

4. Aims and Methodology of the Excavation

- 4.1 The excavation was designed to expand and develop the results of the 1998 evaluation, to confirm the state of preservation, date and extent of the Iron Age hillfort and to clarify the extent of the Roman occupation of the site and to locate any further archaeology related to the area.
- 4.2 Six trenches(T4, T6-10) were excavated to locate the perimeter ditch to the north and establish its direction and dimensions(Figure 2). One trench(T5) was excavated within the church car park to locate a return in the ditch towards the church. Within the Old Vicarage gardens, trenches C and D opened in 1998 were joined to give a full profile across the ditch(T1) with a second trench(T2) positioned to establish where the ditch entered into the churchyard. Also within the gardens a trench(T3) was opened across an anomaly which showed up on the geophysical survey. This was later expanded into an area of open excavation.
- 4.3 Where the ground and environmental conditions were suitable a mechanical excavator was used under archaeological supervision to remove the overburden, all other excavation was performed by hand. All contexts were recorded individually on UMAU context sheets, sections drawn at a scale of 1:10 and plans at a scale of 1:20. A full photographic record was undertaken in both colour slide and print mediums in a 35mm format. The site was surveyed using a Digital Total Station Theodolite and the results processed using an AutoCAD programme.
- 4.4 The finds were recorded by context and where considered necessary, plotted 3-dimensionally. All artifacts have been retained/stabilised for analysis before subsequent deposition at the discretion of the land owners and members Mellor Archaeological Trust.
- 4.5 A programme of experimental tomographic resistivity survey was undertaken across the site by Professor DH Griffiths and Dr RF King, Geophysics, University of Birmingham.
- 4.6 The work was monitored by the Assistant County Archaeologist for Greater Manchester.
- 4.7 Throughout the excavation all the current Health and Safety requirements were upheld.

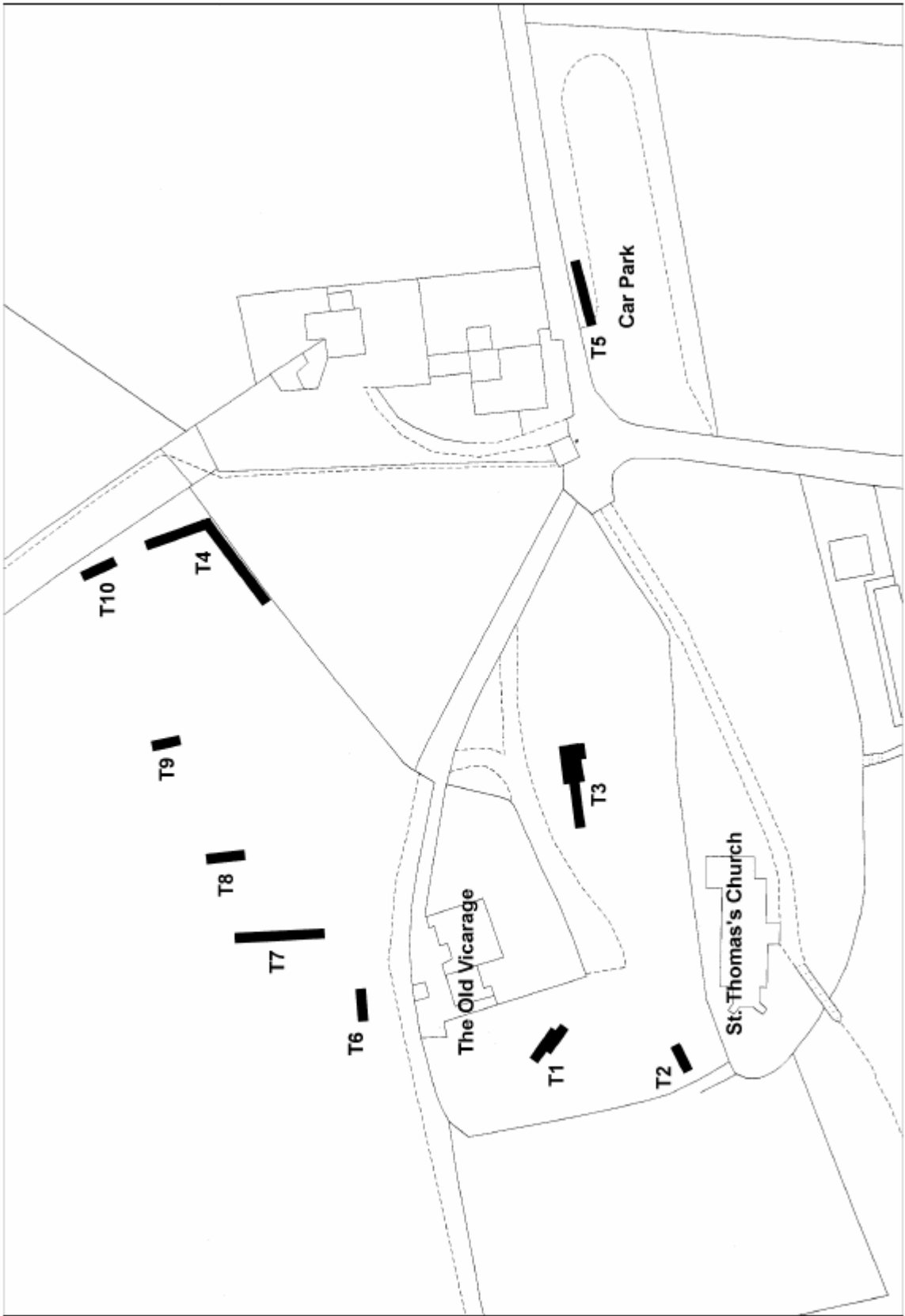


Figure 2 Trench Location Plan