

# Archaeological Evaluation and Assessment of Land at 64 Sturry Hill, Canterbury, Kent



NGR 1756 6141  
Site Code: SHSS-EV-13  
(Planning Application: CA/12/1050/FUL)  
Date of Report: 21/05/13

Report for  
Dennis Turner

#### **SWAT. ARCHAEOLOGY**

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

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# **Archaeological Evaluation and Assessment of Land at 64 Sturry Hill, Canterbury, Kent**

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Site Code: SHSS-EV-13

## **1. SUMMARY**

*Swale & Thames Survey Company (SWAT) carried out an archaeological evaluation and assessment of land at 64 Sturry Hill. A planning application (CA/12/1050/FUL) for the build of a new dwelling and access, whereby the Council requested that an Archaeological Evaluation and Assessment be undertaken in order to determine the possible impact of the development on any archaeological remains. The work was carried out in accordance with the requirements set out within an Archaeological Specification (SWAT 2013) and in discussion with the Archaeological Heritage Officer, Canterbury City Council. The results of the excavation of the one evaluation trench revealed that archaeological features were present. These comprised of one post hole [105] and one ditch or gully [107]. Pottery retrieved from Context (104) has been identified as Later Prehistoric dating from c.900-600BC. The natural geology was observed in the trench and this comprised brickearth. Additional work on the gravels was undertaken by QUEST (Appendix 2) who have recommended no further work is required.*

*The Archaeological Evaluation has therefore been successful in fulfilling the primary aims and objectives of the Specification.*

## **2. INTRODUCTION**

Swale & Thames Survey Company (SWAT) was commissioned by Dennis Turner to carry out an archaeological evaluation and assessment at the above site. The work was carried out in accordance with the requirements set out within an Archaeological Specification (SWAT 2013) and in discussion with the Archaeological Heritage Officer, Canterbury City Council. The evaluation was carried out from the 24<sup>th</sup> to 26<sup>th</sup> April 2013.

## **3. SITE DESCRIPTION AND TOPOGRAPHY**

The location of the proposed development area lies within close proximity to the River Stour and its tributaries. To the west of Canterbury there are patches of terrace river gravels and areas of head deposits. To the east of Canterbury at Sturry and Fordwich are rich Palaeolithic sites within Terraces 2 and 3 (though these are 'sealed' by a mantle of Head Gravel deposits). Where the River Stour floods, the Alluvium is generally fine grained, comprising of silts, fine sands and 'muds' deposited during low energy flow and periods of flooding (Gallois 1965, 63). These alluvial deposits are thought to date from the Flandrian (Holocene), or post-Glacial period, deposited about 12,000 years ago.

According to the British Geological Survey the underlying surface was anticipated to be sand and fine clay with occasional bands of gravel whilst BGS mapping indicates terrace gravels are exposed at the surfaces on the western margin of the site. (BGS 1:50,000 digital). The site averages 31.50aOD.

Quaternary Scientific (QUEST) carried out a geo-archaeological investigation and the report states (Appendix 2) that: *Nothing was observed in the course of the investigation described in this report to suggest that ground disturbance to a level up to 2.0m below the present ground surface will impact on sediments of archaeological significance. It is recommended therefore that no further geo-archaeological investigations be undertaken at the site within 2m of the present ground surface.*

#### **4. PLANNING BACKGROUND**

Planning consent (CA/1050/FUL) for the construction of one detached dwelling and access was approved by Canterbury City Council (CCC). Canterbury City Council requested that an archaeological evaluation and assessment be undertaken in order to determine the possible impact of the development on any archaeological remains. The Local Planning Authority (CCC) placed the following condition (7) on the Planning Consent stating that:

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

Requirements for the archaeological evaluation comprised trial trenching targeting a representative 4% sample of the impact area with one trench (Fig. 2) designed to establish whether there were any archaeological deposits at the site that may be affected by the proposed development. The results from this evaluation will be used to inform CCC of any further archaeological mitigation measures that may be necessary in connection with the development proposals.

## **5. ARCHAEOLOGICAL and HISTORICAL BACKGROUND**

The archaeological potential of the site at 64 Sturry Hill is comparable with the adjacent site where Palaeolithic implements were located in 1920 by Dr A G Ince at Homershams West Pit. Numerous artefacts were recovered between 6ft and 20ft below ground level. Additional work on the gravel levels were undertaken by Canterbury Archaeological Trust at the site of the Sturry Hill Housing Development in 1997. Other prehistoric activity in the vicinity of the proposed development is Neolithic flint tools recovered from nearby gravel pits (TR 16 SE 75) and Mesolithic implements (TR 16 SE 53). In addition a Bronze Age burial (TR 16 SE 18), Iron Age settlement (TR 16 SE 4) and a Roman burial ground (TR 16 SE 8) are also known in the vicinity of the proposed development.

The HER records from KCC have been used for data and the Canterbury Urban Archaeological Database (UAD) has also been used as a source of information.

## **6. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES**

The purpose of the evaluation was to:

- Assess the likely archaeological impact of the proposed development including drainage, access and car parking works.
- Assess the impact of past development on the site's archaeological potential including from ploughing and landscaping.
- Establishing the degree of archaeological activity on the site.
- Establishing the degree of earlier prehistoric activity on the site given its topographic position upslope from the River Stour.
- Establishing the degree of medieval and post-medieval activity on the site.
- Contributing to the environmental and landscape history of the area.

