



Archaeological Evaluation of land at Gore Lane, Eastry, Kent

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1 INTRODUCTION AND SUMMARY

1.1 Project Background

1.1.1 A planning application was granted (Application No: DOV/17/01114) for the development of up to 50 dwellings (comprising up to 35 market dwellings and up to 15 social rented dwellings), new public footpaths, associated landscaping and creation of access.

1.1.2 A Condition of archaeological works were attached to Planning Decision Notice and it was: *(22) 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.

1.1.3 On the basis of the present archaeological information, the Senior Archaeological Officer advising Dover 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:

Thank you for consulting us on the above planning application. I apologise for the delay in responding and hope that my comments can still be taken into account. Eastry is archaeologically important because of its location adjacent to the former Dover to Richborough Roman road and due to the settlement's significance in the early medieval period. The palace or 'villa regalis' relating to Egbert, King of Kent c.690 AD is thought, though not proven, to lie in the vicinity of St Mary's Church and Eastry Court Farm. Four separate cemeteries dating from the early medieval period are also recorded in and around the periphery of the present village. The site in question lies on the western edge of the modern-day village and finds of Romano-British, early medieval and medieval date have been found within fields to the north. Given the archaeological importance of Eastry it is possible that the proposed development works may affect archaeological remains. I therefore recommend that provision is made in any forthcoming planning consent for a programme of archaeological work. The following suggested planning condition covers what would be required: AR1 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.

1.1.4 The methodology of the archaeological evaluation phase of investigation was identified within approved specification which is based on KCC site specific specifications and in the KCC Evaluation Manual Part B.

1.2 Site description, Geology and Topography

1.2.1 The application site is situated to the south of Gore Farm and on the north-west edge of Eastry itself astride the Roman road from Dover to Richborough.

1.2.2 The Geological Survey of Great Britain (1:50,000) shows that the site is set on bedrock geology of Margate Chalk Member- Chalk. Superficial Deposits are not recorded. The NGR to centre of site is NGR 630458 154939 and the OD height is about 23m aOD to the north and 26m aOD to the south.

1.3 Archaeological and historical background

1.3.1 The Proposed Development Area (PDA) is located close to a number of archaeological sites which have been highlighted in advice to the LPA by the Senior Archaeological Officer KCC:

1.3.2 The KCCHER records show that about 250m to the south of the PDA (Proposed Development Area) are 'Unknown Hollows' said to be either natural quarries or WWII bomb craters (TR 35 SW 205). To the north of the PDA is Gore Court (TR 35 NW 421) and some listed buildings around the adjacent Gore Farm (TR 35 NW 740 & MKE 86871. About 400m to the east an Early Medieval cemetery has been identified (TR 35 SW 37) with an Early Medieval ditch to the north (TR 35 SW 441).

2 METHODOLOGY

2.1 Introduction

3.1.1 All fieldwork was conducted in accordance with the methodology set out in the Specification (SWAT 2021) and carried out in compliance with the standards outlined in the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' Standards Guidance for Archaeological Evaluations (CIfA 2014).

2.2 Fieldwork

2.2.1 A total of 23 evaluation trenches were excavated within the extents of the Site.

2.2.2 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.

2.2.3 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.

2.2.4 All archaeological work was carried out in accordance with LPA and ClfA standards and guidance. A complete photographic record was maintained on site that included 12 working shots; during mechanical excavation, following archaeological investigations and during back filling.

2.2.5 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.

2.3 Recording

2.3.1 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.

2.3.2 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.

2.3.3 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.).

3 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- 3.1.1 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.
- 3.1.2 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.
- 3.1.3 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.
- 3.1.4 The opportunity will also be 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.

4 RESULTS

- 4.1 Introduction and Summary Results
 - 4.1.1 Archaeological evaluation of land at Gore Lane, Eastry, Kent has exposed natural geology comprising orange-brown clay-silt with occasional chalk flecking and large outcrops of chalk bedrock.
 - 4.1.2 A couple of geological test-pits TP A and TP B were excavated throughout chalk bedrock outcrops to confirm their natural origins.

4.1.3 No archaeological cuts, deposits or artefacts were revealed during the course of evaluation.

4.2 Trench Narratives

4.2.1 Trench 1 (Figure 2) was placed in southern part of the site in NW-SE alignment and measured 32 metre in length by 1.8metre in width and 0.35metre in depth. It exposed natural geology context (103) comprising orange-brown clay-silt with infrequent chalk flecks and chalk bedrock outcrops. A geological TP A was excavated roughly in central part of this trench to the depth of 0.88m. No archaeological cuts or deposits were exposed in this trench.

