

Archaeological Evaluation at 3-5 Queen Street,  
Gravesend, Kent

QSG-EV-14

NGR 564851 174171



**Date of Report 07/04/2014**

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](mailto:info@swatarchaeology.co.uk)

## Contents

List of Figures.....	3
List of Plates.....	3
1. Summary.....	4
2. Introduction.....	4
3. Site Description and Topography.....	5
4. Planning Background.....	5
5. Archaeological and Historical Background.....	5
6. Aims and Objectives.....	5
7. Methodology.....	6
8. Monitoring.....	6
9. Results.....	6
10. Finds.....	8
11. Impact Assessment.....	8
12. Discussion.....	8
13. Conclusion.....	8
14. Acknowledgements.....	8
15. References.....	9
Appendix 1 – Context Register.....	9
Appendix 2 – Photos.....	10
Appendix 3 – KCC HER Summary Form.....	12
Appendix 4 – Figures, Site and Development Plan.....	14

**DISCLAIMER** THE MATERIAL CONTAINED IN THIS REPORT WAS DESIGNED AS AN INTEGRAL PART OF A REPORT TO AN INDIVIDUAL CLIENT AND WAS PREPARED SOLELY FOR THE BENEFIT OF THAT CLIENT. THE MATERIAL CONTAINED IN THIS REPORT DOES NOT NECESSARILY STAND ON ITS OWN AND IS NOT INTENDED TO NOR SHOULD IT BE RELIED UPON BY ANY THIRD PARTY. TO THE FULLEST EXTENT PERMITTED BY LAW. SWAT ARCHAEOLOGY WILL NOT BE LIABLE BY REASON OF BREACH OF CONTRACT NEGLIGENCE OR OTHERWISE FOR ANY LOSS OR DAMAGE (WHETHER DIRECT INDIRECT OR CONSEQUENTIAL) OCCASIONED TO ANY PERSON ACTING OR OMITTING TO ACT OR REFRAINING FROM ACTING IN RELIANCE UPON THE MATERIAL CONTAINED IN THIS REPORT ARISING FROM OR CONNECTED WITH ANY ERROR OR OMISSION IN THE MATERIAL CONTAINED IN THE REPORT. LOSS OR DAMAGE AS REFERRED TO ABOVE SHALL BE DEEMED TO INCLUDE, BUT IS NOT LIMITED TO, ANY LOSS OF PROFITS OR ANTICIPATED PROFITS DAMAGE TO REPUTATION OR GOODWILL LOSS OF BUSINESS OR ANTICIPATED BUSINESS DAMAGES COSTS EXPENSES INCURRED OR PAYABLE TO ANY THIRD PARTY (IN ALL CASES WHETHER DIRECT INDIRECT OR CONSEQUENTIAL) OR ANY OTHER DIRECT INDIRECT OR CONSEQUENTIAL LOSS OR DAMAGE.

## List of Figures

Fig. 1 Location

Fig.2 Trenches 1 & 2

Fig.3 Sections

## List of Plates

Pl.1 Aerial view of the site

Pl 2. Trench 1

Pl. 3 Trench 2



Plate 1. Aerial view of site

# Archaeological Evaluation at 3-5 Queen Street, Gravesend, Kent

NGR 564851 174171

Site Code: QSG-EV-14

## **1. SUMMARY**

- 1.1 Swale & Thames Survey Company (SWAT Archaeology) carried out an archaeological evaluation on land to the rear of 3-5 Queen Street, Gravesend (Fig. 1). Planning permission (20110276) has been obtained in June 2011 with an archaeological condition (14). The planning permission was granted to develop the site for a three storey building for five one-bedroom flats with associated works. An earlier archaeological evaluation was undertaken but not approved by KCC as the report did not provide sufficient information to ensure informed decisions could be made. Kent County Council has requested that a new archaeological evaluation to a KCC specification be undertaken in order to determine the possible impact of the development on any archaeological remains.
- 1.2 The work was carried out in accordance with the requirements set out within an Archaeological Specification (KCC 2014) and in discussion with the Senior Archaeological Heritage Officer, Kent County Council. The evaluation was focused on the impact the development may have on any historical and archaeological elements within the site.
- 1.3 The archaeological evaluation consisted of two trenches which encountered limited features of post-medieval date. The archaeological evaluation has therefore been successful in fulfilling the primary aims and objectives of the KCC Specification.

## **2. INTRODUCTION**

- 2.1 Swale & Thames Survey Company (SWAT Archaeology) was commissioned by Central Services Ltd (info@centralservicesltd.co.uk) to carry out an archaeological evaluation at the above site.
- 2.2 The work was carried out in accordance with the requirements set out within an Archaeological Specification (KCC 2014) and in discussion with the Senior

Archaeological Heritage Officer, Kent County Council. The evaluation was carried out on the 10th March 2014.

