

# Archaeological Evaluation on Land at Walnut Tree Farm, north of Britannia Road, High Halstow, Kent

Site Code: HIG -EV-18

NGR Site Centre 578503 175801

Planning Application Number: MC/17/4408



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## **Summary**

*Swale & Thames Survey Company (SWAT Archaeology) was commissioned to undertake an archaeological evaluation on land at Walnut Tree Farm, north of Britannia Road, High Halstow in Kent. The archaeological works were monitored by Ben Found Kent County Council Senior Archaeological Officer.*

*The fieldwork was carried out in November 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 25 trenches, which encountered a relatively common stratigraphic sequence comprising topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology. The 25 trenches revealed no archaeological features.*

## **1 INTRODUCTION**

### **1.1 Project Background**

- 1.1.1 Swale & Thames Survey Company (SWAT Archaeology) were commissioned to undertake an archaeological evaluation of land at Walnut Tree Farm, High Halstow in Kent (**Figure 1**). The land has planning permission (MC/17/4408) for the erection of 66 dwellings comprising 1 x one bed flat, 11 x two bed flats, 4 x two bed houses, 36 x three bed houses, 8 x four bed houses and 6 x five bed houses together with associated new accessing arrangements, car parking, landscaping and open space.
- 1.1.2 In mitigation of the potential impact that the development may have on the buried archaeological resource Kent County Council Heritage & Conservation (KKCHC), who provide an advisory service to Medway Council (MC), requested that the programme of works comprising initially an archaeological evaluation.
- 1.1.3 The archaeological evaluation was carried out in November 2018 in accordance with an archaeological specification prepared by SWAT Archaeology (2018), prior to commencement of works, and in discussion with Ben Found Senior Archaeological Officer at KCCHC.

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

The site is situated on the north eastern outskirts of the village of High Halstow. The village lies on the junction of the ancient roads from Hoo and Cliffe to the Isle of Grain, now a crossroads to the north of the A228 road.

The Geological Survey of Great Britain (1:50,000) shows that the local geology consists of Thames Group - Clay, Silt, Sand and Gravel. Sedimentary Bedrock formed approximately 34 to 56 million years ago in the Palaeogene Period. Local environment previously dominated by shallow seas. Immediately to the east of the site there are superficial deposits recorded in this area of River Terrace Deposits, 4 - Sand and Gravel. These were superficial deposits formed up to 3 million years ago in the Quaternary Period. Local environment previously dominated by rivers. In addition, south east of the site are superficial deposits of Head - Clay, Silt, Sand and Gravel. Superficial Deposits formed up to 3 million years ago in the Quaternary Period. Local environment previously dominated by subaerial slopes. Dr Robert Batchelor of Quaternary Scientific (QUEST) carried out a programme of test pits to an agreed specification and the report is attached (Appendix 3).

## **2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND**

### **2.1 Introduction**

2.1.1 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 DBA and Archaeological 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'.*

3.1.4 *The British Geological Survey mapping notes the presence of River Terrace Gravels close to the PDA on the north-west and east of the site. If gravels or other superficial geological deposits are observed in the trenches then advice from Dr Robert Batchelor of Quaternary Scientific (QUEST) will be sought and a programme of test pits to an agreed specification undertaken.*

(SWAT Archaeology 2018: 4-6)

### **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 25 evaluation trenches were excavated across the Site but with unrecorded high voltage overhead cables some amendment to the proposed layout of trenches was required (Figure 2).

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.

4.2.4 In addition a programme of test pits were excavated by Dr Robert Batchelor of Quaternary Scientific (QUEST) and the results attached to this report (Appendix 3).

### **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 25 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 Clay (see Appendix 3 for the geological sequence by Dr Robert Batchelor of Quaternary Scientific (QUEST)).
- 5.2.2 Appendix 1 provides the stratigraphic sequence for all trenches. Figures 1-4 provide a site plan and trench location plan while Plates 1-10 include selected site photographs.

### **5.3 Overview**

- 5.3.1 The 25 trenches were located across the site to ensure full coverage of potential archaeological remains.

## **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 any of the trenches.



## **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 Ben Found Senior Archaeological Officer, Kent County Council, for his advice and assistance.
- 9.1.2 Paul Wilkinson supervised the archaeological evaluation and survey and illustrations were produced by Bartek Cichy. Dr Paul Wilkinson MCIfA produced the draft text for the archaeological 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, 2017, *Standard and guidance: for field evaluation*.

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

Date: 04/12/2018

## Appendix 1: Trench Table

Trench 1	Dimensions: 23.4m x 1.8m Depth: 0.25m Trench alignment: NNW-SSE NNW-end Ground Level: 47.42m SSE-end Ground Level: 47.34m		
Context	Interpretation	Description	Depth (m)
101	Topsoil	Mid compaction, dark brownish grey (Munsell value: 10YR 4/1) silty clay with occ. sub angular flints, brick fragments, freq small roots and occ. medium roots.	0.00-0.25
102	Natural – Head	Firm compaction, mid yellowish brown (Munsell value: 10YR 3/3) clay with occ. sub angular flints and bioturbations (small and medium roots)	0.25+

Trench 2	Unexcavated – it would block site access		
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Trench 3	Dimensions: 27.8m x 1.8m Depth: 0.35m Trench alignment: NNW-SSE NNW-end Ground Level: 47.42m SSE-end Ground Level: 47.3m Test pit has been excavated at NNW end of the trench – see geoarchaeological report		
Context	Interpretation	Description	Depth (m)
301	Topsoil	Mid compaction, dark brownish grey (Munsell value: 10YR 4/1) silty clay with occ. sub angular flints, brick fragments, freq small roots and occ. medium roots.	0.00-0.25
302	Natural – Head	Firm compaction, mid yellowish brown (Munsell value: 10YR 3/3) clay with occ. sub angular flints and bioturbations (small and medium roots)	0.25+
[303]	Modern trench	NE-SW aligned, 0.2 m wide trench back filled with chalk nodules	0-0.3+

Trench 4	Dimensions: 25.8m x 1.8m Depth: 0.4m Trench alignment: NE-SW NE-end Ground Level: 47.65m SW-end Ground Level: 47.52m		
Context	Interpretation	Description	Depth (m)
401	Topsoil	Mid compaction, dark brownish grey (Munsell value: 10YR 4/1) silty clay with occ. sub angular flints, brick fragments, freq small roots and occ. medium roots.	0.00-0.3
402	Natural – Head	Firm compaction, mid yellowish brown (Munsell value: 10YR 3/3) clay with occ. sub angular flints and bioturbations (small and medium roots)	0.3+
402a	Natural – Head	Firm compaction, mid yellowish brown (Munsell value: 10YR 3/3) clay with freq. manganese staining, occ. sub angular flints and bioturbations (small and medium roots)	0.3+
[403]	Modern drain	N-S aligned, 0.2m wide trench with orange, ceramic pipe.	0-0.45
[404]	Modern drain	NW-SE aligned, 0.2m wide trench backfilled with flint gravel	0-0.45+
[405]	Modern drain	NW-SE aligned 0.2m wide trench backfilled with flint gravel. Feature also exposed in Trench 6, 8, 14, and 21	0-0.45+
[406]	Modern trench	NW-SE aligned 0.5m wide trench backfilled with clay. Vertically positioned plastic pipe has been exposed.	0-0.45+
[407]	Modern drain	N-S aligned 0.2m wide trench with orange, ceramic pipe. Feature also exposed in Trench 14, 15, and 20	0-0.45+

