



**An Archaeological Watching Brief on
land to the rear of Eythorne House,
Eythorne, Kent
*June 2009***

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An Archaeological Watching Brief on land to the rear of
Eythorne House, Eythorne, Kent

NGR: 628261 148998

Site Code: EHE-WB-09

(Planning Application Number: DOV/07/00734)

Report for
Lee Evans Partnership

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SUMMARY

Swale & Thames Survey Company (SWAT) carried out an archaeological watching brief on land to the rear of Eythorne House in Eythorne, near Dover. A planning application (PAN: DOV/07/00734) for the... 'Erection of single storey extensions (existing conservatory to be demolished), hipped roof to existing garage block (including dormer and external staircase), gates, piers and a close boarded timber fence, vehicle access and associated ancillary works.' (Planning Application 2007), at the above site was submitted to Dover District Council (DDC) whereby Kent County Council Heritage and Conservation (KCCHC), on behalf of Dover District Council requested that an Archaeological Investigation 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 the Planning Application, 2007 and in discussion with the Archaeological Officer, Kent County Council.

The archaeological watching brief commissioned encountered no significant archaeological remains, with the area under immediate threat having only garden topsoils and modern garden and construction deposits. This is due to the development taking place in an area previously occupied by both a modern conservatory and gardens. The excavations consisted of footings trenches and an area strip, these either came down on thin garden topsoil or thin modern overburden, both overlying clean chalk. This shows that any possible previous elements of Eythorne House that may have existed have been removed prior to this work.

These Archaeological Investigations have therefore been successful in fulfilling the primary aims and objectives of the Planning Application condition.

INTRODUCTION

Swale & Thames Survey Company (SWAT) was commissioned by Lee Evans Partnership to carry out an archaeological watching brief at the above site. The work was carried out in accordance with the requirements set out within the Planning Application condition and in discussion with the Archaeological Officer, Kent County Council. The work was carried out in stages between the 9th and 25th June 2009.

SITE DESCRIPTION AND TOPOGRAPHY

The application site is located a few hundred metres to the south of the centre of the old town of Eythorne. The National Grid Reference for the new development is NGR 628261 148998. The underlying geology of the site, according to the British Geological Society, consists of Upper Cretaceous period Upper Chalk, (BGS, 1966). Eythorne House, along with the village of Eythorne, lies on a minor southwest-northeast aligned ridge or the North Downs at an elevation of around 80m.

PLANNING BACKGROUND

A planning application (PAN: DOV/07/00734) for the ...'*Erection of single storey extensions (existing conservatory to be demolished), hipped roof to existing garage block (including dormer and external staircase), gates, piers and a close boarded timber fence, vehicle access and associated ancillary works.*' (Planning Application, 2007), at the above site was submitted to Dover District Council (DDC). Kent County Council Heritage and Conservation (KCCHC), on behalf of Dover District Council, requested that a Watching Brief 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:

“The developer shall afford access at all reasonable times to any archaeologist nominated by the Local Planning Authority and shall allow him/her to observe the excavations and record items of interest and finds. The developer shall inform the County Archaeologist of the start date of construction works on site not less than two weeks before the commencement of such works. (Kent and Medway Structure Plan Policy QL7)”

“Reason: To ensure that features of archaeological interest are properly examined and recorded.” (Planning Application Consent)

Requirements for the archaeological watching brief are to establish the presence or absence, phase and date of any archaeological features. Due to the timing of the works a written specification was unable to be produced. The above is taken from the Planning Consent Documentation. Works proceeded in accordance with a verbal specification and in discussion with the Archaeological Officer, Kent County Council.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

The area surrounding Eythorne House is rich in listed buildings, monument and finds sites and an historic parkland showing a relatively undisturbed medieval to post medieval landscape set within an area of continuous occupation dating from the Palaeolithic. The earlier history of the area is characterised by Palaeolithic and Neolithic/Bronze Age flints, Iron

Age metalwork and Roman period ceramics all of which have been found either during organised metal detector rallies or archaeological fieldwalking.

The earliest finds from the immediate area are a collection of Palaeolithic flints found during fieldwalking on the Coldred to Eythorne Requisition main. The finds came from a field to the northeast of Eythorne village, (TR 24 NE 87 - MKe17813) and 1km northeast from the site. This collection is of over 400 flakes and includes 10 handaxes.

