

# Archaeological Investigation of land north of Leisure Centre, Vicarage Lane, Hailsham, East Sussex

NGR: 559175mE 169840mN

Site Code: HSL/EX/13

(Planning Application Number: WD/2012/0148/MRM)



**Report for Denne Ltd**

*24/05/2013*

**SWAT. Archaeology**

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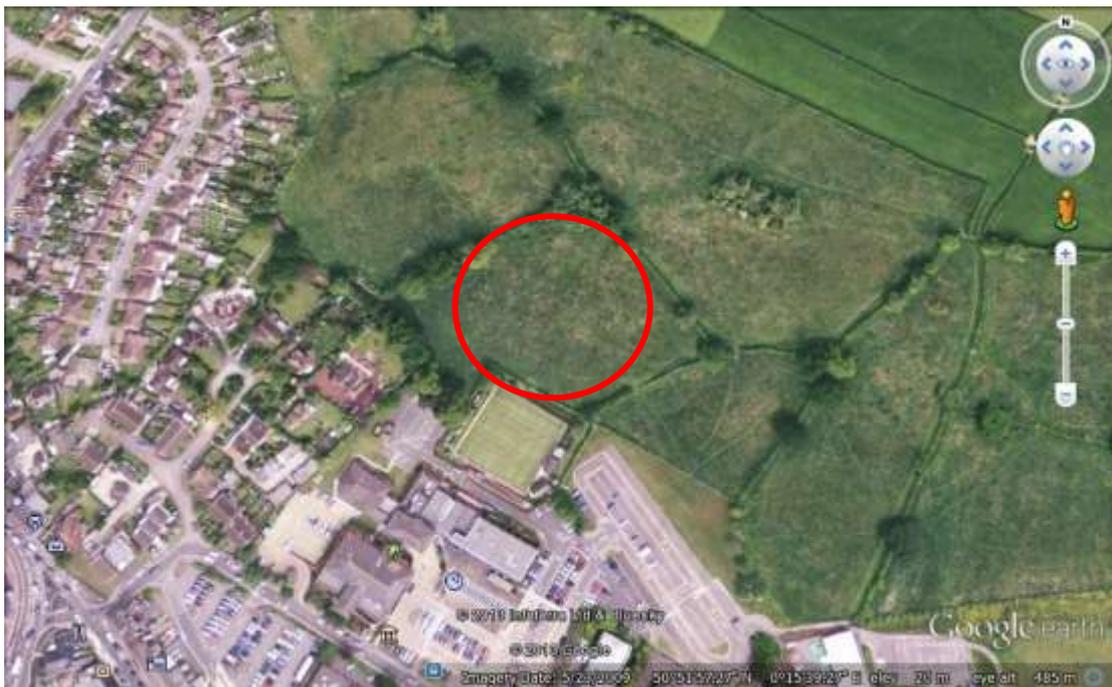


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## **Archaeological Investigations on land north of Leisure Centre, Vicarage**

### **Lane, Hailsham, East Sussex**

**NGR: 559175mE 169840mN**

**Site Code: HSL/EX/13**

#### **SUMMARY**

*Swale & Thames Survey Company (SWAT Archaeology) carried out an archaeological evaluation on land to the north of the Leisure Centre, Vicarage Lane, Hailsham, East Sussex, in April 2013. A planning application (WD2012/0148/MRM) for the construction of a new care home development, along with associated access, car parking and services at the above site was submitted to Wealden District Council (WDC) whereby East Sussex County Council as archaeological advisors to Wealden District Council requested that an Archaeological Evaluation be undertaken in order to determine the possible impact of the development on any archaeological remains. The work was carried out in accordance with the requirements set out within an Archaeological Specification (SWAT 18/09/2012) and in discussion with the Archaeological Officer, East Sussex County Council. The archaeological evaluation was successful in fulfilling the primary aims and objectives of the Specification. Given the archaeological potential of the surrounding area, and a low level of modern below ground impact, more archaeological remains could have been expected, and Medieval pottery was found in situ in a linear (ditch) the archaeological activity was sparse on site although a rather fine flint tool dating from no later than the Early Bronze Age was recovered. The results of the evaluation are itemised in a SWAT Archaeology report dated 25/04/13. The archaeological investigation carried out in this area with ten evaluation trenches revealed a large ditch located at the break of the hill. This ditch is not shown on the Ordnance Survey Tithes map of 1842 (Field 304) or indeed the 25" 1874 map (Field 314) (see SWAT Archaeology Desk-Based Assessment Sept 2010) and contained pottery dating from the 11<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> centuries. The County Archaeologist requested additional work in the area, namely an open strip, map and sample (SMS) of the southern one third of the site. This additional work revealed more of the Medieval ditch with pottery sherds dating the feature to c.1100-1300AD.*

#### **INTRODUCTION**

Swale & Thames Survey Company (SWAT Archaeology) was commissioned by Denne Ltd to carry out an archaeological strip, map and sample at the above site. The work was carried out in accordance with the requirements set out within an Archaeological Specification (SWAT 2013) and in discussion with the Archaeological Officer, East Sussex County Council.

## **SITE DESCRIPTION AND TOPOGRAPHY**

The application site is located on the east side of Battle Road and Battle Crescent is to the west of the site. The Leisure Centre is to the south of the site. The site consists of one pasture field which slopes from south to north and measures about 8300m sq. The National Grid Reference for the centre of the site is NGR 559175mE 169840mN. In the area of the medieval ditch the OD height was about 21.45mOD. The underlying geology of the site consists of Weald Clay (British Geological Survey South Sheet, 4<sup>th</sup> Edition Solid 2001). The drift geology is Alluvium and only present at the northern end of the site.

