

# Archaeological Evaluation of land East of Battle Road, Hailsham, East Sussex (Phase 2)

NGR: TQ 589101

Site Code: HBS/EV/11

(Planning Application Number: WD2009/2705/MEA)



**Report for**  
**Hillreed Developments Ltd**  
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**SWAT. Archaeology**

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**Archaeological Investigations on land East of Battle Road,  
Hailsham, East Sussex  
NGR: TQ 589101  
Site Code: HBS/EV/11**

**SUMMARY**

*Swale & Thames Survey Company (SWAT Archaeology) carried out an archaeological evaluation on land to the east of Battle Road, Hailsham, East Sussex, in November 2011. A planning application (WD2009/2705/MEA) for the construction of a new residential development, along with associated access, car parking and services at the above site was submitted to Wealden District Council (WDC) whereby East Sussex County Council as archaeological advisors to Wealden 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 (SWAT 2010) and in discussion with the Archaeological Officer, East Sussex County Council.*

*The archaeological evaluation has been successful in fulfilling the primary aims and objectives of the Specification. Given the archaeological potential of the surrounding area, and a low level of modern below ground impact, more archaeological remains could have been expected, and although some residual pottery sherds were present within the excavated trenches dating from the 10<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup> centuries it is likely these were re-deposited along with later medieval sherds.*

**INTRODUCTION**

Swale & Thames Survey Company (SWAT Archaeology) was commissioned by Hillreed Developments 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 (SWAT 2011) and in discussion with the Archaeological Officer, East Sussex County Council. Initial phases of the evaluation were carried out in November 2011.

**SITE DESCRIPTION AND TOPOGRAPHY**

The application site is located on the east side of Battle Road and Battle Crescent is to the west of the site. White House Primary School is to the south east of the site. Harebeating Farm and Longleys Farms are located to the north east. The site consists of eight pasture fields which slope from east to west. The National Grid Reference for the centre of the site is NGR TQ 589 101. The underlying geology of the site consists of Weald Clay (British Geological Survey South Sheet, 4<sup>th</sup> Edition Solid 2001). The drift geology is Alluvium.

## **PLANNING BACKGROUND**

A planning application (WD2009/2705/MEA) for the construction of a new residential development along with 55 extra care units, an education establishment and 4000 sq. m of office space, a health centre and other community facilities was submitted to Wealden District Council (WDC) and approved. East Sussex County Council on (ESCC) behalf of Wealden 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.*

Requirements for the archaeological evaluation comprised trial trenching targeting a minimum of 5% 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 ESCC and WDC of any further archaeological mitigation measures that may be necessary in connection with the development proposals. There has been a strategy of phased evaluation for the site. The first phase were evaluation trenches which focused on the route of the proposed access road followed by an Archaeological watching Brief on the initial stages of construction of the access road and associated drainage. The present work (Phase 2) focused on geophysical survey anomalies which needed archaeological investigation prior to this particular area of development (Fig. 3).

## **ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND**

The Archaeological record, both in and around Hailsham is diverse. Gregory Chuter (East Sussex County Council) states that “In the wider landscape there is a wealth of evidence for a focus of Mesolithic, Neolithic activity around the edge of what is now the Pevensey Levels. Evidence of Bronze Age activity in the Hailsham area is low, but the internationally important site at Shinewater, Eastbourne shows that this landscape was being heavily utilised and managed”. Furthermore, the archaeological evidence from the Iron Age and the Romano-British periods is only recently started to emerge, “as demonstrated by the results of geophysical survey and evaluation excavation west of Hailsham”. During the medieval period, the site “is likely to be in the agricultural hinterland associated with the town of Hailsham, and certainly the HLC suggests the current landscape pattern was formed in the 16th century”.

#### *Palaeolithic Period (750,000BC-10,000BC)*

The prehistoric period around Hailsham is very poorly represented (as result of the landscape at that time) and is comparable with patterns observed elsewhere on the Pevensey Levels. Archaeological evaluation, excavations and field walking have only produced ephemeral evidence in the Hailsham area and there is no evidence, as yet of the Palaeolithic period within the assessment area.

#### *Mesolithic Period (10,000BC-4,000BC)*

Finds outside the 1km radius of the assessment area include a Mesolithic medium tranchet axe 1.5km west of Hailsham (HER ref: MES5175) and a group of Mesolithic flint artefacts 1.3km to the south at Saltmarsh Farm (HER ref: MES5159). Two further Mesolithic flint scatters (HER refs: MES15529 and MES15530) have been recorded north of Hailsham, and to the north of Hailsham at Upper Horsebridge (MES7145). Field walking by Chris Butler in 2009 to the north of Hailsham and around the edges of the Pevensey Levels found numerous Mesolithic cores, microliths and debitage. Butler notes that the Mesolithic sites around the Pevensey Levels occur just above the 5m contour level where they have not been covered by the subsequent accumulation of peat (2009A). It is considered that the Levels provided an ideal landscape for hunting and fishing and the presence of Mesolithic flint work on the edges of the Levels may hint at longer stay camps.

#### *Neolithic Period (4,000BC to 2,500BC)*

Evidence for occupation in the Hailsham area during the Neolithic era includes a Neolithic polished axe head (HER ref: MES4365). Two fragments of Neolithic polished flint hand axes were found by Chris Butler in field walking to the north of Hailsham in 2009 and may suggest that woodland clearance was taking place at the time (Butler 2009B).

#### *The Bronze Age (2500BC-800BC)*

The Bronze Age saw in Sussex extensive evidence of dense settlement activity with it is thought continued use of the Pevensey Levels for hunting and fishing with agricultural settlements on the higher ground (Woodcock 2003). A scatter of flints (HER ref: MES7145), which dates from the Bronze Age were found close to the site. A series of crop marks at Longleys Farm, Hailsham (HER ref: MES7299) may also date from this period.

#### *Iron Age*

The East Sussex HER does not show records of Iron Age archaeology within the assessment area. It is likely that the Pevensey Levels were flooded from the sea which may have lead to less activity in the area. However, a late Iron Age silver coin (HER ref: MES14025) was found within the neighbouring parish of Hellingly.

### *Romano-British*

The predominant feature of the Roman infrastructure within Britain is arguably the extensive network of Roman roads connecting administrative centres, towns and military posts that increased the flow of trade, goods, communications and troops.

The sphere of influence within this area of East Sussex would have been the Saxon Shore Fort situated at Pevensey, built during the latter 3<sup>rd</sup> century. There are no records contained within the HER for Romano-British archaeology within the assessment area, though an ephemeral scatter of pottery (HER ref: HER15531) was found north of Hailsham. An archaeological evaluation undertaken by Oxford Archaeology at Woodholm Farm (HER ref: MES15544) revealed a series of ditches and a settlement at Arlington, to the south west of Hailsham has also been recorded. Another Roman settlement has recently been discovered during development work at Wellbridge Farm on the west side of Hailsham (per. corress: Chuter G.)

### *Anglo-Saxon*

Again, the East Sussex HER does not show records of Anglo-Saxon archaeology within the assessment area apart from a possible Saxon glass bead (MES9706).

### *Medieval*

Hailsham is recorded in the Domesday Book of 1086 as *Hamelsham* (though the entry would indicate the absence of a nucleated settlement) and its first church is recorded in 1229. It is not until the second half of the 13<sup>th</sup> century that Hailsham develops into a market town. It is during this period that reclamation of the Pevensey Levels began, although much of the area was again inundated in the 15<sup>th</sup> century.

Although there is little archaeological evidence for Medieval activity within the 1km search area (there is only one listed building; DES5171, a 15<sup>th</sup> century house), a small number of coins and metal artefacts have been found (by metal detector users) around the parish. The HER lists a buckle (HER ref: MES14200) from Hailsham and several artefacts from the neighbouring parish of Hellingly: silver coins (SME Refs: MES13951 and MES14824) and a silver brooch (HER ref: MES13950).

It is possible that domestic activity, such as that recorded by Archaeology South East, 400m to the south of the proposed development site at Vicarage Road (Stevens 2001) and agricultural activity, as at Woodholm Farm (HER ref: MES15544) may also be encountered within the confines of the proposed development site. Similar archaeology has been encountered at New Romney, Kent, where ephemeral medieval activities took place within a similar reclaimed marshland (author).

### *Post-Medieval*

During the 16<sup>th</sup> century, Hailsham had an established leather industry, rope working and market. The 'town' developed from no larger than a village to become one of the thirteen post towns of Sussex (established in 1670). It is during this expansion that many of the surviving historic buildings, forming the nucleus of Hailsham, were built (for example DES6283 and DES5730).

Consequently, the Post Medieval period within the assessment area is represented by several HER records, most of which relate to housing situated within the nucleus of the settlement. These buildings predominantly date to the 18<sup>th</sup> century (DES5740, DES5130, DES5125, DES5428, DES6577, DES5869, DES6332, DES6680 AND DES5872 (the Vicarage)). Hotels (DES5741 and DES5153) are also listed. There are also a number of farmhouses (DES6288, DES6281 and DES5127, which also had a windmill (DES5866)).

However, there are no listed buildings and there is no evidence of Post-Medieval archaeology within the proposed development site.

### **AIMS AND OBJECTIVES**

The purpose of the evaluation, as set out with the Archaeological Specification (SWAT 2011) was to:

- i) Establish whether there are any archaeological deposits at the site that may be affected by this proposed phase of development. The excavation is thus to ascertain the extent, depth below ground surface, depth of deposit, character, significance and condition of any archaeological remains on site.
- ii) Establish the extent to which any previous development on the site has affected archaeological deposits.

Particular issues that should be addressed by the evaluation include:

- Assessing the likely impact of the proposed development on the archaeological remains using the results of the fieldwork
- Assessing the potential of the site to contain nationally important remains
- Establishing the degree of Roman and medieval activity on the site
- Establishing the degree of prehistoric activity on the site
- Assessing the nature, date and condition of the features marked on the Stratascan's geophysical plan and contributing to the environmental and landscape history of the area.

Additional aims were to:

- iii) Gather sufficient information to enable an assessment of the potential and significance of any archaeological remains to be made and the impact development will have upon them.
- iv) Enable an informed decision to be made regarding the future treatment of any archaeological remains and consider any appropriate mitigating measures either in advance of and/or during development.

## **METHODOLOGY**

Trial trenching was carried out on 8<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> November 2011, with the excavation of eight trenches each measuring 1.5m in width and between 15m/20m in length (see below). Trench locations were agreed prior to the excavation between ESCC and SWAT. Each trench was initially scanned for surface finds prior to excavation. Excavation was carried out using a 360° mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket, removing the overburden to the top of the first recognisable archaeological horizon, or if not revealing the natural geology. The work was carried out under the constant supervision of an experienced archaeologist. Trenches were subsequently hand-cleaned to reveal any archaeological features. The trenches were levelled to the Ordnance Datum by GPS. A full photographic record of the work was kept and will be part of the site archive. All investigative work was carried out in accordance with the archaeological specification (SWAT 2011) and IFA guidelines.

A single context recording system was used to record the natural deposits. Layers and fills are recorded (**100**). Context numbers were assigned to all deposits for recoding purposes; these are used in the report (in **bold**). Each number has been attributed to a specific trench with the primary number(s) relating to specific trenches (*i.e.* Trench 1, **100+**, Trench 2, **200+** etc.)

## **MONITORING**

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

## **RESULTS**

A common stratigraphic sequence was recognised across the site comprising topsoil/turf overburden (**001**) overlying subsoil (**002**), beneath which the natural geology comprised Weald Clay (**003**). The topsoil/overburden consisted of friable dark grey brown silt clay with occasional to moderate inclusions of sub-rounded – angular flints. A clear line of horizon gave way to subsoil comprising mid-brown grey slightly sandy clay overlying Weald Clay where mechanical excavation ceased and careful examination and investigation for truncating features was carried out. The depth of the overlying layer varied, with the depth of the natural geology being located c.0.31-0.43m below the existing ground level.

The eight trenches were excavated in an agreed pattern across possible features highlighted in the geophysical survey undertaken by Stratascan in 2010 (Fig. 3). The trenches were covered in topsoil **(001)** measuring up to 0.20m thick over a mid-brown grey, silt clay subsoil **(002)** that measured up to 0.35m thick, with rare small gravel. This subsoil overlies the natural Weald Clay comprised of mid-grey yellow orange clay **(003)**.

Eight evaluation trenches were deliberately placed so as to investigate a number of linear anomalies identified by a geophysical survey undertaken by Stratascan (Fig. 3).

### **Trench 1**

Trench 1 (Figure. 2 and 5) was aligned north-east/south-west and measured 16m length and 2m width. The topsoil layer in Trench 1 had a typical thickness of 0.21m. Below this was a subsoil layer (CRN 101) which was a light grey, clay silt with occasional coal fragments, ceramic burnt material and chalk and mortar fragments. This had a typical thickness of 70mm. Below this deposit was a colluvial layer (CRN 103) which was light yellow grey, clay silt with occasional manganese flecks. This colluvial layer was found at the south-west end of the trench. Its thickness was 0.15m. The natural geology exposed along the length of the trench was mid yellow grey, silt clay (CRN 102) with rare manganese flecks.

This trench contained two intercutting linear features aligned north-west/south-east: a wide, shallow linear (CRN 106) which measured  $\geq 2$ m length, 6.50m width and 0.50m depth. This was filled by mid grey, clay silt (CRN 107) with occasional manganese flecks. This linear feature was cut by another north-west/south-east aligned linear feature (CRN 104) with steep sides and a concave base, measuring  $\geq 2$ m length, 3.30m width and 1.68m depth. This probable ditch contained three fills. The basal fill (CRN 109) was mid grey, silt clay with occasional organic remains (pieces of wood and straw, all in very good condition, suggesting an early modern date). The middle fill was mid brown grey, clay silt (CRN 110) with occasional manganese flecks. The upper fill was mid grey brown, clay silt (CRN 105) with occasional rounded pebbles and manganese flecks. It is thought the upper two fills (CRNs 105 and 110) are likely to be re-deposited natural clay that represent a deliberate backfilling of the ditch.

The upper fill (CRN 105) of ditch CRN 104 contained a number of finds that suggested a likely date of c.18<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> century AD. The middle fill (CRN 110) of this ditch contained four fragments of deer horn, possibly dating to Early Medieval to Late Medieval Period these being moderately worn and likely to be residual.

