

**Archaeological Evaluation on Land at West Side, Westside, East Langdon, near
Dover, Kent, CT15 5JG**

Site Code: ELD-EV-17

NGR: NGR Site Centre: 633435 146387

Planning Application Number: DOV/16/00968



Report for Shepway Developments Limited

12/09/2017

SWAT ARCHAEOLOGY

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Summary

Swale & Thames Survey Company (SWAT Archaeology) were commissioned by Shepway Development Limited to undertake an archaeological evaluation on Land at West Side, Westside, east Langdon, near Dover, Kent, CT15 5JG. The archaeological works were monitored by the Kent County Council Principal Archaeological Officer.

The fieldwork was carried out in July 2017 in accordance with an archaeological specification (Kent County Council 2017) submitted to the Local Planning Authority prior to commencement of works.

The Archaeological Evaluation consisted of three trenches, which encountered a relatively common stratigraphic sequence comprising topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geological Brickearth and Chalk. Despite the potential for archaeological remains and relatively good preservation conditions, no archaeological finds or features were recorded.

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NGR Site Centre: 633435 146387
Site Code: ELD-EV-17

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project Background

1.1.1 Swale & Thames Survey Company (SWAT Archaeology) were commissioned by Shepway Developments Limited to undertake an archaeological evaluation on land at West Side, Westside, East Langdon, near Dover in Kent, CT15 5JG (**Figure 1**). A planning application (DOV/16/00968) was approved by Dover District Council (DDC) for up to 10 dwellings on condition that a programme of archaeological work is undertaken.

1.1.2 In mitigation of the potential impact that the development may have on the buried archaeological resource Kent County Council Heritage & Conservation, who provide an advisory service to DDC, requested that the programme of works comprising an archaeological evaluation followed by appropriate mitigation measures, if considered necessary. This recommendation was subsequently added as a Condition to the planning approval, which stated that;

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 specification 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. 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 separated from the carrying out of the rest of the development.

(DOV/16/00968, Condition 19, 24/03/2017)

1.1.3 The fieldwork was carried out in July 2017 in accordance with an archaeological specification prepared by Kent County Council (KCC) prior to commencement of works. A copy of the Specification is provided in **Appendix 2**.

1.2 Site Description and Topography

- 1.2.1 The site is centred on NGR 633435 146387, in the northern extent of east Langdon which is approximately 5km north of Dover and c.12km south of Sandwich on the east coast of Kent (**Figure 1**). The site gently undulating at a level of approximately 78m aOD (above Ordnance Datum). The site is bounded residential properties to the south, by Langdon Primary School to the south-west and by farm land to the north-east and north-west. The site currently comprises mix of scrub and rough grassland, bounded by established tree and hedge-lines.
- 1.2.2 According to the KCC Specification, the underlying geology comprises an undifferentiated clay, silt, sand and gravel Head deposit that overlies bedrock chalk of the Seaford Chalk Formation (white chalk subgroup) (KCC 2017: 4.1).

2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 Introduction

- 2.1.1 Further details of previous discoveries and investigations within the immediate and wider area may be found in the Kent County Council Historic Environment Record and have been summarised in the Specification produced by KCC (2017).

2.2 Overview (KCC 2017)

- 2.2.1 The proposed development lies in an area of archaeological potential associated with buried archaeological remains identified as crop- and soil- marks seen on aerial and satellite photographs. These crop- and soil- marks reveal the presence of a buried archaeological landscape surrounding the village of East Langdon, including evidence for a number of ring-ditches that probably represent the ploughed-out remains of Bronze Age barrows (burial mounds).

3 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

3.1 Specific Aims (KCC 2017)

- 3.1.1 The specific aims of the archaeological fieldwork are set out in the Specification (Appendix 2). These were to;

The aim of the evaluation work is to determine whether any 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 safeguarding measures, 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 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 2017: 6.1)

3.2 General Aims

3.2.1 The general aims of the archaeological fieldwork were 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;
- 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;
- 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.

4 METHODOLOGY

4.1 Introduction

4.1.1 All fieldwork was conducted in accordance with the methodology set out in the KCC Specification (2017) and carried out in compliance with the standards outlined in the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' Standards Guidance for Archaeological Evaluations (CIfA 2014).

4.2 Fieldwork

4.2.1 A total of three evaluation trenches were proposed within the extents of the Site (Figure 1).

4.2.2 Each trench was initially scanned for surface finds 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, under the constant supervision of an experienced archaeologist.

