



**Archaeological Evaluation at the
former Caffyns Garage site, Grange
road, Ramsgate, Kent
*May 2011***

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Archaeological Evaluation at the former
Caffyns Garage site, Grange Road,
Ramsgate, Kent

NGR: 637435 164606

Site Code: RAMS/EV/11

(Planning Application Number: TH/10/0435)

Report for
Jenner (Contractors) Ltd.

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SUMMARY

Swale & Thames Survey Company (SWAT) carried out an archaeological evaluation on land at Grange Road, Ramsgate, Kent from the 9th to the 17th May 2011. A planning application (PAN:TH/10/0435) for the construction of two, three and four storey buildings to accommodate 39 flats, and three houses together with associated parking and vehicular access at the above site was submitted to Thanet District Council (TDC)) whereby Kent County Council Heritage and Conservation (KCCHC), on behalf of Thanet 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 2011) and in discussion with the Archaeological Officer, Kent County Council.

The Archaeological Evaluation consisted of five trenches which encountered no archaeological features of any significant antiquity. However, there was uncovered in the north-east area of the site a tunnel and possible bomb shelter. Deposits of demolition material up to 0.55m thick from buildings sited within the development site were found overlying the chalk subsoil in Trenches 1-5.

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 Jenner (Contractors) 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 2011) and in discussion with the Archaeological Officer, Kent County Council. The evaluation was carried out between the 9th and 17th May 2011.

SITE DESCRIPTION AND TOPOGRAPHY

The site is centred at NGR 637435 164606 (KCCHC: 2011:2.1), and the underlying geology of the site, according to the British Geological Survey consists of Upper Chalk although a dry valley filled with Head Brickearth is recorded 30m north-east (KCCHC 2011:4.3). During the evaluation, Head Brickearth was encountered in two trenches (T. 2 & 3).

The development area is approximately 40m aOD and fairly level, sited along Grange Road to the east, St Mildreds Road to the north and Christ Church C of E Junior School to the west.

A rapid map regression exercise of the site shows it as an undeveloped area up to 1890 and a garage from 1929. There was however, a substantial building from 1890 on the north-east corner of the site (Figs. 13-14) which is remembered by a local inhabitant as a hotel although verification could not be obtained from a perusal of Kelly's Street Directory of 1895, 1910 and 1932.

PLANNING BACKGROUND

A planning application (PAN: TH/10/0435) for the construction of 39 dwellings with access and car parking at the above site was submitted to Thanet District Council (TDC). Kent County Council Heritage and Conservation (KCCHC), on behalf of Thanet 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 TDC of any further archaeological mitigation measures that may be necessary in connection with the development proposals.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

The garage site lies immediately north of the former Sticky Fingers Nursery site which was redeveloped in 2007 for housing. Archaeological work in advance of this **(TR 36 SE 345)** by the Trust for Thanet Archaeology revealed a Roman cemetery with two surviving graves. The burials were well preserved despite the extent of modern development impacts and the demolition of the former buildings. The graves were found almost immediately below the contemporary ground surface, post-demolition.

Nineteenth century finds of Roman burials are also recorded 100m further south towards the roundabout (**TR 36 SE 2**) and 100m north east on Willson's Road (**TR SE 15**), whilst undated cut features have been recorded at the neighbouring school.

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

Specific aims of the evaluation, as set out within the Archaeological Specification (2011) include (not exclusively):

- Assessing the likely archaeological impact of the proposed development
- Assessing the impact of past development including terracing, demolition, grubbing out and landscaping on the site's archaeological potential
- Establishing the degree of Iron Age and Romano-British activity on the site including the potential for further burials based on the distribution of the known graves nearby.
- Establishing the degree of earlier prehistoric activity on the site
- Establishing the degree of Saxon, medieval and post-medieval activity on the site.
- Contributing to the environmental and landscape history of the area

No site specific aims were mentioned in the KCC Archaeological Specification.

METHODOLOGY

Trial trenching was carried out on 9th May 2011, with the excavation of five trenches measuring 1.5m in width and between 10m and 30m 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 an 8 ton 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 KCC Archaeological Specification (2011).

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

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

RESULTS

A common stratigraphic sequence of demolition material was recognised across the site spread over the natural Chalk and Brickearth. Trench 1-5 comprised concrete demolition overburden **(002)**, beneath which lay a strata of Upper Chalk **(004)** with lenses of Head Brickearth **(003)** where mechanical excavation ceased and examination and targeted excavation of exposed features by hand began.

Trench 1

(20.09m x 1.5m)

Trench 1 was located in the south-western end of the site adjacent to the nearby school. Aligned approximately northwest-southeast Trench 1 measured 1.5m wide and 20.09 m in length and contained a demolition zone **(002)** some 11cm covering Upper Chalk **(004)**. Cutting into the chalk was a linear feature **(100)** about 48cm wide and 20cm deep **(S11)**. The fill was a brown-grey silty sand with modern brick, slate and coal inclusions. A modern pipe was identified in the north end of the evaluation trench.

Trench 2

(25.40m x 1.5m)

Trench 2 was located in the south end of the site. Aligned approximately west-east Trench 2 measured 1.5m wide and 25.40 m in length and contained a demolition zone **(002)** some 14cm covering Upper Chalk **(004)** and lenses of Head Brickearth **(003)**. Cutting into the natural were two modern grubbed out brick foundations **(201, 202)** and a modern defunct drain **(200)**.

Trench 3

(20m x 1.5m)

Trench 3 was located on the east side of the site adjacent to Grange Road. Aligned approximately northwest-southeast Trench 3 measured 1.5m wide and 20.00 m in length and contained a demolition zone **(300-304)**. Despite deep excavation no natural was encountered.

Trench 4

(10.23m x 1.5m)

Trench 4 was located in the south-western end of the site adjacent to the nearby school. Aligned approximately northwest-southeast Trench 4 measured 1.5m wide and 10.23m in length and contained a demolition zone **(002)** some 11cm covering Upper Chalk **(004)**.

Cutting into the chalk was a deep demolition zone **(400)**. The fill was a mix of modern brick, slate and concrete inclusions.

Trench 5

(29.80m x 1.5m)

Trench 5 was located in the middle of the site. Aligned approximately northwest-southeast Trench 5 measured 1.5m wide and 29.80 m in length and contained a demolition zone **(002)** some 14cm covering Upper Chalk **(004)** and lenses of Head Brickearth **(003)**. Cutting into the natural were a number of modern grubbed out brick foundations **(500-505)** and a modern defunct drain **(501)**.

Trench 2

(25.40m x 1.5m)

Trench 2 was located in the south end of the site. Aligned approximately west-east Trench 2 measured 1.5m wide and 25.40 m in length and contained a demolition zone **(002)** some 14cm covering Upper Chalk **(004)** and lenses of Head Brickearth **(003)**. Cutting into the natural were two modern grubbed out brick foundations **(201, 202)** and a modern defunct drain **(200)**.

The buried structure

Situated in the north-east corner of the site was a exposed underground entrance to what was thought to be a dene-hole, defunct quarry or air-raid shelter.