## **Trench 2**

Trench 2 (Figures 2 and 6) was aligned north-west/south-east and measured 18m length and 2m width.

The topsoil layer in Trench 2 (CRN 200) had a typical thickness of 0.23m. Below this was a subsoil layer (CRN 201) which was 50mm thickness and was light grey, clay silt with occasional coal fragments, ceramic burnt material and chalk and mortar fragments. The natural geology exposed along the length of the trench was mid yellow grey, silt clay (CRN 202) with rare manganese flecks.

This trench contained a large sub-rectangular pit (CRN 204) of unknown function which measured 4.5m length,  $\geq 1.80$ m width and 0.16m depth. This pit was filled by mid grey, clay silt (CRN 205) with occasional inclusions of chalk and mortar fragments and manganese flecking. This feature has been dated from pottery sherds and roof tile to a likely date of mid to late 19<sup>th</sup> Century or 20<sup>th</sup> Century.

This trench also contained a wide shallow linear feature (CRN 206) aligned roughly east-west with shallow sides and a concave base. This linear feature measured  $\geq 2.0$ m length, 6.30m width and 0.71m depth. It contained two fills: the basal fill (CRN 208) was mid grey, clay silt with occasional manganese flecks. The upper fill (CRN 207) was a mid grey, clay silt with occasional chalk and mortar fragments and manganese inclusions. The basal fill (CRN 208) contained four pottery sherds that have provided a likely date (if not residual) of c.16<sup>th</sup> Century AD or later. It is possible that ditch CRN 206 continues north-eastwards and is the same as ditch CRN 304 found in Trench 3 – both ditches having a similarly wide, shallow profile (see Figure 14).

## **Trench 3**

Trench 3 (Figures 2 and 7; Plate 1) was aligned east/west and measured 16m length and 2m width. The topsoil layer present in Trench 3 (CRN 300) had a typical thickness of 0.20m. Below this was a subsoil layer (CRN 301) which was 60mm thickness and was light grey, clay silt with occasional coal fragments, ceramic burnt material and chalk and mortar fragments. The natural geology exposed along the length of the trench was mid yellow grey, silt clay (CRN 302) with rare manganese flecks.

Trench 3 contained a north-east/south-west aligned linear feature (CRN 304) was measured  $\geq 2.80$ m length,  $\geq 5.67$ m width and 0.38m depth. This wide, shallow linear contained two fills: a lower fill (CRN 306) of mid grey, clay silt with occasional manganese flecks; and an upper fill (CRN 305) of mid grey, clay silt with occasional chalk and mortar fragments and manganese flecking. This feature contained three pottery sherds, six fragments of post-Medieval roof tile, two fragments of post-Medieval glass and a fragment of daub. These finds suggest a likely date for the feature of c.19<sup>th</sup> Century AD.

#### **Trench 4**

Trench 4 (Figures 2 and 8) was aligned north-east/south-west and measured 18m length and 2m width. The topsoil layer in Trench 4 (CRN 400) had a typical thickness of 0.24m. Below this was a subsoil layer (CRN 401) which was 50mm thickness and was light grey, clay silt with occasional coal fragments, ceramic burnt material and chalk and mortar fragments. The natural geology exposed along the length of the trench was mid yellow grey, silt clay (CRN 402) with rare manganese flecks.

Trench 4 contained a north-west/south-east aligned ditch (CRM 406) which measured  $\geq 2$ m length, 1.25m width and 0.28m depth. This ditch was filled by two fills: the lower fill (CRN 407) was mid brown grey, clay silt with occasional manganese flecks, and had a maximum thickness of 0.25m; the upper fill (CRN 408) was mid brown grey, clay silt with occasional manganese and small iron sulphide fragments, and had a maximum thickness of 10mm. This feature had produced no dateable finds.

At the north-eastern end of the trench was a mid-orange layer (CRN 405) of mixed composition (clay silt–silt clay with inclusions of occasional chalk, mortar and brick fragments, ceramic burnt material and tiny manganese nodules). This layer contained early modern pottery fragments, ceramic burnt material and glass, and is thought to be associated with post-Medieval farming activity.

#### **Trench 5**

Trench 5 (Figures 2 and 9) was aligned west-north-west/east-south-east and measured 18m length and 2m width. The topsoil layer present in Trench 5 (CRN 500) had a typical thickness of 0.22m. Below this was a subsoil layer (CRN 501) which was 50mm thickness and was light grey, clay silt with occasional coal fragments, ceramic burnt material and chalk and mortar fragments. The natural geology exposed along the length of the trench was mid yellow grey, silt clay (CRN 502) with rare manganese flecks.

This trench contained a north-north-east/south-south-west aligned ditch which measured  $\geq 2$ m length, 1.80m width and 0.37m depth. This was filled by mid grey, clay silt (CRN 505) with occasional manganese flecks and contained three oyster valves of uncertain date.

#### **Trench 6**

Trench 6 (Figures 2 and 10) was aligned west-north-west/east-south-east and measured 18.10m length and 2m width. The topsoil layer present in Trench 6 (CRN 600) had a typical thickness of 0.23m. Below this was a subsoil layer (CRN 601) which was 50mm thickness and was light grey, clay silt with occasional coal fragments, ceramic burnt material and chalk

and mortar fragments. The natural geology exposed along the length of the trench was mid yellow grey, silt clay (CRN 602) with rare manganese flecks.

This trench contained a north-north-east/south-south-west aligned ditch (CRN 604) which measured  $\geq 2\text{m}$  length, 1.24m width and 0.16m depth. This ditch, thought to be a field drainage ditch, was filled by mid brown grey, clay silt (CNR 605) with occasional manganese and small iron sulphide nodules. Directly adjacent to the east of this ditch was a small, shallow, irregular pit of unknown function (CRN 606), which measured 0.80m length, 0.40m width and 0.10m depth. This pit was filled by mid brown grey, clay silt (CRN 607) with occasional manganese flecks. No dateable material was recovered from this feature.

### **Trench 7**

Trench 7 (Figures 2 and 11) was aligned west-north-west/east-south-east and measured 28.31m length and 2m width. The topsoil layer present in Trench 7 (CRN 700) had a typical thickness of 0.19m. Below this was a subsoil layer (CRN 701) which was a light grey, clay silt with occasional coal fragments, ceramic burnt material and chalk and mortar fragments. This had a typical thickness of 80mm. Below this was a colluvial layer (CRN 703) which was light yellow grey, clay silt with occasional manganese flecks. This colluvial layer was found at the south-west end of the trench. Its thickness was 0.18m. The natural geology exposed along the length of the trench was mid yellow grey, silt clay (CRN 702) with rare manganese flecks.

This trench contained four linear features all aligned north-east/south-west. To the west-north-western end of the trench was a wide, shallow linear (CRN 710) with shallow sides and a slightly concave base. This linear feature measured  $\geq 2\text{m}$  length, 3.15m width and 0.15m depth and was filled by mid grey, clay silt (CRN 712) with occasional manganese flecks. This feature contained one pottery sherd that has been given a likely date of c.16<sup>th</sup> Century AD or later.

Running through the centre of the trench was another linear feature (CRN 708) with shallow sides and a slightly concave base, measuring  $\geq 2\text{m}$  length, 2.69m width and 0.33m depth. This feature was filled by mid grey, clay silt (CRN 709) with occasional manganese flecks. This feature contained one pottery sherd that has been given a likely date of c.16<sup>th</sup> Century AD or later.

This trench also contained two ditches (CRNs 704 and 706). The smaller of these ditches (CRN 704) measured  $\geq 2\text{m}$  length, 0.91m width and 0.35m depth and was filled by mid grey, clay silt (CRN 705) with occasional manganese flecks. This feature contained seven pottery sherds and a modern wall tile fragment, suggesting, if the tile is intrusive, a likely date of c.1800-1850 AD, otherwise probably c.20<sup>th</sup> Century. This ditch was cut by a slightly larger ditch (CRN 706) which measured  $\geq 2\text{m}$  length, 1.55m width and 0.49m depth. This larger

ditch was filled by mid grey, clay silt (CRN 707) with occasional manganese flecks, but contained no dateable material. Both these ditches cut through the colluvial layer.

### **Trench 8**

Trench 8 (Figures 2 and 12; Plate 2) was aligned north-east/south-west and measured 16.47m length and 2m width.

The topsoil layer present in Trench 8 (CRN 800) had a typical thickness of 0.21m. Below this was a subsoil layer (CRN 801) which was a light grey, clay silt with occasional coal fragments, ceramic burnt material and chalk and mortar fragments. This had a typical thickness of 70mm. Below this was a colluvial layer (CRN 803) which was light yellow grey, clay silt with occasional manganese flecks. This colluvial layer was found at the south-western end of the trench. Its thickness was 0.16m. The natural geology exposed along the length of the trench was mid yellow grey, silt clay (CRN 802) with rare manganese flecks.

Trench 8 contained a large north-west/south-east aligned linear feature (CRN 808) which had shallow sides and a concave base. This feature measured  $\geq 2$ m length, 6.60m width and 0.79m depth. This feature was filled by mid grey, clay silt (CRN 809) with occasional manganese flecks. It contained two sherds of pottery which suggest a likely date for this feature of c.16<sup>th</sup> Century AD or later. It is thought that this feature is the same as that found in Trench 1 (CRN 106) and may form part of a long ditch or possible hollow way that was also encountered in the evaluation of the access road (Trench 7).

This wide linear feature was cut by a north-west/south-east aligned ditch (CRN 804) which measured  $\geq 2$ m length, 3.50m width and 1.53m depth. This ditch contained three fills: the lower fill (CRN 807) was a waterlogged, mid grey, silt clay with occasional organic remains (for example pieces of wood, branches and straw in very good condition). Above this was mid brown grey, clay silt (CRN 806) with occasional manganese flecks and rare animal bones. The upper fill (CRN 805) was a light brown grey, clay silt with occasional manganese flecks and lenses of greenish clay. This upper fill contained various finds: four pottery sherds, two iron objects, three fragments of fine sandstone, one fragment of post-Medieval brick and four fragments of post-Medieval roof tile. These finds suggested a likely date of c.1850-1900 AD. The lower fill (CRN 807) also contained finds suggesting a likely date of mid-late 19<sup>th</sup> Century. It seems likely that this ditch is the same as was found in Trench 1 (CRN 104).

North-west-west area – field walking was performed after vegetation strip to collect topsoil finds of which there were few. Topsoil deposit number for this area is (900)

## **Discussion**

The archaeological investigation carried in this area on eight evaluation trenches revealed a 19<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup> century drainage field system enclosed by a large watercourse ditch located at the bottom of the hill. This large watercourse ditch is shown on the Ordnance Survey maps (1<sup>st</sup> Edition) and contained residual pottery dating from the 10<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup> centuries onwards. However, given the wide date range of the pottery sherds recovered it is unlikely the watercourse is any earlier than the Post-Medieval period.

A number of post-medieval and early modern disturbances were also revealed in the area under investigation, most of which are shown on the Stratascan Geophysical survey.

The area of development was investigated in a comprehensive geophysical survey by Stratascan and the two areas of anomalies highlighted in the report have been investigated with poor results.

## **CONCLUSION**

The archaeological evaluation has been successful in fulfilling the primary aims and objectives of the Specification. However, this is only one area of the proposed development and additional investigation may be required in the remaining areas of development. Given the paucity of recorded archaeological remains in the Hailsham environs it may be useful that our findings be submitted for publication in *Sussex Archaeological Collections*, the Journal of the Sussex Archaeological Society.

**This evaluation has therefore assessed the archaeological potential of land intended for this phase of development. The results from this work will be used to aid and inform the Archaeological Officer (ESCC) of any further archaeological mitigations measures that may be necessary in connection with the other areas of proposed development.**

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

SWAT would like to thank Hillreed Developments Ltd for commissioning the project. Thanks are also extended to Greg Chuter, Archaeological Officer for East Sussex County Council for his advice and assistance. Paul Wilkinson, James and Jonny Madden, Bartosz Cichy, Marcin Grabowski carried out the archaeological fieldwork, Pottery identification by Nigel MacPherson-Grant, Lithics by Hugo Lamdin-Whymark, illustrations were produced by James Madden. The project was managed and report produced by Dr Paul Wilkinson MifA.

**Dr Paul Wilkinson MifA**

**December 2011**

## REFERENCES

IFA (1999) *Standards and Guidance for Field Archaeological Evaluations*

SWAT Archaeology (2011) *Specification for a Programme of Archaeological Evaluation and Assessment of Land east of Battle Road, Hailsham, East Sussex*

Stratascan (2010) *Geophysical Survey Report: Land East of Battle Road, Hailsham, East Sussex*

## CONTENTS OF SITE ARCHIVE

Correspondence

Photographs: 108 Digital photographs SWAT Film nos. 08/214-20. 12 colour 35mm transparencies.

Photocopies of Ordnance Survey and other maps.

Drawings: Eight A3 permatrace site drawing, comprising trench plans and sections.

Finds: See Finds Archive

Context Register including: Context Register (1), Drawings Register (1), Photographic Register (1), Levels Sheets (1), Environmental Samples Register (4) and Context Sheets (26)

Location of the archive: Temporarily held by SWAT Archaeology until provision is made by East Sussex for a storage facility.

## APPENDIX 1

### **THE DATING AND ASSESSMENT OF THE CERAMIC ASSEMBLAGE FROM:**

#### **HAILSHAM (EAST SUSSEX) EVALUATION 2011 (HLS-EV-11)**

##### **A. Primary quantification: 35 sherds (weight : 332gms)**

##### **B. Period codes employed :**

EM	= Early Medieval
EM-M	= Early Medieval-Medieval transition
M	= Medieval
LM	= Late Medieval
LM-PM	= Late Medieval-Post Medieval transition
PM	= Post-Medieval
LPM	= Late Post-Medieval

##### **C. Context dating :**

###### **Context: 105 - 1 sherd (weight : 3gms)**

1 sherd LM German Siegburg stoneware (large jug/?costrel, c.1400/1450-1500 AD emphasis)

and :

**1 worked flint blade fragment** (weight : 1gm) – un-patinated, mottled grey-dark grey flint, semi-translucent, from a well-prepared core with near-straight flake scars, snapped, deliberate blunting on one edge, the other utilized

4 fragments PM brick (weight : 1191gms) – 2 coarse (same) with ironstone inclusions and over-fired 'glazed' surfaces – C17 AD, 1 larger, red, C18-C19 AD

2 animal bones (weight : 21gms) – 1 small, 1 moderate-sized, both fairly worn, both cut across axis

1 oyster valve (weight : 33gms) – large, moderately worn

1 lump ? burnt ironstone (weight : 144gms)

Comment : The flint flake is probably Neolithic-EBA and its good unpatinated condition implies, relatively, near-immediate 'burial' after loss. The single LM sherd is fairly small, fairly fresh with some slight edge chipping (it could date from c.1300 but main importation period from c.1375 AD).

