94-96 High Street, Bridge, Canterbury, Kent

Archaeological Evaluation Assessment

NGR: 618308 154169

Site Code: BRI-EV-12

Planning Application No.: CA/11/00578

Report for

Mervyn Gulvin Architects

92 High Street, Bridge, Canterbury, Kent CT4 5LB

SWAT. ARCHAEOLOGY

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ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION AT 94-96 HIGH STREET, BRIDGE, CANTERBURY, KENT

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SUMMARY

Under the direction of Dr Paul Wilkinson, Swale & Thames Survey Company (SWAT) carried out an archaeological evaluation of land at 94-96 High Street, Bridge, Canterbury, Kent, from 12th December 2011 and 16th December 2011. The evaluation, comprising trial trenching was 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 Archaeology 2011) in discussion with the Archaeological Officer, Canterbury City Council. Two evaluation trenches were originally requested, revealing the presence of post holes and ditches Iron Age/early Roman period and pits dating to the 18th and 19th century. An impact assessment has concluded that the relatively shallow surviving depth of archaeological features would therefore possibly be under threat from any development within this area, and further archaeological mitigation has been recommended.

INTRODUCTION

Swale & Thames Survey Company (SWAT) was commissioned by Mervyn Gulvin Architects 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 at Canterbury City Council. The evaluation was carried out between 12th December 2011 and 16th December 2011.

PLANNING BACKGROUND

Mervyn Gulvin Architects of 92 High Street, Bridge, Canterbury, Kent CT4 5LB are currently making preparations for the development of 94-96 High Street at Bridge, Canterbury, Kent (Planning Application No: CA/11/00578). The proposed development is to comprise the demolition of the rear bake house, and conversion of the existing building to two residential units incorporating alterations and extensions, retention of the retail unit and erection of a

two-storey dwelling to the rear, and has been submitted to Canterbury City Council and subsequently granted consent with an attached condition (10) stating that:

> *No development shall take place until the applicant or the developer, or their successor(s) in title has secured, firstly, the implementation of an archaeological evaluation of the site, to be undertaken for the purpose of determining the presence or absence of any buried archaeological features and deposits and to assess the importance of the same, and secondly, any mitigation measures, including further archaeological work that may be required as a result of the evaluation, to safeguard the preservation of archaeological remains; and thirdly a programme of post-excavation analysis and recording of any matters of archaeological interest. All archaeological works to be carried out in accordance with written programmes and schemes of work that have been submitted to and approved by the local planning authority.*
> *REASON: To ensure a proper record of matters of archaeological interest.*

In mitigation of the potential impact that the development may have on the buried archaeological resource and in accordance with the provisions of Planning Policy Statement 5 (2010) and condition 10 of the planning consent, SWAT Archaeology carried out a programme of archaeological evaluation on the proposed development site. The archaeological works were monitored by the Canterbury City Council Archaeological Officer.

The evaluation works were undertaken to assess the potential impact of the proposed development on any buried archaeological features and deposits that may have been present within the proposed development area.

SITE DESCRIPTION AND TOPOGRAPHY

The proposed development site is located on the southern side of the High Street opposite the junction with Lynton Place within the historic core of Bridge in Kent, approximately 100m north-west of the parish church dedicated to St Peter. The site centre is taken to be at NGR 618308 154169. The site encompasses *c* 0.1 hectares and currently comprises former bakery buildings encompassing the majority of the site, at an approximate height of 26m above ordnance datum (AOD). The site is within the historic parish of Bridge and the administrative area of Canterbury City Council.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

Bridge is an historic village straddling the A2, formally the Roman road (Watling Street) from Richborough and Dover to London and beyond. Archaeological remains have been found in Bridge in recent archaeological investigations by SWAT Archaeology at 67 High Street where Roman remains were recorded. It is thought the name 'Bridge' – as in Bruges- may suggest a Roman bridge straddling the river crossing of the Nailbourne stream. This possible Roman bridge and road may be located in the vicinity of 94/96 High Street, the proposed development site.

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

The purpose of the evaluation, as set out within the Archaeological Specification was to:

i) Establish the presence or absence of any elements of the archaeological resource across the area of the proposed development site.

ii) To ascertain the extent, depth below ground surface, depth of deposit if possible, character, date and quality of any such archaeological remains by limited sample excavation.

iii) To determine the state of preservation and importance of the archaeological resource if present.

iv) The opportunity will also be taken during the course of the evaluation to place and assess any archaeology revealed within the context of other recent archaeological investigations in the immediate area and within the setting of the local landscape and topography.

v) Should archaeological remains be found, further archaeological excavation may be required. This work will be covered by a separate specification and not form part of the present evaluation.

Additional aims were to:

vi) 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.

vii) Enable an informed decision to be made regarding the future treatment of any archaeological remains and consider any appropriate mitigatory measures either in advance of any planning application and/or during development.

METHODOLOGY

Trial trenching commenced on the 12th December 2011, with the excavation of two trenches both varying in extent (see below). Trench locations were allocated by SWAT after consultation with the Canterbury City Council Archaeological Officer, and formed part of the specification. Following the removal of modern overburden by machine, each trench was initially scanned for surface finds prior to more extensive excavation. Excavation was carried out using a 360º mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket, removing the overburden to the top of the first recognisable archaeological horizon, 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 CCC and IFA standards and guidance. A complete photographic record was maintained on site which included working shots during mechanical excavation, following archaeological investigations and during back filling.

A single context recording system was used to record the deposits. A full list is presented in Appendix 1. Layers and fills are recorded (**100**). The cut of the feature is shown [**100**]. Context numbers were assigned to all deposits for recording purposes; these are used in the report (in **bold**).

MONITORING

Curatorial monitoring was carried out by Richard Cross Archaeological Advisor for Canterbury City Council during the course of the evaluation at which time, methodologies and preliminary results were discussed.

RESULTS

Stratigraphic deposit model

A common stratigraphic sequence was recognised across this area of the site comprising tarmac and concrete (**100** & **200**) slab surfaces overlying hardcore formation layers (**107**, **108**, **109**, **201, 202** & **203**), all of which can be associated with either modern/recent use of the site or occupation within the last 100 years. Below the formation layers the deposit model within each trench differs slightly. **Trench 1** records the presence of an orange grey brown silty clay alluvium (**115**) overlying a buried soil horizon (**116**), while **Trench 2** exposed dark grey black clayey silt with poorly sorted frequent grit with frequent small to large sub-rounded and sub-angular flint pebbles and occasional sub-rounded flint cobbles (**207**) overlying the same buried soil (**213**) that in turn sealed natural gravel (**214**).

The thickness of the overburden varied within each trench, with the average depth of the natural geology being located approximately 0.80m (c.25.2m AOD) below the existing ground level (see **Sections 1**-**4**). Appendix 1 provides the context listing for all trenches, which are described in more detail below.

Trench 1

(3.0m x 0.9m x 1.13m) Figures 3 & 6

Trench 1 was placed on a roughly north west – south east alignment, running alongside the High Street in Bridge, and was on the boundary of the property of 94 High Street, approximately 1.5m from the footpath, giving a safe and secure working area. The trench was machined by a 360° mechanical excavator, firstly with a 0.30m toothed bucket to remove the tarmac and any overlying hardcore, and then with an 0.80m flat trenching bucket, to a depth of roughly 0.50m, at which point two service lines were uncovered. The trench was subsequently hand excavated a further 0.30m, therefore making the trench overall a depth of 0.80m.

