

# Archaeological Evaluation on Land at the former Rose and Crown, 2 Branbridges Road, East Peckham, Tonbridge, Kent

Site Code: BRAN -EV-18

NGR Site Centre 567335 148672

Planning Application Number: TM/18/00273/FL



SWAT ARCHAEOLOGY

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## **Summary**

*Swale & Thames Survey Company (SWAT Archaeology) were commissioned to undertake an archaeological evaluation on land at the former Rose and Crown, 2 Branbridges Road, East Peckham, Tonbridge, Kent. The archaeological works were monitored by the Kent County Council Senior Archaeological Officer.*

*The fieldwork was carried out in August 2018 in accordance with an archaeological specification (SWAT Archaeology 2018) submitted to the Local Planning Authority prior to commencement of works.*

*The Archaeological Evaluation consisted of 5 trenches, which encountered a relatively common stratigraphic sequence comprising topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology. Three trenches revealed modern demolition infill from the demolished Rose and Crown public house.*

## **1 INTRODUCTION**

### **1.1 Project Background**

1.1.1 Swale & Thames Survey Company (SWAT Archaeology) were commissioned to undertake an archaeological evaluation on land at the former public house Rose and Crown, East Peckham in Kent (**Figure 1**). The land has planning permission (TM/18/00273/FL) for the erection of 8 No. two storey terraced dwellings and associated car parking and landscaping.

1.1.2 In mitigation of the potential impact that the development may have on the buried archaeological resource Kent County Council Heritage & Conservation (KCCHC), who provide an advisory service to Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council (TMBC), requested that the programme of works comprising an archaeological watching brief 'to observe the excavation and record items of interest and finds'.

1.1.3 However, Wendy Rogers Senior Archaeologist requested an archaeological evaluation prior to the archaeological work required in Condition 8 of the planning permission.

The archaeological evaluation was carried out in August 2018 in accordance with an archaeological specification prepared by SWAT Archaeology (2018), prior to commencement of works, and in discussion with Wendy Rogers Senior Archaeological Officer at KCCHC.

#### **1.1.4 Site Description and Topography**

The site is situated in the village and Parish of East Peckham, just to the west of the A228 and just south of Hale Street. To the south is the River Medway which runs close to the proposed development area (PDA) and the PDA is north of the village of Beltring. The Southern Rail line to London is located to the east with a station stop at Beltring. The NGR to the centre of the site is NGR 567335 148672 (Figure 1).

The Geological Survey of Great Britain (1:50,000) shows that the PDA is set on Bedrock Geology of Weald Clay Formation- Mudstone. Superficial deposits are Alluvium- Clay, Silt, Sand and Gravel. The PDA is set at an average height of 12.75m AOD.

## **2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND**

### **2.1 Introduction**

2.1.1 Further details of previous discoveries and investigations within the immediate and wider area may be found in the Kent County Council Historic Environment Record and have been summarised in the Specification produced by SWAT Archaeology (2018).

## **3 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES**

### **3.1 Specific Aims (SWAT 2018)**

3.1.1 The specific aims of the archaeological fieldwork are set out in the Specification (SWAT 2018) were to:

3.1.2 *'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. The aims of this investigation are to determine the potential for archaeological activity and in particular the adjacent Roman remains and later archaeological activity.'*

3.1.3 *'The programme of archaeological work should be carried out in a phased approach and will commence with a geophysical survey and evaluation through trial trenching. This initial phase should determine whether any significant archaeological remains would be affected by the development and if so what mitigation measures are appropriate. Such measures may include further detailed archaeological excavation, or an archaeological watching brief during construction work or an engineering solution to any preservation in situ requirements'.*

(SWAT Archaeology 2018: 6)

### **3.2 General Aims**

3.2.1 The general aims of the archaeological fieldwork were to;

- establish the presence or absence of any elements of the archaeological resource, both artefacts and ecofacts of archaeological interest across the area of the development;
- ascertain the extent, depth below ground surface, depth of deposit if possible, character, date and quality of any such archaeological remains by limited sample excavation;
- determine the state of preservation and importance of the archaeological resource, if present, and to assess the past impacts on the site and pay particular attention to the character, height/depth below ground level, condition, date and significance of any archaeological deposits.

