

Archaeological Evaluation on Land at Dene Farm, Manns Hill, Bossingham, Kent

Site Code: BOS-EV-17

NGR: NGR Site Centre: 615261 148833

Planning Application Number: CA/15/01411/FULL



17/01/2018

SWAT ARCHAEOLOGY

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Summary

Swale & Thames Survey Company (SWAT Archaeology) were commissioned by Edgeington Architectural Services to undertake an archaeological evaluation on land at Dene Farm, Manns Hill, Bossingham in Kent. The archaeological works were monitored by the Canterbury City Council Archaeological Officer.

The fieldwork was carried out on 22nd November 2017 in accordance with an archaeological specification (SWAT Archaeology 2017) submitted to the Local Planning Authority prior to commencement of works.

The Archaeological Evaluation consisted of four trenches, which encountered a relatively common stratigraphic sequence comprising topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology. Despite the potential for archaeological remains and relatively good preservation conditions, no archaeological features were found.

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1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project Background

1.1.1 Swale & Thames Survey Company (SWAT Archaeology) were commissioned by Edgeington Architectural Services to undertake an archaeological evaluation on land at Dene Farm (**Figure 1**). A planning application (CA/15/01411/FUL) was approved by Canterbury City Council (CCC) for the development of three 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 Canterbury City Council 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 other than demolition, shall take place until the applicant, or their agents or successors in title, has secured the implementation of: i. archaeological field evaluation works in accordance with a specification and written timetable which has first been submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority; and ii. following on from the evaluation, any safeguarding measures to ensure preservation in situ of important archaeological remains and/or further archaeological investigation, post-excavation assessment, analysis, publication or conservation in accordance with a 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 in accordance with policy BE16 of the Canterbury District Local Plan 2006, policy HE11 of the Canterbury District Local Plan Publication Draft 2014 and the National Planning Policy Framework.

(CA/15/01411/FULL, Condition 3, 26/05/2016)

1.1.3 The fieldwork was carried out in November 2017 in accordance with an archaeological specification prepared by SWAT Archaeology (2017), prior to commencement of works, and in

discussion with Rosanne Cummings Archaeological Officer, at CCC. 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 615261 148833, to the east of the village of Bossingham itself situated between the Upper Hardres and Atchester Wood..

1.2.2 According to the British Geological Society (BGS), the site lies on Bedrock Geology of Lewes Nodular Chalk Formation whilst the Superficial Deposits are Head Clay and Silt. Ground levels are approximately 137m above Ordnance Datum (aOD) at the northern of the site and c.133maOD at the south area of the site (SWAT Archaeology 2017: 2).

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 SWAT Archaeology (2017).

2.1.2 In consultation with CCC, the Archaeological Officer stated that;

'I would recommend the evaluation is undertaken following demolition of the existing structures, and as you suggest the trenches target the new-build footprint. 1x15m trench within Unit 1, and 2x15m trenches plus 1x20m trench within the Unit 2/3 footprint should be sufficient, and will constitute approximately 4.5% sample of the application site'.

(Reference: Comments for Planning Application CA/15/01411/FULL, dated 28/09/16)

2.2 Overview (SWAT Archaeology 2017)

'The Kent County Council Historic Environment Record (KCCHER) has provided details of any previous investigations and discoveries. Historic OS mapping indicate that the development site was a farm in the 19th century and this is reflected in the KCCHER record where a 'dispersed plan farmstead is noted at Cottage Farm (MKE 87684). Adjacent is a Grade II listed building the Cottage Farmhouse (TR 14 NE 110) and additional listed buildings within a 500m radius. There are no archaeological discoveries recorded in the vicinity of Dene Farm'.

3 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

3.1 Specific Aims (SWAT 2017)

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

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

Also to find out the depths of features below the surface, how much overburden and the extent of the depth of deposits themselves. In addition the dates and quality of any archaeological remains which will be achieved through a limited sample excavation of features. Human remains will not be excavated (see also CCC Evaluation Specification Part B: 4. Objectives)

’.

(SWAT Archaeology 2017: 6)

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 (SWAT 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 four 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 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 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 four 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 mixed with demolition material sealing an intact subsoil which overlay the natural clay geology.