Trench 5	Dimensions: 25.3m x 1.8m Depth: 0.35m Trench alignment: NNW-SSE		
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	NNW-end Ground Level: 47.69m      SSE-end Ground Level: 47.63m		
Context	Interpretation	Description	Depth (m)
501	Topsoil	Mid compaction, dark brownish grey (Munsell value: 10YR 4/1) silty clay with occ. sub angular flints, brick fragments, freq small roots and occ. medium roots.	0.00-0.3
502	Natural – Head	Firm compaction, mid yellowish brown (Munsell value: 10YR 3/3) clay with occ. sub angular flints and bioturbations (small and medium roots)	0.3+

Trench 6	Dimensions: 27.1m x 1.8m    Depth: 0.4m    Trench alignment: NE-SW NE-end Ground Level: 47.73m      SW-end Ground Level: 47.66m		
Context	Interpretation	Description	Depth (m)
601	Topsoil	Mid compaction, dark brownish grey (Munsell value: 10YR 4/1) silty clay with occ. sub angular flints, brick fragments, freq small roots and occ. medium roots.	0.00-0.3
602	Natural – Head	Firm compaction, mid yellowish brown (Munsell value: 10YR 3/3) clay with occ. sub angular flints and bioturbations (small and medium roots)	0.3+
[603]	Modern drain	NW-SE aligned, 0.2m wide trench backfilled with flint gravel. Feature also exposed in Trench 10	0-0.45
[604]	Modern drain	NW-SE aligned, 0.2m wide trench backfilled with flint gravel	0-0.45+
[605]	Modern drain	N-S aligned 0.2m wide trench backfilled with flint gravel. Feature also exposed in Trench 4, 8, 14, and 21	0-0.45+

Trench 7	Dimensions: 22.7m x 1.8m    Depth: 0.4m    Trench alignment: NNW-SSE NNW-end Ground Level: 48.03m      SSE-end Ground Level: 47.8m Test pit has been excavated at SSE end of the trench – see geoarchaeological report		
Context	Interpretation	Description	Depth (m)
701	Topsoil	Mid compaction, dark brownish grey (Munsell value: 10YR 4/1) silty clay with occ. sub angular flints, brick fragments, freq small roots and occ. medium roots.	0.00-0.3
702	Natural – Head	Firm compaction, mid yellowish brown (Munsell value: 10YR 3/3) clay with occ. sub angular flints and bioturbations (small and medium roots)	0.3+

Trench 8	Dimensions: 26.3m x 1.8m    Depth: 0.35m    Trench alignment: NE-SW NE-end Ground Level: 48.13m      SW-end Ground Level: 47.98m		
Context	Interpretation	Description	Depth (m)
801	Topsoil	Mid compaction, dark brownish grey (Munsell value: 10YR 4/1) silty clay with occ. sub angular flints, brick fragments, freq small roots and occ. medium roots.	0.00-0.3
802	Natural – Head	Firm compaction, mid yellowish brown (Munsell value: 10YR 3/3) clay with occ. sub angular flints and bioturbations (small and medium roots)	0.3+
[803]	Modern drain	N-S aligned 0.2m wide trench backfilled with flint gravel. Feature also exposed in Trench 4, 6, 14, and 21	0-0.35+

Trench 9	Dimensions: 28.05m x 1.8m    Depth: 0.35m    Trench alignment: NW-SE NW-end Ground Level: 47.75m      SE-end Ground Level: 47.8m		
Context	Interpretation	Description	Depth (m)
901	Topsoil	Mid compaction, dark brownish grey (Munsell value: 10YR 4/1) silty clay with occ. sub angular flints, brick fragments, freq small roots and occ. medium roots.	0.00-0.3
902	Natural – Head	Firm compaction, mid yellowish brown (Munsell value: 10YR 3/3) clay with occ. sub angular flints and bioturbations (small and medium roots)	0.3+

[903]	Modern drain	N-S aligned 0.2m wide trench backfilled with flint gravel. Feature also exposed in Trench 19 and 24.	0-0.35+
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Trench 10	Dimensions: 26.3m x 1.8m Depth: 0.35m Trench alignment: NE-SW NE-end Ground Level: 47.80m SW-end Ground Level: 47.89m Test pit has been excavated at SW end of the trench – see geoarchaeological report		
Context	Interpretation	Description	Depth (m)
1001	Topsoil	Mid compaction, dark brownish grey (Munsell value: 10YR 4/1) silty clay with occ. sub angular flints, brick fragments, freq small roots and occ. medium roots.	0.00-0.3
1002	Natural – Head	Firm compaction, mid yellowish brown (Munsell value: 10YR 3/3) clay with occ. sub angular flints and bioturbations (small and medium roots)	0.3+
[1003]	Modern drain	N-S aligned 0.2m wide trench with orange ceramic pipe. Feature also exposed in Trench 16 and 22	0-0.35+
[1004]	Modern drain	NW-SE aligned 0.2m wide trench backfilled with flint gravel. Feature also exposed in Trench 6	0-0.35+

Trench 11	Dimensions: 27.10m x 1.8m Depth: 0.35m Trench alignment: NE-SW NE-end Ground Level: 47.9m SW-end Ground Level: 47.8m		
Context	Interpretation	Description	Depth (m)
1101	Topsoil	Mid compaction, dark brownish grey (Munsell value: 10YR 4/1) silty clay with occ. sub angular flints, brick fragments, freq small roots and occ. medium roots.	0.00-0.3
1102	Natural – Head	Firm compaction, mid yellowish brown (Munsell value: 10YR 3/3) clay with occ. sub angular flints and bioturbations (small and medium roots)	0.3+

Trench 12	Dimensions: 17.38m x 1.8m Depth: 0.35m Trench alignment: NW-SE NW-end Ground Level: 48.28m SE-end Ground Level: 48.15m Test pit has been excavated at NW end of the trench – see geoarchaeological report		
Context	Interpretation	Description	Depth (m)
1201	Topsoil	Mid compaction, dark brownish grey (Munsell value: 10YR 4/1) silty clay with occ. sub angular flints, brick fragments, freq small roots and occ. medium roots.	0.00-0.25
1202	Natural – Head	Firm compaction, mid yellowish brown (Munsell value: 10YR 3/3) clay with occ. sub angular flints and bioturbations (small and medium roots)	0.25+

Trench 13	Unexcavated – due to overhead cables		
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Trench 14	Dimensions: 21.8m x 1.8m Depth: 0.35m Trench alignment: NE-SW NE-end Ground Level: 48.8m SW-end Ground Level: 48.2m Test pit has been excavated at SW end of the trench – see geoarchaeological report		
Context	Interpretation	Description	Depth (m)
1401	Topsoil	Mid compaction, dark brownish grey (Munsell value: 10YR 4/1) silty clay with occ. sub angular flints, brick fragments, freq small roots and occ. medium roots.	0.00-0.2
1402	Natural – Head	Firm compaction, mid yellowish brown (Munsell value: 10YR 3/3) clay with occ. sub angular flints and bioturbations (small and medium roots)	0.2+
[1403]	Modern drain	N-S aligned 0.2m wide trench with orange ceramic pipe. Feature also exposed in Trench 4, 6, 8, and 21	0-0.35+
[1404]	Modern drain	N-S aligned 0.2m wide trench with orange ceramic pipe. Feature also exposed in Trench 4, 15, and 20	0-0.35+