4.2.2 Trench 2 (Figure 2) was placed in southern part of the site in NE-SW alignment and measured 29 metre in length by 1.8metre in width and 0.37metre in depth. It exposed natural geology context (203) comprising orange-brown clay-silt with infrequent chalk flecks and chalk bedrock outcrops. No archaeological cuts or deposits were exposed in this trench.

4.2.3 Trench 3 (Figure 2) was placed in southern part of the site in NW-SE alignment and measured 27.8 metre in length by 1.8metre in width and 0.42metre in depth. It exposed natural geology context (303) comprising orange-brown clay-silt with infrequent chalk flecks and chalk bedrock outcrops. No archaeological cuts or deposits were exposed in this trench.

4.2.4 Trench 4 (Figure 2) was placed in southern part of the site in NE-SW alignment and measured 29.1 metre in length by 1.8metre in width and 0.46metre in depth. It exposed natural geology context (403) comprising orange-brown clay-silt with infrequent chalk flecks. No archaeological cuts or deposits were exposed in this trench.

4.2.5 Trench 5 (Figure 2) was placed in southern part of the site in NW-SE alignment and measured 27.5 metre in length by 1.8metre in width and 0.48metre in depth. It exposed natural geology context (503) comprising orange-brown clay-silt with infrequent chalk flecks. No archaeological cuts or deposits were exposed in this trench.

4.2.6 Trench 6 (Figure 2) was placed in southern part of the site in NE-SW alignment and measured 30.8 metre in length by 1.8metre in width and 0.48metre in depth. It exposed natural geology context (603) comprising orange-brown clay-silt with infrequent chalk flecks. No archaeological cuts or deposits were exposed in this trench.

- 4.2.7 Trench 7 (Figure 2) was placed in southern part of the site in NE-SW alignment and measured 27.8 metre in length by 1.8metre in width and 0.47metre in depth. It exposed natural geology context (703) comprising orange-brown clay-silt with infrequent chalk flecks. No archaeological cuts or deposits were exposed in this trench.
- 4.2.8 Trench 8 (Figure 2) was placed in southern part of the site in NW-SE alignment and measured 30.5 metre in length by 1.8metre in width and 0.51metre in depth. It exposed natural geology context (803) comprising orange-brown clay-silt with infrequent chalk flecks. No archaeological cuts or deposits were exposed in this trench.
- 4.2.9 Trench 9 (Figure 2) was placed in southern part of the site in NE-SW alignment and measured 29.3 metre in length by 1.8metre in width and 0.48metre in depth. It exposed natural geology context (903) comprising orange-brown clay-silt with infrequent chalk flecks and chalk bedrock outcrops. No archaeological cuts or deposits were exposed in this trench.
- 4.2.10 Trench 10 (Figure 2) was placed in southern part of the site in NE-SW alignment and measured 25.3 metre in length by 1.8metre in width and 0.44metre in depth. It exposed natural geology context (1003) comprising orange-brown clay-silt with infrequent chalk flecks and chalk bedrock outcrops. No archaeological cuts or deposits were exposed in this trench.
- 4.2.11 Trench 11 (Figure 2) was placed in southern part of the site in NW-SE alignment and measured 24 metre in length by 1.8metre in width and 0.47metre in depth. It exposed natural geology context (1102) comprising orange-brown clay-silt with infrequent chalk flecks and chalk bedrock outcrops. Geological test-pit TP B was excavated in this trench to ascertain natural origin of chalk bedrock outcrops. No archaeological cuts or deposits were exposed in this trench.
- 4.2.12 Trench 12 (Figure 2) was placed in southern part of the site in NE-SW alignment and measured 26.5 metre in length by 1.8metre in width and 0.46metre in depth. It exposed natural geology context (1203) comprising orange-brown clay-silt with infrequent chalk flecks and chalk bedrock outcrops. No archaeological cuts or deposits were exposed in this trench.
- 4.2.13 Trench 13 (Figure 2) was placed in southern part of the site in NE-SW alignment and measured 26.2 metre in length by 1.8metre in width and 0.51metre in depth. It exposed

natural geology context (1303) comprising orange-brown clay-silt with infrequent chalk flecks and chalk bedrock outcrops. No archaeological cuts or deposits were exposed in this trench.

