

Archaeological Investigation and Assessment of Land at the former Red Lion, 259 High Street, St Mary Cray, Orpington, Kent

Site Code: Lion -EV-19

NGR Site Centre 547180 167409

Planning Application Number: DC/16/03718/FULL1

Museum Accession Code: SYR 19



SWAT ARCHAEOLOGY

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Summary

Swale & Thames Survey Company (SWAT Archaeology) was commissioned to undertake an archaeological evaluation on land at 259 High Street, St Mary Cray in Kent. The archaeological works were monitored by Mark Stevenson HE GLAAS Archaeological Advisor.

The fieldwork was carried out in March 2019 in accordance with an archaeological specification (SWAT Archaeology 2019) submitted to the Local Planning Authority prior to commencement of works.

The Archaeological Evaluation consisted of two trenches, which encountered a relatively common stratigraphic sequence comprising topsoil mixed with demolition rubble with overlying natural geology.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project Background

1.1.1 Swale & Thames Survey Company (SWAT Archaeology) was commissioned to undertake an archaeological evaluation on land at 259 High Street, St Mary Cray, in Kent (**Figure 1**). The land has planning permission (DC/16/03718/FULL1) for the build of 2-bedroom mews cottages, provision of hard standing and soft landscaping.

1.1.2 In mitigation of the potential impact that the development may have on the buried archaeological resource Mark Stevenson HE GLAAS who provides an advisory service to the London Borough of Bromley requested that the programme of archaeological works be undertaken comprising an archaeological evaluation.

1.1.3 The archaeological evaluation was carried out in March 2019 in accordance with an archaeological specification prepared by SWAT Archaeology (2019), prior to commencement of works, and in discussion with Mark Stevenson Archaeological Officer HE GLAAS.

1.1 4 Site Description and Topography

The site is situated in the South East of England, in the Borough of Bromley, the Orpington Urban District and the former ancient parish of St Mary Cray. It lies within an Archaeological Priority Area, in the Cray Valley, east of the River Cray, in an area of urban development. The plot forms approximately 650sqm and is the site of the Red Lion Public House and grounds. It is bounded to the north by St Mary Cray Primary School, to the south and east by Red Lion Close residential development and The Croft Tearoom and to the west by the High Street (Fig.1).

The NGR to the centre of the site is NGR 547180 167409 (Figure 1).

The Geological Survey of Great Britain (1:50,000) shows that the PDA is situated upon Bedrock geology of Seaford Chalk Formation and Newhaven Chalk Formation. This sedimentary bedrock was formed approximately 71 to 89 million years ago in the Cretaceous Period when the local environment was previously dominated by warm chalk shallow seas. There are also potential areas of Taplow Gravel- Sand and Gravel.

1.2 Introduction

1.2.1 Further details of previous discoveries and investigations within the immediate and wider area may be found in the Historic England Historic Environment Record and have been summarised in the Archaeological Desk Based Assessment produced by SWAT Archaeology (04/12/2016).

2 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

2.1 Specific Aims (SWAT 2019)

2.1.1 The specific aims of the archaeological fieldwork are set out in the Specification (SWAT 2019) were to:

2.1.2 *'The primary objective of the archaeological evaluation is to establish the presence or absence of any elements of the archaeological resource across the area of the proposed development site.*

2.1.3 *To 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.*

2.1.4 *To determine the state of preservation and importance of the archaeological resource if present.*

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

(SWAT Archaeology 2019: 3)

2.2 General Aims

2.2.1 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.

3 METHODOLOGY

3.1 Introduction

3.1.1 All fieldwork was conducted in accordance with the methodology set out in the Specification (SWAT 2019) and carried out in compliance with the standards outlined in the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' Standards Guidance for Archaeological Evaluations (CIfA 2017).

3.2 Fieldwork

- 3.2.1 A total of two evaluation trenches were excavated across the Site (Figures 2, 3, 4).
- 3.2.2 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.
- 3.2.3 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 GLAAS and ClfA 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.

3.3 Recording

- 3.3.1 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. These are retained in the site project archive.
- 3.3.2 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 site project archive.
- 3.3.3 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+ etc.).