Trench 15	Dimensions: 20.7m x 1.8m Depth: 0.35m Trench alignment: E-W E-end Ground Level: 47.85m W-end Ground Level: 47.84m		
Context	Interpretation	Description	Depth (m)
1501	Topsoil	Mid compaction, dark brownish grey (Munsell value: 10YR 4/1) silty clay with occ. sub angular flints, brick fragments, freq small roots and occ. medium roots.	0.00-0.25
1502	Natural – Head	Firm compaction, mid yellowish brown (Munsell value: 10YR 3/3) clay with occ. sub angular flints and bioturbations (small and medium roots)	0.25+
[1503]	Modern drain	N-S aligned 0.2m wide trench with orange ceramic pipe. Feature also exposed in Trench 4, 14 and 20	0-0.35+

Trench 16	Dimensions: 26m x 1.8m Depth: 0.35m Trench alignment: NE-SW NE-end Ground Level: 48.35m SW-end Ground Level: 48.17m		
Context	Interpretation	Description	Depth (m)
1601	Topsoil	Mid compaction, dark brownish grey (Munsell value: 10YR 4/1) silty clay with occ. sub angular flints, brick fragments, freq small roots and occ. medium roots.	0.00-0.25
1602	Natural – Head	Firm compaction, mid yellowish brown (Munsell value: 10YR 3/3) clay with occ. sub angular flints and bioturbations (small and medium roots)	0.25+
[1603]	Modern drain	N-S aligned 0.2m wide trench backfilled with flint gravel. Feature also exposed in Trench 10 and 22	0-0.35+

Trench 17	Dimensions: 15.5m x 1.8m Depth: 0.35m Trench alignment: E-W E-end Ground Level: 48.5m W-end Ground Level: 48.56m		
Context	Interpretation	Description	Depth (m)
1701	Topsoil	Mid compaction, dark brownish grey (Munsell value: 10YR 4/1) silty clay with occ. sub angular flints, brick fragments, freq small roots and occ. medium roots.	0.00-0.25
1702	Natural – Head	Firm compaction, mid yellowish brown (Munsell value: 10YR 3/3) clay with occ. sub angular flints and bioturbations (small and medium roots)	0.25+

Trench 18	Dimensions: 25m x 1.8m Depth: 0.35m Trench alignment: NW-SE NW-end Ground Level: 48.8m SE-end Ground Level: 48.42m		
Context	Interpretation	Description	Depth (m)
1801	Topsoil	Mid compaction, dark brownish grey (Munsell value: 10YR 4/1) silty clay with occ. sub angular flints, brick fragments, freq small roots and occ. medium roots.	0.00-0.25
1802	Natural – Head	Firm compaction, mid yellowish brown (Munsell value: 10YR 3/3) clay with occ. sub angular flints and bioturbations (small and medium roots)	0.25+

Trench 19	Dimensions: 26.3m x 1.8m Depth: 0.35m Trench alignment: NW-SE NW-end Ground Level: 48.3m SE-end Ground Level: 48.2m		
Context	Interpretation	Description	Depth (m)
1901	Topsoil	Mid compaction, dark brownish grey (Munsell value: 10YR 4/1) silty clay with occ. sub angular flints, brick fragments, freq small roots and occ. medium roots.	0.00-0.25
1902	Natural – Head	Firm compaction, mid yellowish brown (Munsell value: 10YR 3/3) clay with occ. sub angular flints and bioturbations (small and medium roots)	0.25+
[1903]	Modern drain	N-S aligned 0.2m wide trench with orange ceramic pipe. Feature also exposed in Trench 9 and 24	0-0.35+

Trench 20	Dimensions: 25.6m x 1.8m Depth: 0.35m Trench alignment: NW-SE NW-end Ground Level: 48.22m SE-end Ground Level: 48.13m		
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Context	Interpretation	Description	Depth (m)
2001	Topsoil	Mid compaction, dark brownish grey (Munsell value: 10YR 4/1) silty clay with occ. sub angular flints, brick fragments, freq small roots and occ. medium roots.	0.00-0.25
2002	Natural – Head	Firm compaction, mid yellowish brown (Munsell value: 10YR 3/3) clay with occ. sub angular flints and bioturbations (small and medium roots)	0.25+
[2003]	Modern drain	N-S aligned 0.2m wide trench with orange ceramic pipe.	0-0.35+
[2004]	Modern drain	N-S aligned 0.2m wide trench with orange ceramic pipe. Feature also exposed in Trench 4, 15 and 20	0-0.35+

Trench 21 Dimensions: 25.6m x 1.8m Depth: 0.35m Trench alignment: NE-SW NE-end Ground Level: 48.43m SW-end Ground Level: 48.4m			
Context	Interpretation	Description	Depth (m)
2101	Topsoil	Mid compaction, dark brownish grey (Munsell value: 10YR 4/1) silty clay with occ. sub angular flints, brick fragments, freq small roots and occ. medium roots.	0.00-0.25
2102	Natural – Head	Firm compaction, mid yellowish brown (Munsell value: 10YR 3/3) clay with occ. sub angular flints and bioturbations (small and medium roots)	0.25+
[2103]	Modern drain	N-S aligned 0.2m wide trench backfilled with flint gravel. Feature also exposed in Trench 4, 6, 8, and 14	0-0.35+

Trench 22 Dimensions: 26m x 1.8m Depth: 0.35m Trench alignment: NE-SW NE-end Ground Level: 48.63m SW-end Ground Level: 48.6m			
Context	Interpretation	Description	Depth (m)
2201	Topsoil	Mid compaction, dark brownish grey (Munsell value: 10YR 4/1) silty clay with occ. sub angular flints, brick fragments, freq small roots and occ. medium roots.	0.00-0.25
2202	Natural – Head	Firm compaction, mid yellowish brown (Munsell value: 10YR 3/3) clay with occ. sub angular flints and bioturbations (small and medium roots)	0.25+
[2203]	Modern drain	N-S aligned 0.2m wide trench backfilled with flint gravel. Feature also exposed in Trench 10 and 16.	0-0.35+

Trench 23 Dimensions: 25.6m x 1.8m Depth: 0.35m Trench alignment: NW-SE NW-end Ground Level: 49.54m SE-end Ground Level: 48.9m Test pit has been excavated at NW end of the trench – see geoarchaeological report			
Context	Interpretation	Description	Depth (m)
2301	Topsoil	Mid compaction, dark brownish grey (Munsell value: 10YR 4/1) silty clay with occ. sub angular flints, brick fragments, freq small roots and occ. medium roots.	0.00-0.25
2302	Natural – Head	Firm compaction, mid yellowish brown (Munsell value: 10YR 3/3) clay with occ. sub angular flints and bioturbations (small and medium roots)	0.25+

