Archaeological Evaluation of Land between the railway line and Willesborough Road, Kennington, Kent

Site Code: WRK-EV-22

NGR Site Centre: 602843 144222

Planning Application Number: 19/00025/AS

Report for Quinn Estates and

Redrow Homes

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 between the railway line and Willesborough Road, Kennington, in 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 6 trenches, which encountered a stratigraphic sequence across the site comprising topsoil and subsoil overlying variable natural geology, with one archaeological feature, a possible medieval field boundary, identified in Trench Four and all other trenches absent of archaeology.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project Background

1.1.1 Swale & Thames Survey Company (SWAT Archaeology) was commissioned to undertake an archaeological evaluation on land between the railway line and Willesborough Road, Kennington, in Kent (Figures 1 & 2).

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 Ashford Borough Council, requested that a programme of archaeological works be undertaken to satisfy the recommended condition (31) of the planning permission.

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 Wendy Rogers, Senior Archaeological Officer at KCCHC.

1.2 Site Description and Topography

1.2.1 The application site is located southeast of Kennington, on the north eastern side of Willesborough Road in Ashford and covers an area of just over 80 acres. The centre of Ashford is circa 2km to the south west. The eastern side of the PDA is bordered by the Canterbury to Ashford Railway line. To the east of the railway line is the river of The Great Stour. The northern boundary of the PDA borders arable farmland. The north western corner borders residential housing and The Conningbrook Hotel, which are on the eastern side of Willesborough Road at the northern end with Spearpoint Corner, Canterbury Road and Canon Woods Way. The southern end of the PDA forms a point where Willesborough Road crosses the railway line.

1.2.2 To the south east of that is the Julie Rose Stadium and the Conningbrook Country Park with its lakes formed from the quarrying that took place in recent decades. The PDA lies within the Great Stour Valley at an average height of 40m AOD. The lowest part is half way along the eastern boundary at 33 AOD with the highest part to the west by Spearpoint Corner at 47m AOD.

1.2.3 The site is presently arable farmland. In the north eastern part of the site, there is a drain on a north east / south west axis. The PDA also has a number of public footpaths that cross the site. There are two footpaths that traverse across the site on a west /east axis, on from Spearpoint Corner, with a pathway that passes between Spearpoint Cottage and Conningbrook Manor Hotel. The other is from Canterbury Road that passes between the Croft Hotel and residential

houses. These two paths eventually converge west of the drain to cross over the drain to head towards a crossing over the railway.

1.2.4 There is also a third path that starts north of the PDA at the end of Orchard Lane, traversing in a south easterly direction until it reaches the northern boundary of the PDA on the north eastern side where it too crosses the railway. The OS location to the centre of site is NGR 602843 144222.

1.2.5 The Geological Survey of Great Britain (1:50,000) shows that the local geology at the PDA consists of bedrock comprising Folkestone Formation – Sandstone. The Lower Greensand Group is a geological unit which forms part of the underlying geological structure of south east England. South of London in the counties of West Sussex, East Sussex and Kent, which together form the wider Weald, the Lower Greensand can usually be subdivided to formational levels with varying properties into the Atherfield Clay Formation, the Hythe Formation, the Sandgate Formation, Bargate Formation and the Folkestone Formation.

1.2.6 The Lower Greensand is one of the most landslide-susceptible formations in the UK. The Lower Greensand Group was deposited during the Early Cretaceous Period, which lasted for approximately 40 million years from 140 to 100 million years ago. There are three types of superficial deposits located within the PDA. The majority is Head Brickearth - Clay and Silt. Head deposits and brickearths are commonly associated with river valleys as is the case here. Brickearth deposits are normally 2- 4m thick that overlay the bedrock.

1.2.7 It is this brickearth that provides the rich soil needed for agriculture. Along the far eastern side is Alluvium – Clay, Silt, Sand and Gravel associated with the Great Stour with the far southern tip of River Terrace Deposits, 3 – Sand and Gravel. The area to the south-east has had gravel extraction.

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. In addition the archaeological sites have been summarised in the Desk Based Assessment produced by SWAT Archaeology (2018).

2.1.2 In October 2018 SWAT Archaeology Previously excavated 12 evaluation trenches, within the proposed development area, targeting results from a geophysical survey. 5 of which (T2, T3, T4, T5 and T11) identified archaeology which consisted of 16th-19th Century field boundaries (SWAT Archaeology 2018).

2.1.3 The entire PDA is in the Palaeolithic area designated PCA 37 being a band north and east side of Stour valley through the Wealden gap and north of Ashford. It includes brickearth spreads

and possible terrace outcrops. Higher level terrace deposits (mapped as T4) probably date to the later Middle Pleistocene, 500,000- 300,000 BP. Lower terrace deposits (T3, T2 and T1) probably date to the late Middle and Late Pleistocene, 300,000-10,000 BP.

2.1.4 The geology at the site includes Terrace 3 deposits. From this area, several surface find spots of hand axes are recorded in the HER, three from accurately located sites, and two from the general Ashford area. One of those accurately located hand axes is of bout coupé form (TR 04 SW 445) 1km WNW of the PDA and also at Conningbrook Manor, 1km to the SSE of the PDA. The Palaeolithic finds at Conningbrook manor (Area 36) are thought to extend into area 37.

2.1.5 Given that the PDA contains terrace deposits (3), there is considered a moderate/high chance of finding Palaeolithic remains according to the Stour Palaeolithic Survey (SWAT DBA 2018).

