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

NGR: 559175mE 169840mN
Site Code: HSL/EV/13
(Planning Application Number: WD/2012/0148/MRM)

Report for Denne Ltd

25/04/2013

SWAT. Archaeology
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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 has been 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.

INTRODUCTION

Swale & Thames Survey Company (SWAT Archaeology) was commissioned by Denne 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 (SWAT 2012) and in discussion with the Archaeological Officer, East Sussex County Council. Initial phases of the evaluation were carried out in April 2013.

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 (Fig. 6 for contour information and Trench 2). The underlying geology of the site consists of Weald Clay (British Geological Survey South

Sheet, 4th Edition Solid 2001). The drift geology is Alluvium 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 will be 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 3rd 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 13th 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 15th century.

Although there is little archaeological evidence for Medieval activity within the 1km search area (there is only one listed building; DES5171, a 15th 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 sliver 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 16th 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 18th 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 15th-16th 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 10th-11th centuries.

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

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

i) Establish whether there are any archaeological deposits at the site that may be affected by this proposed phase of development. The excavation is thus to ascertain the extent, depth below ground surface, depth of deposit, character, significance and condition of any archaeological remains on site.

ii) Establish the extent to which any previous development on the site has affected archaeological deposits.

Particular issues that should be addressed by the evaluation 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 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

Trial trenching was carried out on the 22nd April 2013, with the excavation of ten trenches each measuring 1.5m in width and 10m in length. Trench locations were agreed prior to the excavation between ESCC and SWAT. Each trench was initially scanned for surface finds prior to excavation. Excavation was carried out using a 360º 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. Trenches were subsequently hand-cleaned to reveal any archaeological features. The trenches 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 2012) 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 evaluation.

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 archaeological evaluation consisted of ten trenches, 10m in length and 1.5m in width. Five were located along the line of a proposed access road and five were located within the 'foot print' of a proposed retirement home. The trenches were situated on former pasture land and on a north facing incline. Two of the trenches initially to be excavated on the route of the proposed access road were moved roughly 10m to the north west, as their original location fell within the confines of the construction company's depot.

Trench One

Trench One was located on the crest of the incline and was aligned north - south. Machine removal of the topsoil (100) exposed a horizon, 0.28m thick, of mid – dark grey brown subsoil (101). The interface between the topsoil and the subsoil was marked by a concentration of angular and sub-angular gravel mixed with peg tile and pottery dating from the post medieval to Victorian periods. The subsoil overlay the natural clay, which was a light yellow grey, mixed with patches of manganese rich light grey clay.

Trench Two

Trench Two was located further down the incline, 10m north of trench one. Trench two was also aligned north – south. The removal of the topsoil (200) exposed a horizon, 0.28m thick, of mid – dark grey brown subsoil (201). The subsoil sealed a red brown natural clay. Cutting the natural was a ditch, aligned east – west, and situated c.7m from the southern end of the trench. The ditch [204] was 1.30m wide at the top, and 60cm wide at the base. The sides sloped steeply inwards and formed a flat base. The ditch contained two fills. The primary fill (203) comprised of a light grey brown silty clay rich with manganese flecks and was about 8cm thick. This context produced two small sherds of abraded pottery dating to abour 1125-1175 AD. This primary fill was sealed by (202), a compact mid – dark brown silty clay, 30cm thick. This context contained moderate flecks of charcoal and it also produced two abraded sherds of pottery, again dating to about 1125-1175 AD. This ditch was also observed in Trench Nine.

Trench Three

Trench Three was located 10m north of trench two and was aligned north – south. Machine removal of the topsoil (300) exposed a horizon, 0.26m thick, of mid – dark grey brown subsoil (301). The interface between the topsoil and the subsoil was marked by a concentration of angular and sub-angular gravel mixed with peg tile and pottery dating from the post medieval

to Victorian periods. The subsoil overlay the natural clay, which was a light yellow grey, mixed with patches of manganese rich light grey clay.

Trench Four

Trench Four was originally to be situated along the route of the proposed access road and located at the base of the north facing incline. However, due to the presence of the construction company's depot, the trench was moved 10m to the north-west. The relocation of the trench placed it along the line of a 16" water main. Consequently the removal of the topsoil (400) exposed the backfill of the pipe trench. No further excavation took place.

Trench Five

Trench Five was also originally to be situated along the route of the proposed access road and located at the base of the north facing incline. This trench was also relocated 10m to the north-west, due to the presence of the construction company's depot. The relocation also placed trench five along the line of the 16" water main. Consequently the removal of the topsoil (500) exposed the backfill of the pipe trench. No further excavation took place.

