

# Archaeological Evaluation of Land at Harvey Grammar School, Cheriton Road, Folkestone, Kent



NGR: 621241 136726

Site Code: CHE/EV/16

(Planning Application: Y14/1321/SH)

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# **Archaeological Evaluation of Land at Harvey Grammar School, Cheriton Road, Folkestone, Kent**

NGR: 621241 136726

Site Code: CHE-EV-15

## **1. Summary**

*Swale & Thames Survey Company (SWAT) carried out an archaeological evaluation of land at Harvey Grammar School, Cheriton Road, Folkestone in Kent. A Planning Application (Y14/1321/SH) to develop this site with the erection of a two storey extension to the existing sports hall, following demolition of existing single storey projection and gymnasium was submitted to Shepway District 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 (KCC Specification A and Part B) and in discussion with Ben Found Senior Archaeological Heritage Officer, Kent County Council. The results of the two evaluation trenches revealed that an archaeological feature was present within Trench 1 and dated by pottery sherds to the Late Iron Age/Early Roman periods. The natural geology of colluvium (mid brown sandy silty soil) was reached at an average depth of between 0.28m and 0.35m below the modern ground surface.*

*The Archaeological Evaluation 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 Abbott Construction Ltd 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 2016) and in discussion with the Senior Archaeological Heritage Officer, Kent County Council. The evaluation was carried out on Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> August 2016.

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

The proposed development site is situated on the junction of Temple Hill Square and Templ The overall area of development is about 3750 sq metres. The site is generally flat at about 39.40m aOD.

The underlying geology is mapped as Folkestone Formation- Sandstone. The Superficial Geology is not recorded (BGS 2015).

#### **4. Planning Background**

Shepway District Council gave planning permission (Y14/1321/SH) for development of land at Harvey Grammar School, Cheriton Road, Folkestone in Kent for a sports hall development.

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

*4) 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: In order to safeguard any remaining archaeological interest on the site in accordance with the NPPF.

The results from this evaluation will be used to inform KCC Heritage and Shepway District Council of any further archaeological mitigation measures that may be necessary in connection with the development proposals.

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

The application site lies within an area with known archaeology. The cropmarks of a ring ditch (TR 23 NW 645), Roman ditches (TR 23 NW 645), 1<sup>st</sup>-2<sup>nd</sup> century cremation (TR 23 NW 60), Mid Bronze Age gullies (TR 23 NW 692) and Air Raid Tunnels (TR 23 NW 216) are all in the vicinity of the proposed development area (PDA). More recent information was provided by Ben Found Senior Archaeological Officer KCC who says 'The site lies in an area of archaeological potential associated with past archaeological discoveries found within the school site and in the immediate area. These past discoveries include evidence for occupation in the Bronze Age, Iron Age and Romano-British period. For example past investigations within the school grounds have revealed evidence for a Late Iron Age/Roman farmstead, which was uncovered during construction of a new dining hall. Archaeological excavations recently undertaken within the playing fields to the north have revealed further evidence for prehistoric occupation, including a crouched burial. These excavations associated with the construction of a new synthetic pitch revealed intensive archaeological activity around 25m to the north, where a large number of ditches, pits and other features were encountered cutting into the natural sands' (KCC WSI 2016).

## **6. Aims and Objectives**

According to the KCC Archaeological Specification, the specific aims of the archaeological work for the archaeological work were to ensure that:

“The aim of the evaluation work is to determine whether any significant archaeological remains survive on site. Assessment of the results should provide guidance on what mitigation measures would be appropriate. Such measures may, for example, include further detailed archaeological excavation prior to development and/or an archaeological watching brief during construction work. This specification sets out the requirements for trial trenching on the site only. Further mitigation measures will be subject to other documents or specifications which will need to be agreed with the Local Planning Authority. The evaluation is thus to ascertain the extent, depth below ground surface, depth of deposit, character, significance and condition of any archaeological remains on site. (KCC WSI 2016: 6.1, 6.2).

The aims set out in the KCC Specification (2016) for the site required a phased approach to the mitigation of the development site commencing with an evaluation, with the results influencing the possibility of further work on the site such as further mitigation in the form of a watching brief or excavation depending upon the amount and significance of any possible archaeological remains.

