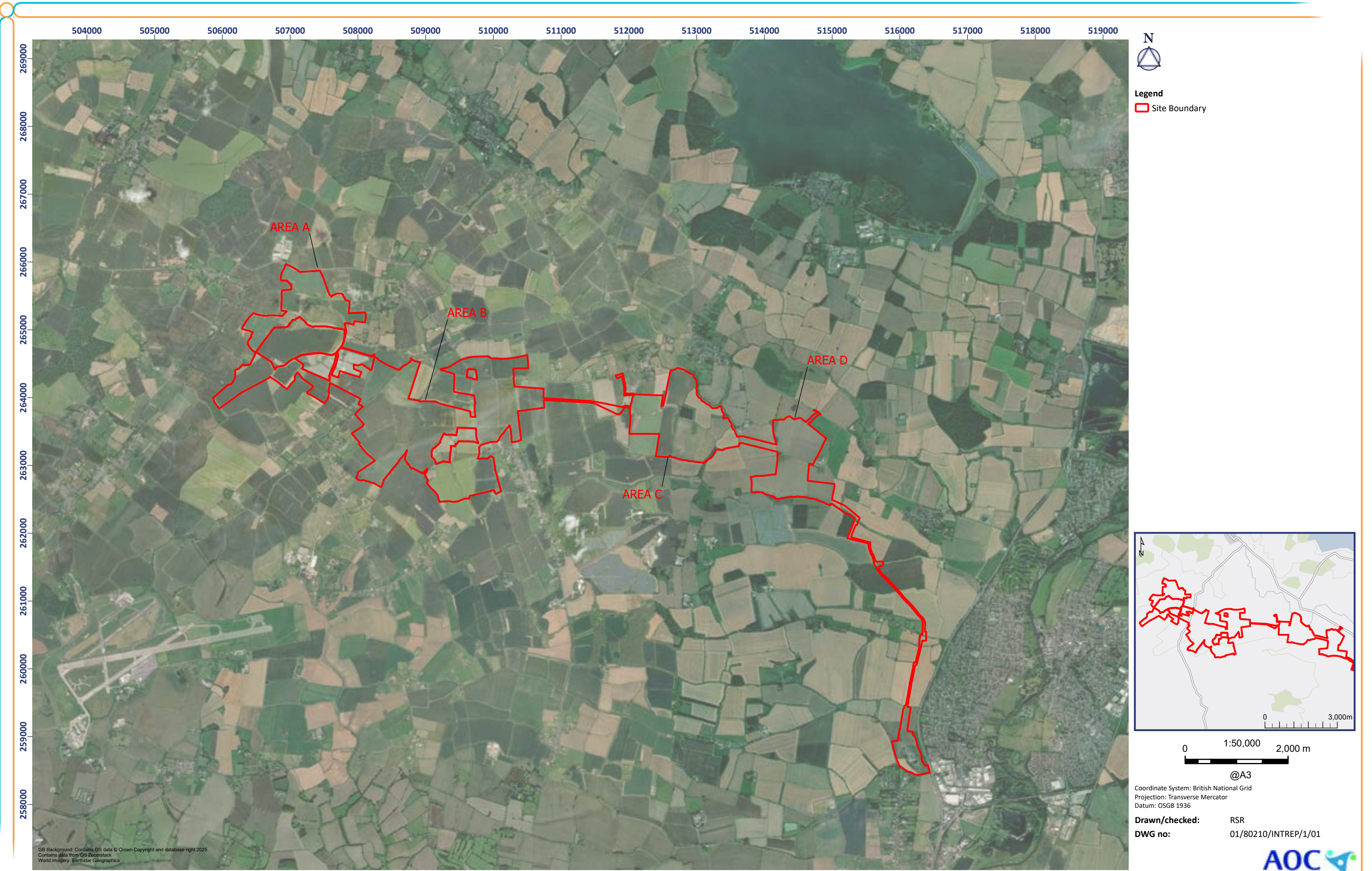
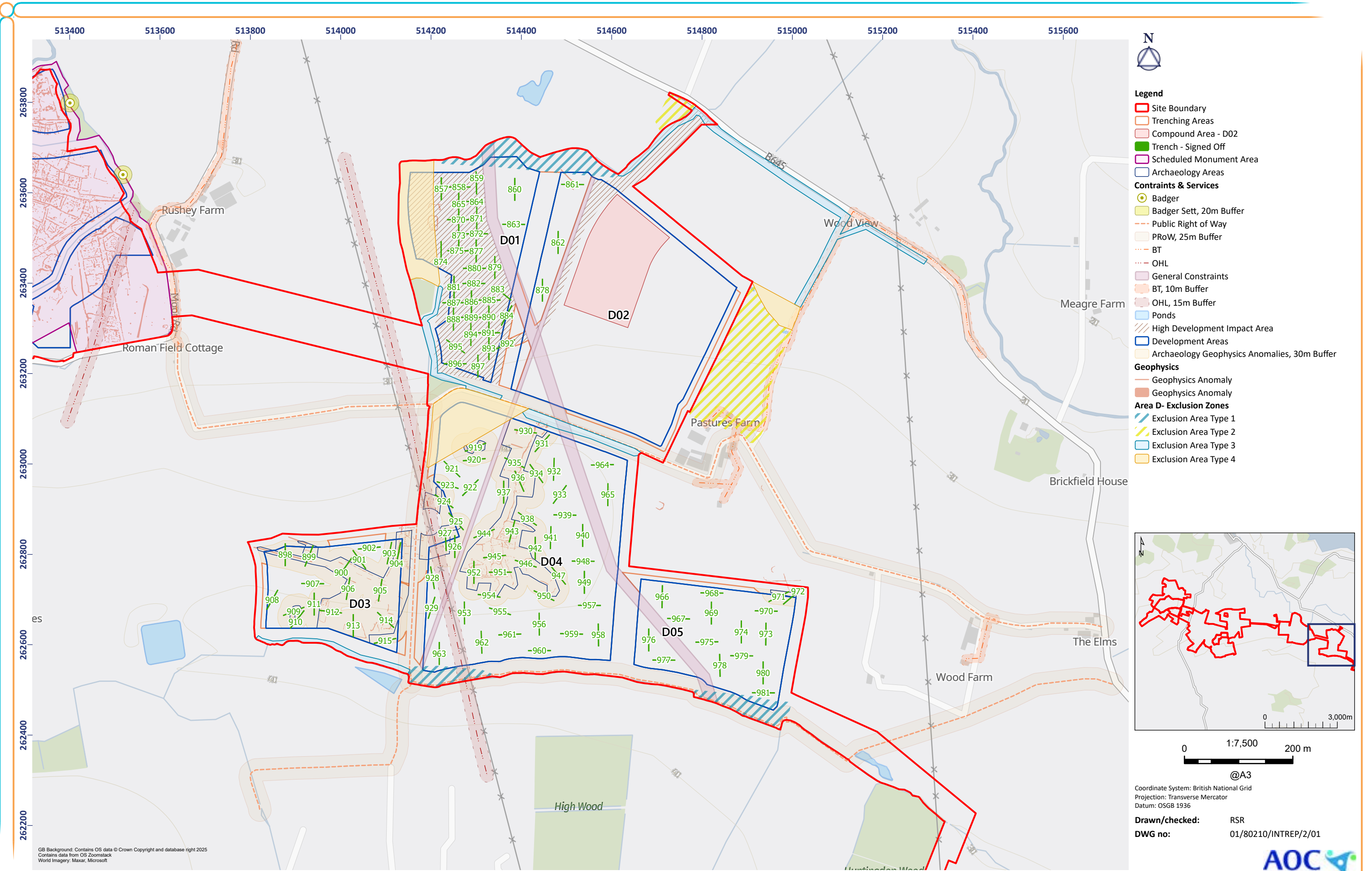


Figure 1: Scheme Overview



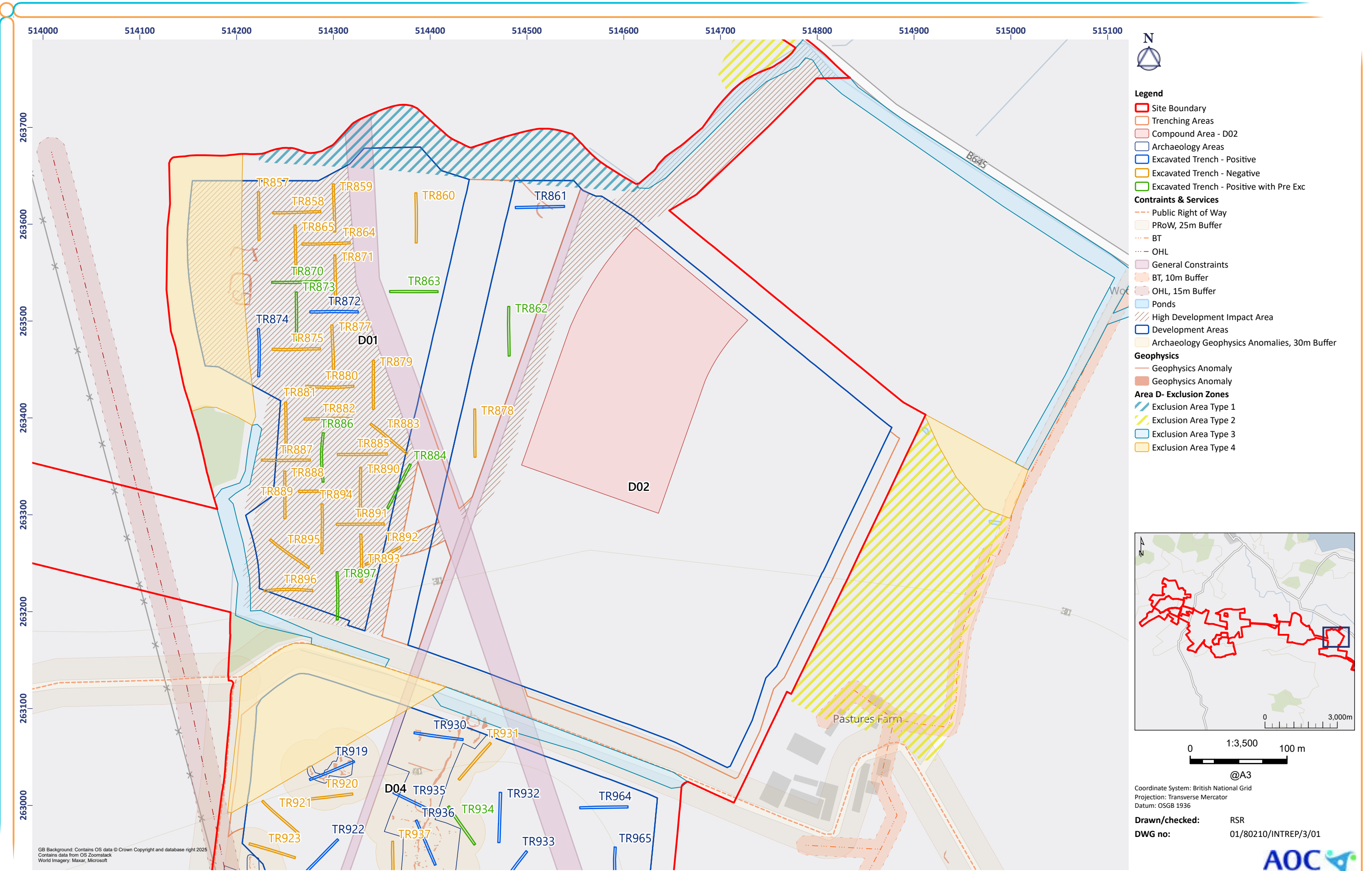


Figure 3: Area D01, Excavated Trenches

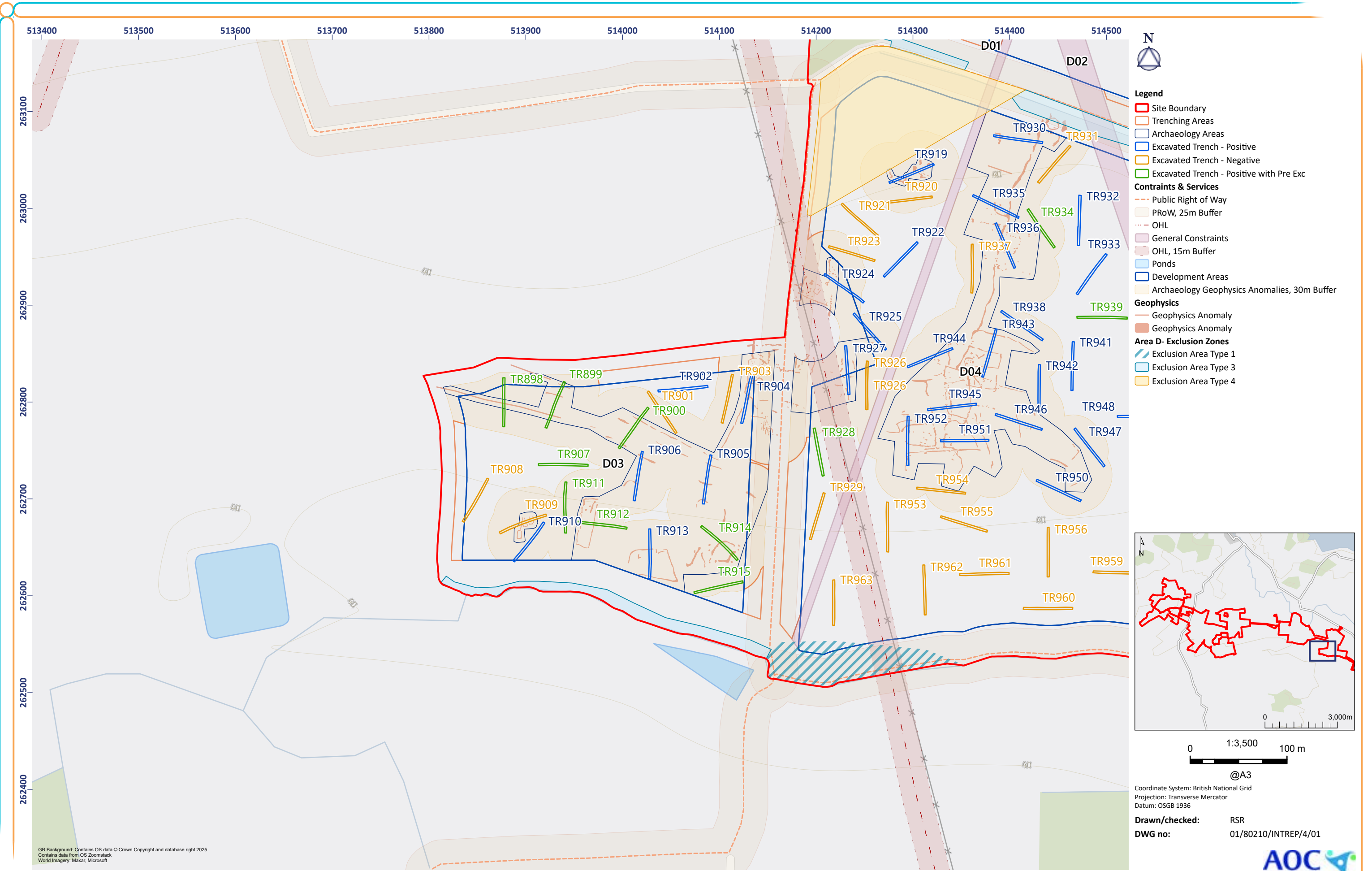


Figure 4: Area D03 Excavated Trenches

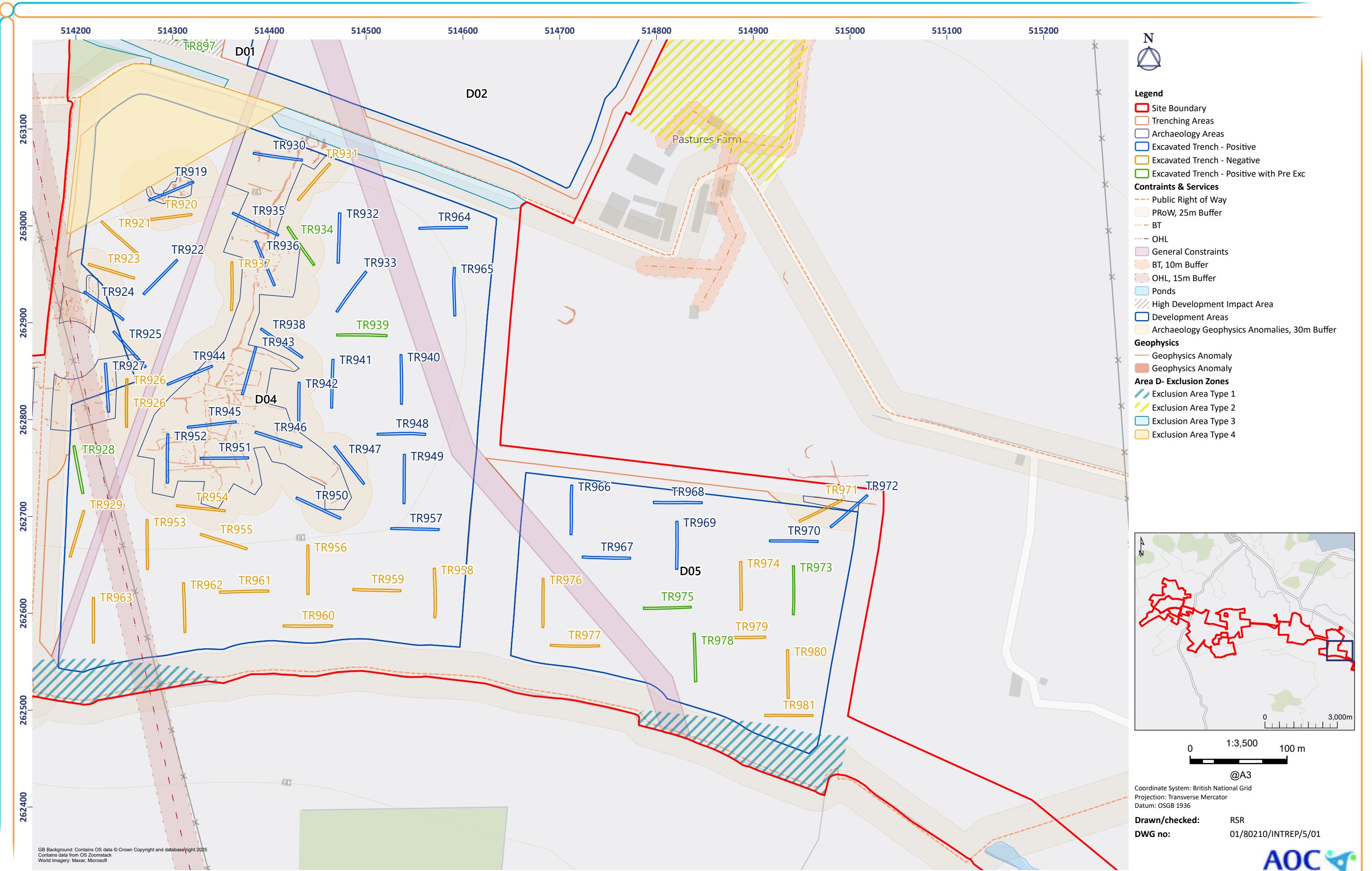


Figure 5: Area D04, D05, Excavated Trenches

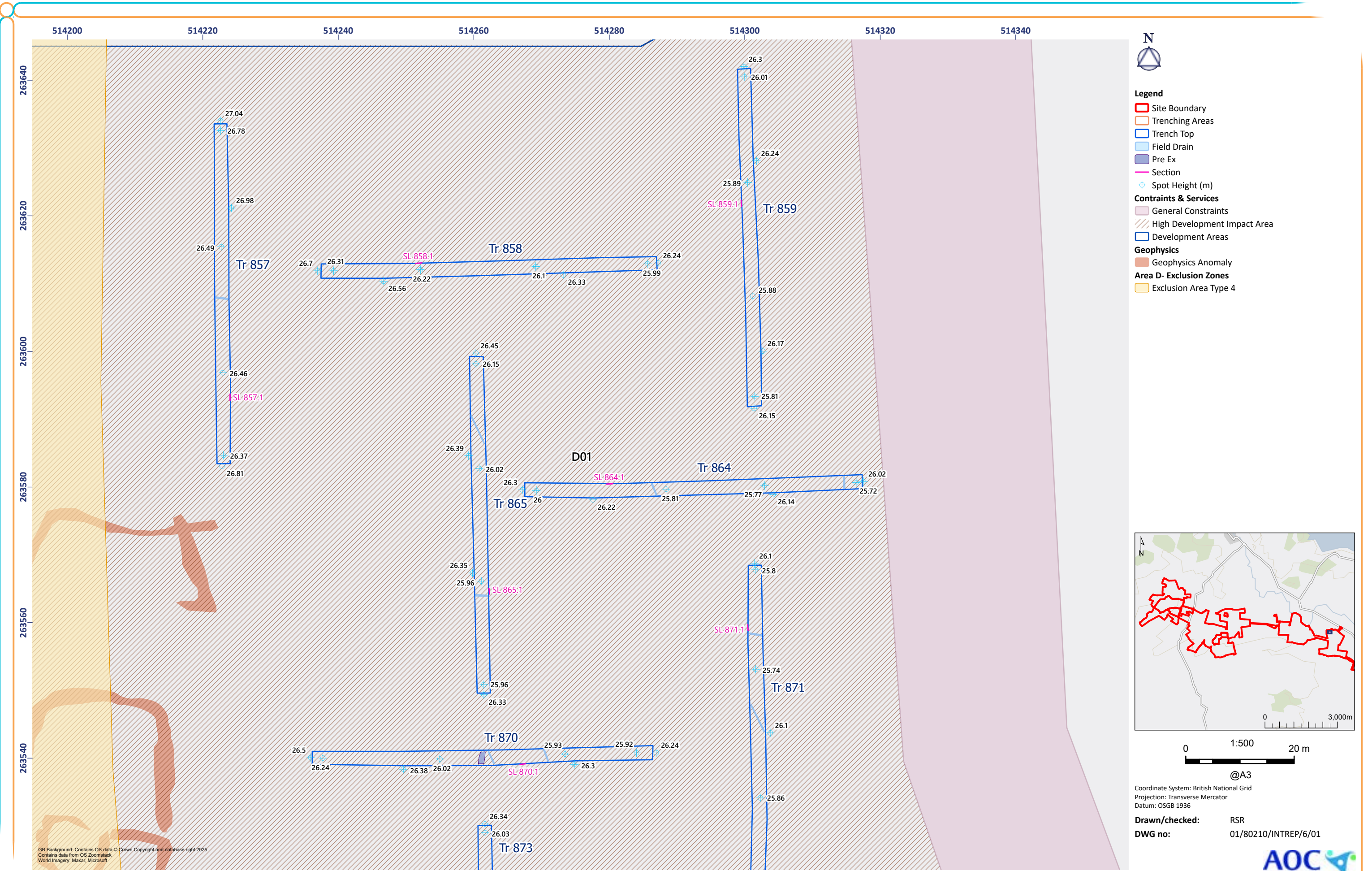


Figure 6: Trenches 857-859, 864-5, 870-1

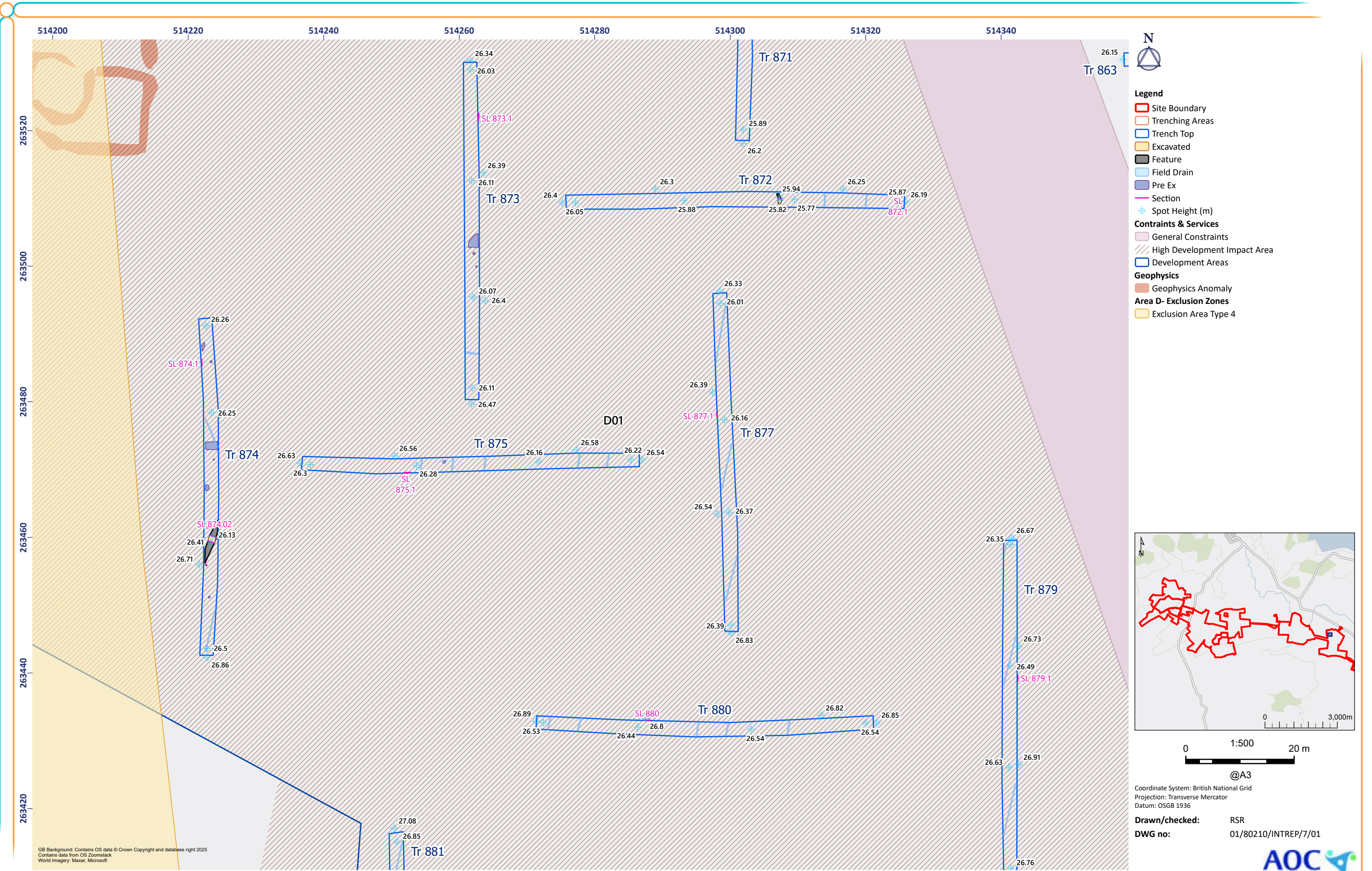


Figure 7: Trenches 872-875, 877

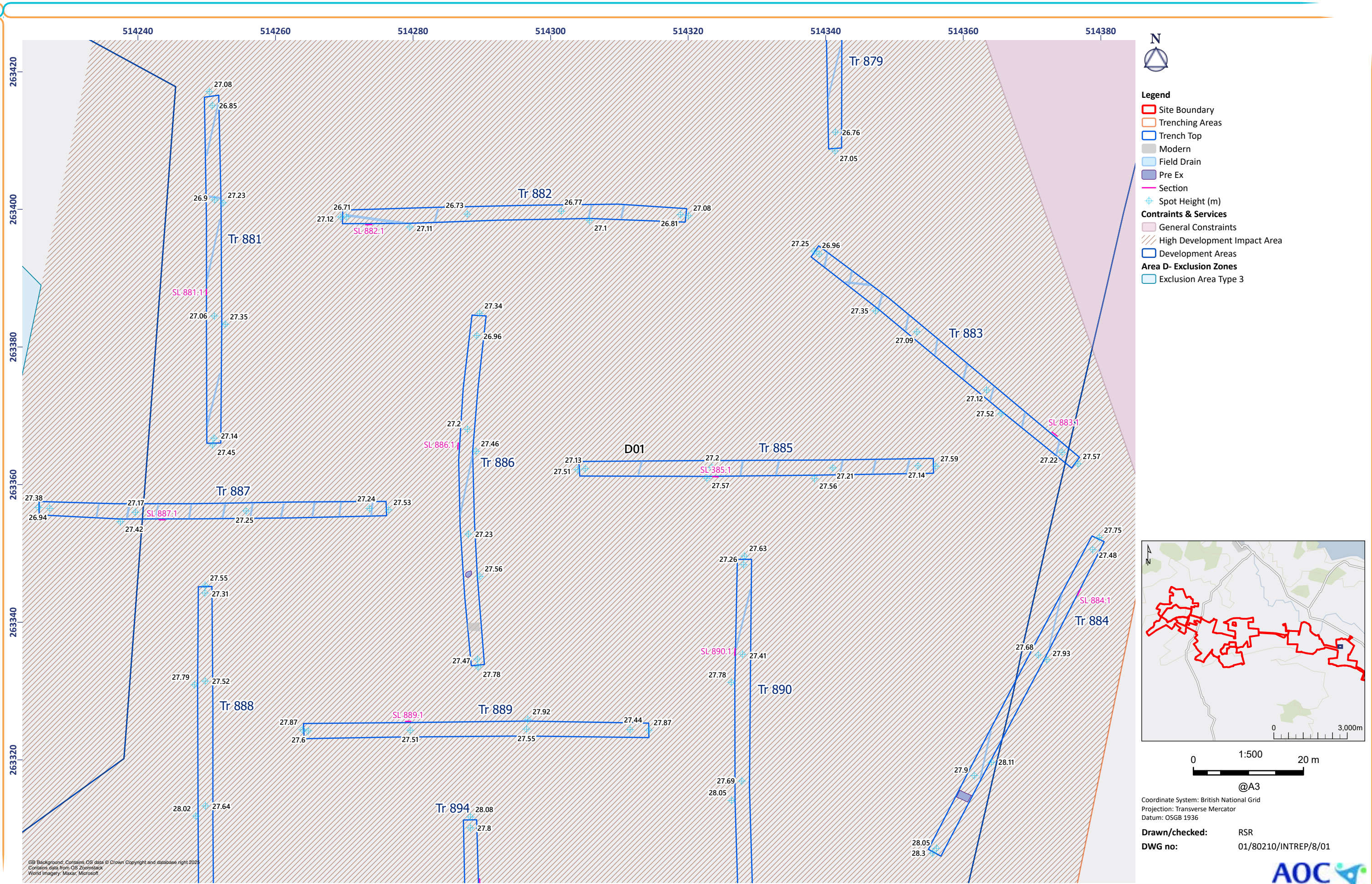
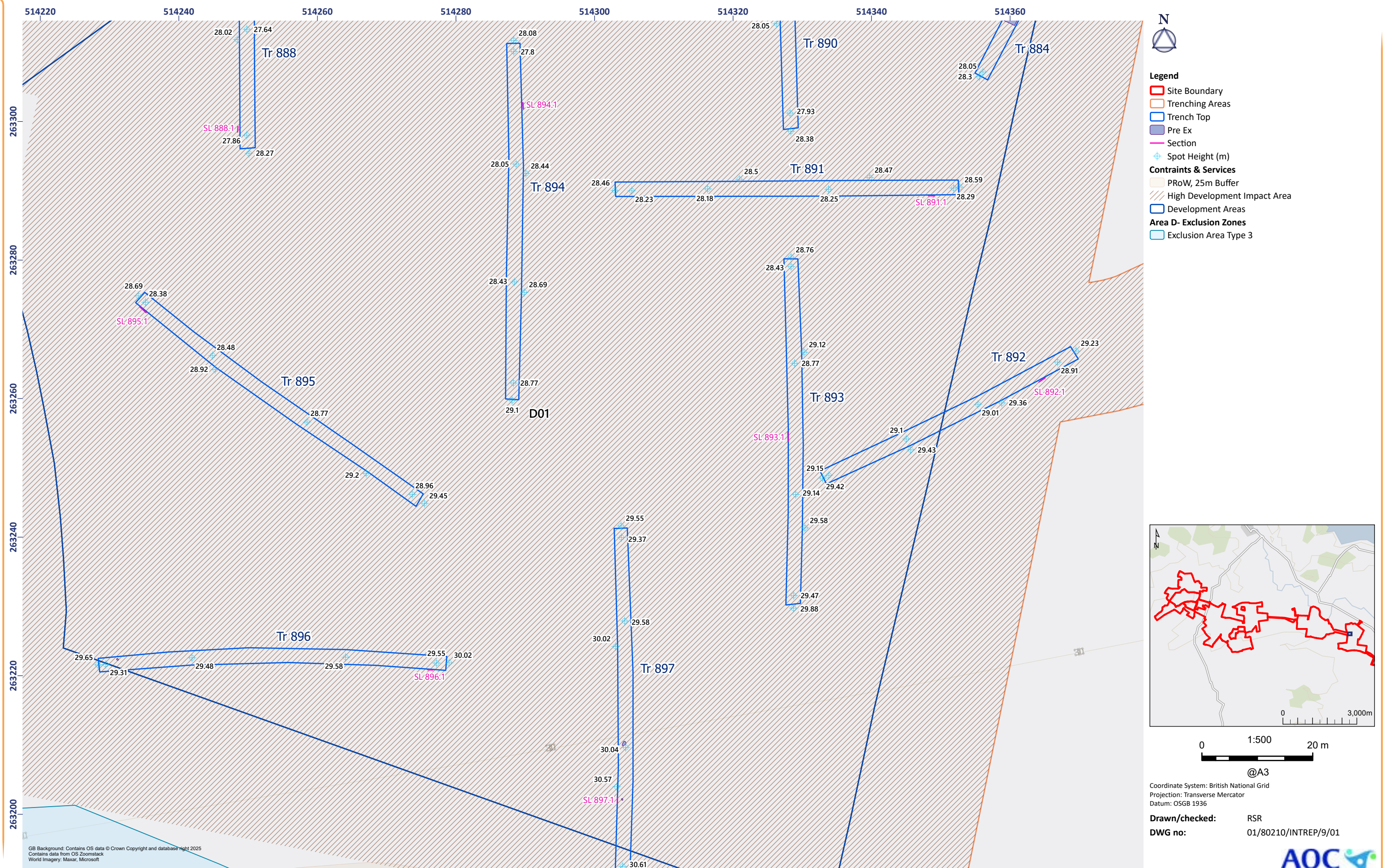


