

# Archaeological Evaluation of Land at The Tile Warehouse and Former Boat Storage Yard (The Oval Chalet) and adjoining Land, Sea Street/Sea Wall, Whitstable, Kent



NGR: 610627 166839

Site Code: TILE/EV/18

(Planning Application: CA/17/375)

**SWAT Archaeology**

The Office, School Farm Oast

Graveney Road Faversham, Kent, ME13 8UP

Email: [info@swatarchaeology.co.uk](mailto:info@swatarchaeology.co.uk)

Tel.: 01795 532548 and 07885 700112

## Contents

List of Figures.....	3
List of Plates.....	3
1. Summary.....	4
2. Introduction.....	4
3. Site Description and Topography.....	4
4. Planning Background.....	5
5. Archaeological and Historical Background.....	5
6. Aims and Objectives.....	5
7. Methodology.....	6
8. Monitoring.....	6
9. Results.....	6
10. Discussion.....	8
11. Finds.....	8
12. Conclusion.....	8
13. Acknowledgements.....	8
14. References.....	8
15. CCC Summary Form.....	9

List of Figures:

Figure 1 –Location of site and evaluation trenches

Figures 2 – 4 Trenches

Figures 5 – 6 Sections

List of Plates:

Plate 1 - General view of the Site

Plate 2 – View of the site)

Plate 3 – Trench 1 (looking S)

Plate 4 – Trench 2 (looking S)

Plate 5 – Trench 2 (north end)

Plate 6 - Trench 2- workshop floor

Plate 7 – Trench 3 (from the NE)

Plate 8 – Trench 4 (looking at brick foundations)

Plate 9 – Trench 4 (showing beach deposits)

Plate 10 – Trench 5



Plate 1. Aerial photograph of site (9/4/2017) Google Earth

**Archaeological Evaluation of Land at The Tile Warehouse and Former Boat Storage Yard (The Oval Chalet) and adjoining Land, Sea Street/Sea Wall, Whitstable, Kent**

NGR: 610627 166839

Site Code: TILE-EV-18

**1. Summary**

*Swale & Thames Survey Company (SWAT) carried out an archaeological evaluation of land of land at The Tile Warehouse and Former Boat Storage Yard (The Oval Chalet) and adjoining Land, Sea Street/Sea Wall, Whitstable in Kent. A Planning Application (CA/17/375) for the demolition of the existing tile warehouse and mixed use redevelopment comprising 7 no. self-contained holiday let buildings, 8 no. residential town houses, together with the erection of a commercial/community building for uses falling within Class Uses A1, A2, A3, B1 and D1 and the provision of an Urban Square as Public Open Space was submitted to Canterbury City 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 (SWAT Specification A and CCC Manual Part B) and in discussion with the Archaeological Heritage Officer, Canterbury City Council. The results of the excavation of five evaluation trenches revealed that archaeological features were present within the trenches that post-date the 1583 construction of the sea wall which facilitated the build of various blacksmith's forges, various stores and sail lofts (Figures 1-4). The natural geology of Gravels and Shingle was reached at an average depth of between 0.25m and 0.75m below the brick rubble top strata. Consequently 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 landowners 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 2018) and in

discussion with Rosanne Cummings, Archaeological Heritage Officer, Canterbury City Council. The archaeological evaluation was carried out from June 20<sup>th</sup> to 25<sup>th</sup> 2018.

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

The proposed development area (PDA) is located between Sea Street, Sea Wall and Brices Alley and is in close proximity to Reeves Beach, which is an area of public open space. The surrounding area is mixed use in character with residential properties nearby (Plate 1 & Figure 1).

The section of the site fronting Sea Wall is was previously used for the storage of boats. The section fronting Sea Street is occupied by the now closed Tile Warehouse., which was a single storey building with a curved roof, set back slightly from the highway on the eastern (Sea Street) side and with a wide open space or yard on the western (Sea Wall) side. There is a level change, which results in Sea Wall being set above the yard by approximately 2 metres. A pedestrian alley runs along the southwest boundary of the site, linking Sea Street and Sea Wall. There are properties to the southwest and southeast that overlook the site, as well as the listed buildings to the northeast.

Directly west, the site overlooks Reeves Beach. The site is within the urban area of Whitstable, a flooding area, SSSI consultation area, and within the SPA zone of influence (for both the Thanet and Sandwich Bay SPA and Swale SPA). The site also lies within the Whitstable Town Conservation Area, designated in 1969 and last appraised in March 2010. The site was part of the original designation, which only covered the old fishing settlement. The site is mentioned in the 2010 Conservation Area Appraisal under the character area of 'The Fishing Settlement' and is described thus:

*The former roller-skating rink (now boat storage) and the Green's tile warehouse site is a large open space within a tight knit urban form. Combined with the open space is a large gap in the development along Sea Wall, which affords good views out over Reeves Beach. However the tile warehouse, which was in a poor condition, was a negative feature in the Conservation Area.*

**3.1** The Geological Survey of Great Britain (1:50,000) has been consulted and shows that the proposed development site (PDA) is situated on Alluvial Gravels at a height of between 4.00mAOD and 4.35m AOD. The archaeological evaluation by SWAT Archaeology showed

that natural gravels occurred between 2.07m OD and 0.99m OD, sloping down gently from north-east to south-west..

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

Canterbury City Council gave planning permission (CA/17/375) for the demolition of the existing tile warehouse and mixed use redevelopment comprising 7 no. self-contained holiday let buildings, 8 no. residential town houses, together with the erection of a commercial/community building for uses falling within Class Uses A1, A2, A3, B1 and D1 and the provision of an Urban Square as Public Open Space.

An archaeological condition forms part of the planning permission:

*(9) Prior to the commencement of development (other than demolition), the following components of a scheme for the archaeological evaluation of the site, to be undertaken following demolition of existing structures and for the purpose of determining the presence or absence of any buried archaeological features and deposits and to assess the importance of the same, shall each be submitted to and approved in writing by the local planning authority:*

*a) A written scheme of investigation, to be submitted a minimum of fourteen days in advance of the commencement of fieldwork.*

*b) A report summarising the results of the investigations, to be produced on the completion of fieldwork, in accordance with the requirements set out in the written scheme of investigation.*

*c) Any further mitigation measures considered necessary as a result of the archaeological investigations, to ensure preservation in situ of important archaeological remains and/or further archaeological investigation and recording in accordance with a specification and timetable which has been submitted to and approved by the Local Planning Authority.*

*d) If necessary, a programme of post-excavation assessment, analysis, publication and conservation.*

*Fieldwork, including further mitigation works and post-excavation work shall be completed in accordance with the approved details and programme timings unless otherwise agreed in writing with the local authority, and the local authority shall be notified in writing a minimum of fourteen days in advance of the commencement of any fieldwork.*

**REASON:** *To ensure that features of archaeological interest are properly examined and recorded in accordance with policy HE11 and HE12 of the Canterbury District Local Plan 2017 and the National Planning Policy Framework.*

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

The Archaeological record, both in and around the Proposed Development Area (PDA) is diverse. The Kent County Council Historic Environment Record (KCCHER) and the SWAT Archaeology DBA (SWAT 2015) and WSI (SWAT 2017) have provided details of any previous investigations and discoveries.

## **6. Aims and Objectives**

According to the SWAT Archaeological Specification (2017), the specific aims and objectives for the archaeological work were to ensure that:

*(6.1) 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 five trenches between 12m-18m long and 1.8m wide within the footprint of the proposed housing development. A 7.5 ton 360° tracked mechanical excavator with a flat-bladed ditching bucket was used to remove the top layer of rubble and subsoil to expose the natural geology and previous buildings. 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. All archaeological work was carried out in accordance with CCC, SWAT and ClfA standards and guidance.

## **8. Monitoring**

Curatorial monitoring was available during the course of the evaluation.

## **9. Results**

The evaluation has identified archaeological features within the five trenches (Figure 1).

### **Trench 1**

**9.1** Trench orientation: NNW/SSE. Depth: 0.72m. Width: 2.0m. Length: 18.70m. (Figure 1 & Plate 3).

Trench 1 exposed part of the eastern side of Sea Wall, which was made (in 1583) of piled-up shingle and clay extracted from the area immediately to the east, the extraction thus creating a large ditch then used to drain excess water and effluent to the sea via the 'Outlets', as shown on a town map dated 1725. The ditch (See CRNs 1/15 and 1/13) was first discovered by the present writer during a previous excavation (Bennett 1996, 19), which showed it to have been repeatedly re-cut and scoured, as in the present case. To the east and of interpretive significance, was a relatively small horizontal deposit of charcoal (CRN 1/9) immediately overlying a similarly small and thin clay layer (CRN 1/10), the latter probably a surviving fragment of an internal clay floor, the former interpreted with confidence (given the presence at similar levels of other layers of charcoal exposed in other trenches) as evidence of the great fire that ravaged a large part of this area of Whitstable in 1869: 'Along the "Sea Wall" and in Marine-street the fire destroyed 36 stores, 16 cottages, three sail-lofts, two inns (the "Victoria" and the "Spread Eagle"), one blacksmith's forge, one ship chandler's shop and timber yard, one auction mart, one shipping office, and three shoemakers' shops; and in Harbour-street there were consumed four dwelling houses and shops, and three private dwelling houses' (<http://www.oystertown.net/1850-1874/1869-the-great-fire-of-whitstable>).

