

# Archaeological Evaluation of Land at The Cedars, 21 Bond Gardens, Wallington SM6 7LW



NGR: 529325 164939

Site Code: BOND/EV/17

(Planning Application: D2016/74658/FUL)

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# **Archaeological Evaluation of Land at The Cedars, 21 Bond Gardens, Wallington SM6 7LW**

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Site Code: BOND-EV-17

## **1. Summary**

*Swale & Thames Survey Company (SWAT) carried out an archaeological evaluation of land at The Cedars, 21 Bond Gardens, Wallington in November 2016 and February 2017. A Planning Application (D2016/74658/FUL) to develop this site for the demolition of the existing building and erection of a part 3 storey building to the London Borough of Sutton, 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 (SWAT Specification) and in discussion with Mark Stevenson Archaeology Advisor (South London). The results of the excavation of four evaluation trenches revealed that no archaeological features were present within the trenches (Figure 4). The natural geology of Clay and Silt was reached at an average depth of between 0.95m and 1.05m below ground level (BGL). The Archaeological Evaluation has been successful in fulfilling the primary aims and objectives of the Archaeological Specification.*

## **2. Introduction**

Swale & Thames Survey Company (SWAT) was commissioned by the land owners to carry out an archaeological evaluation at the above site. The work was carried out in accordance with the requirements set out within an Archaeological Specification (SWAT 2016) and in discussion with Mark Stevenson Archaeology Advisor (South London). The evaluation was carried out in two phases due to site restrictions and access on 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2016 with three trenches and on 17<sup>th</sup> February 2017 with the remaining one trench..

## **3. Site Description and Topography**

The proposed development site is within a suburban landscape in south west London between Wallington and Beddington. Up until 1965 the site was located in the municipal Borough of Beddington and Wallington, in northeast Surrey. The site is polygonal in shape and set within the southeast area formed by Bond Gardens street. It is bounded by the late 1950's housing development which the buildings are located to the south, the northeast and the west of the project area. The access is made through Bond Gardens street which forms a U shape area located south of Croydon Road and west of Rectory Lane. The landscape in this area is sloping down toward the river Wandle from a string of hills running east – west from Guildford to Rochester. The site stands between the southern

bank of the river Wandle and the break of slope formed by this hills. The site is generally flat and lays between c.35.5m OD and c.35.2m OD from the south east to the north following the gentle slope of the hills.

The British Geological Survey website shows the site to be located on a bedrock of White Chalk Subgroup, with superficial River Terrace Deposits of Sand and Gravel (undifferentiated).

#### **4. Planning Background**

A planning application for the proposed developments have been submitted to the London Borough of Sutton and subsequently granted consents with an attached condition (4) stating that:

*No demolition or development shall take place until a stage 1 written scheme of investigation (WSI) has been submitted to and approved by the local planning authority in writing. For land that is included within the WSI, no demolition or development shall take place other than in accordance with the agreed WSI, and the programme and methodology of site evaluation and the nomination of a competent person(s) or organisation to undertake the agreed works. If heritage assets of archaeological interest are identified by stage 1 then for those parts of the site which have archaeological interest a stage 2 WSI shall be submitted to and approved by the local planning authority in writing. For land that is included within the stage 2 WSI, no demolition/development shall take place other than in accordance with the agreed stage 2 WSI which shall include: A. The statement of significance and research objectives, the programme and methodology of site investigation and recording and the nomination of a competent person(s) or organisation to undertake the agreed works B. The programme for post-investigation assessment and subsequent analysis, publication & dissemination and deposition of resulting material. This part of the condition shall not be discharged until these elements have been fulfilled in accordance with the programme set out in the stage 2*

#### **5. Archaeological and Historical Background**

The development site is in an Area of Archaeological Potential, details of which have been sourced by the Greater London HER team at [gher@historicengland.org.uk](mailto:gher@historicengland.org.uk)

The development site lies within the Beddington Archaeological Priority Area which defines the area of the Saxon and Medieval settlement of Beddington. The submitted Archaeological DBA (L-P Archaeology) shows that the site has a moderate to high archaeological potential, particularly for prehistoric artefacts and features and the remains of a mid-19<sup>th</sup> century rectory.

Further details of previous discoveries and investigations within the immediate and wider area may be found in the both the Greater London HER Team and the Archaeological Desk Based Assessment Report (L-P Archaeology January 2016) of which the current archaeological team had a copy.

## 6. Aims and Objectives

According to the SWAT Archaeological Specification, the aims and objectives for the archaeological work were to ensure that the:

*The primary objective of the archaeological evaluation is to establish or otherwise the presence of any potential archaeological features which may be impacted by the proposed development. Also to find out the depths of features below the surface, how much overburden and the extent of the depth of deposits themselves. In addition the dates and quality of any archaeological remains which will be achieved through a limited sample excavation of features. Human remains will not be excavated.*

## 7. Methodology

The Archaeological Specification called for an evaluation by trial trenching comprising a first phase of three trenches within the footprint of the proposed housing development followed on by an additional trench when access was implemented (Figure 2). A 2.5 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 SWAT 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 ClfA standards and guidance.

## 8. Monitoring

Curatorial monitoring was available during the course of the evaluation.

## 9. Results

The evaluation has identified no archaeological features within the trenches (Figure 2).

