



**Archaeological Evaluation on land at
47 New Street, Ash, near Sandwich,
Kent
*August 2009***

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Archaeological Evaluation on land at
47 New Street, Ash, near Sandwich in Kent

NGR: 629528 158272

Site Code: NSA-EV-09

(Planning Application Number: DOV/09/00066)

Report for Mr Beacroft

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SUMMARY

Swale & Thames Survey Company (SWAT) carried out an archaeological evaluation at 47 New Street, Ash, near Sandwich in Kent. A planning application (PAN: DOV/09/00066) for the construction of two detached dwellings, a detached garage and construction of a vehicular access 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 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 2009) and in discussion with the Archaeological Officer, Kent County Council on 4th August 2009.

The Archaeological Evaluation consisted of three trenches which encountered no archaeological features of any significant antiquity. A very large backfilled sand quarry in the vicinity of trench 3 would have most likely removed any archaeological features that may have existed.

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 Mr Beacroft 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 2009) and in discussion with the Archaeological Officer, Kent County Council. The evaluation was carried out on 4th August 2009.

SITE DESCRIPTION AND TOPOGRAPHY

The development site located at 47 New Street, Ash (NGR 629258 158272) lies approximately 26m AOD on the southern side of New Street, and is bounded by farmland to the south, a vacant plot to the east and dwellings to the west. The site is presently occupied by a bungalow with large garden and various outbuildings. The footings to a demolished greenhouse back onto the neighbouring property to the west. New Street is noticeably lower

than the properties fronting it, suggesting a possible hollow way or road of considerable antiquity.

The village of Ash sits on an east-west aligned ridge overlooking low lying marshes to the north that are fed by the Stour and a number of smaller streams and the town of Sandwich and the Stonar to the east. The course of a Roman Road, now the A257 in parts, would have provided a link from Canterbury (*Durovernum Cantiacorum*) to Richborough (*Rutupiae*) along this high road.

According to the British Geological Survey (BGS), the development site sits on undifferentiated sand of the Lambeth Group. At the western end of the site, the sand is said to be overlain by a clay and silt Head Deposit, but this deposit was not encountered in the evaluation trenches.

PLANNING BACKGROUND

A planning application (PAN: *DOV/09/00066*) for the construction of two detached dwellings, a detached garage and associated access 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 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

Reason: To ensure that features of archaeological interest are properly examined and recorded.” (KCCHC 2009)

Requirements for the archaeological evaluation comprised trial trenching targeting a representative sample 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 DDC of any further archaeological mitigation measures that may be necessary in connection with the development proposals.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

A number of prehistoric, Romano-British and Saxon sites and find spots are found within the 500m Historic Environment Record (HER) search area.

TR 25 NE 7- MKE 5904 – NGR 293 583 - Roman cremations including a Samian saucer

were discovered c1725-30 at Ash Workhouse (later called The Brewery) and are now in the Mayer Collection in Liverpool Museum. In 1862, next to The Brewery, two Roman urns were found during the digging of foundations for Ash-den (now Pomeret). An amphora containing burnt bones was found with other Roman pottery around 1886 "close to the Sandwich Road, at Ash, approximately one mile from the Saxon cemetery."

TR 25 NE 8 – MKE 5905 – NGR TR 292 580 – This findspot contained a gold quarter stater of Gallo-Belgic A 'Bellovaci', Evan's type A3 found in 1885 at Mount Ephraim in Ash, and now in the British Museum.

TR25 NE 49 – MKE 14610 – NGR TR 2934 5815 – In 1993 a watching brief revealed a number of features during the excavation of foundations for a housing development. They included a light scatter of late Neolithic/Bronze Age struck flints across the site, part of a large curvilinear with no dateable finds and a late Iron Age/early Roman rectangular ditched enclosure. There was a general scatter of middle Iron Age to early Roman pottery across the site. In addition, one early Saxon burial was found, though the skeleton did not survive. The grave goods included a bronze buckle, a decorated sword pommel and a cruciform brooch. A pit and ditch with early Saxon pottery found on the site may suggest contemporary occupation.

TR 25 NE 52 – MKE 15833 – NGR TR 294 586 – The Ash Bypass Evaluation in 1992 revealed significant quantities of abraded late Iron Age and Romano-British pottery dating from AD 25-125, and one possible 7th c Anglo Saxon pot sherd.