Trench Six

Trench Six was located on the lowest part of the north facing incline, 10m south of trench 5, and was aligned north - south. Machine removal of the topsoil (600) exposed a horizon, 0.18m thick, of mid – dark grey brown subsoil (601). The interface between the topsoil and the subsoil was marked by a concentration of angular and sub-angular gravel mixed with peg tile and pottery dating from the post medieval to Victorian periods. The subsoil overlay the natural clay, which was a light yellow grey, mixed with patches of red clay.

Trench Seven

Trench Seven was located on the incline, 10m south of trench six, and was aligned north east – south west. Machine removal of the topsoil (700) exposed a horizon, 0.24m thick, of mid – dark grey brown subsoil (701). The interface between the topsoil and the subsoil was marked by a concentration of angular and sub-angular gravel mixed with peg tile and pottery dating from the post medieval to Victorian periods. The subsoil overlay the natural clay, which was a light yellow grey, mixed with patches of manganese rich light grey clay.

Trench Eight

Trench Eight was also located on the incline, 10m south of trench seven, and was aligned north west – south east. Machine removal of the topsoil (800) exposed a horizon, 0.26m thick, of mid – dark grey brown subsoil (801). The interface between the topsoil and the subsoil was marked by a concentration of angular and sub-angular gravel mixed with peg tile and pottery dating from the post medieval to Victorian periods. The subsoil overlay the natural clay, which was a light yellow grey, mixed with patches of manganese rich light grey clay.

Trench Nine

Trench Nine was located on the incline, 10m south of trench eight, and was aligned north – south. The removal of the topsoil (900) exposed a horizon, 0.28m thick, of mid – dark grey brown subsoil (901). The subsoil sealed a light yellow grey natural clay, mixed with patches of manganese rich light grey clay. Cutting the natural was a ditch, aligned east – west, and situated 25cm from the southern end of the trench. The ditch [904] was 1.20m wide at the top, and 40cm wide at the base. The sides sloped steeply inwards and formed a flat base. The ditch contained two fills. The primary fill (903) comprised of a light grey brown silty clay rich with manganese flecks and was 14cm thick. This context produced two small sherds of abraded pottery dating from about 1050-1150AD. This primary fill was sealed by (902), a compact mid – dark brown silty clay, 22cm thick. This context contained moderate flecks of charcoal and it also produced abraided sherds of pottery dating from about 1050-1150AD and a flint tool (a ‘scraper’ of late Neolithic – early Bronze Age date). This ditch was also observed in Trench Two.

Trench Ten

Trench Ten was located on the incline, 10m south of trench nine, and was aligned roughly east - west. Machine removal of the topsoil (1000) exposed a horizon, 0.28m thick, of mid – dark grey brown subsoil (1001). The interface between the topsoil and the subsoil was marked by a concentration of angular and sub-angular gravel mixed with peg tile and pottery dating from the post medieval to Victorian periods. The subsoil overlay the natural clay, which was a light yellow grey, mixed with patches of manganese rich light grey clay.

Overview

The results of the excavation of the ten evaluation trenches revealed an almost complete absence of archaeology. The archaeology that was observed occurred in Trenches Two and

Nine, and this comprised of a ditch, aligned east – west. This ditch would seem to have been located on the crest of the incline and may have acted as a Medieval boundary, as the topography falls away at this location.

The natural geology (clay) was observed in all but two trenches (Trenches Four and Five) due to their relocation in line with a pipe run.

Discussion

The 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 11th-12th centuries. 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 evaluation 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 evaluation 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. Paul Wilkinson, James and Jonny Madden, Simon Holmes 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

April 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

CONTENTS OF SITE ARCHIVE

Correspondence
Photographs: 28 Digital photographs SWAT Film nos. 13/223-251.
Photocopies of Ordnance Survey and other maps.
Drawings: 10 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 (25)

