

Archaeological Investigation at Wingham Court, Hawarden Place, Canterbury Road, Wingham, Canterbury, Kent

Site Code: HPW -SMS-18

NGR Site Centre 624135 157310

Planning Application Number: DOV/17/00387



SWAT ARCHAEOLOGY

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Summary

Swale & Thames Survey Company (SWAT Archaeology) was commissioned to undertake an archaeological investigation on land at Wingham Court, Hawarden Place, Wingham in Kent. The archaeological works were monitored by the Kent County Council Senior Archaeological Officer.

The fieldwork was carried out in October 2018 in accordance with an archaeological specification (KCC 2018) submitted to the Local Planning Authority prior to commencement of works.

The Archaeological investigation comprised the machine excavation of overburden deposits from a defined area of the development site (Figure 1) to expose archaeological remains in plan, the production of a phased plan, and the sample excavation of the archaeological features exposed (a strip, map and sample excavation).

The seven archaeological features exposed were modern and dated by late 19th century blue and white pottery and in addition include the remains of a brick laid track laid in 1999.

The seven shallow furrows or planting trenches revealed in the evaluation phase and dated from c.1225-1800AD had been removed prior to the current archaeological strip map and sample by the unsupervised topsoil removal by ecologists.

Please note that outside the area subject to strip, map and sample excavation any additional development groundworks that have the potential to reveal archaeological remains will need to be monitored through an archaeological watching brief.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project Background

- 1.1.1 Swale & Thames Survey Company (SWAT Archaeology) were commissioned to undertake an archaeological investigation on land at Wingham Court, Hawarden Place, Wingham in Kent (**Figure 1**).The land has planning permission (DOV/17/00387) for the construction of 15 extra-care properties.
- 1.1.2 In mitigation of the potential impact that the development may have on the buried archaeological resource Kent County Council Heritage & Conservation (KKCHC), who provide an advisory service to Dover District Council (DDC), requested that the programme of works comprising initially an archaeological evaluation followed by a Strip, Map and Sample investigation.
- 1.1.3 The Strip, Map and Sample investigation was carried out in October 2018 in accordance with an archaeological specification prepared by KCC Archaeology (2018), prior to commencement of works, and in discussion with Ben Found KCC Archaeological Officer.

1.1 4 Site Description and Topography

The proposed development is to be located on land forming part of Wingham Court, Hawarden Place, Canterbury Road, Wingham, Canterbury, Kent CT3 1EW (NGR 624135 157310 approximate site centre). The proposed development site, which extends to some 0.8 hectares is located on the south-western edge of the village of Wingham. The site is bounded by Canterbury Road to the west and School Lane to the east. To the north is Wingham Court, which includes various out buildings now converted to residential use. To the south the site is bounded by paddocks, a residential dwelling and Wingham Primary School.

The Geological Survey of Great Britain (1:50,000) shows that the PDA is set on Bedrock Geology of Margate Chalk Formation- Chalk. Superficial deposits are recorded as Head Clay and Silt. The PDA is set at an average height of 6-13.00m AOD.

2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The Archaeological and Heritage Background Potential is summarised (Section 5) in the KCC Site Specific Requirements by Senior Archaeologist Ben Found and dated August 2018. A Heritage Statement (which included consideration of the site's archaeological interest) was prepared by L~P Archaeology in 2015 and submitted in support of the planning application. The site was

archaeologically evaluated by Swat Archaeology in 2018. The Archaeological Evaluation consisted of seven trenches, which encountered a relatively common stratigraphic sequence comprising topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology to a depth of approximately 0.6m (7-11m aOD). The archaeological evaluation has demonstrated the presence of archaeological activity in the form of possible agricultural and domestic activity within the extents of the proposed development area. Archaeological features within two positive trenches, include ditches, pits, post holes and irrigation features/bedding/furrows have been attributed to the medieval period with no pottery finds earlier than c.1200-1259AD and the pottery and tile assemblage indicating continued occupation of the site throughout the 13th, 14th and 15th centuries (SWAT Archaeology 2018).

