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Archaeological Evaluation Report

Clitheroe Road,
Whalley,
Lancashire

Client:
Delta-Simons

Planning Ref:
3/2015/0489

Technical Report:
Oliver Cook

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Summary

Trafford Housing Trust are planning to carry a residential development to the east of Clitheroe Road, Whalley, Lancashire. The archaeological potential of the site was first highlighted in an archaeological assessment that was prepared to support the planning application (NAA, 2012). This concluded that the relative proximity of the site to the settlement core of Whalley raised the potential for archaeological remains to survive *in-situ*. In the light of this conclusion, the client in consultation with Salford Archaeology commissioned a geophysical survey to be conducted; this was completed by Magnitude Surveys (Anon, 2018). A number of responses and anomalies were detected, which required further testing. In line with the National Planning Policy Framework, Salford Archaeology subsequently devised and executed an appropriate programme of archaeological investigation which comprised the excavation of 27 evaluation trenches.

This trenching was intended to establish the presence, extent and nature or any below-ground remains, to enable informed recommendations to be made for the future of any surviving features.

The evaluation revealed the presence of a small number of infilled field boundaries, field drains and furrows deriving from post-medieval activity. The position of the features can be clearly related to field systems that follow the existing pattern of field boundaries; these were probably laid out in late medieval to post-medieval periods. The only features exposed in the trenches pertained to post-medieval activity, these were represented by boundary ditches and drainage features that appear to have been infilled during the late 19th or early 20th century. These features were of very little historical interest and, based on the results obtained from the evaluation trenching, it was concluded that no further archaeological investigation in advance of construction works is merited.

It is neither considered that any of these remains are of national importance that would necessitate preservation *in-situ*, nor that the features encountered during the evaluation require any further investigation.

1. Introduction

1.1 Background

In November 2018, Salford Archaeology was commissioned by Delta-Simons Environmental Consultant Ltd, on behalf of Trafford Housing Trust, to carry out an archaeological evaluation for a residential development on the eastern edge of Whalley, in the Central Lancashire borough of the Ribble Valley. The evaluation was carried out in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation produced by Salford Archaeology in August 2018 (Mottershead, 2018).

The evaluation comprised the excavation of 24 of the 27 trenches; three were inaccessible at the time of excavation. The trenches were targeted on a series of geophysical anomalies seen to be indicative of earlier field-systems and possible occupation. The remainder were intended to provide a sample of the site to assess the presence and condition of the below-ground archaeological resource, thereby enabling informed recommendations to be made for the future treatment of any surviving remains, in line with the guidance provided by the National Planning Policy Framework.

1.2 Aims and Objectives

The main objective of the evaluation was to provide an assessment of the surviving archaeological resource in order to enable informed decisions to be made for their treatment in advance of the development of the site. This objective was supplemented in academic terms by more specific research aims which intended to:

- define the extent and nature of any buried remains;
- investigate a series of anomalies;
- advance the understanding of settlement and land-use in this part of Lancashire.

1.3 Setting

The study area (centred on NGR SD 7377 3637) lies on the north-eastern edge of Whalley. The settlement itself occupies a position to the north of the River Calder and is surrounded by a mixture of woodland and enclosed fields. The study area occupies an irregular plot of land bounded by extant field boundaries to the north, the A671 road to the east, and modern housing developments to the west and south (Plate 1) and lies at 55-80m above Ordnance Datum (aOD). At the time of the evaluation, the site comprised a mixture of pasture and scrub. A public footpath transected the site, dividing the north and south fields. The northern field is crossed by a small stream running north-west to south-east, and two newly constructed two reservoirs. A small triangular plot, adjoining the southern field was also targeted (Trench 18).



Plate 1: Aerial view across the study area

The solid geology over most of the site is mudstone of the Bowland Shale Formation which is overlain by Devensian – Diamicton till (www.bgs.ac.uk).

The site was covered by grassland that slopes gently up to the east and south from approximately 50m AOD at the south-west end of the site to 80m (aOD) at the east. The natural topography of the area has been little altered by modern development, excepting the construction and widening of the nearby road and the creation of the Haweswater aqueducts and reservoirs in the middle of the site. The available cartographic evidence allows some reconstruction of the natural landscape to be made.

The earliest detailed maps from the 19th century, highlight a great deal of continuity in the division and use of land and concentration of settlement. The last three decades have seen increased peripheral development in Whalley, comprising mainly residential estates. Whilst the area has retained a rural prospect and continues to support pastoral farming, this has diminished significantly since the last century. The aspect of the site is impinged upon by residential and commercial development in and around the village.

2. *Historical Background*

2.1 *Contextual Background*

The following section presents a summary of the historical and archaeological background to the site area and environs. This contextual background is based on cartographic and documentary research and provides a framework to the present study, progressing chronologically through the historical development of the area.

The earliest evidence of settlement within Whalley can be traced to the early medieval period although physical evidence for occupation is scarce. Place-name studies, hoards, isolated finds, and geography suggest that the Ribble and Calder valleys would have seen intense activity during this time, particularly related to Hiberno-Norse culture and Irish Sea trading network (Griffiths 2012, 33). While archaeological evidence for activity in the early medieval period around Whalley is sparse, historical records indicate that Whalley was established by this time.

The name Whalley is first recorded as Hwaellege in The Anglo-Saxon Chronicle (AD 798) (Ingram 1823) deriving from for hill – *hwæll* (OE) (Ekwall 1922, 76) and *lea* meaning ‘clearing’ or ‘forest’ (Gelling 1984, 294). An earlier occurrence of the toponym was as Wayleigh in AD 664 as being the burial place of Bishop Tuda suggests that the origins of the settlement were perhaps much earlier. A later reference is made to a battle at Whalley in AD 798 (Ingram 1823, 83); Simeon of Durham writing in the 12th century describes a battle between Duke Wada and King Eardwlf that took place at *Billinghamoth* (Billington) near *Walalege* (Whalley). There is some doubt surrounding location of this battle (Kenyon 1991, 99).

Post-Conquest Lancashire is better documented historically. Whalley was located on a key pilgrim route at a crossing on the River Calder and the Anglo-Saxon church was an important minster and ecclesiastical centre of an enormous parish. The Domesday Survey records that the church at Whalley held two plough-lands of land as endowment (Farrer and Brownbill 1966, 350). The extant bridge over the River Calder has a medieval core and was first referred to in 1317, when Adam de Huddleston permitted stone to be quarried from ‘beyond the bridge at Whalley’ (Fell 1979, 4). This implies a road network was well established. The crossing point at King Street and as far as Church Lane formed the primary core of the settlement at this time.

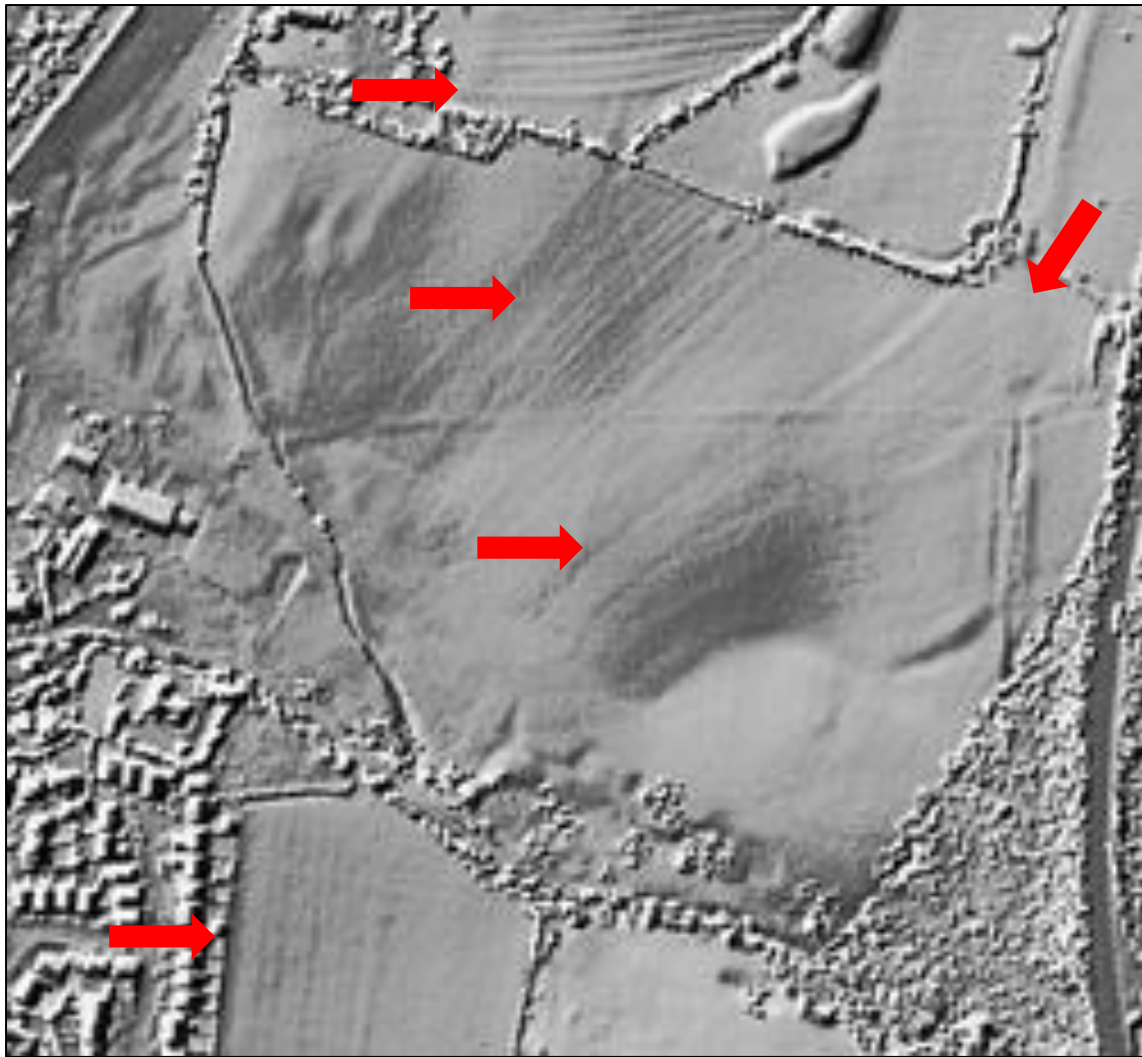


Plate 2: Lidar digital terrain model with visible remnants of ridge and furrow indicated

Whalley and its medieval development was dominated by the Cistercian abbey, which was founded in 1296. Being located on the north bank of the River Calder, to the south-west of the existing church, the monastic precinct lies 2km from the site area. The focus of monastic activity was well contained within the walls of the abbey. The surviving built remains attest to multiple phases of construction and renovation. The surrounding settlement benefitted significantly from the implanted monastic community but is not believed to have expanded significantly. A small number of tangible archaeological remains have been investigated but archaeological interventions have been limited to the abbey and a small number of watching briefs in the town.

There is little surviving evidence of the medieval landscape that would have once surrounded Whalley. It is believed that open and then enclosed strip field systems of the medieval period would have been located on the north and west sides of the settlement as dictated by the natural topography (NAA, 2012). It is possible that field systems forming part of Whalley's agricultural hinterland were located, close to the north-western boundary of the site. Aerial photographs (RAF/58/6669/0054/1965 and RAF/3G/TUD/UK/188) from the 1940s and '60s combined with Lidar survey (Plate 2)

provide an indication of the extent of medieval farming, through identification of ridge and furrow earthworks. Further signs of ridge and furrow can be seen in the southern field though it cannot be determined whether this is medieval or post-medieval in date. The northern and southern fields making up the site area have been classified as ancient enclosure, land enclosed prior to 1600 that is typified by sinuous or wavy field boundaries. The nature of the enclosures and presence of field earthworks suggest that the configuration of the landscape around the site was in place by the medieval period. Subsequent historic mapping reveals minor alterations to the landscape within the site in the latter half of the 19th century.

Despite slight settlement expansion in the post-medieval period, the focus remained around the historic core with limited development beyond. As a stopping point for coaches between the larger settlements of Clitheroe and Blackburn, Whalley was reputed for its inns, many of which remain (Lancashire County Council 2006, 14). Surviving elements of post-medieval buildings can be found within the centre but none are located in close proximity to the site.

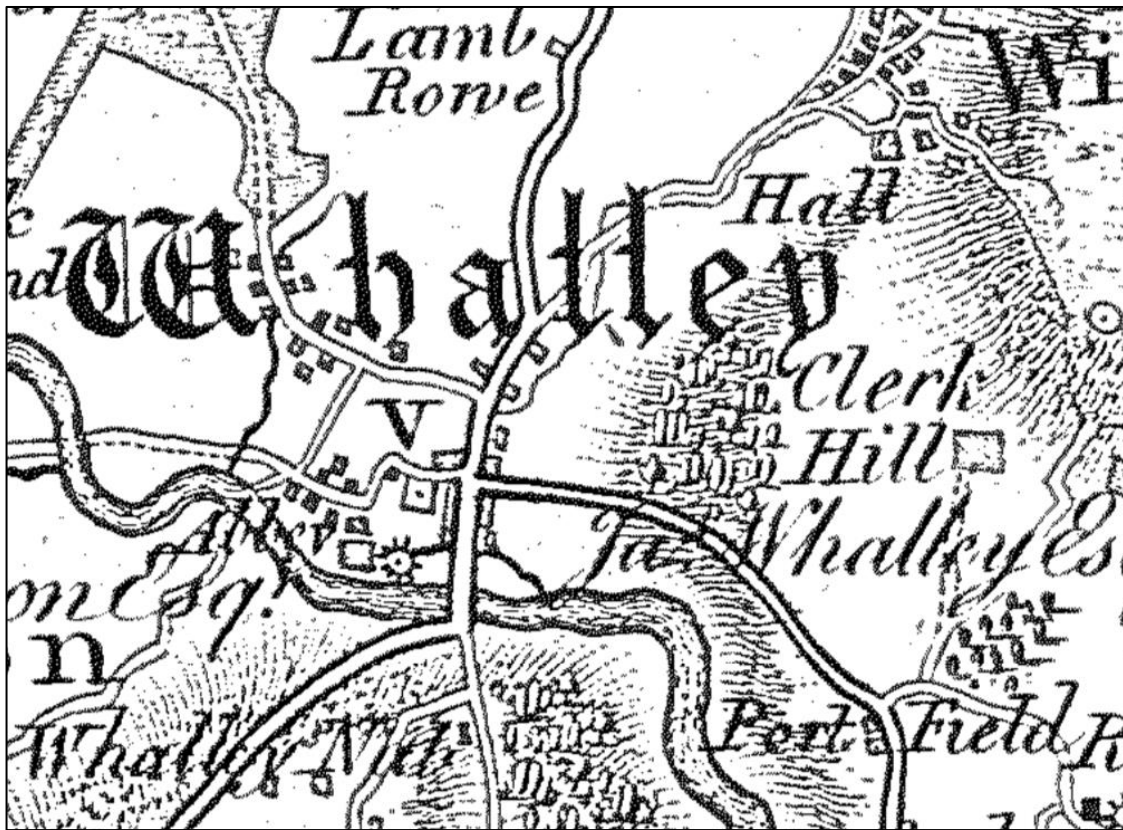


Plate 3: Extract from Yates' map of 1786

William Yates' map of Lancashire, dating to 1786, provides the earliest view of the site area in relation to the settlement (Plate 3). Although surveyed at a scale which precludes close analysis, the buildings shown provide a proxy for the extent of settlement and support the notion that only minor ribbon development had occurred beyond the village's core: several buildings on the roads leading out of the settlement and a cluster of buildings in Wiswell to the north of site can be made out. The site itself appears unoccupied and was presumably devoid of settlement activity.

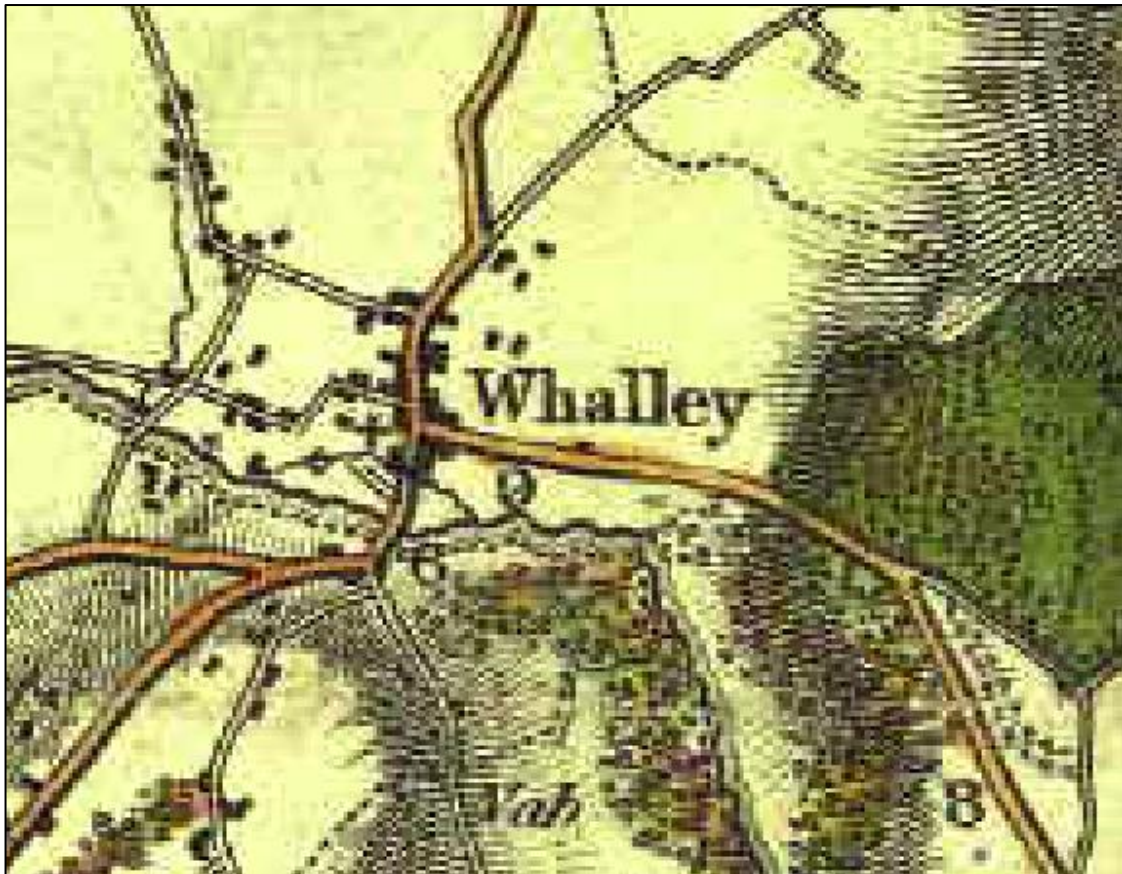


Plate 4: Extract from Greenwood's map of 1818

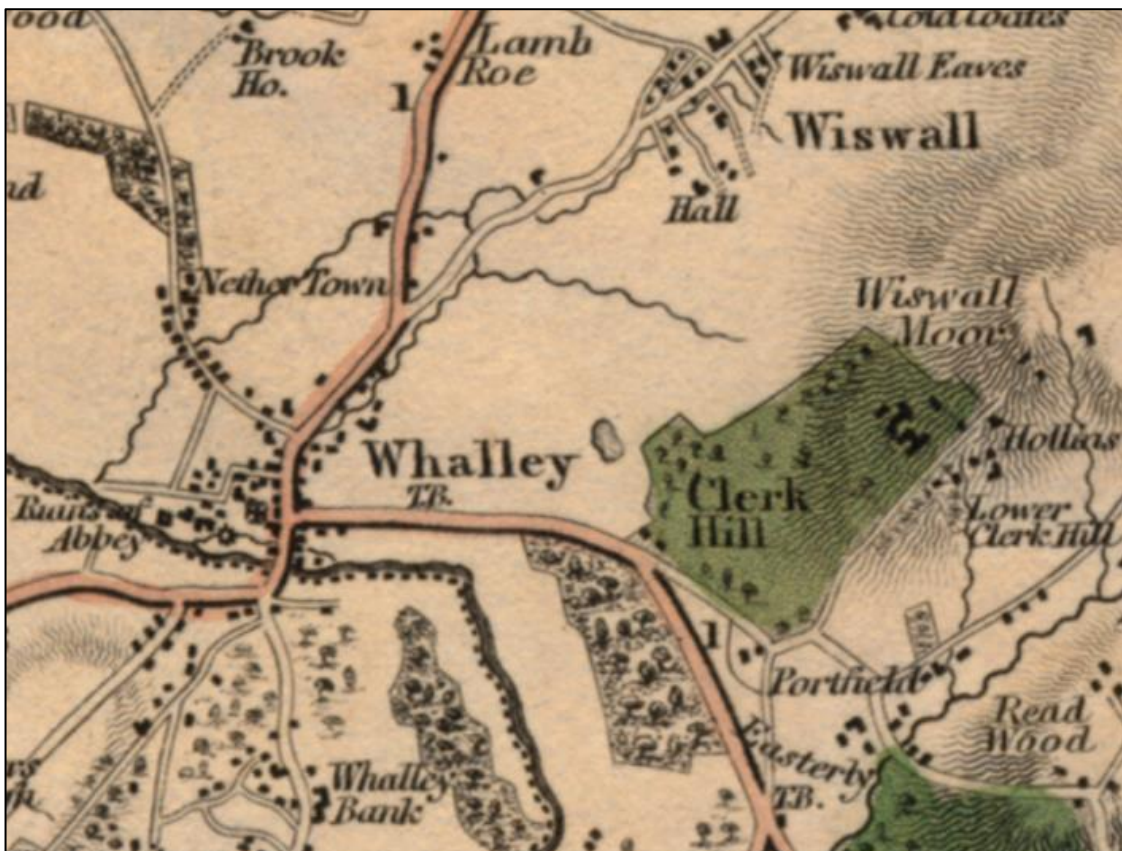


Plate 5: Extract from Hennet's map of 1830 showing Whalley and its environs

The next available maps of Whalley and its environs are provided by Greenwood in 1818 (Plate 4) and Hennet's map of 1830 (Plate 5). These reveal continuity in the distribution of settlement. At this time the site area was distanced from the north-eastern edge of the village. The closest properties probably belonged to farmsteads situated on Whalley's north-east fringe. The detail on Hennet's map is useful in establishing a potential date for the reservoir located in the southern part of the site as well as other streams and tributaries of the River Calder.

In 19th century, Whalley witnessed population decline largely as a result of industrialisation in nearby towns. Gradual residential growth to the north and west of the town included development along Clitheroe Road. Some earlier development around Brookes Lane included the late 17th to early 18th century farm at Lawsonsteads, which is clearly shown on the 1848 Ordnance Survey 6": 1 mile map (Plate 6). By the second half of the 19th century, Whalley became a commuter town largely resulting from the introduction of the Blackburn, Clitheroe and West Yorkshire Railway in 1851, which entered the town over the Whalley Viaduct. Although only minor industry was taking place in and around Whalley, it had grown by the latter half of the 19th century to a moderate-sized town with an array of amenities.

