

Archaeological Monitoring of Land adjacent to 67 London Road, Teynham, near Sittingbourne, Kent

Revised December 2013

Archaeological Monitoring of Land adjacent to 67
London Road, Teynham,
near Sittingbourne, Kent



Date: 02/10/2013 Revised 23/01/14

NGR 6243 9537
Site Code: 67L-EV-12
(Planning Application SW/11/0108)

Report for
HLH Ltd

SWAT. ARCHAEOLOGY

Swale and Thames Archaeological Survey Company
The Office, School Farm Oast, Graveney Road
Faversham, Kent
ME13 8UP
Tel; 01795 532548 or 07885 700 112
info@swatarchaeology.co.uk

Contents

List of Figures.....	3
List of Plates.....	3
Summary.....	4
Introduction.....	4
Site Description and Topography.....	4
Planning Background.....	5
Archaeological and Historical Background.....	5
Aims and Objectives.....	6
Methodology.....	6
Monitoring.....	6
Results.....	6
Finds.....	7
Discussion.....	8
Conclusion.....	9
Acknowledgements.....	9
References.....	9
Appendix1. KCC HER Summary Form.....	16
Appendix 2.Pottery report	
Appendix 3. Environmental report	

List of Plates

Plate 1. View of pit [404]

Plate 2. View of extended linear [304]

Plate 3. View of drain excavations

Plate 4. View of foundation trench (west side)

Plate 5. View of foundation trench (east side)

Plate 6. View of brick foundations (east side)

List of Figures

Fig. 1 Site location

Fig. 2 Location of evaluation trenches showing area of watched strip (black dotted line) at rear of site

Fig. 3 Site Plan of area strip and watching brief

Archaeological Monitoring of Land adjacent to 67 London Road, Teynham, Nr Sittingbourne, Kent

NGR 6243 9537
Site Code: 67L-EV-12

Summary

Swale & Thames Survey Company (SWAT) carried out an archaeological evaluation and assessment of land adjacent to 67 London Road, Teynham, near Sittingbourne in Kent. A planning application (SW/11/0108) which was a renewal of SW/07/0160 for the construction of five apartments with five off street parking was submitted to Swale Borough Council whereby the Council requested that an Archaeological Evaluation and Assessment 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 2012) and in discussion with the Principal Archaeological Officer, Kent County Council.

The Archaeological Evaluation consisted of three trenches which encountered some archaeological features including medieval field systems.

Subsequently Simon Mason, Principal Archaeological Officer requested that a targeted watching brief be applied to the rear of the site so that the field systems could be quickly mapped and sampled, and the front of the site covered by a watching brief (email 15/04/13). In July 2013 an archaeologist was on site to oversee the ground reduction at the rear of the site to a maximum of 0.80m at the rear to 0.00m at the front of the site. A strip, map and record exercise took place at the rear of the site and one new archaeological feature was identified, a pit [404] which contained pottery dating from the mid 13th century. In addition the linear features identified in the archaeological evaluation were also exposed (Fig. 2) running north, east and south and mapped (Fig. 2). The date of one of these linear features had been established by the evaluation and date from the 13th, 14th century [306] the opportunity was taken to enlarge the evaluation section of [304] and pottery was retrieved which again dated from the 13th-14th centuries. In very difficult wet conditions it was established that the east-west linear was cut later than the north-south linear. There was no ground reduction at the front of the site but a watching brief was maintained on the foundations and drainage runs (Plates 3, 4) but no additional archaeological features were identified apart from a stub of modern foundation wall on the east side [450].

INTRODUCTION

Swale & Thames Survey Company (SWAT) was commissioned by HLH Ltd to carry out an archaeological monitoring at the above site. The work was carried out in accordance with the requirements set out within an Archaeological Specification (SWAT 2013) and in discussion with the Principal Archaeological Officer, Kent County Council. The archaeological monitoring was carried out from the 12-15th July 2013.

