Archaeological Evaluation of Land at No. 4 The Grove, Westgate-on Sea, Kent CT8 8AS

Site Code: GWS-EV-25

NGR Site Centre: 632595 169915

Planning Application Number: F/TH/21/1948



Report for;
Mr and Mrs Graeme Clark
27/01/2025

Document Reference: 34590.01 Version: v01

SWAT ARCHAEOLOGY

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Summary

Swale & Thames Survey Company (SWAT Archaeology) were commissioned by Mr Graeme Clark to undertake an archaeological evaluation of land at No. 4 The Grove, Westgate-on-Sea, Kent CT8 8AS. 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 programme was monitored by the Senior Archaeological Officer at Kent County Council.

The archaeological investigation was carried out using four trenches, measuring between 19.8m and 24m in length and 1.2m in width. 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 within all trenches suggests that preservation conditions may be favourable, although modern truncation was clear where pits, a posthole and a spread of crushed brick had disturbed the natural chalk. It is entirely probably that these features are associated with either the construction of the existing property or the former presence of a courtyard associated with St Mildred's Lodge adjacent, recorded on early OS maps (c.1830-1840).

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.

Archaeological Evaluation of Land at No. 4 The Grove,

Westgate-on Sea, Kent CT8 8AS

NGR Site Centre: 632595 169915

Site Code: GWS-EV-25

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project Background

1.1.1 Swale & Thames Survey Company (SWAT Archaeology) were commissioned by Mr Graeme Clark

to undertake an Archaeological Evaluation of land at No. 4 The Grove, Westgate-on-Sea, Kent

CT8 8AS (Figure 1).

1.1.2 A planning application (PAN: F/TH/21/1948) was granted for the erection of one single-storey 2-

bed dwelling, four two-storey 3-bed dwellings, three two-storey 4-bed dwellings, and three

three-storey 4-bed dwellings with associated landscaping and engineering operations including

alteration to existing vehicular access and formation of an internal access road leading from

Canterbury Road by Thanet District Council (TDC) whereby Kent County Council Heritage and

Conservation (KCCHC), on behalf of TDC, 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 archaeological evaluation, which comprised the excavation of four trenches measuring up

to 24m in length and 1.2m in width, was carried out over the course of two days in January 2025

(See Table 1 below). The evaluation follows the submission of a Written Scheme of Investigation

(WSI) prepared by Swale & Thames Survey Company (SWAT Archaeology) in August 2023 and

was carried out in accordance with said archaeological WSI prior to commencement of works.

1.2 Site Description and Topography

1.2.1 The site is centred on NGR 632595 169915 within Westgate-on-Sea (Figure 1, Plate 1) with the

beaches of Westgate Bay and St. Mildred's Bay to the north. Westgate-on-Sea railway station

lies directly north of the site. To the east is situated the Grade II Listed Building of Questeds and

St. Saviors C of E School.

1.2.2 The proposed site is roughly L-shaped in plan with an access road passing on the east of the farm

leading to Canterbury Road encompassing an area of approximately 6,180sq.m with ground

levels dropping gently from the west towards the east at heights of between 11m Ordnance

1

Datum (OD) to 9.5m OD. The area available for evaluation trenching, measuring 4,006sq.m, was partially restricted by the presence of well-established flora including several trees in particular a Yew tree, which are to remain in-situ. (Figure 2).

1.2.3 The Geological Survey of Great Britain shows that the site is located on Bedrock geology of Margate Chalk Member – Chalk, sedimentary bedrock formed between 86.3 and 72.1 million years ago during the Cretaceous period. Superficial Deposits are recorded to the immediate east of the site as Head, 1 - Clay and silt, sedimentary superficial deposit formed between 2.588 million years ago and the present during the Quaternary period.

