



Archaeological Evaluation on land at 129 and 131 Minster Road, Sheppey, Kent *January 2009*

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Archaeological Evaluation on land at
129 and 131 Minster Road, Minster in Sheppey, Kent

NGR: 593781 172790

Site Code: MRS-EV-09

(Planning Application Number: SW/04/0059)

Report for
Malro Homes Ltd.

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SUMMARY

Swale & Thames Survey Company (SWAT) carried out an archaeological evaluation on land at 129 and 131 Minster Road, Minster in Sheppey in Kent. A planning application (PAN: SW/04/0059) for the construction of a new residential development of 18 flats, along with associated access and car parking at the above site was submitted to Swale Borough Council (SBC) whereby Kent County Council Heritage and Conservation (KCCHC), on behalf of Swale Borough 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 2008) and in discussion with the Archaeological Officer, Kent County Council.

The Archaeological Evaluation consisted of four trenches which encountered no archaeological features of any significant antiquity but uncovered a wall from an early phase of Clarke's Farm which existed prior to the construction of the bungalow at 129 Minster Road and an even earlier clay quarry feature below this. The wall possibly dated to the C18th and the clay quarry was earlier, both were both located in Trench 4 under the footprint of one of the flats of the development running parallel to the road. Other more ancient features may have existed in Trenches 1-3 but they appear to have been removed during recent landscaping activities on the site.

The Archaeological Evaluation has therefore been successful in fulfilling the primary aims and objectives of the Specification.

INTRODUCTION

Swale & Thames Survey Company (SWAT) was commissioned by Malro Homes 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 2008) and in discussion with the Archaeological Officer, Kent County Council. The evaluation was carried out between the 20th and 30th January 2009.

SITE DESCRIPTION AND TOPOGRAPHY

The application site is located to the west of the old centre of Minster in Sheppey near the settlement of 'Halfway Houses'. The site is situated at a low point between a long ridge on which Minster in Sheppey is situated and which stretches away to the east along most of the north coast of the Isle of Sheppey and the outlying western hills of Furze and Barrows Hills. The site itself is approximately 10 metres above sea level and slopes down from south to north. The National Grid Reference for the new development is NGR 593781 172790. The geology of the site is Eocene London Clay, according to the British Geological Survey, (BGS, 1977), and colluvium is also to be found across the site.

PLANNING BACKGROUND

A planning application (PAN: SW/04/0059) for the construction of a new residential development along with associated access and car parking at the above site was submitted to Swale Borough Council (SBC). Kent County Council Heritage and Conservation (KCCHC), on behalf of Swale Borough 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:

"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

Reason: To ensure that features of archaeological interest are properly examined and recorded." (KCCHC 2008)

Requirements for the archaeological evaluation comprised trial trenching targeting a representative sample 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 SBC of any further archaeological mitigation measures that may be necessary in connection with the development proposals.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

The area surrounding this stretch of Minster Road has few archaeological remains, but there have been a few of note from the immediate area.

Traces of prehistoric occupation belonging to an early Iron Age Farmstead were found in the form of pits and ditches were found some 850m to the south east of the present site occupation may possibly have dated back as far as the Bronze Age, (TQ 97 SW 76). A

Romano British cremation cemetery was discovered some 150m south of the site during the construction of the High School in 1968. This comprised at least four burials each containing an urn with beakers and platters (TQ 97 SW11). Only 750m to the south east, a number of potential early medieval Gröbenhäuser were found. (TQ 97 SW 85). Early medieval to mid medieval occupation was also attested in this area by the presence of ditches, pits and field systems, (TQ 97 SW 86) and later medieval occupation was also shown on this site in the form of linear features containing C13th pottery, (TQ 97 SW 75). A single listed building is also to be found within the vicinity. Parsonage farm is located 450m to the south of the site and dates from the early to mid C17th, (MKE33982). Interestingly, also from this period is (TQ 97 SW 10), a hoard of 415 silver coins buried around 1648. This was found 40m south of the site.

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

The purpose of the evaluation, as set out within the Archaeological Specification (2008) (Manual of Specifications, Part B) was to:

- a) ascertain the extent, depth below ground surface, depth of deposit, character, date, significance and condition of any archaeological remains on site;
- b) establish the extent to which previous development and/or other processes have affected archaeological deposits at the site; and
- c) establish the likely impact on archaeological deposits of the proposed development.”

Site specific questions to be addressed by these works were also set out in the Archaeological Specification (2008) (Manual of Specifications, Part A). These were:

- “Is there any further evidence of Roman activity in the development area?
- Is there any evidence for prehistoric and/or medieval activity within the development area?
- Is there any evidence for the post-medieval activity on the site including remains of the farm?
- Has modern disturbance connected with construction or farming reduced archaeological potential?
- What impact will the development proposals have on any buried archaeology?”

METHODOLOGY

Trial trenching was carried out on 20th January 2009, with the excavation of four trenches measuring 1.8m in width and around 20m in length (see below). Trench location was agreed prior to the excavation between KCCHC and SWAT. The trenches were initially scanned for surface finds prior to excavation. Excavation was carried out using a JCB wheeled mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket, removing the overburden to the

top of the first recognisable archaeological horizon, or natural, 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 and shown in bold.

MONITORING

Curatorial monitoring was carried out during the course of the evaluation.

RESULTS

A common stratigraphic sequence was recognised across the site, this was however, very disjointed by modern 'landscaping' works. Trench 1 comprised topsoil/turf overburden **(100)**, beneath which lay a thin colluvial subsoil and natural London Clay. In trenches 2-4 no subsoil was seen and the topsoil layer, **(100)** gave way immediately to modern overburden and the natural London Clay where mechanical excavation ceased and careful examination and investigation was carried out. The depth of the overlying layer varied, with the depth of the natural geology being located between c0.15 and 1.2m below the existing ground level.

Trench 1

(21 x 1.8m)

Trench 1 was located in the south western corner of the site. Aligned approximately northeast-southwest, this trench was positioned to identify and confirm the impact caused during development of Housing Block C. It measured 21m in length and contained two possible ditches, **(102) [103]** and **(104) [105]**, and one small modern rectilinear feature **(106) [107]**. Garden topsoils, probably reworked, **(100)** measured 0.15m in depth these overlay a thin, 0.10m layer of remnant subsoil, possibly re-deposited, **(101)** which was a mid yellow, grey/brown silt clay with few inclusions, the greatest being carbonised wood fragments. These two layers appeared to seal a pair of ditches and a single small cut feature. Linear **[103]** was a maximum of 0.90m in width, 0.08m in depth and was traced across the trench for at least 1.80m, running approximately north-south. This lay near another possible ditch feature **[105]** which was a maximum of 0.50m in width and was 0.07m in depth and was also traced across the trench, this linear, however, ran almost east-west. They were both filled by a mid grey sandy clay with common inclusions of small – medium angular and rounded stone **(102)** and **(104)**. These fills were both sterile and it was concluded that these were cuts of a French style

drain which must have been cut from higher up, but the cut through the topsoil and subsoils was either not seen or these are later depositions after the ground level had been lowered. This is similar to the small rectangular feature **[107]** which measured 0.27 by 0.30m in plan but was only 0.10m in depth. This feature contained Victorian pot and glass and was filled by a similar matrix, **(106)**, to the probable land drains mentioned above.

Trench 2

(20 x 1.8m)

This trench was roughly aligned southeast – northwest and was placed to observe the impact of the development on the centre of the site. The ‘topsoil’ layer was a dark brown grey silty clay loam layer, **(200)** heavily contaminated with late building material. Below this was a gravel layer around 0.10m in thickness, **(201)**, when related to wall **{208}** it appears that this may have been a hardstanding area. This interpretation makes the topsoil a modern introduced element. Running almost the entire length of the trench was a thick deposit, **(210)** almost pure black in colour and 0.60m in thickness. This was also below the ‘topsoil’ layer and contained fragments of brick and identifiable pieces of a ‘Belfast sink’. This almost certainly dates from the demolition of the bungalow only a few years ago. Associated contexts of the same phase are **(224)** **(225)** and **(226)**. Immediately below these contexts was a very thin layer of pure white clay only 60mm in thickness, **(227)**. This butted up to the eastern side of the wall **{208}** and was seen in a similar position to a wall in Trench 4, (see below). This was interpreted as an internal floor layer. Below this lay a deposit of round flint pebbles, **(228)**, which may have been the levelling layer for this clay ‘floor’. Below **(201)** was another layer of gravel up to 0.20m thick and between 0.30 and 0.50m in width, **(202)**, this was constrained within cut, **[203]** which had a maximum depth of 0.20m. It is probable that this was a gravel footing for a wall running east-west, but it is not certain from which period, whether Clarke’s Farm or the succeeding Bungalow. Stratigraphically below this cut was another deposit, **(204)** which was primarily black silt clay. This was heavily contaminated with Victorian domestic refuse and must date from the period of Clarke’s Farm. It was 1.5m in width and stretched across the width of the trench, but was only 0.10m deep. This deposit also lay within a shallow cut, **[205]**, and the two were interpreted as construction features of the farm, possibly earlier substrate for wall lines or floors. Either cutting this deposit or having **(204)** butting against it was wall **{208}**. This was a single skin brick wall of probable mid Victorian date running roughly north-south. This survived to a height of around 0.80m and probably belonged to an outbuilding of Clarke’s Farm. Cutting into the natural east of this were features **(206)** **[207]**, **(212)** **[213]**, **(214)** **[215]** and **(216)** **[217]**, these were initially interpreted as pits, however, on excavation it was revealed that they were more likely to have been early tree-throws that had been filled in with demolition/substrate material. Also cutting into the natural in this area was a shallow sinuous gully **(218)** **[219]**. This was at least 1.50m in length with a width of 0.35m and a depth of 0.25m. No finds were recovered from this feature and the large majority of it was below groundwater level, so unfortunately it could not be fully excavated or

dated. Another hollow to the east of this gully was also interpreted as a tree-throw, **(220)** **[221]**. It is possible that this concentration of tree throws in this area may have been part of the farm's orchard area.

A narrow line of slates 0.50m in length and 0.20m in width running northwest to south east was seen to the east again, **(222)**. These sat in a shallow cut, **[223]** and appeared to be footings for a wall, a practice common in west Sheppey. No trace of the postulated wall survived but as the footing was slate it can be estimated to have been mid C19th or later.