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

Site Name: *Vicarage Lane,* **SWAT Site Code:** *HBS/EV/13*	
Site Address: *Land north of Leisure Centre, Vicarage Lane, Hailsham, East Sussex*	
Summary: *Swale & Thames Survey Company (SWAT) carried out an archaeological evaluation on land north of Leisure Centre, Vicarage Lane, Hailsham, East Sussex, on April 22nd-23rd 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.* *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. The archaeological evaluation has been successful in fulfilling the primary aims and objectives of the Specification.*	
District/Unitary: *Wealden*	**Parish:**
Period(s): **Tentative:** *Medieval*	
NGR (centre of site : 8 figures): **(NB if large or linear site give multiple NGRs):** *559175mE 169840mN*	
Type of archaeological work (delete) *Evaluation*	
Date of Recording: *April 22nd to 23rd 2013*	
Unit undertaking recording: *Swale & Thames Survey Company (SWAT)*	
Geology: *Weald Clay*	
Title and author of accompanying report: *Wilkinson. P. (2013) Archaeological Evaluation of Land to the north of Leisure Centre, Vicarage Lane, Hailsham, East Sussex:*	
Summary of fieldwork results (begin with earliest period first, add NGRs where appropriate) *As above* **(cont. on attached sheet)**	
Location of archive/finds: *SWAT*	
Contact at Unit: *Paul Wilkinson*	**Date:** *29th April 2013*

Plate 2.Trench 1 facing north

Plate 3.Trench 2 facing north

Plate 4.Trench 2 Context 204 facing south. 1m scale

Plate 5.Trench 2 Context 204 facing west. 1m scale

Plate 6.Trench 6 facing north

Trench 9 facing north-east

Plate 7.Trench 9 Context 904 facing north-west. 1m scale

Plate 8.Trench 10 facing north-east

Appendix 1

THE DATING AND ASSESSMENT OF THE CERAMIC ASSEMBLAGE FROM: HAILSHAM, SUSSEX EVALUATION 2013 (HSL-EV-13)

ASSESSMENT

Period-based summary

Setting aside a single small Late Post-Medieval tile or brick fragment as intrusive - one worked flint and 8 pottery sherds weighing 10gms comprise this small but multi-period assemblage. 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 is 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

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

1 - a predominantly gritty ware with a sparse-moderate coarse quartzsand content = 2 sherds, 1 each from *Contexts 202, 203*

2 - a gritty ware with moderate sand content = 1 sherd from *Context 903*
3 – a sandy-gritty ware – with a higher fairly profuse sand content and only sparse-moderate sand = 5 sherds from *Contexts 202, 203* and *903*

Despite, originally, slightly differing clay sources or, possibly, degrees of deliberately added grit content - all three 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 two ware types are represented by partially oxidized drab milk chocolate-brown or drab buff, two with darker grey-black interiors, of which one is from a relatively thick-walled vessel. The third, numerically dominant, ware type is consistently represented by thinner-walled sherds with oxidized red-orange or paler orange-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 is 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 sherd from *903*, these are unlikely to date much earlier than c.1150 AD.

Summarising likely production dates – the thicker-walled coarse-fabriced sherd from *903* was probably made between c.1050-1150 AD, the marginally finer fabrics of the elements from *202* and *203* between c.1125-1175 AD, and the less worn more brightly oxidized sandier elements from *202, 203* and *903* between c.1175-1225 AD, *possibly* slightly earlier. 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.

Period present and codes employed :

EM = Early Medieval

M = Medieval

LPM = Late Post-Medieval

Context dating :

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 bdysherds, both fairly heavily worn – the earliest entry marginally more so.

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.

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 : Early Bronze Age, probably residual

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

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Analyst : N.Macpherson-Grant 30.4.2013

