



**Archaeological Evaluation and
Assessment of Land between 274 & 288
Wincheap, Canterbury, Kent
*November 2011***

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Archaeological Evaluation and Assessment of Land between 274 & 288 Wincheap, Canterbury, Kent



Site Code: WINC-EV-11
(Planning Application CA/09/00172)

Report for
The Chartway Group

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Post Code: CT1 3TY
Site Code: WINC-EV-11

SUMMARY

Swale & Thames Survey Company (SWAT) carried out an archaeological evaluation and assessment of land formally part of G. F. Finn's Thanington Engineering Works in Wincheap, Canterbury in Kent. A planning application (CA/09/00172) for the construction of a terrace of six houses with associated gardens and parking was submitted to Canterbury City Council whereby the Planning Condition requested that an Archaeological Evaluation and Assessment 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 2011) and in discussion with the Archaeological Heritage Officer, Canterbury City Council. The Archaeological Evaluation consisted of three trenches which encountered no archaeological features of any significance. A photographic survey of the standing buildings was undertaken prior to demolition and the photographic archive generated will form part of the Site Archive. 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 Chartway Group Ltd of Daisycroft, Chartway Street, Sutton Valence, Maidstone, Kent to carry out an archaeological evaluation and assessment at the above site. The work was carried out in accordance with the requirements set out within an Archaeological Specification (SWAT 2011) and in discussion with the Archaeological Heritage Officer, Canterbury City Council. The evaluation was carried out from the 17th to 21st October 2011.

SITE DESCRIPTION AND TOPOGRAPHY

The proposed development is adjacent to one of the main Roman roads leaving the city on the south western side and is situated on the site of an locally important engineering company dating back to 1888 when the land and buildings were leased by J. E. Wiltshire to G. F. Finn and Robert Brett, originally an employee of G. F. Finn became the occupier of the site for the repair and maintenance of steam engines in April 1910. Robert Brett's endeavour enabled the company to grow over the next hundred years to where now Brett's is one of the largest independent construction and building companies in the UK.

A rapid map regressive exercise from maps provided by CCC indicate that in the c.1875 1:2500 First Edition OS map there were four structures ranged across the complete frontage

of the site (Fig. 7) whereas the Second Edition c.1895 1:2500 OS map show a frontage layout similar to what is on site today (2011).

According to the British Geological Survey the site lies on River Gravels, The site averages 15.90 to 16.50aOD.

PLANNING BACKGROUND

Planning consent (CA/09/00172) for the erection of a terrace of six houses with associated gardens and parking was approved by Canterbury City Council (CCC). The planning consent required as a condition that an archaeological evaluation and assessment be undertaken in order to determine the possible impact of the development on any archaeological remains. The Local Planning Authority (CCC) placed the following condition on the planning consent:

'No development shall take place until the applicant or the developer or their successors in title has secured firstly, the implementation of an archaeological evaluation of the site, to be undertaken for the purpose of determining the presence or absence of any buried archaeological features and deposits, and to assess the importance of the same; and secondly, any mitigation measures including further archaeological work that may be required as a result of the evaluation to safeguard the preservation of archaeological remains. The archaeological works to be carried out in accordance with written programmes and schemes of work that have been submitted to and approved by the local planning authority'.

The principle objective of the archaeological evaluation is to establish the presence or absence of any elements of the archaeological resource across the area of the proposed development site, in particular the evaluation trench within the surviving buildings needs to identify the survival of any earlier floor levels and determine the sequence of structures and deposits to chart the date and character of the development of the street frontage, especially in view of the evidence from historic OS maps. The trench across the entrance is for the same purpose but to show the development of the plot from the street frontage to the rear yard and the later (Brett's) workshop. The trench across the rear open/yard area is to establish the character of the deposit/soil sequence – the anticipated ground remediation here is 600mm.

Other objectives are to ascertain the extent, depth below ground surface, depth of deposit if possible, character, date and quality of any such archaeological remains by limited sample excavation.

The opportunity will also be taken during the course of the evaluation to place and assess any archaeology revealed within the context of other recent archaeological investigations in the immediate area and within the setting of the local landscape and topography.

Should archaeological remains be found, further archaeological excavation may be required. This work will be covered by a separate specification and not form part of the present evaluation.

Requirements for the archaeological evaluation comprised trial trenching targeting a representative 4% sample of the impact area with three 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 CCC of any further archaeological mitigation measures that may be necessary in connection with the development proposals.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL and HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The development site lies within an area of archaeological potential. The site lies within the vicinity of the Roman road to the south of site whilst to the north-east Roman remains of a building were revealed during archaeological investigation prior to the development of the retail park. Remains of medieval dwellings were investigated prior to development at Cow Lane. The site has the potential to contain Roman and medieval remains and may also have evidence of the early history of Brett, including the buildings and offices of a company founded over a hundred years ago and now one of the largest independent construction and building materials companies in the UK.

Further details of previous discoveries and investigations within the immediate and wider area may be found in the Canterbury & District Historic Environment Record. These records should be consulted.

The HER Register at KCC lists the following sites in proximity to the development site.

HER Number TR 15 NW 515

Wincheap Car Park

Romano-British field ditches, Wincheap Car park

Monument Types and Dates

DITCH (DITCH, Roman - 43 AD to 409 AD)

Description

A watching brief undertaken during construction of park and ride car park revealed traces of RB field ditches. The majority of the pottery dating to the C2 and 3. An isolated horse burial could also be of RB date.