1.3 Timetable

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

Task	Dates	Personnel/Company
Submission of the Written Scheme	August 2022	SWAT
of Investigation	August 2023	Archaeology
Archaeological Evaluation –	20 th – 21 st January 2025	SWAT Archaeology
Fieldwork	20 -21 January 2025	SWATAICHaeology
Archaeological Evaluation Report	This document	SWAT Archaeology

Table 1 Timetable for the archaeological programme of works

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 is located close to a number of archaeological sites which are identified on the KCCHER database. The archaeological WSI (SWAT, 2024 p3) provides a summary of the historical and archaeological background, provided herewith;
- 2.1.2 The Proposed Development Area (PDA) is located close to a number of archaeological sites which have been identified on the KCCHER database and include, immediately to the east of the development area, the Grade II Listed building of Questeds (TR 36 NW 521) with main construction periods being between 1650 and 1870. Approximately30m to the southeast Middle Bronze Age features (TR 36 NE 1347) have been recorded and approximately 80m to the east

were found Roman remains (TR 36 NW 8). Just to the west, and before the school was built, an archaeological evaluation found prehistoric activity with fire-cracked and worked flint, and pottery (TR 36 NW 248). (Ed.)

3 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

3.1 Introduction

3.1.1 The specific objectives of the archaeological fieldwork were set out in a Written Scheme of Investigation (SWAT 2024: 6.1-6.3) as stated below.

3.2 General Aims

- 3.2.1 The general aims (or purpose) of the evaluation, in compliance with the CIfA *Universal Guidance* for Archaeological Field Evaluation (CIfA 2023), were:
 - To establish or otherwise the presence of any potential archaeological features which may be impacted by the proposed development;
 - To record the character, date, location, and preservation of any archaeological remains on site; and
 - To record the nature and extent of any previous damage to archaeological deposits or remains on site.

3.3 Specific Aims

- 3.3.1 The specific aims of the investigation were:
 - To excavate four trenches (25m x 1.8m) within the site to expose the surface of any underlying archaeological horizon or the natural ground;
 - To clean the base and representative sections of the trench and record it in both plan and representative section;
 - To partially excavate any identified archaeological features so as to ascertain their extent, form, function and where possible date;
 - To identify the depth of any archaeological deposits; and
 - To inform the need (or otherwise) for any future archaeological works on the site by means of an illustrated report.

3.4 General Objectives

- 3.4.1 The objectives of the investigation were:
 - To undertake the archaeological evaluation to provide further information prior to the construction of the proposed development;
 - To undertake work in accordance with national and local best practices and guidelines;
 - To archaeologically record any deposits, features or structures of significance;
 - To analyse any remains with reference to the existing documentary evidence for historical development and land use;
 - To produce a written account to include summary, site description, deposit descriptions, deposit levels (relative to Ordnance Datum) and conclusions;
 - To disseminate the findings of the work in an illustrated report, integrating the findings of the archaeological evaluation to produce as comprehensive a record as possible; and
 - Provide an ordered archive.

4 METHODOLOGY

4.1 Introduction

4.1.1 All fieldwork was conducted in accordance with the methodology set out in the Specification (SWAT (2024), Section 7) and carried out in compliance with the standards outlined in the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' Standards Guidance for Archaeological Evaluations (CIfA 2023).

4.2 Fieldwork

- 4.2.1 A total of four evaluation trenches were excavated (Figure 2, Plates 1 to 11). 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 backfilling.

4.2.3 On completion, the trenches were made safe and left open 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 (101), whilst the cut of the feature is shown as [101]. 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+, etc.).

5 RESULTS

5.1 Introduction

- 5.1.1 All trenches were mechanically excavated under archaeological supervision. Trenches were positioned to cover as many areas of the site as possible as set out in the WSI.
- 5.1.2 The site, as shown on Figure 2, provides the trench layout with Figures 3-6 illustrating the results for each individual archaeological evaluation trench. Figure 7 shows the evaluation trenches overlaid on an historical map from AD 1830 and the proposed development. Plates 1-11 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.

5.2 Stratigraphic Deposit Sequence

5.2.1 A contrasting stratigraphic sequence was recorded across the site comprising topsoil sealing an intact subsoil, which overlay the natural geological drift and solid deposits. The subsoil, which consisted of mid grey, brown silty sand with occasional angular stones, was present within in all trenches with the underlying natural geology largely comprising compact chalk with natural glacial fracturing (Margate Chalk Member – Chalk) with Head deposits recorded in Trench 1.

