



**Archaeological Evaluation of land at Royal Victoria  
Hospital, Radnor Park Avenue, Folkestone  
CT19 5BN**

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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 Royal Victoria Hospital, Radnor Park Avenue, Folkestone CT19 5BN.

1.1.2 Archaeological evaluation commenced on 13th April 2021 and was completed by 14<sup>th</sup> April 2021. Monitoring visit from Senior Archaeological Officer was carried out on 14th April 2021. Works were carried out within Area of PDA where 12 trenches were dug. Evaluation exposed common stratigraphic sequence comprising top-soil with made-up ground concealing natural geology.

1.1.3 No archaeological cuts, structures or deposits were found in any of the trenches.

### 1.2 Planning background

1.2.1 A planning application was granted on the 12th November 2020 (Application No: 20/0532/FH for the: Residential Development at Royal Victoria Hospital site consisting of 19no. 4 & 5 houses and 19no. 1 & 2 bed apartments including associated external works. A Condition of archaeological works were attached to Planning Decision Notice and it was:

*No development shall take place until the applicant, or their agents or successors in title, has secured the implementation of:*

*(1) archaeological field evaluation works in accordance with a specification and written timetable which has been submitted to and approved in writing by the District Planning Authority; and*

*(2) following on from the evaluation, any safeguarding measures to ensure preservation in situ of important archaeological remains and/or further archaeological investigation and recording in accordance with a specification and timetable which has been submitted to and approved in writing by the District Planning Authority.*

**Reason:** *To ensure appropriate assessment of the archaeological implications of any development proposals and the subsequent mitigation of adverse impacts through preservation in situ or by record.*

1.2.2 On the basis of the present archaeological information, the Senior Archaeological Officer advising Folkestone & Hythe 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 KCC site specific specifications and in the KCC Evaluation Manual Part B.

1.3 Site description, Geology and Topography

1.3.1 The application site is situated to the north and east of the Royal Victoria Hospital, to the south of the Pent Stream and is accessed from Radnor Park Avenue which is to the south. Radnor Park Gardens is located to the east and the NGR for the centre of the site is 622304 136667.

1.3.2 The site itself comprises the now demolished east wing of the Royal Victoria Hospital and to the rear and north Wakefield Hall and other ancillary building all of which are now demolished.

1.3.3 The Geological Survey of Great Britain (1:50,000) shows that the site is set on bedrock geology of Folkestone Formation- Sand with Head Deposits in the southern part of the site. A ground investigation report has been produced by Knapp Hicks and Partners.



## **2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND**

- 2.1.1 The Proposed Development Area (PDA) is located close to a number of archaeological sites which have been highlighted in advice to the LPA (dated 17th June 2020) from Casper Johnson Senior Archaeological Officer KCC:
- 2.1.2 The KCCHER records show that about 80m to the East a prehistoric tool and woolly rhino tooth was found (TR 23 NW 37). A Belgic cremation was recorded about 400m to the SW (TR 23 NW 15). Radnor Park is also recorded (TR 23 NW 579) and the adjacent Royal Victoria Hospital (TR 23 NW 203). In addition the projected line of a Roman Road running east-west through the southern part of the site (MKE 75998).
- 2.1.3 The PDA (Proposed Development Area) had a number of buildings with deep basements. They include Wakefield Hall situated in the northern area of the site with two buildings to the north and one cruciform building immediately to the south. The east wing of the Royal Victoria Hospital is now demolished and it seems no building recording was undertaken. The proposed archaeological evaluation trench layout (Figure) is designed to avoid areas of now demolished buildings

## **3 METHODOLOGY**

- 3.1 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).
- 3.2 Fieldwork
  - 3.2.1 A total of 12 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.

3.2.4 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.

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**

- 4.1.1 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.
- 4.1.2 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.
- 4.1.3 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.
- 4.1.4 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.

## **5 RESULTS**

- 5.1 Introduction and Summary Results
  - 5.1.1 Archaeological evaluation of land at Royal Victoria Hospital, Radnor Park Avenue, Folkestone CT19 5BN has exposed natural geology comprising yellow-green silty-sand with infrequent sandstone capped by most recent overburden and demolition debris.
  - 5.1.2 Within the area containing Trenches 1 and 2 natural greensand was overlaid by up to 0.1metre thin band of brickearth.
  - 5.1.3 No archaeological cuts, deposits or artefacts were revealed during the course of evaluation.