**Likely date : Uncertain – ?C18-C19 AD**

###### **Context: 110**

4 fragments deer horn (weight : 70gms)

Comment : Small-fairly large fragments, moderately worn, axially split, 2 sawn – 2 axially with one also carrying diagonal cut marks

**Likely date : Uncertain – but possibly Early Medieval-Late Medieval**

**Context: 205** - 4 sherds (weight : 50gms)

1 sherd EM East Sussex-type sandy ware with sparse-moderate flint grit (c.1175-1225/1250 AD emphasis probably)

1 sherd LM-PM German Raeren stoneware (mug, c.1475-1550 AD)

1 sherd LPM Pearl Ware (blue transfer-printing, c.1775-1825 AD)

1 sherd LPM Later Creamware (c.1780-1825 AD)

and :

9 fragments PM roof-tile (weight :175gms) – most small sized, 1 fairly large, former variably chipped and abraded (includes 3 buff Wealden-types, 3 red fabriced with marl inclusions), probably later C16-earlier C18 AD, latter fresh, evenly produced and very hard-fired, mid C18-C19 AD probably.

Comment : The EM sherd is fairly large but heavily worn and abraded and definitely residual. The PM-LPM sherds are small-fairly small sized and are all chipped and slightly abraded.

*Drawable* : 1 EM cooking-pot rim, 1 LM-PM stoneware mug rim

**Likely date : Residual - ? in a mid-late C19 or C20 AD context**

**Context: 208** - 4 sherds (weight : 5gms)

4 sherds EM-M East Sussex-type grit-tempered ware (c.1150-1200/1225 AD emphasis; **same vessel**)

Comment : Small bodysherds, heavily abraded

**Likely date : Residual - ? in a C16 AD or later context**

**Context: 301** - 1 sherd (weight : 5gms)

1 sherd EM East Sussex-type greensand ware with sparse-moderate flint grit (c.1050-1150 AD **probably**)

and :

2 fragments PM claypipe stem (weight : 1gm)

Comment : The EM sherd is from a jar base and is heavily abraded and residual – dating is uncertain other than that the base is sagging and therefore Late Saxon-plus. A date as early as the tenth century is possible but initially considered unlikely since the majority of the pre –C16 AD material is datable to the twelfth-thirteenth centuries. The PM claypipe stems are small, chipped but only moderately worn.

**Likely date : All residual – possibly in a C18-C19 AD context**

**Context: 305** - 3 sherds (weight : 40gms)

1 sherd LM-PM German Raeren stoneware (c.1475-1550 AD)

1 sherd LPM Wealden-type pink-buff fine earthenware (iron-streaked glaze, c.1750/1775-1850 AD emphasis)

1 sherd LPM fine red earthenware (c.1750/1775-1850 AD probable emphasis)

and :

2 fragments PM glass (weight : 81gms) – dark green, thick-walled, C18 AD broadly

6 fragments PM roof-tile (weight : 68gms) – 4 small-moderate-sized, pink-buff or marly Wealden-types LC16-C17 AD, 2 (1 moderate-sized) red fabriced, fairly fresh, C17-C18 AD

1 fragment probable daub (weight : 2gms) – small, marly, worn and rounded

Comment : All sherds fairly small, chipped but not seriously abraded.

**Likely date : Slightly uncertain – but probably residual in a C19 AD context**

**Context: 505**

3 oyster valves (weight : 108gms)

Comment : Fairly large, all three with one surface more worn than the other

**Likely date : Uncertain**

**Context: 705 - 7 sherds (weight : 30gms)**

1 sherd LPM Later Creamware (blue transfer-printing, shallow shell-edging, c.1780-1800/1825 AD)

5 sherds LPM Pearl Ware (c.1780-1825 AD)

1 sherd LPM English stoneware (c.1800-1900/1940 AD)

and :

1 fragment ? Modern wall-tile (weight : 9gms) – part stamp on reverse ‘**MA...**’

Comment : The Pearl Ware elements are small-moderate sized, split and flaked but otherwise fresh, the Later Creamware sherd is a plate profile - fairly large, slightly chipped, slightly decaying crazed glaze – otherwise fairly unworn. The stoneware sherd is small and chipped. The wall-tile fragment is almost certainly Modern, unlikely earlier than c.1875/1900 AD.

**Likely date : Uncertain – if tile intrusive, c.1800-1850 AD, otherwise probably C20 AD**

**Context: 709 - 1 sherd (weight : 3gms)**

1 sherd EM-M East Sussex-type grit-tempered ware ? with sparse shell (c.1150-1200/1250 AD probable emphasis)

Comment : Bodysherd, fairly small, very heavily abraded

**Likely date : Residual - ? in a C16 AD or later context**

**Context: 710 - 1 sherd (weight : 7gms)**

1 sherd EM East Sussex-type grit-tempered ware ? with sparse shell (c.1125/1150-1200 AD emphasis probably)

Comment : Moderate-sized but heavily worn rim sherd

*Drawable* : 1 EM cooking-pot rim

**Likely date : Residual - ? in a C16 AD or later context**

**Context: 803 - 5 sherds (weight : 19gms)**

1 sherd PM red earthenware (c.1650-1700/1725 AD emphasis probably)

1 sherd LPM Pearl Ware (blue transfer-printed, c.1780-1825 AD)

3 sherds LPM fine red earthenware – flower-pot type (not Modern, c.1825-1875/1900 AD emphasis)

and :

1 fragment ? iron sheet/pipe (weight : 4gms) – thin, moderate corrosion only

2 fragments brick (weight : 5gms) – small, fresh

Comment : The PM earthenware sherd is small, fairly worn with abraded edges. The LPM material is small-moderate-sized, slightly chipped otherwise fairly fresh

**Likely date : If not residual in a C20 AD context – probably mid-late C19 AD**

**Context: 805 - 4 sherds (weight : 19gms)**

1 sherd PM fine pink-buff fine marl-flecked earthenware (Wealden-type fabric, c.1550-1650 AD range)

1 sherd LPM Later Creamware (c.1775-1825 AD)

1 sherd Modern English stoneware (c.1800-1900/1940 AD)

1 sherd LPM 'Yellow Ware' (blue-banded, c.1825/1850-1900 AD)

and :

2 iron objects (weight : 58gms) – 1 small corroded lump, 1 near-complete horseshoe, small, ?pony

3 fragments fine sandstone hone (weight : 161gms) – conjoining, rectangular section, used, C17-C18 AD

1 part PM brick (weight : 550gms) – large, thick, fairly abraded, C17-earlier C18 AD probably

4 fragments PM roof-tile (weight : 14gms), flakes, small-fairly small, pink-buff Wealden-type, C17-C18 AD

Comment : The PM sherd is small and fairly worn, the Creamware sherd small and chipped, later elements fresher and larger.

**Likely date : c.1850-1900 AD or later**

**Context: 807** - 2 sherds (weight : 144gms)

1 sherd LM German Raeren stoneware (c.1475-1550 AD)

1 sherd LPM red earthenware (iron-speckled glaze, c.1750/1775-1850 AD emphasis probably)

Comment : The German stoneware mug sherd is fairly small, slightly chipped with a water-dulled and slightly abraded external glaze. The LPM sherd is a large rim sherd from a heavy-rimmed pantry egg or bread crock with surfaces chipped and the outer rim edge heavily abraded.

**Likely date : If not re-deposited in a Modern feature – possibly mid-late C19 AD**

**Context: 809** - 2 sherds (weight : 7gms)

2 sherds EM-M East Sussex-type grit-tempered ware (c.1175-1225/1250 AD probable emphasis; **same vessel**)

Comment : Bodysherds, fairly heavily abraded

**Likely date : Uncertain - but probably residual in a C16 AD or later context**

#### ***D. Assessment :***

This evaluation produced a small assemblage of 53 sherds (weight :332 gms) – mostly small-sized but including one large element with, overall, a marked difference in wear-pattern. Although a total of 5 archaeological periods are represented – Early Medieval-Late Post-Medieval - the assemblage sub-divides neatly around this difference in condition, into 2 main ceramic-based phases of activity.

#### *Neolithic-Early Bronze Age*

Represented solely by a single unpatinated blade from *Context 105* – its basically unworn condition suggesting near-immediate post-loss burial.

#### *Early Medieval-Medieval – c.1050-1250 AD*

Pottery of this general date – 14 sherds - was recorded from *Contexts 205, 208, 301, 709, 710, 805* and *809*. Most are small-sized and all share similar degrees of very heavily abraded surfaces. The fact that 6 of these – from *205, 301* and *805* - are clearly residual in later contexts almost certainly means that all are residual in Post-Medieval and later contexts. The material itself sub-divides into 4 main fabric types

– profuse coarsely grit-tempered with a noticeably harsh feel and represented by 2 same-vessel sherds from 809, coarsely grit-tempered with/without sparse shell inclusions and the majority fabric type, a single base sherd in a greensand fabric with sparse flint grits and a single fairly large rim sherd in a quartzsand fabric with sparse-moderate flint grits. All, particularly the grit-tempered elements, are typical of East Sussex later Saxon-Medieval assemblages. The predominance of fairly thin-walled sherds coupled with partially oxidized (chocolate-brown) or fully oxidised (buff-orange) surfaces indicates a mid or later twelfth to mid thirteenth century range for the majority of these sherds (Cotter 2006, 158). The limited range of associated forms supports this likelihood and conforms with general period rim from trends elsewhere in the south-east - a damaged cooking-pot rim with an everted thin triangular-sectioned rim (*Context 710*) of broadly mid twelfth century date and another from *Context 205* with an inwardly angled flat everted but thickened rim of later twelfth-earlier thirteenth century character. The only serious allocation problem applies to the base sherd in sparsely gritted greensand fabric from *Context 301*. Its sagging base confirms a Late Saxon or later placement – however, since there is no obvious evidence for activity as early as the tenth century, an eleventh, more certainly twelfth century placement is initially preferred.

#### *Late Medieval-Modern – c.1375-1900-plus AD*

The remainder of the recovered pottery assemblage consists of a thin scatter of fifteenth-earlier sixteenth century German stonewares, Siegburg and Raeren, a similar quantity of later sixteenth-seventeenth century earthenware fragments and a slightly larger body of elements dating from mainly c.1775 AD onwards. These consist principally of Pearl Ware, Later Creamware and contemporary scullery/kitchen red earthenwares datable to between c.1775-1825 AD, together with a scatter of mid nineteenth and later products. None of this material is particularly remarkable except to indicate that the accidental loss or deliberate discard tendencies represented increased after c.1750 AD.

#### **E. Recommendations**

1. None of this material deserves further post-excavation analysis or publication in its own right, at this stage.

Nigel MacPherson-Grant

#### **F. Bibliography**

##### **Cotter 2006 :**

Cotter, J., 'The Pottery' in Parfitt, K., *et.al. Townwall Street, Dover, Excavations 1996*, The Archaeology of Canterbury New Series **3**, 121-254

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## Appendix 2. East Sussex County Council HER Summary Form

