



**Archaeological Evaluation of Land at
26–32 High Street, Wye, Kent
TN25 5AL**

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SWAT ARCHAEOLOGY

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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 archaeological evaluation in preparations for the development of Land at 26–32 High Street, Wye, Kent TN25 5AL.

1.1.2 Archaeological evaluation commenced on 6th April 2021 and was completed by 9th April 2021. Monitoring visit from Senior Archaeological Officer was carried out on 9th April 2021. Works were carried out within Area of PDA where 5 trenches were dug.

1.1.3 Evaluation exposed four Victorian pits, two undated post-holes and heavily truncated remains belonging to former buildings.

1.2 Planning background

1.2.1 Tele-Property Investments Ltd are currently making preparations for the development of land at 26–32 High Street, Wye, Kent (NGR: 605503 146785). The proposed development entails the provision of 6 residential dwellings together with associated car parking, landscaping and infrastructure works.

1.2.2 The archaeological evaluation is being undertaken following the submission of a formal planning application (Ref: 19/00572/AS) on the advice of the Kent County Council Senior Archaeological Officer, due to the location of the site within an area of archaeological potential.

1.2.3 Ashford Borough Council, under the Town and Country Planning Acts, granted permission for the development on 18 June 2019 with the following condition:

Prior to the commencement of development the applicant, or their agents or successors in title, will secure and implement:

- i. Archaeological field evaluation works in accordance with a specification and written timetable which has been submitted to and approved by the Local Planning Authority; and*
- ii. Further archaeological investigation, recording and reporting, determined by the results of the evaluation, in accordance with a 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.*

- 1.2.4 The archaeological evaluation comprised the excavation of five trial trenches. The results of the evaluation works inform on the site's potential for surviving archaeological remains, and where appropriate, enable the local authority to determine the scope of any further archaeological mitigation that may be required.
- 1.3 Site description, Geology and Topography
- 1.3.1 The proposed development area (PDA) is located within the centre of the civil parish of Wye with Hinxhill which lies approximately 6km north-east of Ashford town centre. The PDA is situated within the historic medieval core of Wye and is positioned on the south side of the High Street, opposite the listed buildings of Wye College.
- 1.3.2 The PDA forms an irregular polygonal plot of land measuring 0.165 hectares and lies within the Wye Conservation Area, as designated in 1996. The site is located on a west facing terrace near the foot of the North Downs escarpment, at a height of approximately 47m Ordnance Datum (OD).
- 1.3.3 Two Scheduled Ancient Monuments (SAM) are located within proximity of the PDA. The Medieval College of St Gregory and St Martin (List Entry no. 1010349) was founded in c 1477 by Cardinal John Kemp, the then Archbishop of York (subsequently of Canterbury), who lived in Olantigh. A second SAM comprises the Medieval Undercroft at Bridge Street (List Entry no. 1003604).
- 1.3.4 A large number of listed buildings are recorded nearby to the PDA, many of which are found along the High Street, Church Street and The Green. The listed buildings range in date from the medieval period to the early twentieth century and reflect the development of Wye from the medieval period onwards. The church and some features within the church yard are also listed, and within Wye College, the Old Latin School and the Cloister Quadrangle are both Listed Grade I along with surviving Grade II listed structures. A medieval jettied timber-framed house is located at 23–27 The Green (List Entry no. 1216807) and lies within 40m west of the PDA. The former Old Flying Horse Inn is a Grade II* Listed Building of late fourteenth century origin (List Entry no. 1216805) and is located adjacent to the northwest corner of the PDA. No. 32 High Street is an early nineteenth-century Grade II Listed Building (List Entry no. 1217015) and forms part of the PDA.
- 1.3.5 According to BGS the underlying bedrock geology within the PDA is shown as Cretaceous West Melbury Marly Chalk with superficial Head deposits of Clay, Silt, Sand and Gravel.

2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The archaeological potential is based on the proximity of historical and archaeological remains presently recorded in the Kent County Council (KCC) Historic Environment Record (HER) as well as a list of reports of archaeological investigations not yet included in the HER. In addition, both published and grey literature reports by CAT have been consulted.
- 2.2 A search of the KCC HER covers a radius of 1km around the PDA (centred on 605503 146785). 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 The earliest evidence of archaeological activity within this area is represented by a small number of Mesolithic and Neolithic finds suggesting some level of human activity in the vicinity. Probable Mesolithic finds include an axe, scrapers, four cores and 29 blades or flakes recovered from a buried woodland soil underlying the Bronze Age barrow at Olantigh, about 1.3km north of the PDA, and a pebble mace head found at Buckwell, across the river nearly 2km to the north-west (Seary 2017, 8). A possible Mesolithic blade fragment was found, residually, at Taylor's Garage on Bridge Street, about 300m south-west of the PDA (ibid). Features excavated at Wye Court Farm, about 450m north-west of the PDA, produced Mesolithic or early Neolithic flints, including an assemblage comprising two bladelets, three blades, thirteen flakes and three fragments of fire cracked flint – suggesting flint knapping had been carried out in the vicinity – and a flint blade. A polished Neolithic flint axe was found in 1966 in a garden at 63 Oxenturn Lane (HER: TR04 NE24), about 600m south of the PDA, and another in ploughed ground at Brook, nearly 2km south-south-east of the PDA. The occurrence of these artefacts indicates potential for early prehistoric remains from the Head deposits.
- 2.4 No firm evidence for Neolithic settlement has been recorded, but one or more burial sites are known in the wider area, including Juliberrie's Grave, a Neolithic long barrow on the Chilham Downs, nearly 7km north-north-east of the PDA, and possibly another within woodland at Elmsted, about 4.5km east-south-east of the PDA (Seary 2017, 8).
- 2.5 Known evidence for Bronze Age occupation within vicinity of the PDA includes one or two tumuli or round barrows. One of these lay beside the River Stour at Olantigh (HER: TR04 NE28), about 1.3km north of the PDA, and contained a cremation burial with more than a hundred sherds of possible Beaker ware. A second probable barrow has been suggested approximately 1.6km east of the PDA, on the summit of Wye Hill, amongst later Saxon burial mounds. A cropmark of a ring-ditch measuring approximately 28m across was

identified in fields located 600m north-east of the PDA on aerial photographs from 1990 and on satellite images of 2007 (HER: TR04 NE240), indicating further possible prehistoric ritual activity.