After consultation on site with the KCC Archaeological Officer it was agreed that the underground structure would need recording. The underground complex was considered by SWAT Archaeology to be a confined space and all work of survey was undertaken in accordance with current health and safety regulations, the SWAT Archaeology WSI (Written Scheme of Investigation for recording of structures) and advice provided by consultation with the appropriate H&S manuals.

Escape kits and gas monitoring equipment was used at all times during the survey and a hoist with fall arrest harness was deployed at the tunnel entrance.

The tunnel was mapped using EDM total station supplemented by hand taped data and drawn up on AutoCAD. The tunnel was tied to the SWAT Archaeology survey and thence to the Ordnance Survey National Grid using Ordnance Survey digital mapping. Levels were taken within the tunnel using an automatic level and were related to Ordnance Datum using a height value provided by 'Digitise This'.

A photographic record of the tunnel was made using a digital camera (Nikon Coolpix). Both general and detailed record shots of the tunnels were taken.

The underground structure had been exposed during the demolition phase of works and an entrance exposed on the north-east side of the structure and enclosed for safety reasons inside a Heras fence. Entrance was through a deep shaft lined with a concrete 'sewer' ring with an internal measurement of 1.85m. The chalk rubble base of this ante-chamber was at 35.98mOD whereas the ground surface is about 40mOD giving an initial depth of about 4m.

Entrance to the underground structure was through a 'doorway' cut through the south-west side of the concrete ring and was 0.77m wide (Fig. 6) and led to a descending series of six concrete steps (S14) constructed inside a chalk tunnel about 1.75m high. The steps stretched for 2.40m and led into a small chamber with an OD height on the concrete floor of 33.73mOD. The rectangular chamber (S12) was lined with concrete 'breeze blocks' and the dimensions of the chamber were 1.70m x 2.20m with a height to the natural chalk ceiling of 2m.

Leading off from this chamber, itself about 6.32m below the ground surface, was a large chalk-cut cavity (S13) to the north with another collapsed cavity beyond that and a set of chalk-cut steps leading to the south-west. The chalk-cut cavity had been capped by a brick dome of about 1.80m.

Eight steps were cut into the chalk in the south-west corner of the rectangular room and led upwards to a small right-angled level corridor, probably a bomb blast baffle, which led to a further set of steps cut into the chalk and leading to the surface, and presumably the entrance on the south-west side of the buried structure. The width of both these passages was about 0.62m with a height to the domed chalk ceiling above the steps of about 1.50m (S13).

Running down this passageway was an electric cable with three bayonet connectors for electric light bulbs. No other fittings or furniture were to found inside the structure.

FINDS

No archaeological finds were recovered during the course of the evaluation.

DISCUSSION

The evaluation carried out on land at the Caffyns garage site at Grange Road, Ramsgate did not, apart from the buried structure, reveal any archaeological features. The site had been severely truncated by demolition of the Caffyns garage in 2009 to the extent that over a metre of topsoil and subsoil overlaying the natural Chalk, and in places Brickearth, had been

removed and replaced by a thinner layer of demolition rubble. Apart from the possible air-raid shelter there was no archaeological features found cutting into the Chalk or Brickearth.

The underground structure located in the north-east area of the site was investigated and fully recorded and seems to be a small underground air-raid shelter built for the occupants of the possible hotel situated on this corner of the site (Figs. 13,14). The layout comprised a small rectangular deep room accessed by a flight of stairs cut into the chalk from the east and another flight of steps to the west. Electric light fittings still in situ date from the mid-20th century. Other small air-raid shelters are known from the vicinity. The HER lists “A small chalk passage discovered in the cellar of a Victorian house. The passage is entered by descending a small flight of chalk steps leading from the cellar” **(TR 36 SE 335)** and “Romano-British burial found whilst digging private air-raid shelters in 1939 at Willson’s Road” **(TR 36 SE 15)**.

A survey of the structure at the Caffyns site was carried out by ‘Digitise This’ and SWAT Archaeology to a written specification (WSI) provided by SWAT Archaeology for the client.

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 investigated were from the modern period. 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 geology in any of the five 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 Jenner (Contractors) Ltd. for commissioning the project. Thanks are also extended to Heritage and Conservation (Kent County Council) for their advice and assistance. James Madden and Paul Wilkinson carried out the archaeological fieldwork, illustrations were produced by Jonny Madden at ‘Digitise This’. The project was managed by Paul Wilkinson and this report was collated and written by Paul Wilkinson.

Dr Paul Wilkinson MifA

REFERENCES

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

Kent County Council (KCCHC) (2011) *Specification for an Archaeological Evaluation at the former Caffyns Garage site, Grange Road in Ramsgate*. Kent County Council Heritage & Conservation

SWAT Archaeology (May 2011) *Written Specification for the Recording of Structures at Grange Road, Ramsgate*. Wilkinson

Health and Safety Executive: Safe work in confined spaces (1997) *Confined Spaces Regulations. Approved Code of Practice. Regulations and Guidance ISBN 07176 1405 0*

Health and Safety Executive: *The Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1999*.

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

CONTENTS OF SITE ARCHIVE

Correspondence

Photographs: 28 digital photographs .

Photocopies of Ordnance Survey and other maps:

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

Finds: none.