## 5.2 Trench Narratives

- 5.2.1 Trench 1 (Figure 3) was placed in north-eastern part of the site in NbW-SbE alignment and measured 12.32 metre in length by 1.8metre in width and 0.83metre in depth. It exposed natural geology context (103) comprising yellow-green-grey sand-silt with infrequent sandstone and orange clay lenses. No archaeological cuts or deposits were exposed in this trench. A 0.1metre-thin band of orange brickearth context (102) was found capping greensand deposit.
- 5.2.2 Trench 2 (Figure 3) was placed in north-eastern part of the site in WNW-ESE alignment and measured 13.03 metre in length by 1.8metre in width and 1.41metre in depth. It exposed natural geology context (203) comprising yellow-green-grey sand-silt with infrequent sandstone and orange clay lenses. No archaeological cuts or deposits were exposed in this trench. A 0.1metre thin band of orange brickearth (context (202)) was found capping greensand deposit. Several geological concretions were found within exposed parent material. These consisted of sandstone core surrounded by ferrous oxide staining with distinctive manganese 'halo' what was giving post-hole like appearance in plan.
- 5.2.3 Trench 3 (Figure 3) was placed in north-eastern part of the site in NbE-SbW alignment and measured 11.69 metre in length by 1.8metre in width and 1.54metre in depth. It exposed natural geology context (303) comprising yellow-green-grey sand-silt with infrequent sandstone and orange clay lenses. No archaeological cuts or deposits were exposed in this trench.
- 5.2.4 Trench 4 (Figure 3) was placed in north-eastern part of the site in NNE-SSW alignment and measured 13.28 metre in length by 1.8metre in width and 0.7metre in depth. It exposed natural geology context (403) comprising yellow-green-grey sand-silt with infrequent sandstone and orange clay lenses. No archaeological cuts or deposits were exposed in this trench.
- 5.2.5 Trench 5 (Figure 3) was placed in north-eastern part of the site in ENE-WSW alignment and measured 11.58 metre in length by 1.8metre in width and 0.8metre in depth. It exposed natural geology context (503) comprising yellow-green-grey sand-silt with infrequent sandstone and orange clay lenses. No archaeological cuts or deposits were exposed in this trench.

- 5.2.6 Trench 6 (Figure 3) was placed in north-eastern part of the site in ESE-WNW alignment and measured 11.48 metre in length by 1.8metre in width and 4.04metre in depth. It exposed natural geology context (603) comprising yellow-green-grey sand-silt with infrequent sandstone and orange clay lenses. No archaeological cuts or deposits were exposed in this trench.
- 5.2.7 Trench 7 (Figure 3) was placed in north-central part of the site in east-west alignment and measured 6.6metre in length by 1.8metre in width and 0.88metre in depth. It exposed natural geology context (703) comprising yellow-green-grey sand-silt with infrequent sandstone and orange clay lenses. No archaeological cuts or deposits were exposed in this trench. Several geological features were exposed in this trench, similar composition to anomalies exposed in trench 2.
- 5.2.8 Trench 8 (Figure 3) was placed in north-western part of the site in WbN-EbS alignment and measured 10.56metre in length by 1.8metre in width and 0.63metre in depth. It exposed natural geology context (803) comprising yellow-green-grey sand-silt with infrequent sandstone and orange clay lenses. No archaeological cuts or deposits were exposed in this trench.
- 5.2.9 Trench 9 (Figure 3) was placed in north-western part of the site in WSW-ENE alignment and measured 12.2metre in length by 1.8metre in width and 0.93metre in depth. It exposed natural geology context (903) comprising yellow-green-grey sand-silt with infrequent sandstone and orange clay lenses. No archaeological cuts or deposits were exposed in this trench.
- 5.2.10 Trench 10 (Figure 3) was placed in north-western part of the site in south-west; north-east alignment and measured 10.8metre in length by 1.8metre in width and 0.69metre in depth. It exposed natural geology context (1003) comprising yellow-green-grey sand-silt with infrequent sandstone and orange clay lenses. No archaeological cuts or deposits were exposed in this trench.
- 5.2.11 Trench 11 (Figure 3) was placed in north-western part of the site in NNW-SSE alignment and measured 9.42metre in length by 1.8metre in width and 0.57metre in depth. It exposed natural geology context (1103) comprising yellow-green-grey sand-silt with infrequent sandstone and orange clay lenses. No archaeological cuts or deposits were exposed in this trench.