5.3 Archaeological Narrative

Trench 1 (Figure 2, Figure 3, Plates 3-4)

- 5.3.1 Within the southeastern extent of the site (Figure 2), Trench 1 was excavated on an NE-SW alignment and measured approximately 22m in length, and 1.2m in width (Figure 3). Natural geological deposits were recorded at a level of approximately 11.7m OD. The stratigraphic sequence within this trench consisted of a topsoil (101) overlying subsoil (102). Natural geology (103) was recorded at depth of approximately 0.63m below the existing surface.
- 5.3.2 No Archaeological features were exposed in this trench.

Trench 2 (Figure 2, Figure 4, Plates 5- 6)

- 5.3.3 Trench 2 was located within the centre of the site (Figure 2), southwest of the existing building, lying in a NW-SE orientation measuring 24m in length, with a width of 1.2m and a range of depths of between 0.37m and 0.76m below existing ground levels. Within this area a topsoil (201) sealed the subsoil (202) overlying natural undulating chalk (203). Two large modern features (206) and (207) were recorded within this trench, both of which contained moderate building material, glass, and slate.
- 5.3.4 At the far eastern extent of the trench modern truncation was recorded and a concrete wall was partially visible. The Client (*pers comm*) recalled the presence of an air raid shelter in this location, beyond the southern and eastern extent of the trench.

Trench 3 (Figure 2, Figure 5, Plates 7-8)

- 5.3.5 Lying close to the southeastern extent of the site (Figure 2), Trench 3 was excavated on an N-S alignment and measured approximately 19.8m in length, 1.2m in width and had a maximum depth of 0.58m (Figure 5). The stratigraphic sequence recorded within Trench 3 consisted of a topsoil (301) directly overlying subsoil (301) which sealed the natural chalk (303). Natural geological deposits were recorded at a level of approximately 11.6m OD.
- 5.3.6 Two features were investigated within this trench, the first of which proved to be natural rooting. The second feature was a square cut posthole [304] that contained abundant fragments

of red and yellow stock brick similar to those used to construct the existing house and properties directly to the north on Westbury Road. Within the western extent of the trench similar crushed brick had been pressed into the natural chalk (307).

Trench 4 (Figure 2, Figure 6, Plates 9-10)

- 5.3.7 Trench 4 was recorded towards the northern extent of the site (Figure 2). Excavated on an E-W alignment. Trench 4 measured approximately 21.2m in length, 1.2m in width with a maximum depth of 0.68m below existing ground level. The stratigraphic sequence comprised a topsoil (401), sat atop a subsoil (402) overlying natural chalk (403). Natural chalk was recorded at a level of 12.1m OD. A test pit was excavated at the northern extent of the trench to confirm that the highest part of the site had not been artificially raised.
- 5.3.8 Two modern features were recorded within this trench, no archaeological finds or features of interest were present.

6 FINDS

6.1 Overview

6.1.1 No archaeological finds of interest were present within the evaluation trenches.

7 DISCUSSION

7.1 Introduction

7.1.1 The archaeological investigation at No. 4 The Grove, Westgate-on-Sea, Kent CT8 8AS has investigated the extents of the proposed development area using four trenches, measuring between 19.8m m and 24m in length and 1.2m in width. The natural geology was encountered within all trenches at an average depth of approximately 0.65m below the existing ground surface, directly underlying subsoil and natural geology.

7.2 Overview

- 7.2.1 A total area of the site measured approximately 3,640sq.m. With the six trenches excavated this covered an area of approximately 105sq.m giving an evaluation sample size of 3%.
- 7.2.2 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 within all trenches suggests that preservation conditions may be favourable, although modern truncation was clear where pits, a posthole, and a spread of crushed brick had disturbed the natural chalk. It is entirely probably that these features are associated with either the construction of the existing

property or the former presence of a courtyard associated with St Mildred's Lodge adjacent recorded on early OS maps (Figure 7, WSI MAP2 and MAP3).

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; 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 Mr Graeme Clark 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 of Ravelin Archaeological Services carried out the archaeological fieldwork; 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.