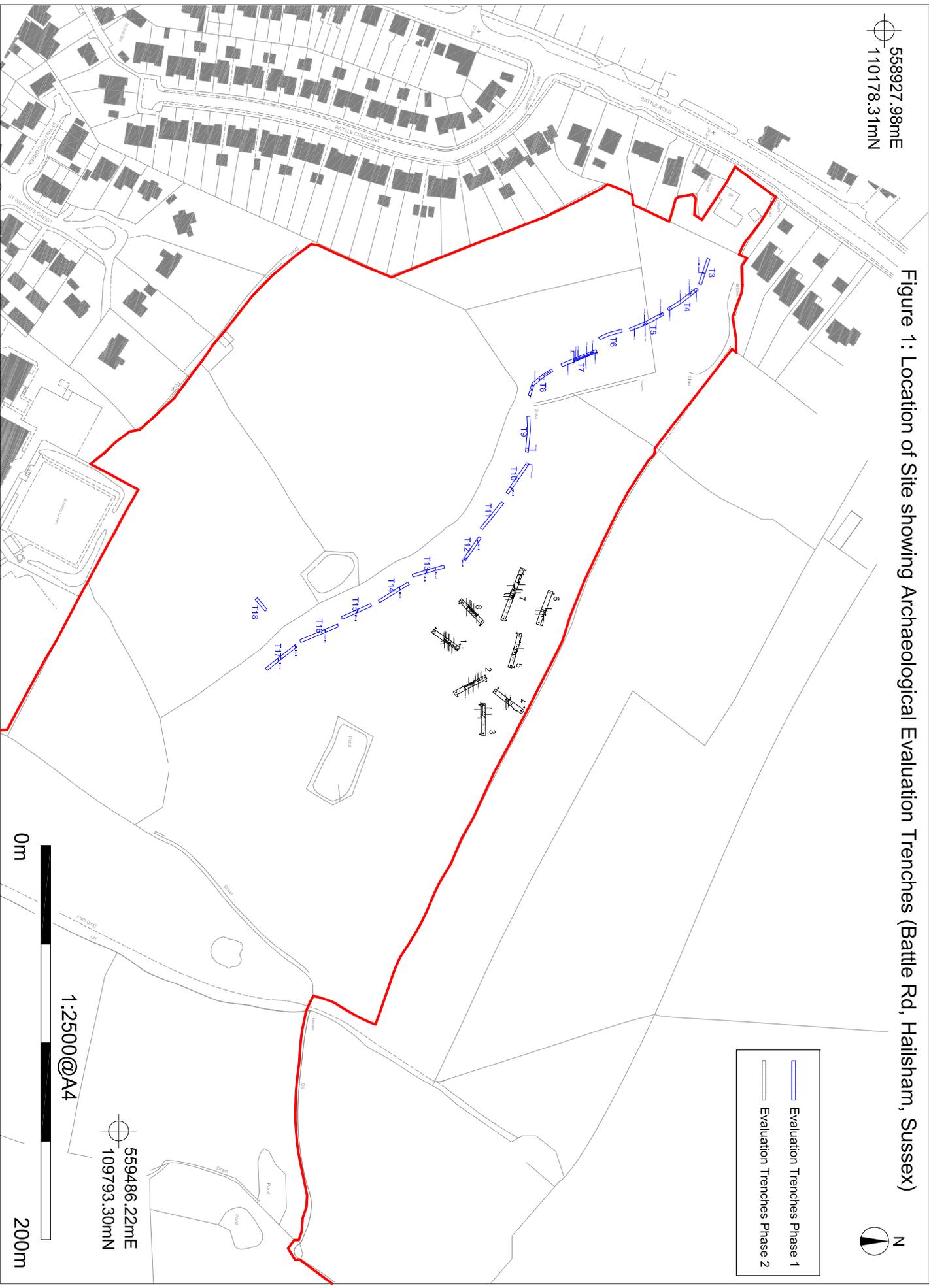
<b>Site Name:</b> <i>Land east of Battle Road, SWAT Site Code: HBS/EV/11</i>	
<b>Site Address:</b> <i>Land east of Battle Road, Hailsham, East Sussex</i>	
<b>Summary:</b>  <i>Swale &amp; Thames Survey Company (SWAT) carried out an archaeological evaluation on land east of Battle Road, Hailsham, East Sussex, November 8<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup>. 2011. A planning application (WD2009/2705/MEA) for the construction of a new residential development, along with associated access, car parking and services at the above site was submitted to Wealden District Council (WDC) whereby East Sussex County Council Heritage and Conservation on behalf of Wealden 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 (SWAT 2011) and in discussion with the Archaeological Officer, East Sussex County Council.</i>  <i>The archaeological evaluation revealed some Medieval archaeological features. The archaeological evaluation has been successful in fulfilling the primary aims and objectives of the Specification.</i>	
<b>District/Unitary:</b> <i>Wealden</i>	<b>Parish:</b>
<b>Period(s):</b> <b>Tentative:</b> <i>Medieval</i>	
<b>NGR (centre of site : 8 figures):</b> <b>(NB if large or linear site give multiple NGRs):</b> <i>TQ 589101</i>	
<b>Type of archaeological work (delete)</b> <i>Evaluation</i>	
<b>Date of Recording:</b> <i>16<sup>th</sup> to 24<sup>th</sup> Nov 2010</i>	
<b>Unit undertaking recording:</b> <i>Swale &amp; Thames Survey Company (SWAT)</i>	
<b>Geology:</b> <i>Weald Clay</i>	
<b>Title and author of accompanying report:</b>  <i>Wilkinson. P. (2011) Land to the East of Battle Road, Hailsham, East Sussex: Archaeological Evaluation(Phase 2)</i>	
<b>Summary of fieldwork results (begin with earliest period first, add NGRs where appropriate)</b>  <i>As above</i>  <p style="text-align: right;"><b>(cont. on attached sheet)</b></p>	
<b>Location of archive/finds:</b> <i>SWAT</i>	
<b>Contact at Unit:</b> <i>Paul Wilkinson</i>	<b>Date:</b> <i>20<sup>th</sup> Dec 2011</i>

558927.98mE  
110178.31mN

Figure 1: Location of Site showing Archaeological Evaluation Trenches (Battle Rd, Hailsham, Sussex)



-  Evaluation Trenches Phase 1
-  Evaluation Trenches Phase 2



0m

1:2500@A4

200m

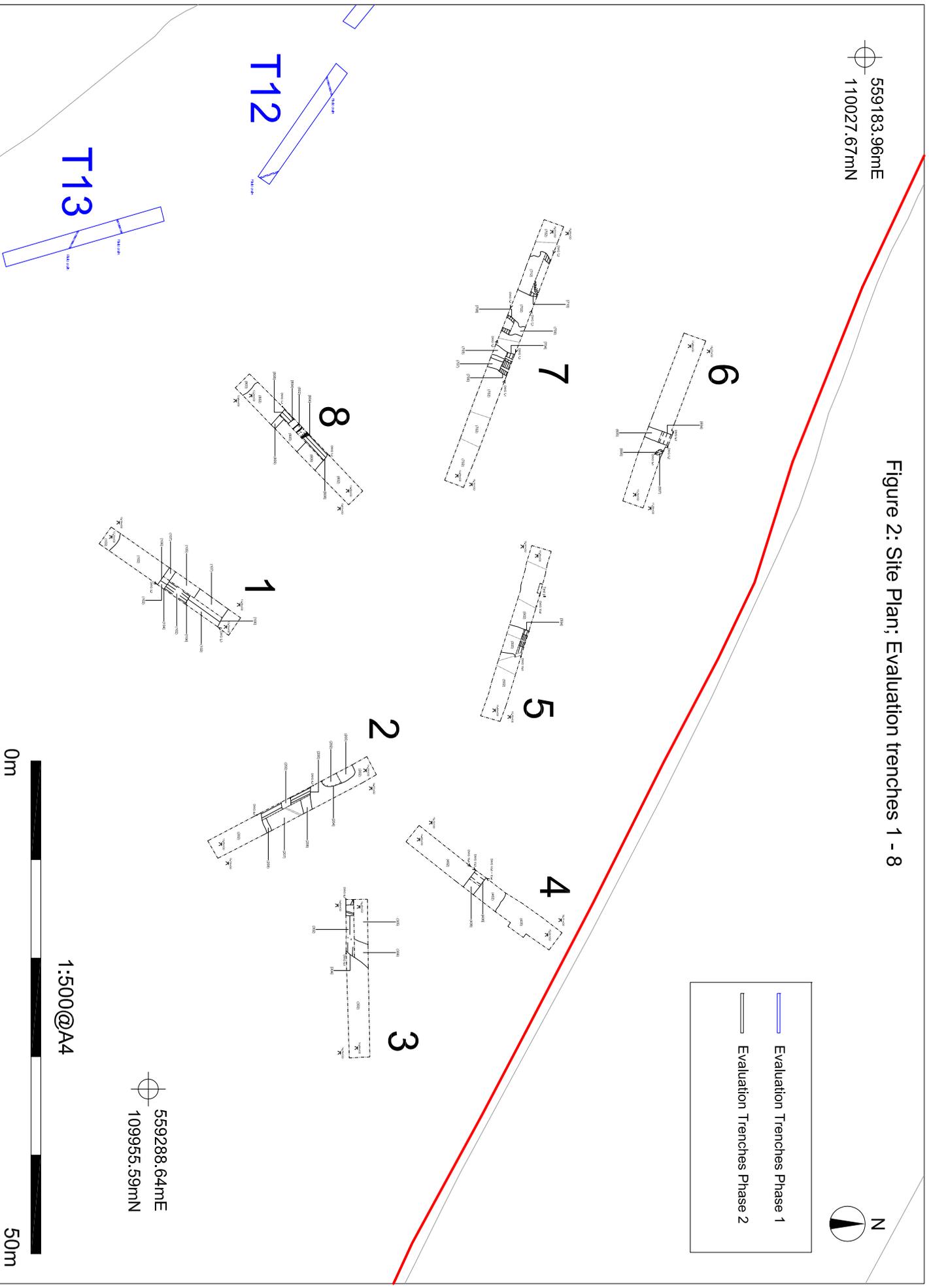
559486.22mE  
109793.30mN

559183.96mE  
110027.67mN



Figure 2: Site Plan; Evaluation trenches 1 - 8

-  Evaluation Trenches Phase 1
-  Evaluation Trenches Phase 2

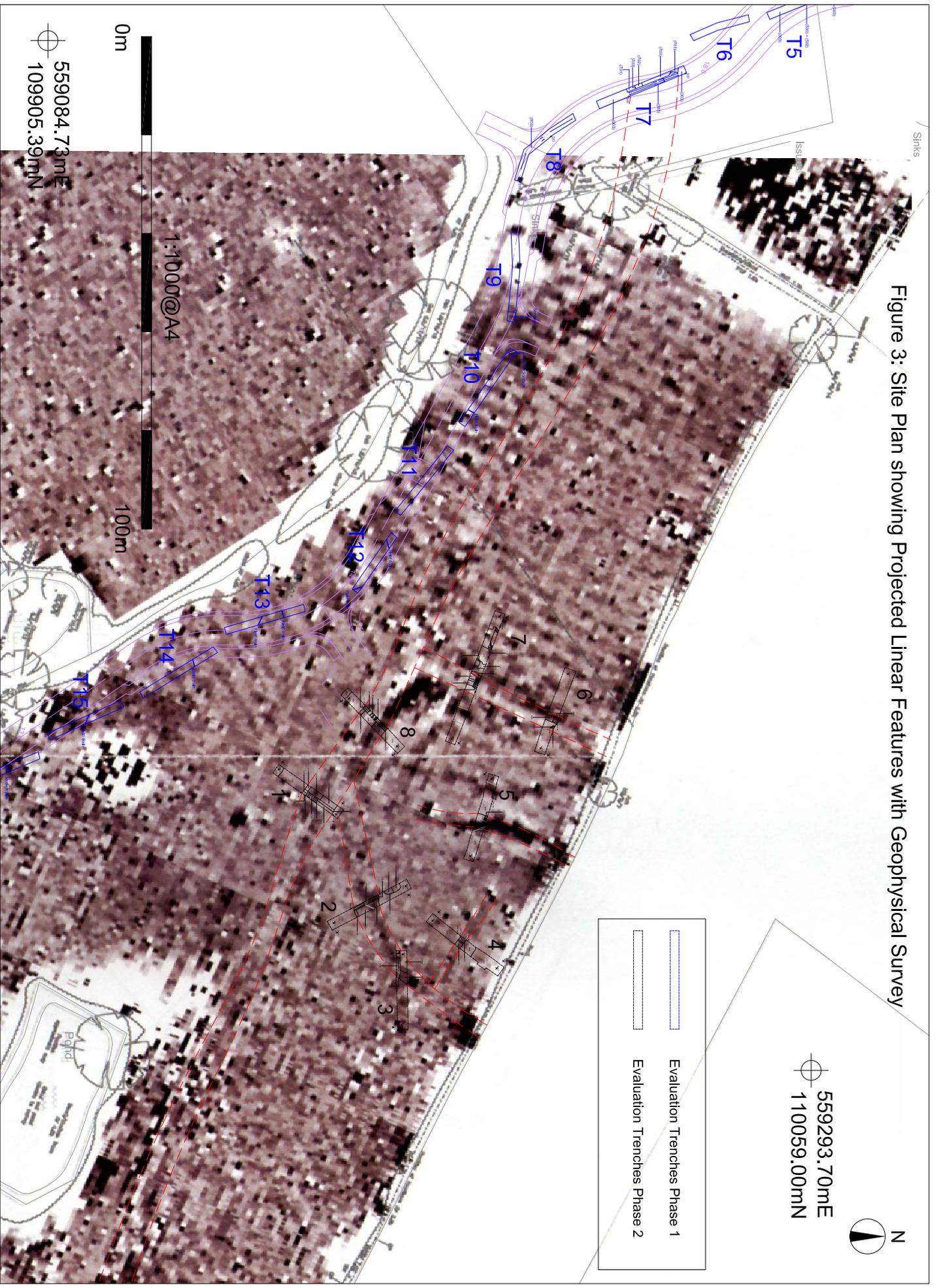


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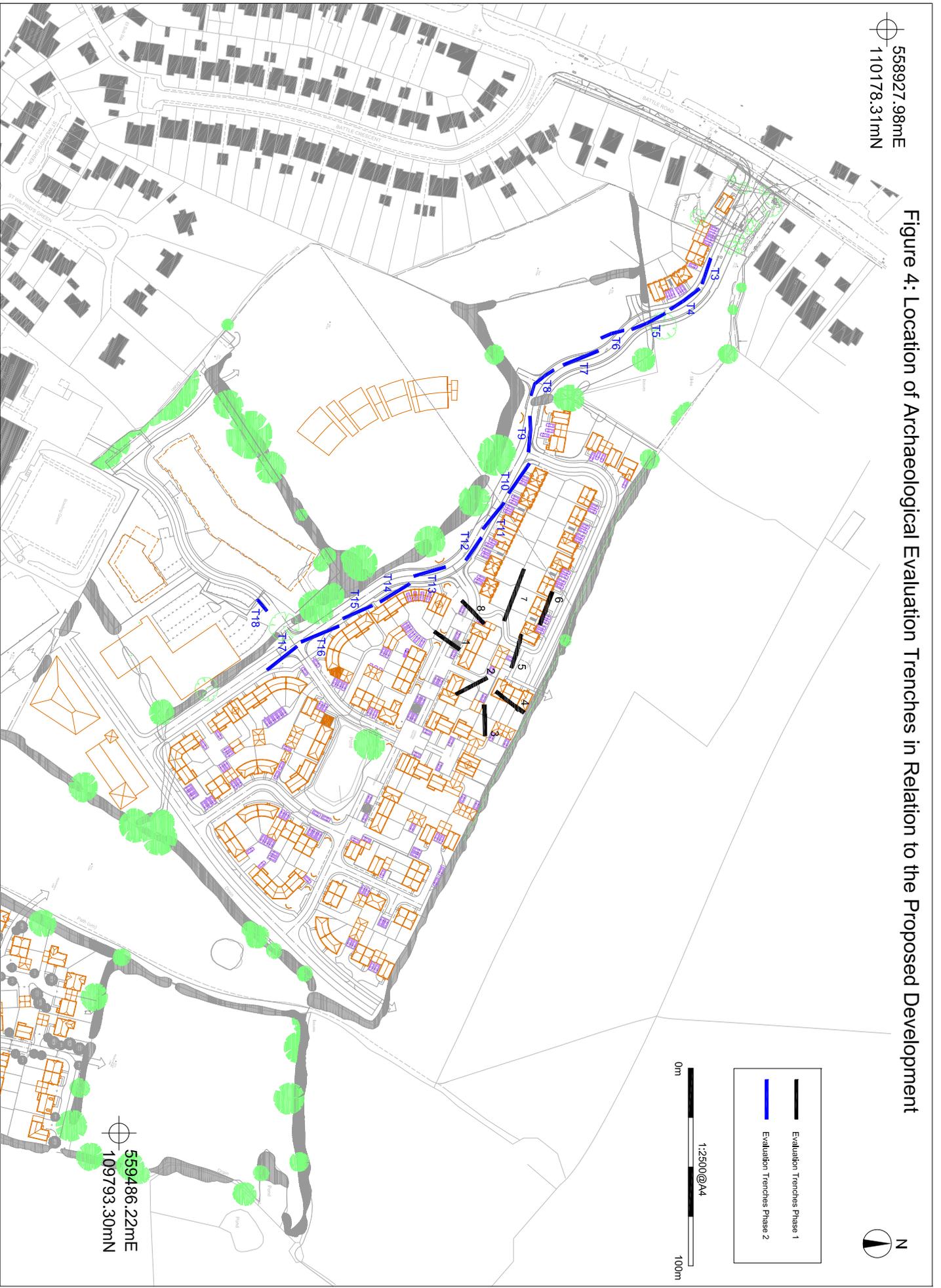
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Figure 3: Site Plan showing Projected Linear Features with Geophysical Survey



