

Archaeological Evaluation on land behind The
Gymnasium, The Old Barracks, Canada Road,
Walmer, Deal, Kent, CT14 7EJ

NGR: 637466 151452

Site Code: CRD 10

(Planning Application Number: DOV/08/00863)

Report for
ERCO Design Ltd.

SWAT. ARCHAEOLOGY

Swale and Thames Archaeological Survey Company

School Farm Oast, Graveney Road

Faversham, Kent

ME13 8UP

Tel; 01975 532548 or 07885 700 112

www.swataeology.com

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NGR: 637466 151452

Site Code: DOV/08/00863

SUMMARY

Swale & Thames Survey Company (SWAT) carried out an archaeological evaluation on land The Gymnasium, The Old Barracks, Walmer, Kent from the 27th to the 29th October 2010. A planning application (PAN: DOV/08/00863) for the construction of nine new three storey dwellings with associated garages, parking and vehicular access 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 2010) 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 large concrete drain, tunnel or culvert in Trench 3, a roughly 2m wide post-Medieval linear running through Trenches 2 and 4, and a redeposited brickearth surface that may be associated with the parade ground in Trench 1. Deposits of demolition material up to 0.55m thick from buildings sited within the development were found overlying the subsoil in Trenches 2,3 and 4.

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 ERCO Design Ltd. to carry out an archaeological evaluation at the above site. The work was carried out in accordance with the requirements set out within an Archaeological Specification (KCC 2010) and in discussion with the Archaeological Officer, Kent County Council. The evaluation was carried out between the 27th and 29th October 2010.

SITE DESCRIPTION AND TOPOGRAPHY

The site is centred at NGR 637466 151452 (KCCHC: 2010:2.1), and the underlying geology of the site, according to the British Geological Survey consists of Head deposits comprising undifferentiated clay and silt which overlies Upper Chalk of the Seaford Chalk Formation. During the evaluation, Head Brickearth was encountered in the four trenches along with pale

fine-grained coastal windblown sand deposits. The development area is approximately 6 m aOD and fairly level, sited behind rugby pitches to the south and back gardens of houses fronting Canada Mews to the north. A map regression of the site shows it as an undeveloped area since the late 19th century, mainly laid to lawn or grass and later as waste ground.

PLANNING BACKGROUND

A planning application (PAN: *DOV/08/00863*) for the construction of nine new three story dwellings with associated garages, access and car parking 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 within the site 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 scheme of investigation, to include the proposed investigating body, previously submitted to and approved in writing by the local planning authority. (KCCHC 2010)

Requirements for the archaeological evaluation comprised trial trenching targeting a minimum of 5% of the impact area with trenches designed to establish whether there were 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

An evaluation by Canterbury Archaeological Trust (CAT) of the North Barracks parade ground was conducted in the late 1990s. The earliest deposits, of an early Iron Age date, included several phases of ditches (field boundaries), and pits and post holes sealed by a layer of windblown sand. Significant residual material of Bronze Age date was also encountered. Hollows in the windblown sands representing ponds or meres were observed in the Brickearth, the fills being virtually sterile, but cut by features possibly pre-dating the late-Bronze Age. Linears containing late Saxon/early Medieval pottery also contained considerable prehistoric flint and pottery of Beaker, Bronze Age and Iron Age dates. Cutting the windblown sands were a number of post-Medieval features, and the possible remains of an 18th century parade ground in the form of a pebble metalled surface and other military features such as ditches and a pit were found during the evaluation.

Work by CAT on the main South Barracks exposed multi-period features including a scatter of late Neolithic/early Bronze Age flintwork, prehistoric field systems, and a series of post-Medieval ditches pre-dating the construction of the barracks. An evaluation to the east of the development area on the site of the new primary school identified more meres/ponds on the surface of the Brickearth containing Neolithic and early Bronze Age struck flints. Other finds recovered from the site included a Beaker sherd and part of a decorated late Neolithic/early Bronze Age vessel, and features of Iron Age and Romano-British date were recorded.

Historically, the South Barracks and other military establishments in Walmer billeted the army throughout the 18th century. In 1795, due to increased military personnel, new accommodation was built for the infantry and cavalry at the South Barracks. Cavalry barracks included stabling for 63 horses and housing for 53 men of the 15th Light Dragoons. After the Napoleonic war these men were known as the 'Blockade Men' fighting local smugglers. The South Barracks became a coastguard station until 1840, and after 1869 the Admiralty acquired the site and the Royal Marines arrived.

