Archaeological Evaluation on Land at Archers Court (North), Whitfield, Kent (Phase 2/2)

Site Code: WACN-EV-23

NGR Site Centre: 631315 145451

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SWAT ARCHAEOLOGY

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Summary

Swale & Thames Survey Company (SWAT Archaeology) were commissioned by BDW Kent Limited to undertake an archaeological evaluation on land at Archers Court (North), Whitfield, Dover, Kent. The archaeological programme was monitored by the Senior Archaeological Officer at Kent County Council.

The archaeological evaluation consisted of 13 trenches and form a second stage of works (Phase 2/2) associated with Phase 2 of the development area. Phase 2/1, which comprised 55 trenches was carried out by SWAT Archaeology in 2021 and is detailed in a separate report.

A relatively common stratigraphic sequence comprising redeposited made ground/overburden directly overlying subsoil which sealed the natural geology. The made ground was formed during recent construction works within the surrounding area when the current site was used for spoil and material storage. Despite the archaeological potential of the surrounding area and the reasonably favourable preservation conditions recorded no significant archaeological finds or features were present within the 13 trenches excavated.

The archaeological evaluation has therefore been successful in fulfilling the primary aims and objectives of the Specification and has assessed the archaeological potential of land intended for development. The results from this work will be used to aid and inform the Archaeological Officer of any further archaeological mitigation measures that may be necessary in connection with any future development proposals.

Archaeological Evaluation on Land at Archers Court (North), Whitfield, Dover, Kent (Phase 2/2)

NGR Site Centre: 631315 145451 Site Code: WACN-EV-23

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project Background

- 1.1.1 Swale & Thames Survey Company (SWAT Archaeology) were commissioned by BDW Kent Limited to undertake an archaeological evaluation on land at Archers Court (North), Whitfield, Dover, Kent (Figure 1).
- 1.1.2 An outline planning application (PAN: DOV/10/01010) for the construction of up to 1,400 residential units and associated works was submitted to Dover District Council (DDC) in 2010. The full extent of the development included a mix of 2-5 bed units, 66 bed care home (Class C2) and supported living units, with vehicular access off the A256; provision of new 420 place 2FE Primary School including early years provision, energy centre and local centre comprising up to 250sqm of retail space (Class A1-A3) along with all associated access arrangements, car parking, infrastructure and landscaping, with all matters (except the means of access off the A256) reserved for future consideration (Figure 2).
- 1.1.3 In response to the application Kent County Council Heritage and Conservation (KCCHC), on behalf of DDC, requested that an archaeological evaluation be undertaken in order to determine the possible impact of the development on any archaeological remains.
- 1.1.4 The following conditions were attached to the planning consent:

No development of any phase or sub-phase shall take place until the applicant or their agents or successors in title has secured the implementation of any mitigation measures identified within the Environmental Statement for that phase or sub-phase including:

(i) Archaeological field evaluation works in accordance with a specification and written timetable which has been submitted and approved by Local Planning Authority. The archaeological field evaluation works are to be completed and reported on prior to the layout and detailed design of the development being finalised and:

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(ii) Following on from the evaluation any safeguarding measures to ensure preservations in situ of important archaeological remains and/or further archaeological investigation and recording in accordance with specification and timetable which has been submitted and approved In writing 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.

DOV/10/01010, Condition 9, 26th January 2023)

- 1.1.5 The archaeological evaluation associated with Phase 2 has been carried out as two separate stages of work, due to the availability of areas of the site and the necessity to stockpile spoil and materials of the first stage of evaluation works (Figure 2); Phase 2/1, which has been detailed in a report previously prepared and submitted by SWAT Archaeology (2021). This report deals with the remaining trenches excavated as part of Phase 2/2. In order to maintain a concise standalone report for the 2/2 phase of archaeological works elements of the 2/1 report (SWAT Archaeology 2021) are included and therefore repeated below (i.e. Site Description, Archaeological and Historical Background, etc.).
- 1.1.6 The archaeological evaluation, which comprised the excavation of 13 trenches measuring between 9.9m and 25m in length and 1.8m in width, was carried out over the course of two weeks in August and September of 2023 (see Table 1 below). The evaluation was carried out in accordance with an archaeological Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) prepared by SWAT Archaeology (2021), prior to commencement of works.

1.2 Timetable

1.2.1 A timetable for the archaeological programme of works, to date, is provided below;

Task	Dates	Personnel/Company
Submission of the Written Scheme of Investigation	29 th July 2021	SWAT Archaeology
Archaeological Evaluation – Fieldwork (Phase 2/1)	September 2021 – October 2021	SWAT Archaeology
Archaeological Evaluation – Fieldwork (Phase 2/2)	29 th August 2023 – 8 th September 2023	SWAT Archaeology
Archaeological Evaluation Report (Phase 2/2)	This document	SWAT Archaeology

 Table 1 Timetable for the archaeological programme of works

1.3 Site Description and Topography

- 1.3.1 The site is located to the north of Dover and east of Whitfield within rural area on the northeast facing very gently sloping ground descending from levels of 117m above Ordnance Datum (aOD) to 105m aOD. The site is centred on National Grid Reference (NGR) 630315E 145451N. The proposed area of development measures approximately 8.14 hectares and is polygonal in plan (Figure 1). Phase 2/1 is located within the central and western extent of the site and measures approximately 6.61 hectares (66,071 sq.m) and Phase 2 is located within the eastern extent of the site measuring 1.54 hectares (15,360 sq.m).
- 1.3.2 Present day field divisions are in NE-SW and NW-SE alignments. The site borders with; Archers Court Road to the NW, Whitfield Eastry bypass A256 to the NE, with new development to the SE and SW. In recent years, the site has been used for arable farming until the development of Phase 1 when spoil and material were stored within Phase 2.
- 1.3.3 The land in the area is gently descending to the northeast and is bruised by shallow dry valleys in an NE-SE alignment occurring in approximately 250m intervals. The Geological Survey of Great Britain (1:50,000) shows that the site is set on bedrock geology of Cretaceous Chalk overlain by superficial Head Deposits in the area of the site. On the western boundary of the site there is an east boundary of Superficial Deposits of Clay with flints formation.

1.4 Scope of Report

1.4.1 This report has been produced to provide initial information regarding the results of the archaeological evaluation for Phase 2/2 only. The results from this work will be used to aid and inform the Senior Archaeological Officer (KCC) of any further archaeological mitigation measures that may be necessary in connection with any future development proposals.

2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 Introduction

2.1.1 The proposed development area is located close to a number of archaeological sites which are identified on the KCCHER database, which are all summarised in the Phase 1 report produced by SWAT Archaeology (2021). That same (edited) narrative is provided below with the addition of a summary of the finding from the Phase 1 evaluation.

2.2 Phase 1 Evaluation Results (SWAT Archaeology 2021, 3.1 – 3.4)

2.2.1 The records are listed below starting from assets located within proposed development area, followed by those located within the surrounding landscape.

