

Archaeological Evaluation at Ewell Manor, Ewell Lane in West Farleigh, near Maidstone, Kent

November 2011

SWAT. Archaeology
Swale and Thames Archaeological Survey Company
School Farm Oast, Graveney Road
Faversham, Kent
ME13 8UP
Tel: 01795 532548 or 07885 700 112
www.swatarchaeology.co.uk

Archaeological Evaluation at Ewell Manor,
Ewell Lane in West Farleigh,
Near Maidstone, Kent



NGR 571656 152400
Site Code: EMWF-EV-11
(Planning Application MA/o8/2021)

Report for
Mrs C. Meddemmen

SWAT. ARCHAEOLOGY

Swale and Thames Archaeological Survey Company
The Office, School Farm Oast, Graveney Road
Faversham, Kent
ME13 8UP
Tel; 01795 532548 or 07885 700 112
info@swatarchaeology.co.uk

Contents

List of Figures.....	3
List of Plates.....	3
Summary.....	4
Introduction.....	4
Site Description and Topography.....	4
Planning Background.....	5
Archaeological and Historical Background.....	5
Aims and Objectives.....	7
Methodology.....	7
Monitoring.....	7
Results.....	7
Finds.....	11
Discussion.....	11
Conclusion.....	12
Acknowledgements.....	12
References.....	13
Plates.....	14
Figures.....	20
Appendix1. KCC HER Summary Form.....	35

List of Figures

- Fig. 1. Trench location at Ewell Manor, West Farleigh, Kent, 1:1250 @ A4
- Fig. 2. Trench locations shown above historic mapping, 1:1250 @ A4
- Fig. 3. Trench 1 Plan 1:100
- Fig. 4. Trench 2 Plan 1:100
- Fig. 5. Trench 3 Plan 1:100
- Fig. 6. Trench 4 Plan 1:100
- Fig. 7. Trench 5 Plan 1:100
- Fig. 8. Trench 7 Plan 1:100
- Fig. 9. Trench 1 Sections 1:10
- Fig. 10. Trench 2 Sections
- Fig. 11. Trench 3 Sections 1:20
- Fig. 12. Trench 4 Section 1:100
- Fig. 13. Trenches 4 and 5 Sections 1:20
- Fig. 14. Trench 7 Sections 1:20

List of Plates

- Plate 1. Undated photograph of Ewell Manor
- Plate 2. Trench 4, wall (409) and ragstone rubble (408), looking northeast, 1m scale
- Plate 3. Trench 4, walls (409) and (411), looking north-northwest, 1m scale
- Plate 4. Trench 4, wall (411) looking north-northwest, 1m scale
- Plate 5. Trench 4, brick structure (412) and earlier wall (411) on the left, looking west, 1m scale
- Plate 6. Trench 4, surface (415) and wall (416) in foreground, looking southwest, 1m scale
- Plate 7. Trench 4, wall (416) with brick face (417), looking north, 1m scale
- Plate 8. Trench 5, walls (507) and (503), looking east
- Plate 9. Trench 3, culvert (308), looking east-northeast, 1m scale
- Plate 10. Trench 7, gravel path (701) and brick edging (703), looking northeast, 1m scale
- Plate 11. Trench 7, feature [706], looking northeast, 0.5m scale

Archaeological Evaluation at Ewell Manor, Ewell Lane in West Farleigh, near Maidstone, Kent

NGR 571656 152400
Site Code: EMWF-EV-11

SUMMARY

Swale & Thames Survey Company (SWAT) carried out an archaeological evaluation of land on the site of Ewell Manor, Ewell Lane in West Farleigh near Maidstone in Kent. A planning application (MA/08/2021) was granted for the conversion of a barn, cart lodge and bothy into a single dwelling and annexe and the conversion of a stock shed and cattle shed into two holiday lets with associated parking lodge. Consent also covered the reinstatement of former gardens, tennis courts and existing and former entrances and the installation of a swimming pool. An additional planning application is forthcoming. Maidstone 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 2011) and in discussion with the Archaeological Heritage Officer, Kent County Council.

The Archaeological Evaluation consisted of eight trenches which encountered discrete archaeological features including an Early Bronze Age (c.2000-1600BC) domestic pit or posthole identified by fragments of an Early Bronze Age collared urn. 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 the owner, Mrs Meddemmen, 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 2011) and in discussion with the Archaeological Heritage Officer, Kent County Council. The evaluation was carried out from the 7th to 14th November 2011

SITE DESCRIPTION AND TOPOGRAPHY

The development is situated within the grounds of the former 17th century Ewell Manor and encompasses the conversion of surviving buildings and a proposed new build on the site of a terraced garden plot. The main concentration of buildings is on a relatively level plot of land approximately 64 m aOD (above Ordnance Datum). These structures, including the Grade II listed thatched barn, brick built cart lodge and bothy are accessed off of Ewell Lane to the north. The stables, built in 1870, have been converted into dwellings and renamed The Bothy, border the site to the east, and Lodge Cottage, another building associated with the Manor, survives to the west. The site contains areas of landscape terracing which are evident on

earlier Ordnance Survey maps. Trench 3 was placed along the terrace constructed for a grass tennis court as seen in the 4th Edition Ordnance Survey map (1929-1952). Another terraced area, the site for the proposed new build, is located south-west of the thatched barn. The site encompasses part of a valley cut by The Ewell stream which meanders in a south-easterly direction through the property. The site also slopes to the west towards the Medway River. At the extreme southern end of the site, at the bottom of the valley, is an open fronted 19th century stock shed and cattle shed marked for conversion into holiday lets.

According to the British Geological Survey the site lies on Hythe Beds with older Atherfield Clay exposed in The Ewell stream. Capping deposits of Head are also evident on the higher ground where the buildings are concentrated.

PLANNING BACKGROUND

Planning consent (MA/08/2021) for the conversion of a barn, cart lodge and bothy into a single dwelling and annexe, the conversion of a stock shed and cattle shed into two holiday lets with associated parking lodge and the reinstatement of former gardens, tennis court and existing and former entrances and the installation of a swimming pool was approved by Maidstone Borough Council (MBC). Maidstone Borough Council requested that an archaeological evaluation be undertaken in order to determine the possible impact of the development on any archaeological remains. The Local Planning Authority (MBC) placed the following condition on 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 representative 4% sample of the impact area with eight trenches (Fig. 1) 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 KCC of any further archaeological mitigation measures that may be necessary in connection with the development proposals.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL and HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Ewell Manor is located in the parish of West Farleigh which was established in 1559, although the parish church of All Saints was built some time around 1100. Farleigh is named in the Domesday Book as *Ferlaga* and in the Textus Rossensis as *Fearnlega* which are Saxon words that translate as meaning ‘a clearing where ferns grow’ or ‘safe crossing place’. Ewell Manor is thought to have been associated with another manor in the parish, Totesham Hall from at least the mid 17th century with the first recorded owner of Totesham being John de Totesham during the reign of King John. The properties stayed in the family until the end of

the reign of Henry VIII where it is passed into the ownership of Thomas Chapman, one of the Grooms of the King's Chamber. An undated 17th century document sets out Augustine Skynner's, one of the owners of the Manor, *Particulars of the Manor of Ewell* where the house is described as '...being a stout and well built dwelling with Barns, Stables, Malting house and all other necessary accommodations with orchards, Cherry Garden, Hop grounds and Fishponds, meadow, Arable pasture and Woodlands and Right of Common...' *The Topographical Map of the County of Kent of 1769* shows the house set back from Ewell Lane with a south facing garden. Two entrances run off the lane, one leading to the square forecourt at the front of the house and the other leading to a range of outbuildings. An insurance document dated to 1840 lists Richard Whitehead as the owner of the Manor and mentions a '...new dwelling house at Ewell Farm' (Plate 1) and lists the buildings associated with the house including the thatched barn, cattle shed and cart house which were constructed in that century.

The development site, which has Grade II status, lies within an area of archaeological potential relating to the Manor House (TQ 75 SW 110) and its grounds including the thatched barn (TQ 75 SW 232). The Manor House was constructed in the 17th century with later 19th century additions which included a new north wing and westerly entrance and was demolished in 1967 at the request of the last owner, Agnes Jean Russell Cornwallis. The gardens had numerous alterations over the centuries with the south garden staying relatively intact but terracing levels appearing in the later centuries including the southwest terrace where a lawn tennis court was constructed in the mid 20th century.

Most of the sites recorded in the Historic Environment Record (HER) within a 500 metre radius of the development site relate to West Farleigh Hall, approximately 340 m north-west of Ewell Manor. West Farleigh Hall, or Smith's Hall (TQ 75 SW 38), is a Grade I early 18th century red brick country house with later 18th century additions. Other listed structures within the estate include the Grade II listed brick and ragstone wall enclosing the garden (TQ 75 SW 208) which is contemporary with the house, and the late 18th century Garden House (TQ 75 SW 138) which was originally the coach house and stables. The landscaped gardens have been given Grade II status (TQ 77 SW 263) which includes walled gardens, ancient yew hedges and original stone flagged paths and steps.

Within the village of West Farleigh, listed buildings include the Grade II early 18th century Dove's Cottage on Ewell Lane (TQ 75 SW 159), Smith's Croft on Smith's Hill (TQ 75 SW 211), another early 18th century brick building, and the Chequer's Public House (TQ 75 SW 201) which was built in the 1840s.

In 1838 the foundations of a Roman Villa were discovered in a field called Combe Town near the river Medway, and villa sites have also been found in Teston and East Farleigh. The lack of modern development in the rural landscape surrounding Ewell Manor highlights the dearth of known archaeological activity in the area, but Roman activity in the form of high status villas in the surrounding area can attest to the possibility of further sites in the area.

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

The purpose of the evaluation, as set out within the Archaeological Specification (2011) was:

- To seek to improve the understanding of the development of Ewell Manor and of 19th century agriculture and country estate management
- To identify pre 17th century activity connected with earlier alterations of the manor and its estate
- To identify any activity focussing on the Ewell Stream

METHODOLOGY

Trial trenching was carried out on the 7th, 8th and 14th of November 2011 with the excavation of eight trenches. Trench location was agreed prior to the excavation between KCC and SWAT for five trenches with a further three trenches dug on the 14th on the site of the proposed new build. Excavation was carried out using a tracked 360° 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 measured between 18m and 25m in length and 1.8m wide. The trenches were subsequently hand-cleaned, and a number of features associated with Ewell Manor were exposed. All archaeological work was carried out in accordance with the specification. A single context recording system was used to record the deposits which were trench specific, and context recording numbers were assigned to all deposits for recording purposes. These are used in the report and shown in bold. All archaeological work was carried out in accordance with KCC and IFA standards and guidance.

