



Archaeological Evaluation on land at 1 Belmont Terrace, Gore Road, Eastry, Kent *March 2009*

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Archaeological Evaluation on land at
1 Belmont Terrace, Gore Road, Eastry, Kent

NGR: 630874 154981

Site Code: GRE-EV-09

(Planning Application Number: DOV/04/01517)

Report for
Lee Evans Partnership

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SUMMARY

Swale & Thames Survey Company (SWAT) carried out an archaeological evaluation on land to the rear of 1 Belmont Terrace, Gore Road, Eastry in Kent. A planning application (PAN: DOV/04/01517) 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 2008) and in discussion with the Archaeological Officer, Kent County Council.

The Archaeological Evaluation consisted of five trenches which encountered only one archaeological feature of any significant antiquity and this was located in Trench 1 under the proposed driveway of the development, suggesting that there are possible archaeological remains surviving within this part of the site, but that they appear to be deeply buried by colluvium and below the formation level of the proposed development.

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 Lee Evans Partnership 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 in stages between the 9th and 20th March 2009.

SITE DESCRIPTION AND TOPOGRAPHY

The application site is located to the north end of the old centre of Eastry which itself is situated on the end of a long ridge of the North Downs which stretches away to the south east. The site itself is approximately 21 metres above sea level and slopes down from south to north. The National Grid Reference for the new development is NGR 630874 154981. The

drift geology of the site is Head Brickearth and colluvium is also to be found across the site. The underlying geology of the site, according to the British Geological Society, is Upper Chalk.

PLANNING BACKGROUND

A planning application (PAN: *DOV/04/01517*) 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:

“No development shall take place until the applicant, or their agents or successors in title, has secured the implementation of:

- i archaeological field evaluation works in accordance with a specification and written timetable which has been submitted to and approved by the Local Planning Authority;*
- ii following on from an evaluation, any safeguarding measures to ensure preservation in situ of important archaeological remains and/or further archaeological investigation and recording in accordance with a specification and timetable which has been submitted to and approved by the Local Planning Authority. (Kent Structure Plan Policy ENV18 and Dover Local Plan Policies HE6 and HE7).*

Reason: To ensure appropriate assessment of the archaeological implications of any development proposals and the subsequent mitigation of adverse impacts through preservation in situ or by record.” (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 DDC of any further archaeological mitigation measures that may be necessary in connection with the development proposals.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

The area surrounding Gore Road is rich in archaeological remains of all periods and listed buildings from the C13th onwards. Traces of prehistoric occupation in the form of pits and ditches have been found in the village dating back possibly as far as the Neolithic, (TR 35 SW 211) some 150m to the south east of the present site. Later Prehistoric activity was seen on the above site also in the form of pits and ditches, but also several residual worked flints and a single sherd of LBA-IA pot were found in later features 200m south of the present site, (TR 35 SW 202). Very little of Roman date has been discovered in the area considering a Roman Road passes through the length of the village and within 50m of the site. A number of 3rd to 4th century coins were found near the church by metal detectorists, (TR 35 SW 213). Only 75m southeast of the present site a single Early Medieval burial was found, (TR 35 SW 37). This female burial was heavily adorned with jewellery and dated to around the end of the sixth or the beginning of the seventh centuries. The town possibly enjoyed a period of prosperity at around this time possibly being an administrative centre for eastern Kent. Remains from this period include coins and brooches and linear features, (TR 35 SW 200) and (TR 35 SW 212) Standing buildings in general date back to the C15th. With the church and Eastry Court being older and dating back to at least the C13.

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

The purpose of the evaluation, as set out within the Archaeological Specification (2008) 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.”

METHODOLOGY

Trial trenching was carried out on 04th March 2009, with the excavation of five trenches measuring 1.5m in width and between 11 and 19m in length (see below). Trench location was agreed prior to the excavation between KCCHC and SWAT but was altered due to on-site considerations; this was agreed with the KCCHC representative. The trenches were 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 and shown in bold.

MONITORING

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

RESULTS

A common stratigraphic sequence was recognised across trenches 2-5 which were situated in woodland and a different stratigraphic sequence was seen in trench 1 which was in the garden area of 1 Belmont Terrace. Trench 1 comprised topsoil/turf overburden **(100)**, beneath which were two layers of hardcore which lay above the natural subsoils, **(103)** Colluvium and **(106)** Brickearth overlaying Upper Chalk. In trenches 2-5 the woodland topsoil/overburden, **(*00)** gave way to colluvial subsoils comprising mid brown grey silty clay overlying natural Brickearth 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 between c.0.40 and 1.2m below the existing ground level.

