

Archaeological Evaluation of Land at 23 Tufton Street, Ashford, Kent

Site Code: TUFT-EV-19

NGR Site Centre 600855 142723

Planning Application Number: 17/01581/AS



SWAT ARCHAEOLOGY

Swale and Thames Archaeological Survey Company

The Office, School Farm Oast, Graveney Road

Faversham, Kent ME13 8UP

Tel; 01795 532548 or 07885 700 112

info@swatarchaeology.co.uk www.swatarchaeology.co.uk

© SWAT Archaeology 2020 all rights reserved

Contents

1	INTRODUCTION.....	4
1.1	Project Background.....	4
2	ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND.....	5
2.1	Introduction.....	5
3	AIMS AND OBJECTIVES	5
3.1	Specific Aims (SWAT 2019).....	5
3.2	General Aims.....	6
4	METHODOLOGY	6
4.1	Introduction.....	6
4.2	Fieldwork.....	6
4.3	Recording	7
5	RESULTS	7
5.1	Introduction.....	7
5.2	Stratigraphic Deposit Sequence.....	7
5.3	Overview	7
6	FINDS.....	7
7	DISCUSSION.....	8
7.1	Archaeological Narrative	8
7.2	Conclusions.....	8
8	ARCHIVE.....	8
8.1	General	8
9	ACKNOWLEDGMENTS.....	8
10	REFERENCES	8

Figures

Figure 1	Site location map
Figure 2	Trench location
Figures 3-4	Plan and sections
Plates 1- 11	Trenches and sections

Summary

Swale & Thames Survey Company (SWAT Archaeology) was commissioned to undertake an archaeological evaluation on land at 23 Tufton Street, Ashford in Kent. The archaeological works were monitored by the Kent County Council Senior Archaeological Officer.

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

The Archaeological Evaluation consisted of five trenches, which encountered a relatively common stratigraphic sequence comprising topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology with some features of low archaeological potential.

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 23 Tufton Street, Ashford in Kent (Figure 1). The evaluation was carried out prior to the determination of application of (17/01581/AS) to inform decision taking.

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 Ashford Borough Council, requested that a programme of archaeological works comprising an archaeological evaluation be undertaken prior to the determination of application (17/01581/AS) to inform decision taking.

1.1.3 The archaeological evaluation was carried out in November 2019 in accordance with an archaeological specification prepared by SWAT Archaeology (August 2019), prior to commencement of works, and in discussion with Wendy Rogers, Senior Archaeological Officer at KCCHC.

1.1 4 Site Description and Topography

The application site comprises of a single-storey 6 bay brick building of 19th century date is located at number 23 Tufton Street. This has been identified as a possible former industrial workshop with broad shallow arched windows on the alleyway side (west). The street front has a replacement facade and is now a church meeting hall. Tufton Street is one of the two principal roads that define the Ashford town centre (Figure 1) in the heart of its conservation area. The site is adjacent to listed buildings in Tufton Street and Church Yard Passage and is within the wider setting of St Mary's Church, a grade I listed monument, and the medieval street pattern centred on the High Street.

The NGR to the center of the site is NGR 600855 142723 (Figure 1).

The Geological Survey of Great Britain (1:50,000) shows that the PDA is set on bedrock geology of Sandgate Formation- Sandstone, Siltstone and Mudstone. Superficial deposits are recorded of River terrace Deposits – Sand and Gravel. The PDA is set at an average height of 55.00m AOD.

2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 Introduction

Details of previous discoveries and investigations within the immediate and wider area may be found in the Kent County Council Historic Environment Record and have been summarised in the Specification produced by SWAT Archaeology (August 2019).

The location is not known for its archaeological remains but the site is thought that a possible former workshop was located here (TR 04 SW 94). The HER entry reads:

HER Number: TR 04 SW 94

Type of Record; Monument

Name; Possible former workshop, 23 Tufton Street, Ashford

Summary

A single-storey 6 bay brick building of 19th century date is located at number 23 Tufton Street. This has been identified as a possible former industrial workshop with broad shallow arched windows on the alleyway side (west). The street front has a replacement facade and is now a church meeting hall. There is no trace of this marked on the Ordnance Survey 1st edition map of c.1861. In 2015 the building and setting were reassessed as part of an application to demolish the existing buildings and redevelop the site which has been empty since 2013 and has fallen into disrepair.