At the base of the trench a layer of orangey grey brown slightly clay colluvium **(115)** was recorded. This water lain deposit produced no dateable finds and was otherwise mostly sterile with the exception of occasional patches of iron staining and bioturbation. A sondage (**Figure 3**) was hand excavated through **(115)** which revealed an undulating surface, consisting of a layer of gravel mixed with degraded organic material and remnants of a buried soil horizon (**116**). Overlying colluvium **(115),** a layer of mid grey brown silty clay with

occasional sub-angular flint pebbles **(109)** had a maximum thickness of 0.25m. This in turn was overlain by a thin (0.05m) compacted crushed chalk layer (**108)**, then a further 0.30m mid grey brown silty clay layer (**107)**, with post medieval inclusions such as brick and tile fragments. Upper stratigraphic layers within this trench included a 0.15m layer of brick and modern formation **(117),** which had been subsequently sealed by 0.08m of tarmac **(100)**.

Figure 1 *Trench 1 viewed from the south-east*

Five archaeological features were recorded within this trench, which included two postholes [**102** & **114**] and three pits [**104**], [**106**] & [**112**]. Sequentially the earliest features within this trench appeared to have been the two post holes. Cutting colluvium (**115**), post hole [**102**] measured 0.38m in diameter with a maximum depth of 0.18m (**Section 5**) while post hole [**114**] was slightly larger measuring 0.46m in diameter with a depth of 0.18m. Both features were filled by light grey brown silty clay (**101** & **113** respectively) and both possessed a rounded concave profile possibly suggesting a contemporary relationship. Unfortunately no

dateable finds were retrieved from either feature but both were stratigraphically sealed by (**109**).

Three pits formed the remaining features within Trench 1; each constructed through later formation layers (**107, 108 & 109**) deposited on site suggesting a later post-medieval date. Pit [**104**] measured 0.9m x 0.34m x 0.8m and was filled by loose dark grey brown with frequent chalk flecks and brick fragments (**103**). Finds from this feature include late 18th century/early 19th century pottery, animal bone and teeth of deer of the *Cervus occlusal* type along with ovine rib bones with indications of butchery marks, confirming early assumption of a later provenance (see above).

Located in the southern edge of **Trench 1,** pit [**106**] possessed very sharp sides with a roughly flat base representing a late refuse pit with two fills (**110** and **105**). The upper fill (**105**) consisted of dark brown silty clay with frequent chalk flecks and occasional brick fragments while the lower (**110**) comprised mid grey brown silty clay with rare sub-angular flint cobbles and brick fragments. Romano-British pottery retrieved from (**110**) is considered residual within this context.

Figure 2 *Trench 1 ditch [106] (photograph taken from the north-east facing south-west)*

The final pit within this trench [**112**] measured 0.7m by 0.2m and had a depth exceeding 0.65m+. The characteristics of this feature suggested a similarity with the other two pits within this trench so full excavation was not carried out.

Trench 2
(2.6m x 1.6m x 1.10m) Figures 4 & 5

Trench 2 was located towards the rear southern corner of 94 High Street, on a north east – south west alignment. This trench was machine excavated to a depth of approximately 0.85m, after which it was hand excavated for a further 0.25m. The natural gravel **(214)** was recorded at a level of approximately 24.8m AOD and comprised mid orange sub-rounded flint pebbles, visible at the base of the two excavated features **[206]** and **[212]**. Overlying the natural (**214**) a layer of gravel **(213)** mixed with slightly degraded organic material formed a buried soil horizon comparable with that recorded within **Trench 1** (**116**). A sondage measuring 0.4m x 0.5m was excavated to a depth of 0.25m through this layer in the northern corner of **Trench 2**, from which no discernible cultural material was retrieved. Overlying the buried soil (**213**) and with a depth of approximately 0.30m, a thick layer of dark grey black clayey silt (**207**) with poorly sorted frequent grit, frequent small to large sub-rounded and sub-angular flint pebbles and occasional sub-rounded flint had been sealed by a firm mid grey brown silty clay layer with rare sub-angular flint cobbles (**203**), a dense mixed chalk and grey black silty clay (**202**) and a greasy black silty clay consolidation layer (**201**) that has brick fragments and chalk fleck inclusions. A concrete slab and tarmac (**200**) formed the surface within this area of the site.

Figure 3 *Trench 2 plan (taken from the north-western extent of the trench)*

Three archaeological features were recorded within this trench, which included two ditches [**206** & **212**] and one modern pit [**210**]. The ditches are of particular interest as both are relatively low within the stratigraphic sequence, cutting buried soil (**213**) and natural (**214**) suggesting an earlier provenance.

The earliest in the sequence is ditch [**206**] measuring 2.1m in length (visible length only as it disappears beneath the extent of the trench) with a width of 1.1m and depth of 0.6m.
The upper (and therefore later) fill of this feature comprises orangey grey brown slightly clayey silt, with occasional small sub-rounded flint pebbles and intense bioturbation. Below this is a thin layer of dark brown silty clay fills with no discernible inclusions (**208**) that seal a primary fill consisting of mid grey brown silty clay with very frequent well sorted small – large sub-rounded flint pebbles and occasional medium sub-rounded flint cobbles (**205**). The upper fill of this ditch (**204**) has been provisionally dated by pottery from c.75-50 BC to the later 11th century AD.

Cutting the earlier ditch, and therefore stratigraphically later in date, the second ditch is on a north-south alignment, with rounded corners [**212**]. With an exposed length of 1.8m, width

of 0.44m and maximum depth of 0.40m, the feature was located within the middle of the north-western limit of excavation to the southern corner of **Trench 2**, where it was truncated by the brick shaft mentioned above. The fill of this feature consists of firm dark grey black silty clay (**211**) which produced a single small sherd of 'Belgic' style pottery dated to c.25BC-50AD.

The third recorded feature within **Trench 2** consisted of a relatively large pit measuring 1.9m x 0.75m x 0.35m and located in the north- west baulk [**210**]. It is filled by (**209**) with modern inclusions such as a metal bucket, and brick and tile fragments.

FINDS

31 pottery sherds (911gms) were recovered from the two test pits as detailed within the Ceramic Assessment included as **Appendix 2**. Animal bone retrieved from Context (**104**) included ribs, scapula and vertebrae from sheep, goat and cow, all of which had signs of butchery.

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

A rapid bio-archaeological assessment was undertaken by SWAT Archaeology in connection with the ongoing archaeological investigations at 94-96 High Street, Bridge. The examination included a rapid assessment of fossilised macro-remains (e.g. charcoal, and charred and waterlogged seeds) from two samples, to evaluate their potential for reconstructing local environmental conditions, and the economy and diet of the former inhabitants.

Sample number	**Volume processed (L)**	**Charcoal**	**Charred seeds**	**Waterlogged Seeds**	**Waterlogged Wood**	**Mollusca**	**Bone**	**Pot**	**Main taxa**
(**205**) A	6.5	1	1	-	-	6	-	-	*Triticum* spp.(free-threshing wheat) Indeterminate grains
(**211**) B	7	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	*Triticum* spp.(free-threshing wheat) *Hordeum vulgare* (hulled

									barley) *Anthemis cotula* (stinking mayweed)

Table 1 *Bio-archaeological rapid assessment*

Bio-archaeological rapid assessment

Two bulk samples were assessed from two areas of archaeological features in **Trench 2**. The bulk samples from (**205**) and (**211**) were processed by flotation using 1mm and 300micron mesh sieves. All 'flots' and residues were rapidly assessed by eye for the concentration of plant macrofossils, including charred wood and seeds, Mollusca and bone (Table 1). The presence of flecks of pottery was also noted. The flots were then scanned under a zoom stereo microscope at x7-45 magnification, and the concentration and state of preservation of the charred plant remains in each sample were recorded (Table 1). Preliminary identifications of the charred plant remains have been suggested with reference to comparative material and literature.

