



**Archaeological Strip and Map and
Watching Brief at the
Royal School for Deaf Children,
Victoria Road, Margate, Kent.
*March 2009***

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Archaeological Strip and Map and Watching Brief on
land at the Royal School for Deaf Children, Victoria
Road, Margate, Kent

NGR: 635850 170667

Site Code: BSM-SM-09

(Planning Application Number: TH/08/0627)

Report for
Lee Evans Partnership

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

NGR: 635850 170667

Site Code: BSM-SM-09

SUMMARY

Swale & Thames Survey Company (SWAT Archaeology) carried out an archaeological strip and map followed by a watching brief 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 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 an Archaeological Specification (KCC Oct 2008) and in discussion with the Archaeological Officer, Kent County Council.

The Archaeological Evaluation which preceded this phase of work encountered no archaeological features apart from residual pottery sherds and lithic flakes, suggesting that there are no archaeological remains surviving within the site.

The strip and map phase encountered very similar conditions with the area under immediate threat having only modern features. Towards the east end of site a layer of masking soil was noted that would serve to protect any archaeology below it. During the watching brief phase a single pit was noted in the run of the storm water drain which cut through this layer. No dateable artefacts were forthcoming, but several small pieces of burnt flint were recovered, possibly indicating an early, maybe prehistoric, date.

These Archaeological Investigations have 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 strip and map followed by a watching brief 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. The work was carried out between the 24th February and 5th March 2009.

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 a Strip and Map be undertaken to be followed by a Watching Brief, following on from the earlier Evaluation, 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 strip and map are to establish the presence or absence, phase and date of any archaeological features.

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 archaeological strip and map is to, "...identify, excavate, record and analyse any significant archaeological remains that will be disturbed by the proposed development." (KCC 2008)

Specific aims of this work are:

- to understand the character, form, function and date of any significant archaeological activities present on the site including but not limited to the remains found in (the) evaluation; this includes understanding the character and date of the linear features
- to consider the site's geology and topography in terms of the activity encountered
- to improve our understanding of the numerous nearby finds of prehistoric, Roman, medieval and post-medieval material in the context of this site
- the investigation should include analysis of the spatial organisation of such activities on the site through examination of the distribution of artefactual and environmental assemblages;
- to contribute to an understanding of the environmental history of the Margate area.

METHODOLOGY

The strip and map was carried out on 24th February 2009, with the excavation of the area of the footprint of the new car park and its associated drainage. The area was initially scanned for surface finds prior to excavation. Excavation was carried out using a 360° mechanical excavator fitted with a 1.8m toothless ditching bucket, removing the overburden to the top of the first recognisable archaeological horizon, under the constant supervision of an experienced archaeologist. The area measured 23m x 7m at its maximum extents and was 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

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

RESULTS

The stratigraphic sequence across the site comprised topsoil/turf overburden (**100**), beneath which lay a silty subsoil (**101**), the natural geology comprised Brickearth (**102**) overlaying Upper Chalk (**103**) except at the eastern end of the site where the brickearth appeared to dive, or have been terraced away. The topsoil/overburden consisted of friable dark grey brown silty clay with occasional to moderate inclusions of sub-rounded – angular flints. Below this lay a mid grey brown clay silt subsoil which was possibly of colluvial origin. A clear line of

horizon gave way to subsoil comprising mid orange brown slightly sandy clay (Brickearth) overlying natural chalk. Mechanical excavation ceased at the point where features started to be observed which was around the surface of the colluvium and careful examination and investigation for truncating features was carried out. This level was around 0.30m-0.45m below the ground surface and was said to be the formation level for the car park.

The Watching Brief phase commenced after this with the excavation of two manholes and four runs for water pipes, (Storm and Foul). This phase, necessarily, went deeper and uncovered, in the deeper eastern end of the site, another three soil layers below the colluvium and above the brickearth. Appendix 2 provides a stratigraphic sequence for the trench.

During the strip and map phase only four features were uncovered in addition to the original evaluation trench. Features **[105]**, **[107]**, **[109]** and **[113]** all proved to be modern and cut from the surface. Features **[105]** and **[113]** being tree-bowls, **[107]** being a very modern post-hole and **[109]** being a modern pit. All these were dated to the very recent past by virtue of their finds, particularly **[109]**, the fill of which contained fragments of ceramic toilet bowl.

