



Archaeological Watching Brief and Evaluation on Land adjacent to 18 Archers Court Road, Whitfield, Kent

September 2010

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Archaeological Watching Brief (Plot A) and
Evaluation of Land (Plot B) adjacent to
18 Archers Court Road, Whitfield, near Dover, Kent

NGR: 630339 144805

Site Code: WHIT-W&EV-10

(Planning Consent DOV/08/00421)

Report for
Easton Construction Ltd.

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Archaeological Watching Brief and Evaluation of Land at
18 Archers Court Road, Whitfield, near Dover, Kent

NGR: 630339 144805

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SUMMARY

Swale & Thames Survey Company (SWAT) carried out an archaeological watching brief and evaluation of land adjacent to 18 Archers Court Road, Whitfield, near Dover, Kent. Planning permission (DOV/08/00421) for the construction of two detached dwellings (Plot A and Plot B) was submitted to Dover District Council whereby the Council requested that an Archaeological Programme of Work 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 two Archaeological Specifications (KCC 2009) and in discussion with the Archaeological Heritage Officer for Kent County Council.

The Archaeological Watching Brief consisted of archaeological monitoring of the groundworks connected with the construction of Plot A, whilst the Plot B Archaeological Evaluation consisted of two trenches. Neither programme of works encountered any archaeological features. The Archaeological Watching Brief and Evaluation has therefore been successful in fulfilling the primary aims and objectives of the Specifications.

INTRODUCTION

Swale & Thames Survey Company (SWAT) was commissioned by Easton Construction Ltd to carry out an archaeological watching brief and evaluation at the above site. The work was carried out in accordance with the requirements set out within two Archaeological Specifications (KCC 2009) and in discussion with the Archaeological Heritage Officer, Kent County Council. The watching brief was carried out during March 2009 and the evaluation was carried out in June 2010.

SITE DESCRIPTION AND TOPOGRAPHY

The development site lies in an area of urban development bounded by Archers Court Road to the north-west, by adjacent houses to the north-east and south-west and by open farmland to the south-east. According to the mapping of the British Geological Survey (BGS), the site sits approximately 125m. aOD and is located on Clay with Flints overlaying Upper Chalk of the Seaford Chalk Formation. Both trenches encountered the natural geology, a pale to mid-yellow brown silty clay with large nodules of flint and small to medium angular and rounded flints (Clay with Flints), at approximately 0.30m below the present ground surface.

PLANNING BACKGROUND

Planning consent (DOV/08/00421) was given for the erection of two detached dwellings (Plot A & Plot B), with associated garages and construction of vehicular access. Kent County

Council requested that an Archaeological Watching Brief and Archaeological Evaluation be undertaken in order to determine the possible impact of the development on any archaeological remains. The Local Planning Authority placed the following condition on planning consent (DOV/08/00421):

“No development shall take place until the applicant(s), 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.

Requirements for the archaeological watching brief included monitoring the programme of ground works whilst the evaluation comprised trial trenching targeting a representative 5% sample of the impact area with two trenches designed to establish whether there were any archaeological deposits at the site that may be affected by the proposed development. The results from this watching brief and evaluation will be used to inform KCC of any further archaeological mitigation measures that may be necessary in connection with the development proposals.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

HER/NMR Summary

TR 24 SE 34 (TR 296448) Two Palaeolithic hand axes found in 1976. The find spot is uncertain but found in the area of the new eastern bypass.

TR 34 NW 248 (TR 30300 45150) Prehistoric spread of material plus a Medieval ditch and Post-Medieval activity at Whitfield and Aspen School about 450m from the development site.

TR 34 SW 249 (TR 306447) Knife scraper of blue/grey flint found about 350m from the development site.

TR 34 SW 608 (TR 30300) Whitfield Roundabout, about 325m from the development site. Lithic and ceramic materials dating from the Lower Palaeolithic. Also found were Early-Mid Iron Age, and Late Iron Age/Early Roman ceramics.

TR 34 SW 614 (TR 3029 4440) Possible Prehistoric pit found some 350m from the development site with small fragments of calcined flint possibly dating from the Neolithic-Bronze Age.