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

Specific aims of the evaluation, as set out within the Archaeological Specification (2010) include (not exclusively):

- to establish whether there are any archaeological deposits at the site which relate to
- previous findings within the surrounding area;
- to establish the presence/absence of any remains associated with the Bronze Age/Iron Age/Romano-British occupation of the area;
- to establish the presence/absence of deposits associated with the wind-blown sands and ponds/meres identified on neighbouring sites and to contribute to our understanding of their formation and development; and
- to contribute to an understanding of the environmental history of Walmer

No site specific aims were mentioned in the Specification.

METHODOLOGY

Trial trenching was carried out on 27th October 2010, with the excavation of four trenches measuring 1.6m 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 **(001)**. The cut of the feature is shown **[001]**. Context numbers were assigned to all deposits for recoding purposes; these are used in the report and shown in bold.

MONITORING

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

RESULTS

A common stratigraphic sequence was recognised across the site except in Trench 1 which contained the remnants of a surviving buried redeposited brickearth surface/deposit **(012)** over a gravel layer **(014)**. Trench 1 comprised topsoil/turf overburden **(001)**, beneath which lay a colluvial subsoil **(002)** over natural silty sands. In trenches 2-4 the upper horizon consisted of modern overburden **(001)** up to 0.55m thick containing demolition material from pre-existing building on the site, over colluvial subsoil **(002)**. A clear line of horizon gave way to natural drift geology of brickearth and windblown sandy silts, where mechanical excavation ceased and examination and targeted excavation of exposed features by hand began.

Trench 1

(19.79m x 1.6m)

Trench 1 was located in the southwestern end of the site adjacent to the rugby pitches (formerly the Royal Marine Drill Ground). Aligned approximately northwest-southeast, this trench was southwest of a division running northwest-southeast and marked by kerbstones or a wall, now demolished. This boundary marked a division that is not seen on the 2003 aerial photograph (<http://extranet7.kent.gov.uk/klis/default.asp>), but is visible on later APs and may be associated with the new rugby club building to the northwest of the development area. Trench 1 measured 1.6m wide and 19.79m in length and contained a redeposited brickearth surface/deposit **(012)** **[013]** covering a gravel layer **(014)** which was only visible in the south facing section. Garden topsoils, probably reworked, **(001)** measured 0.25m in depth and overlay the 0.15m thick gravel layer **(014)** and subsoil **(002)** up to 0.10m thick which was comprised of a mid grey brown sandy silty clay with inclusions including occasional post-Medieval (19th-20thc) pottery, occasional small to medium angular and rounded flints, and common chalk and carbon flecks. The redeposited brickearth surface **(012)** contained very rare sherds of modern pottery and measured at least 0.25m thick. In plan it was roughly square or rectangular measuring at least 3m x 0.75m, but its use could not be determined in the context of the evaluation trench. The gravels **(014)** above it appear to be recently deposited, and this area may have been associated with the new rugby club pavilion or the

building it replaced as seen on the 2003 aerial photo. Bordering the southern side of the brickearth surface was a 0.08m thick deposit **(011)** of pale brown grey silty sand that measured 5.15m across and appeared to fill a depression surrounding the this surface **(012)**. No cultural material was found in this context. West of **(012)** was a modern metal water pipe within a 0.25m wide cut. The brickearth surface **(012)** was intriguing, but modern pottery proves it is of no real archaeological value. The natural geology **(015)** of sandy silts (windblown sands and silts) occurred 0.50m below the present ground surface, and no Head Brickearth was present in this trench.

