

# Archaeological Evaluation of Land at 68 Old Dover Road, Canterbury CT1 3DF



NGR: 615298 157140

Site Code: DOV/EV/19

(Planning Application: CA/15/00102)

**SWAT Archaeology**

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Plate 1. Aerial photograph of site (9/4/2017) Google Earth

## **Archaeological Evaluation of Land at 68 Old Dover Road, Canterbury, Kent**

NGR: 615298 157140

Site Code: DOV-EV-19

### **1. Summary**

*Swale & Thames Survey Company (SWAT) carried out an archaeological evaluation of land at 68 Old Dover Road, Canterbury in Kent. A Planning Application (CA/15/001102) to develop this site for the erection of student halls of residence and detached building containing communal facilities following the demolition of the existing buildings was submitted to Canterbury City 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 Archaeological Heritage Officer, Canterbury City Council. The results of the excavation of five evaluation trenches revealed that no archaeological features were present within the trenches (Plates 2-5). The natural geology of Clay, Silt was reached at an average depth of between 0.40m and 0.60m below the top layer of topsoil. 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 the landowners 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 2019) and in discussion with Rosanne Cummings, Archaeological Heritage Officer, Canterbury City Council. The evaluation was carried out on the 1<sup>st</sup> March 2019.

### **3. Site Description and Topography**

The proposed development area (PDA) sits at an average height of circa 20m. The site is located to the east of Canterbury and accessed from Old Dover Road with the railway

cutting forming the southern boundary of the site (Plate 1). The OS location is NGR 615298 157140.

#### **4. Planning Background**

Planning permission has been obtained with the following Condition (4):

*Prior to the commencement of development, the following components of a scheme for the archaeological evaluation of the site, to be undertaken for the purpose of determining the presence or absence of any buried archaeological features and deposits and to assess the importance of the same, shall each be submitted to and approved in writing by the local planning authority:*

- a) A written scheme of investigation, to be submitted a minimum of fourteen days in advance of the commencement of fieldwork.*
- b) A report summarising the results of the investigations, to be produced in accordance with the requirements set out in the written scheme of investigation.*
- c) Any further mitigation measures considered necessary as a result of the archaeological investigations.*
- d) If necessary, a programme of post-excavation assessment, analysis, publication and conservation.*

*The further mitigation measures and post excavation works shall subsequently be completed in accordance with the approved details and programme timings unless otherwise agreed in writing with the local authority, and the local authority shall be notified in writing a minimum of fourteen days in advance of the commencement of any fieldwork.*

*REASON: To ensure a proper record of matters of archaeological interest.*

The results from this evaluation will be used to inform CCC Archaeology and Heritage and Canterbury City Council of any further archaeological mitigation measures that may be necessary in connection with the development proposals.

#### **5. Archaeological and Historical Background**

The KCCHER data indicated that this area is located in an area of known archaeological activity.

The KCC HER data was searched and the site is located in an area of known archaeological activity from the Roman and Modern periods.

To east is the Phoenix Public House which is listed (TR 15 NE 1167), and north at about 55m a WWII Emergency Air Raid Shelter (TR 15 NE 941).

North-west at about 100m a Roman pottery kiln (TR 15 NE 941) and Roman cemetery.

To the east of but adjacent to Old Dover Road another Roman cremation cemetery (TR 15 NE 1572).

## **6. Aims and Objectives**

According the SWAT Archaeological Specification, the aims and objectives for the archaeological work were to ensure that:

*6.1 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.*

*6.2 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 Specification called for an evaluation by trial trenching comprising a first phase of five trenches 15m long and 1.8m wide within the footprint of the proposed development. An 8.5 ton 360° tracked mechanical excavator with a flat-bladed ditching bucket was used to remove the topsoil and subsoil to expose the natural geology. All archaeological work was carried out in accordance with the 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 CCC, SWAT and ClfA standards and guidance.

## **8. Monitoring**

Curatorial monitoring was available during the course of the evaluation.

## **9. Results**

The evaluation has identified no archaeological features within the five trenches (Figures 1-4 and Plates 2-11).