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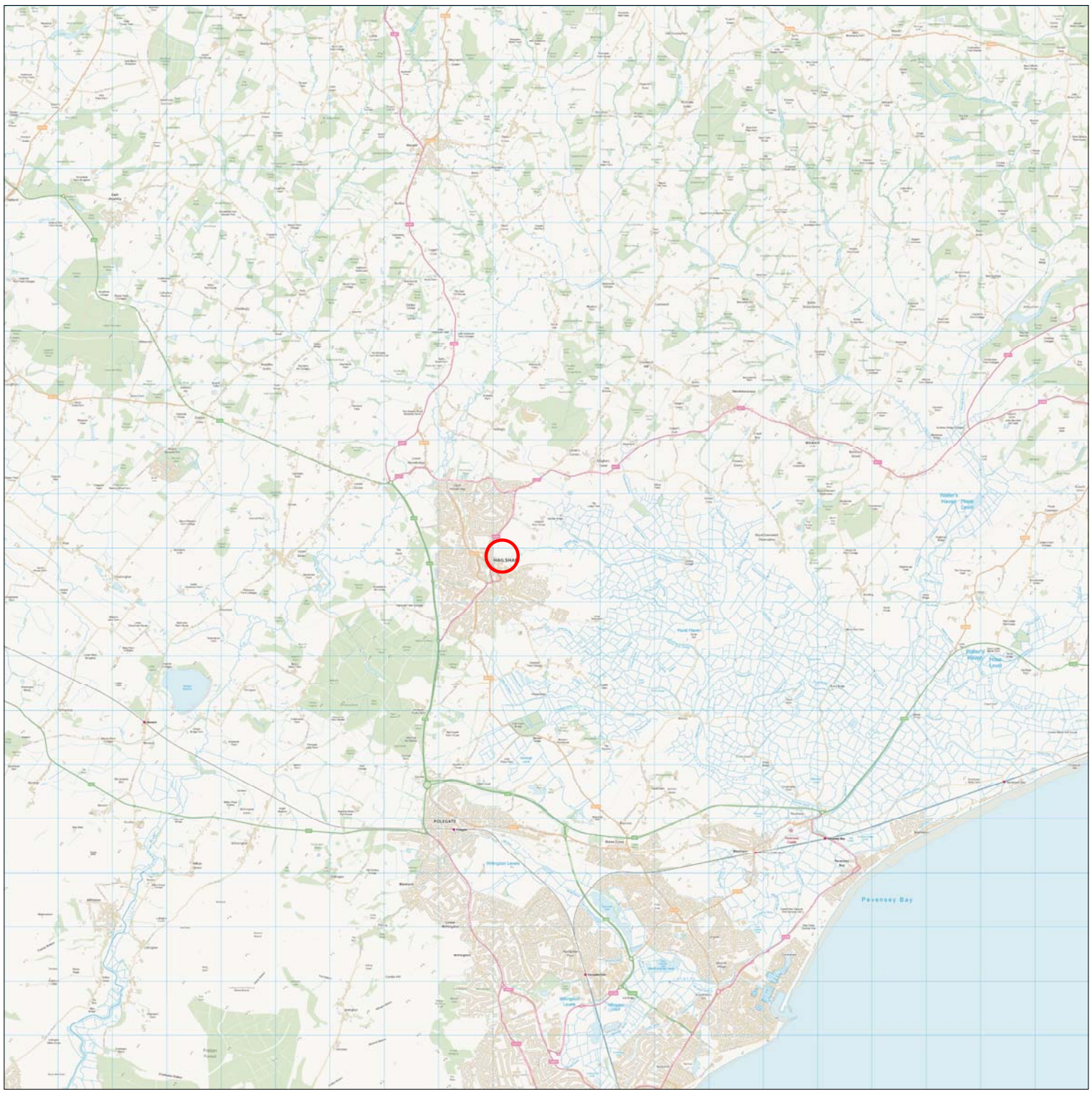