4 RESULTS

4.1 Introduction

- 4.1.1 A total of two evaluation trenches were mechanically excavated under archaeological supervision.

4.2 Stratigraphic Deposit Sequence

4.2.1 A relatively consistent stratigraphic sequence was recorded across the majority of the Site comprising a mix of topsoil comprising a black clayey silt sealing a natural geology of flinty coarse rounded gravel with a matrix of yellow sandy silt.

4.2.2 Appendix 1 provides the stratigraphic sequence for all trenches. Figures 1-4 provide a site plan and trench location plan while Plates 1-7 include selected site photographs.

4.3 Overview

4.3.1 The two trenches were located across the site to ensure full coverage of potential archaeological remains.

5 FINDS

Four sherds of mid-late 19th century pottery were retrieved from context (204) and comprise small and battered fragments of Later Staffordshire blue colour-bodied earthenware, which has a production start-date no earlier than c.1875 or 1900 AD, whilst (204) also produced a large fresh complete-profile of a redware flower-pot made by Sankey and Son of Bulwell, Nottinghamshire. The commencement-date for this firm's activity is c.1855 AD onwards and, in this example, neither the fabric type nor name-stamp font style do not look Modern, ie c.1900 AD-plus – so that this element is almost certainly an earlier nineteenth century product.

6 Discussion

6.1 Archaeological Narrative

6.1.1 Archaeological features recorded include a pit [203] dated by pottery to c.1900 AD and a post-1807 AD well [105] plus modern service and drainage trenches.

6.2 Conclusions

6.2.1 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.

6.2.2 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.

7 ARCHIVE

7.1 General

- 7.1.1 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).
- 7.1.2 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

8 ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

- 8.1.1 SWAT would like to thank the developer for commissioning the project. Thanks are also extended to Mark Stevenson GLAAS Archaeological Officer for his advice and assistance.
- 8.1.2 Paul Wilkinson MCIfA and Bartek Cichy supervised the archaeological evaluation and illustrations were produced by Bartek Cichy. Paul Wilkinson MCIfA produced the text for this report.

9 REFERENCES

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

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

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

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

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

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

Appendix 1: Trench Tables

Trench 1			
Context number	Type	Description	Dimensions
(101)	Top soil	Black clayey silt with freq. round flint – truncated by modern demolition cuts	
(102)	Natural	Flint coarse rounded gravel with yellow sandy silt	
[103]	Cut of modern trench	NE corner exposed of a rectangular trench with vertical sides	
(104)	Fill of [103]	Black clayey silt with hardcore, gravel and glass	
[105]	Post 1807 Brick Well	Half brick thick wall in vertical shaft dated by brick style	
(106)	Backfill of [105]	Medium compaction black clayey silt with freq gravel, bricks, slate	
[107]	Cut of modern trench	NE corner exposed of a rectangular trench with vertical sides	
(108)	Fill of modern trench	Black clayey silt with hardcore, gravel and glass	
[109]	Modern service trench	NE-SW aligned trench	
(110)	Backfill of [109]	Re deposited (102) with occ. hardcore and vertical open plastic elastic pipe	

Trench 2			
Context number	Type	Description	Dimensions
(201)	Top soil	Black clayey silt	
(202)	Natural	Flint coarse rounded gravel with yellow sandy silt	
[203]	Cut of pit	Steep sides, slightly concave base	
(204)	Secondary fill of [203]	Soft compaction, black humic clayey silt with occ. 20 th pottery, rounded flint and frequent small/medium roots	
[205]	Victorian drain trench	Edge exposed at N end of evaluation trench. Brown ceramic pipe exposed to the west	

Site			
Context number	Type	Description	Dimensions
(01)	Modern top soil/ elsewhere demolition layer	Garden soil - Black clayey silt, freq hardcore Layer removed (average 0.6m) across the eastern part of the site was forming sloping ground descending to the west and north	
(02)	Natural	Flint coarse rounded gravel with yellow sandy	

		silt	
(03)	Victorian layer	Black clayey silt with freq flint round gravel. Frequently truncated by modern demolition	
(04)	Boundary wall	Present brick boundary wall	
(05)	Brick wall	SW corner of a demolished modern building	
(06)	Victorian drain	Top of brown ceramic pipe, roughly –W aligned	