Records within the Proposed Development Area

2.2.2 3.2.1 Cropmark of potential ring ditch (TR 34 NW 338) located at NGR coordinates 631110, 145368. This was located 6 metres to the south and 1 metre to the west from west end of trench 5.

Records within proximity (within 500 metres) of proposed development area.

- 2.2.3 An Archaeological Evaluation was undertaken by Archaeology South- East in 2015 (ASE Report Number: 2015468) to the south and adjacent to the present site and summarised: A limited quantity of archaeological remains was identified, dated from the prehistoric to the postmedieval periods. The only firmly dated prehistoric feature was a large ditch in which contained most of a single LBA-EIA pot that probably represented an instance of structured deposition. A possibly associated but undated small hearth or pit was recorded nearby. Small quantities of LBA-MIA pottery were recovered from the colluvium, but no associated features were identified. A small hearth or pit produced a significant quantity of fire-cracked flint and a piece of M/LIA pot; a second probably prehistoric, hearth or pit was very similar in character and was perhaps of a similar date. A large ditch produced M/LIA-Early Roman pottery. Four probably postmedieval ditches formed a small coaxial system enclosing fields measuring c.60m x 20m, possibly reflecting the field pattern prior to enclosure (ASE Report Number: 2015468).
- 2.2.4 Evaluation trenching at the north-eastern boundary of the site on the Whitfield- Eastry Bypass, south of Pineham, recorded a pit containing an assemblage of finds comprising calcined flint, a Lower Palaeolithic Late Neolithic struck flint, and possible Neolithic pottery (HER TR 34 NW 245, TR 3139 4549).
- 2.2.5 A number of undated Earthworks of possible medieval and post-medieval date. Are recorded in Pineham Orchard (HER TR 34 NW 218, TR 3140 4560) located to the NE, on the opposite side of the adjacent A256 bypass.
- 2.2.6 An early medieval farmstead, or hamlet, was recorded during work on the Whitfield-Eastry Bypass, at the crossroads of Church Whitfield Road and Archers Court Road close to the northern boundary of the site. The site is located 110m north east of the site where the remains of an early medieval settlement were found overlaying two earlier Iron Age sites (TR 34 NW 222 & 224). The site comprised a number of structures, two timber halls and a number of sunken huts with pottery from the site was dating to c. AD 575 700 (HER TR 34 NW 246, TR 31362 45832).

- 2.2.7 Archaeological evaluation works were undertaken on the fields located to the south of the site and revealed, previously identified on the KCCHER, cropmark of a double ring ditch (TR 34 NW 330)
- 2.2.8 The Roman Road from Dover to Richborough runs north to south and is located circa 200m east of the site.
- 2.2.9 An early to mid-Iron Age settlement site is recorded c. 350m north of the site as features first identified from aerial photographs in 1987. Later evaluation work for the A256 recorded a number of features, including pits, ditches, and postholes, some of which are of unknown date, though others produced pottery dated to c.550-300 BC (HER TR 34 NW 224, TR 3146 4590). Additional excavation work in 1995 uncovered evidence that the Iron Age features found previously belonged to two separate sites, one dating to the early mid Iron Age (TR 34 NW 224) and the other to the mid late Iron Age. The site consists of a rectangular enclosure bound by a large ditch, with two pits and three post-holes. Heavy ploughing would have removed any evidence of associated internal buildings.
- 2.2.10 A mid to late Iron Age settlement site was recorded during evaluation work for the A256 c. 300m north of the site. A number of features were recorded to the east of the church at Church Whitfield, including a mid- late Iron Age enclosure with a small number of internal features. A possible ritual deposit of a human skull was found in the ditch of the enclosure and an inhumation burial to the south-east which could have been part of a larger cemetery. The site dates to c. 150 50 BC (HER TR 34 NW 222, TR 3123 4596)
- 2.2.11 The original settlement of Whitfield is of Anglo-Saxon origin and lays c. 500m northeast of present-day Whitfield at Church, Whitfield, circa 300m north of the site. The Church dedicated to St Peter, is thought to have originated in the early medieval period, as the nave and chancel date to the 8th century (HER TR 34 NW 3 MKE26489, TR 3096 4591). The fabric of the early nave and chancel at Whitfield is almost wholly of flint; stone being used only in the west window and in a few other isolated places such as the large blocks in the south-west quoin. Two of the original Saxon windows have survived. The church was enlarged in the second or third decade of the 12th century, but the Norman aisle was destroyed in the early 13th century.
- 2.2.12 Two Cropmarks present at Parsonage Farm (HER TR 34 NW 139 TR 3071 4553) field located circa350m west of the site include a large ring ditch with a protrusion on the southwest.
- 2.2.13 A Roman burial and sepulchral deposit was found in 1918 c.100m east of the Dover- Richborough Roman Road, north of Pineham, circa 420m northeast of the site. The burial consisted of three

pots each inside the other, the innermost containing the bones of a human hand and a bronze key ring. A bronze bracelet was also found but its relation to the burial is not known (HER TR 34 NW 4, TR 3159 4601).

HER Records on the periphery (within 2 km) of the site

- 2.2.14 In 1952, during excavations at a house on Church Field Way c.800m north-west of the site, a quantity of Roman pottery, some iron objects and two Roman coins were found (HER Ref. MKE3876 at TR 0514 4695). In addition, a large quantity of Roman brick and tile was recovered during the cutting of a service trench along the front of Church Fields Way (HER Ref. MKE18169 at TR 0514 4687).
- 2.2.15 The Roman Road Watling Street, from Dover to London, runs northwest to southeast c. 1.5km southwest of the site in the valley of the River Dour (HER TR 24 SE 54TR 2875 4412).
- 2.2.16 The White Caps Barrow comprising a ring ditch and burial mound dating between the late Neolithic and late Bronze Age was excavated ahead of the construction of the A256 Bypass 2km north-northwest of the site (HER TR 34 NW 187, TR 3003 4766). The excavation exposed a subcircular earthwork consisting of a primary segmented ring ditch and two later continuous concentrically arranged ring-ditches. The earthwork appeared to have developed in four distinct phases and contained a minimum of eleven human burials including six in-situ crouched inhumations and three cremations, one of which was urned. The barrow was cut by a Late Iron Age straight flat-bottomed ditch on a northeast to southwest alignment.

2.3 Phase 1 Evaluation Results (SWAT Archaeology 2021)

2.3.1 The Phase 1 fieldwork was carried out in September and October 2021 and consisted of fiftyfive trenches and five extensions, which recorded a soils sequence comprising topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology to a depth of approximately 0.3-0.5m. The archaeological evaluation demonstrated the presence of limited archaeological activity in the form of an undated field system, discrete features, and a potential rectilinear enclosure within the northwest extent, and a cluster of chalk quarry pits with the earliest ones of potential prehistoric date and a field ditch within the southeast extent of the proposed development area. Two major field system ditches in an NE-SW alignment were matching the rectilinear field division that is visible in the landscape and most likely set during the medieval period. The field division grid is tilted by 45° against N-S aligned Roman Road running proximal to the east. 2.3.2 Although the archaeological features within positive trenches were provisionally attributed to the prehistoric period of a general Bronze Age date, no suitable dating evidence was retrieved from investigated features.

