



Archaeological Evaluation of Land south of Coleridge Road and Land east of Shaftsbury Lane, Dartford, Kent

December 2016

Archaeological Evaluation of Land South of Coleridge Road and Land east of Shaftsbury Lane, Dartford, Kent



NGR: 554814 174743

Site Code: COL/EV/17

Planning Application: DA/15/00084/FUL

SWAT Archaeology

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1. Summary

Swale & Thames Survey Company (SWAT) carried out an archaeological evaluation of land south of Coleridge Road and land east of Shaftsbury Lane, Dartford in Kent. A Planning Application (DA/15/00084/FUL) to develop this site for 23 x two bed houses and fourteen blocks to provide 28 x one bedroom flats (51 units in total) was submitted to Dartford 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 Part B). The results of the twenty seven evaluation trenches revealed that no archaeological features were present within the trenches. The natural geology of Seaford Chalk Formation was reached in a number of trenches at an average depth of between 0.28m 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 Dartford Borough Council 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 2016). The evaluation was carried out from the 3rd to the 9th December 2016.

3. Site Description and Topography

The proposed development site is formed from the back of footpath to Cavell Crescent and back of kerb to Coleridge Road and the boundary of the apartment blocks on Shakespeare Road. The site generally slopes from Cavell Crescent down to Coleridge Road. The overall area of development is about 3750 sq metres. The site slope is from 18.00m AOD to about 16.00m AOD.

The underlying geology is mapped as Seaford Chalk Formation. The Superficial Geology is not recorded (BGS 2016).

4. Planning Background

Dartford Borough Council gave planning permission (DA/15/00084) for development of land south of Coleridge Road and land east of Shaftsbury Lane, Dartford in Kent for a residential development and associated infrastructure.

The results from this evaluation will be used to inform Dartford Borough Council of any further archaeological mitigation measures that may be necessary in connection with the development proposals.

5. Archaeological and Historical Background

The application site lies within an area with known archaeology. To the south-west a Roman building (TQ 57 SW 11), and to the north a Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age settlement with a Roman shrine and Early Anglo-Saxon cemetery (TQ 57 SW 285). In addition to the south a possible 'plague pit' (TQ 57 SW 110). Human skeletons were found 'in front of old peoples dwelling' just north of Temple Hill Square (TQ 57 SW 110).

6. Aims and Objectives

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

"The programme of archaeological work should be carried out in a phased approach and will commence with evaluation through trial trenching. This initial phase should determine whether any significant archaeological remains would be affected by the development and if so what mitigation measures are appropriate. Such measures may include further detailed archaeological excavation, historic buildings recording and/or an archaeological watching brief during construction work. This specification sets out the requirements for trial trenching on the site and any further archaeological work, such as detailed excavation work or a watching brief, would need to be subject to further specifications" (SWAT 2015: 2).

The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and Heritage Assets clarifies a developers responsibilities in paragraphs 12.8 and 14.1.

Paragraph 12.8 states:

In determining applications, local planning authorities should require an applicant to describe the significance of any heritage assets affected, including any contribution made by their setting. The level of detail should be proportionate to the assets' importance and no more than is sufficient to understand the potential impact of the proposal on their significance. As a minimum the relevant historic environment record should have been consulted and the heritage assets assessed using

appropriate expertise where necessary. Where a site on which development is proposed includes or has the potential to include heritage assets with archaeological interest, local planning authorities should require developers to submit an appropriate desk-based assessment and, where necessary, a field evaluation.

Paragraph 14.1 states:

Local planning authorities should make information about the significance of the historic environment gathered as part of plan-making or development management publicly accessible. They should also require developers to record and advance understanding of the significance of any heritage assets to be lost (wholly or in part) in a manner proportionate to their importance and the impact, and to make this evidence (and any archive generated) publicly accessible. However, the ability to record evidence of our past should not be a factor in deciding whether such loss should be permitted.

The aims set out in the SWAT Specification (2016) for the site required a phased approach to the mitigation of the development site commencing with an evaluation, with the results influencing the possibility of further work on the site such as further mitigation in the form of a watching brief or excavation depending upon the amount and significance of any possible archaeological remains.