Results and Interpretation

The assessment of the charred plant remains (seeds) indicated that all the flots contained the burnt residues of crop processing activities including cereal grains, mainly *Triticum* spp. (free-threshing wheat), *Hordeum vulgare* (hulled barley), and weed seeds. There were low-moderate amounts of identifiable remains in all the samples with variable but generally poor preservation (Table 1). Nevertheless, the charred plant remains may provide information both on crop husbandry and crop-processing activities at the site. *Triticum* spp. (free-threshing wheat), *Hordeum vulgare* (hulled barley), are all typical of charred cereal deposits while the presence of *Anthemis cotula* (stinking mayweed) in one of the samples suggests the cultivation of heavy clay soils in the vicinity of the site. In addition, charcoal was recorded in low quantities in both samples. Mollusca was recorded in low to moderate quantities in sample (**205**), but were absent in sample (**211**).

Recommendations

Concentration and preservation of the charred plant remains (seeds and wood) was low to moderate, however, as previously stated, these remains may provide sound information on husbandary and crop processing activities on site. It is therefore recommended that samples are taken from all secure contexts in any future investigations so that a detailed investigation can be carried out.

PROJECT CONSTRAINTS

Of particular note would be deep stratified features within both features, coupled with the limited amount of available spoil storage areas within the extents of the site. In the event that further excavation is required, allowances should be made for the removal and storage of spoil, whilst maintaining access and respecting existing buildings, which are to remain.

DISCUSSION

The archaeological evaluation at 94-96 High Street, Bridge has revealed the presence of pits, ditches and post holes with dating material for the late Iron Age/Roman and the Early Medieval-Late Post-Medieval periods. While the majority of the features recorded within the two excavated trenches are relatively later (i.e. post medieval/modern) indications for possible earlier occupation of the site was visible.

Within **Trench 1** the pottery sequence starts with the earliest fill (**110**) of a possible ditch [**106**]. The pottery retrieved from the fill of this pit included nine sherds of Early Roman to Late Roman pottery with at least two of the larger sherds conjoined and fresh. Intrusive pottery included a single worn sherd of Late Medieval Tyler Hill ware and ten sherds of Post Medieval clay pipe. Although the pottery suggests an earlier date this feature is most likely relatively late. The fact that it cuts through later layers within the stratigraphic sequence and is sealed by modern hardcore (**101**) and a concrete slab (**100**) would indicate that the earlier pottery is in fact residual. In addition, pit [**104**] and pit [**112**] are within a similar stratigraphic horizon and have been dated by pottery sherds dated to the late 18th and early 19th century.

As far as significant archaeological horizons are concerned the presence of a buried soil (**116**) would suggest that earlier deposits, should they exist on site, would be relatively well preserved surviving later truncation. Unfortunately dating of later layers is difficult without any substantial finds but it is suggested that the thin compact chalk (**108**) may present a level at which archaeological interest is presented. The layer beneath (**109**) was relatively firm and on the whole lacking in any significant inclusions whereas the layer above the chalk horizon was much looser, more disturbed and with a higher frequency of powdered and crushed CBM.

Within Trench 2 evidence for earlier occupation of the site would seem to be suggested. The pottery sequence begins with two low-fired ‘Belgic’-style grog-tempered sherds, one in a

rather thick-walled fabric from Context (**204**), dating to about 75-50BC to 25AD, the other from Context (**211)** is thinner-walled and better-made and more likely to date between 50-25 BC-50 AD. Context (**204**) is the uppermost fill of a ditch that has a mix of both early Belgic, 75-50BC to 25AD, and later 11th century pottery. The context is about 0.6m below the modern ground level. It seems the ditch is cut by ditch [**212**] dated by pottery to 50-25BC to 50AD. Context (**211**) is the fill of linear [**212**] and a single sherd of pottery was retrieved from a secure, undisturbed context. The sherd dates to about 50-25BC to 50AD. The feature has been truncated by feature [**210**] and possibly the deposit (**203**), itself dating to about 1250-1300AD.

Unfortunately the limited extent of the evaluation hinders a more concise characterisation of the features present. Ditches and particularly post holes are usually good indicators of settlement and occupation. However, the ditch alignments do not seem to be related to anything within the surrounding area further suggesting an early presence prior to the development of the historic town. Similarly, post holes can normally form patterns indicative of structures although with only two present this is difficult and should be treated with caution. That said, early occupation of the site is clear and evidence for this occupation would appear to survive despite the site being relatively well developed.

IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Existing Impacts

The proposed development site has undergone minimal changes throughout the last 150 years, with any possible early structures (i.e. medieval) being truncated by the construction of smaller buildings within the central area of the site, particularly the existing development fronting Church Street. The eastern extent of the site, i.e. where the evaluation trenches have been located, shows minimal construction impact (as shown on early Ordnance survey maps) and occasional services. That said post-medieval pits recorded during the course of the fieldwork have disturbed upper occupation horizons although it does seem evident that the upper natural geological horizon has suffered minimal disturbance.

Proposed Impacts

Construction proposals are primarily focussed on the renovation of the existing houses, the demolition of the rear bake house and the construction of two-storey dwelling to the rear.

Proposed impacts from such development, which would include the construction of foundations, access and associated services are believed to impact to a level c.1.2m below the existing ground level (approximately 24.8m aOD). As a result, it likely that archaeological features, which exist at a level of approximately 25m AOD, would therefore be under threat from development.

Mitigation (suggested)

The purpose of the archaeological evaluation was to provide an assessment of the contextual archaeological record, in order to determine the potential survival of archaeological deposits that may be impacted upon during any proposed construction works. In the event that finished ground levels remain constant, the depth of foundations trenches, services, access and car parking are likely to require the excavation of material exceeding approximately 1.2m in depth. In the absence of ground raising, proposed impacts to archaeological deposits throughout the entire site is therefore deemed as moderate.

That said, the focus of the development is to the rear, where a bake house is currently situated. The majority of the undisturbed area of the site, i.e. the existing (and proposed) access and driveway is to be retained and therefore subject to minimal impact. As a result, further archaeological mitigation is recommended. Allowances should therefore be made for a programme of archaeological excavation, particularly within the area of the proposed dwelling to the rear of the property, and the subsequent mitigation of adverse impacts through preservation by record.

CONCLUSION

The archaeological evaluation has been successful in fulfilling the primary aims and objectives of the Specification. Despite relatively moderate truncation on the site over the last 150 years, intact archaeological deposits remain preserved *in situ*. Development proposals are therefore likely to have a moderate impact on archaeological remains, particularly towards the rear of the property.

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 (CCC) of any further archaeological mitigation measures that may be necessary in connection with the development proposals.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

SWAT would like to thank Mervyn Gulvin Architects for commissioning the project. Thanks are also extended to Canterbury City Council for their advice and assistance, in particular Richard Cross (Archaeological Officer). Finally, thanks are due to the site team, namely: James Madden and Marcus Headifen. All surveying and illustrations were produced by Digitise This. This report was prepared by Dr Paul Wilkinson (SWAT).

Dr Paul Wilkinson

March 2012

SUMMARY OF SITE ARCHIVE

Quantity of Archaeological Records

Photographs: 54 digital images, 0 Colour Slides

Drawings: Six A3 permatrace site drawings, comprising feature plans (and associated sections.

