

Archaeological Evaluation of land at Lord of the Manor, Canterbury Road East, Ramsgate, Kent CT12 5EP

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NGR Site Centre: 635580 165048

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SWAT ARCHAEOLOGY

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Summary

Swale & Thames Survey Company (SWAT Archaeology) were commissioned to Limited to undertake an archaeological evaluation on land at Lord of the Manor, Canterbury Road East, Ramsgate, Kent. 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 archaeological evaluation has been successful in evaluating the proposed development site for the possibility of archaeological remains. Despite the archaeological potential of the surrounding area and the favourable preservation conditions recorded no archaeological finds or defined archaeological features were present within any of the seven 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 Principal 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 to undertake an archaeological evaluation on land at Lord of the Manor, Canterbury Road East, Ramsgate, Kent CT12 5EP (Figure 1).

1.1.2 A planning application (PAN: TH/20/0352) for the erection of a two storey building for office and storage use (use class B1(a) and B8) together with a 2-bed self-contained residential unit for caretaker accommodation (use class C3), with associated access, parking and landscaping, following demolition of existing buildings was submitted to Thanet District Council (TDC) whereby Kent County Council Heritage and Conservation (KCCHC), on behalf of CCC, requested that an archaeological evaluation be undertaken in order to determine the possible impact of the development on any archaeological remains.

1.1.3 The following conditions were attached to the planning consent:

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

- (i) archaeological field evaluation works in accordance with a specification and written timetable which has first been submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority;*
- (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 in writing by the Local Planning Authority.*

GROUND: To ensure that features of archaeological interest are properly examined and recorded in accordance with Policy HE01 of the Thanet Local Plan and the advice contained within the National Planning Policy Framework.

(TH/20/0352, Condition 3, 1st September 2020)

1.1.4 The archaeological evaluation initially comprised the excavation of nine trenches measuring 30m in length and 1.8m in width. However, on site obstructions meant that some trenches required relocation and others could not be excavated. The location and length of each trench is described below in Section 5.3.

1.1.5 The archaeological works were carried out over the course of three days in March 2023 (see Table 1 below). The evaluation follows the submission of a Heritage Impact Assessment produced by SWAT Archaeology in 2020. The evaluation was carried out in accordance with an archaeological Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) prepared by SWAT Archaeology (2023), 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
Heritage Impact Assessment	2020	SWAT Archaeology
Submission of the Written Scheme of Investigation	January 2021	SWAT Archaeology
Archaeological Evaluation – Fieldwork	27 th – 29 th March 2023	SWAT Archaeology David Britchfield BA MCIfA Dan Worsely MA
Archaeological Evaluation Report	This document	SWAT Archaeology David Britchfield BA MCIfA

Table 1 Timetable for the archaeological programme of works

1.3 Site Description and Topography

1.3.1 The site is centred on NGR 635580 165048 within the boundary of a domestic residence, which included a formal residence with stables and paddock to the rear, measuring approximately 5,390sq.m in area (Figure 1, Plate 1). The northern and western boundaries of the site are bordered by Canterbury Road East (A 299) and east of the Lord of the Manor Roundabout and Sandwich Road respectively (Figure 1).

1.3.2 At the time of the evaluation the site was occupied by an existing domestic building, a stable block and a large sunken industrial garage unit (Figure 2, Plate 1 and Plate 2).

1.3.3 Ground levels are relatively level at a height of approximately 33m Ordnance Datum (OD) in the northeast gently sloping to 31m OD within the southwestern extent of the site. The Geological

Survey of Great Britain shows that the site is located on Margate Chalk Member with no superficial deposits being recorded.

1.4 Scope of Report

1.4.1 This report has been produced to provide initial information regarding the results of the archaeological evaluation. The results from this work will be used to aid and inform the Principal 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 (site) is located close to a number of archaeological sites including an Anglo-Saxon cemetery site approximately 50m to the north and the 'Lord of the Manor Barrow Group' (SWAT Archaeology 2022: 5.1) which have long thought to represent Angle-Saxon burial mounds.

2.1.2 The Heritage Impact Assessment dated 2020 by SWAT Archaeology has a comprehensive inventory of heritage assets within the locality of the proposed site, which is summarised below.

2.2 Overview (SWAT Archaeology 2020)

2.2.1 The following historical and archaeological overview is provided by SWAT Archaeology (2020) where an assessment of historic assets was carried out (2020: 6.1-6.4).

Introduction

2.2.2 The archaeology in this part of Thanet is exceptional and densely packed. The area around that of the site, particularly to the north, has been an area of focus since the finding of the original Anglo-Saxon cemetery during the construction of the railway. The following section seeks to pull together and summarise the data for each archaeological period, including our current understanding of the archaeological landscape.

Archaeological and historical context

Prehistoric (900,000 BC – AD 43)

2.2.3 Little evidence dating to the Palaeolithic or Mesolithic have been identified within the study area. In the Neolithic period, the landscape reflects causewayed enclosures and long barrows as the primary surviving evidence especially surround the area of the site. A site at Chalk Hill, to the southeast of the site has three concentric arcs of causewayed ditches with the largest diameter being 150m with the site in use for about 100 years. It is thought that it was

constructed there, being located in a paleochannel and a feature in the landscape or simply as it looked out to sea. What is not known is whether the landscape in this period was wooded or not. Society at this time was pastoral and moved with livestock.

2.2.4 Usually, such enclosures are not isolated as is the case here, more causewayed enclosures have been found. One is circa 1km to the southeast. Another potential new site of a causewayed enclosure is just to the south of the Lord of the Manor roundabout and some 600m west from the one at Chalk Hill. More possible evidence of the Neolithic is at Nethercourt, this time with burials, suggests widespread use of the landscape in this period for gatherings, feasts, burials, and cereal processing. Moving towards the Late Neolithic where hill wash was deposited in the dry valleys, which is likely to have occurred due to the clearance of trees, probably for cultivation of the land. It is in this period that within the landscape we see henges, circular enclosures surrounded by a ditch with one or more entrances. Some of these early henges may have been repurposed later into round barrows. Evidence of a henge is seen to the north of the site and was the one excavated in the 1970s alongside Haine Road. The archaeological potential for the Neolithic was therefore considered high.

2.2.5 The Early Bronze Age is associated with the Beaker people based on their pottery style and suggestive of trading with the continent in this period, especially associated with metalworking. Landscape evidence is in the form of the round barrows, which is a mound surrounded by a ditch for which they sometimes contain one or more burials. Thanet is unusual due to the sheer number of these monuments, and many appear to be organised in clusters.

