Archaeological Evaluation of Land at Larkey Woods Farm, Cockering Road, Chartham, Kent

NGR: 612265 155047

Site Code: LARK/EV/16

(Planning Application: C/15/00683/FUL)

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1. Summary

Swale & Thames Survey Company (SWAT) carried out an archaeological evaluation of land at Larkey Woods, Chartham in Kent. A Planning Application (CA/15/00683/FUL) for the restoration of agricultural land and the build of ten residential units 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 Archaeology Specification, 21st April 2016 and CCC Specification Manual Part B) and in discussion with the Archaeological Heritage Officer, Canterbury City Council. The results of the excavation of 19 evaluation trenches revealed that no archaeological features were present within any of the trenches.

The geology on site is Bedrock of Seaford Chalk Formation overlain in part of the site with superficial deposits of Head Clay and Silt. The geology revealed on site was chalk overlaid for the most part with spoil.

2. Introduction

Swale & Thames Survey Company (SWAT) was commissioned by HFD Developments 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 Heritage Officer, Canterbury City Council. The first phase of the evaluation was carried out on the 3rd May and the second phase on 24th May 2016.

3. Site Description and Topography

The PDA is located on the east face of the Great Stour Valley and about 650m above the river itself and facing west at a average height of about 85m OD. The area of the proposed development is to be accessed by a new road which is to be raised and should not impact on any buried archaeology. The site has been used in the past as storage for spoil which is in the process of being cleared.

A recent site visit at the request of the developer and in consultation with Rosanne Cummings CCC Archaeological Officer it was agreed a phased approach to fit in with the clearance of the site could be implemented. The area that has been cleared of spoil was

investigated with twelve 25m x 1.8m trenches excavated by a 360' tracked machine equipped with a bladed bucket. With the negative results from these trenches a second phase of evaluation was undertaken on the 24th May 2016, again with negative results.

The OD height of the proposed site is about 86m OD on the east side dropping down slope to 76m OD on the west side.

4. Planning Background

Canterbury City Council (CCC) gave planning permission (CA/15/00683/FUL) for the restoration of agricultural land, demolition of five existing derelict barns, and the construction of ten residential units with a new integral access.

On the advice of the Rosanne Cummings Archaeological Officer (CCC) a programme of archaeological works in the form of an initial archaeological evaluation was attached to the consent:

> *Condition 13) 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.

The results from this evaluation will be used to inform Canterbury City Council of any further archaeological mitigation measures that may be necessary in connection with the development proposals.

5. Archaeological and Historical Background

The Kent County Council Historic Environment Record (KCCHER) has provided details of any previous investigations and discoveries. In addition a rapid review of aerial photographs show numerous crop marks in the vicinity of the PDA.
Twelve evaluation trenches were dug 1.8m wide by 25m long arranged across Phase 1 of the development, the overall site is about 22900 sq metres. This work was conducted in two phases (Figure 1).

The potential of the site has been examined in an Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment Report by Canterbury Archaeological Trust (June 2015) and the summary of that report:

'This report presents an archaeological desk-based assessment of land at Larkey Woods Farm, Cockering Road, Chartham CT4 7PQ (NGR 612273, 154995 centered). The report was commissioned by Karl Elliot of Clague Architects in view of the proposed development of the site for the erection of ten residential dwellings with associated landscaping and access roads, hereafter referred to as the proposed development area (PDA).

Evidence of prehistoric occupation within the area is slight but cannot be discounted due to the PDA's location with a commanding view across the River Stour. Roman period and Anglo-Saxon activity in the area is minimal but highly significant. Inhumation and cremation burials dated to the Romano-British period were found within a chalk quarry just 1.1km to the south-east of the PDA, while at least two Anglo-Saxon cemeteries exist within a 1.1km radius of the site.

Recent agricultural land use including the erection of farm buildings may have truncated archaeological deposits. In addition large deposits of potentially

contaminated waste may have led to negative changes to the condition of the archaeological resource.

Due to the unknown nature of the buried archaeological resource in the area it is recommended that an archaeological evaluation is carried out in advance of any building work to establish the presence or absence of buried archaeology. If significant archaeological remains are found, further mitigation will be necessary; this may take the form of an archaeological excavation, or preservation of buried archaeology in situ.

