

Archaeological Evaluation of Land at Mill Yard, West Malling in Kent



NGR: 568099 157761

Site Code: MILL/EV14

(Planning Application: TM/10/00991)

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1. Summary

Swale & Thames Survey Company (SWAT) carried out an archaeological evaluation of land at Mill Yard, West Malling in Kent. A Planning Application (TM/10/00991) to develop this site for retail and residential use including new build was submitted to Tonbridge and Malling Borough 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 2014) and in discussion with the Archaeological Heritage Officer, Kent County Council. The results of the excavation of five evaluation trenches revealed a number of archaeological features present within the trenches, with some pits, and most features containing Medieval to Post-Medieval pottery. The natural geology of Folkestone Beds was reached at various depths of up to 1.00 to 1.50m below the modern ground surface with archaeological features cutting into the natural geology. 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 Clague on behalf of their client, Bedlars Holdings UK LLP to carry out an archaeological evaluation at the above site. The work was carried out in accordance with the requirements set out within an Archaeological Specification (KCC 2011) and in discussion with the Archaeological Heritage Officer, Kent County Council. The evaluation was carried out on the 8th to the 16th of September 2014.

3. Site Description and Topography

The development site is situated in West Malling, a town of medieval origin located within the chartland of the River Medway. The site itself lies to the rear of buildings fronting onto the High Street and Swan Street to the west and north of the site with a large (Tesco) car park situated to the south of the site. To the east the site is bounded by the remains of the medieval St Mary's Abbey which was founded in c.1090 for Benedictine nuns (TQ 65 NE 40). The site is an irregular plot of land (Fig. 1) covering an area of about 0.0865ha at an Ordnance Datum of about 43.00mOD.

4. Planning Background

Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council gave planning permission (TM/10/00991) for redevelopment of existing vacant land to the rear (south and south east) of Mill Yard Craft Centre, to the rear (south) of the Post Office and 30a, 30b and 32 Swan Street, to the north of the shared Tesco and TMBC public car park, to the east of Listed properties on the High Street and to the west of the grounds of St Mary's Abbey.

The proposal represents four, two bedroom, town houses and a single retail unit with associated parking and external works to form a private shared courtyard, amenity space and separate pedestrian route from the public car park and Swan Street.

The proposal would utilise existing changes in ground level and would appear as slightly above two storeys from the car park view; however the maximum storey height is proposed at three storeys (as viewed from the internal courtyard). Along the boundary with the Abbey the buildings are reduced to two storeys with the first floor being entirely within the roof space with no windows proposed within the eastern roof slope (i.e. in to the Abbey grounds).

On the advice of the Archaeological Officer for Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council, a programme of archaeological works in the form of an initial archaeological evaluation was attached to the consent:

(Condition 3) Prior to the commencement of the development hereby approved, the applicant, or their agents or successors in title, shall secure the implementation of a programme of archaeological work, in accordance with a written scheme of investigation which has first been submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority.

Ground: To ensure that the archaeological history of the site is recorded in accordance with the paragraphs 128 and 141 of the National Planning Policy Framework.

The results from this evaluation will be used to inform KCC and TMBC of any further archaeological mitigation measures that may be necessary in connection with the development proposals.

5. Archaeological and Historical Background

The application site lies within the historic core of West Malling which may be of early medieval origins but certainly flourished in the medieval period with the establishment of the Abbey. West Malling is one of the medieval market towns covered by the Historic Towns Survey for Kent (KCC/English Heritage) and understanding its historic development is a key issue.

The KCC HER data has records of a Roman coins and a gold ring have been found in the Abbey grounds (TQ 65 NE 10) and the Canterbury Archaeological Trust DBA reports that there may be a Roman road that could pass through the proposed development site (PDA).

Although charter evidence of AD 965 suggests an Anglo-Saxon origin for West Malling (AS *Meallingas*) no finds are recorded in the vicinity of the PDA.

The PDA is located within an important medieval landscape, and is adjacent to one of the boundary walls of the Abbey (TQ 65 NE 40), close to stone buildings associated with the Abbey. The PDA is also located in plots to the rear of the medieval buildings fronting on to the adjacent High Street (Nos 69, 71, 73, 75 and 77).

In the post-Medieval period the PDA occupied land used by Swan Mill which was in use from c.1800 and included storehouses on the site of the PDA which may suggest post-medieval industrial activity may be found on the site.

6. Aims and Objectives

According to the Archaeological Condition of the planning application for the development, the aims and objectives for the archaeological work were to ensure that “the archaeological history of the site is recorded in accordance with the National Planning Policy Framework”. The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and Heritage Assets spans paragraphs 128 to 141.

Paragraph 128 states:

In determining applications, local planning authorities should require an applicant to describe the significance of any heritage assets affected, including any contribution made by their setting. The level of detail should be proportionate to the assets' importance and no more than is sufficient to understand the potential impact of the proposal on their significance. As a minimum the relevant historic environment record should have been consulted and the heritage assets assessed using appropriate expertise where necessary. Where a site on which development is proposed includes or has the potential to include heritage assets with archaeological interest, local planning authorities should require developers to submit an appropriate desk-based assessment and, where necessary, a field evaluation.

Paragraph 141 states:

Local planning authorities should make information about the significance of the historic environment gathered as part of plan-making or development management publicly accessible. They should also require developers to record and advance understanding of the significance of any heritage assets to be lost (wholly or in part) in a manner proportionate to their importance and the impact, and to make this evidence (and any archive generated) publicly accessible. However, the ability to record evidence of our past should not be a factor in deciding whether such loss should be permitted.

The aims set out in the Specification for the site required a phased approach to the mitigation of the development site commencing with an evaluation, with the results influencing the possibility of further work on the site such as further mitigation in the form of a watching brief or excavation depending upon the amount and significance of any possible archaeological remains.

7. Methodology

The Specification called for an evaluation by trial trenching comprising five trenches within the footprint of the proposed buildings. The trenches had to be re-aligned due to the limited space of the plot and the amount of soil removed around still standing trees. Despite this a significant amount of archaeological activity was uncovered within the trenches.

A 0.3 ton 360° tracked mechanical excavator with a flat-bladed ditching bucket was used to remove the topsoil and subsoil to expose the natural geology and/or the archaeological horizon. 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 available during the course of the evaluation.

9. Results

The trenches were excavated during the evaluation with a common stratigraphic sequence being identified. The natural geology of Folkestone beds (**1004**) was approximately 1.00 to 1.50m below the modern surface. Due to physical limitations and ongoing tree felling work, trenches at the original location were not possible. Five evaluation trenches were excavated of differing sizes and locations subject to these limitations. A 0.3 ton mechanical excavator was used due to the height and width restrictions on site. Work commenced on Monday 8th September and was completed on Tuesday 16th September 2014.

Trench 1

9.1 The plan and sections are recorded in Figures 3, 8, 9 (see also Plate 5). The trench lay on a north-west to south-east alignment and measured approximately 10m by 1m.

Undisturbed natural geology (**1004**) was identified across the trench as yellow sand of the Folkestone Beds formation, at a depth of approximately 1.02m (43.05mOD) below the present ground surface at 44.07m OD at the north-west end and 43.84mOD at the south-east end of the trench. There was heavy evidence of worm action throughout.

Cut into the natural geology 2.6m from the western edge of the trench was a linear approximately 1.5m in breadth, extending from south-west to north-east. The cut **[1006]** had steep sides and a flat base. The fill **(1005)** consisted of a mixture of greyish brown soil and small pieces of Kentish ragstone. Several large pieces of ragstone were located at the base of the trench. Eight pottery sherds of a broadly Post-Medieval nature was recovered from the feature including four sherds of Late Post-Medieval Normandy stoneware dating to c.1870-1940. In view of the large pieces of ragstone at the base, this feature probably represents a robber trench.

Approximately 2m from the eastern end of the trench were located two features in close conjunction, both cut into the natural geology. A roughly L-shaped feature with clearly defined edges and filled with broken tile and brick, and at the outer right angle was a large circular feature with a dark burnt fill. The L-shaped cut **[1010]** had vertical edges to the west and south and very deep, with the base being undetermined. The fill **(1009)** was a mixture of dark brown soil and pieces of broken peg-tile and red brick, both of which displayed evidence of being burnt. Pottery sherds retrieved from this feature **(1009)** date from c1450 to 1575AD with a clay pipe stem fragment dated to c.1580-1610/1640AD. The circular feature consisted of a cut **[1008]** with vertical sides and flat base and a fill **(1007)** of heavy charcoal content and a single copper alloy nail dated to pre-c.1750-1800. In view of the burnt tile and charcoal filled posthole, it is probable that these two features represent the remains of a building which was destroyed by fire.

These features were sealed by a clean layer of mid grey to brown soil **(1003)** 0.40m thick containing a mixture of chalk and charcoal. This is possibly represents light agricultural use during the Late Medieval period, perhaps related to the Abbey. At the bottom of this layer and within the north wall of the trench was located a human burial with an associated animal burial, oriented with the head to the east but apparently not within a grave cut.

Above this was a dark layer of soil **(1002)** 0.30m thick, dark grey to brown in colour and containing small stones and charcoal, but otherwise relatively clean. This probably represents a post-medieval to modern topsoil layer filled with a high organic content from agricultural or garden use.

This was sealed by a layer of mixed hardcore and sand **(1001)** 0.25m thick.

The whole area excavated was covered by a layer of concrete **(1000)** 0.10m thick.

Trench 2

9.2 The plan and sections are recorded in Figures 4, 9, 10 (see also Plate 4). The trench lay on a north-south alignment and measured 3m by 1.5m, being restricted in length due to a gas pipe to the south.

Undisturbed natural geology **(2004)** was identified across the trench as yellow sand of the Folkestone Beds formation, at a depth of approximately 0.93m below the present ground surface (44.11mOD at the north end and 44.03mOD at the south). There was heavy evidence of worm action throughout.

Cutting into the natural geology at the northern end of the trench was a linear on an east-west alignment. This feature consisted of one side of a v-shaped cut **[2009]** which was filled with a greyish brown fill **(2008)** with a large amount of small pieces of ragstone. There were several larger pieces of ragstone in the base and sides of the cut. This feature is probably the remains of a robber trench. Pottery sherds retrieved from this context include Late and Post Medieval hard silty-sandy ware with a date range of c.1450-1575AD.

Immediately to the south of this feature was a small pit of oval shape, with a shallow cut **[2001]** with steep sides and a flat base. The fill **(2000)** contained a mixture of dark grey soil and pottery sherds dating from c.1175 to 1300AD. Dressed stone fragments of a Medieval date or later and fragments of Late Medieval and Post Medieval roof tiles.

Also in this trench were three small postholes **[2003]**, **[2005]** and **[2007]** and a stakehole, probably post-medieval in origin.