4.2.14 Trench 14 (Figure 2) was placed in central part of the site in NW-SE alignment and measured 27.1 metre in length by 1.8metre in width and 0.53metre in depth. It exposed natural geology context (1403) comprising orange-brown clay-silt with infrequent chalk flecks and chalk bedrock outcrops. No archaeological cuts or deposits were exposed in this trench.

4.2.15 Trench 15 (Figure 2) was placed in northern part of the site in NE-SW alignment and measured 25.5 metre in length by 1.8metre in width and 0.47metre in depth. It exposed natural geology context (1503) comprising orange-brown clay-silt with infrequent chalk flecks and chalk bedrock outcrops. No archaeological cuts or deposits were exposed in this trench.

4.2.16 Trench 16 (Figure 2) was placed in northern part of the site in NW-SE alignment and measured 28.5 metre in length by 1.8metre in width and 0.58metre in depth. It exposed natural geology context (1603) comprising orange-brown clay-silt with infrequent chalk flecks and chalk bedrock outcrops. No archaeological cuts or deposits were exposed in this trench.

4.2.17 Trench 17 (Figure 2) was placed in northern part of the site in NE-SW alignment and measured 33.5 metre in length by 1.8metre in width and 0.51metre in depth. It exposed natural geology context (1703) comprising orange-brown clay-silt with infrequent chalk flecks and chalk bedrock outcrops. No archaeological cuts or deposits were exposed in this trench.

4.2.18 Trench 18 (Figure 2) was placed in central part of the site in NW-SE alignment and measured 32.1 metre in length by 1.8metre in width and 0.47metre in depth. It exposed natural geology context (1803) comprising orange-brown clay-silt with infrequent chalk flecks. No archaeological cuts or deposits were exposed in this trench.

4.2.19 Trench 19 (Figure 2) was placed in northern part of the site in NW-SE alignment and measured 28.3 metre in length by 1.8metre in width and 0.48metre in depth. It exposed natural geology context (1903) comprising orange-brown clay-silt with infrequent chalk

flecks and chalk bedrock outcrops. No archaeological cuts or deposits were exposed in this trench.

4.2.20 Trench 20 (Figure 2) was placed in northern part of the site in E-W alignment and measured 28.5 metre in length by 1.8metre in width and 0.49metre in depth. It exposed natural geology context (2003) comprising orange-brown clay-silt with infrequent chalk flecks and chalk bedrock outcrops. No archaeological cuts or deposits were exposed in this trench.

4.2.21 Trench 21 (Figure 2) was placed in northern part of the site in NE-SW alignment and measured 25.8 metre in length by 1.8metre in width and 0.52metre in depth. It exposed natural geology context (2103) comprising orange-brown clay-silt with infrequent chalk flecks and chalk bedrock outcrops. No archaeological cuts or deposits were exposed in this trench.

4.2.22 Trench 22 (Figure 2) was placed in northern part of the site in NE-SW alignment and measured 26.1 metre in length by 1.8metre in width and 0.48metre in depth. It exposed natural geology context (2203) comprising orange-brown clay-silt with infrequent chalk flecks. No archaeological cuts or deposits were exposed in this trench.

4.2.23 Trench 23 (Figure 2) was placed in northern part of the site in E-W alignment and measured 13.9 metre in length by 1.8metre in width and 0.47metre in depth. It exposed natural geology context (2303) comprising orange-brown clay-silt with infrequent chalk flecks. No archaeological cuts or deposits were exposed in this trench.

5 CONCLUSIONS

- 5.1.1 The archaeological evaluation has been successful in fulfilling the primary aims and objectives of the Specification and exposed common stratigraphic sequence comprising top-soil and sub-soil concealing natural geology.
- 5.1.2 Several geological features were exposed in most of the Trenches. These consisted of chalk bedrock outcrops. No archaeological cuts or deposits were found in any of evaluation trenches.
- 5.1.3 This evaluation has, therefore, assessed the archaeological potential of land intended for development. The negative results of this work show that the proposed development won't be having any impact on buried archaeological resource.

6 FINDS

6.1.1 No archaeological finds were revealed during the course of evaluation.

7 RECOMMENDATIONS AND FURTHER WORK

7.1.1 There is no requirement for further work.

8 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

8.1.1 SWAT Archaeology would like to thank to the client for commissioning the project and thanks are extended to Ben Found, Senior Archaeological Officer at Kent County Council for his support and assistance during the fieldwork.

