

# Archaeological Evaluation of Land south east of Alandene, Till Avenue, Farningham, Kent.



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# Archaeological Evaluation at Land south east of Alandene, Till Avenue, Farningham, Kent.

NGR: 554767 166564

Site code: FAR-EV-15

Planning Application Number: SE/14/01868

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# **Archaeological Evaluation of Land south east of Alandene, Till Avenue, Farningham, Kent.**

## **1. Summary**

Swale and Thames Survey Company (SWAT Archaeology) carried out an archaeological evaluation of land south east of Alandene, Till Avenue, Farningham in Kent. The site has planning consent for development and there is potential for remains associated with Roman buildings found in the vicinity including part of a Roman bath house (HER No. TQ 56 NW 14). The evaluation is to clarify the presence/absence of archaeological remains and will guide the need for any additional archaeological mitigation measures.

## **2. Introduction**

From 10<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> July 2015 SWAT Archaeology began a programme of archaeological evaluation and subsequent sample excavation of exposed archaeological features on the land proposed for development (Figure 2). The archaeological evaluation was to quantify and establish the possible significance of any archaeological remains prior to construction work commencing and determine whether further archaeological work will be required.

## **3. Site Description and Topography**

The site is located within the parish of Farningham, Sevenoaks and is accessed off Till Avenue and is bounded on all sides by other residential development. The geology as shown on BGS mapping is Chalk overlain by Head Deposits. The geology exposed on site was mid brown to orange sandy silty clay (Brickearth). The site is about 38-39m AOD.

## **4. Planning Background**

There are proposals for residential redevelopment of this site for a two bed bungalow with the provision of two off-street parking places. Further details are

set out in the planning application SE/14/01868. On the basis of present archaeological information Sevenoaks District Council recommended that the site should be subject to a programme of archaeological work in order to clarify the historical and archaeological elements within the site. The results can then guide appropriate mitigation measures for the future development.

Sevenoaks District Council has granted planning permission for the development. On the advice of KCC Heritage a condition securing a programme of archaeological works has been attached to the consent.

*5) 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.*

*To ensure that features of archaeological interest are properly examined and recorded in accordance with policy EN25A of the Local Plan emerging policy EN4 of the Sevenoaks Allocations and Development Management Plan and the National Planning Policy Framework.*

The work was carried out in accordance with the requirements set out within the Archaeological Specification from Kent County Council dated April 2015.

## **5. Archaeological and historical background**

The potential of this area has been gauged in relation to the proximity of known archaeological remains. The site of the proposed development lies within an area of high archaeological potential for Roman archaeology. A Roman bath house found at 36 Oliver Crescent (HER TQ 56 NW 14) and Roman enclosure and features north of South Hall Close. In addition to the east post-medieval malting are located (HER TQ 56 NW 119) and industrial remains may also be found in the vicinity of the development site.

## **6. Aims and objectives**

The programme of archaeological work should be carried out in a phased approach and will commence with evaluation through trial trenching. This initial phase should determine whether any significant archaeological remains would be

affected by the development and if so what mitigation measures are appropriate. Such measures may include further detailed archaeological excavation, historic buildings recording and/or an archaeological watching brief during construction work. This specification sets out the requirements for trial trenching on the site and any further archaeological work, such as detailed excavation work or a watching brief, would need to be subject to further specifications.

## **7. Methodology**

The trenches were excavated using a 12 ton machine equipped with a 1.7m wide toothless/ flat bucket. The trenches were excavated to the appropriate depth where natural geology surface can be clearly observed. The evaluation comprised two archaeological trenches which were located in order to avoid on site constraints such as live services and any vegetation to be retained within the development. The trench layout was agreed with the County Archaeologist prior to commencement of works on site. Further operational requirements are set out in the KCC Specification Manual Part B.

## **8. Monitoring**

Curatorial monitoring was not available during the course of the evaluation.

## **9. Results of the evaluation**

On 10<sup>th</sup> July two trenches were excavated to a pattern agreed with KCC Heritage. On 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> the trenches were cleaned by hand which revealed a number of archaeological features in Trench 1 but no archaeological features in Trench 2. A constant metal detector survey was undertaken during the course of the investigation but no significant finds were recovered.

