Archaeological Evaluation on Land Adjacent to Orchard House, Pepingstraw Close, Offham, West Malling, Kent ME19 5PB

Site Code: OHO-EV-24

NGR Site Centre: 565510 157533

Planning Application Number: TM/20/01954/FL

Report for

P W Roxburgh Building Contractors Limited

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SWAT ARCHAEOLOGY

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Summary

Swale & Thames Survey Company (SWAT Archaeology) were commissioned by P W Roxburgh Building Contractors Limited *to undertake an archaeological evaluation on land adjacent to Orchard House, Pepingstraw Close, Offham, West Malling in 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 programme was monitored by the Senior Archaeological Officer at Kent County Council.*

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 no archaeological finds or features of interest were present within any of the 14 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 Senior Archaeological Officer of any further archaeological mitigation measures that may be necessary in connection with any future development proposals.

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1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project Background

1.1.1 Swale & Thames Survey Company (SWAT Archaeology) were commissioned by P W Roxburgh Building Contractors Limited to undertake an archaeological evaluation on adjacent to orchard House, Pepingstraw Close, Offham, West Malling in Kent (Figure 1).

1.1.2 A planning application (PAN: TM/20/01954/FL) for the demolition of the existing dwelling and the erection of four detached dwellings together with associated parking, access and landscaping was submitted to Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council (TMBC) whereby Kent County Council Heritage and Conservation (KCCHC), on behalf of TMBC, 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:

Prior to the commencement of groundworks, the applicant, or their agents or successors in title, will secure and implement:

i archaeological field evaluation works in accordance with a specification and written timetable which has been submitted to and approved by the Local Planning Authority; and

ii further archaeological investigation, recording and reporting, determined by the results of the evaluation, in accordance with a 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.

(TM/20/01954/FL, Condition 7, 7th April 2021)

1.1.4 The archaeological evaluation, which comprised the excavation of 14 trenches, was carried out over the course of three days in March of 2024 (see Table 1 below). 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;

Task	***Dates***	***Personnel/Company***
Submission of the Written Scheme of Investigation	8th February 2024	SWAT Archaeology
Archaeological Evaluation – Fieldwork	18th – 20th March 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 565510 157533 within the boundary of former allotment gardens to the north of Orchard House which is located on the western extent of Pepingstraw Close (Figure 2). The site is accessed from Pepingstraw Close from the south and is bordered to the east and west by private properties and to the north by open orchards.

1.3.2 The full extent of the application site measures approximately 11,264sq.m, although the area of proposed development equates to approximately 4,976sq.m (Figure 2). Ground levels vary from a height of approximately 87m Ordnance Datum (OD) within the northeastern extent of the site to approximately 88m OD along the southwestern extent of the site.

1.3.3 The Geological Survey of Great Britain shows that the site is located on Hythe Formation - Sandstone and limestone, interbedded, sedimentary bedrock formed between 126.3 and 113 million years ago during the Cretaceous period. Superficial deposits comprise Head - Clay, silt, sand and gravel, sedimentary superficial deposit formed between 2.588 million years ago and the present during the Quaternary period.

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 Senior Archaeological Officer (KCC) of any further archaeological mitigation measures that may be necessary in connection with any future development.

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. Approximately 300m south west an outfarm is recorded (MKE 84331). About 200m south another outfarm is recorded with a full regular courtyard plan (MKE 84330) and about 400m south east is the site of Offham disused quarry (TQ 65 NE 97).

2.1.2 Historic mapping shows that in 1907 the PDA was allotments (SWAT 2024: AP 1) but by 1929 orchard and by 2007 open meadow (SWAT 2024: AP 1).

2.2 Curatorial Consultation (Kent County Council, Heritage & Conservation 2020)

2.2.1 A planning application report, which includes consultation information with the Senior Archaeological Officer at KCC, states that:

The site of the application lies within c.90m of the discovery of a Roman pottery jar (SMRNO: TQ 65 NE 26). This vessel was located during groundworks for a soakaway for the road serving Pepingstraw Close during the 1960s. It may be an isolated find or it may represent pottery remains from a Roman occupation site close by.

(Application Report Reference TM/20/01954/FL, dated 15 October 2020)

3 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

3.1 General Aims

3.1.1 The general aims (or purpose) of the evaluation, in compliance with the CIfA *Standard for archaeological field evaluation* (CIfA 2023a), are to:

- determine, record and report on the nature, extent, preservation and significance of archaeological remains within a defined area. The scope of the work will be described in a project design that is fit for purpose and will be carried out by suitably competent persons in accordance with the design and the CifA Code of Conduct and give due regard to the guidance for field evaluation. All archaeological field evaluations will result in a report, published accounts where appropriate, and a stable, ordered, accessible archive.

3.2 General Objectives

3.2.1 The primary objective of the archaeological fieldwork was set out in a Written Scheme of Investigation (SWAT Archaeology 2024; 6.1-6.2) as stated below;

- The primary objective of the archaeological evaluation is to establish or otherwise the presence of any potential archaeological features which may be impacted by the proposed development. The aims of this investigation are to determine the potential for archaeological activity and in particular the earlier prehistoric and also any Roman, early medieval, and later archaeological activity.

- The programme of archaeological work should be carried out in a phased approach and will commence with evaluation through trial trenching. This initial phase should determine whether any significant archaeological remains would be affected by the development and if so, what mitigation measures are appropriate. Such measures may include further detailed archaeological excavation, or an archaeological watching brief during construction work or an engineering solution to any preservation in situ requirements.

3.2.2 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 2024) and carried out in compliance with the standards outlined in the

Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' Universal Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluations (CIfA 2023b).

4.2 Fieldwork

4.2.1 A total of 14 evaluation trenches were 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 [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, 100+, Trench 2, 200+, Trench 3, 300+, etc.).

5 RESULTS

5.1 Introduction

5.1.1 All trenches were mechanically excavated under archaeological supervision. Trenches were positioned in order to cover as many areas of the site as possible as set out in the WSI. Relocation and re-orientation of the trenches was required when on site obstacles/conditions were present.

5.1.2 The site, as shown on Figure 2, provides the trench layout with Figures 3-7 illustrating the results for each individual archaeological evaluation trench. Plates provided on the figures consist of photographs of features and selected trenches that have been provided to supplement the text.

5.1.3 Appendix 1 provides the stratigraphic sequence and contextual information for all trenches, with the location of Representative Sections provided on each trench plan (Figures 3-7).

5.2 Stratigraphic Deposit Sequence

5.2.1 A relatively consistent stratigraphic sequence was recorded across the majority of the site comprising the existing topsoil sealing subsoil, which overlay the natural geological levels. Archaeological features, where present, were recorded as cutting the natural geology.

5.2.2 The topsoil generally consisted of dark black-brown loamy sand, with moderate small sub rounded spheroidal sandstone fragments while the subsoil was a mod grey-orange sandy clay with similar inclusions. Natural geology largely comprised bright orange-brown slightly clayey coarse sand with frequent sandstone fragments. The natural geology remained relatively consistent across the whole site.

5.3 Trench Narrative

Trench 1 (Figures 2 and 3, Plate 1)

5.3.1 Within the northeastern extent of the site (Figure 2), Trench 1 was orientated NW-SE and measured approximately 17.47m in length, 1.8m in width with a maximum depth of 0.4m (Figure 3). The upper surface of the natural geology was recorded at levels ranging between 87.24m OD and 87.50m OD. The stratigraphic sequence consisted of topsoil (100) overlaying subsoil (101), which in turn overlay natural (102).

5.3.2 No archaeological finds or features were present in Trench 1.

Trench 2 (Figures 2 and 3, Plate2)

5.3.3 Trench 2 was located within the western area of the site adjacent to the western boundary (Figure 2) and was excavated on a NE-SW alignment. This trench measured 16.69m in length, 1.8m in width and had a maximum depth of 0.36m (Figure 3). Natural geological deposits were recorded at an upper level of between 87.47m OD and 87.91m OD. The stratigraphic sequence consisted of topsoil (200) overlaying subsoil (201), which in turn overlay natural (202).

5.3.4 No archaeological finds or features were present in Trench 2.

Trench 3 (Figures 2 and 3, Plates 3-5)

5.3.5 Located within the southwestern extent of the site (Figure 2) Trench 3 was excavated on an NW-SE alignment and measured 16.91m in length, 1.8m in width with a maximum depth of 0.33m. Natural geology was recorded at upper levels of between 87.45m OD and 87.91m OD.

5.3.6 The stratigraphic sequence within this trench was similar to Trenches 1 and 2 with topsoil (300) overlying subsoil (301) and natural (302) (Figure 3).