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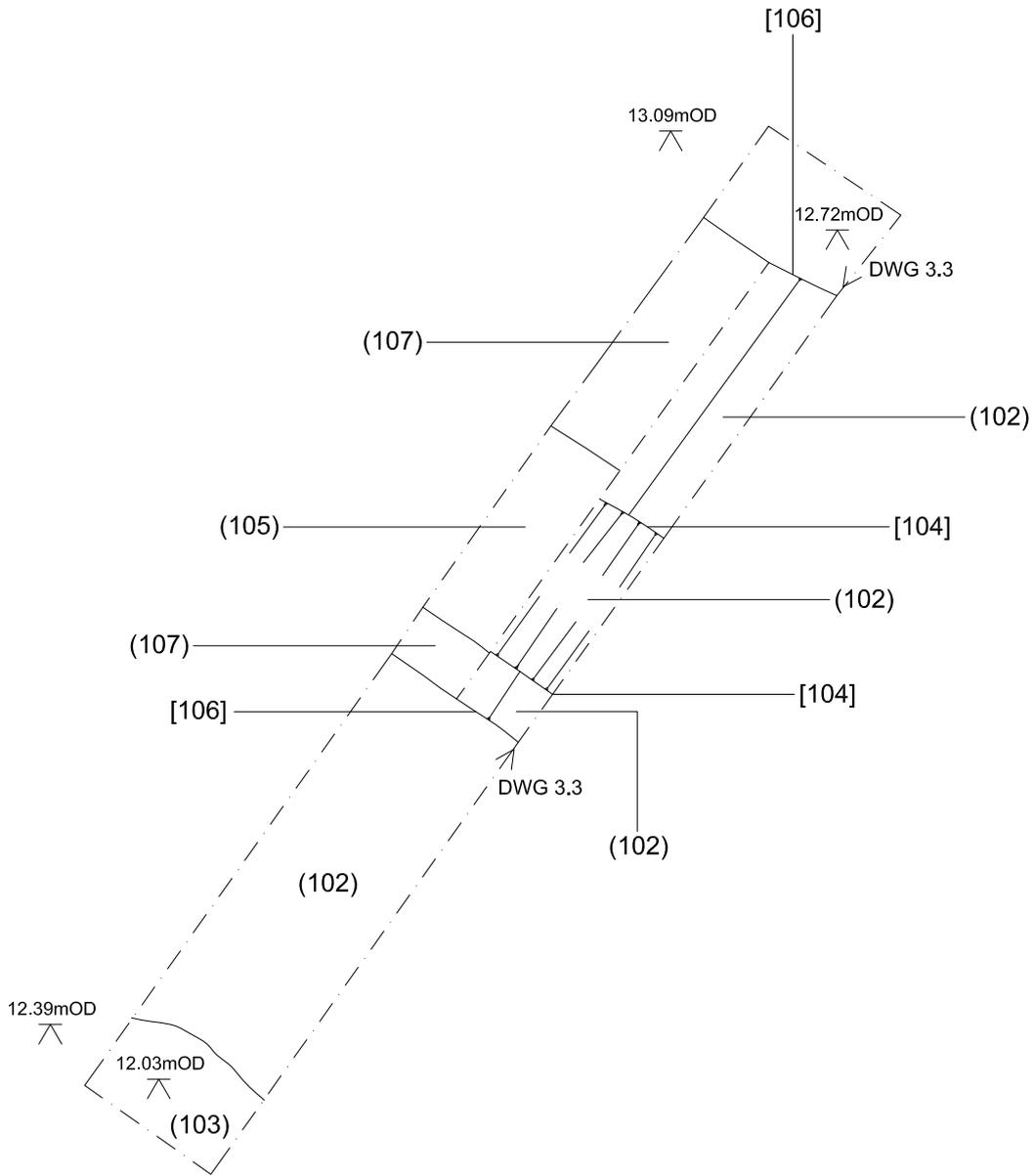
Figure 4: Location of Archaeological Evaluation Trenches in Relation to the Proposed Development



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559243.08mE  
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559229.84mE  
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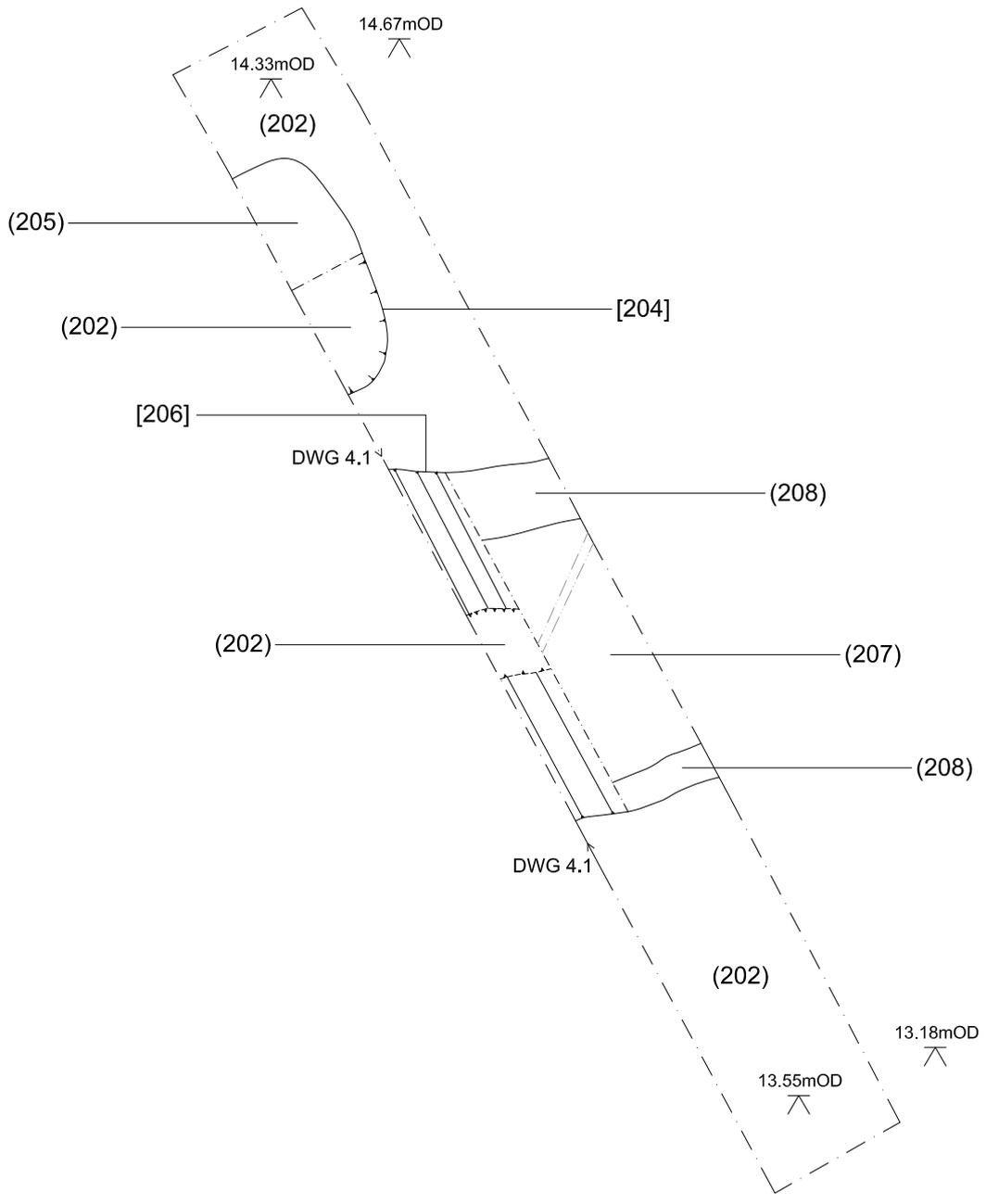
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Figure 5: Site Plan; Trench 1



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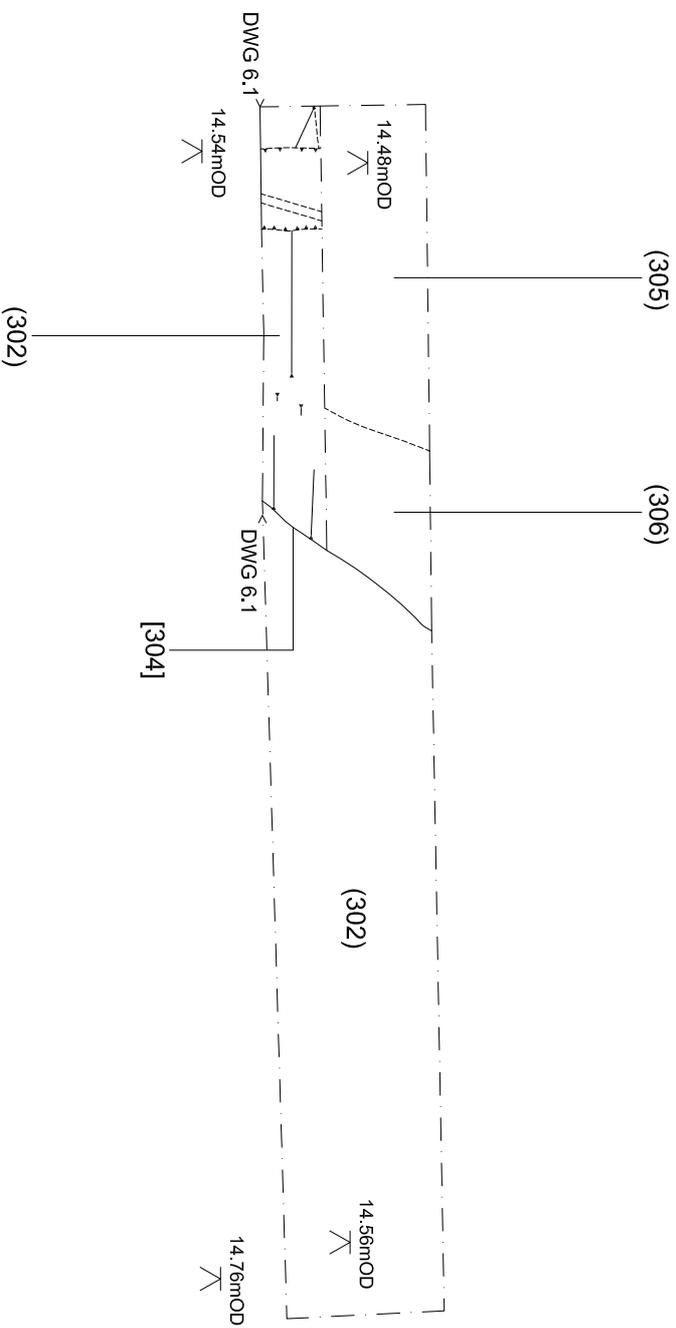
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10m

Figure 6: Site Plan; Trench 2



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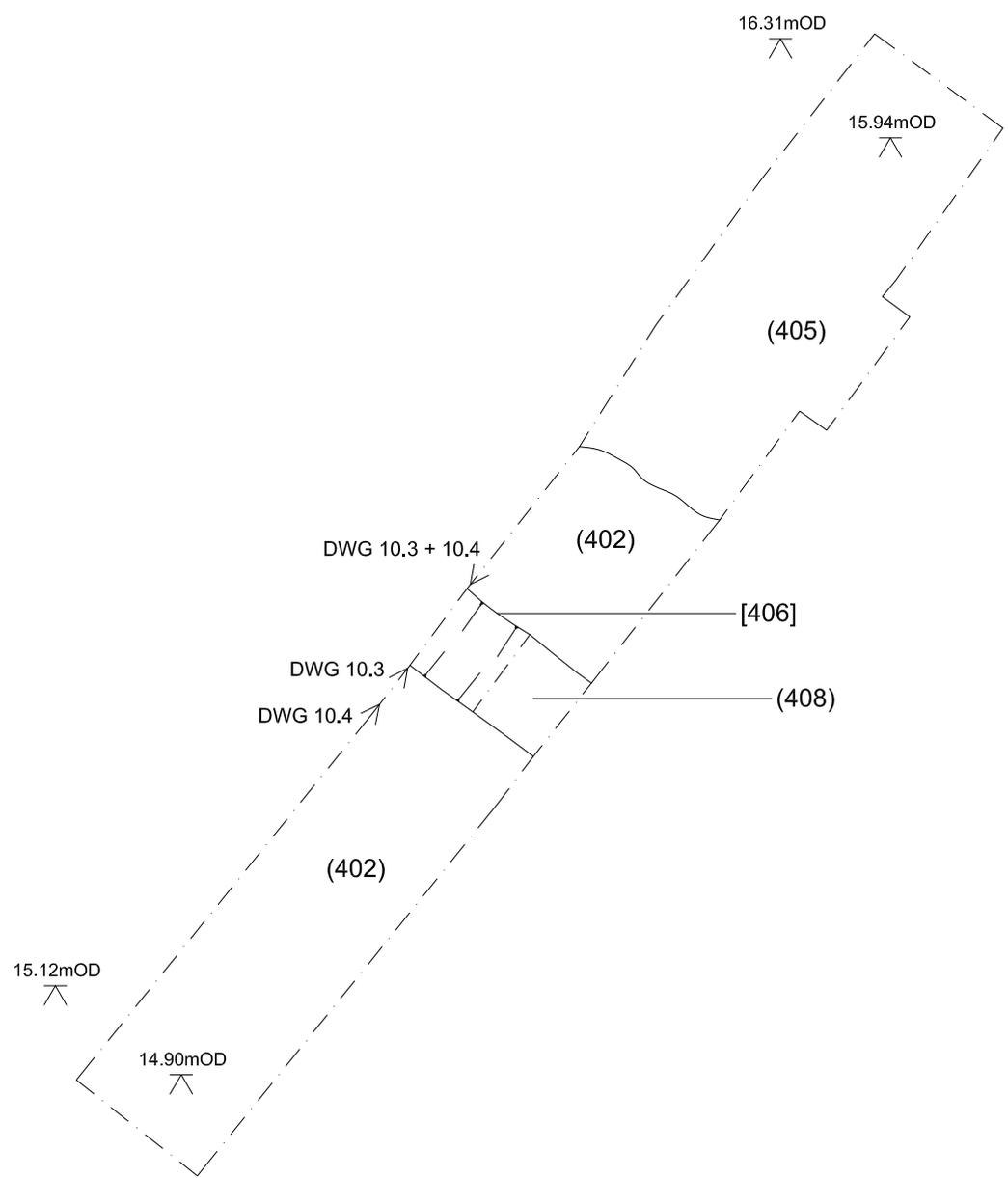
Figure 7: Site Plan; Trench 3