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Figure 1: Location of Site

0m 10km

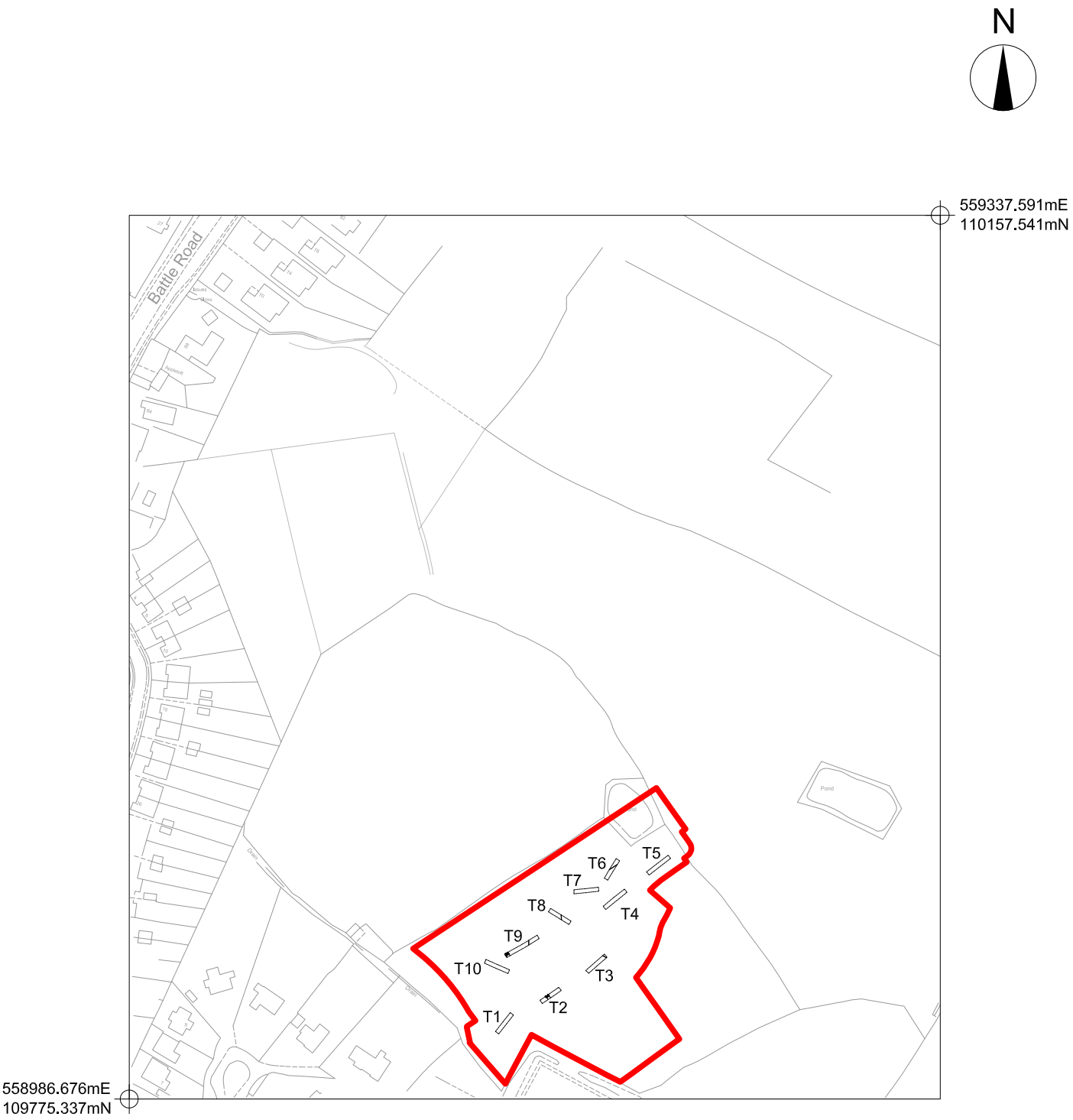

Figure 2: Location of trenches within site

