

# Archaeological Evaluation of Land at Biggins Wood, Caesars Way, Folkestone, Kent



NGR: 620250 1374450

Site Code: BIGG/EV/16

(Planning Application: Y13/0024/SH)

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# **Archaeological Evaluation of Land at Biggins Wood, Caesars Way, Folkestone, Kent**

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Site Code: BIGG-EV-16

## **1. Summary**

*Swale & Thames Survey Company (SWAT) carried out an archaeological evaluation of land at Biggins Wood rear of Carter Wallace, Caesars Way, Folkestone in Kent. A Planning Application (Y13/0024/SH) to develop this site for 77 dwellings and associated landscaping and other works to Shepway District Council, whereby the Council requested that an Archaeological Evaluation be undertaken in order to determine the possible impact of the development on any archaeological remains. The work was carried out in accordance with the requirements set out within an Archaeological Specification (KCC Specification A and Manual Part B) and in discussion with the Senior Archaeological Heritage Officer, Kent County Council. The results of the excavation of 12 evaluation trenches of Phase 1 revealed that no archaeological features were present within the trenches (Figure 17). The natural geology of Upper Greensand and Gault deposits was reached at an average depth of between 0.65m and 0.70m below the modern ground surface. Out of the 12 planned trenches two had to be abandoned because of ponding with associated wildlife and three trenches were found to be in an area of made-up ground and excavation of test pits either end of the projected trench stopped at about 2m below present ground level. A WWII concrete shelter was located in the south east boundary corner of the site and was not threatened by the archaeological trenching programme (Plate 14). The Archaeological Evaluation has therefore been successful in fulfilling the primary aims and objectives of the Archaeological Specification.*

## **2. Introduction**

Swale & Thames Survey Company (SWAT) was commissioned by RDA Architects to carry out an archaeological evaluation at the above site. The work was carried out in accordance with the requirements set out within an Archaeological Specification (KCC 2016) and in discussion with the Senior Archaeological Heritage Officer, Kent County Council. The evaluation was carried out on the 7<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup> & 12<sup>th</sup> April 2016.

## **3. Site Description and Topography**

The proposed development site is located north of Cheriton, Folkestone and situated to the south of the M20 at NGR 620250 1374450, to the east of Caesars Way and to the north of residential development. The site was historically utilised for brickworks, quarry and pond before being backfilled (Figures 1-16). The area of proposed development is about 4.08 hectares.

The site is generally flat at about 54m OD apart from the north-east corner which rises to about 55m OD. The site is wet with ponding in the western area of the site.

The underlying geology is mapped as Upper Greensand and Gault Deposits. The Superficial Geology is recorded as a combination of Clay and Silt (BGS 2016).

#### **4. Planning Background**

Shepway District Council gave planning permission (Y13/0024/SH) for development of land at Biggins Wood, rear of Carter Wallace, Caesars Way, Folkestone, Kent.

On the advice of the Wendy Rogers, Senior Archaeological Officer (KCC) a programme of archaeological works in the form of an initial archaeological evaluation was attached to the consent:

*(Condition ) No development shall take place until the applicant, or their agents or successors in title, has secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological work, in accordance with a written scheme of investigation and timetable which has 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.

The results from this evaluation will be used to inform KCC Heritage and Shepway Council of any further archaeological mitigation measures that may be necessary in connection with the development proposals.

#### **5. Archaeological and Historical Background**

The application site lies within an area with little known archaeology. However to the south a Bronze Age flint arrowhead was recovered (MKE 67948). A number of Anglo-Saxon sites are known to the west of the site. A WWII pillbox or air raid shelter has been located in the south-east boundary of the site (TR 23 NW 513 & Plate 14). This fortified structure is the subject of a planning condition on the present planning permission.

A rapid OS map regression exercise was carried out and the first phase of trenching overlaid over the individual maps (Figures 1-10).

The OS map of 1872 (Figure 1) shows the proposed development area (PDA) as wood with Brickworks located to the south-east but off-site.

By 1898 (Figure 2) the brickworks extraction of clay had started to encroach on the south-east corner of the site.

The OS map of 1907 (Figure 3) shows that the brickfield has encroached even more and the mapping shows that 50% of Trench 3 should be in quarry backfill of which it was.

By 1933 (Figure 4) more than half the PDA has been quarried out and Trench 4 should be in backfill but was not.

The OS map of 1957 (Figure 6) shows a massive pond but both Trench 4 and Trench 6 on the edge with a small area of Trench 6 in the pond area which evaluation shows it was.

There is little change to the PDA but to the south the entire area has been developed as residential housing with access roads 'Biggins Wood Road and Charles Crescent' replacing the brickworks.

The pond is still there in 1958 (Figure 7) but backfilled by 1982-84 (Figure 11) and the A20 constructed to the north of the site.

## 6. Aims and Objectives

According to the KCC Archaeological Specification, the aims and objectives for the archaeological work were to ensure that:

"The programme of archaeological work should be carried out in a phased approach and will commence with evaluation through trial trenching. This initial phase should determine whether any significant archaeological remains would be affected by the development and if so what mitigation measures are appropriate. Such measures may include further detailed archaeological excavation, historic buildings recording and/or an archaeological watching brief during construction work. This specification sets out the requirements for trial trenching on the site and any further archaeological work, such as detailed excavation work or a watching brief, would need to be subject to further specifications' (KCC 2016: 2).

## 7. Methodology

The Archaeological Specification called for an evaluation by trial trenching comprising a first phase of twelve trenches within the footprint of the proposed housing development. A 7.5 ton 360° tracked mechanical excavator with a flat-bladed ditching bucket was used to remove the topsoil and subsoil to expose the natural geology and/or the archaeological horizon. All archaeological work was carried out in accordance with the specification. A single context recording system was used to record the deposits, and context recording numbers were assigned to all deposits for recording purposes. These are used in the report and shown in **bold**. All archaeological work was carried out in accordance with KCC, SWAT and ClfA standards and guidance.

## 8. Monitoring

Curatorial monitoring was not available during the course of the evaluation.

## 9. Results

The evaluation has identified no archaeological features within the ten trenches (Figure 17).

### Trench 1

**9.1** The plan is recorded in Figure 17 (see also Plates 1, 2). The trench lay on a W to E alignment and measured approximately 25m by 1.20m.

Undisturbed natural geology (**103**) was identified across the trench as sticky clay silt, at a depth of approximately 0.50m (53.66m OD) below the present ground surface at 53.96m OD at mid-trench. The natural geology was sealed by a clean layer of light grey to brown sticky subsoil (**102**) 0.28m thick. Above this was a dark layer of topsoil (**101**) 0.22m thick, wet, dark brown to black in colour and containing small stones and humic material, but otherwise relatively clean. This probably represents a modern topsoil layer filled with a high organic content from woodland use.

### Trench 2

**9.2** The plan is recorded in Figure 17 (see also Plate 3). The trench lay on an NW to SE alignment and measured approximately 25m by 1.20m.