Trench 3

(20 x 1.8m)

This trench was aligned roughly northeast-southwest and was located towards the south east corner of site was placed to analyse the impact of housing Block B on the underlying archaeology. As with Trench 2 the uppermost layer, **(300)** was composed of a dark loamy clay contaminated with modern building rubble, and in this case also contained plastic bottles and carrier bags showing this was very recently laid and was only a maximum of 0.10m in depth. Below the 'topsoil' were three layers of modern overburden, **(301)** **(306)** **(308)** **(311)** and **(314)**, each between 0.10m and 0.40m in thickness, and containing modern building rubble and plastic bags. These layers appear to be a very recent attempt to level the site in advance of construction work as they all lay above terrace feature **[307]** the line of which can be traced across the site to the west. Below **(306)** are four features which belong to the pre landscaping phase. Two of these are tree bowls, one is another French drain **(304)** **[305]** and one appears to be a dump of iron work which seems to have lain exposed for sometime before being recently covered by the overburden layers. These features are similar to those seen in Trench 2 and point to trees surrounding the Farmhouse/ Bungalow and an attempt to drain the surface of the Farmyard. Also seen at this level was a garden pond feature **(312)** **[313]**, this was dated, by the developers, to around 50 years old at the most, based on the cement type and thereby related to the bungalow.

Trench 4

(20 x 1.8m)

This trench ran almost northwest-southeast and was parallel with the line of Minster Road. Once again, the top layer encountered along the easternmost end of the trench was mainly a modern building rubble layer, **(400)** at the western end, this layer was numbered **(425)** this had a maximum thickness of 0.25m. To the west of **(400)** was a thin skim of asphalt that appeared to be the foundations of the bungalow, **(401)** this had a maximum thickness of 50mm. Removing this revealed the natural London Clay. It appears that the bungalow was built on this, and on the foundations of outbuildings further to the east that will be described below. A cut **[403]** was made into the London Clay and a wall of pale, possibly limestone, blocks was placed in this, **{404}**. The blocks were 0.20 to 0.30m in width and remained to a

height of 3 courses. Between the blocks and the cut, a deposit of packing was inserted, (402), this consisted of approximately 50% flints and 50% lime mortar waste, probably derived from the construction process. Below both of these contexts and in the base of [403] a single stakehole was discovered [416] (417) this was 90mm in depth and may have been a part of a fence line preceding the wall or a marker to delineate the foundations of the structure. To the east of this wall a single thickness layer of bricks was uncovered that appeared to have formed the floor of the structure, (405), this stretched along the trench for almost 3m. Below this was a sequence of rubble backfill/makeup/substrate layers with (419) a 0.40m thick dark brown deposit mostly composed of building rubble, at the top underlying brick floor (405), to the east this layer equates to (410) and is numbered (408) to the north of wall {409}. Wall {409} runs for just over 5m east to west and is formed of a double thickness red brick foundation which steps in to a single thickness red brick wall. This stands to a height of four courses of a random bond and the bricks have been roughly date to the mid C19th. Below layer (419) a thin, 50mm deposit of white clay, (411) was seen overlying a substrate of slate fragments, (412). This layer was probably an early internal floor and can be equated to the similar deposit in Trench 2, (227). It may be the same deposit within a large building, or it shows that the two structures are roughly contemporaneous. Below the slate layer is a layer of trample from the construction of this structure, (413) this lies on the truncated natural and was approximately 0.12m in thickness.

Beneath (410) was a gravel layer some 0.25m in thickness, (414). This appears to be one of the makeup layers along with (415) used to refill pit [420] to bolster up wall {418} as described below. Fill (415) was rich in Organic material, particularly Oyster Shell and was only 0.10m in depth. Wall {418} preceded wall {409} on a very similar alignment, but was built slightly further to the south. This older wall had hand made and not industrially made bricks, and they were shallower in build, from this it can be said that the bricks, if not the structure, were very possibly made in the late C18th, very early C19th, of this wall 8 courses were seen and it was constructed in a random bond. This wall appears to have fallen down at some point, and replaced by {409}, due to it being constructed across a loosely backfilled pit, [420] which may have been an old clay quarry. The western end of wall {418} did have a considerable tilt towards the pit that was not visible at its eastern end. As the deposits above were not cut through the pit fills to construct this wall it is supposed that upon wall {418} collapsing, the pit was emptied and refilled with more solid materials before construction of the later wall. The pit itself was seen to have at least two stakeholes on its periphery, (421) [422] and (423) [424], and possibly more, however, at this point the base of the pit was below groundwater level and work had to be curtailed.

FINDS

Archaeological finds were recovered during the course of the evaluation; the great majority were from the modern/post-medieval period. A few flakes of flint were recovered but as these were waste flakes they were not diagnostic and could have come from any period.

A report on a brick from early wall {418} was commissioned from Tony Herbert of the Ironbridge Institute.

“The most striking feature about the bricks is their length and depth dimensions, i.e. they are longer and thinner than the generally accepted size of bricks by the mid 19th century. They are certainly hand-made bricks but could be any date between the 15th century and the early 19th. I would expect them to have been made locally, although the Thames would open up transport opportunities from a wider area towards London. The absence of a frog doesn't really help the dating. The lime mortar in which they are bedded seems to be in excellent condition, making an early date less likely I would have thought” (T. Herbert, pers comm.).

Finds were only retained from two contexts, many others had finds within, but were heavily contaminated with modern materials and imported material making them unsuitable for dating. Unfortunately no finds at all were recovered from the fills of the earliest features, the stakeholes and the primary fill of the 'clay quarry'.

INITIAL DATING OF MULTI-CATEGORY FINDS FROM :

MINSTER ROAD, SHEPPEY 2009 – MRS-EV-09

1. *Overall pottery totals* : **9 sherds (weight : 160gms)**

2. *Period codes employed* :

LPM = Late Post-Medieval

3. *Context dating* :

CONTEXT : Fill 106

Sherds : 2 (weight : 32gms)

2 sherds LPM red earthenware – flower-pot type (c.1825 AD-plus

and :

1 fragment glass (weight : 11gms) – small, fairly fresh, green bottle glass – mid C19 AD plus

Likely context dating : If not residual, C19-C20 AD

Comment : Sherds of pottery and glass are all small, fairly fresh

CONTEXT : Deposit 204

Sherds : 7 (weight : 128gms)

4 sherds LPM white earthenware - ? Yorkshire 'ironstone'-type (blue transfer, 'Willow Pattern', c.1825-1875 AD)

3 sherds LPM red earthenware (c.1775-1850 AD range probably)

and :

3 fragments iron (weight : 17gms) – fairly heavily corroded, thin, ? nails

Likely context dating : C19

Comment : Sherds are small, some minor chipping of transfer-printed sherds, otherwise fairly fresh, coarsewares marginally more worn.

Analyst : N.Macpherson-Grant : 1.12.2009

DISCUSSION

The evaluation carried out on land at 129 and 131 Minster Road did encounter archaeological features, but the great majority of these were of the modern/post medieval period and most likely related to the early phases of Clarke's Farm and its buildings which were still standing until around the 1930s. The large majority of the site was composed of mixed dumping layers all relating to the phases of 'landscaping' carried out in the last few years. This meant the northern half of the site was buried under an extra 0.75m of made ground whereas the southern half had been truncated by an unknown amount, possibly around 0.50m, thereby removing any archaeology which may have been present. Unfortunately, this was the area closest to the site of the Romano British Cemetery.

The main features of note from this evaluation are from Trenches 2 and 4 where surviving brickwork, probably from Clarke's Farm, exists beneath the overburden. In trench 2 this is limited to a single stretch of brick wall and in Trench 4 a more complex sequence, of a possible clay quarry overbuilt by a wall of possible C18th date which later collapsed and was rebuilt in the C19th, was seen.

CONCLUSION

The archaeological evaluation has been successful in fulfilling the primary aims and objectives of the Specification. Despite the archaeological potential of the immediate surrounding area the only archaeological features uncovered probably dated from the early phases of Clarke's Farm, highly likely to date from the late 18th century/early 19th century. The positioning of Housing Block C in its present form will impact upon this archaeological resource as the early walls of Clarke's Farm are not at any significant depth. It is suggested that no other part of the site will suffer from this development as a great deal of landscaping has taken place on this land in the last few years, reducing the level of the ground surface in parts by anything up to a metre and removing any archaeology which may have been present, and in others burying it by a similar amount, according to the developers, thereby negating any impact by the footings. The only other recognisable parts of Clarke's Farm found during these works were remains of another structure, possibly more outbuildings from the farm or even a part of the succeeding bungalow, in Trench 2. This structure was constructed with machine made bricks estimated as post-dating the mid 19th century. This area has been heavily truncated and backfilled in recent years. Tree bowls from the same trench suggest that this area was once covered in trees, possibly as part of an orchard on the farm, or as trees surrounding the farm buildings and protecting them from the sea winds.

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 Malro Homes for commissioning the project. Many thanks are also extended to Mr Tony Herbert for his assistance in providing details on the brick sample, and also to Mr Nigel MacPherson-Grant for finds analysis. Acknowledgements are also due to Heritage and Conservation (Kent County Council) for their advice and assistance. Geoff Morley, Piotr Cichy, Pavel Cichy and Marcus Headifen carried out the archaeological fieldwork, illustrations were produced by Jonny Madden at Digitise This.

Geoff Morley M.Sc. (Oxon) FSA Scot PlfA

30th August 2009

REFERENCES

British Geological Survey, (BGS) (1977) Solid and Drift Edition 1:50 000, E272, Chatham.

Institute for Archaeologists (IfA) Rev (2008) *Standard and Guidance for archaeological field evaluation*.

www.archaeologists.net/modules/icontent/inPages/docs/codes/fldeval2.pdf

Kent County Council (KCCHC) (2008) *Specification for an Archaeological Evaluation on Land at 129 and 131 Minster Road, Minster in Sheppey, in advance of residential development*.

Kent County Council Heritage & Conservation

CONTENTS OF SITE ARCHIVE

Correspondence

Photographs 77.