- 2.6 Several Bronze Age artefacts have been recovered within vicinity of the PDA and include an early Bronze Age flanged axe of Medocain (French) type, found somewhere on the Wye Downs, to the east of the PDA (HER: TR04 NE15), and late Bronze Age/early Iron Age pottery sherds were found on land east of the Watermill at Bridge Street (HER: TR04 NW42), located approximately 550m west of the PDA, during an archaeological evaluation in 5 1995. The pottery sherds were found in layers above a ditch of uncertain but earlier date. Worked flints and a water course or pond were also identified.
- 2.7 Iron Age archaeology is better represented. During dredging of the River Stour, at a location approximately 650m north-west of the PDA, several hundred pottery sherds of Iron Age and Romano-British date were recovered during examination of the weathered upcast (KHER: TR04 NW47). The majority of the pottery was dated to the first and second centuries with a small quantity of later types.
- 2.8 Possible Iron Age lynchet field systems have been located around the village (HER: TR04 NE12), but they may be of medieval date. No further details are provided, and no trace of the field systems have been found on record or on historic maps
- 2.9 Over twenty Iron Age coins have been found within the surrounding area of Wye (HER: TR04 NE77 and NE44); recovered mainly by metal detectorists.
- 2.10 A cropmark of a ring ditch measuring approximately 28m across was identified in fields located 720m north-east of the PDA on aerial photographs from 1990 and on satellite images of 2007 (HER: TR04 NE240).
- 2.11 The course of the Pilgrim's Way includes part of Wye High Street that adjoins the north side of the PDA. The Pilgrim's Way (HER: TQ55 SE124) is a reputed pilgrimage route from Winchester to Canterbury. For much of its course this supposed route ran alongside or parallel with a prehistoric trackway, and it is possible that the latter may cross the northern side of the PDA.
- 2.12 It is thought the Romans continued to use earlier prehistoric trackways alongside their own roads and Olantigh Road, located 70m east of the PDA, has recently been suggested as part of an alternative route along the east side of the Stour (Boast 2016, 5.3.16). This has been

surmised based on Ordnance Survey drawings suggesting the PDA is located near the crossroads of two important routes in use during the Roman period (Seary 2017, 12).

- 2.13 The large assemblage of pottery recovered during dredging of the Stour was found close by to the site of a known Roman building of fourth-century date (HER: TR04 NW19), located 800m south-west of the PDA and 400m south of the present Wye Bridge. The site was excavated in 1972 after some tiles, bricks and pottery sherds were found in the area during the previous year. Flint-constructed wall foundations and evidence of a hypocaust were revealed during the excavation, and occupation material included a bronze buckle and an iron knife as well as coins dating to AD330–370.
- 2.14 An extensive Roman iron working site and possible associated settlement (HER: TR04 NW16) has been located in fields to the north-west of Wye, some 900m north-west of the PDA. The site was investigated between in 1958 and 6 1970. Roman Samian ware pottery, two coins of Claudius and Titus, and traces of a ditch were found, and a second area was confirmed as an ironworking site comprising a number of smelting hearths with cinder remains.
- 2.15 A second concentration of features was found in 2006 on a former oil depot site, about 150m to the south, and 700m west-north-west of the PDA, and included various features such as a small kiln, an inhumation, a cremation and a possible pond, spanning the first to early third centuries (HER: TR04 NW198). It has been suggested that this formed part of the same complex, whilst occupation materials from the adjacent fields suggest such activity may have extended over a wide area.
- 2.16 Romano-British pottery, of second- to fourth-century date, and coins were found at 29 Church Field Way (HER: TR04 NE22), located approximately 470m west of the PDA, and spreads of pottery have been identified in fields beyond the limits of Wye. Service groundworks at 70–72 Churchfield Road, located 310m west of the PDA, exposed a quantity of Roman building material which appeared to be unabraded and possibly from a nearby kiln (HER: TR04 NE84).
- 2.17 Further Romano-British occupational debris has been found in the wider area and includes a small number of metal finds such as brooches, harness fittings finger rings and coins, found by metal detectorists. It is also noted that some Roman tile has been reused in the walls of the parish church indicating reuse of materials from nearby Roman remains.
- 2.18 Following the establishment of the Kingdom of Kent in the fifth century Wye became a royal vill, and a regional centre of some importance (Seary 2017, 14). The whereabouts of

the vill itself is unknown though it has been suggested it may be in the vicinity of Wye Court, to the north-west of the PDA where cropmarks have been detected (ibid).

- 2.19 Occupation at or near Wye is attested by numerous burials of Anglo-Saxon date. They include a round barrow in a wood called The Junipers on the Wye Downs, about 1.4km east of the PDA (HER: TR04 NE9). It is believed to be an Anglo-Saxon burial mound based on its proximity to a known barrow and its small size. Vague mounds located to the south-east suggest further possible burials; another substantial group of barrows, located 1.6km east of the PDA (HER: TR04 NE10), was investigated in the nineteenth century.
- 2.20 An early Anglo-Saxon grave was found in the nineteenth century during repair work on the Wye to Dover Road (KHER: TR04 NE11), at a location possibly 660m east-south-east of the PDA (the HER does not give a precise location). The grave contained a male skeleton burial with a shield boss, sword, glass drinking cup and some smaller objects (Boast 2016, 5.3.18). It is also reported that several pagan Saxon burials were discovered whilst excavating house foundations in Bridge Street, about 360m west-south-west of the PDA in 1932 (Seary 2017, 15).⁷
- 2.21 According to the HER some dozen Anglo-Saxon silver pennies (HER: TR04 NE250, NE255, NE257, NE258, NE259, NE262, NE264, NE265), predominantly of eight century date, and an Anglo-Saxon gold coin (HER: TR04 NE256) have been found at unspecified locations in or around Wye. A coin of Alfred was found in the garden of a cottage near Coldharbour Farm about 1.3km southeast of the PDA (HER: TR04 NE16). In addition, a sixth-century square-headed brooch is thought to have been found near the Stour upstream from Wye.
- 2.22 The church of St Gregory and St Martin (HER: TR04 NE103) is located on the north side of the High Street. Whilst the foundation date of the church is unknown, it is probably Saxon in origin as it is mentioned in Domesday with reference to Wye and was given along with the manor to Battle Abbey by William I in 1076. Wye's grid-like pattern of streets may have been deliberately laid out soon afterwards, although the High Street, corresponding with the so-called Pilgrim's Way must have pre-dated this development.
- 2.23 Originally dedicated to St Gregory only, its earliest identifiable fabric probably dates from the thirteenth century and was enlarged under Archbishop Kemp in the mid fifteenth century as the collegiate church for his new foundation; Wye College.
- 2.24 The PDA lies within the centre of a small medieval market town, approximately 140m south-east of the church of St Gregory and St Martin. Wye's market place developed around the area of the church and the first record of the market at Wye is made in a

charter of Henry III dated to 1225 (Willson 2003, 4). Many of the period buildings which line Church Street, The Green and Bridge Street comprise medieval timber-framed structures refronted with later facades.

