

# Archaeological Evaluation at Bay Hill House, 8 The Drove Way, St Margarets Bay, Dover, Kent

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NGR Site Centre: 636405 144472

Planning Application Number: 22/00858



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## **Summary**

*Swale & Thames Survey Company (SWAT Archaeology) were commissioned by the client to undertake an archaeological evaluation on land at Bay Hill House, 8 The Droveaway, St Margarets Bay, Dover in Kent. The archaeological programme was monitored by the Senior Archaeological Officer at Kent County Council.*

*The archaeological evaluation consisted of one area of excavation measuring 3.7m x 5.10m on the footprint of the proposed extension which replaced an earlier same size extension and which recorded a relatively common stratigraphic sequence comprising an internal concrete floor surface overlaying a modern subsoil comprising broken brick, tile and concrete pieces overlying natural geology of clay overlaying Chalk. The archaeological potential of the surrounding area and the favourable preservation conditions under these modern strata's enabled the discovery of two possible grave cuts cut through the subsoil and chalk (Figure3).*

*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 Senior Archaeological Officer of any further archaeological mitigation measures that may be necessary in connection with any future development proposals.*

# Archaeological Evaluation at Bay Hill House, 8 The Droveway, St Margarets Bay, Dover, Kent

## 1 INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Project Background

- 1.1.1 Swale & Thames Survey Company (SWAT Archaeology) were commissioned by the Client to undertake an archaeological evaluation on land at 8 The Droveway, St Margarets Bay, Dover in Kent (MAP 1, 2 and Figure 1).
- 1.1.2 A planning application (22/00858) for the erection of a two-storey rear extension with Juliette balcony, side and rear dormers with Juliette balconies (existing rear extension demolished) was submitted to Dover District Council (DDC) whereby 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. Ben Found Senior Archaeological Officer KCC advised DDC on 15<sup>th</sup> July 2022 that:
- 1.1.3 *Thank you for your letter consulting us on the above planning application. Bay Hill House lies immediately adjacent to the site of a Bronze Age barrow which has been subject to archaeological investigation during the construction of Fontaine Bleau (No 10) and No 8A [NB as far as I am aware the archaeological planning condition for the construction of No 8A has never been fully complied with and although archaeological investigations were carried out the resulting publication report required to fully discharge the condition has never been submitted]. The barrow comprises a chalk-cut circular ring-ditch, which would have originally enclosed a mound beneath (and potentially into which) burials would have been placed. The barrow clearly survived as an upstanding monument in the early medieval period when a series of Anglo-Saxon graves were placed around the earlier monument.*
- 1.1.4 *Eight such burials were excavated in 2004 and a further four in 2014. A further six burials were previously recorded here in the 1920s, making a total of at least eighteen Anglo Saxon burials placed around the barrow.*
- 1.1.5 *It is very possible that further burials, or other associated archaeological features, may extend into the proposed development site. I therefore recommend that provision be made in any*

*forthcoming planning consent for a programme of archaeological works and for the agreement of foundation designs.*

1.1.6 *The following conditions cover what would be required: AR1 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 by the Local Planning Authority. Reason: To ensure that features of archaeological interest are properly examined and recorded.*

1.1.7 *And AR2 No development shall take place until details of foundations designs and any other proposals involving below ground excavation have been submitted to and approved by the Local Planning Authority. Development shall be carried out in accordance with the approved details. Reason : To ensure that due regard is had to the preservation in situ of important archaeological remains*

1.1.8 The following conditions were attached to the planning consent:

*No. 4 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 by the Local Planning Authority. Reason: To ensure that features of archaeological interest are properly examined and recorded.*

*NO.5 No development shall take place until details of foundations designs and any other proposals involving below ground excavation have been submitted to and approved by the Local Planning Authority. Development shall be carried out in accordance with the approved details. Reason: To ensure that due regard is had to the preservation in situ of important archaeological remains.*

(22/00858, Conditions 4, 5, dated 10<sup>th</sup> October 2022)

1.1.9 The present archaeological evaluation carried out by SWAT Archaeology, which comprised the excavation of an area measuring between 3.75m in width and 5.10m in length and was carried out over the course of three days in January 2024 (see Table 1 below).

