

# Archaeological Evaluation of Land at Swanton House, Elwick Road, Ashford, Kent TN23 1NN

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## **Summary**

*Swale & Thames Survey Company (SWAT Archaeology) were commissioned by A Better Choice for Property Development Limited to undertake an archaeological evaluation of land at Swanton House, Elwick Road in Ashford, 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 investigation was carried out using three trenches, measuring between 11.67m and 14.80m in length and 1.8m in width and test pits excavated to test soils drainage properties. Natural geology was encountered within all trenches at an average depth of approximately 0.90m below the existing ground surface, directly underlying subsoil and made ground associated with the formation and construction of the existing carpark. Two undated ditches of archaeological interest were recorded within Trench 3, with an additional two undated postholes recorded in Trench 1.*

*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 of Land at Swanton House, Elwick Road, Ashford, Kent TN23 1NN

NGR Site Centre: 601050 142445

Site Code: SHA-EV-24

## **1 INTRODUCTION**

### **1.1 Project Background**

1.1.1 Swale & Thames Survey Company (SWAT Archaeology) were commissioned by A Better Choice for Property Development Limited to undertake an archaeological evaluation of land at Swanton House, Elwick Road in Ashford, Kent (Figure 1).

1.1.2 A planning application (PAN: 20/00711/AS) for the demolition of existing building and erection of two buildings comprising 34 apartments with associated access, parking and landscaping has been submitted to Ashford Borough Council (ABC) whereby Kent County Council Heritage and Conservation (KCCHC), on behalf of ABC, requested that an archaeological evaluation be undertaken in order to determine the possible impact of the development on any archaeological remains. The planning application is currently under consideration by ABC.

1.1.3 The archaeological evaluation, which comprised the excavation of three trenches measuring up to 14.80m in length and 1.8m in width, was carried out over the course of two days in June 2024 (see Table 1 below). The evaluation follows the submission of a Desk-Based Assessment produced by Archaeology Collective in 2020. The evaluation was carried out in accordance with an archaeological Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) prepared by HCUK Group (2024), prior to commencement of works.

### **1.2 Site Description and Topography**

1.2.1 The site is centred on NGR 601050 142445 on the northern side of Elwick Road, within the centre of Ashford, approximately 300m northwest of Ashford International railway station (Figure 1). The proposed site is rectangular in plan encompassing an area of approximately 2,300sq.m with ground levels relatively flat at heights ranging from approximately 46.5m Ordnance Datum (OD) to 47.7m OD. The area available for evaluation trenching was to the rear (north) of Swanton House, within a former car parking area measuring approximately 830sq.m in area.

- 1.2.2 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. No superficial deposit are recorded.

### 1.3 Timetable

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

<b>Task</b>	<b>Dates</b>	<b>Personnel/Company</b>
Desk-Based Assessment	July 2020	Archaeology Collective
Submission of the Written Scheme of Investigation	April 2024	HCUK Group
Archaeological Evaluation – Fieldwork	5 <sup>th</sup> June 2024 to 6 <sup>th</sup> June 2024	SWAT Archaeology
Watching Brief – Drainage test pits	7 <sup>th</sup> June 2024	SWAT Archaeology
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 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 is located close to a number of archaeological sites which are identified on the KCCHER database. The archaeological WSI (HCUK, 2024) provides a summary of the historical and archaeological background, as prepared for the desk-based assessment (Archaeology Collective, 2020: 1.9-1.15), provided herewith;
- 2.1.2 *An archaeological desk-based assessment was prepared for Site by Archaeology Collective (now HCUK Group) in 2020 (Appendix 1). The following summary of the archaeological and historical background has been taken from that report to place the Site into its archaeological and historical context as it is all directly relevant to the Site.*
- 2.1.3 *There are no archaeological monuments recorded on the Kent Historic Environment Record (KHER) relating to the early (Palaeolithic to Neolithic) or late Prehistoric (Bronze Age and Iron*

*Age) periods within the study area used for the archaeological desk-based assessment, being a 750m radius around the Site. Two unspecified prehistoric surface finds (MKE91446) and broadly dated a single flint object (MKE77340) are recorded within the 750m study area. Evidence from the Stour Basin Palaeolithic Project, which covers the Site, suggests the landscape surrounding and within the Site was utilised during the early Prehistoric period but was at most marginal land.*

- 2.1.4 No records of a Roman date have been identified within the Site and only two have been identified within the 750m study area. These include the conjectural route of the Roman road which ran from Benenden to Canterbury, via Ashford (MKE44618), sited c.100m east of the Site. The second record relates to a cremation burial identified during excavations c.660m north of the Site. The KHER records two records of an early medieval date within the 750m study area, including a 7<sup>th</sup> century Anglo-Saxon inhumation burial (MKE3952) found c.70m west of the Site. It is not known if this was an isolated burial or part of a more extensive Anglo-Saxon cemetery. The close proximity of the Anglo-Saxon burial with grave goods is an indication that it could be part of a cemetery that extends into the Site.*
- 2.1.5 There are 16 archaeological monument records of a medieval date within the 750m of the Site, none of which are within the Site. 14 of these relate to extant buildings, which the HER states have medieval elements, and all are listed, these are also concentrated in a tightly defined area encompassing High Street, North Street and the western end of East Hill. The Ashford Historic Towns Survey attempts to define the southern extent of the medieval core of Ashford did not extend any further south than Tupton Street/Vicarage Lane, c.145m north of the Site. It did not extend past this point until the latter half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century and prior to this the Site lay in an agricultural landscape.*
- 2.1.6 Most of the records listed on the KHER, relating to the post-medieval and modern periods, relate to 86 extant listed buildings and 13 unlisted extant buildings. Those records relating to possible buried archaeological remains, mostly relate to former buildings depicted on mapping from the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries but have subsequently been demolished with the sites being redeveloped. One represents a World War II aircraft crash site. There is one non-listed buildings, Swanton House (MKE98040), which is within the Site itself. This building dates to the latter half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century and from 1919 was in use as a military hospital for World War I pensioners.*
- 2.1.7 The 1842 tithe map shows the Site was part of three larger fields, well to the south of the Ashford, but by the 1870s the Site remained undeveloped but residential development was encroaching from the north. By the 1898 Ordnance Survey map Swanton House is shown as having been*



