

Archaeological Evaluation of Land at Aylesham Village Expansion, Aylesham, Dover, Kent. Phase 1B Compound Area



Site Code: AYLE/EV/18

(Planning Application: DOV/07/01081)

SWAT Archaeology

The Office, School Farm Oast

Graveney Road Faversham, Kent, ME13 8UP

Email: info@swatarchaeology.co.uk

Tel.: 01795 532548 and 07885 700112

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**Archaeological Evaluation of Land at Aylesham Village Expansion, Aylesham,
Dover, Kent. Phase 1B Compound Area**

1. Summary

Swale & Thames Survey Company (SWAT) carried out an archaeological evaluation of land at the compound area within the Aylesham Village Expansion, Dover in Kent. A Planning Application (DOV/07/01081) to develop this site for a proposed residential development was submitted to Dover District Council, whereby the Council requested that an Archaeological Evaluation be undertaken in order to determine the possible impact of the development on any archaeological remains. The work was carried out in accordance with the requirements set out within an Archaeological Specification (SWAT Specification A and CCC Manual Part B) and in discussion with the Principal Archaeological Officer, KCC. The results of the excavation of seven evaluation trenches revealed that no archaeological features were present within six of the trenches and a modern ditch in Trench 5 (Figure 1, Plate 5). The natural geology of Clay with Flints was reached at an average depth of between 0.25m and 0.30m below the modern ground surface (Plates 2, 3, 4, 5, 6).

The Archaeological Evaluation has been successful in fulfilling the primary aims and objectives of the Archaeological Specification.

2. Introduction

Swale & Thames Survey Company (SWAT) was commissioned by Persimmon Homes SE Ltd to carry out an archaeological evaluation at the above site. The work was carried out in accordance with the requirements set out within an Archaeological Specification (SWAT 2018) and in discussion with Simon Mason, Principal Archaeological Officer, Kent County Council. The evaluation was carried out on the 16th August 2018.

3. Site Description and Topography

The proposed development site is located to the north-east of the present village in agricultural land now out of production. The wider area around the present works has been developed as part of Phases 1 B & 2 of the expansion scheme. The proposed residential development is located north of the existing Dorman Avenue North (Plate1.Figure 1).

4. Planning Background

Canterbury City Council The overall Aylesham Village Expansion project was the subject of a hybrid planning application for residential development and all associated works and infrastructure, together with alterations to existing shops and apartments, refurbishment of public open spaces, provision of new play and sports facilities, parks and gardens, street furniture, landscaping, temporary works access and compounds. The Local Planning Authority planning reference for the scheme is DOV/07/01081. A number of subsequent reserved matters applications and other submissions have been made to the Local Planning Authority as the scheme has developed. The Local Planning Authority placed conditions (31 & 92) on the planning consent: *31 ARCHAEOLOGY No development shall take place until the applicant, or their agents or successors in title, has secured the implementation of archaeological field evaluation works in accordance with a specification and written timetable which has been submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority; and following on from the evaluation any safeguarding measures to ensure preservation, in situ of important archaeological remains and/or further archaeological investigation and recording in accordance with a specification and timetable which has been submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority. Development shall be carried out in accordance with the approved evaluation works and safeguarding measurements. Reason: To ensure features of archaeological importance and interest are properly examined and recorded.*

And:

92 ARCHAEOLOGY No development of a phase or part phase shall take place until a report on a detailed archaeological investigation, which shall include full details of archaeological field evaluation works together with the identification of any safeguarding measures to ensure preservation in situ of important archaeological remains and/or further investigation and recording has been submitted to and approved by the Local Planning Authority. The agreed safeguarding measures and archaeological mitigation works shall be carried out prior to the commencement of development within that phase or part phase of the development, unless otherwise agreed in writing by the Local Planning Authority. Reason: To ensure features of archaeological importance and interest are properly examined and recorded.

5. Archaeological and Historical Background

5.1 The Archaeological record, both in and around the Proposed Development Area (PDA) is diverse. The Kent County Council Historic Environment Record (KCCHER) has provided details of any previous investigations and discoveries. The potential of this area has been gauged in relation to the proximity of known archaeological remains and is defined in the Archaeological Desk-Based Assessments (AMEC 2013).

5.2 Subsequent archaeological works at the site include Geophysical Survey (Wessex Archaeology). Geotechnical Test-Pits (Pre-Construct Archaeology) and Strip, Map and Sample Excavations (SWAT Archaeology).