The overlying layers and deposits were clearly associated with the levelling and redevelopment of the site following the fire, with evidence retrieved from Trench 2, 3 and 5



indicating continuing use of the site as an industrial workshop, almost certainly a blacksmith's.

## **Trench 2**

**9.2** Trench orientation: about NW/SE. Depth: 0.28m. Width: 2.0m. Length: 19m. (Figure 1 & Plates 4 & 6).

The complex stratigraphic sequence exposed in this trench told a relatively simple story. As in the case of Trench 1, the bank of shingle (CRNs 2/10 and CRN 1/11 almost certainly represents the surviving and probably much modified remains of the original sea wall, after which Sea Wall, the overtopping street, took its name. The sea wall was raised in 1583 (Bowler 1983, 32) as part of an eastern extension of the town's coastal defences, with the clay, silt and shingle from which it was made being extracted from the area immediately to the east. As previously discussed, this process created a massive ditch or dyke, used as a drain and common sewer that flowed into the sea at the 'Outletts', which a map of 1725 shows was still in use in the early eighteenth century. Previous work in the Horsebridge area showed the ditch to be in excess of five metres wide and more than 1.3m in depth (Bennet 1996, 19).

The area in and around the development site was badly flooded in 1779 (Kentish Gazette, January 1779) but no convincing evidence of this observed in this or any of the other trenches with the possible exception of Trench 4. The next major recorded event was the great fire of 1869, which left clear marks in this trench in the form of horizontal patches of charcoal associated with intensely scorched made-floor surfaces (CRNs 2/18, 2/22 & 2/30). The fire seemingly stimulated and was quickly followed by a period of re-construction and ongoing structural modification, during which the landward side of the sea wall was adapted to accommodate a brick-paved walkway with an edge-set tile curb (CRN 2/33). The walkway skirted a much reduced version (CRN 2/12) of the town ditch, which previous investigations had showed was used as a rubbish tip to the extent that it had almost disappeared.

The report of the damage caused by the 1869 fire, as reported in the Kentish Gazette of that year, makes mention of the destruction of 'one blacksmith's forge', and it is likely, given the evidence exposed in Trench 2, that the forge occupied the present site. Two exposures of

compacted floor-like chalk layers (CRNs 2/21 and 2/31) were both covered with substantial charcoal layers (CRNs 2/18 and 2/30) and the scorched surface of another floor-like layer (CRN 2/22) was also present. The latter immediately overlay a chalk floor (CRN 2/21) and was covered with charcoal and frequent iron nails, iron fragments and pieces of wire, all almost certainly associated with phases of workshop activity, the workshop eventually being destroyed in the 1869 fire. A series of subsequent flat, hard-packed floor deposits postdating the above described deposits were also associated with large amounts of nails, along with fragmented iron objects of many types, wire, pieces of metal files, iron spikes and a horseshoe. The continued use of the site as a blacksmith's forge/workshop is therefore indicated.

### **Trench 3**

**9.3** Trench orientation: SW/SE. Depth: 0.58m. Width: 2.0m. Length: 12m. (Figure 1 & Plate 6).

The deposit sequence here was markedly simpler than that exposed in Trench 2, a short distance to the north. Only one example of the made-floor deposits evident in Trench 2 occurred here, in the form of CRN 3/5, located in the trench's eastern margin, indicating that the south-western part of the site was not a major focus of the industrial use of the site as described above. The remainder of the trench exposed a natural beach deposit sealed by a single probable dump layer sealed by modern mixed rubble and soil levelling spreads.

### **Trench 4**

**9.4** Trench orientation: about NNE/SSW. Depth: 1.74m. Width: 2.0m. Length: 15m. (Figure 1 & Plate 3).

The most significant evidence exposed in this trench was the exposure at a depth of 1.74m below the present ground surface of an oyster-shell littered beach deposit (CRN 4/8) that almost certainly marked the margin of the intertidal zone adjacent to Sea Street before the construction of the 1583 sea wall. The overlying 0.3m-thick clay layer (CRN 4/7) indicated a major change in the depositional regime in this area, and this can be postulated, albeit with

confidence, to have been the result of the construction of the 1583 sea wall, such a postulation being supported by the presence of three sixteenth-century potsherds recovered from the clay (such a substantial accumulation of clay at this depth is unlikely to have been caused by the flood of 1779).

In addition, it may be proposed that the truncated brick foundations (CRNs 4/3[4] and 4/9[10] exposed at significantly higher levels in this trench were contemporary with the third- or, more likely, fourth-phase made floor of the workshop/blacksmith's forge to the west of the brick built structure. A further proposal may be made with some confidence that the remains as a whole comprised a brick-built, cellared house fronting onto Sea Street with a workshop, almost certainly the blacksmith's, situated to the rear.

## **Trench 5**

**9.1** Trench orientation: NW/SE. Depth: 1.30m. Width: 2.0m. Length: 14m. (Figure 1 & Plate 10).

As in the case of Trench 4, the apparently complex deposit accumulation exposed in this trench told a relatively simple story. Given that the basal grey-brown clay layer (CRN 5/13) is an example of the similar clay deposit exposed in Trench 4, the date-range represented covers the period immediately following the construction of the 1583 sea wall up to the early twentieth century, the latter represented by the compact made floor layer (CRN 5/2) over a bedding layer (CRN 5/3), which is undoubtedly an extension of the made floor (CRN 3/5, bedding CRN 5/6) exposed in the eastern end of Trench 3. The same floor layer appeared as the fourth and latest made floor exposed in Trench 2 (CRN 2/26), in an area where industrial activity in the shape of a blacksmith's forge/workshop was of much greater longevity.

The intervening layers almost certainly represent varied dumped waste materials and/or levelling layers deposited that eventually lead to a land aggradation of over 1.7m in the area reclaimed east of the 1583 sea wall.

## **10. Discussion**

10.1 With a large number of archaeological sites known in the vicinity of the PDA it was expected that the evaluation may produce evidence of archaeological activity and on the basis of the evidence presented above it is probably safe to assume that the area of the site only became available for development for houses, workshops and other structures after 1583 following the construction of the new sea wall, now used as a street called 'Sea Wall', which is effectively a northern extension of Middle Wall, and the evidence of Trench 4 discussed above supports this hypothesis.

10.2 The area then seems to have accommodated, at least in part, a blacksmith's forge, one of these being listed among the various stores, cottages, sail-lofts and ship chandler's, etc. all typical of what was essentially a fishing and boat-building town, albeit with an economy significantly boosted during that period by the copperas industry, centred some 700m to the northeast (Allen 2013).

10.3 The above-mentioned buildings were amongst those described as being destroyed during the great fire of 1869. The destruction caused by the fire appears to have acted as the initiating stimulus for a protracted period of rebuilding and renovation, as attested to by the laying of at least three new workshop floors, all associated with evidence strongly suggestive of iron working. The last of these floors appears not to be of any great antiquity, and a blacksmith's forge or similar probably occupied the site well into the twentieth century.

## **11. Finds**

Pottery retrieved from Context CRN 4/7 is three sherds of PM London stoneware dated c.1575/1900 and various ferrous finds were retrieved with no archaeological value.

## **12. Conclusion**

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 **(101)** sealing the subsoil **(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 Rosanne Cummings Archaeological Heritage Officer, Canterbury City Council. The fieldwork was undertaken by Tim Allen MCIfA and the report written by Paul Wilkinson MCIfA.

Dr Paul Wilkinson 23/07/2018

### **14. References**

Bennet, P., 1996, 'The Horsebridge, Whitstable', *Canterbury's Archaeology 1994-1995*

Bowler, E., 1983, 'A Survey of the Works of the Sewer Commission', *Studies in Modern Kent History*

*The Kentish Gazette, January 1779*

Chartered Institute for Field Archaeologists (CIfA), Rev (2017). *Standard and Guidance for archaeological field evaluation*

SWAT Archaeology (2018) *Specification for a Programme of Archaeological Evaluation and Assessment of Land at The Tile Warehouse and Former Boat Storage Yard (The Oval Chalet) and adjoining Land, Sea Street/Sea Wall, Whitstable, Kent*

KCC and Historic England HER data 2018

## **Kent County Council HER Summary Form**

**Site Name:** Land at The Tile Warehouse and Former Boat Storage Yard (The Oval Chalet) and adjoining Land, Sea Street/Sea Wall, Whitstable, Kent

**Site Address:** As above

### **Summary:**

Swale and Thames Survey Company (SWAT) carried out Archaeological Evaluation on the development site above. Planning permission has been obtained (CA/17/375) for the demolition of the existing tile warehouse and mixed use redevelopment comprising 7 no. self-contained holiday let buildings, 8 no. residential town houses, together with the erection of a commercial/community building for uses falling within Class Uses A1, A2, A3, B1 and D1 and the provision of an Urban Square as Public Open Space.

An archaeological condition forms part of the planning permission whereby Canterbury City Council Heritage and Conservation requested that Archaeological Evaluation be undertaken to determine the possible impact of the development on any archaeological remains.

