

# Archaeological Recording of land on the north side of Boundary Road, Ramsgate, Kent

Site Code BRR-WB-21



Date of report 11/05/2021

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## **1. Summary**

*During 15<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup> March 2021 SWAT Archaeology carried out a programme of archaeological recording of land on the north side of Boundary Road, Ramsgate in Kent. The works were commissioned by the developer and carried out after the excavation of ground works associated with the new development.*

*The archaeological recording was conducted in accordance with methodology agreed with the Principal Archaeological Advisor KCC.*

*Despite the potential for the presence and survival of archaeological remains in the exposed sections, no archaeological features were recorded during the archaeological recording works.*

## **2. Introduction**

2.1 The proposed development area (PDA) is situated at land on the north side of Boundary Road, Ramsgate, Kent. The NGR to the centre of the site is NGR 638741 65504 (Figures 1 & 2).

2.2 This report was prepared for the Watching Brief phase of archaeological investigation and comprised monitoring of the ground reduction

2.3 The site was reduced due to remediation before the watching brief was carried out. As a result archaeological observation was limited to recording of the site sections to provide a general indication of the nature of the ground that had been removed and to identify any archaeological or industrial archaeological remains that may be still visible. The work was carried out following discussion and agreement with KCC's Principal Archaeological officer and Thanet District Council and in accordance with a WSI.

## **3. Planning Background**

3.1 The land has planning permission (F/TH/19/0709) from Thanet District Council for the erection of a retail unit of 1,838 sqm (Use class A1) with associated works access and parking

3.2 The following Condition (3) requiring a programme of archaeological monitoring was attached to the planning consent:

*No 3) Prior to the commencement of the development hereby approved, the applicant, or their agents or successors in title, shall secure the implementation of a watching brief to be undertaken by an archaeologist approved by the Local Planning Authority so that the excavation is observed and items of interest and finds are recorded. The watching brief shall be in accordance with a written programme and specification, which has been submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority.*

**GROUND:**

*To ensure that features of archaeological interest are properly examined and recorded in accordance with the advice contained within the National Planning Policy Framework.*

#### **4. Schedule of Visits**

Suitably experienced archaeologists from SWAT Archaeology attended the site (Peter Cichy, Bartek Cichy, Paul Wilkinson MCIfA) and recorded the exposed perimeter sections from 15<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> March 2021.

#### **5. Aims and Objectives**

5.1 The objectives of the recording were therefore to:

- To secure the adequate recording of any archaeological remains revealed by section;
- To secure the full analysis and interpretation of the site archive and the appropriate publication of the project results, if required;
- To secure the analysis, long term conservation and storage of the project archive.

5.2 The specific archaeological requirements of the recording are summarised below;

- Archaeological recording of all exposed sections;
- Mitigation by a programme of archaeological excavation and recording in the event that additional archaeological remains are encountered;
- Post-excavation and publication, where required.

## **6. Archaeological and Geological Background**

6.1 The underlying geology at the site according to the British Geological Survey is Bedrock Geology of Seaford Chalk Formation. Superficial Deposits are recorded as Head 1. Clay and Silt. The geology revealed on site was chalk bedrock and HEAD. The PDA is set at an average height of 18.75m aOD.

6.2 The archaeological potential was highlighted by the KCC Principal Archaeological Officer as part of the planning process and the KCCHER records that to the east of the PDA is the site of a Methodist Chapel (TR 36 NE 2457), to the south-east the former offices of the Gas Works (TR 36 NE 2311). To the south are three WWII bomb craters (MWX 43096) and about 100m to the west two WWII water supply tanks (MWX 43096).

## **7. Methodology**

7.1 Archaeological investigation comprised a walkover inspection of the sections and surfaces exposed after machine reduction of the ground. The areas of interests were noted and recorded.

7.2 Each segment of the exposed section was photographed with markers that were further surveyed.

7.3 The ground reduction hasn't been monitored. It works comprised levelling of the site to the level of northern extent of the site which is at level of 17.3metres OD. The ground level was highest within south west corner of the site and it was descending to the east, north-east and north.

7.4 Within southern extent of the site up to 2metres of material forming a sloping ground has been removed, comprising hardcore and natural.

7.5 Ground reduction works within northern extent involved bulldozer levelling. No reduction was done here which was evident by the presence of concrete ramp leading to northern gate. The area that was obscured by bulldozer tracks was carefully walked over in pursuit to find any archaeological remains indicating the presence of features.

## **8. Recording**

8.1 A complete drawn record comprising sections, drawn to appropriate scales (1:10 for sections) was undertaken. Where appropriate, the sections were annotated with coordinates and aOD heights and form part of the site archive.

8.2 Sections exposed on the perimeter of excavated area have been with labelled with flags indicating reference points X1-X10, A-G, H-X and Z1-Z11 accordingly on west part of southern boundary, east part of southern boundary, eastern boundary and south part of western boundary.

8.3 Photographs were taken as appropriate providing a record of exposed sections. 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.

8.4 A single context recording system was used to record the deposits. A full list is presented in Table 2 below. Layers and fills are identified in this report thus (01), whilst the cut of any features is shown [02]. Context numbers were assigned to all modern and natural deposits for recording purposes.