MONITORING

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

RESULTS

Positive results in the trenches varied from foundations to the Manor House in Trenches 4 and 5, a brick culvert associated with the house in Trench 3, and an Early Bronze Age feature in Trench 7. Terracing due to landscaping may have truncated earlier features in Trench 3 and possibly in Trenches 6-8. Only Trenches 6 and 8 were wholly negative, but as the area had been terraced, earlier features cut into the drift deposit may have been lost.

Trench 1

(17.88m x 1.8m x < 0.32m (Test Pit < 0.95m))

Trench 1 was placed at the extreme southern end of the property east of the stock shed earmarked for conversion to holiday lets at approximately 50.25m aOD. The trench was positioned east/west and was machined to a depth of 0.032m apart from the eastern end where a test pit to a depth of 0.95m was cut to clarify the geology on site. The natural geology of Atherfield Clay (**103**) was reached at a depth of 0.45m at the eastern end and 0.25m at the western end of the trench below the surviving ground surface. The test pit exposed the clay to

a depth of 0.55m. Areas of geology composed of ragstone nodules **(102)** was observed erupting through this clay. Cutting the clay in the trial pit was a French type drain made of ragstone nodules **[105]/(104)** 0.20m wide and aligned northwest/southeast. Above the natural geology was a post medieval deposit of rubble hardcore **(101)** composed of broken brick and roof tiles between 0.13m and 0.25m thick that was possibly used as a trackway to the stock shed. Topsoil **(100)** sealed the trackway to a depth of 0.10m to 0.20m. It is worth noting the depths of the manmade deposits were thicker towards the eastern end of the trench.

Trench 2

(18.24m x 1.8m x <1.16m)

Trench 2 ran northeast/southwest and was positioned west of the thatched barn on the site of the formal garden at roughly 62m aOD. The trench was machined to a depth of 1.16m at the southwest end and 0.72m at the northeast end. The natural drift geology of mid orange brown silty clay **(204)** was exposed at a depth of 0.94m below the modern ground surface at the southwest end and 0.52m at the northeast end. Cutting the drift were three truncated probable postholes at the northeast end of the trench. Posthole **[206]** measured 0.40m long, 0.30m wide and up to 0.09m deep and was ovoid in plan and v-shaped in profile. The feature was filled by **(205)**, a mid grey brown silty clay with rare carbon flecks and small ragstone fragments. No artefacts were found in this context. Posthole **[208]** measured 0.34m long, 0.31m wide and up to 0.12m deep and was roughly square in plan with steep sides and a flat base. It was filled by **(207)** which was composed with a similar matrix to **(205)** and also was devoid of cultural material. Posthole **[210]** was the largest of the three features measuring 0.60m long, 0.40m wide and up to 0.09m deep with an oblong shape in plan. The feature was heavily truncated with only the base break of slope surviving to a flat base and was filled by **(209)** which were similar to the fills of the other post holes except it contained a medium sized ragstone piece that may have been packing material. Again, this feature contained no artefacts, and therefore all three postholes remain undated. Above the natural drift deposit was a pale orange grey silty clay layer **(203)** between 0.20m and 0.44m thick with common small to medium ragstone which may be an agricultural horizon. Sealing that deposit was a mid yellow grey silty clay layer **(201)** with a uniform depth of 0.20m which appears to be a levelling layer associated with the formal garden. Cutting this layer were two deposits. Chalk layer **(202)** was seen in the far northeast end of the trench with only 0.36m in length exposed. Redeposited ragstone layer **(211)** may have been a type of sub base to a feature at the far southwest end of the trench, and measured at least 1.50m long and up to 0.40m thick. Topsoil **(200)** was a relatively uniform 0.18m thick.

Trench 3

(19.81m x 1.8m x <1.14m)

Trench 3 was aligned northwest-southeast and was situated on the terrace which was the location for the lawn tennis court at approximately 57.40m aOD. The planning application calls for the reinstatement of the tennis courts. The natural geology **(311)** was comprised of ragstone in pale green brown silty clay which lay 0.30m below the present ground surface at the northwest end of the trench and sloped down towards the southeast. The trench sections

exposed the topographical slope of the geology and the capping layers of two drift deposits. Above **(311)** was a layer of mid orange brown silty clay **(303)** up to 0.54m thick which was sealed by a less clayey layer of similar colour **(302)**. A rubble layer was found at the far northwest end of the trench above the top drift deposit. Four modern features were observed cutting from below the topsoil **(300)** which sealed the upper layer of drift. A large brick culvert **(308)** associated with the manor house ran north-northeast/south-southwest towards The Ewell stream (Plate 9). A smaller ceramic pipe was also visible. Two vertical cuts **[303]** and **[307]** of unknown usage may also be cuts for drains.

Trench 4

(19.65m x 1.8m x <1.0m)

Trench 4 was located within the footprint of Ewell Manor and was aligned northeast/southwest. The trench was machined to a depth of 1m and was approximately 61.5m to 62m aOD. A multiphase keyhole view of the Manor house was exposed in this trench including at least two phases of ragstone wall construction. The natural geology consisted of 'bright' mid orange and reddish brown silty clay **(424)** which was found at a depth of 0.55m below the present ground surface at the northwest end of the trench. Above the geology was a terracing or levelling layer of pale yellow brown silty clay **(402)** up to 0.35m thick at the northeast end. At the southeast end the stratigraphy differs with a series of tips butting up to one of the ragstone walls below this terracing layer and above the natural geology. The northwest/southeast aligned ragstone wall **(409)** appears to have been built as a freestanding wall as no foundation cut is visible in the section (Plate 2). The footings were comprised of a sub-base of medium to large ragstone rubble and brick fragments up to 0.10m thick under a concrete footing up to 0.20m thick. The wall was composed of a 0.28m thick lower wall course of medium ragstones in lime mortar edged in brick. Topping this were dressed ragstone blocks 0.30m long, 0.14m wide and 0.22m thick (Plate 3). At the base of the wall was a concentration of ragstone blocks **(408)** which are probably unused or discarded building material for the wall. The exposed footings for the wall were then covered with a series of tips consisting of **(407)**, pale orange brown silty clay, most likely a re-deposited natural drift deposit. Above that was **(406)**, a 0.10m layer of mixed ragstone and brick fragments which is probably construction debris from the wall. Deposit **(405)** was a lens of pale yellow brown silty clay, and layer **(404)** was a rubble lens in pale brown grey silty clay. Layer **(403)** was a tread lens of pale brown grey silty clay, and above this context was the possible terracing or levelling layer **(402)** which was up to 0.50m thick at the extreme southwest end of the trench. The earliest phase of construction for the Ewell Manor appears to be a wall up to 0.75m wide made of medium to large ragstone blocks in pale brown yellow mortar **(411)** and aligned north-northwest-south-southeast (Plate 4). Sandwiched between walls **(409)** and **(411)** was a deposit of medium to large ragstone rubble **(410)**, but it was difficult to ascertain if it was from the demolition of one or more walls or a deliberate infill between them. Part of another wall **(413)** of similar construction to **(411)** and aligned east/west was found east of wall **(411)**, but there was no visible relationship between the two within the evaluation trench. Cutting or tied into wall **(411)** was a multi-angled brick structure

(412) which may have been the base of a fireplace with a small brick addition at one end (414) (Plate 5). In front of this structure was a compacted layer (415) of brick rubble, ash and mortar which may have been the base for a floor (Plate 6). East of this layer was another ragstone wall (416) 0.22m wide which had an outer face of brick (417) topped with a layer of tiles (Plate 7). This wall was aligned north/south and not parallel to the dressed block ragstone wall (409). A small portion of a possible wall return off of (416) was found projecting east of the wall. This surviving wall (420) was made of very large undressed ragstone blocks in lime mortar. Northeast of wall (409) was a brick wall (422) surviving to a depth of 0.20m with ragstone footings (423) up to 0.35m thick which was only visible in the southeast facing section and did not project very far into the trench. This wall appears to be the corner of a later wing or addition.

Trench 5

(19.17m x 1.8m x 0.36m)

Trench 5 was positioned in the area associated with the demolished Manor house and was aligned northwest/southeast and sat approximately 62m aOD. The geology consisted of pale yellow brown silty clay with ragstone (512) which sat 0.67m below the present ground surface. Above the geology was a possible terracing layer composed of mid yellow brown silty clay which may be a superficial or drift deposit (511). Cutting this layer were a number of features related to the Manor (Plate 8). Two walls aligned northeast/southwest look like possible extensions to the main Manor house. A ragstone wall (507) with beige mortar measured 0.44m wide. Parallel to the ragstone wall was a brick wall (503) 0.40m wide with a partial return. Between these two walls was a rubble infill (509). At a right angle from the ragstone wall was a single course of five bricks (506). Both the brick return of wall (503) and this single course of bricks respected the earlier ragstone wall. A small area of tiles set in mortar (510) and a drain pipe set in concrete (508) were exposed north of the ragstone wall. A demolition layer (502) covered the northwest half of the trench north of the ragstone wall, and a mid brown silty clay demolition layer with occasional brick rubble (501) covered the south end from the brick wall. A 0.10m thick layer of topsoil (500) sealed all the deposits.

Trench 6

(25m x 1.8m x < 0.45m)

Trenches 6, 7 and 8 were additional trenches placed within the area earmarked for a proposed new build, subject to planning consent, and was possibly previously terraced and landscaped as part of the manor gardens. Trench 6 was aligned north/south and contained no archaeological features of antiquity or relating to the Manor. It sat approximately 61.85m aOD. The natural deposit (602) was similar to the geology in Trench 3 and consisted of ragstone in pale green brown silty clay. This deposit was reached 0.45m at the south end of the trench and 0.30m at the north end of the trench below the present ground surface. Sealing the geology was a mid orange brown drift deposit of silty clay (601) between 0.24m and 0.38m thick. This deposit was covered by a 0.07m thick layer of topsoil (600).

