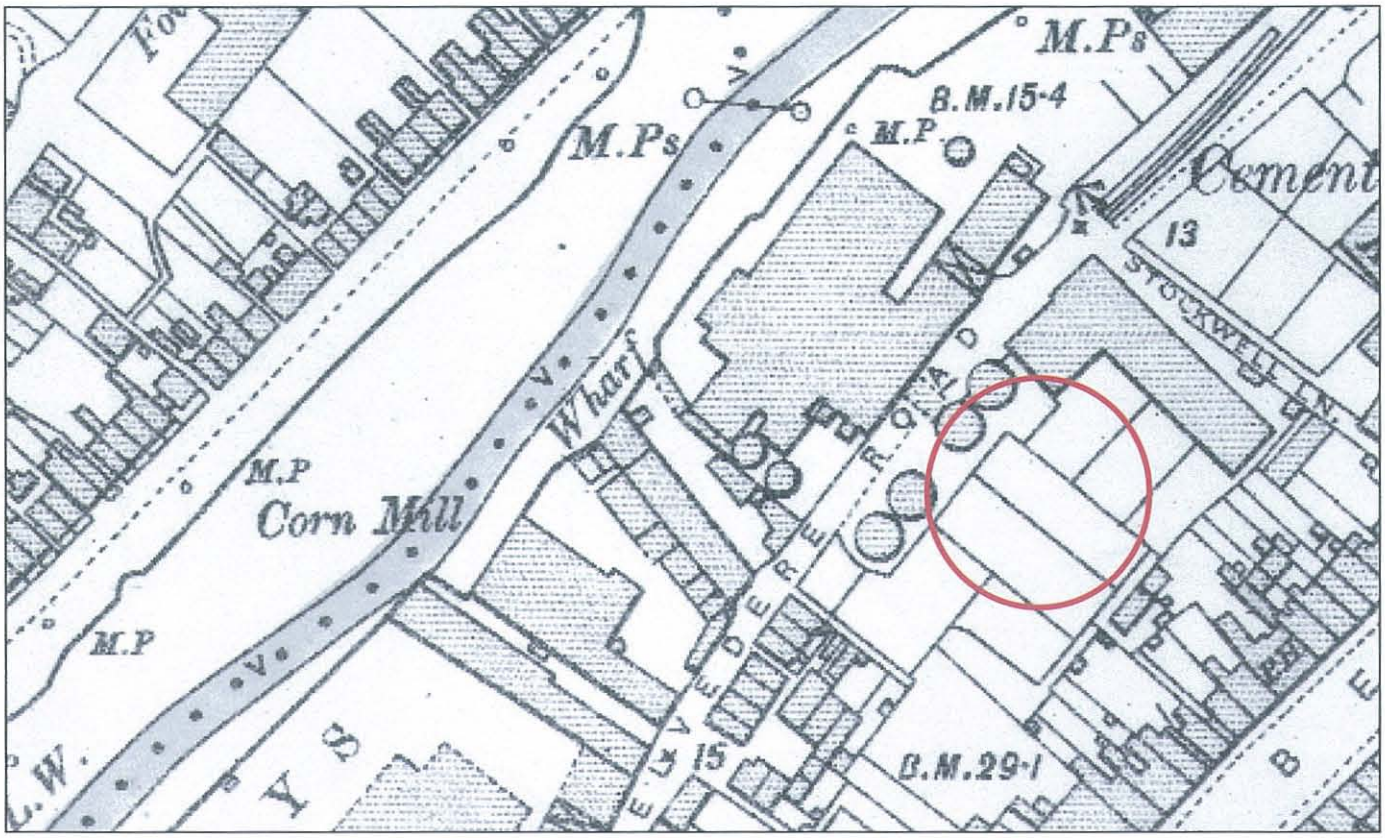

The results of an archaeological evaluation at the former Shepherd Neame Depot, Belvedere Road, Faversham, Kent.

Amended November 2007

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The Former Shepherd Neame Depot, Belvedere Road, Faversham, Kent

Archaeological Evaluation

NGR: 601747 161743

Site Code: BRF07

Report for

Development Engineering Solutions Limited

Amended November 2007

SWAT. ARCHAEOLOGY
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The Former Shepherd Neame Depot, Belvedere Road, Faversham, Kent

NGR: 601747 161743
Site Code: BRF07

SUMMARY

Swale & Thames Survey Company (SWAT) carried out an archaeological evaluation at land at the former Shepherd Neame Depot, Belvedere Road, Faversham, Kent in April 2007. A planning application (PAN: SW/04/0651) for a new residential development along with associated access, car parking and services at the above site was submitted to Swale Borough Council (SBC) whereby Kent County Council Heritage and Conservation (KCCHC), on behalf of Swale Borough Council requested that an Archaeological Evaluation be undertaken in order to determine the possible impact of the development on any archaeological remains. The work was carried out in accordance with the requirements set out within an Archaeological Specification (KCC 2007) and in discussion with the Archaeological Officer, Kent County Council.

With the exception of a possible medieval wall, the evaluation did not encounter any archaeological remains, suggesting that none survive within the immediate vicinity of the site. The exposed upper section of the ragstone wall was exposed and initial examination of the construction methods and material provisionally suggested a medieval date. The orientation of the structure, along with its proximity to Faversham Creek and the Abbey, suggest that the wall may have formed part of a medieval basement, possibly associated with former merchants dwellings. However, health & safety issues prevented further excavation so the wall was protected and backfilled and will remain in situ.

Alluvial silt encroachment upon natural Thanet Beds encountered within the south-eastern extent of the site revealed inundation possibly associated with Faversham Creek prior to the development of both Belvedere Road and any surrounding industrial works. If this is indeed the case, the latter construction of the depot would have completely removed earlier deposits associated with the post-medieval kiln sites, prior to the deposition of a rammed chalk reclamation layer. No clay extraction pits or remains associated with the 19th century cement works were located throughout the course of the evaluation. Geoarchaeological examination carried out during the evaluation suggests natural accumulation of alluvial sediment with progressive introduction of anthropogenic material associated with occupation and land-use change at and upstream from the site.

INTRODUCTION

Swale & Thames Survey Company (SWAT) was commissioned by Development Engineering

Solutions Limited to carry out an archaeological evaluation at the above site. The work was carried out in accordance with the requirements set out within an Archaeological Specification (KCC 2007) and in discussion with the Archaeological Officer, Kent County Council. Initial phases of the evaluation were carried out during April 2007.

SITE DESCRIPTION AND TOPOGRAPHY

Faversham is located approximately midway between Sittingbourne and Canterbury, adjacent to the northern extent of Watling Street, a Roman Road connecting London to the southeast coast at Dover. The proposed development site is situated adjacent to Faversham Creek within the historic core of Faversham (Fig. 1).The site is relatively flat comprising a concrete hardstanding with soft verges around the perimeter. Prior to recent demolition the site was occupied by two warehouses (see SWAT 2007).

PLANNING BACKGROUND

A planning application (PAN: SW/04/0651) for 22 houses in 5 terraces, along with associated access, car parking and services at the above site was submitted to Swale Borough Council (SBC). Kent County Council Heritage and Conservation (KCCHC), on behalf of Swale Borough Council, requested that an *Archaeological Evaluation* be undertaken in order to determine the possible impact of the development on any archaeological remains. The following condition was attached to the planning consent:

AR5 *No development shall take place until the applicant, or their agents or successors in title, has secured the implementation of*

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

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

Requirements for the archaeological evaluation comprised trial trenching targeting a minimum of 5% of the impact area, with trenches designed to establish whether there are any archaeological deposits at the site that may be affected by the proposed development. The results from this evaluation will be used to inform KCCHC and SBC of any further

archaeological mitigation measures that may be necessary in connection with the development proposals.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

The proposed development site is situated on the fringe of the historic core of Faversham and adjacent to Faversham Creek. In Saxon times the site probably fell within the bounds of a royal property centred on the Abbey to the east. In medieval times the eastern part of the site was likely to have been occupied by tenements while the western part may have seen riverside activities. Early maps show a lane crossing the central part of the site to the 'Stock Well' which probably originated in the medieval period. This later became Stockwell Lane which survived until the 19th century and is shown on early Ordnance Survey maps (KCC 2007:2.1)

Early Ordnance Survey maps show that the site was previously occupied by a cement works. On the south side of Stockwell Lane a large L-shaped building flanked the lane and Belvedere Road with a range of kilns extending from the building southwards. The south-eastern corner of the development was occupied by clay pits and another range of kilns and open ground occupying the northern end of site.

A desk-based assessment carried out by Swale and Thames Archaeological Survey Company (2007) showed this to be 'orchard' in the 18th century and market gardens in the 19th century' (2007:14). Cartographic regression shows three brickearth extraction pits in the southwest corner of the assessment site with a further four pits present in the north-eastern area of the site (1st Edition 1867). Second Edition OS (1897) indicates the addition of a large kiln within the northwest corner of the site and large cement works within the north-eastern corner.

