



# Archaeological Evaluation at The Centre, Princess Margaret Avenue, Newington, Ramsgate, Kent

*July 2011*

**SWAT. Archaeology**

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Archaeological Evaluation at The Centre, Princess  
Margaret Avenue, Newington,  
Ramsgate, Kent

NGR: 636298 166230

Site Code: NEW/EV/11

(Planning Application Number: TH/10/0304)

Report for  
Jenner (Contractors) Ltd.

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## Contents

List of Figures.....	ii
List of Plates.....	ii
Summary.....	1
Introduction.....	1
Site Description and Topography.....	1
Planning Background.....	2
Archaeological Background.....	2
Aims and Objectives.....	3
Methodology.....	3
Monitoring.....	4
Results.....	4
Finds.....	5
Discussion.....	5
Conclusion.....	6
Acknowledgements.....	6
References.....	7
Contents of site archive.....	7
Appendix 1.....	8

### **List of Figures**

- Fig.1 Development site location
- Fig.2 Location of test trenches within development site (Site plan)
- Fig.3 Representative Section
- Fig.4 Plan of proposed development

### **List of Plates**

- Pl.1 Trench One- sondage
- Pl.2 Trench One. Section 1
- Pl.3 Trench Four. Section 4

**Archaeological Evaluation at the Centre, Princess Margaret Avenue,  
Newington near Ramsgate, Kent**

**NGR: 636298 166230**

**Site Code: NEW/EV/11**

**SUMMARY**

*Swale & Thames Survey Company (SWAT) carried out an archaeological evaluation on land at Princess Margaret Avenue, Ramsgate, Kent from the 4th to the 7th July 2011. A planning application (PAN: TH/10/0304) for the construction of a mixed commercial and residential redevelopment together with associated parking and vehicular access 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 2011) and in discussion with the Archaeological Officer, Kent County Council.*

*The Archaeological Evaluation consisted of five trenches which encountered no archaeological features. 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 Jenner (Contractors) Ltd. 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 2011) and in discussion with the Archaeological Officer, Kent County Council. The evaluation was carried out between the 4th and 7<sup>th</sup> July 2011.

**SITE DESCRIPTION AND TOPOGRAPHY**

The site is centred at NGR 636298 166230 (KCCHC: 2011:2.1), and the underlying geology of the site, according to the British Geological Survey consists of Older Head Brickearth capping Upper Chalk.

The development area is approximately 50m aOD and fairly level, sited on a large roundabout with Princess Margaret Avenue leading off both north and south and St Johns Avenue leading off east and west. The area is undergoing refurbishment with a number of buildings in the vicinity demolished or undergoing re-development.

In one quadrant of the roundabout is a ‘flower’ memorial to an individual, stabbed in the adjacent pub, died on this spot. On the request of his family no evaluation trench was placed in this area.

## PLANNING BACKGROUND

A planning application (PAN: TH/10/0304) for the redevelopment of a mixed commercial and residential with access and car parking at the above site was submitted to Thanet District Council (TDC). 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:

*“No development shall take place within the site 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 scheme of investigation, to include the proposed investigating body, previously submitted to and approved in writing by the local planning authority. (KCCHC 2011)*

Requirements for the archaeological evaluation comprised trial trenching targeting a minimum of 5% of the impact area with 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 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

Newington has not undergone any recorded significant archaeological investigation in the past, although Mr Brian Philp undertook archaeological recording when the housing estate was constructed in the 1960’s. There seems to be no record of this work. Ring ditches have been recorded from air photos 150m north-east of the site and Nineteenth century finds of Roman burials are also recorded 100m south of the roundabout (**TR 36 SE 2**) and 100m north east on Willson’s Road (**TR SE 15**), whilst recent work at the site of former allotments on Manston Road 300m to the south revealed numerous archaeological remains including Bronze Age enclosures and Saxon dwellings.

## AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

Specific aims of the evaluation, as set out within the Archaeological Specification (2011) include (not exclusively):

- Assessing the likely archaeological impact of the proposed development
- Assessing the impact of past development including terracing, demolition, grubbing out and landscaping on the site's archaeological potential
- Establishing the degree of Iron Age and Romano-British activity on the site including the potential for further burials based on the distribution of the known graves nearby.
- Establishing the degree of earlier prehistoric activity on the site
- Establishing the degree of Saxon, medieval and post-medieval activity on the site.
- Contributing to the environmental and landscape history of the area

No site specific aims were mentioned in the KCC Archaeological Specification.

## METHODOLOGY

Trial trenching was carried out on 4th July 2011, with the excavation of five trenches measuring 1.5m in width and 10m in length. 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 an 8 ton 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 KCC Archaeological Specification (2011).

A single context recording system was used to record the deposits. Layers and fills are recorded (**001**). The cut of the feature is shown [**001**]. 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 by KCC during the course of the evaluation.

## RESULTS

A common stratigraphic sequence was recognised across the site over the natural Older Head Brickearth. Trenches 1-5 comprised turf and topsoil overburden (**01**), beneath which lay a strata of re-deposited subsoil (**02, 05**) with lenses of darker soil in Trenches 4 & 5 (**03 & 05**). **Fig 3.)** which overlay a mid brown sandy silty clay (**03**) overlaying the natural Older Head Brickearth (**04**) where mechanical excavation ceased and examination and targeted excavation of potential features by hand could begin after 48 hours of weathering. No archaeological features were revealed in the investigation and no artefacts retrieved.

### **Trench 1**

(10.09m x 1.5m)

Trench 1 was located in the south-eastern end of the site. Aligned approximately north-south Trench 1 measured 1.5m wide and 10.09m in length and contained a turf and topsoil zone **(01)** some 10cm covering a strata of re-deposited subsoil 19cm deep **(02)**. Beneath which lay a layer of mid brown sandy silt clay **(03)** about 48cm thick which overlay the natural Brickearth **(04)** at about 80cm below the ground level at 49.31mOD. Further deeper excavation took place in Trench 1 to sample the strata of natural Brickearth to ensure no colluviums were present- there were none, and excavation ceased at about 48.91mOD at 1.20m below ground level.

### **Trench 2**

(10.40m x 1.5m)

Trench 2 was located in the north-eastern end of the site. Aligned approximately north-south Trench 2 measured 1.5m wide and 10.40m in length and contained a turf and topsoil zone **(01)** some 10cm covering a strata of re-deposited subsoil 22cm deep **(02)**. Beneath which lay a layer of mid brown sandy silt clay **(03)** about 29cm thick which overlay the natural Brickearth **(04)** at about 69cm below the ground level. Excavation ceased at 49.38mOD

### **Trench 3**

(10m x 1.5m)

Trench 3 was located in the north-western end of the site. Aligned approximately north-south Trench 3 measured 1.5m wide and 10.00m in length and contained a turf and topsoil zone **(01)** some 10cm covering a strata of re-deposited subsoil 39cm deep **(02)**. Beneath which lay a layer of mid brown sandy silt clay **(03)** about 23cm thick which overlay the natural Brickearth **(04)** at about 76cm below the ground level. Excavation ceased at 49.18mOD

### **Trench 4**

(10.23m x 1.5m)

Trench 4 was located in the north-western end of the site. Aligned approximately east-west Trench 4 measured 1.5m wide and 10.23m in length and contained a turf and topsoil zone **(01)** some 10cm covering a strata of re-deposited subsoil 36cm deep **(02)**. Beneath which lay a seam of natural darker brown sandy silty clay about 4cm thick which overlay a layer of mid brown sandy silt clay **(03)** about 20cm thick which overlay the natural Brickearth **(04)** at about 78cm below the ground level. Excavation ceased at 49.17mOD

### **Trench 5**

(10.80m x 1.5m)

Trench 5 was located in the north-eastern end of the site, but off the roundabout on the opposite verge. Aligned approximately northeast-south west Trench 5 measured 1.5m wide and 10.80m in length and contained a turf and topsoil zone (**01**) some 10cm thick covering a strata of re-deposited subsoil of a more sandy than clay matrix than the previous trenches 41cm deep (**05**) which changed to a darker brown (05b). Beneath which lay a seam of natural darker brown sandy silty clay about 18cm thick (05c) which overlay a layer of mid brown sandy silt clay (**03**) about 32cm thick which overlay the natural Brickearth (**04**) at about 1.04m below the ground level. Excavation ceased at 48.93mOD

### **FINDS**

No archaeological finds were recovered during the course of the evaluation.