Trench 1

(17 x 1.8m)

Trench 1 was located within the northern extent of the site **(Fig 2)**. Aligned approximately northeast-southwest, this trench was positioned to identify and confirm the impact caused during development of the access road to the proposed development. It measured 17m in length and contained one possible ditch **(104)** **[105]**, and modern features. Garden topsoil **(100)** measuring 0.25m in depth overlay two layers of hardcore, **(101)** which comprised medium to large flint nodules and **(102)** which was composed of crushed red brick. As this was seen for the full length of the trench it was assumed that this was the substrate and surface for a track, possibly of Victorian origin. These two layers sealed a layer, or perhaps many fine laminated layers, of colluvial origin some 0.55m in thickness, **(103)**. This in turn overlay a possible ditch feature **[105]** which was a maximum of 0.40m in depth and had shallow sloping sides and in undulating base. This was filled by mid-dark grey-brown silt clay with inclusions of small – medium angular and rounded stone **(104)**. This fill contained a single body sherd of organic-tempered pottery spot dated to C6-C7th which is possibly contemporary. This feature was cut into earlier colluvial layers.

Trench 2

(14 x 1.8m)

This trench was roughly aligned east – west and was placed slightly out of line with the original indicative trench layout in order to avoid standing trees. The ‘topsoil’ layer was a dark grey brown silty clay layer, **(200)** seemingly mostly composed of degraded leaf litter, which had large fragments of modern building rubble throughout. Below this was a mixed layer of Brick mortar and flint up to 4m in width and 0.10m in depth, **(201)** which may have been a continuation of the trackway seen in trench 1 or a part of another route across the site possibly associated with very modern wall stubs seen in the section. Below this again was a layer of colluvium up to 0.20m thick, **(202)**, covering the natural brickearth, **(203)**.

Trench 3

(11 x 1.8m)

This trench was also aligned roughly east-west and was again placed to avoid trees and standing structures. As with Trench 2 the uppermost layer, **(300)** was composed of degraded leaf litter material and was up to 0.30m in depth. No artificial deposits were seen in this trench other than building rubble within the makeup of **(300)**. Below the ‘topsoil’ was a layer of colluvium some 0.40m in thickness, **(301)**, and below this the natural brickearth was seen, **(302)**.

Trench 4

(19 x 1.8m)

This trench ran down the eastern side of the site and had to be stepped out horizontally towards the southern end to avoid a stubborn tree bole. Once again, the top layer encountered was a leaf litter and modern building rubble layer, **(400)**. Below this and cut into by the few modern walls seen in section was a colluvial layer, **(401)** which varied in depth between 0.26 and 0.43m. Removing this revealed the original line of the hill in the natural brickearth **(402)** and the present day plateau was seen to have been created by cutting into the colluvium. Possible evidence of the creation of this was seen towards the northern end of the trench where a mixed layer of soil was seen at the interface between the topsoil and the colluvium, **(405)**. This may be seen as a ‘trample layer’ created during the construction of use of this site. Feature **[404]** appeared to be a tree bowl and was situated at the northernmost end of the trench. The area at the southern end of the trench had a number of small terraces cut into it, **(407)** and **(409)**, none of these exceeded 0.25m in depth and all were cut into the natural brickearth and filled with colluvium therefore potentially giving these a date earlier than the modern period structures encountered. At the base of the trench a number of patches of siltier soil were noticed in the natural brick earth possibly indicating sites of older tree bowls, one of these, **(410)** was recorded archaeologically.

Trench 5

(14 x 1.8m)

This trench was laid out roughly east – west again as per the trench layout. This trench showed the highest density of use on the site, and lay adjacent to an old shed which may once have served as a workshop and have been the source of much of this activity. In this area the topsoil, **(500)**, was a maximum of 0.72m in depth the greater depth may be the result of piling up of leaf debris and building demolition material during site clearance at some point in the recent past. A stratigraphic sequence similar to that in the other trenches was evident with the topsoil overlying a heavily cut away colluvial layer, **(501)**, **(524)**, **(525)** and **(526)** which in turn overlay natural brickearth, **(520)**. However many features cut away this sequence. At the top was a well constructed brick trackway/surface apparently leading away southwards from the adjacent workshop, **(523)**. This was constructed of un-frogged bricks laid as stretchers across the line of the track and was laid on a concrete foundation which used both red and yellow brick as hardcore. Below this was a sequence of pits and other cut features all containing modern or post-medieval period brick and glass. None of these features showed any evidence of being earlier than the C19th and are probably related to the light industry evidenced on this site by the standing workshop structures.

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 single sherd of pottery was recovered from an undisturbed and sealed context in trench 1 and dates from the C6th or C7th.

