

# Archaeological Evaluation and Watching Brief to the rear of Filmer House, 21 High Street, Sittingbourne, Kent



NGR: 590909 163565

Site Code: FILM/EV/15

(Planning Application: 14/503836/FULL)

Updated 04/04/2016

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# **Archaeological Evaluation and Watching Brief to the rear of Filmer House, 21 High Street, Sittingbourne, Kent**

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## **1. Summary**

*Swale & Thames Survey Company (SWAT) carried out an archaeological evaluation and watching brief of land to the south of 21 High Street, Brenchley Road, Sittingbourne, in Kent. A Planning Application (14/503836/FULL) to develop this site with the construction of a two storey side extension to create two new units of accommodation was submitted to Swale Borough Council, whereby the Council advised by Heritage Conservation at KCC requested that an Archaeological Evaluation be undertaken in order to determine the possible impact of the development on any archaeological remains. The results of the excavation of the single evaluation trench revealed that archaeological features were present within the trenches. These include two deep pits, a large post hole, a shallow linear feature capped by 18<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> century levelling layers. The earliest archaeology found was a deep pit (or well) with secure dating of pottery from its fill dating from c.1650-1750AD. The natural geology of light brown silty clay (Brickearth) was reached at an average depth of between 0.60m and 0.90m below the modern ground surface. Following on from the archaeological evaluation a archaeological watching brief was undertaken on the foundation trenches for the development. The Archaeological Evaluation and Watching Brief has therefore been successful in fulfilling the primary aims and objectives of the Archaeological Specification.*

## **2. Introduction**

Swale & Thames Survey Company (SWAT) was commissioned by Eco Regeneration LLP 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 2015) and in discussion with the Principal Archaeological Heritage Officer, Kent County Council. Following on from the evaluation process which revealed two deep pits, a large post hole, and a shallow linear feature capped by 18<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> century levelling layers, the earliest archaeology found was a deep pit with secure dating of pottery from its fill dating from c.1650-1750AD. It was agreed with KCC Heritage that mitigation would be confined to the excavation of the foundation trenches under archaeological supervision and any archaeology revealed would be excavated in the confines of the foundation trenches or widened as needed. The watching brief phase of the work recorded numerous levelling dumps of material dating from c.1775 to 1875AD.

The work was carried out by Peter and Bartek Cichy of SWAT Archaeology in accordance with the requirements set out within an Archaeological Specification (KCC Specification 'A' and KCC Specification Manual Part B) and in discussion with the Principal Archaeological Heritage Officer, Kent County Council. The evaluation and subsequent watching brief was carried out from the 1<sup>st</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup> July 2015.

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

The proposed development site is situated to the south of Sittingbourne High Street at NGR 590909 163563 and comprises a tarmac surfaced car park. The proposed development site adjoins Filmer House on the south elevation and is an area about 7m x 5.5m. Historic aerial photography show that the site in 1960 was in an area covered by numerous warehouses, by 1990 most of the warehouses had gone to be replaced by additional car parking and by 2009 the area of proposed development is as it is today (Google Earth, 1960, 1990, 2003, 2009). The site is generally flat at about 11.20-40m aOD. The underlying geology is mapped as Seaford Chalk Formation- Chalk. The Superficial Geology is recorded as a combination of Clay and Silt (BGS 2015).

### **4. Planning Background**

Swale Borough Council gave planning permission (14/503836/FULL) for development of land just off Sittingbourne High Street for a two storey extension to create two new units of accommodation.

On the advice of Simon Mason, Principal Archaeological Officer (KCC) a programme of archaeological works in the form of an initial archaeological evaluation was attached to the consent:

*(Condition 8) 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 scheme of investigation and timetable which has been submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority.*

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

The results from this evaluation were used to inform KCC Heritage and Swale Borough Council of any further archaeological mitigation measures that may be necessary in connection with the development proposals. In the event it was agreed that further archaeological investigation would be necessary and a archaeological watching brief was implemented to observe and record the excavation of the foundation trenches of the new development.

### **5. Archaeological and Historical Background**

The application site lies within an area with known archaeological remains and is close to the medieval historic core of Sittingbourne, south of the High Street which follows the route of the main Roman road

linking Canterbury and the Roman ports of Reculver, Richborough, Dover and Lympne to London and beyond. To the north is the medieval ribbon development of Sittingbourne enhanced by the coaching trade in the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries. Survivors from this period of development include numerous listed buildings which still make up the street frontage of Sittingbourne, The listed buildings of this frontage and closest to the site include 43 High Street, a listed Grade II building (TQ 96 SW 1144), The George Hotel. Grade II listed (TQ 96 SW 1152) and 23 High Street Grade II listed (TQ 96 SW 1158).

Previous archaeological investigations in the vicinity of the development site include a cluster of sites just to the east and include the former site of Trott's Hall (TQ 96 SW 1232). A 19<sup>th</sup> century Grade II listed building demolished to make way for a car park (TQ 96 SW 215) and medieval pits found in an archaeological investigation in Bell Road. Also in the same area a late medieval well was also uncovered (TQ 96 SW 213). To the south of the development site a archaeological watching brief at Bull Ground found no archaeology (EKE 8333).

## 6. Aims and Objectives

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

“To determine the potential for archaeological remains to be present within the area of proposed development ground work 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’ (KCC 2015: 6).

## 7. Methodology

The Archaeological Specification called for an evaluation by trial trenching comprising one trench within the footprint of the proposed development. A 2.5 ton 360° tracked mechanical excavator with a flat-bladed ditching bucket was used to remove the topsoil and subsoil to expose the natural geology and/or the archaeological horizon. 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, SWAT and IFA standards and guidance.

### 7.1 Quantification of Site Archive

The site archive comprised the following elements:

Context register including: Context Register Sheets (7), Photo Register Sheets (3), Drawing Register Sheets (2), Environmental Register Sheets (0), Small Finds Register Sheet (0), Skeleton Register Sheet (0), and Context Sheets (61).