SITE DESCRIPTION AND TOPOGRAPHY

The site is located just east of the junction between London Road (Watling Street) and Station Road. Immediately adjacent to the site is no. 67, a typical two-storey property with

commercial premises whilst to the east the site is bordered by the gardens of no. 61. It is understood that formally on the site was a two-storey house with shop front demolished many years ago. The site measures around 30m x 14m and is centred at NGR TQ 6243 9537. According to the maps of the British Geological Survey, (1:50,000) the site has Bedrock Geology of Thanet Sand Formation, Sand, Silt and Clay with Superficial Deposits of Clay and Silt. The site is located in what was once arable land between the marshes of the Swale Estuary and the North Downs. The site averages 20.00mOD.

PLANNING BACKGROUND

Planning consent SW/11/0108 which was a renewal of SW/07/0160 for the erection of five apartments with five off street parking spaces was approved by Swale Borough Council (SBC). Swale Borough Council requested that an archaeological evaluation and assessment be undertaken in order to determine the possible impact of the development on any archaeological remains. The Local Planning Authority (SBC) placed the following condition on 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.'

Reason: To ensure that features of archaeological interest are properly examined and recorded.

Requirements for the archaeological evaluation comprised trial trenching targeting a representative 4% sample of the impact area with three trenches which was designed to establish whether there were any archaeological deposits at the site that may be affected by the proposed development. Consequently it was agreed with the Principal Archaeological Officer that a Archaeological Watching Brief should be implemented and SWAT Archaeology undertook an Archaeological Watching Brief to the front of the site and a Strip, Map and Record to the rear of the site.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL and HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The development site lies within an area of archaeological potential, mainly from the Roman and medieval periods. The closest of these is the Roman road built c.AD50 with associated roadside development. Recent work at Bax Farm at Teynham has identified Roman settlement whilst at Frognall Farm are moated remains from the 12th century. Anglo-Saxon graves were excavated close by (TQ 96 SE 20) whilst to the east on Sandown Hill a tumulus with possible cist has been investigated (TQ 96 SE 10). Field walking just to the north of the development site has identified prehistoric stone tools (Wilkinson 2000).

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

The purpose of the additional archaeological work aside from the general objectives laid out in the initial KCC archaeological specification were to see if there was any further evidence of medieval farming and settlement in the development site.

METHODOLOGY

Archaeological monitoring took place from 12th-15th July 2013. All archaeological work was carried out in accordance with the specification. 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

Curatorial advice was available during the course of the evaluation.

RESULTS

An area 116sqm at the rear of the development area was stripped of the topsoil (100) and the underlying subsoil (101). The topsoil consisted of dark grey - black homogenous organic materials, contaminated with 20th century refuse. The subsoil comprised of a light grey – brown, colluvial brickearth. This subsoil sealed the natural light brown clay (106).

The land surface at the rear of the development gradually sloped towards the front. The resulting soil stripping reduced the land surface by a maximum of 0.80m at the rear to 0.00m at the front. The front of the development, situated on Roman Watling Street (the modern A2), contained the demolished remnants of a 18th – 19th century building, its foundations comprising of red frogged bricks bonded with a light grey – white lime mortar. The arrangement of the external and internal walls of this building, had been destroyed by demolition but a stub [450] survived on the east side.

One new archaeological feature was identified during the removal of the overlying subsoil at the rear of the development; Pit [404] and the two linear ditches found in the earlier evaluation were again exposed and planned in. The east-west was seen to extend south (Fig. 2) and east and west. The evaluation section [304] was extended and pottery retrieved dating from the 13th-14th centuries.

The course of the ditch was observed for 3.50m and was aligned east – west. The fill (303) comprised of a light grey – brown silty clay, 0.16m – 0.02m thick, that contained frequent manganese flecks, occasional charcoal flecks and rounded flint pebbles. The intersections of

the medieval ditches were so ephemeral that one scrape of the trowel exposed the base of both ditches.