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

The purpose of the evaluation, as set out with the Archaeological Specification (2007) was to:

i) establish whether there are any archaeological deposits at the site that may be affected by the proposed development. The excavation is thus to ascertain the extent, depth below ground surface, depth of deposit, character, significance and condition of any archaeological remains on site (2006:3.1)

ii) establish the extent to which previous development on the site has affected archaeological deposits (2006:3.2)

Particular issues that should be addressed by the evaluation include:

- Is there any evidence of Saxon or Medieval activity on the site?

- Are there any remains connected with the east riverfront of Faversham Creek?
- Are there any remains connected with the 'Stock Well' and what is the antiquity of Stockwell lane?
- Are there any significant remains of the 19th century cement works present on site or evidence for earlier industry?
- Are there any remains of geo-archaeological or palaeo-environmental significance associated with Faversham Creek?

(KCC 3.3)

Additional aims were to:

iv) gather sufficient information to enable an assessment of the potential and significance of any archaeological remains to be made and the impact development will have upon them

v) enable an informed decision to be made regarding the future treatment of any archaeological remains and consider any appropriate mitigatory measures either in advance of and/or during development

METHODOLOGY

Trial trenching commenced on the 22nd March 2007, with the excavation of ten trenches each measuring 1.50m in width and between 10-25m in length (see below). Trench locations were agreed prior to the excavation between KCCHC and SWAT. Each trench was initially scanned for surface finds prior to excavation. Excavation was carried out using a 360° 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. 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 the specification.

A single context recording system was used to record the deposits. A full list is presented in Appendix 1. Layers and fills are recorded (**100**). The cut of the feature is shown [**100**]. Context numbers were assigned to all deposits for recording purposes; these are used in the report (in **bold**).

MONITORING

Curatorial monitoring was carried out during the course of the evaluation by KCCHC at which time methodologies and preliminary results were discussed.

RESULTS

A common stratigraphic sequence was recognised across the site comprising crushed hardcore overburden overlying a rammed chalk formation/reclamation layer. A clear line of horizon gave way to underlying waterlogged estuarine alluvium. Variations occurred where foundations and construction layers associated with the modern brewery truncated the common stratigraphic model.

Appendix 2 provides a stratigraphic sequence for all trenches.

Trench 1

(25 x 2m) Fig 3

Trench 1 was positioned in order to cross a line of former kiln block and into open space to the north, while targeting the edge of a clay pit to the south (Fig. 2). Brick rubble (**101**) overlay redeposited clay silt with frequent inclusions of brick and ash (**102**) which in turn sealed a rammed chalk surface (**103**) above estuarine alluvium (**104**). A modern concrete foundation (**105**) with associated construction (**107**) (**108**) layers and contemporary surface (**106**) were recognised within the trench, all of which were associated with recently demolished brewery buildings. A trench [**109**] positioned at a tangent to, and most likely contemporary with the adjacent concrete foundation (**105**) had a broken brick hardcore fill (**110**) and may have represented a former wall or foundation associated with the latter phases of development of the site.

No archaeological finds or features were present within this trench.

Trench 2

(15 x 2m) Fig 3

Located within the far northern extent of the site, Trench 2 was positioned in order to cross the northern boundary of a former clay pit and extend into former open space to the north (Fig. 2). Brick rubble (**201**) directly overlay estuarine alluvium (**202**) that would have predated any clay pit, should it have been present.

Column samples <1>, <2> and <3> were recovered from Trench 2 (see Appendix 2). No archaeological finds or features were present within this trench.

Trench 3

(25m x 2m) Fig 4

Trench 3 was positioned in order to cross the line of Stockwell Lane, confirm the edge of clay pits and assess the presence/character of a building shown on early Ordnance Survey mapping (Fig. 2). A burnt brick surface (**301**) overlay a rammed chalk surface (**302**) which

sealed a secondary alluvial deposit (**303**) containing occasional brick flecks. Estuarine alluvium (**304**) encroached onto rising natural Thanet Beds (**305**).

No archaeological finds or features were present within this trench.

Trench 4

(25m x 2m) Fig 4

Located within the northern extent of the site, Trench 4 was positioned in order to cross the line of Stockwell Lane, confirm the edge of clay pits and assess the presence/character of a building shown on early Ordnance Survey mapping (Fig. 2). Brick rubble (**401**) directly overlay a rammed chalk layer (**402**) that sealed estuarine alluvium (**403**).

No archaeological finds or features were present within this trench.

Trench 5

(20m x 2m) Fig 5

Trench 5 was positioned in order to assess open space between a large building and former clay pits shown on early Ordnance Survey mapping (Fig. 2). Brick rubble (**501**) overlay a rammed chalk surface (**502**) that sealed estuarine alluvium (**503**). Modern concrete foundations (**504**) and (**505**) were associated with recently demolished brewery buildings.

No archaeological finds or features were present within this trench.

Trench 6

(10m x 2m) Fig 5

Trench 6 was positioned in order to assess open space and the edge of a clay pit shown on early Ordnance Survey mapping (Fig. 2). Bright orange powdery brick rubble (**601**) overlay a rammed chalk surface (**602**) that sealed a secondary layer of orange powdery brick rubble (**603**). This in turn sealed estuarine alluvium (**604**).

No archaeological finds or features were present within this trench.

Trench 7

(25m x 2m) Fig 6

Trench 7 was positioned in order to assess large buildings and kilns shown on early Ordnance Survey mapping (Fig. 2). A burnt brick surface (**701**) overlay a rammed chalk

surface (**702**) which sealed a secondary alluvial deposit (**703**) containing occasional brick flecks. Estuarine alluvium (**704**) encroached onto rising natural Thanet Beds (**705**).

No archaeological finds or features were present within this trench.

Trench 8

(25m x 2m) Fig 6

Trench 8 was positioned in order to confirm the edge of clay pits and assess kilns. A burnt brick surface (**801**) overlay a rammed chalk surface (**802**) which sealed a secondary alluvial deposit (**803**) containing occasional brick flecks overlying estuarine alluvium (**804**).

No archaeological finds or features were present within this trench.

Trench 9

(15m x 2m) Fig 7

Trench 9 was positioned in order to confirm the presence/character of a building shown on early Ordnance Survey mapping (Fig. 2). A burnt brick surface (**901**) overlay a rammed chalk surface (**902**) which sealed a secondary alluvial deposit (**903**) containing occasional brick flecks overlying estuarine alluvium (**904**).

Column sample <4> was recovered from Trench 2 (see Appendix 2). No archaeological finds or features were present within this trench.

Trench 10

(18m x 2m) Fig 7

Trench 10 was positioned in order to confirm the presence/character of a building shown on early Ordnance Survey mapping (Fig. 2). A burnt brick surface (**1001**) overlay a rammed chalk surface (**1002**) which sealed a secondary alluvial deposit (**1003**) containing occasional brick flecks. Estuarine alluvium (**1004**) encroached onto rising natural Thanet Beds (**1005**).

No archaeological finds or features were present within this trench.

Trench/Feature 11

(25m x 2m) Plate 1

Excavations associated with the demolition and removal of hardstanding areas confirmed the common upper stratigraphy of the site, comprising burnt brick rubble formation layers and surfaces. However, excavations adjacent to Trench 4 uncovered the upper courses of what appeared to represent a medieval wall on a northwest-southeast alignment. Careful investigation and cleaning of the feature exposed a length of 8m and width of 0.41m. The wall

(**11**), as shown in Plate 1 and on Figure 8, comprised random coursing bonded with a pale yellow lime mortar. Unfortunately high voltage electricity cables directly adjacent to the wall prevented further excavation (on health & safety grounds) so it was decided that the most appropriate and preferable form of mitigation would to preserve the wall in situ. The upper facing of the wall, which appeared to be later additions, were exposed at a level of c.4m AOD. This meant that construction layers associated with the proposed road (finished ground level c. 4.5m AOD) would provide a sufficient protective layer. As a result it was agreed that the wall was to be covered and protected prior to backfilling, and thus remain in situ. A Geotex liner and fine grain sand were placed over the wall, providing a cushion from overlying Type I hardcore. The location of the wall, along with associated levels, is shown on Figure 8.

FINDS

No finds were retrieved throughout the extent of the evaluation.