Trench 2

(20.30m x 1.6m)

This trench had to be moved from its intended position due to a large spoil heap and a skip filled with soil covering the original area. The trench was cut as close as possible to the original location and was roughly aligned north-northeast – south-southwest and was placed to observe the impact of the development on the centre of the site. The highest deposit was a 0.55m thick mix of modern overburden **(001)** that was a dark brown grey sandy silty clay heavily contaminated with late building material. Below this was a 0.36m thick deposit of subsoil **(002)** as described in Trench 1. Trench 2 contained three features including a very large machine cut pit that heavily truncated the natural brickearth **(015)** to a depth of 1.65m below the present ground surface and was backfilled with modern demolition debris. Toothed-bucket marks scored the base of this machine cut. A 2m wide x 0.62m deep linear **[008]** aligned northwest-southeast was filled by a mid to dark grey brown sandy clay silt **(007)** with rare: modern pottery and brick, slate fragments, small to medium angular flints, chalk and carbon flecks, oyster shell, glass, nails and coal. The cut of this ditch sloped down to the base at roughly 45° from its south-southwest edge. The base was rounded and the north-northeast edge cut sharply from the top at roughly 60°. This linear was also evident in Trench 4, though its profile was slightly different. Cutting into the top of the fill was a 0.30m deep Victorian rubbish pit **[006]** backfilled with predominantly oyster and other marine shell, pottery, brick fragments, coal, slate fragments and rare iron objects. These inclusions amounted to 90% of the fill **(005)** with the remaining matrix made up of very dark brown grey sandy silty clay. There was one 0.23m wide square posthole **[010]** located at the southwest end of the trench. It measured 0.19m deep with a stake pipe at the southwest end of the feature. Its fill **(009)** was a mid to dark brown grey sandy clay silt with rare: coke and coal, slate fragments, small rounded flints and small brick fragments.

Trench 3

(17.83m x 1.6m)

This trench was aligned roughly west-northwest – east-southeast and was located towards the entrance of site. Due to the number of soil filled skips blocking the area to be mitigated, the trench was shorter than 20m. As with Trench 2 the uppermost layer, **(001)** was composed of a dark grey brown sandy silty clay up to 0.055m thick and contaminated with modern

building rubble. Below this overburden a uniform layer of subsoil (002) sealed the natural drift geology (015) of pale brown fine sandy silts which was observed approximately 0.95m below the present ground surface. No archaeological features were visible in this trench, but worth noting was a large rounded concrete structure measuring at least 1.05m wide where exposed and aligned northeast-southwest. This drain/conduit or possible air raid shelter was located at the extreme southeast end of the trench near the edge of the development area. Unfortunately, there was no record of it in the historical maps, and the client should pay particular attention if excavation is to take place at the northeast boundary of the site as the extent of this feature is not known.

Trench 4

(20m x 1.6m)

This trench ran north-south, with the upper layer comprised of modern overburden (001) containing modern building rubble up to 0.55m thick as seen in trenches 2 and 3, over a subsoil deposit (002) up to 0.30m thick which sealed the natural geology of brickearth and sandy-silts (015). A northwest-southeast aligned linear [004] at least 2m wide and 0.60m deep cut the brickearth at the north end of the trench and was filled by (003) which is possibly equivalent to (007), the fill of linear [008] in Trench 2. It contained occasional sherds of post-Medieval pottery and brick fragments and two residual struck flints. The profile of [004] varied slightly from [008], with a wider, more rounded base, though the southern edge of this feature had a similar double break of slope which was cut by a cable trench. An amorphous, narrow curvilinear feature north of linear [004] was investigated and found to be a root run. The southern end of the trench contained a modern drain, a defunct iron water pipe, and a shallow modern feature with rare fragments of clinker. The natural geology consisted of both brickearth, at the northern end of the trench, and sandy silts covering the remaining three – quarters of the trench.

FINDS

Archaeological finds were recovered during the course of the evaluation, the great majority were from the modern/post-medieval period. Two struck flints were recovered from linear [004] and retained for dating, but these were most likely residual and possibly came from the truncated Brickearth that was cut by the ditch.

DISCUSSION

The evaluation carried out on land behind The Gymnasium, The Old Barracks, Canada Rd., Walmer did encounter archaeological features, but these were of the modern/post medieval period and may be related to activity of the military barracks and drill ground in the case of linear(s) [004] and [008], which do not appear on the 1st Edition Ordnance Survey map (1871-1890). Similar ditches were found during an evaluation of the North Barracks site on the north side of Canada Road undertaken by Canterbury Archaeological Trust (Parfitt: 1998, Keeley *et*