Drawings: 8 A3 perm trace drawing sheets comprising feature plans and associated sections and area plans of the trenches and features.

Photographs: 45 Digital images and also correspondence.

Small finds: 0, Pottery, building ceramics. 1 box.

## 8. Monitoring

Curatorial monitoring was available during the course of the evaluation and Simon Mason Principal Archaeological Officer visited the site during both phases of work.

## 9. Results

The evaluation has identified numerous archaeological features within the trench (Figures 3-4).

### Trench 1 (4m by 1.8m by 0.7m-deep)

#### (Plan 1.2 Fig. 3 Plates)

9.1 This north-west-north; south-east-south aligned evaluation trench was placed across the proposed development footprint and measured 4 metres long by 1.8 metre wide and was 0.7 metre deep. The excavation of the evaluation trench was carried out by a 14 ton mechanical excavator equipped with 1.8 metre wide flat ditching bucket. The machining-out of the under laid deposits was carried-out in spits and was constantly supervised by an experienced archaeologist from SWAT Archaeology.

9.2 The evaluation Trench 1 cut through eight centimetres-thick layer of tarmac (**CRN 01**) which comprised the usable surface of the former car park. That was subsequently concealing a broad 0.36 metre-thick levelling deposit (**CRN 03**) consisting of firmly compacted dark loam with moderate amounts of hardcore debris.

9.3 A deposit (**CRN 03**) comprising light orange brown clayey silt with occasional chalk pebbles was exposed at the base of evaluation trench 1. It contained an infrequent dark patches of clayey silt. One linear and two oval features were located along eastern and northern edges of the trench. In this deposit (**CRN 03**) were retrieved two small sherds of battered Later Staffordshire blue colour bodied earthen ware which has a production start date no earlier than c.1875.

9.4 Test-excavation of mentioned dark discolorations revealed two deep circular pits [**CRNs 06 and 07**] (**sections Fig.2**) truncating rectilinear west-north-west; east-south-east aligned feature [**CRN 08**]. That was accompanied by large post-pit [**CRN 04**] located adjacently towards south-east which was found cutting through a north-west-north; south-east-south aligned shallow linear feature [**CRN 05**]. Additionally three levelling layers (**CRNs 15, 16 and 21**) were exposed in recorded section of evaluation trench and these were exposed concealing the archaeological features listed above.

All exposed features were cleaned and subsequently excavated using small hand-tools spade and shovel.

9.5 Along the north-eastern edge of the evaluation trench in its portion to the south-east a shallow north-west south-east aligned linear feature **[CRN 05]** was exposed. The cut had moderately sloping sides and mainly flat base. Its only back-fill (**CRN 20**) comprised yellow-grey clayey-silt re-deposited natural with moderate amounts of crushed demolition debris and infrequent angular flints. The feature measured 0.74 metre wide and 0.22 metre in depth.

9.6 Subsequently that was truncated by a post-pit **[CRN 04] (section 1.1)**. This sub-circular cut had steep sides and mainly flat base and measured 0.82 metre wide and 0.35 metre in maximum depth. Its back-fill comprised two deposits (**CRNs 17 and 18**). First mentioned basal fill (**CRN 17**) of yellow-grey clayey-silt and grey silt mixture with infrequent amounts of demolition debris derived as a result from deliberate back-fill and measured 0.82 metre wide and 0.35 metre deep. That was interpreted as a potential post-packing and subsequently capped by potential post-pipe deposit (**CRN 18**) comprising yellow-brown-grey clay-silt with infrequent angular and nodular flints. That measured respectively 0.76 metre wide and 0.28 metre deep and was capped by 0.2 metre-thick levelling deposit (**CRN 19**) comprising dark brown clay-silt with infrequent amounts of demolition debris, loam and angular flints.

9.7 A circular Pit **[CRN 06]** exposed in approximately three quarters of its estimated total size had vertical sides and as it was cutting through a natural layer of compacted flint nodules (**CRN 02A**) and disturbed natural (**CRN 02**) its sides appeared to be 'reinforced' by these angular nodules. Due to safety reasons the feature was excavated to a measured depth of 0.7 metre inside the evaluation trench which gave a total depth of 1.4 metre from the top surface outside the evaluation trench.

9.8 A fairly circular shape of the feature and its solid sides certainly resistible against erosion processes suggest that this feature could be interpreted as a former well. Its back-fill (**CRN 09**) comprised softly compacted, medium brown clayey-silt mottled with light brown-grey, clay lenses with infrequent inclusions of angular flints, large fragments of roof tiles, oyster shell and charcoal flecks. Three small fragments of Late-Medieval potsherds were retrieved from the excavated portion of back-fill. These five sherds of pottery comprise three sherds of Surrey-Hampshire Border ware and two sherds of English tin-glazed tablewares all dateable between c.1650- 1750 AD.

9.9 The uppermost portion of this context was quite firmly compacted and gradually get softer downwards where back-fill was found softly compacted and even some empty spaces were encountered during the excavation. Additionally deposit was moderately disturbed by small bioturbations, up to one centimetre in diameter and derived as a result of deliberated back-fill levelling-off the surrounds of the feature. The excavated portion of the context recorded in section measured 1.2 metre long by 0.84 metre wide and 0.7 metre deep.

9.10 Discussed above feature was truncated by rectilinear hollow **[CRN 08] (section 1.1)** located along north-western end of the evaluation trench. This west-north-west; east-south-east aligned cut had moderately sloping sides and mainly flat base. Its back-fill (**CRN 13**) comprised firmly compacted



brown-grey clay-silt with infrequent amounts of demolished hardcore debris and some flint nodules were also noted within a fill which almost certainly derived as a result from deliberate back-fill.