*constructed, but the land to the east of the site is still shown as being underdeveloped. It is noted that Swanton House is the western property of a semi- detached building, with the eastern property being described on the 1958 OS map as Compton House. The garden boundary separating the two properties of Swanton House and Compton House has been largely removed by the OS map of 1974-9, with some small outbuildings also having been constructed to the rear of the properties, with further buildings having been constructed by the 1989- 92 OS map. Compton House is described as being a 'Register Office'. With the exception of the removal of the outbuildings, the site layout remains the same to the present. The gardens to the rear of the property were converted to car parking some point in the latter half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century.*

### **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 (HCUK 2024: 2.4-2.6) as stated below.

#### **3.2 General Aims**

3.2.1 The general aims (or purpose) of the evaluation, in compliance with the ClfA *Universal Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation* (ClfA 2023), were:

- To determine the presence or absence of archaeological deposits or remains;
- 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 remain on site.

#### **3.3 Specific Aims**

3.3.1 The specific aims of the investigation were (HCUK 2024: 2.5):

- To excavate four trenches (15m 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 therefore verify whether the basement beneath Swanton House has completely removed such deposits within its footprint; 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 (HCUK 2024: 2.6):

- 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 (HCUK 2024, Section 3) 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 three evaluation trenches were excavated (Figure 2, Plates 1 and 2), although four trenches were originally suggested in the WSI. 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 ClfA 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 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 3, 301+, 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 relatively limited area of available space and the necessity to maintain access to the site meant that Trench 2 could not be excavated. This change in the methodology was agreed with KCC during the fieldwork stage of operations.

5.1.3 The site, as shown on Figure 2 provides the trench layout with Figures 3-5 illustrating the results for each individual archaeological evaluation trench. Plates 1-14 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 relatively consistent stratigraphic sequence was recorded across the majority of the site comprising a tarmac surface and made ground sealing an intact subsoil, which overlay the natural geological drift deposits. The subsoil, which consisted of dark brown silty sand with occasional angular stones, was present within all three trenches with the underlying natural geology largely comprising mid to light orange, brown sandy clay (Hythe Formation - Sandstone and Limestone) with moderate stone and occasional iron panning.

## **5.3 Archaeological Narrative**

### *Trench 1 (Figure 3, Plates 3-6)*

5.3.1 Within the northern extent of the site (Figure 2), Trench 1 was excavated on a N-S alignment and measured approximately 14.8m in length, 1.8m in width with a maximum depth of 0.86m (Figure 3). Natural geological deposits were recorded at a level of approximately 46.41m OD.

5.3.2 The stratigraphic sequence within this trench consisted of a tarmac surface overlying two layers of reject stone (102) and (103) which sealed an intact subsoil (104). Natural geology (105) was recorded at a depth of approximate; 0.86 below the existing surface.

5.3.3 Within the central area of the trench two post holes were recorded. Post hole [107] was oval in plan and measured 0.55m in length with a width of 0.36 and depth of 0.09m. The relatively straight sides and flat base gave way to a single fill that comprised sterile mid brown silt clay (106). Directly adjacent post hole [109] was roughly circular in plan with a diameter of 0.27m and depth of 0.14m. The steep sides and flat base gave way to a single fill that comprised mid brown silt clay with occasional rounded stones (108). Neither feature contained any archaeological artefacts.

5.3.4 To the southwest of the two post holes a spread of natural iron panning was investigated but no further recording, apart from survey, was carried out.

#### *Trench 2 (Figure 2)*

- 5.3.5 Trench 2 was located within the northeastern extent of the site adjacent to the main access point. Limited space on site caused through the excavation of three trenches with associated spoil and the need to maintain a site access meant that this trench could not be excavated.

#### *Trench 3 (Figure 4, Plates 7-10)*

- 5.3.6 Within the western area of the site (Figure 2), Trench 3 was excavated on an NE-SW alignment and measured approximately 14.8m in length, 1.8m in width with a maximum depth of 0.63m (Figure 3). Natural geological deposits were recorded at a level of approximately 45.91m OD, sealed by made ground (307-303) and an intact subsoil (304).
- 5.3.7 Within the southwestern extent of the trench natural geological horizons were truncated by three cutting ditches, the first of which comprised thick clay with modern building debris clearly within the fill. The earliest of the remaining two ditches consisted of a N-S orientated ditch measuring approximately 0.96m in width with a depth of 0.34m [309]. The single fill (308) comprised dark brown silty clay cut by the second N-S orientated ditch [313] which measured 0.41m in width with a depth of 0.09m. This second ditch turned through 90° towards the west and continued beyond the western extent of the trench, below modern ditch [312]. Two additional interventions were excavated through the smaller ditch [307] and [311] where the consistent fill consisted of a sterile mid brown silt clay (306)=(310)=(312). Despite intensive inspection of the fills from both ditches no dateable artefacts were retrieved.

#### *Trench 4 (Figure 5, Plate 11)*

- 5.3.8 Trench 4 was recorded within the southern extent of the site (Figure 2). Excavated on a N-S alignment Trench 4 measured approximately 11.67m in length with a maximum depth of 1.21m. Natural geological (405) deposits were recorded below made ground (401)-(402) and subsoil (403) at a level ranging between 45.50m OD and 45.65m OD. The length of this trench was reduced to avoid live drains and to fit within remaining space available on the site.
- 5.3.9 No archaeological finds or features were present within this trench.