### ***Trench 1***

Trench 1 was NW-SE aligned and located alongside the west boundary of the site at a height of 20.82m O.D. It measured 9.5m by 1.8m and was excavated to the depth of 1.6m.

At the bottom of the trench natural deposit of Clay and Sand (103) was exposed successively overlaid by 0.4m thick subsoil (102) overlaid by topsoil (101).

### ***Trench 2***

Trench 2 was W-E aligned and located alongside the southern boundary of the site at a height of 21.05m O.D. It measured 15m by 1.8m and was excavated to the depth of 1.2m.

At the bottom of the trench natural deposit of Clay and Sand (203) was exposed successively overlaid by 0.7m thick subsoil (202) overlaid by topsoil (201).

One modern feature (204) was exposed cutting into (203) and comprised a modern truncated garden wall.

### ***Trench 3***

Trench 3 was W-E aligned and located alongside the southern boundary of the site at a height of 20.44m O.D. It measured 15m by 1.8m and was excavated to the depth of 0.6m.

At the bottom of the trench natural deposit of Clay and Sand (303) was exposed successively overlaid by 0.4m thick subsoil (302) overlaid by topsoil (301).

#### ***Trench 4***

Trench 4 was NW-SE aligned and located alongside the east boundary of the site at a height of 20.65m O.D. It measured 22m by 1.8m and was excavated to the depth of 0.65m.

At the bottom of the trench natural deposit of Clay and Sand (403) was exposed successively overlaid by 0.3m thick subsoil (402) overlaid by topsoil (401).

#### ***Trench 5***

Trench 5 was NW-SE aligned and located alongside the east area of the site at a height of 20.65m O.D. It measured 16.5m by 1.8m and was excavated to the depth of 0.62m.

At the bottom of the trench natural deposit of Clay and Sand (503) was exposed successively overlaid by 0.2m thick subsoil (502) overlaid by topsoil (501).

### **10. Discussion**

With a number of 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. The site has been used as a residential garden. All trenches showed a typical sequence of topsoil and subsoil with Trench 2 exposing modern garden wall demolition features.

### **11. Finds**

No finds were retrieved as all pottery exposed was modern.

### **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 topsoil (**101**) sealing the subsoil (**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 for commissioning the project. Thanks are also extended to Rosanne Cummings Archaeological Heritage Officer, Canterbury City Council. The fieldwork was undertaken by Tim Allen MCIfA and the report written by Paul Wilkinson MCIfA.

Dr Paul Wilkinson 20/05/2019

### **14. References**

Chartered Institute for Field Archaeologists (CIfA), Rev (2017). *Standard and Guidance for archaeological field evaluation*

SWAT Archaeology (2019) *Site Specific Requirements: Land at 68 Old Dover Road, Canterbury, Kent*

KCC and Historic England HER data 2019

#### **HER Summary Form**

**Site Name:** Land at 68 Old Dover Road, Canterbury, Kent

**SWAT Site Code:** DOV/EV/19

**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 a student housing whereby Canterbury City Council Heritage and Conservation 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:** Canterbury City Council

**Period(s):**

**NGR (centre of site to eight figures)** 61528 157140

**Type of Archaeological work:** Archaeological Evaluation

**Date of recording:** March 2019

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

**Geology:** Underlying geology is Superficial deposits of Clay and Silt

**Title and author of accompanying report:** Wilkinson P. (2019) Archaeological Evaluation of Land at 68 Old Dover Road, Canterbury, CT1 3DF