Few medieval buildings and sites exist within the HER search area.

TR 25 NE 1 – MKE 5898 – NGR TR 2876 5838 - Most notable is the flint-built Grade I St Nicholas' Church, originally a chapel of Ease to Wingham. It was constructed in c 1190, with 14th c alterations and was built in a cruciform pattern with a circa 15th c central tower and inset lead spire. There were three restoration projects on the church during the 19th century by Butterfield, Christian and Edward Fry. Outside the church are six listed features including five post-medieval chest tombs, two 18th c headstones and the post-medieval churchyard wall and gate piers.

TR 25 NE 23 – MKE 5920 – NGR TR 2885 5823 – Moat Farm is listed in the County Checklist of moated sites in Kent, December 1979 as a medieval structure.

Ash has a number of post-medieval listed buildings within the 500m HER search area.

TR 25 NE 132 – MKE 27182 – NGR TR 2882 5841 – The Lion Hotel is a Grade II listed 16th c timber-framed structure that is now a pub, but is listed in the HER as possibly once being a ballroom.

TR 25 NE 86 – MKE 27208 – NGR TR 2882 5838 – The Lion Cottage is a c 1500 timber-framed house restored in the late 20th c. with plaster infill and underbuilt with red brick.

TR 25 NE 153 – MKE 25681 – NGR TR 2884 5822 – Moat Farmhouse is a 16th c timber-framed dwelling clad in red brick within the moated site TR 25 NE 23.

TR 25 NE 67 – MKE 8222 – NGR 29 58 – Mount Ephraim Windmill is a post-medieval structure within the grounds of Mount Ephraim, south of Ash.

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

The purpose of the evaluation, as set out within the Archaeological Specification (2009) (Manual of Specifications, Part B) was to:

- “a) ascertain the extent, depth below ground surface, depth of deposit, character, date, significance and condition of any archaeological remains on site;
- b) establish the extent to which previous development and/or other processes have affected archaeological deposits at the site; and
- c) establish the likely impact on archaeological deposits of the proposed development.”

Specific aims of the archaeological work were set out in the Archaeological Specification (2009) (Manual of Specifications, Part A).

“The aim of this initial phase of evaluation work is to determine whether any significant archaeological remains survive on site. Assessment of the results should provide guidance on what mitigation measures would be appropriate. Such measures may include further detailed archaeological excavation ahead of development; and/or an archaeological watching brief during construction work. This specification sets out the requirements for trial trenching on site. Further mitigation measures will be subject to other documents or specifications which will need to be agreed with the Local Planning Authority.”

METHODOLOGY

Trial trenching was carried out on 4th August 2009, with the excavation of three trenches measuring 1.8m in width and between 8m to 17.5m in length (see below). Trench location was agreed prior to the excavation between KCCHC and SWAT. The trenches were initially scanned for surface finds prior to excavation. Excavation was carried out using a tracked 360° mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket, removing the overburden to the top of the first recognisable archaeological horizon, or natural, 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, and context recording numbers (CRN) were assigned to all deposits for recording purposes; these are used in the report and shown in bold.

MONITORING

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

RESULTS

All three trenches were covered in garden topsoil (**CRN 001**), but trenches 2 and 3 exposed the backfill of a very large sand quarry pit.

Trench 1

(7.5m x 1.8m)

Trench 1 was located to the north of the site and directly east of the bungalow and was aligned north-east/south-west. It fronted New Street, though due to the topography, it was situated at least 1.5m higher than the road. This was the trench closest to the site recorded in the HER containing Roman cremations (SMR Number TR 25 NE 7). A thin deposit of humic dark brown-grey sandy silty clay topsoil (**001**) up to 0.08m deep covered the natural Lambeth Sands (**003**) which in this trench were a mid yellow-brown with pale brown mottles. 20th c pottery was retrieved from intercutting modern pits. No cultural material or archaeological features of great antiquity were found.

Trench 2

(15.5 x 1.8m)

This trench was roughly aligned east-west and was placed to observe the impact of the development on the centre of the site. The topsoil (**001**) was a dark brown grey humic sandy silty clay up to 0.37m thick. Below the topsoil was a layer up to 0.55m thick composed of redeposited natural Lambeth Sands (**002**) which consisted of a mid-yellow brown silty sand with occasional fragments of ceramic building material (cbm), coke, and 19th -20th c pottery. The redeposited nature of this context gave it a more compact feel compared to the undisturbed geology of the local Lambeth Sands and a more mixed appearance due to the inclusion of silts in the matrix.