## **7. Methodology**

The Archaeological Specification called for an evaluation by trial trenching comprising two trenches 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. All archaeological work was carried out in accordance with KCC, SWAT and ClfA standards and guidance.

## **8. Monitoring**

Curatorial monitoring was available during the course of the evaluation and Ben Found Senior Archaeologist KCC visited the site and discussed the ongoing archaeological work with Tim Allen Senior Archaeologist SWAT Archaeology and the proposed way forward was to complete the evaluation, complete the excavation of the single feature revealed (CRN 105) and that would complete the site work.

## 9. Results

The evaluation has identified one archaeological feature within the two trenches (Figure 3).

### Trench 1

The only potentially significant archaeological feature exposed in Trench 1 (**Fig. 2, Plate 1**) was a 0.38m deep, 1.15m long (north-south) pit (Context Recording Number 105), which was partly exposed in the north-eastern part of the trench (**Fig. 2, Plates 2 & 3**). Its fill (CRN 104) consisted of mid brown humic sandy soil with frequent inclusions of animal bone and four sherds of pottery dated by Nigel MacPherson-Grant. Two sherds are LIA/ER 'Belgic'- style grog-tempered ware (c.25 BC-25/50 AD emphasis probably) and two sherds LIA/ER 'Belgic'- style grog-tempered ware (c.25-59/75 AD emphasis probably)

The pit, which cut natural slightly yellow-tinged mid brown sandy natural colluvium (CRN 103), was sealed by substantial layer of crushed concrete used as hard core (CRN 102) and varying in thickness from 0.25m to 0.4m (see below). The presence of this material indicated that the area had been substantially reduced, undoubtedly during the construction of a previous building on the site (see below) and during the construction of the adjacent sports hall to the east (**Fig. 1**).

A large *in-situ* concrete block underlying and bonded to truncated brickwork was partly exposed some 0.18m south of the pit. The concrete block in turn lay next to the remains of an east-west aligned wall foundation, duct or conduit (all recorded as CRN 106). These features, along with a large north-south aligned service trench exposed in Trench 1, indicated that the development area, which is presently open ground, had previously been occupied by a building or building complex with associated services.

The substantial layer of crushed concrete hardcore (CRN 102) that overlay the above-described structural remains almost certainly derived from the previously demolished building, and used as the bedding for the present concrete surface (CRN 101). Therefore, overall, the features exposed in this trench indicate that the area had previously been occupied by a building of relatively recent construction and by the installation of association utility services, the ground also having been subject to substantial truncation. Although the survival of significant archaeology is indicated by the presence of Pit 5, it may be assumed that such survival is of very limited interpretive potential.

### Trench 2

No significant archaeological features were exposed in Trench 2 (**Fig. 3, Plates 4 & 5**), where a truncated stratigraphic sequence consisting of natural yellow-tinged mid brown sandy colluvium (CRN 203) underlay an approximately 0.1m-thick band of concrete and brick building rubble, almost certainly derived from the previous demolition event discussed above in relation to Trench 2. The rubble was sealed by topsoil (CRN 201) and the sequence as a whole was severely truncated to the

east, where the ground had been reduced and levelled prior to the construction of the present sports hall.

## 10. Discussion

The evaluation as a whole indicated that the survival of potentially significant archaeological on the site is of a very limited nature given the previous structural activity and ground reduction on the site, and that the interpretive potential of any such remains will be of low interpretive potential. In addition the demolished building was constructed with an archaeologist in attendance and no archaeological remains were encountered.

## 11. Finds and Site Archive

Trench 1	Context 104	Two sherds are LIA/ER 'Belgic'- style grog-tempered ware (c.25 BC-25/50 AD emphasis probably) and two sherds LIA/ER 'Belgic'- style grog-tempered ware (c.25-59/75 AD emphasis probably)
Trench 2	No finds	

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Context Register Sheets: 1 (9 Context Sheets)

Photo Register Sheets: 1 (14 photographs)

Drawing Register Sheets: 1 (6 Drawing, 2 Permatrace sheets)

Environmental Register Sheets: 0

Small Finds Register Sheets: 0

## 12. Conclusion

The evaluation trenches at the proposed development site revealed one archaeological feature.