5.3.7 Three archaeological features were recorded within this trench. Posthole [304], within the western extent of the trench, was oval in plan and measured 0.36m in length, 0.33m in width with a depth of 0.06m. The shallow, rounded sides gave way to a relatively concave base with a fill (303) which contained rare small angular evenly distributed spheroid clinker. No dateable material was retrieved from this feature.

5.3.8 Sealed by the buried soil, posthole [306], was located towards the centre of the trench and measured 0.5m in diameter with a depth of 0.12m and contained fill (305) which included rare small angular spheroid clinker evenly distributed. This feature contained a single sherd of Victorian pottery.

5.3.9 Within the central southwestern extent of the trench posthole [308] was sub-oval in plan, orientated NW-SE forming a rough line with [304] and [306]. Posthole [308] measured 0.44m in length, 0.32m in width and had a depth of 0.06m and contained a single fill (307) comprising dark brown-greyish course clay with rare small angular spheroidal clinker distributed evenly with a single sherd of Victorian pottery.

Trench 4 (Figures 2 and 4, Plate 6)

5.3.10 Towards the northwest of the centre of the site (Figure 2), Trench 4 was excavated on an NW-SE alignment and measured approximately 16.68m in length with a maximum depth of 0.33m.

Natural geological deposits were recorded at a level ranging between 87.46m OD and 87.66m OD (Figure 4).

5.3.11 The stratigraphic sequence within this trench was similar to Trenches 1 to 3 with topsoil (400) overlying subsoil (401) and natural (402) with no archaeological finds or features present.

Trench 5 (Figures 2 and 4, Plate 7)

5.3.12 Within the southwestern extent of the site, east of Trench 3 (Figure 2), Trench 5 measured 15.92m in length, 1.8m in width and had a depth of 0.33m (Figure 4) with natural geology being recorded at a height ranging between 87.25m OD and 87.80m OD

5.3.13 No archaeological finds or features were present in Trench 5.

Trench 6 (Figures 2 and 4, Plate 8)

5.3.14 Located within the central southern extent of the site adjacent to the southern boundary (Figure 2), Trench 6 was excavated on an NW-SE alignment and measured 15.91m in length, 1.8m in width with a maximum depth of 0.40m (Figure 4). Top of trench ground levels were recorded between 88.03m OD and 88.14m OD.

5.3.15 The stratigraphic sequence within this trench was similar to other trenches recorded on site with topsoil (600) overlying subsoil (601) and natural (602). No finds or features were identified within this trench.

Trench 7 (Figures 2 and 5, Plate 9)

5.3.16 Trench 7 was located in the centre of the site excavated on a NE-SW orientation (Figure 2) . This trench measured 16.74m in length, 1.8m in width and had an average depth of 0.44m (Figure 5). Natural geology was recorded at a height of 86.90m OD and 87.36m OD.

5.3.17 No archaeological finds or features were present in Trench 7.

Trench 8 (Figure 2 and 5, Plate 10)

5.3.18 Trench 8 lay in the northern central area of the site (Figure 2) and measured 17.02m in length, 1.8m in depth and with a depth of 0.40m and was orientated on an NW-SE alignment (Figure 5). The natural geology was relatively horizontal, recorded at a height of 86.67m OD.

5.3.19 No archaeological finds or features were present in Trench 8, although natural rooting was observed within the northwestern extent of the trench.

Trench 9 (Figures 2 and 5, Plate 11)

5.3.20 Located within the northeastern extent of the site (Figure 2), Trench 9 was excavated on an NW-SE alignment and measured 16.97m in length, 1.8m in width with an average depth of 0.44m (Figure 5). Natural geology was recorded at levels between 86.47m OD and 86.76m OD.

5.3.21 No finds or features were recorded within Trench 9.

Trench 10 (Figures 2 and 6, Plate 12)

5.3.22 Trench 10 was located within the centre of the site (Figure 2) orientated NW-SE and measured 16.97m in length, 1.8m in width and had an average depth of 0.40m. Geological levels varied between 87.13m OD and 87.21m OD.

5.3.23 No dateable finds or features were recorded within Trench 10.

Trench 11 (Figures 2 and 6, Plate 13)

5.3.24 Trench 11 located towards the southeastern extent of the site (Figure 2) measured 17.28m in length. With a width of 1.8m and an average depth of 0.54m the trench was excavated on an NW-SE alignment to levels between 87.34m OD and 87.54m OD.

5.3.25 A single modern trench was recorded within the southeastern extent of the trench. No dateable finds or features were recorded within Trench 11.

Trench 12 (Figures 2 and 6, Plate 14)

5.3.26 Trench 12 measured 17.01m in length, 1.8m in width, and having an average depth of 0.54m lay in an NE-SW alignment with natural levels between 86.85m OD and 87.38m OD and was located towards the eastern extent of the site (Figure 2).

5.3.27 A single feature, Pit [1205], lay towards the southern extent which contained two fills (1203) and (1204). Fill (1203) measured 0.7m in diameter and had a depth of 0.15m and comprised mid greyish brown silty clay with occasional small very angular spheroidal charcoal distributed evenly over this feature (Figure 6). Fill (1204) measured 0.42m in diameter and had a depth of 0.04m. It comprised a dark black charcoal deposit.

Trench 13 (Figures 2 and 7, Plate 16)

5.3.28 Trench 13 measured 16.91m in length, 1.8m in width, and having an average depth of 0.48m and was excavated on a NE-SW alignment adjacent the eastern boundary (Figure 2) of the site. Natural levels ranged between 87.11m OD and 87.23m OD.

5.3.29 No finds or features were recorded within Trench 13.

Trench 14 (Figures 2 and 7, Plate 17)

5.3.30 Trench 14 was orientated NW-SE and measured 11.30m in length, 1.8m in width, with an average depth of 0.26m. The trench was located adjacent to the southeastern boundary of the site (Figure 2) with natural geological levels ranging between 87.93m OD and 88.08m OD.

5.3.31 A single modern pit or posthole was recorded along the eastern baulk of the trench, no archaeological finds or features were present.

6 FINDS

6.1 Overview

6.1.1 The finds assemblage comprised three fragments of Victorian pottery, retrieved from context (305), (307), and (1203). Find types are quantified in Table 2 and detailed further below. All pottery retrieved from the evaluation was Victorian in date and so no further assessment of the ceramic assemblage has been carried out.

Table 2 Quantification of the archaeological finds

Type	***Cut***	***Fill***	***Number***	***Weight (g)***	***Date***
Pottery	[306]	(305)	1	112	Victorian
Pottery	[307]	(308)	1	3	Victorian
Pottery	[1203]	(1205)	1	3	Victorian

7 EVIRONMENTAL SAMPLING

7.1 Overview

7.1.1 No deposits were considered as suitable for environmental sampling with the only feature containing suitable material (i.e. charcoal) contained Victorian pottery.

8 DISCUSSION

8.1 Introduction

8.1.1 The archaeological investigation on land adjacent to Orchard House, Pepingstraw Close in Offham, Kent has investigated the extents of the proposed development area using 14 trenches,

measuring between 11.30m and 17.28m in length and 1.8m in width. The natural geology was encountered within all trenches at an average depth of approximately 0.40m below the existing ground surface, directly underlying subsoil and topsoil.

8.2 Archaeological Narrative

8.2.1 The application site measured approximately 11,265sq.m in area with the total evaluated area measuring 4,976sq.m. The 14 trenches excavated covering an area of approximately 413.6sq.m giving an evaluation sample size of 8.3%.

8.2.2 Despite the archaeological potential of the site and the presence of three features containing Victorian pottery, no archaeological finds or features of interest 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.

8.3 Conclusions

8.3.1 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.

9 ARCHIVE

9.1 General

9.1.1 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).

9.1.2 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.

10 ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

10.1.1 SWAT Archaeology would like to thank P W Roxburgh Building Contractors Limited for commissioning the project. Thanks are also extended to Wendy Rogers, Senior Archaeological Officer at Kent County Council, for her advice and assistance.

10.1.2 Dan Worsley supervised the archaeological fieldwork, supported by Alistair Mckeever. David Britchfield BA (Hons) MCIfA produced the draft text for this report with the illustrations provided by Ravelin Archaeological Services. Specialist support was provided by Simon Holmes.