Trench 7

(25.21m x 1.8m x < 0.65m)

Trench 7 was aligned roughly southeast/northwest and contained one small pit containing Early Bronze Age pottery and a gravel path associated with the garden. The trench sat 60.95m aOD at the southeast end and 59.25m aOD at the northwest end. The natural geology (707) of pale green brown silty clay with ragstone was reached at a depth of up to 0.65m below the present ground surface. Cutting the geology was a sub-circular pit or large posthole [706] measuring at least 0.60m long, 0.60m wide and up to 0.16m deep (Plate 11). The feature had sharp, steep edges that broke to a relatively flat base and was filled by a friable mid grey brown clayey silt (705) with frequent carbon, occasional sandstone pebbles and rare small to medium ragstone, flint and pottery sherds from a number of vessels dated to the Early Bronze Age. This feature and the geology was partially sealed by a mid yellow brown sandy silty clay drift deposit (709) up to 0.20m thick. Sealing this deposit was a less clayey layer of light yellow brown sandy silty clay (704) up to 0.39m thick. Above layer (704) at the western end of the trench was a gravel path (701) edged in (now broken) brick (703) with a sub-base of ragstone fragments (702) (Plate 10). This path ran along the terraced edge of this plot which was located above the terraced plot where the tennis courts (and Trench 3) were located. Covering the path was a topsoil layer up to 0.07m thick.

Trench 8

(25.16m x 1.8m x <0.50m)

Trench 8 was aligned southwest/northeast and sloped down towards The Ewell stream. The northeast end of the trench was 61.50m aOD and the southwest end was roughly 60.30m aOD. There were no archaeological features observed in this trench. The geology (802) of pale orange brown and mid red brown silty clay Head was reached 0.50m below the present ground surface. The geology was covered by a deposit of pale orange brown silty clay drift (801) up to 0.40m thick which was covered by topsoil (800) 0.10m deep.

FINDS

The only finds retrieved were from the fill of pit [706] in Trench 7. These pottery sherds were dated to the Early Bronze Age. The pottery report from Nigel Macpherson-Grant says:

*6 sherds (weight : 52gms) EBA grog and sparse flint-tempered ware (c.2000-1600 BC)
All body sherds, four from the same vessel, small-fairly large, fairly fresh surfaces but fabric type induced abrasion of edges. Two other sherds, smaller, from different vessels, more abraded and probably residual in-context, ie.older than fresher elements and therefore indicating domestic occupation context rather than burial. The combination of two-tone firing colours - oxidised orangey-buff externally, dark grey-black internally - together with the rather poorly prepared 'loose' fabric with visually obvious coarse-ground grog grains is typical of many regional Early Bronze Age Collared Urn fabrics.*

and :

One waste flint flake (weight : 7gms), semi-cortical grey flint, fresh and unpatinated, contemporary with the pottery.

Note:

The contents of the excavated context give the distinct impression that this material is from a domestic context. As such, regional examples of EBA Collared Urn settlement sites are relatively rare - and this find therefore of some academic importance.

The contents of the pit were retained for investigation, and although the sample is small (10Ltrs) it may be possible to obtain data once the sample has processed.

The rest of the artefacts found during the evaluation relate to the Manor House, and were in demolition layers above the archaeology and therefore of limited diagnostic merit.

DISCUSSION

The evaluation at Ewell Manor revealed a number of building phases for the Manor House in Trenches 4 and 5 including possibly the earliest phase of the house demolished pre 1840 in Trench 4 which also contained a concentration of stratigraphic sequences. Trench 3 exposed a brick culvert leading from the house to The Ewell stream or one of the many ornamental ponds constructed during the occupation of the house. Trenches 2 and 7 recorded earlier features of postholes, three in Trench 2 which contained no dating material and one in Trench 7 which contained Early Bronze Age pottery. Trench 7 also contained a gravel path lined in brick which was most like associated with the pleasure grounds. Trench 1, at the bottom of the valley near the stock sheds exposed a French type drain in the deep test trench and what appears to be a rough trackway made of brick rubble. Trenches 6 and 8 on the plot of land earmarked for the proposed new build were negative.

CONCLUSION

The archaeological evaluation has been successful in fulfilling the primary aims and objectives of the Specification. There was no common stratigraphic sequence across the site as the landscape and its usage varied, so each trench was recorded with its own unique numbering system. The geology was primarily Head deposits, but some trenches had seams of ragstone erupting through the geology. The colour of the geology varied from pale green brown to a more ferrous orange reddish brown. Drift or superficial deposits were recorded in a number of trenches, and the colour was also as varied as the lower geology. Prehistoric activity was evident to a very limited degree, and the lack of early habitation may have been the result of landscaping for over 200 years. Terracing was evident in a number of locations and continued in to the mid 20th century. Trenches 4 and 5 offered a keyhole view to the structural history of the Manor House, but such a limited area of excavation within an evaluation trench does not allow for a definitive stratigraphic sequence where only the smallest sample of each context is visible. Nevertheless, Trench 4 exposed a number of walls of varying construction and alignment which suggests at least two, if not three construction events during the occupation of the house.

Some archaeological activity was found during the evaluation relating to the Manor House

and in a more limited extent the prehistoric, which will inform the Archaeological Officer of the archaeological potential of site. The evaluation has, therefore, assessed the archaeological potential of land intended for development.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

SWAT would like to thank Mrs Meddemmen for commissioning this project. Thanks are also extended to Wendy Rogers, Heritage Officer, Kent County Council for her advice and assistance.

James Madden and Julie Martin supervised the fieldwork, assisted in the field by Marcus Headifen, Jonny Madden and Dan Quintain. Illustrations were produced by Jonny Madden for *Digitise This*. The project was managed by Dr. Paul Wilkinson.

Julie Martin

November 2011

REFERENCES

Bibliography

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

Kent County Council (KCC), (2011) *Specification for a programme of archaeological evaluation at Ewell Manor, Ewell Lane in West Farleigh near Maidstone in Kent*.

Kent County Council (KCC) (2011) *Kent County Council Monument Full Report* for site centred at 571656 152400

Historic Landscape Report. EDA (Environmental Design Associates, London 2004

Maps

Ordnance Survey 1st Edition (1871-1890)

Ordnance Survey 2nd Edition (1897-1900)

Ordnance Survey 3rd Edition (1907-1923)

Ordnance Survey 4th Edition (1929-1952)

Websites

Exploring Kent's Past <http://www.extranet7.krnt.gov.uk/ExploringKentsPast/>

Kent Landscape Information System <http://extranet7.kent.gov.uk/klis/home.htm>

West Farleigh Parish Website <http://www.westfarleigh.org.uk/home.htm>

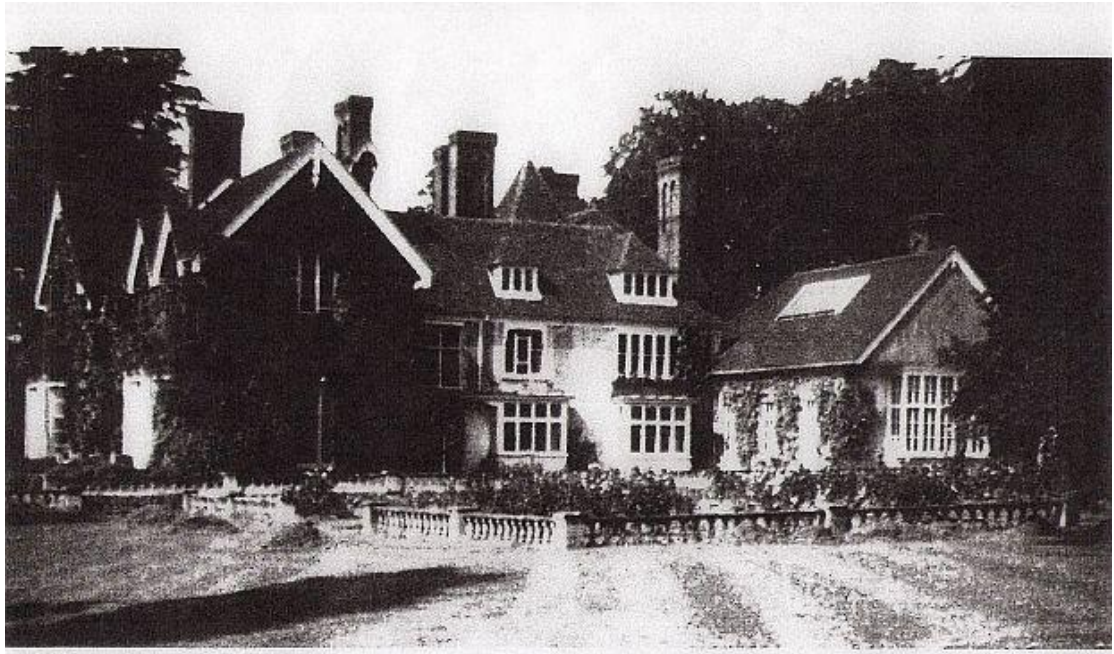


Plate 1. Undated photograph of Ewell Manor



Plate 2. Trench 4, wall (409) and ragstone rubble (408), looking northeast, 1m scale



Plate 3. Trench 4, walls (409) and (411), looking

North-northwest, 1m scale



Plate 4. Trench 4, wall (411), looking north-Northwest, 1m scale



Plate 5. Trench 4, brick structure (412) and earlier wall (411) on the left, looking west, 1m scale



Plate 6. Trench 4, surface (415) and wall (416) in foreground, looking southwest, 1m scale



Plate 7. Trench 4, wall (416) with brick face (417), looking north, 1m scale



Plate 8. Trench 5, walls (507) and (503), looking east



Plate 9. Trench 3, culvert (308), looking east-northeast, 1m scale



Plate 10. Trench 7, gravel path (701) and brick edging (703), looking northeast, 1m scale