The various studies have shown that the village of Aylesham lies within a rich archaeological landscape demonstrated by past finds and extensive areas of cropmarks surround the village. The on-going investigations by SWAT Archaeology has shown that the excavation at 5.3 Aylesham comprised of an extensive, previously unknown archaeological landscape.

The geophysical survey and subsequent excavation revealed a prehistoric landscape that originated in the late Neolithic. The appearance of a large rectangular-shaped monumental structure, with an inner bank sat on the highest point of the development site and overlooked the Stour valley from the edge of the North Downs. Having been backfilled, the monument was re-used in the Mid Bronze Age at a time when an extensive Drove Way appeared. It was during this phase that the site experienced a wider use of the landscape, as pits, linear features and cremation burials were scattered across it.

The centre of the landscape was however, dominated by a series of Roman enclosures, some of which had a Late Iron Age foundation and scattered amongst the northern half of the network of enclosures were four kilns that produced pottery from either side of the Roman invasion in AD 43. The enclosures were altered and expanded during the late Iron Age and Roman periods and mortuary enclosures were added to house richly furnished cremations.

5.4 Activity on site during the Roman period also included a mix of industry and animal husbandry. In addition to the manufacture of pottery, Roman Aylesham was also witnessed small scale iron smelting and the milling of flour, suggested by the presence of six

millstones. The large percentage of horse bone and the presence of two horse skeletons would indicate that horse rearing/stockading was also part of the site's economic dynamics. The presence of military equipment on site suggests that the Roman Army may have played a significant role with the site's economy.

5.5 Activity during the later Roman period, though present is unclear, as is the implied Anglo-Saxon presence. Further study of the results of the watching brief (DANA-WB-14) and the excavation of Phase Three may improve our understanding of this transitional period at Aylesham.

5.6 The Medieval phase on site was only present toward the extreme west of the development in the form of two parallel and shallow linear features.

5.7 During the Post-Medieval period however, the development site experienced small scale quarrying. A total of five quarries, probably for flint, were present and they were scattered across the landscape.

5.8 The excavation implies that activity on the site ceased until the village of Aylesham was built in the 1920s and became part of the defensive line, based on the railway line between Canterbury and Dover during the early years of World War Two. The development site overlooked this defensive position and to deter enemy gliders from landing behind these defenses, a series of inter-connecting ditches were dug across the site. After the war, the site was returned to arable farming.

6. Aims and Objectives

According to the SWAT Archaeological Specification (2018), the aims and objectives for the archaeological work were:

The primary objective of the archaeological evaluation is to determine whether any significant archaeological remains survive on site. Assessment of the results should provide guidance on what mitigation measures would be appropriate. Such measures may, for example, include further detailed archaeological excavation prior to development and/or an archaeological watching brief during construction work.

7. Methodology

The Archaeological Specification called for an evaluation by trial trenching comprising a first phase of nine trenches 10-15m long and 2m wide within the footprint of the proposed building development. A 7.5 ton 360° tracked mechanical excavator with a flat-bladed ditching bucket was used to remove the tarmac scrapings and subsoil to expose the natural geology and/or the archaeological horizon. All archaeological work was carried out in accordance with the SWAT specification. A single context recording system was used to record the deposits, and context recording numbers were assigned to all deposits for recording purposes. All archaeological work was carried out in accordance with KCC, SWAT and ClfA standards and guidance. Please note only seven of the trenches could be excavated due to site constrictions (Plate 9, 10).

8. Monitoring

Curatorial monitoring was not available during the course of the evaluation.

9. Results

The evaluation has identified no archaeological features within the trenches (Figure 1).

Trench 1

Trench 1 lay on a north-west south-east alignment and measured approximately 15m by 2m. The trench was sealed by a 0.04m layer of tarmac (101). Below this was a 0.05m layer of crushed hardcore (102) consisting of a friable coarse grey sand with very frequent modern fragmented building material inclusions which was sat on a layer of geotextile membrane. This sealed a layer of contaminated natural ground (103) made up of crushed hardcore depressed into the natural ground, which, had a thickness of 0.33m. Under this was the natural ground consisting of Reddish brown clay with outcrops of chalk (104) (Figure 2 & Plate 1).