10.1.3 The Project Manager for the project was Dr Paul Wilkinson MCIfA, FRSA of SWAT Archaeology.

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SWAT Archaeology (2024) *Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Evaluation on Land adjacent to orchard House, Pepingstraw Close, West Malling in Kent*

12 APPENDIX 1 – TRENCH TABLES

Trench 1	**Dimensions:** 17.47m x 1.8m **Depth:** 0.40m **Ground Level:** 87.24m OD – 87.50m OD		
Context	**Interpretation**	**Description**	**Depth (m)**
(100)	Layer	TOPSOIL - Colour: dark blackish brown. Composition: fine loamy sand. Compaction: moist, friable. Inclusions: moderate small to medium sub-rounded spheroidal sandstone, evenly distributed.	0.00-0.28
(101)	Layer	SUBSOIL - Colour: mid greyish orange. Composition: sandy clay. Compaction: moist, malleable. Inclusions: moderate small to medium sub-rounded spheroidal sandstone, evenly distributed.	0.28-0.40
(102)	Layer	NATURAL - Colour: bright orangey brown. Composition: slightly clayey coarse sand. Compaction: moist, malleable. Inclusions: frequent small to medium sub-angular to sub-rounded spheroidal sandstone, evenly distributed.	0.40+ (Avg.)

Trench 2	**Dimensions:** 16.69m x 1.8m **Depth:** 0.36m **Ground Level:** 87.47m OD – 87.91m OD		
Context	**Interpretation**	**Description**	**Depth (m)**
(200)	Layer	TOPSOIL - Colour: dark blackish brown. Composition: fine loamy sand. Compaction: moist, friable. Inclusions: moderate small to medium sub-rounded spheroidal sandstone, evenly distributed.	0.00-0.20
(201)	Layer	SUBSOIL - Colour: mid greyish orange. Composition: sandy clay. Compaction: moist, malleable. Inclusions: moderate small to medium sub-rounded spheroidal sandstone, evenly distributed.	0.20-0.36
(202)	Layer	NATURAL - Colour: bright orangey brown. Composition: slightly clayey coarse sand. Compaction: moist, malleable. Inclusions: frequent small to medium sub-angular to sub-rounded spheroidal sandstone, evenly distributed.	0.36+

Trench 3	**Dimensions:** 16.91m x 1.8m **Depth:** 0.33m **Ground Level:** 88.07m OD – 88.10m OD		
Context	**Interpretation**	**Description**	**Depth (m)**
(300)	Layer	TOPSOIL - Colour: dark blackish brown. Composition: fine loamy sand. Compaction: moist, friable. Inclusions:	0.00-0.20

Trench 3	**Dimensions:** 16.91m x 1.8m **Depth:** 0.33m **Ground Level:** 88.07m OD – 88.10m OD		
		moderate small to medium sub-rounded spheroidal sandstone, evenly distributed.	
(301)	Layer	SUBSOIL - Colour: mid greyish orange. Composition: sandy clay. Compaction: moist, malleable. Inclusions: moderate small to medium sub-rounded spheroidal sandstone, evenly distributed.	0.20-0.33
(302)	Layer	NATURAL - Colour: bright orangey brown. Composition: slightly clayey coarse sand. Compaction: moist, malleable. Inclusions: frequent small to medium sub-angular to sub-rounded spheroidal sandstone, evenly distributed.	0.33+
(303)	Fill of Posthole	FILL of posthole [304] - Colour: dark brownish grey. Composition: coarse clayey sand. Compaction: moist, friable. Inclusions: rare small angular spheroidal clinker, evenly distributed. Part of a post-medieval / modern fence line with [306] and [308]. L = 0.36m, W= 0.33m, D = 0.06m	
[304]	Cut of Posthole	CUT of posthole - Shape in plan: regular, sub-circular. Break at top: gradual. Sides: shallow, concave. Break at base: gradual. Base: rounded.	
(305)	Fill of Posthole	FILL of posthole [306] - Colour: dark brownish grey. Composition: coarse clayey sand. Compaction: moist, friable. Inclusions: rare small angular spheroidal clinker, evenly distributed. L = 0.50m, W= 0.50m, D = 0.12m	
[306]	Cut of Posthole	CUT of posthole - Shape in plan: regular, sub-circular. Break at top: gradual. Sides: moderate, concave. Break at base: gradual. Base: rounded.	
(307)	Posthole	FILL of posthole [308] - Colour: dark brownish grey. Composition: coarse clayey sand. Compaction: moist, friable. Inclusions: rare small angular spheroidal clinker, evenly distributed. L = 0.44m, W= 0.32m, D = 0.06m	
[308]	Posthole	CUT of NW-SE posthole - Forming a NW-SE orientated fence line with [304] and [308]. Shape in plan: regular, sub-oval. Break at top: gradual. Sides: shallow, concave. Break at base: gradual. Base: rounded.	

Trench 4	**Dimensions:** 16.68m x 1.8m **Depth:** 0.33m **Ground Level:** 87.46m OD – 87.66m OD		
Context	**Interpretation**	**Description**	**Depth (m)**
(400)	Layer	TOPSOIL - Colour: dark blackish brown. Composition: fine loamy sand. Compaction: moist, friable. Inclusions: moderate small to medium sub-rounded spheroidal sandstone, evenly distributed.	0.00-0.20
(401)	Layer	SUBSOIL - Colour: mid greyish orange. Composition: sandy clay. Compaction: moist, malleable. Inclusions: moderate small to medium sub-rounded spheroidal sandstone, evenly distributed.	0.20-0.33
(402)	Layer	NATURAL - Colour: bright orangey brown. Composition: slightly clayey coarse sand. Compaction: moist, malleable. Inclusions: frequent medium to large sub-angular to sub-rounded spheroidal sandstone, evenly distributed.	0.33+

Trench 5	**Dimensions:** 15.92m x 1.8m **Depth:** 0.33m **Ground Level:** 87.54m OD – 88.07m OD		
Context	**Interpretation**	**Description**	**Depth (m)**
(500)	Layer	TOPSOIL - Colour: dark blackish brown. Composition: fine loamy sand. Compaction: moist, friable. Inclusions: moderate small to medium sub-rounded spheroidal sandstone, evenly distributed.	0.00-0.20
(501)	Layer	SUBSOIL - Colour: mid greyish orange. Composition: sandy clay. Compaction: moist, malleable. Inclusions: moderate small to medium sub-rounded spheroidal sandstone, evenly distributed.	0.20-0.33
(502)	Layer	NATURAL - Colour: bright orangey brown. Composition: slightly clayey coarse sand. Compaction: moist, malleable. Inclusions: frequent medium to large sub-angular to sub-rounded spheroidal sandstone, evenly distributed.	0.33+

Trench 6	**Dimensions:** 15.91m x 1.8m **Depth:** 0.40m **Ground Level:** 88.03m OD – 88.14m OD		
Context	**Interpretation**	**Description**	**Depth (m)**
(600)	Layer	TOPSOIL - Colour: dark blackish brown. Composition: fine loamy sand. Compaction: moist, friable. Inclusions:	0.00-0.28

Trench 6	**Dimensions:** 15.91m x 1.8m **Depth:** 0.40m **Ground Level:** 88.03m OD – 88.14m OD		
		moderate small to medium sub-rounded spheroidal sandstone, evenly distributed.	
(601)	Layer	SUBSOIL - Colour: mid greyish orange. Composition: sandy clay. Compaction: moist, malleable. Inclusions: moderate small to medium sub-rounded spheroidal sandstone, evenly distributed.	0.28-0.40
(602)	Layer	NATURAL - Colour: bright orangey brown. Composition: slightly clayey coarse sand. Compaction: moist, malleable. Inclusions: frequent medium to large sub-angular to sub-rounded spheroidal sandstone, evenly distributed.	0.40+

Trench 7	**Dimensions:** 16.74m x 1.8m **Depth:** 0.44m (Avg.) **Ground Level:** 87.24m OD – 87.71m OD		
Context	**Interpretation**	**Description**	**Depth (m)**
(700)	Layer	TOPSOIL - Colour: dark blackish brown. Composition: fine loamy sand. Compaction: moist, friable. Inclusions: moderate small to medium sub-rounded spheroidal sandstone, evenly distributed.	0.00-0.22
(701)	Layer	SUBSOIL - Colour: mid greyish orange. Composition: sandy clay. Compaction: moist, malleable. Inclusions: moderate small to medium sub-rounded spheroidal sandstone, evenly distributed.	0.22-0.44
(702)	Layer	NATURAL - Colour: bright orangey brown. Composition: slightly clayey coarse sand. Compaction: moist, malleable. Inclusions: frequent medium to large sub-angular to sub-rounded spheroidal sandstone, evenly distributed.	0.44+

