

Archaeological Investigation at 1 Stour View, Broad Oak Road, Canterbury, Kent



NGR: 615050 158760

Site Code: BROAD/EX/17

(Planning Application: CA/16/00048/FUL)

SWAT Archaeology

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Aerial photograph of site (9/6/2016) Google Earth

Archaeological Investigation of Land at 1 Stour View, Broad Oak Road, Canterbury, Kent

NGR: 615050 158760

Site Code: Broad-EX-17

1. Summary

Swale & Thames Survey Company (SWAT) carried out an archaeological evaluation of land at 1 Stour View, Broad Oak Road, Canterbury in Kent. A Planning Application (CA/16/00048/FUL) to develop this site with an rear extension and associated landscaping and other works was submitted to Canterbury City 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 (SWAT Specification A and CCC Manual Part B) and in discussion with the Archaeological Heritage Officer, Canterbury City Council. The results of the excavation of one evaluation trench revealed that Roman archaeological features were present within the trench (Figure 1). No natural geology was reached, but Roman remains were found at an average depth of between 0.05m and 0.10m below the modern ground surface. In consultation with Rosanne Cummings CCC Archaeological Heritage Officer it was agreed that there would be a foundation re-design for a concrete raft foundation and excavation of this footprint would be undertaken before the start of any proposed development.

2. Introduction

Swale & Thames Survey Company (SWAT) was commissioned by Mr and Mrs Watt 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 2017) and in discussion with Rosanne Cummings, Archaeological Heritage Officer, Canterbury City Council. The excavation was carried out from the 2nd March to 10th March 2017.

3. Site Description and Topography

The proposed development site at 1 Broad Oak Road, Canterbury is situated about 800m north of Canterbury Cathedral on the upslope of the Greater Stour River. The setting is generally urban set in a ribbon development on the north side of Broad Oak Road. To the south is mostly open space of the Greater Stour water meadows.

The OD height of the proposed site is about 11m OD dropping down slope to 7m OD adjacent to the Greater Stour. The Ordnance Survey location is 615050 158760 (Plate 1 & Figure 1).

The geology on site is listed as Bedrock of Thanet Formation- Sand, Silt and Clay. Sedimentary Bedrock formed approximately 56 to 59 million years ago in the Palaeogene Period .Superficial Deposits are listed as Head- Clay and Silt. Superficial Deposits formed up to 3 million years ago in the Quaternary Period (www.bgs.ac.uk/lexicon.cfm).

4. Planning Background

James Clague Associates Ltd has designed an extension to the existing house a 1 Broad Oak Road. Planning permission has been obtained with the following Condition:

Condition 3) Prior to the commencement of development the following components of a scheme for the 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 shall be submitted to and approved in writing by the local planning authority.

a) A written scheme of investigation to be submitted s minimum of fourteen days in advance of the commencement of fieldwork.

b) A report summarising the results of the investigations to be produced on completion of fieldwork in accordance with the requirements set out in the written scheme of investigation.

c) Any further mitigation measures considered necessary as a result of the archaeological investigations to ensure preservation in situ of important archaeological remains and/or further archaeological investigation and recording in accordance with a specification and timetable which has been submitted to and approved by the Local Planning Authority.

d) If necessary a programme of post-excavation assessment, analysis, publication and conservation. Fieldwork, including further mitigation works and post-excavation work shall be completed in accordance with the approved details and programme timings unless otherwise agreed in writing with the local authority, and the local authority shall be notified in writing a minimum of fourteen days in advance of the commencement of any fieldwork.

REASON: To ensure a proper record of archaeological matters as there is a high probability of finding historic remains at the subject location.

These details are required prior to the commencement of the development as they form an intrinsic part of the proposal, the approval of which cannot be disaggregated from the carrying out of the rest of the development.

5. Archaeological and Historical Background

The Kent County Council Historic Environment Record (KCCHER) has provided details of any previous investigations and discoveries. The site is adjacent to the Greater Stour River and just to the south of the development site Roman inhumation burials were excavated (TR 15 NE 1584). Just to the north in Market Way Prehistoric, Belgic/Early Roman tile kilns were found (TR 15 NE 1428). In addition Roman kilns were also found (TR 15 NE 1585). Just to the west medieval burials were found at St Stephens Roundabout (TR 15 NE 1584) and just to the west of the roundabout a WWII fortified

house is recorded (TR 15 NE 780).

6. Aims and Objectives

According the SWAT Archaeological Specification, the aims and objectives for the archaeological work were to ensure that:

The principle objective of the archaeological evaluation is to establish the presence or absence of any elements of the archaeological resource, both artefacts and ecofacts of archaeological interest across the area of the development.

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.

To determine the state of preservation and importance of the archaeological resource if present and to assess the past impacts on the site and pay particular attention to the character, height/depth below ground level, condition, date and significance of any archaeological deposits.

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.

