

Archaeological Monitoring of
Land to the rear of the Cinque Ports Arms,
1 High Street, New Romney,
Kent

Site Code CPA/WB/16



Report for K. Gibbons
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Plate 1 Aerial view of site (red target) showing the site prior to development.

(Google Earth 09/07/2013: Eye altitude 229m).

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Abstract

In October 2016 SWAT Archaeology carried out a programme of archaeological monitoring and recording at land to the rear of the Cinque Ports Arms Public House, 1 High Street, New Romney, Kent. The works were commissioned by Kevin Gibbons and carried out during the excavation of ground works associated with the construction of a proposed extension. The Watching Brief was conducted in accordance with an archaeological Watching Brief generic specification issued by Kent County Council Heritage & Conservation (2010).

The development site consisted of an area formerly used by the public house for access, outdoor seating and storage. Prior to arrival, former out buildings had been demolished to ground level. The monitoring and recording revealed a stratigraphic sequence comprising topsoil, paving slabs and concrete overlying dark brown silty clay garden soils. With the exception of a Ragstone foundation, a brick culvert and a brick wall, all of which are relatively late in date, no archaeological finds or features were present, although the possibility for their presence remains. Excavations associated with the development impacted to depth of approximately 1m. It has therefore been suggested within this report that should archaeological remains be present they will be deeper than the impact depth and preserved in situ beneath the new extension.

**Archaeological Monitoring on Land to the rear of the Cinque Ports Arms, 1 High
Street, New Romney, Kent
NGR Site Centre: 660299 124700
Site Code: CPA/WB/16**

1. Introduction

- 1.1 Swale & Thames Survey Company (SWAT Archaeology) were commissioned by Mr Kevin Gibbons (owner and applicant for planning permission) to undertake an archaeological watching brief during development on land to the rear of the Cinque Ports Arms, High Street, New Romney, Kent (**Figure 1**). A planning application (Y16/0614/SH), validated on the 9th May 2016, was received by Shepway District Council (SDC) for the erection of a single-story rear extension to create a larger dining area and improved kitchen facilities. The application is currently pending consideration.
- 1.2 Kent County Council Heritage and Conservation (KCC), who provide an advisory service to SDC, provided a response to a consultation request requesting that the programme of archaeological work be undertaken to mitigate any archaeological impact threatened by the proposed works. The following conditions were recommended to SDC (KCC letter dated 19th July 2016, reference SH 16 0614 LE01);

***AR1** 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 To ensure that features of archaeological interest are properly examined and recorded.

And

***AR2** No development shall take place until details of foundation designs and any other proposals involving below ground excavation have been submitted to and approved by the Local Planning Authority. Development should be carried out in accordance with the approved details.*

Reason To ensure that due regard is had to the preservation in situ of important archaeological remains.

- 1.3 In addition to the above application, an application for Listed Building consent has also been made (Y16/0549/SH).
- 1.4 The fieldwork was carried out in October 2016 in accordance with generic guidelines in Watching Brief Specifications, as produced by Kent County Council. There is no site specific specification for this project.

2. Site Description and Topography

- 2.1 The site is centred on NGR 606299 124700, located within the historical core of the town of New Romney, c. 19km south of Ashford, at the junction of the High Street, which heads southwest to Lydd, and Lion's Road which borders the Site to the west and south (**Figure 1**). The development site consisted of an area formerly used by the public house for access, outdoor seating and storage. Prior to arrival former out buildings had been demolished to ground level.
- 2.2 The site lies on roughly level ground at a height of approximately 4.4m above Ordnance Datum (aOD). Prior to fieldwork, the site surface consisted of a combination of concrete and slab hardstanding and small grassed areas/verges. The Site excavation works were isolated to an area measuring approximately 90sq.m to the rear of the existing Cinque Ports Arms Public House, adjacent to Lion's Road accessed via a pair of double gates (**Figure 2**).
- 2.3 According to the British Geological Society, the underlying geology comprises Hastings Beds (Sandstone, Siltstone and Mudstone) overlaid by Blown Sand (Sand & Gravel), a pale brown, fine-grained, uncemented sand.