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

APPENDIX 1 - Context Summary

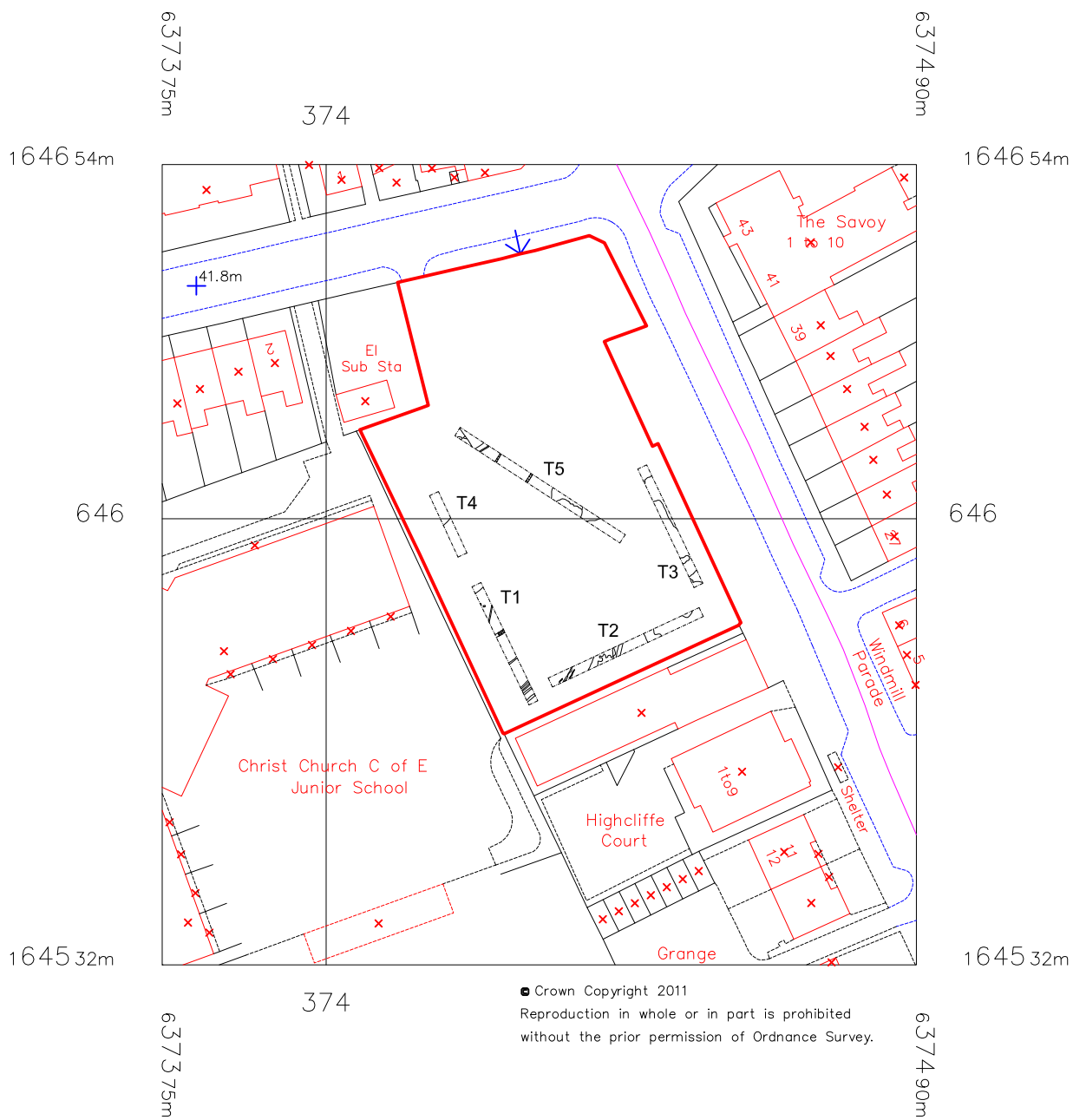
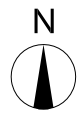
**Archaeological Evaluation at the former Caffyns Garage site, Grange Road, Ramsgate,
Kent**

Site Code: RAMS/EV/11

Context No.	Trench	Description
(002)	1-5	modern demolition overburden
(003)	1-5	Head Brickearth
(004)	1-5	Upper Chalk
(101-505)	1-5	Demolition material

APPENDIX 2 – Kent County Council HER Summary Form

Site Name: <i>Caffyns Garage site, Grange Road, Ramsgate</i>	
SWAT Site Code: <i>RAMS/EV/11</i>	
Site Address: <i>Site of the former Caffyns Garage and 2 Grange Road, Ramsgate, Kent</i>	
Summary: <i>Swale & Thames Survey Company (SWAT) carried out an archaeological evaluation on land at the former Caffyns Garage site, Grange Road, Ramsgate, Kent. A planning application (PAN: TH/10/0435) for the construction of a new residential development, along with associated car parking and services at the above site was submitted to Thanet District Council (TDC) whereby Kent County Council Heritage and Conservation (KCCHC), on behalf of Thanet 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 2011) and in discussion with the Archaeological Officer, Kent County Council.</i> <i>The Archaeological Evaluation consisted of five trenches which encountered no archaeological features. A possible chalk-cut air raid shelter, one of many built in 1939 in the area was surveyed. Upper Chalk and/or Head Brickearth was reached in four out of five trenches.</i>	
District/Unitary: <i>Thanet</i>	Parish: <i>Ramsgate</i>
Period(s): <i>Tentative: Modern</i>	
NGR (centre of site : 8 figures): (NB if large or linear site give multiple NGRs): <i>NGR 637435 164606</i>	
Type of archaeological work (delete) <i>Evaluation</i>	
Date of Recording: <i>May 2011</i>	
Unit undertaking recording: <i>Swale & Thames Survey Company (SWAT)</i>	
Geology: <i>Head Brickearth overlying Upper Chalk and Upper Chalk</i>	
Title and author of accompanying report: <i>Wilkinson P. An Archaeological Evaluation of the former Caffyns Garage site, Ramsgate</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 May 2011</i>