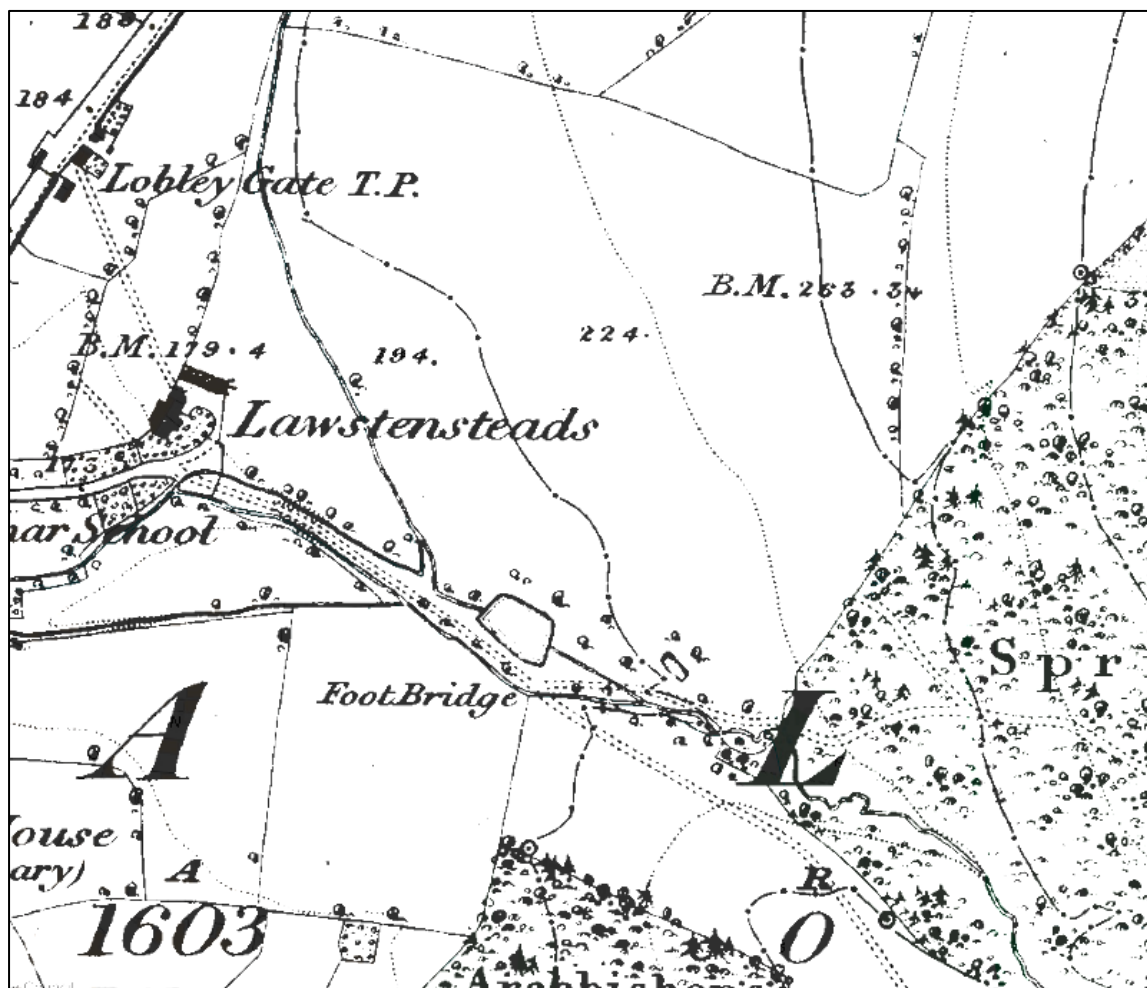


Plate 6: Extract from the 1848 Ordnance Survey 6": 1-mile edition

The first edition Ordnance Survey map of 1848 (Plate 6) provides the first detailed view of the site. As with the previous maps, the area appears little changed since the late 1700s. Several landscape features of note are discernable within the site. A north/south aligned hedge or tree-lined boundary was identifiable in the eastern part of the site. A stream ran across the south-west corner of the north field close to the reservoirs. It is also noteworthy that this map provides the earliest detailed view of the reservoir, which appears unchanged on subsequent maps until the 1960s, when it was presumably filled in.

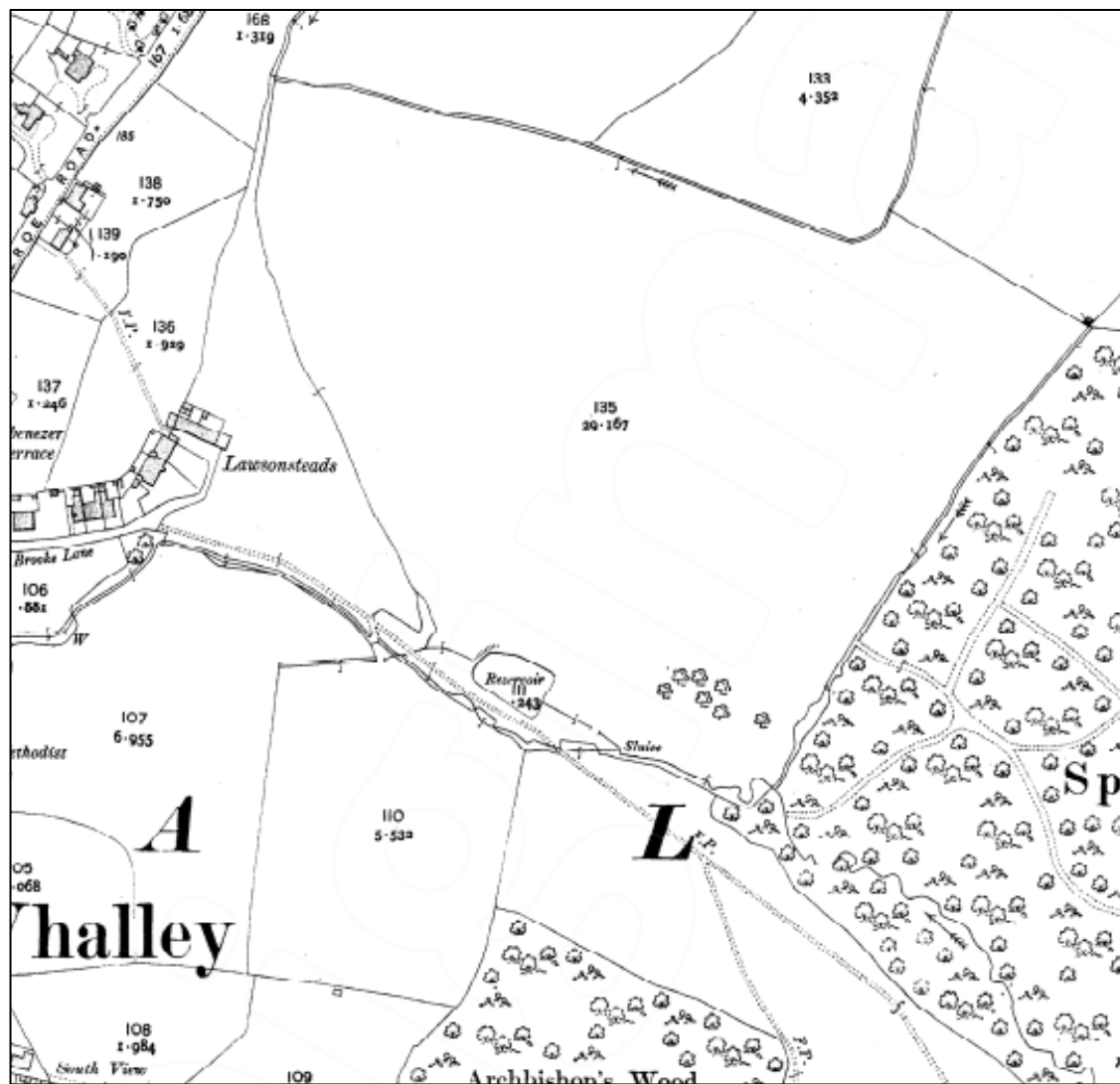


Plate 7: Extract from 1912 Ordnance Survey, 1:2500 map edition

The most significant changes came in the late 19th and early 20th century and included the amalgamation of fields around Whalley, including the infilling of boundaries within the site. This effectively created the large open field forming the northern half of the site as can be seen on the 1893 (Figure 6) and 1912 Ordnance Survey editions (Plate 7). Modern development of the site and its immediate environs included the construction of the Haweswater aqueduct between 1946 and 1955, which transects the lower end of the north field, running north-west to south-east. The 1970s saw the completion of the A671 through Spring Wood to the east of the site area (Plate 8). This appears to have impacted severely on the landscape but with no obvious direct impact within the site. More recently, a housing estate was constructed on the western half of the north field, immediately west of the present site boundary. This was one of a number of residential developments to have taken place around Whalley in the last three decades, a trend that can be traced through the available cartography.

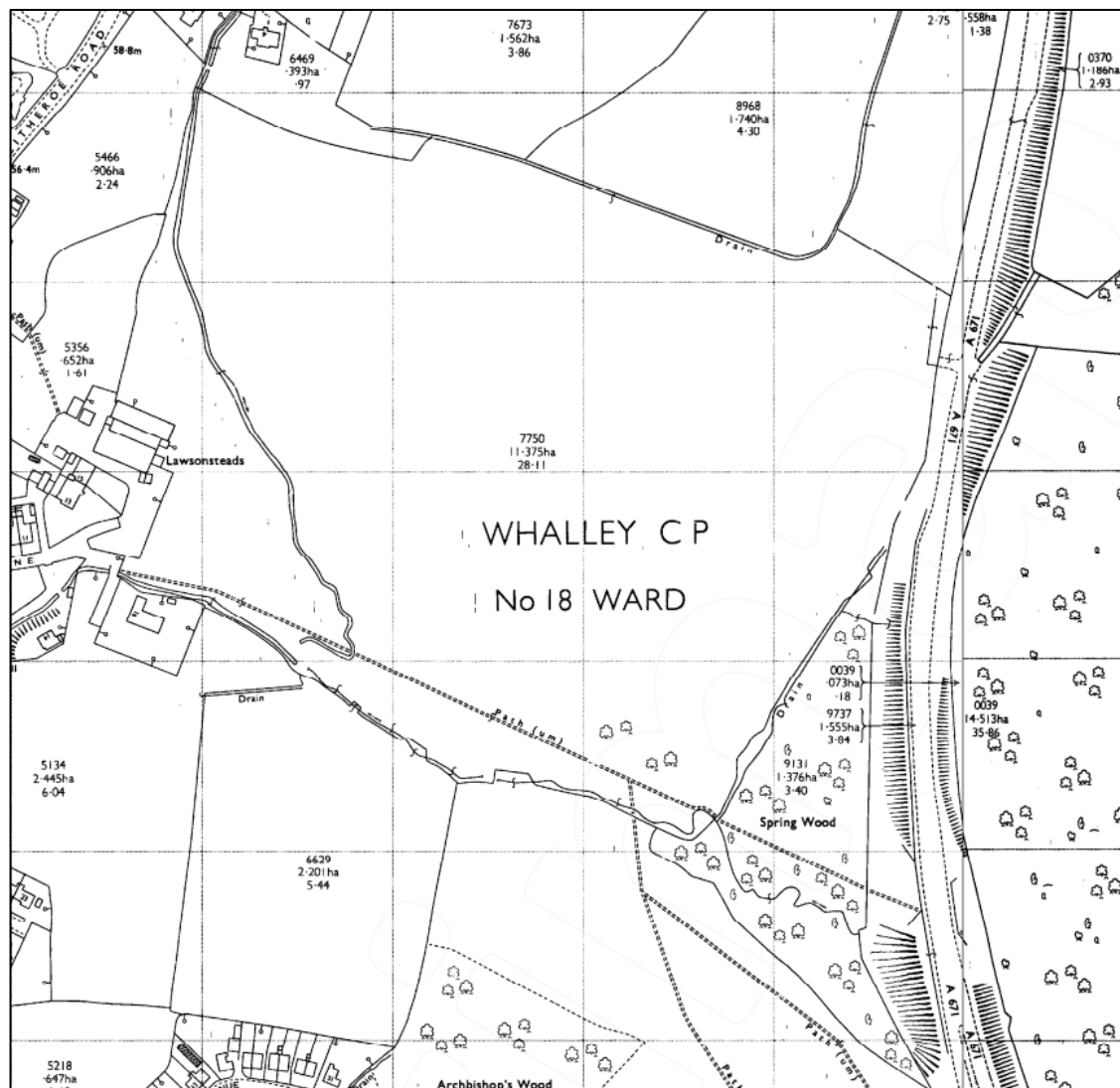


Plate 8: OS 1975 1:2500 map, SD 7326 /7336

2.2 *Previous Archaeological Work*

Whilst a lack of significant archaeological work has been carried out within Whalley, the results of two investigations conducted nearby are pertinent to the following discussion.

Prior to the construction of the housing estate immediately west of the site boundary, Northern Archaeological Associates conducted a Desk-Based Assessment (2012), which encompassed both the present site area and adjacent housing development. Whilst few signs of past activity were detected, the relative proximity of the settlement raised the archaeological potential of the site. This was followed up by a magnetometer survey by GSB Prospection, which identified a number of geophysical anomalies. A written scheme of investigation (NAA, 2012) was prepared for an evaluation but no available report was subsequently made available; it is not known whether the evaluation took place.

Another instance of archaeological work took place to the south of the site area, proceeding a residential development to the north of Accrington Road carried out by Wardell Armstrong (Levell and Wooler, 2017). The evaluation followed on from a desk-based assessment and geophysical survey, the latter revealing potential ridge and furrow and relict drainage. The evaluation revealed a single linear ditch, which contained post-medieval material. A series of “french” rubble-filled land were also uncovered (2017, 9). No significant archaeological remains were encountered, suggesting the area formed part of the agricultural hinterland of the nearby settlement.

3. *Methodology*

3.1 *Excavation Methodology*

Prior to the commencement of the evaluation trenching, the Client provided Salford Archaeology with service plans for the area, and the areas of trenching were scanned with a cable avoidance tool. In total, 24 evaluation trenches were excavated using a mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket. Spoil was placed next to the excavated trenches and was then backfilled on completion of the evaluation. It was not practical to excavate Trenches 17, 19 and 20 as this part of the site had been landscaped for the creation of two reservoirs.

3.2 *Recording Methodology*

Separate contexts were recorded individually on Salford Archaeology *pro-forma* trench sheets. The trench was located and planned by total station theodolite using EDM tacheometry.

Photography of all relevant phases and features were undertaken in digital format using a digital SLR camera.

All fieldwork and recording of archaeological features, deposits and artefacts were carried out to acceptable archaeological standards. All archaeological works carried out by Salford Archaeology was carried out in accordance with the standards set out in the Code of Conduct of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA).

4. Evaluation Results

4.1 Introduction

In total, 24 trenches were excavated across the site, providing a combined total sample of 1931m². Archaeological remains were encountered in Trenches 01, 04, 05, 22, 23 and 24. Field drains deriving from past agriculture were encountered in the northern part of the site in Trenches 03, 04, 05, 07 and 08. Extensive modern disturbance was encountered across Trenches 11 and 12 as well as in the southern half of Trench 15. Trenches 17, 19 and 20 were not excavated due to the extensive landscaping associated with the creation of two reservoirs. The remainder of the trenches were devoid of any archaeological remains. A summary of the trench results can be found in Appendix 2.

The features identified in the excavated trenches have been ascribed to one of two periods.

- Period 1: Post-medieval
- Period 2: Modern

4.2 Field system (North) (Trenches 01, 03, 04, 05, 07 and 08)

A series of features pertaining to past agricultural activity were exposed in trenches 01 03, 04, 05, 07 and 08. These consisted of infilled boundaries, furrows and later drainage features. The trenches were located in the north of the site.

4.2.1 Trench 01

Trench 03 was overlain by a friable, mid greyish-brown silty, sandy clay topsoil **0101**. The topsoil lay to a depth of 0.24m above a firm mid yellowish-brown silty clay subsoil **0102**, which was 0.10m thick.

Natural deposits **0103** were revealed at 0.31–0.40m below ground level and consisted of stiff, light yellowish-brown, silty clay with moderate stone inclusions.

A series of regularly spaced linear features were exposed across the excavation area (Plate 9). These relatively large, ephemeral features ranging from 1.31m to 1.69m in width, were seen as traces of ridge and furrow. The position and alignment of the features are consistent with subtle earthworks shown on the lidar and faint geophysical anomalies.

4.2.2 Trench 03

Trench 03 was overlain by a soft to friable, mid greyish-brown, silty, sandy clay topsoil **0301**. The topsoil lay to a depth of 0.19m above a firm mid yellowish-brown silty clay subsoil **0302**, which was 0.12m thick.

Natural silty clay **0303** was observed at 0.31–0.40m below ground level and consisted of stiff, light yellowish-brown silty clay.

A stone-filled, French field drain **0304** was excavated at the western end of the trench, aligned north/south. It was housed in a linear cut, cut into the natural clay geology **0303**. The cut was exposed across the width of the trench, approximately 1.86m in length and 0.56m wide. The stone structure **0305** housed within survived as a spread of thin, upright sandstone slabs overlain by crushed sandstone. The interior of the drain was filled with river-worn cobbles in a silty clay matrix. The majority of the capstones had been dislodged and only three remained in-situ. The structure measured 0.40 – 0.56m wide and ran for 1.86m. The backfill within the construction cut for the drain **0305** consisted of a soft mid-brown, silty clay with moderate inclusions of rounded to sub-angular sandstone and occasional flecks of charcoal. The feature was sealed by subsoil **0302**.



Plate 9: Trench 1 looking north-west showing regularly spaced ridge and furrows (0104 – 0112)



Plate 10: Stone field drain 0408, looking north (2m scale)

4.2.3 Trench 04

Trench 4 was overlain by 0.20m of topsoil **0401**, comprising friable, mid greyish-brown silty, sandy clay. Below **0401** was a layer of subsoil, which was 0.08m thick.

Natural deposits of stiff, light to mid-grey to brownish-grey clay **0403** with frequent well-sorted, medium-sized, sub-rounded stone inclusions were observed at a depth of 0.28 – 0.43m below ground level.

A series of stone field drains were identified within the trench, corresponding to the drains identified in Trenches 03, 05, 07 and 08. **0404** and **0405** were recorded running north-east/south-west across the trench. Both segments of drain were constructed of roughly hewn sandstone blocks with flat capping stones of the French drain typology. **0404** and **0405** measured 0.31m and 0.38m in width, 1.88m and 1.32m in length respectively. Together these probably formed a branch of the drainage channels seen elsewhere in the northern part of the site. An additional field drain **0408** ran diagonally across the northern part of the trench (Plate 10). The construction of the drain was identical to the other features identified. A capstone was lifted to examine the structure within. The edges of the structure were clearly defined and housed in a linear cut **0409**, 0.40m wide. The drains were cut into the natural **0403** and sealed by a thin deposit of subsoil **0402**, which had a maximum thickness of 0.08m.



Plate 11: General shot of 0406 looking north-west

In addition to the drainage features identified across the trench, a shallow, linear feature **0406** was identified (Plate 11). **0406** had a total recorded length of 2.10m; it was 1.10m wide and had a maximum depth of 0.08m. The ditch was filled with a friable, mid yellowish-brown, silty clay **0407** with occasional dark humic inclusions. No finds were recovered. The ditch cut through the natural **0403** and was sealed by the subsoil. The alignment of the linear feature and drainage features are perpendicular and so it may be anticipated that they are broadly contemporary in date; both were ascribed to the post-medieval (Period 1) era on the basis of their construction and absence of modern anthropogenic material.



Plate 12: Trench 5 looking north-west (1m scales)

4.2.4 Trench 05

Trench 5 was overlain by 0.16m of topsoil **0501**, which comprised a soft, dark greyish-brown, silty, sandy clay. This overlaid subsoil **0502**, which consisted of a firm mid yellowish-brown, silty clay, which was 0.25m thick at the north-west end of the trench thinning out to less than 0.04m in the middle of the trench, where the underlying geology changed. In the south-east half of the trench, the subsoil overlay a humic layer of silty clay **0507**, which sealed feature **0505**.

Natural silty clay **0503** was observed at a depth of between 0.41 and 0.43m below ground level. The stiff silty clay was a light grey to brownish-grey colour. This gave way to a stiff clay with frequent pebble inclusions in the south-eastern part of the trench.

A stone field drain **0505** was identified in the middle of the trench (Plate 12), aligned north-east/south-west. The structure had a total length of 2.10m; it was 0.25m wide. This was housed in a linear construction cut **0504** and backfilled with a soft, dark greyish-brown silty clay. The entirety of the structure was covered with a thin deposit of silty clay **0507**.



Plate 13: South-facing section through feature 0508 (1m scale)

A linear feature **0508** was excavated in the south-east half of the trench (Plates 12 and 13). This was aligned north/south and ran diagonally across the trench for a total of 5.40m. The feature measured 1.10m in width and had a maximum depth of 0.12m. It was cut through mid yellowish-brown subsoil **0502**, and was filled by a soft, dark greyish-brown, sandy clay **0509**. It was possible to ascribe a date to the closure of this ditch from a small assemblage of 18th and 19th century ceramics. **0509** corresponds closely to a visible earthwork – ditch and bank – that together with this negative feature can be ascribed to the post-medieval period (Period 1).



Plate 14: Remnants of stone-filled field drain 0704 (2m scale)

4.2.5 Trench 07

Trench 07 was overlain by 0.24m of topsoil **0701**, which comprised a friable, mid greyish-brown, silty, sandy clay. This overlaid thin subsoil deposit **0702**, which consisted of a friable, mid-yellowish-brown, silty clay, which ranged in thickness from 0.04 to 0.08m.

Natural clay **0703** was observed at a depth of between 0.52 and 0.87m below ground level. The clay was stiff, mid light grey to brownish-grey with rounded stone inclusions.

Two stone field drains **0704** (Plate 14) and **0705** were exposed in the middle of the trench; both were aligned north/south and ran diagonally across the trench for 4.97m and 2.65m respectively. The drains varied in width from 0.24 – 0.27m. They were cut into the natural; the alignment of the drains corresponded to those in Trench 08. Whilst the structure of **0704** was relatively poor, the capstones on **0705** were better preserved. It is not possible to confidently ascribe a date to the origin of these features; however, the absence of any modern material was noted. It can therefore be suggested these are late post-medieval (Period 1) and were possibly constructed in the 18th or 19th century.

4.2.6 Trench 08

Trench 8 was overlain by 0.23m of topsoil **0801**, which comprised a friable, mid greyish-brown, silty, sandy clay. This overlaid subsoil **0802**, which consisted of a firm mid-yellowish-brown, silty clay, which had a maximum thickness of 0.06m.

Natural clay **0803** was observed at a depth of between 0.29 and 0.45m below ground level. The clay was very stiff, light grey to brownish-grey with rounded stone inclusions.