9.11 That was found to be truncated by a sub-circular Pit **[CRN 07]** located adjacently to circular feature **[CRN 06]** discussed above. A sub-circular **[Pit 07] (section 1.1, 1.3 and 1.4)** had vertical sides and its base was not revealed due to narrow exposition and mandatory safety reasons. The exposed part measured 0.78 metre wide and 0.55 metre in depth. Its back-fill sequence comprised three deposits **(CRNs 11, 12 and 23)**. The lowest stratigraphically **(CRN 11)** comprising brown-grey clay-silt with moderate amounts of crushed building debris was found abutted to the feature sides. This potential back-fill partially derived as a result from erosion that occurred at the top of the feature and measured 0.17 metre in averaged width.

9.12 That was capped by a deliberate dump **(CRN 12)** comprising moderately compacted dark-brown clay-silt with moderate amounts of demolition debris, chalk flecks and flints. It measured 0.72 metre in width and 0.55 metre in exposed depth. Subsequently that was capped by a substantial back-fill **(CRN 23)** comprising large dark loam with abundant amounts of large nodular flints. The deposit measured 0.78 metre wide and 0.5 metre in depth.

9.13 Subsequently the features were back-filled their top and immediate surroundings were levelled-off what was indicated by recorded contexts **(CRNs 14, 16 and 15)**. The lowest stratigraphically was **(CRN 14)** comprising orange-brown clayey-silt with infrequent chalk flecks and nodular flints. It measured in recorded section respectively 0.8 metre in width and 0.38 metre in maximum depth. Next in turn that was overlaid by **(CRN 16)** comprising mid-brown clayey-silt with loam and moderate chalk flecks among occasionally distributed ceramic debris comprising six sherds of creamware of Wealden type dating c.1740-1780AD. Deposit measured 1.12 metre in width and 0.51 metre in depth. That was capped by up to 0.18 metre-thick final level-off layer **(CRN 15)** comprising dark brown clay-silt loam with moderate chalk flecks.

The discussed above was concealed by 0.3-0.4 metre-thick broad modern levelling layer (CRN 03) comprising crushed hardcore, coke and tarmac deposited prior to the formation of a useable car park surface, represented in section drawings as **(CRN 01)**.

#### **9.14 Further monitoring / A watching brief results (Appendix 1)**

##### **(Plan 2.6 Fig. 4 sections 2.1-2.5)**

An archaeological watching brief carried out during an excavation of a proposed building foundations exposed several intercutting pit-like features to the north of just discussed evaluation Trench 1.

9.15 The lowest stratigraphically features recorded during undertaken watching brief were two large pit-like hollows **[CRNs 36 and 51]**. Pit **[CRN 36]** was exposed only partially and in section rectangular pit had sharp break of slope at top, vertical eastern side and gently sloping western side which breaks

plausibly into slightly concave mainly flat or uneven base. An exposed part in section 2.2 measured 1.92 metre wide and 0.44 metre in depth. Its back-fill sequence comprised four deposits (**CRNs 37, 38 39 and 40**). A first mentioned (**CRN 37**) was moderately compacted grey-brown silt-clay with light orange brown clay lenses and dark loam with infrequent flint nodules and chalk flecks. It measured 0.62 metre in width and 0.14 metre in depth. That was overlaid by (**CRN 38**) comprising dark grey brown clay-silt with dark loam and occasional chalk pebbles and flecks, charcoal flecks, small amount of animal bone, oyster shell and tiles. Next in turn was back-fill (**CRN 40**) comprising light orange brown silt-clay mottled with brown loam containing occasional chalk flecks, charcoal and fragments of CBM (ceramic building material). Abutted to the east was (**CRN 39**) of dark brown clay-silt mottled with light orange brown clay, loam with infrequent chalk, mortar and CBM.

9.16 A located adjacently rectangular Pit [**CRN 51**] had vertical sides and its only revealed back-fill (**CRN 52**) comprised dark brown clay-silt mottled with light orange brown clayey-silt with infrequent flint, tile fragment and chalk flecks. Feature measured plausibly over 3 metres in width and 0.4 metre in depth.

9.17 That was truncated by a large feature [**CRN 49**] with similar characteristics as discussed above its predecessor / precursor and also contained a single back-fill (**CRN 50**) comprising dark brown clay-silt mottled with light brown silt and loam with moderate charcoal and chalk flecks, CBM, Occasional flint nodules and broken ceramic roof tiles. A cess element was noted in a lower part of the context.

9.18 Consequently Pit 36 discussed above was truncated by gentle scoop of cut (**CRN 41**) comprising moderately sloping and stepped sides with mainly flat base. Its back-fill sequence consisted of several fills (**CRNs 42, 43, 44, 45 and 46**) sharing fairly the same characteristics of dark brown clayey-silt with infrequent oyster shell, chalk, charcoal and CBM. All of these contexts certainly derived as a result from dump or deliberated back-fill like levelling-off the feature 41 which measured respectively 2.12 metres in width and 0.45 metre in depth.

9.19 Additionally foundation cut to the south exposed Pit [**CRN 57**] having steep sides and mainly flat base. A 0.9 metre-wide portion of this cut revealed against existing building was filled in by (**CRN 58**) consisting of mid brown silt with moderate amounts of flint, charcoal and chalk flecks. Additionally several small fragments of pot (potsherds) of Kentish red earthenware utilitarian ware were revealed and subsequently dated to c.1740-1780 AD.

9.20 Similar to discussed above scoops but noticeably smaller was feature [**CRN 31**] which measured 1.32 metre wide and 0.48 metre deep. Its back-fill consisted of four distinguishable layers (**CRNs 35, 34 33 and 32**) (described below) and these plausibly derived as a result from deliberated back-fill and/or levelling-off the feature and immediate surroundings.

9.21 A small pit [**29**] was found adjacently to the east of discussed above feature. This had moderately sloping sides and concave base; measured 0.4 metre wide and 0.16 metre deep; its single fill context (**CRN 30**) was dark brown clayey-silt with oyster shell, coal, CBM, chalk flecks and small flints. Context

was 0.4m wide and 0.16m deep. Infill derived as a result from gradual overtime silting with some erodible processes intersecting a phases of subsequent siltation.

