

**Archaeological Evaluation on land at the Royal
School for Deaf Children, Victoria Road, Margate,
Kent**

NGR: 635850 170667

Site Code: BSM/EV/08

(Planning Application Number: TH/08/0627)

**Report for
Lee Evans Partnership**

SWAT. ARCHAEOLOGY

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Contents

<i>List of Figures</i>	<i>ii</i>
<u>SUMMARY</u>	1
<u>INTRODUCTION</u>	1
<u>SITE DESCRIPTION AND TOPOGRAPHY</u>	1
<u>PLANNING BACKGROUND</u>	2
<u>ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND</u>	2
<u>AIMS AND OBJECTIVES</u>	2
<u>METHODOLOGY</u>	3
<u>MONITORING</u>	3
<u>RESULTS</u>	3
<u>Trench 1</u>	4
<u>FINDS</u>	4
<u>DISCUSSION</u>	4
<u>CONCLUSION</u>	4
<u>ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS</u>	5
<u>REFERENCES</u>	6
<u>CONTENTS OF SITE ARCHIVE</u>	6
<u>APPENDIX 1 - Context Summary</u>	7
<u>APPENDIX 2 – Kent County Council SMR Summary Form</u>	8
<u>APPENDIX 3 – Figures</u>	9

List of Figures

- Fig.1 Location of site of proposed development.
- Fig.2 Location of evaluation trench within the site of proposed development
- Fig.3 Trench plan and Section 1:100

Archaeological Investigations on Land at the Royal School for Deaf Children, Victoria Road, Margate, Kent

NGR: 635850 170667

Site Code: BSM/EV/08

SUMMARY

Swale & Thames Survey Company (SWAT) carried out an archaeological evaluation on land adjacent to the Royal School for Deaf Children, Victoria Road in Margate. A planning application (PAN: TH/08/0627) for the construction of a new residential development, along with associated access, car parking and services at the above site was submitted to Thanet District Council (TDC) whereby Kent County Council Heritage and Conservation (KCCHC), on behalf of Thanet District 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 Oct 2008) and in discussion with the Archaeological Officer, Kent County Council.

The Archaeological Evaluation encountered features in Trench 1, with residual Prehistoric pottery sherds and lithic flakes re-deposited in them along with modern pottery and glass sherds. This may suggest that there are no archaeological remains surviving within the immediate area of the initial investigation.

The Archaeological Evaluation has therefore been successful in fulfilling the primary aims and objectives of the Specification.

INTRODUCTION

Swale & Thames Survey Company (SWAT) was commissioned by Lee Evans Partnership 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 on 4th-6th November 2008.

SITE DESCRIPTION AND TOPOGRAPHY

The application site is located to the south-east of the centre of Margate and just to the west of Dane Park. The National Grid Reference for the new development is NGR 635850 170667. The underlying geology of the site, according to the British Geological Society, consists of Upper Chalk. The site overlooks the bottom of Dane Valley to the north and Head Brickearth associated with the valley fill may also be encountered.

PLANNING BACKGROUND

A planning application (PAN: TH/08/0627) for the construction of a new residential development along with associated access, car parking and services at the above site was submitted to Thanet District Council (DDC). Kent County Council Heritage and Conservation (KCCHC), on behalf of Thanet District 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:

AR1 *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 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 TDC of any further archaeological mitigation measures that may be necessary in connection with the development proposals.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

The area surrounding Victoria Road is rich in cropmarks showing the [possible] presence of archaeological remains probably of prehistoric and/or Roman date. Iron Age and Roman burials have been recorded 200m south-east of the site and 300m to the north of the site is a further area of Roman burials.

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.

Specific issues that should be addressed by the evaluation include:

- Assessing the likely impact of the proposed development
- Assessing the impact of past development on the sites archaeological potential.
- Establishing the degree of Saxon and medieval activity on the site

- Establishing the degree of Roman and prehistoric activity on the site.

Additional aims were to:

- i) Contributing to the environmental and landscape history of the area.

METHODOLOGY

Trial trenching was carried out in November 2008, with the excavation of one trench measuring 1.5m in width and 22m in length (see below). Trench location were agreed prior to the excavation between KCCHC and SWAT. The 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 recoding purposes; these are used in the report and shown in bold.

MONITORING

Curator monitoring was carried out during the course of the evaluation.

