Archaeological Evaluation of Land at London Beach Club, Ashford Road, St Michaels, Tenterden, Kent, TN30 6HX

Centred on NGR: 588405, 135972

Site Code: LBT-EV-24
Planning Policy Ref: (19/01206/AS)
18/12/2024

V1

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Summary

Swale and Thames Survey Company (SWAT Archaeology) carried out an archaeological evaluation of land at London Beach Club, Ashford Road, St Michaels, Tenterden, Kent. A planning application was approved by Ashford Borough Council (ABC) for erection of a detached three-storey building containing 12 x 2 bedroom flats for active retirees with associated parking and landscaping (19/01206/AS). On the basis of the present archaeological information Kent County Council Heritage and Conservation (KCCHC), who provide an advisory service to the Local Planning Authority, placed a Condition (3) of archaeological works upon the decision notice in order to establish the presence/ absence of surviving archaeological remains within the proposed development area (PDA).

The work was carried out by SWAT Archaeology on the 25th of November 2024, in accordance with the requirements set out within a Written Specification (WSI) produced by SWAT Archaeology (Wilkinson, 2023) and in discussion with the Senior Archaeological Officer at KCCHC.

The evaluation comprising 5 trenches identified two early 20th century domestic refuse pits (c. 1920s/1930s) associated with near-by residential dwellings of the period, but no evidence of earlier archaeological activity.

Archaeological Evaluation of land at London Beach Club, Ashford Road, St Michaels, Tenterden, Kent, TN30 6HX.

NGR: 588405, 135972

Site Code: LBT-EV-24

Planning Policy Ref: (10/01206/AS)

1. Introduction

1.1. Swale & Thames Survey Company (SWAT Archaeology) were commissioned by The London Beach Hotel Spa and Country Club to undertake an archaeological evaluation of land at London Beach Club, Ashford Road, St Michaels, Tenterden, Kent, following an archaeological Condition (3) being placed on the decision notice (19/01206/AS) due to the known archaeological and historical landscape surrounding the proposed development area (PDA). Planning Application (19/01206/AS) forms Phase 2 of a three-phase development.

1.2. The evaluation, though originally designed to be eight trenches, comprised five trenches due to two being located in an area that will form a later phase of development on site (Phase 3, part of the adjacent Solar farm to the north of the site), and one being located within an active tarmac access and driveway to the adjacent property.

1.3. The work was carried out in accordance with the requirements set out within a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) previously produced by SWAT Archaeology (Wilkinson, 2023), and in discussion with the Senior Archaeological Officer at KCCHC. The evaluation was undertaken on the 25th of November 2024.

1.4. This report summarizes the results of the archaeological evaluation and considers the potential impact to the archaeological resource resulting from the proposed development to aid and inform KCCHC decision on what further archaeological mitigation will be required.

1.5. It should be noted that this evaluation fieldwork and report is for Phase 2 (Planning Application 19/01206/AS) only, and other phases of development will be subject to a separate archaeological investigation covered under task specific written specifications if archaeological conditions are placed upon those decision notices.

2. Site Description, Topography and Geology

2.1. The proposed development area (PDA) is situated to the east of the Ashford Road, approximately 478m south of London Bridge, High Halden and 660m north of the Village of St Michael's, Tenterden. The northern boundary of the site is formed by an existing Solar farm, the eastern boundary an existing pond that fronts the Ashford Road. The western boundary

is formed by the London Beach Hotel Spa and Country Club and southern boundary is defined by an existing property that is being developed. The Site is centred on NGR: 588405, 135972.

2.2. The site is situated within National Character Area (NCA) 121 – Low Weald. The low Weald NCA is a broad, low-lying clay vale which largely wraps around the northern, western and southern edges of the High Weald. It is predominantly an agricultural area, supporting mainly pastoral farming due to the heavy clays, and has many densely wooded areas with a high proportion of ancient woodland (Natural England, 2013).

2.3. The British Geological Survey (BGS) of Great Britain (1:50,000) shows that the bedrock geology of the PDA consists of Weald Clay Formation – Mudstone, with no Superficial deposits recorded, this was confirmed during the evaluation.

2.4. The existing topography of the site is flat and sits at 59.53m aOD.

3. Planning Background

3.1. Planning Application 19/01206/AS forms one phase (Phase 2) of a three-phase development being undertaken by The London Beach Hotel Spa and Country Club. Phase 1, situated to the immediate south of the PDA and spilt into Phase 1A and 1B) comprises 18 no.2-bedroom flats for active retirees, with existing access to London Road. Phase 2 (Planning Application 10/01206/AS), of which this evaluation report is for, comprises 12 no.2-bedroom flats for active retirees with associated access and landscaping. Phase 3, situated to the immediate north of the PDA, will replace the existing solar farm and comprise 48 no.2-bedroom flats for active retirees, fronting Ashford Road.

3.2. It should be noted that this evaluation fieldwork and report is for Phase 2 (Planning Application 19/01206/AS) only and other phases of development will be subject to a separate archaeological investigation covered under task specific written specifications if archaeological conditions are placed upon those decision notices.

3.3. Kent County Council Heritage and Conservation (KCCHC), who provide an advisory service to ABC, recommended (25th September 2019) the site be subject to a programme of archaeological evaluation due to the PDA's proximity to a Roman Road to the north and the presence of the Kent and East Sussex Railway line on the site. They also stated that preservation of the Tenterden to Headcorn branch line is to be encouraged and its alignment be conserved where possible.

3.4. In response to this Ashford Borough Council placed planning Condition 3 to the decision notice:

(3) Prior to the commencement of development, the applicant shall have secured the implementation of an archaeological field evaluation works in accordance with a specification and written timetable which has been previously submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority; and following on from the evaluation has secured the implementation of; Any safeguarding measures, identified in the evaluation as necessary, to ensure preservation in situ of important archaeological remains and/ or further archaeological investigation in accordance with a timetable which has been previously submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority.

Reason: To ensure appropriate assessment of the archaeological implications of any development proposals and the subsequent mitigation of adverse impacts through preservation in situ or by record in accordance with policy ENV15 of the Local Plan.

(Notification of Decision, 6th October 2022)

3.5. This report details the results of the archaeological evaluation of Phase 2 of the development of Land of London Beach Club, Ashford Road, St Michaels, Tenterden carried out by SWAT Archaeology. The evaluation, which comprised of five evaluation trenches, was conducted on the 25th of November 2024 according to the agreed written specification (Wilkinson, 2023).

4. Archaeological and Historical Background

4.1. Wider Archaeological Landscape (1km radius of the PDA)

4.1.1. Introduction

There are no historical or archaeological records contained on the Kent Historic Environment record (KHER) within the immediate surrounding of the PDA (circa 500m radius). In the wider area (1km radius) the HER records pertain to the neighbouring villages and towns, either situated approximately 500m north at London Bridge, High Halden or approximately 600m south in the Village of St Michael's, Tenterden and Tenterden itself. It is for this reason that the discussion of the archaeology of the wider landscape has been split geographically.

London Bridge, High Halden

4.1.2. Post-Medieval

There are 9 Post-Medieval farms and associated historical agricultural buildings/ farmhouses recorded on the Kent Historic Environment Record, reflecting the longstanding agricultural history of the area, detailed below in Table 1. The once exception to this is the former brickworks situated in High Halden (KHER TQ83NE211) that show some industrial work within the area stemming from the geology of the Weald. There are no records to earlier archaeological activity within this area.