Figure 8: Trench 881-890



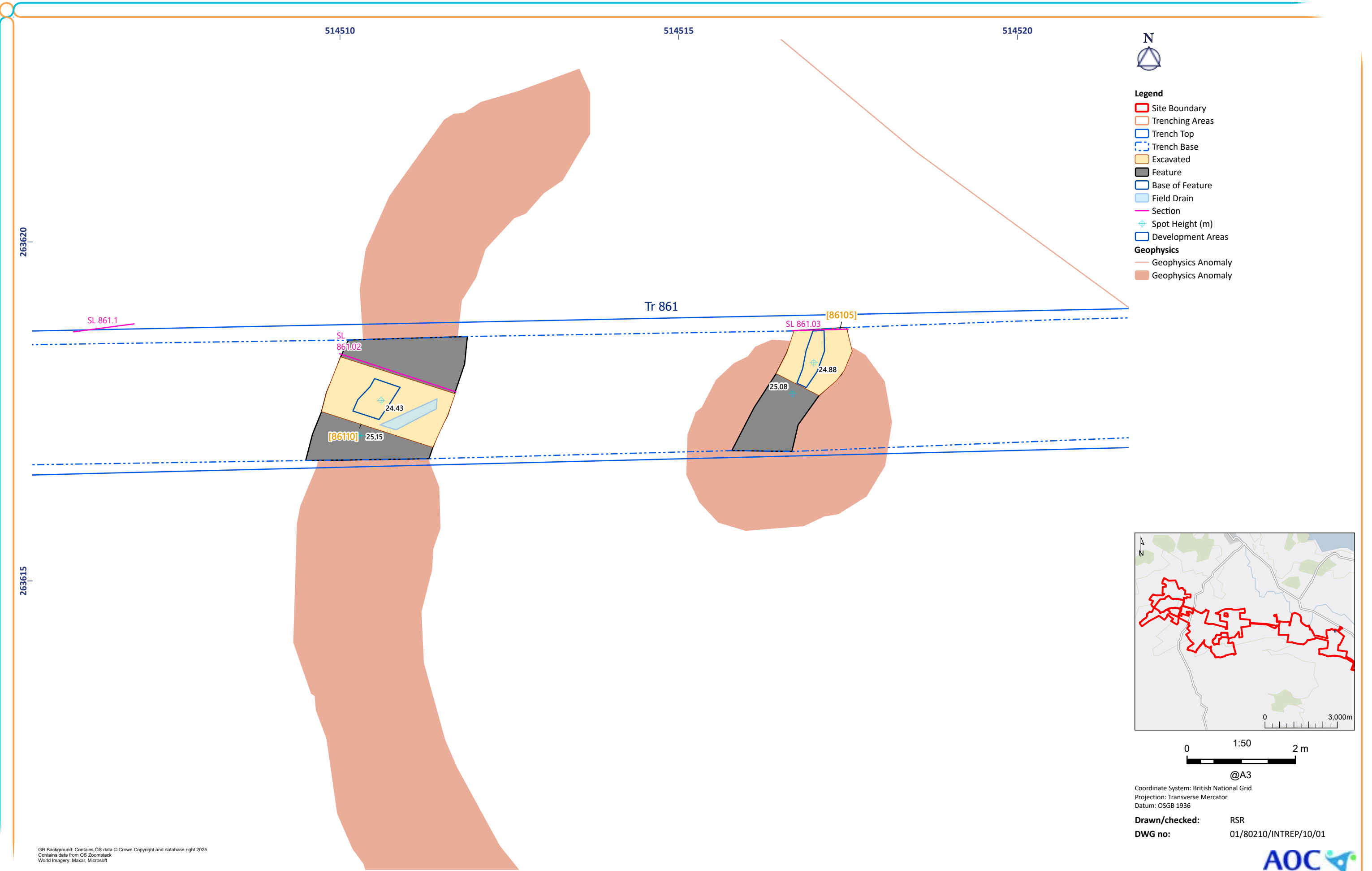


Figure 10: Trench 861 Excavated Feature

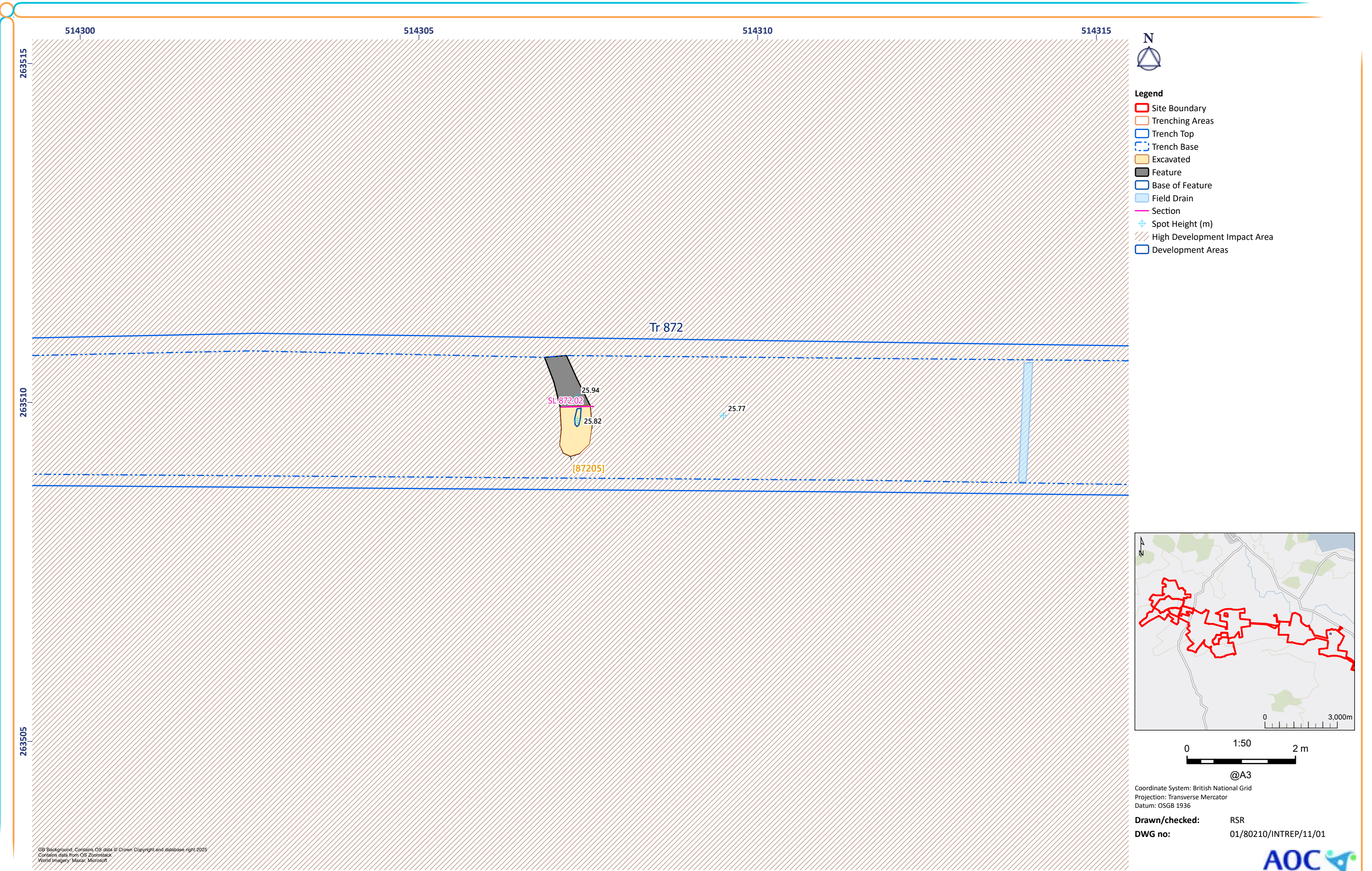


Figure 11: Trench 872 Excavated Feature

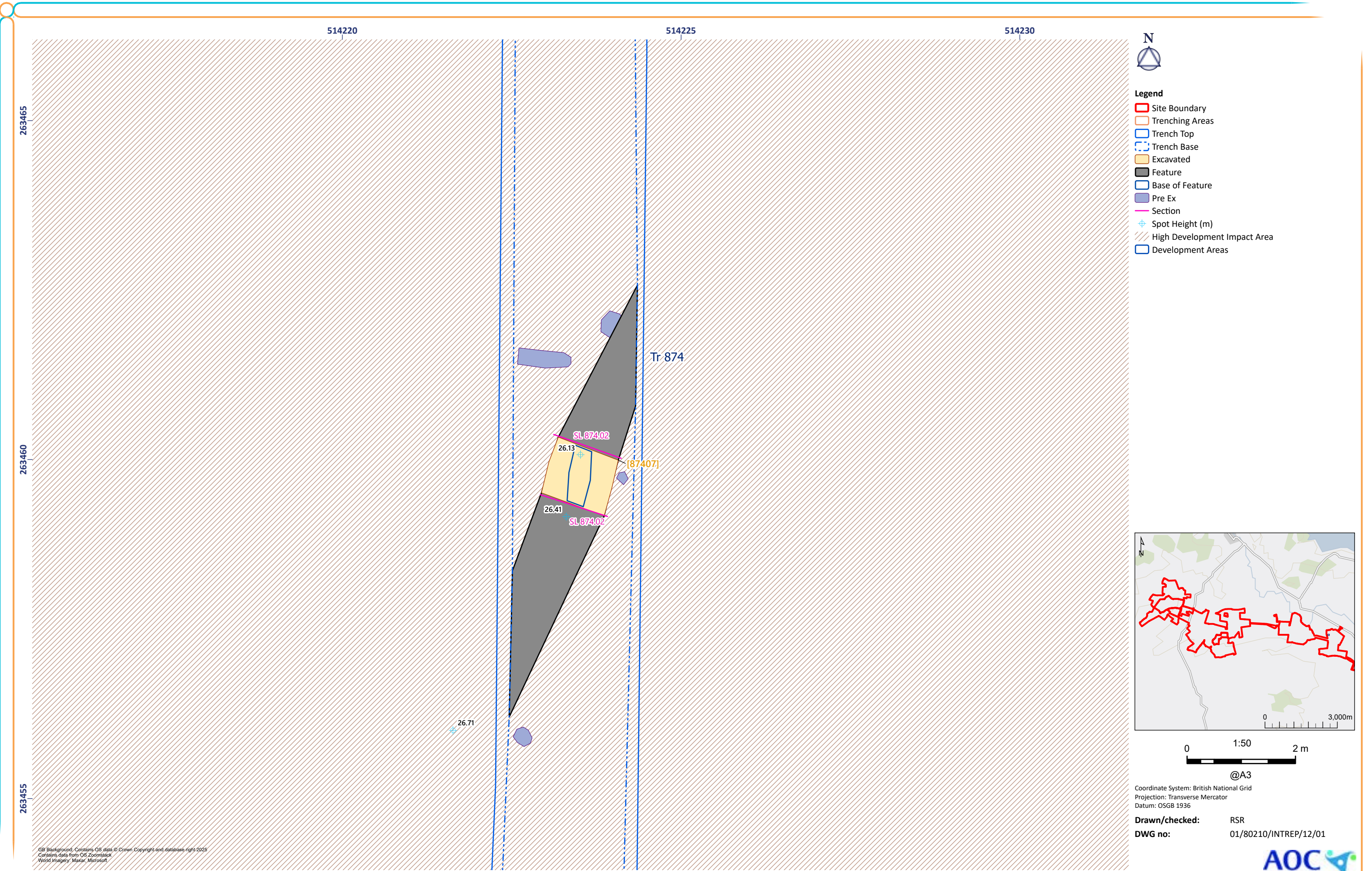


Figure 12: Trench 874 Excavated Feature

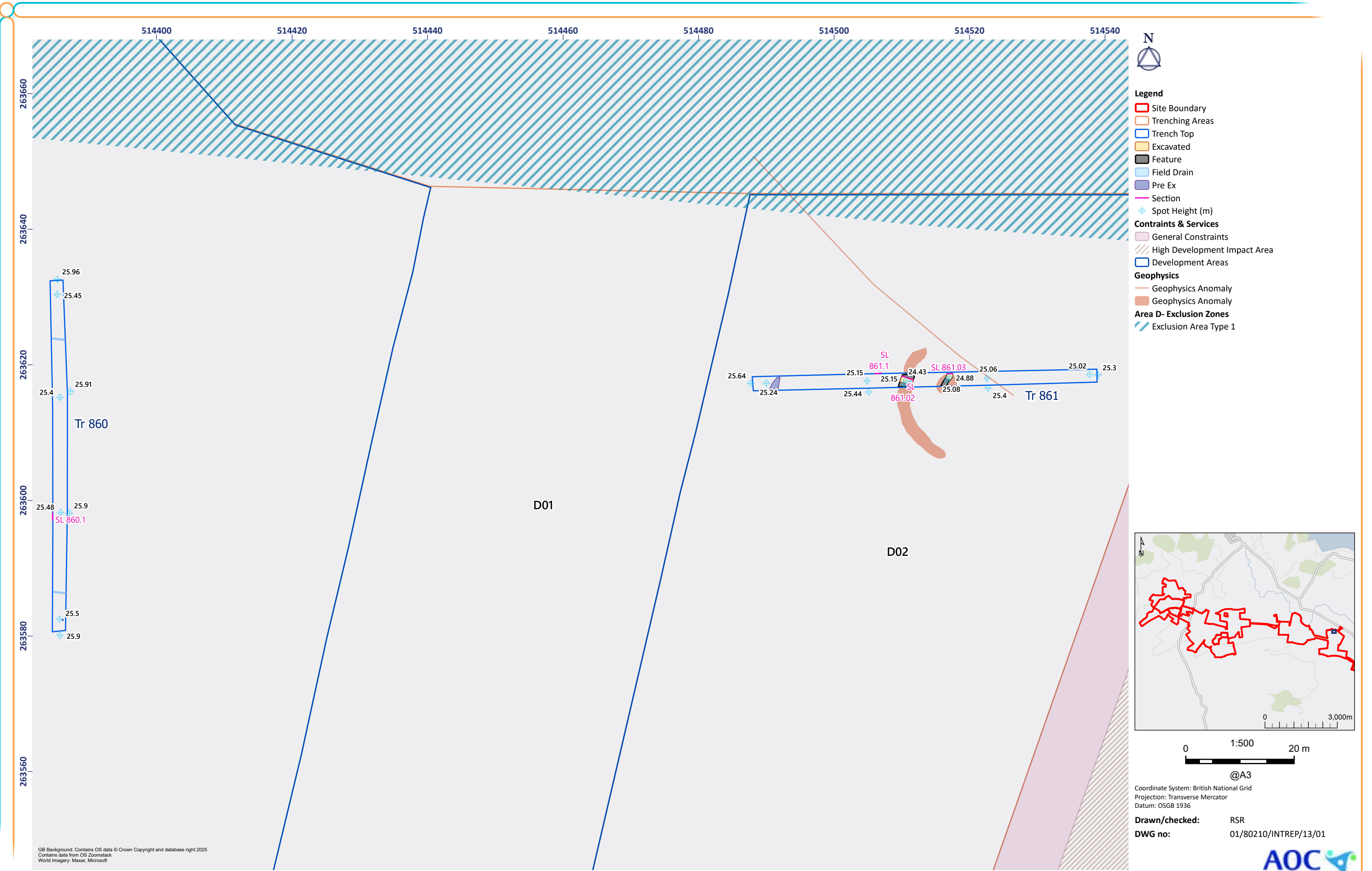


Figure 13: Trenches 860-861

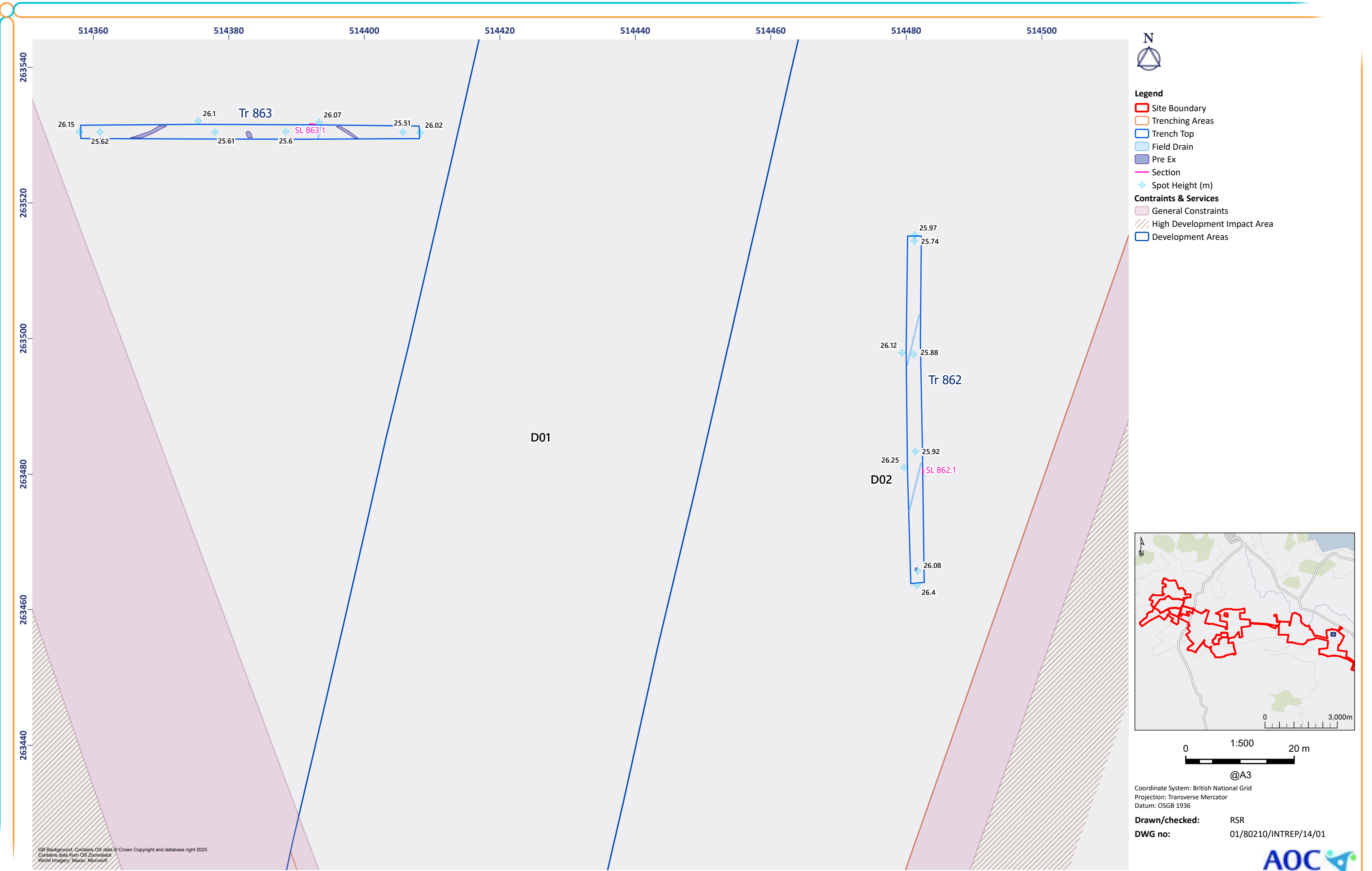


Figure 14: Trenches 862-863

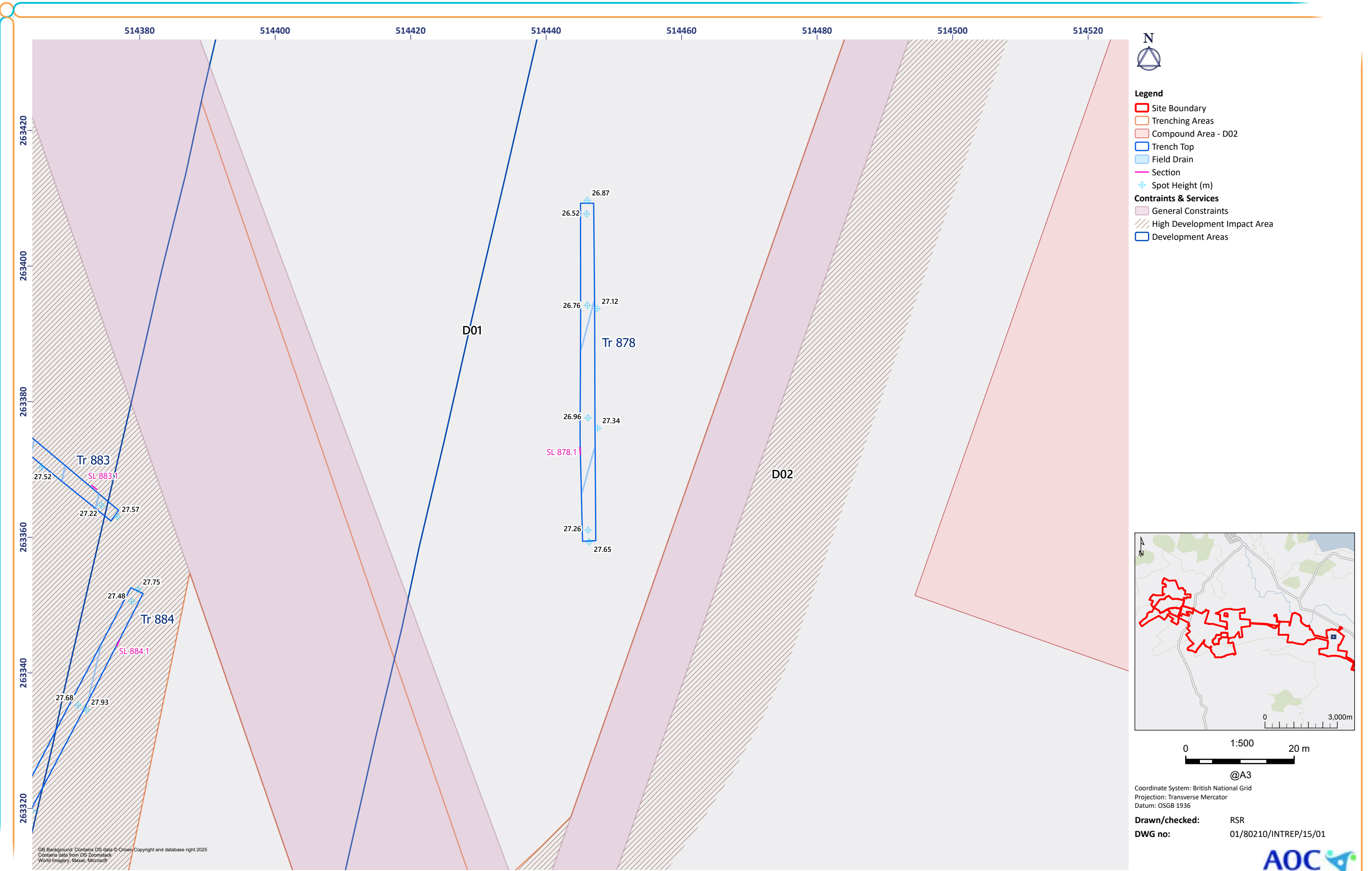
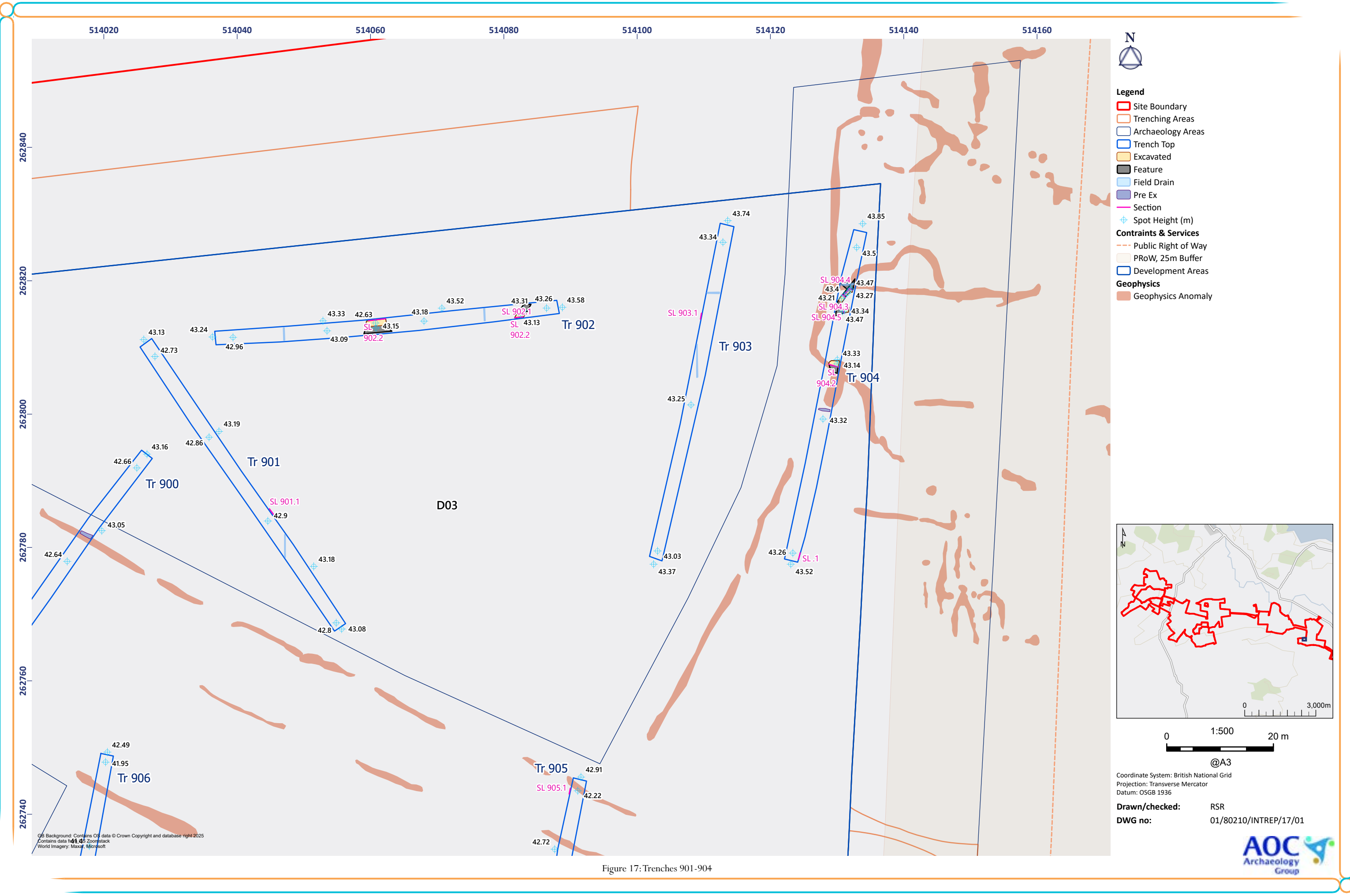


Figure 15: Trench 878

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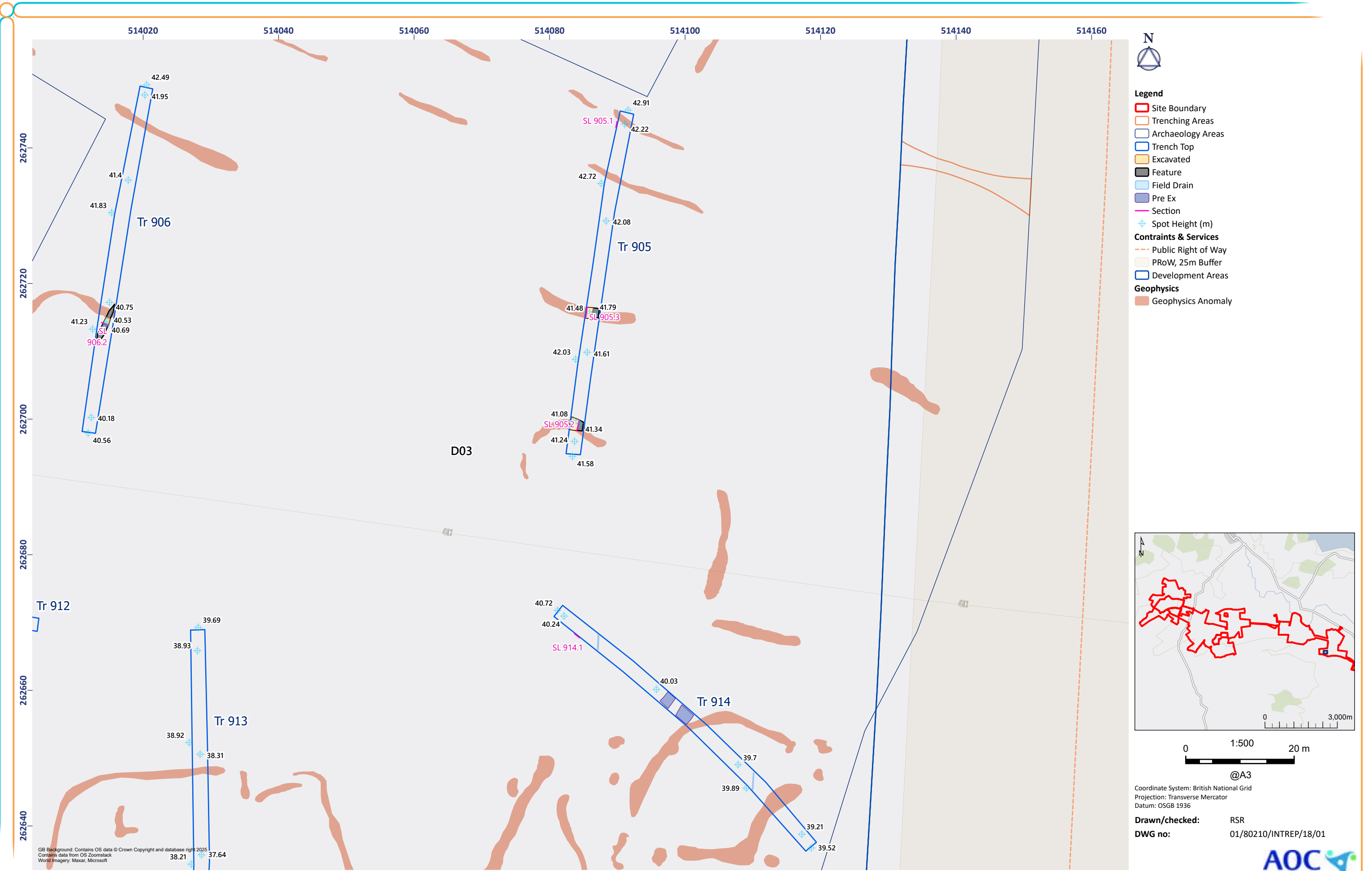


Figure 18: Trenches 905, 914

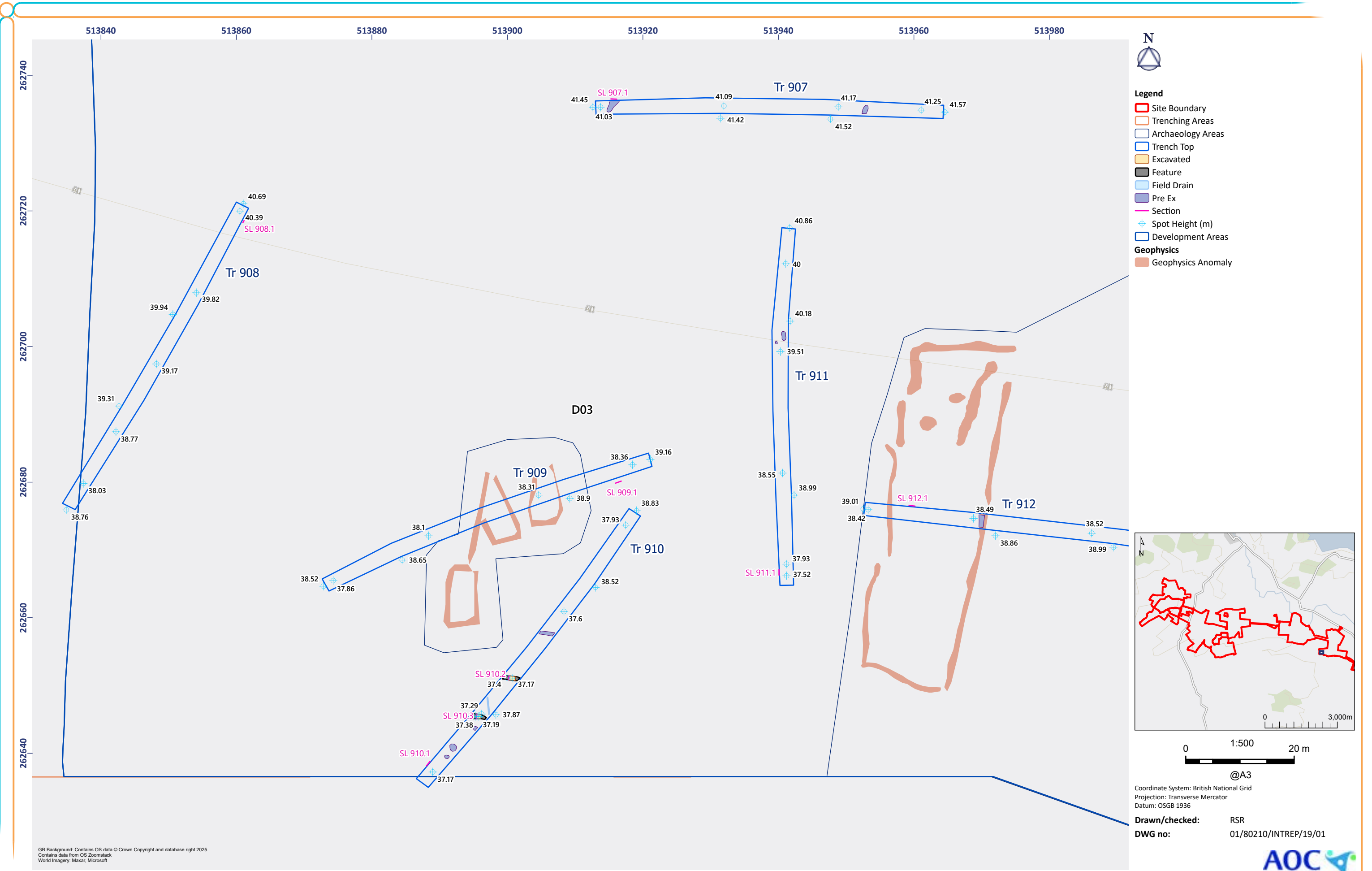


Figure 19: Trenches 907-912

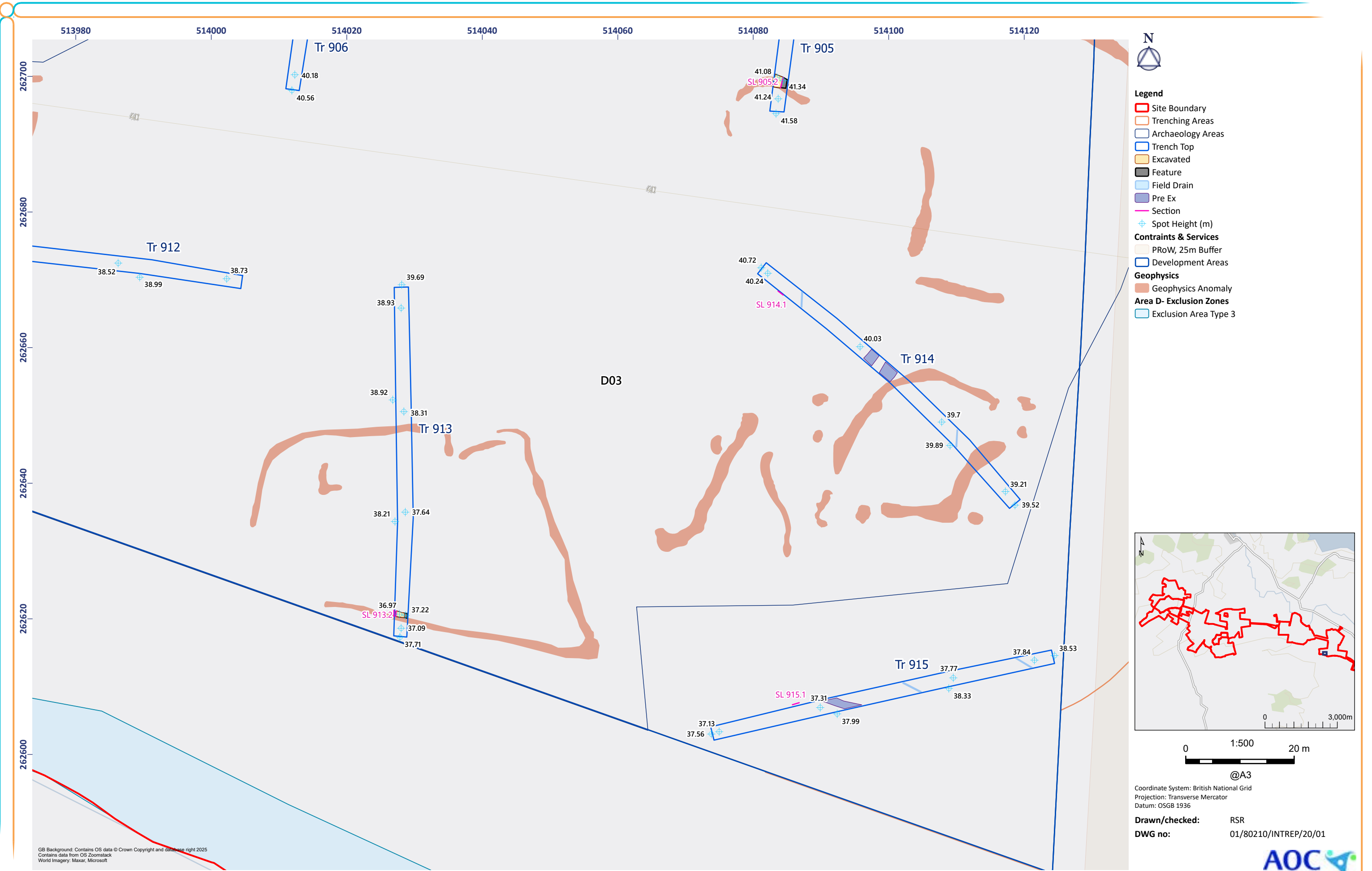


Figure 20: Trenches 914-915

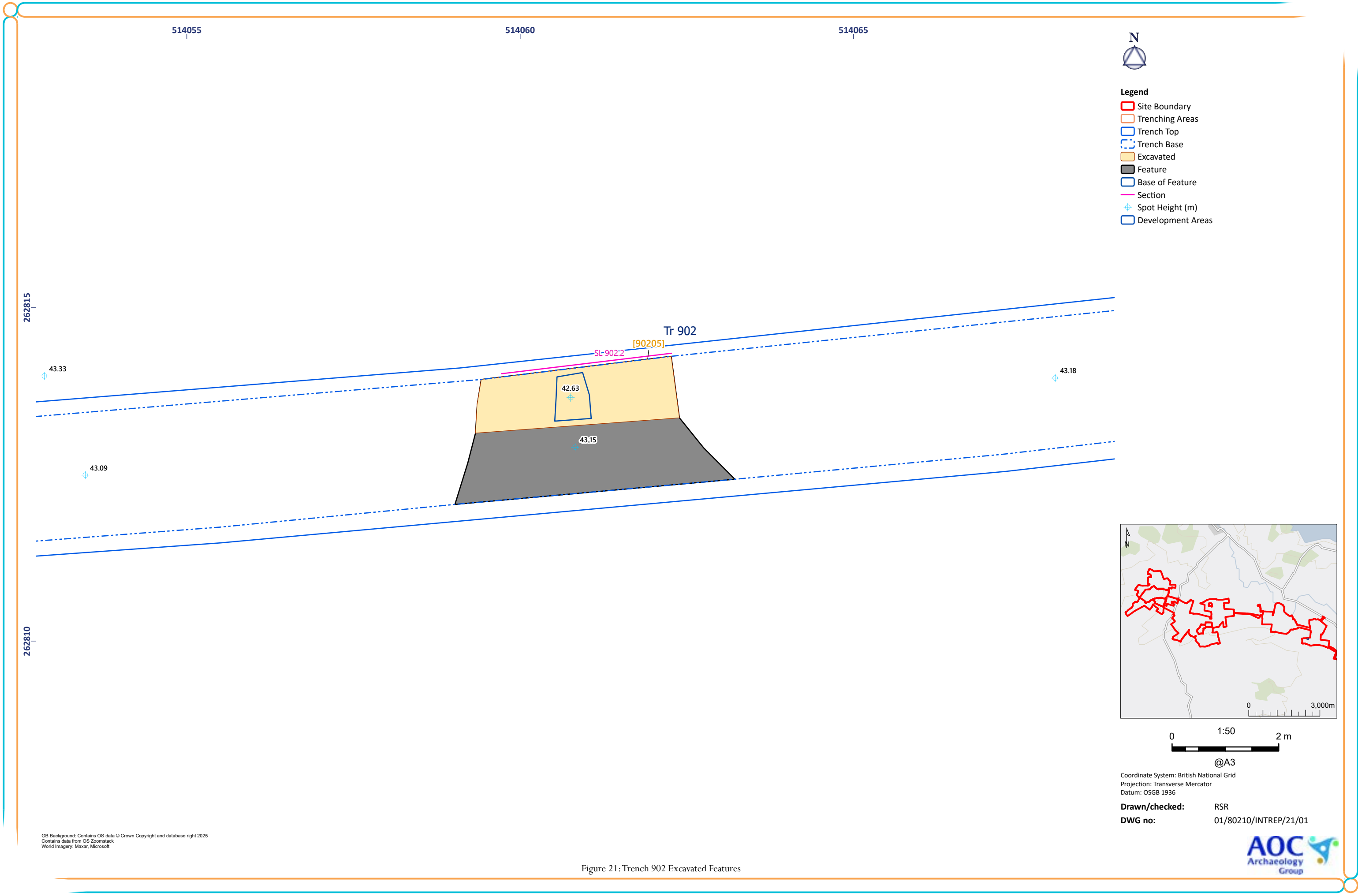


Figure 21: Trench 902 Excavated Features

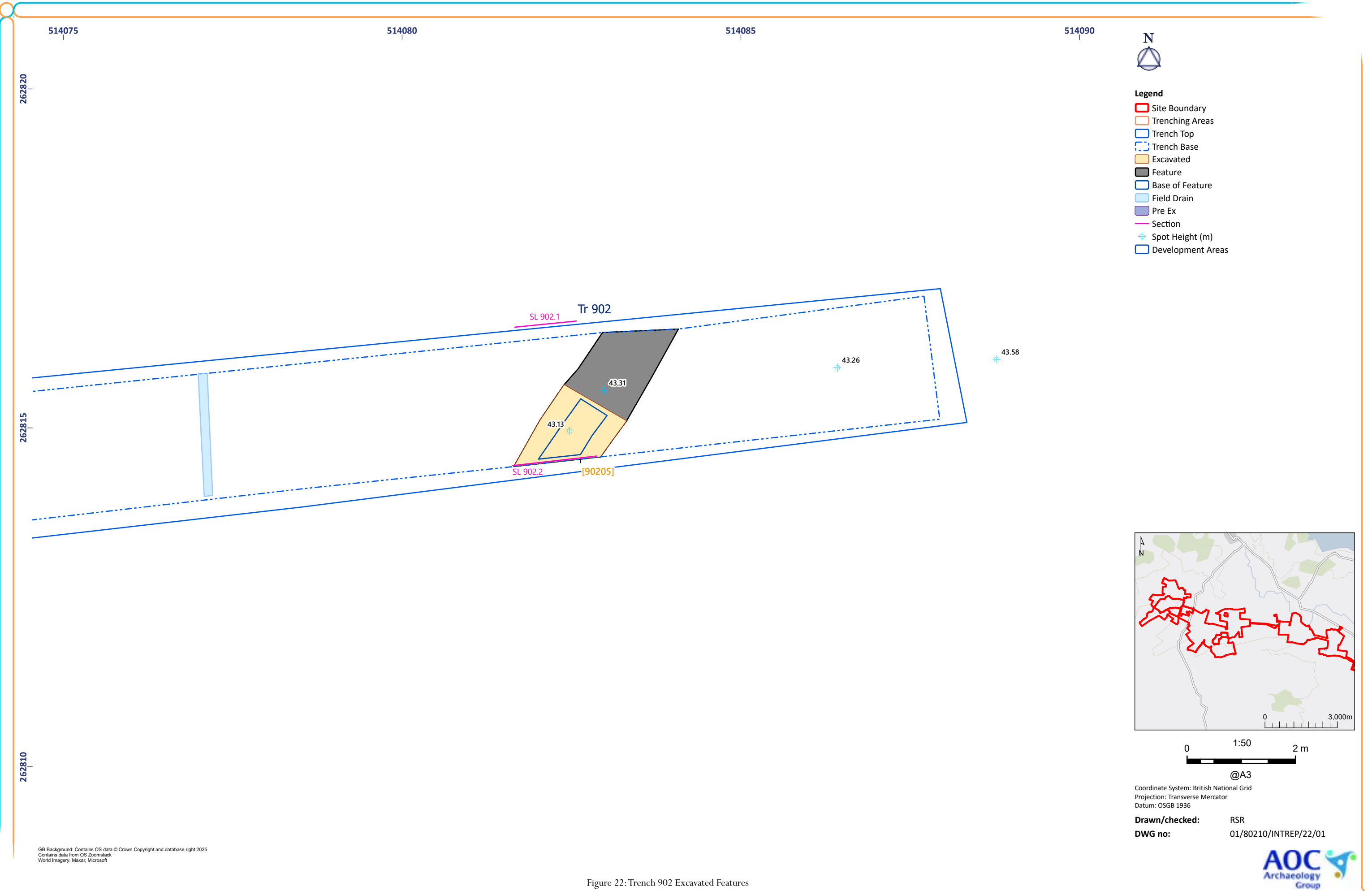


Figure 22: Trench 902 Excavated Features

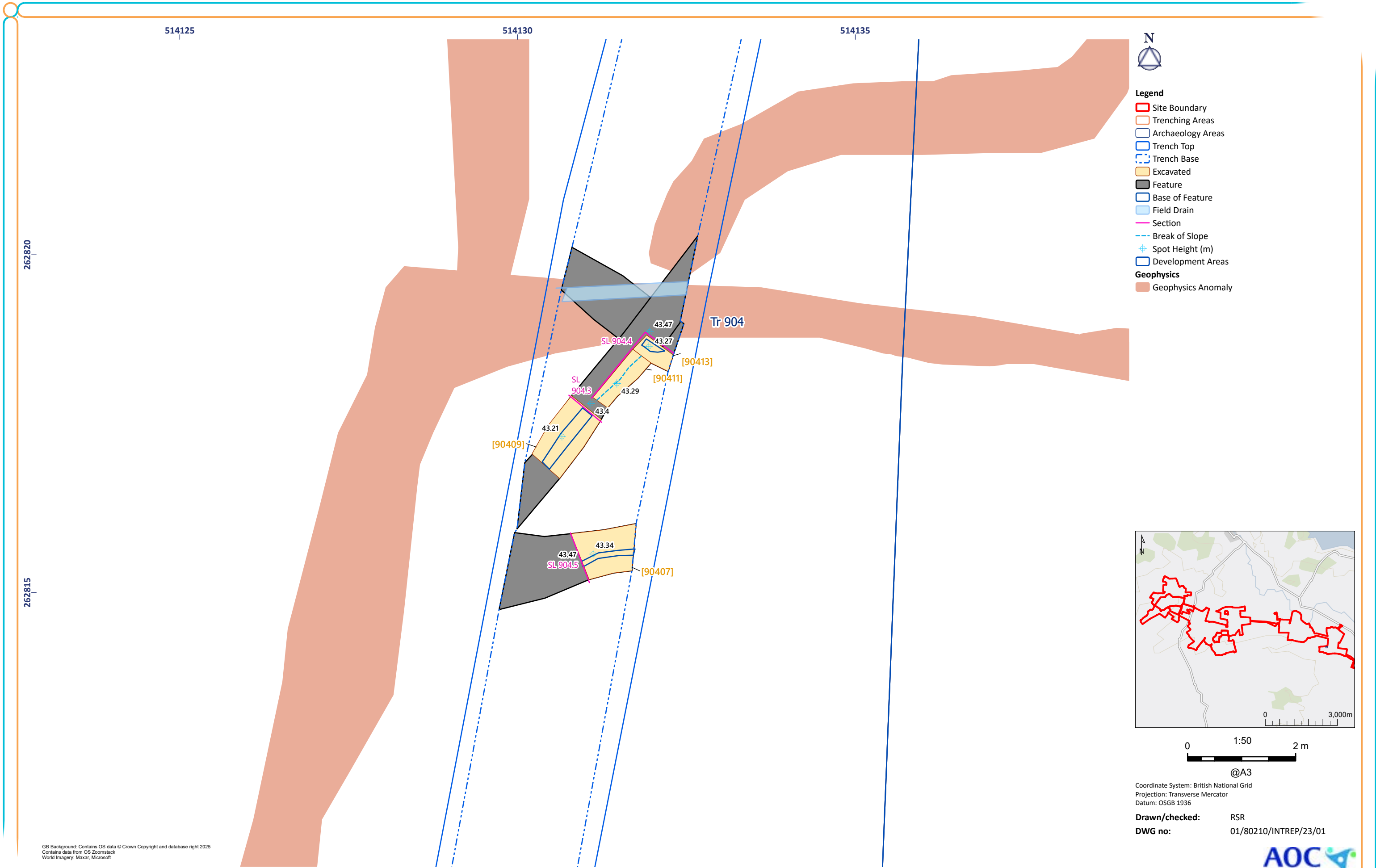


Figure 23: Trench 904 Excavated Features

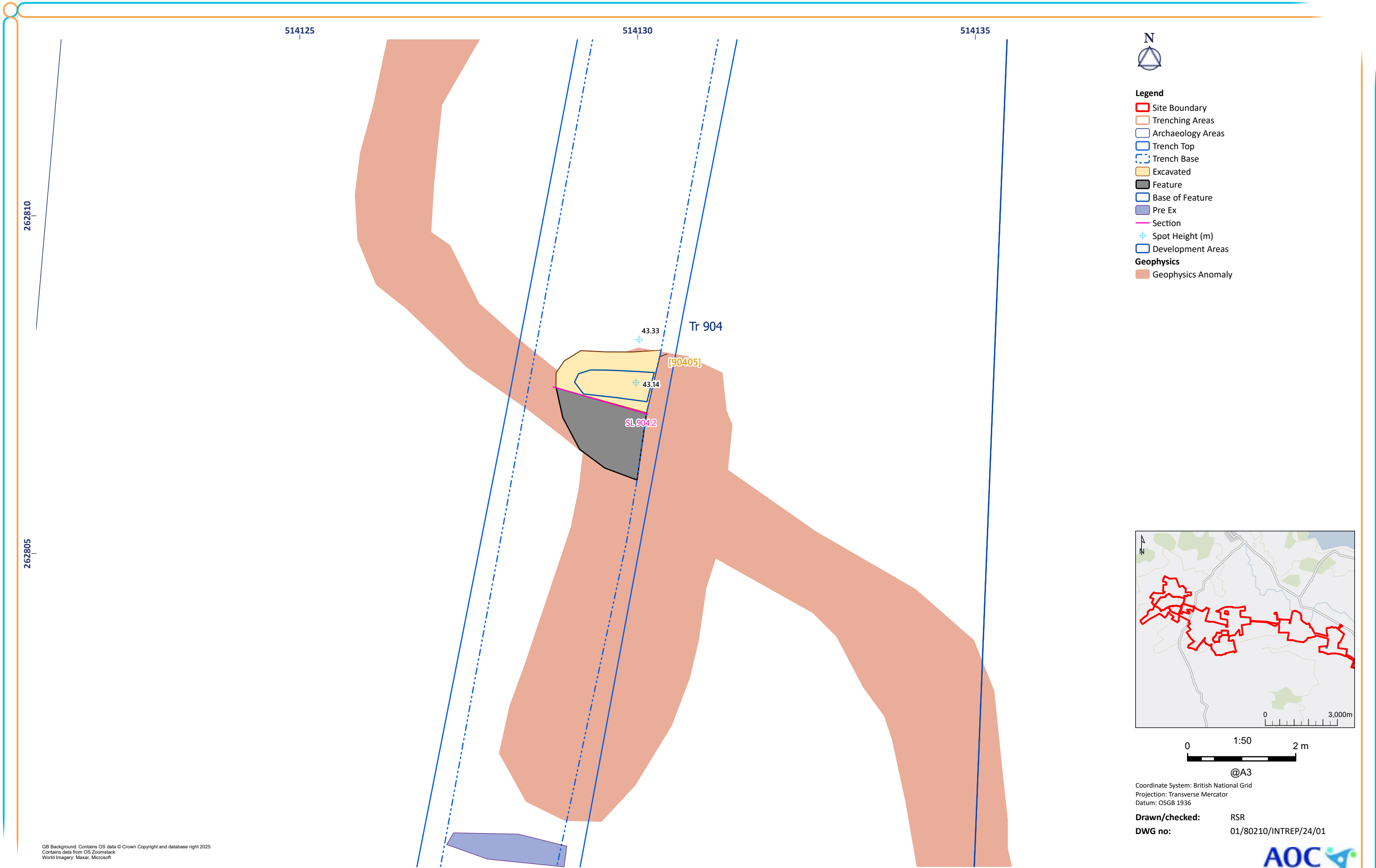
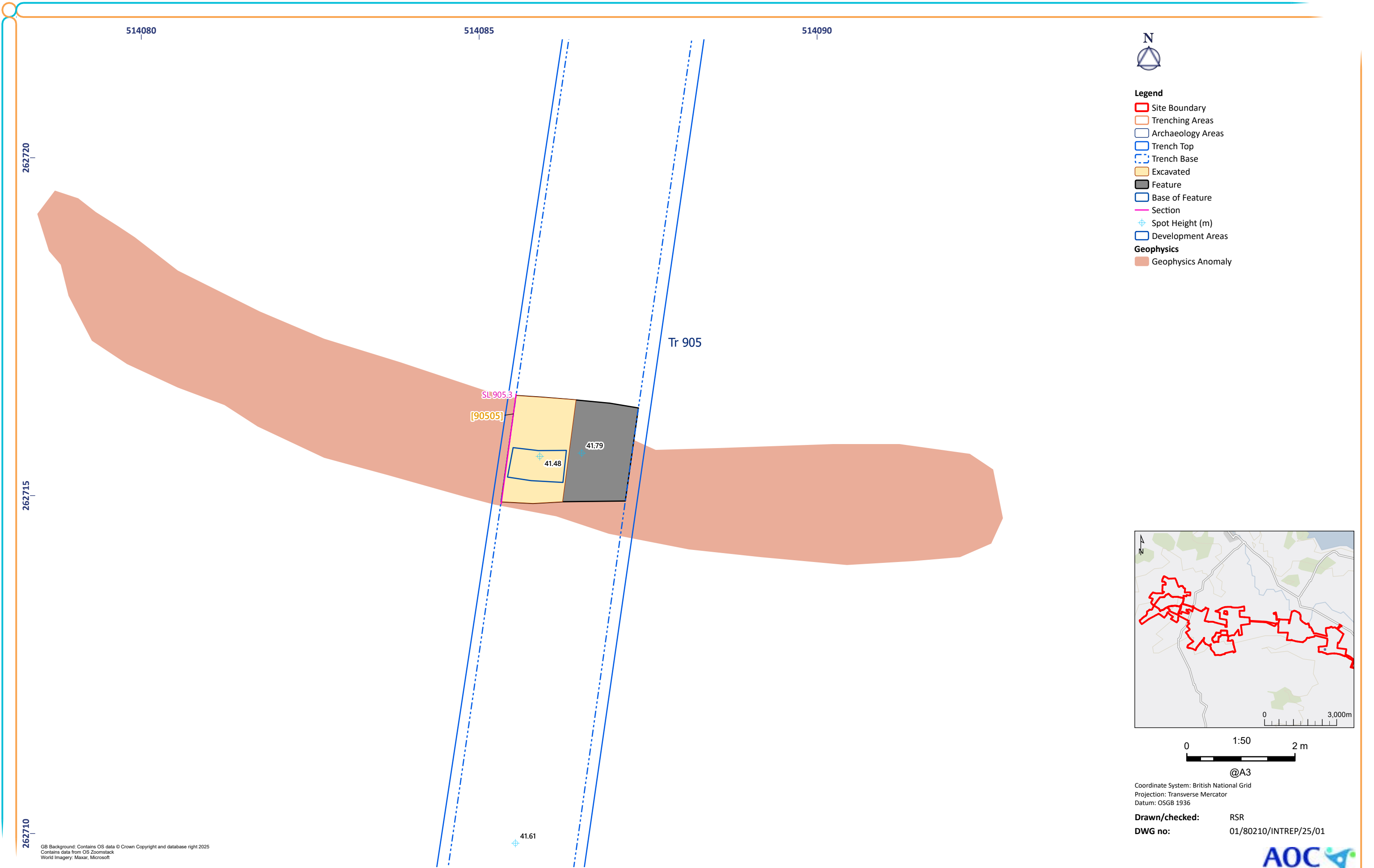


