

**Archaeological Excavation on Land at Fordcroft Road,  
Orpington  
BR5 2FA**

**Post-Excavation Assessment**

Site Code: FORP-EX-13

Museum of London Site Code: FRC13

NGR Site Centre: 546659 167567

National Grid Field Number: TQ 4665 6756

Planning Application Number: DC/11/00701/OUT



Report for;

**Skillcrown Homes**

27/03/2019

SWAT ARCHAEOLOGY

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**Abstract**

*An archaeological excavation was undertaken by Swale & Thames Survey Company (SWAT) on Land at Fordcroft Road, Orpington during the summer of 2013. The excavation was undertaken in response to recommendations from the Greater London Archaeology Advisory Service, following an archaeological evaluation undertaken in 2008.*

*Archaeological excavations have confirmed the continued presence of Romano-British features associated with an adjacent Scheduled Monument. Archaeological features included two possible ditches and a series of small isolated pits dating between the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> century. The lack of any dense archaeological occupation, particularly Roman structures and/or Saxon burials would suggest that archaeological remains within the Scheduled Ancient Monument to the north of the site are starting to fade out to the south.*

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**1 INTRODUCTION**

**1.1 Project Background**

1.1.1 Swale & Thames Survey Company (SWAT Archaeology) was commissioned by Skillcrown Homes to carry out a programme of archaeological excavation on land at Fordcroft Road, Orpington in the London Borough of Bromley, centred on National Grid reference (NGR) 546659 467567 (Figure 1).

1.1.2 The archaeological excavation formed part of a staged programme of archaeological works associated with planning application DC/11/00701/OUT, submitted to London Borough of Bromley Council (LBBC) for the redevelopment of the site (see Section 1.2 below).

1.1.3 Taking into consideration a phased approach of the development schedule, the archaeological works were carried out as a staged programme of works comprising a targeted trial trenching (evaluation). In the event that significant archaeological remains were encountered during the evaluation, a strip, map and sample (SMS) excavation was required in order to investigate and record archaeological remains present. The archaeological programme is detailed further, below.

1.1.4 This report details the results of the SMS excavation and subsequent watching brief only, which was informed by the results of the earlier phase of archaeological evaluation.

**1.2 Planning Background**

1.2.1 A planning application for the demolition of existing buildings and erection of 2 two storey blocks comprising 8 two bedroom flats, 1 three bedroom detached house, 2 four bedroom semi-detached houses and 17 terraced houses (9 two bedroom and 8 four bedroom) with 34 car parking spaces and estate road (houses to be two storey, four bedroom houses to have dormers/ accommodation in roof), was granted Outline permission by LBBC on the 14<sup>th</sup> March 2011 (DC/11/00701/OUT).

- 1.2.2 On the advice and recommendations of the Archaeological Officer at the Greater London Archaeology Advisory Service (GLAAS), a condition requiring the implementation of a programme of archaeological work was attached to consent:

*Unless otherwise agreed in writing by the Local Planning Authority, no part of the development hereby permitted shall take place within the application site until the applicant has secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological work in accordance with a written scheme of investigation by an archaeological organisation approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority. Access shall be permitted to the site at all reasonable times for the carrying out of the investigations, including making necessary records of items of interest and finds.*

*Reason: The site is of archaeological interest and detailed investigations should be undertaken to enable consideration to be given to preservation in situ and/or recording of items of interest in compliance with Policy BE16 of the Unitary Development Plan.*

Legal Agreement (Deed of Variation) 11/00701/OUT, Condition 18, 30/03/2012)

- 1.2.3 The programme of archaeological works consisted of a targeted trial trench evaluation (Archaeological Solutions 2008) and, a follow up strip, map and sample excavation carried out prior to initial stages of construction works. This report details the excavation site of the work and consists of a programme of post excavation works including assessment and recommendations for further analysis and publication
- 1.2.4 All archaeological works were undertaken in accordance with the appropriate specification (SWAT 2013) in liaison with GLAAS and LBBC.

### **1.3 Scheduled Monument Consent**

- 1.3.1 Prior to works commencing on site an application for Scheduled Monument Consent was made to the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport and granted subject to the following conditions:

*(a) The works to which this consent relates shall be carried out to the satisfaction of the Secretary of State, who will be advised by English Heritage. At least 2 weeks' notice in writing of the commencement of work shall be given to Jane Sidell, English Heritage, 1 Waterhouse Square, 138-42 Holborn, London EC1N 2ST, jane.sidell@english-heritage.org.uk in order that an English Heritage representative can inspect and advise on the works and their effect in compliance with this consent.*

*(b) No works/ ground disturbance/ alterations to which this consent relates shall be begun until the Secretary of State, advised by English Heritage, is satisfied that adequate funding has been secured to ensure the completion of the project. Written assurance shall be provided.*

*(c) No ground works/ building works shall take place until the applicant has confirmed in writing the commissioning of a programme of archaeological work before and/or during the development in accordance with a written scheme of investigation. This shall be submitted to English Heritage. All areas which have not yet been evaluated which will be impacted upon by the scheme will be fully excavated and recorded.*

*(d) An assessment report on the fieldwork will be submitted within 6 months of completion of fieldwork. This will include proposals for analysis and publication.*

*(e) This consent may not be implemented until and unless planning permission is granted for the scheme as submitted.*

*(f) All those involved in the implementation of the works granted by this consent must be informed by the developer that the land is designated as a scheduled monument under the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979 (as amended); the extent of the scheduled monument and the implications of this designation. Written assurance shall be provided when this has been undertaken*

*(g) Equipment and machinery shall not be used or operated in the scheduled area in conditions or in a manner likely to result in damage to the monument/ ground disturbance other than that which is expressly authorised in this consent.*

*(h) The contractor shall complete and submit an entry on OASIS (On-line Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations - <http://oasis.ac.uk/england/>) prior to project completion, and shall deposit any digital project report with the Archaeology Data Service, via the OASIS form, upon completion.*

Scheduled Monument Number: LO145, Reference: S00010356, 30<sup>th</sup> June 2011

- 1.3.2 All archaeological works were carried out in liaison with Jane Sidell, Inspector of Ancient Monuments and Ben Jervis, Assistant Inspector of Ancient Monuments.

## **1.4 Site Description and Topography**

1.4.1 The site is centred on NGR 546659 16756, partially within the boundary of a Scheduled Ancient Monument (No. 145). The proposed development area is bounded to the north by Bellefield Way, to the west by Fordcroft Road and was previously used as an industrial depot (Figure 1).

1.4.2 The underlying geology is mapped as Upper Chalk. The Superficial Geology is recorded as flood plain gravel and alluvium with localised Brickearth deposits (BGS 2016).

1.4.3 The site is generally flat at level of approximately 49-50m aOD (above Ordnance Datum). Recent archaeological works on site (Archaeological Solutions 2008) exposed the upper geological surface to a level of c.47-48m aOD.

## **2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND**

### **2.1 Introduction**

2.1.1 The development site is in an Area of Archaeological Potential, details of which have been sourced by the Greater London HER team at [gher@english-heritage.org.uk](mailto:gher@english-heritage.org.uk)

### **2.2 Scheduled Ancient Monument**

2.2.1 The site lies within the boundary of a Scheduled Ancient Monument No. 145 (Figure 2 and; for Listing see Appendix 2). Saxon graves were discovered to the north-east of the site (Palmer 1984). Also, in the vicinity is a Roman bathhouse located on Bellefield Road. The archaeological potential of the site is based not only on its proximity to Romano-British, Saxon and medieval remains but also due to its location on the edge of the terrace of the river Cray.

### **2.3 Recent Investigations on the Site**

2.3.1 The first two phases of archaeological evaluation were undertaken by Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd in 2003 and 2005 (Figure 2). Eight trenches were excavated to determine the nature of the archaeological deposits within the SAM prior to the development of residential units. As anticipated, Roman and medieval period remains were represented, although Saxon material was conspicuously absent.

2.3.2 In March and April 2008 Archaeological Solutions Limited (AS) conducted an evaluation of H. Smith's Yard, Fordcroft Road, Orpington, London Borough of Bromley (NGR TQ 4668 6757). The evaluation, the third phase of investigation at the site, was undertaken in advance of a proposed residential development consisting of 25 houses and six flats. A total of seven trenches were excavated with largely modern and post-medieval remains being present. Within Trench 5, located within the

central area of the Site (Figure 2) metallised surface and underlying chalk bedding layer has been interpreted as an 'ancient road' (2008: 8.1.2).

### **3 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES**

#### **3.1 General Aims**

3.1.1 The excavation aimed to ascertain the range of past activities, and specifically whether the evidence suggests transient human activity, domestic/settled occupation, burial, industry, agriculture and/or combinations of these. Linked to this, the excavations also sought to recover stratified assemblages of artefacts and ecofacts which are capable of analysis and research to assist in determining the date and function of the site during different periods.

