



Archaeological Evaluation
at the former Cartem Site, Beaconsfield Road,
Maidstone, Kent
April 2008

SWAT. Archaeology
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**Former Cartem Site, Beaconsfield Road, Sheerness,
Kent**

Archaeological Evaluation

NGR: 575355 154845

Site Code: CST-EV-08

**Report for
Simon Wright Homes**

SWAT. ARCHAEOLOGY

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ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION AT THE FORMER CARTEM SITE,
BEACONSFIELD ROAD, MAIDSTONE, KENT

NGR: 575355 154845

Site Code: CST-EV-08

SUMMARY

Under the direction of Dr Paul Wilkinson, Swale & Thames Survey Company (SWAT) carried out an archaeological evaluation of land at the former Cartem site, Beaconsfield Road,, Maidstone, Kent on 31st March and 1st April 2008. A planning application (PAN: MA/05/0335) for the erection of two blocks of 67 flats along with associated access, car parking and services at the above site was submitted to Maidstone Borough Council (MBC) whereby Kent County Council Heritage and Conservation (KCCHC), on behalf of Maidstone 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 2008) and in discussion with the Archaeological Officer, Kent County Council.

The archaeological evaluation has revealed the presence of late 19th century wharf surfaces and (undated) preserved archaeological alluvial sequences on the southern extents of the River Medway. In addition, the northernmost trial trenches and test pits suggested the presence of a possible earlier channel or oxbow lake. Despite good levels of preservation and minimal disruption caused during the construction of existing structures, no buried archaeological features or finds were present within the excavated trenches. In addition, a geoarchaeological investigation carried out as part of the investigation confirmed the absence of Holocene fine grained alluvial sediments (Appendix 3).

INTRODUCTION

Swale & Thames Survey Company (SWAT) was commissioned by Simon Wright Homes 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 2008) and in discussion with the Archaeological Officer, Kent County Council. Initial phases of the evaluation were carried out during March and April 2008.

SITE DESCRIPTION AND TOPOGRAPHY

Maidstone is located approximately 7km south of the Medway Towns and 16km east of Sevenoaks, adjacent to the southern extent of the North Downs. The proposed development site is situated approximately 2km to the southwest of the town's historic core (NGR: 575355 154845), adjacent to the southern bank of the River Medway (Fig. 1). The site measures approximately 0.7 hectares in area and is currently occupied by industrial units and car

parking/yard areas (Fig 2). The site is essentially flat, although it slopes from south to north towards the southern bank of the River Medway.

According to the British Geological Survey, the underlying geology of the site primarily comprises Weald Clay, with the possibility of the presence of Atherfield Clay in the southern area and overlying alluvial deposits in the north-east of the site (see Appendix 3 for Geoarchaeological Assessment).

PLANNING BACKGROUND

A planning application (PAN: MA/05/0335) for two blocks of 67 flats, along with associated access, car parking and services at the above site was submitted to Maidstone Borough Council (MBC). Kent County Council Heritage and Conservation (KCCHC), on behalf of Maidstone 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:

No development shall take place until the applicant, or their agents or successors in title, has secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological work in accordance with a written specification and timetable which has been submitted to and approved by the Local Planning Authority.

Requirements for the archaeological work 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 MBC of any further archaeological mitigation measures that may be necessary in connection with the development proposals.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

The application site lies next to the south bank of the River Medway and, as such, has potential for the survival of prehistoric and palaeoenvironmental remains. In 1892 a beaker of Bronze Age date (SMR TQ 75 SE 14) was recovered during the construction of Beaconsfield road some 140m south-east of the site. There is also potential for the survival of post-medieval industrial remains; notably possible wharfs in the north-east of the site which were recorded on the Second Edition Ordnance Survey map (KCCHC 2008:5).

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

The purpose of the evaluation, as set out with the Archaeological Specification (2008) 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.

- ii) establish the extent to which previous development on the site has affected archaeological deposits.

Particular issues that should be addressed by the evaluation include:

- iii) Assessing the likely impact of the proposed development on the archaeological remains using the results of the fieldwork.
- iv) Assessing the potential impact of past development on the sites archaeological potential.
- v) Assessing the potential of the site to contain nationally important remains.
- vi) Assessing the potential for early remains and environmental archaeology to be present in the alluvium.
- vii) Establishing the degree of medieval and post-medieval activity on the site
- viii) Establishing the degree of prehistoric and Roman activity on the site
- ix) Contributing to the environmental and landscape history of the area

(KCC 2008:6)

Additional aims were to:

- vii) 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.
- viii) 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 31st March 2008, with the excavation of seven trenches each measuring 1.80m in width and between 10-20m in length (see below) and two test pits each measuring 2m in width with a length of approximately 5m. 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. 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

No curatorial monitoring was carried out during the course of the evaluation.

RESULTS

A common stratigraphic sequence was recognised across the site comprising concrete/tarmac surfaces overlying hardcore formation layers, alluvial clays and natural Weald Clay. Appendix 1 provides a stratigraphic sequence for all trenches.

Trench 1

(20 x 1.8m) Fig 4

Trench 1 was located within a standing industrial unit, directly adjacent to the southern terraced extent of the site. A concrete slab (**100**) directly overlies a formation layer comprising dark grey brown silty clay with frequent inclusions of brick rubble, compact concrete and general demolition hardcore (**101**). Below this, two layers (**102** & **103**) formed a dark buried soil horizon¹ containing 19th – 20th century building material to a depth of approximately 0.79m at which point natural Weald Clay (**104**) was encountered.

No archaeological finds or features were present within this trench.

Trench 2

(20 x 1.8m) Fig 4

Trench 2 was located within the same building as Trench 1, approximately 15m to the north and on an east-west alignment. The stratigraphic deposit model associated with this trench was identical to that previously encountered within Trench 1 a concrete slab (**200**) directly overlying a formation layer (**201**), two dark buried soil horizons (**202** & **203**) and natural Weald Clay (**204**).

No archaeological finds or features were present within this trench.

Trench 3

(20m x 1.8m) Fig 5

Trench 3 was located within the eastern extent of the site, directly north of the extant buildings (Fig. 2). A concrete slab and brick rubble (**300**) directly overlies a formation layer comprising dark grey brown silty clay with frequent inclusions of brick rubble and compact

¹ Cartographic regression shows that this area of the site was formerly was as allotments (4th Edition Ordnance Survey 1929-1952, Ref <http://extranet7.kent.gov.uk/kllis/home.htm>)

concrete (301) which was in turn above two former concrete surfaces (302 & 303). A thin compact layer of mid blue grey alluvium (304) then overlay the natural Weald Clay (305) to a depth of approximately 1.25m.

Initial thoughts suggested that the alluvial deposits represented previous encroachment of river sediments onto the higher ground during periods of inundation. However, results obtained from Trench 5 and Test Pit 2 (see below) suggests the possible presence of a former channel or oxbow lake adjacent to the southern extent of the existing route of the River Medway. This will be discussed further below (See Discussion).

No archaeological finds or features were present within this trench.

