



**ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION
of land on the south side of
Duke Street, Margate, Kent
CT9 1EW**

Report date: 17/04/2021

Site code: **DSM-EV-21**

NGR: 635374 171077

Planning ref.: F/TH/17/1605

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1 INTRODUCTION AND SUMMARY

1.1 Project Background

1.1.1 SWAT Archaeology was commissioned by the Client to carry out an archaeological evaluation in preparations for the development of land on the south side of Duke Street, Margate, Kent, CT9 1EW

1.1.2 Archaeological evaluation commenced on 12th March 2021 and was completed by 13th March 2021. Remote monitoring visit from Senior Archaeological Officer was carried out on 12th March 2021.

1.1.3 Works were carried out within Area of PDA where 2 trenches were dug. Evaluation exposed two walls defining underground cellars of former already demolished buildings. Basements were entirely backfilled by hardcore debris to the depth exceeding 1.6 metre. Natural geology was not exposed in any of evaluation trenches.

1.1.4 No archaeological cuts, structures, deposits or artefacts were found in Trenches 1 and 2.

1.2 Planning background

The proposal is for a housing development with the erection of a four-storey building to facilitate the creation of five residential apartments and one commercial unit on the ground floor (Thanet District Council Planning Ref: F/TH/17/1605).

1.2.1 A Condition The Local Planning Authority, under the Town and Country Planning Acts, granted permission on 21 June 2018 for the development with the following condition:

5. No development shall take place until the applicant, or their agents or successors in title, has secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological work in accordance with a written specification and timetable which has been submitted to and approved by the Local Planning Authority.

Reason: To ensure that features of archaeological interest are properly examined and recorded.

- 1.2.2 On the basis of the present archaeological information, the Senior Archaeological Officer KCC advising Thanet District Council recommended that the proposed development should be subject to a programme of archaeological works in order to clarify the archaeological elements within the site.
- 1.2.3 The methodology of the archaeological evaluation phase of investigation is identified within specification which is based on the KCC site specific specification A and in the KCC Evaluation Manual Part B.
- 1.3 Site description, Geology and Topography
 - 1.3.1 The Margate lies on the north coast of Kent within the Isle of Thanet and is located 7km north-west of Ramsgate and approximately 25km east of Canterbury. The proposed development area (PDA) is situated within the historic core and 'Old Town' district of Margate and in close proximity to Margate harbour.
 - 1.3.2 The PDA forms a rectangular shaped plot located on the south side of Duke Street. The PDA is surrounded by urban development that includes buildings of eighteenth and nineteenth century date with the seafront located just 70m to the west.
 - 1.3.3 The PDA lies within the Margate Conservation Area as designated in 2010.
 - 1.3.4 The underlying bedrock geology of the PDA is shown as Margate Upper Chalk with overlying superficial Tidal Flat Deposits of Clay and Silt.
 - 1.3.5 The site lies on low ground, at approximately 4m Ordnance Datum (OD).

2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The archaeological potential is based on the proximity of archaeological remains presently recorded in the Kent County Council (KCC) Historic Environment Record (KHER). In addition, the CAT Annual Reports on-line and grey literature report lists and reports have been checked. The proposed development lies in an area of high archaeological potential, gauged on the position of the site within the historic core of Margate and the nearby locations of numerous recorded find-spots and archaeological sites in the vicinity.
- 2.2 A search of the KHER covers a radius of approximately 500m around the PDA (centred on NGR 635374 171077). These records have been assessed in terms of their particular relevance to the PDA and only significant evidence is cited in this report.
- 2.3 Although the Isle of Thanet is generally seen as being rich in archaeological remains, there has been little archaeological research done within the central area of Margate. However, several archaeological investigations, observations, find-spots and other discoveries have been found within proximity of the PDA which show that this area has been utilized almost continuously from the Neolithic/Bronze Age periods through to the present day. Prehistoric (c 500,000 BP – AD 43)
- 2.4 The earliest settlement is believed to have been established in the bottom of a valley (Dane Valley) leading towards the harbour in which the Old Town centre is now located. The earliest artefactual evidence for human activity within vicinity of the PDA comes from an evaluation in 2004 on land adjacent to 7 Carroway's Place, located 440m south-east of the PDA, where a ditch was exposed from which worked flints of probable Neolithic or Bronze Age date were recovered. A watching brief in 2005 at the same site found a further two ditches with similar fills to that of the previously identified ditch (KHER: TR37 SE385).
- 2.5 A prehistoric flint waste flake, possibly Bronze Age or earlier, was recovered during archaeological works on land to the rear of 16–18 Dane Hill (KHER: TR37 SE348), located 420m east of the PDA. The flint artefact was found in a later Roman pit/post-hole.⁴
- 2.6 An extensive multi-period site at Fort Hill (KHER: TR37 SE68), located between 200–300m north-east of the PDA, was excavated in 1939 and the during the 1980s. In 1939, during building work at the rear of 18 Trinity Square, Romano-British pottery was found here (see 2.13). During the 1980s further finds of Iron Age and Romano-British pottery were found whilst workmen were clearing the site of the former Cobbs Brewery. A watching brief at Margate police station, located 260m north-east of the PDA, in 1996 revealed pits, ditches