2.1 Introduction

2.1.1 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 Ben Found of KCC Heritage (August 2018).

3 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

3.1 Specific Aims (KCC 2018)

3.1.1 The specific aims of the Strip, Map and Sample Excavation are set out in the Specification (KCC 2018) and were to:

- *Establish a broad phased plan of the archaeology revealed following the stripping of the site;*
- *Provide a refined chronology of the archaeological phasing;*
- *Investigate the function of remains and the activities taking place within and close to the site.*

3.1.2 Aside from the general objectives, set out in Part B of this specification, there are several specific aims to the work. The aims of the investigations are (not exhaustively):

- *To clarify the character and extent of the archaeological remains identified during the earlier evaluation;*
- *To determine the nature of medieval activity and occupation, including examining the identified irrigation features/bedding/furrows to understand the nature of medieval or post-medieval horticultural activity;*
- *To include analysis of the spatial organisation of such activities on the site through examination of the distribution of artefactual and environmental assemblages;*
- *To consider the site's geology and topography in terms of the activity encountered;*
- *To place any remains exposed in their wider setting and contribute to our understanding of Wingham Court and medieval Wingham;*

- *To contribute to the environmental and landscape history of the area; and*
- *To contribute to the objectives of the South East Regional Research Framework.*

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 Specification (KCC 2018 and KCC Manual of Specifications 'B') and carried out in compliance with the standards outlined in the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' Standards Guidance for Archaeological Evaluations (CIfA 2017).

4.2 Fieldwork

4.2.1 An area of the site delineated in the KCC Archaeological Specification was excavated by machine under archaeological supervision as a second phase of topsoil removal following on from a robust vegetation and topsoil strip by ecological contractors (Figure 1).

4.2.2 The area 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 specific areas 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 ClfA 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 exposed features 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 cuts and deposits. 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 feature with the primary number(s) relating to specific cuts or deposits.

5 RESULTS

5.1 Introduction

5.2 A total of seven archaeological features were exposed following a second phase of the mechanical removal of topsoil under archaeological supervision. It should be noted that that a previous phases of mechanical topsoil removal took place as an ecological procedure for which no notice was given and during which no archaeological monitoring took place. As a consequence, a series of shallow north-south aligned furrow-like linear features identified and partly investigated in Trench 1 (CRNs 109, 111, 113, 115 [fill of 116], 124 and 126) during the preceding evaluation could not be identified during the following strip, map and sample procedure, presumably having been removed as part of the ecological topsoil strip. These features had been interpreted provisionally as furrows comprising parts of agricultural land or garden plots, probably of late post-medieval date but, given their subsequent removal, this interpretation could be neither confirmed nor disproved.

5.3 The stratigraphically earliest deposit observed during the strip, map and sample procedure took the form of an extensive exposure of mid-light grey-brown brickearth-like clay-silt deposit (CRN 023, Figs. 2 & 3, Section 11, all plates) that a small intervention into which (Fig. 2, Plate 8)

revealed to be a probable natural geological deposit (it was devoid of cultural inclusions) extending across the site and being in excess of 2.8m thickness.