Figure 24: Trench 904 Excavated Features



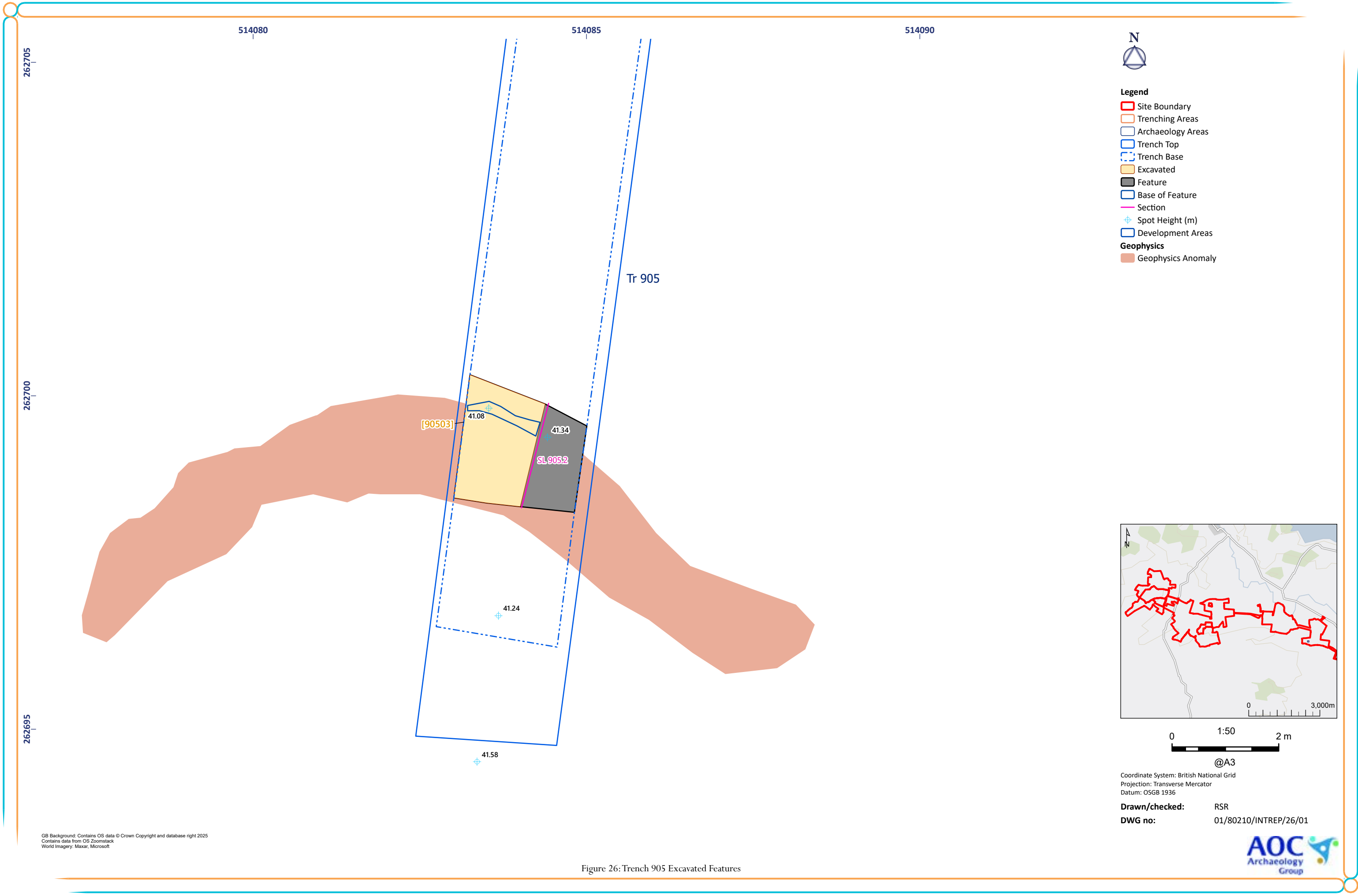


Figure 26: Trench 905 Excavated Features

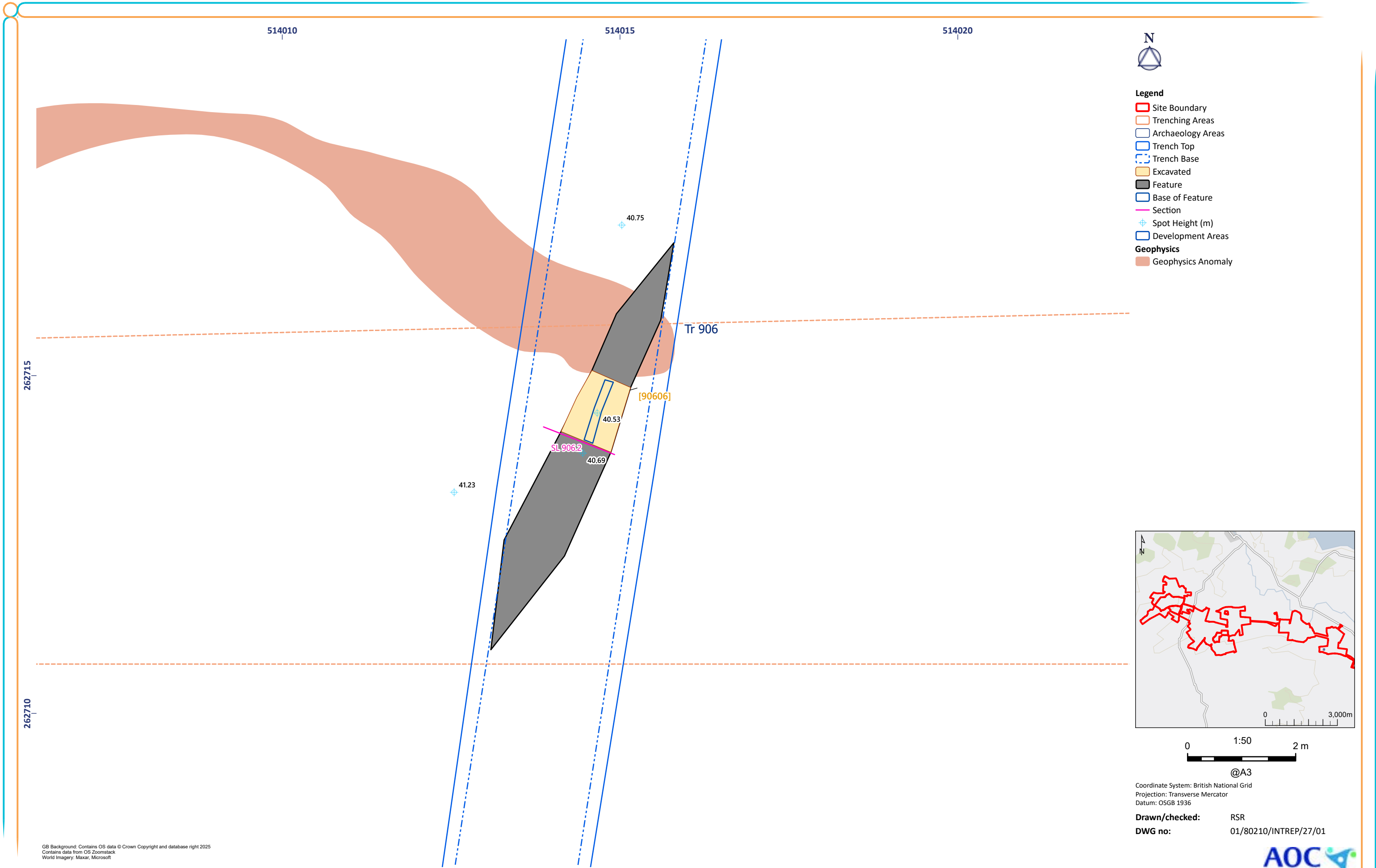


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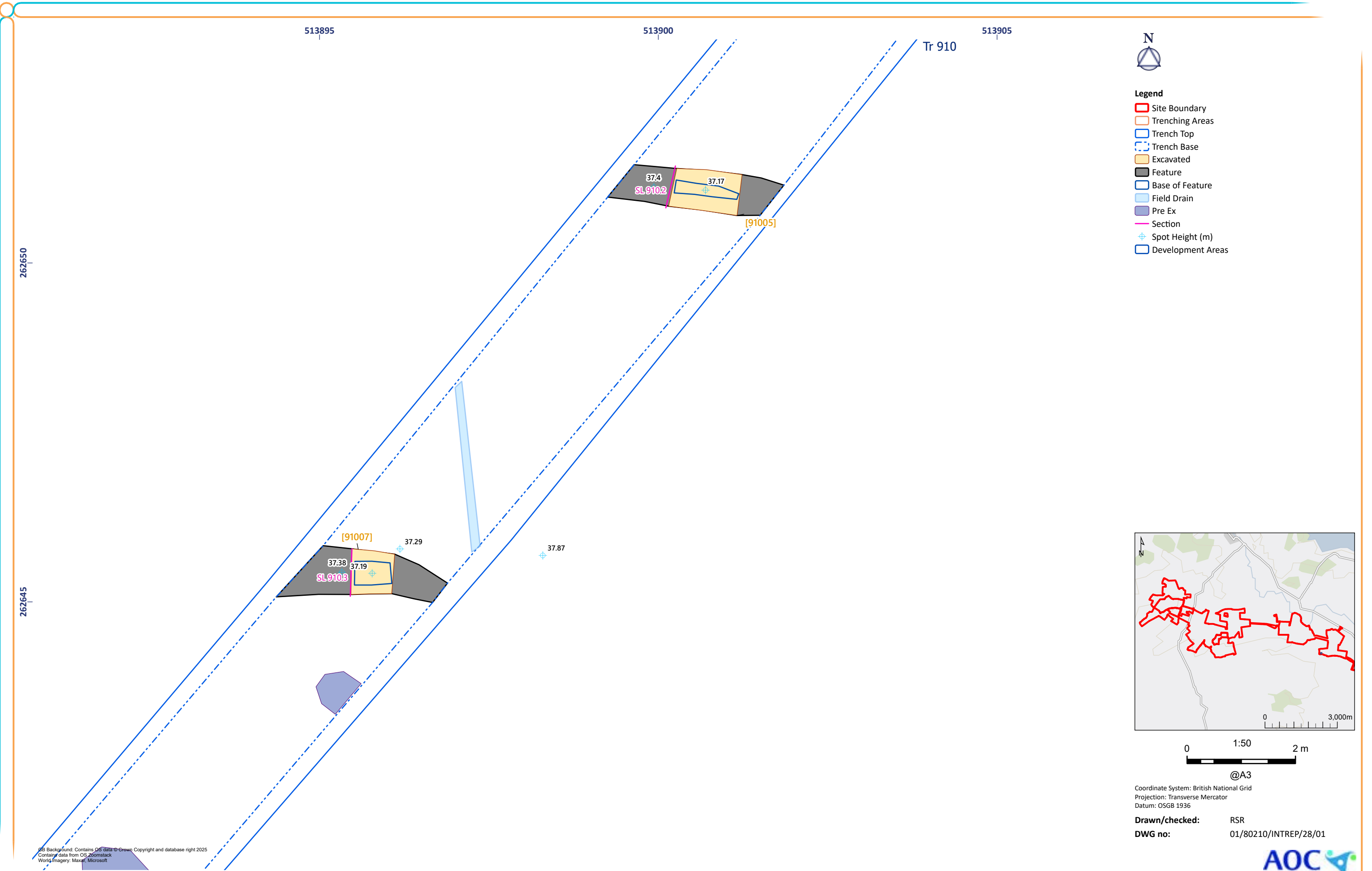


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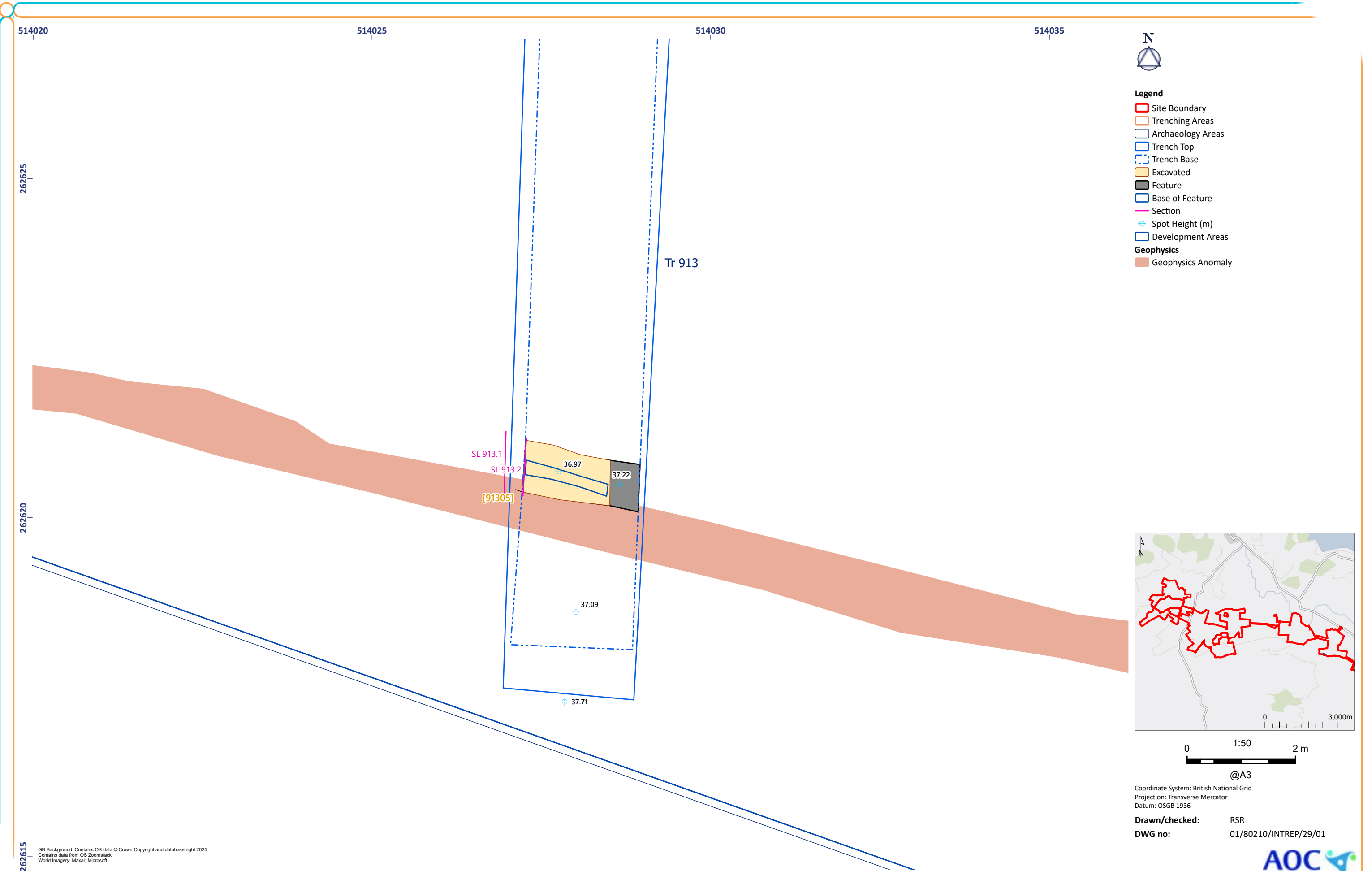


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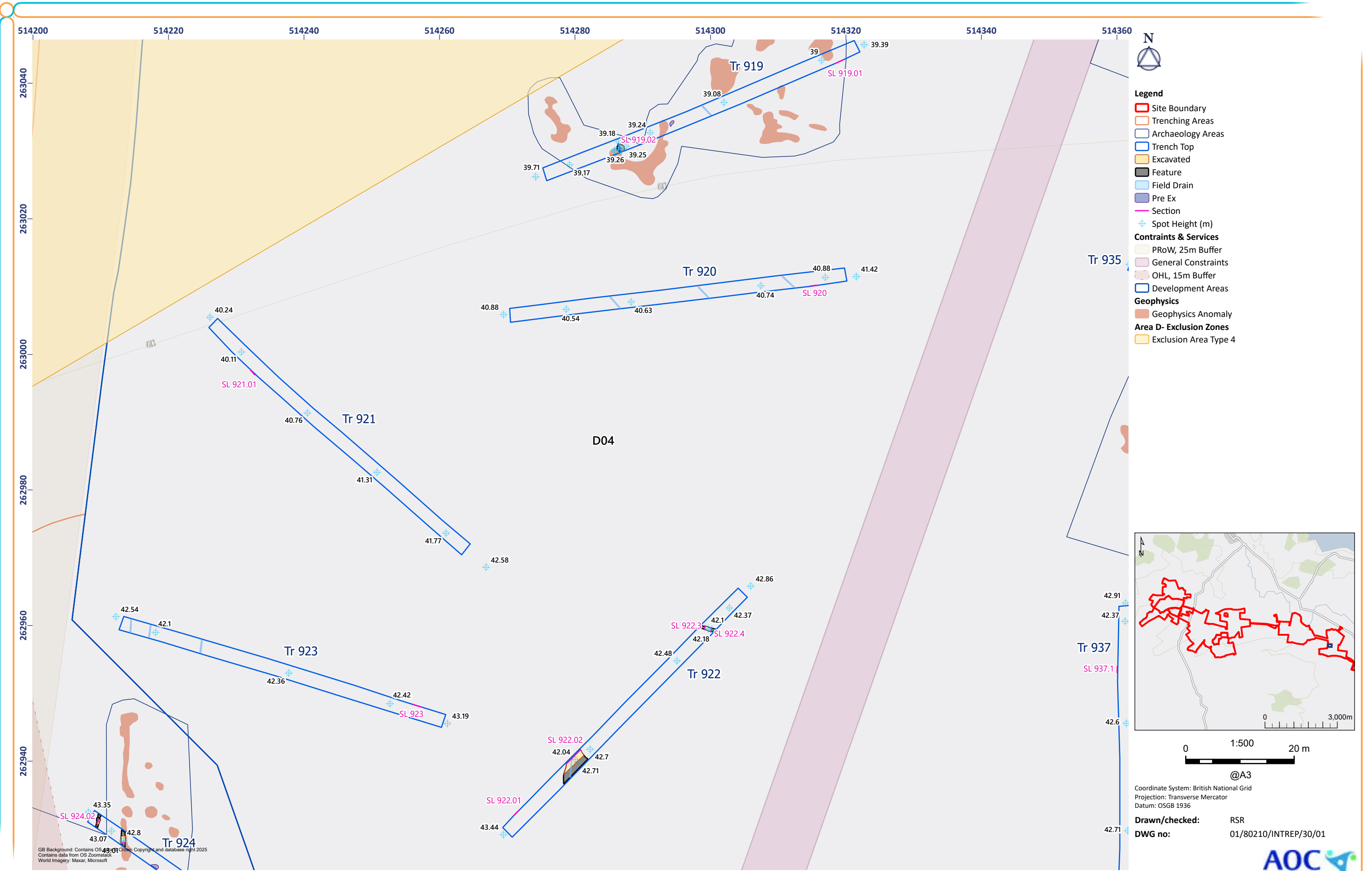


Figure 30: Trenches 919-923

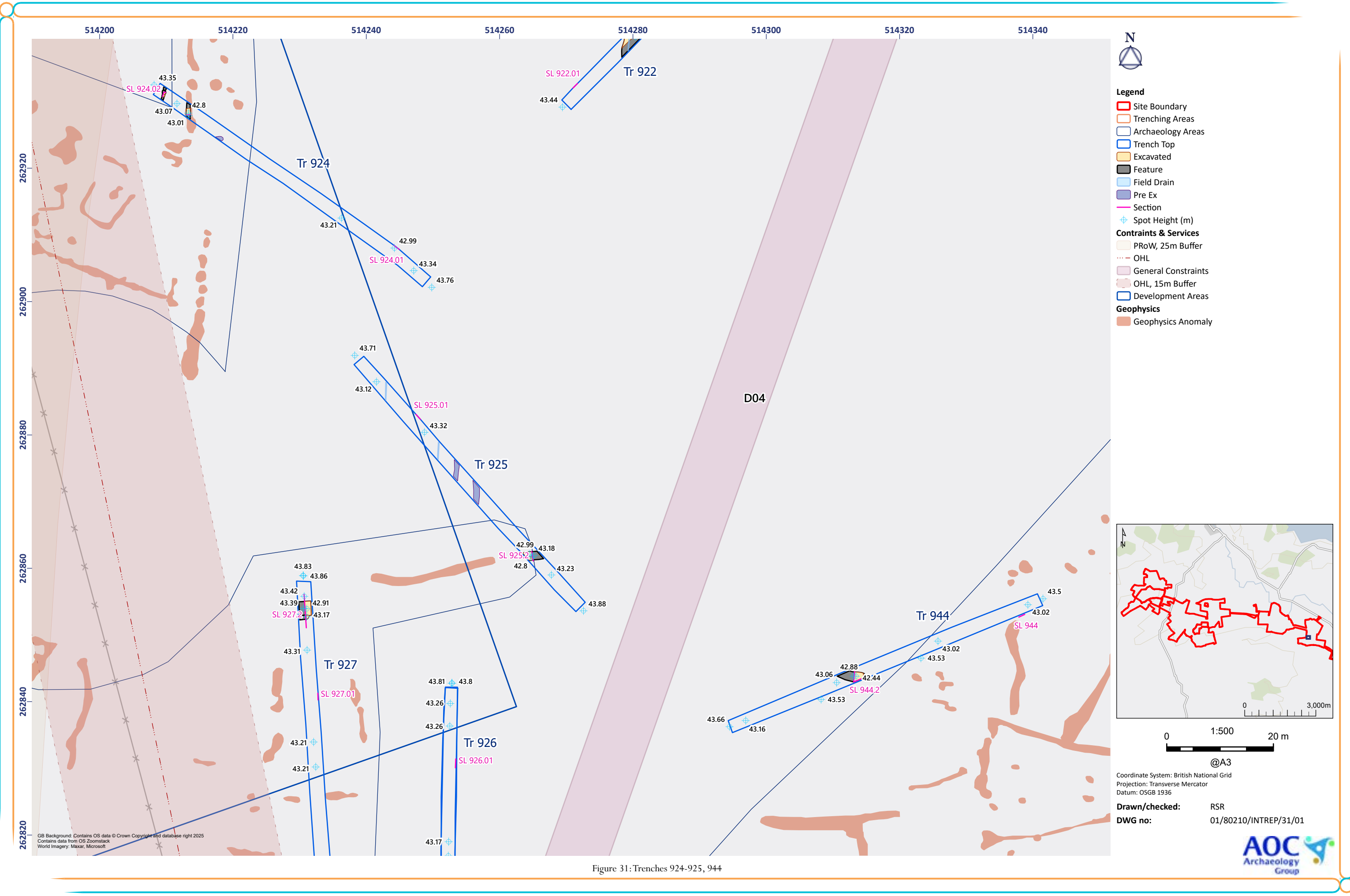




Figure 32: Trenches 926-927, 943-945

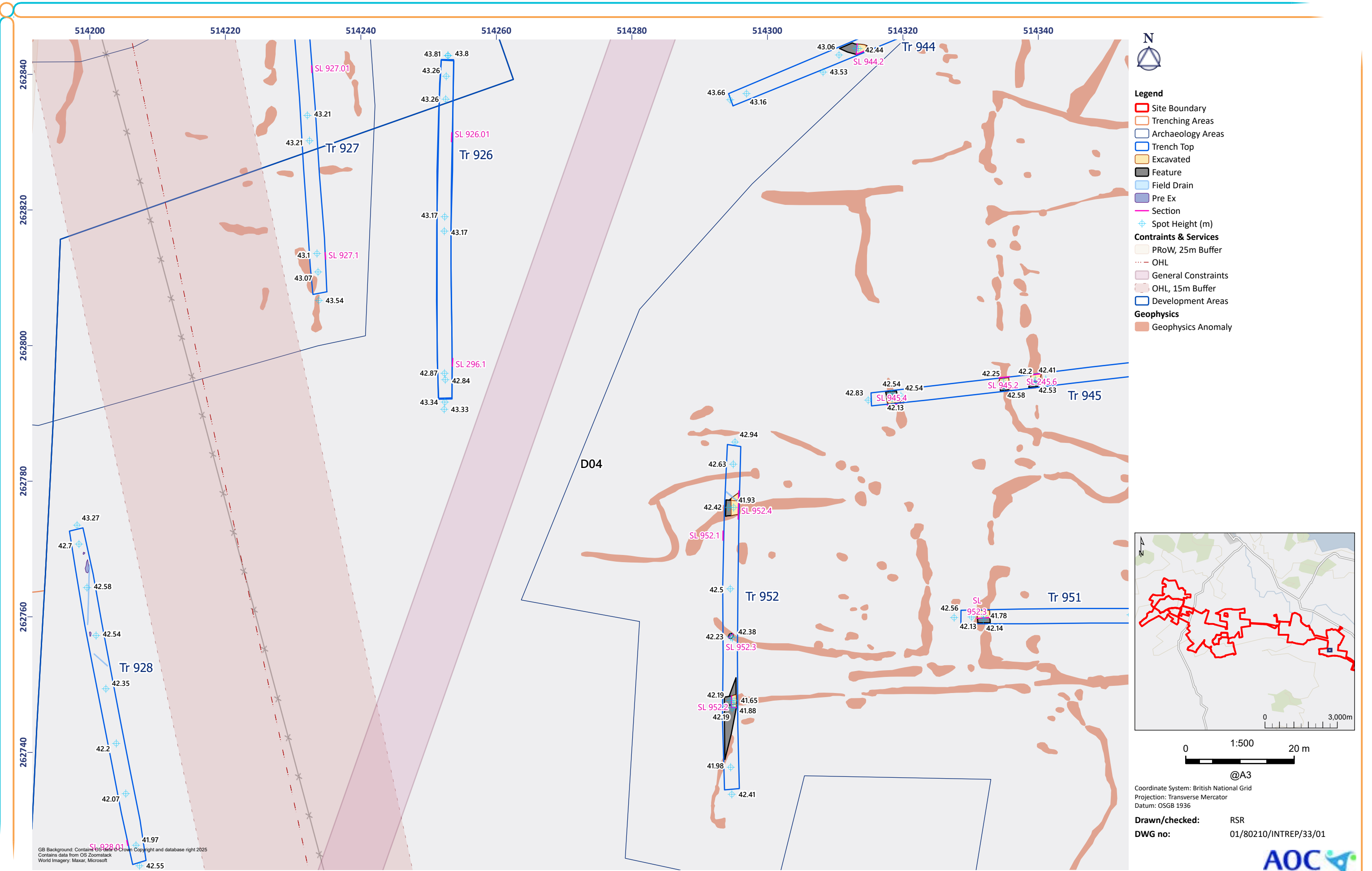


Figure 33: Trenches 928, 952

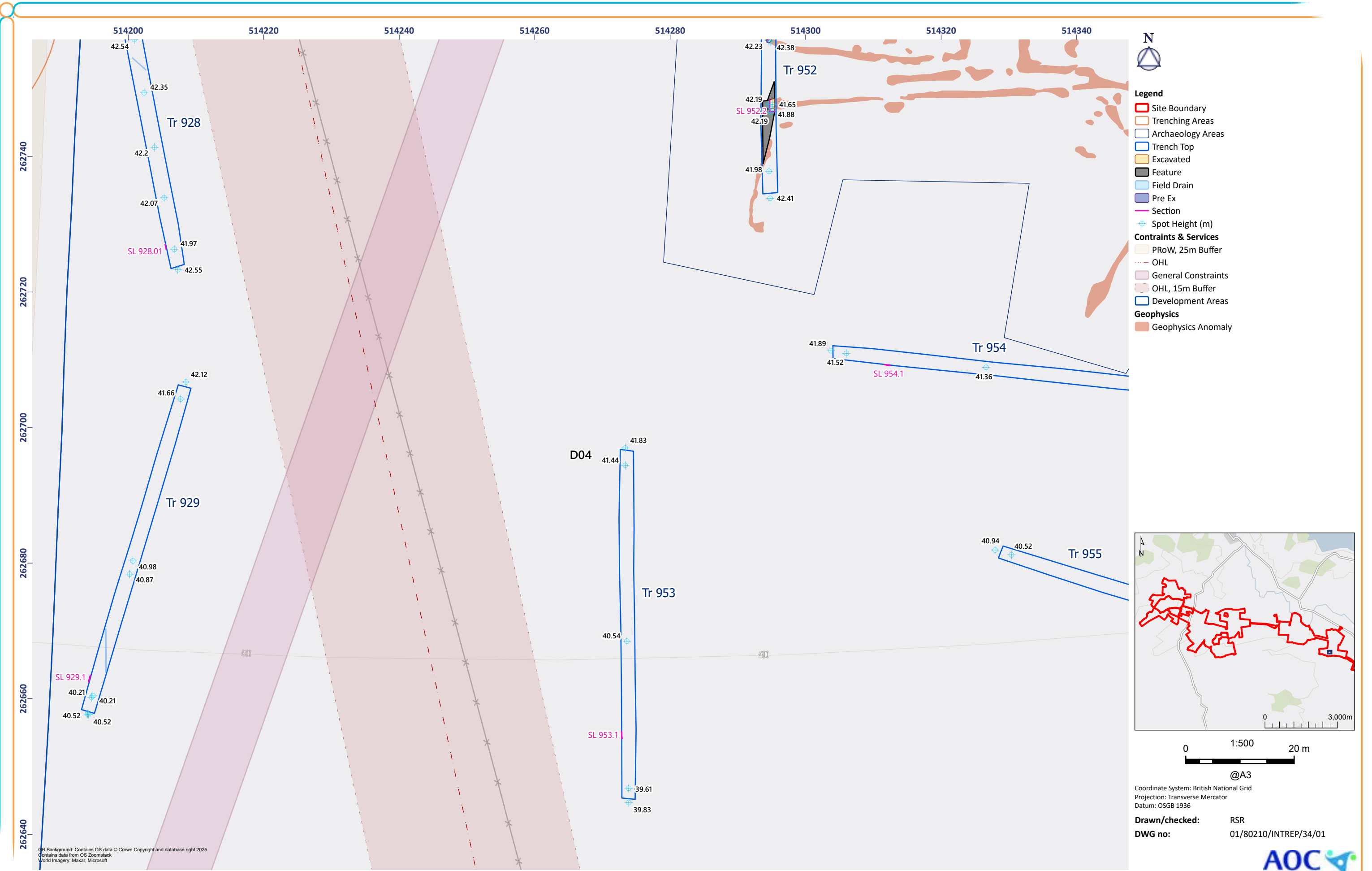
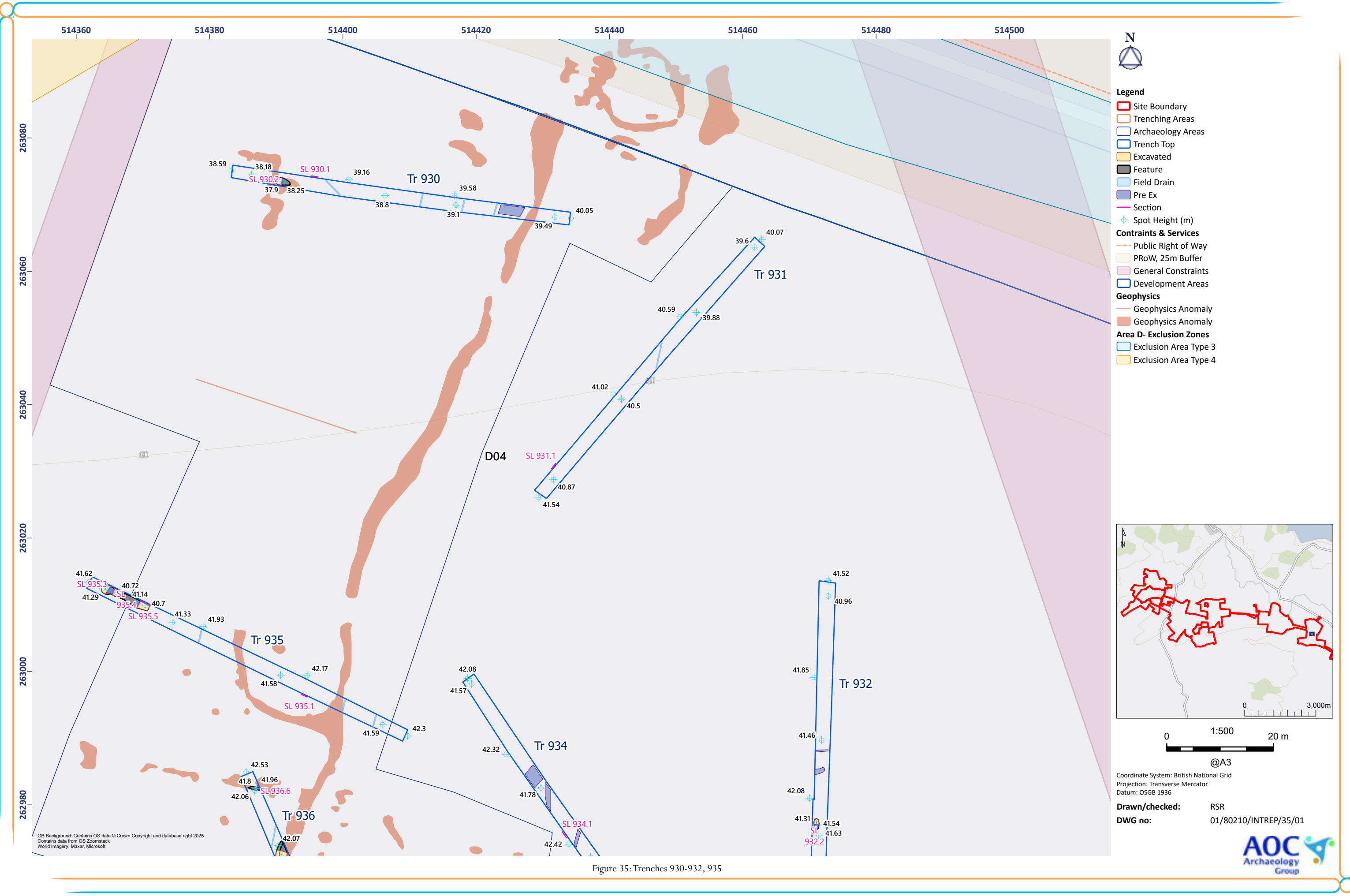


Figure 34: Trenches 929, 953



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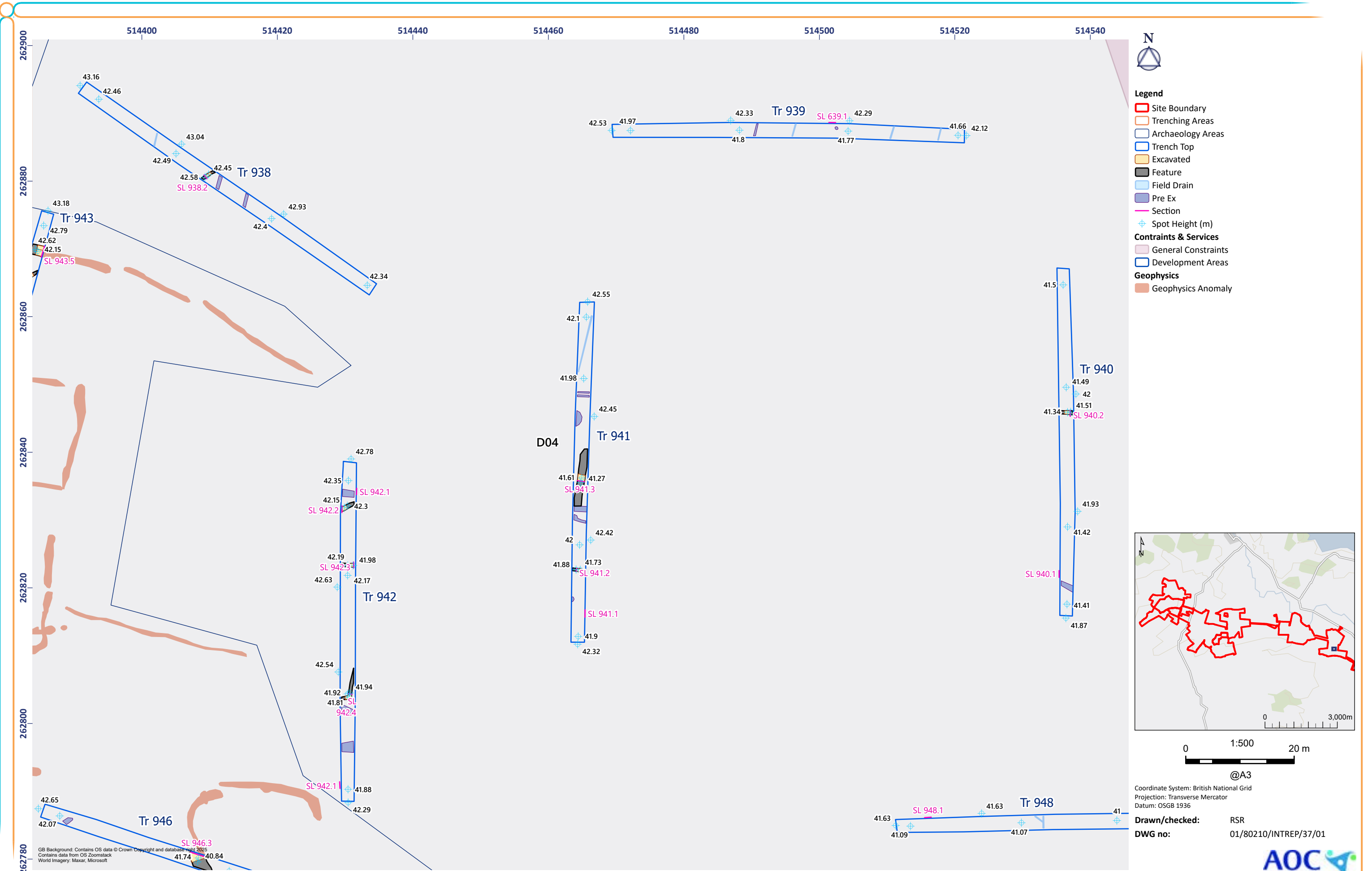