and a small post hole. Pottery evidence, dated to the middle Bronze Age to early Iron Age (c 550–350BC), was found in two pits/ditches, but the post-hole contained a sixteenth- to seventeenth-century pot sherd and tile fragment. The features seem likely to have formed part of a large early to late Iron Age-Romano-British settlement site occupying the hilltop, originally perhaps a promontory fort. An evaluation in 1998 on the site located a post-hole and a pit, both containing early Iron Age pottery. A post-hole, a pit and a ditch or palisade trench were also found but contained no datable material. A later excavation exposed two post-hole groups which probably related to structures on the site. Five deep storage pits were also found along with two shallow flat-bottomed pits, a possible hut floor and a ditch with associated pottery dated to c 550–350BC.

- 2.7 Iron Age remains are also recorded c. 360m to the north-east of the site (KHER TR37 SE50), although no further details are known these are believed to be a continuation of the same settlement detailed above.
- 2.8 Approximately 430m north-east of the PDA, two Iron Age ditches, one aligned south-west to north-east the other north-west to south-east, possibly forming a corner were recorded during salvage excavations at an extension to Trinity Court (50 – 51 Trinity Square) (Gollop 2012, 7). Less than 400m to the north-east of the site, further Iron Age remains were excavated towards the northern end of Trinity Square, by SWAT in 2004. Here a sunken floored building containing two inhumation burials was identified along with storage pits and post-holes suggestive of a timber palisade dated to c 550–300BC (ibid).
- 2.9 Two ditches, or one ditch and one pit, were excavated in 1985–86 at College Square (KHER: TR37 SE53), located 200m south-east of the PDA. A trace of bronze was found in the first ditch, but no further dating evidence was found.
- 2.10 A large quantity of residual Iron Age pottery was found during investigations at 16–18 Dane Hill in the excavated footings of a probable Roman timber post-built structure and in a pit interpreted as late post-medieval or modern in date (KHER: TR37 SE349). The quantity of pottery recovered implies an Iron Age presence on or near the site. An undated feature was also recorded and comprised a very steep-sided pit which contained burnt flint and animal bone (KHER: TR37 SE352).
- 2.11 An archaeological evaluation followed by excavation was undertaken in 2012 at Capital House, Northdown Road, located 450m east-north-east of the PDA. 5 Investigative works revealed a segment of a hillfort or defended settlement of middle to late Iron Age date surrounded by defensive ditches (see Gollop 2012; KHER: TR37 SE375). Within the area of

the site the main focus of Iron age settlement activity was thought to be on the higher ground to the north of the ditches. Although this area had been impacted on by later modern landscaping, which had truncated the upper surface of the underlying chalk natural, such activity was evident through a series of post-holes, pits, ditches (including re-cuts) and gullies, some of which may represent internal divisions or drainage within the enclosure. The enclosure ditch itself comprised at least three phases of activity, the earliest phase being the construction of a defensive ditch with a probable bank along its northern edge; suggesting the main focus of activity would be to higher ground to the north and north-east. To the south of the ditches further Iron Age activity was identified in the southern limits of the site where a substantial sequence of post-holes suggested there were external buildings associated with the postulated hill fort (or that the hill fort expanded down the lower southern slopes, possibly after the defensive ditches had been backfilled). Further features include two large pits both infilled with large amounts of burnt flint, possibly associated with pottery production, and the remnants of a possible ring ditch.

- 2.12 Two inhumation burials were also recorded on the site; although the skeletal preservation was poor they appeared to represent the burial of an infant (aged one month to two years) and an older child (aged five to twelve years). Both graves were small, and it was thought at the time of excavation that they may have been in crouched positions. Although pottery from one of the burials was dated to the contemporary middle to late Iron Age period (c. 400–50BC), they were thought to predate the ditches having been slightly truncated by the later ditch recut. The presence of one further burial was also evident in the form of disarticulated human remains, thought to be from an adult, recovered from the fill of the ditch recut. Romano-British (AD 43 – 450)

- 2.13 The main Romano-British activity recorded within vicinity of the PDA is associated with the potential late Iron Age/early Romano-British settlement site at Fort Hill (KHER: TR37 SE68) (see 2.6, above). Finds of amphorae, coarse and fine ware, fragments of jars and urns, flagons, Samian bowls and patera, all mainly dated to the early part of the second century AD, were found in 1939 at 18 Trinity Square.