3.1.2 In accordance with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' guidance (CIfA 2014a), the general aims of the programme of archaeological works were to:

- *to examine the archaeological resource within the site;*
- *within a framework of defined research objectives, to seek a better understanding of and compile a lasting record of that resource;*
- *to analyse and interpret the results; and disseminate them.*

3.1.3 All excavation and post-excavation procedures were conducted in compliance with the standards outlined in the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' *Standard and Guidance Archaeological Excavation* (2014a).

#### **3.2 Project Objectives**

3.2.1 The objective of the archaeological mitigation was to identify, excavate, record and analyse any significant archaeological remains that will be disturbed by the proposed development. The physical archaeological remains will be replaced by a detailed record and a better understanding of the past activities that have taken place on the site, thereby contributing to an increased knowledge of Orpington's past and providing a resource for future research and education.

3.2.2 The objective of the Strip, Map and Sample approach is to understand the broad pattern of settlement dynamics and how key elements of the archaeological landscape (sites, activities, deposits and finds) relate to each other spatially, functionally and chronologically.

3.2.3 Strip, Map and Sample will seek to:

- ascertain the extent by excavation the depth below ground surface, depth of deposit if possible, character, date and quality of any such archaeological remains by excavation.
- determine by excavation the state of preservation and importance of the archaeological resource if present.
- 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. In particular to review the archaeological report issues by both PCA and Archaeological Solutions and produce an overarching a coherent final report on the importance of all the archaeology revealed at Fordcroft Road.

(SWAT Archaeology 2013, Paragraphs 2.3-2.7)

## **4 METHODOLOGY**

### **4.1 Introduction**

4.1.1 The archaeological excavation was undertaken in accordance with the Written Specification (SWAT Archaeology 2013), and in accordance with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIFA 2014a) *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Excavation*.

### **4.2 Fieldwork**

#### ***Archaeological Strip, map and Sample Excavation***

4.2.1 A 21 ton 360° tracked mechanical excavator, fitted with a flat bladed ditching bucket was used to remove overlying topsoil and subsoil deposits to expose the underlying natural geology. Overlying deposits were removed in spits of c.100mm thickness under constant archaeological supervision. Machined deposits were examined, and any artefacts were bagged by context.

4.2.2 A site grid was established using an EDM and tied to the National Grid. On completion of hand-cleaning, a site plan was produced at a scale of 1:100. Spray paint line marker was used to mark the edges of unexcavated features prior to mapping. Levels were taken across the site prior to excavation of archaeological features and added to the site plan.

4.2.3 The broad sampling strategy implemented across the site can be summarised as follows:

- All targeted archaeological features were hand-cleaned prior to excavation in order to more clearly define edges and relationships in plan.
- Sections were excavated at all intersections between mapped archaeological features to clarify stratigraphic relationships and inform the overall phasing of the site.

- Slots were excavated across linear ditch features at appropriate intervals (between 2m and 4m as appropriate) measuring no less than 1m in length. All terminal ends of features were investigated through appropriate sized interventions.
- All discrete features including pits and post-holes were half-sectioned at a minimum. Where necessary, features were fully excavated to facilitate retrieval of datable artefacts and/or environmental samples.
- Charred and cremated deposits or potential 'placed deposits' were 100% excavated.

4.2.4 All artefacts recovered during the excavations were bagged and marked by context. Bulk finds were bagged together by context and small-finds were individually bagged by context and their locations recorded in three-dimensions using an EDM. Finds were treated in accordance with current National Guidelines.

4.2.5 All features, deposits and finds were recorded in accordance with accepted professional standards. The following broad recording strategy was followed:

- All archaeological contexts were recorded individually on SWAT Archaeology context record sheets.
- All excavated sections were drawn on polyester drawing film at a scale of 1:10 and fully labelled with context numbers and other appropriate recording numbers and levelled with respect to m. OD.
- Features were planned at a scale of 1:20, labelled and levelled with respect to m. OD. All archaeological interventions including linear slots, intercutting relationship slots and half-sections were also marked on the overall site plan.
- Registers of contexts, small finds, environmental samples, site drawings and photographs were maintained and monitored by the site supervisor.
- A full photographic record including digital photographs was maintained; all excavated sections and features were photographed pre and post-excavation, and a selection of working and site photos were also taken.
- In general, multi-context recording was adopted across the site, however single-context recording was completed for deposits/features considered to be possible placed deposits or cremations.

#### ***Archaeological Watching Brief***

4.2.6 In addition to the excavation of each of the plots on site, an archaeological watching brief was carried out during the excavation of drainage trenches (Figure 3). The results from the monitoring are presented in Section 5.2 below.

### **4.3 Monitoring**

4.3.1 Curatorial monitoring was made available to GLAAS throughout the archaeological investigation. Any variations to the methodology set out in the Specifications were agreed between parties during monitoring meetings.

## **5 RESULTS**

### **5.1 Introduction**

5.1.1 This section of the assessment report will set out the stratigraphic results of the archaeological excavations within Area 1 and Area 2, followed by a Period Specific Review (Section 5.3). All archaeological features within the site are shown on Figure 3 and Figure 4, with associated sections on Figure 5, Figure 6 and Figure 7. The descriptive text and plans are supplemented by selected Plates provided within the Appendices.

5.1.2 An area measuring approximately 5,660sq.m was stripped to a depth of approximately 0.54m (c. 4.5m-5.5m aOD) prior to the commencement of the archaeological investigation.

### **5.2 Archaeological Features**

#### ***Introduction***

5.2.1 Archaeological features recorded within the excavation areas included six pits. The assessment of pottery sherds from within these features has enhanced the results by providing preliminary dates so these features can be chronologically phased. The following phases of activity have been identified:

- *Phase 1 (70/100-170AD)*
- *Phase 2 (Modern)*

5.2.2 A single context recording system was used to record the 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.

#### ***Area 1 (Non-Scheduled)***

5.2.3 Area 1 was located within the southern extents of the site and measured approximately 2,235 sq.m in size (Figure 2). This area is beyond the Scheduled site and contained modern quarrying activity, as described further below.

- 5.2.4 Excavation within Area 1 began with the reduction of the existing ground surface within the footprints of Plots 1-4, 9-18 and 25-28, in preparation for the construction of foundations.
- 5.2.5 Within the far south-eastern corner of the site, at the location of Plots 1-4, the footprint was reduced to a depth of approximately 0.60m. This reduction removed a mass of concrete and other modern demolition materials (1001). This made ground continued below 0.60m except for the extreme south west corner of the footprint. The north east corner of Quarry No.3 [1009] was observed in this area and this had a depth of 1.50m (Figure 3). The fill (1008) comprised of a mixed grey and yellow clay.
- 5.2.6 Centrally within Area 1, where Plots 9-18 were constructed, footprint was reduced to varying depths according to the proposed construction. The eastern half was reduced by approximately 0.60m, which also removed layer (1001). The northern edge of Quarry No.3 occurred at this depth. It was aligned east – west, had a length of 12m and a width of +4m, disappearing beneath the southern baulk of the proposed development area. The western half of the footprint was initially reduced by 0.60m, also removing layer (1001). The north east corner of Quarry No.2 [1007] was observed at the extreme west end of the footprint. This quarry was filled with a mid-dark brown silty brickearth (1006) which contained occasional brick and ‘blue & white’ pottery. Further reduction of the footprint in this area revealed that this quarry also had a depth of 1.50m.
- 5.2.7 At the far western extent of Area 1, where Plots 25-28 were constructed, initial reduction measured approximately 1m in depth. This reduction removed a black, friable topsoil (1000). This topsoil sealed the backfill (1002) of Quarry No.1 [1003]. The backfill and the inclusions was identical to (1006) observed in Quarry No.2.
- 5.2.8 The relationship between Quarry No.1 and 2 was not established.
- 5.2.9 It should be noted that the basal depth of all three quarries revealed that extensive terracing had taken place during their original excavation – probably sometime during the latter 19th century. This quarrying activity removed any trace of the archaeological features and deposits within the non-scheduled area.

### ***Area 2 (Scheduled)***

- 5.2.10 Within the central and northern areas of the site, Area 2 measured approximately 3,005sq.m in size, and was located within the extents of the Scheduled Ancient Monument (Figure 2).
- 5.2.11 Mechanical excavation within the area began with ground reduction within the northern corner of the site, in preparation for the construction of Plots 23-24, 22 and 19-21.

