



Archaeological Evaluation of a site adjacent to Aylesham Baptist Church, Milner Crescent, Aylesham, Kent

SWAT. Archaeology

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June 2002

**Site Adjacent to Aylesham Baptist Church,
Milner Crescent, Aylesham,
Kent**

Archaeological Evaluation

NGR: 623695 152160

Site Code: AYL/4/07

(Planning Application Number: DOV/04/00517)

**Report for
Jenner (Contractors) Ltd**

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**Archaeological Investigations on Land Adjacent to Aylesham Baptist
Church, Milner Crescent, Aylesham, Dover,
Kent**

NGR: 623695 152160

Site Code: AYL/4/07

SUMMARY

Swale & Thames Survey Company (SWAT) carried out an archaeological evaluation on land adjacent to Aylesham Baptist Church, Aylesham, Dover, Kent, in April 2007. A planning application (PAN: DOV/06/00517) for the construction of a new residential development, along with associated access, car parking and services at the above site was submitted to Dover District Council (DDC) whereby Kent County Council Heritage and Conservation (KCCHC), on behalf of Dover District 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 2006) and in discussion with the Archaeological Officer, Kent County Council.

The archaeological evaluation did not encounter any archaeological remains, suggesting that none survive within the immediate vicinity of the site. Anomalies within the surface of the Upper Chalk comprised natural peri-glacial fractures that possessed similar characteristics to those revealed during the archaeological evaluation to the south (Stevens 2007:5.2). The archaeological evaluation has been successful in fulfilling the primary aims and objectives of the Specification. Despite the archaeological potential of the surrounding area, coupled with good preservation of natural chalk surviving on site, no buried archaeological remains were present within the excavated trenches.

INTRODUCTION

Swale & Thames Survey Company (SWAT) was commissioned by Jenner (Contractors) Ltd 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 2007) and in discussion with the Archaeological Officer, Kent County Council. Initial phases of the evaluation were carried out on 16th April 2007.

SITE DESCRIPTION AND TOPOGRAPHY

The application site is located on the junction between Milner Crescent and Dormer Avenue South, directly south of the Baptist Church. The National Grid Reference for the new development is NGR 623695 152160 (KCCHC: 2007:1.4). The underlying geology of the site,

according to the British Geological Society, consists of Upper Chalk (2007:1.5)

PLANNING BACKGROUND

A planning application (PAN: DOV/904/00517) for the construction of a new residential development along with associated access, car parking and services at the above site was submitted to Dover District Council (DDC). Kent County Council Heritage and Conservation (KCCHC), on behalf of Dover District Council, requested that an *Archaeological Evaluation* be undertaken in order to determine the possible impact of the development on any archaeological remains. The following condition was attached to the planning consent:

AR1 *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 specification and timetable which has been submitted to and approved by the Local Planning Authority.*

Requirements for the archaeological evaluation comprised trial trenching targeting a minimum of 5% of the impact area, with trenches designed to establish whether there are any archaeological deposits at the site that may be affected by the proposed development. The results from this evaluation will be used to inform KCCHC and DDC of any further archaeological mitigation measures that may be necessary in connection with the development proposals.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

The area surrounding Aylesham is rich in cropmarks showing the [possible] presence of archaeological remains probably of prehistoric and/or Roman date. Evidence of this has been identified immediately south of the application site and includes linear features, trackways, circular and rectangular enclosures and ring ditches (KCC SMR Refs.: TR 25 SW 34-39, 50-51, 77, 89-91, 108, 136-146). As the church seems to have been the only development on the site it is possible that archaeological remains [should they be present] survive, and may be threatened by the proposed development (2006:2.1).

In addition to cropmark evidence the Kent County Council Sites and Monuments Record (SMR) includes an Acheulian hand-axe recorded 570m to the west at 46 Newman Road (SMR Ref.: TR 25 SW 29), a World War II communal air raid shelter 380m to the east (SMR Ref.: TR 25 SW 146) and Aylesham railway station (SMR Ref.: TR 25 SW 153) c.600m to the northeast.

Archaeological excavations carried out by Archaeology South-East approximately 160m to the north revealed deep geological peri-glacial fractures. No archaeological deposits were encountered during this evaluation (Stevens 2005).

