

Archaeological Evaluation of land at Gresham House, Quarry Road, Hythe, Kent



Planning Application Y14/0925/SH

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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

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Plate 1.

Aerial view of the site. Google Earth 7/9/2013 eye alt 198m. Trenches in yellow

Archaeological Evaluation of land at Gresham House, **Quarry Road, Hythe, Kent**

NGR 616010 135125

Site Code: GH-EV-1

SUMMARY

Swale & Thames Survey Company (SWAT Archaeology) carried out an archaeological evaluation on land immediately south but in the curtilage of Gresham House, Quarry Road, Hythe in Kent (Plate 1 & Fig. 1). Planning application (Y14/0925/SH) for the erection of a two storey dwelling with a detached garage was submitted to Shepway District Council whereby the Council requested that an Archaeological Evaluation be undertaken in order to determine the possible impact of the development on any archaeological remains. The work was carried out in accordance with the requirements set out within an Archaeological Specification (KCC 2015) and in discussion with the Archaeological Heritage Officer, Kent County Council. The Archaeological Evaluation consisted of two trenches which encountered no archaeological features. The Archaeological Evaluation has therefore been successful in fulfilling the primary aims and objectives of the Specification.

INTRODUCTION

Swale & Thames Survey Company (SWAT Archaeology) was commissioned by Andrew Beggs & Associates to carry out an archaeological evaluation at the above site. The work was carried out in accordance with the requirements set out within an Archaeological Specification (KCC 2015) and in discussion with the Archaeological Heritage Officer, Kent County Council. The evaluation was carried out from the 22nd March to 13th April 2015.

SITE DESCRIPTION AND TOPOGRAPHY

The site is located to the south and uphill from the dwelling called Gresham House. The proposed site of the new dwelling currently forms part of the garden of the existing house and the garden is to be subdivided. Gresham House lies on the

southern side of Quarry Road and is bounded by neighbouring residential properties. A rapid walkover suggests the historic residential development of Quarry Road is situated in a relict quarry. The site sits on top of the crest of the scarp that defines the Romney Marsh embayment and overlooks the town of Hythe. The elevation of the site is some 60maOD.

According to the British Geological Survey (BGS 1: 50.000) the site lies on a bedrock geology comprising interbedded sandstone and limestone of the Hythe Formation. No superficial deposits are recorded by BGS but the evaluation investigation revealed in Trench 2 the bedrock geology whilst in Trench 1 quarry backfill to a depth of 2m and probably deeper (Plates 2-8).

PLANNING BACKGROUND

Planning consent (Y14/0925/SH) for the erection of a two storey dwelling with a detached garage was approved by Shepway District Council (SDC). The Council requested that an archaeological evaluation be undertaken in order to determine the possible impact of development on any archaeological remains. The Local Planning Authority (SDC) placed the following condition (9) on the planning consent:

(9) 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.

Reason: In order to ensure that the archaeological interests of the site are safeguarded and that features of archaeological interest are properly examined and recorded in accordance with Government guidance in the National Planning Policy Framework

Requirements for the archaeological evaluation comprised trial trenching targeting the impact area with one trench. This was subsequently expanded to two trenches (Fig. 1) and 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 KCC of any further archaeological mitigation

measures that may be necessary in connection with the development proposals.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL and HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The proposed site lies within an area of archaeological potential, mainly from past discoveries of Anglo-Saxon finds and burials.

In 1863 a Saxon fibulae, beads and a distaff were exhibited at a society meeting by a Mr Mackison FRGS and were said to come from a Hythe quarry. In addition more discoveries were made in 1870. Exhibited in Folkestone Museum is a portion of a square-headed brooch c.600AD with niello decoration and inlaid with garnets and said to come from quarries above Hythe (TR 13 NE 4).

The location of the development site on the high ridge scarp is a favoured location for Anglo-Saxon cemeteries, a scenario reinforced by the postulated route of the Roman road running along the scarp from Folkestone to Lympne on which route other Anglo-Saxon cemeteries have been identified (Found: 2015).

