Archaeological Evaluation of land at Halfway Egg Farm, Featherbed Lane, Sittingbourne, Kent ME9 8RA

EVALUATION REPORT

V.1.0

NGR Site Centre: **590105E 166961N**

Planning Application Number:

Report for: **Esquire Developments**

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Accession number: *<pending>*

Site code: **HEF-EV-22**

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Abstract

Swale & Thames Survey Company (SWAT Archaeology) was commissioned by Esquire Developments to undertake an archaeological evaluation on land at Halfway Egg Farm, Featherbed Lane, Sittingbourne, Kent ME9 8RA. The archaeological programme was monitored by the Principal Archaeological Officer at Kent County Council. The Archaeological Evaluation consisted of 14 trenches, which recorded a relatively common stratigraphic sequence comprising topsoil, subsoil and made-up ground overlying natural geology.

The archaeological evaluation has demonstrated the presence of dense archaeological activity in the form of Late Bronze Age and Iron Age farmstead, field system and associated discrete features. The farmstead and associated field system appears to be multi-phase although no activity later than Iron Age was recorded within south-eastern part of the site

The activity resumed in Medieval and LPM periods but only within north-western part of the site and in form of two ditches of which one is clearly associated with historic Sheppey Way. In the same part of the site although bit further away from Sheppey Way a potential Upper Palaeolithic or Mesolithic/ Early Neolithic blade was found on top of tree throw hole.

A number of archaeological sites were identified in the vicinity of the proposed development, many of potential early Prehistoric date comprising Neolithic to the Late Bronze Age, Early Iron Age and Medieval Periods.

Regarding positive outcome of archaeological evaluation it has therefore been suggested that the proposed development will have an impact on buried archaeological resource and further mitigation measures are needed in form of open strip map and sample and preservation in-situ and watching brief where possible. The detailed extend, methodology and scope of further mitigation will need to be determined in consultation with KCC Heritage and the Local Planning Authority.

Acknowledgements

SWAT Archaeology would like to thank Esquire Developments for commissioning the project. Thanks are also extended to Simon Mason, Principal Archaeological Officer from Kent County Council for his advice and assistance.

Peter Cichy managed the archaeological fieldwork and subsequent excavations were carried out by Bart Cichy, J Cantwell, Jeff West and Django Rayner. Site survey and illustrations were produced by Bartek Cichy and this report was written by Peter Cichy. On behalf of the client project was directed by Dr Paul Wilkinson, PhD, MCIFA.

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1 INTRODUCTION

1.1.1 SWAT archaeology was commissioned by the client to carry out an archaeological evaluation on land Halfway Egg Farm, Featherbed Lane, Sittingbourne, Kent ME9 8RA.

1.1.2 This phase of archaeological works has confirmed the presence of archaeological remains on this proposed development area and guides the need for additional detailed mitigation.

1.2 Project background

1.2.1 The developer is planning to develop the land Halfway Egg Farm, Featherbed Lane, Sittingbourne, Kent ME9 8RA. The land has planning permission for development: Hybrid application - Planning permission is sought for change of use of existing dwelling house to replacement farm shop with office above, and conversion of toilet block to farm produce store (167 sqm) and Outline planning permission is sought for demolition of existing agricultural buildings and farmshop, erection of up to 19 dwellings, erection of implement store, associated access road, parking, pedestrian footpath and landscaping (access and layout being sought only).

1.2.2 Prior to evaluation archaeological WSI was prepared by SWAT.

1.3 Planning background

1.3.1 On the basis of the present archaeological information KCCHC recommended to Swale District Council that the proposed development should be subject to a programme of archaeological works in order to clarify the archaeological elements within the site.

1.3.2 This archaeological evaluation will clarify the presence/absence of archaeological remains and guide the need for any additional detailed mitigation. Condition on the planning permission may state that:

(23) No development (including the detail element) shall take place until the applicant, or their agents or successors in title, has secured the implementation of

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

ii) 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 by the Local 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*

1.3.3 Post excavation and publication timescale and programme will also need to be agreed prior to commencement of construction work on site.

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

2 SITE DESCRIPTION, TOPOGRAPHY AND GEOLOGY

2.1.1 The Proposed Development Area (PDA) is located on the southern outskirts of Iwade and south but adjacent to Pond Farm and west of the new A249 motorway linking the island of Sheppey to the mainland of Kent. The site itself is circa 2 miles north of the town of Sittingbourne. Iwade lies on the old route of the A249 road towards the Isle of Sheppey but was bypassed in 2006 when a new dual carriageway was built. The north Kent coast and the Swale is in the northern boundary of the village. It separates the Isle of Sheppey from the mainland and the only access is via 2 bridges located 2km north of the village. The PDA appears to be on the parish boundary just within Iwade. To the southwest is the Parish of Bobbing and to the south east is the parish of Sittingbourne (Figures).

2.1.2 The recent excavations to the north-east of the PDA demonstrated that London Clay was present but locally brickearth, consisting of orange-brown clay-sand-silt up to 0.50m thick, was limited to those parts lying above 14m AOD. Below this contour, on the northern and eastern fringes of the site, the London Clay was mixed with frequent patches of sub-angular flint cobbles and gravels.

2.1.3 The recent excavations to the north recognised a common stratigraphic sequence across the site comprising topsoil/overburden overlying and loose reworked mottled subsoil

consisting of moderately dense mid orange brown silt clay. The subsoil blended well with the underlying loessic/colluvial brickearth, sealing the majority of archaeological deposits recorded on site. An area excavated adjacent to the western side of the Sheppey way opposite the PDA located archaeology once the topsoil and subsoil were removed, at an average depth of 0.52m (16.7m OD).

3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

3.1 Introduction

3.1.1 The PDA has historically been used as arable fields or orchards and the pond on the site appears to pre-date the maps. Pond Farm was added to the north eastern corner in the 19th century. Given the intense house building at Iwade over the past decade, large areas to the south of the village, and immediately to the north and west of the PDA have been excavated. These excavations have recorded evidence for agrarian, industrial, domestic and funerary settlement dating to the prehistoric, medieval and post-medieval periods. Evidence for Neolithic, Bronze Age and Iron Age activity consists of field systems, ditches, enclosures, ring ditches, barrows, trackways, barrows and a possible Henge, along with associated pits, post holes and several cremation deposits. Pottery recovered from these features suggests activity spanning the Neolithic to Bronze Age. Limited evidence of Romano-British activity was recorded comprising ditches and pits. Saxon and medieval activity comprised agrarian settlement, animal husbandry, quarrying, industry and localised domestic settlement. The Neolithic and Bronze Age activity is potentially of regional and national importance and the PDA has the potential to show continuation of some of the features seen in the excavations to the north and west. For a full analysis of archaeology in the Iwade area see the Archaeological Desk Based Assessment for Pond Farm produced by SWAT Archaeology (SWAT 2018).

3.2 Previous archaeological work in the immediate area

3.2.1 There is an on-going archaeological investigation on adjacent site to the NE. Excavation at Pond Farm has recorded an evidence for late prehistoric funerary activity, field system and multi-phased farmstead. Very dense Late Bronze Age to Early Mid Iron Age occupation was revealed along south-western boundary and these remains are continuing into the PDA.

3.2.2 Pre-Construct Archaeology excavated the Site B, directly to the north of the PDA and also Site A, which was to the west of Site B on the western side of the Old Sheppey Way. This was undertaken during 2000. Site B consisted of areas B, C and D. Area B included Neolithic pits, Bronze Age activity being pits and flints, some containing urns. A pit that could have been a Bronze Age well or waterhole was located in the southern part of Site B. A copper

alloy palstave was found in a Bronze Age ditch as well as a quern stone. Cremated human remains were recovered from a couple of pits radiocarbon dated to the Bronze Age. More cremations were found in Area C. Area B had a 12th century boundary ditch running on a north south axis for circa 120m the continues to the north and south beyond the limits of excavations and is interpreted as either part of the field system or a precursor to the Holloway that developed to the west in Area A, a century later.

3.2.3 Area A in Site A identified a late Bronze Age field system with trackway along with a Mesolithic pit. An Iron Age enclosure settlement was seen in the form of a ditch with a number of circular structures. This enclosure ditch continued across the Sheppey Way and the eastern side was seen in Area B. It is not clear from the post hole arrangement or lack of entrances on some of these structures whether they were in fact roundhouses, animal pens or other ancillary buildings. Some were identified as roundhouses due to having hearths. Only residual sherds of pottery from the Roman and Saxon period were seen. Activity at the site commences again in the 12th century in the form of ditch relating to agricultural field systems. (Bishop B. and Bagwell M., 2005, Iwade: Occupation of a North Kent Village from the Mesolithic to the Medieval Period. Pre-Construct Archaeology Monograph 3)

3.2.4 Following an evaluation in 2011, SWAT Archaeology undertook a programme of excavation of various areas up until 2016. Area A was the field that bordered the eastern side of School Lane and was to the south of the Area A excavated by Pre-Construct Archaeology, whilst Area B was the field to the west of the Old Sheppey Way and to the north of the track to Coleshall Farm. Area B being the field immediately to the west of the PDA. The northern western area of Area A recorded archaeological features included ditches, pits and post holes dating predominantly to the Early Medieval – Medieval periods. These included enclosure ditches and field systems and possible animal pens. Assessment of this north western section of Area A recorded had a reduction in the density of features as it moved away from the medieval settlement area. An older field system was seen relating to the prehistoric period. As well as an isolated Roman post hole, shallow gully and ditch assigned to the later Neolithic period. A single cremation, possibly Roman was also recorded. The eastern section of Area A in the centre of the site included Iron Age ditches along with Medieval ditches suggesting that the field system was established and in use for 1000 years. Another single cremation, possible Roman was also found. In addition, a separate enclosure ditch from middle Iron Age was also recorded along with pits, post holes, a horseshoe shaped gully and a ring ditch. An isolated Roman ditch was identified. There was also evidence of Neolithic activity was found comprising of ditches, pits and post holes. A

Saxon ditch terminus that may be from an enclosure, along with Bronze Age pits and a linear feature that may be part of a Medieval eroded trackway or Holloway.

3.2.5 In Area B, the archaeology included three identifiable field systems, linear features, pits and post holes, relating to the Neolithic, Bronze Age and Medieval periods. Field System One, a series of narrow, linear 'Gullies' arranged at right angles and forming three distinctive land divisions is potentially Neolithic and is potentially of great importance as this is rare. Parallel to this first field system was Field System Two – a series of segmented linear features that have been dated to the Mid Bronze Age. The third field system observed in Area 4a1 was a continuation of the Medieval ditch. In addition, a Bronze Age Beaker Burial was discovered. A pit dated to the Bronze Age that went out of use at the beginning of the Iron Age contained charcoal, bone, cess, flint flakes, pottery and an antler tool. The pond in Area B found evidence of flint knapping, hammerstone and pottery suggesting Bronze Age activity as well as stake holes suggesting the pond had been fenced off at some point in time.

3.2.6 In the western end of Area B, a henge of 30m diameter was identified being a double ringed structure with the interior space between the inner and outer ring ditches extremely sterile with no traces of human or animal activity. The outer ditch was dated to the Neolithic. The inner ditch being 19 meters diameter was dated to the bronze Age. In addition, a ceremonial trackway leading to/from the outer ring ditch was seen and continued into the Pre-Construct Archaeology excavation site and was dated to the bronze Age. To the west of the henge a second smaller ring ditch was located dated to the Neolithic. Saxon and Norman activity were identified in a large number of clay extractions pits. Another Neolithic ring ditch was found and interpreted as the remains of a barrow burial mound, now destroyed by *ploughing (Unpublished Document: SWAT Archaeology 2018a archaeological Excavations on Land Adjacent to Coleshall Farm, Iwade, Kent (2011-2016): Post Excavation Assessment Volume 1 (narrative). SWAT Report Ref.: 31040.01)*

3.2.7 The site is in an area characterised by KCC Historic Landscape Characterisation as orchards in the northern part of the site with the remainder as 'Prairie Fields (19th century enclosure with extensive boundary loss)'. The northern area classified as orchards has since been partly built on and effectively is now Post 1810 settlement.

3.2.8 There are two KHER entries for this area. Circa 100m to the north west of the PDA a Medieval field system was found in 2011 by SWAT Archaeology (TQ 96 NW 136). The same excavation also found a late Neolithic ditch (TQ 96 NW 137). The KHER does not ascribe any records specifically to the Area B excavated by Pre-Construct Archaeology that is directly

north to the PDA although we know from the excavation reports that finds were found there of the Neolithic and Bronze Ages.

3.2.9 There are four KHER entries for this area. Circa 200m to the north, north west of the PDA, an Iron Age enclosure and settlement area was found, this being in Site A by Pre-Construct Archaeology (TQ 96 NW 103). They also found two isolated Bronze Age pits (TQ 86 NE 154) circa 120m north west. A hollow way from the Iron Age was found by SWAT Archaeology circa 150m to the NW of the PDA. (TQ 86 NE 155). Circa 180m east, south east was Grovehurst Cottage, which has since been destroyed (TQ 96 NW 74).

3.3 **Landscape Characterisation (DBA)**

3.3.1 There are seven KHER entries for this area. Pre-Construct Archaeology found a series of late Bronze Age field systems circa 280m north west of the PDA (TQ 86 NE 160). They also found a Medieval pit and possible dew pond at Site A circa 200m north, north west of the PDA (TQ 96 NW 118). SWAT Archaeology found a Medieval enclosure in 2011 circa 260m north west of the PDA (TQ 86 NE 151). Neolithic pits, ditch terminus and post holes were discovered circa 270m north west of the PDA (TQ 86 NE 150). Grovehurst tile works, circa 250m south east of the PDA, were identified on the first 1st edition 6" map but had disappeared by the tithe map of 1839 (TQ 96 NW 75). Circa 210m south west, is an enclosure, which is undated (TQ 86 NE 115). A farmstead was located circa 250m south, south east and was to the west of Little Grovehurst. This was a dispersed type plan and the farmstead has since been completely demolished (MKE 85357). Featherbed House, circa 300m south east of the PDA used to be Grade II listed until 2007 (TQ 96 NW 1151). Originally thought to be late 16th century. It is not clear why the listed was lifted but the house is now separated from the name of the lane it was associated with by the A249 bypass. Little Grovehurst is a linear plan farmstead that has received little alteration and is circa 300m south east (MKE 85357).

3.3.2 There are 10 KHER records for this area. Finds and features include an Iron Age enclosure circa 400m north west (TQ 86 NE 148), and an isolated Roman ditch (TQ 86 NE 149). Wessex Archaeology in the fieldwalking and excavations around Great Grovehurst found concentrations of pottery from the Bronze Age Roman and Medieval periods circa 400m south east (TQ 96 NW 1083). A couple of possible hearths were also found circa 390m east and 400m east, south east respectively (TQ 96 NW 1082 & TQ 96 NW 1078). A possible field ditch was found in 2003, which has not been dated (TQ 96 NW 117). A farmstead circa 400m south east of the PDA for Great Grovehurst has been recorded. It was a multiyard farmstead with the farmhouse detached and in a central position (MKE 85355). The Grade II listed Coleshall Farmhouse is circa 310m west, north west of the PDA. Originally 16th century with 18th century cladding and 19th century extensions (TQ 86 NE 1166). The

farmstead that relates to Coleshall is circa 410m west, north west of the PDA. This was a multiyard farmstead with the farmhouse in a detached central position (MKE 88677). There is an associated barn at Coleshall that was formally Grade II listed from around 1700 in date (TQ 86 NE 1146).

3.3.3 Wessex Archaeology in the fieldwalking and excavations around Great Grovehurst found concentrations of pottery from the Bronze Age Roman and Medieval periods circa 430m south east (TQ 96 NW 1079). 460m to the north east, 19th century field drainage was found in 2003 (TQ 96 NW 47). Great Grovehurst Farm is also recorded (TQ 96 NW 72) along with the national Grade II listing (TQ 96 NE 1155) and is circa 440m south east. In the area, 450m east, south east of the PDA, possible Neolithic, Bronze Age filed systems and pits were discovered (TQ 96 NW 1168).The same excavation also found a truncated pit containing late Bronze Age and Roman pottery (TQ 96 NW 1081) circa 480m east of the PDA, with a Medieval pit nearby (TQ 96 NW 1169) and a Roman ditch dated due to a coin and pottery circa 470m east (TQ 96 NW 66). Circa 500m to the north west a Bronzer Age/ Iron Age field system was excavated (TQ 86 NE 146) as well as a possible Roman cremation (TQ 86 NE 147). To the north, north east circa 430m from the PDA Medieval activity was identified (TQ 96 NW 110) and the same excavation by the Canterbury Archaeological Trust in 1997 found a possible Neolithic or Bronzer Age burial (TQ 96 NW 111) in an area where Bronze Age field system was found. Nearby, circa 490m north, Medieval pottery from the 12th to 16th centuries were found (TQ 96 NW 1140) along with Roman pottery (TQ 96 NW 108), Bronze Age flints (TQ 96 NW 113) and Medieval ditches (TQ 96 NW 109). A Medieval field system was identified including a trackway and field boundaries (TQ 86 NE 161), circa 480m north west Along with a post-built structure though to be a barn.

3.3.4 On the edge of the assessment area, south, south west is Pheasant Farm (MKE 88678) situated on the Old Sheppey Way between Bobbing and Iwade. This was a farmstead with agricultural buildings on four side and the farmhouse detached in a central position. The farmhouse is also listed and is Grade II and is thought to be circa 1700 in date with early 19th century alterations. From the Historic England listing, the farmhouse appears to be listed twice (TQ 86 NE 1167 And TQ 86 NE 1368) as well as a third detailing a Post Medieval building, Ferry Road (TQ 86 NE 116).

4 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

4.1 General Aims

The general aims of the archaeological fieldwork were therefore 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;

- 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;

- 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.