KHER Number	Site Name	Description
MKE82514	Questover Farm	Farmstead with a covered yard
MKE82513	Tilden Farm	Loose courtyard plan Farmstead
TQ83NE211	Former Brickworks at High Halden	Site of former brickworks and kiln
MKE82784	Moat Farm	Outfarm with loose courtyard
MKE82781	The White House	Farmstead with a covered yard
TQ83NE178	London Beach Cottage	Grade II listed building
TQ83NE118	Moat House	Grade II listed building
TQ83NE218	Durrant Green House Oast	Site of single Oast
MKE82785	Durrant Green House	Loose courtyard plan Farmstead
TQ83NE219	Durrants Court Oast	Site of single Oast
MKE82786	Durrants Court	Loose courtyard plan Farmstead
TQ83NE153	Durrants Court	Grade II listed building
TQ83NE112	Homestall Farmhouse	Grade II listed building
MKE82782	Homestall Farm	Loose courtyard plan Farmstead
TQ83NE220	Orchard House Oast	Site of single Oast
MKE82783	Orchard House	Loose courtyard plan Farmstead
TQ83NE110	Black Cottage	Grade II listed building
MKE82888	Elm Tree Farm	Loose courtyard plan Farmstead

Table 1, Post-Medieval Farmsteads and buildings located in London Beach, High Halden.

St Michael's and Tenterden

4.1.3. Roman

The earliest archaeological record within the study area is the Roman Road, approximately 780m south of the site, which is now partially fossilised as Grange Road in Tenterden.

4.1.4. Medieval

There are three records for Medieval buildings within Tenderden, Marshalls Farm a late Medieval Hall house (KHER TQ83NE194), Briton House – a grade II listed buiding (KHER TQ83NE111) and Watersland – a grade II listed building associated with Waters Farm (KHER TQ83NE136).

4.1.5. Post-Medieval

Similarly to the Post-Medieval archaeology of London Beach, High Halden the record is dominated by farmsteads and associated historical agricultural buildings/ farmhouses *(see table 2 below).*

Table 2 Post-Medieval Farmsteads and buildings located St Michaels and Tenterden.

KHER Number	Site Name	Description
MKE82779	Beechwood Farm	Dispersed multiplan Farmstead
TQ83NE222	Readers Ridge Farm Oast	Site of Single Oast
MKE82778	Readers Ridge Farm	Regular multiyard Farmstead
MKE82780	Pope House Farm	Loose courtyard plan Farmstead
TQ83NE115	Pope House Farmhouse	Grade II listed building
TQ83NE223	Little Harbourne Farm Oast	Site of Single Oast
MKE82835	Little Harbourne Farm	Regular L-plan Farmstead
MKE82869	Coexer Farm	Loose courtyard plan Farmstead
TQ83NE127	Church of St Michael	Grade II listed building
TQ83NE209	Former National School	-
MKE82872	Marshalls	Loose courtyard plan Farmstead
TQ83NE195	Former Oast	-
MKE82774	Waters Farm	Dispersed plan Farmstead
MKE82775	Silcocks	Loose courtyard plan Farmstead
MKE82776	Birds Isle	Loose courtyard plan Farmstead
MKE82871	Grange Manor	Regular multiyard Farmstead
TQ83NE147	Church View	Grade II listed building

TQ83NE143	Isleden	Grade II listed building

4.1.6. Kent and East Sussex Railway

In addition to the wider archaeological landscape discussed above the Kent and East Sussex Railway line is situated within the study area, with the Tenterden to Headcorn branch of the line present within the western boundary of the PDA.

The Rother Valley Railway, as it was known at its inception, was a standard gauge line from a junction at Robertsbridge in East Sussex to Tenterden. The line opened in 1900 and was extended to Tenterden town station in 1903 (the original terminus was renamed Rolvenden), and then additionally extended through to Headcorn in 1905 where it was renamed as the Kent and East Sussex Railway. The line was closed in 1961 by British Railways, however a 10 mile stretch of the railway was re-opened in 1974 as a preserved railway (colonelstephenssociety.co.uk, 2024).

The section of railway that situated within the PDA looks from historical mapping (**Figure 6**) to comprise a raised bank on which the line was situated. This bank partially survives within Phase 1 of the development (to the immediate south of the evaluation area) and comprises a circa 1m wooded bank. The continuation of this feature into Phases 2 and 3 has been removed, historic aerial photography suggests it was demolished towards the end of the 1980's or the early 1990's.

5. Aims and Objectives

5.1. The project adhered to the aims and objectives laid out in the KCCHC approved WSI (Wilkinson, 2023).

5.2. The primary objective of the archaeological evaluation was to establish the presence/ absence of any potential archaeological features which may be impacted by the proposed development and to disseminate the results of the evaluation through an evaluation report, which, if possible, will contextualise any recorded archaeological remains within the wider known archaeological landscape.

5.3. The aims of the investigation were to determine the potential for archaeological activity within the bounds of the PDA and in particular Roman archaeological activity and 20th Century

surviving remnants or features associated with the construction of the Tenterden to Headcorn branch of the Kent and East Sussex Railway.

6. Methodology

6.1. Introduction

6.1.1. All fieldwork was conducted in accordance with the methodology set out in the KCCHC approved WSI (Wilkinson, 2023) and carried out in compliance with the standards outlined in the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' Standard Guidance for Archaeological Evaluations (CifA, 2014).

6.1.2. Though the original WSI was designed for eight targeted trenches, only five trenches could be excavated as two trenches fell into the bounds of the solar park which is situated within phase 3 of the development and one trench was positioned on a tarmac drive, branching off the Ashford Road, that provides the adjacent property access.

6.2. Fieldwork

6.2.1. A total of 5 trenches (14m to 25m x 1.8m) were excavated, laid out in accordance with the KCCHC approved trench layout within the WSI (2023). All trench locations were set out using GNSS prior to excavation. KCCHC were notified during the evaluation of any necessary movement of trenches or trenches that were not excavated.

6.2.2. A 15t 360 tracked mechanical excavator fitted with a 1.8m wide toothless ditching bucket was used to remove the overburden, comprising of an intact topsoil sealing subsoil to reveal the natural geology and the archaeological horizon.

6.2.3. Where appropriate trenches or specific areas/sections were subsequently hand-cleaned to clarify the nature of potential features and to record sample sections of the stratigraphy of each trench.

6.2.4. The overburden was reduced in 100mm spits under the constant supervision of a qualified archaeologist, with topsoil and subsoil being stored separately either side of the trench edge. All spoil heaps were visually checked for artefactual material.

6.2.5. A test pit was excavated at the south-eastern end of the trench 1 to investigate a change in the nature of the bedrock geology.

6.3. Recording

6.3.1. A complete photographic record was maintained on site that included working shots, during mechanical excavation and following archaeological investigations.

6.3.2. A complete drawn record of the evaluation trenches and excavated interventions was maintained, comprising of both plans and sections, drawn to the appropriate scales (1:20 for plans and 1:10 for sections). The site was also surveyed using GNSS to record the position of the trenches, features and interventions and to record coordinates and aOD heights.

6.3.3. 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 2 202+, Trench 3 301+).

7. Monitoring

7.1. Communication with the Senior Archaeological Officer for Kent County Council Heritage and Conservation comprised of emails. Curatorial monitoring was made available on the 26th November 2024, however, the Senior Archaeological Officer at KCCHC signed the works off remotely. KCCHC's permission was obtained before reinstatement works began.

8. Results

8.1. Introduction

8.1.1. A total of 5 evaluation trenches (between 14m and 25m in length and 1.8m wide) were mechanically excavated under archaeological supervision. A two 20th century refuse pits were identified in trench 5.