Trench 2

Trench 2 lay on a north-west south-east alignment and measured approximately 15m by 2m. The trench was sealed by a 0.1m layer of tarmac (201). Below this was a 0.08m layer of crushed hardcore (202) consisting of a friable coarse grey sand with very frequent modern

fragmented building material inclusions which was sat on a layer of geotextile membrane. This sealed a layer of contaminated natural ground (203) made up of crushed hardcore depressed into the natural ground, which, had a thickness of 0.26m. Under this was the natural ground consisting of reddish brown clay with moderate angular flint inclusions (204) (Figure 2 & Plates 2, 8, section).

Trench 3

Trench 3 lay on a north-east south-west alignment and measured approximately 20m by 2m. The trench was sealed by a 0.15m layer of tarmac (301). Below this was a 0.15m layer of crushed hardcore (302) consisting of a friable coarse grey sand with very frequent modern fragmented building material inclusions which was sat on a layer of geotextile membrane. This sealed a layer of contaminated natural ground (303) made up of crushed hardcore depressed into the natural ground, which, had a thickness of 0.17m. Below this was a modern service (BT cable) cut into the natural ground (304). The natural ground below (305) consisted of a reddish brown clay with angular flint inclusions and outcrops of chalk (Figure 2 & Plates 3, 9, section).

Trench 4

Trench 4 lay on a south-west north-east alignment and measured approximately 11m by 2m. The trench was sealed by a 0.06m layer of tarmac (401). Below this was a layer of yellow sand with very frequent modern fragmented building material inclusions which, was sat on a layer of geotextile membrane and had a thickness of 0.23m. This sealed a layer of contaminated natural ground (403) made up of crushed hardcore depressed into the natural ground, which, had a thickness of 0.13m. Below this was the natural ground consisting of reddish brown clay with moderate angular flint inclusions (Figure 2 & Plate 4).

Trench 5

Trench 5 lay on a north north-west south south-east alignment and measured approximately 15m by 2m. The trench was sealed with a layer of crushed hardcore (501) consisting of a friable coarse grey sand with very frequent modern fragmented building material inclusions which was sat on a layer of geotextile membrane that had a thickness of 0.12m. This sealed a layer of contaminated natural ground (502) made up of crushed

hardcore depressed into the natural ground, which, had a thickness of 0.26m. Below this was a linear feature [504] that ran north south across the trench at the northern end. Cut [504] had moderately inwards sloping sides and a concave base and was in filled with 0.12m of moderately compact chalk rubble. [504] Cut into the natural ground (505) that (502) sealed which, consisted of Reddish brown clay with outcrops of yellow sandy silt and chalk, with moderate angular flint inclusions (Figure 2 & Plates 5, 10, section and Plates 11, 12 linear).

Trench 6

Trench 6 lay on a west-east alignment and measured approximately 15m by 2m. The trench was sealed with a layer of crushed hardcore (601) consisting of a friable coarse grey sand with very frequent modern fragmented building material inclusions which was sat on a layer of geotextile membrane that had a thickness of 0.18m. This sealed a layer of contaminated natural ground (602) made up of crushed hardcore depressed into the natural ground, which, had a thickness of 0.18m. Below this was the natural ground (603) consisting of reddish brown clay with outcrops of chalk and angular flint inclusions (Figure 2 & Plate 6).

Trench 7

Trench 7 lay on a south north alignment and measured approximately 15m by 2m. The trench was sealed by a 0.13m layer of tarmac (701). Below this was a 0.17m layer of crushed hardcore (702) consisting of a friable coarse grey sand with very frequent modern fragmented building material inclusions which was sat on a layer of geotextile membrane. This sealed a layer of contaminated natural ground (703) made up of crushed hardcore depressed into the natural ground, which, had a thickness of 0.18m. Under this was the natural ground consisting of Reddish brown clay with outcrops of yellow sandy silt and chalk, with moderate angular flint inclusions (704). (Figure 2 & Plate 7).

10. Discussion

With some archaeological sites known in the vicinity of the PDA it was expected that the evaluation may produce evidence of archaeological activity. But there was none. Most of the site has been used as a car park and building compound. Two trenches could not be dug because of site obstacles (Plates 13, 14, 15). The excavated trenches showed a typical sequence of tarmac scrapings, subsoil and natural geology.

11. Finds

No finds were found.

12. Conclusion

The evaluation trenches at the proposed development site revealed no archaeological features or artefacts.

The archaeological evaluation has been successful in fulfilling the primary aims and objectives of the Specification. A common stratigraphic sequence was recognised across the site comprised of tarmac overlaying the subsoil **(101)** sealing the natural geology **(102)**. Therefore, this evaluation has been successful in fulfilling the aims and objectives as set out in the planning condition and the Archaeological Specification.