These features were sealed by a clean layer of mid grey to brown soil **(2003)** 0.30m thick containing a mixture of chalk and charcoal. This is possibly represents light agricultural use during the medieval period, perhaps related to the Abbey. Above this was a dark layer of soil **(2002)** 0.20m thick, dark grey to brown in colour and containing small stones and charcoal, but otherwise relatively clean. This probably represents a post-medieval to modern topsoil layer filled with a high organic content from agricultural or garden use.

This was sealed by a layer of mixed hardcore and sand **(2001)** 0.25m thick.

The whole area excavated was covered by a layer of concrete **(2000)** 0.10m thick which is the present ground level at 44.11m OD.

Trench 3

9.3 The plan and sections are recorded in Figures 5, 10 (see also Plate 7). The trench lay on a northwest to southeast alignment, measuring 5m by 1.5m and was located in the strip of woodland to the south of the yard car park. This area was restricted due to tree felling and so the trench was reduced in length. The ground level in the woodland was considerably higher than that of the car park and seemed to have been used over some length of time as a refuse dumping area.

Undisturbed natural geology **(3004)** was identified across the trench as yellow sand of the Folkestone Beds formation, at a depth of approximately 1.16m below the present ground surface (44,67mOD). There was heavy evidence of worm action throughout.

Cut into the natural geology 1.75m from the western edge of the trench was a linear feature on an east-west alignment consisting of an uneven v-shaped cut **[3008]** approximately 0.50m wide and filled with a greyish brown fill **(3007)** that contained broadly medieval pot sherds dating from c.1200-1625AD with numerous roof tile fragments with a date of c.16th-17th century. The nature of the linear suggests that it was probably a boundary ditch rather than robbed out as seen in other trenches.

1.2m from the western edge of the trench was a posthole consisting of a circular cut **[3006]** with vertical sides and flat base and a grey fill **(3005)** with a single pot sherd.

Sealing these features was a layer **(3004)** 0.30m thick of greyish brown heavily compacted soil containing chalk and charcoal.

Above this was a layer **(3003)** 0.32m thick of light grey soil with yellow mottling and a mix of chalk, charcoal and tile.

Above this was a layer **(3002)** 0.30m thick of light grey soil with chalk and charcoal.

Sealing this was a layer **(3001)** 0.22m thick of grey soil mixed with tile and brick building rubble.

Finally, deposit **(3000)** was 0.20m thick and consisted of a soil and rubbish mix, with large amounts of 20th century refuse and covered the entire trench which is the present ground level at 44.76mOD at the N/W end and 44.67mOD at the S/E end of the trench.

Trench 4

9.4 The plan and sections are recorded in Figures 4, 11, 12 (see also Plate 6). This trench lay on a northwest to southeast alignment, measuring 4m by 2.6m and was located in the wooded area to the northwest of the public walkway. Again, due to tree felling, this trench had to be shortened and widened. Due to the depths involved, the trench was excavated to two levels, the lower level attempting to locate the natural without success and the upper level halting at the archaeological horizon at 44.63mOD. At both levels, a single linear feature was seen extending into the trench from the northwest and terminating shortly before the south-eastern edge. The linear feature was 0.75m at its widest point and 0.60m wide at the termination.

Undisturbed natural geology was not identified within this trench and excavation was halted at the maximum allowed working depth of 1.2m.

The lowest deposit encountered was layer **(4004)** 0.30m thick of greyish brown heavily compacted soil containing chalk and charcoal. This was found to extend beyond 2m within the cut of **[4005]**. Pottery sherds found in this context include Early Medieval to Post Medieval with roof tile fragments from the c16th to 17th century

Cut into **(4004)** and partially backfilled with material from this deposit was a cut **[4005]** with vertical sides and a base which due to depth could not be determined. The layer **(4004)** was still evident at the lowest point of the ditch, almost 2m below ground level.

At the south-eastern edge of the trench was the linear termination, roughly rounded and consisting of the cut **[4006]** which had vertical sides to a very irregular base. Again, post-medieval finds were abundant. A single large piece of ragstone was located in the side of the cut of **[4005]**. All of which points to a medieval ragstone wall which was robbed out in the post-medieval period, the trench being backfilled either immediately or being allowed to accumulate waste debris.

Above **(4004)** and both filling and sealing both cuts was layer **(4003)**. This deposit was of light grey soil mixed with topsoil and pieces of coal, charcoal and tile, modern rubbish and continued for 0.32m above the top of the **[4005]** cut. A large amount of post-medieval debris such as pottery, and china plate was found within the fill comprising 48 sherds dating from Early Medieval to Late Post Medieval and modern.

Trench 5

9.5 The plan and sections are recorded in Figures 7, 12 (see also Plate 8). The trench was located on yet another raised level, in a plot to the rear of Martin's Newsagents. The trench lay on a north-west to south alignment and was approximately 5.6m by 1m and cut through undergrowth. The trench was divided roughly in two sections, with the western half being dominated by Victorian building foundations and a clay service pipe covered with concrete.

Undisturbed natural geology **(1004)** was identified at the south-eastern end of the trench as yellow sand of the Folkestone Beds formation, at a depth of approximately 1.55m below the present ground surface at 45.83mOD.

At the south-eastern end of the trench, a large pit was only partially revealed due to space restrictions, but in the section it was possible to ascertain the natural layer **(1004)** and the cut of the pit into this **[5004]**. The cut appeared to have been filled with a similar (if not identical) material to **(5003)**, with five sherds of Early Medieval to Late Medieval pot recovered. Also apparent was remnants of ragstone, which was located in the southern edge of the pit and of the trench for almost the whole visible length. This strongly suggests the presence of a ragstone wall, or at least the robbed out remains, to the south of the trench, underneath the modern concrete path.

This was sealed by a very compact light brown with yellow mottling layer **(5002)** 0.25m thick with charcoal inclusions and 17 sherds of pottery dating from c.1750 to 1800AD.

Above this was a layer **(5002)** 0.40m thick of mid brown soil with rubble, chalk and charcoal.

Above this was a layer **(5001)** 0.50m thick of dark soil mixed with building rubble and charcoal including 16 sherds of pottery dating from c.1875 to post 1900AD.

The top layer **(5000)** was a deep mixture of topsoil and modern rubbish of 0.40m in thickness which is the present ground level at 45.92-45.83mOD.

10. Finds

Artefacts retrieved from this evaluation have been processed (Appendix 1) and the pottery spot-dated. A small, principally Medieval and Post Medieval assemblage consisting of 116 sherds weighing 11kg. 902gms was recovered during this evaluation.

11. Discussion

The evaluation trenches at the proposed development site revealed a number of archaeological features in the way of pits and post holes and robbed out walls. Pottery retrieved from some of these features suggested a Medieval and Post Medieval date. Even with the reduction of the size of the trenches due to the logistics of the site, numerous archaeological features and one potential burial were exposed within a relatively small area leading to the conclusion that the site has the potential for more archaeology appearing within the footprint of the proposed buildings..

12. Conclusion

Given the location between St. Mary's Abbey and the medieval high street, it is perhaps no surprise that medieval archaeology has been encountered. Good examples of medieval pottery have been recovered from layers sealed by later post-medieval deposits. Kentish ragstone was common throughout the trenches (aside from Trench 3) and there is clear evidence of at least four robbed out medieval walls. Projections of these are plotted on the overall site plan (Figure 2) to help ascertain extant remains in unevaluated areas. The potential for medieval archaeology throughout the development area remains high, along with the possibility of further burials.

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 and/or concrete sealing the subsoil which overlay the natural geology of Folkestone beds **(1004)**. All features were planned in relation to the trenches, and the excavated pits were drawn in section at a

scale of 1:10. Therefore, this evaluation has been successful in fulfilling the aims and objectives as set out in the planning condition and the Archaeological Specification.

13. Acknowledgements

SWAT Archaeology would like to thank the client, Mr Mike Ringer for commissioning the project. Thanks are also extended to Wendy Rogers, Senior Heritage Officer, Kent County Council. Illustrations were produced by Jonny Madden for Digitise This. The fieldwork was supervised and report data written by Matt Charlwood, and the project was managed by Dr Paul Wilkinson.

Paul Wilkinson

23/06/14

14. References

Canterbury Archaeological Trust (Sept 2010) Desk-based archaeological assessment of Mill Yard, West Malling, Kent

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

Heritage Conservation Group KCC (August 2011) *Specification for the evaluation of Mill Yard, West Malling, Kent*

Ministry of Justice Burial Licence No. 14-0212

PLATES



Plate 1 – Google Earth aerial view of development site (outlined in red).



Plate 2 – Location shot of trench, looking north-east.



Plate 3 – View of site looking at area of Trench 3



Plate 4 –Trench 2 looking south-east, 1m scale.



Plate 5 – Trench1 looking south-east. 1m scale



Plate 6 –Trench 4 looking north-west. 1m and 50cm scale



Plate 7 – Trench 3 looking south-east. 50cm and 1 metre scale

Appendix 1

THE DATING AND ASSESSMENT OF THE CERAMIC ASSEMBLAGE FROM :

MALLING EVALUATION 2014 (MAL-EV-14)

ASSESSMENT

Overall, a moderate-sized multi-period ceramic assemblage of 116 sherds weighing 1kg.902gms was recovered from this evaluation. No pottery of Prehistoric or Roman date was recorded and the recovered sequence starts within the twelfth century AD and appears to have been near-continuous from thereon. Seen purely ceramically and based on sherd sizes and their condition – very few contexts could be placed with any certainty to within fairly narrow date brackets. The latter category only applies to *Contexts 1009, 4003 and 5000* – and of these only *4003* appears to be free of any qualifying caveats. All the remaining context assemblages are either clearly residual in later contexts or could only be dated broadly. As recovered, the overall assemblage is fairly unremarkable. However, from this analyst's perspective, the main value of the assemblage lies in the opportunity to compare the range of Medieval and Late Medieval fabrics recovered with both the predominantly Medieval material from the current Randall Manor excavations at Shorne, near Gravesend and the Late Medieval material from an earlier SWAT excavation at Hoo St.Werburgh near Rochester. In addition, it is worth noting that the set of Medieval and Late Medieval tile fabrics recorded would pay to have more detailed petrological analysis during any future regional research programme. The overall assemblage sub-divides into the following periods :

Early Medieval - c.1150/1175-1200 AD

Only 4 sherds of this date, or transiting the between-period watershed of c.1175-1225 were recovered – and all are definitely residual. All were small kitchenware bodysherds, all are in fabrics tempered with crushed marine shell and made at North Kent coastal or estuarine sources. Two main fabric matrices are represented – a purely fine silty matrix and, predominantly, a sandy matrix. None of this material is likely to date any earlier than **c.1150/1175 AD**.