- 5.4** Two features (CRNs 004 & 022) were observed to cut the above described clay layer. The first consisted of a cut (CRN 022, Figs. 2 & 3, Section 14, Plates 5, 8 & 9) describing an arc in the south-east corner of the site. This feature was 0.26m deep and contained a 0.21m-thick basal fill (CRN 021) of small brick and/or tile fragments, crushed white mortar and crushed chalk underlying a 0.14m-thick layer of mid-light brown mixed loam and fine clay-silt (CRN 002). The secondary and final fill extended westward beyond the limit of the feature and was interpreted with confidence as part of the subsoil identified across the site, but which in this case had slumped into the upper part of Feature 022. The feature as a whole was interpreted as a pit or the lobate terminus of a ditch, but this interpretation was necessarily provisional given the limited extent of exposure.
- 5.5** Part of an approximately north-south discontinuous linear feature (CRN 020, Figs. 2 & 3, Section 11, Plates 6, 7, 8 & 9), probably part of a segmented ditch (see below), was partly exposed in the eastern margin of the site where it extended beyond the limit of excavation. This feature lay north of and was separated from the above-described feature by a ridge of natural clay-silt by less than 50mm width and had a maximum exposed depth was 0.25m, a maximum exposed width 1.32m, its maximum exposed length being 3.25m. The latter measurement probably represented its true length this feature had what were almost certainly lobate terminals at what appeared to be its northern and southern ends (see Figs. 2 and Plates 7, 8 & 10). The feature's single fill (CRN 019) consisted of homogenous light slightly yellow-tinged clay-silt with occasional fragmented red tile and brick fragments.
- 5.6** Discontinuous linear feature CRN 020 was parallel and cut another, similar feature (CRN 004, Figs. 2 & 3, Sections 11 & 14, Plates 6, 7, 8 & 9), with what remained of a lobate terminal, albeit largely cut away, visible adjacent to the northern lobate terminal of feature 020. However, unlike that feature, this feature, which had a flat-base, steep sides and a depth of approximately 0.24m, extended southwards beyond the limit of excavation. Its primary fill (CRN 003) consisted mid grey-brown clay-silt mixes with loam and with frequent inclusions of red brick and tile fragments, small pieces of chalk and occasional potsherds of blue-and-white pottery, white glazed pottery and red earthenware pottery, the latter almost certainly sherds from plant pots. This fill was covered on the features western side by a 0.14m-thick layer of mid-light brown mixed loam and fine clay-silt (CRN 002) that also overlay the fill of Feature 022 (see above) and was interpreted with confidence as part of a relatively recently formed subsoil as a result of agricultural or horticultural activity) that extended across the site. An overtopping localised layer of 0.24m-thick of light yellow-brown brickearth (CRN 024), Fig. 2, Section 14, Plate 8) was interpreted as slumped material of recent deposition.

- 5.7** A circular flat-based pit (CRN 018, Figs. 2 & 3, Section 9, Plate 4) with a diameter of 0.42m and a depth of 0.18m was exposed some 0.4m west of Ditch 004. Its fill (CRN 017) consisted of mid brown humic sandy soil with very frequent inclusions of bricks and mortar, many of the brick fragments being very large. This feature was of uncertain function, possible interpretations being a post pit or the foundation for a brick-built circular structure.
- 5.8** Two shallow and presumably much-truncated features were exposed to the west. One (CRN 8, Figs. 2 & 3, Sections 1A, 1B & 1C, Plate 1) was investigated in three slots and proved to be a discontinuous linear feature with lobate terminals with a maximum depth of 0.23m and a width of 0.85m. Its fill (CRN 007) consisted of mid-dark brown silty clay with high humic content and with occasional inclusions of blue-and-white china ware and white glazed ware inclusions. Its overall shape suggested that it may have originally been a discontinuous agricultural or horticultural feature, possibly a flower bed, of the same type perhaps represented by Features 004 and 020 to the east.
- 5.9** The terminals of the other shallow feature (CRN 006, Figs. 2 & 3, Sections 5A, 5B & 5C, Plate 3) were similarly lobate but in this case the feature was rectilinear in shape, with investigation in three slots showing it to have a maximum of 90mm and to measure 2.3m north-south, 3.2m east-west. Its fill (CRN 005) was identical to that of Feature 006, consisting of mid-dark brown silty clay with high humic content and also containing occasional inclusions of blue-and-white china ware and white glazed ware inclusions.
- 5.9.1** A 3.8m-wide linear feature (cut CRN 011, fill CRN 010, **Figs. 2 & 4, Plate 2**) exposed some 21m to the east proved to be a trackway reinforced with brick and other building of recent deposition. A neighbour confirmed that the ground workers had laid the material in 1999 in order to gain access to his land and build his house.