4.2.3 Where appropriate, trenches, or specific areas of trenches, were subsequently hand-cleaned to reveal features in plan and carefully selected cross-sections through the features were excavated to enable sufficient information about form, development date and stratigraphic relationships to be recorded without prejudice to more extensive investigations, should these prove to be necessary. All archaeological work was carried out in accordance with KCC and CIfA standards and

guidance. A complete photographic record was maintained on site that included working shots; during mechanical excavation, following archaeological investigations and during back filling.

4.3 Recording

4.3.1 A complete drawn record of the evaluation trenches comprising both plans and sections, drawn to appropriate scales (1:20 for plans, 1:10 for sections) was undertaken. The plans and sections were annotated with coordinates and aOD heights.

4.3.2 Photographs were taken as appropriate providing a record of excavated features and deposits, along with images of the overall trench to illustrate their location and context. The record also includes images of the Site overall. The photographic record comprises digital photography. A photographic register of all photographs taken is contained within the project archive.

4.3.3 A single context recording system was used to record the deposits. A full list is presented in Appendix 1. Layers and fills are identified in this report thus (100), whilst the cut of the feature is shown [100]. Context numbers were assigned to all deposits for recording purposes. Each number has been attributed to a specific trench with the primary number(s) relating to specific trenches (*i.e.* Trench 1, 101+, Trench 2, 201+, Trench 3, 301+ etc.).

5 RESULTS

5.1 Introduction

5.1.1 A total of three evaluation trenches were mechanically excavated under archaeological supervision.

5.2 Stratigraphic Deposit Sequence

5.2.1 A relatively consistent stratigraphic sequence was recorded across the majority of the Site comprising topsoil sealing an intact subsoil which overlay the natural clay geology.

5.2.2 The topsoil generally consisted of mid brown silty clay, moderate roots and occasional small rounded stones, topped with grass, overlying the subsoil which consisted of light to mid brown silt clay. Natural geology comprised both Brickearth and Chalk, as shown on Figures 3-5 and Plates 1-8.

5.2.3 Appendix 1 provides the stratigraphic sequence for all trenches.

5.3 Overview

5.3.1 No archaeological features or finds were recorded within any of the three trenches. Minimal truncation of the surviving natural geological sequence was present within Trench 1 and Trench 2 where natural tree boles (106, 205 & 206) truncated natural Chalk (104) and Brickearth (203).

6 FINDS

6.1 Overview

6.1.1 No archaeological finds were retrieved during this evaluation.

7 DISCUSSION

7.1 Archaeological Narrative

7.1.1 Despite the potential for the presence and survival of archaeological remains no archaeological features were recorded within any of the nine trenches.

7.1.2 The presence of the subsoil would suggest that preservation levels are relatively high and that if archaeological remains were present then they would have suffered minimal disturbance.

7.1.3 No archaeological finds were present in the topsoil and subsoil layers, which would have provided an indication of settlement within the surrounding area.

7.2 Conclusions

7.2.1 The archaeological evaluation has been successful in fulfilling the primary aims and objectives of the Specification. Development proposals, which comprise the construction of new housing and associated services/landscaping, are unlikely to impact on archaeological remains. Further archaeological mitigation, should it be necessary, will need to be determined in consultation with the Kent County Council and local planning authority.

7.2.2 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 Principal Archaeological Officer (KCC) of any further archaeological mitigation measures that may be necessary in connection with any future development proposals.

8 ARCHIVE

8.1 General

8.1.1 The Site archive, which will include; paper records, photographic records, graphics and digital data, will be prepared following nationally recommended guidelines (SMA 1995; ClfA 2009; Brown 2011; ADS 2013).

8.1.2 All archive elements will be marked with the site/accession code, and a full index will be prepared. The physical archive comprises 1 file/document case of paper records & A4 graphics

9 ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

- 9.1.1 SWAT would like to thank Shepway Developments Limited for commissioning the project. Thanks are also extended to Simon Mason, Principal Archaeological Officer, Kent County Council, for his advice and assistance.
- 9.1.2 Peter Cichy supervised the archaeological fieldwork; illustrations were produced by Bartek Cichy. David Britchfield (MCIfA) produced the draft text for this report which was edited by Dr. Paul Wilkinson (MCIfA).

10 REFERENCES

ADS 2013. Caring for Digital Data in Archaeology: a guide to good practice, Archaeology Data Service & Digital Antiquity Guides to Good Practice

Brown, D.H., 2011. Archaeological archives; a guide to best practice in creation, compilation, transfer and curation, Archaeological Archives Forum (revised edition)

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English Heritage 2002. Environmental Archaeology; a guide to theory and practice of methods, from sampling and recovery to post-excavation, Swindon, Centre for Archaeology Guidelines

English Heritage, 2006, *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment* (MoRPHE).