3 PLANNING BACKGROUND

3.1.1 The planning application was granted by Ashford Borough Council on the 21st January 2022. A Condition of archaeological works (31) was attached to the Planning Decision Notice and it was:

(31) Prior to commencement of development within any phase or sub-phase, the applicant, or their agents or successors in title, shall secure the implementation of the following in relation to that phase:

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

ii. following on from the evaluation, any safeguarding measures to ensure preservation in situ of important geo-archaeological remains and/or further geo-archaeological investigation and recording in accordance with a specification and timetable which has been submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority.

***Reason:** To ensure that features of geo-archaeological interest are properly examined and recorded and that due regard is had to the preservation in situ of important archaeological remains.*

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) 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 A total of 6 evaluation trenches and test pits were excavated across the Site. A seventh trench (Trench 8, Figure 3) was abandoned due to the inability to check for services in the vicinity.

5.2.2 A series of test pits were excavated at the end of each trench, and then backfilled prior to excavation of the trenches in order for Quest to access the presence of Palaeolithic finds within the river terrace deposits (Quest, 2021). This work was monitored by Quest, Dr Peter Allen, and Dan Worsley BA MA (SWAT) (Plate 1). The test pits were monitored for any archaeology present under the subsoil, but the results of the associated geoarchaeological and palaeoenvironmental investigation are not the subject of this report and have been published separately by Quest (Allen, 2022).

5.2.3 Each trench was initially scanned for surface finds prior to excavation. 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 (Matthew Goulden BA MA, SWAT).

5.2.4 Where appropriate, trenches, or specific areas of trenches, were subsequently hand-cleaned to reveal features in plan and carefully selected cross-sections through the features were excavated to enable sufficient information about form, development date and stratigraphic relationships to be recorded without prejudice to more extensive investigations, should these prove to be necessary. All archaeological work was carried out in accordance with KCC and CIfA standards and guidance. A complete photographic record was maintained on site that included working shots; during mechanical excavation, following archaeological investigations and during back filling.

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+, Trench 3, 300+ etc.).

6 RESULTS

6.1 Introduction

6.1.1 A total of 6 evaluation trenches were mechanically excavated under archaeological supervision. Trench 7 was moved from its intended location to avoid the footpaths crossing the PDA and to prevent damage to the farmer's crop (Figures 2 and 3).

6.1.2 Appendix 1 provides the stratigraphic sequence for all trenches. Note the rapidly changing natural geology across the site.

6.1.3 Figures 1 to 3 provide a site plan and show trench locations, Figure 4 overlays the trench locations with the geophysical survey interpretation and the locations of the trenches from the previous evaluation (trenches highlighted in blue are from the current phase, those outlined in red are from the 2018 evaluation) (SWAT 2018), and Figure 5 shows the trench plan and sections for Trench 4.

6.1.4 Plates 1-15 include selected site photographs.

6.1.5 The 6 excavated trenches were spread across the site to maximise the chance of locating potential archaeological features, informed by both the previous evaluation's trench locations and the results of the geophysical survey (Figure 4).

6.2 Stratigraphic Deposit Sequence

6.2.1 A relatively consistent stratigraphic sequence was recorded across the majority of the Site comprising topsoil sealing intact subsoil, which overlay the natural geological drift deposits.

6.2.2 The topsoil generally consisted of a humic grey brown clayey loam, with higher clay content on the valley floor, with occasional small sub-rounded stones, topped with grass. This overlaid the subsoil which generally consisted of clayey silts at the top and on the slope of the hill, and sandy clay in the valley. Variable natural geology across the site comprised silty clay and gravels at the top of the hill, clayey silts on the slope of the hill, and light white blue clays on the valley floor.

6.2.3 The geoarchaeological test pits excavated by Quest revealed the following:

'The results of the fieldwork reveal a sequence of Folkestone Beds overlain by Gravel and

Brickearth on the Valley Slope, and Folkestone Beds overlain by Alluvial gravel, silty deposits and Brickearth on the Valley bottom (the Stour floodplain).' (Allen, 2022)

6.3 Archaeological Narrative

6.3.1 Of the 6 trenches excavated, Trenches 3, 5, 7, 9 and 10 were all blank. The remaining trench, Trench 4, had one feature of archaeological interest (Plates 3-9, Plate 11).

6.3.2 Trench 3 was excavated on a N-S alignment and measured 25m in length, 1.80m in width and was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.70m before the natural geology was encountered.

6.3.3 Trench 4 was excavated on a N-S alignment and measured 25m in length, 1.80m in width and was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.48m before the natural geology was encountered. Linear [403], found at the north end of the trench, was a rectilinear with gentle inwards sloping sides and a gentle concave base, aligned NNE-SSW, and measured 4.20m+ x 0.64m x 0.11m. It was filled by (402), a soft mid grey brown clayey silt.

6.3.4 Trench 5 was excavated on a N-S alignment and measured 25m in length, 1.80m in width and was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.53m before the natural geology was encountered.

6.3.5 Trench 7 was excavated on a NE-SW alignment and measured 25m in length, 1.80m in width and was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.48m before the natural geology was encountered.

6.3.6 Trench 9 was excavated on an N-S alignment and measured 25m in length, 1.80m in width and was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.54m before the natural geology was encountered.