1:1000@A4



Figure 1: Location of Site

0m

100m

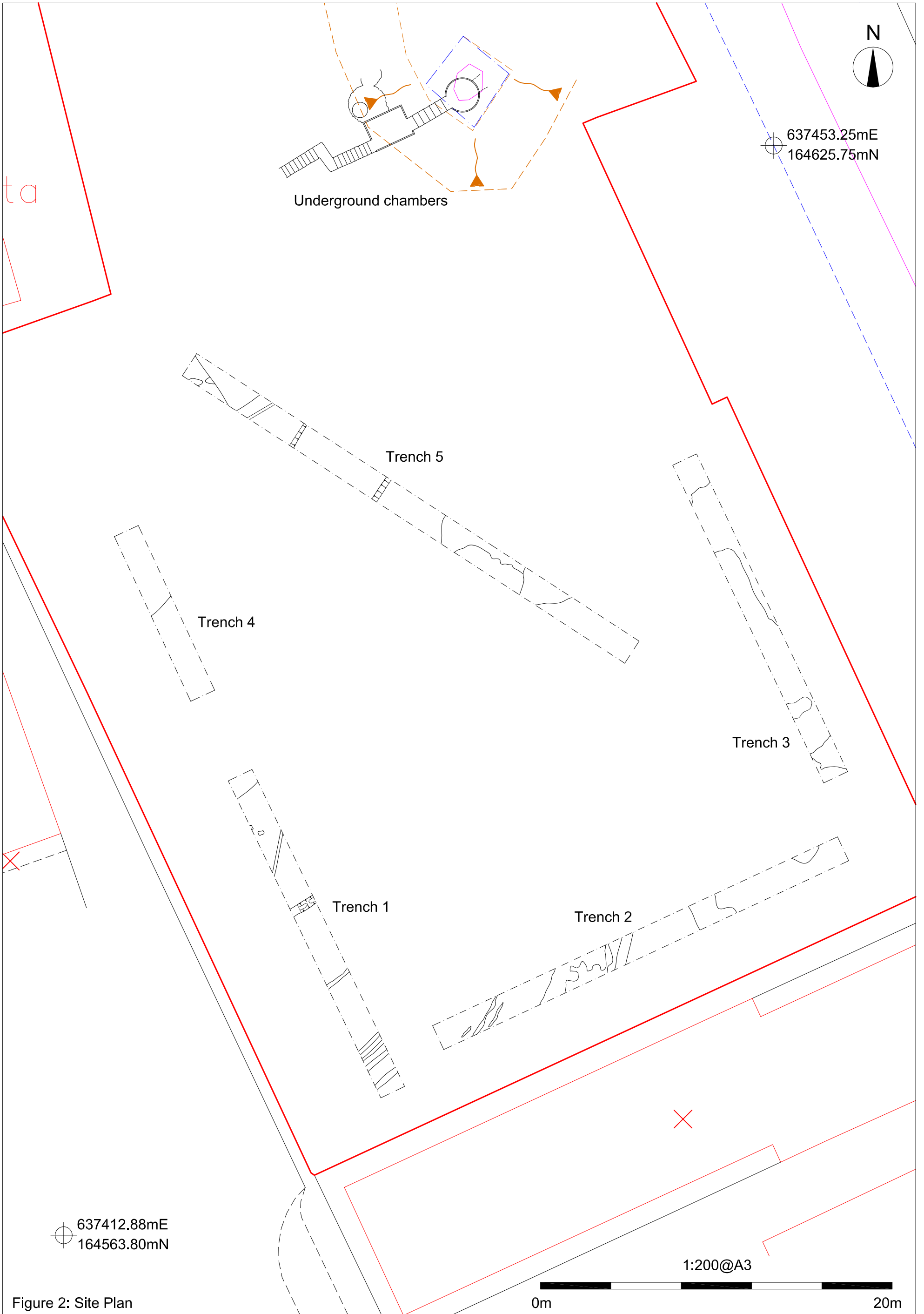


Figure 2: Site Plan

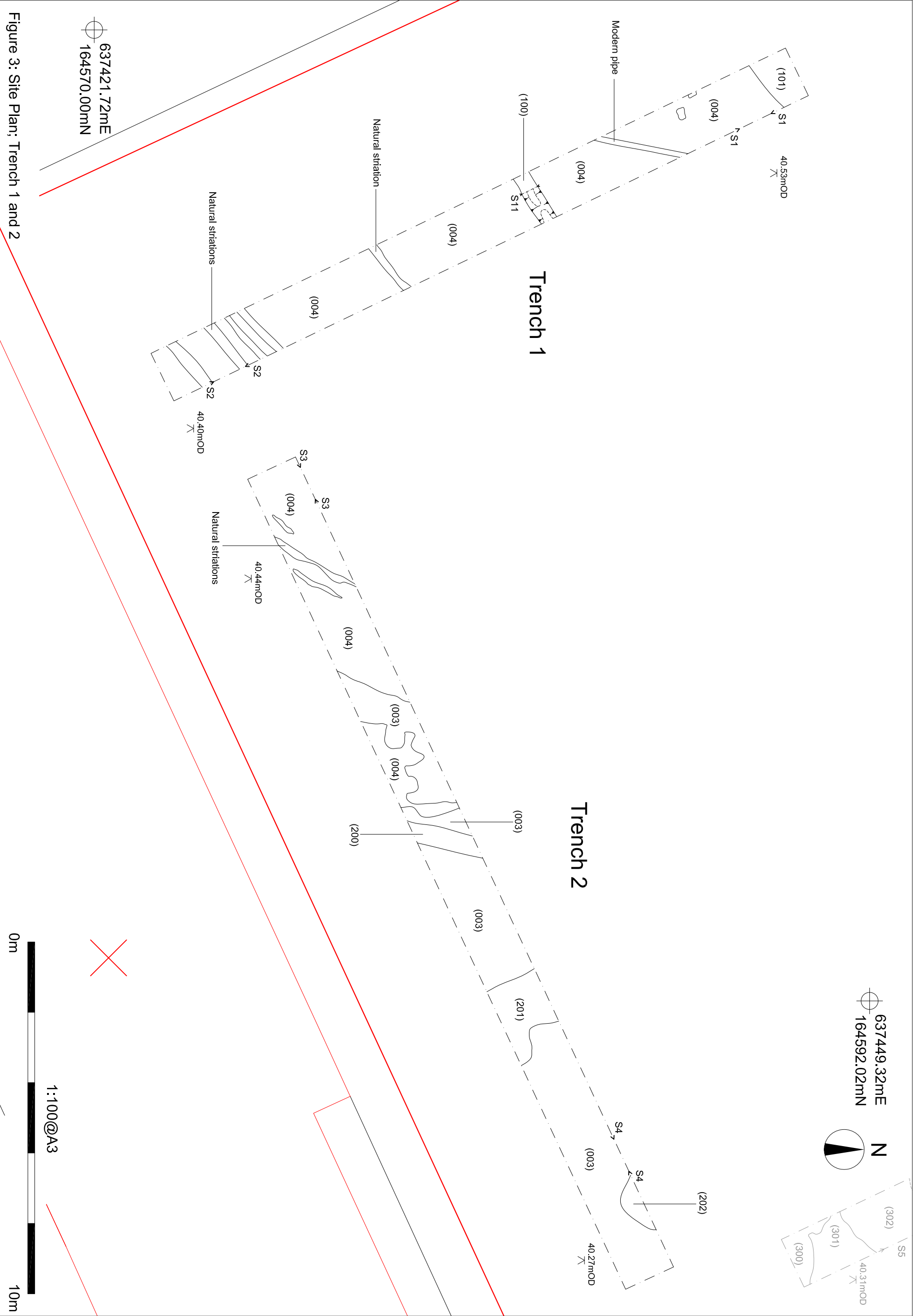
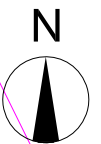
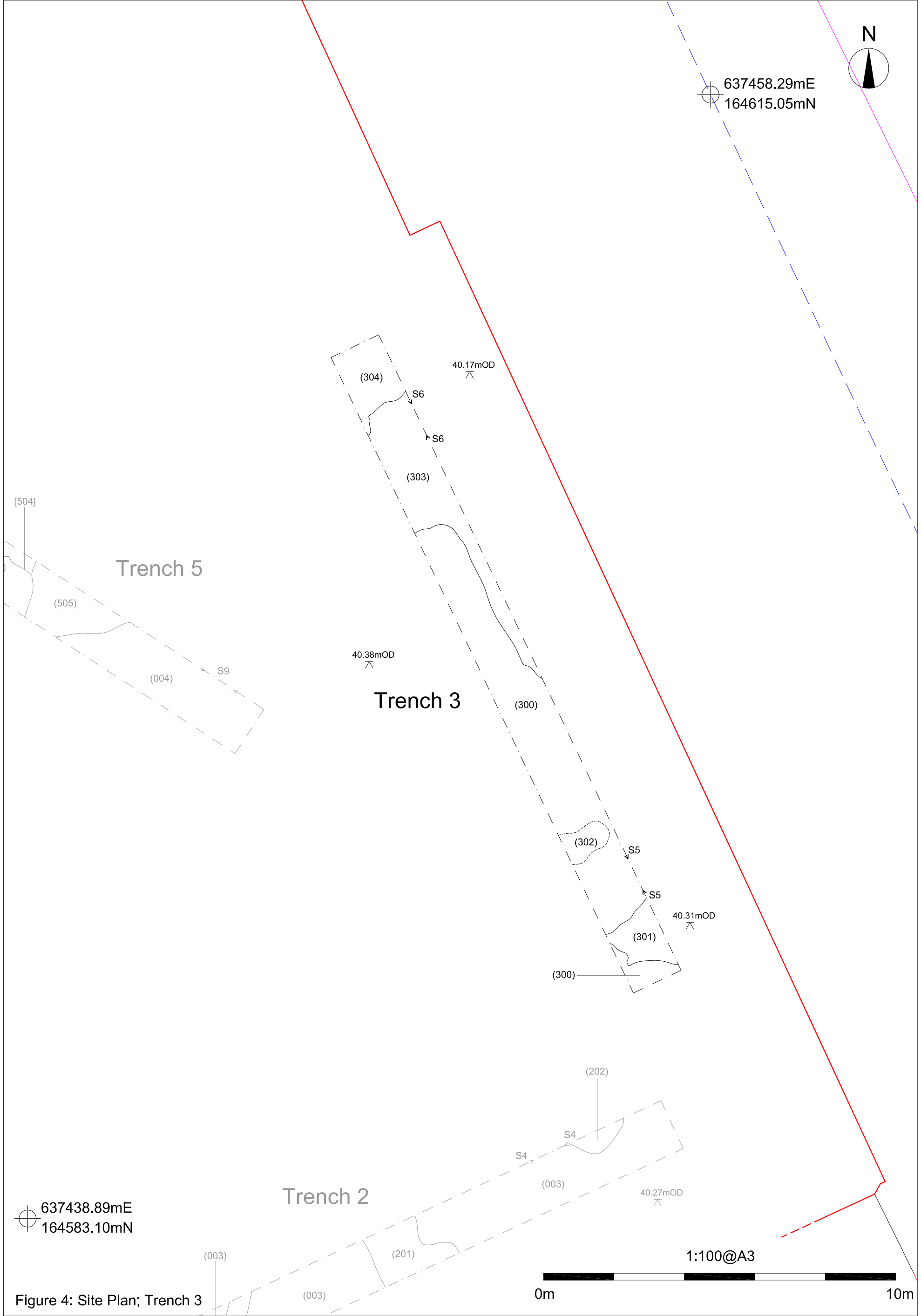