## **7. METHODOLOGY**

Trial trenching was carried out on 24<sup>th</sup> April 2012 with the excavation of one trench. Trench location was agreed prior to the excavation between Canterbury City Council Archaeological Officer and SWAT. Excavation was carried out using a tracked 360° mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket, removing the overburden to the top of the first recognisable archaeological horizon (**102**), or natural, under the constant supervision of an experienced archaeologist. The trench measured about 20m in length and 1.6m wide. The trench was subsequently hand-cleaned, and a number of features were exposed. All archaeological work was carried out in accordance with the specification. A single context recording system was used to record the deposits, and context recording numbers were assigned to all deposits for recording purposes. These are used in the report and shown in bold. All archaeological work was carried out in accordance with SWAT and IFA standards and guidance.

## **8. MONITORING**

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

## **9. RESULTS**

### **Trenches**

The archaeological evaluation consisted of one trench, 20m in length and 1.6m in width. The trench was subject to intense root action.

#### Trench One

Trench One was located in the front garden of no.64 Sturry Hill and it was aligned east - west. Machine removal of the topsoil (100) continued to expose the subsoil horizon (101) observed throughout the site. In trench one the subsoil had a thickness of 0.45m. This horizon sealed a layer, 0.13m thick, of mid brown brickearth (102). This in turn sealed the natural orange brown brickearth (103). Cutting the natural in trench one were a post hole, situated at the east end of the trench, and the possible continuation of the gully observed in Trench 4. The post hole [105] was circular with vertical sides and a flat base. It measured 0.27m x 0.25m and was filled (104) with a dark brown silty brickearth, measuring 0.25m. This contained frequent angular and sub-angular flints and produced sherds of pottery. The 'gully' [107], situated in the centre of the trench, was +1.60m long and 0.46m wide. The fill (106) comprised of mid brown silty brickearth that measured 0.07m. The fill also comprised of frequent angular and sub-angular flints (as in [408]).

## Overview

The results of the excavation of the one evaluation trench revealed that archaeological features were present. These comprised of one post hole [105]; and one segment of gully [107] which could be a continuation of a gully [408] in Trench 4 on the neighbouring site. The natural geology was observed in the trench and this comprised brickearth.

## 10. FINDS

Context: (104) - 2 sherds (weight : 18gms)

2 LBA>EIA flint-tempered ware (slight preference for EIA, c.1150/900-600 BC)

*Comment* : One small fineware bodysherd and one moderate-sized coarseware jar base – both with moderate unifacial wear and *probably* from a broadly contemporary context.

Likely date : If not residual, c.900-600 BC or slightly earlier

Analyst : N.Macpherson-Grant 13.5.2013

## 11. DISCUSSION

The development site at land at 64 Sturry Hill has been evaluated and found to contain features, ditch or gully and post hole which may date from the Prehistoric period, although it is the opinion of the pottery specialist that the pottery sherds retrieved from this feature may be residual. There is insufficient information at this stage to be more specific other than to indicate a phase of settlement in the vicinity between c.900-600 BC – with *Context 104* quite probably belonging to this phase of activity.

## 12. FOUNDATION DESIGN

Dennis Turner has indicated the foundation design will be piling with a ring beam.

## 13. CONCLUSION

The archaeological evaluation has been successful in fulfilling the primary aims and objectives of the Specification. A common stratigraphic sequence was recognised across the site comprised of topsoil **(100)** overlaying subsoil **(101)**, overlaying the natural sandy silty clay **(102)**.

Some archaeological activity was found during the evaluation which will inform the Archaeological Officer of the archaeological potential of site. A geoarchaeological investigation was carried out by QUEST who reported that: *Nothing was observed in the course of the investigation described in this report (Appendix 2) to suggest that ground disturbance to a level up to 2.0m below the present ground surface will impact on sediments*



*of archaeological significance. It is recommended therefore that no further geoarchaeological investigations be undertaken at the site within 2m of the present ground surface.*

*The evaluation has, therefore, assessed the archaeological potential of land intended for development.*

#### **14. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

SWAT would like to thank Dennis Turner for commissioning this project. Thanks are also extended to Richard Cross, Canterbury City Council Archaeological Advisor for his advice and assistance.

James Madden supervised the fieldwork, assisted in the field by Simon Holmes. Illustrations were produced by Jonny Madden for *Digitise This*. The project was managed by Paul Wilkinson.

Dr Paul Wilkinson MifA

21st May 2013

## 15. REFERENCES

### Bibliography

A28 Sturry Bypass. Geotechnical Site Investigation. Factual Report Vol.1 1994

Sturry Hill Housing Development. Palaeo-environmental Assessment Report 1997

SWAT Archaeology (2013) *Specification for an Archaeological Evaluation and Assessment of Land at 64 Sturry Hill, Canterbury, Kent*

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

HER Data 2013

### Maps

Ordnance Survey 1st Edition (1871-1890)

Ordnance Survey 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition (1897-1900)

Ordnance Survey 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition (1907-1923)

Ordnance Survey 4<sup>th</sup> Edition (1929-1952)

### Websites

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

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



Plate 1. View of Trench 1 (facing west)



Plate 2. Trench 1, feature [105] (facing north)



