Archaeological Evaluation and Assessment of Land at 62 Sturry Hill, Canterbury, Kent

NGR 1755 6141
Site Code: SHS-EV-13
(Planning Application: CA/12/00087/FUL)
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Report for
A E Ansley (Builders) Ltd

SWAT. ARCHAEOLOGY

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Archaeological Evaluation and Assessment of Land at 62 Sturry Hill, Canterbury, Kent

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1.SUMMARY

Swale & Thames Survey Company (SWAT) carried out an archaeological evaluation and assessment of land at 62 Sturry Hill. A planning application (CA/12/00087/FUL) for the demolition of an empty dwelling and replacement by three detached dwellings, whereby the Council requested that an Archaeological Evaluation and Assessment 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 2013) and in discussion with the Archaeological Heritage Officer, Canterbury City Council. The results of the excavation of the four evaluation trenches revealed that archaeological features were present in Trenches One, Two and Four. The pottery specialist (Appendix 3) has suggested the pottery sherds from some of the contexts could be the result of hill wash and/or plough soil erosion. The natural geology was observed in all of the trenches and this comprised of brickearth and outcrops of gravel. Additional work on the gravels was undertaken by QUEST (Appendix 2) who have recommended no further work is required.

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

2. INTRODUCTION

Swale & Thames Survey Company (SWAT) was commissioned by A E Ansley (Builders) Ltd to carry out an archaeological evaluation and assessment at the above site. The work was carried out in accordance with the requirements set out within an Archaeological Specification (SWAT 2013) and in discussion with the Archaeological Heritage Officer, Canterbury City Council. The evaluation was carried out from the 24th to 26th April 2013.

3. SITE DESCRIPTION AND TOPOGRAPHY

The location of the proposed development area lies within close proximity to the River Stour and its tributaries. To the west of Canterbury there are patches of terrace river gravels and areas of head deposits. To the east of Canterbury at Sturry and Fordwich are rich Palaeolithic sites within Terraces 2 and 3 (though these are 'sealed' by a mantle of Head Gravel deposits). Where the River Stour floods, the Alluvium is generally fine grained, comprising of silts, fine sands and 'muds' deposited during low energy flow and periods of flooding (Gallois 1965, 63). These alluvial deposits are thought to date from the Flandrian (Holocene), or post-Glacial period, deposited about 12,000 years ago.

According to the British Geological Survey the underlying surface was anticipated to be sand and fine clay with occasional bands of gravel whilst BGS mapping indicates terrace gravels are exposed at the surfaces on the western margin of the site. (BGS 1:50,000 digital). The site averages 31.50aOD.

Quaternary Scientific (QUEST) carried out a geoarchaeological investigation and the report states (Appendix 2) that: *Nothing was observed in the course of the investigation described in this report to suggest that ground disturbance to a level up to 2.0m below the present ground surface will impact on sediments of archaeological significance. It is recommended therefore that no further geo-archaeological investigations be undertaken at the site within 2m of the present ground surface.*

4. PLANNING BACKGROUND

Planning consent (CA/12/00087/FUL*)* for the construction of three detached dwellings was approved by Canterbury City Council (CCC). Canterbury City Council requested that an archaeological evaluation and assessment be undertaken in order to determine the possible impact of the development on any archaeological remains. The Local Planning Authority (CCC) placed the following condition (6) on the Planning Consent stating that:

'No development shall take place until the applicant or the developer or their successors in title has secured firstly, the implementation of a programme of 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; and secondly, any mitigation measures including further archaeological work that may be required as a result of the evaluation to safeguard the preservation of archaeological remains. All archaeological works are to be carried out in accordance with written programmes and schemes of work that have been submitted to and approved by the local planning authority. REASON: To ensure a proper record of matters of archaeological.

Requirements for the archaeological evaluation comprised trial trenching targeting a representative 4% sample of the impact area with four trenches (Fig. 1) designed to establish whether there were any archaeological deposits at the site that may be affected by the proposed development. The results from this evaluation will be used to inform CCC of any further archaeological mitigation measures that may be necessary in connection with the development proposals.

5. ARCHAEOLOGICAL and HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The archaeological potential of the site at 62 Sturry Hill is comparable with the adjacent site where Palaeolithic implements were located in 1920 by Dr A G Ince at Homershams West Pit. Numerous artefacts were recovered between 6ft and 20ft below ground level. Additional work on the gravel levels were undertaken by Canterbury Archaeological Trust at the site of the Sturry Hill Housing Development in 1997. Other prehistoric activity in the vicinity of the proposed development is Neolithic flint tools recovered from nearby gravel pits (TR 16 SE 75) and Mesolithic implements (TR 16 SE 53). In addition a Bronze Age burial (TR 16 SE 18), Iron Age settlement (TR 16 SE 4) and a Roman burial ground (TR 16 SE 8) are also known in the vicinity of the proposed development.

The HER records from KCC have been used for data and the Canterbury Urban Archaeological Database (UAD) has also been used as a source of information.

6. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

The purpose of the evaluation was to:

- Assess the likely archaeological impact of the proposed development including drainage, access and car parking works.
- Assess the impact of past development on the site's archaeological potential including from ploughing and landscaping.
- Establishing the degree of archaeological activity on the site.
- Establishing the degree of earlier prehistoric activity on the site given its topographic position upslope from the River Stour.
- Establishing the degree of medieval and post-medieval activity on the site.
- Contributing to the environmental and landscape history of the area.

7. METHODOLOGY

Trial trenching was carried out on 24th April 2012 with the excavation of four trenches. Trench location was agreed prior to the excavation between Canterbury City Council Archaeological Officer and SWAT. Excavation was carried out using a tracked 360º mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket, removing the overburden to the top of the first recognisable archaeological horizon **(102, 202)**, or natural, under the constant supervision of an experienced archaeologist. All trenches measured about 20m in length and 1.6m wide. The trenches were subsequently hand-cleaned, and a number of features were exposed. 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. These are used in the report and shown in bold. All archaeological work was carried out in accordance with SWAT and IFA standards and guidance.

8. MONITORING

Curatorial monitoring was carried out during the course of the evaluation.

9. RESULTS

Trenches

The archaeological evaluation consisted of four trenches, 20m in length and 1.6m in width. All four trenches were subject to intense root action.

Trench One

Trench one was located at the rear of the back garden of no.62 and was aligned north east – south west. Machine removal of the topsoil (100) exposed a subsoil, 0.22m thick. This comprised of a very dark grey silty soil and brickearth mix containing moderate angular and sub-angular flints (101). The subsoil sealed a layer of mid brown silty brickearth (102). This had a thickness of 0.17m and it that contained moderate angular and sub-angular flints. Also present was the occasional peg tile fragment, pottery and burnt flint. The pottery dating from this layer is mixed prehistoric and medieval and in the opinion of the pottery specialist likely to be residual. Underneath layer (102) was a similar horizon (103), though this contained a higher concentration of clay. This had a thickness of 0.20m and it also produced pottery and burnt flint. Pottery found in this context is more secure and dates from c.1150-600BC with possible later c.13th century intrusions. This layer sealed the natural orange brown brickearth and gravel outcrops (104).

Trench Two

Trench Two was also located in the rear garden, along the boundary that separates no.62 and no. 64 Sturry Hill. This trench was aligned east – west. The removal of the topsoil (200) and the subsoil (201), which was identical to that observed in trench one, exposed the orange brown natural brickearth. Two post holes and a pit were observed cutting the natural. The pit [205], located at the west end of the trench and under the south facing section, was 1.6m wide at the top, and +0.60m wide at the base. The sides sloped steeply inwards and formed a concave base. The pit contained two fills. The primary fill (204) comprised of a light grey brown silt (0.32m thick) with frequent flecks of manganese. This context produced sherds of pottery. This pottery probably dates from c.900-600BC. The primary fill was sealed by (203), a mid – dark brown silty brickearth, (0.11m thick). This context contained moderate flecks of charcoal and it also produced sherds of pottery. This pottery, again probably dates from c900-600BC. Truncating this pit was an oval shaped post hole [207] measuring 0.30m x 0.29m. This post hole had vertical sides and a flat base. It was filled with a dark brown silty brickearth (206) that had a depth of 0.10m. A second circular post hole [209] was observed towards the east end of the trench. This was also filled by a dark brown silty brickearth (208) that had a depth of 0.14m. This post hole measured 0.29m x 0.29m and had steep sloping sides and a concave base.

Trench Three

Trench three was located across the rear garden at no. 62 and was aligned north west – south east. Machine removal of the topsoil (300), again identical to that seen in trenches one and two, exposed a subsoil horizon, 0.16m thick. This comprised of a dark brown silty soil and brickearth mix (301). This layer contained a moderate concentration of angular and sub-angular flints. This context sealed a layer (302) of orange brown 'dirty' brickearth that had a thickness of 0.26m. This horizon also contained a moderate concentration of angular and sub-angular flints. Under this layer was the natural orange brown brickearth (303). Cutting the natural at the south east end was a large modern feature [306], filled by a lower layer of mixed dark grey silty soil and re-deposited natural brickearth (305) and an upper fill comprising of dark grey silty loamy soil (304).

