

Archaeological Evaluation at the  
Snowdown Colliery Welfare  
Ground/Club, Dorman Avenue South,  
Aylesham, Canterbury, Kent



Planning Application DOV/12/00594  
Date: 19/02/2013

**SWAT. ARCHAEOLOGY**

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# **Archaeological Evaluation at the Snowdown Colliery Welfare Ground/Club, Dorman Avenue South, Aylesham, Canterbury, Kent**

NGR 623727 152003  
Site Code: SCW-EV-12

## **SUMMARY**

*Swale & Thames Survey Company (SWAT Archaeology) carried out an archaeological evaluation on land immediately west of Dorman Avenue South, located just off Spinny Lane (Fig. 1). Planning application (DOV/12/00594) for the erection of 14 dwellings and vehicular access was submitted to Dover District Council whereby the Council requested that an Archaeological Evaluation be undertaken in order to determine the possible impact of the development on any archaeological remains. The work was carried out in accordance with the requirements set out within an Archaeological Specification (KCC 2013) and in discussion with the Archaeological Heritage Officer, Kent County Council. The evaluation was focused on the impact the development may have on known archaeological remains associated with extensive crop-marks on the southern side of Spinney Lane. The Archaeological Evaluation consisted of four trenches which encountered no archaeological features. The Archaeological Evaluation has therefore been successful in fulfilling the primary aims and objectives of the Specification.*

## **INTRODUCTION**

Swale & Thames Survey Company (SWAT Archaeology) was commissioned by Jenner (Contractors) Ltd to carry out an archaeological evaluation at the above site. The work was carried out in accordance with the requirements set out within an Archaeological Specification (KCC 2013) and in discussion with the Archaeological Heritage Officer, Kent County Council. The evaluation was carried out from the 13<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> February 2013.

## **SITE DESCRIPTION AND TOPOGRAPHY**

The site is located on the southern edge of the village of Aylesham on the dip slope of the North Downs close to the 80m contour. The site is generally level and surrounded by development to the north, west and south and bounded on the east by Dorman Avenue South. According to the British Geological Survey (BGS 1: 50.000) the site lies on a bedrock geology comprising Upper Chalk of the Margate Chalk Member. No superficial deposits are recorded by BGS but the evaluation investigation revealed a brown sandy silt with occasional flint overlaying the chalk (Plates 4-8).

## **PLANNING BACKGROUND**

Planning consent (DOV/12/00594) for the erection of 14 dwellings, construction of vehicular access with associated car parking and landscaping was approved by Dover District Council (DDC). The Council requested that an archaeological evaluation be undertaken in order to determine the possible

impact of development on any archaeological remains. The Local Planning Authority (DDC) placed the following condition on the planning consent:

*'No development shall take place until the applicant, or their agents or successor(s) in title, has secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological work in accordance with 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 representative 4% sample of the impact area with four trenches (Fig. 1) designed to establish whether there were any archaeological deposits at the site that may be affected by the proposed development. The results from this evaluation will be used to inform KCC of any further archaeological mitigation measures that may be necessary in connection with the development proposals.



Plate 2. Aerial view of the site (Google Earth 2007)

#### **ARCHAEOLOGICAL and HISTORICAL BACKGROUND**

The proposed site lies within an area of archaeological potential, mainly from prehistoric activity identified from aerial photography taken in 2007 which can be seen above (Plate 2). Crop marks south and south-west indicate a plethora of features ranging from possible Bronze Age (TR 25 SW 137) burial mounds (red arrow) to Iron Age enclosures (blue arrow), track ways and field systems. Within the grounds of the Snowdown Colliery Welfare Ground & Club archaeological works by Archaeology South-East in 2009 revealed a ditch and one small well-abraded sherd of pottery which could be Iron Age, or Roman, or possibly Bronze Age. No further dating evidence was forthcoming although a number of animal bones were also retrieved (TR 25 SW 273).

## **AIMS AND OBJECTIVES**

The purpose of the evaluation, as set out within the Archaeological Specification (2013) was:

- Assessing the extent of any archaeological deposits
- Assessing the depth below ground surface of any archaeological deposits
- Establishing the depth, character, significance and condition of any archaeological deposits

## **METHODOLOGY**

Trial trenching was carried out on 13<sup>th</sup> February 2013 with the excavation of four trenches. Trench location for three trenches was agreed prior to the excavation between KCC and SWAT. However, whilst on site the adjacent tenants requested that access be retained for vehicular movement and one of the trenches was divided in two. Excavation was carried out using a tracked 360° mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket, removing the overburden to the top of the first recognisable archaeological horizon, or natural (003), under the constant supervision of an experienced archaeologist. All trenches measured between 10-21m in length and 1.8m wide. Trench 1a and 1b measured 10m long and Trench 2 measured 21m long. Trench 3 measured 18m long. The trenches were subsequently hand-cleaned, and a number of features were exposed, one in Trench1a and two in Trench 3. All of which are modern. All archaeological work was carried out in accordance with the specification issued by KCC. A single context recording system was used to record the deposits, and context recording numbers were assigned to all deposits for recording purposes. These are used in the report and shown in bold. All archaeological work was carried out in accordance with KCC and IFA standards and guidance.