Plate 3. Test Pit 5



Plate 4. Proposed Development

## APPENDIX 1 – Canterbury City Council HER Summary Form

<b>Site Name:</b> <i>Land at 62 Sturry Hill, Canterbury, Kent</i>	
<b>SWAT Site Code:</b> <i>SHSs/EV/13</i>	
<b>Site Address:</b> <i>Land at 62 Sturry Hill, Canterbury, Kent</i>	
<b>Summary:</b> <i>Swale &amp; Thames Survey Company (SWAT) carried out an archaeological evaluation on land at 64 Sturry Hill, Canterbury, Kent. A planning application for the construction of three new dwellings was submitted to Canterbury City Council (CCC) whereby CCC 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 2013) and in discussion with the Archaeological Officer, Canterbury City Council.</i> <i>The Archaeological Evaluation consisted of one trench which revealed that archaeological features were present. These comprised of one post hole [105], and one segment of gully [107]. Pottery retrieved from Context 104 have been identified as Later Prehistoric dating from c.900-600BC. A geoarchaeological investigation was carried out by QUEST with negative results.</i>	
<b>District/Unitary:</b> <i>Canterbury</i>	<b>Parish:</b>
<b>Period(s):</b> <b>Tentative:</b>	
<b>NGR (centre of site : 8 figures):</b> <b>(NB if large or linear site give multiple NGRs):</b> <i>NGR TR1756 6141</i>	
<b>Type of archaeological work (delete)</b> <i>Evaluation</i>	
<b>Date of Recording:</b> <i>April 2013</i>	
<b>Unit undertaking recording:</b> <i>Swale &amp; Thames Survey Company (SWAT)</i>	
<b>Geology:</b> <i>Sand and Fine Clay</i>	
<b>Title and author of accompanying report:</b> <i>Wilkinson P. An Archaeological Evaluation at land at 64 Sturry Hill, Canterbury, Kent</i>	
<b>Summary of fieldwork results (begin with earliest period first, add NGRs where appropriate)</b>  <i>As above</i>	
<b>Location of archive/finds:</b> <i>SWAT</i>	
<b>Contact at Unit:</b> <i>Paul Wilkinson</i>	<b>Date:</b> <i>May 2013</i>

## **APPENDIX 2. A REPORT ON THE GEOARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATIONS AT 62 & 64 STURRY HILL, KENT**

**C.P. Green**

*Quaternary Scientific (QUEST), School of Human and Environmental Sciences, University of Reading, Whiteknights, PO Box 227, Reading, RG6 6AB, UK*

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### **INTRODUCTION**

This report summarises the findings arising out of the geoarchaeological investigations undertaken by Quaternary Scientific (University of Reading) in connection with the proposed separate developments at 62 & 64 Sturry Hill, Kent (National Grid Reference: TQ 1758 6088) during archaeological assessment of the site by Swale and Thames Archaeological Survey Company. The main aim of the geoarchaeological investigations was to observe and interpret the sub-surface stratigraphy across the site, and to highlight sediments of potential geoarchaeological significance.

### **THE SITE**

The site is within the built-up area of the village of Sturry, on the valley-side slope of the Kentish River Stour on the north side of the river. The main part of the site is a rectangular plot (the curtilage of 62 Sturry Hill) with its long side aligned approximately WSW-ENE, parallel with the contour. The ground surface, which has been disturbed to some extent by the foundations of a house and the associated garden, is between *ca.* 31.0m OD and 32.5m OD, and about 25m above the floodplain of the Stour. The investigation extended into the southern edge of the curtilage of the adjoining property (64 Sturry Hill), uphill from 62 Sturry Hill.

The valley-side, as observed on the road (Sturry Hill) immediately adjoining the plot to the west, slopes down with a gradient of about 1 in 10 (*ca.* 6°) from north to south, towards the river. The ground also falls slightly from west to east towards a shallow dell with its axis about 0.1km to the east of the site.

In the past, gravel has been dug in a number of separate pits close to the present site. A deep overgrown pit remains visible on the west side of Sturry Hill immediately opposite the entrance to the present site. This may be the pit described by Holmes (1981) in which he recorded over 4.0m of 'head-brickearth' overlying more than 8.0m of 'fluvial deposits'. In woodland immediately to the south of the present site are the remains of 'Homersham's West Pit', which are now conserved as a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI). This is the pit from which many Palaeolithic artefacts were recovered in the early 1920s (Dewey & Smith 1924; Dewey *et al* 1925). The exposures that were seen at that time suggested that the

gravel deposits occupied a channel aligned approximately E-W cut into underlying Thanet Sand. Up to 10.0m of fluvial deposits were recorded in this channel with an upper surface at ca. 32m OD. The archaeological significance of the Sturry locality is well summarised by Roe (1981). Sections were re-opened on the site of Homersham's West Pit in 1998 for a field meeting of the Quaternary Research Association (QRA). They exposed over 9.0m of sand, gravel and brickearth between ca. 30.0m OD and 21.0m OD (Bridgland *et al* 1998).

## **METHODS**

### ***Field descriptions***

Four geoarchaeological test-pits were put down at 62 Sturry Hill (TP1 to TP4; Figure 1), and one at 64 Sturry Hill (TP5). The pits were located within archaeological evaluation trenches opened by Swale and Thames Archaeological Survey Company. Each evaluation trench was ca. 25m in length, had been opened previously to a depth of 40-60cm and exposed, almost everywhere, fine-grained, 'brickearth', stoneless across most of the exposures but with scattered flint clasts in a few places. Only in the evaluation trench (Trench 1), near the eastern end of the site, were small patches of gravel visible in the bottom of the trench. The geoarchaeological test-pits were excavated by machine, removing sediment in 250mm spits and following the interfaces between sedimentary units where possible. The test-pits were excavated to the maximum depth of 2m below ground surface. Representative sections in each test-pit were measured and described using standard procedures for recording unconsolidated sediment, noting the physical properties (colour), composition (gravel, sand, clay, silt and organic matter) and inclusions (e.g. artefacts). The results are displayed in Tables 1 to 5.