HER Number TR 14 NW 53

Record Type Monument

Site Name Stone Street (Roman Road)

Line of Roman road called Stone Street to Canterbury

Monument Types and Dates
ROAD (Roman - 43 AD to 409 AD)

Description

Roman road running from Canterbury to Lympne

STONE STREET, Roman road RR 12 (Margary), Canterbury-Lympne, - For full details, including bibliography and OS field investigator comments, see Ordnance Survey Linear Archive file (RR 12), held at NMRC.

HER Number TR 15 NW 9

Site Name Romano-British burial

Romano-British burial

Monument Types and Dates

BURIAL (BURIAL, Roman - 43 AD to 409 AD)

Description

A Roman tile cist was found during road-widening in Sept, 1964, outside the gate of No 3 Thanington Road, at TR 13705673. It contained an urn, two Samian dishes (forms 18/31 and 33) a Ludorica dish, a ring-necked flagon and a bag-shaped beaker (all 2ndc). The finds are in the Royal Museum, Canterbury, Acc Nos RM 8500-

METHODOLOGY

Trial trenching was carried out on 17th October 2011 with the excavation of three trenches. Trench location was agreed prior to the excavation between CCC and SWAT. 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. Particular care was taken to place trenches within the footprint of the surviving building, the entrance, and garden area of the proposed housing (Fig. 1). The trenches were subsequently hand-cleaned, and a number of linear features were exposed which on investigation proved to be late 18th century/early 19th century or modern. All archaeological work was carried out in accordance with the specification. A single context recording system was used to record the deposits, 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 CCC and IFA standards and guidance. A full photographic survey was undertaken on the site and surviving structures before and during demolition. These will form part of the site archive.

MONITORING

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

RESULTS

Trench 1:

(6.5m x 0.75m x 0.75m)

Trench 1 was placed on a roughly North East – South West alignment, at a point determined to be where the development plans indicate the back of the terraced houses would be

constructed. Initial machining was to the natural gravels, at a depth of 0.75m, and then excavation was lifted up to the base of the Victorian overburden, at a depth of 0.50m. At the base of this trench are natural alluvial gravels **(119)**, overlain by a natural mid orange brown brickearth head deposit **(118)**. A shallow pit **[117]**, of unknown shape or function, was been cut through the brickearth to a depth of 0.26m, extending 1.0m into the trench, and 4.0m along length of it. This pit, which was hand excavated, is filled by a light grey brown silty clay fill **(116)**, and had been dug into the alluvial gravels, thus demarcating the earliest occupation within the trench.

Overlying **(116)** and **(118)** is a mid grey brown silty clay layer **(115)** that ran the length and width of Trench 1 to a maximum thickness of 0.12m, and is a mixture of Victorian make-up and a buried soil horizon, from which several more fragments of willow pattern ceramic were recovered. Overlying **(115)** in turn is a chalk dumping layer **(106)** 0.23m in depth; a re-cut pit **[108]** 1.0m x 1.5m x 0.36m, backfilled with degraded chalk and rubble **(107)**; and a rubble and household waste layer **(114)**.

Layer **(114)**, 0.06m in maximum thickness, mostly contained machine manufactured broken glass bottles and occasional brick fragments, and was overlain by layers **(111)** and **(113)**, both of which were dumps of tarmac and rubble, and had been truncated by **[120]**, filled by **(109)**, a mixed deposit of flint pebble and rubble, and **(110)** a mixed deposit of contaminated soils and building rubble; and **[105]** filled by **(104)** which was constituted of poorly sorted brick fragments and large sub-rounded flint cobbles. Both of these features appear to have been pits dug for the purpose of disposing of Victorian make-up and/or building waste.

Overlying these cumulative layers at the South West end of the trench was a layer of crushed brick **(103)** 0.04m thick, which in turn was overlain by a layer of tarmac **(102)** 0.04m thick covering the full extent of Trench 1, and finally by a layer of turf **(101)**, 0.05 in maximum thickness which was the result of site abandonment, and thus naturally formed.

With the exception of pit **[117]**, and to a lesser degree layer **(115)**, all the other contexts recorded in Trench 1 are probably the result of quickly building up the site to provide a level working area as a yard, as it was originally probably much more sloped, and led to river terraces from the River Stour. The variety of material used, including chalk, flint gravel, flint pebbles, flint cobbles, building rubble and crushed brick in this process indicates that the original occupiers of this site had access to a wider range of landscapes.

Trench 2:

(5m x 0.75m x 0.5m)

Trench 2 was located under the brick lean-to on a roughly North West – South East alignment, from the roadside frontage of where construction of the terraced houses would begin to where the centre of these buildings would lie. As Trench 1, the trench was machined down to the natural gravels **(202)**, which formed the base of Trench 2, however, the gravel was not covered by any brickearth. **(202)** was cut by a linear feature **[208]** at the South Eastern limit of Trench 2, extending the width of the trench, 0.5m into it, and to a depth of 0.5m. **[208]** was backfilled by a mid orange brown silt clay fill **(207)**, which was interpreted as

being possibly re-deposited natural, with 90% of the gravel removed, indicating it to be water lain, however no finds were recovered from this feature. This feature is parallel to Wincheap Road, and may be the remains of a road side ditch, though without a full profile, or indeed finds, it would be impossible to determine the exact nature of this feature.

