

# Archaeological Evaluation on Land at the Franciscan International Study Centre, Giles Lane, Blean, Kent CT2 7NA

Site Code: FRANC -EV-19

NGR Site Centre 613498 159624

Planning Application Number: 18/00620



SWAT ARCHAEOLOGY

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## **Summary**

*Swale & Thames Survey Company (SWAT Archaeology) was commissioned to undertake an archaeological evaluation on land at the Franciscan International Study Centre, Giles Lane, Blean near Canterbury in Kent. The archaeological works were monitored by the Canterbury City Council Archaeological Officer.*

*The fieldwork was carried out in February 2020 in accordance with an archaeological specification (SWAT Archaeology 8<sup>th</sup> February 2019) submitted to the CCC Planning Authority prior to commencement of works.*

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

## **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 the former Franciscan International Study Centre, Giles Lane, Blean, Canterbury in Kent (**Figure 1**).

1.1.2 In mitigation of the potential impact that the development may have on the buried archaeological resource the CCC Archaeological Officer requested that a programme of archaeological works comprising an archaeological evaluation be undertaken to satisfy the planning condition 19 of the planning permission 18/00620.

1.1.3 The archaeological evaluation was carried out in February 2020 in accordance with an archaeological specification prepared by SWAT Archaeology (08/02/2019), prior to commencement of works, and in discussion with Rosanne Cummings Archaeological Officer at CCC.

#### **1.1 4 Site Description and Topography**

The application site is situated in Giles Lane to the north of the city of Canterbury on an elevated site of about 70m AOD. To the east is the University of Kent and to the north the Kent Business School. To the west is Whitstable Road (A290) and just beyond Kent College.

The NGR to the centre of the site is NGR 613498 159624 (Figure 1).

The Geological Survey of Great Britain (1:50,000) shows that the local geology consists of London Clay Formation – Clay and Silt formed 56-49 million years ago. Superficial geology recorded is River Terrace Deposits of sand and gravel. No geotechnical information is available at this time, which would offer confirmation of the existing soil sequence and provide a basis from which archaeological horizons could be suggested.

## **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 (February 2019) and these include a watching brief in 2008 by Kent Archaeological Projects (EKE 10342) during groundworks associated with the construction of a pipeline route between St Thomas Tower and Blean Reservoir circa 450m south

west of the PDA. No features or artefacts were found (*Unpublished document: Kent Archaeological Projects. 2008. An Archaeological Watching Brief on the trunk main lay between St Thomas Tower and Blean Reservoir, Canterbury Kent*).

2.2 In 2009, a magnetometry survey (EKE 12454) was undertaken of land north of Beverley Farm circa 150m south east of the PDA. Two areas of disturbance were identified, possibly relating to industrial activity on the site. Further investigation was proposed. (*Unpublished document: University of Kent. 2010. Report on a Preliminary Geophysical Survey of the Canterbury Campus, University of Kent, 2009*).

2.3 In 1996, the Canterbury Archaeological Trust (CAT), undertook an evaluation ahead of an extension at the Student's Union, University of Kent (EKE 8220) circa 425m east of the PDA. Nothing of archaeological interest found although evidence has been found in the area (*Unpublished document: Canterbury Archaeological Trust. 1996. An Archaeological Evaluation at the University of Kent at Canterbury: The Students Union Building*).

2.4 In 1998, Archaeology South-east undertook a watching brief at St Edmunds School (EKE 5379) circa 350m south west of the PDA. Majority of groundworks did not reveal any deposits of archaeological interest. To the south, a broad, shallow pit of probable Late Bronze Age date produced a significant quantity of prehistoric pottery, together with work and fire-cracked flint. (*unpublished Document: Archaeology South-East. 1998. An Archaeological Watching Brief at St. Edmunds School, Canterbury, Kent*).

2.5 In 2014, CAT undertook an archaeological excavation ahead of the construction of Turing College (EKE 16449) 100m south of the PDA. The site was machine excavated and mapped by GIS, following the recommendation of an earlier archaeological evaluation. The investigation revealed Bronze Age and Iron Age archaeology, including a nationally and regionally rare Bronze Age water hole, some cremation burials, and evidence of an early Iron Age settlement with areas for textile production, pottery manufacture, and later farming in the Middle Bronze age.

No evidence was found of activity between this and the construction of the Grade II listed Beverley Farmhouse in the 15th century (*Unpublished document: Canterbury Archaeological Trust. 2014. Turing College, University of Kent, Canterbury, Kent, Archaeological Excavation Interim Report*).

2.6 A desk based assessment was carried out by CAT in 2014 relating to University of Kent Academic development at Parkwood Road, Canterbury (EKE 16432) circa 350m north of the PDA. It was decided that the proposed site was within an area of moderate archaeological potential, especially regarding potential evidence from Palaeolithic to Iron Age activity, or medieval woodland use. It was recommended that further archaeological evaluation be carried out (*Unpublished document: Canterbury Archaeological Trust. 2014. University of Kent Academic Development at Parkwood Road, Canterbury*).