### **5.4 Monitoring of Ground Water Investigations**

- 5.4.1 In a separate phase of works following the evaluation trenching two test pits (Figure 2, Plates 12-14) were excavated by the developer to investigate drainage conditions of the local soils. The excavation of both test pits was monitored by SWAT Archaeology (see Table 1 above) where the common stratigraphic sequence comprising made ground over buried subsoil was confirmed, no additional archaeological finds or features were encountered.

## **6 FINDS**

### **6.1 Overview**

6.1.1 No archaeological finds were present within the evaluation trenches.

## **7 DISCUSSION**

### **7.1 Introduction**

7.1.1 The archaeological investigation on land at Swanton House, Elwick Road in Ashford, in Kent has investigated the extents of the proposed development area using three trenches, measuring between 11.67m and 14.79m in length and 1.8m in width. In addition, two test pits carried out to test soils drainage properties were monitored.

7.1.2 The natural geology was encountered within all trenches at an average depth of approximately 0.90m below the existing ground surface, directly underlying subsoil and made ground associated with the formation and construction of the existing carpark. Two undated ditches of archaeological interest were recorded within Trench 3, with an additional two undated postholes recorded in Trench 1.

### **7.2 Archaeological Narrative**

7.2.1 The presence of the archaeological features is of interest. Although all four features are undated, they were clearly preserved below an intact subsoil which would suggest that preservation conditions are reasonably favourable should archaeological finds and/or features be present beyond the extent of the trenches. The closest site of archaeological significance is arguably the 7<sup>th</sup> century Anglo-Saxon inhumation burial (MKE3952) found c.70m to the west, although there were certainly no indications of the continuation of the cemetery within any of the trenches excavated.

7.2.2 It is suggested that the 'modern' clay filled ditch (314) is associated with later development of the site, possibly linked to the construction of Swanton House between 1870 and 1898, as building debris similar to that visible in the existing building was consistent with fragments recorded in the ditch. Regarding the two earlier ditches in Trench 3 it is considered highly likely that these are early. The sterile, pale and compact fill, that has been recorded elsewhere around Ashford, may even suggest a Roman or prehistoric date. That said, without dateable finds this suggestion is purely hypothetical. The ditches within Trench 3 and the postholes recorded within Trench 1 were clearly sealed by the relatively extensive subsoil recorded in all trenches and test pits and was most likely intact when the site was a 19<sup>th</sup> century garden enclosure. Garden

features do not tend to be so sterile and would normally contain finds and fills darker and more humic, supporting the suggestion that archaeological features are early.

- 7.2.3 The orientation and position of the two ditches recorded within Trench 3 and the postholes recorded in Trench 3 and Trench 1, respectfully, is of interest as these features may provide the possibility for the presence of an early field system whereby ditch [309], the earliest of the two, filled, went out of use and was subsequently replaced by a smaller enclosure ditch (Ditch cuts 307, 311 and 313). Either one of these phases may be associated with postholes [107] and [109].
- 7.2.4 Archaeological features detailed above survive at a depth of approximately 1m below the existing ground level and therefore, depending on final construction designs, may be impacted during any future development.

### **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.

## **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 A Better Choice for Property Development Limited for commissioning the project. Thanks are also extended to Wendy Rogers, Senior Archaeological Officer at Kent County Council, for her 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. Dr Paul Wilkinson MCIfA, FRSA of SWAT Archaeology carried out the monitoring of the test pits. David Britchfield produced the draft text for this report. The Project Manager for the project was Dr Paul Wilkinson.

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

Kent County Council Historic Environment Record:

<https://webapps.kent.gov.uk/KCC.ExploringKentsPast.Web.Sites.Public/SingleResult.aspx?uid=TKE1046>

**11 APPENDIX 1 – TRENCH TABLES**

<b>Trench 1</b>	<b>Dimensions: 14.80m x 1.8m    Average Depth: 0.86m</b> <b>Ground Level: 46.87m OD – 47.70m OD</b>		
<b>Context</b>	<b>Interpretation</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Depth (m)</b>
(101)	Surface	Tarmac	0.00-0.13
(102)	Made ground	Reject stone (Type II)	0.13-0.38
(103)	Made ground	Reject stone (Type I)	0.38-0.52
(104)	Subsoil	Dark brown silty clay with occasional small, rounded stone.	0.52-0.86
(105)	Natural	Light orange, brown sandy clay with occasional angular stone and occasional iron panning	0.86+
(106)	Fill	Mid brown silty clay, sterile	-
[107]	Posthole	Oval posthole measuring 0.56 x 0.34 x 0.09m deep, filled with (106)	-
(108)	Fill	Mid brown silty clay with small, rounded stone	-
[109]	Posthole	Circular posthole measuring 0.27m diameter and 0.12m deep, filled with (108)	-

<b>Trench 2</b>	<b>Dimensions: NOT EXCAVATED</b>		
<b>Context</b>	<b>Interpretation</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Depth (m)</b>
-	-	-	-

<b>Trench 3</b>	<b>Dimensions: 14.79m x 1.8m    Average Depth: 0.68m</b> <b>Ground Level: 46.50m OD – 46.59m OD</b>		
<b>Context</b>	<b>Interpretation</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Depth (m)</b>
(301)	Surface	Tarmac	0.00-0.08
(302)	Made ground	Reject stone (Type II)	0.08-0.16
(303)	Made ground		0.16-0.44
(304)	Subsoil	Dark grown silty clay with occasional small, rounded stone.	0.44-0.63
(305)	Natural	Light orange, brown sandy clay with occasional angular stone.	0.63+
(306)	Fill of ditch	Relatively soft mid brown silty clay, sterile	-
[307]	Ditch	Linear ditch orientated E-W, same as [311] and [313]	-
(308)	Fill of ditch	Dark brown silty clay with occasional angular stone	-
[309]	Ditch	Linear ditch orientated N-S	-
(310)	Fill of ditch	Relatively soft mid brown silty clay, sterile	-
[311]	Ditch	Linear ditch orientated E-W, same as [307] and [313]	-