a/ 1999). In fact, the development area appears as 'blank' ground on all the OS maps. The large majority of the site was composed of mixed dumping layers of overburden **(001)** up to 0.55m thick relating to the demolition of buildings in the vicinity, though the upper layer in Trench 1 consisted of turf over topsoil to a depth of 0.25m. The redeposited brickearth layer **(012)** in Trench 1 was deliberately constructed within a cut **[013]**, but due to the limitations inherent with evaluations, it was impossible to interpret the feature without further excavation. The large concrete structure in Trench 3 may be of no archaeological significance, but its extent is unknown and may impinge on construction of the proposed development. The depth of surviving drift geology varied widely, with the southern half of the site relatively undisturbed. Windblown silts and sands were found 0.58m below the present ground surface in Trench 1. By contrast, Trench 2 contained one very large machine cut pit up to 1.65m deep. On average, the drift geology in Trenches 2-4 was encountered approximately 0.90-0.95m below the present ground surface. The only evidence of early archaeological activity was two residual struck flints found within the fill **(003)** of post-Medieval linear **[004]**.

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 were from the modern/post-Medieval periods. It is suggested that no other part of the site will suffer from this development as no archaeological features of antiquity were observed cutting the drift geology in any of the four trenches.

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 ERCO Design Ltd. for commissioning the project. Thanks are also extended to Heritage and Conservation (Kent County Council) for their advice and assistance. Julie Martin carried out the archaeological fieldwork, illustrations were produced by Jonny Madden at Digitise This. This report was edited and collated by Dr. Paul Wilkinson.

Julie Martin

18/11/10

REFERENCES

Britchfield, D. (2007) *Former Royal Marines North Barracks, Canada Road, Deal, Kent*. SWAT Archaeology

Calvary Barracks (www.cavalrybarracks.com/walmerdeal.htm)

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

Kent County Council (KCCHC) (2010) *Specification for an Archaeological Evaluation on land behind The Gymnasium, The Old Barracks, Canada Rd., Walmer, Deal, Kent CT14 7EJ*. Kent County Council Heritage & Conservation

Kent Landscape Information System. (<http://extranet7.kent.gov.uk/klis/default.asp>)

Parfitt, K. (1998) *North Deal Barracks Parade Ground: An Assessment of the Archaeological Evaluation Trenching*. Canterbury Archaeological Trust

Unknown. *The Royal Marines Barracks Site at Deal, Kent. An Archaeological Implications Study*

CONTENTS OF SITE ARCHIVE

Correspondence

Photographs: 18 digital photographs .

Photocopies of Ordnance Survey and other maps:

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

Finds: Pottery sherds, iron nails, waste flakes x 2, and brick sherds.

Context Register including: Context Register (1), Photographic Register (1), Trench Sheets

APPENDIX 1 - Context Summary

Land behind The Gymnasium, The Old Barracks, Canada Rd., Walmer, Deal, Kent

Site Code: CRD 10

Context No.	Trench	Description
(001)	1-4	Turf/topsoil/modern overburden
(002)	1-4	Subsoil
(003)	4	Fill of linear feature [004]
[004]	4	Cut of linear
(005)	2	Fill of rubbish pit [006]
[006]	2	Cut of rubbish pit. Cuts (007)
(007)	2	Fill of linear [008]
[008]	2	Cut of linear
(009)	2	Fill of posthole [010]
[010]	2	Cut of posthole
(011)	1	Sandy silt deposit
(012)	1	Redeposited brickearth layer/fill of [013]
[013]	1	Cut
(014)	1	Gravel layer-only visible in s-facing section
(015)	1-4	Natural-Head Brickearth and windblown silts and sands

APPENDIX 2 – Kent County Council SMR Summary Form

Site Name: <i>Land behind The Gymnasium, The Old Barracks, Canada Rd., Walmer, Deal, Kent CT14 7EJ</i> SWAT Site Code: <i>CRD 10</i>	
Site Address: <i>Land behind The Gymnasium, The Old Barracks, Canada Rd., Walmer, Deal, Kent CT14 7EJ</i>	
Summary: <p><i>Swale & Thames Survey Company (SWAT) carried out an archaeological evaluation on land behind The Gymnasium, The Old Barracks, Canada Rd., Walmer, Deal, Kent CT14 7EJ. A planning application (PAN: DOV/08/00863) 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 2010) and in discussion with the Archaeological Officer, Kent County Council.</i></p> <p><i>The Archaeological Evaluation consisted of four trenches which encountered no archaeological features of any significant antiquity, but identified a linear in Trenches 2 and 4 possibly associated with the post-Medieval military installations in the area. Drift geology of Head Brickearth and windblown silts and sands were reached in all four trenches. Two residual struck flints were found in the fill of linear [004] in Trench 4.</i></p>	
District/Unitary: <i>Dover</i>	Parish: <i>Walmer</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 637466 151452</i>	
Type of archaeological work (delete) <i>Evaluation</i>	
Date of Recording: <i>November 2010</i>	
Unit undertaking recording: <i>Swale & Thames Survey Company (SWAT)</i>	
Geology: <i>Head, including Brickearth and windblown silts and sands overlying Upper Chalk</i>	
Title and author of accompanying report: <i>Martin, J. (2010) Archaeological Evaluation on land behind The Gymnasium, The Old Barracks, Canada Rd., Walmer, Deal, KentCT14 7EJ</i>	
Summary of fieldwork results (begin with earliest period first, add NGRs where appropriate) <i>As above</i>	