### **3. SITE DESCRIPTION AND TOPOGRAPHY**

3.1 The site is located in the historic core of Gravesend (Plate 1), and is accessed by a narrow entrance from Queen Street, one of the main north to south streets of Gravesend. The relatively level plot is generally rectangular, measuring about 25m x 15m (Fig. 1).

The National Grid Reference is NGR 564851 174171.

3.2 According to the British Geological Survey the site lies on Chalk bedrock, but the geology exposed on site was a thick layer of compact deposit of mid to dark brown sandy silty clay **(003)** overlaying the natural geology of pale grey yellow sandy clay silt **(009)**.

### **4. PLANNING BACKGROUND**

4.1 The planning application (20110276) was for renewal of planning permission reference number 20080610 for the erection of a three storey building to provide five, one bedroom self contained flats with 3 car parking spaces and cycle store. Demolition of 5 Queen Street and erection of a replacement building to provide A1 retail unit at ground floor level with a bedsit at first floor level. Planning permission was granted on 8<sup>th</sup> June 2011.

### **5. ARCHAEOLOGICAL and HISTORICAL BACKGROUND**

5.1 There is a general potential for prehistoric, Roman and medieval remains in the area. In addition metal artefacts have been recovered south of the site and include an Iron Age coin and Roman brooch. The site itself seems to have been part of the post-medieval settlement of Gravesend town.

### **6. AIMS and OBJECTIVES**

The purpose of the evaluation, as set out within the Archaeological Specification (KCC 2014) is:

- To determine the potential for significant archaeological remains to be present within the area of proposed development groundwork and how they would be

affected by such works. The location, nature, significance and condition of any archaeological remains present should be assessed and clearly set out in the evaluation report.

- To determine the potential for earlier archaeological remains on the site and how they may be affected by development.

## **7.0 METHODOLOGY**

7.1 Trial trenching was carried out on 11th March 2014 with the excavation of two trenches. Trench location was agreed prior to the evaluation between KCC and SWAT. 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. Trench 1 measured 4.5m long and 2.11m wide. Trench 2 measured 6.35m long and 2.50m wide. The trenches were subsequently hand-cleaned. Trench 1 exposed a square brick structure **(004)**, possibly a cess tank. Trench 2 exposed red brick footings **(006)** of an earlier building and three post holes, of which one **[008]** was sampled. Cultural material retrieved included glazed pottery, bottles and metal, and clinker.

7.2 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.

## **8.0 MONITORING**

8.1 Curatorial monitoring was carried out during the course of the evaluation with a site visit by Wendy Rogers, Senior Archaeological Officer KCC.

## **9.0 RESULTS**

9.1 Two trenches were excavated for the evaluation, but the size and location of each was slightly altered due to a number of factors. The area available for mitigation was very small as the northern and western peripheries were open fronted, roofed parking areas. The eastern side of the property fronting Queen Street had a very narrow entrance to the

development area that needed to be accessed as was the rear door of a restaurant to the southwest that opened on to the site.

9.2 Therefore, due to the limited size of the available plot and health and safety concerns including leaving a fire escape for the restaurant, the size of the trenches was shortened. Despite these problems, both trenches produced post-medieval features in the form of brick built structures, one in each trench.

Trench 1 – Trench 1 was located at the north-western corner of the site and was aligned east-west. The trench measured approximately 4.5m long, up to 2.11m wide and up to 0.92m deep at the eastern edge where the top of the natural superficial geology was reached. Above the natural geology of pale grey yellow sandy clay silt **(009)** was a thick layer of compact mid to dark brown grey sandy silty clay **(003)** up to 0.52m thick with frequent carbon, occasional chalk flecks, occasional small to medium angular flints and rare post Medieval brick and pottery. Cutting this deposit was a square brick structure **(004)**, possibly a cess pit related to an earlier cottage sited behind Number 5. The cut for the cess tank **[005]** measured at least 1.60m square and survived to a depth of 0.40m, with seven courses of yellow stock brick exposed. Initial machining of the trench after the removal of the concrete **(001)** exposed a very loose deposit of dark brown sandy silty clay **(002)** up to 0.32m thick with common brick fragments, post-Medieval material including glazed pottery, bottles and metal, chalk fragments, carbon flecks and clinker and occasional small to large sub-angular flints. This context sealed the remains of the small brick structure **(004)**. Context **(002)** was extremely loose and unstable collapsing into the trench during machining.