Medieval – c.1200-1375 AD

Approximately 20 sherds are allocatable to this period and all are probably residual. The range of Kentish made Medieval kitchen and table wares recorded is very similar to that from Randall Manor with both lower fired darker surfaced, black or dark grey early-mid thirteenth century sherds shifting through to the paler and increasingly harder-fired light grey-surfaced material of the later thirteenth and fourteenth century. The earlier material includes a few North Kent sourced purely shelly or shelly-

sandy sherds together with North or more probably western Kentish-sourced sandy or fine sandy wares – including some made using clays containing fossiliferous shell. None of the North Kent-sourced sherds containing marine shell were datable later than c.1250/1275 AD. Other than this aspect, the same basic range of fabrics continues into the later period. None of this ‘grey ware’ material is particularly noteworthy – most elements are from kitchenware vessels, only 2 are obviously from jug forms. The only unexpected element is a later fourteenth century jug rim from a fairly hard-fired oxidized vessel with a white slip beneath a mottled dark brown and green glaze. The overall firing trend and finish of this vessel is similar to a number of jugs fragments from Randall Manor with mottled green glazes over white-slipped oxidized bodies – and made in a range of fine or slightly sandy fabrics. The markedly coarse sandy fabric of this vessel (residual in *Context 4004*) has no immediate parallel from Randall itself – but does have links to various similar jug fabrics from sites near to Randall – Scotgrove and Fawkham Manor – and as such is useful comparative evidence for the topographical range and marketing of certain diagnostic later thirteenth and fourteenth century ware types. Summarising, and as recovered – there is a marked emphasis of pottery of early-later thirteenth century date with a slight decrease, but no obvious complete cessation, during the fourteenth century.

Late Medieval – c.1375-1525 AD

Only 9 sherds represent this period – and all are residual in later contexts. These include principally local coarseware bodysherds of later fifteenth-earlier sixteenth century date, together with one bodysherd from a Surrey fine white ware small jug and a rim from a fairly atypical buff-coloured German Frechen stoneware drinking-jug. The coarsewares all appear to be buff-coloured oxidised Medway-zone products, most characterized by fabrics with small chalk inclusions. The earlier, fifteenth century, examples are sandier and less hard-fired than the later late fifteenth-earlier sixteenth century material. The latter, in common with other contemporary technological changes within the region, have smoother less sandy hard-fired fine silty fabrics. One of these, a jug bodysherd, has traces of a white-slip trail-painted design – again similar to contemporary trends among some potteries in the south-east of England between c.1475-1525 AD. Based on the current level of knowledge re regional Late Medieval pottery traditions little of this material appears to pre-date c.1450 AD. If this is an accurate assessment of fabric type longevity – and coupled with the evidence from the preceding period where none of the material can be reliably dated much after c.1400 AD, if as late – the recovered evidence *suggests* an on-site hiatus or an area-based shift in occupational emphasis between **c.1400-1450 AD**.

Post-Medieval – c.1525-1750 AD

A rather larger body of material, again principally bodysherds, represents this period. Again the majority of sherds are residual in Late Post-Medieval contexts with only those from *Context 1009* fairly

confidently indicating a context date within the early seventeenth century, just possibly slightly earlier. *Contexts 2000, 2010 and 4004* **may** also date to this period – but there is no certainty. The range of wares is rather limited – predominantly local coarsewares and a thin scatter of better-quality English and German tablewares. For the former, buff-coloured chalk-tempered silty-sandy Medway area products continue during the earlier part of the period, to be replaced around the mid sixteenth century by earthenwares with red or orange-red fabrics. Based on matrix ingredient types, a few of later sixteenth-earlier seventeenth century date may also be Medway-zone products – but the majority can only be broadly allocated to the Kentish redware tradition. Non-local imported wares include two later seventeenth English tin-glazed earthenwares – a drug jar with horizontal bands of blue painted decoration and a battered fragment from a finely potted bowl with traces of red and blue painted polychrome decor – together with a thin scatter of sherds from German Frechen stoneware drinking-bottles.

One non-ceramic element of note that belongs to this period, and hints at a relative degree of inhabitant-wealth – is a glass fragment from *Context 5002*. This is from the base of a probably straight-sided beaker with a slightly concave base and now missing foot-ring. The base was made of two separate layers of glass fused together and sandwiching a decorative design consisting, at its outer edge, of radiating lines of trailed opaque white glass. each of which sub-divides and splays towards the centre of the vessel base. The dating applied is a little uncertain but it is likely to be a late sixteenth-seventeenth century AD product.

Late Post-Medieval – c.1750-1875 AD

Apart from a cluster of small and large near-fresh fragments from the same c.1780-1825 AD blue transfer-printed Pearl Ware plate from *Context 4003*, the range of Late Post-Medieval pottery is rather mundane, with all elements very typical of many later eighteenth-nineteenth century ceramic assemblages. Better quality wares amongst the recovered range include Staffordshire-type white stoneware, Chinese porcelain, a single mid-eighteenth century Creamware plate fragment, a scrap from a fragile English porcelain vessel with red-painted decoration, later Creamwares, predominantly Pearl Wares – mostly blue transfer-printed – and a few Kentish red earthenware and London stoneware flagon fragments. Perhaps the most noteworthy though not uncommon element amongst the very standard range of nineteenth century wares recovered are large and totally unworn rim and wall sherds from a large heavily-potted but handsome lustrous purple-brown Normandy stoneware ‘margarine jar’ of late nineteenth or earlier twentieth century date from *Context 1002*.

Again there is mostly a degree of ambiguity and uncertainty in dating these contexts – only *Context 4003* with its near-fresh Pearl Ware plate fragments can be allocated with any confidence and is likely

to have had a **c.1850-1875 AD** or slightly earlier deposition date. For the rest – *5002* may date to between c.1750-1800 AD but could be later, *5001* could date to between c.1875-1900 AD r may equally well be later still, and *Context 1002* with its Normandy stoneware vessel is definitely no earlier than c.1870 AD

Recommendations

1. A small quantity (6 sherds) have been extracted s that they can, potentially, be included in a forthcoming programme of petrological analysis to be undertaken by Rachael Payne (London Institute) of some currently un-sourced Kentish table and kitchenwares from the Randall Manor excavations. The overall sample submitted from the present site will include the oxidised white-slipped coarse sandy ware jug fragment from *Context 4004* and a few bodysherds with purely sandy matrices or sandy with potential fossil shell inclusions from *Contexts 3005* and *4003*. If used, a copy of the results of any sampling will be included with this site's archive.

APPENDIX 1: CONTEXT-BASED POTTERY QUANTIFICATION AND DATING CATALOGUE

Primary quantification : 116 sherds (weight : 1kg.902gms)

Period codes employed :

EM	= Early Medieval
M	= Medieval
LM	= Late Medieval
PM	= Post-Medieval
LPM	= Late Post-Medieval

Context dating :

Context: 1005 - 8 sherds (weight : 400gms)

1 PM Medway chalk-tempered fine sandy ware (c.1525-1575 AD range)

1 PM Kentish red earthenware (c.1675/1700-1750 AD)

1 LPM Kentish redware (iron-spotted glaze, c.1750-1800/1825 AD)

1 LPM Staffs/Derby Yellow Ware (c.1825/1850-1900 AD)

4 LPM Later Normandy stoneware ('margarine jar', c.1870-1940 AD range)

Comment : Moderate-large-sized sherds, variable wear pattern – the later C18 AD red earthenware sherd is highly worn unlike either the C16 AD or later material. The latest elements, the 'margarine jar' fragments are totally unworn and should represent the latest discards.

Likely date : Uncertain – no earlier than c.1870 AD

Context: 1007

1 nail (weight : 9gms) – complete, cut, pre-c.1750/1800 AD

Likely date : Probably residual

Context: 1009 - 4 sherds (weight : 38gms)

1 LM Medway hard silty-sandy ware (c.1450-1500/1525 AD)

1 LM Medway hard silty-sandy with chalk inclusions (c.1475-1500/1525 AD emphasis probably)

1 PM Medway hard silty-sandy with chalk inclusions (c.1525/1550-1575 AD probably)

1 PM claypipe stem (large bore (c.1580-1610/1640 AD emphasis)

Comment : All bodysherds – the first entry fairly small and rather worn and definitely residual in-context. The latest LM entry may be also but the PM entries including the pipe stem fragment are virtually unworn and almost certainly from a contemporary discard deposit. A date as late as c.1640 AD is just possible for the pipe but considered unlikely here.

Likely date : Certainly no earlier than c.1580 AD – discard probably between c.1600-1625 AD or slightly earlier

Context: 2008 - 3 sherds (weight : 23gms)

2 LM Medway hard silty-sandy ware (c.1450-1500/1525 AD emphasis)

1 PM Medway hard silty-sandy with chalk inclusions (c.1525-1550/1575 AD)

and :

2 fragments stone (weight : 63gms) – coarse-grained sandstone, angular slivers, one with part dressed surface – Medieval or later.

1 fragment LM roof-tile (weight : 119gms) – fairly large, part one rounded edge remnant, fossil shell flecked fine sandy fabric, fairly hard-fired, MC14-MC15 AD

3 fragments PM roof-tile (weight : 29gms) – small-moderate sized flakes, 2 x pink marly, 1 x Wealden-type pale yellow fairly sand-free fabrics, fairly hard-fired, MC16-MC17 AD

Comment : Pottery element all bodysherds – first two entries small and rather chipped, the PM element is moderate-sized and fresher but again slightly chipped – and should be residual in-context.

Likely date : C1700 AD or later

Context: 2000 - 2 sherds (weight : 12gms)

1 EM-M North Kent shell-tempered sandy ware (c.1175-1200/1225 AD probably)

1 M North or West Kent fine sandy ware with ? fossil shell inclusions (c.1250-1275/1300 AD emphasis probably)

and :

1 fragment M roof-tile (weight : 12gms) – small, dull brown fairly hard fine sandy fabric, C13 AD

3 fragments M roof-tile (weight : 176gms) – 2 moderate, one fairly large sized, 2 with part remnant edges, pale buff-brown sandy fabric, fairly hard fired, splashes pale live-green glaze ? Wealden, LC13-MC14 AD

2 fragments M roof-tile (weight : 89gms) – 1 fairly small, 1 moderate-sized, part one edge remnant each, drab pink-buff coarse sandy fabric, 1 x splashes pale brwn glaze, fairly hard-fired, ? Wealden, C14 AD

2 fragments LM roof-tile (weight : 90gms) – 1 fairly small, 1 moderate-sized, part remnant edges, fairly hard-fired coarse sandy fabrics, 2 different sources - 1 pink-buff and marly, latter probably Wealden and with pale brown glaze splashes upperside, decayed underside, MC14-C15 AD.

1 fragment LM roof-tile (weight : 82gms) – fairly large, part one edge remnant, hard-fired fairly compact coarse sandy sparsely marl-flecked fabric, partial good olive-green glaze upperside, LC15-EC16 AD.