8.1.2. Figure list:

- *Figure 1: Site location plan*
- *Figure 2: Development phase location plan*
- *Figure 3: Trench plan*
- *Figure 4: Trench plan overlaid with development plan*
- *Figure 5: Plan and sections of Trenches 3 and 5*
- *Figure 6: Overlay of trench plan and 1906 OS map*
- *Figure 7: Position of surviving railway bank.*

8.2. Stratigraphic Deposit Sequence

8.2.1. A consistent stratigraphic sequence was observed across the site of approximately 0.25m of topsoil overlying 0.15m of subsoil, overlaying the geological and archaeological

horizon. The only exception to this was observed in trench 1 where a 0.35m made ground was recorded to seal the geology.

8.3. Archaeological Narrative

8.3.1. Trench 1

Trench 1 was excavated on an NNW-SSE alignment and measured 16.5m long, 1.8m wide, with underlying geology reached after 0.35m. The trench was negative for archaeological features.

A single disturbed made ground (100), comprising a friable mottled dark black, mid greyish brown and light grey silty clay with frequent humic topsoil patches. This sealed the geology (101) comprising a firm mid greyish blue slightly silty clay with patches of light brownish yellow silty clay and frequent patches of mudstone and sandstone.

This geology (101) was investigated at the SSE end of the trench as it was different to the geology overserved in the surrounding trenches. The test pit shows a continuation of the geology up to 1.1m below current ground level and continuing.

Made ground (100) is likely a remnant of the construction of the Tenterden to Headcorn branch for the Kent and East Sussex Railway, opened in 1905, which passed through the PDA in this location and comprised a raised bund which the railway was built upon. Alternatively, it could be the case that this disturbed ground stems from the demolition of the railway bund within this area of the site, which according to aerial photography, looks to have been cleared from the site in the late 1980's/ early 1990's.

8.3.2. Trench 2

Trench 1 was excavated on an NNW-SSE alignment and measured 20.9m long, 1.8m wide, with underlying geology reached after 0.35m to 0.4m. The trench was negative for archaeological features.

The trench was sealed by a topsoil (200), 0.2m to 0.25m thick, comprising a mid-brownish grey humic clayey silt with occasional manganese fleck inclusions. This in turn sealed a 0.15m thick subsoil (201), a firm mottled mid yellowish brown and mid grey silty clay with moderate manganese fleck inclusions.

The geology (202), beneath the subsoil, was a firm mottled light yellow and light blueish grey clay.

8.3.3. Trench 3

Trench 3 was excavated on an NW-SE alignment and measured 24m long, 1.8m wide, with underlying geology reached after 0.39m to 0.45m. The trench was negative for archaeological features. A modern storm drain and associated drainage was encountered at the centre of the trench and was left in situ, so stop the trench flooding.

The trench was sealed by a topsoil (300), 0.2m to 0.28m thick, comprising a mid-brownish grey humic clayey silt with occasional manganese fleck inclusions. This in turn sealed a 0.16m to 0.2m thick subsoil (301), a firm mottled mid yellowish brown and mid grey silty clay with moderate manganese fleck inclusions.

The geology (302), beneath the subsoil, was a firm mottled light yellow and light blueish grey clay.

8.3.4. Trench 4

Trench 4 was excavated on an N-S alignment and measured 14m long, 1.8m wide, with underlying geology reached after 0.34m. The trench was negative for archaeological features.

The trench was sealed by a topsoil (400), 0.21m thick, comprising a mid-brownish grey humic clayey silt with occasional manganese fleck inclusions. This in turn sealed a 0.14m thick subsoil (401), a firm mottled mid yellowish brown and mid grey silty clay with moderate manganese fleck inclusions.

The geology (402), beneath the subsoil, was a firm mottled light yellow and light blueish grey clay.

8.3.5. Trench 5

Trench 5 was excavated on an SW-NE alignment and measured 25m long, 1.8m wide, with underlying geology reached after 0.34m to 0.41m. The trench contained two 20th century refuse pits [503] and [505].

The trench was sealed by a topsoil (500), 0.2m to 0.24m thick, comprising a mid-brownish grey humic clayey silt with occasional manganese fleck inclusions. This in turn sealed a 0.15m to 0.17m thick subsoil (501), a firm mottled mid yellowish brown and mid grey silty clay with moderate manganese fleck inclusions.

Truncating the subsoil, located at the centre of the trench, were two 20th century refuse pits [503] and [505].

Pit [503] measured 2m in length, 0.8m+ in width and was orientated broadly SW-NE. Pit [503] was sub circular in plan and was not excavated due to it producing good datable material on the surface and the high-water table encountered across the site. It contained a loose dark grey silty clay fill (502) which contained very frequent fragments of broken glassware, broken 20th century ceramics and some intact glass bottles.

Pit [505], located 3m NE of pit [503], measured 2.5m in length, 0.5m+ in width and orientated again broadly SW-NE. Pit [505] was sub ovate in plan and was not excavated due to it producing good datable material on the surface and the high-water table encountered across the site. It contained a dark grey silty clay fill (504) which contained very frequent fragments of broken glassware and an intact glass bottle.

Both features truncated the geology (506), beneath the subsoil, was a firm mottled light yellow and light blueish grey clay.

9. Finds

9.1. The site was devoid of pre-20th century archaeological material.

9.2. From the fragmented material produced by refuse pit [503], four very datable stratified finds were identified: three complete glass bottles and a bottle cap. The first of these is a 'true' blue glass bottle with an external threaded screw cap. This colour of bottle is used from the mid 19th century all the way through to the 1930s however it is the mould lines and threaded cap which narrow down the date. The fine and sharp mould lines are typical of machine-made bottle typical of the 1920s and the external threaded screw top, although patented in 1858 was not introduced to mass produced bottles until the late 1920's (Society for Historical Archaeology, 2024).

The second of these is a bottle with the embossed company logo 'J. A. Sharwoods & Co Limited, London & Bombay'. Sharwood's as a limited company was established in 1899 and is still in business to this day. The fine and sharp mould lines are again indicative of a typical machine-made bottle of the 1920s and the colourless or clear glass the bottle is made from is also an indicator of the period it was created in. Colourless glass which was decolorized with selenium or arsenic (or typically a combination of the two in conjunction with cobalt oxide) results in a very faint "straw" or amber tint to the thickest portions of the glass which is unlikely to date much prior to the mid 1910s (Society for Historical Archaeology, 2024). Therefore, it is likely that this bottle dates from the 1920s-1930s.

The third is a Walkers Kilmarnock Whiskey bottle produced after 1910 onwards, this is identifiable by the embossed bottle marker 'S' on the base of the bottle which replaces an 'X' on bottles produced pre-1910 (Antique-bottles.net, 2024). The mould lines and clear glass also indicative of a machine manufactured bottle likely of the 1920s.

Lastly the feature produced a Bakelite 'Dettol' branded external threaded screw cap. Bakelite, although patented in the United States in in 1909, was not manufactured in Great Britain until 1926 (Travis *et al*, 1998). The 'Dettol' brand was not established until 1933 (reckitt.com, 2024). This further confirms that feature [503] likely dates between the late 1920s to the early 1930s.

9.3. The finds within pit [505] were very similar in nature to those encountered in pit [503] though far more fragmented. One intact bottle was retrieved from the feature, a small clear glass bottle with a external threaded Bakelite screw top. Although the feature did not bear any identifiable brand markings for the reasons discussed above the bottle is likely to date from the 1930s, with the two refuse use pits being contemporary.

10. Discussion

10.1. Introduction

10.1.1. The archaeological investigation has been successful in evaluating Phase 2 of the development site for the possibility of archaeological remains. Preservation conditions for an archaeological horizon were considered mostly favourable across the Site, with the exception of the western edge of the site where the Kent and East Sussex Railway line had been situated.

