Archaeological Evaluation of land at the Old Railway Station, Canterbury Road, Wingham, Kent CT3 1NH

Site Code: WRS-EV-22

NGR Site Centre: 623831 157286

Planning Application Number: 18/01321

08/05/2022

V01

SWAT ARCHAEOLOGY

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Summary

Swale & Thames Survey Company (SWAT Archaeology) was commissioned to undertake an archaeological evaluation on land at the Old Railway Station, Canterbury Road, Wingham, Kent.

The fieldwork was carried out in March 2022 in accordance with an archaeological specification (SWAT Archaeology March 2022) submitted to the Local Planning Authority prior to commencement of works.

The Archaeological Evaluation consisted of 2 trenches, which encountered a stratigraphic sequence across the site comprising modern tarmac and subsoil overlying natural geology, with no archaeology identified on the site.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project Background

1.1.1 Swale & Thames Survey Company (SWAT Archaeology) was commissioned to undertake an archaeological evaluation on land at the Old Railway Station, Canterbury Road, Wingham, Kent.

1.1.2 In mitigation of the potential impact that the development may have on the buried archaeological resource Kent County Council Heritage & Conservation (KCCHC), who provide an advisory service to Dover Council, requested that a programme of archaeological works be undertaken to satisfy the recommended condition of the planning permission:

> *(5) No development shall take place until the applicant, or their agents or successors in title, has secured the implementation of archaeological work in accordance with a written specification and timetable which has been submitted to and approved by the local Planning Authority.*
>
> *Reason: To ensure that features of archaeological interest are properly examined and recorded.*

1.1.3 The archaeological evaluation was carried out in March 2022 in accordance with an archaeological specification prepared by SWAT Archaeology (March 2022), prior to commencement of works, and in discussion with Ben Founds, Archaeological Officer at KCCHC.

1.2 Site Description and Topography

1.2.1 The application site is located on the outskirts of the village of Wingham. It is immediately west of the River Stour and abuts the Canterbury Road (A257) to the north (Figure 1).

1.2.2 The site is presently occupied by a café, farm shop, ancillary buildings, and a tarmac hardstanding.

1.2.3 4.1 The Geological Survey of Great Britain (1:50,000) shows that the site is set on bedrock geology of Margate Chalk Member- Chalk. Superficial deposits are recorded as Head Clay

and Silt.

1.2.4 The NGR to centre of site is NGR 623831 157286 and the OD height is about 6m in the centre of the site.

2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 Introduction

2.1.1 The Proposed Development Area (PDA) is located close to a number of archaeological sites which are identified on the KCCHER database. The KCCHER lists the location on the PDA of the site of the Canterbury Road Station which was built on an extension of the East Kent Light Railway opened in 1921 and closed in 1951 (TR 25 NW 217). About 130m SSW there is a probable prehistoric barrow (TR 25 NW 430). 110m NNW there is the cropmark of an enclosure (TR 25 NW 65) and 120m NNW over five ring ditches and possible track have been identified (TR 25 NW 141) and about 200m to the east the site of a Roman villa and ancillary buildings (TR 25 NW 14).

2.1.2 KCC Archaeology commented on the planning application:

"The application site lies in an area of archaeological potential, with several important archaeological sites known in the immediate vicinity. These include crop-marks suggesting possible ceremonial or funerary monuments as well as a known Roman villa. In the field immediately to the south-west of the proposed development site there is a probable barrow, likely to be of Late Neolithic to Early Bronze Age date, that is visible both as a crop-mark and also as a partially extant mound on Lidar data. This probable barrow apparently forms part of a complex of such monuments as further possible barrows are visible within this field as well as a group to the north west on the opposite site of Canterbury Road. The group to the north-west has recently been examined by Cambridge University as part of the Canterbury Hinterlands Project which has used non-intrusive survey techniques (namely geophysical survey and aerial photographic interpretation) to better map the layout of the archaeological features. The results of the geophysical survey have identified several probable Late Neolithic to Early Bronze Age Barrows. One of these monuments is unusually complex, having perhaps been developed, expanded and re used over a considerable time. The complex barrow-like feature is enclosed within a large double-rectangular enclosure. This

enclosure would appear to be a later addition/alteration to the monumental complex, possibly of Romano-British date, and cuts through one of the probable earlier barrows. Additionally, to the east of the proposed development site is the scheduled site of Wingham Roman villa, whose precise extent is unknown. It is possible that remains associated with the villa and its associated landscape may extend into the site in question." (SWAT 2020)

3 PLANNING BACKGROUND

3.1.1 A planning application was granted by Dover District Council Council on the 17th July 2019 (application No. 18/01321) for the erection of a detached dwelling.

