Archaeological Evaluation on Land at Orchard Farm, Well Street, East Malling, West Malling, Kent

Site Code: ORCH -EV-19

NGR Site Centre 569052 156973 165878

Planning Application Number: TM/19/00147/FL

SWAT ARCHAEOLOGY

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Summary

Swale & Thames Survey Company (SWAT Archaeology) was commissioned to undertake an archaeological evaluation on land at Orchard Farm, Well Street, East Malling, West Malling in Kent. The archaeological works were monitored by the Kent County Council Senior Archaeological Officer.

The fieldwork was carried out in August 2019 in accordance with an archaeological specification (SWAT Archaeology July 2019) submitted to the Local Planning Authority prior to commencement of works.

The Archaeological Evaluation consisted of 11 trenches, which encountered a relatively common stratigraphic sequence comprising topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology with no archaeological features.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project Background

1.1.1 Swale & Thames Survey Company (SWAT Archaeology) was commissioned to undertake an archaeological evaluation on land at Orchard Farm, Well Street in Kent (**Figure 2**).

1.1.2 In mitigation of the potential impact that the development may have on the buried archaeological resource Kent County Council Heritage & Conservation (KKCHC), who provide an advisory service to Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council, requested that a programme of archaeological works be undertaken to satisfy the recommended condition (14) of the planning permission TM/19/00147/FL.

1.1.3 The archaeological evaluation was carried out in August 2019 in accordance with an archaeological specification prepared by SWAT Archaeology (11/04/2019), prior to commencement of works, and in discussion with Wendy Rogers Senior Archaeological Officer at KCCHC.

1.1 4 Site Description and Topography

The application site is located just south of East Malling and to the east of the A228. To the south is Pikey Lane and to the north Stickens Lane (Figure 2).

The landscape is characterised by open fields and areas of scrub (WSI/AP 2. 2019) whilst historic aerial photography shows the site in 1960 as orchard (WSI/AP 1. 1960).

The NGR reference point is NGR 569052 156973.

The Geological Survey of Great Britain (1:50,000) shows that the PDA is set on Bedrock Geology of Hythe Formation-Sandstone. Superficial deposits are not recorded. The PDA is set at an average height of 50-53.00m AOD.

2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 Introduction

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 (April 2019) The potential of this area has been assessed in relation to the proximity of known archaeological remains and to the south Springfield Farm is a post-medieval farmstead and listed Grade II (MKE 84469). To the west is The Barracks a

Grade II listed building (TQ 65 NE 60) and to the north at 205 Well Street a Grade II listed building (TQ 65 NE 208).

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

2.2 Specific Aims (SWAT 2019)

2.2.1 The specific aims of the archaeological fieldwork are set out in the Specification (SWAT 2018) were to:

2.2.2 *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. The aims of this investigation are to determine the potential for archaeological activity and in particular the earlier history of the PDA and also any other Prehistoric and Roman activity.*

2.3 General Aims

2.3.1 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.

3 METHODOLOGY

3.1 Introduction

3.1.1 All fieldwork was conducted in accordance with the methodology set out in the Specification (SWAT 2019 and KCC Manual of Specifications 'B') and carried out in compliance with the standards outlined in the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' Standards Guidance for Archaeological Evaluations (CIfA 2017).

3.2 Fieldwork

3.2.1 A total of 11 evaluation trenches were excavated across the Site (Figures 2-5).

3.2.2 Each trench was initially scanned for surface finds prior to excavation. Excavation was carried out using a 360º mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket, removing the overburden

to the top of the first recognisable natural or archaeological horizon, under the constant supervision of an experienced archaeologist.

3.2.3 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 CIfA 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.

3.3 Recording

3.3.1 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. These are retained in the site project archive.

3.3.2 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 site project archive.

3.3.3 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.).

4 RESULTS

4.1 Introduction

4.1.1 A total of 11 evaluation trenches were mechanically excavated under archaeological supervision.

4.2 Stratigraphic Deposit Sequence

4.2.1 A relatively consistent stratigraphic sequence was recorded across the majority of the Site comprising topsoil sealing an intact subsoil of orange brown sandy silt (Plates 1-15).