Monument Types

WORKSHOP (Post Medieval- 1540AD to 1900AD)

MEETING HALL (Religious Meeting Place-1901 to 2050AD)

To the south of the site post-medieval walls have been identified at 9-11 Tufton Street (TR 04 SW 116).

To the east of the site a probable workshop is located to the rear of 13 Tufton Street and just to the NNE is the parish church and churchyard of St Mary the Virgin (TR 04 SW 91).

3 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

3.1 Specific Aims (SWAT 2019)

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

3.1.2 *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. The aims of this investigation are to determine the potential for archaeological activity and in particular the earlier Medieval and Post-Medieval history of the PDA and also any other Prehistoric, Roman and later archaeological activity.*

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 2019 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 2014).

4.2 Fieldwork

4.2.1 A total of 5 evaluation trenches were excavated across the Site (Figures 2, 3).

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

4.2.3 Where appropriate, trenches, or specific areas of trenches, were subsequently hand-cleaned to reveal features in plan and carefully selected cross-sections through the features were excavated to enable sufficient information about form, development date and stratigraphic relationships to be recorded without prejudice to more extensive investigations, should these prove to be necessary. All archaeological work was carried out in accordance with KCC and CifA standards and guidance. A complete photographic record was maintained on site that included working shots; during mechanical excavation, following archaeological investigations and during back filling.

4.3 Recording

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

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 site 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 5 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 of black silty sand with modern inclusion sealing a mid-compaction subsoil of orangey brown coarse sand with flint overlaying the natural orangey brown coarse sand.

5.2.2 Appendix 1 provides the stratigraphic sequence for all trenches. Figures 1-3 provide a site plan and trench location plan while Plates 1-11 include selected site photographs.

5.3 Overview

5.3.1 The 5 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 Trench 1 revealed pits and postholes, some undated and some Post Medieval, along with Modern disturbance. Trench 3 was disturbed by a backfilled Modern trench. Trenches D1 and D2, were created as a result of the demolition of a concrete garage manhole. No archaeology was found in either of these, nor in Trench 2.

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 2014; 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 and will be retained by SWAT Archaeology until a Kent museum archive procedure is in place.

9 ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

9.1.1 SWAT would like to thank the developer for commissioning the project. Thanks are also extended to Wendy Rogers, Senior Archaeological Officer, Kent County Council, for her advice and assistance.

9.1.2 Bartek Cichy supervised the archaeological evaluation and the illustrations were produced by Bartek Cichy. Paul Wilkinson MCIfA produced the text for this report.

10 REFERENCES

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

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

Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, 2014, 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*.

SMA 1993. Selection, Retention and Dispersal of Archaeological Collections, Society of Museum Archaeologists

SMA 1995. Towards an Accessible Archaeological Archive, Society of Museum Archaeologists

SWAT Archaeology. 2019. Specification for an Archaeological Evaluation of land at 23 Tufton Street, Ashford, Kent.

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

Dated 21st February 2020.

Appendix 1: Trench Tables

Trench 1	Dimensions: 14m x 1.6m Depth: 0.55m - 0.9m Trench alignment: NE-SW Ground level at NE end: 55.46m OD Ground level at SW end: 54.96m OD		
Context	Interpretation	Description	Depth (m)
101	topsoil	Mid compaction, black silty sand with occ. modern inclusions (brick, wire, glass and concrete)	0-0.36
101b	Made ground	Mid compaction, dark greyish brown silty sand with freq hardcore and re deposited natural sediments. Context located in NE half of the trench. Overlays (108)	0-0.3
102	Natural with modern disturbance	Mid compaction, mid orangey brown coarse sand with occ. sub round and subangular flint. Concrete drain pipe	0.3-0.5
103	Natural	Mid compaction, light orangey brown coarse sand with occ. round and subangular flint (average: 40mm, max: 50mm)	0.3+
104	Cut of undated post hole	Circular with near vertical sides and blunt pointed base. Posthole was 0.3m deep and 0.25m in diameter.	0.6-0.9m
105	Fill of post hole [104]	Soft compaction, dark brown silty sand with occ. small angular flint.	0.6-0.9m
106	Cut of Post Medieval pit	Incomplete/rectangular in plan with convex steep sides and flat base. Feature was 2m wide, 0.9m deep and excavated section was 1.5m long SE terminus. On SE side truncated by modern man hole 109	0.4-1.3
107	Fill of pit [107]	Soft, dark greyish brown silty sand with occ. sub angular flint, oyster shell, animal bones, peg tile fragments, charcoal flecks and brick. Small fragments randomly distributed within the context	0.4-1.3
108	19 th C. layer – rubbish burnt spread	Mid compaction, dark greyish brown silty sand with freq charcoal flacks, occ. 19 th C. glass, brick, oyster shell fragments. Context located in NE half of the trench. Overlays (107)	0.3-0.4
109	Man hole	Brick garage manhole, brick wide wall. After disuse filled up with cast concrete. Overlaid by 0.6m of made ground 101b	0.6-1.2+
110	Modern brick wall	Brick wall was brick wide and located in NE corner of the site underneath brick floor of former building. Possibly garden wall	0-0.1