8.5 The Site Archive, which will include; paper records, photographic records, graphics and digital data, will be prepared following nationally recommended guidelines (SMA 1995; ClfA 2017). All archive elements will be marked with the site/accession code, and a full index will be prepared. The physical archive comprises 1 file/document case of paper records & A4 graphics and CD for photo archive.

## **9. Stratigraphic Sequence**

9.1 The stratigraphic sequence recorded during the archaeological works remained relatively consistent across areas of the site, comprising areas of hardcore or in places topsoil mixed with hardcore overlaying the natural geology of HEAD and chalk bedrock.

9.2 Natural horizon was at highest place within south-west extent of the site and it was descending to the north, north-east and east.

9.3 Exposed made ground material represents different phases of development and demolition of Building and Structures of Gas Distribution Station.

9.4 The site produced no archaeological features or deposits or finds and no environmental potential was recognised on site.

## 10. Results

10.1 Sections have been recorded (Figure 3) alongside eastern, southern and western boundary of the excavated area. It was seen that the northern half of the site was occupied by two gas holders (Figure 2). This part of the site wasn't reduced as it was on desired level. The site surface within north half was made ground material, mostly fill that was related to demolish gas holders. Western two thirds of the area surface was mid brown loam with frequent chalk fine pebble and grit. Remaining part was mid grey marl.

10.2 The ground to the north around the gasholders had been levelled and the ground to the south had been reduced exposing the chalk strata with overlying superficial HEAD deposit (Figure 3). Natural geology was partially exposed on the site surface within this part of the site. In addition a section was recorded in the south-east corner- A-G (Figure 4). A full photographic survey was undertaken (Plates 1-40) and sections drawn

10.3 The following Table provides detailed description of each stratigraphic context shown in Section 1 (Figure 4, Plate 2-4).

<b>Context Number</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Interpretation</b>
01a	Concrete – surface 0.1m thick, remains stuck to wall face	Structure – drive way
01b	Concrete – E-W aligned wall	Structure - Retaining wall
01c	Concrete – N-S aligned wall, eastern wall of former stairway	Structure - wall
01d	Concrete – N-S aligned wall, western wall of former stairway	Structure - wall
01e	Concrete – surface 0.1m thick, remains stuck to wall face	Structure – drive way
01f	Concrete – E-W aligned wall	Structure - Retaining wall
01g	Concrete – cast coarse gravel concrete. Gravel was cobbles bricks, concrete, flint	Structure – Stairway landing floor
02a	Mid grey loam with freq. concrete cobbles and pebbles and occ. fragments of brick	Made ground
02b	Compacted concrete cobbles and small boulders; light grey	Made ground

02c	Compacted crushed concrete with occ. brick; light grey. Seems to have darker gravel horizon at the base of the context	Made ground
02d	Compacted crushed concrete with occ. brick; mottled dark brown	Made ground or fill of wall foundation trench
02e	Loose crushed concrete and tarmac cobbles and small boulders ,occ. brick, brown loam; mottled light grey	Made ground - fill
02f	Loose gravel cobbles and small boulders. Material was tarmac, concrete, brick, flint.	Made ground - fill
02g	Light grey compacted crushed concrete with bricks	Made ground - fill
02h	Light grey crushed concrete, chalk and occ. brick	Made ground
02i	Light grey crushed concrete, chalk and occ. brick	Made ground
02j	Hardcore: brick and concrete and occ. boulders	Made ground
02k	Compacted cobble gravel. Gravel is flint, concrete, brick, tarmac and chalk.	Made ground
02l	Hardcore	Made ground
02m	Mid brown loam with freq. brick and concrete	Made ground
03a	Brick gravel: Orangey red brick and occ. concrete in subceramic red sand matrix	Made ground
03b	Brick gravel: red brick and occ. concrete in subceramic red sand matrix	Made ground
03c	Brick gravel: mixed brick, concrete and wall fragments (concrete bond) in subceramic red sand matrix	Made ground
04a	Red brick sand with occ. brick fragments. Thin band	Made ground
04b	Red brick sand with occ. brick fragments. Thin band	Made ground
05	Brickearth; mid brown loam	Natural
06	Chalk Bedrock	Natural

*Table 1 Stratigraphic Sequence and Register of Contexts in Section 1.*

**10.4** Section 1 (Plate 2 and 3, Figure 4) recorded between markers X1 and X3 is showing uneven, wavy and sloping chalk bedrock horizon overlaid by HEAD deposit. The natural geology is sealed with made ground material comprising deposits of brick, hardcore and concrete. Material forming made ground was deposited in order to provide levelled platform for construction of the building located immediately to the south and associated driveway. Some of the material described as made ground is a later modern



fill of features like foundation trenches and service trenches and later levelling deposits also related to the building.

10.5 Continuation of the Section 1 to the east was recorded in photographs and is marked in plan with labels X3 to X10. Between markers X3 to X6 it shows continuation of made ground deposits and the natural horizon descending below site horizon (base of reduced ground).

10.6 Further to the east between markers X6 and X7 section is showing concrete elevation of the wall with fragment of perpendicularly aligned wall aside X6. The face of the concrete is clean, indicating that it was an inside face of sunken building. The wall was 1.3metres high and its 0.1metres at the top was weathered. On the other side of the wall there is a subterrean passage that goes around the main building and on the east there is a corner of the wall that turns to the south.

