

Archaeological Evaluation at Station Road, Walmer, Kent

Site Code: SRD-EV-18

National Grid Reference: 636300 149900

Planning Application Number: DOV/14/00361



Report for;

Development House Limited

20/09/2018

SWAT ARCHAEOLOGY

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Summary

Swale & Thames Survey Company (SWAT Archaeology) were commissioned by Development House Limited to undertake an archaeological evaluation on land at Station Road, Walmer, Kent. The archaeological works were monitored by the Kent County Council Archaeological Officer.

The fieldwork was carried out on the 10th September 2018 in accordance with an archaeological specification (SWAT Archaeology 2018) submitted to, and approved by, KCC prior to commencement of works. The fieldwork was carried out in two separate phases (Figure 1). Phase 1 was undertaken on the 10th September 2018 with Phase 2 due to commence at a later stage.

This report deals with the findings from PHASE I ONLY.

The Phase I Archaeological Evaluation consisted of nineteen trenches, which encountered a relatively common stratigraphic sequence comprising topsoil overlying subsoil sealing intact natural silt clay geology. No archaeological finds or features were present throughout the duration of the fieldwork. These results concur with the results of an earlier Desk-Based assessment, Geophysical Survey, Field Walking and Metal Detecting Survey.

Further archaeological mitigation, should it be necessary, will need to be determined in consultation with the Kent County Council Archaeological Officer and local planning authority.

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Site Code: SRD-EV-18

National Grid Reference: 636300 149900

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project Background

1.1.1 Swale & Thames Survey Company (SWAT Archaeology) were commissioned by Development House Limited to undertake an archaeological evaluation on a site at Station Road, Walmer, Kent, centred on National Grid Reference 636300 149900 (Figure 1).

1.1.2 A planning application (DOV/14/00361) was submitted to Dover District Council (DDC) for the development of the site to accommodate 223 dwellings, together with associated access roads, car parking, landscaping and open space. The Heritage & Conservation Department, who provide an archaeological advisory service to the DDC Planning Department, recommended that an archaeological investigation took place in advance of any development work. This recommendation was subsequently added as a Condition to the planning approval, which stated that;

No development shall take place until the applicant, or their agent or successors in title has secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological work in accordance with a written specification and timetable which has been submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority. The archaeological work shall be undertaken in accordance with the approved programme and timetable, unless otherwise first agreed in writing by the Local Planning Authority.

Reason: To ensure that features of archaeological interest are properly examined and recorded. These details are required prior to the commencement of the development as they form an intrinsic part of the proposal, the approval of which cannot be disaggregated from carrying out the remainder of the development.

(DOV/14/00361, Condition 51, 21/10/2015)

1.1.3 The fieldwork was carried out in two separate phases (Figure 1). Phase 1 was undertaken on the 10th September 2018 with Phase 2 due to commence in the near future. This report deals with the findings from PHASE I ONLY, which was carried out in accordance with an archaeological specification (CgMs Consulting Limited 2018) submitted to, and approved by, KCC prior to commencement of works.

1.2 Site Description and Topography

1.2.1 The site is centred on NGR 636300 149900, located c. 9km northeast of Dover, approximately 1.5km inland from the eastern coast of Kent (Figure 1). The proposed development site consists of arable fields divided by mature hedgerows over an area of approximately 11ha.

1.2.2 According to the British Geological Society, the site lies on Seaford Chalk Formation, with superficial deposits of clay and silt.

1.2.3 The site is relatively level with a slight slope towards the east; heights above Ordnance datum (aOD) are approximately 30m aOD in the west of the site and 28m aOD in the eastern extents of the site (CgMs Consulting Limited 2018: 1.3.3).

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 an Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment, produced by CgMs Consulting Limited, detailed below.

2.2 Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment (CgMs Consulting Limited 2013)

2.2.1 An archaeological Desk-Based Assessment (DBA) was carried out in October 2013 and concluded the following:

- The site is considered to have an archaeological potential for as yet to be discovered evidence of the prehistoric, Romano-British and medieval periods. Based on current evidence any remains present at the site are considered likely to be of Local Significance.
- The site has been in agricultural use throughout its documented history. Ploughing of the site in medieval period and particularly more recently, will have truncated and in places destroyed sub-surface horizons of archaeological potential.
- Taking into consideration the perceived archaeological potential for the site and the likely nature of impacts from development, it is considered that the anticipated development can be considered likely to have an archaeological impact.
- Accordingly, once the principle of development at the site has been established, it is likely that the Kent Archaeological Advisor will require the implementation of a programme of archaeological works to ascertain the presence/absence of archaeological remains and to provide information on the nature and significance of any archaeology present.