3. Archaeological and Historical Background

- 3.1 A brief archaeological and historical background is detailed within the KCC consultation letter;

The application site is located within an area of archaeological potential associated with the historic port and town of New Romney. The settlement is considered to have developed as an early medieval port, with a mint. During the medieval period its importance increased and it became one of the original five Cinque Ports. New Romney expanded further as an important medieval market town and harbour. During the 14th and 15th century its importance declined as it gradually lost its harbour due to changes in the direction of the River Rother.

The medieval church of St Lawrence was located immediately adjacent to the site in question and remains associated with the church may potentially extend into the proposed development area. St Lawrence's was recorded as being in disrepair in 1511 and was probably pulled down sometime in the 1530's. In the 1930's wall foundations and glazed floor tiles associated with the church were located close to the present site. Other medieval remains recorded in the area include parts of buildings dating to the thirteenth and fourteenth centuries to the southwest on Lions Road and twelfth to early thirteenth century buildings along Lydd Road. The Cinque Ports Arms itself is a Grade II Listed Building thought to date to the seventeenth century with later additions and alterations. The site lies entirely within the New Romney – High Street Conservation Area.

(2016: para 2 & 3)

- 3.2 It is clear that the site lies within an area of known archaeological potential associated with important medieval remains. The New Romney Historic Towns Survey (KCC 2004) suggests that Cinque Ports Arms (KCC HER Ref. TR 02 SE 109) predates AD1500 (2004: Figure 14) and it is clear from a watching brief carried out by the Canterbury Archaeological Trust (2008) that medieval floor surfaces, roads and structures survive close to the Site. The watching brief was carried out during the installation of a new sewer pipeline throughout New Romney during which time multiple archaeological sites were recorded. Of interest to the current development would be Site 7 (2008: 6.5.1), Site 8 (2008: 6.6.1) and Site 13 (2008: 6.8.2) due to their proximity. Site 7 recorded stone walls (2008: Figure 13, Context 3418, but mislabelled on the figure as 3408) and a medieval metalled surface and a sequence of medieval clay floors. By comparison Site 13 (KCC HER Ref. TR 02 SE 190) recorded a series of buildings in Lydd Road, just beyond the junction with West Street & Lion's Road. Dating of finds associated with these buildings suggested occupation through the thirteenth and fourteenth centuries and continuing into the early post medieval period when the buildings were demolished, placing these sites in the same context as the adjacent church dedicated to St Lawrence Church (KCC HER Ref. TR 02 SE 3) which is considered to be the earliest foundation in the town (Ben Found, KCC Archaeological Officer, via correspondence). This being the case, the proposed development is positioned centrally between the church (Site 8), Site 7 and Site 13 which would suggest that important archaeological deposits will be present as long as they have survived later truncation.
- 3.3 The potential for archaeological remains within the proposed development site was therefore considered as being high.

4. Aims and Objectives

- 4.1 The purpose of archaeological monitoring and recording, as specified by KCC in their generic Watching Brief Specifications is to:

Contribute to heritage knowledge of the area through the recording of the archaeological remains exposed as a result of excavations in connection with the groundworks.

(Paragraph 3.1).

- 4.2 The objectives of the monitoring were therefore to:

- To ensure the archaeological excavation and monitoring of all aspects of the development programme likely to affect buried archaeological remains;
- To secure the adequate recording of any archaeological remains revealed by the development programme;
- To secure the full analysis and interpretation of the site archive and the appropriate publication of the project results, if required;
- To secure the analysis, long term conservation and storage of the project archive.

- 4.3 The specific archaeological requirements of the watching brief are summarised below;

- Monitoring of all ground works;
- Mitigation by a programme of archaeological excavation and recording in the event that additional archaeological remains are encountered;
- Post-excavation and publication, where required.