- 5.2.12 This area was reduced to a depth of approximately 0.45m (54.1m aOD). Removal of the overlying material (1001) revealed a brick lined feature (1011) cutting the natural brickearth. This feature was located within the south west corner of the footprint and it measured +5m x 4m. The red, frogged brick lining comprised of a single course of bricks, laid on their sides. The bricks were placed along the edge of a cut [1012] that was only 0.25m deep. The fill within this feature (1010) consisted of a compact mid-dark brown clay and brickearth mix containing brick and gravel. The function of this feature is unknown, although as a low half hexagonal-shaped wall, that encompassed a different material to that of the surrounding area the feature was thought to have represented a modern flower bed or a pond, most likely associated with the former allotments.
- 5.2.13 Removal of (1001) within the footprint for Plot 22 and the access road located within the north west corner of the scheduled area revealed three Roman features at a depth of 0.45m (54.1m aOD).
- 5.2.14 Pit [1005] was a rectangular shaped feature, 1.96m in length and 1.30m in width (Plate 3). This was filled with a compact mid brown silty brickearth (1004). It had a thickness of 0.26m and produced pottery, metalwork and box flu tile (Figure 4 and Figure 5).
- 5.2.15 Pit [1016] was a large circular shaped feature, roughly 1.65m in diameter (Figure 4 and Figure 6). This feature contained a substantial fill (1014) of very compact mid-dark brown silty brickearth with moderate charcoal flecks and burnt flint. This context had a thickness of 0.51m and it contained a large quantity of pottery and metalwork (incl. a hobnail shoe). Sealed by this main backfill was a thin layer (1015) of material. This primary fill comprised of mid brown silty sandy brickearth that contained pottery and metalwork. This pit truncated the terminus of an adjacent pit [1021], located immediately to the south.
- 5.2.16 Feature [1021] had a curved west end that sloped steeply inwards and the north and south sides of the ditch formed a wide 'u' shaped profile (Figure 4 and Figure 6). This feature had a length of +1.45m and a maximum width of 1.10m (Plate 1 & Plate 2) and was originally characterised as a possible ditch terminus. The absence of the feature within an adjacent service trench (Figure 4) however, would suggest that the feature represents a pit. The pit contained a substantial fill (1019) very similar to (1014). This material, which had a thickness of 0.58m, also produced a large quantity of pottery. A silver denarius of Domitian (SF 5) was also recovered. Sealed by this material was a primary layer (1020) of mid-light brown silty sandy brickearth. This produced pottery (Section 6).
- 5.2.17 Also observed in this area was an assemblage of pottery with a mid-light brown silty sandy brickearth (1022). This deposit was situated with a natural 'hollow' that measured 1m x 0.60m x 0.10m. Finally, the terminus of a shallow linear feature [1018] was observed in the extreme north

east corner (Figure 4, Plate 6). This had a length of +1.25 and a width of 0.45m. The fill (1017) within this feature was a mid-light brown silty brickearth only 0.07m thick.

5.2.18 Approximately 27m to the southeast, the area was reduced to a depth of 0.45m (52.8m aOD). Removal of (1001) revealed two additional archaeological features (Figure 4).

5.2.19 Pit [1024] was oval shaped and it had a length of 2.5m and a width of 1.80m (Plate 5). The northern half featured a series of 'steps' that sloped steeply inwards (Figure 4 and Figure 7). This arrangement formed in to a deep 'bowl' shaped pit in the southern half. The feature was filled with a single fill (1023) which comprised of a grey – mid brown silty sandy brickearth. This had a maximum thickness of 0.62m. This fill contained ash, charcoal and burnt flint. It also produced a large quantity of pottery. Other materials included slag and metalwork.

5.2.20 Feature [1026] was also oval shaped. It had a length of 1.45m and a width of 0.73m (Figure 4, Plate 4). The north side sloped gradually inwards, whereas the south side was almost vertical. The fill (1025), which had a thickness of 0.24m, was a compact mid brown silty brickearth that contained a large quantity of flint gravel and occasional charcoal flecks. This fill produced abraded pottery.

#### ***Archaeological Watching Brief***

5.2.21 An archaeological watching brief was carried out during the excavation of drainage trenches through the proposed access road and to each plot (Plate 7). No additional archaeological finds or features were recorded during the monitoring.

### **5.3 Period Specific Review**

5.3.1 Archaeological features were sealed below the overburden with relatively little modern truncation having occurred.

5.3.2 On the whole, the archaeological features identified during the course of the excavations have been characterised as pits associated with 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> century Romano-British activity recorded to the north of the site. Added to this later 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century have had a significant impact of the southern extents of the site, beyond the Scheduled Ancient Monument.

5.3.3 The following phases of activity have been identified:

- *Phase 1 (70/100-170AD)* – establishment/maintenance of small enclosures and associated domestic activity;
- *Phase 2 (Modern)* – buildings and quarrying activity.

#### Phase 1 (70/100-170AD)

- 5.3.4 The nature of the archaeological features revealed during this particular phase of works would suggest that while domestic features continue, they are starting to phase out. It is clear that denser concentrations of archaeological deposits are located with the northern extent of the Scheduled Monument.
- 5.3.5 With regards to the potential 'ancient road' (Archaeological Solutions 2008) there was very little, if any, evidence during either the excavation or watching brief stages of the site to confirm the presence of such a feature. The evaluation revealed a possible camber, described as a 'convex profile reaching an apex near the south-west end of the trench and sloping on either side' (2008: 7.3) along within the east facing section suggesting that if a road was represented it would be on an east-west alignment. The lack of any similar deposits elsewhere within this area of the site would suggest that the those identified during the evaluation were either heavily disturbed and/or relatively localised. The undated clay that sealed the metalled surface was itself sealed by modern material and so may date this series of deposits to much later activity, possibly associated with the quarrying activities directly to the south.

#### Phase 2 (Modern)

- 5.3.6 A rapid cartographic assessment of the site shows that at the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century and beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century Area 1 (Non-Scheduled) was used as allotments (OS Six Inch 1888-1913). No evidence of quarrying activity seems to be recorded on any mapping. That said, small buildings are starting to be erected within the southern extent of the site, south of Fordcroft Road (OS 1:1,250/1:2,500, 1944-1967) when the depot becomes active and the Hall is constructed.
- 5.3.7 There is no cartographic evidence for any buildings within the western extent of the site, adjacent to Cross Road, although a widening of the junction between Cross Road and Bellefield Road in 1946. The hexagonal brick feature is considered modern and most likely associated with the former allotments.
- 5.3.8 The presence of basements at the junction of Bellefield Road/Cross Road and at the end of Fordcroft Road, within the south-eastern corner of the site comes as a surprise. Clearly of modern date there is very little on Ordnance Survey mapping to suggest the presence of former buildings in these areas. There is the possibility that they were relatively short-lived and that they were constructed and demolished quickly at some point in the late 20<sup>th</sup> century.

## 6 FINDS

### 6.1 Introduction

6.1.1 A relatively small but interesting ceramic assemblage consisting of 1,208 sherds weighing 17.309kg was recovered during this excavation. No other finds were present on the site.

### 6.2 Ceramic Assemblage

#### *Introduction*

6.2.1 The site yielded 1208 sherds (17309 g.) of c.AD.70/100-170 dated pottery from 10 contexts, with fragments of the same vessels coming from the fills of Pit 1016, Pit 1024 and that of Pit 1021.

#### *Methodology*

6.2.2 All of the pottery assemblages were quantified by numbers of sherds and their weights per fabric. These fabrics were identified using a x8 magnification lens with built in metric graticule in order to determine the natures, forms, sizes and frequencies of added inclusions. The fabric codings are those created by the Museum of London Specialist Services for Roman pottery from the London area (Anon 2000), with additions by the author to take into account pottery fabrics thought to originate in the Otford area (Lyne 2005), and elsewhere and not found on London sites.

6.2.3 None of the assemblages are large enough for quantification by Estimated Vessel Equivalents (EVEs) based on rim sherds (Orton 1975) but, in view of sherds from the same vessels occurring in the similarly dated assemblages from Pits 1016 and 1024 and Pit 1021, these could be quantified together.

#### *The Assemblages*

6.2.4 The earliest assemblage is that from Context 1022 in a natural hollow in Area 2 and comprises 53 fresh sherds from the greater parts of two vessels of mid-to-late 1st c.date. These comprise a cordoned-bowl of Monaghan's type 4J1.1 in North Kent Fineware (1987, c.AD.43-120) and a jar of Class 3A1 in BB2 fabric (c.AD.43-70).

6.2.5 The somewhat more substantial pottery 419 sherd assemblage from the fills of Pit 1021 (Contexts 1019 and 1020) have a predominance of oxidised Patchgrove wares from the Otford area only 10 kilometres to the south-east. These, together with brown-black grog-tempered wares of probable similar origin, make up just over half of the pottery in the assemblage by sherd count. The Thameside kilns on the Medway estuary at Hoo and elsewhere, 30 kilometres to the east, supplied dishes, bowls and cooking-pots in BB2 fabric, poppyhead beakers in North Kent Fineware, a bowl in Hoo St Werbergh fineware and a variety of greyware bead-rim jars and other forms: these make

up a further 35% of the assemblage. Minority fabrics include South and Central Gaulish Samian and the trimmed down neck of an old Central Gaulish Glazed ware bottle converted to some other, uncertain, function. The forms present suggest that the assemblage accumulated between c.AD.100/120 and 150/170+.