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 **(101)** sealing the subsoil **(102)** which overlay the natural geology of mid brown sandy silty soil **(103)**. Therefore, 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, Abbotts Construction Ltd for commissioning the project. Thanks are also extended to Ben Found, Senior Heritage Officer, Kent County Council. Illustrations were produced by Bartek Cichy. The fieldwork was undertaken by Tim Allen MCIfA and the project was managed and report written by Tim Allen MCIfA and Dr Paul Wilkinson MCIfA.

### **14. References**

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

KCC Heritage (November 2015) *Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Evaluation Harvey Grammar School, Cheriton Road, Folkestone, Kent*

KCC Specification Manual Part B

KCC HER data 2016

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

**Site Name:** Land at Harvey Grammar School, Cheriton Road, Folkestone, Kent

**SWAT Site Code:** CHE/EV/16

**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 new Sports Hall 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 which revealed archaeology from the Late Iron Age to Early Roman periods.

**District/Unitary:** Shepway District Council

**Period(s):** Late Iron Age, Early Roman

**NGR (centre of site to eight figures)** 621241 136726

**Type of Archaeological work:** Archaeological Evaluation

**Date of recording:** August 2016

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

**Geology:** Underlying geology is Folkestone Formation- Sandstone

**Title and author of accompanying report:** Wilkinson P. (2016) Archaeological Evaluation at Harvey Grammar School, Cheriton Road, Folkestone, Kent

**Summary of fieldwork results (begin with earliest period first, add NGRs where appropriate)** Pottery sherds from Late Iron Age, Early Roman

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

**Contact at Unit:** Paul Wilkinson

**Date:** 27/09/2016



Plate 1. Trench 1 looking north showing the exposed modern service trench on the left (one-metre trench)



Plate 2. The east section of Trench 1 showing partly exposed Pit 5 (one-metre scale)