Finds: See Appendix B

Context Register including: Context Register (1), Drawings Register (1), Photographic Register (1), Levels Sheets (x), Environmental Samples Register (x), Environmental Sheets (x) and Context Sheets (64)

REFERENCES

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

Canterbury City Council (2011) *Specification for Archaeological Evaluation at 94-96 High Street, Bridge, Canterbury, Kent*

Museum of London Archaeological Services (1994) *Archaeological Site Manual*. 3rd edition

APPENDIX 1 – Context Summary

94-96 High Street, Bridge, Canterbury, Kent — Site Code: BRI-EV-12

Context Number	Trench	Type	Interpretation	Description	Fill of	Filled by	Section No (Fig. No.)	Plan No (Fig. No.)	Artefact dating	Comments (Alignment/soil type/Group Number etc)	Assigned Period
100	1	Layer	Surface	Tarmac			4 (6)		Mod		
101	1	Fill	Fill of post hole	light grey brown silty clay	102		5 (6)	(3)			
102	1	Cut	Post hole	0.38m diameter x 0.18m depth		101	5 (6)	(3)			
103	1	Fill	Fill of pit	Loose dark grey brown with frequent chalk flecks and brick fragments.	104		3 & 4 (6)	(3)	Probably residual – if not c.1800-1850 AD		
104	1	Cut	Pit	0.9m x 0.34m x 0.8m		103	3 (6)	(3)	18th-19th C		
105	1	Fill	Fill of ditch (upper)	Dark brown silty clay with frequent chalk flecks and occasional brick fragments	106		3 & 4 (6)		Probably residual – if not c.1850-1900 AD-plus		
106	1	Cut	Ditch	1.2m x 0.9m x 1.1m		105 & 110	3 & 4 (6)	(3)			
107	1	Layer		Mid grey brown silty clay with occasional CBM			3 (6)				
108	1	Layer	Formation	Compact crushed chalk			3 (6)				
109	1	Layer		Mid grey brown silty clay with occasional sub-angular flints			3 & 4 (6)				
110	1	Fill	Fill of ditch	Mid grey brown silty clay with rare sub-angular flint cobbles and brick fragments	106		3 & 4 (6)		c.1850-1900 AD or slightly later		
111	1	Fill	Fill of pit	Loose dark grey brown with frequent chalk flecks and brick fragments.	112		4 (6)		18th-19th C		
112	1	Cut	Pit	0.7m x 0.2m (in trench) x		111	4 (6)	(3)	18th-19th C		

Context Number	Trench	Type	Interpretation	Description	Fill of	Filled by	Section No (Fig. No.)	Plan No (Fig. No.)	Artefact dating	Comments (Alignment/soil type/Group Number etc)	Assigned Period
				0.65m+.							
113	1	Fill	Fill of post hole	Light grey brown silty clay with occasional large sub-angular flint pebbles	114		4 (6)				
114	1	Cut	Post hole	0.46m diameter x 0.18m depth		113	4 (6)	(3)			
115	1	Layer	Colluvium	Orange grey brown silty clay with frequent iron staining			3 (6)	(3)			
116	1		Buried soil (possible)	Gravel with moderate degraded organic remains (same as 213)				(3)			
117	1	Layer	Made ground								
200	2	Layer	Surface	Concrete and tarmac			2 (5)				
201	2	Layer	Formation layer	Greasy black silty clay			1 & 2 (5)				
202	2	Layer		Dense mixed chalk and grey black silty clay			1 & 2 (5)				
203	2	Layer		Mid grey brown silty clay layer with rare sub-angular flint cobbles			1 & 2 (5)		Possibly c.1250-1300 AD		
204	2	Fill	Fill of ditch	Orangey grey brown slightly clayey silt, with occasional small sub-rounded flint pebbles and intense bioturbation	206		1 (5)		Uncertain – if not seriously residual, possibly later C12-mid C13 AD		
205	2	Fill	Fill of ditch	Mid grey brown silty clay with very frequent well sorted small – large sub-rounded flint pebbles and occasional medium sub-rounded flint cobbles	206		1 (5)	(4)			
206	2	Cut	Ditch	2.1m x 1.1m x 0.6m		204, 205 208	1 (5)	(4)			
207	2	Layer		Dark grey black clayey silt with poorly sorted frequent grit, frequent small to large sub-rounded and sub-angular flint			1(5)	(4)			

Context Number	Trench	Type	Interpretation	Description	Fill of	Filled by	Section No (Fig. No.)	Plan No (Fig. No.)	Artefact dating	Comments (Alignment/soil type/Group Number etc)	Assigned Period
				pebbles, and occasional sub-rounded flint cobbles							
208	2	Fill	Fill of ditch	Dark brown silty clay fill with no discernible inclusions	206		1 (5)				
209	2	Fill	Fill of pit	Dark grey silt clay with modern inclusions such as a metal bucket, and brick and tile fragments	210		2 (5)		Mod		Modern
210	2	Cut	Pit	1.9m x 0.75m x 0.35m		209	2 (5)		Mod		Modern
211	2	Fill	Fill of ditch	Firm dark grey black silty clay	212		2 (5)	(4)	If not from a post-Roman context, possibly later C1AD-C2 AD		
212	2	Cut	Ditch	1.8m x 0.44m x 0.40m		211	2 (5)	(4)			
213	2	Layer	Buried soil (possible)	Gravel with moderate degraded organic remains (same as 116)			1 & 2 (5)	(4)			
214	2	Layer	Natural	Layer of mid orange gravel with sub-rounded flint pebbles			1 & 2 (5)	(4)			

APPENDIX 2 - Dating and Assessment of Multi-Period Pottery Assemblage

By Nigel Macpherson-Grant

BRIDGE EVALUATION 2012 (BRI-EV-12)

A. Primary quantification : **24 sherds (weight : 861gms) from Trench 1 and 7 sherds (50gms) from Trench 2.**

B. Period codes employed :

ER	= Early Roman
ER-MR	= Early-Mid Roman transition
MR	= Mid Roman
EM	= Early Medieval
EM-M	= Early Medieval transition
M	= Medieval
M-LM	= Medieval-Late Medieval transition
LM	= Late Medieval
PM	= Post-Medieval
LPM	= Late Post-Medieval

C. Context dating :

Trench 1 : Excavated contexts :

Cut104 (Fill 103)- 8 sherds (weight : 581gms)

4 sherd PM red 'basaltes' ware (c.1765-1800 AD)

2 sherds LPM red earthenware (c.1750-1800/1825 AD emphasis)

1 sherd LPM Later Creamware (1 blue transfer-printed, c.1775-1825 AD)

Comment : Small, mostly moderate-sized, five large sherds. C18 AD material more worn — but one fresh. Later Creamware chipped and battered, and 1 burnt (transfer-printed).

Likely date: Probably residual – if not c.1800-1850 AD

Cut106 (Fill 105)- 7 sherds (weight : 178gms)

7 PM-LPM claypipe stems (broadly C18-C19 AD)

4 sherds LPM Later Creamware (c.1775-1825 AD)

1 sherd LPM English porcelain (c.1775-1825 AD emphasis probably)

1 sherd LPM ?soft paste porcelain (gilded, c.1775-1825/1850 AD emphasis probably)

1 sherd LPM ? Staffs-type white earthenware (purple-blue transfer, c.1825-1850/1875 AD;

Comment : Small earlier elements - Staffordshire stoneware tea-pot fragment and Later Creamware sherds fairly battered and residual in-context.

Likely date : Probably residual – if not c.1850-1900 AD-plus

Cut 106 (Fill 110) - 10 sherds (weight : 102gms)

2 sherds ER-MR Canterbury red sandy ware (c.125-150/175 AD)

2 sherds ER-MR Canterbury red sandy ware (c.125/150-175 AD emphasis)

1 sherd MR Canterbury white-cream sandy ware (hard-fired, flagon, c.150-175/200 AD)

4 sherds MR Canterbury pink-buff sandy ware (flagon, c.150-175/200 AD probably)

1 sherd LM Canterbury Tyler Hill sandy ware (c.1475-1500/1525 AD)

Comment–) –Roman material is small-moderate-sized and mostly moderately worn.

10 sherds PM clay pipe (10 stems, 2 bowl spurs, thin stems, narrow bore, c.1850-1910 AD; 1 x '**IS**', 1 x '**JP**' makers marks)

Comment : The Roman elements are small>moderate-sized and variably worn with at least 2 of the larger sherds near-fresh. The post-Roman assemblage-component is all worn, including the Later Creamware sherd. However the fragile pipe stems are large and the 2 bowl fragments, although broken, are fresh. These are almost certainly from an undisturbed contemporary discard deposit within the date range given.