A collection of Neolithic/Bronze Age flints were found some 600m southeast of the site, within Waldershare Park, (TR 24 NE 85 - MKe17809). This was also from fieldwalking in advance of the construction of the Requisition main.

A Middle Iron Age La Tene Brooch (TR 24 NE 93 - Mke18162) was found some 800m south of the site, during a metal detector rally in 1996. Some 200m closer to the site a possible Late Iron Age Gully was found during fieldwalking, (TR 24 NE 80 - MKe17761).

The Roman period is shown by two sites, firstly a site in the same vicinity as the Palaeolithic flints around 1km northeast of the site (TR 24 NE 86 - MKe17812). This site yielded "...several hundred sherds of Roman pottery and half a quern..." and was found during the same walkover survey. To the southeast of the site by around 600m a possible Roman 'site' was suggested by the discovery of, "...Over a hundred sherds of mainly 1st & 2nd century AD Roman pottery, tile fragments (sic) and one fragment of box-flue tile..." (TR 24 NE 83 - MKe17806/ TR 24 NE 94 - MKe17824).

In the same area as the above postulated Roman period 'site' an assemblage of medieval pottery was found. This was not precisely dated in the HER entry but may derive from one of the deserted manors within the parkland of Waldershare that are mentioned in the Domesday book or from a lost track linking them.

In addition to these dated sites a number of undated cropmarks have been seen in the area, part of a large number spanning this area. These sites are exemplified by the following HER entries. (TR 24 NE 60 - MKE5754) an enclosure 600m to the southwest of the site, an Oval enclosure 325m southwest (TR 24 NE 61 - MKE5755), and (TR 24 NE 62 - MKE5756) a small enclosure 850m southwest of the site.

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

The objectives of an archaeological watching brief are to, "...contribute to heritage knowledge of the area through the recording of the archaeological remains exposed as a result of excavations in connection with the groundworks." (KCC 2009)

METHODOLOGY

The watching brief was carried out in several phases according to the needs of the developers between the 9th June and 25th June 2009. The areas were to be initially scanned for surface finds prior to excavation. Excavation of the footings and the stripped area will be carried out using a 360° mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket, with the intention of removing the overburden to the top of the first recognisable archaeological horizon/natural subsoil or to the formation level, under the constant supervision of an experienced archaeologist. The areas of excavation will be subsequently hand-cleaned with the intention of revealing features in plan and section. Features under threat will be 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. The archaeological watching brief will be carried out in accordance with current IfA Standards and Guidance, (IfA, 2008), and the methodology discussed with the Archaeological Officer, Kent County Council.

The footings were surveyed in by Jonny Madden at Digitise This using a Leica 1200 series GPS. This information was then digitised using AutoCAD 2007 and the final plan dropped directly onto an Ordnance Survey tile.

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 and shown in bold.

MONITORING

The curator was informed of the commencement of the project however, no site visits occurred and monitoring was carried out by telephone.

RESULTS

The stratigraphic sequence to the south of the house in the area of the main lawn comprised a thin finely graded garden topsoil layer **(100)**, beneath which lay what appeared to be a layer of re-deposited subsoil, **(101)**, and below this was a thin, 50mm thick, layer of gravel which apparently formed the bedding for the lawn, **(102)**. Below this lay the natural Upper Chalk, **(103)**. On the southeastern side of the excavations a layer of paving slabs 50mm thick, **(104)** overlay 50mm of modern substrate, **(105)** which in turn overlay the natural chalk, **(103)**. Closest to the house, on the north eastern side a layer of rubble, **(106)**, directly overlay the natural chalk, **(103)**, this may have been derived from the construction of the conservatory and the resulting demolition of portions of the structure. Mechanical excavation ceased at a maximum depth of 1.50m for the footings of the new external walls which was enough to penetrate any overlying deposits and enter the chalk. Here careful examination and

investigation for truncating features was carried out. In the centre of the site once the concrete floor of the modern conservatory was lifted chalk was seen directly below. The Watching Brief took the form of using a two tonne machine with a 0.45m toothless grading bucket to excavate the footings for the new construction to a maximum depth of 1.50m below the original surface level, following the use of a 0.60m toothed bucket to strip the area of concrete which was up to 0.10m in thickness.