5. Methodology

- 5.1 The archaeological work and the preparation of this report were undertaken in accordance with the methodology set out in generic Specifications for Watching Briefs (KCC) and in compliance with the standards outlined in the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Brief* (CIfA 2014).

- 5.2 Prior to archaeological attendance the Site was cleared of extant spoil heaps and loose vegetation along with the demolition of the existing buildings. On arrival, it was evident that excavation of the foundation trenches had already commenced. Those that had been excavated were open and visible for inspection and recording. **Figure 2**, which provides a plan of the excavation of the foundations, illustrates areas monitored and areas recorded.

- 5.3 Excavation of the foundation trenches was carried out by building contractors using a 360° machine equipped with a toothless ditching bucket (**Plates 2-7**). All areas of excavation were either carried out under the constant supervision of an experienced archaeologist or inspected and recorded by the archaeologist in attendance (See **Table 1**, below and **Figure 2**).
- 5.4 Where possible the areas of excavation were hand-cleaned with the intention of revealing any observed features in plan and section. If found archaeological features under threat were to be excavated to enable sufficient information about form, development date and stratigraphic relationships to be recorded without prejudice to more extensive investigations, should these prove to be necessary.

6 Timetable

- 6.1 Archaeological monitoring was carried out on the following days;

<i>Task</i>	<i>Dates</i>	<i>Staff</i>
Archaeological monitoring following the removal of a boundary wall	October 2016	Dr Paul Wilkinson
Archaeological monitoring during excavation of foundations	04/10/2016	Peter Cichy
Archaeological monitoring during excavation of foundations	05/10/2016	Peter Cichy

Table 1 Schedule of Attendance

7. Results

- 7.1 The foundation design was square in plan measuring approximately 8.5m by 8.5m with a single cross trench, all measuring approximately 1m in depth and 0.65m in width (**Figure 2**). A selection of photographs illustrating the excavated trenches and the conditions on site are provided on **Plates 2-9**.
- 7.2 The monitoring and recording revealed a common stratigraphic sequence across the Site comprising dark grey brown silty clay topsoil, with moderate to frequent modern demolition material inclusions (**001**), overlying mid brown silty clay soil with occasional inclusions comprising post-medieval ceramic building material (**002**) which extended beyond the depth of the excavation. Representative sections illustrating the soil sequence are provided on **Figure 3**, located on **Figure 2**, and presented on **Plate 5** and **Plate 6**.
- 7.3 Although archaeological horizons were not present three features of interest were recorded. Along the southern extent of the foundation trench and in a northeast/southwest orientation the edge of what appeared to be a loosely bonded ragstone wall was encountered (**003**). With block measuring between 0.12m and

0.32m in length and depth of approximately 0.12m the block were clearly worked, possibly reused, but lacked any substantial bonding (**Plate 7**). The exposed length of the wall measured approximately 1.1m and at each end appeared to return beneath the baulk at right angles. There appears to be an attempt to create deliberate layers of coursing but with regards to use it would seem unlikely that the wall represents a boundary feature. It may, however, form part of a foundation or lining for a pit. Looser backfill around the edge of the feature (**006**) indicates that the feature was cut through the overburden (**001 & 002**) and is therefore relatively late.

- 7.4 To the immediate east a brick arch (**004**) measuring approximately 1.45m in width was recorded (**Plate 8**). The unstable nature of the fill meant that access was limited due safety concerns, however, the orientation of the feature towards the corner of the recently demolished out building (**Figure 2**) may suggest that arch have formed part of a culvert that went out of use and was eventually replace by the modern storm drain recorded along the eastern extent of the foundation trench.
- 7.5 The final feature of interest was a brick foundation associated with the previously demolished out building. Clearly visible adjacent to Lions Road (**005**) the foundation was also picked up on the opposite side of the foundation trench (**Plate 9**) suggesting the presence of a former boundary wall aligned with the southern extent of the former building.
- 7.6 No earlier archaeological features, find or deposits were present within any of the excavated areas. No residual finds were present within the excavated deposits.