10.7 Further to the east between markers X7 and X8 the section (plate 7 and 8) is about 1.2metres high and shows made ground dominated by concrete boulders overlaid by concrete (flat boulder) surface that also seals brown ceramic drain pipe covered with cast coarse concrete filling shallow wide trench. Another service trench with plastic, compound pipe was exposed near marker X7 located near the building. Both service trenches are aligned perpendicularly to the section face. Above the concrete surface there is a levelling layer of tarmac beads. Both surface layers were 0.2metres thick.

10.8 Next segment of the section (Plate 9) between markers X8 and X9 was facing west and is showing concrete foundations of standing building. The foundations were obscured by material that was filling the foundation trench and overlying tarmac surface. Next section segment X9 to X10 (Plate 10) that was facing north is showing the same foundations but clean and from other side.

10.9 At the north-east corner of the building located further to the east from reference point X10 the trench edge was turning to the south and depth was increasing southwards to 1.6.metre. This part of trench wall was about 20metres long and placed alongside east wall of the building. Further to the east trench wall was placed alongside southern boundary wall and depth of trench was descending to 0.6m. The sides of the trench were sloping and made of deposited material comprising brown loam mixed with abundance of hardcore. Similar material was exposed at the base of the trench. In the

middle of the south boundary wall there was a gate and artificial ramp that connect the street with trench base was placed there

10.10 Within south east corner of the site trench depth decreased further from 0.6metres to 0.2m at the corner. The section between markers A and C (Plate 17 and 18) is showing robust concrete foundations and brick walls aligned perpendicularly to southern boundary wall. These structures are mostly obscured by trench battering between markers A and B. Within edge of the site, the structures still continues below trench base and were demolished in the past. The brickwork was the same as original brickwork of the boundary wall.

10.11 Further to the east part of section between markers C-G is showing rubble material and trench depth was decreasing to 0.1metres. Last segment of section between F and G was facing west and was located alongside eastern boundary wall. It shows pavement concrete slabs and chalk bedding. Immediately to the north there was fenced off concrete floor with hatch openings (Plate 22).

10.12 No reduction was done within northern half of the site which was evident by the presence of concrete ramp leading to northern gate. It is also evident that ground here was reduced-terraced in the past prior to installation of storage tanks. Most likely some concrete surface was removed along with storage tanks. The surface exposed here was obscured by bulldozer tracks and material was brown clayey loam and marl. Marl was dominating within eastern extent of the area. Material comprised fragments of chalk, flint, brick, concrete and tarmac. There were no visible remains of the massive storage tanks. A section recorded along eastern boundary wall between markers G-X shows elevation of the boundary wall (Plate 23-28). The lack of dirt on wall face indicates that it wasn't buried. No reduction of the ground alongside northern and northern half of western boundary is shown on Plates 27 to 33

10.13 Section alongside western boundary wall within southern half of the site indicated by markers Z1 to Z11 shows section through the sloping ground comprising modern rubble and thick concrete surface (Plate 34-40). Made ground was sealing brown outcropping brickearth.

## **11. Finds**

Finds comprised modern building material, junk metal and rubbish. All bricks were modern. Some brick forming a made ground were stock bricks but crushed and no suitable brick or fragments for analyses could be extracted.

No finds were retrieved.

## **12. Discussion**

12.1 The development site is in an area of high archaeological potential. However, no archaeology was revealed on the development site. Exposed remains were modern and related to phases of development of the Gas Distribution Station.

12.2 During former development the ground was severely disturbed by extensive cuts and terracing – levelling works resulting in exposition and partial removal of natural horizon. Looking at the boundary wall, higher level of the street in relation to site level it is evident that large portion of southern half and whole northern half of the site was reduced in the past. Alongside southern boundary there are buildings with outer underground passages that also had to cut away natural horizon. Section recorded between the buildings confirms extensive impact to the ground by former development. It shows raised horizon with tarmac surface set on top of massive concrete boulders (Plate 7) that were derived from demolished foundations of unknown heavy load bearing structure. All that 1.2metre deep material is a fill if the projected natural horizon is considered. This section is also indicating that ground reduction within southern half of the site has happened during former development. This was also confirmed by layers that survived in section on the edge of battered trench (Plate 12). The material was forming horizontal sequence but was abutted to the face of foundation wall and it wasn't clear if it was a backfill of the foundation trench or made ground but the latter was confirmed.

### **13. Conclusion**

13.1 The Archaeological Investigation has fulfilled the primary aims and objectives of the KCC Archaeological Specification. As far as it is known no buried archaeological features have been affected as a result of the development.

13.2 The results indicate that ground was significantly disturbed by vast modern cuts and majority of the potential archaeological horizon was removed during construction of the Gas Distribution Station. Any significant archaeological remains would be found during former development.

### **14. Acknowledgments**

SWAT Archaeology would like to thank the landowner/developer for commissioning the project. Fieldwork was undertaken by Peter Cichy and report written by Dr Paul Wilkinson MCIfA and dated 11<sup>th</sup> May 2021. Additional text sections were written by Bartek Cichy who also edited the second edition of this report.

