

Archaeological Evaluation of Land at Crispin Cottage, 163 Heath Road, Coxheath, Maidstone, Kent



Site Code: CHH-EV-18

(Planning Application: 17/503285/FULL)

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Archaeological Evaluation of Land

At Crispin Cottage, 163 Heath Road, Coxheath, Maidstone, Kent

1. Summary

Swale & Thames Survey Company (SWAT) carried out an archaeological evaluation of land at Crispin Cottage, Coxheath in Kent. A Planning Application (17/503285/FULL) for residential development and associated landscaping and other works was made to Maidstone Borough 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 KCC Manual Part B) and in discussion with the Senior Archaeological Heritage Officer, Kent County Council. The results of the excavation of two evaluation trenches revealed that archaeological features were not present within the trenches. The natural geology of Hythe Formation-Sandstone was reached at an average depth of between 0.30m and 0.40m below the modern ground surface. The Archaeological Evaluation has therefore been successful in fulfilling the primary aims and objectives of the Archaeological Specification.

2. Introduction

Swale & Thames Survey Company (SWAT) was commissioned by the landowner 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 (KCC 2018) and in discussion with the Senior Archaeological Heritage Officer, Kent County Council. The evaluation was carried out from the 25th to 26th July 2018.

3. Site Description and Topography

The proposed development is to the rear gardens of 161 and 163 Heath Road, Coxheath. The site is situated about 4 miles to the south of Maidstone and is on the B2163 Heath Road and located in the north area of Coxheath and the site is currently the rear gardens of 161 and 163 Heath Road which is a rectangular shape and measures approximately 37m x 15m. To the east of the site is a newly developed site with planning permission for 110 houses. The OS location is NGR 574850 150952 (Figure 1).

4. Planning Background

4.1 The land has obtained planning permission (17/503285/FULL) for the development of the site to accommodate four dwellings together with associated access road, car parking. On the basis of the present archaeological information, the Archaeological Officer for Maidstone Borough Council recommended that the site should be subject to a programme of archaeological work in order to clarify the historical and archaeological elements within the site. The archaeological condition (8)

Prior to the commencement of development hereby approved the applicant, or their agents or successors in title, will secure and implement the following:

(a) an archaeological field evaluation in accordance with a specification and written timetable which has been submitted to and approved by the Local Planning Authority; and;

(b) further archaeological investigation, recording and reporting, determined by the results of the evaluation, in accordance with a specification and timetable which has been submitted to and approved by the Local Planning Authority

Reason: To ensure that features of archaeological interest are properly examined and recorded.

5. Archaeological and Historical Background

5.1 The archaeological potential is based on the proximity of archaeological remains presently recorded in the HER.

5.2 The site lies in an area of broad archaeological potential associated with past archaeological finds and discoveries in the general vicinity. 100m to the NNE are possible 18th-19th century ditches (TQ 75 SW 301). About 125m to the NNE was found an undated boundary ditch (TQ 75 SW 300) and about 140m to the NNE was found in archaeological investigations an undated ditch containing a iron axe/hatchet head (TQ 75 SW 388).

6. Aims and Objectives

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

The aim of the evaluation work is to determine whether any 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 safeguarding measures, further detailed archaeological excavation prior to development and/or an archaeological watching brief during construction work. This specification sets out the requirements for trial trenching on the site only. Further measures will be subject to other documents or specifications which will need to be agreed with the Local Planning Authority.

The evaluation is thus to ascertain the extent, depth below ground surface, depth of deposit, character, significance and condition of any archaeological remains on site.

7. Methodology

The KCC Archaeological Specification itemises that the:

7.1 The general methodology for the archaeological evaluation is set out in Part B of this specification.

7.2 The archaeological evaluation will comprise the excavation of 2 archaeological trial trenches within the proposed development site. The archaeological contractor shall submit a trench layout plan for approval prior to the commencement of work. In formulating their trench layout plan the archaeological contractor should aim to include trenches measuring 25m in length by 1.8m in width.