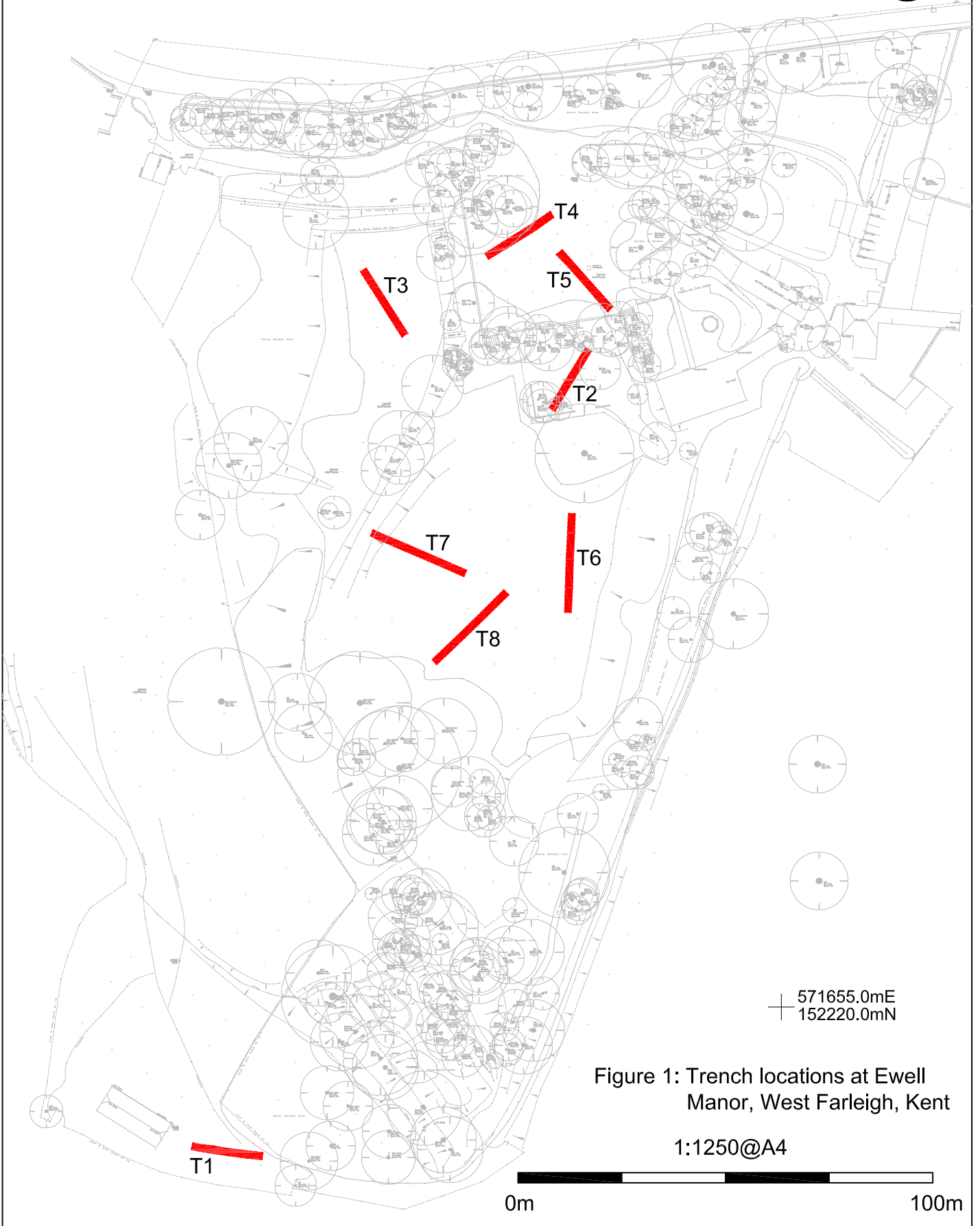
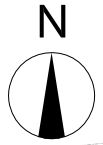


Plate 11. Trench 7, Feature [706], looking northeast, 0.5m scale

APPENDIX 1 – Kent County Council HER Summary Form

Site Name: <i>Ewell Manor, Ewell Lane, West Farleigh near Maidstone, Kent,</i>	
SWAT Site Code: <i>EMWF-EV-11</i>	
Site Address: <i>As above</i>	
Summary: <i>Swale & Thames Survey Company (SWAT) carried out an archaeological evaluation on land at the former site of Ewell Manor. A planning application for the conversion of a barn, a cart lodge and a bothy into a single dwelling and annexe, the conversion of a stock and cattle shed into two holiday lets with associated parking lodge and the reinstatement of former gardens, tennis courts and existing and former entrances and the installation of a swimming pool at the above site was submitted to Maidstone Borough Council (MBC) whereby Kent County Council Heritage and Conservation (KCCHC), on behalf of Maidstone 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 2011) and in discussion with the Archaeological Officer, Kent County Council.</i> <i>The Archaeological Evaluation consisted of eight trenches which encountered archaeological features relating the demolished 17th century Manor House (Trenches 3,4 and 5), one small pit or post hole with Early Bronze Age pottery (Trench 7) and three truncated undated postholes (Trench 2).</i>	
District/Unitary: <i>Maidstone</i>	Parish: <i>West Farleigh</i>
Period(s): Tentative: <i>Early Bronze Age, post Medieval</i>	
NGR (centre of site : 8 figures): (NB if large or linear site give multiple NGRs): <i>NGR 571656 152400</i>	
Type of archaeological work (delete) <i>Evaluation</i>	
Date of Recording: <i>November 2011</i>	
Unit undertaking recording: <i>Swale & Thames Survey Company (SWAT)</i>	
Geology: <i>Hythe Beds, older Atherfield Clay at the bottom of the valley, and capping deposits of Head.</i>	
Title and author of accompanying report: <i>Martin, J. An Archaeological Evaluation at Ewell Manor, Ewell Lane, West Farleigh near Maidstone, 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>18th November 2011</i>