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

The purpose of the evaluation, as set out with the Archaeological Specification (2006) was to:

- i) establish whether there are any archaeological deposits at the site that may be affected by the proposed development. The excavation is thus to ascertain the extent, depth below ground surface, depth of deposit, character, significance and condition of any archaeological remains on site (2006:3.1).
- ii) establish the extent to which previous development on the site has affected archaeological deposits (2006:3.2).

Particular issues that should be addressed by the evaluation include:

- Are there any prehistoric remains on the application site, and if so what is the provenance? (2006:3.3).
- Is there any evidence of Late Iron Age/Romano-British activity on site? How does this relate to previous findings within the surrounding area, such as major structures, walling, flood deposits etc? Does the activity inform further on the location and character of settlement of this period in the area? (2006:3.3).
- Is there any evidence of Anglo-Saxon activity in the area? (2006:3.3).
- Is there further evidence of medieval or post-medieval activity in the area (2006:3.3).

Additional aims were to:

- iii) gather sufficient information to enable an assessment of the potential and significance of any archaeological remains to be made and the impact development will have upon them.
- iv) enable an informed decision to be made regarding the future treatment of any archaeological remains and consider any appropriate mitigatory measures either in advance of and/or during development.

METHODOLOGY

Trial trenching was carried out on 16th April 2007, with the excavation of two trenches each measuring 1.5m in width and 15m in length (see below). Trench locations were agreed prior to the excavation between KCCHC and SWAT. Each trench was initially scanned for surface finds prior to excavation. Excavation was carried out using a 360° mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket, removing the overburden to the top of the first recognisable archaeological horizon, under the constant supervision of an experienced archaeologist. Trenches were subsequently hand-cleaned to reveal features in plan and carefully selected cross-sections through the features were excavated to enable sufficient information about form, development date and stratigraphic relationships to be recorded without prejudice to

more extensive investigations, should these prove to be necessary. All archaeological work was carried out in accordance with the specification.

A single context recording system was used to record the deposits. A full list is presented in Appendix 1. Layers and fills are recorded (**100**). The cut of the feature is shown [**100**]. Context numbers were assigned to all deposits for recoding purposes; these are used in the report (in **bold**). Each number has been attributed to a specific trench with the primary number(s) relating to specific trenches (*i.e.* Trench 1, **100+**, Trench 2, **200+** etc.)

MONITORING

No curatorial monitoring was carried out during the course of the evaluation.

RESULTS

A common stratigraphic sequence was recognised across the site comprising topsoil/turf overburden (**101**) (**201**) overlying subsoil (**102**) (**202**), beneath which the natural geology comprised Upper Chalk (**103**) (**203**). The topsoil/overburden consisted of friable dark grey brown silty clay with occasional to moderate inclusions of sub-rounded – angular flints. A clear line of horizon gave way to subsoil comprising mid orange brown slightly sandy clay overlying natural chalk where mechanical excavation ceased and careful examination and investigation for truncating features was carried out. The depth of the overlying layer varied, with the depth of the natural geology being located c.0.51-0.63m below the existing ground level. Appendix 2 provides a stratigraphic sequence for both trenches.

Trench 1

(15 x 1.5m)

Trench 1 was located within the central northern extent of the site (Pl.2). Aligned approximately northeast-southwest, this trench was positioned to identify and confirm the impact caused during development of the northern most extent of the proposed development.

No archaeological features or finds were present within this trench.

Trench 2

(15 x 1.5m)

Trench 2 was located adjacent to the southern extent of the site (Pl.2). Parallel to Trench 1 and also aligned approximately northeast-southwest, this trench was positioned to identify and confirm the impact caused during development of the southern most extent of the proposed development.

No archaeological features or finds were present within this trench.

FINDS

No archaeological finds were recovered during the course of the evaluation.

DISCUSSION

The evaluation carried out on land adjacent to Aylesham Baptist Church did not encounter any archaeological remains, suggesting that none survive within the immediate vicinity of the site. Anomalies within the surface of the Upper Chalk comprised natural peri-glacial fractures that possessed similar characteristics to those revealed during the archaeological evaluation to the south (Stevens 2007:5.2).