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

Trench 2.

Context: 203 - 3 sherds (weight : 38gms)

1 sherd EM shell-tempered sandy ware (? Canterbury-type, c.1150-1200/1225 AD)

1 sherd EM>M Canterbury Tyler Hill shell-dusted ware (c.1175/1200-1225 AD)

1 sherd M Canterbury Tyler Hill sandy ware (c.1200/1225-1250 AD)

Comment : All bodysherds, fairly small-moderate sized. First 2 elements are fairly worn, latest less worn but still not fresh. Size and condition of latter suggests not necessarily severely residual..

Likely date : Possibly c.1250-1300 AD

Context: 204 - 2 sherds (weight : 11gms)

1 sherd MIA-LIA>LIA 'Belgic'-style grog-tempered ware (c.75/50 BC-25 AD emphasis probably)

1 sherd EM shell-tempered sandy ware (? Canterbury-type, 1050-1100/1125 AD emphasis)

Comment : Both fairly small bodysherds, both worn - the earliest with fairly heavy unifacial wear and almost certainly residual in-context, the latest less so but with some edge and into-face wear – and again probably residual to some degree.

Likely date : Uncertain – if not seriously residual, possibly later C12-mid C13 AD

Context: 211 - 1 sherd (weight : 5gms)

1 sherd LIA>ER 'Belgic'-style grog-tempered ware with sparse flint temper (c.50/25 BC-50 AD range)

Comment : Fairly small bodysherd from a fineware jar, slightly worn. The fabric is soft and unlikely to weather well so – if residual – the sherd has received very little disturbance and exposure post-loss. If not from a post-Roman context, possibly later C1AD-C2 AD.

Likely date : Uncertain – dating depends on stratigraphic position (see Comment)

A total of 8 archaeological periods are represented which, on the basis of the recovered evidence, clearly sub-divide into the following 2 broad periods –

Late Iron Age-Mid Roman (c.50 BC-250 AD)

Although the recovered quantities for this period are low, with no sherds representing the period c.50-125 AD, it is highly likely that they reflect continuous – or near-continuous – occupation throughout the period indicated. The sequence begins with two low-fired 'Belgic'-style grog-tempered sherds, one in a rather thick-walled fabric from *Context 204* that could be an earlier first century BC product, the other from *211* is thinner-walled and better-made and more likely to date between c.25 BC-50 AD. The fabric of the sherd from *204* could suggest a date from c.100 or 75 BC - and a date as early as this is not impossible in view of the topographically-near evidence for MIA-LIA occupation recovered from a housing estate on Bridge Hill (Watson 1964), and also nearby, from the area of Star Hill (Macpherson-Grant archive report). However, in the current absence of indigenous MIA-LIA-style flint-tempered pottery, a slightly later date of c.50 BC is initially applied here. The time span represented by the second grogged sherd, from *211*, is also represented both at Bridge Hill and Star Hill - and summarizing – the impression is beginning to emerge of a fairly substantial degree of activity in the Bridge area during, at least, the late MIA-LIA (from c.125/100 BC) and probably

throughout the LIA.

The present site produced no material firmly datable to the Early Roman period (c.50-150 AD), although some evidence was recovered from Bridge Hill – and could reasonably be expected here. All the evidence for the principally Mid Roman phase of activity recorded here consists of residual sherds – all coming from *Context 110*. Although clearly derived, the sometimes good condition and size of these sherds suggests that they are not material re-deposited from elsewhere but stem from a genuine *in situ* phase of Roman occupation – with discarded contemporary rubbish remaining only minimally disturbed until the eleventh or twelfth centuries. The sherds representing this phase are unremarkable and most should date to the mid-later second century. In the absence of any harder-fired third-fourth century types, a topographically localized end-date of c.200/225 AD is applied to the present material.

Early Medieval-Late Post-Medieval (c.1050-1900 AD)

One rather atypically thick-walled Canterbury sandy ware sherd from *Context 204*, of probably later eleventh century AD date, begins this second sequence. Throughout, none of the material is particularly remarkable with virtually all of it occurring as plain bodysherds. There appears to be a slight increase in activity, or at least in localized discard tendencies, between c.1175-1250 AD, followed by a long phase between c.1250-1650 AD represented by only two sherds. There is a slight increase during the approximate period c.1650-1750 AD, followed by very little until the discard of a cluster of barely used clay-pipe fragments into *Context 110* at some point during the second half of the nineteenth century.

E. Recommendations

1. Any further work at this location should bear in mind the need to define more clearly the nature of the earlier first century BC activity – and also whether Roman occupation extends into the Late Roman period.

F. Bibliography

Monaghan 1987:

Monaghan, J., *Upchurch and Thameside Roman Pottery*, BAR British Series **197** 1987

Watson 1964 :

Watson, M.B., 'Iron Age site on Bridge Hill', *Archaeologia Cantiana* 1963, 185-188)