<b>Trench 3</b>	<b>Dimensions: 14.79m x 1.8m   Average Depth: 0.68m</b> <b>Ground Level: 46.50m OD – 46.59m OD</b>		
<b>Context</b>	<b>Interpretation</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Depth (m)</b>
(312)	Fill of ditch	Relatively soft mid brown silty clay, sterile	-
[313]	Ditch	Linear ditch orientated E-W, same as [307] and [311]	-
(314)	Fill	Fill of modern ditch comprising thick blue grey clay containing modern building waste	

<b>Trench 4</b>	<b>Dimensions: 11.67m x 1.8m   Average Depth: 1.05m</b> <b>Ground Level: 46.55m OD – 46.73m OD</b>		
<b>Context</b>	<b>Interpretation</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Depth (m)</b>
(401)	Existing surface	Tarmac	0.00-0.06
(402)	Formation	Crushed hardcore including brick, stone and tarmac chippings	0.06-0.39
(403)	Subsoil	Mid brown silty clay with occasional small, rounded stones	0.39-1.21
(404)	Natural	Light brown, orange silty clay with occasional angular stone	1.21+

<b>Test Pit 1</b>	<b>Dimensions: 2m x 0.6m   Average Depth: 1.05m</b> <b>Ground Level: 47.70m OD</b>		
<b>Context</b>	<b>Interpretation</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Depth (m)</b>
(501)	Existing surface	Tarmac	0.00-0.07
(502)	Formation	Crushed hardcore including brick, stone and tarmac chippings	0.07-0.40
(503)	Subsoil	Mid brown silty clay with occasional small, rounded stones	0.40-0.90
(504)	Natural	Light brown, orange silty clay with occasional angular stone	0.90-2.00+

<b>Test Pit 2</b>	<b>Dimensions: 2m x 0.6m   Average Depth: 1.05m</b> <b>Ground Level: 46.73m OD</b>		
<b>Context</b>	<b>Interpretation</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Depth (m)</b>
(601)	Existing surface	Tarmac	0.00-0.11
(602)	Formation	Light grey Type II reject stone	0.11-0.32
(603)	Formation	Crushed hardcore including tarmac chippings	0.32-0.47
(604)	Subsoil	Mid brown silty clay	0.47-0.90
(605)	Natural	Light brown, orange silty clay with occasional angular stone	0.90-2.00+

**Site Name:** Swanton House, Elwick Road in Ashford, Kent

**SWAT Site Code:** SHA-EV-24

**Site Address:** As above

**Summary.** *Swale & Thames Survey Company (SWAT Archaeology) were commissioned by A Better Choice for Property Development Limited to undertake an archaeological evaluation of land at Swanton House, Elwick Road in Ashford, 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 investigation was carried out using three trenches, measuring between 11.67m and 14.80m in length and 1.8m in width and test pits excavated to test soils drainage properties. Natural geology was encountered within all trenches at an average depth of approximately 0.90m below the existing ground surface, directly underlying subsoil and made ground associated with the formation and construction of the existing carpark. Two undated ditches of archaeological interest were recorded within Trench 3, with an additional two undated postholes recorded in Trench 1.*

*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:** Ashford District Council & Kent County Council

**Period(s):** Modern/unknown

**NGR (centre of site to eight figures)** NGR 601050 142445

**Type of Archaeological work:** Archaeological Evaluation

**Date of recording:** June 2024

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

**Geology:** Hythe Formation

**Title and author of accompanying report:** D Britchfield (2024) Archaeological Evaluation of Land at Swanton House, Elwick Road in Ashford, Kent. SWAT Archaeology Ref. SHA-EV-2024