### **DISCUSSION**

The evaluation carried out on land at The Centre, Princess Margarets Avenue, Newington, Ramsgate did not reveal any archaeological features. The site had been built up with re-deposited soil during road and roundabout construction, and there was no archaeological features found cutting into the Brickearth or any archaeological artefacts recovered.

### **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 no archaeological features were found. It is suggested that no other part of the site will suffer from development as no archaeological features were observed cutting the natural geology in any of the five trenches.

**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 Jenner (Contractors) Ltd. for commissioning the project. Thanks are also extended to Heritage and Conservation (Kent County Council) for their advice and assistance. James Madden carried out the archaeological fieldwork, illustrations were produced by James Madden at 'Digitise This'. The project was managed by Paul Wilkinson and this report was collated and written by Paul Wilkinson.

Dr Paul Wilkinson MifA

## **REFERENCES**

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

Kent County Council (KCCHC) (2011) *Specification for an Archaeological Evaluation at the Centre, Princess Margaret Avenue, Newington near Ramsgate in Kent*. Kent County Council Heritage & Conservation

Kent Landscape Information System. (<http://extranet7.kent.gov.uk/klis/default.asp>)

## **CONTENTS OF SITE ARCHIVE**

Correspondence

Photographs: 18 digital photographs .

Photocopies of Ordnance Survey and other maps:

Drawings: Four sheets A3 permatrace site drawings, comprising trench plans and associated sections. File AutoCAD drawing.

Finds: none.

Context Register including: Context Register (1), Photographic Register (1), Trench Sheets

## APPENDIX 1 – Kent County Council HER Summary Form

<b>Site Name:</b> <i>The Centre, Princess Margaret Avenue, Newington, Ramsgate</i>	<b>SWAT Site Code:</b> <i>NEW/EV/11</i>
<b>Site Address:</b> <i>Princess Margaret Avenue, Newington, Ramsgate, Kent</i>	
<p><b>Summary:</b>  <i>Swale &amp; Thames Survey Company (SWAT) carried out an archaeological evaluation on land at The Centre, Princess Margaret Avenue, Newington, Ramsgate, Kent. A planning application (PAN: TH/10/0304) for the construction of a new residential and commercial development, along with associated 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 2011) and in discussion with the Archaeological Officer, Kent County Council.</i></p> <p><i>The Archaeological Evaluation consisted of five trenches which encountered no archaeological features.</i></p>	
<b>District/Unitary:</b> <i>Thanet</i>	<b>Parish:</b> <i>Ramsgate</i>
<p><b>Period(s):</b>  <b>Tentative:</b> <i>Modern</i></p>	
<p><b>NGR (centre of site : 8 figures):</b>  <b>(NB if large or linear site give multiple NGRs):</b> <i>NGR 636298 166230</i></p>	
<p><b>Type of archaeological work (delete)</b>  <i>Evaluation</i></p>	
<p><b>Date of Recording:</b> <i>July 2011</i></p>	
<p><b>Unit undertaking recording:</b> <i>Swale &amp; Thames Survey Company (SWAT)</i></p>	
<p><b>Geology:</b> <i>Head Brickearth</i></p>	
<p><b>Title and author of accompanying report:</b>  <i>Wilkinson P. An Archaeological Evaluation at The Centre, Princess Margaret Avenue, Newington, Ramsgate</i></p>	
<p><b>Summary of fieldwork results (begin with earliest period first, add NGRs where appropriate)</b></p> <p><i>As above</i></p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>(cont. on attached sheet)</b></p>	
<p><b>Location of archive/finds:</b> <i>SWAT</i></p>	
<b>Contact at Unit:</b> <i>Paul Wilkinson</i>	<b>Date:</b> <i>18<sup>th</sup> Sept 2011</i>