Also, in respect of the prominent location of the site, it is recommended that the proposed development be suitably screened to the south and west to preserve and enhance the natural character of the Stour Valley. Further mitigation measures that enhance the setting of the development within an area of ancient woodland should also be sought. If these measures are observed, the effect on the historic environment will be reduced to minor or negligible' (Canterbury Archaeological Trust. June 2015).

6. Aims and Objectives.

The aims set out in the SWAT 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.

The primary objective of the archaeological evaluation was to establish or otherwise the presence of any potential archaeological features which may be impacted by the proposed development.

Also to find out the depths of features below the surface, how much overburden and the extent of the depth of deposits themselves. In addition the dates and quality of any archaeological remains which would have been achieved through a limited sample excavation of features. Human remains were not to be excavated (see also CCC Evaluation Specification Part B: 4. Objectives). All works was conducted to the standards and guidance issued by the CIfA- Standards and Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief (Dec 20140 and Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation (Dec 2014) and MORPHE guidelines (Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment April 2015). Human remains were not to be excavated (see also CCC Evaluation Specification Part B: 4. Objectives).

7. Methodology

The archaeological evaluation was undertaken in two phases by the machine excavation with a flat-bladed ditching bucket of 19 evaluation trench of 25m length. The trenches were located across the footprint of the proposed development (Red trenches in Fig. 1). The second phase was seven trenches (Blue trenches in Fig. 1).

The mechanical excavation removed the topsoil in order to expose either the uppermost archaeological deposits or the natural geological surface (whichever is the first to appear during this process). Once this mechanical excavation was complete, all excavation hence forth was completed by hand, including the cleaning of the trench using a trowel, hoe or other suitable tool.
Any archaeological features that may have been exposed would subsequently be mapped, photographed and recorded.

Sampling of features would only take place to explicate the sequencing of the stratigraphy and in order to aid the securing of materials that can be dated to aid the later assessment. Any burials that may have been encountered were not to be investigated at this evaluation stage, and full excavation of other archaeological features was not to take place.

Care was taken to ensure that unnecessary additional excavation did not take place where archaeological deposits or structures are exposed; in particular, there was to be no reduction of the underlying soils to further enhance archaeological features.

A soil sampling programme was in place to facilitate palaeo-environmental analysis, bulk screening, and soil micromorphology in the case that suitable deposits are identified (within the limits of the objectives of this evaluation), from which data can be recovered.

If required, cultural material would be recovered and subjected to screening (wet or dry) through mesh with a width of 10mm mesh in control samples of between 100 and 200 litres. Any on site screening that may have taken place will not impede the removal of further bulk soil samples for screening at a separate wash facility off-site (see also CCC Evaluation Specification Part B: 6. Machine and Hand Excavation).

8. Monitoring

Curatorial monitoring was available during the course of the evaluation. However, as no archaeological features were exposed in the evaluation trenches it was agreed with Rosanne Cummings CCC Archaeological Officer who visited site that some additional trenches on the edges of the proposed development should be undertaken. These proved negative as well (Figure 1).

9. Results

The evaluation has identified no archaeological features within the 19 trenches of Phase 1 or the seven trenches of Phase 2 (Figure 1 and Plates1-30).

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Trench 1

The plan is recorded in Figure 1 (see also Plate 1). The trench lay on south-east to north-west alignment and measured approximately 25m by 1.80m.
Undisturbed natural geology **(102)** was identified across the trench as light brown chalky silt at a depth of approximately 1.45m (80.55mOD) below the present ground surface at 82m OD at the NW end of the trench.

The natural geology was sealed by a layer of dumped material **(101)** 1.45m thick, mid brown in colour overlaid by a thin layer of topsoil **(100).**

No archaeology features or archaeological artefacts were recovered from the trench.

Trench 2

The plan is recorded in Figure 1 (see also Plate 3, 4). The trench lay on north-east to south-west alignment and measured approximately 25m by 1.80m.
Undisturbed natural geology **(202)** was identified across the trench as chalk at a depth of approximately 1.45m (80.55mOD) below the present ground surface at 82m OD at the SW end of the trench.

The natural geology was sealed by a layer of dumped material **(201)** 1.45m thick, mid brown in colour overlaid by a thin layer of topsoil **(200).**

No archaeology features or archaeological artefacts were recovered from the trench.