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

**Contact at Unit:** Paul Wilkinson

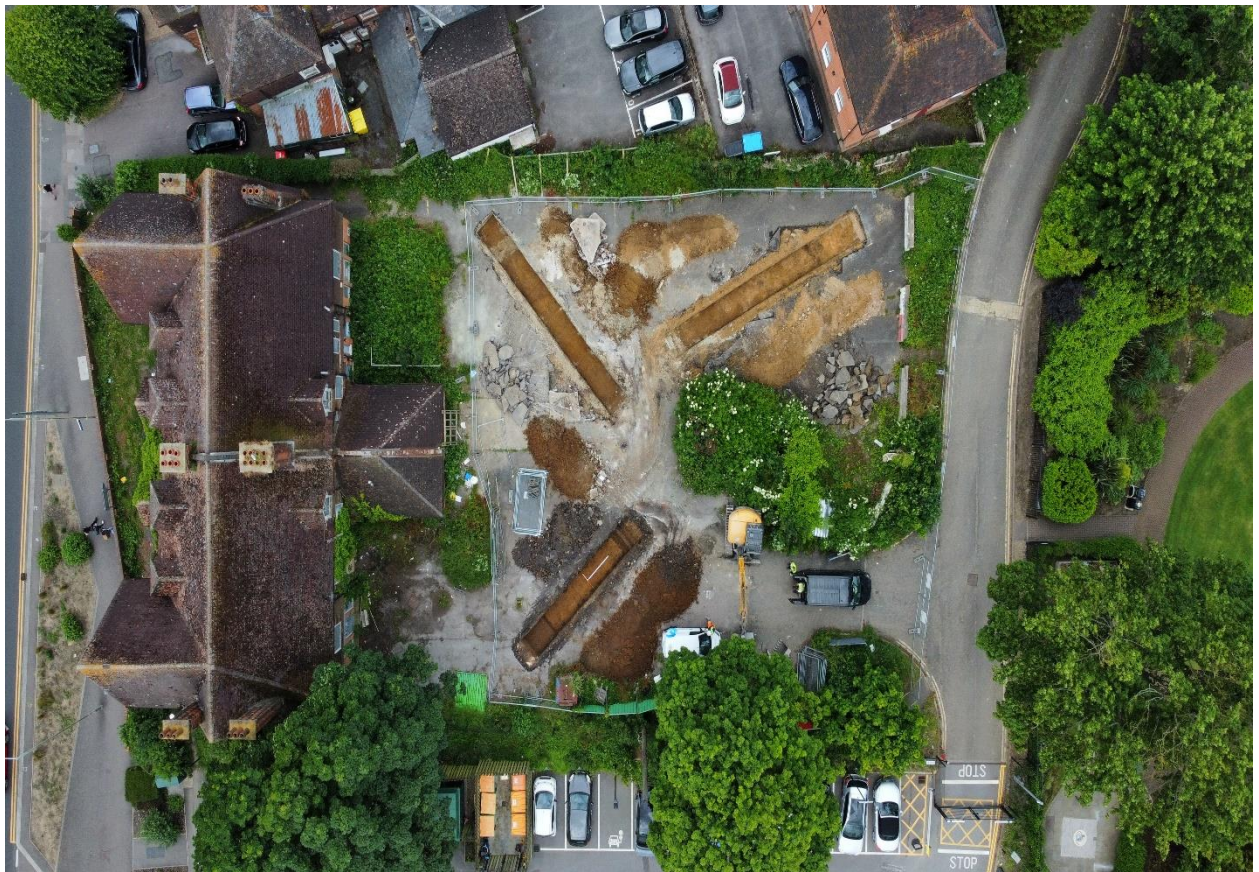
**Date:** 18/06/2024

## PLATES





*Plate 1 Swanton House, viewed from the Northeast*



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





*Plate 3 Trench 1, viewed from the north*



*Plate 4 Trench 1, viewed from the south*





*Plate 5 Trench 1, Post holes [107] and [109]*



*Plate 6 Trench 1, Post holes [107] and [109] (close up)*