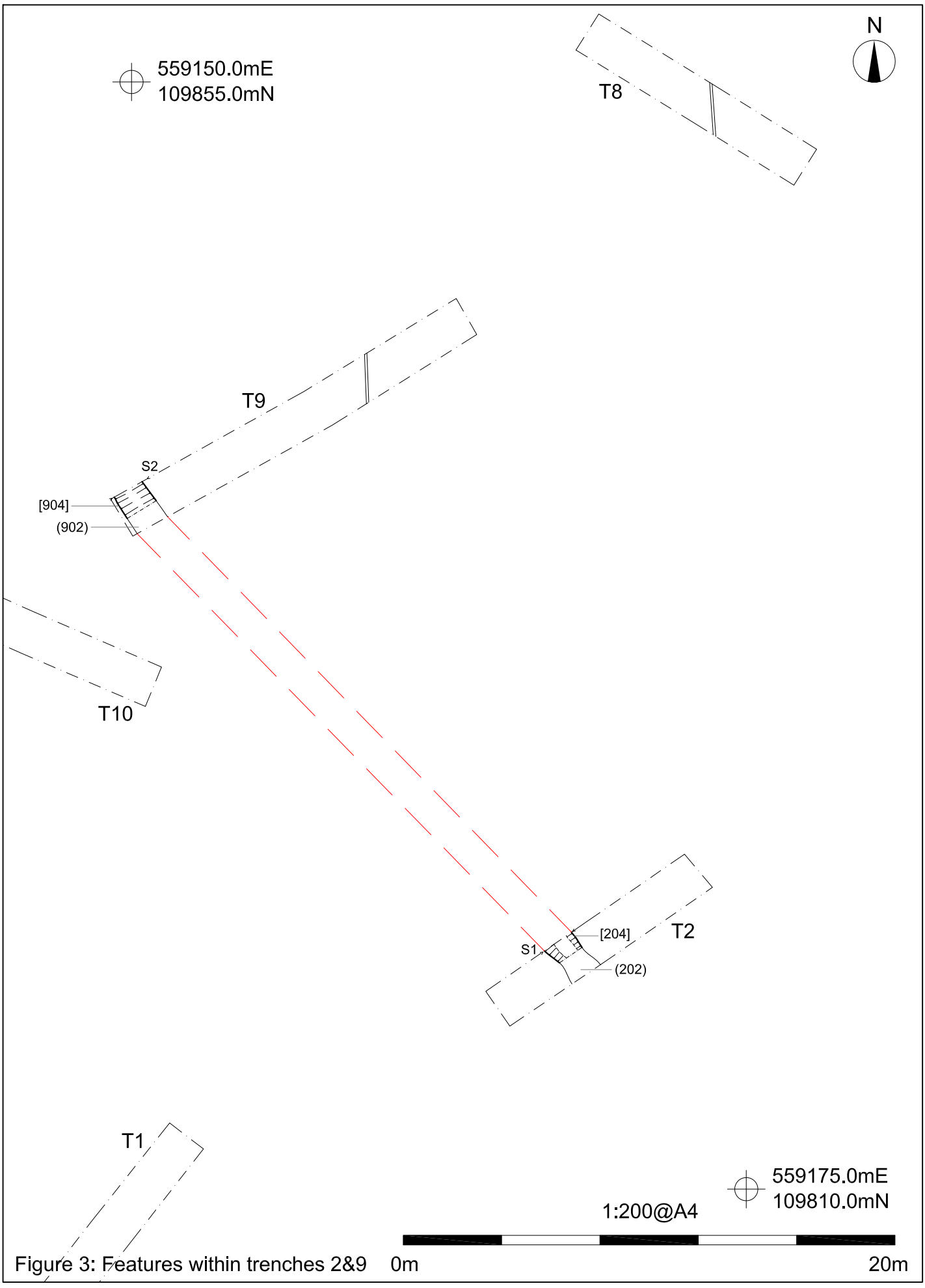

Figure 3: Features within trenches 2&9

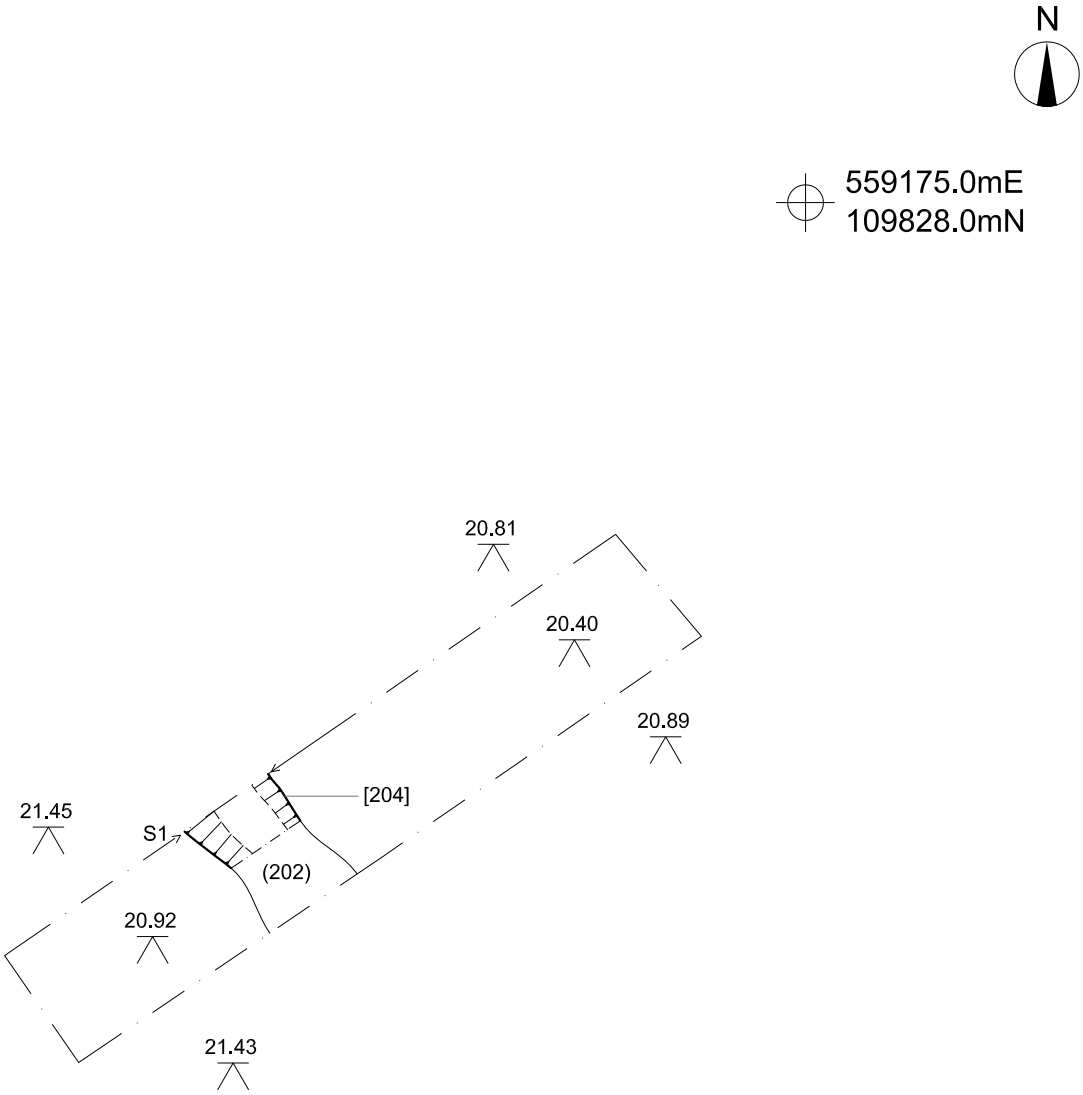