Figure 3: Site Plan; Trench 1 and 2



637458.29mE
164615.05mN



637438.89mE
164583.10mN

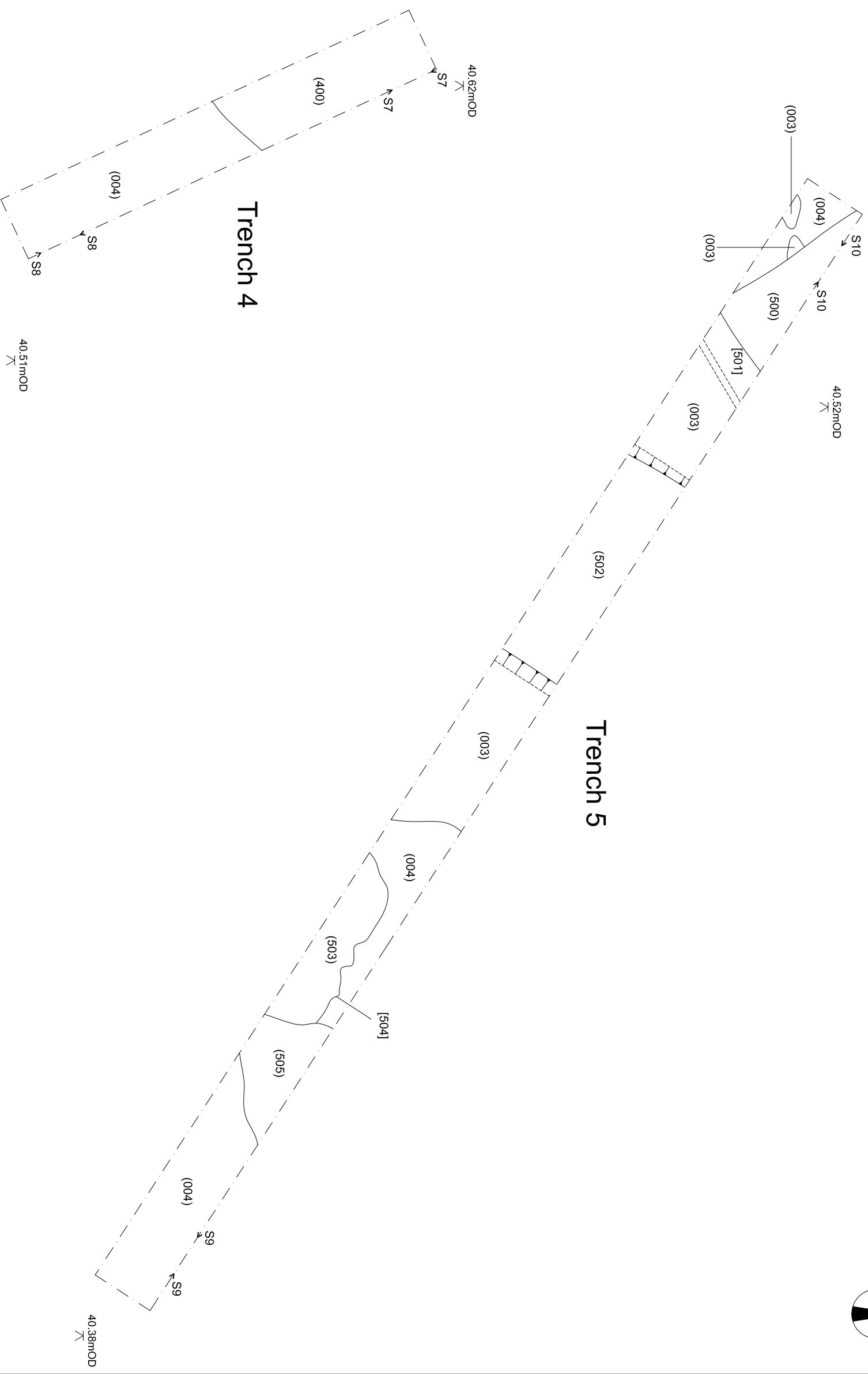
Figure 4: Site Plan; Trench 3

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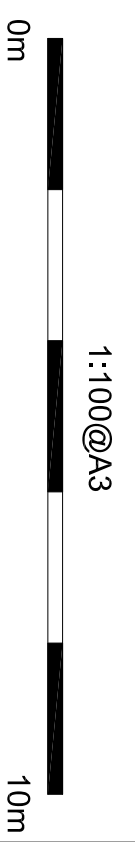


637441.00mE
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637410.56mE
164592.18mN