- 6.2.6 The pottery assemblages from Pits 1016 and 1024 are of broadly similar date, include fragments from vessels also encountered in the pottery from Pit 1021 and may be derived from a common midden.

## **7 ENVIRONMENTAL SAMPLES**

### **7.1 Introduction**

- 7.1.1 No environmental samples were taken during the course of the fieldwork.

## **8 STATEMENT OF POTENTIAL AND RECOMENDATIONS**

### **8.1 Statement of potential**

#### ***Stratigraphic***

- 8.1.1 The excavation has revealed two phases of activity on the site, dated by finds (pottery) to the Romano-British and modern periods.

#### Romano-British

- 8.1.2 The evidence of Romano-British activity comprised a continuation of archaeological features in the form of pits dating between the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> centuries. Further examination of the stratigraphic relationships between some of the features and the associated finds assemblages, may clarify more precisely the development of Romano-British development of the site.

- 8.1.3 Evidence for the Romano-British is of regional interest, particularly with the position of the current site in relation to the adjacent Scheduled Monument.

#### Modern

- 8.1.4 No further potential is associated with this period.

#### Overview

- 8.1.5 Research will be undertaken to better understand the Romano-British activity on site, with particular emphasis on possible associations with the adjacent sites. Results from additional research will be placed within the local and regional context.

- 8.1.6 Unphased features will be reviewed in an attempt to assign them to a broad period.

### ***Ceramic Assemblage***

- 8.1.7 It is recommended that the assemblages from Pit 1021 and Pits 1016 and 1024 combined for quantification by EVEs in order to determine the pattern of pottery supply to the site by form and source during the 2nd century. In agreement with the Archaeological Officer, the ceramic archive will be further quantified and placed into context with pottery previously recovered from the site and the immediate area, for publication.

### ***Overview***

- 8.1.8 Archaeological excavations undertaken on land at Fordcroft Road have recorded continued evidence for domestic settlement and the management of the landscape dating to the Romano-British periods. Specialist assessment undertaken on the finds assemblages has identified further work required to bring the project to completion.

## **8.2 Updated Project Design**

- 8.2.1 In light of the potential of the results of the fieldwork to answer not only the original research aims but other questions raised during the excavation, this section provides revised research aims, and details of the further analyses recommended to achieve them.
- 8.2.2 The results have provided valuable insight and addition to the archaeological resource around the Orpington area. It is, however, recognised within this assessment that little more could be added by way of extensive analysis. With that in mind proposals for additional works have been provided below.
- 8.2.3 Further examination of the stratigraphic relationships between some of the features and the associated finds assemblages and publication of the findings has been recommended. Therefore, the updated Project Design comprises a recommendation that an article for publication be provided which present the results of all phases of archaeological work. It is suggested that this report be considered as the final stage of reporting as a Final Report would only reproduce what is already covered at unnecessary costs.
- 8.2.4 It is also recommended that should further archaeological investigations be carried out in the surrounding area then updated research questions take into consideration the results from the current Site, which will be available in the form of a grey literature report, a project archive and a publication, as set out below.

## **8.3 Proposed Publication**

- 8.3.1 On approval of this Report a copy will be published in PDF A format for publication with OASIS.

8.3.2 The results of the fieldwork are considered to be of local and regional significance. It is therefore proposed that a short article is prepared that cover the results of this stage of fieldwork and places it within its local context, which includes details of previous fieldwork within the area. This publication will be prepared for submission to *The London Archaeologist* comprising c. 2500 words, up to 5 illustrations and 2 tables.

#### 8.4 Timetable and Task List

8.4.1 The following timetable has been prepared outlined the required time to bring the publication to completion. This following includes the estimated time required for specialist assessment, and work by SWAT Archaeology to collate the resulting data and prepare the final documents.

Task No.	Description	Days	Staff
<b>Management</b>			
1	Project management	4	SWAT Archaeology
2	Finds management	2	SWAT Archaeology
<b>Ceramic analysis</b>			
3	Comparative analysis and specialist	TBC	Specialist
4	Illustratable Elements	TBC	Specialist
<b>Publication</b>			
5	Preparation of text	3	SWAT Archaeology
6	Phasing and stratigraphy	1	SWAT Archaeology
7	Background research	2	SWAT Archaeology
8	Preparation of illustrations	3	Digitise This
9	Submission/liaison with journal editor	0.5	SWAT Archaeology
10	Journal charges	0.5	SWAT Archaeology
<b>Archive</b>			
11	Archive preparation	0.5	SWAT Archaeology
12	Archive deposition	0.5	SWAT Archaeology

*Table 1 Publication Task List*

8.4.2 It is proposed that following final approval of this post-excavation assessment, a publication draft will be submitted to GLAAS within 18 months. Following approval of the final publication draft, a final site archive will be ordered in accordance with Guidelines for the preparation of excavation archives for long-term storage (UKIC 1990). SWAT Archaeology will retain the site archive until suitable provision is made by for deposition in a suitable archive facility.

## 9 ARCHIVE

### 9.1 General

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

9.1.2 All archive elements will be marked with the site/accession code, **FRC13**, and a full index will be prepared. The physical archive comprises 1 file/document case of paper records & A4 graphics.

## **10 ACKNOWLEDGMENTS**

10.1.1 SWAT Archaeology would like to thank Skillcrown Homes for commissioning the project. Thanks are also extended to Mark Stevenson (Archaeological Officer, Greater London Advisory Service) and Jane Sidell (Inspector of Ancient Monuments, Historic England) for their advice and assistance.

10.1.2 Simon Holmes supervised the archaeological fieldwork; illustrations were produced by Digitise This. The report was prepared by David Britchfield (MCIfA). The pottery analysis was undertaken by Malcolm Lyme. The project was managed by Dr. Paul Wilkinson (MCIfA).

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<b>Context</b>	<b>Fabric</b>	<b>Form</b>	<b>Date-range</b>	<b>No of sherds</b>	<b>Wt in gm</b>	<b>Comments</b>
	SAMMV VRW	Dr 27 Flagon	c.120-200 c.90-130 c.50-120	1 1	1 3	
			c.130-150	25	210g	Primary fil of Pit 1016
1019	BAET BB2  CGGW GROG GROGSH HOO HWC NKFW NKFW2  PATCH SAMLG SAMLZ  TSK  TSK2 MISC	DR20 3J1 jar 5F1 dish 3J9.4 jar 5D1.5 Bowlx3 Bottle Jars Storage jar Bowl Jar 2A3 beakerx2 2A3 beaker 2A4 beaker Storage jarsx4 Dr 33 Dr 18/31 Dr 31 Dr 33 Pollard 90 jar Pollard 91 jarsx2 Jar	c.120-170 c.130-250 c.170-230 c.120-180 c.43-100  c.0-120 c.70-160 c.100-130 c.100-130 c.130-160  c.70-110 c.120-150 c.150-200 c.120-200 c.70-150 c.70-150	4  68 1 59 16 2 4 18  9 155 2  16 58 1 4	256  555 28 866 660 14 21 62  58 2952 18  320 411 86 19	Trimmed down neck      As in 1014        ----IM
			c.100-150+	417	6326g	Fill of terminus of Pit1021
1020	SAMLZ	Dr 27 Dr 33	c.120-150 c.120-200	2	2g	Primary fill of Pit 1021
1022	BB2 NKFW	3A1 jar 4J1.1 bowl	c.43-70 c.43-120	21 32	94 52	All one pot All one pot
			c.43-70	53	146g	Fill of natural hollow
1023	BAET BB2  GROG GROGSH HOO NKFW  OXID PATCH  RUST SAMLG SAMLZ TSK  VRW MISC Tile	DR20 3J2 jar 3J9 jar 4A1 bowl 5D4.1 bowl 5D5 bowl 3F4 jar 3G1.9 jar 3L8 jar Pollard 163 dsh Biconical Poppyhead beaker Ring neck flagon Storage jars 3F6 jar Rusticated jar Dr 18 Dr 27 Curle 11 Ev rim jar 3F1 Jar Lid	c.120-200 c.170-250+ c.70-120 c.120-180 c.120-170 c.70-150 c.50-110 c.70-150 c.90-150 c.43-130 c.130-200 c.70-130 c.50-150 c.70-120 c.43-90 c.43-110 c.120-140 c.170-250 c.50-170	9  21 16 5 3 9 3 37 2 5 2  24 1 16 3	57  255 223 89 27 69 91 740 13 16 17 272 14 182 159	Fresh Fresh Fresh Fresh Fresh Fresh Fresh Fresh Abraded Sl abraded as in 1014 Abraded Fresh Fresh Fresh Fresh Fresh Sl abraded as in 1014 Chips Chips Abraded Fresh  Sl abraded

<i>Context</i>	<i>Fabric</i>	<i>Form</i>	<i>Date-range</i>	<i>No of sherds</i>	<i>Wt in gm</i>	<i>Comments</i>
			c.120-200	144	2224g	Fill of Pit 1024
1025	BAET	DR20		3	490	
	BB2	Ev rim jar	c.170-250			Fresh
		5D bowl	c.120-180	7	97	Fresh
	GROGSH	Bead-rim jar	c.0-150	1	26	Fresh
	NFSE	Mortarium	c.100-150	2	84	Fresh
	NKFW	2A4 beaker	c.130-160	2	15	Abraded
	OXID	Jar		2	48	Fresh
	PATCH	3F4 jar	c.50-150			Fresh
		Pollard 27 jarx3	c.50-150	22	1431	Fresh
	SAMLG	Dr 33	c.43-110	1	11	
	RUST	Rusticated jar	c.70-100	2	38	
	TSK	3F3 jars x2	c.43-150/70	7	209	Fresh
	TSK2	Jar		1	19	Abraded
	MISC			4	79	
			c.70-170+	56	2547g	Fill of feature 1026

### Fabrics

These are those created by the Museum of London Specialist Services, with additions by the author for the pottery from a previous excavation at Bellefield Road by Pre-Construct Archaeology (Lyne 2005).