FINDS

No archaeological finds were retained; the only materials seen were fragments of Victorian size bricks and some rough modern CBM seemingly from garden flowerpots.

DISCUSSION

The watching brief carried out on land to the rear of the Eythorne House did not encounter any archaeological remains. The works did not impinge on any visible archaeology save for elements of the gardens groundworks, all of which appeared to be modern. There is a possibility that an element of the original C18th house existed on this site, but that its remains had been removed completely either by garden works, or by the construction of the prior conservatory. Immediately adjoining the northwest of the construction area was a possible coal cellar or cool room appearing to be of the same date as the main body of the house. This was outside the area of construction and was to be left intact and therefore outside the remit of these works.

CONCLUSION

The archaeological works have been successful in fulfilling the primary aims and objectives of the verbal specifications and the Planning Consent Documentation. Despite the high archaeological potential of the surrounding area and the fact that the works were carried out adjacent to a Grade II listed structure, significant buried archaeological remains were not present in the construction area suggesting that the development presents no impact upon the local archaeological resource.

This work has therefore assessed the archaeological potential of land intended for development and mitigated the impact on such archaeology as was going to be destroyed. 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 future 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. Geoff Morley carried out the archaeological fieldwork, illustrations were produced by Jonny Madden.

Geoff Morley MSc (Oxon) FSA Scot PlfA

November 2009

REFERENCES

British Geological Survey, (BGS) (1966) Sheet 290, Dover. Solid and Drift Edition.

Institute for Archaeologists (IfA) (2008) *Standard and Guidance for an archaeological watching brief*.

<http://www.archaeologists.net/modules/icontent/inPages/docs/codes/watch2.pdf>

CONTENTS OF SITE ARCHIVE

Correspondence

Photographs: Photographs (21).

Photocopies of Ordnance Survey and other maps:

Drawings: One A3 permatrace site drawing, comprising 3 representative sections.

Finds: None.

Context Register including: Context Register (1), Drawings Register (1), Photographic Register (1), and Context Sheets (7)

The archive is currently held in secure controlled storage at SWAT offices. It is hoped to be deposited at Dover Museum upon completion.

APPENDIX 1 - Context Summary

Site to the rear of Eythorne House, Eythorne, Kent

Site Code: EHE-EV-09

	Context No.	Stratigraphic Extents	Description
Section 1	(100)	85.01m-84.76m OD ESE End 84.87m-84.62m OD WNW End	Topsoil. Garden soils
	(101)	84.76m-84.51m OD ESE End 84.62m-84.37m OD WNW End	Redeposited subsoil. Mid Grey/Brown Clay/Silt, no inclusions.
	(102)	84.51m-84.46m OD ESE End 84.37m-84.32m OD WNW End	Deposit. Thin gravel layer.
	(103)	Below 84.46m OD ESE End Below 84.32m OD WNW End Below 84.04m OD Section 2 Below 83.58m OD Section 3	Natural. Upper Chalk.
Section 2	(104)	84.14m-84.09m OD	Concrete Slabs. Garden paving.
	(105)	84.09m-84.04m OD	Substrate. Sand and brick rubble.
Section 3	(106)	84.08m-83.58 OD	Overburden. Victorian brick and mortar rubble.