13. Acknowledgements

SWAT Archaeology would like to thank the client, Persimmon Homes SE Ltd for commissioning the project. Thanks are also extended to Simon Mason Principal Archaeological Officer, KCC. The fieldwork was undertaken by Dan Worsley and Paul Wilkinson MCIfA edited the report.

Paul Wilkinson 27/08/2018

HER Summary Form

Site Name: Land at the Aylesham Village expansion, Aylesham, Dover, Kent Phase 1B Compound area

SWAT Site Code: AYLE/EV/18

Site Address: As above

Summary:

Swale and Thames Survey Company (SWAT) carried out Archaeological Evaluation on the development site above. The site has planning permission for development whereby Dover District Council requested that Archaeological Evaluation be undertaken to determine the possible impact of the development on any archaeological remains.

The Archaeological Monitoring consisted of an Archaeological Evaluation which revealed no archaeology.

District/Unitary: Dover District Council

Period(s):

NGR (centre of site to eight figures) 623458 15265

Type of Archaeological work: Archaeological Evaluation

Date of recording: 16th August 2018

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

Geology: Underlying geology is Clay with Flints

Title and author of accompanying report: Wilkinson P. (2018) Archaeological Evaluation of Land at Aylesham Village Expansion, Aylesham, Dover, Kent 1B Compound Area

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

No archaeology found

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

Contact at Unit: Paul Wilkinson

Date: 27/08/2018

1 APPENDIX 1 – TRENCH TABLES

Trench 1	Dimensions: 15m x 2m Ground Level:		
Context	Description	Interpretation	Depth (m)
101	Tarmac	Tarmac	0.00-0.04
102	Friable coarse grey sand with very frequent modern fragmented building material inclusions.	Crushed Hardcore	0.04-0.09
103	Mix of reddish brown clay and crushed hardcore.	Contaminated Natural	0.09-0.42
104	Reddish brown clay with outcrops of chalk.	Natural	0.42+

Trench 2	Dimensions: 15m x 2m Ground Level:		
Context	Description	Interpretation	Depth (m)
201	Tarmac	Tarmac	0.00-0.1
202	Friable coarse grey sand with very frequent modern fragmented building material inclusions.	Crushed Hardcore	0.1-0.18
203	Mix of reddish brown clay and crushed hardcore.	Contaminated Natural	0.18-0.44
204	Reddish brown clay with angular flint inclusions.	Natural	0.44+

Trench 3	Dimensions: 20m x 2m Ground Level:		
Context	Description	Interpretation	Depth (m)
301	Tarmac	Tarmac	0.00-0.15
302	Friable coarse grey sand with very frequent modern fragmented building material inclusions.	Crushed Hardcore	0.15-0.3
303	Mix of reddish brown clay and crushed hardcore.	Contaminated Natural	0.30-0.47
304	Modern Service	Modern Service	-

305	Reddish brown clay with angular flint inclusions and outcrops of chalk.	Natural	0.47+
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Trench 4	Dimensions: 11m x 2m Ground Level:		
Context	Description	Interpretation	Depth (m)
401	Tarmac	Tarmac	0.00-0.06
402	Yellow sand with crushed hardcore inclusions.	Crushed Hardcore	0.06-0.29
403	Mix of reddish brown clay and crushed hardcore.	Contaminated Natural	0.29-0.42
404	Reddish brown clay with angular flint inclusions.	Natural	0.42+

Trench 5	Dimensions: 15m x 2m Ground Level:		
Context	Description	Interpretation	Depth (m)
501	Friable coarse grey sand with very frequent modern fragmented building material inclusions.	Crushed Hardcore	0.00-0.12
502	Mix of reddish brown clay and crushed hardcore.	Contaminated Natural	0.12-0.38
503	Moderately compact chalk fill	Fill of linear [504]	0.38-0.5
504	Cut of linear feature	Cut of linear	-
505	Reddish brown clay with outcrops of yellow sandy silt and chalk, with moderate angular flint inclusions.	Natural	0.38+

Trench 6	Dimensions: 25m x 2m Ground Level:		
Context	Description	Interpretation	Depth (m)
601	Friable coarse grey sand with very frequent modern fragmented building material inclusions.	Crushed Hardcore	0.00-0.18
602	Mix of reddish brown clay and crushed hardcore.	Contaminated Natural	0.18-0.36