The pit [404] was oval in plan and had vertical sides. Due to its proximity to the 'Limit of Excavation' and an adjoining unstable boundary wall the pit fill was only excavated to a depth of 0.30m. It had a length of +1.15m and a width of 1.12m. This fill (403) comprised of a compact light grey – brown silty clay, that contained frequent manganese flecks, occasional charcoal flecks, occasional rounded flint pebbles and pottery. Two soil samples were taken (Appendix 3).

FINDS (Nigel Macpherson-Grant)

Earlier Prehistoric

Represented by 3 worked flints (weight: 36gms) recovered from unstratified contexts. However, their fresh unpatinated condition suggests recovery from an undisturbed contemporary horizon or contexts. Their allocation to the **Mid Neolithic-Early Bronze Age** is tentative but likely – and based primarily on the large broad flake.

Historic Period - Early Medieval-Medieval

16 sherds (weight : 49gms) – 1 from *Context 403* and the remainder from *Trench 3 Context 303* – reflect a relatively short period of activity datable to the later twelfth century and into the earlier thirteenth century. The shell-tempered coarse wares represented – a total of 3 vessels – all stem from the same later twelfth century phase of activity, between **c.1150-1200 AD**. However the presence of an early roof-tile fragment in *Context 303* introduces caution in dating the full range of occupation represented. Canterbury Tyler Hill sourced roof tile of thirteenth century date is a fairly regular occurrence from field-walked assemblages in eastern Kent – their dull brown-red firing colours broadly similar to contemporary pottery firing colour trends indicating production at least from the second quarter of the thirteenth century, if not slightly earlier. Although it is recognised that floor tiles were produced as early as the mid twelfth century – and there is no real reason why roof-tiles did not begin to be produced around that period or shortly after – the regular production of roof-tile prior to c.1200/1225 AD has not been confirmed.

The present tile fragment is not a Canterbury product – and another manufactory nearer to Faversham may be indicated. However, its dull browned firing colours suggests production employing firing temperature trends similar to those of Canterbury's thirteenth century pottery and tiles. With pottery, chocolatey-brown firing colours do occur earlier but, with particular reference to twelfth-thirteenth century pottery, occurs most frequently between c.1175-1225 AD or a little later. After this date, around mid century, firing trends change, becoming increasingly more oxidized and orange or reddish in colour. Here, even though there is no major difference in condition between the pottery sherds and the tile fragment from *Context 303* – they all exhibit a similar moderately worn condition – a later twelfth century production

date for the tile, though not impossible, is not entirely convincing on the basis of the available regional evidence. In addition, despite this conjunction, time has to be allowed for the same-vessel sherds to weather, fragment and surfaces begin to foliate, post-discard. Since there is no current evidence for tile production within the second half of the twelfth century, it is suggested that the same-vessel shelly ware sherds were discarded either towards the end of the twelfth or beginning of the thirteenth century, with the roof-tile fragment arriving fairly shortly after – almost certainly no later than c.1250 AD and quite probably earlier.

DISCUSSION

The development site at London Road produced some interesting archaeology. Given its location adjacent to the Roman road one would have expected a lot more Roman archaeology, especially seeing how rich in archaeology this area of Kent is. The lithics retrieved are what would be expected from most sites in Kent and are of little archaeological value, but will need to be registered on the HER. The medieval pottery is what one would expect on fields or ditches under cultivation with household manure added on almost a daily basis. Given the proximity of the road passing the site it can be supposed that the development site was at one time medieval arable fields worked from one of the nearby medieval and post-medieval farms of Cambridge Farm, Cellar Hill Farm or Claxfield Farm. The trial trenching revealed a typical medieval co-axial field system that had survived in the north area of the site. Linear [304] and [306], dated by pottery sherds to the 13th century are at right-angles to each other whilst a pit [404] found in the subsequent watched area strip at the rear of the site had a fill which included medieval roof tile which could suggest medieval occupation in the near vicinity. Environmental samples (Appendix 3) from [404] are of interest. It is unfortunate that the watching brief at the front of the site failed to identify any Roman remains associated with the adjacent Roman road, but did identify modern foundations of the previous property on the site.