Trench 8	**Dimensions:** 17.02m x 1.8m **Depth:** 0.40m **Ground Level:** 87.03m OD – 87.11m OD		
Context	**Interpretation**	**Description**	**Depth (m)**
(800)	Layer	TOPSOIL - Colour: dark blackish brown. Composition: fine loamy sand. Compaction: moist, friable. Inclusions: moderate small to medium sub-rounded spheroidal sandstone, evenly distributed.	0.00-0.26
(801)	Layer	SUBSOIL - Colour: mid greyish orange. Composition: sandy clay. Compaction: moist, malleable. Inclusions: moderate	0.26-0.40

Trench 8	**Dimensions:** 17.02m x 1.8m **Depth:** 0.40m **Ground Level:** 87.03m OD – 87.11m OD		
		small to medium sub-rounded spheroidal sandstone, evenly distributed.	
(802)	Layer	NATURAL - Colour: bright orangey brown. Composition: slightly clayey coarse sand. Compaction: moist, malleable. Inclusions: frequent small to medium sub-angular to sub-rounded spheroidal sandstone, evenly distributed.	0.40+

Trench 9	**Dimensions:** 16.97m x 1.8m **Depth:** 0.44m (Avg.) **Ground Level:** 86.98m OD – 87.20m OD		
Context	**Interpretation**	**Description**	**Depth (m)**
(900)	Layer	TOPSOIL - Colour: dark blackish brown. Composition: fine loamy sand. Compaction: moist, friable. Inclusions: moderate small to medium sub-rounded spheroidal sandstone, evenly distributed.	0.00-0.30
(901)	Layer	SUBSOIL - Colour: mid greyish orange. Composition: sandy clay. Compaction: moist, malleable. Inclusions: moderate small to medium sub-rounded spheroidal sandstone, evenly distributed.	0.30-0.44
(902)	Layer	NATURAL - Colour: bright orangey brown. Composition: slightly clayey coarse sand. Compaction: moist, malleable. Inclusions: frequent small to medium sub-angular to sub-rounded spheroidal sandstone, evenly distributed.	0.44+

Trench 10	**Dimensions:** 16.97m x 1.8m **Depth:** 0.40m (Avg.) **Ground Level:** 87.47m OD – 87.52m OD		
Context	**Interpretation**	**Description**	**Depth (m)**
(1000)	Layer	TOPSOIL - Colour: dark blackish brown. Composition: fine loamy sand. Compaction: moist, friable. Inclusions: moderate small to medium sub-rounded spheroidal sandstone, evenly distributed.	0.00-0.25
(1001)	Layer	SUBSOIL - Colour: mid greyish orange. Composition: sandy clay. Compaction: moist, malleable. Inclusions: moderate small to medium sub-rounded spheroidal sandstone, evenly distributed.	0.25-0.40
(1002)	Layer	NATURAL - Colour: bright orangey brown. Composition: slightly clayey coarse sand. Compaction: moist, malleable.	0.40+

Trench 10	**Dimensions:** 16.97m x 1.8m **Depth:** 0.40m (Avg.) **Ground Level:** 87.47m OD – 87.52m OD		
		Inclusions: frequent medium to large sub-rounded spheroidal sandstone, evenly distributed.	

Trench 11	**Dimensions:** 17.28m x 1.8m **Depth:** 0.54m (Avg.) **Ground Level:** 87.69m OD – 87.88m OD		
Context	**Interpretation**	**Description**	**Depth (m)**
(1100)	Layer	TOPSOIL - Colour: dark blackish brown. Composition: fine loamy sand. Compaction: moist, friable. Inclusions: moderate small to medium sub-rounded spheroidal sandstone, evenly distributed.	0.00-0.20
(1101)	Layer	MADE GROUND - Colour: dark greyish black. Composition: coarse clayey sand. Compaction: moist, friable. Inclusions: moderate small modern building debris, evenly distributed.	0.20-0.40
(1102)	Layer	SUBSOIL - Colour: mid greyish orange. Composition: sandy clay. Compaction: moist, malleable. Inclusions: moderate small to medium sub-rounded spheroidal sandstone, evenly distributed.	0.40-0.54+
(1103)	Layer	NATURAL - Colour: bright orangey brown. Composition: slightly clayey coarse sand. Compaction: moist, malleable. Inclusions: frequent medium to large sub-angular to sub-rounded spheroidal sandstone, evenly distributed.	0.54+

Trench 12	**Dimensions:** 17.01m x 1.8m **Depth:** 0.54m (Avg.) **Ground Level:** 87.30m OD – 87.85m OD		
Context	**Interpretation**	**Description**	**Depth (m)**
(1200)	Layer	TOPSOIL - Colour: dark blackish brown. Composition: fine loamy sand. Compaction: moist, friable. Inclusions: moderate small to medium sub-rounded spheroidal sandstone, evenly distributed.	0.00-0.20/0.30 (Avg.)
(1201)	Layer	MADE GROUND - Colour: dark greyish black. Composition: coarse clayey sand. Compaction: moist, friable. Inclusions: moderate small modern building debris, evenly distributed.	0.40-0.50 (Avg.)
(1202)	Layer	SUBSOIL - Colour: mid greyish orange. Composition: sandy clay. Compaction: moist, malleable. Inclusions: moderate	0.40-0.50 (Avg.) – 0.64

Trench 12	**Dimensions:** 17.01m x 1.8m **Depth:** 0.54m (Avg.) **Ground Level:** 87.30m OD – 87.85m OD		
		small to medium sub-rounded spheroidal sandstone, evenly distributed.	
(1203)	Fill	FILL of pit [1205] - Colour: mid greyish brown. Composition: silty clay. Compaction: moist, malleable. Inclusions: occasional small very angular spheroidal charcoal, evenly distributed. W = 0.7m, D = 0.15m	0.54+
(1204)	Fill	FILL of pit [1205] - Colour: dark black. Composition: charcoal deposit. Compaction: moist, friable. W = 0.42m, D = 0.04m	
[1205]	Cut	CUT of NW-SE pit - Shape in plan: regular, sub-circular. Break at top: gradual. Sides: shallow, concave. Break at base: gradual. Base: rounded. W = 0.7m, D = 0.19m	
(1206)	Deposit	NATURAL - Colour: bright orangey brown. Composition: slightly clayey coarse sand. Compaction: moist, malleable. Inclusions: frequent small to medium sub-angular to sub-rounded spheroidal sandstone, evenly distributed.	

Trench 13	**Dimensions:** 16.91m x 1.8m **Depth:** 0.48m **Ground Level:** 87.45m OD – 88.62m OD		
Context	**Interpretation**	**Description**	**Depth (m)**
(1300)	Layer	TOPSOIL - Colour: dark blackish brown. Composition: fine loamy sand. Compaction: moist, friable. Inclusions: moderate small to medium sub-rounded spheroidal sandstone, evenly distributed.	0.00-0.30
(1301)	Layer	SUBSOIL - Colour: mid greyish orange. Composition: sandy clay. Compaction: moist, malleable. Inclusions: moderate small to medium sub-rounded spheroidal sandstone, evenly distributed.	0.30-0.48
(1302)	Layer	NATURAL - Colour: mid greyish orange. Composition: sandy clay. Compaction: moist, malleable. Inclusions: moderate small to medium sub-rounded spheroidal sandstone, evenly distributed.	0.48+

Trench 14	**Dimensions:** 11.30m x 1.8m **Depth:** 0.26m (Avg.) **Ground Level:** 87.93m OD – 88.08m OD		
Context	**Interpretation**	**Description**	**Depth (m)**
(1400)	Layer	TOPSOIL - Colour: dark blackish brown. Composition: fine loamy sand. Compaction: moist, friable. Inclusions: moderate small to medium sub-rounded spheroidal sandstone, evenly distributed.	0.00-0.14
(1401)	Layer	MADE GROUND - Colour: dark greyish black. Composition: coarse clayey sand. Compaction: moist, friable. Inclusions: moderate small modern building debris, evenly distributed. Modern (1901 to present)	0.14-0.26
(1402)	Layer	NATURAL - Colour: bright orangey brown. Composition: slightly clayey coarse sand. Compaction: moist, malleable. Inclusions: frequent medium to large sub-angular to sub-rounded spheroidal sandstone, evenly distributed.	0.26+

13 APPENDIX 3 – HER FORM

Site Name: Land adjacent to Orchard House, Pepingstraw Close, Offham, West Malling, Kent

SWAT Site Code: OHO-EV-24

Site Address: As above

Summary. *Swale & Thames Survey Company (SWAT Archaeology) were commissioned by* P W Roxburgh Building Contractors Limited *to undertake an archaeological evaluation on land adjacent to Orchard House, Pepingstraw Close, Offham, West Malling in 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 programme was monitored by the Senior Archaeological Officer at Kent County Council.*

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 no archaeological finds or features of interest were present within any of the 14 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 Senior Archaeological Officer of any further archaeological mitigation measures that may be necessary in connection with any future development proposals.