2.2.6 The cluster located in the area of the site is considered to be exceptionally large, where circa just over 50 barrows and ring ditches are known with the barrows lying on the escarpment eastwards of the shallow dry valley called Hollins Bottom and heads southeast towards the cliffs at Pegwell Bay. These are of varying diameters, and some may have altered over time. Barrows usually display a strong relationship with the landscape, being sited on crests or false ridges in areas of key vistas and seen on the skylines from vantage points. This is seen especially at Ozengell and possibly interpreted as symbols of power. The topography at Cliffsend is rising inland from the cliffs towards an east-west ridge at circa 50m aOD with the high point in the area of the Manston Road some 800m north of the site. However, from the Pegwell Bay cliffs before the Manston high point is reached, the slope levels out along the ridge in line with the site before increasing again to the line of Ozengell Grange and then rising up towards Manston thus creating a false ridge. Therefore, the ridgeline at the Lord of the Manor is essentially the main one initially seen from the south. By the later Bronze Age, the landscape changes are evidenced by field systems and the land being divided up. This can be identified at Chalk Hill and

at Haine Road with Chalk Hill and also nearby Cliffsend Farm providing evidence of settlement along with mortuary rituals of people identified as migrants. Thanet's location being a key gateway to the Continent in this period.

- 2.2.7 Compared to the Bronze Age, there is less evidence for the Iron Age and may have been as a result of the intense focus on barrows. Although some Iron Age evidence is seen to the north of the site. The majority of the evidence is in the form of metal detectorist finds rather than features. Although a number of pits have been found nearby Chalk hill as well as field systems to the north.

Romano-British (AD 43 – AD 450)

- 2.2.8 Roman activity across Thanet is widely found especially within nearby Ebbsfleet and elsewhere on the island at Richborough. However, in the vicinity of the site there is possibly less evidence than expected. The Canterbury Road to the west of the site from Sarre is clear as a Roman road of 'Dunstrete', but the known route becomes less clear eastwards of the old crossroads. A possible villa site has been found near Ozengell Grange with the suggestion of settlement in the area of Nethercourt with inhumations, enclosures, and pits close by.

Saxon (AD 450 – AD 1066)

- 2.2.9 The area of nearby Ebbsfleet is supposed to be where Hengest landed in AD 449 and St Augustine bringing Christianity in AD 597. Founded during construction of the railway in the 1850s which divides the Scheduled site into two.
- 2.2.10 The main scheduled area is immediately north of the site. The cemetery of the 6th – 7th centuries contains a large number of burials, many with grave goods and were orientated on an east-west alignment and at a shallow depth of circa 0.75m. Excavation of the area to the north and east of the scheduled site has identified further burials.
- 2.2.11 The full extent to the west and south is not known and the layout of the graves suggests that further burials may lie beyond. If the Canterbury Road East did exist in the Roman or earlier periods as a trackway, it is possible that this would have formed a natural southern boundary to that of the Anglo-Saxon cemetery. However, we cannot be certain based on early maps that this portion of the road existed as the evidence is unclear. However, Other Anglo-Saxon cemeteries, to the west seem to lie on the same ridge line and include Laundry Hill, Mount Pleasant, Monkton, and Sarre suggesting the Canterbury Road in that area was its existence and possibly earlier as a Roman Road running along or just below the crest of the ridge and with cemeteries spaced at regular intervals.

- 2.2.12 The number of cemeteries confirms that the landscape was populous and very much active in this period. They would have been attracted to the remains of the earlier ritual landscape that still would have been in evidence. A later cemetery is at Cliffsend, which was later; being of the 8th – 9th century. Earlier in the Anglo-Saxon period there appears to be clear separation between settlement areas and areas of the dead, whereas, later, as at Cliffsend, the two types of areas are much closer.

Medieval (AD 1066 – AD 1485)

- 2.2.13 By the medieval period the core settlement is that of St Lawrence, with the site most likely on the agricultural hinterland. Whilst it has been mentioned that the Ramsgate/Canterbury track was probably in existence, it is also likely that Haine/Sandwich Road was also in existence with the site located in an important nodal location in the landscape. However, the Andrews & Dury map suggests that the road layout in the area surrounding the site may have been slightly different, with what was a footpath alongside the eastern boundary, perhaps a more major road in the earlier part of this period and perhaps the Canterbury Road East section of the trackway in this period out of use.

Post-Medieval (AD 1485 – AD 1900)

- 2.2.14 The earliest indication of a building at the site is for the tithes where the plot is described as a cottage and garden and appears to be for agricultural labourers close to the crossroads and built before the coming of the railway. However, by 1862, as well as being an agricultural labourer based on the census, the site had also become a public house and remained as one for at least the next century; the surrounding area still one of agriculture. There was no evidence that the site had been a tollhouse other than that of the KHER record where the linked bibliographic record did not elaborate. Based on the historical mapping, it appears as well as the main house, there was another building located southwest of the main house.

Modern (AD 1900+)

- 2.2.15 The open nature of the area with its vantage points, nodal point of the crossroads and closeness of wartime airfields, meant that the area around was defended with a gun emplacement close to the northwest boundary of the site. The second half of the century saw more changes with extensions added on to the main house and the plot reverting to residential use. The building of the East Kent Access Road led to significant changes with the development of a roundabout replacing the crossroads and part of the old Sandwich Road being removed and incorporated into the western area of the site. During the 20th century, the house underwent a number of different extensions of which one remains on the eastern side. In recent years at the rear, a new outbuilding was built.

3 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

3.1 General Aims

3.1.1 The specific aims of the archaeological fieldwork were set out in a Written Scheme of Investigation (SWAT Archaeology 2023; 6.1) which stated that:

- *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.*

3.1.2 The general aims (or purpose) of the evaluation, in compliance with the *CIfA Standard and guidance for archaeological field evaluation* (CIfA 2014a), are therefore 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 In order to achieve the above aims, the general objectives of the evaluation are 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 2023) 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 seven out of the proposed nine evaluation trenches were originally excavated (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 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.

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.

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, 101+, Trench 2, 201+, Trench 3, 301+, 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 (details presented in individual trench description below).

5.1.2 The site, as shown on Figure 2, provides the trench layout with Figures 3-8 illustrating the results for each individual archaeological evaluation trench. Plates 1-10 consist of photographs of features and selected trenches that have been provided to supplement the text. Appendix 1 provides the stratigraphic sequence and contextual information for all trenches, with the location of Representative Sections provided on each Trench plan.

5.1.3 As part of the investigation each trench was scanned with a metal detector, with no positive results.

5.2 Stratigraphic Deposit Sequence

5.2.1 A relatively consistent stratigraphic sequence was recorded across most of the site comprising topsoil sealing an intact subsoil, which overlay the natural geological chalk bedrock. Variation occurred within Trench 3 which was located within an existing stable courtyard and Trench 10 which included a layer of redeposited hardcore directly below the existing turf line.

5.2.2 The topsoil generally consisted of dark brown clay silt, moderate roots, and occasional small, rounded stones, topped with grass, overlying the subsoil which consisted of medium orange brown silt. Natural geology comprised compact white chalk with glacial fracturing represented by stripes of moderately compact orange brown silty clay (Margate Chalk Member).

5.3 Archaeological Narrative

Trench 1 (Figure 2)

- 5.3.1 The proposed location for Trench 1 was within the northern extent of the site, orientated E-W, parallel with the northern site boundary. The presence of live services, including a substantial fibre-optic cable meant that this area was avoided.