- 2.14 Romano-British cremation burials were discovered in 1894 opposite the Britannia public house (KHER: TR37 SE1) where finds included a black cinerary urn, a shallow bowl and the base of a small red vessel. A find-spot of Roman urns, patera and vases were also found in 1900 at Fort Road, c 110m north-east of the PDA (KHER: TR37 SE42) and are believed to be associated with the settlement at Fort Hill.

- 2.15 A number of Roman features and associated artefacts were recorded during archaeological works to the rear of 16–18 Dane Hill (KHER: TR37 SE350).⁶ Key amongst these were a set of features interpreted as a platform and foundations of a timber post-built structure.
- 2.16 Roman remains were found in 1791 whilst workmen were digging the foundations of the Charity School, Margate (KHER: TR37 SE4), since demolished but originally located 400m south of the PDA. Several burials were found in graves cut out of the chalk and associated finds included coins, a sword and a scabbard. A small urn with ashes was reportedly found in 1792 during excavations for a cellar in a neighbouring property, but no calcined bones or other remains were recorded. Anglo-Saxon (c 450 – 1066)
- 2.17 A potential Anglo-Saxon inhumation cemetery is believed to have been present in the area of the Margate Gas Works depot (south of Dane Street) (KHER: TR37 SE35), located c 430m to the south-east of the PDA. Here several skeletons were disturbed during pipe laying in 1840 in Gas/Gorse Alley. They were observed as lying side by side and had spears with them. A further two were found along with an iron knife in the gasworks yard and were thought to be part of the same cemetery. More human remains were found in the gardens in the lower part of Dane Hill, c 380m east of the site; although little details are known they are thought to be Anglo-Saxon in date (KHER: TR37 NE36). Medieval (c 1066 - 1540)
- 2.18 There is little recorded archaeological activity from the medieval period within the immediate vicinity of the PDA. However, two medieval ditch cuts were recorded during an evaluation in 1998 on the extension of the police station site, Fort Hill (KHER: TR37 SE363). One of the ditch cuts produced a sherd of fourteenth to fifteenth century date.
- 2.19 Late medieval/Tudor foundations and a well were discovered in 1984, c 140m north-east of the site, in Cobb Court (KHER: TR37 SE70). A Grade II listed restored sixteenth-century timber-framed building, known as the Tudor House, stands at 45 to 49 King Street, located c 300m east-south-east of the PDA (KHER: TR37 SE40). Post-Medieval (c 1540 - 1900) – Modern (1900 – present)
- 2.20 Again, there is little recorded archaeological activity from the post-medieval period within the site's immediate vicinity, although the PDA is located within the historic core of Margate and is surrounded by numerous listed buildings of mainly eighteenth- and nineteenth-century date, although earlier buildings exist on nearby King Street.
- 2.21 Two truncated features of post-medieval date were identified during the excavation of five test-pits in 2015 on the site of a former shop at the south end of the High Street (KHER: TR37 SE1323), located 430m south of the PDA. The features comprised a chalk block lined

well head and a curvilinear chalk block wall which may have been an infilled cellar or chamber, or possibly another truncated well shaft.

- 2.22 Later activity was identified on the site at Captial House, Northdown Road (Gollop 2012). This included a series of brick walls, floor surfaces and drainage runs associated with the late eighteenth-century Northumberland House. Similarly, late eighteenth- to nineteenth-century brick walls, floor surfaces and brick structures identified at the rear of the site were believed to have originally been associated with the Northumberland Livery Stables. In addition, a large pit infilled with brick rubble, slab stones, redeposited chalk and metal debris was thought to indicate where a late eighteenth-century horizontal mill once stood underneath the northern end of Capital House.
- 2.23 Margate Caves (KHER: TR37 SE389), located 370m east of the PDA, also known as Vortigern's Cavern, are a set of chalk mines probably worked between the late seventeenth and early eighteenth centuries. The caves were found in the gardens of Northumberland House in 1798. The house owner had the caves opened and employed a local artist to create carvings and paint scenes on the walls. The caves have also been used as a wartime air raid shelter.
- 2.24 The site of Fort Paragon (KHER: TR37 SE69) lies 430m north-east of the PDA. Fort Paragon was a Napoleonic fort in existence by 1774. A tunnel was found during archaeological work on land at the rear of at 16–18 Dane Hill and in close proximity to this monument. The tunnel may be connected with the construction of the Napoleonic defences and therefore of nineteenth century date (KHER: TR37 SE351).
- 2.25 Due to the location of the PDA within the Old Town district of Margate, it seems likely that earlier properties may have stood upon this plot. Early Ordnance Survey (OS) maps indicate that the PDA was occupied by some sort of structure from the late nineteenth century through to the middle of the twentieth century, after which the site appears on 1960s aerial photographs as an empty plot of land and has remained so up to the present day.
- 2.26 Full details of previous discoveries and investigations within the immediate and wider area may be found in the County Historic Environment Record held in the Planning Department, Invicta House, County Hall, Maidstone, ME14 1XX. This record should be consulted prior to commencement of the fieldwork so an understanding of the surrounding archaeological resource and the general historical and topographical landscape can be made.