District/Unitary: Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council & Kent County Council

Period(s): Victorian

NGR (centre of site to eight figures) NGR 565510 157533

Type of Archaeological work: Archaeological Evaluation

Date of recording: March 2024

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

Geology: Hythe Formation - Sandstone

Title and author of accompanying report: D Britchfield (2024) Archaeological Evaluation on Land adjacent to Orchard House, Pepingstraw Close, Offham, West Malling, Kent. SWAT Archaeology Ref. OHO-EV-24

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

Contact at Unit: Paul Wilkinson

Date: 25/03/2024

PLATES

Plate 1 Trench 1, viewed from the southeast (left) and from the northwest (right)

Plate 2 Trench 2, viewed from the southwest (left) and from the northeast (right)

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

Plate 4 Posthole [304] (left) and posthole [306] (right), viewed from the northwest

Plate 5 posthole [308], viewed from the northwest

Plate 6 Trench 4, viewed from the northwest (left) and from the southeast (right)

Plate 7 Trench 5, viewed from the southwest (left) and from the northeast(right)

Plate 8 Trench 6, viewed from the northwest (left) and from the southeast (right)

Plate 9 Trench 7, viewed from the southwest (left) and from the northeast (right)

Plate 10 Trench 8, viewed from the southeast (left) and from the northwest (right)


Plate 11 Trench 9, viewed from the southeast (left) and from the northwest (right)


Plate 12 Trench 10, viewed from the northwest (left) and from the southeast (right)

Plate 13 Trench 11, viewed from the southeast (left) and from the northwest (right)

Plate 14 Trench 12, viewed from the southwest (left) and from the northeast (right)

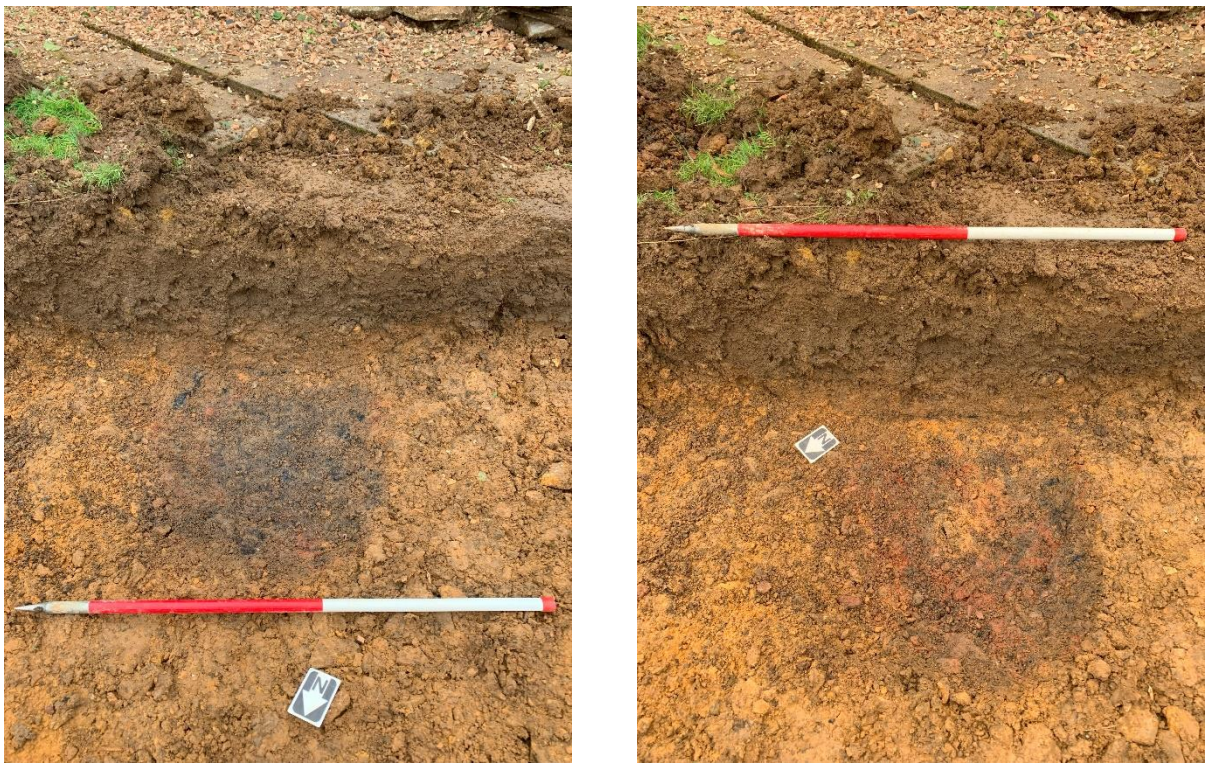
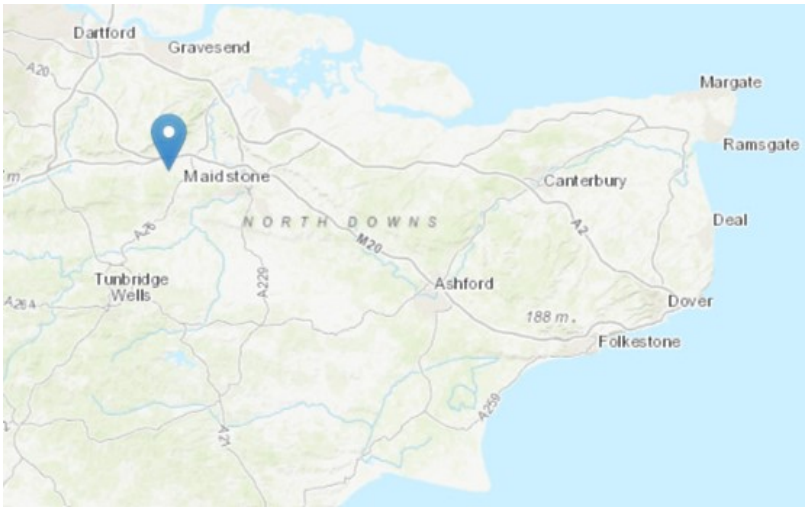


Plate 15 Pit [1205], viewed from the northwest, pre-excavation (left) and post-excavation (right)

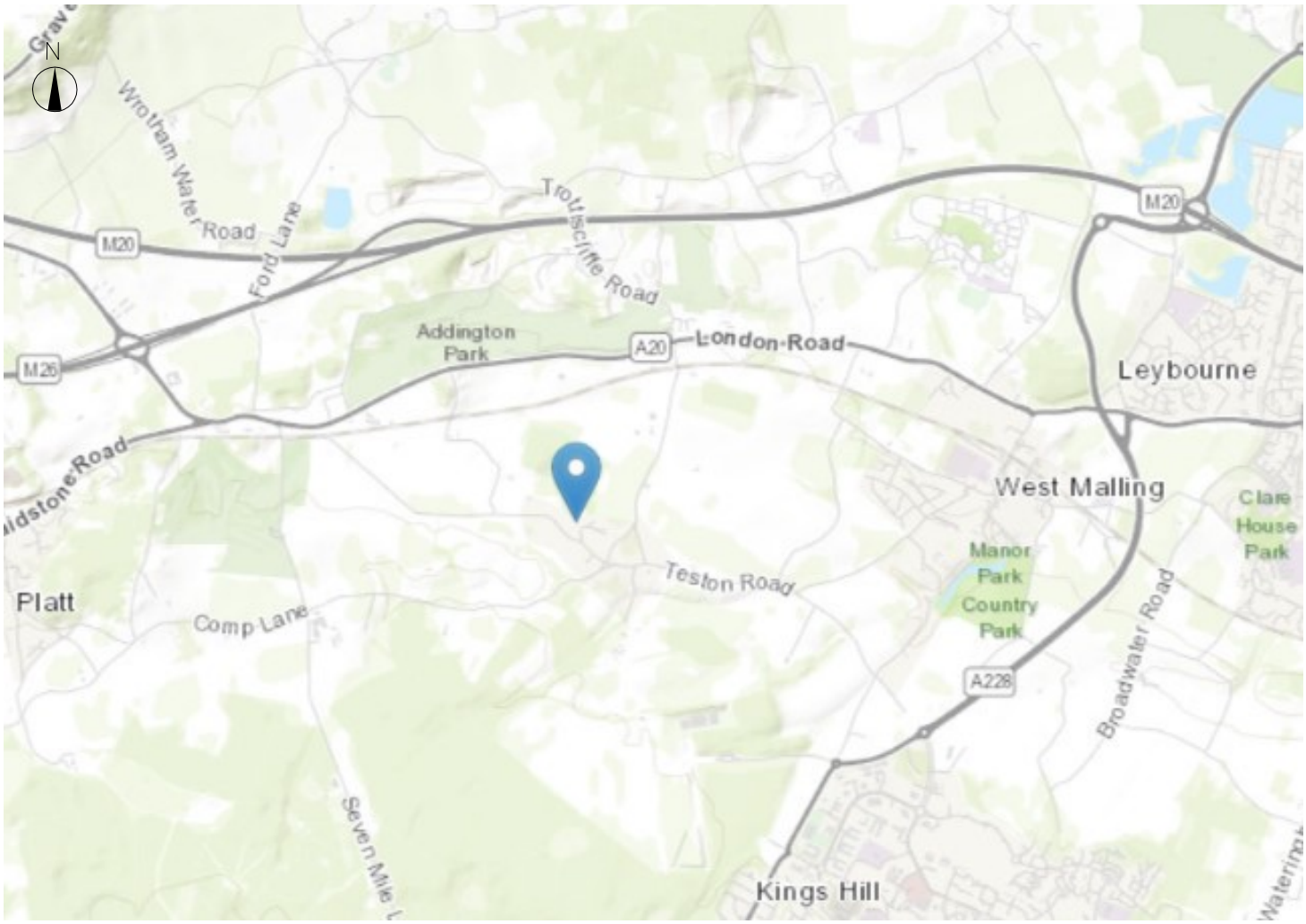
Plate 16 Trench 13, viewed from the northwest (left) and from the southeast (right)