571500.0mE
152470.0mN



571655.0mE
152220.0mN

Figure 1: Trench locations at Ewell Manor, West Farleigh, Kent

1:1250@A4

0m

100m

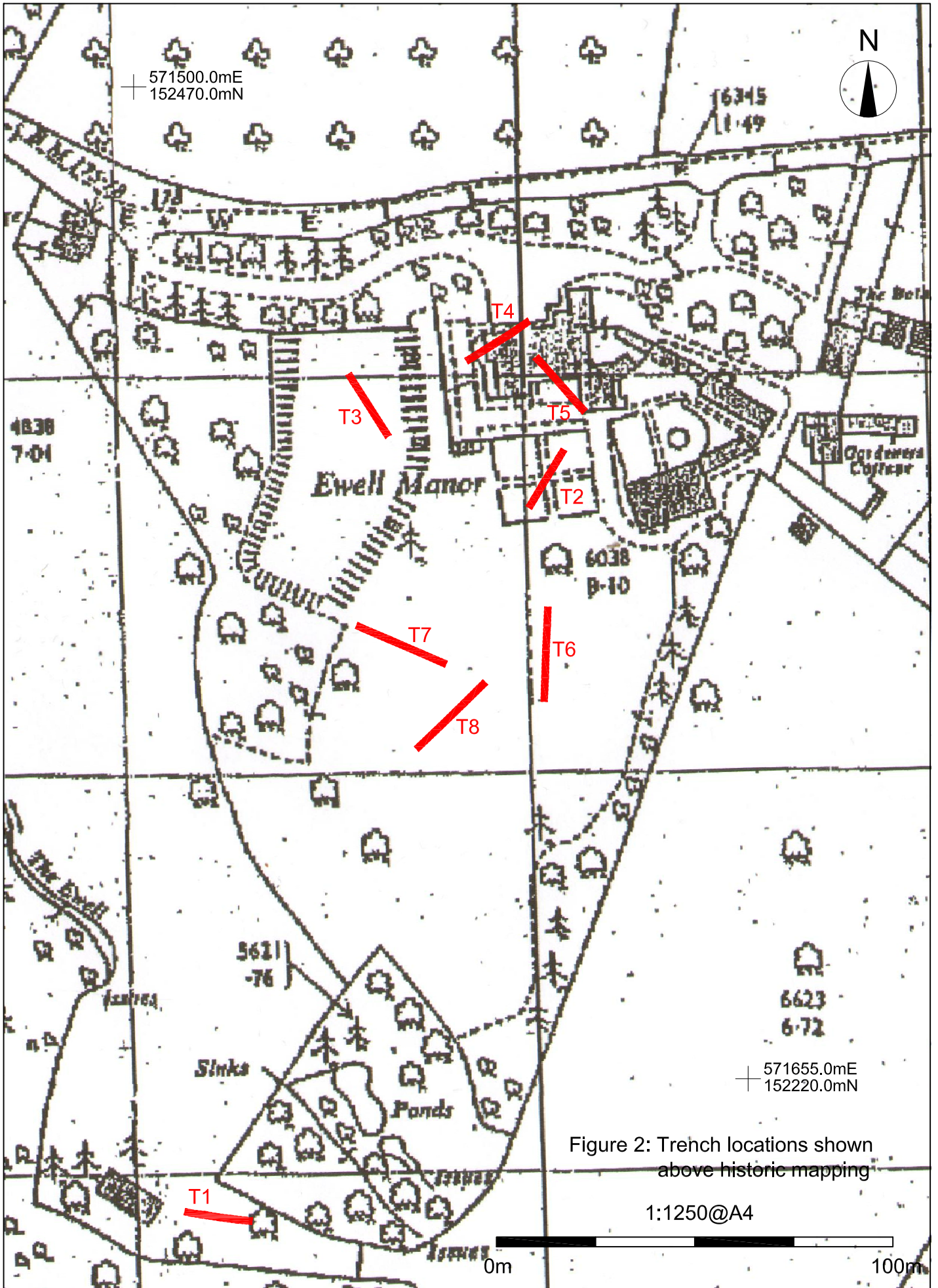


Figure 2: Trench locations shown above historic mapping

71.596
36.809
52.799

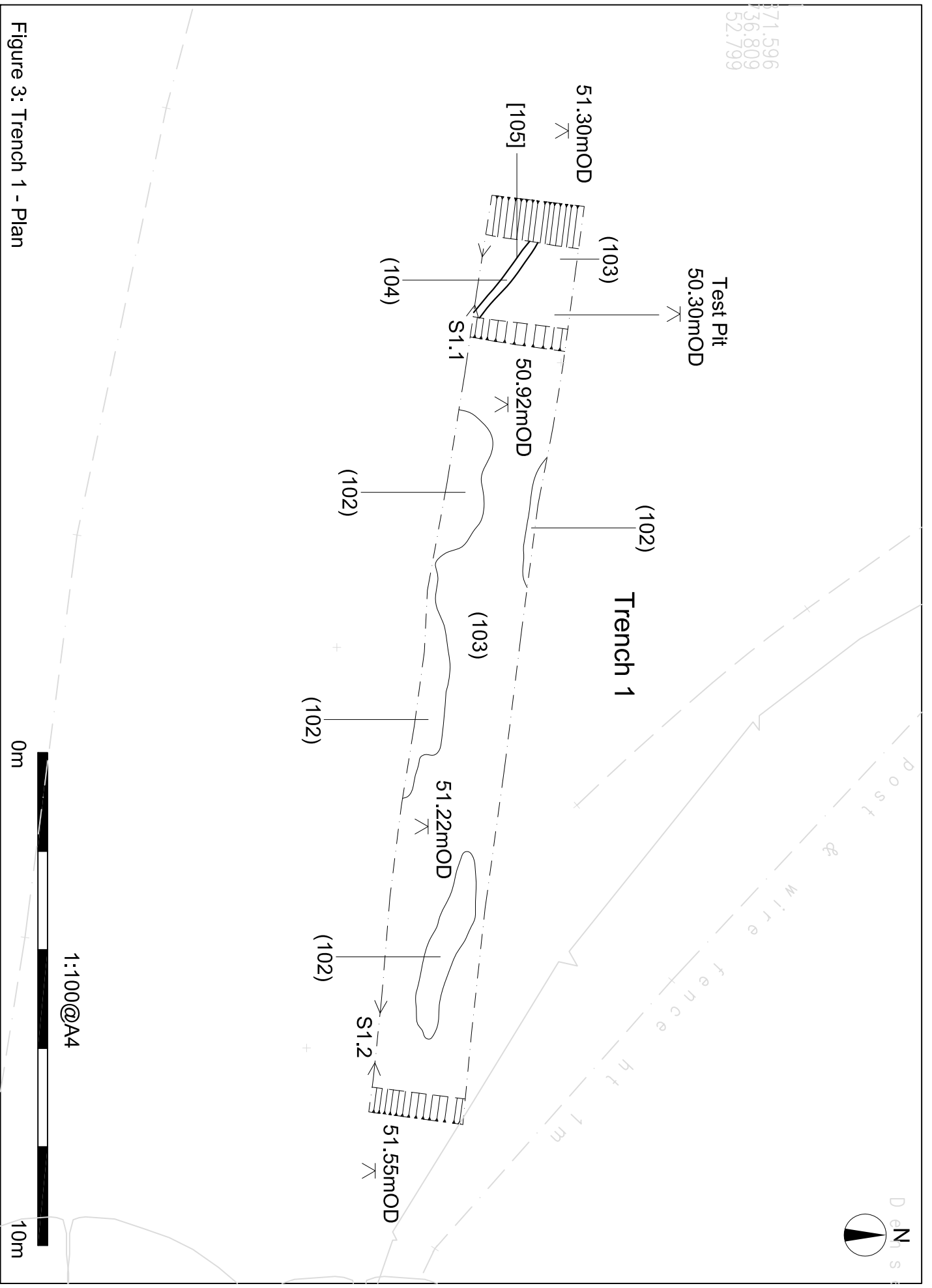


Figure 3: Trench 1 - Plan