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.

7. Methodology

The archaeological excavation will be undertaken by the machine excavation with a flat-bladed ditching bucket of the overburden under the control of an archaeologist.

The mechanical excavation will remove the topsoil in order to expose either the uppermost archaeological deposits. Once this mechanical excavation is complete, all excavation hence forth will be completed by hand, including the cleaning of the foundation trenches and raft formation using a trowel, hoe or other suitable tool. Any archaeological features that may be exposed will subsequently be mapped, photographed and recorded.

Care will be taken to ensure that unnecessary additional excavation does not take place where archaeological deposits or structures are exposed; in particular, there is to be no additional reduction of the ring beam trenches to further enhance archaeological features.

8. Monitoring

Curatorial monitoring was available during the course of the evaluation.

9. Results

The evaluation has identified archaeological features within the trench (Figure 1) and the subsequent excavation revealed a Roman kiln industrial site dated by the pottery to the Mid Roman period c.150-275AD (Appendix 1).

Trench 1

9.1 The plan is recorded in Figure 1. The trench lay on a W to E alignment and measured approximately 8m by 1.20m. Undisturbed Roman deposits lay immediately under the garden flagstones.

No further work was undertaken on the evaluation trench and it was agreed with the CCC Archaeological Heritage Officer and the land owners that a re-design of the proposed foundations of the extension be undertaken from traditional footings to a concrete raft with a ring beam foundation which would have a lesser impact on the Roman deposits.

10. Excavation

From Thursday 2nd March 2017 to Friday 10th March 2017 excavation of the footprint of the proposed concrete raft foundation with ring beam was undertaken.

The investigation took place in an area long-known to be extensively occupied by the remains of Roman-period tile kilns (see, for example, Rady 2001, 4). The site is located on a spur of brickearth overlooking Canterbury, which, during the Roman period, was an important cantonal capital (*Durovernum Cantiacorum*), the many buildings of which clearly required large amounts of tile for roofs, floors and ceramic drainage furniture.

The investigation consisted of the manual excavation of four rectilinearly arranged ring beam trenches (Fig. 1) prior to the construction of an extension to the rear of the property. It was clear before the commencement of archaeological work that the area under investigation had been reduced and levelled to facilitate the construction of the present house, which is of late nineteenth- or early twentieth-century build. The topography of the area overall comprises a relatively steep valley side sloping eastward and southward to the River Stour, lying some 50 metres away.

The primary and earliest deposit exposed in the base of the easternmost ring beam trench consisted of a mid-light brown clay deposit (Context Recording Number 9, Fig. 1, Section 3, Plate 4), almost certainly an example of the natural brickearth that had provided the raw material for the kilns. Although interpreted with confidence as a natural deposit, its surface had been much disturbed, and several large deep orange-red block-like fragments were embedded in its surface. These fragments were probably demolished parts of a kiln wall, as an *in-situ* wall made of identical material was exposed in the same ring beam trench some 1.7m to the south-south-east (see CRN 7, Fig. 1, Section 3 below).

The natural brickearth had been cut away by two large features, one (CRN 27) to the north, the second (CRN 25) to the south. The fills of both features, respectively CRNs 26 and 11, Fig. 1, Section 3, Plate 5) were identical in appearance and made up almost entirely of hard-packed, deep orange-

red crushed tile, tile fragments and Roman cement (*opus caementicium*), some of the latter crushed but much in the form of large block-like pieces of dark orange-red cement of the same type as the *in-situ* wall fragment (see CRN 7 below).

The orange-red ceramic building materials in Features 27 and 25 were interspaced with occasional patches of mid brown clay. The southernmost feature (CRN 11) extended some 3.2m to the trench's termination, where it was covered by a thin (55mm) clay layer (CRN 10) with an exposed width and length of 0.45m and 0.26m respectively. This acted in part as the bedding for an *in-situ*, vertically-set rectangular block of deep orange-red cement (CRN 7, Fig. 1, Section 3, Plate 6), interpreted with confidence as a surviving fragment of kiln wall. If so, the compacted horizontal surface of deep orange-red crushed tile and cement (CRN 11) probably represented dumped material re-used as a floor, either of a kiln itself or of a building housing a kiln.

The near-identical northernmost feature cited above, which may also have been a floor, extended northward for 2.65m, where it cut or abutted an earlier feature (CRN 24), which had the form of a partly exposed pit with a fill (CRN 21) consisting of roughly laminated sub-horizontal layers of deep orange-red crushed tile, larger tile fragments, tile dust and irregularly shaped, large and medium-sized fragments of orange-red cement. The exposed length of this pit was 1.44m, with most of it being exposed in the northernmost trench (Fig. 1, Section 2 & 3, Plate 4). In this trench the pit cut an extensive (more than 5.1m) and thick (more than 0.48m) layer of slightly gritty, mid yellow-tinged clay (Context Recording Number 30, Plan 1, Sections 1 & 2), interpreted as re-deposited brickearth.