Figure 37: Trenches 938, 940-942, 946

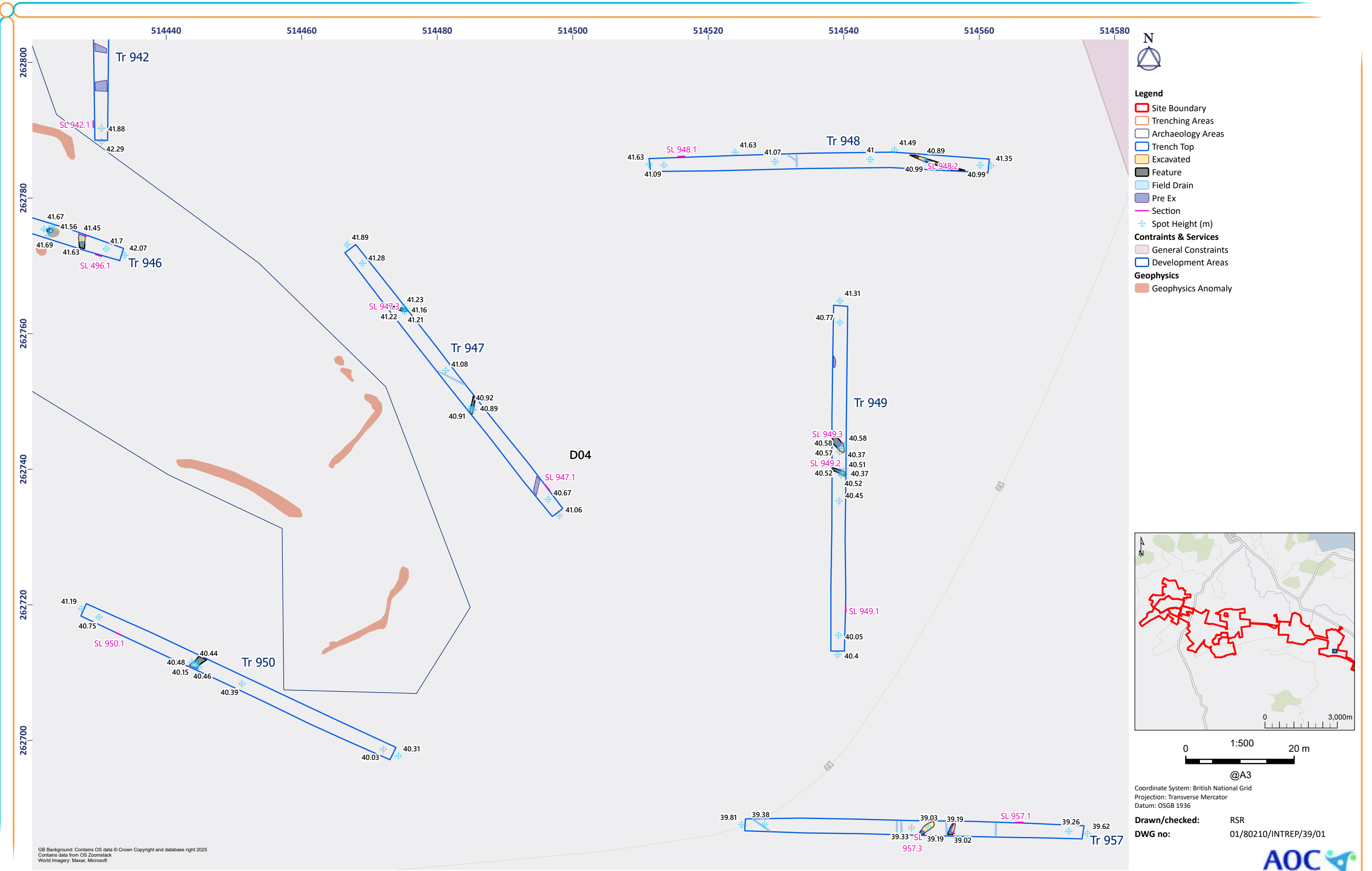


Figure 39: Trenches 947, 949-950, 957

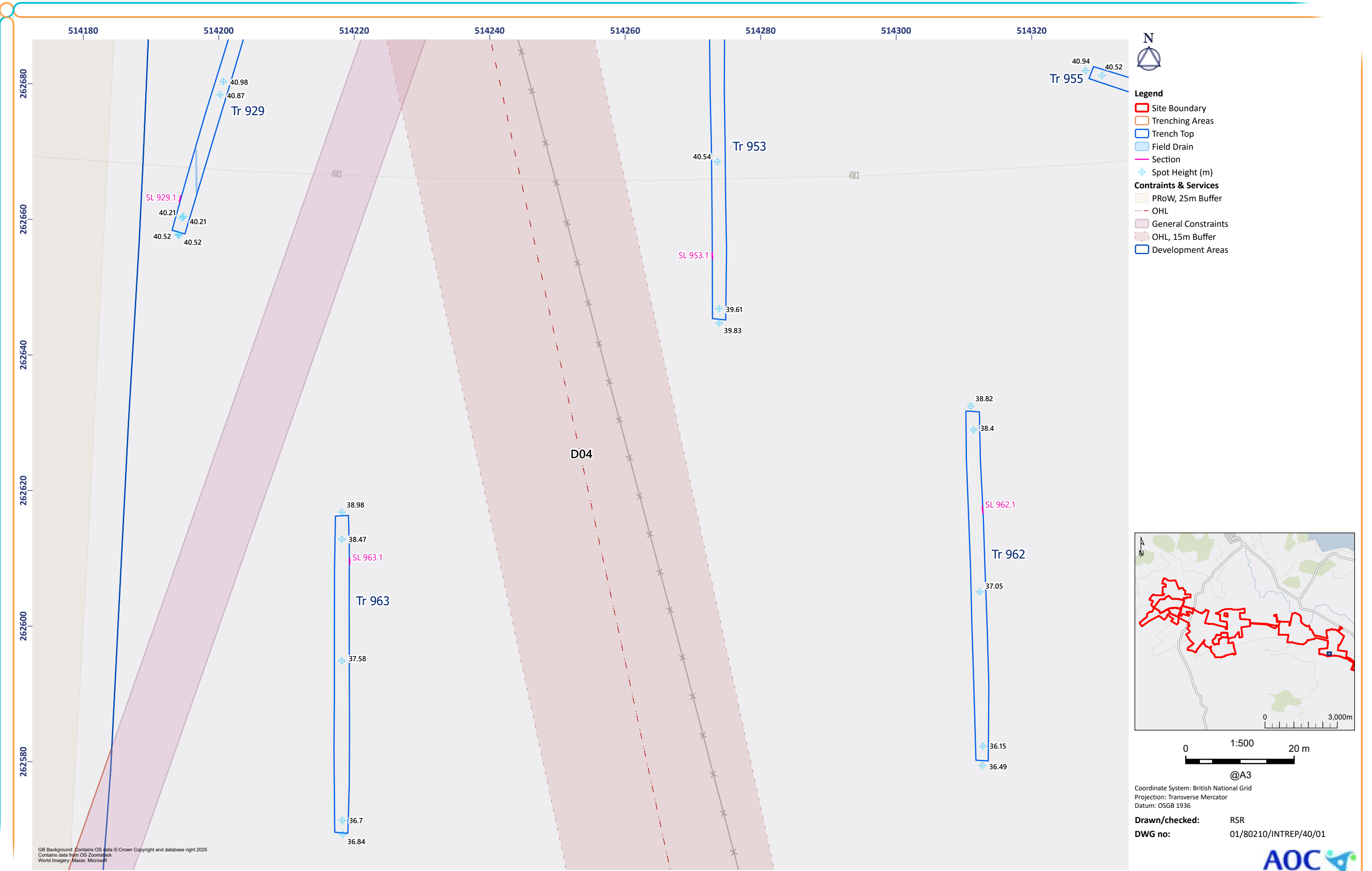


Figure 40: Trenches 955-956, 960-962

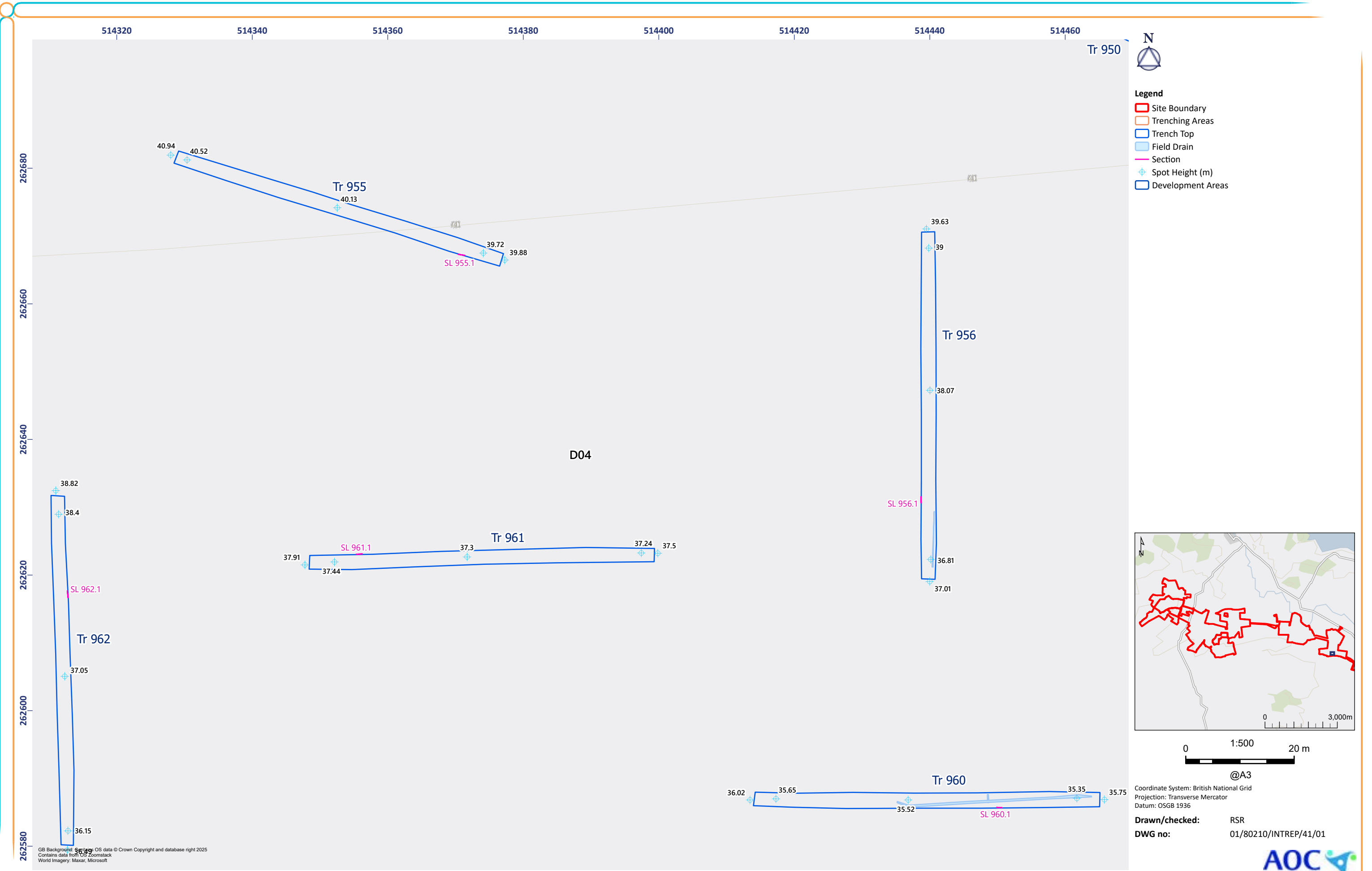


Figure 41: Trenches 929, 953, 955, 929

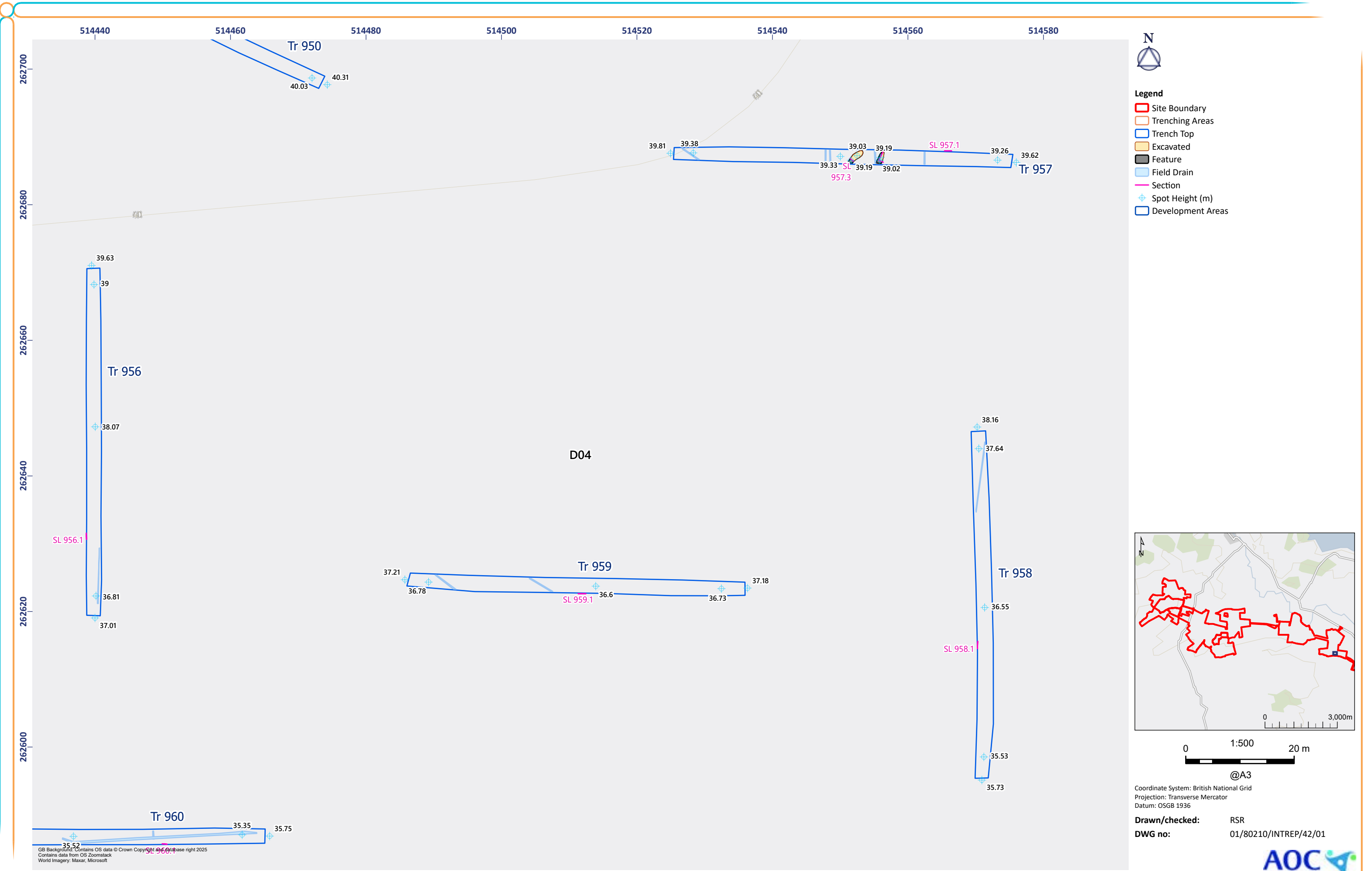


Figure 42: Trenches 956-960

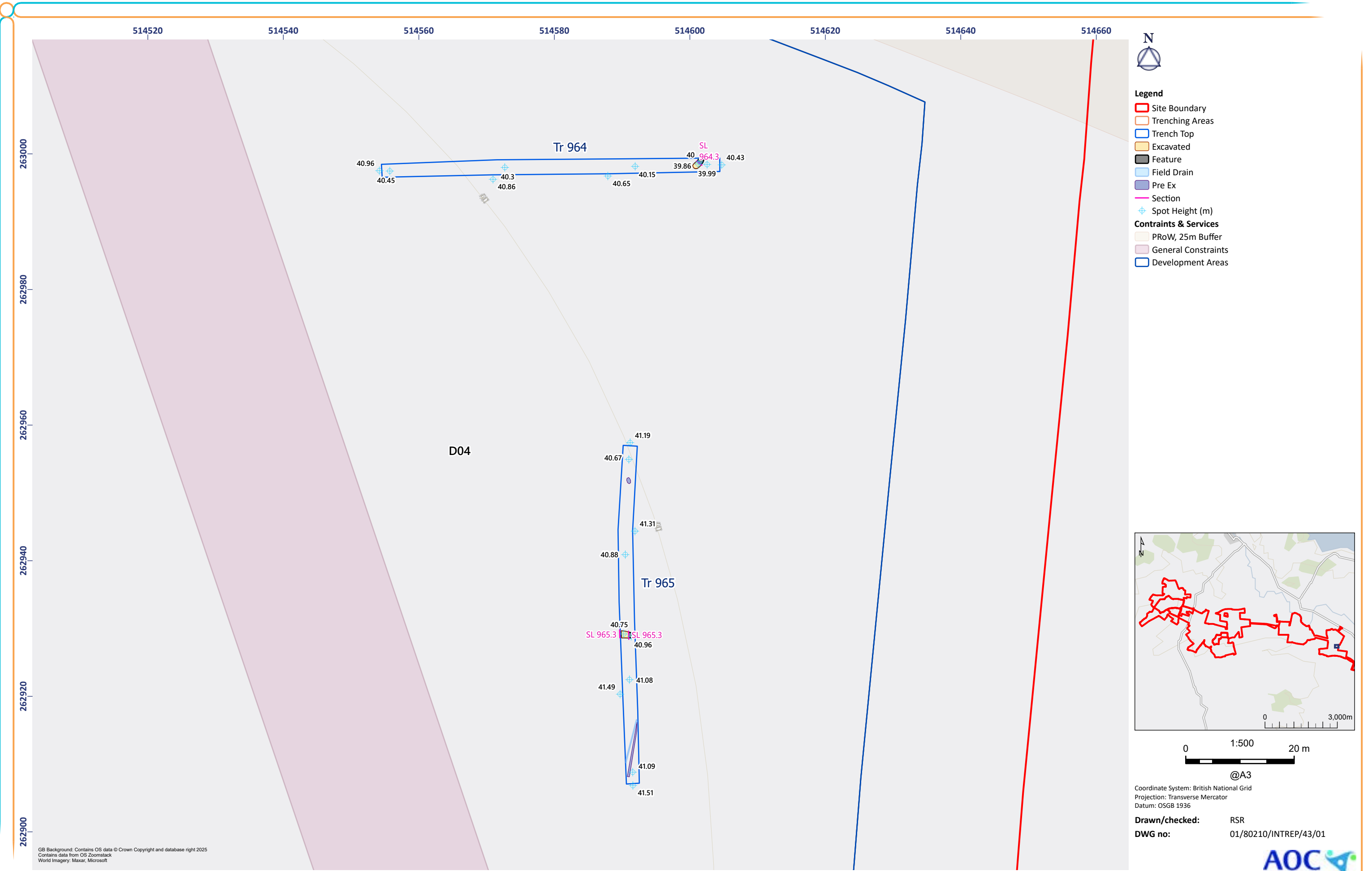


Figure 43: Trenches 964-965

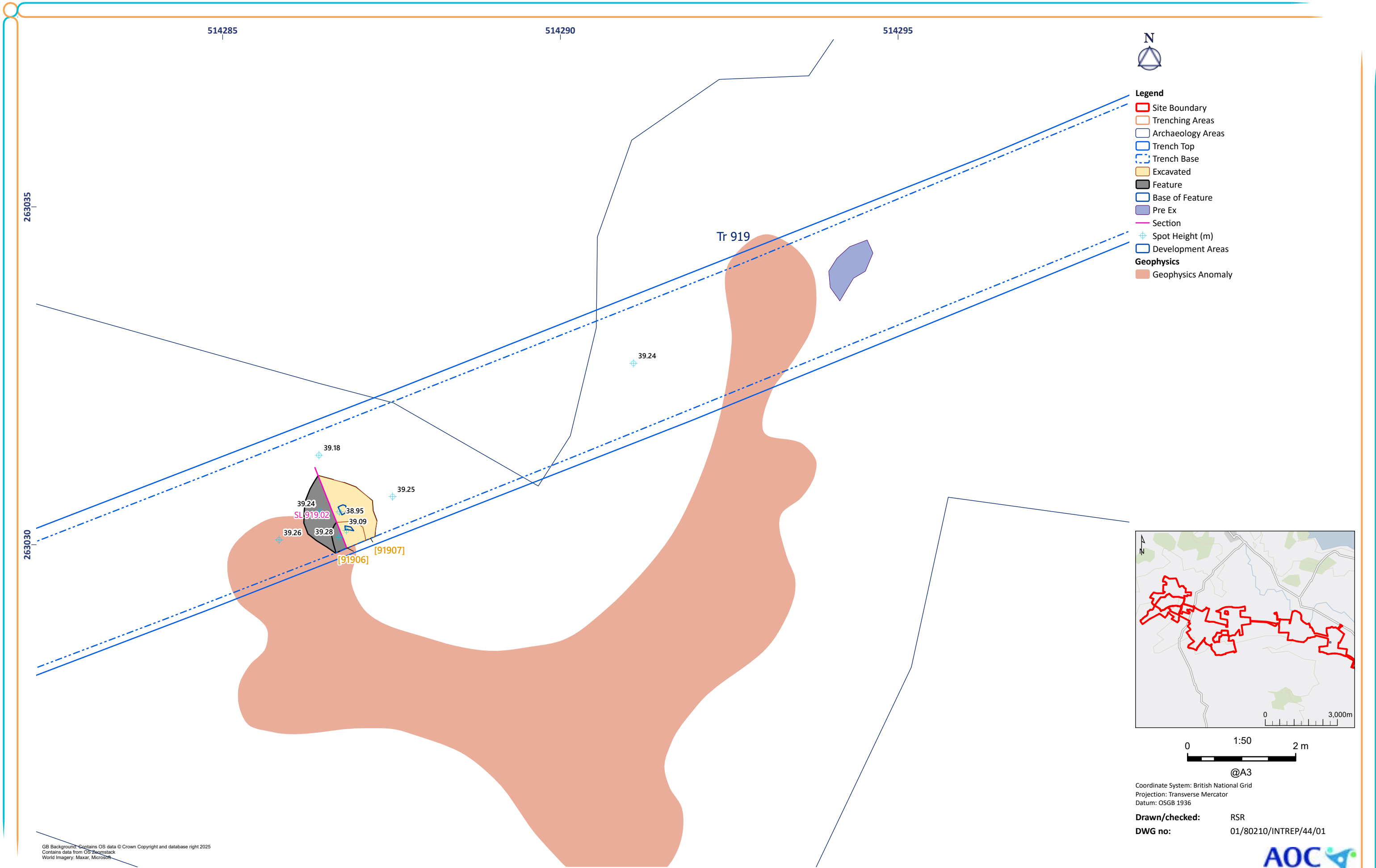


Figure 44: Trench 919 Excavated Feature

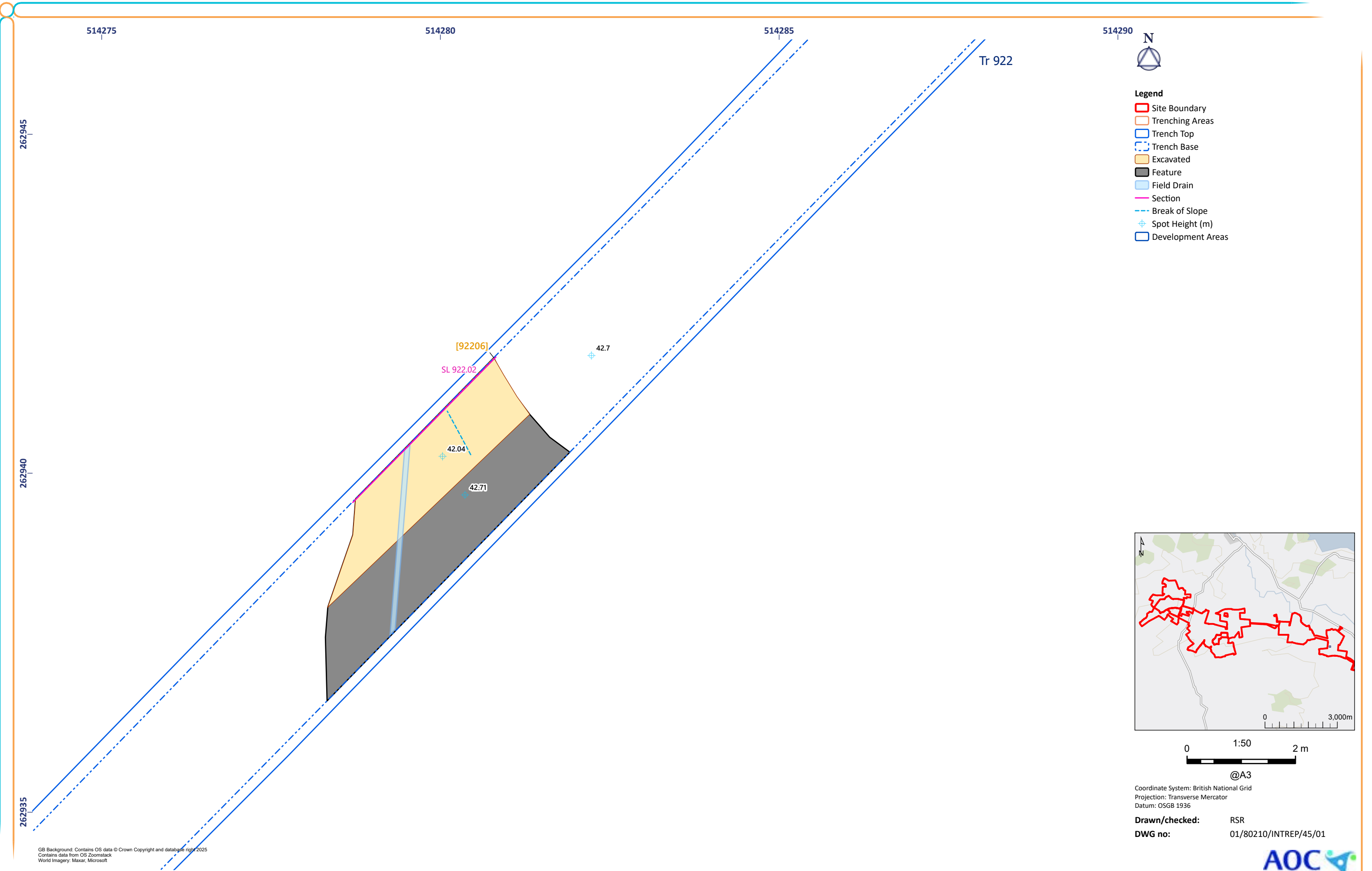


Figure 45: Trench 922 Excavated Feature

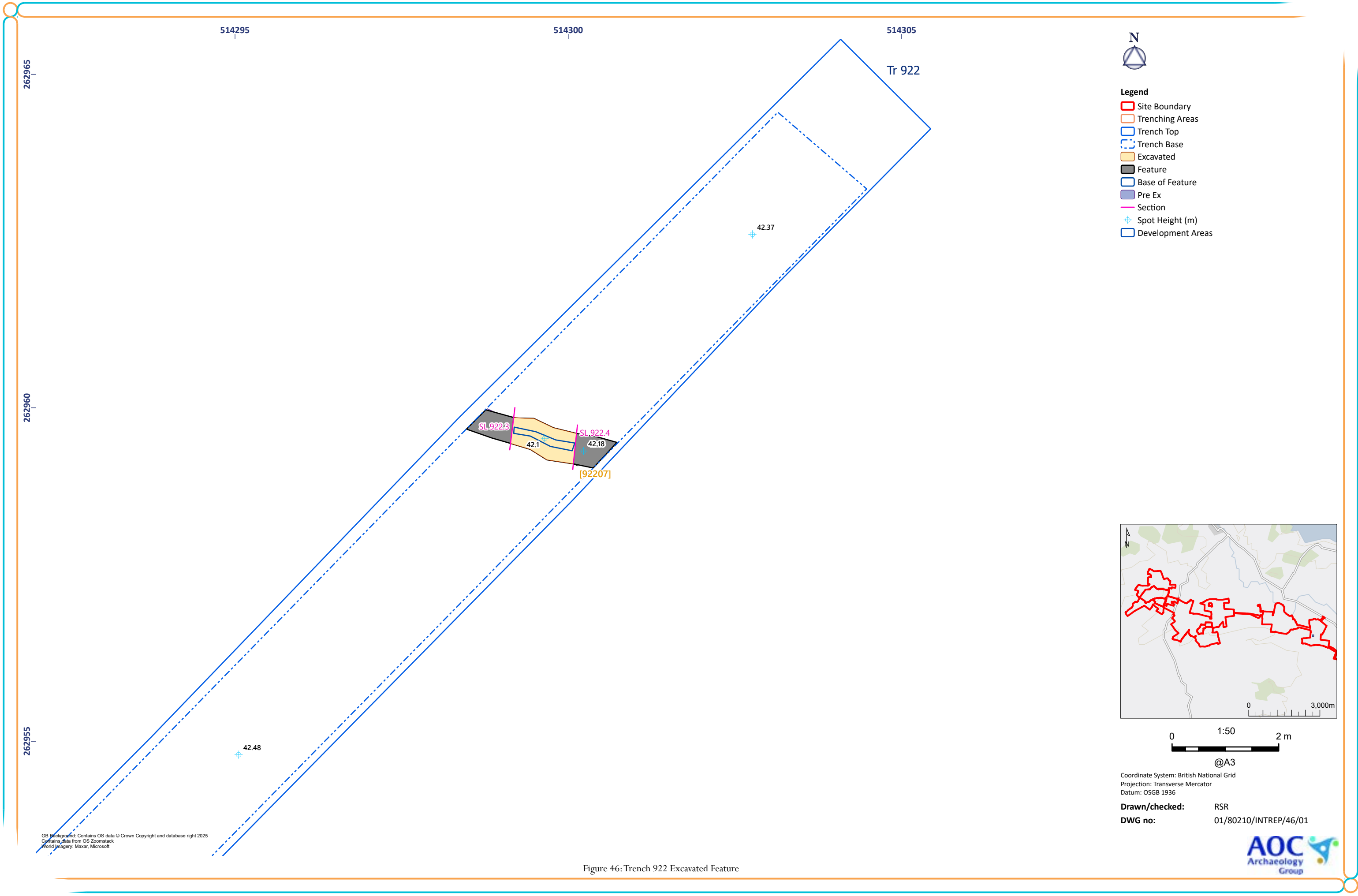


Figure 46: Trench 922 Excavated Feature

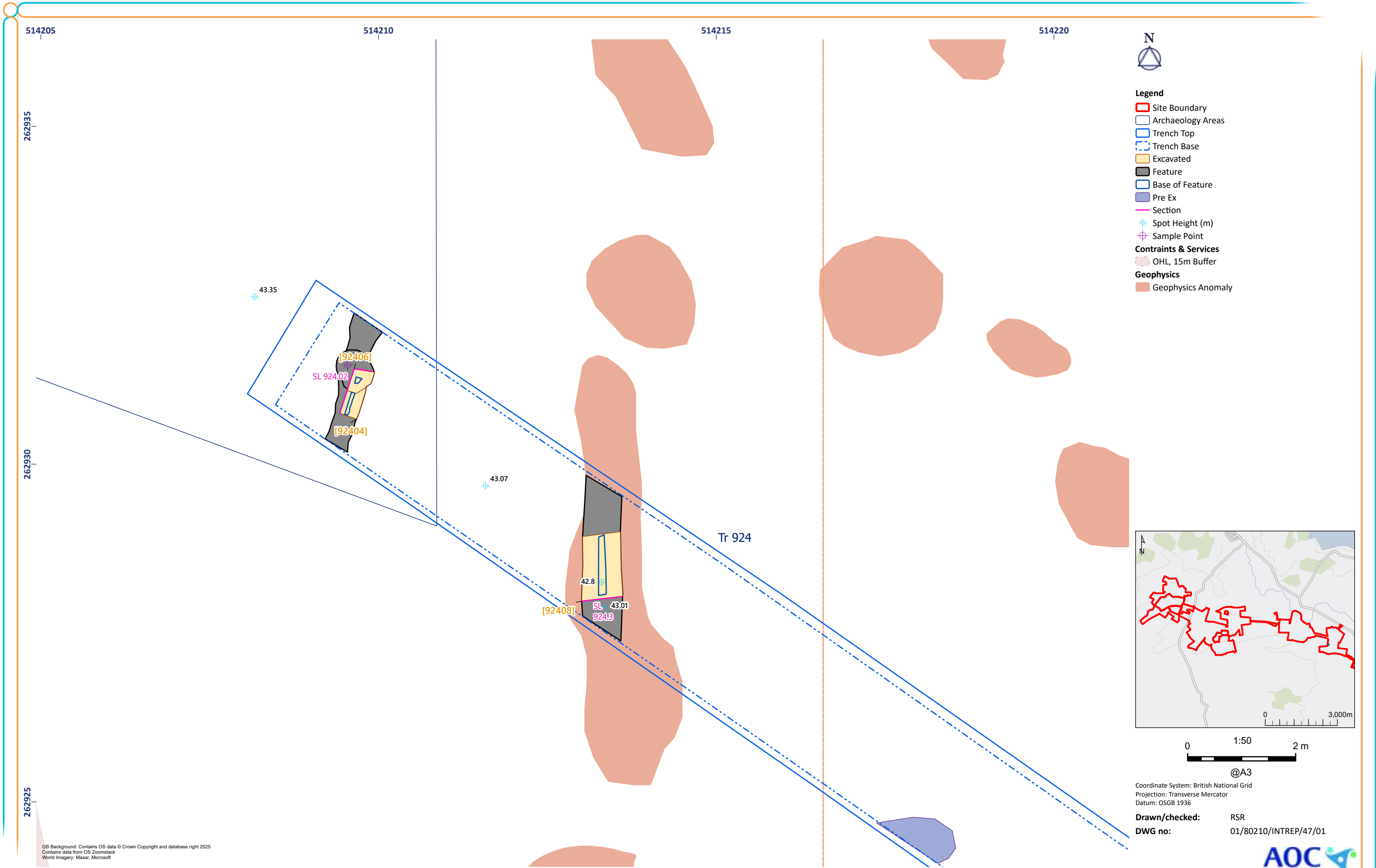
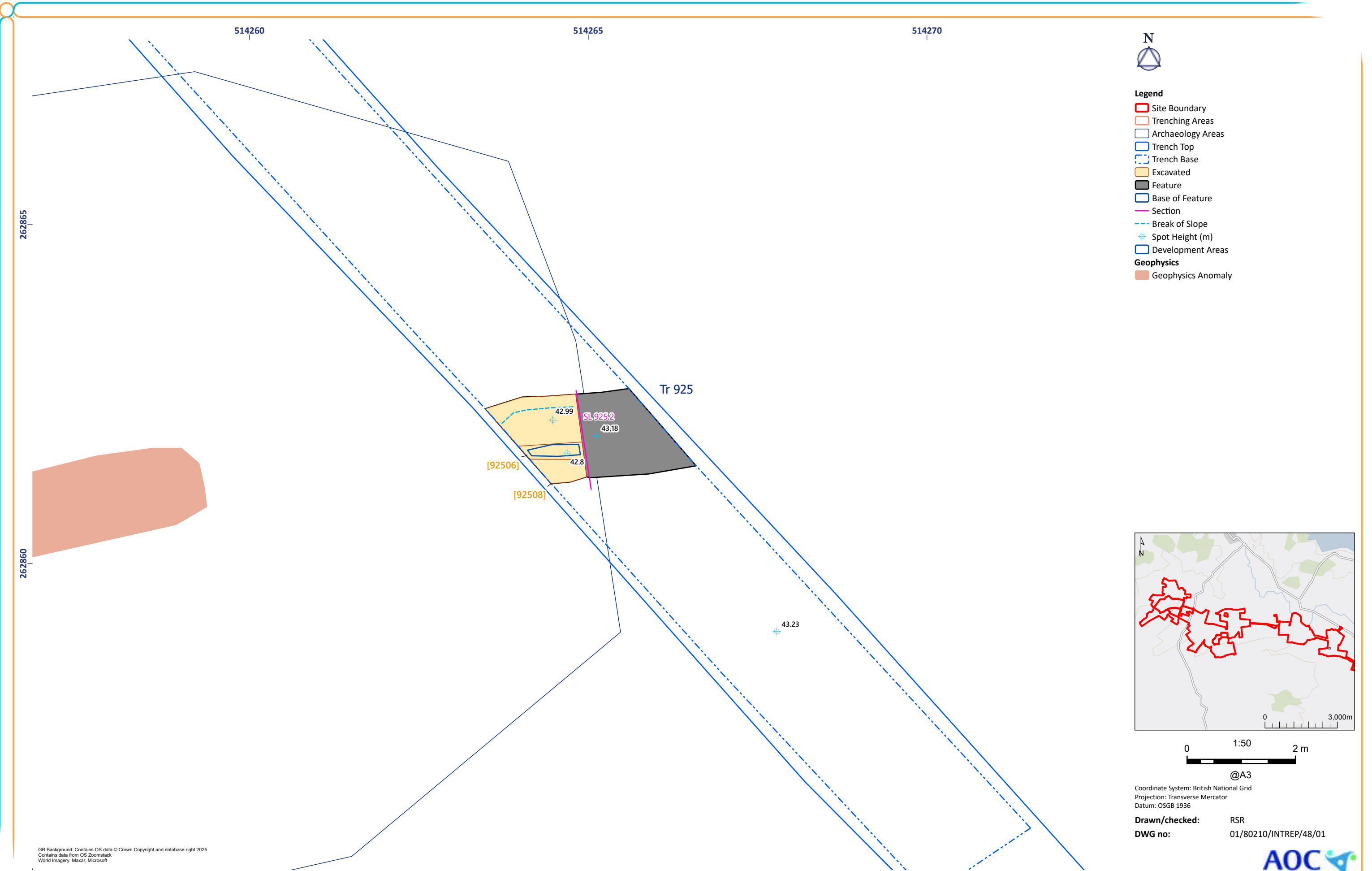
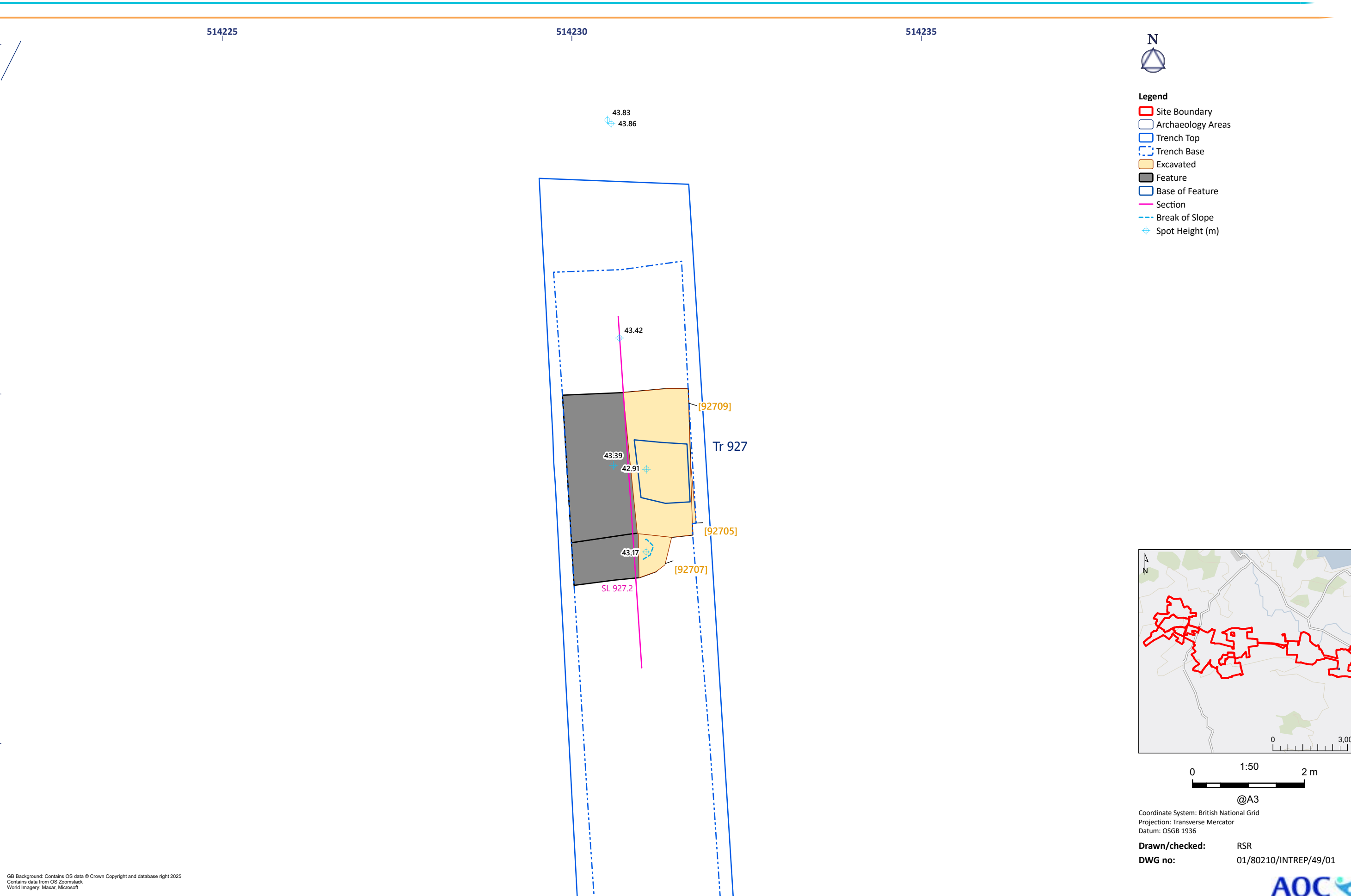


Figure 47: Trench 924 Excavated Features





This figure is an archaeological plan of Trench 927, showing excavated features and spot heights. The plan is oriented with North at the top. The trench is bounded by a solid blue line (Trench Top) and a dashed blue line (Trench Base). The excavated area is shaded in light orange. A feature is shown in dark grey. A pink line indicates a section line. Spot heights are marked with blue crosses and numerical values. The plan includes a legend, a north arrow, a scale bar, and a location map.

Legend

- Site Boundary
- Archaeology Areas
- Trench Top
- Trench Base
- Excavated
- Feature
- Base of Feature
- Section
- Break of Slope
- Spot Height (m)

Figure 49: Trench 927 Excavated Feature

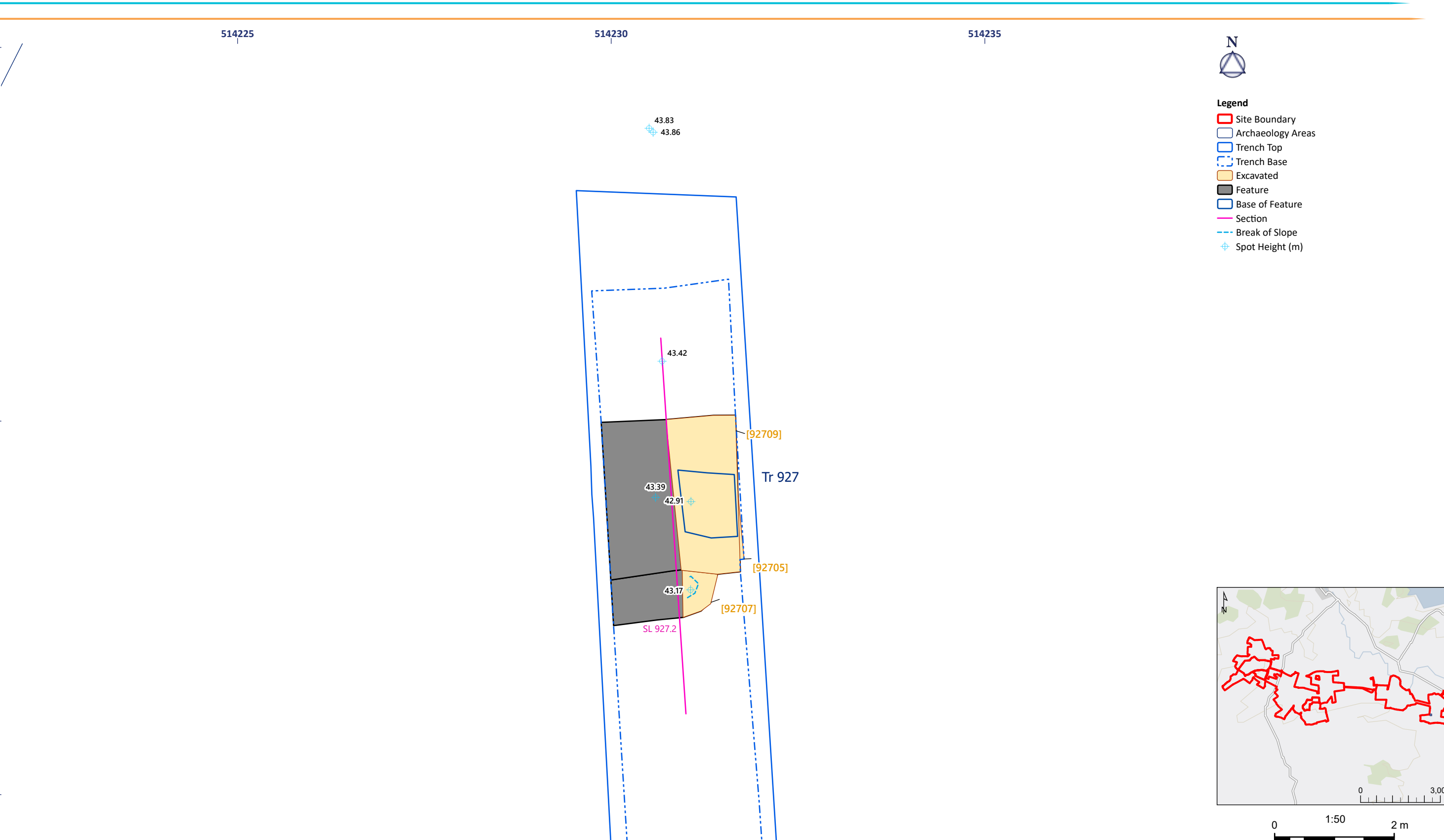
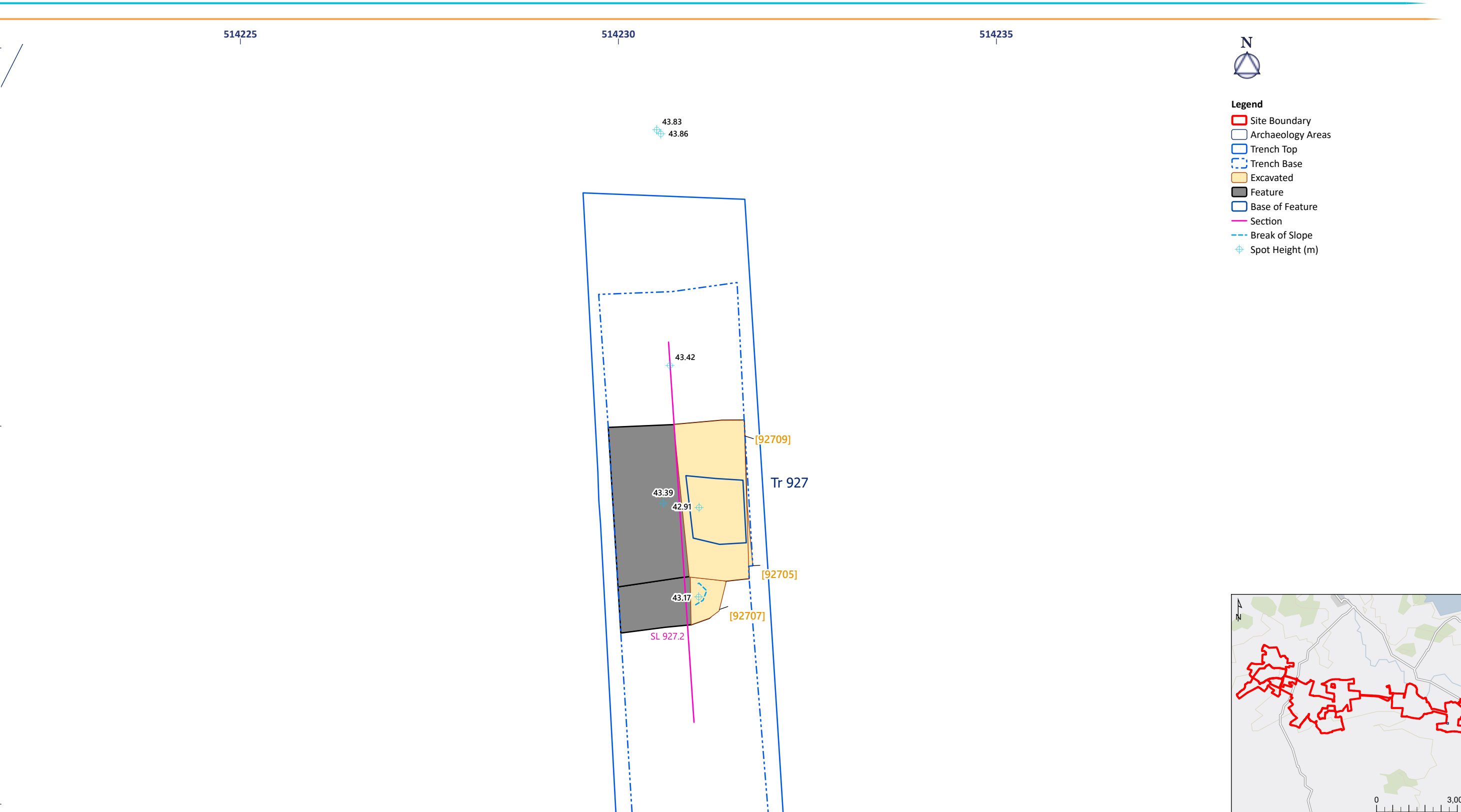
Figure 49 is an archaeological plan of Trench 927, showing excavated features and spot heights. The plan is oriented with North at the top. The trench is bounded by a solid blue line (Trench Top) and a dashed blue line (Trench Base). The excavated area is shaded in light orange. A feature is shown in dark grey. A pink line indicates a section line. Spot heights are marked with blue crosses and numerical values. The plan includes a legend, a north arrow, a scale bar, and a location map.