Trench 2	Dimensions: 9.3m x 1.6m Depth: 0.5m Trench alignment: NE-SW Ground level at NE end: 54.75m OD Ground level at SW end: 54.7m OD		
Context	Interpretation	Description	Depth (m)
201	topsoil	Mid compaction, black silty sand with occ. modern inclusions (brick, wire, glass and concrete)	0-0.2
202	subsoil	Mid compaction, mid orangey brown coarse sand with occ. sub round and subangular flint. Gradual brake of interface with underlying 403	0.2-0.4
203	Natural	Mid compaction, light orangey brown coarse sand with occ. round and subangular flint (average: 40mm, max: 50mm). Lens of Flint gravel start to occur at depth of 1m	0.4+

Trench 3	Dimensions: 10.7m x 1.6m Depth: 0.5m Trench alignment: NE-SW Ground level at NE end: 54.7m OD Ground level at SW end: 54.56m OD		
Context	Interpretation	Description	Depth (m)
301	topsoil	Mid compaction, black silty sand with occ. modern inclusions (brick, wire, glass and concrete)	0-0.2

302	subsoil	Mid compaction, mid orangey brown coarse sand with occ. sub round and subangular flint. Gradual brake of interface with underlying 403	0.2-0.4
303	Natural	Mid compaction, light orangey brown coarse sand with occ. round and subangular flint (average: 40mm, max: 50mm). Lens of Flint gravel start to occur at depth of 1m	0.4+
304	Modern trench	NW-SE aligned modern trench with vertical sides, backfilled with re deposited natural mixed with dark grey silty sand including occ. fragments of bricks, glass and charcoal flecks	0-0.5+

Trench D1	Dimensions: 9.3m x 2.7m Depth: 1.5m Trench alignment: NE-SW Ground level at NE end: 54.75m OD Ground level at SW end: 54.96m OD Trench created as a result of demolition of concrete garage manhole		
Context	Interpretation	Description	Depth (m)
401	topsoil	Mid compaction, black silty sand with occ. modern inclusions (brick, wire, glass and concrete). Demolition material at the top.	0-0.2
402	Natural with modern disturbance	Mid compaction, mid orangey brown coarse sand with occ. brick, sub round and subangular flint. Gradual brake of interface with underlying 403.	0.2-0.3
403	Natural	Mid compaction, light orangey brown coarse sand with occ. round and subangular flint (average: 40mm, max: 50mm). Lens of Flint gravel start to occur at depth of 1m and sediment is brighter there	0.3+
404	Modern wall - foundation	Brick wall, 0.3m wide in 0.6m wide trench, sealed with 0.1m demolition material	0-0.4
405	Man hole	Garage manhole – reinforced concrete	0-1.5

Trench D2	Dimensions: 4.7-3.6m Depth: 1+m Trench alignment: NW-SE Ground level at NE end: 55.6m OD Trench created as a result of demolition of concrete garage manhole. See context 109. No archaeology exposed in section		
-----------	---	--	--

Kent County Council HER Summary Form

Site Name: Land at 23 Tufton Street, Ashford, Kent

SWAT Site Code: TUFT/EV/19

Site Address: As above

Summary:

Swale and Thames Survey Company (SWAT) carried out Archaeological Evaluation on the development site above. The site has a planning application for housing whereby Ashford Borough Council requested that Archaeological works be undertaken to determine the possible impact of the development on any archaeological remains.

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

District/Unitary: Ashford Borough Council

Period(s):

NGR (centre of site to eight figures) NGR 600855 142723

Type of Archaeological work: Archaeological Evaluation

Date of recording: November 2019

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

Geology: Underlying geology is of bedrock Sandgate Formation- Sandstone, Siltstone and Mudstone. Superficial deposits are recorded of River terrace Deposits – Sand and Gravel.