TR 34 SW 615 (TR 305 445) Late Iron Age/Early Roman pit found.

TR 34 NW 161 (TR 3034 3453) Two Iron Age features found about 500m from the development site in a chalk pit on Whitfield Recreation Ground.

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

The purpose of the watching brief as set out in within the Archaeological Specification (2009) was to ensure that features of archaeological interest are properly examined and recorded. The purpose of the evaluation, as set out within the Archaeological Specification (2010) (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

The Archaeological Watching brief carried out observed all ground works undertaken for the build of the first of two houses and access roads and services (Plot A). Trial trenching was carried out in June 2010, with the excavation of two trenches measuring up to 15.00m in length and 1.80m in width. Trench location was agreed prior to the excavation between KCC and SWAT. 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. The trench was subsequently hand-cleaned to reveal modern 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 specifications.

A single context recording system was used to record the deposits, and context recording numbers 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: Trench 1.

The trench was covered in topsoil **(001)** measuring up to 0.08m thick over a mid-grey brown silty clay subsoil **(002)** that measured up to 0.15m thick, with occasional small to medium sub-angular and rounded flints, and post-Medieval brick fragments. These deposits overlay a pale orange brown Clay with Flints, with some large Flint nodules **(003)** with small to medium angular and rounded flints.

Trench 2.

The trench was covered in topsoil **(001)** measuring up to 0.10m thick over a mid-grey brown silty clay subsoil **(002)** that measured up to 0.18m thick, with occasional small to medium sub-angular and rounded flints, and post-Medieval brick fragments. These deposits overlay a pale orange brown Clay with Flints, with some large Flint nodules **(003)** with small to medium angular and rounded flints.

Two sub-rounded features with modern brick, pottery, and gravel were investigated and was found to probably be tree bowls.

FINDS

No cultural material dating from before the post-Medieval period was observed during the evaluation, and it should be noted that no residual stone tools or waste flakes were found either during the watching brief or evaluation phases.

DISCUSSION

This watching brief and evaluation found no archaeological features or cultural material of any antiquity in either the watching brief phase or the evaluation trenches.

CONCLUSION

The archaeological watching brief and evaluation has been successful in fulfilling the primary aims and objectives of the Specification. **This watching brief and 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 of Kent County Council any further archaeological mitigations measures that may be necessary in connection with the development proposals.**

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

SWAT would like to thank Easton Construction Ltd. for commissioning the project. Thanks are also extended to Ben Found, Heritage Officer, Kent County Council for his advice and assistance. James Madden supervised the archaeological fieldwork. Illustrations were produced by James and Jonny Madden at Digitise This. The project was managed by Dr. Paul Wilkinson.

James Madden

20/09/10

REFERENCES

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

Kent County Council (KCC) (2009) *Specification for an Archaeological Watching Brief on Land (Plot A) adjacent to 18 Archers Court Road, Whitfield, near Dover, Kent*. Kent County Council Heritage and Conservation

Kent County Council (KCC) (2009) *Specification for an Archaeological Evaluation on Land (Plot B) adjacent to 18 Archers Court Road, Whitfield, near Dover, Kent*. Kent County Council Heritage and Conservation

Kent County Council (KCC) (2010) *Manual of Specifications Part B, Evaluation – Trial Trenching Requirements*. Kent County Council Heritage and Conservation