DISCUSSION

The evaluation carried out on land to the rear of 1 Belmont Terrace did encounter archaeological features, but the great majority of these were of the modern/post medieval period and most likely related to the tracks and standing buildings still left on site. These obviously went out of use some time ago because of the tree cover in the area, but most likely it was during the mid C20th judging by the size and age of the trees.

Aside from this late use of the site, the only dated feature was the possible ditch located in Trench 1. This was buried under more than 0.50m of colluvium and as such will not be impacted upon by the development.

CONCLUSION

The archaeological evaluation has been successful in fulfilling the primary aims and objectives of the Specification. Despite the very high archaeological potential of the surrounding area coupled with good preservation of natural brickearth surviving on site due to

the colluvial cap, only one buried archaeological feature of any significant age was 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 Lee Evans Partnership for commissioning the project. Thanks are also extended to Heritage and Conservation (Kent County Council) for their advice and assistance. Paul Wilkinson, Geoff Morley, Richard Woolley, Paul Hart and Natasha Ransom carried out the archaeological fieldwork, illustrations were produced by Gerald Moody. This report was edited and collated by Dr. Paul Wilkinson.

Geoff Morley Msc (Oxon) FSA Scot PlfA

27th April 2009

REFERENCES

IFA (2008) *Standards and Guidance for Field Archaeological Evaluations*

Kent County Council (KCCHC) (2008) *Specification for an Archaeological Evaluation on Land to the rear of 1 Belmont Terrace, Gore Road, Eastry*, Kent County Council Heritage & Conservation

CONTENTS OF SITE ARCHIVE

Correspondence

Photographs: Digital photographs 56. 35mm slides 12.

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.

Context Register including: Context Register (1), Drawings Register (1), Photographic Register (1), Trench Sheets (5), Environmental Samples Register (x) and Context Sheets (50)

APPENDIX 1 - Context Summary

Site to the rear of 1 Belmont Terrace, Gore Road, Eastry, Kent

Site Code: GRE/EV/09

	Context No.	Stratigraphic Extents	Description
Trench 1	(100)	0.00-0.25m	Turf/topsoil. Friable dark grey brown silty clay with occasional to moderate inclusions of sub-rounded – angular flints.
	(101)	0.45-0.65m	Surface. Mid to small rammed Flint Nodules
	(102)	0.65-0.75m	Substrate. Rammed crushed Brick
	(103)	0.75-1.30m	Subsoil. Colluvial Layers
	(104)	Fill of [105]	Fill of possible linear Feature
	[105]	0.40m depth	Cut of linear

	Context No.	Stratigraphic Extents	Description
Trench 2	(200)	0.00-0.30m	Turf/topsoil. Very loose dark grey brown silty clay composed of degraded leaf litter. Containing modern demolition debris.
	(201)	0.30-0.40m	Layer. Layer of crushed Brick, mortar and Flint
	(202)	0.40-0.70m	Subsoil. Natural Colluvium
	(203)	0.70m+	Natural. Brickearth

	Context No.	Stratigraphic Extents	Description
Trench 3	(300)	0.00-0.30m	Turf/topsoil. Very loose dark grey brown silty clay composed of degraded leaf litter. Containing modern demolition debris.
	(301)	0.30-0.70m	Subsoil. Colluvium
	(302)	0.70m+	Natural. Brickearth

	Context No.	Stratigraphic Extents	Description
Trench 4	(400)	0.00-0.26m+	Turf/topsoil. Very loose dark grey brown silty clay composed of degraded leaf litter. Containing modern demolition debris.
	(401)	0.26-0.54m+	Subsoil. Colluvium
	(402)	0.54m+	Natural. Brickearth
	(403)	Fill of [404]	Fill of Tree-bowl
	[404]	0.20m max	Cut of Tree-bowl
	(405)	0.15m max	Layer. Mixed deposit between subsoil and topsoil.
	(406)	Fill of [407]	Fill of Feature
	[407]	0.20m max	Cut of shallow linear terrace
	(408)	Fill of [409]	Fill of Feature
	[409]	0.40m max	Cut of multi-stepped terrace
	(410)	Unexcavated	Deposit. Roughly circular silty patch, evidence of old woodland.