Plate 1: Evaluation Trench 3 (facing east)



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559259.12mE  
109980.03mN

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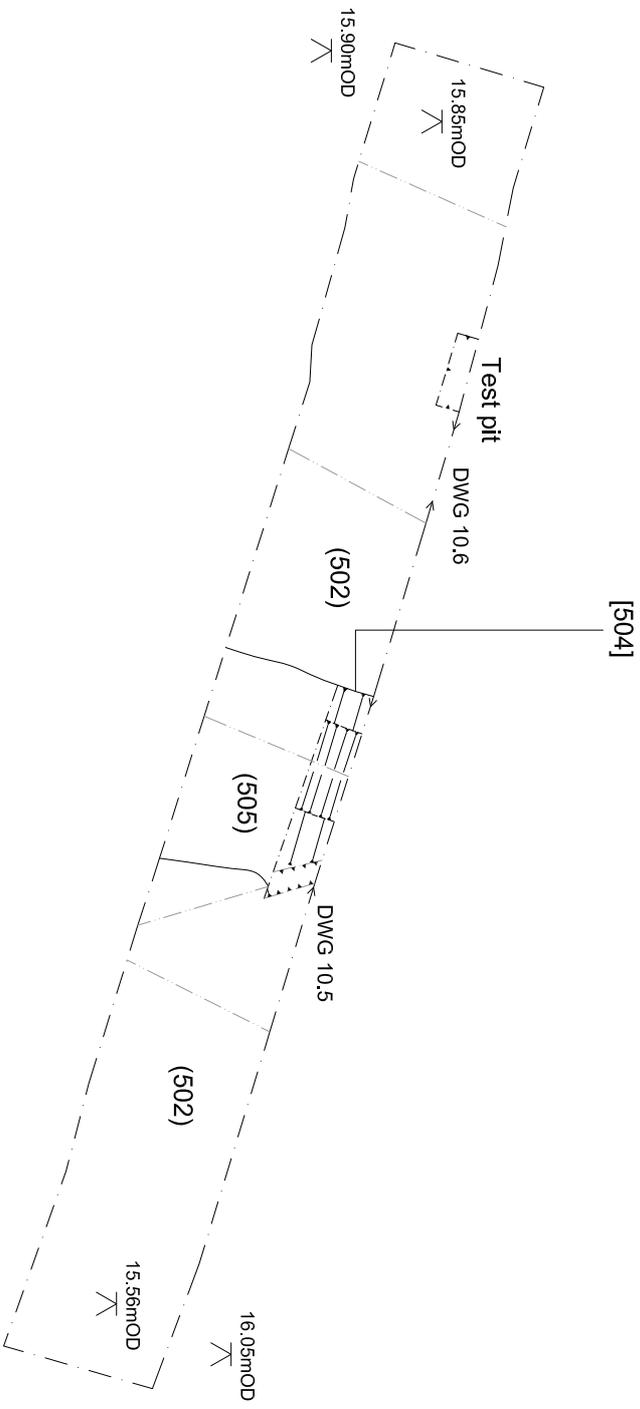
Figure 8: Site Plan; Trench 4

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10m



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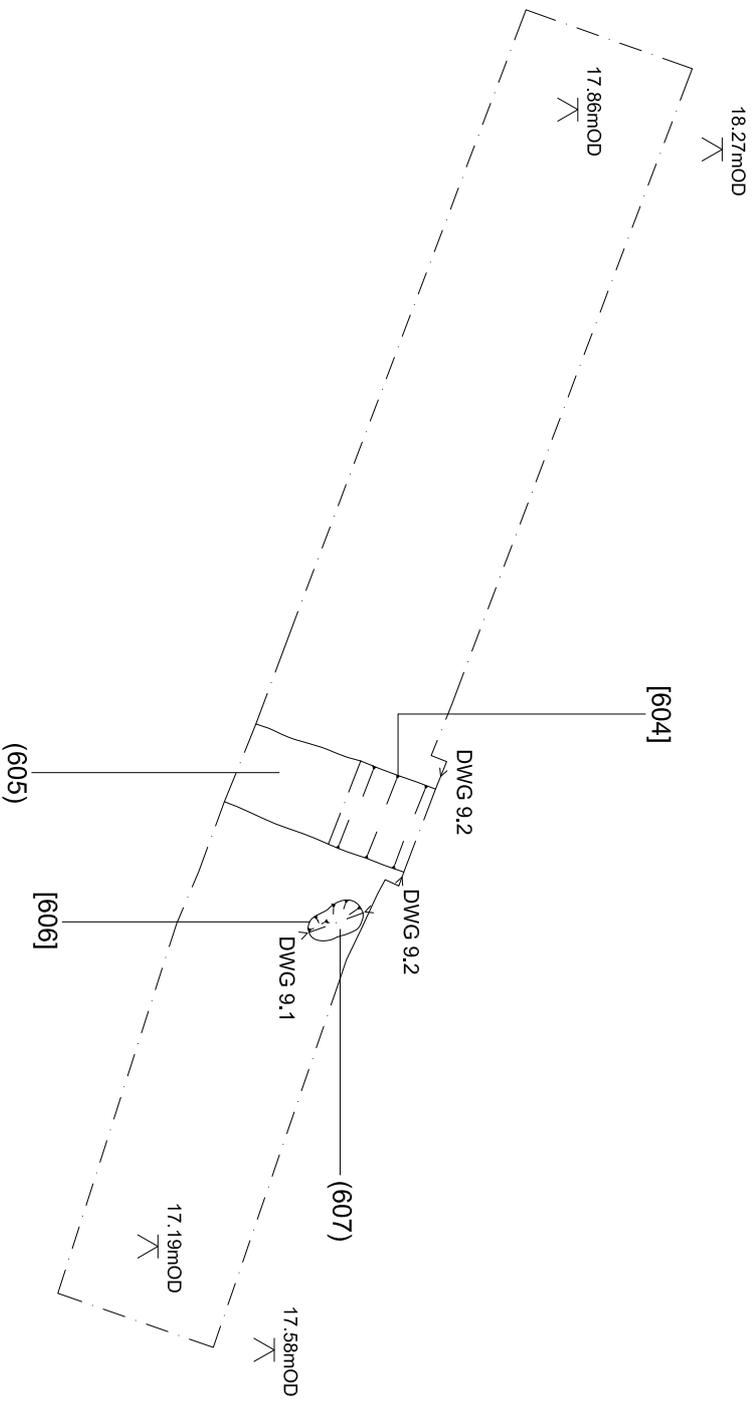
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Figure 9: Site Plan; Trench 5



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559209.74mE  
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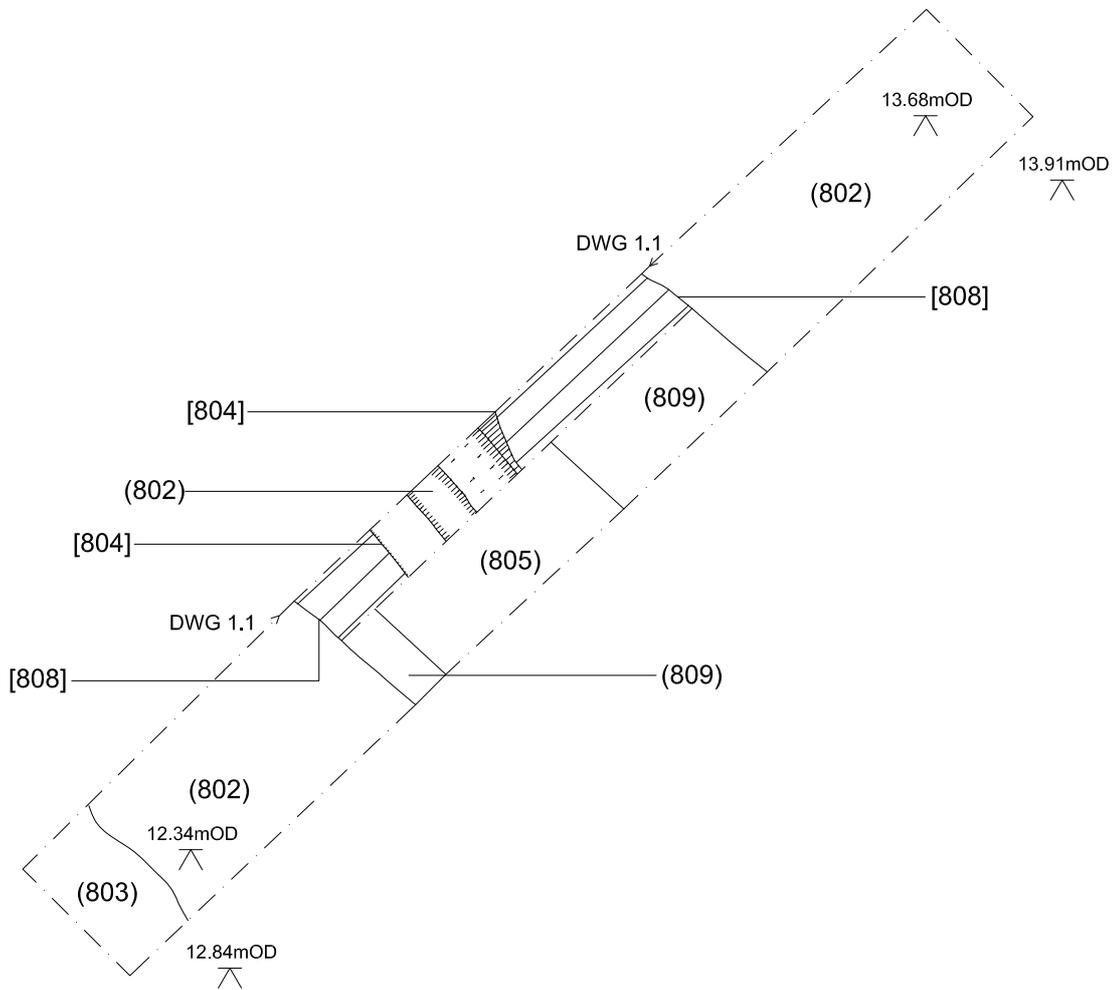


Figure 10: Site Plan; Trench 6





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559214.38mE  
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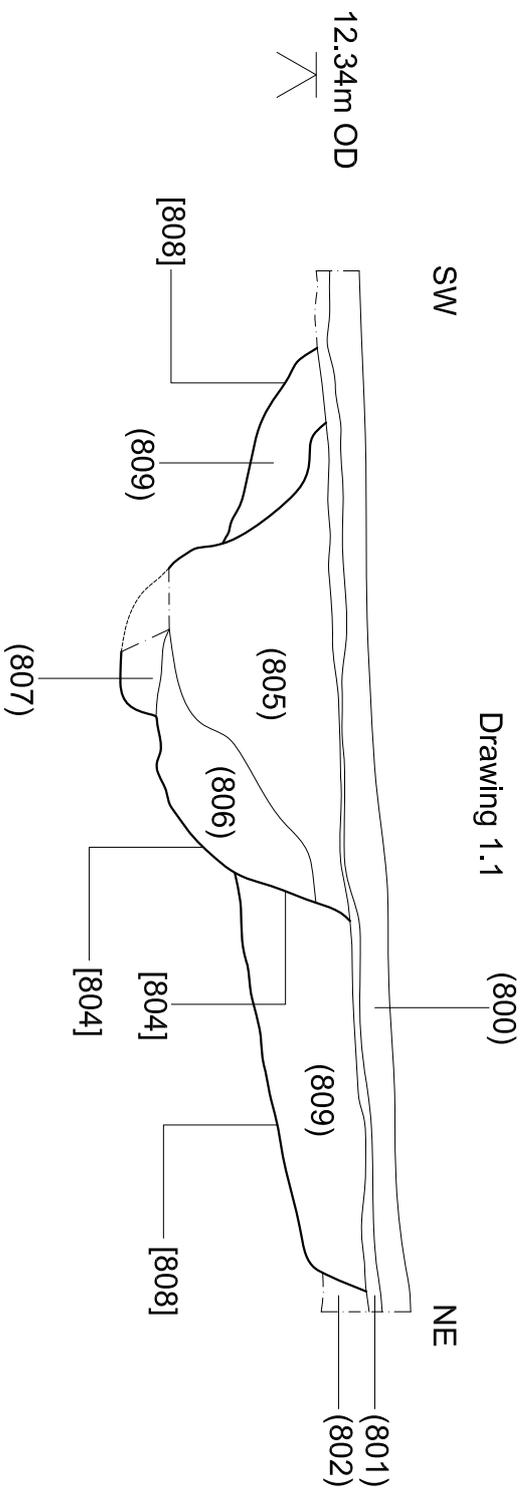
Figure 12: Site Plan; Trench 8