Although originally thought to be an *in-situ* natural geological deposit, this material was almost certainly re-deposited or, at least, very much disturbed, because it contained occasional large fragments of orange-red tile of typical Roman-period type, along with occasional specks and smears of crushed tile and cement, many of these inclusions occurring at considerable depth within the deposit. Its upper surface (recorded as CRN 18) was sealed by thin, localised spreads of fragmented tile (CRN 17) and was cut by three features (CRNs 4, 14 & 16). The largest of these was a pit (CRN 4, Plan 1, Section 1, Plate 11) with an exposed length and depth of 1.3 and 0.17m respectively, its fill being made up almost exclusively of fragmented orange-red tile, although several fragments of an *amphora* were also present.

Another of this group of partly exposed feature (CRN 16) may have extended eastward into the central trench (Fig. 1, Section 4). If so, it was part of Pit 32, the 0.28m-thick fill of which (CRN 31), Plan 1, Section 4, Plate 9) consisted of compacted deep orange-red crushed tile, tile fragments and tile dust, as did the fill (CRN 15) of Feature 16. A narrow (0.12m) and shallow (70mm) gully cut through Feature 16, with the fills of both (CRNs 13 & 15 respectively) made up predominantly of fragmented tile in a clast-supported matrix of mid-dark humic clay, identifying them as Roman-period features, albeit of unknown function.

Also almost certainly dating to the Roman period were several deposits and layers overlying the probable structural remains exposed in the easternmost trench. The probable floor layer (CRN 11)

that underlay the thin clay bedding layer for the *in-situ* rectangular fragment of wall was elsewhere covered by a 20m-thick layer of mixed mid brown clay, tile fragments and crushed tile (CRN 8, Sections 2 & 3, Plate 9), presumably a Roman-period demolition or waste deposit re-used as levelling. This was sealed by a 0.12m -thick (on average) layer of fragmented tile (CRN 6, Sections 2 & 3). This layer also extended over the surface of the natural clay (CRN 9, see above) and also slightly over the northern compacted crushed tile deposit (CRN 26), which had a light yellow-brown semi-vitrified surface, indicating that it had been subject to considerable heat (CRN 28, Section 3). However, an area of considerable modern structural disturbance was exposed between this and the natural clay deposit (CRN 9). The disturbance was severe and even the 0.33m-thick deposit surrounding it (CRN 29) could not be identified with certainty as an undisturbed Roman-period deposit, although its inclusions consisted only of Roman-period fragmented ceramic building materials.

The above-described vitrified surface (CRN 28) was sealed by a flint-cobbled spread (CRN 19, Fig. 1, Section 2 & 3) with a maximum thickness of 90mm. Again, this clearly purposively laid layer could not be attributed with confidence to the Roman period, although it too contained cultural materials in the form of tile dust and crushed cement/tile of exclusively Roman-period provenance.

All the overlying deposits (CRNs 22, 3, 2 & 1) exposed during the investigation were of relatively modern or recent origin. CRN 22 was a nineteenth- and/or twentieth-century garden soil, the thickness of which exceeded 0.35m in depth of the western part of the northern foundation trench and in all of the western trench (Fig. 1). This deposit was of minimal or no archaeological significance and was not further recorded. CRN 3 was a crushed tile spread re-deposited when two deep modern post-holed and a manhole were cut, CRN 2 was a construction layer associated with the construction of the present building on an artificial terrace, and CRN 1 designating all modern hard standing and associated bedding layer.

11. Conclusions

Although the maximum depth of the re-designed ring beam trenches (0.35m) led to only relatively superficial impact on the archaeological deposits, enough of those deposits were exposed to identify them as structural remains comprising parts of one or more Roman-period kilns. The associated ceramic waste material indicated that the kiln(s) were used for the production of roof tile (both *tegulae* and *imbrices*), semi-cylindrical (half-tube-like) pipes, probably used as drains, and small ceramic pieces (*tesserae*), the latter used to create mosaic-like wall or floor surfaces (albeit non pictorial).

The investigation appears to have exposed the upper part of what was probably a multi-phase kiln complex, as two floor layers (CRNs 11 & 26) were almost certainly made using compacted industrial waste. The presence within them of large block-like fragments of Roman-period cement (*opus caementicium*) indicated that parts of abandoned and demolished kiln had been re-used to create new floor levels, one of which (CRN 26) had a deeply scorched, semi-vitrified surface (CRN 28), this

in turn indicating that the tile firing process had taken place on or very near to it. As discussed above, the other floor layer (CRN 11), which was separated from the former by in-situ natural clay (CRN 9), supported an *in-situ* rectangular orange-red cement block set into a thin clay bed (CRN 10), suggesting that this was what survived of an almost completely demolished tile kiln. Indeed, many similarly large pieces of flat-sided cement of the same colour and width were recovered from the dump deposit (CRN 8) overlying the floor, these almost certainly derived from the same kiln.