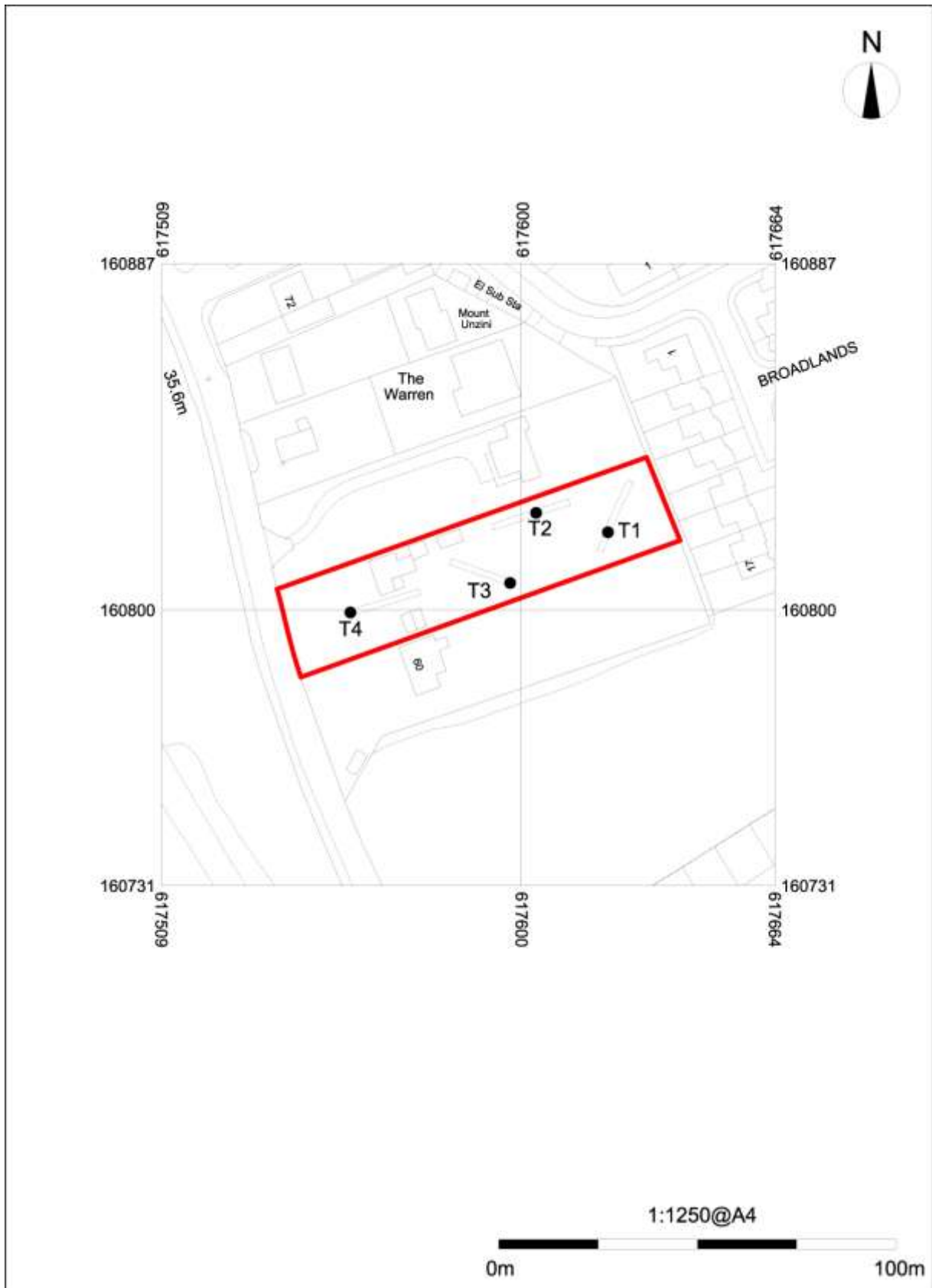


Figure 1: Location of Test-Pits TP1 to TP4 at 62 Sturry Hill, Kent (TP5 at 64 Sturry Hill is not displayed). Map provided by Swale and Thames Archaeological Survey Company

## RESULTS OF THE FIELD DESCRIPTIONS

**Table 1: Test Pit TP1 (eastern end of site)**

Depth (m OD)	Description
31.06 to 30.66	Dark greyish brown garden soil with scattered flint clasts and anthropogenic debris
30.66 to 30.16	Sub-soil developed in sandy silt passing down to slightly sandy silty with very scattered flint clasts; gradual transition from dark greyish brown of overlying horizon to yellowish brown; penetrated throughout by roots and worm burrows.
30.16 to 29.91	Silt-rich clayey gravel consisting of flint clasts (up to 100mm long dimension) and a few smaller (up to 50mm long dimension) iron-rich sandy concretions, a mixture of sub-angular to sub-round clasts and well-rounded pebbles; patination variable, including among the sub-angular to sub-round clasts heavily iron-stained examples ('mahogany flints') and clasts with patchy blue and white patination. This gravel unit had a visible lateral extent on the floor of the evaluation trench of only just over 2.5m. ( <i>Sample sieved</i> )
29.91 to 29.06	Yellowish brown to strong brown; slightly sandy silt with scattered flint and quartz granules (typical 'brickearth' with sparsely developed network of voids with thin clay coatings and some manganese staining of void margins); sub-horizontal bedding marked by slight variations of texture (more and less sandy) and colour (sandier beds paler, siltier beds darker); roots present in upper 0.5m; stoneless;

**Table 2: Test Pit TP2 (approximate mid point of site near northern boundary)**

Depth (m OD)	Description
31.45 to 31.07	Dark greyish brown garden soil with scattered flint clasts and anthropogenic debris
31.07 to 30.52	Sub-soil developed in sandy silt passing down to slightly sandy silty with gradual transition from dark greyish brown of overlying horizon to yellowish brown. Penetrated throughout by roots and worm burrows. Scattered flint clasts.
30.52 to 30.00	Strong brown; slightly sandy silt with scattered granules of quartz and flint and discontinuous sand partings (typical 'brickearth' with sparsely developed network of voids with thin clay coatings and some manganese staining of void margins); very scattered flint clasts, some with patchy blue and white patination; structureless; root penetration throughout; worm burrows in upper 0.25m.
30.00 to 29.65	Silt-rich sandy gravel consisting entirely of flint clasts (up to 100mm long dimension), a mixture of sub-angular to sub-round clasts and well-rounded pebbles; patination variable, including among the sub-angular to sub-round clasts, heavily iron-stained examples ('mahogany flints') and clasts with patchy blue and white patination. ( <i>Sample sieved</i> )
29.65 to 29.45	Strong brown; slightly sandy stoneless silt with scattered flint and quartz granules and discontinuous sand partings (typical 'brickearth' with sparsely developed network of voids with thin clay coatings and some manganese staining of void margins); structureless.
29.45	Patch of gravel visible in bottom of pit