4.2 **Project Specific Objectives**

4.2.1 The primary objective of the archaeological evaluation was to establish or otherwise the presence of any potential archaeological features which may be impacted by the proposed development. The aims of this investigation were to determine the potential for archaeological activity and in particular the earlier Prehistoric and also any Roman, Early Medieval and later archaeological activity.

4.2.2 The programme of archaeological work is carried out in a phased approach and commenced with evaluation through trial trenching. This initial phase has determined that archaeological remains will be affected by the development and that further mitigation measures are required including detailed archaeological excavation, or an archaeological watching brief during construction works or an engineering solution to any preservation in situ requirements.

5 METHODOLOGY

5.1.1 The evaluation consisted of 14 machine excavated trenches (c.10m-27m x 1.5m) in a layout agreed with the County Archaeologist (Figure 2, 3). The area of investigation is the proposed development area. Each trench was machine excavated under constant archaeological supervision using machine equipped with toothless grading bucket down to the first recognizable archaeological horizon or natural geology.

5.1.2 A contingency trenching was not activated at this stage. The requirements were set out in KCC Spec Manual for Trial Trenching Part B and attached to the approved specification.

5.1.3 A soil sampling programme was not implemented at this stage. Suitable deposits were identified but the level of contamination was very high and these could be more extensively excavated and sampled during a subsequent strip map and sample investigation.

5.1.4 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 KCC and CIfA standards and guidance. A complete photographic record was maintained on site that included working shots; during mechanical excavation, following archaeological investigations and during back filling.

5.1.5 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.

6 RECORDING

6.1.1 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. Additionally large sections that would not fit on single A3 page were drawn digitally in 1:10.

6.1.2 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.

6.1.3 A single context recording system was used to record the deposits. A full list is presented in Appendix. 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.).

6.1.4 A site plan to indicate the location of the boundaries of the proposed development site and the position of evaluation trenches drawn at a scale of 1:100 is shown on Figures 2 and 3. Plans to indicate the locations of archaeological features are drawn to a scale of 1:50. Detailed plans were drawn at a scale of 1:20 and sections at a scale of 1:10. All detailed plans and sections are related to the site plans.

6.1.5 A colour coding linework was implemented on plans to easily differentiate archaeological features from modern intrusions, geological changes and bioturbations. The black linework was used for archaeological features and deposits. Green linework and shade indicates geological changes, deposits, bedrock outcrops and bioturbations and dark blue lines and shades were used for modern features. Additionally red lines indicate excavated slots and sections.

6.1.6 All plans and sections were drawn on polyester based drawing film, and each plan and/or section was clearly labelled. A GPS site grid was established where necessary across the areas subjected to evaluation. All field surveying were preceded by a site visit to clarify the site specific surveying methodology, determine lines of sight and locate appropriate survey points. All recording points were accurately surveyed with a GPS/GNSS RTK survey kit in 1cm/1ppm accuracy and located within +/-50mm to the National Grid.

7 RESULTS

7.1 Introduction

7.1.1 Archaeological evaluation of land at Halfway Egg Farm, Featherbed Lane, Sittingbourne, Kent ME9 8RA has recorded a presence of potential Upper Palaeolithic flint blade and scatter of an early Bronze Age pits overlain by multi-phase Bronze Age to Early Iron Age and Iron Age to Late Iron Age farmstead with a potential small settlement element and associated rectilinear field system.

7.1.2 The investigation has revealed that complex prehistoric activity has declined at the end of Iron Age and resumed in Medieval Period but only in form of two ditches of which one is associate with historic Sheppey Way.

7.2 **Exposed geology and stratigraphy**

7.2.1 Stratigraphic sequence exposed across the site comprised top soil (context xx01) and subsoil (xx02) overlying natural geology (xx03) and (xx04) and/or levelling deposit, colluvium or ploughsoil.

7.2.2 There was significant geological change recorded on site during the evaluation. North Western part of the site contained brickearth which declined in south eastern extent leaving barely exposed silty clay from London Clay formation.

7.3 **Archaeological Trench Narrative**

7.3.1 Trench 1 was placed in south-eastern part of the site in NW-SE alignment and measured 18.30metres in length by 1.4metres in width and 0.85metres in depth. It exposed buried ploughsoil/ occupation layer (104) comprising mid-brown-yellow clay-silt with infrequent manganese and iron pan. It was capping natural geology context (103) comprising firmly compacted orange-brown silty-clay. The archaeological horizon was overlain by buried top-soil and sub-soil (102) and capped by a 0.5m-thick made-up ground (101) comprising mainly chalk rubble with infrequent hardcore. Trench has exposed Ditch [105] comprising NE-SW aligned linear cut with moderate side and concave base. Feature measured 0.8metres in width and 0.3metres in depth and was filled-in by context (106) comprising firmly compacted dark-brown-grey clay-silt with frequent manganese and iron pan. Feature was truncated by modern service trench [107] comprising linear cut with vertical sides housing plastic pipe. Another linear ditch was revealed to the NW but was not excavated at this stage. Further to the NW a test-pit was dug through plougsoil/ occupational deposit (104) and produced late prehistoric pottery sherds dated after 1550 BC. Trench also exposed a potential pit which was not excavated at this stage of investigation.

7.3.2 Trench 2 was placed in south-eastern part of the site in NE-SW alignment and measured 9.13metres in length by 1.4metres in width and 0.92metres in depth. It exposed occupational layer (204) comprising firmly compacted dark-grey, clay-silt with frequent iron pan and manganese. A test-pit excavated through the deposit has produced couple potsherds dated after 600 BC and worked flint of blade segment dated to Early, Mid-Iron Age. Beneath the occupational layer a natural (203) was revealed comprising firm orange-grey silty-clay. The archaeological horizon was overlain by buried top-soil and sub-soil (202) and capped by a 0.5m-thick made-up ground (201) comprising mainly chalk rubble with infrequent hardcore. Additionally Trench has exposed a potential ditch [214] in NE-SW alignment and its terminus recorded as [205]. Feature had moderately sloping sides and concave base and measured 0.98metres in width and 0.35metres in depth and was filled-in

by a sequence comprising two contexts. Primary fill (206) comprised soft, mid-grey clay-silt with moderate iron and manganese pan. It was overlain by a secondary fill (207) comprising moderately compacted dark-grey, clay-silt with infrequent charcoal flecks, burnt flint, sub-ceramics and small disintegrating fragments of pottery. The backfill of the feature was capped on top by occupational layer (208) comprising firmly compacted dark brown-grey clay-silt with moderate iron pan. In excavation slot [214] primary fill recorded as (215) produced nine potsherds dated after 250 BC. Another feature [210] was found sealed by occupational layer (208). Partially revealed cut comprised moderate sides with concave base. Feature measured 0.86metres by 0.2 metres and 0.4metres in depth and was truncated by modern trench [212]. Backfill (211) comprised softly compacted, dark-brown grey, clay-silt with moderate iron pan. Deposit produced worked flint of potential Mesolithic to Early Neolithic date and couple pieces of Middle Bronze Age to Early Iron Age. Remnants of potential trample layer (209) were found in between features [205] and [210]. Context comprised softly compacted dark-grey clay-silt with charcoal flecks and small fragments of sub-ceramics. It should be mentioned that the potential is very high that more features are sealed by occupational deposit in this part of the site.

7.3.3 Trench 3 was placed in south-eastern part of the site in NW-SE alignment and measured 11.35metres in length by 1.4metres in width and 0.98metres in depth. It exposed buried occupation layer (307) comprising mid-brown-grey clay-silt with infrequent manganese and iron pan. It was capping natural geology context (303) comprising firmly compacted orange-brown silty-clay. The archaeological horizon was overlain by buried top-soil and sub-soil (302) and capped by a 0.5m-thick made-up ground (301) comprising mainly chalk rubble with infrequent hardcore. A Test-pit dug through occupational layer (307) has exposed two more underlying layers (308) and (309) and the latter was directly overlaying natural geology (303). Layer (308) produced two potsherds dated after 1550 BC. Trench has exposed curvilinear or turning ditch [304] in its south-western part. Feature comprised linear cut with steep side to the north and a flat base with a step. It measured 1.05metres in width and 0.34metres in depth and was filled-in by a sequence comprising two deposits. Primary fill (305) comprised firmly compacted mid brown-grey clay-silt with infrequent calcined flint and moderate iron pan. It was capped by secondary fill (306) comprising firmly compacted dark-grey, clay-silt with infrequent burnt clay and calcined flint flecking. Fill produced a potsherd dated after 250 BC.

7.3.4 Trench 4 was placed in south-eastern part of the site in NE-SW alignment and measured 18.27metres in length by 1.4metres in width and 0.37metres in depth. It has exposed natural geology context (403) comprising firmly compacted yellow-grey silty clay with

occasional angular stones. Trench has exposed two linear ditches in NW-SE alignment. Feature [404] comprised linear cut with moderate sides and concave/ uneven base. It measured 0.7metres in width and 0.06metres in depth. It was filled in by context (405) comprising firmly compacted orange-grey silty-clay with moderate manganese, iron pan and infrequent angular stones. Feature [406] comprised linear cut with moderate sides and concave base. It measured 0.78metres in width and 0.28metres in depth and was filled-in by single context (407) comprising firmly compacted orange-grey silty-clay with infrequent manganese and iron pan. Fill produced four potsherds dated after 1550 BC. An edge of potential large pit was exposed at NE end of this trench but feature was not excavated at this stage. Trench also exposed modern service cut in NW-SE alignment and a series of silty patches that are obscuring potential infrequent archaeological features underneath.

7.3.5 Trench 5 was placed in south-eastern part of the site in NW-SE alignment and measured 26.73metres in length by 1.4metres in width and 0.38metres in depth. It exposed natural geology context (503) comprising firmly compacted orange-grey silty-clay with occasional angular stones. Trench has exposed NNE-SSW aligned linear cut [504] at its SE end. Feature comprised ditch cut with shallow sides and slightly concave base. It measured 1.02metres in width and 0.31metres in depth and was filled-in by context (505) comprising firmly compacted, orange-grey silty-clay with infrequent manganese and moderate iron pan. Three pottery sherds were found in this context and were dated to 1550 BC – 50 BC/50 AD. A patch of potential occupational spread or trackway was identified to the NW of previously described. A test-pit dug throughout the deposit has exposed context (506) comprising moderately compacted dark-orange-grey clay-silt with moderate manganese, iron pan and angular stones. It produced 11 potsherds dated 1550 BC – 50 BC. Large pit or ditch terminus [507] was exposed in the middle of this trench. Feature comprised sub-oval cut with moderately sloping sides and concave base. It measured 1.2metres in width and 0.75metres in depth. Its backfill sequence comprised three deposits. Primary fill (508) comprised very dark-grey clay-silt possibly buried soil. That was overlain by (509) comprising firmly compacted orange-grey silty-clay with infrequent manganese, angular stones and iron pan and capped on top by (510) comprising dark orange-grey clay-silt with moderate iron pan. Fill produced one potsherd dated to 1000 – 50 BC. Several other potential archaeological features were exposed in this trench but these were not investigated at evaluation stage. Trench also exposed two modern service cuts roughly in NE-SW alignment. A test-pit A was dug at NW end of this trench to check the consistency of exposed parent material but no trample was found capping natural geology here.

7.3.6 Trench 6 was placed in south-eastern part of the site in NW-SE alignment and measured 22.52metres in length by 1.4metres in width and 0.5metres in depth. Trench has exposed natural geology context (603) comprising orange-grey clay-silt/ silt-clay with infrequent angular stones. A series of modern patches squashed into the surface of exposed natural and animal burrow were checked but no archaeology was revealed in this evaluation trench.

7.3.7 Trench 7 was placed in south-eastern part of the site in NW-SE alignment and measured 19.04metres in length by 1.4metres in width and 0.97metres in depth. It exposed natural geology context (703) comprising orange-grey silty-clay with infrequent angular stones. The exposed surface of parent material here had a series of modern intrusions pressed into it. These were carefully checked but no archaeology was revealed in this evaluation trench. The exposed natural geology was overlain by a vast 0.9-1m thick made-up ground comprising hardcore with re-deposited clay which turned blue-grey due to anaerobic conditions that were created when yard was established sealing-off oxygen access to buried natural horizon.

7.3.8 Trench 8 was placed in south-eastern part of the site in NE-SW alignment and measured 26.32metres in length by 1.4metres in width and 1.08metres in depth. Natural geology here recorded as context (803) was overlain by buried sub-soil which in turn was capped by an extensive 0.9m-thick hardcore spread that was levelling-off and raising the ground so the yard surface could be established. Trench has exposed a waterhole [804] and contemporary linear ditch [806] connected to it. Feature [804] comprised sub-oval cut with moderate sides but base was not fully exposed due to health and safety concerns in already very deep trench. It measured 1.52metres in width and 0.3metres in depth (partially excavated) and was filled-in by (805) comprising dark-grey clay-silt with infrequent charcoal flecks, moderate manganese and iron pan. Ditch [806] comprised NE-SW aligned linear cut with moderate sides and concave base. It measured 0.92metres in width and 0.33metres in depth and was filled-in by context (807) comprising firmly compacted dark-grey clay-silt with moderate manganese and iron pan. Fill produced potsherd dated after 1550 BC and worked flint piece of late prehistoric date.

7.3.9 Trench 9 was placed in north-western part of the site in NW-SE alignment and measured 21.22 metres in length by 1.4metres in width and 0.43metres in depth. It exposed natural geology context (903) comprising firmly compacted yellow-grey clay-sand-silt with moderate manganese and infrequent pebbles. Three long test pits were dug into revealed parent material but no archaeology was found sealed by suspected colluvium which turned

out to be just weathered and bioturbated natural. Modern land drain was exposed here. No archaeological cuts, deposits or artefacts were revealed in this trench.

7.3.10 Trench 10 was placed in north-western part of the site in E-W alignment although when excavated it was slightly bended and measured 16.81 metres in length by 1.4metres in width and 0.4metres in depth. It exposed natural geology context (1003) comprising firmly compacted yellow-grey clay-sand-silt with moderate manganese and infrequent pebbles. A long test pit was dug in its middle part into revealed parent material but no archaeology was found sealed by suspected colluvium which turned out to be just weathered and bioturbated natural. Modern land drain was exposed here. No archaeological cuts, deposits or artefacts were revealed in this trench.

7.3.11 Trench 11 was placed in north-western part of the site in NW-SE alignment and measured 24.05 metres in length by 1.4metres in width and 0.4metres in depth. It exposed natural geology context (1103) comprising firmly compacted yellow-grey clay-sand-silt with moderate manganese and infrequent pebbles. A long test pit was dug at NW end into revealed parent material but no archaeology was found sealed by suspected colluvium which turned out to be just weathered and bioturbated natural. No archaeological cuts, deposits or artefacts were revealed in this trench.

7.3.12 Trench 12 was placed in north-western part of the site in NW-SE alignment and measured 25.36 metres in length by 1.4metres in width and 0.42metres in depth. It exposed natural geology context (1203) comprising firmly compacted yellow-grey clay-sand-silt with moderate manganese and infrequent pebbles. A test pit was dug at NW end into revealed parent material and a Pit [1206] was found and slightly less bioturbated natural recorded as (1203)B. Feature [1206] comprised not revealed in plan cut with moderately sloping sides and possibly concave base but it wasn't fully exposed. Its backfill sequence comprised five deposits. Primary fill (1207) comprised softly compacted, light grey clay-silt with frequent iron and manganese pan and occasional calcined flints. That was overlain by (1208) of moderately compacted orange-brown silty-clay which was sealed by (1209) of soft, light grey clay-silt with frequent iron pan. A piece of worked flint was found in this context and was dated to Middle Bronze Age to Early Iron Age. Also pottery sherd found in this context was dated to 100 BC – 50 BC. Next in turn was fill (1210) of mid-orange-brown silty-clay which was capped on top by (1211) comprising softly compacted light grey silty clay with frequent iron and manganese pan. Exposed nearby tree throw hole [1204] comprised sub-oval cut with moderately sloping sides and slightly concave base. It measured 1.15metres in width and 0.18metres in depth and was filled in by context [1205] comprising firmly compacted mid orange-brown clayey-silt with infrequent manganese and iron pan. Sub-soil

(1202) directly overlaying [1205] produced notable worked flint piece; a quality large blade without obvious hafting and with minor abrasion; a quality large blade without obvious hafting and with minor abrasion. This piece of flint has a potential to be Upper Palaeolithic with a preference date to be Mesolithic to Early Neolithic. Such material is encountered very rarely in Kent and is similarly rare within Britain in general, but if confirmed it could indicate activity in the LUP Creswellian period, which may concentrate around 14,700 BP, or from 14,300-14,200 BP. Trench also exposed Ditch [1212] comprising NE-SW aligned linear cut with steep sides and flat base. It measured 0.57metres in width and 0.15metres in depth and was filled-in by context (1213) comprising firmly compacted mid grey-brown clay-silt with infrequent Victorian pottery sherds and other potsherd dated after 1780 AD+.

7.3.13 Trench 13 was placed in north-western part of the site in NNE-SSW alignment and measured 19.27metres in length by 1.4metres in width and 0.46metres in depth. It exposed natural geology context (1303) comprising yellow-grey clay-silt with infrequent manganese. Trench exposed Late Post Medieval Ditch [1304] running parallel to modern Sheppey Way road which overlays a medieval track below. Feature comprised linear cut with steep sides and concave base and measured 1.2metres in width and 0.47metres in depth. It was backfilled by a single fill (1305) comprising brown-grey clay-silt with moderate manganese and iron pan. The revealed pottery sherds were dated 1150 AD to 1275 AD and some after 1780 AD. Additionally a test-pit was dug in southern extent of evaluation trench but no archaeological features were found.