Trench 3

The plan is recorded in Figure 1 (see also Plate 5, 6). The trench lay on south-east to north-west alignment and measured approximately 25m by 1.80m.
Undisturbed natural geology **(302)** was identified across the trench as light brown chalky silt at a depth of approximately 1.45m (80.55mOD) below the present ground surface at 82m OD at the NW end of the trench.

The natural geology was sealed by a layer of dumped material **(301)** 1.45m thick, mid brown in colour overlaid by a thin layer of topsoil **(300).**

No archaeology features or archaeological artefacts were recovered from the trench.

Trench 4

The plan is recorded in Figure 1 (see also Plate 7, 8). The trench lay on south-east to north-west alignment and measured approximately 25m by 1.80m.
Undisturbed natural geology **(402)** was identified across the trench as chalk at a depth of approximately 1.00m (81.mOD) below the present ground surface at 82m OD at the NW end of the trench.

The natural geology was sealed by a layer of dumped material **(401)** 1.00m thick, mid brown in colour overlaid by a thin layer of topsoil **(400).**

No archaeology features or archaeological artefacts were recovered from the trench.

Trench 5

The plan is recorded in Figure 1 (see also Plate 9, 10, 11). The trench lay on south-west to north-east alignment and measured approximately 25m by 1.80m.
Undisturbed natural geology **(502)** was identified across the trench as chalk at a depth of approximately 1.30m (80.70mOD) below the present ground surface at 82m OD at the NE end of the trench.

The natural geology was sealed by a layer of dumped material **(501)** 1.30m thick, mid brown grey in colour overlaid by a thin layer of topsoil **(500).**

No archaeology features or archaeological artefacts were recovered from the trench.

Trench 6

The plan is recorded in Figure 1 (see also Plate 12). The trench lay on south-west to north-east alignment and measured approximately 25m by 1.80m.
Undisturbed natural geology **(602)** was identified across the trench as chalk at a depth of approximately 1.30m (80.70mOD) below the present ground surface at 82m OD at the NE end of the trench.

The natural geology was sealed by a layer of dumped material **(601)** 1.30m thick, mid brown grey in colour overlaid by a thin layer of topsoil **(600).**

No archaeology features or archaeological artefacts were recovered from the trench.

Trench 7

The plan is recorded in Figure 1 (see also Plate 13). The trench lay on north-west to south-east alignment and measured approximately 25m by 1.80m.

Undisturbed natural geology **(702)** was identified across the trench as chalk at a depth of approximately 1.30m (79.70mOD) below the present ground surface at 81m OD at the NW end of the trench.

The natural geology was sealed by a layer of dumped material **(701)** 1.30m thick, mid brown grey in colour overlaid by a thin layer of topsoil **(700).**

No archaeology features or archaeological artefacts were recovered from the trench.

Trench 8

The plan is recorded in Figure 1 (see also Plate 14,15). The trench lay on north-west to south-east alignment and measured approximately 15m by 1.80m.
Undisturbed natural geology **(802)** was identified across the trench as chalk at a depth of approximately 1.30m (80.70mOD) below the present ground surface at 82m OD at the NW end of the trench.

The natural geology was sealed by a layer of dumped material **(801)** 1.30m thick, mid brown grey in colour overlaid by a thin layer of topsoil **(800).**

No archaeology features or archaeological artefacts were recovered from the trench.

Trench 9

The plan is recorded in Figure 1 (see also Plate 16). The trench lay on south-west to north-east alignment and measured approximately 25m by 1.80m.
Undisturbed natural geology **(902)** was identified across the trench as chalk at a depth of approximately 1.30m (80.70mOD) below the present ground surface at 82m OD at the NE end of the trench.

The natural geology was sealed by a layer of dumped material **(901)** 1.30m thick, mid brown grey in colour overlaid by a thin layer of topsoil **(900).**

No archaeology features or archaeological artefacts were recovered from the trench.

Trench 10

The plan is recorded in Figure 1 (see also Plate 17, 18). The trench lay on south-west to north-east alignment and measured approximately 25m by 1.80m.
Undisturbed natural geology **(1002)** was identified across the trench as chalk at a depth of approximately 1.00m (81m OD) below the present ground surface at 82m OD at the NE end of the trench.

The natural geology was sealed by a layer of dumped material **(1001)** 1.00m thick, mid brown grey in colour overlaid by a thin layer of topsoil **(1000).**

No archaeology features or archaeological artefacts were recovered from the trench.