0m

10m



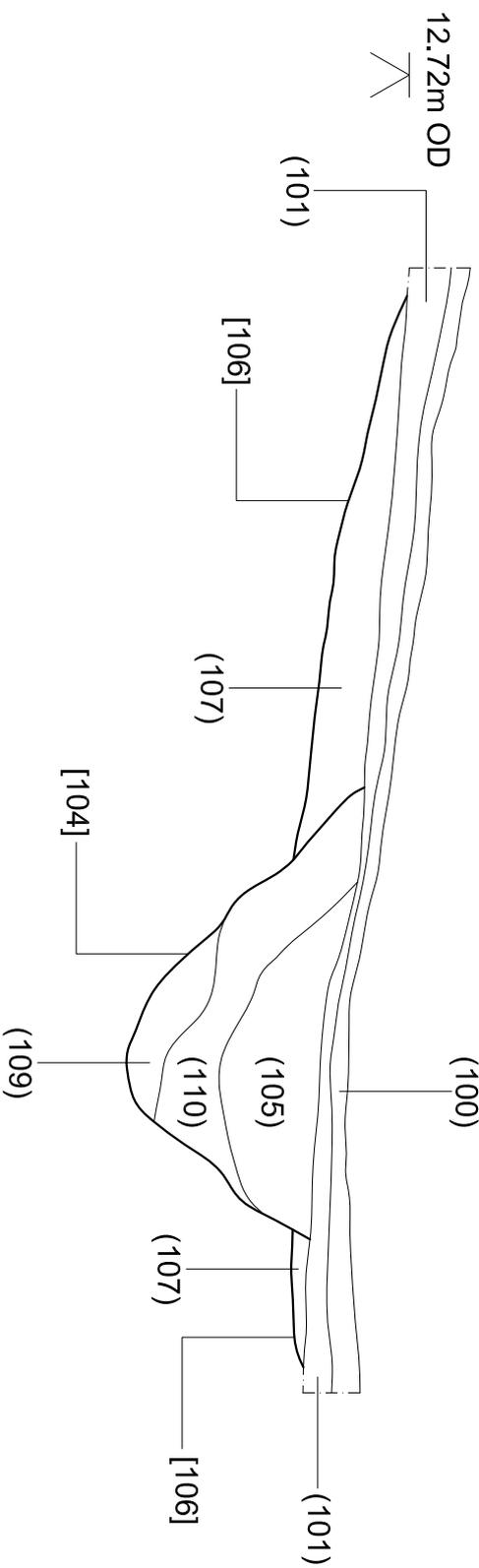
Plate 2: Evaluation Trench 8 (facing west)



NE

Drawing 3.3

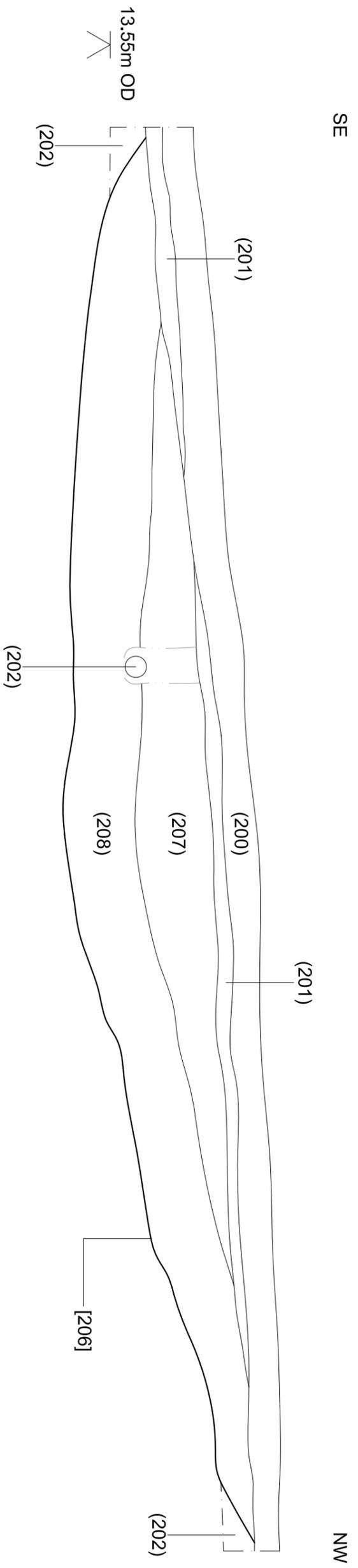
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Figure 13: Sections 1.1 and 3.3