1.1.10 The evaluation was carried out in accordance with an archaeological Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) prepared by SWAT Archaeology (2024), prior to commencement of works.

## 1.2 Timetable

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

<b>Task</b>	<b>Dates</b>	<b>Personnel/Company</b>
Submission of the Written Scheme of Investigation	17 <sup>th</sup> January 2024	SWAT Archaeology
Archaeological Evaluation – Fieldwork	17 <sup>th</sup> - 25 <sup>th</sup> January 2024	SWAT Archaeology
Archaeological Evaluation Report	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 centred on NGR 636405 144472 and within the boundary of a domestic residence within gardens measuring approximately 1,205sq.m in area (MAP 1, 2). The boundaries of the site are bordered by The Drove way to the north and Granville Road to the south. To the west is Sea Street and to the west of Sea Street is the village of St Margaret's at Cliffe and to the east of the PDA (Proposed Development Area) is St Margaret's Bay.

1.3.2 Ground levels are relatively level at a height of approximately 82m Ordnance Datum (OD) in the south gently sloping to 73m OD to the south of the site. The Geological Survey of Great Britain shows that the site is located on Margate Chalk Member- Chalk with no superficial deposits being recorded.

## 1.4 Scope of Report

1.4.1 This report has been produced to provide information regarding the results of the archaeological evaluation. 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 (PDA) is located close to a number of archaeological sites which are highlighted in the KCCHER.

### 2.2 Overview

2.2.1 The following historical and archaeological overview is provided by SWAT Archaeology (January 2024)

## *Introduction*

- 2.2.2 The archaeological and historical background was assessed in the Specification for Archaeological Investigation which considered the recorded historic environment resource within a 1km study area of the proposed development. A summary of the results of the SMR search is presented below, with relevant entry numbers from the Kent Historic Environment Record (HER) and the National Heritage List for England (NHLE) included. Additional sources of information are referenced, as appropriate.

## *Archaeological and historical context*

### Prehistoric (900,000 BC – AD 43)

The remains of a Bronze Age Round Barrow is recorded on OS maps and inhumations have been found since the 1920s when the barrow was first partly levelled. It was completely levelled in 1957. Excavations in 2004 revealed the ring ditch surrounding the barrow and uncovered later prehistoric burials which were interred into the partially silted ditch and in the area immediately to the east of the barrow. The 2004 excavations also revealed an Anglo-Saxon cemetery. Excavations in June 2014 ahead of the construction of proposed dwelling revealed more of the barrow's ring ditch, a recut feature with placed deposits and Anglo-Saxon graves. HER Number TR 34 SE 411

A round barrow at Bay Hill, St Margaret's at Cliffe, produced six secondary Anglo-Saxon burials in graves (the age is presumptive only, based on anthropological evidence) when it was levelled during the making of a tennis court in Sir J Forbes-Robertson's garden in 1920. [This is probably the last of a group - see TR 34 SE 6]. The barrow has been completely levelled except for the N quadrant which rises to a height of 0.7m, but this may be partially modern build-up, the result of excavation. The house, Eden Roc, is now standing empty, and no further information was obtained there. When a neighbouring house was built in 1957, the south-western half of the barrow was levelled off during the laying out of a garden, but no finds were made. Published 1:2500 survey revised. The graves were found two feet below the surface, side by side in two parallel rows with three graves in each, heads west. Nearby at a depth of six to seven feet was a skeleton in a sitting position. There were no associated objects. The assignation of the extended burials to the Anglo-Saxon period is based on skull shape and the known Anglo-Saxon predilection for burial in already existing barrows. (1-3)

1920: Six graves uncovered by tennis court construction. Graves found 60cm below surface, side by side in 2 parallel rows of 3 W-E orientated graves. No associated objects.

C.1930: Anglo-Saxon burial with an iron spearhead and glass beads found whilst digging

foundations for a house called 'Bally Gange' (now 'Wave Hill').

1943: Crouched woman burial, 18-22 years old, found; it is probably prehistoric. No barrows seen during fieldwork.

Pre-1960 An iron knife and 3 shield-bosses were acquired by Dover Museum. Nothing more is known about their provenance.

1963-4: An inhumation was found in the garden of 'Shelbourne'; grave-goods included an iron spearhead, but the finds are now lost.