7.3.14 Trench 14 was placed in north-western part of the site in NE-SW alignment and measured 20.2metres in length by 1.4metres in width and 0.43metres in depth. It exposed natural geology context (1403) comprising firmly compacted yellow-grey clay-silt with infrequent manganese. Trench has exposed two modern service cuts for electricity and water main. Where it was possible long test-pits were dug and Ditch [1404] was revealed within north-eastern extent of evaluation trench. Feature comprised linear cut with steep side and concave base. It measured 0.4metres in width and 0.38metres in depth and was filled-in by context [1404] comprising firmly compacted brown clay-silt with moderate manganese and infrequent Victorian potsherds.

8 FINDS

8.1 Introduction

Relatively moderate amount of finds comprising pottery sherds and lithics were retrieved from investigated features. These already were washed and assessed by specialists. The overall dating evidence comprises Upper Palaeolithic/ Mesolithic to Early Neolithic and Mid/ Late Bronze to Early/ Mid and Late Iron Age, Medieval and Late Post Medieval.

8.2 Pottery

8.2.1 The sherd sizes were mostly small and the quantities per context were low or very low, with no full or significant part profiles present.

8.2.2 No material was certain or likely to pre-date the LP, while episodes of activity within the LP, the EM>M and the LPM>MOD were indicated.

8.2.3 The main focus of the site assemblage lays within the LP, with the more diagnostic material suggesting potential episodes of activity more specifically during the EMIA>MIA and the late MIA>MLIA. All of the dating for the LP has largely had to be based on the fabrics and the associations of different ware types, with few form and decorative elements present.

8.2.4 The presence of a small quantity of small sherds of glauconitic sandy ware are responsible for the suggestion of activity within the late MIA>MLIA. This ware was made in the Greensand zone, probably within the North Downs and potentially not too far away from the site. It could, most typically, date from the EIA onwards, though it is currently thought that this ware would be rare and less likely to appear on Iwade, outside of its immediate area of manufacture, before around 250 BC. An EIA or EMIA date is possible, however. Any further work able to be conducted could perhaps include a brief review of any other pottery assemblages that have been recovered nearby, to check for any occurrences of glauconitic sandy wares, the associated wares and any certain dates.

8.2.5 For the LP, while some of the more heavily coarsely tempered fabrics have the potential to date most typically within the MBA>EIA and the MLIA, there is currently no definitive evidence for activity specifically during the MBA>MBA-LBA, the EIA and the MLIA.

8.3 Lithics

8.3.1 All of the lithics were made from flint, the raw materials for some at least probably being obtained relatively locally.

8.3.2 The quantities recovered in total and per context were very low.

8.3.3 No material that was specifically diagnostic of individual periods was present and all were only broadly dateable on their own merits. No retouched tools of notably good or high quality were present.

8.3.4 The flintwork offers evidence of episodes of activity that more likely occurred at some point or points within the MES>ERN and the MBA>EMIA+. There is some potential for one piece to be UP/LUP, but this is not considered likely at present. A later date, within the MES or ERN, is much more probable for this piece, with an ERN date slightly preferred, given that a precedence for activity within the EN may occur close-by.

8.3.5 None of the material was certainly contemporary with its context. In several cases it was certainly residual and in others no suggestions of contemporaneity can be made, due to the very low numbers present and the presumed character of the underlying geology (BGS 2022).

8.3.6 Pottery and lithics catalogues are presented in the appendix.

9 ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

9.1 Introduction

9.1.1 No soil samples were retrieved during the investigation due to a very high level of cross contamination.

10 DISCUSSION, CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

10.1 Introduction

10.1.1 Archaeological evaluation of land at Halfway Egg Farm, Featherbed Lane, Sittingbourne, Kent ME9 8RA has successively fulfilled aims and objectives of the specification and exposed common stratigraphic sequence comprising topsoil and subsoil and 0.8 to 1metre thick made-up ground concealing natural geology.

10.1.2 Evaluation recorded the presence of very sparse early prehistoric activity of potential Upper Palaeolithic to Mesolithic/ Early Neolithic period in north-western part of the site. A continuation of a large multi-phase Farmstead comprising date-span from Late Bronze Age to Earliest Iron Age and Mid to Late Iron Age and investigated at adjacent to the NE Pond Farm was revealed within south-eastern extent of proposed development area. Associated coaxial rectilinear field systems were revealed across south-eastern part site and their alignment is matching the remains investigated at adjacent to the NE Pond Farm.

10.2 Discussion

10.2.1 The activity appears to thrive during late prehistory, seize at the end of Iron Age and it resumed again in Medieval Period until Late Post Medieval and modern period.

10.2.2 Potentially very intensive 'core' of occupational activity was recorded in Trenches 1, 2 and 3. These trenches exposed trample and occupation layers which faded away in Trenches 4 and 5 but these exposed a number of archaeological features including ditches and pits that are now being openly investigated at adjacent Pond Farm.

10.2.3 Trenches 6 and 7 did not exposed any archaeological feature thus suggesting that the intensive spot of historic occupation could be demarcated by ditches revealed in Trenches 4 and 7. Plausibly the ditch revealed in Trench 7 is a boundary for arable parcels located within and beyond south-western extent of the site; however no evaluation trenches were dug in this part of the site to confirm this interpretation.

10.2.4 North-western part of the site adjacent to Sheppey Way appears to be clear and didn't contain any prehistoric features and only LPM ditch associated with medieval Sheppey Way was exposed here. Moving bit further away from the road Trench 12 has exposed evidence for a potential Upper Palaeolithic activity, if confirmed with leading researchers in this field this could be very important discovery and even if dismissed the retrieved blade will be dated to the Mesolithic/ Early Neolithic period.

10.2.5 Undertaken fieldwork recorded substantial evidence that significant archaeological features and deposits are still present within the proposed development area and that subsequent

mitigation measures must take place prior to the commencement of construction and associated groundworks. Archaeological horizon was revealed at 17-17.5metres aOD within the area adjacent to Sheppey Way. The existing ground level varies from 17.5 – 18.30metres aOD.

10.2.6 Within southeastern extent of the site archaeological horizon was found at 16.77metres aOD and is descending to the southeast and within pond area heritage assets were revealed at 15.77m aOD. Generally central area of the site is raised to approximately 17.5m aOD but the level drops down to 16.15m aOD within pond area.

10.3 **Recommendation**

10.3.1 Development proposals are likely to impact on archaeological remains therefore a further raising of level to facilitate preservation in-situ is proposed where possible and strip map and sample programme is recommended to take place within areas of the site where archaeological remains can't be preserved.

10.3.2 To minimalize impact on archaeological resource and to facilitate enlargement of preservation in situ area developer has proposed move drainage very close to house plots. In this solution the impact from the road itself won't reach archaeological horizon that is protected by made-up ground and buried top-soil at average thickness of 0.7metres until approach to the pond.

10.3.3 Excavation of attenuation pond will have substantial impact on archaeological remains and open strip excavation here is unavoidable.

10.3.4 The suspected remains of sparse field system within not evaluated western part of PDA is proposed to be mitigated by undertaking archaeological watching brief on foundations and drainage.

10.3.5 Trenches adjacent to Sheppey Way where impact is expected from the road and construction of plots 1, 2 and 3 did not exposed any archaeological features, so the mitigation measures seems unnecessary but we have to remember that internal road is going to be connected to existing main road (Sheppey Way) which overlays medieval track and there is also Post medieval ditch running parallel to it. Feature was exposed in evaluation Trench 13. Due to a lack of drainage and other deep services the impact from the road itself will go approximately 250mm lower than archaeological horizon here. Small open strip area seems appropriate for the road connection.

10.3.6 Plots 11, 12, 17 and 18 are going to be piled. The details are shown on figures. A watching brief seems appropriate mitigation measure here but area containing plots 15, 16 and part of 5 and 6 should be subjected to an open strip investigation as cumulative impact from drainage and foundations will be significant.

10.3.7 The ultimate scale and scope of mitigation will be set out in WSI and agreed with Principal Archaeological Officer at Kent County Council separately in due course.

11 ARCHIVE

11.1.1 The Site archive, which will include; paper records, photographic records, graphics and digital data, will be prepared following nationally recommended guidelines (SMA 1995; CIfA 2009; Brown 2011; ADS 2013).

11.1.2 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 designated Kent Museum.

12 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

12.1.1 SWAT Archaeology would like to thank to the Developer for commissioning the project. Thanks are extended to Simon Mason, the Principal Archaeological Officer from KCC for his help and advice during the course of investigation.

12.1.2 On completion of the project, the archaeological contractor is to arrange for the transfer, subject to the landowners consent, of the documentary, photographic and material archive to SWAT Archaeology, and to ensure that the appropriate level of resources for cataloguing, boxing and long term storage are provided for a set fee until such times that designated museum in Kent can accept the archive.

12.1.3 The archaeological contractor is to allow the site records to be inspected and examined at any reasonable time, during or after the evaluation, by the developer, and the Kent County Council Archaeological Officer.

12.1.4 Copies of all reports compiled as a result of the excavation and post-excavation archaeological works will be submitted to the developer as CD containing a PDF A version. In addition a CD containing a PDF A version of the report and a selection of site photos in

jpeg format to be sent to the KCC Archaeological Officer and once approved sent to the KCC HER for inclusion in HER Records.

12.1.5 The work the archaeological contractor is to abide by the Code of conduct and the Codes of approved practice for the regulation of contractual arrangements in field archaeology of the Institute of Field Archaeologists. The report was written by: SWAT Archaeology (Peter Cichy) The Office, School Farm Oast, Faversham, Kent, ME13 8UP Date: 05/10/2022.

13 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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Archaeological Evaluation Report of land adjacent to Pond Farm, Grovehurst Road, Iwade, Kent ME9 8RD (SWAT 2021)

Specification for an Archaeological Evaluation of land at Halfway Egg Farm, Featherbed Lane, Sittingbourne, Kent ME9 8RA (SWAT 2022)

APPENDIX 1

Core Personnel Structure

Project Management - Fieldwork	**Role**
Dr Paul Wilkinson, MClfA, FSA	Director
Peter Cichy	Project Manager
Bartek Cichy	Site Supervisor
Django Rayner	Surveyor
Finds	**Specialist**
Flint	Paul Hart
Early Prehistoric Pottery	Paul Hart
Later prehistoric and Roman pottery	Dr Malcolm Lyne
Saxon, Medieval and Post Medieval pottery	Paul Hart
Metal finds, glass and oyster	Ges Moody
Conservation support and x-ray photography	Dana Goodburn-Brown, MSc
Samples and human remains	**Specialist**
Environmental soil processing	QUEST
Faunal, floral micro and macro remains	Dr Mike Allen
Animal Remains (Bones)	Carol White
Palaeomagnetism	Peter Cichy
Human Remains	Dr Chris Dieter
Micro-excavation (cremation burials)	Dana Goodburn-Brown
Post-Excavation and publication	**Role**
Peter Cichy	Author
Bartek Cichy	Illustrations

APPENDIX 2 – HER FORM

Site Name: Archaeological evaluation of land at Halfway Egg Farm, Featherbed Lane, Sittingbourne, Kent ME9 8RA

SWAT Site Code: HEF-EV-22

Site Address: As above

Summary: *Swale & Thames Survey Company (SWAT Archaeology) was commissioned by Esquire Developments to undertake an archaeological evaluation on land at Halfway Egg Farm, Featherbed Lane, Sittingbourne, Kent ME9 8RA. The archaeological programme was monitored by the Principal Archaeological Officer at Kent County Council. The Archaeological Evaluation consisted of 14 trenches, which recorded a relatively common stratigraphic sequence comprising topsoil, subsoil and made-up ground overlying natural geology.*

The archaeological evaluation has demonstrated the presence of dense archaeological activity in the form of Late Bronze Age and Iron Age farmstead, field system and associated discrete features. The farmstead and associated field system appears to be multi-phase although no activity later than Iron Age was recorded within south-eastern part of the site

The activity resumed in Medieval and LPM periods but only within north-western part of the site and in form of two ditches of which one is clearly associated with historic Sheppey Way. In the same part of the site although bit further away from Sheppey Way a potential Upper Palaeolithic or Mesolithic/ Early Neolithic blade was found on top of tree throw hole.

A number of archaeological sites were identified in the vicinity of the proposed development, many of potential early Prehistoric date comprising Neolithic to the Late Bronze Age, Early Iron Age and Medieval Periods.

Preservation in-situ and watching brief where possible and strip map and sample prior to commencement of construction works where archaeological remains can't be protected.

District/Unitary: Swale Borough Council
Period(s): Prehistoric, Bronze Age, Iron Age, Medieval, Post-Medieval
NGR (centre of site to eight figures) NGR 590105 166961
Type of Archaeological work: Archaeological Evaluation
Date of recording: July-August 2022
Unit undertaking recording: Swale and Thames Survey Company (SWAT Archaeology)
Geology: London Clay Formation - Clay And Silt. Sedimentary Bedrock formed approximately 48 to 56 million years ago in the Palaeogene Period.
superficial deposits description: Head - Clay And Silt. Superficial Deposits formed up to 3 million years ago in the Quaternary Period. Local environment previously dominated by subaerial slopes.

Title and author of accompanying report: SWAT Archaeology (Peter Cichy 2022) Archaeological Evaluation of land adjacent to Pond Farm, Grovehurst Road, Iwade, Kent ME9 8RD
Location of archive/finds: SWAT. Archaeology. Graveney Rd, Faversham, Kent. ME13 8UP

Contact at Unit: Paul Wilkinson

Catalogues of the pottery and worked lithics recovered during an archaeological evaluation at Halfway, Egg Farm, Iwade, Kent

Site Code: HEF-EV-22

Analyst: Paul Hart
Last updated: 04.10.2022

For: Swale and Thames Archaeology Survey Company

Contents

1. Period Codes employed

Period	*Code*	*Date (circa)*			
Upper Palaeolithic	UP	43,000	-	9200	BC
Late Upper Palaeolithic *(Late Magdalenian/Creswellian)*	LUP	13,200	-	12,000	BC
Mesolithic	MES	9200	-	4000	BC
First Neolithic	FN	4000	-	3650	BC
Earlier Neolithic (*ceramic First, Early and early Middle*)	ERN	4000	-	3000	BC
Early Neolithic	EN	3650	-	3350	BC
Neolithic	N	4000	-	2300	BC
Earlier Beaker Period	EBK	2450	-	2000	BC
Early Bronze Age	EBA	2100	-	1550	BC
Later Prehistoric	LP	1550	-	50	BC
Middle Bronze Age	MBA	1550	-	1350	BC
Mid to Late Bronze Age	MBA-LBA	1350	-	1150	BC
Late Bronze Age	LBA	1150	-	1000/900	BC
Earliest Iron Age	EIA	1000/900	-	600	BC
Early to Mid Iron Age	EMIA	600	-	350	BC
Middle Iron Age	MIA	400	-	200	BC
Mid to Late Iron Age	MLIA	200	-	50	BC
Late Iron Age	LIA	50	-	0	BC
Latest Iron Age	LIA-ER	0	-	50	AD
Early Roman	ER	50	-	150	AD
Early Medieval	EM	1050	-	1200	AD
Medieval	M	1200	-	1375	AD
Late Post-Medieval	LPM	1750	-	1900	AD
Modern	MOD	1900+			AD

Dating

> : To/or later.
/ : Or/or indicting a preference within a broader range.

NB. All dates used throughout are *circa*.

2. Quantification and spot-dating of the pottery

2.1. Methodology

The sherds were examined in good light using a hand lens of x10 magnification and were catalogued on a context, total quantity, bulk weight (calculated to the nearest gram), period, ware type, estimate of the number of vessels per ware, condition and date preference basis. They are listed in date order from the earliest to the latest. No information about the contexts or their stratigraphic relationships was known unless stated. In the notes, the pieces are typically plain or less diagnostic body sherds unless stated otherwise.

All dates given are *circa*.

It should also be noted that:

- All form and decorative pieces are noted and described in the catalogue and their presence is highlighted by the inclusion of the word 'DRAW' (which does not mean that such pieces necessarily need to be drawn for archive level reporting or for publication).
- The material has been bagged by period and separated into DRAW-ables (which do not necessarily need to be drawn for archive level or final site reports or publication) and body sherds.

2.2. Abbreviations used in 2.3.

Wear

F : Fresh/fairly fresh
L : Light
M : Moderate
H : Heavy
C : Chipped

Dating

> : To/or later
/ : Or/or indicting a preference within a broader range

2.3. Catalogue: Quantification and spot-dating of the pottery, with notes

Context			**Total sherds**		**Total weight (g)**
Context:	Information on the nature of the context if known.				
Start date:	**Likely commencement date of the context based on the pottery evidence.**				
End date:	**Likely end date of the context based on the pottery evidence.**				
Dating:	**General implications.**				
Comments:	Highlighting elements, wares and issues of particular note.				
Quantity	*Period*	*Ware*	*Vessels*	*Wear*	*Date preference*
	Notes.				
(104)			**1 sherd**		**1 g**
Context:					
Start date:	**Likely after 1550 BC.**				
End date:	**Unclear, a single small example which is probably residual to some degree.**				
Dating:	**Little specific data, likely LP and could but needn't be later.**				
Comments:	Very small.				
Quantity	*Period*	*Ware*	*Vessels*	*Wear*	*Date preference*
1	LP	Flint tempered	1	L	1550-50 BC
	Very small fragment, 1 surface remaining (exterior, oxidised), edges not very rounded.				
(204)			**2 sherds**		**20 g**
Context:					
Start date:	**Likely after 600 BC.**				
End date:	**Unclear, 2 small sherds only, though not significantly worn. Nothing certainly after 50 BC at present and possibly by 300 BC.**				
Dating:	**Little specific data. The decoration on 1 sherd is most likely to occur from 600-300 BC, though this is a very small sized sample of the pattern and form.**				
Comments:	Small body sherds, potentially related, 1 with horizontal and vertical linear grooves, potentially forming a panelled pattern of small boxes, which would typically suggest 600-300 BC. DRAW: 1 small decorated sherd (not worth drawing at present).				
Quantity	*Period*	*Ware*	*Vessels*	*Wear*	*Date preference*
1	EMIA>MIA	Flint tempered sandy	1	L	600-300 BC
	Small thick-walled body, edges not significantly rounded/worn. Patchy brown exterior showing 1 horizontal broad grooved line (potentially with another above, creating a cordon effect), 2 spaced vertical grooved lines descending from same, with hint of another horizontal grooved line below, forming a boxed/panelled rectilinear pattern. DRAW.				
1	EMIA>MIA	Flint tempered	1	L	600-300 BC
	Small thick-walled body, edges not significantly rounded/worn.				
(207) [205]			**1 sherd**		**9 g**
Context:					
Start date:	**Likely after 1550 BC.**				
End date:	**Unclear, a single small example which is probably residual to some degree.**				
Dating:	**Little specific data, likely LP, perhaps more likely MBA>EIA or MLIA and could but needn't be later.**				
Comments:	Small.				
Quantity	*Period*	*Ware*	*Vessels*	*Wear*	*Date preference*
1	LP	Flint tempered	1	M	1550-50 BC
	Small body, thickish, strongly tempered.				