Trench 11

The plan is recorded in Figure 1 (see also Plate 19). The trench lay on south-west to north-east alignment and measured approximately 20m by 1.80m.
Undisturbed natural geology **(1102)** was identified across the trench as chalk at a depth of approximately 0.70m (81.30m OD) below the present ground surface at 82m OD at the NE end of the trench.

The natural geology was sealed by a layer of dumped material **(1101)** 0.70m thick, mid brown grey in colour overlaid by a thin layer of topsoil **(1100).**

No archaeology features or archaeological artefacts were recovered from the trench.

Trench 12

The plan is recorded in Figure 1 (see also Plate 21). The trench lay on north-west to south-east alignment and measured approximately 25m by 1.80m.
Undisturbed natural geology **(1202)** was identified across the trench as chalk at a depth of approximately 0.70m (78.30m OD) below the present ground surface at 79m OD at the NE end of the trench.

The natural geology was sealed by a layer of dumped material **(1201)** 0.70m thick, mid brown grey in colour overlaid by a thin layer of topsoil **(1200).**

No archaeology features or archaeological artefacts were recovered from the trench.

Trench 13 (second phase)

The plan is recorded in Figure 1 (see also Plate 28). The trench lay on south to north alignment and measured approximately 18m by 1.80m.
Undisturbed natural geology **(1302)** was identified across the trench as chalk at a depth of approximately 0.60m (76.40mOD) below the present ground surface at 77m OD at the NE end of the trench.

The natural geology was sealed by a layer of dumped material **(1301)** 0.60m thick, mid brown grey in colour overlaid by a thin layer of topsoil **(1300).**

No archaeology features or archaeological artefacts were recovered from the trench.

Trench 14

The plan is recorded in Figure 1 (see also Plate 23). The trench lay on NNE to SSW alignment and measured approximately 12m by 1.80m.
Undisturbed natural geology **(1402)** was identified across the trench as chalk at a depth of approximately 0.40m (81.60mOD) below the present ground surface at 82m OD at the NNE end of the trench.

The natural geology was sealed by a layer of dumped material **(1401)** 0.40m thick, mid brown grey in colour overlaid by a thin layer of topsoil **(1400).**

No archaeology features or archaeological artefacts were recovered from the trench.

Trench 15

The plan is recorded in Figure 1 (see also Plate 22). The trench lay on north-west to south-east alignment and measured approximately 10m by 1.80m.
Undisturbed natural geology **(1502)** was identified across the trench as chalk at a depth of approximately 0.30m (81.70mOD) below the present ground surface at 82m OD at the NW end of the trench.

The natural geology was sealed by a layer of dumped material **(1501)** 0.30m thick, mid brown grey in colour overlaid by a thin layer of topsoil **(1500).**

No archaeology features or archaeological artefacts were recovered from the trench.

Trench 16

The plan is recorded in Figure 1 (see also Plate 24). The trench lay on south-west to north-east alignment and measured approximately 15m by 1.80m.
Undisturbed natural geology **(1602)** was identified across the trench as chalk at a depth of approximately 0.20m (84.80mOD) below the present ground surface at 85m OD at the NE end of the trench.

The natural geology was sealed by a layer of dumped material **(1601)** 0.20m thick, mid brown grey in colour overlaid by a thin layer of topsoil **(1600).**

No archaeology features or archaeological artefacts were recovered from the trench.

Trench 17

The plan is recorded in Figure 1 (see also Plate 25). The trench lay on north-west to south-east alignment and measured approximately 10m by 1.80m.
Undisturbed natural geology **(1702)** was identified across the trench as chalk at a depth of approximately 0.20m (84.80mOD) below the present ground surface at 85m OD at the NW end of the trench.

The natural geology was sealed by a layer of dumped material **(1701)** 0.20m thick, mid brown grey in colour overlaid by a thin layer of topsoil **(1700).**

No archaeology features or archaeological artefacts were recovered from the trench.

Trench 18

The plan is recorded in Figure 1 (see also Plate 26). The trench lay on south to north alignment and measured approximately 15m by 1.80m.
Undisturbed natural geology **(502)** was identified across the trench as chalk at a depth of approximately 0.80m (85.20m OD) below the present ground surface at 86m OD at the N end of the trench.