3 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

3.1 General Aims

- 3.1.1 The general aims (or purpose) of the evaluation, in compliance with the CIfA *Standard and guidance for archaeological field evaluation* (CIfA 2014a), are to:
 - provide information about the archaeological potential of the site; and
 - inform either the scope and nature of any further archaeological work that may be required; or the formation of a mitigation strategy (to offset the impact of the development on the archaeological resource); or a management strategy.

3.2 General Objectives

- 3.2.1 The specific objectives of the archaeological fieldwork were set out in a Written Scheme of Investigation (SWAT Archaeology 2021; 6.1-6.2) as stated below;
 - The primary objective of the archaeological evaluation is to establish or otherwise the presence of any potential archaeological features which may be impacted by the proposed development. The aims of this investigation are to determine the potential for archaeological activity and in particular the earlier prehistoric and also any Roman, early medieval, and later archaeological activity.
- 3.2.2 In order to achieve the above, the general objectives of the evaluation were to:
 - determine the presence or absence of archaeological features, deposits, structures, artefacts, or ecofacts within the specified area;
 - establish, within the constraints of the evaluation, the extent, character, date, condition, and quality of any surviving archaeological remains;
 - place any identified archaeological remains within a wider historical and archaeological context in order to assess their significance; and
 - make available information about the archaeological resource within the site by reporting on the results of the evaluation.

4 METHODOLOGY

4.1 Introduction

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

4.2 Fieldwork

- 4.2.1 A total of 13 trenches were excavated for the Phase 2/2 evaluation (Figure 2). Each trench was initially scanned by a metal detector for surface finds prior to excavation. Excavation was carried out using a mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket, removing the overburden to the top of the first recognisable archaeological horizon, under the constant supervision of an experienced archaeologist.
- 4.2.2 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 ClfA 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.
- 4.2.3 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.

4.3 Recording

- 4.3.1 A complete drawn record of the evaluation trenches comprising both plans and sections, drawn to appropriate scales (1:20 for plans, 1:10 for sections) was undertaken. The plans and sections were annotated with coordinates and OD heights.
- 4.3.2 Photographs were taken as appropriate providing a record of excavated features and deposits, along with images of the overall trench to illustrate their location and context. The record also includes images of the site overall. The photographic record comprises digital photography and drone photography. A photographic register of all photographs taken is contained within the project archive.

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4.3.3 A single context recording system was used to record the deposits. A full list is presented in Appendix 1. Layers and fills are identified in this report thus (100), whilst the cut of the feature is shown as [100]. Context numbers were assigned to all deposits for recording purposes. Each number has been attributed to a specific trench with the primary number(s) relating to specific trenches (i.e., Trench 1, 100+, Trench 2, 200+, Trench 3, 300+, etc.).

5 RESULTS

5.1 Introduction

- 5.1.1 All trenches were mechanically excavated under archaeological supervision. Trenches were positioned in order to cover as many areas of the site as possible as set out in the WSI. Relocation and re-orientation of the trenches was required when on site obstacles were present.
- 5.1.2 The site, as shown on Figure 1, provides the site location. and Figure 2 and Figure 3 show the trench layout; the former including all of Phase 2, with Figure 4 to Figure 9 illustrating the results for each individual archaeological evaluation trench. Plates 1-14 consist of photographs of features and selected trenches that have been provided to supplement the text.
- 5.1.3 Appendix 1 provides the stratigraphic sequence and contextual information for all trenches, with the location of Representative Sections provided on each Trench plan (Figures 4-9).

5.2 Stratigraphic Deposit Sequence

- 5.2.1 A consistent soil sequence was recorded across the Phase 2 site comprising a layer of modern redeposited material (made ground) sealing a reasonably intact subsoil, which overlay the natural geological deposits. This area of the proposed development was used for the storage of soil and materials during earlier phases of construction and so it is assumed that the topsoil was removed during this stage.
- 5.2.2 The made ground generally consisted of light grey silty clay, with frequent chalk inclusions, overlying the subsoil which consisted of dark orange grey clay silt. Representative Sections offered on Figures 4 to 9 highlight the stratigraphic sequence for each trench with the made ground/overburden shaded in grey.
- 5.2.3 Natural geology largely comprised mid orange brown silty clay.

5.3 Trench Narrative

Trench 56 (Figure 3, Figure 4, and Plate 3)

- 5.3.1 Within the south-western extent of Phase 2/2 (Figure 3), Trench 56 was excavated on an E-W alignment and measured approximately 17m in length, 1.8m in width with a maximum depth of 0.3m. Natural geological deposits were recorded at a level ranging between 105.11m aOD and 104.56m aOD.
- 5.3.2 No archaeological finds or features were present in Trench 56.

Trench 57 (Figure 3, Figure 4 and Plate 3)

- 5.3.3 Trench 57 was located within the southern area of the site (Figure 3) and was excavated on a E-W alignment. This trench measured 24.3m in length, 1.8m in width and a maximum depth of 0.92m (Figure 3). Natural geological deposits were recorded at a level ranging between 103.8m aOD and 103.15m aOD.
- 5.3.4 No archaeological finds or features were present in Trench 57.

Trench 58 (Figure 3, Figure 5, Plate 4)

- 5.3.5 Located within the southern extent of Phase 2/2 (Figure 3), Trench 58 was excavated on an N-S alignment and measured 23.5m in length with a maximum depth of 0.84m. Natural geology was recorded at a level between 101.70m aOD and 103.21m aOD.
- 5.3.6 The remnants of a post-medieval linear trackway [5806] was investigated within the southern extent of this trench, no significant archaeological finds or features were present within the fill (5805). The trackway has been dated during later excavation works which will be published as a separate report (SWAT Archaeology, forthcoming)
- 5.3.7 Within the northern extent of this trench a NE-SW orientated ditch [5804] measured 0.74m in width and 0.14m in depth with concave sides and a relatively flat base. This feature contained no dateable finds within the single fill (5803).

Trench 59 (Figure 3, Figure 5 and Plate 4)

5.3.8 Within the central area of Phase 2/2 (Figure 3), Trench 59 was excavated on an E-W alignment and measured approximately 23.5m in length with a maximum depth of 0.89m. Natural geological deposits were recorded at a level ranging between 103.56m aOD and 104.29m aOD (Figure 5).

5.3.9 Within the central area of the trench on a N-S orientation a natural tree throw [5904] measured1.21m in width with a depth of 0.31m and contained a single fill (5903) that contained no archaeological finds.

