

Archaeological Evaluation of land at the Hay Wagon, High Street, Hartfield, East Sussex

NGR: 547851 135665

Site Code: HAY/EV/16



(Planning Application Number: WD/2015/2641/F)

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SWAT. Archaeology

Swale and Thames Archaeological Survey Company, The Office, School Farm Oast,
Graveney Road, Faversham, Kent. ME13 8UP

Tel; 01795 532548 or 07885 700 112 www.swatarchaeology.co.uk

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**Archaeological Evaluation of Land at the rear of the Hay Wagon,
High Street, Hartfield, East Sussex
NGR: 547851 135665
Site Code: HAY/EV/16**

SUMMARY

Swale & Thames Survey Company (SWAT Archaeology) carried out an archaeological evaluation on land to the rear of the Hay Wagon Inn, Hartfield in East Sussex East Sussex (NGR 547851 135665). A planning application (WD/2015/2641/F) for the construction of a new residential house, along with associated access, car parking and services at the above site was submitted to Wealden District Council (WDC) whereby East Sussex County Council on behalf of Wealden District Council requested that an Archaeological Evaluation be undertaken in order to determine the possible impact of the development on any archaeological remains before the planning application was decided. The work was carried out in accordance with the requirements set out within an Archaeological Specification (SWAT 2016) and in discussion with the Archaeological Officer, East Sussex County Council.

The archaeological evaluation has been successful in fulfilling the primary aims and objectives of the Specification. Despite the archaeological potential of the surrounding area, coupled with good preservation of Weald Clay and Alluvium surviving on site no archaeological remains were revealed during the archaeological evaluation.

INTRODUCTION

Swale & Thames Survey Company (SWAT Archaeology) was commissioned by Jenner Jones 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 (SWAT 2016) and in discussion with the Archaeological Officer, East Sussex County Council. Initial phases of the evaluation were carried out on the 21st January 2016.

SITE DESCRIPTION AND TOPOGRAPHY

The application site is located on the east of Forest Row and to the north of Crowborough and to the south of Forest Way. Situated on the east side of the B2026

at a OD height of about 74m OD in a village setting which is surrounded by arable fields, The National Grid Reference for the centre of the site is NGR 547851 135665. The underlying geology of the site consists of Ashdown Formation Sandstone & Silt (British Geological Survey South Sheet, 4th Edition Solid 2001).

PLANNING BACKGROUND

A planning application (WD/2015/2641/F) for the construction of a new residential house was submitted to Wealden District Council (WDC). East Sussex County Council on (ESCC) behalf of Wealden District Council requested that an *Archaeological Evaluation* be undertaken prior to the planning decision in order to determine the possible impact of the development on any archaeological remains.

Requirements for the archaeological evaluation comprised trial trenching targeting a minimum of 5% of the impact area, with trenches designed to establish whether there are any archaeological deposits at the site that may be affected by the proposed development. The results from this evaluation will be used to inform ESCC and WDC of any further archaeological mitigation measures that may be necessary in connection with the development proposals.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

The Archaeological record, both in and around Hartfield is diverse and a HER search was made by the ESCC HER Officer in April 2016 (Ref 191/16). There were 36 HER data results in the specified search area and these include in close vicinity to the development site the nearby 13th century church of St Marys (MES 5211), the adjacent 17th century Rectory (MES 5226). Of particular importance were the recording of medieval house platforms close to the development site (MES 24745) and 17th century rubbish pits at Primrose Cottage, again close to the development site (MES 24741).

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

The purpose of the evaluation, as set out with the Archaeological Specification (SWAT 2016) was to:

- 1.1 *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.

- 1.2 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.*
- 1.3 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.*
- 1.4 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.*
- 1.5 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.*

METHODOLOGY

Trial trenching was carried out on the 21st January 2016, with the excavation of three trenches measuring 1.9m in width and between 20-10m in length (Figure 3). Trench locations were agreed prior to the excavation between ESCC and SWAT. Each trench was initially scanned with a metal detector for surface finds and a CAT scan undertaken for hidden services prior to excavation. Excavation was carried out using a 360° mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket, removing the overburden to the top of the first recognisable archaeological horizon, or if not revealing the natural geology. The work was carried out under the constant supervision of an experienced archaeologist. Trenches were subsequently hand-cleaned to reveal any archaeological features. The trenches were levelled to the Ordnance Datum by GPS. A full photographic record of the work was kept and will be part of the site archive. All investigative work was carried out in accordance with the archaeological specification (SWAT 2016), East Sussex Archaeological Guidelines (2015) and ClfA guidelines.