The Archaeological Monitoring consisted of an Archaeological Evaluation which revealed post-medieval archaeological remains,

**District/Unitary:** Canterbury City Council

**Period(s):**

**NGR (centre of site to eight figures)** 610627 166839

**Type of Archaeological work:** Archaeological Evaluation

**Date of recording:** June 20<sup>th</sup> – 25<sup>th</sup> 2018

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

**Geology:** Underlying geology is Gravel

**Title and author of accompanying report:** Wilkinson P. (2018) Archaeological Evaluation of Land At The Tile Warehouse and Former Boat Storage Yard (The Oval Chalet) and adjoining Land, Sea Street/Sea Wall, Whitstable, Kent

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

Archaeology was found of previous industrial activity

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

**Contact at Unit:** Paul Wilkinson

**Date:** 23/07/2018

## **Results of the investigation**

### *i) Trench based stratigraphic analysis*

#### **Trench 1**

Length: 18.7 metres Width: 2 metres. Figures 1 & 2, Plate 3

Context recording number (CRN)	Description, thickness and maximum depth (MD) below present ground surface (PGS)	Type and quantity of recovered cultural materials	Approximate date range	Interpretation
1/1	Soil and rubble surface deposit, 0.34m thick surface deposit	Moderate brick, tile and flint fragments	Modern	Recent mixed rubble and topsoil spread
1/2	Building rubble (bricks, mortar and gravel) mixed with loamy soil, 0.42m thick, MD 0.71m	Large amounts of fragmented brick, tile and other building materials mixed with loamy soil	Modern	Probably a levelling layer
A1/3	0.1m thick fine mid-dark powdery sandy loamr, MD 0.72m	Occasional small tile and brick fragments	Early 20 <sup>th</sup> /Late 19 <sup>th</sup> Century	Possible levelling layer
1/4	Mid brown loamy soil, 0.7m thick, MD 0.91m	Occasional brick fragments	Early 20 <sup>th</sup> /Late 19 <sup>th</sup> Century	Colluvial accumulation east of shingle bank (CRN 11) (Sea Wall) and over re-cut ditch CRNs 13 & 1
1/5	0.12m-thick chalk	None	Early 20 <sup>th</sup> /Late	Possibly fragment

	layer, MD 0.83m		19 <sup>th</sup> Century	of a made floor
1/6	Light brown-cream shingle of unknown depth, exposed at a depth of 0.92m, cut by Ditch CRN 15	None	Probably of post medieval deposition	Natural beach shingle
1/7	Mid grey-brown shingle of unknown depth, exposed at a depth of 0.95m, overlies CRN 1/6	Small tile, brick fragments and occasional 18 <sup>th</sup> /early 19 <sup>th</sup> - century potsherds	18 <sup>th</sup> /early 19 <sup>th</sup> - century	Natural beach shingle mixed with fragmented building materials
1/8	Coarse light brown-cream shingle of unknown depth, exposed at a depth of 0.72m	None	Unknown	Natural wave/tide deposited beach shingle
1/9	0.9m-thick discrete layer of charcoal, MD 0.77m, overlies CRN 1/10	None	1866	Almost certainly evidence of the great fire that ravaged the area in 1869
1/10	40mm-thick orange-brown clay, a localised patch, MD 0.86m, under CRN 1/9	None	Pre 1866	Surviving fragment of clay floor
1/11	Light brown-cream shingle of unknown depth, exposed to a depth of 0.72m,	None	This is the eastern side of Sea Wall, built during the reign of Elizabeth	Late Tudor



	cut by Ditch CRN 13		I	
1/12	Mid grey-brown loamy clay silt with frequent flint pebble inclusions (U/X), exposed at a depth of 0.9m, fill of CRN 1/13	Small tile and brick fragments and occasional 19 <sup>th</sup> - century potsherds	19 <sup>th</sup> - century	Later fill of re-cut ditch CRN 1/13, originally created by the extraction of shingle/gravel to build up CRN 1/11 (Sea Wall)
1/13	Approximately east-west aligned cut of 0.84m-wide linear feature	N/A	Probably 19 <sup>th</sup> century	Almost certainly the result of the re-cutting and /or scouring of Ditch CRN 1/15 (see below)
1/14	Mid-dark brown very loamy clay silt with frequent flint pebble inclusions (U/X), exposed at a depth of 0.9m, fill of CRN 1/15, cut by CRN 1/13	None observed	18 <sup>th</sup> or earlier 19 <sup>th</sup> century	Later fill of ditch CRN 1/15 but earlier than CRN 1/12, originally created by the extraction of shingle/gravel to build up CRN 1/11 (Sea Wall)
1/15	Approximately east-west aligned cut of linear feature of unknown width	N/A	As above	Almost certainly the remains of the original cut for the ditch from which the shingle for Sea Wall was extracted (but could also be large re-cut removing evidence of the

				first-phase ditch
1/16	Modern building rubble and soil (and the sewer pipe itself) within a modern sewer trench	None	Twentieth century	Sewer pipe and backfill
1/17	Sewer trench cut as above	N/A	As above	Cut for sewer pipe

### *Comments*

Trench 1 exposed part of the eastern side of Sea Wall, which was made (in 1583) of piled-up shingle and clay extracted from the area immediately to the east, the extraction thus creating a large ditch then used to drain excess water and effluent to the sea via the 'Outlets', as shown on a town map dated 1725. The ditch (See CRNs 1/15 and 1/13) was first discovered by the present writer during a previous excavation (Bennet 1996, 19), which showed it to have been repeatedly re-cut and scoured, as in the present case. To the east and of interpretive significance, was a relatively small horizontal deposit of charcoal (CRN 1/9) immediately overlying a similarly small and thin clay layer (CRN 1/10), the latter probably a surviving fragment of an internal clay floor, the former interpreted with confidence (given the presence at similar levels of other layers of charcoal exposed in other trenches) as evidence of the great fire that ravaged a large part of this area of Whitstable in 1869: 'Along the "Sea Wall" and in Marine-street the fire destroyed 36 stores, 16 cottages, three sail-lofts, two inns (the "Victoria" and the "Spread Eagle"), one blacksmith's forge, one ship chandler's shop and timber yard, one auction mart, one shipping office, and three shoemakers' shops; and in Harbour-street there were consumed four dwelling houses and shops, and three private dwelling houses' (<http://www.oystertown.net/1850-1874/1869-the-great-fire-of-whitstable>).

The overlying layers and deposits were clearly associated with the levelling and re-development of the site following the fire, with evidence retrieved from Trench 2, 3 and 5

indicating continuing use of the site as an industrial workshop, almost certainly a blacksmith's.

### **Trench 2**

Length: 19 metres Width: 2 metres. Figures 1 & 2, Plates 4 & 6

Context recording number (CRN)	Description, thickness and maximum depth (MD) below present ground surface (PGS)	Type and quantity of recovered cultural materials	Approximate date range	Interpretation
2/1	Soil and rubble surface deposit, 0.34m thick surface deposit	Moderate brick, tile and flint fragments	Modern	Recent mixed rubble and topsoil spread
2/2	Building rubble (bricks, mortar and gravel) mixed with loamy soil, 0.45m thick, MD 0.6m	Large amounts of fragmented brick, tile and other building materials mixed with loamy soil	Modern	Probably a rubble levelling layer
2/3	Area of un-mortared flat red brick paving, bricks 80mm thick, flat sided, MD 0.35m	None	19 <sup>th</sup> century, probably post-dates 1869	Brick walkway running along the landward side of Sea Wall
2/4	0.23m-thick layer of mid cream-brown shingle and soil, MD 0.6m	None	19 <sup>th</sup> century, probably post-dates 1869	Levelling layer of re-used shingle from CRN 10 (see below) mixed with loamy soil
2/5	This (20mm) layer of charcoal, MD	U/X	Almost certainly scorched debris	Fire debris

	0.62m		from the great fire of Whitstable of 1869	
2/6	50mm-thick layer of compact chalk	U/X	Pre 1869	Surviving fragment of an internal chalk floor, part of a building destroyed in the fire of 1869
2/7	0.27m-thick deposit of mid-to-dark grey-brown sandy silt mixed with loam, shingle and chalk fragments, MD 0.78m, basal fill of cut CRN 8	Late nineteenth-century potsherds and a large iron spike, probably a marlin spike	Late 19 <sup>th</sup> century	Basal fill of a late re-cut of the town ditch, now much reduced in width and depth
2/8	Cut of linear feature (ditch) with a top width of 0.65m, basal width of 0.48m, height of 0.28m	N/A	Late 19 <sup>th</sup> century	Late re-cut of the town ditch, acting as a drain/gully running parallel to brick walkway CRN 3
2/9	Mixed building rubble and shingle fill of Pit CRN 14	Modern white potsherds, sweet wrappers	Modern, recent	Unknown
2/10	Shingle or shingle covered bank side of about 1.1m in height above the surface of layer CRN 26 (see	None	Probably first raised in 1583 but clearly much amended, especially after 1869	The remains of the original 1583 sea wall, after which 'Sea Wall' is named, but much amended