Figure 49: Trench 927 Excavated Feature

Map of the study area showing the location of the study site (red dot) relative to the city of Lima (blue dot). The map includes a scale bar (0 to 10 km) and a north arrow.

The map shows the study area (514225) in the context of the city of Tbilisi (514230) and the city of Batumi (514235). The map includes a legend with a north arrow and a scale bar.

-
- Archaeological site plan showing a rectangular feature with a spot height of 43.86m. The plan includes a legend for Site Boundary, Archaeology Areas, Trench Top, Trench Base, Excavated, Feature, Base of Feature, Section, Break of Slope, and Spot Height (m).



This figure is an archaeological plan of Trench 927. The plan shows a rectangular trench with a dashed blue line indicating the trench base and a solid blue line for the trench top. Within the trench, there are several excavated areas (yellow) and features (grey). A pink line represents a section line. Spot heights are marked with blue crosses and numerical values. The plan is oriented with North at the top, as indicated by the north arrow. A legend in the top right corner defines the symbols used. An inset map in the bottom right corner shows the location of the trench within a larger site boundary.

Legend

- Site Boundary
- Archaeology Areas
- Trench Top
- Trench Base
- Excavated
- Feature
- Base of Feature
- Section
- Break of Slope
- Spot Height (m)

Plan Details:

- Trench 927
- Spot Heights: 43.83, 43.86, 43.42, 43.39, 42.91, 43.17
- Feature Labels: [92709], [92705], [92707]
- Section Line: SL 927.2

Scale and Orientation:

- North Arrow
- Scale: 0 to 3.00 m
- Scale: 0 to 2 m
- Scale: 1:50
- Scale: @A3

514225 514230 514235

N

Legend

- Site Boundary
- Archaeology Areas
- Trench Top
- Trench Base
- Excavated
- Feature
- Base of Feature
- Section
- Break of Slope
- Spot Height (m)

43.83 43.86

43.42

43.39 42.91

43.17

SL 927.2

[92709]

[92705]

[92707]

Tr 927

The plan shows Trench 927, a rectangular feature with a solid blue top boundary and a dashed blue base boundary. Inside the trench, there are two main areas: a grey-shaded 'Feature' on the left and an orange-shaded 'Excavated' area on the right. The 'Excavated' area contains a smaller rectangular feature with a solid blue base. A pink line labeled 'SL 927.2' runs vertically through the trench. Several spot heights are marked with blue crosshair symbols: 43.83 and 43.86 at the top; 43.42 on the pink line; 43.39 and 42.91 near the center; and 43.17 near the bottom. Feature labels [92709], [92705], and [92707] are placed along the right boundary of the trench.

The inset map shows a larger area with a red outline indicating the site boundary. It includes a north arrow and a scale bar from 0 to 3.00 meters.

0 1:50 2 m

@A3

Coordinate System: British National Grid
Projection: Transverse Mercator
Datum: OSGB 1936

514225 514230 514235

N

Legend

- Site Boundary
- Archaeology Areas
- Trench Top
- Trench Base
- Excavated
- Feature
- Base of Feature
- Section
- Break of Slope
- Spot Height (m)

43.83
43.86

43.42

43.39
42.91

43.17

SL 927.2

[92709]

[92705]

[92707]

Tr 927

The plan view shows a rectangular trench labeled 'Tr 927'. Inside the trench, there are several areas: a large grey-shaded 'Feature' on the left, and several yellow-shaded 'Excavated' areas on the right. A pink line representing a 'Section' (SL 927.2) runs vertically through the trench. Spot heights are marked with blue crosses and values: 43.83 and 43.86 at the top left; 43.42 on the section line; 43.39 and 42.91 near the bottom left; and 43.17 at the bottom left. Trench boundaries are shown with blue lines (top and base), and specific features are labeled with IDs in brackets: [92709], [92705], and [92707].

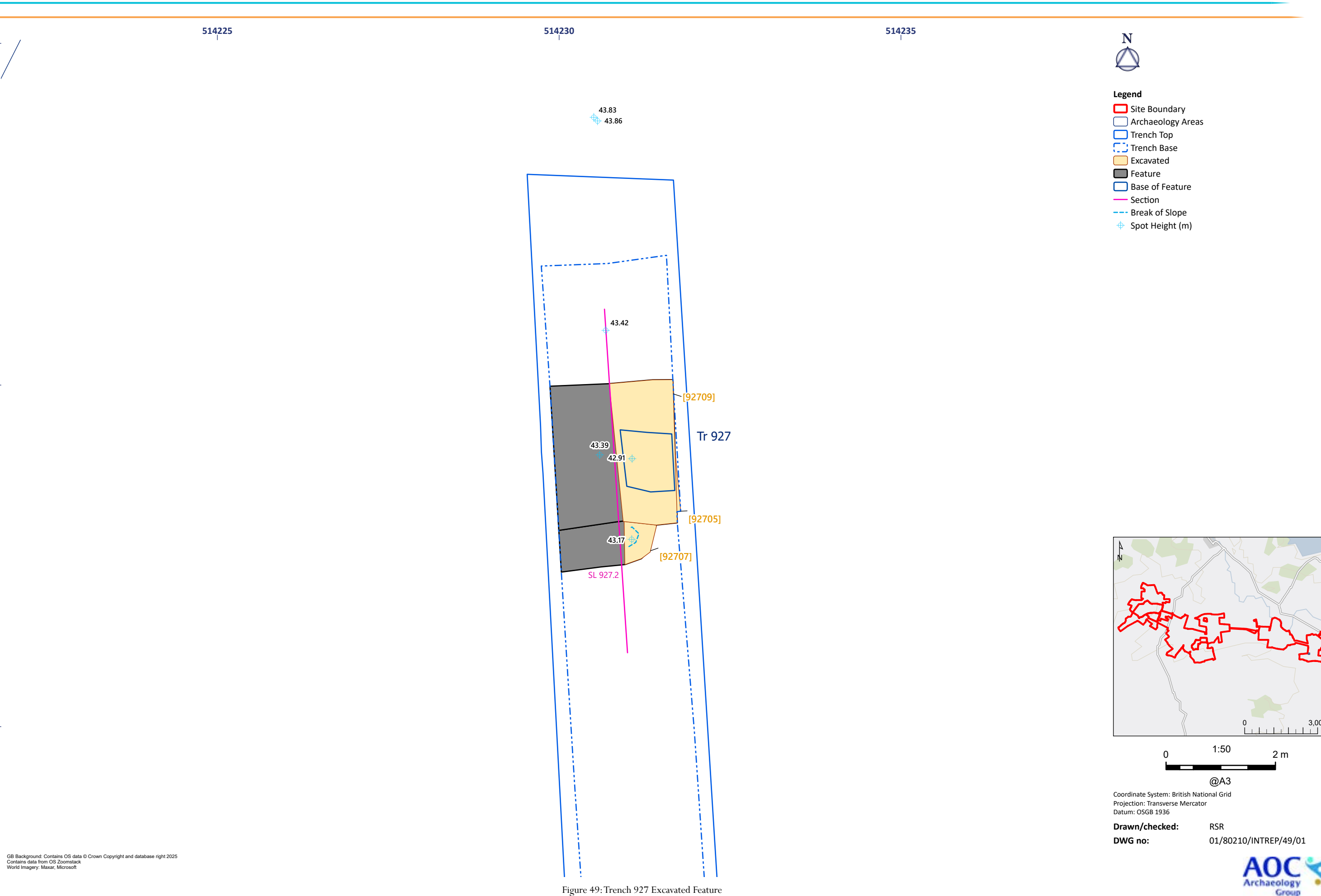
The inset map shows a larger area with a red outline indicating the site boundary. It includes a north arrow and a scale bar from 0 to 3.00 meters.

0 1:50 2 m

@A3

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Datum: OSGB 1936

Drawn/checked: RSR
DWG no: 01/80210/INTREP/49/01



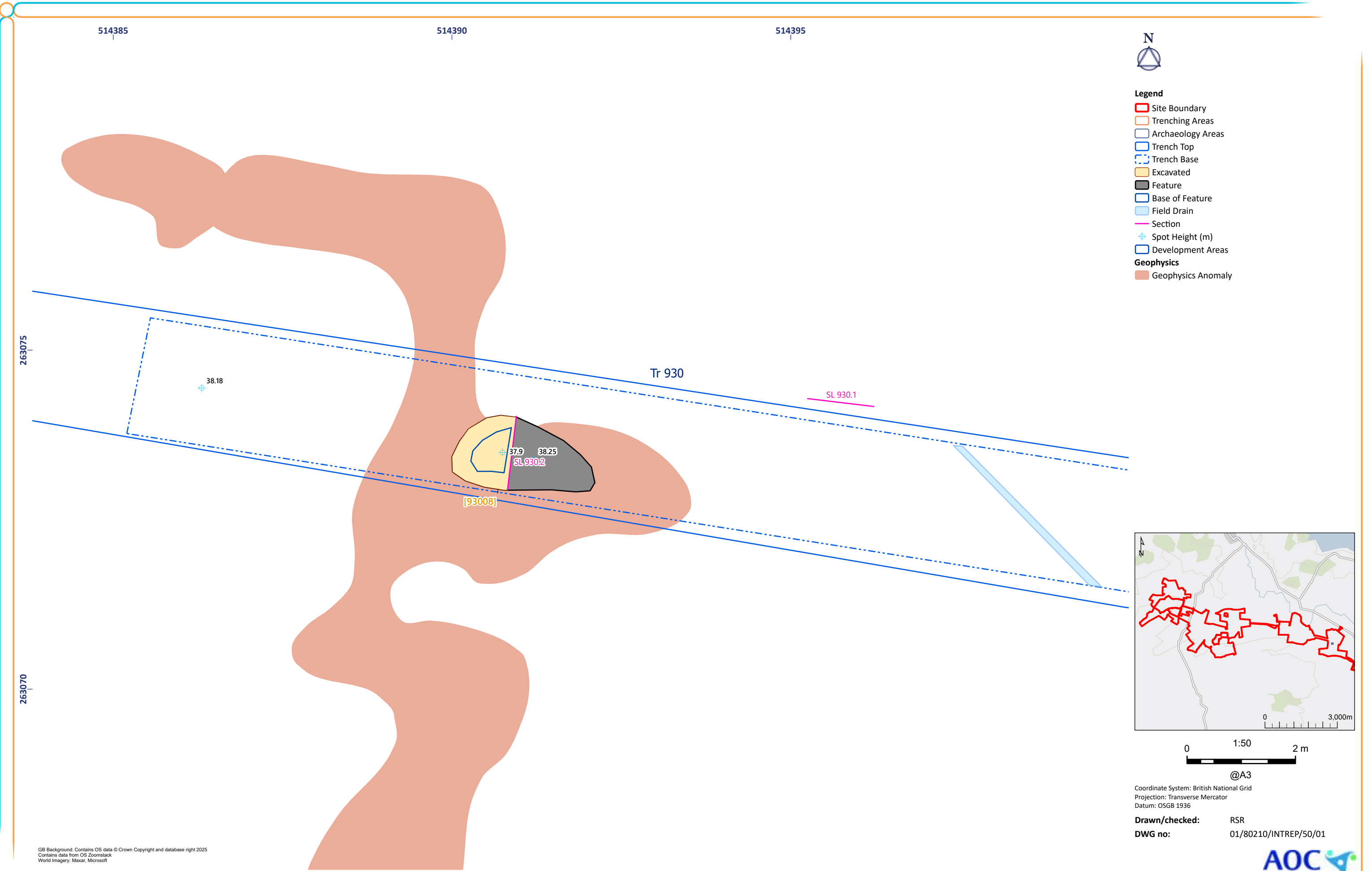


Figure 50: Trench 930 Excavated Feature

514465

514470

514475



Legend

- Site Boundary
- Trenching Areas
- Trench Top
- Trench Base
- Excavated
- Feature
- Base of Feature
- Section
- Spot Height (m)
- Development Areas

262980

262975

42.08

Tr 932

[93204]

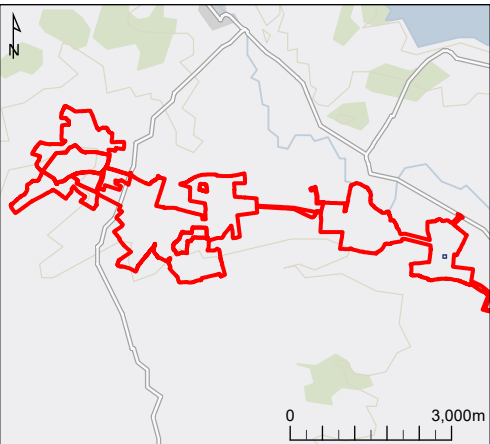
41.31

SL 932.2

41.54

41.63

SL 932.1



0 1:50 2 m

@A3

Coordinate System: British National Grid
Projection: Transverse Mercator
Datum: OSGB 1936

Drawn/checked: RSR
DWG no: 01/80210/INTREP/51/01

GB Background: Contains OS data © Crown Copyright and database right 2025
Contains data from OS Zoomstack
World Imagery: Maxar, Microsoft



Figure 51: Trench 932 Excavated Feature

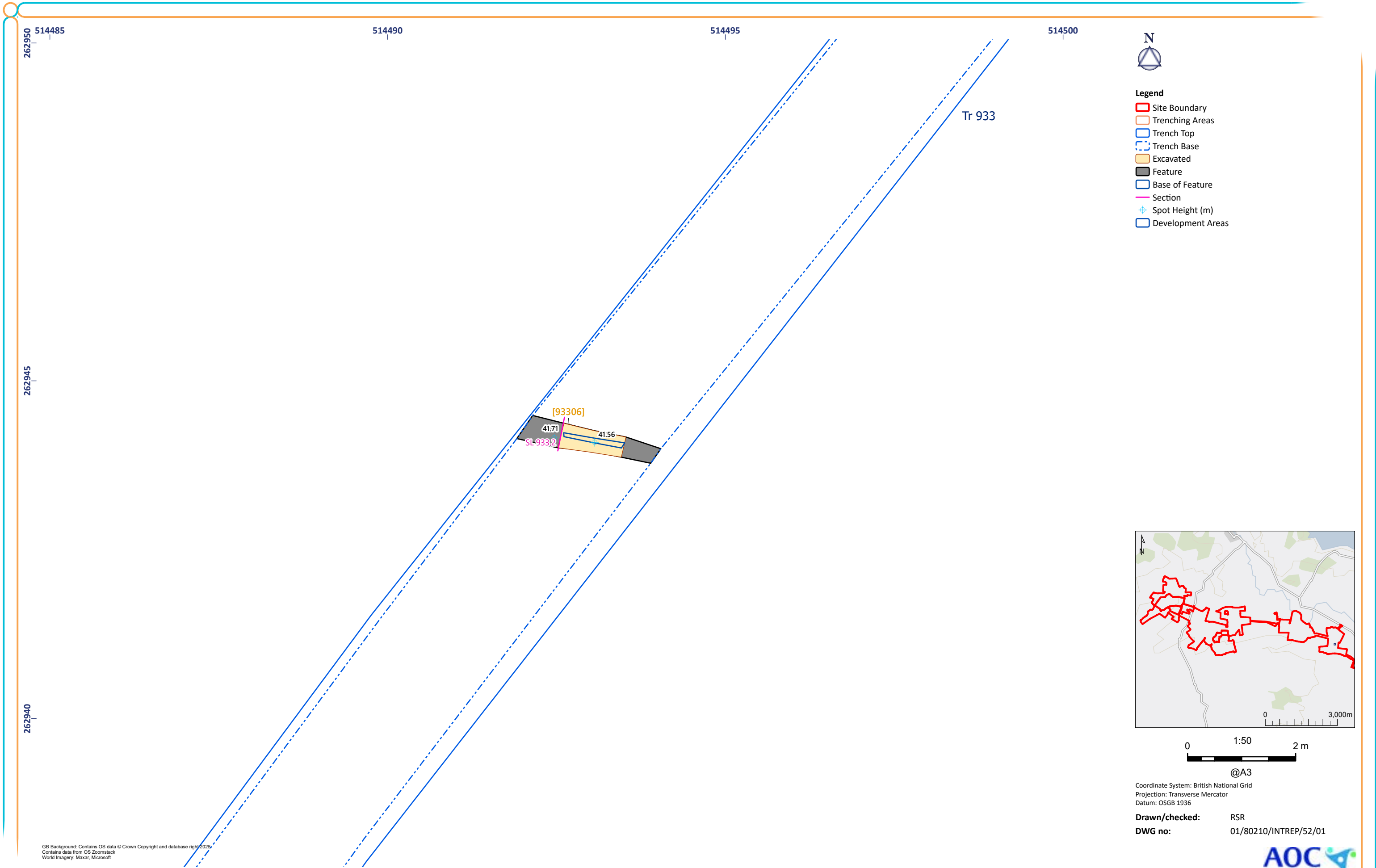


Figure 52: Trench 933 Excavated Feature

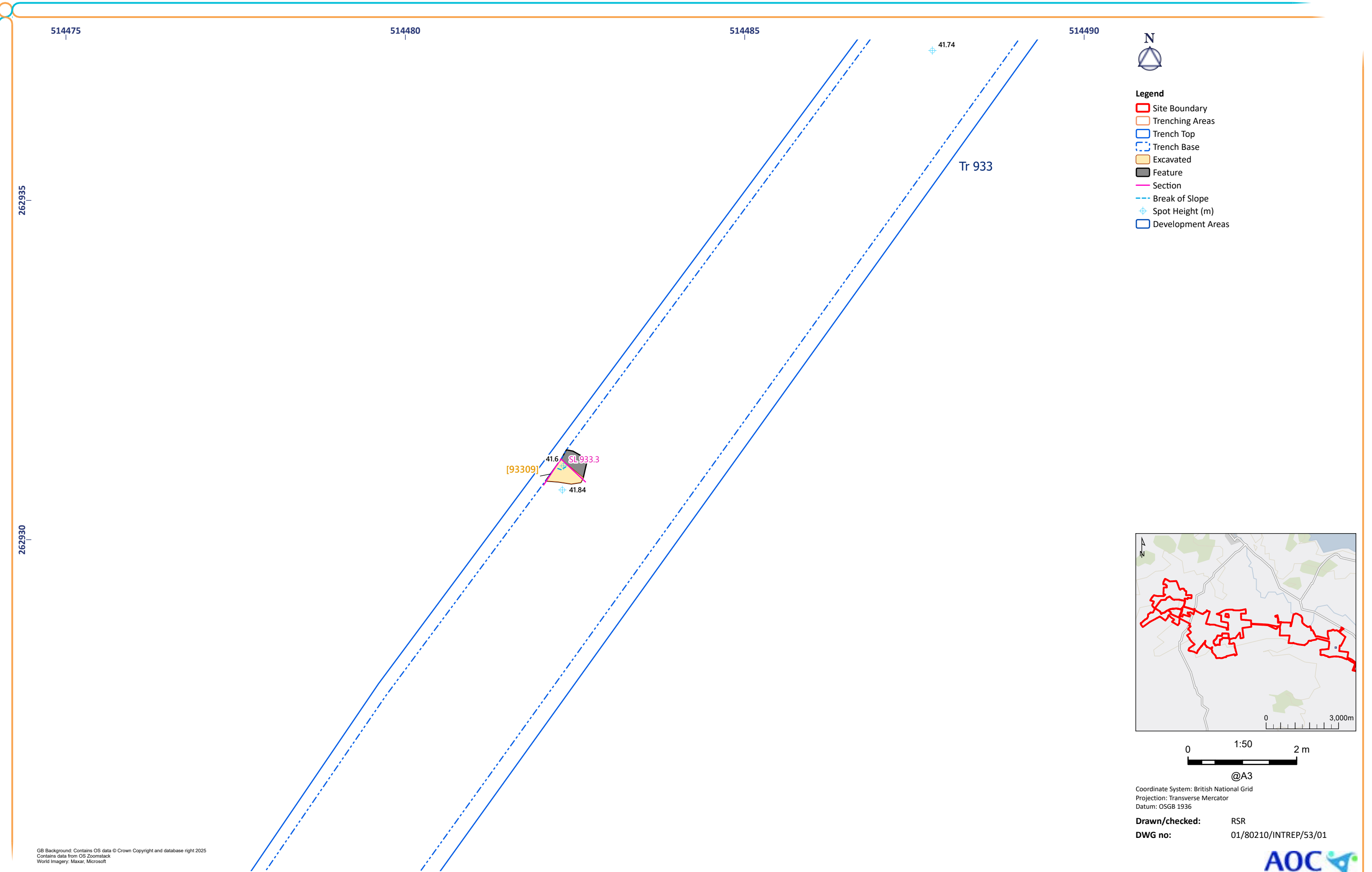


Figure 53: Trench 933 Excavated Feature

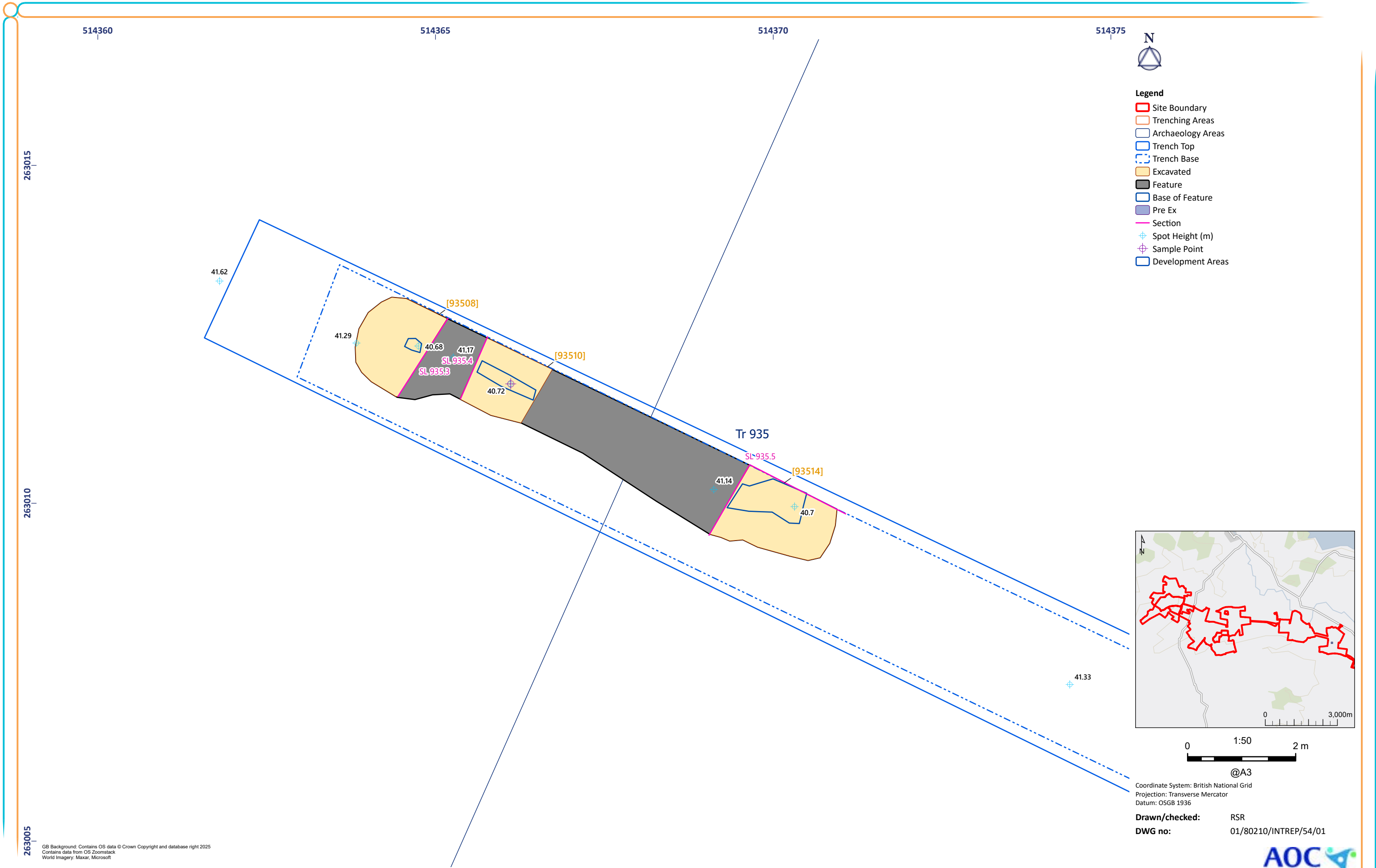
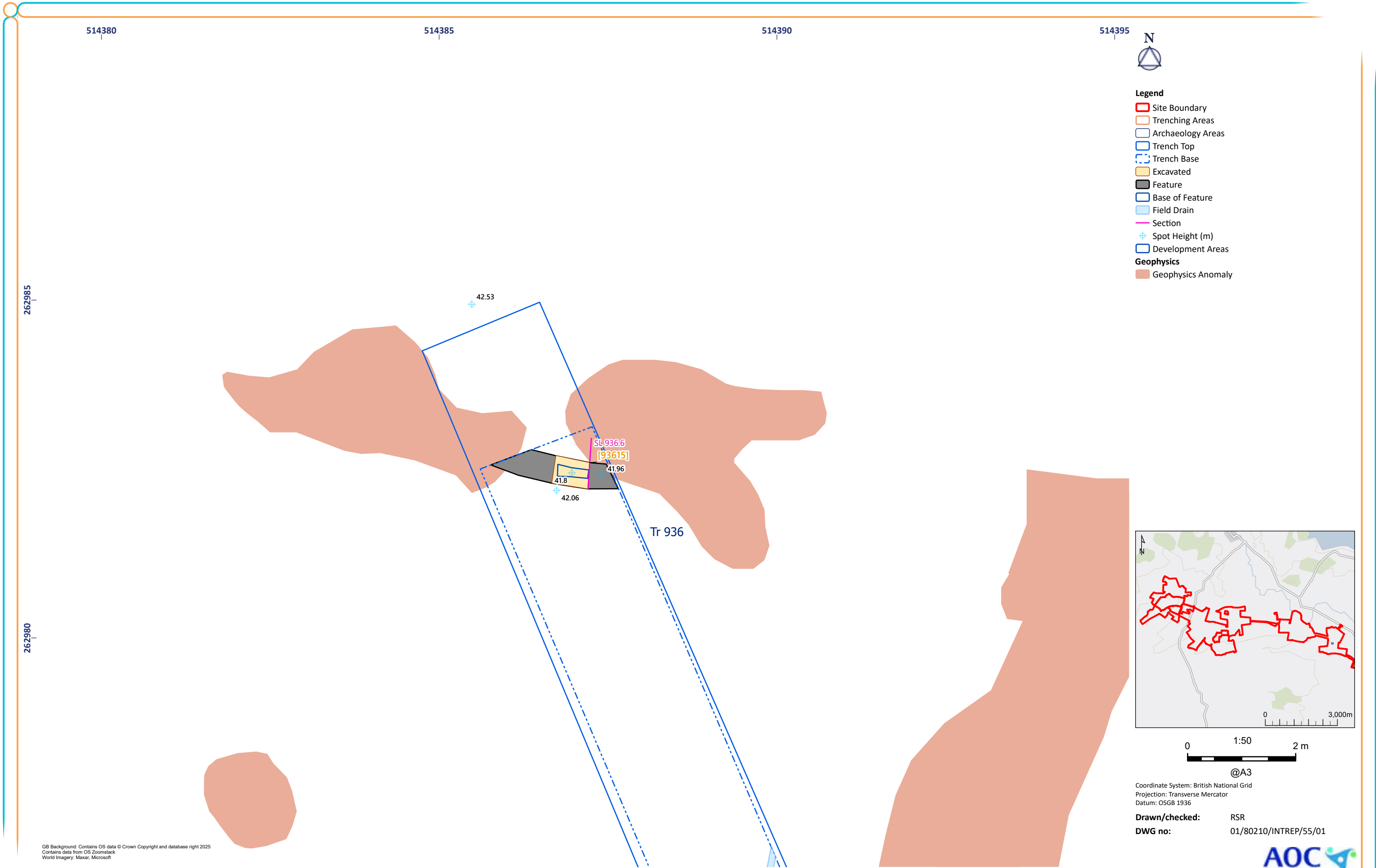


Figure 54: Trench 935 Excavated Features



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Contains data from OS Zoomstack
World Imagery: Maxar, Microsoft

Coordinate System: British National Grid
Projection: Transverse Mercator
Datum: OSGB 1936
Drawn/checked: RSR
DWG no: 01/80210/INTREP/55/01