Plate 17 Trench 14, viewed from the northeast (left) and from the southwest (right)

Map of Uk (NTS)



Map of North Kent (NTS)



Courtesy of National Library of Scotland

Figure 1 Site Location plan

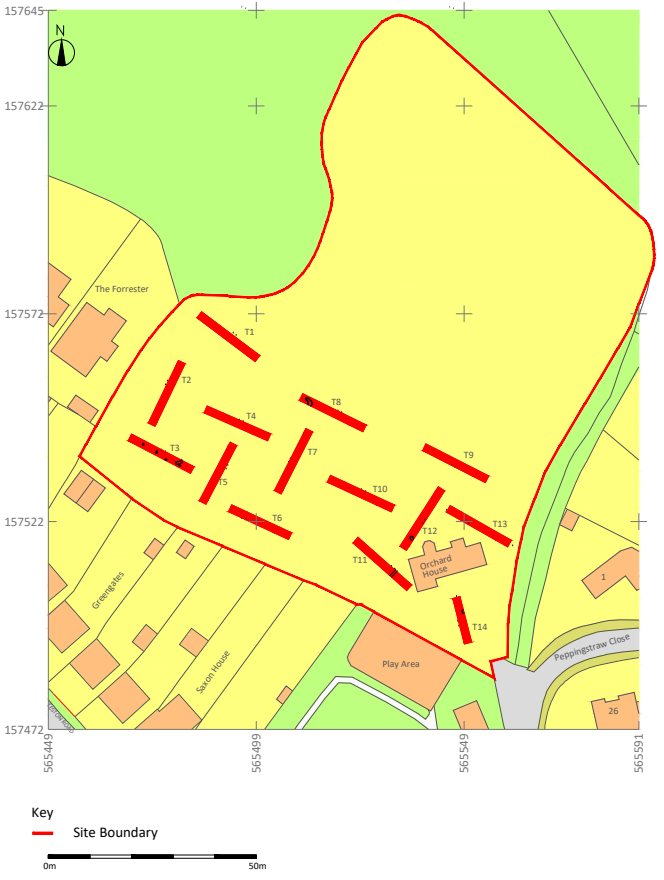
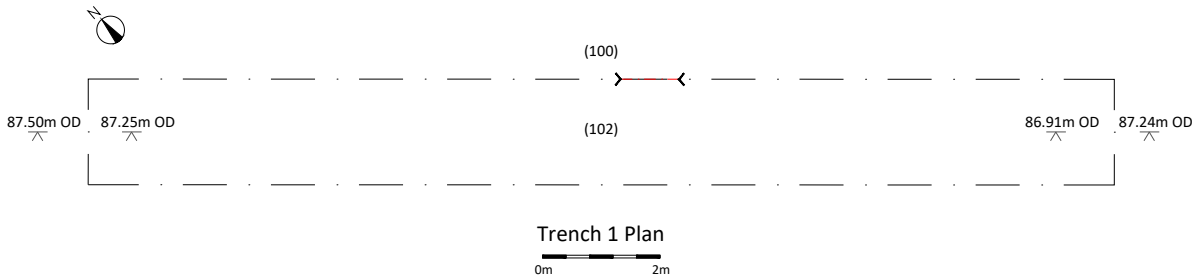


Figure 2 Site plan



Trench 1 Plan

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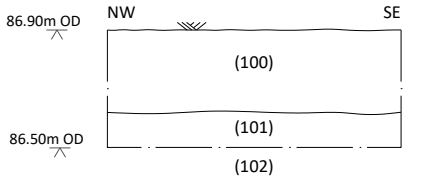

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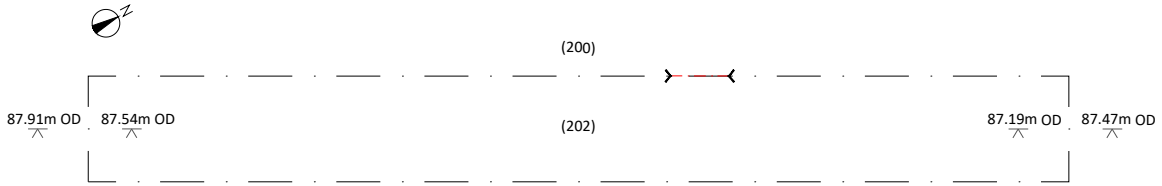

Trench 2 Plan

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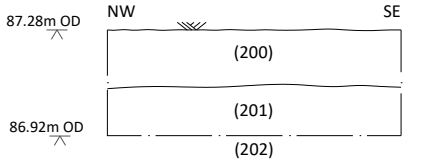

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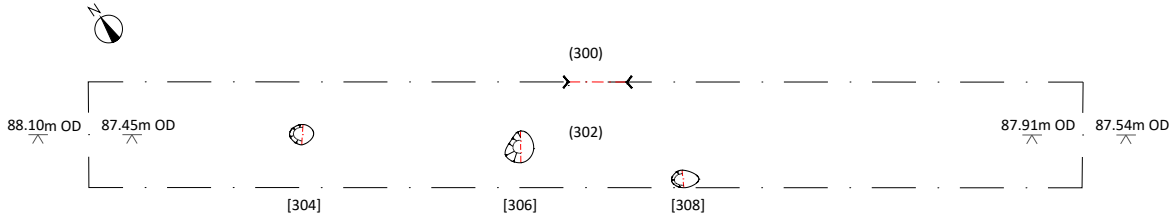

Trench 3 Plan

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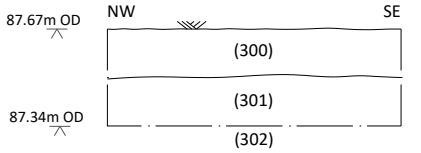

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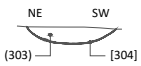

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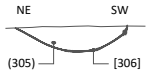

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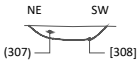

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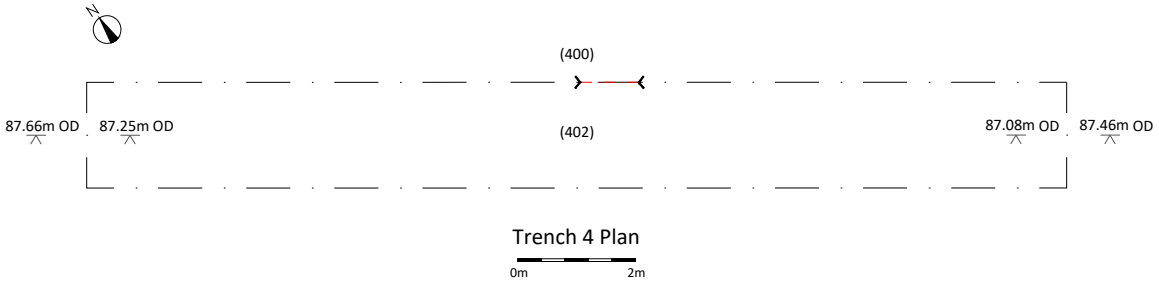
Key