7. Methodology

The Archaeological Specification called for an evaluation by trial trenching comprising 27 trenches within the footprint of the proposed development. A 12.5 ton 360° tracked mechanical excavator with a flat-bladed ditching bucket was used to remove the topsoil and subsoil to expose the natural geology and/or the archaeological horizon. 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 KCC, SWAT and ClfA standards and guidance.

8. Monitoring

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

9. Results

The evaluation has identified no archaeological features within the trenches (Figures 1-3).

Trench 1

The plan is recorded in Figures 1 & 2 (see also Plates). The trench lay on an NNW alignment and measured approximately 25m by 1.70m.

Undisturbed natural geology **(102)** was identified across the trench as sandy silty clay, at a depth of approximately 0.25m (19.37mOD) below the present ground surface at 19.62m OD at the NNW end of the trench.

The natural geology **(102)** was sealed by a layer of mid brown to black silty sandy topsoil **(101)** 0.12m thick.

Trench 2

The plan is recorded in Figures 1 & 2 (see also Plates). The trench lay on an NNW alignment and measured approximately 25m by 1.70m.

Undisturbed natural geology **(202)** was identified across the trench as sandy silty clay, at a depth of approximately 0.29m (18.19mOD) below the present ground surface at 18.48m OD at the NNW end of the trench.

The natural geology **(202)** was sealed by a layer of mid brown to black silty sandy topsoil **(201)** 0.10m thick.

Trench 3

The plan is recorded in Figures 1 & 2 (see also Plates). The trench lay on an NNE alignment and measured approximately 25m by 1.70m.

Undisturbed natural geology **(302)** was identified across the trench as sandy silty clay, at a depth of approximately 0.51m (17.40mOD) below the present ground surface at 17.91m OD at the NNE end of the trench.

The natural geology **(302)** was sealed by a layer of mid brown to black silty sandy topsoil **(301)** 0.11m thick.

Trench 4

The plan is recorded in Figures 1 & 2 (see also Plates). The trench lay on an NNE alignment and measured approximately 25m by 1.70m.

Undisturbed natural geology **(402)** was identified across the trench as sandy silty clay, at a depth of approximately 0.31m (16.56mOD) below the present ground surface at 16.87m OD at the NNE end of the trench.

The natural geology **(402)** was sealed by a layer of mid brown to black silty sandy topsoil **(401)** 0.11m thick.

Trench 5

The plan is recorded in Figures 1 & 2 (see also Plates). The trench lay on an NNE alignment and measured approximately 25m by 1.70m.

Undisturbed natural geology **(502)** was identified across the trench as sandy silty clay, at a depth of approximately 0.26m (19.78mOD) below the present ground surface at 20.04m OD at the NNE end of the trench.

The natural geology **(502)** was sealed by a layer of mid brown to black silty sandy topsoil **(501)** 0.12m thick.

Trench 6

The plan is recorded in Figures 1 & 2 (see also Plates). The trench lay on an E alignment and measured approximately 25m by 1.70m.

Undisturbed natural geology **(602)** was identified across the trench as sandy silty clay, at a depth of approximately 0.41m (16.73mOD) below the present ground surface at 17.14m OD at the E end of the trench.

The natural geology **(602)** was sealed by a layer of mid brown to black silty sandy topsoil **(6)** 0.10m thick.

Trench 7

The plan is recorded in Figures 1 & 2 (see also Plate 4). The trench lay on an W alignment and measured approximately 25m by 1.70m.

Undisturbed natural geology **(702)** was identified across the trench as sandy silty clay, at a depth of approximately 0.27m (17.65mOD) below the present ground surface at 17.92m OD at the W end of the trench.

The natural geology **(702)** was sealed by a layer of mid brown to black silty sandy topsoil **(701)** 0.11m thick.

Trench 8

The plan is recorded in Figures 1 & 2 (see also Plate 1). The trench lay on an NW alignment and measured approximately 25m by 1.70m.