8. Discussion

- 8.1 A common stratigraphic sequence was confirmed across the site with topsoil directly overlying modern and post-medieval garden soil. Despite the potential for archaeological remains within the Site and the surrounding area the watching brief identified no significant finds, features or deposits.
- 8.2 The lack of archaeological horizons within the recorded excavation does not necessarily mean that none exists. On the contrary, it is clear from the Canterbury Archaeological Trust project that medieval features are present, albeit at depth. Site 7 (described above) recorded metallated surfaces, a clay floor and stone walls at the depth of approximately 0.9m below the existing ground level. Similarly, Site 13 recorded floors at depths around 0.85m below the existing ground level and by reducing both levels one can establish a medieval horizon at approximately 4.1m aOD for Site 7 and 3.36 – 3.50m aOD for Site 13. By comparison the current Site, which has a level of approximately 4.4m aOD meant that excavations were dug to a level of approximately 3.4m aOD, somewhat lower than the medieval horizon seen at the adjacent Site 7, but comparable to medieval levels seen at Site 13. Photographs taken during the

monitoring, and included in this report (**Plates 2-11**), clearly shows dark material (i.e. the overburden) at the base of all foundation trenches.

8.3 It is therefore suggested that clear archaeological horizons such as metalled surfaces, compact clay floors and masonry wall would have been evident in the section of the trenches should they have been uncovered. It therefore stands to reason that archaeological remains, if present, survive at a greater depth. Unfortunately, the report published by the Canterbury Archaeological Trust (2008) appears to have muddled up context numbers overlying the medieval horizons (i.e. Figure 13, shows a metalled medieval surface 3411 overlying a post-medieval garden soil 3314, wall 3408 is recorded as a post-medieval levelling layer, plus others) so it is difficult to compare the characteristics of the overburden. That said archaeological work carried out elsewhere in New Romney has recorded depths of modern and post-medieval garden soils up to and exceeding 1m, sealing archaeological deposits and natural sand geology (Wessex Archaeology 2011). Natural geology was not uncovered on the current site, which was excavated to a level of approximately 3.4m aOD, but has been recorded at levels of 3.6m aOD (Site 7), 3.05m aOD (Site 13) and at 3.85m aOD at the north-eastern extent of the High Street (2011).

8.4 It is therefore suggested that the proposed development had no impact on any archaeological deposits and that should they exist, archaeological remains will be present just below the level of the foundations and preserved in situ beneath the new development.

9. Conclusion

9.1 Archaeological monitoring and recording has been successful in fulfilling the primary aims and objectives of the generic watching brief Specification. No significant buried archaeological remains were recorded during the works and archaeological, should they be present, will remain preserved in situ.

10. Acknowledgments

10.1 SWAT Archaeology would like to thank the client, Mr Kevin Gibbon, for commissioning the archaeological work. Thanks are also extended to Ben Found and Simon Mason at Kent County Council for their advice and assistance. The project was managed by Dr Paul Wilkinson MCIfA, SWAT Archaeology.

11. Archive

11.1 The project archive which includes plans, photographs and written records are currently held at SWAT offices under the Site code CPA/WB/16.

11.2 The physical archive for this phase of works comprises the following;

- 1 file/document case of paper records and A4 graphics.
- 18 digital images.
- 1 CD containing digital archive.
- Correspondence.
- Finds: 0 box (as per KCC guidance).
- Context Register including: Context Register (1), Drawings Register (1), Photographic Register (1), Levels Sheets (x), Environmental Samples Register (x) and Context Sheets (5)

12. References

Canterbury Archaeological Trust (2008) *The New Romney and Greatstone First Time Sewerage Scheme Pipeline watching brief, New Romney, Kent*. Archaeological Assessment Report (Unpublished document).

Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA) (2014) *Standard and guidance: Archaeological Watching Brief*, Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, Reading

Kent County Council Heritage & Conservation (2010) *Specification for an Archaeological Watching Brief (Generic), Part B*

Wessex Archaeology (2011) *Shell Garage, 79 High Street, New Romney, Kent*. Reference 75420.01

<http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html>

<http://webapps.kent.gov.uk/KCC.ExploringKentsPast.Web.Sites.Public/Default.aspx>

13. Appendix 1 - Kent County Council HER Summary Form

Site Name: Land to the rear of the Cinque Ports Arms, 1 High Street, New Romney, Kent

SWAT Site Code: CPA/WB/16

Site Address: As above

Summary:

In October 2016 SWAT Archaeology carried out a programme of archaeological monitoring and recording at land to the rear of the Cinque Ports Arms Public House, 1 High Street, New Romney, Kent. The works were commissioned by Kevin Gibbons and carried out during the excavation of ground works associated with the construction of a proposed extension. The Watching Brief was conducted in accordance with an archaeological Watching Brief generic specification issued by Kent County Council Heritage & Conservation (2010).

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District/Unitary: Shepway District Council

Period(s):

NGR (centre of site to eight figures) 660299 124700

Type of Archaeological work: Archaeological Watching Brief

Date of recording: January 2016

Unit undertaking recording: Swale and Thames Survey Company (SWAT. Archaeology)

Geology: Underlying geology was not exposed

Title and author of accompanying report: Wilkinson P. (2017) Archaeological Watching Brief on land to the rear of the Cinque Ports Arms, 1 High Street, New Romney, Kent

Summary of fieldwork results (begin with earliest period first, add NGRs where appropriate)

See above

Location of archive/finds: SWAT. Archaeology. Graveney Rd, Faversham, Kent. ME13 8UP

Contact at Unit: Paul Wilkinson

Date: 07/08/2017

14. Appendix 2 – Plates



Plate 2 View of site (facing southwest)



Plate 3 View of site (facing northwest)



Plate 4 Representative soils profile #2 along the eastern extent of the Site



Plate 5 Representative soils profile #1 along the western extent of the Site, from Lion's Road (facing southeast)