Trench Four

Trench four was located at the front of the property at no.62, between the house and garage (both demolished). This trench was aligned east - west. Machine removal of the topsoil (400), as seen in trench three, exposed a horizon, 0.24m thick, of mid – dark grey brown subsoil (401). This context overlay a layer of orange brown silty, dirty, brickearth. This had a thickness of 0.17m and contained occasional angular and sub-angular flints. The natural

orange brown brickearth (409) lay beneath this horizon. Two post holes and a shallow linear gully cut the natural brickearth and were situated in the middle of the trench. Post hole [404] was circular with vertical sides and a flat base. It measured 0.32m x 0.28m and was filled by a mid brown silty brickearth, with a thickness of 0.14m, containing occasional charcoal flecks and burnt flint. This context (403) produced one sherd of pottery dating to possibly c.900-600BC and a flint 'Thumbnail' scraper of a possible Later Prehistoric date. The second, circular, post hole [406] also had vertical sides and a flat base. It measured 0.35m x 0.33m and this was filled (405) by the same type of material filling [404].. The fill of this post hole had a thickness of 0.19m. Situated between these post holes was a shallow linear gully [408]. Roughly aligned north – south, the gully had a length of +1.60m and a width of 0.47m. This feature was also filled by a mid brown silty brickearth (407). This fill contained frequent angular and sub-angular flints and produced burnt flint and pottery dating if not residual to c.1150-600BC.

Overview

The results of the excavation of the four evaluation trenches revealed that archaeological features were present in Trenches One, Two and Four. These comprised of archaeological strata's in Trench One, five post holes [207], [209], [404], [406]; one pit [205] and one segment of gully [408]. The pottery specialist has suggested that some of the pottery sherds could be the result of hill wash and/or plough soil erosion (Appendix 3).

10. FINDS

Summary

Overall, 22 ceramic elements were recovered from this evaluation – 21 pottery sherds weighing 125gms and one fragment of roof-tile. In addition, *Context 403* contained one worked flint weighing 11gms together with a fragment of daub weighing 7gms. The recovered finds represent three main periods - :

Earlier Prehistoric – c.4000-1500 BC

A single fresh unpatinated scraper was recovered from *Context 403*. It is made from a fresh un-weathered nodule of land-sourced grey mottled near-black flint, is semi-cortical, fairly neatly discoidal and has careful soft-hammer trimming virtually all around its edge - except for the slightly flawed striking platform. However, it is slightly too large to be a true 'thumbnail' scraper so that only a broad Early Neolithic-Early Bronze Age date can be applied. It's good condition suggests derivation from a contemporary horizon and, although the single pottery sherd from the same context could, *just*, be Early Neolithic – the latter's worn condition coupled with its available manufacturing characteristics initially suggests a Later Prehistoric date.

Later Prehistoric – c.1550-600 BC

This broad phase is represented by flint-tempered pottery from *Contexts 102, 103, 2-3, 204, 403, 407* and *504*. Most of the material is fairly heavily worn and the available manufacturing characteristics initially indicate a date between c.1550-600 BC. However *103, 203, 204* and *504* produced less worn elements with productional traits that suggest a date for most or all of this material within the Late Bronze Age or Earliest Iron Age – and also that the single rather worn sherd from *403 may* be intrusive into an Earlier Prehistoric feature or horizon. There is rather too little at this stage to be more specific other than to indicate a phase of settlement between **c.1150-600 BC** – with *Contexts 203-204*, a little more certainly stemming from Earliest Iron Age activity, c.900-600 BC.

Medieval – c.1225-1350 AD

Pottery of this date was recovered from *Contexts 102* and *103.* The condition of all the sherds from *102*, including its single prehistoric element, are very heavily worn – and suggest recovery from a hillwash or ploughsoil context. Those from *103 may* be intrusive into an earlier, prehistoric, feature – a possibility under-pinned by their shared unifacial wear-pattern Overall, their presence suggests a phase of earlier thirteenth earlier fourteenth century settlement-fringe activity with most discards made between **c.1250-1325 AD**.

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11. DISCUSSION

The development site at land at 62 Sturry Hill has been evaluated and found to contain, amongst other features, ditches and post holes which may date from the Prehistoric-Medieval period although it is the opinion of the pottery specialist that the pottery sherds retrieved from some of these features may be residual.

12. FOUNDATION DESIGN

Ansley (builders) have indicated the foundation design will be piling with a ring beam.

13. CONCLUSION

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 **(100, 200, 300, 400)** overlaying subsoil **(101, 201, 301, 401),** overlaying the natural sandy silty clay **(102, 202, 302, 402).**

Some archaeological activity was found during the evaluation which will inform the Archaeological Officer of the archaeological potential of site. A geoarchaeological investigation was carried out by QUEST who reported that: *Nothing was observed in the course of the investigation described in this report (Appendix 2) to suggest that ground disturbance to a level up to 2.0m below the present ground surface will impact on sediments*

of archaeological significance. It is recommended therefore that no further geoarchaeological investigations be undertaken at the site within 2m of the present ground surface.

The evaluation has, therefore, assessed the archaeological potential of land intended for development.

14. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

SWAT would like to thank A E Ansley (Builders) Ltd for commissioning this project. Thanks are also extended to Richard Cross, Canterbury City Council Archaeological Advisor for his advice and assistance.

James Madden supervised the fieldwork, assisted in the field by Simon Holmes. Illustrations were produced by Jonny Madden for *Digitise This*. The project was managed by Paul Wilkinson.

Dr Paul Wilkinson MifA

16th May 2013

15. REFERENCES

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Sturry Hill Housing Development. Palaeo-environmental Assessment Report 1997

SWAT Archaeology (2013) *Specification for an Archaeological Evaluation and Assessment of Land at 62 Sturry Hill, Canterbury, Kent*

Institute for Field Archaeologists (IfA), Rev (2008) *Standard and Guidance for archaeological field evaluation.*

HER Data 2013

Maps

Ordnance Survey1st Edition (1871-1890)

Ordnance Survey 2nd Edition (1897-1900)

Ordnance Survey 3rd Edition (1907-1923)

Ordnance Survey 4th Edition (1929-1952)

Websites

Kent Landscape Information System http://extranet7.kent.gov.uk/klis/home.htm

Exploring Kent's Past http://www.extranet7.krnt.gov.uk/ExploringKentsPast/

Plate 1. View of Trench 1 (facing north)

Plate 2. Trench 2, feature [205] (facing north)

Plate 3. Test Pit 1

Plate 4. View of Trench 3, facing north-west

Plate 5. Trench 4 (facing west)

Plate 6. View of features [404, 408] trench 4, facing west

Plate 7. Test Pit 4

APPENDIX 1 – Canterbury City Council HER Summary Form

Site Name: *Land at 62 Sturry Hill, Canterbury, Kent* **SWAT Site Code:** *SHS/EV/13*	
Site Address: *Land at 62 Sturry Hill, Canterbury, Kent*	
Summary: *Swale & Thames Survey Company (SWAT) carried out an archaeological evaluation on land at 62 Sturry Hill, Canterbury, Kent. A planning application for the construction of three new dwellings was submitted to Canterbury City Council (CCC) whereby CCC 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 2013) and in discussion with the Archaeological Officer, Canterbury City Council.* *The Archaeological Evaluation consisted of four trenches which revealed that archaeological features were present in Trenches Two and Four. These comprised of five post holes [207], [209], [404], [406]; one pit [205] and one segment of gully [408]. Pottery retrieved from Contexts have been identified as Later Prehistoric dating from c.1550-600BC and Medieval c.1225-1350AD. A geoarchaeological investigation was carried out by QUEST with negative results.*	
District/Unitary: *Canterbury*	**Parish:**
Period(s): **Tentative:**	
NGR (centre of site : 8 figures): **(NB if large or linear site give multiple NGRs):** *NGR TR1755 6141*	
Type of archaeological work (delete) *Evaluation*	
Date of Recording: *April 2013*	
Unit undertaking recording: *Swale & Thames Survey Company (SWAT)*	
Geology: *Sand and Fine Clay*	
Title and author of accompanying report: *Wilkinson P. An Archaeological Evaluation at land at 62 Sturry Hill, Canterbury, Kent*	
Summary of fieldwork results (begin with earliest period first, add NGRs where appropriate) *As above*	
Location of archive/finds: *SWAT*	
Contact at Unit: *Paul Wilkinson*	**Date:** *May 2013*

APPENDIX 2. A REPORT ON THE GEOARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATIONS AT 62 & 64 STURRY HILL, KENT

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INTRODUCTION

This report summarises the findings arising out of the geoarchaeological investigations undertaken by Quaternary Scientific (University of Reading) in connection with the proposed separate developments at 62 & 64 Sturry Hill, Kent (National Grid Reference: TQ 1758 6088) during archaeological assessment of the site by Swale and Thames Archaeological Survey Company. The main aim of the geoarchaeological investigations was to observe and interpret the sub-surface stratigraphy across the site, and to highlight sediments of potential geoarchaeological significance.