3 METHODOLOGY

3.1 Introduction

- 3.1.1 All fieldwork was conducted in accordance with the methodology set out in the Specification (CAT 2019) and carried out in compliance with the standards outlined in the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' Standards Guidance for Archaeological Evaluations (CIfA 2014).

3.2 Fieldwork

- 3.2.1 A total of 2 evaluation trenches were excavated within the extents of the Site.
- 3.2.2 Each trench was initially scanned by metal detector 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.
- 3.2.4 All archaeological work was carried out in accordance with LPA and CIfA standards and guidance. A complete photographic record was maintained on site that included 6 working shots; during mechanical excavation, following archaeological investigations and during back filling.
- 3.2.5 On completion, the trenches were made safe and left open in order to provide the opportunity for a curatorial monitoring visit. Backfilling was carried out once all recording, survey and monitoring had been completed.

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.

- 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 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 as [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.).

4 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- 4.1 The principle objective of the archaeological evaluation is 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.
- 4.2 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.
- 4.3 To 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.

- 4.4 More specific objectives include (not exclusively) to:
- Understand the nature, character, date and extent of any prehistoric, Roman, medieval, post-medieval or later activity present on site, particularly that which may relate to known prehistoric and Roman features located to the north-east of the PDA;
 - Determine whether any evidence remains of the former building which stood on this plot, as shown on early OS maps from the late nineteenth century.
 - Assess any archaeological remains revealed within the context of other archaeological investigations in the immediate area and within the wider landscape.
- 4.5 The opportunity was also taken during the course of the evaluation to place and assess any archaeology revealed within the context of other recent archaeological investigations in the immediate area and within the setting of the local landscape and topography. In general the work is to ensure compliance with the archaeological requirements from the Senior Archaeologist at Kent County Council that an archaeological evaluation to take place as a post-planning requirement, and to publish the results either on line, or through OASIS and/or in a local journal.

5 RESULTS

5.1 Introduction and Summary Results

- 5.1.1 Archaeological evaluation of land on the south side of Duke Street, Margate, Kent has exposed an underground cellars belonging to nineteenth buildings that are now demolished.
- 5.1.2 Two basement walls were exposed that are matching former buildings imprint evident on OS maps. The entire cellars were backfilled with moderately to loosely compacted hardcore debris derived from demolition of the structures.
- 5.1.3 Evaluation trenches exposed common stratigraphic sequence comprising recent overburden concealing demolition debris. No undelaying natural geology was exposed in any of evaluation trenches. The backfill comprising bricks, mortar and other structural elements was evaluated to the depth of 1.8metre (bgl) and it appears to continue deeper for at least another meter and a half.
- 5.1.4 No archaeological cuts, deposits or artefacts were revealed in trenches 1 and 2 during the course of evaluation.

5.2 Trench Narratives

- 5.2.1 Trench 1 (Figure 3) was placed in northern part of the site in WNW-ESE alignment and measured 1.6metre wide by 7.61 metres in length and 1.79metre in maximum depth. It exposed demolition debris contexts (103 and 104) comprising brick, tile and mortar with other structural elements. Trench has exposed brick-build wall 102 dividing cellar spaces into western and eastern. Wall consisted of standard bricks measuring 215x102x70mm and the wall itself measured 0.22metre in width. No parent material was exposed in this trench. No archaeological deposits or artefacts were revealed here.
- 5.2.2 Trench 2 (Figure 3) was placed in eastern part of the site in SSW-NNE alignment and measured 1.6metre wide by 5.20 metres in length and 1.62metre in maximum depth. It exposed demolition debris context (202) comprising brick, tile and mortar with infrequent ironcast pipes. Trench has exposed a brick-build wall 203 measuring 0.22metre in width and potential demolished stairway. No archaeological cuts, deposits or artefacts were revealed in this trench. No parent material was reached here.