The investigatory ring beam trenches were too narrow and too shallow for the structure of the kiln(s) to be reconstructed, but what was exposed was consistent with the surface structure of a typical pottery kiln such as the one described in Webster (1940, 109-120). It is reasonable to assume that the internal arrangement of a Roman-period tile kiln differed somewhat from that of a pottery kiln, but it is likely that the two types of kilns' outer structures and the buildings housing them were very similar.

Two or three archaeological periods are represented in the archaeological investigation of these Roman tile kilns.

First, Mid Roman with ceramic components technically spanning virtually the entire Mid Roman period c.150-275 AD.

Both the Roman brick fragments and pottery are only very slightly worn. Although the range of ceramic recovered includes mid-later C2 AD material as well as mid-later C3 AD material - this lack of wear indicates very little post-loss disturbance. The presence of a large fragment of near-fresh brick does indicate the construction of a tile kiln in the immediate area of the excavation at some point between c.150-250 AD.

The second and third periods are Late Post-Medieval to Modern. As with the Roman material little, if any, of this second group is seriously worn. In the first instance this means that, apparently, there was no major activity or ground disturbance in the immediate area following c.275/300 AD. In the second period the lack of wear on the LPM and later material does not suggest that it arrived onsite via landscaping re-deposition from elsewhere. This in turn indicates that, following the Roman-period abandonment of activity, there was no further localised activity until at least the mid nineteenth century AD.

12. Finds

Roman and Post Medieval pottery was retrieved from the excavation as well as samples of Roman CBM (Appendix 1).

13. Acknowledgements

SWAT Archaeology would like to thank the client, Mr and Mrs Watt for commissioning the project. Thanks are also extended to Rosanne Cummings Archaeological Heritage Officer, Canterbury City

Council. The fieldwork was undertaken by Tim Allen MCI(A), Jim Quinlan, Chris Brewer. Paul Wilkinson MCI(A) edited the report.

Paul Wilkinson 25/07/2017

14. References

CCC Specification Manual Part B

Institute for Field Archaeologists (IfA), Rev (2014). *Standard and Guidance for archaeological field evaluation*

KCC and Historic England HER data 2015

Rady, J. 2001, 'Market Way' in *Canterbury's Archaeology 1998-1999*

SWAT Archaeology (2015) *Specification for a Programme of Archaeological Evaluation and Assessment of Land at 1 Broad Oak Road, Canterbury, Kent*

Webster, G., 1940, 'A Roman Pottery Kiln at Canterbury', *Archaeologia Cantiana Vol 53*

Appendix 1

THE DATING AND ASSESSMENT OF THE CERAMIC ASSEMBLAGE FROM: SWALE AND THAMES ARCHAEOLOGY EXCAVATION AT:

1, BROAD OAK ROAD, CANTERBURY EXCAVATION 2017 (I-BOR-CANT-17)

I - ASSESSMENT

1 - Nothing obviously earlier than c. 125/150 AD

2 - Nothing obviously datable to between c.300-1800 AD was recovered

3 - Nothing obviously later than c. 1950/2000 AD

3 — Two-three archaeological periods represented -

3a - First, Mid Roman with ceramic components technically spanning virtually the entire Mid Roman period, c.150-275 AD. Both the Roman brick fragments and pottery are only very slightly worn. Although the range of ceramic recovered includes mid-later C2 AD material - as well as mid-later C3 AD material - this lack of wear indicates very little post-loss disturbance. The presence of a large fragment of near-fresh brick does indicate the construction of a tile kiln in the immediate area of the excavation at some point between c.150-250 AD.

3b - Second, Late Post-Medieval to Modern. As with the Roman material little, if any, of this second group is seriously worn. In the first instance this means that, apparently, there was no major activity or ground disturbance in the immediate area following c.275/300 AD. In the second - the lack of wear on the LPM and later material does not suggest that it arrived onsite via landscaping re-deposition from

elsewhere. This in turn indicates that, following the Roman-period abandonment of activity, there was no further localised activity until at least the mid nineteenth century AD.