- 2.25 The College of St Gregory and St Martin at Wye (HER: TR04 NE233) was founded c1447 by Cardinal John Kemp the then Archbishop of York (subsequently of Canterbury), who lived in Olantigh, a manor and estate located 1.6km north of the PDA. This college was built in the form of a cloister quadrangle and many parts of the medieval college survive in the form of standing buildings and also buried remains. Most of the surviving medieval fabric of Wye College can probably be attributed to Kemp however a few alterations are thought to have been made before the college was surrendered in the mid sixteenth century (Austin 2016).
- 2.26 The College was surrendered in 1545/6 and the college buildings soon passed into private hands, many of whom may have leased the buildings to tenants. Following its surrender, the main college building remained as a gentry residence for approximately two centuries. Much of the present character of the main college building and many of its finest features are likely to date from the early seventeenth century, including its fireplaces (ibid, 26). The 8 medieval college 'cloisters' were replaced with the present brickwork sometime in the early or mid eighteenth century.
- 2.27 To the north of the church, Wye Court (HER: TR04 NE227) has been suggested to have been the medieval Manor of Wye and documentary evidence suggests a substantial group of buildings once stood here. Remains of ditches associated with Wye Court Farm (HER: TR04 NE276) were identified during an archaeological evaluation, approximately 470m north-west of the PDA, and appeared to correspond with existing field boundaries and contained artefacts dating to the medieval period (Boast 2016, 5.3.23).
- 2.28 A recent archaeological evaluation at Wolfson House revealed two features of probable medieval date identified in the north-west end of one trench, though it is possible that one of these may have been of natural derivation such as a tree throw (Holman 2019). The medieval features lay just 0.77m below present ground level (ibid). A nineteenth-century gravel surface was also located in this area.
- 2.29 A number of rubbish pits of medieval date were revealed during an archaeological watching brief in 1998 during the construction of a new housing estate within the former Wye College Car Park (HER: TR04 NE81), located immediately south of the PDA. Charcoal, burnt clay, shell and a few sherds of pottery of eleventh- or twelfth-century date were recovered from the fills of the pits. The pits are suggested to relate to the rubbish disposed

by those occupying medieval or later properties that existed on the frontages of Church Street or The Green.

- 2.30 Medieval ditches and pits were excavated in 2002 and 2003 at the former Taylor's Garage site on Bridge Street (HER: TR04 NE269), approximately 180m east of the site. The features contained large quantities of finds including animal bone, shell, brick and tile, pottery, glass, burnt clay, slag and a copper pin suggesting relative prosperity in the area during the fourteenth century. The site continued to be a rubbish disposal area into the early seventeenth century.
- 2.31 An east-west aligned drain of possible medieval date, constructed from brick and chalk blocks with a tile base, was identified at 4 Upper Bridge Street in 2011 (HER: TR04 NE243), approximately 220m south-south-west of the site. A possible medieval wall, constructed from ragstone and chalk blocks (HER: TR04 NE244), was also identified at the same site during the installation of services. A single medieval pit (HER: TR04 NW197) was identified during excavations at a former oil depot site off Bramble Lane in 2006, approximately 800m west of the site. Thirteenth- to fourteenth-century pottery, peg tile and daub were recovered.
- 2.32 The Grade II listed medieval Undercroft at Bridge Street survives as both upstanding and buried remains situated at the corner of Upper Bridge Street 9 and Stonegate (HER: TR04 NE213). The window sills are 0.5m below modern pavement level indicating a rise in ground level since the original construction of the stone-built, vaulted undercroft which is thought to have been built in the thirteenth century. Partial excavation was carried out in the vicinity of the undercroft in 1988 and 1996 and a robbed medieval stairwell, tile hearth and a cess pit were identified to the south.
- 2.33 An evaluation carried out in Luckley Field in 2013, located approximately 650m south-west of the PDA revealed a series of ditches and pits tentatively given a medieval date, although some features may be earlier (HER: TR04 NW212). It is thought the ditches may represent agricultural stock enclosures or paddocks.
- 2.34 Several shallow pits were revealed during an evaluation on land at 59-65 Oxenturn Road in 2016, located approximately 500m south of the PDA. Identified as a series of small-scale refuse pits, they were tentatively dated to the early medieval period (Gollop 2016, 12).
- 2.35 During the early post-medieval period the land around Wye was littered with farmsteads and large estates such as that at Olantigh. Whilst the farmsteads located further afield from the village have often survived to varying extents, those situated closer to the historic

core of Wye were demolished as the village expanded through development. However, their associated farmhouses have often survived to the present day, an example of which is the sixteenth-century farmhouse at 6 Cherry Gardens Lane, located approximately 210m south-east of the site (KHER: TR04 NE152).

- 2.36 The village of Wye developed from the mid eighteenth century onwards from its historic core concentrated around the Church, College and The Green. An early map of Wye (Moon's map of 1746) shows the area of the PDA as occupied by at least one long building set perpendicular to the High Street and a series of field boundaries (represented as hedges?) aligned north-west to south-east located towards the southern extent of the plot (Boast 2016, Fig. 4.1). The 1843 Tithe Map indicates much the same (ibid, Fig. 4.2), but with the long building shown to be on a north-east to south-west alignment, and Ordnance Survey (OS) maps from the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries show some development within the plot, comprising several possible ancillary structures located within the central and western areas of the site by 1933. It is notable that surrounding property boundaries retain the original field alignments as shown on the 1746 map.
- 2.37 An aerial photograph from the 1940s shows little change since the publication of the 1933 OS map with the long building still standing and a number of smaller structures stood within the plot. By the 1960s much of the southern area of the plot has been opened up and used as a car park, however the long building is still standing and flanked by smaller structures. This building is no longer evident in photographs from the 1990s, however a 10 property set back from the High Street has clearly been extended to the rear and more of the area has been given over for car parking. By 2003 residential development has occurred immediately south of the PDA in the form of housing plots at Old Vicarage Gardens, but no major changes can be noted within the PDA at this time and none are recorded up to the present day.
- 2.38 Further details of previous discoveries and investigations within the immediate and wider area may be found in the Kent Historic Environment Record. These records should be consulted by the appointed archaeological contractor 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 2020) 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 5 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, should these prove to be necessary. 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 5 working shots; during mechanical excavation, following archaeological investigations and during back filling.

3.2.4 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 to,
- understand the nature, character, date and extent of any prehistoric, 11 Roman, Anglo-Saxon, medieval and post-medieval activities present on site.
 - to determine whether any medieval or post-medieval activity associated with previously identified rubbish pits and field boundaries, located to the south of the PDA;
 - place and assess any archaeological remains revealed within context of other recent investigations in the immediate area and within the setting of the local landscape and topography.

- 4.5 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.

5 RESULTS

5.1 Introduction and Summary Results

- 5.1.1 Archaeological evaluation of Land at 26–32 High Street, Wye, Kent has exposed natural geology comprising yellow-grey to orange-brown clay-sand-silt with infrequent sandstone flecks capped by most recent overburden and demolition debris.