Trench 2 – Trench 2 was located south-east of Trench 1 and was aligned north – south and measured approximately 6.35m long, 2.50m wide and up to 0.70m deep where it exposed the upper level of the superficial geology **(009)**. The entire western and southern edge of the trench revealed red brick footings **(006)** of an earlier building, and the trench was (unintentionally), positioned inside this structure. Cutting the natural superficial geology **(009)** were three postholes, of which one **[008]** was sampled. The fill **(007)** of the posthole consisted of loose dark brown grey sandy silty clay with common chalk and carbon flecks and rare small to medium sub-angular flints and red brick fragments. The posthole measured 0.40m in diameter and up to 0.12m deep. The west edge was angled at 20°, and

the eastern edge at 80°, breaking to a pointed base. The position of the three postholes, if they were contemporary given their very similar deposits, suggests scaffolding posts, as no cut was found for the footings, and a free standing construction would not be unexpected. Sealing the postholes was the very loose context **(002)** seen in Trench 1 and most likely a type of late 19thc/early 20thc demolition deposit

## **10. FINDS**

10.1 All finds are of late 19<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> century date and were not retained.

## **11. IMPACT ASSESSMENT**

11.1 The impact of the proposed development on areas of the site will be high with foundation excavations for the proposed three storey building and associated parking.

## **12. DISCUSSION**

12.1 The evaluation at 3-5 Queen Street, Gravesend, Kent has revealed limited archaeology dating from the post-medieval period. 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 consisting of the local geology of a thick layer of compact deposit of mid to dark brown sandy silty clay **(003)** overlaying the natural geology of pale grey yellow sandy clay silt **(009)** topped by concrete slabs and building demolition material.

## **13. CONCLUSION**

13.1 The evaluation at 3-5 Queen Street has assessed the archaeological potential of the land and revealed foundations of earlier brick built post-medieval buildings.

13.2 The results of this report should aid KCC Heritage in their decision as to possible additional archaeological mitigation.

## **14. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

SWAT Archaeology would like to thank Central Services Ltd for commissioning this project. Thanks are also extended to Wendy Rogers, Senior Heritage Officer, Kent County Council for her advice and assistance. Julie Martin supervised the fieldwork. Illustrations were produced

by Jonny Madden for Digitise This. The project was managed and report written by Paul Wilkinson MifA.

Dr Paul Wilkinson MifA

## 15. REFERENCES

*KCC Manual of Specification Part A (2014)*

*(anon) Archaeological Evaluation Report (September 2013)*

*Institute for Field Archaeologists (IfA), Rev (2011)\_Standard and Guidance for\_archaeological field evaluation.*

## Appendix 1- Context Register

### Context Register

Context No	Description	Trench
001	Concrete	1 and 2
002	Demolition layer? Post-Medieval	1 and 2
003	Occupation layer? Post-Medieval	1
004	Yellow stock brick cess tank	1
005	Cut for cess tank	1
006	Red brick footings	2
007	Fill of post hole [008]	2
008	Cut of post hole	2
009	Natural superficial geology	1 and 2
010	Backfill of cess tank foundation cut [005]	1

Appendix 2 – Plates



Photo 1 – Trench 1 with cess tank (004)/[005], looking west (Scale 1m).