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

The purpose of the evaluation, as set out within the Archaeological Specification (2015) was:

- Assessing the extent of any archaeological remains that may survive on site
- Assessing the depth below ground surface of any archaeological deposits
- Establishing the depth, character, significance and condition of any archaeological deposits

METHODOLOGY

Trial trenching was carried out on 22nd March and 13th April 2015. Excavation was carried out using a tracked 360° mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket, removing the overburden to the top of the first recognisable archaeological horizon, or natural, under the constant supervision of an experienced archaeologist. Trench 1 measured 12m in length and 1.4m wide. Trench 2 measured 5m long. The trenches were subsequently hand-cleaned, and no features were revealed. All archaeological work was carried out in accordance with the specification issued by KCC. 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 KCC and IFA standards and guidance.

MONITORING

Curatorial monitoring was carried out during the course of the evaluation, and email contact and discussion was maintained throughout the fieldwork.

RESULTS

Trench 1 was excavated and left to weather out. An inspection by Ben Found KCC Archaeological Officer raised doubts to whether the natural had been reached and two sondages were cut in Trench 1 (Plate 5) which seemed to have found the natural geology. However, the writer was not convinced and a deeper sondage to about 2m was dug (Plate 6) which exposed in the section tip layers of quarry backfill.

Trench 1

(12m x 1.40m x <2.00m)

The plan and north facing section are recorded in figure 4 (see also Plate 4). The trench lay on a west to east alignment and measured approximately 12m in length. The present ground level slopes gently from the west at 60.08m OD to the east at 64.17m OD.

Tip layers were identified across the trench as layers of differentiated soil mixes to a depth of 58.18m OD, approximately to 2.20m below the present ground surface. The lowest deposit revealed (Plate 6) was a medium brown loamy soil (106) sealed by yellow brown sandy silt (105) in turn sealed by a grey brown sandy silt (104) and in turn sealed by a layer of grey brown sandy silt tipping (103) sealed by additional grey brown sandy silty tipping sealed by brown humic rich topsoil (101, Figure 4).

This formed a topsoil and turf horizon that covered the entire trench.

Trench 2

(5m x 1.40m x <0.90m)

The plan and section are recorded in Figures 3 & 5 (see also Plates 7 & 8). The trench lay in a east-west orientation with the present ground level at 58.90mOD. The land to the west is some 1.25m above this level (Plate 3) and indicates that truncation and levelling has taken place.

The lowest deposit revealed (203) was the natural strata of Hythe Beds which comprised of small to medium with occasional large boulders of sandstone rock in a matrix of grey white sand (Plate 8) sealed by yellow brown grey sandy silt (202) this deposit was sealed by brown humic rich topsoil (101). This formed a topsoil and turf horizon that covered the entire trench.

FINDS

No finds were retrieved.

DISCUSSION

The evaluation of land at Gresham House revealed no archaeology. The archaeological evaluation has been successful in fulfilling the primary aims and objectives of the Specification. The site is a relict quarry (Quarry Road) and Trench 1 revealed quarry backfill whilst Trench 2 revealed the natural strata of Hythe Beds.

Conclusion

The evaluation has, therefore, assessed the archaeological potential of land intended for development and on the evidence uncovered it is unlikely that any archaeology will be impacted on by the proposed development.

SWAT Archaeology would like to thank Andrew Beggs for commissioning this project. Thanks are also extended to Ben Found, Heritage Officer, Kent County Council for his advice and assistance.

Paul Wilkinson supervised the fieldwork, assisted in the field by Mark Denyer and Julie Martin. Illustrations were produced by James Madden for *Digitise This*. The project was managed by Paul Wilkinson.

Paul Wilkinson PhD., MifA.