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Websites

Chartered Institute for Archaeologists: https://www.archaeologists.net/

British geological Society: https://www.bgs.ac.uk/

Kent County Council Historic Environment Record:

 $\frac{https://webapps.kent.gov.uk/KCC.ExploringKentsPast.Web.Sites.Public/SingleResult.aspx?uid=}{TKE1046}$

11 APPENDIX 1 – TRENCH TABLES

Trench 1	Dimensions: 22m x 1.2m		
RS1/1	Ground Level: 12.35m OD		
Context	Interpretation	Description	Depth (m)
(101)	Topsoil	Compact dark brown silt clay with moderate rooting topped with grass	0.00-0.17
(102)	Subsoil	Mid grey, brown silty clay with occasional rounded stone, chalk flecks and rooting	0.17-0.39
(103)	Natural	Compact orange, brown silt clay (Head) with occasional angular flint and rounded stone and small pockets of natural chalk	0.39-0.59+

Trench 1	Dimensions: 22m x 1.2m		
RS1/2	Ground Level: 12.30m OD		
Context	Interpretation	Description	Depth (m)
(101)	Topsoil	Compact dark brown silt clay with moderate rooting topped with grass	0.00-0.17
(102)	Subsoil	Mid grey, brown silty clay with occasional rounded stone, chalk flecks and rooting	0.17-0.53
(103)	Natural	Compact orange, brown silt clay (Head) with occasional angular flint and rounded stone and small pockets of natural chalk	0.53-0.65+

Trench 2 RS2/1	Dimensions: 24m x 1.2m Ground Level: 12.79m OD		
Context	Interpretation	Description	Depth (m)
(201)	Topsoil	Compact dark brown silt clay with moderate rooting topped with grass	0.00-0.16
(202)	Subsoil	Mid grey, brown silty clay with occasional rounded stone, chalk flecks and rooting	0.16-0.21
(205)	Natural	Compact orange, brown silt clay (Head) with occasional angular flint and rounded stone and small pockets of natural chalk	0.21-0.37
(206)	Disturbance	Dark grey, brown silt clay with moderate brick fragments and occasional glass	-
(207)	Disturbance	Mid grey, brown silt clay with occasional brick fragments	-

Trench 2	Dimensions: 24m	Dimensions: 24m x 1.2m			
RS2/2	Ground Level: 12.	Ground Level: 12.87m OD			
Context	Interpretation	Description	Depth (m)		
(201)	Topsoil	Compact dark brown silt clay with moderate rooting topped with grass	0.00-0.16		
(202)	Subsoil	Mid grey, brown silty clay with occasional rounded stone, chalk flecks and rooting	0.16-0.30		
(203)	Natural	Compact chalk with occasional rooting	0.30-0.50		

Trench 2	Dimensions: 24m x 1.2m		
RS2/3	Ground Level: 12.95m OD		
Context	Interpretation	Description	Depth (m)
(201)	Topsoil	Compact dark brown silt clay with moderate rooting topped with grass	0.00-0.17
(202)	Subsoil	Mid grey, brown silty clay with occasional rounded stone, chalk flecks and rooting	0.17-0.60
(203)	Natural	Compact chalk with occasional rooting	0.60-0.76

Trench 3 RS3/1	Dimensions: 19.8m x 1.2m Ground Level: 12.22m OD – 12.28m OD			
Context	Interpretation	Description	Depth (m)	
(301)	Topsoil	Compact dark brown silt clay with moderate rooting topped with grass	0.00-0.18	
(302)	Subsoil	Mid grey, brown silty clay with occasional rounded stone, chalk flecks and rooting	0.18-0.48	
(303)	Natural	Compact chalk with occasional rooting	0.48-0.58	
[304]	Cut	Posthole	-	
(305)	Fill	Mide brown sand silt with frequent fragments of red and yellow stock bricks	-	
(306)	Disturbance	Rooting	-	
(307)	Layer	Crushed brick and tile pressed into natural chalk (303)	-	

Trench 4	Dimensions: 21.2m x 1.2m		
RS4/1	Ground Level: 12.05m OD – 12.78m OD		
Context	Interpretation	Description	Depth (m)
(401)	Topsoil	Compact dark brown silt clay with moderate rooting topped with grass	0.00-0.18

(402)	Subsoil	Mid grey, brown silty clay with occasional rounded stone, chalk flecks and rooting	0.18-0.0.59
(403)	Natural	Compact chalk with occasional rooting	0.59-0.68

