

Archaeological Evaluation of land east of Battle Road, Hailsham, East Sussex *November 2010*

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**Archaeological Evaluation of land East of Battle
Road, Hailsham, East Sussex**

NGR: TQ 589101

Site Code: HBS/EV/10

(Planning Application Number: WD2009/2705/MEA)

**Report for
Hillreed Developments Ltd**

December 2010

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SUMMARY

Swale & Thames Survey Company (SWAT Archaeology) carried out an archaeological evaluation on land to the east of Battle Road, Hailsham, East Sussex, in November 2010. A planning application (WD2009/2705/MEA) for the construction of a new residential development, along with associated access, car parking and services at the above site was submitted to Wealden District Council (WDC) whereby East Sussex County Council on behalf of Wealden 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 (SWAT 2010) and in discussion with the Archaeological Officer, East Sussex County Council.

The archaeological evaluation has been successful in fulfilling the primary aims and objectives of the Specification. Given the archaeological potential of the surrounding area, coupled with good preservation of Weald Clay and Alluvium surviving on site, some buried archaeological remains were present within the excavated trenches dating from the 10th-15th centuries. Prehistoric lithic tools were also retrieved indicating land usage in the Late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age.

INTRODUCTION

Swale & Thames Survey Company (SWAT Archaeology) was commissioned by Hillreed Developments 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 (SWAT 2010) and in discussion with the Archaeological Officer, East Sussex County Council. Initial phases of the evaluation were carried out in November 2010.

SITE DESCRIPTION AND TOPOGRAPHY

The application site is located on the east side of Battle Road and Battle Crescent is to the west of the site. White House Primary School is to the south east of the site. Harebeating Farm and Longleys Farms are located to the north east. The site consists of eight pasture fields which slope from east to west. Numerous ponds and watercourses are located across the site. The National Grid Reference for the centre of the site is NGR TQ 589 101. The underlying geology of the site consists of Weald Clay (British Geological Survey South Sheet, 4th Edition Solid 2001). The drift geology is Alluvium.

PLANNING BACKGROUND

A planning application (WD2009/2705/MEA) for the construction of a new residential development along with 55 extra care units, an education establishment and 4000 sq. m of office space, a health centre and other community facilities was submitted to Wealden District Council (WDC) and approved. East Sussex County Council on (ESCC) behalf of Wealden 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 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 ESCC and WDC of any further archaeological mitigation measures that may be necessary in connection with the development proposals.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

The Archaeological record, both in and around Hailsham is diverse. Gregory Chuter (East Sussex County Council) states that “In the wider landscape there is a wealth of evidence for a focus of Mesolithic, Neolithic activity around the edge of what is now the Pevensey Levels. Evidence of Bronze Age activity in the Hailsham area is low, but the internationally important site at Shinewater, Eastbourne shows that this landscape was being heavily utilised and managed”. Furthermore, the archaeological evidence from the Iron Age and the Romano-British periods is only recently started to emerge, “as demonstrated by the results of geophysical survey and evaluation excavation west of Hailsham”. During the medieval period, the site “is likely to be in the agricultural hinterland associated with the town of Hailsham, and certainly the HLC suggests the current landscape pattern was formed in the 16th century”.

Palaeolithic Period (750,000BC-10,000BC)

The prehistoric period around Hailsham is very poorly represented (as result of the landscape at that time) and is comparable with patterns observed elsewhere on the Pevensey Levels. Archaeological evaluation, excavations and field walking have only produced ephemeral evidence in the Hailsham area and there is no evidence, as yet of the Palaeolithic period within the assessment area.

Mesolithic Period (10,000BC-4,000BC)

Finds outside the 1km radius of the assessment area include a Mesolithic medium tranchet axe 1.5km west of Hailsham (HER ref: MES5175) and a group of Mesolithic flint artefacts 1.3km to the south at

Saltmarsh Farm (HER ref: MES5159). Two further Mesolithic flint scatters (HER refs: MES15529 and MES15530) have been recorded north of Hailsham, and to the north of Hailsham at Upper Horsebridge (MES7145). Field walking by Chris Butler in 2009 to the north of Hailsham and around the edges of the Pevensey Levels found numerous Mesolithic cores, microliths and debitage. Butler notes that the Mesolithic sites around the Pevensey Levels occur just above the 5m contour level where they have not been covered by the subsequent accumulation of peat (2009A). It is considered that the Levels provided an ideal landscape for hunting and fishing and the presence of Mesolithic flint work on the edges of the Levels may hint at longer stay camps.

Neolithic Period (4,000BC to 2,500BC)

Evidence for occupation in the Hailsham area during the Neolithic era includes a Neolithic polished axe head (HER ref: MES4365). Two fragments of Neolithic polished flint hand axes were found by Chris Butler in field walking to the north of Hailsham in 2009 and may suggest that woodland clearance was taking place at the time (Butler 2009B).

The Bronze Age (2500BC-800BC)

The Bronze Age saw in Sussex extensive evidence of dense settlement activity with it is thought continued use of the Pevensey Levels for hunting and fishing with agricultural settlements on the higher ground (Woodcock 2003). A scatter of flints (HER ref: MES7145), which dates from the Bronze Age were found close to the site. A series of crop marks at Longleys Farm, Hailsham (HER ref: MES7299) may also date from this period.

Iron Age

The East Sussex HER does not show records of Iron Age archaeology within the assessment area. It is likely that the Pevensey Levels were flooded from the sea which may have lead to less activity in the area. However, a late Iron Age silver coin (HER ref: MES14025) was found within the neighbouring parish of Hellingly.

Romano-British

The predominant feature of the Roman infrastructure within Britain is arguably the extensive network of Roman roads connecting administrative centres, towns and military posts that increased the flow of trade, goods, communications and troops.

The sphere of influence within this area of East Sussex would have been the Saxon Shore Fort situated at Pevensey, built during the latter 3rd century. There are no records contained within the HER for Romano-British archaeology within the assessment area, though an ephemeral scatter of pottery (HER ref: HER15531) was found north of Hailsham. An archaeological evaluation undertaken by Oxford Archaeology at Woodholm Farm (HER ref: MES15544) revealed a series of ditches and a settlement at Arlington, to the south west of Hailsham has also been recorded. Another Roman settlement has recently been discovered during development work at Wellbridge Farm on the west side of Hailsham (per. corress: Chuter G.)

Anglo-Saxon

Again, the East Sussex HER does not show records of Anglo-Saxon archaeology within the assessment area apart from a possible Saxon glass bead (MES9706).

Medieval

Hailsham is recorded in the Domesday Book of 1086 as *Hamelsham* (though the entry would indicate the absence of a nucleated settlement) and its first church is recorded in 1229. It is not until the second half of the 13th century that Hailsham develops into a market town. It is during this period that reclamation of the Pevensey Levels began, although much of the area was again inundated in the 15th century.

Although there is little archaeological evidence for Medieval activity within the 1km search area (there is only one listed building; DES5171, a 15th century house), a small number of coins and metal artefacts have been found (by metal detector users) around the parish. The HER lists a buckle (HER ref: MES14200) from Hailsham and several artefacts from the neighbouring parish of Hellingly: silver coins (SME Refs: MES13951 and MES14824) and a silver brooch (HER ref: MES13950).

It is possible that domestic activity, such as that recorded by Archaeology South East, 400m to the south of the proposed development site at Vicarage Road (Stevens 2001) and agricultural activity, as at Woodholm Farm (HER ref: MES15544) may also be encountered within the confines of the proposed development site. Similar archaeology has been encountered at New Romney, Kent, where ephemeral Medieval activities took place within a similar reclaimed marshland (author).

Post-Medieval

During the 16th century, Hailsham had an established leather industry, rope working and market. The 'town' developed from no larger than a village to become one of the thirteen post towns of Sussex (established in 1670). It is during this expansion that many of the surviving historic buildings, forming the nucleus of Hailsham, were built (for example DES6283 and DES5730).

Consequently, the Post Medieval period within the assessment area is represented by several HER records, most of which relate to housing situated within the nucleus of the settlement. These buildings predominantly date to the 18th century (DES5740, DES5130, DES5125, DES5428, DES6577, DES5869, DES6332, DES6680 AND DES5872 (the Vicarage)). Hotels (DES5741 and DES5153) are also listed. There are also a number of farmhouses (DES6288, DES6281 and DES5127, which also had a windmill (DES5866)).