4.2.2 Appendix 1 provides the stratigraphic sequence for all trenches. Figures 1-5 provide a site plan and trench location plan while Plates 1-15 include selected site photographs.

4.3 Overview

4.3.1 The 11 trenches were located across the site to ensure full coverage of potential archaeological remains.

5 FINDS

6.1 No finds of any archaeological merit were recovered from the archaeological evaluation.

6 Discussion

6.1 Archaeological Narrative

6.1.1 No archaeological features were exposed in any of the 11 trenches.

6.2 Conclusions

6.2.1 The archaeological evaluation has been successful in fulfilling the primary aims and objectives of the Specification. Development proposals are not likely to impact on archaeological remains.

6.2.2 This evaluation has, therefore, assessed the archaeological potential of land intended for development. The results from this work show that the proposed development is not likely to impact on any archaeological remains.

7 ARCHIVE

7.1 General

7.1.1 The Site archive, which will include; paper records, photographic records, graphics and digital data, will be prepared following nationally recommended guidelines (SMA 1995; CIfA 2014; Brown 2011; ADS 2013).

7.1.2 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 and will be retained by SWAT Archaeology until a Kent museum archive procedure is in place.

8 ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

8.1.1 SWAT would like to thank the developer for commissioning the project. Thanks are also extended to Ben Found Senior Archaeological Officer, Kent County Council, for his advice and assistance.

8.1.2 Bartek Cichy supervised the archaeological evaluation and survey and illustrations were produced by Bartek Cichy. Paul Wilkinson MCIfA produced the text for this report.

9 REFERENCES

ADS 2013. Caring for Digital Data in Archaeology: a guide to good practice, Archaeology Data Service & Digital Antiquity Guides to Good Practice

Brown, D.H., 2011. Archaeological archives; a guide to best practice in creation, compilation, transfer and curation, Archaeological Archives Forum (revised edition)

Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, 2014, Standard and Guidance for the creation, compilation, transfer and deposition of archaeological archives, Institute for Archaeologists

Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, 2014, *Standard and guidance: for field evaluation.*

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

SMA 1995. Towards an Accessible Archaeological Archive, Society of Museum Archaeologists

Appendix 1. Trench Table

Trench 1	Dimensions: 25m x 1.8m Depth: 0.45m Trench alignment: NE-SW Trench depth 0.6m in SE end of the trench NE ground level: 52.71m OD, SW ground level: 53.50m OD		
Context	Interpretation	Description	Depth (m)
101	Topsoil /Grass, weeds /Horse grazing	Very firm compaction, dark brown, sandy silt with moderate sub-angular sandstone, occ. tile fragments, charcoal flecks, coal, glass wire. All anthropogenic inclusions are modern	0.00-0.28
102A	Natural/Head	Very Firm compaction, medium orangish brown, silty sand with occ. sub angular sandstone and outcrops of sandstone(102B)	0.28+
102B	Natural bedrock	Outcrops of sandstone (Coarse sandstone mostly light grey but some pinkish, yellowish brownish) sealed by dark brown or pale yellowish grey sand.	0.44+
103	Colluvium	Colluvium located in SW end of the trench. Very firm compaction, dark brown, clayey silt with freq. sub-angular sandstone.	0.28-0.6

Trench 2	Dimensions: 25mx 1.8m Depth: 0.4m Trench alignment: WNW-ESE WNW ground level: 52.95m OD, ESE ground level: 52.65m OD		
Context	Interpretation	Description	Depth (m)
201	Topsoil /Grass, weeds /Horse grazing	Very firm compaction, dark brown, sandy silt with moderate sub-angular sandstone, occ. tile fragments, charcoal flecks, coal, glass wire. All anthropogenic inclusions are modern	0.00-0.28
202	Natural/Head	Very Firm compaction, medium orangish brown, silty sand with occ. sub angular sandstone	0.28+

Trench 3	Dimensions: 25m x 1.8m Depth: 0.4m Trench alignment: NNE-SSW NNE ground level: 52.38m OD, SSW ground level:53.33 m OD		
Context	Interpretation	Description	Depth (m)
301	Topsoil /Grass, weeds /Horse grazing	Very firm compaction, dark brown, sandy silt with moderate sub-angular sandstone, occ. tile fragments, charcoal flecks, coal, glass wire. All anthropogenic inclusions are modern	0.00-0.28
302	Natural/Head	Very Firm compaction, medium orangish brown, silty sand with occ. sub angular sandstone	0.28+