CONCLUSION

The archaeological evaluation has been successful in fulfilling the primary aims and objectives of the Specification. Despite the archaeological potential of the surrounding area, coupled with good preservation of natural chalk surviving on site, no buried archaeological remains were present within the excavated trenches suggesting that the proposed development presents little or no impact upon the local archaeological resource.

This evaluation has therefore assessed the archaeological potential of land intended for development. The results from this work will be used to aid and inform the Archaeological Officer (KCCHC) of any further archaeological mitigations measures that may be necessary in connection with the development proposals.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

SWAT would like to thank Jenner (Contractors) Ltd for commissioning the project. Thanks are also extended to Heritage and Conservation (Kent County Council) for their advice and assistance. Paul Wilkinson and James Madden carried out archaeological fieldwork, illustrations were produced by James Madden. This report was edited and collated by Paul Wilkinson.

David Britchfield
June 2007

REFERENCES

IFA (1999) *Standards and Guidance for Field Archaeological Evaluations*

Kent County Council (KCCHC) (2006) *Specification for an Archaeological Investigation on land adjacent to Aylesham Baptist Church, Milner Crescent, Aylesham, Kent*. Kent County Council Heritage & Conservation

Stevens, S (2005) *An Archaeological Evaluation (Stage 1) at Queens Road, Aylesham, Kent*. Archaeology South-East Project No. 2258

CONTENTS OF SITE ARCHIVE

Correspondence

Photographs: Digital photographs 18. SWAT Film nos. 07/36 colour prints, SWAT film nos. 0/27

Photocopies of Ordnance Survey and other maps:

Drawings: One A3 permatrace site drawing, comprising trench plans and associated sections.

Finds: None

Context Register including: Context Register (1), Drawings Register (1), Photographic Register (1), Levels Sheets (1), Environmental Samples Register (x) and Context Sheets (6)

APPENDIX 1 - Context Summary

Site adjacent to Aylesham Baptist Church, Aylesham, Dover, Kent

Site Code: AYL/4/07

	Context No.	Stratigraphic Extents	Description
Trench 1	(101)	0.00-0.12m	Turf/topsoil. Friable dark grey brown silty clay with occasional to moderate inclusions of sub-rounded – angular flints.
	(102)	0.12-0.51m	Subsoil. Mid orange brown slightly sandy clay
	(103)	0.51m+	Natural. Upper Chalk
Trench 2	(201)	0.00-0.12m	Turf/topsoil. Friable dark grey brown silty clay with occasional to moderate inclusions of sub-rounded – angular flints.
	(202)	0.12-0.63m	Subsoil. Mid orange brown slightly sandy clay
	(203)	0.63m+	Natural. Upper Chalk

APPENDIX 2 – Kent County Council SMR Summary Form

Site Name: <i>Site adjacent to Aylesham Baptist Church</i>		SWAT Site Code: <i>ABC07</i>
Site Address: <i>Milner Crescent, Aylesham, Dover, Kent</i>		
Summary: <i>Swale & Thames Survey Company (SWAT) carried out an archaeological evaluation on land adjacent to Aylesham Baptist Church, Aylesham, Dover, Kent, in April 2007. A planning application (PAN: DOV/06/00517) for the construction of a new residential development, along with associated access, car parking and services at the above site was submitted to Dover District Council (DDC) whereby Kent County Council Heritage and Conservation (KCCHC), on behalf of Dover District 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 2006) and in discussion with the Archaeological Officer, Kent County Council.</i> <i>The archaeological evaluation did not encounter any archaeological remains, suggesting that none survive within the immediate vicinity of the site. Anomalies within the surface of the Upper Chalk comprised natural peri-glacial fractures that possessed similar characteristics to those revealed during the archaeological evaluation to the south (Stevens 2007:5.2). The archaeological evaluation has been successful in fulfilling the primary aims and objectives of the Specification. Despite the archaeological potential of the surrounding area, coupled with good preservation of natural chalk surviving on site, no buried archaeological remains were present within the excavated trenches.</i>		
District/Unitary: <i>Dover</i>		Parish: <i>Aylesham</i>
Period(s): Tentative: <i>NA</i>		
NGR (centre of site : 8 figures): (NB if large or linear site give multiple NGRs): <i>NGR 623695 152160</i>		
Type of archaeological work (delete) <i>Evaluation</i>		
Date of Recording: <i>16th April 2007</i>		
Unit undertaking recording: <i>Swale & Thames Survey Company (SWAT)</i>		
Geology: <i>Upper Chalk</i>		
Title and author of accompanying report: <i>Britchfield, D (2007) Land Adjacent to Aylesham Baptist Church, Aylesham, Dover Kent: Archaeological Evaluation</i>		
Summary of fieldwork results (begin with earliest period first, add NGRs where appropriate) <i>As above</i> <p style="text-align: right;">(cont. on attached sheet)</p>		
Location of archive/finds: <i>SWAT</i>		
Contact at Unit: <i>Paul Wilkinson</i>		Date: <i>10th June 2007</i>