APPENDIX 1 – Kent County Council SMR Summary Form

Site Name: <i>Land adjacent to 18 Archers Court Road, Whitfield, Dover, Kent</i>	
SWAT Site Code: <i>Whit/W&EV/10</i>	
Site Address: <i>A above</i>	
Summary: <i>Swale & Thames Survey Company (SWAT) carried out an archaeological watching brief and evaluation at Whitfield, nr Dover in Kent. Planning consent (DOV/08/00421) for the construction of a two detached buildings (Plot A & B) whereby Kent County Council Heritage and Conservation (KCCHC) requested that an Archaeological Watching Brief and 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 two Archaeological Specifications (KCC 2009) and in discussion with the Archaeological Officer, Kent County Council.</i> <i>The Archaeological Watching Brief was negative and the Evaluation consisted of two trenches which encountered no archaeological features or cultural material of great antiquity.</i>	
District/Unitary: <i>Dover</i>	Parish: <i>Whitfield</i>
Period(s): Tentative: <i>None</i>	
NGR (centre of site : 8 figures): (NB if large or linear site give multiple NGRs): <i>NGR 630339 144805</i>	
Type of archaeological work (delete) <i>Watching Brief and Evaluation</i>	
Date of Recording: <i>March 2009 & June 2010</i>	
Unit undertaking recording: <i>Swale & Thames Survey Company (SWAT)</i>	
Geology: <i>Clay with Flints comprising undifferentiated clay, silt, sand and gravel.</i>	
Title and author of accompanying report: <i>Archaeological Watching Brief and Evaluation on land adjoining 18 Archers Court Road, Whitfield, Dover. James Madden 2010</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 Sept 2010</i>