## **PLANNING BACKGROUND**

A planning application (WD2012/0148/MRM) for the construction of a new care home facility was submitted to Wealden District Council (WDC) and approved. East Sussex County Council on (ESCC) behalf of Wealden District Council requested that an *Archaeological Evaluation* be undertaken in order to determine the possible impact of the development on any archaeological remains. The following condition was attached to the planning consent:

*No development shall take place until the applicant, or their agents or successors in title, has secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological work in accordance with a written specification and timetable which has been submitted to and approved by the Local Planning Authority.*

Requirements for the archaeological evaluation comprised trial trenching targeting a minimum of 5% of the impact area, with trenches designed to establish whether there are any archaeological deposits at the site that may be affected by the proposed development. The results from this evaluation were used to inform ESCC and WDC of any further archaeological mitigation measures that may be necessary in connection with the development proposals.

## **ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND**

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

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

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

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

Finds outside the 1km radius of the assessment area include a Mesolithic medium tranchet axe 1.5km west of Hailsham (HER ref: MES5175) and a group of Mesolithic flint artefacts 1.3km to the south at Saltmarsh Farm (HER ref: MES5159). Two further Mesolithic flint scatters (HER refs: MES15529 and MES15530) have been recorded north of Hailsham, and to the north of Hailsham at Upper Horsebridge (MES7145). Field walking by Chris Butler in 2009 to the north of Hailsham and around the edges of the Pevensey Levels found numerous Mesolithic cores, microliths and debitage. Butler notes that the Mesolithic sites around the Pevensey Levels occur just above the 5m contour level where they have not been covered by the subsequent accumulation of peat (2009A). It is considered that the Levels provided an ideal landscape for hunting and fishing and the presence of Mesolithic flint work on the edges of the Levels may hint at longer stay camps.

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

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

#### *The Bronze Age (2500BC-800BC)*

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

#### *Iron Age*

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

### *Romano-British*

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

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

### *Anglo-Saxon*

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

### *Medieval*

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

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

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

### *Post-Medieval*

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

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

In 2010 SWAT Archaeology undertook an archaeological evaluation on part of the development site consisting of eighteen trenches which retrieved residual prehistoric stone tools and pottery dating from 1000AD to the 15<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup> centuries. Subsequently in 2011 SWAT Archaeology undertook an evaluation of eight trenches on an area of anomalies highlighted by a geophysical survey. The main feature, a large watercourse, and although shown on the 1st edition OS map of the area did contain pottery dating from the 10<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup> centuries.

### **AIMS AND OBJECTIVES**

The purpose of the strip, map and sample, as set out with the Archaeological Specification (SWAT 2013) was to:

- 1.1 *The principle objective of the archaeological investigation is to establish the presence or absence of any further elements of the archaeological resource across the area of the development.*
- 1.2 *To ascertain the extent, depth below ground surface, depth of deposit if possible, character, date and quality of any such archaeological remains by sample excavation.*
- 1.3 *To determine the state of preservation and importance of the archaeological resource.*

Particular issues that should be addressed by the strip, map and sample include:

- Assessing the likely impact of the proposed development on the archaeological remains using the results of the fieldwork
- Assessing the potential of the site to contain nationally important remains
- Establishing the degree of Roman and medieval activity on the site
- Establishing the degree of Prehistoric and Medieval activity on the site
- Contributing to the environmental and landscape history of the area.

Additional aims were to:

- iii) Gather sufficient information to enable an assessment of the potential and significance of any archaeological remains to be made and the impact development will have upon them.
- iv) Enable an informed decision to be made regarding the future treatment of any archaeological remains and consider any appropriate mitigating measures either in advance of and/or during development.

## **METHODOLOGY**

An area strip was carried out on the 13<sup>th</sup> May 2013, the location of the area to be stripped were agreed prior to the excavation between ESCC and SWAT. The area was initially scanned for surface finds prior to excavation. Excavation was carried out using a 360° mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket, removing the overburden to the top of the first recognisable archaeological horizon, or if not revealing the natural geology. The work was carried out under the constant supervision of an experienced archaeologist. The area was subsequently hand-cleaned to reveal any archaeological features. The exposed archaeological features were levelled to the Ordnance Datum by GPS. A full photographic record of the work was kept and will be part of the site archive. All investigative work was carried out in accordance with the archaeological specification (SWAT 2013) and IFA guidelines.

A single context recording system was used to record the natural deposits. Layers and fills are recorded (**100**). Context numbers were assigned to all deposits for recoding purposes; these are used in the report (in **bold**). Each number has been attributed to a specific trench with the primary number(s) relating to specific trenches (*i.e.* Trench 1, **100+**, Trench 2, **200+** etc.)

## **MONITORING**

Curatorial monitoring was carried out during the course of the strip, map and sample.

## RESULTS

A common stratigraphic sequence was recognised across the site comprising topsoil/turf overburden (001) overlying subsoil (002), beneath which the natural geology comprised Weald Clay (003). The topsoil/overburden consisted of friable dark grey brown silt clay with occasional to moderate inclusions of sub-rounded – angular flints. A clear line of horizon gave way to subsoil comprising mid-brown grey slightly sandy clay overlying Weald Clay where mechanical excavation ceased and careful examination and investigation for truncating features was carried out. The depth of the overlying layer varied, with the depth of the natural geology being located c.0.31-0.43m below the existing ground level.

### Background

The excavation covered an area 20m x 10m. Initial machine stripping of the overlying topsoil (01) and subsoil (02) exposed the natural clay (03). Cutting the natural clay were two clearly defined archaeological features; a ditch [09] and a small, shallow pit [20]. The clay varied in colour and it also contained two ‘natural’ features [16] and [18]; both of these could be described as thin linear ‘outcrops’ containing high concentrations of manganese and iron stone. Two tree boles [06] and [27] were also noted.