**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

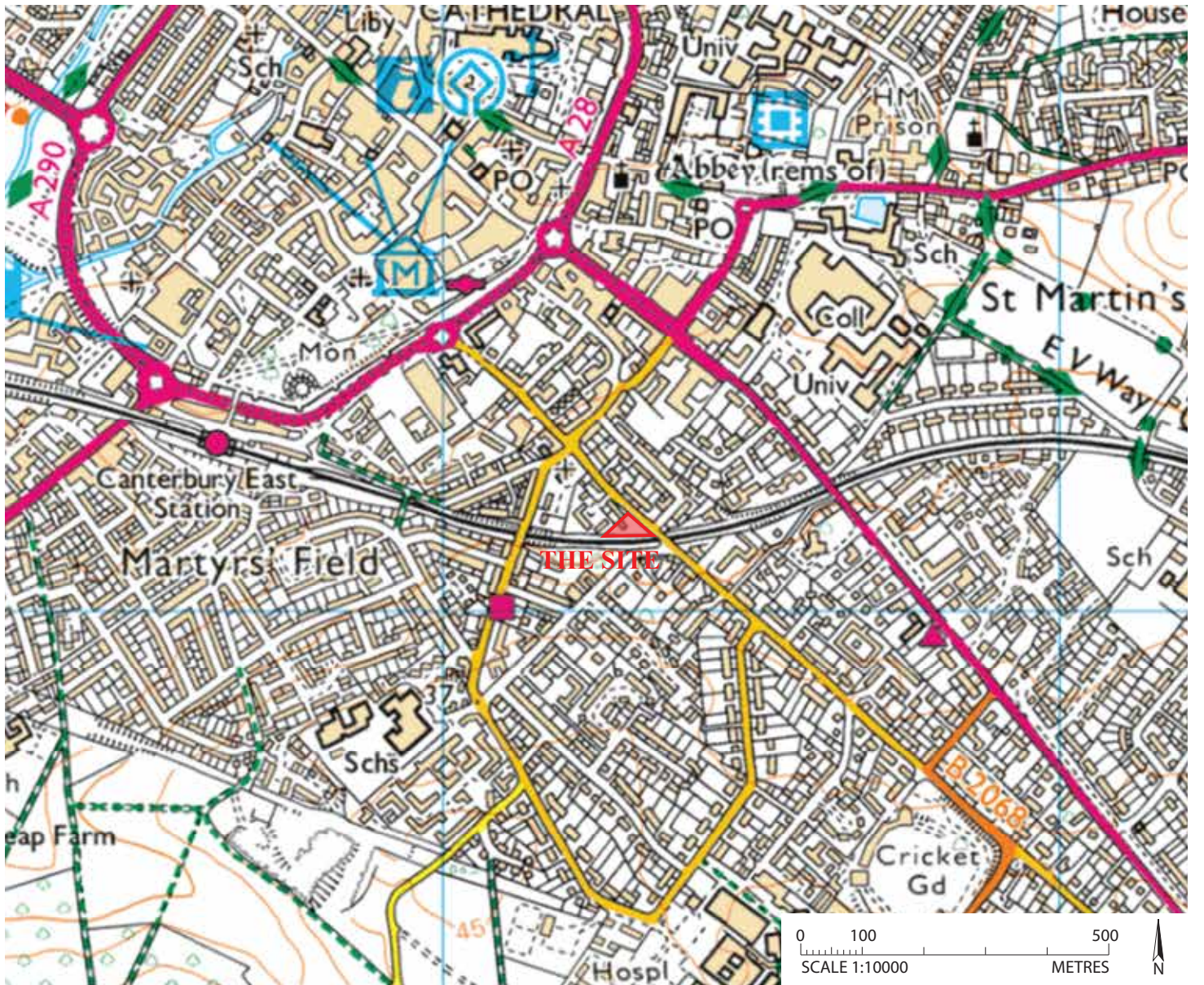