Trench 4

(20m x 1.8m) Fig 5

Aligned north-south, Trench 4 was located within the central area of the site, (Fig. 2) within areas previously used for parking and access. A simple stratigraphic sequence was observed, comprising a concrete slab (400) and brick rubble (401) directly overlay alluvium (402) and natural Weald Clay (403). Worthy of note within Trench 4 would be the increased depth of alluvium, which averaged approximately 0.7m over twice as thick as that recorded in Trench 3 to the east.

No archaeological finds or features were present within this trench.

Trench 5

(20m x 1.8m) Fig 6

Trench 5 was of particular interest. Located within the central parking and access of the proposed development site, this trench exposed the typical stratigraphic sequence comprising. A tarmac surface (500) directly overlying dark grey brown silty clay with frequent inclusions of brick rubble and compact concrete (501) which was in turn above two formation layers (502 & 503). Within the northern extent of the trench the natural Weald Clay (506) was exposed diving beneath the upper alluvial clay (504). A sondage was excavated to a depth of approximately 3.2m within the southern extent of the trench confirming the presence of a lake or potential oxbow. This will be discussed further below (See Discussion).

No archaeological finds or features were present within this trench.

Trench 6

(20m x 1.8m) Fig 7

Aligned northeast-southwest, Trench 6 was located within the western extent of the site, (Fig. 2) within areas previously used for parking and access. A simple stratigraphic sequence was

observed, comprising a concrete slab (600) and brick rubble (601) directly overlay three thin formation/reclamation layers (602, 603 & 604) dating to the 20th century. Beneath this the flood alluvium (605) directly overlay a thin lens of organic (peaty) silt clay (606) which in turn sat atop the natural Weald Clay (607). The presence of organic material at this depth strongly suggests the presence of a former land surface, perhaps seasonally flooded, or as the River Medway broke its banks and encroached upon the higher southern banks. This will be discussed further below (See Discussion).

No archaeological finds or features were present within this trench.

Trench 7

(20 x 1.8m) Fig 7

Trench 7 was located within a standing structure located within the south-western corner of the site. Orientated east-west, this stratigraphic sequence comprised a concrete slab (700) directly overlying natural Weald Clay (701).

No archaeological finds or features were present within this trench.

Test Pit 1

(5m x 2m) Fig 7

Aligned north-south, Test Pit 1 was located within the far northeastern corner of the site, adjacent to the northern site boundary flanking the River Medway (Fig. 2). A simple stratigraphic sequence was observed, comprising a Tarmac surface (800) and brick rubble (801) directly overlying an earlier 20th century concrete slab (802), alluvial flood clay (803) and natural Weald Clay (404) at a depth of 0.68m.

No archaeological finds or features were present within this trench.

Test Pit 2

(5m x 2m) Fig 7

Aligned east-west, Test Pit 2 was located approximately 20m to the west of Test Pit 1, also adjacent to the northern site boundary flanking the River Medway (Fig. 2). A similar stratigraphic sequence was observed, comprising a Tarmac surface (900) overlying two formation layers (901 & 902), a concrete slab and natural Weald Clay (904) at a depth of 0.73m.

No archaeological finds or features were present within this trench.

Bore Hole 1

Fig 7

Bore Hole 1 was located within the north-eastern corner of the site, also adjacent to the northern site boundary flanking the River Medway (Fig. 2). A complete borehole record provided by *ArchaeoScope* (Royal Holloway, University of London) is provided in Appendix 3.

FINDS

No finds were retrieved throughout the extent of the evaluation.

PROJECT CONSTRAINTS

The site was found to have a very high water table which led to rapid flooding of any excavations and thus made it unsafe to enter the trenches. There was also evidence of hydrocarbon pollution in trenches 1,2 and 4 which further precluded safe working within the trenches. Recording, therefore, was undertaken in a swift fashion from the top of the sections immediately the trenches and test pits were opened (Elliott Wragg pers. comm.).

DISCUSSION

The archaeological evaluation at Beaconsfield Road, Maidstone has revealed the presence of late 19th century wharf surfaces and (undated) preserved archaeological alluvial sequences on the southern extents of the River Medway.

A brief cartographic regression exercise shows that the site has been unoccupied up until the late 19th century² after which wharfs were constructed, presumably comprising (concrete?) hardstanding areas, with isolated structures surrounded by orchards to the west and south³. Such features have been identified during the evaluation. Within the south-eastern corner of the site, two trenches (Trenches 1 & 2) have confirmed the presence of a surviving buried soil (**103** & **203**) most likely associated with former allotments, while Trench 3, Test Pit 1 and Test Pit 2 all identified former concrete surfaces (**302**, **303**, **802** & **903**). These surfaces had been constructed following the deposition of a series of formation and/or reclamation layers having the effect of raising the riverside ground levels.

This process of reclaiming riverside flood plains would have been an absolute necessity as lower archaeological horizons have clearly indicated that this bend in the river was subject to inundation and alluvial encroachment. The presence of alluvium and organic clays originally suggested seasonal flood episodes. However, the presence of natural Weald Clay within Trench 5 (**506**) and Test Pit 2 (**904**) clearly suggests that dry ground was maintained during the flooded phases. In fact, if one analyses the depth of flood alluvium overlying natural geological clay it is clear that a greater depth occurs within the immediate vicinity of Trench 5 (i.e. greater than 3m in depth compared to less than 1m for Trenches 3, 4 and 6). This, coupled with the presence of a south facing natural shelf (**506**) provides the possibility for the

² 1st Edition Ordnance Survey Map 1871-1890

³ 2nd Edition Ordnance Survey 1897 – 1900 & 3rd Edition Ordnance Survey 1907-1923

presence of ponds or even an oxbow lake (see Fig 3). Unfortunately no early (i.e. predating the 19th century) dating evidence was present during the course of the investigations.

IMPACT ASSESSMENT AND SUGGESTED MITIGATION

The archaeological evaluation has shown that early stratified alluvial deposits survive at depth within the proposed development area. With the exception of the south-western extent of the site (Trench 7) recent construction techniques associated with the existing buildings would appear to have minimal impact on underlying deposits.

Full development proposals at present time comprise the construction of two blocks of flats, along with associated access, services and car parking. Foundations designs are currently unknown, although it is assumed that due to the close proximity of the river that piled foundations through compacted raised ground will be used and that no subterranean levels (i.e. underground parking) are envisaged. With this in mind the proposed archaeological impact is considered low and no further archaeological mitigation is recommended.

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, coupled with the preservation of alluvial flood sequences no buried archaeological remains were present within the excavated trenches suggesting that the proposed development presents little or no impact upon the local archaeological resource.

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

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

SWAT would like to thank Simon Wright Homes for commissioning the project. Thanks are also extended to Heritage and Conservation (Kent County Council), in particular Adam Single (Archaeological Officer) for his advice and assistance. Elliott Wragg and Roddy Mattinson carried out archaeological fieldwork, illustrations were produced by Jonny Madden of *Digitise This*. This report was edited and collated by Paul Wilkinson.