Trench 60 (Figure 3, Figure 6, and Plate 5)

- 5.3.10 Trench 60 was located within the southeastern extent of Phase 2/2 (Figure 3) and was excavated on an E-W alignment. This trench measured 19.7m in length, 1.8m in width and a maximum depth of 1.35m (Figure 6). Natural geological deposits were recorded at a level ranging between 103.09m aOD and 103.43m aOD.
- 5.3.11 No archaeological finds or features were present in Trench 60.

Trench 61 (Figure 3, Figure 6 and Plate 5)

- 5.3.12 Trench 61 was located within the central area of Phase 2/2 (Figure 3) and was excavated on a N-S alignment (Plate 5). This trench measured 23.08m in length, 1.8m in width and a maximum depth of 1.45m (Figure 6). Natural geological deposits were recorded at a level ranging between 102.01m aOD and 101.89m aOD.
- 5.3.13 Within the northern extent of the trench the remnants of a modern surface, most likely constructed during previous construction works around the site, consisted of a tarmac surface (6102) sealing crushed hardcore (6103) which had been deposited directly on top of the reduced subsoil (6104).
- 5.3.14 No archaeological finds or features were present in Trench 61.

Trench 62 (Figure 3, Figure 7, Plate 7 and Plate 8)

- 5.3.15 Within the central eastern extent of Phase 2/2 (Figure 3), Trench 62 was excavated on an E-W alignment (Plate 7) and measured approximately 23.15m in length, 1.8m in width with a maximum depth of 1.45m (Figure 7, Plate 8). Natural geological deposits were recorded at a level ranging between 101.13m aOD and 102.28m aOD.
- 5.3.16 No archaeological finds or features were present in Trench 62.

Trench 63 (Figure 3, Figure 7, Plate 9)

5.3.17 Trench 63 was located within the eastern area of the site (Figure 3) and was excavated on an E-W alignment (Plate 9). This trench measured 9.9m in length, 1.8m in width and a maximum

depth of 1.39m (Figure 7). Natural geological deposits were recorded at a level ranging between 67.98m aOD and 59.99m aOD . No subsoil was present within this trench.

5.3.18 No archaeological finds or features were present in Trench 63.

Trench 64 (Figure 3, Figure 8, Plate 9 and Plate 10)

- 5.3.19 Located within the northeastern extent of Phase 2/2 (Figure 3), Trench 64 was excavated on an NW-SE alignment (Plate 9) and measured 22.88m in length with a maximum depth of 0.92m. Natural geology was recorded at a level between 100.91m aOD and 101.01m aOD (Figure 8, Plate 10).
- 5.3.20 No archaeological finds or features were present in Trench 64.

Trench 65 (Figure 3, Figure 8, Plate 11 and Plate 12)

- 5.3.21 Trench 65 was located within the northern extent of Phase 2/2 (Figure 3) and was excavated on a E-W alignment (Plate 11). This trench measured 22.24m in length, 1.8m in width and a maximum depth of 0.70m. Natural geological deposits were recorded at a level ranging between 101.64m aOD and 102.31m aOD (Figure 8, Plate 12).
- 5.3.22 No archaeological finds or features were present in Trench 65.

Trench 66 (Figure 3, Figure 9 and Plate 11)

- 5.3.23 Trench 66 was located within the northern area of Phase 2/2 (Figure 3) and was excavated on an N-S alignment (Plate 11). This trench measured 23.22m in length, 1.8m in width and a maximum depth of 0.46m (Figure 9). Natural geological deposits were recorded at a level ranging between 101.20m aOD and 103.31m aOD.
- 5.3.24 No archaeological finds or features were present in Trench 66.

Trench 67 (Figure 3, Figure 9, Plate 13)

- 5.3.25 Located within the norther extent of Area A (Figure 3), Trench 67 was excavated on an E-W alignment (Plate 13) and measured 24.29m in length with a maximum depth of 0.38m. Natural geology was recorded at a level between 68.86m aOD and 72.47m aOD (Figure 9).
- 5.3.26 No archaeological finds or features were present in Trench 67.

Trench 68 (Figure 3 and Figure 9)

- 5.3.27 Within the westernmost extent of the Phase 2 (Figure 3), Trench 68 was excavated on an N-S alignment and measured approximately 13.5m in length with a maximum depth of 0.44m (Figure 9). Natural geological deposits were recorded at a level ranging between 104.40m aOD and 104.71m aOD.
- 5.3.28 Within the southern extent of the trench the remains of a former trackway [6803] were recorded on a NW-SE orientation aligning with a similar feature recorded in Trench 58 [5806] with a fill (6802) that contained modern/post medieval clinker.
- 5.3.29 No significant archaeological finds or features were present in Trench 68.

6 FINDS

6.1 Overview

6.1.1 No archaeological finds were retrieved during this evaluation.

7 DISCUSSION

7.1 Introduction

- 7.1.1 The archaeological investigation on land at Archers Court, Whitfield, Dover in Kent has investigated the extents of the proposed development area using 13 trenches, measuring between 9.9m and 25m in length and 1.8m in width. The natural geology was encountered within all trenches at an average depth of approximately 0.91m below the existing ground surface, directly underlying modern made ground which sealed a reduced subsoil. Truncation of the subsoil was evident in all trenches with the upper geological surface possibly impacting in Trench 63.
- 7.1.2 Despite the archaeological potential of the site archaeological features were limited to a natural tree throw, an undated ditch, and a post-medieval trackway. When combining these results with the Phase 2/1 results one can see that evidence for the presence of archaeological features on the site, as a whole, comprises clustered pockets of features within Phase 2/1, as can be seen in Trench 15 on Figure 3. Remaining trenches to the north for both phases of fieldwork contained no archaeological finds or features.
- 7.1.3 Despite the absence of any significant archaeological finds or features the recording of a reasonably intact subsoil across the majority of the site suggested that preservation conditions are favourable.

7.2 Conclusions

7.2.1 The archaeological evaluation has been successful in fulfilling the primary aims and objectives of the Specification and has assessed the archaeological potential of land intended for development. The results from this work will be used to aid and inform the Archaeological Officer of any further archaeological mitigation measures that may be necessary in connection with any future development proposals.

8 ARCHIVE

8.1 General

- 8.1.1 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).
- 8.1.2 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 and A4 graphics. The site Archive will be retained at SWAT Archaeology offices until such time it can be transferred to a Kent Museum.

9 ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

- 9.1.1 SWAT Archaeology would like to thank BDW Kent Limited for commissioning the project. Thanks are also extended to Ben Found, Archaeological Officer at Kent County Council, for his advice and assistance.
- 9.1.2 Dan Worsley carried out the archaeological fieldwork; illustrations were produced by Ravelin Archaeological Services. David Britchfield (Hons) MCIfA produced the draft text for this report. The Project Manager for the project was Dr Paul Wilkinson MCIfA, FRSA of SWAT Archaeology.