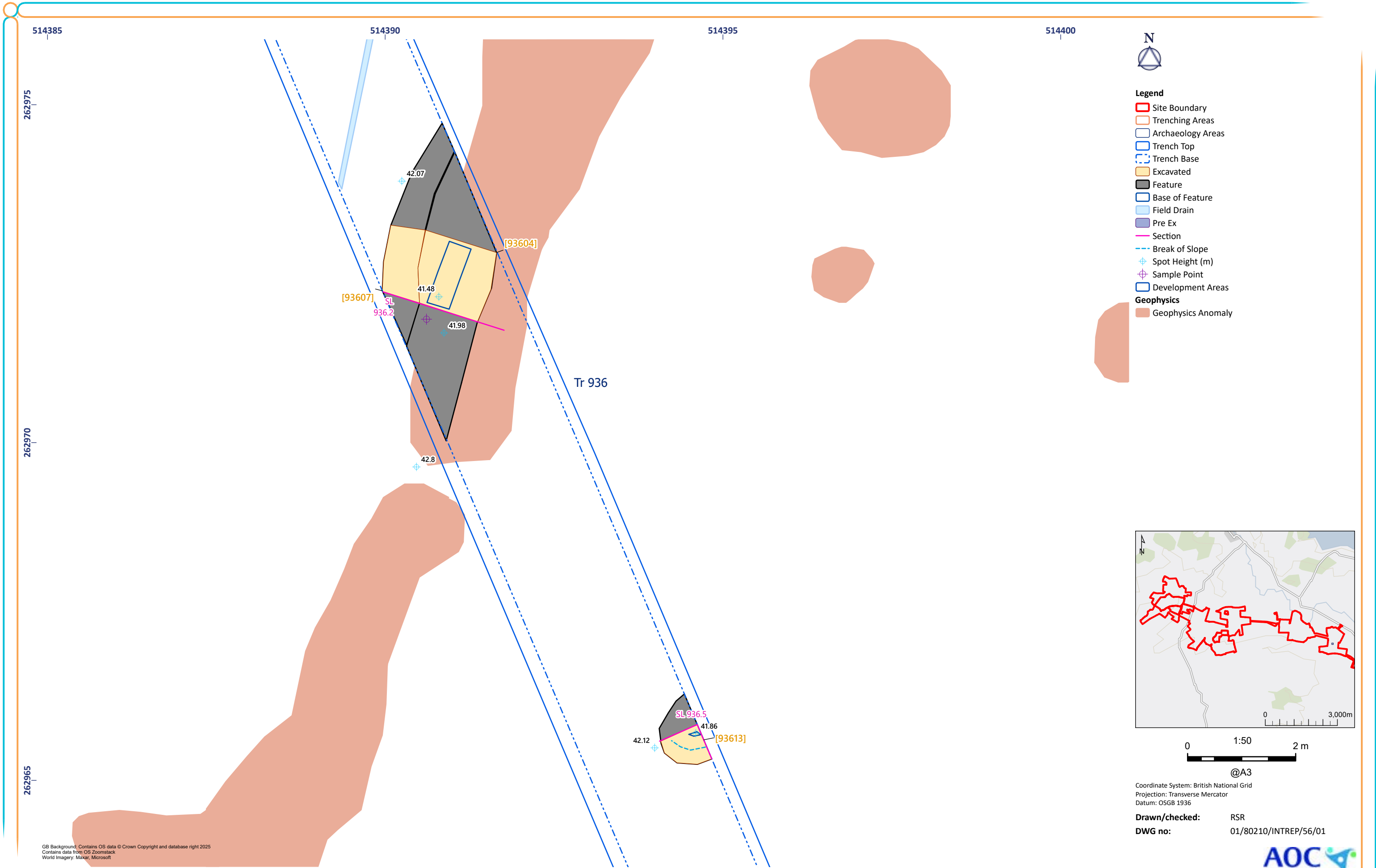


Figure 56: Trench 936 Excavated Feature

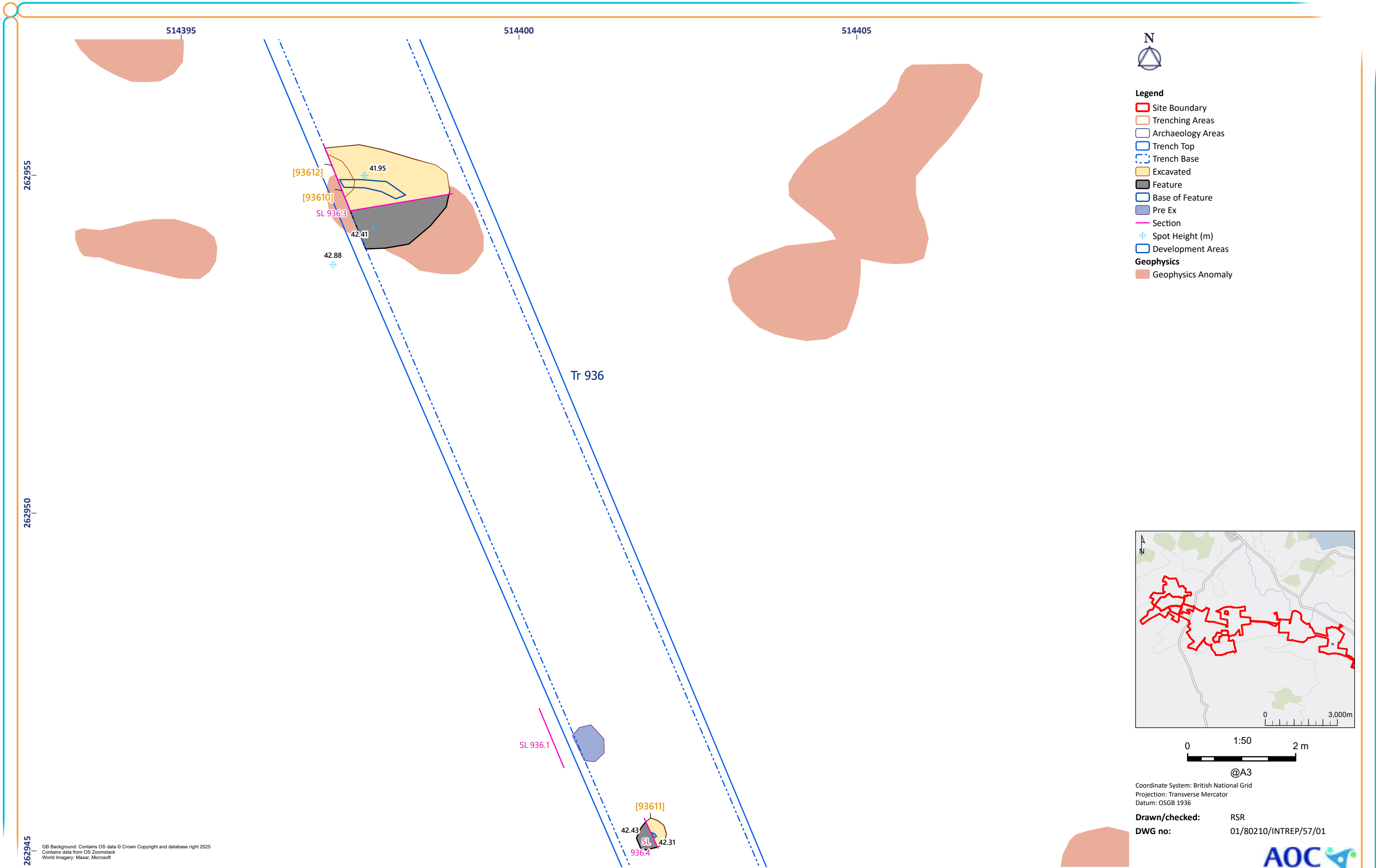


Figure 57: Trench 936 Excavated Feature

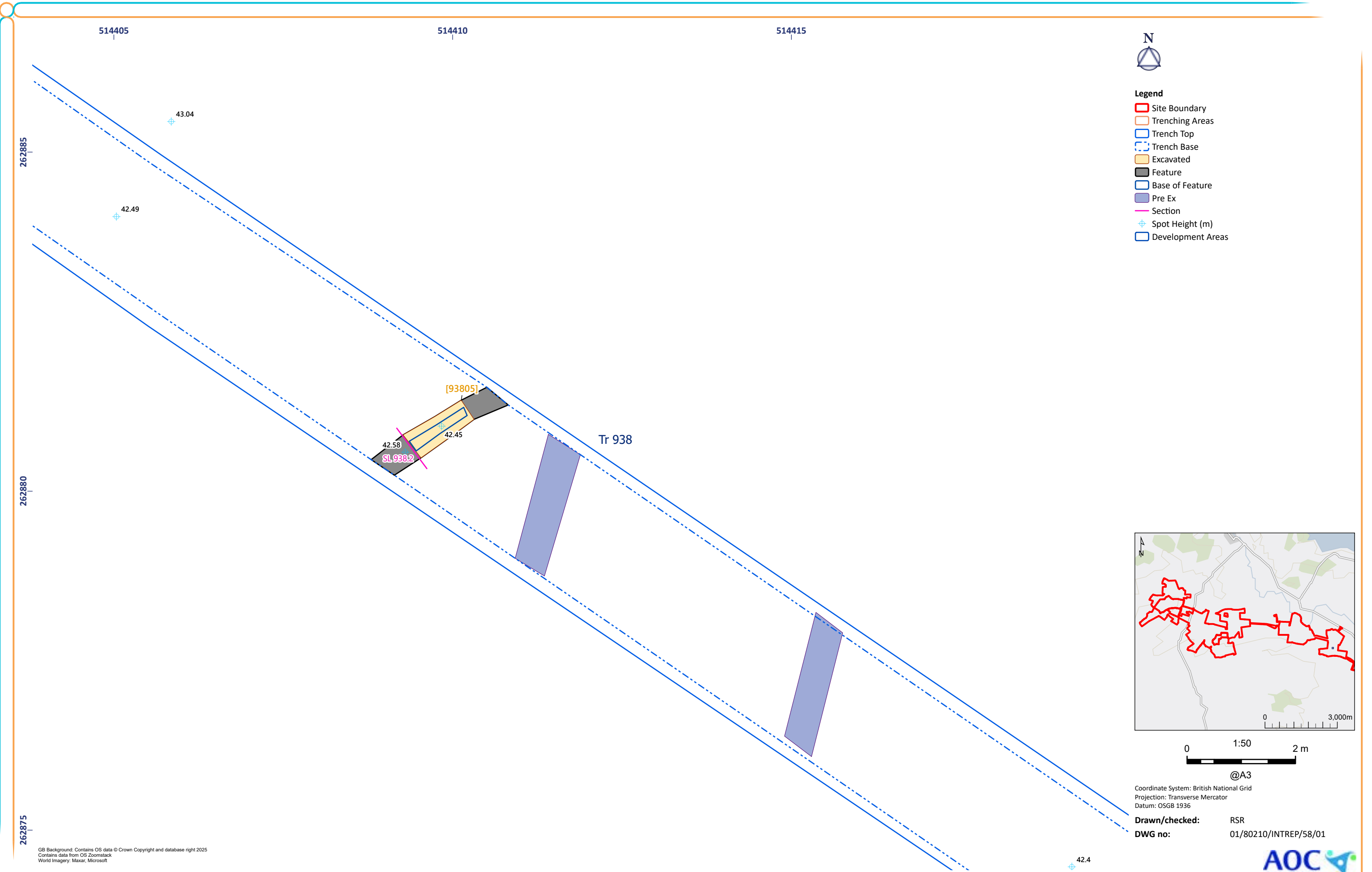


Figure 58: Trench 938 Excavated Feature

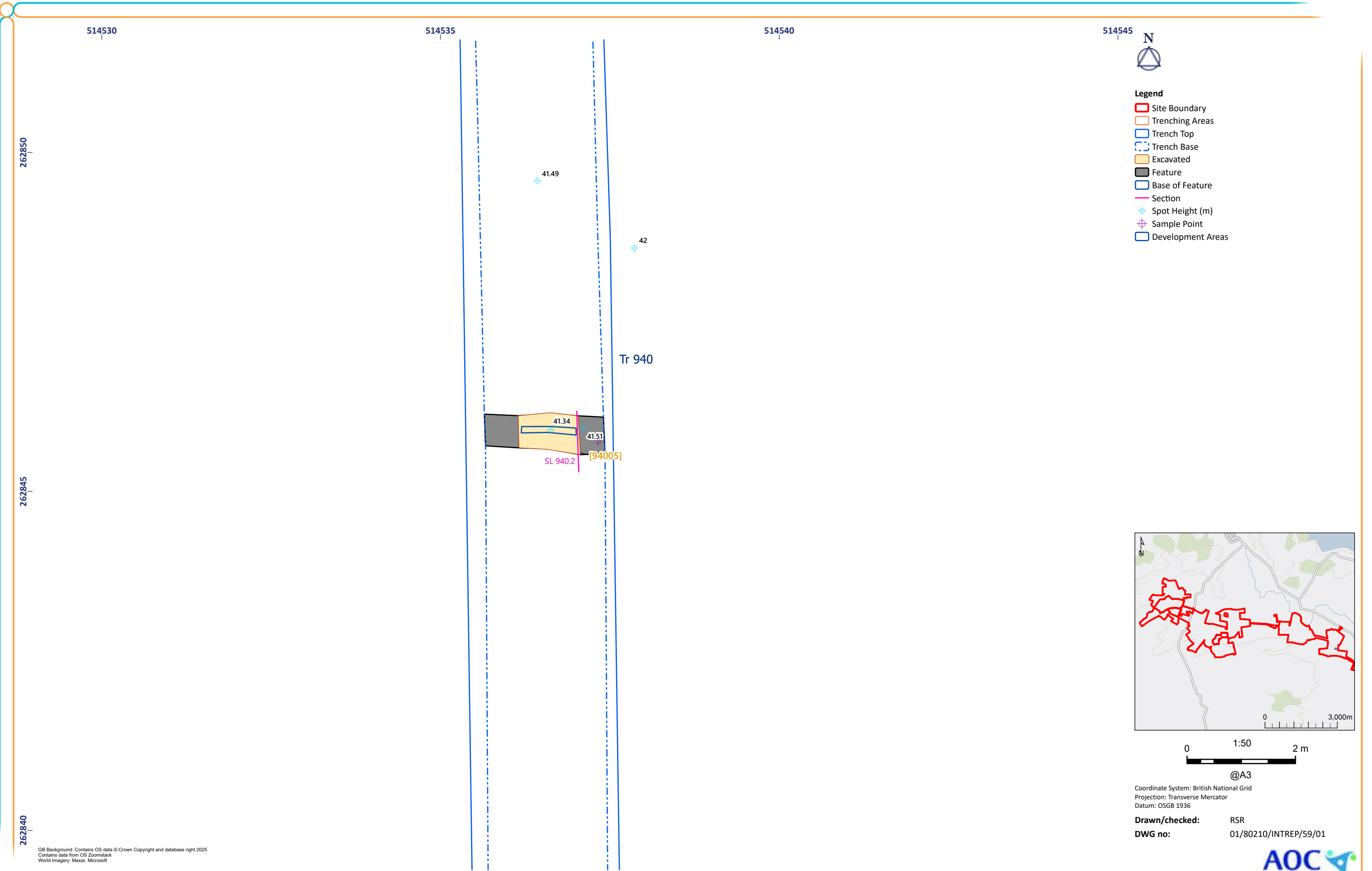


Figure 59: Trench 940 Excavated Feature

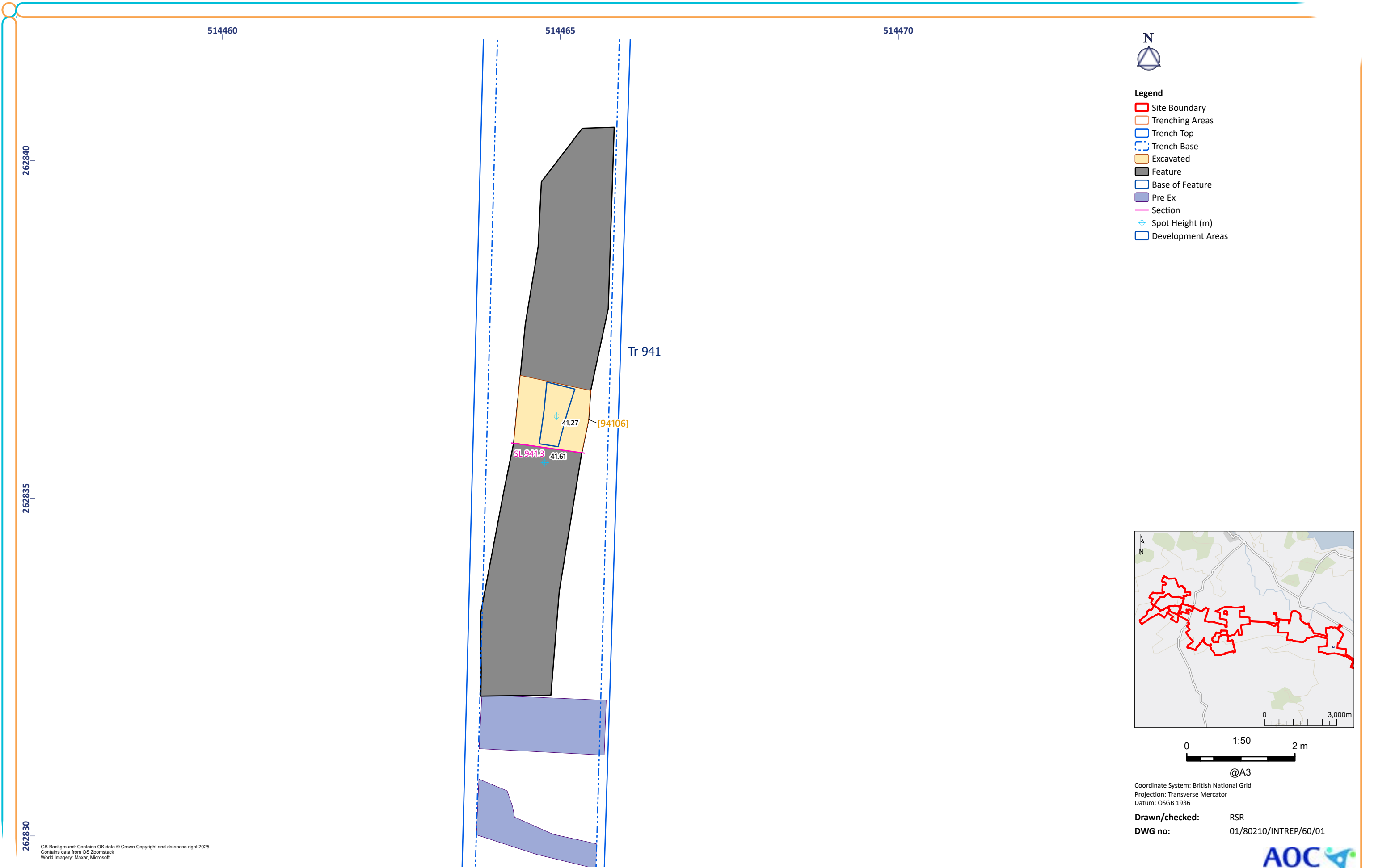


Figure 60: Trench 941 Excavated Feature

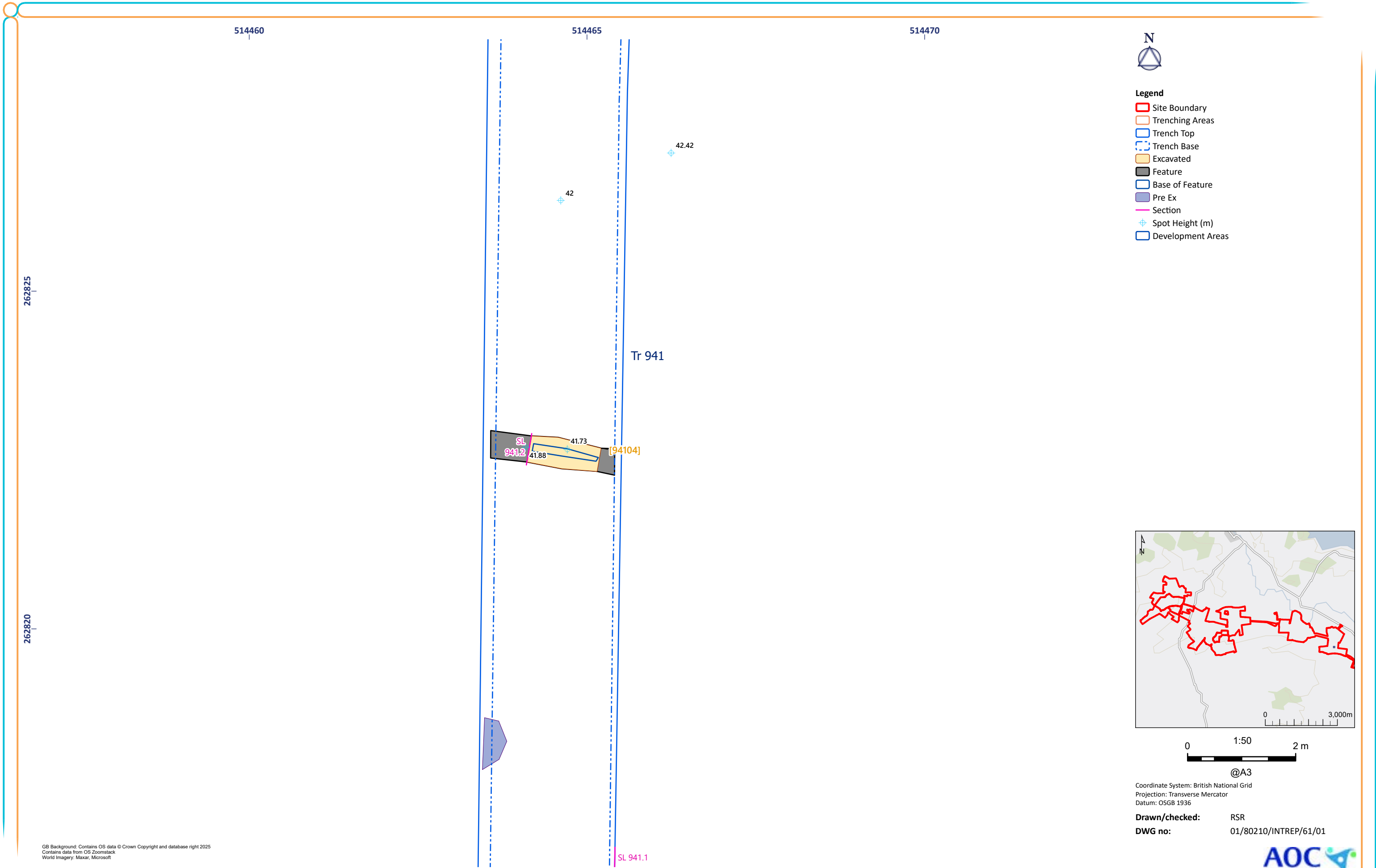


Figure 61: Trench 941 Excavated Feature

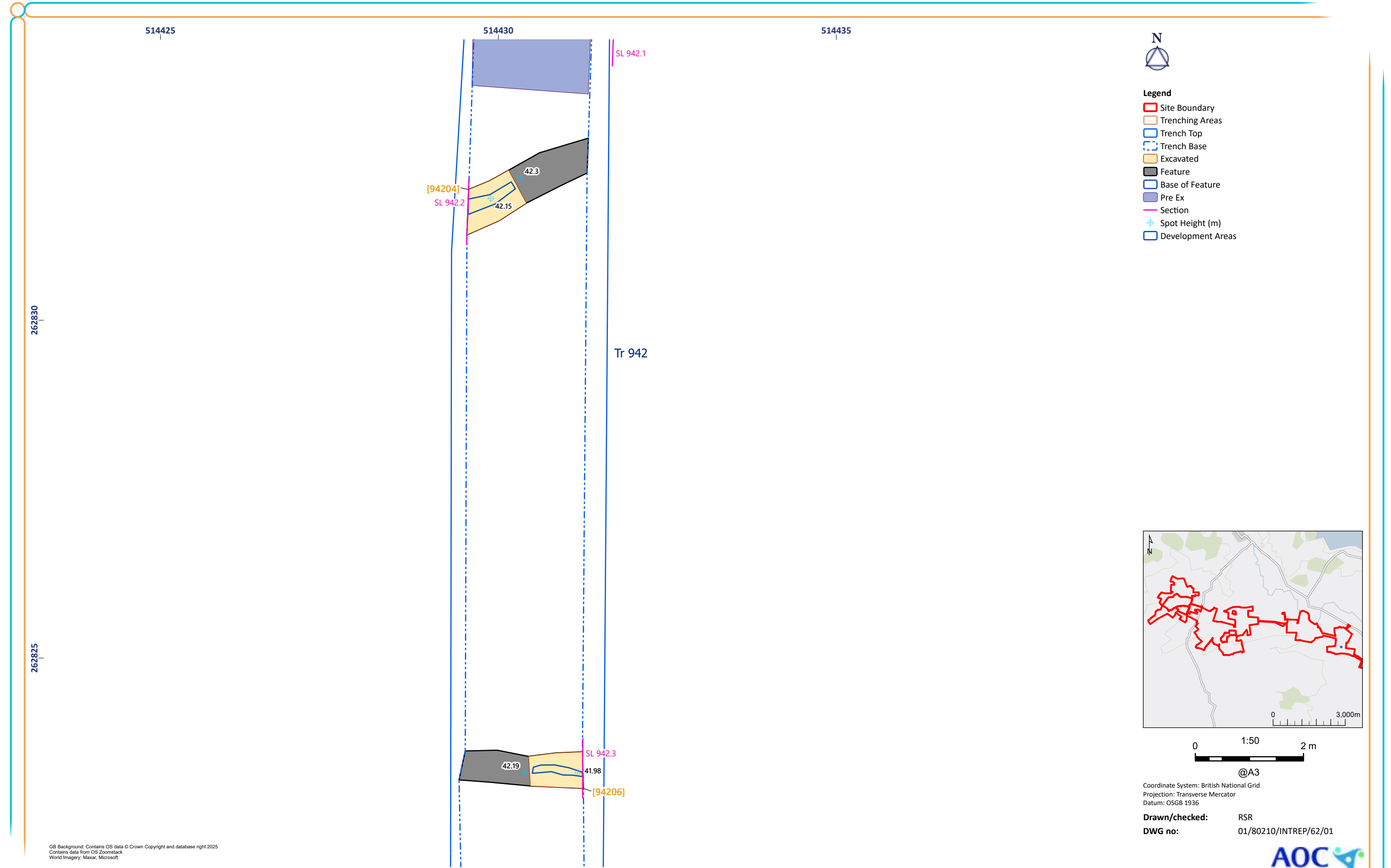


Figure 62: Trench 942 Excavated Feature

514425

514430

514435



Legend

- Site Boundary
- Trenching Areas
- Trench Top
- Trench Base
- Excavated
- Feature
- Base of Feature
- Pre Ex
- Section
- Spot Height (m)
- Development Areas

42.54

Tr 942

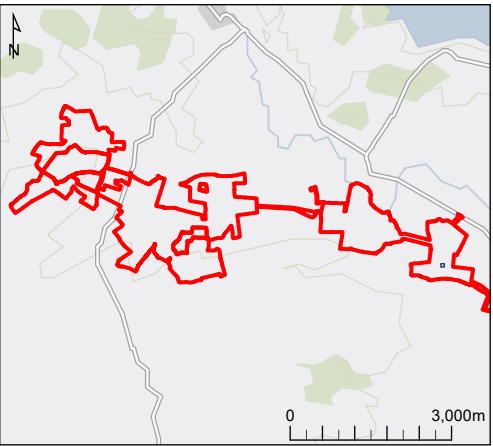
41.92

41.94

SL 942.4

[94208]

41.81



0 1:50 2 m

@A3

Coordinate System: British National Grid
Projection: Transverse Mercator
Datum: OSGB 1936

Drawn/checked: RSR
DWG no: 01/80210/INTREP/63/01

GB Background: Contains OS data © Crown Copyright and database right 2025
Contains data from OS Zoomstack
World Imagery: Maxar, Microsoft



Figure 63: Trench 942 Excavated Feature

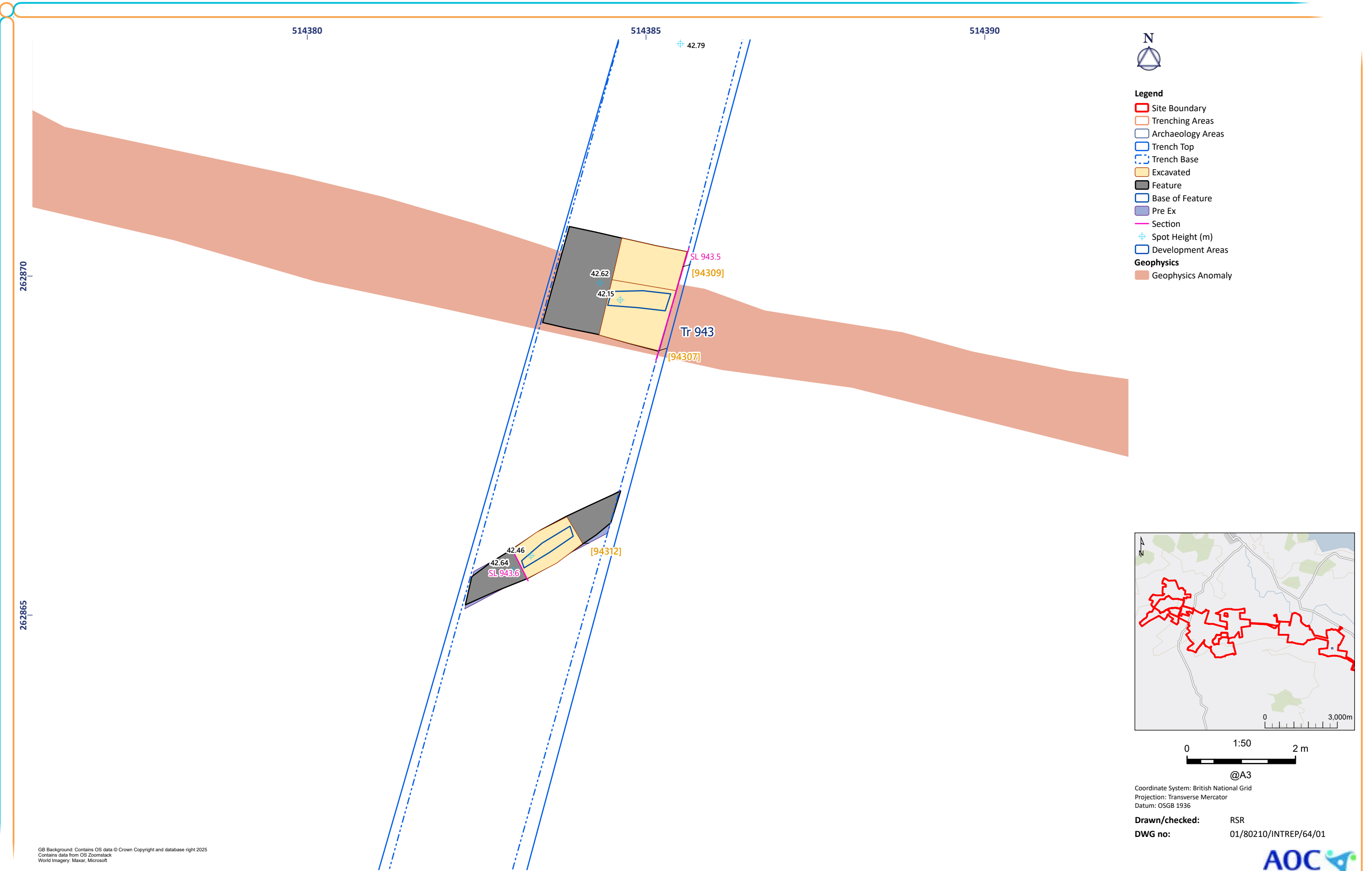


Figure 64: Trench 943 Excavated Feature

GB Background: Contains OS data © Crown Copyright and database right 2025
Contains data from OS Zoomstack
World Imagery: Maxar, Microsoft

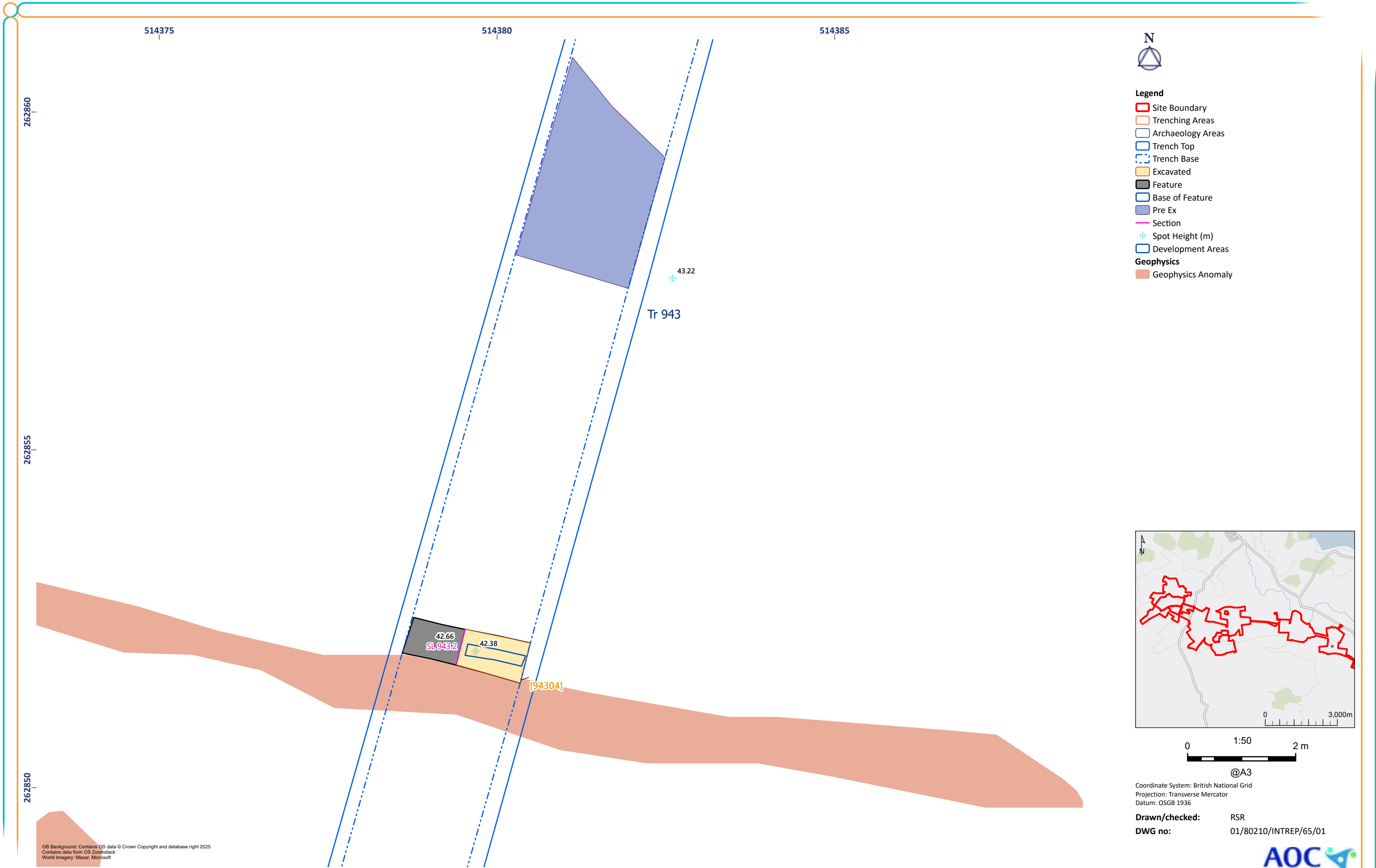


Figure 65: Trench 943 Excavated Feature

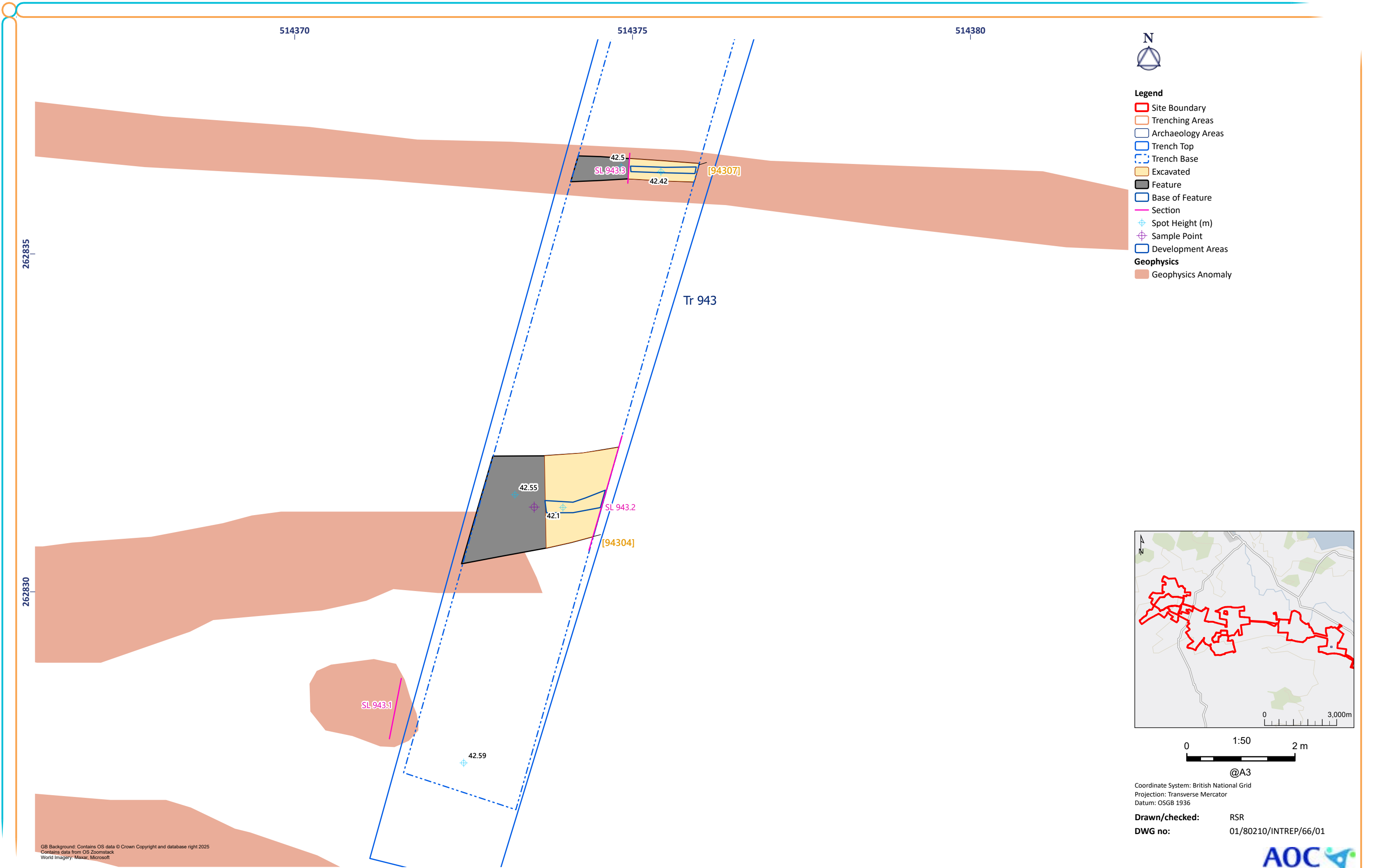


Figure 66: Trench 943 Excavated Feature

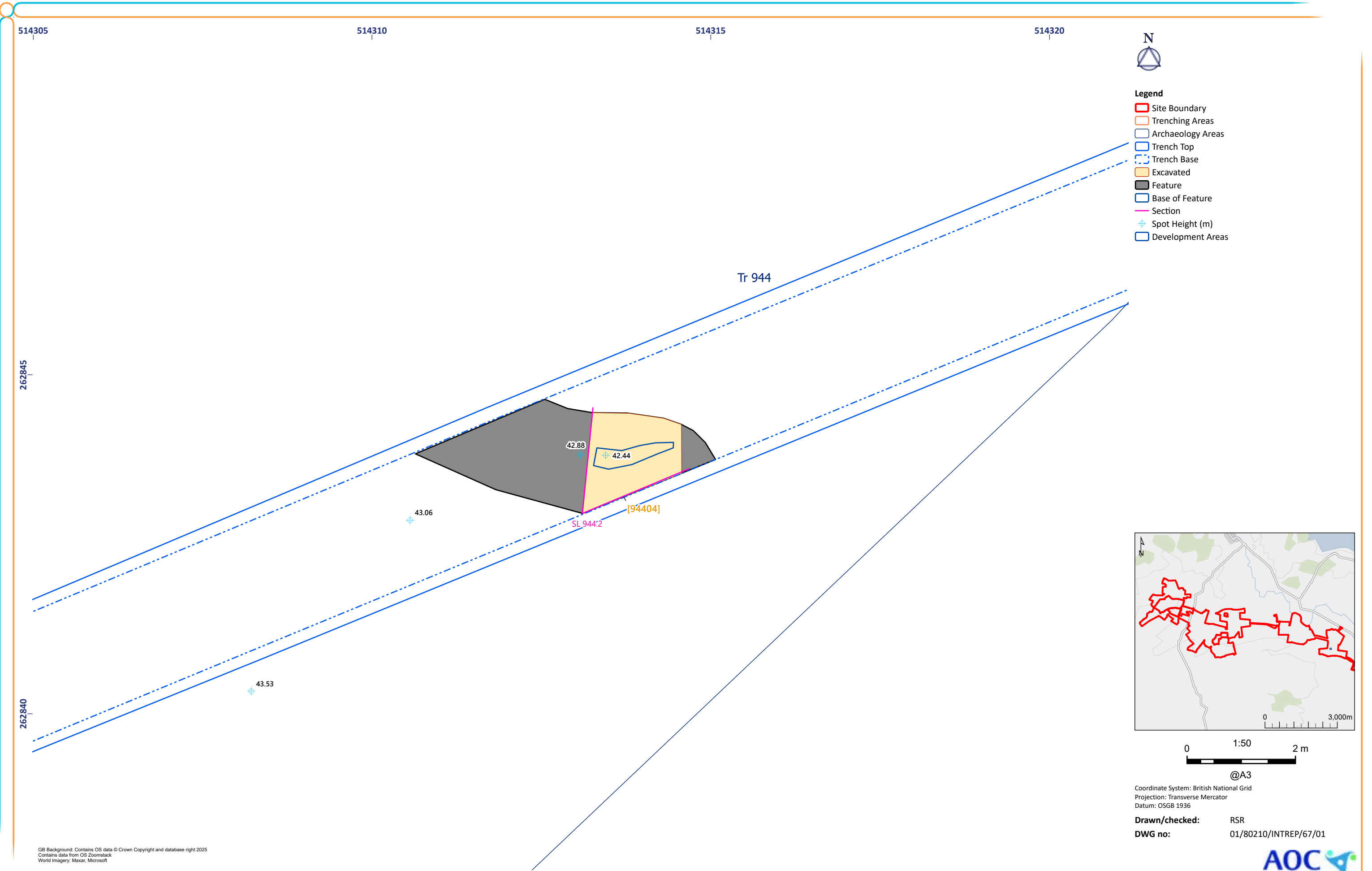
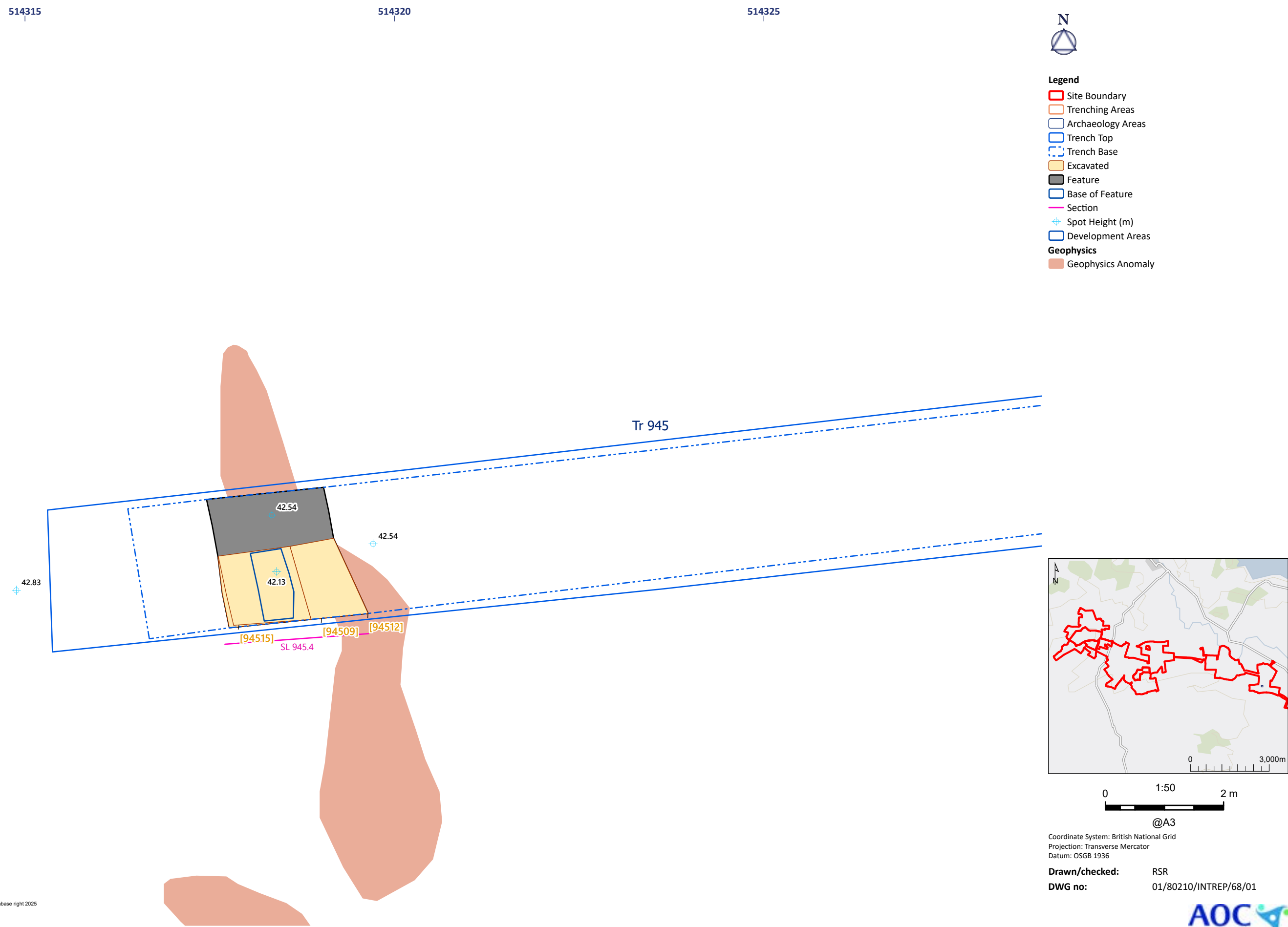


Figure 67: Trench 944 Excavated Features



GB Background: Contains OS data © Crown Copyright and database right 2025
Contains data from OS Zoomstack
World Imagery: Maxar, Microsoft

© AOC Archaeology 2025 | [REDACTED]

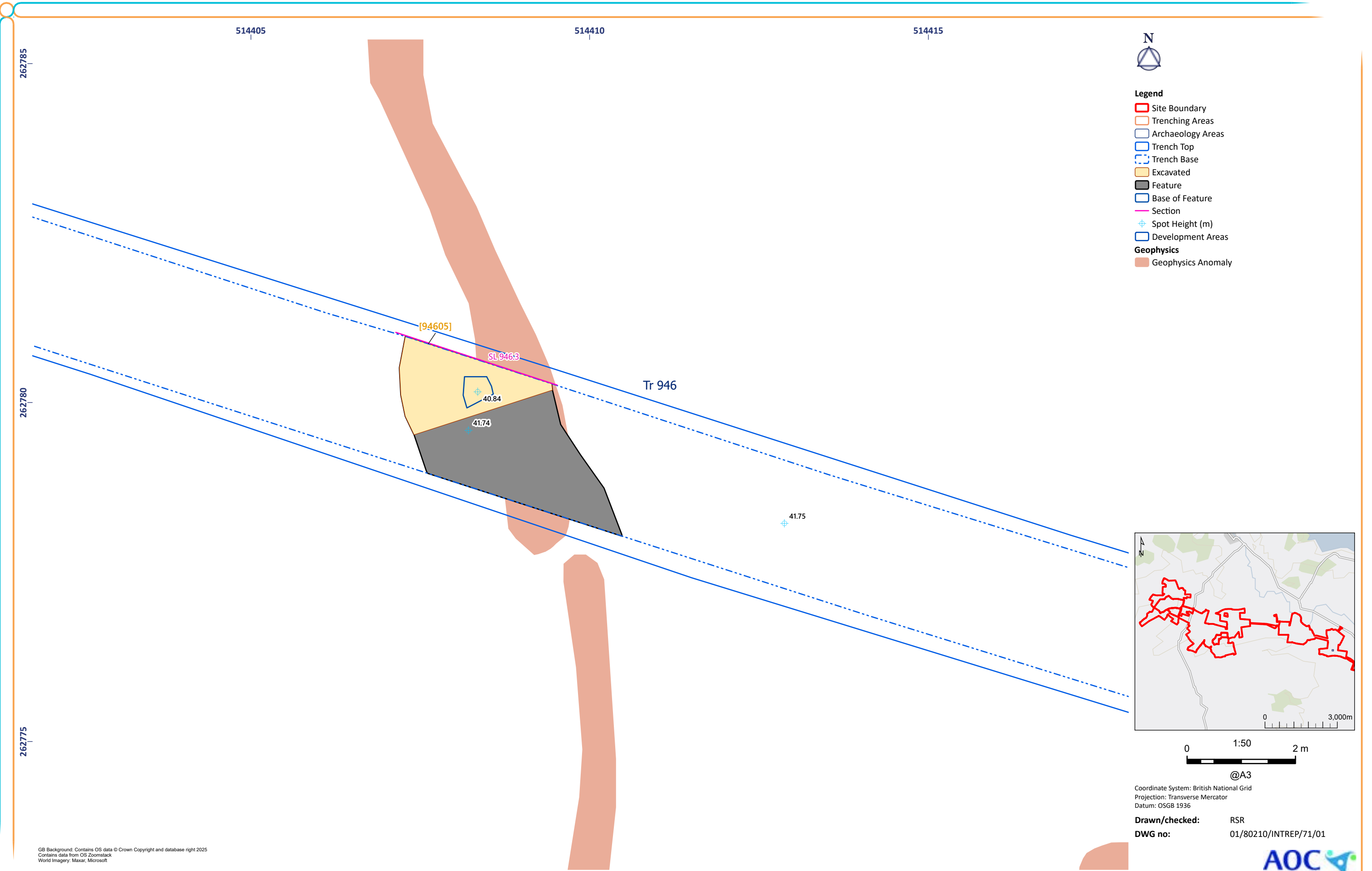


Figure 71: Trench 946 Excavated Feature

GB Background: Contains OS data © Crown Copyright and database right 2025
Contains data from OS Zoomstack
World Imagery: Maxar, Microsoft

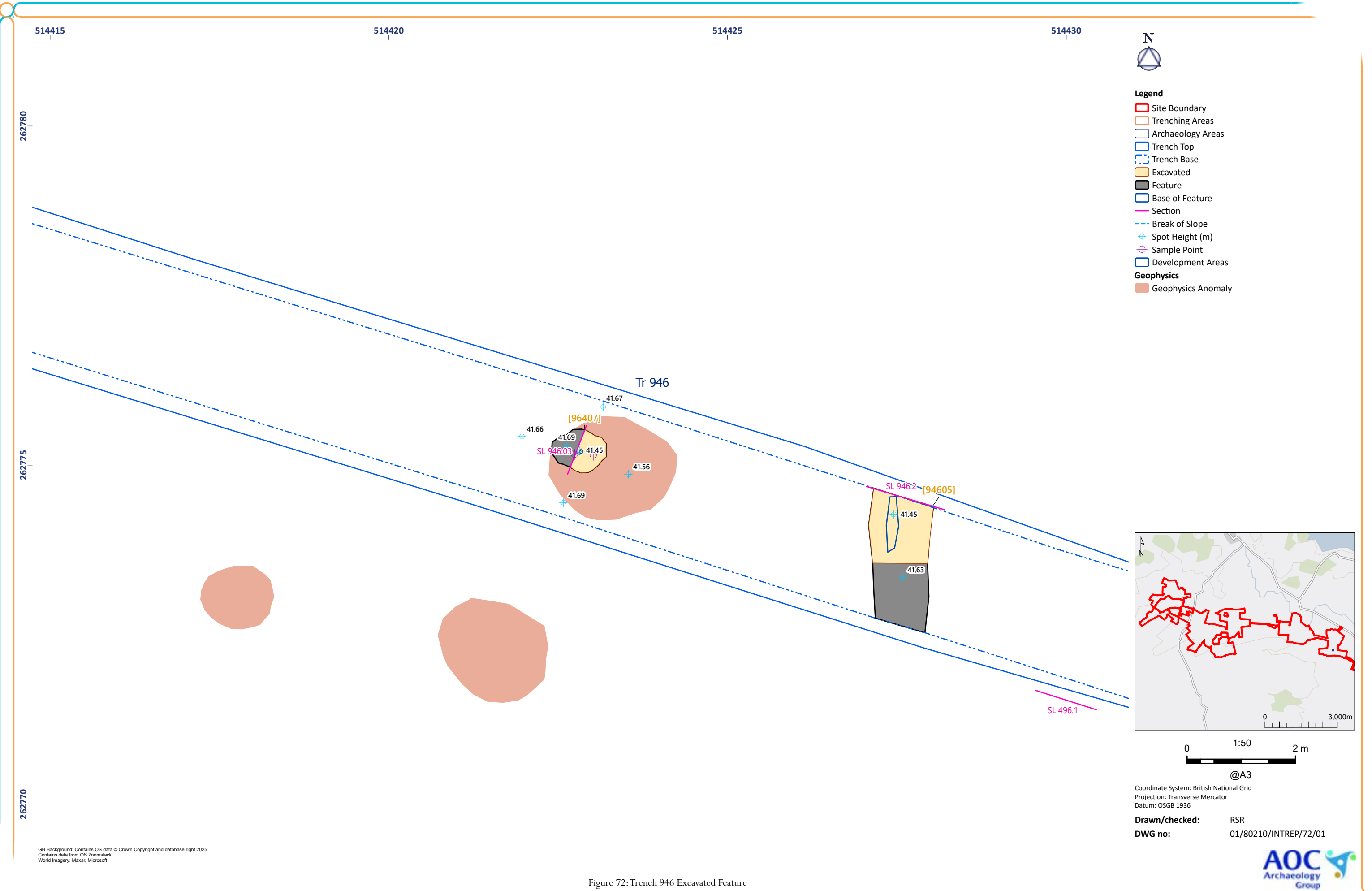


Figure 72: Trench 946 Excavated Feature

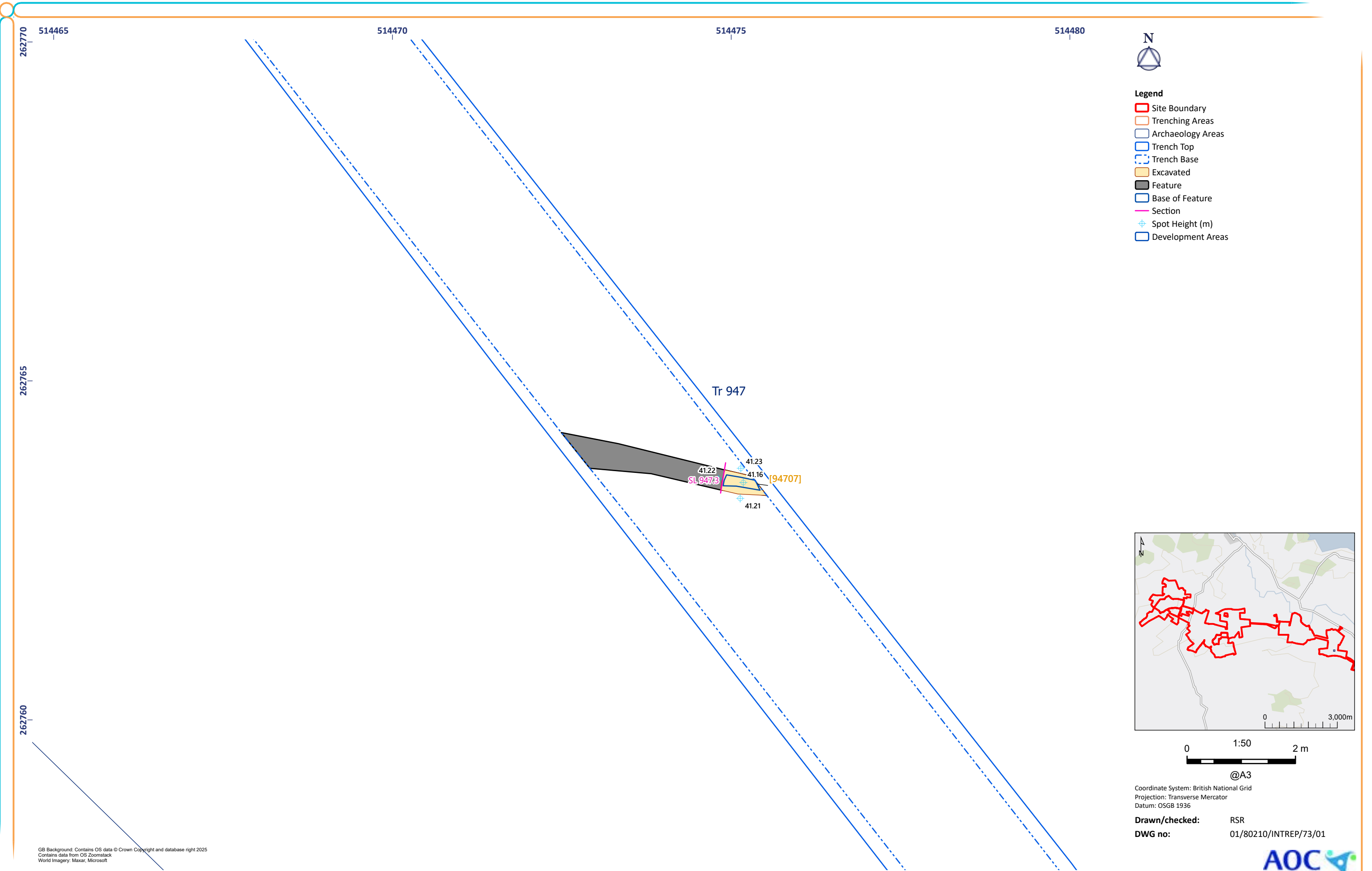


Figure 73: Trench 947 Excavated Features

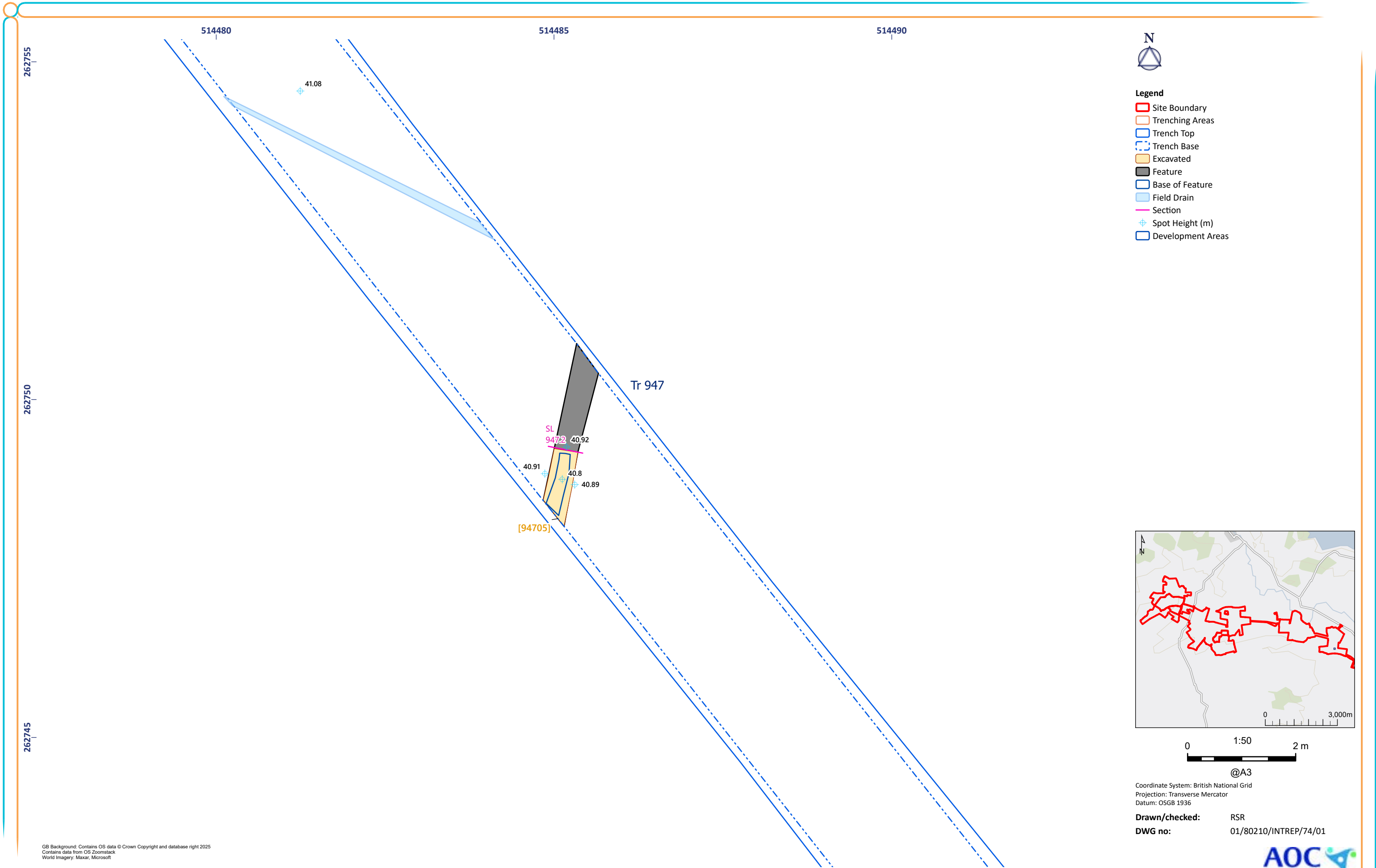


Figure 74: Trench 947 Excavated Features

GB Background: Contains OS data © Crown Copyright and database right 2025
Contains data from OS Zoomstack
World Imagery: Maxar, Microsoft