A series of stone field drains **0804 - 0807** were exposed in the northern half of the trench. These were aligned north /south and ran diagonally across the trench. The drains were evenly spaced, appeared to have been cut into the natural and were sealed by the subsoil. The field drains consisted French drains with large capstones and narrow stone sides, the upper stone fills were removed during the excavation process. The structures were investigated and seen to be partially functioning; two of the four drains retained water. The width of the drains varied from 0.24 to 0.40m. Whilst the features lacked dating evidence, their form and construction broadly paralleled the other drains found in this part of the site, can be ascribed to the post-medieval period (Period 1) and were likely to have been installed in the 18th or 19th century.

4.3 Field system (South) (Trenches 18, 22, 23 and 24)

Further remains pertaining to agricultural activity were exposed in the following trenches and were limited to the northern half of the southern field.

4.3.1 Trench 18

The trench was overlain by 0.18m of topsoil **1801**, consisting of friable, mid blackish-grey, sandy, silty clay. A layer of subsoil **1802** underlay the topsoil; this comprised a mid to light yellowish-brown, sandy clay.

The natural **0403** comprised a mid yellowish-brown, silty clay. Some evidence of floralturbation was evident in the middle of the trench and was investigated; this proved to ephemeral and irregular in form, perhaps deriving from root action.

A single negative feature **1804** ran across the north-western corner of the trench. This was partially excavated to a depth of 0.33m to reveal a concave side leading to a flat base. The feature had a maximum recorded length of 1.00m and width of 0.47m but extended north,

east and west beyond the limits of the excavation. It was filled by **1805** – a subsoil-type deposit – consisting of a friable, mid yellowish-brown, silty clay with occasional charcoal flecks. The absence of any modern inclusions within **1805** the feature suggests it could represent an infilled field boundary. The lack of dating evidence and limited extent of the exposure prevent any further refinement of this interpretation.

4.3.2 Trench 22

Topsoil **2201**, consisting of a soft, mid greyish-brown to blackish-brown silty, sandy clay, lay up to 0.25m above a 0.26m thick layer of subsoil **2202**. **2202** consisted of a firm, mid yellowish-brown to reddish-brown, silty clay.

Natural **2203** stiff light yellowish-brown deposits of silty clay with pockets of sand was exposed across the length of the trench.

Three regularly spaced ephemeral linear features, **2204**, **2206**, **2208**, were exposed across the trench cut into the natural **2203**. These ranged in width from 0.32 – 0.64m. The shallowest feature **2208** had a maximum depth of 0.03m, whilst **2204** extended to a depth of 0.07m (Plate 15). The profiles of the features were shallow and flat, broadly characteristic of ridge and furrow farming, prevalent in the medieval and post-medieval periods.



Plate 15: Section through furrow 2204

4.3.3 Trench 23 (Plate 18)

Topsoil **2301** consisting of a soft, mid greyish-brown silty, sandy clay lay up to 0.25m thick. This overlay a layer of subsoil **2302** that was deposited to a thickness of 0.18-0.25. The subsoil consisted of a friable to soft, light greyish-brown, sandy clay.

Natural deposits of stiff, light yellowish-brown, silty clay **2303** with occasional pockets of sand were exposed across the length of the trench. Natural bands of clay present within the trench were proved to be of glacial origin.

A relatively shallow linear feature **2304** was similar in form to the furrows exposed in Trench 22. **2304** was relatively shallow, exceeding no more than 0.23m in depth and had an elongated concave profile (Plate 16). The feature had a maximum width of 0.90m and extended approximately 3.2m across the width of the trench. The nature of the fill was similar in composition to the overlying subsoil, comprising a friable, mid greyish-brown, sandy clay with moderate inclusions of sub-rounded to round stone inclusions.



Plate 16: North-east facing section through furrow 2304 (0.25m scale)

The most substantial feature to be exposed consisted of a large ditch **2308** aligned east/west (Plate 17). The ditch ran 1.90m east and west beyond the limits of the excavation; it had a maximum width of 1.12m and extended to a depth of 0.60m. The ditch was filled with two fills. The primary fill **2310** comprised a firm, light greyish-brown, silty clay. The secondary fill **2309** was a friable, light yellowish-brown, silty sand with light, yellowish-white pockets of sand. No artefacts or ecofacts were recovered from the fill of the feature.

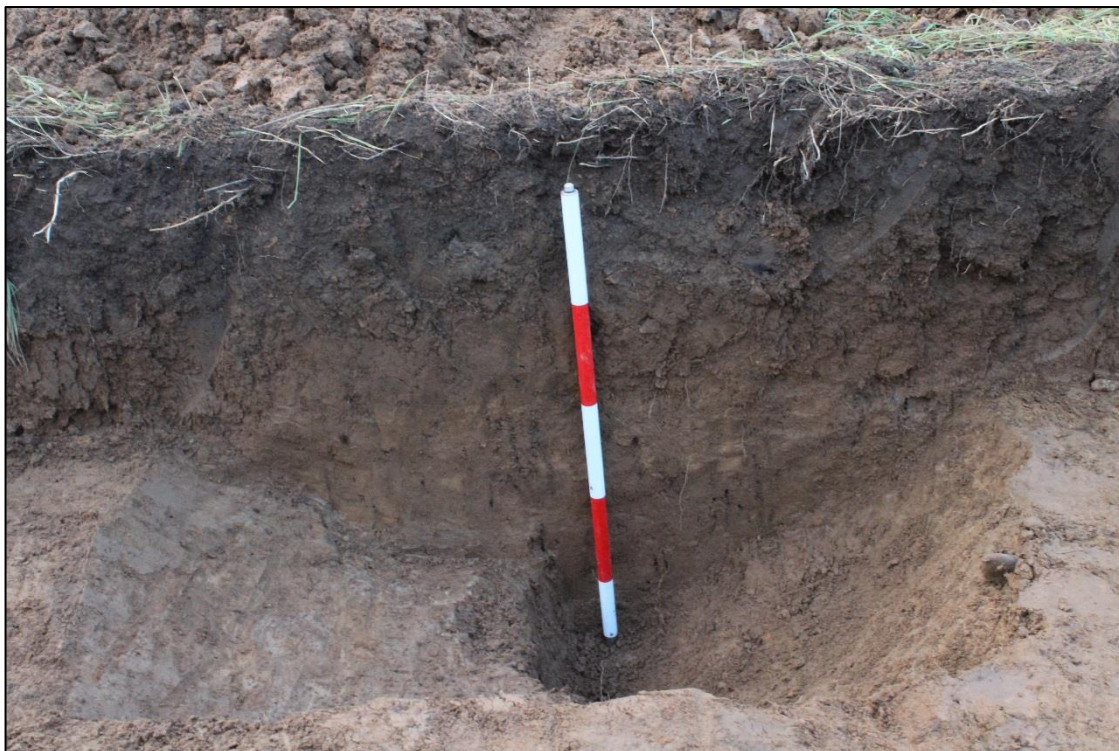


Plate 17: East-facing section through 2308 (1m scale)



Plate 18: Trench 23 looking north



Plate 19: View of the northern end of Trench 24 showing half-sectioned stake-hole (1m scales)

4.3.4 Trench 24

Trench 24 was overlain by a soft, mid greyish-brown to blackish-brown, silty, sandy clay topsoil. **2401** was deposited to a thickness of 0.20m. The underlying subsoil **2402**

consisted of a firm, mid yellowish-brown silty clay.

The natural **2403** was made up of banded, stiff, light yellowish/reddish-brown deposits of clay with pockets of sand and stone clasts.

A single isolated stake hole **2304** (Plate 19) was half-sectioned. The feature was sub-circular in plan measuring 0.20 x 0.16m. It had tapering sides leading to a v-shaped base. It was filled by a firm to friable, mid brown, silty clay with moderate burnt clay and charcoal inclusions. The feature was stratigraphically isolated, cut into the natural geology. No associated activity was identified in the immediate vicinity. The origin and function of the feature is unclear, however it can be tentatively associated with the wider field system represented by the linear agricultural features found in Trenches 18, 22 and 23.

4.4 Modern disturbance (Trenches 11, 12 and 15)

Trenches 11, 12 and 15 were untargeted trenches situated in the western part of the site. All three trenches revealed recent landscaping activity to have taken place with severe truncation down to natural deposits in Trenches 11 and 12.

4.4.1 Trench 11

Trench 11 was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.85m. No archaeological features were recorded in this location, and no artefacts or ecofacts were recovered. The trench was overlain by thin band of soft, dark greyish-brown, silty, sandy clay topsoil **1101**, which was 0.05m thick. Unlike the other trenches, there was an absence of subsoil. Instead, loose, reworked clay and soil **1102** was laid to a depth of 0.40 – 0.85m. This made ground deposit contained plastics and frequent fragments of machine-made brick, indicative of recent disturbance. Natural deposits of stiff, light grey to greyish-brown silty clay **1103** was recorded at the base of the trench; occasional rounded stone inclusions were noted throughout.

4.4.2 Trench 12

The trench was overlain by a loose to friable, dark greyish-brown topsoil **1201**, which lay up to 0.20m in thickness. This contained significant amounts of refuse and modern inclusions, mirroring the disturbance in Trench 11. Below was a thin layer of subsoil **1202** which consisted of a soft mid, yellowish-brown, silty clay; this ranged in thickness from 0.03-0.25m and had evidently been truncated horizontally through ploughing. Natural deposits of stiff, light brown, silty clay **1203** were exposed at the base of the trench.

4.4.3 Trench 15

Trench 15 was overlain by a mid greyish-brown to blackish-brown silty, sandy clay topsoil **1501**, which was up to 0.25m thick. This lay thickest to the southern part of the trench. Below the topsoil was a 0.05m thick layer of subsoil, forming a clear interface between the natural geology and the topsoil. **1502** was formed of soft, yellowish-brown to reddish-brown, silty clay. This lay above a stiff, natural deposit of silty clay **1503**, which

was light brown in colour with rounded stone inclusions indicative of glacial drift deposits.

Whilst most of the trench showed few signs of anthropogenic activity, a large dump of reworked clay and topsoil with stone rubble and modern refuse was distributed across the southern 5.00m of the trench to a depth of 0.75m. This appeared to continue east, west and south beyond the confines of the trench and may account for the accentuated area of raised ground in this part of the site.

An isolated modern ceramic field drain was also exposed at the southern end of the trench and cut through the subsoil. Further fragments of ceramic field drain were encountered within the topsoil in the middle of the trench, the lowest point topographically.



Plate 20: Trench 26 Looking south

4.5 Trenches 06, 09, 10, 13, 14 and 15

The following trenches were located in the northern part of the site. Whilst the majority of the trenching was untargeted, trenches 14 and 15 were placed over a geophysical anomaly detected during a magnetometric survey. No features of archaeological significance were encountered within any of the trenches.

4.5.1 Description

The simple stratigraphic sequence encountered in the other trenches was replicated in the aforementioned trenches. Topsoil was deposited between thicknesses of 0.24-0.30m and was dominated by silty, sandy clay soils. A paucity of anthropogenic inclusions within the

topsoil is to be expected given the pastoral use of the landscape. This might also account for the relatively thin accumulation of subsoil, which in some cases occurred as a thin band of silty clay forming an interface of 0.05m between the natural and topsoil.

Natural deposits consisted of stiff light brown and yellowish-brown silty clays. The occurrence of glacially deposited stone inclusions was inconsistent and encountered in Trenches 06, 09, 10 and 15. Patches of sand were also noted and most prevalent in the western part of the site.



Plate 21: Trench 25 Looking south

4.6 Trenches 21, 25, 26 and 27

Trenches 21, 25, 26 and 27 were placed in the field to the south of a public footpath and were untargeted (Plates 20 and 21). No features of archaeological significance were encountered.

4.6.1 Description

The deposition of topsoil and subsoil in the aforementioned trenches did not deviate from the sequences outlined in Section 4.3; on the whole the southern part of the site was overlain by silty, sandy topsoil, ranging in thickness from 0.19-0.25m. Subsoil was deposited relatively evenly within Trenches 21 and 25 - 27 between 0.20m and 0.30m thick.

Natural deposits of silty clay and sandy clay were encountered at depths of 0.40 - 0.55m and were generally banded with irregular pockets of sand and rounded stones.

5. *Finds*

5.1 *Finds*

The entirety of the finds assemblage from the evaluation was amounted to five stratified sherds of late 18th to early 19th century pottery. A further four fragments of dark-glazed earthenware deriving from 19th century vessels, three blue and white under-glazed transfer-printed porcelain and a single fragment of a clay tobacco pipe were also found. Other common material classes, such as metalwork, animal bone and glass, were absent. It should be noted that a general lack of anthropogenic material was encountered across the site, suggestive of permanent or intensive cultural activity.

The artefacts were generally in poor condition, comprising small sherds with signs of abrasion, suggesting that they been subject to post-depositional disturbance. Most were probably introduced to the soil through manuring. The assemblage has no intrinsic value and does not contribute to the wider understanding of the site, and so will consequently be discarded.

6. Discussion

6.1 Field systems and drainage

Trenches 01, 04 and 05 yielded evidence of linear features, which were identified as weak agricultural anomalies in the geophysical survey; these conform to the alignment of former field boundaries visible on mid-19th-century to modern mapping. This was inherently clear when the survey was overlaid to modern and historic mapping, suggesting that these features date to the 19th century or earlier. The north/south aligned ditch **0508** identified in Trench 5 almost certainly represents a continuation of the earthwork ditch and bank, which was identified in the walkover survey conducted as part of the Desk Based Assessment (NAA, 2012); the earthwork is also identifiable from the geophysical results, which made it inaccessible and was not surveyed. Historic maps indicate the boundary was in existence in the mid-19th century but was infilled prior to the 1893 Ordnance Survey.



Plate 22: Close-up shot showing the interior of “French” land drain 0408

A series of ephemeral linear features also respecting the orientation of the historic boundaries were proved to represent furrows (**0104**, **0106**, **0108**, **0110** and **0112**). The position and alignment of these features corresponds closely with anomalies identified in the geophysical survey (1c), which were described as weak-strong agricultural trends (Anon, 2018); this is further supported by the Lidar surveys for the area, which indicate surviving ridge and furrow earthworks around Whalley.

The linear features (**2304**, **2204**, **2206**, **2208**) identified as furrows in the southern field were generally narrower than the features seen in the northern field. These too were

derivative of past agricultural activity. Their position in the southern field corresponds to the occurrence of strong indeterminate signals identified in the geophysical survey. Lidar results reveal feint north/south aligned ridge-and-furrow earthworks.

The larger negative feature interpreted as a ditch **2308** was however distanced somewhat from this concentration of signals. This might be explained by the nature of the fills, which were the result of siltation and may have occurred over a protracted period of time. The sand and clay fills were perhaps indiscernible from the natural deposits into which the ditch was cut. The alignment of the ditch, along a broadly east/west axis corresponds with the extent field patterns and visible earthworks discussed above. This allows the ditch to be dated by association to the same period.

The stone land drains found in the northern part of the site evidently represent attempts to improve the quality of the land. Features such as this are hard to date and are not aided much through study of their construction, which would have altered little throughout the historic periods. It is notable however that the drainage features appear to respect the line of the extant trackway running north-east/south-west across the site, which follows a former field boundary. This strongly suggests the drains were constructed following the creation of these fields, post-enclosure. This places their construction at the earliest in the post-medieval period. The initial desk-based assessment (NAA, 2012) identified a squared pattern of cropmarks, which were interpreted as a system of field-drains. It seems likely the drains encountered in the evaluation correspond to the cropmarks identified in 2010.



Plate 23: General view of spoil heaps occupying the site at the time of the evaluation

6.3 *Modern Disturbance*

Trenches 11, 12 and 15 all yielded evidence of modern disturbance. This was evidently isolated to areas in which modern groundwork had taken place. The proximity of this disturbance to the Haweswater aqueduct and the laydown areas for spoil generated from recent groundwork offers explanation to the occurrence of deep deposits of made ground. This nearby activity may also have resulted in creation of an enigmatic rectilinear anomaly 1a on the edge of survey area (Magnitude, 2018), which was situated close to the spoil heaps that remained on site throughout the duration of the evaluation.

7. Recommendations

7.1 Impact

The archaeological evaluation has demonstrated that no archaeological features of significance were identified *in-situ* within the site area. In the absence of significant archaeology, the development proposals need not necessitate any further work. As part of the post-excavation process the report and project archive will be archived in accordance with the guidance provided by the National Planning Policy Framework.

7.2 Research Potential

Whilst the surviving buried remains have limited potential to address a range of the initiatives stated in the current *Research Agenda* presented in the Archaeological Research Framework for North West England (Brennand, 2007), several observations can be made, which inform the wider understanding of settlement and land-use around Whalley.

7.2.1 Post-medieval

At a macro-scale, the results can be seen as an insight into former land-use and divisions. The infilled ditches and extant earthworks across the site can be related to mapped historic boundaries, particularly those revealed on 19th century mapping. This information contributes in part to an understanding of development of the farming landscape. Whilst it is evident these features were infilled in the second half of the 19th century, they probably reflect much older land divisions, perhaps pre-dating c. 1600.

The occurrence of historic drainage features and evidence of ridge and furrow in various parts of the site allow some basic understanding of the distribution of arable land. This is complimented by previous studies of aerial photographs and lidar in the past in an area now more widely used for pastoral farming.

7.3 Recommendations

The results of the evaluation were successful in assessing the presence and distribution of buried features across the site. In absence of any significant archaeology, it is expected that no further archaeological investigation or monitoring would be merited.

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Archive and Acknowledgements

Archive

The archive is currently held by Salford Archaeology, but will be deposited ultimately with Lancashire Museum Services. The digital archive consists of survey drawings, digital photographs, and electronic data. As part of the archiving process, the on-line OASIS (On-line Access to Index of Archaeological Investigations) form will be completed in due course.

A copy of this report will be forwarded to the client and deposited with the Lancashire (HER).

Acknowledgements

Salford Archaeology would like to thank Delta-Simons, and specifically Rachel Stringer for commissioning and supporting the programme of archaeological works.

The on-site works were carried out by Oliver Cook, Andy Coutts and Andrew Radford. The report and figures were compiled by Oliver Cook. This report was edited by Graham Mottershead, who was also responsible for project management.

Appendix 1: Figures

- Figure 1: Site Location
- Figure 2: Trench Location Plan
- Figure 3: Detail of Trenches 3, 4, 5, 7 and 8
- Figure 4: Detail of Trenches 18, 22, 23 and 24
- Figure 5: Survey results overlaid to 1848 6": 1 mile Series: Lancashire
- Figure 6: Survey results overlaid to 1893 25": 1 mile Series: Lancashire

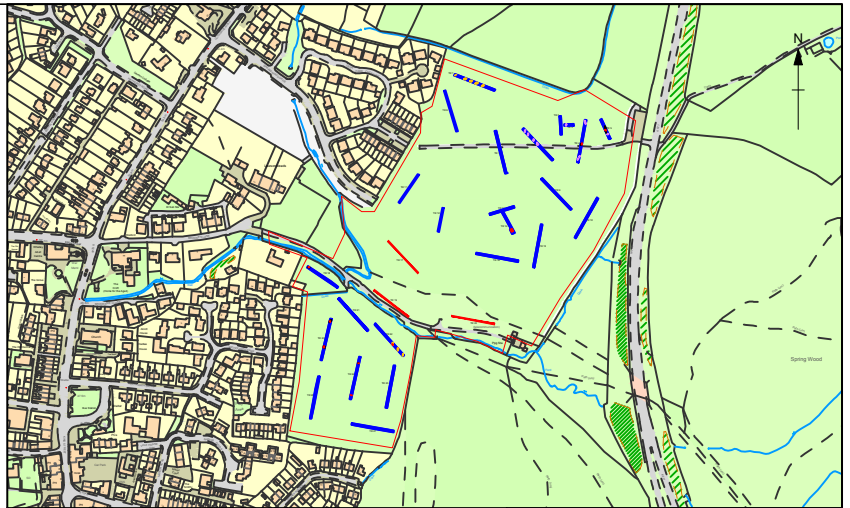
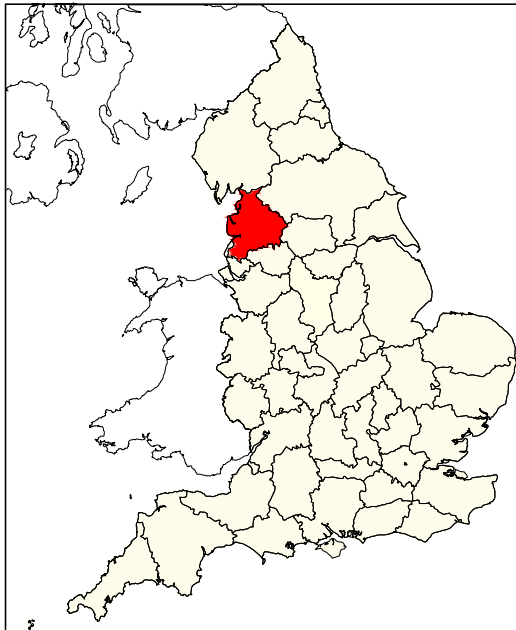
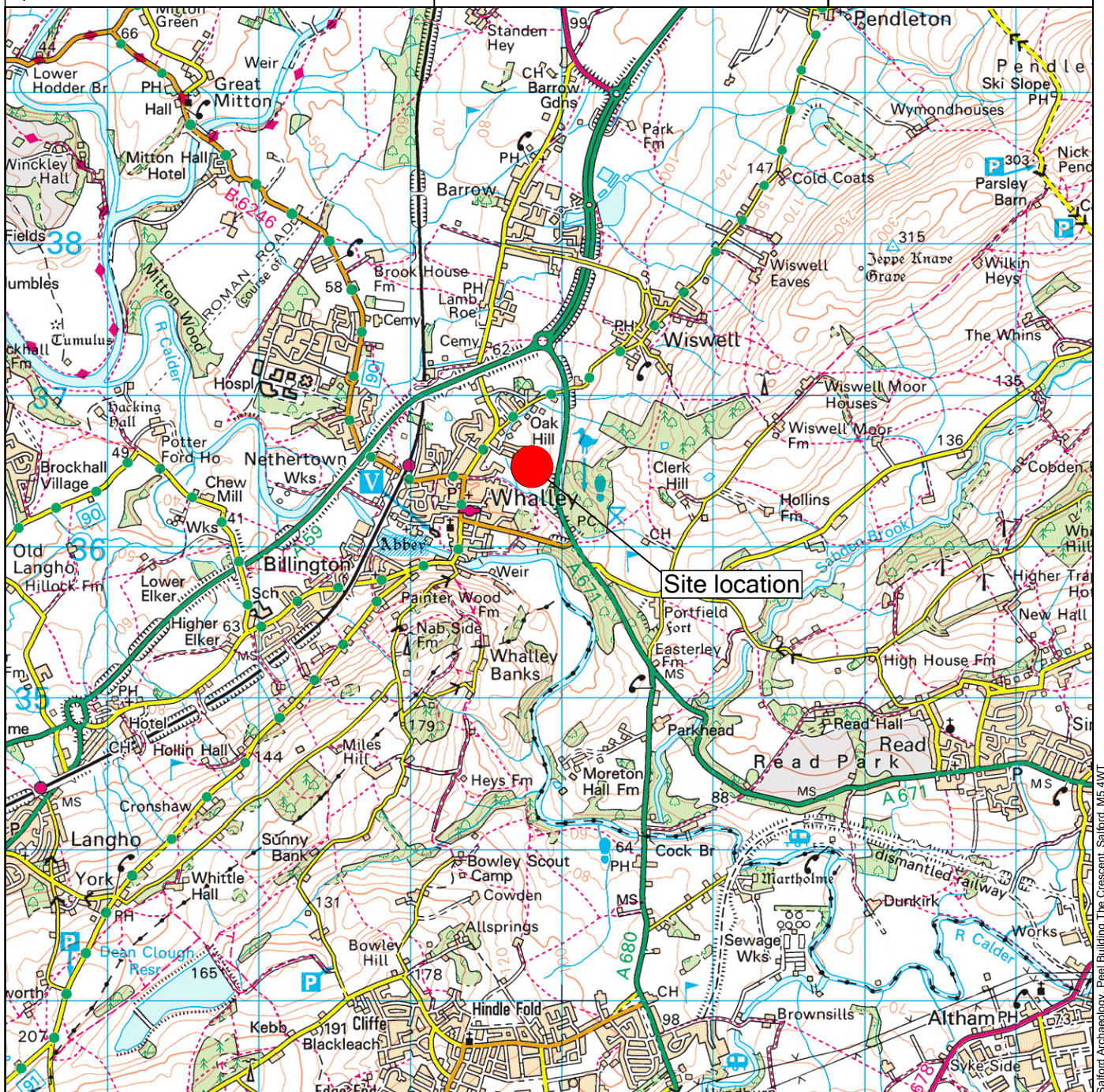