10.1.2. The archaeological evaluation of Land at London Beach Club, Ashford Road, St Michaels, Tenterden has identified evidence associated with either the construction or demolition of the 1905 branch of the Kent and East Sussex Railway within the western edge of the site as well as recording the presence of two early 20th century refuse pits.

10.1.3. A consistent stratigraphic sequence was observed across the site of approximately 0.25m of topsoil overlying 0.15m of subsoil, overlaying the geological and archaeological horizon. The only exception to this was observed in trench 1 where a 0.35m made ground was recorded to seal the geology.

10.2. Conclusions

10.2.1. The archaeological investigation has been successful in fulfilling the primary aims and objectives of the specification.

10.2.2. With regards to the evaluation investigating surviving evidence for the Tenterden to Headcorn 1905 extension of the Kent and East Sussex Railway on site, the made ground (100) observed to seal the geology in trench 1 is likely a remnant of the construction of this segment of line, comprising a raised bund which the railway was built upon. Alternatively, it could be the case that this disturbed ground stems from the demolition of the railway bund within this area of the site, which according to aerial photography, looks to have been cleared from the site in the late 1980s/ early 1990s. It should be noted that Phase 2 and 3 have been levelled and there is no surviving railway bank in these areas however, the bank does still exist in Phase 1 (Figure 7) as the form of a circa 1m tall, wooded bank. If an archaeological condition is placed upon the decision notice of Phase 1 then the archaeological programme could have the opportunity to record the bounds and OD levels of the surviving railway embankment, though this opportunity has been lost for Phase 2 and 3 where it has been removed. KCCHC's comments on 25th September 2019 of ' *The preservation of the Tenterden to Headcorn branch line is be to encouraged and it's alignment should be preserved where possible*' should be taken into consideration when creating an archaeological programme for Phase 1.

10.2.3. The only features identified on site were two early 20th Century refuse pits in trench 5 ([503] and [505]). Discussion with the Senior Archaeological Officer at KCCHC during the evaluation raised concerns that the features may have been associated with the construction of the railway line and therefore be of social historical importance. However, after careful consideration of the retrieved material from these refuse pits, they likely date from the late 1920s to the early 1930s. The Tenderden to Headcorn extension of the line was opened in 1905 and therefore this material cannot be associated with the construction of the railway. The likely source of these refuse pits comes from the neighbouring farms/ cottages; 350m south is the Post-Medieval Dispersed multiplan Farmstead Beechwood Farm (also referred to as Woodside Farm) (MKE82779), present on the first OS Map to now. Alternatively, a property named 'Crouchurst' first appears on the 1906 OS map (Figure 6), situated approximately 200m southwest of the PDA. During the early 20th century, the PDA would have been a wooded area occupied by two ponds which may have been former quarry pits (as seen elsewhere

in the surrounding area), this would have made a suitable area for refuse that was not situated on active agricultural ground, as was the surrounding area.

10.2.4. The results from this work will be used to aid and inform the Senior Archaeological Officer at KCCHC to decide what form further archaeological mitigation measures will be necessary as part of the planning application process.

11.Acknowledgements

11.1. SWAT Archaeology would like to thank The London Beach Hotel Spa and Country Club for commissioning the project. Thanks are also extended to Wendy Rogers, Senior Archaeological Officer at Kent County Council Heritage and Conservation. Site Survey and illustrations were produced by Jonny Madden of Digitise This. The fieldwork was undertaken by Dan Worsley MA. The report was written by Dan Worsley MA. The project was managed by Dr Paul Wilkinson MiFA.

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Plate 1 PDA before evaluation, vegetation had been removed by ecology.

Plate 2 Trench 1 plan looking southeast

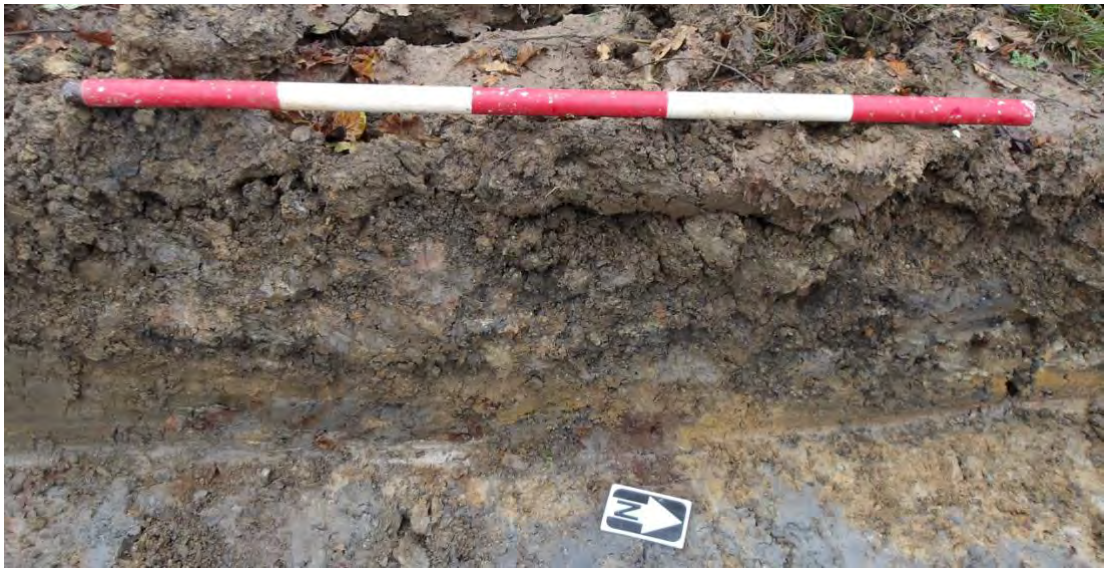


Plate 3 Trench 1 sample section 1

Plate 4 Trench 2 plan looking east

Plate 5 Trench 3 plan looking northwest, modern storm drain at the centre of the trench