3.1.2 On the basis of the present archaeological information. KCCHC advising Dover District Council recommended that the proposed development should be subject to a programme of archaeological works in order to clarify the archaeological elements within the site.

3.1.3 The methodology of the archaeological evaluation phase of investigation is identified within this report and within the specification (SWAT Archaeology 2022), which is based on KCC site specific specifications and in the KCC Evaluation Manual Part B.

4 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

4.1 Specific Aims

4.1.1 The specific aims of the archaeological fieldwork were set out in a Written Scheme of Investigation (SWAT Archaeology 2022) as stated below;

> *'6.1 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.*
>
> *6.2 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.

6.3 This specification sets out the requirements for trial trenching on the site and any further archaeological work, such as detailed excavation work or a watching brief, would need to be subject to further specifications.'

SWAT Archaeology (2022: 6.1-6.3)

4.2 General Aims

4.2.1 The general aims of the archaeological fieldwork were to;

- establish the presence or absence of any elements of the archaeological resource, both artefacts and ecofacts of archaeological interest across the area of the development;
- ascertain the extent, depth below ground surface, depth of deposit if possible, character, date and quality of any such archaeological remains by limited sample excavation;
- determine the state of preservation and importance of the archaeological resource, if present, and to assess the past impacts on the site and pay particular attention to the character, height/depth below ground level, condition, date and significance of any archaeological deposits.

5 METHODOLOGY

5.1 Introduction

5.1.1 All fieldwork was conducted in accordance with the methodology set out in the Specification (SWAT 2022 and KCC Manual of Specifications 'B') and carried out in compliance with the standards outlined in the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' Standards Guidance for Archaeological Evaluations (CIfA 2017).

5.2 Fieldwork

5.2.1 The initial investigation comprised 2 machine excavated evaluation trenches (20m x 2m) (Figure 2).

5.2.2 Excavation was carried out using a 360º mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket, removing the overburden to the top of the first recognisable natural or archaeological horizon, under the constant supervision of an experienced archaeologist (Alistair M^{c}Keever, SWAT).

5.2.3 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, including working shots; during mechanical excavation, following archaeological investigations and during back filling.

5.2.4 Additional to the trenches, KCCHC requested the excavation of a sondage in Trench 1 to investigate the potential for palaeo-landsurfaces, artefact or faunal remains capped by the Late Devensian brickearth. This test pit was excavated at the northwest end of Trench 1 (Plate 12).

5.3 Recording

5.3.1 A complete drawn record of the evaluation trenches comprising both plans and sections, drawn to appropriate scales (1:100 for trench plans, 1:20 for representative trench sections, 1:20 for plans, 1:10 for sections) was undertaken. These are retained in the site project archive.

5.3.2 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. A photographic register of all photographs taken is contained within the site project archive.

5.3.3 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 [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, 100+, Trench 2, 200+ etc.).

6 RESULTS

6.1 Introduction

6.1.1 A total of 2 evaluation trenches were mechanically excavated under archaeological supervision.

6.1.2 Appendix 1 provides the stratigraphic sequence for both trenches.

6.1.3 Figure 2 provides a site plan and shows trench locations, while Plates 1-11 include selected site photographs.

6.2 Stratigraphic Deposit Sequence

6.2.1 A heavily impacted stratigraphic sequence was recorded across the Site as a result of modern development. As such, there was no extant topsoil and tarmac surfaces sealed impacted subsoil, which overlaid the (also impacted) natural geological deposits.

6.2.2 The subsoil, which was only present in Trench 1, consisted of a moderate to firm light yellow brown very slightly clayish silt with moderate manganese flecks, occasional small rounded and sub-angular flints, and occasional burnt clay inclusions.