Trench 4	Dimensions: 21.2	Dimensions: 21.2m x 1.2m		
RS4/2	Ground Level: 12	Ground Level: 12.05m OD – 12.78m OD		
Context	Interpretation	Description	Depth (m)	
(401)	Topsoil	Compact dark brown silt clay with moderate rooting topped with grass	0.00-0.07	
(402)	Subsoil	Mid grey, brown silty clay with occasional rounded stone, chalk flecks and rooting	0.07-0.29	
(403)	Natural	Compact chalk with occasional rooting	0.29-0.38+	

Trench 4 RS4/3 (Test pit)	Dimensions: 21.2m x 1.2m Ground Level: 12.05m OD – 12.78m OD		
Context	Interpretation	Description	Depth (m)
(401)	Topsoil	Compact dark brown silt clay with moderate rooting topped with grass	0.00-0.15
(402)	Subsoil	Mid grey, brown silty clay with occasional rounded stone, chalk flecks and rooting	0.15-0.21
(403)	Natural	Compact chalk with occasional rooting	0.21-0.82+

12 **APPENDIX 2 – HER FORM**

Site Name: Land at No. 4 The Grove, Westgate-on-Sea, Kent CT8 8AS

SWAT Site Code: GWS-EV-25

Site Address: As above

Summary. Swale & Thames Survey Company (SWAT Archaeology) were commissioned by Mr Graeme Clark to undertake an archaeological evaluation of land at No. 4 The Grove, Westgate-on-Sea, Kent CT8 8AS. 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 programme was monitored by the Senior Archaeological Officer at Kent

County Council.

The archaeological investigation was carried out using four trenches, measuring between 19.8m and 24m in length and 1.2m in width. 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 within all trenches suggests that preservation conditions may be favourable, although modern truncation was clear where pits, a posthole and a spread of crushed brick had disturbed the natural chalk. It is entirely probably that these features are associated with either the construction of the existing property or the former presence of a courtyard associated with St Mildred's Lodge adjacent recorded on early OS maps (c.1830-1840).

District/Unitary: Thanet District Council & Kent County Council

Period(s): 19th century

NGR (centre of site to eight figures) NGR 632595,169915

Type of Archaeological work: Archaeological Evaluation

Date of recording: January 2025

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

Geology: Lewes Nodular Chalk Formation- Chalk. Bedrock geology of Margate Chalk member- Chalk

Superficial Deposits are recorded as Head, 1 Clay and Silt.

Title and author of accompanying report: D Britchfield (2025) Archaeological Evaluation of Land at No. 4

The Grove, Westgate-on-Sea, Kent CT8 8AS. SWAT Archaeology Ref. GWS-EV-2025

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

Contact at Unit: Paul Wilkinson

Date: 27/01/2025

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PLATES



Plate 1 Oblique aerial photograph of the site, viewed from the east



Plate 2 Aerial view of the site following the excavation of trenches



Plate 3 Trench 1, viewed from the southwest



Plate 4 Trench 1, viewed from the east



Plate 5 Trench 2, viewed from the southeast



Plate 6 Trench 2, viewed from the northwest



Plate 7 Trench 3, viewed from the west



Plate 8 Trench 3, viewed from the east



Plate 9 Trench 4, viewed from the south



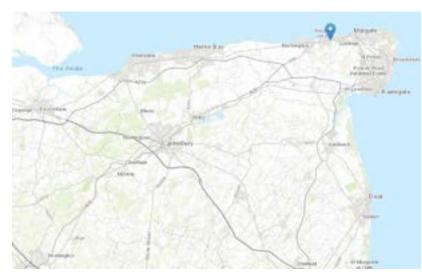
Plate 10 Trench 4, viewed from the north