II - CONTEXT-BASED QUANTIFICATION AND DATING

Primary quantification : 9 sherds (weight: 241gms)

Period codes employed:

ER = Early Roman

MR = Mid Roman

LPM = Late Post-Medieval

MOD = Modern

Context dating:

Context: 2 - garden soil - 2 sherds (weight: 68gms)

1 MR Canterbury grey sandy ware (c.125/150-175 AD emphasis)

1 LPM>MOD Midlands-type pale brown earthenware (rich brown glaze, tea-pot lid, c. 1850/1875 AD-plus)

Comment: Despite being obviously residual, the MR sherd is only very slightly worn. LPM tea-pot lid is chipped, otherwise near-fresh

Likely commencement date : c.1800 AD-plus

Likely end-date : Residual

Context: 6 - 5 sherds (weight: 76gms)

1 MR grog-tempered Native Coarse Ware (c.125/150-200 AD emphasis probably)

2 LPM Modern English stoneware (c.1800-1900/1940 AD emphasis probably)

1 LPM Staffs-type white earthenware (pale blue transfer printing, c.1825-1875 AD)

1 LPM>MOD red earthenware (flower-pot type, c. 1825/1875 AD-plus)

and : 1 fragment coal shale (weight: 2gms) - small fragment, fresh, C19 AD-plus

Comment: All moderate-sized elements. Despite being obviously residual the MR element is only very slightly worn. LPM material near-fresh.

Likely commencement date : c.1800 AD-plus

Likely end-date : From c.1825 AD-plus

Context: 9 - embedded in surface - 1 sherd (weight: 90gms)

1 MR Eastern Gaulish samian ware (probably Trier, Dr. 31, c.125/200-260 AD emphasis)

and : 2 fragments ER>MR Roman brick/tile (weight: 43gms) - 1 fairly small, 1 moderatesized, edge fragments, no complete thicknesses available, one with mould sanded surface.

Comment .Samian sherd is large and a bowl part-profile. Other than some slight chipping, sherd fairly fresh. Brick elements are near-fresh

Likely commencement date : By implication of pottery nothing earlier than mid C2 AD

Likely end-date : If not residual - possibly mid-late C3 AD

Context: 17 - 1 sherd (weight: 7gms)

1 LPM>MOD red earthenware (flower-pot type, c.1825/1875 AD-plus)

Comment: Fairly small base fragment, unworn

Likely commencement date : Nothing obviously earlier than c.1800/1825 AD, if not later

Likely end-date : C19 AD-plus

Context: 21 - 1 fragment ER>MR Roman brick (weight: 556gms)

Comment: Very large heavily over-fired fragment, slightly curved and warped with smooth 'inner' surface fissured. One side mould sanded. Part one edge, 3.6cms thick. Sanded surface of another brick fused on to 'inner' surface during firing. Near-fresh

Likely commencement date : By implication of pottery from other contexts, nothing obviously earlier than c.125/150 AD

Likely end-date: If not residual - mid C2-C3 AD

Analyst: N.Macpherson-Grant (5.2017)

Kent County Council HER Summary Form

Site Name: Land at 1 Stour View, Broad Oak Road, Canterbury, Kent

SWAT Site Code: BROAD/EX/17

Site Address: As above

Summary:

Swale and Thames Survey Company (SWAT) carried out Archaeological Evaluation followed by Excavation on the development site above. The site has planning permission for an extension to a residential house whereby Canterbury City Council Heritage and Conservation (CCCHC) requested that Archaeological Evaluation be undertaken to determine the possible impact of the development on any archaeological remains.

The Archaeological Monitoring consisted of an Archaeological Evaluation which revealed Roman archaeology.

District/Unitary: Canterbury City Council

Period(s):

NGR (centre of site to eight figures) 615050 158760

Type of Archaeological work: Archaeological Evaluation and Excavation

Date of recording: March 2017

Unit undertaking recording: Swale and Thames Survey Company (SWAT. Archaeology)

Geology: Underlying geology is Bedrock Geology of Thanet Formation and Superficial Deposits are Brickearth

Title and author of accompanying report: Wilkinson P. (2015) Archaeological Investigation of land at 1 Stour View, Broad Oak Road, Canterbury, Kent

Summary of fieldwork results (begin with earliest period first, add NGRs where appropriate)

The archaeological investigation revealed Roman archaeology comprising kiln structures and floors dating to about c.150-250AD.

Location of archive/finds: SWAT. Archaeology. Graveney Rd, Faversham, Kent. ME13 8UP

Contact at Unit: Paul Wilkinson

Date: 26.07.2017



Plate 1. The site troweled back (looking SE)



Plate 2. The Site (looking NNW)



Plate 3. The Site (looking SSW)



Plate 4. Excavation of the foundation ring beam on the NE area of the site



Plate 5. Close up detail of the NE ring beam



Plate 6. Wall of the Roman tile kiln (looking NE)