Trench 2 (Figure 3, Plate 3)

- 5.3.2 Within the northern extent of the site to the south of the existing house (Figure 2), Trench 2 was excavated on a NW-SE alignment and measured approximately 19.3m in length, 1.8m in width with a maximum depth of 0.56m (Figure 3). Natural geological deposits were recorded at a level ranging between 33.19m OD and 33.02m OD. This trench was slightly relocated due to the presence of site obstructions which included intact fence lines, garden furniture, and previously excavated ponds which limited the length of the trench.

- 5.3.3 No archaeological finds or features were present in Trench 2.

Trench 3 (Figure 4, Plate 4)

- 5.3.4 Within the eastern extent of the site (Figure 2), Trench 3 was excavated on an N-S alignment and measured approximately 14.8m in length, 1.8m in width with a maximum depth of 0.32m (Figure 3). Natural geological deposits were recorded at a level of approximately 33.36m OD. This trench was relocated in order to maintain access and parking for existing residents. This trench was located within an area of hardstanding associated with former horse stables.

- 5.3.5 No archaeological finds or features were present in Trench 3.

Trench 4 (Figure 2)

- 5.3.6 Limited space available in the rear garden area meant that Trench 4 could not be excavated.

Trench 5 (Figure 2)

- 5.3.7 Trench 5 was located alongside the existing sunken industrial garage within an area banked up to the adjacent western boundary of the site. The limited space available meant that Trench 5 was not excavated.

Trench 6 (Figure 4, Plates 5 & 6)

- 5.3.8 Within the central extent of the site (Figure 2), Trench 6 was L-shaped in plan excavated on an N-S and E-W alignment and measured approximately 23.5m in length, 1.8m in width with a maximum depth of 0.39m (Figure 4). Natural geological deposits were recorded at a level of

approximately 33.25m OD. This trench was slightly relocated and realigned due to the presence of the large sunken industrial garage.

- 5.3.9 A series of potential features was recorded within this trench, each one being investigated and recorded. Within the northern extent of the E-W orientated trench feature [604] was irregular ovoid in plan, measuring 0.74m in length with a width of 0.26m and depth of 0.06m. The single fill (605) consisted of reasonably soft orange brown silt clay that had occasional chalk flecks. No finds were present within this feature.
- 5.3.10 With the N-S orientated section of the trench feature [606] measured 0.46m in width with an exposed length of 0.19m. The single fill (607) was the same as (605) above. To the south [608] was oval in plan and measured 0.84m in length with a width of 0.27m and depth of 0.06m. Once again, this feature was filled by a soft orange brown silt clay that had occasional chalk flecks with no finds.

Trench 7 (Figure 5, Plate 7)

- 5.3.11 Trench 7 was located within the western extent of the site, directly east of the western boundary (Figure 2) and was excavated on a broadly N-S alignment. This trench measured 22.9 m in length, 1.8m in width and a maximum depth of 0.53m (Figure 5). Natural geological deposits were recorded at a level of approximately 31.66m aOD.
- 5.3.12 As with Trench 6 this trench contained a series of potential features that were investigated and recorded. All features were linear in form and on a NE-SW orientated which followed the natural fall of the surrounding landscape. Features [704] and [708] continued beyond both extents of the trench and measured 0.62m and 0.60m in width respectively. Both features had undulated bases forming small channels within the features, all filled by orange brown silt clay that had occasional chalk flecks (705 and 709). No finds were present within these fills.
- 5.3.13 Features [706] was oval in plan, measured 0.84m in length, 0.41m in width and 0.06m in depth and was the only features that was present wholly within the trench. Originally thought to represent a small pit or post hole this feature had an undulated base with a single fill comprising orange brown silt clay that had occasional chalk flecks and no finds (707).
- 5.3.14 The remaining three features investigated all appeared beneath the western bank of the trench with exposed lengths measuring 0.86m [710], 1.34m [714] and 1.26m [716]. All three features possessed undulated bases consistent with other features recorded within the trench and single fills comprising orange brown silt clay that had occasional chalk flecks (711, 715 and 717 respectively).

Trench 8 (Figure 6, Plate 8)

- 5.3.15 Located within the central eastern extent of the site (Figure 2), Trench 8 measured 25.9m in length with a maximum depth of 0.32m. The natural chalk was recorded at a level of approximately 32.34m OD and was truncated by a series of potential features, three of which were investigated.
- 5.3.16 Within the northern extent of the trench feature [804] was ovoid in plan partially beneath the eastern baulk of the trench and measured 0.74m in length with a width of 0.26m and depth of 0.06m. The single fill (805) consisted of reasonably soft orange brown silt clay that had occasional chalk flecks. No finds were present within this feature.
- 5.3.17 Along the western extent of the trench the largest feature, [806], measured 3.1m in length with an exposed width of 0.51m and maximum depth of 0.18m. The undulated base gave way to a single fill that consisted of orange brown silt clay that had occasional chalk flecks. No finds were present within this feature.
- 5.3.18 Feature [808] was oval in plan with a width of 0.21m and length of 0.55m. The base, which was relatively flat in profile measured 0.04m in depth and gave way to a single fill comprising orange brown silty clay (809). No finds were present within this feature.

Trench 9 (Figure 7, Plate 9)

- 5.3.19 Within the southern extent of the site (Figure 2), Trench 9 was excavated on an NE-SW alignment and measured approximately 22.9m in length with a maximum depth of 0.42m. Natural geological deposits were recorded at a level ranging between 32.64m OD and 31.59m OD.
- 5.3.20 Three linear features were recorded within this trench including a potential ditch [904] which had an exposed length of 3.8m and width of 0.86m. The base of this feature was again incredibly undulated and pitted indicative of natural processes such as rooting or water action. The single fill comprised orange brown silty clay (905) that contained no finds.
- 5.3.21 To the immediate east feature [906] measured 2.6m in length and 0.54m in width with a maximum depth of 0.17m and fill comprising orange brown silty clay (907). Feature [908] was also investigated and was found to consist of two intrusions most likely caused through rooting. No finds were associated with this feature which also had a fill consisting of orange brown silty clay (909).

Trench 10 (Figure 4, Plates 11 & 12)

5.3.22 Trench 10 was located along the eastern boundary of the site, directly south of the stable block (Figure 2) and was excavated on a N-S alignment. This trench measured 20.9 m in length, 1.8m in width and a maximum depth of 0.63m (Figure 3). Natural geological deposits were recorded at a level ranging between 33.03m OD and 32.64m OD.

5.3.23 No archaeological finds or features were present within this trench.

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 Lord of the Manor, Canterbury Road East in Ramsgate, Kent has investigated the extents of the proposed development area using seven out of a proposed ten trenches, measuring between 14.8m and 25.9m in length and 1.8m in width. The natural geology was encountered within all trenches at an average depth of approximately 0.39m below the existing ground surface, directly underlying subsoil and topsoil. Truncation of the upper geological surface was investigated and recorded within Trench 6, Trench 7, Trench 8, and Trench 9.