2003-4: Canterbury Archaeological Trust excavation at 'Eden Roc' revealed eight Anglo-Saxon inhumations arranged over a Bronze Age barrow, of which six were excavated. Two of the Anglo-Saxon burials had pennanular ditches. The only grave goods were iron knives, a fragment of an iron pin and an iron buckle. One burial had been interred in a coffin. These finds suggest that several clusters of Anglo-Saxon burials were arranged along the downland coastal ridge south of the present village. Richardson suggests they are primarily of 7th-8th C date. (4-5)

[TR 36414449] Tumulus [GT] (remains of) A round barrow at Bay Hill, St Margaret's at Cliffe, produced six secondary Anglo-Saxon burials in graves (the age is presumptive only, based on anthropological evidence) when it was levelled during the making of a tennis court in Sir J Forbes-Robertson's garden in 1920. [This is probably the last of a group - see TR 34 SE 6]. The barrow has been completely levelled except for the N quadrant which rises to a height of 0.7m, but this may be partially modern build-up, the result of excavation. The house, Eden Roc, is now standing empty, and no further information was obtained there. When a neighbouring house was built in 1957, the south-western half of the barrow was levelled off during the laying out of a garden, but no finds were made. Published 1:2500 survey revised. Near by at a depth of six to seven feet was a skeleton in a sitting position. There were no associated objects. Listing of the Tumulus. (1)

See also TR 34 SE 6 (Bronze Age barrow complex to South West of this site)

In 2003 an evaluation by the Canterbury Archaeological Trust found three probable Anglo-Saxon graves and an earlier ditch that was probably related to the round barrow (7)

In 2004 Canterbury Archaeological Trust carried out an excavation on the site ahead of the construction of a new house over the area of the barrow. Almost all of the eastern half of the barrow was exposed and it was found to be unbroken by any entrance or causeway. It enclosed a circular area c. 22m in diameter. The ditch itself had been between 1.05m and 1.7m

wide, 'U' shaped in profile and between 0.72m and 1.15m deep. The base of the ditch was filled with a loose chalk rubble, over which finer chalky silts had been deposited and over these in turn was a brown loam in the top of the ditch (only surviving in some portions of the circuit). This uppermost layer produced a significant quantity of struck flint and some prehistoric pottery. Three contracted later burials had been inserted into the ring ditch and a further three were located east of the barrow. One burial was accompanied by a broken chipped flint axe. The site was evidently the focus of activity (flint working and burial) later in the Bronze Age or possibly in the Iron Age. (6-8)

In June 2014 Canterbury Archaeological Trust conducted ahead of the construction of a proposed new dwelling revealed more of the barrow's ring ditch to the west of the original excavation as well as a recut feature with prehistoric placed deposits inside and Anglo-Saxon graves (presumed to be part of the Anglo-Saxon cemetery (see above) revealed at the site in the 2004 excavations (EKE11999)). (9)

A further intermittent watching brief carried out in 2015 and 2016 found no new graves but did find a pit. No dating evidence was found but the features was interpreted as of probable prehistoric date (11)

(1) *DA Index 76 (OGS Crawford)* (OS Card Reference). SKE39571.

(2) Audrey Meaney, 1964, *Gazetteer of Early Anglo Saxon Burial Sites* (Monograph). SKE32125.

(3) *VCH 1 1908 331-332* (OS Card Reference). SKE50791.

(4) Canterbury Archaeological Trust, 2004, *Interim Report on Excavations at 'Eden Roc', Bay Hill, St Margaret's-at-Cliffe, 2004* (Unpublished document). SKE17616.

(5) Canterbury Archaeological Trust, 2004, *Assessment of Excavations at 'Eden Roc', Bay Hill, St Margaret's at Cliffe, 2004* (Unpublished document). SKE18183.

(6) *Field report for monument TR 34 SE 2 - May, 1964* (Bibliographic reference). SKE5941.

(7) Canterbury Archaeological Trust, 2004, *Interim Report on Excavations at 'Eden Roc', Bay Hill, St Margaret's-at-Cliffe, 2004* (Unpublished document). SKE17616.

(8) Canterbury Archaeological Trust, 2004, *Assessment of Excavations at 'Eden Roc', Bay Hill, St Margaret's at Cliffe, 2004* (Unpublished document). SKE18183.