## **MONITORING**

Due to the lack of extensive archaeological remains, curatorial monitoring was not carried out during the course of the evaluation, but email contact was maintained throughout the fieldwork.

## RESULTS

The natural geology of Head Chalk was revealed in Trench 2 **(202)** at depths between 0.40m-0.85m. In the other trenches 1a, 1b and 3, fine sandy silty clay overlaying the chalk strata was exposed. Three modern pits were exposed, one in Trench 1a and two in Trench 3. No archaeological features were exposed in any of the trenches.

### Trench 1a

(10m x 1.70m x <0.30m)

Trench 1a was placed along the north-east edge of the site, and was positioned almost north/south and was machined to a depth of 0.30m where the natural geology **(102)** was encountered. A modern feature was exposed but no archaeological features were observed (Plate 4).

### Trench 1b

(10m x 1.70m x <0.32m)

Trench 1b ran north-west to south-east and was cut across the north edge of the site. It was machined to a depth of 0.32m where the natural geology **(102)** was encountered. The natural was sealed by a deposit of tarmac stained subsoil **(101)** subsoil up to 0.14m thick which was overlain by tarmac **(001)** up to 0.18m thick. No archaeological features were observed (Plate 5).

### Trench 2

(21m x 1.70m x <0.30m)

Trench 2 was situated in the south area of the site and was aligned east/west. Subsoil **(201)** which mixed with tarmac fragments was up to 0.24m thick which overlaid chalk **(202)**. Overlying the subsoil was a layer of tarmac **(200)** (Plate 7).

### Trench 3

(18m x 1.70m x <0.35m)

Trench 3 was located at the extreme north-west area of the site and was aligned north/south. The trench was machined to a depth of 0.35m exposing a dark brown sandy silty clay with flints **(303)**, which was sealed by a 0.17m thick deposit of subsoil **(302)** that was covered by a 0.17m thick layer of garden soil **(301)** covered by soil mixed with demolition rubble and rubbish **(300)**. A modern pit was located at the north end. No archaeological features were present in this trench (Plate 8).

## FINDS

No finds were retrieved.

## DISCUSSION

The evaluation of land at the Snowdown Welfare Ground/Club at Dorman Avenue South revealed no archaeology. The archaeological evaluation has been successful in fulfilling the primary aims and objectives of the Specification. A common stratigraphic sequence was recognised across the site of

the local geology of chalk (202) covered by a layer of sandy silty clay (203) which in turn is sealed by a thin layer of tarmac (trenches 1a, 1b -2) and garden soil (trench 3) (301).

### **Conclusions**

The evaluation has, therefore, assessed the archaeological potential of land intended for development.

### **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

SWAT Archaeology would like to thank Jenner (Contractors) for commissioning this project. Thanks are also extended to Ben Found, Heritage Officer, Kent County Council for his advice and assistance. Paul Wilkinson supervised the fieldwork, assisted in the field by Marcus Headifen. Illustrations were produced by James Madden for *Digitise This*. The project was managed by Paul Wilkinson.

Dr Paul Wilkinson MifA

February 2013

### **REFERENCES**

#### Bibliography

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

Kent County Council (KCC), (2011) *Specification for an archaeological evaluation at the Snowdown Colliery Welfare Ground/Club, Dorman Avenue South, Aylesham, Canterbury, Kent*

#### Maps

Ordnance Survey 1st Edition (1871-1890)

Ordnance Survey 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition (1897-1900)

Ordnance Survey 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition (1907-1923)

Ordnance Survey 4<sup>th</sup> Edition (1929-1952)