Comment : Small bodysherds. The presence of fairly large fragments of hard-fired LM-type roof tiles, less worn generally than their earlier counterparts from the same context confirm the likely context date.

Likely date : Broadly C16 or C17 AD

Context: 3003 - 2 sherds (weight : 17gms)

1 M North or West Kent fine sandy ware with ? fossil shell inclusions (c.1225/1250-1275 AD emphasis probably)

1 M North or West Kent sandy ware (c.1250-1300/1325 AD emphasis probably)

Comment : Fairly small bodysherds, slightly chipped and moderately worn.

Likely date : 1225-1325AD

Context: 3007 - 3 sherds (weight : 44gms)

1 M North or West Kent sandy ware (c.1200-1225/1250 AD emphasis probably)

1 PM Medway hard silty-sandy ware with chalk inclusions (c.1550-1575/1600 AD emphasis probably)

1 PM calcareous 'peppered' smooth ware (c.1550/1575-1625 AD emphasis probably)

and :

1 fragment PM brick (weight : 9gms) – small, rounded, worn, brwn-red fine sandy fabric, 'Tudor', C16 AD

1 fragment M roof-tile (weight : 19gms) – fairly small, part one edge remnant, worn rounded edges, dull brown fine sandy fabric, C13 AD

1 fragment LM roof-tile (weight : 22gms) – fairly small, rather worn, fine sandy fabric, fairly hard-fired, MC14-MC15 AD.

12 fragments PM roof-tile (weight : 58gms) – most small flakes and chips, several moderate-sized, fairly fresh, 5 x fine compact smooth red fabric, 7 x smooth compact pinky-yellow marly Wealden-type, all MC16-C17 AD.

1 fragment LPM roof-tile (weight : 5gms) – small, edge flake, hard-fired fairly compact fine sandy red fabric with marl grains, MC18-C19 AD

1 frsgment LPM-Modern roof-tile (weight : 2gms) – small, surface flake, fairly bright red fine sandy

fabric, late C19 AD-Modern

Comment : The earliest ceramic entry is small, fairly worn and residual in-context. The two PM entries are moderate-sized, chipped but only slightly worn. Based on the good survival rate of their moderate-sized C15-earlier c16 AD sherds these could easily be residual, despite their relatively unworn condition. Assuming there has been no intrusion, the associated tile fragments suggest the date given.

Likely date : Probably C1800 AD

Context: 4003 - 48 sherds (weight : 611gms)

- 1 EM>M North Kent shell-tempered ware (c.1175-1225/1250 AD emphasis)
- 1 M West Kent sandy ware ? with fossil shell inclusions (c.1200/1225-1250 AD emphasis probably)
- 1 M North or West Kent fine sandy ware (c.1250-1300/1325 AD emphasis probably)
- 1 LM Medway hard silty-sandy ware (jug, white painted décor, c.1475-1525/1550 AD emphasis)
- 1 PM Kentish red earthenware (c.1550-1650 AD)
- 1 PM English tin-glazed earthenware (drug jar, blue-painted décor, c.1650-1700/1725 AD emphasis)
- 1 PM German Frechen/London stoneware (c.1675-1750 AD)
- 2 PM Kentish red earthenware (c.1675/1700-1750 AD emphasis)
- 1 PM London stoneware (flagon handle, c.1700/1750-1800 AD emphasis probably)
- 1 PM Chinese porcelain (plate, underglaze blue painted design, c.1725-1800 AD)
- 1 PM Staffs-type white stoneware (bowl, c.1725-1780 AD)
- 1 PM Creamware (c.1740-1780 AD)
- 1 PM>LPM English porcelain (fine thin-walled bowl/dish, red painted décor, c.1740-1800/1825 AD emphasis probably)
- 2 LPM Kentish red earthenware (1 x iron-spotted glaze, c.1750-1800/1825 AD)
- 3 LPM Later Creamware (c.1775-1825 AD)
- 1 LPM Kentish red earthenware (iron-flecked glaze, c.1775/1800-1900 AD)
- 23 LPM Pearl Ware (1 x black transfer printing with polychrome highlights, rest blue transfer-printed, c.1780-1825 AD; **22 same plate**)
- 1 LPM Modern English stoneware (blacking bottle, c.1800-1900 AD)

1 LPM Staffs/Derby Yellow Ware (bowl, blue bordered white panel with blue painted décor, c.1825/1850-1900 AD)

1 LPM Staffs-type white earthenware (blue transfer printing, c.1825/1850-1875 AD; **probably intrusive**)

1 LPM white earthenware (turquoise slip overall, c.1825/1850 AD-plus; **probably intrusive**)

and :

1 fragment M-LM roof-tile (weight : 32gms) – fairly small, fine sandy fabric, fairly hard-fired, dull pale olive-green glaze on upper surface, MC14-MC15 AD

1 fragment PM roof-tile (weight : 12gms) – small, compact hard-fired grey marl-flecked fabric, dull buff surfaces, C17-MC18 AD

Comment : Overall, predominantly fairly small-medium-sized sherds with some large and one very large element. The Medieval and LPM Pearl Ware same-plate fragments are all larger than many of the chronologically in-between LM and PM elements suggesting primarily that *Context 4003* cut into or disturbed *in situ* C13 AD levels. The fresh unworn fragments Pearl Ware plate fragments provide the dating applied – with an allowance for usage time before final discard. The latest LPM elements are small or rather worn and are likely to be intrusive.

Likely date : c.1850-1875 AD or slightly earlier

Context: 4004 - 8 sherds (weight : 66gms)

1 EM North Kent shell-tempered sandy ware (c.1175-1200/1225 AD)

2 M North Kent shell-tempered ware (c.1200-1225/1250 AD)

1 M North or West Kent sandy ware with ? fossil shell inclusions (c.1225-1250/1275 AD)

1 M North Kent shell-tempered sandy ware (c.1225-1250/1275 AD probable emphasis)

1 M>LM West Kent oxidized coarse sandy ware (jug, white slipped, c.1350-1375/1400 AD probable emphasis)

1 PM>LPM London stoneware (flagon, c.1700-1800/1825 AD)

and :

2 fragments LM roof-tile (weight : 39gms) – small, 1 with part one edge remnant, rather coarse sandy fabric, hard-fired, splashes lustrous dark green-purple glaze, MC15-EC 16 AD.

1 fragment PM roof-tile (weight : 97gms) – large, part ne end and one side remnant, 2 round peg-

holes, hard compact slightly sandy fabric with sparse marl flecks C17-MC18 AD.

Comment : Apart from the late C14 AD jug rim, all pre-LPM elements are bodysherds, bar one earlier C13 AD element all are small. All are fairly heavily chipped and slightly worn, some fairly heavily. The fragments of LM tile are hard-fired, one quite large and definitely late C15 AD. These fragments are not seriously worn and although they *could* have survived in this condition to be recovered from a C18 or C19 AD context, the single small and chipped LPM sherd could equally well be intrusive.

Likely date : Uncertain – if not residual, possibly C16 or C17 AD

Context: 5001 - 16 sherds (weight : 413gms)

1 PM ? calcareous 'peppered' smooth ware (c.1600-1700/1725 AD emphasis probably)

1 LPM S.Yorkshire/Midlands red ware (white internal slip, c.1775-1800/1940 AD emphasis)

1 LPM Later Creamware (tankard, black and blue colour-banding, c.1775-1825 AD)

1 LPM Pearl Ware (blue transfer printing, c.1780-1825 AD)

10 LPM Staffs-type white earthenware (2 plain, 1 x black, 7 x blue transfer-printing, c.1825-1850/1875 AD)

2 LPM Staffs/Derby Yellow Ware (black bordered white panel with mauve sponged decor, c.1825/1850-1900 AD; **same vessel**)

Comment : Mostly fairly small-fairly large sized sherds, most rather chipped or stained.

Likely date : c.1875-1900 AD or entirely post-1900 AD

Context: 5002 - 17 sherds (weight : 257gms)

1 M North or West Kent fine sandy ware with ? fossil shell inclusions (c.1275-1335/1350 AD)

1 LM Surrey 'Tudor Green' fine white ware (yellow glaze splash, c.1450-1500 AD)

2 LM Medway hard silty-sandy ware with chalk inclusions (c.1450-1525/1550 AD)

1 LM German Raeren stoneware (buff-fired, c.1475-1550 AD)

2 PM German Frechen stoneware (c.1550-1650/1700 AD emphasis probably)

1 PM Kentish red earthenware (dish, rich lustrous iron glaze, c.1575/1600-1650 AD probably)

3 PM Kentish red earthenware (c.1675/1700-1750 AD emphasis)

1 PM German Frechen/London stoneware (c.1675-1750 AD)

1 PM English tin-glazed earthenware (thin-walled bowl with traces red and blue polychrome décor, c.1700-1750 AD probably)

1 LPM Kentish red earthenware (iron-flecked glaze, c.1750-1800/1825 AD)

1 LPM Later Creamware (c.1775-1825 AD)

1 LPM Kentish red earthenware (iron-streaked glaze, c.1800-1900 AD range)

and :

Fragment PM glass vessel (weight : 6gms) – Approx. half of slightly domed foot, foot-ring; and body wall from a probably straight-sided beaker/glass. Base made of two separate layers fused together and sandwiching linear decoration consisting, at outer edge, of radiating lines of trailed opaque white glass each of which sub-divides and splays towards the centre of the vessel. Probably late C16-C17AD.

1 fragment M roof-tile (weight : 2gms) – flake, buff sandy fabric, fairly hard-fired, LC13-C14 AD.

1 fragment LM roof-tile (weight : 90gms) – fairly large, part one edge remnant, hard compact dark grey sandy fabric and surfaces, LC14-C15 AD

1 fragment PM roof-tile (weight : 36gms) – moderate-sized, hard dense smooth marl-streaked fabric, traces of pale buff slip upper side, MC16-MC17 AD.

1 fragment LPM roof-tile (weight : 23gms) – small, part one edge remnant, hard compact smooth marl-flecked fabric, MC18-MC19 AD

Comment : Fairly small-fairly large-sized elements, mixed wear pattern, but none seriously worn except the 3 post-c.1750 AD elements and 1 PM element – the tin-glazed earthenware, which could have a slight heirloom factor attached to it anyway. The freshest elements are quite large earlier C17 AD earthenware fragments and the LPM sherds *could* therefore be intrusive into a mid C17 AD layer/horizon.