5.2.2 The topsoil generally consisted of mid grey brown silty clay mixed with demolition material, overlying the subsoil which consisted of light to mid orange brown silt clay. Natural geology comprised relatively soft light orange brown silty clay.

5.2.3 Appendix 1 provides the stratigraphic sequence for all trenches. Figures 1-3 provide a site plan and trench location plan while Plates 1-4 include selected site photographs.

5.3 Overview

5.3.1 No archaeological features or finds were recorded within any of the four trenches.

6 FINDS

6.1 Introduction

6.1.1 No finds were retrieved.

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 four 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.

7.2 Conclusions

7.2.1 The archaeological evaluation has been successful in fulfilling the primary aims and objectives of the Specification. Development proposals are unlikely to impact on archaeological remains. Further archaeological mitigation, should it be necessary, will need to be determined in consultation with Canterbury City Council.

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 CCC Archaeological Officer 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 Edgeington Architectural Services for commissioning the project. Thanks are also extended to Rosanne Cummings Canterbury City Council for her advice and assistance.
- 9.1.2 Paul Wilkinson 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

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

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SWAT Archaeology 2017, Archaeological Evaluation of Land at Dene Farm, Manns Hill, Bossingham, Kent

11 APPENDIX 1 – TRENCH TABLES

Trench 1	Dimensions: 15m x 2m Ground Level: 136.53m aOD		
Context	Description	Interpretation	Depth (m)
101	Mid grey brown silty clay mixed with demolition material	Topsoil	0.00-0.18
102	Light to mid orange brown silt clay with rare rounded stones	Subsoil	0.18-0.27
103	Light orange brown silty clay	Natural	0.27+

Trench 2	Dimensions: 15m x 2m Ground Level: 136.79m aOD		
Context	Description	Interpretation	Depth (m)
201	Mid grey brown silty clay mixed with demolition material	Topsoil	0.00-0.18
202	Light to mid orange brown silt clay with rare rounded stones	Subsoil	0.18-0.26
203	Light orange brown silty clay	Natural	0.26+

Trench 3	Dimensions: 20m x 2m Ground Level: 136.77m aOD		
Context	Description	Interpretation	Depth (m)
301	Mid grey brown silty clay mixed with demolition material	Topsoil	0.00-0.22
302	Light to mid orange brown silt clay with rare rounded stones	Subsoil	0.22-0.50
303	Light orange brown silty clay	Natural	0.50+

Trench 4	Dimensions: 15m x 2m Ground Level: 136.92m aOD		
Context	Description	Interpretation	Depth (m)
401	Mid grey brown silty clay mixed with demolition material	Topsoil	0.00-0.19
402	Light to mid orange brown silt clay with rare rounded stones	Subsoil	0.19-0.48
403	Light orange brown silty clay	Natural	0.48+

12 APPENDIX 2 –HER FORM

Site Name: Archaeological Evaluation on Land at Dene Farm, Manns Hill, Bossingham, Kent

SWAT Site Code: BOS-EV-17

Site Address: As above

Summary:

Swale & Thames Survey Company (SWAT Archaeology) were commissioned by Edgeington Architectural Services to undertake an archaeological evaluation on land at Dene Farm, Manns Hill, Bossingham, Kent. The archaeological works were monitored by the CCC Archaeological Officer.

The fieldwork was carried out in November 2017 in accordance with an archaeological specification (SWAT Archaeology 2017) submitted to the Local Planning Authority prior to commencement of works.

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

District/Unitary: Canterbury City Council

Period(s):

NGR (centre of site to eight figures) NGR 615261 148833

Type of Archaeological work: Archaeological Evaluation

Date of recording: November 2017

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

Geology: Clay and Silt

Title and author of accompanying report: SWAT Archaeology (2018) Archaeological Evaluation on Land at Dene Farm, Manns Hill, Bossingham, Kent

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: 17/01/2018

SITE SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS: Dene Farm, Manns Hill, Bossingham, Kent

Specification for an Archaeological Evaluation

1. Summary:

Edgeington Architectural Services are about to start development of three residential units at Dene Farm, Manns Hill, Bossingham, Kent CT6 4ED. A planning application for the proposed development has been approved (Application No.CA/15/01411/FUL).

SWAT Archaeology have been contracted to carry out an archaeological evaluation on the planned development site in accordance with the archaeological condition attached to the planning permission.