6 FINDS

The pottery assemblage from the Strip, Map and Sample phase is typical of many Victorian and Modern period deposits- fragments of mid-nineteenth century table and bedroom wares - pale blue, standard deeper blue, black or green transfer-printed plates, basins or ewers, a few fragments of the latter type just plain white with mould-decorated rims, few pieces of pantry and kitchen Staffordshire/Derby Yellow Ware and James Keiller, Dundee, marmalade pot and a few of the ubiquitous English stoneware blacking bottles and vitreous-glazed jars and tubs.

7 Discussion

7.1 Archaeological Narrative

7.1.1 No archaeological features earlier than the 19th century were recorded in any of the features.

7.2 Conclusions

7.2.1 The archaeological investigation has been successful in fulfilling the primary aims and objectives of the Specification. Development proposals are not likely to impact on archaeological remains.

7.2.2 This investigation (strip, map and sample) has, therefore, assessed the archaeological potential of land intended for development. The results from this work show that the proposed development is not likely to impact on any archaeological remains.

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 the developer for commissioning the project. Thanks are also extended to Ben Found Senior Archaeological Officer, Kent County Council, for his advice and assistance.

9.1.2 Tim Allen MCIfA supervised the archaeological investigation and illustrations were produced by Bartek Cichy. Tim Allen MCIfA produced the draft text for this report. Dr Paul Wilkinson MCIfA edited the report.

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)

Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, 2009, Standard and Guidance for the creation, compilation, transfer and deposition of archaeological archives, Institute for Archaeologists

Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, 2014, *Standard and guidance for the creation, compilation, transfer and deposition of archaeological archives.*

Compiled by: SWAT Archaeology (PW). The Office, School Farm Oast, Faversham, Kent

Date: 29/11/2018

Kent County Council HER Summary Form

Site Name: Land at Wingham Court, Hawarden Place, Canterbury Road, Wingham, Canterbury, Kent

SWAT Site Code: HPW/SMS/18

Site Address: As above

Summary:

Swale and Thames Survey Company (SWAT) carried out Archaeological Investigation (strip, map and sample) on the development site above. The site has planning permission for the erection of extra care properties whereby Dover District Council requested that Archaeological works be undertaken to determine the possible impact of the development on any archaeological remains.

The Archaeological Monitoring consisted of an Archaeological investigation which revealed no archaeology earlier than the 19th century.

District/Unitary: Dover District Council

Period(s):

NGR (centre of site to eight figures) 624135 157310

Type of Archaeological work: Archaeological Investigation

Date of recording: October 2018

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

Geology: Underlying geology is Bedrock Geology of Margate Chalk Formation

Title and author of accompanying report: Wilkinson P. (2018) Archaeological Investigation on Land at Wingham Court, Hawarden Place, Canterbury Road, Wingham, Canterbury, Kent