### Ditch [09]

The ditch was aligned north west – south east and it was filled by several contexts. The primary fill (15) was a compact yellow-grey clay, containing occasional flecks of charcoal. This context represented the initial erosion of the ditch side. This context was sealed by (14), a layer of compact grey silty clay, containing occasional charcoal and manganese flecks. This context was truncated by a re-cut [25] that was subsequently filled by (13), a compact grey clay. Context (13) was also truncated by a re-cut [24]. This re-cut represents the final stage of maintaining the ditch as an active boundary / drainage system. The final re-cut was backfilled by (12), a compact grey silty clay. The phases of re-cutting the ditch were only observed along the lower (south eastern) stretch. Further ‘up hill’, towards the north west, the ditch comprised of its original cut only. This stretch shared the tertiary layer of backfill (10), seen further down slope, but along this north west stretch, this context was the primary fill. Sealing (10) was a secondary layer (11), comprising of compact grey, silty clay containing moderate flecks of manganese and pottery sherds. Above this was context (12), the final fill, indicating the ditch going out of use. Ditch [09] also truncated tree bole [06]. This was backfilled by contexts (07) and (08). Truncating the ditch was tree bole [27].

Pit [20]

To the north east of Ditch [09], at the south east end of the excavation, was a small shallow pit. This pit was oval on shape and formed a 'scoop' in the natural clay. This was filled by (21), a charcoal rich silty clay (Fig. 3).

The excavation at Hailsham revealed the continuous stretch of the medieval ditch recorded during the archaeological evaluation in April 2013. The archaeological excavation revealed that this ditch was re-cut at least twice [24] and [25] further along to the south east. A tree subsequently grew over the ditch, at this location, after it had fallen out of use. Only one other archaeological feature was observed; a shallow pit [20] filled with charcoal (21). This feature was undated Fig. 3).

### **Discussion**

The earlier archaeological investigation carried in this area with ten evaluation trenches revealed a large ditch located at the break of the hill. This ditch is not shown on the Ordnance Survey Tithe map of 1842 (Field 304) or indeed the 25" 1874 map (Field 314) (see SWAT Archaeology Desk-Based Assessment Sept 2010) and contained pottery dating from the 11<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> centuries. This additional strip, map and sample work on site revealed more of this ditch, containing eight sherds of pottery c.1100-1300AD and two other features which remain undated (Appendix 1).

A number of Medieval, post-medieval and early modern disturbances have been revealed in the immediate area under investigation, namely recent evaluations by SWAT Archaeology in December 2010 and December 2011.

### **CONCLUSION**

The archaeological strip, map and sample has been successful in fulfilling the primary aims and objectives of the Specification. Given the paucity of recorded archaeological remains in the Hailsham environs it may be useful that our findings be submitted for publication in *Sussex Archaeological Collections*, the Journal of the Sussex Archaeological Society.

**This investigation has therefore assessed the archaeological potential of land intended for this phase of development. The results from this work will be used to aid and inform the Archaeological Officer (ESCC) of any further archaeological mitigations measures that may be necessary in connection with the other areas of proposed development.**

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

SWAT would like to thank Denne Ltd for commissioning the project. Thanks are also extended to Casper Johnson, County Archaeologist and Greg Chuter, Archaeological Officer for East Sussex County Council for his advice and assistance. Simon Holmes and Peter Cichy carried out the archaeological fieldwork, Pottery identification by Nigel MacPherson-Grant, illustrations were produced by Jonny Madden. The project was managed and report produced by Dr Paul Wilkinson MifA.

**Dr Paul Wilkinson MifA**

**May 2013**

## REFERENCES

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

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

SWAT Archaeology (Sept 2010) *Archaeological Desk-based Assessment on Land East of Battle Road, Hailsham, East Sussex*

SWAT Archaeology (Dec 2010) *Archaeological Evaluation on Land East of Battle Road, Hailsham, East Sussex*

SWAT Archaeology (2011) *Specification for a Programme of Archaeological Evaluation and Assessment of Land east of Battle Road, Hailsham, East Sussex*

SWAT Archaeology (Dec 2011) *Archaeological Evaluation on Land East of Battle Road, Hailsham, East Sussex*

SWAT Archaeology (April 2013) *Archaeological Evaluation on Land north of Leisure Centre, Vicarage Lane, Hailsham, East Sussex*

## CONTENTS OF SITE ARCHIVE

Correspondence

Photographs: 12 Digital photographs SWAT Film nos. 13/21-33.

Photocopies of Ordnance Survey and other maps.

Drawings: 4 A3 permatrace site drawing, comprising trench plans and sections.

Finds: See Finds Archive and Appendices

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

Location of the archive: Temporarily held by SWAT Archaeology until transfer to Eastbourne Museum (Accession number 2013.11).

## East Sussex County Council HER Summary Form

<b>Site Name:</b> <i>Vicarage Lane, SWAT Site Code: HBS/EV/13</i>	
<b>Site Address:</b> <i>Land north of Leisure Centre, Vicarage Lane, Hailsham, East Sussex</i>	
<b>Summary:</b>  <i>Swale &amp; Thames Survey Company (SWAT) carried out an archaeological strip, map and sample on land north of Leisure Centre, Vicarage Lane, Hailsham, East Sussex, on May 13<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup> 2013. A planning application (WD/2012/0148/MRM) for the construction of a new care home development, along with associated access, car parking and services at the above site was submitted to Wealden District Council (WDC) whereby East Sussex County Council Heritage and Conservation on behalf of Wealden District Council requested that an Archaeological Evaluation be undertaken in order to determine the possible impact of the development on any archaeological remains. The work was carried out in accordance with the requirements set out within an Archaeological Specification (SWAT 2012) and in discussion with the Archaeological Officer, East Sussex County Council.</i>  <i>The archaeological evaluation retrieved a single worked flint dating from Mesolithic/Neolithic or Early Bronze Age date range and revealed a Medieval ditch containing pottery sherds dating from 1050-1225AD. Additional work was requested and a strip, map and sample undertaken with additional dating confirming the ditches Medieval date. The archaeological evaluation has been successful in fulfilling the primary aims and objectives of the Specification.</i>	
<b>District/Unitary:</b> <i>Wealden</i>	<b>Parish:</b>
<b>Period(s):</b> <i>Tentative: Medieval</i>	
<b>NGR (centre of site : 8 figures):</b> <b>(NB if large or linear site give multiple NGRs):</b> <i>559175mE 169840mN</i>	
<b>Type of archaeological work (delete)</b> <i>Strip, map and sample</i>	
<b>Date of Recording:</b> <i>May 13<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup> 2013</i>	
<b>Unit undertaking recording:</b> <i>Swale &amp; Thames Survey Company (SWAT)</i>	
<b>Geology:</b> <i>Weald Clay</i>	
<b>Title and author of accompanying report:</b>  <i>Wilkinson. P. (2013) Archaeological Investigation of Land to the north of Leisure Centre, Vicarage Lane, Hailsham, East Sussex:</i>	
<b>Summary of fieldwork results (begin with earliest period first, add NGRs where appropriate)</b>  <i>As above</i>  <p style="text-align: right;"><b>(cont. on attached sheet)</b></p>	
<b>Location of archive/finds:</b> <i>SWAT</i>	
<b>Contact at Unit:</b> <i>Paul Wilkinson</i>	<b>Date:</b> <i>24<sup>th</sup> May 2013</i>