Kent County Council, 2017, *Specification for an Archaeological Evaluation of land at West Side, Westside, east Langdon, near Dover, Kent, CT16 5JG*

SMA 1993. Selection, Retention and Dispersal of Archaeological Collections, Society of Museum Archaeologists

SMA 1995. Towards an Accessible Archaeological Archive, Society of Museum Archaeologists

11 APPENDIX 1 – TRENCH TABLES

Trench 1 Dimensions: 9.1m x 1.6m			
Context	Description	Interpretation	Depth (m)
101	Mid brown silty clay, moderate roots and occasional small rounded stones	Topsoil	0.00-0.18
102	Light to mid brown grey silt clay with rare rounded stones	Subsoil	0.18-0.31
103	Light orange brown silty clay Brickearth	Natural	0.31+
104	Chalk	Natural	0.31+
105	Dark brown silty clay with moderate rounded stones and occasional roots	Fill of natural tree bole	-
106	Natural feature	Tree bole	-

Trench 2 Dimensions: 8.9m x 1.6m			
Context	Description	Interpretation	Depth (m)
201	Mid brown silty clay, moderate roots and occasional small rounded stones	Topsoil	0.00-0.21
202	Light to mid brown grey silt clay with rare rounded stones	Subsoil	0.21-0.29
203	Light orange brown silty clay Brickearth	Natural	0.29+
204	Dark brown silty clay with moderate rounded stones and occasional roots	Fill of natural tree bole 205	-
205	Natural feature	Tree bole	-
206	Natural feature	Tree bole	-
207	Dark brown silty clay with moderate rounded stones and occasional roots	Fill of natural tree bole 206	-

Trench 3 Dimensions: 12.2m x 1.6m			
Context	Description	Interpretation	Depth (m)
301	Mid brown silty clay, moderate roots and occasional small rounded stones	Topsoil	0.00-0.21
302	Light to mid brown silt clay with rare rounded stones	Subsoil	0.21-0.30
303	Light orange brown silty clay Brickearth	Natural	0.30-0.39+

12 APPENDIX 2 – KCC HER FORM

Site Name: Development of land at Land at West Side, Westside, East Langdon, near Dover, Kent, CT15 5JG

SWAT Site Code: ELD-EV-17

Site Address: As above

Summary:

Swale & Thames Survey Company (SWAT Archaeology) were commissioned by Shepway Development Limited to undertake an archaeological evaluation on Land at West Side, Westside, east Langdon, near Dover, Kent, CT15 5JG. The archaeological works were monitored by the Kent County Council Principal Archaeological Officer.

The fieldwork was carried out in July 2017 in accordance with an archaeological specification (Kent County Council 2017) submitted to the Local Planning Authority prior to commencement of works.

The Archaeological Evaluation consisted of three trenches, which encountered a relatively common stratigraphic sequence comprising topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geological Brickearth and Chalk. Despite the potential for archaeological remains and relatively good preservation conditions, no archaeological finds or features were recorded.

District/Unitary: Dover District Council

Period(s):

NGR (centre of site to eight figures) NGR 633435 146387

Type of Archaeological work: Archaeological Watching Brief

Date of recording: July 2017

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

Geology: Brickearth and Chalk

Title and author of accompanying report: SWAT Archaeology (2017) Archaeological Evaluation on Land at West Side, Westside, East Langdon, near Dover, Kent, CT15 5JG

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

See above

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

Contact at Unit: Paul Wilkinson

Date: 12/09/2017

SITE SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS

Specification for an archaeological evaluation of land at West Side, Westside, East Langdon, near Dover, Kent CT15 5JG.

1. Summary:

- 1.1 This specification sets out the requirements for an archaeological evaluation of land at West Side in East Langdon, near Dover. The evaluation will comprise the excavation of 3 archaeological trial trenches in accordance with the attached indicative trench location plan. The results of the evaluation works will inform the scope of any further archaeological mitigation that may be required at the site, potentially including more detailed archaeological investigation ahead of development or the archaeological monitoring of the development groundworks. The works are being undertaken in response to proposals for the erection of 10 dwellings (2 with car barns) creation of vehicular access, parking and associated landscaping.

2. Site Location & Description:

- 2.1 The proposed development is to be located on land at West Side, Westside, East Langdon, near Dover, Kent CT15 5JG (NGR 633435 146387 approximate site centre). The proposed development is located on the north side of West Side, from which it is accessed. The site is bounded residential properties to the south, by Langdon Primary School to the south-west and by farm land to the north-east and north-west. The site currently comprises mix of scrub and rough grassland, bounded by established tree and hedge-lines.