Trench 4	Dimensions: 10m x 1.8m Depth: 0.4m Trench alignment: WNW-ESE WNW ground level: 53.65m OD, ESE ground level: 53.61m OD		
Context	Interpretation	Description	Depth (m)
401	Topsoil /Grass, weeds /Horse grazing	Very firm compaction, dark brown, sandy silt with moderate sub-angular sandstone, occ. tile fragments, charcoal flecks, coal, glass wire. All anthropogenic inclusions are modern	0.00-0.23
402	Natural/ Bedrock outcrops	Pale grey with brown irregular patches, sand with freq. sub angular sandstone and moderate small roots.	0.23+

Trench 5	Dimensions: 25m x 1.8m Depth: 0.4m Trench alignment: NNE-SSW NNE ground level: 51.06m OD, SSW ground level: 52.24m OD		
Context	Interpretation	Description	Depth (m)
501	Topsoil /Grass, weeds /Horse grazing	Very firm compaction, dark brown, silty loam with moderate sub-angular sandstone, occ. tile fragments, charcoal flecks, coal, glass wire. All anthropogenic inclusions are modern	0.00-0.24
502	Natural/Head	Very Firm compaction, medium orangish brown, silty loam with occ. sub angular sandstone	0.24+

Trench 6	Dimensions: 15m x 1.8m Depth: 0.35m Trench alignment: WNW-ESE WNW ground level: 51.67m OD, ESE ground level: 51.61m OD		
Context	Interpretation	Description	Depth (m)
601	Topsoil /Grass, weeds /Horse grazing	Very firm compaction, dark brown, silty loam with moderate sub-angular sandstone, occ. tile fragments, charcoal flecks, coal, glass wire. All anthropogenic inclusions are modern	0.00-0.24
602	Natural/ Bedrock outcrops	Very Firm compaction, medium orangish brown, silty loam with occ. sub angular sandstone	0.24+

Trench 7	Dimensions: 25m x 1.8m Depth: 0.45m Trench alignment: WNW-ESE WNW ground level: 53.65m OD, ESE ground level:51.60 m OD		
Context	Interpretation	Description	Depth (m)
701	Topsoil /Grass, weeds /Horse grazing	Very firm compaction, dark brown, silty loam with moderate sub-angular sandstone, occ. tile fragments, charcoal flecks, coal, glass wire. All anthropogenic inclusions are modern	0.00-0.24
702	Natural/ Bedrock outcrops	Very Firm compaction, medium orangish brown, silty loam with occ. sub angular sandstone	0.24+

703	Cut of modern pit	WNW-ESE aligned rectangular pit with vertical sides. Un excavated	0-0.45+
704	Fill of [703]	Firm compaction, black sandy silt with freq. charred remains (freq. charcoal, occ. coal and clinker) and occ. modern glass.	0-0.45+

Trench 8	Dimensions: 25m x 1.8m Depth: 0.38m Trench alignment: NNE-SSW NNE ground level: 49.69m OD, SSW ground level: 51.09m OD		
Context	Interpretation	Description	Depth (m)
801	Topsoil /Grass, weeds /Horse grazing	Very firm compaction, dark brown, clayey silt with moderate sub-angular sandstone, occ. tile fragments, charcoal flecks, coal, glass wire. All anthropogenic inclusions are modern	0.00-0.24
802	Natural/Head	Very Firm compaction, medium orangish brown, clayey silt with occ. sub angular sandstone	0.24+

Trench 9	Dimensions: 25m x 1.8m Depth: 0.38m Trench alignment: WNW-ESE WNW ground level: 50.60m OD, ESE ground level: 50.64m OD		
Context	Interpretation	Description	Depth (m)
901	Topsoil /Grass, weeds /Horse grazing	Very firm compaction, dark brown, clayey silt with moderate sub-angular sandstone, occ. tile fragments, charcoal flecks, coal, glass wire. All anthropogenic inclusions are modern	0.00-0.24
902	Natural/ Bedrock outcrops	Very Firm compaction, medium orangish brown, clayey silt with occ. sub angular sandstone and small roots	0.24+
903	Modern land drain	NE –SW aligned, 0.2m wide, narrow trench backfilled with up cast from trench excavation	0-0.38+