### Trench 1

**9.1** The plan is recorded in Figure 4 (see also Plates 1-5). The trench lay on an E to W alignment and measured approximately 14.31m by 1.80m.

Undisturbed natural geology (**102**) was identified across the trench as mid grey sandy silty clay, at a depth of approximately 0.49m ( 36.52m aOD) below the present ground surface at 37.01m aOD at west end of trench. The natural geology was sealed by a overburden of demolition material mixed with subsoil (**101**) 0.25m thick, and above this topsoil mixed with vegetation (**100**). The trench excavation exposed three modern service trenches (Figure 4). Test pit A was dug at the west end of the trench to a depth of 1.10m.

No archaeology was revealed in the trench or test pit.

## Trench 2

**9.2** The plan is recorded in Figure 4 (see also Plates 6-7). The trench lay on an NEN to SWS alignment and measured approximately 8.22m by 1.80m.

Undisturbed natural geology **(202)** was identified across the trench as mid grey sandy silty clay, at a depth of approximately 0.38m (36.49m OD) below the present ground surface at 36.87m AOD at the SWS end of the trench. The natural geology was sealed by a overburden of demolition material mixed with subsoil **(201)** 0.25m thick, and above this topsoil mixed with vegetation **(200)**. The trench excavation exposed a modern trench (Figure 4).

No archaeology was revealed in the trench.

## Trench 3

**9.3** The plan is recorded in Figure 4 (see also Plates 8-10). The trench lay on an SW to EW alignment and measured approximately 22.80m by 1.80m.

Undisturbed natural geology **(302)** was identified across the trench as mid grey sandy silty clay, at a depth of approximately 0.34m (36.56m OD) below the present ground surface at 36.90m AOD at the trench. The natural geology was sealed by a overburden of demolition material mixed with subsoil **(301)** 0.25m thick, and above this topsoil mixed with vegetation **(300)**. The trench excavation had to jump several manholes and service pipes (Figure 5).

No archaeology was revealed in the trench.

## Trench 4

**9.4** The plan is recorded in Figure 6 (see also Plates 11-12). The trench was excavated in the north area of the site designated for community gardens and lay on an N to S alignment and measured approximately 14m by 1.50m.

Undisturbed natural geology **(402)** was identified across the trench as mid grey sandy silty clay, at a depth of approximately 0.84m (36.36m OD) below the present ground surface at 37.20m AOD at mid-trench. The natural geology was sealed by a overburden of modern rubbish mixed with subsoil **(401)** 0.30m thick, and above this topsoil mixed with vegetation **(400)**. A manhole was exposed at the north end of the trench.

No archaeology was revealed in the trench.

Whilst on site for excavation of Trench 4 an opportunity was taken to investigate and record the first phase of foundation trenches (Figure 7 and Plates 13-14). The trenches were 1.6-1.8m deep and four strata's were identified and consisted of:

1. Chalk bedrock (506) at 35.50m aOD

2. Brown red coloured sand (505) 0.10m thick
  3. Mid grey sand (504) 0.40 thick
  4. Orange sand with some flint inclusions and lenses of pale brown sand 0.70m thick
- Topped by demolition material mixed with topsoil

## **10. Discussion**

With some archaeological sites in the vicinity of the development site it was expected that the evaluation may produce evidence of archaeological activity. But there was none. Most of the site has been disturbed by previous development.

## **11. Finds**

No finds were found.

## **12. Conclusion**

The evaluation trench at the proposed development site revealed no archaeological features or artefacts.

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/hardcore **(100)** sealing mid grey silty sand **(101)** which overlay the natural geology **(102)**. 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 for commissioning the project. Thanks are also extended to Mark Stevenson Archaeological Advisor (South London). Site survey and illustrations were produced by Peter Cichy. The fieldwork was undertaken by Peter and Bartek Cichy and the project was managed and report written by Dr Paul Wilkinson MCIfA.

Paul Wilkinson

16/03/2017

## 14. References

Institute for Field Archaeologists (IfA), Rev (2014). *Standard and Guidance for archaeological field evaluation*

SWAT Archaeology (2016) *Specification for a Programme of Archaeological Investigation and Assessment of Land at the Cedar, 21 Bond Gardens, Wallington SM6 7LW*

Historic England HER data 2016

**OASIS ID: tba**

<b>PROJECT DETAILS</b>	
Project Name	The Cedars, 21 Bond Gardens, Wallington SM6 7LW
Short Description of the project	An archaeological evaluation comprising four evaluation trenches was carried out at the above site, No archaeology was found.
Project Dates	22 <sup>nd</sup> November 2015 17 <sup>th</sup> February 2017
Previous/future work	No
Any associated project reference codes	BOND/EV/2016
Type of Project	Archaeological Evaluation
Site status	None
Current Land Use	Residential
Monument Type	n/a
Significant Finds	None
Investigation Type	Archaeological Evaluation
Prompt	Direction from Local Planning Authority

<b>PROJECT LOCATION</b>	
Country	England
Site location	Wallington in London Borough of Sutton
Postcode	SM6 7LW
Study area	980 Square metres
Site coordinates	NGR 529325 164939
Height OD	Min: 34.50maOD Max 36.50maOD