	below). Exposed in the west end of Trench 2, with a small terrace cut in it to accommodate brick walkway CRN 3			during the later nineteenth century
2/11	Either a cut or the site of the above-described but much adapted bank or the cut of the adjacent ditch	N/A	Late 19 <sup>th</sup> century	Probably cut or formed as part of the post-fire rebuild, when the bank of Sea Wall and the adjacent ditch were modified
2/12	A localized east-west aligned deposit of crushed chalk, U/X, surface depth below present ground surface 0.43m, cut by CRN 8 to the west, by CRN 14 to the east	None	Late 19 <sup>th</sup> century	
2/13	0.27m-thick layer of dark brown loamy silt abutting tile curb CRN 33 and overlying brick floor CRN 3	None	Late 19 <sup>th</sup> century	Soil accumulation, probably colluvial downwash from edge/bank side of CRN 10
2/14	Cut of U/X modern pit, filled	N/A	Modern, recent	Pit of unknown

	by CRN 9			function
2/15	Localised east-west-aligned deposit of flint, tile and brick fragments within a linear depression (CRN 2/16) U/X, overlies CRN 17	Many corroded iron fragments, nails and pieces of wire	Probably earlier than 1869	Surviving deposit associated with a structure pre-dating the 1869 fire
2/17	Exposure of underlying natural beach shingle, U/X, MD 0.43m, underlies CRN 19, which is covered by CRN 18	None	Probably represented the drained land surface following the construction of the 1583 sea wall	Tudor or early post-Tudor
2/18	U/X area of scorched, charcoal-rich silt, MD 0.61m, overlies CRN 19	None	1869	Interpreted with some confidence as a layer of burnt debris from the 1869 fire
2/19	U/X area of mid brown pebbly loamy soil, MD 0.63, under CRN 20	Inclusions of oyster shell, charcoal and chalk fragment	Pre-1869	Localised exposure of the pre-fire land surface
2/20	Exposed part of a 3.4cm-thick layer of mid grey-brown clay, U/X, MD 0.59m	None	Pre-1869	Part of an internal clay floor associated with a building predating 1869
2/21	U/X. Exposed part of a chalk layer	None	Pre-1869	Part of an internal chalk floor

	over CRN 2/20, extending eastward and under CRN 22, MD 0.56m			associated with a building predating 1869
2/22	U/X. Exposed part of a highly scorched layer of compact silt, pebbles, chalk fragments and fine gravel, over 2/21 and extending eastward under CRN 23, MD 0.54m	Many highly rusted iron nails, iron fragments and a horseshoe	Up to 1869	The remains of a workshop floor, almost certainly a blacksmith's that was in use up to the 1869 fire
2/23	U/X. Exposed part of a gravel/shingle layer over CRN 2/22, extending eastward under CRN 24, MD 0.53m	Inclusions of Victorian/early 19 <sup>th</sup> -century potsherds, chalk fragments and sea shell fragments	A short time after 1869	Probably an exposed part of a levelling layer laid down over the scorched and subsequently flattened burnt remains of structures destroyed during the fire
2/24	U/X. Exposed part of a mid orange-brown, hard-packed sand with frequent large and medium-sized flint inclusions, over	None	In the period of re-building following 1869	This layer probably represents part of a newly-laid (second phase), replacement workshop floor, post-dating floors

	CRN 2/23, extending eastward under CRN 25, MD 0.52m			2/20, 2/21 & 2/22 and pre-dating the floor represented by CRNs 2/25, 2/27, 2/29 & 2/30, and final floor 2/26
2/25	U/X. Exposed part of a hard-packed orange-brown clay containing much building rubble in the form of fragmented and near whole bricks, over CRN 2/24, extending eastward under CRN 26, MD 0.49m	None	In the period of re-building following 1869	Bedding layer for a new workshop floor (CRN 26) and therefore the same as CRN 27
2/26	U/X. Exposed part of an extremely compact horizontal mid orange-brown layer made up of packed silt, sand and fine gravel, over CRN 2/25, extending eastward over CRN 27=CRN 2/25=2/29=2/32 MD 0.46m		Late 19 <sup>th</sup> and/or 20 <sup>th</sup> century (the latter more likely)	Almost certainly a fourth-phase workshop floor, probably a blacksmith's, replacing CRN 2/22 (laid before the fire) and CRN 2/24 (laid a short time after the fire) and after CRNs 2/25, 2/27, 2/29 & 2/32.
2/27	U/X. Exposed part of a flat, hard-	The surface of this very flat	In the period of re-building	Another (third- phase)



	packed orange-brown sandy clay containing much building rubble in the form of fragmented brick, over CRN 2/24, extending eastward over CRN 2/28 and westward under CRN 2/26, MD 0.49m.	surface was littered with and had embedded within it many nails, pieces of scrap iron and wire	following 1869	replacement workshop floor under fourth-phase floor CRN 2/26. Same as CRN 2/25, CRN 2/29 and CRN 2/32
2/28	U/X. Localised exposure of gravel/shingle in grey sandy iron-rich silt, extends westward and eastward under CRNs 27 and CRN 29, which are two parts of the same deposit	None	19 <sup>th</sup> century	Probably the exposed part of an otherwise lower-lying deposit of beach shingle. If so, probably contemporary with CRN 2/17 to the west
2/29	U/X. Exposed part of a flat, hard-packed orange-brown, iron-rich sandy clay and chalk and containing much building rubble in the form of fragmented brick, over CRN 2/24, extending eastward over	Surface littered with and embedded with many nails, pieces of scrap iron and wire	Later 19 <sup>th</sup> century	Part of the same replacement workshop floor as represented by CRNs 2/25, 2/27 and 2/32

	CRN 2/30 and westward over 2/28, same as CRNs 2/25, 2/27 and 2/32, MD 0.55m.			
2/30	UX. Localised exposure of charcoal extending westward under CRN 2/29 and eastward over CRN 2/31	None	Probably 1869	A layer of burnt debris probably resulting from the fire. If so, it is possibly the same as CRN 2/18
2/31	U/X. Exposed part of a chalk layer under CRN 2/30, extending eastward over shingle CRN 2/28, MD 0.5m	None	Pre-1869	Part of an internal chalk floor associated with a building predating 1869
2/32	U/X. Exposed part of a flat, hard-packed orange-brown sandy clay containing building rubble in the form of fragmented brick, over CRN 2/28, extends eastward beyond the limit of excavation	The surface of this very flat surface was littered with and had embedded within it many nails, pieces of scrap iron and wire	In the period of re-building following 1869	Another (third-phase) replacement workshop floor under fourth-phase floor CRN 2/26. Same as CRN 2/25, CRN 2/27 and CRN 2/29
2/33	Set of six edge-set tiles forming a curb adjacent to	N/A	19 <sup>th</sup> century, probably post-	A curb set to protect brick walkway CRN 3

	and west of brick walkway. Abutted by CRN 13		dates 1869	from downwash from the sloping edge of the sea wall bank (CRN 2/10)
--	--	--	------------	---

### *Comments*

The complex stratigraphic sequence exposed in this trench told a relatively simple story. As in the case of Trench 1, the bank of shingle (CRNs 2/10 and CRN 1/11 almost certainly represents the surviving and probably much modified remains of the original sea wall, after which Sea Wall, the overtopping street, took its name. The sea wall was raised in 1583 (Bowler 1983, 32) as part of an eastern extension of the town's coastal defences, with the clay, silt and shingle from which it was made being extracted from the area immediately to the east. As previously discussed, this process created a massive ditch or dyke, used as a drain and common sewer that flowed into the sea at the 'Outletts', which a map of 1725 shows was still in use in the early eighteenth century. Previous work in the Horsebridge area showed the ditch to be in excess of five metres wide and more than 1.3m in depth (Bennet 1996, 19).

The area in and around the development site was badly flooded in 1779 (Kentish Gazette, January 1779) but no convincing evidence of this observed in this or any of the other trenches with the possible exception of Trench 4 (see below). The next major recorded event was the great fire of 1869, which left clear marks in this trench in the form of horizontal patches of charcoal associated with intensely scorched made-floor surfaces (CRNs 2/18, 2/22 & 2/30). The fire seemingly stimulated and was quickly followed by a period of re-construction and ongoing structural modification, during which the landward side of the sea wall was adapted to accommodate a brick-paved walkway with an edge-set tile curb (CRN 2/33). The walkway skirted a much reduced version (CRN 2/12) of the town ditch, which previous investigations had showed was used as a rubbish tip to the extent that it had almost disappeared.

The report of the damage caused by the 1869 fire, as reported in the Kentish Gazette of that year, makes mention of the destruction of 'one blacksmith's forge', and it is likely, given the

evidence exposed in Trench 2, that the forge occupied the present site. Two exposures of compacted floor-like chalk layers (CRNs 2/21 and 2/31) were both covered with substantial charcoal layers (CRNs 2/18 and 2/30) and the scorched surface of another floor-like layer (CRN 2/22) was also present. The latter immediately overlay a chalk floor (CRN 2/21) and was covered with charcoal and frequent iron nails, iron fragments and pieces of wire, all almost certainly associated with phases of workshop activity, the workshop eventually being destroyed in the 1869 fire. A series of subsequent flat, hard-packed floor deposits post-dating the above described deposits were also associated with large amounts of nails, along with fragmented iron objects of many types, wire, pieces of metal files, iron spikes and a horseshoe. The continued use of the site as a blacksmith's forge/workshop is therefore indicated.