The Watching Brief which followed this took the form of using a single 0.45m toothless ditching bucket to excavate the pipe-trench. The colluvium across most of the site was around 0.25m in depth, however, as it approached the east, the natural soils appeared to dip away into a, probably, natural hollow. Below the colluvium was what appeared to be a preserved rich organic, possible, buried topsoil (**119**) around 0.15m in thickness. Below this was a second colluvial layer some 0.20m in depth, (**120**) and below this lay a siltier version of the natural brickearth, (**121**) which possibly had been subjected to weathering or tree action. Through these three layers, and buried by the upper colluvium lay a pit, (**115**) **[116]**. Only a quarter of this roughly circular pit was seen as half lay under the section and the other quarter which lay on the line of the water pipe was obscured by a surviving electricity cable. Feature **[116]** appeared to be around 0.45m in radius and was surviving to a depth of around 0.55m and was a dark brown grey clay silt. Unfortunately no dateable evidence was retrieved from this feature, the only finds being three sherds of burnt flint. Beside this was a single possible stake hole 50mm in diameter, (**117**), **[118]**. It is possible that this may have been caused by animal or root action.

FINDS

Few archaeological finds were recovered during the course of the evaluation, mostly these came from modern features and comprised 'willow pattern' china and fragments of flowerpots, probably relating to a previous existence as a garden. Only three finds came from the earlier feature **[116]** and these were fragments of burnt flint.

DISCUSSION

The strip and map and watching brief carried out on land adjacent to the Royal School for Deaf Children did encounter archaeological remains, but these were modern features with a single possible earlier feature below and sealed by colluvium. The remaining trenches for the water pipes were of such a shallow depth that they stayed within the upper colluvium and did not impinge on any possible deep archaeology; the only features seen within these were again of very recent date. The previously discovered modern linear features were seen to be outside the bounds of the footprint of this car-park and were therefore left untouched.

CONCLUSION

The archaeological works have 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 surviving on site, significant buried archaeological remains were only present at a significant depth suggesting that the proposed development presents no impact upon the local archaeological resource apart from that which was recorded in the pipe-trench.

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, Julie Martin and Natasha Ransom carried out archaeological fieldwork, illustrations were produced by James Madden. This report was edited and collated by Dr. Paul Wilkinson.

Geoff Morley MSc (Oxon) FSA Scot PlfA
March 2009

REFERENCES

Kent County Council (KCCHC) (2008) *Specification for an Archaeological Excavation on Land at the Royal School for deaf Children, Victoria Road, Margate (carpark and access way only)*, Kent County Council Heritage & Conservation

SWAT Archaeology November 2008. *Archaeological Investigations on Land at the Royal School for Deaf Children, Victoria Road, Margate, Kent*, Dr Paul Wilkinson

CONTENTS OF SITE ARCHIVE

Correspondence

Photographs: Digital photographs 18. SWAT Film nos. 07/36 colour prints, SWAT 35mm film nos. 0/27

Photocopies of Ordnance Survey and other maps:

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

Finds: Burnt Flint, window glass, waste flakes, flower pot sherd.

Context Register including: Context Register (1), Drawings Register (1), Photographic Register (1), and Context Sheets (22)

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
	(100)	0.00-0.30m	Turf/topsoil. Friable dark grey brown silty clay with occasional to moderate inclusions of sub-rounded – angular flints.
	(101)	0.30-0.55m+	Subsoil. subsoil comprising mid grey brown clay silt.
	(102)	0.55m+	Natural. Brickearth
	(103)	0.55m+	Natural. Upper Chalk
	(104)	Fill of [105]	Tree bowl
	[105]	0.35m depth	Cut of tree bowl
	(106)	Fill of [107]	Modern Post hole Fill
	[107]	0.40m depth	Cut of Post hole
	(108)	Fill of [109]	Modern Pit

	[109]	Unexcavated	Cut of Modern Pit
	(110)		Evaluation Trench
	[111]		Cut of Evaluation Trench
	(112)	Fill of [113]	Tree bowl Fill
	[113]	0.15m depth	Cut of Tree bowl
	(114)		Colluvium at East end of site
	(115)	Fill of [116]	Fill of pit in pipe-trench
	[116]	0.55m depth	Cut of pit
	(117)	Fill of [118]	Fill of possible Stakehole
	[118]	0.12m depth	Cut of possible Stakehole
	(119)	0.15m depth	Possible buried topsoil

	(120)	0.20m depth	Buried Colluvial layer
	(121)	Unexcavated	Silty Natural Brickearth