David Britchfield
September 2008

REFERENCES

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

Kent County Council (2004) *Maidstone Historical Town Survey: Archaeological Assessment Document*

Kent County Council (2008) *Specification for an Archaeological and Geoarchaeological Evaluation at the former Cartem Site, Beaconsfield Road, Maidstone*. Kent County Council Heritage & Conservation

CONTENTS OF SITE ARCHIVE

Correspondence:

Photographs: 27 colour slides, 12 b/w prints, SWAT film nos. 08/005-22

Photocopies of Ordnance Survey and other maps:

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

Finds: None

Context Register including: Context Register (1), Drawings Register (1), Photographic Register (1), Levels Sheets (x), Environmental Samples Register (x) and Context Sheets (47)

APPENDIX 1 - Context Summary

The former Cartem site, Beaconsfield Road, Maidstone, Kent

Site Code: CST-EV-08

Trench Number	Context Number	Type	Description	Interpretation	Extents		Assigned Date
1	100	L	Concrete slab	Existing surface	E	0.00-0.30m	Modern
					W	0.00-0.30m	
	101	L	Dark grey brown silty clay with frequent inclusions of brick rubble, compact concrete and general demolition hardcore	Formation deposits for concrete slab above – made ground	E	0.30-0.46m	Modern
					W	0.30-0.48m	
	102	L	Mid brown grey silty clay with moderate sand and rubble inclusions, occasional fragments of broken concrete	Truncated upper levels of former buried soil (103)	E	0.46-0.61m	19 th -20 th century
					W	0.48-0.62m	
	103	L	Dark brown grey silty clay , with occasional/moderate inclusions of broken and fragmented brick, tile and concrete	Surviving buried soil, possible associated with former allotments	E	0.61-0.80m	19 th -20 th century
					W	0.62-0.78m	
	104	L	Stiff orange clay with little grey mottled silty clay with moderate iron panning	Natural Weald Clay	E	0.80m+	x
					W	0.78m+	
2	200	L	Concrete slab	Existing surface	E	0.00-0.30m	Modern
					W	0.00-0.30m	
	201	L	Dark grey brown silty clay with frequent inclusions of brick rubble, compact concrete and general demolition hardcore	Formation deposits for concrete slab above – made ground	E	0.30-0.68m	Modern
					W	0.30-0.45m	
	202	L	Mid brown grey silty clay with moderate sand and rubble inclusions, occasional fragments of broken concrete	Upper levels of truncated buried soil (203)	E	0.68-0.83m	19 th -20 th century
					W	0.45-0.75m	
	203	L	Moderately compact mixed matrix of mid greyish brown silty clay with sporadic outcrops of organic material	Surviving buried soil?	E	0.83-1.12m	Undated
					W	0.75-1.23m	
	204	L	Stiff orange clay with little grey mottled silty clay with moderate iron panning	Natural Weald Clay	E	1.12m+	x
					W	1.23m+	
3	300	L	Tarmac	Existing surface	N	0.00-0.18m	Modern
					S	0.00-0.21m	
	301	L	Dark grey brown silty clay with frequent inclusions of brick rubble and compact concrete	Formation deposits for tarmac above – made ground	N	0.18-0.56m	Modern
					S	0.21-0.51m	
	302	L	Concrete slab	Former surface	N	0.56-0.75m	20 th century
					S	0.51-0.70m	
	303	L	Concrete slab	Former surface	N	0.75-1.23m	20 th century
					S	0.70-0.91m	
	304	L	Compact, mid blue grey clay silt	Alluvium	N	1.23-1.31m	Undated
					S	0.91-1.21m	
305	L	Stiff orange clay with little grey mottled silty clay with moderate iron panning	Natural Weald Clay	N	1.31m+	x	

Archaeological Evaluation at the Former Cartem Site, Beaconsfield Road, Maidstone, Kent

Trench Number	Context Number	Type	Description	Interpretation	Extents		Assigned Date
					S	1.21m+	
4	400	L	Concrete slab	Existing surface	N	0.00–0.17m	Modern
					S	0.00–0.15m	
	401	L	Dark grey brown silty clay with frequent inclusions of brick rubble and compact concrete	Formation deposits for concrete slab above – made ground	N	0.17–0.40m	Modern
					S	0.15–0.70m	
	402	L	Compact, mid blue grey clay silt	Alluvium	N	0.40–1.20m	Undated
					S	0.70–1.30m	
	403	L	Stiff orange clay with little grey mottled silty clay with moderate iron panning	Natural Weald Clay	N	1.20m+	x
					S	1.30m+	
5	500		Tarmac	Existing surface	N	0.00–0.11m	Modern
					S	0.00–0.10m	
	501		Dark grey brown silty clay with frequent inclusions of brick rubble and compact concrete	Formation deposits for tarmac above – made ground	N	0.11–0.65m	Modern
					S	0.10–0.60m	
	502		Moderately compact dark grey silty clay, with frequent chalk inclusions	Reclamation/formation layer	N	0.65–0.80m	19 th –20 th century
					S	Not Present	
	503		Redeposited natural orange clay	Reclamation/formation layer	N	Not Present	19 th –20 th century
					S	0.60–1.50m	
	504		Compact, mid blue grey clay silt	Alluvium	N	0.80m+	Undated
					S	1.50m+	
505	C	Possible cut of former river channel	Possible oxbow?	x	x	Undated	
506	L	Stiff orange clay with little grey mottled silty clay with moderate iron panning	Natural Weald Clay	N	0.80m+	x	
6	600	L	Tarmac	Existing surface	NE	0.00–0.10m	Modern
					SW	0.00–0.10m	
	601	L	Brick rubble	Formation deposits for tarmac above – made ground	NE	0.10–0.30m	Modern
					SW	0.10–0.30m	
	602	L	Dark grey green silty clay with moderate CBM inclusions	Reclamation/formation layer	NE	Not Present	19 th –20 th century
					SW	0.30–0.40m	
	603	L	Redeposited natural orange clay	Reclamation/formation layer	NE	Not Present	19 th –20 th century
					SW	0.40–0.60m	
	604	L	Mid to dark brown grey silt clay with frequent ash and cinder and moderate inclusions of PM CBM	Reclamation/formation layer	NE	0.30–0.40m	19 th –20 th century
					SW	Not Present	
	605	L	Stiff green grey clay silt	Alluvium	NE	0.40–1.30m	Undated
				SW	0.60–1.10m		
606	L	Dark grey organic silty clay	Organic alluvium – possible paludal deposit	NE	1.30–1.38m	Undated	
				SW	Not Present		
607	L	Stiff orange clay with little grey mottled silty clay with moderate iron panning	Natural Weald Clay	NE	1.38m+		
				SW	1.10m+		
7	700	L	Concrete slab	Existing surface	E	0.00–0.15m	Modern
					W	0.00–0.15m	
	701	L	Stiff orange clay with little grey mottled silty clay with moderate iron panning	Natural Weald Clay	E	0.15m+	x
					W	0.15m+	

Archaeological Evaluation at the Former Cartem Site, Beaconsfield Road, Maidstone, Kent