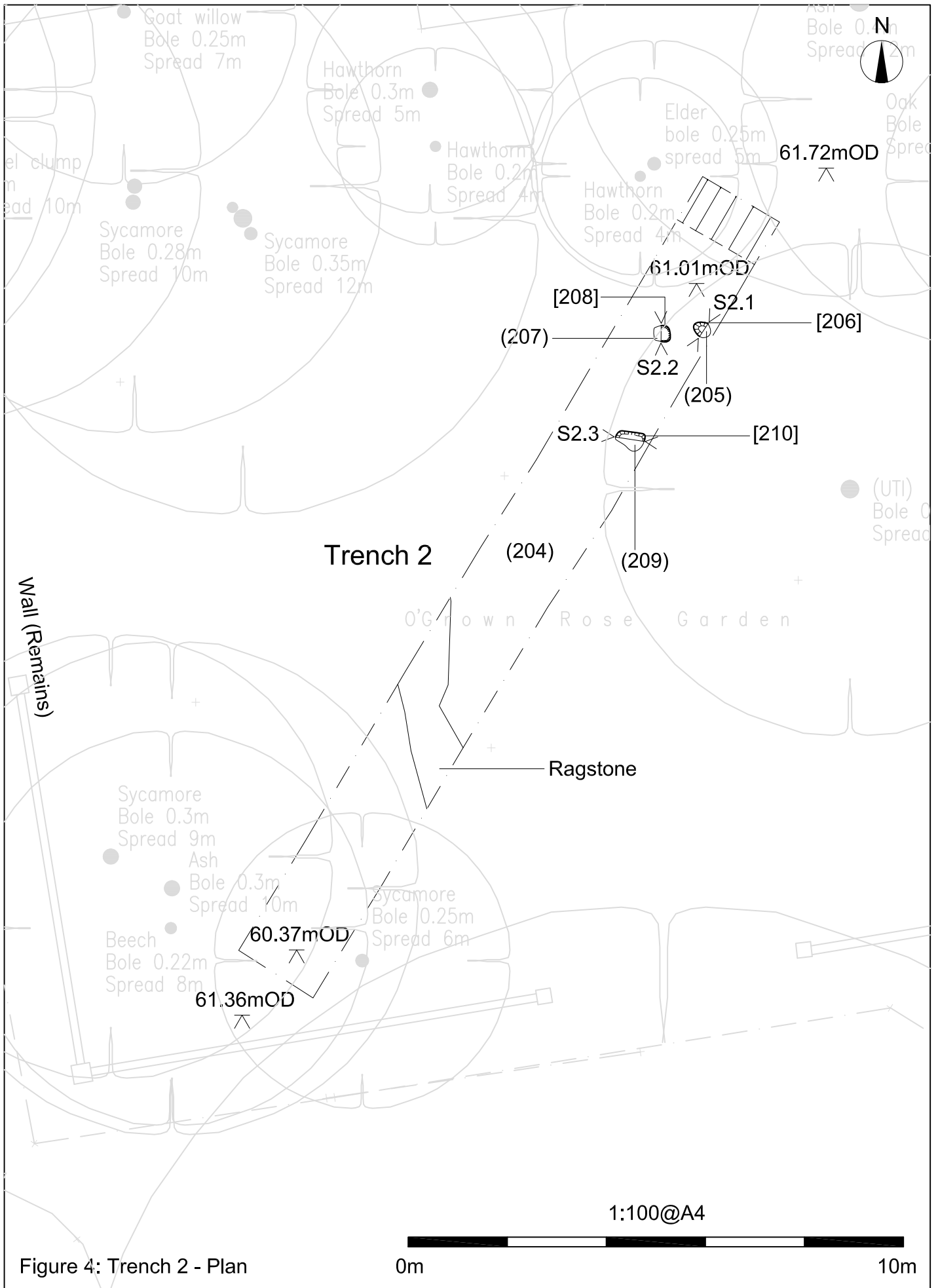


Figure 4: Trench 2 - Plan

0m

10m

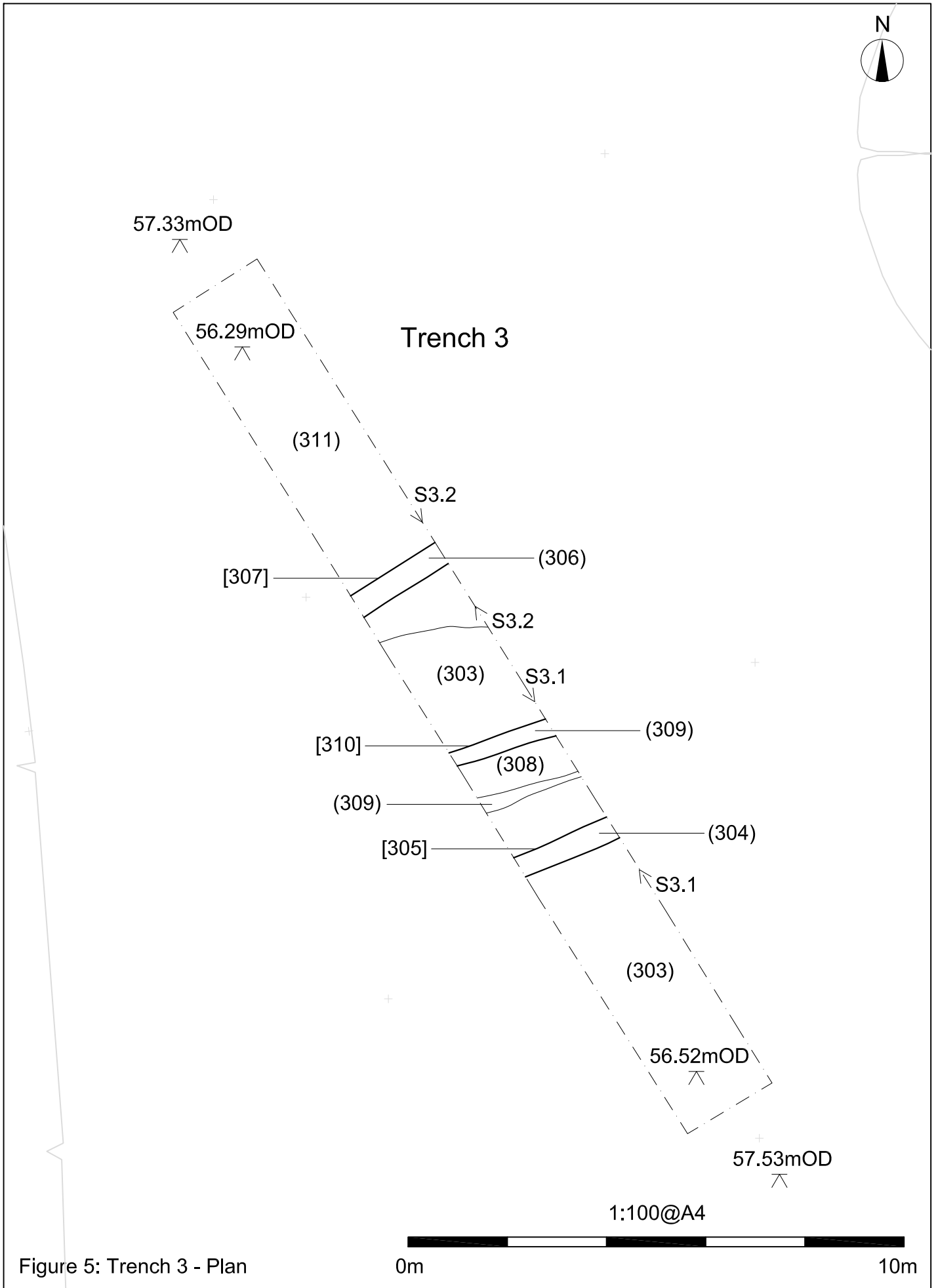


Figure 5: Trench 3 - Plan

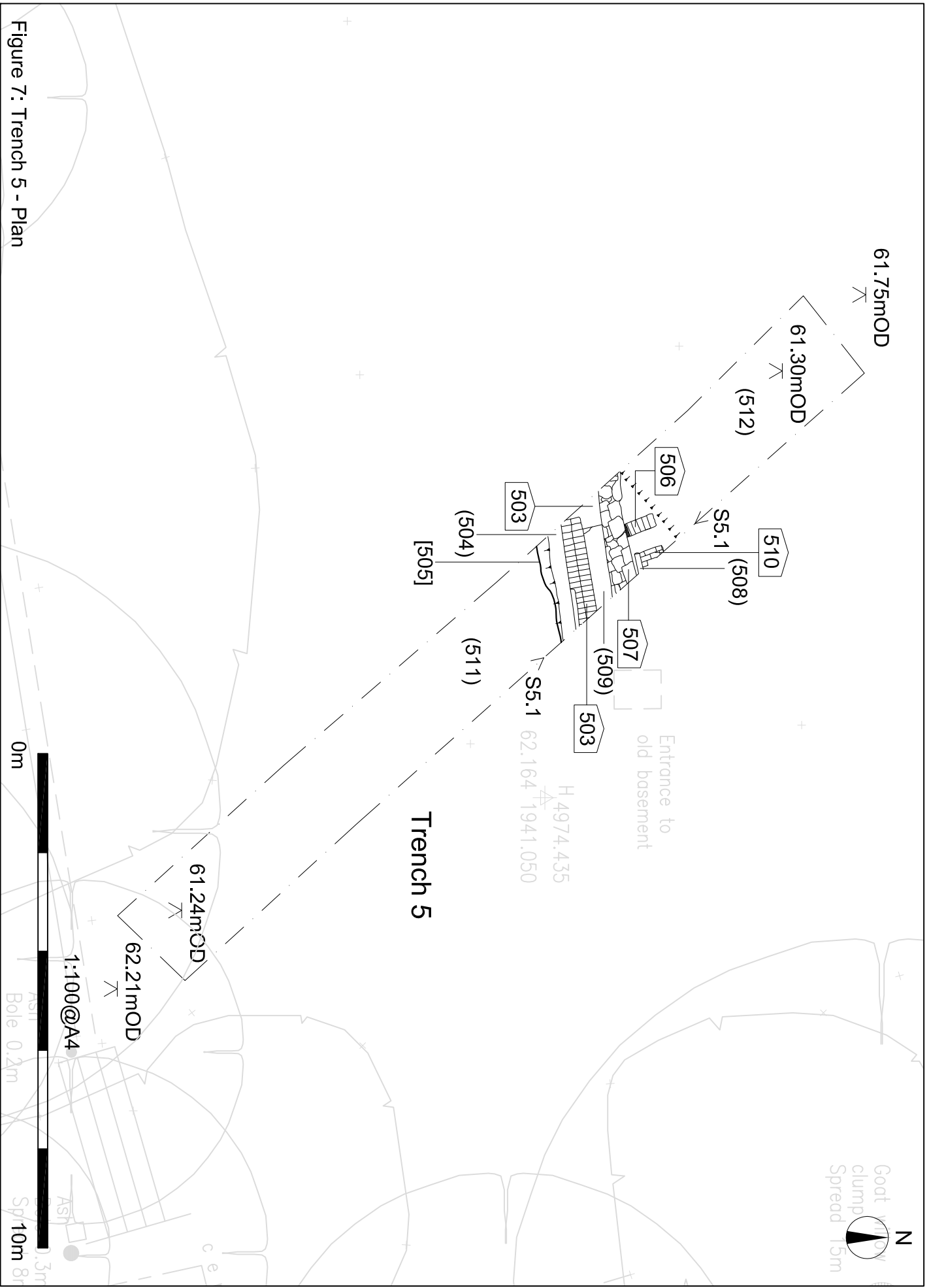


Figure 7: Trench 5 - Plan

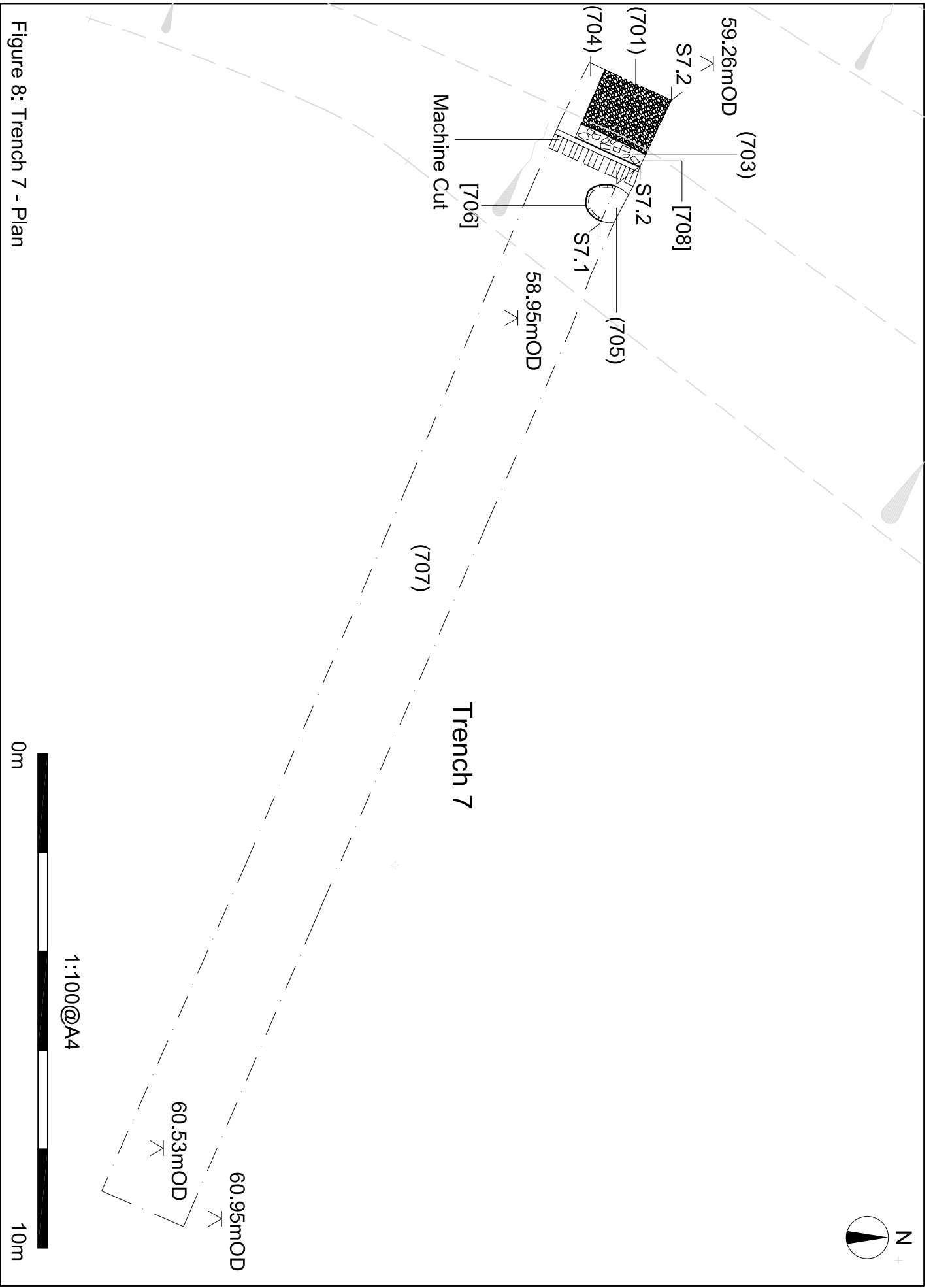
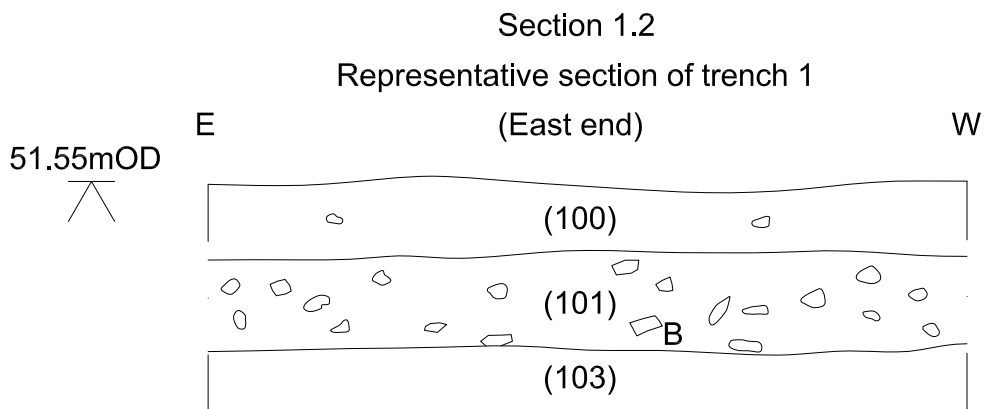
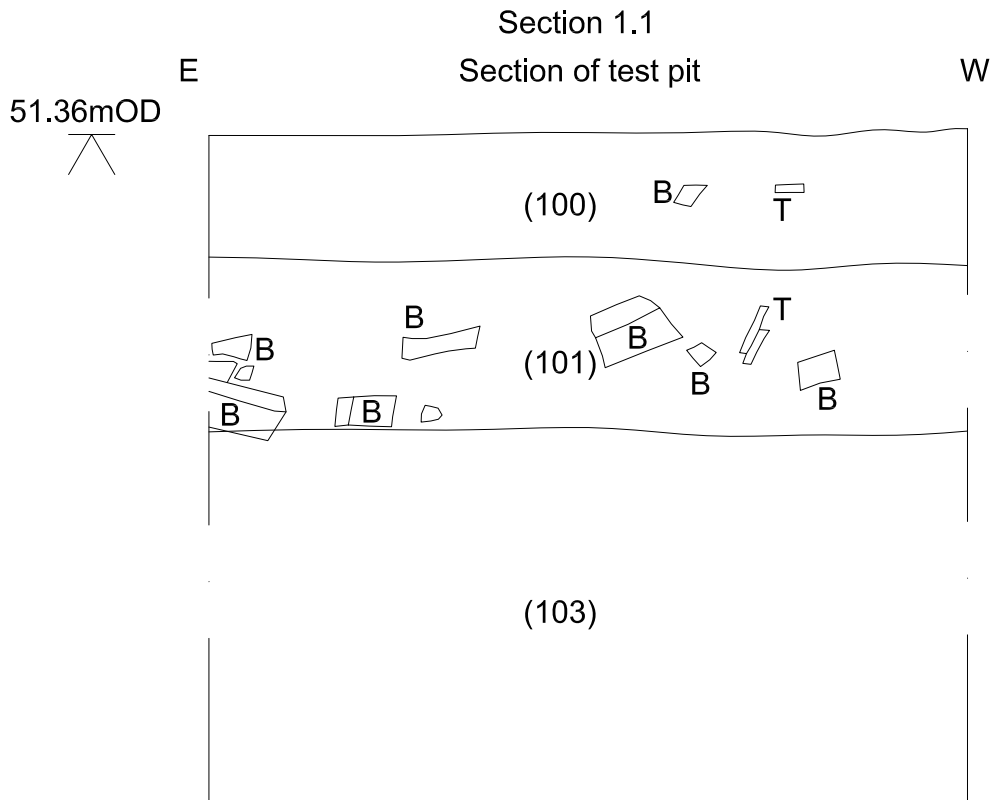