(215) [214]			**9 sherds**		**26 g**
Context:					
Start date:	**More likely after 250 BC, considering all from [214], but consider also the nature of the context and the vertical distribution, if possible.**				
End date:	**Nothing certainly after 50 BC, probably by 75 BC and possibly by 150 BC, considering all from [214].**				
Dating:	**Little specific data, but considering all from [214] most likely late MIA>MLIA. See (216).**				
Comments:	Small body sherds, many fragmented, some edges a little abraded, most fresher.				
Quantity	*Period*	*Ware*	*Vessels*	*Wear*	*Date preference*
1	?MIA>MLIA	Flint + sparse grog tempered	1	M	250-150/75 BC
	Small body.				
1	?MIA>MLIA	Sp. flint + grog tempered sandy	1	M	250-150/75 BC
	Small body, oxidised, fine flint, 1 large grog pellet notably sandy.				
7	?MIA>MLIA	Flint tempered	2/3	C	250-150/75 BC
	Small body, some with oxidised exteriors, some with minor grog-like pellets and organics, edges often chipped/fragmented, but not heavily rounded.				
(216) [214]			**6 sherds**		**32 g**
Context:					
Start date:	**More likely after 250 BC, though consider the nature of the context and the vertical distribution, if possible.**				
End date:	**Nothing certainly after 50 BC, probably by 75 BC and possibly by 150 BC.**				
Dating:	**The glauconitic sandy ware import is more likely late MIA>MLIA and the others probably relate. The small rim is a simple type, but one which is not particularly characteristic of the MLIA and can be paralleled within some MIA assemblages in Kent. As such and considering the lack of any purely grog tempered 'Belgic' style wares within [214] and the site assemblage as a whole (which is unlikely in groups dating after 75/50 BC), on current evidence, a date between 250-200 BC would be most likely on a fabric and typology basis, but is too tight to be reliable for the Prehistoric, so 250-150/75 BC is preferred for now. Perhaps review in light of any future recoveries from this context and the final site trends.**				
Comments:	All small. The freshest is the smallest and this glauconitic sandy ware is more likely to appear here as an import after 250 BC. The other wares from (216) are slightly more chipped or worn, but need not significantly pre-date. The rim is a simple flat-topped type, which could date widely, but would be less common/typical in the MLIA. DRAW: 1 small rim (probably not worth drawing, unless augmented by other finds).				
Quantity	*Period*	*Ware*	*Vessels*	*Wear*	*Date preference*
2	?MIA>MLIA	Flint + grog tempered	1	M	250-150/75 BC
	Small body, occasional small flint and grog, slightly sandy, minor small organics, worn oxidised exteriors and edges.				
3	?MIA>MLIA	Flint tempered	1/2	L>M	250-150/75 BC
	2 small fragmented body. 1 very small upright flat-topped rim with overhang on exterior. DRAW.				
1	?MIA>MLIA	Glauconitic sandy	1	L	250-150/75 BC
	Very small body.				

(217) [214]			**2 sherds**		**67 g**
Context:					
Start date:	**More likely after 250 BC, considering all from [214], but consider also the nature of the context and the vertical distribution, if possible.**				
End date:	**Nothing certainly after 50 BC, probably by 75 BC and possibly by 150 BC, considering all from [214].**				
Dating:	**Little specific data, but considering all from [214] most likely late MIA>MLIA. See (216).**				
Comments:	Medium sized sherds, the largest in [214], not significantly worn, 1 a base. DRAW: 1 base (probably not worth drawing, unless augmented by other finds).				
Quantity	*Period*	*Ware*	*Vessels*	*Wear*	*Date preference*
2	?MIA>MLIA	Flint tempered	1/2	L	250-150/75 BC
	Medium sized thick-walled body and base, strong fine to medium grits, bright orange oxidised exterior on former, latter slightly duller oxidised exterior and interior, base reduced with a short but prominent protruding exterior lip with finger presses (forming marks) above and a steep angled lower wall.				
(218)			**2 sherds**		**3 g**
Context:					
Start date:	**More likely after 250 BC.**				
End date:	**Unclear, potentially residual to some degree at least, though noting need date after 50 BC.**				
Dating:	**Little specific data. The glauconitic sandy would be more likely to appear here after 250 BC and could date as late as 60 AD, though presuming some association with the flint tempered also present, a date prior to 50 BC is preferred, for some of the reasons noted in (216). Consider if (218) is connected/related to [214]; if so the same date range could well apply, given the presence of another flat topped rim, though this is a tiny fragment only.**				
Comments:	Very small fragments, 1 a bit of rim, all likely residual but with some potential to be associated and dated preferably as such for now. Perhaps review. DRAW: 1 very small rim fragment (not worth drawing).				
Quantity	*Period*	*Ware*	*Vessels*	*Wear*	*Date preference*
1	?MIA>MLIA	Glauconitic sandy	1	M	250-50 BC
	Very small body.				
1	?MIA>MLIA	Flint tempered	1	C M	250-50 BC
	Very small rim fragment, with tiny element of a flat top and likely small exterior overhang remaining intact. DRAW.				
(306) [304]			**1 sherd**		**4 g**
Context:					
Start date:	**Nothing certainly before 250 BC.**				
End date:	**Unclear, likely residual.**				
Dating:	**The ware could date widely (EIA>LIA-ER), but is perhaps more likely to appear on Iwade after 250 BC, as it would be a rare occurrence as an import (potentially from the Greensand zone along the North Downs) before this time (Macpherson-Grant *pers. comm.*). Also, as no evidence of any 'Belgic' style material has been seen in the site assemblage so far, an LIA>LIA-ER date is less likely on this basis, so a late MIA>MLIA date is preferred on current evidence. Review against any further discoveries from any further phases of work.**				
Comments:	Small, residual. Does not have a significant calcareous element, though some minor chalk is present. This is a very small sample, however.				
Quantity	*Period*	*Ware*	*Vessels*	*Wear*	*Date preference*
1	?MIA>MLIA	Glauconitic sandy	1	C	250-50 BC
	Small thick body, heavily chipped but edges not very worn, 1 dull orange surface, 1 small chalk grain noted.				

(308)			**2 sherds**		**12 g**
Context:					
Start date:	**Likely after 1550 BC.**				
End date:	**Unclear, likely residual to some degree.**				
Dating:	**Little specific data. Likely LP and perhaps most typically MBA>EIA or MLIA.**				
Comments:	Small sherds, effectively/probably formerly a single sherd.				
Quantity	*Period*	*Ware*	*Vessels*	*Wear*	*Date preference*
1	LP>LIA-ER	Flint + sparse grog tempered	1	M	1550-50 BC/50 AD
	Small, thick-walled body, strong fine to medium flint.				
(407) [406]			**4 sherds**		**28 g**
Context:					
Start date:	**After 1550 BC.**				
End date:	**Unclear. Most of the material is somewhat worn and is probably residual to some degree, with only 1 sherd fresher. Nothing certainly or need date after 50 BC however, if broadly related.**				
Dating:	**Little specific data. Likely LP, with nothing certainly or need be later. The more heavily tempered elements would more typically be MBA>EIA or MLIA, these being slightly more worn than another that could date even more widely. There are similarities in the gritting and thickness between all however and they could well be broadly related/period-contemporary.**				
Comments:	Similar sized small sherds, 1 fresher. The slightly more worn material is more heavily gritted. Also 1 very small irregular piece of bright oxidised silty fabric with rounded edges, probably daub (1 g).				
Quantity	*Period*	*Ware*	*Vessels*	*Wear*	*Date preference*
3	LP	Flint + grog tempered	?2	M	1550-50 BC
	Small, similar sized, denuded surfaces, strong fine to medium and occasionally larger flint, with small orangey grog-like pellets and small iron-rich inclusions.				
1	LP	Flint tempered	1	L	1550-50 BC
	Small, moderate similar gritting to other.				
(505) [504]			**3 sherds**		**7 g**
Context:					
Start date:	**After 1550 BC.**				
End date:	**Unclear. Only 1 small sherd has some potential to be context-contemporary and as such may more likely be residual. Nothing certainly after 50 AD.**				
Dating:	**Little specific data. 1 rim could date widely; review against final site trends.**				
Comments:	Small. 1 residual. 1 fresher small rim of simple form, possibly from an open bowl or platter, which would not be common/typical in the LP, nor particularly in flint tempered fabrics afterwards, or perhaps a strongly incurving closed form bowl, also not a very common type. DRAW: 1 small rim (not worth drawing at present).				
Quantity	*Period*	*Ware*	*Vessels*	*Wear*	*Date preference*
2	LP	Flint tempered	1	H	1550-50 BC
	Small thin-walled fragments with heavily denuded oxidised surfaces.				
1	LP>LIA-ER	Flint tempered	1	L	1550 BC - 50 AD
	Small simple rounded-over rim, angle difficult to discern, from a strongly open or closed form bowl? DRAW.				

(506)			**11 sherds**		**57 g**
Context:					
Start date:	**After 1550 BC and possibly after 1000/900 BC.**				
End date:	**Unclear, some of this material is residual to various degrees, though all could be broadly associated, with nothing certainly after 50 BC.**				
Dating:	**Little specific data and could date widely through the LP, though with slight preference for broadly EIA>MLIA. Some sherds show some similarities to material within [214], but this is a small and fragmentary collection only and no associations are guaranteed. Reconsider against final site trends, if important.**				
Comments:	Mostly small, all coarsewares, some edges fairly heavily worn, other pieces chipped and fragmented but with edges less worn.				
Quantity	*Period*	*Ware*	*Vessels*	*Wear*	*Date preference*
11	LP/EIA>MLIA	Flint tempered	?3	M>H	1550/900-50 BC
	Most small fragmentary body sherds, 1 more medium sized, 1 very small probable base fragment. Some with some sparse grog-like pellets, all with oxidised surfaces, some fully oxidised.				
(510) [507]			**1 sherd**		**5 g**
Context:					
Start date:	**Likely after 1550 BC and possibly after 1000/900 BC.**				
End date:	**Unclear, a single small example which is probably residual to some degree.**				
Dating:	**Little specific data, likely LP, more likely EIA>MLIA and could but needn't be later.**				
Comments:	Small.				
Quantity	*Period*	*Ware*	*Vessels*	*Wear*	*Date preference*
1	LP/EIA>MLIA	Flint tempered	1	M	1000/900-50 BC
	Small body, oxidised exterior, some sparse organics and grog-like pellets.				
(807) [806]			**1 sherd**		**2 g**
Context:					
Start date:	**Likely after 1550 BC.**				
End date:	**Unclear, potentially residual.**				
Dating:	**Little specific data, likely LP.**				
Comments:	Very small fragment.				
Quantity	*Period*	*Ware*	*Vessels*	*Wear*	*Date preference*
1	LP	Flint tempered	1	M	1550-50 BC
	Very small fragment, some rounding on 1 intact edge.				
(1209) [1206]			**1 sherd**		**1 g**
Context:					
Start date:	**Likely after 1550 BC and possibly after 1000/900 BC.**				
End date:	**Unclear, a single small example which is probably residual to some degree.**				
Dating:	**Little specific data, likely LP, more likely EIA>MLIA and could but needn't be later.**				
Comments:	Very small.				
Quantity	*Period*	*Ware*	*Vessels*	*Wear*	*Date preference*
1	LP/EIA>MLIA	Flint tempered	1	M	1000/900-50 BC
	Very small body, occasional small grits, slightly sandy, oxidised surfaces.				
(1213) [1212]			**1 sherd**		**8 g**
Context:					
Start date:	**Nothing before 1780 AD.**				
End date:	**Unclear, residual.**				
Dating:	**LPM>MOD.**				
Comments:	Small, probably Staffordshire, residual.				
Quantity	*Period*	*Ware*	*Vessels*	*Wear*	*Date preference*
1	LPM>MOD	Refined white earthenware	1	H	1780+ AD
	Small, slightly very pale ?blue tinge to glaze on interior, very chipped.				

(1305) [1304] LPM Ditch			3 sherds		10 g
Context:					
Start date:	**Nothing certainly before 1150 AD, probably after 1225 and perhaps more likely after 1780 AD.**				
End date:	**Unclear, the latest element is likely residual to some degree.**				
Dating:	**The firing of the EM>M and M sherds suggests they would less typically date after 1275/1300 AD and a date before 1250 AD is possible for both, though the precise character of the industries that produced these wares is unclear at this time, so some allowance is made. The Medieval material could but need not be related and is perhaps more likely not to be contemporary with each other. These sherds are residual, as is the LPM material, which could date the feature. Consider the nature of the context and the vertical distribution, ie. whether the LPM could be occurring on the surface of, or is intrusive in, an earlier feature, or whether the residual Medieval material is significantly residual in a LPM feature. Perhaps most likely the latter.**				
Comments:	All small, worn and residual. The small piece of LPM is fairly flat, but perhaps a little thin for a tile. DRAW: 1 small rim (not worth drawing).				
Quantity	*Period*	*Ware*	*Vessels*	*Wear*	*Date preference*
1	EM>M	North/West Kent sandy	1	M	1150-1250/1275 AD
	Very small body, dull orange throughout, medium-walled, soft.				
1	M	North/West Kent sandy	1	M	1225-1275 AD
	Small rim, slightly concave flat-top, outer edge pulled up and distorted/pinched in 1 place, orangey surfaces with daker patches and tiny remnants of glaze, fuzzy firing sandwich. DRAW.				
1	LPM>MOD	Refined white earthenware	1	M	1780+ AD
	Small, flat, sherd or thin tile.				
Totals			**51 sherds**		**292 g**

2.4. Preliminary comments

The sherd sizes were mostly small and the quantities per context were low or very low, with no full or significant part profiles present.

No material was certain or likely to pre-date the LP, while episodes of activity within the LP, the EM>M and the LPM>MOD were indicated.

The main focus of the site assemblage lays within the LP, with the more diagnostic material suggesting potential episodes of activity more specifically during the EMIA>MIA and the late MIA>MLIA. All of the dating for the LP has largely had to be based on the fabrics and the associations of different ware types, with few form and decorative elements present.

The presence of a small quantity of small sherds of glauconitic sandy ware are responsible for the suggestion of activity within the late MIA>MLIA. This ware was made in the Greensand zone, probably within the North Downs and potentially not too far away from the site. It could, most typically, date from the EIA onwards, though it is currently thought that this ware would be rare and less likely to appear on Iwade, outside of its immediate area of manufacture, before around 250 BC. An EIA or EMIA date is possible, however. Any further work able to be conducted could perhaps include a brief review of any other pottery assemblages that have been recovered nearby, to check for any occurrences of glauconitic sandy wares, the associated wares and any certain dates.

For the LP, while some of the more heavily coarsely tempered fabrics have the potential to date most typically within the MBA>EIA and the MLIA, there is currently no definitive evidence for activity specifically during the MBA>MBA-LBA, the EIA and the MLIA.

3. Quantification and spot-dating of the worked lithics

3.1. Methodology

A prime aim is to provide a useful catalogue that combines a record of key characteristics (permitting a degree of preservation and some re-analysis by record), with individual spot-dating information and an overall comment on the worked lithic content of the context and its implications. Each piece has been dated on its individual merits. Where some pieces have the potential to be part of related groups which may be able to be dated with a narrower, more specific range than many of their individual components, such dates have sometimes been applied to less diagnostic material and the possibilities are commented upon in the context notes. Details about the nature of the context and any pottery recovered, which inform the interpretation, are noted where known.

The artefacts were examined using a hand lens of x10 magnification and were catalogued on a context, type, character, weight (calculated to the nearest gram, with a minimum of 1g), condition, period and potential relationship to context basis. Their suitability for illustration on their own merits was also noted. Within each context the artefacts have been listed first in order of type (waste, retouched, utilised) and then date (earliest to latest). The bulk weight of the flintwork from each context was also recorded.

All dates given throughout are *circa*.

3.2. Key to catalogue 3.3

Class		-	Class of artefact, listed individually under its context. Ordered as Waste, Retouched and Utilised, then by date, then by the strength of patina if appropriate to the site: strongest (residual?) to lightest/unpatinated (possibly contemporary when occurring in a patinating environment).
	Italics	:	Additional notes of interest in italics; including:
	RU	:	Denotes tools which have re-used old, patinated struck flakes.
	PP	:	Denotes the presence of platform preparation (abrasion).
FS		-	Flake shape or core type.
Flake shape			
	S	:	Short or squat: width same as or greater than length.
	L	:	Long: length greater than width.
	B	:	Blade: length twice or more width, with parallel sides and dorsal ridge/s.
	BL	:	Bladelet: blade less than 12mm wide.
	/	:	Near, ie. '/BL': nearly/effectively a bladelet.
Core type			
	CF	:	Core fragment.
FT		-	Flake or core type.
	P	:	Primary: complete/nearly complete cover of cortex on the dorsal surface.
	S	:	Secondary: lesser amount of cortex.
	T	:	Tertiary: no cortex.
	/	:	Near, ie. '/T': nearly/effectively a tertiary flake.
RM		-	Raw material type.
Natural	N	:	Naturally shattered, unpatinated surface.
Grey	PG	:	Pitted pale grey thin rough cortex.
White	SW	:	Smooth off-white thin patchy cortex, smooth/slightly smooth; often thick.
	RW	:	Rough off-white creamy coloured thin cortex, thinning in places.
Varied	VR	:	Smoothed, water-rolled, mostly mottled off white, with some orangey-brown.
Black+	2	:	Mixed patchy black and grey flint.
	3	:	Mixed patchy black and brown flint.
	4	:	Mixed patchy black, grey and brown flint.
	7	:	Graduating black to brown flint.