CONCLUSION

The archaeological monitoring has been successful in fulfilling the primary aims and objectives of the Specification. A common stratigraphic sequence was recognised across the site comprised of crushed brick **(001)**, subsoil **(101)** and the natural sandy silty clay akin to Brickearth **(106)**.

Archaeological activity was found during the evaluation and monitoring programme which will inform the HER of the archaeological potential of site.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

SWAT would like to thank Gary Hayward of HLH Ltd for commissioning this project. Thanks are also extended to Simon Mason, Principal Archaeological Officer, Kent County Council for his advice and assistance. Paul Wilkinson supervised the fieldwork, assisted in the field by Simon Holmes. Illustrations were produced by Jonny Madden for *Digitise This*. The project was managed by Paul Wilkinson.

Dr Paul Wilkinson MifA

2nd October 2013 revised 22/01/14

Bibliography

Kent County Council (KCC), (2012) *Specification for an Archaeological Evaluation and Assessment of Land adjacent to 67 London Road, Teynham in Kent.*

SWAT Archaeology. *Specification for an Archaeological Strip, Map and Sample Investigation of land adjacent to 67 London Road, Teynham, Kent (2013)*

SWAT Archaeology. *An Archaeological Evaluation of land adjacent to 67 London Road, Teynham, Kent (2013)*

Wilkinson C. *An Archaeological Investigation of a North Kent Landscape in the Early Medieval Centuries.* Unpublished M. A. 2009

Wilkinson P. *Swale Archaeological Survey.* 2000

Institute for Field Archaeologists (IfA), Rev (2011) *Standard and Guidance for archaeological field evaluation.*

Maps

Ordnance Survey Surveyors Drawings 1798

Ordnance Survey 1st Edition (1871-1890)

Ordnance Survey 2nd Edition (1897-1900)

Ordnance Survey 3rd Edition (1907-1923)

Ordnance Survey 4th Edition (1929-1952)

Websites

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

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



Plate 1. View of pit [404], 1m scale

Plate 2. View of extended linear [304]





Plate 3. View of drain excavation



Plate 4. View of foundation excavation at the front of the site (west side)



Plate 5, View of foundation trenches to the front of the site (east side)



Plate 6, View of modern foundations to the east of the site

APPENDIX 1 – Kent County Council HER Summary Form

Site Name: <i>Site adjacent to 67 London Road, Teynham</i>	
SWAT Site Code: <i>67L/EV/11</i>	
Site Address: <i>As above</i>	
Summary: <i>Swale & Thames Survey Company (SWAT) carried out an archaeological monitoring on land adjacent to 67 London road, Teynham, Kent. A planning application for the construction of five apartments, along with associated car parking and services at the above site was submitted to Swale Borough Council (SBC) whereby Kent County Council Heritage and Conservation (KCCHC), on behalf of Swale Borough Council requested that an Archaeological Evaluation followed by Archaeological Monitoring 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 2012 and SWAT 3013) and in discussion with the Principal Archaeological Officer, Kent County Council.</i> <i>The Archaeological monitoring revealed a pit dating from about 1250AD and additional linears from the same period.</i>	
District/Unitary: <i>Swale</i>	Parish: <i>Teynham</i>
Period(s): Tentative:	
NGR (centre of site : 8 figures): (NB if large or linear site give multiple NGRs): <i>NGR 6243 9537</i>	
Type of archaeological work (delete) <i>Archaeological monitoring</i>	
Date of Recording: <i>July 2013</i>	
Unit undertaking recording: <i>Swale & Thames Survey Company (SWAT)</i>	
Geology: <i>Head Brickearth</i>	
Title and author of accompanying report: <i>Wilkinson P. An Archaeological Monitoring at land adjacent to 67 London Road, Teynham, Kent</i>	
Summary of fieldwork results (begin with earliest period first, add NGRs where appropriate) <i>As above</i> <p style="text-align: right;">(cont. on attached sheet)</p>	
Location of archive/finds: <i>SWAT</i>	
Contact at Unit: <i>Paul Wilkinson</i>	Date: <i>02/10/13</i>

Appendix 2

Period codes employed :