Figure 5: Site Plan; Trench 4 and 5



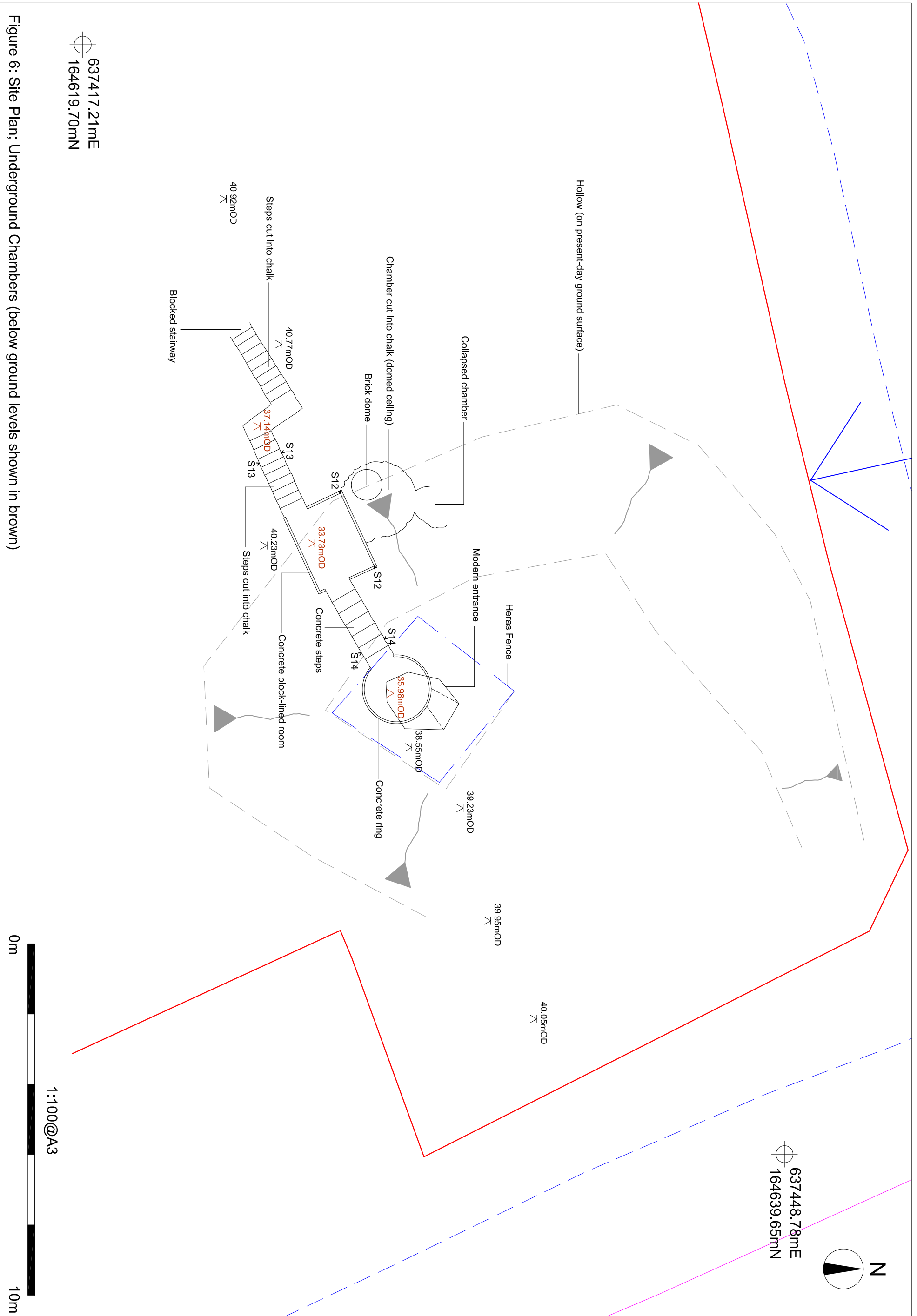


Figure 6: Site Plan; Underground Chambers (below ground levels shown in brown)

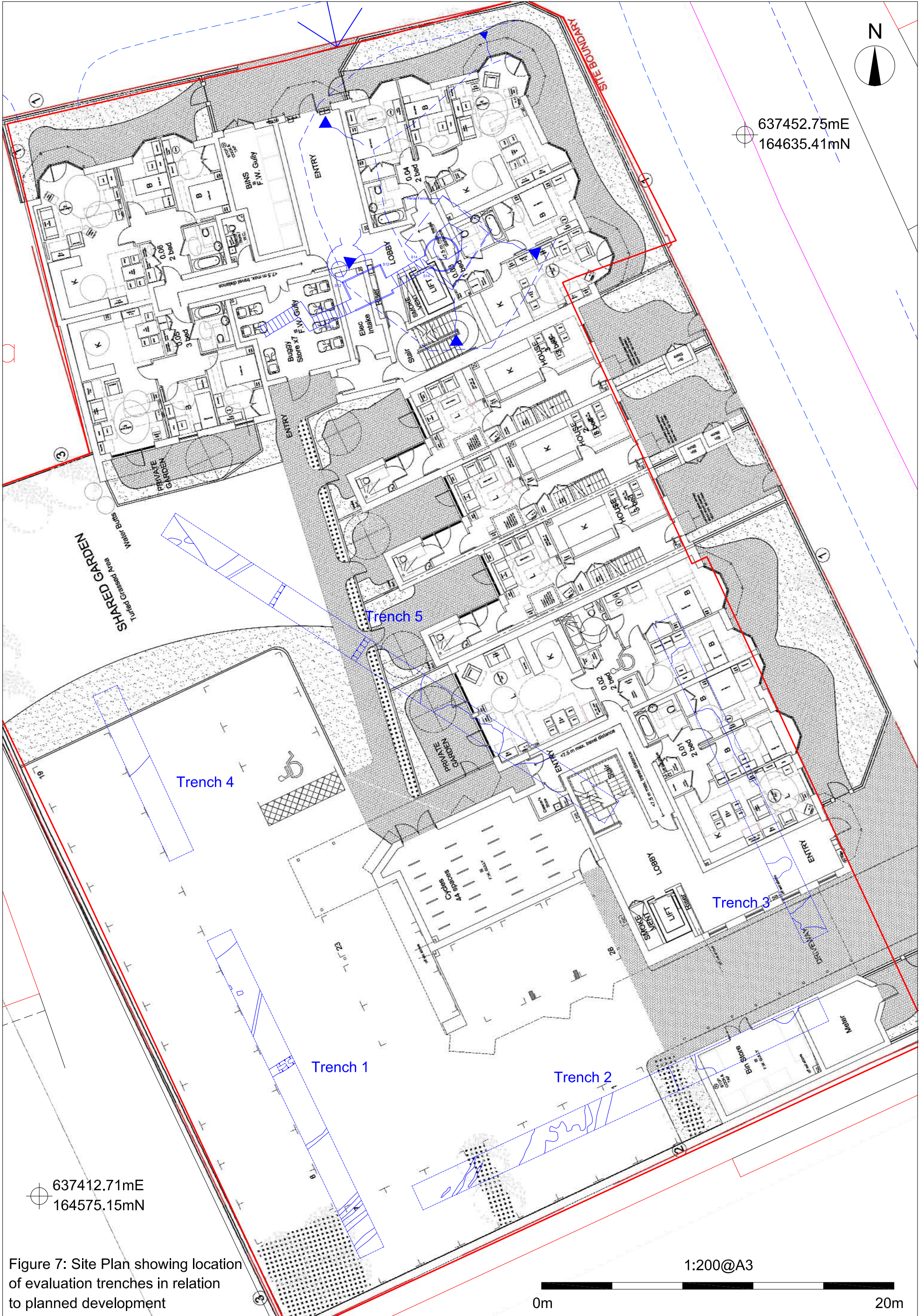
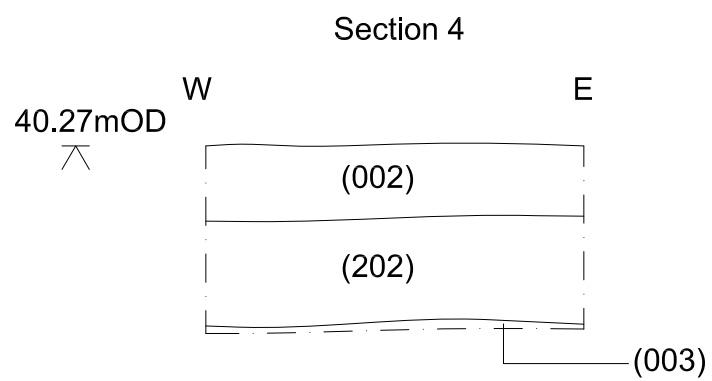
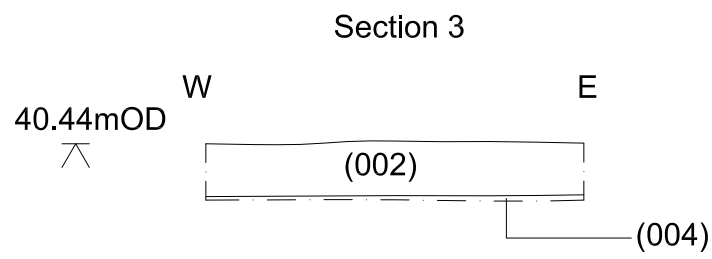
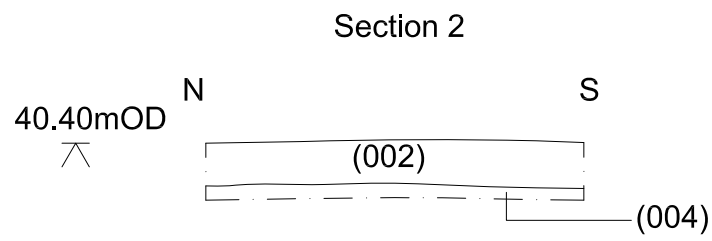
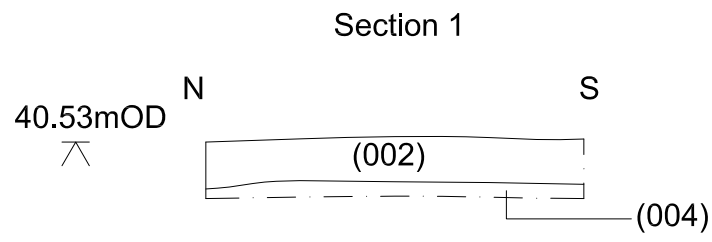