(cont. on attached sheet)	
Location of archive/finds: <i>SWAT</i>	
Contact at Unit: <i>Paul Wilkinson</i>	Date: <i>18 November 2010</i>

APPENDIX 3 – Figures

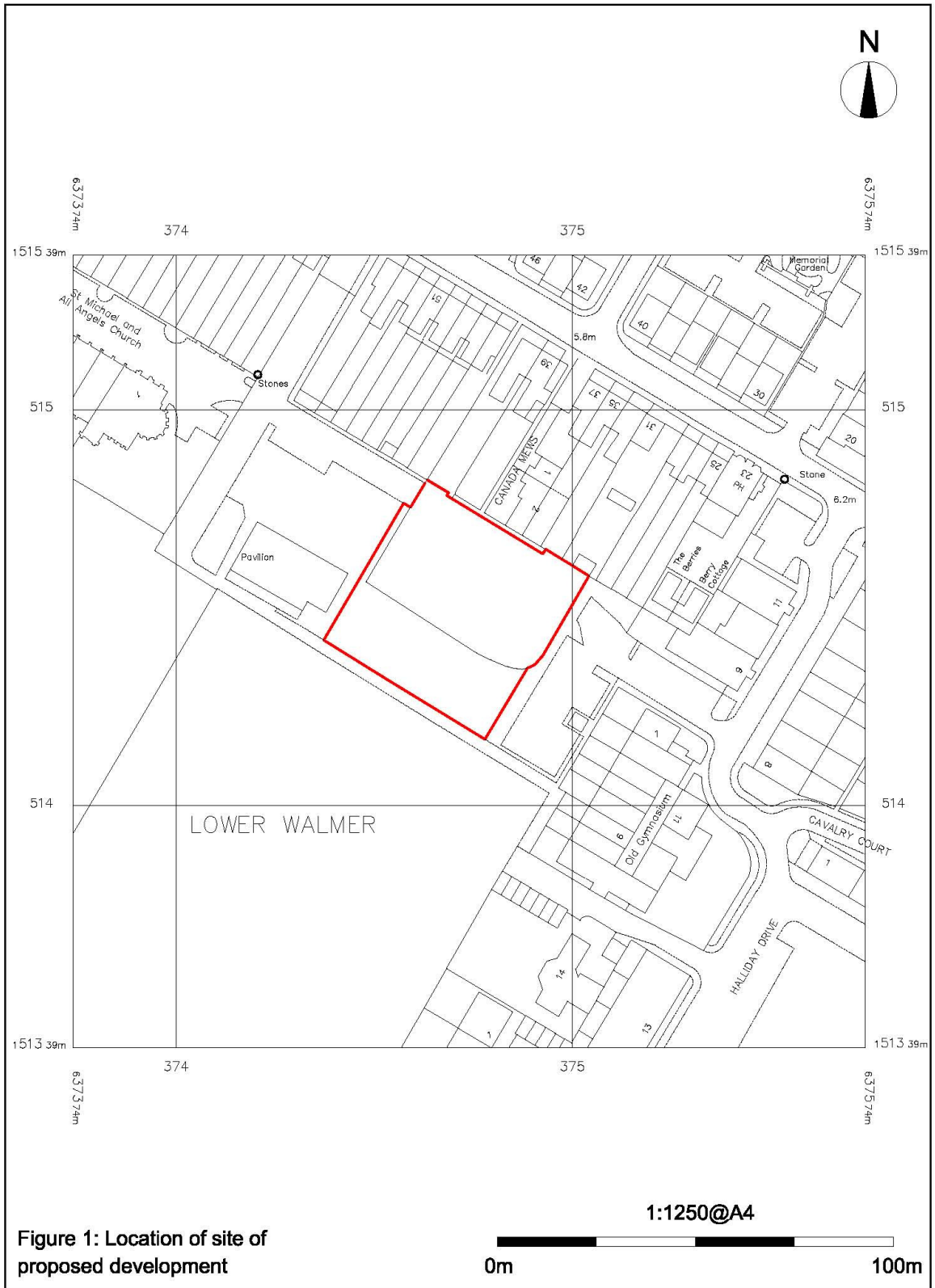