#### Websites

Exploring Kent's Past <http://www.extranet7.krnt.gov.uk/ExploringKentsPast/>

Kent Landscape Information System <http://extranet7.kent.gov.uk/klis/home.htm>

Old Maps Online <http://www.oldmapsonline.org/>



**APPENDIX 1 – Kent County Council HER Summary Form**

<b>Site Name:</b> <i>Snowdown Colliery/Welfare Ground/Club</i>	
<b>SWAT Site Code:</b> <i>SNC-EV-13</i>	
<b>Site Address:</b> <i>Dorman Avenue South, Aylesham, Kent</i>	
<b>Summary:</b> <i>Swale &amp; Thames Survey Company (SWAT) carried out an archaeological evaluation on at Snowdown Colliery Ground/Club. A planning application (DOV/12/00594) for the erection of 14 dwellings and construction of vehicular access was lodged with Dover District Council (DDC) whereby Kent County Council Heritage and Conservation (KCCHC), on behalf of DDC requested that an Archaeological Evaluation be undertaken in order to determine the possible impact of development on any archaeological remains. The work was carried out in accordance with the requirements set out within an Archaeological Specification (KCC 2013) and in discussion with the Archaeological Officer, Kent County Council.</i>  <i>The Archaeological Evaluation consisted of four trenches which encountered no archaeological features.</i>	
<b>District/Unitary:</b> <i>Wingham</i>	<b>Parish:</b> <i>Aylesham</i>
<b>Period(s):</b> <b>Tentative:</b>	
<b>NGR (centre of site : 8 figures):</b> <b>(NB if large or linear site give multiple NGRs):</b> <i>NGR 623727 152003</i>	
<b>Type of archaeological work (delete)</b> <i>Evaluation</i>	
<b>Date of Recording:</b> <i>Feb 2013</i>	
<b>Unit undertaking recording:</b> <i>Swale &amp; Thames Survey Company (SWAT)</i>	
<b>Geology:</b> <i>Sandy silty clay with occasional flint inclusions overlaying Head Chalk</i>	
<b>Title and author of accompanying report:</b> <i>Wilkinson P. An Archaeological Evaluation at the Snowdown Colliery Welfare Ground/Club, Aylesham, Kent</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>28<sup>th</sup> Feb 2013</i>



Plate 3. View of site looking west



Plate 4. Trench 1a looking east, 1m scale





Plate 5. Trench 1b looking north-west



Plate 6. Trench 1b representative section

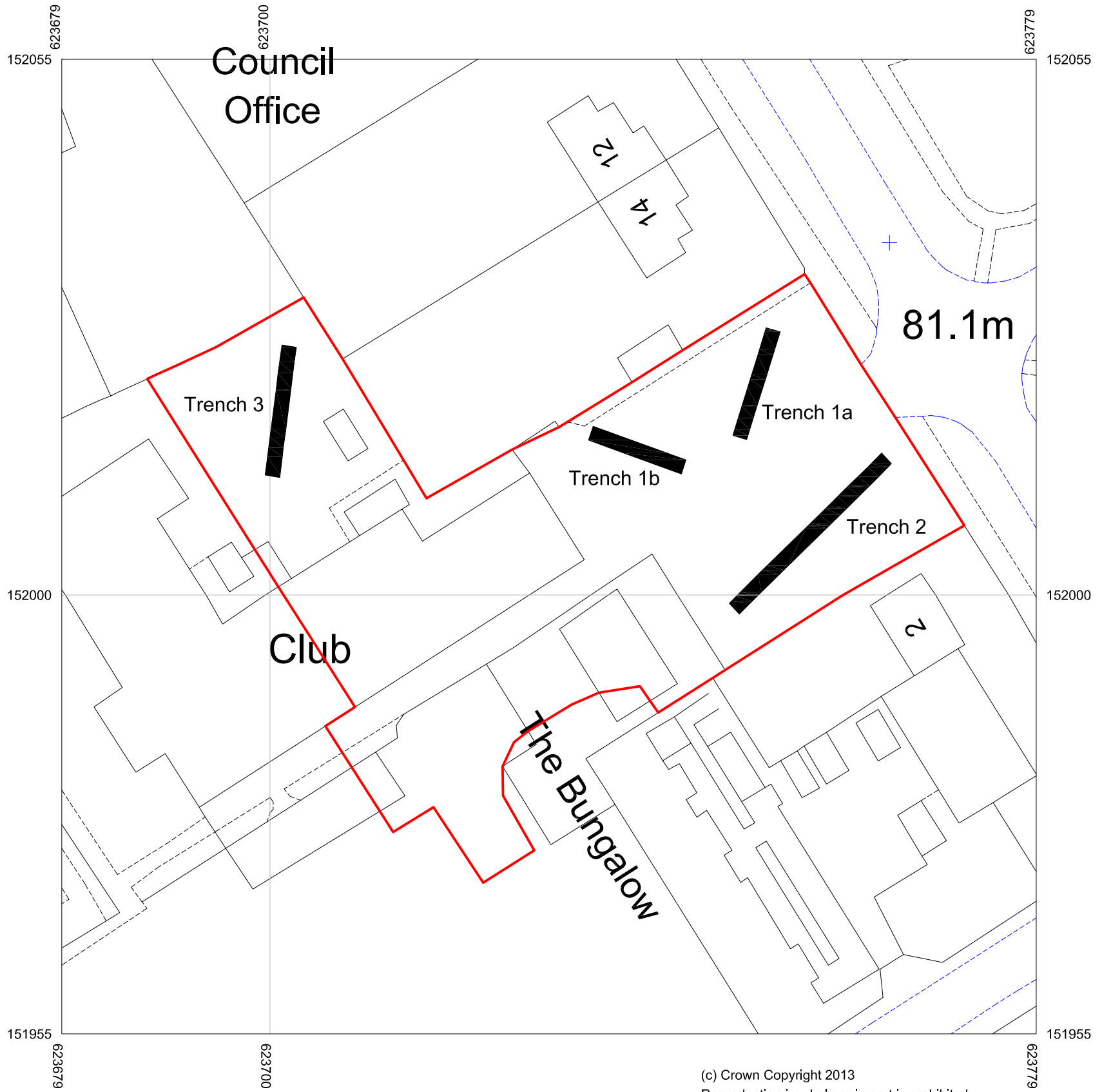
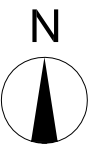