A single context recording system was used to record the natural deposits. Layers and fills are recorded (**100**). Context numbers were assigned to all deposits for recording purposes; these are used in the report (in **bold**). Each number has been attributed to a specific trench with the primary number(s) relating to specific trenches (*i.e.* Trench 1, **100+**, Trench 2, **200+** etc.)

MONITORING

Curatorial attendance was available during the course of the evaluation and Greg Chuter, ESCC Archaeological Officer signed off the excavated trenches.

RESULTS

A common stratigraphic sequence was recognised across the site comprising tarmac overburden (**001**) overlying hardcore (**002**), beneath which the natural geology comprised mid orange yellow sand with lenses of mid grey sand and light yellow mottled with light grey clay (**003**). The tarmac zone was about 12cm thick overlying hardcore, mostly bricks, some with a green glaze and some moulded with BRICKWORK SUSSEX ESTATE. A clear line of horizon gave way to natural geology where mechanical excavation ceased and careful examination and investigation for features was carried out. The depth of the overlying layer varied, with the depth of the natural geology being located c.0.38-0.40m below the existing ground level.

Trench 1 (Figure 3, 4 & Plates 3-4)

East-west aligned and measured 20m by 1.9m. Depth: 0.38m. Tarmac (**101**) overlying hardcore (**102**) mostly bricks, some with green glaze and others with moulded inscription: BRICKWORKS SUSSEX ESTATE overlying natural geology (**103**) of mid orange yellow sand with lenses of mid grey sand and light yellow mottled with light grey clay with no archaeological features.

Trench 2 (Figure 3, 4 & Plates 5-6)

South-east north-west aligned and measured 18m by 1.9m. Depth: 0.38m. Tarmac (**201**) overlying hardcore (**202**) mostly bricks, some with green glaze and others with moulded inscription: BRICKWORKS SUSSEX ESTATE overlying natural geology (**203**) of mid orange yellow sand with lenses of mid grey sand and light yellow mottled with light grey clay with no archaeological features.

Trench 3 (Figure 3, 4 & Plates 7-8)

North-east south-west aligned and measured 10.90m by 1.9m depth: 0.35m. Topsoil (301) dark brown grey loam with occasional roots overlaying the natural geology (303) of mid orange yellow sand with lenses of mid grey sand and light yellow mottled with light grey clay with abundant amount of sandstone but with no archaeological features.

THE FINDS

The earliest pottery found during the evaluation dates from the early 20th century. No other finds were retrieved.

DISCUSSION

The evaluation carried out on land (Figure 3) at the Hay Wagon has been shown to be appropriate, and show that no archaeological deposits survive on this site. It is likely that the construction of the car park truncated the site and if there had been any archaeological remains on the site these were removed by the ground reduction for the car park.

CONCLUSION

The archaeological evaluation has been successful in fulfilling the primary aims and objectives of the Specification. This evaluation has therefore assessed the archaeological potential of land intended for development. The results from this work will be used to aid and inform the Archaeological Officer (ESCC) of any further archaeological mitigations measures that may be necessary in connection with the development proposals.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

SWAT would like to thank Jenner Jones Ltd for commissioning the project. Thanks are also extended to Greg Chuter, Archaeological Officer for East Sussex County Council for his advice and assistance. Peter Cichy and Bartosz Cichy carried out the archaeological fieldwork, The project was managed and report produced by Dr Paul Wilkinson MCIfA.

REFERENCES

IFA (2014) *Standards and Guidance for Field Archaeological Evaluations*

SWAT Archaeology (2010) *Specification for a Programme of Archaeological Evaluation and Assessment of Land at the Hay Wagon, High Street, Hartfield, East Sussex*

Sussex Archaeological Standards (April 2015)

CONTENTS OF SITE ARCHIVE

Correspondence

Photographs: 8 Digital photographs

Photocopies of Ordnance Survey and other maps.

Drawings: Three A3 permatrace site drawing, comprising trench plans and associated sections.

Finds: No finds

Context Register including: Context Register (1), Drawings Register (1), Photographic Register (1), Levels Sheets (1), Environmental Samples Register (0) and Trench Recording Sheets (10)

Location of the archive: Temporarily held by SWAT Archaeology until provision is made by East Sussex for a storage facility.