### **Trench 3**

Length: 12 metres Width: 2 metres. Figures 1 & 2, Plate 6

Context recording number (CRN)	Description, thickness and maximum depth (MD) below present ground surface (PGS)	Type and quantity of recovered cultural materials	Approximate date range	Interpretation
3/1	Soil and rubble surface deposit, 0.3m thick surface deposit	Moderate brick, tile and flint fragments	Modern	Recent mixed rubble and topsoil spread
3/2	Building rubble (bricks, mortar and gravel) mixed with loamy soil, 0.44m thick, MD 0.6m	Large amounts of fragmented brick, tile and other building materials mixed with loamy soil	Modern	Probably a rubble levelling layer
3/3	0.32m-thick dark brown clayey soil	None	19 <sup>th</sup> or 20 <sup>th</sup> century (probably	Probably dumped or accumulated

	with frequent oyster and other sea shells, MD 1m		the latter)	waste material mixed with soil
3/4	UX. Basal shingle layer exposed at a maximum depth of 1m	None	Natural beach shingle of unknown period of deposition. If tidal, before 1583	Natural beach shingle.
3/5	0.1m-thick highly compact orange brown flat-surfaced layer, exposed at a depth of 0.34m, overlies CRN 36	Hard flat surface covered in and embedded with iron nails and other varied iron pieces and fragments	This surface occurs at the same level and in near proximity to the floor layer CRN 2/26, exposed in Trench 2	An industrial workshop floor associated with the manufacture of iron items, therefore part of the same (fourth-phase) blacksmith's building also exposed in Trench 2
3/6	0.17m-thick layer of brick rubble, MD 0.58m, overlies natural shingle CRN 3/4			

*Comments*

The deposit sequence here was markedly simpler than that exposed in Trench 2, a short distance to the north. Only one example of the made-floor deposits evident in Trench 2 occurred here, in the form of CRN 3/5, located in the trench's eastern margin, indicating that the south-western part of the site was not a major focus of the industrial use of the site

as described above. The remainder of the trench exposed a natural beach deposit sealed by a single probable dump layer sealed by modern mixed rubble and soil levelling spreads.

#### **Trench 4**

Length: 15 metres Width: 2 metres. Figures 1 & 2, Plates 8 & 9

Context recording number (CRN)	Description, thickness and maximum depth (MD) below present ground surface (PGS)	Type and quantity of recovered cultural materials	Approximate date range	Interpretation
4/1	Soil and rubble surface deposit, 0.1m thick surface deposit	Moderate brick, tile and flint fragments	Modern	Recent mixed rubble and topsoil spread
4/2	Building rubble (bricks, mortar and gravel) mixed with loamy soil, 0.94m thick, MD 1.04m	Large amounts of fragmented brick, tile and other building materials mixed with loamy soil	Modern	A substantial mixed rubble and soil levelling layer
4/3	Truncated mortared brick-built foundation (trench built)	N/A	First part of the 19 <sup>th</sup> century (unfrogged bricks)	Foundation of a partly truncated and partly backfill cellar
4/4	Construction cut for the above	N/A	As above	As above
4/5	U/X. Light buff-cream mixed shingle, mortar, sand and clay backfill within brick structure CRN 4/3(4)	Frequent tile and brick fragments	Early-mid 20 <sup>th</sup> century	Demolition material associated with the probable early-mid twentieth-century demolition of the

				building occupying the site prior to the erection of the recently demolished tile ware house
4/6	Exposed in test pit. 0.25m-thick mid grey-brown compact mortar, crushed brick, crushed chalk, under CRN 4/2. MD 0.53m	No other cultural materials	Probably pre or early 19 <sup>th</sup> century	Made ground probably associated with construction and use of building represented by CRN 4/3(4)
4/7	Exposed in test pit. 0.3m-thick mid grey clay, under CRN 4/6. MD 0.73m, over CRN 4/8	Occasional sherds of early post-medieval or late medieval pottery	Pre 1583	This clay deposit is either a marine flood deposit (therefore the result of the 1779 flood) or, more likely, predating the raising of the 1583 sea wall and therefore when this area was within the intertidal zone
4/8	U/X, basal deposit of mixed clay, shingle, sand and oyster shells,	Contains fairly frequent tile fragments	Pre 1583	A beach deposit dating to before the erection of the 1583 sea wall when Sea Street skirted the intertidal margin

4/9	U/X. Rectilinear mortar-bonded flat-faced brick foundation, MD 1.02m	N/A	First part of the 19 <sup>th</sup> century (unfrogged bricks)	Truncated brick foundation, probably contemporary with Structure CRN 4/3(4), both parts of a building or building fronting onto Sea Street
4/10	Construction cut as above	N/A	As above	Trench cut for the above structure
4/11	U/X. East-west aligned linear spread of charcoal, overlies CRN 4/6, underlies CRN 2, MD 1.05m	None	1869	Probably the remains of a wooden joist or ground beam burnt in the 1869 fire
4/12	As CRN 4/6	None	Pre-1869	Surface of clay layer CRN 6 where exposed north of the deeper test pit

### *Comments*

The most significant evidence exposed in this trench was the exposure at a depth of 1.74m below the present ground surface of an oyster-shell littered beach deposit (CRN 4/8) that almost certainly marked the margin of the intertidal zone adjacent to Sea Street before the construction of the 1583 sea wall. The overlying 0.3m-thick clay layer (CRN 4/7) indicated a major change in the depositional regime in this area, and this can be postulated, albeit with confidence, to have been the result of the construction of the 1583 sea wall, such a postulation being supported by the presence of three sixteenth-century potsherds



recovered from the clay (such a substantial accumulation of clay at this depth is unlikely to have been caused by the flood of 1779).

In addition, it may be proposed that the truncated brick foundations (CRNs 4/3[4] and 4/9[10] exposed at significantly higher levels in this trench were contemporary with the third- or, more likely, fourth-phase made floor of the workshop/blacksmith's forge to the west of the brick built structure. A further proposal may be made with some confidence that the remains as a whole comprised a brick-built, cellared house fronting onto Sea Street with a workshop, almost certainly the blacksmith's, situated to the rear.

### **Trench 5**

Length: 14 metres Width: 2 metres Figures 1 & 2, Plate 10

Context recording number (CRN)	Description, thickness and maximum depth (MD) below present ground surface (PGS)	Type and quantity of recovered cultural materials	Approximate date range	Interpretation
5/1	Soil and rubble surface deposit, 0.24m thick surface deposit	Moderate brick, tile and flint fragments	Modern	Recent mixed rubble and topsoil spread
5/2	Partly exposed compact layer of ash, brick fragments and dark brown soil, MD<0.35m, over CRN 5/3	Contained many iron fragments, including many nails	Late 19 <sup>th</sup> century or, more likely, early twentieth century	Probably earlier industrial debris incorporated into a made floor comprising part of the fourth-phase workshop floor and its bedding layer (in this trench recorded as CRN 5/3, over which CRN 5/2

				lies.
5/3	A 0.17m-thick highly compact layer of finely crushed building rubble, charcoal, flint pebbles and soil. MD 0.35m	None	As above	This layer almost certainly represents either the bedding for the south-western extension of the fourth-phase workshop floor also exposed, for example, in Trench 3 as CRN 3/6
5/4	A thin (50mm) localised spread of charcoal. Under CRN 5/3, over CRN 5/6, MD 0.35m	None	Possibly a remnant of 1869 fire damage	If the 1869 date is correct, obviously all underlying deposits are of earlier 19 <sup>th</sup> or 18 <sup>th</sup> century date or earlier
5/5	0.33m-thick localised layer or shallow pit fill of sandy silt containing frequent brick fragments, under CRN 5/3, over CRN 5/6, MD 0.67m	None	Probably 19 <sup>th</sup> century or later	Almost a levelling layer laid down prior to the construction of floor layer CRN 5/3
5/6	A 0.17m-thick localised layer of brick fragments and crushed mortar, under	N/A	Pre-1869	A spread of demolition material

	CRN 5/4, over CRN 5/10, MD 0.53m			
5/7	A 0.37m-thick deposit of mid-dark brown loamy soil with frequent brick fragment and pebble inclusions, under CRN 5/8, over CRN 5/12, MD 0.74m	None	Pre-1869	A dump deposit of soil and building rubble mixed with shingle
5/8	A 0.1m-thick localised band of mid brown, chalk fleck loamy soil, under CRN 5/6, over CRN 5/7, MD 0.85m	None	Pre-1869	A dump deposit
5/9	A >0.15m-thick, partly exposed deposit of compact crushed chalk, under CRN 5/10, MD 0.74m	None	Pre-1869	Probably a surviving part of an <i>in-situ</i> internal floor
5/10	A 0.6m-thick band of clay-silt mixed with soil and with frequent brick fragment and pebble inclusions, under CRN 5/6, over CRN 5/9, MD 0.66m	None	Pre-1869, post 1583	A dump deposit mixed with shingle