9.22 Adjacent to the east of small pit discussed above was cut **[CRN 27]** not exposed in plan feature had a sharp break of slope at its top, steep nearly vertical sides and mainly flat base. Its single fill **(CRN 28)** comprised light brown silty-clay mottled with yellow-grey clay-silt, loam and small fragments of CBM. Context was heavily bioturbated what suggests garden-type small-scale plantation/ gardening. It measured 1.1 metre wide and 0.7 metre deep and subsequently was truncated by construction cut **[CRN 25]** comprising foundation trench of actually existing building.

All of the discussed features were concealed by modern bedding and/or levelling deposits similar to a context **(CRN 03)** reported and recorded first in evaluation Trench 1.

## 10. Discussion

The evaluation trench revealed a sequence of urban activity dating from c.1650 to 1780 AD. The evaluation revealed two deep pits, a large post hole, and a shallow linear feature capped by 18<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> century levelling layers, the earliest archaeology found was a deep pit (or well) with secure dating of pottery from its uppermost fill dating from c.1650-1750AD. The watching brief phase of the work recorded numerous levelling dumps of material dating from c.1775 to 1875AD. The amount of archaeological features in such a small area of 'back door' Sittingbourne highlight the potential richness of the archaeological record still preserved in the back gardens of the medieval strip development of Sittingbourne. However, with such a small area excavated and with a paucity of ceramic dating evidence it is not possible to either phase or interpret the features securely.

## 11. Finds

See Appendix 1 for pottery finds report

Context 03	Two sherds of Staffordshire ware	c.1875AD
Context 09	Five sherds Surrey-Hampshire/English tin glazed ware	C1650-1750AD
Context 16	Six sherds of Wealden-type pottery	c.1740-1780AD
Context 58	Five sherds Kentish red earthen ware	c.1740-1780AD

Three environmental samples were retained from CRN 50. No other finds were retrieved from either the evaluation or subsequent watching brief.

## 12. Conclusion

The evaluation trenches at the proposed development site revealed archaeological features and artefacts (pottery). The evaluation trench revealed a sequence of urban activity dating from c.1650 to

1780 AD. The evaluation revealed two deep pits, a large post hole, and a shallow linear feature capped by 18<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> century levelling layers, the earliest archaeology found was a deep pit (or well) with secure dating of pottery from its uppermost fill dating from c.1650-1750AD. The watching brief phase of the work recorded numerous levelling dumps of material dating from c.1775 to 1875AD. 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 tarmac **(01)** sealing made-up ground **(03)** which overlay numerous archaeological features cut into the natural soil **(02)**. Therefore, this evaluation and watching brief has been successful in fulfilling the aims and objectives as set out in the Planning Condition and the KCC Archaeological Specification.

#### 12.1 Timetable for further assessment, analysis and publication

- Processing of environmental samples (three days)
- Publish the results as a note in the County archaeological Journal: *Archaeologia Cantiana*

### 13. Acknowledgements

SWAT Archaeology would like to thank the client, Eco Regeneration LLP for commissioning the project. Thanks are also extended to Simon Mason Principal Heritage Officer, Kent County Council. Illustrations were produced by Bartek Cichy. The fieldwork was undertaken and the project was managed by Peter Cichy and report written by Dr Paul Wilkinson MCifA.

Paul Wilkinson 26/9/2015 (Revised 17/02/2016)

### 14. References

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

KCC Heritage ( 2015) *Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Evaluation*

KCC Specification Manual Part B

KCC HER data 2015

## APPENDIX 1

### **THE DATING AND ASSESSMENT OF THE CERAMIC ASSEMBLAGE FROM : FILMER HOUSE EXCAVATION 2015 (FILM-EX-15)**

#### **ASSESSMENT**

A modest-sized multi-period pottery assemblage consisting of 26 sherds weighing 141gms were recovered during this evaluation. In terms of the period range and ceramically determinable land-use implications, the assemblage sub-divides into two main period groups –Post-Medieval and Late Post-Medieval

**Primary quantification : 26 sherds (weight : 141gms)**

#### **Period codes employed :**

LP	= Later Prehistoric
LBA	= Late Bronze Age
MIA	= Mid Iron Age
EM	= Early Medieval
PM	= Post-Medieval
LPM	= Late Post-Medieval
MOD	= Modern

#### **Context dating :**

**Context: 03** - 2 sherds (weight : 18gms)

2 sherds Staffordshire ware (c.1875AD range)

**Context: 09** - Five sherds (weight : 32gms)

Five sherds Surrey-Hampshire/English tin glazed ware (c.1650-1759AD range)

**Context: 16** – six sherds (weight : 37gms) 6 sherds Wealden-type pottery (c.1740-1780AD range)**Context : 58** – 5 sherds (weight : 28gms) 5 sherds Kentish red earthen ware (C.1740-1780AD range). 8 sherds Unstratified Late Post-Medieval (LPM) pottery weighing 45gms.

Assemblage comprises -

2 Later Creamware (blue vegetal transfer printing, c.1775-17825 AD). 4 Pearl Ware (1 x blue/white dapple, 3 with blue transfer printing - one with colour-run, c.1780-1825 AD)

2 Staffs-type white earthenware (blue vegetal/tree transfer, c.1825-1850/1875 AD)

All from plates or dishes except one Later Cream ware shallow tea-bowl with blue transfer-printing in Chinoiserie-style

**Analyst :** N.Macpherson-Grant 28.08.2015

## Appendix 2: Evaluation and Watching brief context table

EV

WB

### Evaluation Context Table

01	8 cm thick Tarmac layer forms levelled surface of the car park
02	Natural deposit. Orange-brown clay-silt with occasional chalk flecks and a pockets of large angular flint nodules (02A)  Chalky surface (02B) was exposed on the base of the shallow feature 04 possibly bedrock.
03	Modern levelling layer, bedding for tarmac, firm compaction, black loam with concentrations of hardcore. The same as 24
04	Sub-circular cut of pit with steep sides and flat base. Width: 1.05 m depth: 0.3m
05	Cut of shallow linear feature Width: 0.82 m depth: 0.35m Its base and side exposed large natural flint nodules.
06	Cut of deep circular pit. Diameter 1.2m excavated to the depth: 0.92m Not bottomed due to H&S safety reasons.
07	Cut of deep circular pit
08	Cut of rectilinear feature. WNW ESE aligned Width: 0.91 m depth: 0.21m. Cut had shallow sides and flat base
09	Soft compaction mid brown clayey-silt with occasional chalk and pebbles. Width: 1.22m depth: 0.72m
10	Mod compacted mid-brown mottled with light orange brown occ tiles fragments oyster shells. Width: 0.2m Depth:0.6m