OASIS Summary Form

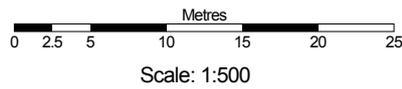
PROJECT DETAILS	
Project Name	259 High Street, St Mary Cray, Orpington, Kent
Short Description of the project	An archaeological evaluation comprising two evaluation trenches was carried out at the above site. No important archaeological features were present.
Project Dates	March 2019
Previous/future work	No
Any associated project reference codes	LION-EV-19 (SWAT Site Code) P SYR 19 (Museum Site Code)
Type of Project	Archaeological Evaluation
Site status	None
Current Land Use	Commercial/Residential
Monument Type	n/a
Significant Finds	None
Investigation Type	Archaeological Evaluation
Prompt	Direction from Local Planning Authority

PROJECT LOCATION	
Country	England
Site location	St Mary Cray in the London Borough of Bromley
Postcode	BR5 4AR
Study area	650 Square metres
Site coordinates	NGR 537753 173236
Height OD	Min: 52.05maOD Max 52.23maOD

PROJECT BIBLIOGRAPHY 1	
Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Archaeological Investigation at The former Red Lion, 259 High Street, St Mary Cray, Orpington
Author (s)/Editor(s)	Wilkinson, P
Other bibliographic details	No

Date	1 st April 2019
Issuer or publisher	SWAT Archaeology
Place of issue or publication	Faversham, Kent
Description	Post Excavation Report
Entered by	Dr Paul Wilkinson (info@swatarchaeology.co.uk)
Entered on	1 st April 2019

Figure 1
Location of Site
(red line)



Supplied by: National Map Centre
License number: 100031961
Produced: 01/04/2019
Serial number: 2099238

Plot centre co-ordinates: 547184,167420
Download file: swat_redlion.zip
Project name: swat_redlion