Plate 7. Excavation of the ring beam on the NNW side of the site



Plate 8. Two modern post holes



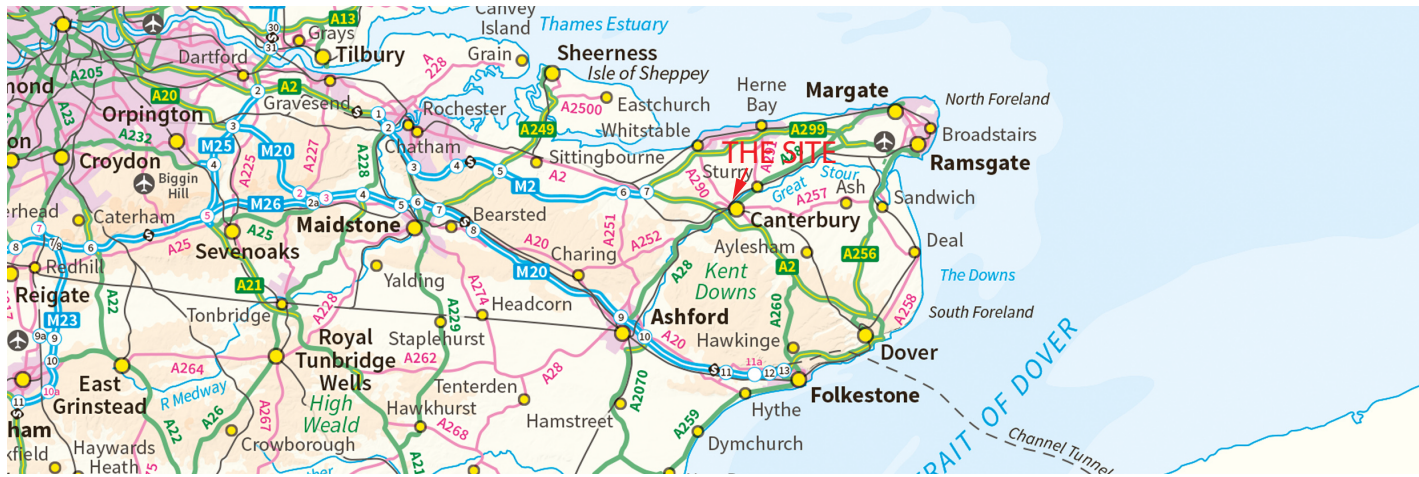
Plate 9. Detail of the central ring beam showing Roman pit [32]



Plate 10. Central ring beam showing modern water pipes



Plate 11. Section showing Roman floor surfaces



License number: 100031961

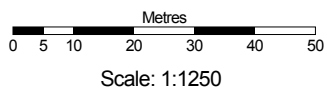


Figure 1: Site location and proposed building in relation to Ordnance Survey 1:1250 map