DISCUSSION

With the exception of a possible medieval wall, the evaluation carried out at the former Shepherd Neame Depot, Belvedere Road, Faversham did not encounter any archaeological remains, suggesting that none survive within the immediate vicinity of the site. The exposed upper section of a ragstone wall was exposed and initial examination of the construction methods and material provisionally suggested a medieval date. The orientation of the structure, along with its proximity to Faversham Creek and the Abbey, suggest that the wall may have formed part of an establishment similar to the 'ribbon development of merchant's houses was built along the spine of the Thorne peninsula' (Wilkinson 2006:9) 'probably with cellars and warehouses built on the east bank of Faversham Creek, along the line of Abbey Street and Court Street (Kent County Council 2004:13). That said, archaeological evidence found to date suggests that such structures would have been half-timbered (Paul Wilkinson *pers comm.*). This, however, could not be confirmed as health & safety issues prevented further investigation. As a result it was decided that the most appropriate and preferable form of mitigation would to preserve the wall in situ.

Alluvial silt encroachment upon natural Thanet Beds encountered within the south-eastern extent of Trench 3 revealed inundation possibly associated with Faversham Creek prior to the development of both Belvedere Road and any surrounding industrial works. If this is indeed the case, the latter construction of the depot would have completely removed earlier deposits associated with the post-medieval kiln sites, prior to the deposition of a rammed chalk reclamation layer. Either way, any future archaeological work carried out adjacent to either Belvedere Road or Abbey Street should attempt to further assess the extent of Faversham Creek, together with any associated riparian activities. No clay extraction pits or remains associated with the 19th century cement works were located throughout the course of the evaluation.

CONCLUSION

The archaeological evaluation has been successful in fulfilling the primary aims and objectives of the Specification. Despite the archaeological potential of the surrounding area, the only archaeological remains surviving later development on site consisted of upper masonry associated with a possible medieval merchants cellar (preserved in situ). Burnt brick floors present within the eastern extent of the site (Trench 3 and to a lesser degree, Trench 1) provided a physical reminder of the extensive use and reuse of the site over the last 900+ years, this later surface being associated with the relatively recent brewery. No evidence for earlier Saxon occupation, 19th century cement works or remains connected with the 'Stock Well', or Stockwell Lane[1], were present, suggesting overall, that the proposed development presents little or no impact upon the local archaeological resource. Due to the absence of evidence for any significant variation in the sedimentary sequence e.g. units of more organic sediment, and the level of modern contamination and disturbance, no further geoarchaeological or environmental archaeological analysis was recommended (Batchelor & Green, this document).

This evaluation has therefore assessed the archaeological potential of land intended for development. The results from this work will be used to aid and inform the Archaeological Officer (KCCHC) of any further archaeological mitigations measures that may be necessary in connection with the development proposals.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

SWAT would like to thank Development Engineering Solutions Limited for commissioning the project. Thanks are also extended to Heritage and Conservation (Kent County Council) for their advice and assistance. Paul Wilkinson and Geoff Morley carried out archaeological fieldwork, illustrations were produced by James Madden. This report was edited and collated by Paul Wilkinson.

David Britchfield
November 2007

[1] Rapid map regressions from sources provided within the Faversham Historic Town Survey shows a series of lanes running at a tangent to Faversham Creek, providing access to Abbey Street. It is likely, therefore, that Stockwell Lane has medieval origins, although this could not be confirmed during the course of this investigation.

REFERENCES

IFA (1999) *Standards and Guidance for Field Archaeological Evaluations*

Kent County Council (2005) *Faversham Historical Town Survey: Archaeological Assessment Document*

Kent County Council (2007) *Specification for an Archaeological Evaluation in Advance of the Construction of a New Residential Development at Land at the Former Shepherd Neame Depot, Belvedere Road, Faversham, Kent.* Kent County Council Heritage & Conservation

SWAT Archaeology (2007) *Archaeological Desk-Based Study on Land at the Former Shepherd Neame Depot, Belvedere Road, Faversham, Kent*

Wilkinson, P (2000) *The Development of the Port of Faversham 1580=1780* St Andrews University (unpublished)

Wilkinson, P (2006) *The Development of the Port of Faversham 1580-1780* BAR Archeopress

CONTENTS OF SITE ARCHIVE

Correspondence:

Photographs: 43 colour prints, SWAT film nos. 06/043, including those used in this report

Photocopies of Ordnance Survey and other maps:

Drawings: One A3 permatrace site drawing, comprising trench plans and associated sections.

Finds: 1 box (as per KCC guidance)

Context Register including: Context Register (1), Drawings Register (1), Photographic Register (1), Levels Sheets (1), Environmental Samples Register (x) and Context Sheets (45)

APPENDIX 1 - Context Summary

Belvedere Road, Faversham, Kent

Site Code: BRF07

	Context No.	Stratigraphic Extents	Description
Trench 1	(**101**)	0.00-0.19m	Crushed brick, most likely derived from demolition of former units. **Existing Surface.**
	(**102**)	0.19-0.46m	Crushed brick hardcore with frequent burnt material (industrial waste) with dark brown silt clay matrix. **Formation level?**
	(**103**)	0.46m-0.59m	Rammed chalk surface. **Formation/reclamation layer.**
	(**104**)	0.59m+	Dark brown silty clay. **Estuarine alluvium.**
	(**105**)	1.15m wide x 0.72m+ deep	Modern concrete foundation. **Modern**
	(**106**)	0.19 - 0.32m	Orange sand/brick dust. **Modern**
	(**107**)	0.32 – 0.41m	Yellow sand. **Modern**
	(**108**)	0.41m+	Off-white sand **Modern**
Trench 2	(**201**)	0.00 – 0.21m	Crushed brick, most likely derived from demolition of former units. **Existing Surface.**
	(**202**)	0.21 m+	Dark brown silty clay. **Alluvial estuary deposits.**

Trench 3	(**301**)	0.00 – 0.49m	Brick surface. **Modern**
	(**302**)	0.49 – 0.58m	Rammed chalk layer. **Formation/reclamation layer.**
	(**303**)	0.58 – 0.75m	Olive brown silty sand with occasional brick flecks. **Alluvial estuary deposits?**
	(**304**)	0.75m+	Dark brown silty clay. **Alluvial estuary deposits.**
	(**305**)	0.65m+	Thanet Beds. **Natural.**
Trench 4	(**401**)	0.00 – 0.25m	Crushed brick, most likely derived from demolition of former units. **Existing Surface.**
	(**402**)	0.25 – 0.39m	Rammed chalk layer. **Formation/reclamation layer.**
	(**403**)	0.39m+	Dark brown silty clay. **Alluvial estuary deposits.**
Trench 5	(**501**)	0.00 – 0.42m	Crushed brick, most likely derived from demolition of former units. **Existing Surface.**
	(**502**)	0.42 – 0.59m	Rammed chalk layer. **Formation/reclamation layer.**
	(**503**)	0.59m+	Dark brown silty clay. **Alluvial estuary deposits.**

	(**504**)	1.40m x trench	Concrete pile and demolition of former wall. **Modern foundation.**
	(**505**)	1.40m x trench	Concrete pile and demolition of former wall. **Modern foundation.**
Trench 6	(**601**)	0.00 – 0.40m	Compact bright orange powdery brick, possibly residue from former kiln? **Surface.**
	(**602**)	0.40 – 0.73m	Rammed chalk layer. **Formation/reclamation layer.**
	(**603**)	0.73 – 1.05m	Compact bright orange powdery brick, possibly residue from former kiln? **Formation/reclamation layer.**
	(**604**)	1.05m+	Dark brown silty clay. **Alluvial estuary deposits.**
Trench 7	(**701**)	0.00 – 0.45m	Brick surface. **Modern**
	(**702**)	0.45 – 0.57m	Rammed chalk layer. **Formation/reclamation layer.**
	(**703**)	0.57 – 0.69m	Olive brown silty sand with occasional brick flecks. **Alluvial estuary deposits?**
	(**704**)	0.69 – 1.12m	Dark brown silty clay. **Alluvial estuary deposits.**
	(**705**)	1.12m+	Thanet Beds. **Natural.**

Trench 8	(**801**)	0.00 – 0.39m	Brick surface. **Modern**
	(**802**)	0.39 – 0.48m	Rammed chalk layer. **Formation/reclamation layer.**
	(**803**)	0.48 – 0.76m	Olive brown silty sand with occasional brick flecks. **Alluvial estuary deposits?**
	(**804**)	0.76m+	Dark brown silty clay. **Alluvial estuary deposits.**
Trench 9	(**901**)	0.00 – 0.59m	Brick surface. **Modern**
	(**902**)	0.59 – 0.72m	Rammed chalk layer. **Formation/reclamation layer.**
	(**903**)	0.72 – 0.94m	Olive brown silty sand with occasional brick flecks. **Alluvial estuary deposits?**
	(**904**)	0.94m+	Dark brown silty clay. **Alluvial estuary deposits.**
Trench 10	(**1001**)	0.00 – 0.57m	Brick surface. **Modern**
	(**1002**)	0.57 – 0.70m	Rammed chalk layer. **Formation/reclamation layer.**
	(**1003**)	0.70 – 1.05m	Olive brown silty sand with occasional brick flecks. **Alluvial estuary deposits?**

(**1004**)	1.05m+	Dark brown silty clay. **Alluvial estuary deposits.**
(**1005**)	0.20m+ (SE extent)	Thanet Beds. **Natural.**

APPENDIX 2 - BELVEDERE ROAD, FAVERSHAM (SITE CODE: BELV07): GEOARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT

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INTRODUCTION

This report summarises the findings arising out of the geoarchaeological assessment undertaken by *ArchaeoScape* in connection with the proposed development at Belvedere Road, Faversham (Site Code: BELV07; National Grid Reference: TQ 0167 6169). During the archaeological evaluation, in conjunction with Swale and Thames Archaeological Survey Company, excavation of three trenches (Trenches 2, 6 and 9) permitted *ArchaeoScape* to implement a targeted sampling strategy, which enabled the collection of column samples suitable for a geoarchaeological assessment. The overarching aim of the assessment was to establish the potential of the sedimentary successions for reconstructing the environmental history of the site and its environs. The assessment consisted of:

1. Recovering column samples <1>, <2> and <3> from Trench 2 and column sample <4> from Trench 9
2. Recording the lithostratigraphy (all column samples) to provide a preliminary reconstruction of the site formation processes.