Figure 8: Trench 7 - Plan

Key:
B = Brick
T = Tile



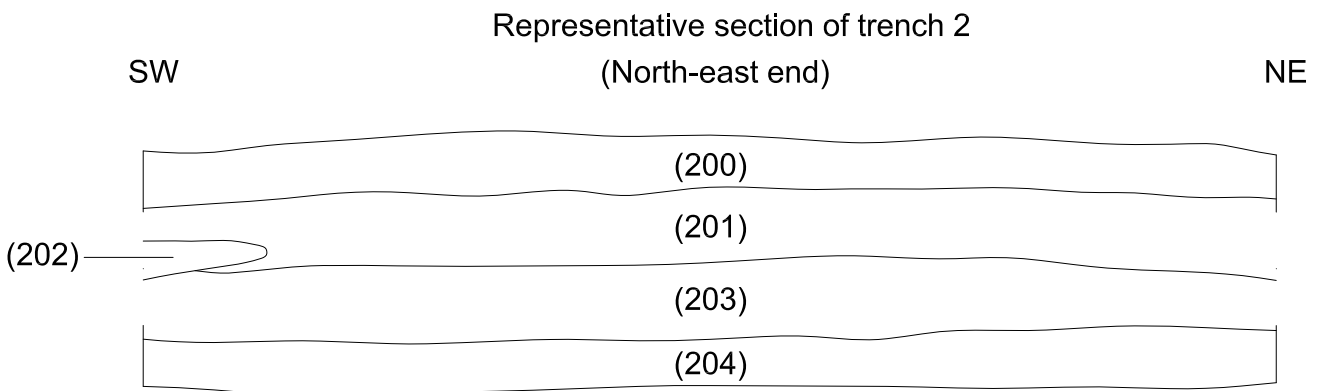
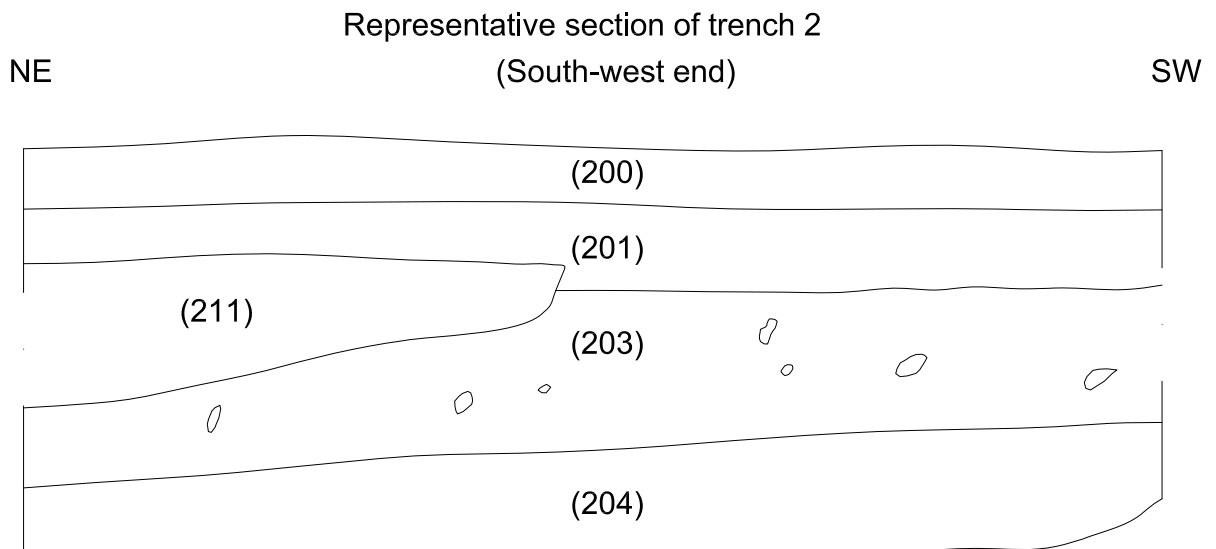
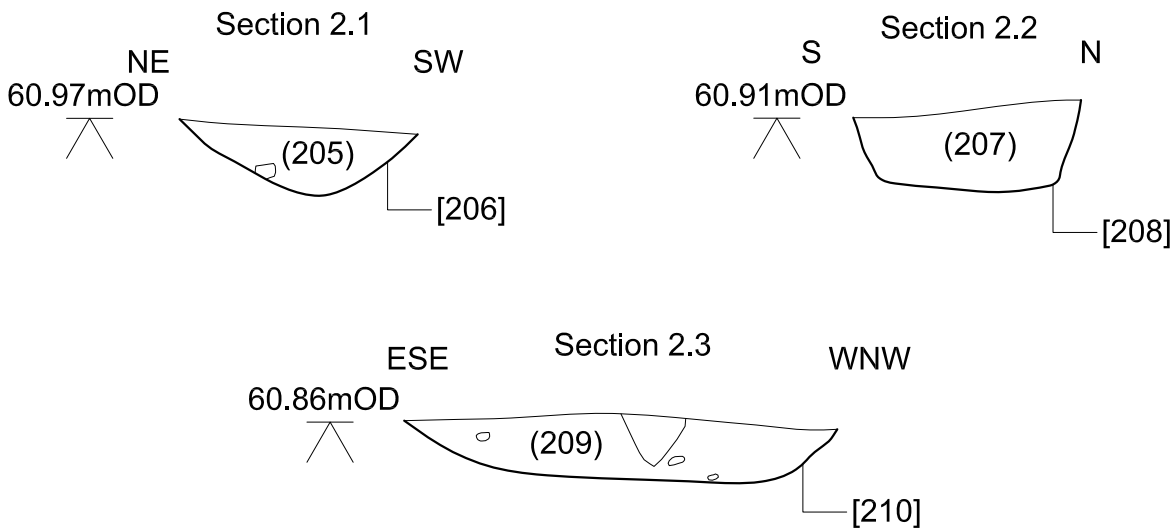
1:10@A4



Figure 9: Sections

0m

1m



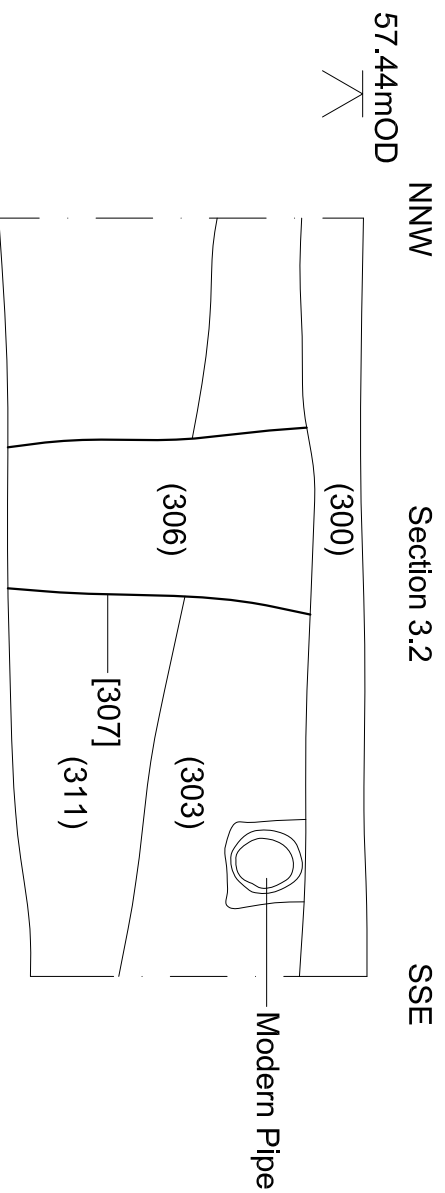
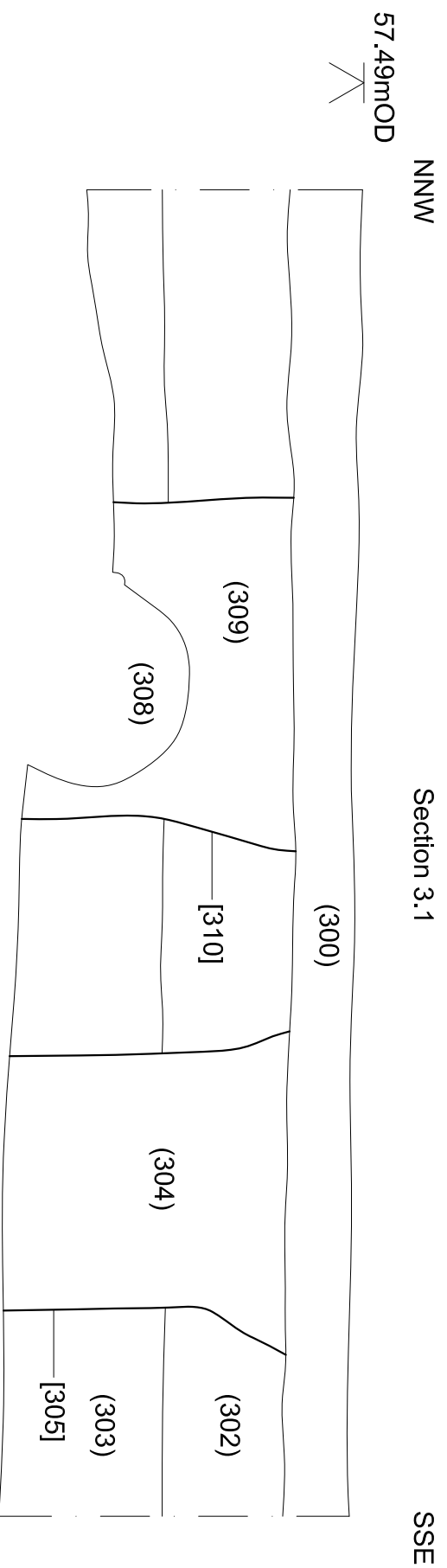
1:10@A4