Plate 2.Strip, map and sample area facing south-east



Plate 3. Ditch [09] facing south-east



Plate 4. Section 2 facing south-east. 1m scale



Plate 5. Section 3 facing north-west. 1m scale

## Appendix 1

### POTTERY ASSESSMENT

#### ***Period-based summary***

Setting aside a single small Late Post-Medieval tile or brick fragment as intrusive – the combined evaluation and strip, map and sample phases of work at this site produced one worked flint and 16 pottery sherds weighing 59gms. These comprise a small but multi-period assemblage - and the following archaeological periods and implications are represented –

#### *Earlier Prehistoric period*

A single worked flint flake was recovered from *Context 902*. It is fresh and un-patinated. It shows very little, if any, signs of post-loss damage and, even with its probably later ditch context, is likely to have received very little disturbance until its Modern recovery. The flake is made from mottled grey-black flint, is non-cortical and squat in overall shape. It is also flawed resulting, on its dorsal surface, towards its remnant striking platform end, an 'ugly' and obviously difficult to remove 'peak'. The same surface, at its functional end, shows signs of previous working when it still formed part of the original parent core. These occur as 4-5 good-quality parallel flake scars – just possibly from its original use as an opposed-ended core. The ventral surface is curved and, as a result, the flake has been used as an end-scraper. However there is very little pre-use preparation of its working end and only slight scarring from subsequent use. It also has two small deliberately prepared but separately sited notches towards one side – one small and one slightly larger. Both are for trimming fairly narrow-sectioned items – possibly bone or wooden pins or needles. The relatively good-quality of flaking suggests a date no later than the Early Bronze Age but its neat pre-scraper parallel-flaking scars could indicate a Mesolithic-Neolithic date (*pers.comm.* Paul Hart).

#### *Historic period*

Sixteen bodysherds of broadly *Early Medieval-Medieval* date were recorded from *Contexts EV 202, 203, 903* and *EX 11*. All are small-moderate-sized, most are fairly worn and all were made using sandy clays with a variably coarse grit content. The latter sub-divides into five categories –

- 1 – a gritty ware = 1 sherd from *Context EX 11*
- 2 - a predominantly gritty ware with a sparse-moderate coarse quartzsand content = 3 sherds, 1 each from *Contexts EV 202, 203, EX 11*
- 3 - a gritty ware with moderate sand content = 2 sherds from *Context EV 903, EX 11*
- 4 – a sandy-gritty ware with a higher fairly profuse sand content = 7 sherds from *Contexts EV*

202, 203, 903 and EX 11

5 – a sandy gritty ware, basically as 4, but finer and better sorted = 1 sherd from *Context EX 11*

Despite, originally, slightly differing clay sources or, possibly, degrees of deliberately added grit content - all five fabric categories are related and belong to a general Late Saxon to earlier Medieval eastern Sussex potting tradition using clays with naturally occurring quantities of flint or other stone grit. The first three ware types are represented by reduced dark grey-black, partially oxidized drab milk chocolate-brown or drab buff surfaces - of which one is from a relatively thick-walled vessel. The fourth and fifth ware types are consistently represented by thinner-walled sherds with oxidized red-orange or paler orange-buff or buff surfaces. These variations are likely to represent chronological differences in manufacturing trends. Barton (1979, 9) suggested that western Sussex and southern English wares containing flint inclusions began to be 'oxidised at some time before c.1150 and increasingly sand-enriched by c.1200' (Cotter 2006, 158). Cotter's analysis of the Early Medieval and Medieval wares from the recent excavations at Townwall Street, Dover has modified this slightly with the conclusion that 'flint-tempered wares were increasingly oxidised and sand-tempered after c.1150' (Cotter *op.cit.*).

Whilst the above dating could be applied here without caveat, there appears to be a distinct difference in wear-pattern between the first two coarser fabrics and the third sandier, less gritty, third fabric type. This indicates at least a moderate degree of time-lapse between discard of the coarser and sandier sherds. Further, this last type, with its common trend for brighter more oxidized surfaces is, visually, much nearer to eastern Kentish earlier thirteenth century manufacturing trends. There, although oxidized material *can* occur earlier there is, in this analyst's experience, a consistently occurring *general* trend for Canterbury Tyler Hill sandy ware products made between the later twelfth to the later thirteenth century, to go through a spectrum of firing colours. Expressed simplistically these go from dark chocolatey browns, through increasingly buff to, by c.1250 AD, bright orangey-red firing colours.

This later-dated trend from a different geographical area is not directly applied here – it is only a complementary comment used in the absence of more diagnostic elements. In this absence it is felt wiser, initially, to date the present material somewhat later than current studies might suggest. However, not that much later. Most of the sandier more oxidized elements have rather soft low-fired fabrics and darker grey cores – and a date as late as c.1250 AD is unlikely. In addition, most of the earlier more reduce-fired sherds are fairly thin-walled - and in this sense closer in type to the oxidized elements. So that, apart perhaps from the sherds from *EV 903* and *EX 11*, these are unlikely to date much earlier than c.1150 AD.