5.2.12 Trench 12 (Figure 3) was placed in north-eastern part of the site in NbE-SbW alignment and measured 9.31 metre in length by 1.8metre in width and 0.82metre in depth. It exposed natural geology context (1203) comprising yellow-green-grey sand-silt with infrequent sandstone and orange clay lenses. No archaeological cuts or deposits were exposed in this trench.

## **6 CONCLUSIONS**

- 6.1.1 The archaeological evaluation has been successful in fulfilling the primary aims and objectives of the Specification and exposed common stratigraphic sequence comprising top-soil with made-up ground concealing natural geology.
- 6.1.2 Several geological features were exposed in Trenches 2, 7 and 8. These concretions consisted of sandstone core surrounded by ferrous oxide stained-sand with distinctive manganese 'halo' that was giving off post-hole like appearance in plan.
- 6.1.3 Manganese and iron minerals in these concretions precipitated from the ambient or surrounding water in two ways: hydrogenetically, in which the minerals precipitate from cold ambient seawater; and diagenetically, in which minerals precipitate from sediment pore waters. The latter occurs in seawater that has been modified by chemical reactions within the sediment.
- 6.1.4 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.

## **7 FINDS**

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

## **8 RECOMMENDATIONS AND FURTHER WORK**

8.1.1 There is no requirement for further work.

## **9 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

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

9.1.2 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.

## **10 ARCHIVE**

10.1 General

10.1.1 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).

10.1.2 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 Royal Victoria Hospital, Radnor Park Avenue, Folkestone CT19 5BN

**SWAT Site Code:** RPA-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 Royal Victoria Hospital, Radnor Park Avenue, Folkestone CT19 5BN. The archaeological programme was monitored by the Senior Archaeological Officer at Kent County Council. The Archaeological Evaluation consisted of 12 trenches, which recorded a relatively common stratigraphic sequence comprising topsoil and recent overburden with modern made-up ground overlying natural geology.*

*No archaeology was found.*

***Further mitigation is not required.***

**District/Unitary:** Folkestone & Hythe District Council & Kent County Council

**Period(s):** modern

**NGR (centre of site to eight figures)** NGR 622304 136667

**Type of Archaeological work:** Archaeological Evaluation

**Date of recording:** April 2021

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

**Geology:** Sandstone capped by Head Deposits

**Title and author of accompanying report:** SWAT Archaeology (P. Cichy 2021) Archaeological Evaluation of land at Royal Victoria Hospital, Radnor Park Avenue, Folkestone CT19 5BN.

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

**Contact at Unit:** Paul Wilkinson

## References

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

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

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

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*Department of the Environment, 2010, Planning for the Historic Environment, Planning (PPS 5) HMSO.*

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*SWAT Archaeology, 2020, Specification for a Programme of Archaeological Evaluation of land at Royal Victoria Hospital, Radnor Park Avenue, Folkestone CT19 5BN.*