Trench Number	Context Number	Type	Description	Interpretation	Extents		Assigned Date
TP1	800	L	Tarmac	Existing surface	x	0.00-0.10m	Modern
	801	L	Loose mottled black grey and yellow brown sand with frequent building rubble	Formation deposits for tarmac above – made ground	x	0.10-0.28m	Modern
	802	L	Concrete slab	Former surface	x	0.28-0.38m	19 th -20 th century
	803	L	Stiff mid brown clay silt	Alluvium	x	0.38-0.68m	
	804	L	Stiff orange clay with little grey mottled silty clay with moderate iron panning	Natural Weald Clay	x	0.68m+	x
TP2	900		Tarmac	Existing surface	x	0.00-0.09m	Modern
	901		Loose mottled black grey and yellow brown sand with frequent building rubble	Formation deposits for tarmac surface above – made ground	x	0.09-0.20m	Modern
	902		Dark grey silty clay with frequent brick, tile and concrete fragments	Formation deposits for tarmac surface above – made ground	x	0.20-0.52m	Modern
	903		Concrete slab	Former surface	x	0.52-0.73m	19 th -20 th century
	904		Stiff orange clay with little grey mottled silty clay with moderate iron panning	Natural Weald Clay	x	0.73m+	x

APPENDIX 2 – KCC Summary Form

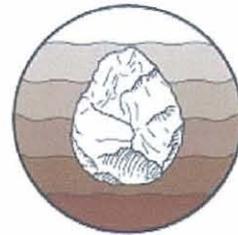
Site Name: <i>Former Cartem Site</i>	
SWAT Site Code: <i>CST-EV-08</i>	
Site Address: <i>Beaconsfield Road, Maidstone, Kent</i>	
<p>Summary: <i>Under the direction of Dr Paul Wilkinson, Swale & Thames Survey Company (SWAT) carried out an archaeological evaluation of land at the former Cartem site, Beaconsfield Road,, Maidstone, Kent on 31st March and 1st April 2008. A planning application (PAN: MA/05/0335) for the erection of two blocks of 67 flats along with associated access, car parking and services at the above site was submitted to Maidstone Borough Council (MBC) whereby Kent County Council Heritage and Conservation (KCCHC), on behalf of Maidstone 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 2008) and in discussion with the Archaeological Officer, Kent County Council.</i></p> <p><i>The archaeological evaluation has revealed the presence of late 19th century wharf surfaces and (undated) preserved archaeological alluvial sequences on the southern extents of the River Medway. In addition, the northernmost trial trenches and test pits suggested the presence of a possible earlier channel or oxbow lake. Despite good levels of preservation and minimal caused during the construction of existing structures, no buried archaeological features or finds were present within the excavated trenches. In addition, a geoarchaeological investigation carried out as part of the investigation confirmed the absence of Holocene fine grained alluvial sediments.</i></p>	
District/Unitary: <i>Maidstone</i>	Parish: <i>Tovil</i>
Period(s):	
Tentative: <i>Undated alluvial sequences & 19th century - Modern</i>	
NGR (centre of site : 8 figures): <i>NGR: 575355 154845</i>	
(NB if large or linear site give multiple NGRs)	
Type of archaeological work (delete) <i>Evaluation</i>	
Date of Recording: <i>31st March – 1st April 2008</i>	
Unit undertaking recording: <i>Swale & Thames Survey Company (SWAT)</i>	
Geology: <i>Weald Clay</i>	
Title and author of accompanying report:	
<i>Britchfield D (2008) Archaeological Evaluation at the former Cartem Site, Beaconsfield Road, Maidstone, Kent:</i>	
Summary of fieldwork results (begin with earliest period first, add NGRs where appropriate)	
<i>As above</i>	(cont. on attached sheet)
Location of archive/finds: <i>SWAT</i>	
Contact at Unit: <i>Paul Wilkinson</i>	Date: <i>2nd September 2008</i>

APPENDIX 3 – Geoarchaeological Report



**THE FORMER CARTEM SITE, BEACONSFIELD ROAD,
MAIDSTONE, KENT: GEOARCHAEOLOGICAL
REPORT**

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THE FORMER CARTEM SITE, BEACONSFIELD ROAD, MAIDSTONE, KENT: GEOARCHAEOLOGICAL REPORT

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INTRODUCTION

This report summarises the findings arising out of the geoarchaeological field investigation undertaken by *ArchaeoScape* in connection with the proposed development at the Former Cartem Site, Beaconsfield Road, Maidstone, Kent (National Grid Reference: TQ 575355 154845). The former Cartem Site is located on the floodplain of the River Medway (Figure 1). The Medway at Tovil cuts down through the Atherfield Clay into the Weald Clay. The British Geological Survey (1:50,000 Sheet 288 Maidstone 1976) shows no superficial geology with bedrock extending to the river bank. There is a narrow strip of alluvium on the opposite bank which broadens downstream where alluvium is mapped on both sides of the river. The nearest terrace gravel is a narrow strip beside the alluvium about 1km downstream on the opposite side of the river.

During recent archaeological investigations at the site with the Swale and Thames Archaeological Trust (SWAT), core samples from one geoarchaeological borehole were obtained for possible environmental archaeological assessment towards the centre of the site. The aim of the field investigation was to record the subsurface sediments and, in particular, to establish whether Holocene fine grained alluvial sediments were present at the site.



Figure 1: Location of the Former Cartem Site, Beaconsfield Road, Maidstone, Kent (reproduced from Ordnance Survey digital map data ©Crown copyright 2008. All rights reserved. License number 0100031673)

METHODS

Fieldwork investigations

One borehole was put down at the site (borehole <BH1>). A combination of gouge and continuous borehole core samples were retrieved using a Stitz piston corer and Atlas Copco 2-stroke percussion engine. The position of each borehole location was recorded by Swale and Thames Archaeological Trust (Table 1).

Table 1: Borehole BH1 co-ordinates

Borehole number	x co-ordinate	y co-ordinate	Depth (m OD)
BH1	575403.75	154896.5	5.57m OD

Lithostratigraphic descriptions

The lithostratigraphy of the borehole core samples was described in the laboratory using standard procedures for recording unconsolidated sediment, noting the physical properties (colour), composition (gravel, sand, clay, silt and organic matter), unit boundaries and inclusions (e.g. artefacts) (Table 2) (Troels-Smith, 1955). The procedure involved: (1) cleaning the samples with a spatula or scalpel blade and distilled water to remove surface contaminants; (2) recording the physical properties, most notably colour using a Munsell Soil Colour Chart; (3) recording the composition; gravel (Grana glareosa; Gg), fine sand (Grana arenosa; Ga), silt (Argilla granosa; Ag) and clay (Argilla steatoides), and (4) recording the unit boundaries e.g. sharp or diffuse.

RESULTS OF THE LITHOSTRATIGRAPHIC DESCRIPTIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Borehole <BH1> passed from Made Ground (units 15 and 14), through river sands and gravels (units 14 to 6) and finally into bedrock (units 5 to 1) (Table 2). No further work is recommended on the material recovered from borehole <BH1> because no Holocene fine grained alluvial sediments were recorded. Based upon the results of this work and information sourced on the local geology, we feel that borehole <BH1> is a representative record of the local stratigraphy.