However, there are no listed buildings and there is no evidence of Post-Medieval archaeology within the proposed development site.

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

The purpose of the evaluation, as set out with the Archaeological Specification (SWAT 2010) 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.
- ii) Establish the extent to which any previous development on the site has affected archaeological deposits.

Particular issues that should be addressed by the evaluation include:

- Assessing the likely impact of the proposed development on the archaeological remains using the results of the fieldwork
- Assessing the potential of the site to contain nationally important remains
- Establishing the degree of Roman and medieval activity on the site
- Establishing the degree of prehistoric activity on the site
- Assessing the nature, date and condition of the features marked on the Stratascan's geophysical plan and contributing to the environmental and landscape history of the area.

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 to 24th November 2010, with the excavation of sixteen trenches each measuring 1.5m in width and between 15m/20m in length (see below). Trench locations were agreed prior to the excavation between ESCC 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, or if not revealing the natural geology. The work was carried out under the constant supervision of an experienced archaeologist. Trenches were subsequently hand-cleaned to reveal any archaeological features. The trenches were levelled to the Ordnance Datum by GPS. A full photographic record of the work was kept and will be part of the site archive. All investigative work was carried out in accordance with the archaeological specification (SWAT 2010) and IFA guidelines.

A single context recording system was used to record the natural deposits. Layers and fills are recorded (**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

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 (**001**) overlying subsoil (**002**), beneath which the natural geology comprised Weald Clay (**003**). 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-brown grey slightly sandy clay overlying Weald Clay 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.0.31-0.43m below the existing ground level.

The 16 trenches were excavated along the spine of the proposed access road through short grass fields. Trenches 3 to 8 were located on the slope of a hill. Trenches 9 to 18 were located along a flat valley. The trenches were covered in topsoil (**001**) measuring up to 0.20m thick over a mid-brown grey silty clay subsoil (**002**) that measured up to 0.35m thick, with rare small gravel. This subsoil overlies the natural Weald Clay comprised of mid-grey yellow orange clay (**003**).

Trench 1 and Trench 2 were not excavated due to site access issues and the fact that they were located under the demolished but uncleared rubble of the bungalow.

Trench 3

Trench 3 measured 14m long, 1.5m wide, up to 0.35m deep and was aligned WNW/ESE. The topsoil (**001**) measured up to 0.10m thick, and the subsoil (**002**) measured up to 0.20m thick. One modern pipe was encountered but no archaeological features were observed.

Trench 4

Trench 4 measured 18m long, 1.5m wide and up to 0.45m deep and was aligned NW/SE. Topsoil (**001**) was 0.20m thick and subsoil (**002**) also 0.25m thick. No archaeological features were observed in this trench although one sondage was dug into a mid-brown grey silty clay (**400**). (**400**) was thought to be a layer deliberately deposited to backfill a hollow in the field (possibly in the Medieval period). Pottery retrieved from (400) include a single abraded sherd (2gm) of a cooking pot dated to c.1000-1150, two abraded sherds (7gm) from a jug dated to c.1350-1550, and a Mesolithic flint dated to about c.8000-4000BC. Malcolm Lyne, the pottery finds specialist considers that all are residual (Lyne 2010, Appendix 1).

Trench 5

The trench measured 19m long, 1.5m wide and up to 0.35m deep and was aligned NW/SE. The topsoil **(001)** measured 0.10m thick and the subsoil **(002)** measured up to 0.15m thick. No archaeological features were found in this trench. A slot was excavated through a suspected ditch which was found to be just rooting activity from a present day hedge **(501 & 502)**. One sondage was dug into a mid-brown grey silty clay **(500)**. **(500)** was thought to be a layer deliberately deposited to backfill a hollow in the field (possibly in the Medieval period). Finds from (500) include one sherd (2gm) from a jug dated to c. 1150-1350, another sherd (2gm) of a jug dated to c.1400-1500, and another sherd (5gm) probably Tudor. From (502) a large fresh sherd (41gm) was red earthen ware with internal dark-green glaze, probably a bread-crock and dated to the 18th century. Also in (502): 'A worked flint, a single platform flake core weighing 24gm that exhibits small flake removals from a cortical platform. The raw material for this core was a small sub-rounded greyish-brown flint pebble with a heavily worn and slightly chattered surface. This surface condition indicates the pebble derives from a high energy fluvial deposit, such as a beach. Recent beach deposits are available from within a few kilometres of the site, but equally the pebble may originate from Tertiary deposits formed under comparable conditions. The reduction techniques employed are not easily dated, but a Neolithic or Bronze Age date is most probable' (H. Lamdin-Whymark, Appendix 2).

Trench 6

The trench measured 12m long, 1.5m wide and up to 0.40m deep and was aligned NNW/SSE. The topsoil **(001)** measured 0.10m thick and the subsoil **(002)** measured up to 0.25m thick. No archaeological features were found in this trench.

Trench 7

The trench measured 19m long, 1.5m wide and up to 0.50m deep and was aligned NNW/SSE. The topsoil **(001)** measured 0.10m thick and the subsoil **(002)** measured up to 0.2m thick. One modern horse burial pit was excavated **[703]**. This pit was only 0.54m in depth and also contain a modern glass bottle (intact) and fresh 19th century pottery. Trench 7 also contained another mid-brown grey, silty clay **(701)** very similar to **(400)** and **(500)**. This layer (701) was excavated and was found to be over 10m in length and 1.38m in depth and contained multiple sherds of pottery. Twenty-three sherds (119gm) were retrieved dating from c.1000-1550. Some were fresh indicating a date for this feature from the 15th-16th centuries. No pottery was retrieved from (704) which underlay (701).

Trench 8

The trench measured 19m long, 1.5m wide and up to 0.40m deep and was aligned NW/SE extending WNW/ESE. The topsoil **(001)** measured 0.10m thick and the subsoil **(002)** measured up to 0.20m thick. Along with the topsoil **(001)**, two additional layers were excavated and seen in section **(801)** and **(802)**. (801) contained thirteen pottery sherds (81g) dating from c.1000-1550, all abraded and residual (Lyne 2010, Appendix 1).

Trench 9

The trench measured 18m long, 1.5m wide and up to 0.40m deep and was aligned W/E. The topsoil **(001)** measured 0.10m thick and the subsoil **(002)** measured up to 0.20m thick. A sondage was excavated at the eastern end of the trench to investigate the natural (see section drawing 19). No archaeological features were found in this trench.

Trench 10

The trench measured 18m long, 1.5m wide and up to 0.45m deep and was aligned NW/SE. The topsoil **(001)** measured 0.20m thick and the subsoil **(002)** measured up to 0.20m thick. Again a sondage was excavated at the north western end of the trench. No archaeological features were found in this trench.

Trench 11

The trench measured 17m long, 1.5m wide and up to 0.55m deep and was aligned NW/SE. The topsoil **(001)** measured 0.15m thick and the subsoil **(002)** measured up to 0.30m thick. No archaeological features were found in this trench.

Trench 12

The trench measured 14m long, 1.5m wide and up to 0.50m deep and was aligned NW/SE. The topsoil **(001)** measured 0.10m thick and the subsoil **(002)** measured up to 0.30m thick. No archaeological features were found in this trench. Two field drains were encountered.

Trench 13

The trench measured 16.5m long, 1.5m wide and up to 0.55m deep and was aligned NNE/SSW. The topsoil **(001)** measured 0.10m thick and the subsoil **(002)** measured up to 0.30m thick. No archaeological features were found in this trench. Two field drains were encountered.

Trench 14

The trench measured 17.5m long, 1.5m wide and up to 0.45m deep and was aligned NW/SE. The topsoil **(001)** measured 0.20m thick and the subsoil **(002)** measured up to 0.10m thick. No archaeological features were found in this trench. One field drain was encountered.

Trench 15

The trench measured 16m long, 1.5m wide and up to 0.45m deep and was aligned NW/SE. The topsoil **(001)** measured 0.10m thick and the subsoil **(002)** measured up to 0.20m thick. No archaeological features were found in this trench. One field drain was encountered.

Trench 16

The trench measured 20.5m long, 1.5m wide and up to 0.55m deep and was aligned NW/SE. The topsoil **(001)** measured 0.10m thick and the subsoil **(002)** measured up to 0.30m thick. No archaeological features were found in this trench. One modern pipe was revealed.