5/11	A 0.27m-thick layer of mid brown loamy soil with occasional pebble inclusions, under CRN 5/10, over CRN 5/14, MD 0.62m	None	Pre-1869, post 1583	A dump deposit mixed with some shingle
5/12	A 0.34m-thick layer of beach shingle mixed with occasional small tile, brick and coal fragments and oyster shells, under CRN 5/14, over CRN 5/13, MD 1.28m	None	Probably 17 <sup>th</sup> century	This layer overlies a clay deposit (CRN 5/13) that almost certainly accumulated in a very low-energy alluvial regime following the construction of the 1583 sea wall (see Trench 4 <i>Comments</i> for further details)
5/13	U/X, a deposit of mid grey-brown clay of unknown depth, under CRN 5/12, maximum exposed depth 1.3m	None	A period of unknown duration after 1583	This layer is almost certainly the same as the clay layer exposed at a similar depth (1.44m) in Trench 4, where it overlay a high energy marine, beach-like deposit that almost certainly pre-dated the construction of the 1583 sea wall

## *Comments*

As in the case of Trench 4, the apparently complex deposit accumulation exposed in this trench told a relatively simple story. Given that the basal grey-brown clay layer (CRN 5/13) is an example of the similar clay deposit exposed in Trench 4, the date-range represented covers the period immediately following the construction of the 1583 sea wall up to the early twentieth century, the latter represented by the compact made floor layer (CRN 5/2) over a bedding layer (CRN 5/3), which is undoubtedly an extension of the made floor (CRN 3/5, bedding CRN 5/6) exposed in the eastern end of Trench 3. The same floor layer appeared as the fourth and latest made floor exposed in Trench 2 (CRN 2/26), in an area where industrial activity in the shape of a blacksmith's forge/workshop was of much greater longevity.

The intervening layers almost certainly represent varied dumped waste materials and/or levelling layers deposited that eventually lead to a land aggradation of over 1.7m in the area reclaimed east of the 1583 sea wall.

## **5) General conclusions**

On the basis of the evidence presented above it is probably safe to assume that the area of the site only became available for development for houses, workshops and other structures after 1583 following the construction of the new sea wall, now used as a street called 'Sea Wall', which is effectively a northern extension of Middle Wall, and the evidence of Trench 4 discussed above supports this hypothesis. The area then seems to have accommodated, at least in part, a blacksmith's forge, one of these being listed among the various stores, cottages, sail-lofts and ship chandler's, etc. all typical of what was essentially a fishing and boat-building town, albeit with an economy significantly boosted during that period by the copperas industry, centred some 700m to the northeast.

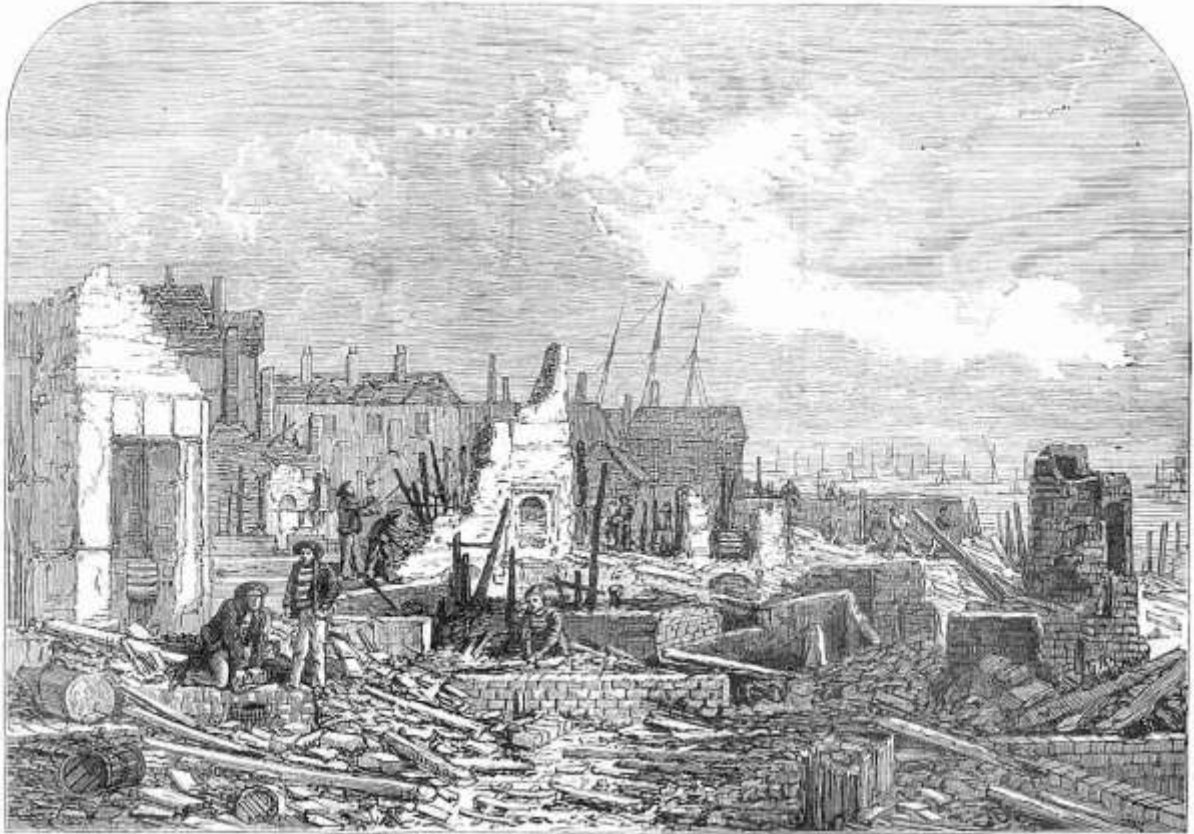
The above-mentioned buildings were amongst those described as being destroyed during the great fire of 1869 (an illustration from the Kentish Gazette reproduced below shows the type and degree of the damage caused by the fire in and around the Sea Wall and Sea Street area). The destruction caused by the fire appears to have acted as the initiating stimulus for a protracted period of rebuilding and renovation, as attested to by the laying of at least three new workshop floors, all associated with evidence strongly suggestive of iron working. The last of these floors appears not to be of any great antiquity, and a blacksmith's forge or similar probably occupied the site well into the twentieth century.

## 6) References

Bennet, P., 1996, 'The Horsebridge, Whitstable', *Canterbury's Archaeology 1994-1995*

Bowler, E., 1983, 'A Survey of the Works of the Sewer Commission', *Studies in Modern Kent History*

*The Kentish Gazette, January 1779*



SCENE OF THE DESTRUCTIVE FIRE AT WHITSTABLE.

The scene in the Sea Wall and Sea Street area following the great fire of 1869



Plate 1. General view of the site from the north-west prior to evaluation trenching



Plate 2. The substantial modern boxed-concrete wall supports supporting the eastern wall support



Plate 3. Trench 1 looking south from the top of the Sea Wall shingle bank north (one-metre scale)





Plate 4. Trench 2 looking south from brick-paved walkway (CRN 2/3) and the feature and deposit complex in the mid and foreground (one-metre scale). The horizontal dark deposit (CRN 22) overlying chalk (CRN 21) and just above the scale almost certainly represents intense scorching dating to the great fire of 1889



Plate 5. Trench 2, northern end, showing the shingle bank of Sea Wall (CRN 2/10), brick-paved walkway (CRN 2/3) and the slot cut through the adjacent ditch (CRN 2/8)



Plate 6. Compact workshop floor CRN 27 showing the many iron artefacts lying on and embedded in its surface (looking south, two-metre scale)



Plate 7. Trench 3 from the north-west showing beach shingle layer (CRN 3/4) with made-floor layer (CRN 3/5) in the background (one-metre scale)