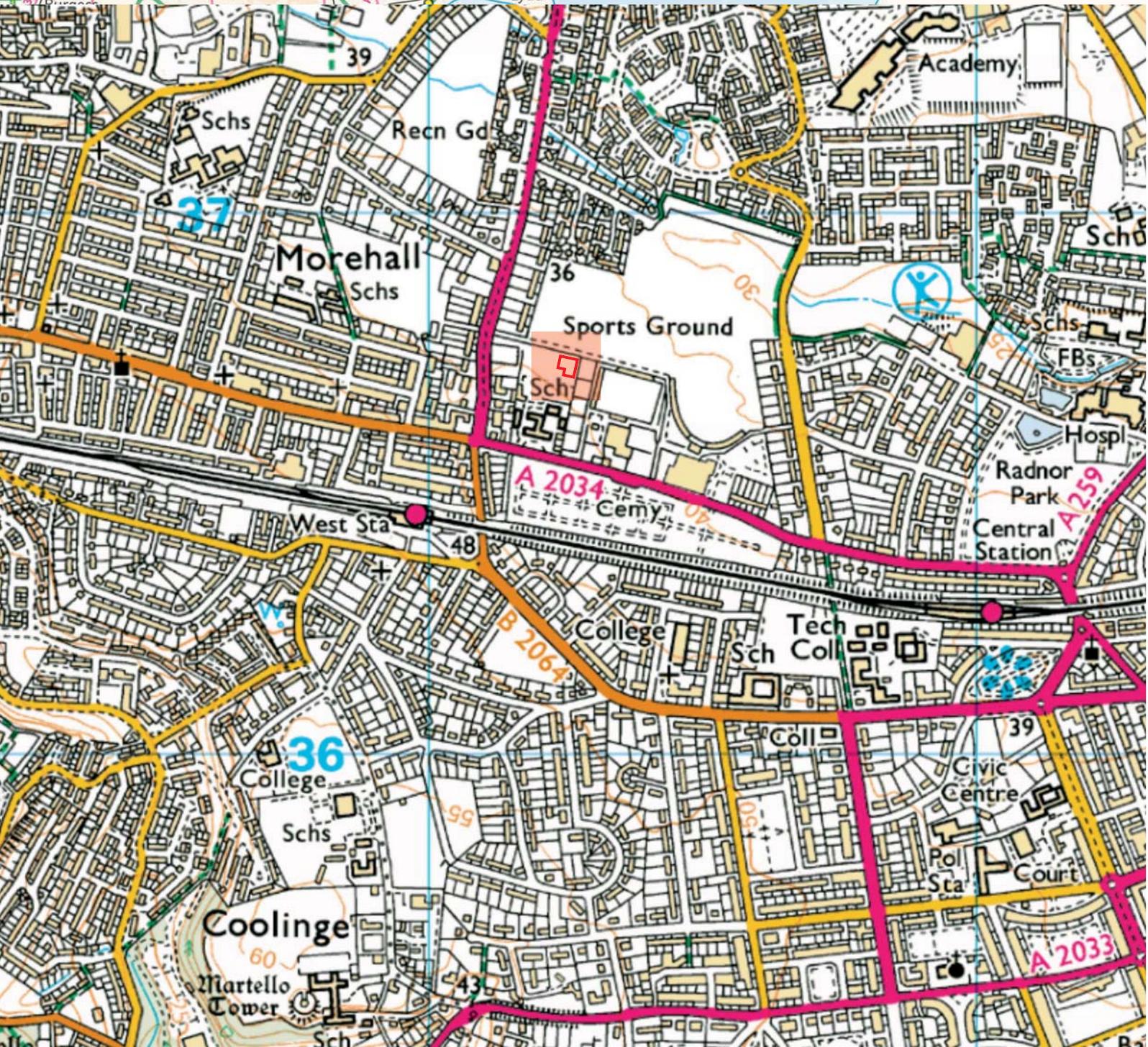
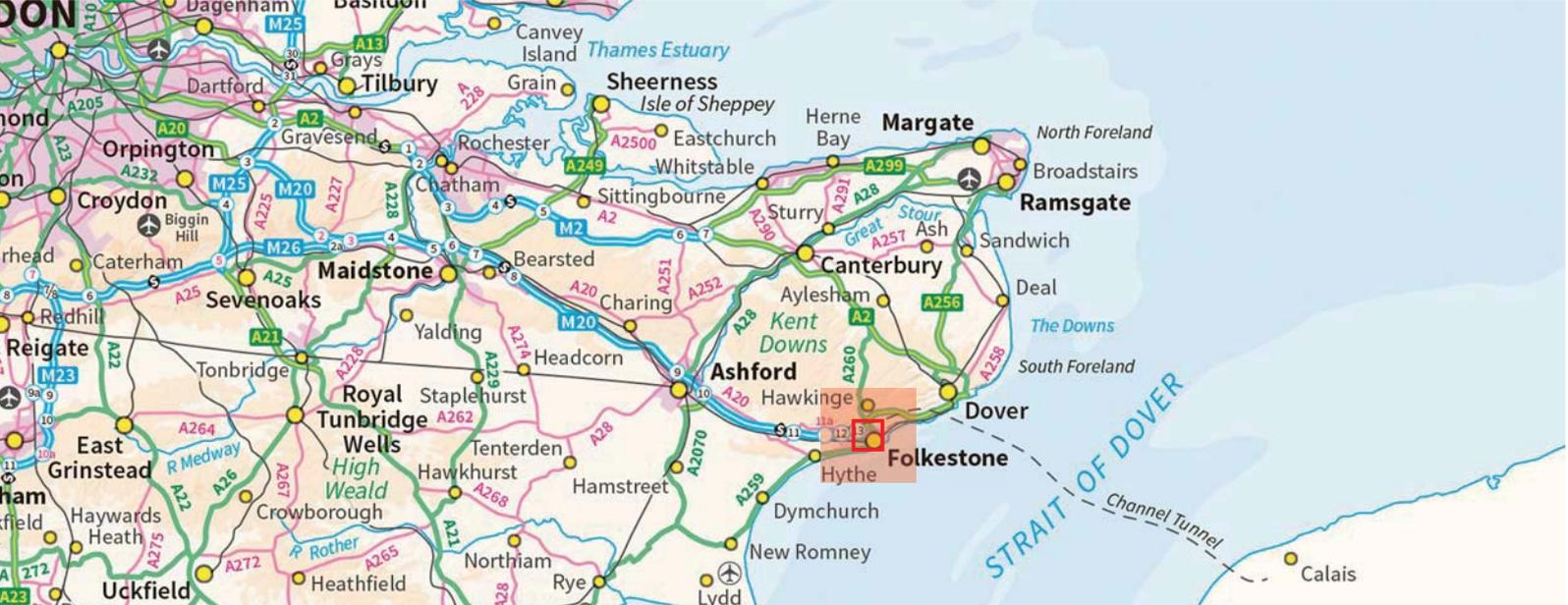
Plate 3. Trench 1 showing the partly exposed pit (CRN 5) in the near left foreground looking south



Plate 4. Trench 2 looking east (one-metre scale)



Plate 5. The 0.44m-thick accumulation of natural colluvium exposed in the middle part of Trench 2 (one-metre scale)



0 100 500  
SCALE 1:10000 METRES

Figure 1: Site location map, scale 1:10000.