Plate 6 Extent of the Site showing modern drain



Plate 7 Foundation (003), viewed from the north



Plate 8 Culvert (004), viewed from the north

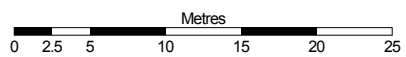


Plate 9 Wall (005), viewed from the southwest

Figures



KEY:
— Site Boundary
— Foundation plan



Scale: 1:500

License number: 100031961

Figure 1: Site location

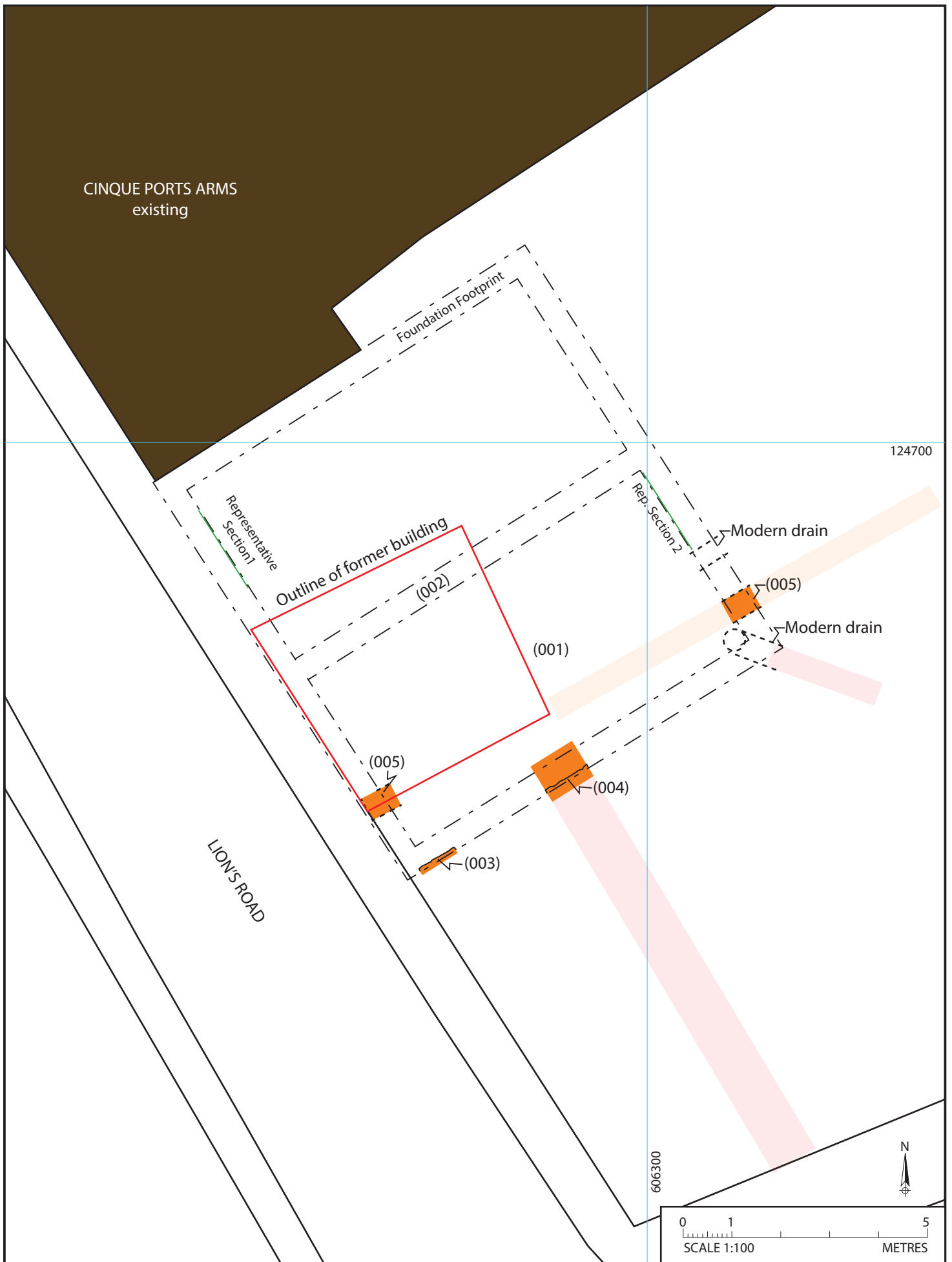
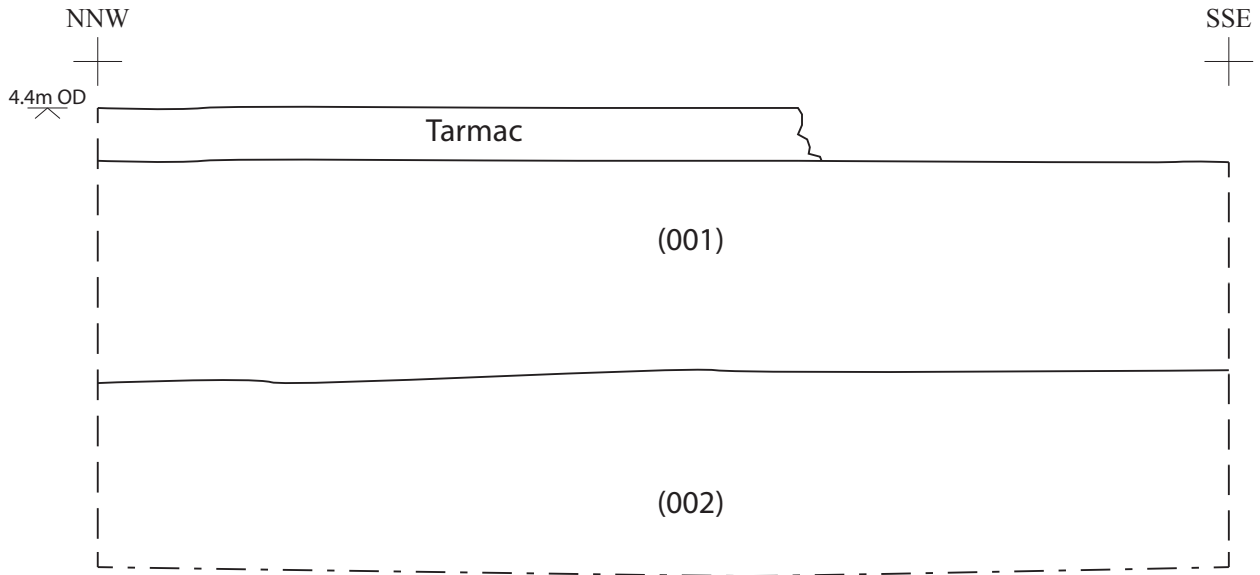