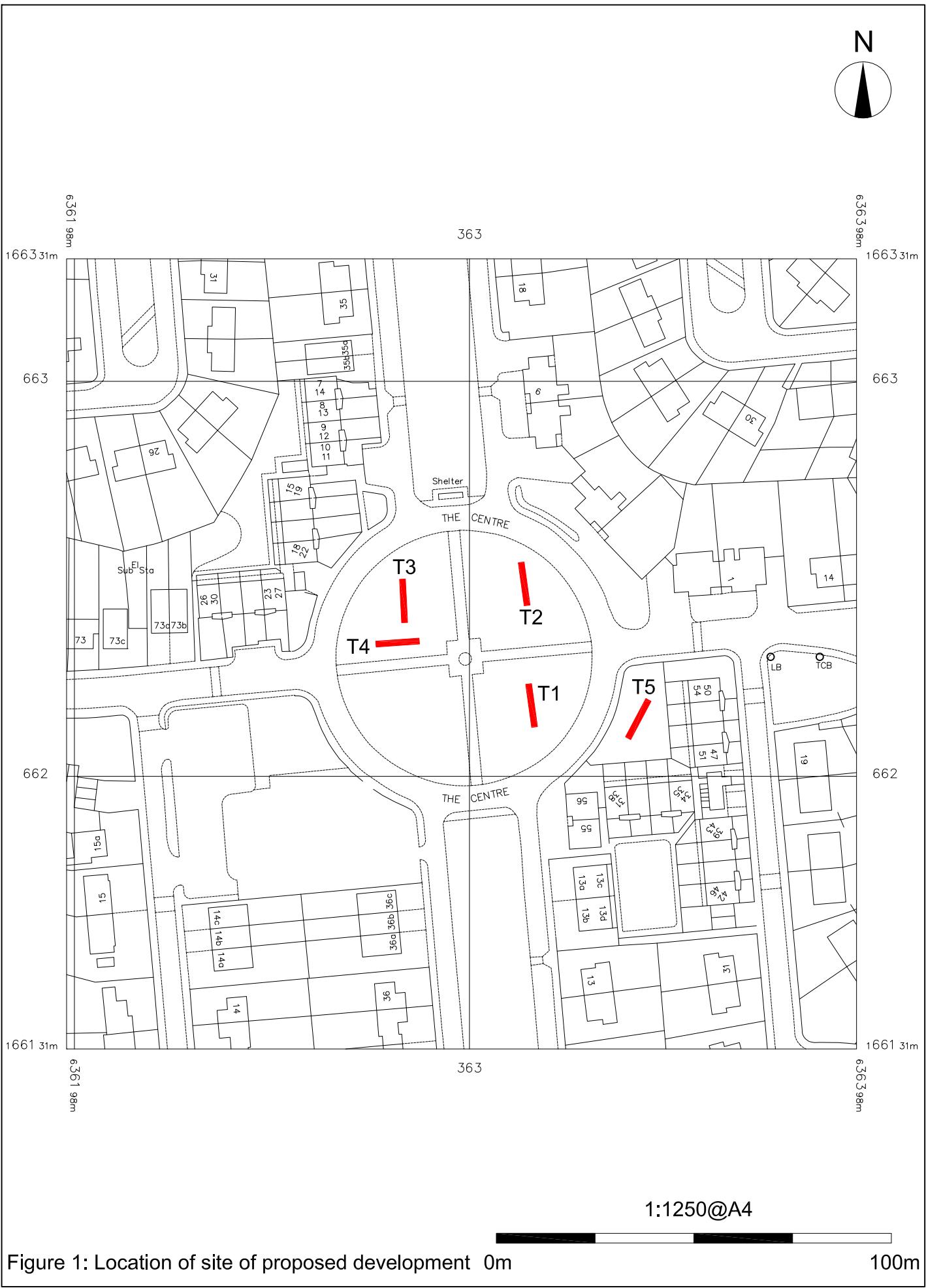


Figure 1: Location of site of proposed development 0m

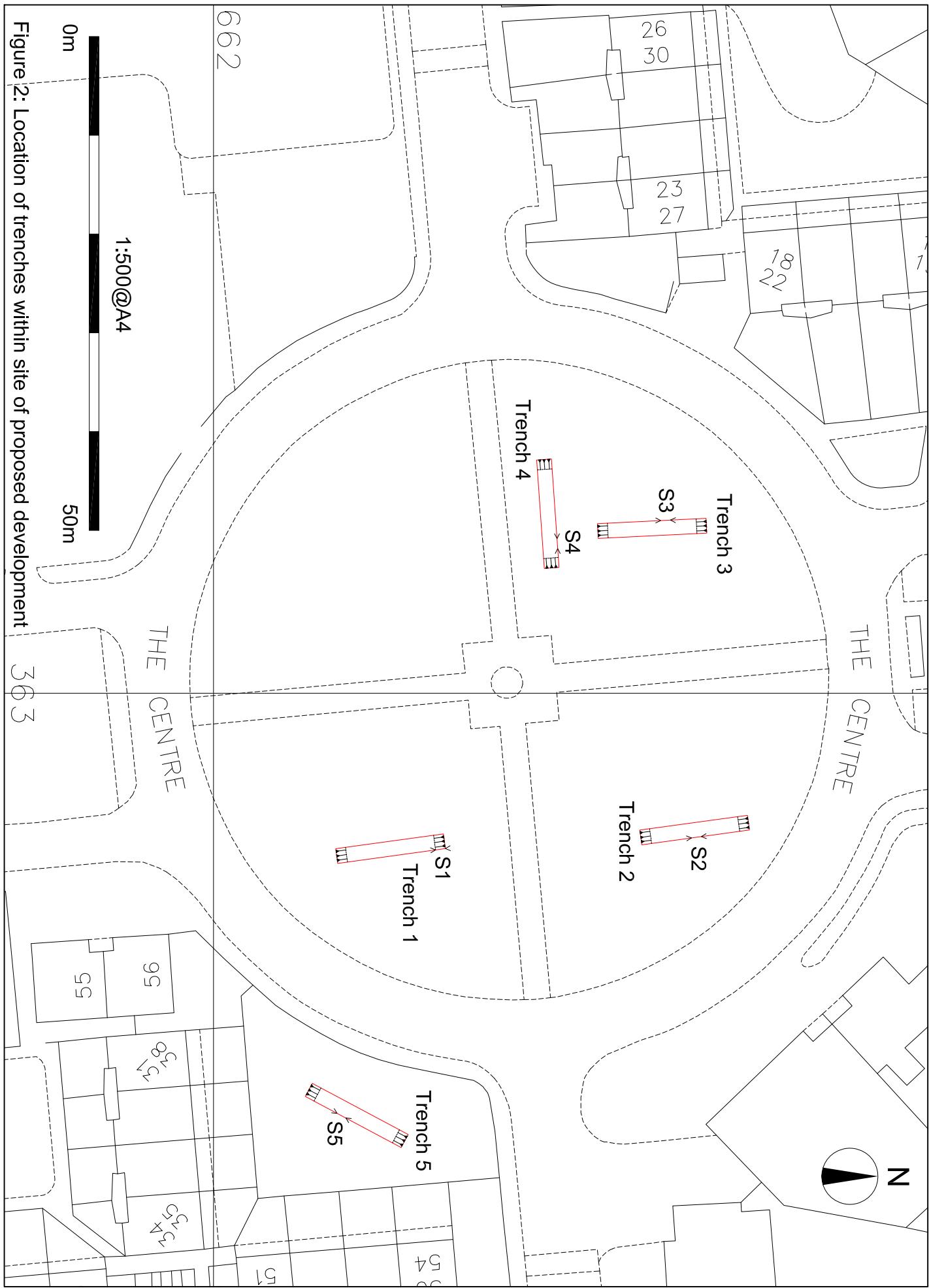