6.3.7 Trench 10 was excavated on a N-S alignment and measured 25m in length, 1.80m in width and was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.43m before the natural geology was encountered.

7 FINDS

7.1.1 Trench 4 was the only trench to provide finds.

7.1.2 Five potsherds were found in the subsoil (401), with Early Prehistoric flint tempered (1550-50 BC) and Medieval Kent sandy ware (1150-1350 AD) present in this context. Four sherds of Kent Gritty ware were recovered from (402) [403], giving the context a possible date of 1150-1200 AD. See Appendix 2 for more information.

7.1.3 Two fragments of one small copper alloy hoop of unknown use were also found in subsoil (401), close to linear [403].

8 DISCUSSION

8.1 Introduction

8.1.1 The archaeological evaluation at the land between the railway line and Willesborough Road, Kennington, has demonstrated the presence of minimal archaeological activity within the proposed development area. The natural geology was encountered at a variable average depth, approximately 0.4m - 0.7m below the existing ground surface, directly underlying subsoil sealed by the existing topsoil. A cartographic regression suggests that the site has been relatively undisturbed, other than the removal of field boundaries and the addition of field drains across the PDA, throughout the past 85 years. A car park is visible in the 2013 Google Earth image, at the far southern end of the site, which may account for the increased quantity of CBM and charcoal found in the topsoil during excavation of Trench 5.

8.2 Archaeological Narrative

8.2.1 The archaeological evaluation, prepared by SWAT Archaeology, recorded the presence of a single shallow linear feature in Trench 4, possibly delineating a former field boundary, the backfill of which contained pottery dated to between 1150-1200 AD (Plate 11).

8.2.2 No further evidence of the post-medieval field systems found in the previous phase of evaluation works was discovered during this investigation (SWAT Archaeology, 2018).

8.2.3 The geophysical survey showed a linear feature listed as 'Probable, Weak' (see Figure 3, SWAT 2018), crossing the centre of Trench 4 on an ESE-WNW alignment (Figure 4), this was not identifed during the evaluation. The one feature found in Trench 4, linear [403], did not appear to have been identified by the geophysical survey, likely due to its ephemeral nature.

8.2.4 Quest's geoarchaeological and Palaeolithic fieldwork evaluation on the site suggest a low chance of recovering palaeolithic artefacts on the deposits of gravels on the valley slope, and a similarly low likelihood of finding geoarchaeological material in the alluvial deposits on the valley floor (Allen, 2022).

8.3 Conclusions

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

8.3.2 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

9.1.1 SWAT would like to thank Quinn Estates and Redrow Homes for commissioning the project.

9.1.2 Matthew Goulden BA MA and Dan Worsley BA MA conducted the archaeological fieldwork; illustrations were produced by Digitise This, and Matthew Goulden BA MA produced the draft text for this report, with contributions and editing by Dan Worsley BA MA. The Project Manager for the project was Dr Paul Wilkinson MCIfA, FRSA.

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Plate 1. Geoarchaeological test pitting prior to trench excavation.

Plate 2. View of site looking south-southeast towards trenches 9 and 5.

Plate 3. Plan photo of Trench 3.

Plate 4. Plan photo of Trench 5.

Plate 5. Plan photo of Trench 7.

Plate 6. Plan photo of Trench 9.

Plate 7. Representative section of Trench 4.

Plate 8. Representative section of Trench 7.