- 5.1.2 Evaluation trenches 1, 3 and 4 have exposed four Victorian pits accompanied by two undated post-holes. Most of evaluation trenches have exposed remains of demolished buildings dated 1850, 1895 and 1930 obscured and truncated by Modern services and levelling deposits.

5.2 Trench Narratives

- 5.2.1 Trench 1 (Figures 3, 4) was placed in north-western part of the site in north-east; south-west alignment and measured 12.17 metre in length by 1.8metre in width and 0.42metre in maximum depth. Trench exposed natural geology context (102) comprising orange-grey clay-sand-silt with infrequent sandstone flecks. Trench has exposed sub-oval Victorian pit in its central-south-eastern part. Feature [104] had shallow sides and uneven base and measured 2.66 metre long by 1.3metre wide and 0.2metre in depth. Its backfill context (105) comprised dark-grey clay-sand-silt with infrequent brick fragments and Victorian potsherds. Feature was concealed by 0.2metre-thick band (context 103) comprising dark-grey loam with infrequent demolition debris. Next in turn it was capped by 0.2metre-thick band (context 108) of white-grey mixture of soil and mortar with infrequent roof tile fragments and chalk lumps.
- 5.2.2 Construction cut [109] was found cutting through levelling deposit (108). Feature was interpreted as remains of former building established around AD 1895 and it comprised rectangular cut with vertical sides and mainly flat base. It measured 0.4metre wide and

0.47metre in depth and its backfill comprised two deposits of which lower part consisted of mortar and rubble and was capped by one course of brick that was fairly close in size to modern standard of 220 x 104 x 68mm.

- 5.2.3 Nearly entirely robbed out wall 110 was a part of former building (no. 2 Figure 3) erected circa AD 1895. At the north-eastern end of Trench 1 another wall (111) was discovered and interpreted as a remnant of former building No. 1 (Figure 3) established similarly around AD 1895.
- 5.2.4 Modern steel-braided electricity cable in roughly north-south alignment was exposed in the middle part of this trench. Two modern post-holes [113] and [114] were exposed along south-eastern edge of this trench and a larger sub-rectangular modern cut [106] was exposed at its south-western end.
- 5.2.5 Trench 2 (Figures 3, 4) was placed in western part of the site in east-west alignment and measured 1.8metre in width, 10.07 metre in length and 0.52metre in depth. It exposed natural geology context (202) comprising orange-grey clay-sand-silt with infrequent sandstone flecks. Five squared modern post holes [206], [207], [208], [209] and [210] were exposed along nearly entire length of this trench. Additionally in its middle and eastern part two sub-rectangular modern cuts [204] and [205] were found. These features were backfilled with a mixture of dark loam and demolition debris. No archaeological cuts or deposits were exposed here.
- 5.2.6 Trench 3 (Figures 3, 4) was placed in southern part of the site in NNE-SSW alignment and measured 1.8metre in width, 8.72metre in length and 1.2metre in maximum depth. It exposed natural geology context (302) comprising orange-grey clay-sand-silt with infrequent sandstone flecks. Trench has exposed two shallow Victorian pits in its southern part. First located most southwards was Pit [304] comprising sub-oval cut with shallow sides breaking into mainly flat base. Feature measured 1.51metre in length by 0.72metre in width and 0.18metre in depth. Its backfill context (305) comprised dark-grey clay-sand-silt with infrequent chalk lumps, Victorian potsherds and animal bones identified as cattle, pig and sheep.
- 5.2.7 Another sub-oval Pit [306] was exposed a meter to the north of previously discussed one. Feature was sub-oval in plan with shallow sides and flat base and measured 1.6metre long by 0.68metre wide and 0.2metre in maximum depth. Its backfill context (307) comprised dark-grey clay-sand silt with infrequent chalk lumps and Victorian potsherds.

- 5.2.8 Heavily truncated wall 309 belonging to demolished L-shaped building No.5 (AD 1895, Figure 3) was exposed in section in northern part of Trench 3. The wall was resting on the top of underlying parent material and was cutting through sequence of made-up deposits (303) and (308) comprising grey loam with infrequent demolition debris. Wall itself measured 0.36metre wide and 0.65metre in height and was capped by levelling deposit (301b) and subsequently capped by 0.1m-thick band of tarmac comprising modern car-park surface.
- 5.2.9 Trench 4 (Figures 3 and 6) was placed in southern part of the site in north-west; south-east alignment and measured 1.8metre wide, 15 metre long and 1.3metre in maximum depth. Trench has exposed natural geology context (402) comprising orange-grey clay-sand silt with infrequent sandstone flecks.
- 5.2.10 Trench exposed Victorian Pit [406] in its south-western part accompanied by two undated post-holes [404] and [408]. Feature [404] was irregular in plan with steep sides and concave base. It measured 0.16metre in diameter and 0.21metre in depth and its backfill context (405) comprised dark-grey clay-sand-silt with infrequent angular stones. Couple meters to the south-east sub-circular post-hole [408] had shallow sides and concave base and measured 0.26metre in diameter and 0.06 metre in depth. Its backfill context (409) comprised dark-grey clay-sand-silt with infrequent amount of charcoal and angular stones.
- 5.2.11 Wall 412 was exposed at north-western end of this trench (section 7 Figure 6) it comprised seven courses of standard-size bricks with soft white mortar and measured 0.36metre wide by 0.78metre in height. The wall was resting on top of underlying natural geology and was found cutting through 0.86metre-thick band (context (403)) of orange-grey loam with infrequent demolition debris that was capped by recent levelling deposit (401b) subsequently concealed by car-park surface recorded as context (401a). Wall is suspected to be a part of demolished building (no. 6) constructed around AD 1850.
- 5.2.12 Another heavily truncated and demolished wall 414 was exposed along south-western edge of this trench and in its north-western part. It comprised two course brick bonded with white fairly soft mortar capped by frequent demolished bricks. The wall measured 0.36metre wide and 0.18metre in height. Possibly it's a part of manhole associated with building no. 7 (Figure 3) erected around AD 1930.
- 5.2.13 Two modern parallel vertical-sided trenches [415] and [419] were exposed in central part of this trench. A linear cut 417 housing modern pipe 417 was found between two vertical-

sided trenches and was laid parallel to those. At south-eastern end of evaluation Trench 4 another modern cut [421] was revealed. Feature had steep sides and its backfill comprised very dark grey silt-sand with infrequent demolition debris.