2.2.2 The WSI states that;

The Site is considered to have a moderate to high archaeological potential for as yet to be discovered below ground archaeological assets from the late Iron Age/Romano-British period. The site is also considered to have a moderate archaeological potential for remains of the Bronze Age and Early and Middle Iron Age and a low to moderate potential for the medieval period. Based on current evidence any remains present at the Site are likely to be considered as of local significance (2018: 2.1.2).

2.2.3 and that;

The archaeological record shows that prehistoric and Roman evidence is prevalent from the surrounding landscape. Evidence of settlement is known to the north and east and an extensive series of cropmarks are known from the south of the Site (2018: 2.1.3).

2.3 Geophysical Survey (GSB Prospection Limited 2013)

2.3.1 Following the submission of the archaeological DBA, a geophysical survey was carried out by GSB Prospection Limited in order to attempt to identify, locate and characterise any anomalies of archaeological interest within the proposed development area.

2.3.2 The results of the magnetic survey indicate a lack of anomalies which could readily be interpreted as being of archaeological interest; the fact that one linear ditch-like response has been identified, along with a number of other near surface features, demonstrates that if major archaeological features were present, there is not *a priori* reason why they would not have been detected (2013: 1).

2.4 Fieldwalking Survey (Wessex Archaeology 2015)

2.4.1 Following on from the geophysical survey a fieldwalking and metal detecting survey was undertaken by Wessex Archaeology in 2015 (WA 2015).

2.4.2 No significant amount of material types was recovered from the Site although moderate concentrations of material were recognised. The small size of the assemblages prevented the drawing of any firm conclusions, although specific areas of interest were noted.

3 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

3.1 General Aims

3.1.1 The aims of the archaeological fieldwork, as set out in the WSI were to establish the presence of any potential archaeological features which may be impacted by the proposed development. The aims of this investigation are to determine the potential for archaeological? (2018: 3.1).

3.1.2 In addition, the objectives of the evaluation also included the following;

- To provide information about the archaeological potential of the site; and
- To inform either the scope and nature of any further archaeological work that may be required; or the formation of a mitigation strategy (to offset the impact of the development on the archaeological resource); or a management strategy.

3.2 General Objectives

3.2.1 In order to achieve the above aims, the general objectives of the evaluation were (2018: 3.2):

- To determine the presence or absence of archaeological features, deposits, structures, artefacts or ecofacts within the specified area;
- To establish, within the constraints of the evaluation, the extent, character, date, condition and quality of any surviving archaeological remains;
- To place any identified archaeological remains within a wider historical and archaeological context in order to assess their significance; and
- To make available information about the archaeological resource within the site by reporting on the results of the evaluation.

3.3 Site-specific objectives

3.3.1 Following consideration of the archaeological potential of the site, the site-specific objectives of the evaluation were:

- To test the results of the geophysical survey; and
- Augment the geophysical survey & fieldwalking & metal detecting survey in establishing a broad phased plan of the archaeology.

4 METHODOLOGY

4.1 Introduction

4.1.1 All fieldwork was conducted in accordance with the methodology set out in the WSI 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 twenty-five evaluation trenches were proposed within the extent of the Site (Figure 2). Phase 1, located within the eastern extent of the site included Trenches 1-7, Trenches 10-12, Trenches 15-17, Trenches 19-21 and Trenches 23-25 (this Report) while Phase 2, to the west, comprised Trenches 8, 9, 13, 14, 18 and 22 (Figure 2).

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 were 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 recorded without prejudice, to inform more extensive investigations, should these prove to be necessary. All archaeological work was carried out in accordance with KCC and CIfA standards and guidance. A complete photographic record was maintained on site that included; working shots (during mechanical excavation), following archaeological investigations and during backfilling.

4.2.4 Trenches were allowed to weather for at least 48 hours. Following the weathering, trenches were re-examined to ensure that no additional features were visible prior to backfilling.

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 (above Ordnance Datum) 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; these are used in the report. 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 nineteen evaluation trenches were mechanically excavated under archaeological supervision. Selected trench photographs have been provided (Plates 1-19) to provide examples of the negative trenches and general working/site conditions.

5.2 Stratigraphic Deposit Sequence

5.2.1 A relatively consistent stratigraphic sequence was recorded across the majority of the Site comprising topsoil overlying intact natural silt clay geology.