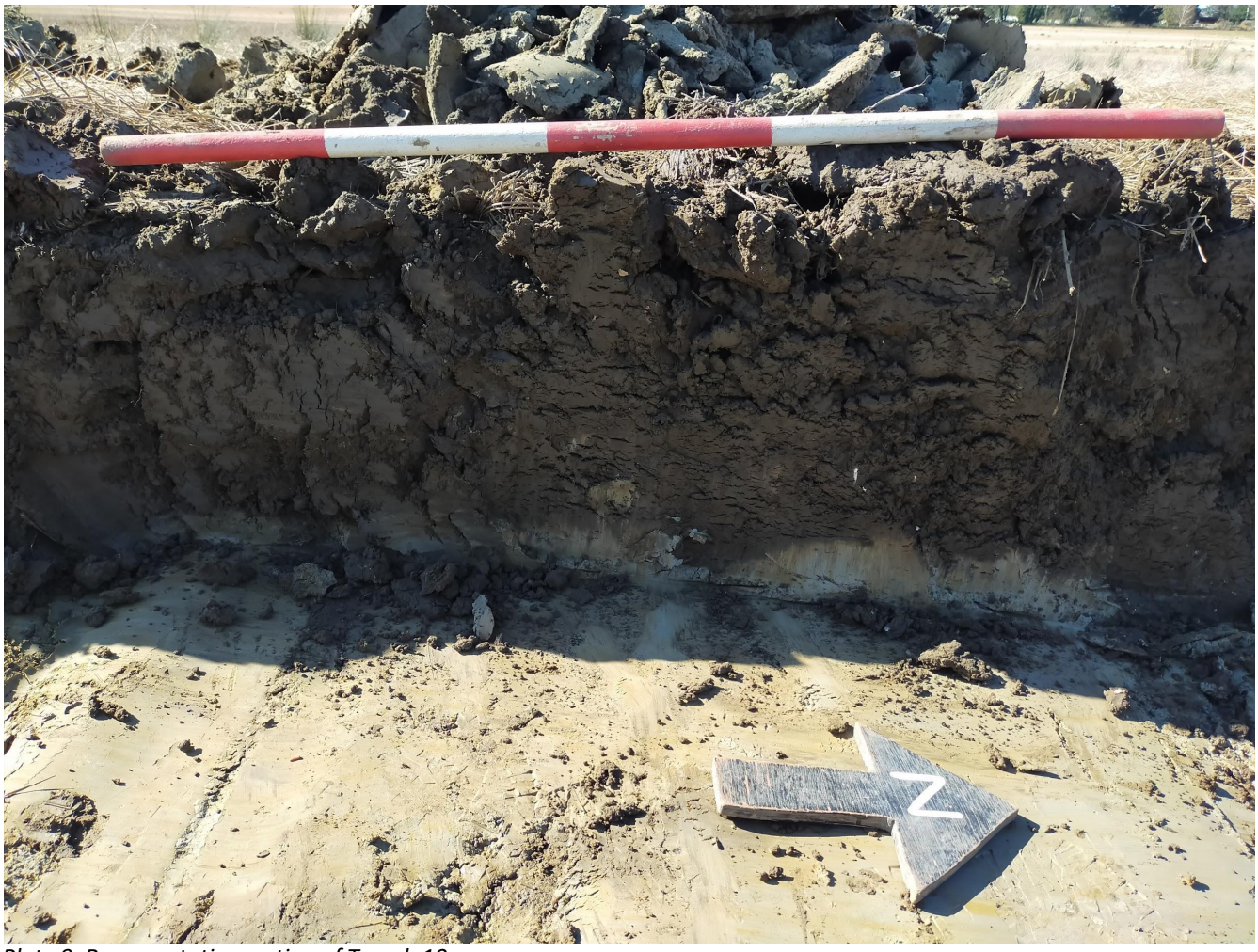


Plate 9. Representative section of Trench 10.

Plate 10. View of the site from Trench 10, looking southwest towards trenches 3 and 4.

Plate 11. Plan of linear [403] in test pit 4, at the north end of Trench 4.

12 APPENDIX 1 – TRENCH TABLES

Trench 3	Dimensions: 25m x 1.8m Trench alignment: N-S Ground level at ESE end: ? mOD Ground level at WNW end: ? mOD		
Context	**Interpretation**	**Description**	**Depth (m)**
300	Topsoil	Humic mid-dark grey brown slightly silty clayey loam with moderate small sub-angular flint inclusions	0.40
301	Subsoil	Soft light yellow brown clayey silt with moderate small pebbles	0.30
Nat.	Natural	Compact mottled light grey with mid orange brown silt with patches of (5%) mid grey brown silty clay	

Trench 4	Dimensions: 25m x 1.8m Trench alignment: N-S Ground level at ESE end: ? mOD Ground level at WNW end: ? mOD		
Context	**Interpretation**	**Description**	**Depth (m)**
400	Topsoil	Humic mid-dark grey brown slightly silty clay loam with moderate small sub-angular flint inclusions	0.39
401	Subsoil	Mid browny grey very slightly clayey silt	0.09
(402)	Fill of Linear [403]	Soft mid grey brown clayey silt	
[403]	Cut of Linear	Linear with gentle inwards sloping sides and a gentle concave base. Aligned NNE-SSW	4.2 x 0.64 x 0.11
Nat.	Natural	Light browny grey slightly sandy clayey silt	

Trench 5	Dimensions: 25m x 1.8m Trench alignment: N-S Ground level at ESE end: ? mOD Ground level at WNW end: ? mOD		
Context	**Interpretation**	**Description**	**Depth (m)**
500	Topsoil	Humic mid-dark grey brown slightly silty clayey loam with occasional CBM fleck and chalk fleck and moderate charcoal fleck inclusions	0.31
501	Subsoil	Mottled mid-light grey brown clayey silt with mid orangey grey slightly clayey silt	0.22
Nat.	Natural	(50%) Light grey silty clay with (50%) reddish orange gravels	

Trench 7	Dimensions: 25m x 1.8m Trench alignment: NE-SW Ground level at ESE end: ? mOD Ground level at WNW end: ? mOD		
Context	**Interpretation**	**Description**	**Depth (m)**
700	Topsoil	Humic mid-dark grey brown clayey loam with moderate small sub-angular flint inclusions	0.39
701	Subsoil	Mid-light yellow slightly sandy clay with occasional manganese inclusions	0.09

Nat.	Natural	E-W striped (33%) brickearth, (33%) mid-light grey clayey silt, (33%) light white greenish blue grey silty clay with light orange streaking	

Trench 9	**Dimensions: 25m x 1.8m Trench alignment: N-S Ground level at ESE end: ? mOD Ground level at WNW end: ? mOD**		
Context	**Interpretation**	**Description**	**Depth (m)**
900	Topsoil	Humic mid-dark grey brown slightly silty clayey loam with frequent small-medium round and sub-round flint inclusions	0.39
901	Subsoil	Mid browny grey very clayey silt with moderate-frequent small-medium round and sub-round flint inclusions	0.15
Nat.	Natural	(70%) Light grey silty clay with (30%) reddish orange sandy gravels	