GROUND FLOOR PLAN - SITE PLAN

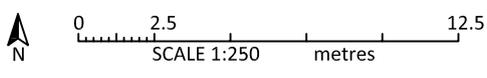
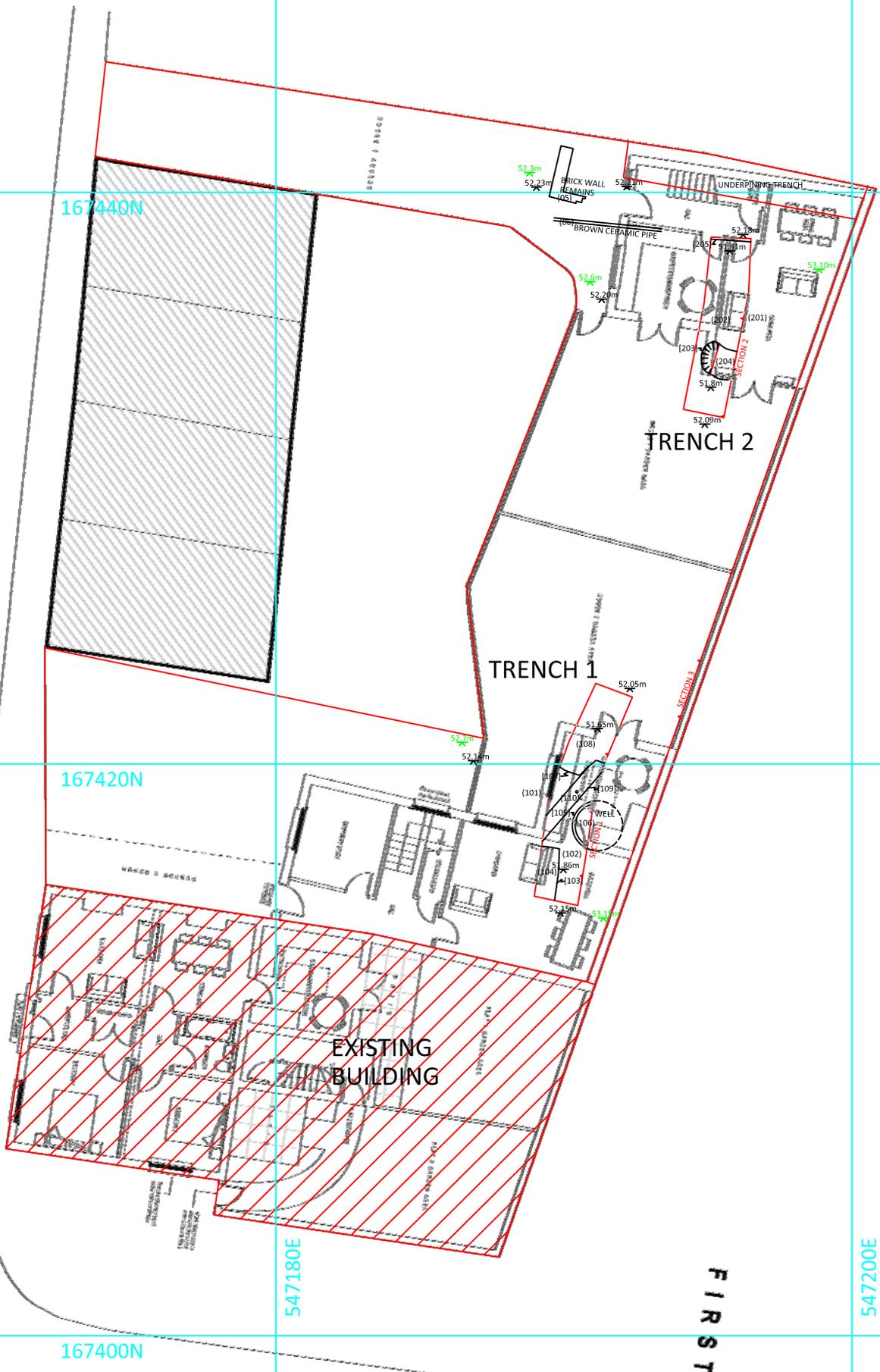