Likely date : Uncertain – either c.1750-1800 AD

Context: 5003 - 5 sherds (weight : 44gms)

1 EM>M North Kent shell-tempered sandy ware (c.1175/1200-1250 AD emphasis)

1 M North or West Kent fine sandy ware with ? fossil shell inclusions (c.1250-1275/1300 AD emphasis probably)

1 M North or West Kent sandy ware with ? fossil shell inclusions (c.1275/1300-1350 AD probably)

2 M>LM North or West Kent sandy ware with ? fossil shell inclusions (c.1325/1350-1400 AD)

Comment : Four fairly small sherds, one moderate-sized, all bodysherds, 1 from a jug with one of a series of thumb-pressed strips over horizontal fine upper body rilling (but not 'Dartford rilled' ware). The earliest 2 entries are fairly fresh, those of C14 AD date are worn with surface flaking or fairly severe uniface wear. Although the latter *could* be intrusive into a C13 AD context, the latest entry is quite large so it is more likely that these harder-fired elements are derived from a later C14 AD context.

Likely date : Probably residual in a C15 AD or later context.

Analyst : N.Macpherson-Grant - October.2014

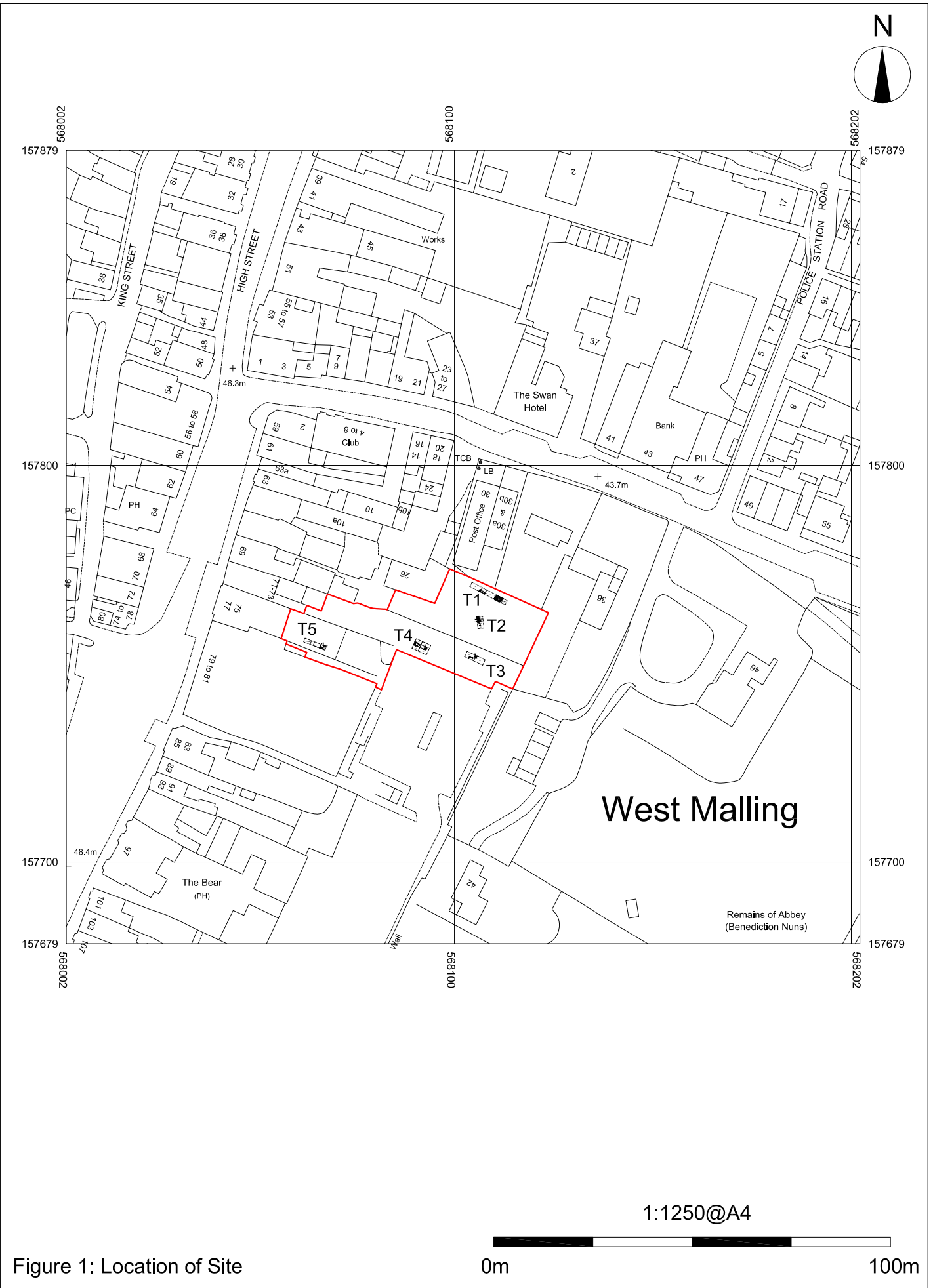
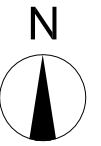