*Plate 7 Trench 3, viewed from the northeast*



*Plate 8 Trench 3, Ditch cut [307]*





*Plate 9 Trench 3, Ditch cut [309]*



*Plate 10 Trench 3, Ditch cut [311]*





*Plate 11 Trench 4, viewed from the southeast*



*Plate 12 The excavation of Test Pit 1, viewed from the east*





*Plate 13 Test Pit 1*



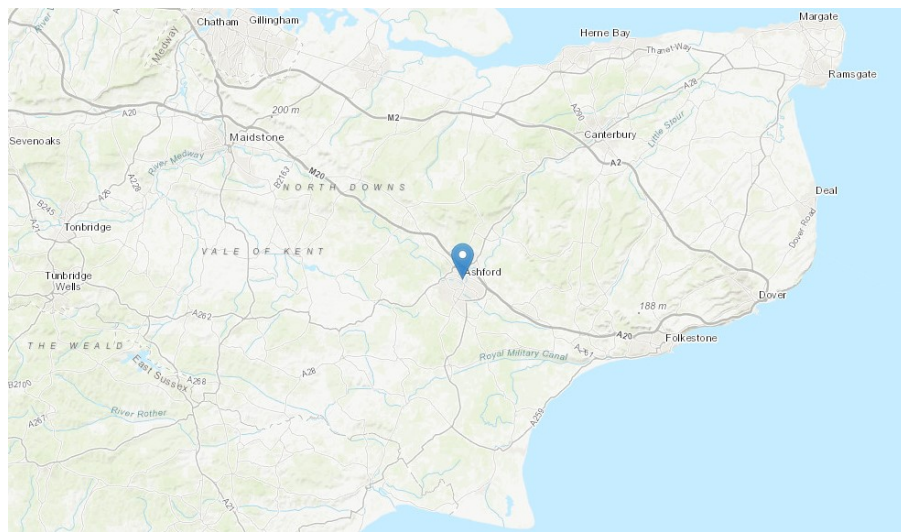
*Plate 14 Test Pit 2*

## FIGURES

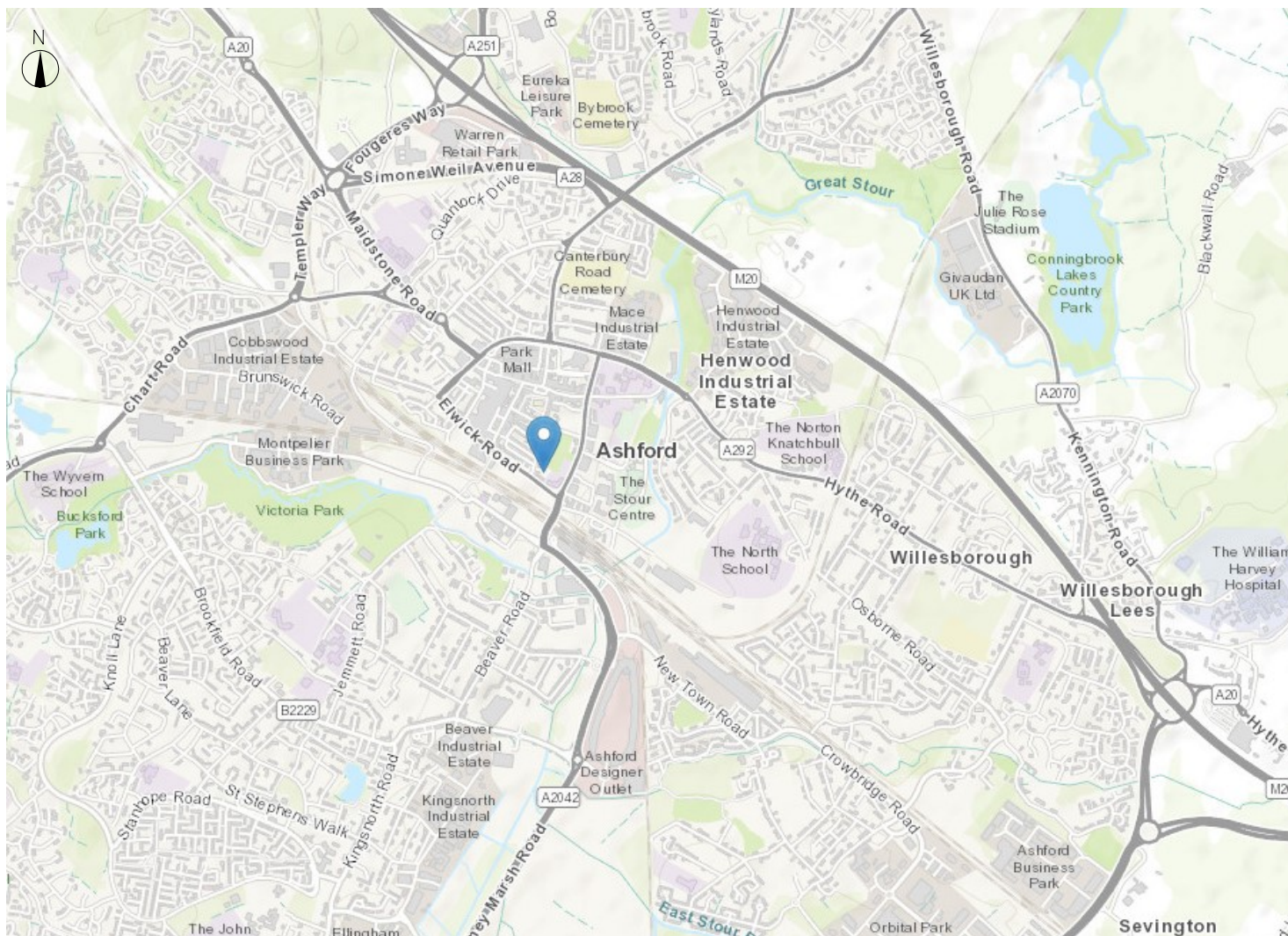




Map of UK (NTS)



Map of Kent (NTS)



Courtesy of National Library of Scotland (NTS)