5.2.2 The topsoil generally consisted of medium brown sandy silt, overlying the natural mid orange brown clayey, sandy silt geology, which was exposed in all trenches at a depth ranging between approximately 0.27m and 0.34m.

5.2.3 Appendix 1 provides the stratigraphic sequence for all trenches.

5.3 Results

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

6 FINDS

6.1 Overview

6.1.1 No archaeological finds were retrieved during this evaluation.

7 ENVIRONMENTAL

7.1 Overview

7.1.1 No environmental samples were retrieved during this evaluation.

8 DISCUSSION

8.1 Archaeological Narrative

8.1.1 The lack of archaeological features within excavated evaluation trenches concurs with the results of all previous phases of archaeological work associated with this site. The DBA suggested that a low potential for archaeological remains and the geophysical survey indicated a lack of anomalies of archaeological interest. A single 'ditch-like response' (2018: 1) also proved to be negative.

8.1.2 Results from this phase of the evaluation works will be added to the Phase II archaeological report, once Phase II fieldwork has been carried out.

8.2 Conclusions

8.2.1 The archaeological evaluation has been successful in fulfilling the primary aims and objectives of the Specification. No archaeological remains were present within any of the evaluation trenches. Further archaeological mitigation, should it be necessary, will need to be determined in consultation with the Kent County Council Archaeological Officer and local planning authority.

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

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; ClfA 2009; Brown 2011; ADS 2013).

9.1.2 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.

10 ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

10.1.1 SWAT would like to thank Development House Limited for commissioning the project. Thanks are also extended to Ben Found, Archaeological Officer, Kent County Council, for his advice and assistance.

10.1.2 Tim Allen (MCIfA) supervised the archaeological fieldwork, the GPS survey was carried out by GSB Prospection Limited, illustrations were produced by Bartek Cichy. The report was prepared and collated by David Britchfield (MCIfA) and edited by Dr. Paul Wilkinson (MCIfA).

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12 APPENDIX 1 – TRENCH TABLES

Trench 1	Dimensions: 50m x 1.8m Depth: 0.68m Trench alignment: SW-NE SW-end Ground Level: 24.40m aOD. NE-end Ground Level: 25.00m aOD		
Context	Description	Interpretation	Depth (m)
101	Medium brown sandy silt	Topsoil	0.00-0.26
102	Mid orange brown, clayey sandy silt	Natural	0.26+

Trench 2	Dimensions: 50m x 1.8m Depth: 0.66m Trench alignment: SW-NE SW-end Ground Level: 25.10m aOD. NE-end Ground Level: 25.12m aOD		
Context	Description	Interpretation	Depth (m)
201	Medium brown sandy silt	Topsoil	0.00-0.28
202	Mid orange brown, clayey sandy silt	Natural	0.28+

Trench 3	Dimensions: 50m x 1.8m Depth: 0.68m Trench alignment: S-N S-end Ground Level: 24.40m aOD. N-end Ground Level: 25.00m aOD		
Context	Description	Interpretation	Depth (m)
301	Medium brown sandy silt	Topsoil	0.00-0.28
302	Mid orange brown, clayey sandy silt	Natural	0.29+

Trench 4	Dimensions: 50m x 1.8m Depth: 0.68m Trench alignment: SE-NW SE-end Ground Level: 24.42m aOD. NW-end Ground Level: 25.05m aOD		
Context	Description	Interpretation	Depth (m)
401	Medium brown sandy silt	Topsoil	0.00-0.27
402	Mid orange brown, clayey sandy silt	Natural	0.27+

Trench 5	Dimensions: 50m x 1.8m Depth: 0.68m Trench alignment: SE-NW SE-end Ground Level: 24.45m aOD. NW-end Ground Level: 25.15m aOD		
Context	Description	Interpretation	Depth (m)
501	Medium brown sandy silt	Topsoil	0.00-0.29
502	Mid orange brown, clayey sandy silt	Natural	0.29+

Trench 6	Dimensions: 50m x 1.8m Depth: 0.68m Trench alignment: S-N S-end Ground Level: 24.43m aOD. N-end Ground Level: 24.20m aOD		
Context	Description	Interpretation	Depth (m)
601	Medium brown sandy silt	Topsoil	0.00-0.30
602	Mid orange brown, clayey sandy silt	Natural	0.30+