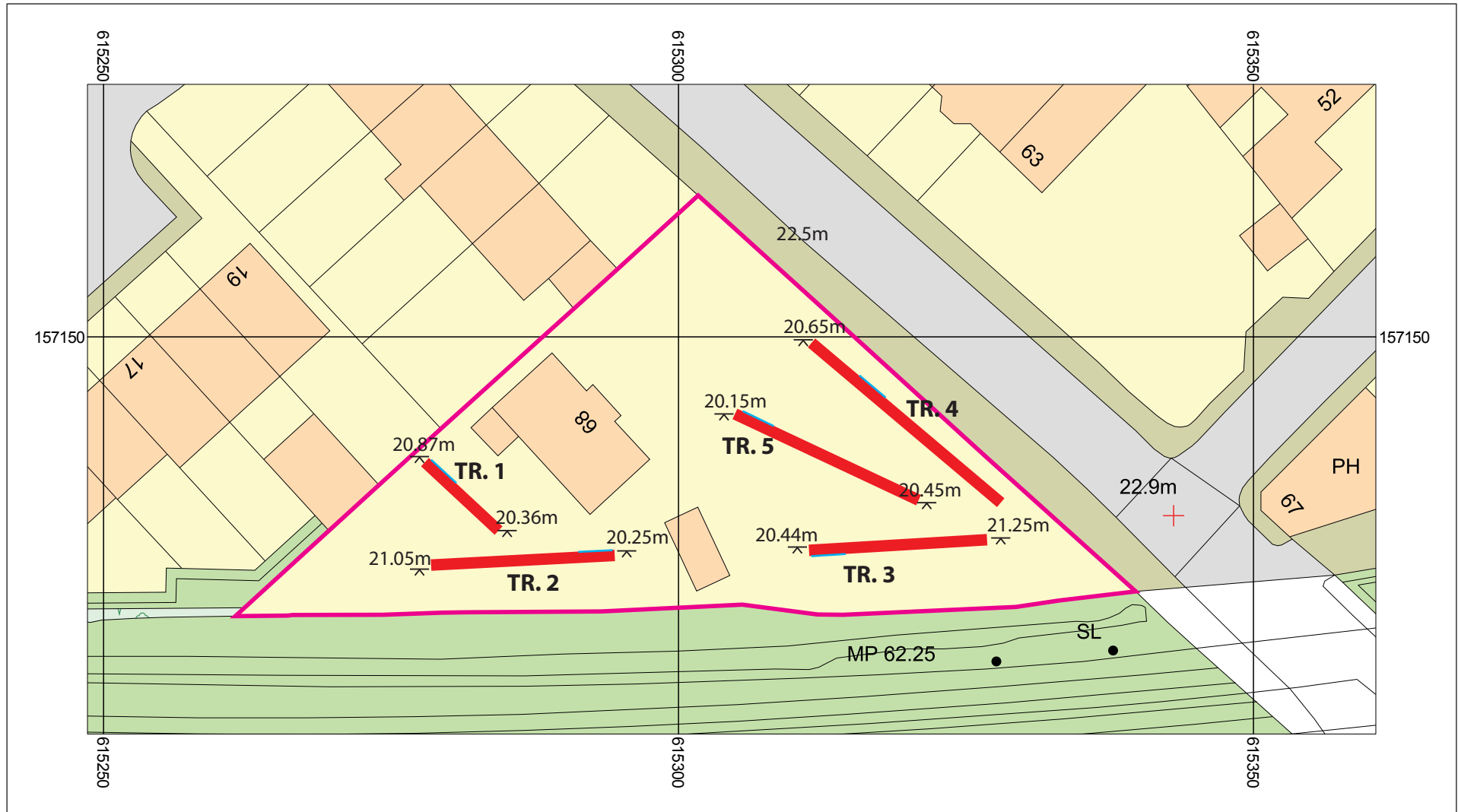
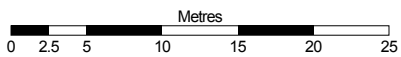