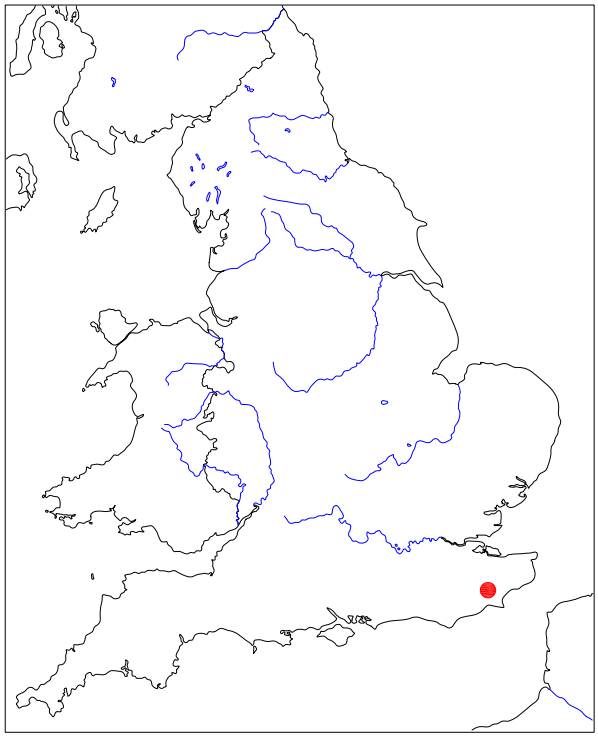
Plate 6 Trench 3 sample section 1

Plate 7 Trench 4 plan looking northeast

Plate 8 Trench 5 plan looking southwest

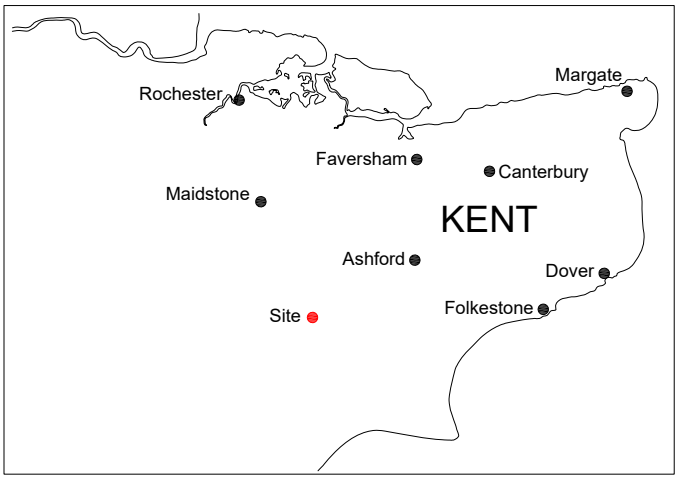
Plate 9 Early 20th century refuse pit [503]