Trench 10	**Dimensions: 25m x 1.8m Trench alignment: N-S Ground level at ESE end: ? mOD Ground level at WNW end: ? mOD**		
Context	**Interpretation**	**Description**	**Depth (m)**
1000	Topsoil	Humic very compact dark brown/black clay with occasional small angular and sub-angular flint inclusions	0.43
Nat.	Natural	(75%) Light grey blue clay striped E-W with (15%) light yellow brown silty clay and (10%) mid reddish brown clay	

A catalogue and summary of the pottery, plus a catalogue of metalwork, recovered during an archaeological evaluation at Willesborough Road Kennington, Ashford, Kent

Site Code: WRK-EV-22

CATALOGUE ONLY

Analyst: Paul Hart
Last updated: 01.04.2022

For: Swale and Thames Archaeology Survey Company

Contents

Appendix

5. Quantification and spot-dating of the pottery assemblage

5.1. Methodology

The sherds were examined in good light using a hand lens of x10 magnification and were catalogued on a context, total quantity, bulk weight (calculated to the nearest gram), period, ware type, estimate of the number of vessels per ware, condition and date preference basis. They are listed in date order from the earliest to the latest. No information about the contexts or their stratigraphic relationships was known unless stated. In the notes, the pieces are typically plain or less diagnostic body sherds unless stated otherwise.

All dates given are *circa*.

It should also be noted that:

- All form and decorative pieces are noted and described in the catalogue and their presence is highlighted by the inclusion of the word 'DRAW' (which does not mean that such pieces necessarily need to be drawn for archive level reporting or for publication).

5.2. Period Codes employed

Period	*Code*	*Date (circa)*			
Earlier Prehistoric	EP	4000	-	1550	BC
Later Prehistoric	LP	1550	-	50	BC
Early Medieval	EM	1050	-	1200	AD
Medieval	M	1200	-	1375	AD

5.3. Abbreviations used in 5.4

Wear

L : Light
M : Moderate
H : Heavy

Dating

> : To/or later

5.4. Catalogue: Quantification and spot-dating of the pottery, with notes

Context			**Total sherds**		**Total weight (g)**
Start date:	**Likely commencement date of the context based on the pottery evidence.**				
End date:	**Likely end date of the context based on the pottery evidence.**				
Dating:	**General implications.**				
Comments:	Highlighting elements, wares and issues of particular note.				
Quantity	*Period*	*Ware*	*Vessels*	*Wear*	*Date preference*
(401)			**5 sherds**		**52 g**
Start date:	**-**				
End date:	**Presume this is an overburden deposit, containing residual LP and EM>M, those recovered potentially not reflecting the full range that might be present in other areas of its extent.**				
Dating:	**The sherds are all small and fairly similarly worn, with little very specific data.**				
Comments:	The flint tempered sherd is more likely LP. The EM>M Kent sandy wares are thick-walled and show oxidised surfaces that would be more typical after 1150 AD and possibly 1225, while the shelly-sandy base is probably knife-trimmed, which is less common after 1150, though some 13th century examples are known (Macpherson-Grant 2011; Macpherson-Grant and Hart forthcoming). A thinner-walled wheel-thrown sherd in a slightly brighter oxidised fabric likely dates between 1250 and 1350 AD. DRAW: 1.				
Quantity	*Period*	*Ware*	*Vessels*	*Wear*	*Date preference*
1	EP>LP/?LP	Flint tempered	1	M	1550-50 BC
	Small plain body sherd from coarseware.				
1	EM>M	Kent sandy	1	H	1150/1225-1275 AD
	Small plain body sherd, thick-walled, 1 surface mid orange, other black-brown, not hard. Some voids just possibly but not certainly from sparse shell.				
2	EM>M	Kent shelly-sandy	1	H	1150/1225-1275/1300 AD
	Conjoin to a medium sized sherd from a thick-walled base, reduced interior, dull orange exterior, the exterior just above the base possibly knife trimmed, fairly soft. Voids likely from leached shell. DRAW.				
1	M	Kent sandy	1	M	1250-1350 AD
	Small thin-walled body sherd, mid orange surfaces, band of shallow grooved lines (rilling) under green glazed exterior.				
(402) [403]			**4 sherds**		**159 g**
Start date:	**More likely after 1150 AD.**				
End date:	**Probably by around 1200 AD or shortly after.**				
Dating:	**The fabric and forms present originate in the Saxon period and continue into the EM, the ware being produced until around 1250/1275 AD in Kent and 1300 AD or shortly after in Sussex. The former is more likely to be the source, unless this site lays in West Kent or close to the border. The oxidised firings are more typical after around 1150 AD (Barton 1979; Cotter 2006, 158), so a focus between 1150 and 1200 AD is preferred at present. This material can be reviewed if significant further finds are gained during any subsequent excavation (particularly if earlier EM or later Saxon pottery is present, though the latter occurs rarely).**				
Comments:	Large sherds and likely context-contemporary. Site location could influence ware sources and dating. DRAW: 1/2.				
Quantity	*Period*	*Ware*	*Vessels*	*Wear*	*Date preference*
4	EM	?Kent Gritty	2	L	1150-1200 AD
	Some voids could be leached shell. 1 small plain body sherd, likely associated with 2 that conjoin to a large sherd from the curving upper body and deep everted neck, rim top missing, patchy pale orangey-brown to dark grey-brown surfaces, frequent multi-coloured small to medium sized stone grits and some burnt flint. 1 large rim in same fabric, not certainly same vessel (this neck appears slightly less deep and more curved), an everted rim with concave neck and rounded shoulder, pale orangey-brown interior and bright orange on exterior with buff along the rim top and neck, sooting on exterior. DRAW.				
Totals			**9 sherds**		**211 g**