Summarising likely production dates – the thicker-walled coarse-fabriced sherds from *EV 903*, *EX 11* were probably made between c.1050-1150 AD, the marginally finer fabrics of the

elements from *EV 202, 203* and *EX 11* between c.1125-1175 AD, the less worn more brightly oxidized sandier elements from *EV 202, 203, 903, EX 11* between c.1175-1225 AD, possibly slightly earlier and the pale buff oxidized pan rim from *EX 11*, with its better-sorted fabric, between certainly between c.1225-1275 AD or slightly later. It is worth stressing that, despite the relatively higher quantity of sherds from the ditch context *903* – with the largest fairly fresh – most elements are small and fairly worn – and their size could easily stem from contemporary or later plough-reduction. In other words, their presence in the Trench 9 ditch need not automatically determine its date.

## APPENDIX

### ***Period present and codes employed :***

EM = Early Medieval

M = Medieval

LPM = Late Post-Medieval

### ***Context dating :***

#### **1. Evaluation material (HLS-EV-13):**

**Context: 202** - 2 sherds (weight : 2gms)

1 EM East Sussex gritty ware with sparse-moderate coarse sand (c.1150-1200/1225 AD emphasis)

1 EM-M East Sussex-type sandy-gritty ware (c.1175-1225/1250 AD emphasis)

Comment : Both small bodysherds, both fairly heavily worn – the earliest entry marginally more so.

**Likely date : Probably residual**

**Context: 203** - 2 sherds (weight : 1gm)

1 EM-M East Sussex-type sandy-gritty ware (c.1175-1225/1250 AD emphasis)

1 M East Sussex-type sandy-gritty ware (c.1200-1225/1250 AD emphasis)

Comment : Small bodysherds, the earliest a worn scrap, the latest small and slightly fresher – with slight unifacial damage.

**Likely date : Probably residual**

**Context: 902 – Ditch (Trench 9)**

1 worked flint (weight: 43gms)

Comment : Thick squat flake scraper, un-patinated non-cortical flake, mottled grey-black flint,

**Likely date :**

**Context: 903 – Ditch (Trench 9) - 4 sherds (weight : 7gms)**

1 EM East Sussex gritty ware with moderate sand (c.1075/1100-1150 AD emphasis)

2 EM-M East Sussex-type sandy-gritty ware (c.1175-1225/1250 AD emphasis; **same vessel**)

1 M East Sussex-type sandy-gritty ware (c.1200/1225-1250 AD emphasis)

**and :**

1 fragment LPM roof-tile/brick (weight : 4gms) – small, fresh, hard-fired, dark pink-maroon marly fabric – c.1750/1775 AD-plus probably

Comment : All bodysherds, the earliest entry small, fairly thick-walled and fairly heavily worn with burred breaks. The same-vessel elements are small scraps with slight unifacial wear, the latest is near-fresh and only fairly small – and *may* stem from an undisturbed contemporary deposit..

**Likely date : If not residual - c.1250-1275 AD or slightly earlier**

## **2. Strip, map and sample material (HA-EX-13) :**

**Context: 11 - ditch - 8 sherds (weight : 49gms)**

1 EM East Sussex-type gritty ware (c.1050-1150 AD range)

1 EM East Sussex-type gritty ware with moderate sand (c.1075/1100-1150 AD emphasis)

1 M East Sussex-type sandy-gritty ware (c.1200-1225/1250 AD emphasis)

1 M East Sussex-type sandy-gritty ware (c.1200/1225-1250 AD emphasis)

1 M East Sussex-type moderately sandy-gritty ware (c.1225/1250-1275 AD probable emphasis)

1 M East Sussex-type fine sandy-gritty ware (c.1250-1275/1300 AD emphasis)

**and :**

1 fragment tile (weight :2gms) – small, worn, fine sandy marly fabric, rather thin.

1 fragment daub (weight : 2gms) – small, worn, sub-rounded

Comment : Mostly small bodysherds but also 3 moderate-sized including one shoulder, one base and one rim sherd. The earliest entry is fairly heavily abraded overall, the second entry is moderate-sized and has partial unifacial wear. The remaining purely thirteenth century elements are all rather worn but appear to fairly consistently have unifacial wear-patterns. The latest sherd, a moderate-sized large-diameter pan rim, is very marginally less worn than the other C13 AD fragments. This wear trend suggests that most earlier twelfth-thirteenth century elements appear to have arrived into a context that remained open for some time