Photocopies of Ordnance Survey and other maps:

Drawings: Five sheets A3 permatrace site drawings, comprising trench plans and associated sections. One DWG. File AutoCAD drawing.

Finds: Pottery sherds, window glass, waste flakes, flower pot and brick sherds. Finds Specialist Report (1). Brick Specialist Report, (1).

Context Register including: Context Register (2), Drawings Register (1), Photographic Register (1), Trench Sheets (4), Environmental Samples Register (x) and Context Sheets (79)

The archive is currently in a secure and controlled environment at SWAT offices awaiting permanent storage at a suitable museum.

APPENDIX 1 - Context Summary

Site on land at 129 and 131 Minster Road, Minster in Sheppey, Kent

Site Code: MRS/EV/09

| | Context No. | Stratigraphic Extents | Description |
|----------|-------------|------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Trench 1 | (100) | 14.22 – 13.98m OD SW End 13.82 – 13.51m OD Centre | Turf/topsoil. Friable dark grey brown silty clay with moderate inclusions of sub-rounded – angular flints, gravel and modern building rubble. |
| | (101) | 13.98m OD SW End 13.51m OD Centre | Subsoil. Colluvium mixed with London Clay |
| | (102) | Fill of [103] | Fill. Colluvium mixed with fine pea-grit gravel. |
| | [103] | 14.00- 13.86m OD | Cut of linear. Probable French Drain. |
| | (104) | Fill of [105] | Fill. Colluvium mixed with fine pea-grit gravel. |
| | [105] | 13.51 – 13.44m OD | Cut of linear. Probable French Drain. |
| | (106) | Fill of [107] | Fill. London Clay mixed with topsoil material. |
| | [107] | 13.33 – 13.24m OD | Cut of rectilinear. Probable Post hole |

| | Context No. | Stratigraphic Extents | Description |
|----------|-------------|-----------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Trench 2 | (200) | 12.68 – 12.56m OD | Turf/topsoil. Friable dark grey brown silty clay with moderate inclusions of sub-rounded angular flints, gravel and modern building rubble. |
| | (201) | 12.58 – 12.37m OD | Layer. Gravel |
| | (202) | Fill of [203] | Fill. Gravel footings for structure? |
| | [203] | 12.50 – 12.27m OD | Cut of linear. Probable foundation cut. |
| | (204) | Fill of [205] | Fill. Rubble footings for structure? |
| | [205] | 12.42 – 12.13m OD | Cut of linear. Probable foundation cut. |
| | (206) | Fill of [207] | Fill. Rubble deposit in tree-bowl? |
| | [207] | 12.37 – 11.97m OD | Cut of feature. Probable tree-bowl. |
| | {208} | 12.47 – 12.03m OD | Wall. C19th brick wall constructed in cut [209] |
| | [209] | 12.56 – 12.31m OD | Cut of linear. Foundation slot for {208}. |

| | Context No. | Stratigraphic Extents | Description |
|----------|-------------|-----------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------|
| Trench 2 | (210) | 12.65 – 12.21m OD | Layer. Gravel and modern demolition debris. |
| | (211) | 12.78 – 12.28m OD | Cut. Probable machine cut containing (210) |
| | (212) | Fill of [213] | Fill. Mixed London Clay deposit in tree-bowl? |
| | [213] | 12.07 – 11.87m OD | Cut of feature. Probable tree-bowl. |
| | (214) | Fill of [215] | Fill. Mixed gravel and clay deposit in tree-bowl? |
| | [215] | 11.95 – 11.73m OD | Cut of feature. Probable tree-bowl. |
| | (216) | Fill of [217] | Fill. Humic deposit in tree-bowl? |
| | [217] | 11.99 – 11.79m OD | Cut of feature. Probable tree-bowl. |
| | (218) | Fill of [219] | Fill. Humic deposit in linear? |
| | [219] | 12.06 – 11.73m OD | Cut of linear. Irregular cut for gully. Poss natural. |

| | Context No. | Stratigraphic Extents | Description |
|----------|-------------|-----------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Trench 2 | (220) | Fill of [221] | Fill. Humic deposit in hollow? |
| | (221) | 12.15 – 11.95m OD | Cut. Probable natural hollow. |
| | (222) | Fill of [223] | Fill. Possible slate substrate/ foundation in cut? |
| | [223] | 12.15 – 12.14m OD | Cut. Cut for slate substrate (222). |
| | (224) | 12.67 – 12.22m OD | Layer. Gravel and modern demolition debris. |
| | (225) | 12.32 – 12.09m OD | Layer. Gravel and modern demolition debris with modern topsoil. |
| | (226) | Fill of [217] | Layer. Gravel and modern demolition debris including C19th/C20th Tile and sink fragments mixed with modern topsoil. |
| | (227) | 12.37 – 12.21m OD | Layer. Pure white clay, Internal floor? Similar to (411). |
| | (228) | 12.29 – 12.08m OD | Layer. Rounded gravel footings, substrate for (227)? |
| | (229) | 12.12 – 12.06m OD | Layer. Redeposited natural |

| | Context No. | Stratigraphic Extents | Description |
|----------|-------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Trench 3 | (300) | 13.16 – 13.14m OD Top of terrace 13.02 – 12.96m OD Base of terrace | Turf/topsoil. Friable dark grey brown silty clay with moderate inclusions of sub-rounded angular flints, gravel and modern building rubble. |
| | (301) | 12.96 – 12.84m OD | Subsoil. Colluvium mixed with London Clay and modern building material and organic matter. |
| | (302) | Fill of [303] | Fill. Gravel/silt deposit in tree-bowl? |
| | [303] | 13.10 – 12.51m OD | Cut of feature. Probable tree-bowl. |
| | (304) | Fill of [305] | Fill. Colluvium mixed with fine pea-grit gravel. |
| | [305] | 12.72 m OD | Cut of linear. Probable French Drain. |
| | (306) | Fill of [307] | Fill. Thick deposit of material from the upper part of site. Modern landscaping. Levelling [307] |
| | [307] | 12.94m OD Top of terrace 12.23m OD Base of terrace | Cut of feature. Probable terracing into the hillside for Clarkes Farm buildings. |
| | (308) | 12.87 – 12.75m OD | Layer. London clay mixed with demolition debris with modern topsoil. Levelling layer. |
| | (309) | Fill of [310] | Fill. Humic material mixed with demolition debris and silt. High concentration of iron frags. |

| Trench 3 | Context No. | Stratigraphic Extents | Description |
|----------|-------------|-----------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| | [310] | 12.27 – 12.08m OD | Cut of pit. Shallow and irregular but unlike a tree-bowl. |
| | (311) | Fill of [307] | Fill. Thick deposit of material from the upper part of site. Modern landscaping. Levelling [307]. Same as (306). |
| | (312) | 11.66 – 11.32m OD | Garden feature. C20th Concrete pond. |
| | [313] | 11.66 – 11.06m OD | Cut of feature. Cut for pond. |
| | (314) | 11.66 – 11.32m OD | Layer. Friable dark grey brown silty clay with moderate inclusions of sub-rounded angular flints, gravel and modern building rubble. |

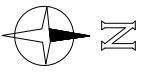
| | Context No. | Stratigraphic Extents | Description |
|----------|-------------|-----------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Trench 4 | (400) | 12.77 – 12.71m OD | Turf/topsoil. Friable dark grey brown silty clay with moderate inclusions of sub-rounded angular flints, gravel and modern building rubble. |
| | (401) | 12.71 – 12.65m OD | Layer. Modern tarmac. Probably substrate for the bungalow. |
| | (402) | 12.71 – 12.20m OD | Deposit. Stone 'packing' in wall cut [403] |
| | [403] | 12.62 – 12.10m OD | Cut of feature. Foundation cut for wall {404}. |
| | {404} | 12.71 – 12.24m OD | Wall. Red brick single skin wall. |
| | (405) | 12.53 – 12.47m OD | Layer. Red brick flooring of farm outbuildings. |
| | (406) | Fill of [407] | Fill. Grey clay feature. Thought to be fill of cut feature on excavation turned out to be natural mottling. |
| | [407] | 11.35m OD | Cut of feature. Thought to be cut feature, actually natural. |
| | (408) | 12.47 – 11.97m OD | Layer. Very dark brown/ black contaminated layer. Possible substrate for floor of outbuildings. Similar to (410). |
| | {409} | 11.96 – 11.51m OD | Wall. C19th red brick. Probable North wall of outbuildings. |

| | Context No. | Stratigraphic Extents | Description |
|----------|-------------|------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Trench 4 | (410) | 11.60 – 11.32m OD | Layer. Very dark brown/ black contaminated layer. Possible substrate for floor of outbuildings. Similar to (408). |
| | (411) | 12.28 – 12.25m OD | Layer. Pure white clay, Internal floor? Similar to (227). |
| | (412) | 12.26 – 12.22m OD | Fill. Possible slate substrate/ foundation in cut? |
| | (413) | 12.22 – 12.10m OD | Layer. London clay plus building rubble |
| | (414) | Fill of [420] 11.31 – 11.02m OD | Fill. Possible secondary fill of Clay Quarry |
| | [415] | Fill of [420] 11.02 – 10.93m OD | Fill. Possible Primary fill of Clay Quarry |
| | (416) | Fill of [417] | Fill. Stakehole. |
| | [417] | 12.15 – 12.06m OD | Cut. |
| | (418) | 11.57 – 11.04m OD | Wall. C18th red brick. Probable original North wall of outbuildings. |
| | [419] | 12.47 – 12.11m OD | Fill. Partial rubble backfill of demolished wall cut [403] |

| | Context No. | Stratigraphic Extents | Description |
|----------|-------------|-----------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Trench 4 | [420] | 11.50 – 10.93m OD | Cut of pit. Probable Clay Quarry. Predating farm. |
| | (421) | Fill of [422] | Fill. Stakehole. |
| | [422] | 11.47m OD | Cut. Stakehole? |
| | (423) | Fill of [424] | Fill. Stakehole. |
| | [424] | 11.42m OD | Cut. Stakehole? |
| | (425) | 11.89 – 11.60m OD | Layer. Building Rubble and modern inclusions. Part of 'Landscaping' works. |