Overlying (207) was a mid grey brown mixed silty clay and rubble layer (206) (similar in many respects to (115) and (307)), which was 0.2 in depth, through which a post hole [211] had been cut to a depth of 0.66m, with the original post (209) still in-situ. A shallow pit [205], 0.95m width x 0.26 deep was recorded in the section of Trench 2, filled by a mid grey brown silty clay fill (204), again cutting through (206). Overlying this was (203), a 0.05 layer of orange type 1 gravel, and overlying this is a 0.2m thick concrete pad (201).

Trench 3:

(6m x 0.75m x 0.4m)

Trench 3 was located in the South West corner of the site, on a roughly North West – South East alignment. It was machined to a depth of 0.4m, onto natural alluvial gravels (306). This was overlaid by a mid grey brown mixed silty clay and rubble layer (307) which was 0.4m in maximum thickness, which in turn had been cut by several service pits and trenches, Pottery recovered from context 307 has been dated to the late 18th/early 19th century with some very diagnostic sherds such as Post-Medieval Creamware dated to c.1740-1780. This deposit pre-dates any known cartographic and documentary history of the site. (305) still had the pipe insitu, the other service trench was not recorded as it was still a possibly live electrical line (the CAT SCAN had indeterminate results).

Overlying (307) was [303], a cut of 0.05m, for a cinder cobble and asphalt surface (302) that had been in use as the access way for the site in its original 19th century capacity. At the request of the CCC Archaeological Advisor the trench was extended further to the south-east in the expectation of revealing building foundations, none were exposed which suggests the buildings shown on the 1875 OS map were of a light timber construction. As Trench 1, a naturally deposited turf layer (301) had formed once the site was abandoned.

FINDS

The finds, all of which were pottery sherds were washed and delivered to Nigel Macpherson-Grant, the pottery specialist for SWAT Archaeology. His report is below:

THE DATING AND ASSESSMENT OF THE CERAMIC ASSEMBLAGE FROM:

WINCHEAP EVALUATION 2011 (WINC-11)

A. Primary quantification : 25 sherds (weight : 803gms)

B. Period codes employed :

M = Medieval
LM = Late Medieval
PM = Post-Medieval
LPM = Late Post-Medieval

C. Context dating :

C.1 : Unstratified contexts :

Context: UN

1 large sherd dark green glass bottle base (weight : 218gms) - thick-walled, foot-ringed around flatly concave base – date uncertain but probably between c.1775-1850 AD rather than later.

Likely date : C19 Ad material - residual

C.2 : Excavated contexts :

Context: Trench 1 (116) - 10 sherds (weight : 699gms)

1 sherd M-LM Canterbury Tyler Hill sandy ware (c.1350-1425/1450 AD emphasis probably)

1 sherd LM Canterbury Tyler Hill sandy ware (c.1375/1400-1475 AD emphasis)

8 sherds LPM Modern English stoneware (bi-toned flagon, shiny glaze, c.1850-1900 AD emphasis probably; 'LEN.....' stamped; **all same vessel**)

and : 1 base and lower-body pale green glass bottle (weight : 190gms) - remnant 'T...', 'H. &.....', 'MA....' – one above the other in a diamond-shaped frame over 'CANTERBURY' over 'SUTCLIFFE'S PATENT BARNSELY' around and just above the basal curve, varying wall thickness.

Comment : LM material consists of small bodysherds, the earliest fairly chipped and worn, the latest only slightly worn. The LPM flagon was broken in antiquity, is near-fresh and slightly chipped. The large size of the glass bottle fragment, together with the mostly large size and condition of the stoneware flagon sherds implies only a minimum of post-loss disturbance – and all should be from an undisturbed contemporary discard deposit.

Likely date : Slightly uncertain, initially between c.1850-1910 AD

Context: Trench 3 (307) - 15 sherds (weight : 104gms)

1 sherd PM probable Notts/Derby stoneware (buff with iron slip, c.1670/1725-1770 AD emphasis)

1 sherd PM London stoneware (c.1675/1750-1825 AD emphasis)

1 sherd PM Creamware (c.1740-1780 AD)

5 sherds LPM Later Creamware (3 blue, 2 green, transfer-printed, c.1775-1825 AD)

4 sherds LPM Pearl Ware (1 blue shell-edged, c.1775-1825 AD)

2 sherds LPM Staffs-type white earthenware (? 'Ironstone'-type, blue transfer-printed, c.1825-1875 AD)

1 sherd LPM hard paste English porcelain (c.1825 AD-plus probably)

and : 1 fragment very pale 'green' bottle glass (weight : 3gms) - C19 AD rather than earlier, probably

Comment : All rather fragmentary and chipped material – including the latest entry - representing a span of approximately 75-100 years for the majority. Size and condition suggests several phases of disturbance and re-deposition.

Likely date : Uncertain – possibly mid-late C19 AD, if not later

D. Assessment

The discussive entries accompanying the individual contexts are self-explanatory – and the assemblage requires no further comment.

E. Recommendations

1. If there is a need to better confirm the dating of the material from *Trench 1* documentary research into 'Sutcliffe' – the Barnsley patent holder for the bottle base from this context – and its associated stamp, should provide additional refinement.