11	Soft compaction mid-brown clay-silt mottled with light orange clay-silt. Occ charcoal flecks, mortar, oysters Dimensions: 0.2m by 0.6m D:0.31m
12	Loose compaction dark-brown clay-silt mottled grey clay. Poorly sorted inclusions tiles iron nails mortar small brick fragments. Small bioturbations.
13	Mid compaction mid brown clay-silt with occ roof tiles fragments flints oyster and chalk flecks. 1m by 0.8m Depth: 0.3m
14	Firm compaction orange-brown silt-clay occ white mortar lumps, flints, tiles Back-fill of feature 07
15	Levelling deposit comprises clay, silt and loam with remains of demolition debris. Layer exposed in section on side of evaluation trench  Thickness: 0.16m
16	Levelling deposit comprises clay-silt and fragments of hardcore debris. Layer exposed in section on side of evaluation trench
17	Firm compaction clay-silt with discoloration lenses occ mortar and flint nodules  Max depth 0.33m
18	Mid compaction light orange brown clay-silt occ small brick fragments shell chalk charcoal and mortar  Width: 0.52m depth:0.26m
19	Firm compaction mid-brown clay-silt occ tiles big lumps of mortar chalk charcoal oyster and small bioturbations.(up to 5 centimetres)
20	Mid compaction light brown clay-silt occ bricks frags tiles flint chalk and lumps of white mortar. Lightly bioturbated
21	Levelling deposit comprises silt and loam with infrequent remains of demolition and tarmac. Layer exposed in section on side of evaluation trench capping cut of features below.
22	Firm light orange brown clayey silt occ oysters and small chalk flecks  W:0.4m D:0.2m
23	Loose coarse nodular deposit occ ash and iron nails. Layer heavily disturbed by roots
24	Modern levelling layer, bedding for tarmac, firm compaction, black loam with concentrations of hardcore. The same as 03

## Watching Brief Context Table

25	Building construction cut (existing building)
26	Fill of 25. Loose black loam with abundant hardcore
27	Cut of pit. Shape in plan not exposed. Sharp break of slope at top, steep sides and flat base. Filled with (28). Feature truncated by trench [25]. Context was 1.1m wide and 0.7m deep.
28	Fill of [27]. Firm compaction, light brown occasionally mottled with grey and yellow, silty loam with occ. small fragments of CBM. Context heavily disturbed by roots. Context was 1.1m wide and 0.7m deep.
29	Cut of linear gully with moderate sloping sides and concave base. Filled with (30). Context was 0.4m wide and 0.16m deep.
30	Fill of [29]. Firm compaction, dark brown, clayey silt with occ. oyster shell, coal, bone, CBM, chalk flecks and small flints. Context was 0.4m wide and 0.16m deep. Context formed as a result of natural processes.
31	Cut of pit. Steep sloping, concave sides, sharp break of slope at top, concave base. Filled with: 32, 33, 34 and 35. Context was 1.54m wide and 0.5m deep.
32	Fill of [31]. Firm compaction, light orange brown mottled with dark and pale brown, loam with occ. small flints, chalk flecks and small roots. Context was 1.54m wide and 0.2m deep.
33	Fill of [31]. Medium compaction, mid greyish brown, loam with freq. small fragments of tiles Context was 0.95m wide and 0.1m deep.
34	Fill of [31]. Firm compaction, medium brown mottled with grey and yellow, clayey loam with moderate, chalk nodules, occ. small flints, chalk flecks, small fragments of charcoal, tiles fragments and small roots. Context was 1m wide and 0.26m deep.
35	Fill of [31]. Firm compaction, light orange brown mottled with dark brown, loam with occ. chalk and charcoal flecks. Context was 0.8m wide and 0.46m deep. Context located on the feature wall.
36	Cut of rectangular pit with sharp break of slope at top, vertical sides and flat base on different levels. Filled with 37, 38, 39 and 40.
37	Fill of 36. Mid compaction, mid greyish brown mottled with light orange brown, loam with occ. flint nodules and chalk flecks.
38	Fill of 36. Mid compaction, dark grey brown, loam with occ. chalk pebble, charcoal fragments, small fragments of animal bone, oyster shell and tile. Few sherds of medieval



	pottery retrieved.
39	Fill of 36. Mid compaction, dark brown mottled with light orange brown and occ. grey, loam with occ. chalk, mortar, CBM flecks.
40	Fill of 36. Firm compaction, light orange brown mottled with mid brown, loam with occ. chalk pebble/flecks, charcoal and CBM flecks.
41	Cut of pit
42	Fill of 41. Firm compaction dark brown mottled with light orange brown, clayey silt with occ. charcoal and chalk flecks
43	Fill of 41. Mid compaction, dark brown, clayey silt with occ. oyster shell, chalk, charcoal, CBM flecks
44	Fill of 41. Firm compaction, light orange brown mottled with dark brown, silty loam with occ. charcoal flecks.
45	Fill of 41. Firm compaction, dark brown, clayey silt with occ. flint nodules, small fragments of chalk and CBM.
46	Fill of 41. Firm compaction, mid brown mottled with light brown, clayey silt with occ. chalk and charcoal flecks.
47	Soft compaction, dark brown loam with high organic content, freq. Roots, freq small fragments and flecks of oyster shell, CBM, chalk, mortar, glass, concrete, occ. brick, tile, flint. Backfill of wall 53 construction trench.
48	Dark bluish grey Concrete block
49	Irregular shape in plan, Large pit with irregular sides, one side near vertical, other shallow. Filled with 50
50	Firm compaction, dark brown moderately mottled with light brown, silty loam with moderate flecks of charcoal, chalk, CBM, moderate roots. Occ. flint nodules and broken tiles. Some cess noticed in lower part of the context. Fill of pit 49
51	Rectangular pit with vertical sides, base not exposed. Filled with 52
52	Fill of pit 51. Mid compaction, dark brown occasionally mottled with light orange brown, clayey silt with occ. animal bone, flint, tile fragment, charcoal and chalk flecks
53	Brick wall. 18 courses, modern building remains
54	Modern shallow pit
55	Fill of 54. Same as 03.
56	Levelling layer. Mid compaction, mid brown mottled with light orange brown, clayey silt