<b>PROJECT BIBLIOGRAPHY 1</b>	
Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Archaeological Investigation of Land at The Cedars, 21 Bond Gardens, Wallingford SM6 7LW
Author (s)/Editor(s)	Wilkinson, P
Other bibliographic details	No
Date	16 <sup>th</sup> March 2017
Issuer or publisher	SWAT Archaeology
Place of issue or publication	Faversham, Kent
Description	Post Excavation Report
Entered by	Dr Paul Wilkinson ( <a href="mailto:info@swatarchaeology.co.uk">info@swatarchaeology.co.uk</a> )
Entered on	16 <sup>th</sup> March 2017

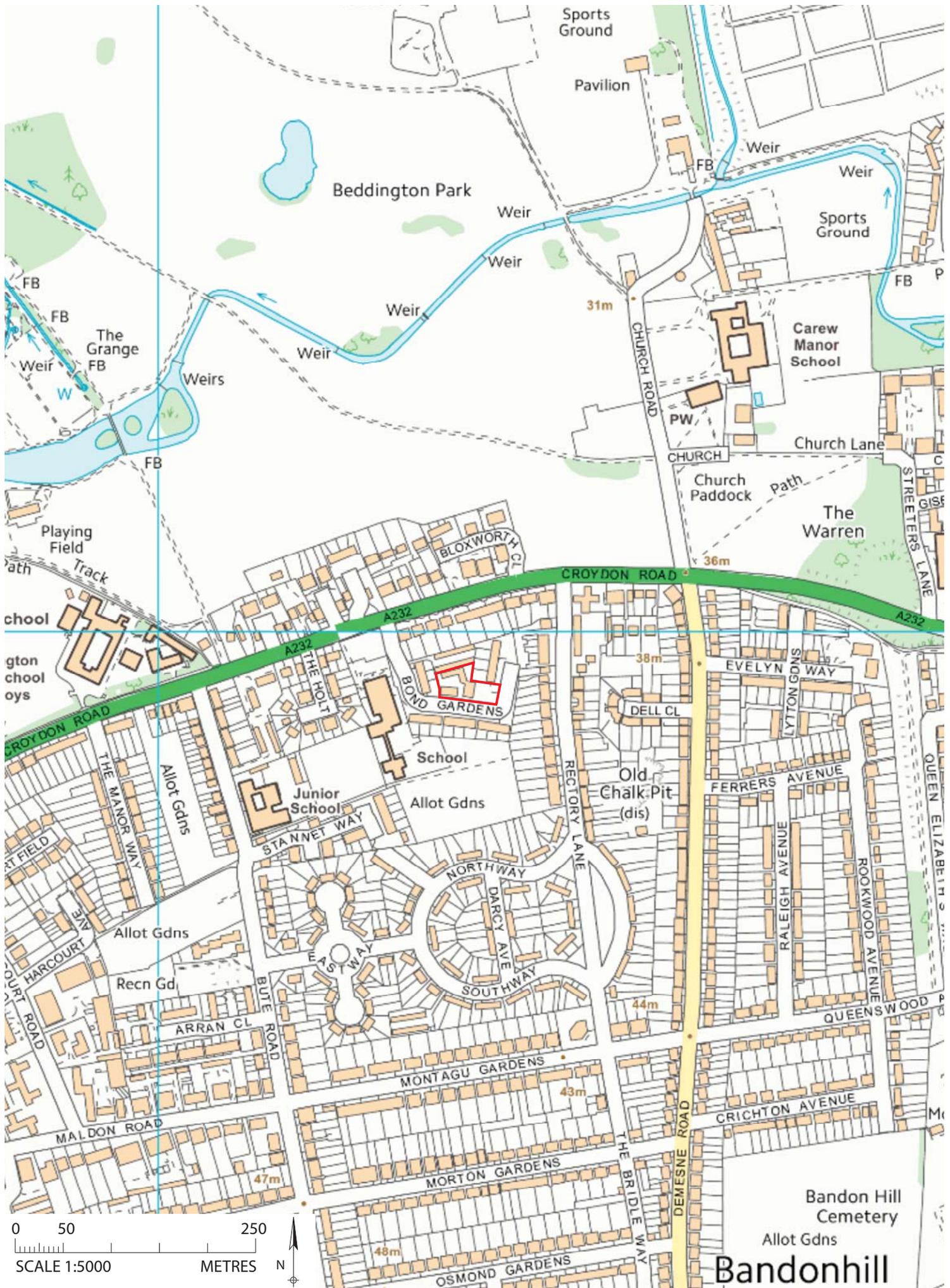


Figure 1: Site location map, scale 1:5000.