### **Trench 1**

**Plan: Figure 3. Sections Figure 4  
Plates 2, 3**

This north-south aligned trench was placed in the central part of the site and measured 11.1m long by 1.7m wide. Machine excavation was carried out to an

average depth of 0.4-0.5m and exposed natural geology (CRN 103) comprising mid brown to orange brickearth with abundant well-rounded flint and gravel. Cut into the natural was a possible linear feature [CRN 104] aligned approximately north-east/south-west and measuring about 3.40m wide comprising a matrix of orange-grey clayey silt with moderate flints and gravel (CRN105) and including three prehistoric potsherds. Cut into the possible linear feature were two modern features, a modern pit [CRN 106] infilled with some sherds of modern pottery and glass (CRN 107) and a modern service trench which was not fully investigated [CRN 108] and infilled with similar cultural material.

## **Trench 2**

**Plan: Figure 3. Section Figure 4**

### **Plate 4**

This east-west aligned trench was placed in the eastern area of the site and measured 7.90m by 1.7m and was machined to about 0.4-0.5m deep and exposed the natural underlying geology (CRN 203) comprising mid brown to orange brickearth with abundant well-rounded flint and gravel. No features were exposed in this trench.

## **10. Finds**

The pottery from this evaluation have been processed and the pottery spot-dated. A small, principally prehistoric assemblage consisting of 27gms was recovered during this evaluation.

Context 105. 3 sherds pottery (weight: 18gms), One period represented. The flint-tempered coarseware body sherds are likely to be between Late Bronze Age and Early Iron Age - span c.1100-600 BC. Sherds are fresh and from a contemporary discard deposit.



## **11. Discussion**

The evaluation trenches at the proposed development site revealed one archaeological feature which has been dated to about c.1100-600BC by pottery sherds found in the fill of the feature. The feature may be a track way but there is insufficient evidence to support this hypothesis.

## **12. Conclusions**

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 comprised of topsoil (CRN 101, 201) sealing the subsoil which overlay the natural geology of sandy silty clay (CRN 103, 203). All archaeological features were planned in relation to the trenches, and the excavated features and drawn in section at a scale of 1:20.

This evaluation has been successful in fulfilling the aims and objectives as set out in the planning condition and the Archaeological Specification.

## **13. Acknowledgements**

SWAT Archaeology would like to thank the client, Insight Architects for commissioning the project. Thanks are also extended to Wendy Rogers, Senior Heritage Officer, Kent County Council. Illustrations were produced by Bartek Cichy. The fieldwork was undertaken and report data written by Peter Cichy, and the project was managed by Dr Paul Wilkinson.

Paul Wilkinson PhD., MCifA., FRSA.

31/08/2015

## 14. References

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

Heritage Conservation Group KCC (2015) *Specification for Archaeological Evaluation of the site of Land south east of Alandene, Till Avenue, Farningham (Manual of Specification Part A & B)*

*An interim report on land at Alandene, Farningham (14<sup>th</sup> July 2015) P. Cichy*

## Appendices

### Appendix I : KCC Summary Form

<b>Site Name:</b> Alandene	
<b>Site Address:</b> Land at Alandene, Till Avenue, Farningham, Kent	
<b>Summary:</b> An evaluation of the above site suggested that prehistoric remains were present in the site	
<b>District/Unitary:</b> Sevenoaks	<b>Parish:</b> Farningham
<b>Period(s):</b> Prehistoric archaeology –Late Bronze Age /Early Iron Age	
<b>NGR (centre of site : 8 figures):</b> 554767 166564 <b>(NB if large or linear site give multiple NGRs)</b>	
<b>Type of archaeological work (delete)</b> Evaluation	
<b>Date of Recording:</b> 10 <sup>th</sup> -12 <sup>th</sup> July 2015Evaluation	
<b>Unit undertaking recording:</b> SWAT Archaeology	
<b>Geology:</b> The site lies on Head Deposits over Chalk	
<b>Title and author of accompanying report:</b> An archaeological evaluation of land south east of Alandene, Till Avenue, Farningham, Kent, Wilkinson. P.	
<b>Summary of fieldwork results (begin with earliest period first, add NGRs where appropriate)</b> The evaluation exposed part of a prehistoric feature	
<b>Location of archive/finds:</b> SWAT Archaeology	
<b>Contact at Unit:</b> Paul Wilkinson	<b>Date:</b> 31/08/2015

**Plates**



Plate 1. The site under investigation. Looking north-east (one metre scale)





Plate 2. Showing Trench 1 and exposed prehistoric feature (looking north)



Plate 3. Showing cross section through prehistoric feature (looking west)