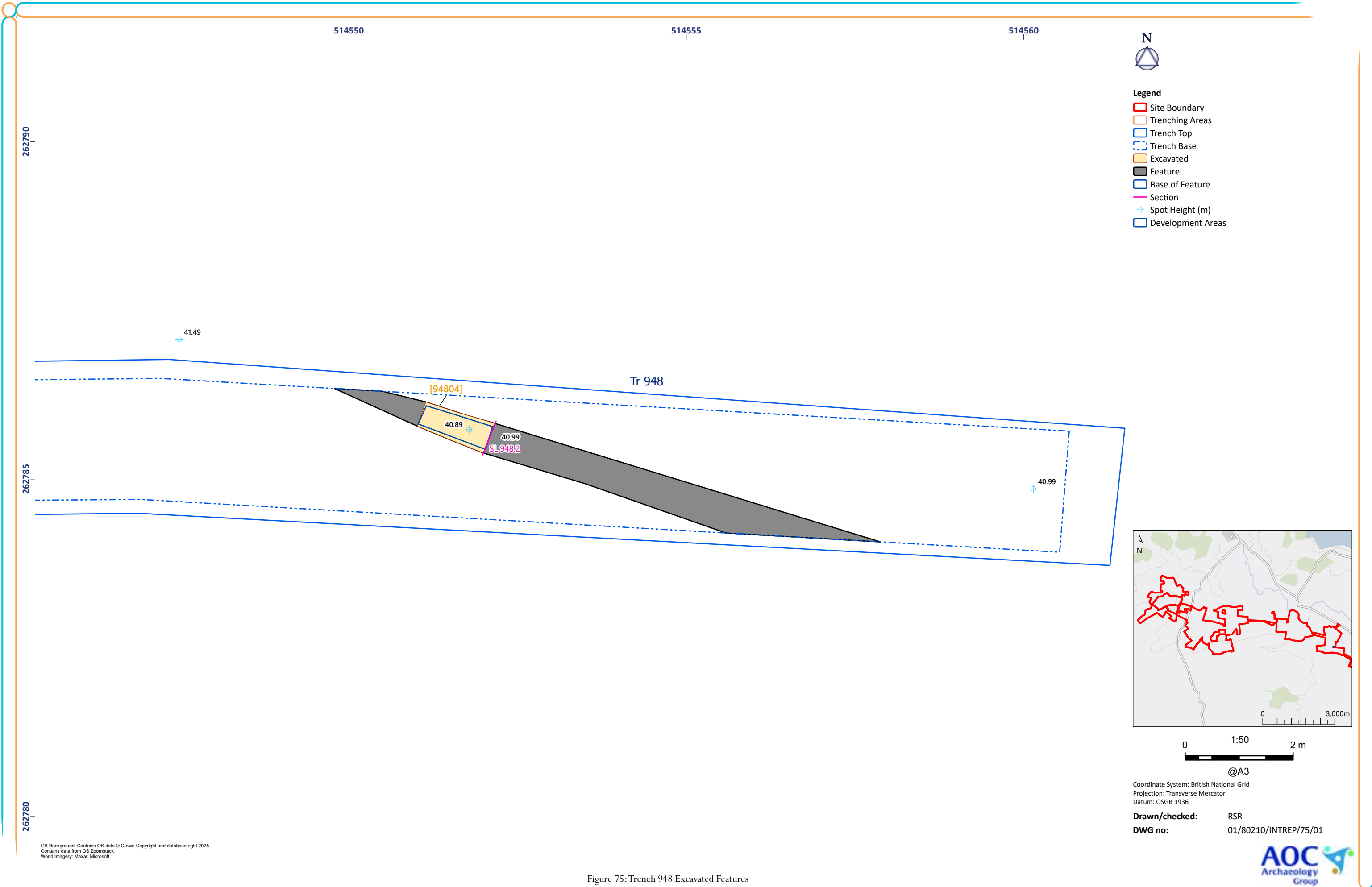
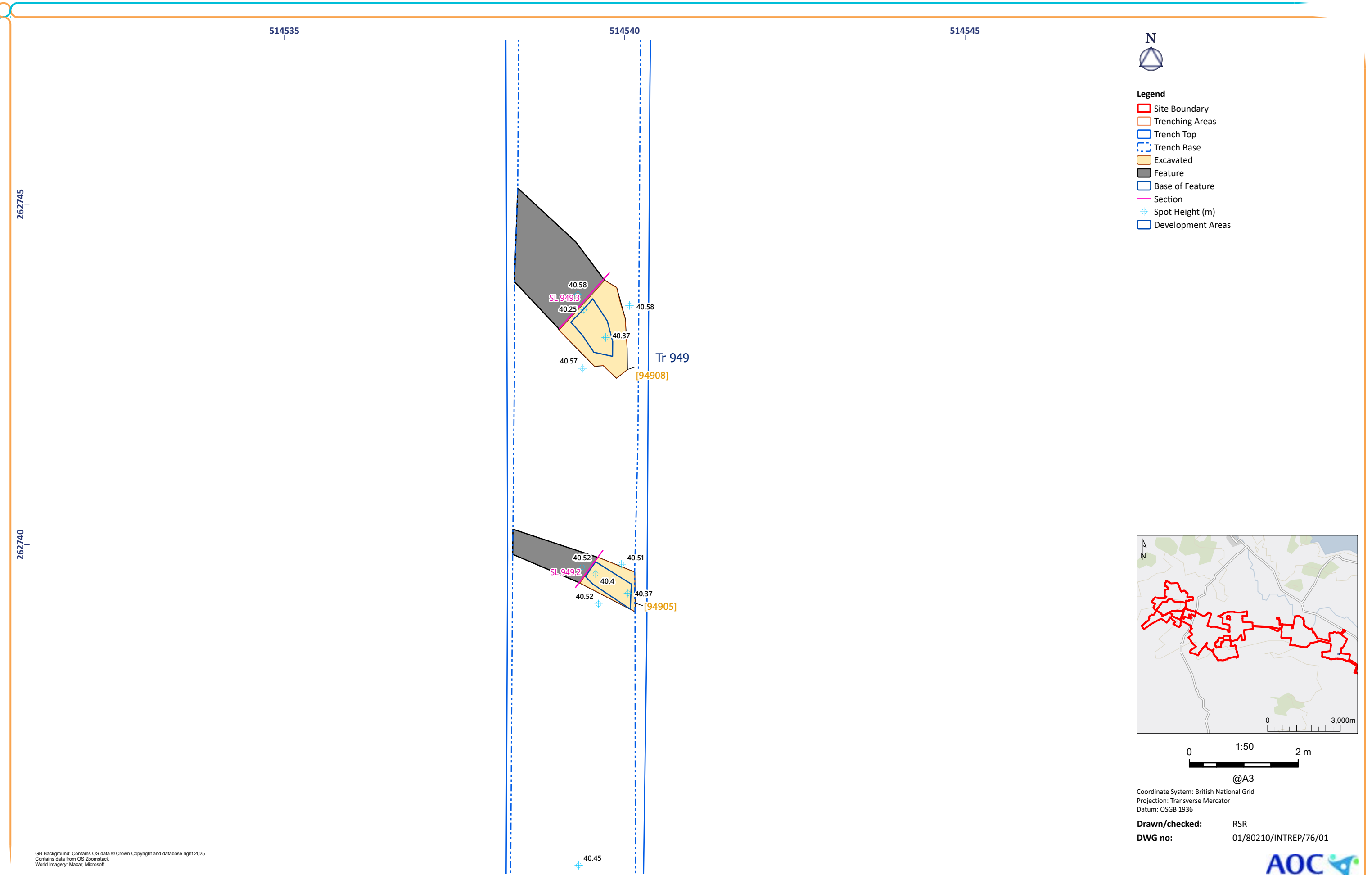
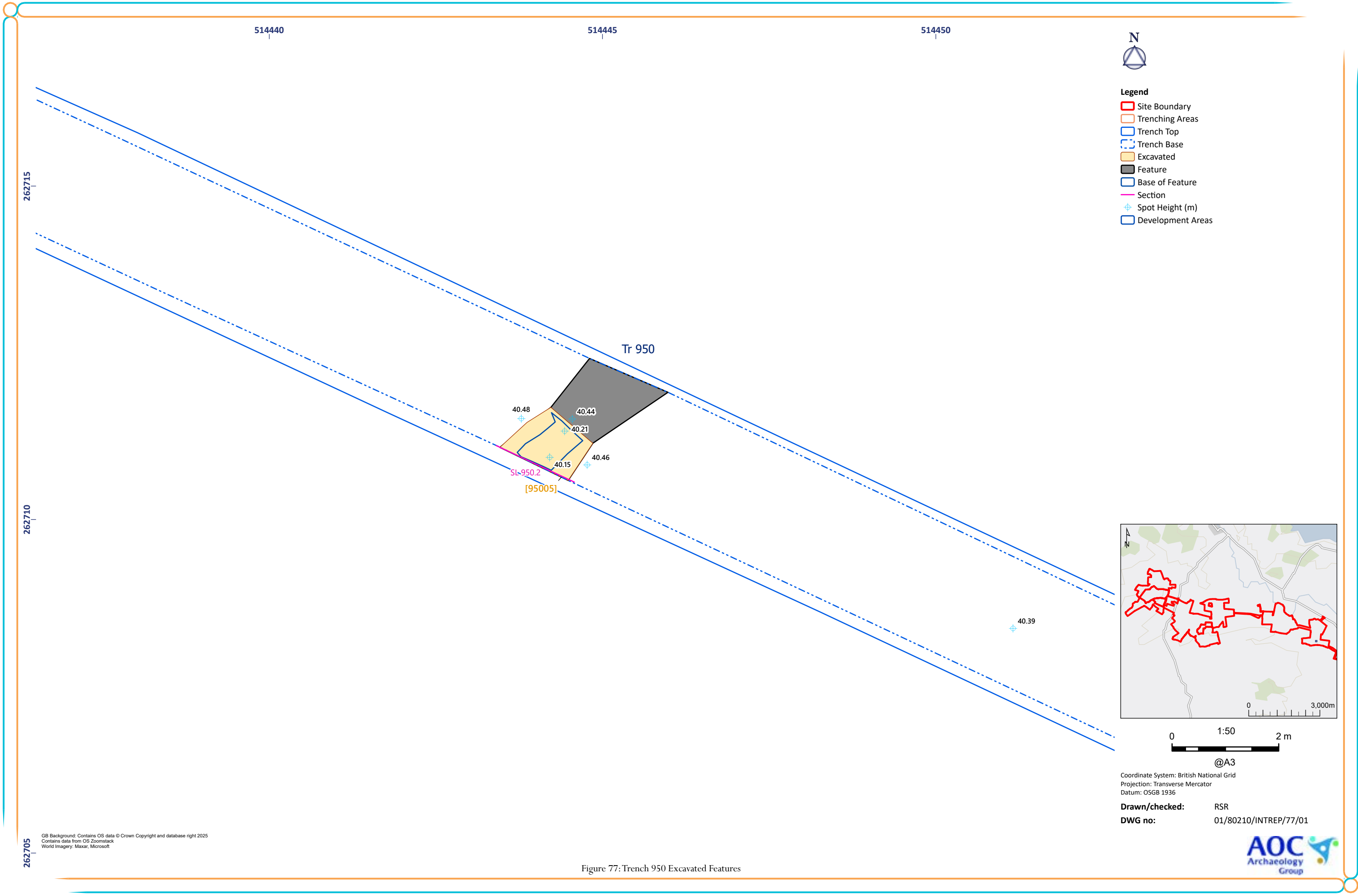


Figure 75: Trench 948 Excavated Features



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Contains data from OS Zoomstack
World Imagery: Maxar, Microsoft



GB Background: Contains OS data © Crown Copyright and database right 2025
Contains data from OS Zoomstack
World Imagery: Maxar, Microsoft

Figure 77: Trench 950 Excavated Features

Coordinate System: British National Grid
Projection: Transverse Mercator
Datum: OSGB 1936
Drawn/checked: RSR
DWG no: 01/80210/INTREP/77/01



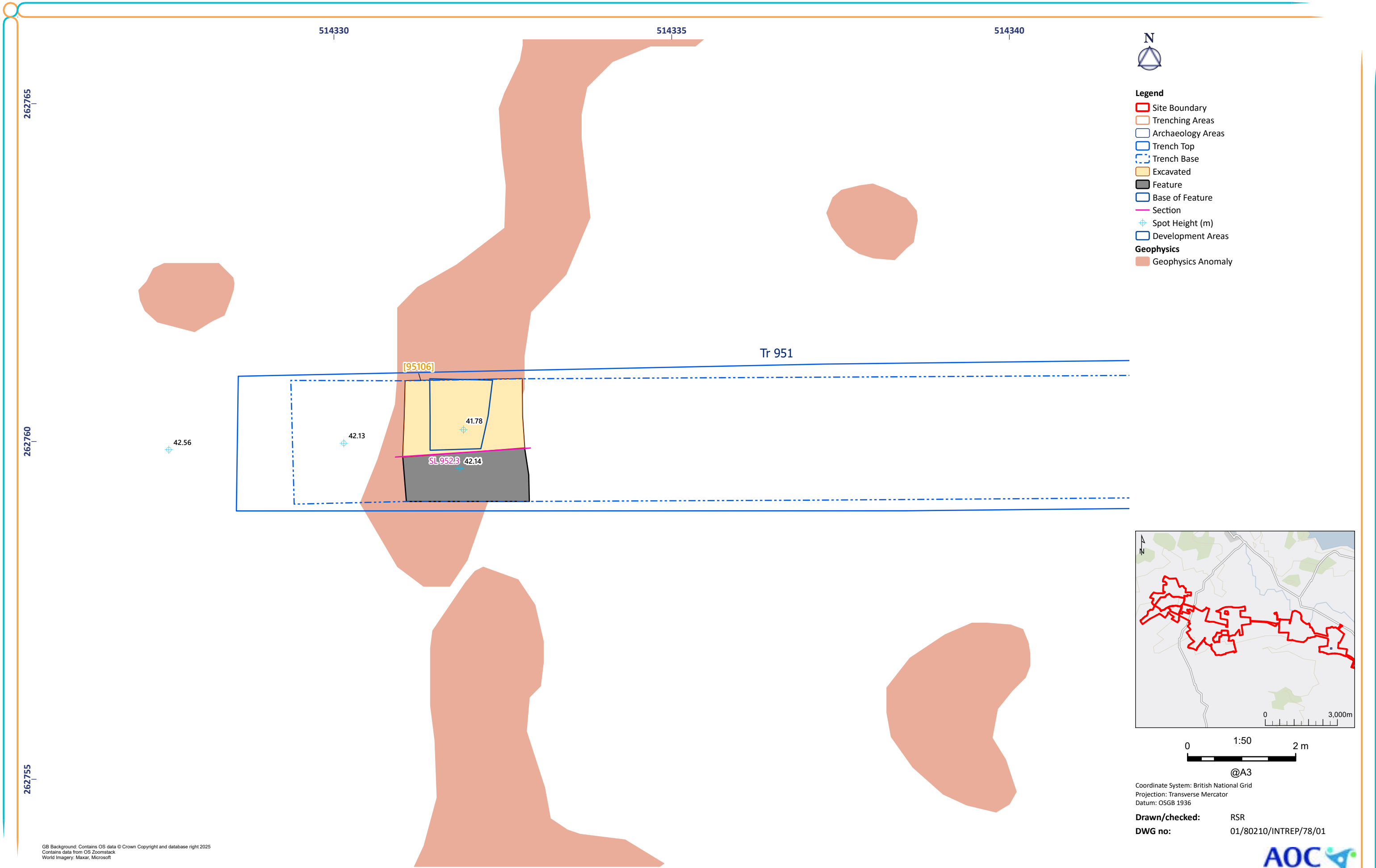


Figure 78: Trench 951 Excavated Features

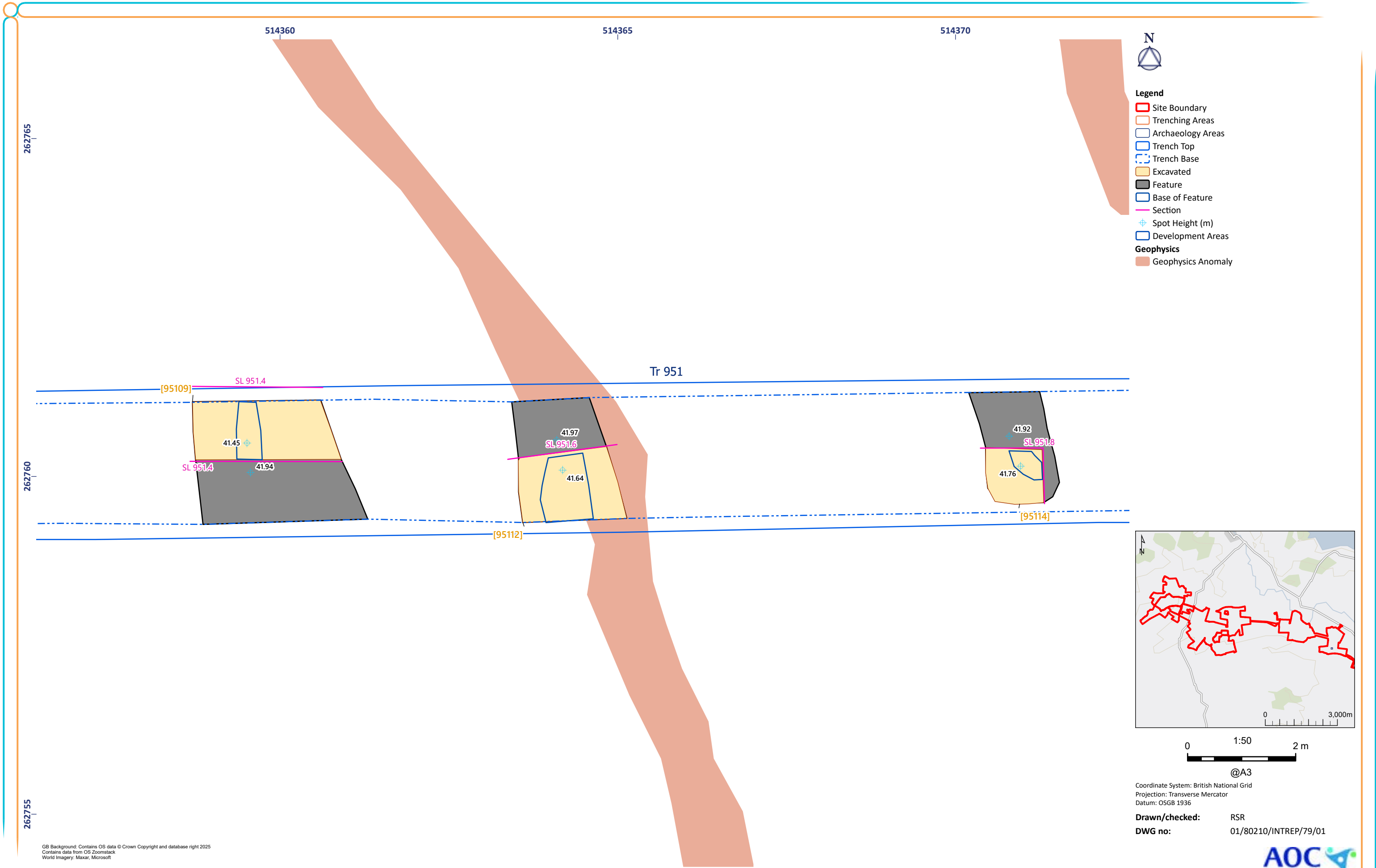
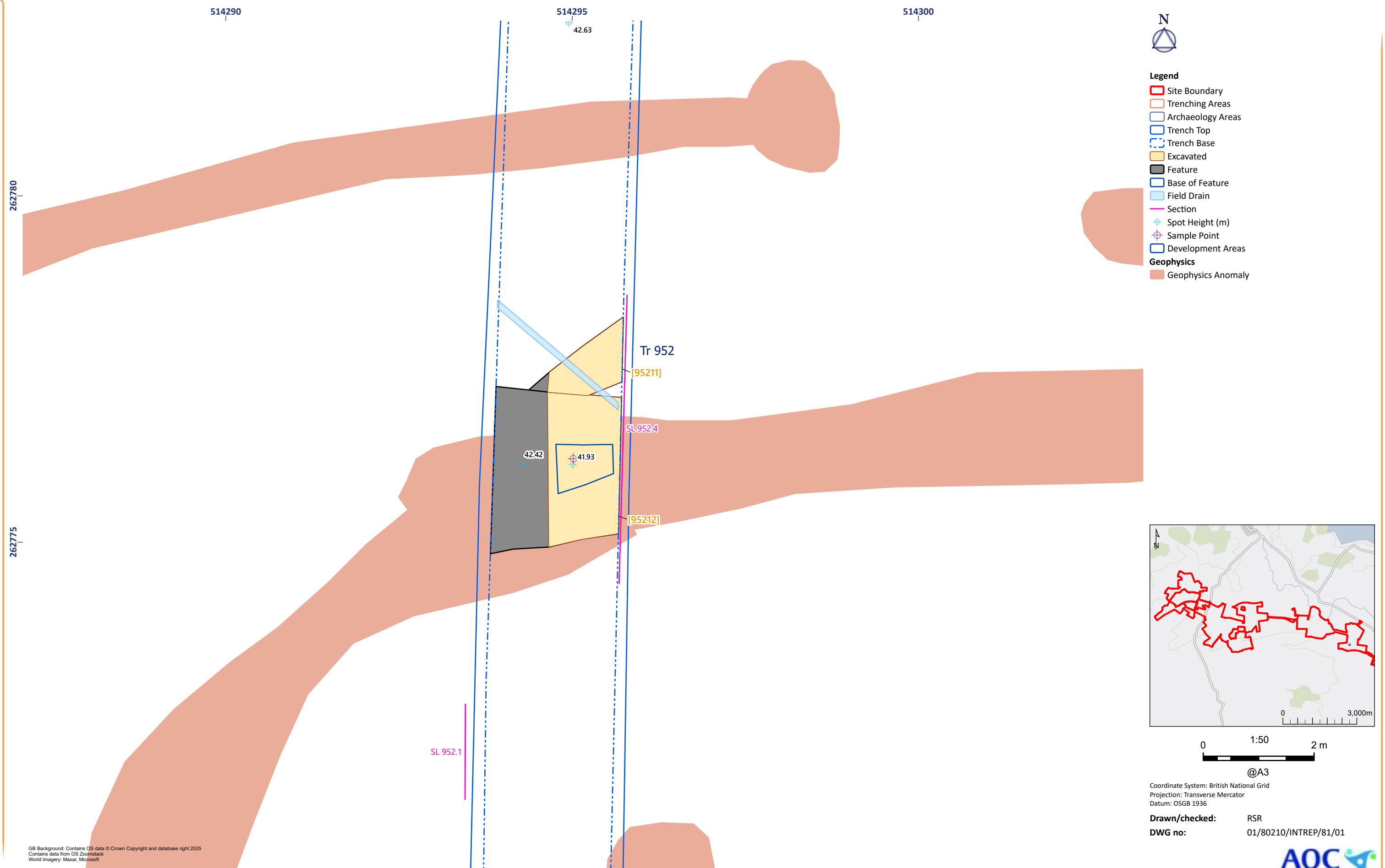


Figure 79: Trench 951 Excavated Features

© AOC Archaeology 2025 | [REDACTED]



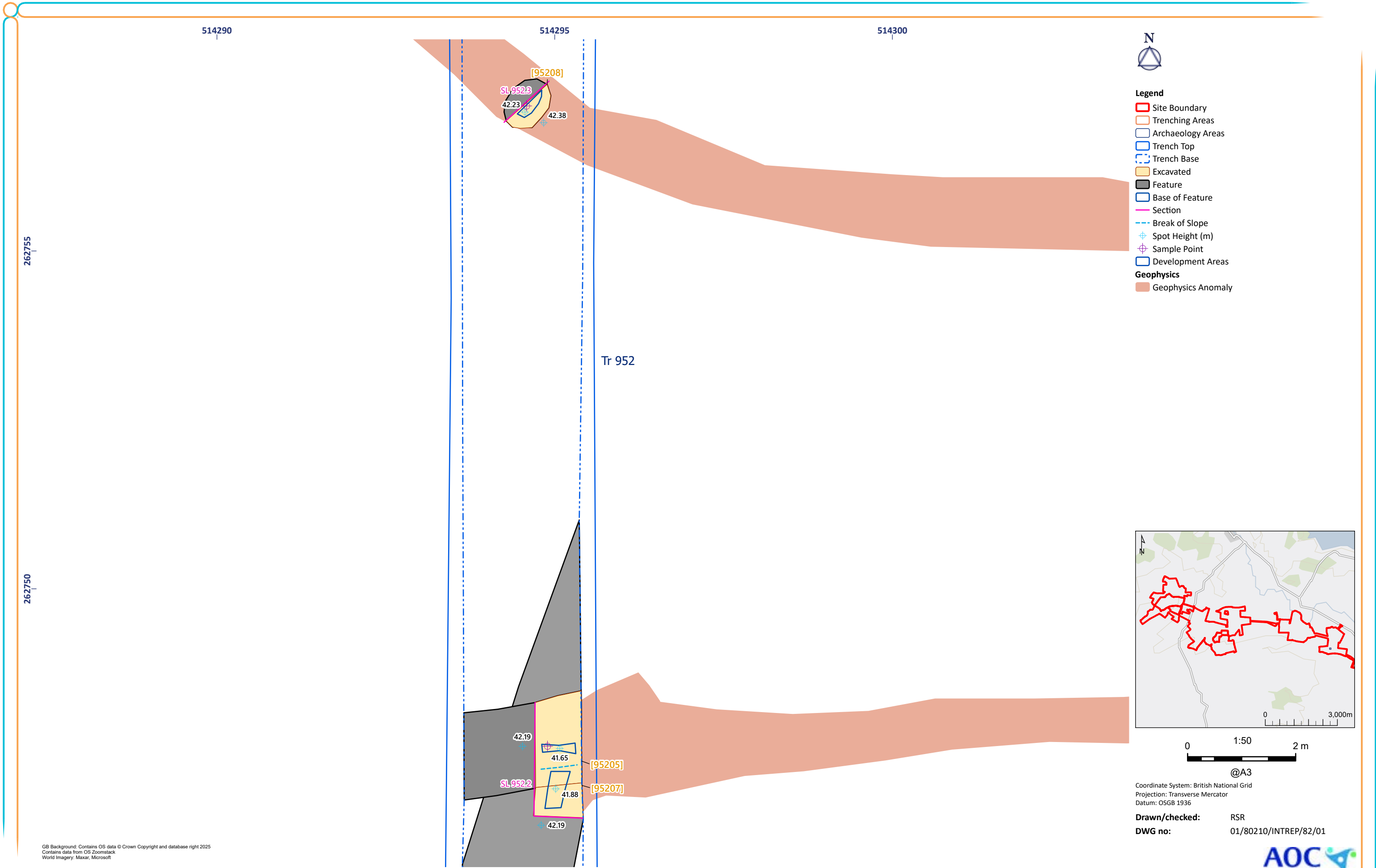


Figure 82: Trench 952 Excavated Features

GB Background: Contains OS data © Crown Copyright and database right 2025
Contains data from OS Zoomstack
World Imagery: Maxar, Microsoft

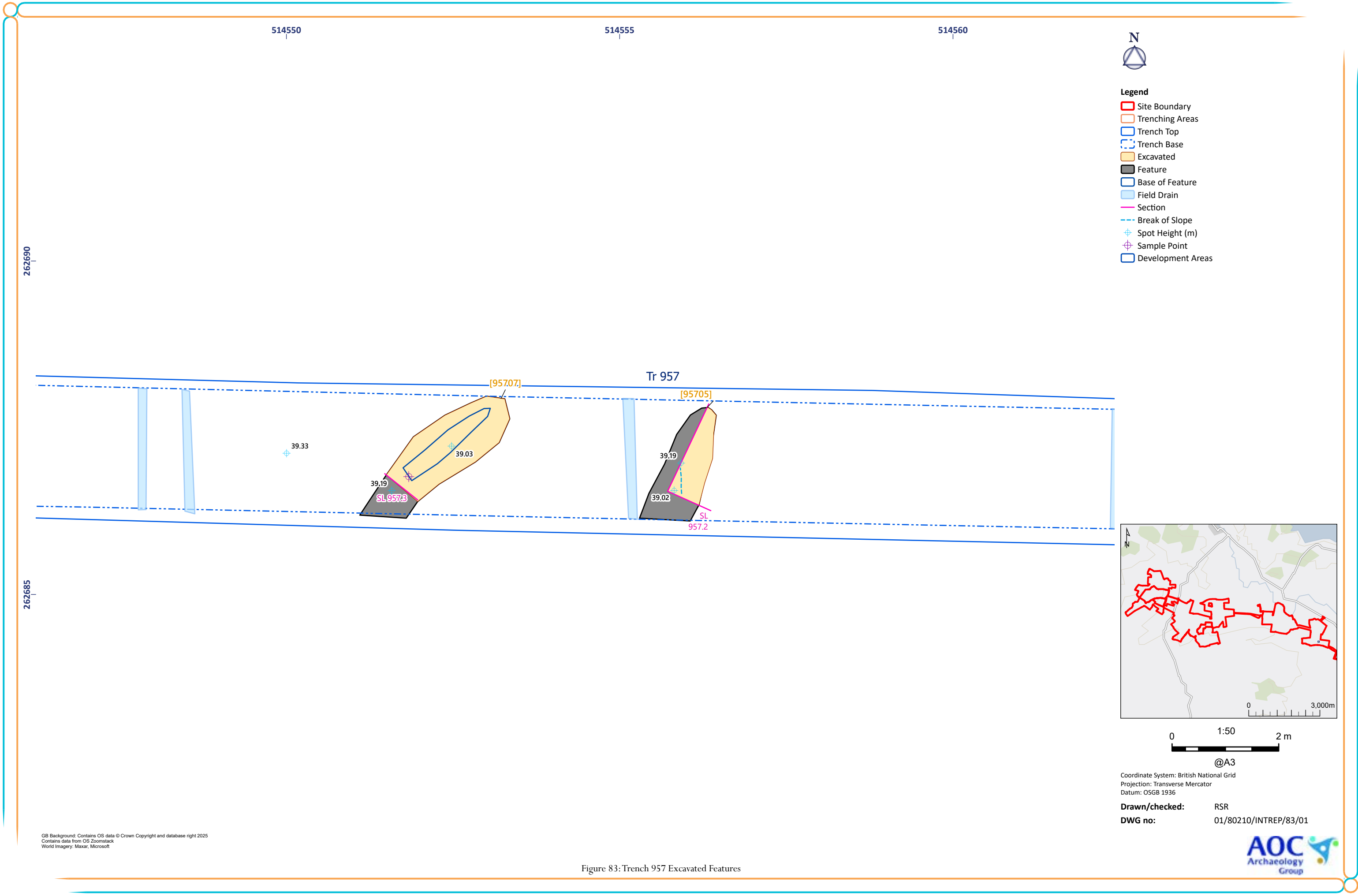


Figure 83: Trench 957 Excavated Features

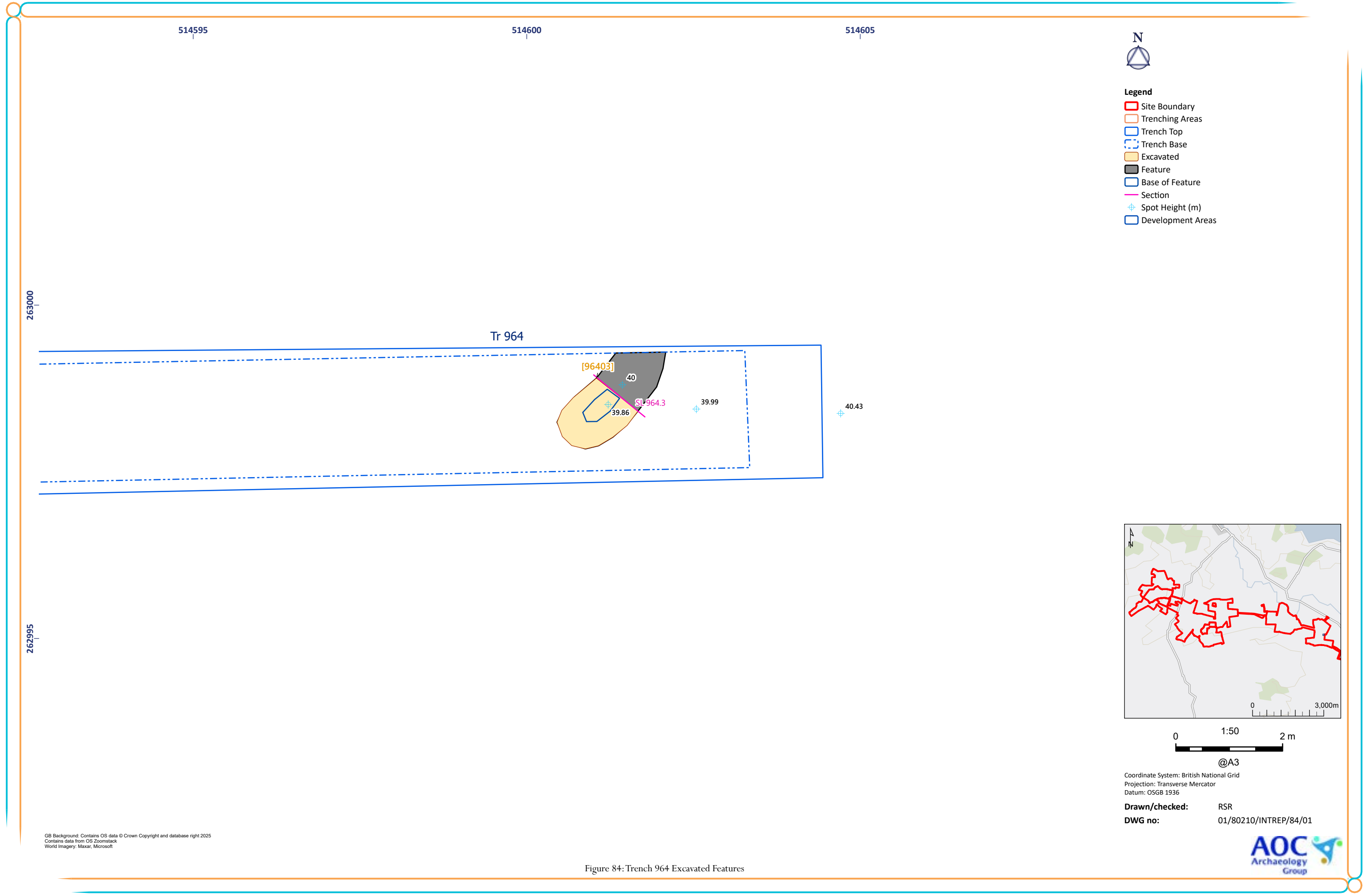
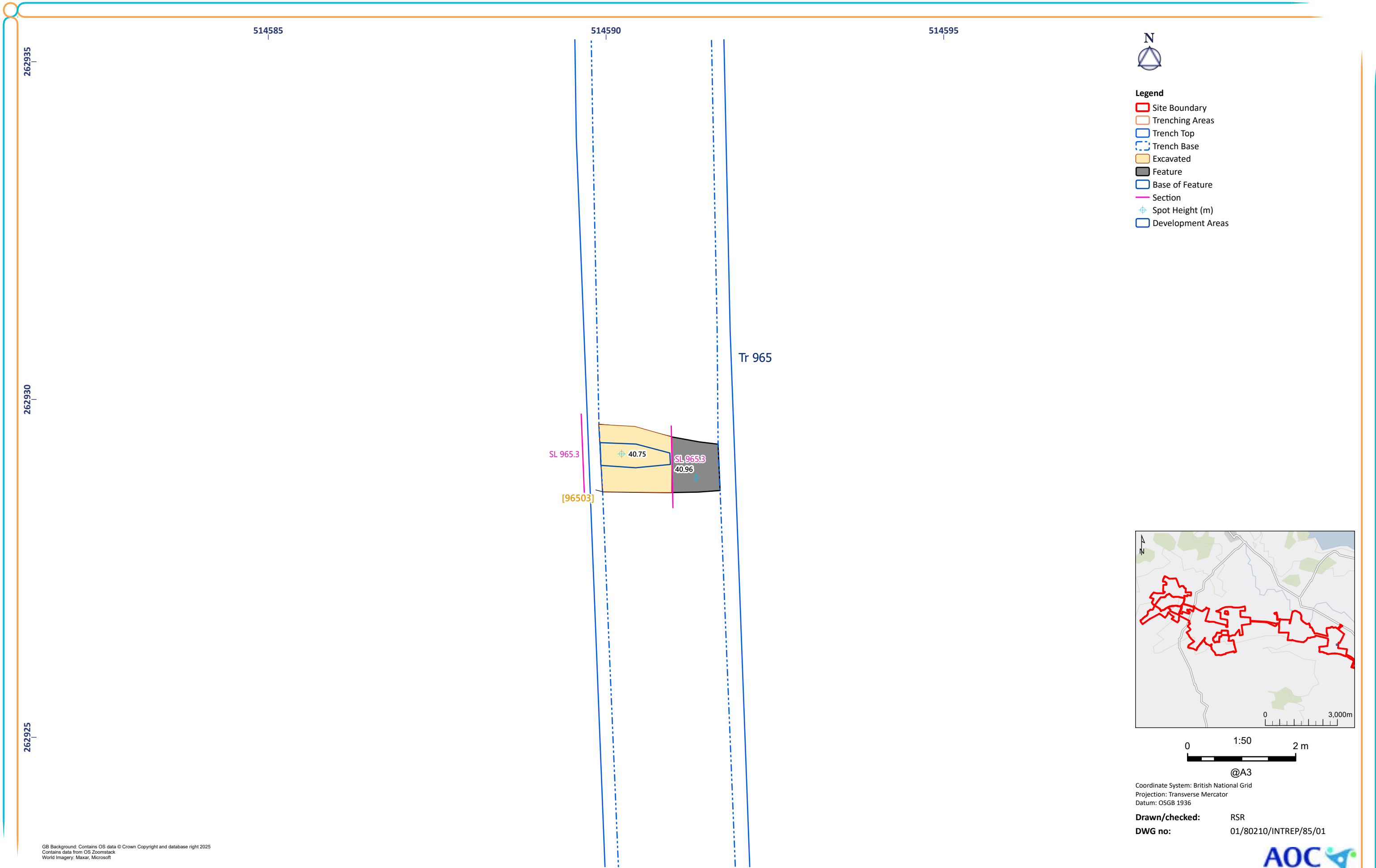
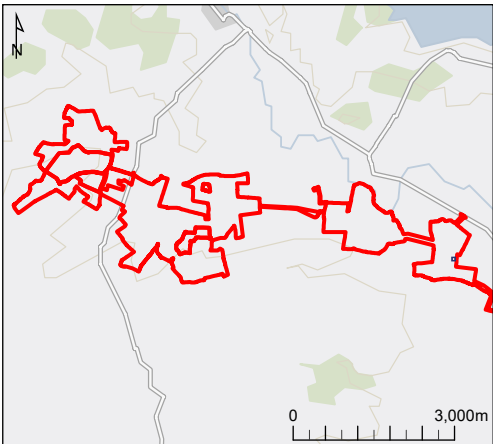


Figure 84: Trench 964 Excavated Features



GB Background: Contains OS data © Crown Copyright and database right 2025
Contains data from OS Zoomstack
World Imagery: Maxar, Microsoft



0 1:50 2 m

@A3

Coordinate System: British National Grid
Projection: Transverse Mercator
Datum: OSGB 1936