2. No further work is recommended

Analyst : N.Macpherson-Grant 5.11.2003

DISCUSSION

The development site produced little archaeology given its potential for Roman archaeology and even industrial archaeology. Context 307 situated at the south-west area of the site may merit further attention during the development work. The remains of the building on site which seem to show at least three phases of construction should also be recorded during any further demolition phases as it forms an essential fragment of local history.

CONCLUSION

The archaeological evaluation has been successful in fulfilling the primary aims and objectives of the Specification.

Limited archaeological activity was found during the evaluation 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 the Chartway Group for commissioning this project. Thanks are also extended to Richard Cross, Senior Heritage Officer, Canterbury City Council for his advice and assistance.

Paul Wilkinson supervised the fieldwork, assisted in the field by Marcus Headferin and Richard Woolley. Illustrations were produced by James Madden. The project was managed by Paul Wilkinson.

Dr Paul Wilkinson MifA

November 2011

REFERENCES

Bibliography

SWAT Archaeology (2011) *Specification for an Archaeological Evaluation and Assessment of Land between 274 & 288 Wincheap, Canterbury, Kent.*

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

Kent County Council (KCC) (2011) *Kent County Council Monument Full Report* for site centred at CT1 3TY

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

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

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



Plate 1. View of entrance track to site showing section and (below, Plate 2) part of surviving building





Plate 3. End wall of surviving building



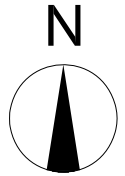
Plate 4. Remains of industrial building



Plate 5. Interior of building

APPENDIX 1 –Canterbury City Council HER Summary Form

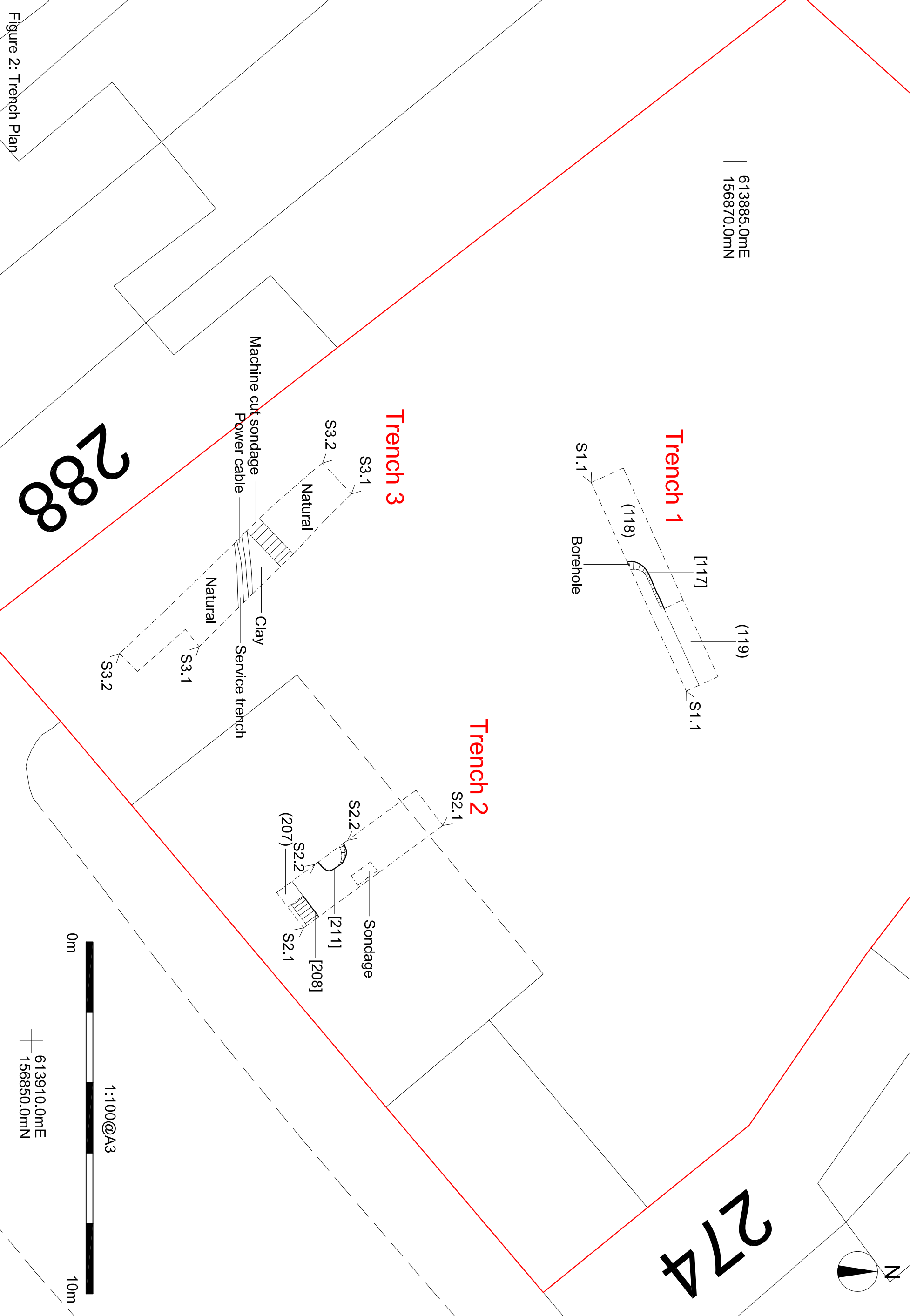
Site Name: <i>Bretts Wincheap site</i>	
SWAT Site Code: <i>WINC/EV/11</i>	
Site Address: <i>Land between 274 & 288 Wincheap, Canterbury, Kent CT1 3TY</i>	
Summary: <i>Swale & Thames Survey Company (SWAT) carried out an archaeological evaluation on land at the former Bretts site. A planning application for the construction of a new terraced housing development, along with associated car parking and services at the above site was submitted to Canterbury City Council (CCC) whereby Canterbury City 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 2011) and in discussion with the Archaeological Officer, Canterbury City Council.</i> <i>The Archaeological Evaluation consisted of three trenches which encountered no archaeological features; some sherds of medieval pottery were retrieved.</i>	
District/Unitary: <i>Canterbury</i>	Parish: <i>Wincheap</i>
Period(s): Tentative:	
NGR (centre of site : 8 figures): (NB if large or linear site give multiple NGRs): <i>Ct1 3TY</i>	
Type of archaeological work (delete) <i>Evaluation</i>	
Date of Recording: <i>October 2011</i>	
Unit undertaking recording: <i>Swale & Thames Survey Company (SWAT)</i>	
Geology: <i>River Gravels</i>	
Title and author of accompanying report: <i>Wilkinson P. An Archaeological Evaluation at 274- 288 Wincheap. Canterbury, 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>8th November 2011</i>