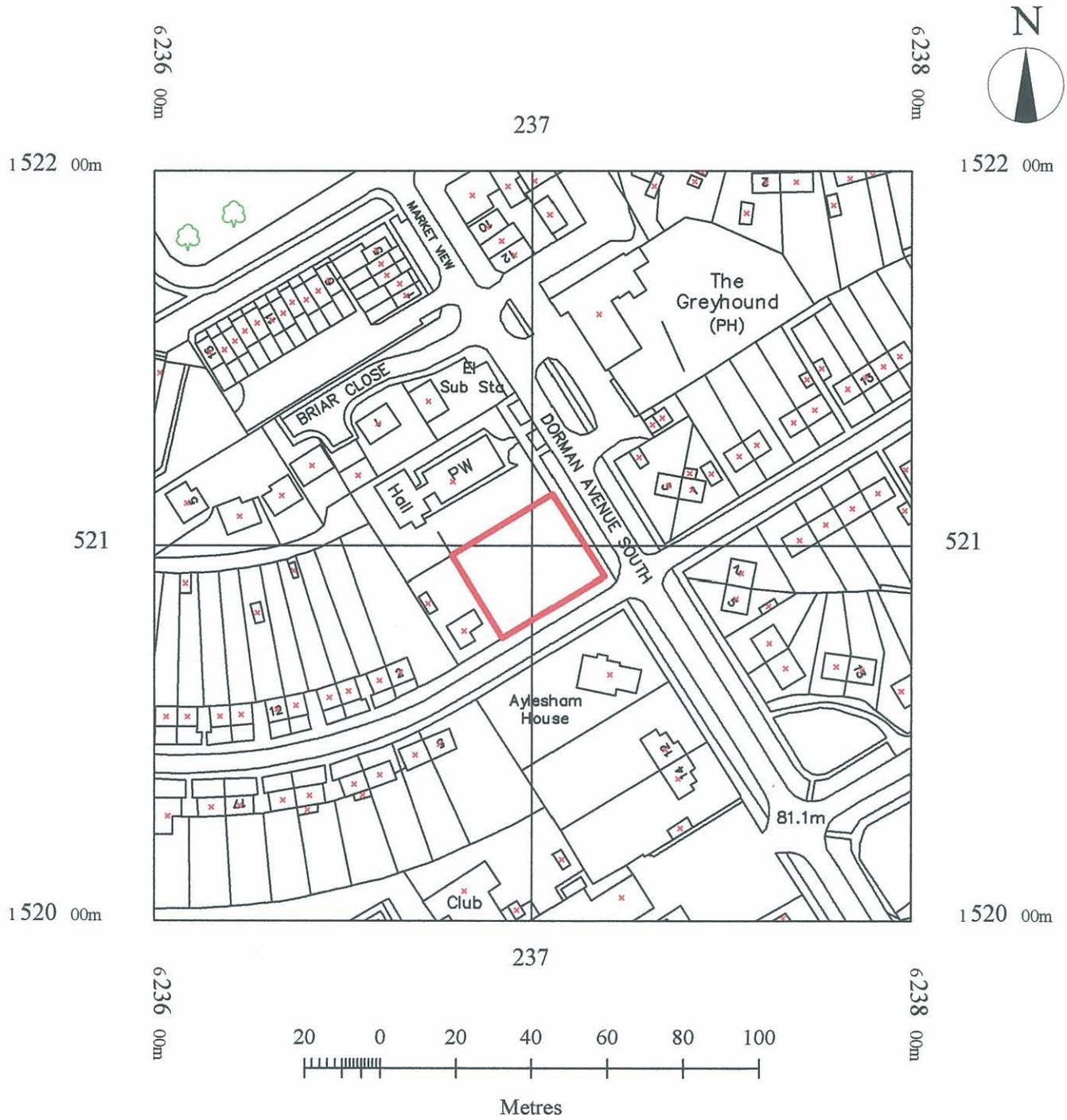


Figure 1: Location of site of proposed development within Aylesham, Dover, Kent
 NGR: 623695mE. 152160mN)