Trench 7	Dimensions: 50m x 1.8m Depth: 0.68m Trench alignment: S-N S-end Ground Level: 25.10m aOD. N-end Ground Level: 25.00m aOD		
Context	Description	Interpretation	Depth (m)
701	Medium brown sandy silt	Topsoil	0.00-0.29
702	Mid orange brown, clayey sandy silt	Natural	0.29+

Trench 10	Dimensions: 50m x 1.8m Depth: 0.68m Trench alignment: W-E W-end Ground Level: 24.41m aOD. E-end Ground Level: 24.00m aOD		
Context	Description	Interpretation	Depth (m)
1001	Medium brown sandy silt	Topsoil	0.00-0.32
1002	Mid orange brown, clayey sandy silt	Natural	0.32+

Trench 11	Dimensions: 50m x 1.8m Depth: 0.68m Trench alignment: S-N S-end Ground Level: 24.30m aOD. N-end Ground Level: 24.20m aOD		
Context	Description	Interpretation	Depth (m)
1101	Medium brown sandy silt	Topsoil	0.00-0.34
1102	Mid orange brown, clayey sandy silt	Natural	0.34+

Trench 12	Dimensions: 50m x 1.8m Depth: 0.68m Trench alignment: W-E W-end Ground Level: 24.30m aOD. E-end Ground Level: 24.10m aOD		
Context	Description	Interpretation	Depth (m)
1201	Medium brown sandy silt	Topsoil	0.00-0.31
1202	Mid orange brown, clayey sandy silt	Natural	0.31+

Trench 15	Dimensions: 50m x 1.8m Depth: 0.68m Trench alignment: N-S S-end Ground Level: 24.40m aOD. N-end Ground Level: 25.20m aOD		
Context	Description	Interpretation	Depth (m)
1501	Medium brown sandy silt	Topsoil	0.00-0.33
1502	Mid orange brown, clayey sandy silt	Natural	0.33+

Trench 16	Dimensions: 50m x 1.8m Depth: 0.68m Trench alignment: W-E W-end Ground Level: 24.60m aOD. E-end Ground Level: 25.00m aOD		
Context	Description	Interpretation	Depth (m)
1601	Medium brown sandy silt	Topsoil	0.00-0.29
1602	Mid orange brown, clayey sandy silt	Natural	0.29+

Trench 17	Dimensions: 50m x 1.8m Depth: 0.68m Trench alignment: SW-NE SW-end Ground Level: 24.80m aOD. NE-end Ground Level: 25.00m aOD		
Context	Description	Interpretation	Depth (m)
1701	Medium brown sandy silt	Topsoil	0.00-0.32
1702	Mid orange brown, clayey sandy silt	Natural	0.32+

Trench 19	Dimensions: 50m x 1.8m Depth: 0.68m Trench alignment: W-E W-end Ground Level: 25.20m aOD. E-end Ground Level: 25.10m aOD		
Context	Description	Interpretation	Depth (m)
1901	Medium brown sandy silt	Topsoil	0.00-0.29
1902	Mid orange brown, clayey sandy silt	Natural	0.29+

Trench 20	Dimensions: 50m x 1.8m Depth: 0.68m Trench alignment: W-E SW-end Ground Level: 25.40m aOD. NE-end Ground Level: 25.30m aOD		
Context	Description	Interpretation	Depth (m)
2001	Medium brown sandy silt	Topsoil	0.00-0.31
2002	Mid orange brown, clayey sandy silt	Natural	0.31+

Trench 21	Dimensions: 50m x 1.8m Depth: 0.68m Trench alignment: S-N S-end Ground Level: 25.40m aOD. N-end Ground Level: 25.20m aOD		
Context	Description	Interpretation	Depth (m)
2101	Medium brown sandy silt	Topsoil	0.00-0.32
2102	Mid orange brown, clayey sandy silt	Natural	0.32+

Trench 23	Dimensions: 50m x 1.8m Depth: 0.68m Trench alignment: S-N S-end Ground Level: 25.60m aOD. N-end Ground Level: 25.50m aOD		
Context	Description	Interpretation	Depth (m)

2301	Medium brown sandy silt	Topsoil	0.00-0.29
2302	Mid orange brown, clayey sandy silt	Natural	0.29+

Trench 24	Dimensions: 25m x 1.8m Depth: 0.68m Trench alignment: SE-NW SE-end Ground Level: 25.40m aOD. NW-end Ground Level: 25.50m aOD		
Context	Description	Interpretation	Depth (m)
2401	Medium brown sandy silt	Topsoil	0.00-0.34
2402	Mid orange brown, clayey sandy silt	Natural	0.34+