1:1000@A4



Figure 1: Location of site



613885.0mE
156870.0mN

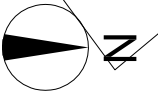
Trench 1

Trench 3

Trench 2

288

274



1:100@A3

613910.0mE
156850.0mN

Figure 2: Trench Plan

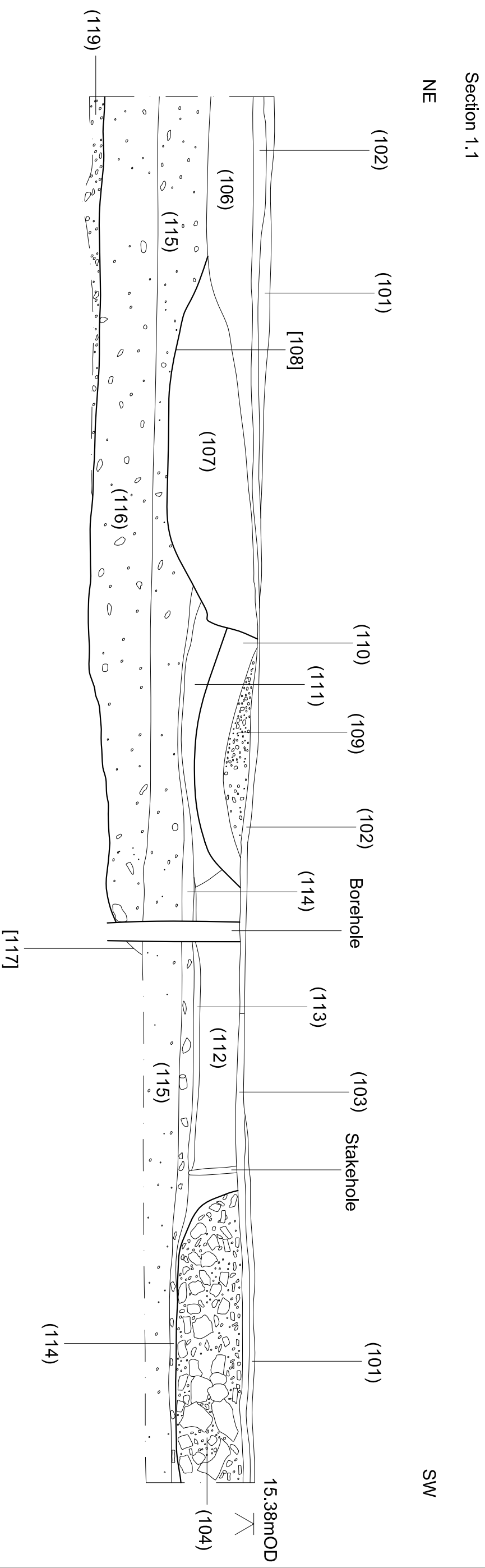
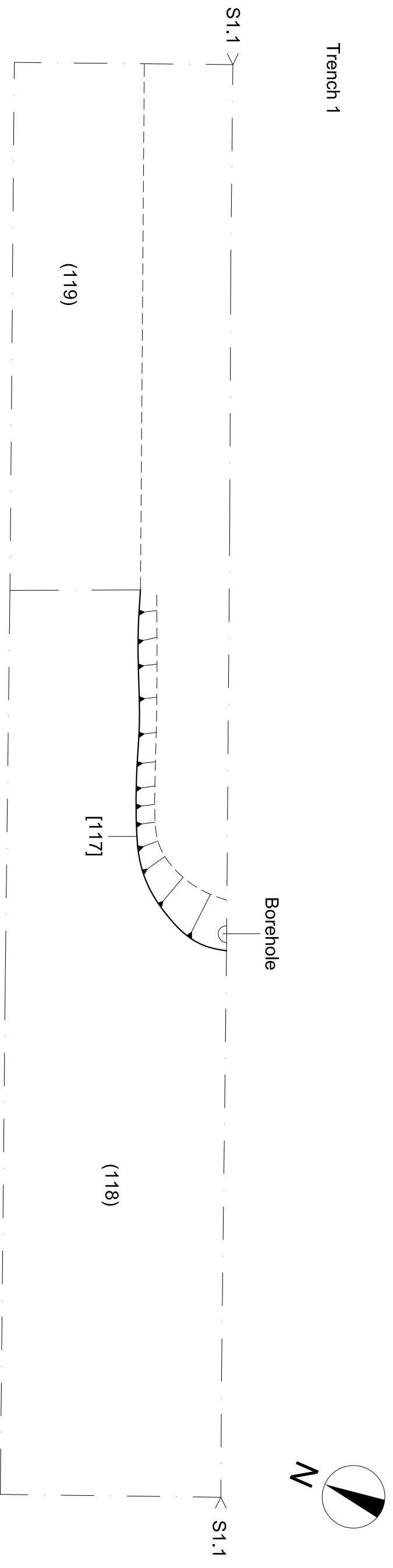
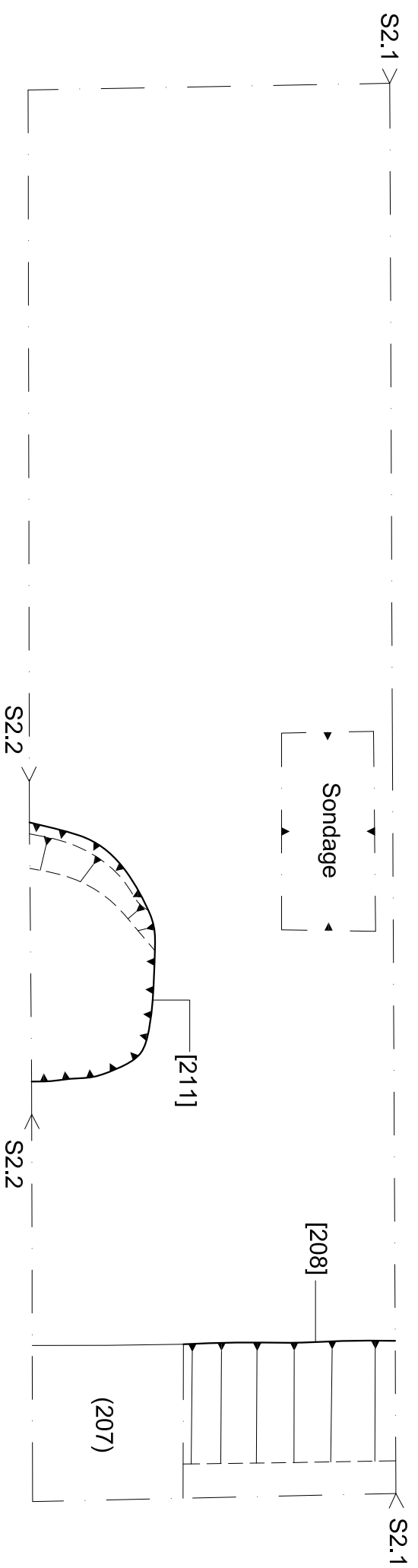