Figure 2: Site plan

Section 1



Section 2

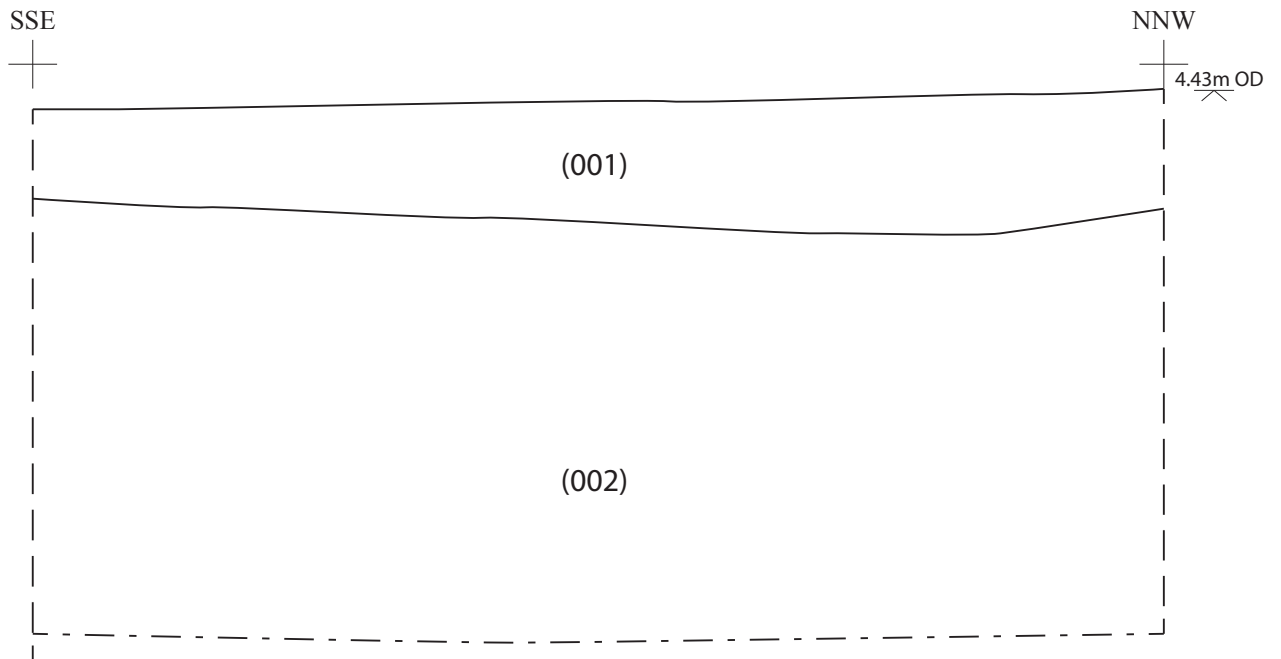


Figure 3: Representative sections