3. Planning Background & Nature of Development:

- 3.1 Planning permission for the “erection of 10 dwellings (2 with car barns) creation of vehicular access, parking and associated landscaping” was granted by the Local Planning Authority under planning reference number DOV/16/00968.
- 3.2 The Local Planning Authority has placed the following condition (19) on the planning consent:

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 specification 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. 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 separated from the carrying out of the rest of the development.

4. Geological & Topographical Background:

4.1 According to the mapping of the British Geological Survey the site, which is located at an elevation of some 78m aOD, is located on underlying geology comprising an undifferentiated clay, silt, sand and gravel Head deposit that overlies bedrock chalk of the Seaford Chalk Formation (white chalk subgroup). The site is located in an area of rolling chalk downland, comprising south-west to north east trending ridges of higher ground, dissected by a series of parallel dry valleys. The site in question lies on the south-east facing slope of one of these dry valleys.

5. Archaeological & Historical Background Potential

5.1 The archaeological potential is based on the proximity of archaeological remains presently recorded in the HER.

5.2 The proposed development lies in an area of archaeological potential associated with buried archaeological remains identified as crop- and soil-marks seen on aerial and satellite photographs. These crop- and soil- marks reveal the presence of a buried archaeological landscape surrounding the village of East Langdon, including evidence for a number of ring-ditches that probably represent the ploughed-out remains of Bronze Age barrows (burial mounds).

5.3 Further information on the above can be found in the County Historic Environment Record which is held at the Heritage Conservation Group, Environment & Waste, Invicta House, County Hall, Maidstone ME14 1XX.

6. Specific Aims of the Archaeological Work:

6.1 The aim of the evaluation work is to determine whether any 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 safeguarding measures, 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 measures will be subject to other documents or specifications which will need to be agreed with the Local Planning Authority.

6.2 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.

7. Methodology:

- 7.1 The general methodology for the archaeological evaluation is set out in Part B of this specification.
- 7.2 The archaeological evaluation will comprise the excavation of 3 archaeological trial trenches within the proposed development site. An indicative trench location plan is attached at the end of this specification. The proposed evaluation trenches are intended to measure some 30m in length by 1.8m in width.
- 7.3 The Archaeological Contractor should confirm the nature and location of any constraints on-site prior to the commencement of excavation and if necessary amend the trench location plan accordingly. Particular attention will be paid to avoiding any services and/or trees that are to be retained or to avoid damage to the roots thereof. Any amendments to the trench design must be agreed in advance with the County Archaeologist and a revised trench plan submitted for approval.
- 7.3 Should significant remains be exposed it may be necessary to enlarge or extend the evaluation trenches to allow for further investigation of any significant features or deposits that may be encountered.
- 7.4 Prior to the commencement of fieldwork the Archaeological Contractor shall agree with the developer, or their agent, any fencing required during the works and requirements for reinstatement at completion. The Archaeological Contractor shall ensure that arrangements are in place for appropriate reinstatement prior to the commencement of any excavations.

8. Site Recording:

- 8.1 Site recording should be undertaken in accordance with the methodology outlined in Part B of this specification.

9. Site Reporting and Archiving:

- 9.1 Site reporting and archiving should be undertaken in accordance with the methodology outlined in Part B of this specification.
- 9.2 A copy of the resulting report shall be offered to the Dover Archaeological Group.

10. Monitoring:

- 10.1 Site monitoring should be arranged in accordance with the methodology outlined in Part B of this specification.
- 10.2 Prior to the commencement of fieldwork, following the completion and fieldwork and when submitting the report the Archaeological Contractor should complete and submit the relevant portions of the Fieldwork Notification Form

(attached).