No features, archaeological or modern, were seen in this trench, and a sondage was cut to a depth of 1.20m at the east end to expose the natural geology.

Trench 3

(12.5m x 1.8m)

This trench was aligned north-south and was located towards the southern end of site. As with the two other trenches, the uppermost layer, (**001**) was composed of humic dark brown grey sandy silty clay topsoil to a maximum depth of 0.20m. Below the topsoil was a very thick deposit of redeposited Lambeth Sands (**002**) to a depth of up to 0.90m. During the cutting of Trench 3, context (**002**) was removed to reveal three post-medieval postholes cutting (**003**) at

the base of a very large pit. The postholes were half-sectioned, and small fragments of coke and glazed 19th-20th c pottery were found. The southern edge of this large feature was uncovered in Trench 3, as was the base, but the northern edge was not. It may be that the northern edge lies between Trenches 2 and 3 or possibly that the area was quarried for sand that was dug out of the hill, as the highest point of the site is in the south-eastern corner. Despite the large amount of backfilled redeposited sand (002), there were very few artefacts found, and these were of a modern date. The most likely interpretation of this feature is that it is a sand quarry pit dug within the last two centuries. The First Edition Ordnance Survey map shows the area as an orchard, and therefore any quarrying would have occurred pre-1871.

FINDS

Few archaeological finds were recovered during the course of the evaluation, they all were from the modern/post-medieval period.

DISCUSSION

The evaluation carried out at 47 New Street, Ash did encounter one large archaeological feature, but it was of the modern/post medieval period and most likely related to sand quarrying pre-1871. The site, on a slight rise, was covered in a humic topsoil over redeposited Lambeth Sands (002) in Trenches 2 and 3 where possible sand quarrying occurred, and over the natural, undisturbed geology of Lambeth Sands (003) in Trench 1. There was no evidence whatsoever of archaeological features or artefacts before the post-medieval period, and it can be assumed that the large modern feature in Trench 3 and the depth of redeposited sand in Trench 2 suggesting the removal of the natural sands therein, would have truncated any earlier features.

It is also worth noting that where the natural geology survived close to the surface in Trench 1, no archaeological features were encountered.

CONCLUSION

The archaeological evaluation has been successful in fulfilling the primary aims and objectives of the Specification. Despite the archaeological potential of the immediate surrounding area the only archaeological feature uncovered was probably from the post-medieval period. The positioning of the three trenches within the area at risk has ascertained that the potential for encountering archaeology before the later post-medieval period is low, and as the majority of the area to be developed is within the footprint of the original building and outbuildings, where the possibility of exposing archaeological features is also minimal.

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 Mr Beacroft for commissioning the project. Thanks are also extended to Heritage and Conservation (Kent County Council) for their advice and assistance. Julie Martin and Paul Wilkinson carried out the archaeological fieldwork; illustrations were produced by Jonny Madden at *Digitise This*.

Julie Martin
4th October 2009

REFERENCES

Institute for Archaeologists (IfA) Rev (2008) *Standard and Guidance for archaeological field evaluation*.

Kent County Council (KCCHC) (2009) *Specification for an Archaeological Evaluation at 47 New Street, Ash, near Sandwich in Kent*. Kent County Council Heritage & Conservation

Kent Landscape Information System website: www.extranet7.kent.gov.uk/klis/home.htm

APPENDIX 1 – Kent County Council SMR Summary Form

Site Name: <i>47 New Street, Ash, near Sandwich in Kent</i>	
SWAT Site Code: <i>NSA/EV/09</i>	
Site Address: <i>47 New Street, Ash, Kent</i>	
Summary:	
<p><i>Swale & Thames Survey Company (SWAT) carried out an archaeological evaluation at 47 New Street, Ash, near Sandwich in Kent. A planning application (PAN: DOV/09/00066) for the construction of two detached dwellings and a detached garage, along with associated access, 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 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 2009) and in discussion with the Archaeological Officer, Kent County Council.</i></p> <p><i>The Archaeological Evaluation consisted of three trenches which encountered only one archaeological feature which was of a post-medieval date, and this was located in Trench 3. This feature was a very large pit/possible sand quarry, and its size suggests that any archaeology in that area would have been removed during the quarrying process. No other archaeological features or artefacts of antiquity were encountered.</i></p>	
District/Unitary: <i>Dover</i>	Parish: <i>Ash</i>
Period(s): Tentative: Post Medieval/Modern	
NGR (centre of site : 8 figures): (NB if large or linear site give multiple NGRs): <i>NGR 629258 158272</i>	
Type of archaeological work (delete) <i>Evaluation</i>	
Date of Recording: <i>August 2009</i>	
Unit undertaking recording: <i>Swale & Thames Survey Company (SWAT)</i>	
Geology: <i>Lambeth Sands</i>	
Title and author of accompanying report: <i>Martin, J. (2009) Archaeological Evaluation at 47 New Street, Ash, near Sandwich in 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>4th October 2009</i>