Undisturbed natural geology (**203**) was identified across the trench as sticky clay silt, at a depth of approximately 0.38m (53.56m OD) below the present ground surface at 53.94m OD at the NW end of the trench. The natural geology was sealed by a clean layer of light grey to brown sticky subsoil (**202**) 0.18m thick. Above this was a dark layer of topsoil (**201**) 0.20m thick, dark brown to black in colour and containing small stones and charcoal, but otherwise relatively clean but very wet. This probably represents a modern topsoil layer filled with a high organic content from woodland use.

### Trench 3

**9.3** The plan is recorded in Figure 17 (see also Plate 4). The trench lay on an N to S alignment and measured approximately 25m by 1.20m.

Undisturbed natural geology (**303**) was identified across part of the trench as sticky clay silt, at a depth of approximately 0.38m (53.59m OD) below the present ground surface at 54.01m OD at the N end of the trench. The southern area of the trench was made up ground of sticky clay silt overlaying brick rubble and broken paving stones. The natural geology at the north end of the trench was sealed by a clean layer of light grey to brown very wet subsoil (**302**) 0.18m thick. Above this was a dark layer of topsoil (**301**) 0.20m thick, dark brown to black in colour and containing small stones and charcoal, but otherwise relatively clean. This probably represents a modern topsoil layer filled with a high organic content from woodland use.

#### **Trench 4**

**9.4** The plan is recorded in Figure 17 (see also Plate 5). The trench lay on an E to W alignment and measured approximately 25m by 1.30m.

Undisturbed natural geology **(403)** was identified across the trench as sticky clay silt, at a depth of approximately 0.28m (53.55mOD) below the present ground surface at 53.83m OD at the N end of the trench. The natural geology was sealed by a clean layer of light grey to brown subsoil **(402)** 0.17m thick. Above this was a dark layer of topsoil **(401)** 0.11m thick, dark brown to black in colour and containing small stones and charcoal, but otherwise relatively clean. This probably represents a modern topsoil layer filled with a high organic content from woodland use.

#### **Trench 5**

**9.5** The plan is recorded in Figure 17 (see also Plate 6, 7, 8). The trench lay on an N to S alignment and measured approximately 25m by 1.20m.

No natural geology was identified across the trench as two sondages were dug on the trench footprint to ascertain the subsoil which was not found at The natural geology was sealed by a clean layer of light grey to brown subsoil **(502)** 0.19m thick.

#### **Trench 6**

**9.6** The plan is recorded in Figure 17 (see also Plate 9). The trench lay on a E to W alignment and measured approximately 25m by 1.20m.

Undisturbed natural geology **(603)** was identified across the trench as sticky clay silt, at a depth of approximately 0.22m (53.70m OD) below the present ground surface at 53.90m OD at the E end of the trench. The natural geology was sealed by a clean layer of light grey to brown subsoil **(602)** 0.15m thick. Above this was a dark layer of topsoil **(601)** 0.7m thick, dark brown to black in colour and containing small stones, but otherwise relatively clean. This probably represents a modern topsoil layer filled with a high organic content from woodland use. The trench immediately filled with water from the adjacent water saturated ground.

#### **Trench 7**

**9.7** The plan is recorded in Figure 17 (see also Plate 10). The trench lay on an E to W alignment and measured approximately 25m by 1.20m.

No natural geology was identified across the trench as two sondages were dug on the trench footprint to ascertain the subsoil which was not found at 2.14m deep. The made up ground was sealed by a grey layer of soil **(701)** and no topsoil.

#### **Trench 8**

**9.8** The plan is recorded in Figure 17 (see also Plate 11). The trench lay on an E to W alignment and measured approximately 25m by 1.20m.



No natural geology was identified across the trench as two sondages were dug on the trench footprint to ascertain the subsoil which was not found at 1.14m deep. This made up ground rapidly filled with water at 1.05 below ground level at 52.82m OD. The made up ground was sealed by a grey layer of soil **(801)** and no topsoil.

### **Trench 9**

**9.9** The plan is recorded in Figure 17 (see also Plate 12). The trench lay on an E to W alignment and measured approximately 25m by 1.20m.

Undisturbed natural geology **(903)** was identified across the trench as sandy clay silt, at a depth of approximately 0.92m (52.57mOD) below the present ground surface at 53.49m OD at the WSW end of the trench. The natural geology was sealed by a clean layer of light grey to brown subsoil **(902)** 0.62m thick. Above this was a dark layer of topsoil **(901)** 0.30m thick, dark brown to black in colour and containing small stones and charcoal, but otherwise relatively clean. This probably represents a modern topsoil layer filled with a high organic content from woodland use.

### **Trench 10**

**9.10** The plan is recorded in Figure 17 (see also Plate 3). The trench lay on an N to S alignment and measured approximately 25m by 1.20m.

No natural geology was identified across the trench as two sondages were dug on the trench footprint to ascertain the subsoil which was not found at 1.85m deep. This made up ground rapidly filled with water at 1.06 below ground level at 55.19m OD. The made up ground was sealed by a grey layer of soil **(1001)** and a dark layer of topsoil **(1001)** 0.10m thick, dark brown to black in colour and containing small stones and charcoal, but otherwise relatively clean. This probably represents a modern dumped topsoil layer (Plate 0).

No archaeology features or archaeological artefacts were recovered from any of the ten trenches.

## **10. Discussion**

With numerous archaeological sites in the vicinity of the PDA it was expected that the evaluation may produce evidence of archaeological activity. But there was none. Most of the site has been quarried and backfilled. The only trenches to show a typical sequence of topsoil, subsoil and natural geology was Trenches 1, 2, 4, 8, 9. The other trenches followed generally the evidence in historic OS mapping of brickearth quarries, backfilling and pond. However, after much searching the WWII concrete shelter has been located on the very edge of the development in the south-east corner and shares a boundary with the adjacent property (Plate 14).

## **11. Finds**

No finds were found.

## **12. Conclusion**

The evaluation trenches at the proposed development site revealed no archaeological features or artefacts.

The archaeological evaluation has been successful in fulfilling the primary aims and objectives of the Specification. A common stratigraphic sequence was recognised across the site comprised of topsoil **(100)** sealing the subsoil **(101)** which overlay the natural geology or backfilled quarries **(102)**. Therefore, this evaluation has been successful in fulfilling the aims and objectives as set out in the planning condition and the Archaeological Specification.

## **13. Acknowledgements**

SWAT Archaeology would like to thank the client, RDA Architects for commissioning the project. Thanks are also extended to Wendy Rogers, Senior Heritage Officer, Kent County Council. Site survey and illustrations were produced by Bartek Cichy. The fieldwork was undertaken and the project was managed and report written by Dr Paul Wilkinson MCIfA.