603	Reddish brown clay with outcrops of chalk and angular flint inclusions.	Natural	0.36+
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Trench 7	Dimensions: 15m x 2m Ground Level:		
Context	Description	Interpretation	Depth (m)
701	Tarmac	Tarmac	0.00-0.13
702	Friable coarse grey sand with very frequent modern fragmented building material inclusions.	Crushed Hardcore	0.13-0.3
703	Mix of reddish brown clay and crushed hardcore.	Contaminated Natural	0.3-0.48
704	Reddish brown clay with outcrops of yellow sandy silt and chalk, with moderate angular flint inclusions.	Natural	0.48+

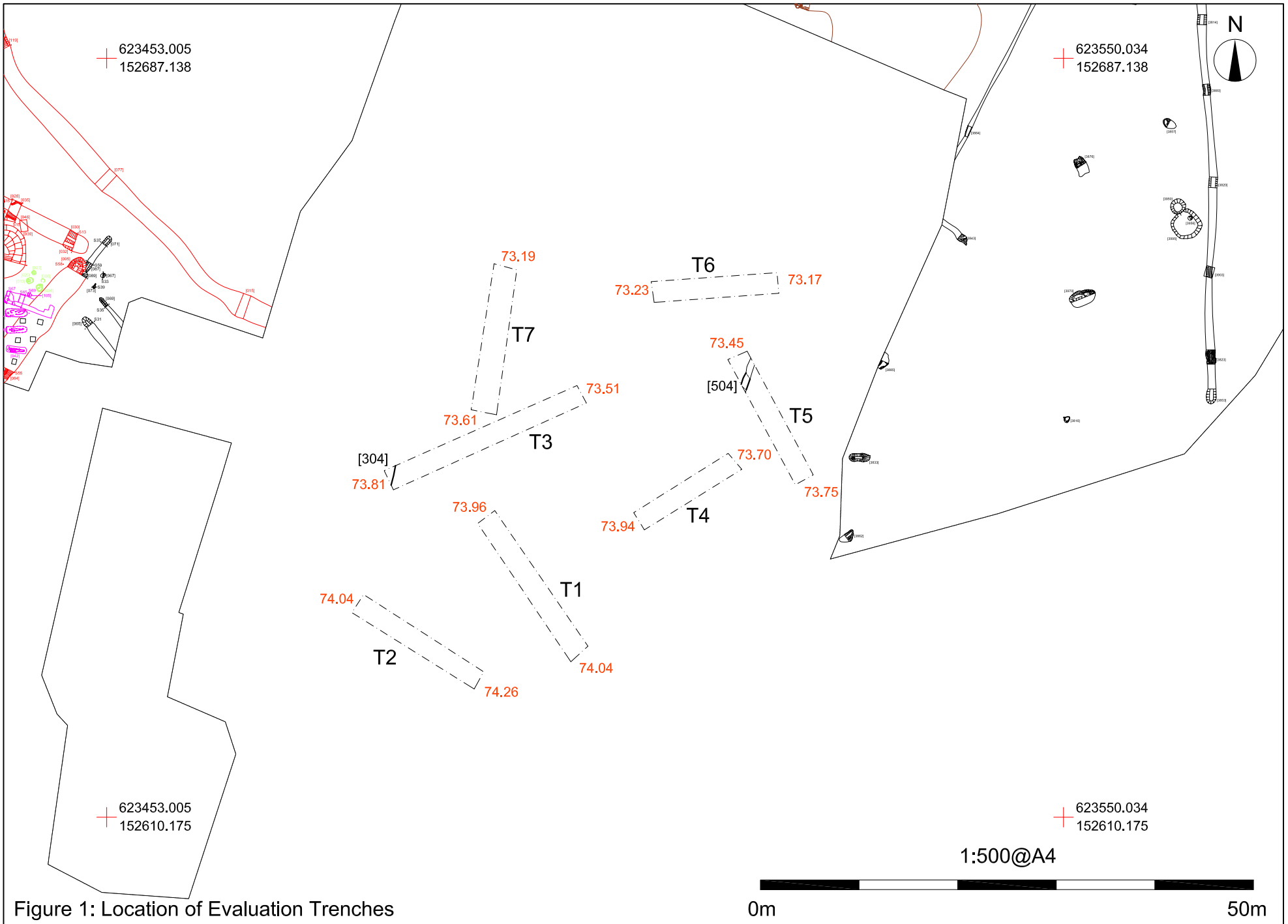
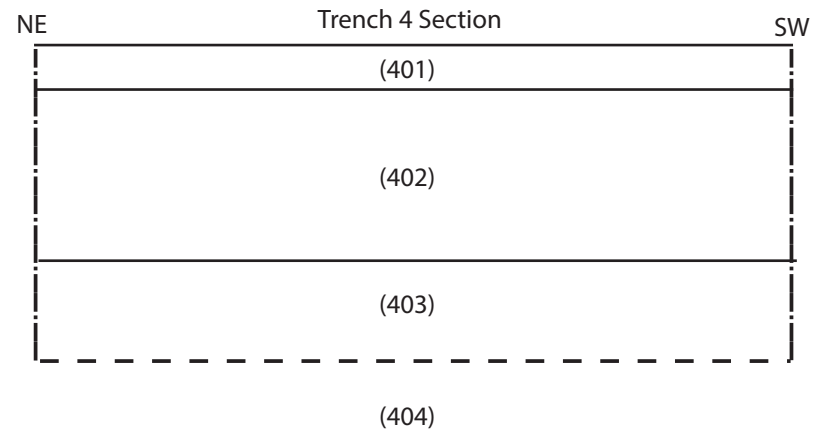
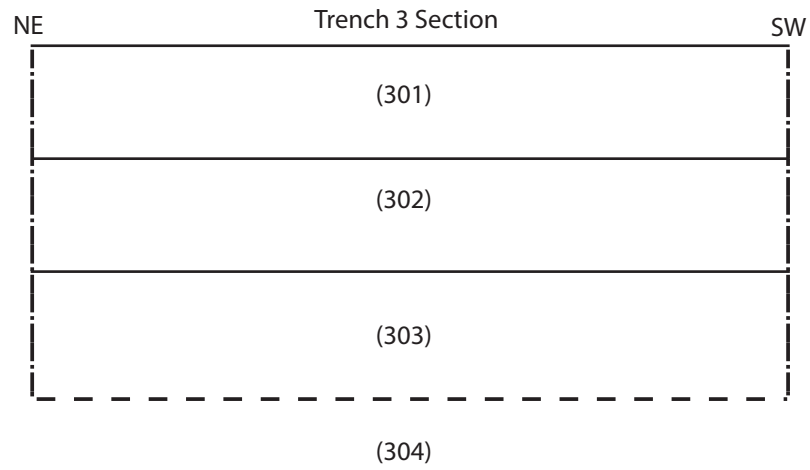
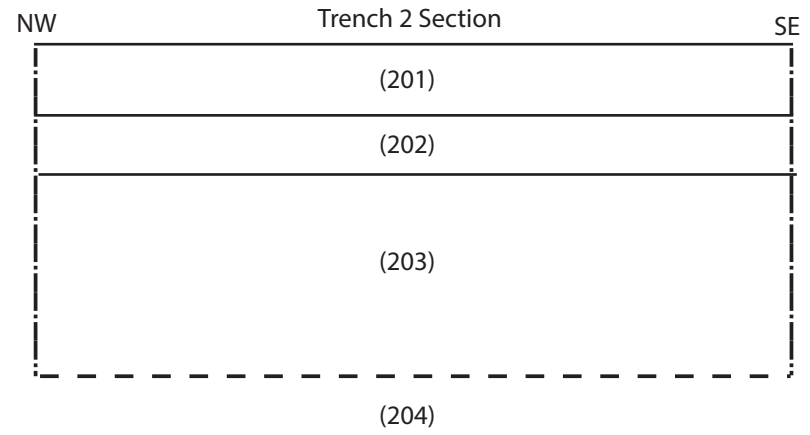
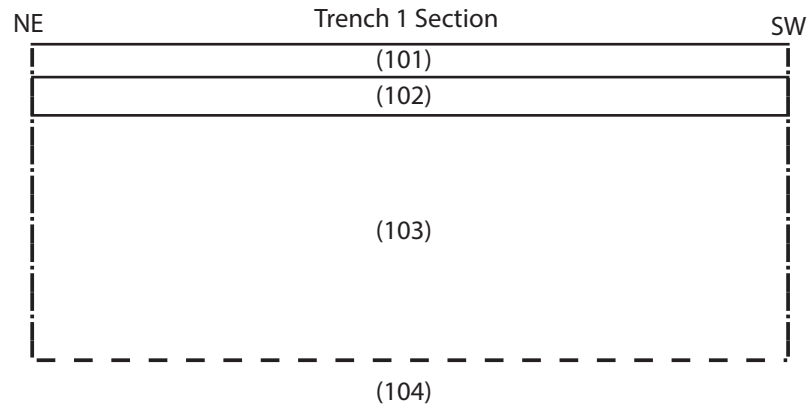