Plate 11 Investigation of posthole [304] with stock brick finds alongside

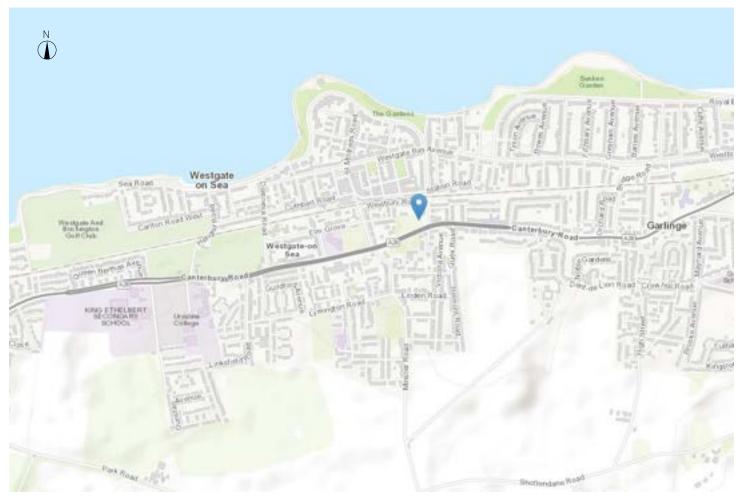
FIGURES





Map of UK (NTS)

Map of North Kent (NTS)



Courtesy of National Library of Scotland (NTS)