Paul Wilkinson

27/04/2016

## **14. References**

Institute for Field Archaeologists (IfA), Rev (2014). *Standard and Guidance for archaeological field evaluation*

KCC Heritage (January 2016) *Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Evaluation*

KCC Specification Manual Part B

KCC HER data 2016

## PLATES



Plate 1 – Trench 1 under excavation (looking E), and section (Plate 2) 1m scale







Plate 3 – Trench 2 (looking SE)





Plate 4 – Trench 3 showing quarry backfill (looking N)





Plate 5 – Trench 4 looking east.





Plate 6 – Trench 5 test pit (looking N), 1m scale





Plates 7, 8 – Trench 5 test pit ( looking S), 1m scale and section (below)







Plate 9 – Trench 6 looking W





Plate 10 – Trench 7 test pit (looking W)





Plate 11 – Trench 8 looking N





Plate 12 – Trench 9 looking W





Plate 13 – Trench 10 test pit (looking S)



Plate 14 – WWII concrete structure in south-east corner of PDA

## **Kent County Council HER Summary Form**

**Site Name:** Land at Biggins Wood, Caesars Way, Folkestone, Kent

**SWAT Site Code:** BIGG/EV/16

**Site Address:** As above

### **Summary:**

Swale and Thames Survey Company (SWAT) carried out Archaeological Evaluation on the development site above. The site has planning permission for residential housing whereby Kent County Council Heritage and Conservation (KCCHC) requested that Archaeological Evaluation be undertaken to determine the possible impact of the development on any archaeological remains.

The Archaeological Monitoring consisted of an Archaeological Evaluation which revealed no archaeology.

**District/Unitary:** Shepway District Council

**Period(s):**

**NGR (centre of site to eight figures)** 620250 1374450

**Type of Archaeological work:** Archaeological Evaluation

**Date of recording:** April 2016

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

**Geology:** Underlying geology is Upper Greensand and Gault Deposits

**Title and author of accompanying report:** Wilkinson P. (2016) Archaeological Evaluation of Land at Biggins Wood, Caesars Way, Folkestone, Kent

