

Archaeological Evaluation of Land Between
The Homestead and Meadow Cottages,
Homestead Lane, East Studdal, Kent CT15 5BP



NGR: 631623 149534

Site Code: HES-EV-23

Planning Application: DOV/21/01940

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SWAT Archaeology

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Summary

Swale and Thames Survey Company (SWAT Archaeology) carried out an archaeological evaluation of land between The Homestead and Meadow Cottages, Homestead Lane, East Studdal, Kent CT15 5BP. The works have been carried out as part of a planning condition which required an archaeological evaluation in order to further characterise the potential archaeological impact from any proposed development.

The work was carried out by SWAT Archaeology in August 2023, in accordance with the requirements set out within an Archaeological specification produced by SWAT Archaeology (SWAT Archaeology, 2023) and in discussion with the Archaeological Officer at KCCHC.

The results of the evaluation identified natural geology within all three trenches at an average depth of approximately 0.43m below the existing ground surface, directly underlying topsoil and subsoil. Despite the archaeological potential of the site no archaeological finds or features were recorded within any of the trenches. 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.

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1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project Background

1.1.1 Swale & Thames Survey Company (SWAT Archaeology) were commissioned by the client to carry out an archaeological evaluation on land between The Homestead and Meadow Cottages, Homestead Lane, East Studdal, Kent CT15 5BP. The work was carried out in accordance with the requirements set out within an Archaeological Specification previously produced by SWAT Archaeology (SWAT Archaeology, 2023). The evaluation fieldwork was carried out on the 30th of August 2023.

1.1.2 The archaeological evaluation was implemented at the request of KCCHC to clarify the presence or absence of archaeological remains within the proposed development area (PDA) and to ascertain the impact the development may have on the potential archaeological horizon.

1.1.3 This report summarises the results of the evaluation and considers the potential impact to the archaeological resource resulting from the proposed development, in order to inform KCCHC's decision as to whether any further archaeological mitigation will be required.

1.2 Site Description, Topography and Geology

1.2.1 The development area is situated within the southern area of East Studdal, a town within the Dover district of Kent situated to the east of the A256 between Sandwich and Dover (Figure 1). The site is located immediately northwest of Homestead Lane approximately 200m south of the village centre. To the west is the route of the Roman road from Richborough to Dover.

1.2.2 The NGR for the center of the site is 631623 149534 (Figure 1).

1.2.3 Ground levels are around 48m aOD across the site. Historical map regressions show that the site has remained relatively vacant since at least the late 19th century tucked into a building envelope that comprises a single plot dwelling on the western side of homestead Lane.

1.2.4 The Geological Survey of Great Britain (1:50,000) shows that the site is set on Seaford Chalk Formation – Chalk, sedimentary bedrock formed between 89.8 and 83.6 million years ago during the Cretaceous period. Superficial deposits within the area comprise Head - Silt and gravel, sedimentary superficial deposit formed between 2.588 million years ago and the present during the Quaternary period mapped as a long thin swathe running parallel with the adjacent road (British Geological Survey, accessed 19/10/23)

1.3 Planning Background

1.3.1 The Proposed Development Area was granted planning permission (DOV/21/01940) by Dover District Council (DDC) for the erection 2 No. pairs of semi-attached dwellings, bin stores, bike store, associated parking, vehicle turning and formation of vehicular access on the 4th of January 2022.

1.3.2 The Local Planning Authority (DDC) stated in a planning condition (Condition 5) relating to archaeology on the planning consent:

No development shall take place until the applicant (or their agents or successors in title) has secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological work in accordance with a written specification and timetable which has been submitted to and approved in writing by the local planning authority.

Reason: To ensure that features of archaeological interest are properly examined and recorded.

1.3.3 This report details the results of the archaeological evaluation, which comprised three 20m x 2m evaluation trenches, was conducted on the 30th of August 2023 according to the agreed written specification (SWAT Archaeology, 2023).

2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 Introduction and Wider Archaeological Landscape

2.1.1 The Proposed Development Area (PDA) is located close to a number of archaeological sites which

are identified on the KCCHER database. About 250m to the west is the course of the Roman road from Dover to Richborough. About 120m SSW is Homestead Farm (MKE 87999) and about 450m to the south a cropmark of a linear feature has been identified (TR 34 NW 34). At about 200m NNW a small gilded brooch was found by metal detecting (TR 34 NW 31).