Figure 1: Site Location



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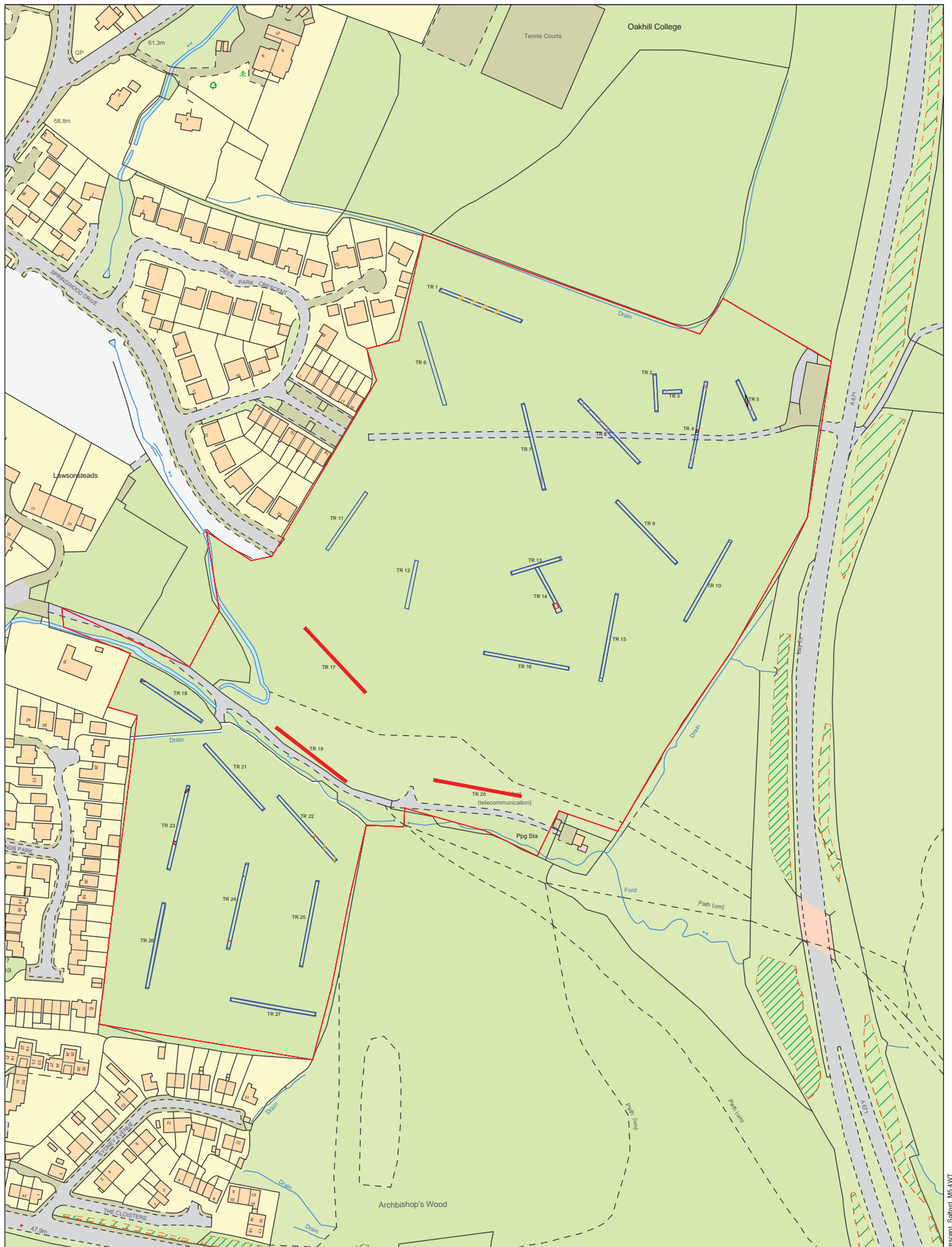
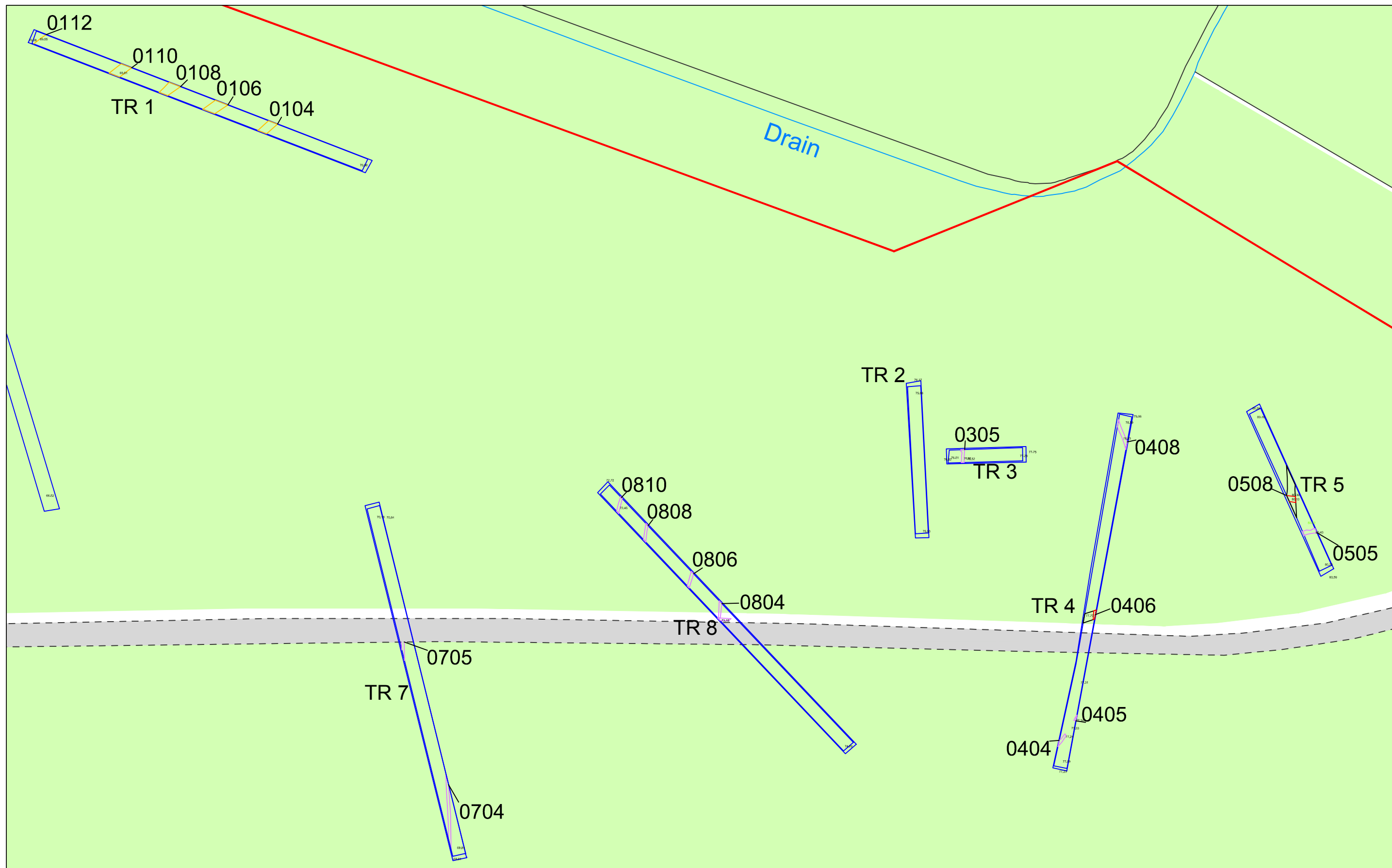
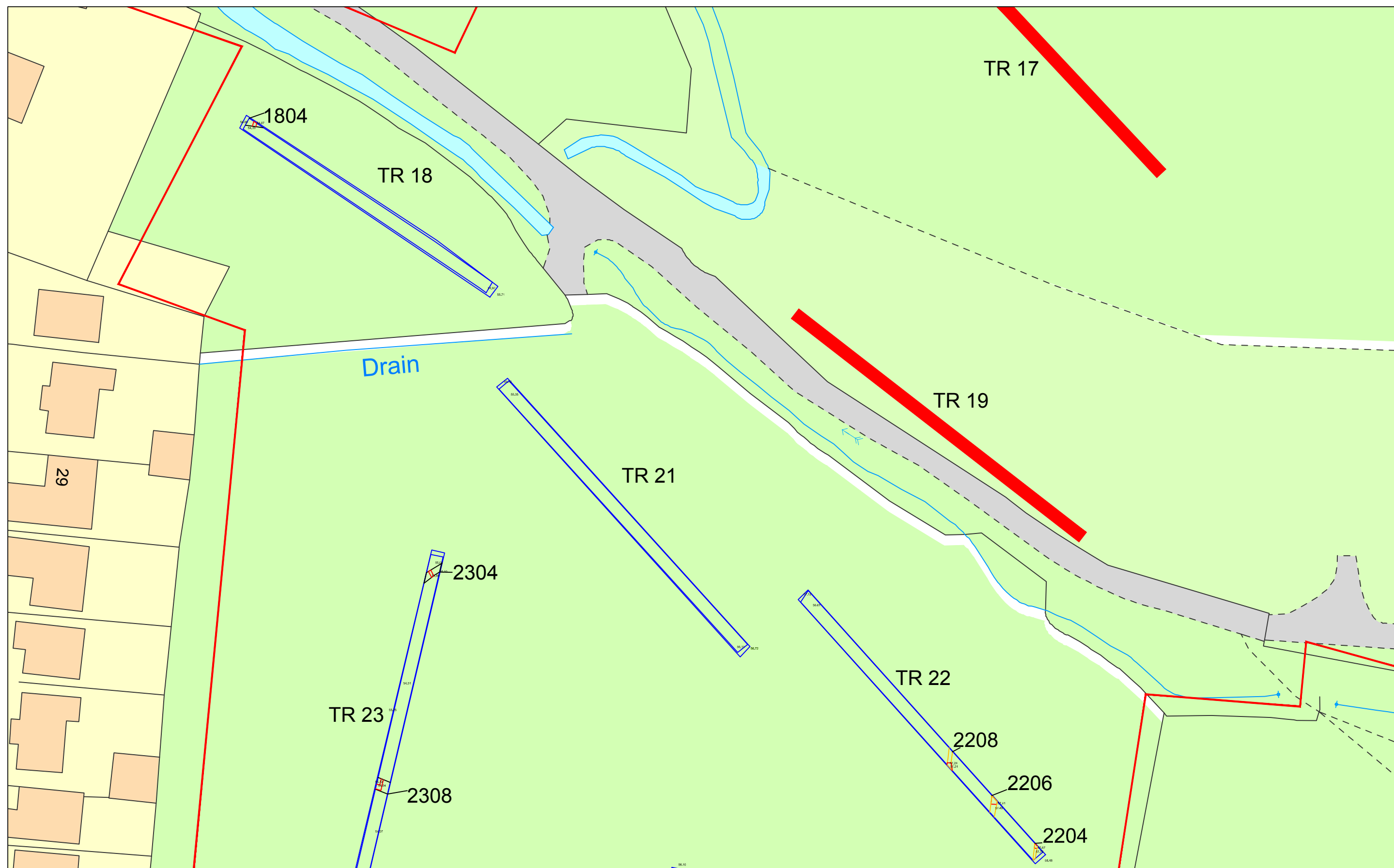
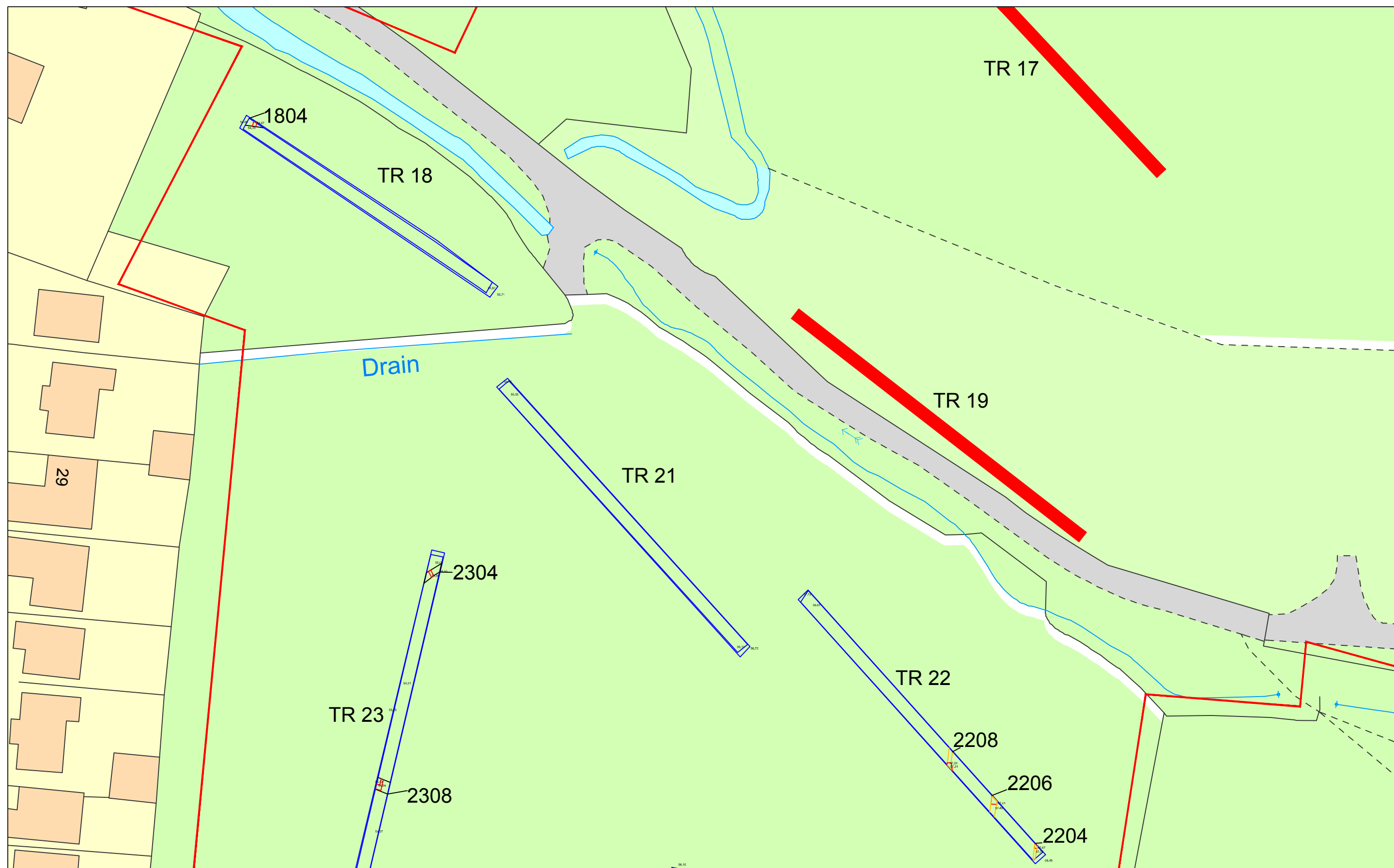
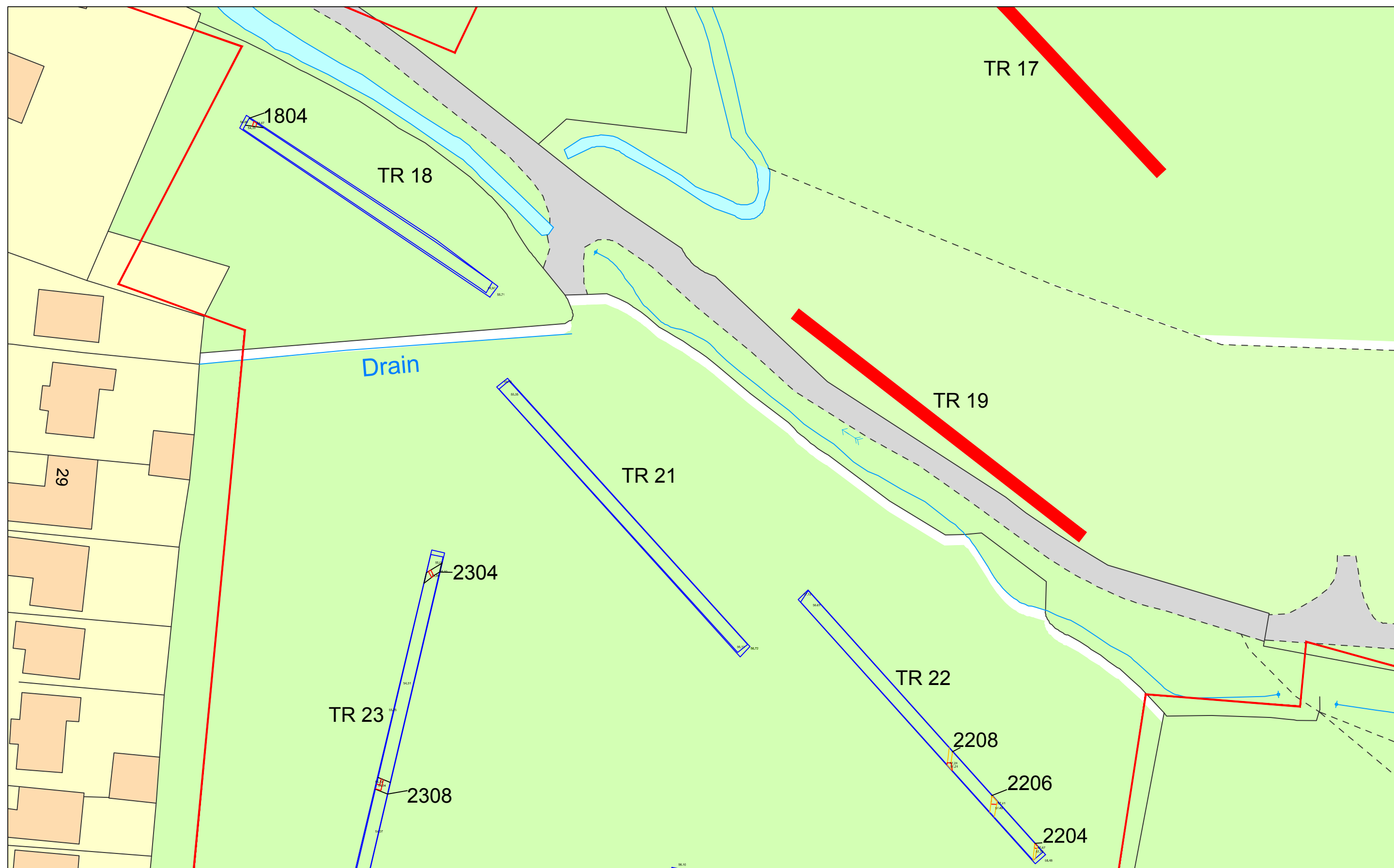
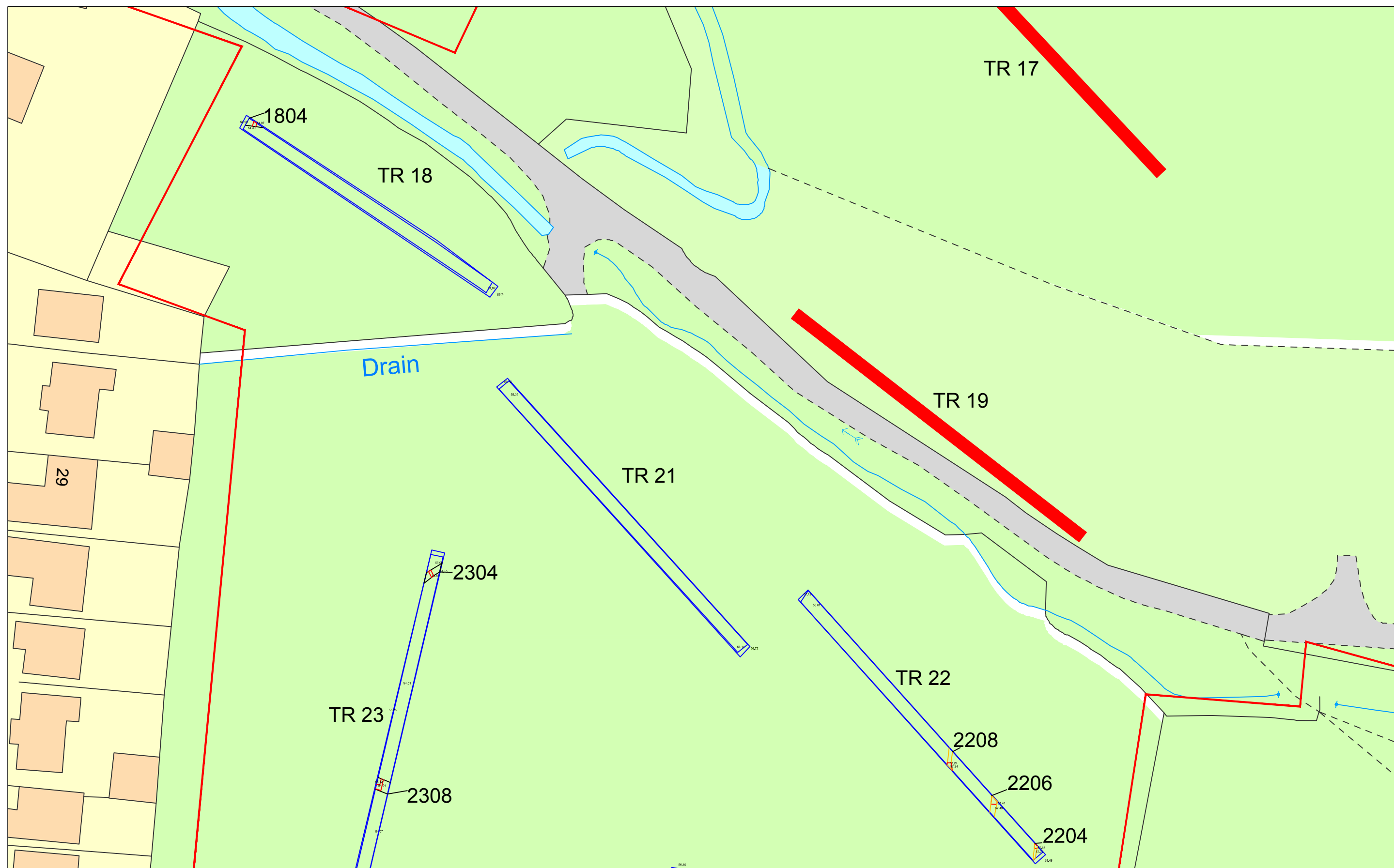