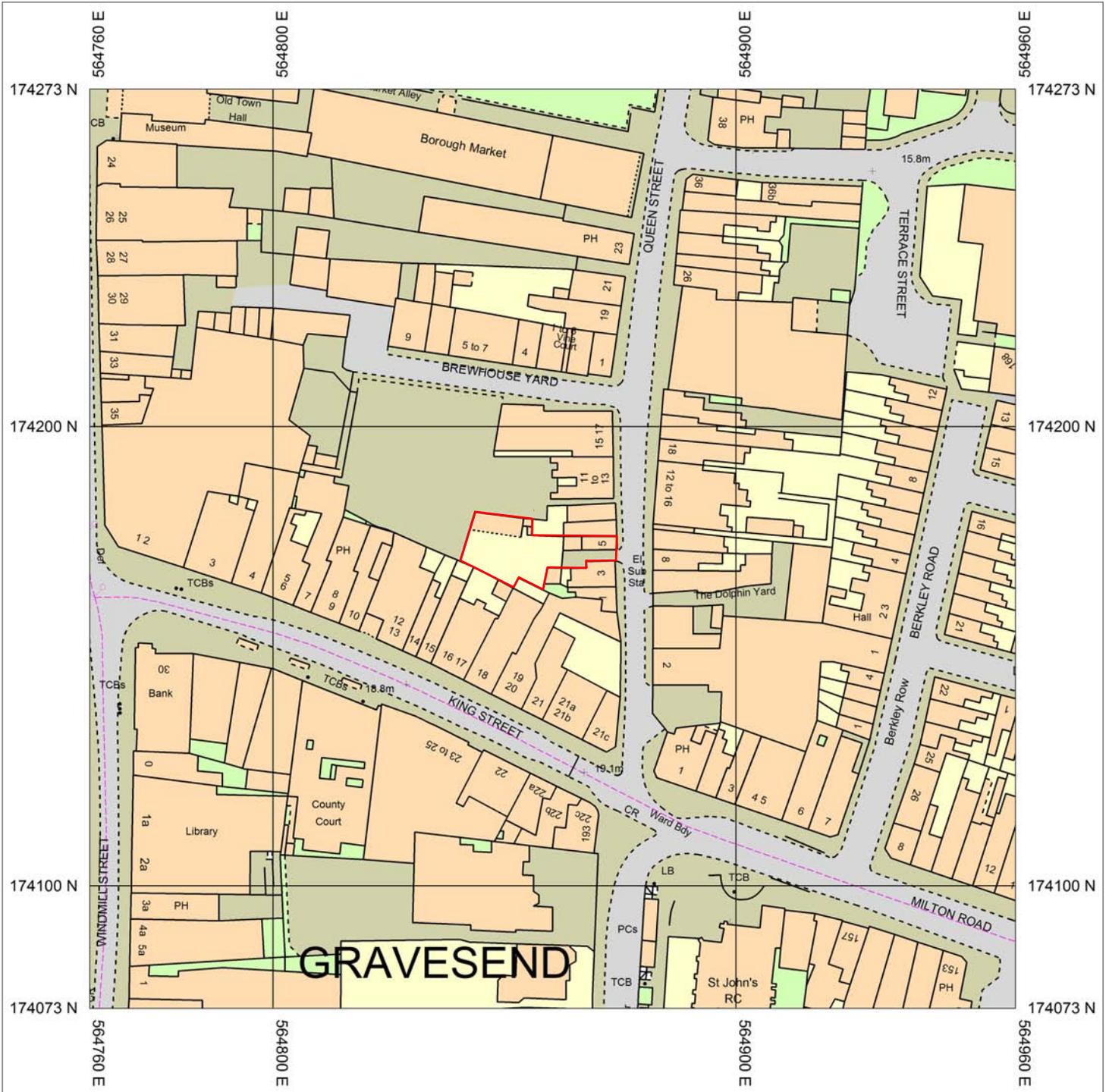


Photo 2 – Trench 2 with brick footings (006) and post hole [008], looking south  
(Scale in 50cm segments).

**APPENDIX 3 – Kent County Council HER Summary Form**

<b>Site Name:</b> <i>3-5 Queen Street, Gravesend, Kent</i>	
<b>SWAT Site Code:</b> <i>QSG/EV/13</i>	
<b>Site Address:</b>  <i>As above</i>	
<b>Summary:</b> <i>Swale &amp; Thames Survey Company (SWAT) carried out an archaeological evaluation on land at 3-5 Queen Street, Gravesend, Kent. A planning application (20110276) for the construction of a three storey building along with parking at the above site was submitted to Gravesham District Council whereby Kent County Council Heritage and Conservation, on behalf of Gravesham District Council have 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 2014) and in discussion with the Senior Archaeological Officer, Kent County Council.</i>  <i>The Archaeological Evaluation consisted of two trenches which encountered some post-medieval archaeological features.</i>	
<b>District/Unitary:</b> <i>Graveham</i>	<b>Parish:</b>
<b>Period(s):</b>	
<b>NGR (centre of site : 8 figures):</b>  <b>(NB if large or linear site give multiple NGRs):</b> <i>564851 174171</i>	
<b>Type of archaeological work (delete)</b>  <i>Evaluation</i>	
<b>Date of Recording:</b> <i>March 2014</i>	
<b>Unit undertaking recording:</b> <i>Swale &amp; Thames Survey Company (SWAT)</i>	
<b>Geology:</b> <i>Sandy Clay</i>	
<b>Title and author of accompanying report:</b>  <i>Wilkinson P. An Archaeological Evaluation at 3-5 Queen Street, Gravesend, Kent</i>	
<b>Summary of fieldwork results (begin with earliest period first, add NGRs where appropriate)</b>  <i>As above</i>	
<b>Location of archive/finds:</b> <i>SWAT</i>	
<b>Contact at Unit:</b> <i>Paul Wilkinson</i>	<b>Date:</b> <i>07/04/2014</i>





Produced 04/03/2014 from the Ordnance Survey National Geographic Database and incorporating surveyed revision available at this date. © Crown Copyright 2014

Reproduction in whole or in part is prohibited without the prior permission of Ordnance Survey

Ordnance Survey and the OS Symbol are registered trademarks of Ordnance Survey, the national mapping agency of Great Britain.