AHSU. Alice Holt/Surrey greyware

BAET. Baetican amphora fabric

BB2-1462. North Kent Cliffe Black-Burnished 2 fabric

CGGW. Central Gaulish Glazed ware

ERSB. Early Roman Sand-tempered fabric B

GROG. Grog-tempered ware

GROGSH. North Kent Grog and Shell-tempered ware

HOO. Hoo St Werbergh fabric

HOO2. Silty coarser version. Possibly an Otford product

HWC. Highgate Wood C fabric

NFSE. Cream mortaria fabric with profuse up-to 0.50 mm. multi-coloured quartz-sand filler

NKFW. North Kent Fineware

NKFW2. Silty coarser version. Possibly an Otford product

NKSH. North Kent Shell tempered ware

OXID. Miscellaneous oxidised wares

PATCH. Patchgrove ware

RUST. Rusticated ware

SAMLG. South Gaulish La Graufesenque Samian

SAMLZ. Central Gaulish Lezoux Samian

SAMMV. Les Martres-de-Veyre Samian

SHELSA. North Kent Shell and Sand tempered ware

TSK. Kentish Thameside ware

TSK2. Hard rough grey fabric with profuse up-to 0.50 mm. quartz sand and occasional up-to 2.00 mm. black ferrous inclusions. Possibly an Otford product.

VRW. Verulamium Region Whiteware

## 13 APPENDIX 2 – SCHEDULED ANIENT MONUMENT LISTING

### **Romano-British masonry building and Saxon cemetery, Fordcroft, Orpington**

(extract taken from: <https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/list-entry/1001973>)

#### **Overview**

Heritage Category: Scheduled Monument

List Entry Number: 1001973

Date first listed: 05-Oct-1979

County: Greater London Authority

District: Bromley (London Borough)

National Grid Reference: TQ 46710 67596

#### **Summary**

Roman bathhouse and Anglo-Saxon cemetery, 144m south-east of Acer Cottage

#### **Reasons for Designation**

The Roman bathhouse between Poverest and Fordcroft Road is likely to have been part of a larger complex of buildings such as a minor Romano-British villa. The bathhouse was one of the principal public buildings of a Roman town. Private bath complexes or suites were also attached to Roman villas and, although rare, sometimes Roman town houses and commercial properties. The practice of bathing was an integral part of Roman urban life, and the bathhouse or suite served an important function as a place for relaxation and social congregation as well as exercise and hygiene. Bathhouses or complexes consisted of a series of rooms of graded temperature containing a variety of plunge-baths. The frigidarium (cold room) led, progressively, to one or more tepidaria (warm rooms) and caldaria (hot rooms). They could also include changing rooms, latrines, sauna and massage rooms, and a palaestra or exercise area. The bath complex was heated by hypocausts connected to nearby furnaces; it was also linked to, and depended upon, an engineered water supply which involved the construction of drains, sewers and frequently an aqueduct.

Despite some disturbance in the past, the Roman bathhouse, 144m south-east of Acer Cottage has been shown by partial excavation to survive well. It will contain further archaeological and environmental remains relating to the use, occupation and history of the bathhouse and to the landscape in which it was constructed.

The later occupation on the site included an Anglo-Saxon cemetery. Beginning in the fifth century AD, there is evidence from distinctive burials and cemeteries, new settlements, and new forms of pottery and

metalwork, of the immigration into Britain of settlers from northern Europe, bringing with them new religious beliefs. The Roman towns appear to have gone into rapid decline and the old rural settlement pattern to have been disrupted. Although some Roman settlements and cemeteries continued in use, the native Britons rapidly adopted many of the cultural practices of the new settlers and it soon becomes difficult to distinguish them in the archaeological record. So-called Anglo-Saxon cemeteries are dated to the early Anglo-Saxon period, from the fifth to the seventh centuries AD. With the conversion to Christianity during the late sixth and seventh centuries AD, these pagan cemeteries appear to have been abandoned in favour of new sites, some of which have continued in use up to the present day. Burial practices included both inhumation and cremation. Anglo-Saxon inhumation cemeteries consist predominantly of inhumation burials which were placed in rectangular pits in the ground, occasionally within coffins. The bodies were normally accompanied by a range of grave goods, including jewellery and weaponry. The cemeteries vary in size, the largest containing several hundred burials. Around 1000 inhumation cemeteries have been recorded in England. They represent one of our principal sources of archaeological evidence about the Early Anglo-Saxon period, providing information on population, social structure and ideology. All surviving examples, other than those which have been heavily disturbed, are considered worthy of protection.

Despite some disturbance in the past, the Anglo-Saxon cemetery, 144m south-east of Acer Cottage has been shown by partial excavation to survive well. It will contain further archaeological and environmental remains relating to the use, occupation and history of the cemetery and to the landscape in which it was constructed.

### **Details**

This record was the subject of a minor enhancement on 30 July 2014. The record has been generated from an "old county number" (OCN) scheduling record. These are monuments that were not reviewed under the Monuments Protection Programme and are some of our oldest designation records.

The monument includes a Roman bathhouse and Anglo-Saxon cemetery surviving as upstanding and below-ground remains. It is situated between Poverest Road and Fordcroft Road on an east-facing slope at the foot of a valley through which runs the River Cray.

Part of the remains of the Roman bathhouse have been exposed, consolidated and put on display following the excavations. They are protected by a modern cover building. The foundations and walls survive up to 0.6m high and include three rooms, two of which include baths, in a row orientated roughly north-west to south-east. These are each no larger than 5m long and 3.5m wide and the eastern-most room is apsed at the south end. They include what is considered to be a hypocaust and, to the east, the buried remains of a north-south orientated ditch, which truncates a natural watercourse. Further rooms and out-buildings

survive as below-ground remains including a paved courtyard to the north-west. South of Bellefield Road are Roman pits and postholes, thought to be the remains of storage buildings, and a timber well.

Immediately to the north and east of the bathhouse are the buried remains of an Anglo-Saxon cemetery, including approximately 85 inhumations and cremations. The inhumations are largely orientated east-west and the grave goods found in conjunction with the burials indicate that they date to between about AD 450 and AD 550.

In 1946, the discovery of Roman pottery during road works prompted archaeological excavation on the site. Partial excavation was carried out in 1965-8, 1971-80, 1988 and 2005-7. The earliest finds included worked flint dating from the Mesolithic period and pre-Roman pottery. The finds associated with the bathhouse include roof tiles, hypocaust tiles, tesserae, Roman pottery, loom-weights and metal-working slag. These indicate that the bathhouse was in use between about AD 270 and AD 400. It may have been part of a larger complex such as a minor Romano-British villa. The presence of concentrated areas of burning and metal-working waste, as well as a possible kiln, indicates that at least part of the site was in use for small-scale industrial activities during the Roman period. It is likely that the Roman buildings are associated with a larger settlement centred on the River Cray. Roman coins and Romano-British burials have been found elsewhere in the area. The Anglo-Saxon grave goods included a shield boss, spear-head, two disc brooches, a bronze buckle and a decorated glass armlet.

Further archaeological remains survive in the vicinity of this site but are not included because they have not been formally assessed

## **Legacy**

The contents of this record have been generated from a legacy data system.

Legacy System number: LO 145

Legacy System: RSM - OCN

## **Sources**

### *Websites*

Archaeological Investigations at Bellefield Road, Orpington, accessed from <http://www.pre-construct.com/Sites/Highlights/Bellefield.htm>

### *Other*

Greater London SMR 070833/00/00, 070773/00/00, 070838/00/00, MLO7654. NMR TQ46NE2. PastScape 407594.,

**Legal**

This monument is scheduled under the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979 as amended as it appears to the Secretary of State to be of national importance. This entry is a copy, the original is held by the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport.