THE SITE

The site is within the built-up area of the village of Sturry, on the valley-side slope of the Kentish River Stour on the north side of the river. The main part of the site is a rectangular plot (the curtilage of 62 Sturry Hill) with its long side aligned approximately WSW-ENE, parallel with the contour. The ground surface, which has been disturbed to some extent by the foundations of a house and the associated garden, is between *ca*. 31.0m OD and 32.5m OD, and about 25m above the floodplain of the Stour. The investigation extended into the southern edge of the curtilage of the adjoining property (64 Sturry Hill), uphill from 62 Sturry Hill.

The valley-side, as observed on the road (Sturry Hill) immediately adjoining the plot to the west, slopes down with a gradient of about 1 in 10 (*ca*. 6^{o}) from north to south, towards the river. The ground also falls slightly from west to east towards a shallow dell with its axis about 0.1km to the east of the site.

In the past, gravel has been dug in a number of separate pits close to the present site. A deep overgrown pit remains visible on the west side of Sturry Hill immediately opposite the entrance to the present site. This may be the pit described by Holmes (1981) in which he recorded over 4.0m of 'head-brickearth' overlying more than 8.0m of 'fluvial deposits'. In woodland immediately to the south of the present site are the remains of 'Homersham's West Pit', which are now conserved as a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI). This is the pit from which many Palaeolithic artefacts were recovered in the early 1920s (Dewey & Smith 1924; Dewey *et al* 1925). The exposures that were seen at that time suggested that the

gravel deposits occupied a channel aligned approximately E-W cut into underlying Thanet Sand. Up to 10.0m of fluvial deposits were recorded in this channel with an upper surface at *ca*. 32m OD. The archaeological significance of the Sturry locality is well summarised by Roe (1981). Sections were re-opened on the site of Homersham's West Pit in 1998 for a field meeting of the Quaternary Research Association (QRA). They exposed over 9.0m of sand, gravel and brickearth between *ca*. 30.0m OD and 21.0m OD (Bridgland *et al* 1998).

METHODS

Field descriptions

Four geoarchaeological test-pits were put down at 62 Sturry Hill (TP1 to TP4; Figure 1), and one at 64 Sturry Hill (TP5). The pits were located within archaeological evaluation trenches opened by Swale and Thames Archaeological Survey Company. Each evaluation trench was *ca*. 25m in length, had been opened previously to a depth of 40-60cm and exposed, almost everywhere, fine-grained, 'brickearth', stoneless across most of the exposures but with scattered flint clasts in a few places. Only in the evaluation trench (Trench 1), near the eastern end of the site, were small patches of gravel visible in the bottom of the trench. The geoarchaeological test-pits were excavated by machine, removing sediment in 250mm spits and following the interfaces between sedimentary units where possible. The test-pits were excavated to the maximum depth of 2m below ground surface. Representative sections in each test-pit were measured and described using standard procedures for recording unconsolidated sediment, noting the physical properties (colour), composition (gravel, sand, clay, silt and organic matter) and inclusions (e.g. artefacts). The results are displayed in Tables 1 to 5.

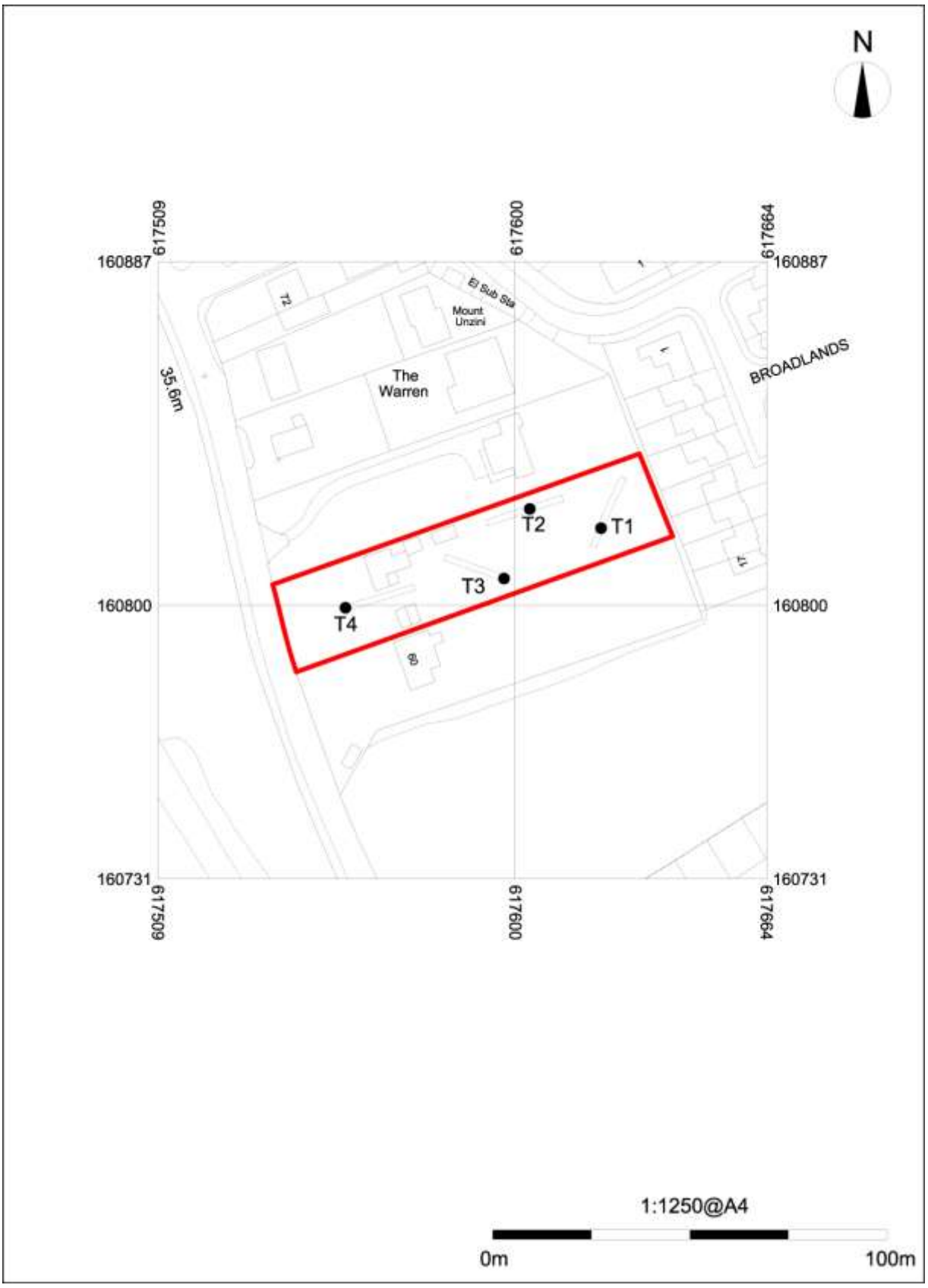

Figure 1: Location of Test-Pits TP1 to TP4 at 62 Sturry Hill, Kent (TP5 at 64 Sturry Hill is not displayed). Map provided by Swale and Thames Archaeological Survey Company

RESULTS OF THE FIELD DESCRIPTIONS

Table 1: Test Pit TP1 (*eastern end of site*)

Depth (m OD)	Description
31.06 to 30.66	Dark greyish brown garden soil with scattered flint clasts and anthropogenic debris
30.66 to 30.16	Sub-soil developed in sandy silt passing down to slightly sandy silty with very scattered flint clasts; gradual transition from dark greyish brown of overlying horizon to yellowish brown; penetrated throughout by roots and worm burrows.
30.16 to 29.91	Silt-rich clayey gravel consisting of flint clasts (up to 100mm long dimension) and a few smaller (up to 50mm long dimension) iron-rich sandy concretions, a mixture of sub-angular to sub-round clasts and well-rounded pebbles; patination variable, including among the sub-angular to sub-round clasts heavily iron-stained examples ('mahogany flints') and clasts with patchy blue and white patination. This gravel unit had a visible lateral extent on the floor of the evaluation trench of only just over 2.5m. (*Sample sieved*)
29.91 to 29.06	Yellowish brown to strong brown; slightly sandy silt with scattered flint and quartz granules (typical 'brickearth' with sparsely developed network of voids with thin clay coatings and some manganese staining of void margins); sub-horizontal bedding marked by slight variations of texture (more and less sandy) and colour (sandier beds paler, siltier beds darker); roots present in upper 0.5m; stoneless;

Table 2: Test Pit TP2 (*approximate mid point of site near northern boundary*)

Depth (m OD)	Description
31.45 to 31.07	Dark greyish brown garden soil with scattered flint clasts and anthropogenic debris
31.07 to 30.52	Sub-soil developed in sandy silt passing down to slightly sandy silty with gradual transition from dark greyish brown of overlying horizon to yellowish brown. Penetrated throughout by roots and worm burrows. Scattered flint clasts.
30.52 to 30.00	Strong brown; slightly sandy silt with scattered granules of quartz and flint and discontinuous sand partings (typical 'brickearth' with sparsely developed network of voids with thin clay coatings and some manganese staining of void margins); very scattered flint clasts, some with patchy blue and white patination; structureless; root penetration throughout; worm burrows in upper 0.25m.
30.00 to 29.65	Silt-rich sandy gravel consisting entirely of flint clasts (up to 100mm long dimension), a mixture of sub-angular to sub-round clasts and well-rounded pebbles; patination variable, including among the sub-angular to sub-round clasts, heavily iron-stained examples ('mahogany flints') and clasts with patchy blue and white patination. (*Sample sieved*)
29.65 to 29.45	Strong brown; slightly sandy stoneless silt with scattered flint and quartz granules and discontinuous sand partings (typical 'brickearth' with sparsely developed network of voids with thin clay coatings and some manganese staining of void margins); structureless.
29.45	Patch of gravel visible in bottom of pit