These archaeological works will be inspected and signed off by the Canterbury City Council Archaeological Officer.

2. Site Location & Description:

The proposed development site at Dene Farm is located to the east of the Roman road which connected the Roman city of Canterbury to the Roman fort at Lympe. The site is to the east of the village of Bossingham itself situated between the Upper Hardres and Atchester Wood. The OD height of the proposed site is about 137m AOD dropping down slope to 133m AOD to the adjacent farmland (Plate 1 & Fig.1).

3. Planning Background & Nature of Development:

Edgeington Architectural Services have designed buildings that reflect the architectural detailing of the adjacent farm buildings. Planning permission has been obtained with the following Condition (3):

No development, other than demolition, shall take place until the applicant, or their agents or successors in title, has secured the implementation of: i. archaeological field evaluation works in

accordance with a specification and written timetable which has first been submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority; and ii. following on from the evaluation, any safeguarding measures to ensure preservation in situ of important archaeological remains and/or further archaeological investigation, post-excavation assessment, analysis, publication or conservation in accordance with a 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 in accordance with policy BE16 of the Canterbury District Local Plan 2006, policy HE11 of the Canterbury District Local Plan Publication Draft 2014 and the National Planning Policy Framework.

4. Geological & Topographical Background:

The geology on site is Bedrock of Lewes Nodular Chalk Formation- Chalk whilst the Superficial Deposits are Head- Clay and Silt formed up to 2 million years ago in the Quaternary Period (www.bgs.ac.uk/lexicon.cfm).

5. Archaeological & Historical Background Potential

The Kent County Council Historic Environment Record (KCCHER) has provided details of any previous investigations and discoveries. Historic OS mapping indicate that the development site was a farm in the 19th century and this is reflected in the KCCHER record where a 'dispersed plan farmstead is noted at Cottage Farm (MKE 87684). Adjacent is a Grade II listed building the Cottage Farmhouse (TR 14 NE 110) and additional listed buildings within a 500m radius. There are no archaeological discoveries recorded in the vicinity of Dene Farm.

6. Specific Aims of the Archaeological Work:

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

Also to find out the depths of features below the surface, how much overburden and the extent of the depth of deposits themselves. In addition the dates and quality of any archaeological remains which will be achieved through a limited sample excavation of features. Human remains will not be excavated (see also CCC Evaluation Specification Part B: 4. Objectives).

7. Methodology:

The archaeological evaluation will be undertaken by the machine excavation with a flat-bladed ditching bucket of four evaluation trenches, one of 20m by 1.8m, the other three of 15m by 1.8m. In addition two foundation design test pits. These trenches will be located across the footprint of the proposed development (Fig. 1).

The mechanical excavation will remove the topsoil in order to expose either the uppermost archaeological deposits or the natural geological surface (whichever is the first to appear during this process). Once this mechanical excavation is complete, all excavation hence forth will be completed by hand, including the cleaning of the trench using a trowel, hoe or other suitable tool.

Any archaeological features that may be exposed will subsequently be mapped, photographed and recorded.

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

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

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

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

8. Site Recording:

All deposits, structures, and artefacts will be recorded via accepted CfA professional standards using applicable systems of recording, which will be compatible with those used on comparable excavations within Canterbury District. SWAT Archaeology will allocate site codes and archive numbers; the archive will be organised as per the parameters set out in: Management of archaeological projects: appendix 3 (English Heritage, 2nd Edn, 1991) and the attached Archaeological Specification Part B (attached). These records will be integrated into the Kent County Council HER.

All archaeological contexts will be recorded on individual context record sheets, whilst a general record of the work, comprising a description and discussion of the archaeology, is to be maintained as necessary.

Additional recording systems will be compiled for the results from samples taken for soil micromorphology, bulk screening and palaeo-environmental analysis.

A photographic record of all phases of the excavation works will be kept in digital format and this will be part of the site archive. All digital photographs taken as part of the primary site archive will include a header board detailing the site code and context number, a photo scale, and a north indicator. General photography (including area and feature photographs) taken for publicity, educational or publication purposes may exclude these. The archaeological contractor is to provide the CCC Archaeological Officer with a sample of digital jpegs which show the archaeological findings and investigations undertaken on this particular site.