	with moderate flecks of oyster shell, charcoal, chalk and CBM.
57	Linear trench with steep sides and flat base. Truncated by building construction trench. Filled with 58
58	Fill of 57. Mid compaction, mid brown silt with moderate flint, occ. charcoal flecks, chalk flecks, small fragment of medieval pottery.
59	Victorian shallow trench for drain pipe. Filled with 60 and 61
60	Fill of 59. Brown ceramic pipe covered with dark brown loam with hardcore
61	Fill of 59. Firm compaction, Black loam with freq. Hardcore.

## **Kent County Council HER Summary Form**

**Site Name:** Land to the rear of Filmer House, High Street, Sittingbourne, Kent

**SWAT Site Code:** FILM/EV/15

**Site Address:** As above

### **Summary:**

Swale and Thames Survey Company (SWAT) carried out Archaeological Evaluation on the development site above. The site has planning permission for a two storey extension whereby Kent County Council Heritage and Conservation (KCCHC) 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 followed by a watching brief which numerous archaeological features dating from c1650AD.

**District/Unitary:** Swale Borough Council

**Period(s):** c1650-1780AD

**NGR (centre of site to eight figures)** 590909 163565

**Type of Archaeological work:** Archaeological Evaluation

**Date of recording:** July 2015

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

**Geology:** Underlying geology is Seaford Chalk Formation-Chalk

**Title and author of accompanying report:** Wilkinson P. (2015) Archaeological Evaluation and Watching Brief at Filmer House, 21 High Street, Sittingbourne, Kent