### **15. REFERENCES**

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

Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, 2014, updated 1st October 2020 *Standard and guidance: for watching Brief*.

Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, 2014, updated 1<sup>st</sup> October 2020. *Standard and guidance for the creation, compilation, transfer and deposition of archaeological archives*.

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

SWAT Archaeology. *Specification for an archaeological watching brief at land on the north side of Boundary Road, Ramsgate, Kent*

## Appendix 1

### **Kent County Council HER Summary Form**

**Site Name:** Development of land on the north side of Boundary Road, Ramsgate, Kent Kent

**SWAT Site Code:** BRR-WB-21

**Site Address:** As above

#### **Summary:**

Swale and Thames Survey Company (SWAT) carried out Archaeological Monitoring on the development site above. The site has planning permission for development whereby Kent County Council Heritage and Conservation (KCCHC) requested that Archaeological Recording of Sections be undertaken to record the stratas exposed by groundwork excavations.

**District/Unitary:** Thanet District Council

#### **Period(s):**

**NGR (centre of site to eight figures)** NGR 683741 65504

**Type of Archaeological work:** Archaeological Recording

**Date of recording:** March 2021

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

**Geology:** Bedrock geology is Seaford Chalk Formation overlaid by demolition rubble

**Title and author of accompanying report:** Wilkinson P. (2021) Archaeological Recording on land on the North Side of Boundary Road, Ramsgate, Kent