### **Summary of fieldwork results (begin with earliest period first, add NGRs where appropriate)**

No archaeology found

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

**Contact at Unit:** Paul Wilkinson

**Date:** 27/04/2016



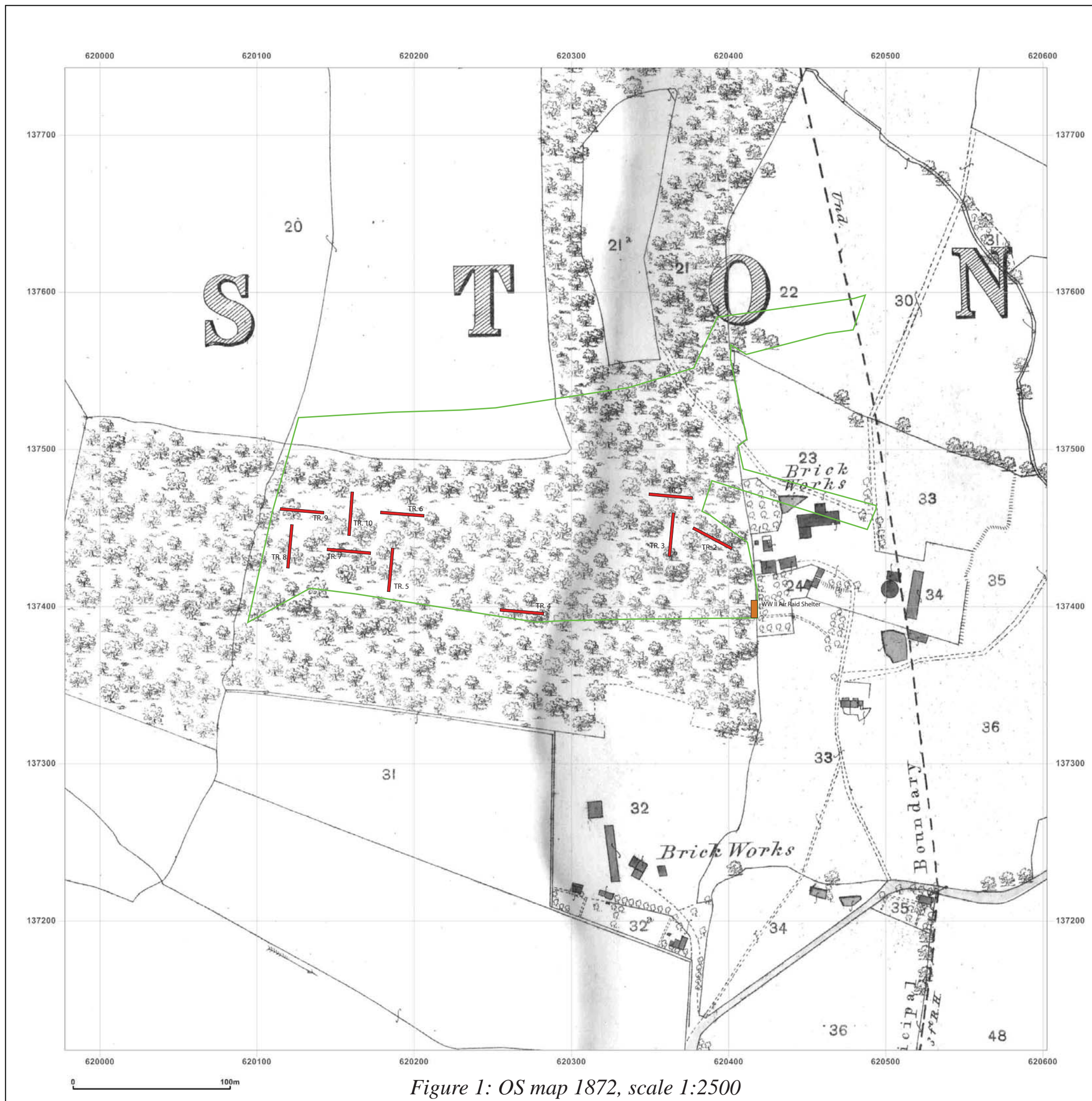