Figure 1: Location of site of proposed development

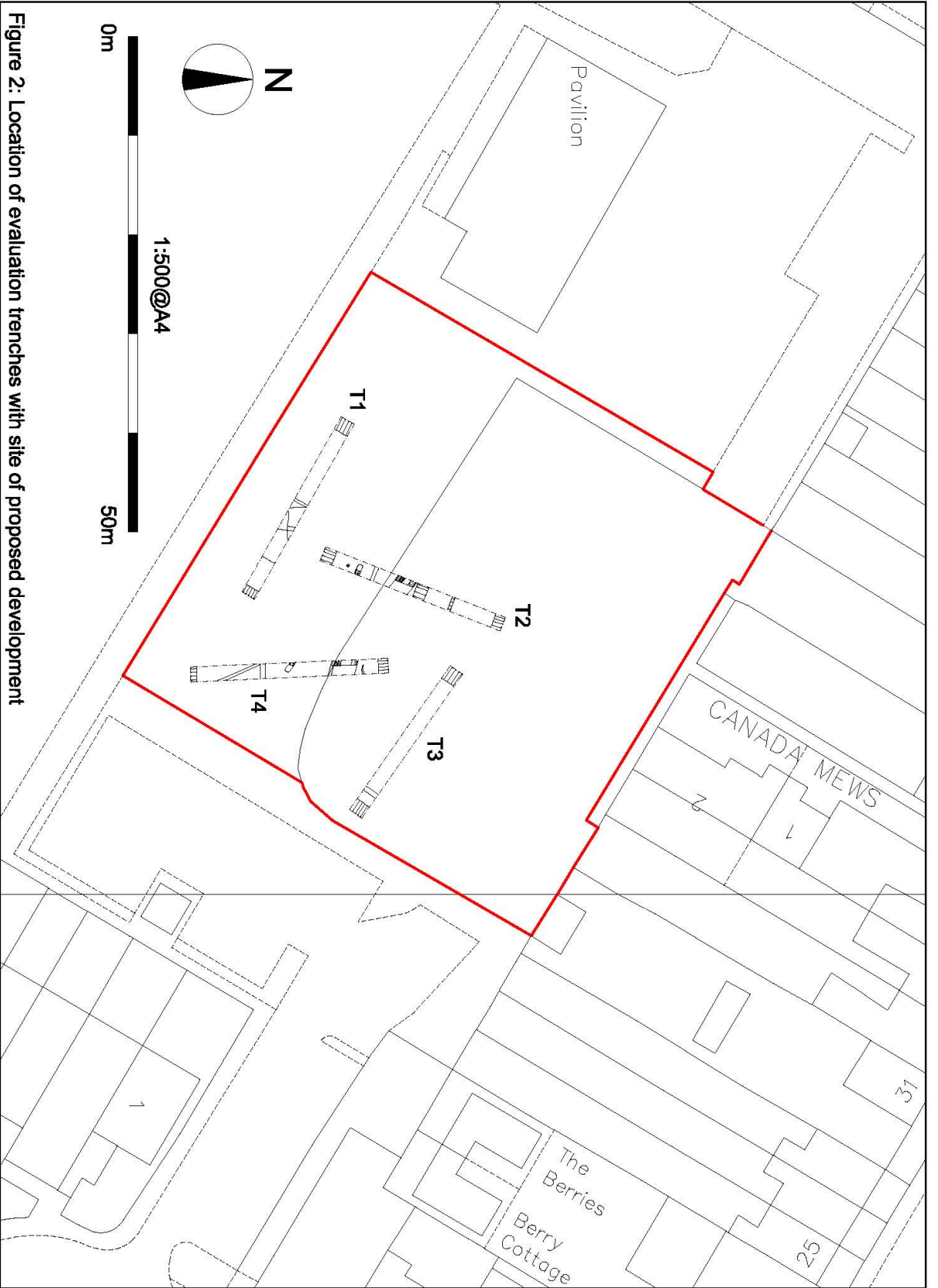


Figure 2: Location of evaluation trenches with site of proposed development