Trench 17

The trench measured 19m long, 1.5m wide and up to 0.50m deep and was aligned NW/SE. The topsoil **(001)** measured 0.15m thick and the subsoil **(002)** measured up to 0.15m thick. No archaeological features were found in this trench. Three field drains were encountered.

Trench 18

The trench measured 8m long, 1.5m wide and up to 0.50m deep and was aligned NE/SW. The topsoil **(001)** measured 0.20m thick and the subsoil **(002)** measured up to 0.20m thick. No archaeological features were found in this trench.

THE FINDS AND ENVIRONMENTAL SAMPLES

Two Prehistoric worked flints were retrieved from the evaluation, both from residual contexts. The earliest pottery found during the evaluation dates from c.1000 with most of the pottery sherds Medieval and dating from 15th-16th centuries. Both type of find is itemised in Appendices 2 & 3.

A rapid bio-archaeological assessment was undertaken by SWAT Archaeology in connection with ongoing archaeological investigations at Battle Road, Hailsham. The examination included a rapid assessment of fossilised macro-remains (e.g. charcoal, and charred and waterlogged seeds) from four samples, to evaluate their potential for reconstructing local environmental conditions, and the economy and diet of the former inhabitants.

Bio-archaeological rapid assessment

Four bulk samples were assessed from two areas of archaeological features in Trenches 7 & 8. The bulk samples from (701) and (801) were processed by flotation using 1mm and 300micron mesh sieves. All 'flots' and residues were rapidly assessed by eye for the concentration of plant macrofossils, including charred wood and seeds, Mollusca and bone (Table 1). The presence of flecks of pottery was also noted. The flots were then scanned under a zoom stereo microscope at x7-45 magnification, and the concentration and state of preservation of the charred plant remains in each sample were recorded (Table 1). Preliminary identifications of the charred plant remains have been suggested with reference to comparative material and literature.

RESULTS AND INTERPRETATION

The assessment of the charred plant remains (seeds) indicated that all the flots contained the burnt residues of crop processing activities including cereal grains, mainly *Triticum* spp. (free-threshing wheat), *Hordeum vulgare* (hulled barley), *Avena* spp. (oats), and weed seeds. There were low-

moderate amounts of identifiable remains in all the samples with variable but generally poor preservation (Table 1). Nevertheless, the charred plant remains may provide information both on crop husbandry and crop-processing activities at the site. *Triticum* spp. (free-threshing wheat), *Hordeum vulgare* (hulled barley), *Avena* spp. (oats) are all typical of Post-Roman charred cereal deposits while the presence of *Anthemis cotula* (stinking mayweed) in many of the samples suggests the cultivation of heavy clay soils in the vicinity of the site. In addition, charcoal was recorded in low quantities in all samples. Mollusca was recorded in low to moderate quantities in samples from (701), but were absent in samples from (801).

Table 1: Bioarchaeological rapid assessment

Sample number	Volume processed (L)	Charcoal	Charred seeds	Waterlogged Seeds	Waterlogged Wood	Mollusca	Bone	Pot	Main taxa
(701) A	4.5	1	1	-	-	2	-	-	<i>Triticum</i> spp.(free-threshing wheat) Indeterminate grains
(701) B	7	1	1	-	-	1	-	-	<i>Triticum</i> spp.(free-threshing wheat) <i>Hordeum vulgare</i> (hulled barley) <i>Anthemis cotula</i> (stinking mayweed)
(801) A	6	-	1	-	-	2	-	-	<i>Triticum</i> spp.(free-threshing wheat) <i>Avena</i> spp. (oats) Indeterminate grains
(801) B	6	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	<i>Triticum</i> spp.(free-threshing wheat) Indeterminate grains

RECOMMENDATIONS

Concentration and preservation of the charred plant remains (seeds and wood) was low to moderate, however, as previously stated, these remains may provide sound information on Post Roman crop husbandry and crop processing activities on site. It is therefore recommended that samples are taken from all secure contexts in any future investigations so that a detailed investigation can be carried out.

DISCUSSION

The evaluation carried out on land at Battle Road, Hailsham has been shown to be appropriate, and prove that archaeological deposits survive on site. In particular Trenches 7 & 8 have confirmed that potential archaeological features identified in Area 5 by the Geophysical Survey carried out by Stratascan in October 2010 can be dated to the Medieval period and soil analysis indicates post-Roman farming activity in the area. It is worth noting that similar anomalies identified by Stratascan in Area 2 could, given the evidence from the evaluation in Area 5, be an enclosure for a Medieval farmstead associated with the Medieval fields to the north, which were identified in the Desk-top Study (SWAT, Sept 2010).

CONCLUSION

The archaeological evaluation has been successful in fulfilling the primary aims and objectives of the Specification. Given the paucity of recorded archaeological remains in the Hailsham environs it is important this work should be submitted for publication in *Sussex Archaeological Collections*

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 (ESCC) of any further archaeological mitigations measures that may be necessary in connection with the development proposals.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

SWAT would like to thank Hillreed Developments Ltd for commissioning the project. Thanks are also extended to Greg Chuter, Archaeological Officer for East Sussex County Council for his advice and assistance. Paul Wilkinson, James and Jonny Madden, Bartosz Cichy, Marcin Grabowski carried out the archaeological fieldwork, Pottery identification by Malcolm Lyne, Lithics by Hugo Lamdin-Whymark and soil sampling by Lisa Gray, illustrations were produced by James Madden. The project was managed and report produced by Dr Paul Wilkinson MifA.

REFERENCES

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

SWAT Archaeology (2010) *Specification for a Programme of Archaeological Evaluation and Assessment of Land east of Battle Road, Hailsham, East Sussex*

Stratascan (2010) *Geophysical Survey Report: Land East of Battle Road, Hailsham, East Sussex*

CONTENTS OF SITE ARCHIVE

Correspondence

Photographs: 98 Digital photographs SWAT Film nos. 07/214-20. 16 colour 35mm transparencies.

Photocopies of Ordnance Survey and other maps.

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

Finds: See Finds Archive

Context Register including: Context Register (1), Drawings Register (1), Photographic Register (1), Levels Sheets (1), Environmental Samples Register (4) and Context Sheets (26)

Location of the archive: Temporarily held by SWAT Archaeology until provision is made by East Sussex for a storage facility.

Appendix 1.

SPOT-DATING OF POTTERY FROM AN EVALUATION AT HAILSHAM (HBS-EV-10)

By

Malcolm Lyne

Fabrics

1. Brown-black handmade fabric with profuse up-to 1.00 mm. white and colourless quartz filler and occasional alluvial flint. Saxo-Norman
2. Grey fabric fired rough orange externally with or without splashed external apple-green glaze and profuse up-to 0.30 mm. quartz with black ferrous inclusions. c.1150-1350.
3. Gritty oxidised or reduced fabric with profuse to sparse up-to 3.00 mm. crushed flint and ironstone filler. Abbots Wood kilns, Hailsham. 15th c.
4. Silty grey fired pink with up-to 0.10 mm. quartz and black ferrous inclusions as well as splashed apple-green glaze. Late Medieval.
5. Pale grey to off-white stoneware with external greenish-brown salt-glaze. Siegburg.
6. Silty pink fabric fired smooth cream-buff.
7. Red earthenware with internal dark-green glaze.
8. Transfer-printed china.

Catalogue

Context	Fab.	Form	Date-range	No of sherds	Wt in gm	Comments
400	1	Cooking-pot	c.1000-1150	1	2	Abraded
	4	Jug	c.1350-1550	2	7	Abraded
	<i>Tile</i>		<i>16th c. or later</i>	2	113	<i>Inc kiln waster</i>
	<i>flint</i>	<i>mesolith</i>	<i>c.8000-4000 BC</i>	2		
			Wide ranging but all residual	3	9g	
500	2	Jug	c.1150-1350	1	2	Abraded
	3		c.1400-1500	1	2	Abraded
	6	Closed	?Tudor	1	5	Abraded
	<i>pipe</i>	<i>Churchwardens</i>	<i>18th c.</i>	1		
			Wide-ranging but all residual	3	9g	
502	7	Bread-crock	18 th c.	1	41g	
701	1	Cooking-pot	c.1000-1150	3	18	Abraded
	2	Cooking-pots	c.1150-1350	7	15	Abraded

	3	Jug etc	c.1400-1500	11	61	
	4	Jug	c.1350-1550	1	3	Fresh
	5	Jug	c.1480-1550	1	22	Fresh
	<i>Tile</i>		<i>15th-16th c.</i>	1	57	<i>Abraded</i>
			15 th -16 th c.	23	119g	
702	2	Cooking-pot	c.1150-1350	4	25	Abraded
	8	Tea cup etc	19 th c.	5	13	Fresh
	<i>Tile</i>		<i>16th c.or later</i>	1	71	<i>Kiln waster</i>
	<i>Glas</i>	<i>Sack bottle</i>	<i>17th c/18th c.</i>	1	13	
	<i>s</i>					
			19 th c.	9	38g	
801	1	Cooking-pot	c.1000-1150	1	9	Abraded
	3	Cooking-pots	c.1400-1500	11	62	Abraded
	4		c.1350-1550	1	10	Abraded
	<i>Tile</i>		<i>16th c.or later</i>	1	121	<i>Abraded</i>
			Mainly 15 th c. but residual	13	81g	

Appendix 2.