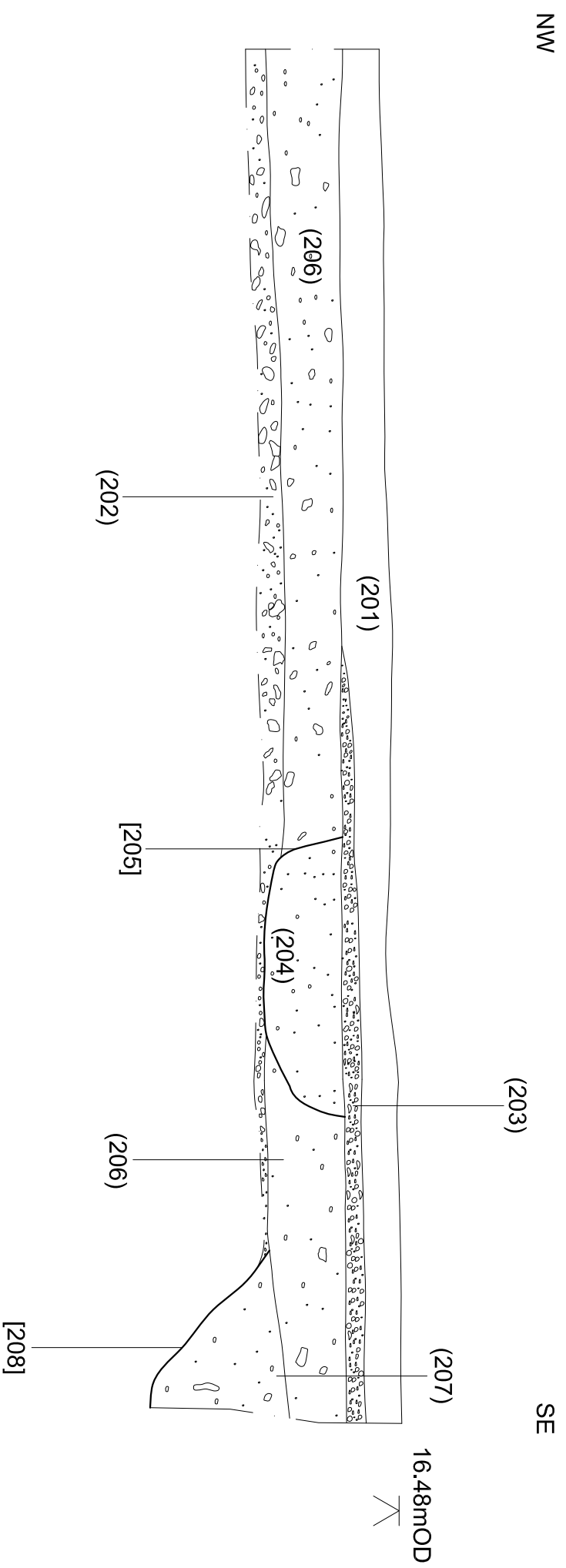
Figure 3: Trench 1 plan and section



Trench 2



Section 2.1



Section 2.2

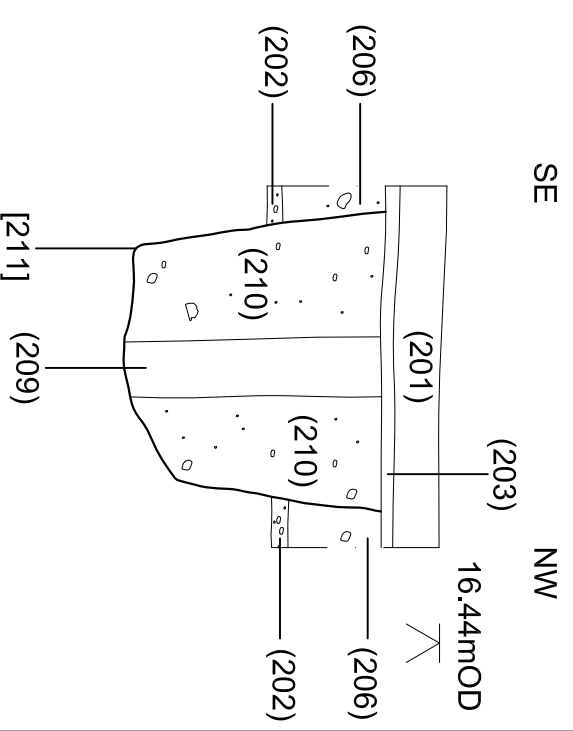
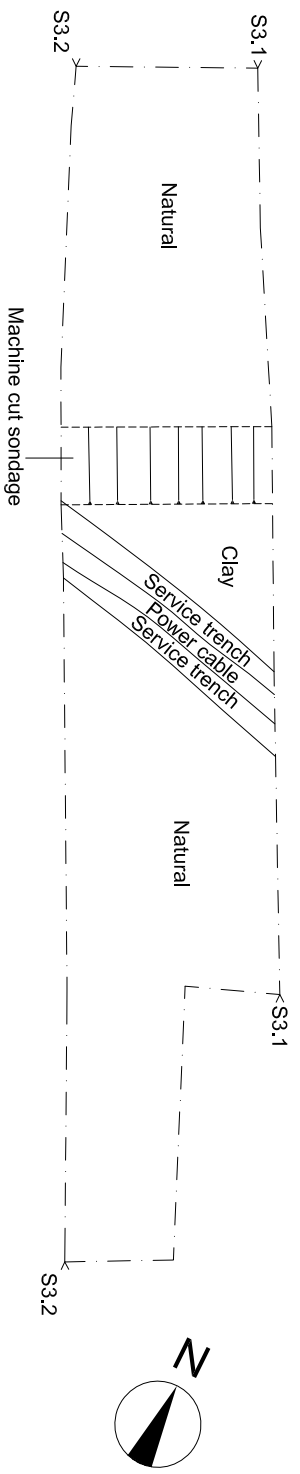