Quality	b	:	Generally small cherty inclusions, whether occasional or frequent, which likely do not significantly affect knapping; good quality raw material.
	c	:	A moderate content of small to medium-sized cherty inclusions and/or flaws which likely will affect the knapping quality to some degree; moderate quality.
	d	:	Moderate to frequent small and/or medium and large-sized cherty inclusions and/or flaws which significantly affect the knapping quality; poor raw material.
H		-	Hammer type.
	H	:	Hard stone (eg. a cobble of rolled flint or quartzite).
W		-	Weight in grams (minimum 1g).
Patina		-	Patina present? If differential described by ventral/dorsal surface on flakes, or on cores described by platform/flake scars. NB. Note ( ) code below.
	N	:	None.
	M	:	Moderate (well established colours but coverage is patchy).
	S	:	Strong (near or complete coverage of advanced patinas).
	A	:	Advanced (at the later end of a stage).
	B	:	Blue.
	W	:	White.
	Y	:	A glossy yellowy sheen.
	D	:	A darkish brown or yellowy-brown sheen.
	( )	:	Patina codes in brackets describe an earlier patina type truncated by re-use.
D		-	Potential/certain post-discard chipping/breakage damage present?
	Y	:	Yes, likely chipped or broken post discard.
	?	:	Denotes damage present but not certainly post-discard; might be from use.
I		-	Worthy of future illustration? Initial estimate of pieces of prime interest.
	Y	:	Yes.
	?	:	Possibly, dependent upon context and associations.
Period		-	Potential date range, defined by Period Codes.
	>	:	To.
	<	:	No later than.
	/	:	Or.
	-	:	No firm or usefully compact date range.
Preference		-	Date preferred at this time. Sometimes a tighter but more intuitive opinion.
A		-	Association with the context.
	C	:	Has a good potential to be contemporary with the context.
	R	:	Residual.
	Blank	:	No preference at this time.

3.3. Catalogue: Quantification and spot-dating of the worked lithics, with notes

Context									**Total lithics**	**Total weight (g)**	
Context:	Information on the nature of the context if known.										
Pottery:	Date of any pottery present or the ceramic date of the context if known.										
Notes:	Elements and trends of initial interest										
Summary:	**Dates and relationships to context.**										
Class		*FS*	*FT*	*RM*	*H*	*W*	*Patina*	*D*	*I*	*Period*	*Preference*	*A*
(204)									**1 lithic**	**10 g**	
Context:											
Pottery:	EMIA>MIA.										
Notes:	Blade segment, potentially intentionally snapped for hafting, advanced chalk-soil type patina.										
Summary:	**Broadly MES>ERN, residual.**										
Class		*FS*	*FT*	*RM*	*H*	*W*	*Patina*	*D*	*I*	*Period*	*Preference*	*A*
Utilised?												
Blade segment		B	T	3b	-	10	AMBW	?		MES>N	MES>ERN	R
		Medial, broad-ish, 2 dorsal ridges, fine abrasion chipping both laterals and slight break.										
(211) [210]									**3 lithics**	**26 g**	
Context:											
Pottery:											
Notes:	1 small thick triangular sectioned flake, the dorsal ridge potentially from a platform edge showing narrow blade and bladelet sized removals, ?MES>ERN. 1 distal fragment of a fair sized ?long flake (??<EBA) with a banded yellowy-white patina, showing unpatinated re-use more likely MBA>EIA+. 1 small primary flake potentially simply notched and/or utilised as a scraper, more likely MBA>EMIA+ if so.										
Summary:	**Possible MES>ERN and MBA>EMIA+ elements, the former residual if so, the relationship of the latter to the context unclear.**										
Class		*FS*	*FT*	*RM*	*H*	*W*	*Patina*	*D*	*I*	*Period*	*Preference*	*A*
Retouched												
Misc. retouched flake		L	?S	?N7c	?	3	Y	?		-	?MES>ERN	
		Small B-like flake, thick triangular section, dorsal ridge shows 2 potential BL and narrow B sized removals, ?intentional, abrasion and chipping both laterals, 1 lower lateral with inverse marginal semi-abrupt retouch.										
Hollow/side scraper (*RU*)		?L	S	PG3b	?H	15	N (MYW)	?		*Fl* -	MBA>EIA+	
		Distal fragment of ?long flake, broad, large hinge, 1 lateral cortex, other a short uneven edge of 2 shallow hollows of unpat direct semi-abrupt retouch through banded YW patina.										
Utilised?												
Flake		L	P	VR7d	-	8	?Y	?		-	MBA>EMIA+	
		Small, proximal shoulders and distal end breaks, 1 lateral a small direct notch intentional? Some direct scarring on abrupt distal break, from use?										
(807) [806]									**1 lithic**	**26 g**	
Context:											
Pottery:	LP.										
Notes:	Dark brownish patinated core fragment with a very small unpatinated retouched/utilised hollow.										
Summary:	**Re-used chunk, the re-use more likely MBA>EIA+, relationship to context unclear.**										
Class		*FS*	*FT*	*RM*	*H*	*W*	*Patina*	*D*	*I*	*Period*	*Preference*	*A*
Retouched/Utilised												
?Hollow scraper (*RU*)		CF	S	SW2c	-	26	N (D)	Y		*Core* -	?MBA>EIA+	
		Small angular chunk, core fragment, a few incipient cones, chips. 1 very small hollow of unpatinated abrupt ?retouch scars and edge scarring.										

(1202)										**1 lithic**	**24 g**
Context:											
Pottery:											
Notes:	Quality large blade, no obvious hafting, with minor abrasion (potentially from use) and no significant/obvious post-discard damage, appears fairly fresh but with a strong (differential) chalk-soil type patina. Could date widely.										
Summary:	**Broadly UP>EBK, but more likely MES>N and perhaps ERN. Residual, but with no significant post-discard damage, so perhaps little disturbed/little moved from its place of original discard. Consideration needs to be given to the precedence for any UP, MES or N activity nearby, to which this piece may reasonably relate.** **UP material is very rare in Kent and the chances of this blade, which is not specifically diagnostic to one of these periods in particular, being UP, is very slim. In this case however, the possibility is worth noting, given that the blade is large and well struck and that there is a potential precedence for activity of this date occurring nearby. A blade that was retouched to a form akin to a trapezoidal backed blade (a Cheddar point) was recovered at Iwade Meadows (Hart 2017). Such material is encountered very rarely in Kent and is similarly rare within Britain in general, but if confirmed it could indicate activity in the LUP Creswellian period, which may concentrate around 14,700 BP, or from 14,300-14,200 BP (Pettit and White 2012, 435, 453; Colin Baker *pers. comm.* re the latter date, the information from Paul Pettit; see Hart 2017, 8-9, for further information and a discussion of this and some other local instances). More certainly and occurring with much greater frequency locally, there are also known precedence for activity in the MES and ERN at Iwade Meadows (Hart 2017) and, particularly, for the EN at Grovehurst Road, which is presumably fairly close to the current site (Hart 2022).**										

Class	*FS*	*FT*	*RM*	*H*	*W*	*Patina*	*D*	*I*	*Period*	*Preference*	*A*
Utilised											
Flake – knife (*PP*)	B	T	4b	?	24	MBW/SBW	?		UP>EBK	MES>N/?ERN	R
	Broadish long B, 96 mm L x 31 mm W (physical max. 29 mm) x 1 mm T, narrow linear platform with PP across width, single dorsal ridge (thickest at proximal end), thin laterals and distal end, some fine abrasion on edges, series of small snap breaks 1 lower lateral, no hafting notches.										

(1209) [1206]										**1 lithic**	**8 g**
Context:											
Pottery:	LP/EIA>MLIA.										
Notes:	Small primary flake with possible intentional simple/crude notch.										
Summary:	**Potentially an intentional tool, more likely MBA>EMIA+ if so, relationship to context unclear.**										

Class	*FS*	*FT*	*RM*	*H*	*W*	*Patina*	*D*	*I*	*Period*	*Preference*	*A*
Retouched											
?Notch	L	P	RW3c	H	8	?Y	?		-	MBA>EMIA+	
	Small, 1 lower lateral an uneven crude notch with edge scarring and a couple of direct abrupt scars/chips adjacent.										

Totals										**7 lithics**	**94 g**

3.4. Preliminary comments

All of the lithics were made from flint, the raw materials for some at least probably being obtained relatively locally.

The quantities recovered in total and per context were very low.

No material that was specifically diagnostic of individual periods was present and all were only broadly dateable on their own merits. No retouched tools of notably good or high quality were present.

The flintwork offers evidence of episodes of activity that more likely occurred at some point or points within the MES>ERN and the MBA>EMIA+. There is some potential for one piece to be UP/LUP, but this is not considered likely at present. A later date, within the MES or ERN, is much more probable for this piece, with an ERN date slightly preferred, given that a precedence for activity within the EN may occur close-by.

None of the material was certainly contemporary with its context. In several cases it was certainly residual and in others no suggestions of contemporaneity can be made, due to the very low numbers present and the presumed character of the underlying geology (BGS 2022).

4. Bibliography

BGS 2022. *Geology Viewer*. British Geological Survey.
https://geologyviewer.bgs.ac.uk

Hart P.C. 2017. *An Assessment of the worked lithics, plus a catalogue of additional finds, from Iwade Meadows, Iwade, Kent*. Report for the Swale and Thames Archaeology Survey Company, 2017 update.

Hart P.C. 2022. *Catalogues of the pottery and the ceramic building material recovered during an archaeological evaluation on land adjacent to Pond Farm, Grovehurst Road, Iwade, Kent*. Report for the Swale and Thames Archaeology Survey Company.

PLATES

Plate 1: Southern part of the site, looking north.

Plate 2: South-eastern part of the site, looking north-west Trench 5 visible in background.

Plate 3: South-eastern part of the site, evaluation Trenches 3, 2 and 1 in background.

Plate 4: Trenches 4 and 5 looking southwest.

Plate 5: Section through furrow in ploughsoil (104). Looking southwest with half-metre scale; each segment equals 0.1metre.

Plate 6: Ditch [105] truncated by modern drain [107] in Trench 1. Looking southwest with one metre scale.

Plate 7: Ditch terminus [205] in Trench 2. Looking north with one metre scale.

Plate 8: Feature [210] in Trench 2. Looking east with one metre scale.

Plate 10: Evaluation Trench 2 looking north with two one metre scales.

Plate 11: Showing representative section with test-pit through occupational layer in Trench 3. Looking north-east with one metre scale.

Plate 12: Ditch [304] in Trench 3. Looking south-west with two one metre scales.

Plate 13: Ditch [806] in Trench 8. Looking north-east with one metre scale.

Plate 14: Evaluation Trench 8. Looking southwest with one metre scale.

Plate 15: Evaluation Trench 11. Looking northwest with one metre scale.


Plate 16: Evaluation Trench 12. Looking northwest with one metre scale.

Figure 1: Site location

Figure 2: Trench location in relation to OS map

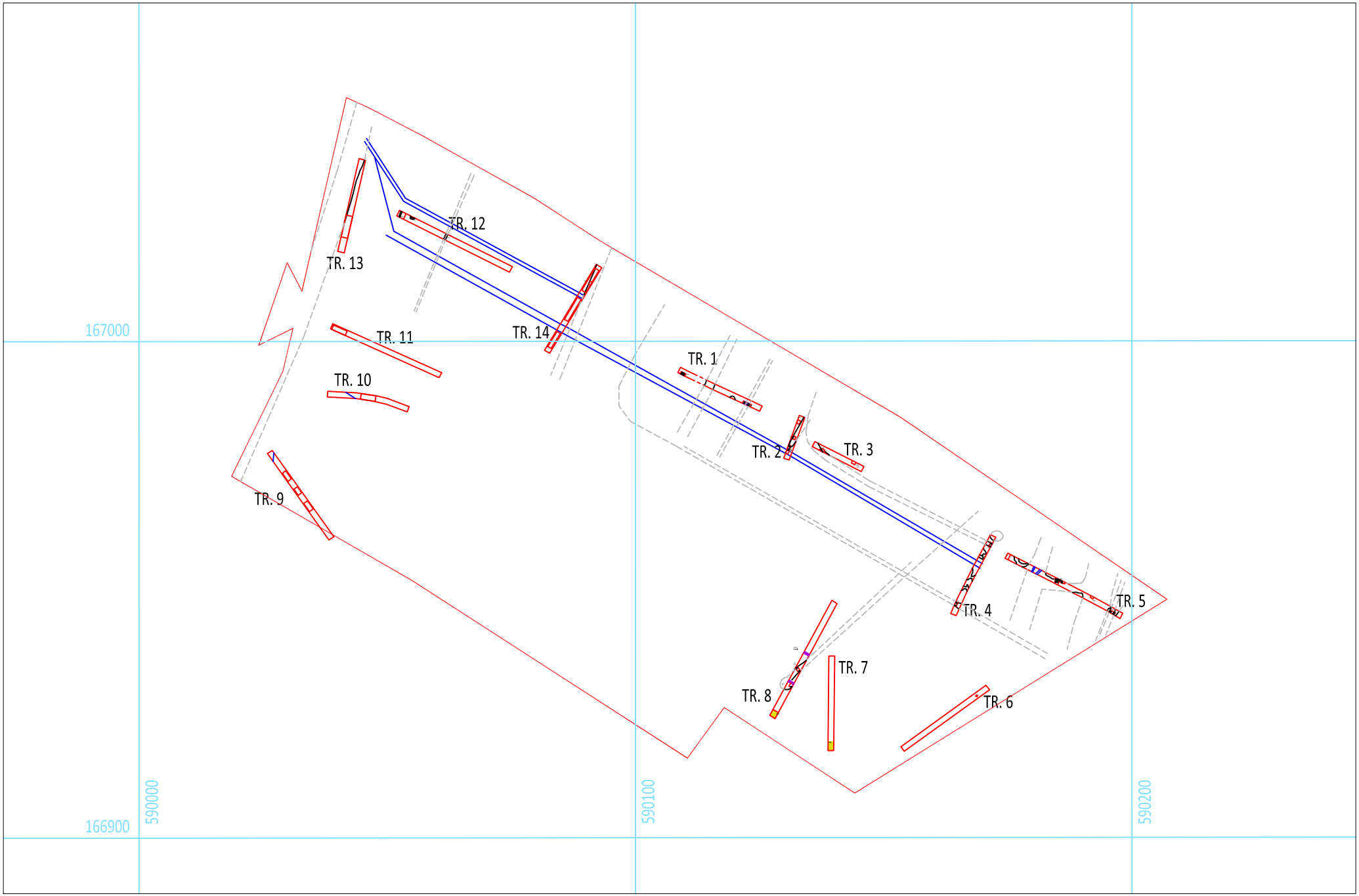


Figure 3: Trench location

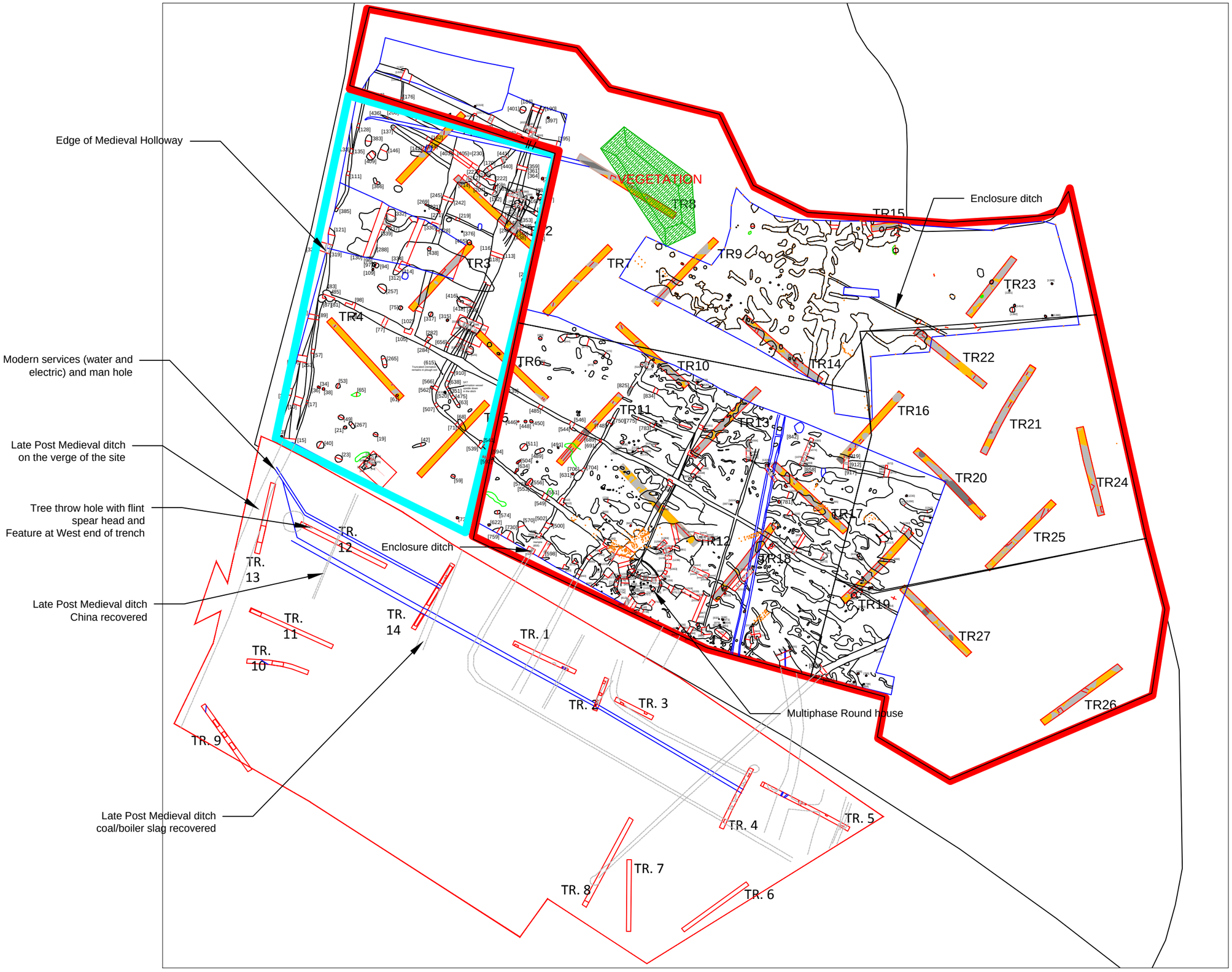


Figure 4: The site in relation to ongoing excavation of Farm settlement on Pond Farm, scale 1:1000@A3