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-SM-09</i>	
Site Address: <i>Victoria Road, Margate, Kent</i>	
Summary: <i>Swale & Thames Survey Company (SWAT) carried out an archaeological strip and map followed by a watching brief 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 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 an Archaeological Specification (KCC Oct 2008) and in discussion with the Archaeological Officer, Kent County Council.</i> <i>The Archaeological Evaluation which preceded this phase of work encountered no archaeological features in apart from residual pottery sherds and lithic flakes, suggesting that there are no archaeological remains surviving within the site.</i> <i>The strip and map phase encountered very similar conditions with the area under immediate threat having only modern features. Towards the east end of site a layer of masking soil was noted that would serve to protect any archaeology below it. During the watching brief phase a single pit was noted in the run of the storm water drain which cut through this layer. No dateable artefacts were forthcoming, but several small pieces of burnt flint were recovered, possibly indicating an early, maybe prehistoric, date.</i> <i>These Archaeological Investigations have therefore been successful in fulfilling the primary aims and objectives of the Specification.</i>	
District/Unitary: <i>Thanet</i>	Parish: <i>Margate</i>
Period(s): Tentative: <i>Modern/ Prehistoric?</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>Strip and Map and Watching Brief</i>	
Date of Recording: <i>February/March 2009</i>	
Unit undertaking recording: <i>Swale & Thames Survey Company (SWAT)</i>	
Geology: <i>Upper Chalk</i>	
Title and author of accompanying report: <i>Morley, G. (2009) Archaeological Strip and Map and Watching Brief on 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>25th March 2009</i>



Figure 1: Location of site of proposed development

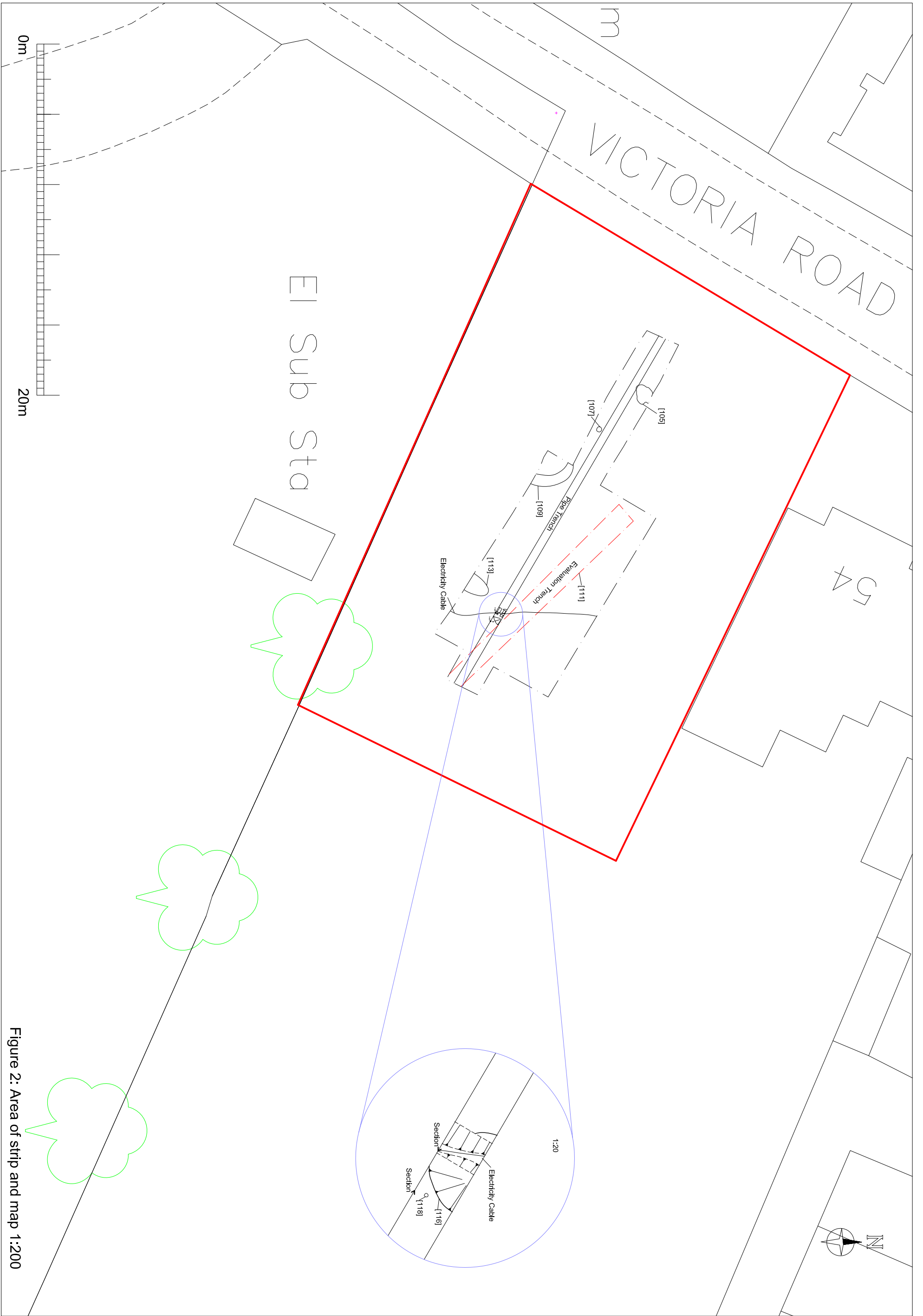
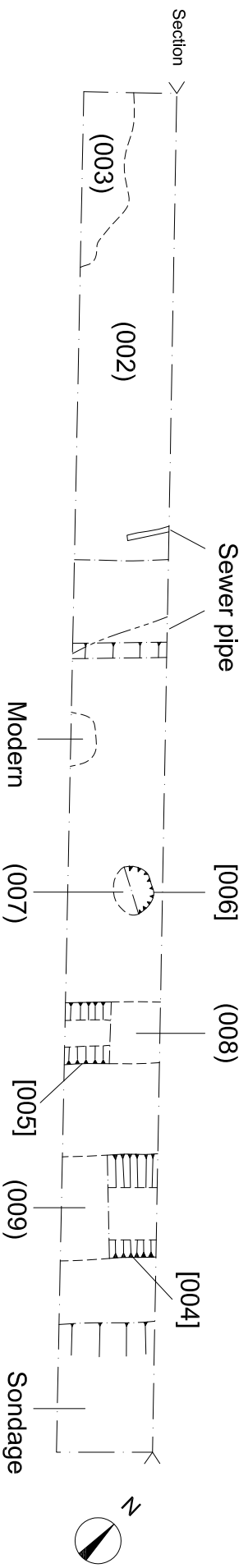
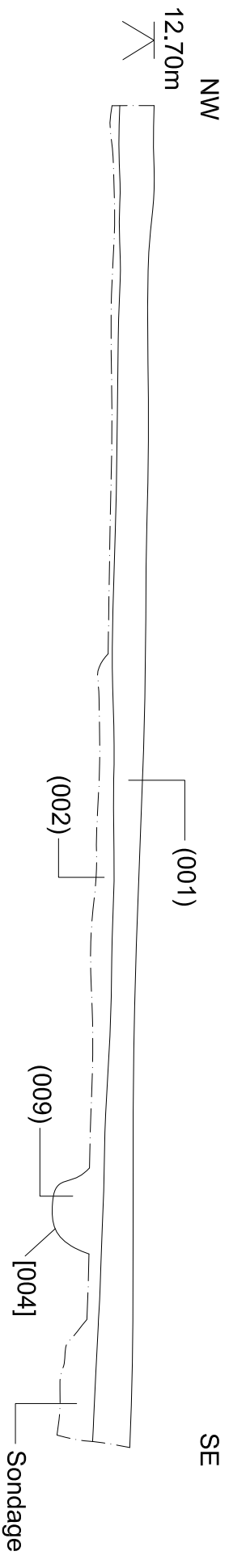