The representation of a road, track or path is no evidence of a right of way.

The representation of features as lines is no evidence of a property boundary.

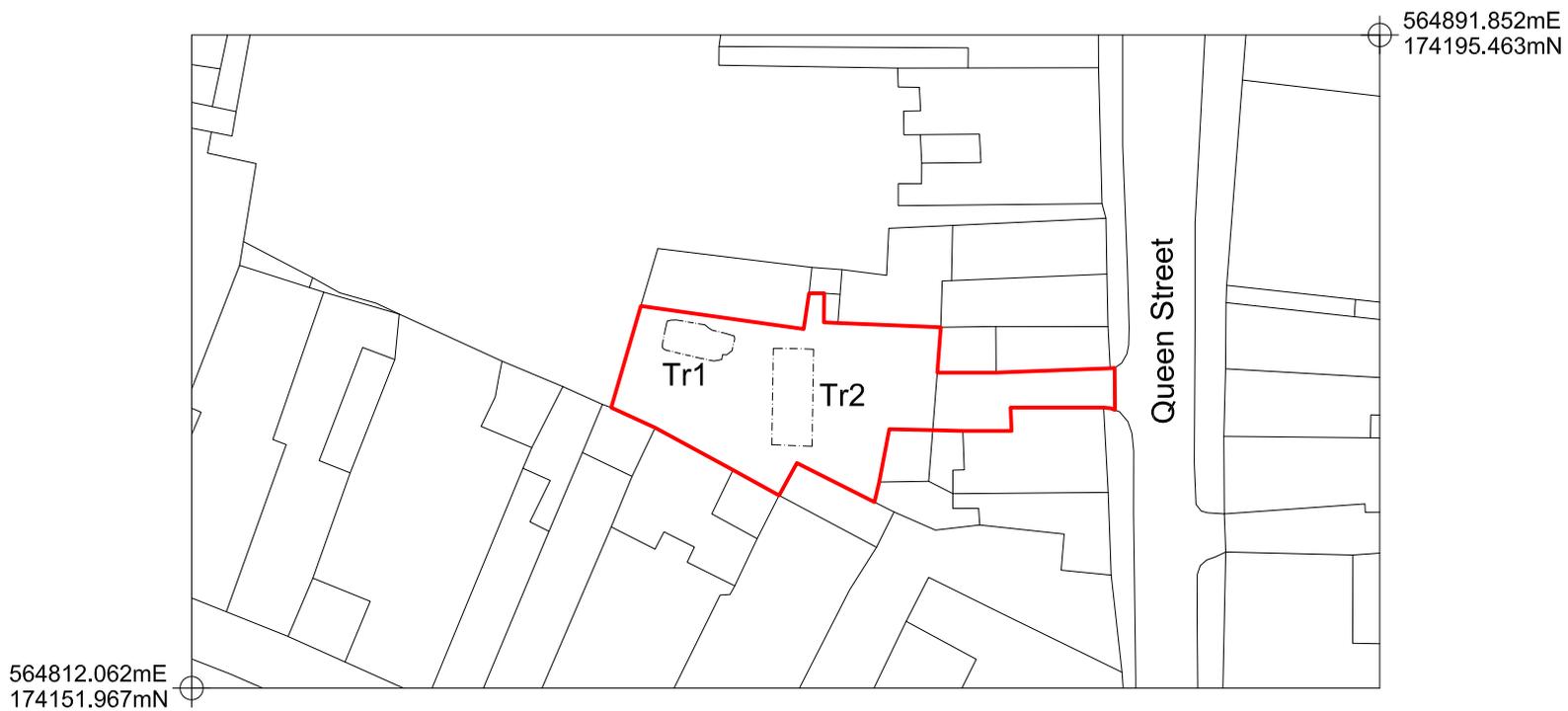


Scale 1:1250

Supplied By: National Map Centre Kent

Serial number: 001136348