11. General:

11.1 Prepared by the Heritage Conservation Group, Kent County Council
June 2017



Figure 1: Site location map

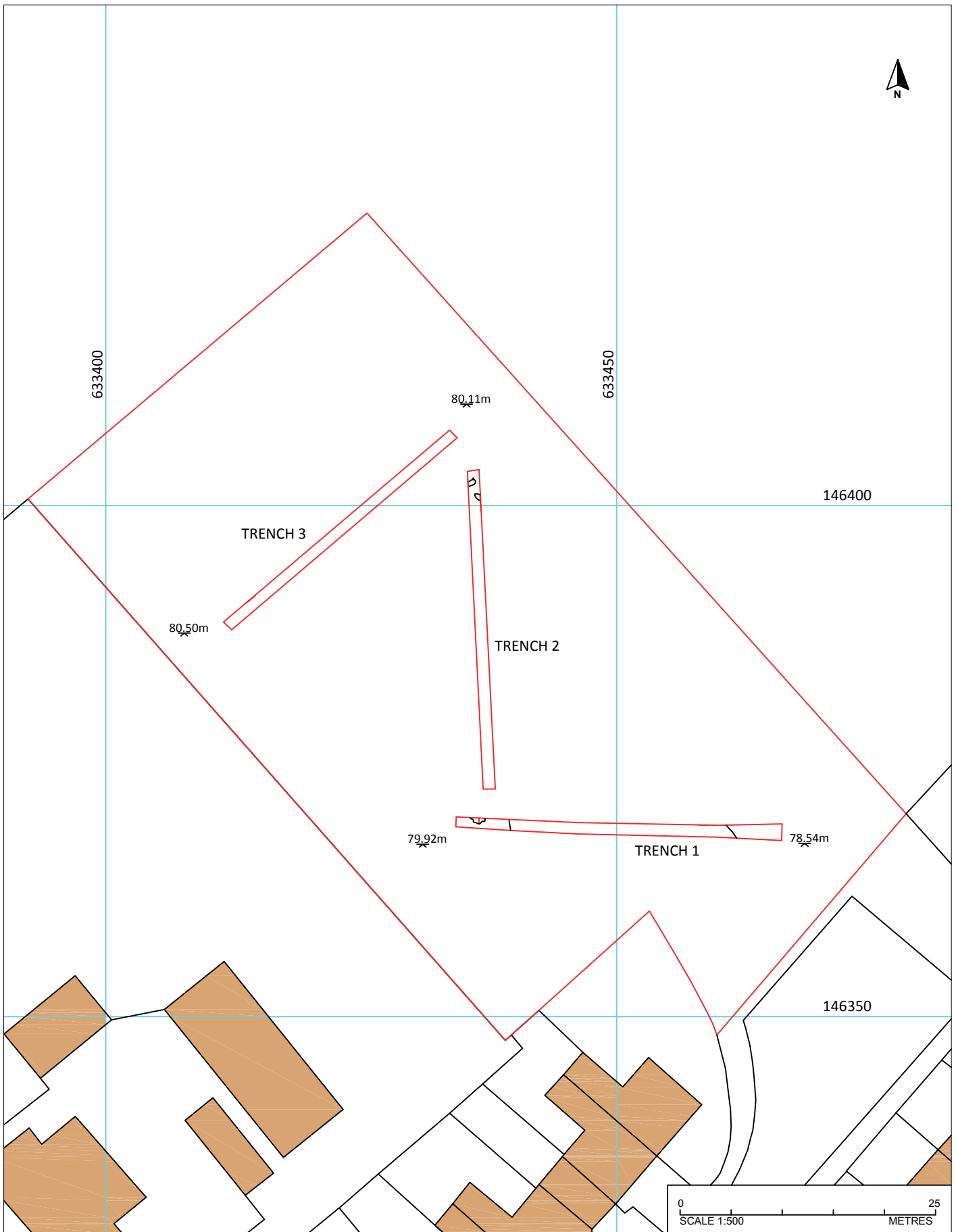


Figure 2: Trench location

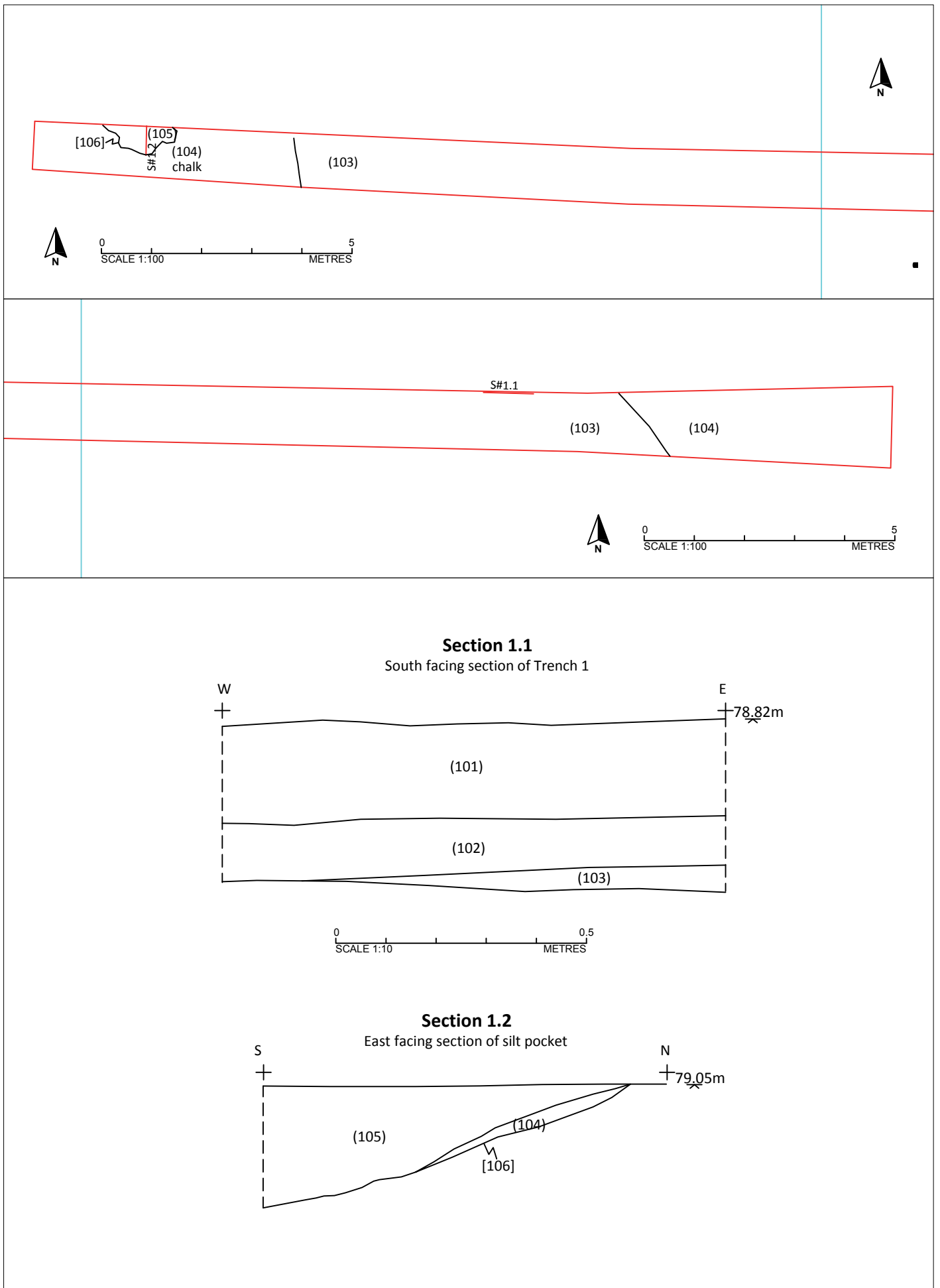


Figure 3: Trench 1 - plan and sections