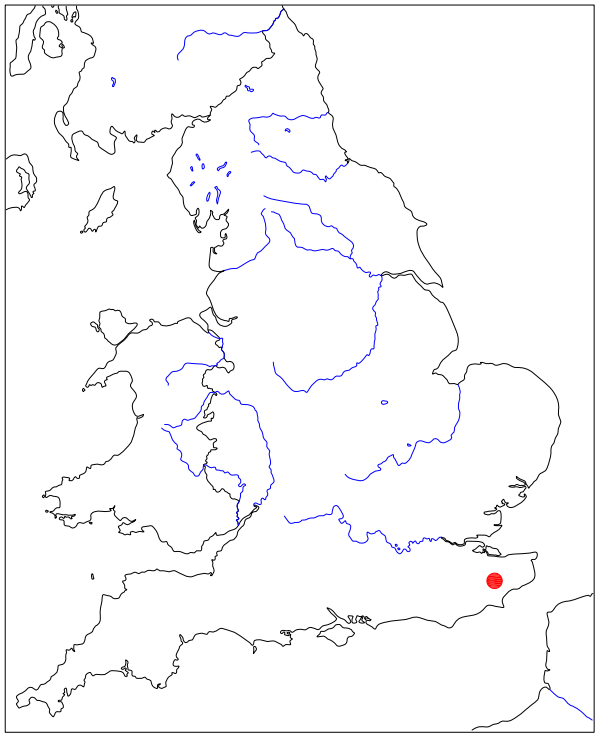
6. Catalogues of other finds presented

6.1. Catalogue of metalwork

Context	*Quantity*	*Weight (g)*	*Notes*	*Date*
(401)	2	3	Broken fragments of small hoops of copper alloy, thin rounded section, if from the same object then oval in plan.	-
Totals	**2**	**3**		

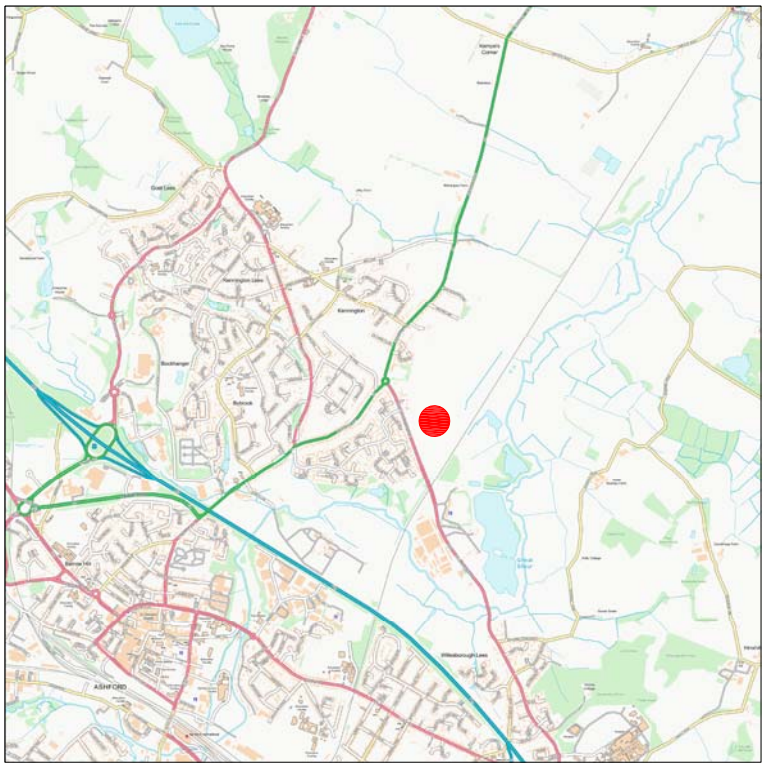
Figure 1. Aerial view of site showing trench locations (Google Earth, accessed 01/04/22).