May 2015

REFERENCES

Bibliography

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

Kent County Council (KCC), (2015) *Specification for an archaeological evaluation of land at Gresham House, Quarry Road, Hythe, Kent*

Websites

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

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

Old Maps Online <http://www.oldmapsonline.org/>

APPENDIX 1 – Kent County Council HER Summary Form

Site Name: <i>Gresham House</i>	
SWAT Site Code: <i>Gh-EV-15</i>	
Site Address: <i>Quarry Road, Hythe, Kent</i>	
Summary: <i>Swale & Thames Survey Company (SWAT) carried out an archaeological evaluation on at Gresham House. A planning application (Y14/0925/SH) for the erection of a new dwelling was lodged with Shepway District Council (SDC) whereby Kent County Council Heritage and Conservation (KCCHC), on behalf of SDC requested that an Archaeological Evaluation be undertaken in order to determine the possible impact of development on any archaeological remains. The work was carried out in accordance with the requirements set out within an Archaeological Specification (KCC 2015) and in discussion with the Archaeological Officer, Kent County Council.</i> <i>The Archaeological Evaluation consisted of two trenches which encountered no archaeological features.</i>	
District/Unitary: <i>Hythe</i>	Parish:
Period(s): Tentative:	
NGR (centre of site : 8 figures): (NB if large or linear site give multiple NGRs): <i>616010 135125</i>	
Type of archaeological work (delete) <i>Evaluation</i>	
Date of Recording: <i>March 2015</i>	
Unit undertaking recording: <i>Swale & Thames Survey Company (SWAT)</i>	
Geology: <i>Quarry infill and Hythe Beds</i>	
Title and author of accompanying report: <i>Wilkinson P. An Archaeological Evaluation of land at Gresham House, Quarry Road, Hythe, Kent</i>	
Summary of fieldwork results (begin with earliest period first, add NGRs where appropriate) <i>As above</i> <p style="text-align: right;">(cont. on attached sheet)</p>	
Location of archive/finds: <i>SWAT</i>	
Contact at Unit: <i>Paul Wilkinson</i>	Date: <i>March 2015</i>

Plates



Plate 2. View of site and Trench 1 looking west



Plate 3. View of site looking west and showing site truncation



Plate 4. View of Trench 1 looking east with additional sondages



Plate 5. View of Slot A Trench 1 (looking north)



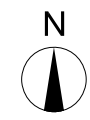
Plate 6. View of east end of Trench 1 with additional machining (looking north)



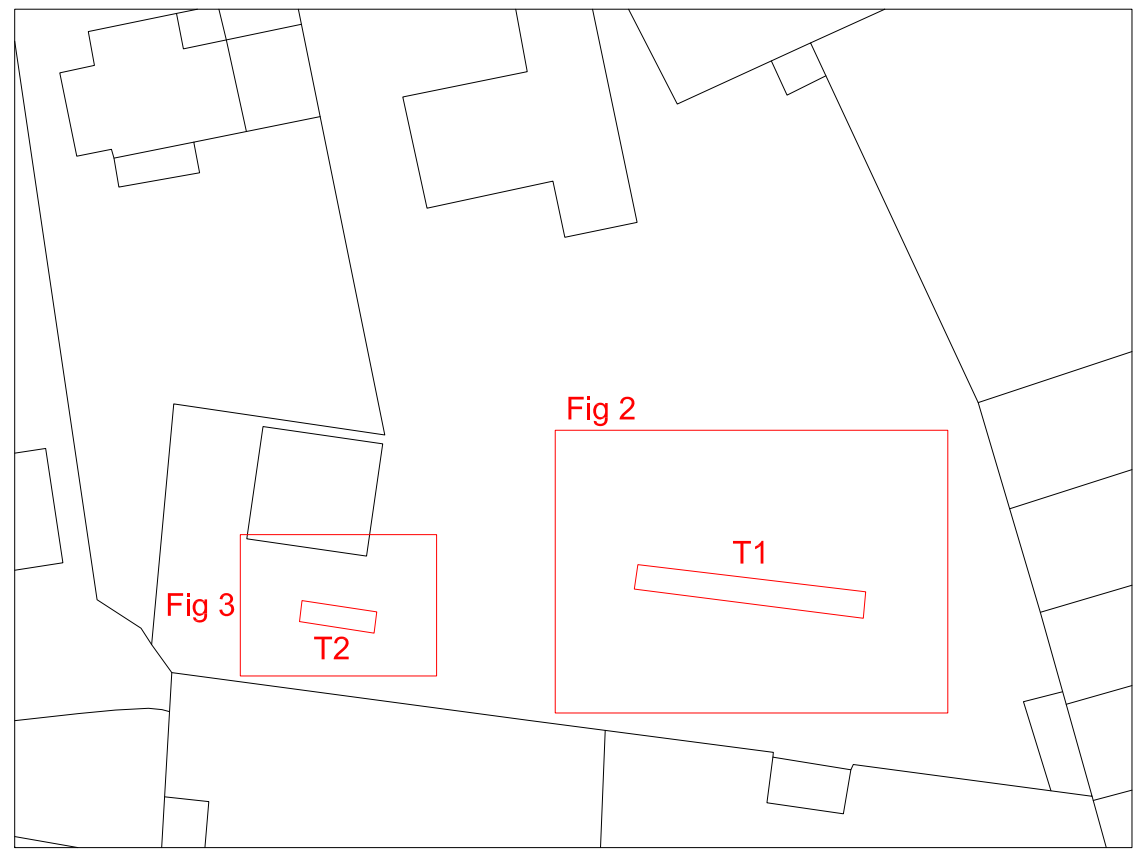
Plate 7. View of site looking east with Trench 2 in foreground