Trench 10	Dimensions: 25m x 1.8m Depth: 0.38m Trench alignment: NNE-SSW NNE ground level: 50.28m OD, SSW ground level: 51.14m OD		
Context	Interpretation	Description	Depth (m)
1001	Topsoil /Grass, weeds /Horse grazing	Very firm compaction, dark brown, clayey silt with moderate sub-angular sandstone, occ. tile fragments, charcoal flecks, coal, glass wire. All anthropogenic inclusions are modern	0.00-0.25
1002	Natural/Head	Very Firm compaction, medium orangish brown, clayey silt with occ. sub angular sandstone	0.25+

Trench 11	Dimensions: 25m x 1.8m Depth: 0.4m-0.55m Trench alignment: WNW-ESE WNW ground level: 49.65m OD, ESE ground level: 49.13m OD Trench re positioned due to presence of spoil heaps and build up ground in the area.		
Context	Interpretation	Description	Depth (m)
1101	Topsoil /Grass, weeds /overlaid with modern	Very firm compaction, dark brown, clayey silt with moderate sub-angular sandstone, occ. tile fragments, charcoal flecks, coal, glass wire. All anthropogenic inclusions are modern	0.3-0.52
1102	Natural/ Bedrock outcrops	Very Firm compaction, medium orangish brown, clayey silt with occ. sub angular sandstone and small roots	0.4+
1103	Modern build up ground/ levelling and	Various material (earth, hardcore, aggregate)	0-0.3

	spoil/hardcore heaps		

Kent County Council HER Summary Form

Site Name: Land at Orchard Farm, Well Street, East Malling, West Malling, Kent

SWAT Site Code: ORCH/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 a planning application for the construction of an extension to the Orchard Farm Holiday Park whereby Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council requested that archaeological works 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 meaningful archaeology.

District/Unitary: Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council

Period(s):

NGR (centre of site to eight figures) NGR 569052 156973

Type of Archaeological work: Archaeological Evaluation

Date of recording: August 2019

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

Geology: Underlying geology is Bedrock Geology of Hythe Formation- Sandstone

Title and author of accompanying report: Wilkinson P. (2019) Archaeological Evaluation of Land at Orchard Farm, Well Street, East Malling, West Malling, Kent

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.