(9) Canterbury Archaeological Trust, 2014, *Interim Report: Excavations at Bay Hill House, 2014* (Unpublished document). SKE31312.

(10) Canterbury Archaeological Trust, 2003, *Eden Roc, Bay Hill, St Margaret's at Cliffe, Archaeological Evaluation Report* (Unpublished document). SKE51779.

(11) Canterbury Archaeological Trust Ltd, 2016, *Bay Hill House, St Margaret's at Cliffe, Excavation report* (Unpublished document). SKE53372

### **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 2024; 3.1.1) as stated below;

3.1.2 The general aims (or purpose) of the evaluation, in compliance with the ClfA *Standard and guidance for archaeological field evaluation* (ClfA 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 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.

3.2.2 The site-specific objectives of the archaeological fieldwork were set out in a Written Scheme of Investigation (SWAT Archaeology 2024; 3.3.1) as stated below;

- examine evidence for remains of prehistoric, with the emphasis on the Bronze Age and Iron Age period, settlements in the form of ditches, hearths and pits;
- examine evidence for remains artefacts from the medieval period;
- examine evidence for remains of post-medieval agricultural features such as field boundaries (known from historic maps) and assess if this has impacted on any earlier remains; and
- assess the potential for the recovery of artefacts to assist in the development of type series within the region.

## **4 METHODOLOGY**

### **4.1 Introduction**

4.1.1 All fieldwork was conducted in accordance with the methodology set out in the Specification (SWAT Archaeology 2024) 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 one area of evaluation was excavated (Figures 2, 3). The area 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 Specific areas 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 excavation area was made safe and left open in order to provide the opportunity for a curatorial monitoring visit. Backfilling will be carried out once all recording, survey, and monitoring had been completed.

### **4.3 Recording**

- 4.3.1 A complete drawn record of the evaluation area 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 The evaluation area was initially mechanically excavated under archaeological supervision.
- 5.1.2 The site, as shown on Figures 2, 3 provides the excavation area layout with Figure 3 illustrating the results with two possible grave cuts. Plates 1-8 consist of photographs of features and selected areas 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 (Figure 3).

### **5.2 Stratigraphic Deposit Sequence**

- 5.2.1 A relatively consistent stratigraphic sequence was recorded across the site comprising of a concrete slab overlying Type I hardcore which sealed natural geology.
- 5.2.2 The subsoil consisted of medium orange brown soil. Natural geology comprised Chalk (Margate Chalk Member).

### **5.3 Archaeological Narrative**

#### *Excavated Area 1 (Figure 3, Plates 1-6)*

- 5.3.1 The excavated area was excavated on an NE-SW alignment and measured approximately 5.10m in length, 3.75m in width with a maximum depth of 0.56m (Figure 3). Natural geological deposits were recorded at a level ranging between 82.1m OD and 82.08m OD.
- 5.3.2 The excavated area was trowled clean and revealed two grave like features measuring 1.60m in length and 52cm in width [04] and 1.75m in length and 47cm in width [06]
- 5.3.3 No archaeological finds were present in [04] or [06] and the contents of the two features were modern brick and tile mixed with Type 1 hardcore (Plates 2-5).

## **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 at No. 8 The Droveway, St Margarets Bay, Kent has investigated the extents of the proposed development area 3.75m by 5.10m. The natural geology was encountered at an average depth of approximately 0.35m below the existing ground surface, directly underlying subsoil and Type 1 mixed with demolition material.

### **7.2 Archaeological Narrative**

- 7.2.1 Despite the archaeological potential of the site no dated archaeological finds or features were recorded within the investigated area which comprised the footprint of an existing building with planning permission to demolish and rebuild as a two-storey extension on the previous extension footprint.

### **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 Senior Archaeological Officer of any further archaeological mitigation measures that may be necessary in connection with any future development proposals. The two 'grave like' features are undated and may be

part of the known adjacent Anglo- Saxon cemetery but without human remains or dating evidence they can be noted as possible but not confirmed.

## **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. Thank's are also extended to Ben Found, Senior Archaeological Officer at Kent County Council, for his advice and assistance.