During the evaluation, a site plan at a scale of 1:100 will be drawn, indicating the location of the boundaries of the proposed development area and the position of the evaluation trenches. Plans to indicate the locations of archaeological features within these trenches are to be drawn to a scale of 1:50, while detailed plans of individual features should normally be drawn at a scale of 1:20, with the relevant section drawings being provided at a scale of 1:10. All of these detailed drawings are to be related to the site plan.

All plans and sections will be drawn on polyester based drawing film and clearly labelled with the relevant context numbers.

A GPS site grid will be established across the evaluation areas. Field surveying will be preceded by a site visit to establish the site-specific surveying procedure, locate appropriate survey points, and determine lines of sight (see also CCC Evaluation Specification Part B: 10. Recording).

9. Site Reporting and Archiving:

The results of the evaluation will be communicated at the earliest possible opportunity to the client as well as the CCC Archaeological Officer via either a brief written statement or an interim report. However, it will not include recommendations as to whether further archaeological investigation will or will not be required.

The site archive will be collated and will comprise two elements; the documentary (written, drawn, photographic and electronic) record, and the material remains recovered. All drawings will be digitised, and finds cross-referenced and ordered within an internally consistent permanent record. Moreover, a full, archival, indexed catalogue of the documentary site archive will also be prepared.

The site archive will include all records created, artefacts recovered, and soil samples taken during the course of the fieldwork and will be appropriately marked as such so as to distinguish these from any records created during the post-excavation analysis phase. All parts of the documentary site

archive will be kept, and will also be distinguished from other records created during project management.

All soil samples and each class of artefact will be clearly marked and suitably boxed. A full catalogue of the material archive will be prepared to indicate where these samples and finds have been recovered from.

On completion of the site archive being ordered and catalogued, this will be assessed in accordance with the parameters indicated in *The Management of Archaeological Projects (MAP2)* (English Heritage, 2nd Edition, 1991), and a strategy to implement the post-excavation analysis will be established and agreed between SWAT Archaeology, the archaeological contractor and the CCC Archaeological Officer.

On completion of the ordering and cataloguing of the site archive, a field report on the evaluation will be compiled, which itself will form a part of the assessment process. It will comprise a brief, concise narrative with relevant illustrations to present an overview of the results of the work undertaken, categorised by area and period. It will be submitted to the client and the CCC Archaeological Officer within 6 weeks of the conclusion of the evaluation, and a separate summary report will be compiled detailing any significant artefacts that may have been recovered during the course of the evaluation or wherever the archaeology is complex.

As outlined previously, the report will not include any recommendations for further archaeological works; it will, however, assess the archaeological importance of any features or artefacts revealed during the evaluation process.

In addition to the field report a short summary report (generally no more than 500 words with selected drawn and photographic illustrations) will be compiled for subsequent publication in *Archaeologia Cantiana*, the journal of the Kent Archaeological Society. This summary report will be produced within 3 months of the completion of the evaluation and copies submitted to the client and the CCC Archaeological Officer.

Should no further archaeological works be required in the aftermath of the evaluation and the subsequent post-excavation analysis, a sufficient programme to bring the results of the evaluation to publication will be identified, defined and agreed in writing between SWAT Archaeology, the archaeological contractor and the CCC Archaeological Officer.

This will primarily be comprised of an assessment report that will contain as a minimum the following, as well as such further work as is subsequently justified. The post-excavation assessment will be completed within 3 months of the cessation of the evaluation, and a report submitted to the client and the CCC Archaeological Officer;

The methodologies to be utilised in the preparation of interim field, summary and assessment reports will be determined by the results of the evaluation and the importance of any archaeology revealed during this process. In the case of the evaluation revealing little of archaeological significance, the assessment and reporting detailed above will not be required; in this circumstance, only a brief summary report should be prepared.

In the case of further archaeological investigation being necessary following the completion of the evaluation, then the post-excavation examination and assessment of the results of the evaluation will be incorporated into subsequent programmes and phases of archaeological excavations and analysis (see also CCC Evaluation Specification Part B: 12. Reporting).

10. Monitoring:

These proposed archaeological works will be inspected by Rosanne Cumming the Canterbury City Council Archaeological Officer (see also CCC Evaluation Specification Part B: 14. Monitoring and Liaison).