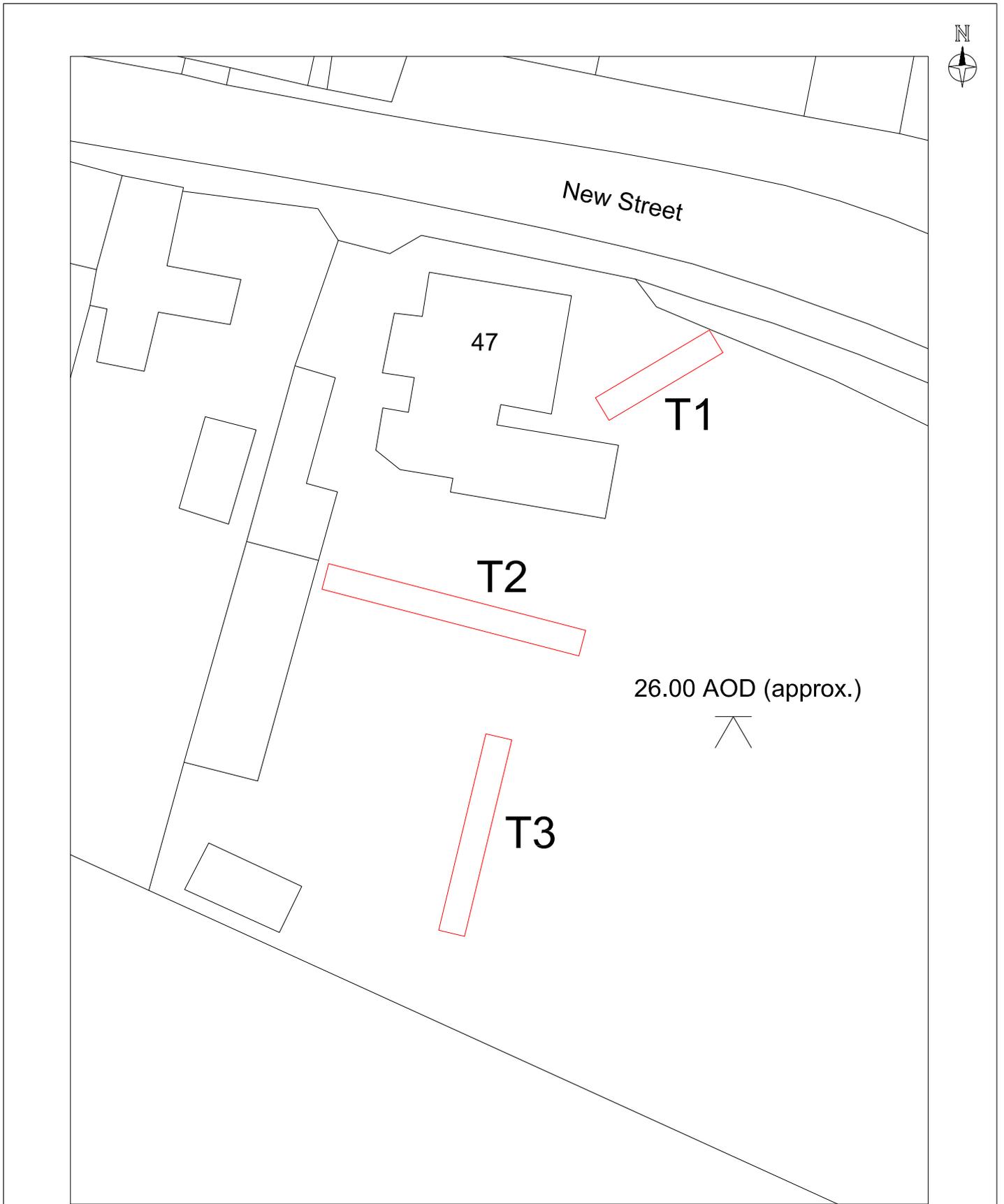
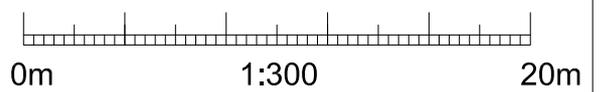