APPENDIX 2 – Kent County Council SMR Summary Form

| | |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------|
| Site Name: <i>Land at 129 and 131 Minster Road, Minster in Sheppey, Kent</i> | |
| SWAT Site Code: <i>MRS/EV/09</i> | |
| Site Address: <i>129 and 131 Minster Road, Minster in Sheppey, Kent</i> | |
| Summary: <i>Swale & Thames Survey Company (SWAT) carried out an archaeological evaluation on land at 129 and 131 Minster Road, Minster in Sheppey in Kent. A planning application (PAN: SW/04/0059) for the construction of a new residential development of 18 flats, along with associated access and car parking at the above site was submitted to Swale Borough Council (SBC) whereby Kent County Council Heritage and Conservation (KCCHC), on behalf of Swale Borough 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 2008) and in discussion with the Archaeological Officer, Kent County Council.</i> <i>The Archaeological Evaluation consisted of four trenches which encountered no archaeological features of any significant antiquity but uncovered an early phase of Clarke's Farm which existed prior to the construction of the bungalow at 129 Minster Road and an even earlier clay quarry feature below this. The wall possibly dated to the C18th and the clay quarry was earlier, both were both located in Trench 4 under the footprint of one of the flats of the development running parallel to the road. Other more ancient features may have existed in Trenches 1-3 but they appear to have been removed during recent landscaping activities on the site.</i> | |
| District/Unitary: <i>Swale</i> | Parish: <i>Minster-in-Sheppey</i> |
| Period(s): Tentative: <i>Post Medieval/Modern</i> | |
| NGR (centre of site : 8 figures): (NB if large or linear site give multiple NGRs): <i>NGR 593781 172790</i> | |
| Type of archaeological work (delete) <i>Evaluation</i> | |
| Date of Recording: <i>January 2009</i> | |
| Unit undertaking recording: <i>Swale & Thames Survey Company (SWAT)</i> | |
| Geology: <i>London Clay</i> | |
| Title and author of accompanying report: <i>Morley, G. (2009) Archaeological Evaluation on land at 129 and 131 Minster Road, Minster in Sheppey, Kent</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>2nd September 2009</i> |



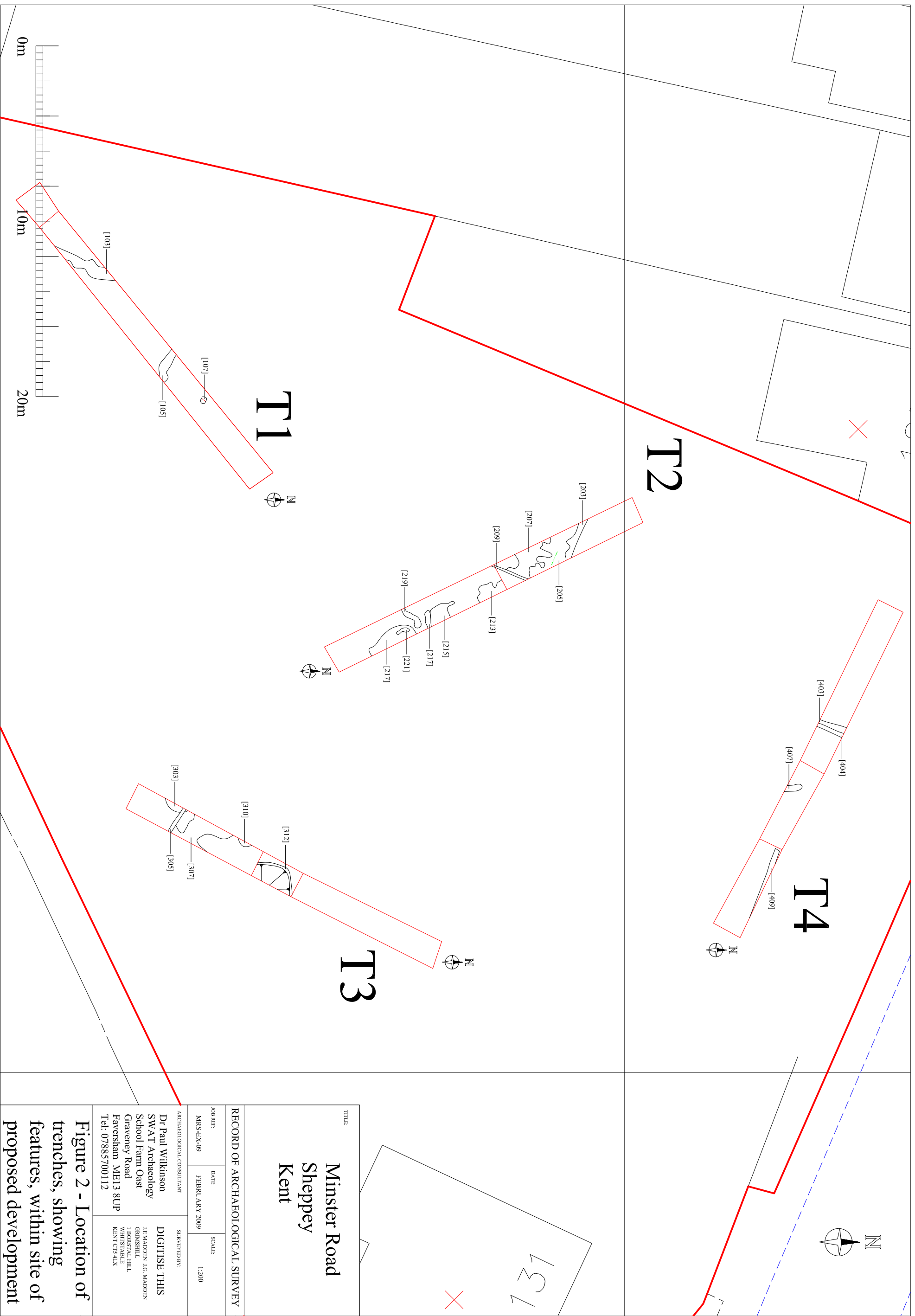
TITLE:
**Minster Road
Sheppey
Kent**

RECORD OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY

| JOB REF: | DATE: | SCALE: |
|------------|---------------|--------|
| MRS-EX-409 | FEBRUARY 2009 | 1:1250 |

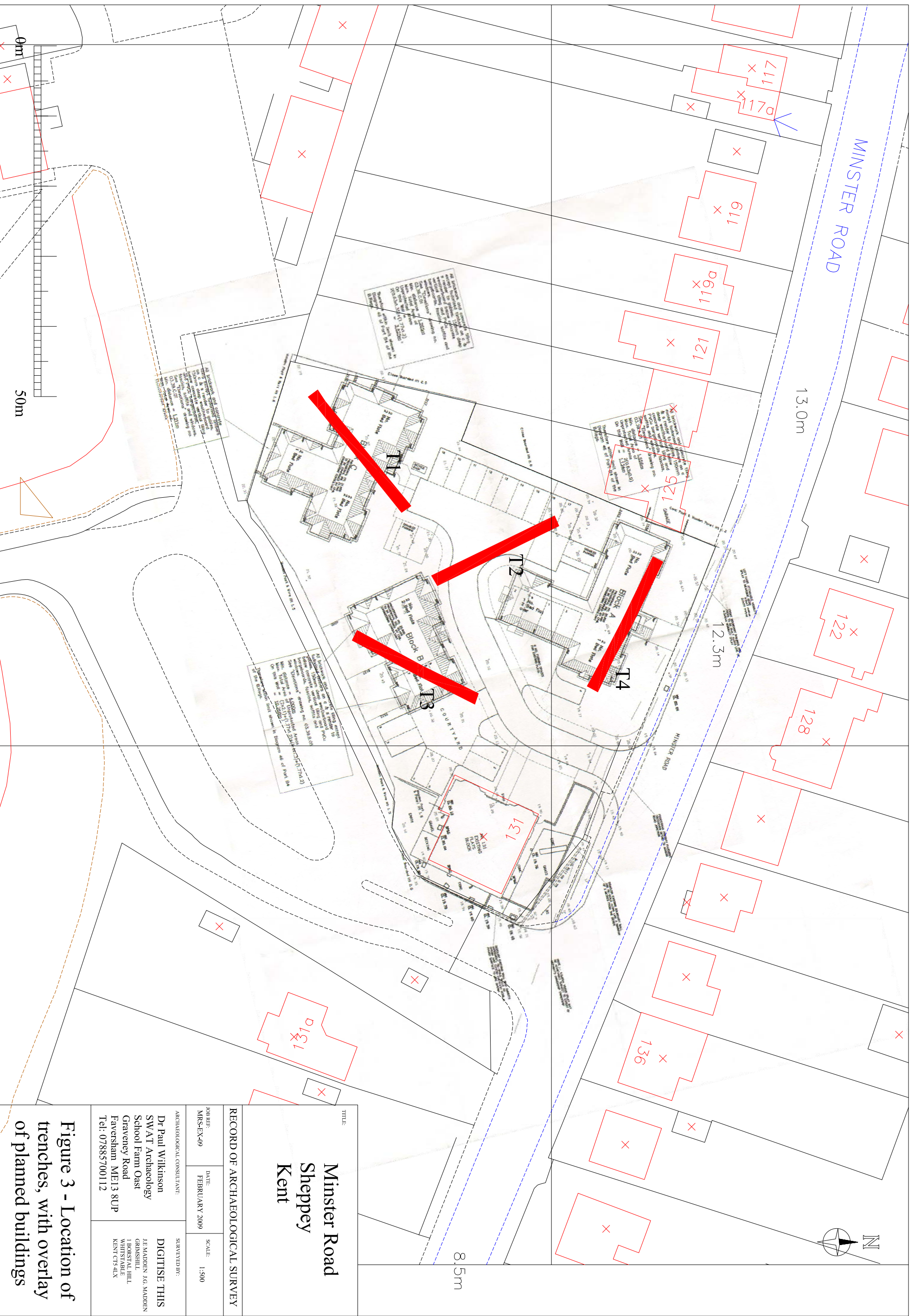
| ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONSULTANT | SUPERVISOR: |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Dr Paul Wilkinson SW/AT Archaeology School Farm Oast Graveney Road Faversham ME13 8UP Tel: 07885700112 | DIGITISE THIS JE MADDEN JG MADDEN GRINSHILL 1 BROSSTAL HILL WHITSTABLE KENT CT15 4LX |