GEOLOGICAL CONTEXT

Belvedere Road is to the north of the town centre of Faversham, close to the tidal creek around which the town has grown up. Leland (1964), writing in the mid 16th century, says of Faversham '... ther cummeth a creke to the towne that bereth vessels of XX tunnes ...'. The site is less than 100m from the modern waterfront on the east side of the creek and is about 4km upstream from the present-day confluence of the creek with The Swale, the tidal channel separating the Isle of Sheppey from mainland Kent. The ground surface at the site is at a level close to 4.0m OD. The ground immediately adjacent to the creek and on the west side of Belvedere Road is underlain by alluvium overlying Thanet Beds. To the east of Belvedere Road the British Geological Survey maps Head Brickearth resting on Thanet Beds (1:50,000 Sheet 273 Faversham 1967). The Thanet Beds form the bedrock at and to the north of the site but the bedrock immediately south of the site is the Upper Chalk. The feather edge of the Thanet Beds passes beneath the south

end of Belvedere Road, with Upper Chalk beneath the alluvium to the west of the site, where the Faversham Creek has cut down through the Thanet Beds.

METHODS

Field investigations

Three column samples (<1>, <2> and <3>) were recovered from Trench 2 (Figure 1). Column sample <1> was taken 1 metre south west of the north east corner of the trench. Overlapping column samples <2> (base) and <3> (top) were taken from the middle of the trench. Column sample <4> was recovered from Trench 9 (Figure 1). For health and safety reasons, Trench 6 was abandoned and no samples from Trench 6 were recovered.

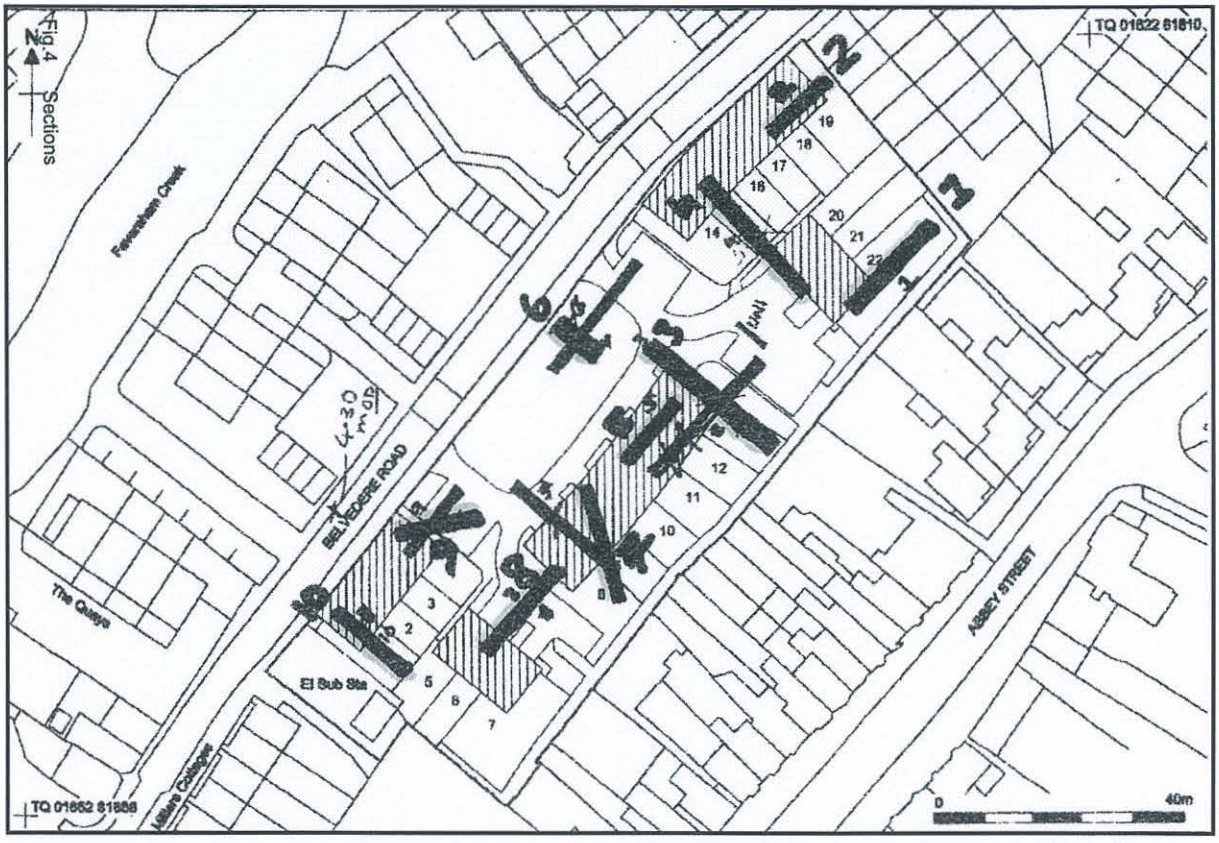


Figure 1: Trench Locations on Belvedere Road, Faversham

Lithostratigraphic descriptions

The lithostratigraphy of all column samples was described in the laboratory using standard procedures for recording unconsolidated sediment and peat, noting the physical properties (colour), composition (gravel, sand, clay, silt and organic matter),

unit boundaries and inclusions (e.g. artefacts). The results of the lithostratigraphic descriptions are provided in Tables 1 to 4.

RESULTS OF THE GEOARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT

Trench 2: Column sample <1>

The lower part of the sequence (unit 1) in column sample <1> consists of greyish brown sandy clay and silt with shell inclusions in which no anthropogenic material was recorded. Overlying this (units 2, 3 and 4) is shelly and slightly gravelly sandy silts, contaminated with anthropogenic material in the form of CBM and charcoal. Chalk clasts probably also reflect ground disturbance upstream from the site.

Table 1: Lithostratigraphic description of column sample <1>, Trench 2, Belvedere Road, Faversham (Site Code: BELV07)

Depth (metres from top of column)	Depth (metres below surface)	Depth (m OD)	Unit no.	Description
0.00 to 0.52	-0.60 to -1.12	3.32 to 2.80	4	10YR 4/2; As2, Ag1, Ga1, Brick+, Shell+, Flint+, Charcoal+, Chalk+, Gg+; Dark greyish brown silty sandy clay with sand, brick, shell, flint, charcoal, chalk and gravel inclusions
0.52 to 0.73	-1.12 to -1.33	2.80 to 2.59	3	10YR 4/2; As3, Ag1, Ga+, Brick+, Shell+, Flint+, Charcoal+, Chalk+, Gg+; Dark greyish brown silty clay with sand, brick, shell, flint, charcoal, chalk and gravel inclusions; diffuse contact with upper unit
0.73 to 0.92	-1.31 to -1.52	2.59 to 2.40	2	10YR 5/2; As3, Ag1, Ga+, Gg+, Charcoal+, Flint+; Greyish brown silty clay with sand, gravel, charcoal and flint inclusions; diffuse contact with upper unit
0.92 to 1.00	-1.52 to -1.60	2.40 to 2.32	1	10YR 5/2; Ga2, As2, Ag+, Shell+; Greyish brown sandy clay with silt and shell inclusions; diffuse contact with upper unit

Trench 2: Column samples <2> and <3>

The lower part of the sequence (unit 1) in column samples <2> and <3> consists of very dark greyish brown shelly and slightly gravelly clays and silts in which no anthropogenic material was recorded. Overlying this in both column samples (units 2, 3 and 4) is shelly and slightly gravelly sandy silts, contaminated with anthropogenic material in the form of CBM and charcoal. Chalk clasts probably also reflect ground disturbance upstream from the site.