Plate 8. View of Trench 2 showing the natural geology of the Hythe Beds (looking south-east)



⊕ 615950.0mE
135170.0mN



⊕ 616050.0mE
135100.0mN

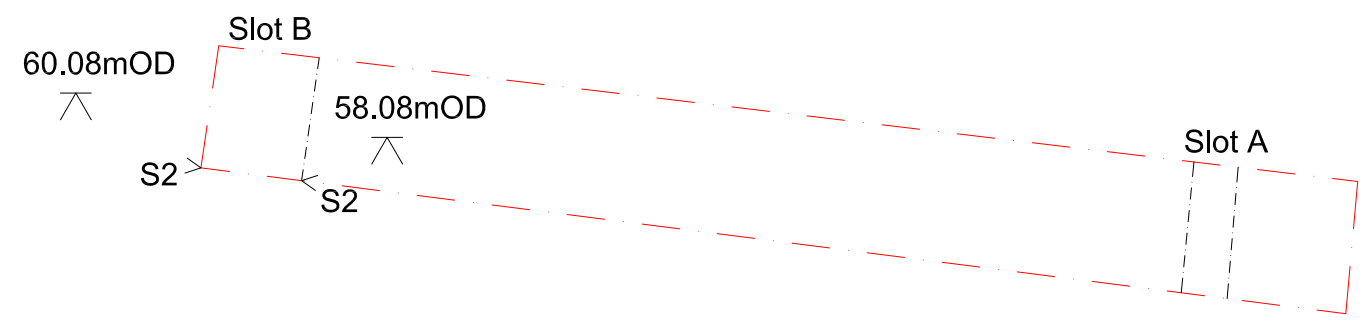
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Figure 1: Location of evaluation trenches