Figure 1: Location of Site

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0m

100m

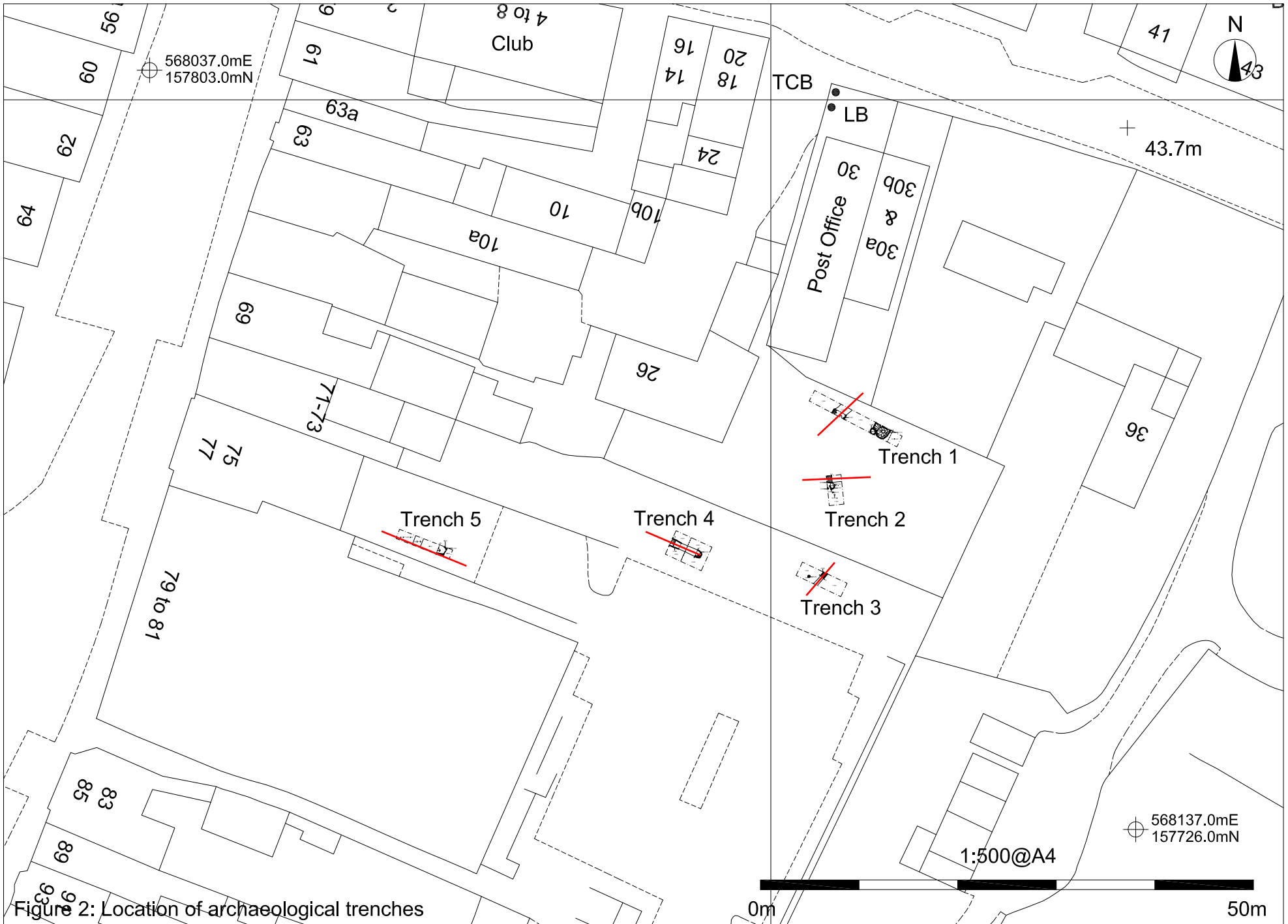


Figure 2: Location of archaeological trenches

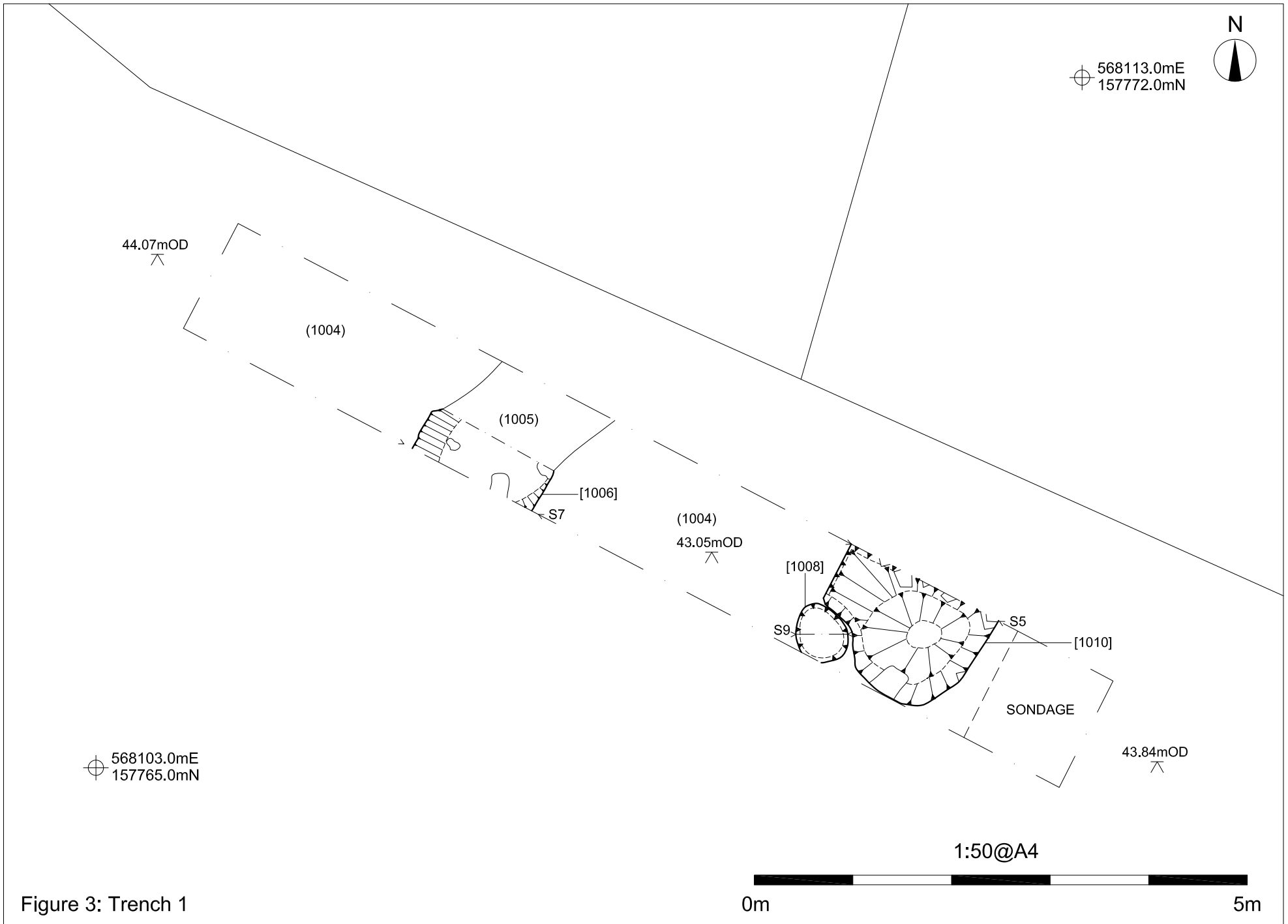
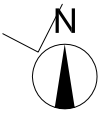
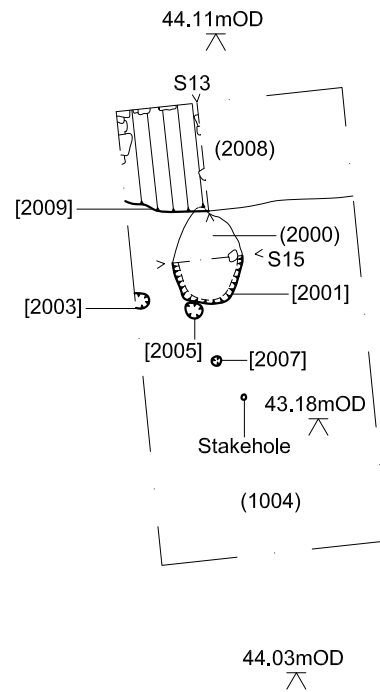


Figure 3: Trench 1



⊕ 568101.0mE
⊕ 157764.0mN



⊕ 568112.0mE
⊕ 157757.0mN

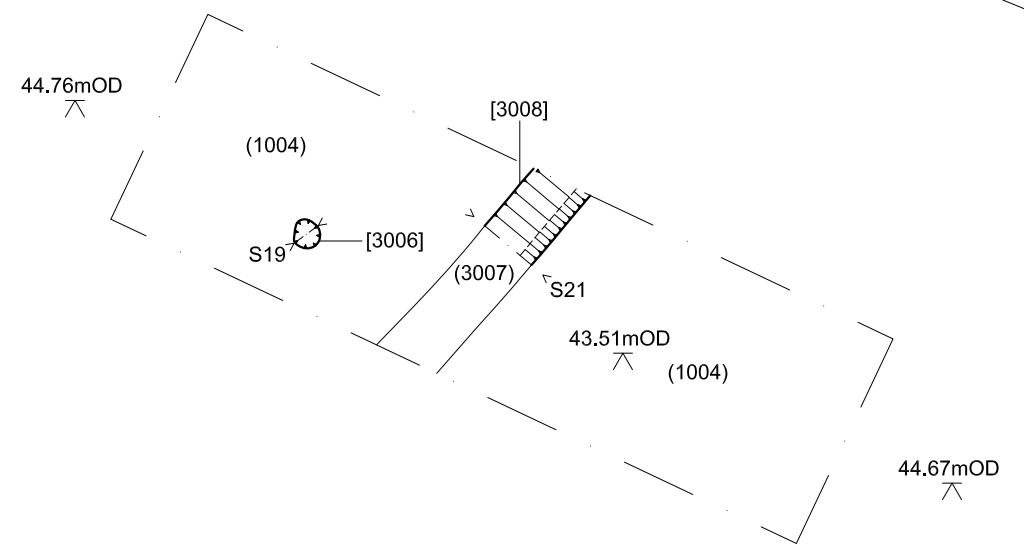
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Figure 4: Trench 2



⊕ 568100.0mE
157755.0mN



⊕ 568110.0mE
157748.0mN

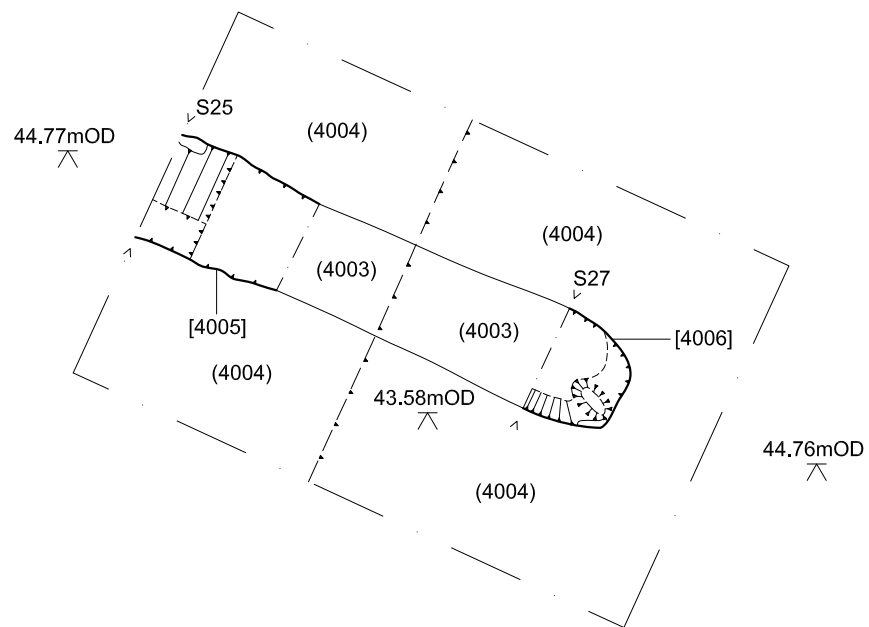
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Figure 5: Trench 3