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SWAT Archaeology (2021) Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Evaluation of Land Phase 2, Whitfield Urban Extension at Whitfield, Kent

SWAT Archaeology (forthcoming) Investigations on land at Archers Court (North), Whitfield, Kent

11 APPENDIX 1 – TRENCH TABLES

Trench 56	Dimensions: 17m x 1.8m Depth: 0.53m Ground Level: 105.22m OD – 104.92m OD 00		
Context	Interpretation	Description	Depth (m)
(5600)	Layer	OVERBURDEN - Colour: light grey. Composition: silty clay. Compaction: very dry, very loose. Inclusions: frequent small to large redeposited chalk, evenly distributed.	0.00-0.26
(5601)	Layer	SUBSOIL – Colour: dark orangey grey. Composition: clayey silt. Compaction: dry, friable. Inclusions: occasional small to large sub-angular flint, evenly distributed.	0.26-0.53
(5602)	Layer	NATURAL – Colour: mid brownish orange. Composition: silty clay. Compaction: dry, malleable. Inclusions: rare small to large sub-angular flint, evenly distributed.	0.53+

Trench 57	Dimensions: 24.3m x 1.8m Depth: 0.92m			
Trench 57	Ground Level: 103.49m OD – 104.86m OD			
Context	Interpretation	Description	Depth (m)	
(5700)	Layer	OVERBURDEN – Colour: light orangey grey. Composition: silty clay. Compaction: dry, loose. Inclusions: Frequent flecks to large chalk, concentrated towards top. Frequent flecks to very large mod building material/waste, evenly distributed.	0.00-0.46 (Avg.)	
(5701)	Layer	OVERBURDEN – Colour: mid grey. Composition: silty clay. Compaction: very dry, very loose. Inclusions: Occasional small to large sub-angular flint, evenly distributed. Moderate flecks to very large modern waste, evenly distributed.	0.46-0.75 (Avg.)	
(5702)	Layer	SUBSOIL – Colour: dark greyish brown. Composition: clayey silt. Compaction: dry, friable. Inclusions: occasional small to large sub-angular flint, evenly distributed.	0.75-0.92 (Avg.)	
(5703)	Layer	NATURAL - Colour: mid brownish orange. Composition: silty clay. Compaction: dry, malleable. Inclusions: rare small to large sub-angular flint, evenly distributed.	0.92+	

Trench 58	Dimensions: 23.5m x 1.8m Depth: 0.84m					
Trench 56	Ground Level: 103	Ground Level: 103.51m OD – 103.99m OD				
Context	Interpretation	Description	Depth (m)			
(5800)	Layer	OVERBURDEN - Colour: light orangey grey. Composition: silty clay. Compaction: dry, loose. Inclusions: Frequent flecks to large chalk, concentrated towards top. Frequent flecks to very large mod building material/waste, evenly distributed.	0.00-0.49			
(5801)	Layer	OVERBURDEN – Colour: mid grey. Composition: silty clay. Compaction: very dry, very loose. Inclusions: Occasional small to large sub-angular flint, evenly distributed. Moderate flecks to very large modern waste, evenly distributed.	0.49-0.73			
(5802)	Layer	SUBSOIL – Colour: dark greyish brown. Composition: clayey silt. Compaction: dry, friable. Inclusions: occasional small to large sub-angular flint, evenly distributed.	0.73-0.84			

Trench 58	Dimensions: 23.5m x 1.8m Depth: 0.84m Ground Level: 103.51m OD – 103.99m OD		
Context	Interpretation	Description	Depth (m)
(5803)	Fill	FILL of [5804] – Colour: mid brownish grey. Composition: clayey silt. Compaction: dry, firm. Inclusions: Frequent large angular to sub-angular flints, evenly distributed. Occasional medium rounded to well-rounded stones, evenly distributed. Rare flecks of burnt clay flecks, concentrated towards ENE extent. Rare flecks of black manganese.	-
[5804]	Cut	CUT of NE-SW ditch. Shape in plan: linear. Break at top: sharp. Sides: moderate, straight. Break at base: gradual. Base: flat, sloping towards SW.	-
(5805)	Fill	FILL of post medieval linear trackway [5806]. Colour: dark brownish grey. Composition: clayey silt. Compaction: dry, firm. Inclusions: 1) moderate medium sub-rounded to well-rounded clinker, evenly distributed 2) moderate flecks of black manganese 3) rare small very angular to angular chalk lumps, evenly distributed 4) frequent very large angular to sub-angular flints, evenly distributed 5) occasional medium rounded to well-rounded stones, evenly distributed.	-
[5806]	Cut	CUT of NW-SE post medieval linear trackway. Shape in plan: post medieval linear trackway. Break at top: sharp. Sides: moderate, concave. Break at base: gradual. Base: flat, sloping towards SE.	-
(5807)	Layer	NATURAL - Colour: bright brownish orange. Composition: clay. Compaction: dry, malleable. Inclusions: occasional small to very large sub-angular flint gravels, concentrated towards occasional patches.	0.84+

Trench 59	Dimensions: 23.5m x 1.8m Depth: 0.89m			
Trenen 35	Ground Level: 103.56m OD – 104.29m OD			
Context	Interpretation	Description	Depth (m)	
(5900)	Layer	OVERBURDEN - Colour: light blackish brown. Composition: silty clay. Compaction: dry, very loose. Inclusions: Occasional small to large chalk, concentrated towards patches. Moderate small to very large sub- angular flint, evenly distributed.	0.00-0.30 (Avg.)	
(5901)	Layer	OVERBURDEN – Colour: mid grey. Composition: silty clay. Compaction: very dry, very loose. Inclusions: Occasional small to large sub-angular flint, evenly distributed. Moderate flecks to very large modern waste, evenly distributed.	0.30-0.64	
(5902)	Layer	SUBSOIL – Colour: dark grey. Composition: clayey silt. Compaction: dry, friable. Inclusions: occasional small to large sub-angular flint, evenly distributed.	0.64-0.89	
(5903)	Fill	FILL of tree throw [5904]. Colour: mid brownish grey. Composition: clayey silt. Compaction: dry, firm. Inclusions: Frequent large angular to sub-angular flint, evenly distributed. Occasional small rounded to well-rounded stone, evenly distributed. Occasional flecks of black manganese.	-	

Trench 59	Dimensions: 23.5m x 1.8m Depth: 0.89m Ground Level: 103.56m OD – 104.29m OD		
Context	Interpretation	Description	Depth (m)
[5904]	Cut	CUT of N-S tree throw. Shape in plan: tree throw. Break at top: sharp. Sides: steep, concave. Break at base: gradual. Base: uneven.	-
(5905)	Layer	NATURAL - Colour: bright brownish orange. Composition: clay. Compaction: dry, malleable. Inclusions: occasional small to very large sub-angular flint gravels, concentrated towards occasional patches.	0.89+