Table 2: Lithostratigraphic sequence from borehole <BH1>, the Former Cartem Site, Beaconsfield Road, Maidstone, Kent

Depth (m from top of Sequence)	Unit number	Description
0.00 to 0.46	15	2.5Y 6/3; Ag3, As1, Gg+, chalk+, roots+, brick+; Light yellowish brown clayey silt with gravel, chalk, root, and brick inclusions; sharp contact into:
0.46 to 0.72	14	10YR 3/1; Ag2, Sh1, roots1, Gg+, Ga+, As+; Very dark grey organic rich silt and roots with gravel, sand and clay inclusions; sharp contact into:
0.72 to 0.94	13	2.5Y 6/3; Gg2, Ga1, Ag1; Light yellowish brown silty sandy (angular) gravel; sharp contact into:
0.94 to 1.00	12	7.5YR 4/6; Ga3, Ag1, As+, Gg+; Strong brown silty sand with clay and gravel inclusions; diffuse contact into:
1.00 to 1.32	11	5YR 4/6 with 10YR 2/1; Ag2, Ga1, As1; Red with black mottling clayey sandy silt; diffuse contact into:
1.32 to 2.00	10	5YR 4/6; Ga4, Ag+; Red sand with silt inclusions; diffuse contact into:
2.00 to 2.11	9	5YR 4/6; Ga4, Ag1; Red silty sand; diffuse contact into:
2.11 to 2.55	8	5YR 4/6; Ga4, Gg+; Red sand with fine gravel inclusions; diffuse

		contact into:
2.55 to 2.75	7	7.5YR 4/6; Ga3, Gg1; Strong brown coarse sandy gravel; diffuse contact into:
2.75 to 2.91	6	5YR 4/6; Gg2, Ga2; Red sandy gravel; sharp contact into:
4.00 to 4.10	5	GLEY 2 5/1; As4; Bluish grey clay; diffuse contact into:
4.10 to 4.35	4	GLEY 2 4/1; As4; Dark bluish grey clay; diffuse contact into:
4.35 to 4.50	3	GLEY 2 7/1; As4; Light bluish grey clay; diffuse contact into:
4.50 to 4.80	2	GLEY 2 5/1; As4; Bluish grey clay; diffuse contact into:
4.80 to 5.65	1	GLEY 2 4/1; As4; Dark bluish grey clay; diffuse contact into:

REFERENCES

The British Geological Survey (1976) 1:50,000 Sheet 288 Maidstone.

Troels-Smith, J. (1955) Karakterisering af løse jordater (Characterisation of unconsolidated sediments), *Danm. Geol. Unders.*, **Ser IV 3**, 73.

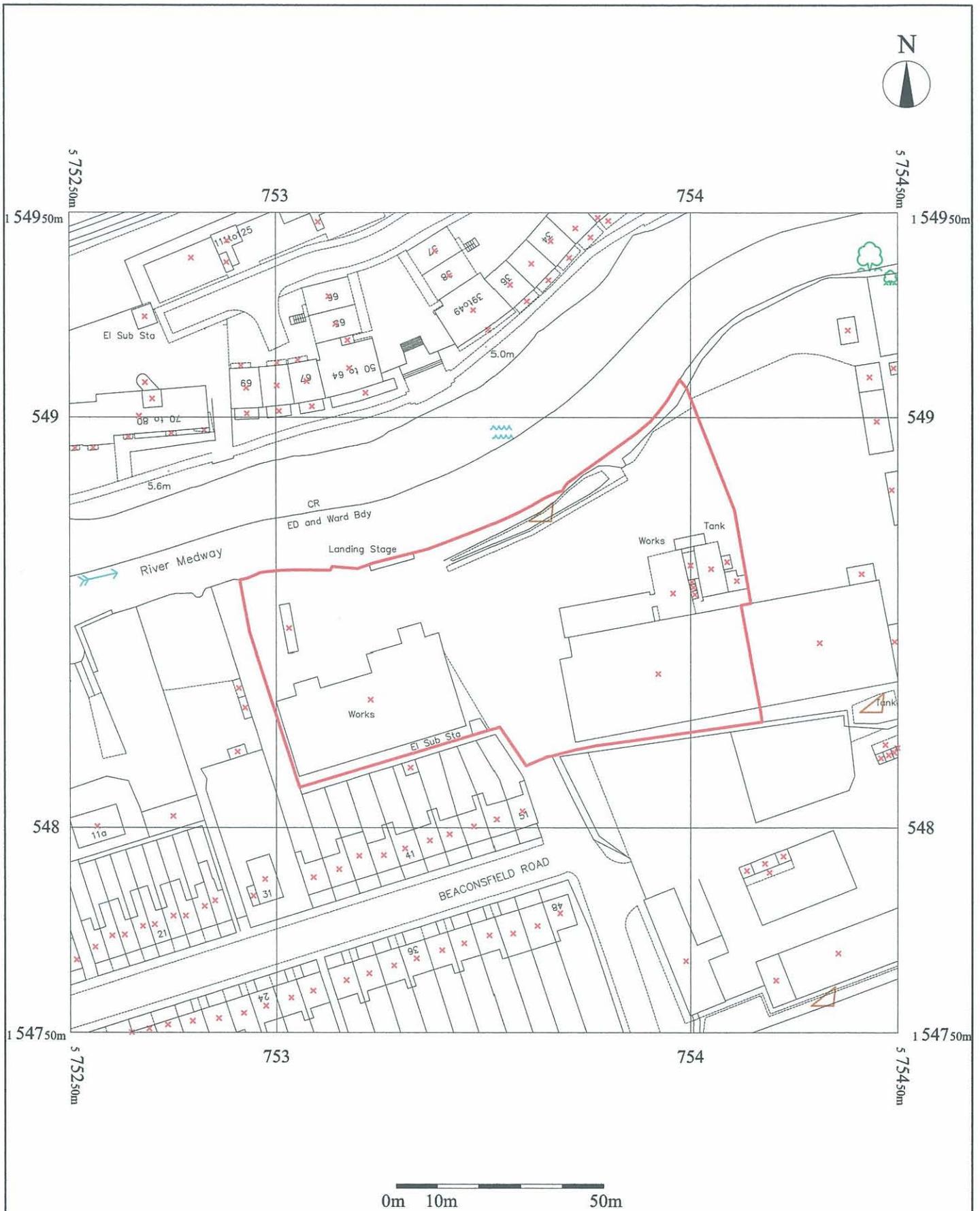


Figure 1: Location of proposed development at the Cartem site, Maidstone, Kent.