## **4 METHODOLOGY**

### **4.1 Introduction**

4.1.1 All fieldwork was conducted in accordance with the methodology set out in the Specification (SWAT 2018 and KCC Manual of Specifications 'B') and carried out in compliance with the standards outlined in the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' Standards Guidance for Archaeological Evaluations (CIfA 2017).

### **4.2 Fieldwork**

4.2.1 A total of five evaluation trenches were excavated across the Site (Figures 2, 3).

4.2.2 Each trench was initially scanned for surface finds prior to excavation. Excavation was carried out using a 360° mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket, removing the overburden to the top of the first recognisable archaeological horizon, under the constant supervision of an experienced archaeologist.

4.2.3 Where appropriate, trenches, or specific areas of trenches, were subsequently hand-cleaned to reveal features in plan and carefully selected cross-sections through the features were 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. All archaeological work was carried out in accordance with KCC and CIfA standards and guidance. A complete photographic record was maintained on site that included working shots; during mechanical excavation, following archaeological investigations and during back filling.

### **4.3 Recording**

4.3.1 A complete drawn record of the evaluation trenches comprising both plans and sections, drawn to appropriate scales (1:20 for plans, 1:10 for sections) was undertaken. The plans and sections were annotated with coordinates and aOD heights.

4.3.2 Photographs were taken as appropriate providing a record of excavated features and deposits, along with images of the overall trench to illustrate their location and context. The record also includes images of the Site overall. The photographic record comprises digital photography. A photographic register of all photographs taken is contained within the project archive.

4.3.3 A single context recording system was used to record the deposits. A full list is presented in Appendix 1. Layers and fills are identified in this report thus (100), whilst the cut of the feature is shown [100]. Context numbers were assigned to all deposits for recording purposes. Each number has been attributed to a specific trench with the primary number(s) relating to specific trenches (*i.e.* Trench 1, 101+, Trench 2, 201+, Trench 3, 301+ etc.).

## **5 RESULTS**

### **5.1 Introduction**

5.1.1 A total of five evaluation trenches were mechanically excavated under archaeological supervision.

### **5.2 Stratigraphic Deposit Sequence**

5.2.1 A relatively consistent stratigraphic sequence was recorded across the majority of the Site comprising a mix of topsoil sealing an intact subsoil of black silty clay.

5.2.2 The topsoil generally consisted of a mix of black topsoil and hardcore overlying the subsoil which consisted of black silty clay mixed with hardcore.

5.2.3 Appendix 1 provides the stratigraphic sequence for all trenches. Figures 1-2 provide a site plan and trench location plan while Plates 1-6 include selected site photographs.

### **5.3 Overview**

5.3.1 The five trenches were located across the site to ensure full coverage of potential archaeological remains and to evaluate the survival of any structure of the former Rose and Crown public house or earlier buildings on site.

## **6 FINDS**

6.1 No finds of any archaeological merit were recovered from the archaeological evaluation

## **7 Discussion**

### **7.1 Archaeological Narrative**

7.1.1 No archaeological features were recorded in Trenches 1, 2, 3, 4, 5.

### **7.2 Conclusions**

7.2.1 The archaeological evaluation has been successful in fulfilling the primary aims and objectives of the Specification. Development proposals are not likely to impact on archaeological remains.

7.2.2 This evaluation has, therefore, assessed the archaeological potential of land intended for development. The results from this work show that the proposed development is not likely to impact on any archaeological remains.