Figure 4: Trench 2 with plan/section
(Section at Scale 1:20)

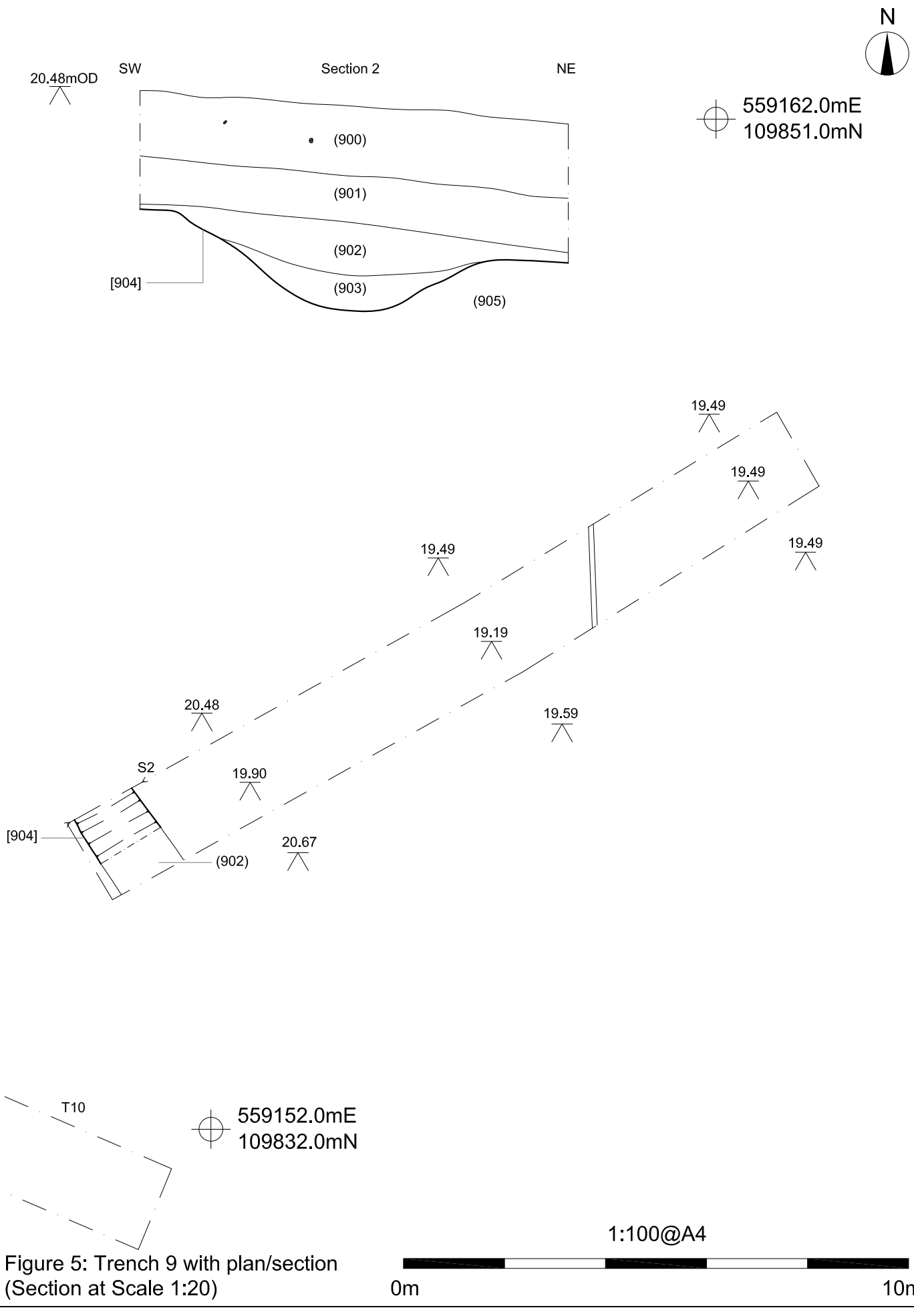

Figure 5: Trench 9 with plan/section
(Section at Scale 1:20)