Table 3: Test Pet TP3 (*approximate mid point of site near southern boundary; west end of test pit in 20th century rubbish pit; glass bottles, etc.*)

Depth (m OD)	Description
30.98 to 30.50	Dark greyish brown garden soil with flint clasts and anthropogenic debris
30.50 to 29.88	Sub-soil developed in sandy silt with scattered flint clasts,; gradual transition from dark greyish brown of overlying horizon to yellowish brown with patchy humic staining; structureless; penetrated throughout by roots and worm burrows. (*possibly disturbed or re-deposited*)
29.88 to 29.83	Sandy gravel consisting entirely of flint clasts (mainly <30mm long dimension), a mixture of sub-angular to sub-round clasts with a few well-rounded pebbles; dark greyish brown (?humic staining); structureless. (*possibly disturbed or re-deposited*)
29.83 to 29.53	Strong brown; slightly sandy stoneless silt with scattered granules of flint and quartz and discontinuous sand partings (typical 'brickearth' with sparsely developed network of voids with thin clay coatings and some manganese staining of void margins); structureless.
29.53 to 29.43	Strong brown with patchy manganese staining; sparsely sandy gravel consisting entirely of flint clasts (up to 100mm long dimension), a mixture of sub-angular to sub-round clasts and well-rounded pebbles; structureless; patination variable, including among the sub-angular to sub-round clasts, heavily iron-stained examples ('mahogany flints'). (*Sample sieved*)
29.43 to 29.08	Strong brown; slightly sandy stoneless silt with scattered granules of flintand quartz and discontinuous sand partings (typical 'brickearth' with sparsely developed network of voids with thin clay coatings and some manganese staining of void margins); structureless.
29.08 to 28.98	Strong brown with patchy manganese staining; sparsely sandy gravel consisting entirely of flint clasts (up to 100mm long dimension), a mixture of sub-angular to sub-round clasts and well-rounded pebbles; patination variable, including among the sub-angular to sub-round clasts, heavily iron-stained examples ('mahogany flints'); structureless. (*Sample sieved*)

Table 4: Test Pit TP4 (*west end of site near southern boundary*)

Depth (m OD)	Description
31.96 to 31.56	Dark greyish brown garden soil with flint clasts and anthropogenic debris
31.56 to 31.00	Sub-soil developed in sandy silt passing down to slightly sandy silty with gradual patchy transition from dark greyish brown of overlying horizon to yellowish brown. Penetrated throughout by roots and worm burrows. Very scattered flint clasts.
31.00 to 29.96	Strong brown; slightly sandy stoneless silt with scattered flint and quartz granules and discontinuous sand partings (typical 'brickearth' with sparsely developed network of voids with thin clay coatings and some manganese staining of void margins); structureless.

Table 5: Test Pit TP5 (*west end of site adjacent to boundary with curtilage of 64 Sturry Hill*)

Depth (m OD)	Description
32.38 to 31.90	Dark greyish brown garden soil with flint clasts and anthropogenic debris
31.90 to 31.35	Sub-soil developed in sandy silt passing down to slightly sandy silty with gradual patchy transition from dark greyish brown of overlying horizon to yellowish brown. Penetrated throughout by roots and worm burrows. Scattered flint clasts.
31.35 to 30.38	Strong brown; slightly sandy stoneless silt with scattered flint and quartz granules and discontinuous sand partings (typical 'brickearth' with sparsely developed network of voids with thin clay coatings and some manganese staining of void margins); structureless.
30.33 to 30.38	Small (0.2m diam) patch of gravel seen in bottom of pit.

INTERPRETATION AND DISCUSSION OF THE FIELD INVESTIGTIONS

The sediment sequences recorded in the Test-Pits are all very similar, with an upper horizon of slightly stony sandy silt, about 1.0m in thickness, in which pedological processes have obviously been active. This pedological horizon is in all cases developed in the upper part of a typical 'brickearth'. In Test-Pit TP1 the pedological horizon extends down to the level of a thin (0.25m) clayey gravel unit which in turn overlay 'brickearth'.

In all the Test-Pits, except Test-Pit TP4, gravel was recorded with a surface at a level between 29.88m OD and 30.33m OD. In Test-Pits TP1, TP2 and TP3, the gravel was seen to form a relatively thin layer (0.25m, 0.35m and 0.45m respectively) overlying 'brickearth', but in Test-Pits TP2 and TP3 the upper part of a second, lower, gravel unit was recorded. In Test-Pit TP4 no gravel unit was recorded, and in Test-Pit TP5 the excavation just touched a pinnacle of gravel at 1.95m below the ground surface.

Samples from the gravel units in Test-Pits TP1, TP2 and TP3 were sieved on a 10mm mesh and the residues were carefully examined to identify any worked flint that might be present. No unequivocal worked flint was identified. Samples of the gravel units were also taken and retained by SWAT Archaeology.

The units described here as 'brickearth' were all very similar, comprising more or less sandy silts with scattered granules of flint and quartz and with discontinuous sand partings. The sediment was penetrated everywhere by a network of voids, typical of 'brickearths' in general in southern Britain, but not particularly densely developed at the present site. The voids had weakly developed clay coatings and in some places the void margins were manganese stained. Clasts of flint were recorded in the upper part of the 'brickearth' and often displayed

a patchy blue and white patina. At lower levels the 'brickearth was completely stoneless. In all the Test-Pits except Test-Pit TP1 the 'brickearth' appeared to be structureless, but in Test-Pit TP1 faint indications of sub-horizontal bedding were recognised, defined by variations of texture and colour.

Bearing in mind the deep excavation just to the west of the present site, on the west side of Sturry Hill, and the sediment sequence recorded by Holmes (1981), possibly in that pit, or elsewhere nearby, it seems likely that the sequences seen at 62 and 64 Sturry Hill represent a lateral extension of the sediments seen at various times in the Homersham pits. On the slope on which the present site is located (6^{o} gradient), it is very likely that there has been some downslope movement of the sediments masking the slope and that the thin gravel units seen at the present site represent downslope displacement of gravel from a higher level. This possibility was recognised by Dewey & Smith (1924) who observed in the upper part of the gravel in Homersham's West Pit 'clear indications of disturbance to the deposits at this level, including the incorporation into the main mass of the gravel of ''rafts'' of earlier deposits'.

RECOMMENDATION

Nothing was observed in the course of the investigation described in this report to suggest that ground disturbance to a level up to 2.0m below the present ground surface will impact on sediments of archaeological significance. It is recommended therefore that no further geoarchaeological investigations be undertaken at the site within 2m of the present ground surface.

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Appendix 3. SWAT Archaeology

THE DATING AND ASSESSMENT OF THE CERAMIC ASSEMBLAGE FROM :

STURRY HILL, STURRY EVALUATION 2013 (SRS-EV-13)

ASSESSMENT

Summary

Overall, 22 ceramic elements were recovered from this evaluation – 21 pottery sherds weighing 125gms and one fragment of roof-tile. In addition, *Context 403* contained one worked flint weighing 11gms together with a fragment of daub weighing 7gms. The recovered finds represent three main periods - :

Earlier Prehistoric – c.4000-1500 BC
A single fresh unpatinated scraper was recovered from *Context 403*. It is made from a fresh un-weathered nodule of land-sourced grey mottled near-black flint, is semi-cortical, fairly neatly discoidal and has careful soft-hammer trimming virtually all around its edge - except for the slightly flawed striking platform. However, it is slightly too large to be a true 'thumbnail' scraper so that only a broad Early Neolithic-Early Bronze Age date can be applied. It's good condition suggests derivation from a contemporary horizon and, although the single pottery sherd from the same context could, *just*, be Early Neolithic – the latter's worn condition coupled with its available manufacturing characteristics initially suggests a Later Prehistoric date.

Later Prehistoric – c.1550-600 BC
This broad phase is represented by flint-tempered pottery from *Contexts 102, 103, 2-3, 204, 403, 407* and *504*. Most of the material is fairly heavily worn and the available manufacturing characteristics initially indicate a date between c.1550-600 BC. However *103, 203, 204* and *504* produced less worn elements with productional traits that suggest a date for most or all of this material within the Late Bronze Age or Earliest Iron Age – and also that the single rather worn sherd from *403 may* be intrusive into an Earlier Prehistoric feature or horizon. There is rather too little at this stage to be more specific other than to indicate a phase of settlement between **c.1150-600 BC** – with *Contexts 203-204*, a little more certainly stemming from Earliest Iron Age activity, c.900-600 BC.

Medieval – c.1225-1350 AD
Pottery of this date was recovered from *Contexts 102* and *103.* The condition of all the sherds from *102*, including its single prehistoric element, are very heavily worn – and suggest recovery from a hillwash or ploughsoil context. Those from *103 may* be intrusive into an earlier, prehistoric, feature – a possibility under-pinned by their shared unifacial wear-pattern Overall, their presence suggests a phase of earlier thirteenth earlier fourteenth century settlement-fringe activity with most discards made between **c.1250-1325 AD**.