**Likely date : In use between at least c.1100-1300 AD, latest discard date c.1250-1300 AD probably**

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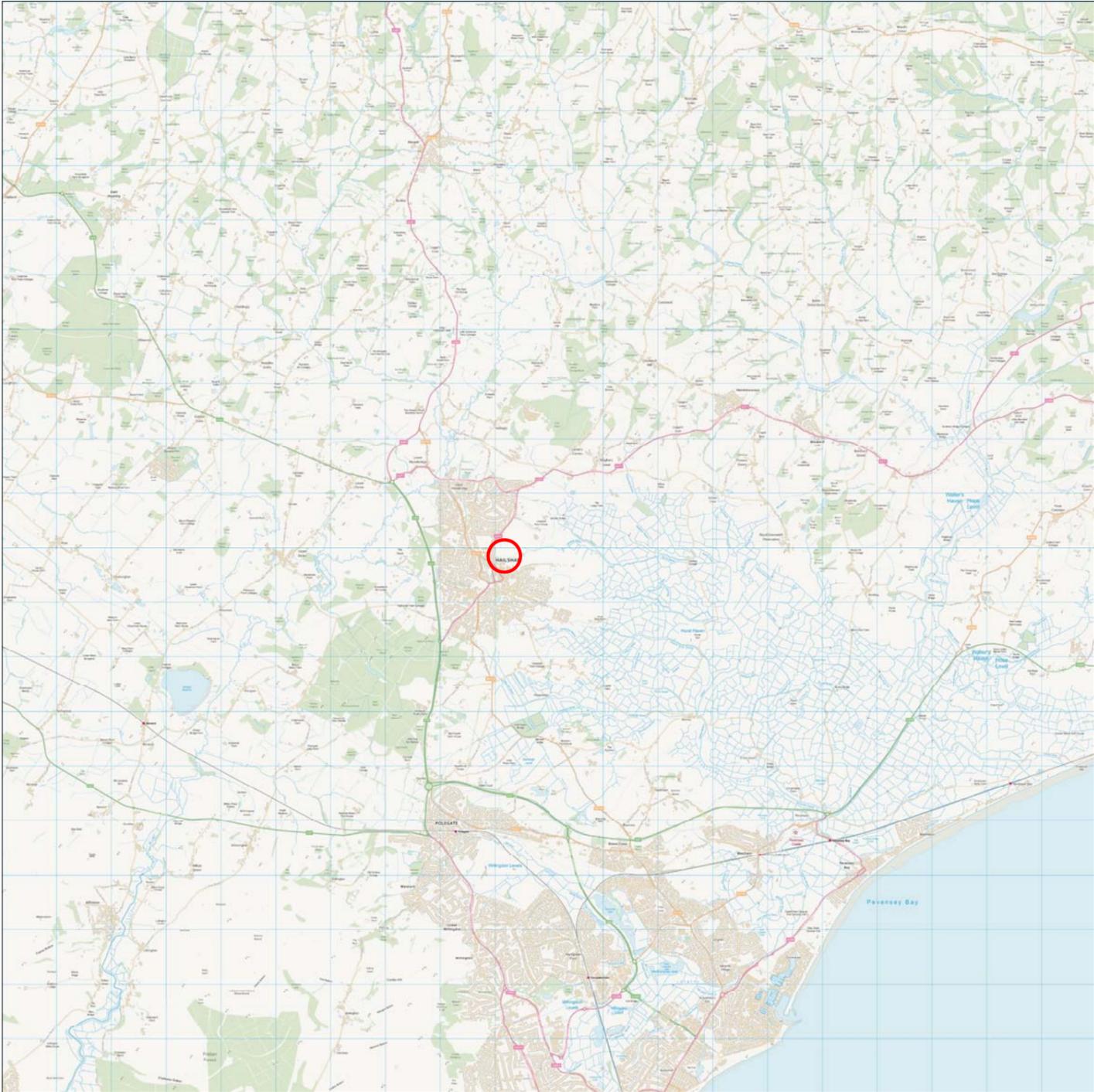
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### **Cotter 2006 :**

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**Analyst :** N.Macpherson-Grant 30.4.2013

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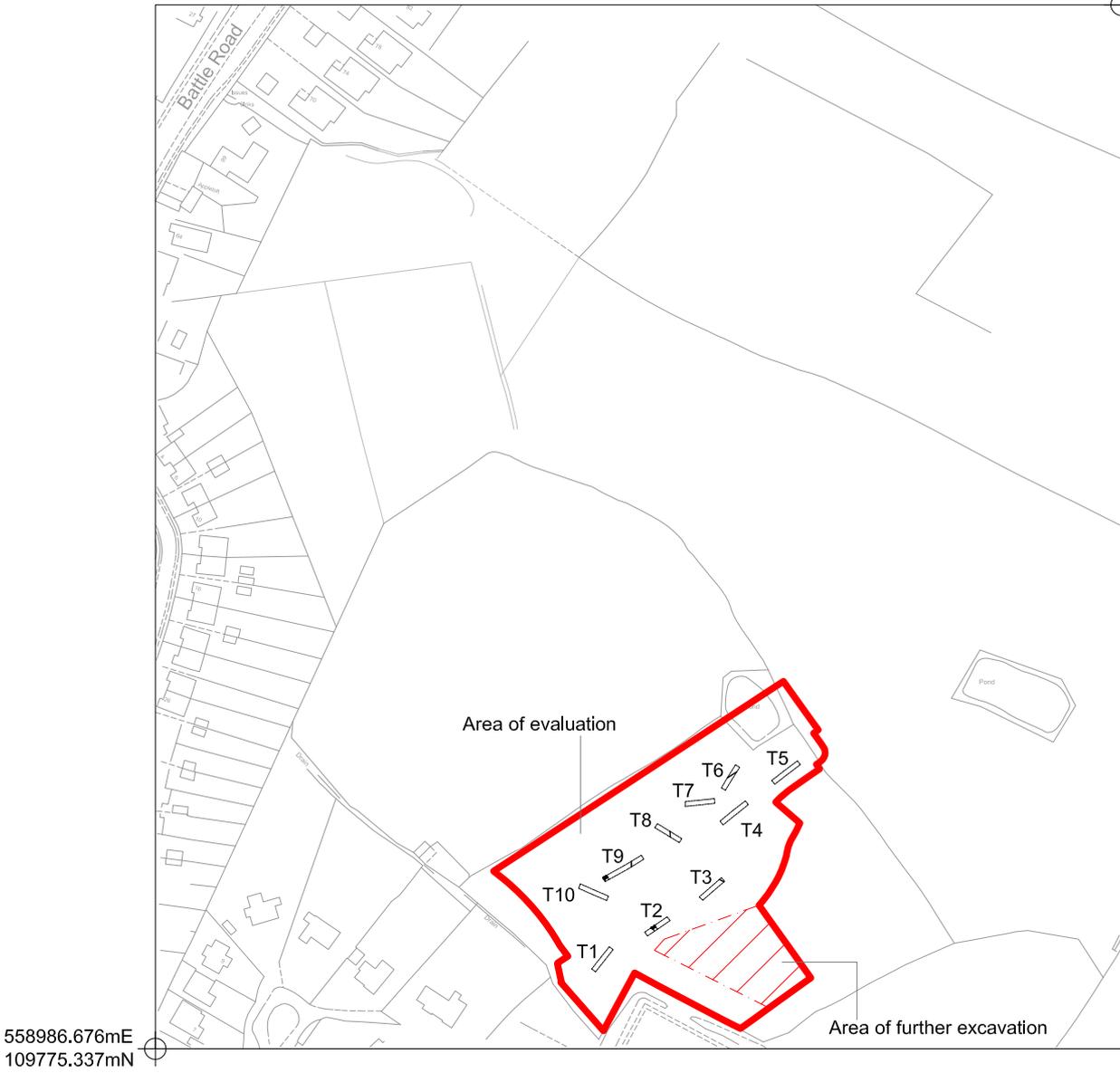
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Figure 1: Location of Site