9.1.2 SWAT Archaeology and Dr Paul Wilkinson FRSA., MCIfA carried out the archaeological fieldwork; illustrations were produced by Peter and Bartek Cichy and the Project Manager for the project was Dr Paul Wilkinson MCIfA, FRSA of SWAT Archaeology.

## **10 REFERENCES**

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Brown, D.H., 2011. Archaeological archives; a guide to best practice in creation, compilation, transfer and curation, Archaeological Archives Forum (revised edition)

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SMA 1995. *Towards an Accessible Archaeological Archive*, Society of Museum Archaeologists

SWAT Archaeology (2024) *Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Evaluation: 8 The Droveaway, St Margarets Bay, Kent CT15 6DJ*

## APPENDIX 1 – TRENCH TABLES

Trench 1	<b>Dimensions:</b> 3.75m x 5.10m <b>Depth:</b> 0.46m <b>Ground Level:</b> 83m OD		
	Context	Interpretation	Description
(101)	Internal concrete floor	Concrete internal surface	0.00-0.22
(102)	Subsoil	Soft, dark grey/brown silty clay.	0.22-0.37
(103)	Natural	Chalk	0.37-0.56+

## Plates



Plate1. Removal of internal concrete floor



Figure 2. Two 'grave like' features exposed (looking NE)



Figure 3. View of two 'grave like' features exposed (looking North)



Figure 4. View of two 'grave like' features exposed (looking NNW)



Figure 5. View of 'grave like' feature [04] exposed (50cm scale)



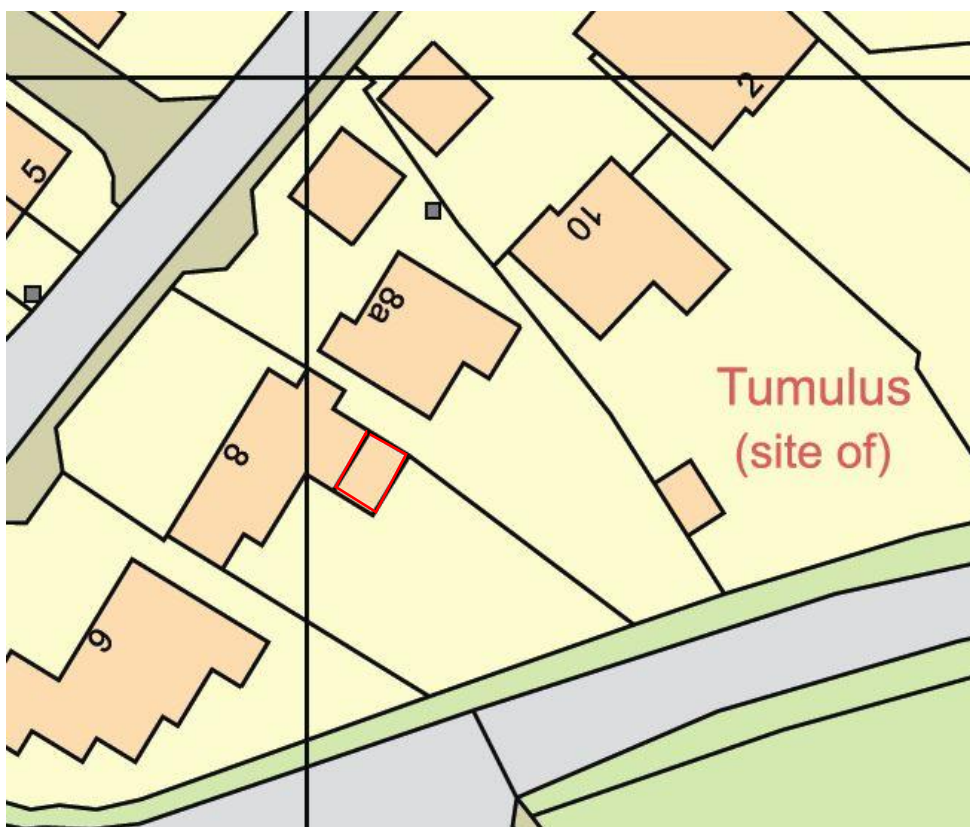
Figure 6. View of 'grave like' feature [06] exposed (50cm scale)



Figure 7. View of 'grave like' feature [06] exposed (50cm scale)