The natural geology was sealed by a layer of dumped material **(1801)** 0.80m thick, mid brown grey in colour overlaid by a thin layer of topsoil **(1800).**

No archaeology features or archaeological artefacts were recovered from the trench.

Trench 19

The plan is recorded in Figure 1 (see also Plate 26). The trench lay on west to east alignment and measured approximately 15m by 1.80m.
Undisturbed natural geology **(1902)** was identified across the trench as chalk at a depth of approximately 0.80m (85.20mOD) below the present ground surface at 86m OD at the N end of the trench.

The natural geology was sealed by a layer of dumped material **(1901)** 0.80m thick, mid brown grey in colour overlaid by a thin layer of topsoil **(1900).**

No archaeology features or archaeological artefacts were recovered from the trench.

10. Discussion

It was expected that the evaluation may produce evidence of archaeological activity. But there was none. There are numerous crop marks in the vicinity of the proposed development site but no features were located in the evaluation trenches. The evaluation was conducted in two phases, the first phase found that the site had been severely truncated and so additional trenches were requested by the CCC Archaeological Officer on the periphery of the site in the hope that archaeology may have survived on the fringes of the truncated area but no archaeology was found in any of the additional trenches.

11. Finds

No finds were found.

12. Conclusion

The evaluation trenches at the proposed development site revealed no archaeological features or artefacts. The archaeological evaluation has been successful in fulfilling the primary aims and objectives of the Archaeological Specification. 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, HFD Developments Ltd for commissioning the project. Thanks are also extended to Rosanne Cummings Archaeological Heritage Officer, Canterbury City Council. The fieldwork was undertaken by Tim Allen and the project was managed and report written by Paul Wilkinson, BA (Hons). PhD. FRSA. MCifA.

Paul Wilkinson

30/06/2016

14. References

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

Archaeological Desk-based Assessment: Larkey Woods Farm. Canterbury Archaeological Trust

CCC Specification Manual Part B

Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Evaluation. SWAT Archaeology (March 2016)

KCC HER data 2016

HER Summary Form

Site Name: Land adjacent to Larkey Woods Farm, Chartham, Kent
SWAT Site Code: LARK/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 (CA/15/00683/FUL) for the construction of ten residential units whereby Canterbury City Council 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 no archaeology.

District/Unitary: Canterbury City Council
Period(s):
NGR (centre of site to eight figures) 612265 155047
Type of Archaeological work: Archaeological Evaluation
Date of recording: May 2016
Unit undertaking recording: Swale and Thames Survey Company (SWAT. Archaeology)
Geology: Underlying geology is Seaford Chalk Formation
Title and author of accompanying report: Wilkinson P. (2016) Archaeological Evaluation at Larkey Woods Farm, Chartham, Kent

Summary of fieldwork results (begin with earliest period first, add NGRs where appropriate)
No archaeology found