Figure 2: Site plan, scale 1:500

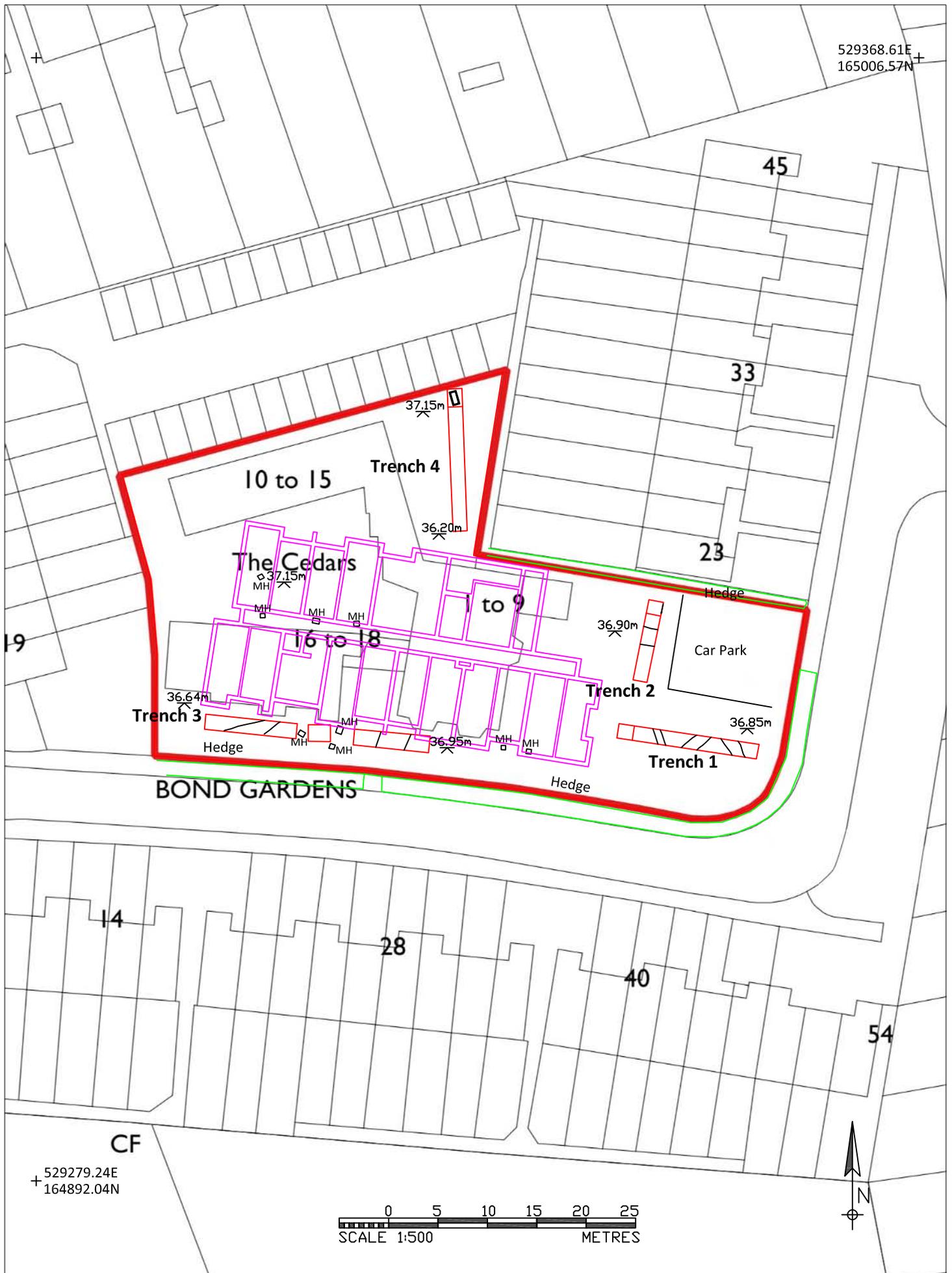


Figure 3: Site plan with foundation trench, scale 1:500