2.2 Previous Archaeological Investigations on Site

2.2.1 There have been no previous archaeological investigations within the bounds of the development area.

3 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

3.1.1 The specific aims of the archaeological fieldwork were set out in a written scheme of investigation produced by SWAT Archaeology (SWAT Archaeology, 2023) and approved by KCCHC prior to the work starting (see 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, Roman, early medieval and later archaeological activity.*
- *The programme of archaeological work should be carried out in a phased approach and will commence with evaluation through trial trenching. This initial phase should determine whether any significant archaeological remains would be affected by the development and if so, what mitigation measures are appropriate. Such measures may include further detailed archaeological excavation, or an archaeological watching brief during construction work or an engineering solution to any preservation in situ requirements.*
- *This specification sets out the requirements for trial trenching on the site and any further archaeological work, such as detailed excavation work or a watching brief, would need to be subject to further specifications.”*

(Paragraphs 6.1-6.3, SWAT Archaeology, 2023)

3.1.2 Additionally, to these specific aims, the archaeological evaluation aimed to:

- *Make available information about the archaeological resource within the PDA by reporting on the results of the evaluation;*
- *Place the results of the evaluation into the wider known archaeological and historical landscape; and*
- *Assess the significance of the results.*

4 METHODOLOGY

4.1 Introduction

4.1.1 All fieldwork was conducted in accordance with the methodology set out in the WSI (SWAT Archaeology, 2023) and carried out in compliance with the standards outlined in the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' Standard Guidance for Archaeological Evaluations (CifA, 2014).

4.2 Fieldwork

4.2.1 Three 20m by 2m trenches were excavated within the development area, targeting the footprint of the proposed development. The purpose of which was to clarify the presence/absence of archaeology within the area so that the foundation design of the build can be planned accordingly to potentially factor in safeguarding of such features.

4.2.2 A 3T 360° tracked mechanical excavator with a 1.5m wide ditching bucket was used to remove the overburden in spits of no more than 200mm until the archaeological horizon was encountered or until natural ground was encountered. Machine reduction of overburden was monitored at all times by an archaeologist who visually inspected spoil heaps for the purpose of finds' retrieval.

4.2.3 Where appropriate, trenches or specific areas/features were subsequently hand-cleaned to reveal features in plan and carefully selected cross sections through the features were excavated to establish the character of the archaeology, relationships between features, and to obtain cultural material.

4.3 Recording

4.3.1 A complete photographic record was maintained on site that included working shots during

mechanical excavation and following archaeological investigations. Additionally, the site, trenches, and specific features were photographed with a drone to help illustrate location and context.

4.3.2 A complete drawn record of the evaluation trenches and excavated interventions was maintained, consisting of both plans, drawn at a scale of 1:20 and sections at a scale of 1:10.

4.3.3 A single context recording system was used to record the deposits. A full list is presented *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+).

4.4 Monitoring

4.4.1 Communication with the Archaeological Officer for Kent County Council Heritage and Conservation comprised emails with regular updates.

5 RESULTS

5.1 Introduction

5.1.1 A total of three evaluation trenches were mechanically excavated under archaeological supervision.

5.1.2 Figure 1 is a site location plan, Figure 2 is a plan showing trench locations, Figure 3 shows the trench locations overlaid with the development plan. Appendix 1 provides the stratigraphic sequence and contextual information of the trenches.

5.2 Stratigraphic Deposit Sequence

5.2.1 A relatively consistent stratigraphic sequence was observed across the development area comprising topsoil, a relatively loose dark grey brown humic clay silt with moderate rooting and occasional small rounded stones overlying friable mid greyish brown sandy silt with occasional rooting and rounded stones subsoil. The natural geology consisted of mid orange brown clay silt and compact grey white chalk (Appendix 1).