Figure 2: Area of strip and map 1:200

Plan



Section



Scale 1:50



Figure 3: Trench Plan and Section; 1:100

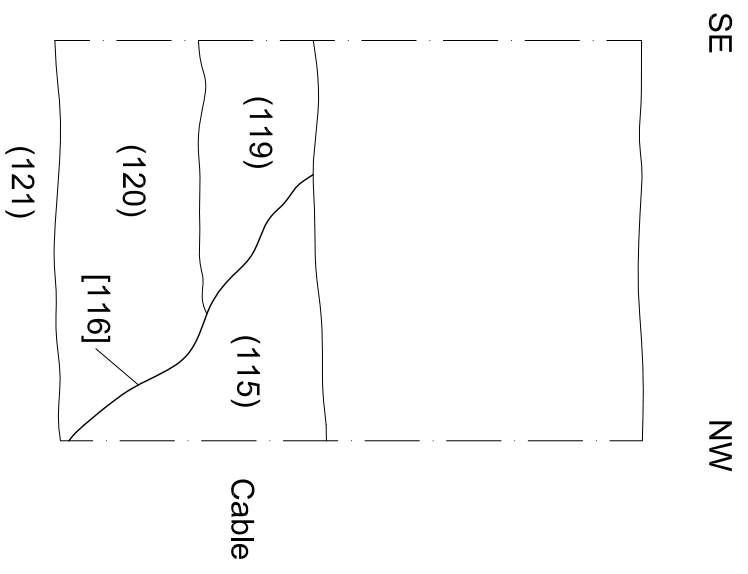


Figure 4: Section; 1:10