Figure 7: Site Plan showing location of evaluation trenches in relation to planned development

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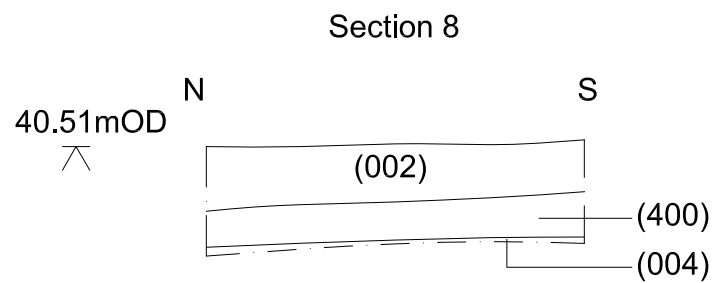
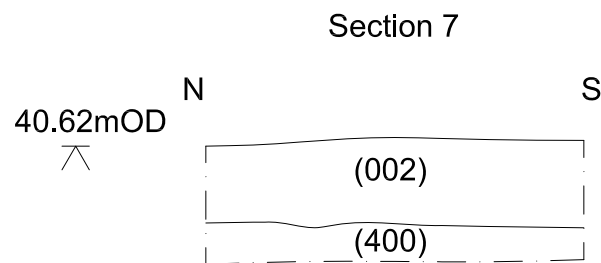
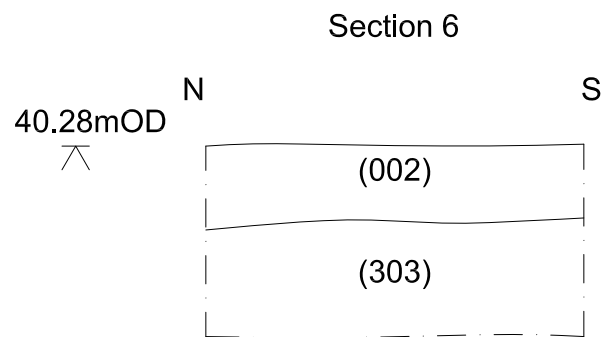
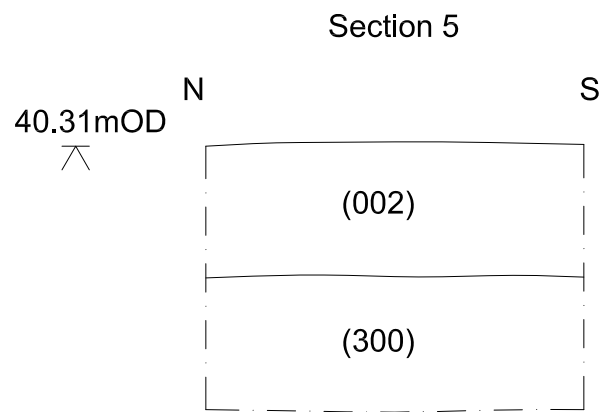
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Figure 8: Sections



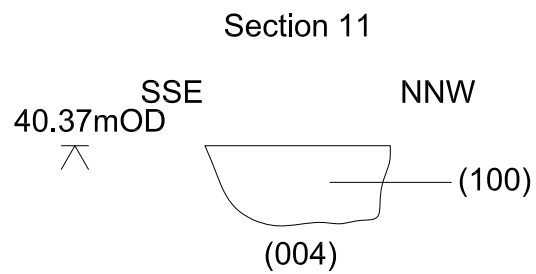
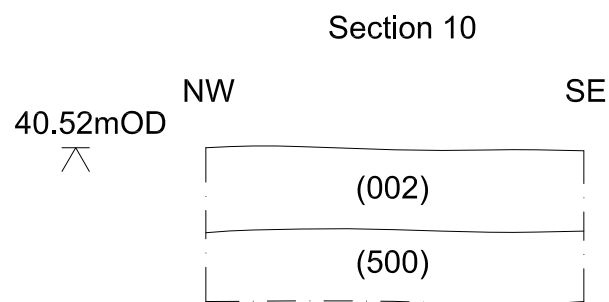
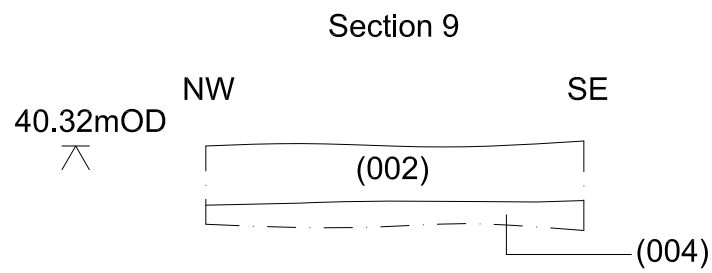
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Figure 9: Sections