NOT TO SCALE



N

NOT TO SCALE



1:50000@A4

Figure 2: Site Location Plan

0m 5km

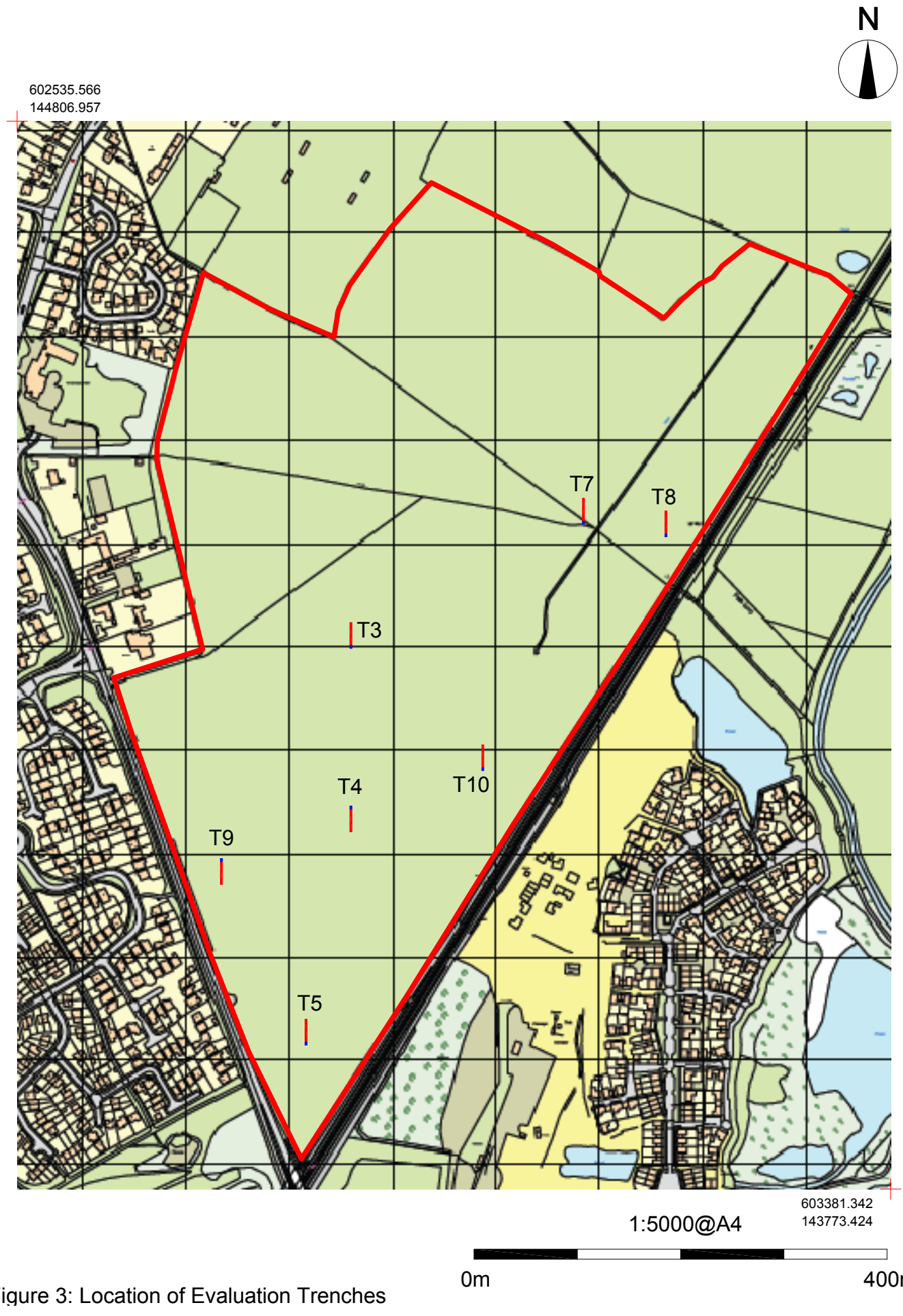


Figure 3: Location of Evaluation Trenches

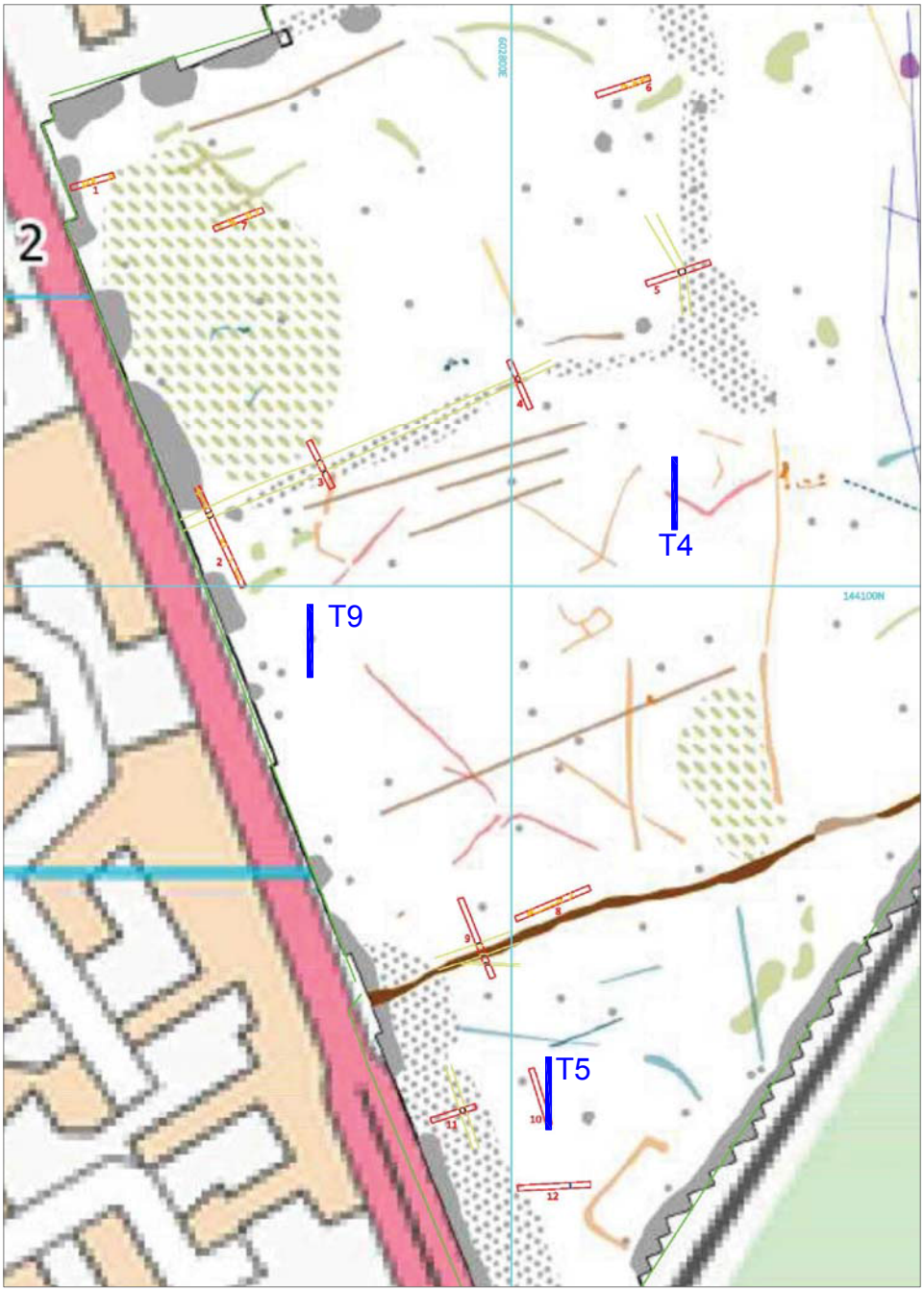