Figure 1: OS map 1872, scale 1:2500



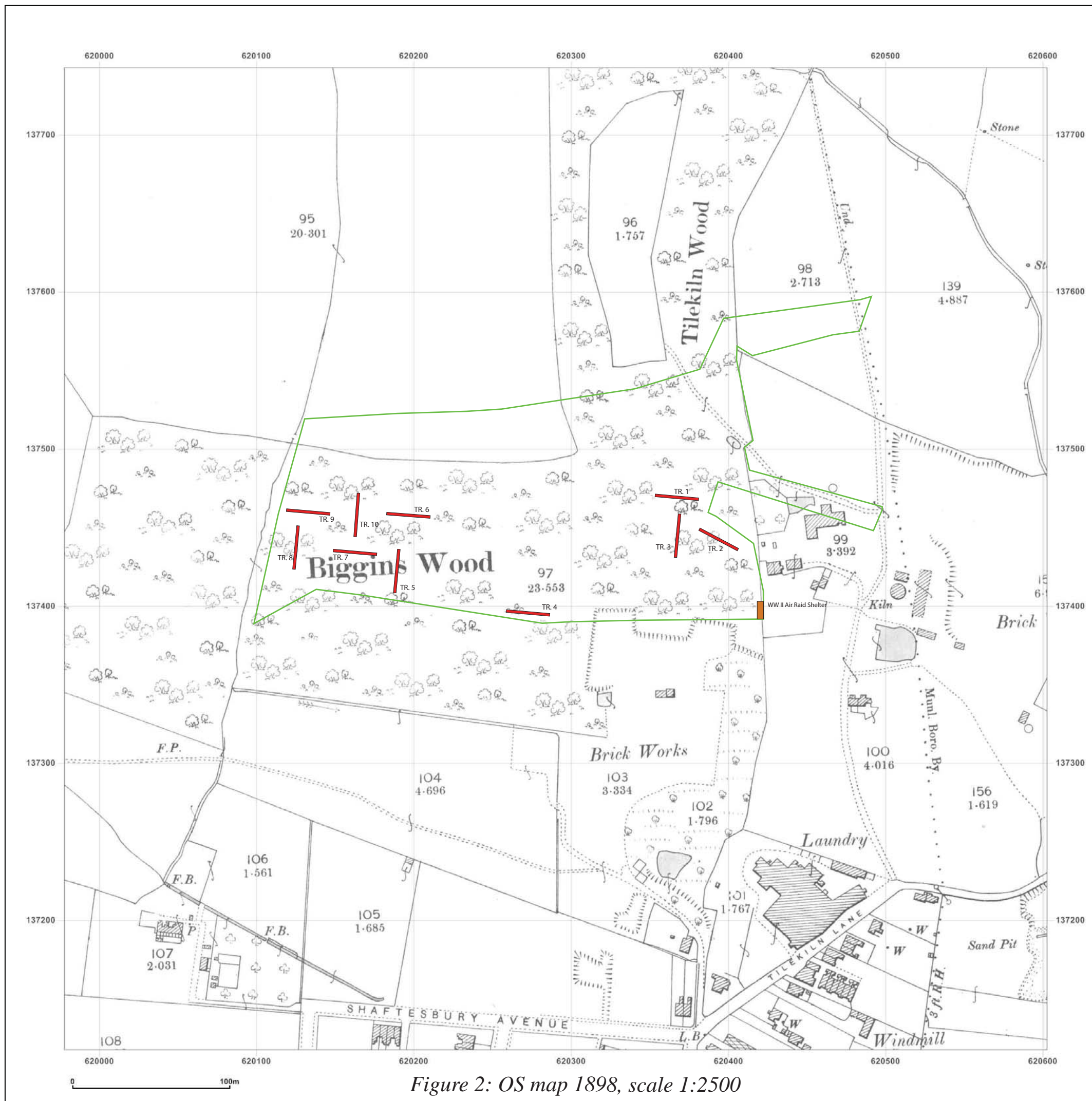


Figure 2: OS map 1898, scale 1:2500

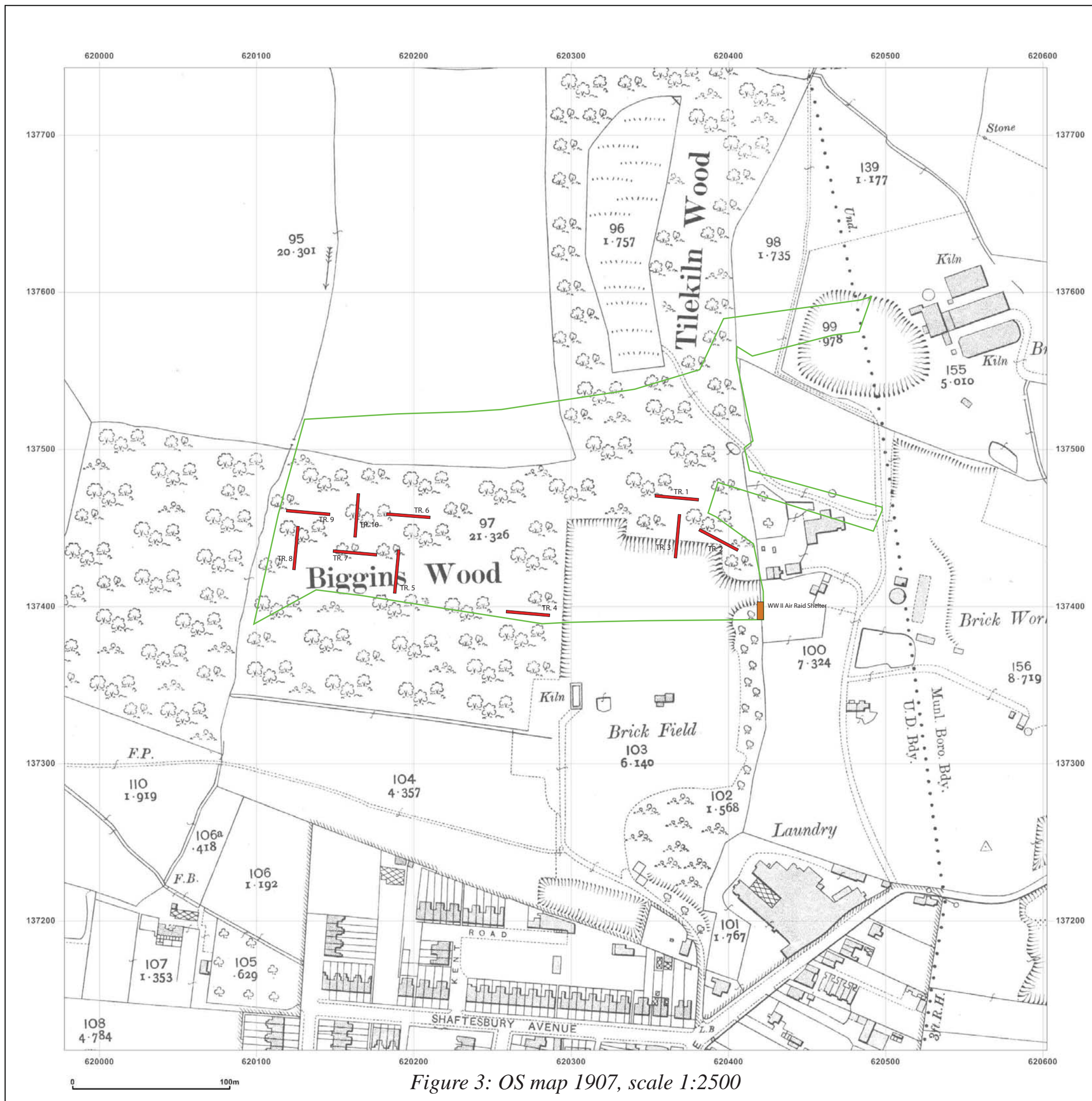


Figure 3: OS map 1907, scale 1:2500



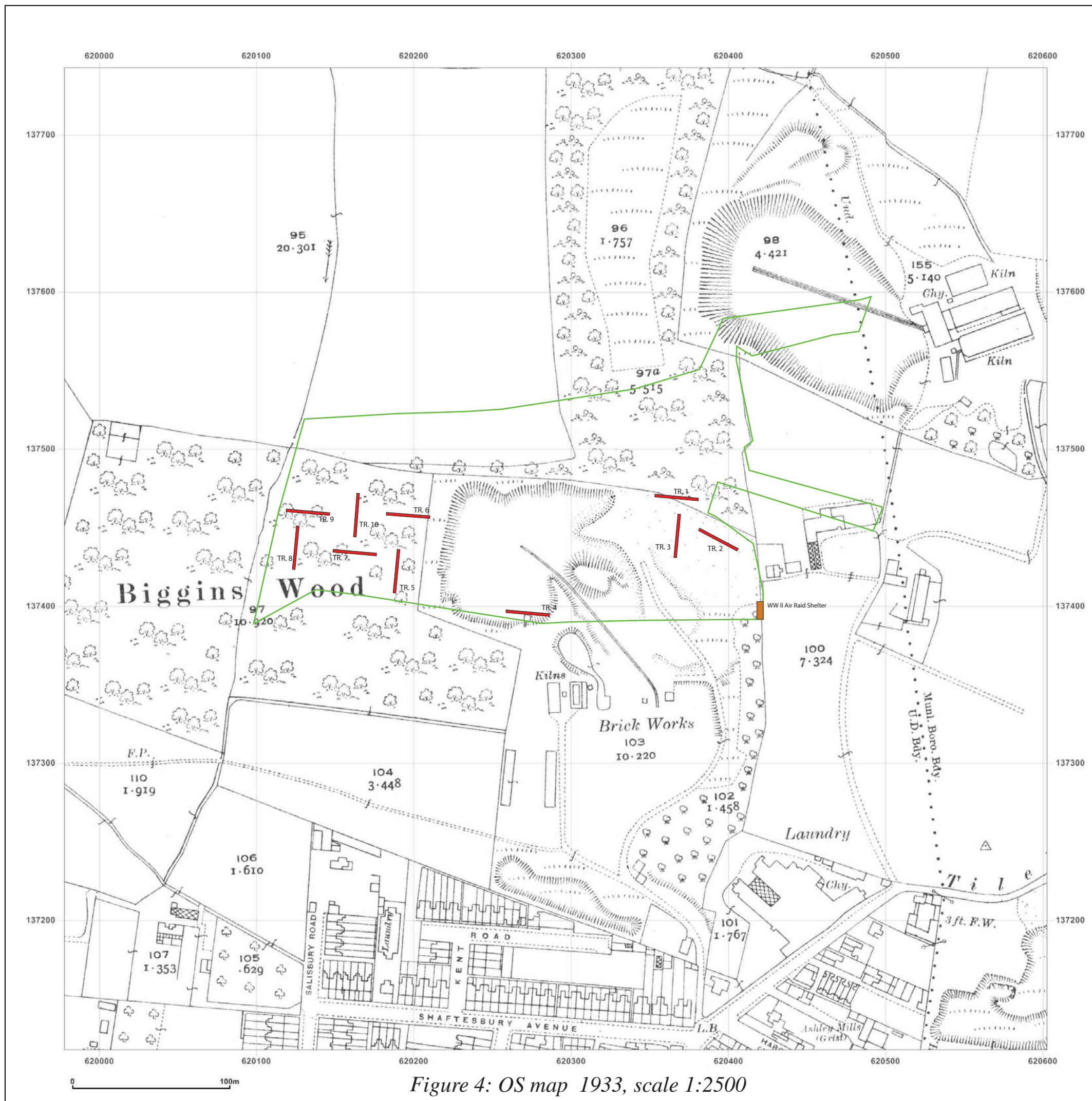


Figure 4: OS map 1933, scale 1:2500