Trench 25	Dimensions: 50m x 1.8m Depth: 0.68m Trench alignment: W-E W-end Ground Level: 26.70m aOD. E-end Ground Level: 26.80m aOD		
Context	Description	Interpretation	Depth (m)
2501	Medium brown sandy silt	Topsoil	0.00-0.32
2502	Mid orange brown, clayey sandy silt	Natural	0.32+



Plate 1: Trench 1 looking south-west (one-metre scale)



Plate 2: Trench 2 looking south-west (one-metre scale)



Plate 3: Trench 3 looking north (one-metre scale)



Plate 4: Trench 4 looking south-east (one-metre scale)



Plate 5: Trench 5 looking south-east (one-metre scale)



Plate 6; Trench 6 looking north showing modern chalk-filled pit to the left (east), one-metre scale



Plate 7; Trench 7 looking north (one-metre scale)



Plate 8: Trench 10 looking east (one-metre scale)



Plate 9: Trench 11 looking north (one-metre scale)



Plate 10: Trench 12 looking east (one-metre scale)



Plate 11: Trench 15 (shown as Trench 16 on the trench plan) looking north (one-metre scale)



Plate 12: Trench 16 (shown as Trench 15 on the trench plan) looking west (one-metre scale)



Plate 13: Trench 17 looking north-east (one-metre scale)



Plate 14: Trench 19 looking east (one-metre scale)



Plate 15: Trench 20 looking east (one-metre scale)



Plate 16: Trench 21 looking south (one-metre scale)