Table 2: Lithostratigraphic description of column sample <2base>, Trench 2, Belvedere Road, Faversham (Site Code: BELV07)

Depth (metres from top of column)	Depth (metres below surface)	Depth (m OD)	Unit no.	Description
0.00 to 0.35	-0.60 to -0.95	3.43 to 3.08	4	10YR 5/4; As2, Ag1, Ga1, Charcoal+, Brick+, Flint+, Shell+; Yellowish brown silty, sandy clay with charcoal, brick, flint and shell inclusions
0.35 to 0.53	-0.95 to -1.13	3.08 to 2.90	3	10YR 4/2; As2, Ag1, Ga1, Shell+, Chalk+, Flint+, Brick+, Dl+, Charcoal+; Dark greyish brown silty clay with shell, chalk, flint, brick, detrital wood and charcoal inclusions; diffuse contact with upper unit
0.53 to 0.97	-1.13 to -1.57	2.90 to 2.46	2	10YR 3/2; As3, Ag1, Shell+, Flint+, Charcoal+, Chalk+, Ga+; Very dark greyish brown clay with silt, shell and flint inclusions; diffuse contact with upper unit
0.97 to 1.00	-1.57 to -1.60	2.46 to 2.43	1	10YR 3/2; As4, Ag+, Shell+, Flint+; Very dark greyish brown clay with silt, shell and flint inclusions; diffuse contact with upper unit

Table 3: Lithostratigraphic description of Column sample <3top>, Trench 2, Belvedere Road, Faversham (Site Code: BELV07)

Depth (metres from top of column)	Depth (metres below surface)	Depth (m OD)	Unit no.	Description
0.00 to 0.21	0.00 to 0.21	4.03 to 3.82	3	10YR 3/2; As3, Ag1, Brick+, Cement+, Shell+, Charcoal+, Ga+; Very dark greyish brown silty clay with brick,

				cement, shell, charcoal and sand inclusions
0.21 to 0.45	0.21 to 0.45	3.82 to 3.58	2	10YR 4/3; As2, Ag2, Charcoal+, Brick+, Flint+, Chalk+, Shell+, Ga+; Dark brown silty clay with charcoal, brick, flint, chalk, shell and sand inclusions; diffuse contact with upper unit
0.45 to 0.71	0.45 to 0.71	3.58 to 3.32	1	10YR 3/2; As4, Ag+, Shell+, Flint+; Very dark greyish brown clay with silt, shell and flint inclusions; diffuse contact with upper unit

Trench 9: Column sample <4>

The lower unit (unit 1) of column sample <4> consists of dark brown silty clay with charcoal, brick, flint, chalk, shell and sand. Overlying this (unit 2) is very dark greyish brown silty clay contaminated with anthropogenic material in the form of CBM, cement and charcoal.

Table 4: Lithostratigraphic description of Column sample <4>, Trench 9, Belvedere Road, Faversham (Site Code: BELV07)

Depth (metres from top of column)	Depth (metres below surface)	Depth (m OD)	Unit no.	Description
0.00 to 0.37	-0.41 to -0.78	3.73 to 3.36	2	10YR 3/2; As3, Ag1, Brick+, Cement+, Shell+, Charcoal+, Ga+; Very dark greyish brown silty clay with brick, cement, shell, charcoal and sand inclusions
0.37 to 1.00	-0.78 to -1.41	3.36 to 2.73	1	10YR 4/3; As2, Ag2, Charcoal+, Brick+, Flint+, Chalk+, Shell+, Ga+; Dark brown silty clay with charcoal, brick, flint, chalk, shell and sand inclusions; diffuse contact with upper unit

GEOARCHAEOLOGICAL INTERPRETATION

The contaminated surface horizon seen in all the column samples may include a made ground element, but the diffuse contacts with underlying uncontaminated sediments suggest natural accumulation of alluvial sediment with progressive

introduction of anthropogenic material associated with occupation and land-use change at and upstream from the site. In column samples <1> and <2> there is some indication of a gradual increase in the amount and variety of anthropogenic material, which initially takes the form of charcoal along with CBM, chalk and cement introduced later, in the uppermost horizons. The lowest horizons in column samples <1>, <2> and <3> appear to be the natural alluvium of the Faversham creek.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Due to the absence of evidence for any significant variation in the sedimentary sequence e.g. units of more organic sediment, and the level of modern contamination and disturbance, no further geoarchaeological or environmental archaeological analysis is recommended.

REFERENCES

Leland, J. (1964) *Itinerary in England and Wales in or about the Years 1535-1543* (L.T. Smith, ed.).

APPENDIX 3 - Kent County Council SMR Summary Form

Site Name: *Former Shepherd Neame Depot*	**SWAT Site Code:** *BRF07*
Site Address: *Belvedere Road, Faversham, Kent*	
Summary: *Swale & Thames Survey Company (SWAT) carried out an archaeological evaluation at land at the former Shepherd Neame Depot, Belvedere Road, Faversham, Kent in April 2007. A planning application (PAN: SW/04/0651) for a new residential development along with associated access, car parking and services at the above site was submitted to Swale Borough Council (SBC) whereby Kent County Council Heritage and Conservation (KCCHC), on behalf of Swale Borough Council requested that an Archaeological Evaluation be undertaken in order to determine the possible impact of the development on any archaeological remains. The work was carried out in accordance with the requirements set out within an Archaeological Specification (KCC 2007) and in discussion with the Archaeological Officer, Kent County Council.* *The evaluation did not encounter any archaeological remains, suggesting that none survive within the immediate vicinity of the site. Alluvial silt encroachment upon natural Thanet Beds encountered within the south-eastern extent of the site revealed inundation possibly associated with Faversham Creek prior to the development of both Belvedere Road and any surrounding industrial works. If this is indeed the case, the latter construction of the depot would have completely removed earlier deposits associated with the post-medieval kiln sites, prior to the deposition of a rammed chalk reclamation layer. No clay extraction pits or remains associated with the 19th century cement works were located throughout the course of the evaluation. Geoarchaeological examination carried out during the evaluation suggests natural accumulation of alluvial sediment with progressive introduction of anthropogenic material associated with occupation and land-use change at and upstream from the site.* The exposed upper section of a rag stone wall was exposed and initial examination of the construction methods and material provisionally suggested a medieval date. This, however, was not confirmed and the wall was protected and backfilled and will remain insitu.	
District/Unitary: *Swale*	**Parish:** *Faversham*
Period(s): **Tentative:** *Modern*	
NGR (centre of site : 8 figures): *NGR: 601747 161743* **(NB if large or linear site give multiple NGRs)**	
Type of archaeological work (delete) *Evaluation*	
Date of Recording: *April 2007*	
Unit undertaking recording: *Swale & Thames Survey Company (SWAT)*	
Geology: *Thanet Beds*	
Title and author of accompanying report: *Britchfield, D (2007) Former Shepherd Neame Depot, Belvedere Road, Faversham, Kent: Archaeological Evaluation*	
Summary of fieldwork results (begin with earliest period first, add NGRs where appropriate) *As above* **(cont. on attached sheet)**	
Location of archive/finds: *SWAT*	
Contact at Unit: *Dr P Wilkinson*	**Date:** *August 2007*

APPENDIX 4 – Figures

Plate 1. Medieval wall (11).