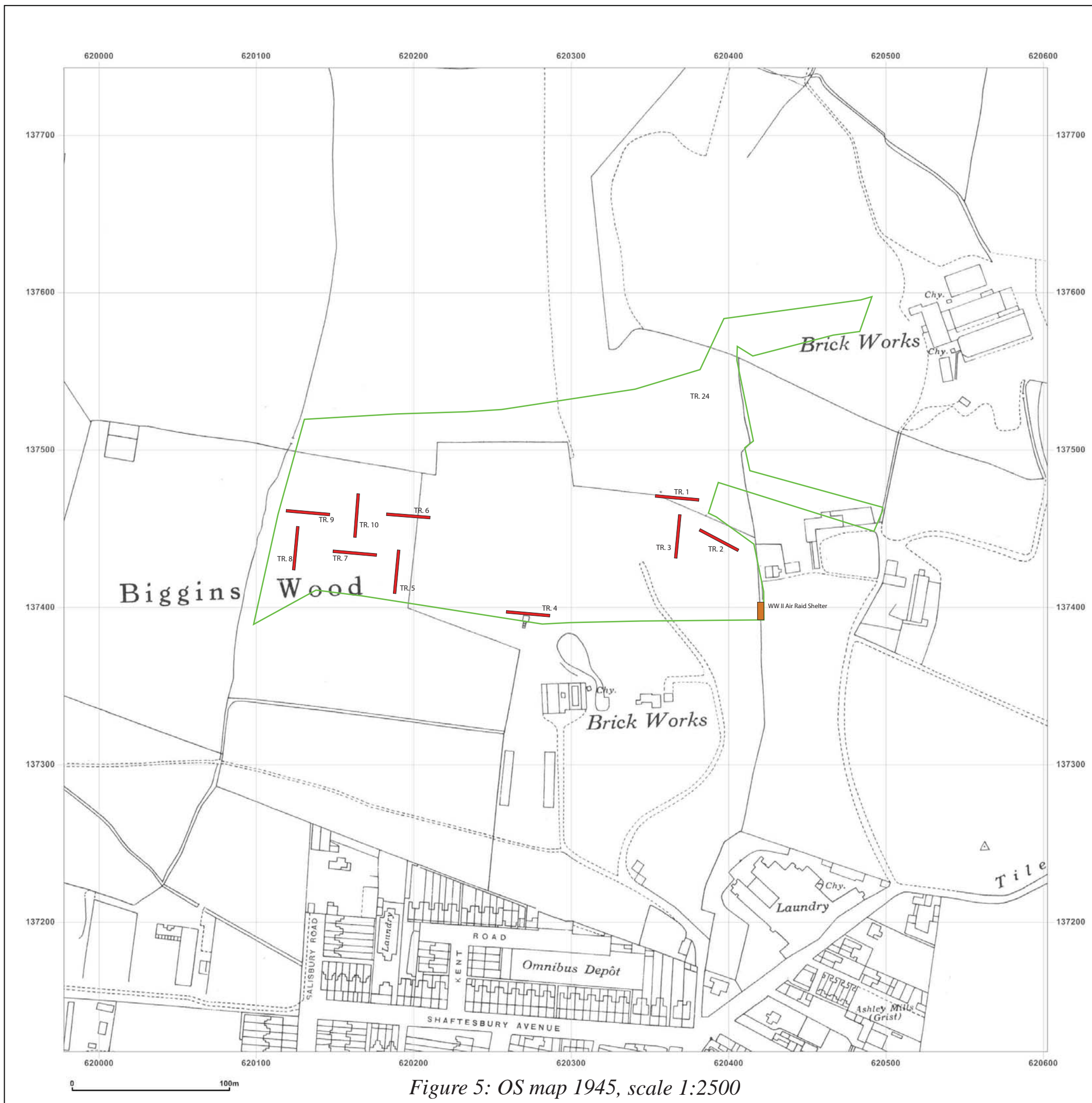


Figure 5: OS map 1945, scale 1:2500



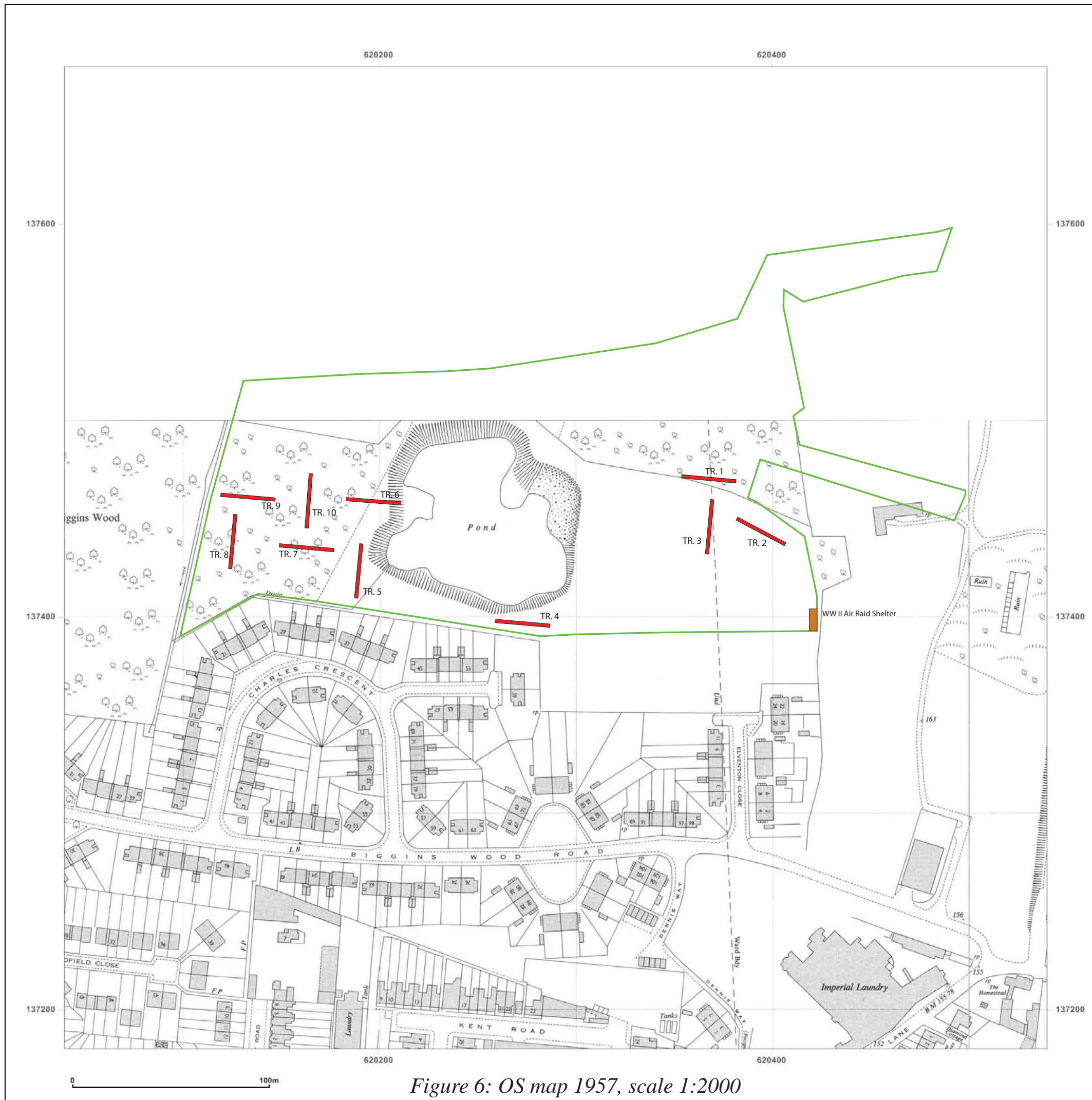


Figure 6: OS map 1957, scale 1:2000



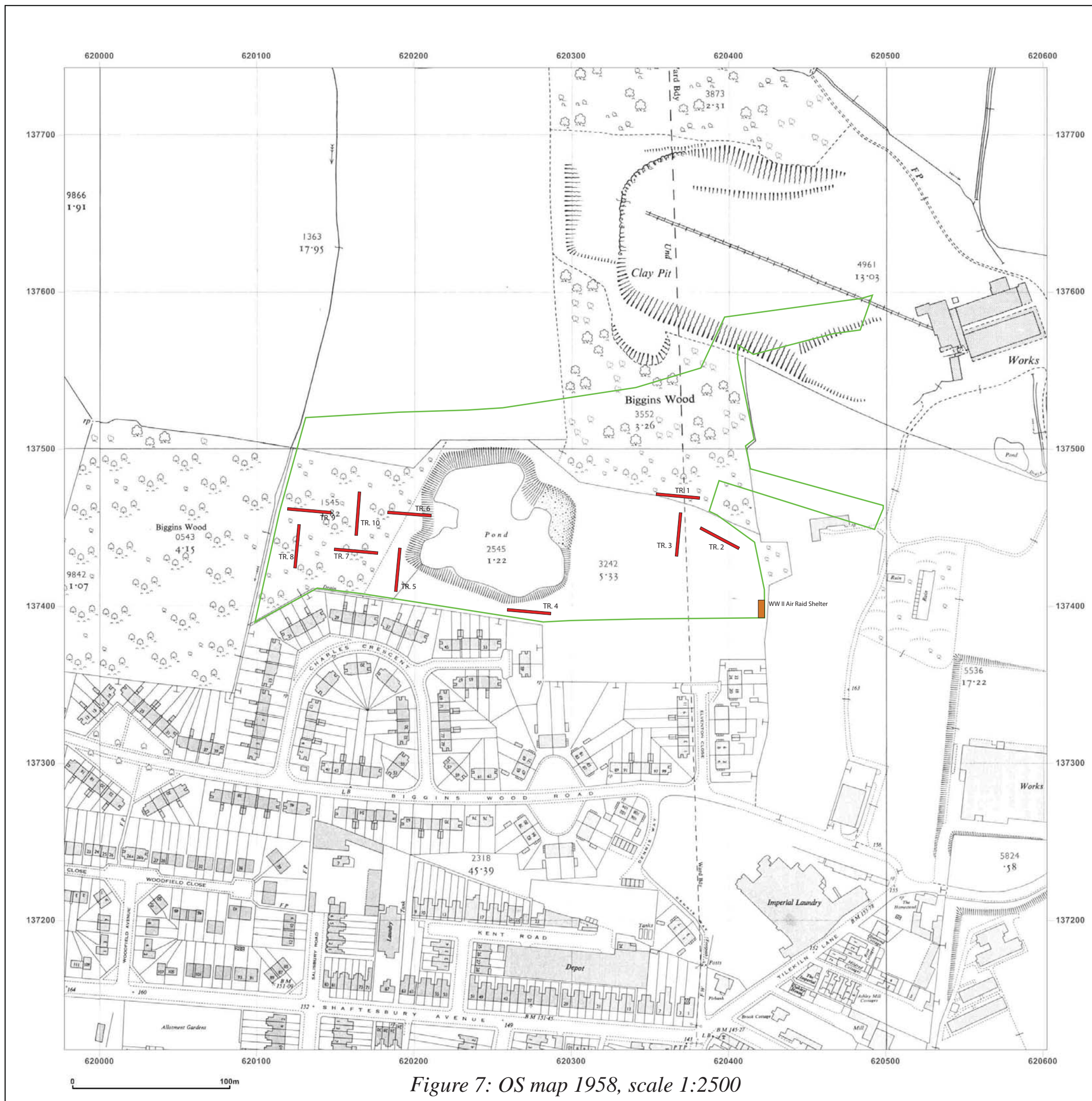


Figure 7: OS map 1958, scale 1:2500