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

Contact at Unit: Paul Wilkinson
Date: 30/06/2016

NATIONAL MAP CENTRE

OS Plan Colour

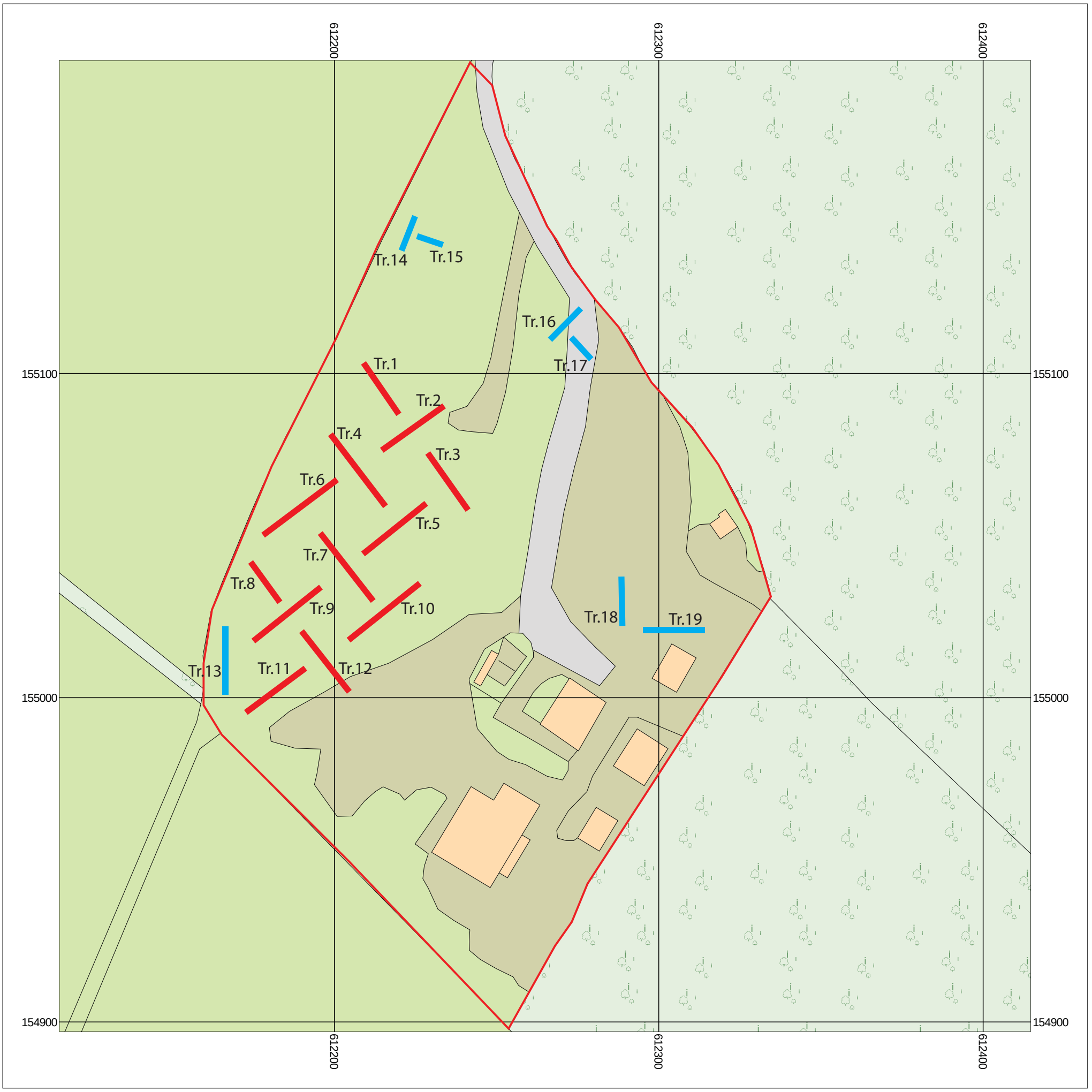

Figure 1: Plan of Evaluation trenches

Plate 1. Trench 1 from the northwest, one-metre scale

Plate 2. Trenches 1, 2 and 3 looking northwest

Plate 3. Trench 2 from the southeast, one-metre scale

Plate 4. Trench 2 section from the east, one-metre scale

Plate 5. Trench 3, northwest end, one-metre scale

Plate 6. Trench 3 from the southeast

Plate 7. Trench 4 from the southeast, one-metre scale

Plate 8. Trench 4 from the east, one-metre scale

Plate 9. Trench 5 from the northwest, one-metre scale

Plate 10. Trench 5 from the southeast, one-metre scale

Plate 11. Section of Trench 5 looking west, one-metre scale

Plate 12. Trench 6 from the southwest

Plate 13. Trench 7 looking northeast, one-metre scale

Plate 14. Trench 8 looking northwest, one-metre scale

Plate 15. Section of Trench 8, looking north, one-metre scale

Plate 16. Trench 9 looking southeast

Plate 17. Trench 10 from the southeast, one-metre scale

Plate 18. Trench 10 from the east

Plate 19. Trench 11 from the south, one-metre scale

Plate 20. Trench 11 section, looking east, one-metre scale

Plate 21. Trench 11 from the north

Plate 22. Trench 15 (second phase), looking west, one-metre scale

Plate 23. Trench 14 (second phase), looking south, one-metre scale

Plate 24. Trench 16 (second phase), looking west, one-metre scale

Plate 25. Trench 17 (second phase), looking south, one-metre scale

Plate 26. Trench 18 (second phase), looking north, one-metre scale

Plate 27. Trench 19 (second phase), from the west, one-metre scale

Plate 28. Trench 13 (second phase), looking southeast, one-metre scale