Analyst : N.Macpherson-Grant 19.1.2012

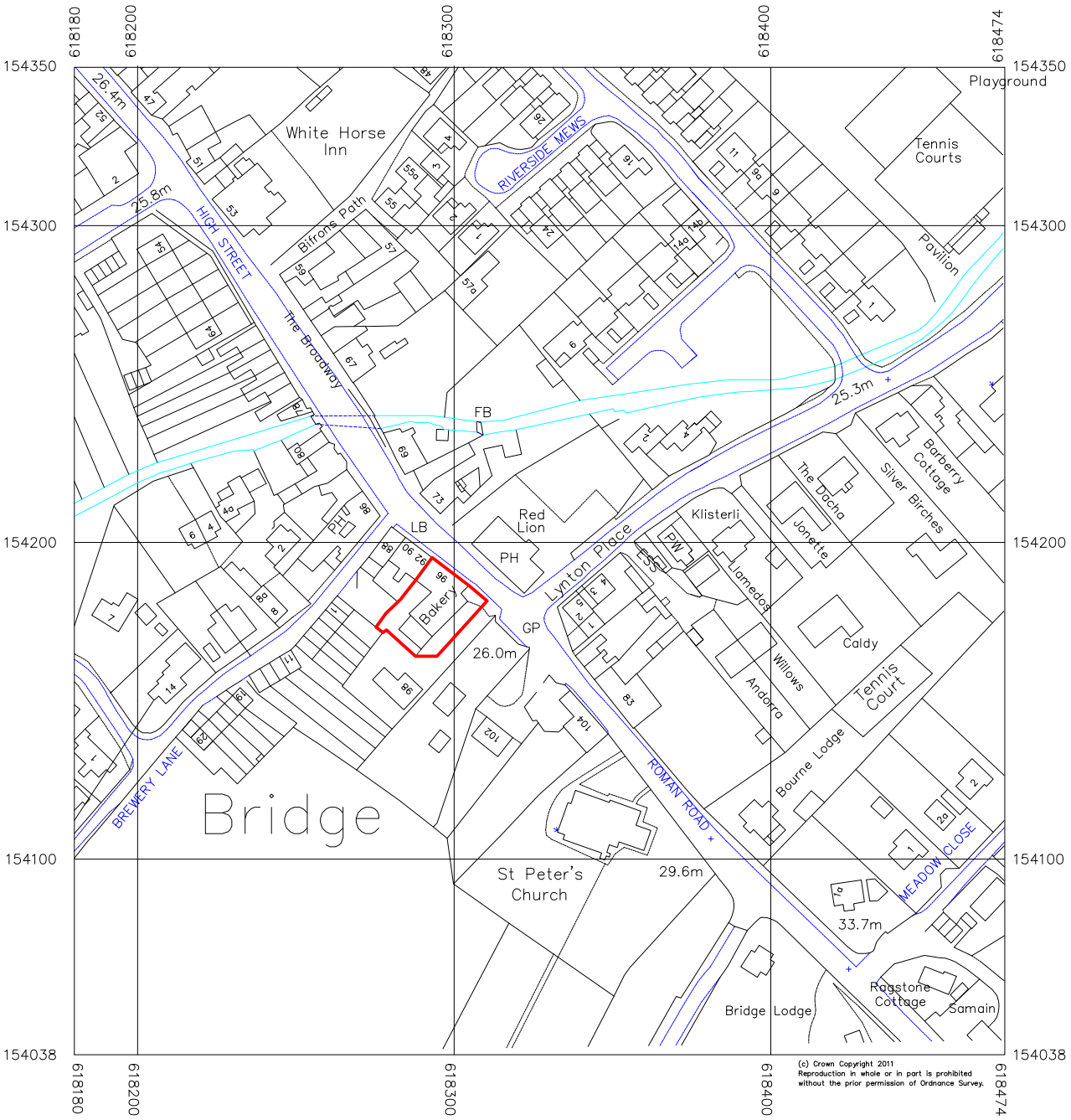


Figure 1: Location of Site

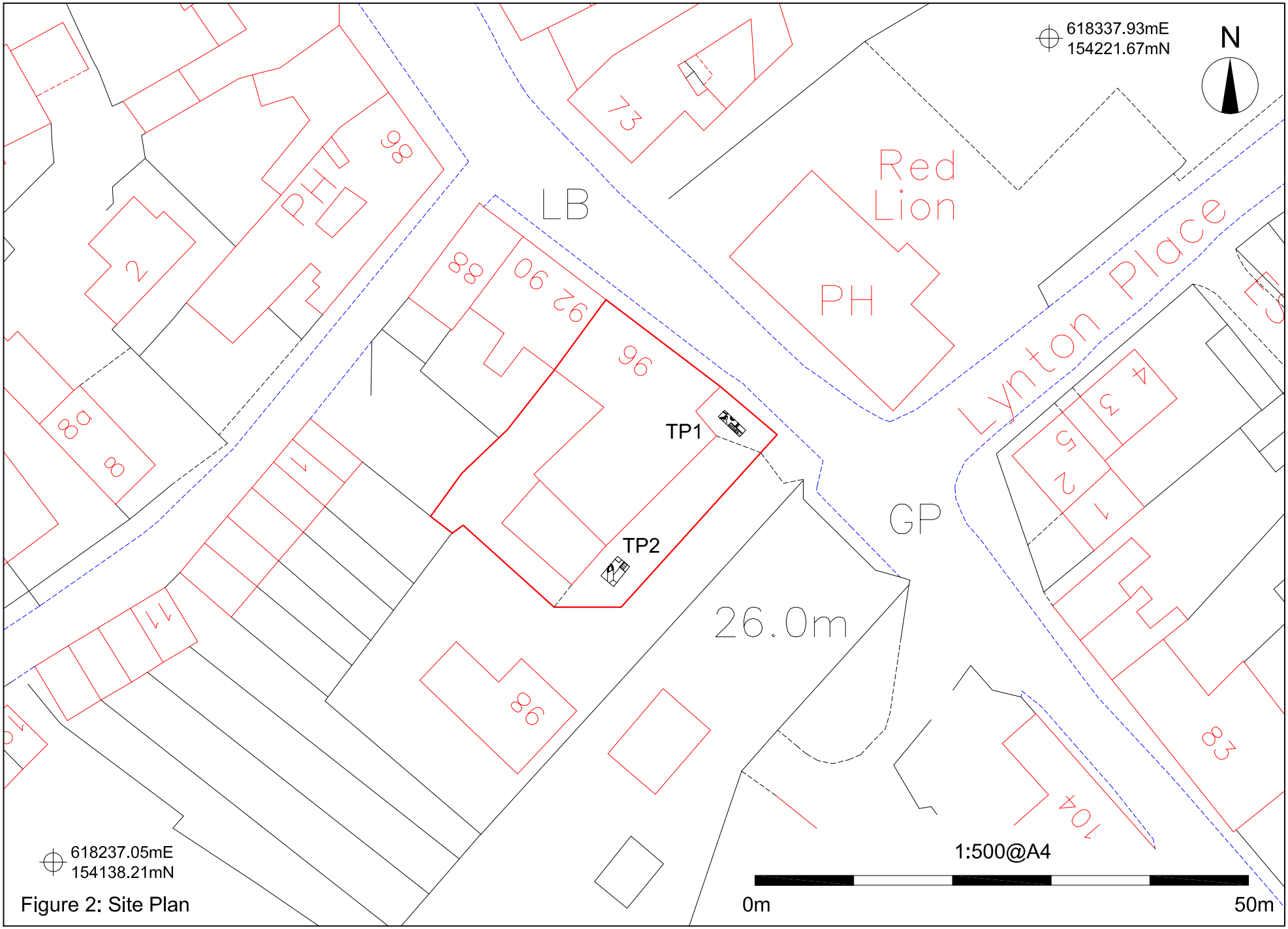


Figure 2: Site Plan