- 5.2.14 Another modern pipe 413 was exposed at north-western end of this trench and was found originally to be laid in brick-build duct comprising yellow bricks bonded with white fairly hard mortar.
- 5.2.15 A shallow linear geological feature [410] was exposed in central part of this trench and was investigated in two exploratory slots. Feature had very shallow sides without clear interface between infill and parent material. It didn't contain any noticeable inclusions, not produced any finds and therefore was discarded as natural. Plausibly it was a silted-up undulation in undelaying geology.
- 5.2.16 Trench 5 (Figures 3 and 4) was placed in northern part of the site in north-west; south-east alignment and measured 1.4metre in width, 2.20metre in length and 1.3 metre in depth. Trench has exposed natural geology context (502) comprising orange-grey clay-sand-silt with infrequent sandstone flecks. Trench has exposed concrete slab along its southern edge that appears to be a part of existing foundations of recently demolished building.
- 5.2.17 Natural geology in this trench was capped by 1.07metre-thick band of grey mixture comprising loam and soil with moderate amount of modern demolition debris. No archaeological cuts or deposits were exposed here.

6 CONCLUSIONS

- 6.1 The archaeological evaluation has been successful in fulfilling the primary aims and objectives of the Specification and exposed common stratigraphic sequence comprising tarmac and levelling deposits concealing natural geology.
- 6.2 Evaluation Trenches 1, 3 and 4 have exposed four sub-oval and shallow Victorian pits. The one exposed in Trench 4 was accompanied by two undated post-holes that could be of the same date judging the characteristics of their infill. Three features exposed in Trenches 3 and 4 are fairly similar in shape, size and depth. The one exposed in Trench 1 appears to be larger however it was found heavily truncated by activities associated with erection of former buildings 1 and 2 and with laying down steel-braded electricity cable.
- 6.3 The remnants of former buildings in form of foundation walls were found in Trenches 1, 3 and 4 along with concrete slab exposed in Trench 5 that is certainly a part of existing foundation belonging to recently demolished building.
- 6.4 Several modern cuts were exposed in Trenches 1, 2 and 4 along with two pipes revealed in evaluation Trench 4.
- 6.5 This evaluation has, therefore, assessed the archaeological potential of land intended for development. The results of this work show that the proposed development won't be having impact on buried archaeological resource.

7 FINDS

- 7.1 Victorian potsherds and clay-pipes fragments were retrieved from backfill of features [110], [304], [306] and [406].
- 7.2 Animal bones
- 7.2.1 A bone assemblage weighing 1.10kg, comprising 35 bones and identified as cattle, pig and sheep, although rib fragments were assigned as large or medium mammal. Measurements were taken of eight elements. The bones were recovered from [304] (305) – identified as a Victorian rubbish pit. Skull, mandibles and teeth were notable by their total absence.

The table below illustrates skeletal element by taxa, with side and fusion (where present).

BONE	SIDE	FUSION	Cattle	Large Mammal	Medium Mammal	Pig	Sheep	Total
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Femur	LHS	Unfused				1		1
	RHS	Distal fused					1	1
		Proximal fused					1	1
Humerus	LHS	Distal fused				1		1
Ilium fragment	LHS		1					1
Lumbar Vertebra fragment		NFD					1	1
		Unfused				2		2
MC	LHS	Fused	1					1
MT	RHS	Fused					1	1
MT fragment		NFD	2					2
P1	LHS	Fused				1		1
Radius	RHS	Proximal fused	1					1
Rib fragment		(blank)		1	14			15
Thoracic Vertebra fragment		NFD			1			1
Tibia	LHS	Distal fused				1		1
		Proximal unfused				1		1
Ulna	RHS	NFD	1					1
Unidentified					2			2
Total			6	1	17	7	4	35

The table below annotates measurements of bones, where possible. Calculation of withers height was possible of two elements, one cattle and one sheep.

Feature	CONTEXT	SPECIES	BONE	GL	Bd	Bp	WITHERS HEIGHT
[304]	305	Cattle	MC	197.00	59.59	58.17	118.79 cm
[304]	305	Cattle	Radius			98.26	
Feature	CONTEXT	SPECIES	BONE	GL	Bd	Bp	WITHERS HEIGHT
[304]	305	Sheep	Femur			50.62	
[304]	305	Sheep	MT	151.74	26.92	22.99	68.89cm
[304]	305	Sheep	Femur			39.42	

Feature	CONTEXT	SPECIES	BONE	GL	Bd	Bp
[304]	305	Pig	P1	41.98	18.45	17.91
[304]	305	Pig	Tibia		26.69	
[304]	305	Pig	Humerus		35.43	

Discussion

- 7.2.2 A small bone assemblage from a single feature and context. From the evidence above, cattle is the dominant species. Some of the bones had been chopped through mid-shaft, possibly to extract the marrow.
- 7.2.3 Taking fusion evidence, from the sheep bone present in the assemblage, it is apparent that age at death of the animals was in excess of 2 years; indicative of a preference for mutton from the bones present.

Fusion of pig bone present indicates an age at death of over 2 years.

Fusion of cattle bone present would also indicate an age at death in excess of 2 – 2.5 years, again older animals.

Carol White, M.A.

8 RECOMMENDATIONS AND FURTHER WORK

8.1 There is no recommendation 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 Wendy Rogers, Senior Archaeological Officer from Kent County Council for her 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 at 26–32 High Street, Wye, Kent TN25 5AL

SWAT Site Code: HSW-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 26–32 High Street, Wye, Kent TN25 5AL. The archaeological programme was monitored by the Senior Archaeological Officer at Kent County Council. The Archaeological Evaluation consisted of 5 trenches, which recorded a relatively common stratigraphic sequence comprising tarmac with modern made-up ground overlying natural geology.*

Four Victorian pits and two undated post-holes were found in southern and western parts of PDA

No further mitigation is required

District/Unitary: Ashford Borough Council & Kent County Council

Period(s): Victorian and Modern

NGR (centre of site to eight figures) NGR 605503 146785

Type of Archaeological work: Archaeological Evaluation

Date of recording: April 2021

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

Geology: Cretaceous West Melbury Marly Chalk capped by superficial Head deposits

Title and author of accompanying report: SWAT Archaeology (P. Cichy 2021) Archaeological Evaluation of Land at 26–32 High Street, Wye, Kent TN25 5AL.