⊕ 568086.0mE
157758.0mN



⊕ 568097.0mE
157751.0mN

1:50@A4

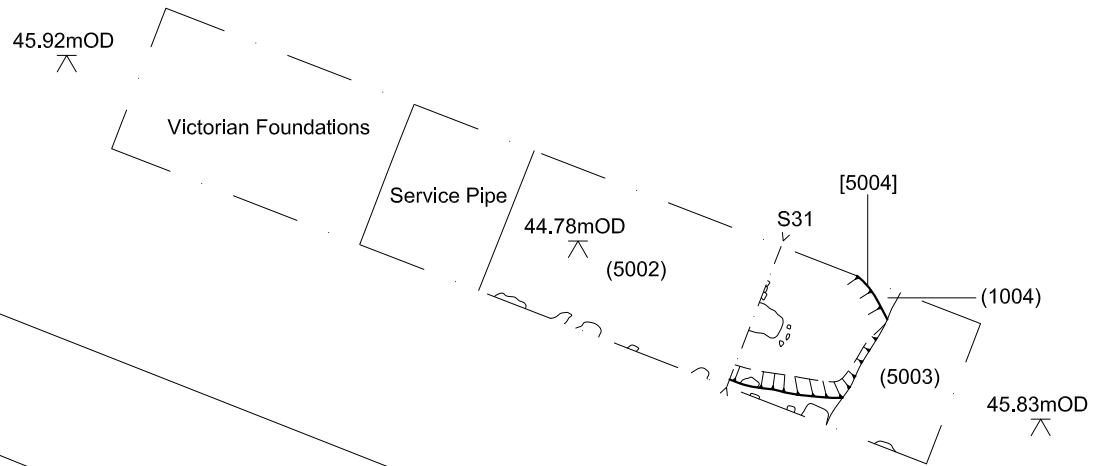
0m

5m

Figure 6: Trench 4



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157759.0mN

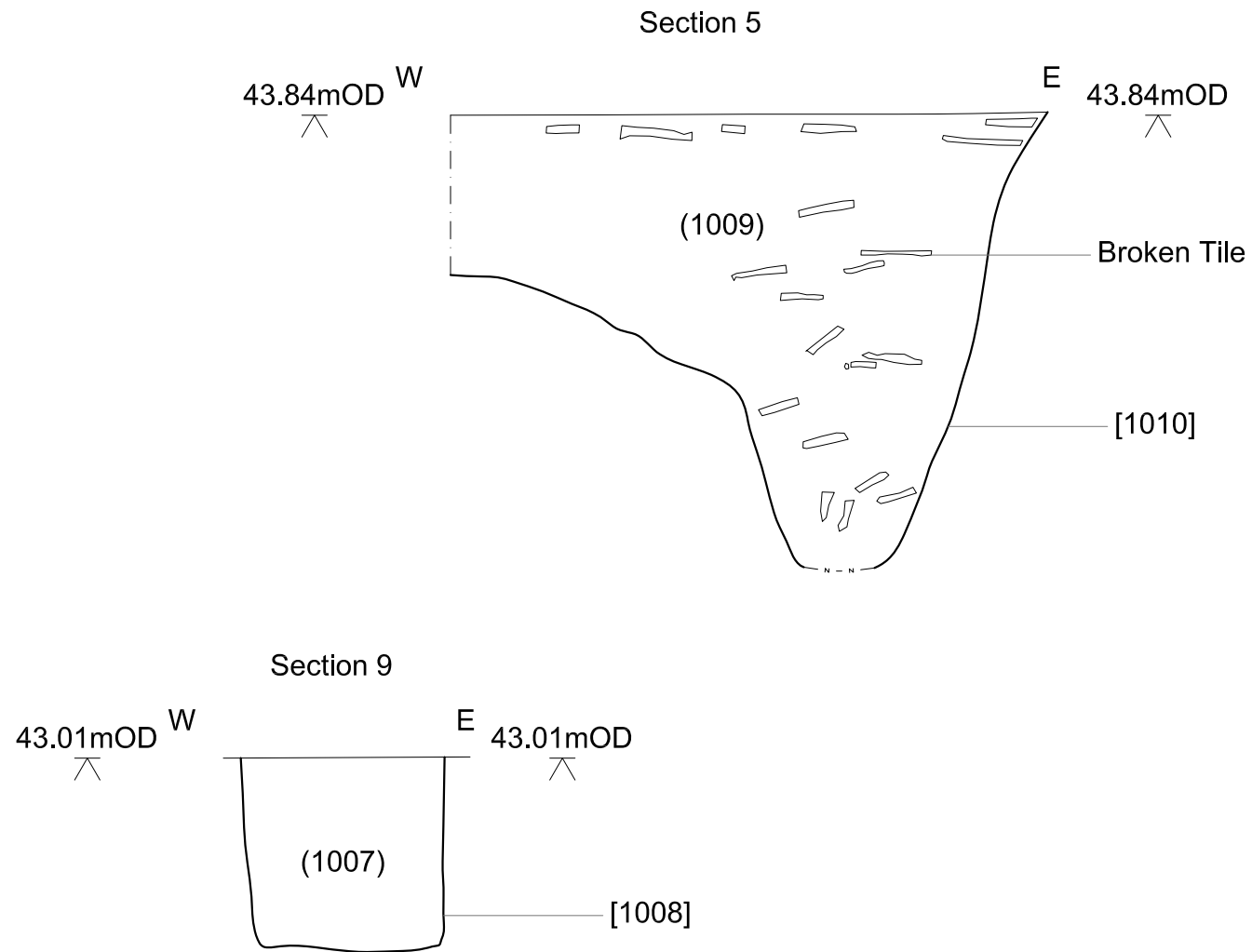


568069.0mE
157752.0mN

1:50@A4



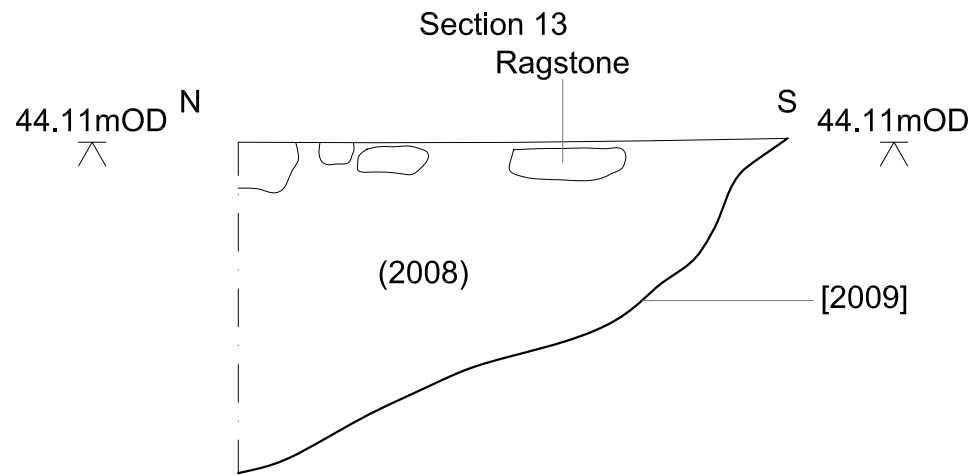
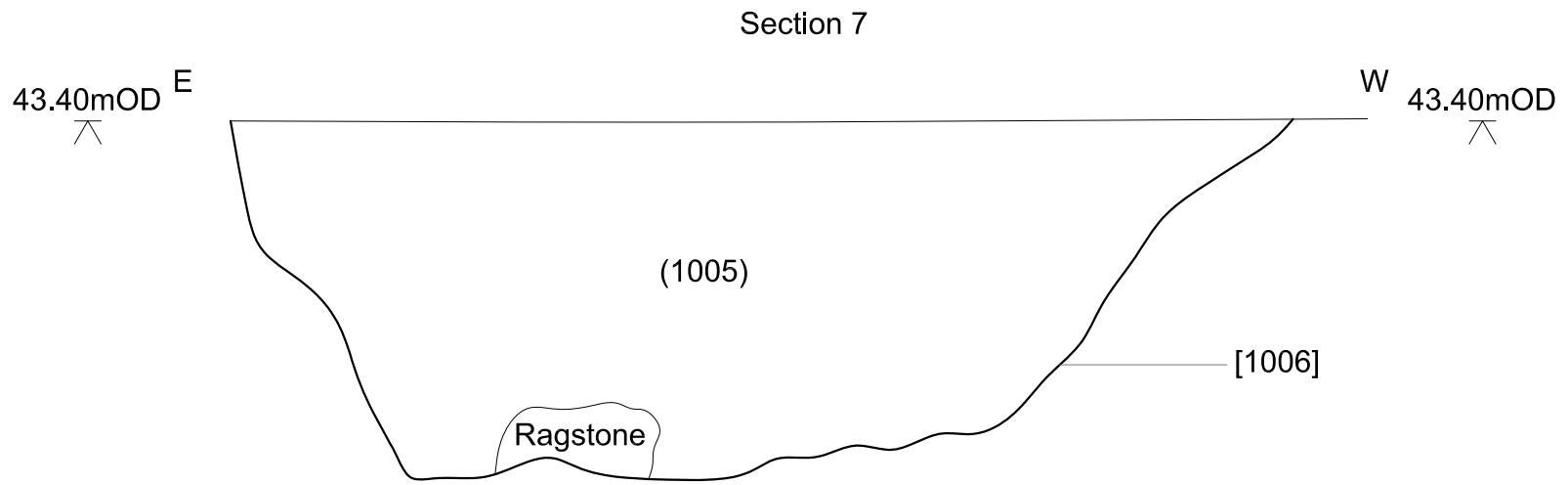
Figure 7: Trench 5



1:20@A4



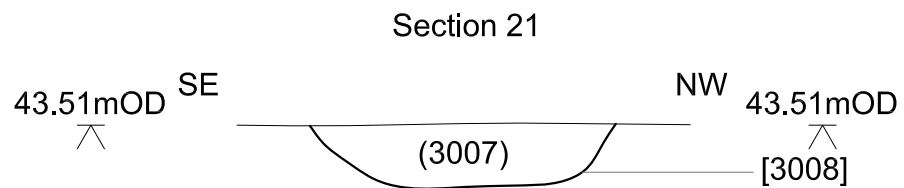
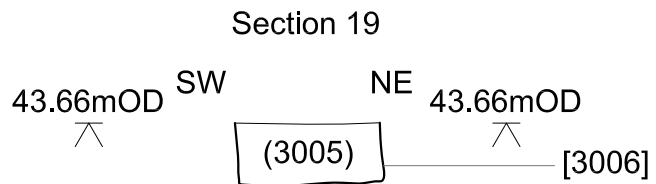
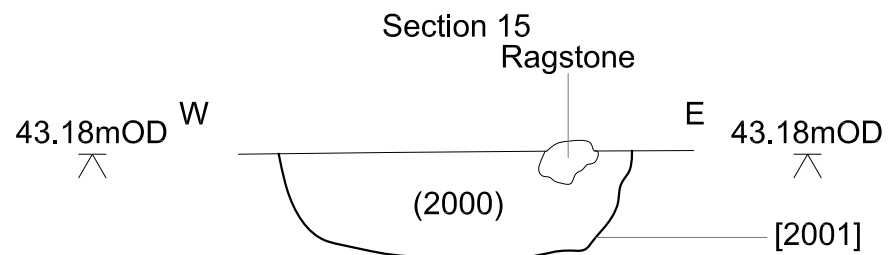
Figure 8: Sections



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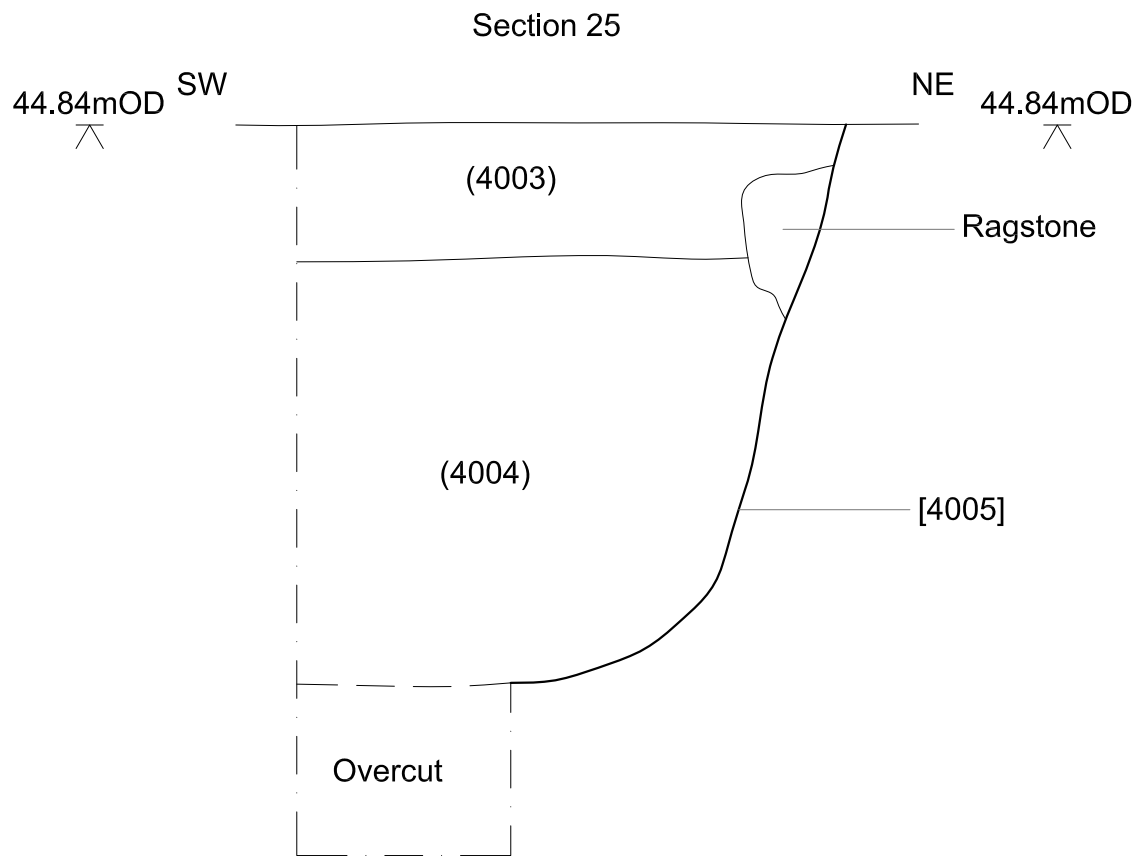
Figure 9: Sections