End of official listing



*Plate 1 [1016] to the rear and [1021] in the foreground*



*Plate 2 Detail of platter within [1021]*



*Plate 3 Pit [1005], facing northwest*



*Plate 4 Pit [1026], viewed from the northwest*



*Plate 5 Southwest facing section (S9.2) of Pit [1024]*



*Plate 6 Terminus [1018], facing northeast*



*Plate 7 Archaeological monitoring carried out during the excavation of service trenches*

**OASIS ID: swatarch2-342655****Project details**

Project name	Archaeological Excavation on Land at Fordcroft Road, Orpington BR5 2FA
Short description of the project	Archaeological excavation and watching brief adjacent to a Scheduled Ancient Monument
Project dates	Start: 01-01-2013 End: 08-08-2014
Previous/future work	Yes / No
Any associated project reference codes	FORP-EX-13 - Sitecode
Any associated project reference codes	DC/11/00701/OUT - Planning Application No.
Site status	Area of Archaeological Importance (AAI)
Current Land use	Industry and Commerce 1 - Industrial
Monument type	PITS Roman
Significant Finds	POTTERY Roman

**Project location**

Country	England
Site location	GREATER LONDON BROMLEY ORPINGTON Land at Fordcroft Road
Postcode	BR5 2FA
Study area	5200 Square metres
Site coordinates	TQ 546659 167567 50.928921750794 0.201135660116 50 55 44 N 000 12 04 E Point
Lat/Long Datum	Unknown
Height OD / Depth	Min: 54m Max: 55m

**Project creators**

Name of Organisation	SWAT Archaeology
Project brief originator	Local Authority Archaeologist and/or Planning Authority/advisory body
Project design originator	SWAT Archaeology
Project director/manager	Dr Paul Wilkinson
Project supervisor	Simon Holmes
Type of sponsor/funding body	Developer
Name of sponsor/funding body	Skillcrown Homes
Entered by	Paul Wilkinson (info@swatarchaeology.co.uk)
Entered on	14 February 2019

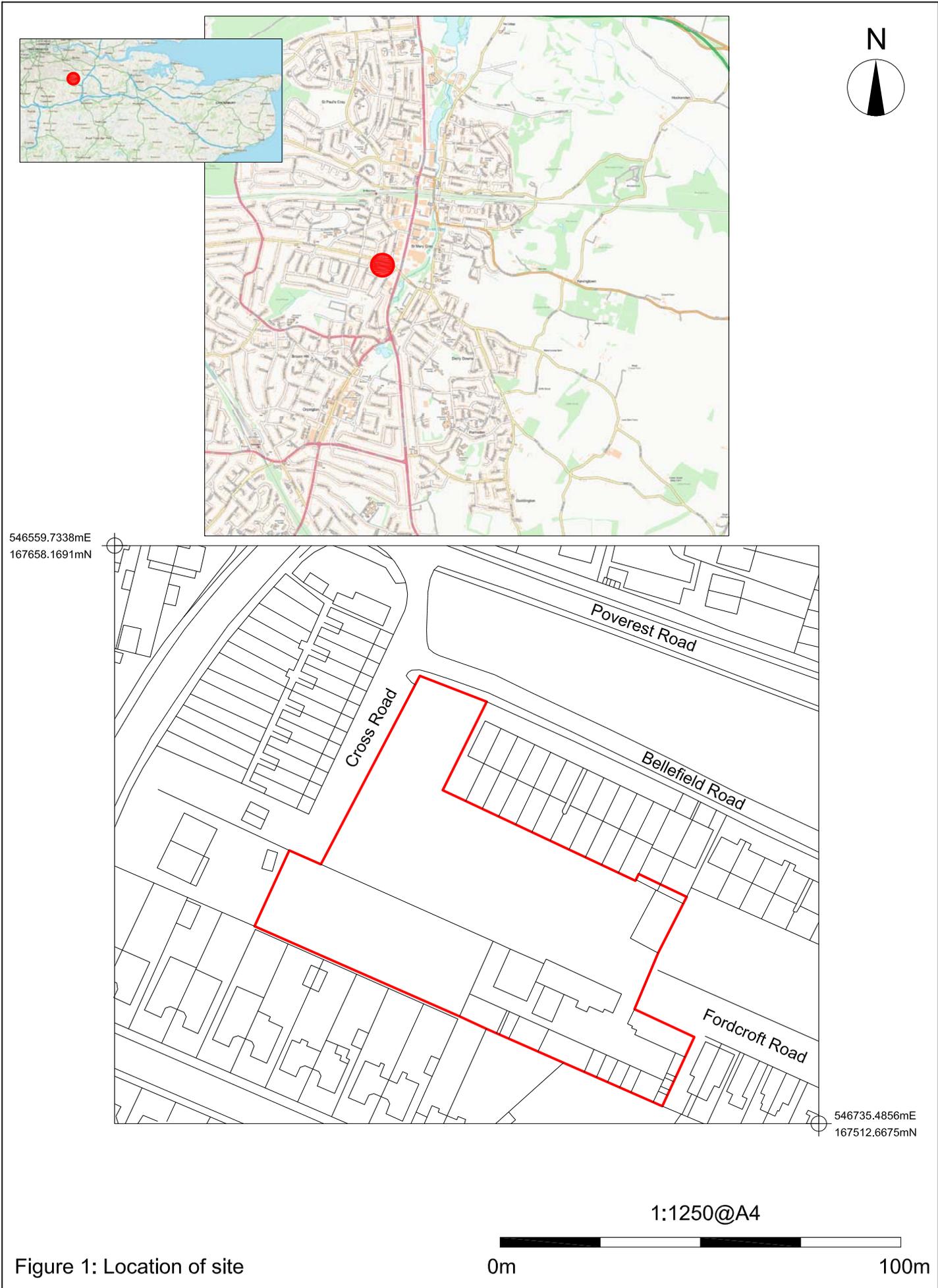
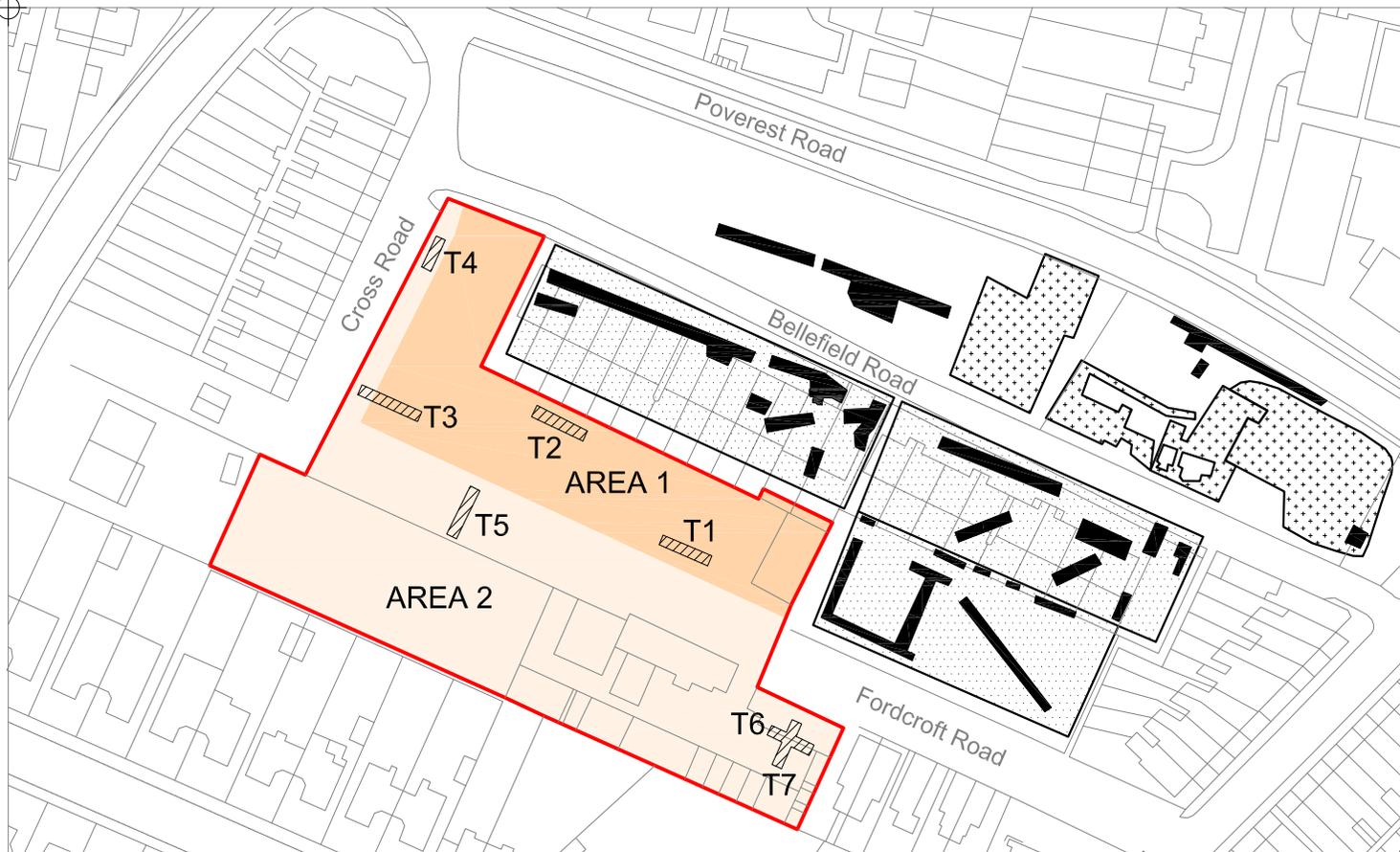