7.2 Archaeological Narrative

7.2.1 A total area of the site which was evaluated measured 3,590sq.m, with the seven trenches excavated covering an area of approximately 270sq.m giving an evaluation sample size of 7.5%. Despite the archaeological potential of the site no archaeological finds or features were recorded within any of the trenches. The recording of an intact subsoil across the majority of the site suggested that preservation conditions are favourable. Metal detecting survey was carried out within each of the trenches.

7.2.2 A series of potential features were excavated and recorded, and investigations suggest that these were naturally formed rather than via deliberate archaeological processes. These features were largely orientated NE-SW following the natural fall of the surrounding landscape and all contained very sterile natural fills.

7.2.3 When one considers location of the site within the surrounding landscape, particularly with regards to archaeological monuments recorded nearby (Section 2.2 above), it is clear that the site is slightly lower in elevation than the high ridge to the north where cropmarks and burial sites have been recorded. The absence of any archaeological finds and features may therefore be purely topographic, with the site being located with the southwest facing slope between high ground to the north and lower ground to the south. The presence of natural formed channels, which in this case were investigated and recorded, orientated tangential to the contours and were most likely caused by natural process, i.e., water erosion, rooting animal action, etc.

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 Principal 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; ClfA 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 the Client for commissioning the project. Thanks are also extended to Simon Mason, Principal Archaeological Officer at Kent County Council, for his advice and assistance.

9.1.2 David Britchfield BA (Hons) MCIfA carried out the archaeological fieldwork, assisted by Dan Worsely MA; illustrations were produced by Ravelin Archaeological Services. David Britchfield 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 (2023) Specification for an Archaeological Evaluation of Land at Lord of the Manor, Canterbury Road East, Ramsgate, Kent CT12 5EP

11 APPENDIX 1 – TRENCH TABLES

Trench 2 Dimensions: 19.3m x 1.8m Depth: 0.56m Ground Level: 33.71m OD – 33.58m OD			
Context	Interpretation	Description	Depth (m)
(201)	Topsoil	Soft, dark brown silt clay, moderate roots, topped with grass.	0.00-21
(202)	Subsoil	Soft, dark red/brown sandy silt.	0.21-0.52
(203)	Natural	Hard, partially fragmented chalk with occasional seams of mid orange brown silt clay.	0.52-0.59+

Trench 3 Dimensions: 14.8m x 1.8m Depth: 0.32m Ground Level: 33.68m OD – 33.61m OD			
Context	Interpretation	Description	Depth (m)
(301)	Surface - Courtyard	Concrete slabs	0.00-0.05
(302)	Formation	Redeposited sand (builders)	0.05-0.06
(303)	Former topsoil	Heavily mottled dark grey brown silt clay with moderate stone and occasional pebbles	0.06-0.17
(304)	Subsoil	Soft, dark red/brown sandy silt.	0.17-0.28
(305)	Natural	Hard, partially fragmented chalk with occasional seams of mid orange brown silt clay.	0.28-0.32+

Trench 6 Dimensions: 23.5m x 1.8m Depth: 0.39m Ground Level: 33.53m OD – 32.71m OD			
Context	Interpretation	Description	Depth (m)
(601)	Topsoil	Soft, dark brown silt clay, moderate roots, topped with grass.	0.00-0.17
(602)	Subsoil	Soft, dark red/brown sandy silt.	0.17-0.28
(603)	Natural	Hard, partially fragmented chalk with occasional seams of mid orange brown silt clay.	0.28-0.39+

Trench 7 Dimensions: 22.9m x 1.8m Depth: 0.53m Ground Level: 32.13m OD – 31.53m OD			
Context	Interpretation	Description	Depth (m)
(701)	Topsoil	Soft, dark brown silt clay, moderate roots, topped with grass.	0.00-0.26
(702)	Subsoil	Soft, dark red/brown sandy silt.	0.26-0.47
(703)	Natural	Hard, partially fragmented chalk with occasional seams of mid orange brown silt clay.	0.47-0.53+

Trench 8			
Dimensions: 25.9m x 1.8m Depth: 0.32m			
Ground Level: 33.11m OD – 32.10m OD			
Context	Interpretation	Description	Depth (m)
(801)	Topsoil	Soft, dark brown silt clay, moderate roots, topped with grass.	0.00-196
(802)	Subsoil	Soft, dark red/brown sandy silt.	0.16-0.26
(803)	Natural	Hard, partially fragmented chalk with occasional seams of mid orange brown silt clay.	0.26-0.32+

Trench 9			
Dimensions: 22.9m x 1.8m Depth: 0.42m			
Ground Level: 32.95m OD – 31.90m OD			
Context	Interpretation	Description	Depth (m)
(901)	Topsoil	Soft, dark brown silt clay, moderate roots, topped with grass.	0.00-0.18
(902)	Subsoil	Soft, dark red/brown sandy silt.	0.19-0.31
(903)	Natural	Hard, partially fragmented chalk with occasional seams of mid orange brown silt clay.	0.31-0.37+

Trench 10			
Dimensions: 20.9m x 1.8m Depth: 0.63m			
Ground Level: 33.64m OD – 33.25m OD			
Context	Interpretation	Description	Depth (m)
(1001)	Topsoil	Dark brown silt clay, moderate roots, topped with grass.	0.00-0.07
(1002)	Layer	Crushed stone and brick with modern kerb stone, paving slabs and plastic.	0.07-0.29
(1003)	Former topsoil	Soft, dark brown silt clay, moderate roots, and occasional rounded stones	0.29-0.58
(1004)	Subsoil	Soft, dark red/brown sandy silt.	0.58-0.-61
(1005)	Natural	Hard, partially fragmented chalk with occasional seams of mid orange brown silt clay.	0.61-0.63+

12 APPENDIX 2 – HER FORM

Site Name: Lord of the Manor, Canterbury Road East, Ramsgate, Kent

SWAT Site Code: LTM-EV-223

Site Address: As above

Summary. *Swale & Thames Survey Company (SWAT Archaeology) were commissioned by Mr Tim Warren of Jenner (Contractors) Limited to undertake an archaeological evaluation on land at Lord of the Manor, Canterbury Road East, Ramsgate, Kent. 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 archaeological evaluation has been successful in evaluating the proposed development site for the possibility of archaeological remains. Despite the archaeological potential of the surrounding area and the favourable preservation conditions recorded no archaeological finds or defined archaeological features were present within any of the seven trenches excavated.