Plate 7. Trench 2 looking south-west



Plate 8. Trench 3 looking north



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1:500@A3



Figure 1: Location of site showing evaluation trenches



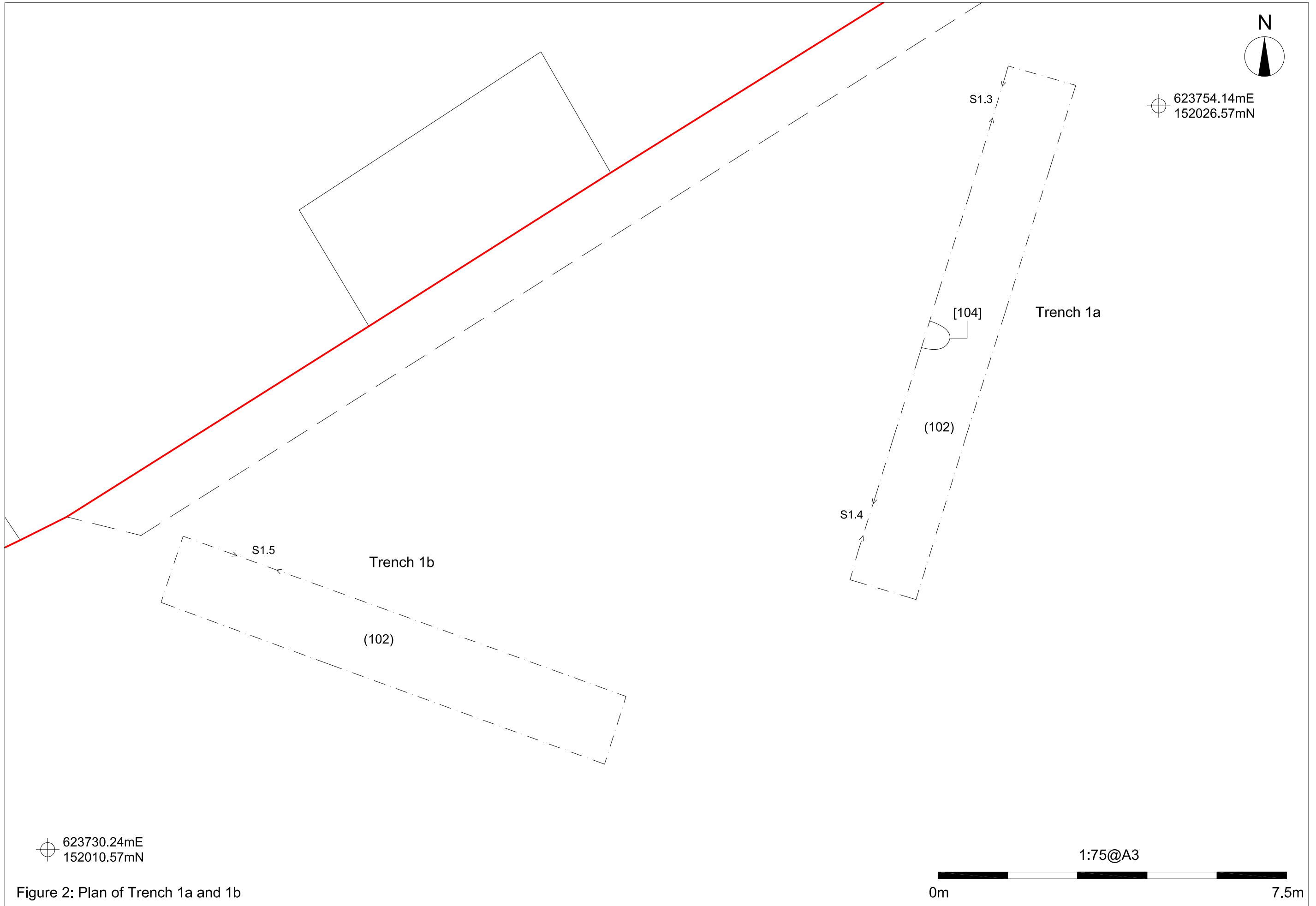


Figure 2: Plan of Trench 1a and 1b

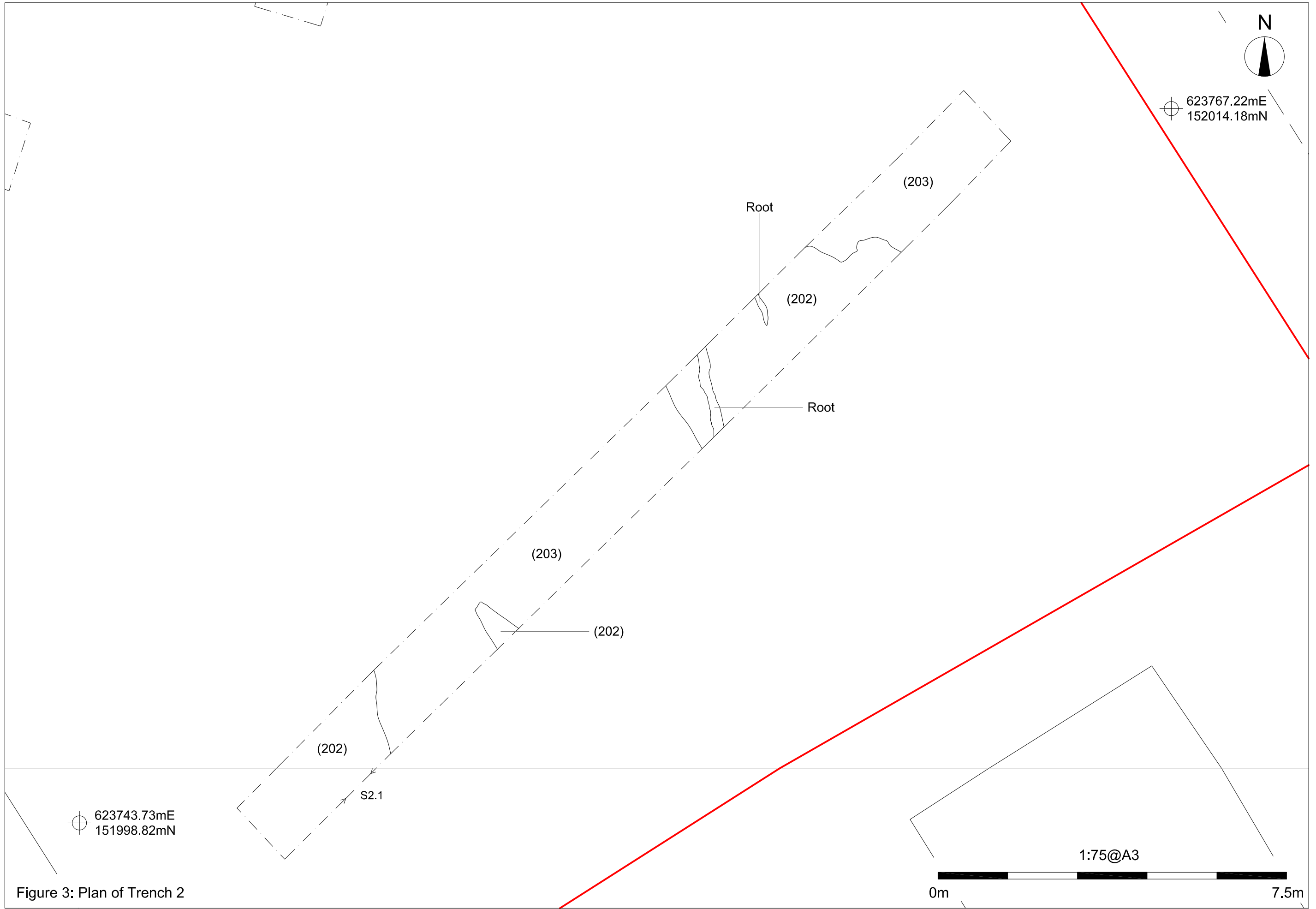