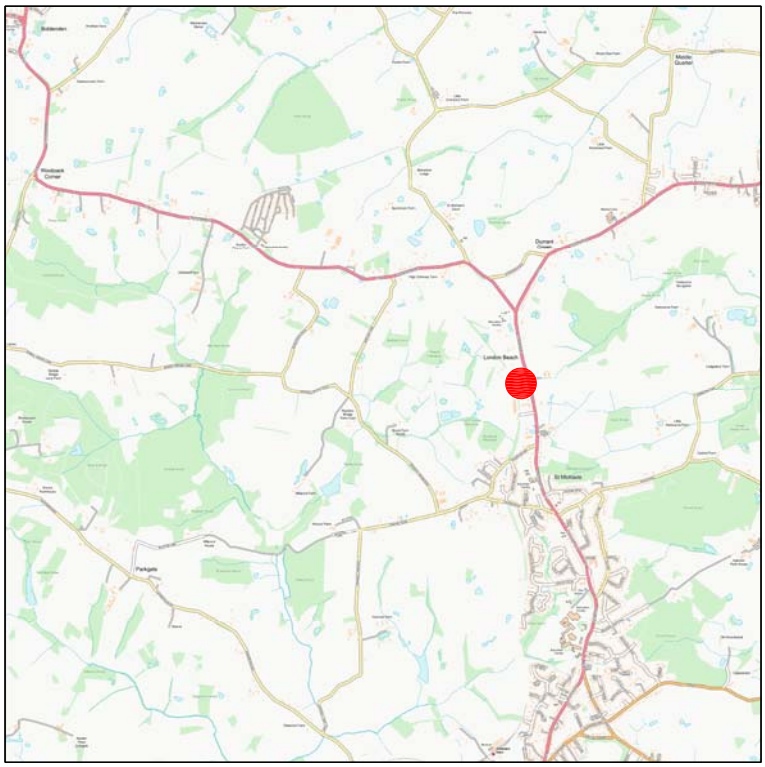
NOT TO SCALE



N

NOT TO SCALE





1:50000@A4

0m 5km

Figure 1: Site Location Plan

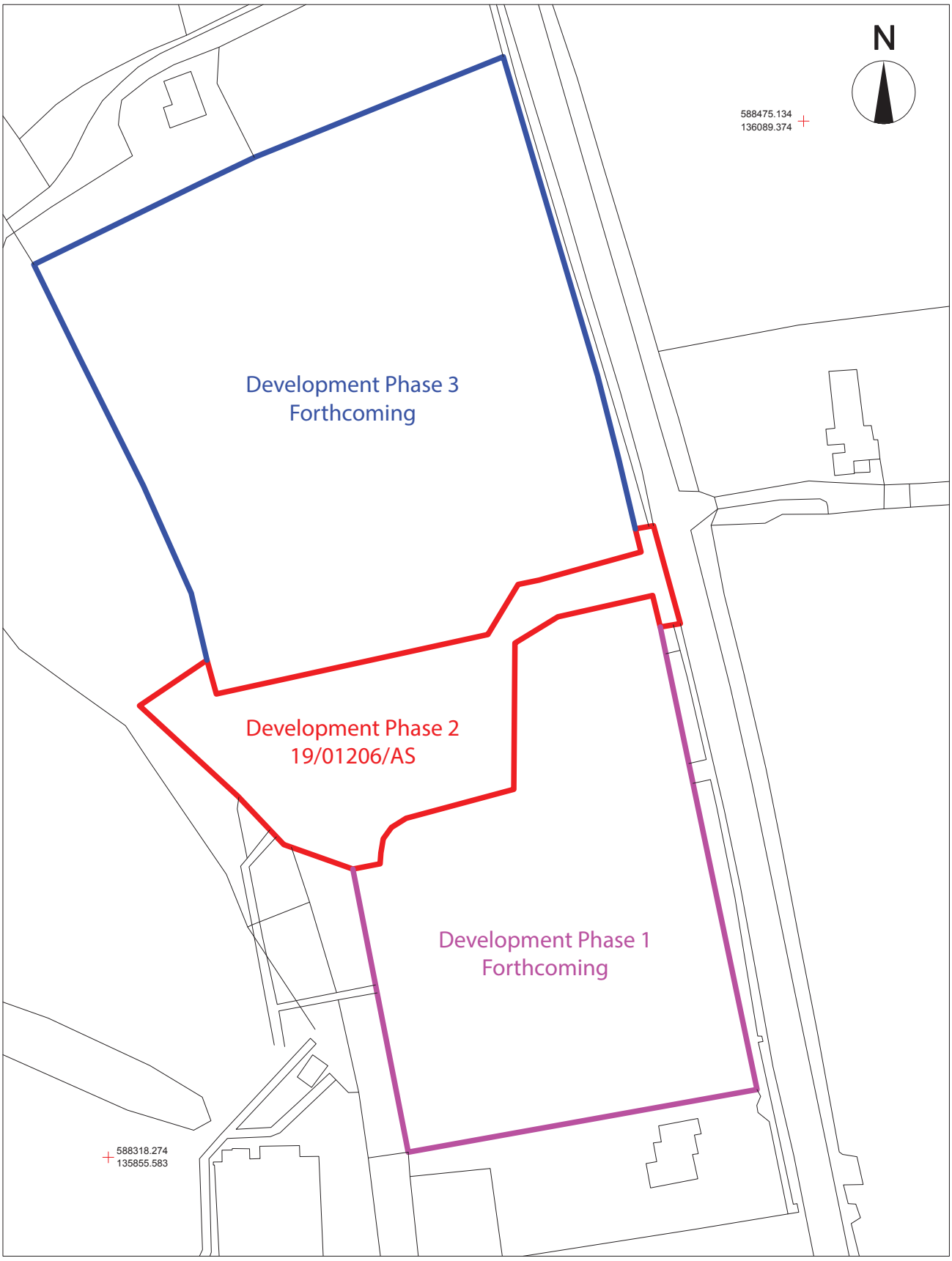


Figure 2: Development Phase location plan

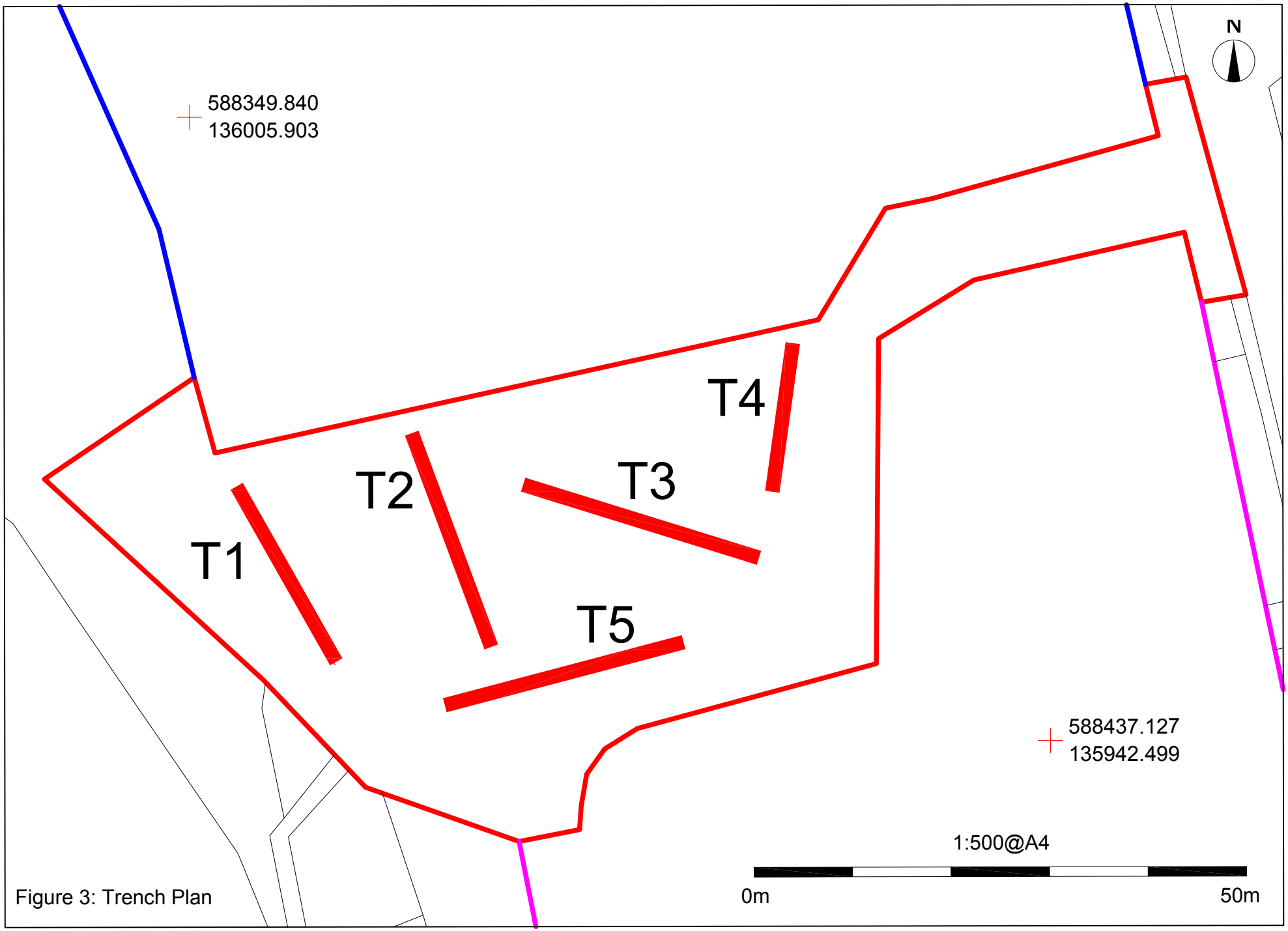


Figure 3: Trench Plan

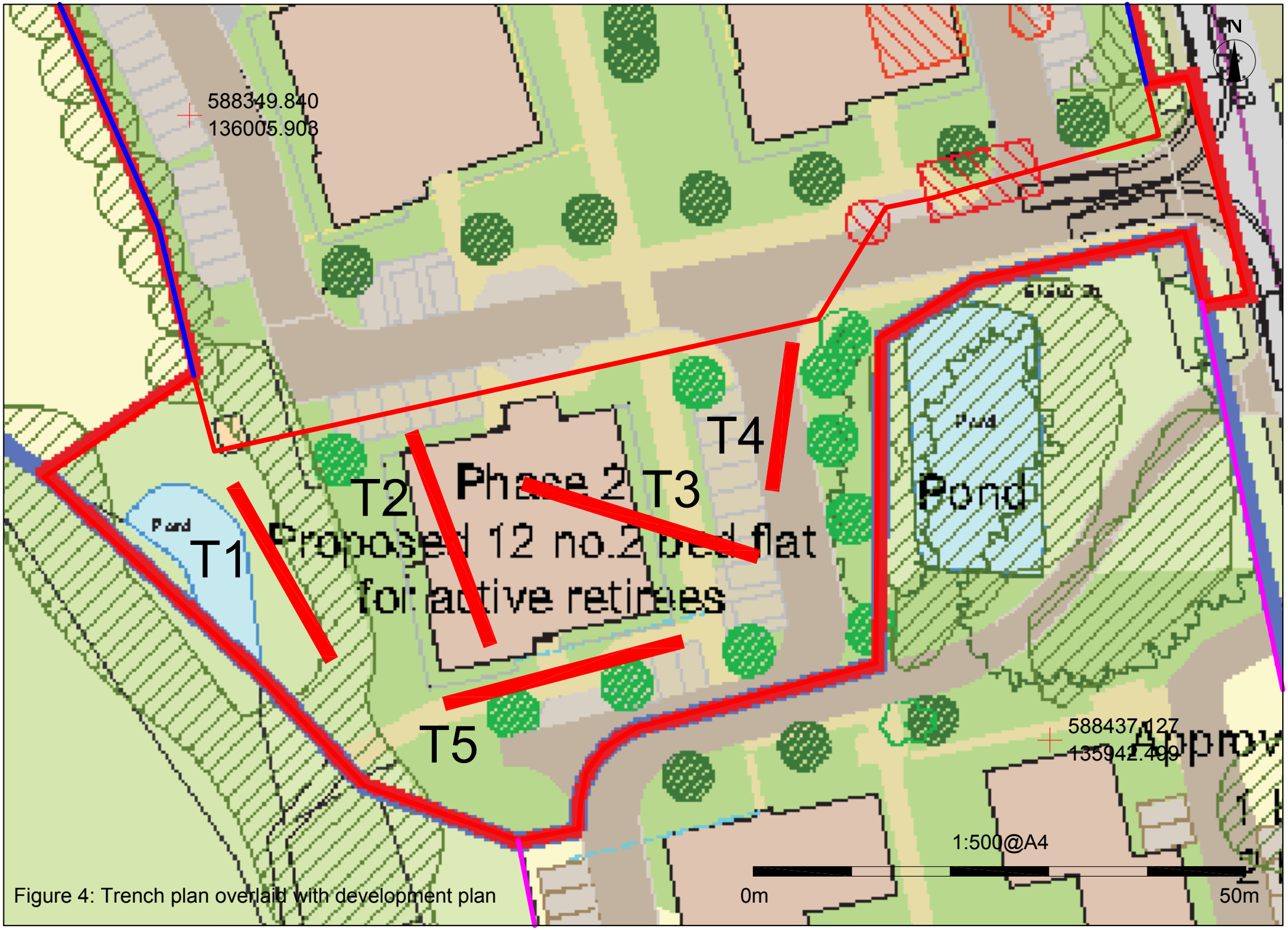


Figure 4: Trench plan overlaid with development plan

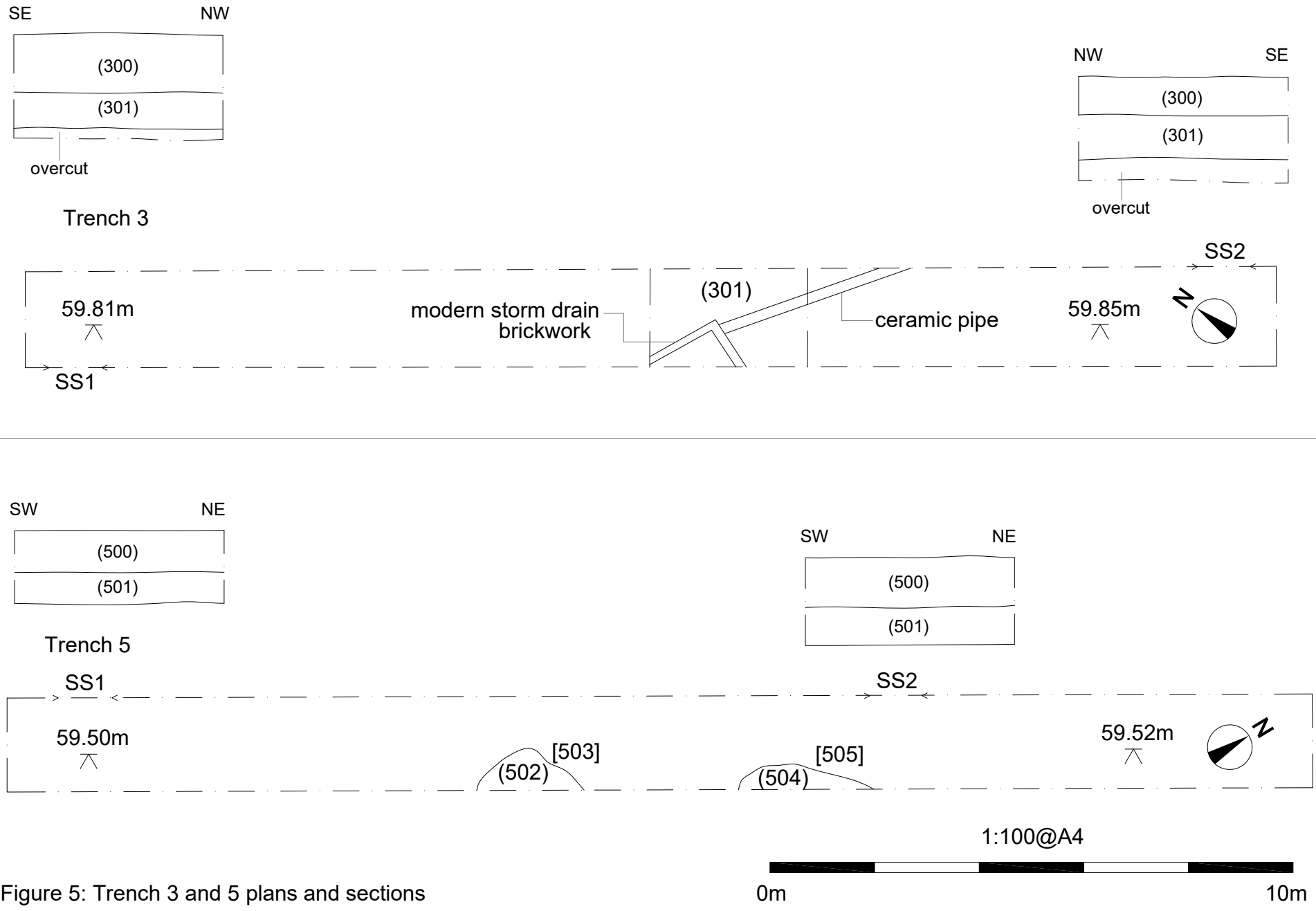


Figure 5: Trench 3 and 5 plans and sections

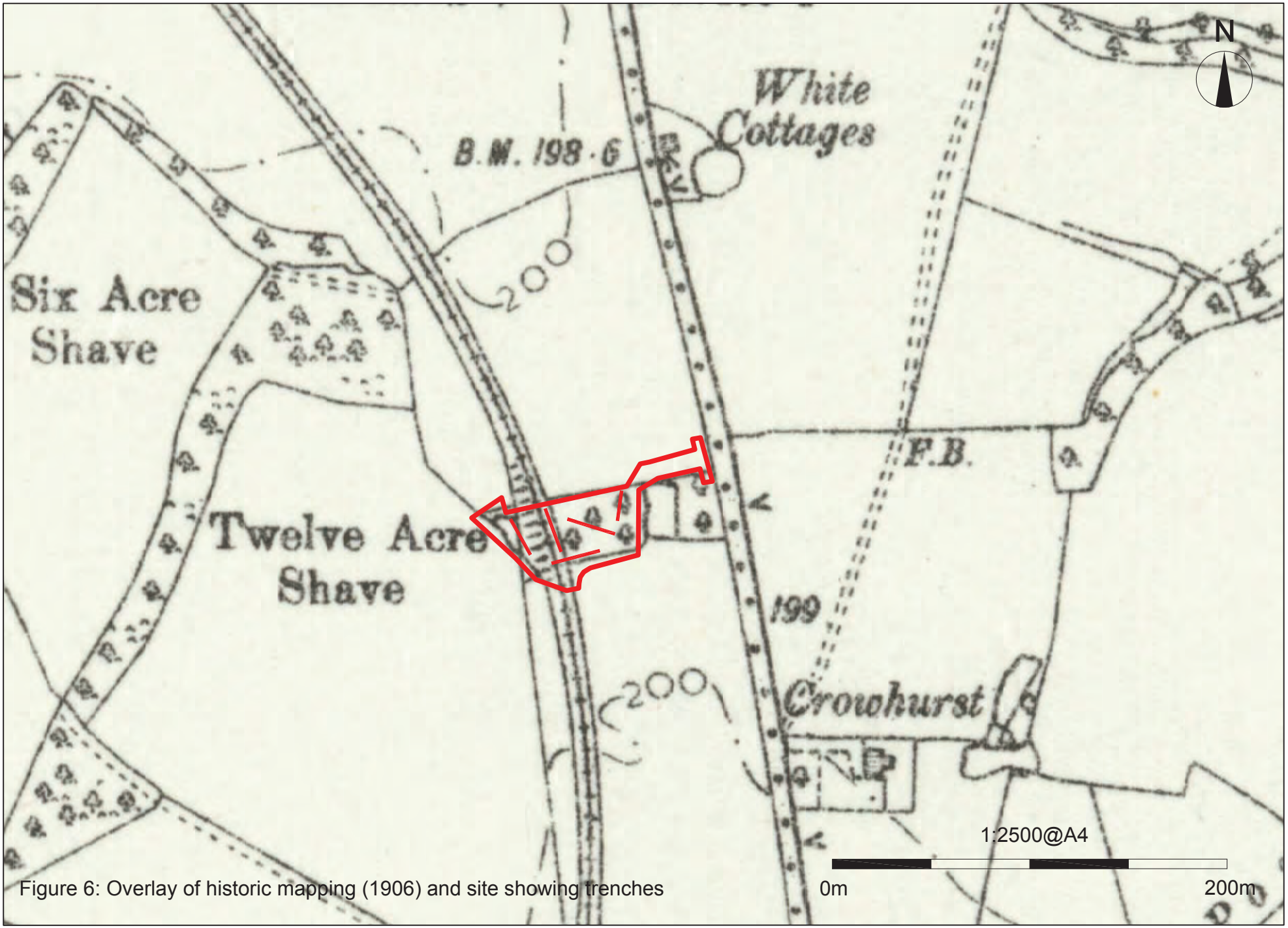


Figure 6: Overlay of historic mapping (1906) and site showing trenches

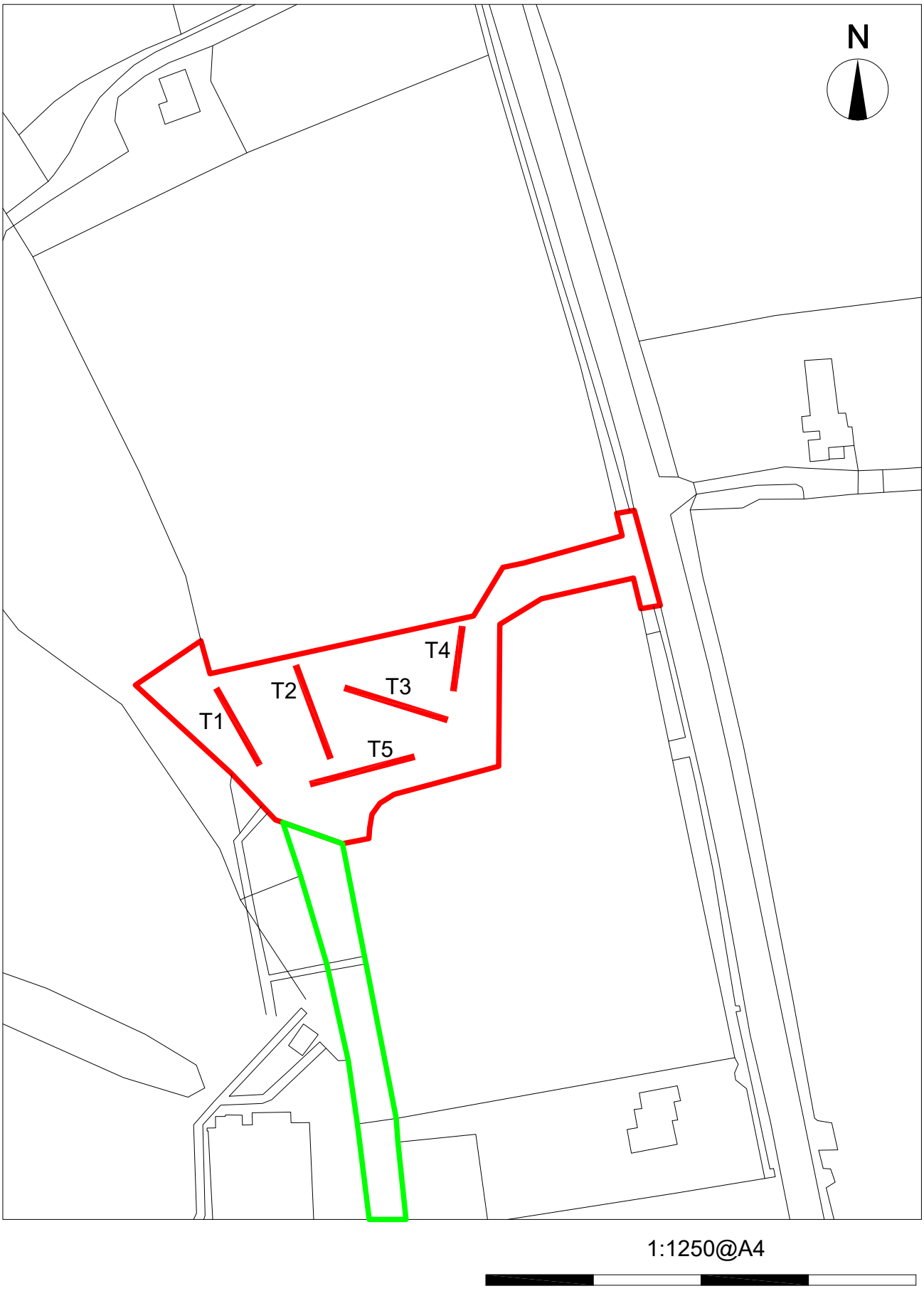


Figure 7: Existing railway embankment (green)

Appendix 1: Trench Tables

Trench 1	Dimensions: 16.5m x 1.8m Trench alignment: NNW-SSE Ground level at NNW end: 58.78mOD Ground level at SSE end: 58.67OD				
Context	Interpretation	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)
(100)	Made ground	friable mottled dark black, mid greyish brown and light grey silty clay with frequent humic topsoil patches.	-	-	0.35
(101)	Natural	firm mid greyish blue slightly silty clay with patches of light brownish yellow silty clay and frequent patches of mudstone and sandstone.	-	-	-

Trench 2	Dimensions: 20.9m x 1.8m Trench alignment: NNW-SSE Ground level at NNW end: 59.53mOD Ground level at SSE end: 59.55maOD				