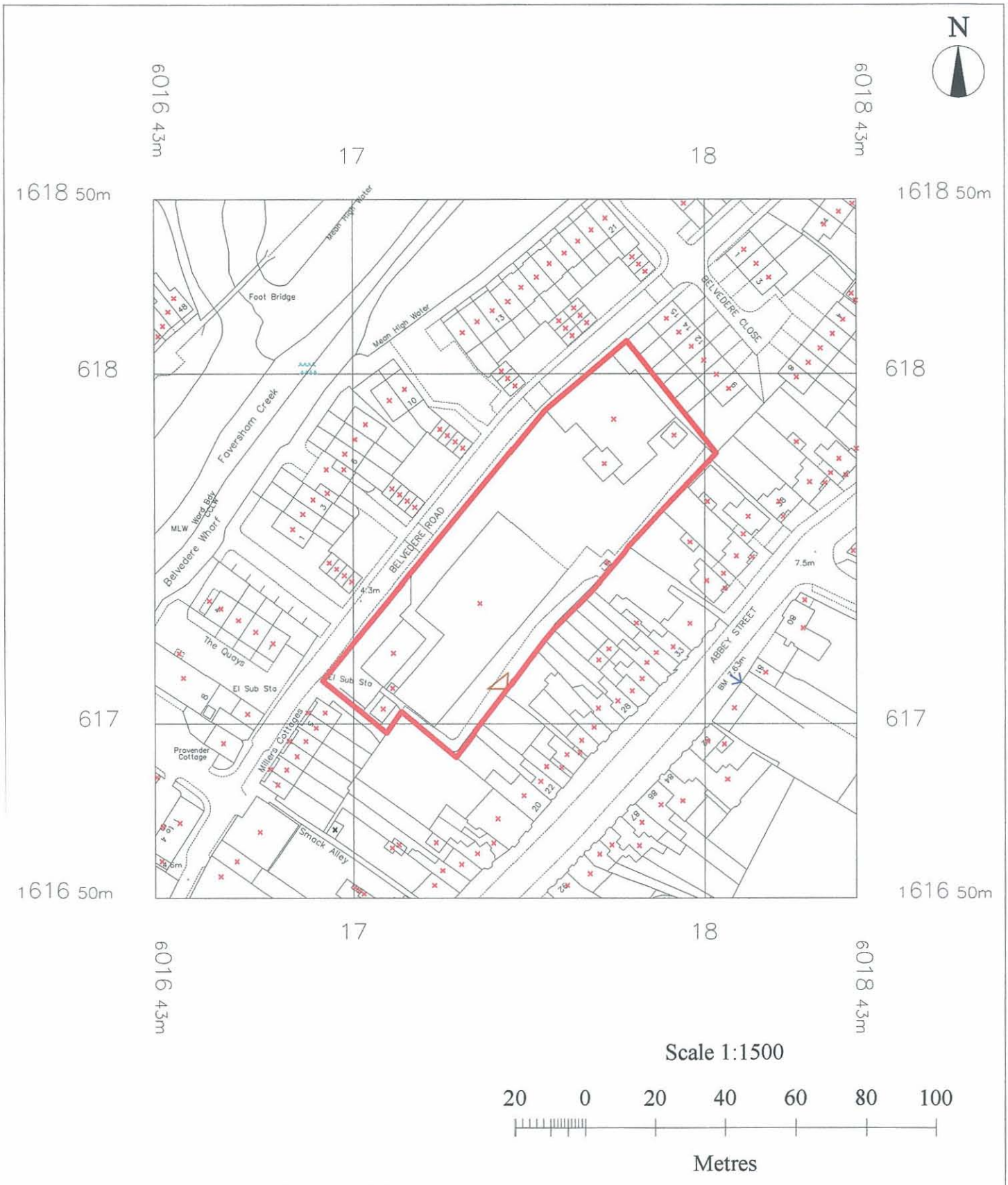


Figure 1: Location of site of proposed development

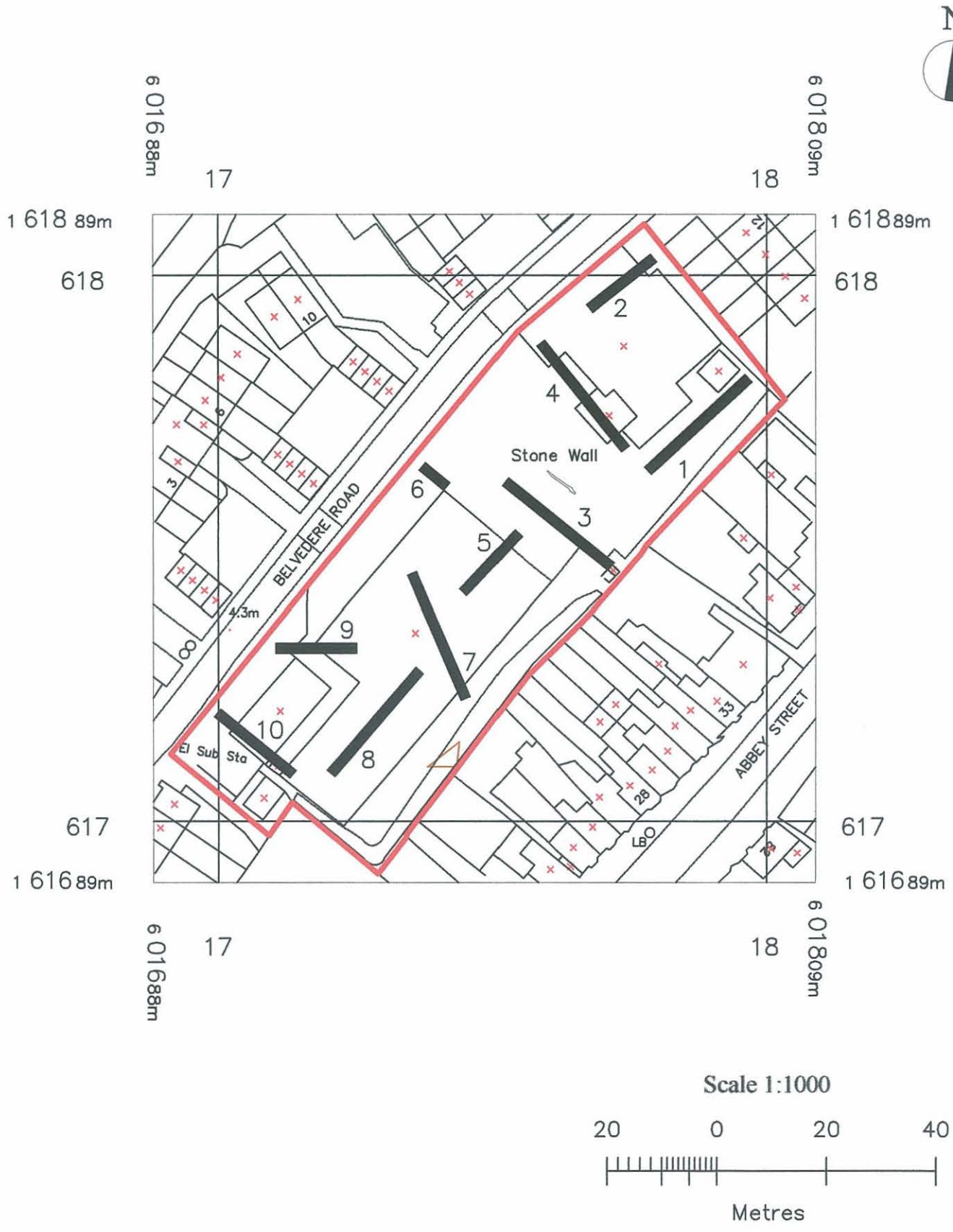


Figure 2: Position of test trenches within site of proposed development

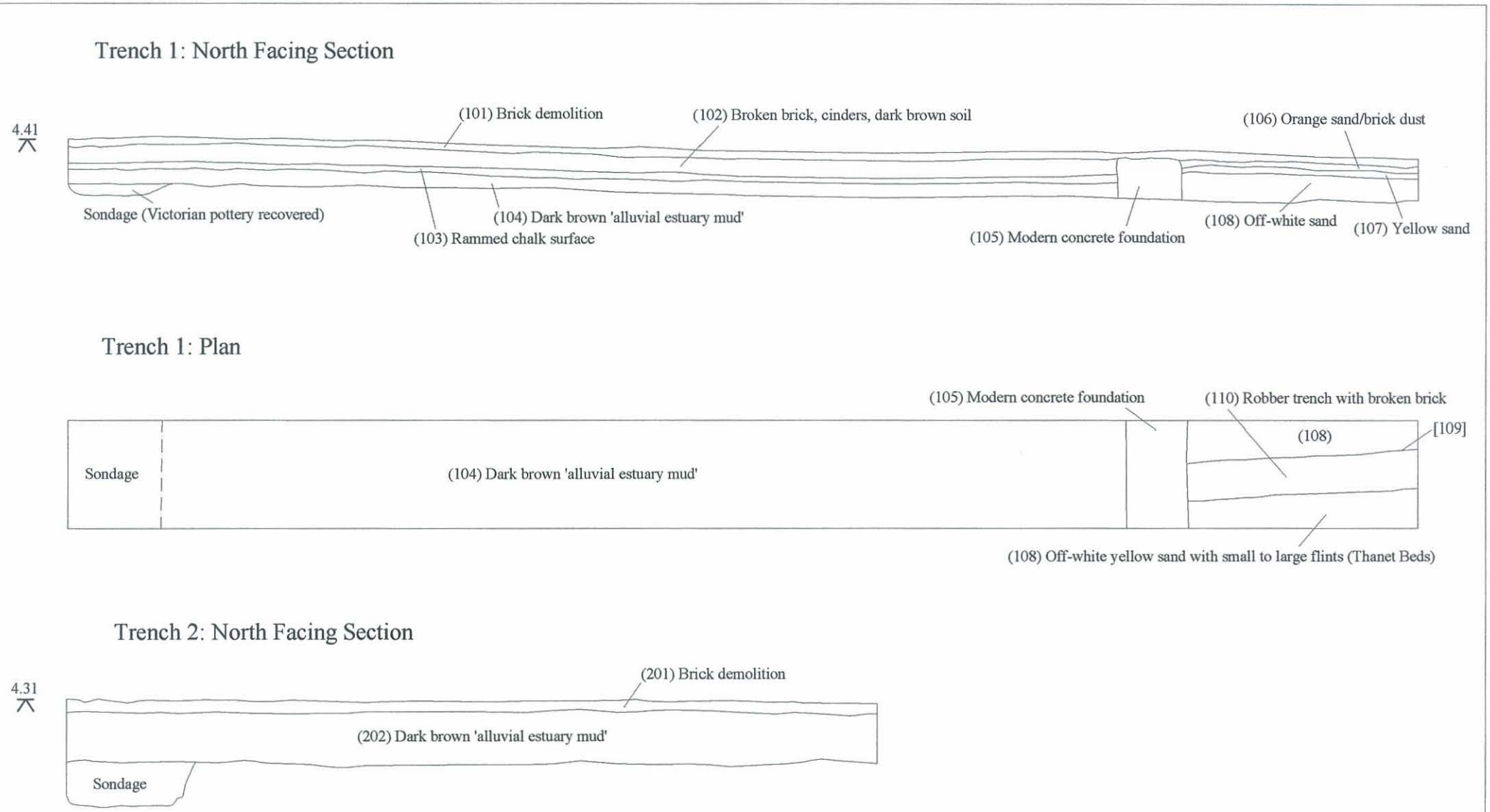
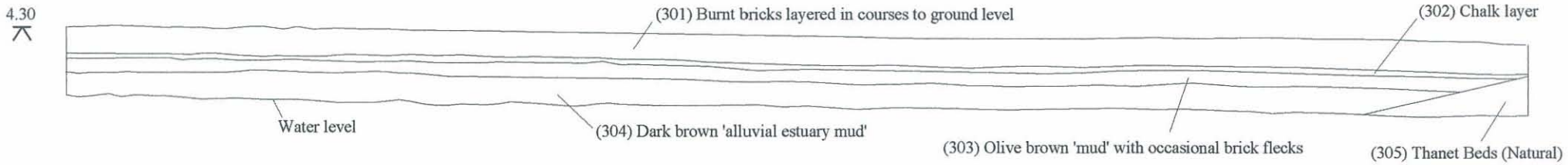