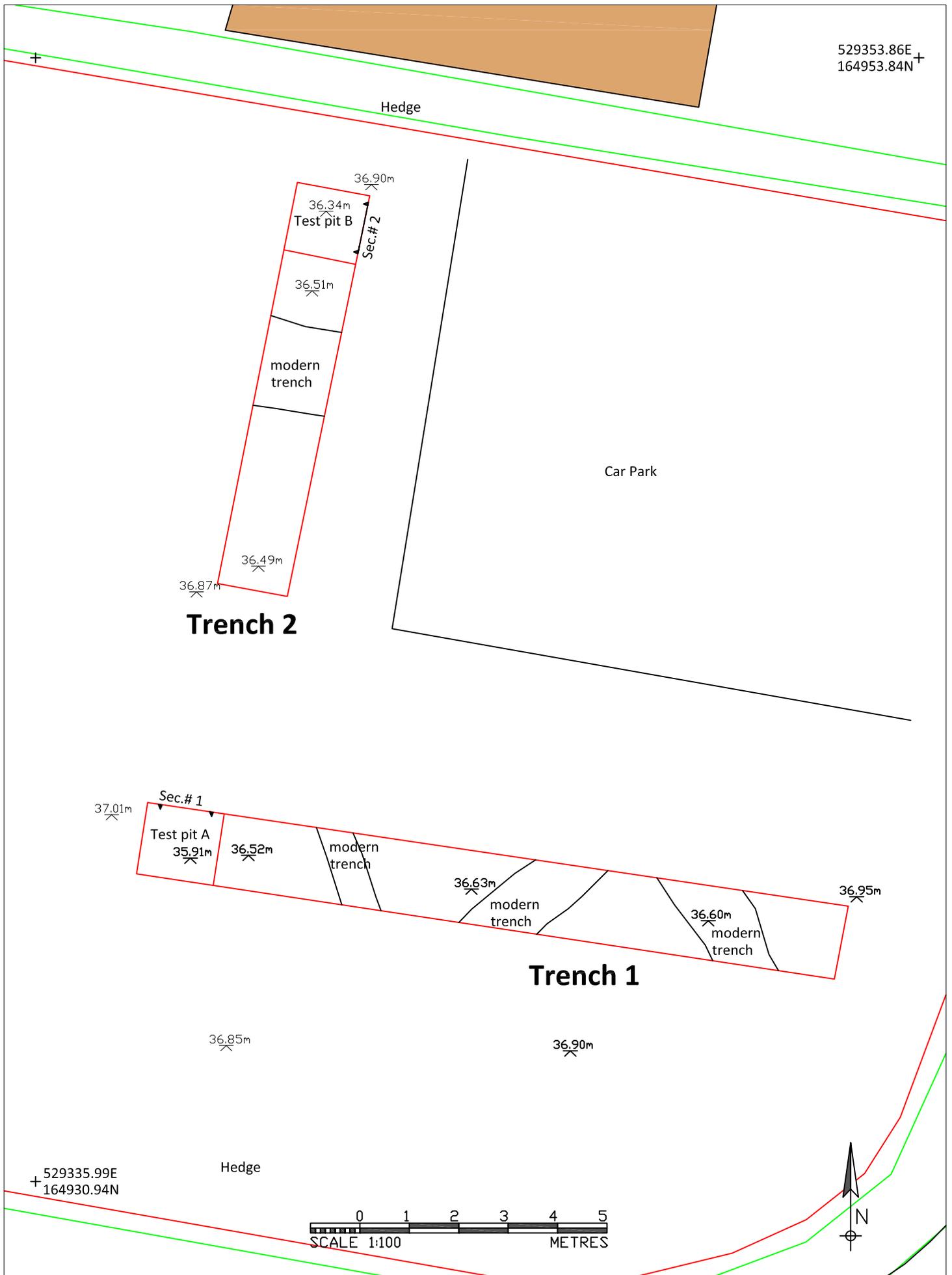


Figure 4: Plan of Trench 1 and 2, scale 1:100

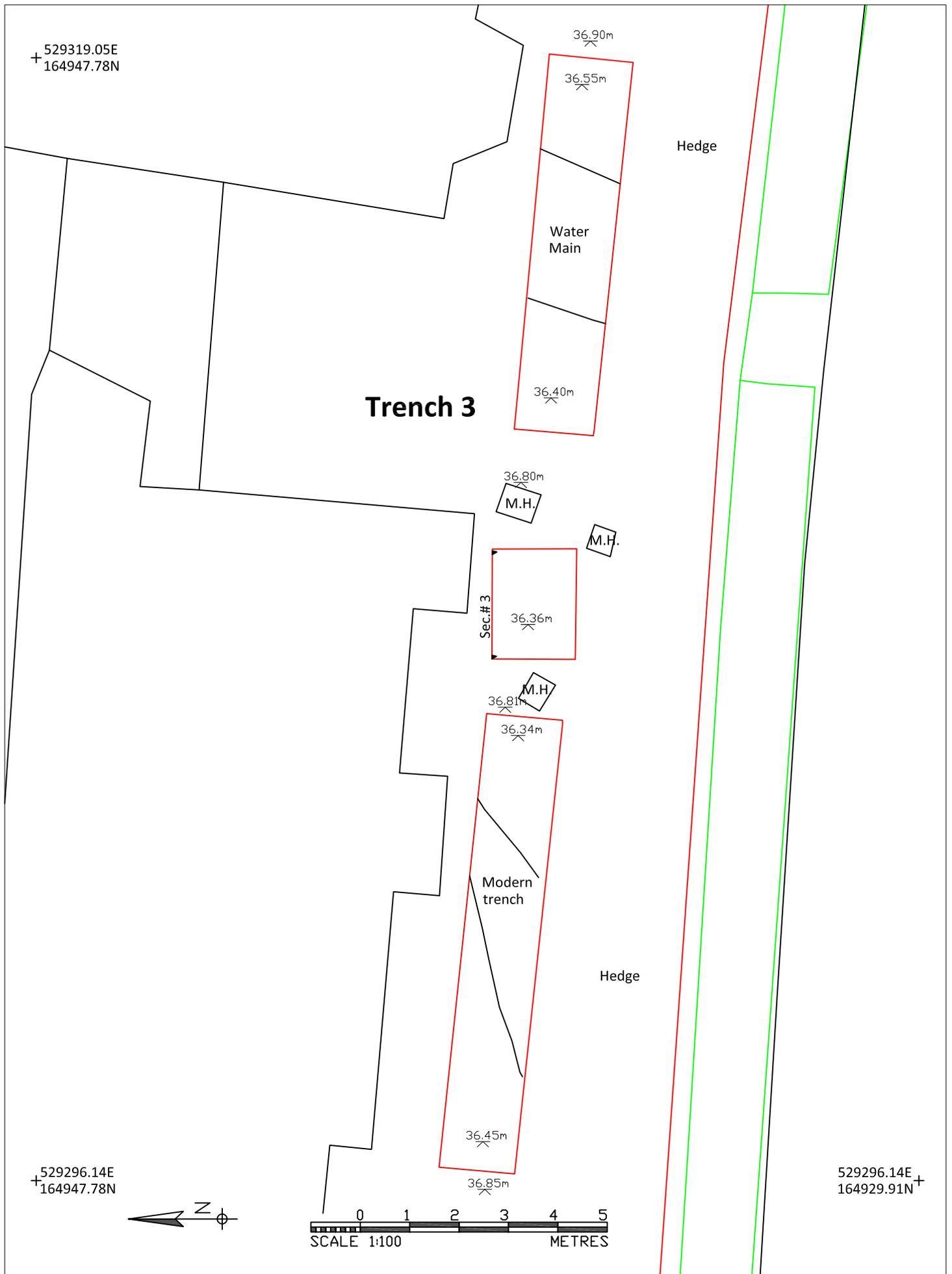