Figure 1: Site location map, scale 1:10000.

# OS Plan Colour



Scale: 1:500



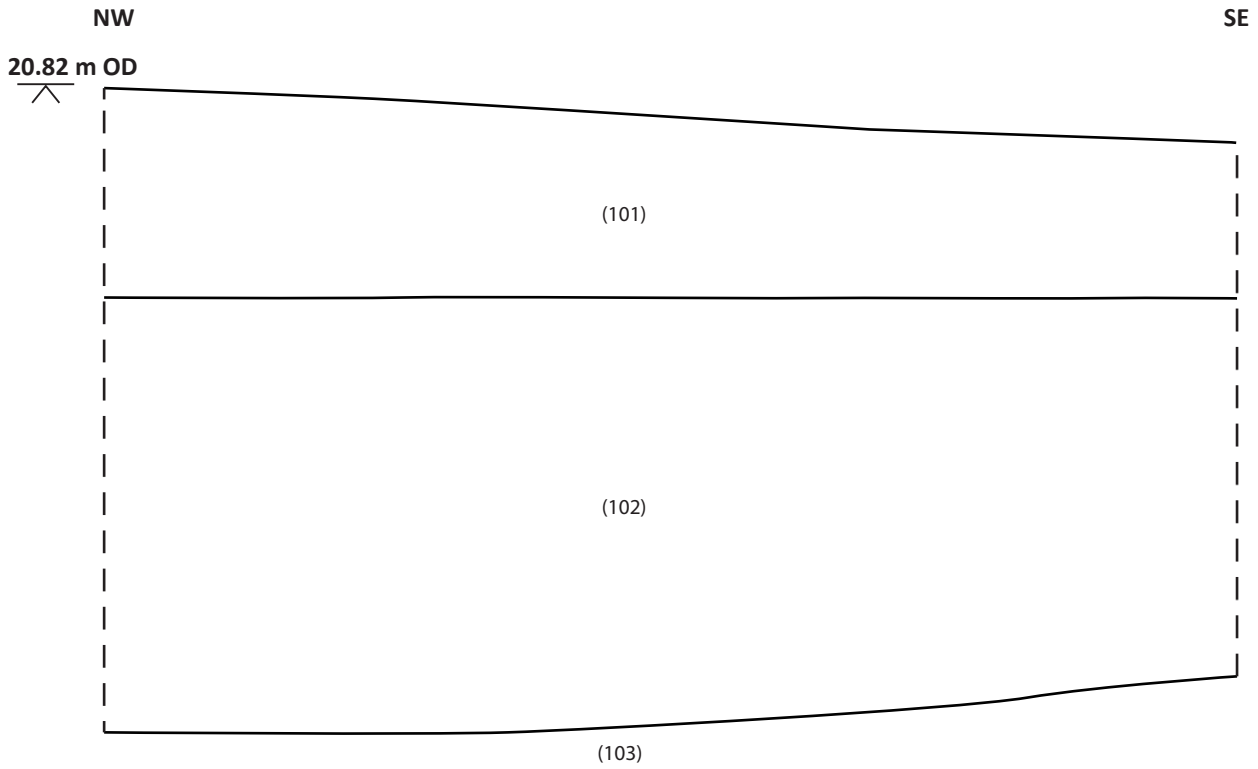
68 Old Dover Road  
Canterbury  
CT1 3DF

**KEY:**  
— Site outline  
— Trench  
— Section

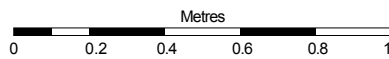
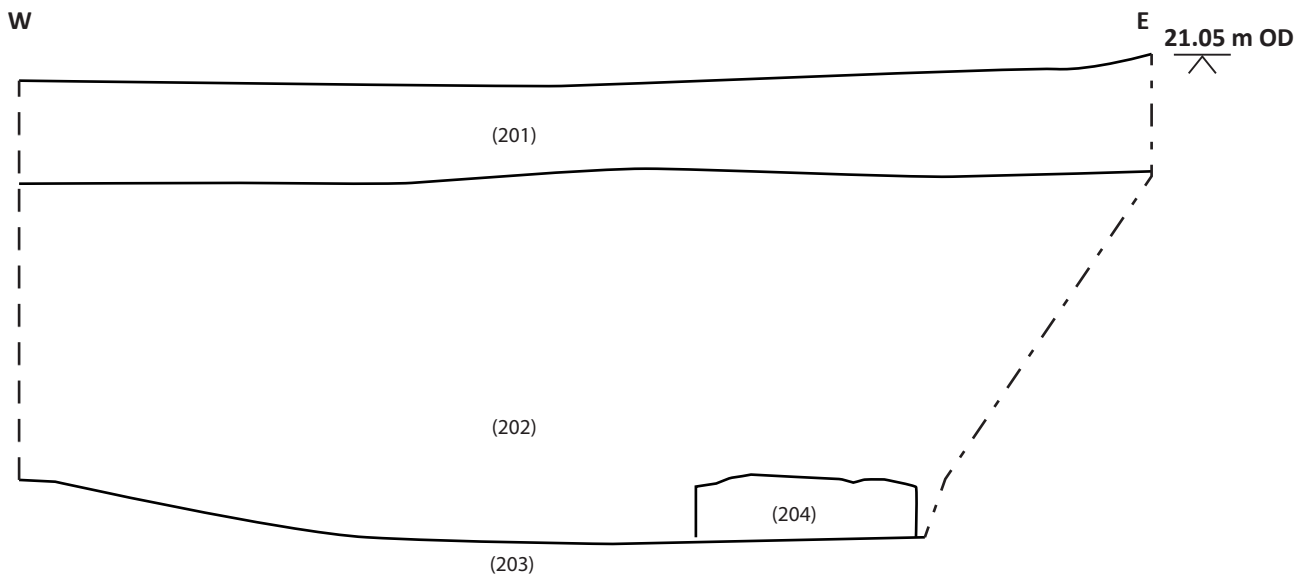
© Crown copyright and database rights 2018. OS 100031961