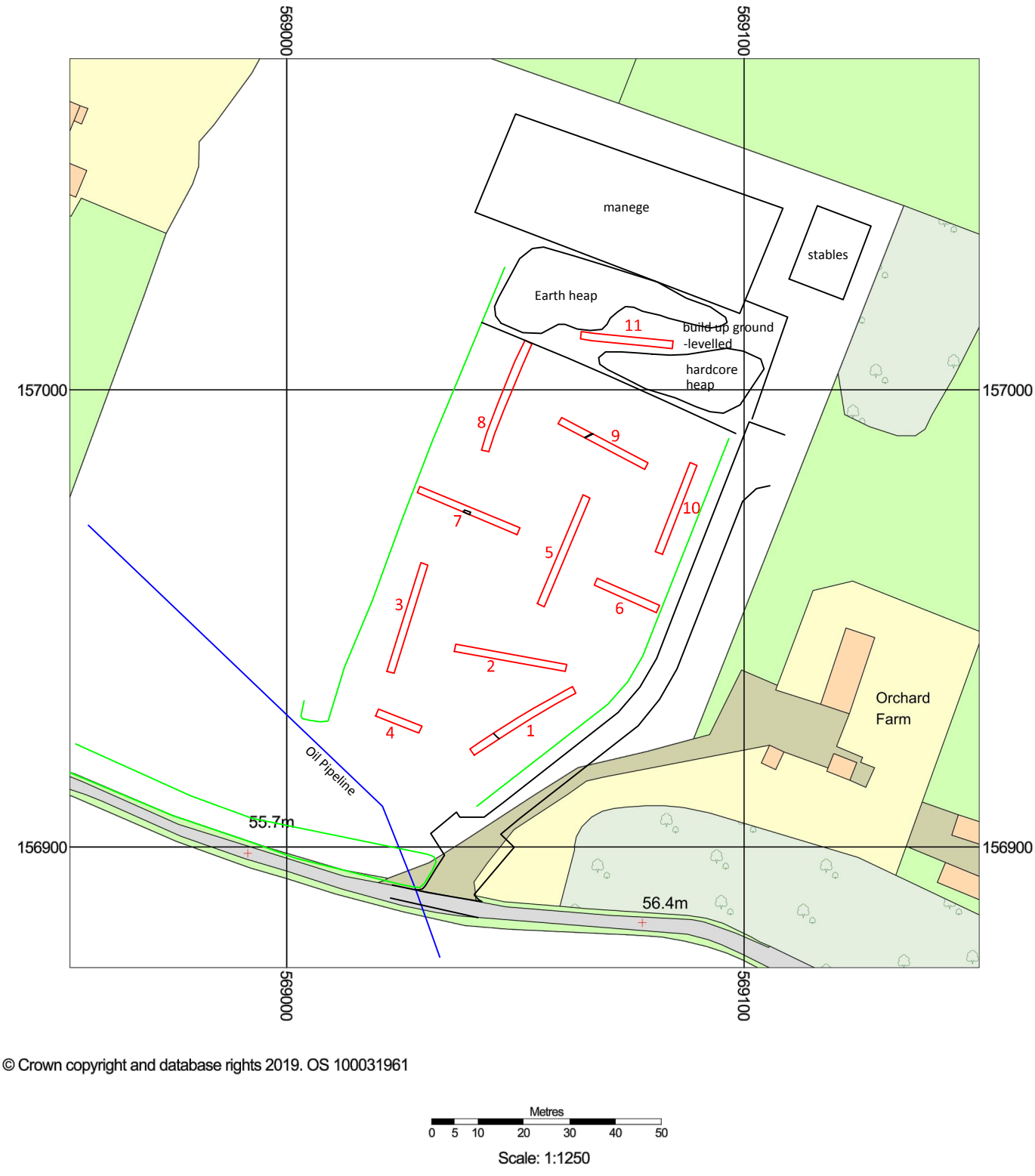

Figure 2: Trench location

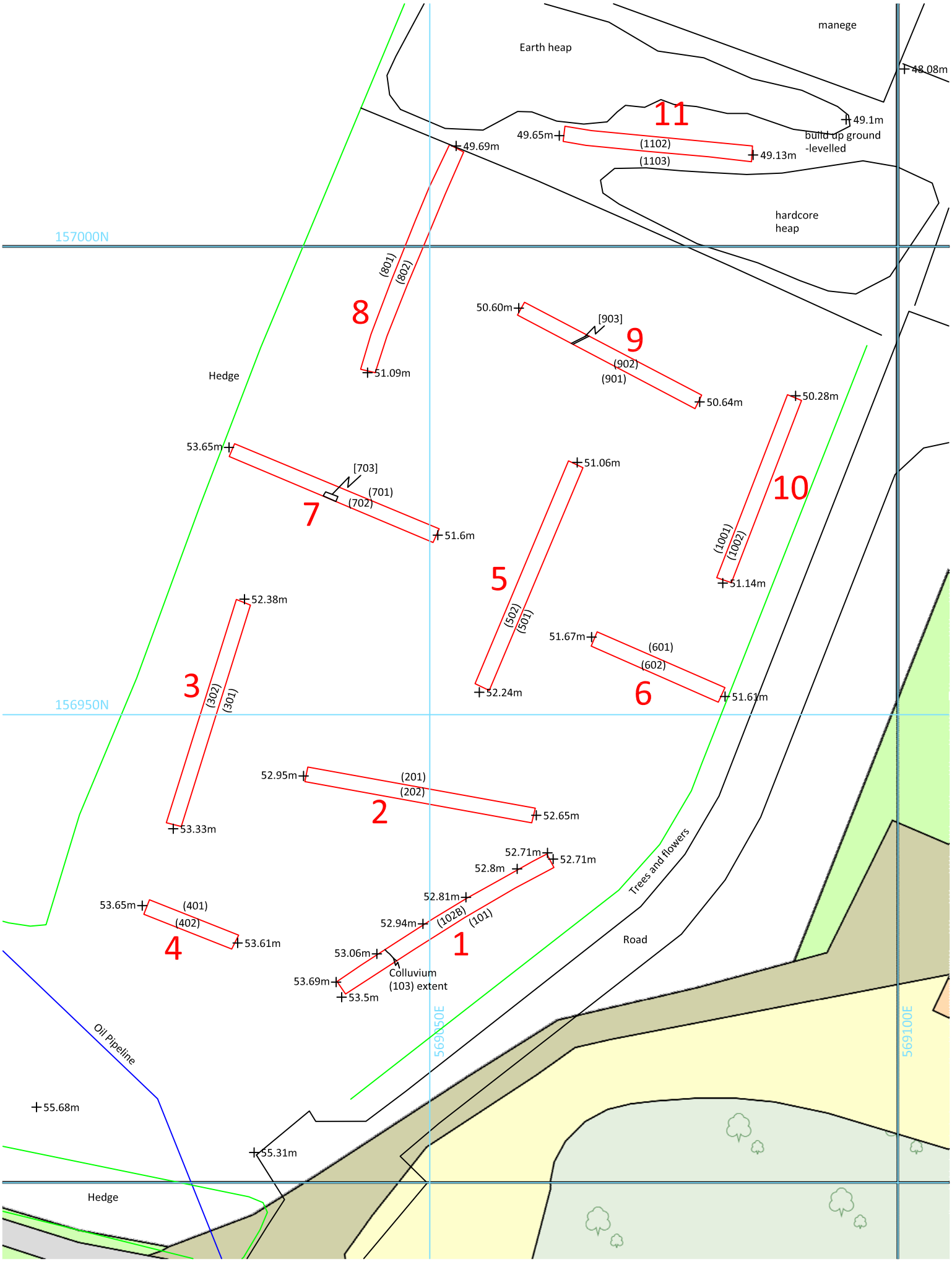

Figure 3: Trench plan

Figure 4: Trench location in relation to development

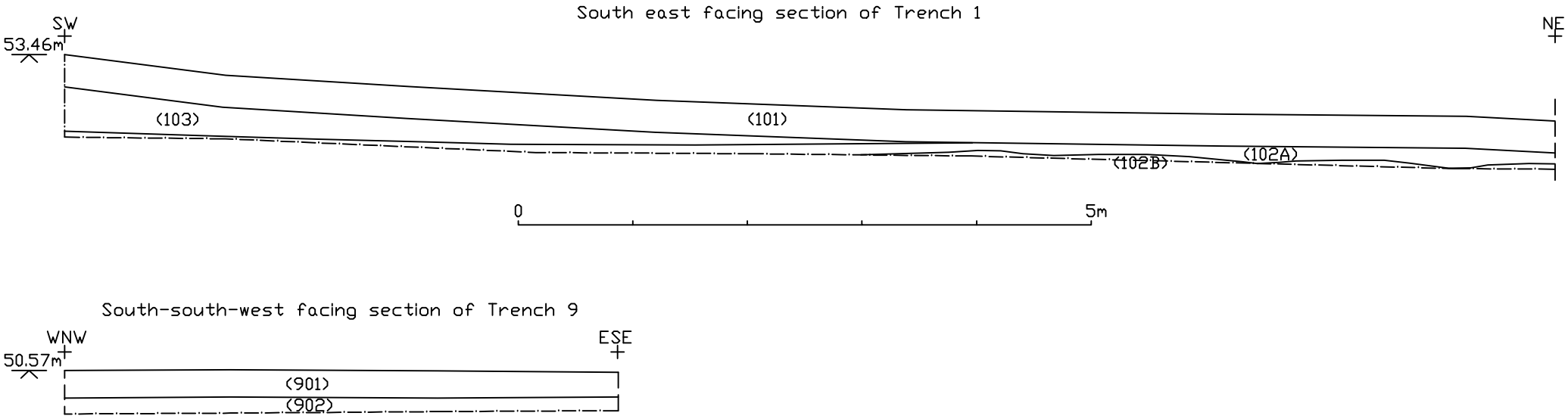

Figure 5: Representative sections