## **8 ARCHIVE**

### **8.1 General**

- 8.1.1 The Site archive, which will include; paper records, photographic records, graphics and digital data, will be prepared following nationally recommended guidelines (SMA 1995; ClfA 2009; Brown 2011; ADS 2013).
- 8.1.2 All archive elements will be marked with the site/accession code, and a full index will be prepared. The physical archive comprises 1 file/document case of paper records & A4 graphics

## **9 ACKNOWLEDGMENTS**

- 9.1.1 SWAT would like to thank the developer for commissioning the project. Thanks are also extended to Wendy Rogers, Senior Archaeological Officer, Kent County Council, for her advice and assistance.
- 9.1.2 Peter Cichy supervised the archaeological evaluation and illustrations were produced by Bartek Cichy. Dr Paul Wilkinson MCIfA produced the draft text for this report.

## **10 REFERENCES**

ADS 2013. Caring for Digital Data in Archaeology: a guide to good practice, Archaeology Data Service & Digital Antiquity Guides to Good Practice

Brown, D.H., 2011. Archaeological archives; a guide to best practice in creation, compilation, transfer and curation, Archaeological Archives Forum (revised edition)

Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, 2009, Standard and Guidance for the creation, compilation, transfer and deposition of archaeological archives, Institute for Archaeologists

Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, 2014, *Standard and guidance: for field evaluation*.

Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, 2014, *Standard and guidance for the creation, compilation, transfer and deposition of archaeological archives*.

Compiled by: SWAT Archaeology (PW). The Office, School Farm Oast, Faversham, Kent

Date: 15/09/2018

## Appendix 1: Trench Tables

Trench 1			
Dimensions: 13.5m x 1.6m Depth: 0.48m Trench alignment: WSW-ENE WSW-end Ground Level: 12.6m aOD, ENE-end Ground Level: 12.65m aOD			
Context	Description	Interpretation	Depth (m)
101	Mix of black topsoil and hardcore	Topsoil/demolition layer	0.00-0.26
102	Mid orange brown, clayey sandy silt	Natural	0.26+
103	NW-SE aligned modern trench with iron pipe	Cut of modern service trench	0.26-0.5
104	Iron pipe at the base, black clayey silt with freq stones	Fill of 103	0.26-0.5

Trench 2			
Dimensions: 14.5m x 1.6m Depth: 0.5m Trench alignment: NNW-SSE NNW-end Ground Level: 12.6m aOD, SSE-end Ground Level: 12.7m aOD			
Context	Description	Interpretation	Depth (m)
201	Mix of black topsoil and hardcore	Topsoil/demolition layer	0.00-0.26
202	Mid orange brown, clayey sandy silt	Natural	0.26+
203	NW-SE aligned modern trench with iron pipe	Cut of modern large pit	0.26-0.5+
204	black silty clay mixed with hardcore	Fill of 203	0.26-0.5+
205	NE-SW aligned modern trench with iron pipe	Cut of modern service trench	0.26-0.5
206	Iron pipe at the base, black clayey silt with hardcore	Fill of 205	0.26-0.5

Trench 3			
Dimensions: 13.3m x 1.6m Depth: 0.57m Trench alignment: WSW-ENE WSW-end Ground Level: 12.65m aOD, ENE-end Ground Level: 12.7m aOD			
Context	Description	Interpretation	Depth (m)
301	Mix of black topsoil and hardcore	Topsoil/demolition layer	0.00-0.57
302	Mid orange brown, clayey sandy silt	Natural	0.5+
303	Oval in plan/ un excavated	Cut of modern pit/man hole?	0.5+
304	black silty clay mixed with hardcore	Fill of 303	0.5+
305	Rectangular modern pit, 5m wide – un excavated	Cut of large modern pit	0.5+
306	black silty clay mixed with hardcore	Fill of 305	0.5+

Trench 4			
Dimensions: 13.3m x 1.6m Depth: 0.45m Trench alignment: NNW-SSE NNW-end Ground Level: 12.75m aOD, SSE-end Ground Level: 12.78m aOD			
Context	Description	Interpretation	Depth (m)
401	Mix of black topsoil and hardcore	Topsoil/demolition layer	0.00-0.25
402	Mid orange brown, clayey sandy silt	Natural	0.25+
403	Oval in plan with steep sides/ un excavated	Cut of modern pit	0.25-0.5+
404	black silty clay mixed with hardcore	Fill of 403	0.5+