Undisturbed natural geology **(802)** was identified across the trench as sandy silty clay, at a depth of approximately 0.51m (16.45mOD) below the present ground surface at 16.96m OD at the NW end of the trench.

The natural geology **(802)** was sealed by a layer of mid brown to black silty sandy topsoil **(801)** 0.12m thick.

Trench 9

The plan is recorded in Figures 1 & 2 (see also Plates). The trench lay on a W alignment and measured approximately 25m by 1.70m.

Undisturbed natural geology **(902)** was identified across the trench as sandy silty clay, at a depth of approximately 0.31m (16.15mOD) below the present ground surface at 16.46m OD at the E end of the trench.

The natural geology **(902)** was sealed by a layer of mid brown to black silty sandy topsoil **(901)** 0.12m thick.

Trench 10

The plan is recorded in Figures 1 & 2 (see also Plate 11). The trench lay on an NNE alignment and measured approximately 25m by 1.70m.

Undisturbed natural geology **(1002)** was identified across the trench as sandy silty clay, at a depth of approximately 0.40m (17.31mOD) below the present ground surface at 17.89m OD at the SSW end of the trench.

The natural geology **(1002)** was sealed by a layer of mid brown to black silty sandy topsoil **(1001)** 0.10m thick.

Trench 11

The plan is recorded in Figures 1 & 2 (see also Plate 2). The trench lay on an NNW alignment and measured approximately 25m by 1.70m.

Undisturbed natural geology **(1102)** was identified across the trench as sandy silty clay, at a depth of approximately 0.35m (15.96mOD) below the present ground surface at 16.31m OD at the NNW end of the trench.

The natural geology **(1102)** was sealed by a layer of mid brown to black silty sandy topsoil **(1101)** 0.14m thick.

Trench 12

The plan is recorded in Figures 1 & 2 (see also Plate 5). The trench lay on an NNE alignment and measured approximately 25m by 1.70m.

Undisturbed natural geology **(1202)** was identified across the trench as sandy silty clay, at a depth of approximately 0.49m (15.62mOD) below the present ground surface at 16.11m OD at the NNE end of the trench.

The natural geology **(1202)** was sealed by a layer of mid brown to black silty sandy topsoil **(1201)** 0.14m thick.

Trench 13

The plan is recorded in Figures 1 & 2 (see also Plates). The trench lay on a W alignment and measured approximately 25m by 1.70m.

Undisturbed natural geology **(1302)** was identified across the trench as sandy silty clay, at a depth of approximately 0.26m (15.95mOD) below the present ground surface at 16.21m OD at the W end of the trench.

The natural geology **(1302)** was sealed by a layer of mid brown to black silty sandy topsoil **(1301)** 0.11m thick.

Trench 14

The plan is recorded in Figures 1 & 2 (see also Plates). The trench lay on an NW alignment and measured approximately 25m by 1.70m.

Undisturbed natural geology **(1402)** was identified across the trench as sandy silty clay, at a depth of approximately 0.24m (15.14mOD) below the present ground surface at 15.38m OD at the NW end of the trench.

The natural geology **(1402)** was sealed by a layer of mid brown to black silty sandy topsoil **(1401)** 0.12m thick.

Trench 15

The plan is recorded in Figures 1 & 2 (see also Plate 6). The trench lay on an N alignment and measured approximately 25m by 1.70m.

Undisturbed natural geology **(1502)** was identified across the trench as sandy silty clay, at a depth of approximately 0.18m (16.18mOD) below the present ground surface at 16.36m OD at the N end of the trench.

The natural geology **(1502)** was sealed by a layer of mid brown to black silty sandy topsoil **(1501)** 0.10m thick.

Trench 16

The plan is recorded in Figures 1 & 2 (see also Plates). The trench lay on an NW alignment and measured approximately 25m by 1.70m.

Undisturbed natural geology **(1602)** was identified across the trench as sandy silty clay, at a depth of approximately 0.51m (18.68mOD) below the present ground surface at 19.19m OD at the NW end of the trench.