Drawn/checked: RSR
DWG no: 01/80210/INTREP/85/01



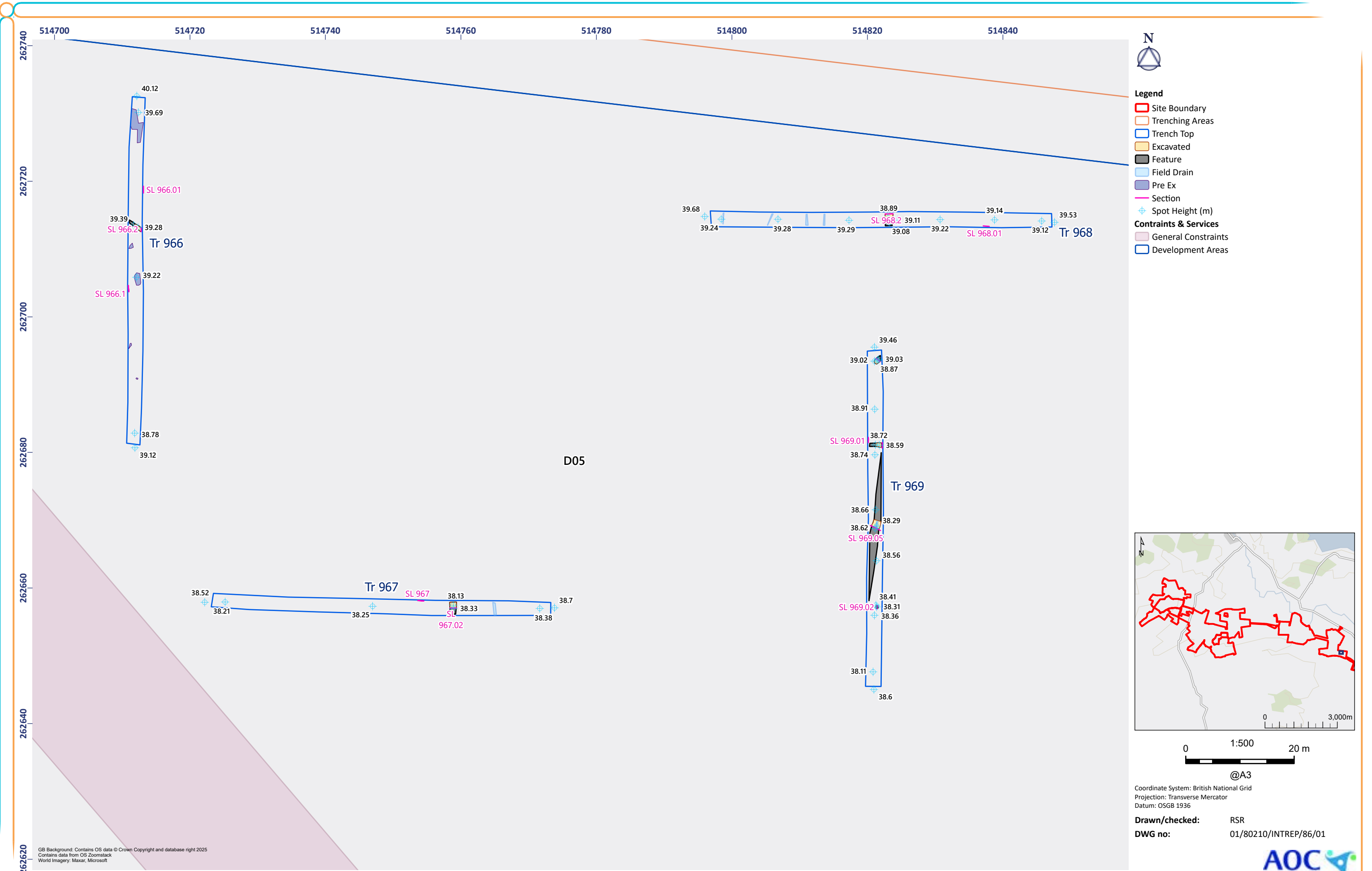


Figure 86: Trenches 966-967

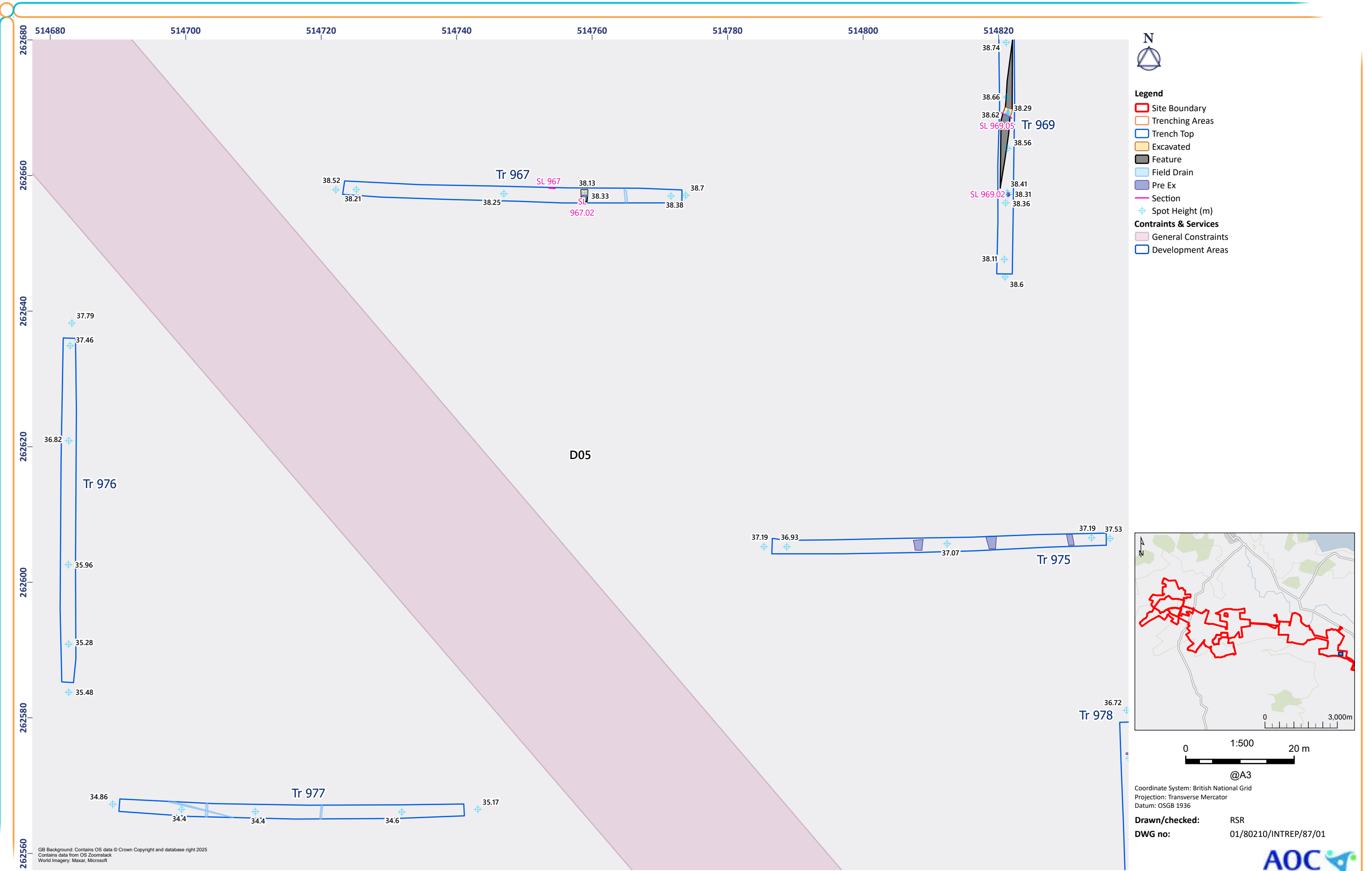


Figure 87: Trenches 967, 975-977

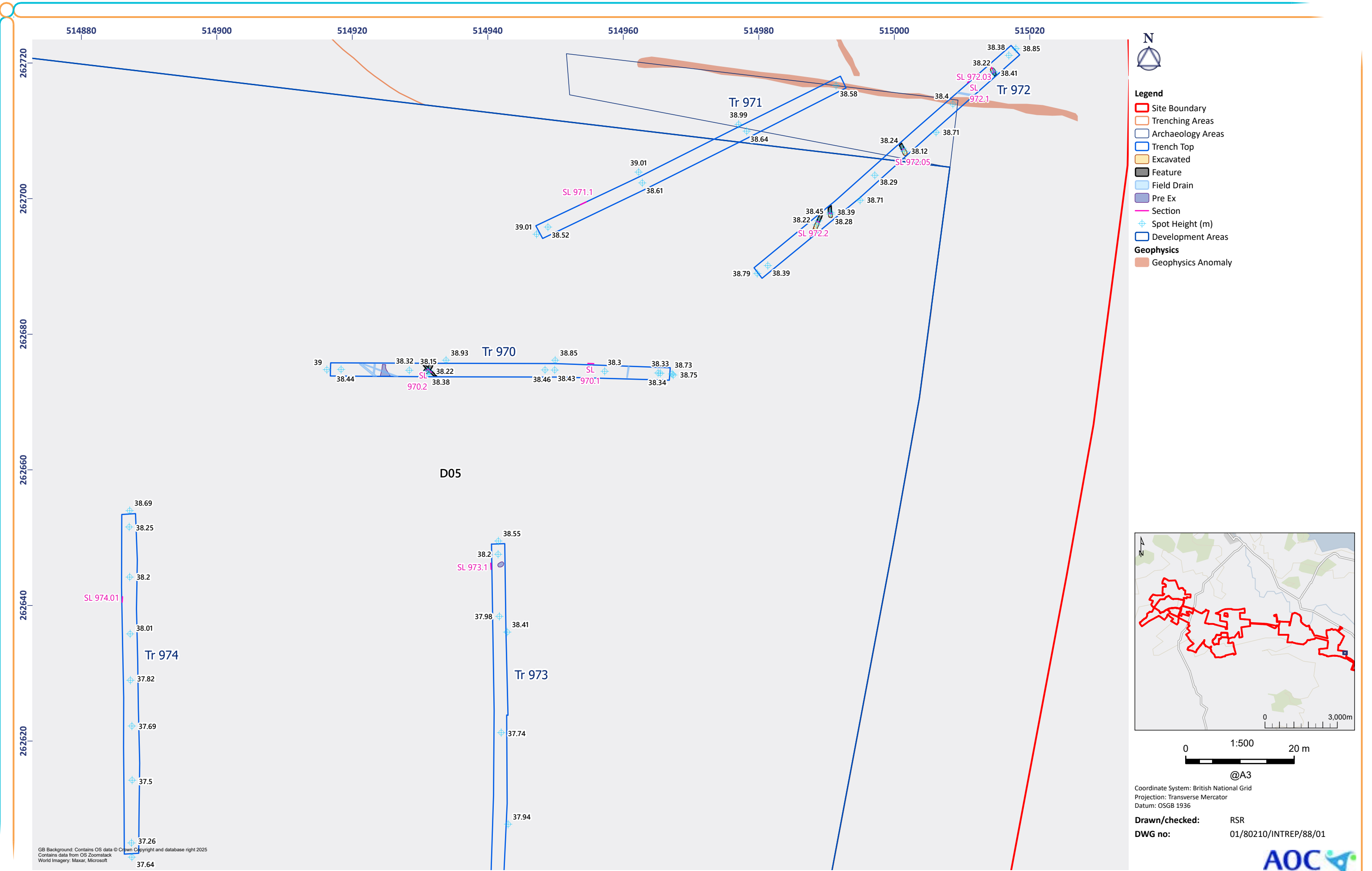


Figure 88: Trenches 974

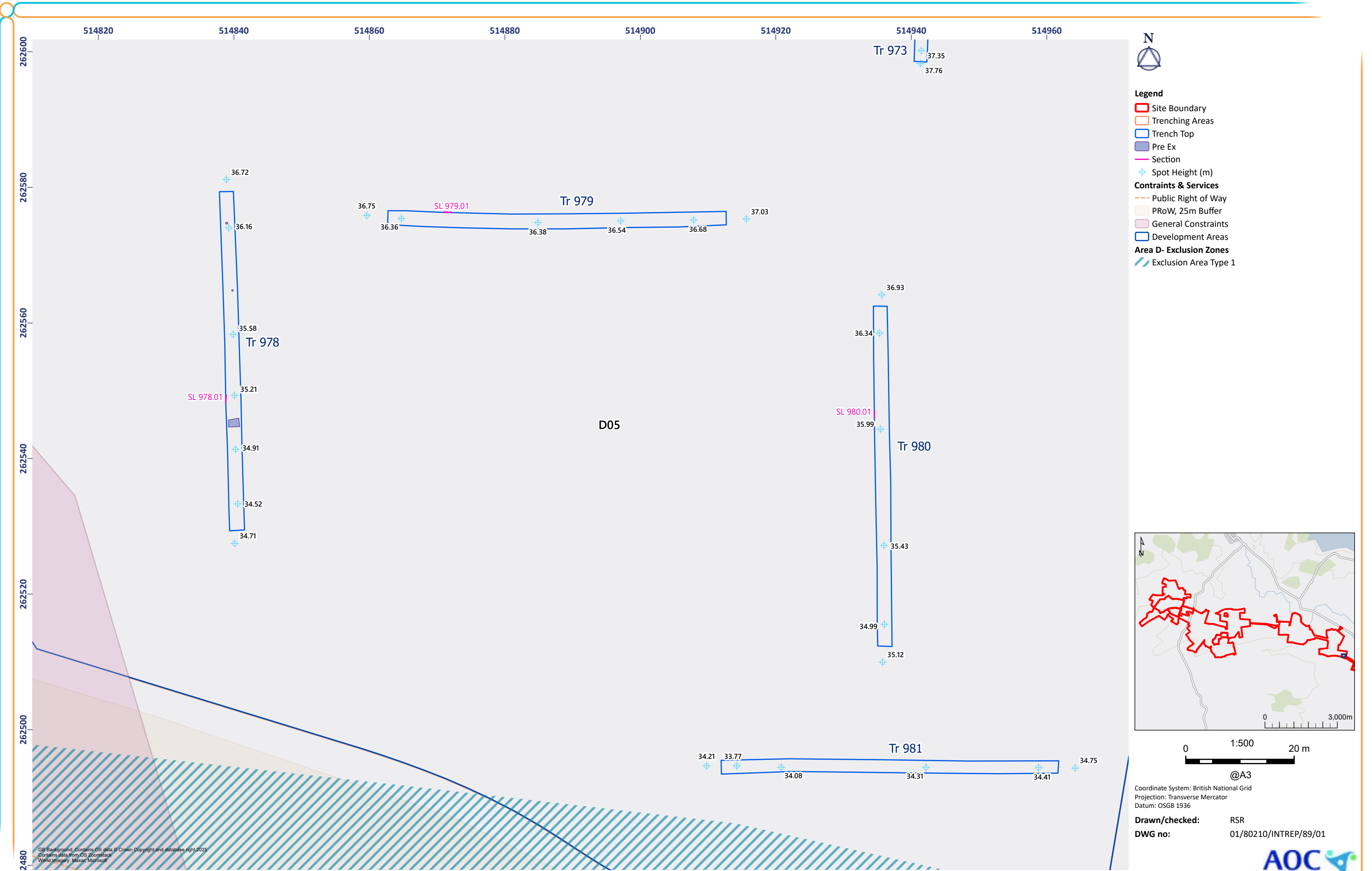
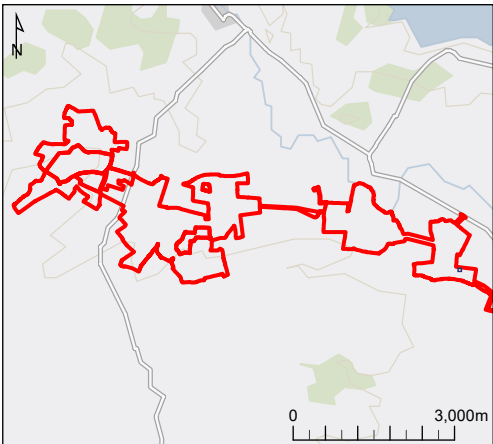
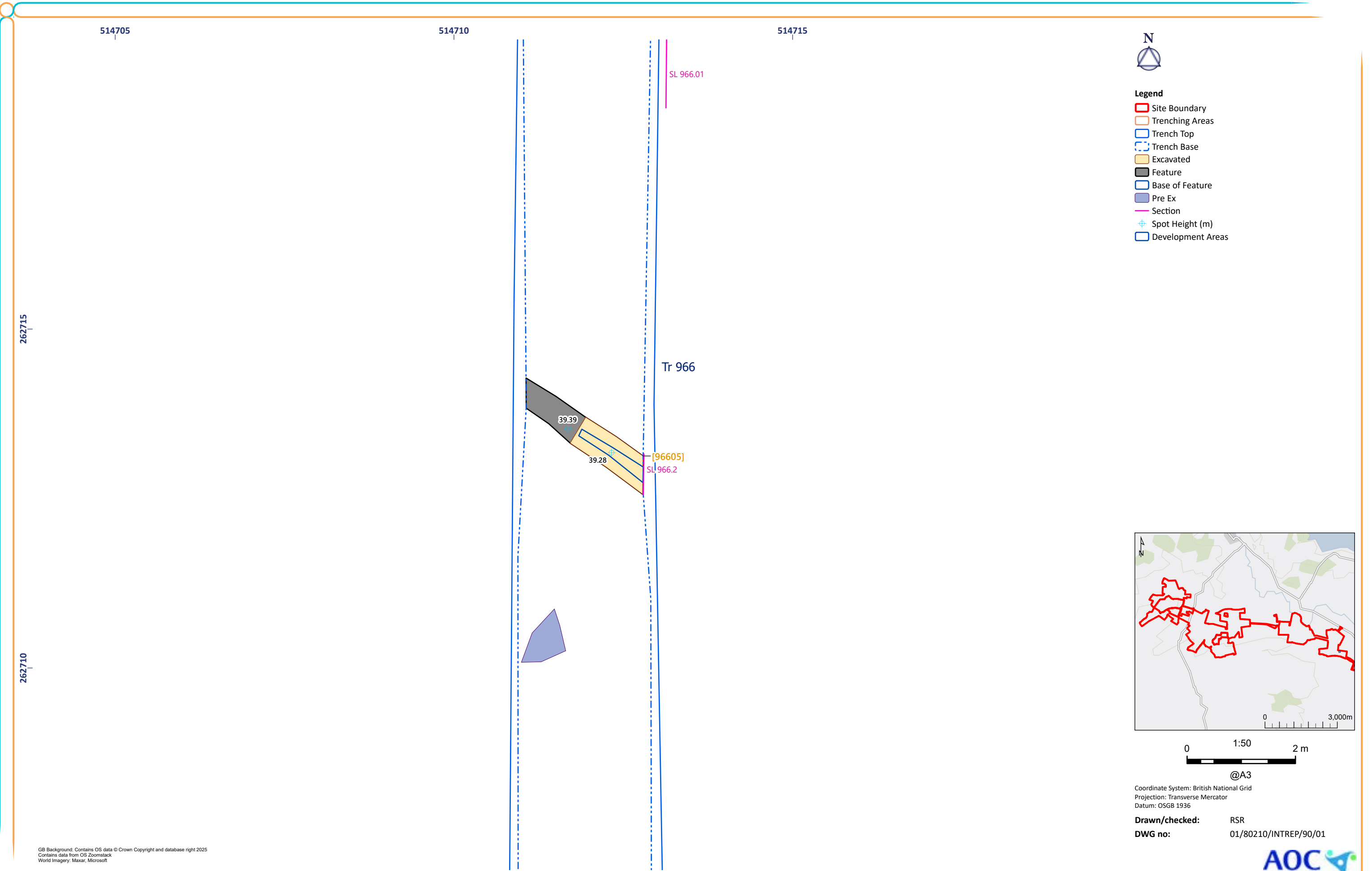


Figure 89: Trenches 978-981



0 1:50 2 m

@A3

Coordinate System: British National Grid
Projection: Transverse Mercator
Datum: OSGB 1936

Drawn/checked: RSR
DWG no: 01/80210/INTREP/90/01

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World Imagery: Maxar, Microsoft



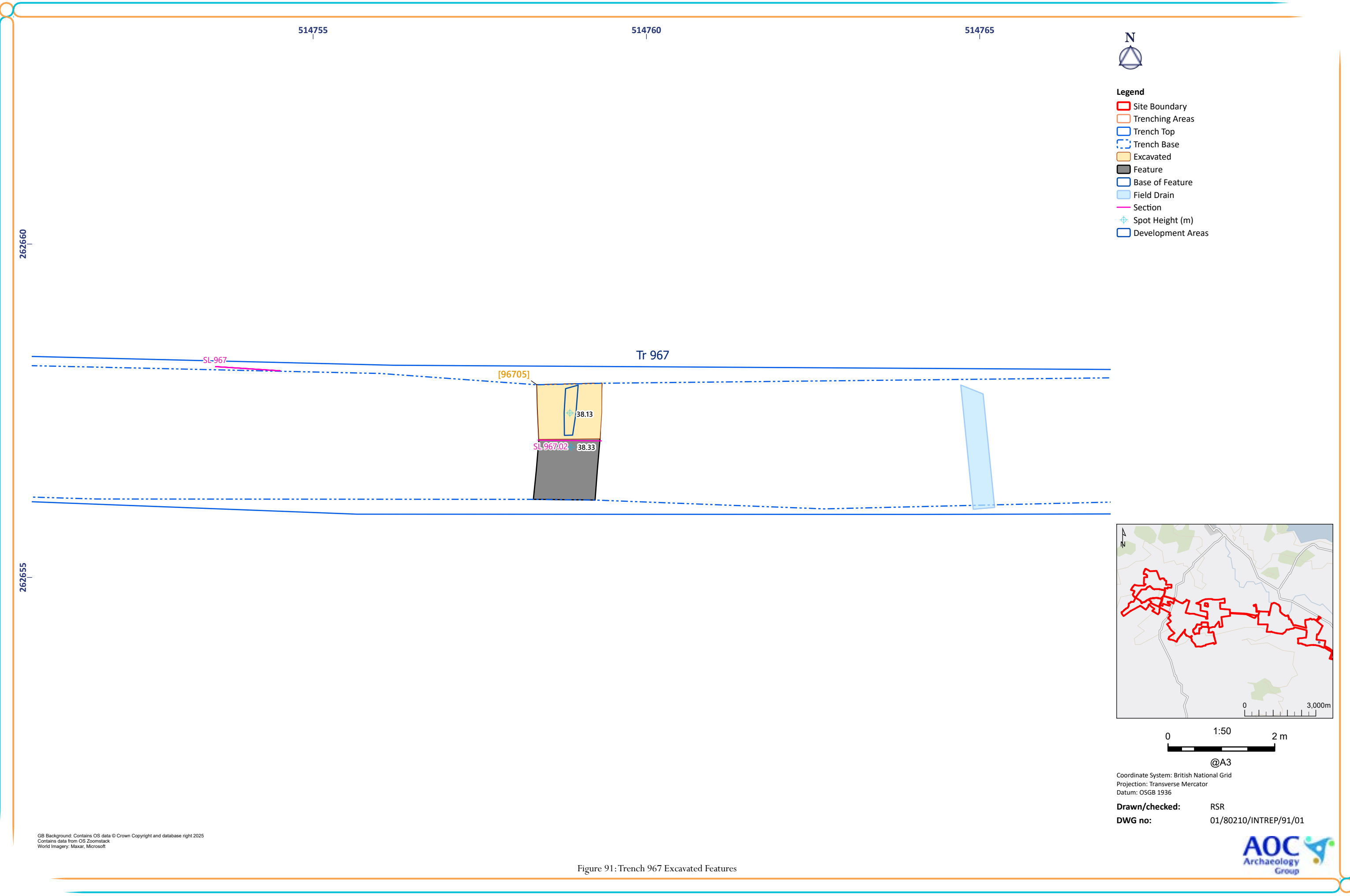


Figure 91: Trench 967 Excavated Features

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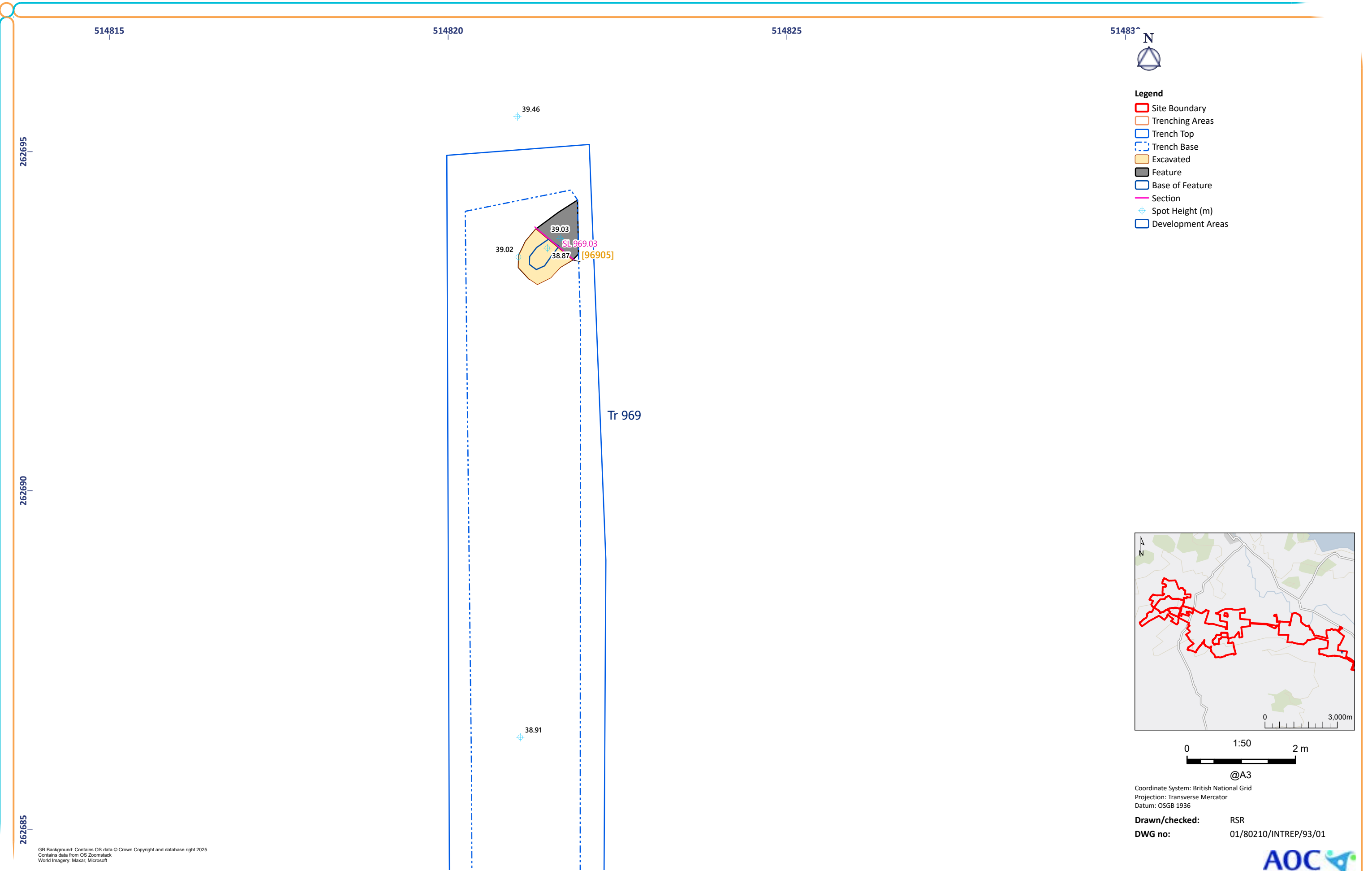
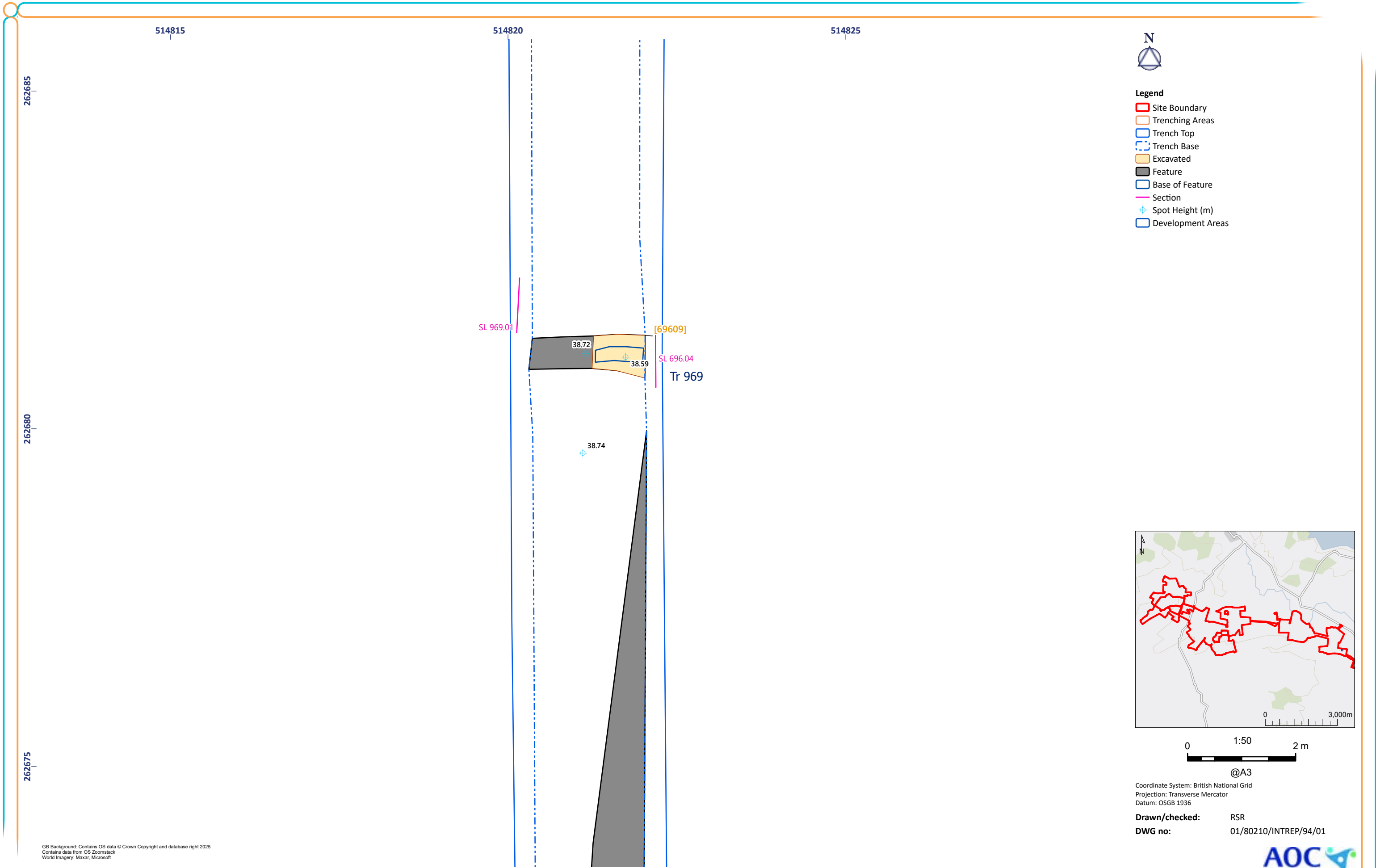


Figure 93: Trench 969 Excavated Features



GB Background: Contains OS data © Crown Copyright and database right 2025
Contains data from OS Zoomstack
World Imagery: Maxar, Microsoft

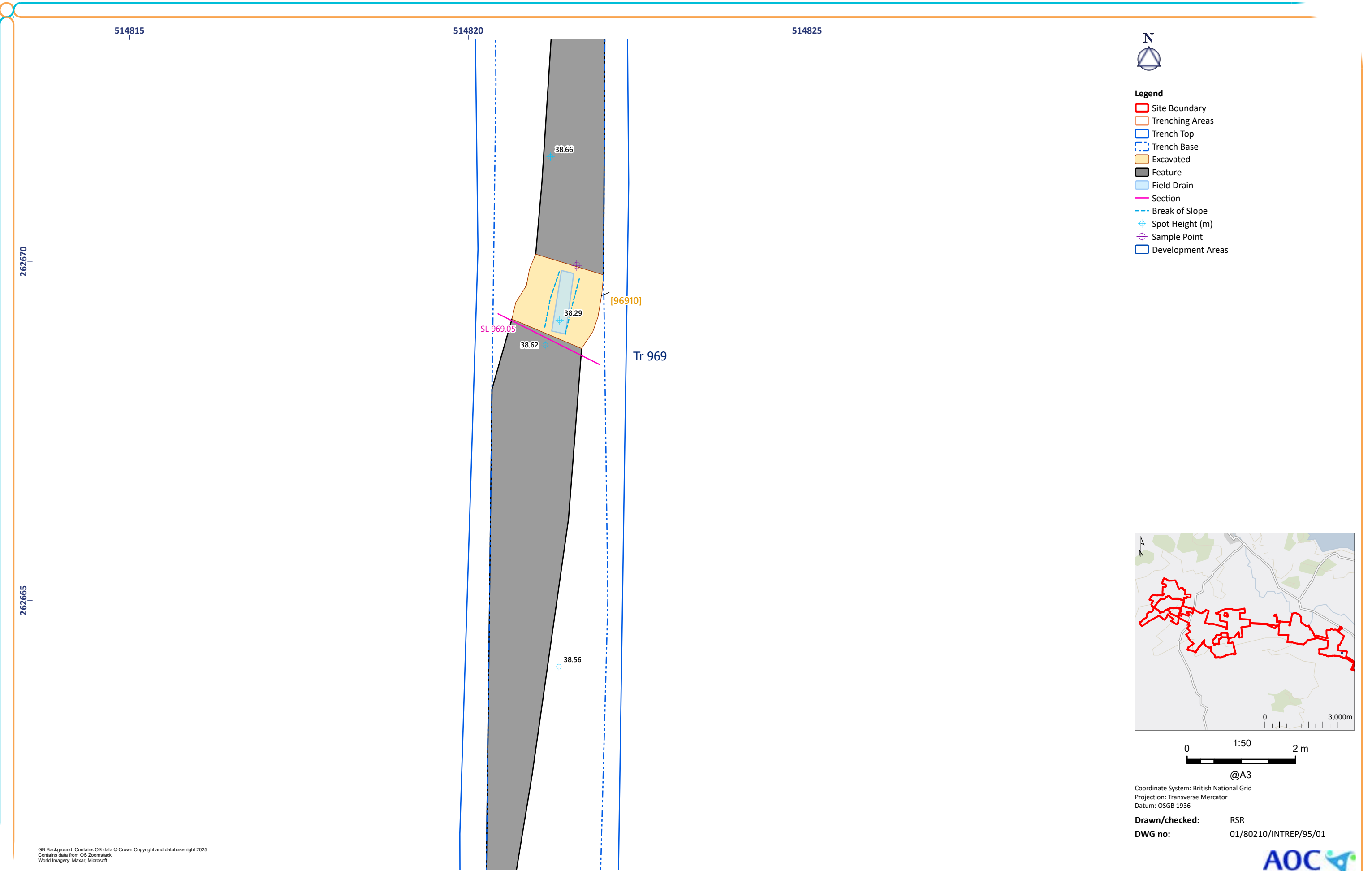


Figure 95: Trench 969 Excavated Features

GB Background: Contains OS data © Crown Copyright and database right 2025
Contains data from OS Zoomstack
World Imagery: Maxar, Microsoft

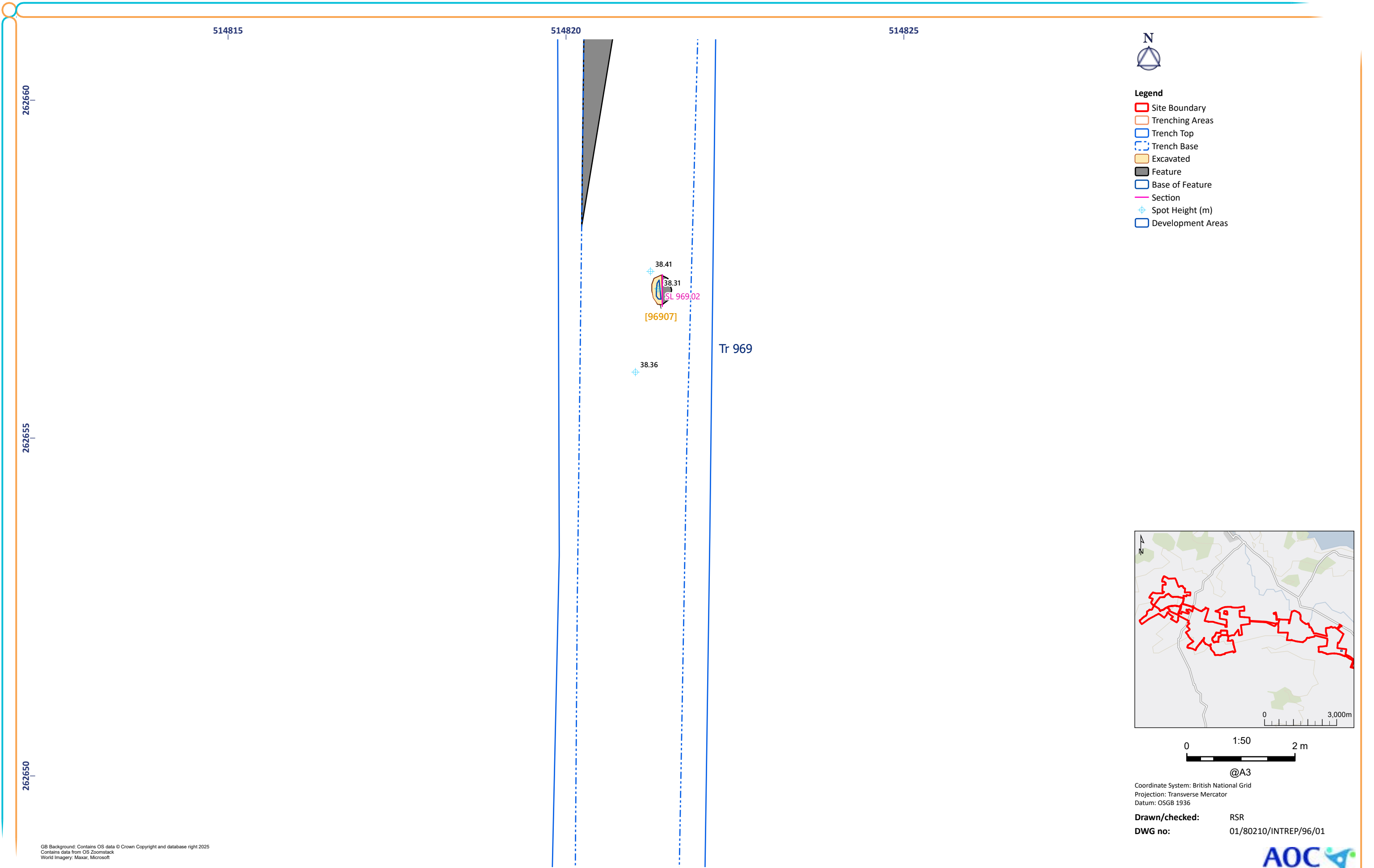














Figure 96: Trench 969 Excavated Features

514935



Legend

-  Site Boundary
-  Trenching Areas
-  Trench Top
-  Trench Base
-  Excavated
-  Feature
-  Field Drain
-  Pre Ex
-  Section
-  Break of Slope
-  Spot Height (m)
-  Development Areas

262680

Tr 970

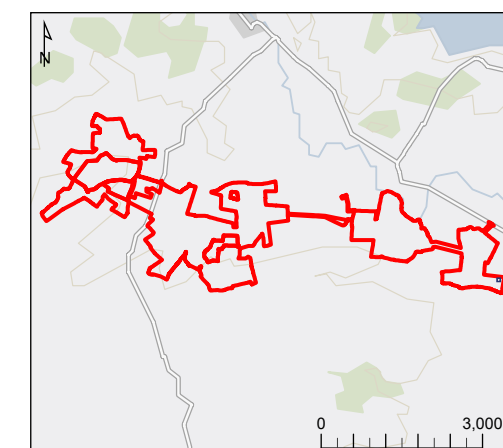
38.93

262675

38.32

Diagram illustrating a fault intersection. The fault segments are labeled SL970.2 and [97007]. Slip vectors are shown as blue arrows, and slip magnitudes are indicated by numbers: 38.15, 38.22, and 38.38. The fault segments are colored yellow and pink.

262670



@A3

Coordinate System: British National Grid
Projection: Transverse Mercator
Datum: OSGB 1936

Drawn/checked: RSR
DWG no: 01/80210/INTREP/97/01

GB Background: Contains OS data © Crown Copyright and database right 2025
Contains data from OS Zoomstack
World Imagery: Maxar, Microsoft



Figure 97: Trench 970 Excavated Features

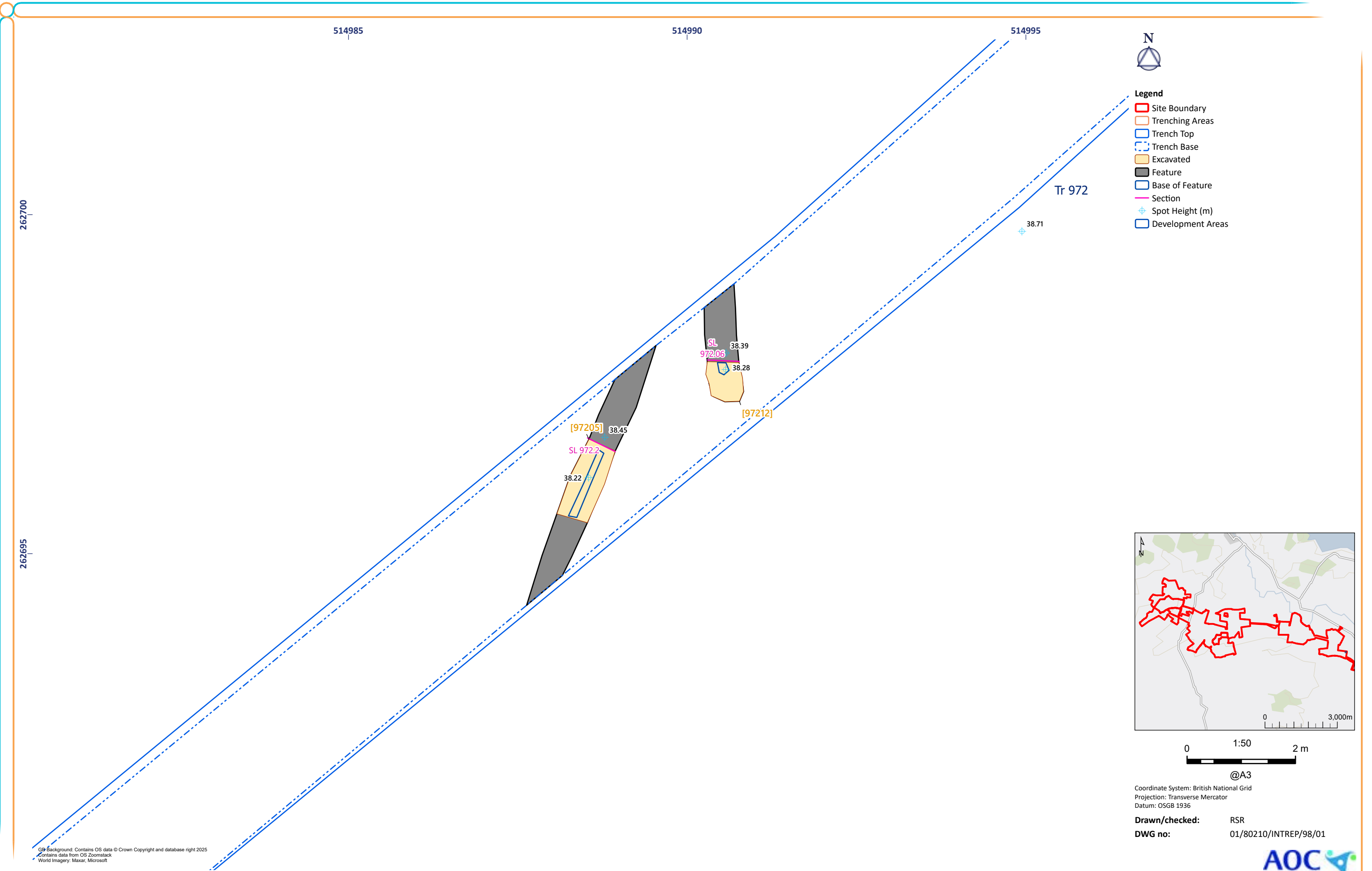
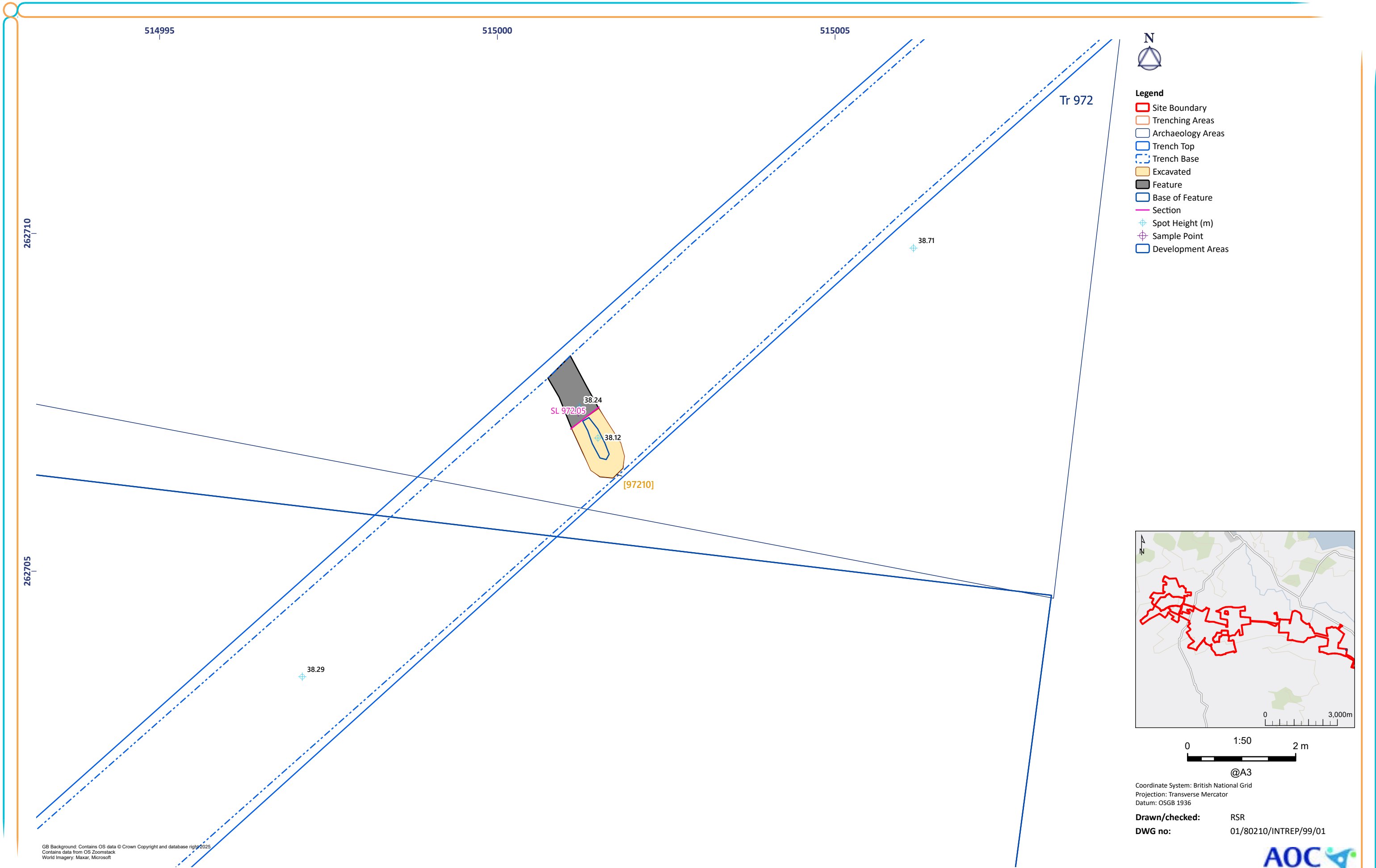


Figure 98: Trench 972 Excavated Features



GB Background: Contains OS data © Crown Copyright and database right 2025
Contains data from OS Zoomstack
World Imagery: Maxar, Microsoft

Figure 99: Trench 972 Excavated Features

Coordinate System: British National Grid
Projection: Transverse Mercator
Datum: OSGB 1936
Drawn/checked: RSR
DWG no: 01/80210/INTREP/99/01