**Table 3: Test Pit TP3 (approximate mid point of site near southern boundary; west end of test pit in 20<sup>th</sup> century rubbish pit; glass bottles, etc.)**

Depth (m OD)	Description
30.98 to 30.50	Dark greyish brown garden soil with flint clasts and anthropogenic debris
30.50 to 29.88	Sub-soil developed in sandy silt with scattered flint clasts,; gradual transition from dark greyish brown of overlying horizon to yellowish brown with patchy humic staining; structureless; penetrated throughout by roots and worm burrows. (possibly disturbed or re-deposited)
29.88 to 29.83	Sandy gravel consisting entirely of flint clasts (mainly <30mm long dimension), a mixture of sub-angular to sub-round clasts with a few well-rounded pebbles; dark greyish brown (?humic staining); structureless. (possibly disturbed or re-deposited)
29.83 to 29.53	Strong brown; slightly sandy stoneless silt with scattered granules of flint and quartz and discontinuous sand partings (typical 'brickearth' with sparsely developed network of voids with thin clay coatings and some manganese staining of void margins); structureless.
29.53 to 29.43	Strong brown with patchy manganese staining; sparsely sandy gravel consisting entirely of flint clasts (up to 100mm long dimension), a mixture of sub-angular to sub-round clasts and well-rounded pebbles; structureless; patination variable, including among the sub-angular to sub-round clasts, heavily iron-stained examples ('mahogany flints'). (Sample sieved)
29.43 to 29.08	Strong brown; slightly sandy stoneless silt with scattered granules of flint and quartz and discontinuous sand partings (typical 'brickearth' with sparsely developed network of voids with thin clay coatings and some manganese staining of void margins); structureless.
29.08 to 28.98	Strong brown with patchy manganese staining; sparsely sandy gravel consisting entirely of flint clasts (up to 100mm long dimension), a mixture of sub-angular to sub-round clasts and well-rounded pebbles; patination variable, including among the sub-angular to sub-round clasts, heavily iron-stained examples ('mahogany flints'); structureless. (Sample sieved)

**Table 4: Test Pit TP4 (west end of site near southern boundary)**

Depth (m OD)	Description
31.96 to 31.56	Dark greyish brown garden soil with flint clasts and anthropogenic debris
31.56 to 31.00	Sub-soil developed in sandy silt passing down to slightly sandy silty with gradual patchy transition from dark greyish brown of overlying horizon to yellowish brown. Penetrated throughout by roots and worm burrows. Very scattered flint clasts.
31.00 to 29.96	Strong brown; slightly sandy stoneless silt with scattered flint and quartz granules and discontinuous sand partings (typical 'brickearth' with sparsely developed network of voids with thin clay coatings and some manganese staining of void margins); structureless.

**Table 5: Test Pit TP5 (west end of site adjacent to boundary with curtilage of 64 Sturry Hill)**

Depth (m OD)	Description
32.38 to 31.90	Dark greyish brown garden soil with flint clasts and anthropogenic debris
31.90 to 31.35	Sub-soil developed in sandy silt passing down to slightly sandy silty with gradual patchy transition from dark greyish brown of overlying horizon to yellowish brown. Penetrated throughout by roots and worm burrows. Scattered flint clasts.
31.35 to 30.38	Strong brown; slightly sandy stoneless silt with scattered flint and quartz granules and discontinuous sand partings (typical 'brickearth' with sparsely developed network of voids with thin clay coatings and some manganese staining of void margins); structureless.
30.33 to 30.38	Small (0.2m diam) patch of gravel seen in bottom of pit.

### INTERPRETATION AND DISCUSSION OF THE FIELD INVESTIGATIONS

The sediment sequences recorded in the Test-Pits are all very similar, with an upper horizon of slightly stony sandy silt, about 1.0m in thickness, in which pedological processes have obviously been active. This pedological horizon is in all cases developed in the upper part of a typical 'brickearth'. In Test-Pit TP1 the pedological horizon extends down to the level of a thin (0.25m) clayey gravel unit which in turn overlay 'brickearth'.

In all the Test-Pits, except Test-Pit TP4, gravel was recorded with a surface at a level between 29.88m OD and 30.33m OD. In Test-Pits TP1, TP2 and TP3, the gravel was seen to form a relatively thin layer (0.25m, 0.35m and 0.45m respectively) overlying 'brickearth', but in Test-Pits TP2 and TP3 the upper part of a second, lower, gravel unit was recorded. In Test-Pit TP4 no gravel unit was recorded, and in Test-Pit TP5 the excavation just touched a pinnacle of gravel at 1.95m below the ground surface.

Samples from the gravel units in Test-Pits TP1, TP2 and TP3 were sieved on a 10mm mesh and the residues were carefully examined to identify any worked flint that might be present. No unequivocal worked flint was identified. Samples of the gravel units were also taken and retained by SWAT Archaeology.

The units described here as 'brickearth' were all very similar, comprising more or less sandy silts with scattered granules of flint and quartz and with discontinuous sand partings. The sediment was penetrated everywhere by a network of voids, typical of 'brickearths' in general in southern Britain, but not particularly densely developed at the present site. The voids had weakly developed clay coatings and in some places the void margins were manganese stained. Clasts of flint were recorded in the upper part of the 'brickearth' and often displayed

a patchy blue and white patina. At lower levels the 'brickearth' was completely stoneless. In all the Test-Pits except Test-Pit TP1 the 'brickearth' appeared to be structureless, but in Test-Pit TP1 faint indications of sub-horizontal bedding were recognised, defined by variations of texture and colour.