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

Archaeological pits and features dating from c.1650 -1780AD

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

**Contact at Unit:** Paul Wilkinson

**Date:** 26/10/1 Updated 04/04/2016





Figure 1: Site location map, scale 1:25000



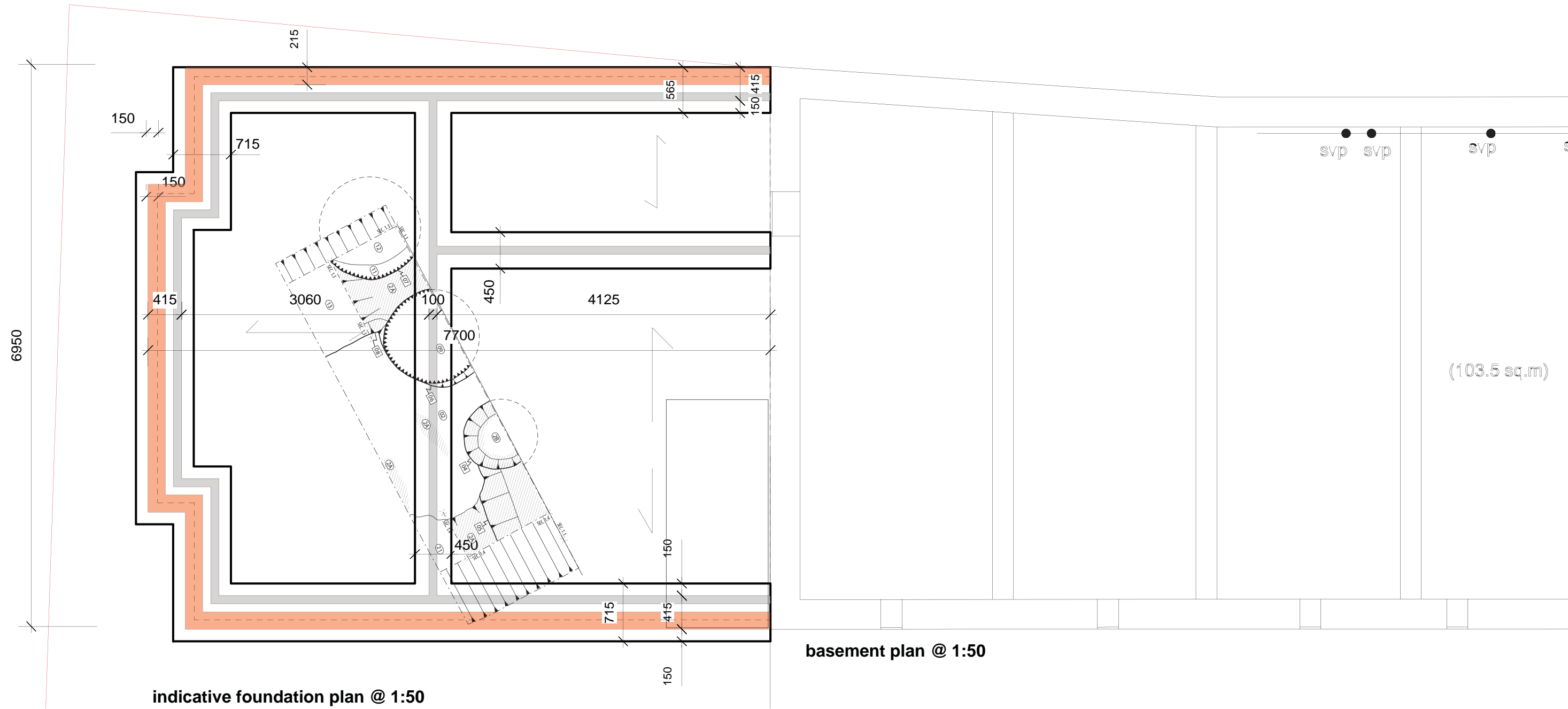


Figure 2: Location of evaluation trench against foundation plan



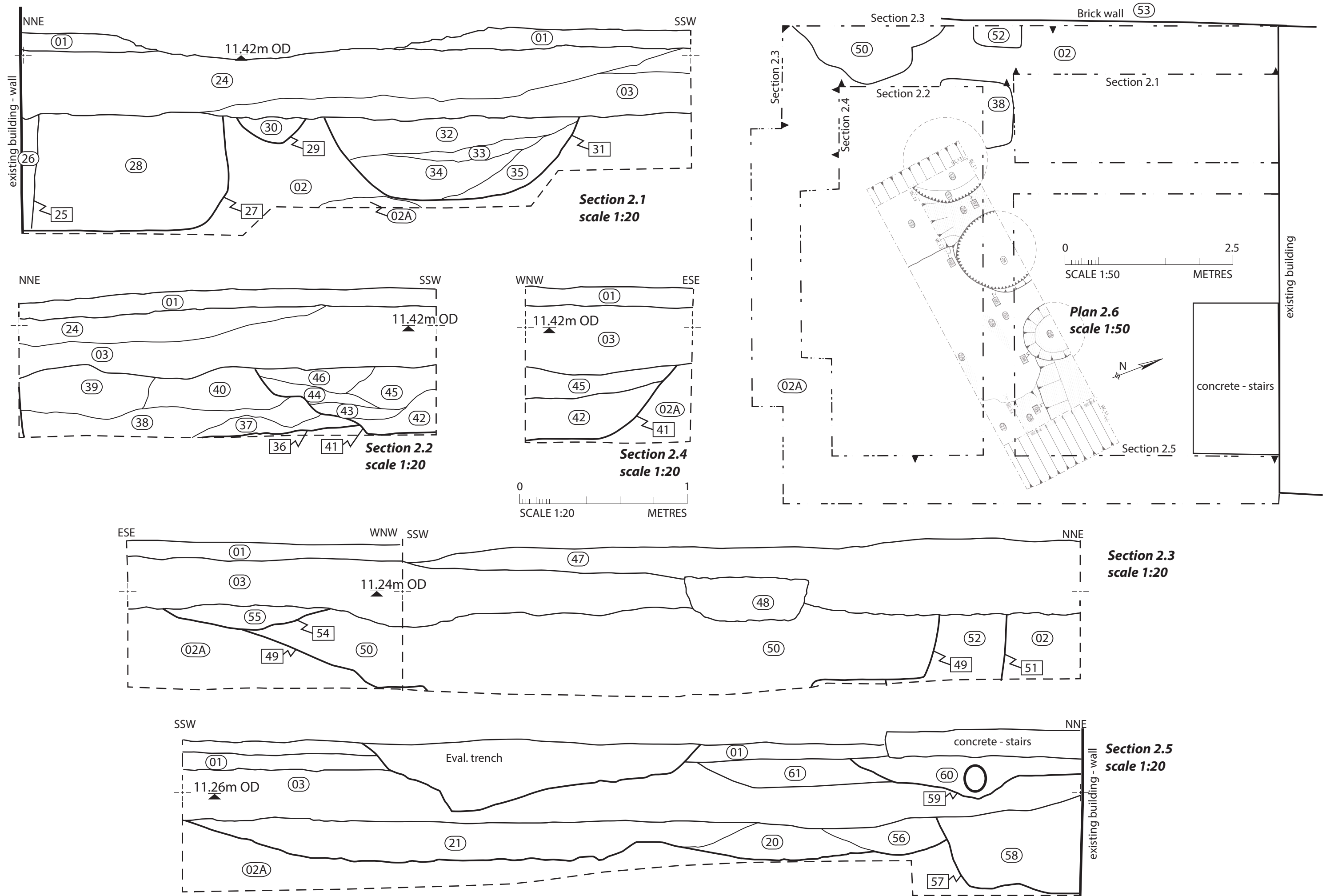


Figure 4: Foundations trench plan and sections.