Figure 8: OS map 1966-1971, scale 1:2000



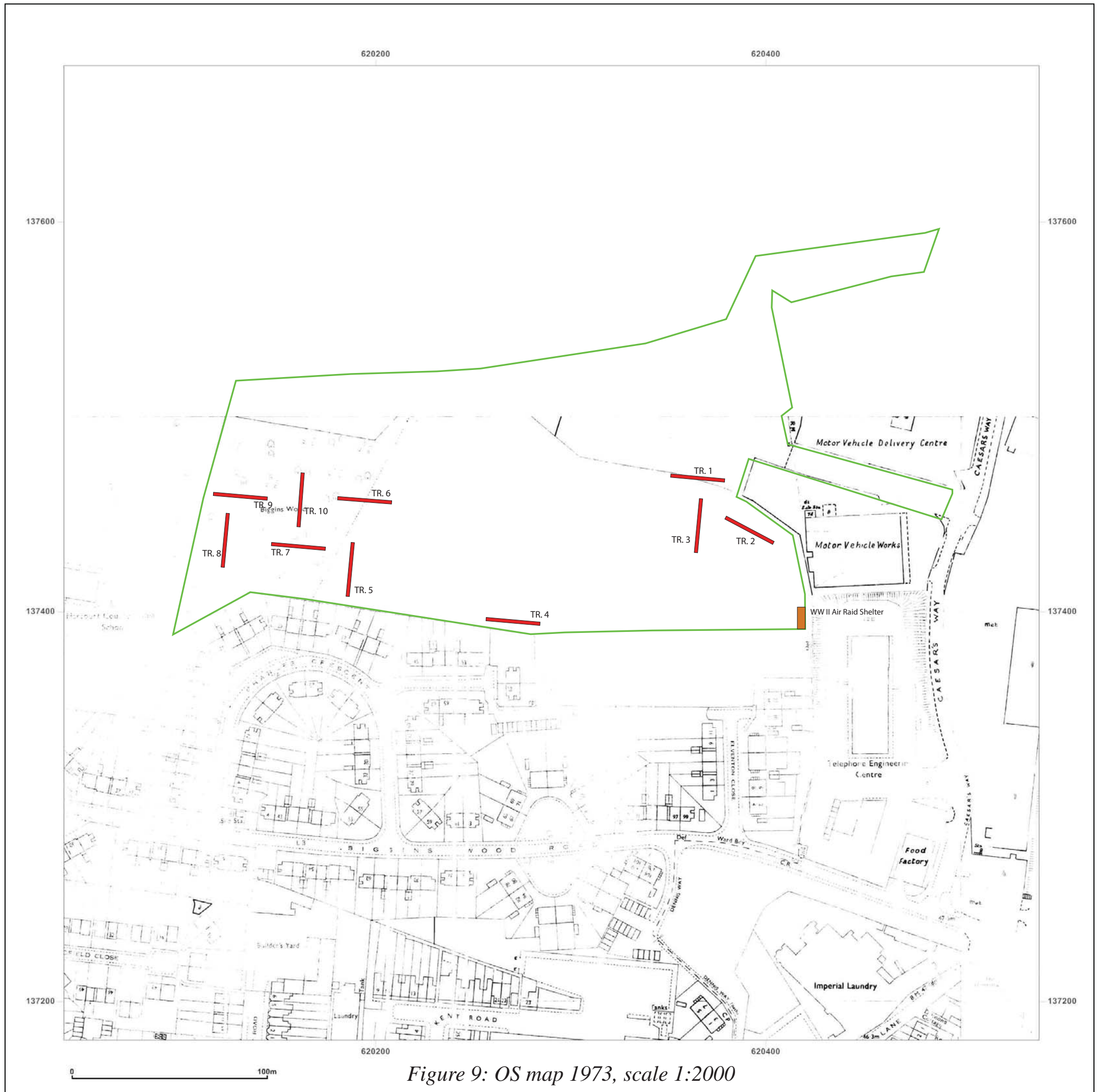


Figure 9: OS map 1973, scale 1:2000





Figure 10: OS map 1972-73, scale 1:2500





Figure 11: OS map 1982-84, scale 1:2500



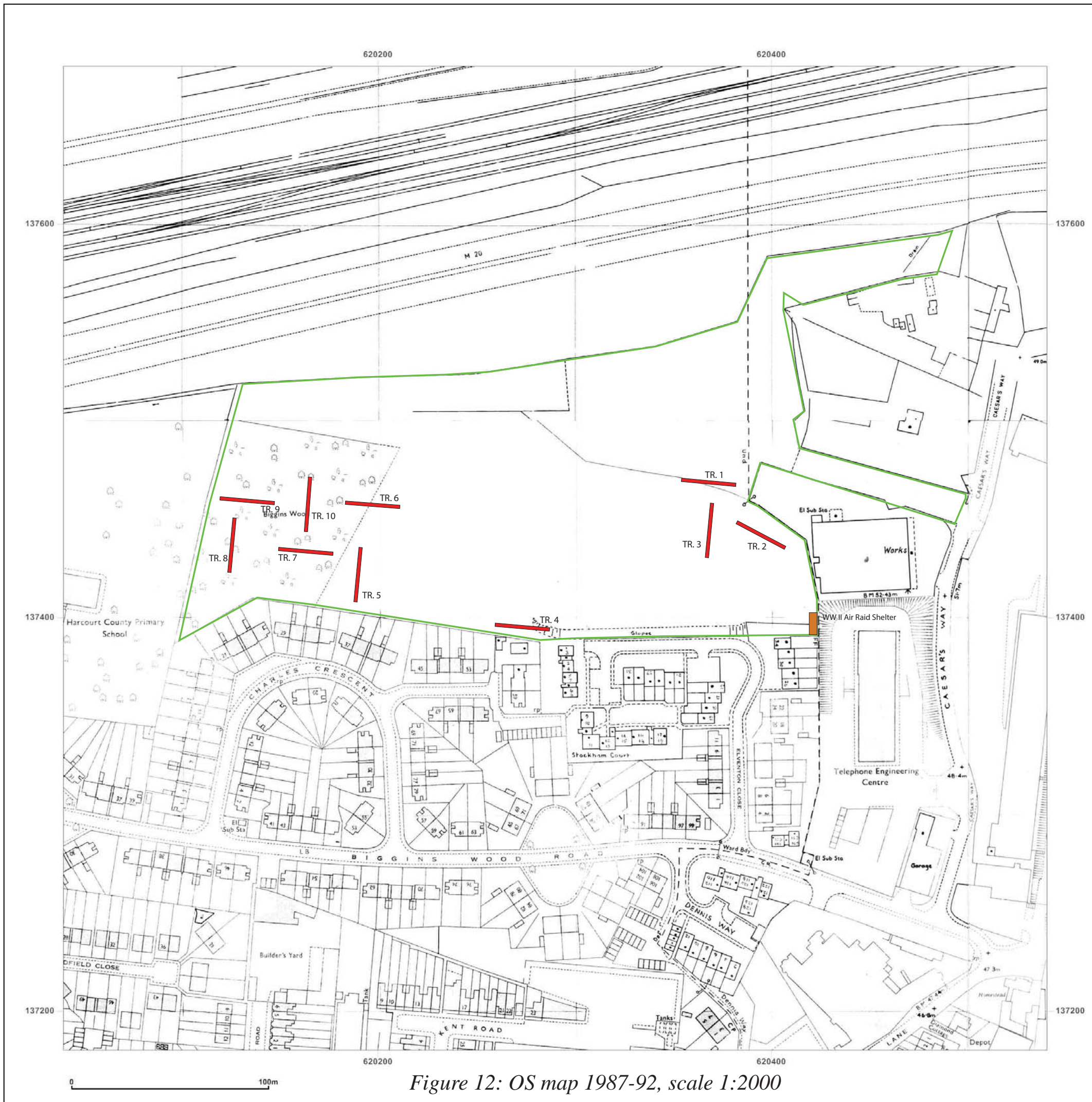


Figure 12: OS map 1987-92, scale 1:2000