District/Unitary: Thanet District Council & Kent County Council

Period(s): NA

NGR (centre of site to eight figures) NGR 635580 165048

Type of Archaeological work: Archaeological Evaluation

Date of recording: March 2023

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

Geology: Margate Chalk Member

Title and author of accompanying report: D Britchfield (2023) Archaeological Evaluation of Land at Lord of the Manor, Canterbury Road East, Ramsgate, Kent. SWAT Archaeology Ref. MAW-EV-2023

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

Contact at Unit: Paul Wilkinson

Date: 31/03/2023

PLATES



Plate 1 The rear of the proposed development site, viewed from the south-eastern corner, facing north



Plate 2 The central and southern extents of the proposed development showing stable courtyard (left), existing rear garden (right) and southern paddocks (distance)



Plate 3 Trench 2, viewed from the west



Plate 4 Trench 3, viewed from the south



Plate 5 Trench 6 viewed from the east



Plate 6 Trench 6, viewed from the north



Plate 7 Trench 7, viewed from the north



Plate 8 Trench 8, viewed from the east



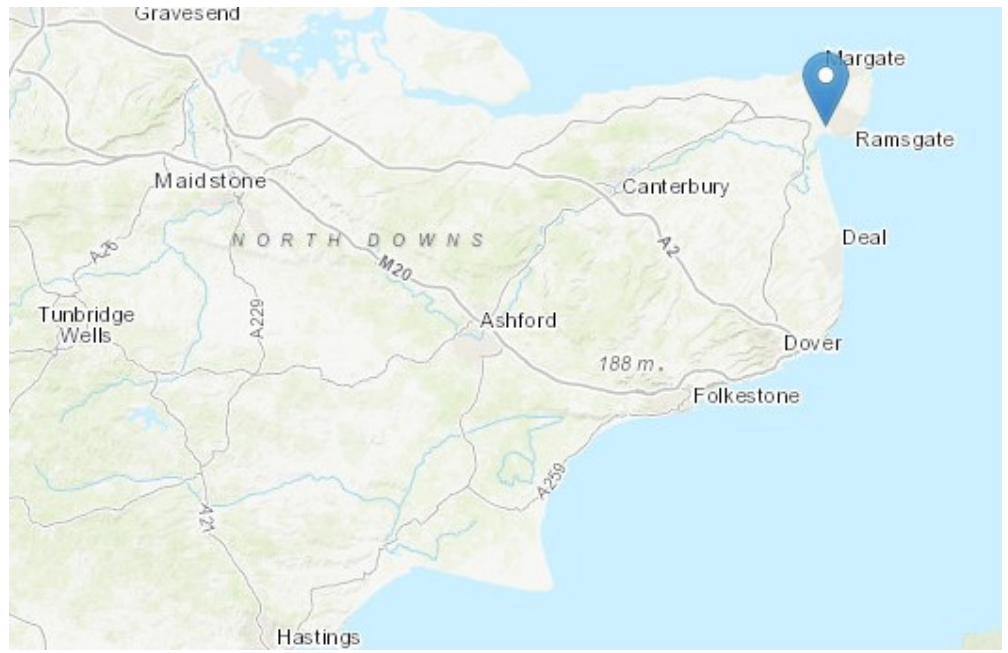
Plate 9 Trench 9, viewed from the northeast



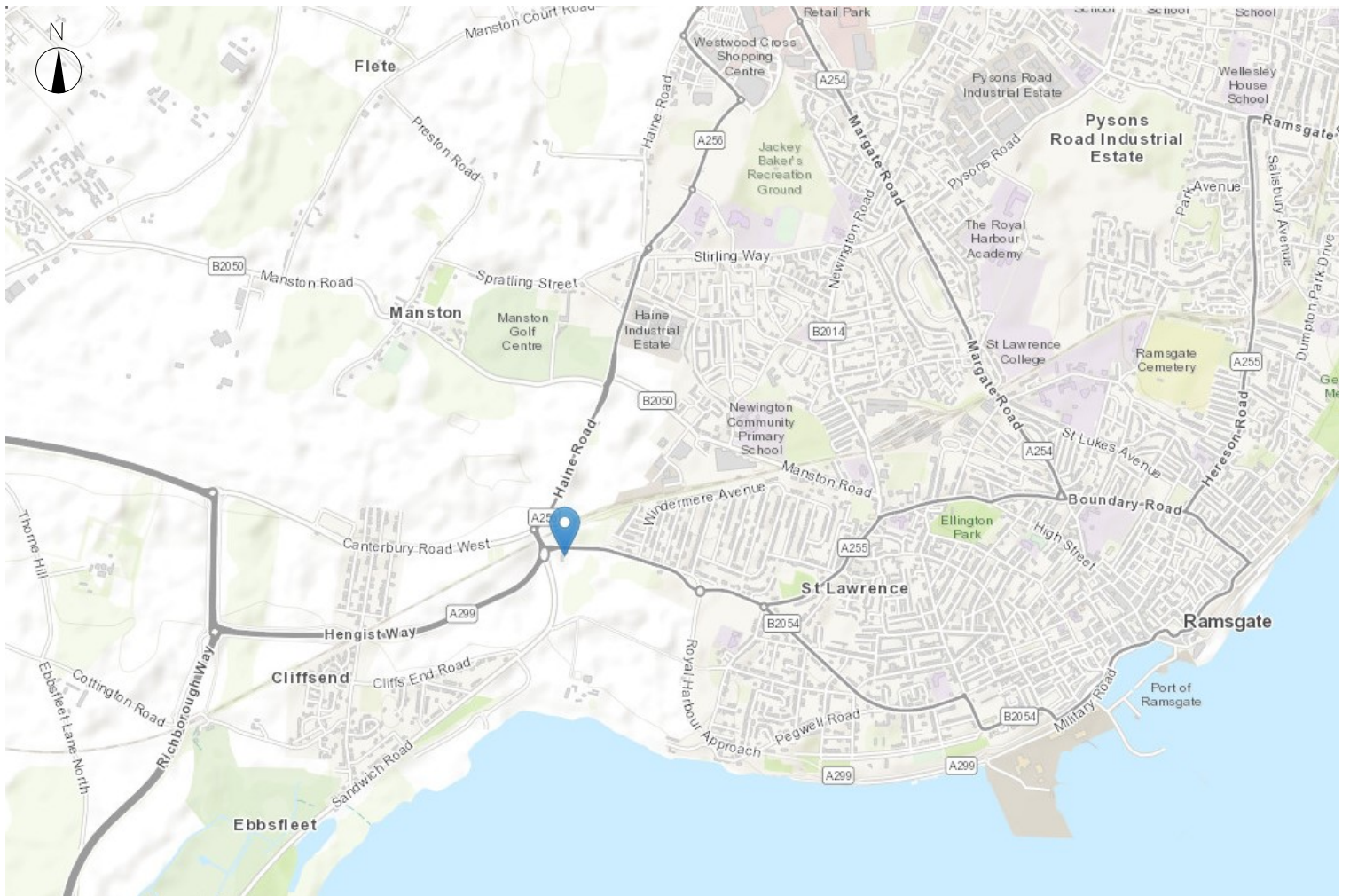
Plate 10 Trench 10, viewed from the north



Map of UK (NTS)