8.1.2 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.

9 ARCHIVE

9.1 General

9.1.1 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).

9.1.2 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. 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 at Gore Lane, Eastry, Kent

SWAT Site Code: GLE-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 at Gore Lane, Eastry, Kent. The archaeological programme was monitored by the Senior Archaeological Officer at Kent County Council. The Archaeological Evaluation consisted of 23 trenches, which recorded a relatively common stratigraphic sequence comprising topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology.*

No archaeology was found.

Further mitigation is not required.

District/Unitary: Dover District Council & Kent County Council

Period(s): modern

NGR (centre of site to eight figures) NGR 630458 154939

Type of Archaeological work: Archaeological Evaluation

Date of recording: July 2021

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

Geology: chalk bedrock capped by Head Deposits

Title and author of accompanying report: SWAT Archaeology (P. Cichy 2021) Archaeological Evaluation of land at Gore Lane, Eastry, Kent

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

Contact at Unit: Paul Wilkinson

References

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Figures and Plates

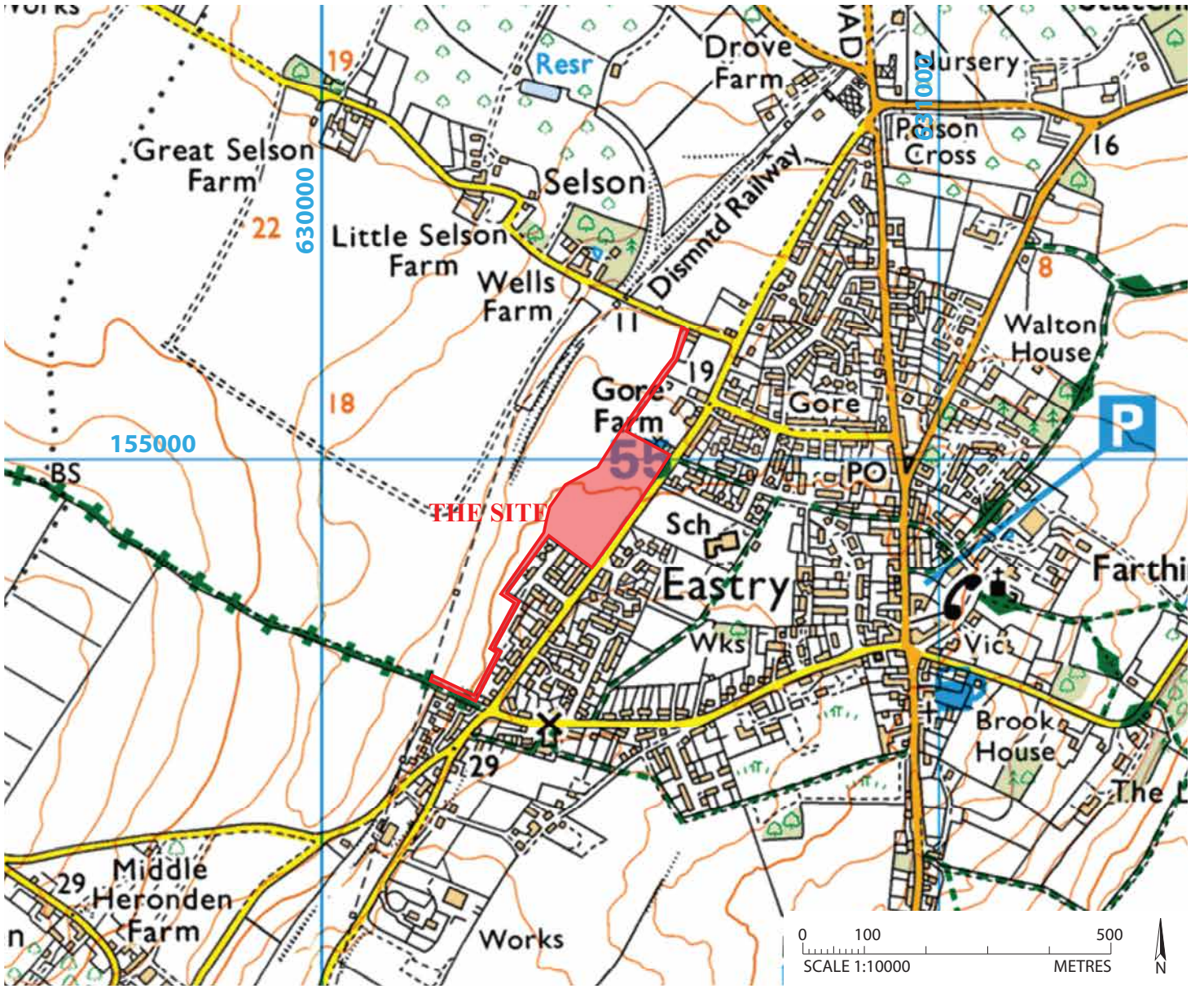


Figure 1: Site location map, scale 1:10000.

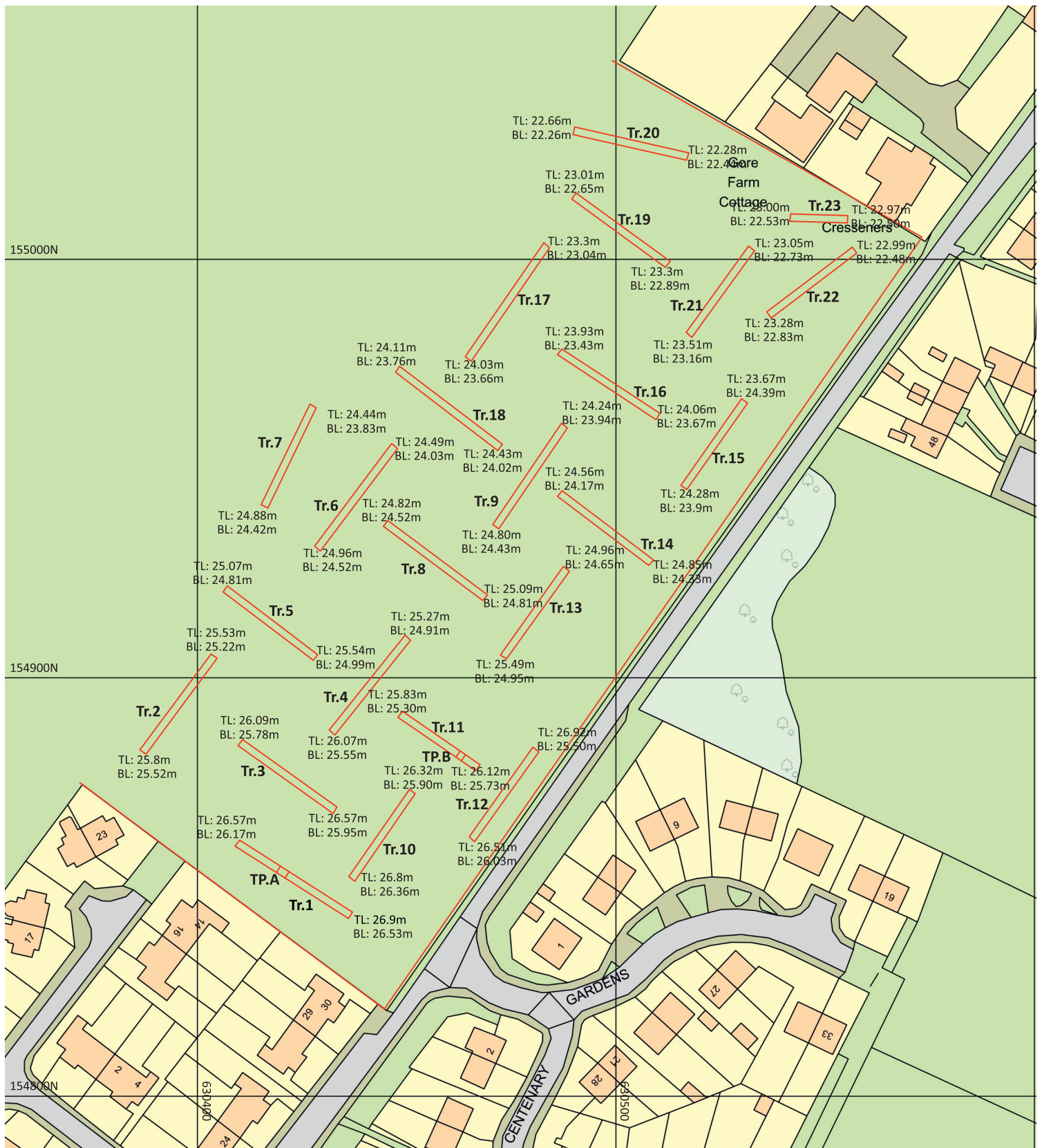
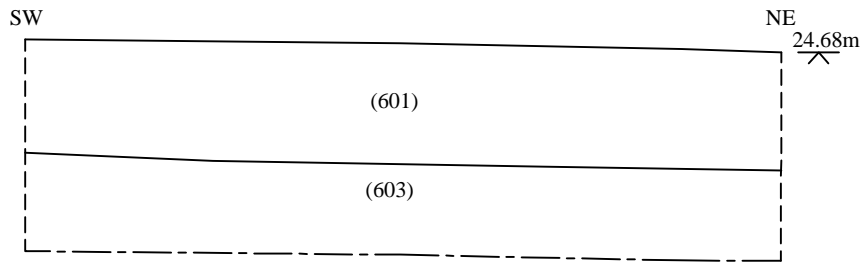
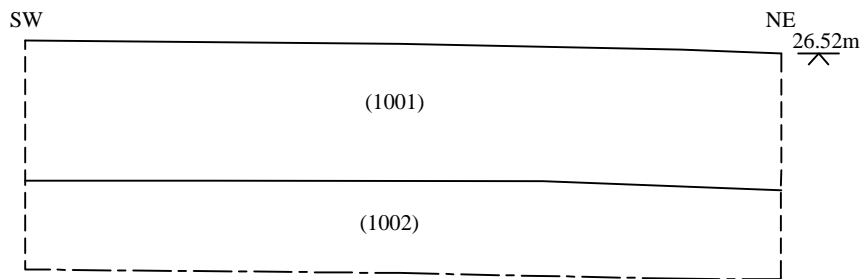


