

Archaeological Monitoring at Taylor's Yard, 2-4 South Road, Faversham, Kent

NGR: TR 0136 6140
Site Code TY/WB/12



Report for
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Archaeological Monitoring at Taylor's Yard, 2-4 South Road, Faversham, Kent

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Date of report: 24/09/12



Plate 1. Aerial view of site (red circle) showing the site prior to development.

(GoogleEarth 2008).

1.0 Summary

1.1. From August 2nd to the 17th 2012 Swale and Thames Archaeological Survey Company (SWAT Archaeology) carried out an Archaeological Watching Brief on ground works involved in the build of a new dwelling at Taylors Yard, 2-4 South Road, Faversham, Kent (Fig. 1 & Plate 1).

1.2. The works were carried out on behalf of the owners and instructions received from the agent Simon Timms.

1.3. An Archaeological Watch was kept during the clearing of the site (Plates 2-3), machine digging for new foundations (Plate 4-5), and drainage runs.

The archaeological work was undertaken in three phases.

Phase 1: Clearing of the site.

Phase 2: Excavation of footings for the new dwelling.

Phase 3: Excavation of drainage.

1.4. The Archaeological Watching Brief was to watch for any archaeological below ground impact.

1.5. The Planning Application Number for the development is: SW/11/1586 Case No. 24234.

1.6. Although the archaeological potential was medium/high the Archaeological Watching Brief revealed no buried archaeological features and no archaeological finds were retrieved.

2.0 Introduction

2.1 Planning Background

Planning application SW/11/1586 for the erection of a new dwelling was submitted to the Local Planning Authority. Kent County Council Heritage and Conservation (KCCHC), on behalf of the Local Planning Authority requested that an Archaeological Watching Brief be undertaken in order to record any archaeological remains uncovered during the development work. The following condition was attached to the planning consent:

No development shall take place until the applicant(s), or their agents or successors in title, has secured the implementation of a watching brief to be undertaken by an archaeologist approved by the Local Planning Authority so that the excavation is observed and items of interest and finds are recorded. The watching brief shall be 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

3.0 Schedule of Visits

An archaeologist attended the site and monitored the excavation works from August 2nd to 17th 2012.

4.0 Aims and Objectives

4.1. The reason for the monitoring and recording, were to:

“Contribute to knowledge of the area through the recording of any archaeological remains exposed as a result of excavations in connection with the ground works. Particular attention will be paid to the character, height below ground level, condition, date and significance of the deposits.”

4.2. The ground works were to excavate footings for the house, drainage and other service runs (Plates 4-5).

4.3. A full programme of proposed works by the contractor were made available to SWAT Archaeology before the on-site monitoring took place.

4.4. Confidence Rating

No factors hindered the recognition of archaeological and deposits during the monitoring and recording exercise.

5.0 Archaeological and Geological Background

5.1. The underlying geology at the site according to the British Geological Survey map is Bedrock Geology of Seaford Chalk Formation and Superficial Deposits of Head Brickearth (BSG website 1: 50,000). The geology revealed on site was silty sandy clay- brickearth. No chalk deposits were revealed.

5.2. The application site (TR 0136 6140) consisted of a small overgrown plot of land south of West Street and on the west side of South Road. The site itself is generally level at a height of about 9m aOD.

5.3. The site lies within an Area of Archaeological Potential associated with archaeological remains presently recorded in the HER. The area surrounding the development site abounds with medieval remains typical of which is an archaeological investigation in the garden of 73 West Street just to the north of the development site which revealed cobbled surfaces dated by pottery to the Late Medieval Period (TR 06 SW 268).

5.4. In October 2004 an Archaeological Evaluation was undertaken on the development site with the excavation of a single trench 10m long and 2m wide. Below a gravel car park surface sitting on compacted brick rubble at 0.40m deep natural brickearth was encountered. At the north end of the trench a large feature over 0.70m deep was revealed. On investigation the feature was found to be filled with a silty brown loam.

In the opinion of the excavator the feature is a brickearth quarry but in the absence of finds is undatable (Ward, A. 2004).