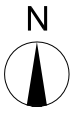
The struck flint

Hugo Lamdin-Whymark, 6th December 2011

A single struck flint was recovered from the evaluation. The flint, from Trench 5 context 502, is a single platform flake core weighing 24 g that exhibits small flake removals from a cortical platform. The raw material for this core was a small sub-rounded greyish-brown flint pebble with a heavily worn and slightly chattered surface. This surface condition indicates the pebble derives from a high energy fluvial deposit, such as a beach. Recent beach deposits are available from within a few kilometres of the site, but equally the pebble may originate from Tertiary deposits formed under comparable conditions. The reduction techniques employed are not easily dated, but a Neolithic or Bronze Age date is most probable.

Appendix 3. East Sussex County Council HER Summary Form

Site Name: <i>Land east of Battle Road, SWAT Site Code: HBS/EV/10</i>	
Site Address: <i>Land east of Battle Road, Hailsham, East Sussex</i>	
Summary: <i>Swale & Thames Survey Company (SWAT) carried out an archaeological evaluation on land east of Battle Road, Hailsham, East Sussex, November 16th-24th. 2010. A planning application (WD2009/2705/MEA) for the construction of a new residential development, along with associated access, car parking and services at the above site was submitted to Wealden District Council (WDC) whereby East Sussex County Council Heritage and Conservation on behalf of Wealden 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 (SWAT 2010) and in discussion with the Archaeological Officer, East Sussex County Council.</i> <i>The archaeological evaluation revealed Prehistoric activity and Medieval archaeological features. The archaeological evaluation has been successful in fulfilling the primary aims and objectives of the Specification.</i>	
District/Unitary: <i>Wealden</i>	Parish:
Period(s): Tentative: <i>Prehistoric and Medieval</i>	
NGR (centre of site : 8 figures): (NB if large or linear site give multiple NGRs): <i>TQ 589101</i>	
Type of archaeological work (delete) <i>Evaluation</i>	
Date of Recording: <i>16th to 24th Nov 2010</i>	
Unit undertaking recording: <i>Swale & Thames Survey Company (SWAT)</i>	
Geology: <i>Weald Clay</i>	
Title and author of accompanying report: <i>Wilkinson. P. (2010) Land to the East of Battle Road, Hailsham, East Sussex: 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>20th Dec 2010</i>