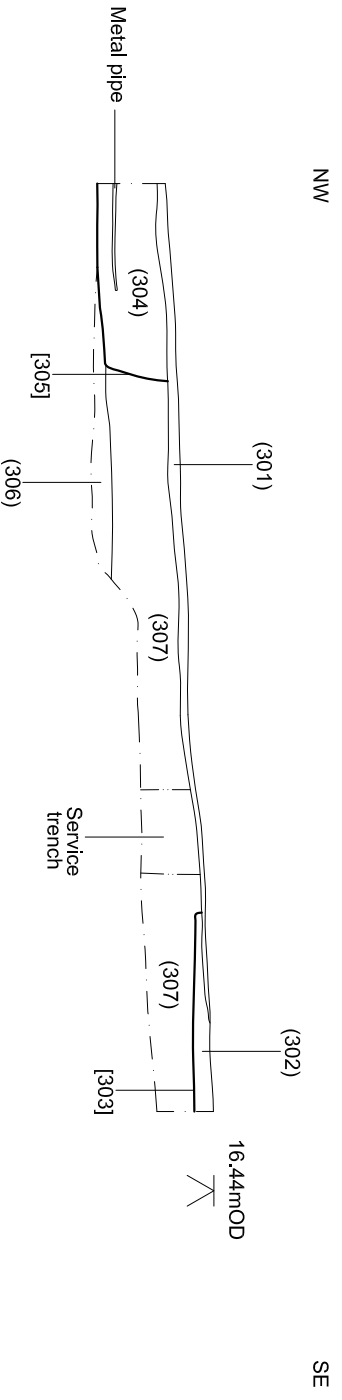
Figure 4: Trench 2 plan and section



Trench 3



Section 3.1



Section 3.2

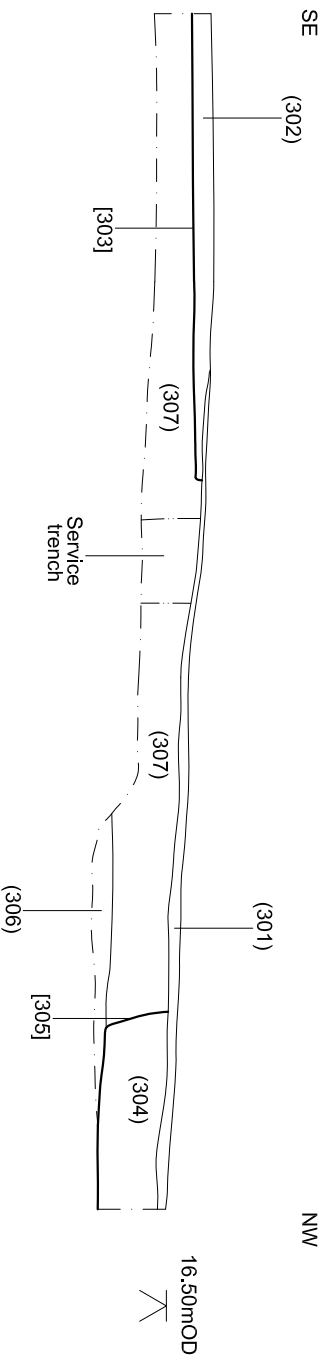
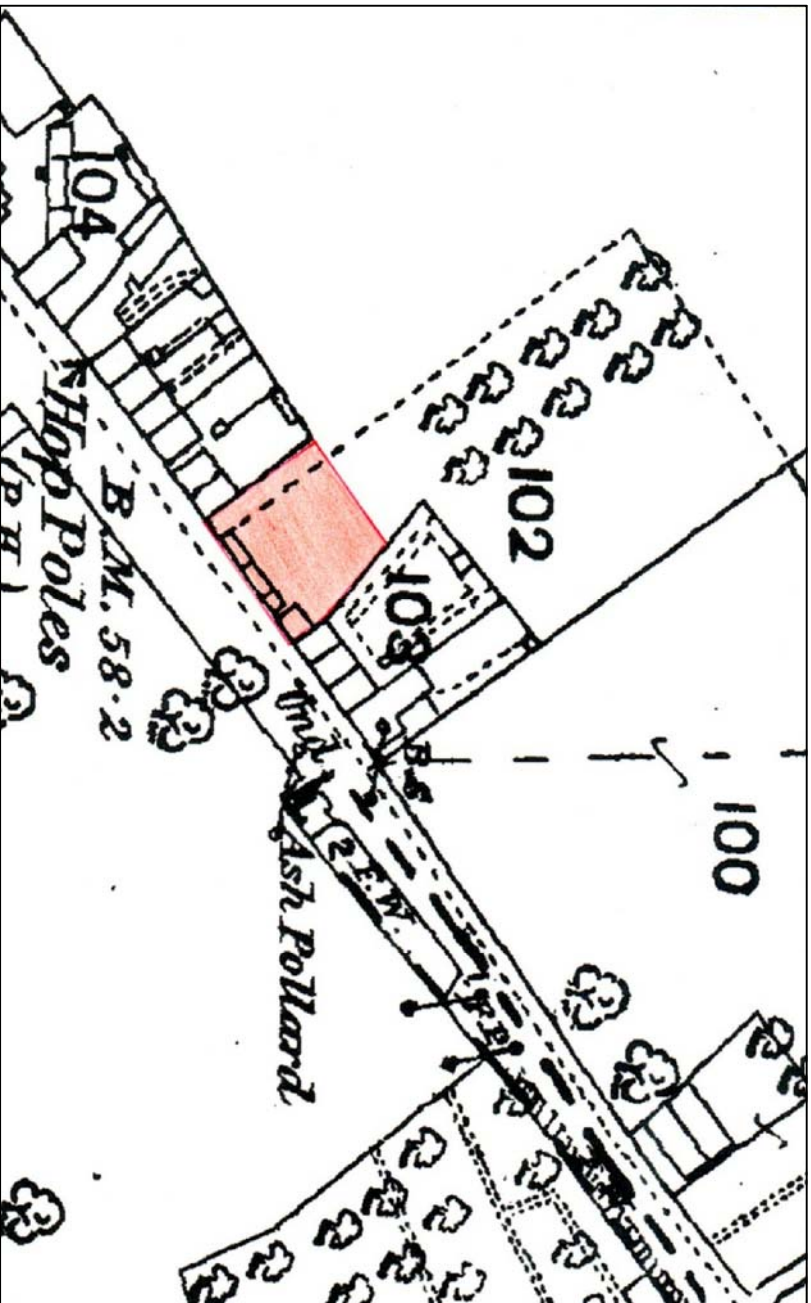


Figure 5: Trench 3 plan and section





1:12500@A4



Figure 6: 1875 1:2500 OS First Edition



1:12500@A4



Figure 7: 1895 1:2500 OS Second Edition