Figure 1 Site Location Plan

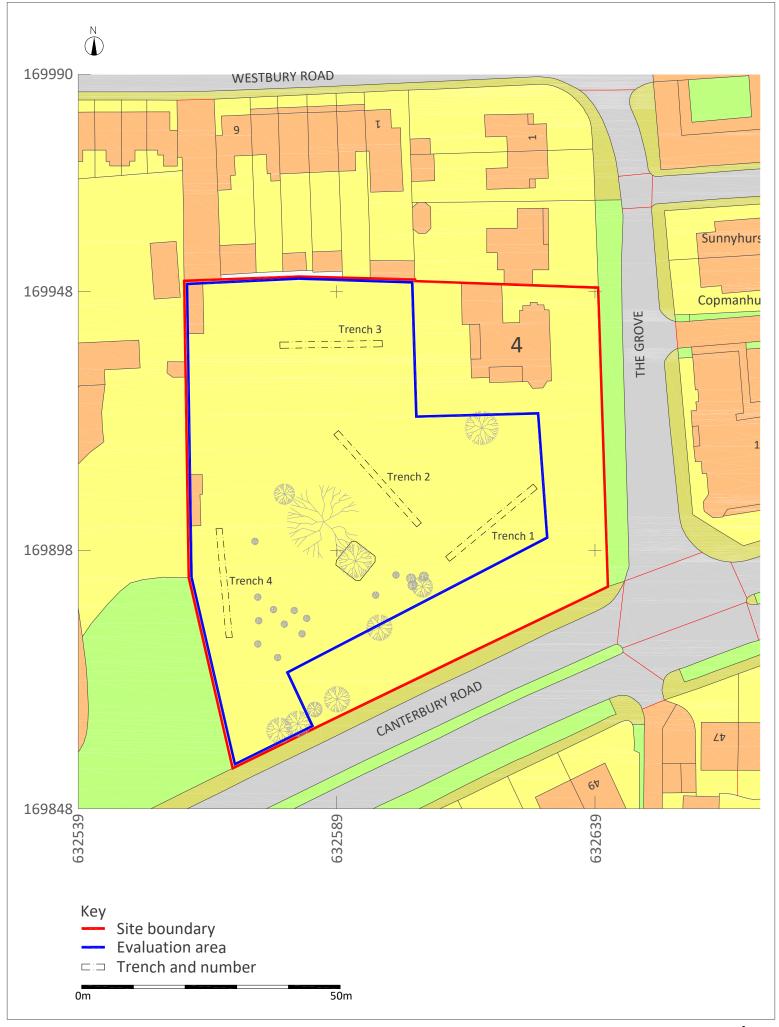
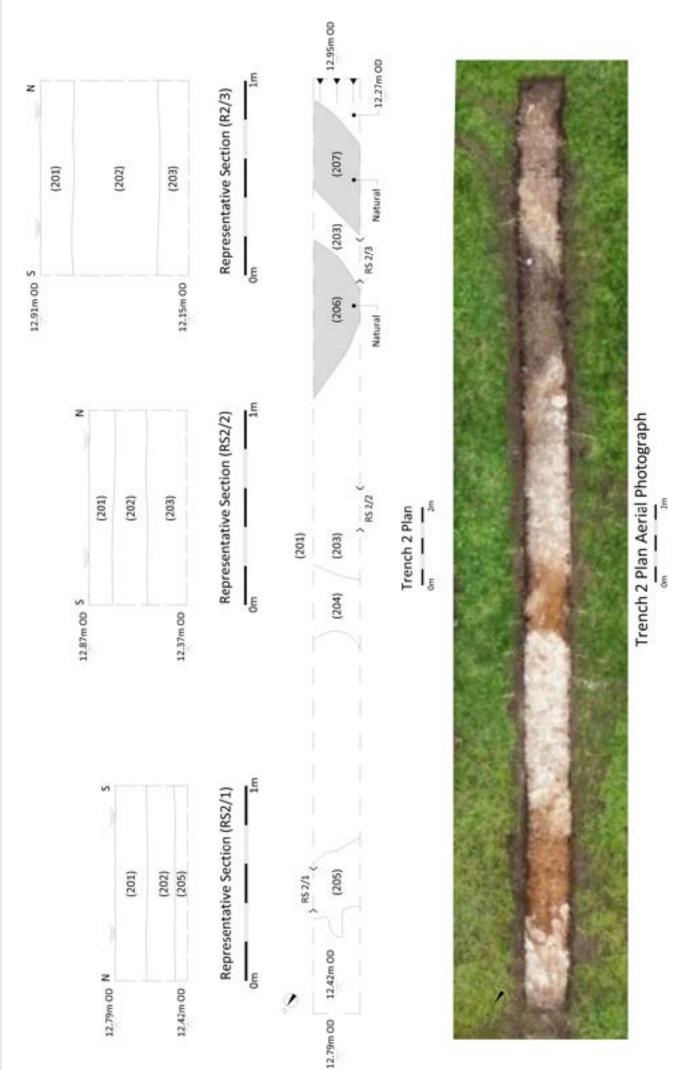
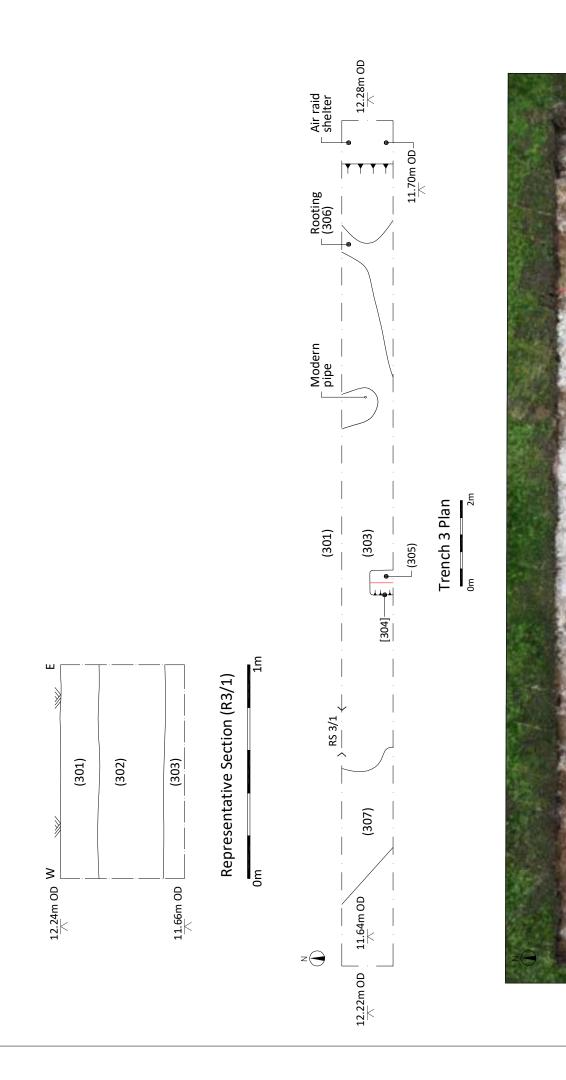


Figure 2 Site Plan

Figure 3 Trench 1 Details





Trench 3 Plan Aerial Photograph

Figure 6 Trench 4 Details

Figure 7 Historical Map Overlay (1830) and Proposed Development