Figure 2: Location of trenches within site of proposed development

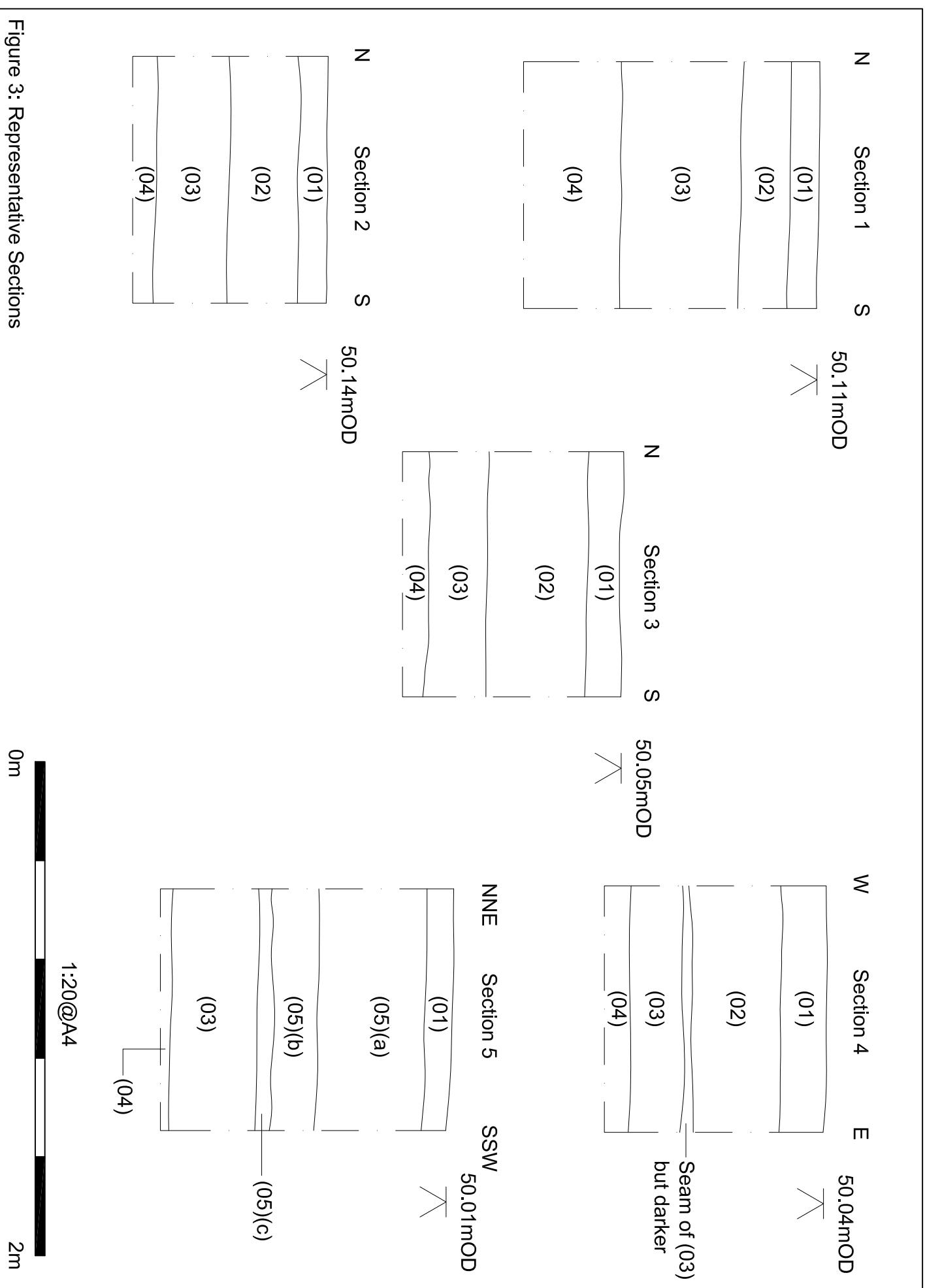


Figure 3: Representative Sections