6.2.3 Beneath the ~0.48m of topsoil and subsoil was a light orange brown 'non-calcareous' brickearth that continued to a depth of 1.3m - 1.4m. This overlaid a friable light yellowish grey very slightly clayey silt, to a depth of 2m+. This lower deposit appeared to be a 'calcareous' brickearth or a similar collivial/ loessic deposit. The bedrock geology of Margate Chalk Member was not encountered in the excavated test pit (Plate 13).

6.3 Archaeological Narrative

6.3.1 Neither trench held any archaeological deposits, and both revealed signs of significant modern impaction on the natural soils.

6.3.2 Despite the potential for such, no evidence of palaeo-landsurfaces, artefact or faunal remains was revealed during excavation of the test pit in Trench 1.

6.3.3 **Trench 1**

Trench 1 was excavated on a NW-SE alignment and measured 21.4m in length, 2m in

width and was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.70m before the natural geology was encountered. The trench was covered by a tarmac road surface on a plastic/fabric lining 0.16m thick, underneath which was a layer (101) of compacted possibly redeposited clay base for the road, consisting of a very firm mottled blue green and orange brown slightly silty clay with frequent modern CBM and stone inclusions, featuring a ~0.3m deep rut central to the trench, 0.24m thick.

6.3.4 **Trench 2**

Trench 2 was excavated on a NE-SW alignment and measured 24m in length, 2m in width and was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.64m before the natural geology was encountered.

The trench was covered by a tarmac car park surface, underneath which was a layer of firm yellow redeposited clay with frequent klinker, stone and modern CBM inclusions 0.10m deep. Beneath that were two deposits: (202), a dense deposit of modern brick, tile, and slate in a matrix of firm black brown clay silt with frequent clay flecks and stone, containing modern glass, metal and plastic, 0.20m deep; and (203), a deposit of soft mottled black and grey clay silt with further modern brick inclusions, 0.20m+ thick. Beneath (203), a layer of natural brickearth and clay was stained with oil/contaminates with frequent tarmac and modern CBM impacted into it. This varied in depth between 0.08m in the NE of the trench and 0.24m in the SW.

7 FINDS

7.1.1 No finds were retrieved from archaeological contexts during the investigation.

8 DISCUSSION

With numerous archaeological sites in the vicinity of the PDA there was a reasonably high likelihood that the evaluation would produce evidence of archaeological activity. However, no archaeological features were identified during the evaluation.

8.1 Conclusions

8.1.1 The archaeological evaluation has been successful in fulfilling the primary aims and objectives of the Specification.

8.1.2 This evaluation has assessed the archaeological potential of land intended for

development. The results from this work will have been used to aid and inform the Principal Archaeological Officer and Planning 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. The Site Archive will be retained at SWAT Archaeology offices until such time it can be transferred to a Kent Museum.

10 ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

SWAT would like to thank the client for commissioning the project, and KCCHC for their advice during excavation. Alistair M^{c}Keever conducted the archaeological fieldwork and Dan Worsley BA MA supervised the site. Matthew Goulden BA MA produced the draft text for this report, with contributions and editing by Dan Worsley. The Project Manager for the project was Dr Paul Wilkinson MCIfA, FRSA. Digitise this and Dan Worsley produced the figures for this report.

11 REFERENCES

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Plate 1. View of Trench 1 location prior to machine excavation.

Plate 2. Working shot of excavation of Trench 1, showing layer (101).

Plate 3. Plan photo of Trench 1.

Plate 4. Representative section 2 in Trench 1.

Plate 5. Plan photo of Trench 2 prior to removal of layer (201).

Plate 6. Working shot of Trench 2 showing deposit (202).

Plate 7. Detail photo of deposit (202) in Trench 2.

Plate 8. Detail photo of deposit (202) in Trench 2.

Plate 9. Plan photo of Trench 2.

Plate 10. Representative section 1 in Trench 2 showing layer (204).

Plate 11. Representative section 2 in Trench 2 showing deposit (202) cutting the base of oil staining layer (204).

Plate 12. Working shot of excavation of test pit in Trench 1.

Plate 13. Section photo of test pit in Trench 1.