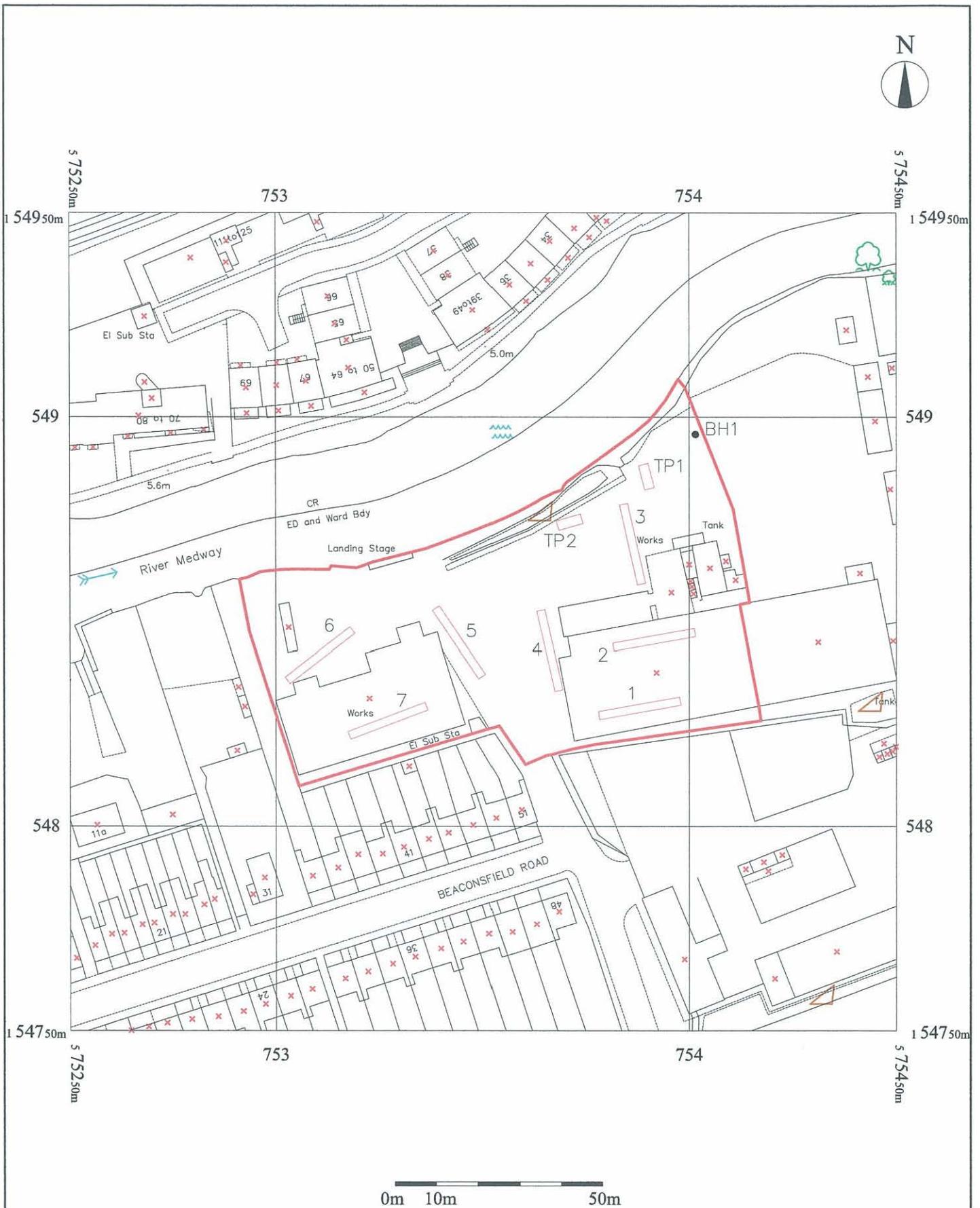


Figure 2: Location of evaluation trenches within site of proposed development at the Cartem site, Maidstone, Kent.

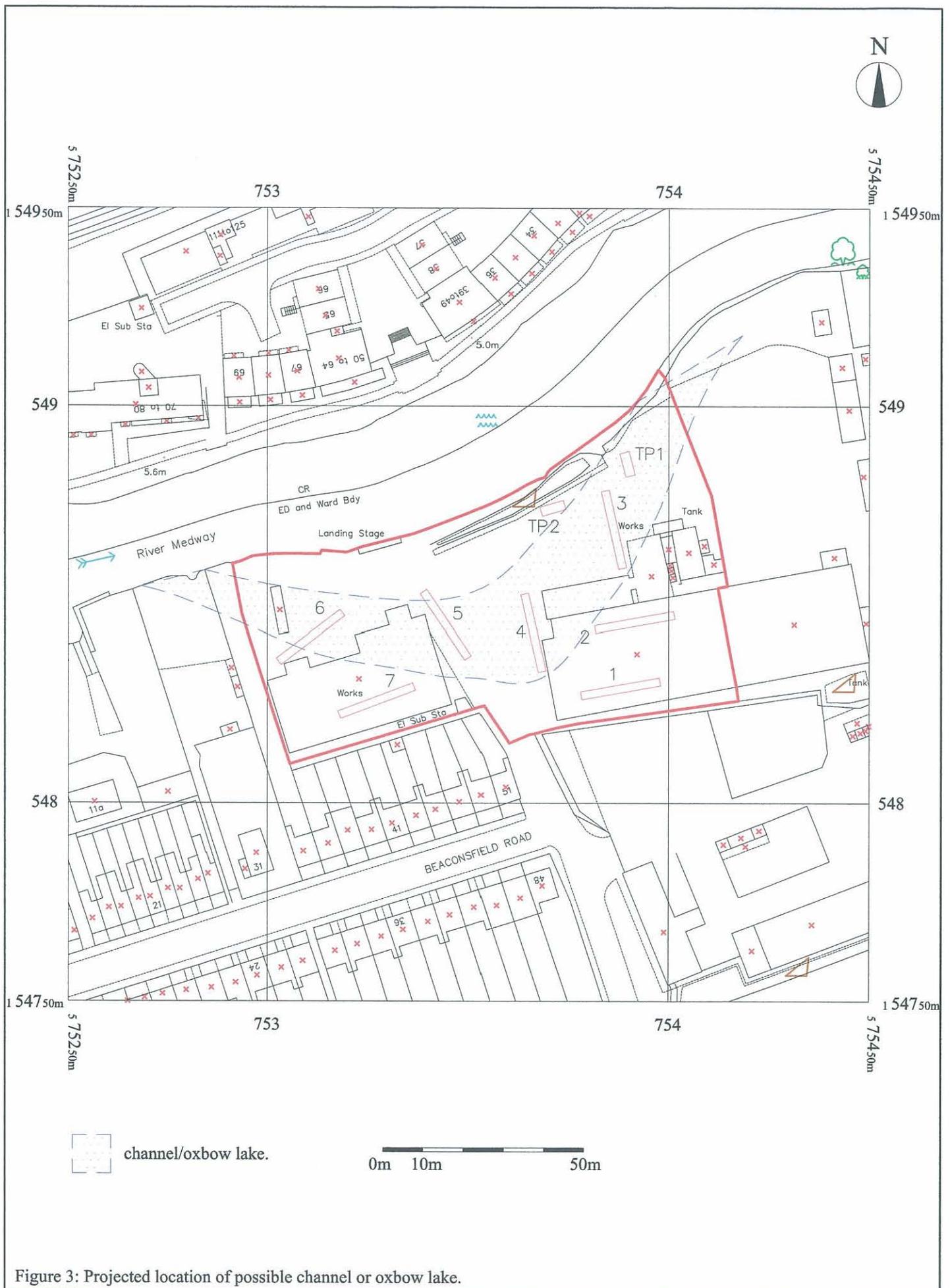


Figure 3: Projected location of possible channel or oxbow lake.