Plate 4. Showing Trench 2 with no features (one metre scale)



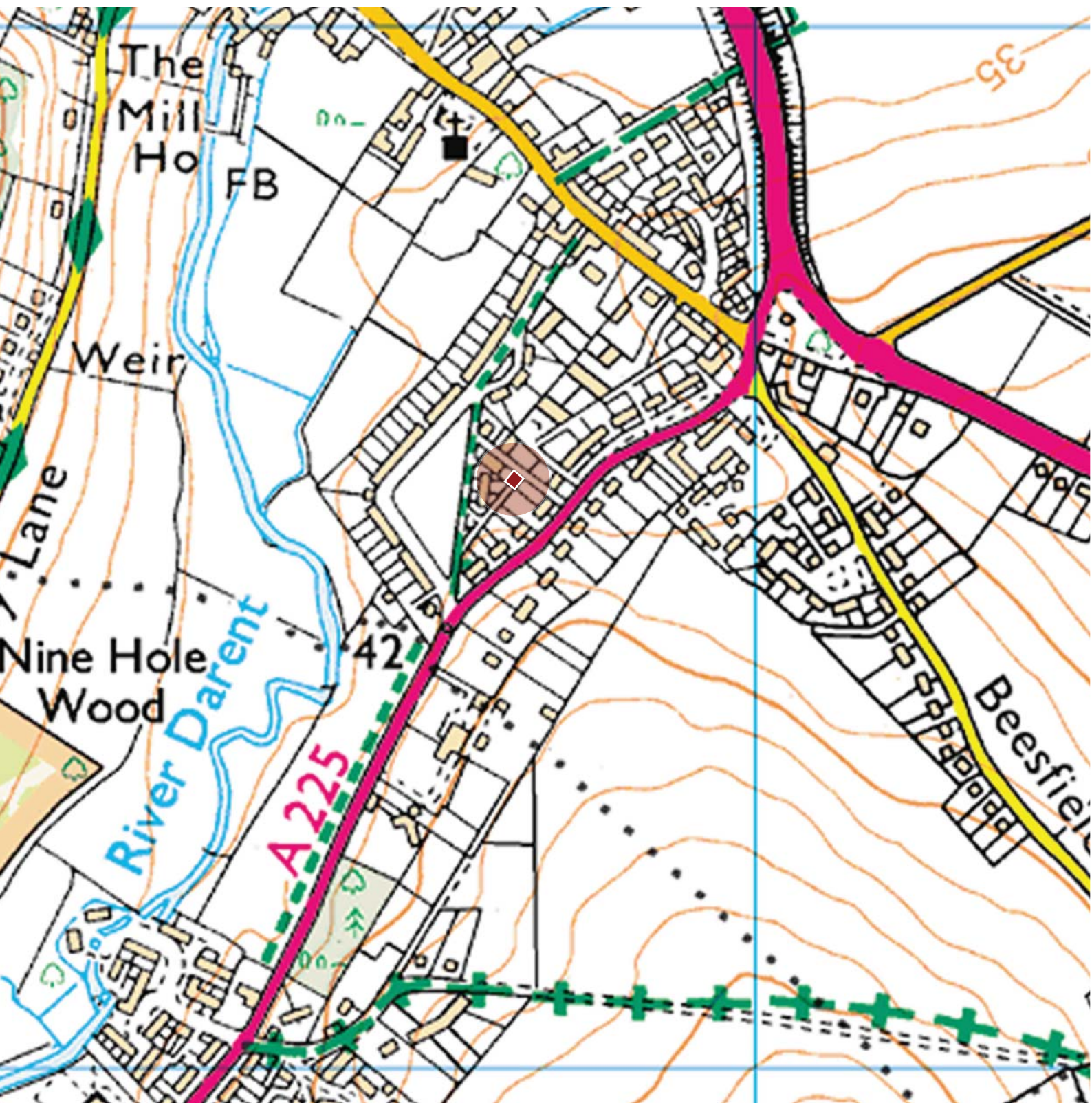
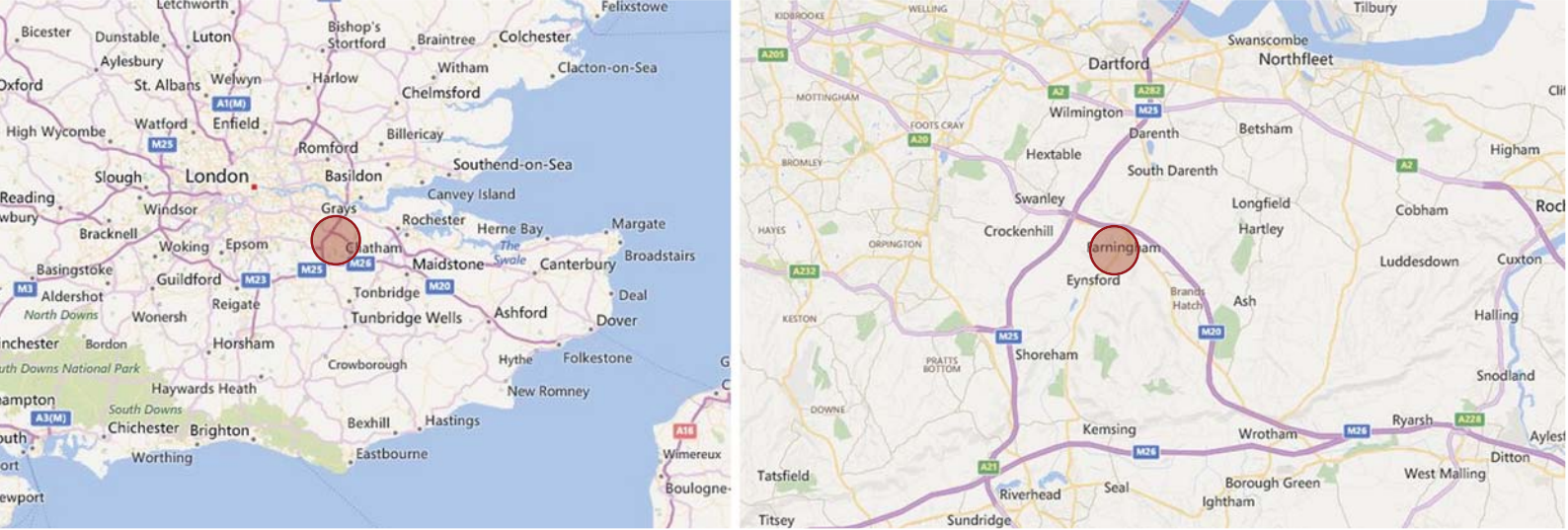