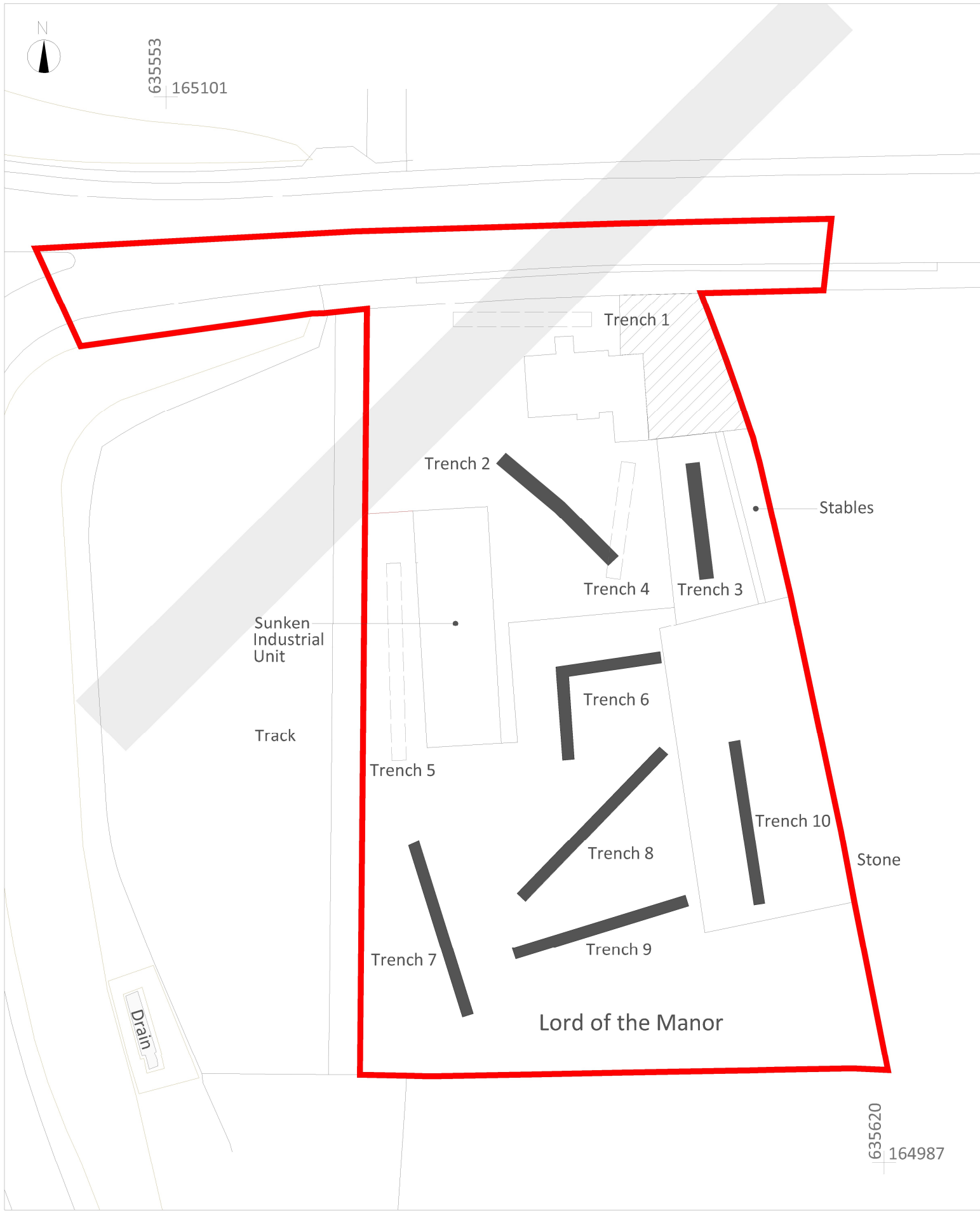
Map of Kent (NTS)



Courtesy of National Library of Scotland

Key
 Site Location

Figure 1 Site Location Plan



- Key**
- █ Site Boundary
 - Trenches not excavated
 - Access and Parking
 - Fibre Optic Cable Corridor