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

See above

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



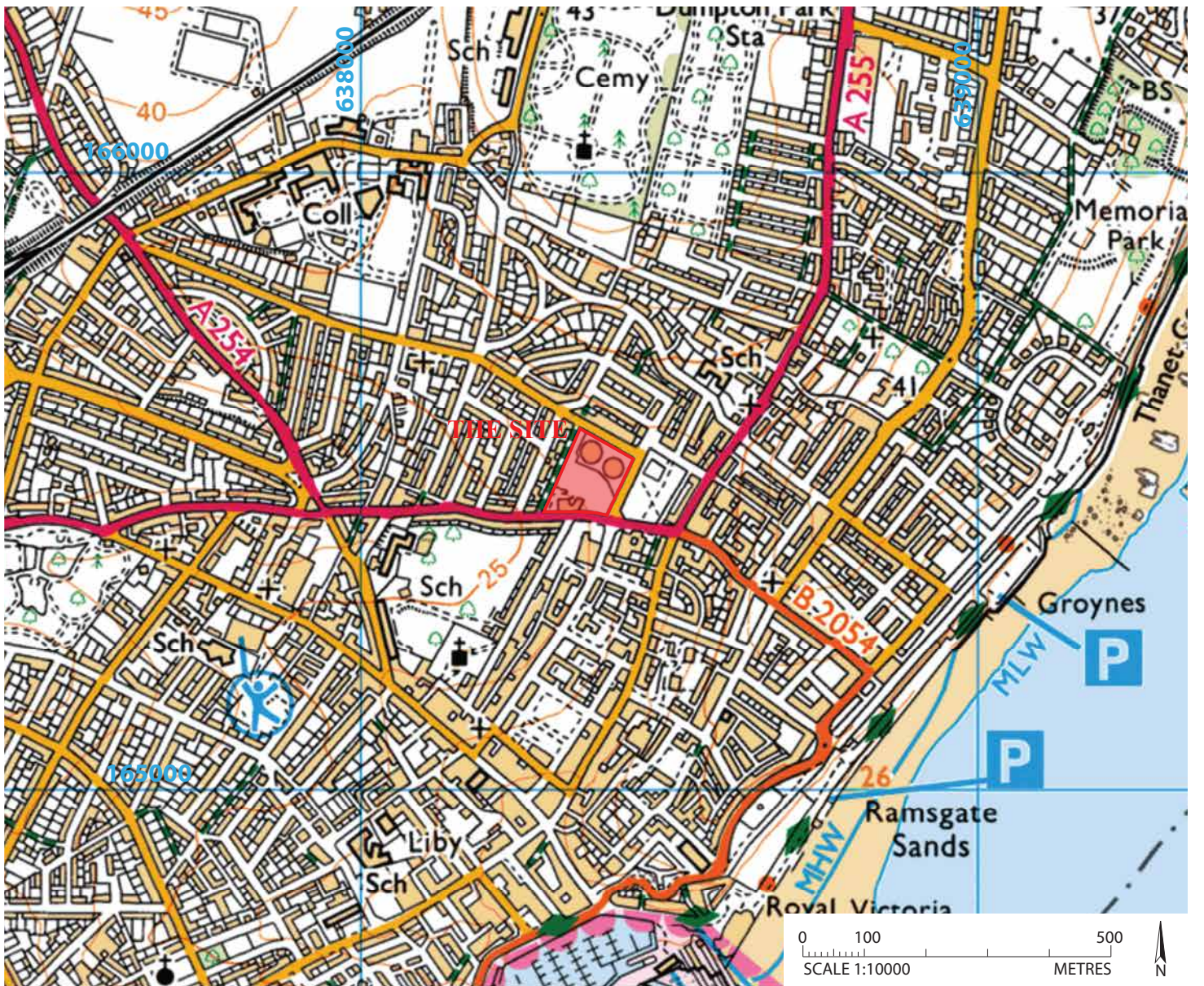
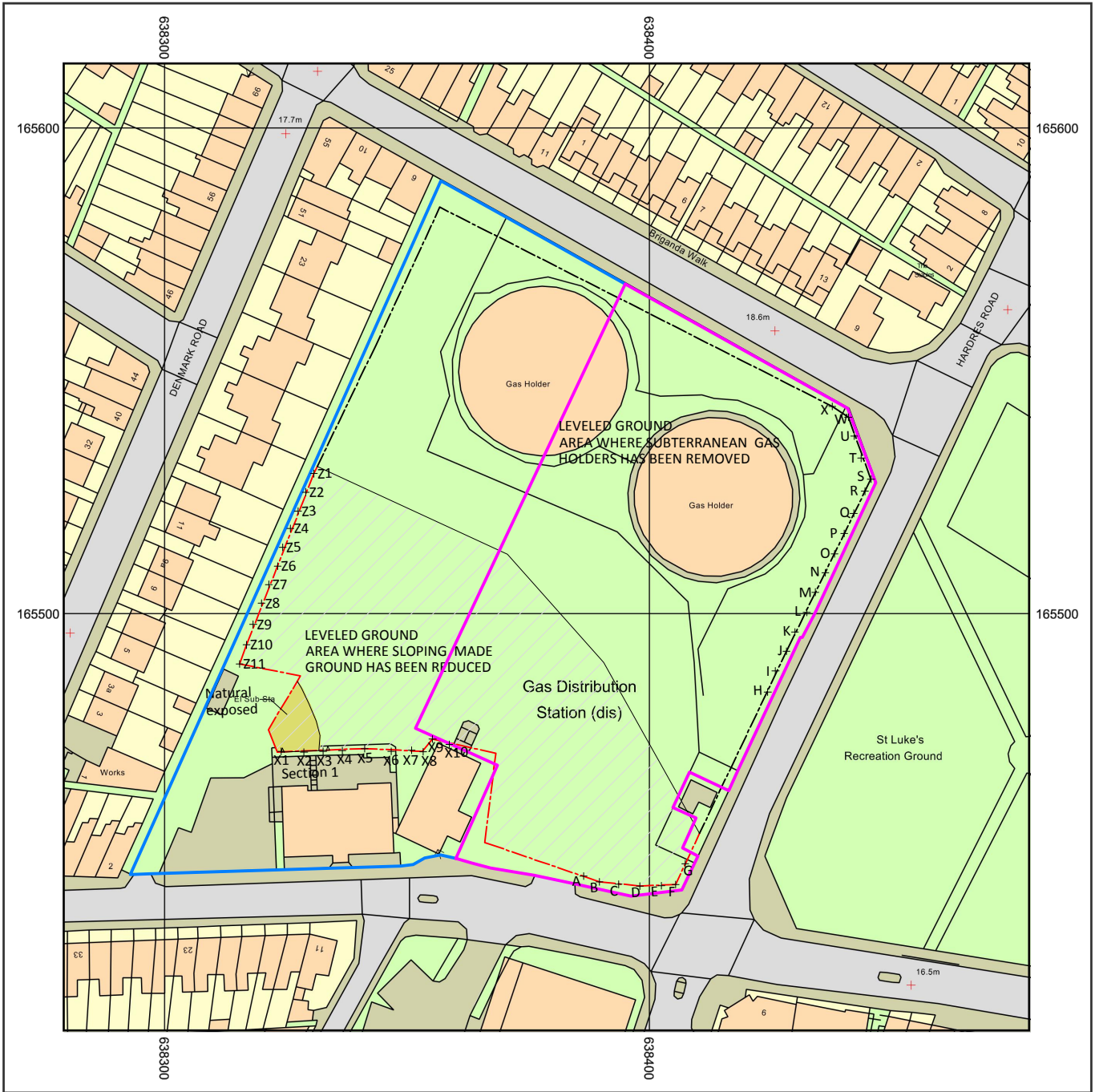
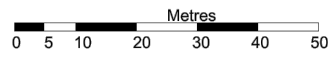


Figure 1: Site location map, scale 1:10000.