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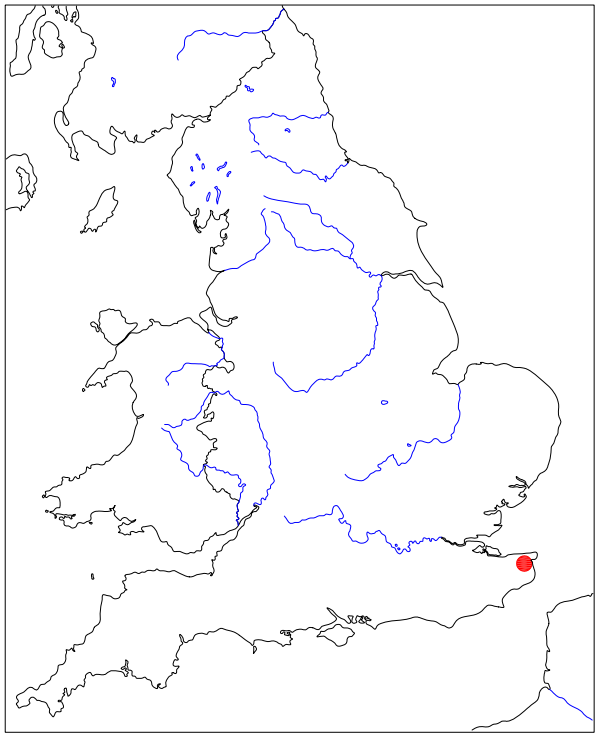

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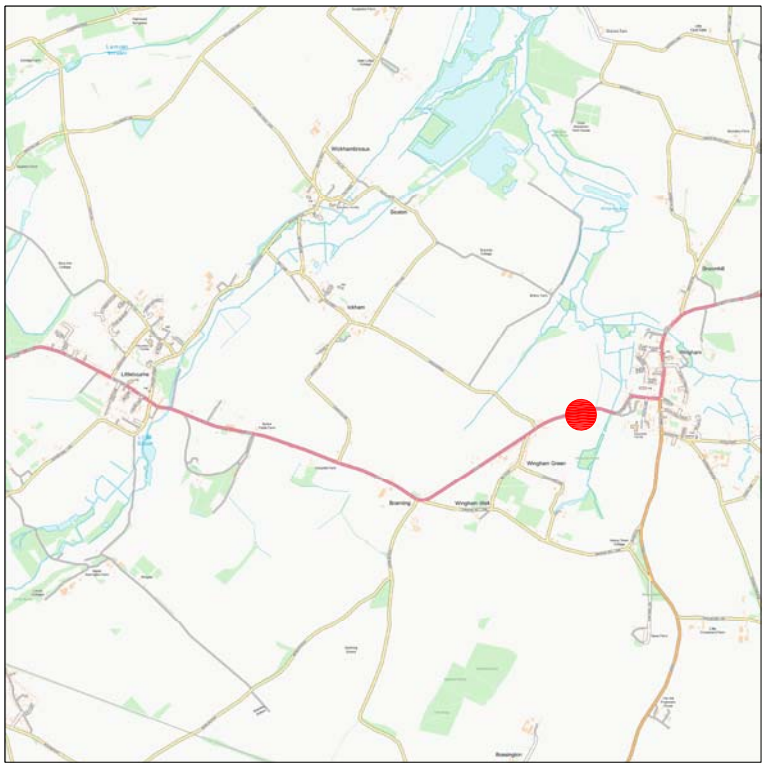