⊕ 616003.0mE
135134.0mN



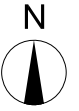
⊕ 616024.0mE
135120.0mN

1:100@A4

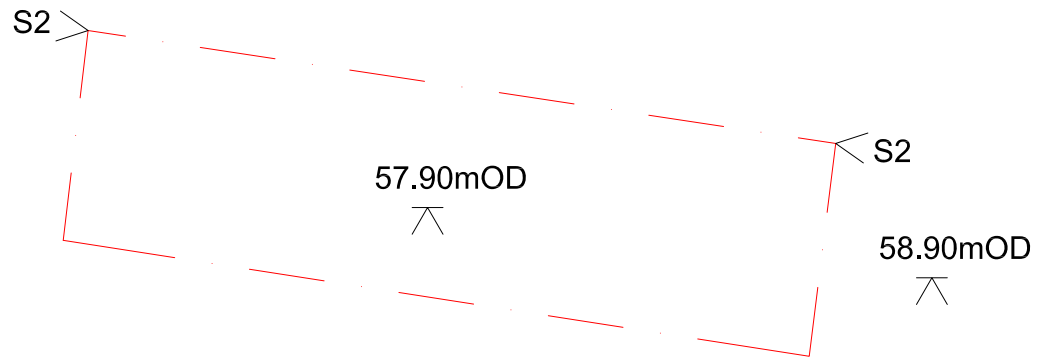


Figure 2: Trench 1

Garage



⊕ 615981.0mE
135128.0mN