Figure 5: Plan of Trench 3, scale 1:100

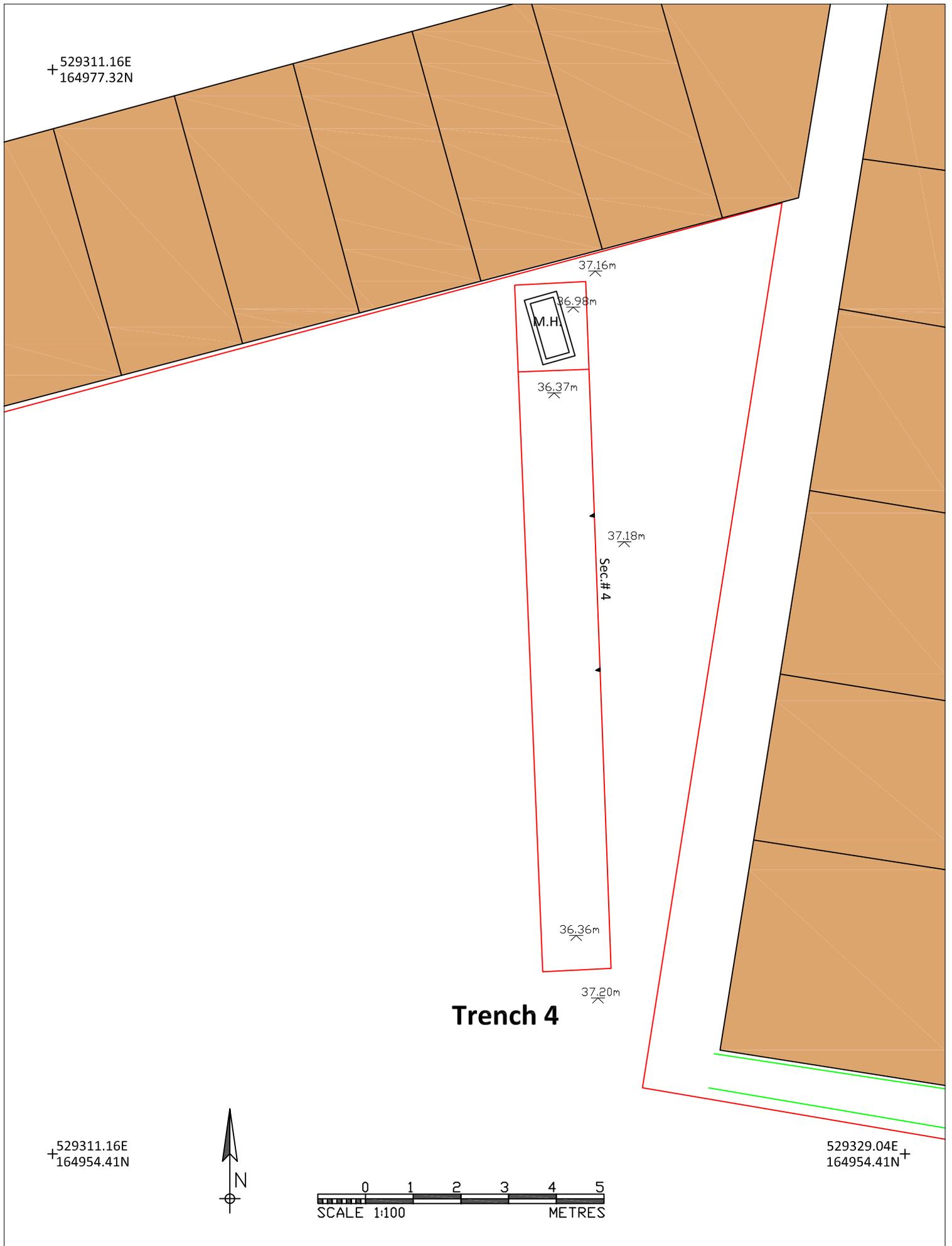


Figure 6: Plan of Trench 4, scale 1:100

+ 529299.09E  