5.3 Archaeological Results

Trench 1 (Plate 1)

- 5.3.1 Trench 1 was excavated in the eastern extent of the site and measured 20m in length x 2m in width, with a maximum depth of 0.48m before underlying geology was reached.
- 5.3.2 A relatively consistent stratigraphic sequence was observed across the development area comprising topsoil, a relatively loose dark grey brown humic clay silt with moderate rooting and occasional small rounded stones overlying friable mid greyish brown sandy silt with occasional rooting and rounded stones subsoil. The natural geology consisted of mid orange brown clay silt with patches of compact grey white chalk (102).
- 5.3.3 No archaeological finds or features were present within this trench.

Trench 2 (Plate 2)

- 5.3.4 Trench 2 was excavated in the southern extent of the site and measured 20m in length x 2m in width, with a maximum depth of 0.61m before underlying geology was reached.
- 5.3.5 The stratigraphic sequence comprised topsoil (200), a relatively loose dark grey brown humic clay silt with moderate rooting and occasional small rounded stones overlying friable mid greyish brown sandy silt with occasional rooting and rounded stones subsoil (201). The natural geology consisted of grey white chalk (202).
- 5.3.6 No archaeological finds or features were present within this trench.

Trench 3 (Plate 3)

- 5.3.7 Trench 3 was excavated in the northern extent of the site and measured 20m in length x 2m in width, with a maximum depth of 0.51m before underlying geology was reached.
- 5.3.8 The stratigraphic sequence comprised topsoil (300), a relatively loose dark grey brown humic clay silt with moderate rooting and occasional small rounded stones overlying friable mid greyish brown sandy silt with occasional rooting and rounded stones subsoil (301). The natural geology consisted of grey white chalk (302) (Appendix 1).
- 5.3.9 No archaeological finds or features were present within this trench.

6 FINDS

6.1 Introduction

6.1.1 No archaeological finds were encountered during the evaluation works.

7 DISCUSSION

7.1 Introduction

7.1.1 The archaeological investigation on land between The Homestead and Meadow Cottages, Homestead Lane, East Studdal, Kent has investigated the extents of the proposed development area using three trenches, measuring 20m in length and 2m in width. Natural geology was encountered within both trenches at an average depth of approximately 0.43m below the existing ground surface, directly underlying topsoil and subsoil.

7.2 Archaeological Narrative

7.2.1 Despite the archaeological potential of the site no archaeological finds or features were recorded within any of the trenches.

7.2.2 The recording of an intact subsoil within each trench may suggest that preservation conditions are favourable within the local area, although the shallow depth of the chalk should be considered within areas of modern occupation.

7.3 Conclusions

7.3.1 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 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

8.1.1 SWAT Archaeology would like to thank the client for commissioning the project. Thanks are also extended to Ben Found, Archaeological Officer, at Kent County Council Heritage and Conservation.

8.1.2 The fieldwork was undertaken by Peter Cichy. The report was written by David Britchfield BA (Hons) MCIfA with site survey and illustrations were produced by Bartek Cichy. The project was managed by Dr Paul Wilkinson PhD MCIfA.

9 REFERENCES

9.1 Bibliography

Chartered Institute for Field Archaeologists, Rev (2014). *Standards and Guidance for archaeological field evaluation*.

Kent County Council (Heritage and Conservation), 2015. *Archaeological Evaluation Specification Manual Part B*.

SWAT Archaeology. 2023. *Specification for an Archaeological Evaluation of land between The Homestead and Meadow Cottages, Homestead Lane, East Studdal, Kent*.

9.2 Websites:

British Geological Survey, BGS Geology Viewer: <https://www.bgs.ac.uk/map-viewers/bgs-geology-viewer/> (accessed 23/06/23)

The Kent Historic Environment Record, Kent County Council:
<https://webapps.kent.gov.uk/KCC.HeritageMaps.Web.Sites.Public/Default.aspx> (accessed 26/06/23)

10 APPENDIX 1 – CONTEXTUAL DATA

Trench 1			
Dimensions: 20m x 2m Trench alignment: NW-SE Ground level: 47.82m aOD to 48.08m aOD			
Context	Interpretation	Description	Depth (m)
(100)	Made Ground	Relatively loose dark grey brown humic clay silt with moderate rooting and occasional small rounded stones	0.00-0.12
(101)	Topsoil	Friable mid greyish brown sandy silt with occasional rooting and rounded stones	0.12-0.48
(102)	Subsoil	Mid orange brown silt clay with patches of grey white compact chalk	0.48+