580 00mN

590 00mN

600 00mN

1110 00mN

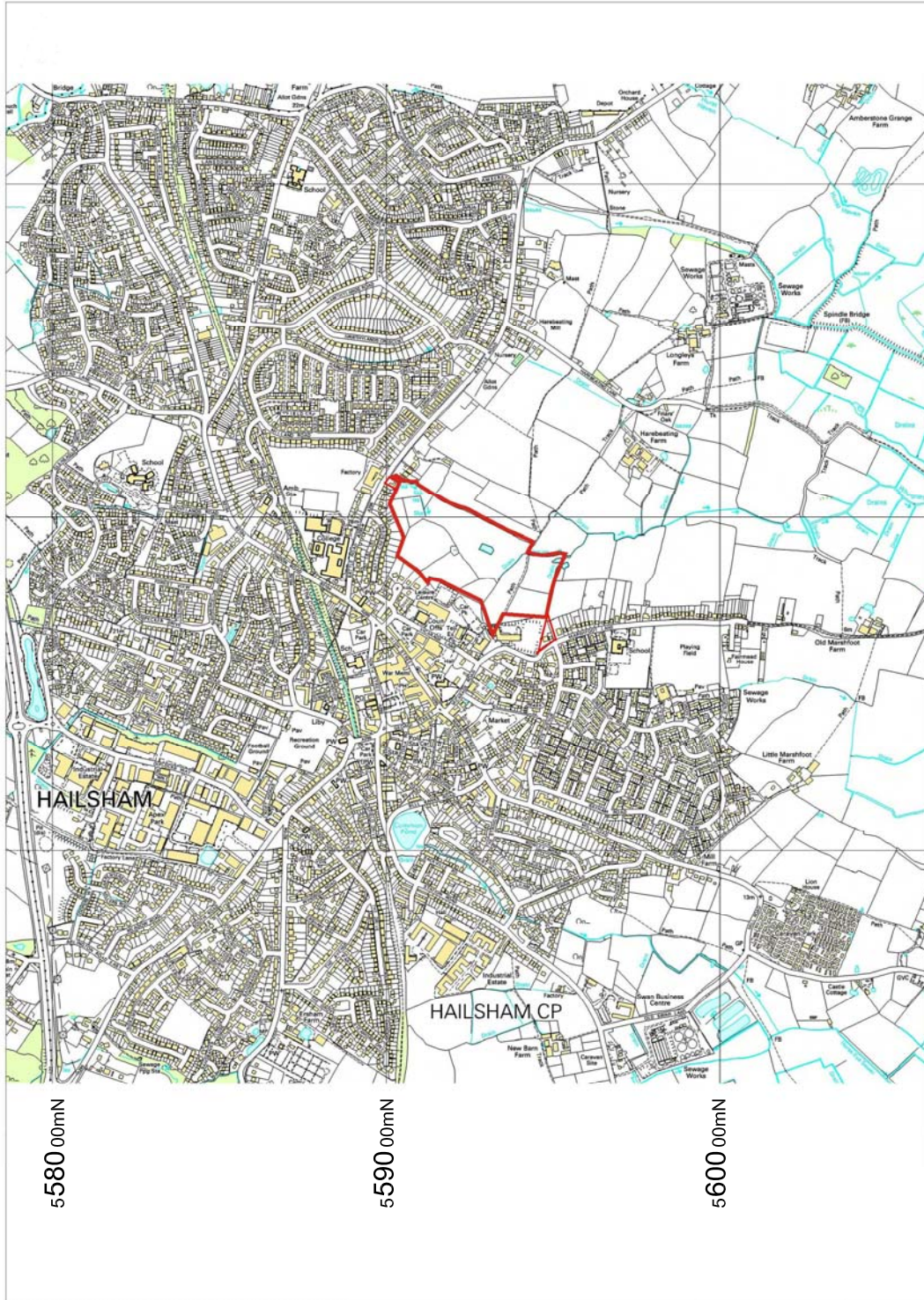
1110 00mN

1100 00mN

1100 00mN

1090 00mN

1090 00mN



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580 00mN

590 00mN

600 00mN

1:2000@A4



Figure 1: Location of Site

0km

2km

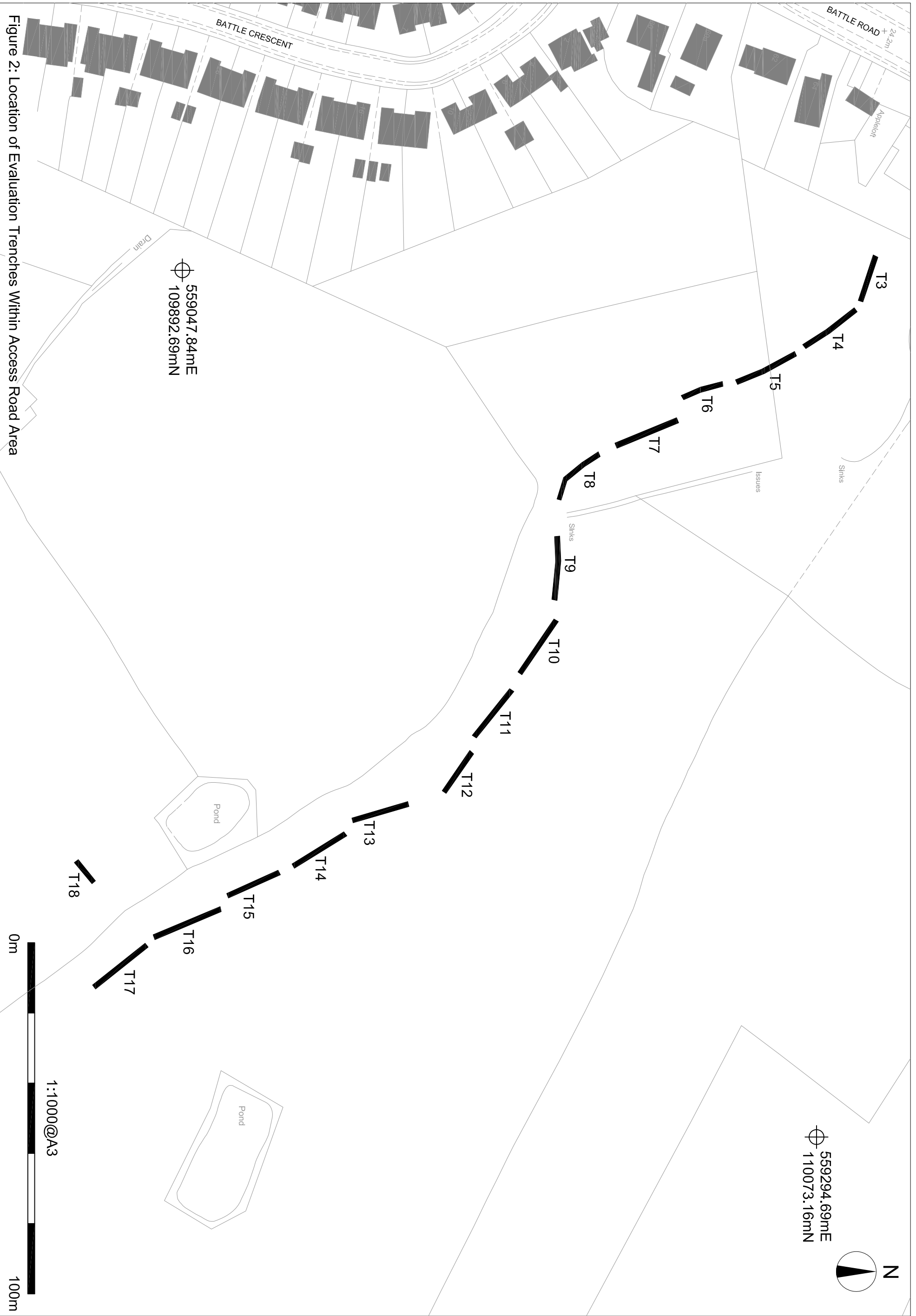
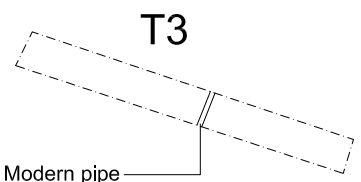


Figure 2: Location of Evaluation Trenches Within Access Road Area

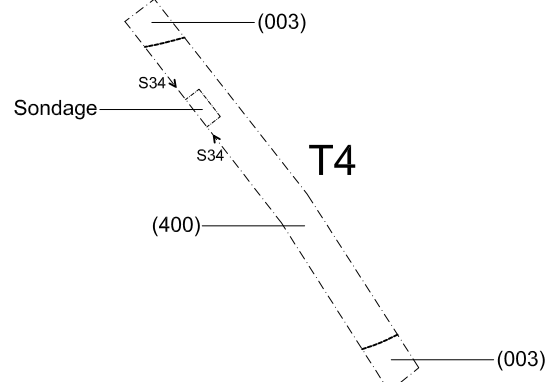


⊕ 559101.36mE
110096.46mN



T3

Modern pipe



T4

Sondage

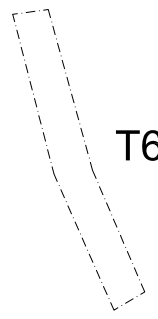
(003)

T5

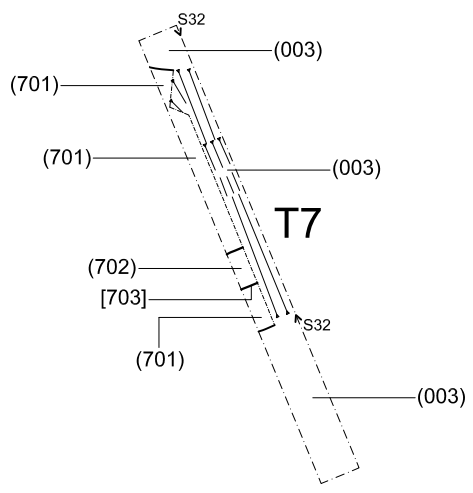
Rooting

(500) + (502)

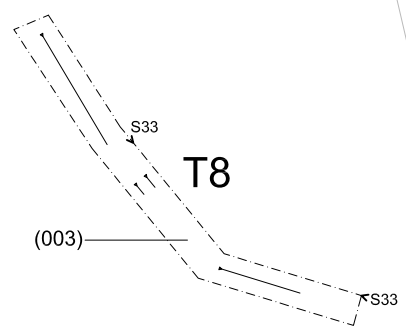
(003)



T6



T7



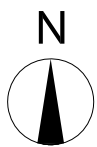
T8

⊕ 559045.62mE
110001.80mN

1:300@A3



Figure 3: Evaluation Trench Plans (Trenches 3 - 8)



559227.62mE
110036.59mN

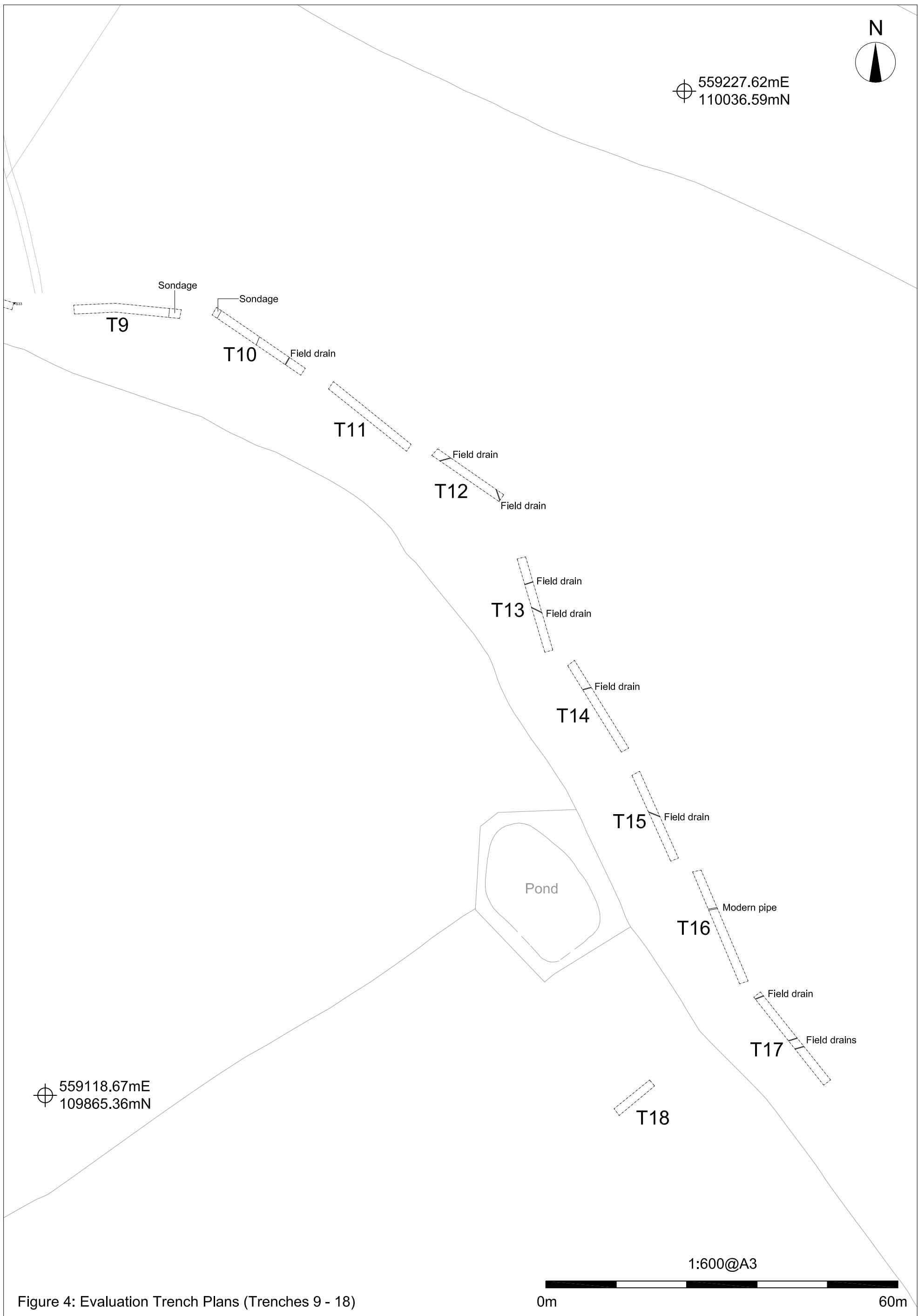


Figure 4: Evaluation Trench Plans (Trenches 9 - 18)