Figure 1: Location of site

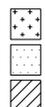


546559.7338mE  
167658.1691mN



546802.6877mE  
167512.6675mN

Museum of London 1999  
PCA 2003 and 2005  
AS 2008 trenches  
SWAT Archaeology 2013



1:1250@A4

Figure 2: Previous Archaeological Works



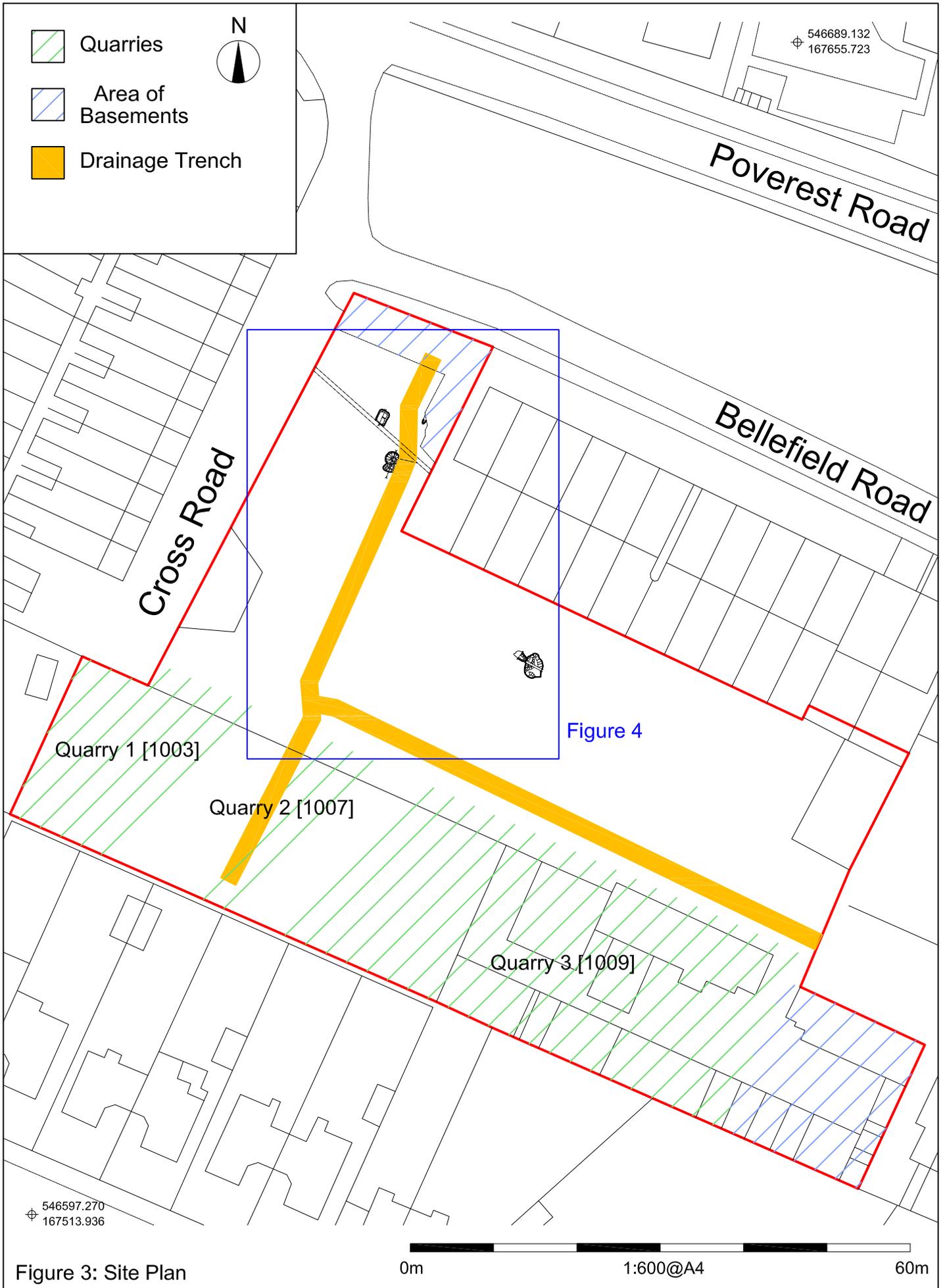


Figure 3: Site Plan

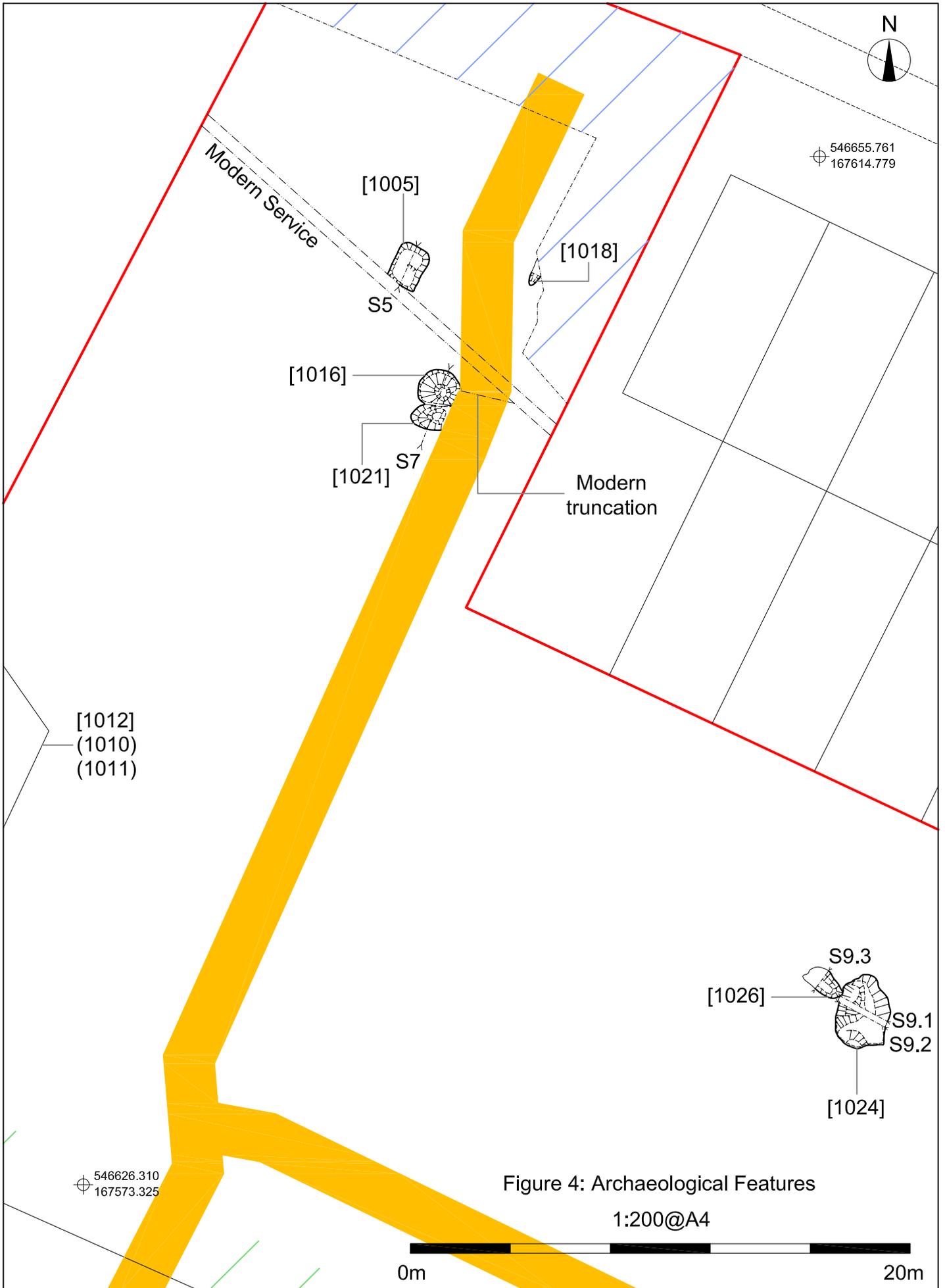
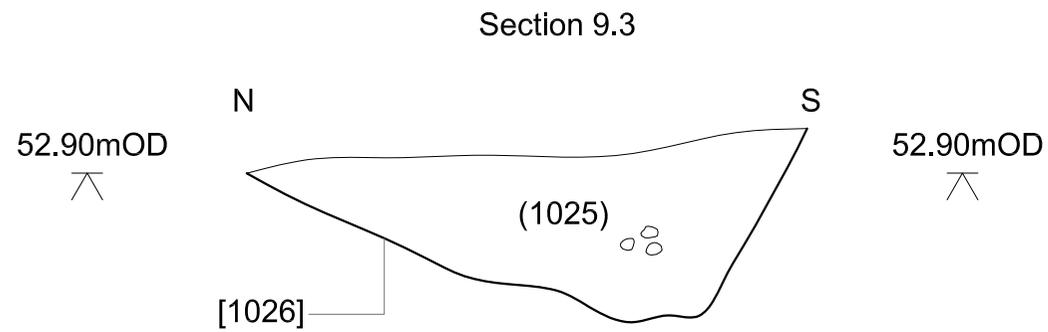
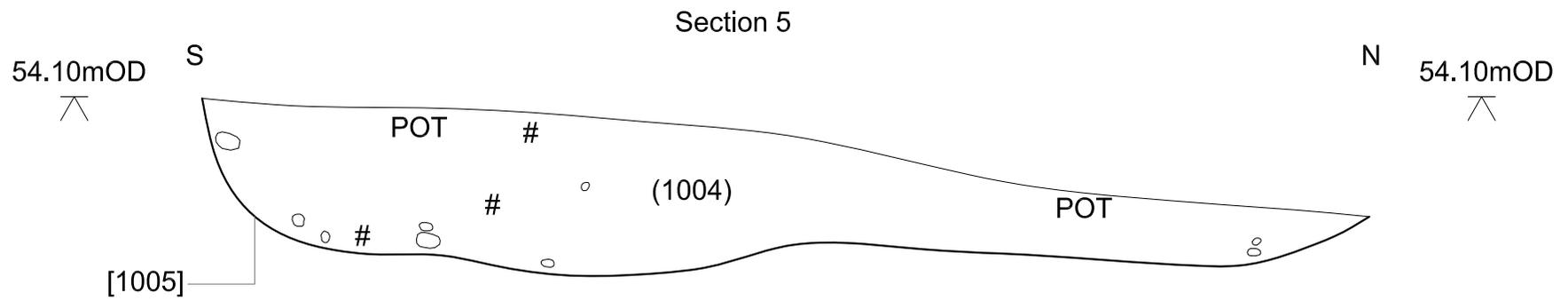