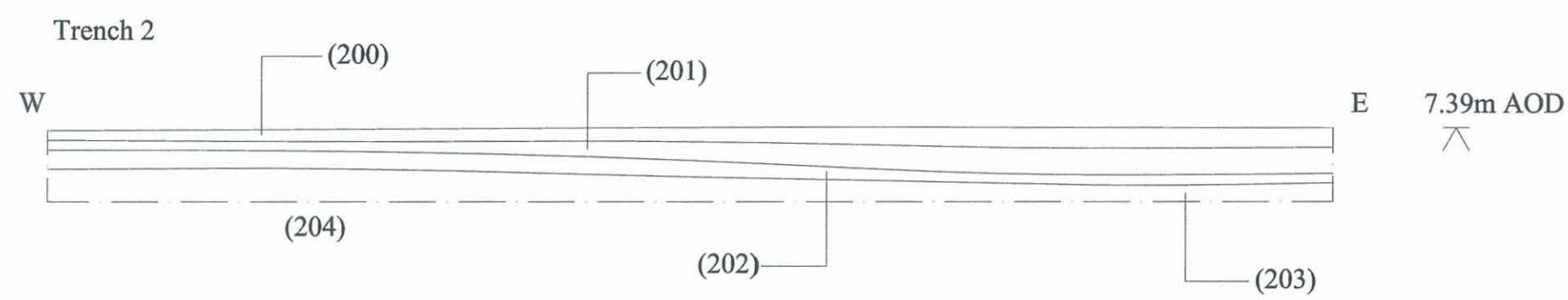
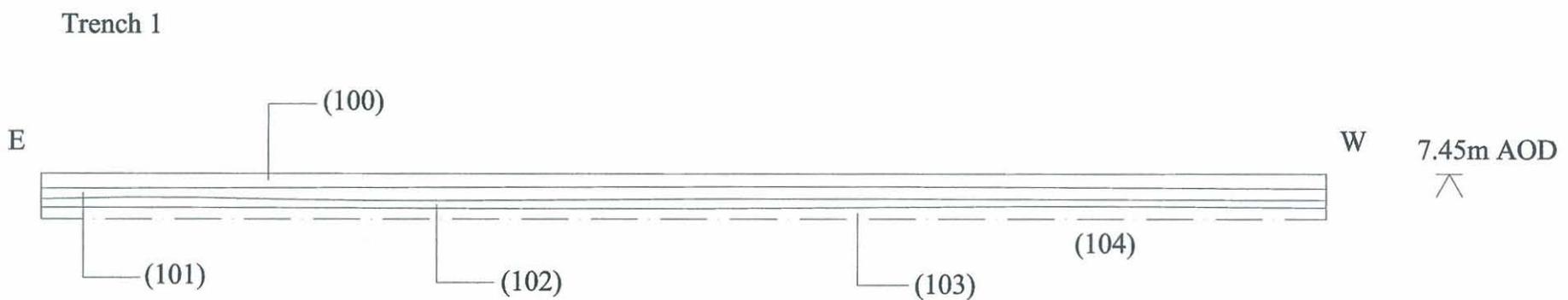
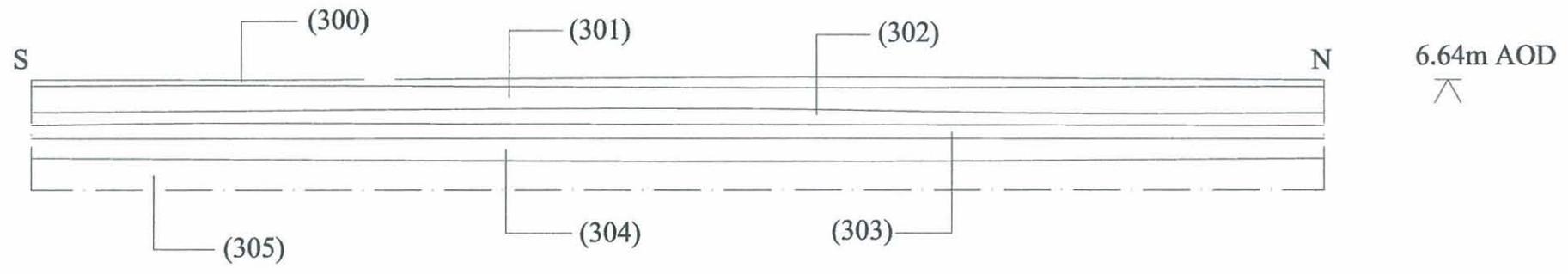