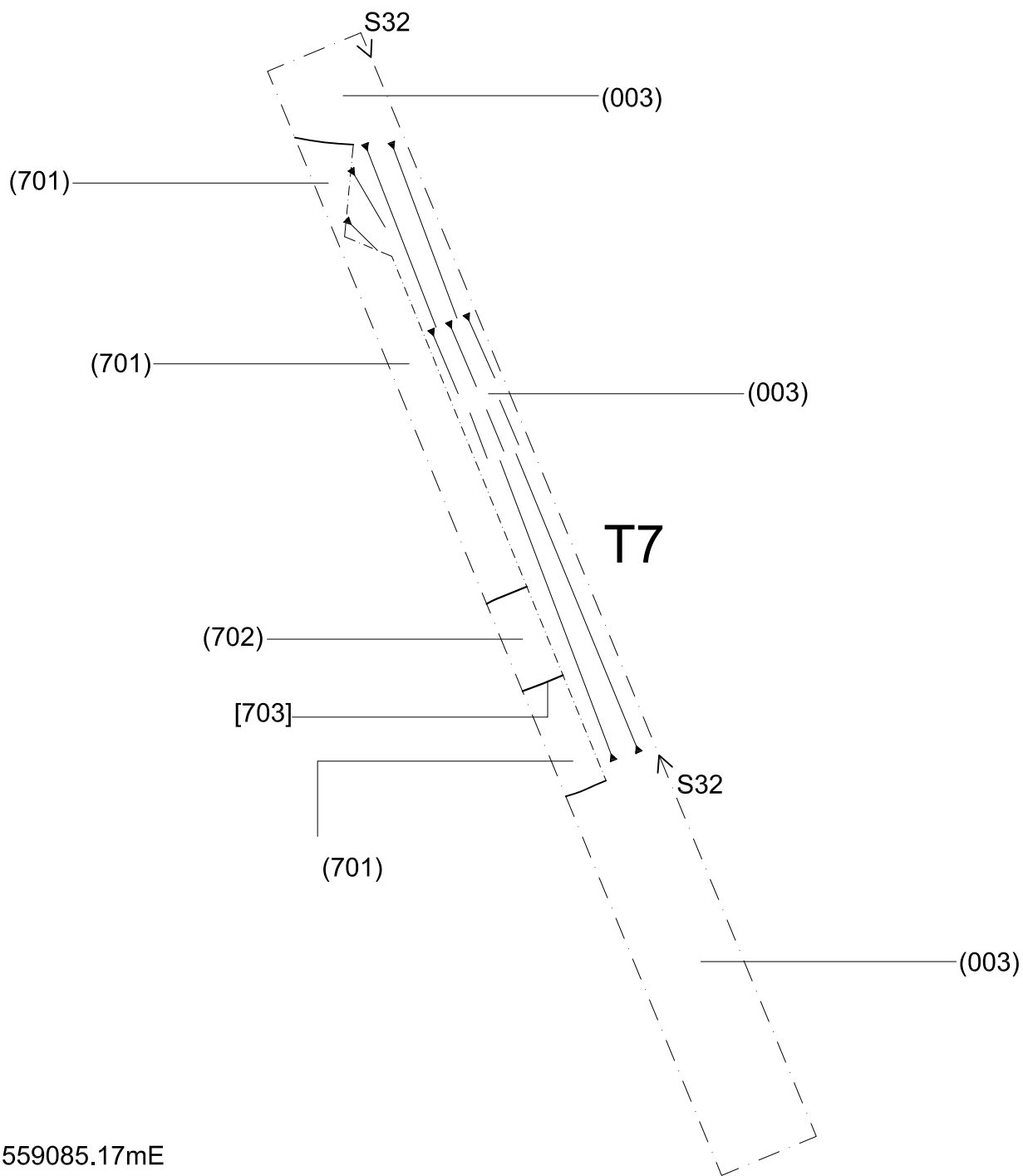
0m

1:600@A3

60m



⊕ 559097.93mE
⊕ 110036.28mN



⊕ 559085.17mE
⊕ 110015.82mN

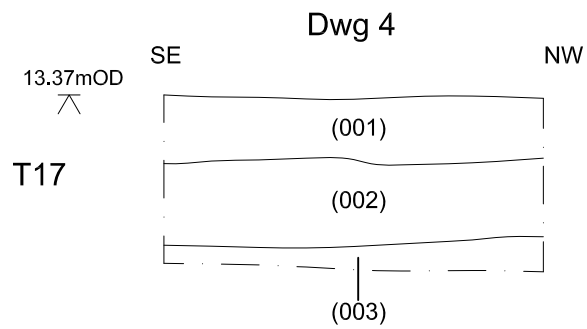
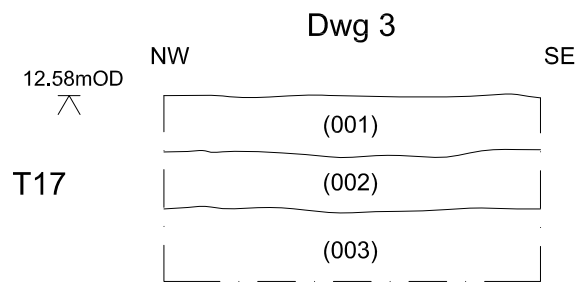
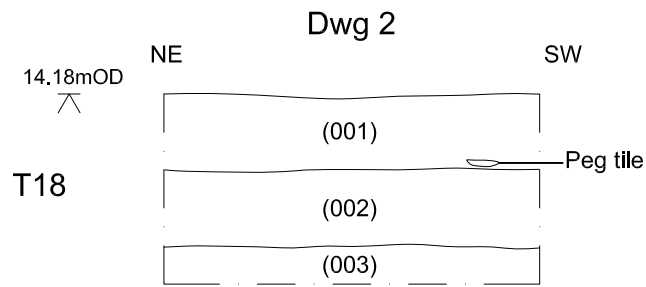
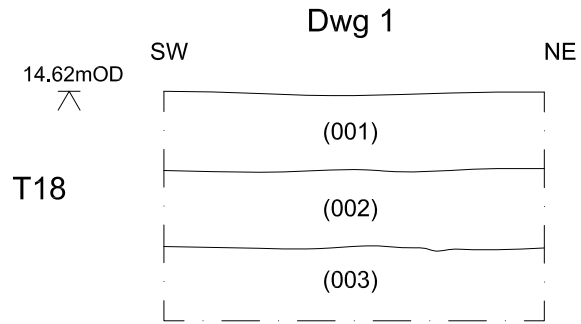
1:100@A4