Trench 24 Dimensions: 25.2m x 1.8m Depth: 0.35m Trench alignment: NW-SE NW-end Ground Level: 48.95m SE-end Ground Level: 48.7m			
Context	Interpretation	Description	Depth (m)
2401	Topsoil	Mid compaction, dark brownish grey (Munsell value: 10YR 4/1) silty clay with occ. sub angular flints, brick fragments, freq small roots and occ. medium roots.	0.00-0.25
2402	Natural – Head	Firm compaction, mid yellowish brown (Munsell value: 10YR 3/3) clay with occ. sub angular flints and bioturbations (small and medium roots)	0.25+
[2403]	Modern drain	N-S aligned 0.2m wide trench with orange ceramic pipe. Feature also exposed in Trench 9 and 19.	0-0.35+

Trench 25	Dimensions: 48.8m x 1.8m Depth: 0.35m Trench alignment: NW-SE NW-end Ground Level: 49.54m SE-end Ground Level: 48.45m Test pit has been excavated at NW end of the trench – see geoarchaeological report		
Context	Interpretation	Description	Depth (m)
2501	Topsoil	Mid compaction, dark brownish grey (Munsell value: 10YR 4/1) silty clay with occ. sub angular flints, brick fragments, freq small roots and occ. medium roots.	0.00-0.25
2502	Natural – Head	Firm compaction, mid yellowish brown (Munsell value: 10YR 3/3) clay with occ. sub angular flints and bioturbations (small and medium roots)	0.25+

## Appendix 2: Kent County Council HER Summary Form

**Site Name:** Land at Walnut Tree Farm, north of Britannia Road, High Halstow, Kent

**SWAT Site Code:** HIG/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 residential development whereby Medway 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:** Medway Council

**Period(s):**

**NGR (centre of site to eight figures)** 578503 175801

**Type of Archaeological work:** Archaeological Evaluation

**Date of recording:** November 2018

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

**Geology:** Underlying geology is Bedrock Geology of Thames Group (see Appendix 3)

**Title and author of accompanying report:** Wilkinson P. (2018) Archaeological Evaluation of Land at Walnut Tree Farm, north of Britannia Road, High Halstow, 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

PLATES



Figure 1. Trench 20 (looking SSE)



Figure 2. Trench 25 (looking NW)





Figure 3. Trench 25 (section)



Figure 4. Trench 15



Figure 5. Trench 24 (looking NW)



Figure 6. Trench 23 (looking NNW)



Figure 7. Trench 19 (looking SSE)



Figure 8. Trench 1 (looking SSE)



Figure 9. Trench 7 (looking SSE)



Figure 10. Trench 15 (looking W)

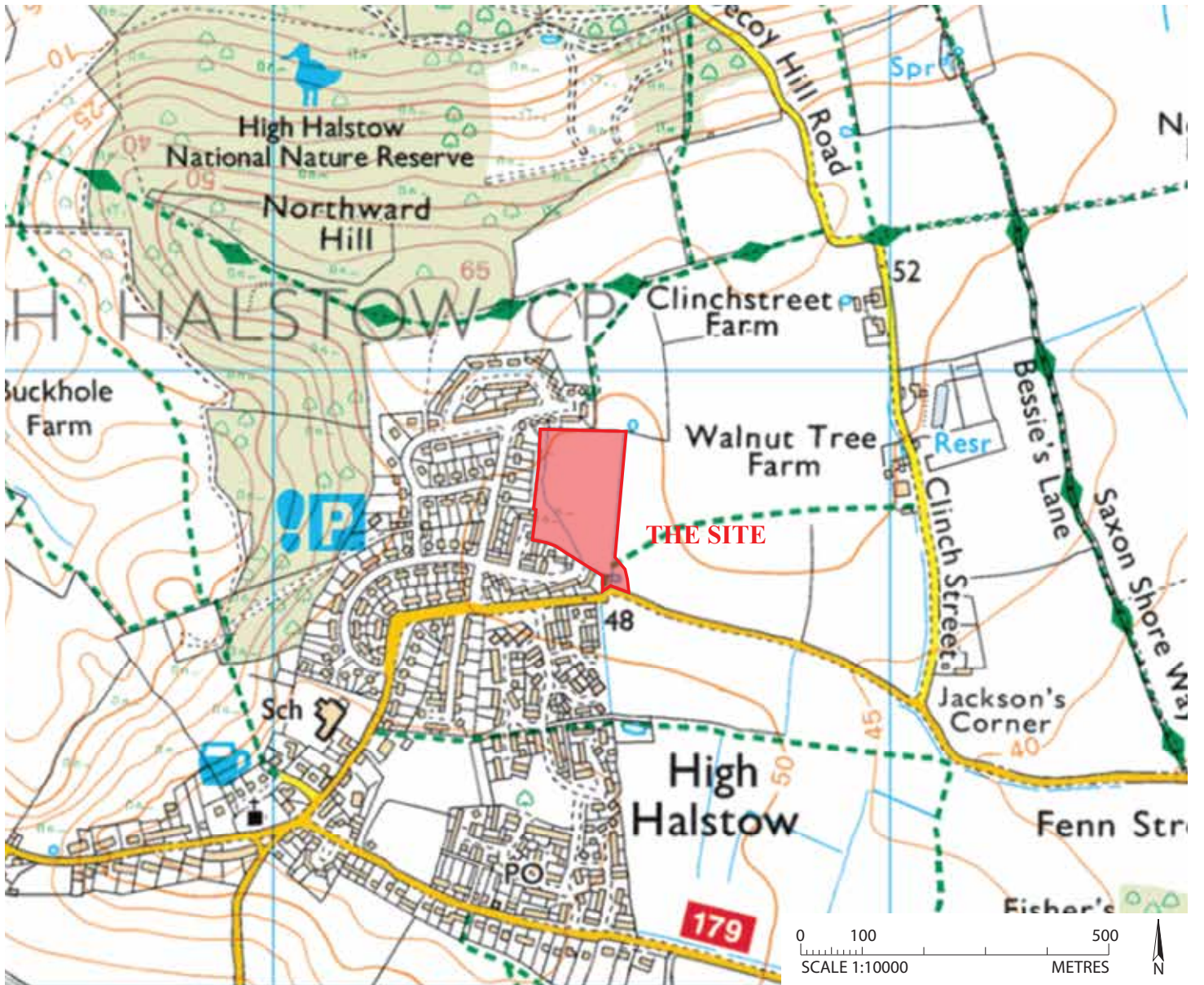


Figure 1: Site location map, scale 1:10000.