Representative Section

Section line

Figure 3 Trench 1 to 3 Details



Trench 4 Plan

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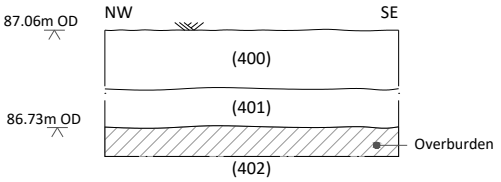

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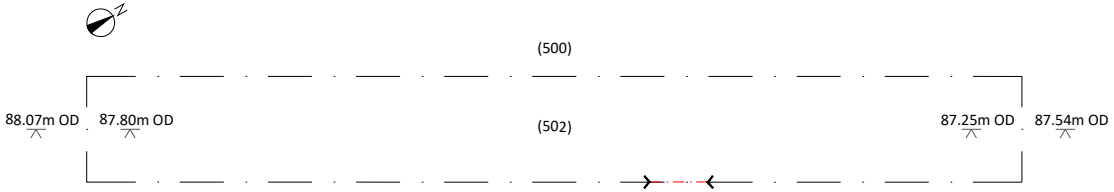

Trench 5 Plan

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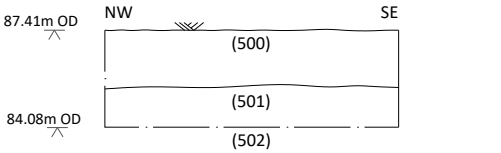

Representative Section

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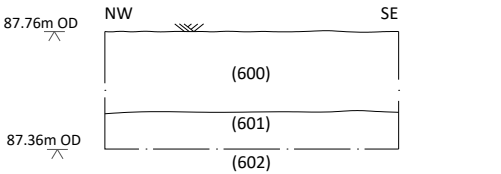
Trench 6 Plan

0m 2m



Representative Section

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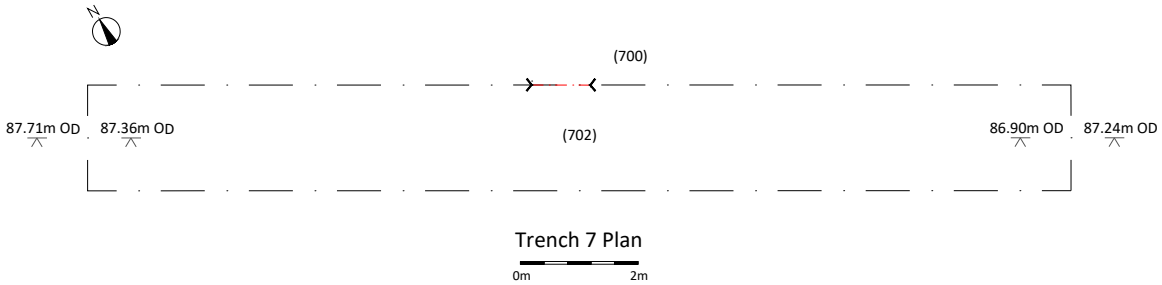
Key

Representative Section

Figure 4 Trench 4 to 6 Details



Trench 7 Plan

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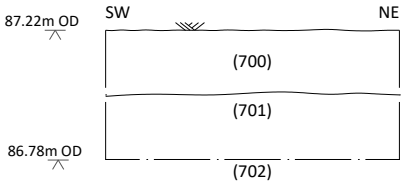

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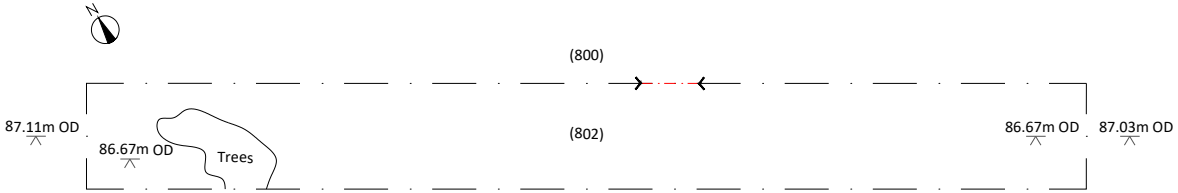

Trench 8 Plan

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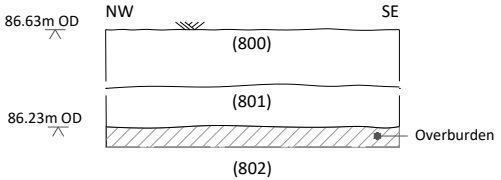

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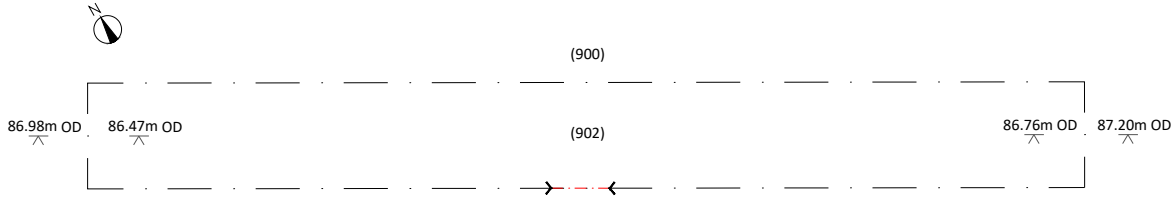

Trench 9 Plan

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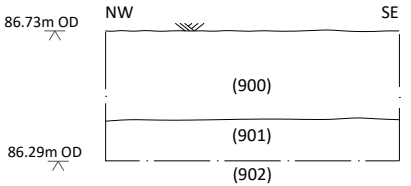

Representative Section

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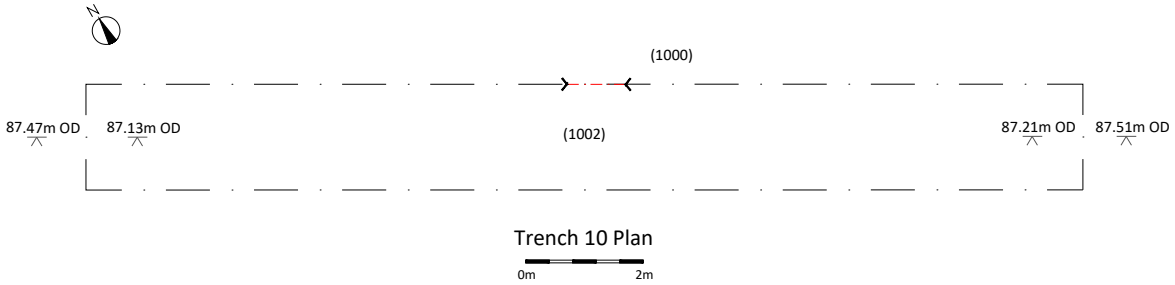
Key

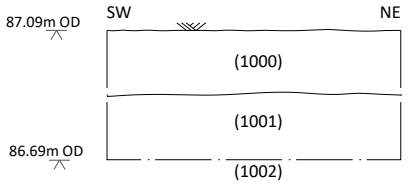
Representative Section

Figure 5 Trench 7 to 9 Details



Trench 10 Plan

0m 2m



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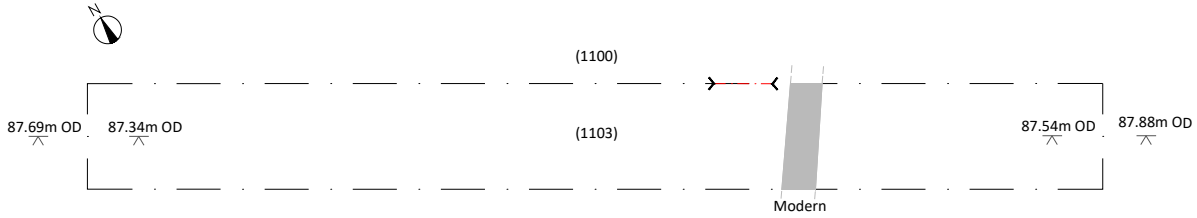

Trench 11 Plan

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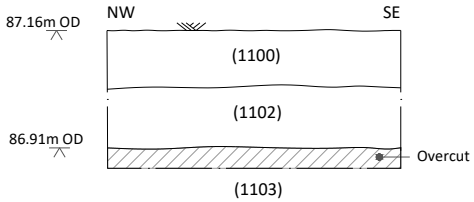