7.3 The Archaeological Contractor should confirm the nature and location of any constraints on-site prior to the commencement of excavation and if necessary amend the trench location plan accordingly. Particular attention will be paid to avoiding any services and/or trees that are to be retained or to avoid damage to the roots thereof. Any amendments to the trench design must be agreed in advance with the County Archaeologist and a revised trench plan submitted for approval.

7.4 Should significant remains be exposed it may be necessary to enlarge or extend the evaluation trenches to allow for further investigation of any significant features or deposits that may be encountered.

7.5 Prior to the commencement of fieldwork the Archaeological Contractor shall agree with the developer, or their agent, any fencing required during the works and requirements for reinstatement at completion. The Archaeological Contractor shall ensure that arrangements

are in place for appropriate reinstatement prior to the commencement of any excavations (KCC 2018).

Trench 1

The plan is recorded in Figure 1 (see also Plate 1). The trench lay on a NW-SE alignment, measured approximately 25m by 1.80m and had a maximum depth of 0.40m.

Undisturbed natural geology was identified across the trench as silty sand at a depth of approximately 0.40m (120.60m aOD) below the present ground surface of 121.00m aOD at the SE end of the trench. A modern feature- land drain - was identified at the NW end of the trench.

The natural geology was sealed by mid-dark brown silty subsoil **(201)** which was sealed by dark grey-brown silty topsoil **(200)**.

Trench 2

The plan is recorded in Figure 1 (see also Plate 2). The trench lay on a NW-SE alignment, measured approximately 25m by 1.80m and had a maximum depth of 0.40m.

Undisturbed natural geology was identified across the trench as silty sand at a depth of approximately 0.40m (120.60m aOD) below the present ground surface of 121.00m aOD at the NW end of the trench. In the centre of the trench a large tree bole prevented the excavation of the trench.

The natural geology was sealed by mid-dark brown silty subsoil **(101)** which was sealed by dark grey-brown silty topsoil **(100)**.

8. Monitoring

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

9. Results

The evaluation has identified no archaeological features.

10. Discussion

With numerous archaeological sites in the vicinity of the PDA it was expected that the evaluation may produce evidence of archaeological activity but there was none.

11. Finds

No archaeological finds were retrieved.

12. Conclusion

The archaeological evaluation produced no archaeological features within the two trenches. The archaeological evaluation has been successful in fulfilling the primary aims and objectives of the Archaeological Specification. A common stratigraphic sequence was recognised across the site comprised of topsoil **(100)** sealing the subsoil **(101)** which overlay 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 SWAT and KCC Archaeological Specifications.

13. Acknowledgements

SWAT Archaeology would like to thank the client for commissioning the project. Thanks are also extended to Wendy Rogers, Senior Archaeological Officer, Kent County Council. Site survey and illustrations were produced by Bartek Cichy. The fieldwork was undertaken by Peter Cichy and the project was managed and report written by Dr Paul Wilkinson MCIFA.

Paul Wilkinson

20/08/2018

14. References

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

KCC Specification *Specification for an archaeological evaluation of land at Crispin Cottage, 163 Heath Road, Coxheath, Maidstone, Kent*

KCC Specification Manual Part B

KCC HER data 2017

15. Appendix 1

Kent County Council HER Summary Form

Site Name: Land at Crispin Cottage, 163 Heath Road, Coxheath, Maidstone, Kent

SWAT Site Code: CHH/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 residential housing whereby Kent County Council Heritage and Conservation (KCCHC) 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: Maidstone Borough Council

Period(s):

NGR (centre of site to eight figures) 574850 150952

Type of Archaeological work: Archaeological Evaluation

Date of recording: July 2019

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

Geology: Underlying geology is Sandstone of the Hythe Formation

Title and author of accompanying report: Wilkinson P. (2018) Archaeological Evaluation of Land at Crispin Cottage, 163 Heath Road, Coxheath, Maidstone, Kent

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

The archaeological evaluation on the site of proposed development revealed no archaeological features.