APPENDIX 2 – Kent County Council SMR Summary Form

Site Name: <i>Eythorne House, Eythorne. Near Dover, Kent.</i>	
SWAT Site Code: <i>EHE-WB-09</i>	
Site Address: <i>Eythorne House, Eythorne, Kent</i>	
Summary: <i>Swale & Thames Survey Company (SWAT) carried out an archaeological watching brief on land to the rear of Eythorne House in Eythorne, near Dover. A planning application (PAN: DOV/07/00734) for the... 'Erection of single storey extensions (existing conservatory to be demolished), hipped roof to existing garage block (including dormer and external staircase), gates, piers and a close boarded timber fence, vehicle access and associated ancillary works.' (Planning Application 2007), at the above site was submitted to Dover District Council (DDC) whereby Kent County Council Heritage and Conservation (KCCHC), on behalf of Dover District Council requested that an Archaeological Investigation 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 the Planning Application, 2007 and in discussion with the Archaeological Officer, Kent County Council.</i> <i>The archaeological watching brief commissioned encountered no significant archaeological remains, with the area under immediate threat having only garden topsoils and modern garden and construction deposits. This is due to the development taking place in an area previously occupied by both a modern conservatory and gardens. The excavations consisted of footings trenches and an area strip, these either came down on thin garden topsoil or thin modern overburden, both overlying clean chalk. This shows that any possible previous elements of Eythorne House that may have existed have been removed prior to this work.</i>	
District/Unitary: <i>Dover</i>	Parish: <i>Eythorne</i>
Period(s): <i>Tentative: Modern</i>	
NGR (centre of site : 8 figures): (NB if large or linear site give multiple NGRs): <i>NGR 628261 148998</i>	
Type of archaeological work (delete) <i>Watching Brief</i>	
Date of Recording: <i>June 2009</i>	
Unit undertaking recording: <i>Swale & Thames Survey Company (SWAT)</i>	
Geology:	
Title and author of accompanying report: <i>Morley, G. (2009) An Archaeological Watching Brief on land to the rear of Eythorne House, Eythorne, 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>1st November 2009</i>