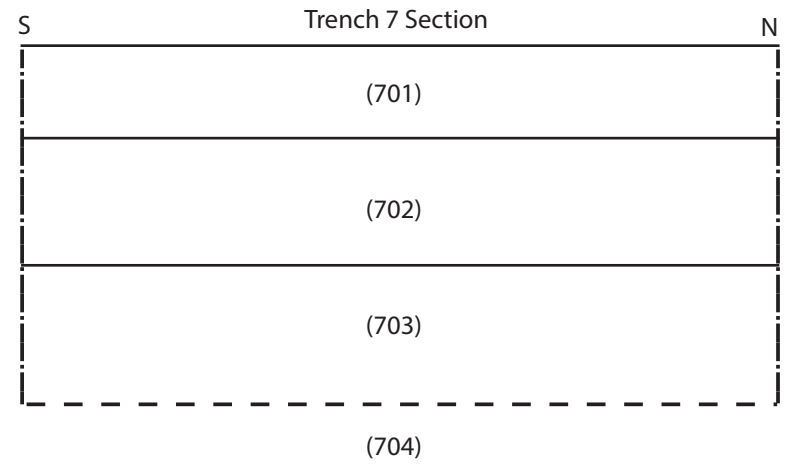
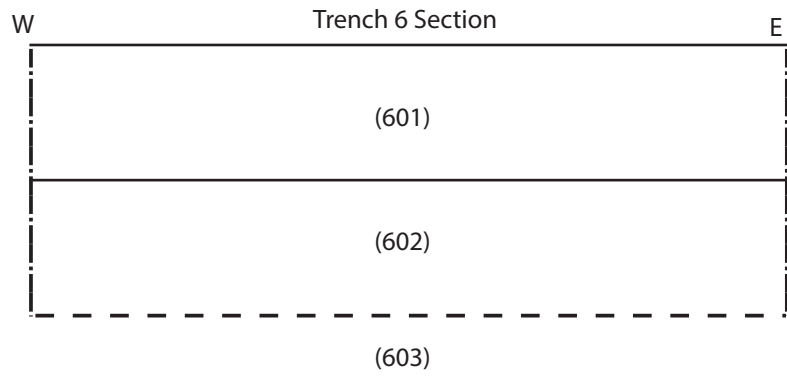
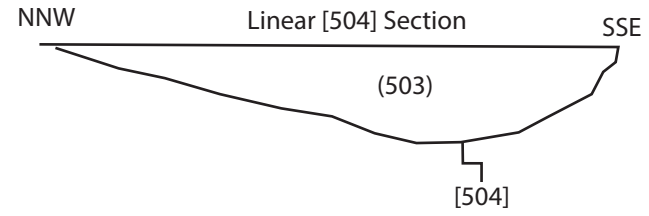
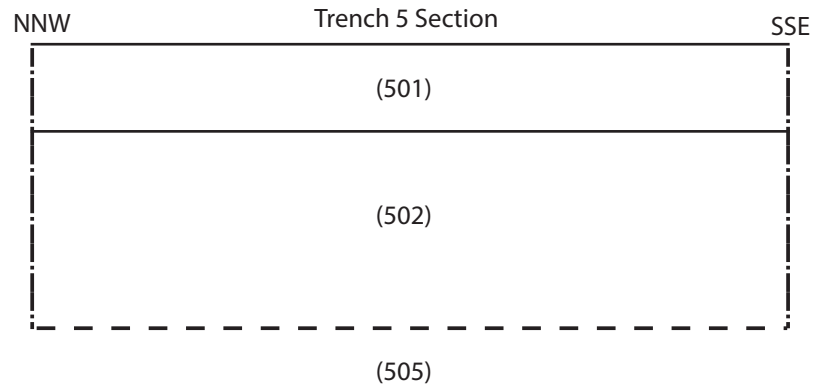
Figure 1: Location of Evaluation Trenches