Plate 1: Looking north-north-west at the site from the entrance

Plate 2: Looking south at the site from its north end

Plate 3: Looking south west at trench 1 with sandstone outcrops exposed

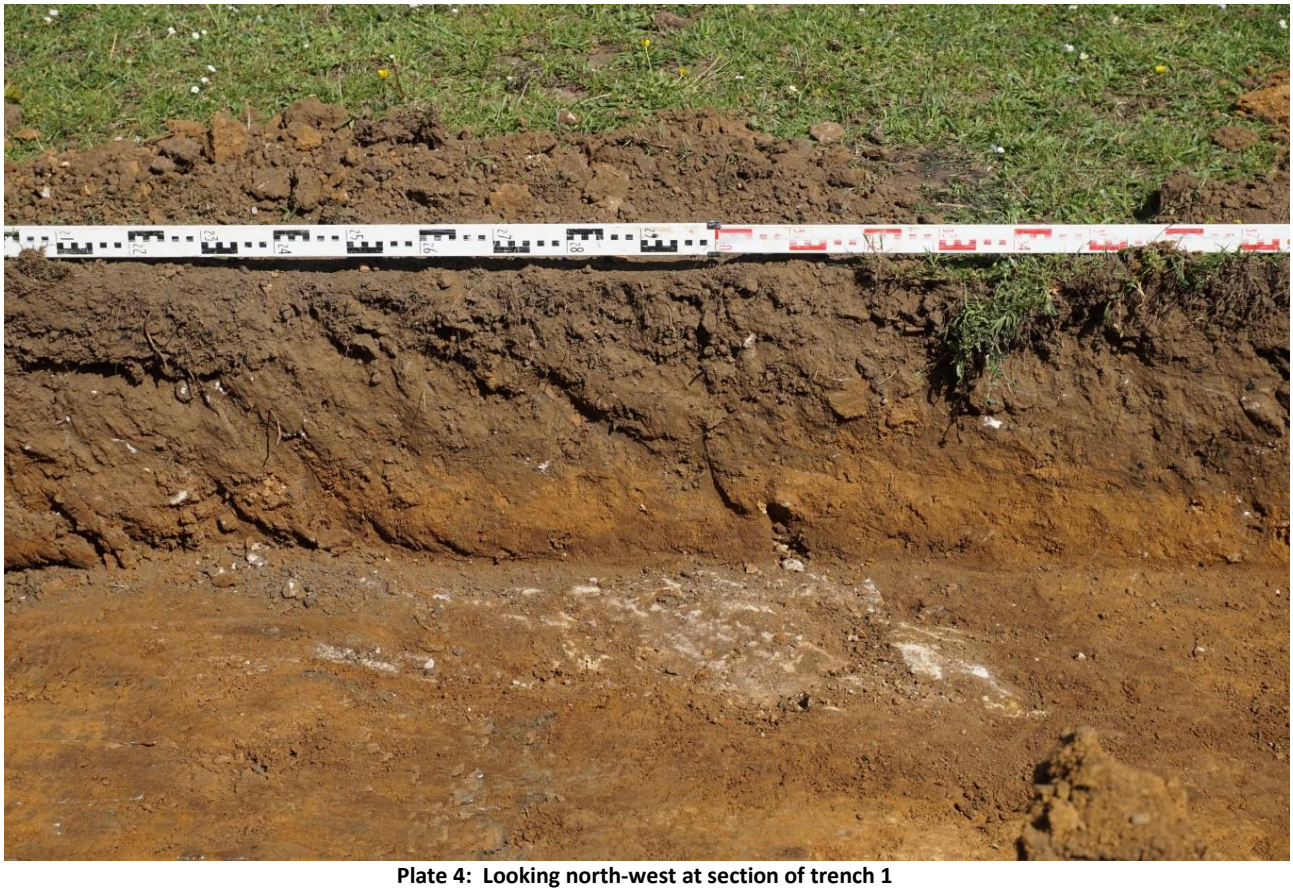

Plate 4: Looking north-west at section of trench 1