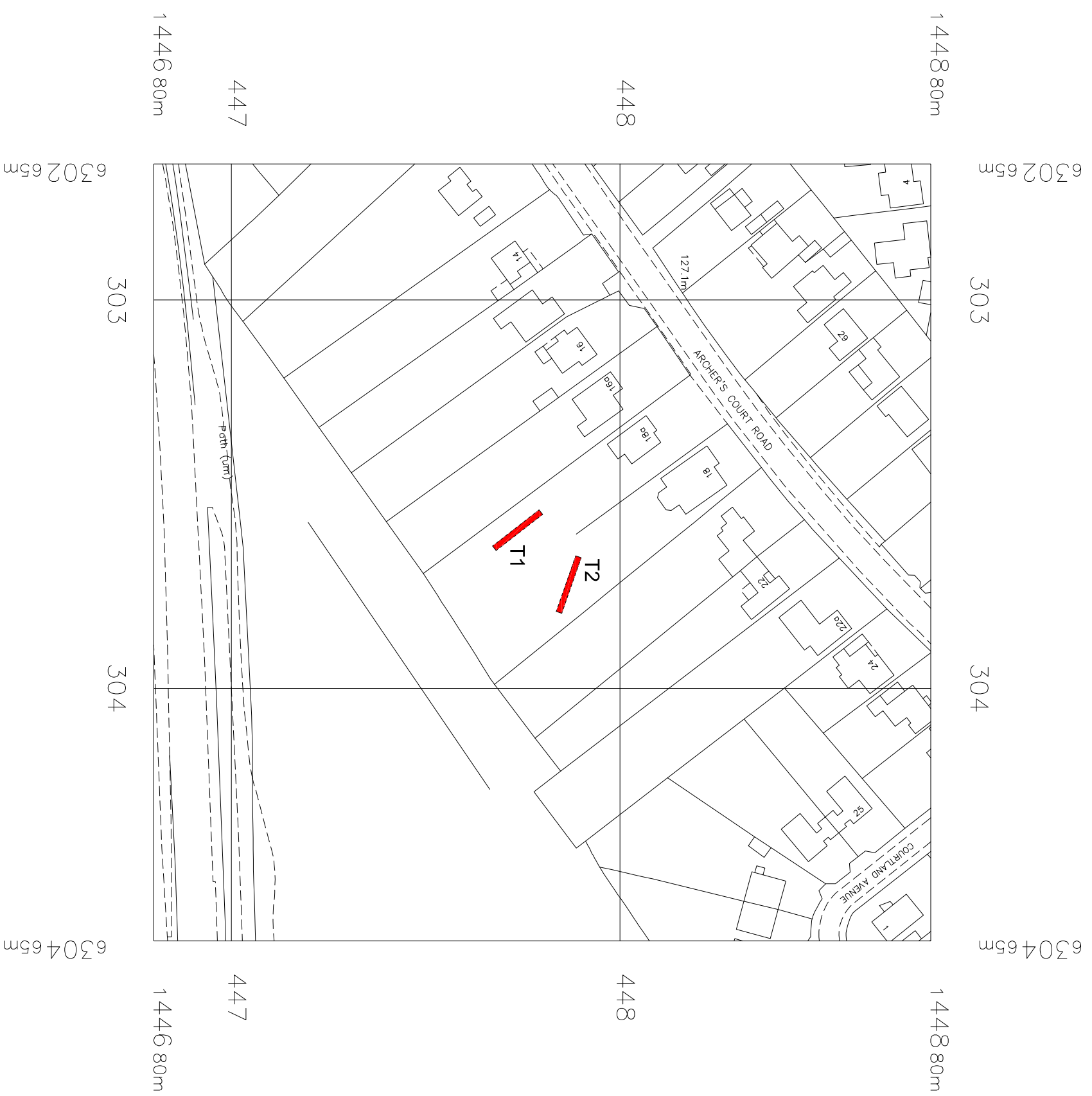
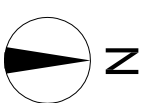
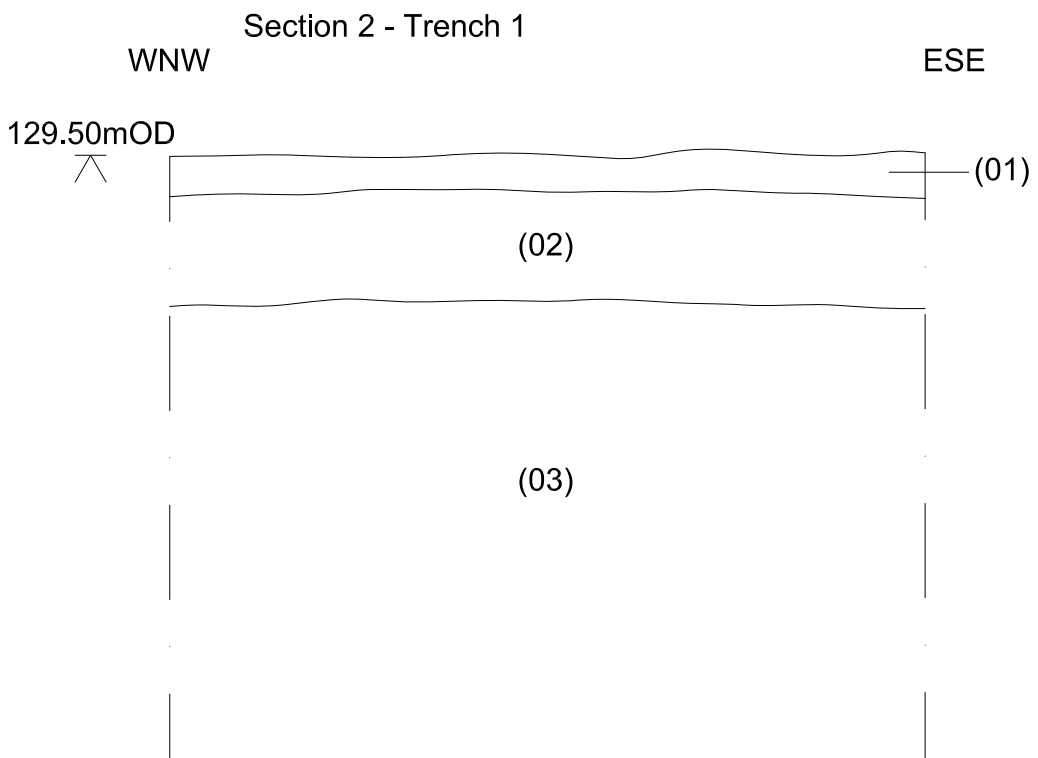
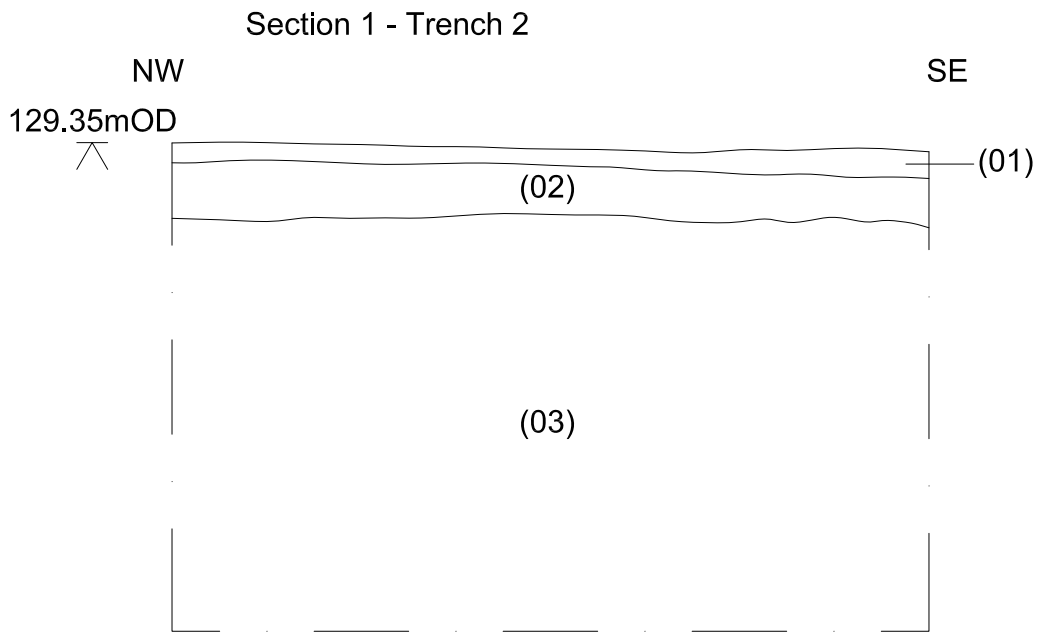