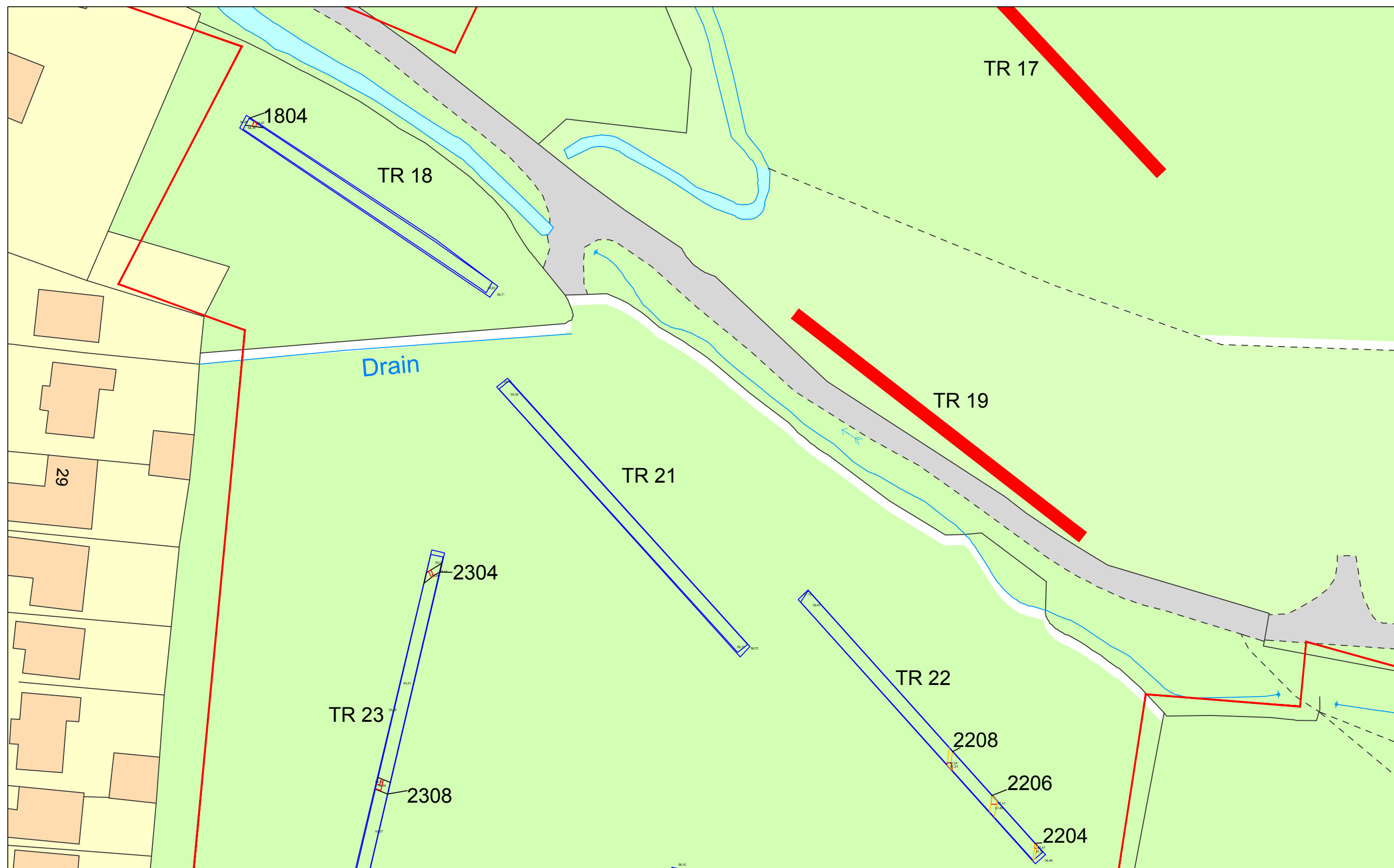
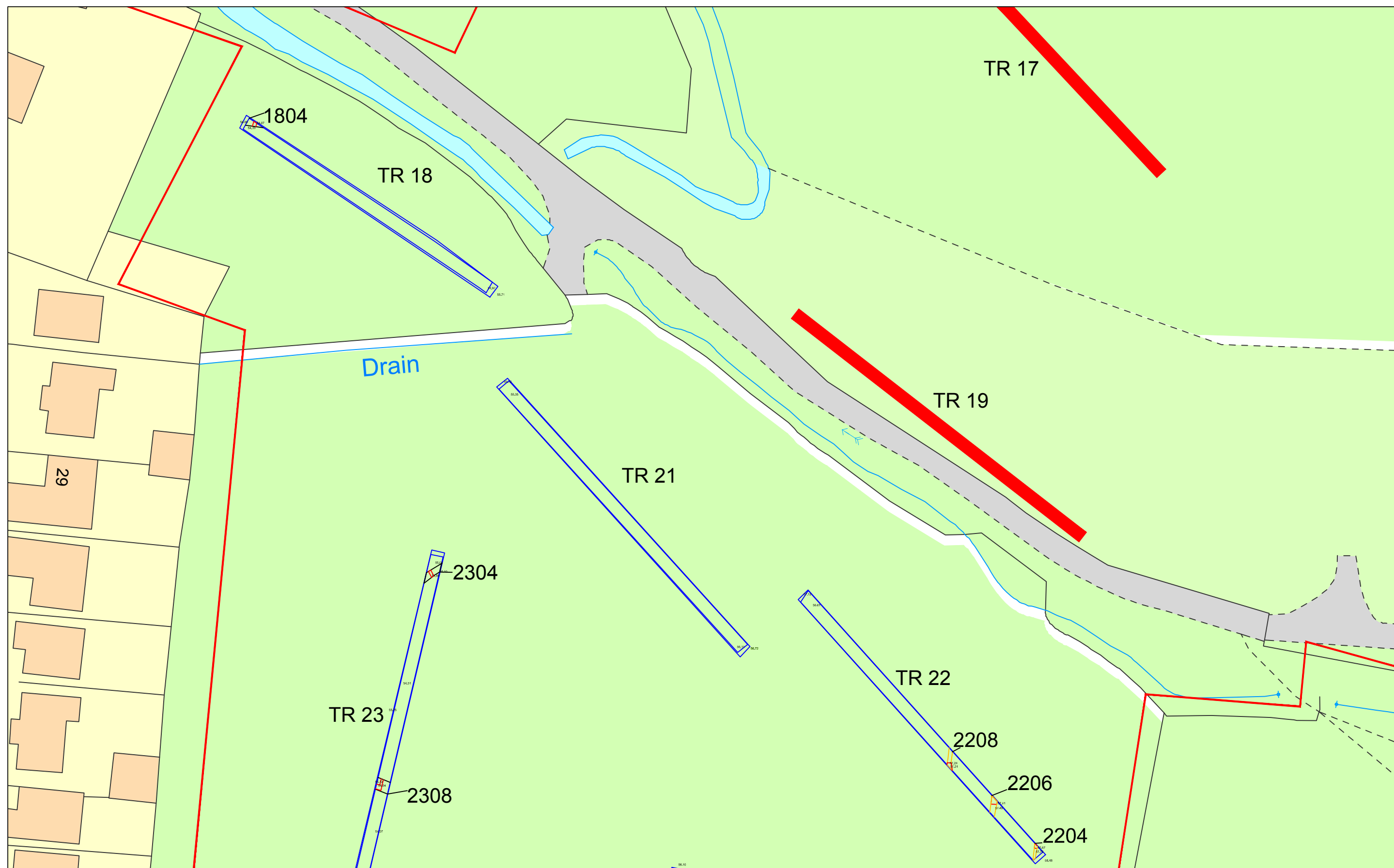
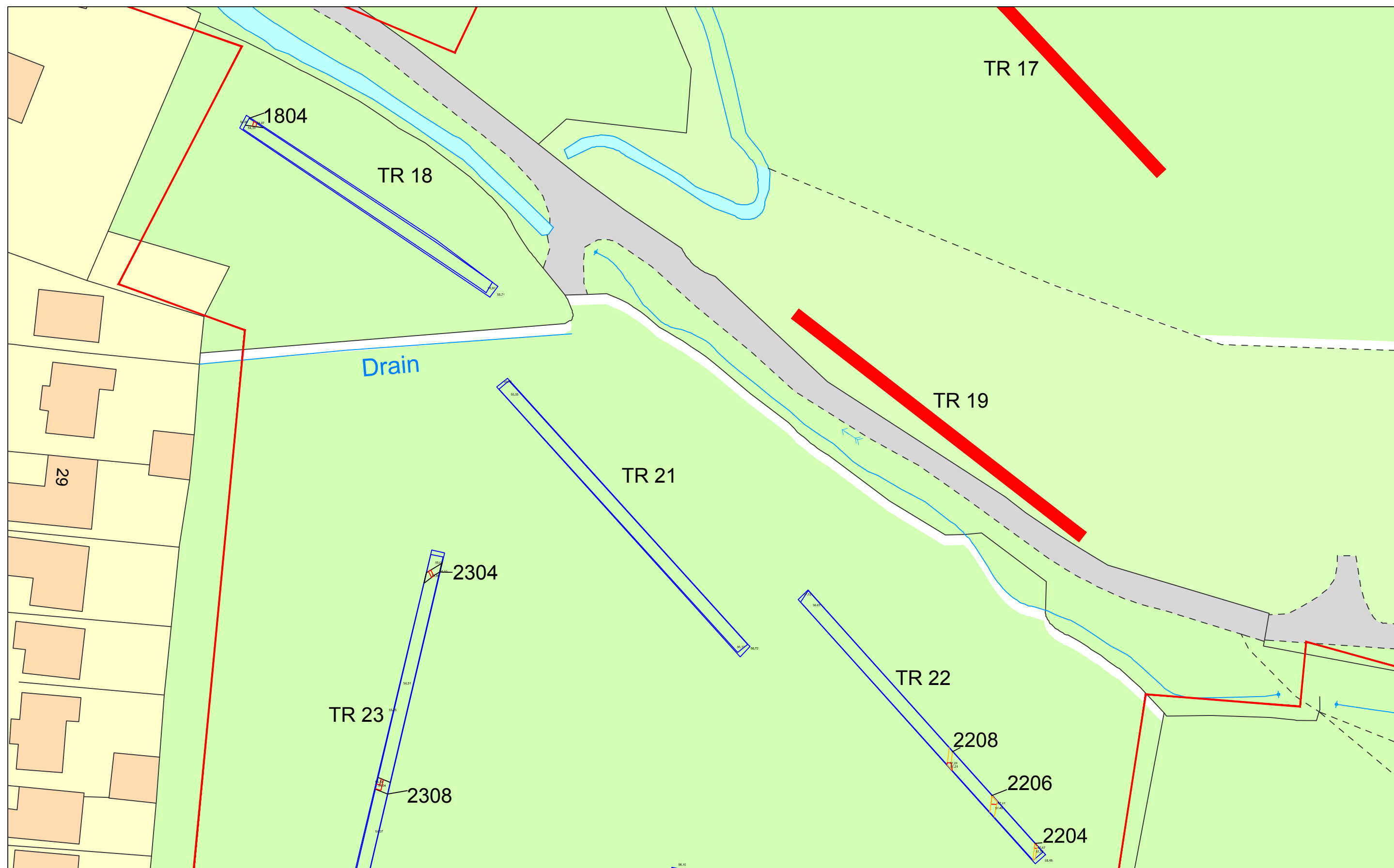
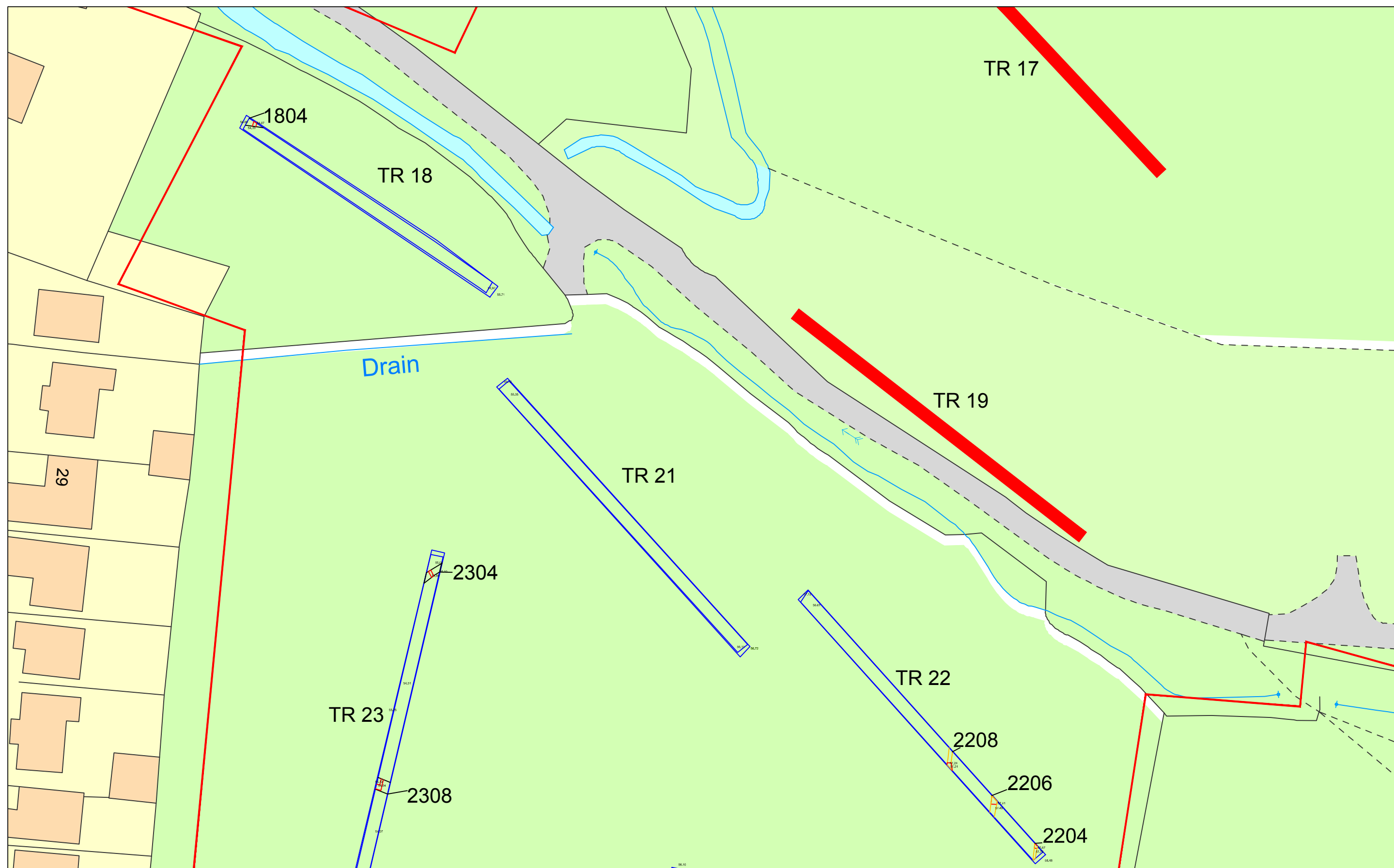
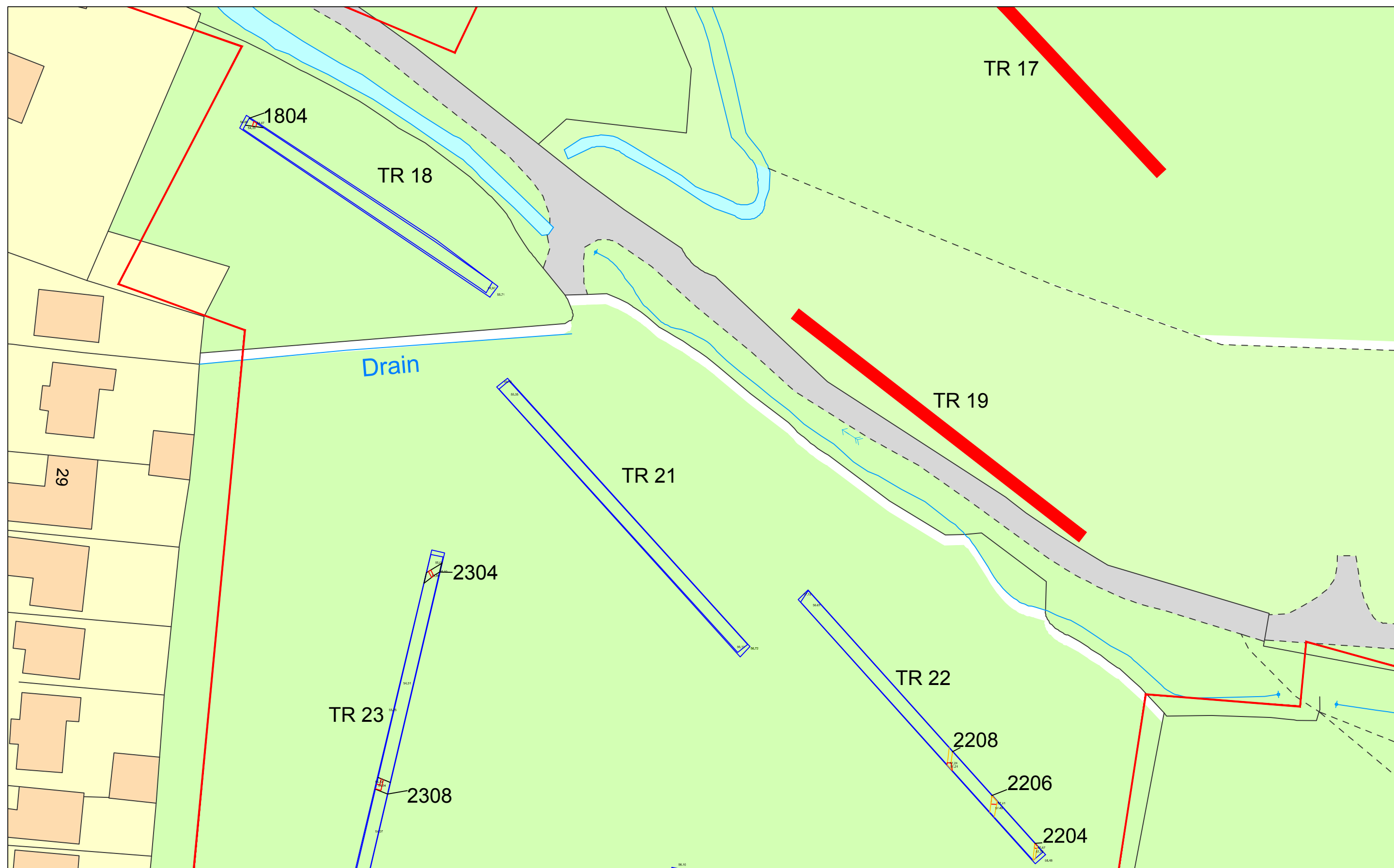
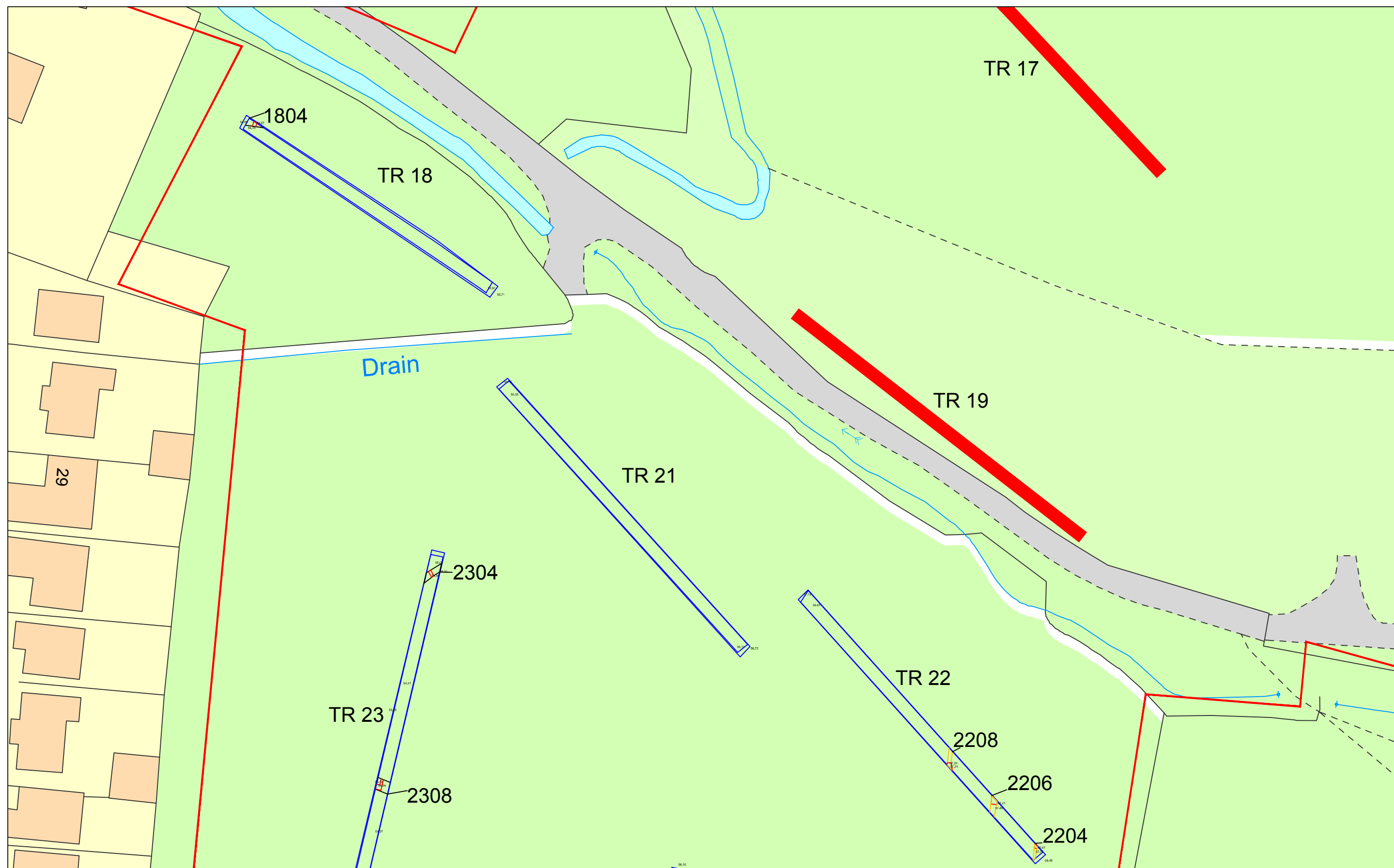
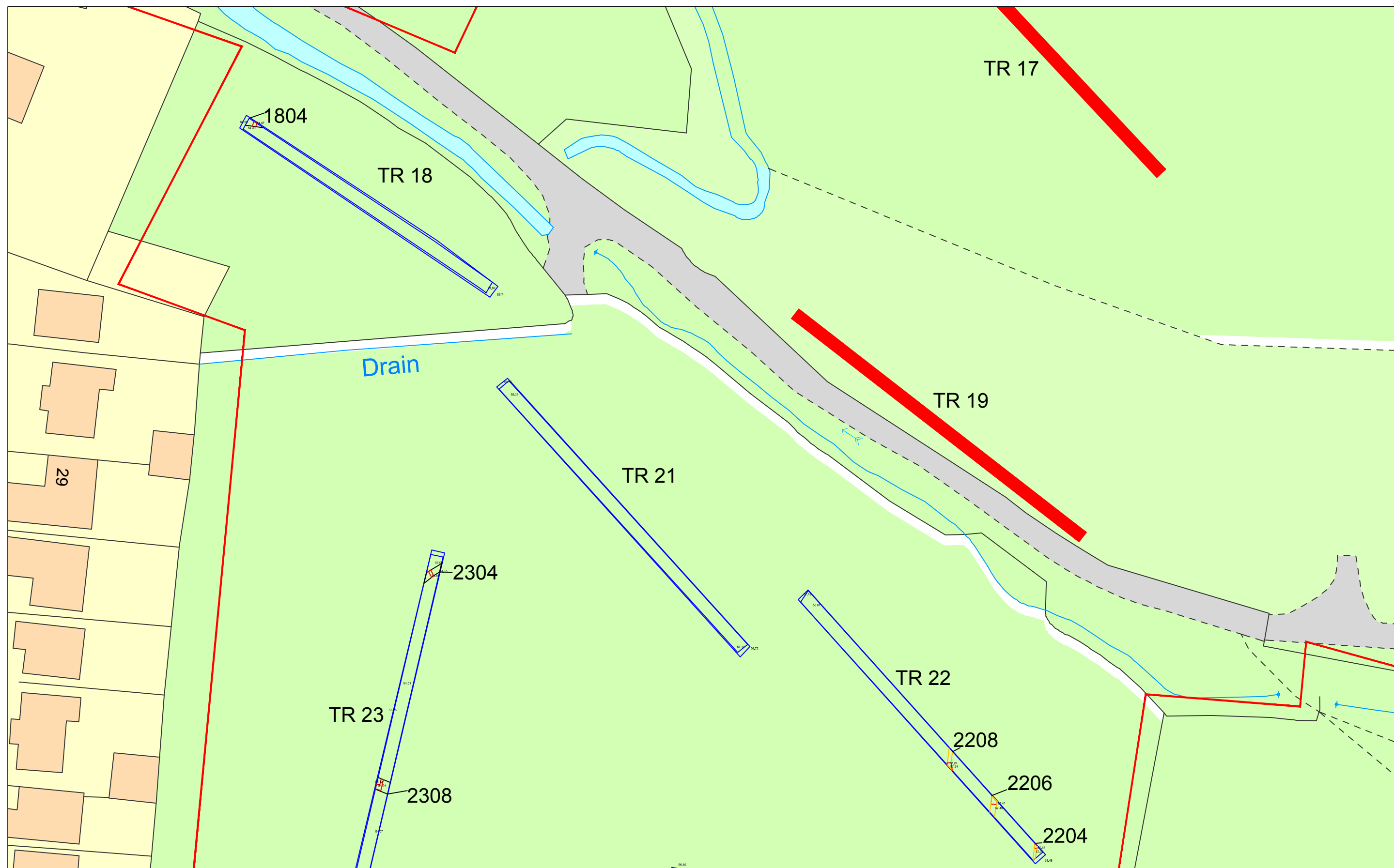