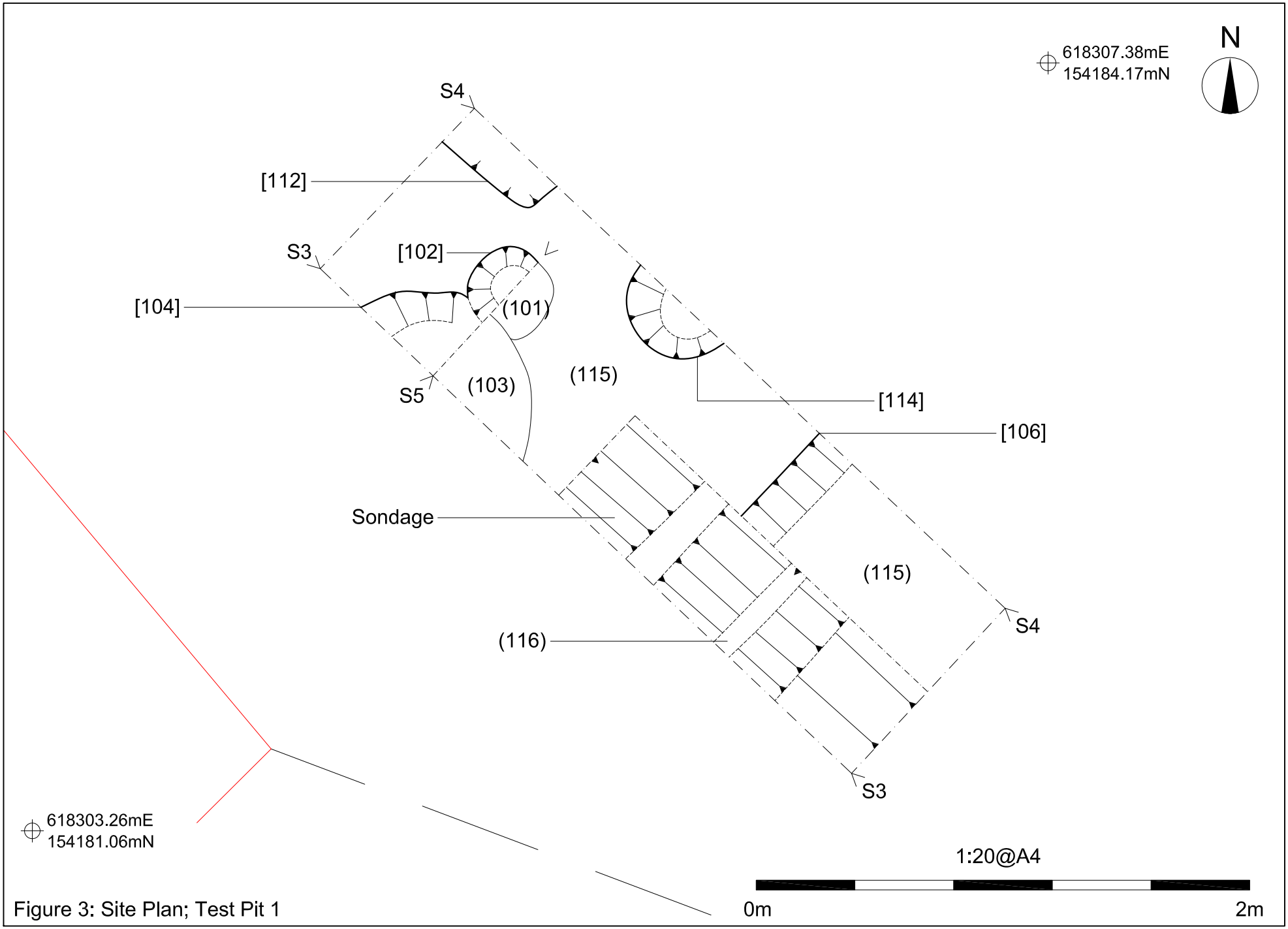


Figure 3: Site Plan; Test Pit 1

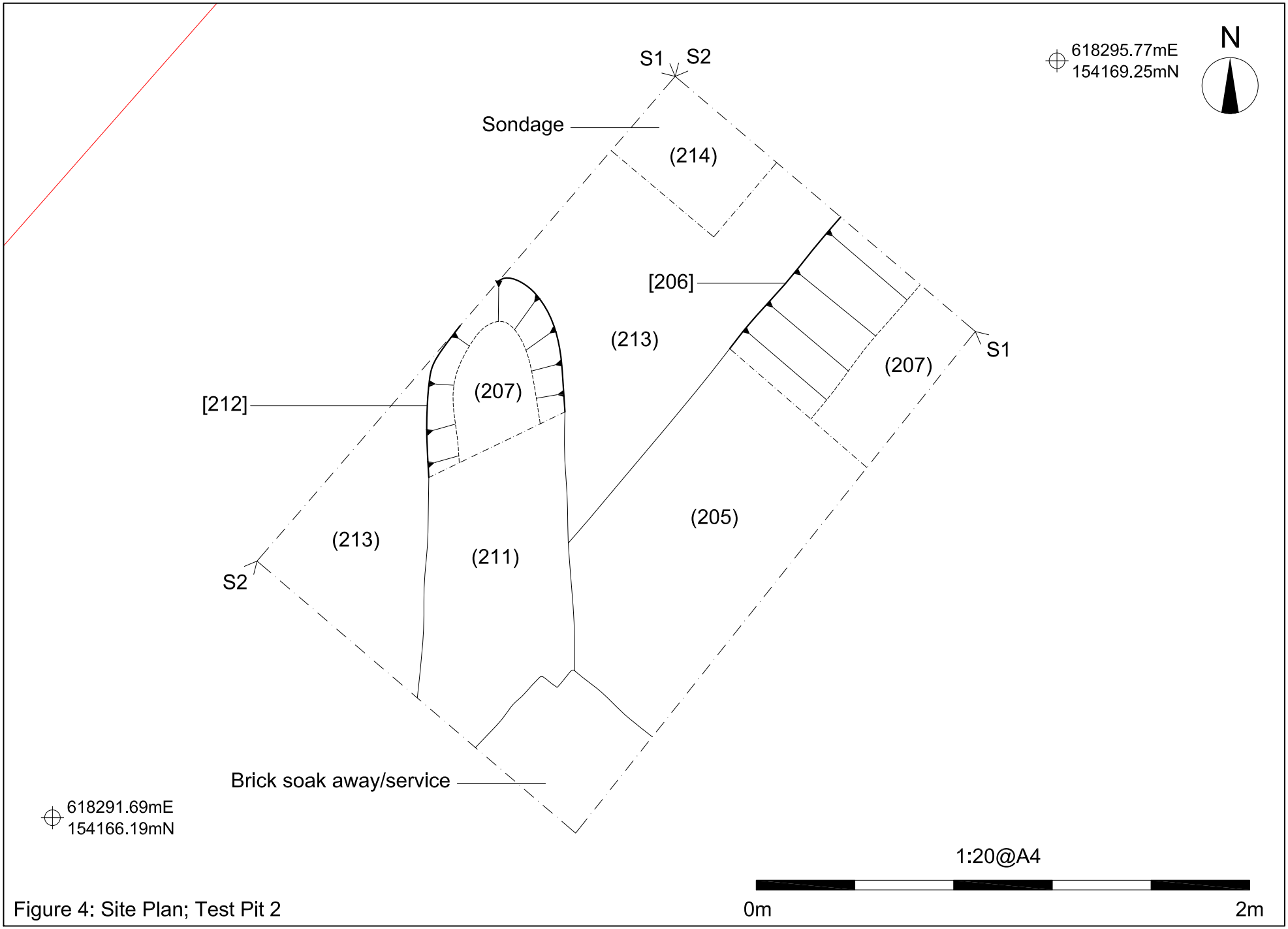
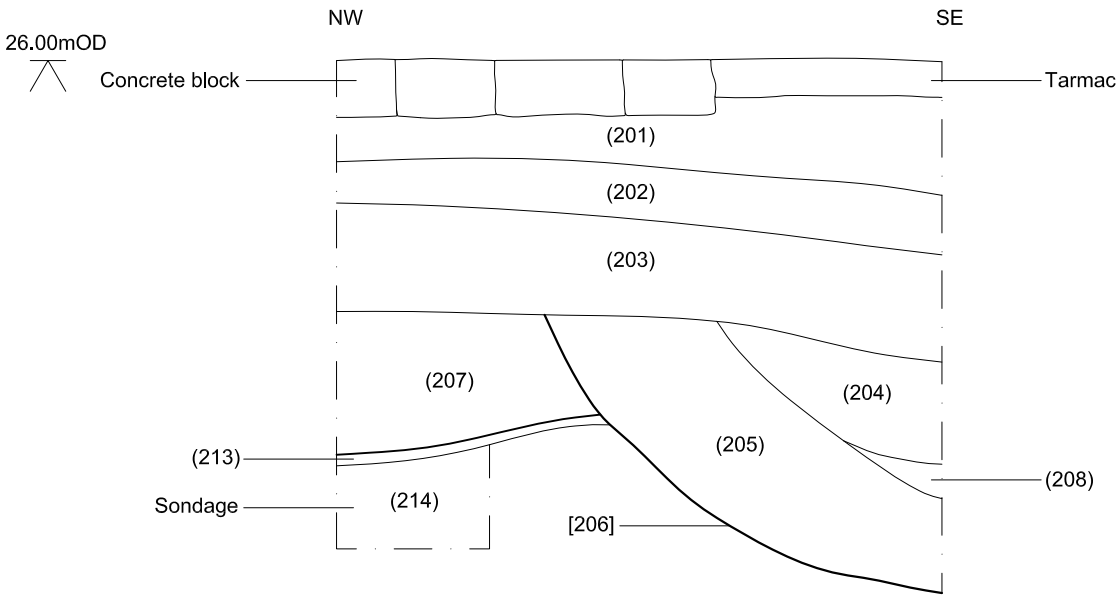