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

Contact at Unit: Paul Wilkinson

Date: 20/08/2018

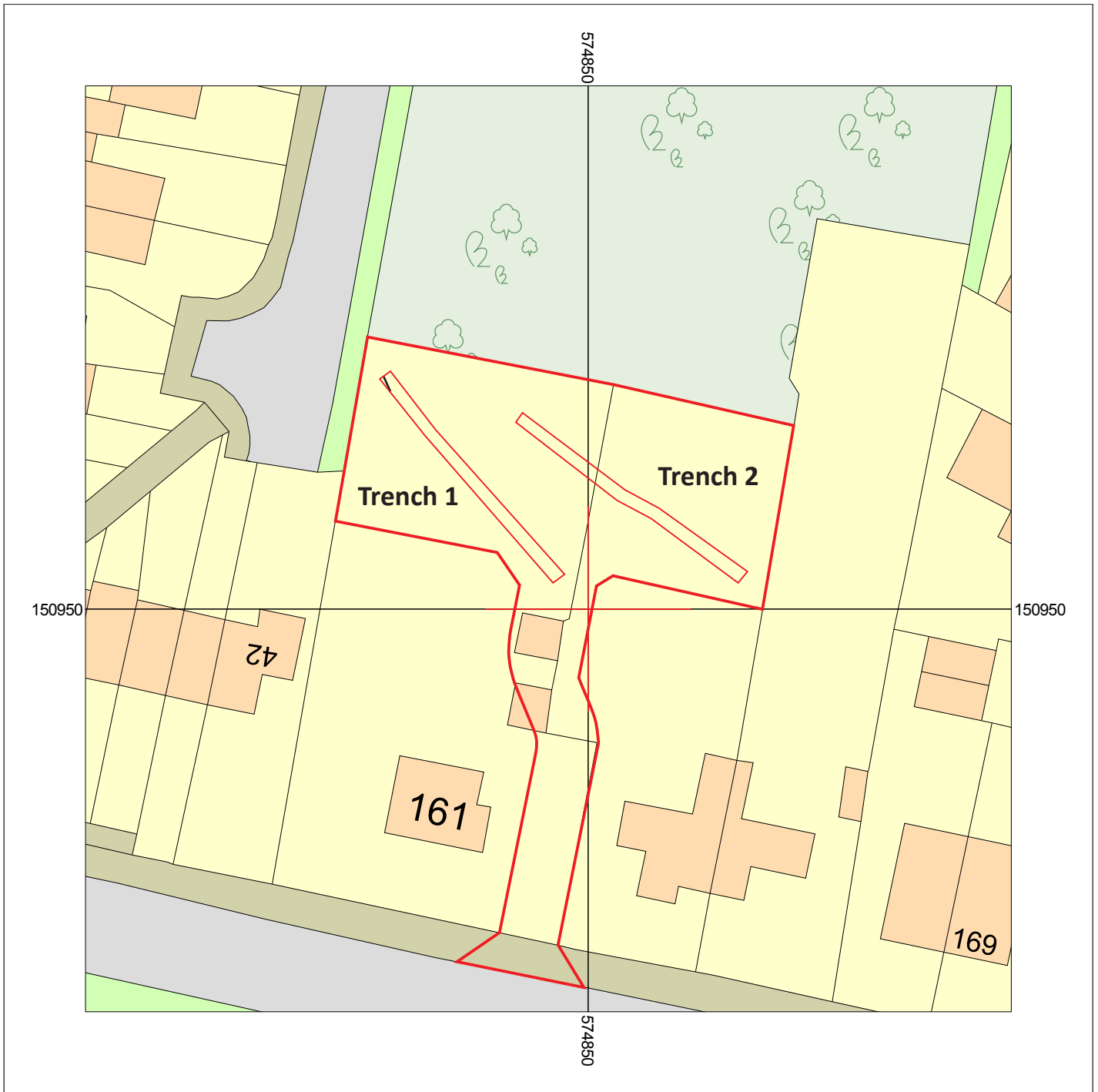


Plate 1. View of Trench 1 (looking SE)

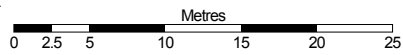


Plate 2. View of Trench 2 (looking SE)