# OS Plan B&W



Figure 2: Site location map, scale 1:1250.

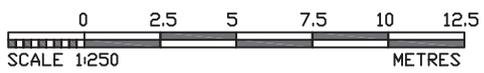
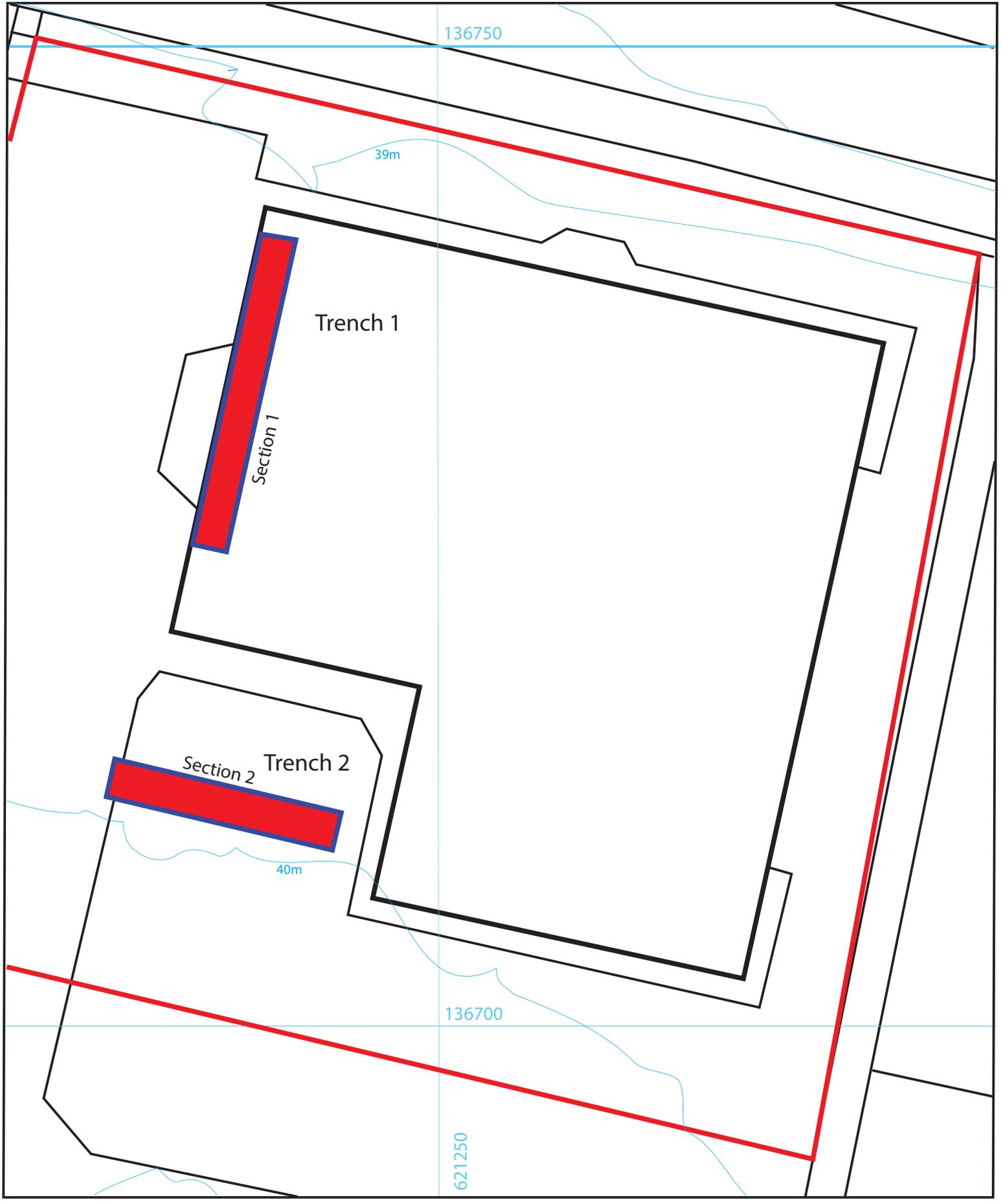


Figure 3: Trench location plan, scale 1:250.