Figure 4: Site Plan; Test Pit 2

Section 1



Section 2

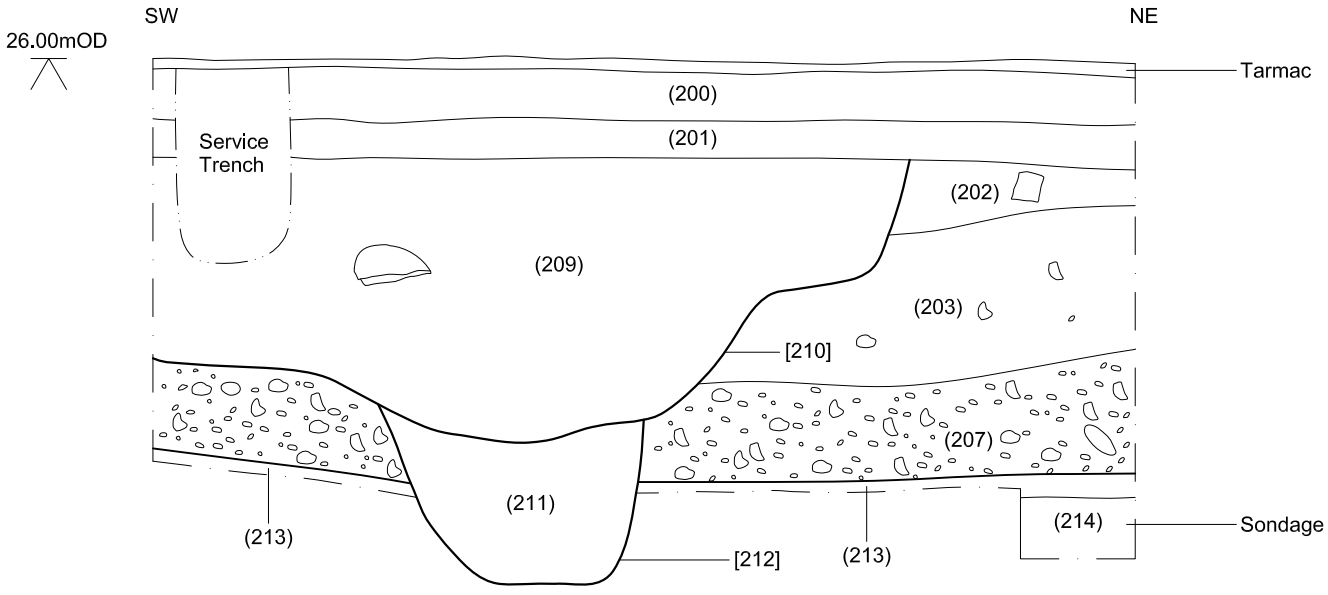


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Figure 5: Sections 1 and 2

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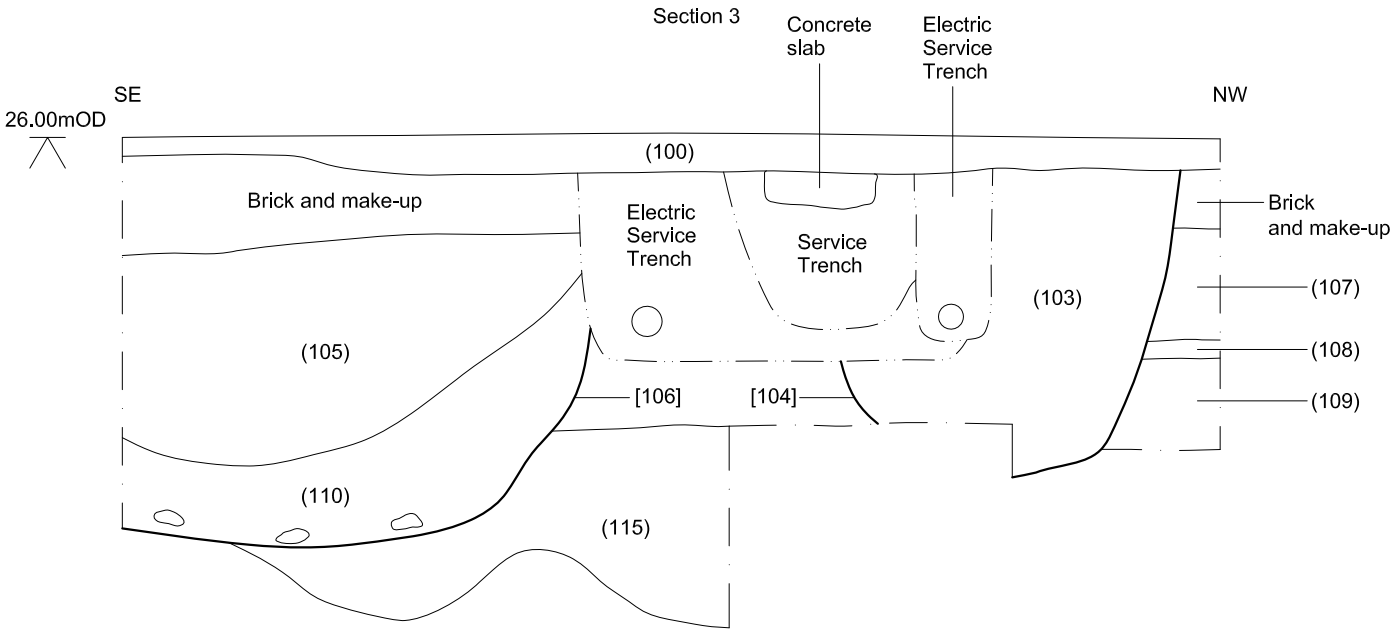

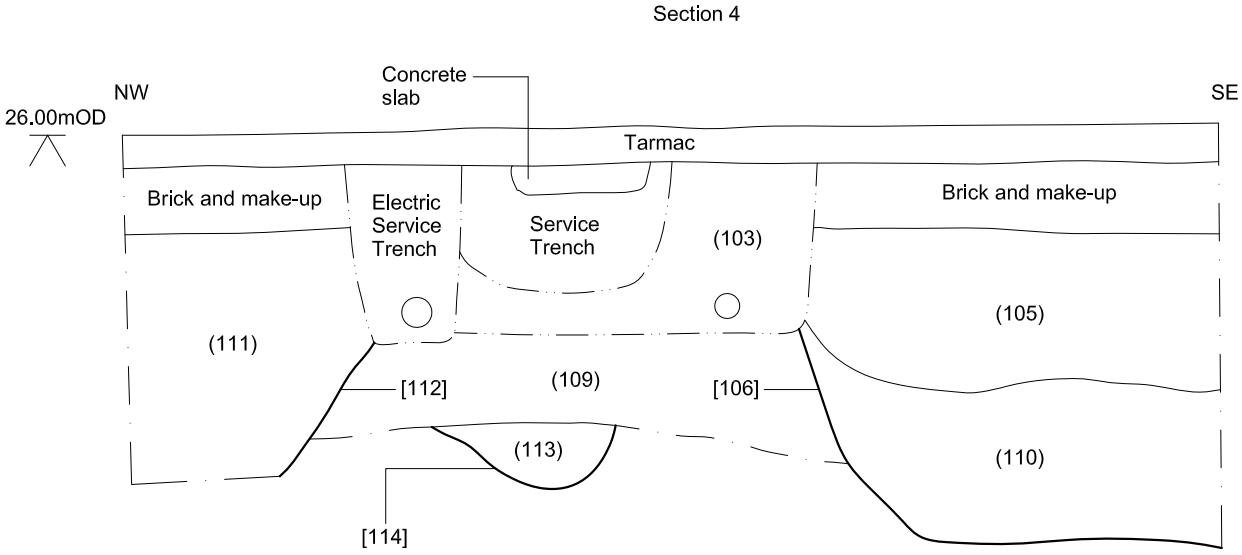

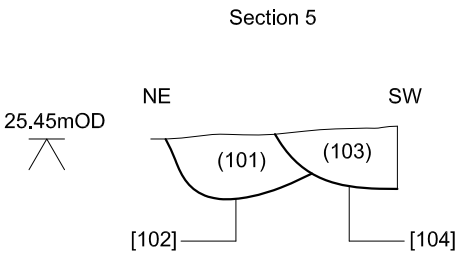

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Figure 6: Sections 3, 4 and 5

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