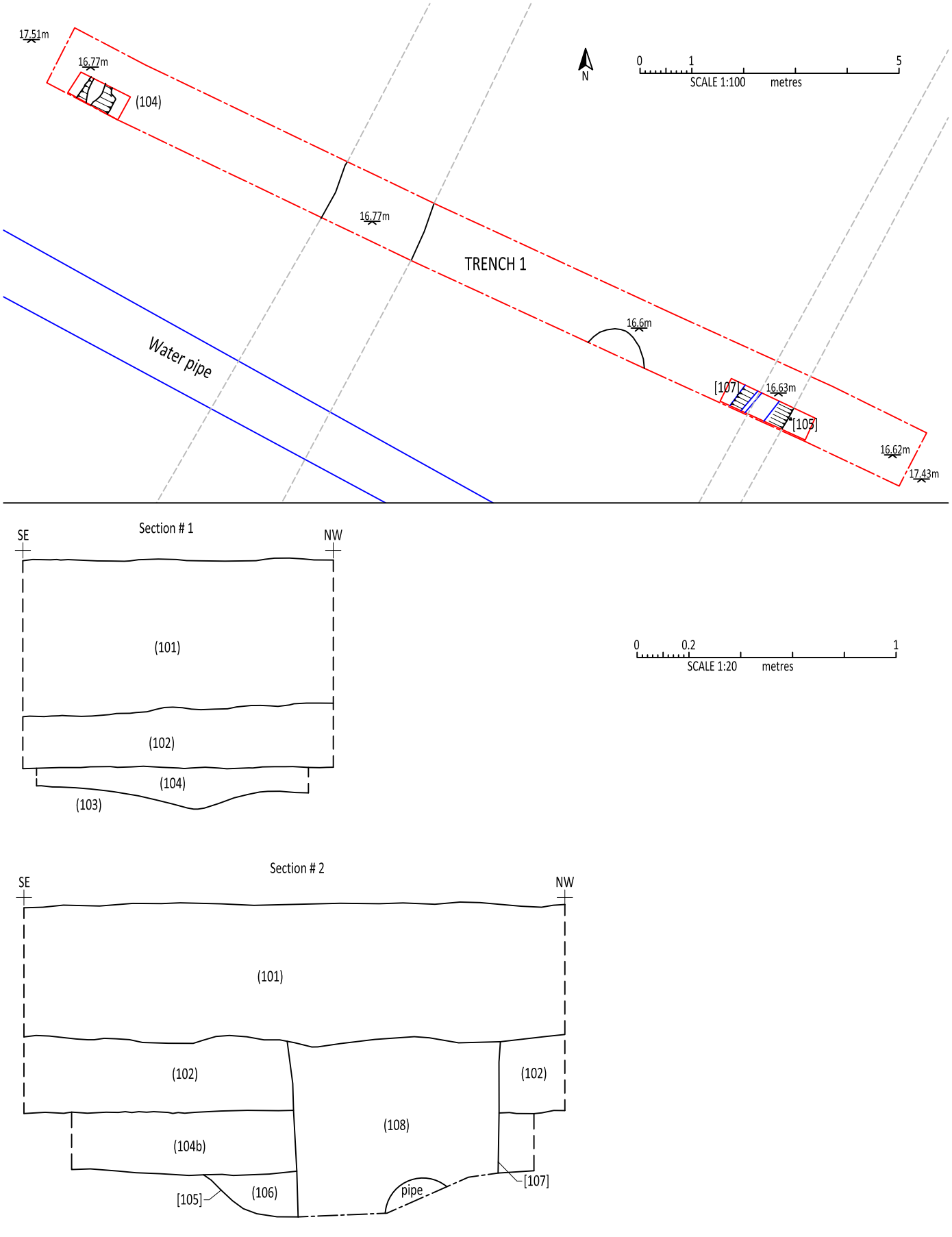


Figure 5: Plan and sections of trench 1.

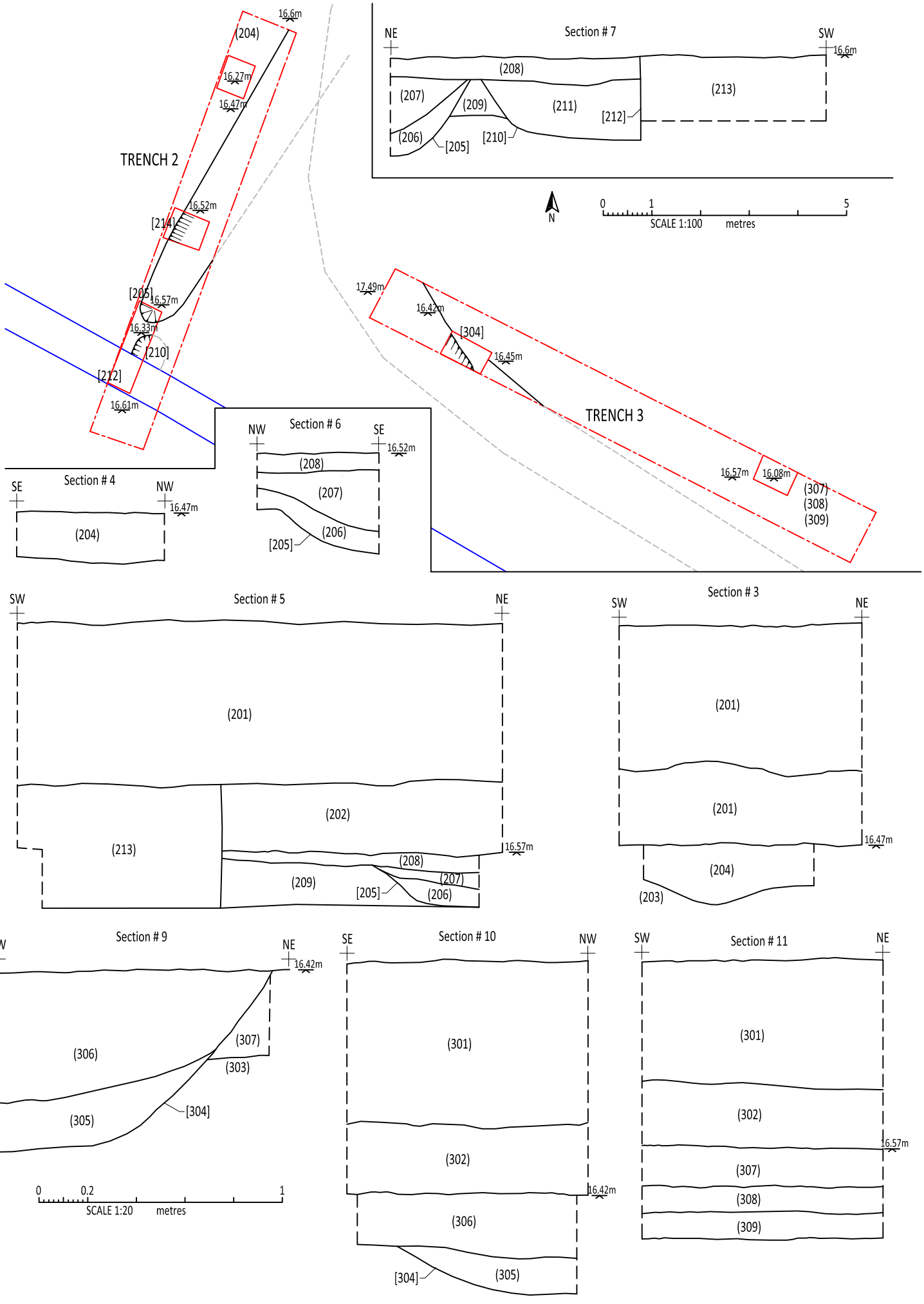


Figure 6: Plan and sections of trench 2 and 3.

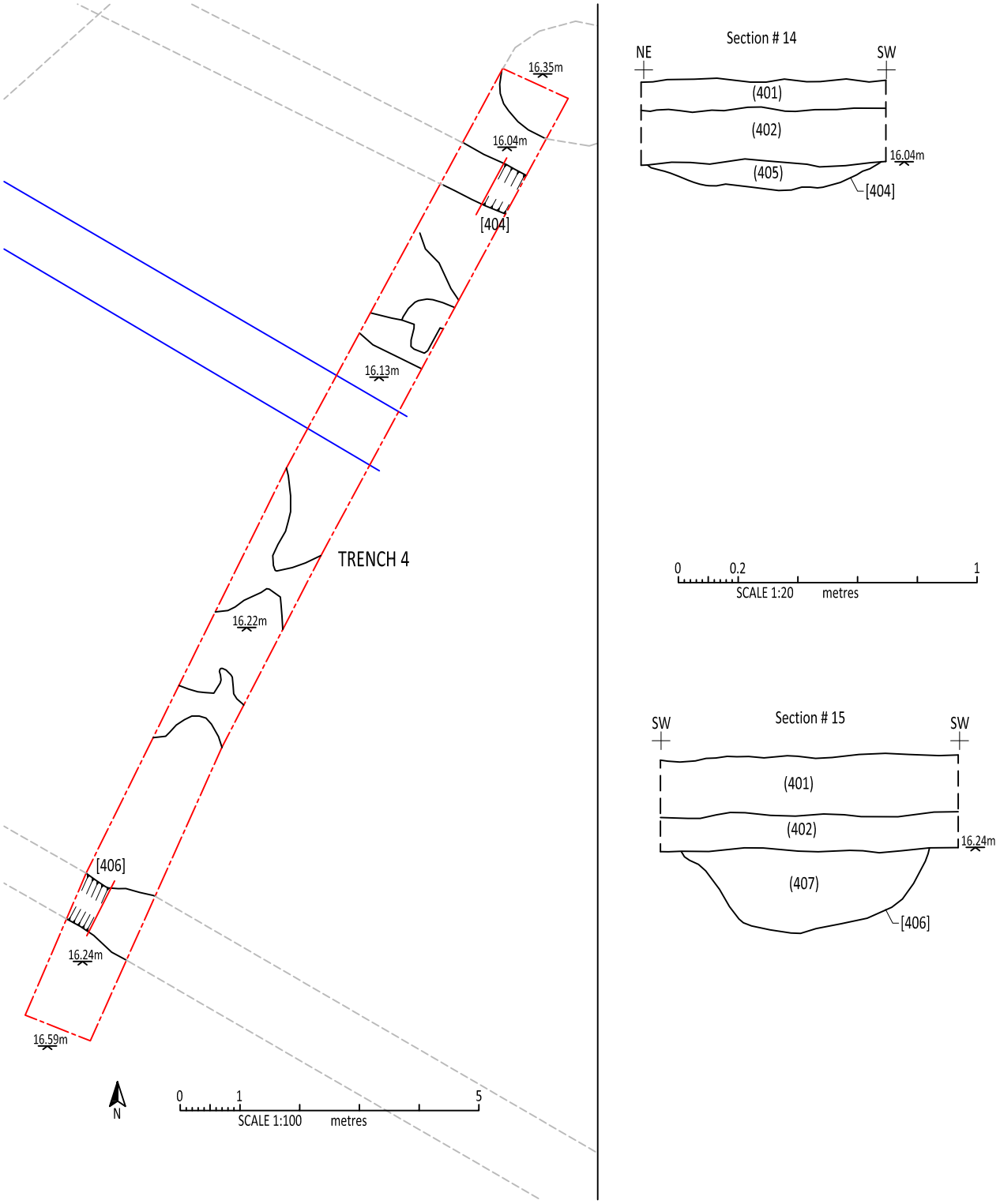


Figure 7: Plan and sections of trench 4.

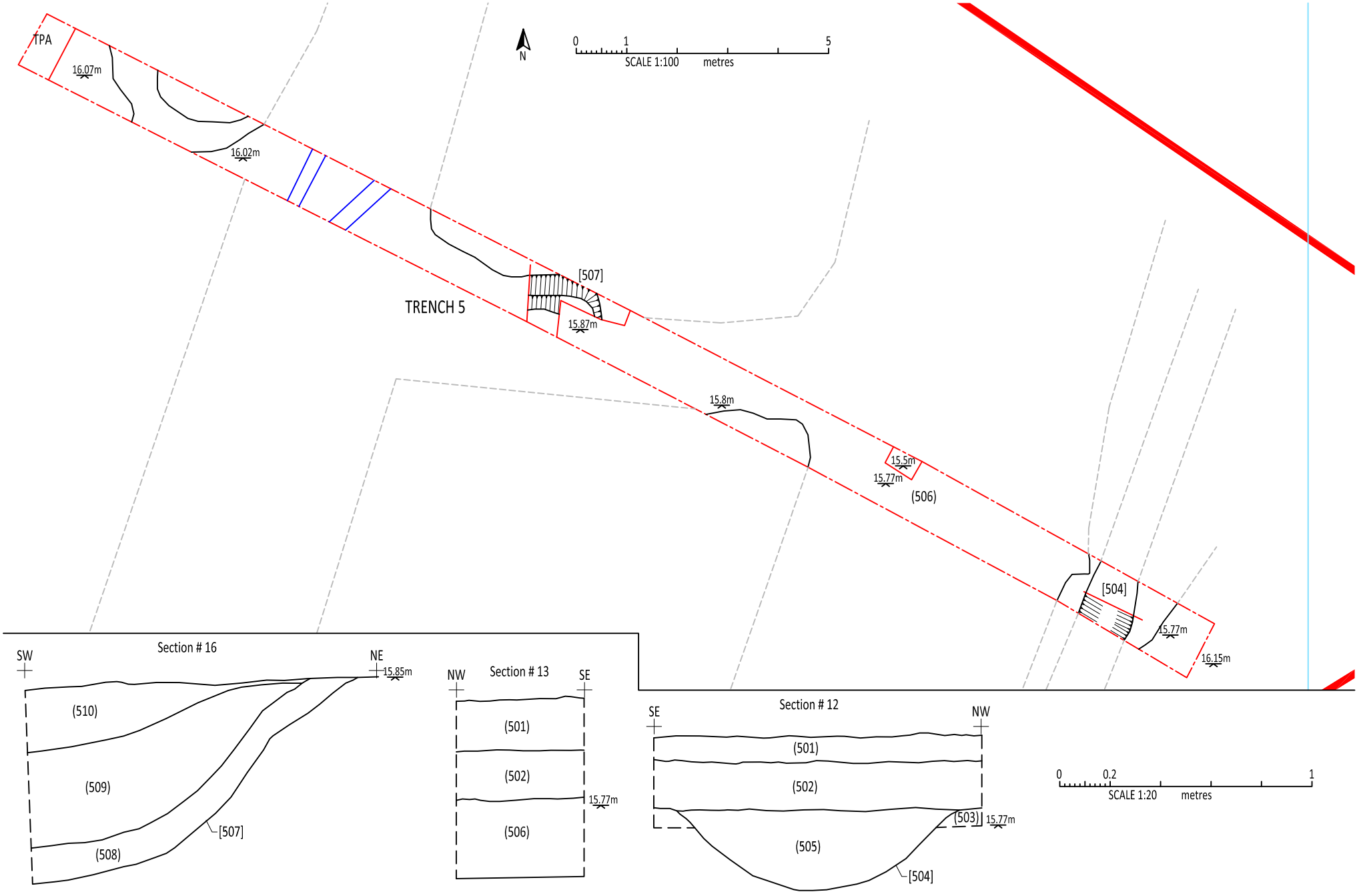


Figure 8: Plan and sections of trench 5.