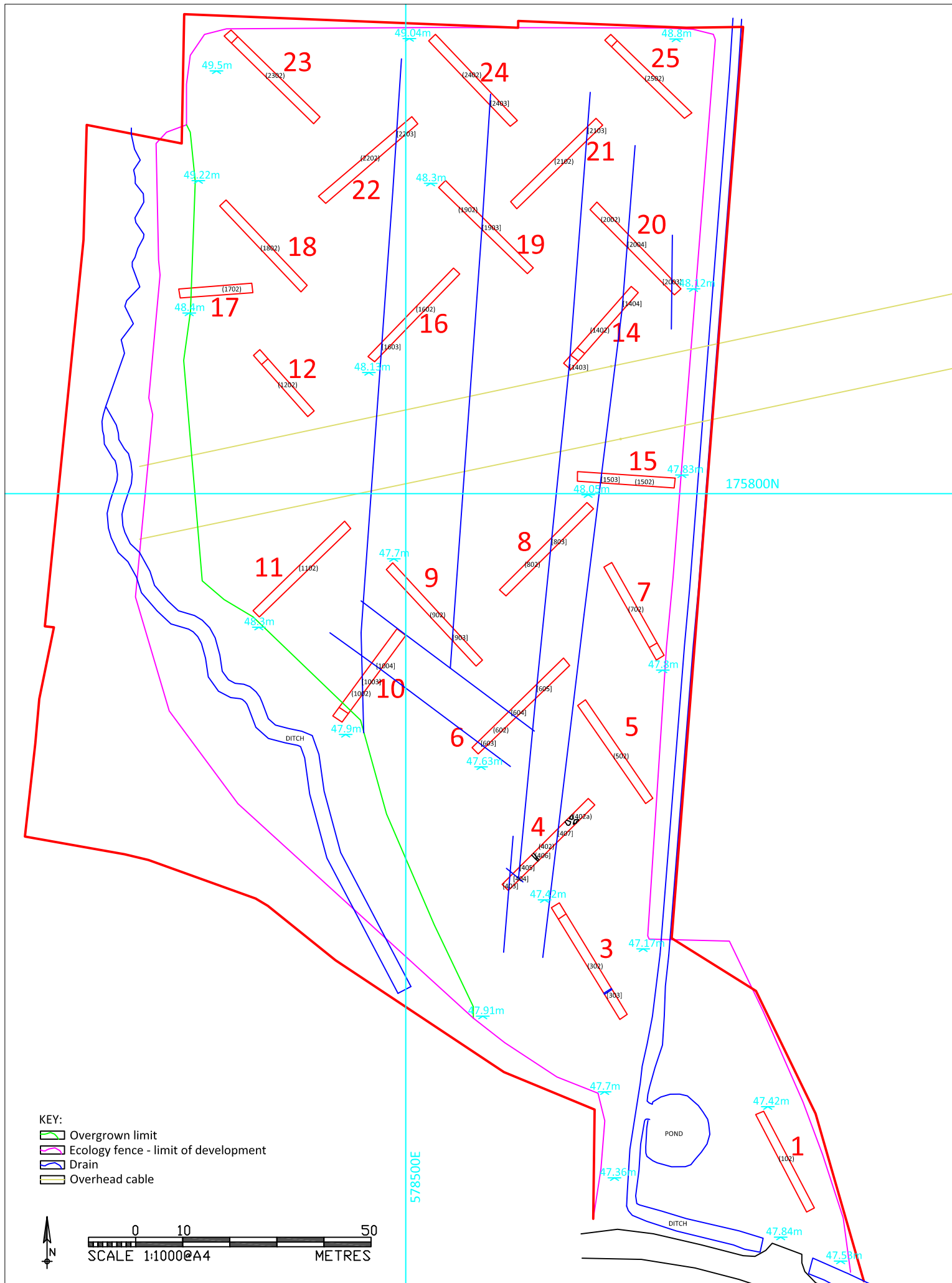


Figure 2: Trench location

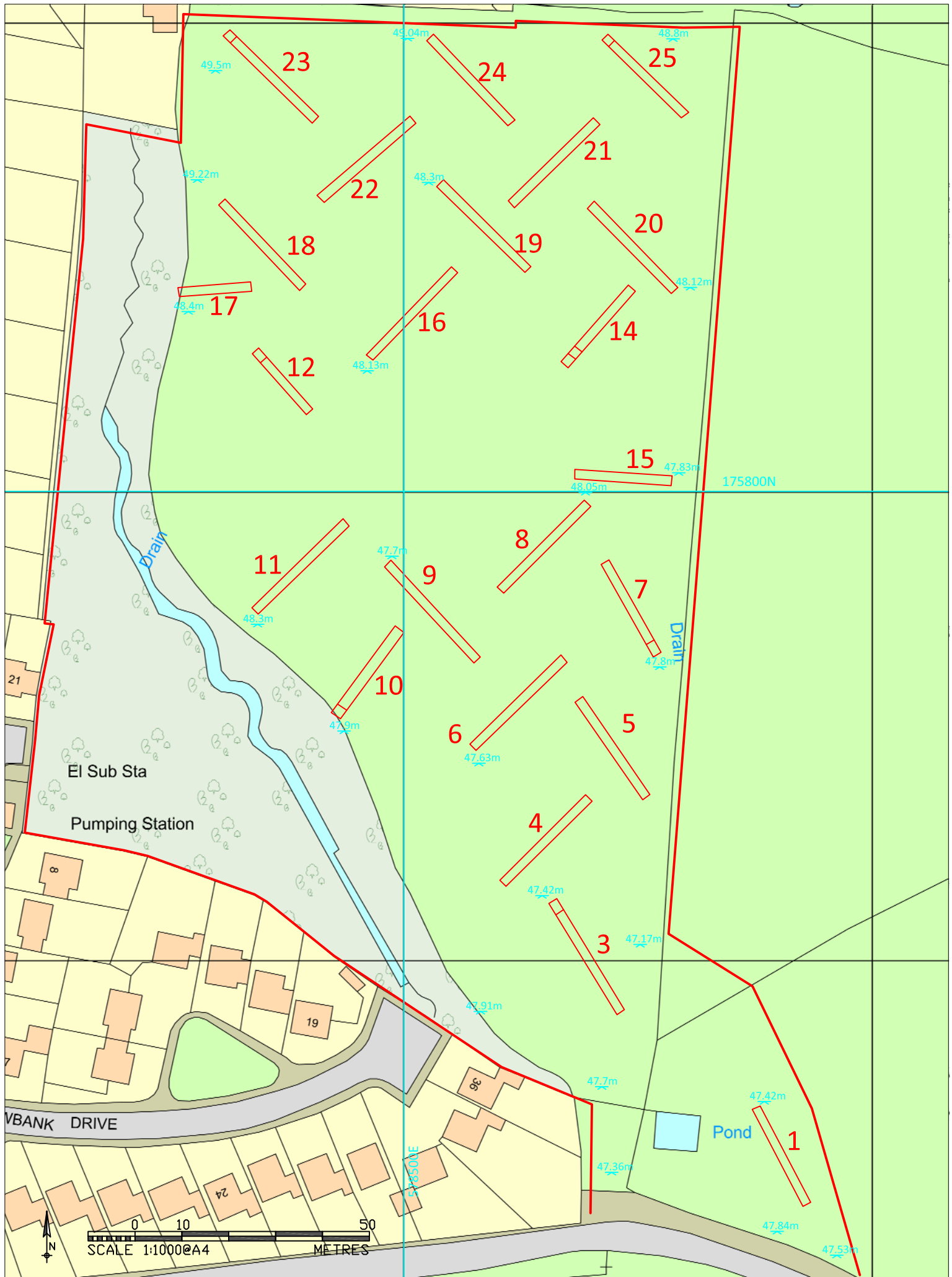


Figure 3: Trench location in relation to OS map



- KEY**
- Denotes Opposite Handed Plots
  - Soft landscaping to detail design.
  - Black-top/Tarmac finish.
  - Concrete Block Paving "Woburn Rumbled" laid by Chancin - Graphite colour. 100 x 134 x 60. Laid in random stretcher pattern (Parking type)
  - Concrete Block Paving "Woburn Rumbled" laid by Chancin - Graphite colour. 100 x 134 x 60. Laid in offset herringbone pattern.
  - Concrete Block Paving "Woburn Rumbled" laid by Chancin - Rustic colour. 100 x 134 x 60. Laid in offset herringbone pattern.
  - Buff River stone 600x500mm forming 1200mm wide front & shared footpaths. 450x50mm slabs forming 900mm wide private rear access paths & 1800mm wide paths. Refer to Standard Detail F-SD0014.
  - Bradon Self-binding Gravel Path
  - Granite Setts. 200 x 100. Silver Grey colour. Laid in stack pattern.
  - 1.8m high brick screen wall. Refer to Standard Detail F-SD0806
  - 1.8m high closeboard fence. Refer to Standard Detail F-SD0906
  - 900mm high 3 bar horizontal rail fence. Refer to F-SD0926
  - 1.2m high Sussex rail fence
  - \* Denotes Housing Association Plots
  - ⊙ Proposed Street lighting post. Refer to Specialist design for Column types/heights
  - ⊙ Lighting Bollard
  - ⊙ Focuser Pillar for Lighting Bollard
  - ⊙ Proposed trees
  - ⊙ Paved areas for Bin Collection Point
  - ⊙ BCP
  - ⊙ Life Buoy
  - ⊙ PLAY AREA  
LAP (Local Area or Play)  
LEAP (Local Equipped Area of Play), Active Trail - May contain play equipment for use by children. Refer to Landscape Architects details for equipment provided.

**ACCOMMODATION SCHEDULE - AFFORDABLE**

Ref	Area m <sup>2</sup>	sq ft	No. Plots	Plot - AS	Plot - OPP	Beds	Storeys	Total sqft
Dart End	EF DART EM.3	84.1	905	2	9	385P	2	1810
Dart Mid	EF DART MM.3	84.1	905	1	10	385P	2	905
Tempe	EF TEME SM.2	93.5	1004	2	25	486P	2	2008
1 Bed WCH Flat	SE2732HA	62.7	675	1	19	182P	1	675
2 Bed Flat	SE2732HA	62.7	675	13	12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 20, 21, 22, 23	284P	1	7425
<b>Total</b>			<b>17</b>					<b>12823</b>

**ACCOMMODATION SCHEDULE**

Ref	Area m <sup>2</sup>	sq ft	No. Plots	Plot - AS	Plot - OPP	Beds	Storeys	Total sqft	
Ludlow	EF LUDL SM.3	91.4	984	10	7, 33, 39, 50, 59	8, 34, 40, 51, 60	3	2	9840
Amberley	EF AMBE DM.6	85	1127	5	35	3, 29, 42, 44	1	2	3685
Worcester Life	EF WCH DM.4	102.4	1081	4	28, 36	5, 32	2	2	4334
Worcester Life	EF WCH DM.4	102.4	1081	6	26, 37, 52	2, 43, 48	3	2	6496
Oxford Life	EF OXF DM.2	122.4	1318	7	4, 31, 43, 48	6, 37, 58	3	2	9276
Oxford	EF OXF DM.2	122.4	1318	3		38, 47, 61	4	2	3954
Leamington Life	EF LEAM DM.1	131.6	1417	5	1, 46, 62, 64	30	3	2	7085

T2 11.15.18 Apartments amended to suit new Bin Store location. ORC  
 T1 26.09.18 TENDER ISSUE. ORC  
 Rev Date Amendment ORC

**Development: Walnut Tree Farm**  
**Location: High Halstow**  
**Marketing Name: Heronden Grange**  
**Drawing Title: Working Site Layout**  
**Drawing Number: 2732-21-04-001**  
**Revision: T2** Scale: AS A2 1:500  
 Drawn By: ORC Date Stated: July 2018  
 Checked by: Date:

**REDROW HOMES**  
 Redrow Homes (UK) Limited  
 10  
**SCALE: 1:1000@A4**  
 Tel: 01634 22222 www.redrow.co.uk

See Site Entrance  
 Feature Wall Detail  
 SE2732FBP 001

Figure 4: Trench location in relation to development



# **WALNUT TREE FARM HIGH HALSTOW ISLE OF GRAIN, KENT**

## **Geoarchaeological Fieldwork Report**

**NGR:** TQ 78500 75800

**Site code:** HHWTF-EV-18

**Date:** 29<sup>th</sup> November 2018

**Written by:** C.R. Batchelor & C.P. Green

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<http://www.reading.ac.uk/quest>



## DOCUMENT HISTORY

REVISION	DATE	PREPARED BY	SIGNED	APPROVED BY	SIGNED	REASON FOR ISSUE
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## 1. NON-TECHNICAL SUMMARY

A program of geoarchaeological fieldwork was carried out by Quaternary Scientific (University of Reading) in connection with the proposed development of land at Walnut Tree Farm, High Halstow, Isle of Grain, Kent. The work was commissioned by SWAT Archaeology. The main aims of the investigation were to: (1) observe and record the sediments excavated; (2) interpret the sub-surface stratigraphy across the site and (3) to highlight sediments of potential Pleistocene and Palaeolithic archaeological or palaeoenvironmental significance.

The results of the investigation revealed a sequence of Top Soil resting on Head and Gravelly Head Deposits over London Clay. The potential for palaeoenvironmental or Palaeolithic remains is considered negligible and no further work is recommend.

## 2. INTRODUCTION

### 2.1 Site context

This report summarises the findings arising out of the geoarchaeological investigations undertaken by Quaternary Scientific (University of Reading) in connection with the proposed development at Walnut Tree Farm, High Halstow, Isle of Grain, Kent (NGR: TQ 78500 75800; Figure 1). The work was commissioned and carried out in collaboration with SWAT Archaeology.

The site is located on the highest part of the Hoo peninsula; the highest parts of which rise to just over 50.0m OD. A nearby spot height to the south is at 48.0m OD. The British Geological Survey

(BGS) maps the site as London Clay but summit areas approximately 300m to the east and south of the site are occupied by gravel spreads mapped as 4th terrace. Bridgland in his work on the Medway terraces refers the BGS 4th Terrace to his Clinch Street Gravel which he regards as pre-Anglian (Bridgland, 1983; Bridgland and Harding, 1984). The 4th Terrace gravel spreads are largely surrounded by what the BGS map as Head, but this is not mapped beneath the proposed development site. Since the BGS traditionally do not map superficial deposits <3 feet thick, it is possible that thin deposits of this nature overlie the London Clay.

## **2.2 Pleistocene and Palaeolithic significance and potential**

The site has the potential to contain both Pleistocene and Palaeolithic remains. Pleistocene remains are the geological and biological deposits laid down by various agents – water, wind and ice between 2.6 million and 11,500 years ago. In some places, artefacts, plant and animal remains are contained within Pleistocene deposits.