The natural geology **(1602)** was sealed by a layer of mid brown to black silty sandy topsoil **(1601)** 0.10m thick.

Trench 17

The plan is recorded in Figures 1 & 2 (see also Plates). The trench lay on an NNE alignment and measured approximately 25m by 1.70m.

Undisturbed natural geology **(1702)** was identified across the trench as sandy silty clay, at a depth of approximately 0.42m (15.66mOD) below the present ground surface at 16.08m OD at the NNE end of the trench.

The natural geology **(1702)** was sealed by a layer of mid brown to black silty sandy topsoil **(1701)** 0.11m thick.

Trench 18

The plan is recorded in Figures 1 & 2 (see also Plates). The trench lay on an NW alignment and measured approximately 25m by 1.70m.

Undisturbed natural geology **(1802)** was identified across the trench as sandy silty clay, at a depth of approximately 0.59m (16.03mOD) below the present ground surface at 16.62m OD at the NW end of the trench.

The natural geology **(1802)** was sealed by a layer of mid brown to black silty sandy topsoil **(1801)** 0.13m thick.

Trench 19

The plan is recorded in Figures 1 & 2 (see also Plates). The trench lay on an NNE alignment and measured approximately 25m by 1.70m.

Undisturbed natural geology **(1902)** was identified across the trench as sandy silty clay, at a depth of approximately 0.49m (16.98mOD) below the present ground surface at 17.47m OD at the NNE end of the trench.

The natural geology **(1902)** was sealed by a layer of mid brown to black silty sandy topsoil **(1901)** 0.10m thick.

Trench 20

The plan is recorded in Figures 1 & 2 (see also Plates). The trench lay on an NNE alignment and measured approximately 25m by 1.70m.

Undisturbed natural geology **(2002)** was identified across the trench as sandy silty clay, at a depth of approximately 0.42m (15.66mOD) below the present ground surface at 16.08m OD at the NNE end of the trench.

The natural geology **(2002)** was sealed by a layer of mid brown to black silty sandy topsoil **(2001)** 0.10m thick.

Trench 21

The plan is recorded in Figures 1 & 2 (see also Plates). The trench lay on an NE alignment and measured approximately 25m by 1.70m.

Undisturbed natural geology **(2102)** was identified across the trench as sandy silty clay, at a depth of approximately 0.41m (16.16mOD) below the present ground surface at 16.57m OD at the NE end of the trench.

The natural geology **(2102)** was sealed by a layer of mid brown to black silty sandy topsoil **(2101)** 0.12m thick.

Trench 22

The plan is recorded in Figures 1 & 2 (see also Plates). The trench lay on an NNW alignment and measured approximately 25m by 1.70m.

Undisturbed natural geology **(2202)** was identified across the trench as sandy silty clay, at a depth of approximately 0.31m (17.47mOD) below the present ground surface at 17.78m OD at the NNW end of the trench.

The natural geology **(2202)** was sealed by a layer of mid brown to black silty sandy topsoil **(2201)** 0.12m thick.

Trench 23

The plan is recorded in Figures 1 & 2 (see also Plates). The trench lay on an NNW alignment and measured approximately 25m by 1.70m.

Undisturbed natural geology **(2302)** was identified across the trench as sandy silty clay, at a depth of approximately 0.49m (17.46mOD) below the present ground surface at 17.95m OD at the NNW end of the trench.

The natural geology **(2302)** was sealed by a layer of mid brown to black silty sandy topsoil **(2301)** 0.14m thick.

Trench 24

The plan is recorded in Figures 1 & 2 (see also Plates). The trench lay on an N alignment and measured approximately 25m by 1.70m.

Undisturbed natural geology **(2402)** was identified across the trench as sandy silty clay, at a depth of approximately 0.32m (18.36mOD) below the present ground surface at 18.68m OD at the N end of the trench.

The natural geology **(2402)** was sealed by a layer of mid brown to black silty sandy topsoil **(2401)** 0.11m thick.