Figure 5: Evaluation Trench 8; Plan

0m

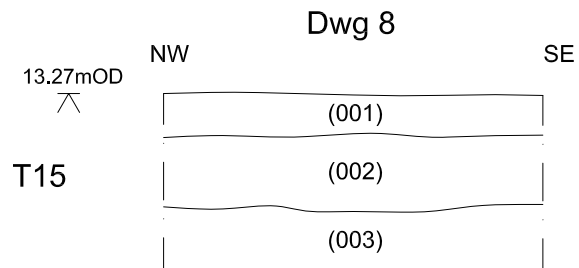
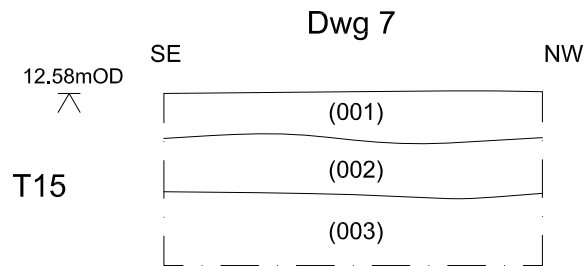
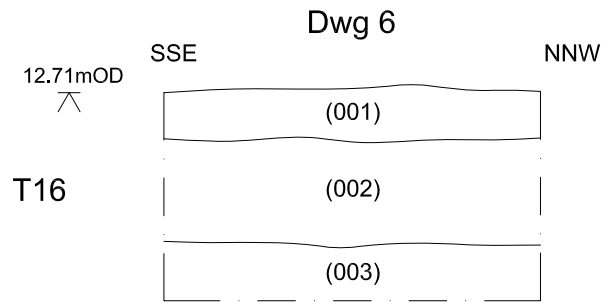
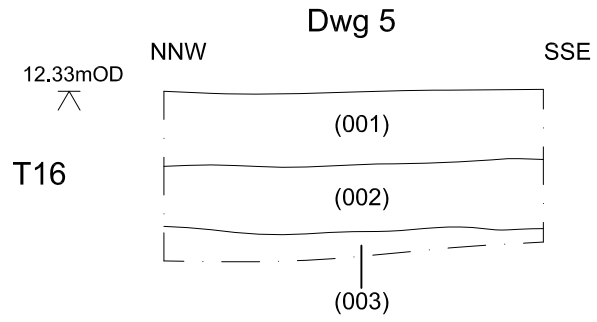
10m