Palaeolithic remains therefore form part of the Pleistocene record and can include stone tools and the flakes produced when making them, and, much more rarely, tools of wood and bone, bones bearing marks of butchery, rudimentary structures and the remains of early humans (hominins). Such remains are important as they are the evidence that enables us to understand our earliest prehistory – how the landscape of Britain was shaped and where and how our earliest ancestors fit into it.

Even in the absence of artefact remains, the Pleistocene sediments and their contained biological remains can be significant as they enable the reconstruction of landforms, climatic conditions and environments occupied by Palaeolithic communities. In many cases we already have, in museum collections, artefacts from geological units equivalent to those being investigated (often river terrace gravels), but because of the way in which Palaeolithic artefacts were collected in the 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries, we often lack the environmental record that modern investigations of the deposits can supply. In addition, it is important to build up an understanding of the way in which the character and preservation of Pleistocene remains varies from place to place, even in the same geological unit. Recent advances in direct dating techniques, including OSL (optically stimulated luminescence), ESR (electron spin resonance), and AAR (amino acid racemization), have added further significance to Pleistocene remains, enabling us to achieve more reliable dating, relevant both to artefacts and to an understanding of landscape evolution.

## **2.3 Aims and objectives**

During recent investigations on the site, seven test-pits were excavated for geoarchaeological purposes. The main aims of the investigation were to: (1) observe and record the sediments excavated; (2) interpret the sub-surface stratigraphy across the site and (3) highlight sediments of potential Geoarchaeological, Pleistocene or Palaeolithic significance.



**Figure 1: Location of the geoaerchaeological test-pits at Walnut Tree Farm (modified from SWAT Archaeology).**

### 3. METHODS

Seven test-pits were cut within the archaeological trenches to depths of up to 1.5m. The deposits in the pits were recorded and photographed. Changes in the sediment type were noted as the machine cut the pit. No samples were sieved due to the clayey nature of the sequence, but gravel material excavated from the pits was inspected for lithic artefacts.

## 4. RESULTS AND INTERPRETATION OF THE GEOARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATIONS

The results of the fieldwork are displayed in Tables 1-7 and Figures 2 to 8. All the trial pits showed a common stratigraphy of:

1. Top soil
2. Head
3. Gravelly Clay Head
4. London Clay

The lowermost unit recorded consisted of very stiff brown clay, interpreted as bedrock London Clay. The material was barren of inclusions with the exception of a white friable sand like material, most likely representing 'race' an occasional component of the London Clay.

Diffusely overlying the London Clay in three of the seven test pits was a thin but definable layer of stiff clay with sub-rounded to sub-angular flint gravel and is referred to here as Gravelly Head. The Gravel component of this layer most likely derives from vertical or lateral migration of the 4<sup>th</sup> terrace Clinch Street Gravel which is mapped by the BGS to the east and south of the site. The stiff clay component also most likely derives from reworking of the London Clay. It was not possible to sieve this material, but close inspection did not reveal any Palaeolithic artefacts.

The deposits beneath the top-soil are dominated by stiff clay with traces of rooting, gravel, iron and manganese staining, and is present across the site. These are interpreted as head deposits, but in places are clearly disturbed by soil-forming processes and anthropogenic activity (e.g. ploughing). Similarly to the lower Gravelly Head deposits, much of the stiff clay material most likely derives from reworking of the London Clay bedrock.

## 5. RECOMMENDATIONS

On the basis of the geoarchaeological investigations presented here, the potential for palaeoenvironmental or Palaeolithic remains is considered negligible and no further work is recommended.

## 6. REFERENCES

Bridgland, D.R. (1983) The Quaternary fluvial deposits of north Kent and eastern Essex. *Unpublished PhD thesis*, City of London Polytechnic.

Bridgland, D.R. & Harding, P. (1984) Palaeolithic artefacts from the gravels of the Hoo peninsula. *Archaeologia Cantiana*, **101**, 41-55.

**Table 1: Lithostratigraphic description of TP1 (Trench 25), Walnut Tree Farm, High Halstow**

Depth (m bgl)	Depth (m OD)	Description	Interpretation
0 to 0.25	48.75 to 48.50	10YR 4/1; As3, Ag1; Dark grey silty clay with traces of roots and fine gravel; diffuse contact into:	TOP-SOIL
0.25 to 0.75	48.50 to 48.00	10YR 3/3; As3, Ag1; Brown stiff and blocky silty clay with traces of gravel, rooting and iron staining; diffuse contact into:	HEAD
0.75 to 0.90	48.00 to 47.85	10YR 3/3; As3, Gg1; Brown stiff gravelly clay; gravel up to 10cm in diameter and sub-rounded to sub-angular; diffuse contact into:	GRAVELLY HEAD
0.90 to 1.35	47.85 to 47.40	10YR 3/3; As4; brown, very stiff clay.	LONDON CLAY

**Table 2: Lithostratigraphic description of TP2 (Trench 14), Walnut Tree Farm, High Halstow**

Depth (m bgl)	Depth (m OD)	Description	Interpretation
0 to 0.20	48.10 to 47.90	10YR 4/1; As3, Ag1; Dark grey silty clay with traces of roots and fine gravel; diffuse contact into:	TOP-SOIL
0.20 to 0.90	47.90 to 47.20	10YR 3/3; As3, Ag1; Brown stiff and blocky silty clay with traces of gravel, iron staining and manganese; diffuse contact into:	HEAD
0.90 to 1.10	47.20 to 47.00	10YR 3/3; As4; brown, very stiff clay with friable white concretions of a sand like material (race).	LONDON CLAY

**Table 3: Lithostratigraphic description of TP3 (Trench 23), Walnut Tree Farm, High Halstow**

Depth (m bgl)	Depth (m OD)	Description	Interpretation
0 to 0.25	49.50 to 49.25	10YR 4/1; As3, Ag1; Dark grey silty clay with traces of roots and fine gravel; sharp contact into:	TOP-SOIL
0.25 to 0.55	49.25 to 48.95	10YR 3/3; As3, Ag1; Brown stiff silty clay with roots and sporadic traces of fine gravel; diffuse into:	HEAD
0.55 to 1.25	48.95 to 48.25	10YR 3/3; As4; brown, very stiff clay with friable white concretions of a sand like material (race).	LONDON CLAY

**Table 4: Lithostratigraphic description of TP4 (Trench 12), Walnut Tree Farm, High Halstow**

Depth (m bgl)	Depth (m OD)	Description	Interpretation
0 to 0.25	48.24 to 47.99	10YR 4/1; As3, Ag1; Dark grey silty clay with traces of roots and fine gravel; diffuse contact into:	TOP-SOIL
0.25 to 0.55	47.99 to 47.69	10YR 3/3; As3, Ag1; Brown stiff and blocky silty clay with traces of gravel, rooting and iron staining; diffuse contact into:	HEAD
0.55 to 0.75	47.69 to 47.49	10YR 3/3; As3, Gg1; Brown stiff gravelly clay; gravel up to 10cm in diameter and sub-rounded to sub-angular; diffuse contact into:	GRAVELLY HEAD
0.75 to 1.30	47.49 to 46.94	10YR 3/3; As4; brown, very stiff clay with friable white concretions of a sand like material (race).	LONDON CLAY