MAP 1. Proposed replacement extension (red arrow)

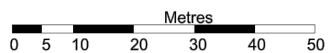


MAP 2. Area of archaeological investigation (red line)





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Scale: 1: 1250

Figure 2: Site location in relation to OS map

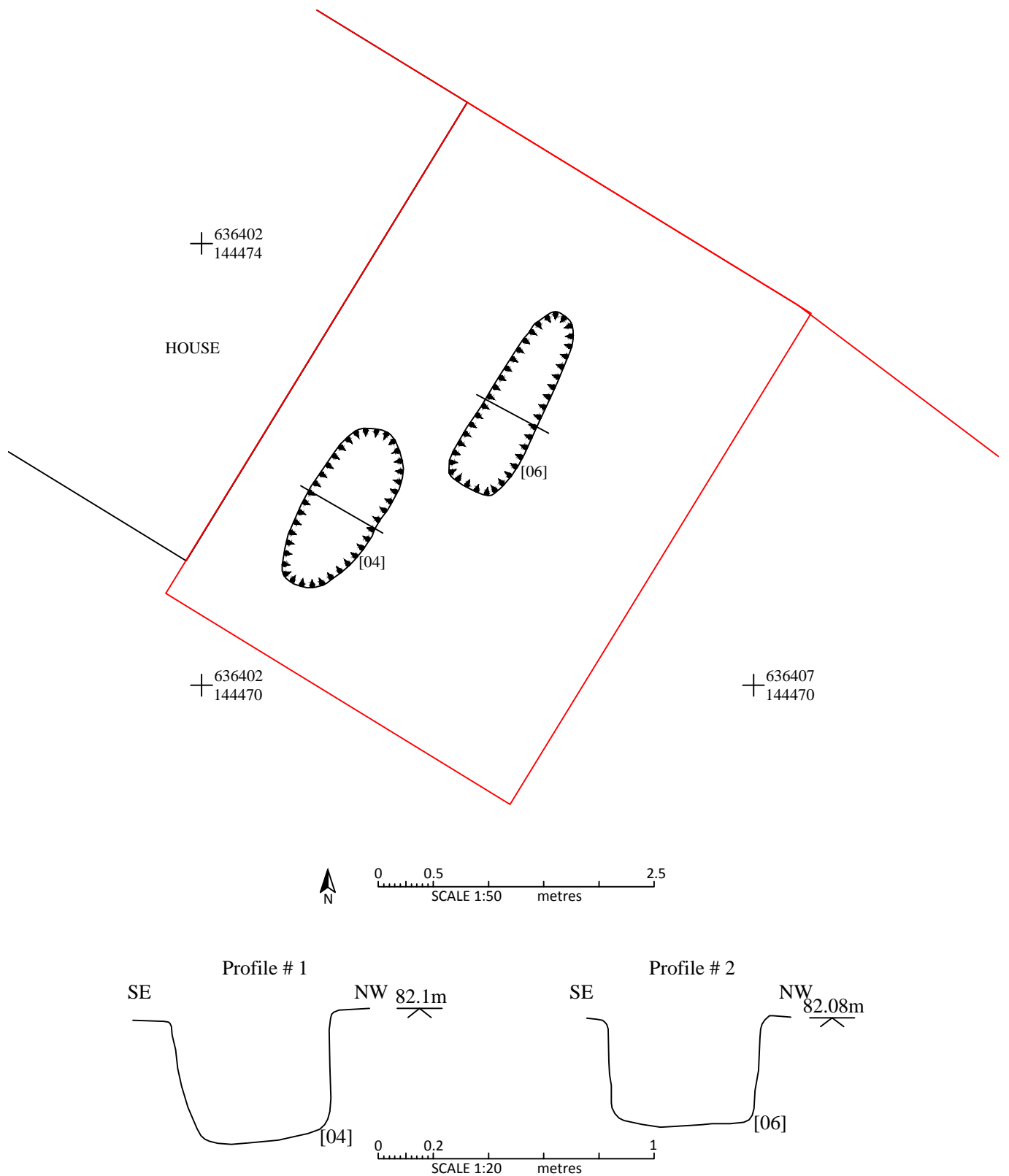


Figure 3: Feature's plan and profiles