Figure 2 Site Plan

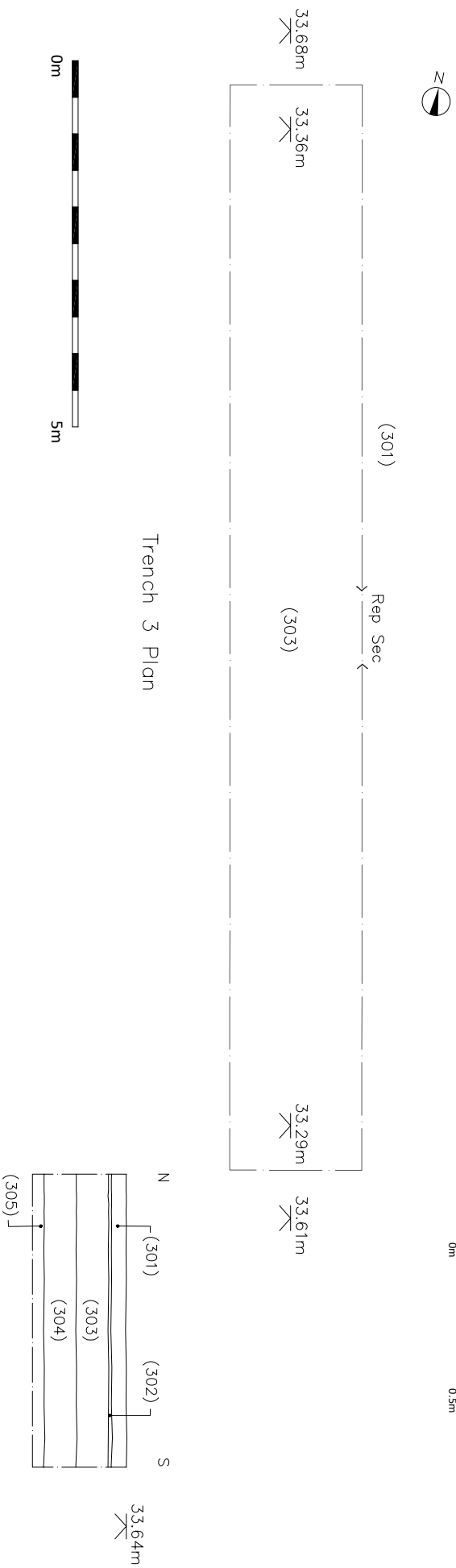
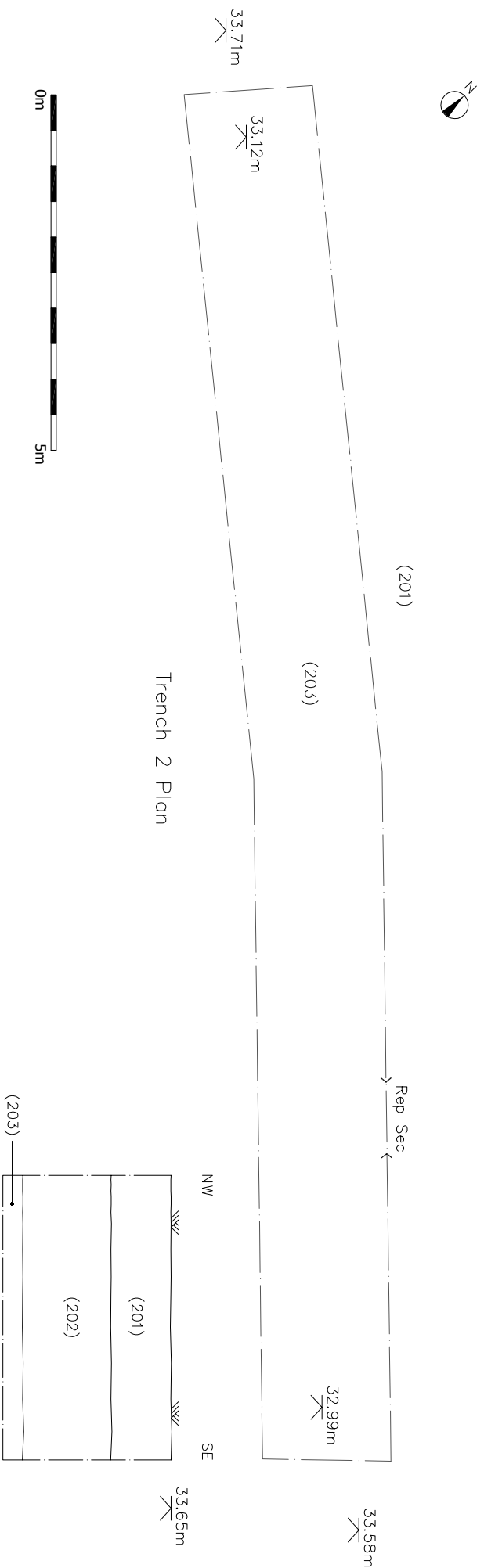
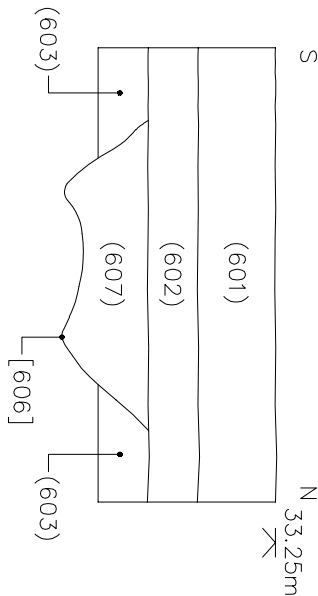
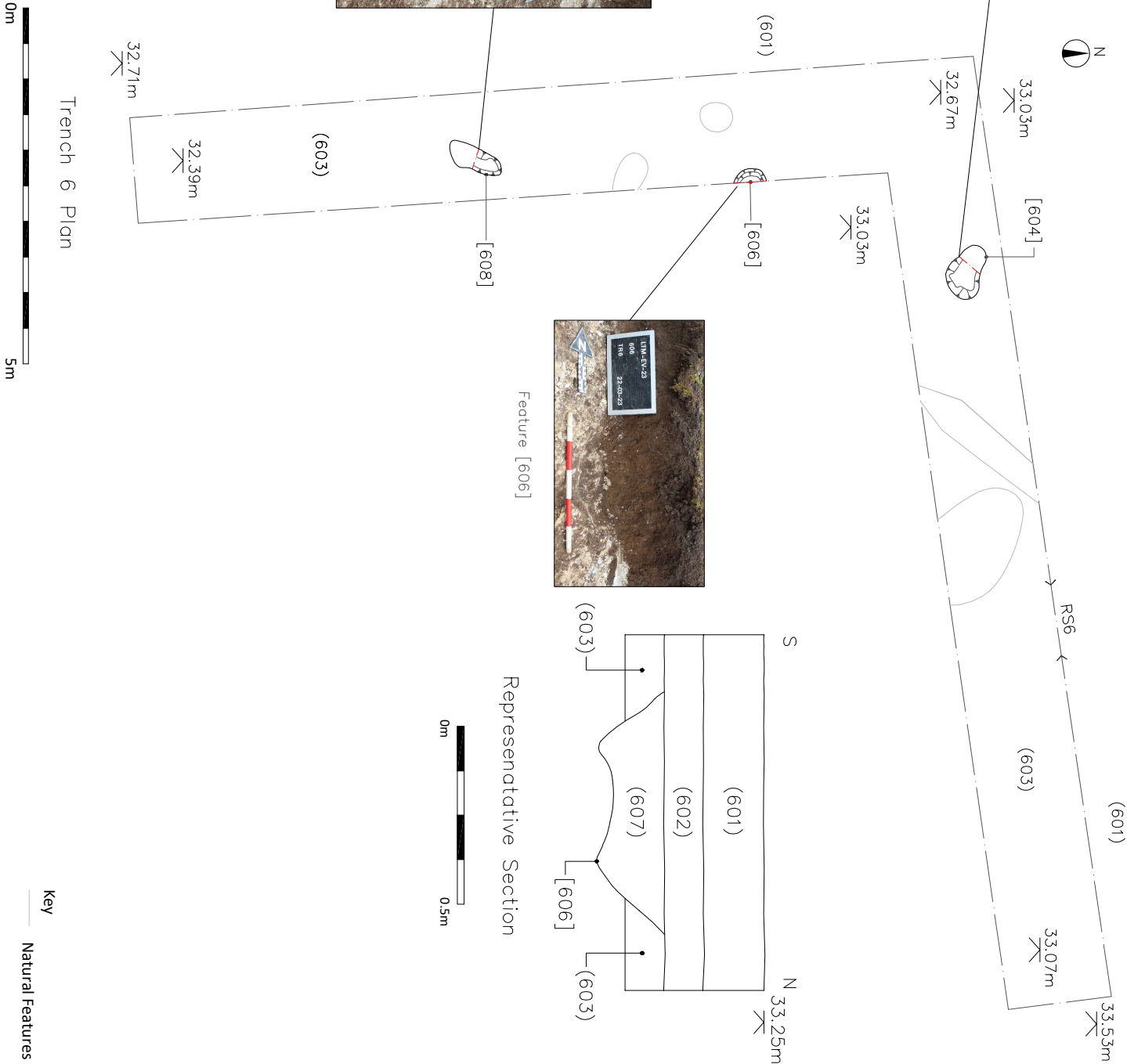
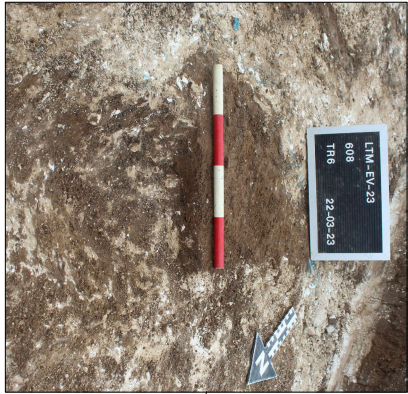
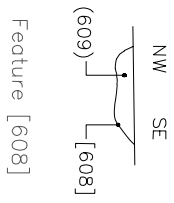
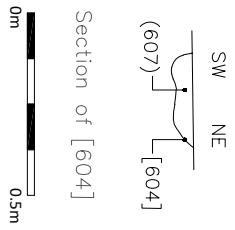