5.5. The postulated construction on the development site of Taylors Lemonade Factory in the 19th century has not been confirmed, either by the archaeological evaluation carried out in October 2004 or the present archaeological investigations (Flower, P. J. 2004).

6.0 Methodology

6.1. The Watching Brief was conducted in accordance with the Archaeological Specification compiled by Kent County Council Heritage and Conservation and it also complied with the Institute of Field Archaeologists' Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs (IfA: 1994, revised Oct 2008).

6.2. The works comprised the observation of all ground works, including the inspection of subsoil and natural deposits for archaeological features and finds.

6.3. The Watching Brief was carried out in four phases according to the needs of the building contractors from August 2nd to the 17th 2012.

6.4. Excavation of the overlying ground was carried out by contractors using a 360 degree machine equipped with a toothless bucket.

6.5. All excavation was carried out under the constant supervision of an experienced archaeologist.

6.6. Where possible the areas of excavation were to be subsequently hand-cleaned with the intention of revealing any observed features in plan and section.

6.7. If found archaeological features under threat were to be 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.

6.8. The archaeological watching brief was carried out in accordance with current IfA Standards and Guidance, (IfA: 2008), and methodology discussed with Archaeological Officers, KCC (2012).

7.0 Results

7.1 General

No archaeological features or finds were revealed or recovered. The subsoil encountered across the site was silty sandy clay (Brickearth) overlaid by topsoil or tarmac with no archaeological features revealed.

8.0 Finds

No buried archaeological features were located in the Archaeological Monitoring phase and no finds were retrieved.

9.0 Discussion

The development site is in an area of medium/high potential with copious evidence of important archaeology in the near vicinity, and the potential for Roman and Early Medieval remains is high.

The archaeological team were somewhat disappointed that no archaeology was revealed.

10.0 Conclusion

The Archaeological Monitoring has fulfilled the primary aims and objectives of the Specification. As far as it is known no buried archaeological features have been affected as a result of the development.

11.0 Acknowledgments

SWAT Archaeology would like to thank Simon and Amanda Timms for commissioning the project.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Paul Wilkinson". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Dr Paul Wilkinson, FRSA., MIFA.

References

HER data (KCC 2012)

IFA (1994 & 2008) Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs

KCC Generic Archaeological Watching Brief 2012

Allen, T. *An Archaeological Evaluation at 2-4 South Road, Faversham* (2004)

Flower, P. J. *Taylor's Yard Design Statement* (2004)

Appendix 1

Kent County Council HER Summary Form

Site Name: Development site at Taylor's Yard, 2-4 South Road, Faversham, Kent

SWAT Site Code: TY/WB/12

Site Address: As above

Summary:

Swale and Thames Survey Company (SWAT) carried out Archaeological Monitoring on the development site above. The site has planning permission for a dwelling house whereby Kent County Council Heritage and Conservation (KCCHC) requested that Archaeological Monitoring be undertaken to determine the possible impact of the development on any archaeological remains.

The Archaeological Monitoring consisted of numerous site visits which encountered no buried archaeological features or artefacts.

District/Unitary: SBC **Parish:** Faversham

Period(s):

NGR (centre of site to eight figures) TR 0136 6140

Type of Archaeological work: Archaeological Monitoring

Date of recording: August 2012

Unit undertaking recording: Swale and Thames Survey Company (SWAT. Archaeology)

Geology: Underlying geology is Head Brickearth

Title and author of accompanying report: Wilkinson P. (2012) Archaeological Monitoring at Taylor's Yard, 2-4 South Road, Faversham, Kent

Summary of fieldwork results (begin with earliest period first, add NGRs where appropriate)

See above

Location of archive/finds: SWAT. Archaeology, Graveney Rd, Faversham, Kent. ME13 8UP