Serial number: 19305



Scale: 1: 1250

- KEY:**
- PDA 1- ALDI
  - PDA 2
  - DEEP TRENCH
  - SHALLOW TRENCH
  - + PHOTO REFERENCE POINT

Figure 2: Site plan in relation to OS map



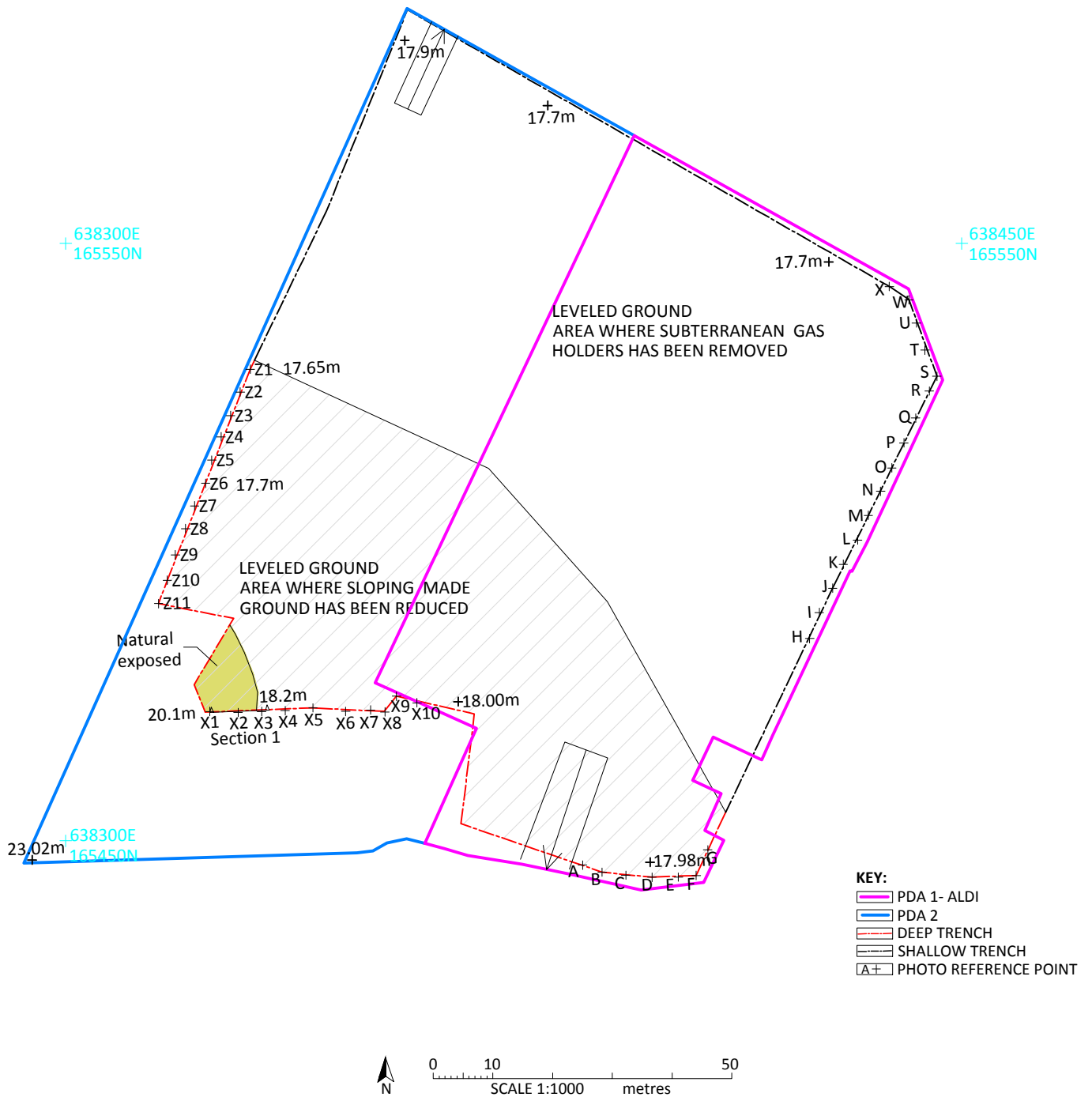
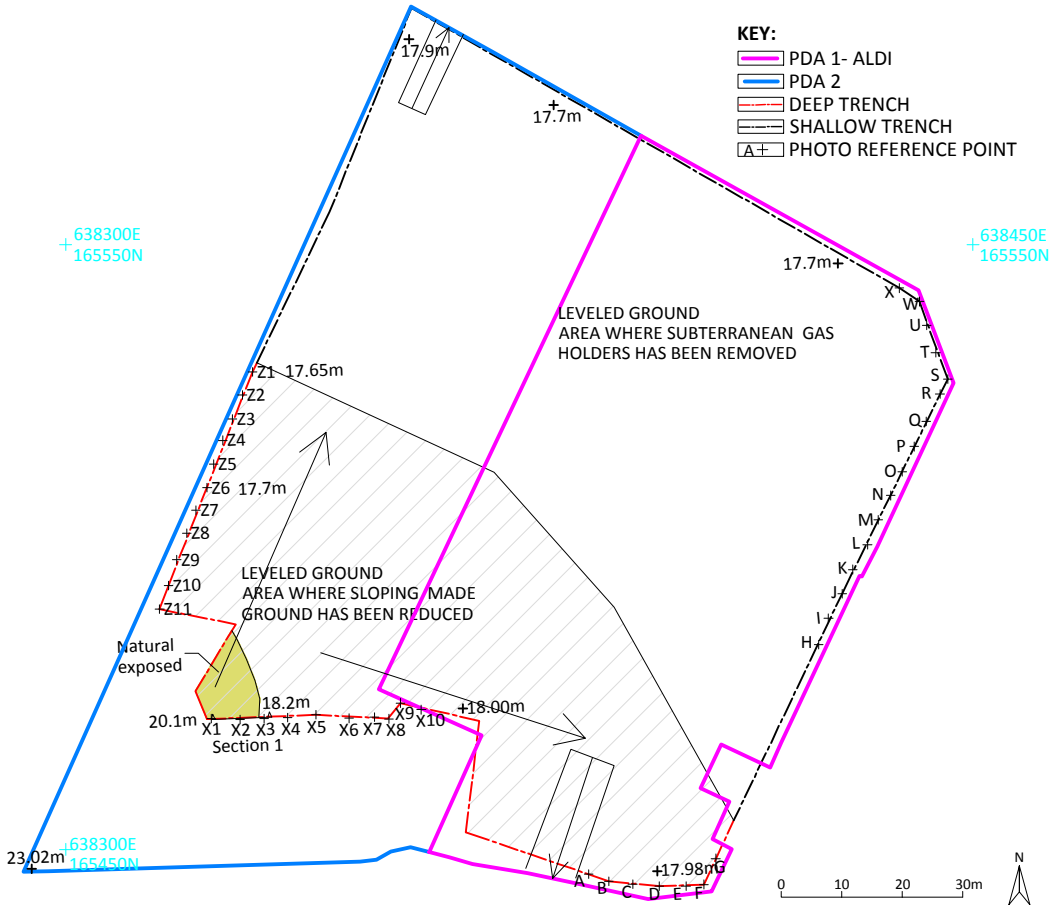
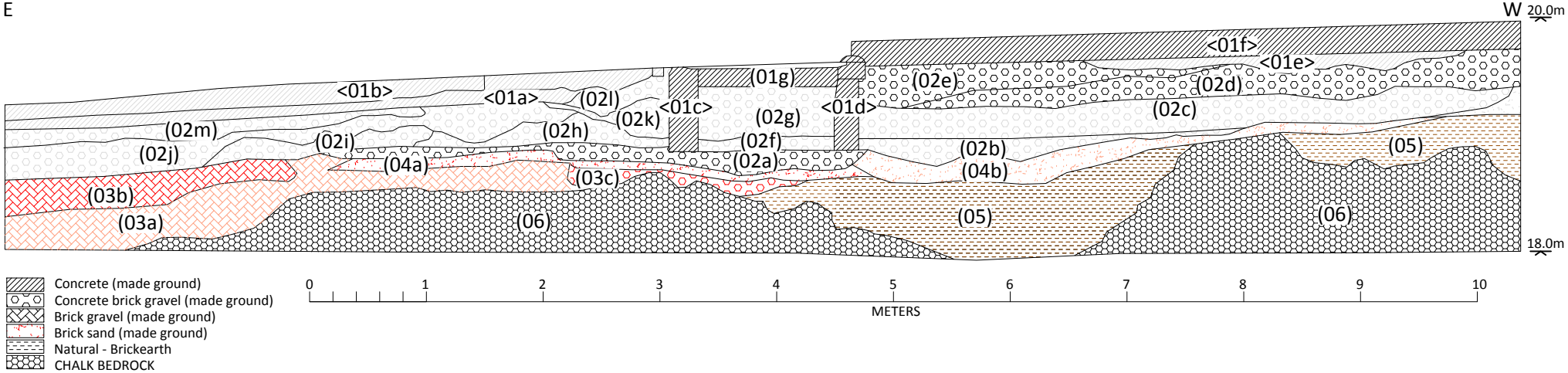