1:10@A4



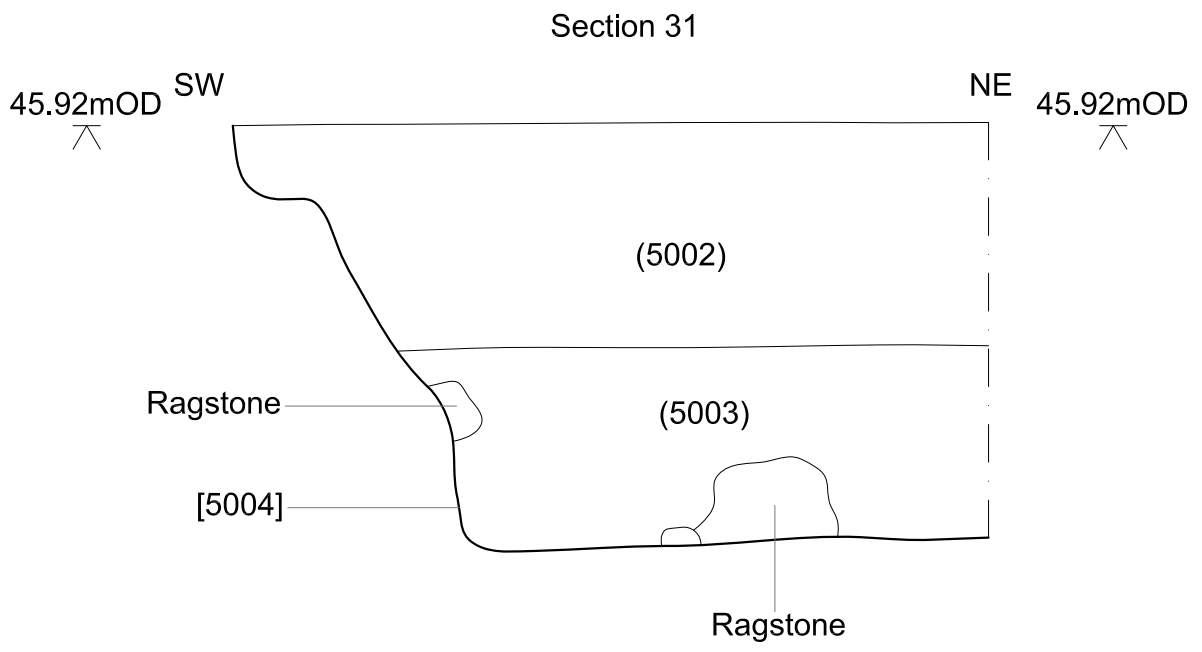
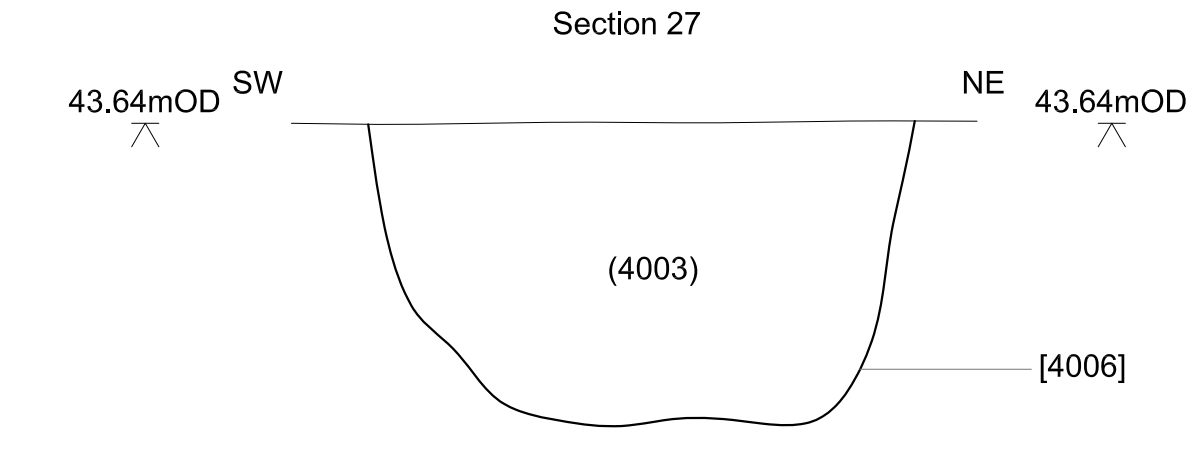
Figure 10: Sections



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Figure 11: Sections



1:10@A4



Figure 12: Sections

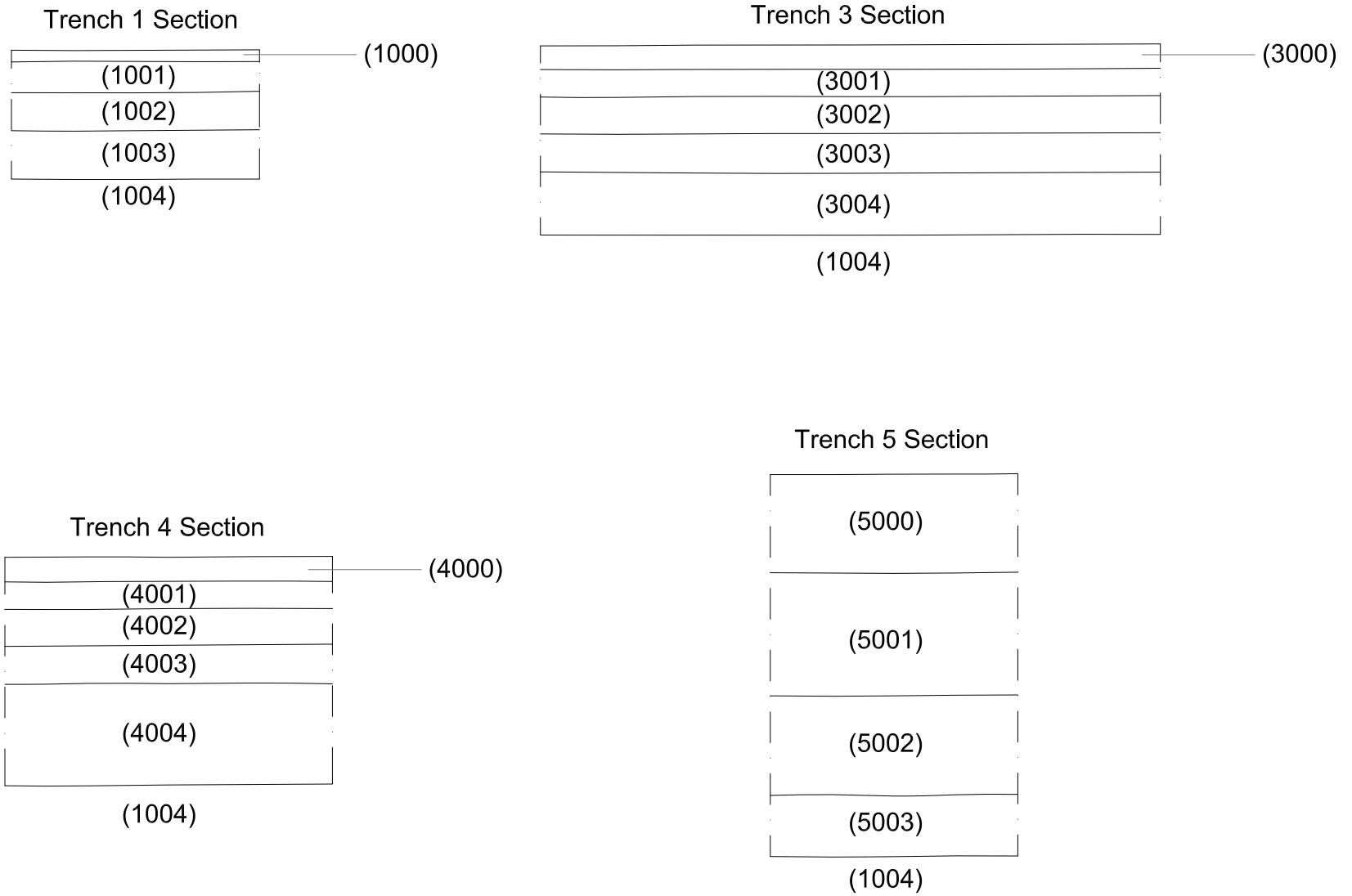
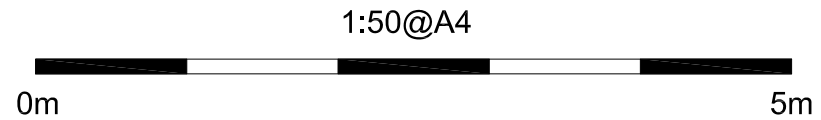


Figure 13: Representative Sections





LICENCE FOR THE REMOVAL OF HUMAN REMAINS

The Secretary of State, in exercise of the power vested in him by section 25 of the Burial Act 1857 (20 & 21 Vic., cap.81), grants a licence for the removal of the remains of **persons unknown** from or within the place in which they are now interred at **Mill Yard, Swan Street, West Mailing, Kent**

2. It is a condition of this licence that the following precautions shall be observed:
 - (a) Any removal or disturbance of the remains shall be effected with due care and attention to decency;
 - (b) The ground in which the remains are interred shall be screened from the public gaze while the work is in progress;
 - (c) The remains shall, no later than **30 September 2016**, be deposited in Maidstone Museum. In the meantime they shall be kept safely, privately and decently by SWAT Archaeology under the control of a competent member of staff.
3. This licence merely exempts those from the penalties, which would be incurred if the removal took place without a licence. It does not in any way alter civil rights. It does not confer the right to bury the remains in any place where such right does not already exist.
4. This licence expires on **31 December 2014**.

Folashade Shodeinde
on behalf of the Secretary of State for Justice

Ministry of Justice

Licence Number: **14-0212**
File Number: **OPR/072/120**
Date: **15-09-2014**

NOTES

Do Not Scale
Report all discrepancies, errors and omissions.
Verify all dimensions on site before commencing any work on site or preparing shop drawings.
All materials, components and workmanship are to comply with the relevant British Standards, Codes of Practice, and appropriate manufacturers' recommendations that from time to time shall apply.
For all specialist work, see relevant drawings.
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Rev Date Description

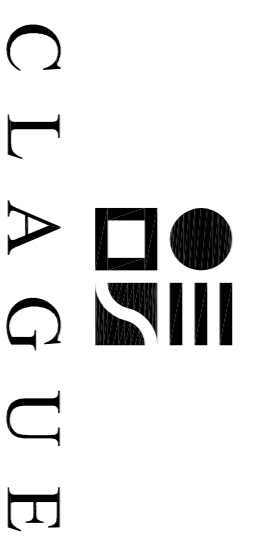
Rev	Date	Description

Project Title
Proposed Mixed Residential
& Retail Development
Mill Yard, West Malling, Kent, ME19 6LP
On behalf of Bedlars Holdings Ltd

Drawing Description
Proposed Ground Floor Plan

Scale
1:100 @ A1
Date
May 2013

Drawn by
CWT
Checked by
GM



CLAGUE
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Drawing Number
12397F/003

Revision



Proposed Mixed Residential & Retail Development, Mill Yard, West Malling, Kent