Contact at Unit: Paul Wilkinson

Date: 24/09/2012

Plates



Plate 2. General view of site prior to ground works facing east



Plate 3. The site prior to ground works facing south west



Plate 4. Foundation trenches facing north east



Plate 5. Foundation trenches facing south west

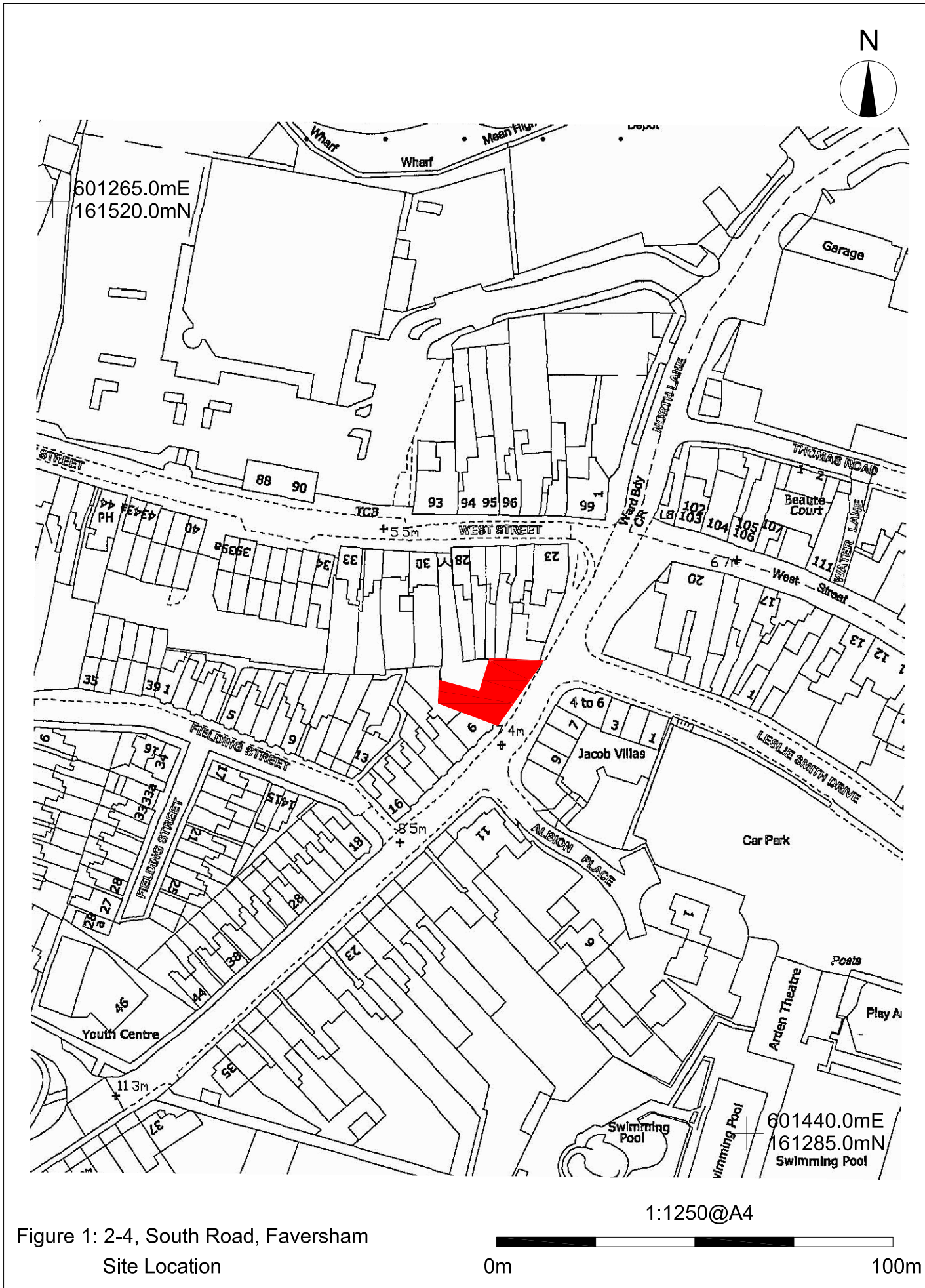


Figure 1: 2-4, South Road, Faversham
Site Location

1:1250@A4
0m 100m

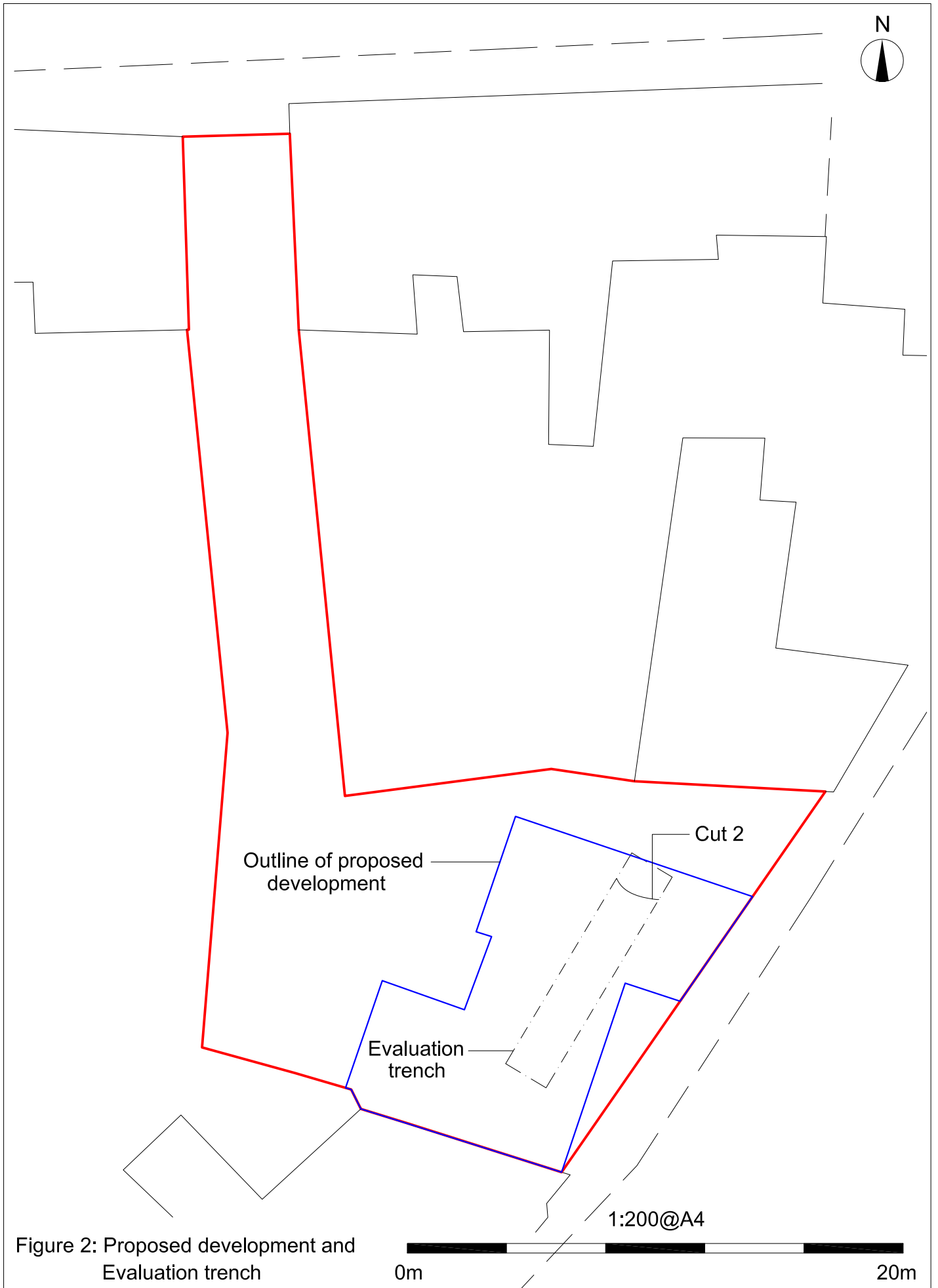


Figure 2: Proposed development and Evaluation trench