RESULTS

A common stratigraphic sequence was recognised across the site comprising topsoil/turf overburden (**001**), beneath which the natural geology comprised Brickearth (**002**) overlying Upper Chalk at the north-west end (**003**). The topsoil/overburden consisted of friable dark grey brown silty clay with occasional to moderate inclusions of sub-rounded – angular flints. A clear line of horizon gave way to subsoil comprising mid orange brown slightly sandy clay (Brickearth) overlying natural chalk at the north-west end of the trench where mechanical excavation ceased and careful examination and investigation for truncating features was carried out. The depth of the overlying layer varied, with the depth of the natural geology being located c.0.41-0.43m below the existing ground level. Appendix 2 provides a stratigraphic sequence for the trench.

Trench 1

(22 x 1.5m)

Trench 1 was located within the central north-east extent of the site (**Fig.2**). Aligned approximately north west-south east, this trench was positioned to identify and confirm the impact caused during development of the north western most extent of the proposed development. It measured 22m in length and contained two ditches **[004]**, **[005]**, along with a pit **[006]** and modern features. Measuring 1.68m in width with a depth of 1.42m, ditch **[004]** was filled by mid brown orange silt clay with inclusions of angular and rounded stone (**009**), containing finds of three small worn body sherds of flint-tempered Iron Age plus one sherd of late Post-Medieval, and one fragment of clear window glass, c.19th-20th AD. The Iron Age sherds are residual, and above the window glass dating the fill probably to the modern period. To the immediate west, and measuring 0.98m in width with a depth of 0.72m, ditch **[005]** was filled by mid brown orange silt clay with inclusions of angular and rounded stone (**008**), containing finds of one worn body sherd of flint-tempered Iron Age plus a fragment of clear window glass dating the fill probably to the modern period. Further to the west a pit **[006]** was filled by mid brown orange silt clay with inclusions of gravel (**007**), and one Neolithic patinated waste flake, plus LPMN-Modern flower pot and window glass dating the fill probably to the modern period.

FINDS

Residual archaeological finds were recovered during the course of the evaluation.

DISCUSSION

The evaluation carried out on land adjacent to the Royal School for Deaf Children did encounter archaeological artefacts, but these are likely to be residual in modern ditches and pits.

CONCLUSION AND IMPACT ASSESSMENT

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 good preservation of natural chalk capped by Brickearth surviving on site, no buried archaeological remains were identified apart from features which contained modern glass and flowerpot sherds, but also residual Prehistoric pottery sherds which may indicate Prehistoric archaeological activity in the immediate area. However, the evaluation suggests there will be little if any impact upon the local archaeological resource by the proposed initial phase of the development.

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 Lee Evans Partnership for commissioning the project. Thanks are also extended to Heritage and Conservation (Kent County Council) for their advice and assistance. Paul Wilkinson and Ronnie Jenkins carried out archaeological fieldwork, illustrations were produced by James Madden.

Paul Wilkinson
December 2008

REFERENCES

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

Kent County Council (KCCHC) (2008) *Specification for an Archaeological Evaluation on Land at the Royal School for deaf Children, Victoria Road, Margate, Kent County Council Heritage & Conservation*

CONTENTS OF SITE ARCHIVE

Correspondence

Photographs: Digital photographs 18. SWAT Film nos. 07/36 colour prints, SWAT film nos. 0/27

Photocopies of Ordnance Survey and other maps:

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

Finds: Iron Age sherds, window glass, waste flakes, flower pot sherd.

Context Register including: Context Register (1), Drawings Register (1), Photographic Register (1), Levels Sheets (1), Environmental Samples Register (x) and Context Sheets (9)

APPENDIX 1 - Context Summary

Site adjacent to Royal School for Deaf Children, Victoria Road, Margate, Kent

Site Code: BSM/EV/08

	Context No.	Stratigraphic Extents	Description
Trench 1	(001)	0.00-0.43m	Turf/topsoil. Friable dark grey brown silty clay with occasional to moderate inclusions of sub-rounded – angular flints.
	(002)	0.43-0.51m+	Subsoil. subsoil comprising mid orange brown slightly sandy clay (Brickearth)
	(003)	0.51-0.71m+	Natural. Upper Chalk
	[004]	1.42m depth	Cut of ditch.
	[005]	0.72m depth	Cut of ditch.
	[006]	0.32m depth	Cut of pit
	(007)	Fill of [006]	Filled by mid brown orange silt clay with inclusions of gravel. Finds of I/A pot sherds, and modern material.
	(008)	Fill of [005]	Filled by mid brown orange silt clay with inclusions of angular and rounded stone. Finds of I/A pot sherds, and modern material.
	(009)	Fill of [004]	Filled by mid brown orange silt clay with inclusions of angular and rounded stone. Finds of I/A pot sherds, modern material.