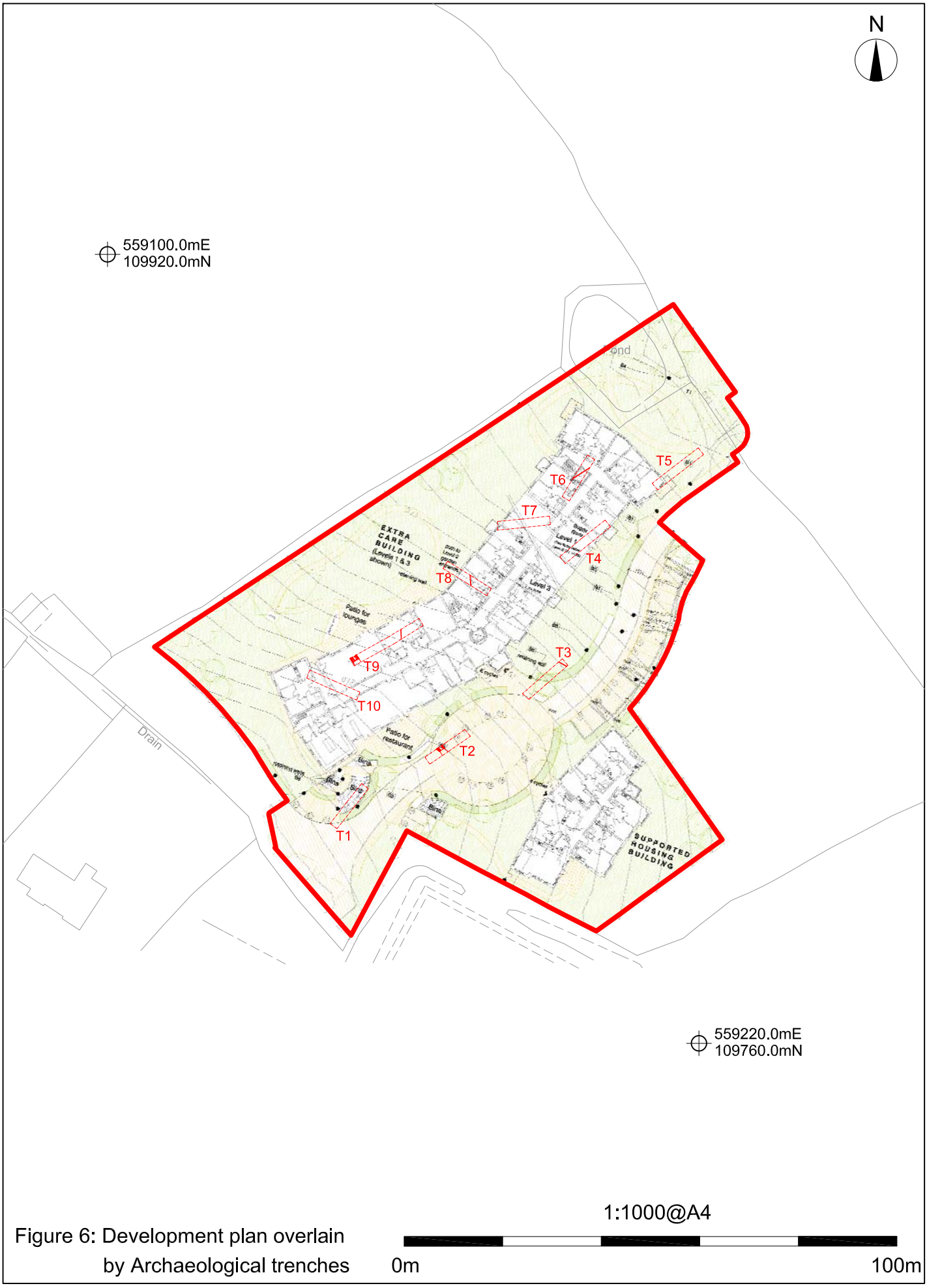

Figure 6: Development plan overlain by Archaeological trenches