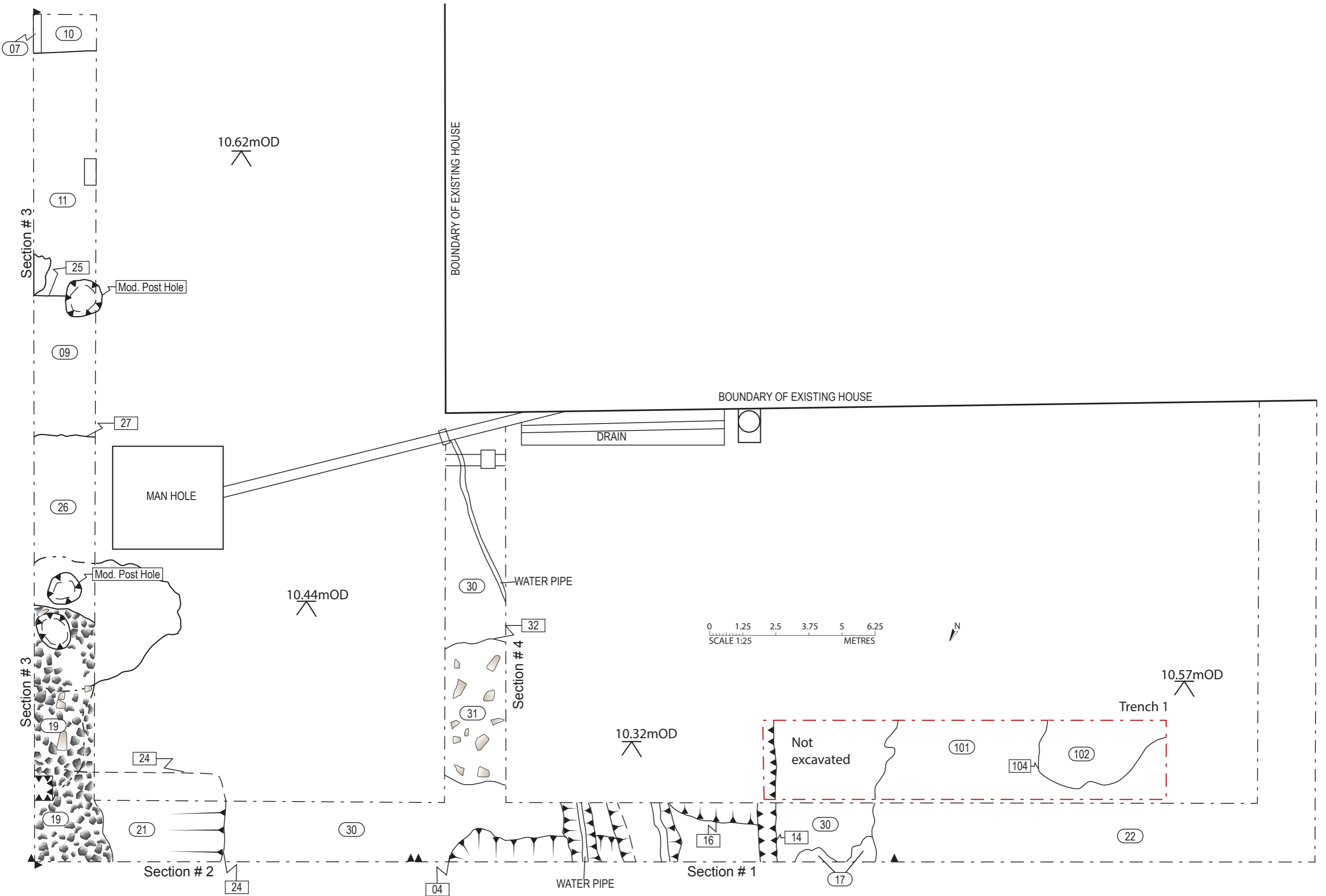


Figure 2: Trench plan, scale 1:25

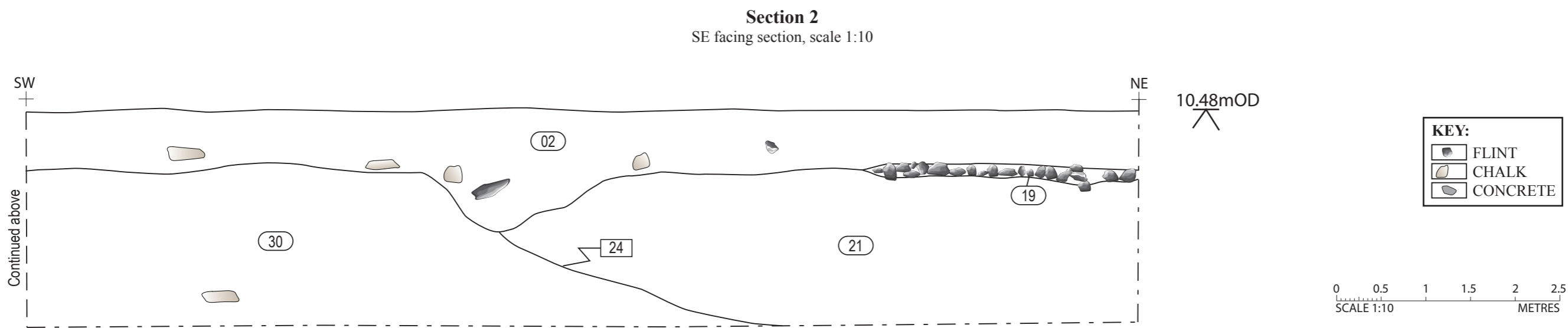
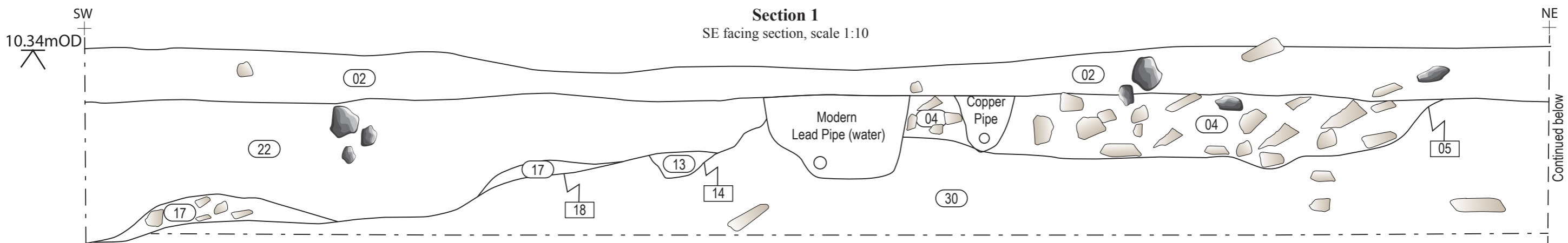
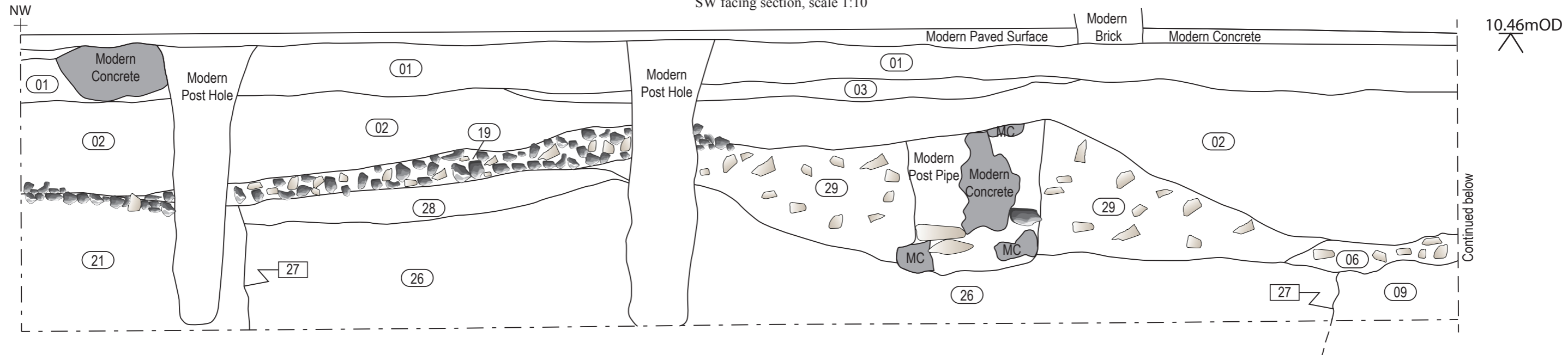
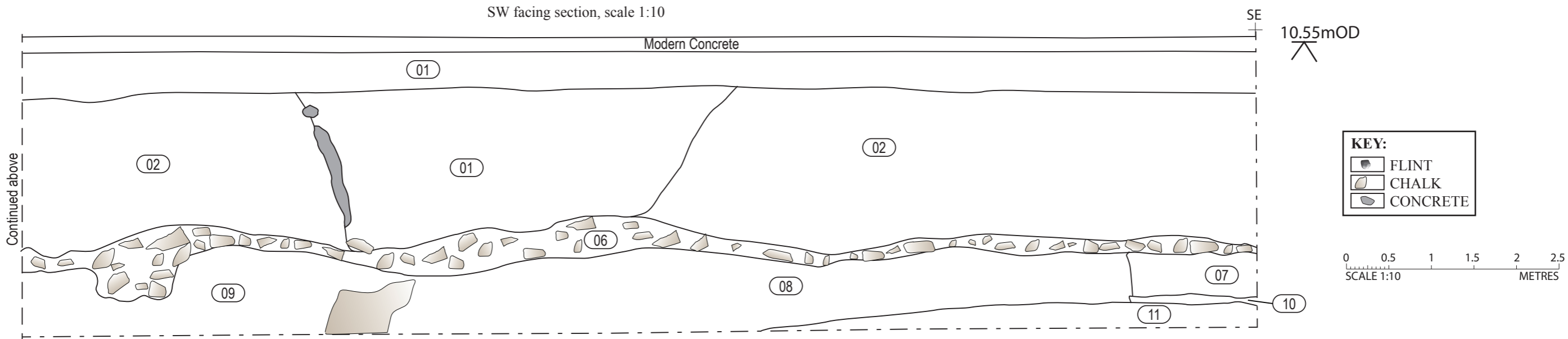