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Figure 10: Sections

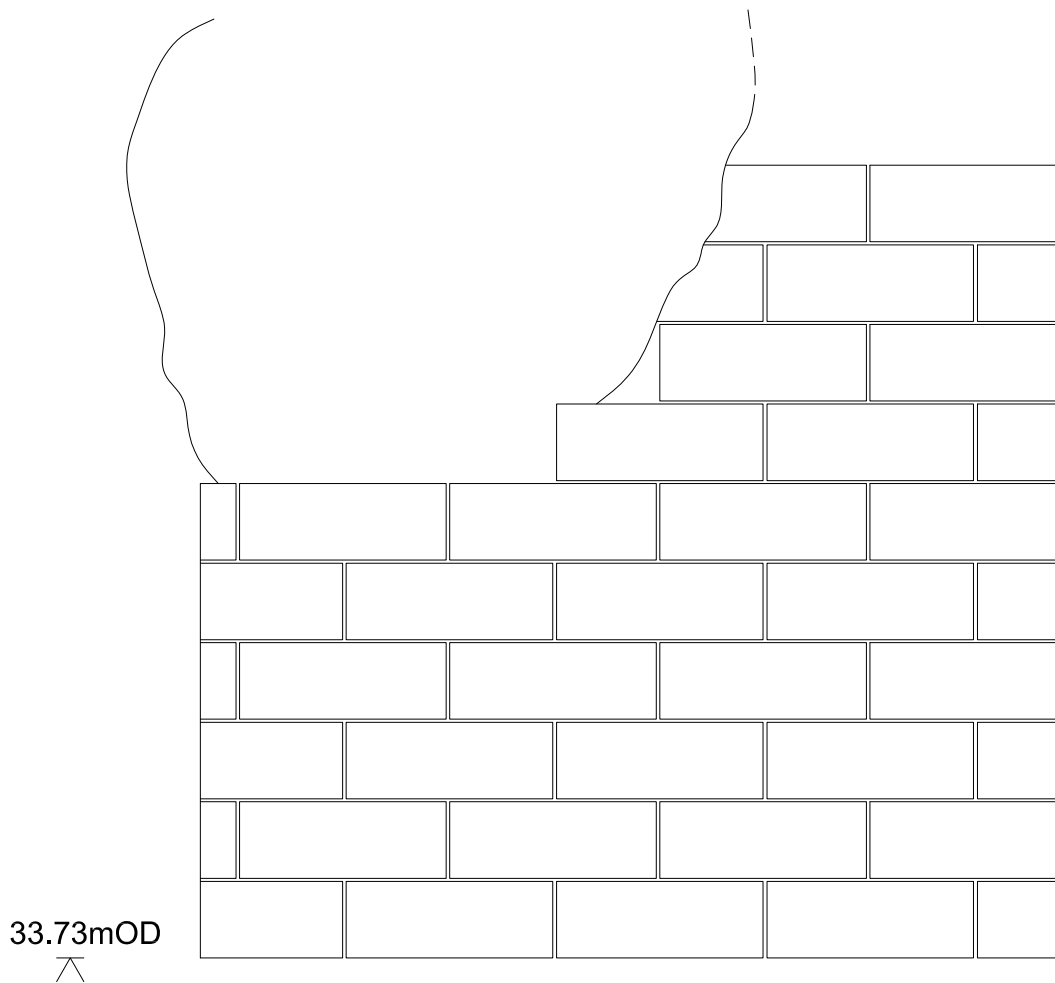
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Section 12

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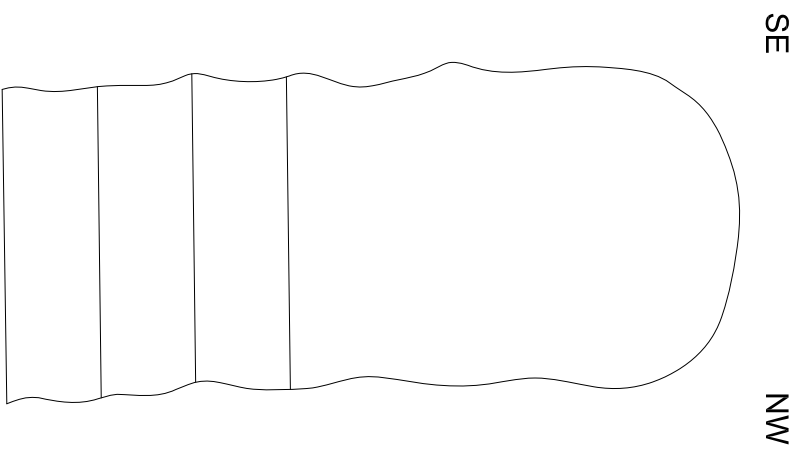


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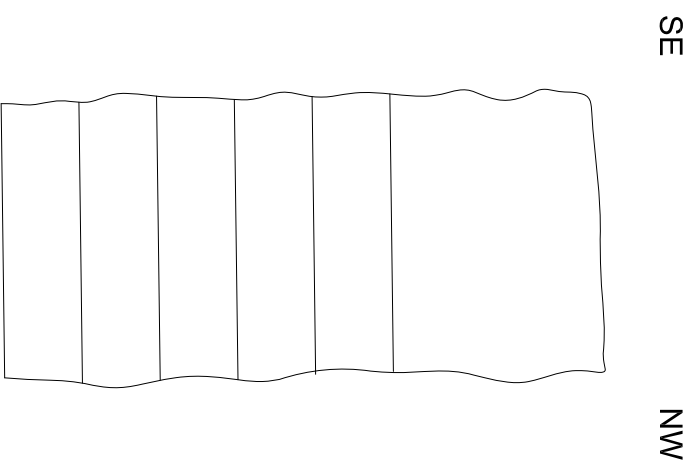


Figure 11: Sections (Underground Chambers)

Section 13



Section 14



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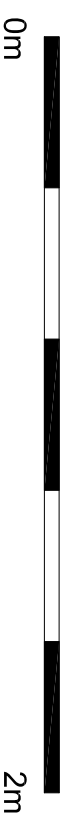


Figure 12: Sections (Underground Chambers)