Figure 1: Location of evaluation trenches at 47, New Street, Ash

(Site centered coordinates 629261.0mE, 158272.0mN)



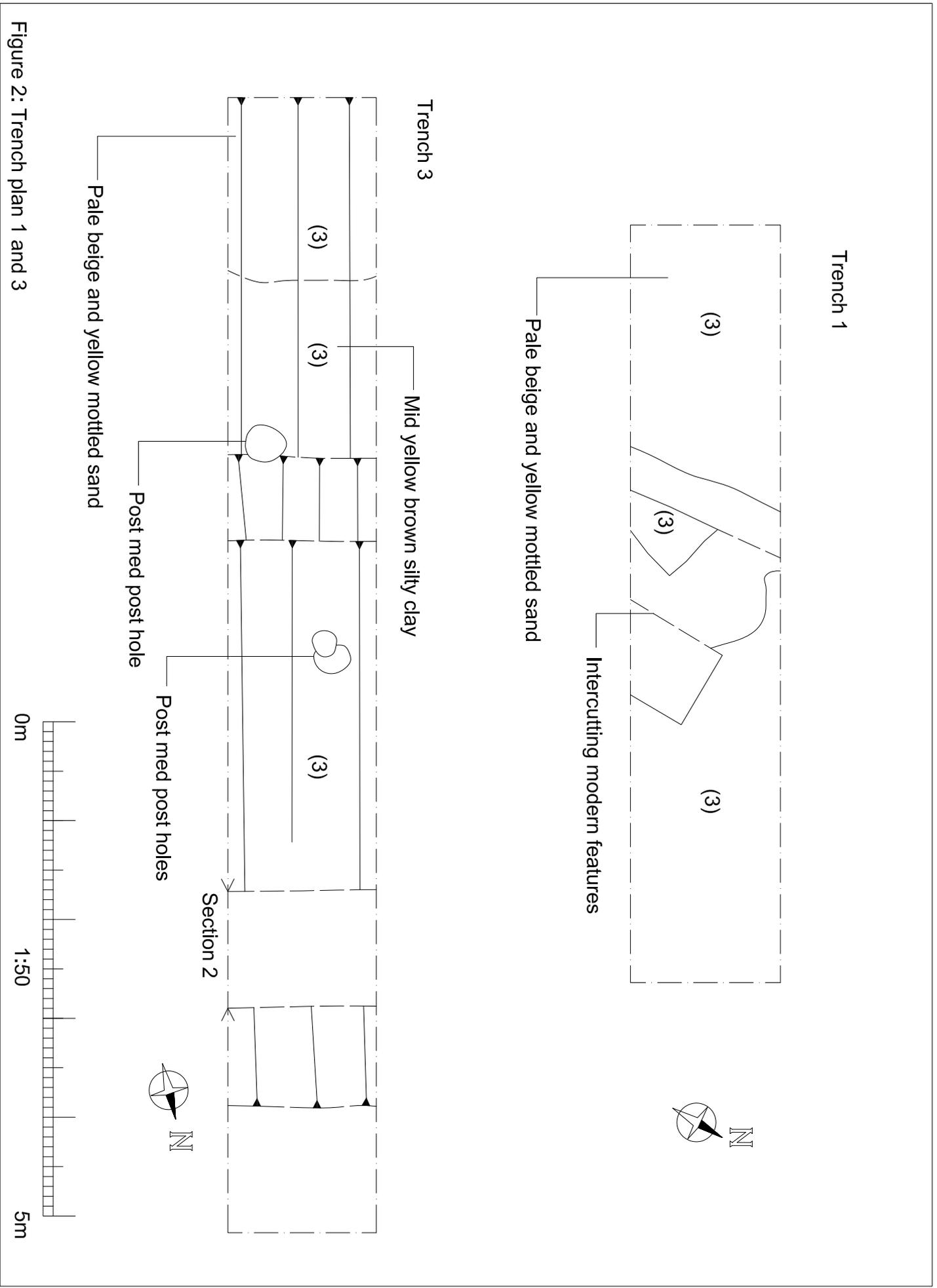


Figure 2: Trench plan 1 and 3

Trench 2

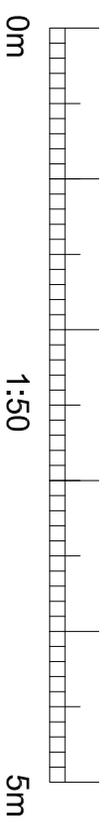
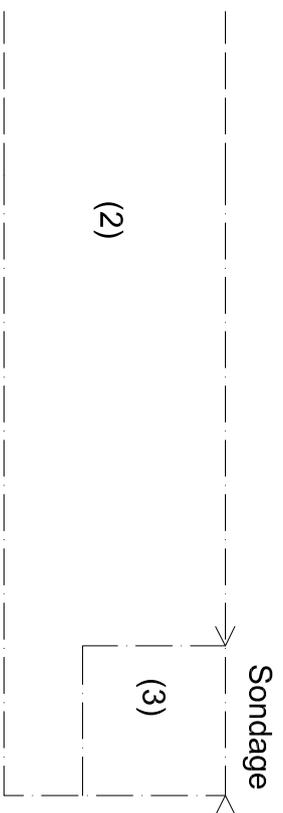