**Figure 1 - Location of
trenches within site of
proposed development**



| | | | |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--|
| TITLE: Minster Road Sheppey Kent | | | |
| RECORD OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY | | | |
| JOB REF: MRS-EX-409 | DATE: FEBRUARY 2009 | SCALE: 1:200 | |
| ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONSULTANT: Dr Paul Wilkinson SW/AT Archaeology School Farm Oast Graveney Road Faversham ME13 8UP Tel: 07885700112 | | SURVEYED BY: DIGITISE THIS JE MADDEN JG MADDEN GRINSHILL 1 BORSSTAL HILL WHITSTABLE KENT CT15 4LX | |

**Figure 2 - Location of
 trenches, showing
 features, within site of
 proposed development**



| | | |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Minster Road Sheppey Kent | | |
| TITLE: | | |
| RECORD OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY | | |
| JOB REF: MKS-EX-09 | DATE: FEBRUARY 2009 | SCALE: 1:500 |
| ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONSULTANT: Dr Paul Wilkinson SWAT Archaeology School Farm East Graveley Road Eaversham ME13 8UP Tel: 07885700112 | | SURVEYED BY: JE MADDEN JG MADDEN BRONSHILL HILL WAINBORNE KENT CT5 4LX |

**Figure 3 - Location of
trenches, with overlay
of planned buildings**

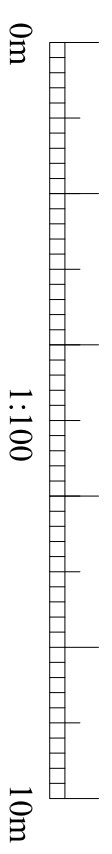
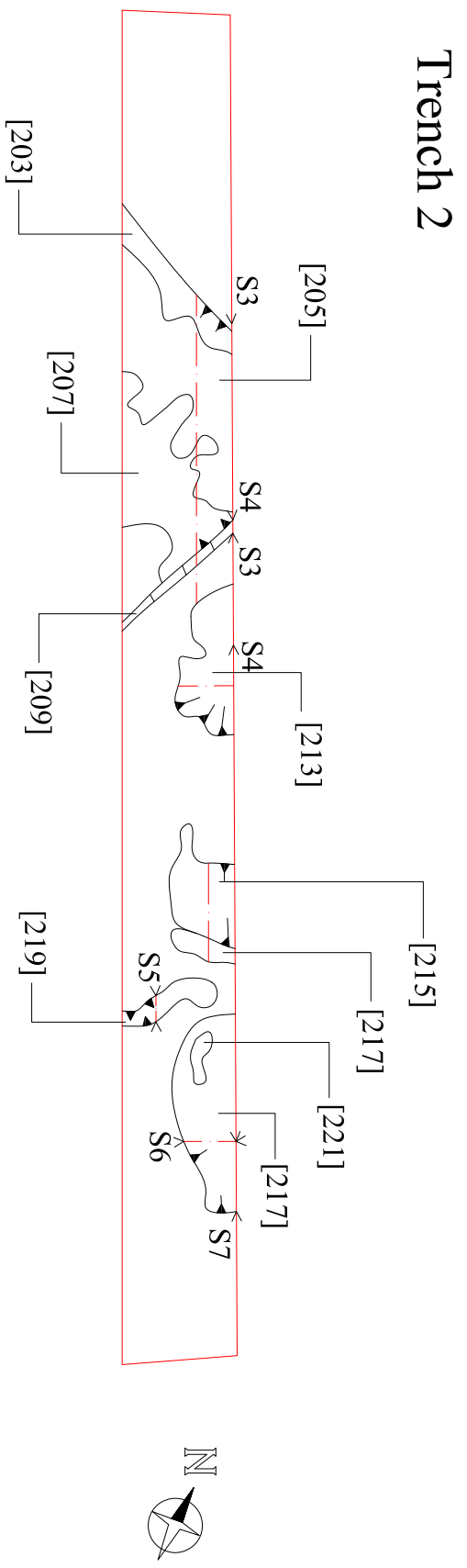
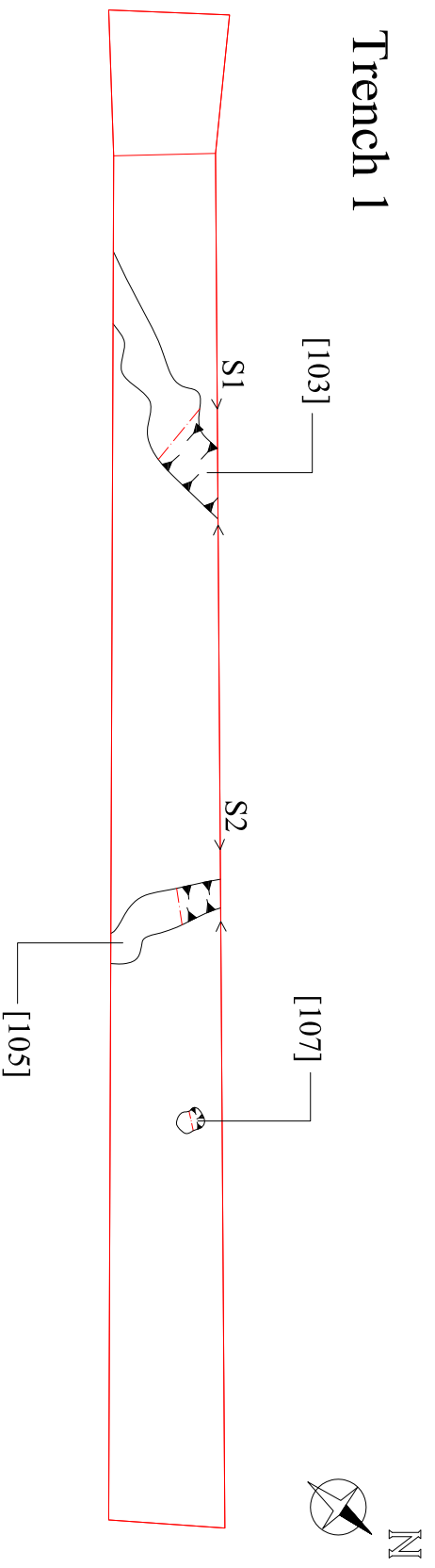
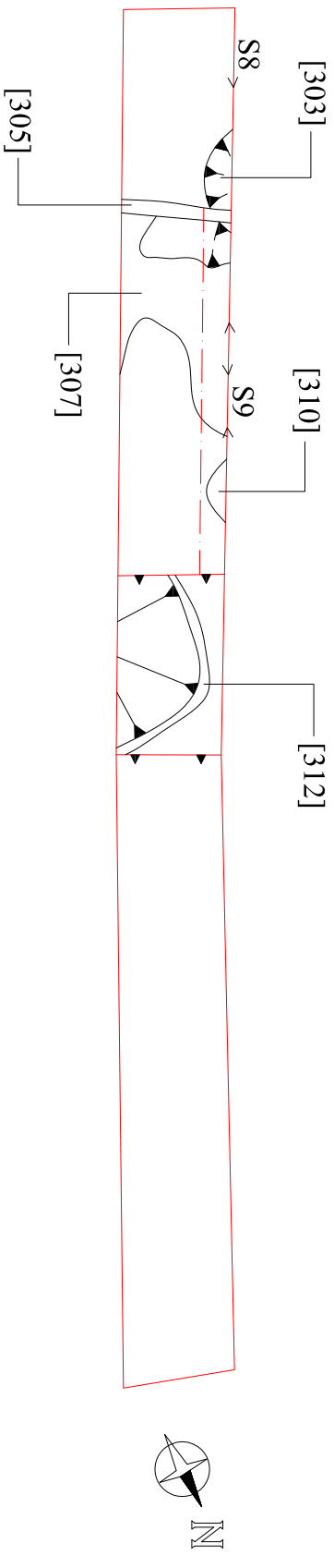


Figure 4: Trench Plans

Trench 3



Trench 4

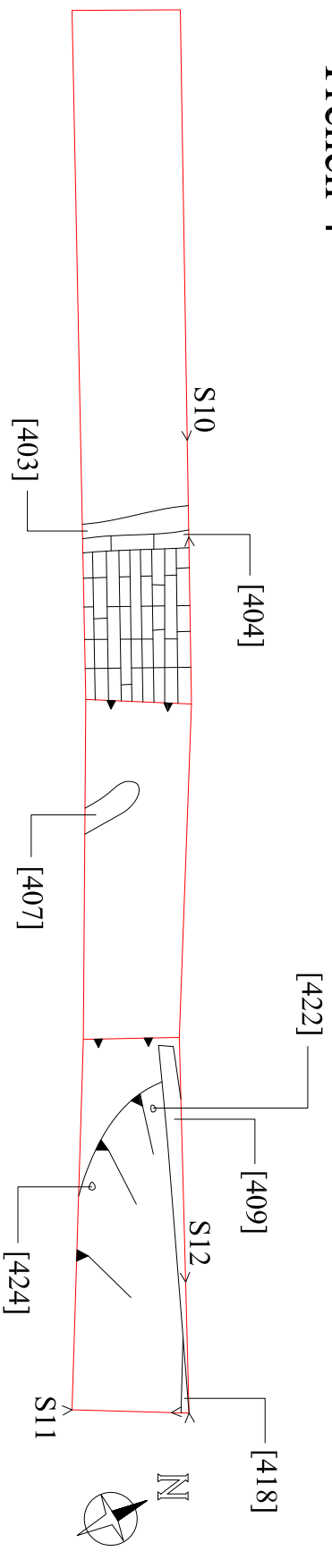
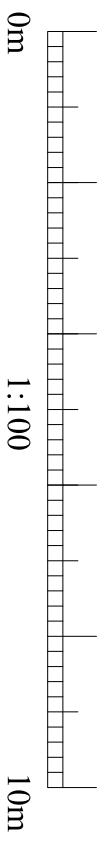