Figure 3: Section 1 and 2

Section 3 Part 1 of 2
SW facing section, scale 1:10



Section 3 Part 2 of 2
SW facing section, scale 1:10



Section 4
NE Facing Section, scale 1:10

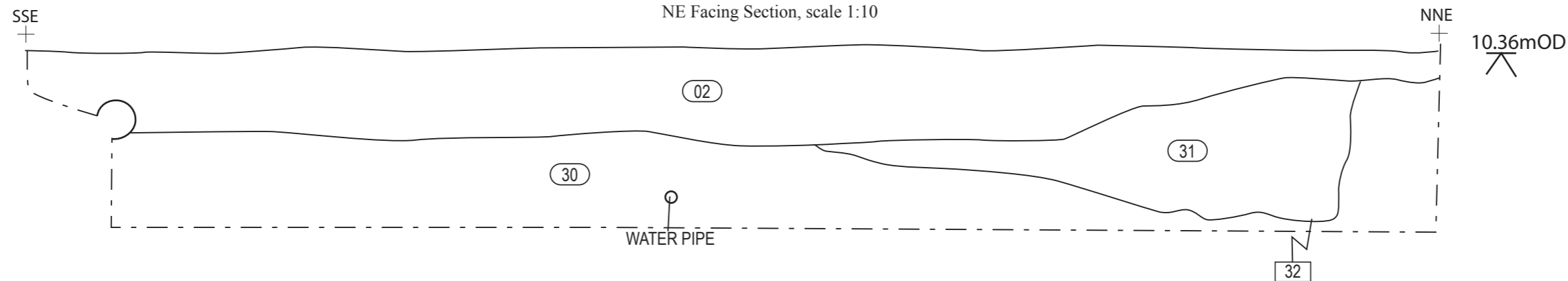


Figure 4: Section 3 and 4