Bearing in mind the deep excavation just to the west of the present site, on the west side of Sturry Hill, and the sediment sequence recorded by Holmes (1981), possibly in that pit, or elsewhere nearby, it seems likely that the sequences seen at 62 and 64 Sturry Hill represent a lateral extension of the sediments seen at various times in the Homersham pits. On the slope on which the present site is located (6° gradient), it is very likely that there has been some downslope movement of the sediments masking the slope and that the thin gravel units seen at the present site represent downslope displacement of gravel from a higher level. This possibility was recognised by Dewey & Smith (1924) who observed in the upper part of the gravel in Homersham's West Pit 'clear indications of disturbance to the deposits at this level, including the incorporation into the main mass of the gravel of "rafts" of earlier deposits'.

## **RECOMMENDATION**

Nothing was observed in the course of the investigation described in this report to suggest that ground disturbance to a level up to 2.0m below the present ground surface will impact on sediments of archaeological significance. It is recommended therefore that no further geoarchaeological investigations be undertaken at the site within 2m of the present ground surface.

## **REFERENCES**

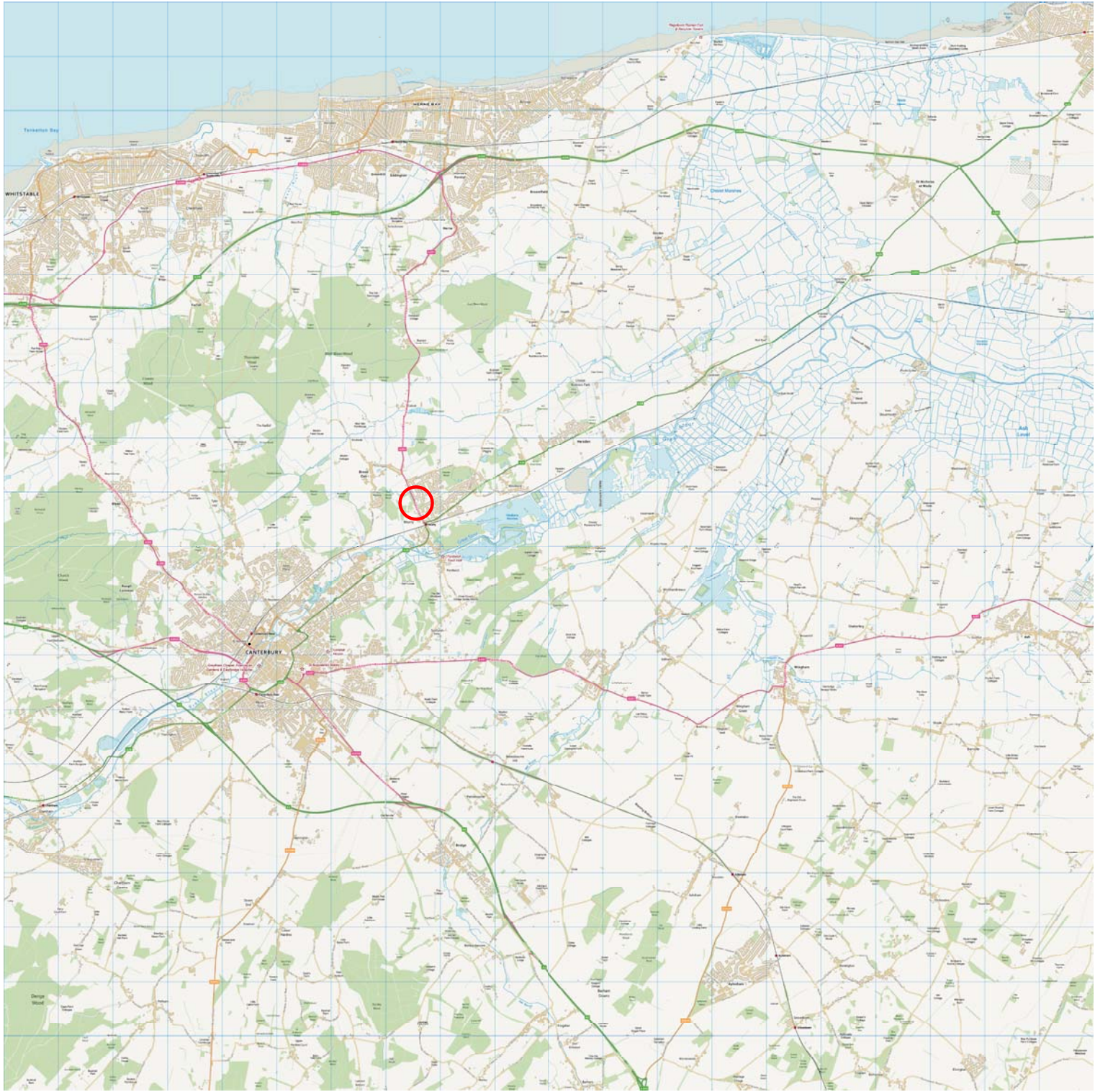
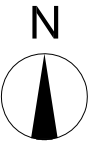
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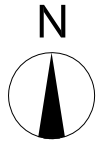
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1:100,000@A3