Context	Interpretation	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)
(200)	Topsoil	Mid-brownish grey humic clayey silt with occasional manganese fleck inclusions.	-	-	0.2-0.25
(201)	Subsoil	Firm mottled mid yellowish brown and mid grey silty clay with moderate manganese fleck inclusions.	-	-	0.15
(202)	Natural	Firm mottled light yellow and light blueish grey clay.	-	-	-

Trench 3	Dimensions: 24m x 1.8m Trench alignment: NW-SE Ground level at NW end: 59.93mOD Ground level at SE end: 59.43maOD				
Context	Interpretation	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)
(300)	Topsoil	Mid-brownish grey humic clayey silt with occasional manganese fleck inclusions.	-	-	0.2-0.28
(301)	Subsoil	Firm mottled mid yellowish brown and mid grey silty clay with moderate manganese fleck inclusions.	-	-	0.16-0.2

(302)	Natural	Firm mottled light yellow and light blueish grey clay.	-	-	-

Trench 4	Dimensions: 14m x 1.8m Trench alignment: N-S Ground level at NW end: 59.93maOD Ground level at SE end: 59.55maOD				
Context	Interpretation	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)
(400)	Topsoil	Mid-brownish grey humic clayey silt with occasional manganese fleck inclusions.	-	-	0.21