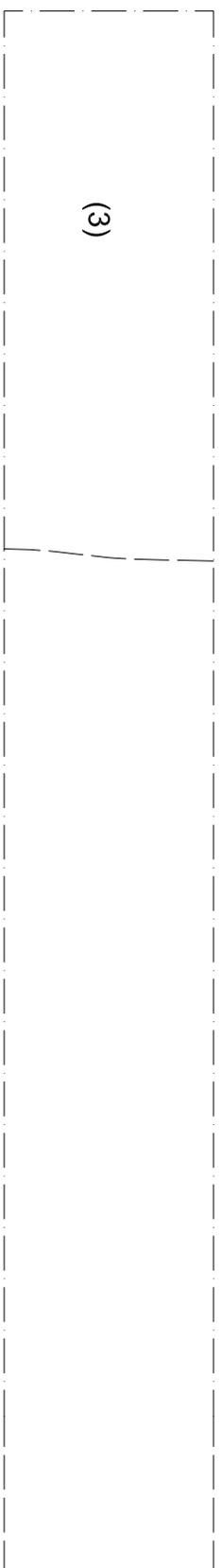
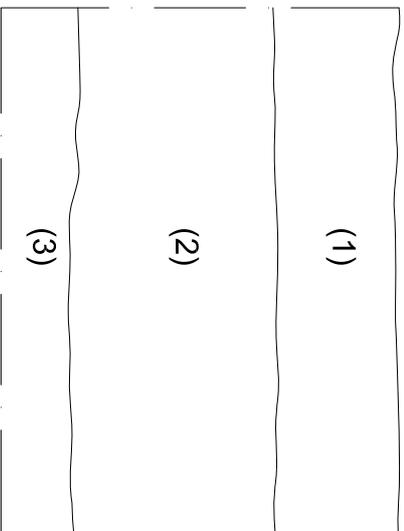


Figure 2: Trench plan 2

Section 2
Trench 2
Sondage



Section 2
Trench 3

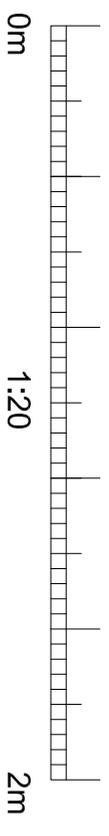
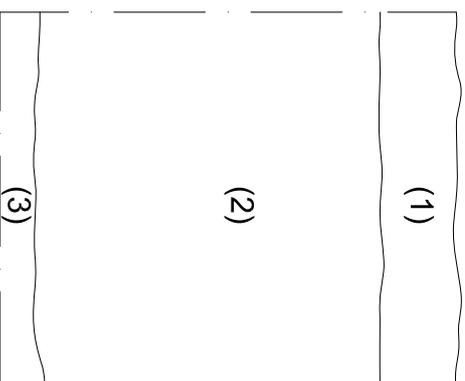


Figure 4: Sections