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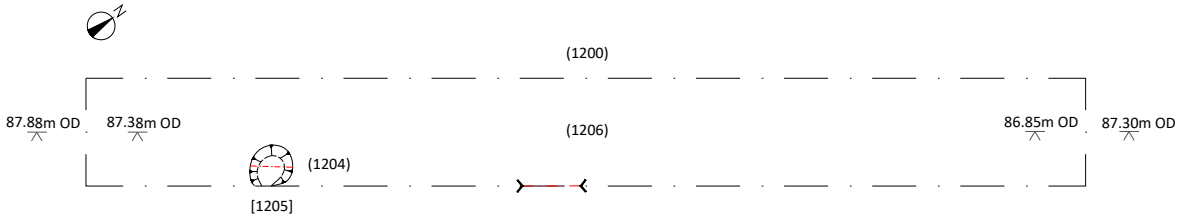

Trench 12 Plan

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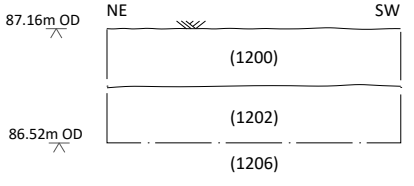
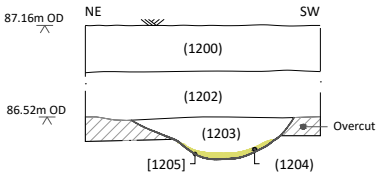


Representative Section

0m 1m



Section of [1205]

0m 1m

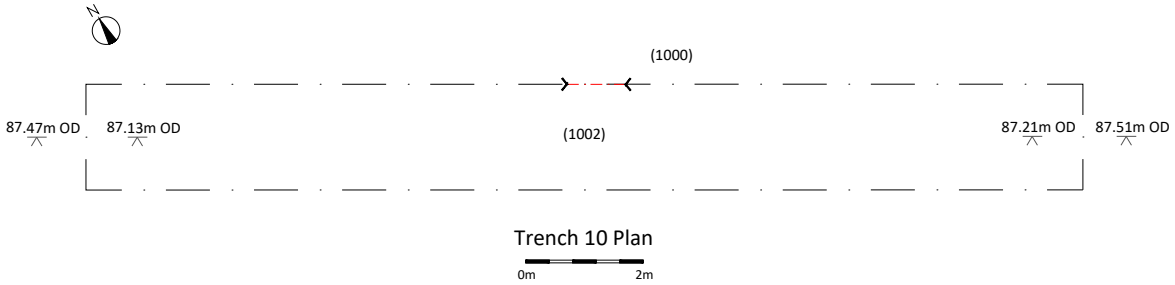
Key

Representative Section

Section line

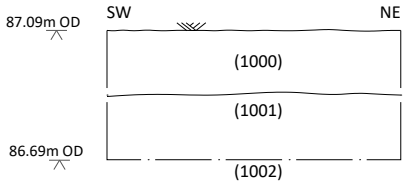
Charcoal

Figure 6 Trench 10 to 12 Details



Trench 10 Plan

0m 2m



Representative Section

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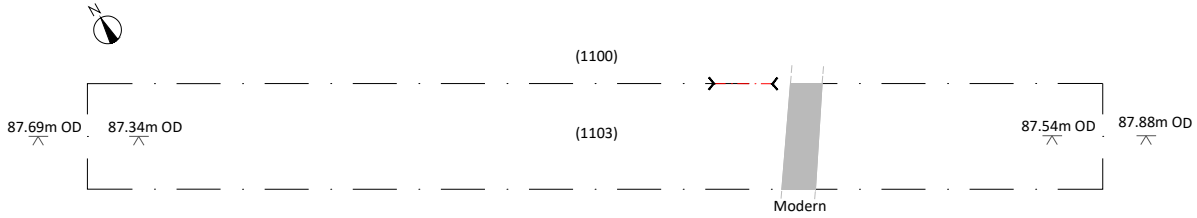
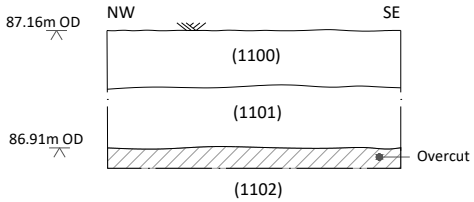


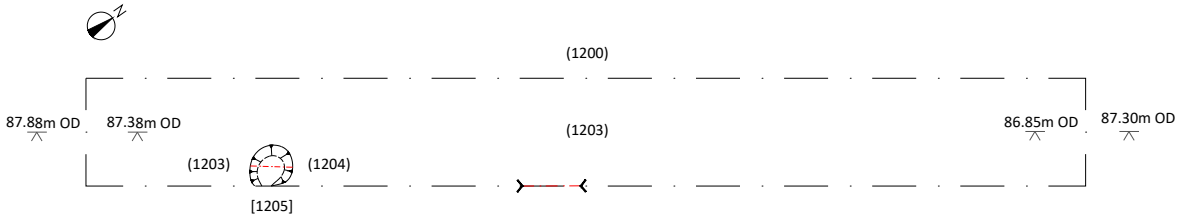
Trench 11 Plan

0m 2m



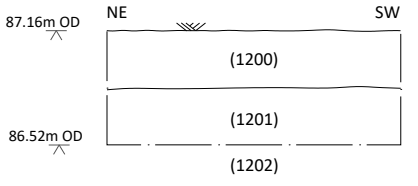
Representative Section

0m 1m



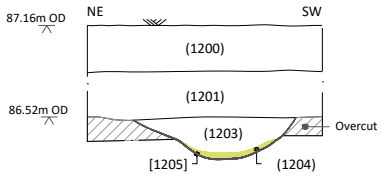
Trench 12 Plan

0m 2m



Representative Section

0m 1m



Section of [1205]

0m 1m

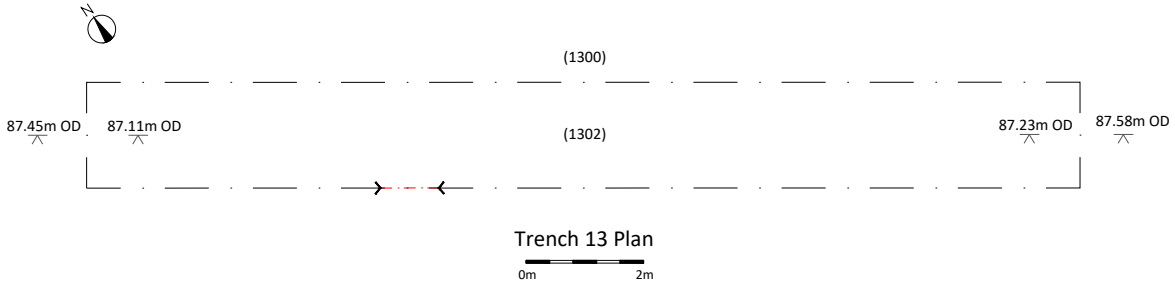
Key

Representative Section

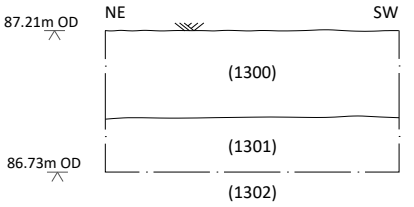
Section line

Charcoal

Figure 6 Trench 10 to 12 Details



Trench 13 Plan



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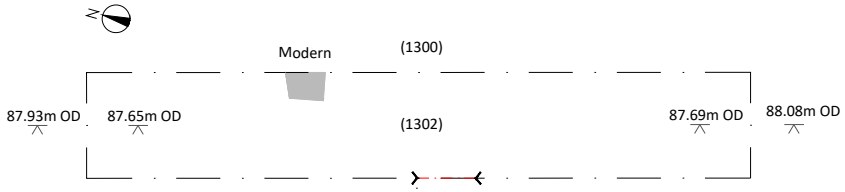
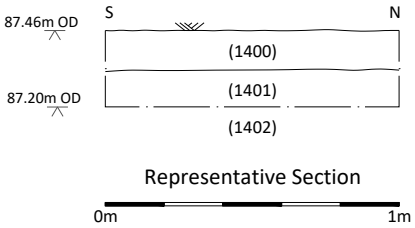


Trench 13 Plan



Representative Section

Key

Representative Section

Figure 7 Trench 13 to 14 Details