APPENDIX – CONTEXT DATING CATALOGUE

Period codes employed :

LP	= Later Prehistoric
MBA	= Middle Bronze Age
LBA	= :Late Bronze Age
EIA	= Earliest Iron Age
M	= Medieval

Context dating :

Context: 102 - 3 sherds (weight : 38gms)
1 LP flint-tempered ware (MBA>EIA range, c.1550-600 BC)

1 M Canterbury Tyler Hill sandy ware (c.1225/1250-1275 AD emphasis)
1 M Canterbury Tyler Hill sandy ware (c.1250-1300/1325 AD)
Comment : All three sherds very highly worn and abraded overall – particularly the prehistoric element which is also split and fragmentary. Irrespective of differences in original discard-dates, all have similarly shared inclusion in a frequently disturbed environment – hillwash or plough-soil. The first Medieval entry is a damaged rim sherd from a large-diameter shallow-bodied pan originally fitted with 2 vertical looped narrow strap carrying handles – one on either side of the pan opposite each other.
Likely date : Residual

Context: 103 - 8 sherds (weight : 36gms)
5 LP flint-tempered ware (MBA>EIA range, slight preference EIA, c.1550/900-600 BC)
1 LBA>EIA flint-tempered ware (EIA preference, c.1150/900-600 BC)
1 M Canterbury Tyler Hill sandy ware (c.1225-1250/1275 AD emphasis)
1 M Canterbury Tyler Hill sandy ware (c.1250-1300//1325 AD)
and :
1 scrap M roof-tile (weight : 2gms) – small, worn overall, rather low-fired firing trend suggests earlier-mid C13 AD probably
Comment : All the prehistoric flint-tempered elements are small – of which 4 are heavily worn overall. The remaining two are fresher and include one small near-fresh rim scrap. If these are all from the same feature then it is possible that their condition represents discards into a feature that remained open for at least a moderate period of time – the less worn elements being the latest arrivals. The rim scrap is internally beveled, which is a typical finishing characteristic applied to some Earliest Iron Age vessels, but does also occur on some Late Bronze Age vessels. The later, Medieval elements, one small and one moderate sized, both have fairly heavy unifacial wear – the largest is from a Canterbury jug decorated with bordered horizontal bands of regular thumb-impressions applied round the upper body and then covered in a rather drab yellow-green glaze.
Likely date : Initially, broadly c.1150-600 BC with *possible* later C13 AD intrusions

Context: 203 - 3 sherds (weight : 9gms)
3 LBA>EIA flint-tempered ware (EIA preference, c.900-600 BC; **2 same vessel**)
Comment : Single fairly small bodysherd and two small conjoining rim sherds, all three fairly fresh and – despite size, quite possibly from an undisturbed contemporary context.
Likely date : *Probably* c.900-600 BC

Context: 204 - 2 sherds (weight : 8gms)
2 LBA>EIA flint-tempered ware (EIA preference, c.900-600 BC; **same vessel**)
Comment : Two small conjoining bodysherds, partial flaking of exterior surface, interior fresh – possibly from an undisturbed contemporary context.
Likely date : Probably c.900-600 BC

Context: 403 - 1 sherd (weight : 9gms)
1 LP flint-tempered ware (slight EIA preference , c.900-600 BC)
Comment : One fairly small sub-fineware jar bodysherd, moderately worn overall.
Likely date : Uncertain – if not intrusive, *possibly* c.900-600 BC

Context: 407 - 2 sherds (weight : 8gms)
2 LP flint-tempered ware (LBA>EIA preference range, c.1150-600 BC)
Comment : One fairly small fairly worn coarseware jar bodyshed, one small but fresher fineware bodysherd.
Likely date : If not residual – initially c.1150-600 BC

Context: 504 - 2 sherds (weight : 18gms)
2 LBA>EIA flint-tempered ware (slight preference for EIA, c.1150/900-600 BC)
Comment : One small fineware bodysherd and one moderate-sized coarseware jar base – both with moderate unifacial wear and *probably* from a brosdly contemporary context.
Likely date : If not residual, c.900-600 BC or slightly earlier

Analyst : N.Macpherson-Grant 13.5.2013

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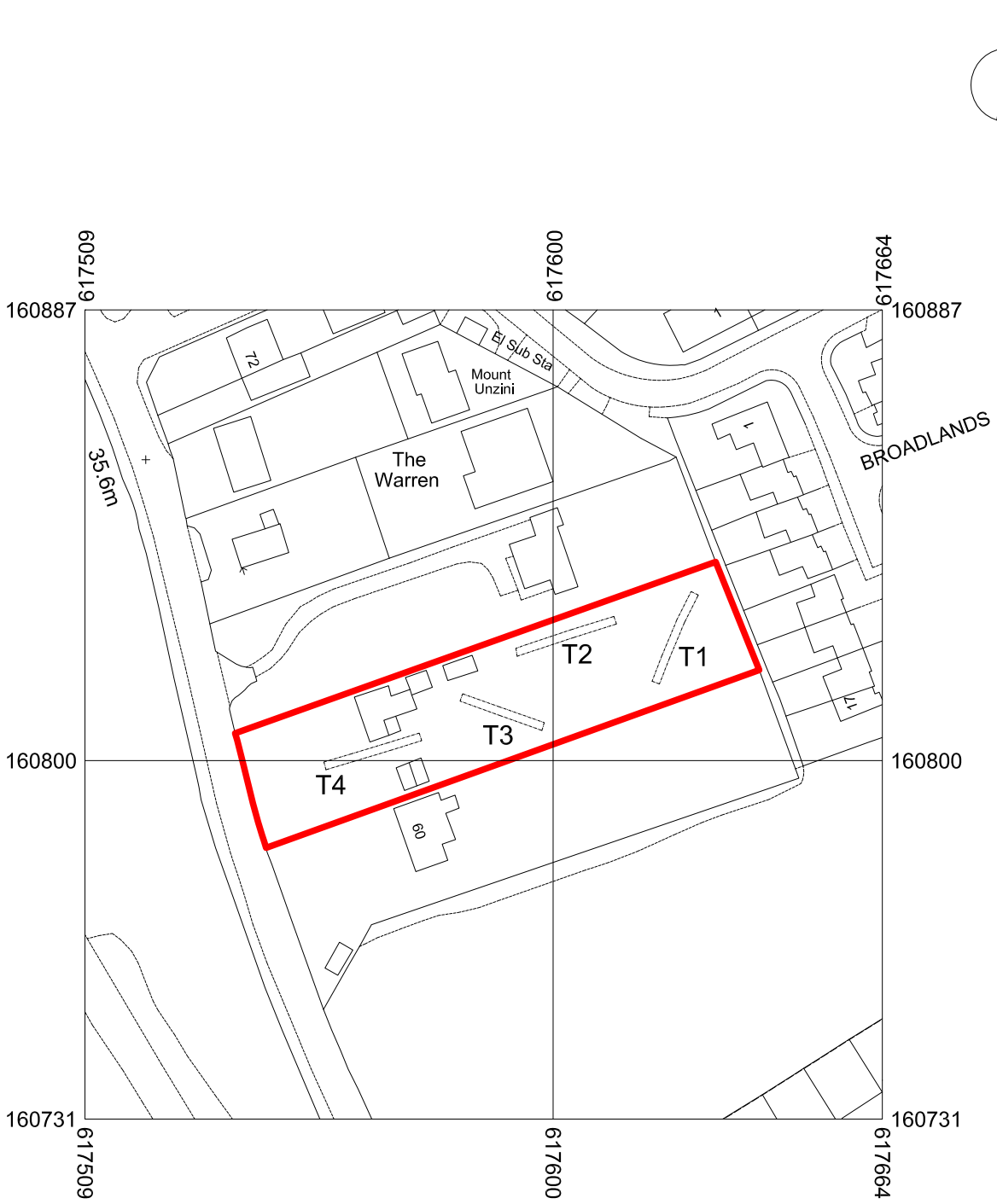
Figure 1: Location of Site