Figure 1 Site Location Plan

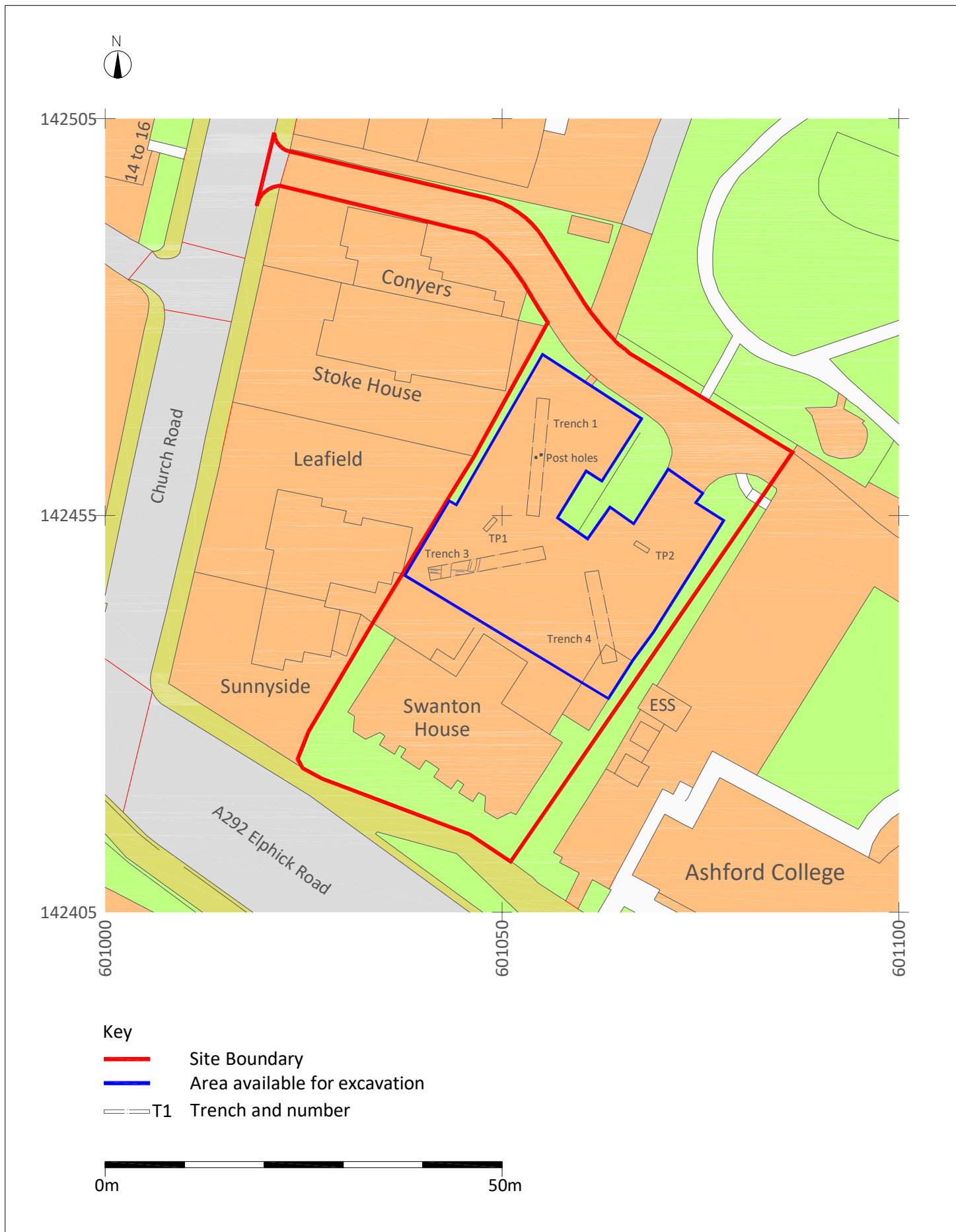


Figure 2 Site Plan

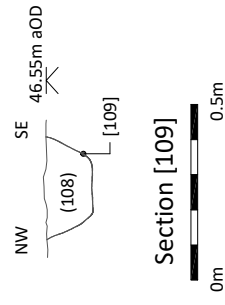
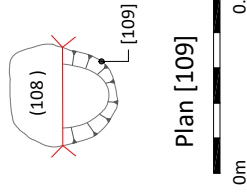
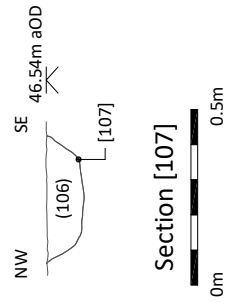
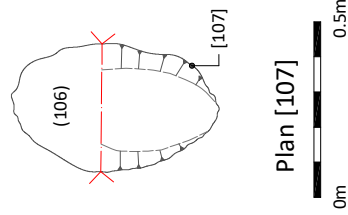
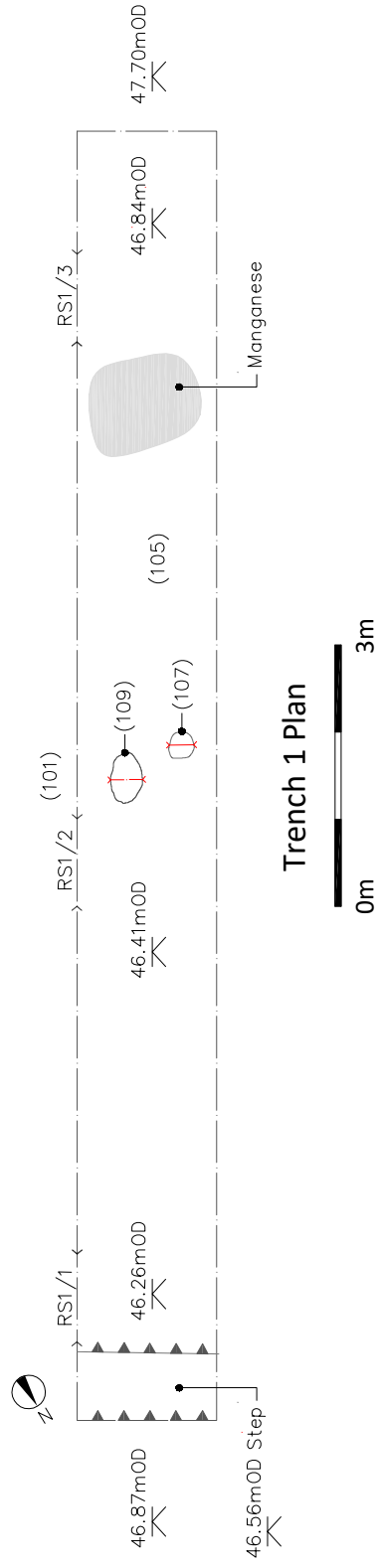
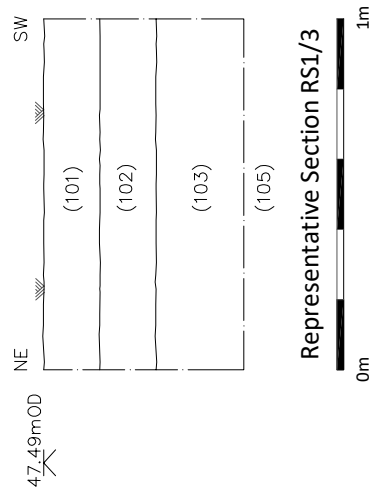
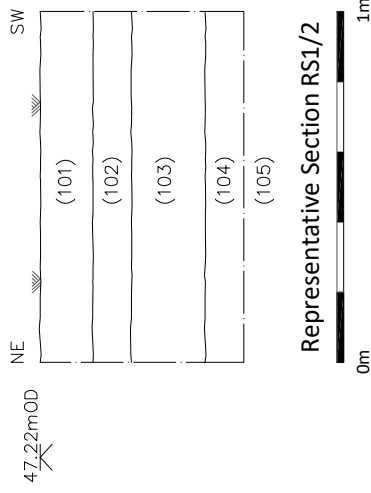
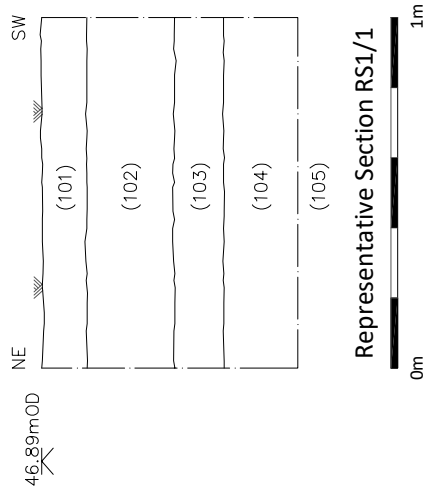