Figure 1: Site location map, scale 1:5000.



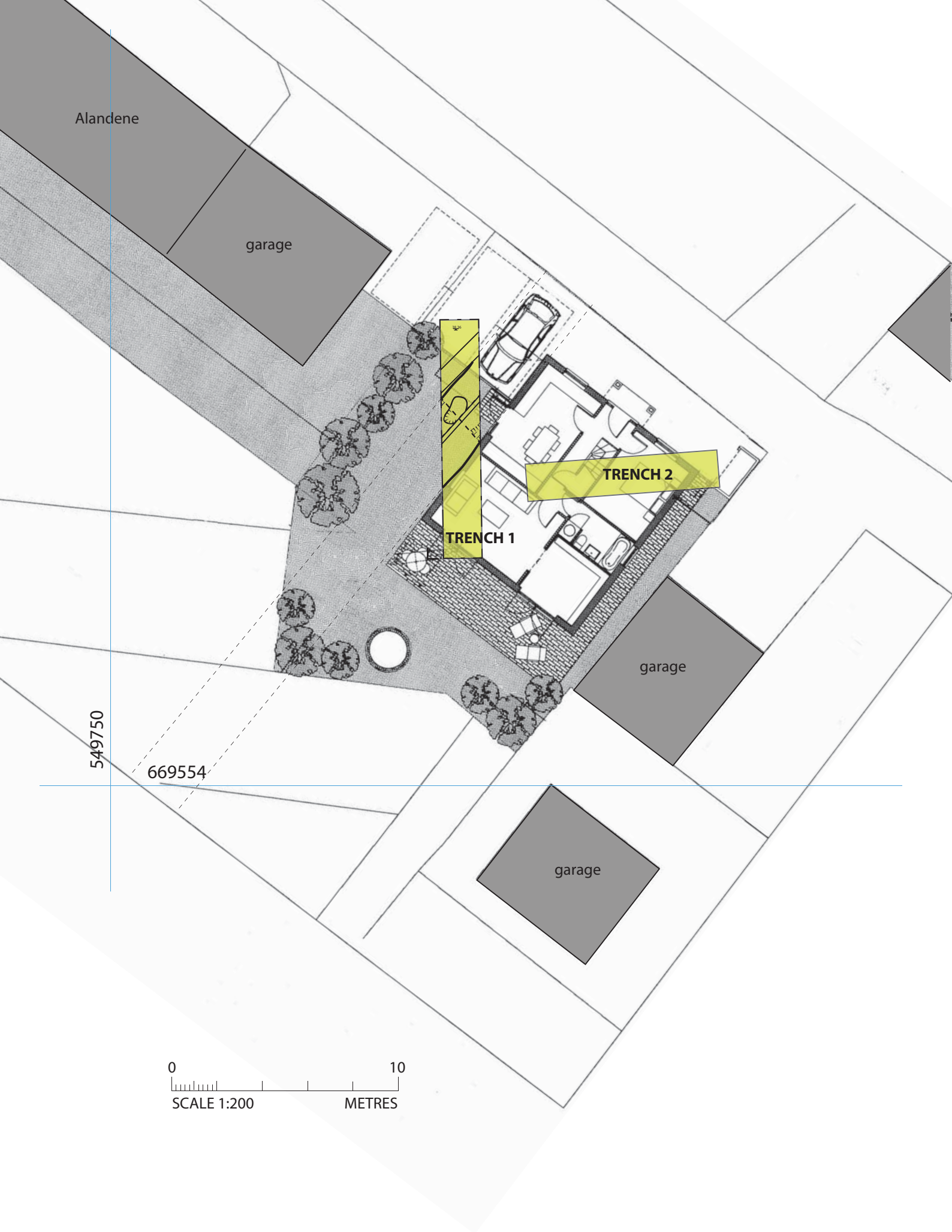


Figure 2: Trench location plan against proposed development, scale 1:200

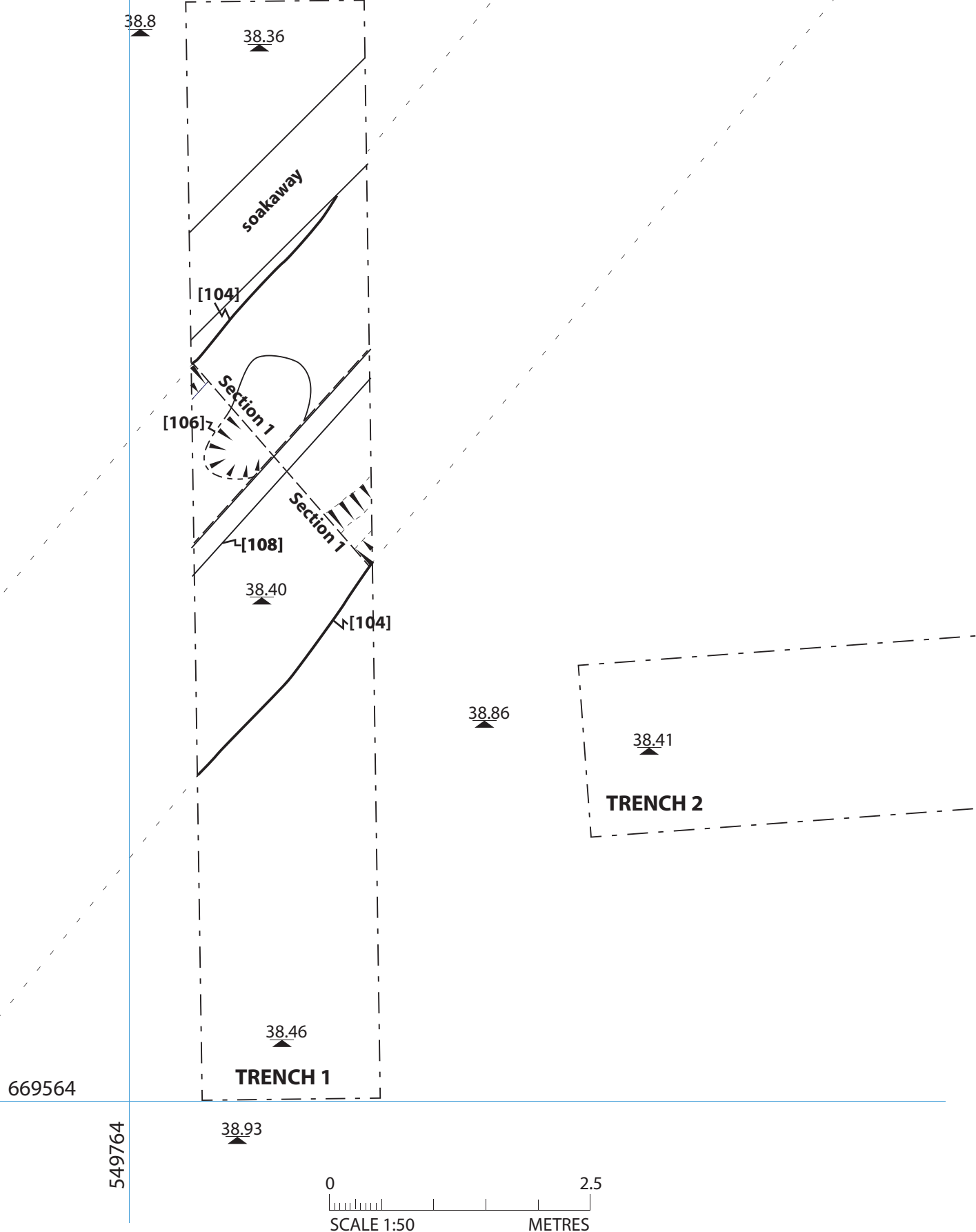
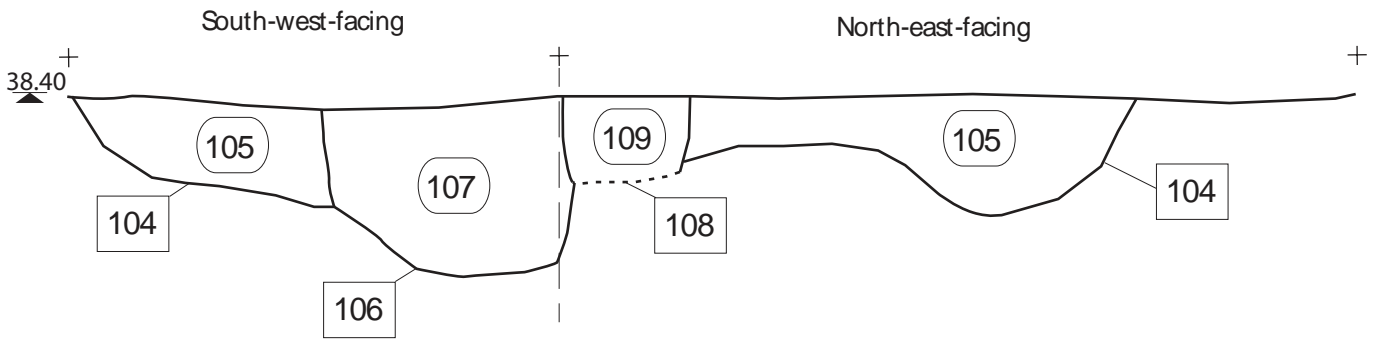