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0m 100m

Figure 2: Location of archaeological trenches within the development site

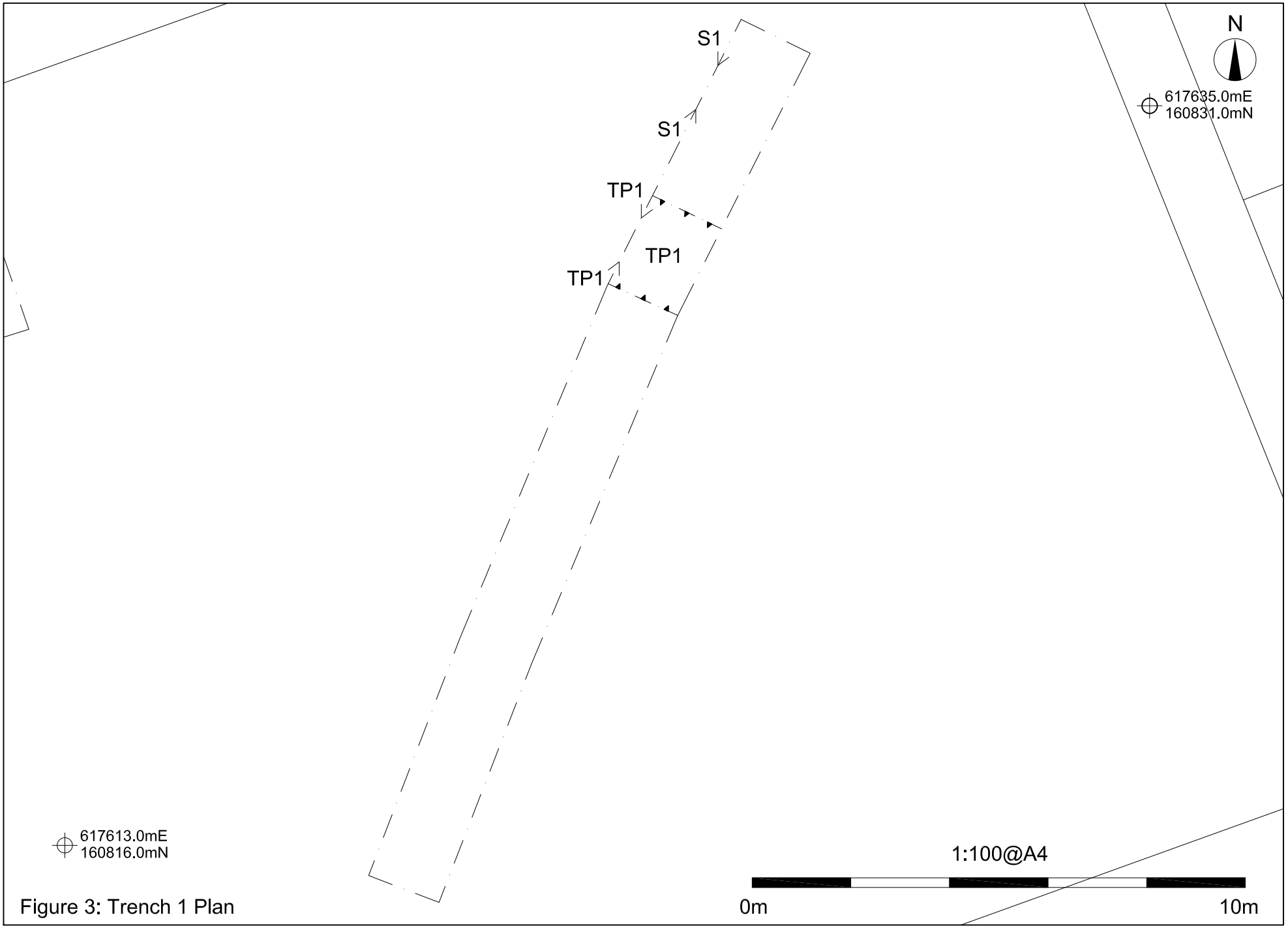


Figure 3: Trench 1 Plan

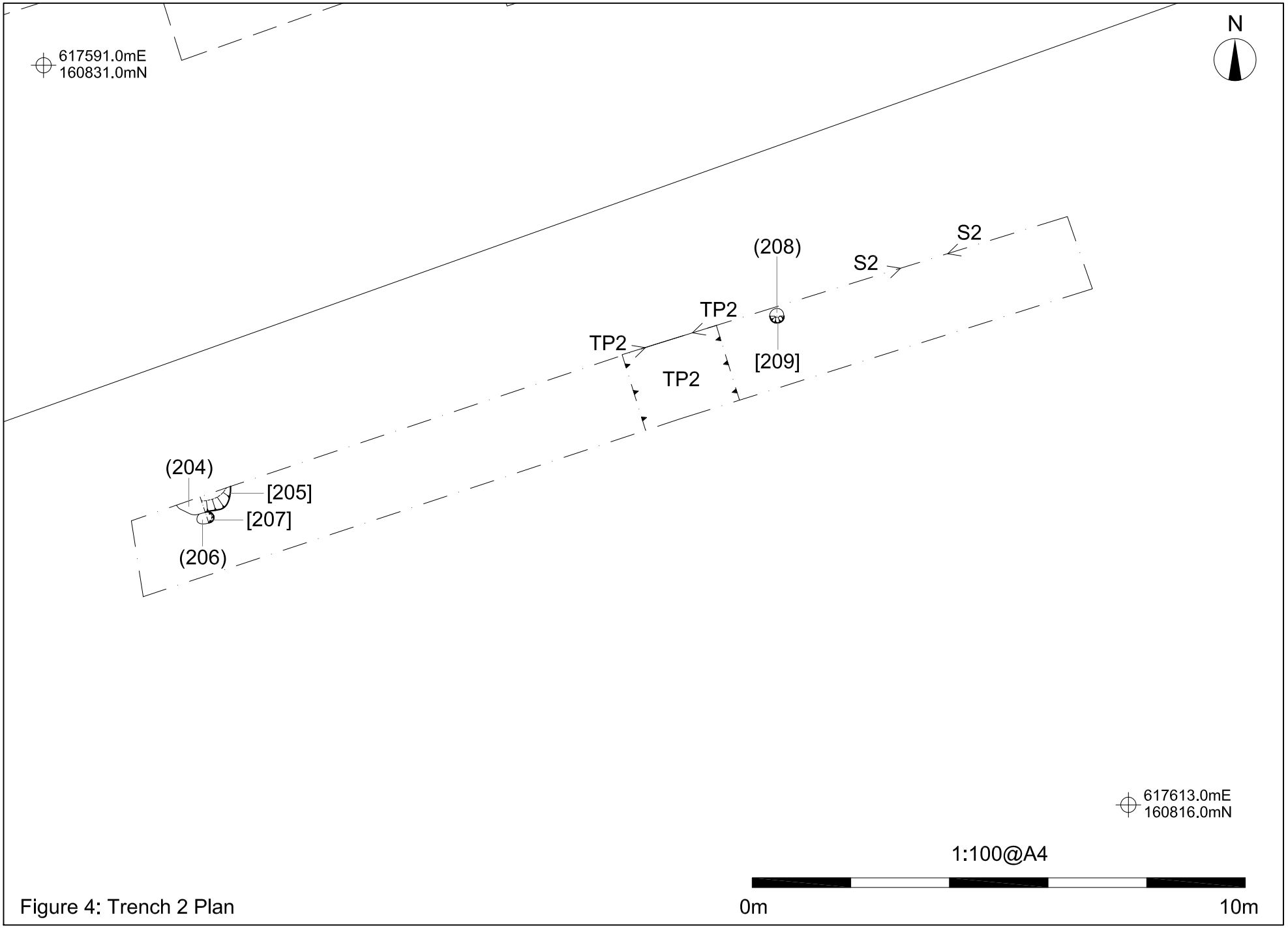


Figure 4: Trench 2 Plan

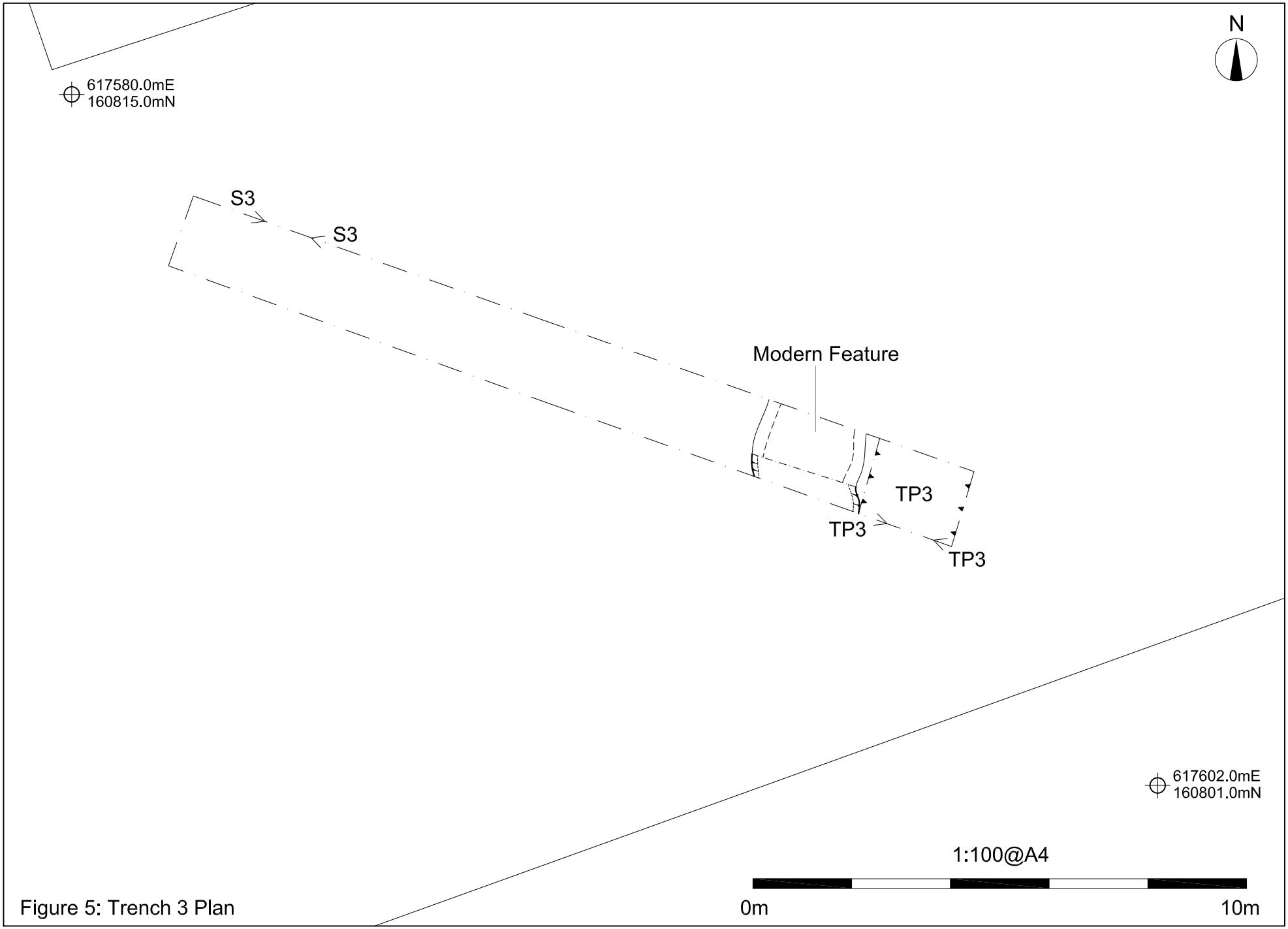