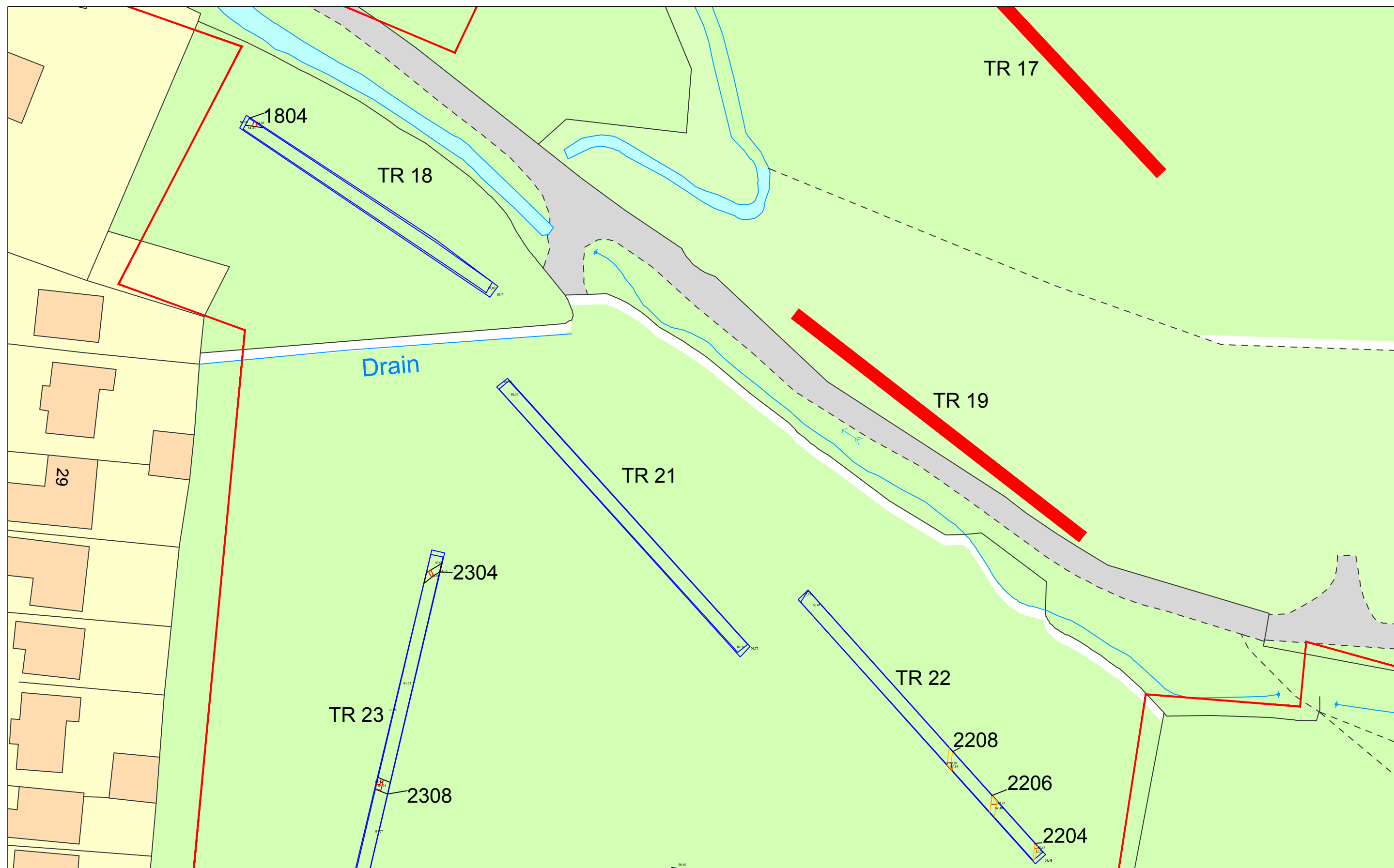
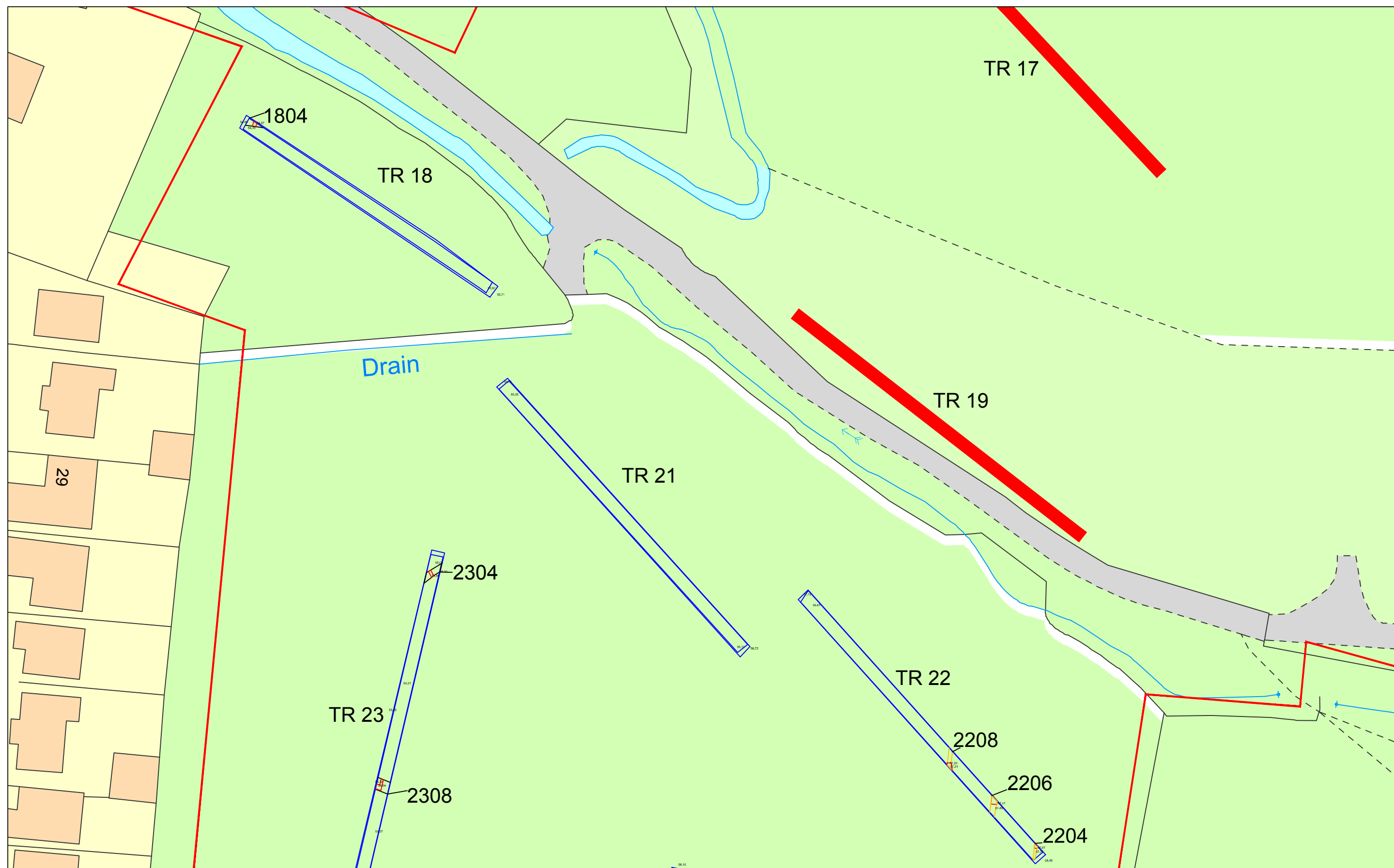
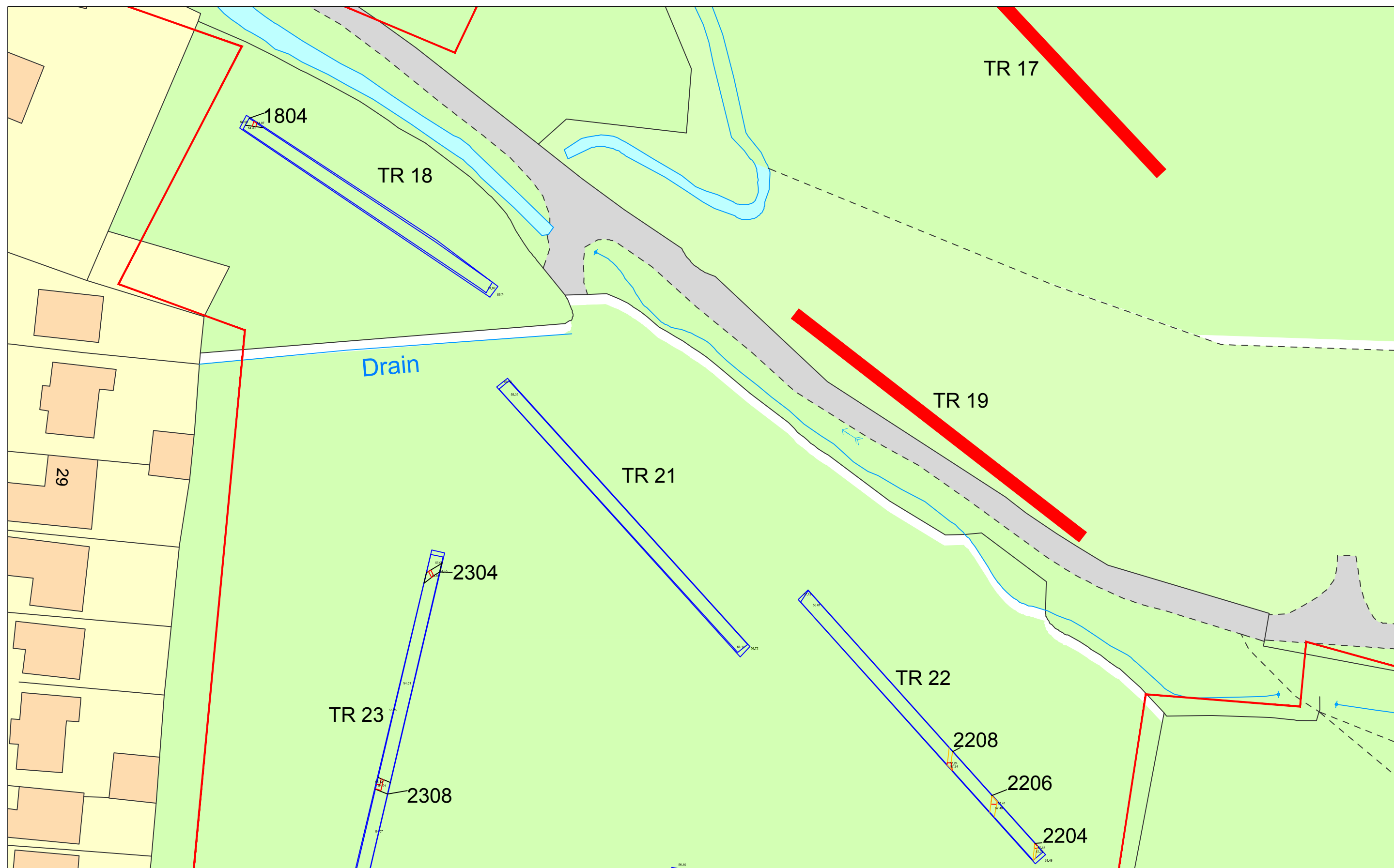
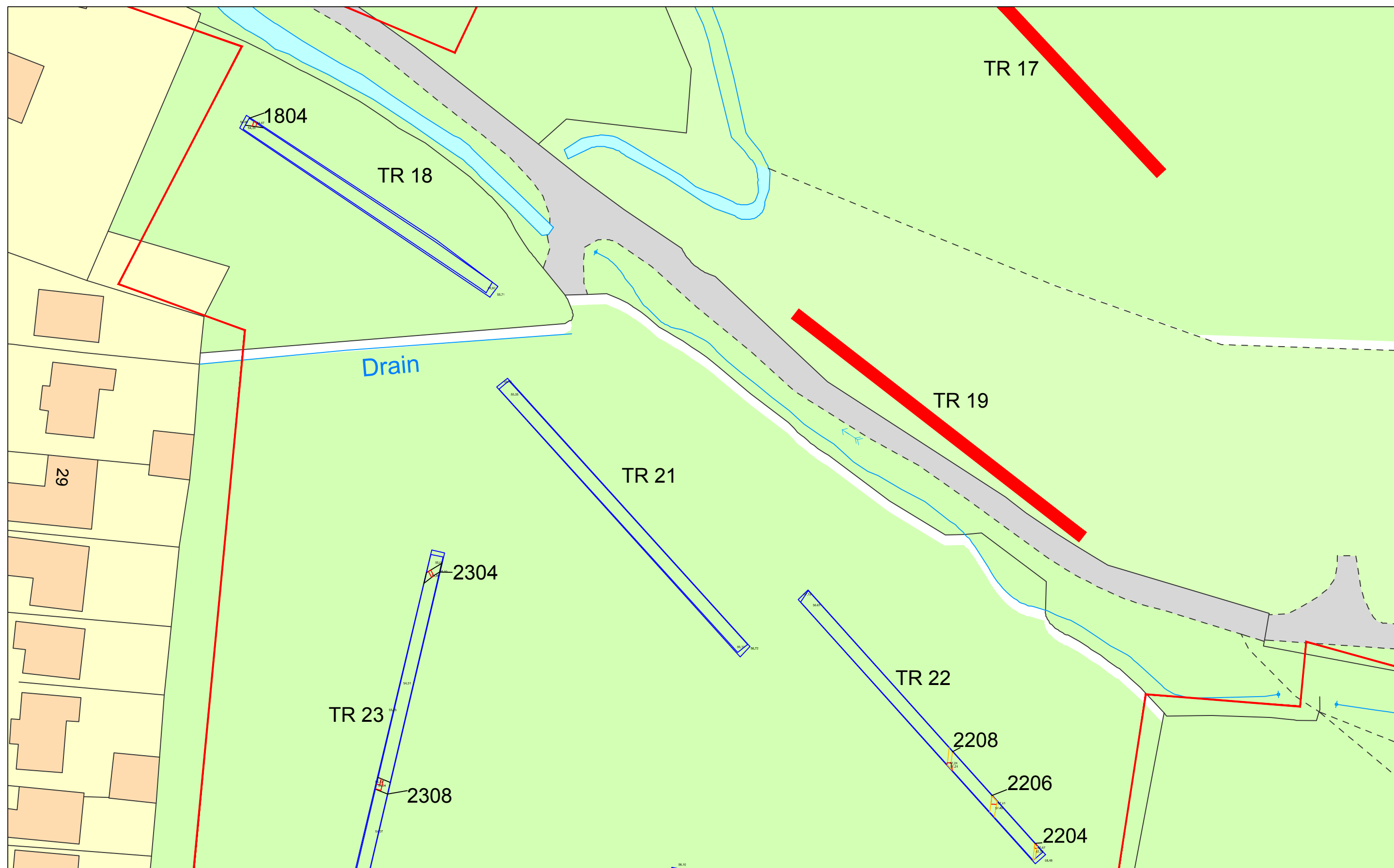
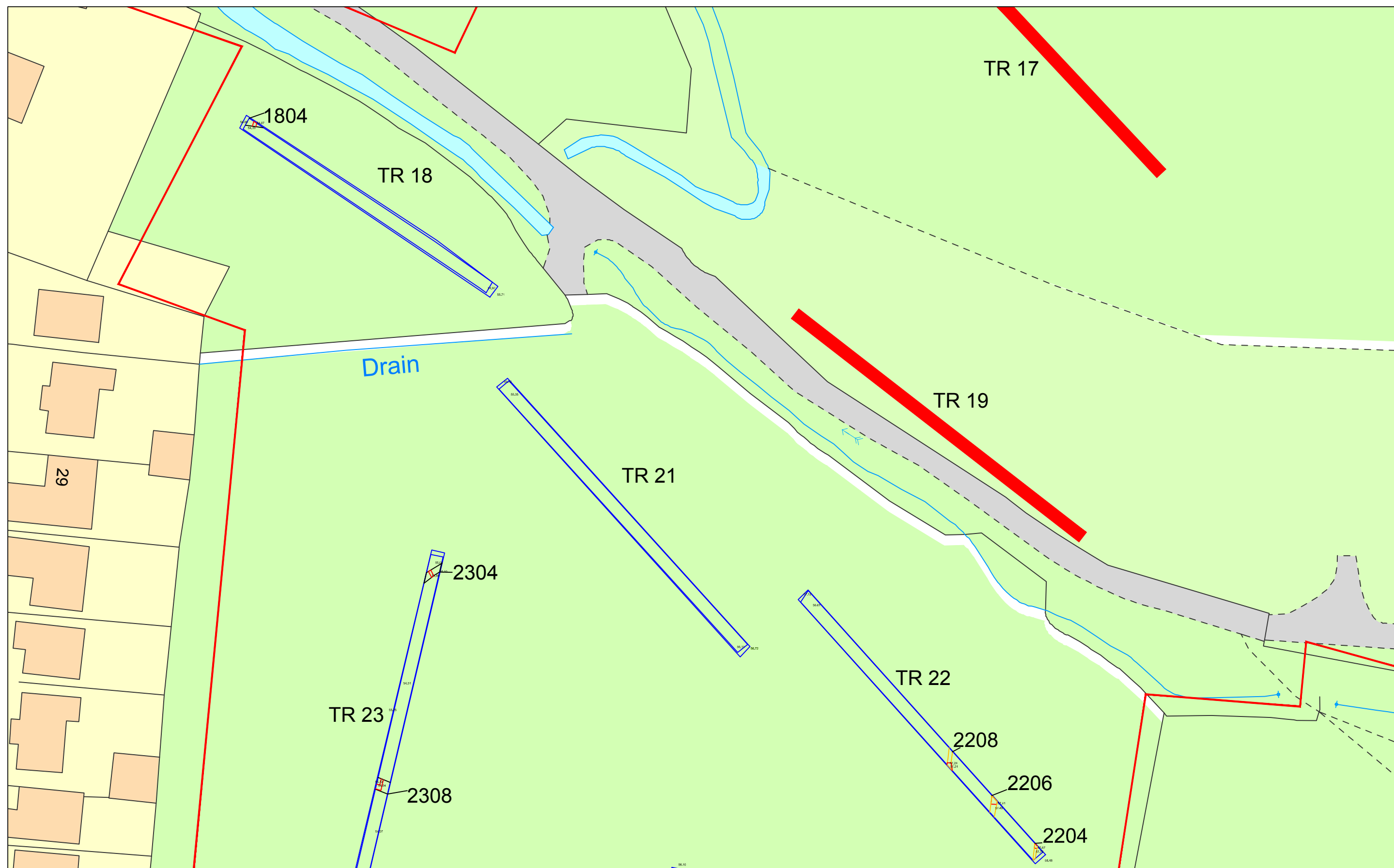
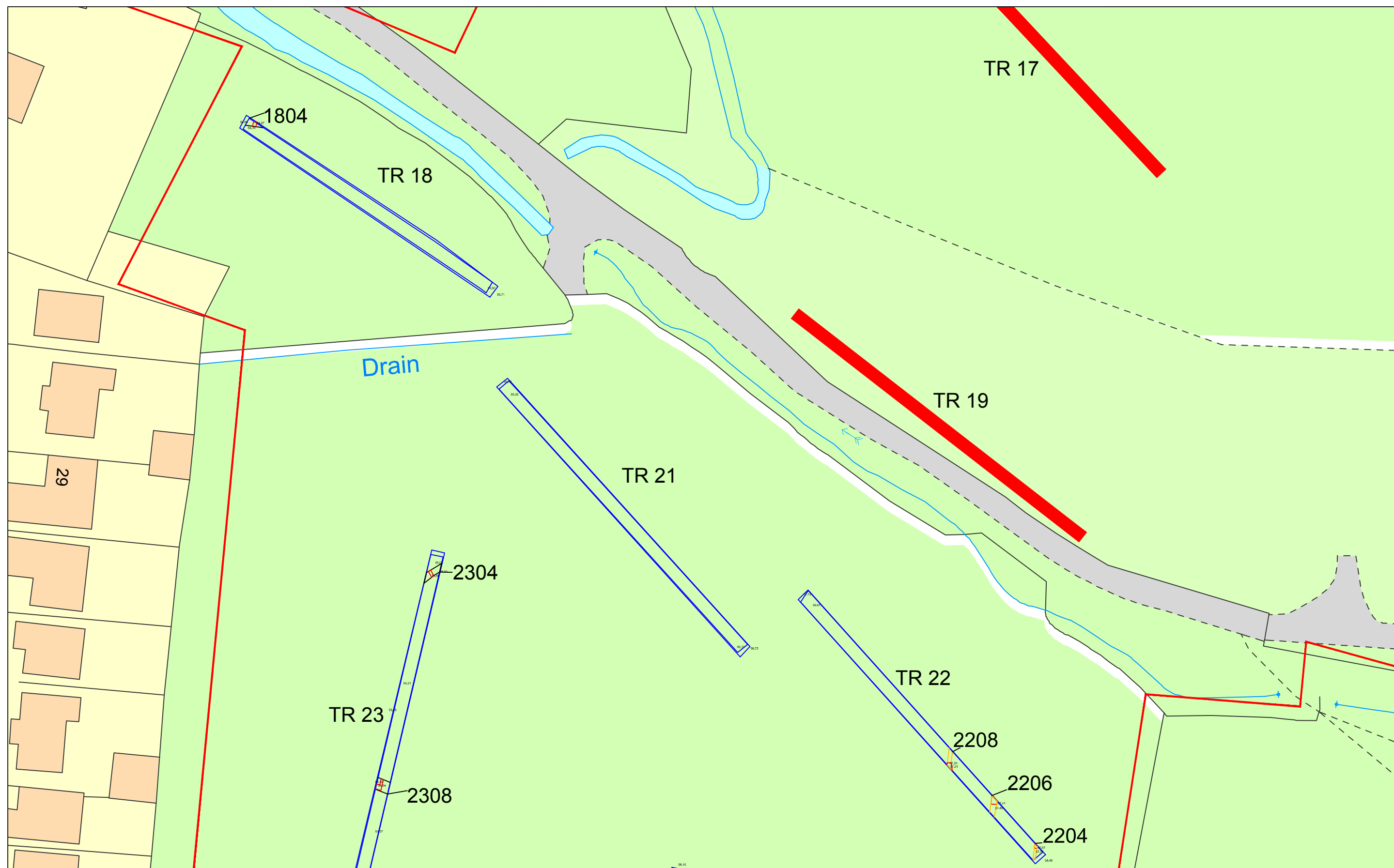
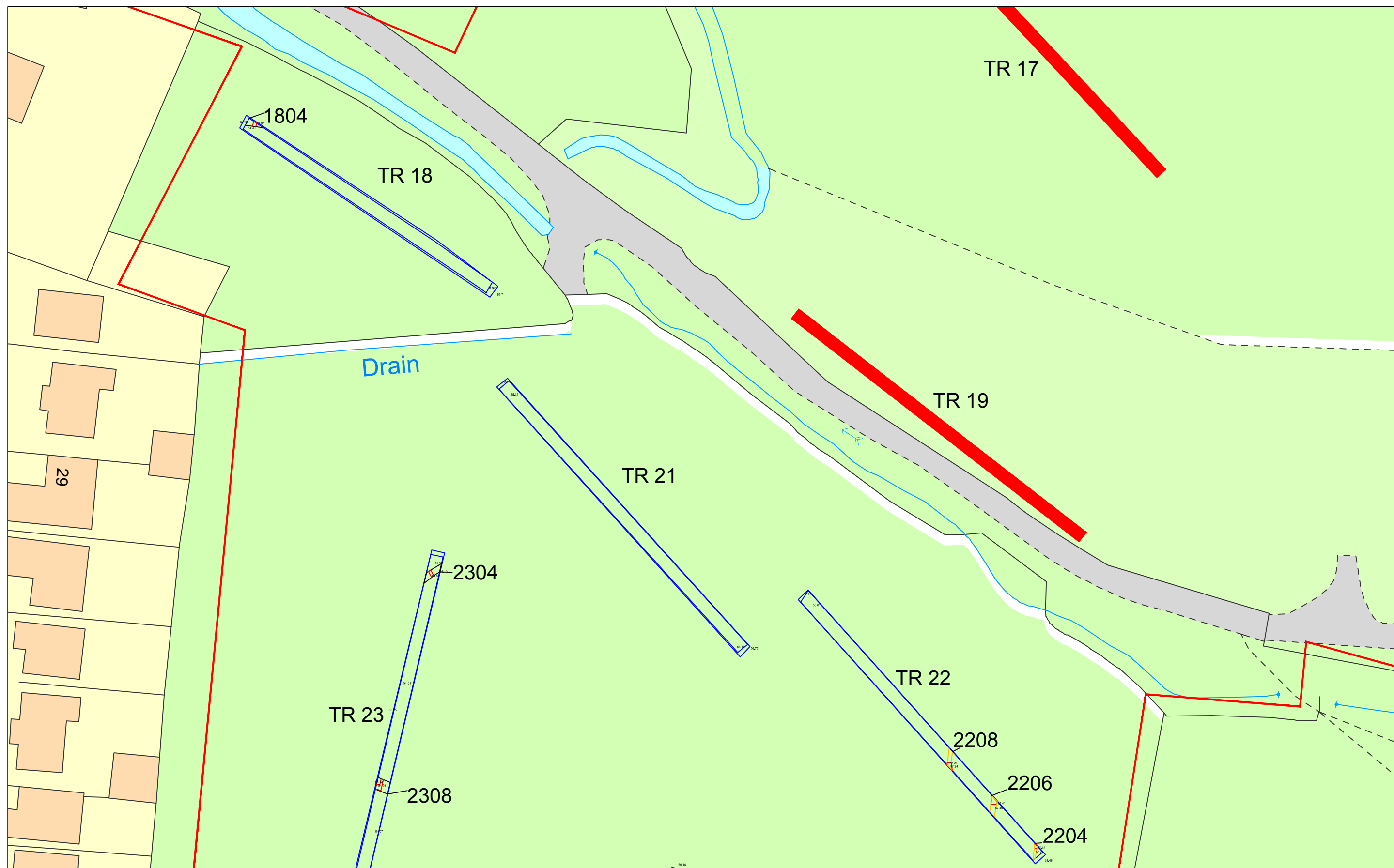
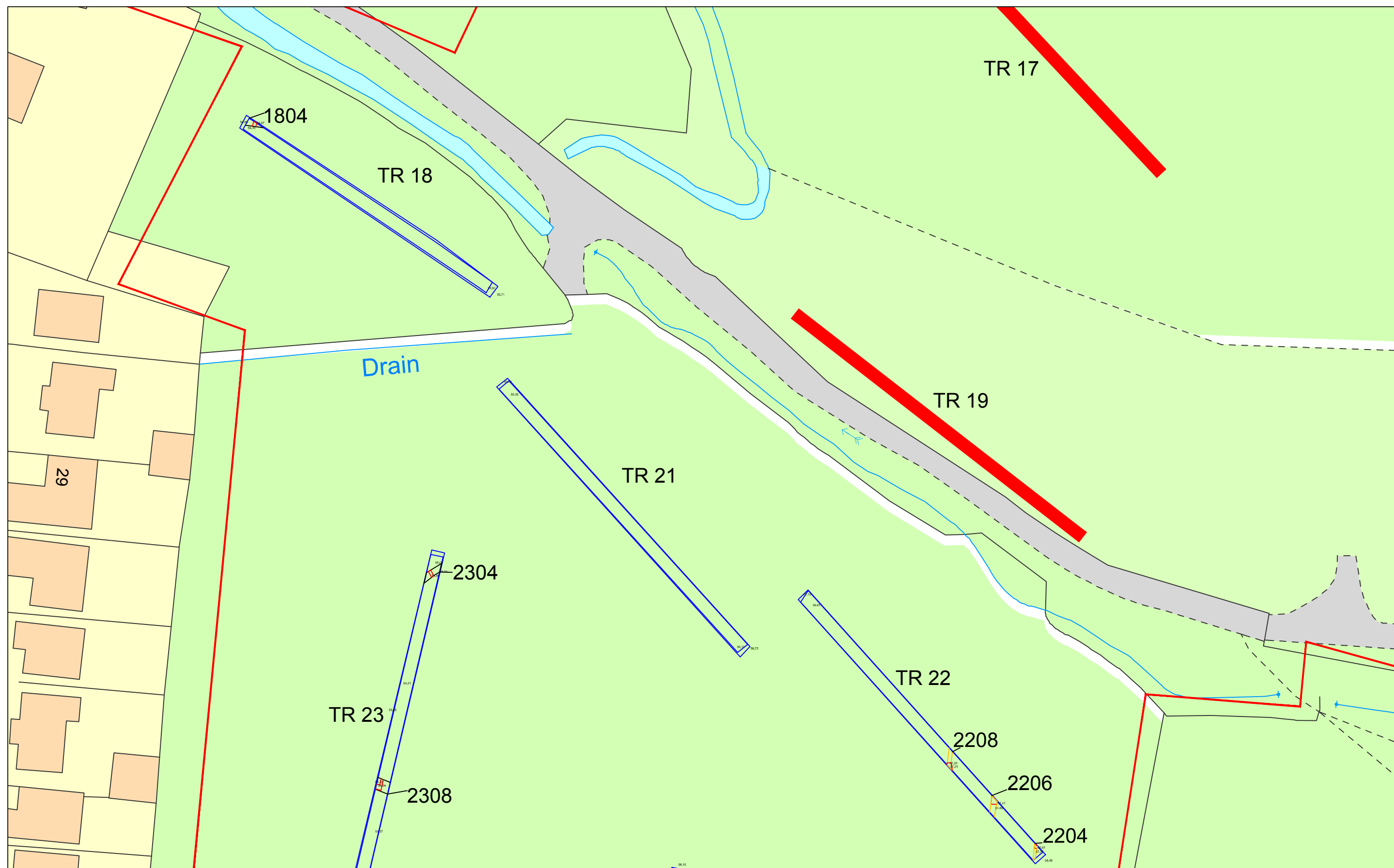