	Context No.	Stratigraphic Extents	Description
	(500)	0.72m Max	Turf/topsoil. Very loose dark grey brown silty clay composed of degraded leaf litter. Containing modern demolition debris.
	(501)	0.16m	Subsoil. Colluvium
	(502)	Fill of 503	Modern fill same as (500)
	[503]	0.21m depth	Cut of possible modern pit
	(504)	Top Fill of 506	Fill of possible pit
	(505)	Basal Fill of 506	Fill of possible pit
	[506]	0.20m max depth	Post Medieval Pit cut
	(507)	Fill of 510	Fill of possible pit
	(508)	Fill of 510	Fill of possible pit
	(509)	Fill of 510	Fill of possible pit

[510]	0.10m max depth	Cut of Modern Feature
(511)	Fill of 512	Fill of possible modern pit
[512]	0.15m max depth	Cut of Modern Feature
(513)	Fill of 517	Fill of possible modern pit
(514)	Fill of 517	Fill of possible modern pit
(515)	Fill of 517	Fill of possible modern pit
(516)	Fill of 517	Fill of possible modern pit
[517]	0.10m max depth	Cut of Modern Feature
(518)	Fill of 519	Fill of modern pit containing animal bones
[519]	1.20m max depth	Cut of pit containing animal bones
(520)	0.88m+	Natural. Brickearth

(521)	Fill of 522	Fill of modern pit
[522]	0.06m max depth	Cut. Square Cut pit containing ashy material
(523)	0.15m max thickness	Brick Path
(524)	0.20m max depth	Subsoil. Colluvium
(525)	0.20m max depth	Subsoil. Colluvium
(526)	0.20m max depth	Subsoil. Colluvium
(527)	0.10m max thickness	Crushed brick laid as a foundation?
(528)	0.15m max thickness	Crushed modern rubble deposit
(529)	0.25m max depth	Re-deposited subsoil
(530)	0.20m max depth	Modern re-deposited soil

	(531)	0.72m+	Subsoil
	(532)	0.15m max thickness	Yard Concrete below (523)

APPENDIX 2 – Kent County Council SMR Summary Form

Site Name: <i>Land to the rear of 1 Belmont Terrace, Gore Road Eastry</i>	
SWAT Site Code: <i>GRE/EV/09</i>	
Site Address: <i>1 Belmont Terrace, Gore Road, Eastry, Kent</i>	
Summary: <i>Swale & Thames Survey Company (SWAT) carried out an archaeological evaluation on land to the rear of 1 Belmont Terrace, Gore Road, Eastry in Kent. A planning application (PAN: DOV/04/01517) 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 2008) and in discussion with the Archaeological Officer, Kent County Council.</i> <i>The Archaeological Evaluation consisted of five trenches which encountered only one archaeological feature of any significant antiquity and this was located in Trench 1 under the proposed driveway of the development, suggesting that there are possible archaeological remains surviving within this part of the site, but that they appear to be deeply buried by colluvium and below the formation level of the proposed development.</i>	
District/Unitary: <i>Dover</i>	Parish: <i>Eastry</i>
Period(s): Tentative: Early Medieval and Post Medieval/Modern	
NGR (centre of site : 8 figures): (NB if large or linear site give multiple NGRs): <i>NGR 630874 154981</i>	
Type of archaeological work (delete) <i>Evaluation</i>	
Date of Recording: <i>March 2009</i>	
Unit undertaking recording: <i>Swale & Thames Survey Company (SWAT)</i>	
Geology: <i>Upper Chalk</i>	
Title and author of accompanying report: <i>Morley, G. (2009) Archaeological Evaluation on land at</i> <i>1 Belmont Terrace, Gore Road, Eastry, 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>27th April 2009</i>



Figure 1. Site Location Plan 1:1500. Crown Copyright Reserved.