Figure 2: Trench location plan in relation to OS map

**Trench 1 - Section 1**  
South west facing section

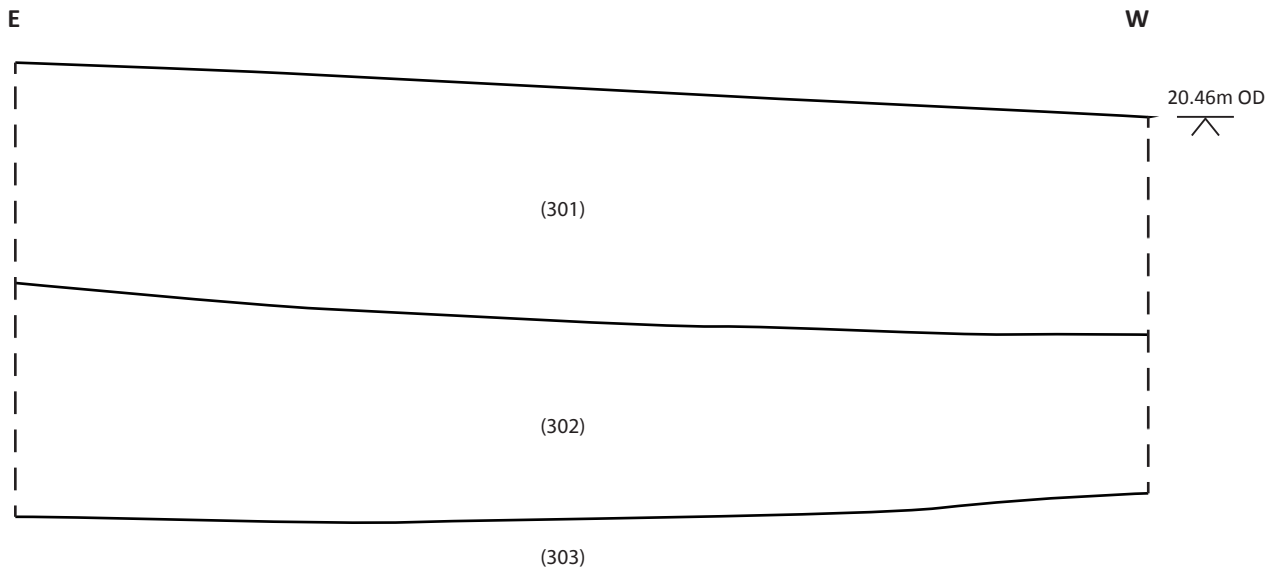


**Trench 2 - Section 2**  
South facing section

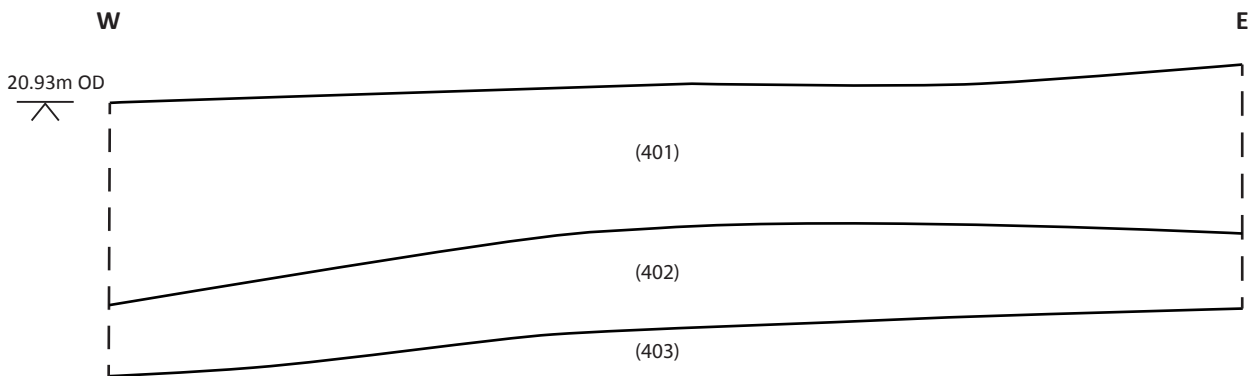


*Figure 3: Sections of Trench 1 and 2; scale 1:20*

**Trench 3 - Section 3**  
North facing section



**Trench 4 - Section 4**  
South-west facing section



**Trench 5 - Section 5**  
South-south-west facing section

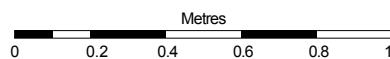
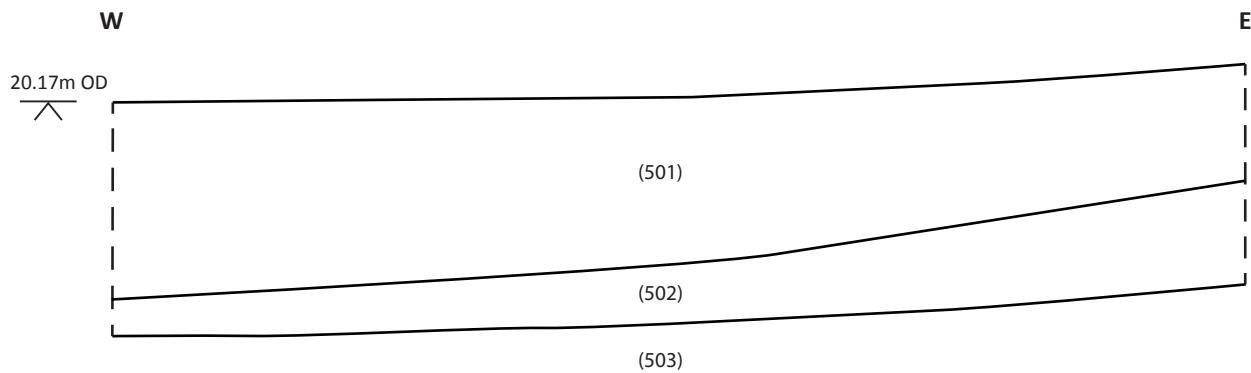


Figure 4: Sections of Trench 3, 4 and 5; scale 1:20



Trench 1 looking SE (one-metre scale)



Trench 1. Typical section looking NE (one-metre scale)



Trench 2. The truncated brick wall foundation exposed in the trench base (looking south, one-metre scale)





Trench 2. The truncated brick wall foundation exposed in the trench base looking down (one-metre scale)



Trench 2. The truncated brick wall foundation exposed in the trench base looking down and south (one-metre scale)



Trench 2 looking west (one-metre scale)



Trench 3 looking W (one-metre scale)



Trench 4 looking SE (one-metre scale)



The western termination of Trench 3 showing the depth of made ground (looking west, one-metre scale)



Trench 5 looking WNW with immovable tree stump in the middle (one-metre scale)



Trenches 3, 4 & 5 looking north-west





The severely reduced, pit-like area lying in the garden immediately east of 68 Old Dover Road (looking east)