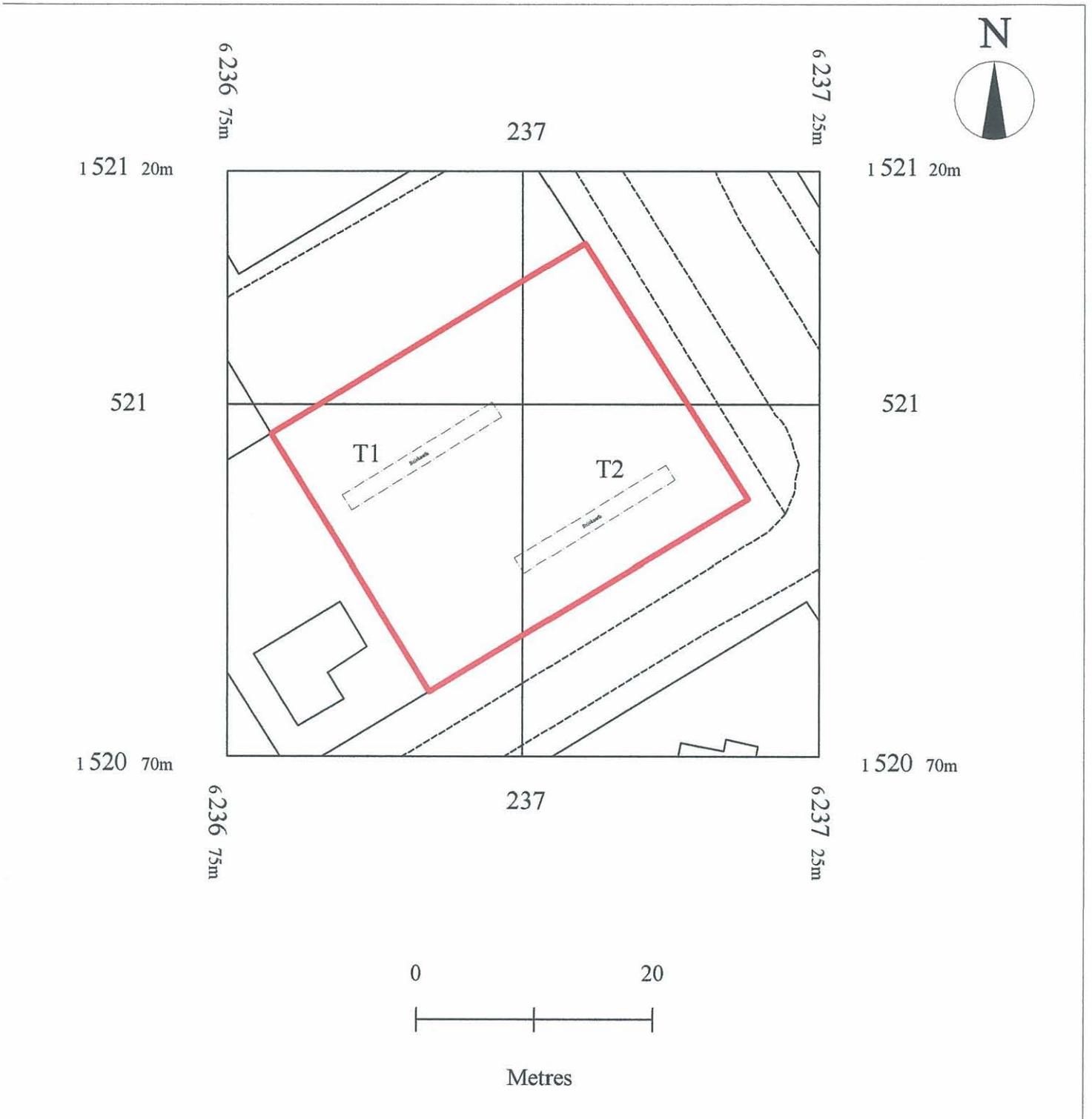
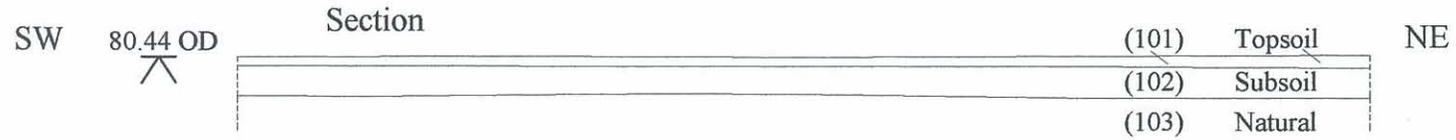
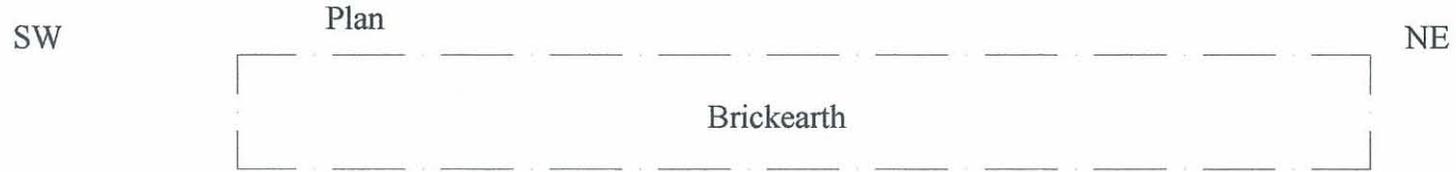