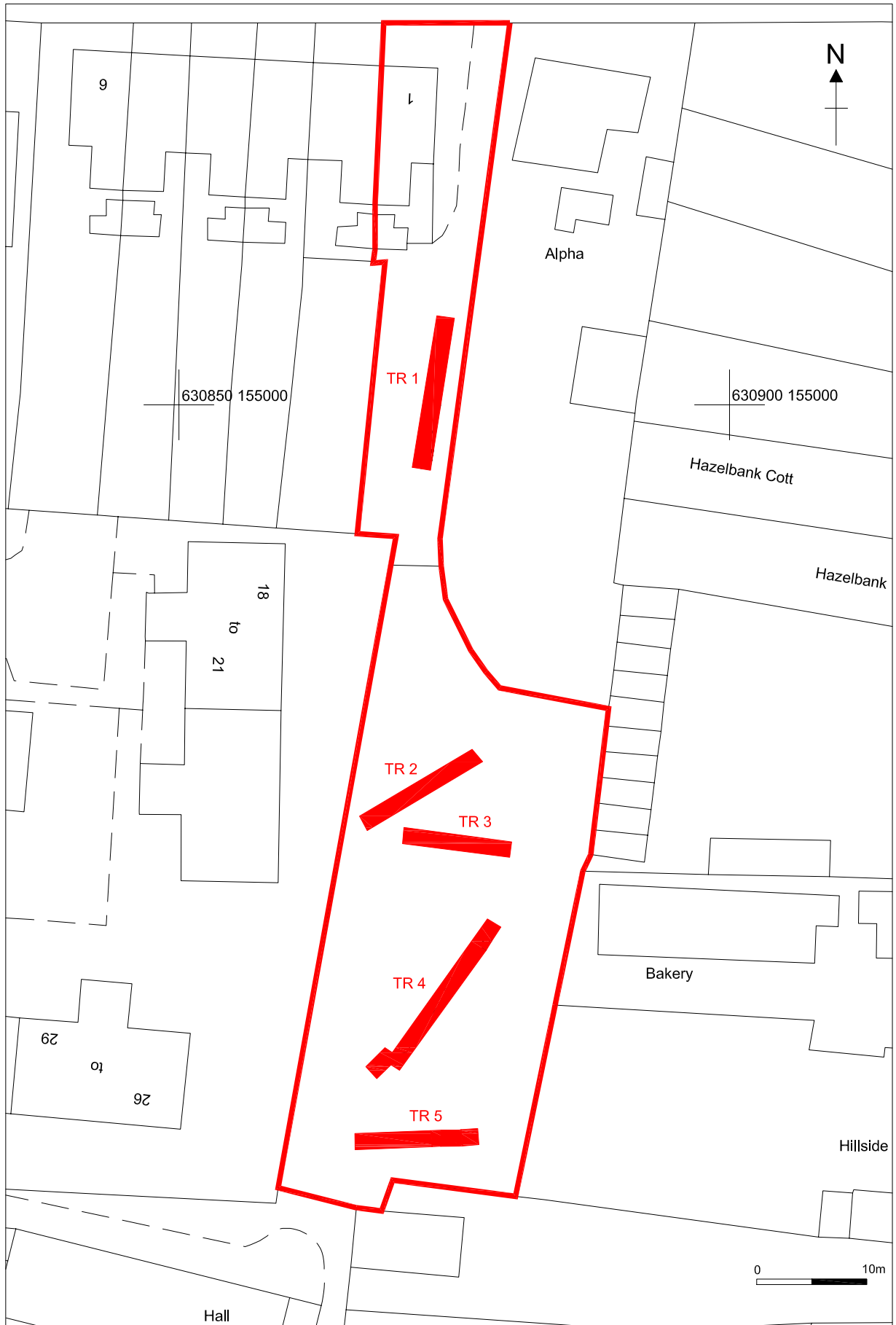


Figure 2. Trench location plan. 1:500. Crown Copyright Reserved.