Figure 5: Trench Plans

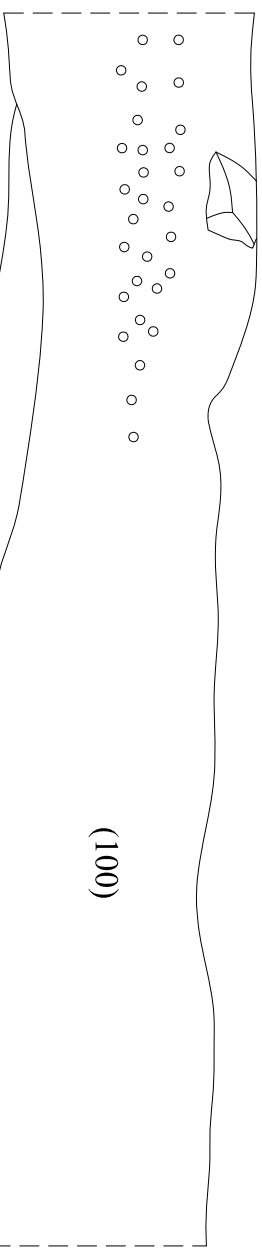


Section 1 - South East Facing Section

SW

NE

14.22m AOD



KEY:
= Stone

○ ○ ○ ○
= Pebbles

Section 2 - South East Facing Section

SW

NE

13.82m AOD

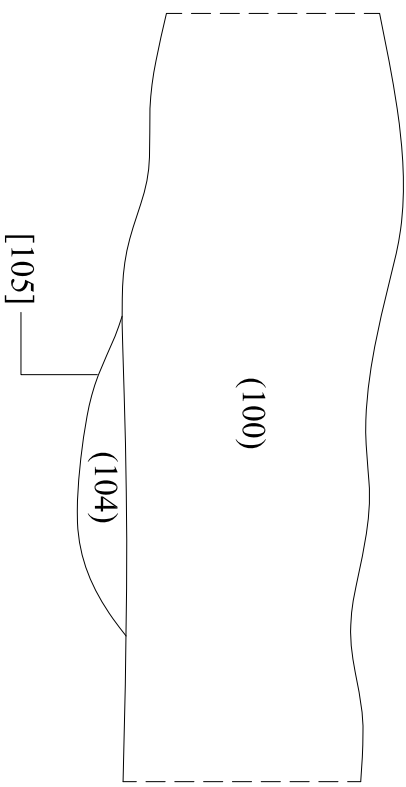
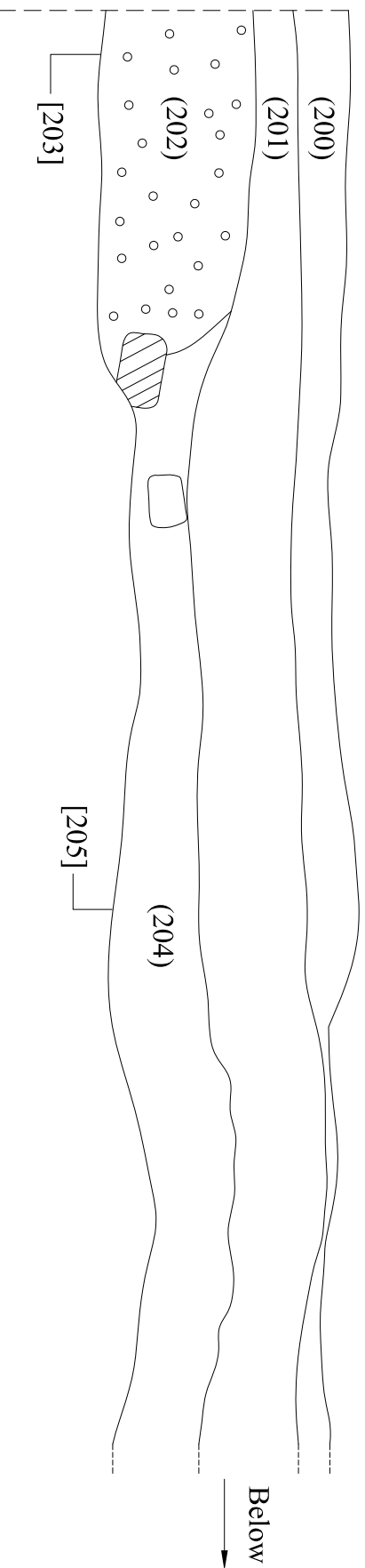


Figure 6: Trench 1 - Sections 1:10



Section 3 - South/West Facing Section

NW



- KEY:
- = Gravel
 - = Brick
 - = Iron Object
 - = Porcelain
 - = Concrete

SE

12.58m AOD

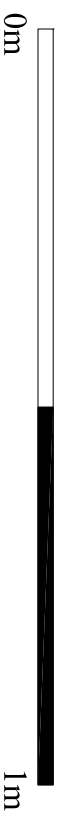
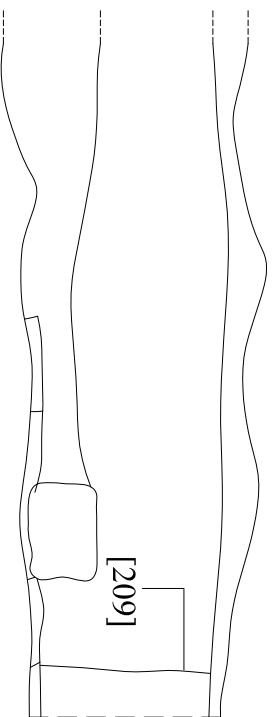