Figure 4: Plan of proposed development

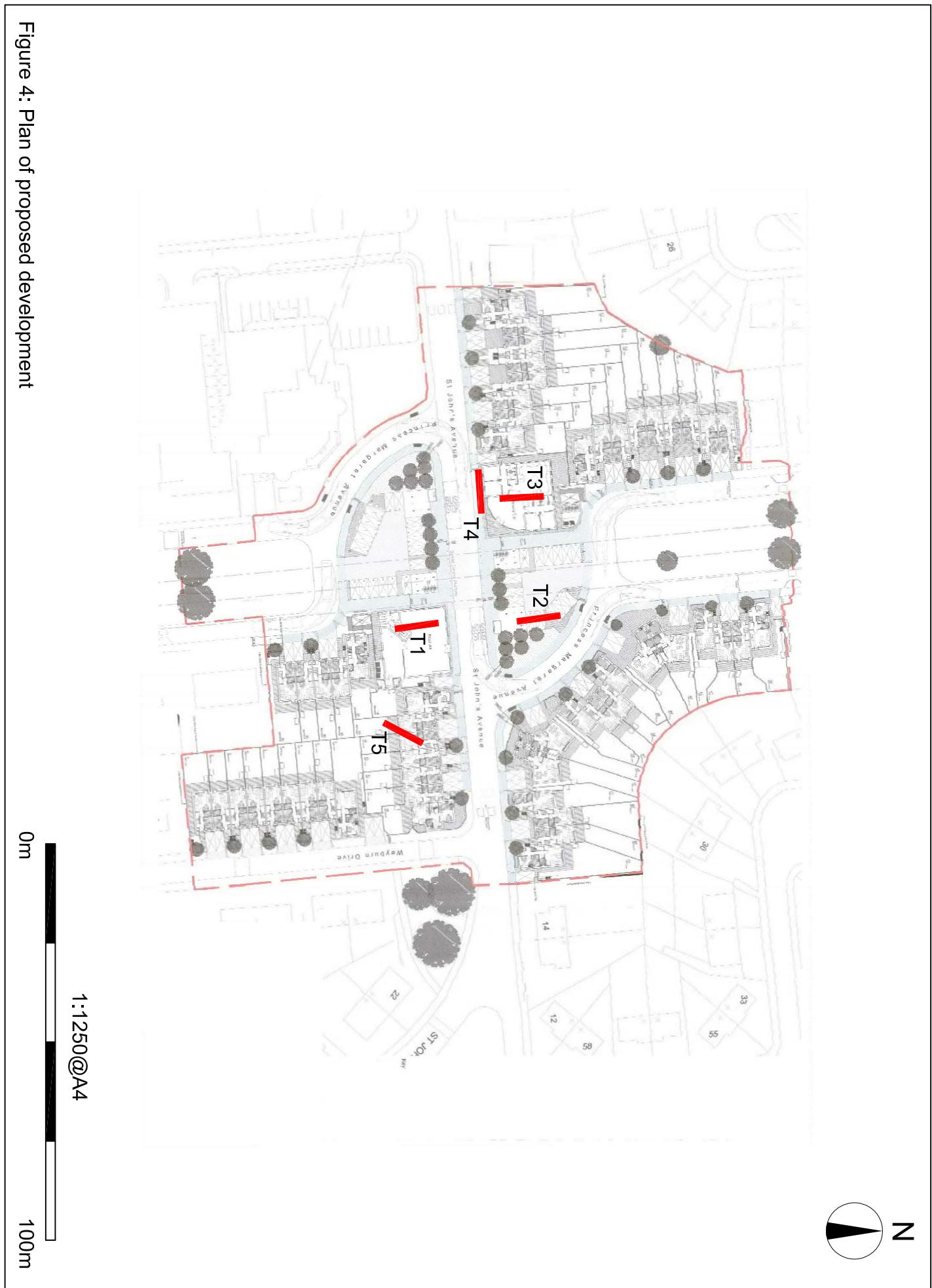




Plate 1 Test Pit 1 Working Shot looking South West – 1m scale



Plate 2 Trench 1 Section 1 looking East – 1m scale



Plate 3 Trench 4 Section 4 looking North – 1m scale