Figure 1: Location of Site



1:1250@A4

Figure 2: Location of archaeological trench within the development site



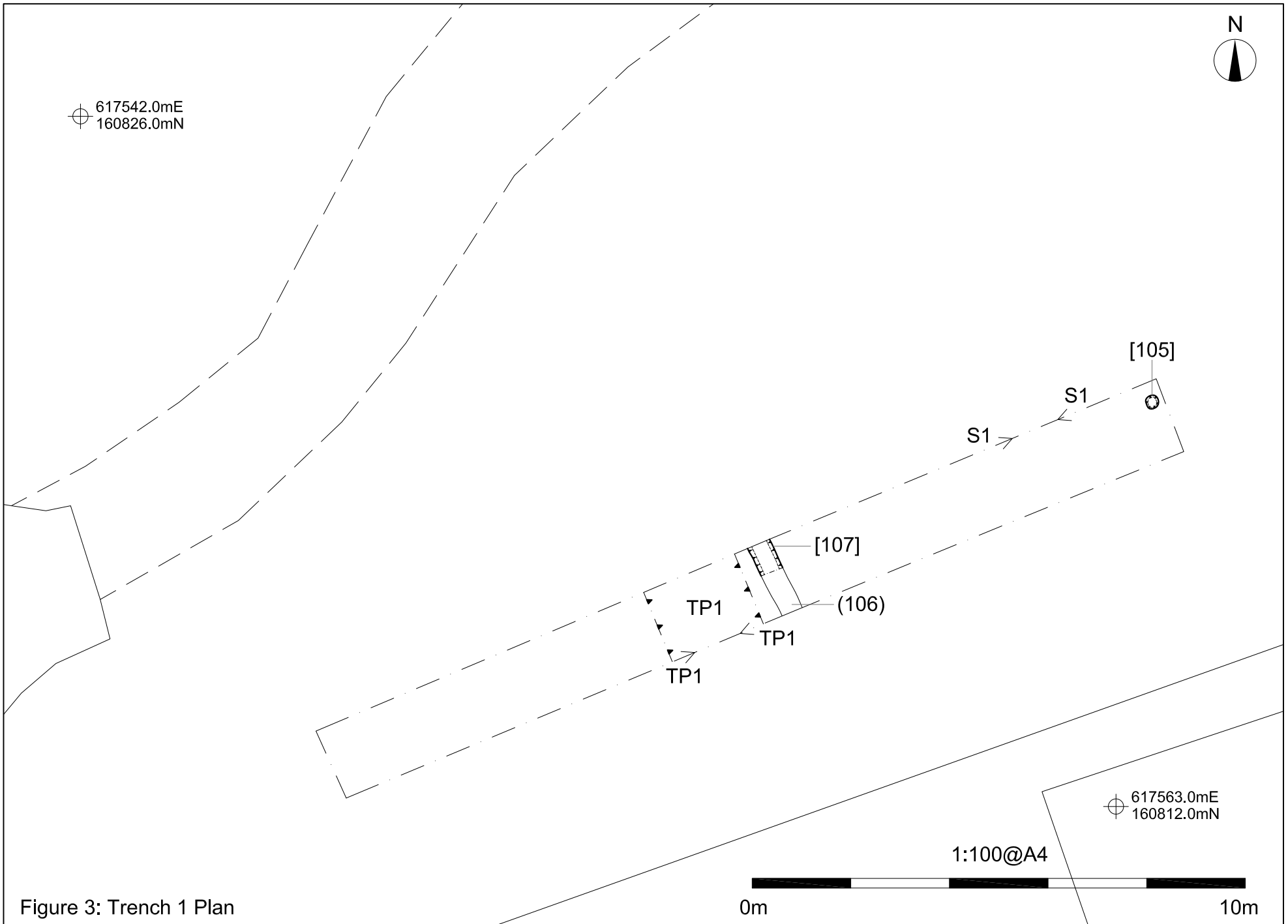