1:20@A4



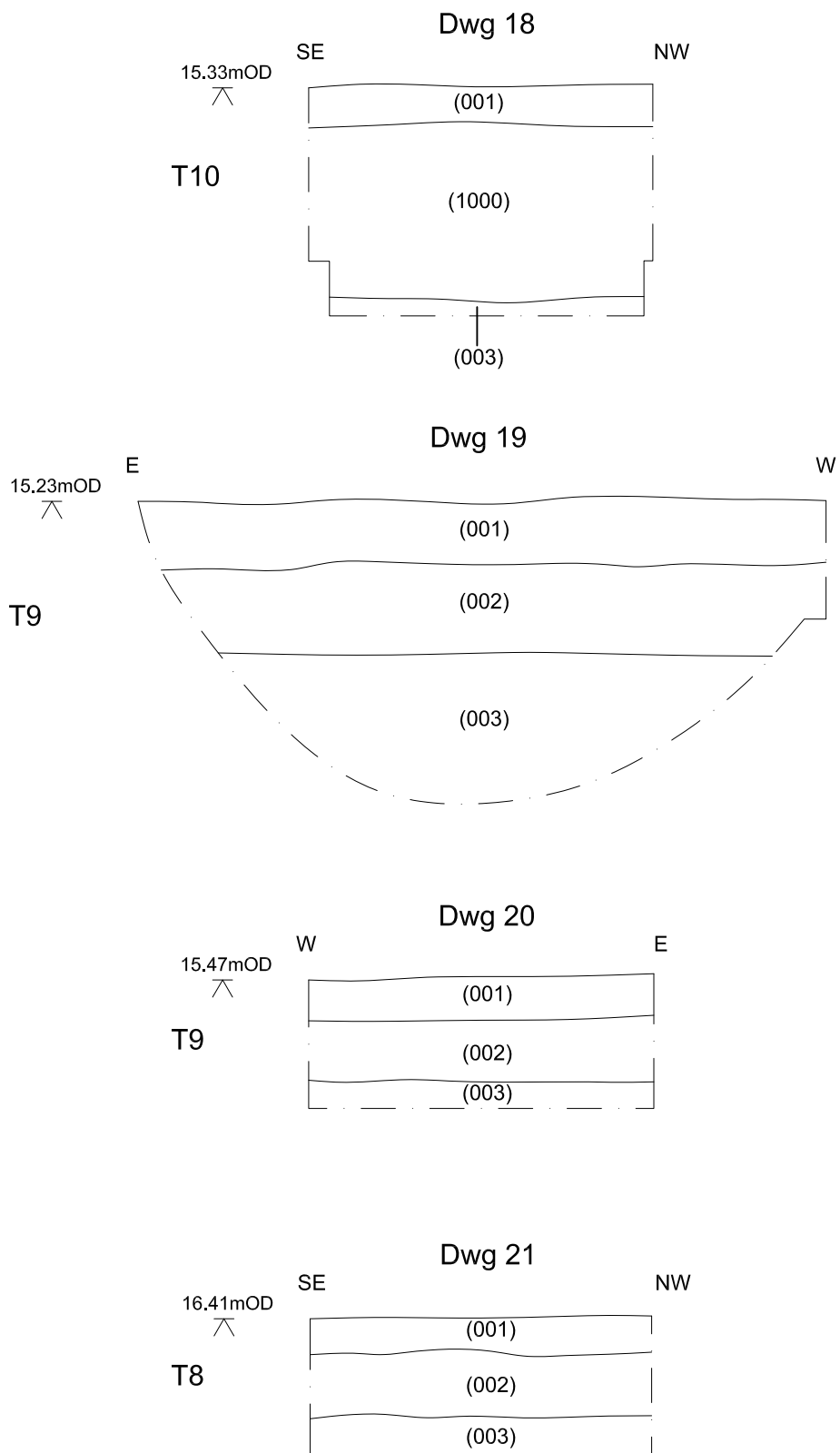
Figure 6: Soil Profiles



1:20@A4



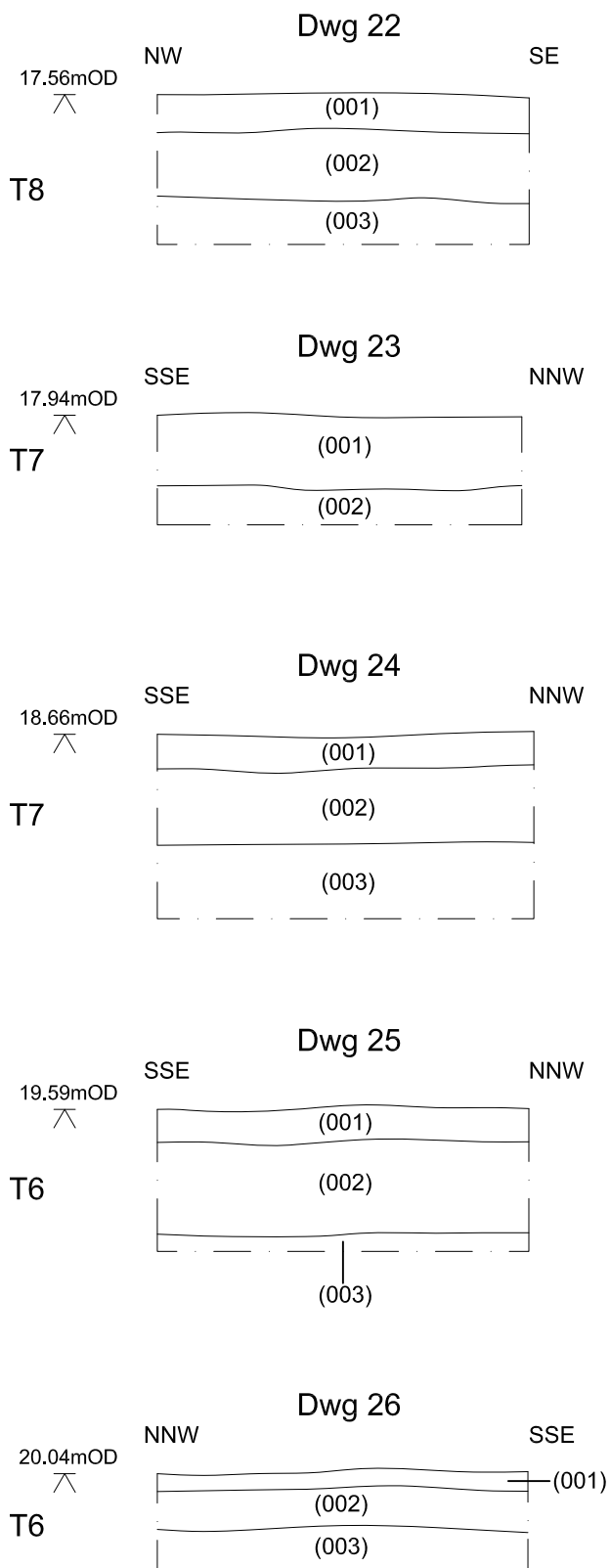
Figure 7: Soil Profiles



1:20@A4



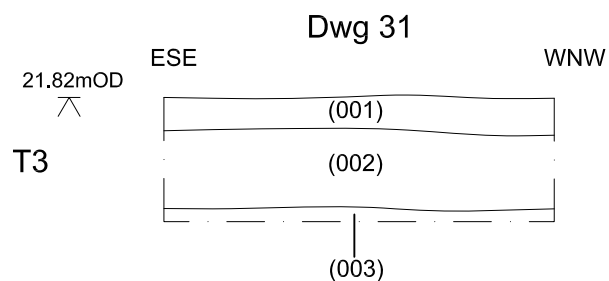
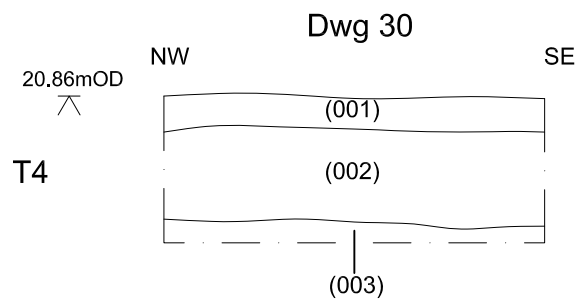
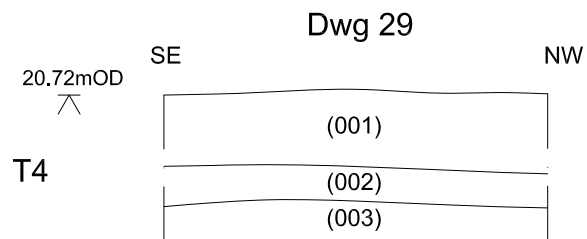
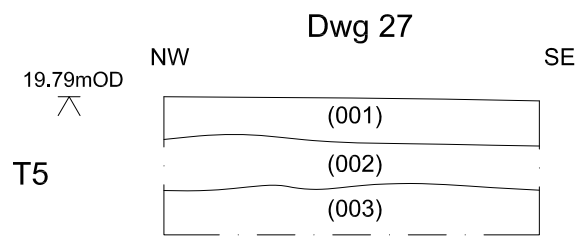
Figure 10: Soil Profiles



1:20@A4



Figure 11: Soil Profiles



1:20@A4



Figure 12: Soil Profiles

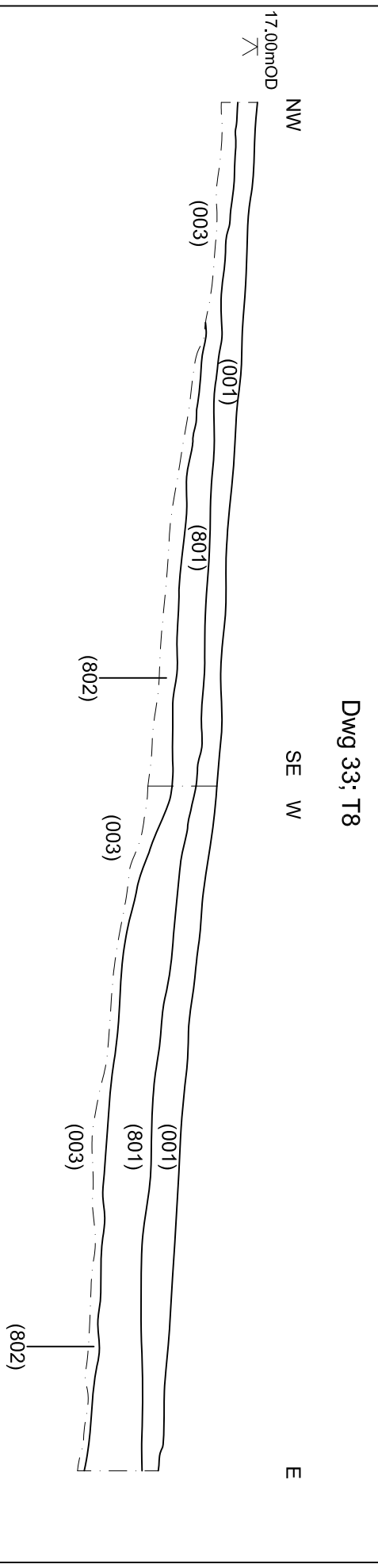
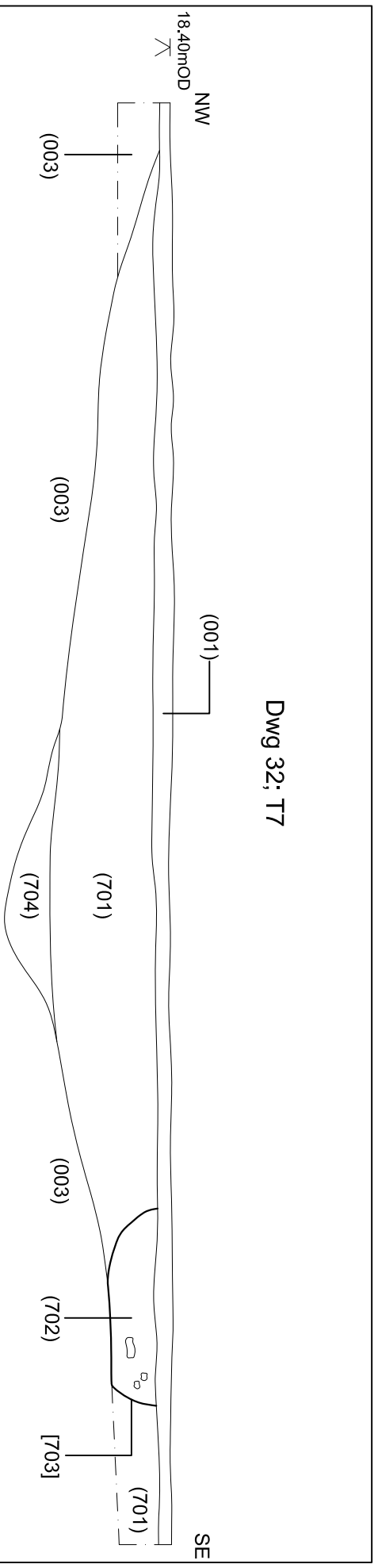
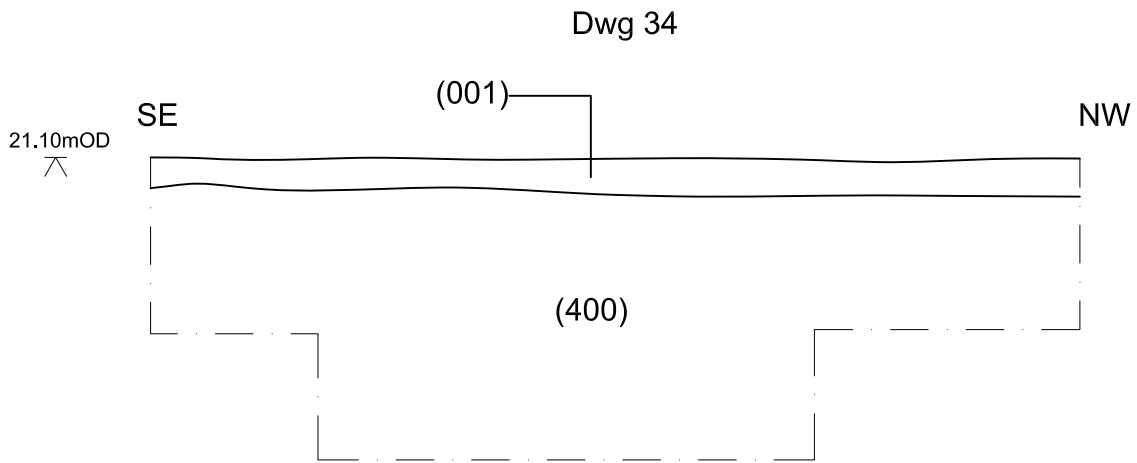


Figure 13: Sections (Evaluation Trenches 7 and 8)

0m

5m

1:50@A4



1:20@A4



Figure 14: Section Evaluation Trench 4) 0m

2m