Figure 1: Location of evaluation trenches at Archer's Court Road

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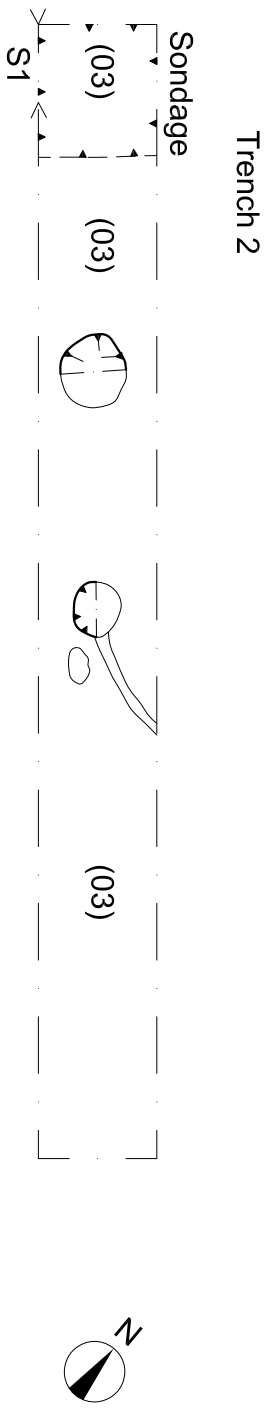
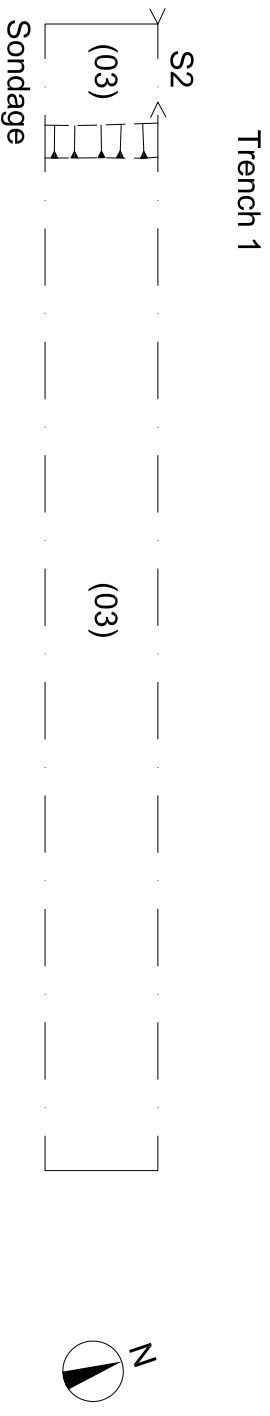




1:10@A4



Figure 2: Sections



1:100@A4



Figure 3: Trench Plans