Trench 60	Dimensions: 19.7m x 1.8m Depth: 1.35m			
Trench 60	Ground Level: 103	Ground Level: 103.09m OD – 103.43m OD		
Context	Interpretation	Description	Depth (m)	
(6000)	1	OVERBURDEN - Colour: light grey. Composition: silt.	0.00-0.42	
(6000)	Layer	Compaction: very dry, very loose. Inclusions: occasional small to large sub-angular flint, evenly distributed.	(Avg.)	
(6001)	Layer	OVERBURDEN – Colour: mid grey. Composition: silty clay. Compaction: very dry, very loose. Inclusions: Occasional small to large sub-angular flint, evenly distributed. Moderate flecks to very large modern waste, evenly distributed.	0.42-1.10	
(6002)	Leven	SUBSOIL – Colour: dark greyish brown. Composition:	1.10-1.35	
(6002)	Layer	clayey silt. Compaction: dry, friable. Inclusions: occasional small to large sub-angular flint, evenly distributed.	(Avg.)	
(6003)	Layer	NATURAL – Bright brownish orange. Composition: clay. Compaction: dry, malleable. Inclusions: occasional small to very large sub-angular flint gravels, concentrated towards occasional patches.	1.35+	

Trench 61	Dimensions: 23.08m x 1.8m Depth: 1.45m Ground Level: 102.80m OD – 103.04m OD		
Context	Interpretation	Description	Depth (m)
(6100)	Layer	OVERBURDEN - Colour: light grey. Composition: silt. Compaction: very dry, very loose. Inclusions: occasional small to large sub-angular flint, evenly distributed.	0.00-0.18
(6101)	Layer	OVERBURDEN – Colour: mid grey. Composition: silty clay. Compaction: very dry, very loose. Inclusions: Occasional small to large sub-angular flint, evenly distributed. Moderate flecks to very large modern waste, evenly distributed.	0.18-0.75
(6102)	Layer	TARMAC - Colour: strong black. Composition: tarmac. Compaction: very dry, cemented.	0.75-0.95
(6103)	Layer	HARDCORE - Colour: light greyish white. Composition: sandy silt. Compaction: very dry, very loose. Inclusions: frequent small to very large rubble, evenly distributed.	0.95-1.24+
(6104)	Layer	SUBSOIL - Dark greyish brown. Composition: clayey silt. Compaction: dry, friable. Inclusions: occasional small to large sub-angular flint, evenly distributed.	1.24-1.45
(6105)	Layer	NATURAL - Colour: bright brownish orange. Composition: clay. Compaction: dry, malleable. Inclusions: occasional small to very large sub-angular flint gravels, concentrated towards occasional patches.	1.45+

Trench 62	Dimensions: 23.15m x 1.8m Depth: 1.13m Ground Level: 102.45m OD – 103.42m OD 00		
Context	Interpretation	Description	Depth (m)
(6200)	Layer	OVERBURDEN - Colour: bright white. Composition: redeposited chalk. Compaction: very dry, very loose. Inclusions: frequent small to large chalk, evenly distributed.	0.00-0.28
(6201)	Layer	OVERBURDEN – Colour: mid grey. Composition: silty clay. Compaction: very dry, very loose. Inclusions: Occasional small to large sub-angular flint, evenly distributed. Moderate flecks to very large modern waste, evenly distributed.	0.28-0.76
(6202)	Layer	OVERBURDEN – Colour: light orangey grey. Composition: clayey silt. Compaction: very dry, loose. Inclusions: frequent small to very large rubble, evenly distributed.	0.76-1.19 (Avg.)
(6203)	Layer	SHINGLE – Colour: mid grey. Composition: coarse clayey sand. Compaction: dry, firm. Inclusions: frequent small to medium sub-angular to well-rounded spheroidal shingle, evenly distributed.	1.19-1.28 (Avg.)
(6204)	Layer	SUBSOIL - Colour: dark greyish brown. Composition: clayey silt. Compaction: dry, friable. Inclusions: occasional small to large sub-angular flint, evenly distributed.	1.28-1.45 (Avg.)
(6205)	Layer	NATURAL - bright brownish orange. Composition: clay. Compaction: dry, malleable. Inclusions: occasional small to very large sub-angular flint gravels, concentrated towards occasional patches.	1.45+

Trench 63	Dimensions: 9.9m x 1.8m Depth: 1.39m Ground Level: 102.20m OD – 102.95m OD		
Context	Interpretation	Description	Depth (m)
(6300)	Layer	OVERBURDEN - Colour: light grey. Composition: silt. Compaction: very dry, very loose. Inclusions: occasional small to large sub-angular flint, evenly distributed.	0.00-0.10 (Avg.)
(6301)	Layer	OVERBURDED – Colour: mid grey. Composition: silty clay. Compaction: very dry, very loose. Inclusions: Occasional small to large sub-angular flint, evenly distributed. Moderate flecks to very large modern waste, evenly distributed.	0.10-0.73 (Avg.)
(6302)	Layer	OVERBURDEN – Colour: light orangey grey. Composition: clayey silt. Compaction: very dry, loose. Inclusions: frequent small to very large rubble, evenly distributed.	0.73-0.98
(6303)	Layer	CRUSH OVERBURDEN - Trench 63. Colour: light greenish grey. Composition: fine silty sand. Compaction: very dry, friable. Inclusions: moderate small to medium sub-angular to rounded flint, evenly distributed.	0.98-1.10 (Avg.)
(6304)	Layer	TARMAC - Colour: strong black. Composition: tarmac. Compaction: very dry, cemented.	1.10-1.21 (Avg.)
(6305)	Layer	HARDCORE - Colour: light greyish white. Composition: sandy silt. Compaction: very dry, very loose. Inclusions: frequent small to very large rubble, evenly distributed.	1.21-1.39 (Avg.)
(6306)	Layer	NATURAL - Colour: bright brownish orange. Composition: clay. Compaction: dry, malleable. Inclusions: occasional	1.39+

Trench 63	Dimensions: 9.9m x 1.8m Depth: 1.39m	
	Ground Level: 102.20m OD – 102.95m OD	
	small to very large sub-angular flint gravels, concentrated towards occasional patches.	

Trench 64	Dimensions: 22.88m x 1.8m Depth: 0.92m			
Trench 64	Ground Level: 102	Ground Level: 101.38m OD – 102.62m OD		
Context	Interpretation	Description	Depth (m)	
(6400)	Layer	OVERBURDEN - Colour: light orangey grey. Composition: silty clay. Compaction: very dry, very loose. Inclusions:	0.00-0.45	
(0400)	Layer	frequent small to large chalk, concentrated towards patches.	(Avg.)	
(6404)	1	OVERBURDEN - Colour: greyish black. Composition: clay.	0.45-0.70	
(6401)	Layer	Compaction: dry, firm. Inclusions: moderate small to very large building waste, evenly distributed.	(Avg.)	
(6.100)		SUBSOIL – Colour: dark greyish brown. Composition:	0.70-0.92	
(6402)	Layer	clayey silt. Compaction: dry, friable. Inclusions: occasional small to large sub-angular flint, evenly distributed.	(Avg.)	
(6402)		NATURAL – Colour: mid brownish orange. Composition:	0.02	
(6403)	Layer	silty clay. Compaction: dry, malleable. Inclusions: rare	0.92+	
		small to large sub-angular flint, evenly distributed.		