Figure 3: Trench 1 Plan



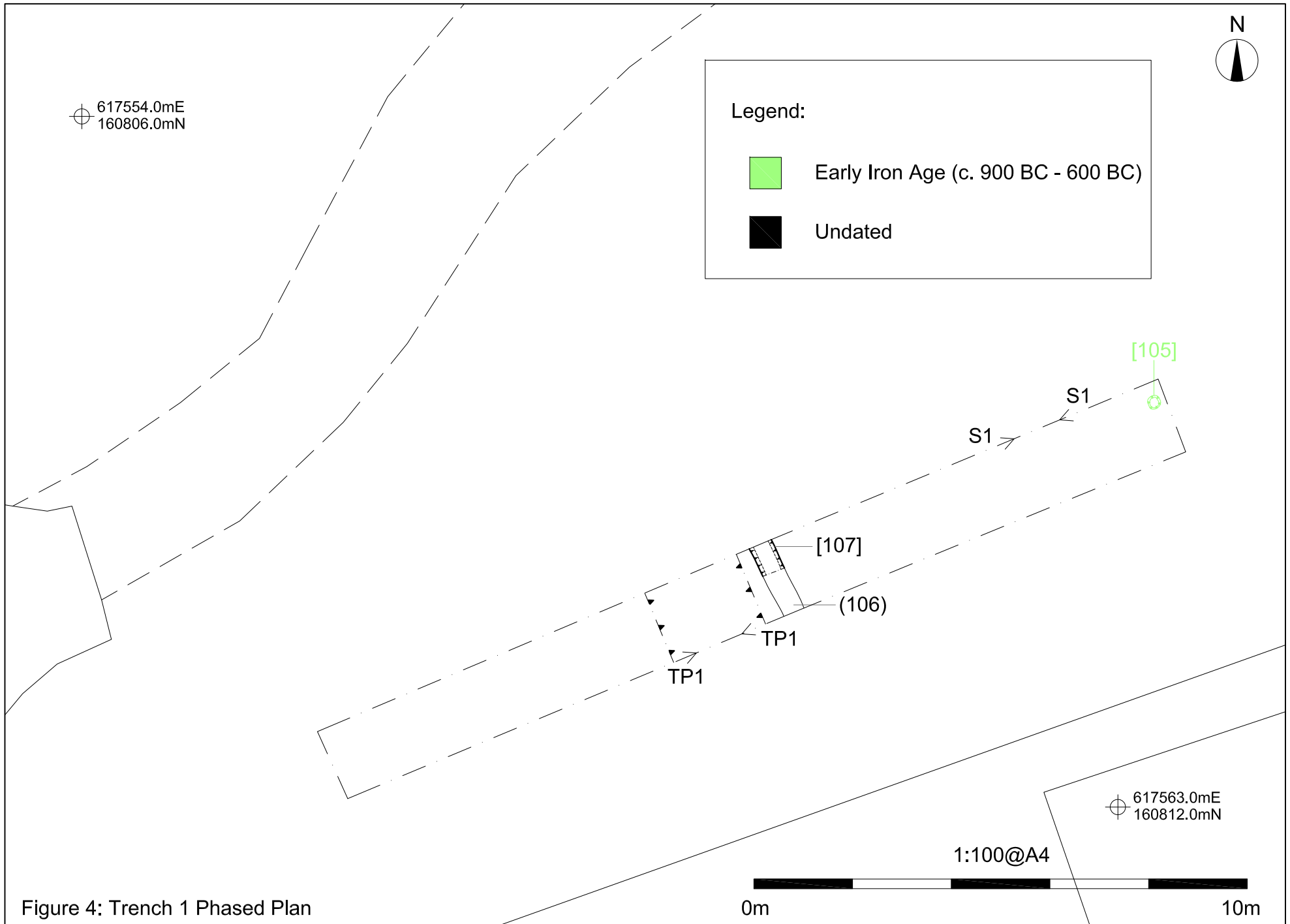


Figure 4: Trench 1 Phased Plan

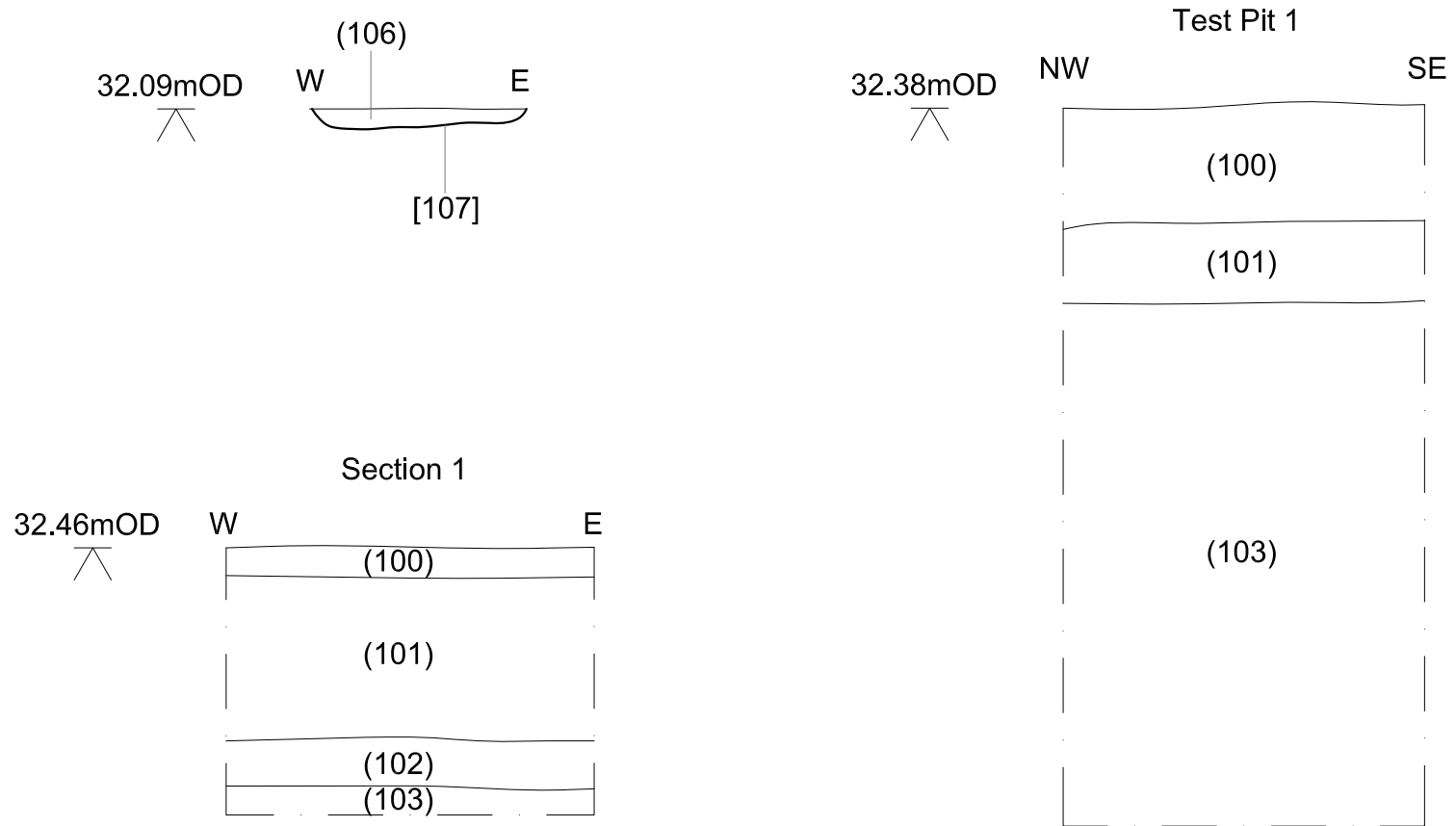


Figure 5: Sections