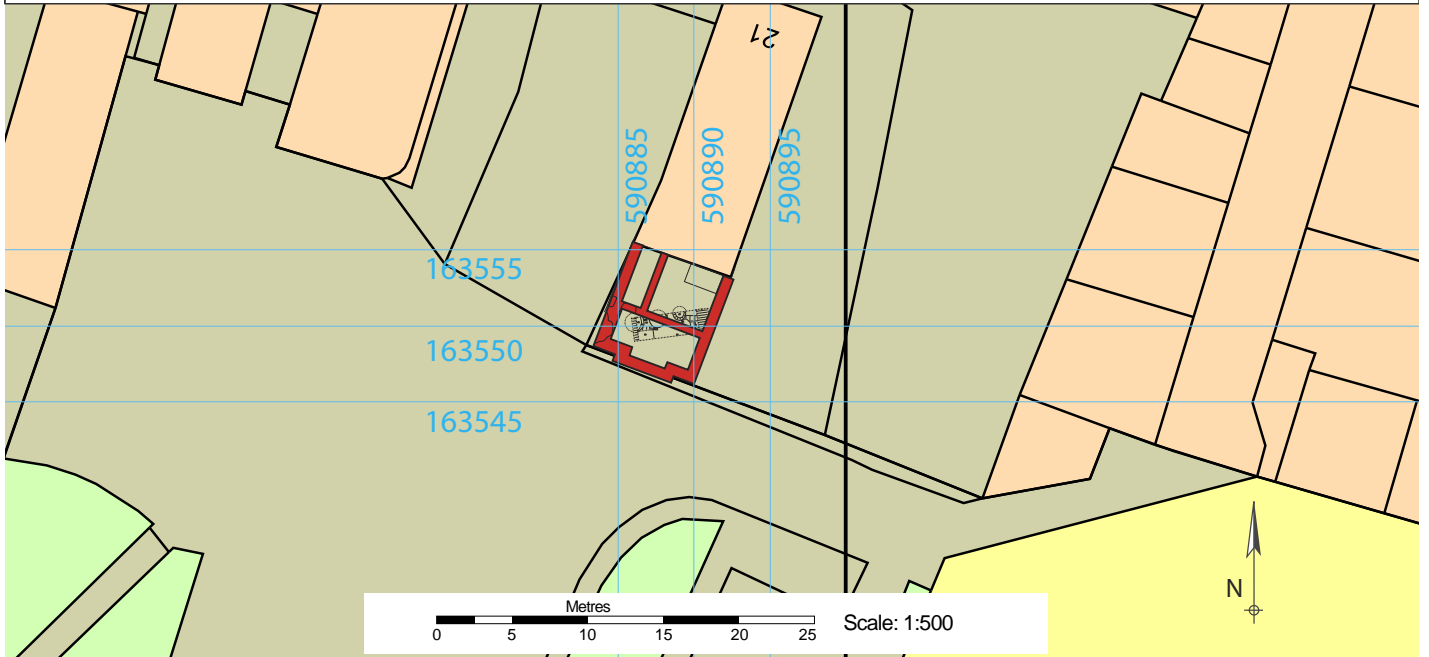
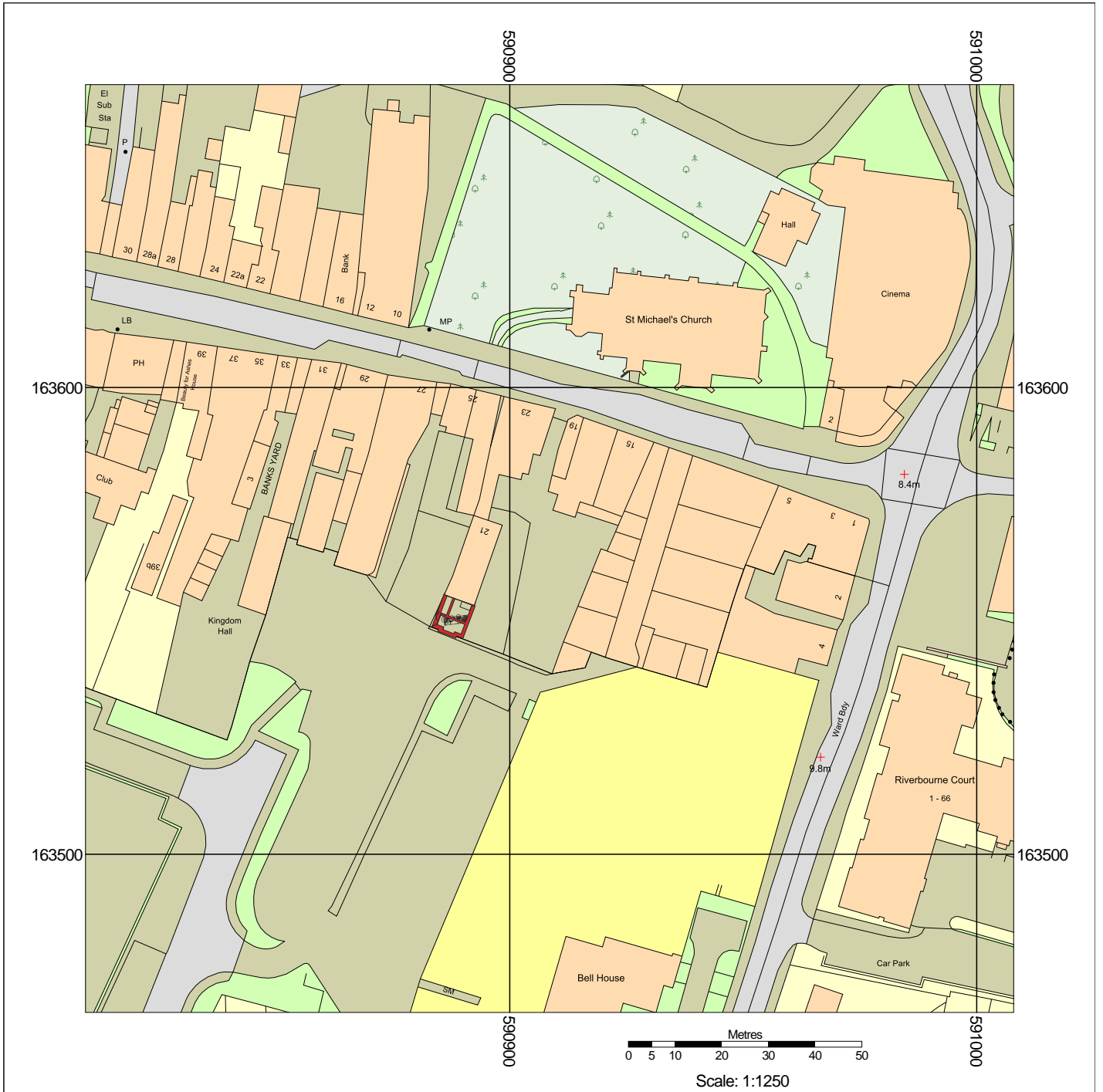


Figure 5: Trench location plan





Plate 1: Looking north-west at development site



Plate 2: Looking east at the site with evaluation trench in the centre





*Plate 3: Looking east at features exposed in evaluation trench, 1m scale is visible in the centre*





*Plate 4: Looking north at section exposed in evaluation trench, 1m scale.*



*Plate 5: Looking north-east at foundations trench.*





*Plate 6: Looking south at section 2.1 and 2.2 exposed in foundations trench; 1 metre scale.*



*Plate 7: Looking north at section 2.5 exposed in foundations trench.*



*Plate 8: Looking west at elevation of modern, stretcher bond brick wall located along western edge of foundations trench.*