Figure 3: Trenches 1 and 2; Scale 1:100

Trench 3: East Facing Section



Trench 3: Plan

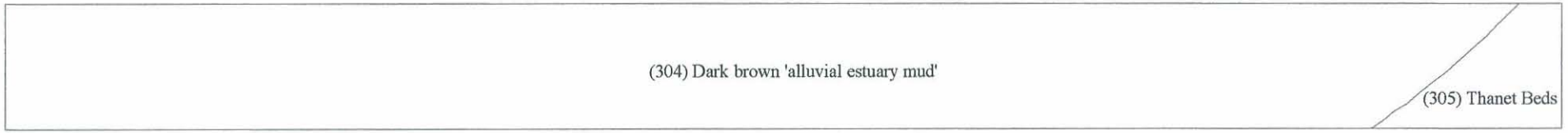
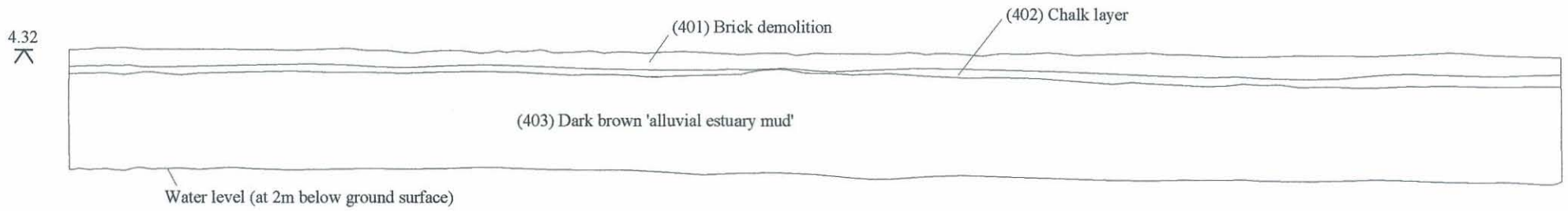
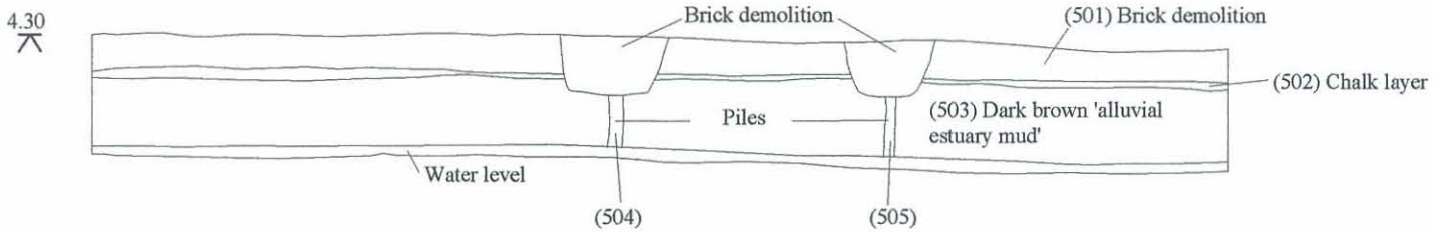


Figure 4: Trench 3; Scale 1:100

Trench 4: East Facing Section



Trench 5: South Facing Section



Trench 6: East Facing Section

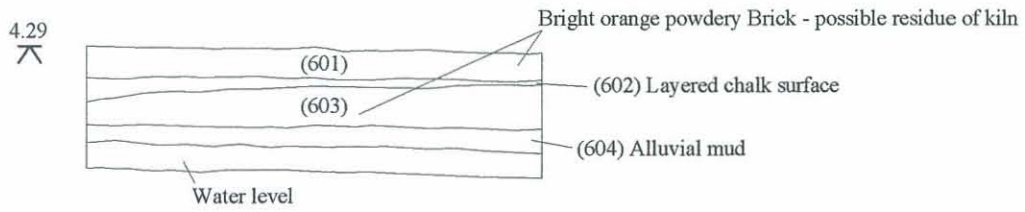
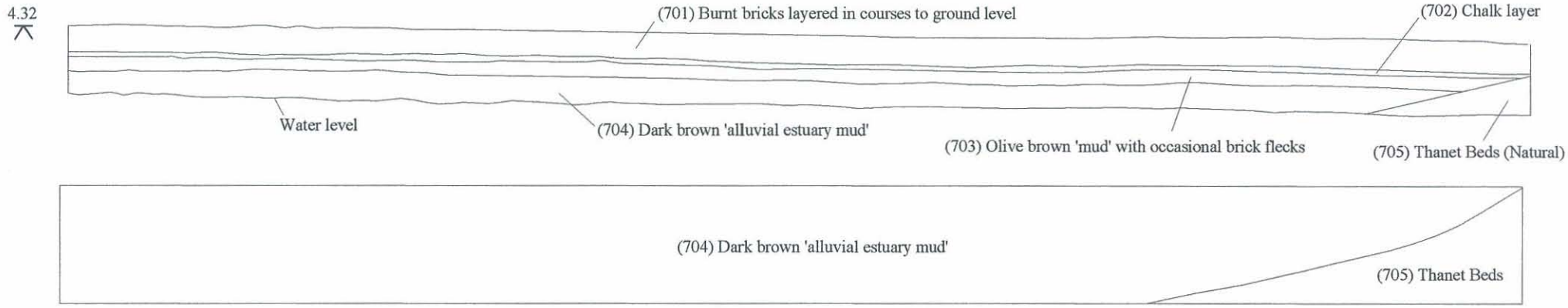