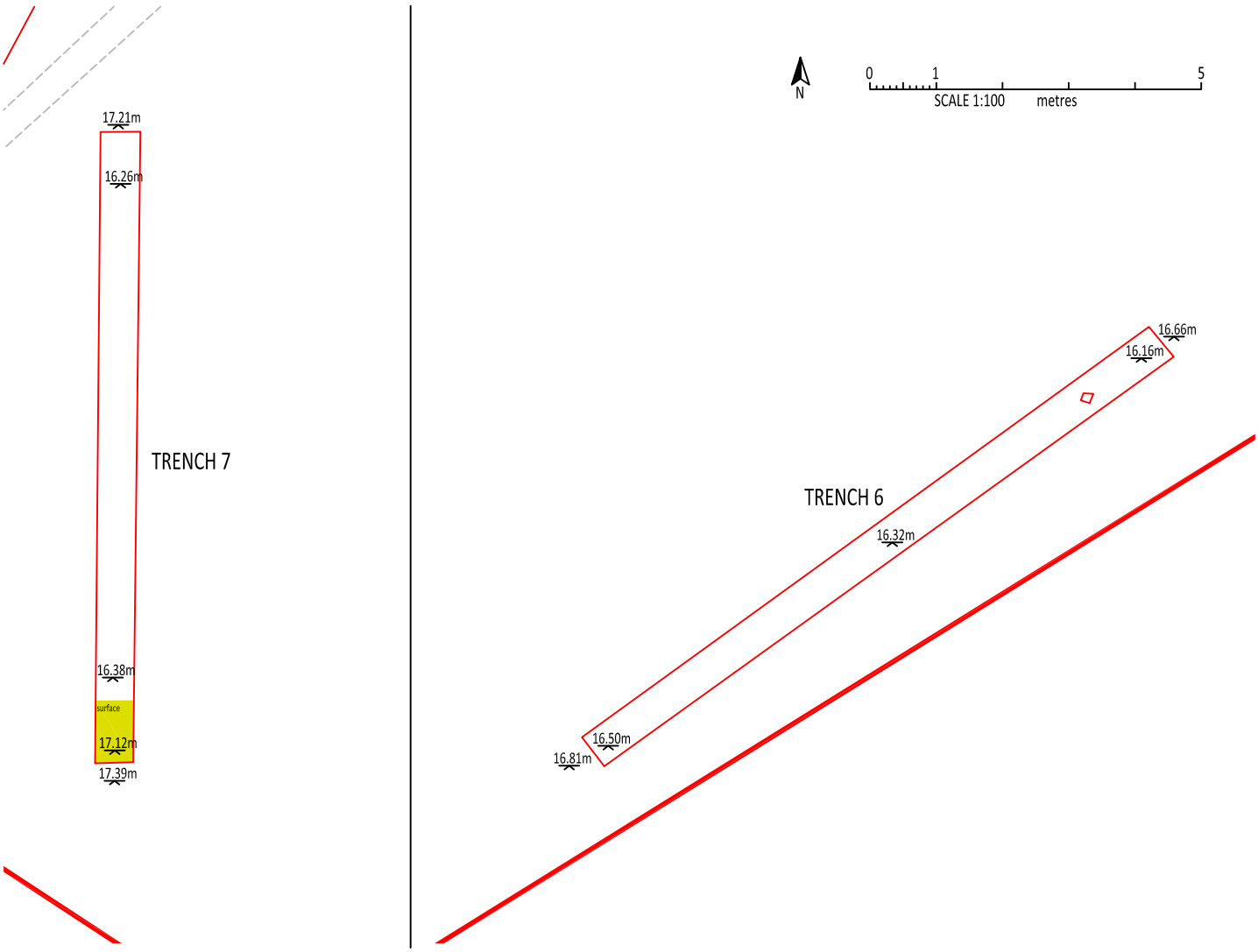


Figure 9: Plan and sections of trench 6 and 7.

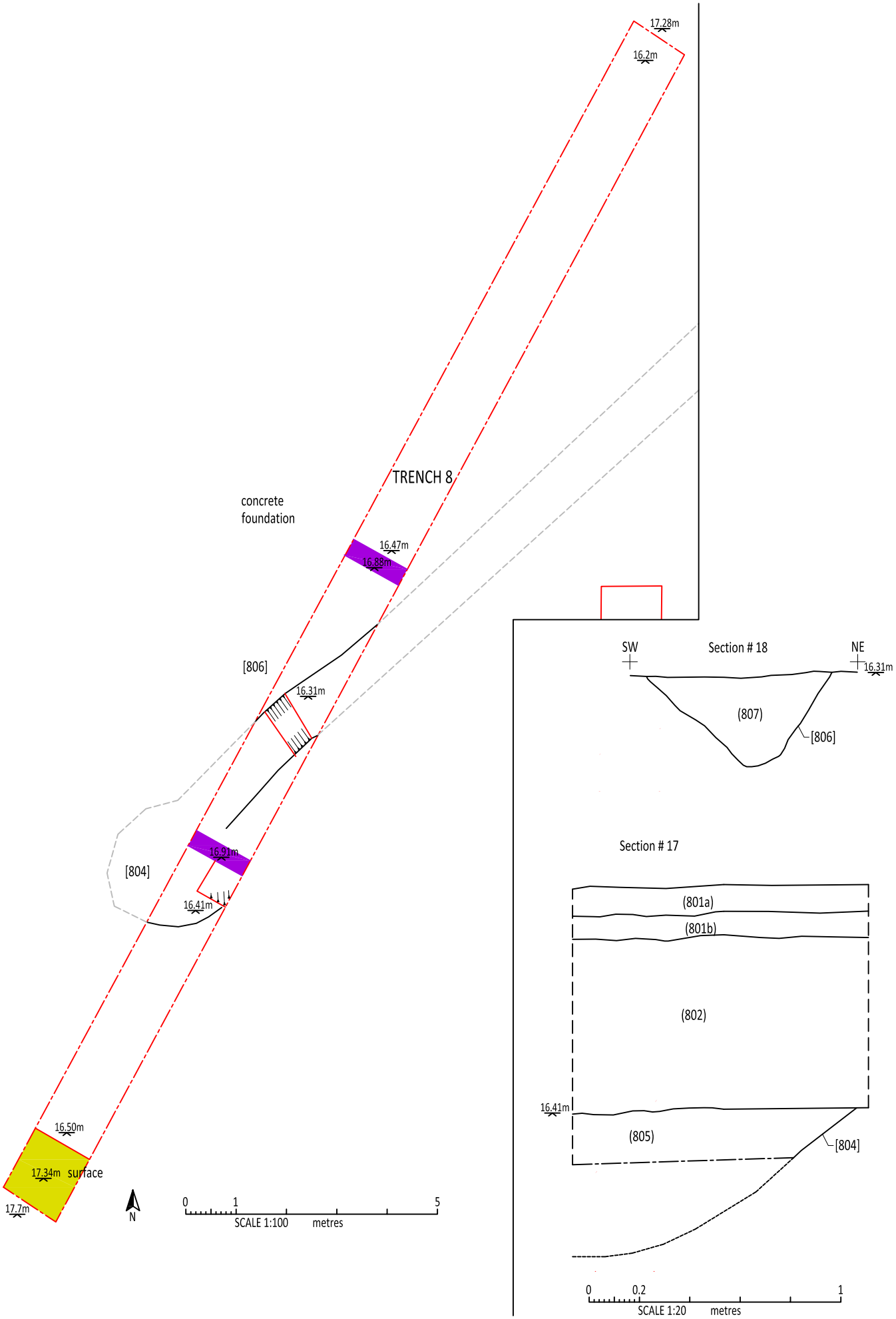


Figure 10: Plan and sections of trench 4.

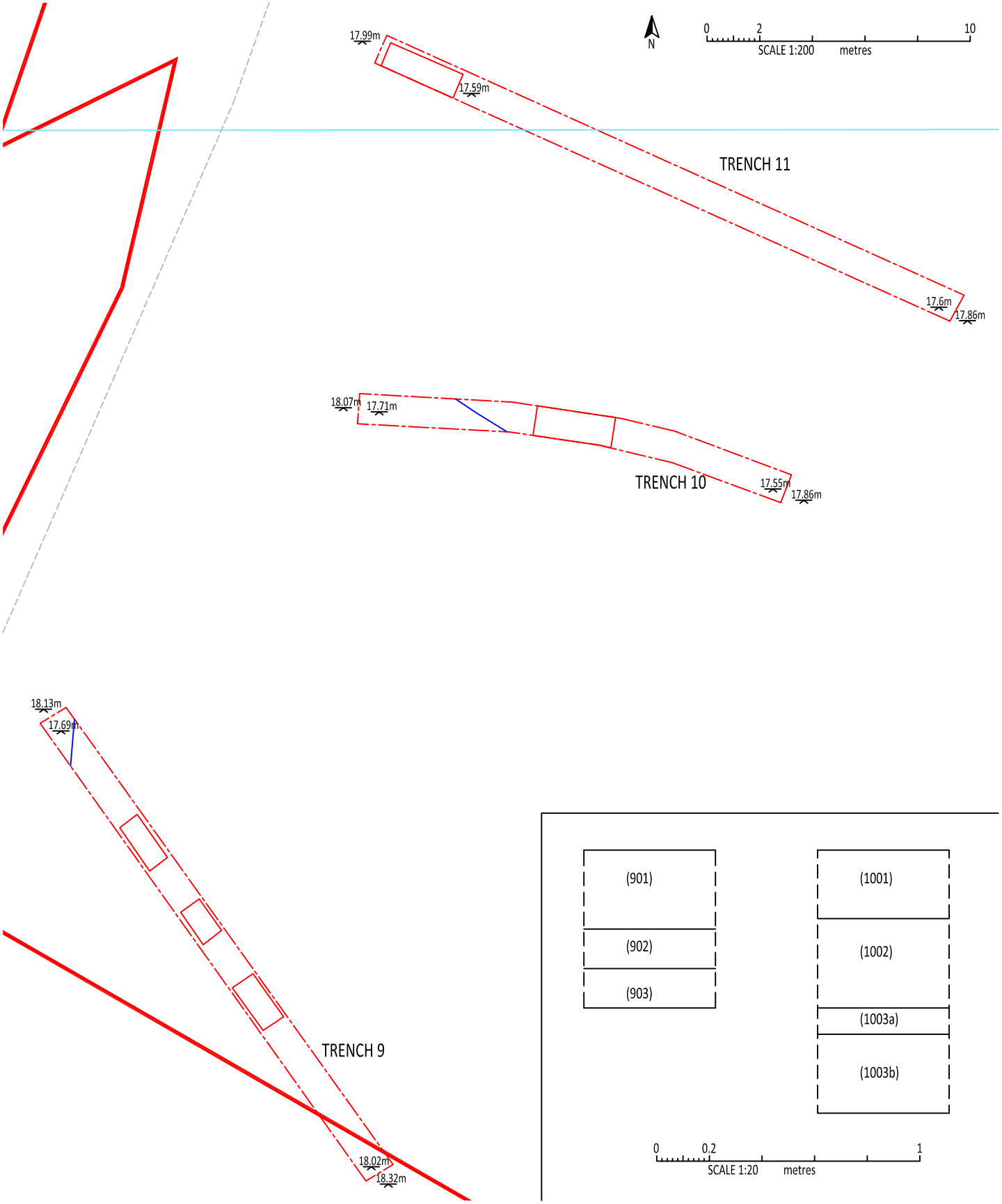


Figure 11: Plan and sections of trench 9, 10 and 11.

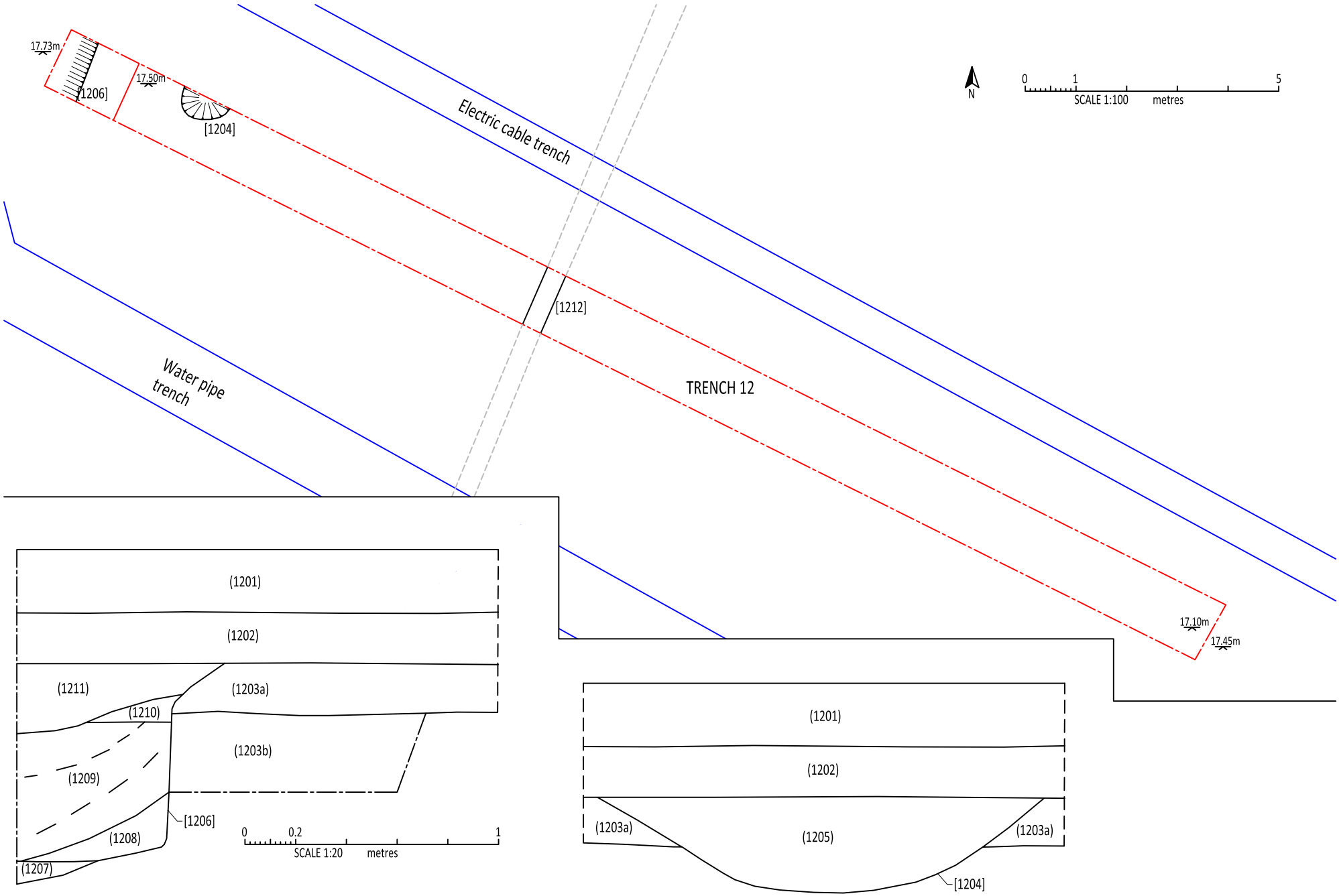
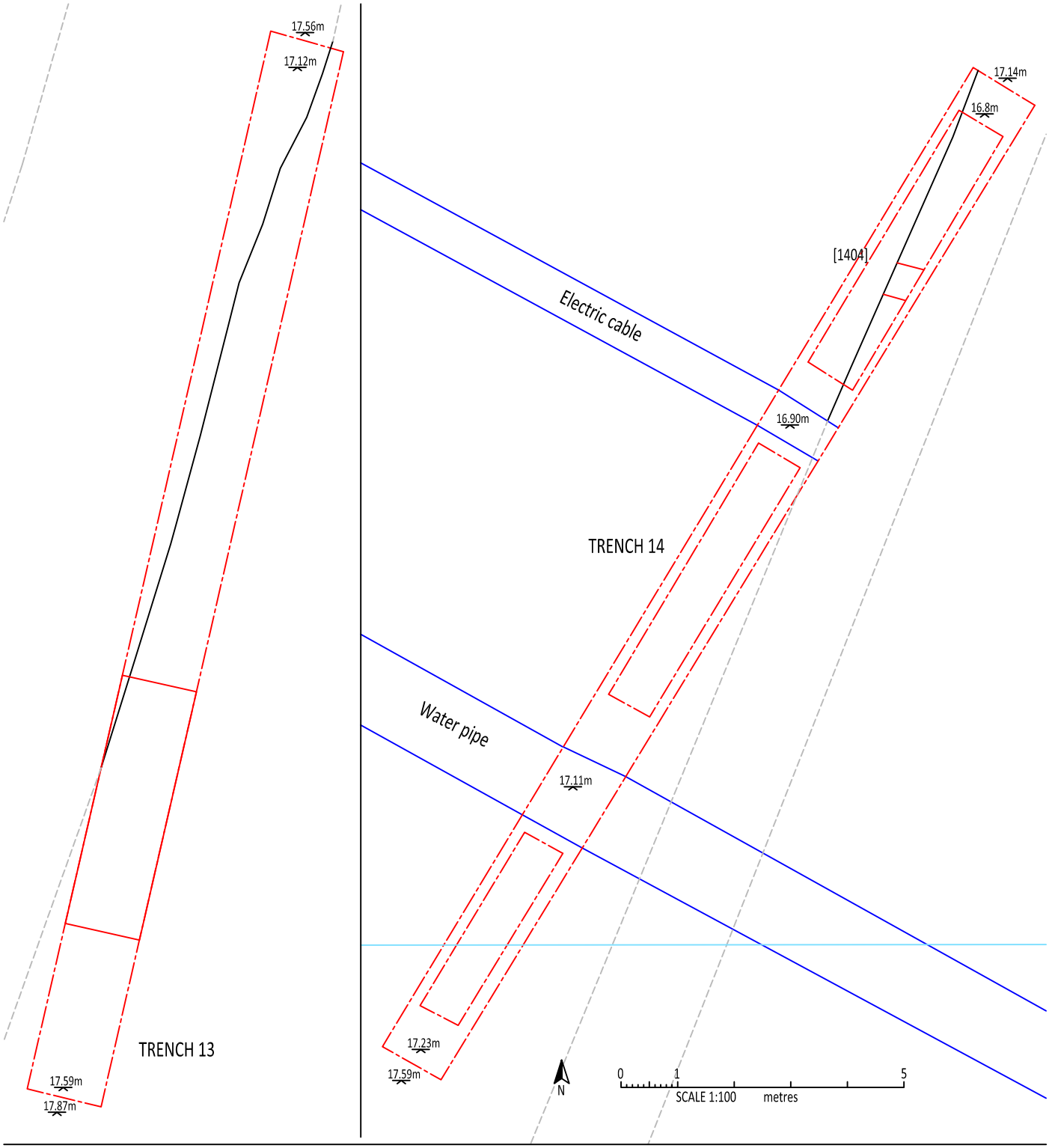


Figure 12: Plan and sections of trench 12.