0m



1m



0m



1m

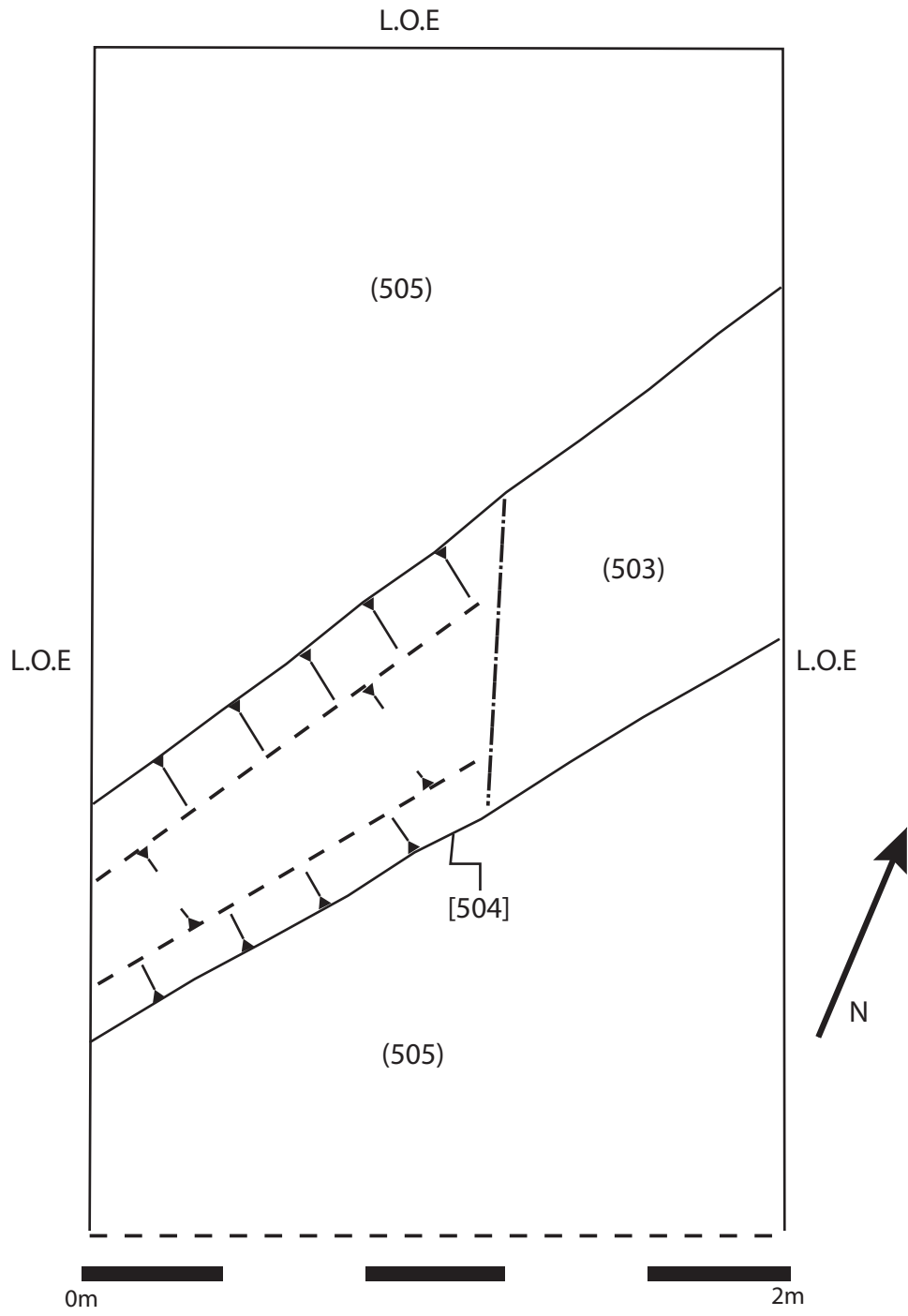




Plate 1 South-East facing view of Trench 1



Plate 2 North-West facing view of Trench 2



Plate 3 North-East facing view of Trench 3 showing modern service (304)



Plate 4 South-West facing view of Trench 4



Plate 5 South-East facing view of Trench 5 showing linear [504]



Plate 6 North-East facing view of Trench 6



Plate 7 North North-West facing view of Trench 7



Plate 8 North-East facing Trench 2 section



Plate 9 South-East facing Trench 3 section



Plate 10 North-East facing Trench 5 section



Plate 11 Linear [504]



Plate 12 East facing section of linear [504] filled with (503)



Plate 13 Overall view of site showing concrete silo at the center of the site.



Plate 14 Trench 4 had to be moved due to on site obstacles



Plate 15 Concrete silo in use during evaluation.