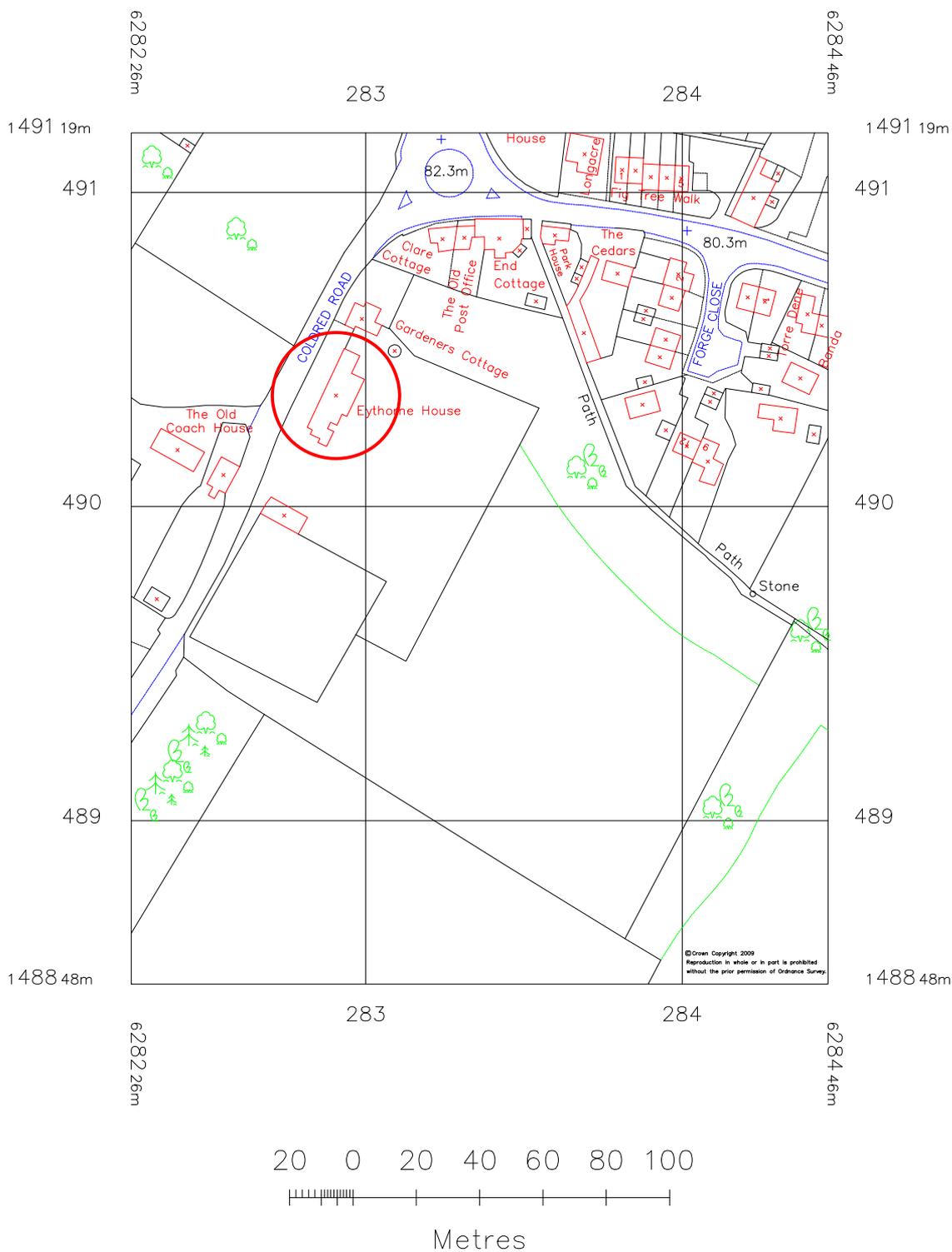


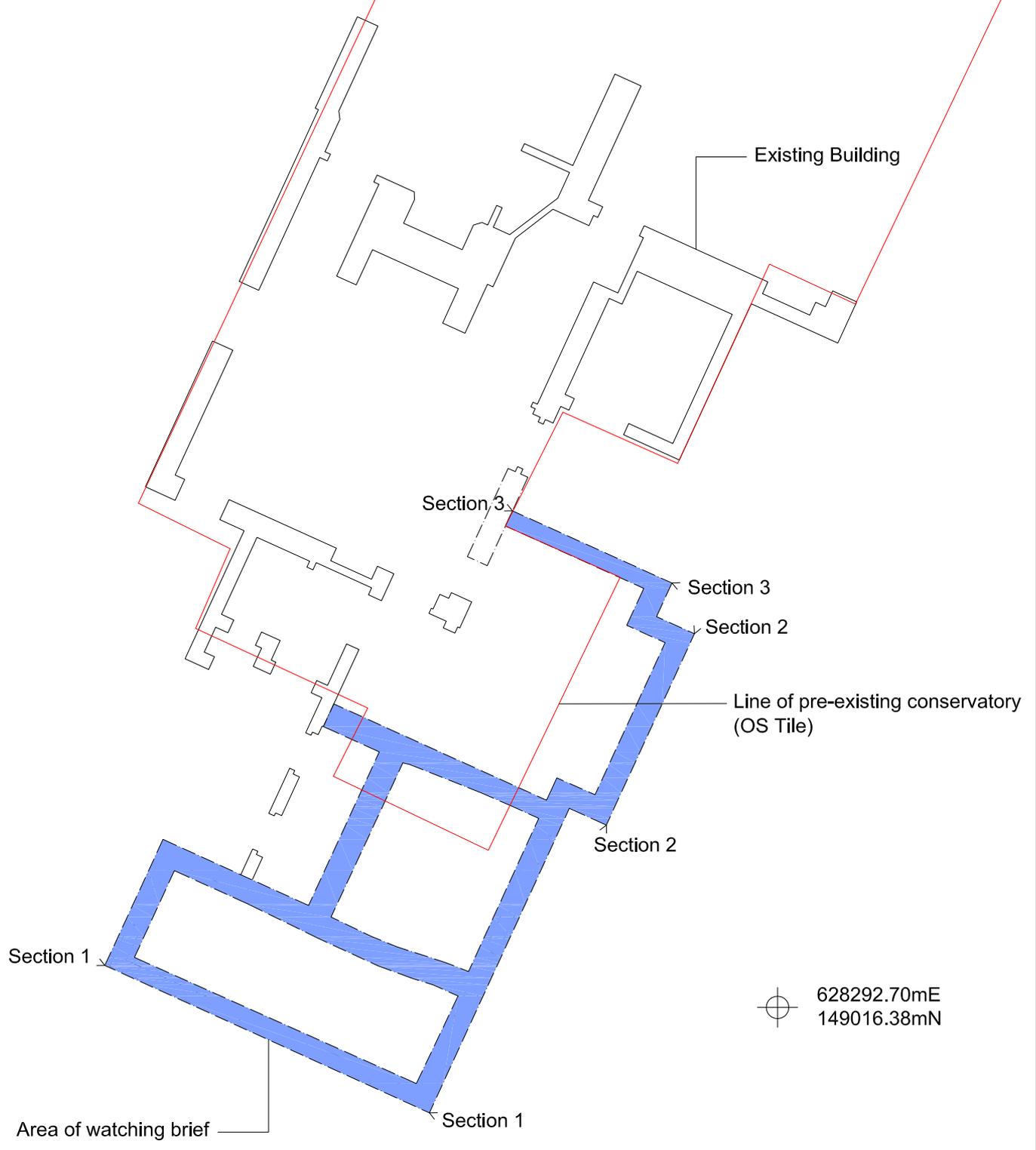
Figure 1: Location of site of proposed development; Scale 1:2000