Figure 3: Trench location in relation to development, scale 1:250

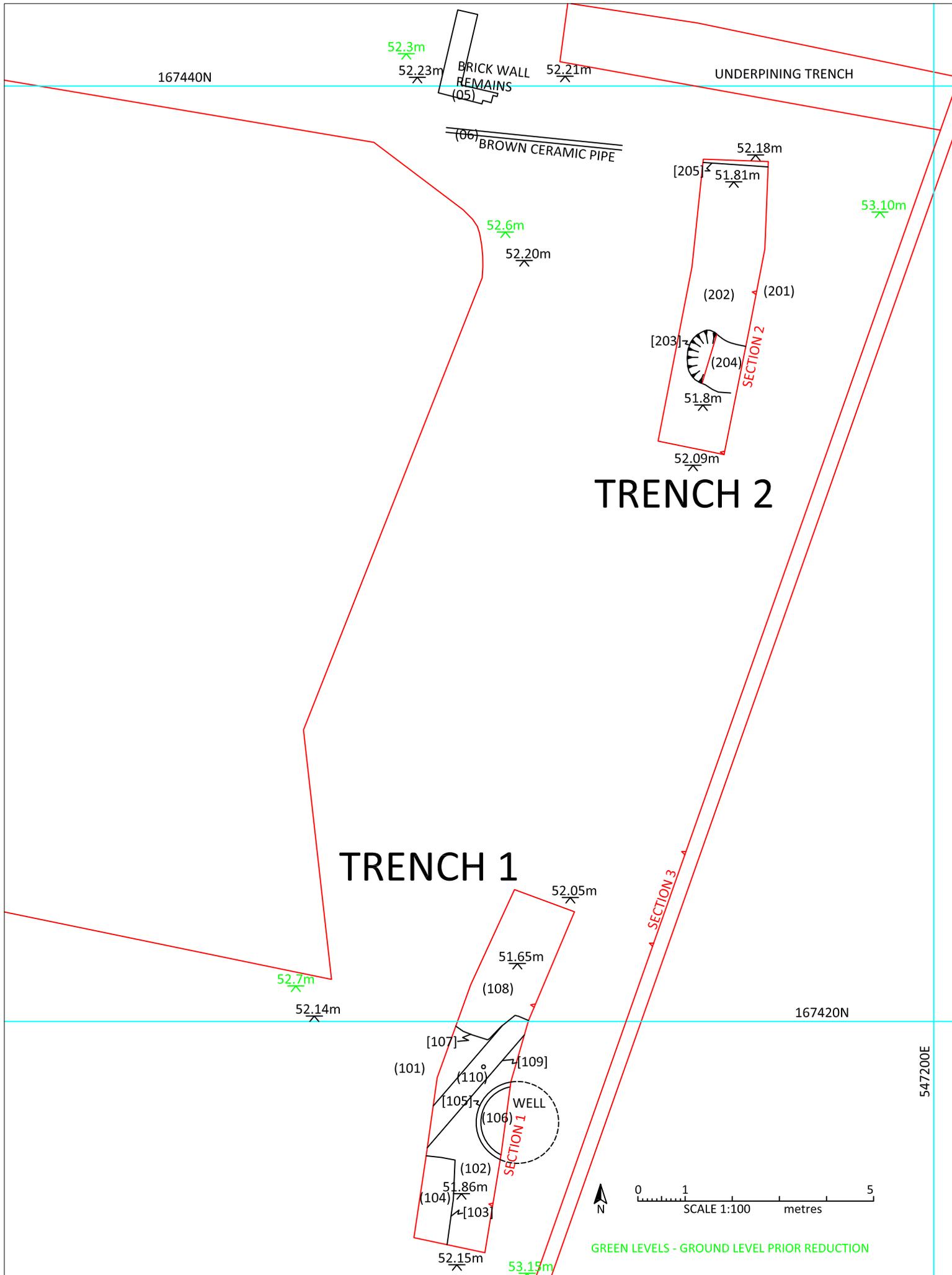
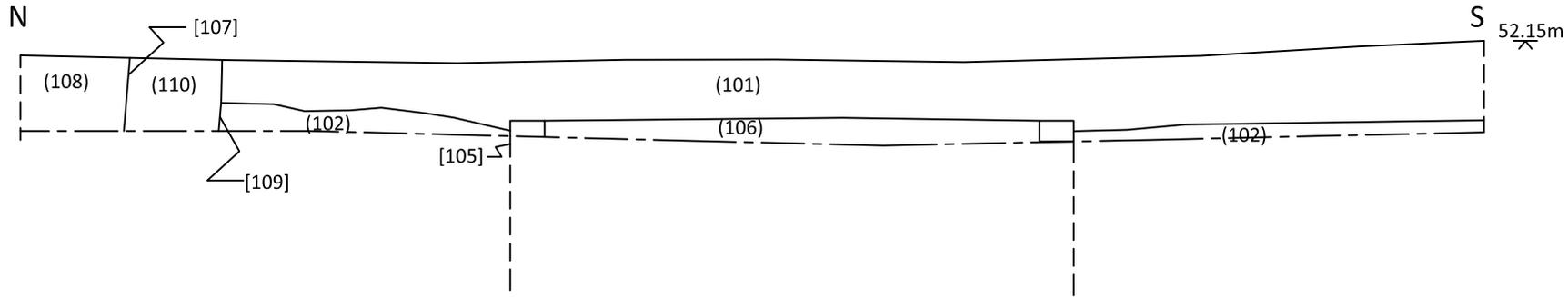
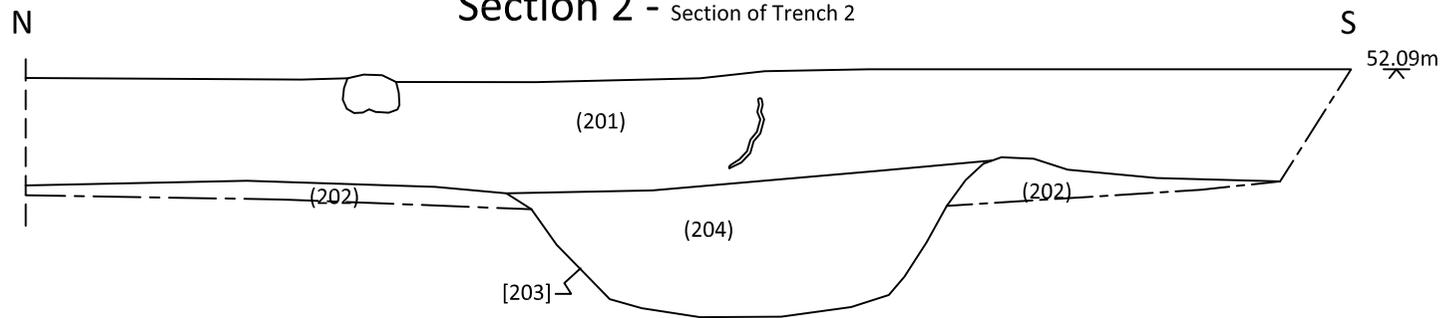