Figure 3 Trench 1 Details



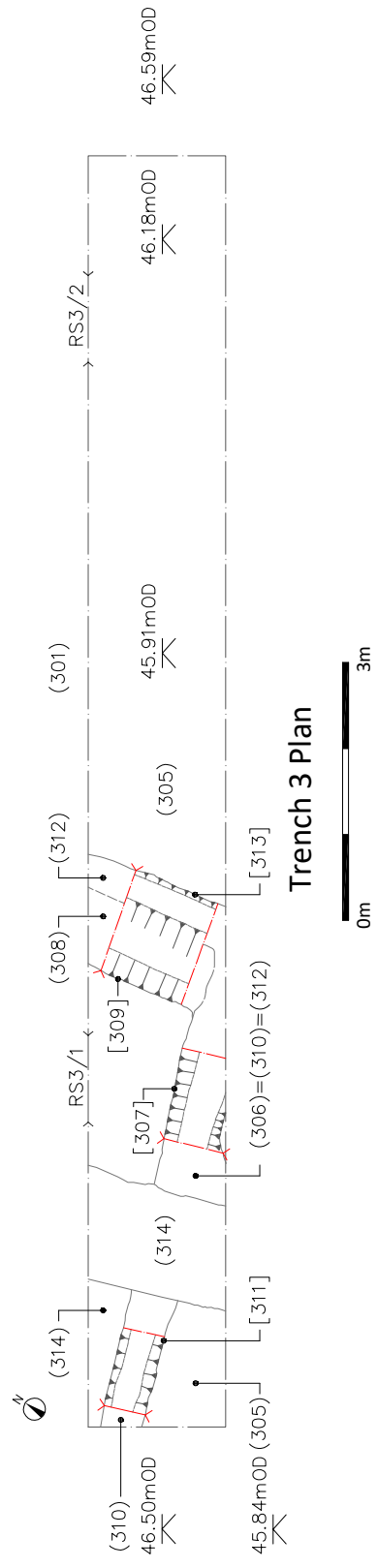
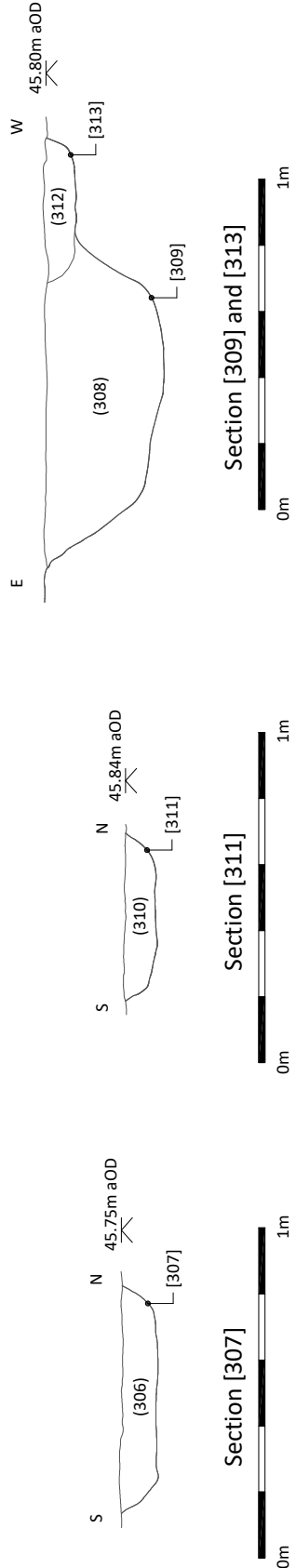


Figure 4 Trench 3 Details

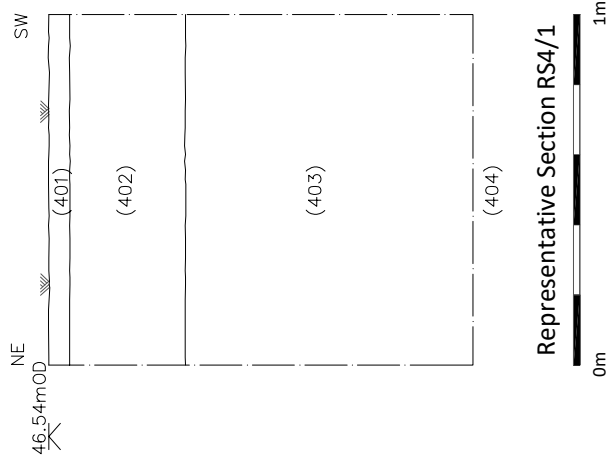
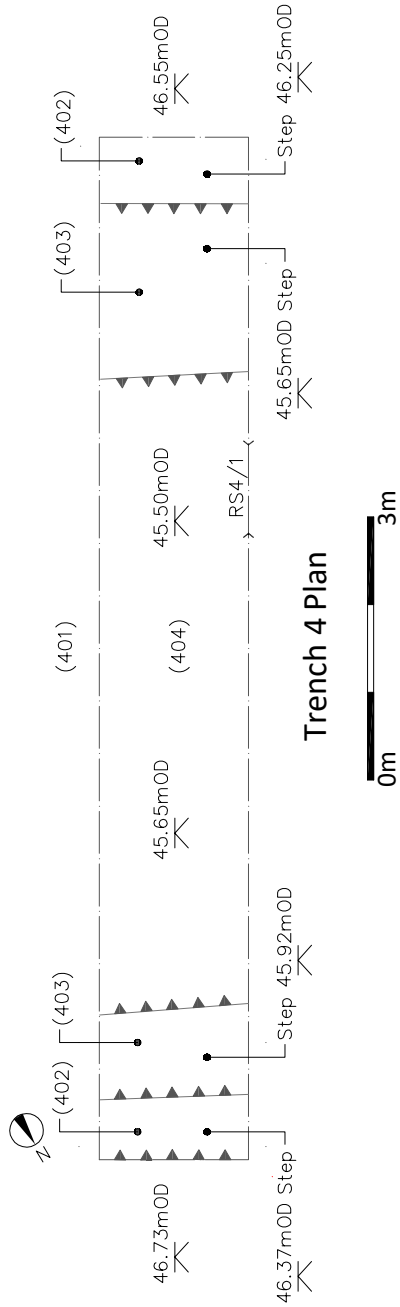


Figure 5 Trench 4 Details



Key

- Site Boundary
- Area available for excavation
- T1 Trench/Test pit and number
- Projected alignment of ditches

0m  50m

Figure 6 Interpretation Plan