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

No archaeology earlier than the 19th century found

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

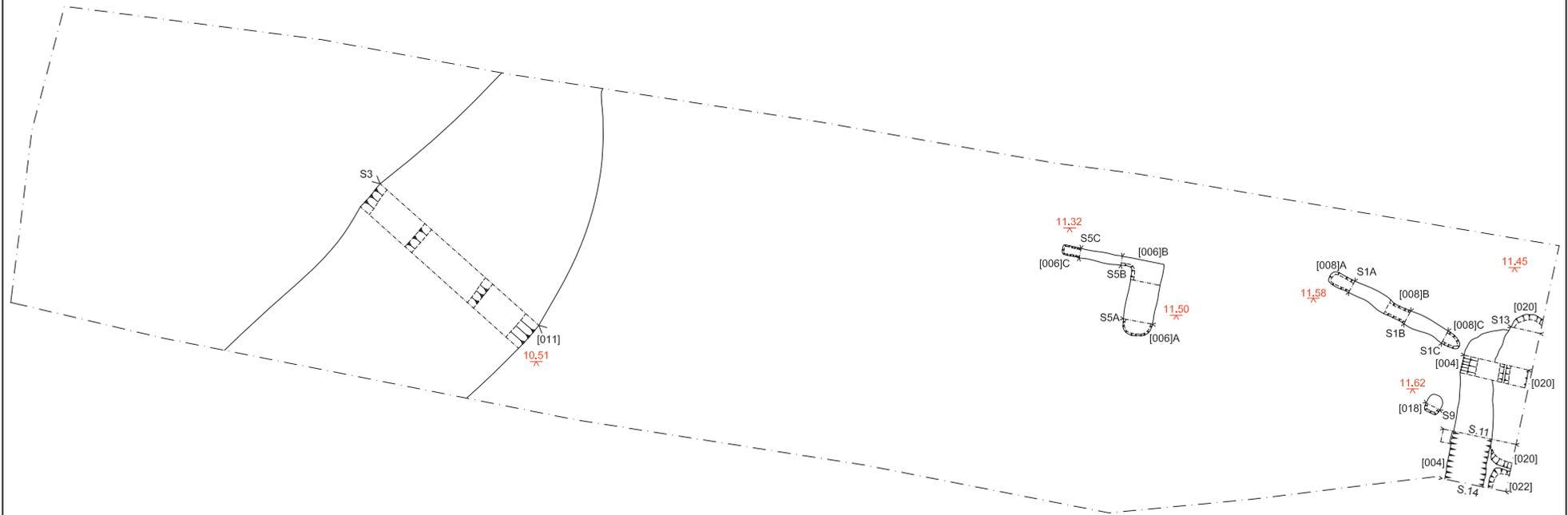
Contact at Unit: Paul Wilkinson



Figure 1: Site location map, scale 1:5000.