Figure 3: Plan of Trench 2

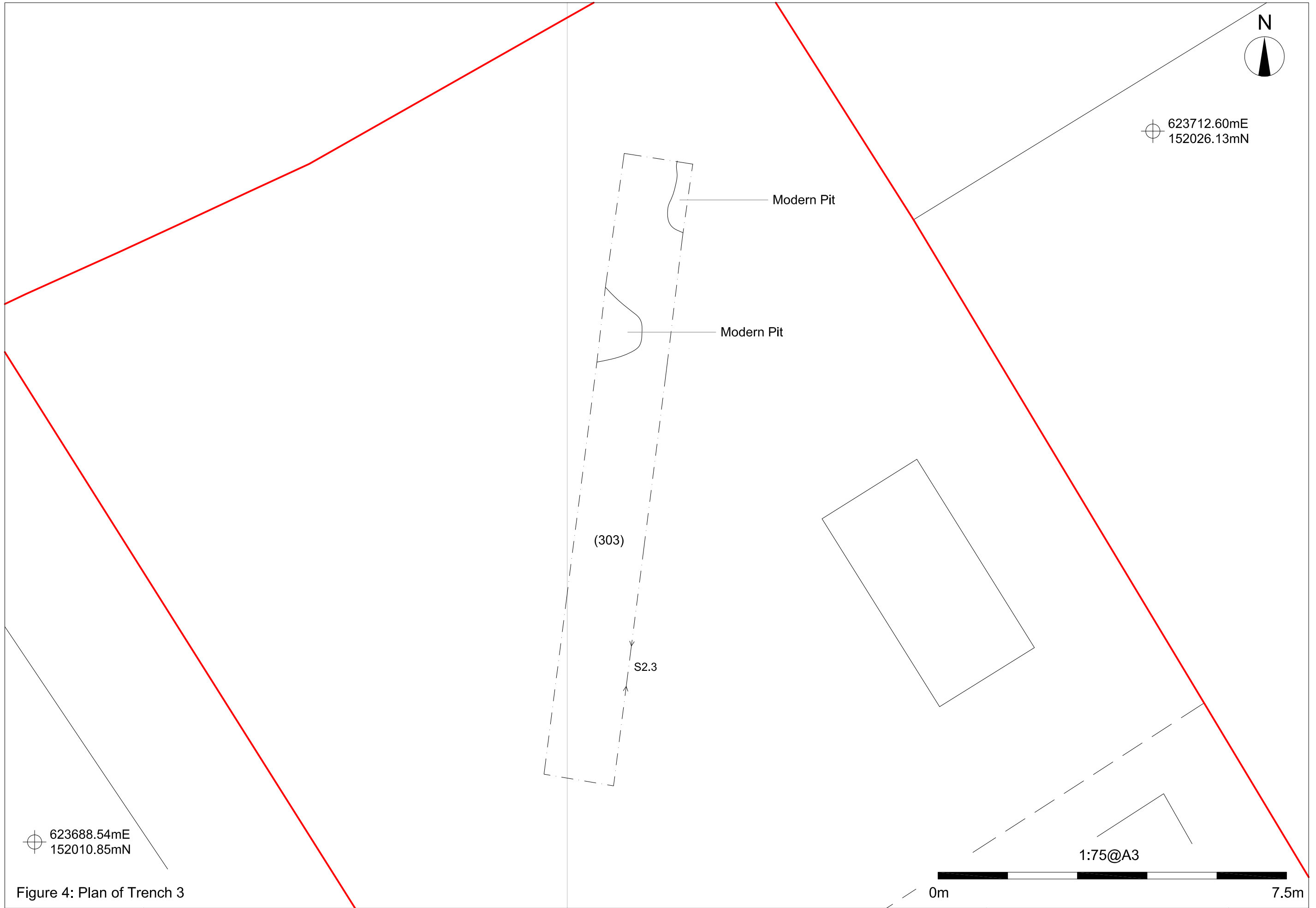


Figure 4: Plan of Trench 3

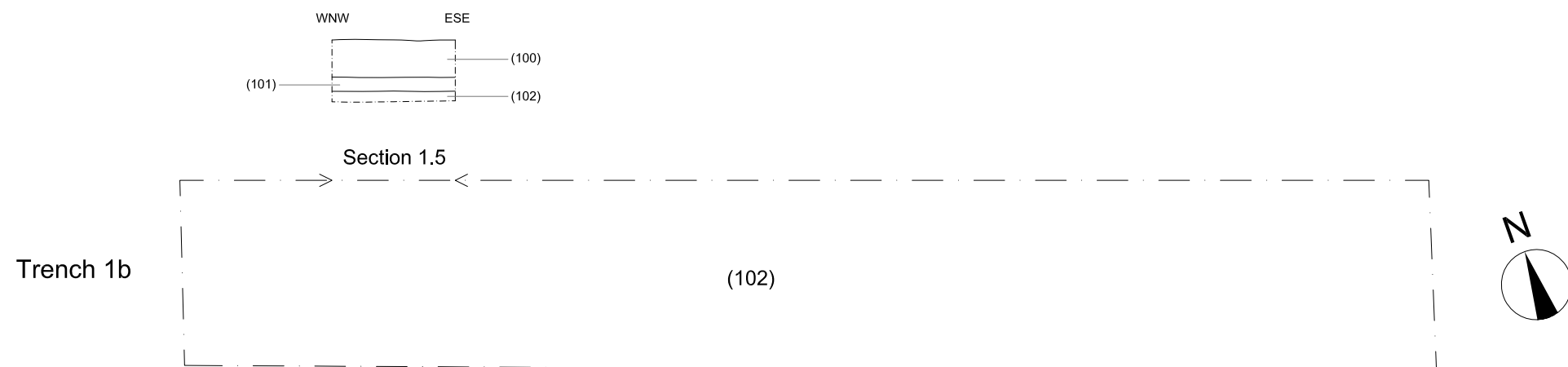
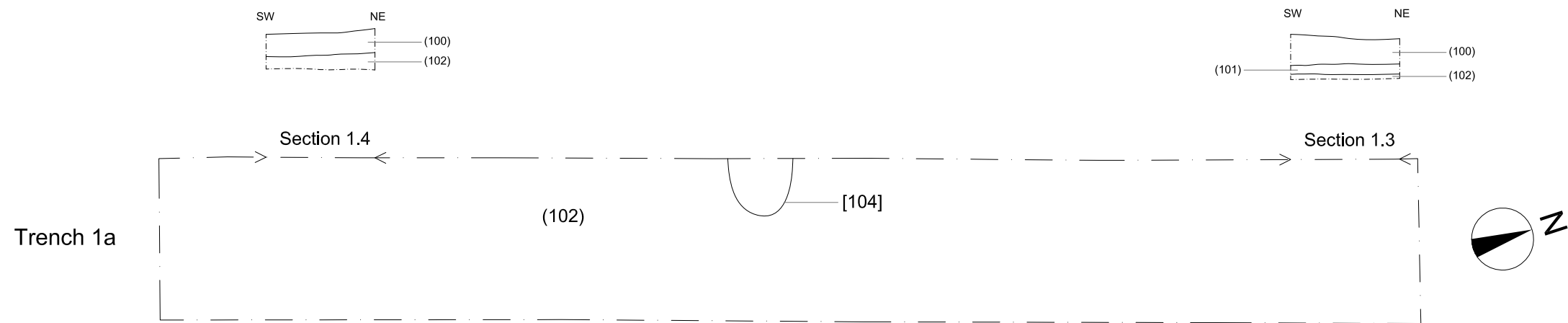