Figure 3: Site plan

SECTION 1



SECTION 1

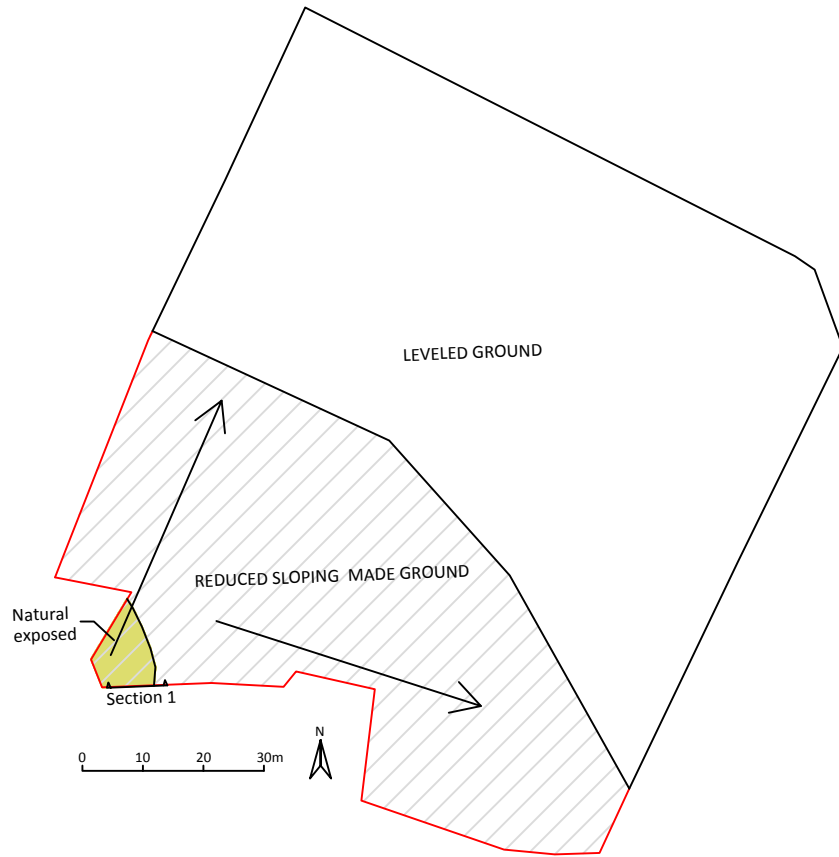
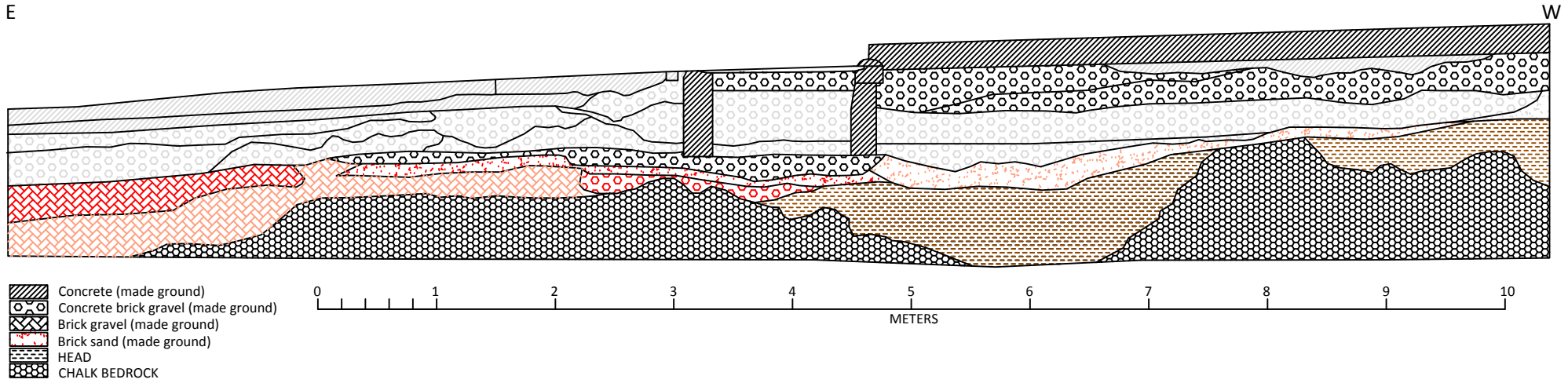