11. General:

Appropriate security will be agreed and provided, with particular attention given to the protection against loss of data by unauthorized excavation for archaeological artefacts. In the case of security problems arising, it will be ascertained whether a permanent presence on the excavation site may be necessary.

It is possible that poor weather conditions may halt archaeological excavation temporarily; this may necessitate the provision of protection and covering of exposed archaeological features and deposits. As a result of this consideration, it is suggested that time should be allowed for delays due to adverse weather.

A calendar detailing the time scheme and planned works for the archaeological evaluation will be organised between the archaeological contractor and the CCC Archaeological Officer, specifying in particular the dates for both the commencement and completion of the archaeological investigation (see also CCC Evaluation Specification Part B: 18. General).

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

Date: 07/11/2016

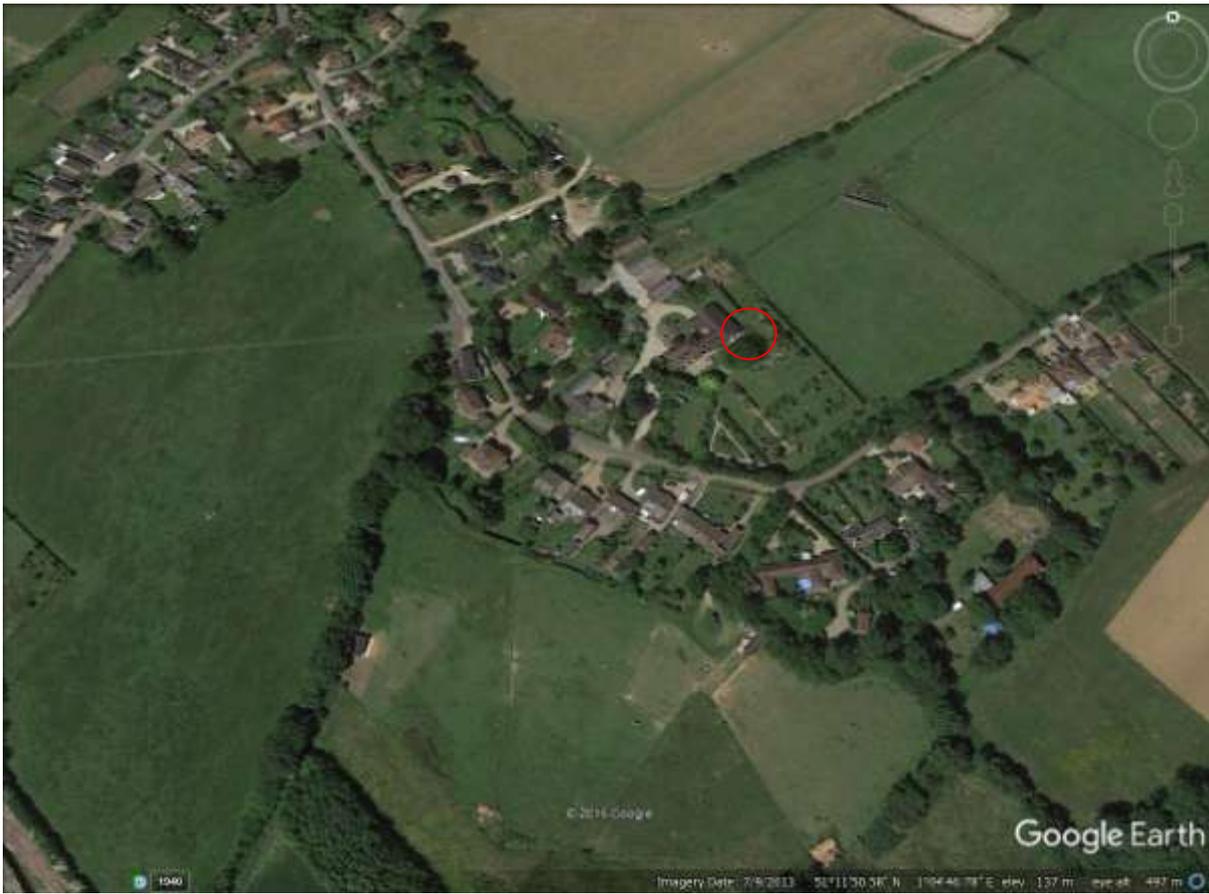


Plate 1. The site (Google Earth 9/7/2013). Eye altitude 497m)