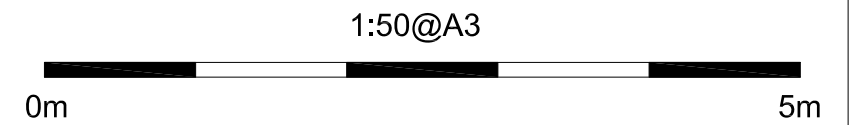
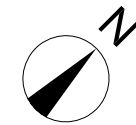
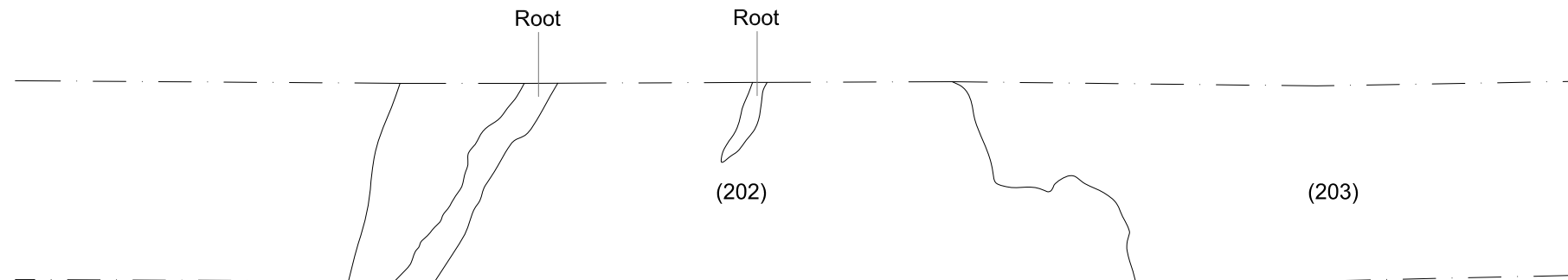
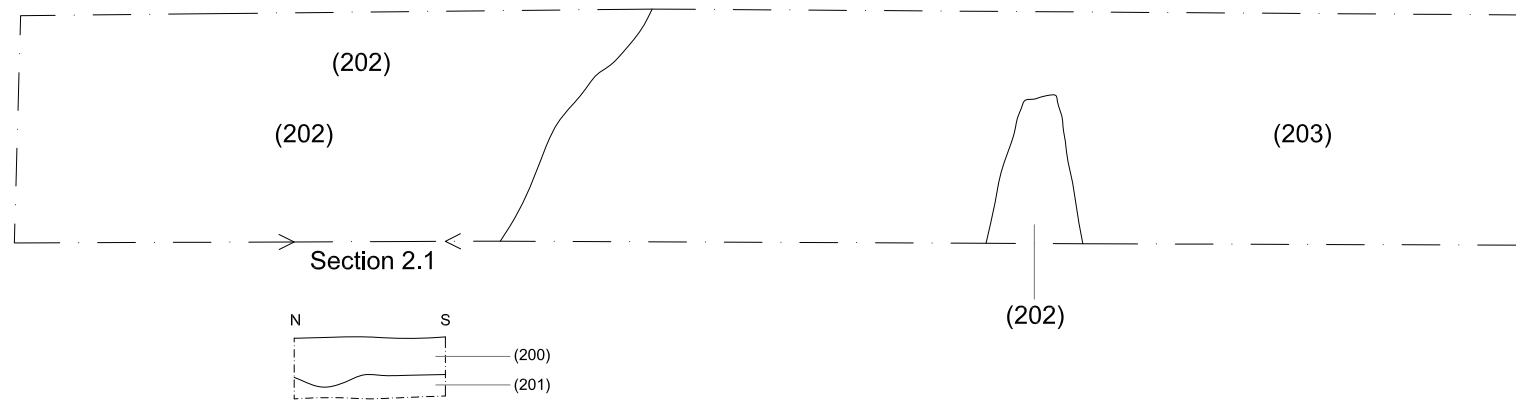