405	N-S aligned trench with brown ceramic pipe	Cut of Victorian service trench	0.25-0.55
406	0.2m brown ceramic pipe and crushed concrete	Fill of 405	0.25-0.55
407	E-W aligned trench with brown ceramic pipe	Cut of Victorian service trench	0.25-0.55
408	0.2m brown ceramic pipe and crushed concrete	Fill of 405	0.25-0.55

Trench 5	Dimensions: 14.5m x 1.6m Depth: 0.9m Trench alignment: WSW-ENE WSW-end Ground Level: 12.75m aOD, ENE-end Ground Level: 12.8m aOD		
Context	Description	Interpretation	Depth (m)
501	Mix of black topsoil and hardcore	Topsoil/demolition layer	0.00-0.35
502	Mid orange brown, clayey sandy silt	Natural	0.35+
503	Rectangular modern pit, 6m+ wide – un excavated	Cut of modern large pit	0.35-0.9+
504	black silty clay mixed with hardcore	Fill of 303	0.35-0.9+
505	Rectangular modern pit, 3m+ wide – un excavated	Cut of large modern pit	0.35-0.9+
506	black silty clay mixed with hardcore	Fill of 305	0.35-0.9+
507	E-W aligned trench with brown iron pipe	Cut of modern service trench	0.35-0.55
508	0.05m iron pipe and mix of black clayey silt and hardcore	Fill of 405	0.35-0.55

## Kent County Council HER Summary Form

**Site Name:** Land at the former Rose and Crown, 2 Branbridges Road, East Peckham, Tonbridge, Kent

**SWAT Site Code:** BRAN/EV/18

**Site Address:** As above

### Summary:

Swale and Thames Survey Company (SWAT) carried out Archaeological Evaluation on the development site above. The site has planning permission for the erection of 8 No. two storey terraced dwellings and associated car parking and landscaping whereby Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council requested that Archaeological works be undertaken to determine the possible impact of the development on any archaeological remains.

The Archaeological Monitoring consisted of an Archaeological Evaluation which revealed no archaeology.

**District/Unitary:** Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council

**Period(s):**

**NGR (centre of site to eight figures)** 567335 148672

**Type of Archaeological work:** Archaeological Evaluation

**Date of recording:** August 2018

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

**Geology:** Underlying geology is Bedrock Geology of Weald Clay Formation

**Title and author of accompanying report:** Wilkinson P. (2018) Archaeological Evaluation of Land at the former Rose and Crown, 2 Branbridges Road, East Peckham, Tonbridge, Kent

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

No archaeology found

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

**Contact at Unit:** Paul Wilkinson

**Date:** 10/09/2018



Figure 1: Site location map, scale 1:10000.