Plate 2. Trench 1 (looking SW)



Plate 3. Trench 2 (looking SW)



Plate 4. Trench 2- section



Plate 5. Trench 3 (looking SE)



Plate 6. Trench 4 (looking SW)

Figure 1
Proposed development

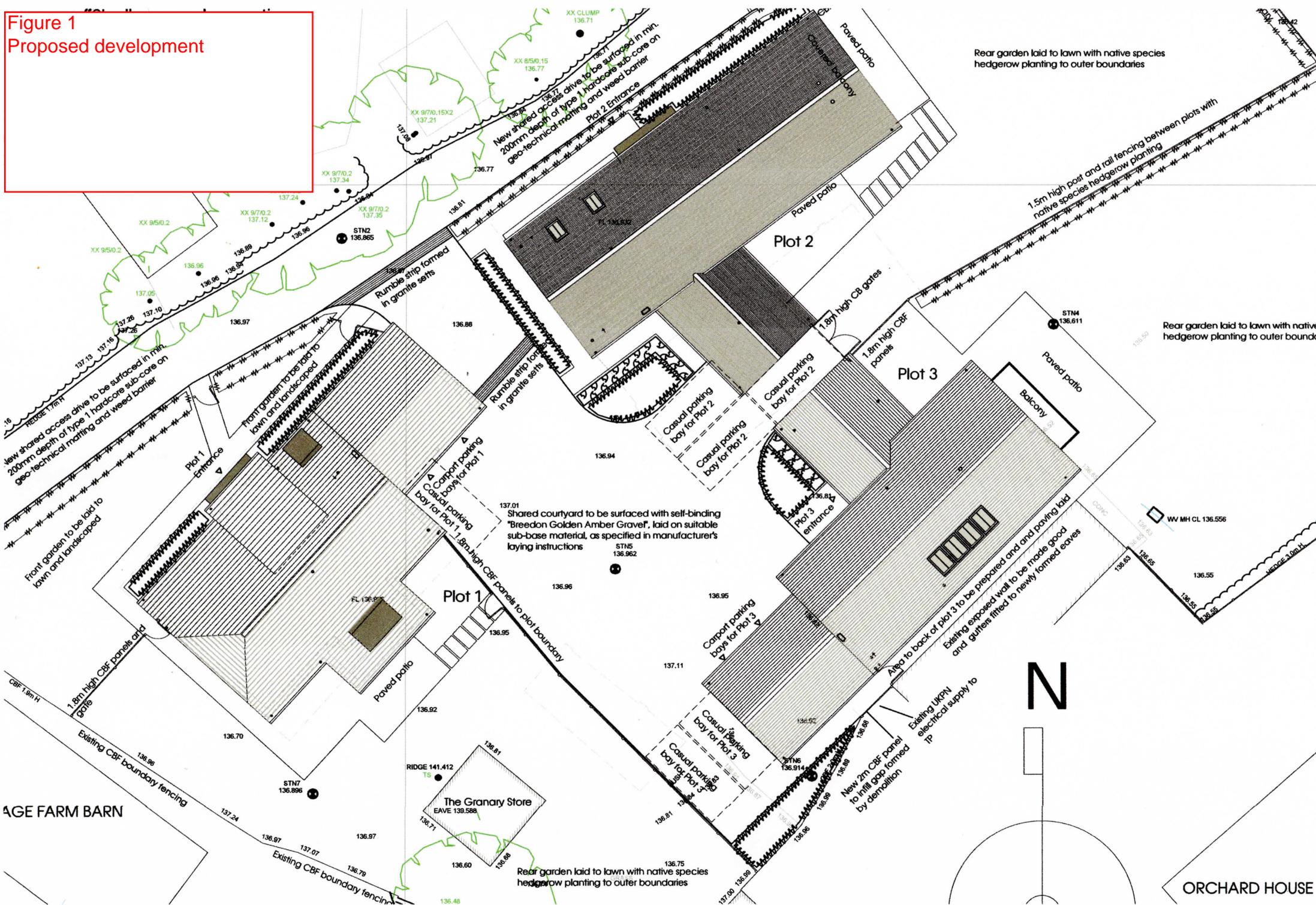


Figure 2
Proposed trenches