Plate 1: Showing the Site, looking north-east



Plate 2: Western part of Section 1 (X1 – X2). Looking south with two-metre scales.



Plate 3: Eastern part of Section 1 (X2 – X3). Looking south with two-metre scales.



Plate 4: Section X3 – X4, looking south with two-metre scales.



Plate 5: Section X4 – X5, looking south-east with two-metre scale.



Plate 6: Section X5-X6, looking south-west with two-metre scale.



Plate 7: Section X6-X7, looking south with two-metre scales.



Plate 8: Section X7-X8, looking south with two-metre scales.



Plate 9: Section X8-X9, looking south-east with two-metre scales.



Plate 10: Section X9-X10, looking south with two-metre scales.





Plate 11: Section X10-X11, looking south with two-metre scales.



Plate 12: Showing loose loam with rubble forming batter that extends from X11 to south-eastern gate which is visible in background. Looking south-east with two-metre scale.



Plate 13: Showing loose loam with rubble forming batter that extends from X11 to south-eastern gate. Looking south with two-metre scale.



Plate 14: Overview as above, looking south-east with two-metre scales.



Plate 15: Showing western part of batter between X11 and south-eastern gate.



Plate 16: Section next to south-eastern gate (western side). Looking south with two-metre scales.



Plate 17: Showing section A-B, looking south with two-metre scales.



Plate 18: Showing section B-C, looking south with two-metre scales.



Plate 19: Section C-D, looking south with two-metre scales.



Plate 20: Section D-F, looking south with two-metre scales.



Plate 21: Section F-G, looking south-east with two-metre scales.



Plate 22: Showing inaccessible area between points G and H. Looking south.



Plate 23: Section H-J, looking south-east with two-metre scales.



Plate 24: Section J-L, looking south-east with two-metre scales.



Plate 25: Section L-N, looking south-east with two-metre scales.



Plate 26: Section N-P, looking south-east with two-metre scales.





Plate 27: Section P-S, looking south-east with two-metre scales.



Plate 28: Section S-X, looking east with two-metre scale.



Plate 29: Showing northern boundary of the Site (between X and northern corner)



Plate 30: Showing exposed ramp at northern gate (adjacent to northern corner of PDA). Looking north with two-metre scales.



Plate 31: Showing section of north-western wall (approx. 8 metres) at northern corner of the Site. Looking north-west with two-metre scales.



Plate 32: Showing section of north-western wall (approx. 6 metres) at northern corner of the Site. Looking north-west with two-metre scale.



Plate 33: Northern section of north-western boundary wall. Point Z1 in background. Looking south-west with two-metre scale.



Plate 34: Showing Section Z1-Z3 at southern part of western boundary wall. Looking west with two-metre scales.



Plate 35: Section Z3-Z5, looking west with two-metre scales.



Plate 36: Section Z5-Z7, looking west with two-metre scales.



Plate 37: Section Z7-Z9, looking west with two-metre scales.



Plate 38: Section Z9-Z11, looking west with two-metre scales.



Plate 39: Showing inaccessible section after Z11 to the east.



Plate 40: Overlook on southern part of western boundary wall, section Z1 - Z11, looking north with two-metre scales.