**Table 5: Lithostratigraphic description of TP5 (Trench 10), Walnut Tree Farm, High Halstow**

Depth (m bgl)	Depth (m OD)	Description	Interpretation
0 to 0.35	47.89 to 47.54	10YR 4/1; As2, Ag2; Dark grey organic-rich silty clay with a large number of roots	TOP SOIL
0.35 to 0.85	47.54 to 47.04	10YR 3/3; As3, Ag1; Brown stiff and blocky silty clay with traces of gravel, rooting and iron and manganese staining; Land drain at 0.65-0.75m; roots stop beyond 0.65m; diffuse contact into:	(DISTURBED) HEAD
0.85 to 1.10	47.04 to 46.79	10YR 3/3; As3, Gg1; Brown stiff gravelly clay; gravel up to 10cm in diameter and sub-rounded to sub-angular; diffuse contact into:	GRAVELLY HEAD
1.10 to 1.40	46.79 to 46.49	10YR 3/3; As4; brown, very stiff clay with friable white concretions of a sand like material (race).	LONDON CLAY

**Table 6: Lithostratigraphic description of TP6 (Trench 7), Walnut Tree Farm, High Halstow**

Depth (m bgl)	Depth (m OD)	Description	Interpretation
0 to 0.35	47.80 to 47.45	10YR 4/1; As3, Ag1; Dark grey silty clay with traces of roots and fine gravel; diffuse contact into:	TOP-SOIL
0.35 to 0.70	47.45 to 47.10	10YR 3/3; As3, Ag1; Brown stiff and blocky silty clay, rooting and manganese staining; diffuse contact into:	HEAD
0.70 to 1.40	47.10 to 46.40	10YR 3/3; As4; brown, very stiff clay with friable white concretions of a sand like material (race).	LONDON CLAY

**Table 7: Lithostratigraphic description of TP7 (Trench 3), Walnut Tree Farm, High Halstow**

Depth (m bgl)	Depth (m OD)	Description	Interpretation
0 to 0.20	47.40 to 47.20	10YR 4/1; As3, Ag1; Dark grey silty clay with traces of roots and fine gravel; diffuse contact into:	TOP-SOIL
0.20 to 0.90	47.20 to 46.50	10YR 5/2; As3, Ag1, Greyish brown stiff and blocky silty clay with some iron staining; diffuse contact into:	HEAD
0.90 to 1.20	46.50 to 46.20	10YR 3/3; As4; brown, very stiff clay with friable white concretions of a sand like material (race).	LONDON CLAY



Figure 2: Photograph of TP1 (Trench 25), Walnut Tree Farm, High Halstow





Figure 3: Photograph of TP2 (Trench 14), Walnut Tree Farm, High Halstow



Figure 4: Photograph of TP3 (Trench 23), Walnut Tree Farm, High Halstow



Figure 5: Photograph of TP4 (Trench 12), Walnut Tree Farm, High Halstow



Figure 6: Photograph of TP5 (Trench 10), Walnut Tree Farm, High Halstow

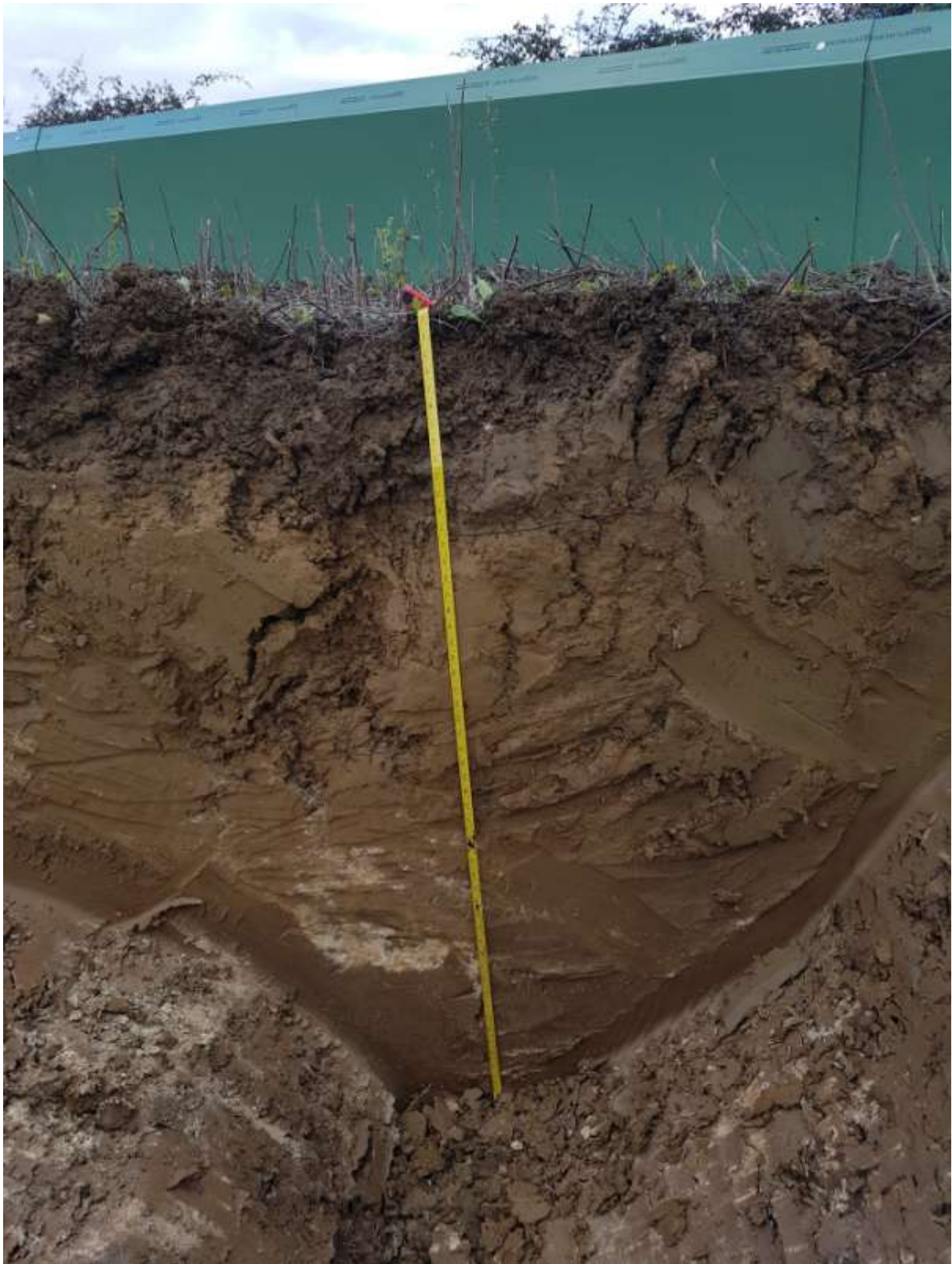


Figure 7: Photograph of TP6 (Trench 7), Walnut Tree Farm, High Halstow



Figure 8: Photograph of TP7 (Trench 3), Walnut Tree Farm, High Halstow