Trench 25

The plan is recorded in Figures 1 & 2 (see also Plates). The trench lay on an NW alignment and measured approximately 25m by 1.70m.

Undisturbed natural geology **(2502)** was identified across the trench as sandy silty clay, at a depth of approximately 0.33m (20.12mOD) below the present ground surface at 20.45m OD at the NW end of the trench.

The natural geology **(2502)** was sealed by a layer of mid brown to black silty sandy topsoil **(2501)** 0.11m thick.

Trench 26

The plan is recorded in Figures 1 & 2 (see also Plates). The trench lay on an NW alignment and measured approximately 25m by 1.70m.

Undisturbed natural geology **(2602)** was identified across the trench as sandy silty clay, at a depth of approximately 0.48m (16.54mOD) below the present ground surface at 17.02m OD at the NW end of the trench.

The natural geology **(2602)** was sealed by a layer of mid brown to black silty sandy topsoil **(2601)** 0.10m thick.

Trench 27

The plan is recorded in Figures 1 & 2 (see also Plates). The trench lay on a W alignment and measured approximately 25m by 1.70m.

Undisturbed natural geology **(2702)** was identified across the trench as sandy silty clay, at a depth of approximately 0.42m (15.56mOD) below the present ground surface at 15.98m OD at the W end of the trench.

The natural geology **(2702)** was sealed by a layer of mid brown to black silty sandy topsoil **(2701)** 0.12m thick.

10. Discussion

The archaeological evaluation at Coleridge Road and Shaftesbury Avenue revealed no archaeological features or artefacts.

11. Finds.

No finds were retrieved

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 **(100)** sealing the subsoil **(101)** which overlay the natural geology of Sandy Silt or Chalk **(102)**. Therefore, this evaluation has been successful in fulfilling the aims and objectives as set out in the Archaeological Specification.

13. Acknowledgements

SWAT Archaeology would like to thank the client, Dartford Borough Council for commissioning the project. Thanks are also extended to Jenner Contractors Ltd. Illustrations were produced by Bartek Cichy. The fieldwork was undertaken by Tim Allen MCIfA and the project was managed and report written by Dr Paul Wilkinson MCIfA.

Paul Wilkinson

02.02 2017

14. References

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

SWAT Archaeology (November 2016) *Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Evaluation of land at Coleridge Road and Shaftesbury Avenue, Dartford, Kent*

KCC Specification Manual Part B

KCC HER data 2016



Plate 1. View of Trench 8



Plate 2. View of Trench 11



Plate 3. View of Trench 23



Plate 4. View of Trench 7



Plate 5. View of Trench 12



Plate 6. View of Trench 15



Plate 7. View of site



Plate 8. View of Trench 8



Plate 9. View of Trench 6



Plate 10. View of Trench 5



Plate 11. View of Trench 10

Kent County Council HER Summary Form

Site Name: Land at Coleridge Road and Shaftesbury Avenue, Dartford, Kent

SWAT Site Code: COL/EV/16

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 Dartford Borough Council requested that Archaeological Evaluation be undertaken to determine the possible impact of the development on any archaeological remains.

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

District/Unitary: Dartford Borough Council

Period(s):

NGR (centre of site to eight figures) 554814 174743

Type of Archaeological work: Archaeological Evaluation

Date of recording: Dec 2016

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

Geology: Underlying geology is Seaford Chalk and Newhaven Chalk Formation

Title and author of accompanying report: Wilkinson P. (2017) Archaeological Evaluation at Land at Coleridge Road and Shaftesbury Avenue, Dartford, 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