Drawing 4.1



Drawing 6.1

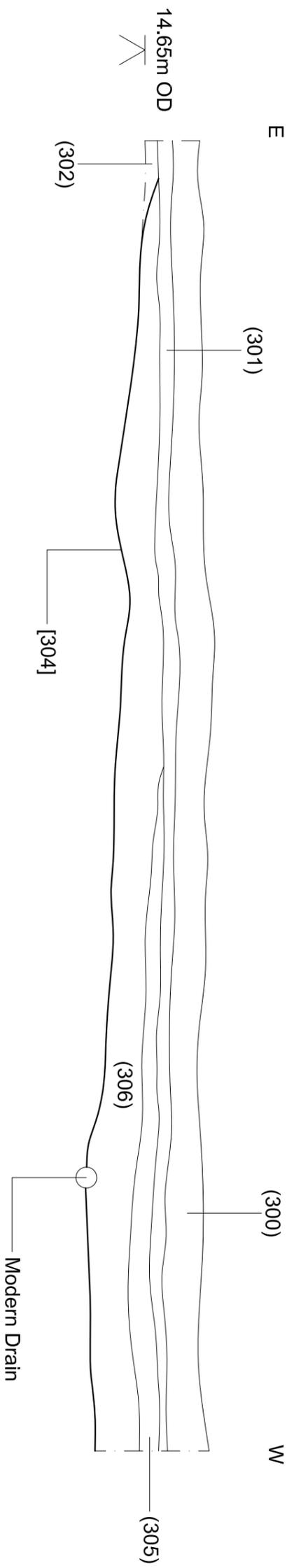


Figure 14: Sections 4.1 and 6.1



Drawing 4.2

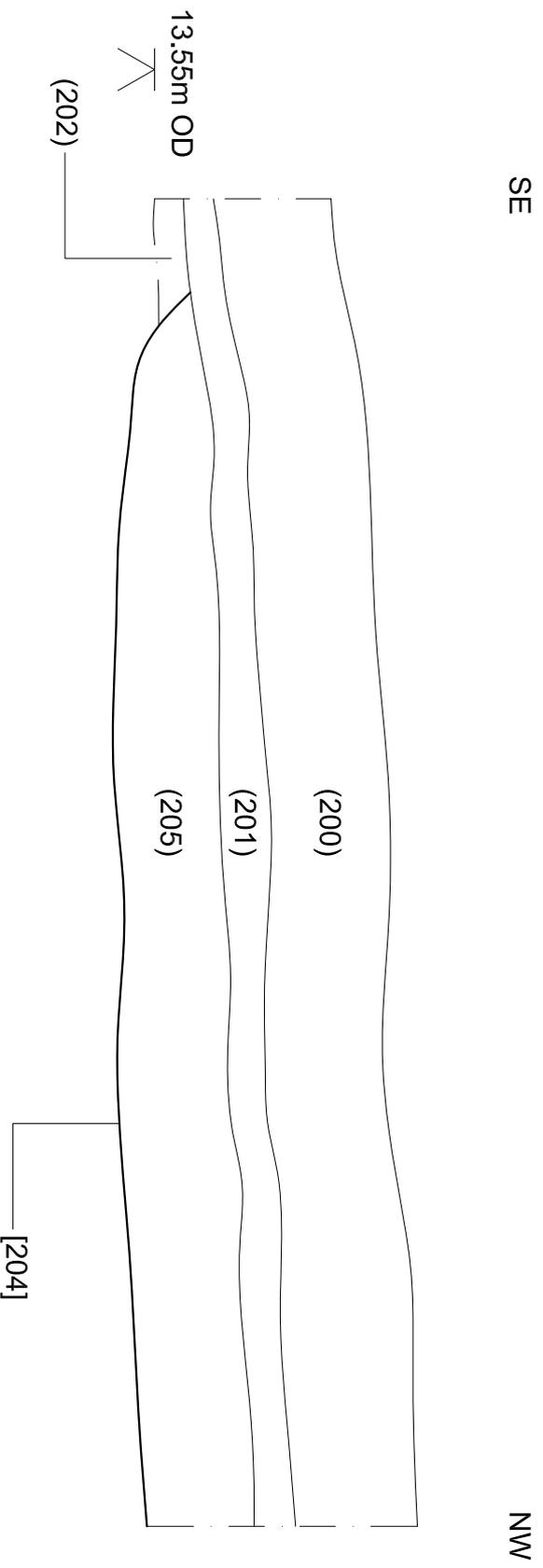


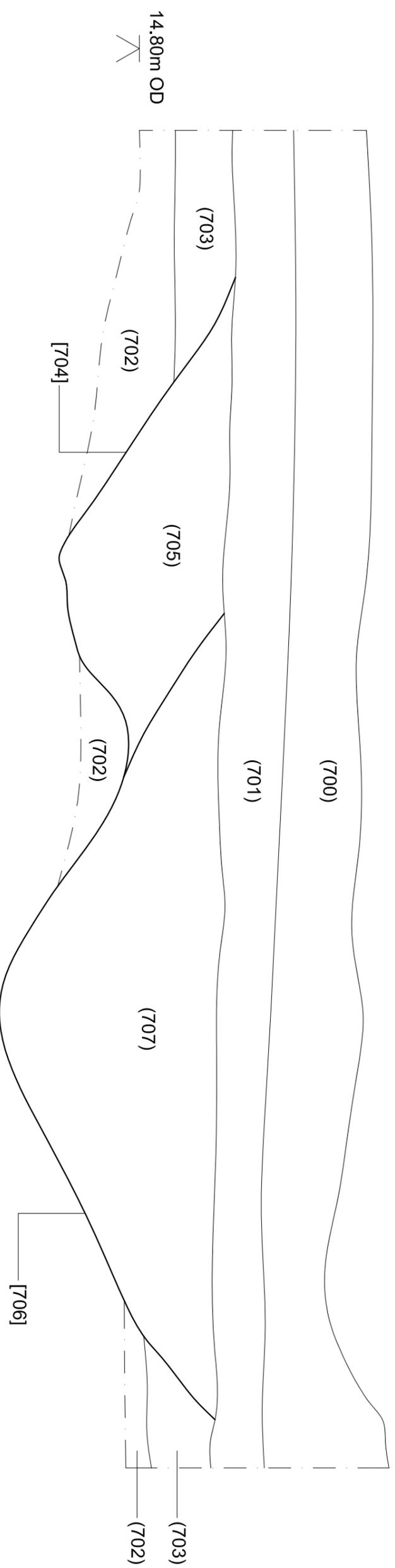
Figure 15: Section 4.2



Drawing 7.1

WNW

ESE

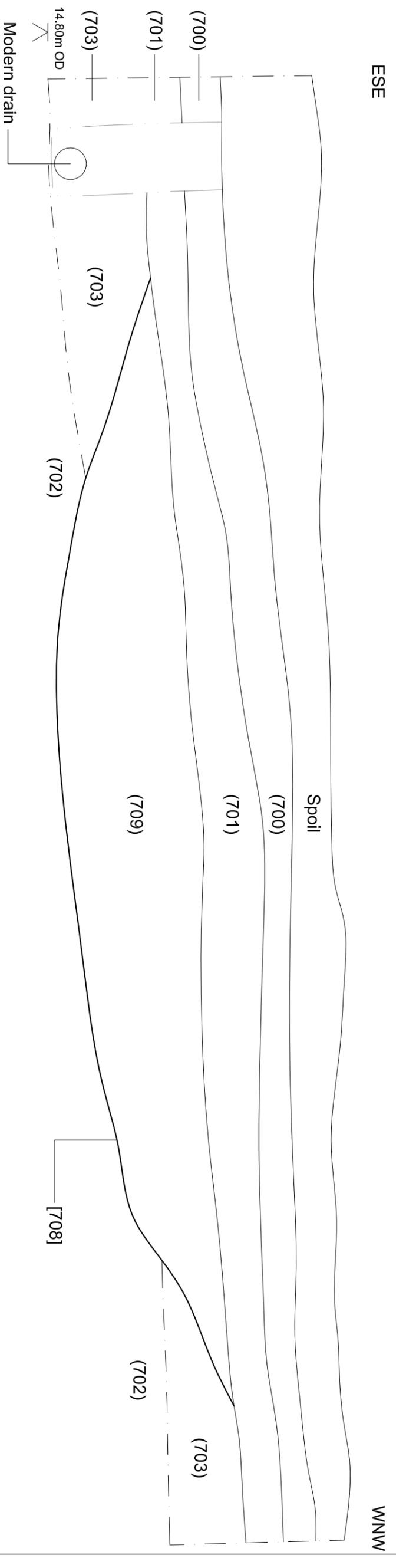


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Figure 16: Section 7.1

Drawing 7.2



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Figure 17: Section 7.2

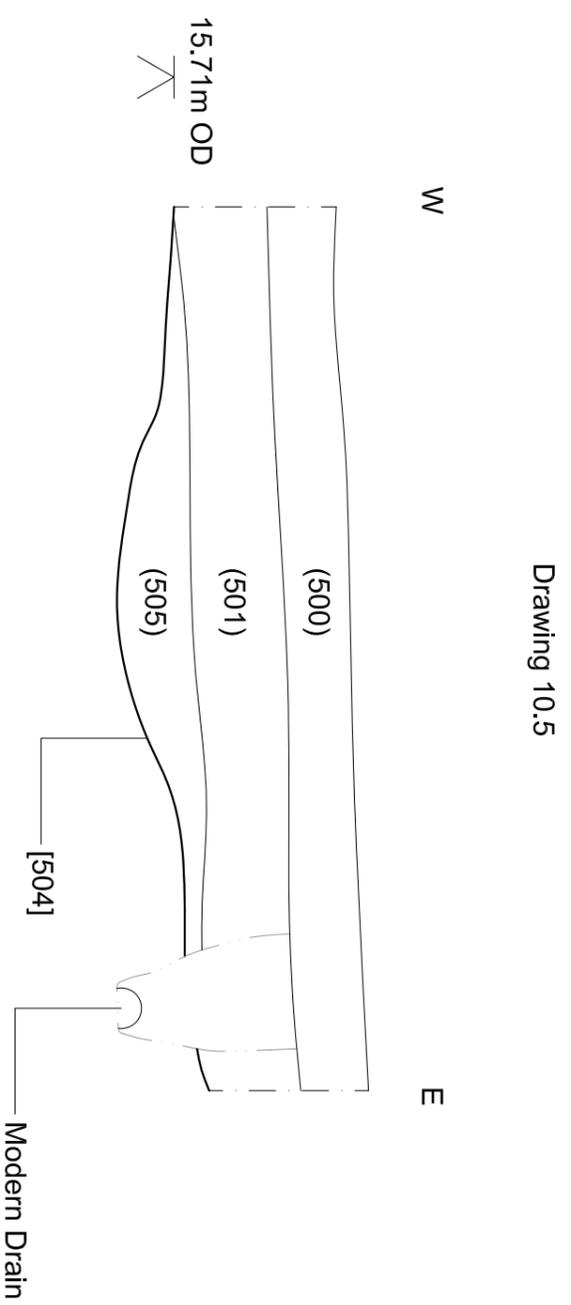
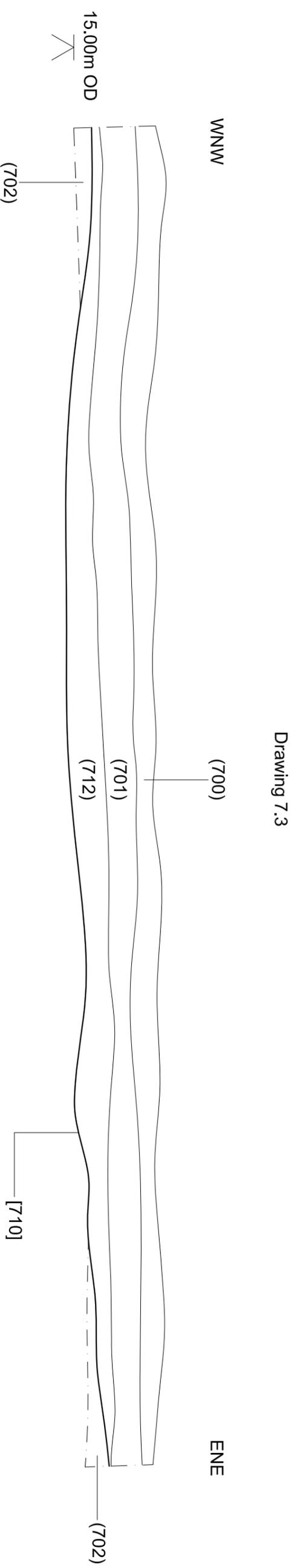
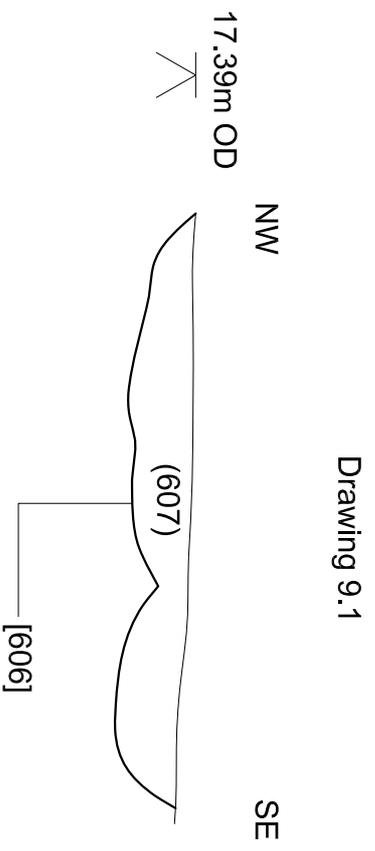


Figure 18: Sections 7.3 and 10.5





Drawing 9.2

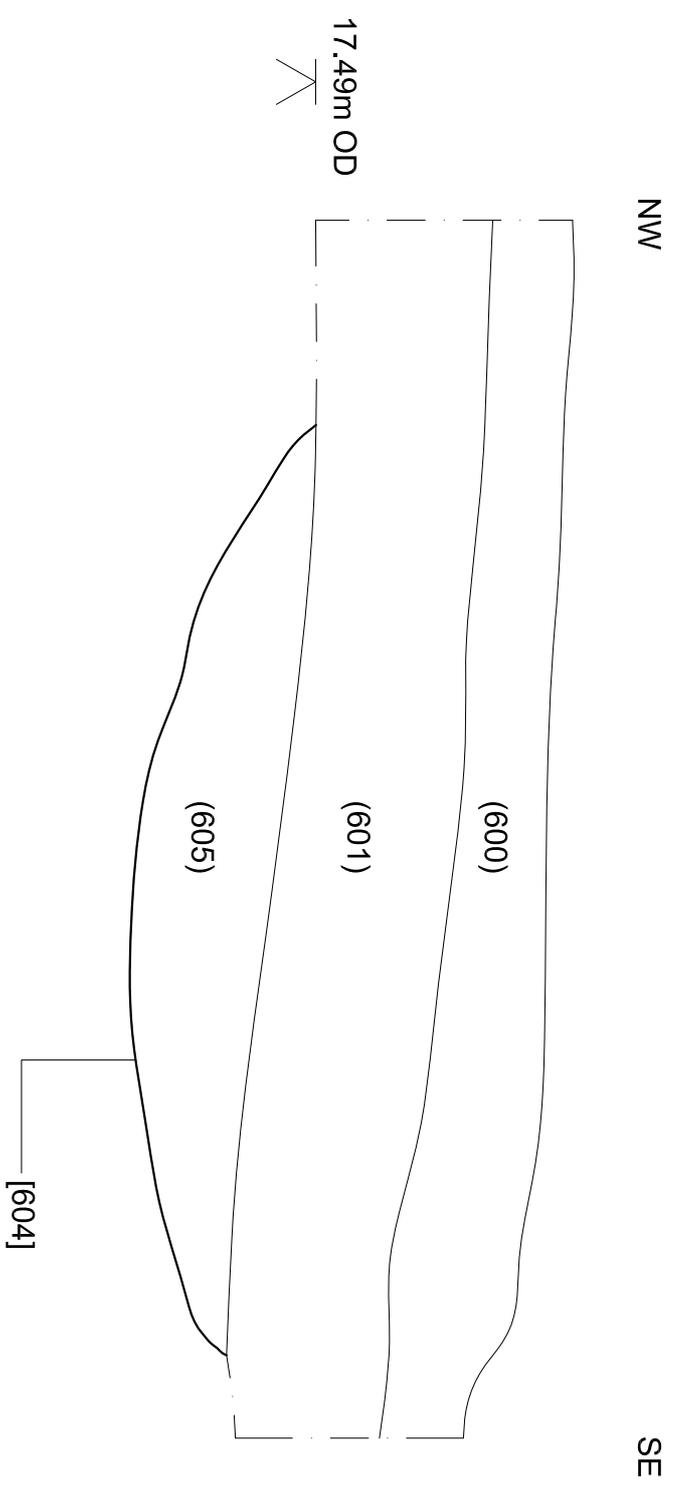
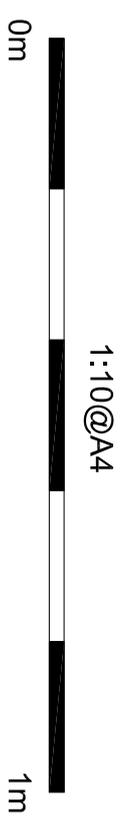
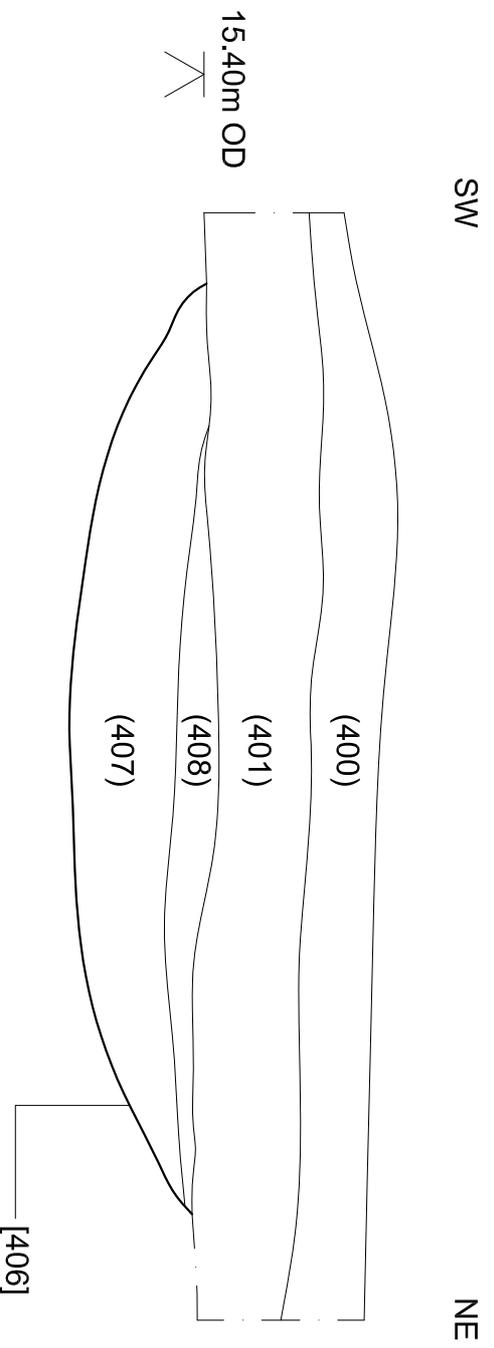


Figure 19: Sections 9.1 and 9.2



Drawing 10.3



Drawing 10.4

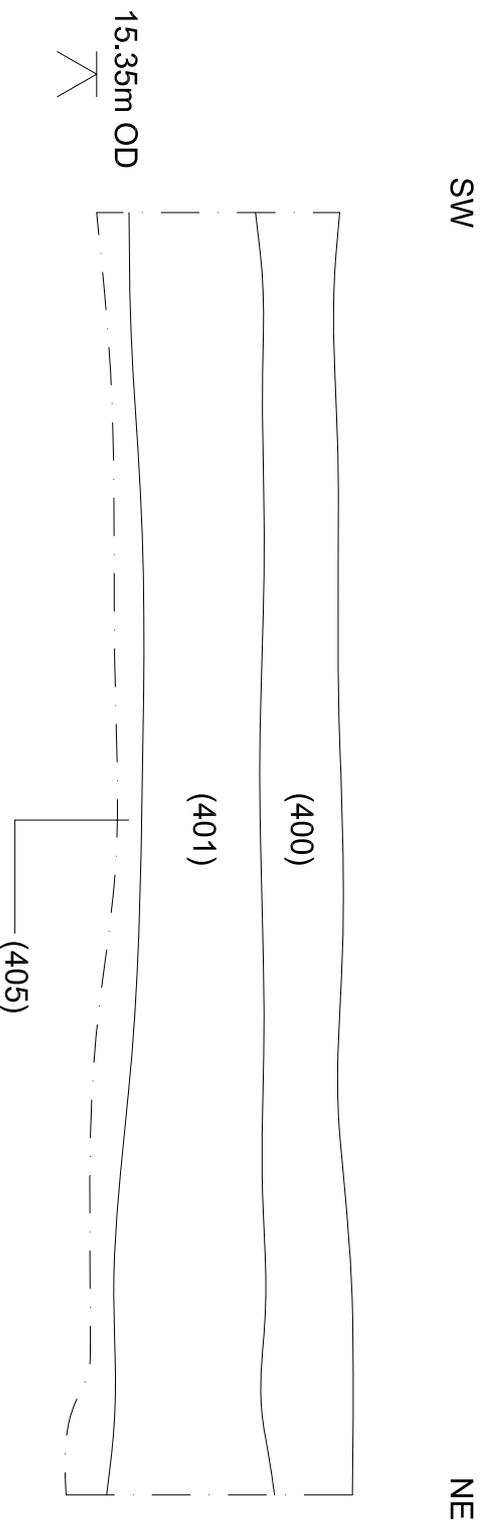


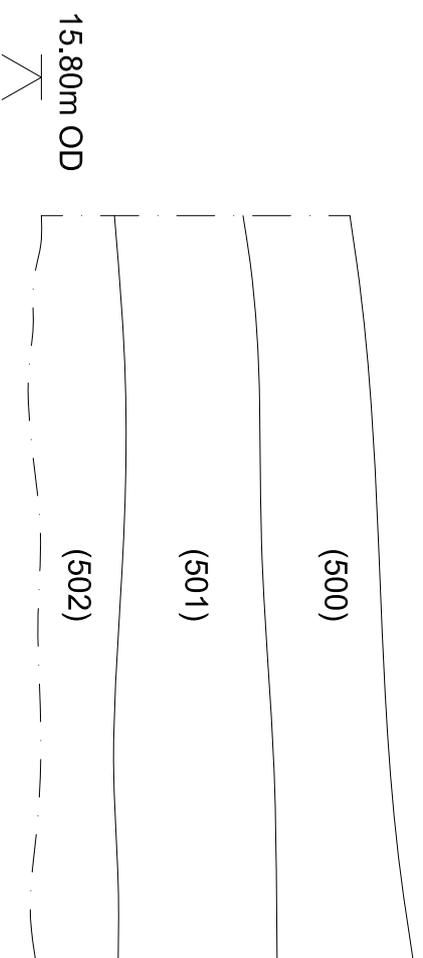
Figure 20: Sections 10.3 and 10.4



Drawing 10.6

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ESE



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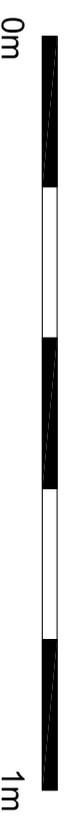


Figure 21: Section 10.6