Trench 65	Dimensions: 22.24m x 1.8m Depth: 0.70m Ground Level: 102.04m OD – 103.015m OD 00 </th		
Context	Interpretation	Description	Depth (m)
(6500)	Layer	OVERBURDEN - Colour: light orangey grey. Composition: silty clay. Compaction: very dry, very loose. Inclusions: frequent small to large chalk, concentrated towards patches.	0.00-0.56 (Avg.)
(6501)	Layer	SUBSOIL - Colour: dark greyish brown. Composition: clayey silt. Compaction: dry, friable. Inclusions: occasional small to large sub-angular flint, evenly distributed.	0.56-0.70 (Avg.)
(6502)	Layer	NATURAL - Colour: mid brownish orange. Composition: silty clay. Compaction: dry, malleable. Inclusions: rare small to large sub-angular flint, evenly distributed.	0.70+

Trench 66	Dimensions: 23.22m x 1.8m Depth: 0.46m		
Ground Level: 101.45m OD – 101.86m OD			
Context	Interpretation	Description	Depth (m)
(6600)	Layer	OVERBURDEN - Colour: light orangey grey. Composition: silty clay. Compaction: very dry, very loose. Inclusions: frequent small to large chalk, concentrated towards patches.	0.00-0.26 (Avg.)
(6601)	Layer	SUBSOIL - Colour: dark greyish brown. Composition: clayey silt. Compaction: dry, friable. Inclusions: occasional small to large sub-angular flint, evenly distributed.	0.26-0.46 (Avg.)
(6602)	Layer	NATURAL - Colour: mid brownish orange. Composition: silty clay. Compaction: dry, malleable. Inclusions: rare small to large sub-angular flint, evenly distributed.	0.46+

Trench 67	Dimensions: 24.29m x 1.8m Depth: 0.40m Ground Level: 101.39m OD – 102.49m OD 00		
Context	Interpretation	Description	Depth (m)
(6700)	Layer	OVERBURDEN - Colour: light orangey grey. Composition: silty clay. Compaction: very dry, very loose. Inclusions:	0.00-0.08
(0700)		frequent small to large chalk, concentrated towards patches.	(Avg.)
(6701)	Layer	SUBSOIL - Colour: dark greyish brown. Composition: clayey	0.08-0.40
(0/01)	Luyer	silt. Compaction: dry, friable. Inclusions: occasional small to large sub-angular flint, evenly distributed.	(Avg.)
(6702)	Layer	NATURAL - Colour: mid brownish orange. Composition: silty clay. Compaction: dry, malleable. Inclusions: Rare small to large sub-angular flint, evenly distributed. Rare flecks of chalk evenly distributed.	0.40+

Trench 68	Dimensions: 13.5m x 1.8m Depth: 0.44m Ground Level: 101.39m OD – 104.84m OD 00		
Context	Interpretation	Description	Depth (m)
(6800)	Layer	OVERBURDEN - Colour: light brown. Composition: clayey silt. Compaction: very dry, very loose.	0.00-0.12 (Avg.)
		SUBSOIL - Colour: dark orangey grey. Composition: clayey	0.12-0.44
(6801)	Layer	silt. Compaction: dry, friable. Inclusions: occasional small to large sub-angular flint, evenly distributed.	(Avg.)
(6802)	Fill	FILL of ditch/trackway [6803]. Colour: dark brownish grey. Composition: clayey silt. Compaction: dry, firm. Inclusions: Moderate medium sub-rounded to well-rounded clinker, evenly distributed. Moderate flecks of black manganese. Rare small very angular to angular chalk lumps, evenly distributed. Frequent very large angular to sub-angular flints, evenly distributed. Occasional medium rounded to well-rounded stones, evenly distributed.	-
[6803]	Cut	CUT of ditch/trackway. Shape in plan: irregular, linear.	-
(6804)	Layer	NATURAL - Colour: mid brownish orange. Composition: silty clay. Compaction: dry, malleable. Inclusions: rare small to large sub-angular flint, evenly distributed.	0.44+

Site Name: Land at Archers court (North), Whitfield, Dover, Kent.

SWAT Site Code: WACN-EV-223

Site Address: As above

Summary. Swale & Thames Survey Company (SWAT Archaeology) were commissioned by BDW Kent Limited to undertake an archaeological evaluation on land at Archers court (North), Whitfield, Dover, Kent. The archaeological programme was monitored by the Senior Archaeological Officer at Kent County Council. The archaeological evaluation consisted of 13 trenches and form a second stage of works (Phase 2/2) associated with Phase 2 of the development area. Phase 2/1, which comprised 55 trenches was carried out by SWAT Archaeology in 2021 and is detailed in a separate report.

A relatively common stratigraphic sequence comprising redeposited made ground/overburden directly overlying subsoil which sealed the natural geology. The made ground was formed during recent construction works within the surrounding area when the current site was used for spoil and material storage Despite the archaeological potential of the surrounding area and the favourable preservation conditions recorded no significant archaeological finds or features were present within the 13 trenches excavated.

The archaeological evaluation has therefore been successful in fulfilling the primary aims and objectives of the Specification and has assessed the archaeological potential of land intended for development. The results from this work will be used to aid and inform the Archaeological Officer of any further archaeological mitigation measures that may be necessary in connection with any future development proposals.

District/Unitary: Dover District Council & Kent County Council Period(s): prehistoric, modern NGR (centre of site to eight figures) NGR 631315 145451 Type of Archaeological work: Archaeological Evaluation Date of recording: August 2023 and September 2023 Unit undertaking recording: Swale and Thames Survey Company (SWAT Archaeology) Geology: Cretaceous Chalk overlain by superficial Head Deposits Title and author of accompanying report: D Britchfield (2023) Archaeological Evaluation on Land at Archers court (North) Phase 2/2, Whitfield, Dover, Kent. SWAT Archaeology Ref. WACN-EV-2023 Location of archive/finds: SWAT. Archaeology. Graveney Rd, Faversham, Kent. ME13 8UP Contact at Unit: Paul Wilkinson Date: 30/10/2023 PLATES



Plate 1 Aerial photograph of the Phase 2 trenches, viewed obliquely from the northwest



Plate 2 Aerial photograph of the Phase 2 trenches, viewed obliquely from the west



Plate 3 Trench 56 (left) and Trench 57 (right), viewed from the east and west respectively



Plate 4 Trench 58 (left) and Trench 59 (right), viewed from the north and east respectively



Plate 5 Trench 60 (left) and Trench 61 (right), viewed from the east and south respectively



Plate 6 Trench 61, Representative Section RS2 viewed from the south



Plate 7 Trench 62, viewed from the west



Plate 8 Trench 62, Representative Section RS1 viewed from the south



Plate 9 Trench 63 (left) and Trench 64 (right), viewed from the west and southeast respectively