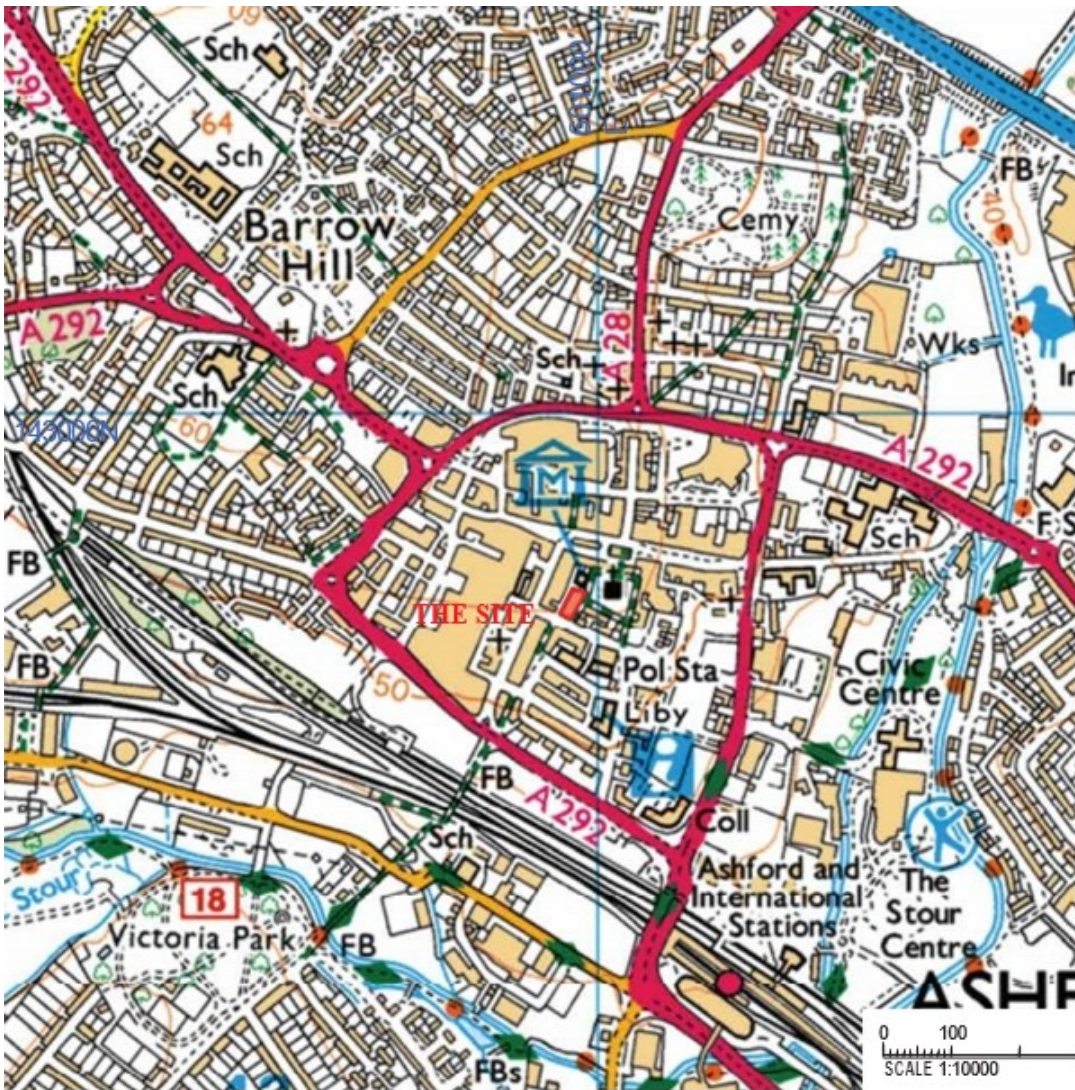
Title and author of accompanying report: Wilkinson P. (2020) Archaeological Evaluation of Land at 23 Tufton Street, Ashford, Kent.