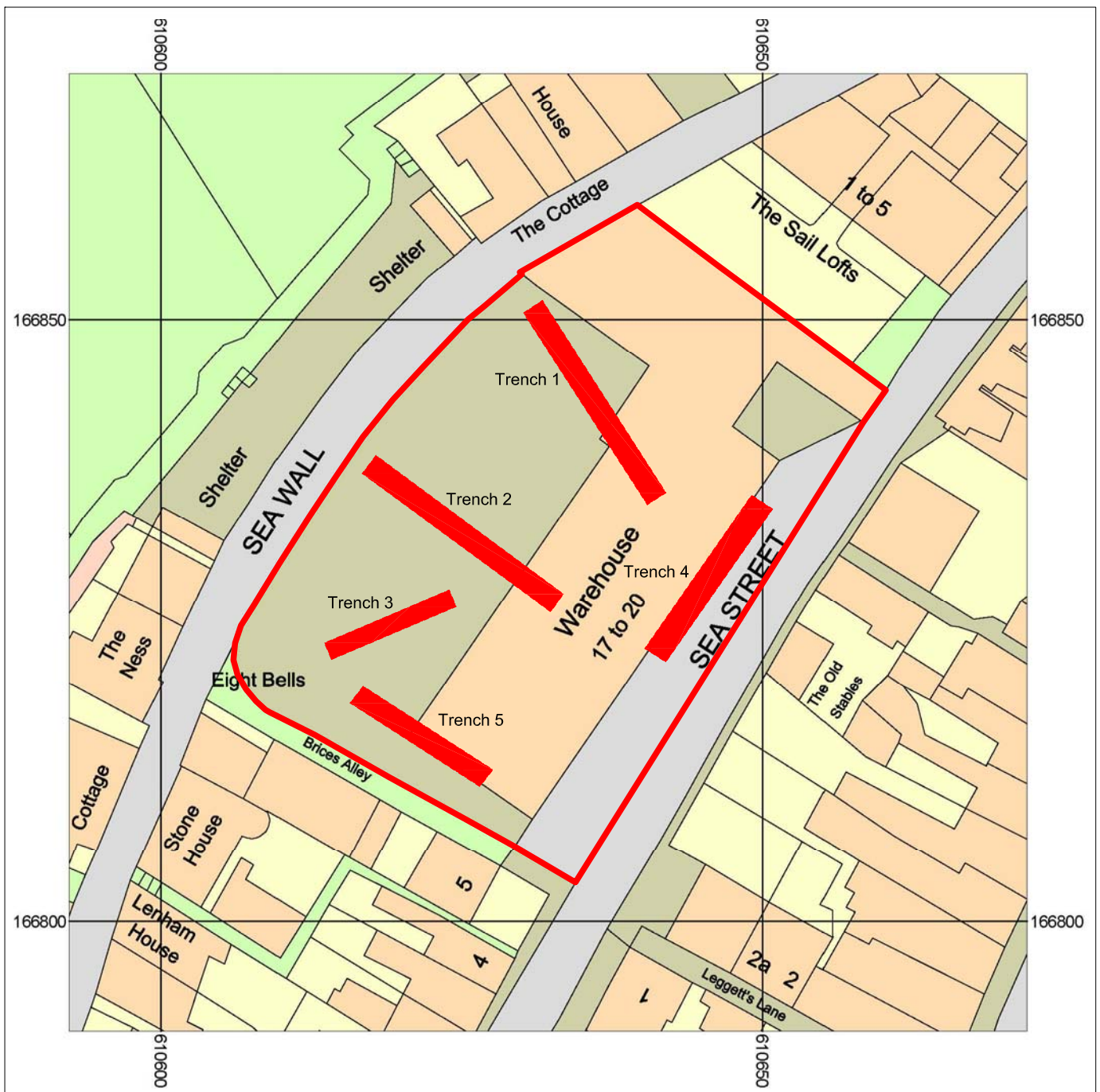
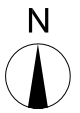
Plate 8. Trench 4, east end, showing brick foundation/cellar remains (CRN 3/4, two-metre scale)



Plate 9. The test trench in the eastern end of Trench 4 showing basal beach deposit (CRN 4/8 under clay layer (CRN 4/7) under made ground (CRN 4/6) under rubble layer (CRN 4/2, one-metre scale)



Plate 10. Trench 5 from the south showing, in the far section, levelling layers and an overlying made-floor layer (CRN's 5/9 to 5/3) overlying beach shingle/gravel deposits (CRN 5/10 to 5/13)



1:500@A4



Figure 1: Location of evaluation trenches

50m





Figure 2: Trench 1

(21)