1:50000@A4

Figure 1: Site Location Plan

0m 5km

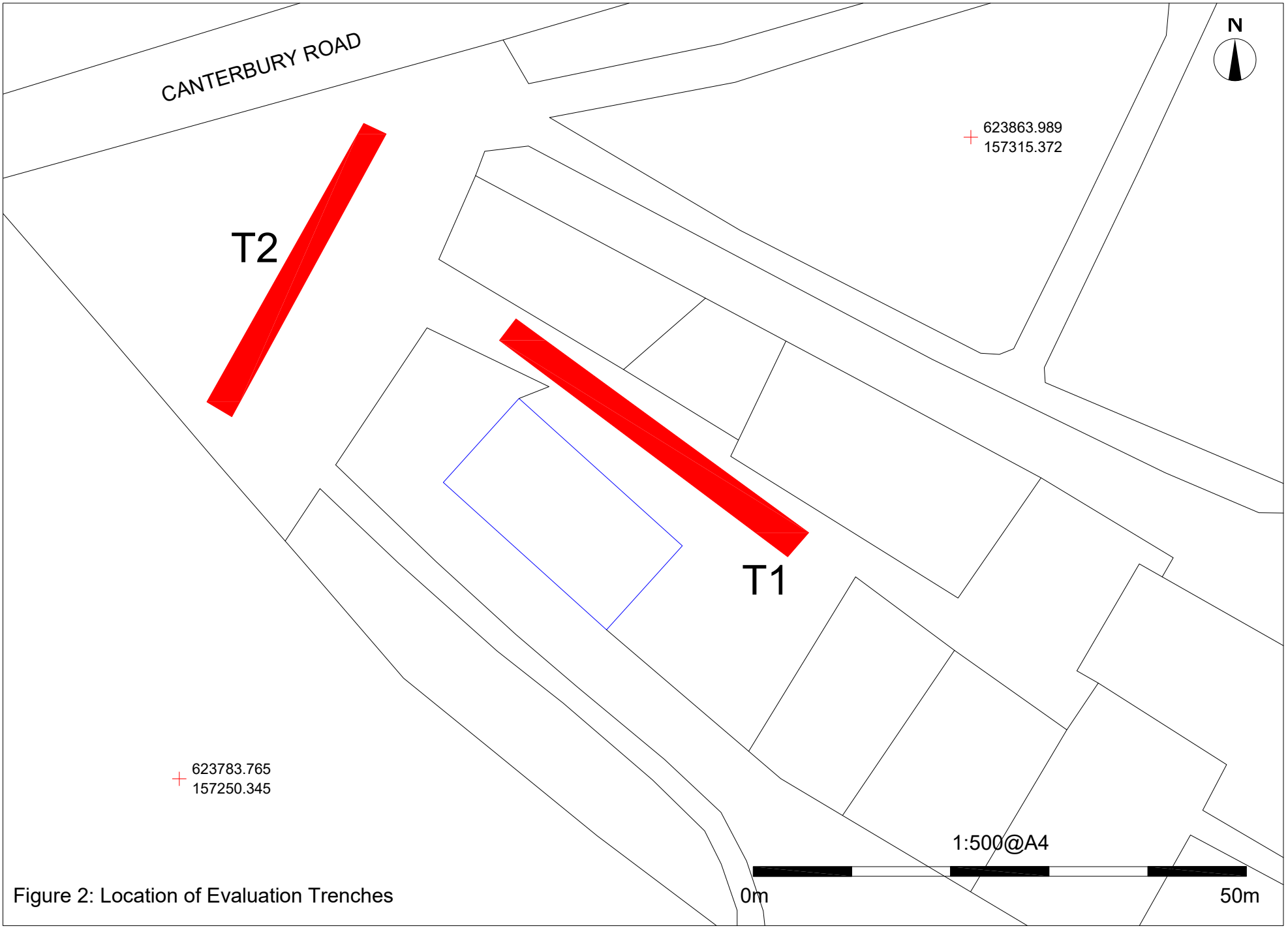

Figure 2: Location of Evaluation Trenches

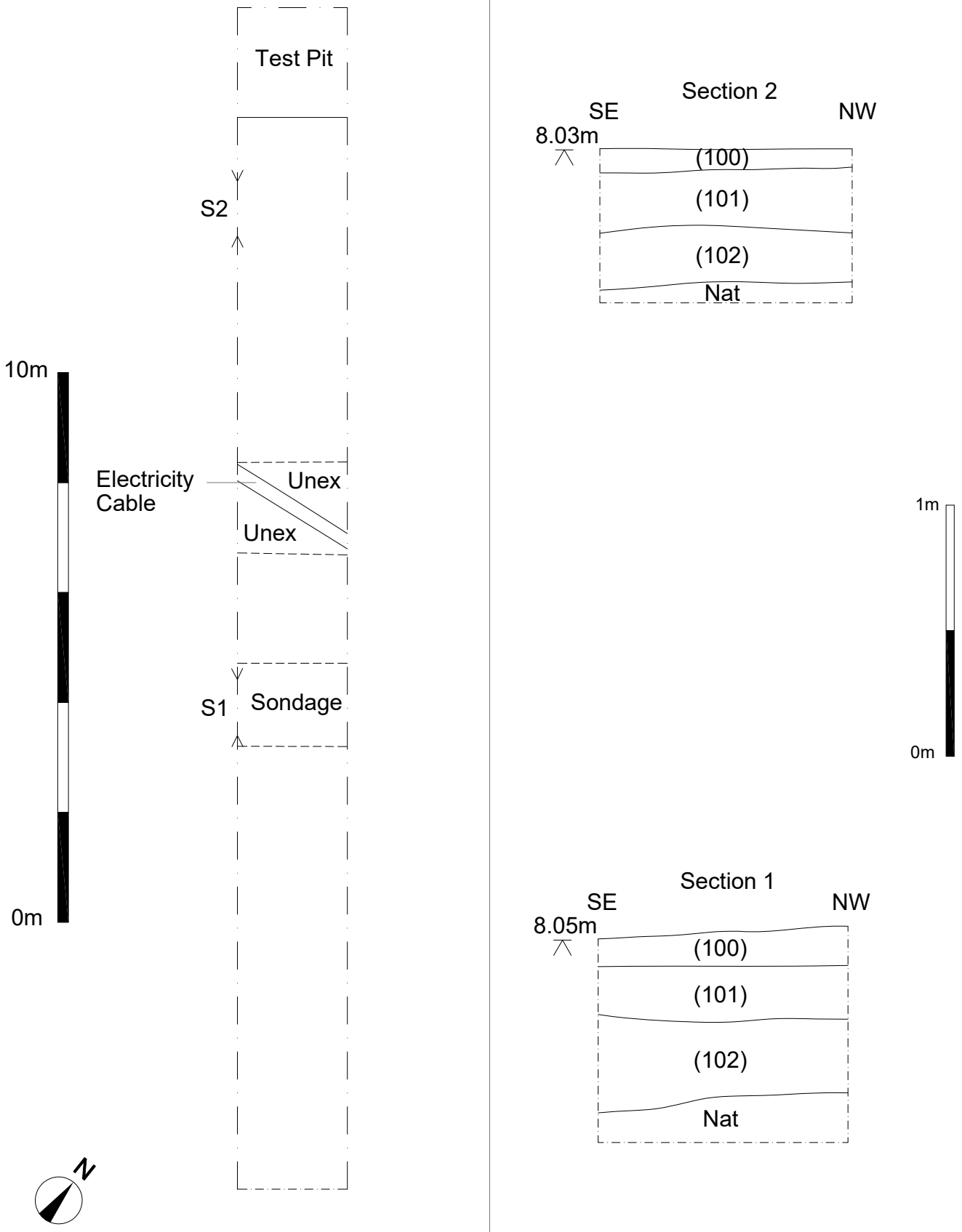

Figure 3: Trench 1 - Plan and Sections

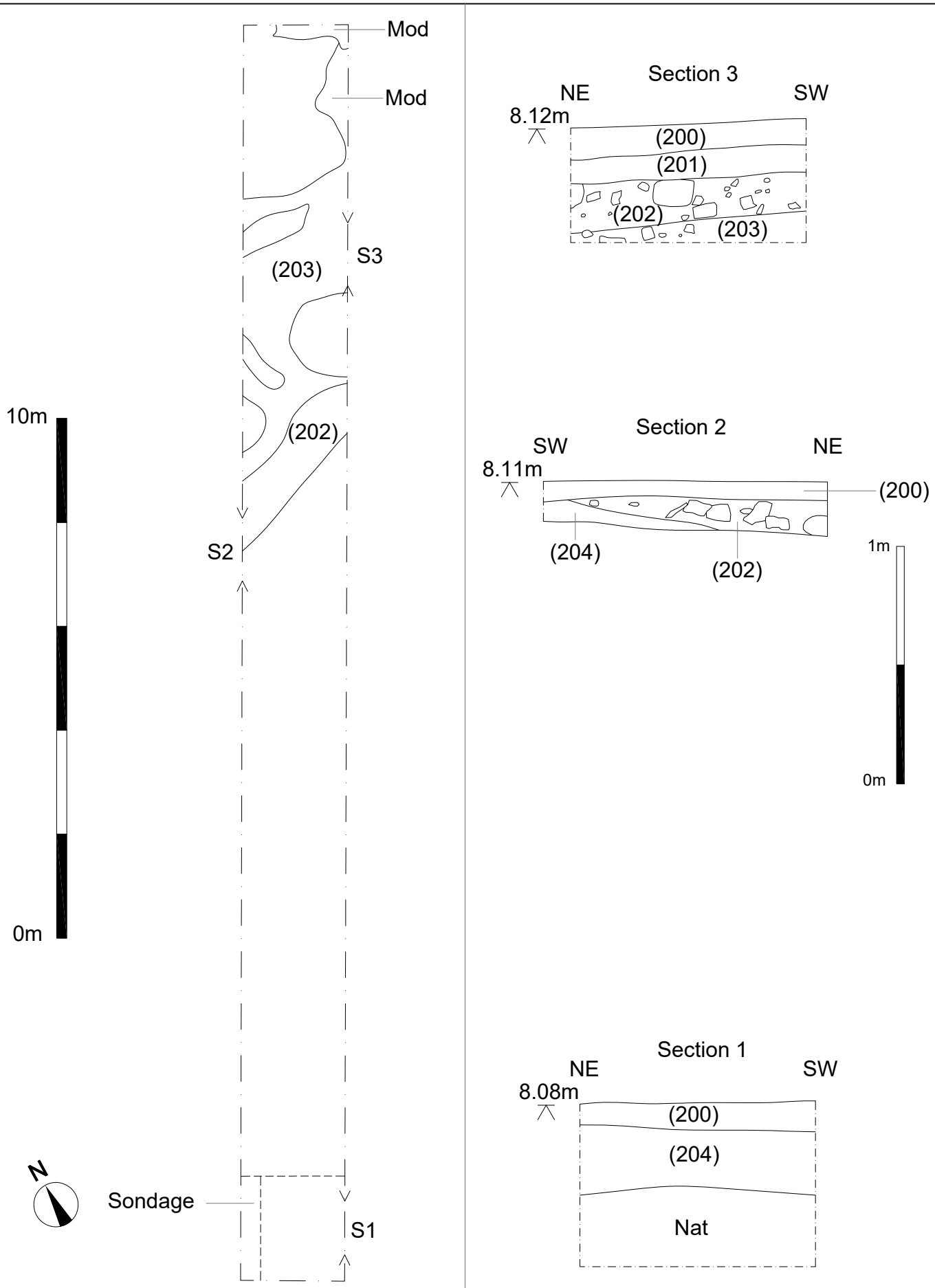

Figure 4: Trench 2 - Plan and Sections

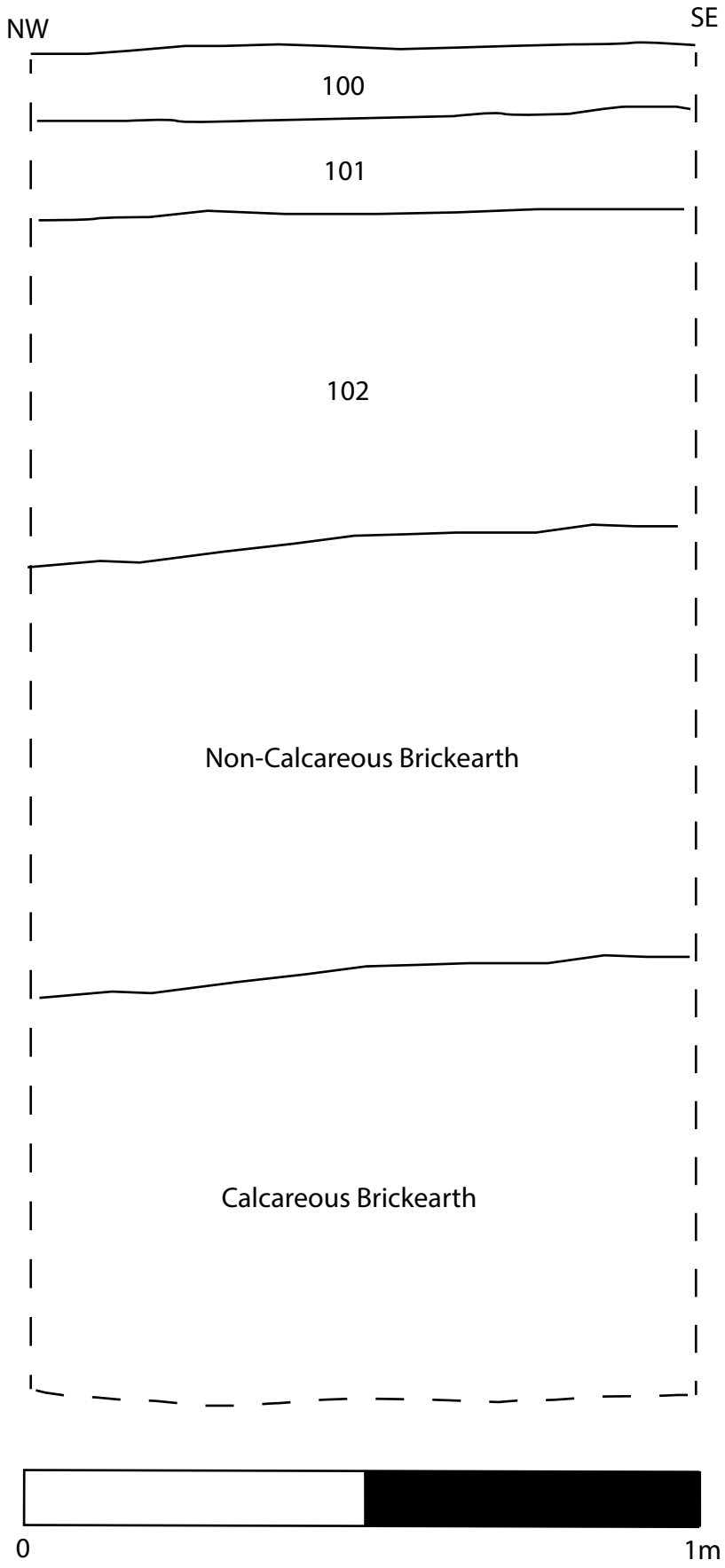

Figure 5 - Section of Test Pit in Trench 1

12 APPENDIX 1 – TRENCH TABLES

Trench 1	Dimensions: 21.4m x 2m Trench alignment: SE-NW Ground level at SE end: ? mOD Ground level at NW end: ? mOD		
Context	**Interpretation**	**Description**	**Depth (m)**