## Figures and Plates



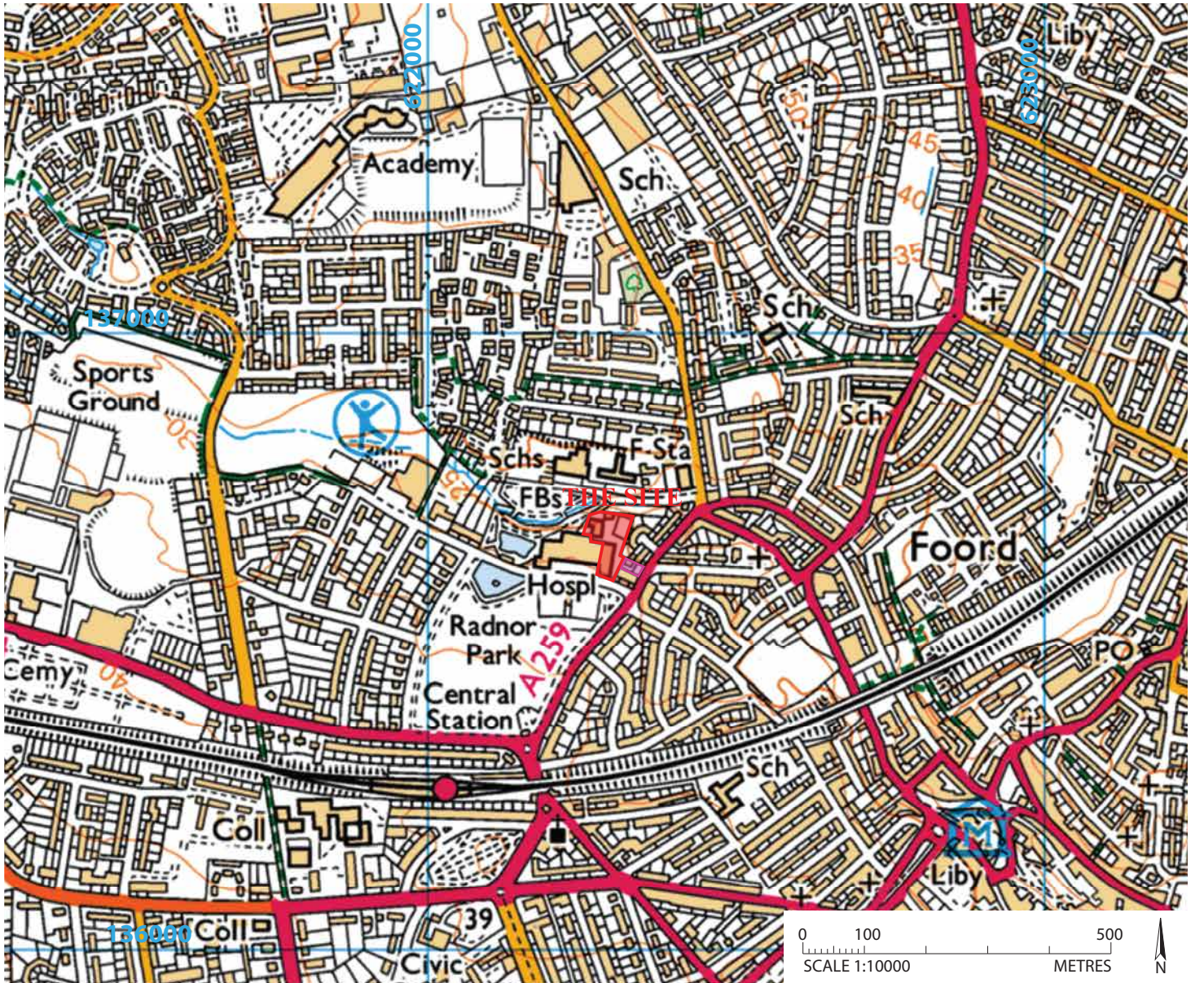