628279.90mE
149035.93mN



Eythorne House

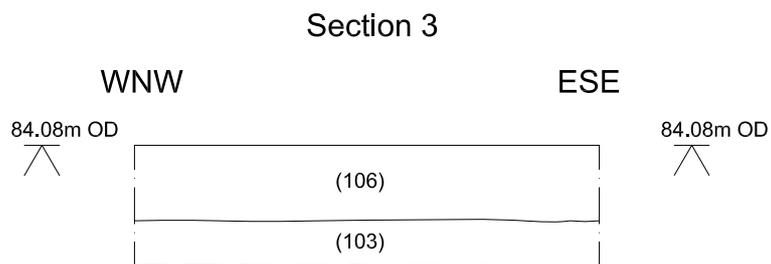
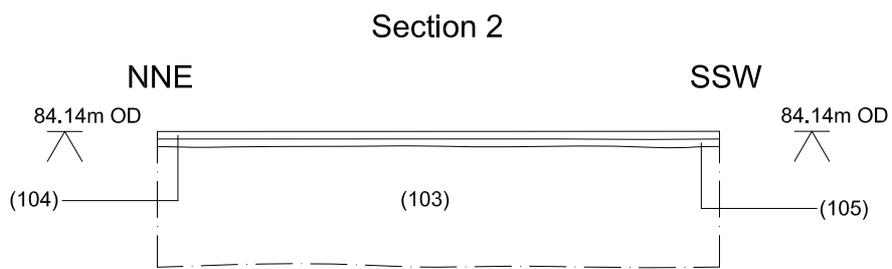
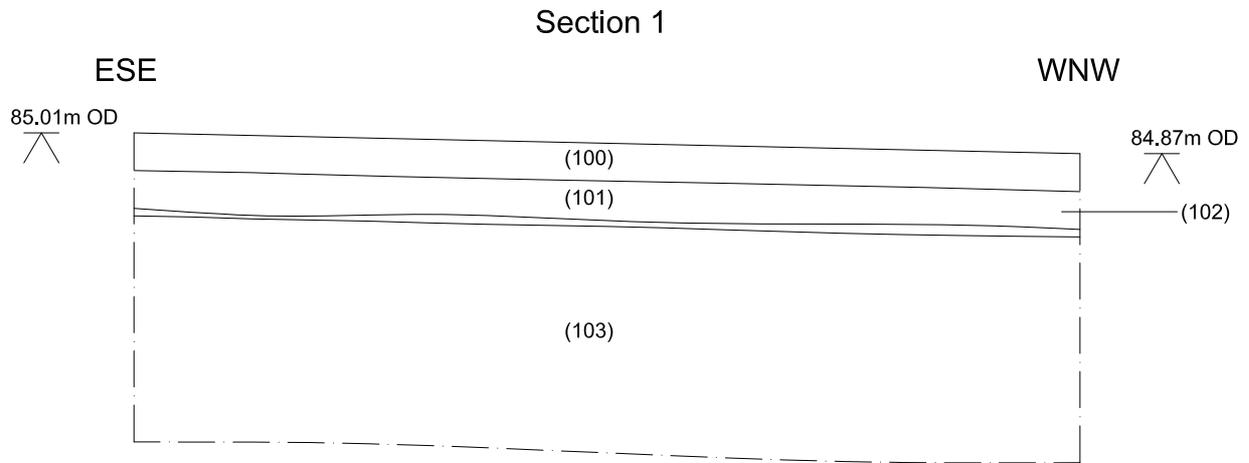


628292.70mE
149016.38mN

1:100



Figure 2: Location of Watching Brief Area; Scale 1:100



Scale 1:50



Figure 3: Sections; Scale 1:50