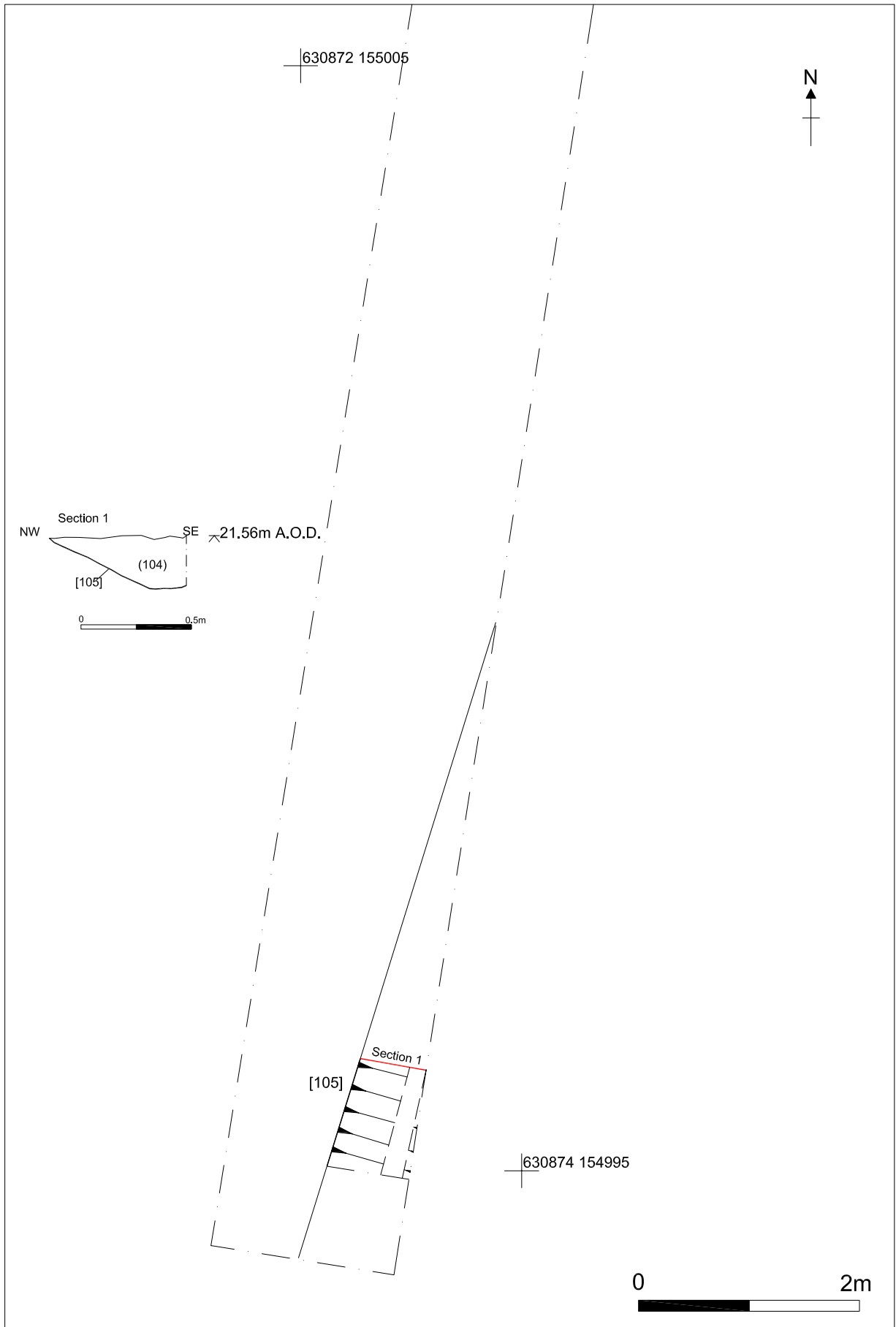


Figure 3. Trench 1 Plan and section. Scale as shown.