+ 624155.84
157304.12



+ 624196.36
157277.26

1:200@A4



Figure 2: SMS Plan

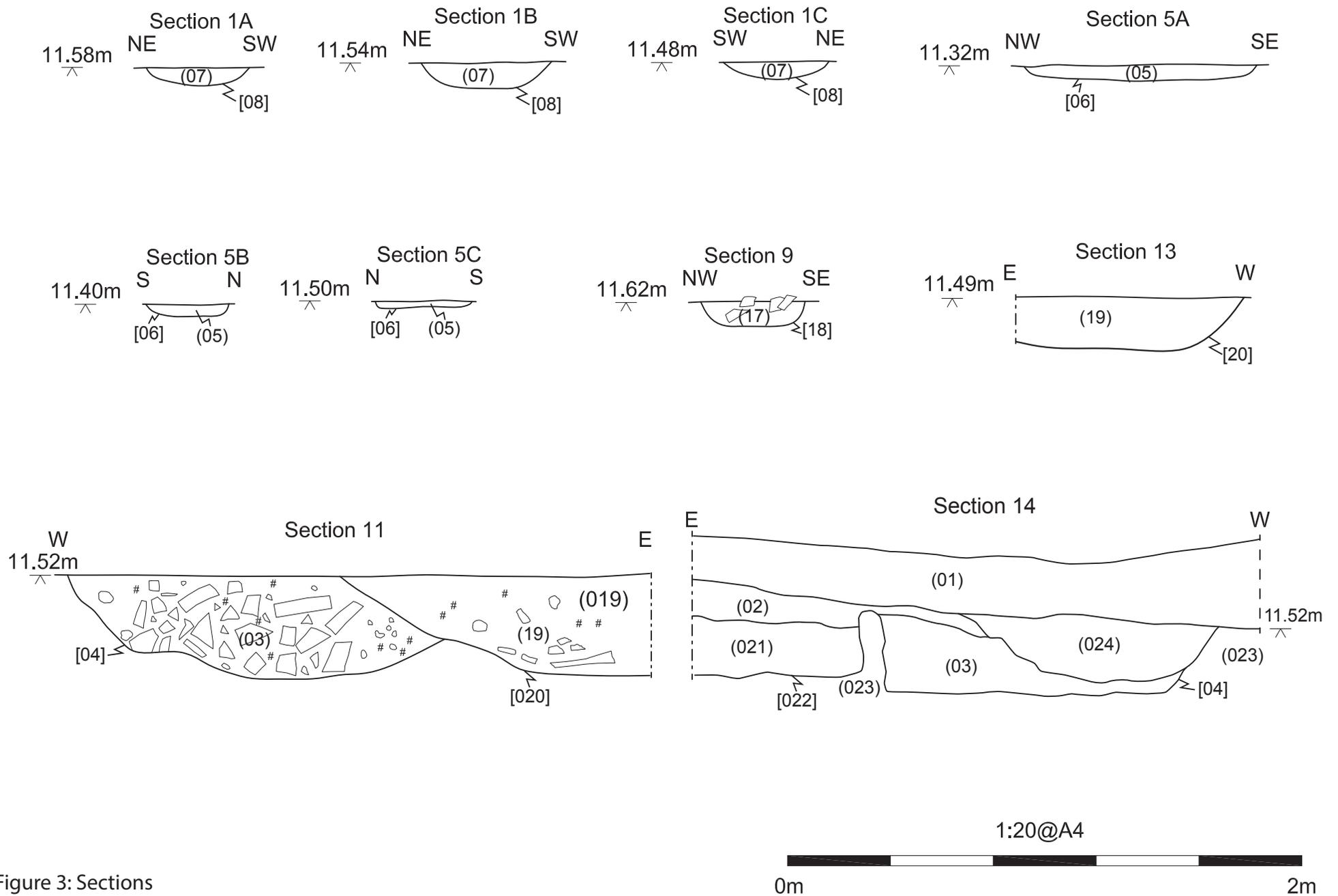


Figure 3: Sections

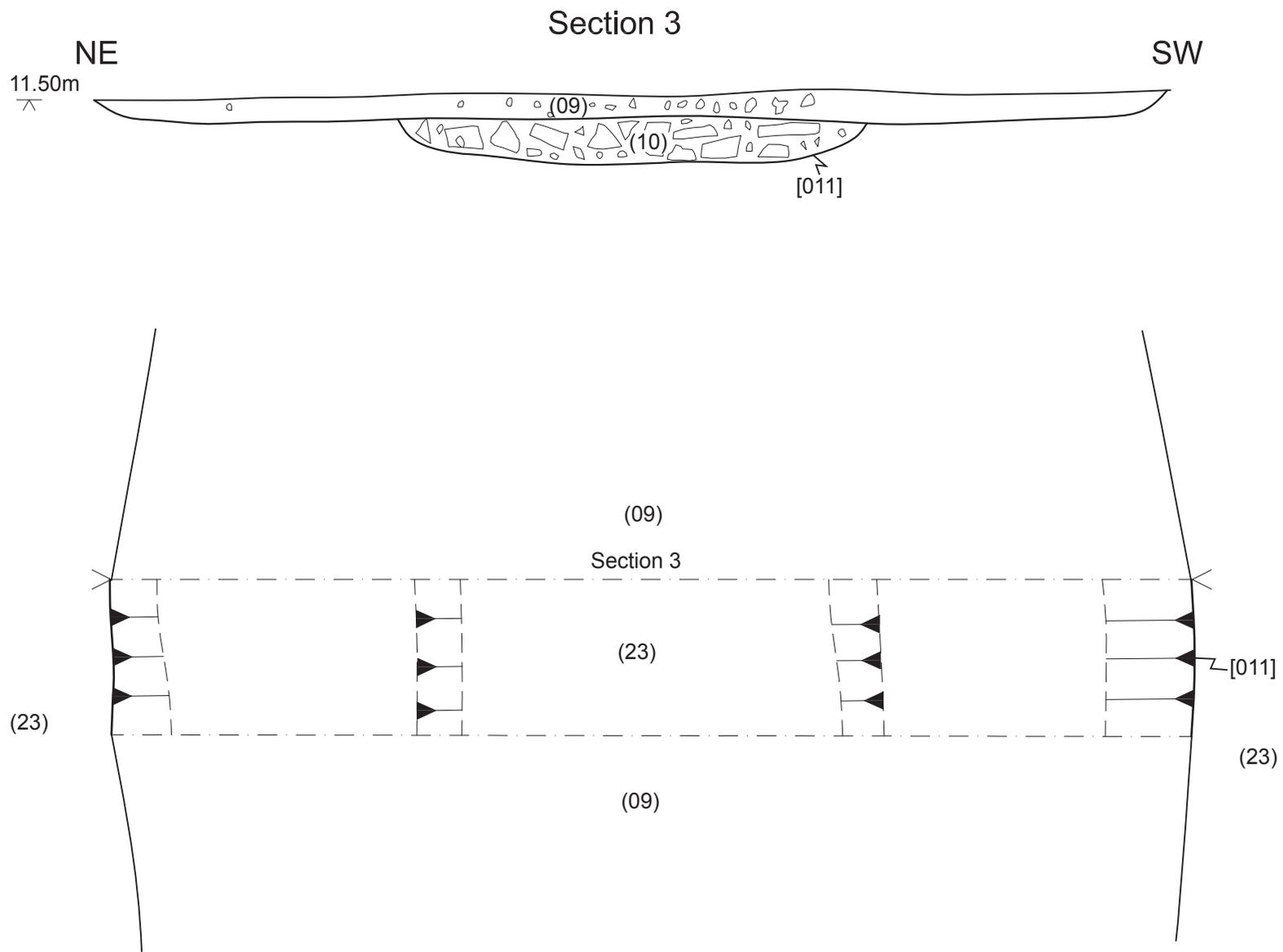


Figure 4: Section and Plan of feature [011]

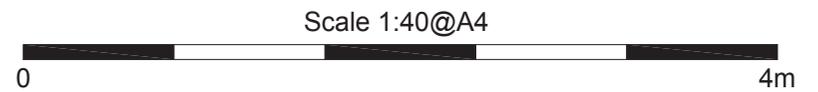




Plate 1. Shallow gully (CRN 008) showing three exploratory slots (one-metre scale)



Plate 2. Section through modern (1999) trackway (CRN 011) showing the modern artefacts found within its fill (one-metre scale)



Plate 3. Shallow rectilinear feature (CRN 006) showing three exploratory slots (one-metre scale)



Plate 4. Half-sectioned post pit (CRN 018) with shallow linear (CRN 08) in the background (one-metre scale)



Plate 5. The possible post pit (Feature CRN 022) exposed in the site's south-east corner with Ditch 020 some 0.1m north of the possible post pit and Ditch 4 to the left/west (one-metre scale)



Plate 6. Section through Ditches 004 & 020 showing the latter, in the background, cutting the former, in the foreground (one-metre scale)



Plate 7. Pit/feature (CRN 022) with Ditch 020 to the right/east cutting Ditch 004 to the left/west (one-metre scale)



Plate 8. Section 14 showing Pit/feature 022 (in the corner), Ditches 004 (right/west) and 020 (left/east) and the intervention in brickearth deposit (CRN 023) in the bottom right corner (one-metre scale)



Plate 9. Pit/feature (CRN 022) with Ditch 020 some 0.1m to the left/north cutting Ditch 004 in the foreground/west (one-metre scale)



Plate 10. The terminus or eastward turn of Ditch 020 cutting the terminus or eastward turn of Ditch 004 (one-metre scale)