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

No meaningful archaeology found

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

Contact at Unit: Paul Wilkinson



602000
E

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



© Crown copyright and database rights 2019. OS 100031961

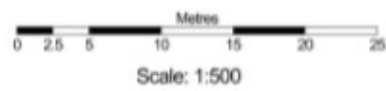
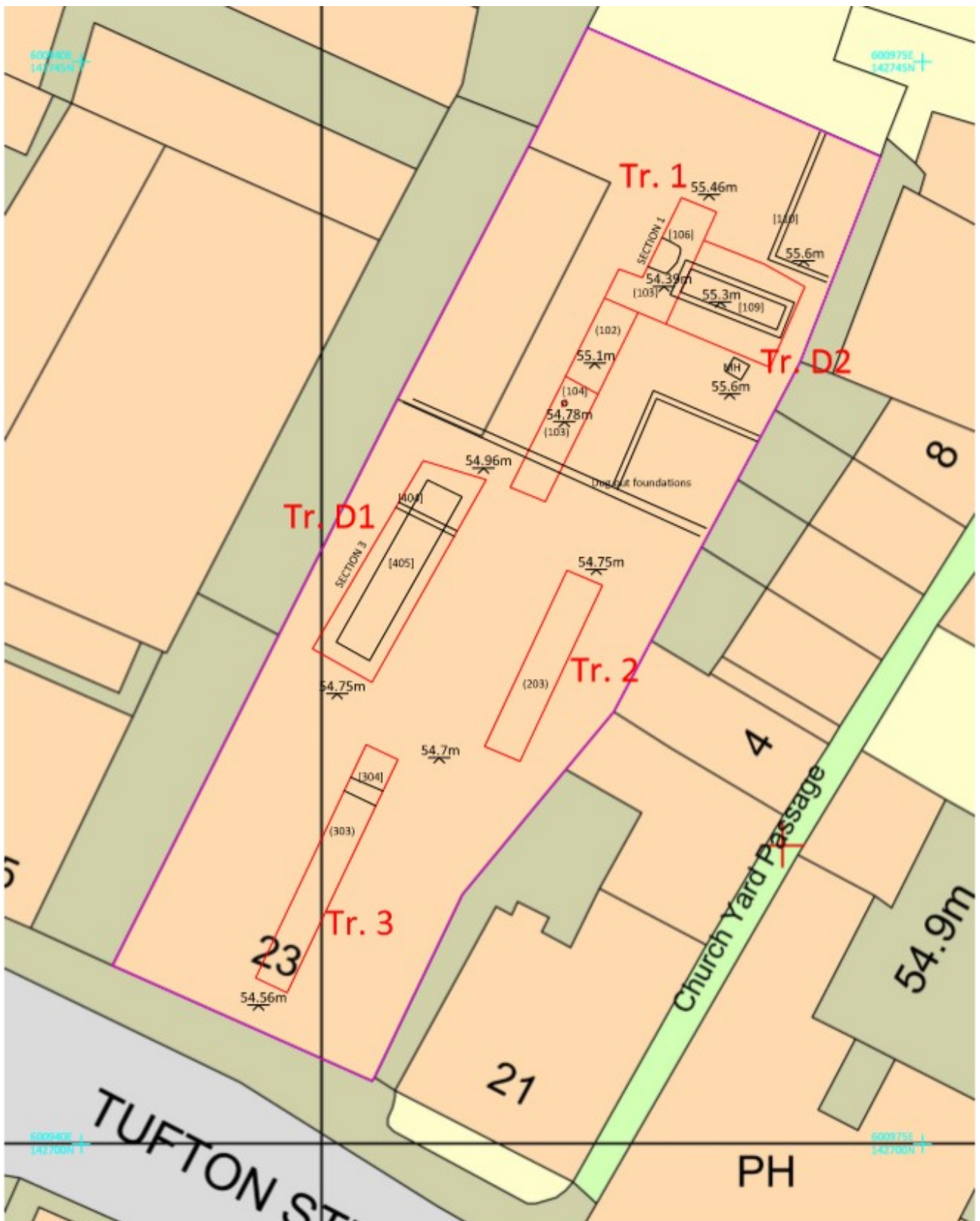