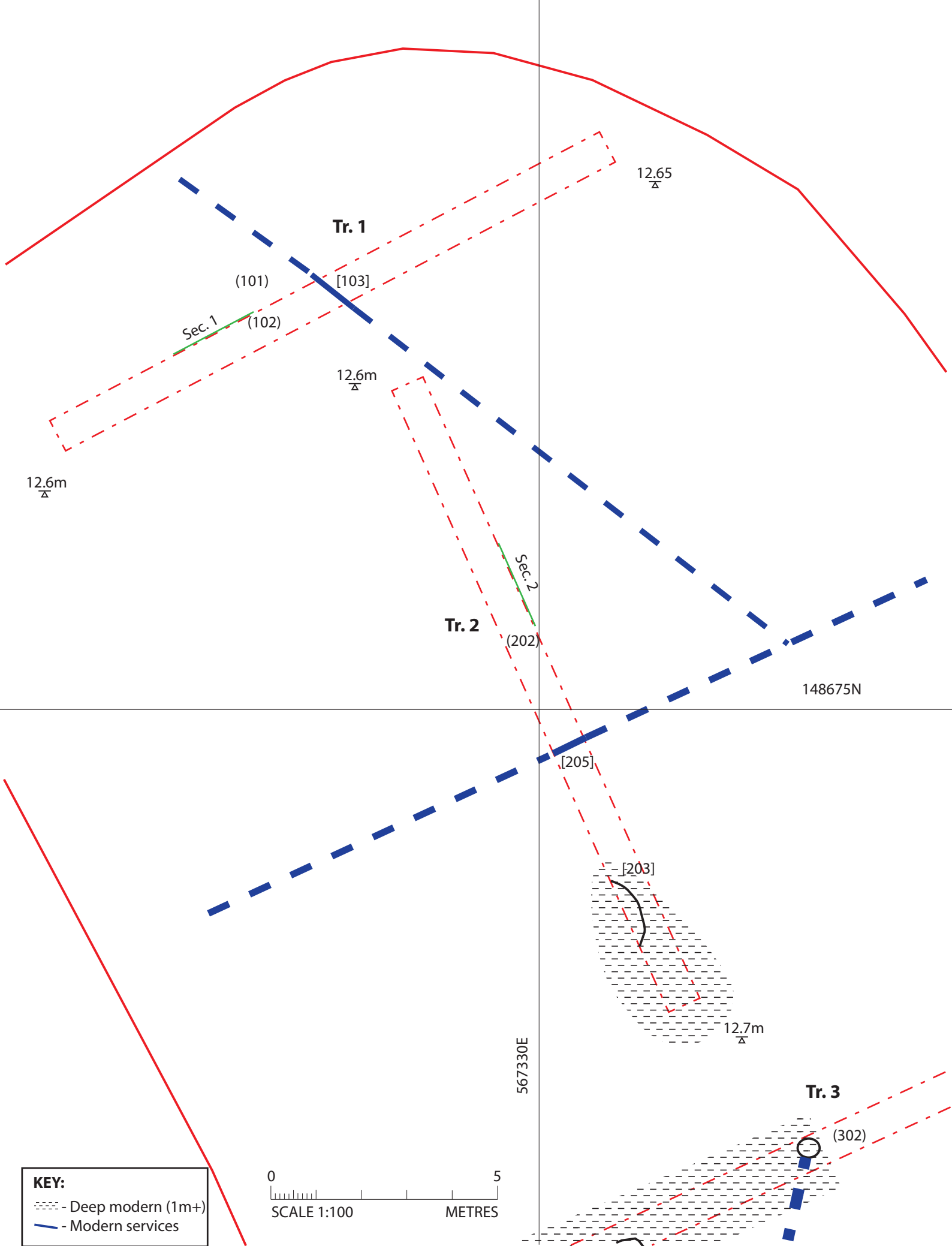
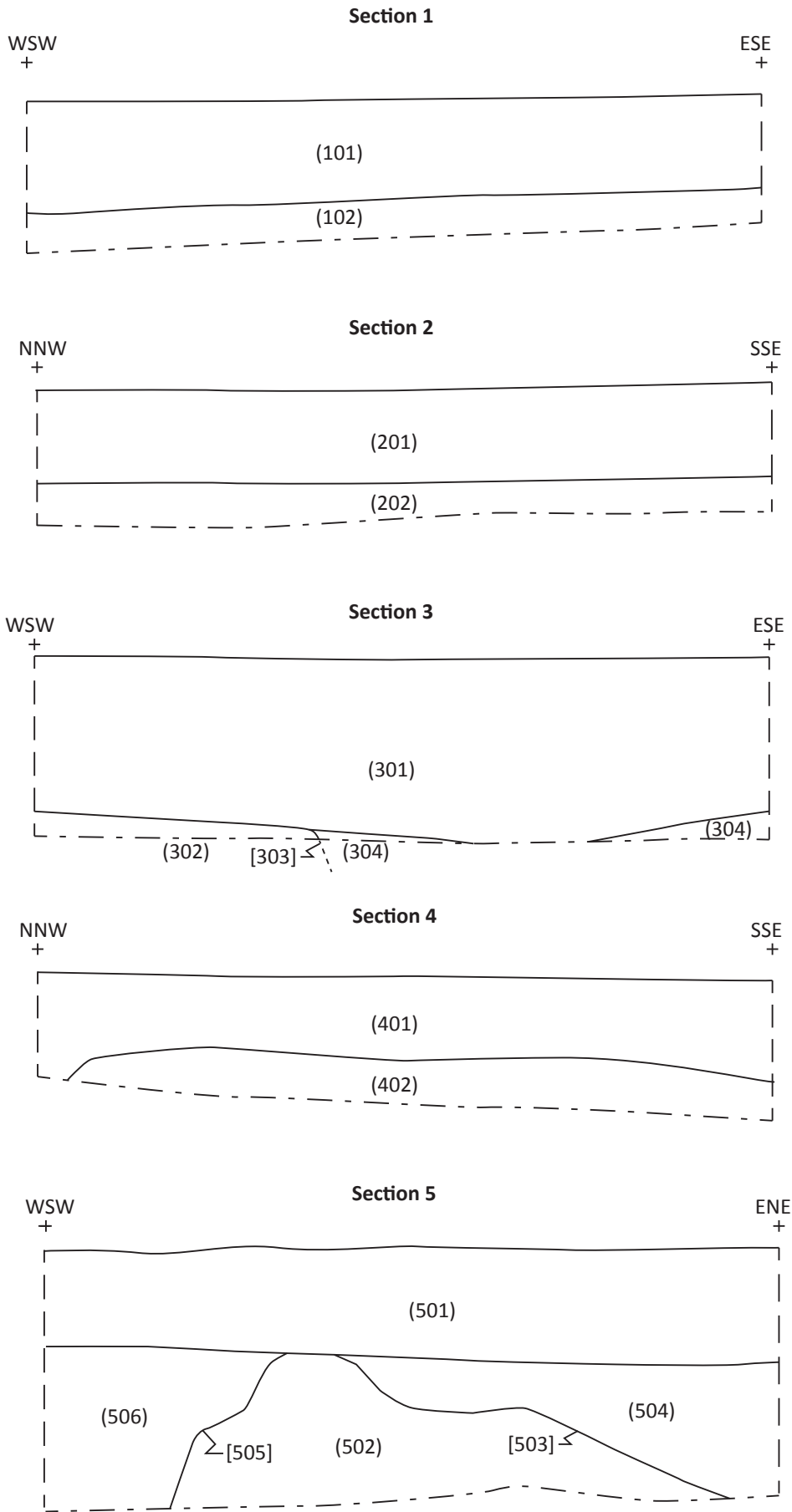


Figure 3: Plan of Trench 1 and 2, scale 1:100







- (01) - Top Layer - mix of black topsoil and hardcore
- (02)- Natural - Mid orange brown clayey sandy silt
- [03] - modern cut
- (04) - hardcore and earth
- [05] - modern cut
- (06) - hardcore and earth



Figure 5: Representative sections, scale 1:20



**Plate 1: Looking south at car park located in a southern part of the site**



**Plate 2: Looking north west at the site**



Plate 3: Looking east-north-east at Trench 1



Plate 4: Looking north-north-west at section of Trench 1



Plate 5: Looking west-south-west at section of Trench 2



Plate 6: Looking north-west-north at Trench 2



Plate 7: Looking west-south-west at Trench 3



Plate 8: Looking north-west-north at section of Trench 3



Plate 9: Looking east-north-east at section of Trench 4



Plate 10: Looking north-west-north at Trench 4





Plate 11: Looking east-north-east at Trench 5



Plate 12: Looking north-west-north at section of Trench 5