Figure 5: Trench 3 Plan

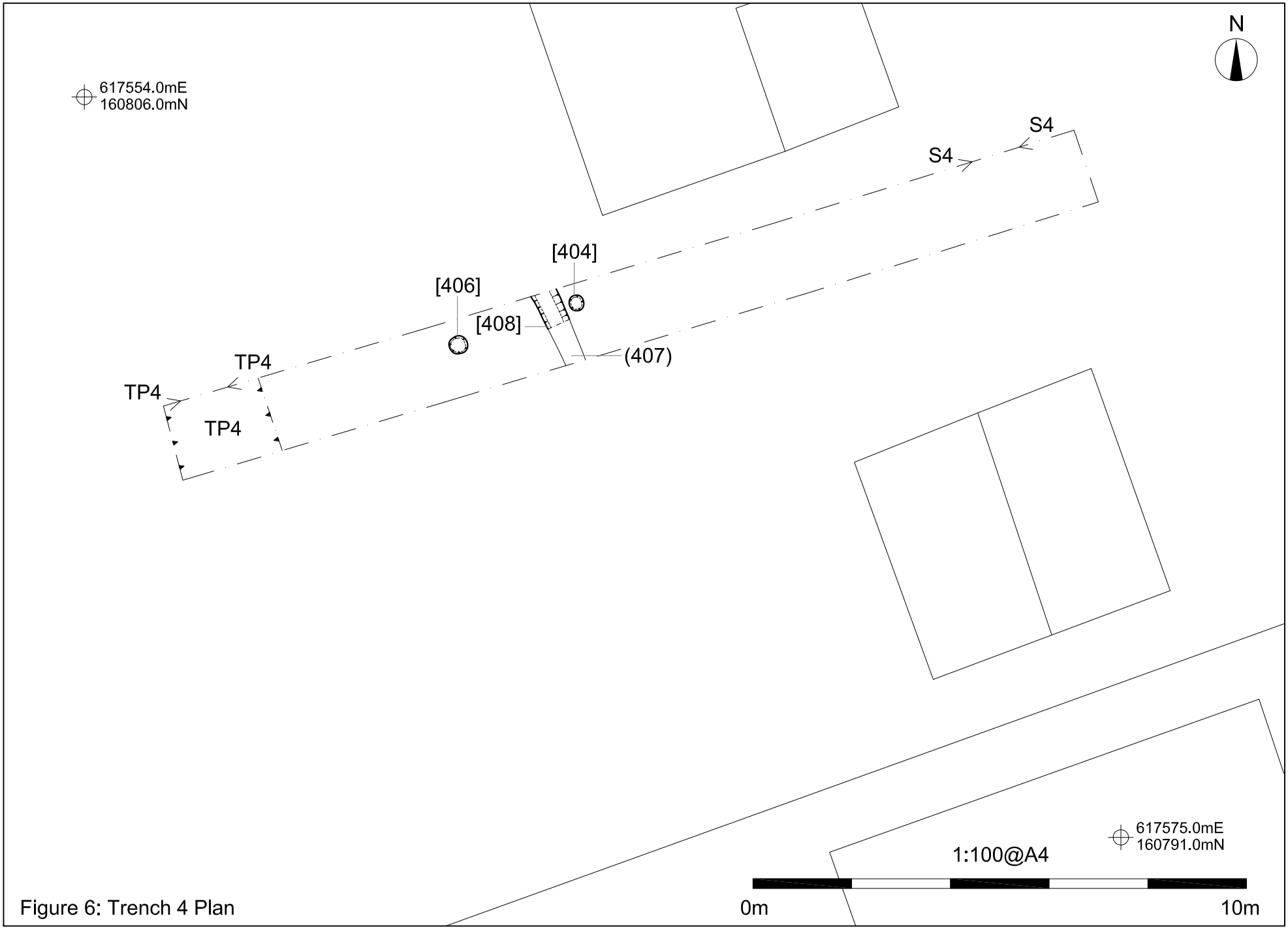
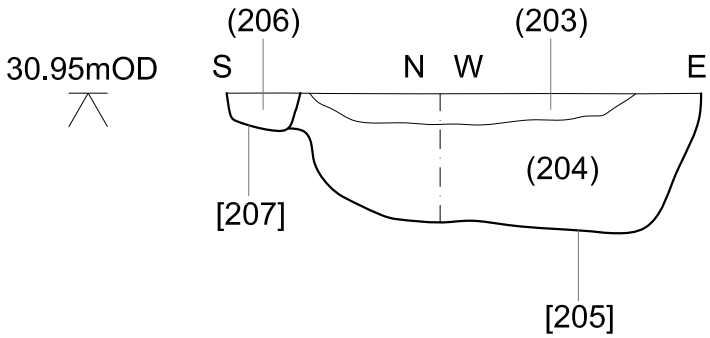


Figure 6: Trench 4 Plan



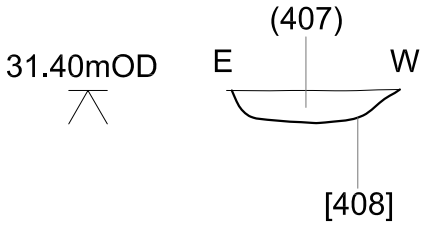


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Figure 7: Sections of archaeological features