(401)	Subsoil	Firm mottled mid yellowish brown and mid grey silty clay with moderate manganese fleck inclusions.	-	-	0.14
(402)	Natural	Firm mottled light yellow and light blueish grey clay.	-	-	-

Trench 5	Dimensions: 25 x 1.8m Trench alignment: SW-NE Ground level at SW end: 59.53maOD Ground level at NE end: 59.5maOD				
Context	Interpretation	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)
(500)	Topsoil	Mid-brownish grey humic clayey silt with occasional manganese fleck inclusions.	-	-	0.2-0.24
(501)	Subsoil	Firm mottled mid yellowish brown and mid grey silty clay with moderate manganese fleck inclusions.	-	-	0.15-0.17
(502)	Fill of refuse pit [503]	A loose dark grey silty clay which contained very frequent fragments of broken glassware, broken 20th century ceramics and some intact glass bottles.	2	0.8+	-
[503]	Cut of refuse pit	Pit [503] was orientated broadly SW-NE and was sub circular in plan. The feature truncated the subsoil (501).	2	0.8+	-
(504)	Fill of refuse pit [505]	A loose dark grey silty clay which contained very frequent fragments of broken glassware and some intact glass bottles.	2.5	0.5+	-
[505]	Cut of refuse pit	Pit [503] was orientated broadly SW-NE and was sub ovate in plan. The feature truncated the subsoil (501).	2.5	0.5+	-

(506)	Natural	Firm mottled light yellow and light blueish grey clay.	-	-	-