+ 164963.60N

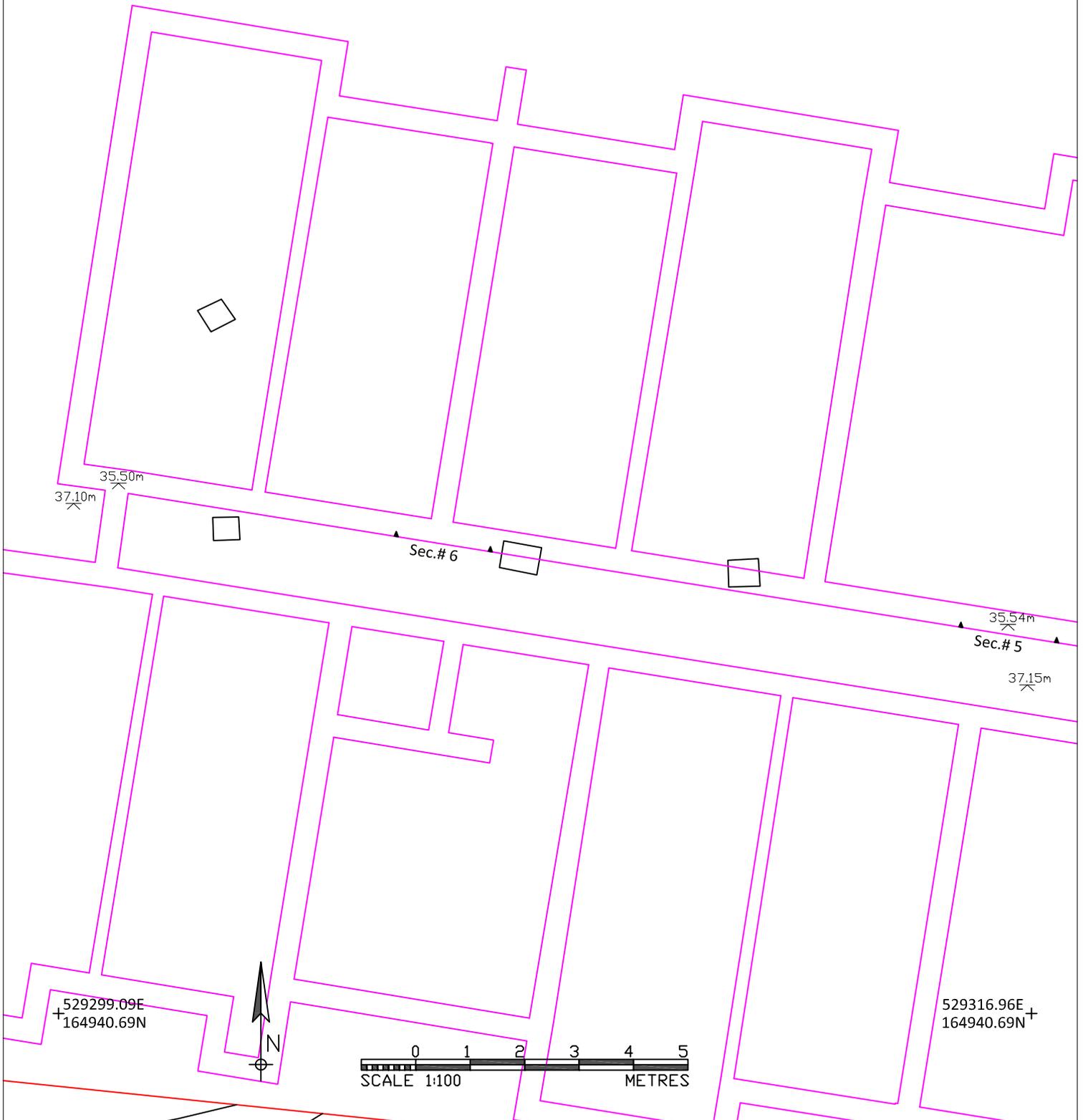
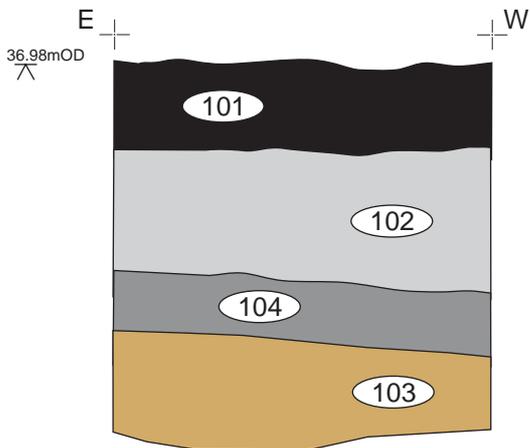
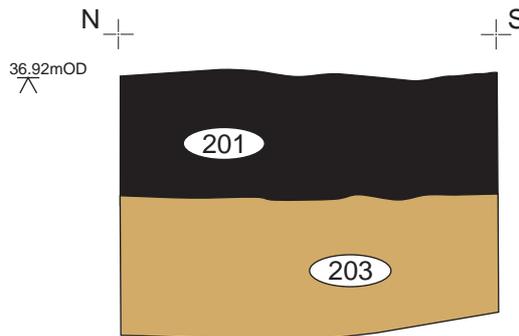