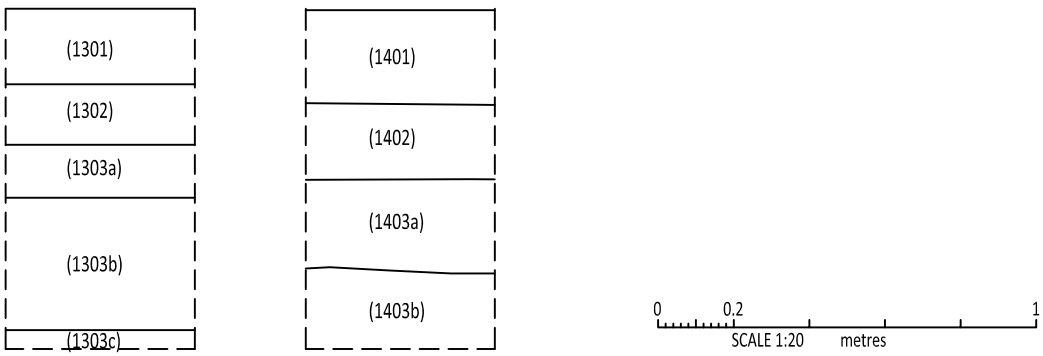


Figure 13: Plan and sections of trench 13 and 14.

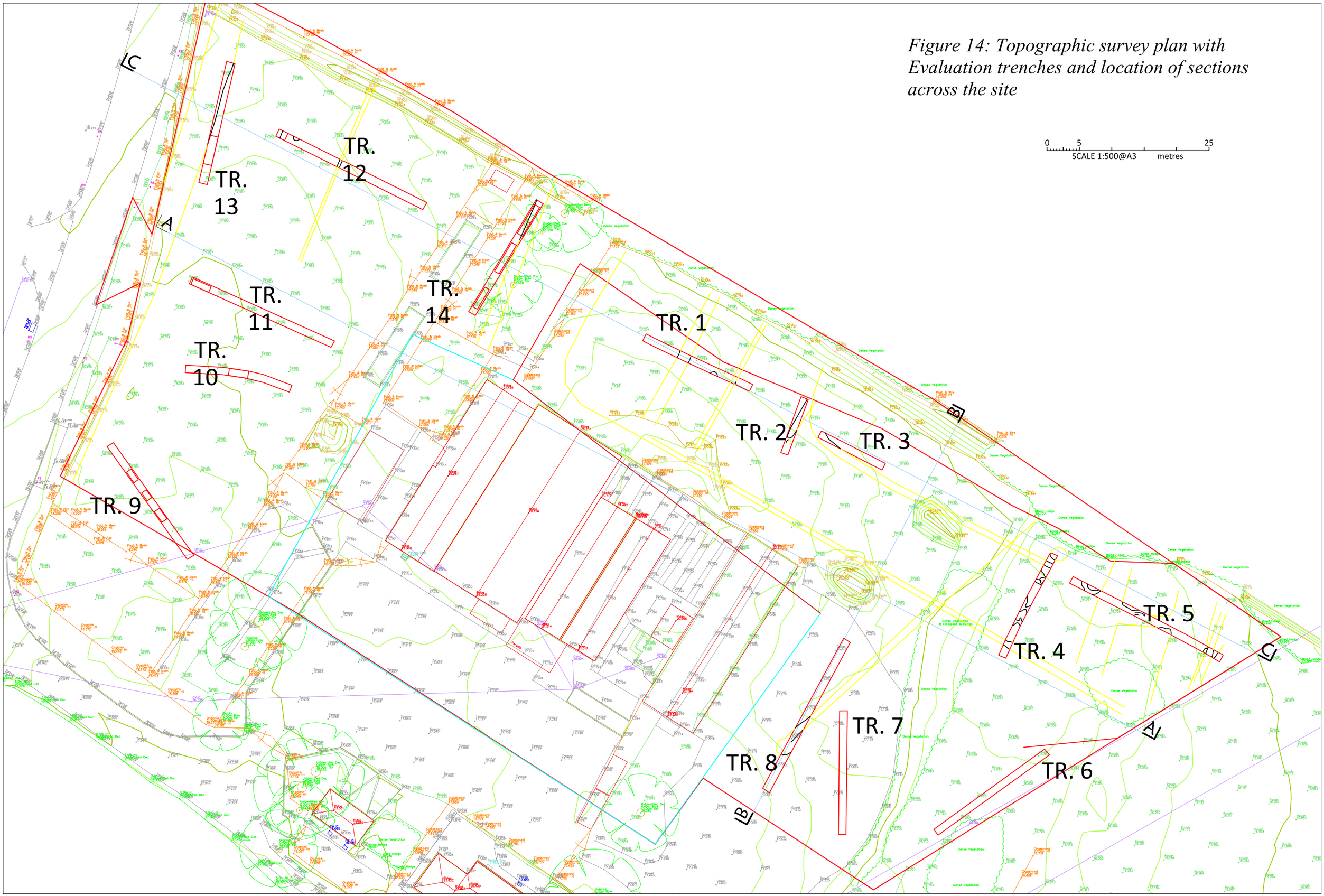
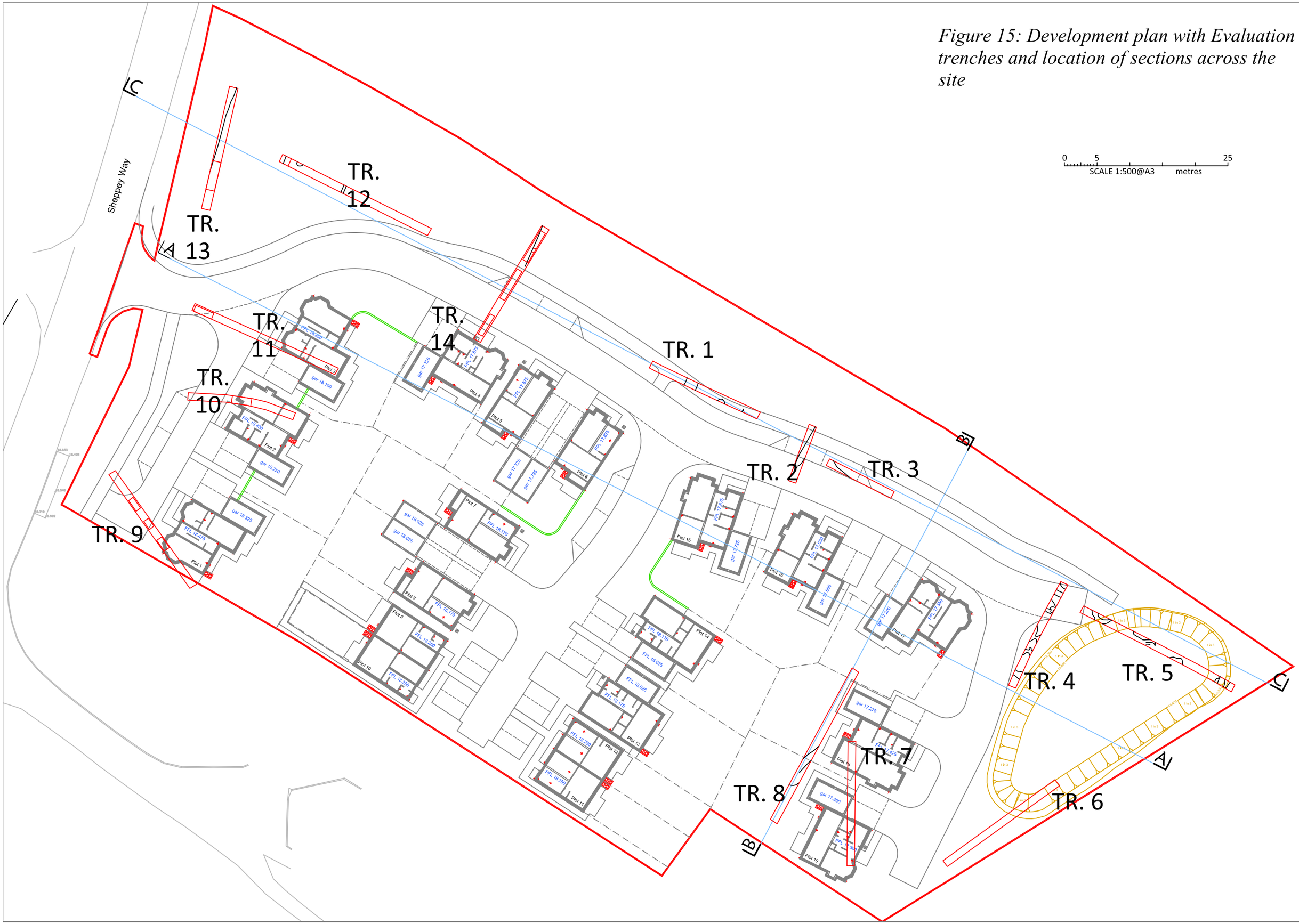
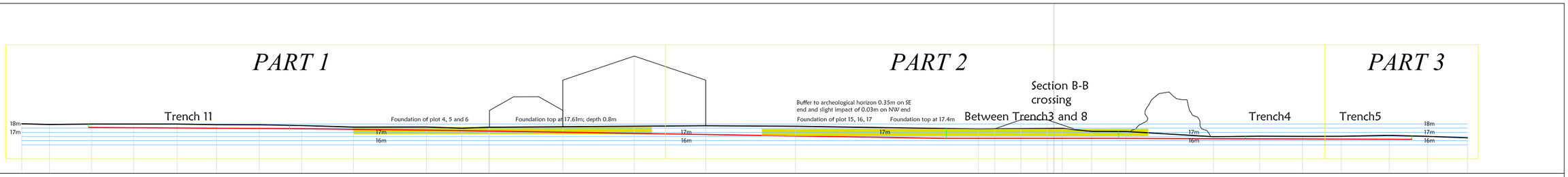
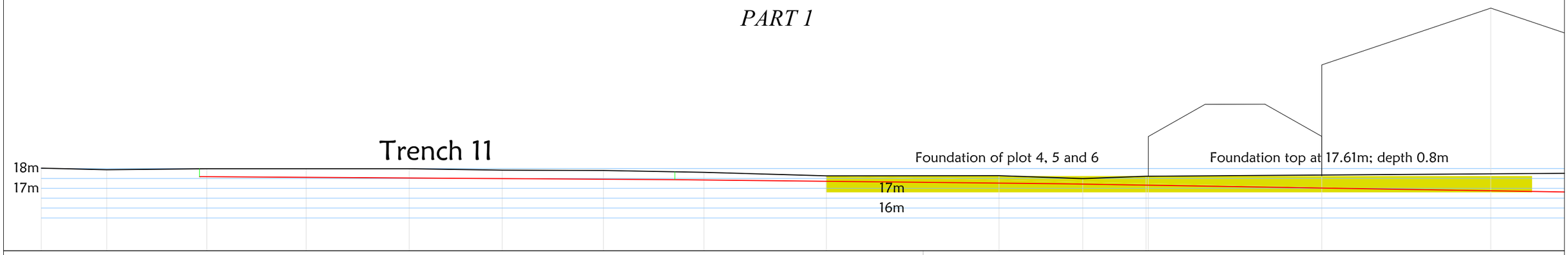


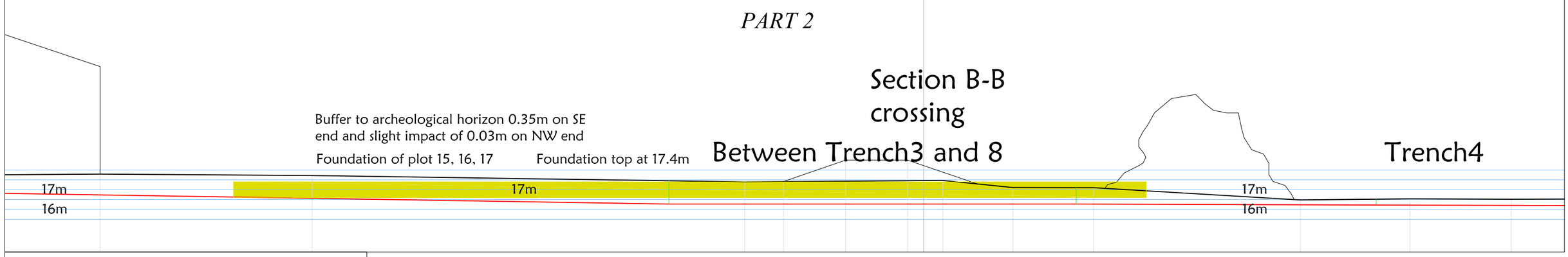
Figure 14: Topographic survey plan with Evaluation trenches and location of sections across the site

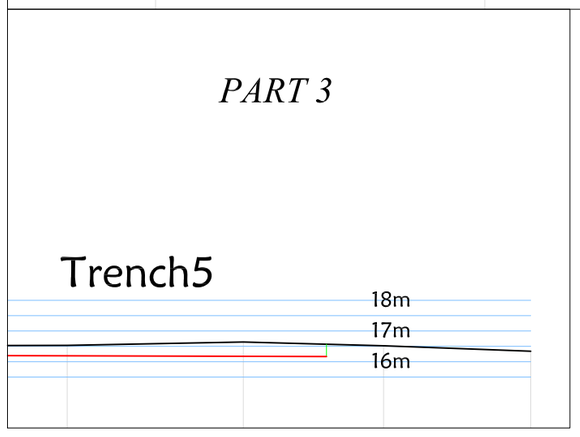
Figure 15: Development plan with Evaluation trenches and location of sections across the site











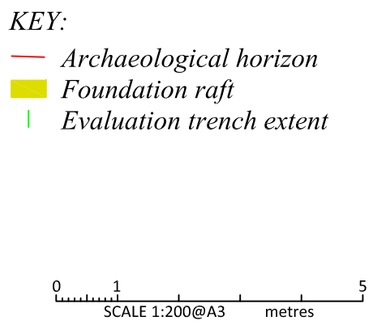


Figure 16: Site section A-A

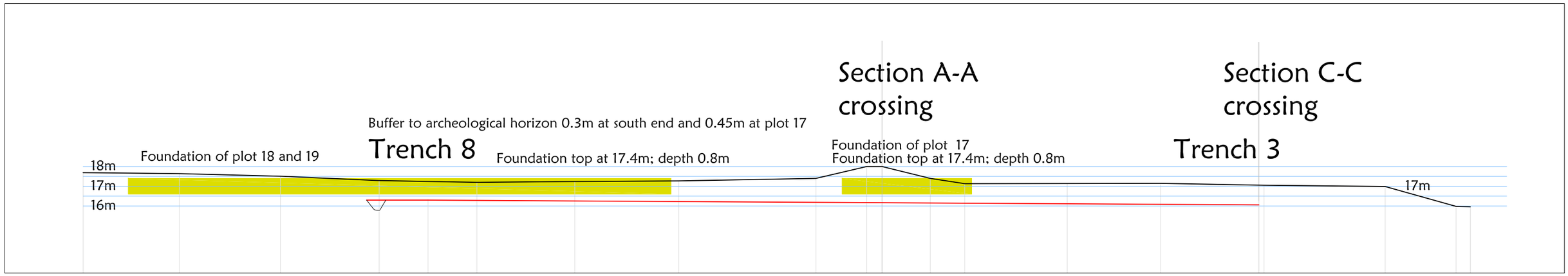


Figure 17: Site section B-B

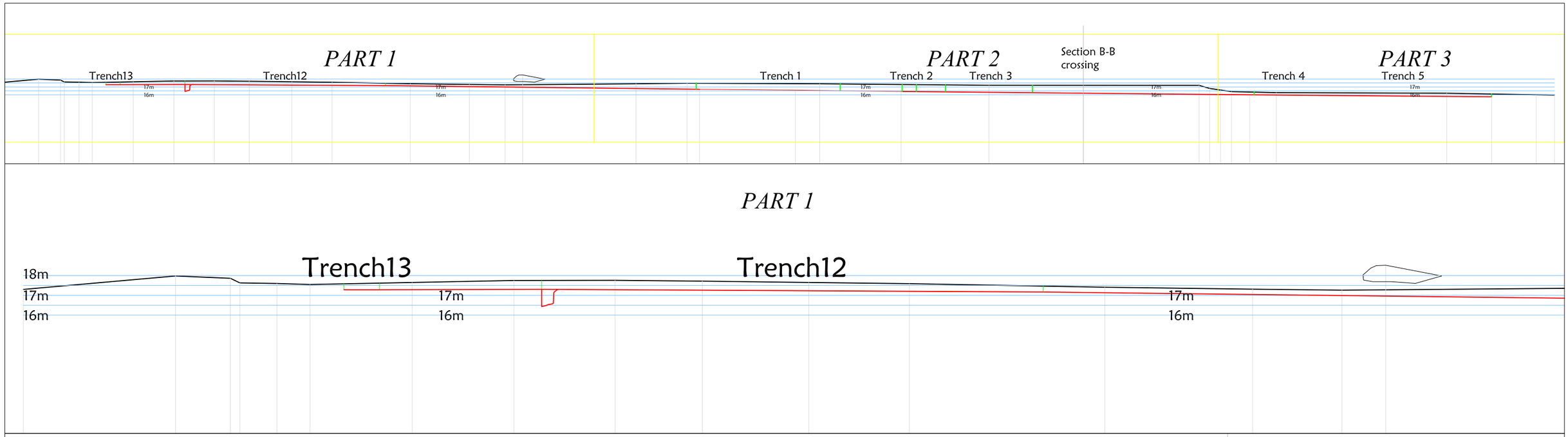


Figure 18: Site section C-C