559337.591mE  
110157.541mN



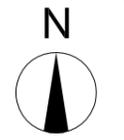
558986.676mE  
109775.337mN

1:2500@A4

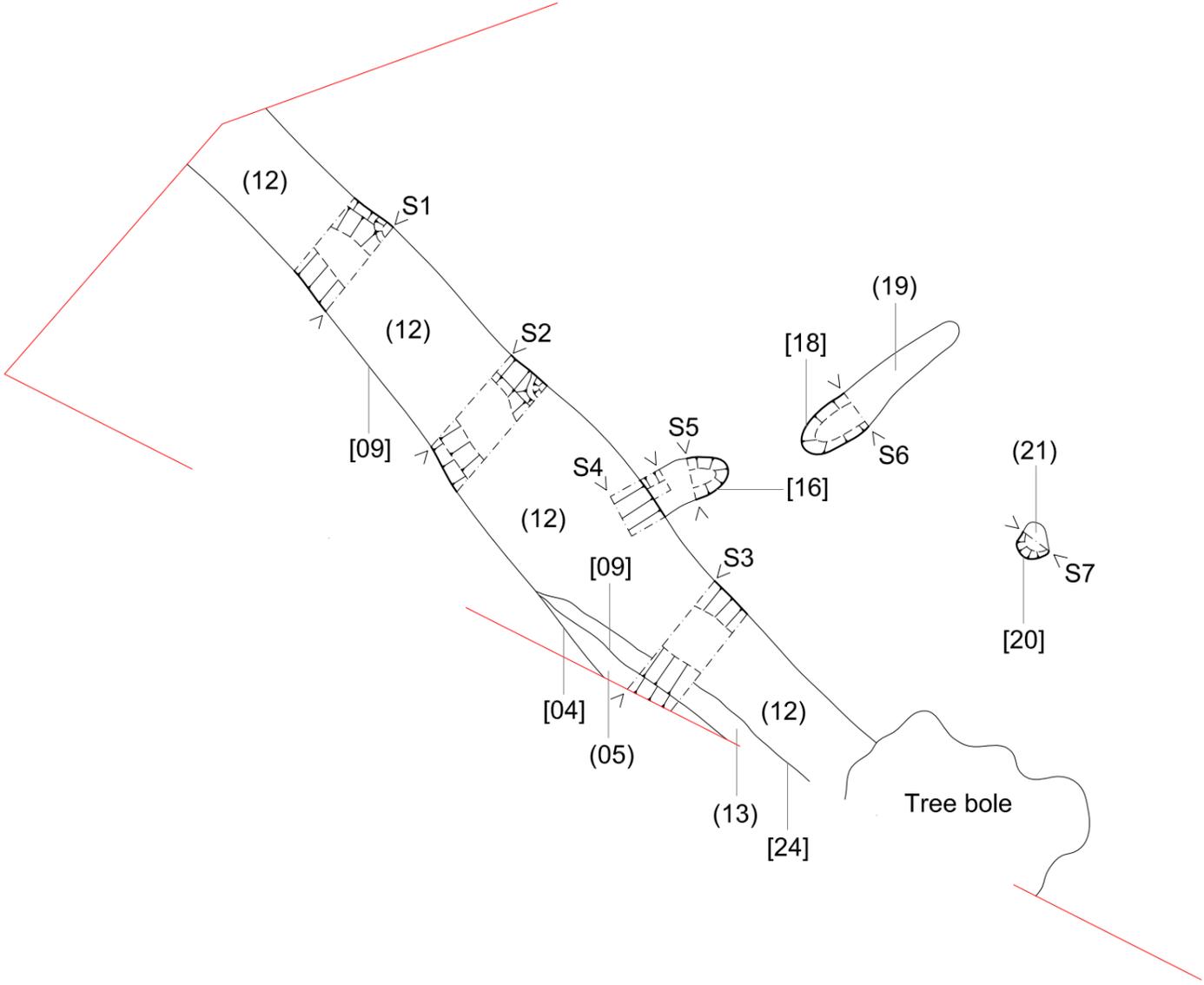
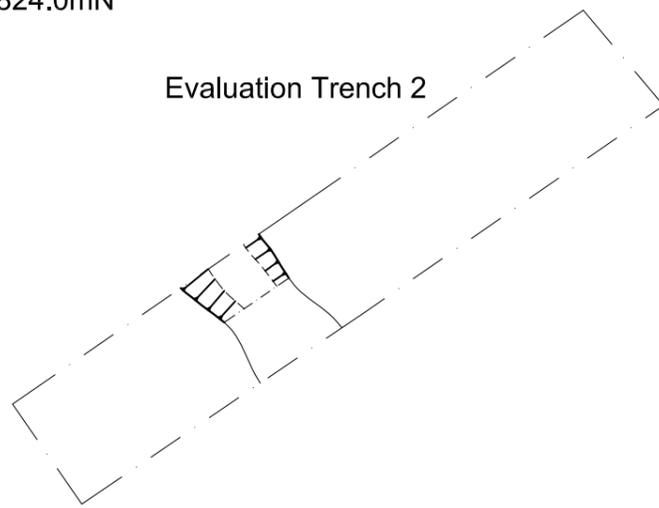
Figure 2: Location of evaluation trenches within site and also the area of further excavation