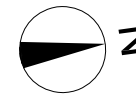
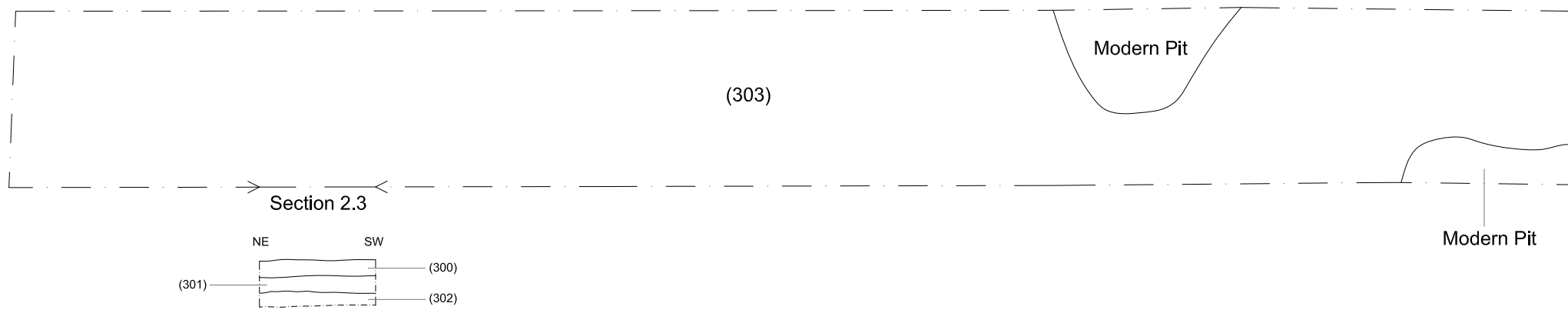
Figure 5: Trench 1a and 1b; Plans and Sections



Trench 2



Trench 3



1:50@A3



Figure 6: Trench 2 and 3; Plans and Sections