Figure 2: Trench location, scale 1:100

Section 1 - Section of Trench 1



Section 2 - Section of Trench 2



Section 3 - Section of East Site Boundary

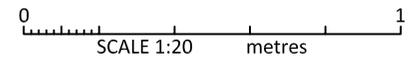
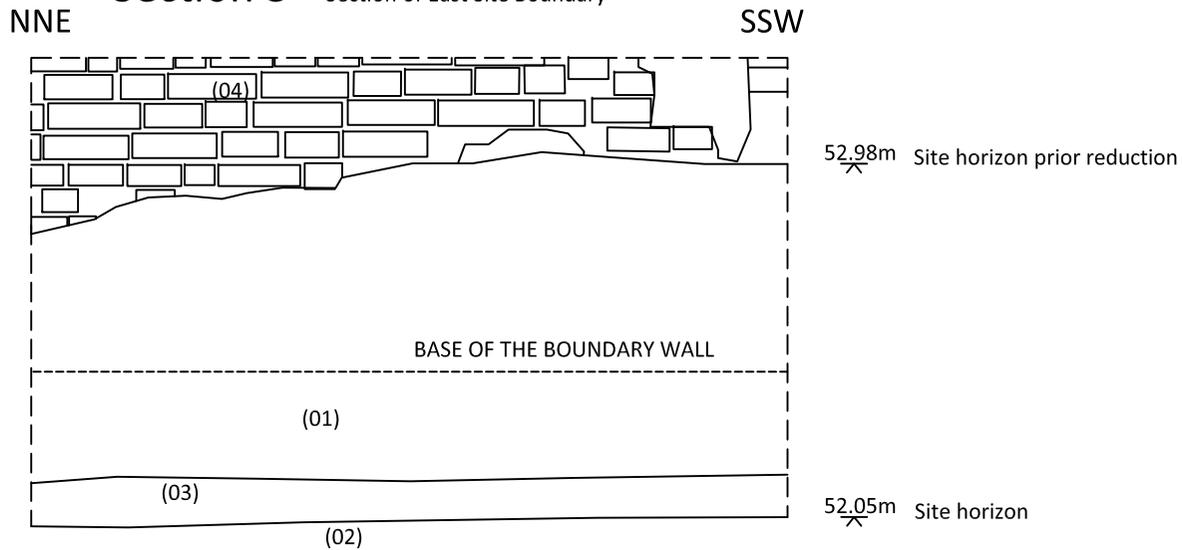


Figure 3: Sections, scale 1:100

Plates



Plate 1: Looking east at the south side of the site. Paint on the wall to the right indicate location of recently demolished building



Plate 2: Looking south at the site from north end



Plate 3: Looking north at Trench 1



Plate 4: Looking east at the Well [105] exposed in Trench 1



Plate 5: Looking south at Trench 2



Plate 6: Looking east at section of pit [203] exposed in Trench 2



Plate 7: Looking NE at eastern site boundary