Figure 2: Location of evaluation trenches within the proposed development site

Trench 1



Trench 2

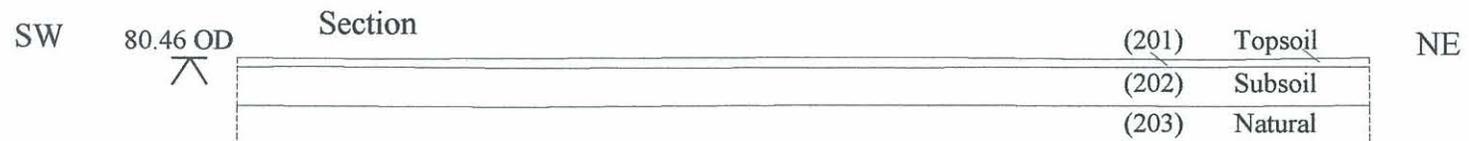
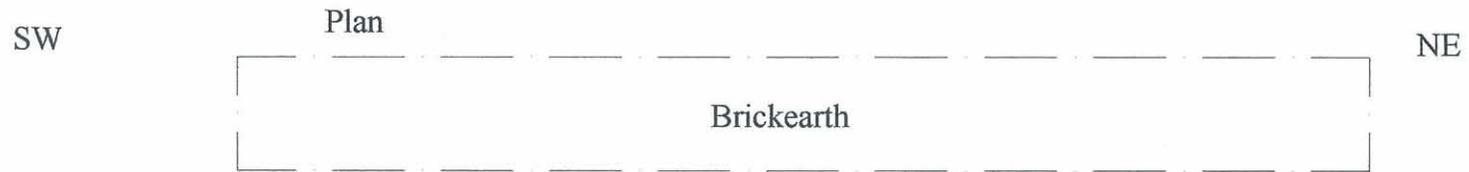


Figure 3: Plans and Sections 1:100