Plate 10 Trench 64, Representative Section RS1 viewed from the east



Plate 11 Trench 65 (left) and Trench 66 (right), viewed from the east and south respectively

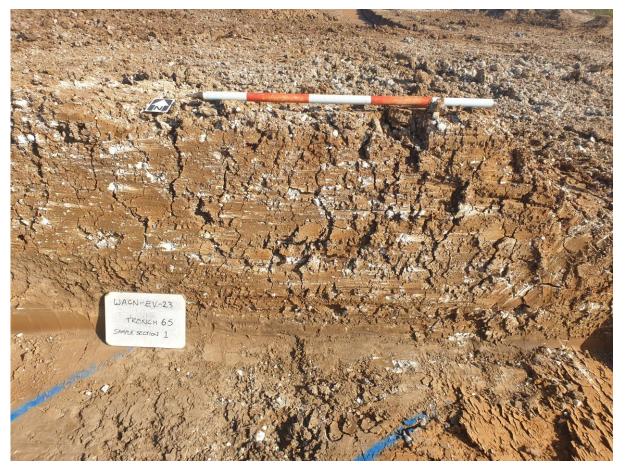


Plate 12 Trench 65, Representative Section RS1 viewed from the south



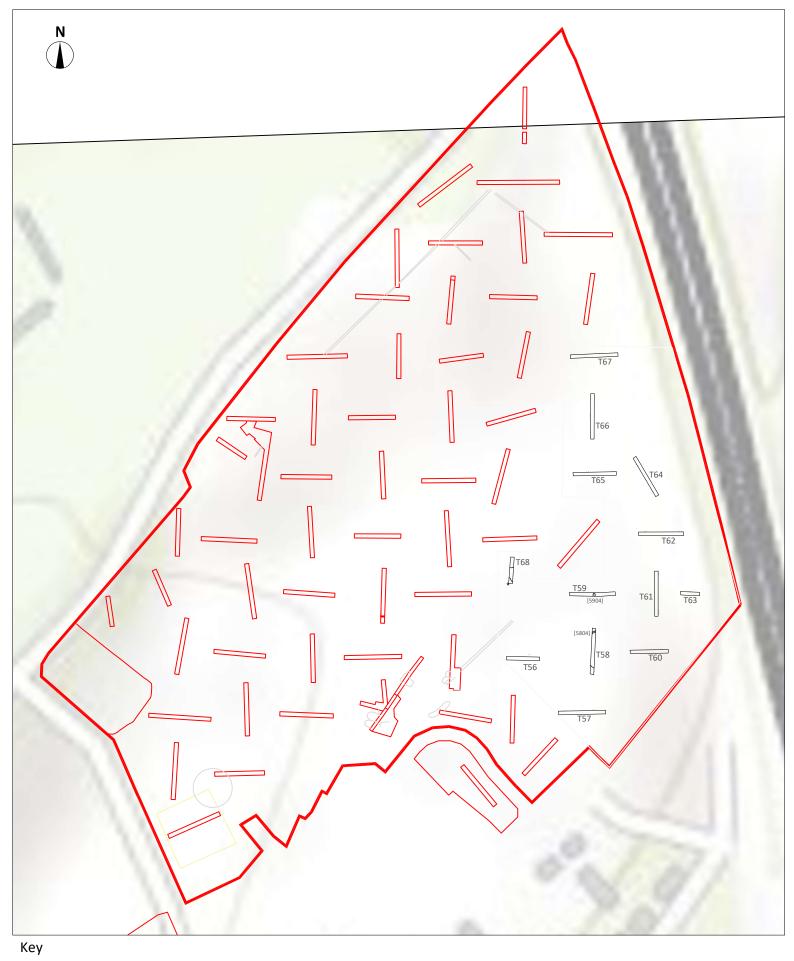
Plate 13 Trench 67, viewed from the west



Plate 14 Trench 67, Representative Section RS1 viewed from the south



Figure 1 Site Location Plan



---- Proposed Development Area

50m

- Phase 2/1 Trenches
- Phase 2/2 Trenches



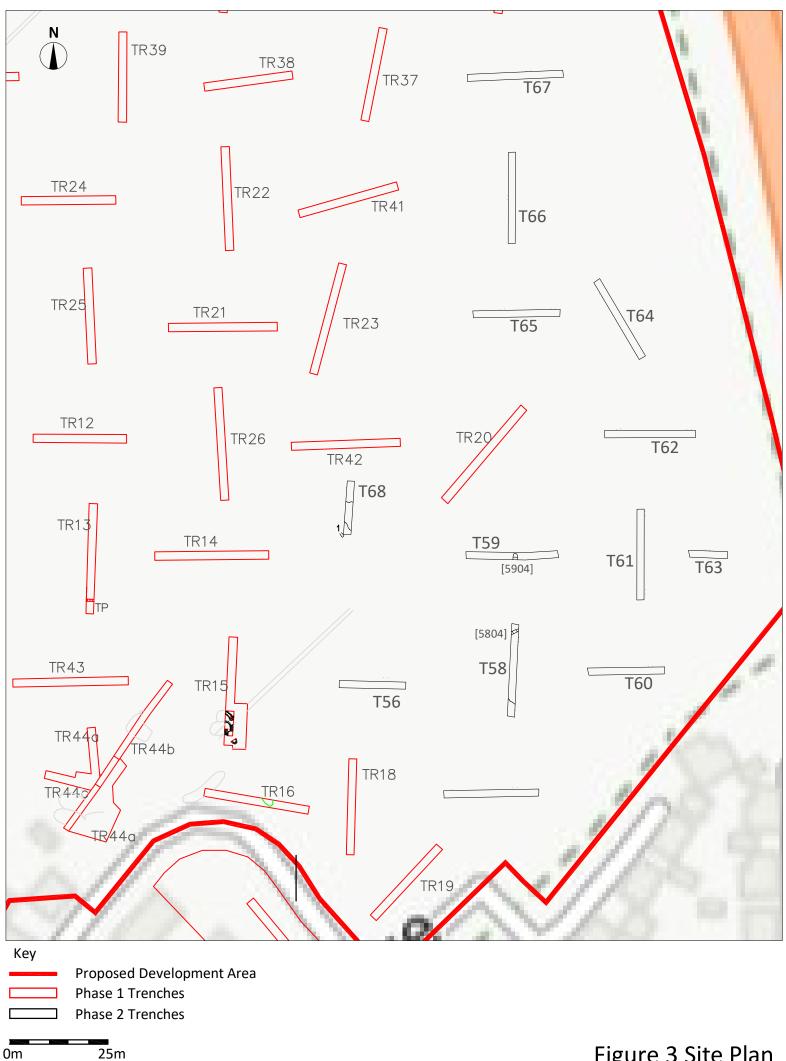


Figure 3 Site Plan

0m