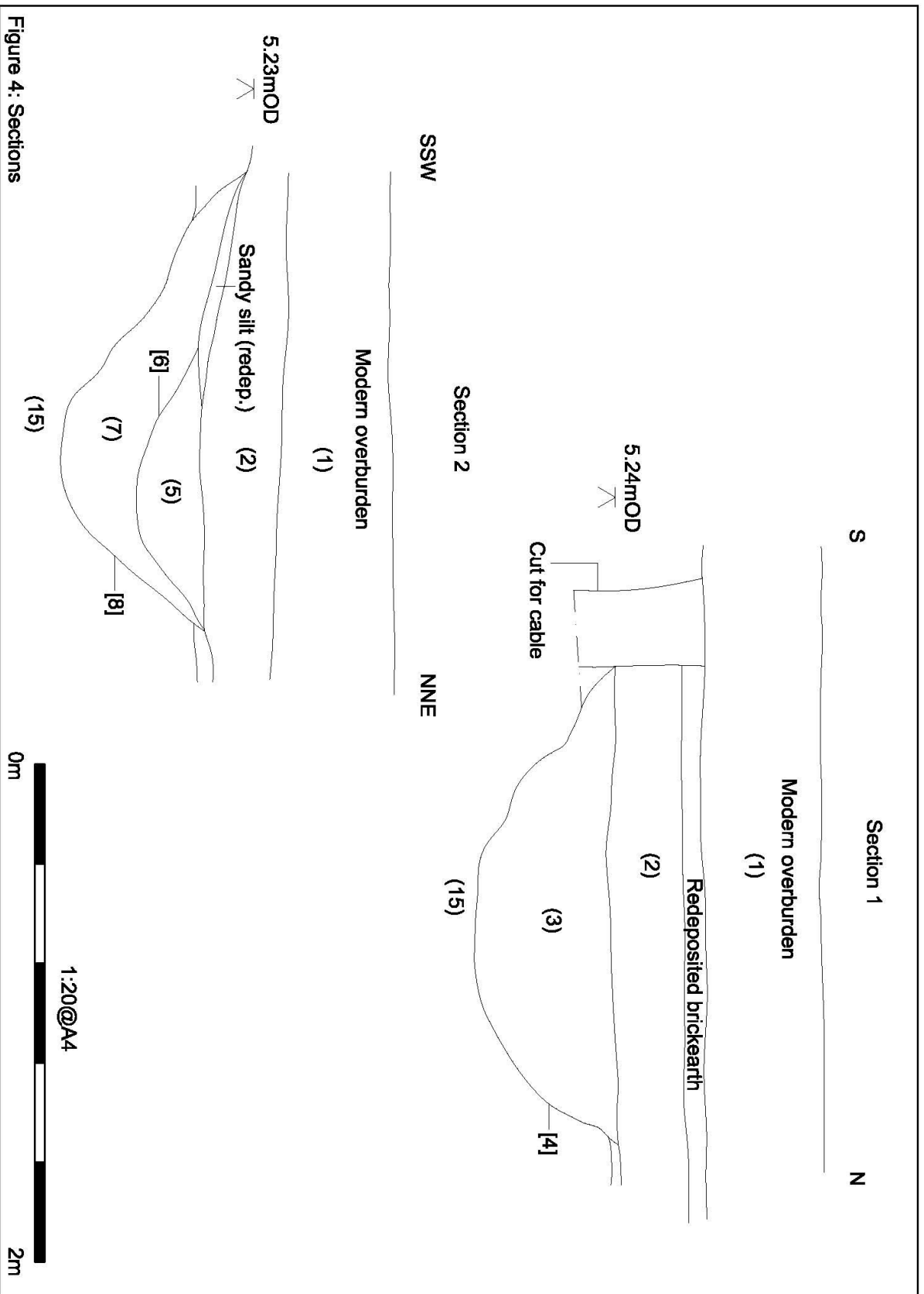


Figure 4: Sections

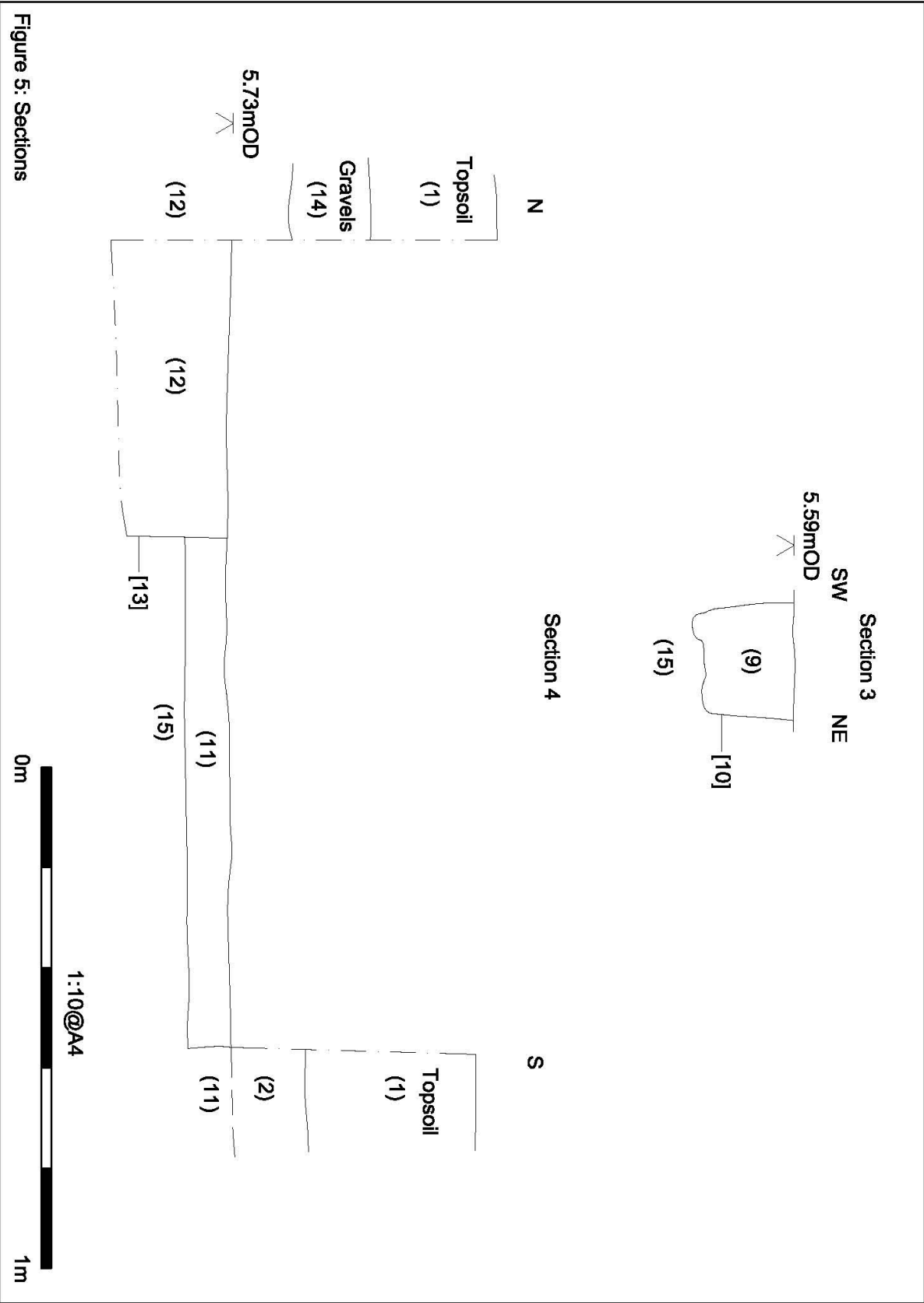


Figure 5: Sections



Figure 6: Location of evaluation trenches in relation to proposed development



Plate 1 – Trench 4 Linear [004], looking west



Plate 2 – Trench 2 Linear [008], looking west-northwest



Plate 3 – Trench 3 Concrete feature/drain, looking east-southeast