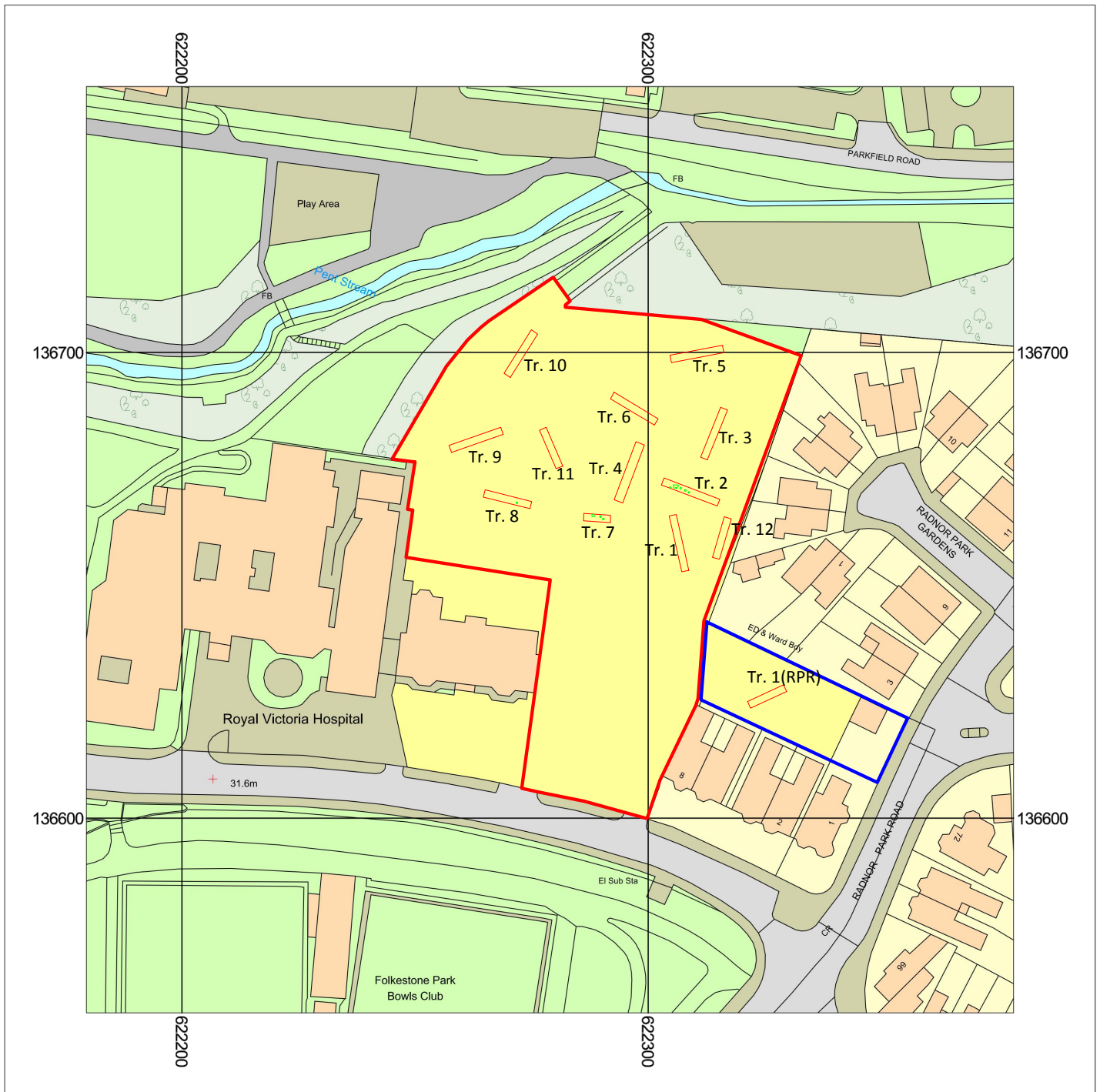
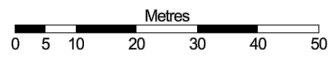