6 CONCLUSIONS

- 6.1 The archaeological evaluation has been successful in fulfilling the primary aims and objectives of the Specification and exposed cellars of nineteenth century buildings backfilled with demolition debris.
- 6.2 Subsequently carried out historic map regression confirmed that recorded structural remains indeed belong to a former structures evident on OS maps.
- 6.3 This evaluation has, therefore, assessed the archaeological potential of land intended for development. The negative results show that the proposed development won't be having any significant impact on buried archaeological resource.
- 6.4 The proposed development is intended to be erected on piled foundation due to fairly loose nature of undelaying deposits and potential to still encounter voids within cellar spaces. The foundation pads in form of square pits are intended to be excavated to the maximum depth of 0.6metre.

7 FINDS

- 7.1 Victorian clay-pipe stems were noted within cellar's backfill although no suitable pieces for dating were found.

8 RECOMMENDATIONS AND FURTHER WORK

- 8.1 There is no requirement for further work.

9 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- 9.1 SWAT Archaeology would like to thank to the client for commissioning the project and thanks are extended to Simon Mason, Senior Archaeological Officer from Kent County Council for his support and assistance during the fieldwork.
- 9.2 On behalf of the client project was directed by Dr Paul Wilkinson, MCIFA and fieldwork was carried out by Peter Cichy who also prepared text and illustrations for this report.

10 ARCHIVE

- 10.1 General

- 10.2 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).
- 10.3 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. The Site Archive will be retained at SWAT Archaeology offices until such time it can be transferred to a Kent Museum.

APPENDIX 1 – HER FORM

Site Name: Archaeological Evaluation of land on the south side of Duke Street, Margate, Kent, CT9 1EW

SWAT Site Code: DSM-EV-21

Site Address: As above

Summary: *Swale & Thames Survey Company (SWAT Archaeology) was commissioned by The Client to undertake an archaeological evaluation of land on the south side of Duke Street, Margate, Kent, CT9 1EW. The archaeological programme was monitored by the Senior Archaeological Officer at Kent County Council. The Archaeological Evaluation consisted of 2 trenches, which recorded a relatively common stratigraphic sequence comprising the most recent overburden concealing nineteenth century cellars backfilled with demolition debris.*

Two brick walls defining underground cellars were exposed during the course of evaluation.

Further mitigation is not required.

District/Unitary: Thanet District Council & Kent County Council

Period(s): Victorian, modern

NGR (centre of site to eight figures) NGR 635374 171077

Type of Archaeological work: Archaeological Evaluation

Date of recording: April 2021

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

Geology: Upper Chalk capped by Head Deposits

Title and author of accompanying report: SWAT Archaeology (P. Cichy 2021) Archaeological Evaluation of land on the south side of Duke Street, Margate, Kent, CT9 1EW.