Figure 4: Trench Sections 1:100

Trench 3



Trench 4

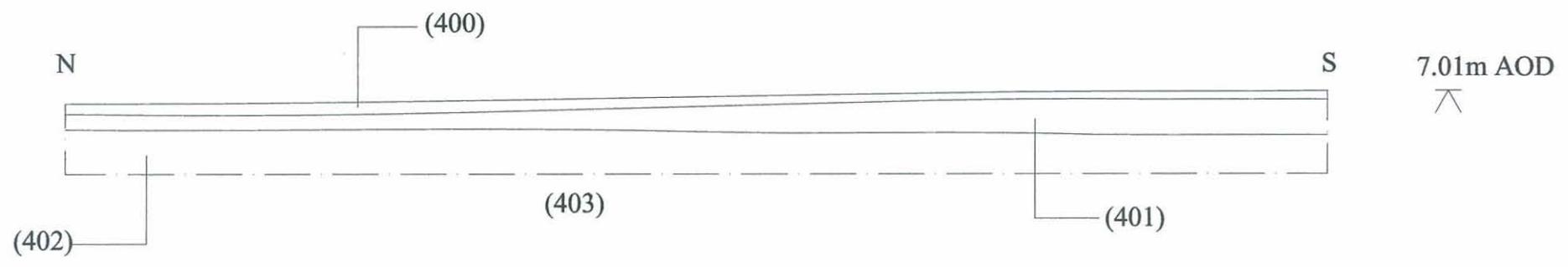


Figure 5: Trench Sections 1:100

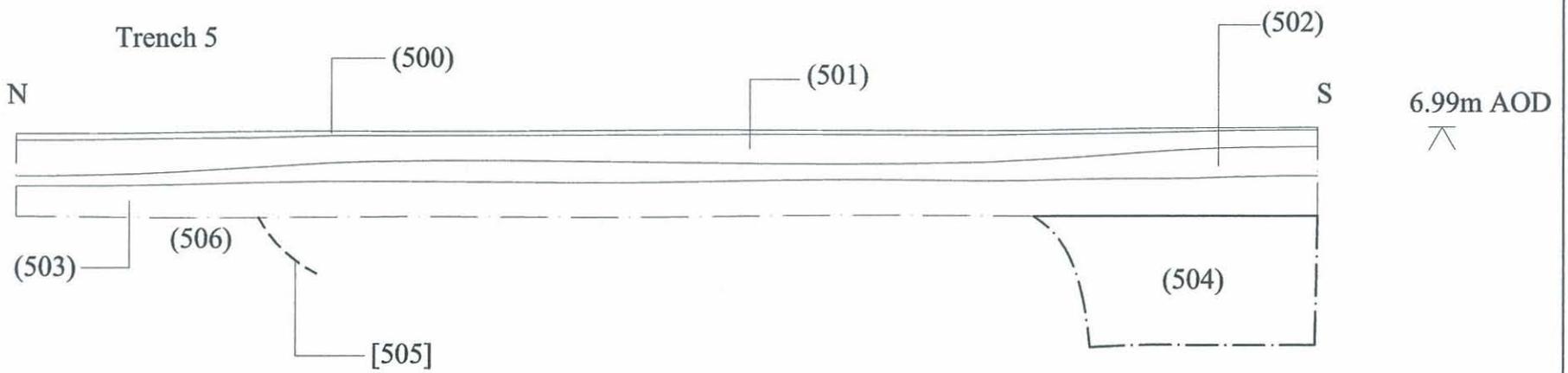
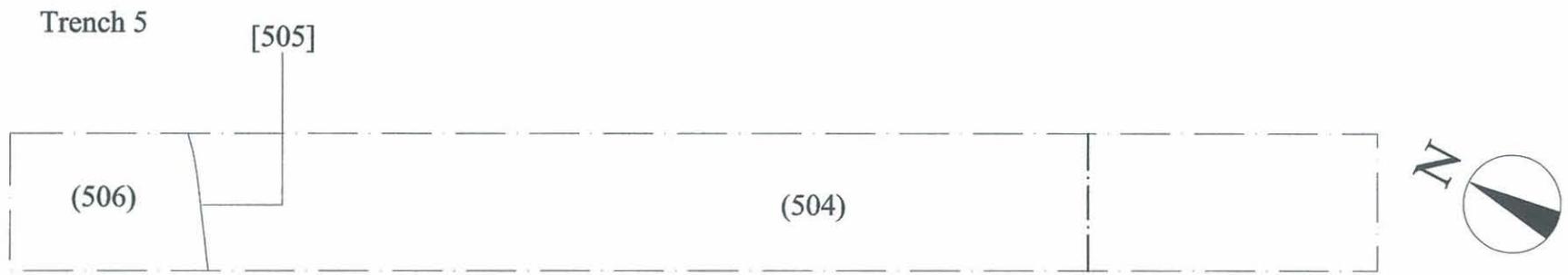


Figure 6: Trench plan and Section 1:100

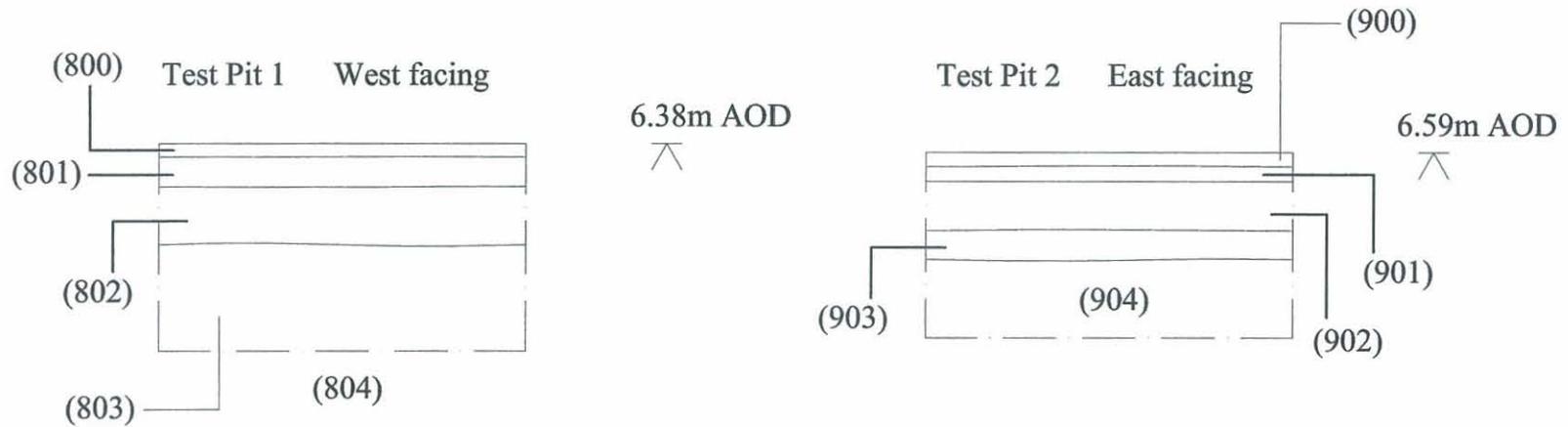
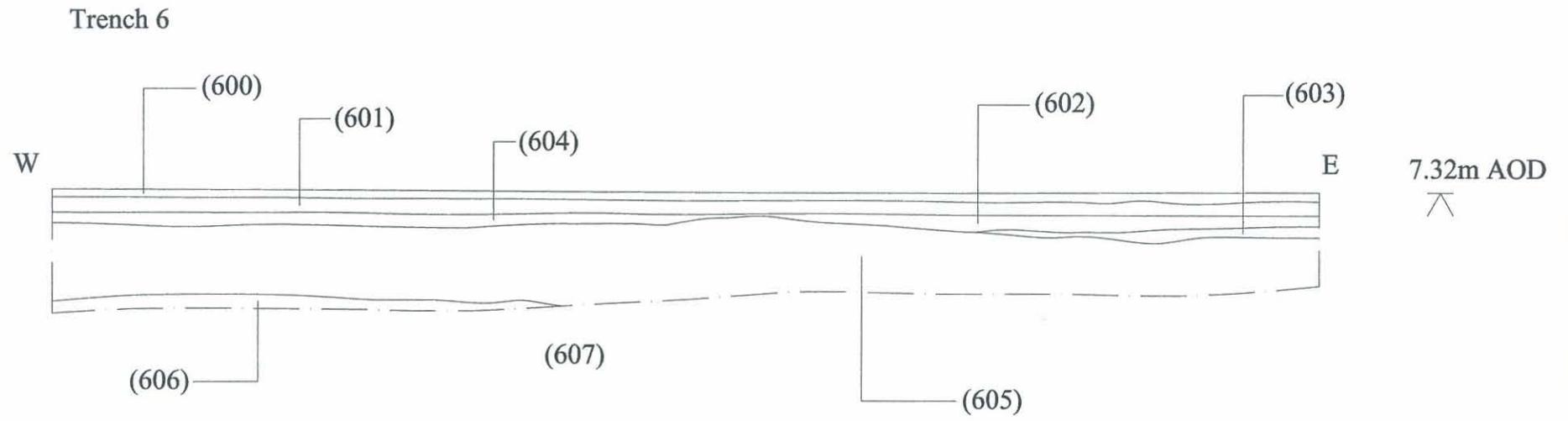


Figure 7: Trench Sections and Test Pits 1:100