Figure 7: Trench 2 - Sections 1:10

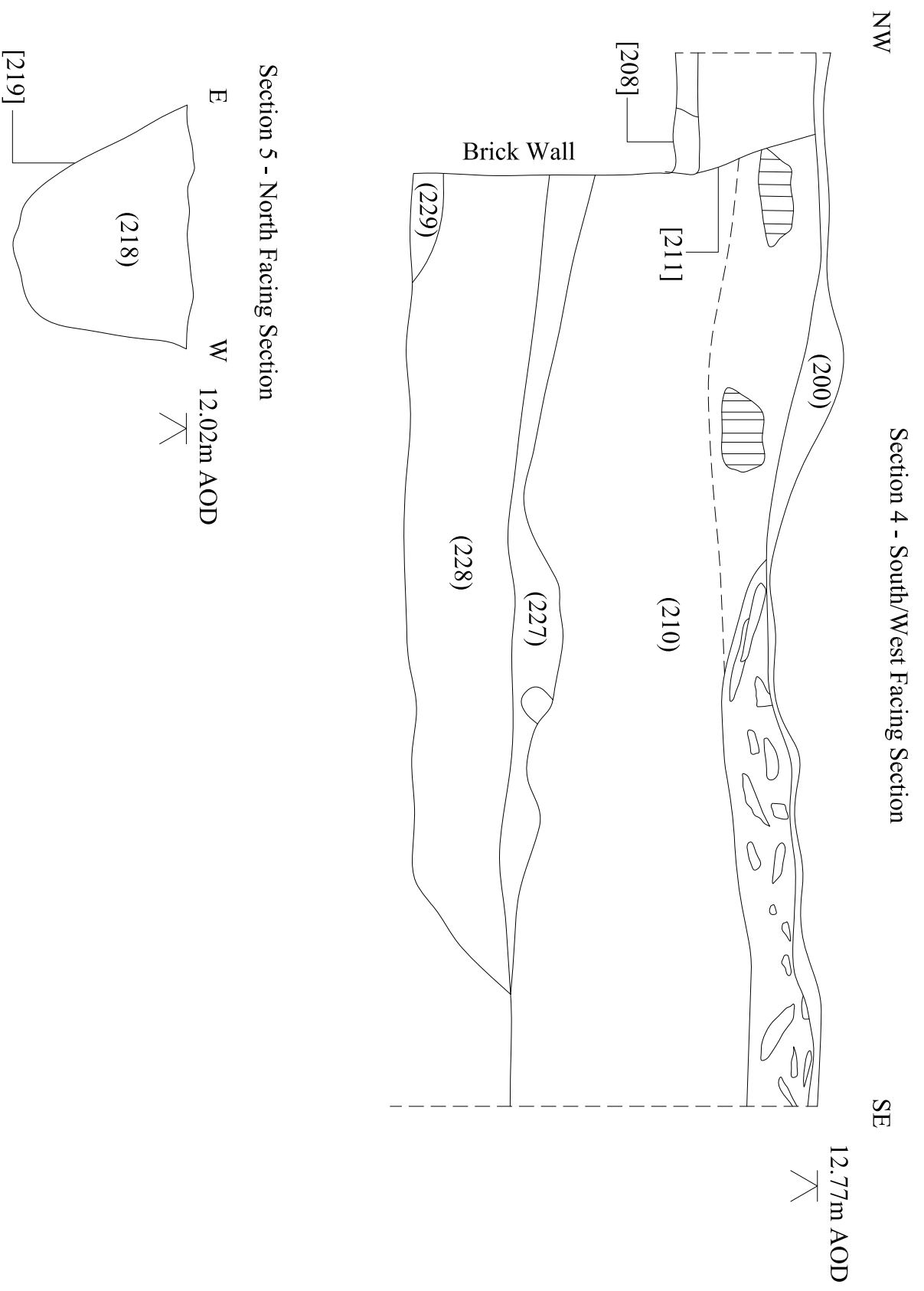


Figure 8: Trench 2 - Sections 1:10

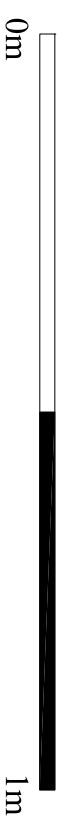
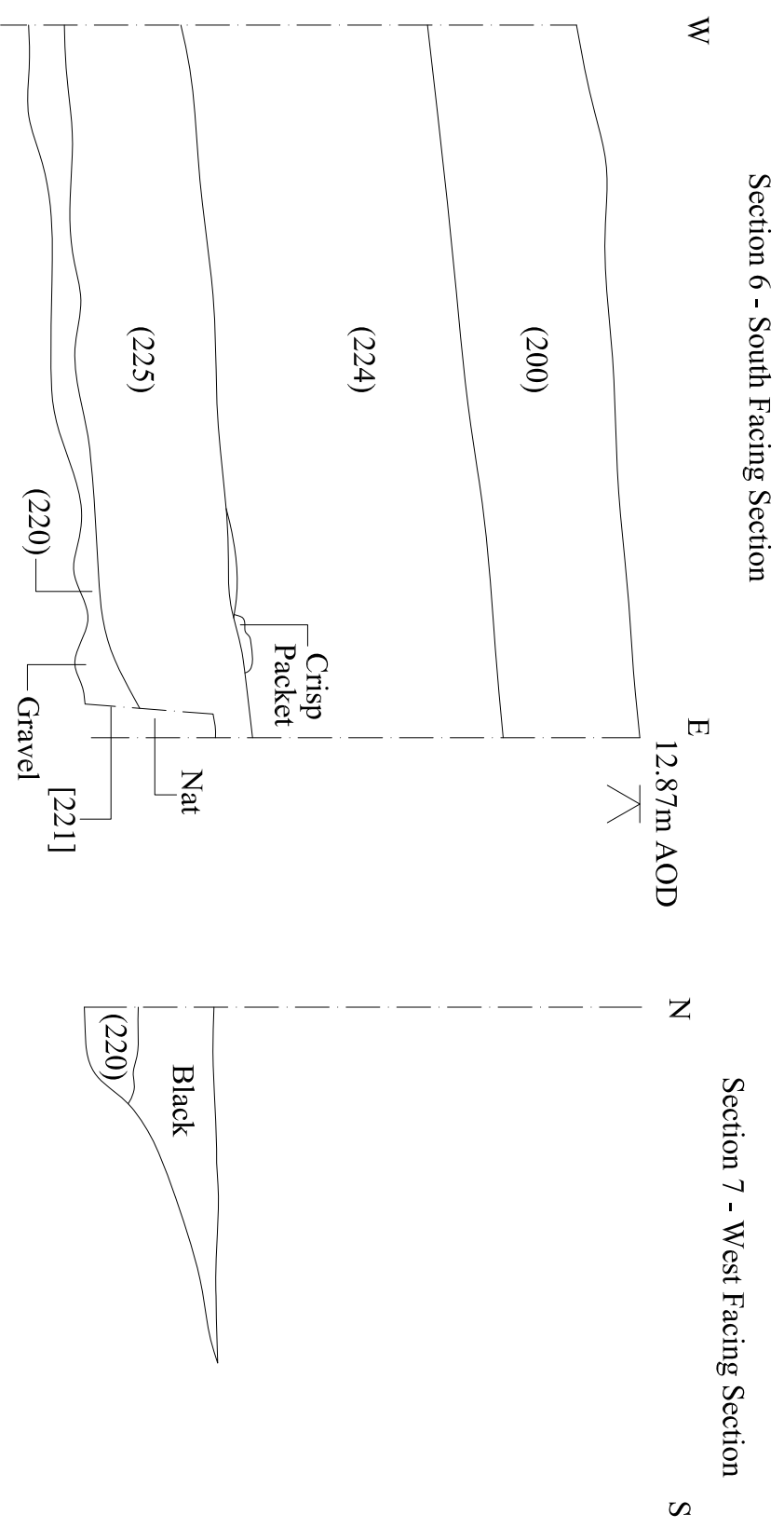


Figure 9: Trench 2 - Sections 1:10

S

Section 8 - South East Facing Section

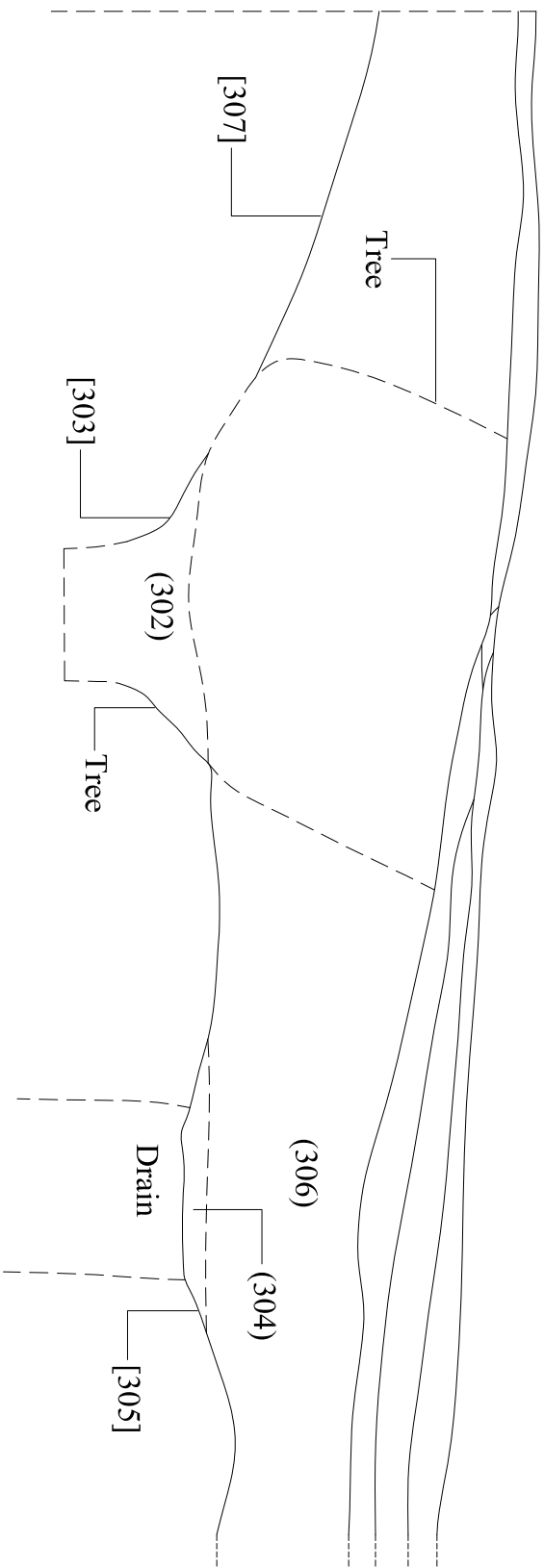


Fig 11
→

Figure 10: Trench 3 - Sections 1:10



Section 9 - South East Facing Section

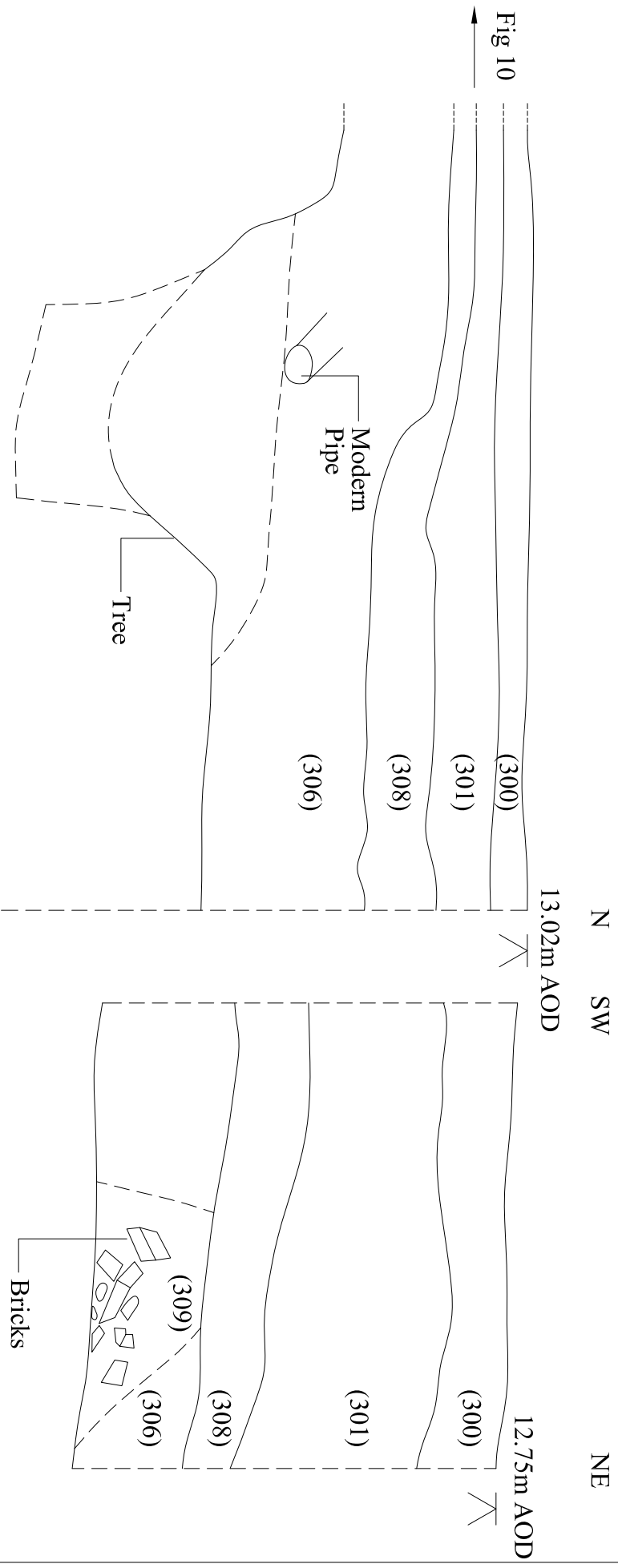
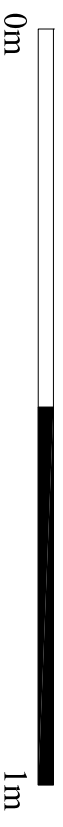