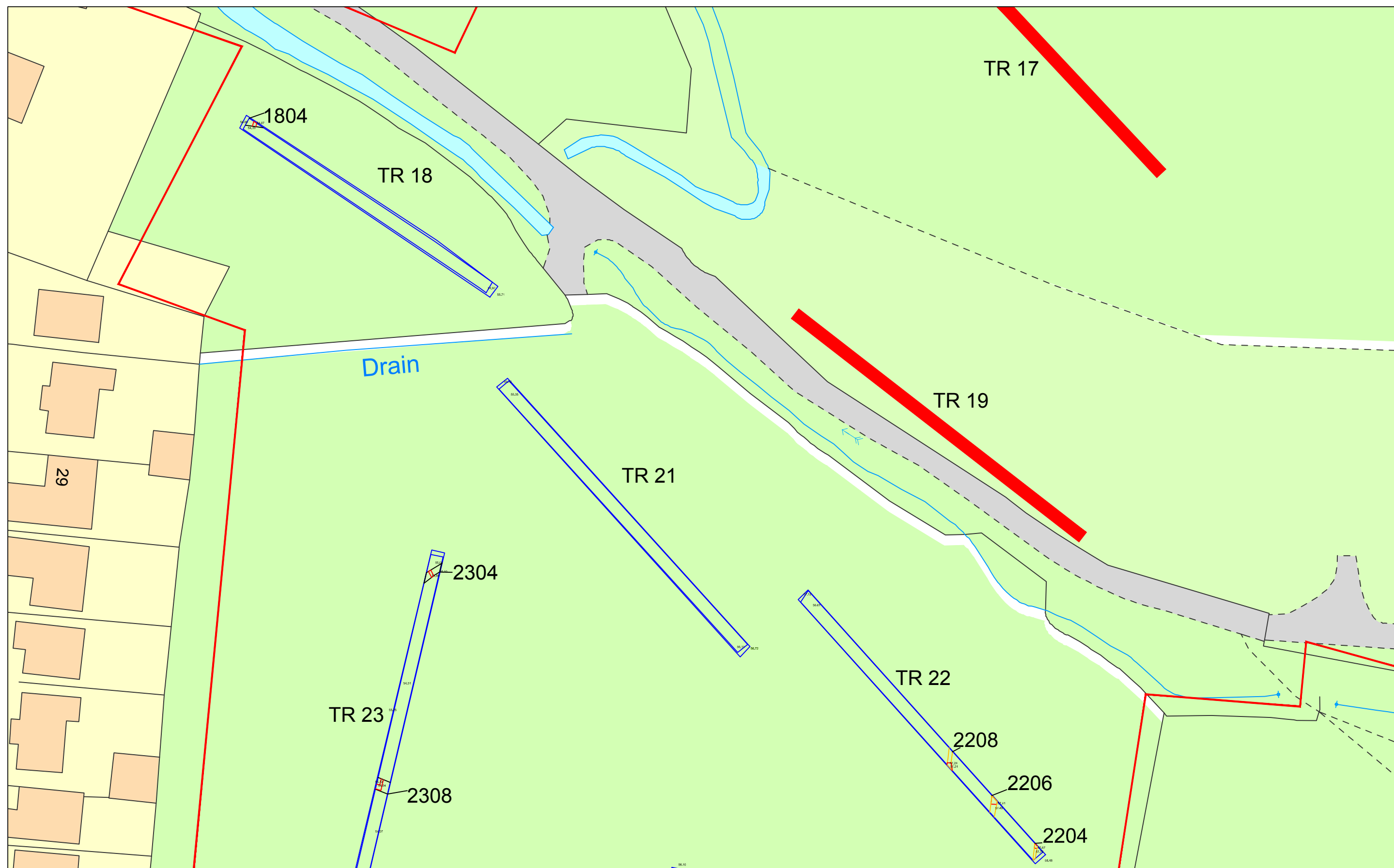
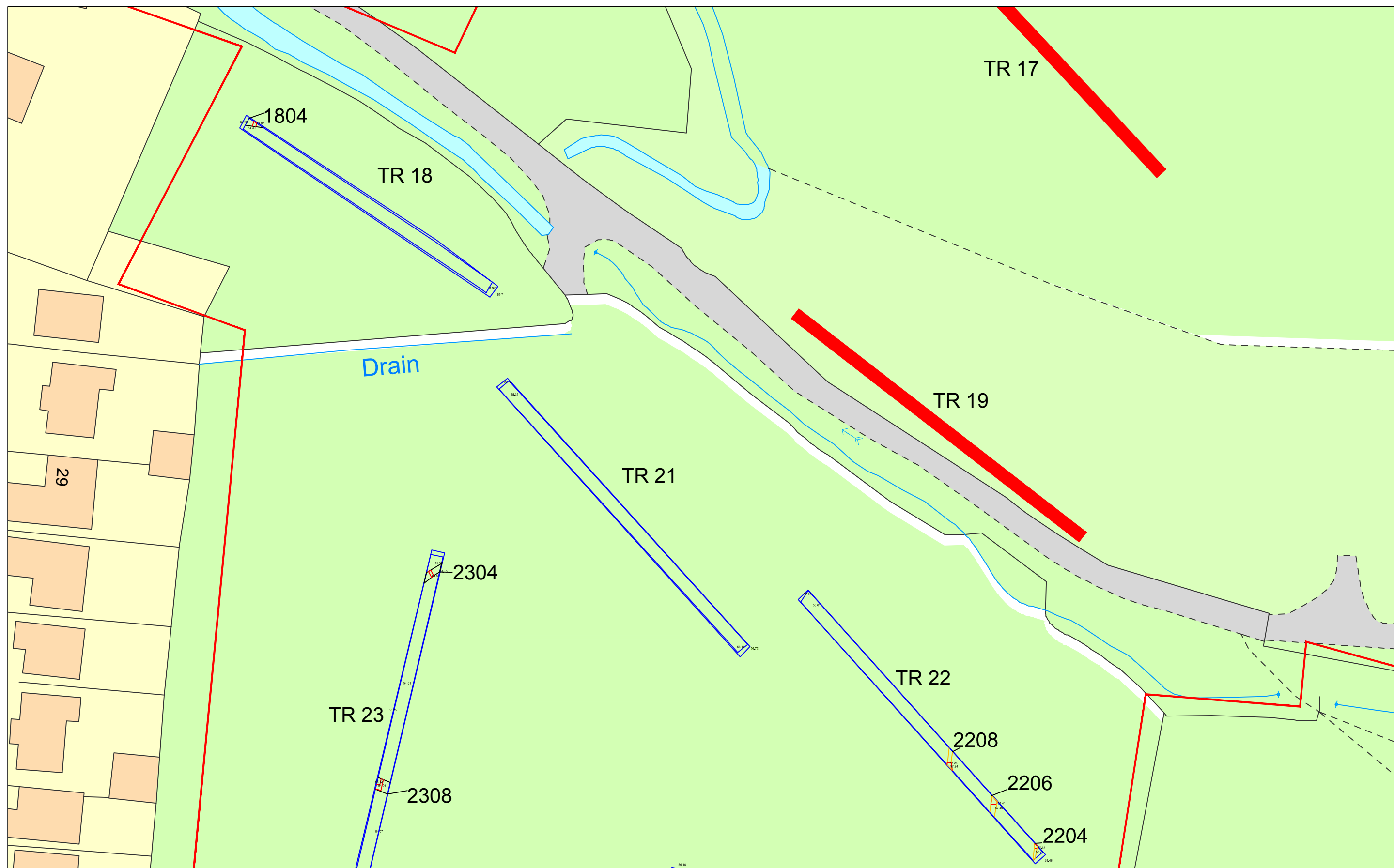
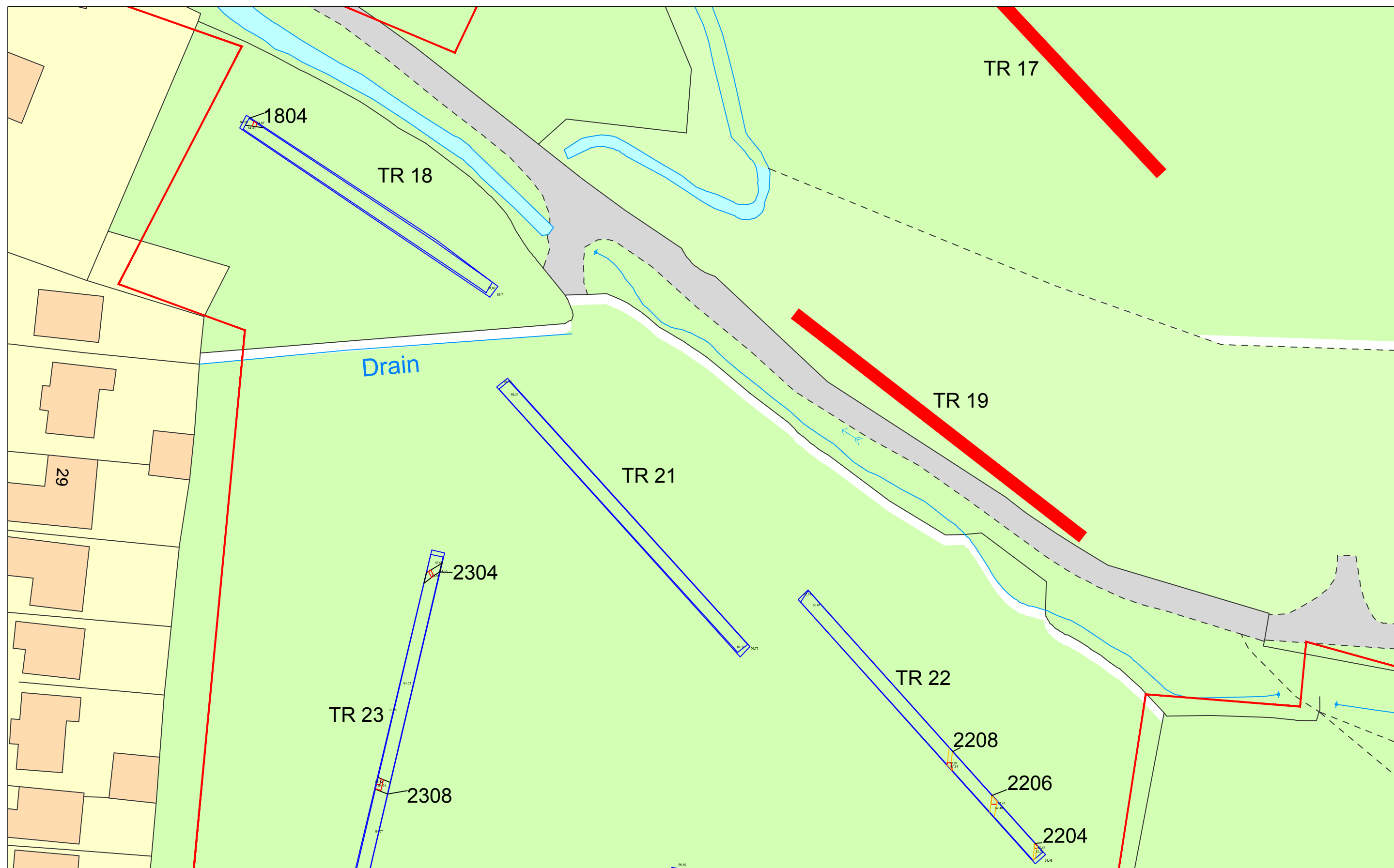
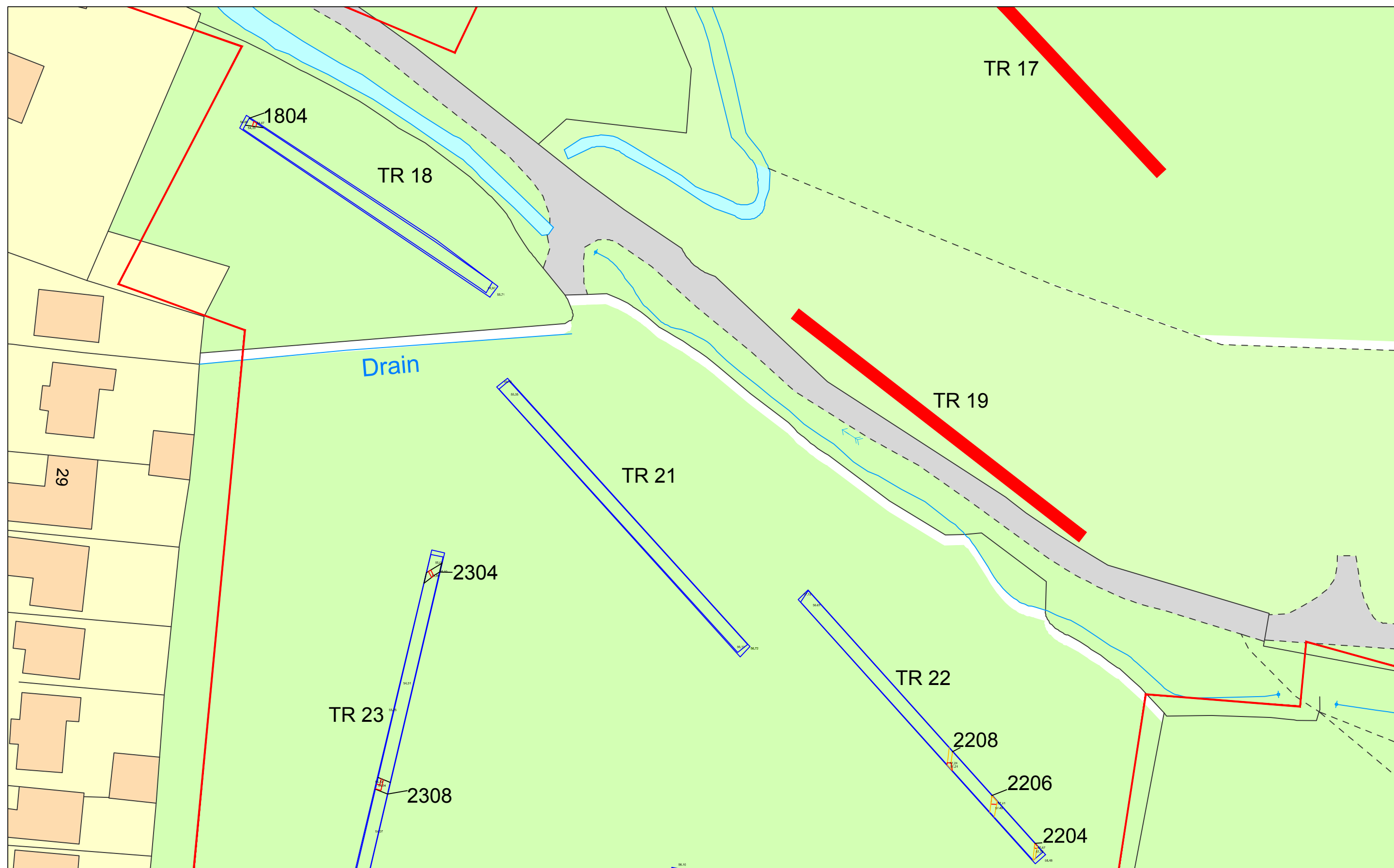
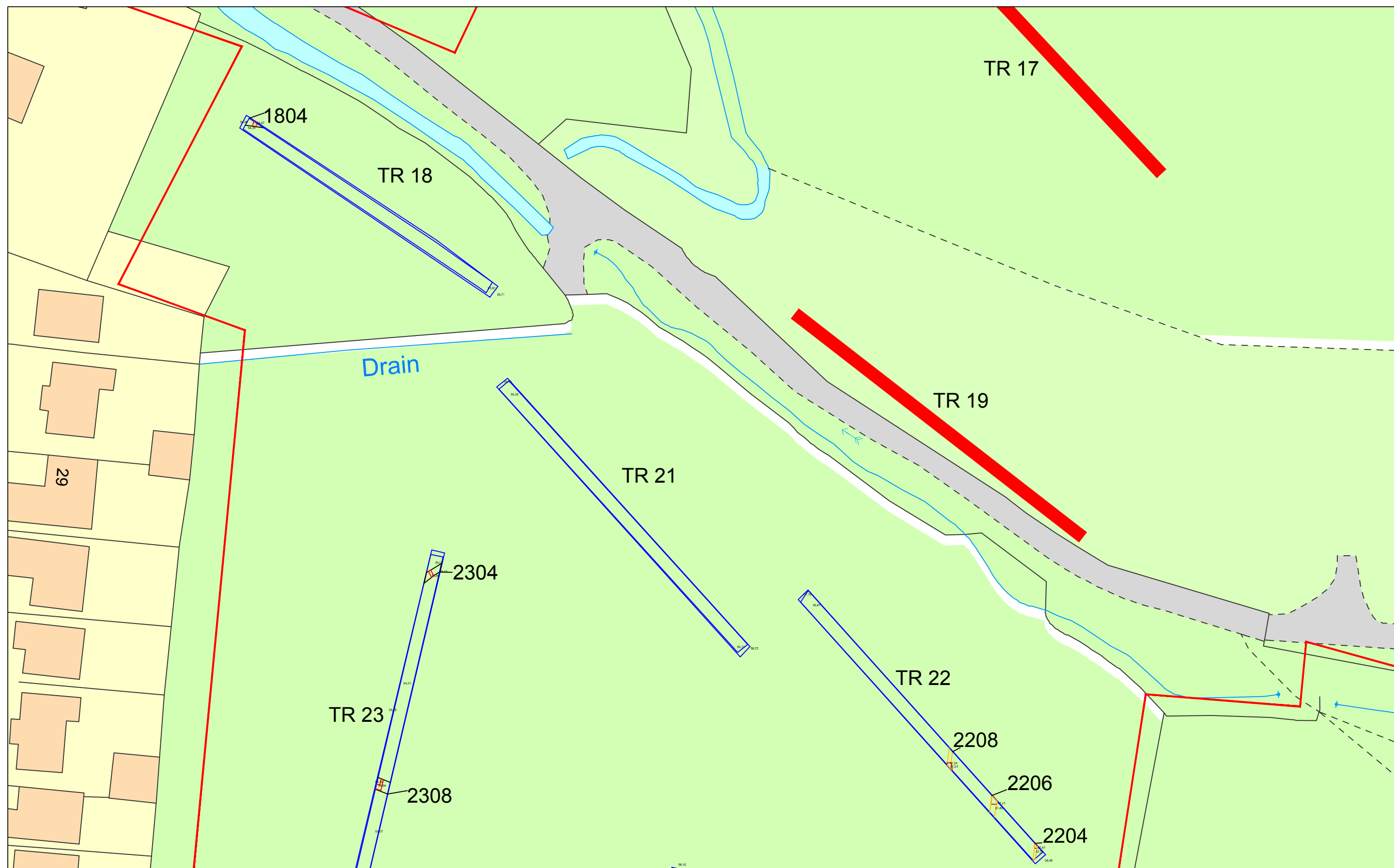
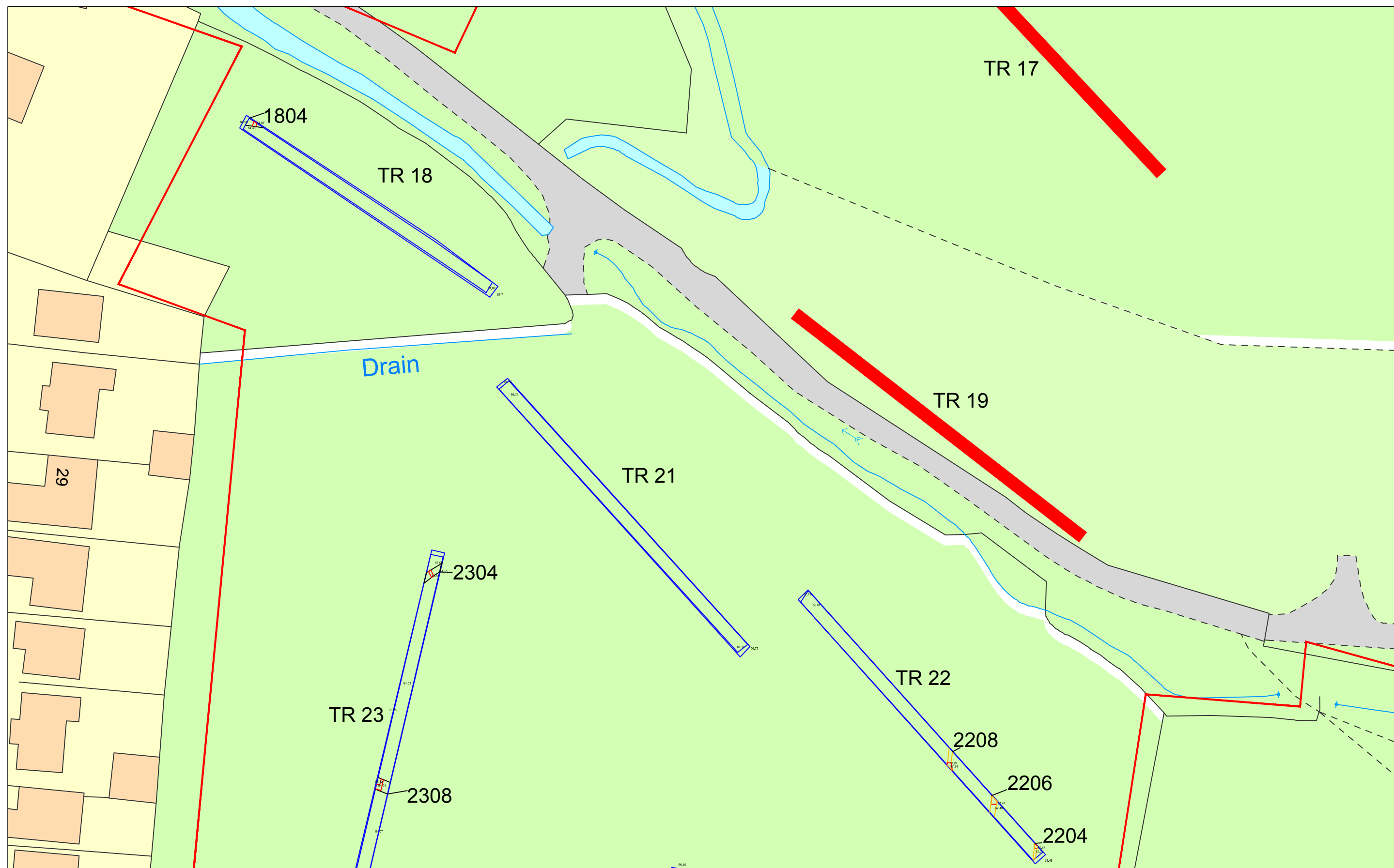
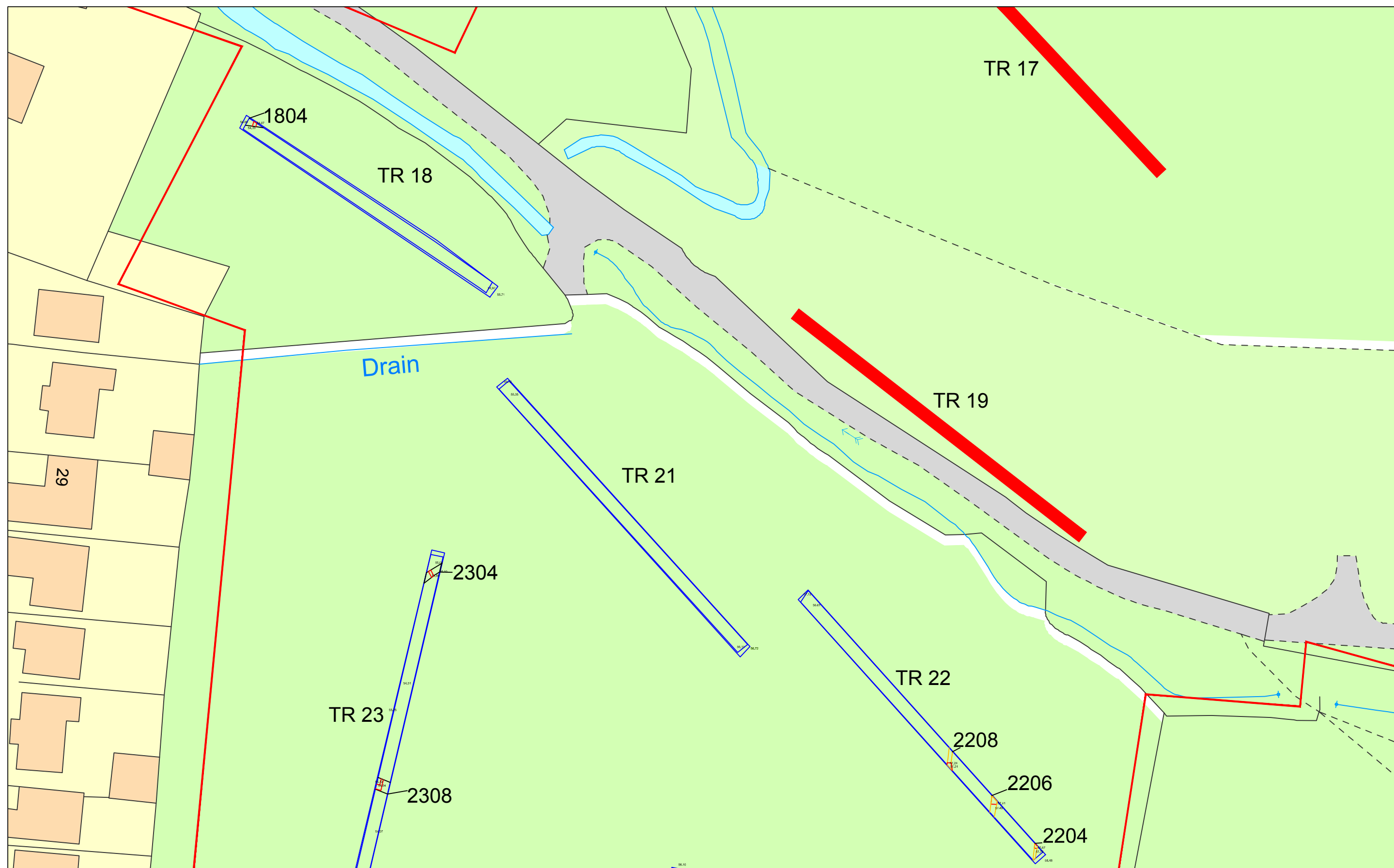