Figure 10: Sections

0m

1m



1:20@A4

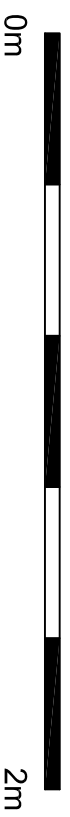
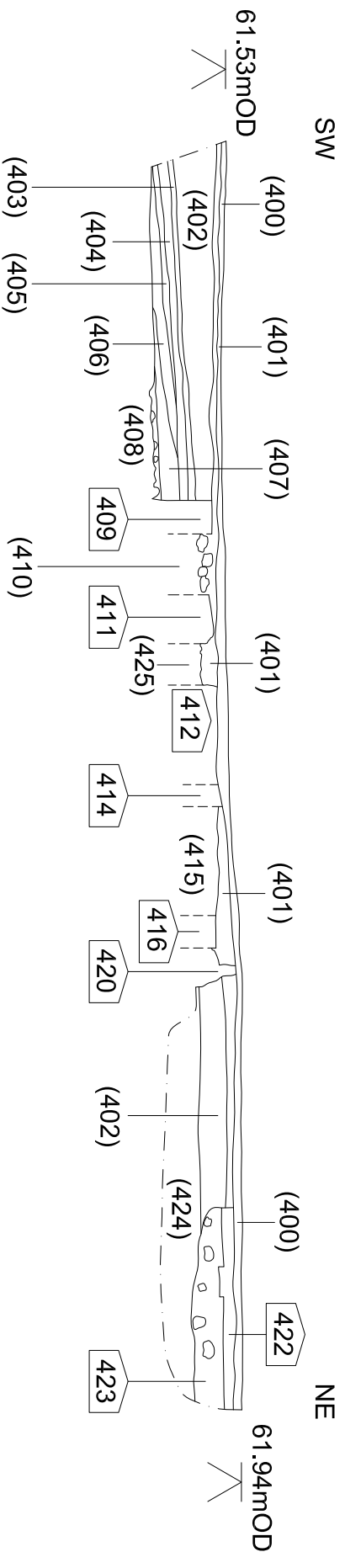


Figure 11: Sections



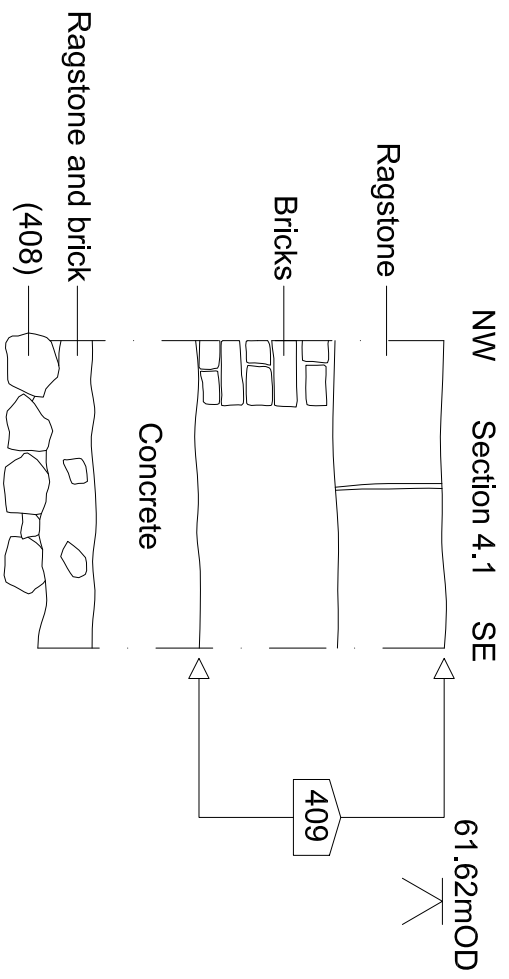
Section - Trench 4



1:100@A4



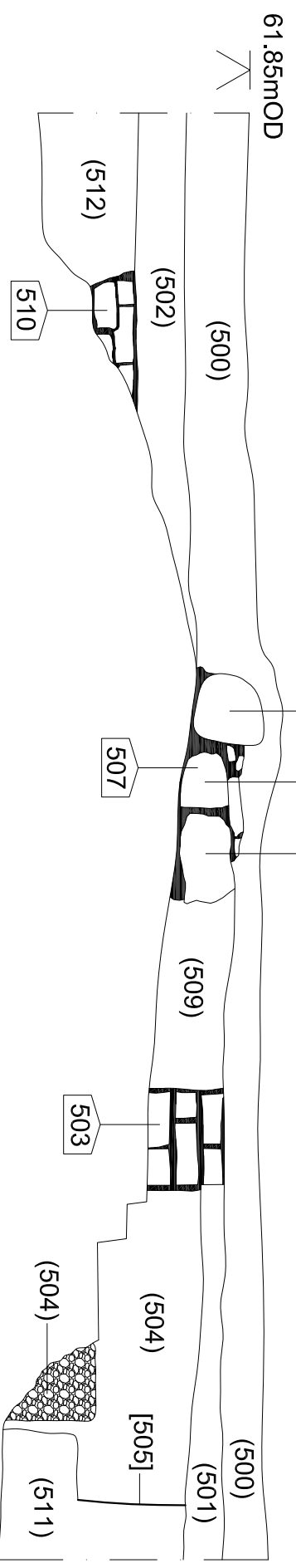
Figure 12: Section - Trench 4



NW

Section 4.1

SE



Kentish Ragstone

Section 5.1

1:20@A4

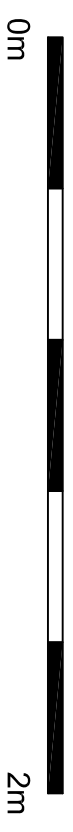
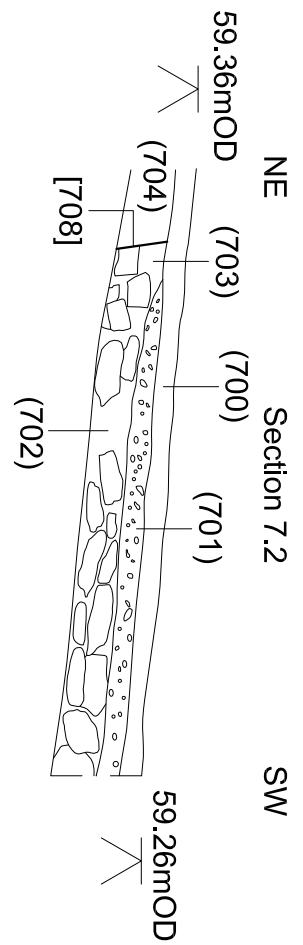
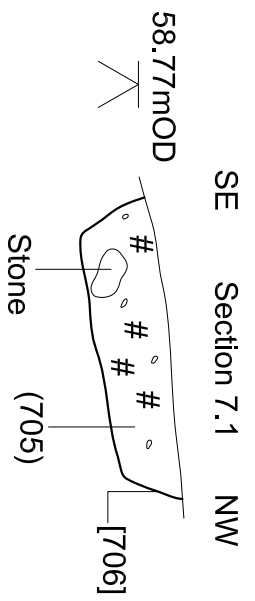
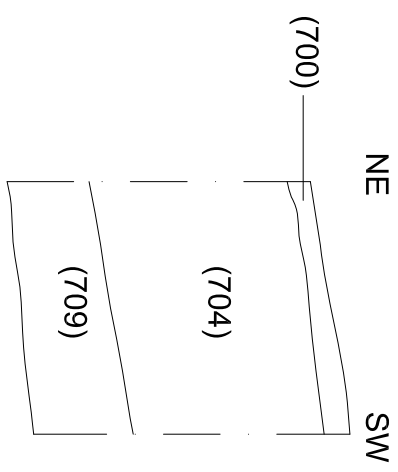


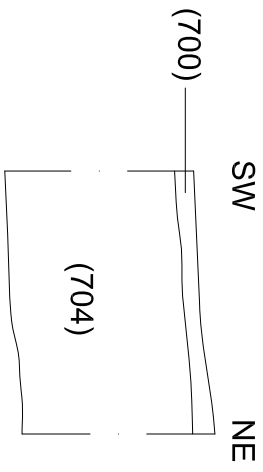
Figure 13: Sections



Representative section trench 7
(West end)



Representative section trench 7
(East end)



1:20@A4



Figure 14: Sections