100	Layer	Tarmac road surface on plastic/fabric lining	0.10 - 0.16
(101)	Layer	Compacted possibly redeposited clay base for road. V firm mottled blue green and orange brown slightly silty clay with frequent modern CBM and stone inclusions, featuring a ~0.3m deep rut central to the trench	0.24
(102)	Subsoil	Moderate to firm light yellow brown very slightly clayish silt with moderate manganese fleck, occasional small rounded and sub-angular flint, occasional burnt clay with very rare abraded ceramic sherds	0.25 - 0.36
Nat.	Natural	From the SE- banded silts with a soft white grey silt with frequent iron staining with patches of a soft yellow sandy silt, giving way after ~13m to a moderately firm orangey brown silty clay non-calcareous brickearth at the NW end. In the test pit, this reached a depth of 1.3m - 1.4m and overlaid a friable light yellowish grey very slightly clayey silt, encountered to a depth of 2m+.	

Trench 2	Dimensions: 24m x 2m Trench alignment: SW-NE Ground level at SW end: ? mOD Ground level at NE end: ? mOD		
Context	**Interpretation**	**Description**	**Depth (m)**
200	Layer	Tarmac carpark surface	0.12
(201)	Layer	Firm yellow redeposited clay with frequent klinker, stone and modern CBM inclusions	0.10
(202)	Deposit	Dense deposit of modern brick, tile, slate in a matrix of firm black brown clay silt with frequent clay flecks and stone. Contained modern glass/metal/plastic.	0.20
(203)	Deposit	Soft mottled black and grey clay silt with further modern brick	0.20+
(204)	Layer	Natural brickearth and clay stained with oil/contamination with frequent tarmac and modern CBM impacted into it	0.08 (NE) - 0.24 (SW)
Nat.	Natural	Moderate-firm green blue clay from the southern corner/SW changing to orangey yellow brickearth overlying soft mottled white and black silt (visible in SW sondage)	