Plot Centre Coordinates: 564860, 174173



1:500@A4



Figure 1: Location of archaeological trenches within site

0m

50m

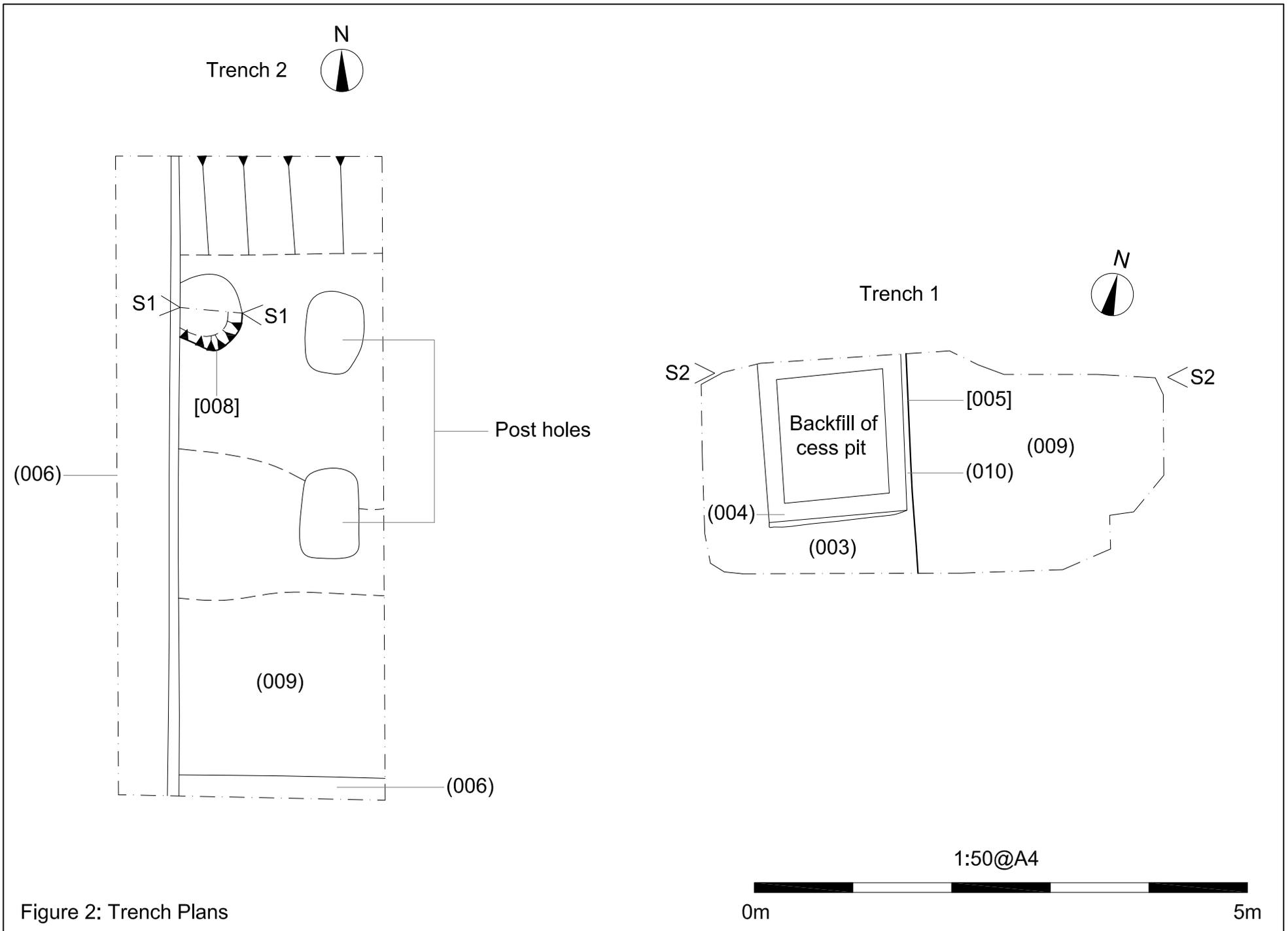


Figure 2: Trench Plans

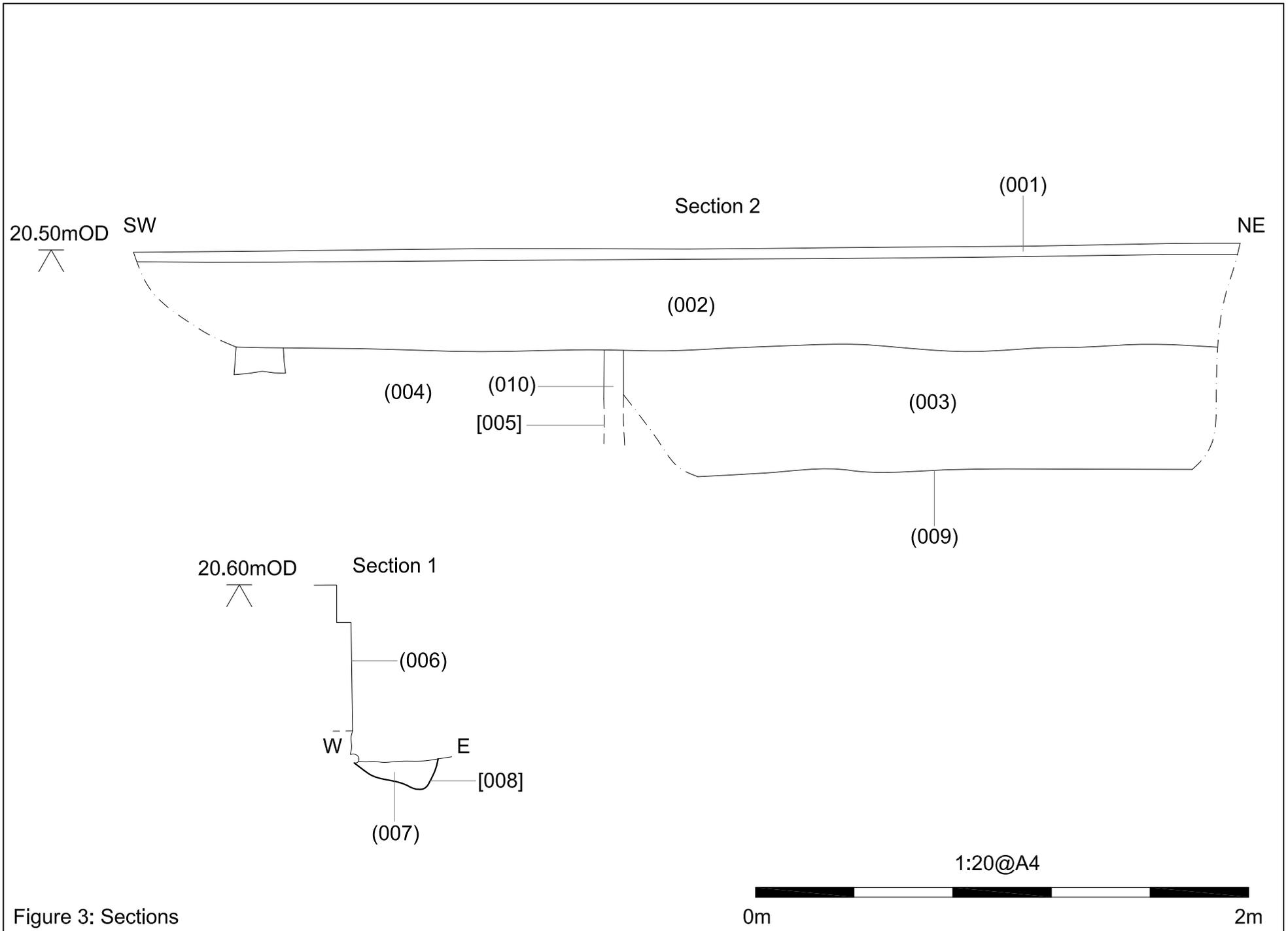
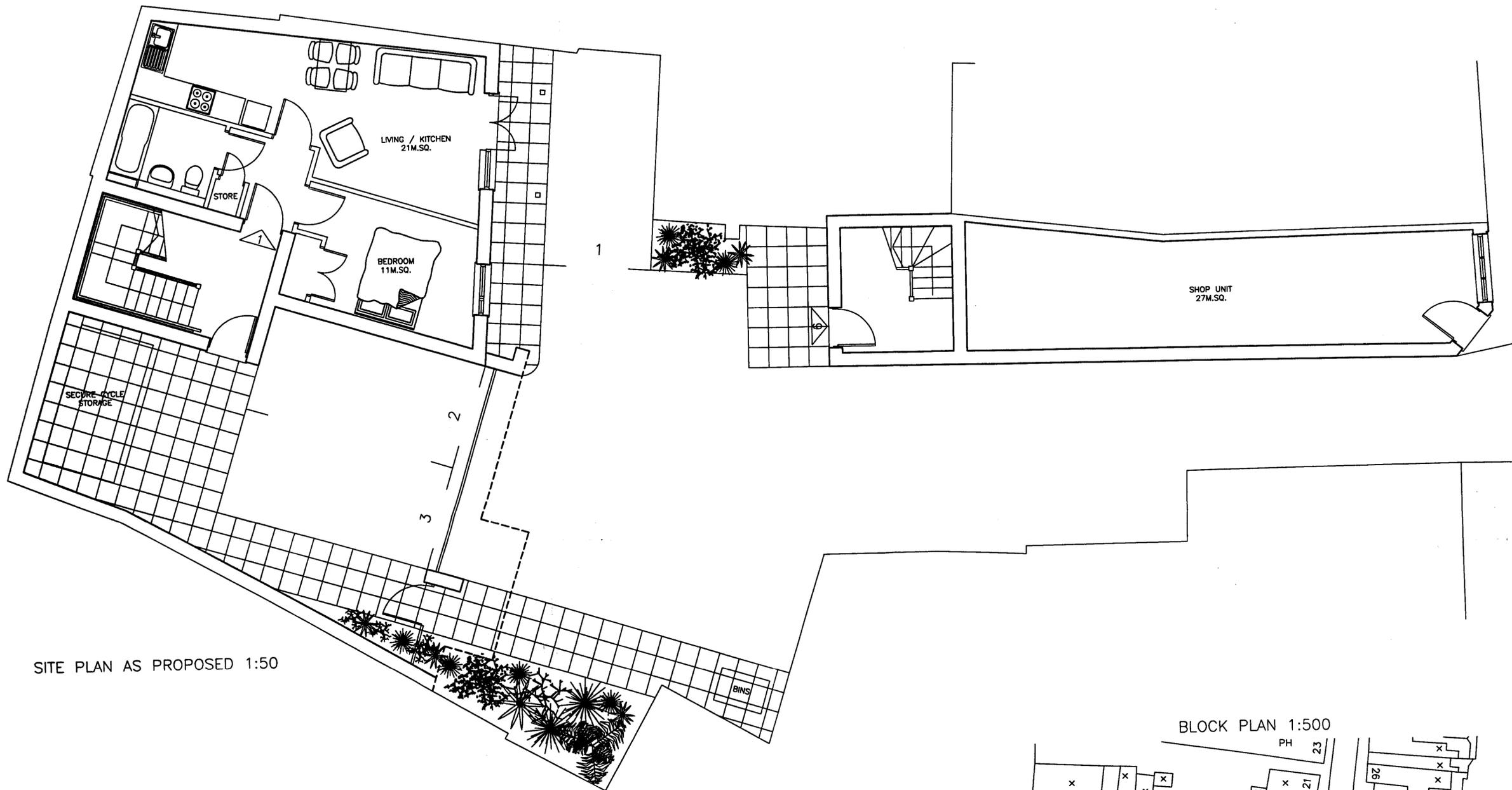