Figure 11: Trench 3 - Sections 1:10



Section 10 - South Facing Section

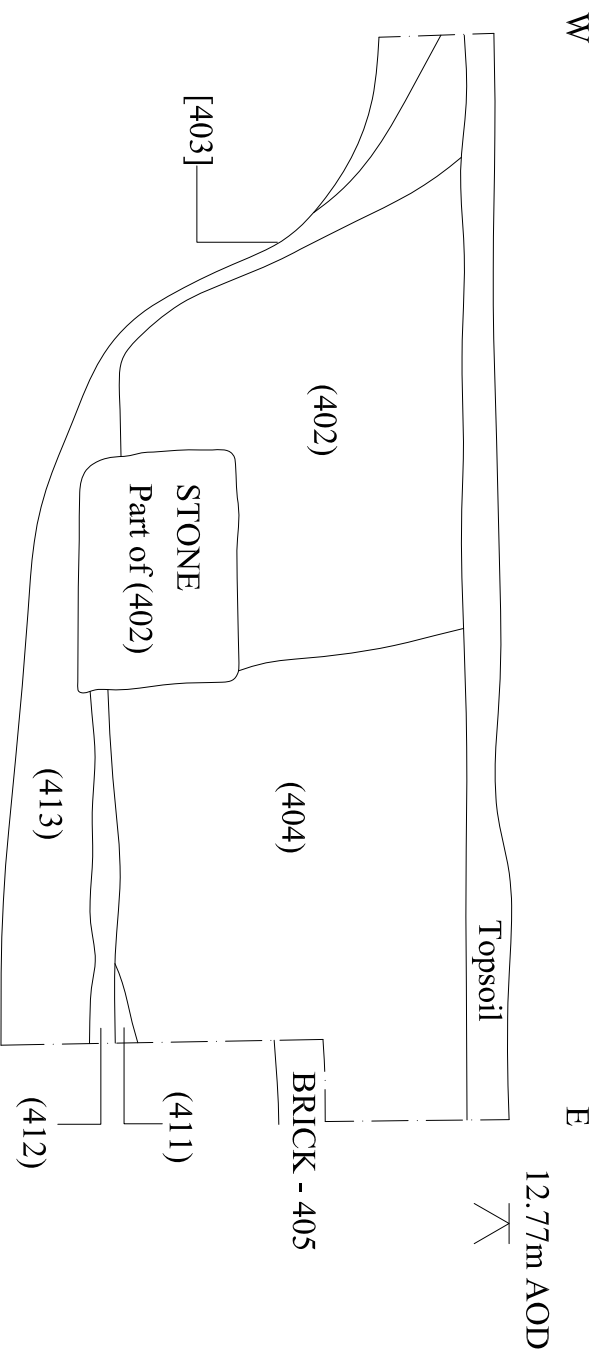
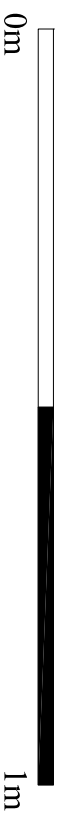


Figure 12: Trench 4 - Sections 1:10



Section 11 - West Facing Section

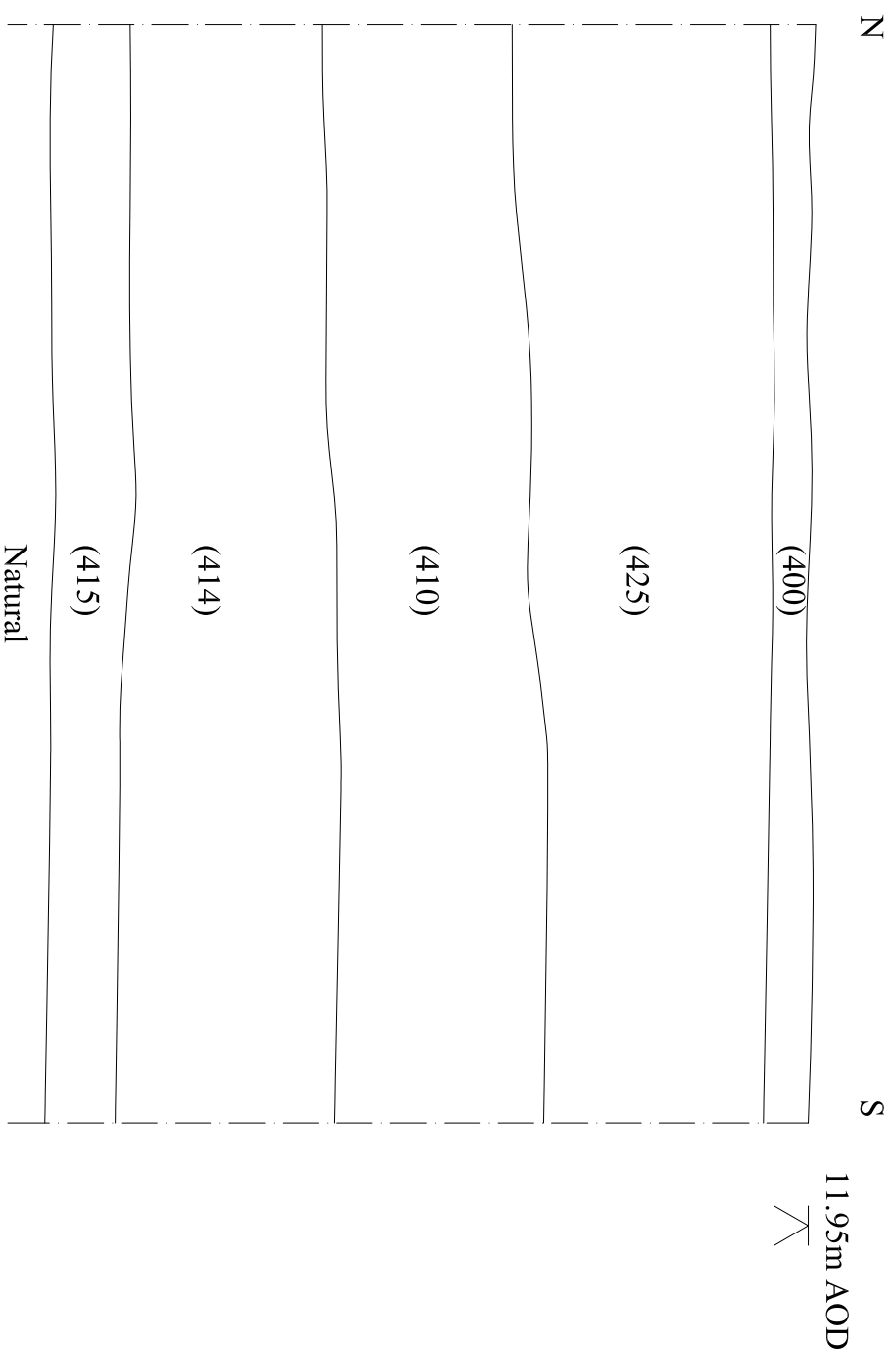
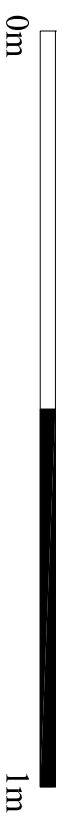


Figure 13: Trench 4 - Sections 1:10



Section 12 - South Facing Section

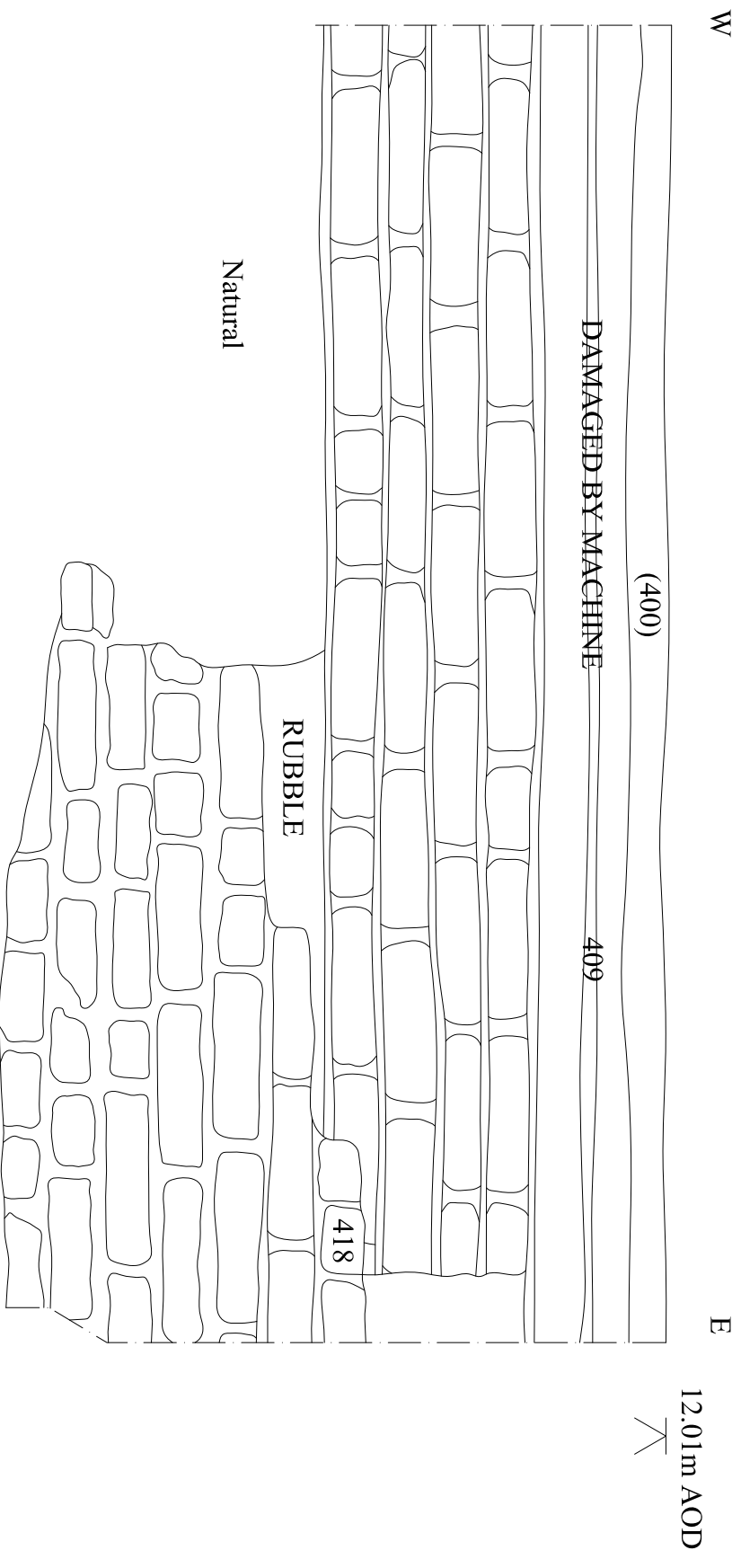


Figure 14: Trench 4 - Sections 1:10