APPENDIX 2 – Kent County Council SMR Summary Form

Site Name: <i>Site adjacent to Royal School for Deaf Children</i> SWAT Site Code: <i>BSM/EV/08</i>	
Site Address: <i>Victoria Road, Margate, Kent</i>	
Summary: <i>Swale & Thames Survey Company (SWAT) carried out an archaeological evaluation on land adjacent to the Royal School for Deaf Children, Victoria Road, Margate, Kent, in November 2008. A planning application (PAN: TH/08/0627) for the construction of a new residential development, along with associated access, car parking and services at the above site was submitted to Thanet District Council (TDC) whereby Kent County Council Heritage and Conservation (KCCHC), on behalf of Thanet District 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 encountered features in Trench 1, with residual Prehistoric pottery sherds and lithic flakes re-deposited in them along with modern pottery and glass. This may suggest that there are no archaeological remains surviving within the immediate area of the initial investigation.</i>	
District/Unitary: <i>Thanet</i>	Parish: <i>Margate</i>
Period(s): Tentative: <i>NA</i>	
NGR (centre of site : 8 figures): (NB if large or linear site give multiple NGRs): <i>NGR 635850 170667</i>	
Type of archaeological work (delete) <i>Evaluation</i>	
Date of Recording: <i>November 2008</i>	
Unit undertaking recording: <i>Swale & Thames Survey Company (SWAT)</i>	
Geology: <i>Upper Chalk</i>	
Title and author of accompanying report: <i>Wilkinson P. (2008) Land Adjacent to the Royal School for Deaf Children, Victoria Road, Margate, Kent</i>	
Summary of fieldwork results (begin with earliest period first, add NGRs where appropriate) <i>As above</i> <p style="text-align: right;">(cont. on attached sheet)</p>	
Location of archive/finds: <i>SWAT</i>	
Contact at Unit: <i>Paul Wilkinson</i>	Date: <i>10th December 2008</i>