Add others

MN	= Mid Neolithic
EBA	= Early Bronze Age
EM	= Early Medieval
M	= Medieval

Context dating :

Context: Unstratified

1 piece burnt flint (weight: 55gms) – moderate-sized, grey-white

Comment : Discarded

Likely date : Uncertain but possibly Prehistoric

Context: Tr.3 (303) - 1 sherd (weight: 5gms)

1 EM North Kent shell-tempered moderately sandy ware (c.1150-1200/1225 AD)

Comment : Small bodysherd, fairly worn with rounding edges and residual in-context. From a fairly large-diameter vessel – with traces of an applied thumb-pressed strip externally indicating sherd from a large stewing-pot or storage-jar.

Likely date : Residual – in a C13 AD or later context

Context: Unstratified

1 worked flint flake (weight : 29gms) – large, broad semi-cortical flake with a shallowly curved axial profile and made from mottled grey and dull white flint with a white-grey cortex. Striking-platform shows clear use of a hard-hammer type flaking. One side showing irregular invasive, scarring from repeated use as a broad scraping tool. Probably MN-EBA

Comment : The lack of patination and any other post-loss movement damage suggests that this element is derived from a contemporary discard context/horizon.

Likely date : A little uncertain but possibly Mid Neolithic-Early Bronze Age

Context: (403) - 15 sherds (weight : 44gms)

12 EM North Kent shell-tempered moderately sandy ware (c.1125/1150-1200 AD, **same vessel**)

1 EM North Kent shell-tempered sandy ware (c.1125-1175/1200 AD)

and :

1 fragment EM-M roof-tile (weight : 55gms) – moderate-sized, chipped and slightly worn, fine moderately quartzsandy fabric, dull brown surfaces, drab orange-buff margins to a drab grey-brown core. Fairly neatly produced, one face sanded from box-frame manufacturing method laid on a bed of sand, even upper surface and neat cut remnant side. Part of a neatly pierced cylindrical presumed peg hole.

Comment : Same vessel bodysherds are mostly small-moderate sized and scrappy, chipped with some flaking and total leaching of shell content. Despite these aspects probably not severely residual. The shell-tempered sandy ware element is a base sherd from a medium-diameter cooking-pot and in a marginally better condition. The date given is influenced by the associated tile fragment.

Likely date : c.1200-1250 AD

RECOMMENDATIONS

Assuming further work on this site –

- 1. It would be useful to further define, if possible, the nature of the Earlier Prehistoric activity, represented by the un-patinated, possibly *in situ* lithics.**
- 2. The Early Medieval pottery assemblage is, on its own, relatively insignificant – however the recovery of an early roof-tile is a little unusual and the associated archaeo-social context(s) might benefit from more detailed examination.**

Analyst : N.Macpherson-Grant 12.9.2013

Appendix 3

Environmental Assessment

A rapid bio-archaeological assessment was undertaken for SWAT Archaeology in connection with ongoing archaeological investigations at 67 London Road, Teynham. 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
(403) A	6.5	1	1	-	-	6	-	-	<i>Triticum</i> spp.(free-threshing wheat) Indeterminate grains
(404) B	7	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	<i>Triticum</i> spp.(free-threshing wheat) <i>Hordeum vulgare</i> (hulled barley) <i>Anthemis cotula</i> (stinking mayweed)