Figure 2: Trench location in relation to OS map

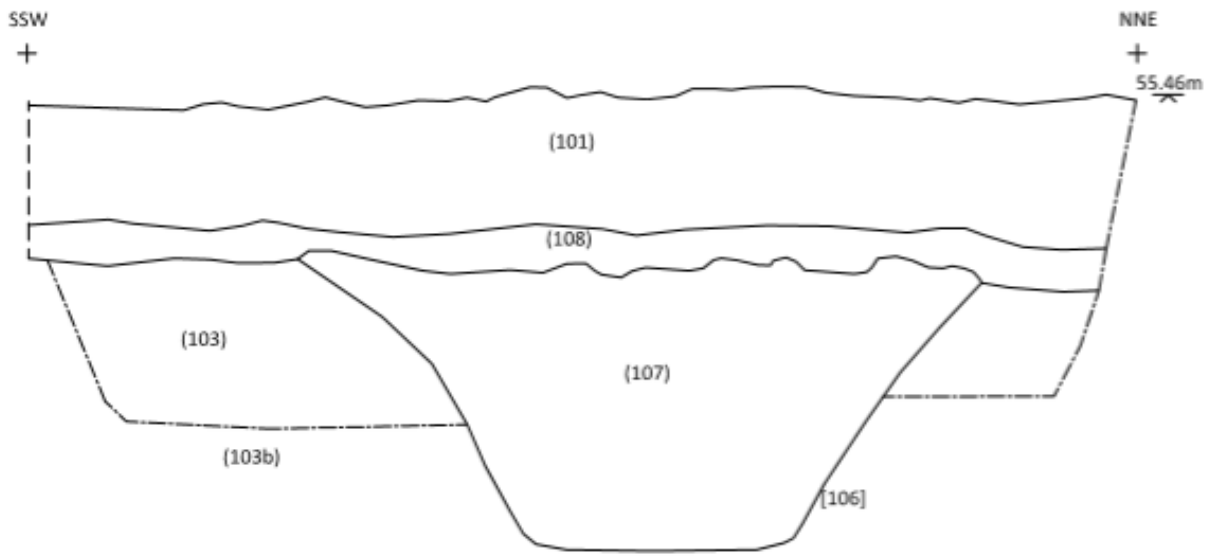


© Crown copyright and database rights 2019. OS 100031961

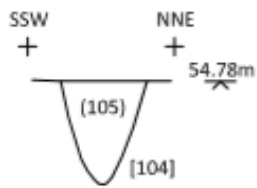


Figure 3: Trench plan

Section 1



Section 2



Section 3

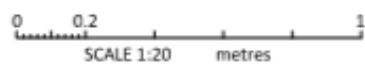
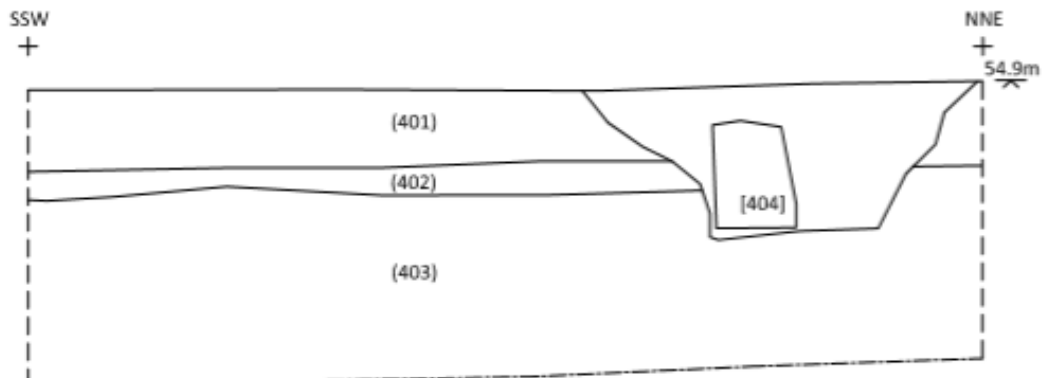


Figure 4: Sections



Plate 1: Looking NNE at the site. Pile of concrete came from demolition of mechanic pit.



Plate 2: Looking NNE at garden wall (110) remains (2 courses)



Plate 3: Looking NW at post medieval (18/19th C) rubbish pit exposed in trench 1. Natural horizon is visible below black layer (108)



Plate 4: Looking SW at trench 1



Plate 5: Undated post hole exposed in trench 1, looking NW, one metre scale.



Plate 6: Trench D1 excavated in order to remove concrete mechanic pit – recorded as trench 2



Plate 7: Looking NW at section of trench D1. Natural horizon was exposed at depth of 0.25m.



Plate 8: Looking SE at brick built mechanic pit (109) exposed in trench D2. Pitt was filled in with cast concrete. Tank is buried under heras fencing panels.



Plate 9: Fragment of brick (concrete) floor exposed in NE corner of the site



Plate 10: Looking south at trench 3



Plate 11: Looking SSW at trench 2