APPENDIX 3 – Figures

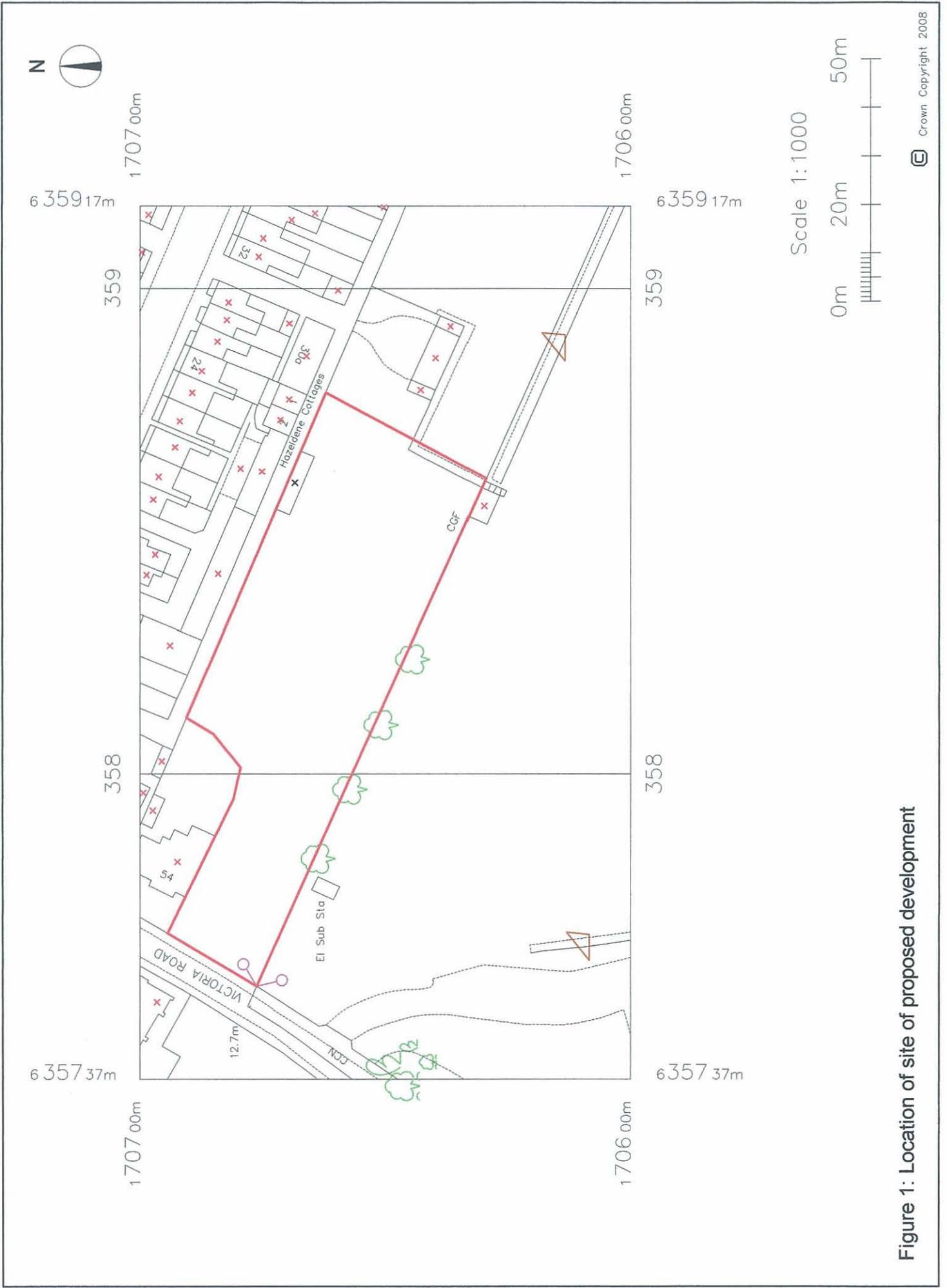


Figure 1: Location of site of proposed development

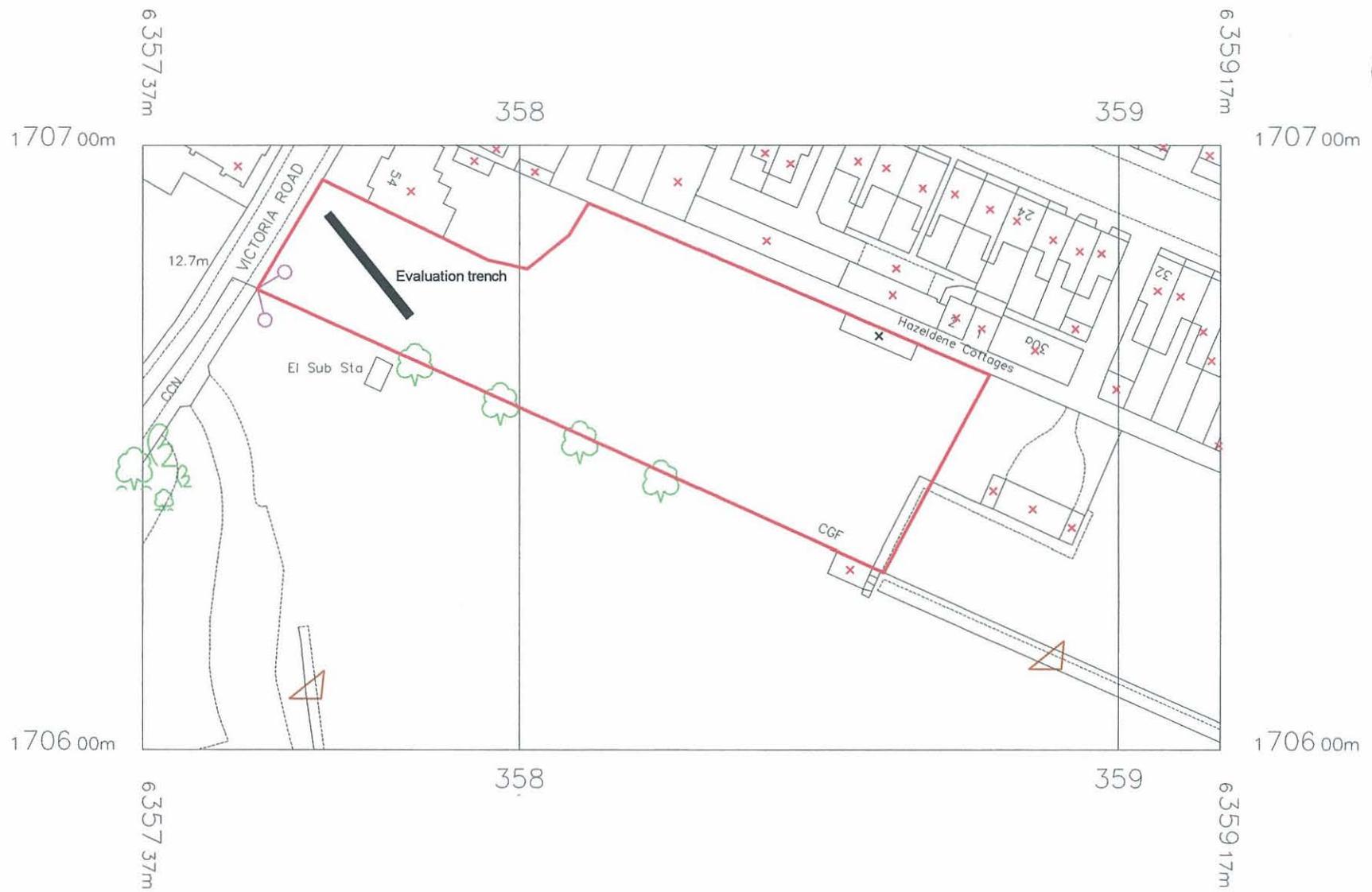