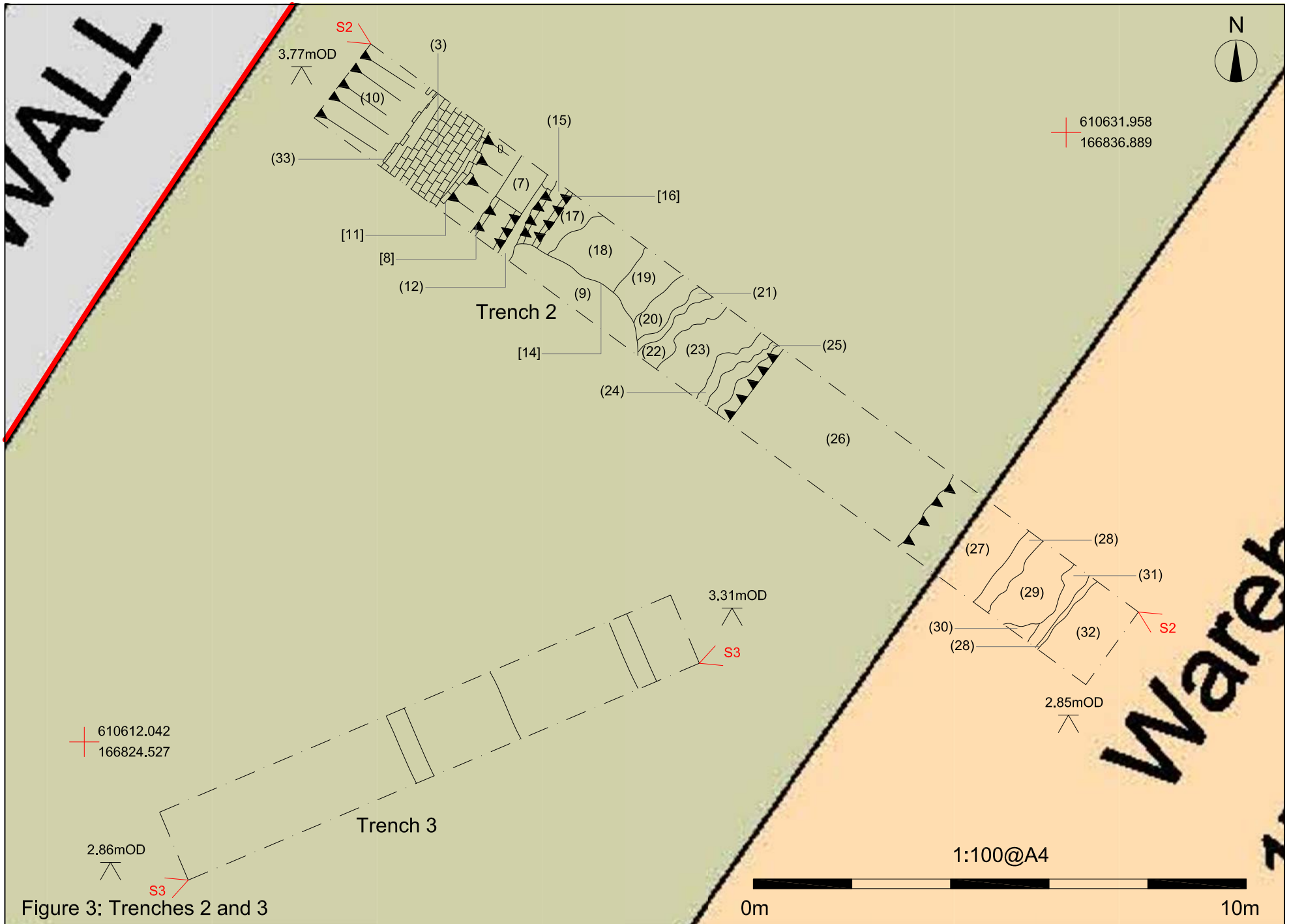


Figure 3: Trenches 2 and 3

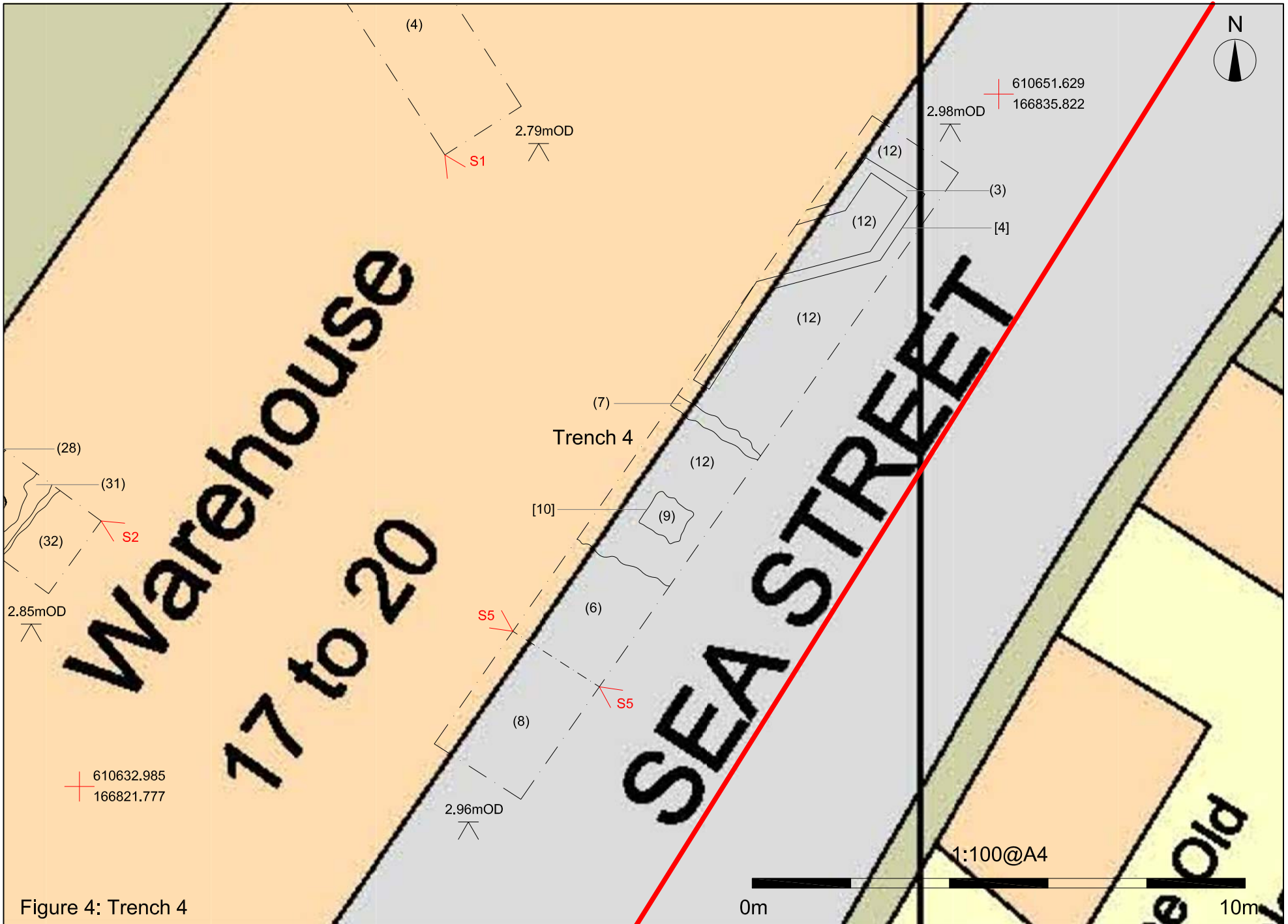
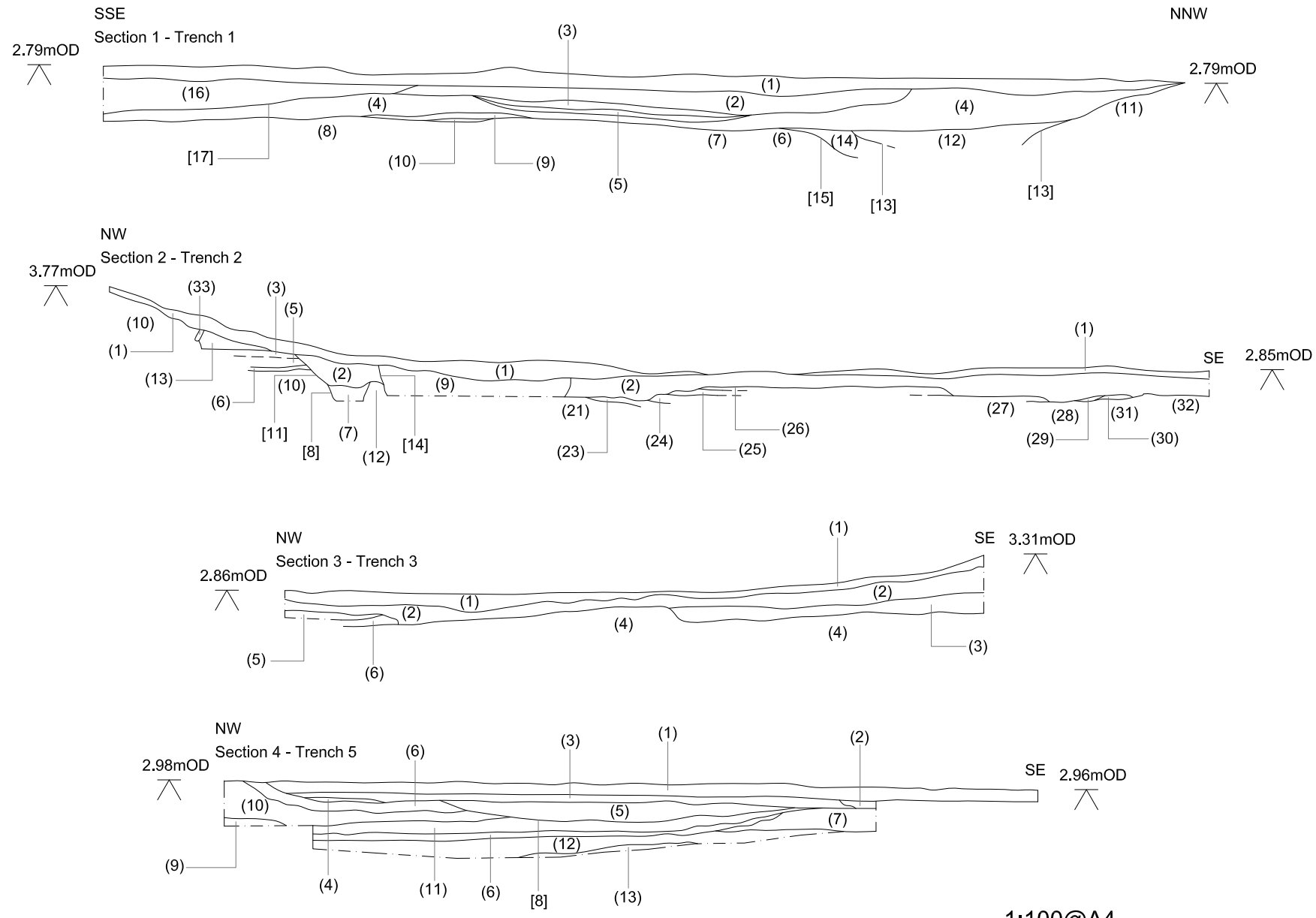


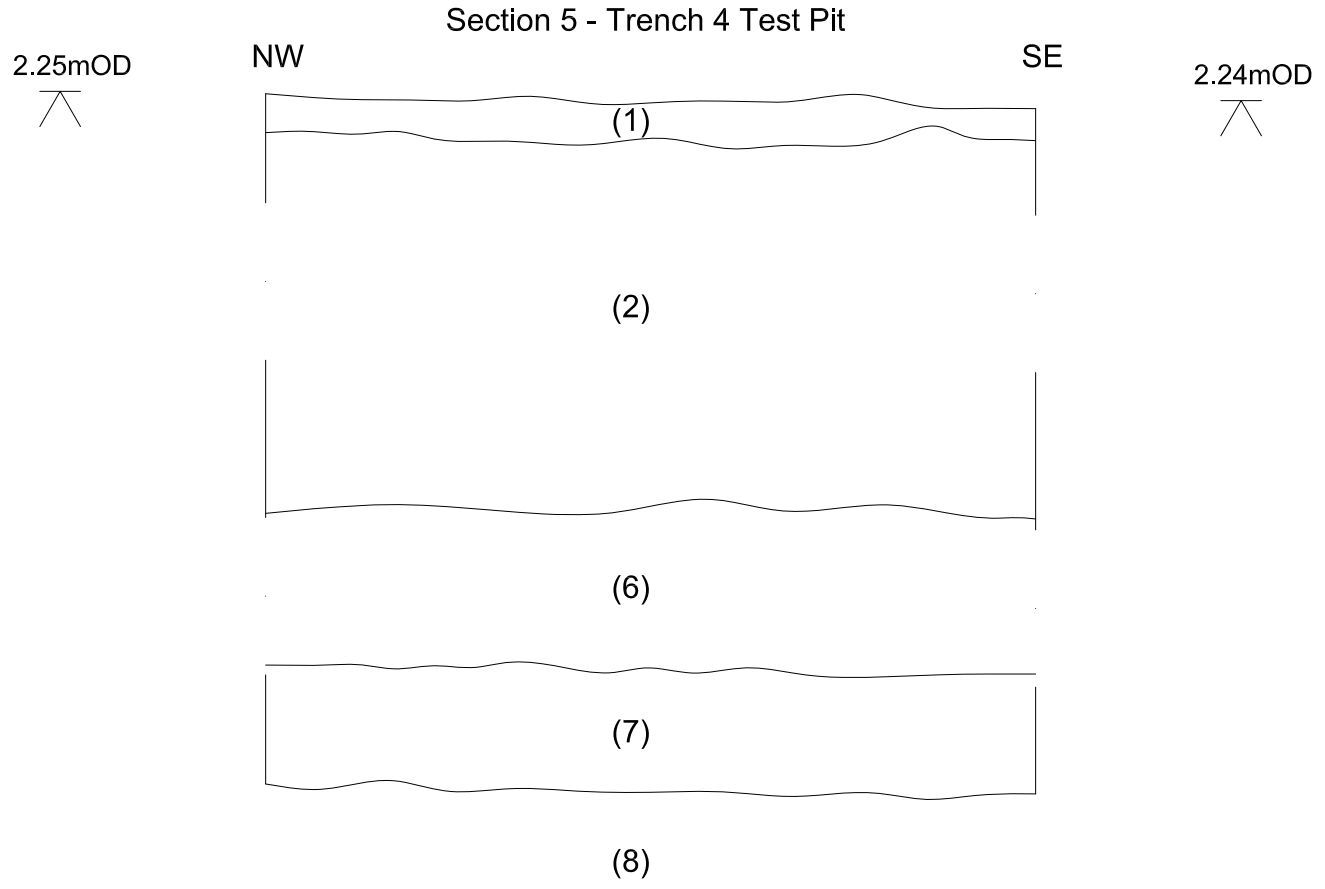
Figure 4: Trench 4



1:100@A4



Figure 5: Sections



1:20@A4



Figure 6: Section 5