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

Contact at Unit: Paul Wilkinson

References

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

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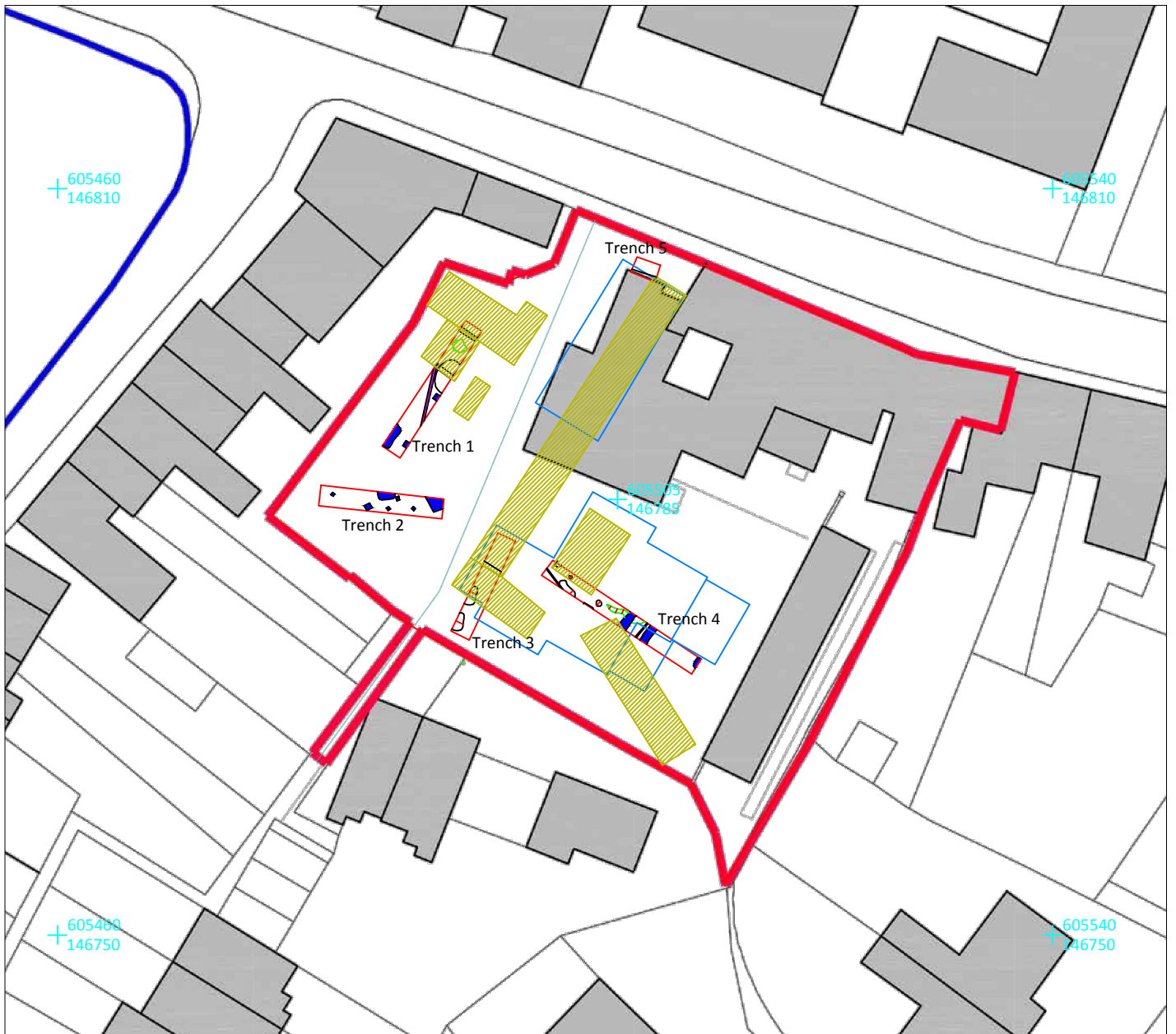
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Canterbury Archaeological Trust, 2020, Specification for a Programme of Archaeological Evaluation of Land at 26–32 High Street, Wye, Kent TN25 5AL.

Figures and Plates



KEY:

- Former buildings
- Proposed development

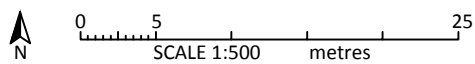
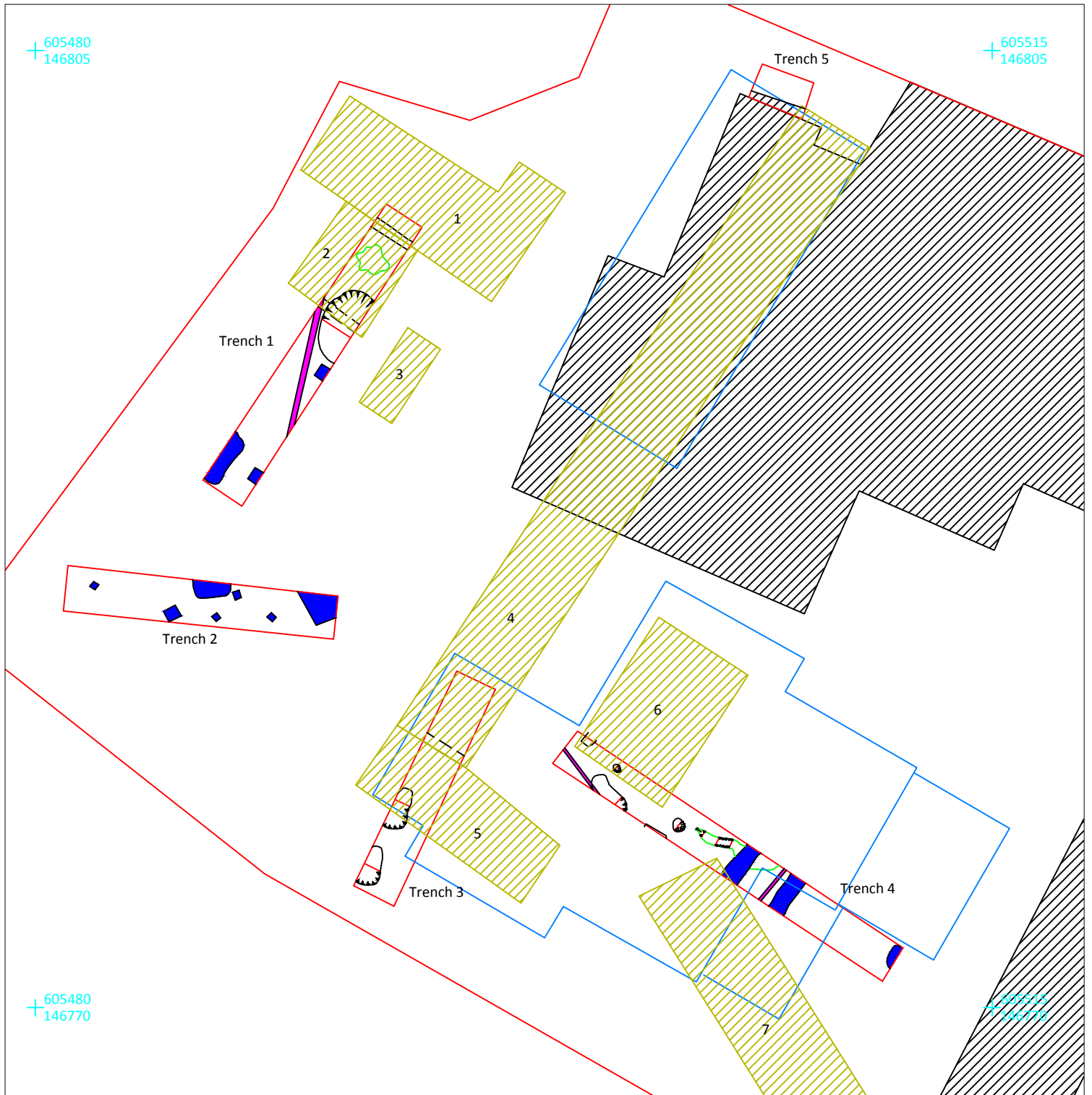