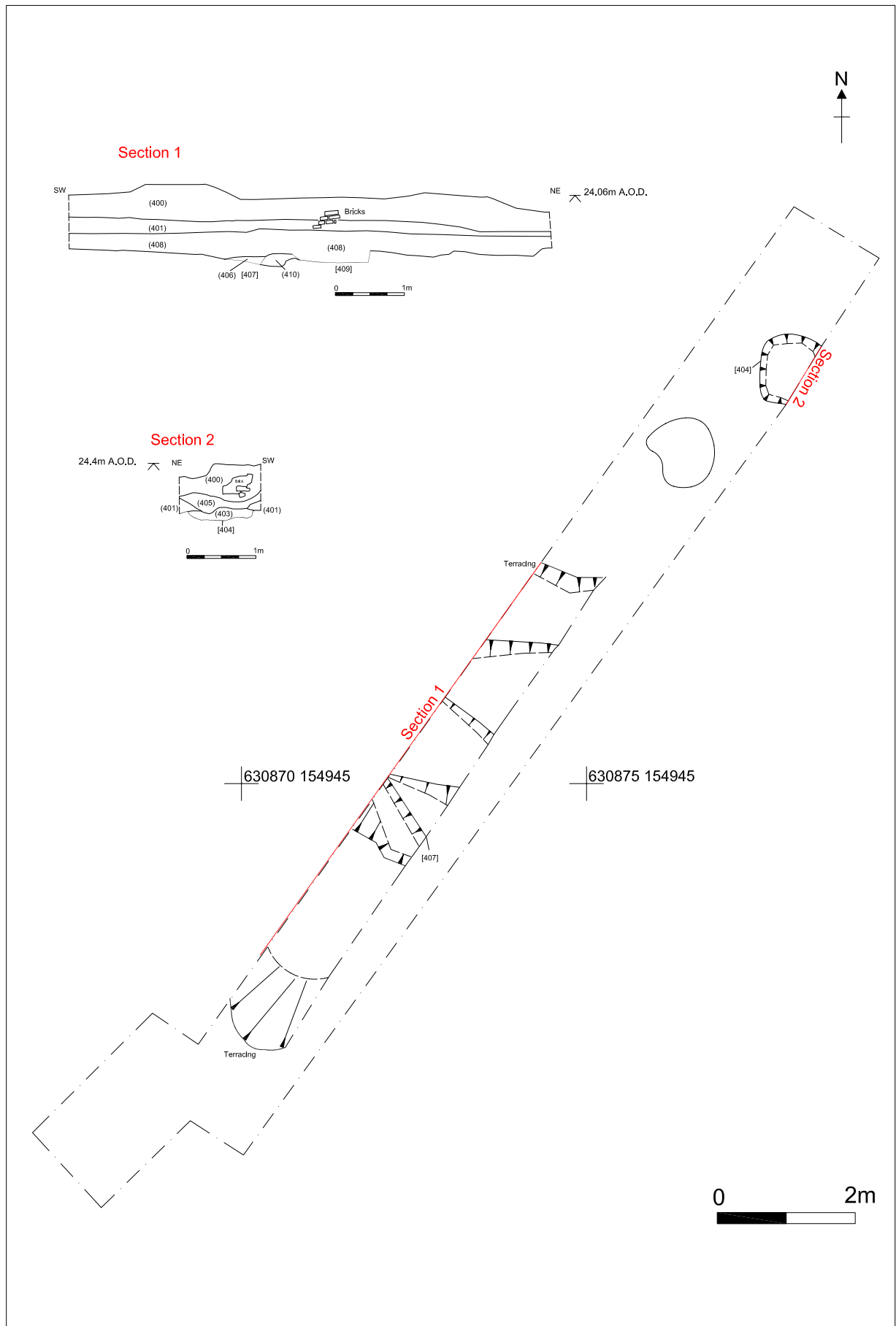


Figure 4. Trench 4 plan and section. Scale as shown.

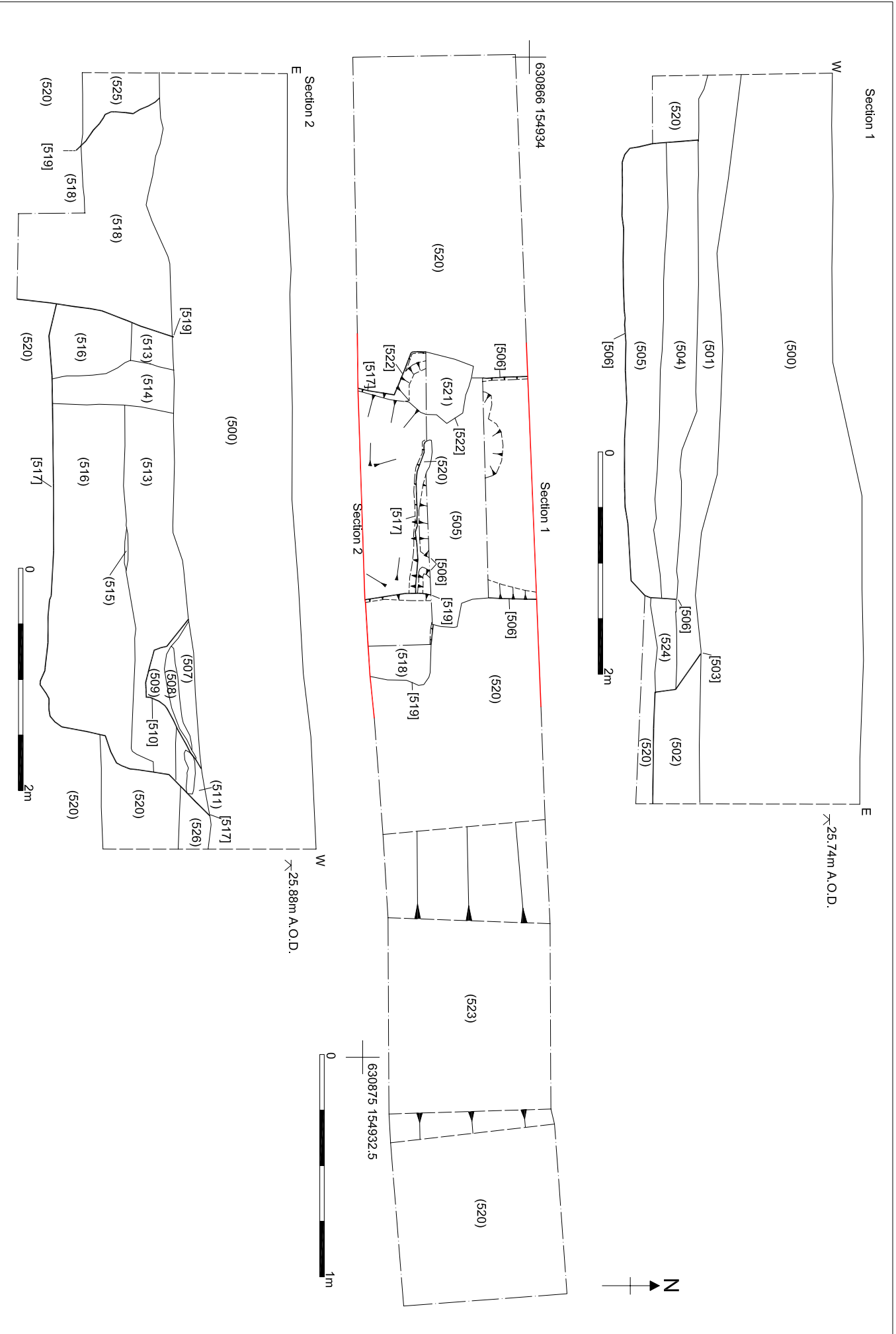


Figure 5. Trench 5 plans and sections. Scale as shown.