Figure 1: Site location map, scale 1:10000.





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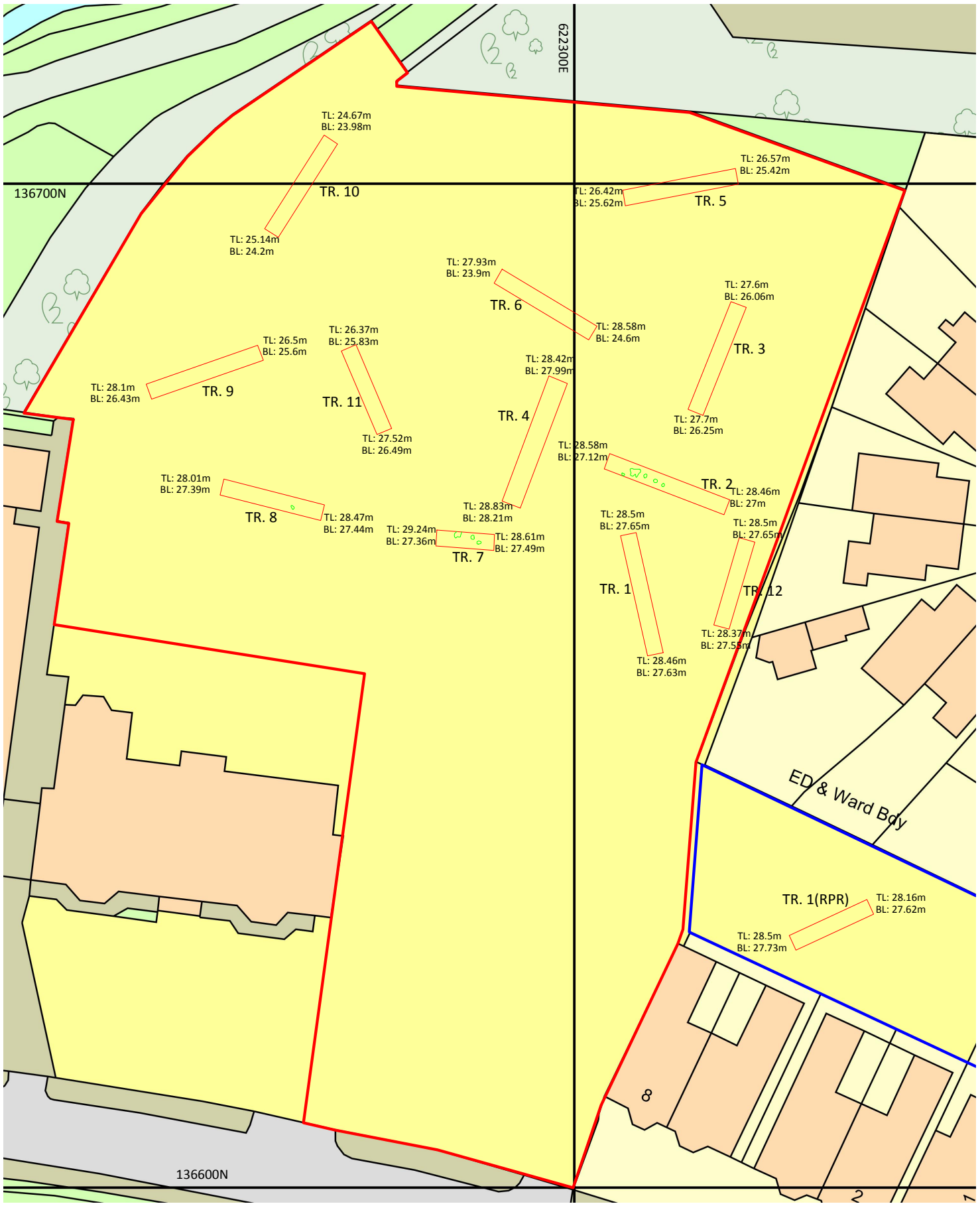


Scale: 1:1250

KEY:

— PDA Outline

Figure 2: Trench location in relation to OS map



KEY:  
 PDA Outline  
 Natural features

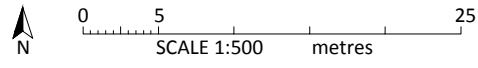


Figure 3: Trench location

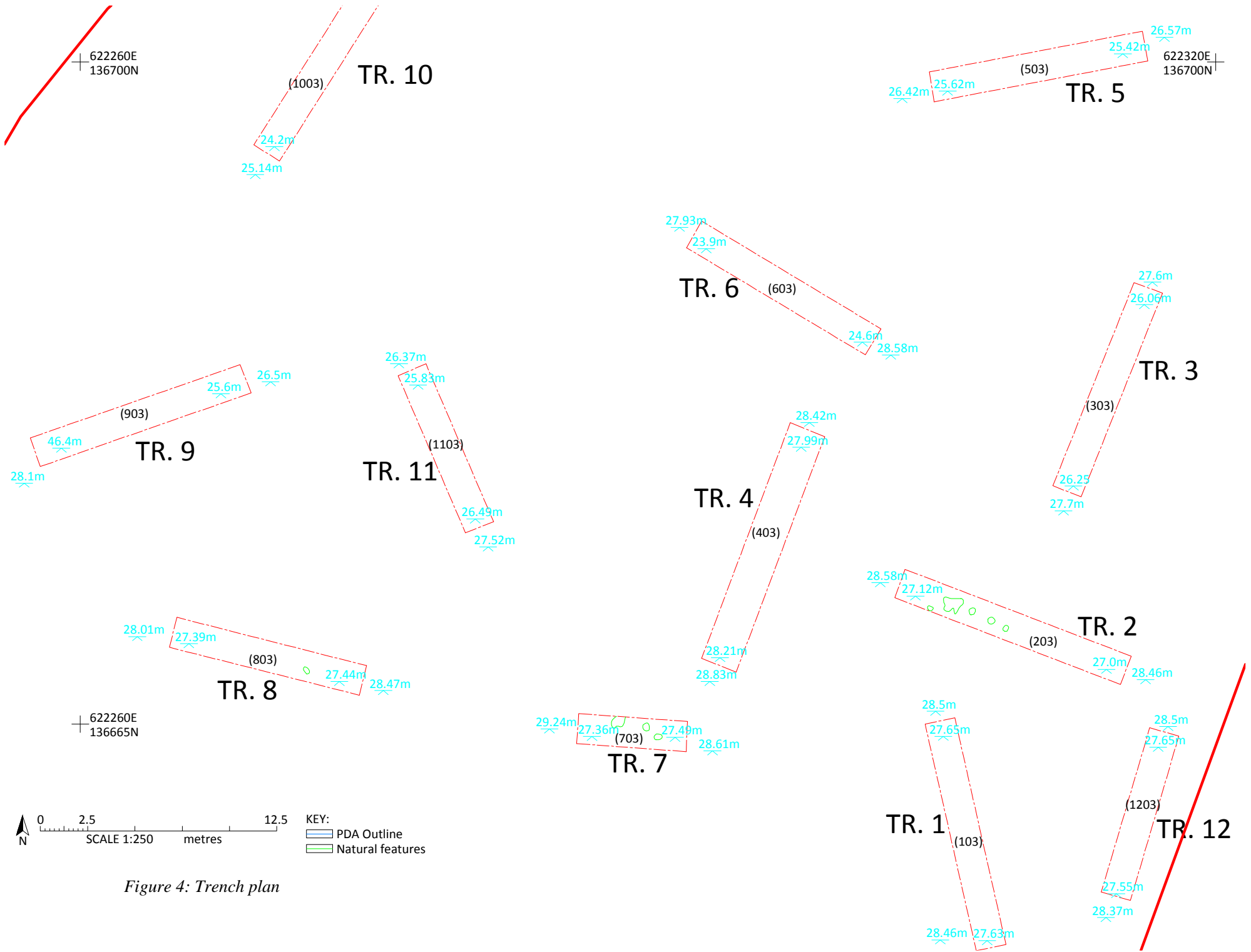


Figure 4: Trench plan

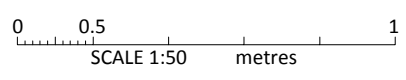
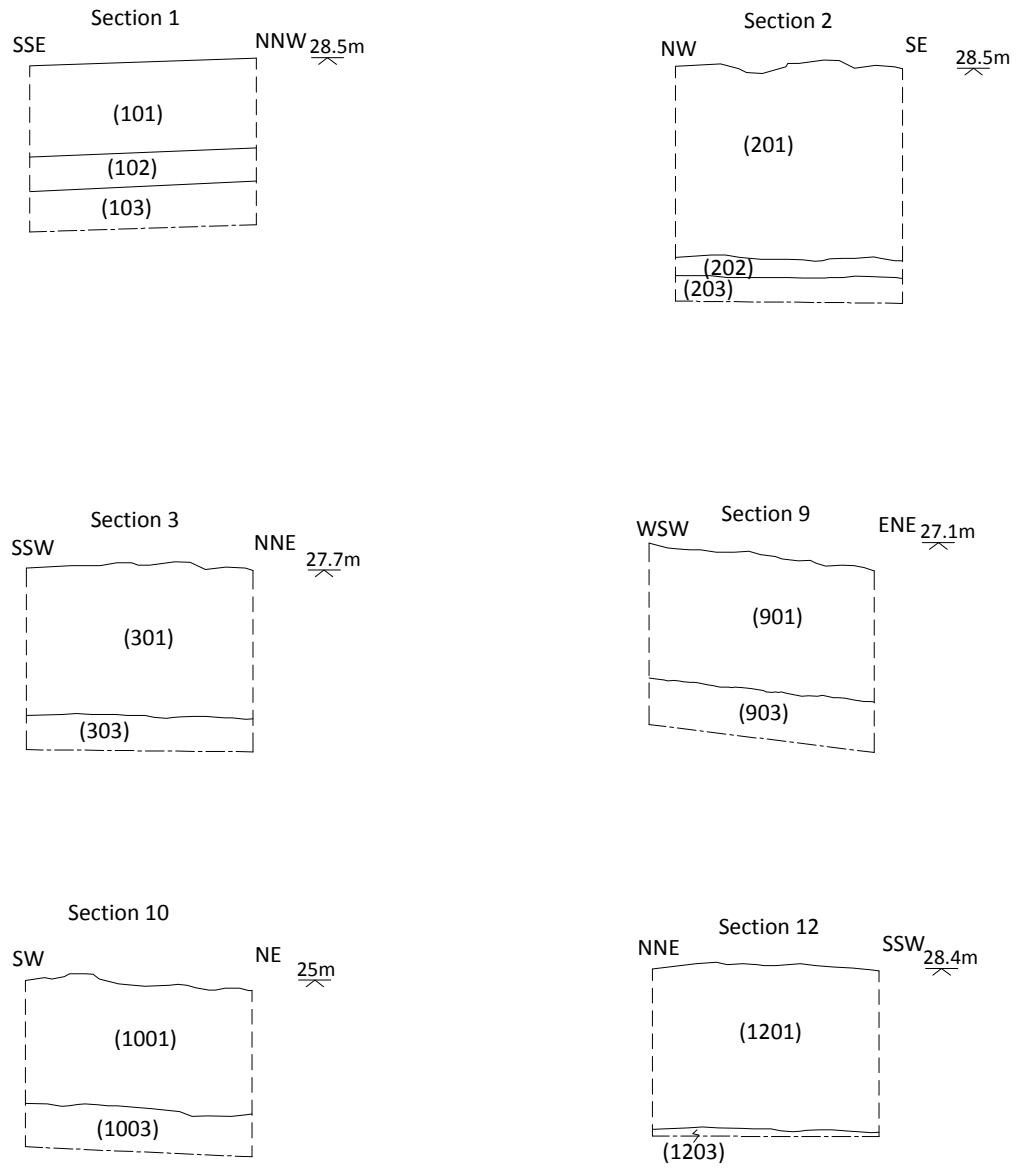


Figure 5: Representative sections





Plate 1: Showing north-western part of the Site. Looking south.



Plate 2: Showing north-eastern part of the site. Looking north-east.





Plate 3: Showing central and eastern part of the site. Looking east.



Plate 4: Showing evaluation Trench 1. Looking south with two-metre scale.





Plate 5: Showing evaluation Trench 2. Looking east with two-metre scale.



Plate 6: Mineral concretions exposed in Trench 2 (close up). Each scale segment equals 0.2metre.





Plate 7: Another example of mineral concretions exposed in Trench 2 (close up). Each scale segment equals 0.2metre.



Plate 8: Showing evaluation Trench 3. Looking south with two-metre scale.





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



Plate 10: Showing evaluation Trench 5. Looking west with one- and two-metre scales.





Plate 11: Showing evaluation Trench 6, looking north-west.



Plate 12: Showing exposed natural surface in evaluation Trench 6.





Plate 13: Showing evaluation Trench 7. Looking east with two-metre scale.



Plate 14: Showing evaluation Trench 8. Looking west with two-metre scale.





Plate 15: Showing evaluation Trench 9. Looking west with two-metre scale.



Plate 16: Showing evaluation Trench 10. Looking south-west with two-metre scale.





Plate 17: Showing evaluation Trench 11. Looking north-west with two-metre scale.



Plate 18: Showing evaluation Trench 12. Looking north-east with two-metre scale.