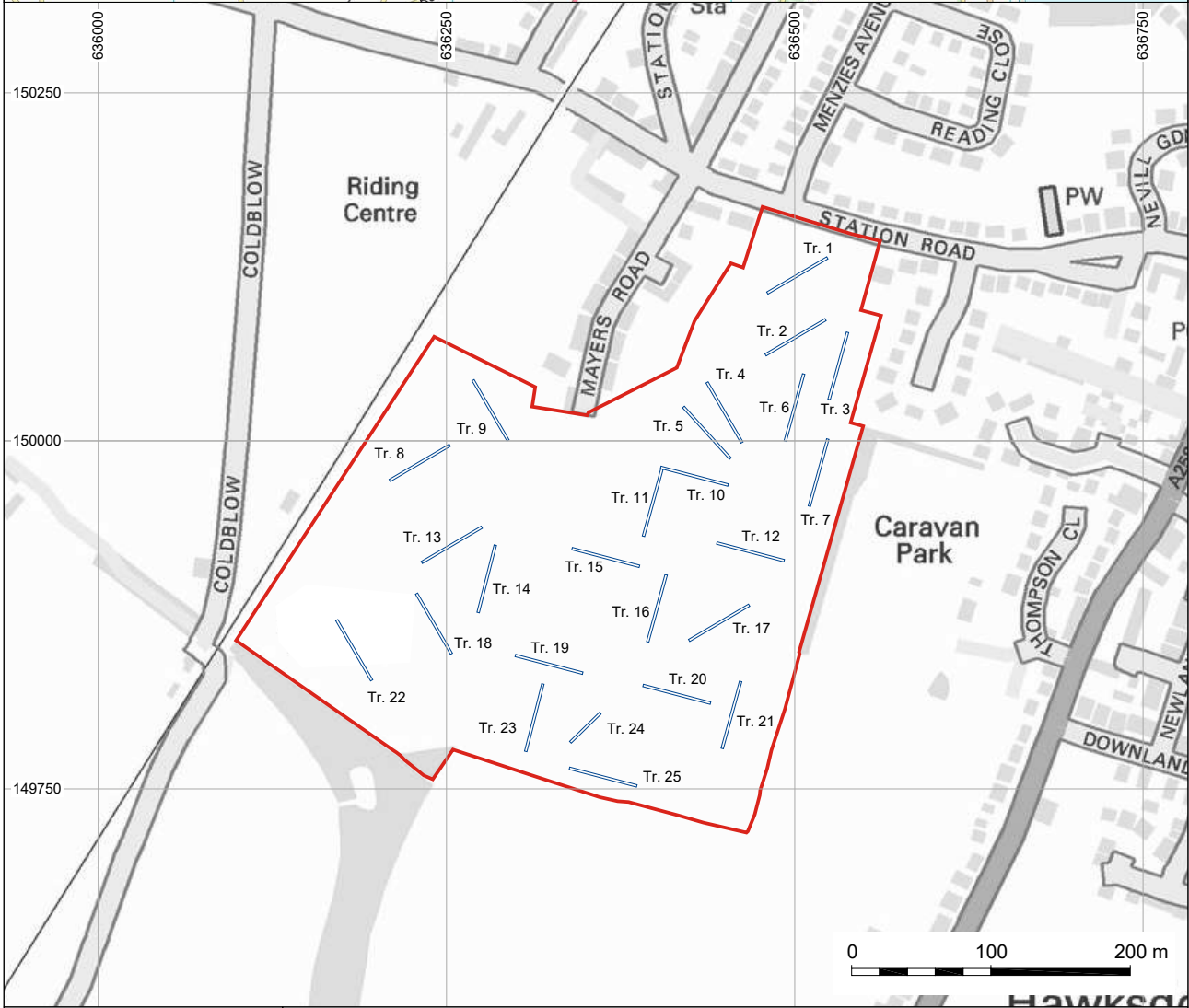
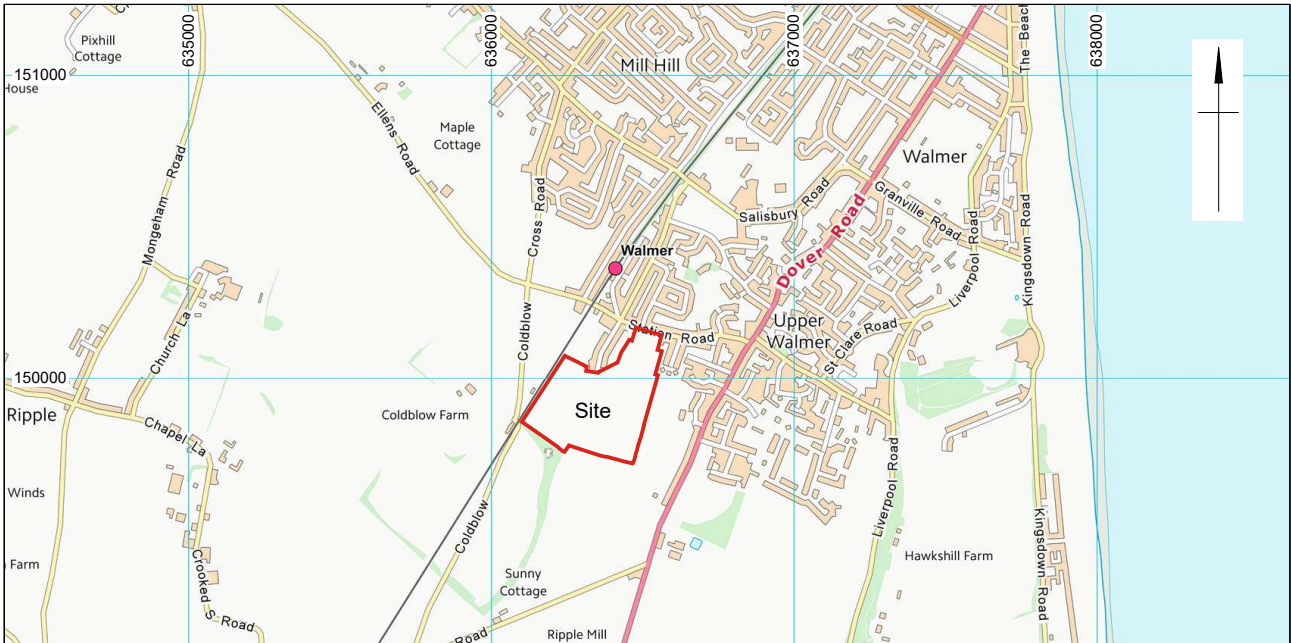
Plate 17: Trench 23 looking north (one-metre scale)



Plate 18: Trench 24 looking south-east (one-metre scale)



Plate 19: Trench 25 looking west (one-metre scale)



Site Boundary
Evaluation Trenches
Coordinate system: OSGB36 (OSTN15/OSGM15)

Figure 1. Proposed trenches			
Date:	08/05/2018	Revision Number:	0
Scale:	1:5,000 at A4	Illustrator:	ALS
Path:	R:\PROJECTS\108120\Graphics_Office\Rep figs\WSI\2018_05_08\108120_WSI.dwg		

Site location and trench layout

Figure 1

Figure 2. Completed trenches