Date: 02/02/2017

Figure 1

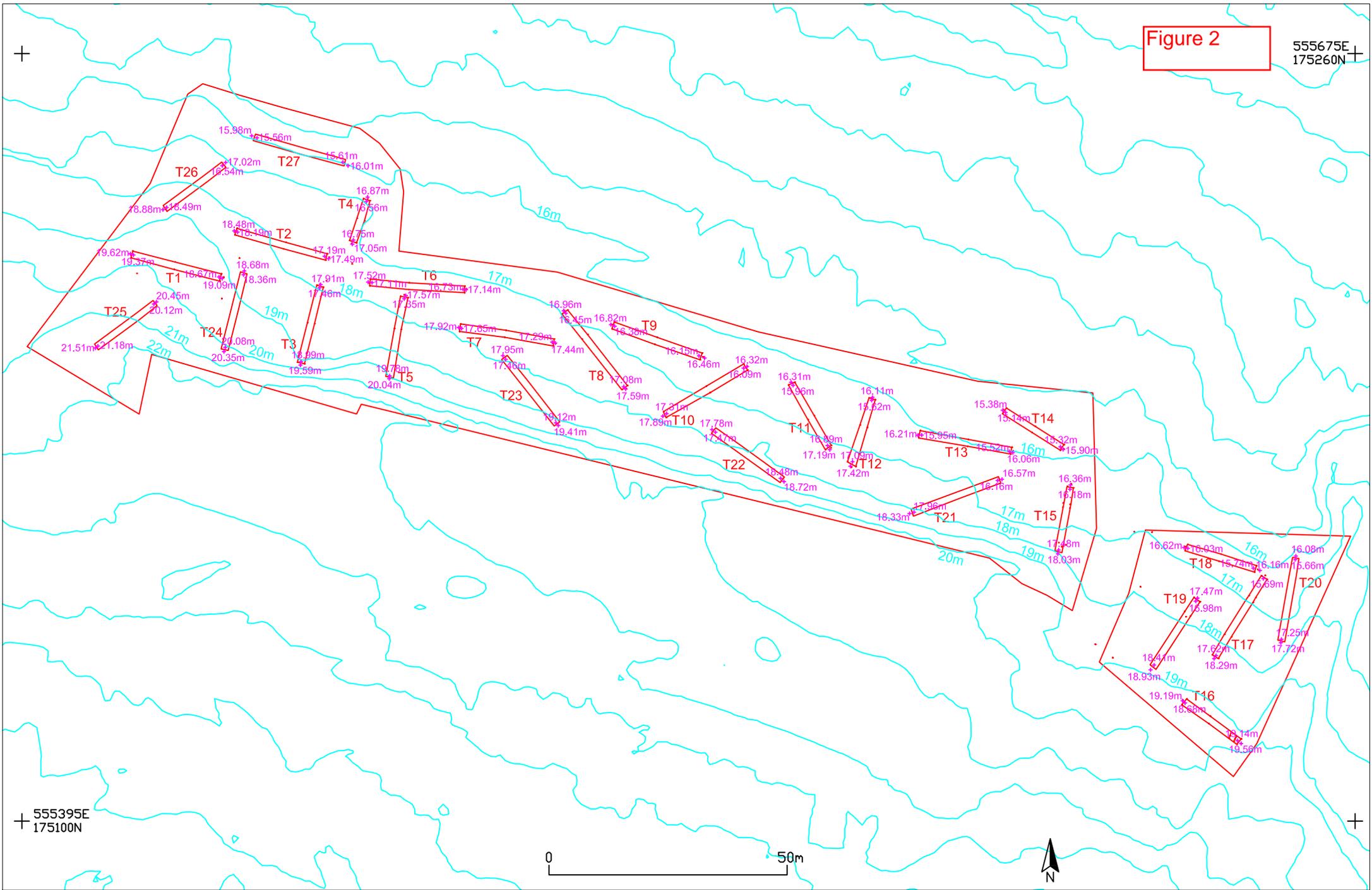
555675E
175260N



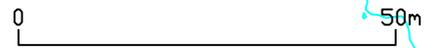
Dartford, Coleridge Road: Evaluation trench plan in relation to development plan, scale 1:1000.