Appendix 1.

Sussex HER summary sheet

HER enquiry number	191/16				
Site code	HAY/EV/16				
Project code	n/a				
Planning reference	WD/2015/2641/F				
Site address	Land at Hay Wagon Inn, Hartfield, East Sussex				
District/Borough	Wealden District Council				
NGR (12 figures)	547851 145665				
Geology	Weald Clay				
Fieldwork type			Evaluation		
Date of fieldwork	21 st January 2016				
Sponsor/client	Jenner Jones Ltd				
Project manager	n/a				
Project supervisor	Paul Wilkinson				
Period summary n/a	Palaeolithic	Mesolithic	Neolithic	Bronze Age	Iron Age
	Roman	Anglo-Saxon	Medieval	Post-Medieval	Other
Project summary (100 word max)	No archaeological features or finds were revealed or recovered.				
Museum/Accession No.					



Figure 1: Site location map, scale 1:12500.

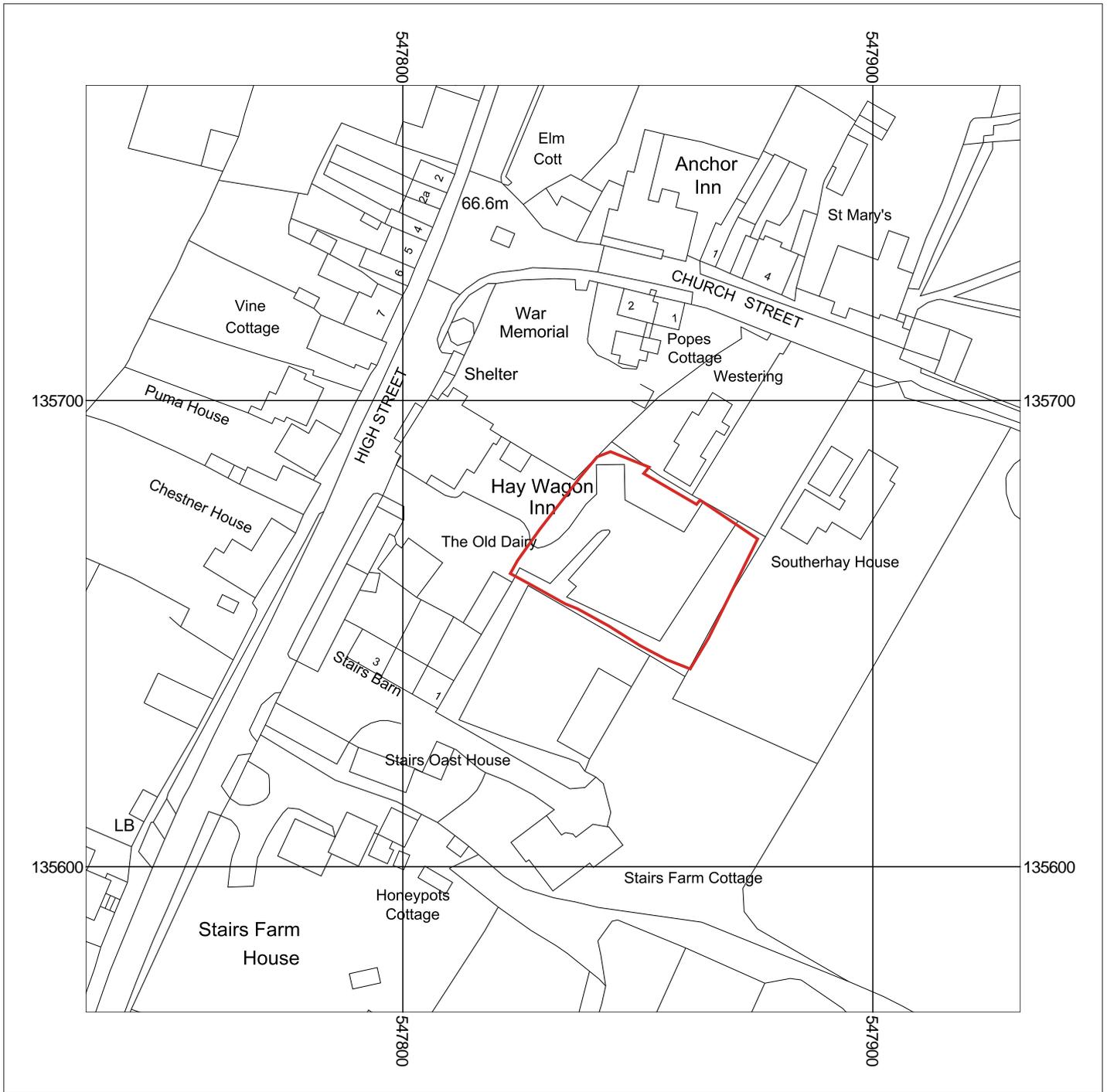


Figure 3: Site location plan, scale 1:1250

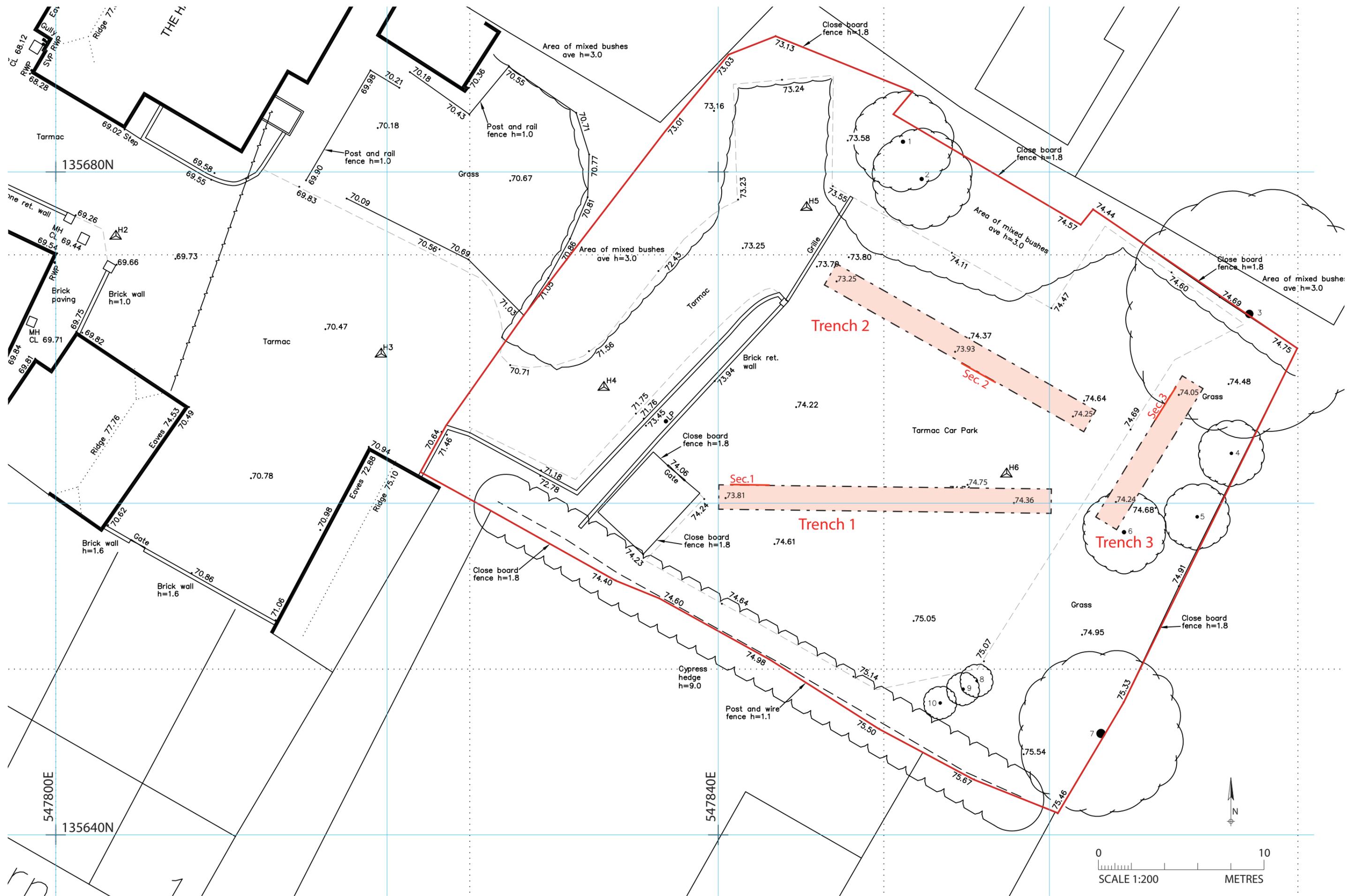
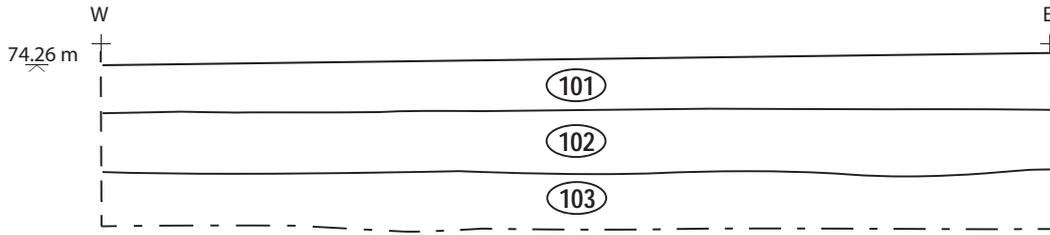