Figure 4: Archaeological Features

1:200@A4



1:10@A4



Figure 5: Sections 5 and 9.3

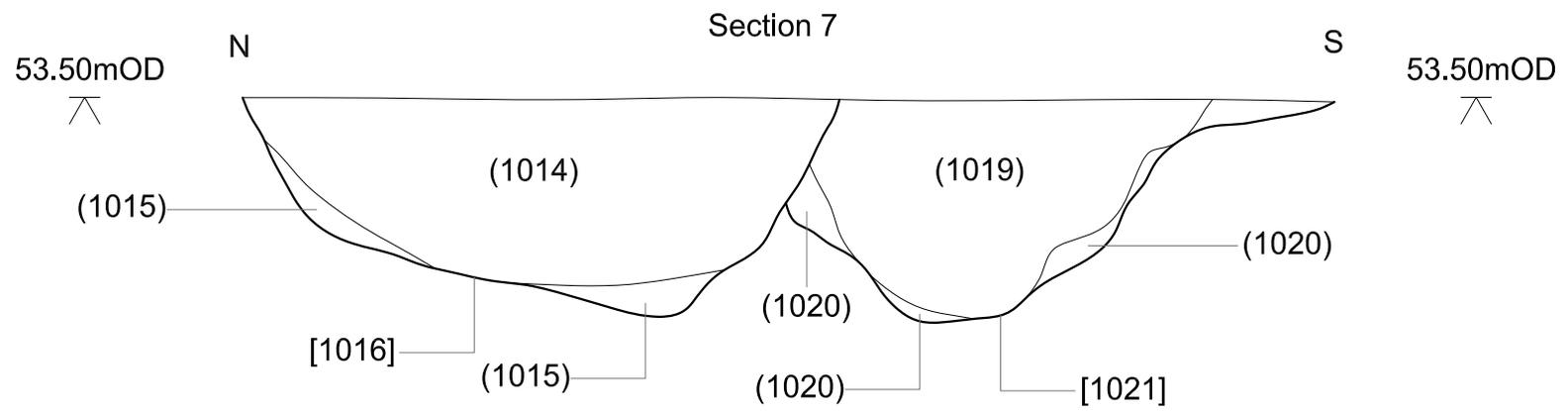


Figure 6: Section 7



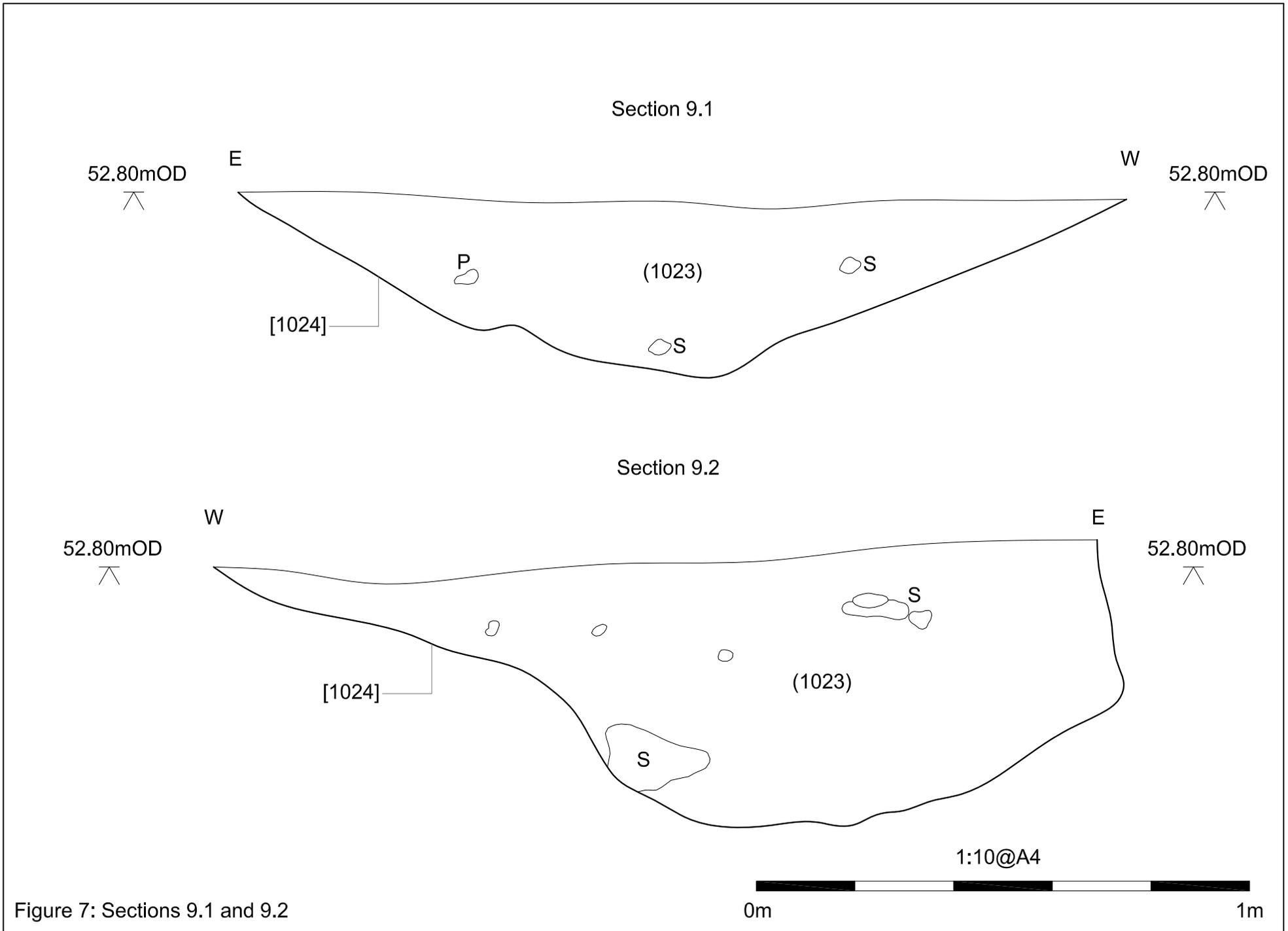


Figure 7: Sections 9.1 and 9.2