Figure 7: Plan of foundation trench, scale 1:100

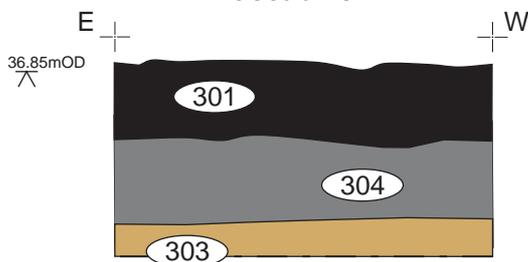
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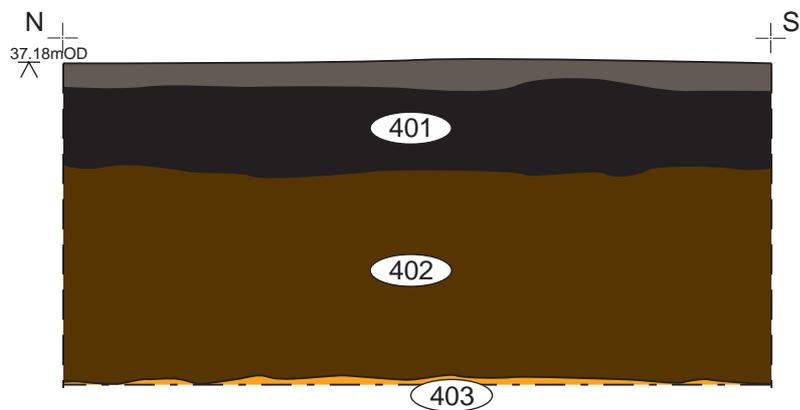
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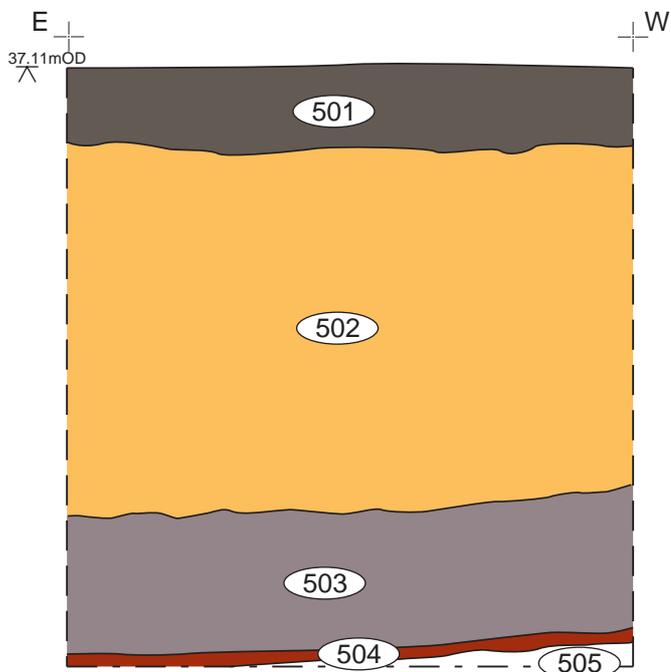
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Section 4



Section 5



Section 6

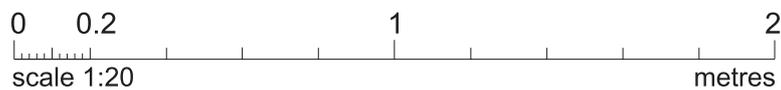
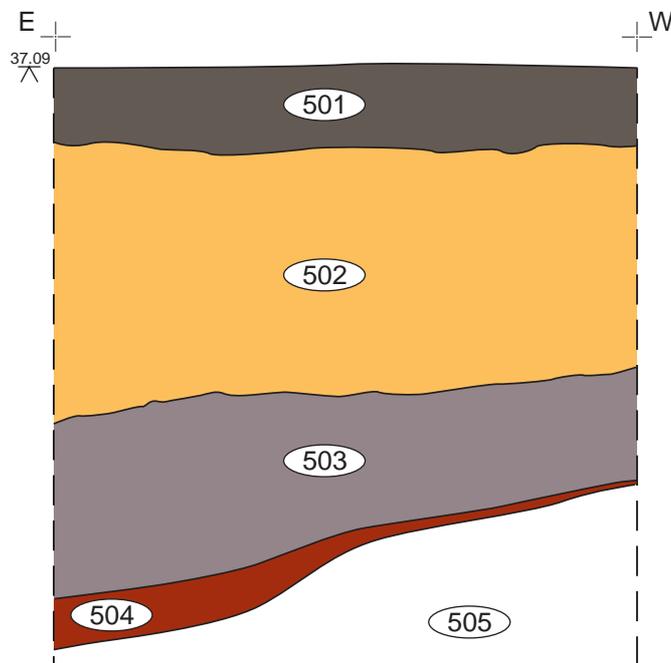


Figure 8: Representative sections.

## Plates



*Plate 1: Looking north-west, showing the site, Trench 1 in foreground, Trench 2 in background.*



*Plate 2: Looking south-east, showing site, Trench 1 visible in foreground, Trench 2 in background.*



*Plate 3: Showing Evaluation Trench 1. Looking west, one and half-metre scales.*



*Plate 4: Showing Evaluation Trench 1. Looking east, one and half-metre scales.*



*Plate 5: Showing representative section 1.1 in Trench 1 (trial test-pit in Trench 1). Looking north, one and half-metre scales.*



*Plate 6: Showing representative section 2.1 in Trench 2 (trial test-pit in Trench 2). Looking east, one and half-metre scales.*



*Plate 7: Showing evaluation Trench 2. Looking north, one and half-metre scales.*



*Plate 8: Showing evaluation Trench 3. Looking east, one and half-metre scales.*



Plate 9: Showing eastern end of evaluation Trench 3, live water-main visible in foreground. Looking west, one and half-metre scales.



Plate 10: Showing representative section 3.1 in Trench 3. Looking north, one and half-metre scales.



*Plate 11: Trench 4 and Plate 12 (below) Trench 4*





*Plate 13: Foundation trenches and Plate 14 (below) overall view of foundation trenches*