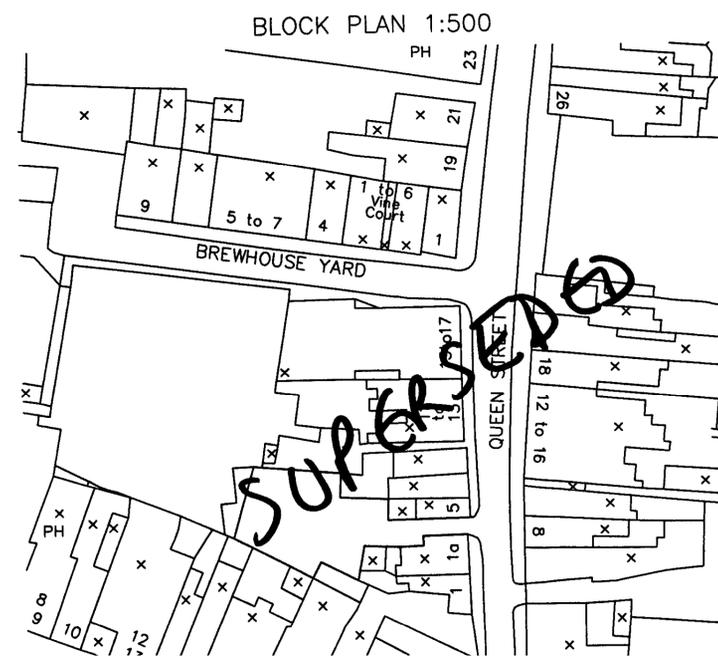


Figure 3: Sections



SITE PLAN AS PROPOSED 1:50



BLOCK PLAN 1:500

- NOTES
1. DO NOT SCALE
  2. ALL DIMENSIONS ARE TO BE CHECKED AND DISCREPANCIES REPORTED BEFORE CONSTRUCTION
  3. TO BE READ IN CONJUNCTION WITH ALL RELEVANT ARCHITECT'S AND CONSULTANTS DRAWINGS

NO.	DESCRIPTION	DATE



Alpha House  
140 to 143 Milton Road  
Gravesend  
Kent DA12 2RH  
Tel : 01474 533 339  
Fax : 01474 533 655

PROJECT  
3-5 QUEEN STREET  
GRAVESEND  
KENT

TITLE  
BLOCK PLAN & SITE PLAN AS  
PROPOSED

BOAN

SCALE DATE