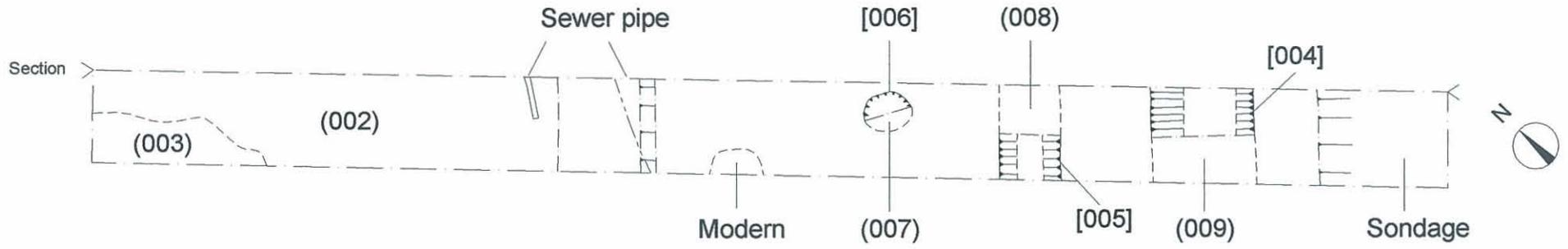
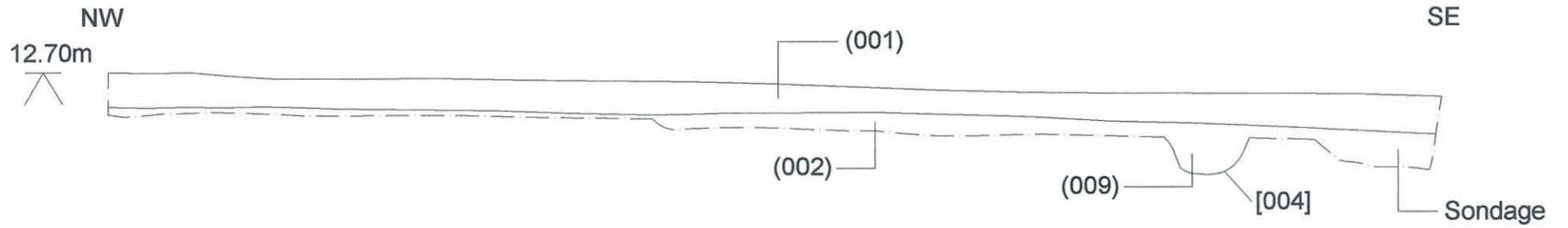


Figure 2: Location of evaluation trench

Plan



Section



Scale 1:100



Figure 3: Trench Plan and Section; 1:100