559163.0mE  
109824.0mN



Evaluation Trench 2

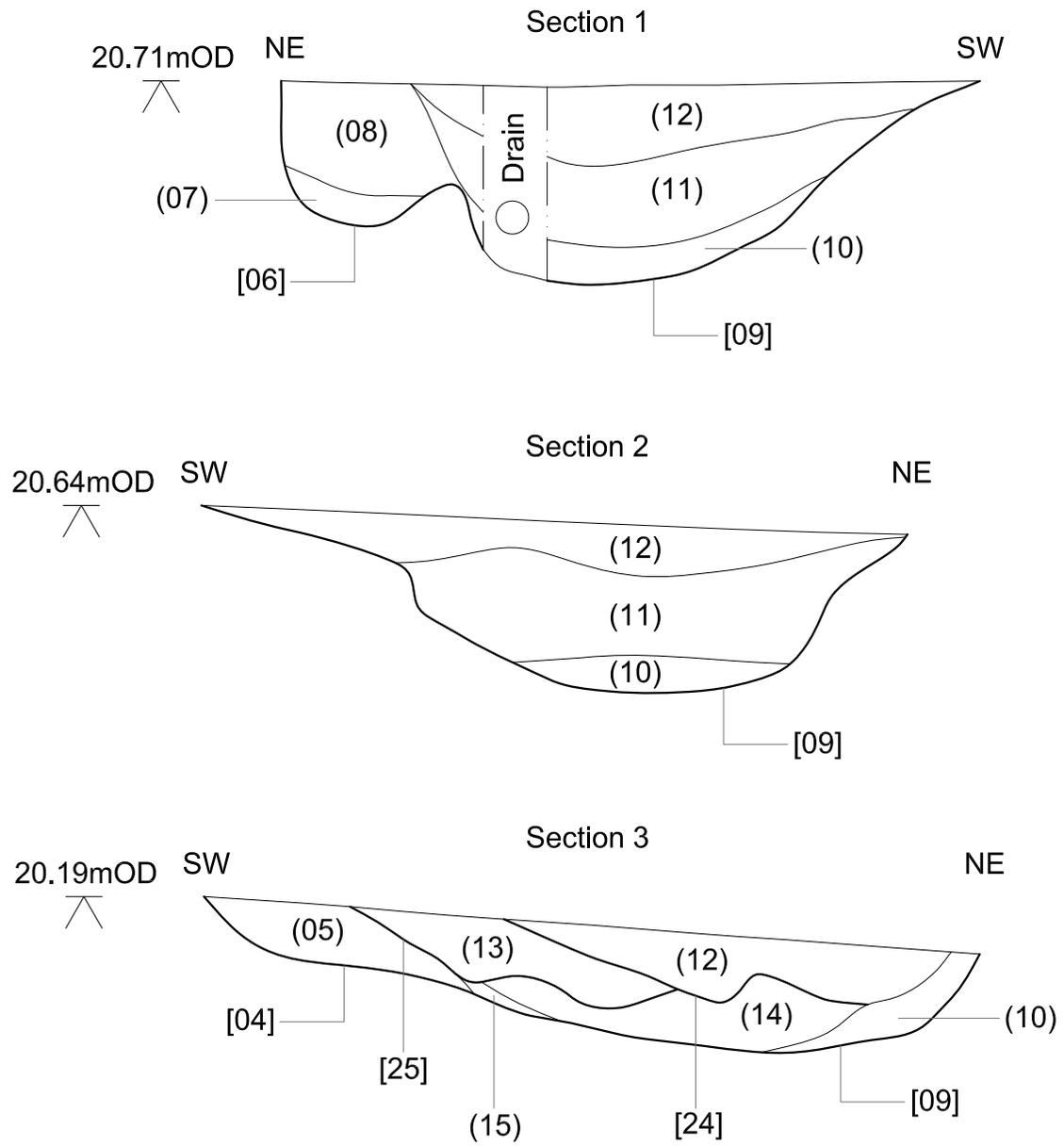


559193.0mE  
109803.0mN

1:100@A3



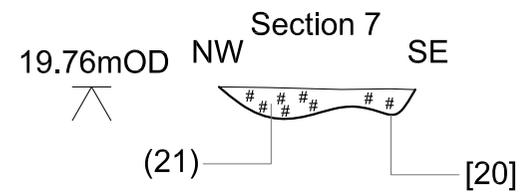
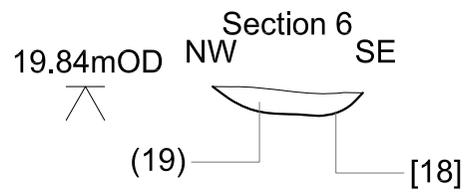
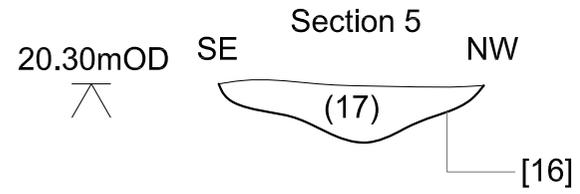
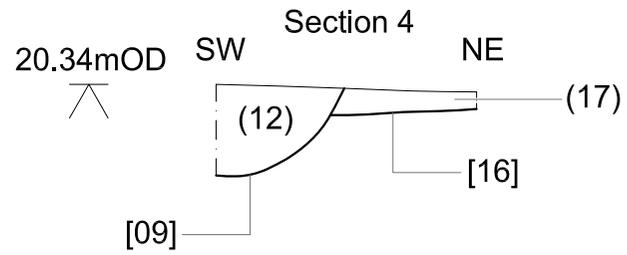
Figure 3: Area of excavation



1:20@A4



Figure 4: Sections



1:20@A4



Figure 5: Sections