Table 1 Bio-archaeological rapid assessment

Bio-archaeological rapid assessment

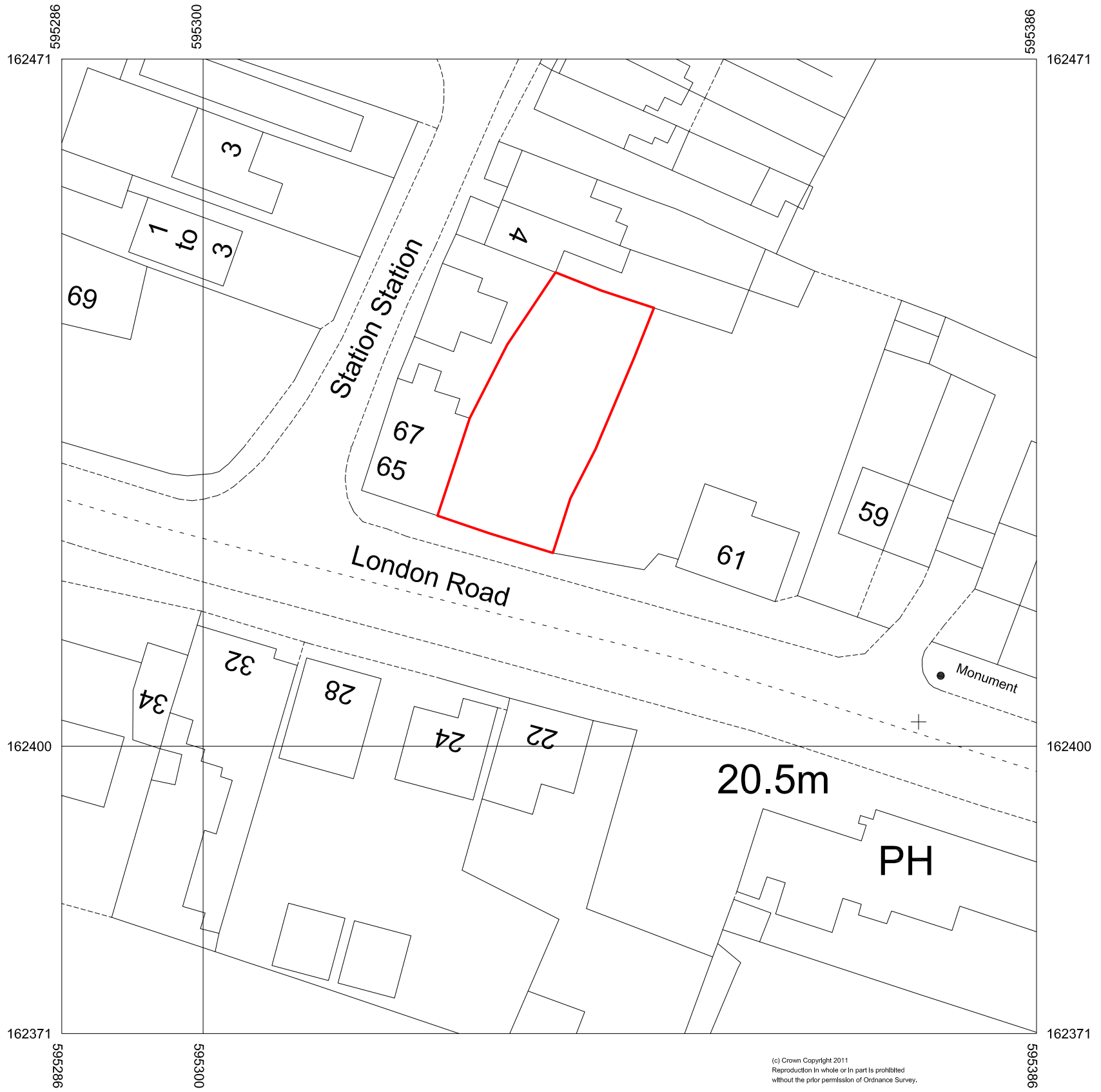
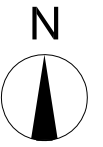
Two bulk samples were assessed from one area of archaeological features. The bulk samples from (403) and were processed by flotation using 1mm and 300micron mesh sieves. All 'flots' and residues were rapidly assessed by eye for the concentration of plant macrofossils, including charred wood and seeds, 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 medieval charred cereal deposits while the presence of *Anthemis cotula* (stinking mayweed) in one of the samples suggests the cultivation of 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 (A), but were absent in sample (B).

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 Medieval crop husbandry and crop processing activities on site.



(c) Crown Copyright 2011
Reproduction in whole or in part is prohibited
without the prior permission of Ordnance Survey.