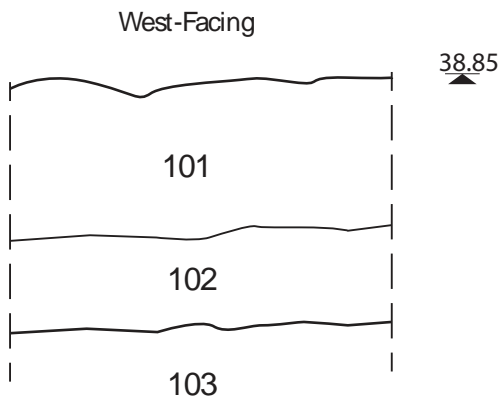


Figure 3: Trench plan, scale 1:50

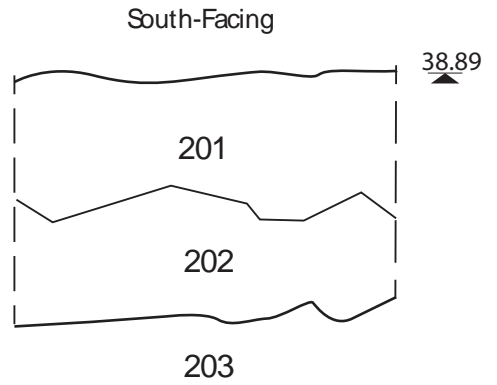
*Section 1*



*Representative section of trench 1*



*Representative section of trench 2*



*Figure 4: Sections*