Figure 2

555675E
175260N



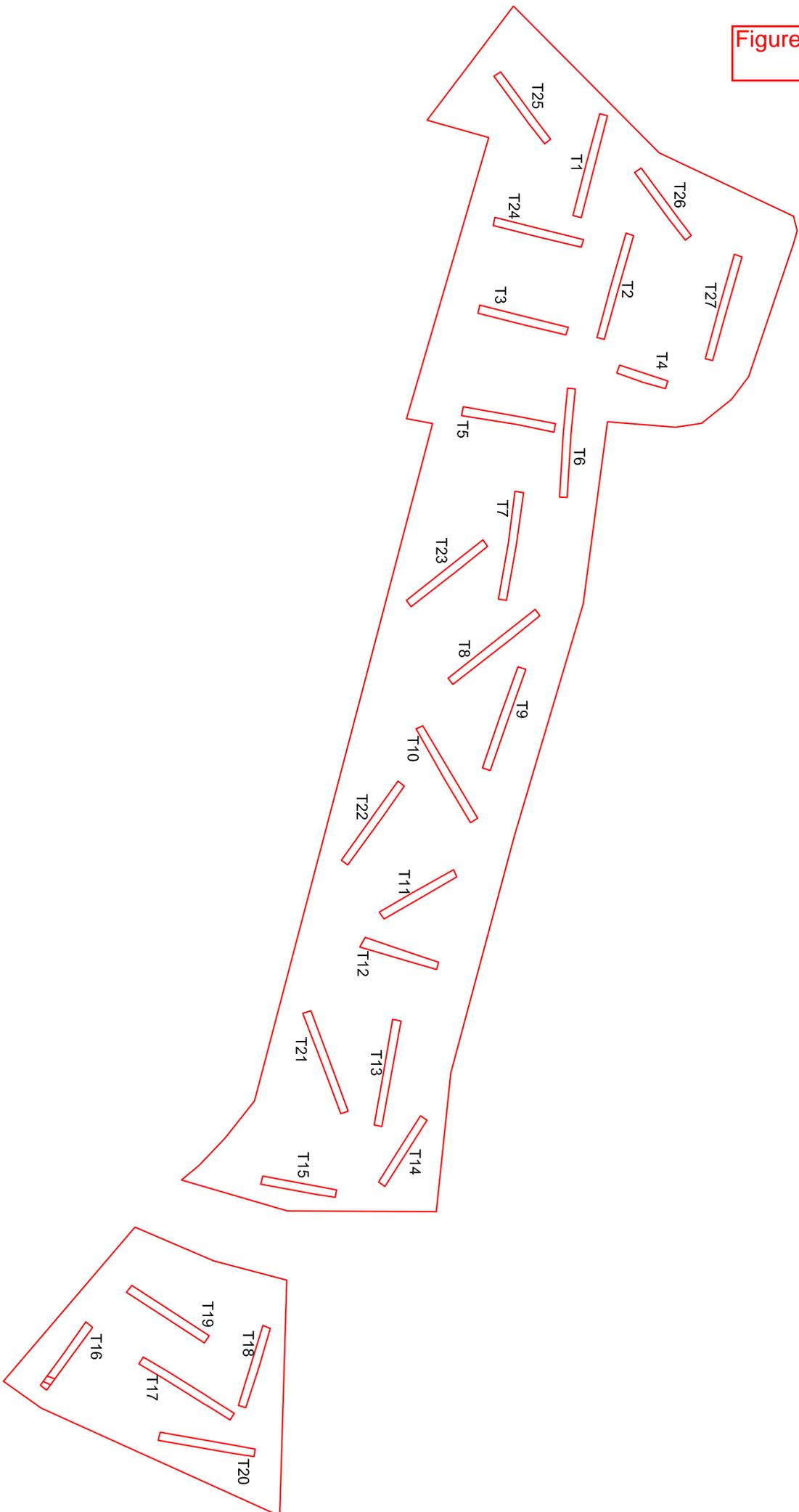
555395E
175100N



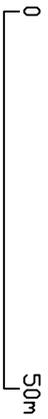
Dartford, Coleridge Road: Evaluation trench plan with spot heights, scale 1:1000.

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Figure 3



555399SE
175100N



Dartford, Coleridge Road: Evaluation trench plan, scale 1:1000.

555675E
175260N

+