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

Contact at Unit: Paul Wilkinson

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Figures and Plates

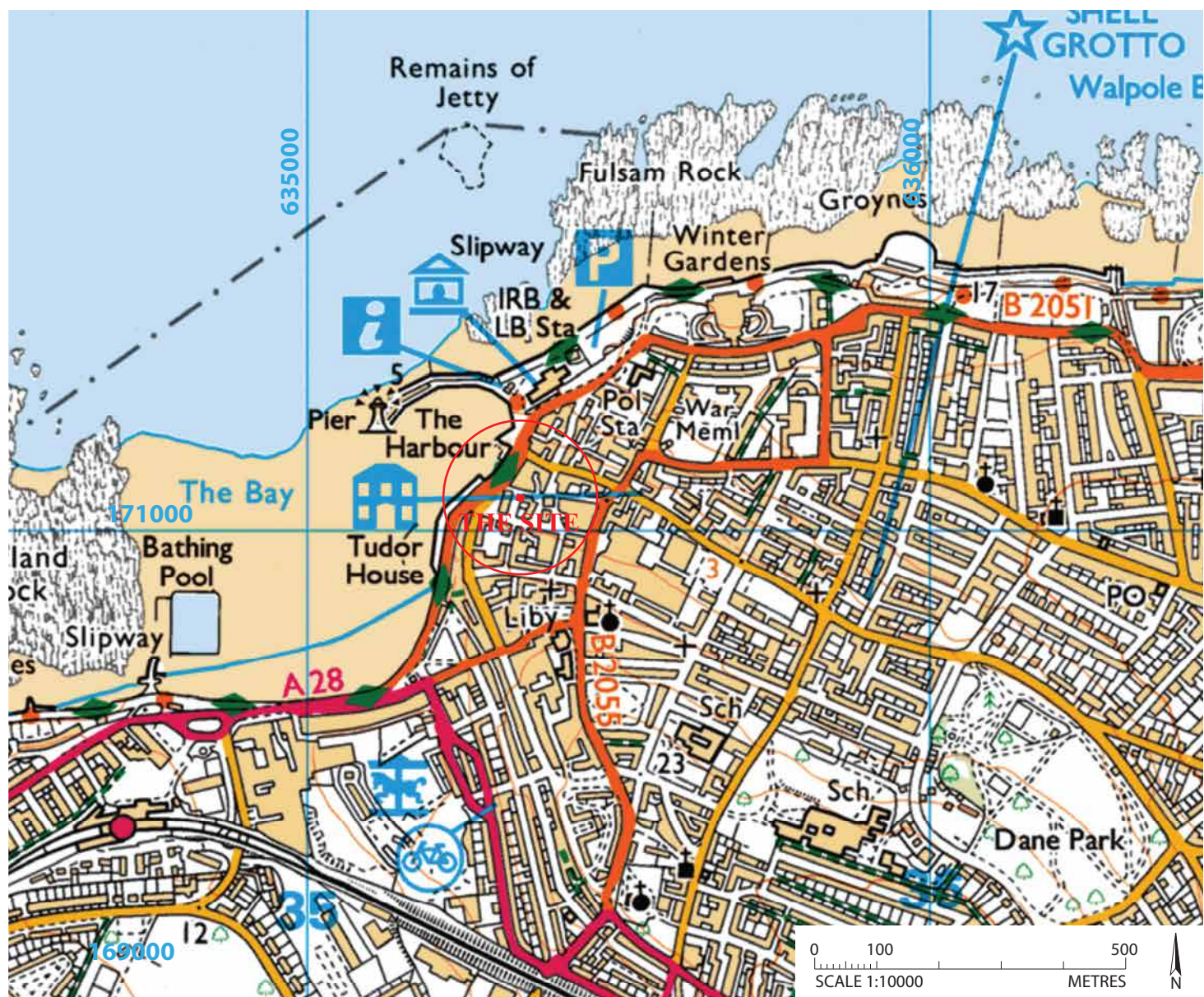


Figure 1: Site location map, scale 1:10000.

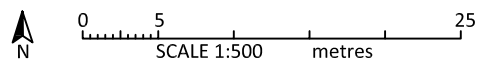
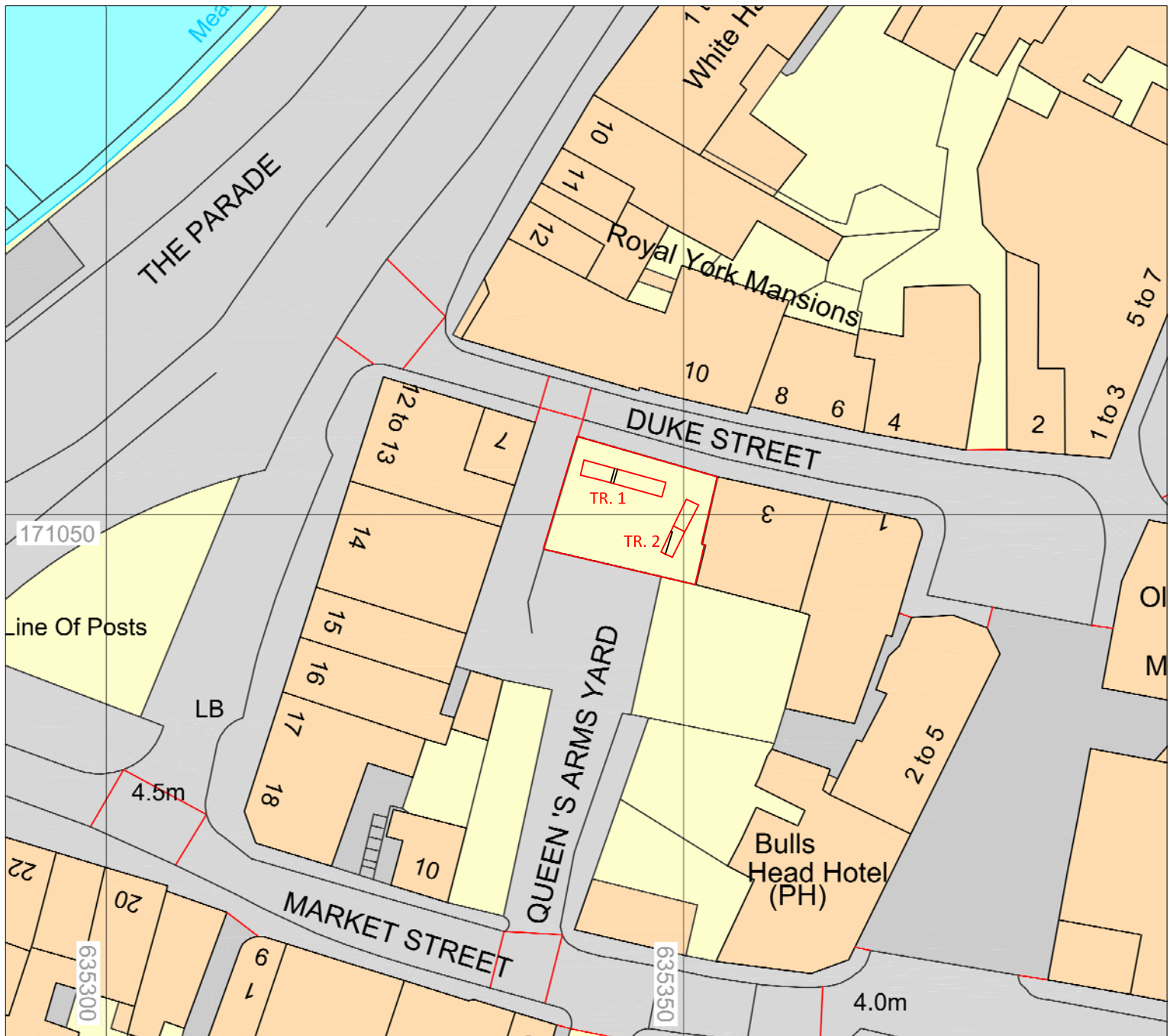