Trench 2			
Dimensions: 20m x 2m Trench alignment: NW-SE Ground level: 47.64m aOD to 48.24m aOD			
Context	Interpretation	Description	Depth (m)
(200)	Topsoil	Relatively loose dark grey brown humic clay silt with moderate rooting and occasional small rounded stones	0.00-0.11
(201)	Subsoil	Friable mid greyish brown sandy silt with occasional rooting and rounded stones	0.11-0.49
(202)	Natural	Grey white compact chalk with natural stripes of mid orange brown silt clay.	0.49-0.61+

Trench 3			
Dimensions: 20m x 2m Trench alignment: N-S Ground level: 47.77m aOD to 48.17m aOD			
Context	Interpretation	Description	Depth (m)
(300)	Topsoil	Relatively loose dark grey brown humic clay silt with moderate rooting and occasional small rounded stones	0.00-0.11
(301)	Subsoil	Friable mid greyish brown sandy silt with occasional rooting and rounded stones	0.11-0.38
(302)	Natural	Grey white compact chalk with natural stripes of mid orange brown silt clay.	0.38-0.51

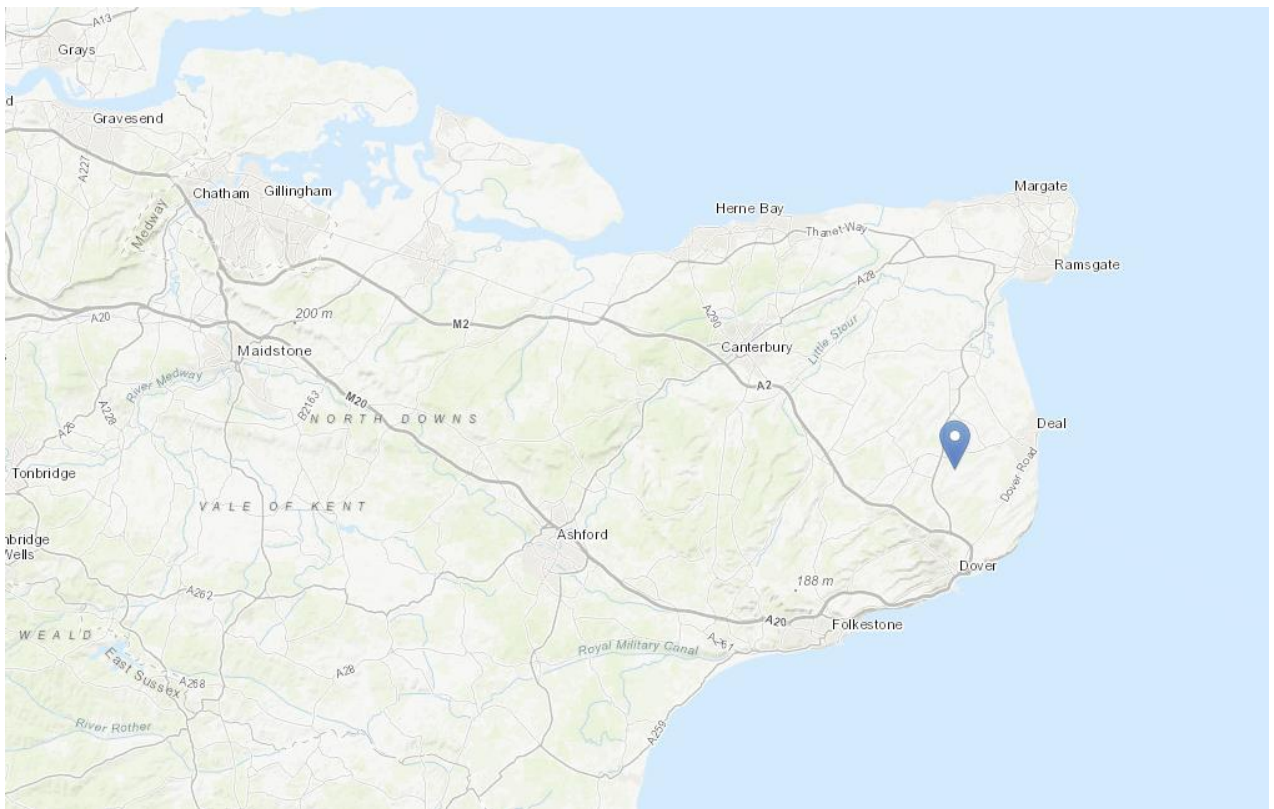


Figure 1 Site Location Plan

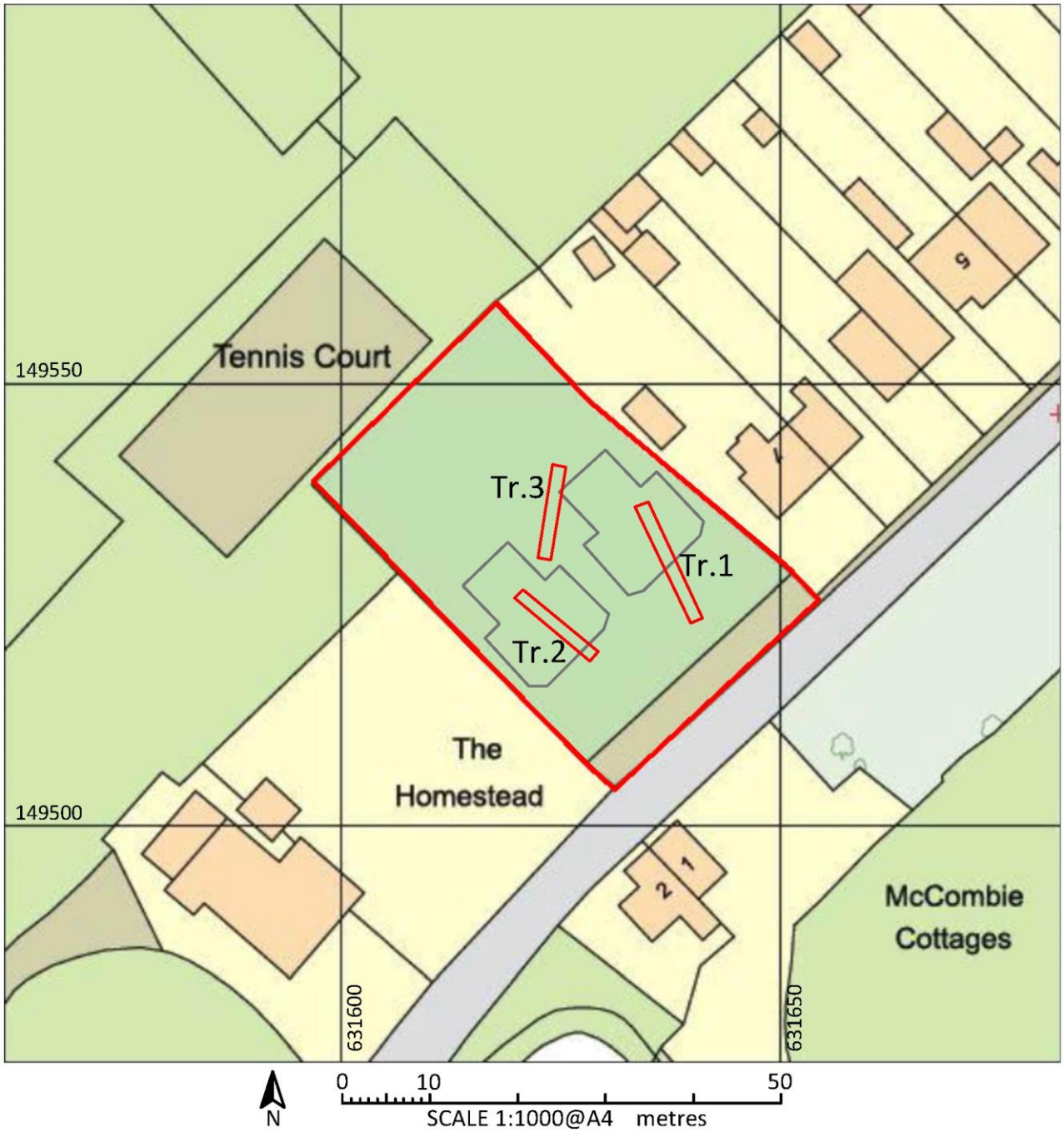


Figure 2 Site Plan

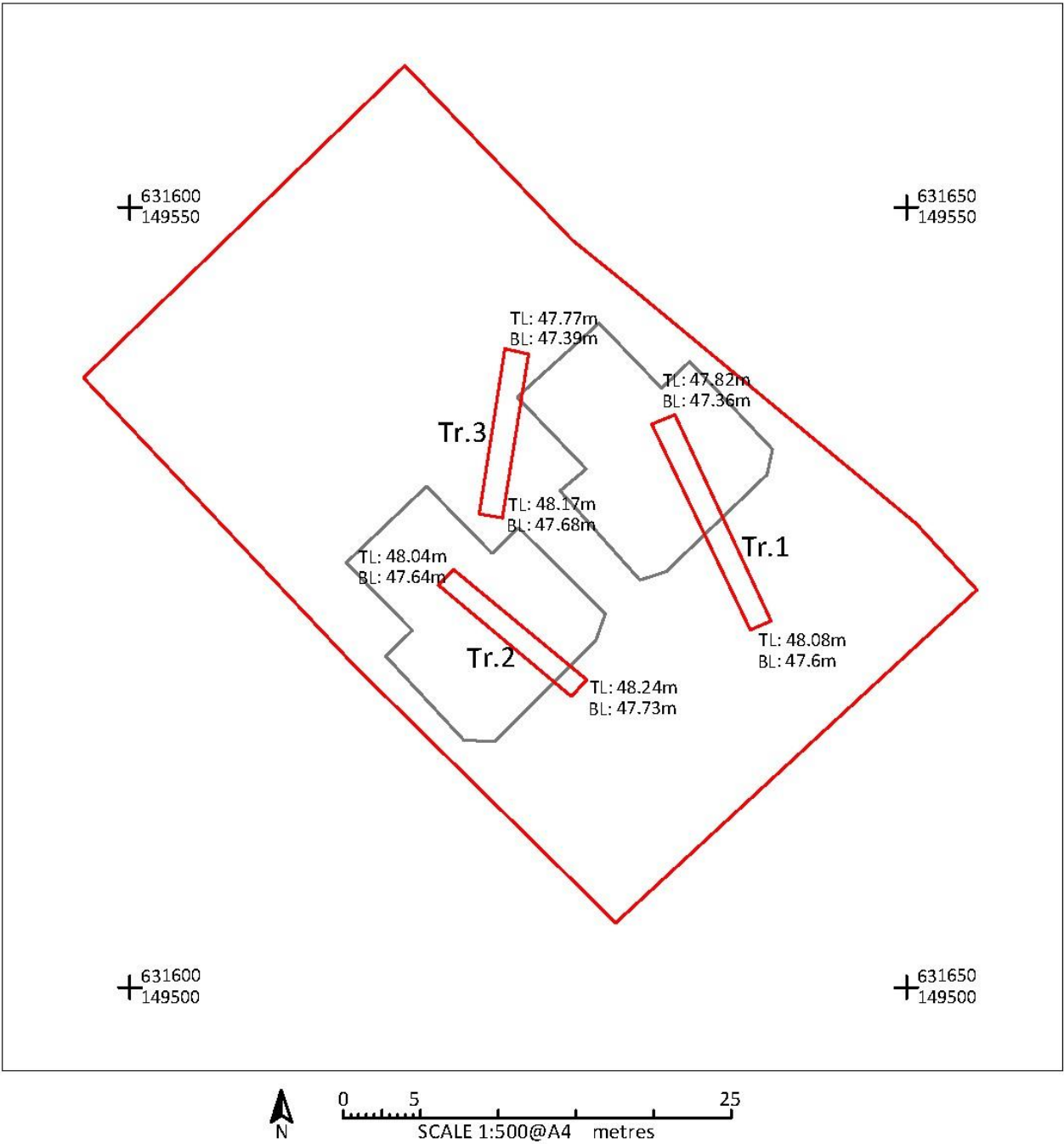


Figure 3 Trench plans



Plate 1 Trench 1, viewed from the southeast



Plate 2 Trench 2, viewed from the southeast



Plate 3 Trench 3, viewed from the southwest