Figure 5: Trenches 4, 5 and 6; Scale 1:100

Trench 7: East Facing Section



Trench 8: South East Facing Section

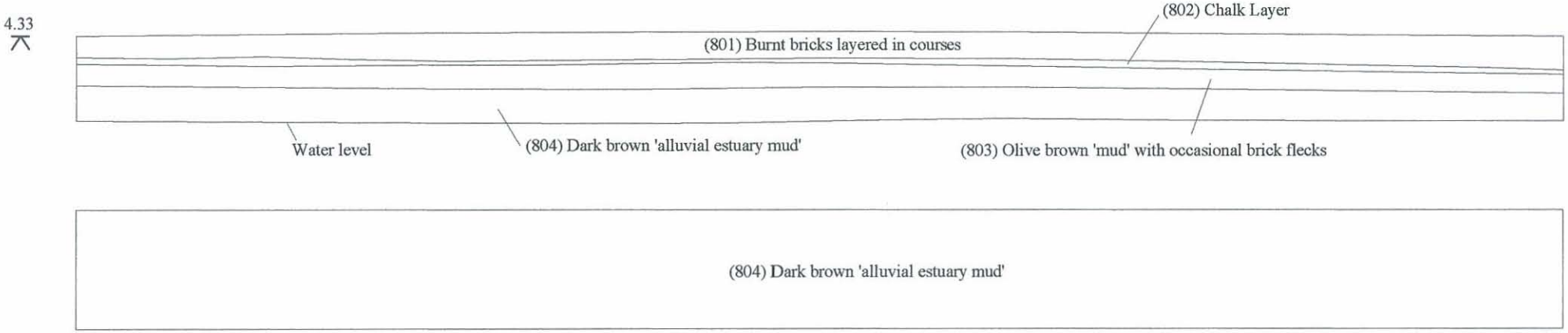


Figure 6: Trenches 7 and 8; Scale 1:100

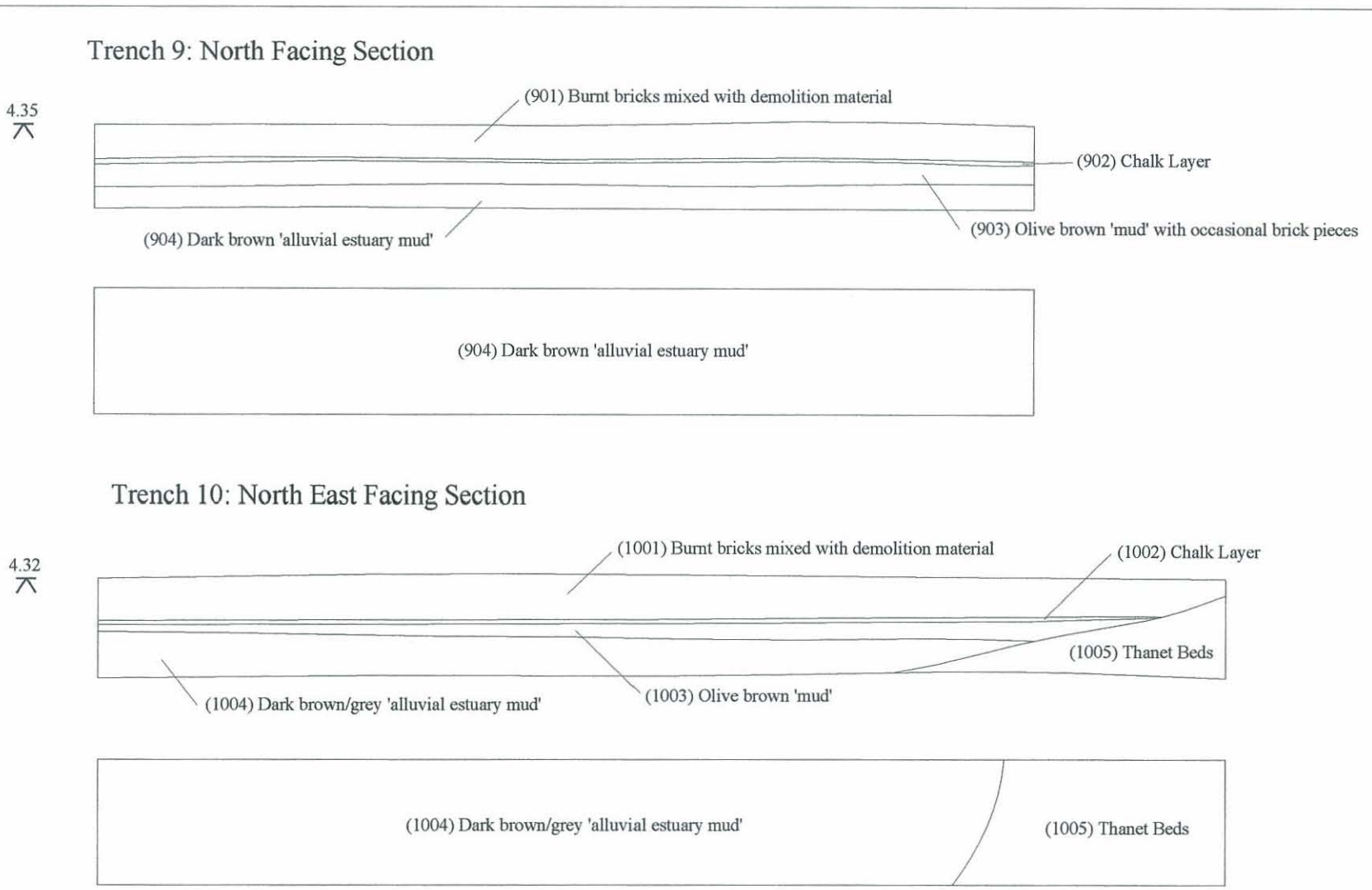


Figure 7: Trenches 9 and 10; Scale 1:100

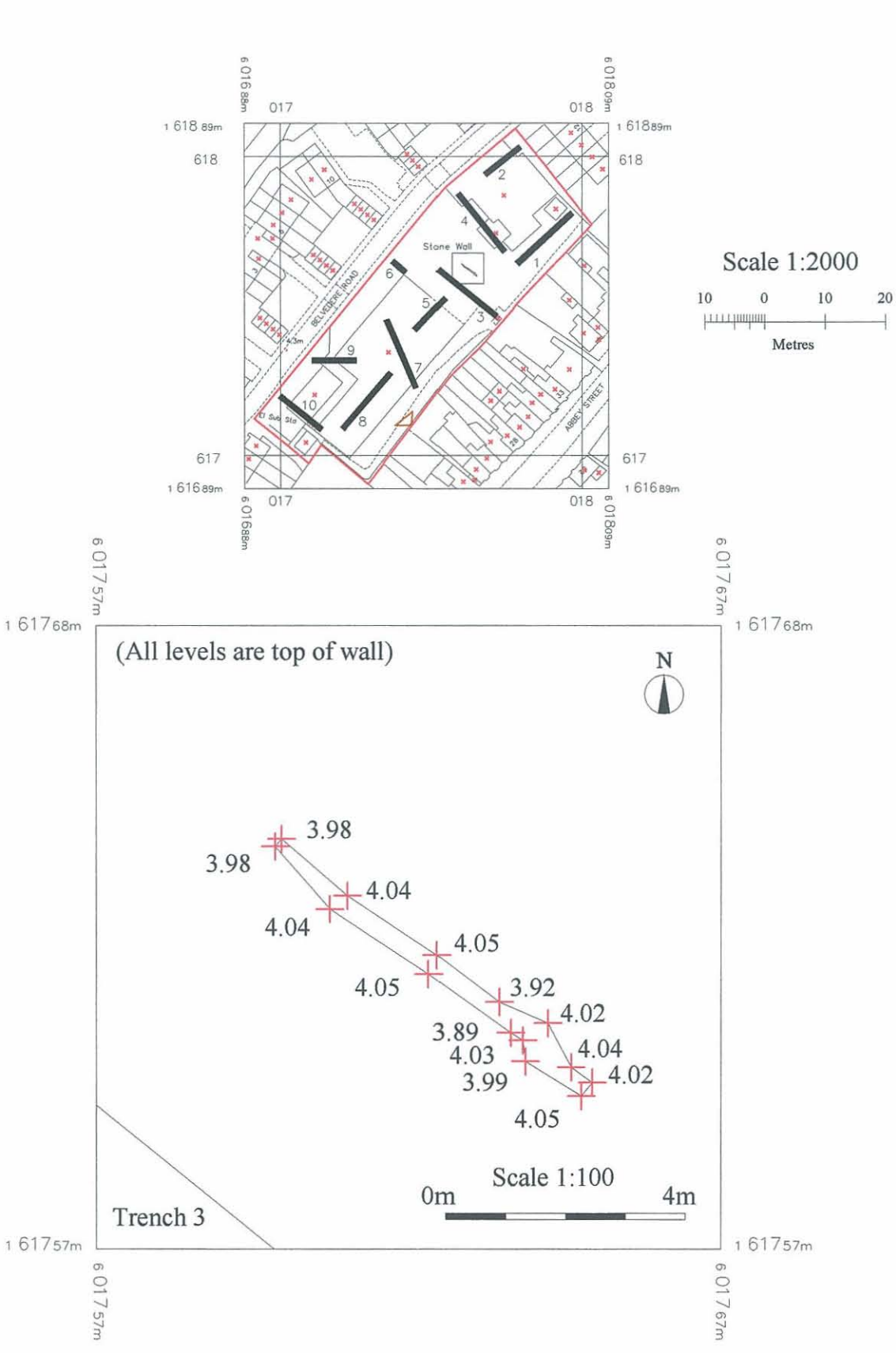


Figure 8: Position of stone wall showing ordinance datum levels