1:500@A3



Figure 1: Location of Site



Figure 2: Location of Evaluation Trenches

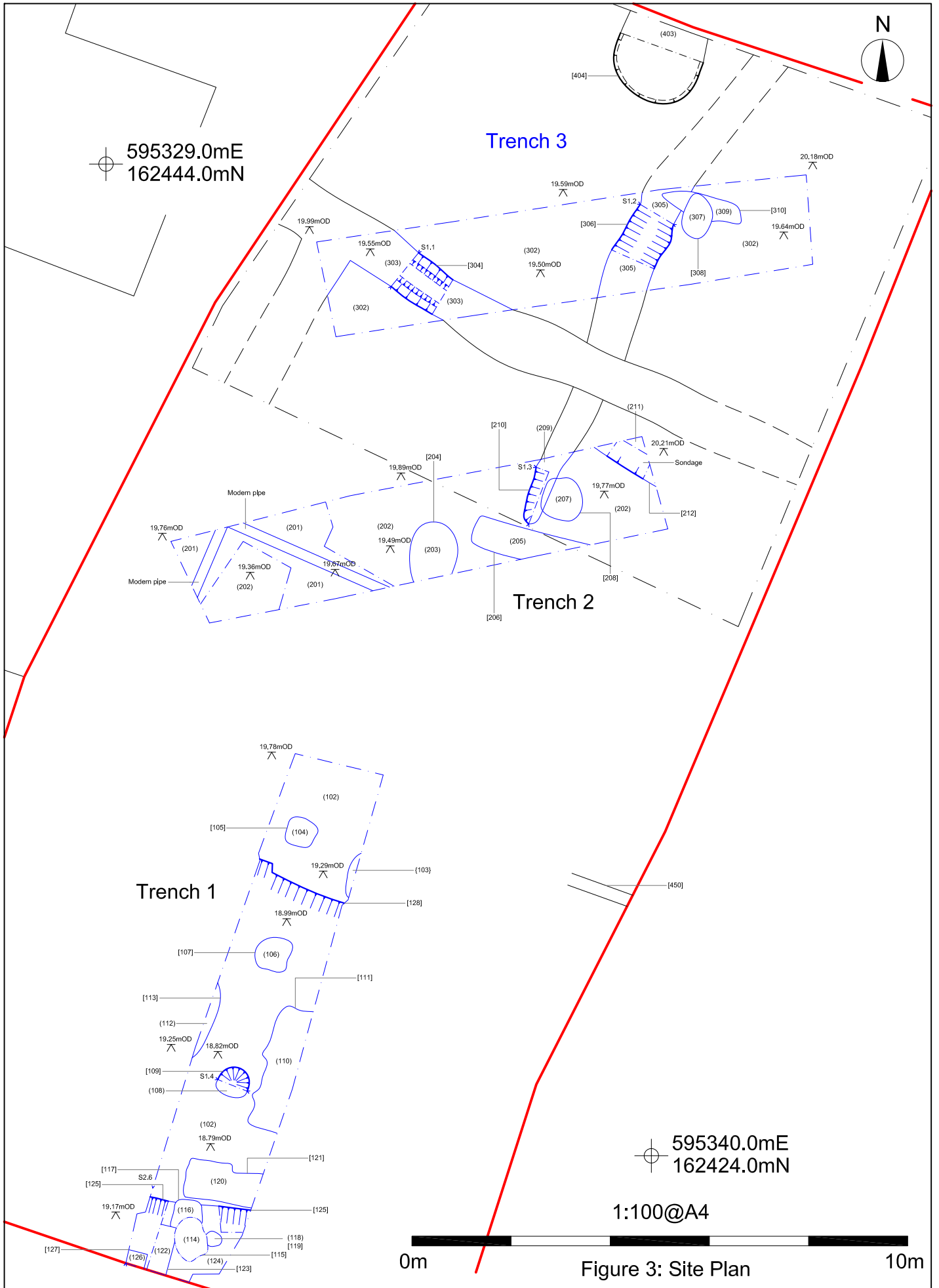