Figure 2: Trench, proposed development and former buildings in relation to OS map



Former buildings
construction dates:
4, 6 - circa 1850
1, 2, 3, 5 - circa 1895
7 - circa 1930

Figure 3: Trench location and former buildings

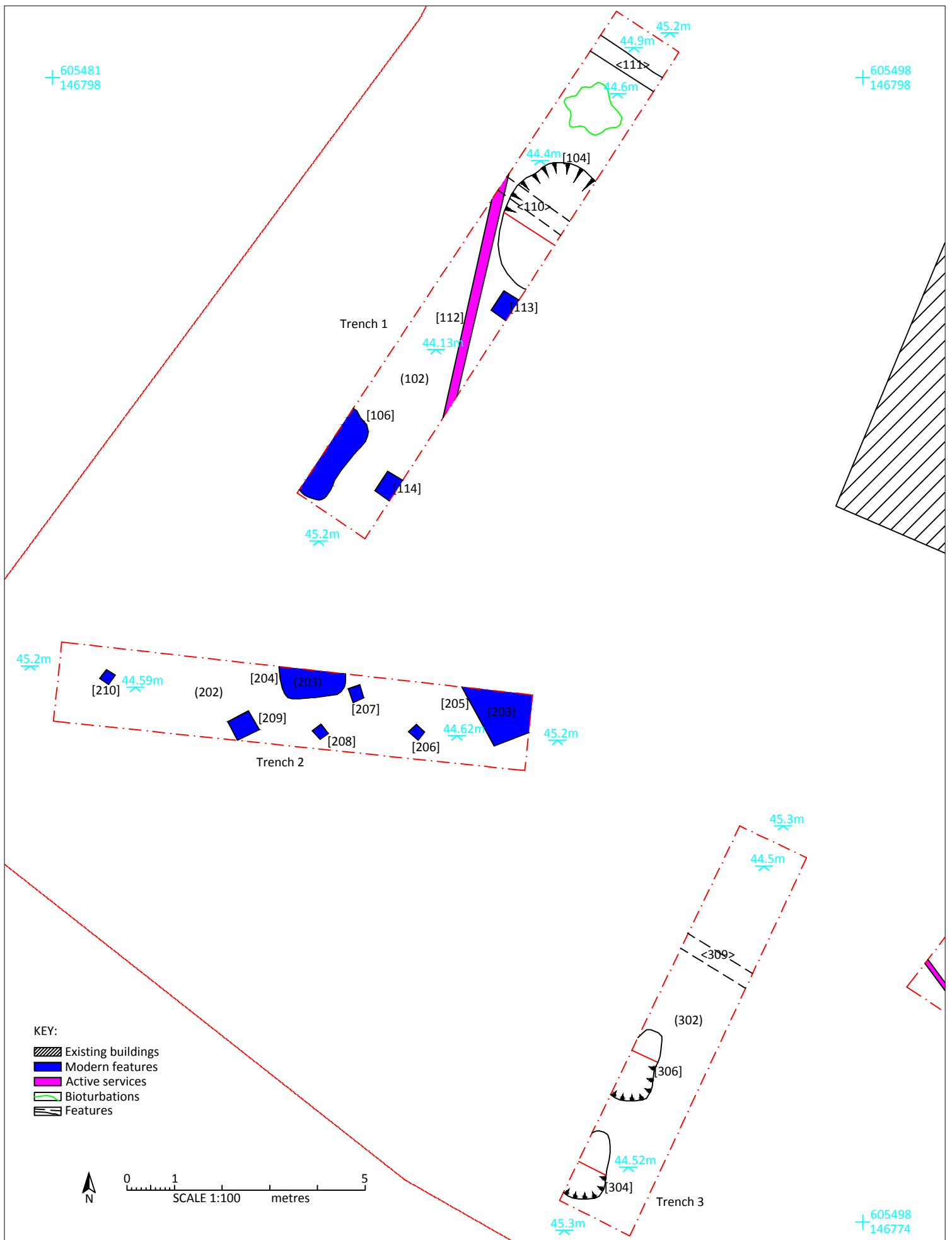


Figure 4: Plan of trench 1, 2 and 3

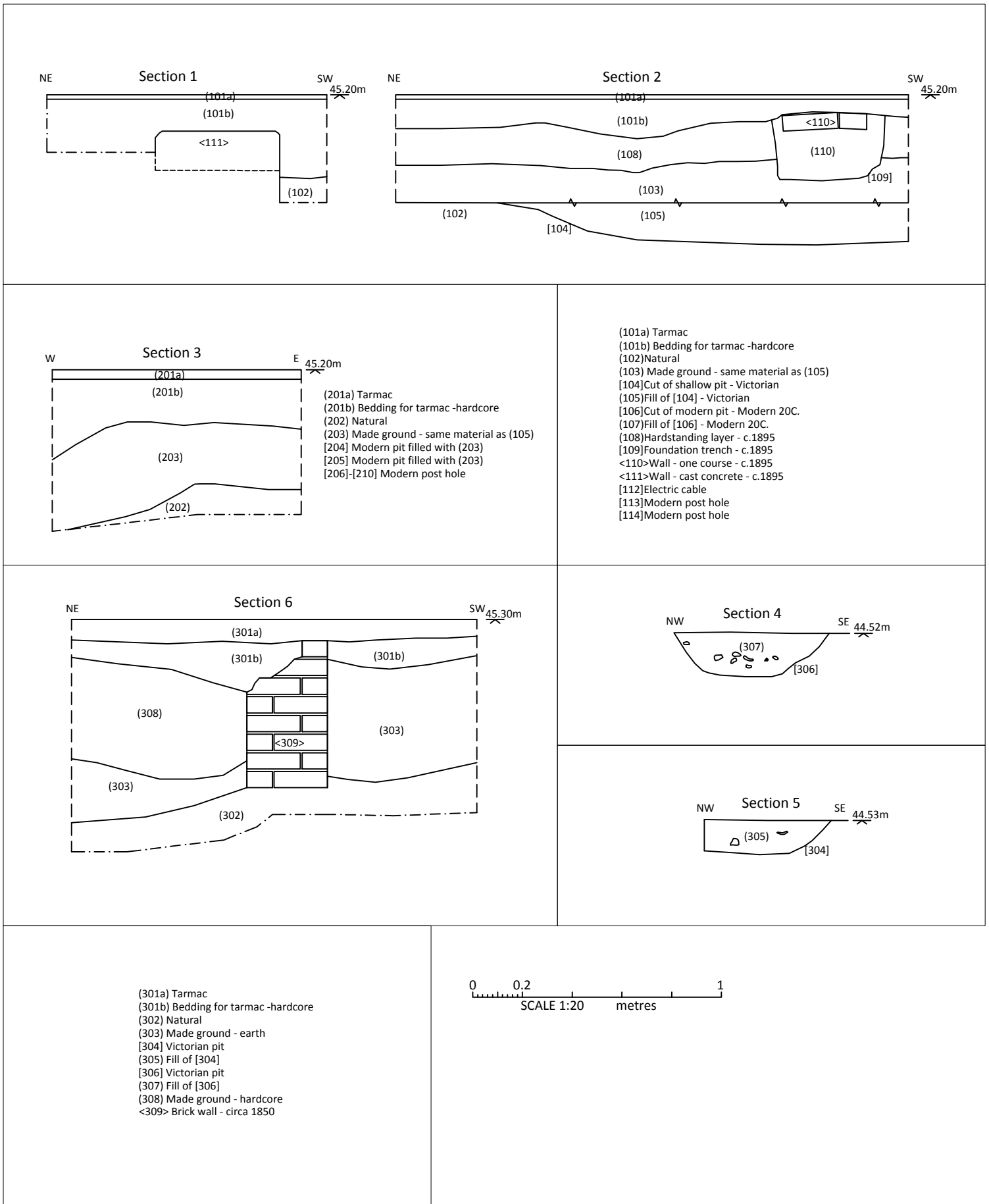


Figure 5: Sections exposed in trench 1, 2 and 3

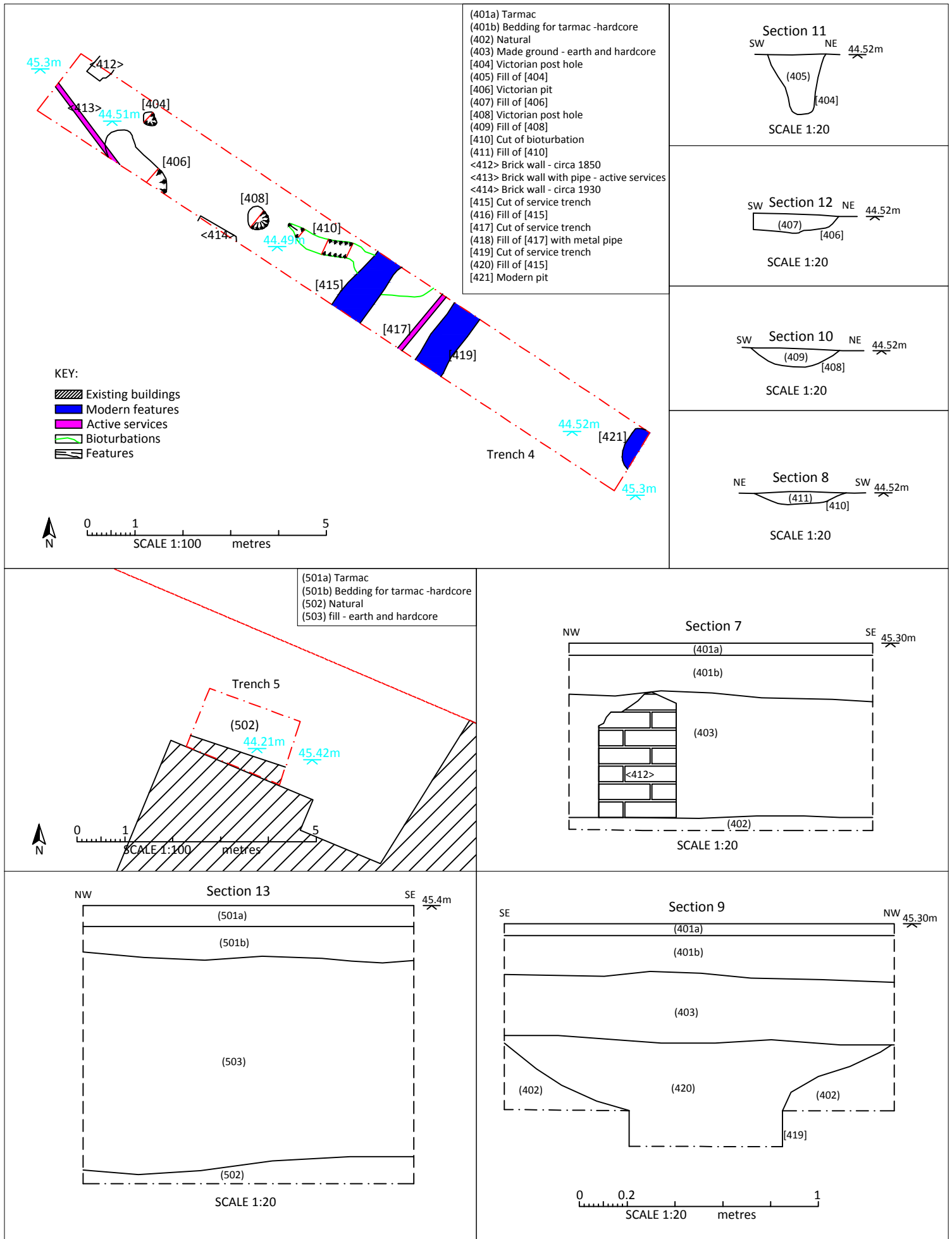


Figure 6: Plan and sections of trench 4 and 5



Plate 1: Showing the site, looking south.



Plate 2: Showing northern part of the Site, looking north.



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



Plate 4: Showing the remains of Wall 110 exposed in Trench 1. Part of former building 1, erected c. 1895. Looking south-east with one-metre scale.



Plate 5: Evaluation Trench 2, looking west with two-metre scale.



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



Plate 7: Showing southern part of Trench 3. Victorian Pits [304] and [306] visible in middle ground with two-metre scale bar.



Plate 8: Showing Wall 309 exposed in Trench 3, looking south-east with two-metre scale. These remains are part of former L-shaped building no. 5 erected c 1895.



Plate 9: Showing evaluation Trench 4. Looking east with two-metre scale.



Plate 10: South-eastern part of evaluation Trench 4. Geological feature 410 visible in foreground with 0.2 and one metre scales.



Plate 11: Showing modern linear cut [419] in Trench 4. Looking south with one-metre scale.



Plate 12: Showing undated Post-hole [408] in Trench 4. Looking north-west with .2metre scale.



Plate 13: Showing half-sectioned Post-hole [404] in Trench 4. Looking west with .2 metre scale.



Plate 14: Showing Victorian Pit [406] and undated Post-hole [404]. Looking west with .2 and one-metre scales.



Plate 15: Showing excavated features in Trench 4. Looking east with .2 and one-metre scales.



Plate 16: Showing evaluation Trench 5 adjacent to High Street. Looking north-east with one- and two-metre scales.