0m 2m

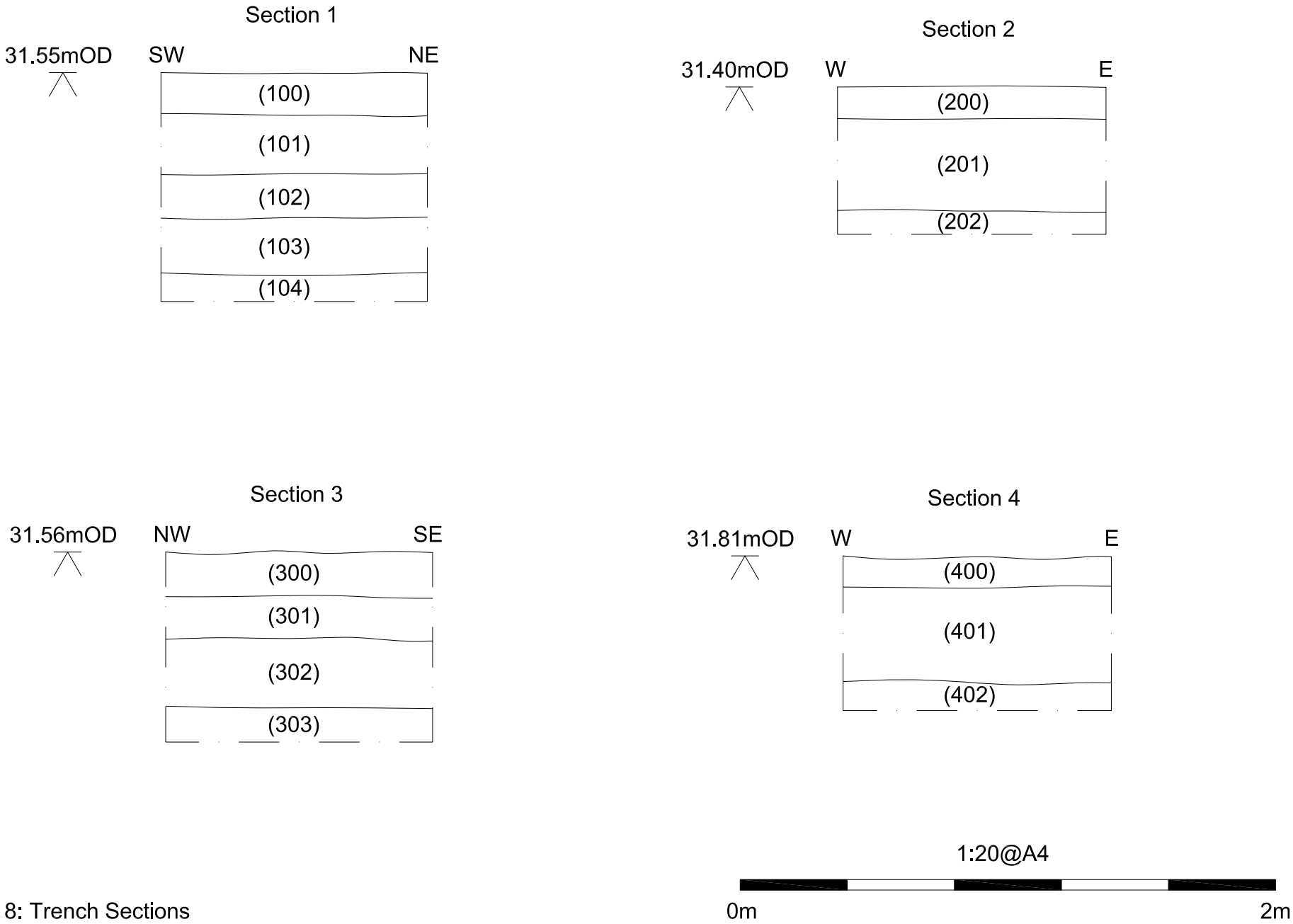

Figure 8: Trench Sections

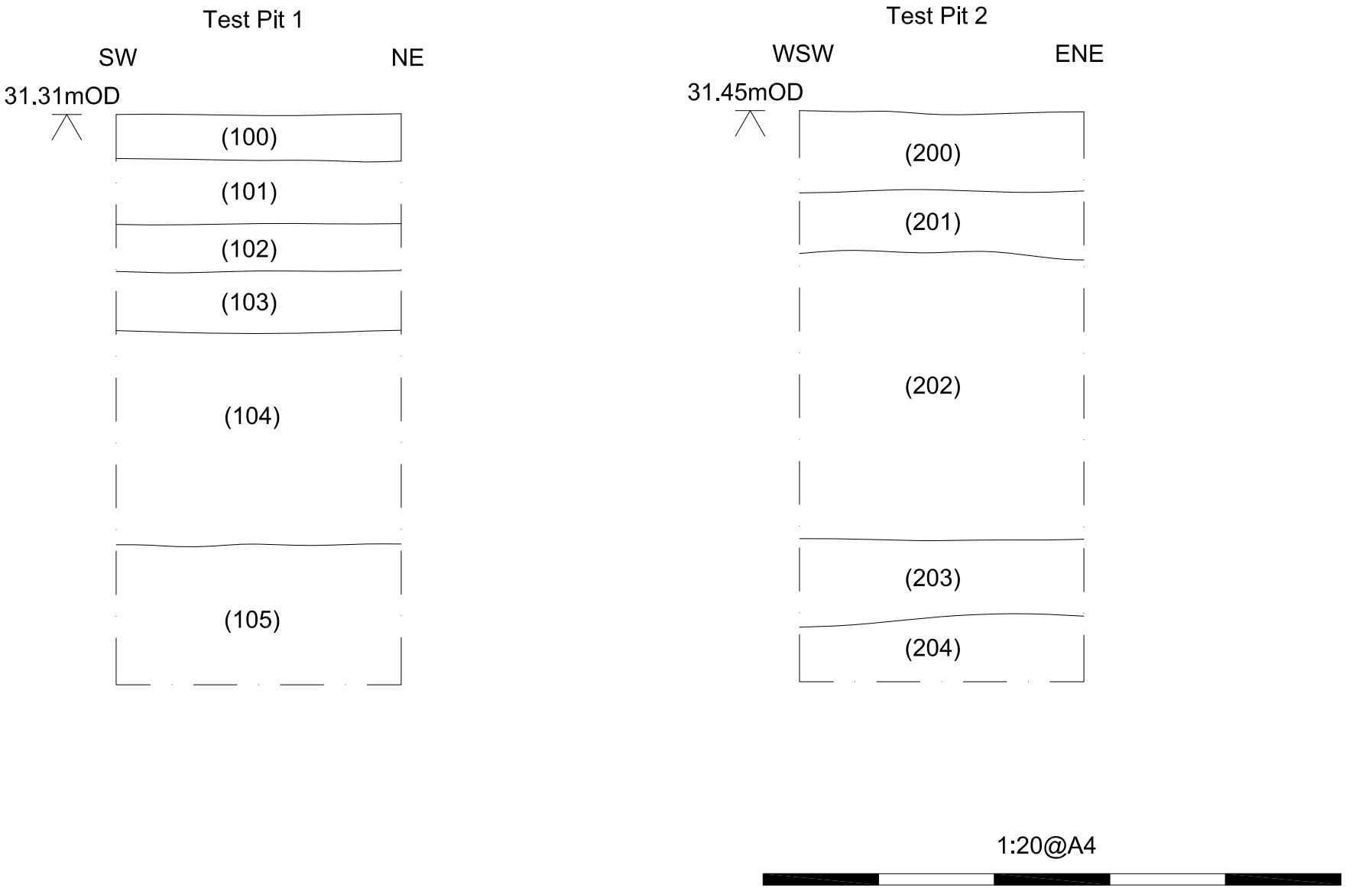

Figure 9: Test Pit Sections

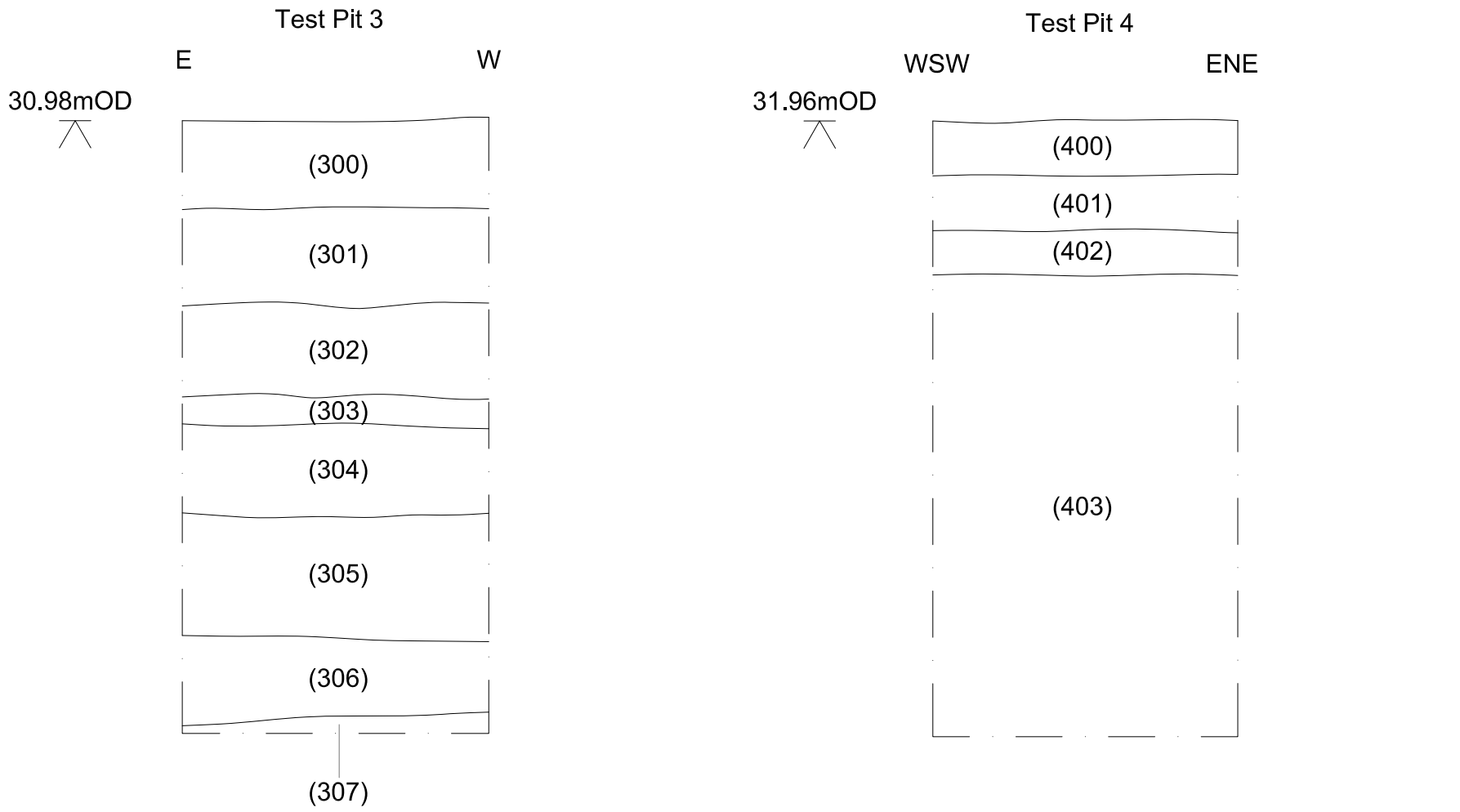

Figure 10: Test Pit Sections