Plate 5: Looking west-north-west at Trench 2

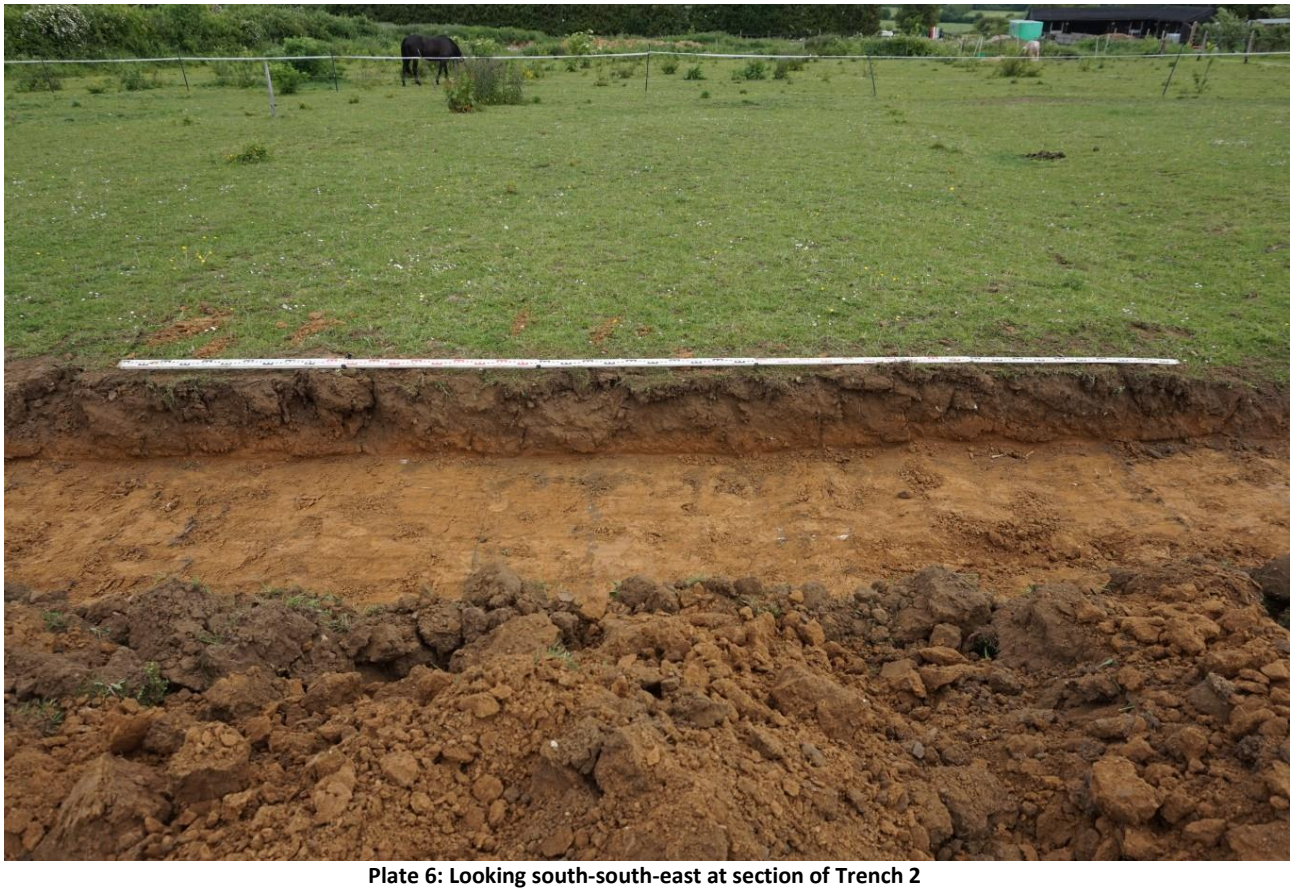

Plate 6: Looking south-south-east at section of Trench 2

Plate 7: Looking south-south-east at Trench 3

Plate 8: Looking east-south-east at Trench 4

Plate 9: Looking north-north-east at Trench 5

Plate 10: Looking west-north-west at Trench 6

Plate 11: Looking west-north-west at Trench 7

Plate 12: Looking north-north-east at Trench 8

Plate 13: Looking east-south-east at Trench 9

Plate 14: Looking north-north-east at Trench 10

Plate 15: Looking north-east at Trench 11