Figure 2: Trench Location Plan





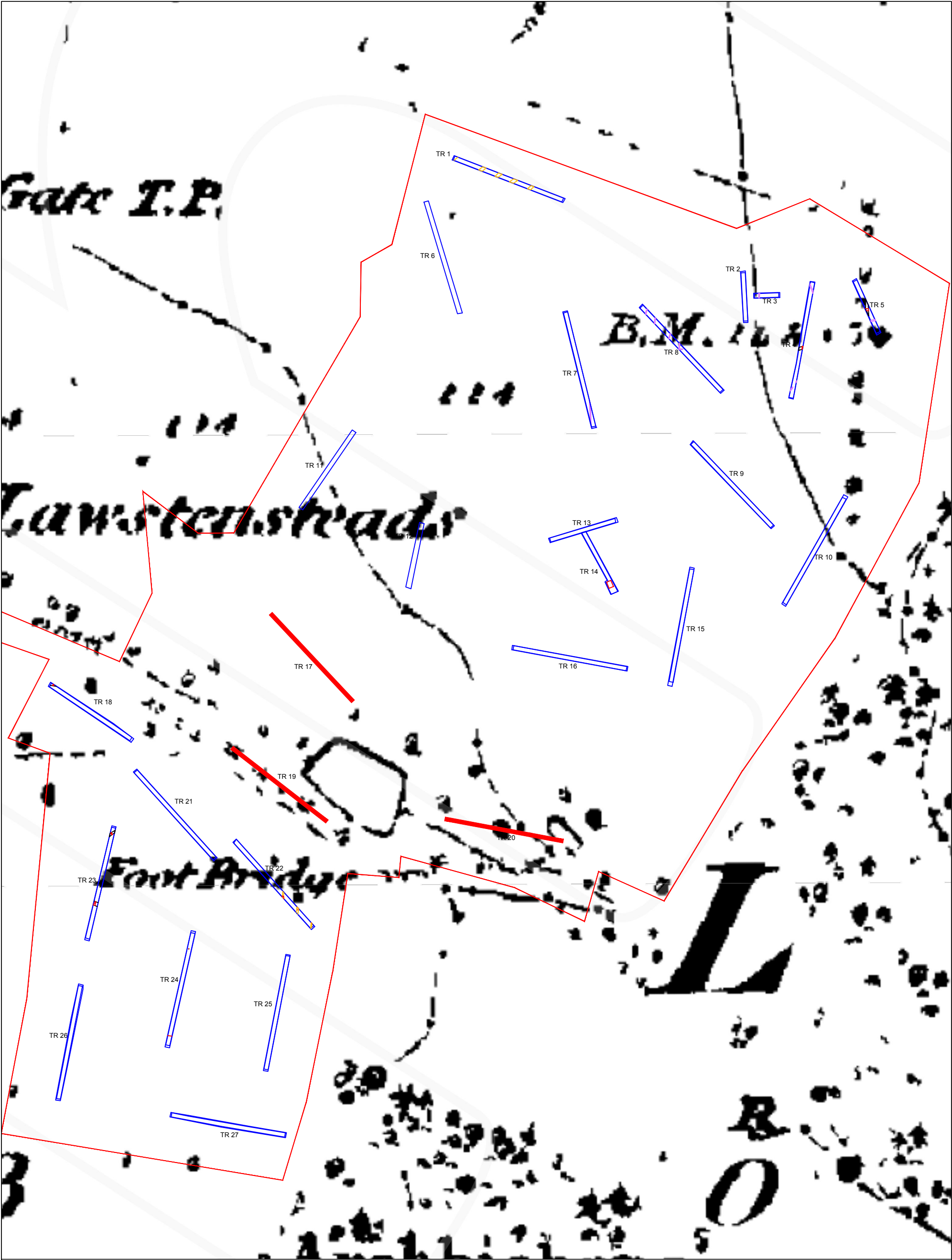
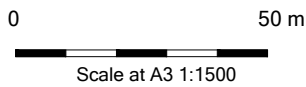


Figure 5: Survey results overlaid to 1848 6": 1mile Series Lancashire



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- Key:
- Excavated Trench
 - Trench Number
 - Unexcavated Trench

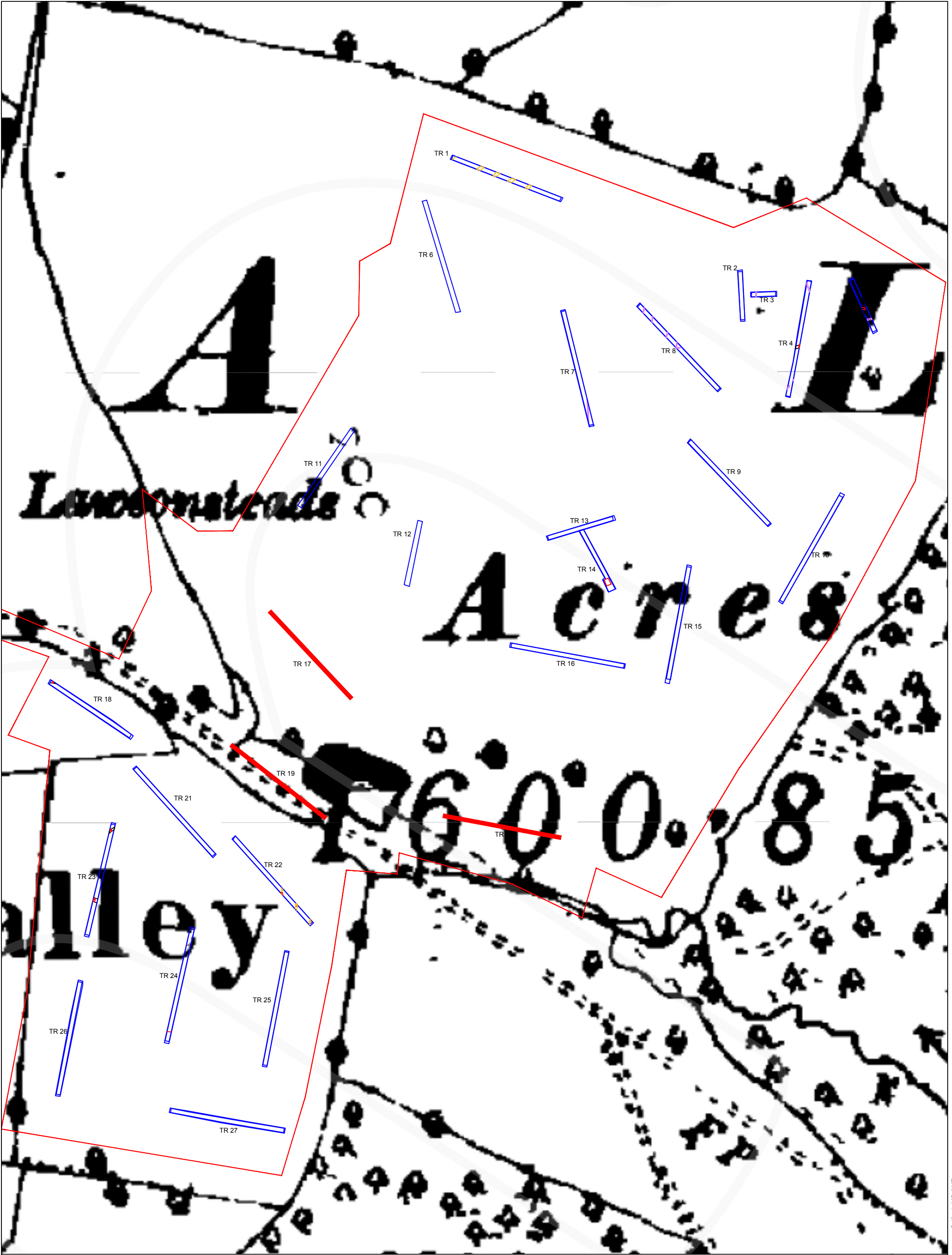


Figure 6: Survey results overlaid to 1893 25": 1mile Series Lancashire