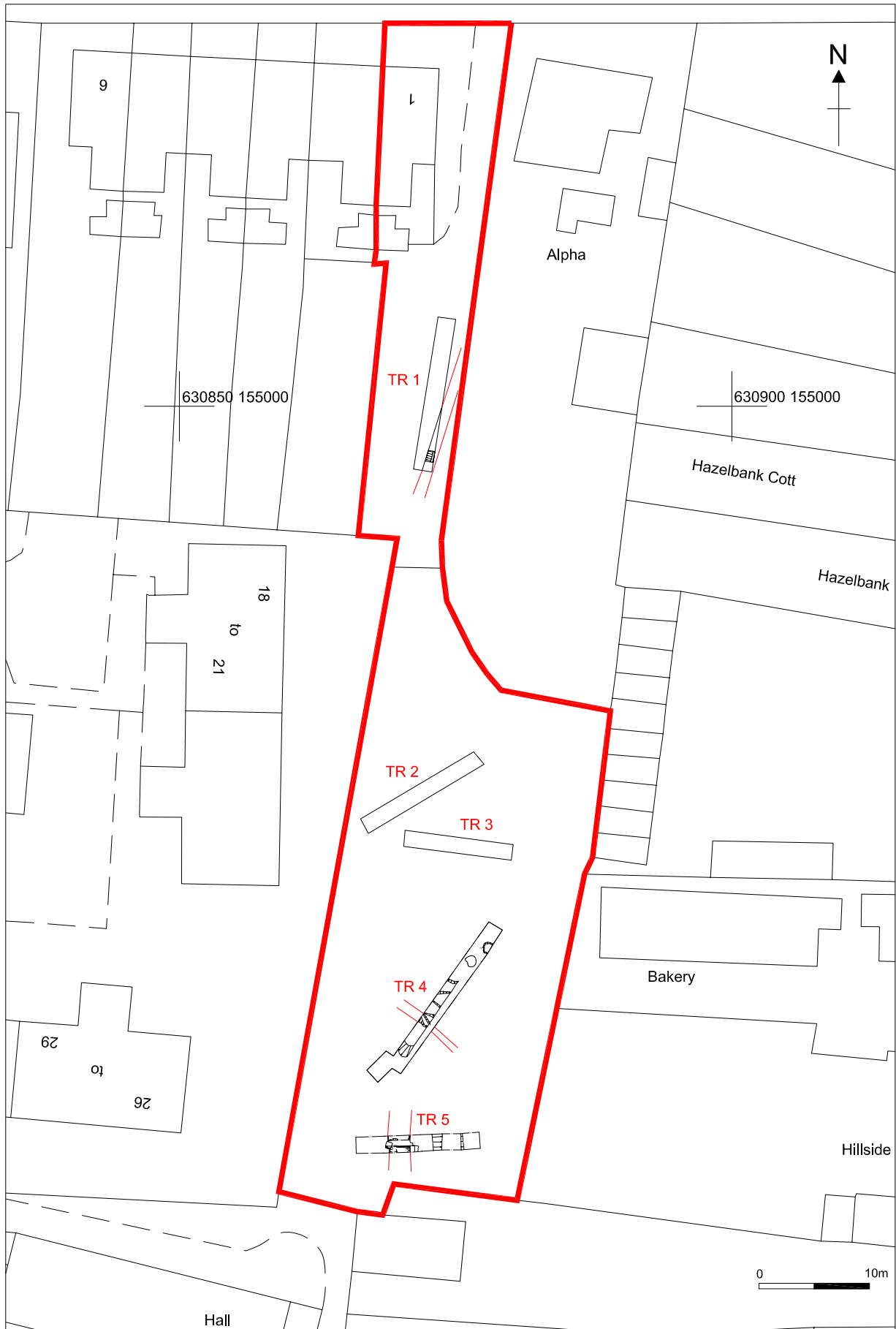


Figure 6. Interpretation of archaeological features. 1:500. Crown Copyright Reserved.