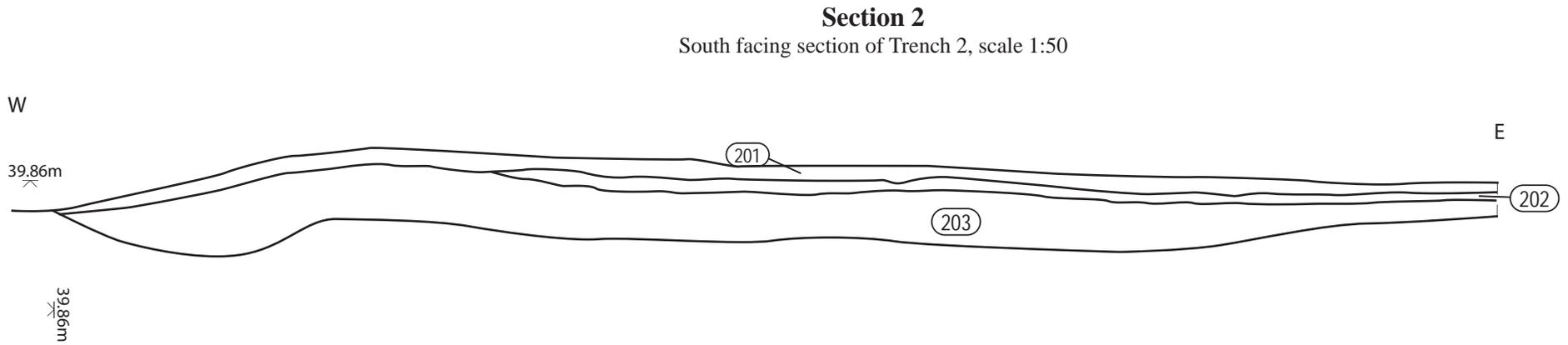
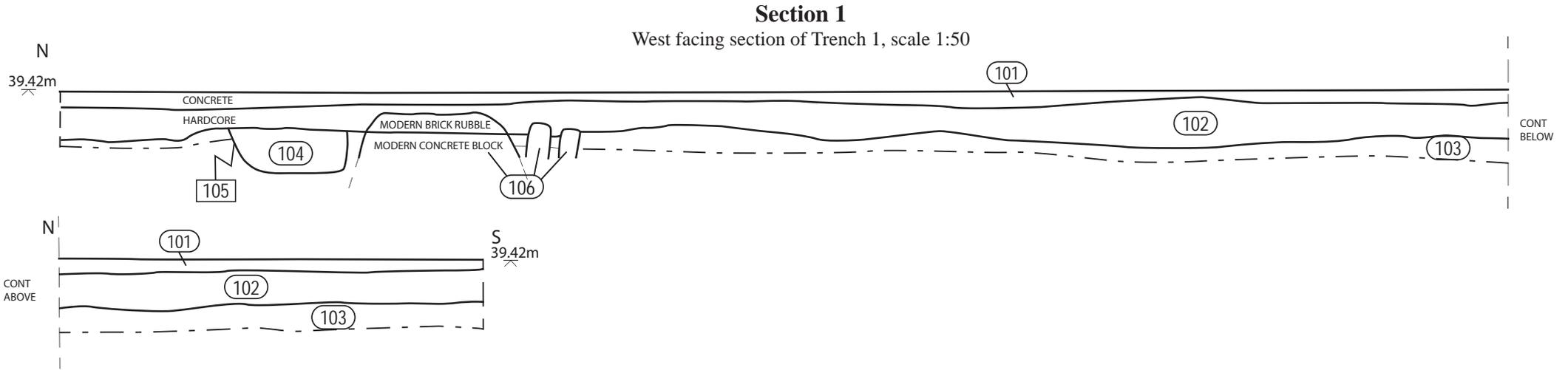


Figure 4: Sections, scale 1:50