OS Plan Colour



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Scale: 1:500

Heath Road

Coxheath

Figure 1: Site location



Figure 2: Evaluation trenches superimposed on development plan

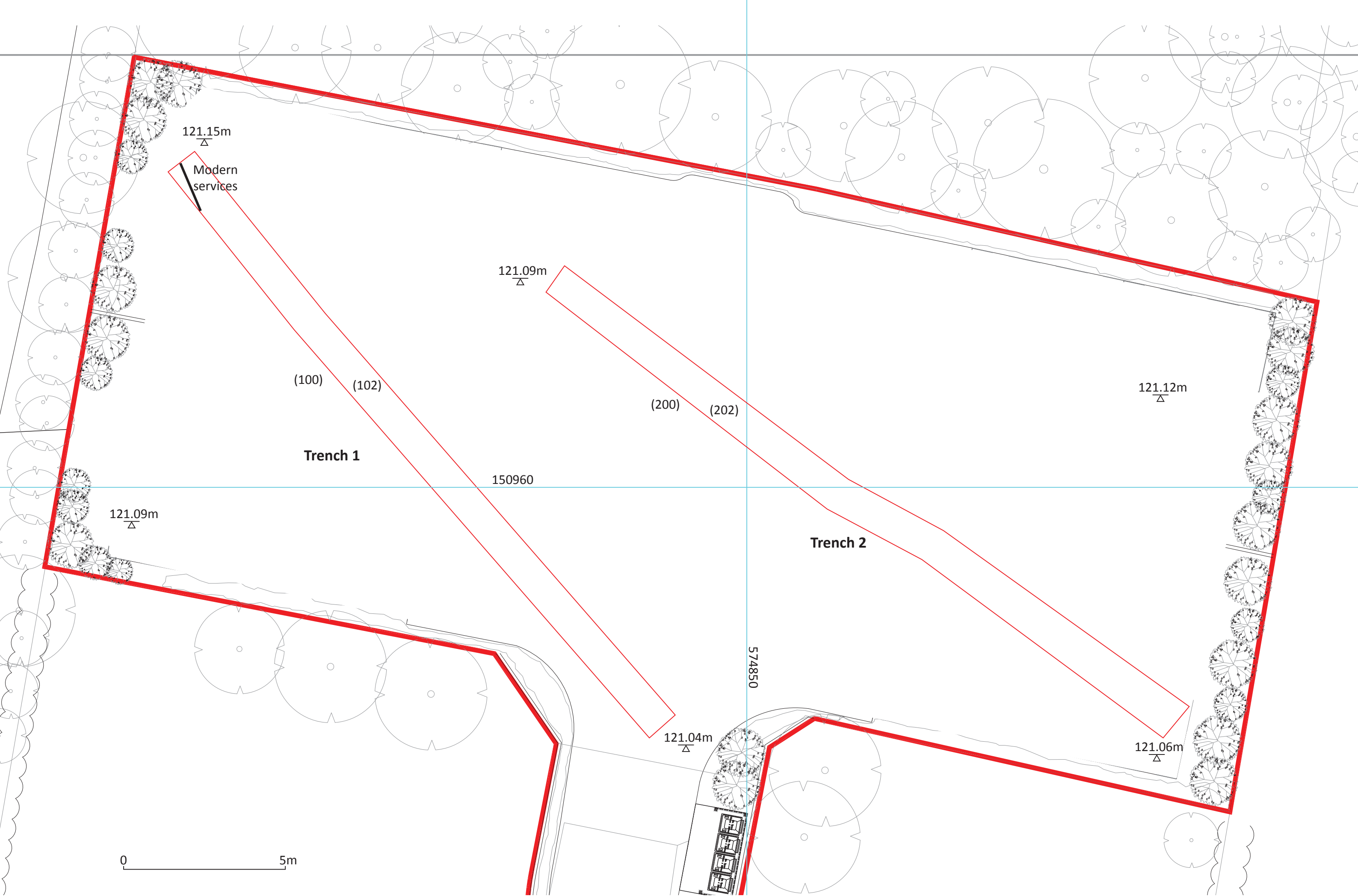


Figure 3: Trench plan