Figure 13: OS map 1992-93, scale 1:2000





Figure 14: OS map 1993-95, scale 1:2000





Figure 15: OS map 1993-95, scale 1:2000



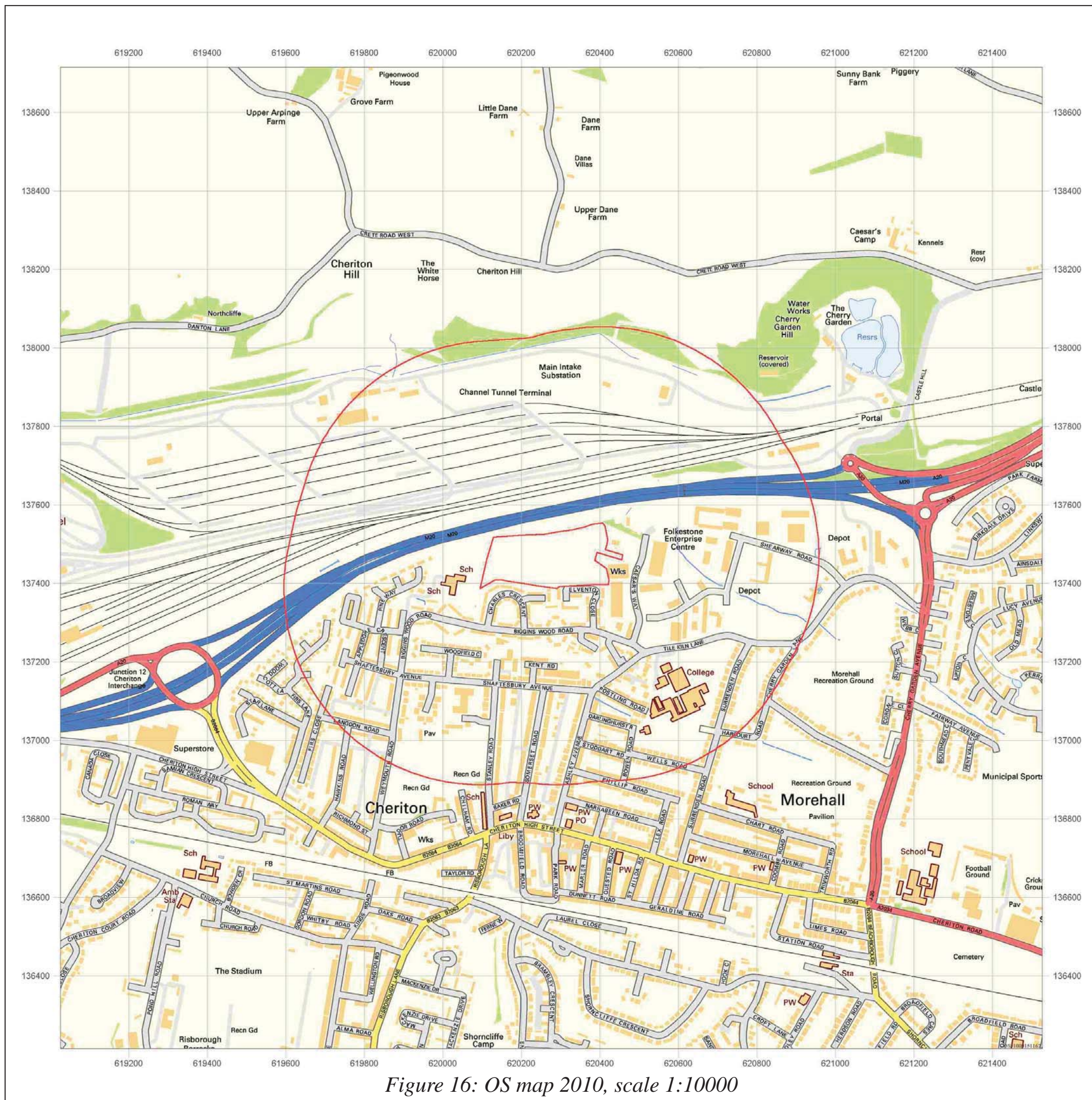


Figure 16: OS map 2010, scale 1:10000





Biggins wood; Evaluation trench plan, scale 1:1000