Figure 4: Trenches overlain on geophysical survey (SWAT 2022 trenches shown in blue, previous SWAT trenches shown in red)

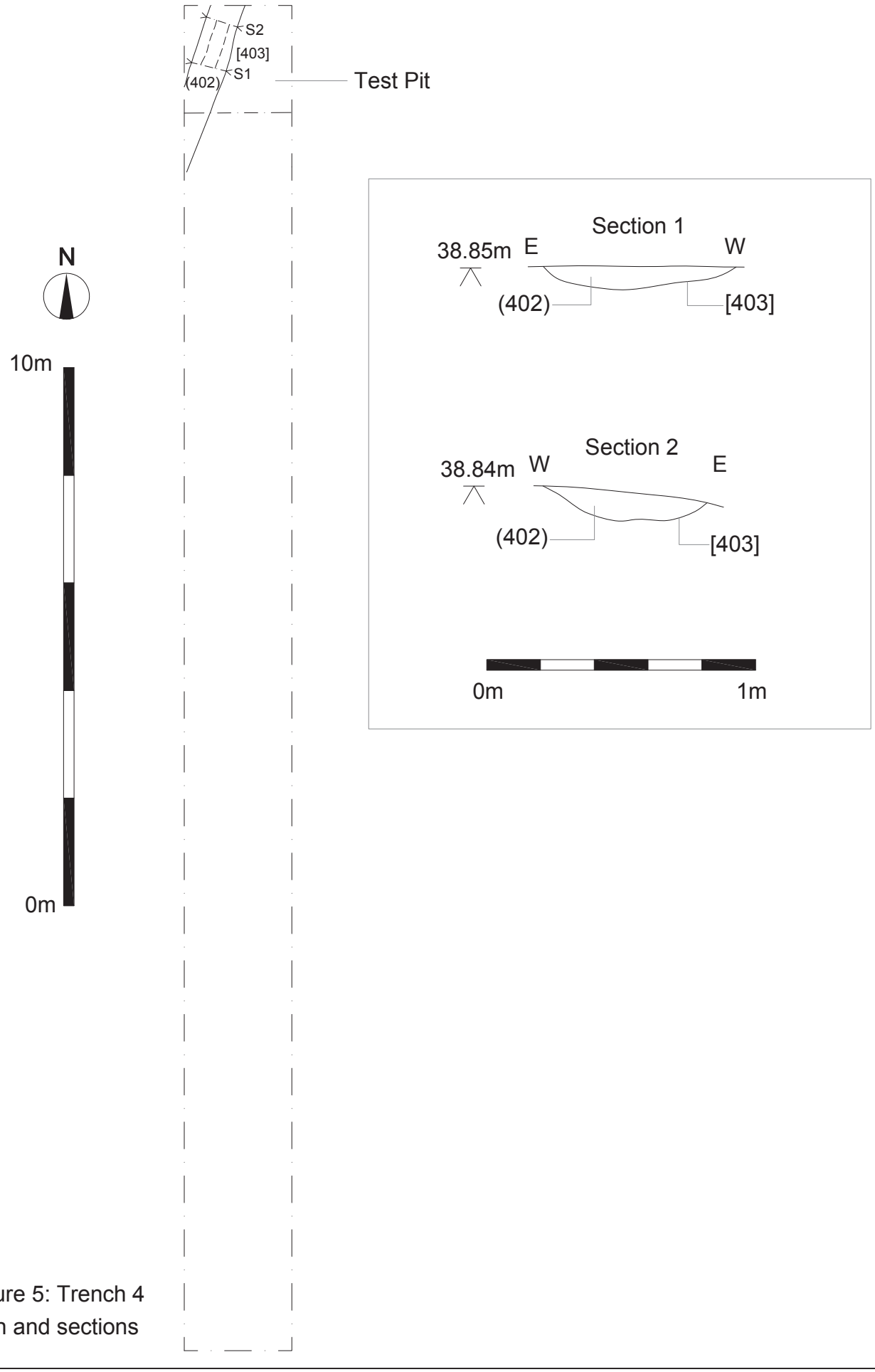


Figure 5: Trench 4
Plan and sections