Figure 3: Site Plan

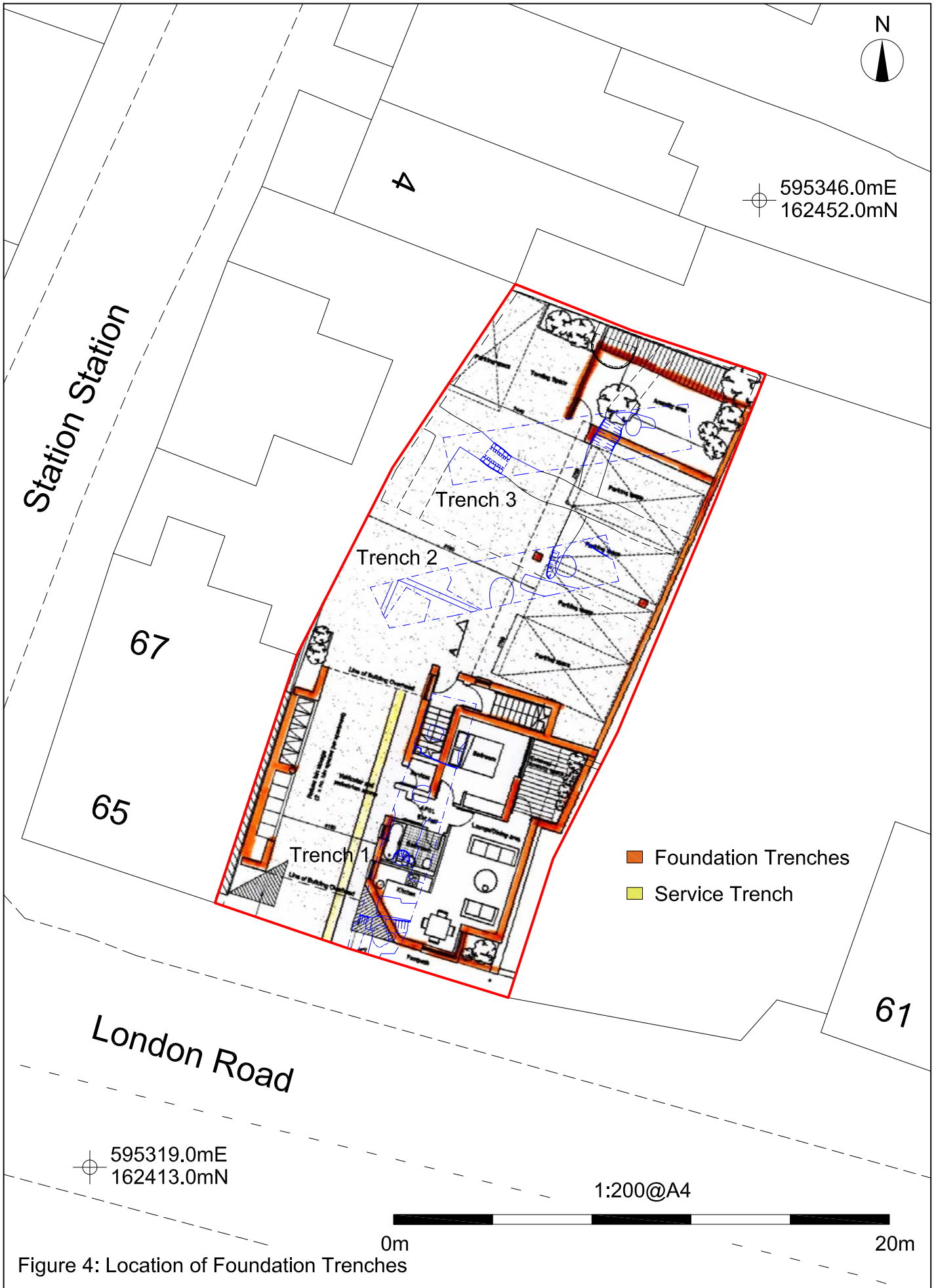


Figure 4: Location of Foundation Trenches