Figure 3: Trench location plan, scale 1:200

Section 1 of Trench 1

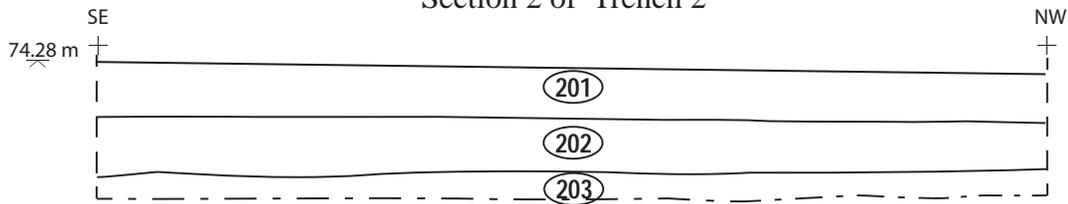


101 - Tarmac

102 - Hardcore, mostly bricks - some with green glaze, dominating bricks with moulded inscription: BRICKWORK SUSSEX ESTATE

103 - Natural geology: Mid orangish yellow sand with lenses of mid grey sand and light yellow mottled with light grey, clay. Context contain abundant amount of sandstone with bright colours of yellow, grey and orangish yellow

Section 2 of Trench 2

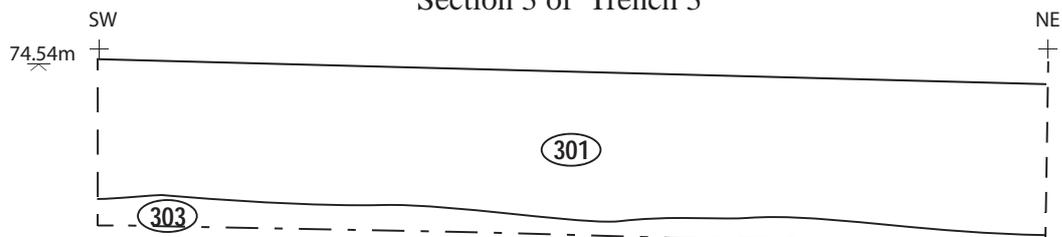


201 - Tarmac

202 - Hardcore, mostly bricks - some with green glaze, dominating bricks with moulded inscription: BRICKWORK SUSSEX ESTATE

203 - Natural geology: Mid orangish yellow sand with lenses of mid grey sand and light yellow mottled with light grey, clay. Context contain abundant amount of sandstone with bright colours of yellow, grey and orangish yellow

Section 3 of Trench 3



301 - Topsoil: Dark brownish grey, loam with occasional roots of small tree.

303 - Natural geology: Mid orangish yellow sand with lenses of mid grey sand and light yellow mottled with light grey, clay. Context contain abundant amount of sandstone with bright colours of yellow, grey and orangish yellow

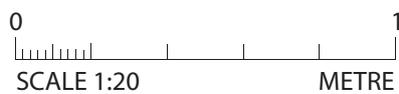


Figure 4: Representative sections, scale 1:20



Plate 1: Looking east from High Street at access road to the development site.



Plate 2: Looking north-west at development site with excavated Trench 1 visible in front of Trench 2



Plate 3: Looking east at Trench 1



Plate 4: Looking north at section of Trench 1



Plate 5: Looking south west at section of Trench 2



Plate 6: Looking south east at Trench 2



Plate 7: Looking south west at Trench 3



Plate 8: Looking north west at section of Trench 3