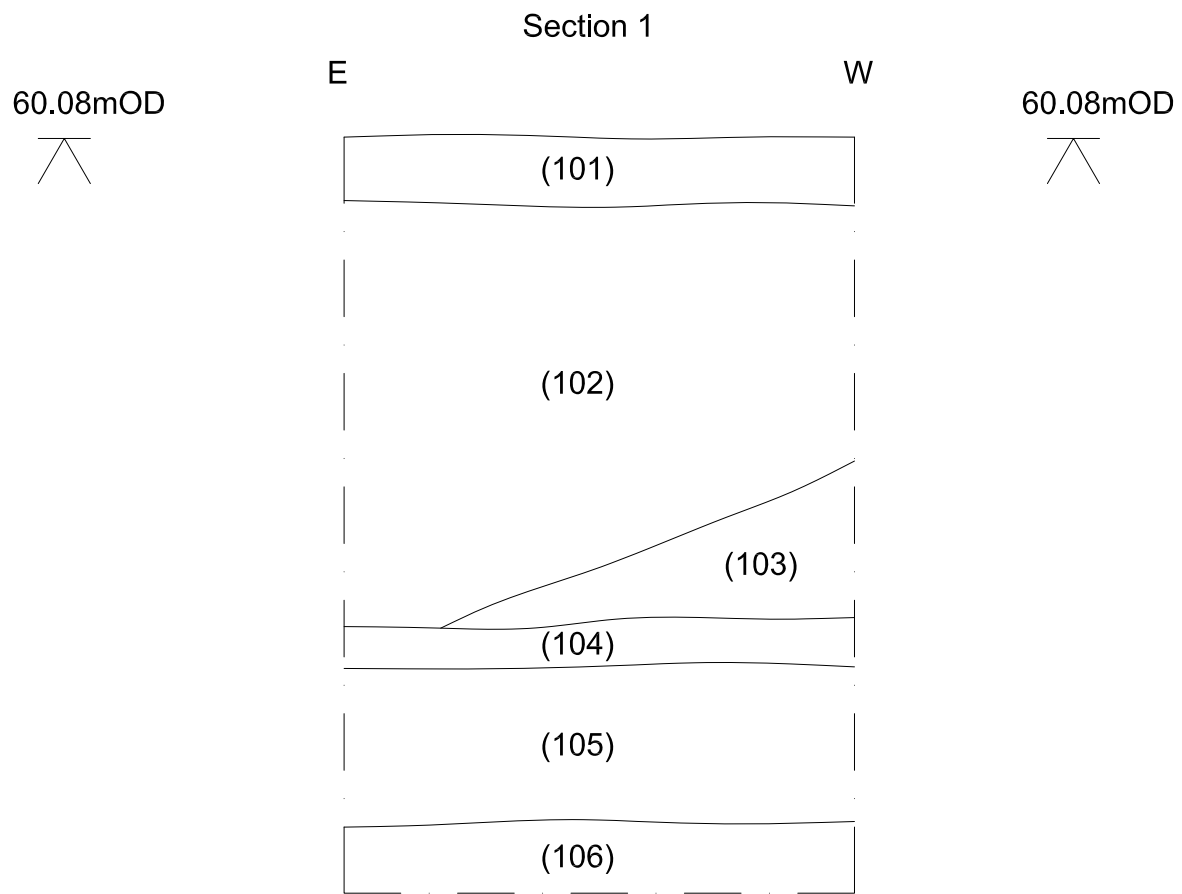


⊕ 615991.0mE
135121.0mN

1:50@A4



Figure 3: Trench 2



1:20@A4



Figure 4: Section

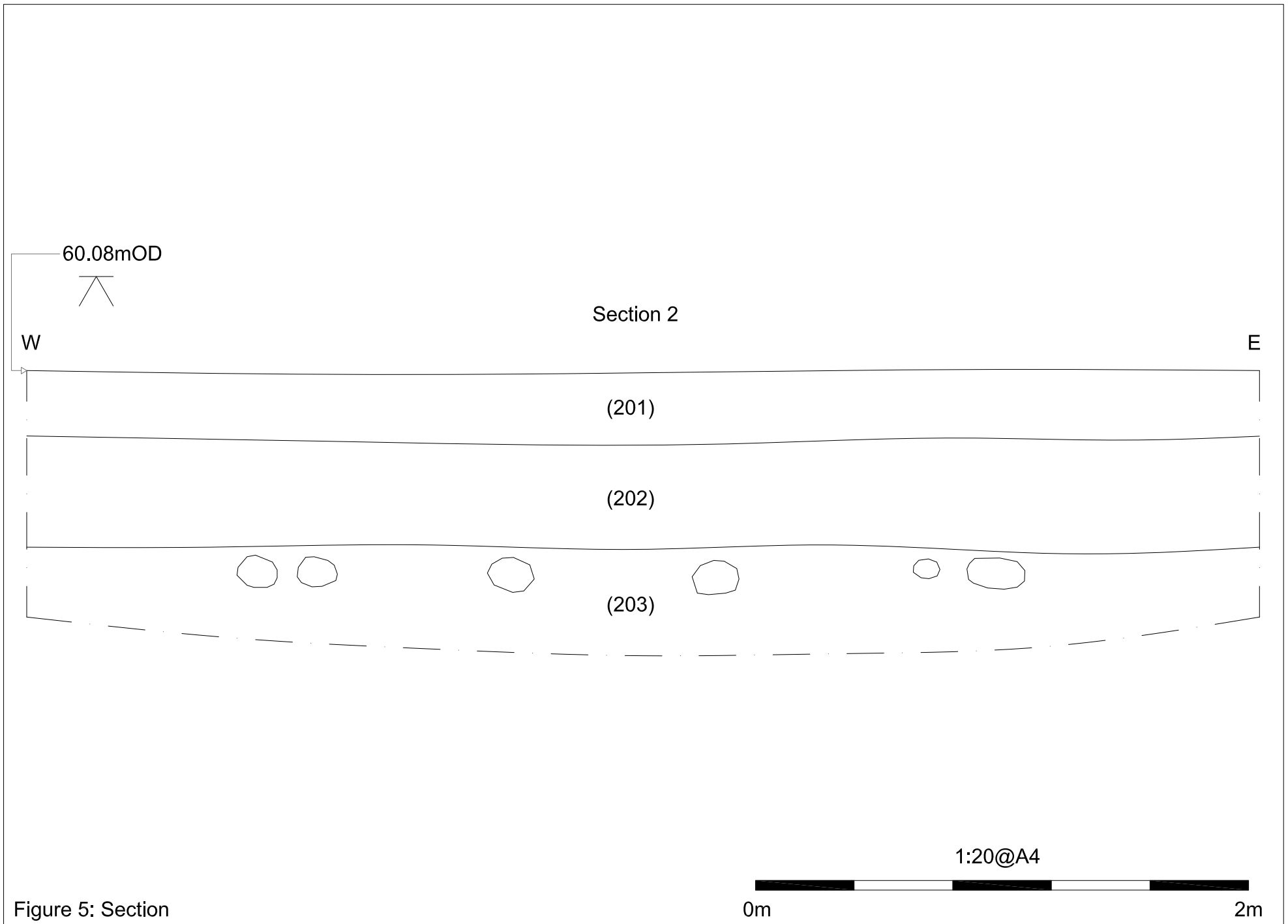


Figure 5: Section