Figure 2: Site location in relation to OS map

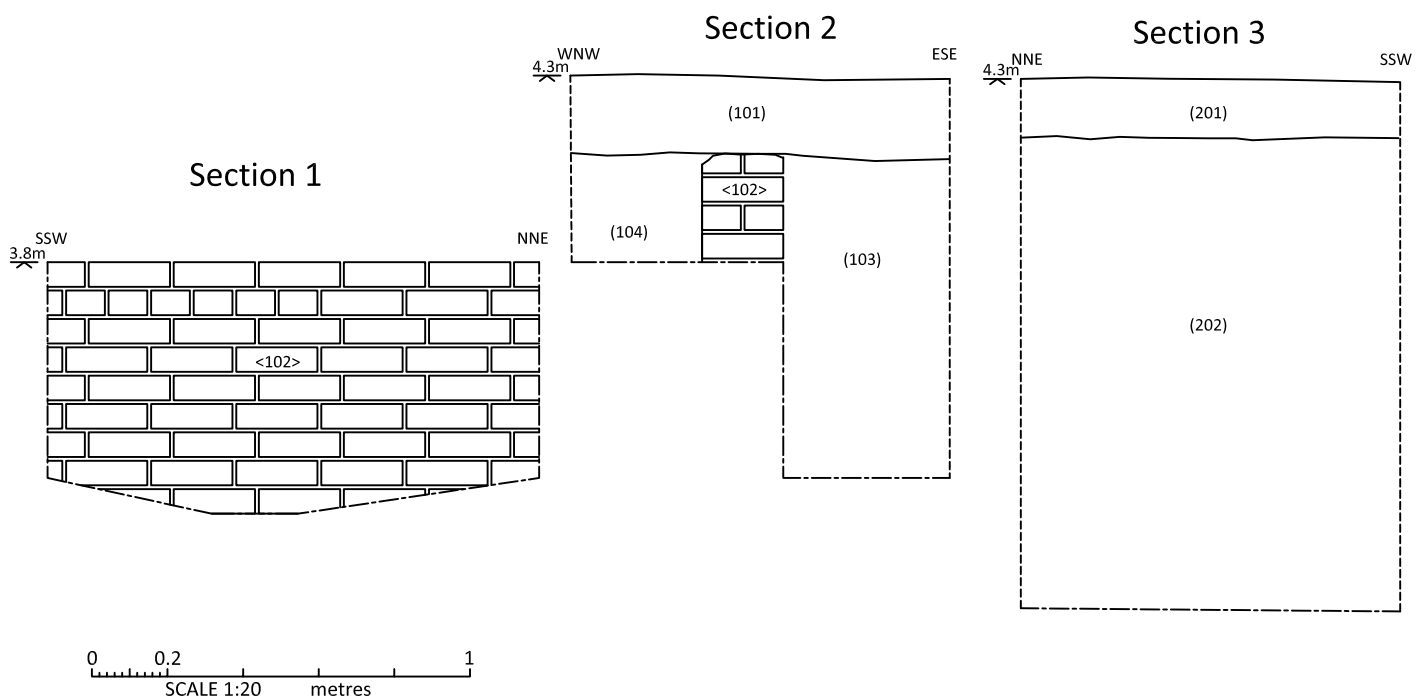
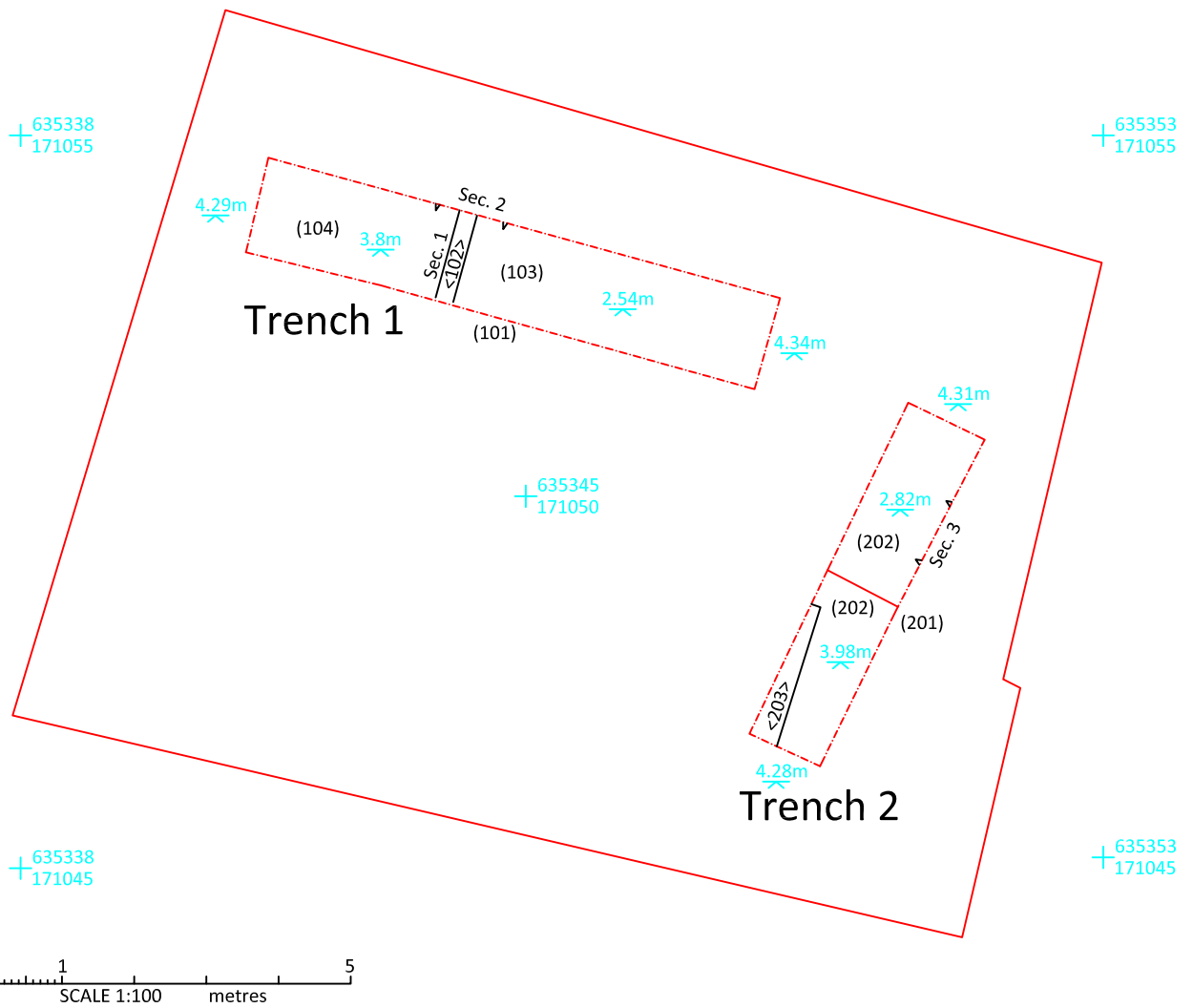


Figure 3: Trench plan and sections



Plate 1: The site viewing from west, looking east with one and two-metre scales.



Plate 2: Trench 1 looking east with one- and two-metre scales.



Plate 3: Evaluation Trench 1 – side. Looking south-east with one- and two-metre scales.



Plate 4: Evaluation Trench 1 looking west with two-metre scale in middle ground.



Plate 5: Section in test-pit (Trench1) showing the nature and character of backfill. Looking north with one-metre scale.



Plate 6: Showing top of Wall 102 exposed in Trench 1. One and two-metre scales.



Plate 7: Showing elevation of the Wall 102 exposed in trench 1. Looking west, one-metre scale.



Plate 8: Showing evaluation Trench 2. Looking north-east with one- and two-metre scales.



Plate 9: Showing evaluation Trench 2. Looking south with two-metre scale.



Plate 10: Showing backfill character in evaluation Trench 2. Looking north-east with two-metre scale.



Plate 11: Showing Wall 203 exposed in Trench 2. Looking south.



Plate 12: Showing Wall 203 exposed in Trench 2. Looking down, north to the left.