Figure 2: Trench location in relation to OS map

Section A of trench 6



Section B of trench 10



Section C of trench 21

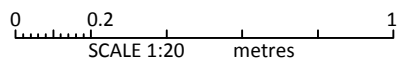
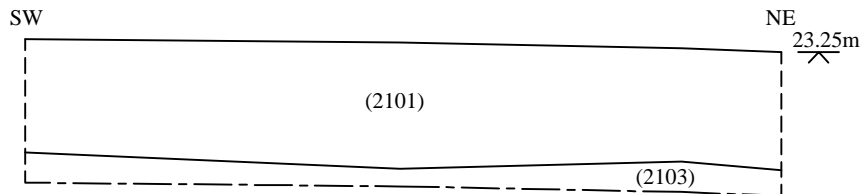


Figure 3: Representative section of trench 6, 10 and 21



Plate 1: The site viewing from north-east.



Plate 2: Northern part of the site viewed from east.



Plate 3: Trench 1 looking north-west with two metre scale.



Plate 4: Geological test-pit TP A in Trench 1. Looking south-east with one- and two-metre scales.



Plate 5: Trench 2 looking north-east with two-metre scale.



Plate 6: Trench 3 looking south-east with two metre scale.



Plate 7: Trench 4 looking north-east with two-metre scale.



Plate 8: Trench 5 looking south-east with two-metre scale.



Plate 9: Trench 6 looking north-east with two-metre scale.



Plate 10: Trench 7 looking north-east with two-metre scale.



Plate 11: Trench 8 looking south-east with two-metre scale.



Plate 12: Trench 9 looking south-west with two-metre scale.



Plate 13: Trench 10 looking south-west with two-metre scale.



Plate 14: Trench 11 looking north-west with two-metre scale.



Plate 15: Geological test-pit TP B in Trench 11. Looking south-west with one- and two-metre scales.



Plate 16: Trench 12 looking south-west with two-metre scale.



Plate 17: Trench 13 looking south-west with two-metre scale.



Plate 18: Trench 14 looking north-west with two-metre scale.



Plate 19: Trench 15 looking east with two-metre scale.



Plate 20: Trench 16 looking north-west with two-metre scale.



Plate 21: Trench 17 looking south-west with two-metre scale.



Plate 22: Trench 18 looking south-east with two-metre scale.



Plate 23: Trench 19 looking south-east with two-metre scale.



Plate 24: Trench 20 looking south-east with two-metre scale.



Plate 25: Trench 21 looking east with two-metre scale.



Plate 26: Trench 22 looking east with two-metre scale.



Plate 27: Trench 23 looking north-west with two-metre scale.