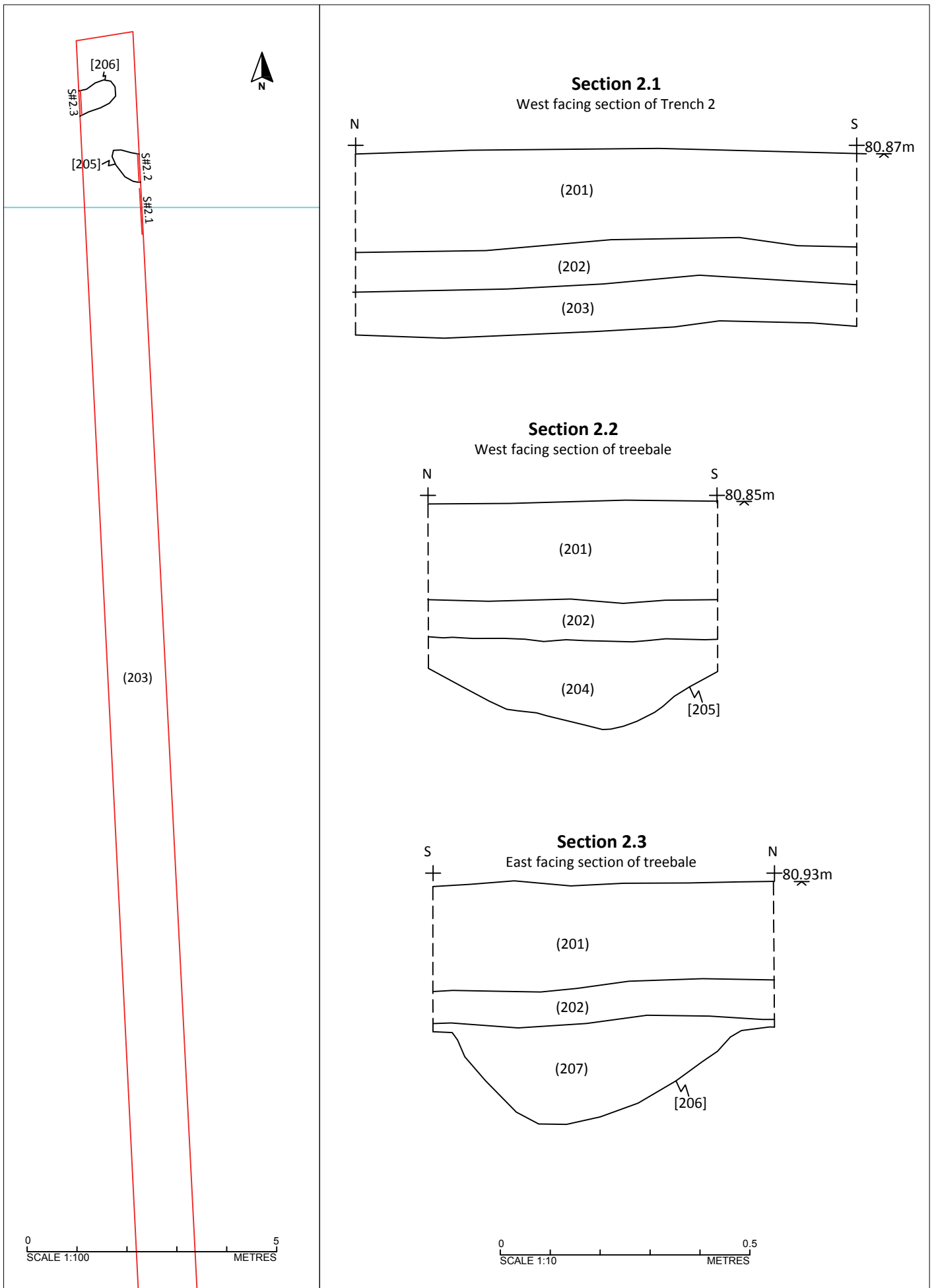


Figure 4: Trench 2 - plan and sections

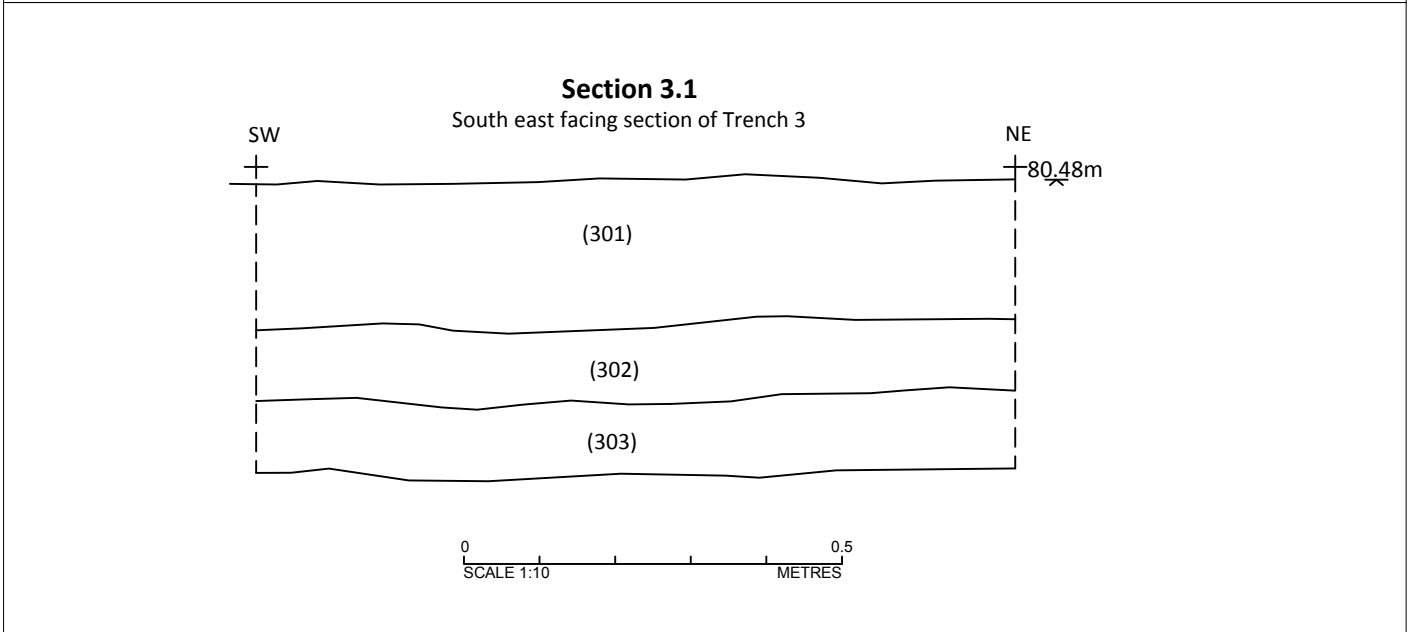
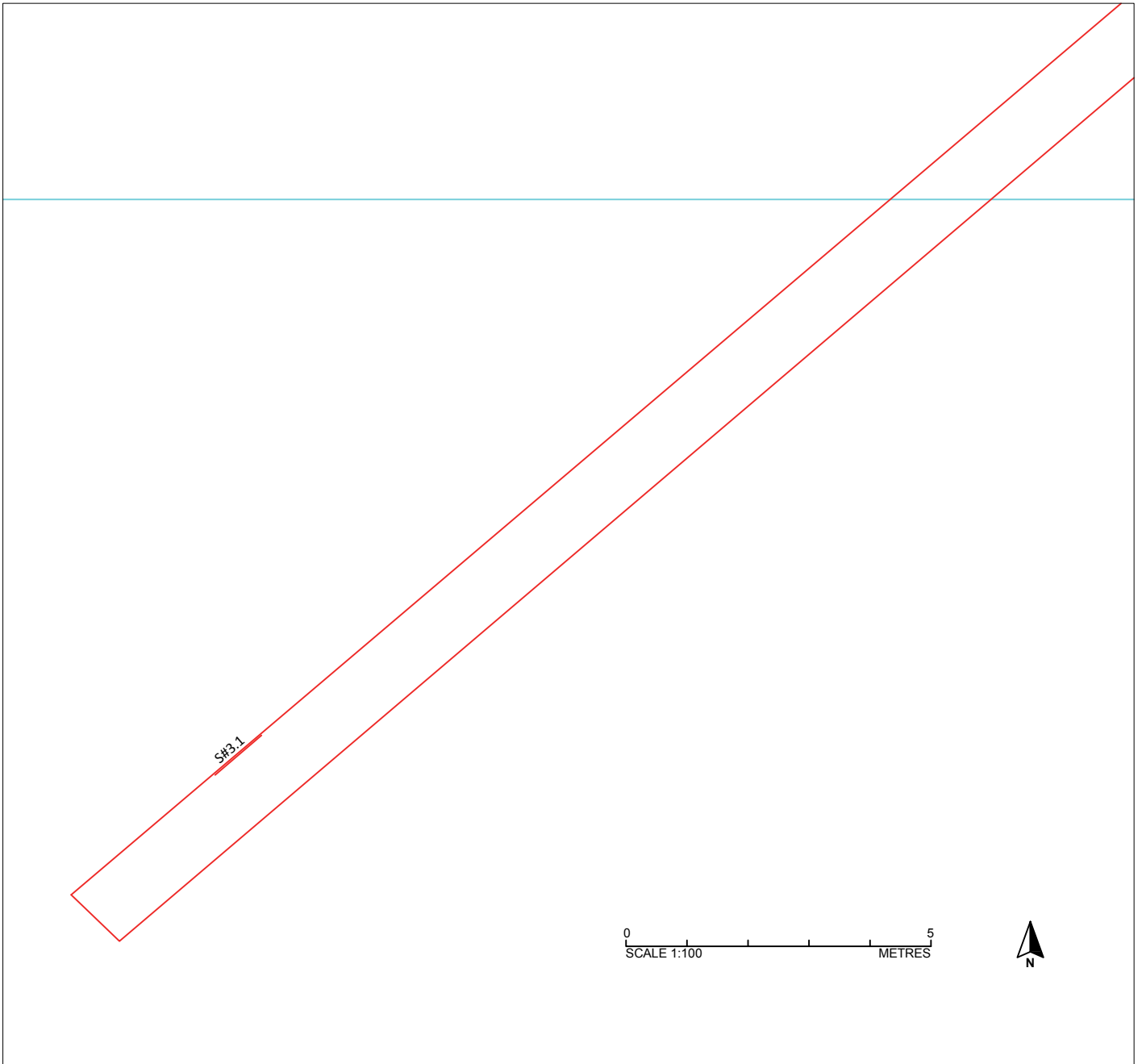


Figure 5: Trench 3 - plan and sections



Plate 1: Evaluation Trench 1, viewed from the east, one and two metre scales.



Plate 2: Evaluation Trench 1, viewed from the west, two and one- metre scales.



Plate 3: Evaluation Trench 2, viewed from the south, one and two metre scales.



Plate 4: Evaluation Trench 3, viewed from the southeast, one and two metre scales.



Plate 5: Natural root boles within Trench 2, one metre scale.



Plate 6: Excavated tree bole 205 in Trench 2, viewed from the west, one metre scale.



Plate 7: Excavated tree bole 206 in Trench 2, viewed from the east, one metre scale.



Plate 8: Excavated tree bole 106 in Trench 1, viewed from the west, one metre scale.