Figure 3 Trenches 2 and 3

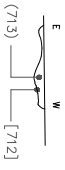


Key
Natural Features

Figure 4 Trench 6



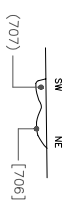
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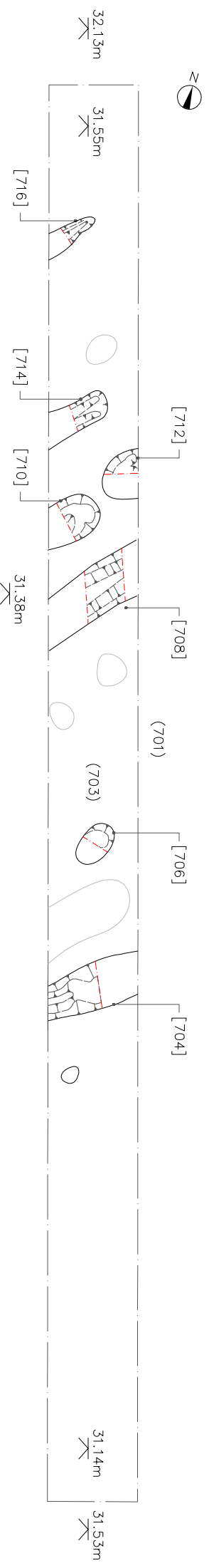
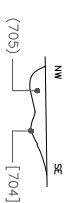
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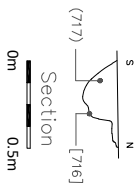
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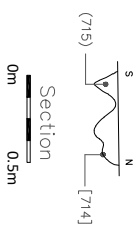
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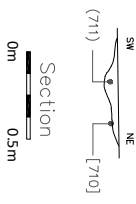
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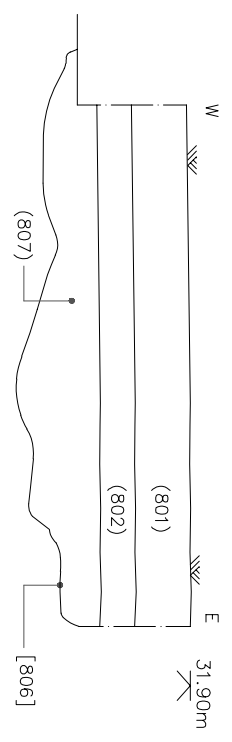


Key
 Natural Features

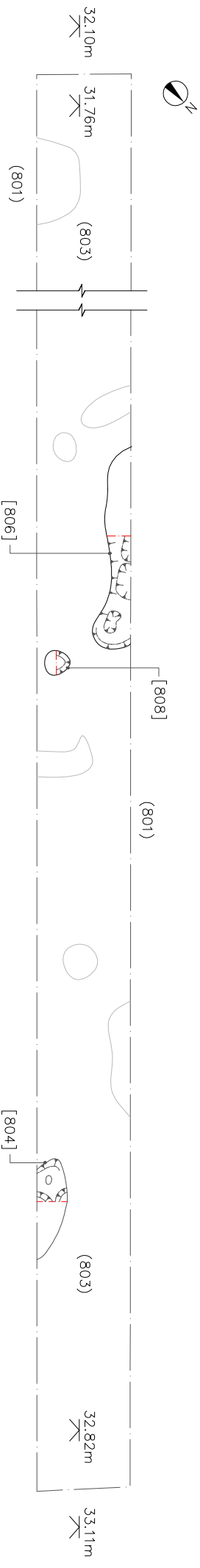
Figure 5 Trench 7



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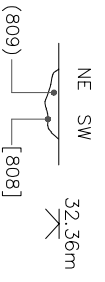


Trench 8 Plan

0m 5m



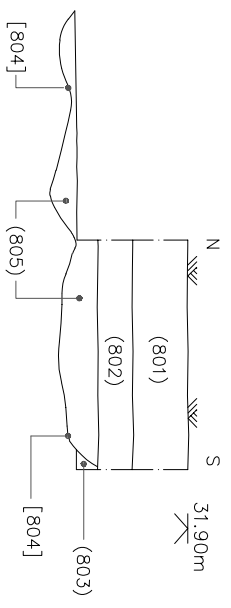
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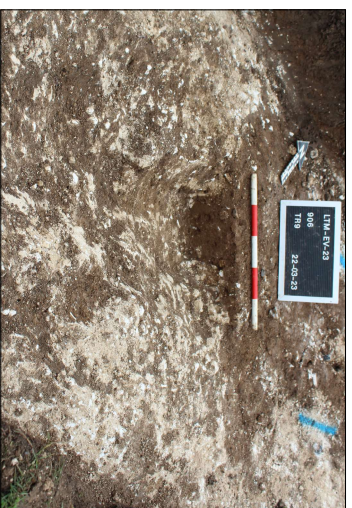
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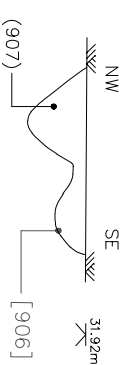
Section
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Key
Natural Features

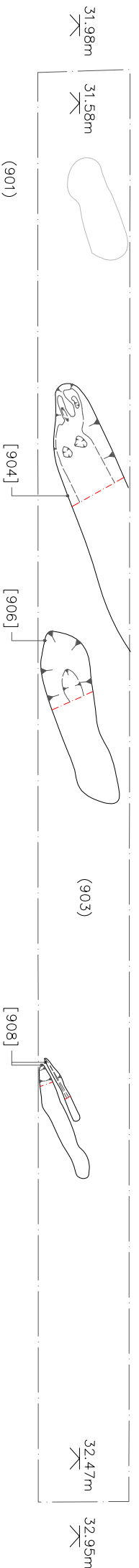
Figure 6 Trench 8



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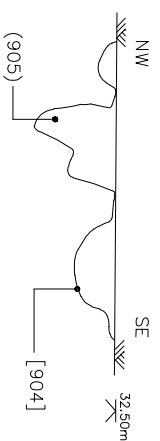
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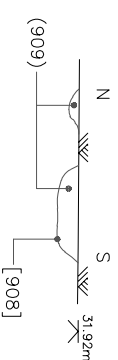
Trench 9 Plan



Feature [904]



Feature [908]



Key
Natural Features

Figure 7 Trench 9



(1001)

33.64m

33.06m

(1005)

(1004)

33.10m

33.25m



Trench 10 Plan

0m

5m

Figure 8 Trench 10