2.7 A watching brief on foundation trenches was carried out at Parkwood Site "A" (Phase 6) at the University of Kent in 2004 by CAT (EKE 10341) circa 400m north west of the PDA. No archaeological features or artefacts were found during excavation (*Unpublished document: Canterbury Archaeological Trust. 2005. An Archaeological Watching Brief on land at Parkwood site 'A', Phase 6, University of Kent, Canterbury, Kent*).

## AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

### 2.2 Specific Aims (SWAT 2020)

2.2.1 The specific aims of the archaeological fieldwork are set out in the Specification (SWAT 2019) 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 and later archaeological 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 CCC 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 three evaluation trenches were excavated across the Site (Figures 1, 2, 3).

3.2.2 The trenches were initially scanned for surface finds prior to excavation. Excavation was carried out using a 360° 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 CCC and ClfA 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 three evaluation trenches were mechanically excavated under archaeological supervision.

### **4.2 Stratigraphic Deposit Sequence**

4.2.1 A relatively consistent stratigraphic sequence was recorded comprising a mix of topsoil sealing an intact subsoil of brown sandy clayey silt overlaying the natural yellow brown silty clay with gravel.

4.2.2 Appendix 1 provides the stratigraphic sequence for all trenches. Figures 1-3 provide a site plan, trench location plan and sections while Plates 1-7 include selected site photographs.

### **4.3 Overview**

4.3.1 The trenches were located across the footprint of the proposed buildings to ensure full coverage of potential archaeological remains. However, trench locations had to be amended on site because of restrictive service pipes and tree roots.

## **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 The archaeological investigation failed to expose any meaningful archaeology but modern deposits, service trench runs and main gas supply trenches were identified in the trenches 2 & 3 with tree bowels in trenches 1, 2 & 3.

### **6.2 Conclusions**

6.2.1 The archaeological evaluation has been successful in fulfilling the primary aims and objectives of the Specification as 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; ClfA 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 Rosanne Cumming CCC Archaeological Officer for her advice and assistance.
- 8.1.2 Dr Paul Wilkinson MCIfA supervised the archaeological evaluation and survey and illustrations were produced by Digitise This. 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

SWAT Archaeology. Site Specific Requirements: Franciscan International Study Centre, Giles Lane, Blean CT2 7NA. Specification for an Archaeological Evaluation

Compiled by: SWAT Archaeology (PW). The Office, School Farm Oast, Faversham, Kent

Dated 25<sup>th</sup> February 2020.

## Appendix 1: Trench Tables

Trench 1	Dimensions: 20m x 1.4 m Depth: 0.55m Trench alignment: NNW-SSE NNW-end Ground Level: 68.10m aOD		
Context	Description	Interpretation	Depth (m)
100	Topsoil	Topsoil layer	0.00-0.20
101	Mid orange brown, clayey sandy silt with well rounded flint pebble inclusions	Subsoil	0.20-35
103	Brown clay (London Clay) with gravel	Natural	0.55-
Trench 2	Dimensions: 20m x 1.4m Depth: 0.45m Trench alignment: NNE-SSW SSW-end Ground Level: 68.07m aOD		
Context	Description	Interpretation	Depth (m)
200	Topsoil	Topsoil layer	0.00-0.10
201	Mid orange brown, clayey sandy silt with well rounded flint pebble inclusions	Subsoil	0.10-25
203	Brown clay (London Clay) with gravel	Natural	0.45-
Trench 3	Dimensions: 20m x 1.4m Depth: 0.55m Trench alignment: NNW-SSE NNW-end Ground Level: 68.01m aOD		
Context	Description	Interpretation	Depth (m)
300	Topsoil	Topsoil layer	0.00-0.10
301	Mid orange brown, clayey sandy silt with well rounded flint pebble inclusions	Subsoil	0.10-25
303	Brown clay (London Clay) with gravel	Natural	0.55-

### Kent County Council HER Summary Form

**Site Name:** Land at Franciscan International Study Centre, Giles Lane, Blean, Kent

**SWAT Site Code:** FRANC/EV/20

**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 erection of a replacement dwellings whereby Canterbury City 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:** Canterbury City Council

**Period(s):**

**NGR (centre of site to six figures)** NGR 613498 159624

**Type of Archaeological work:** Archaeological Evaluation

**Date of recording:** February 2020

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

**Geology:** Underlying geology is Bedrock Geology of London Clay Formation

**Title and author of accompanying report:** Wilkinson P. (2020) Archaeological Evaluation of Land at the Franciscan International Study Centre, Giles Lane, Blean, Kent

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

No meaningful archaeology found

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

**Contact at Unit:** Paul Wilkinson



Plate 1. Trench 1. Looking NNW



Plate 2. Trench 2. Looking NNE



Plate 3. Trench 3. Looking SSE



Plate 4. Trench 1 section



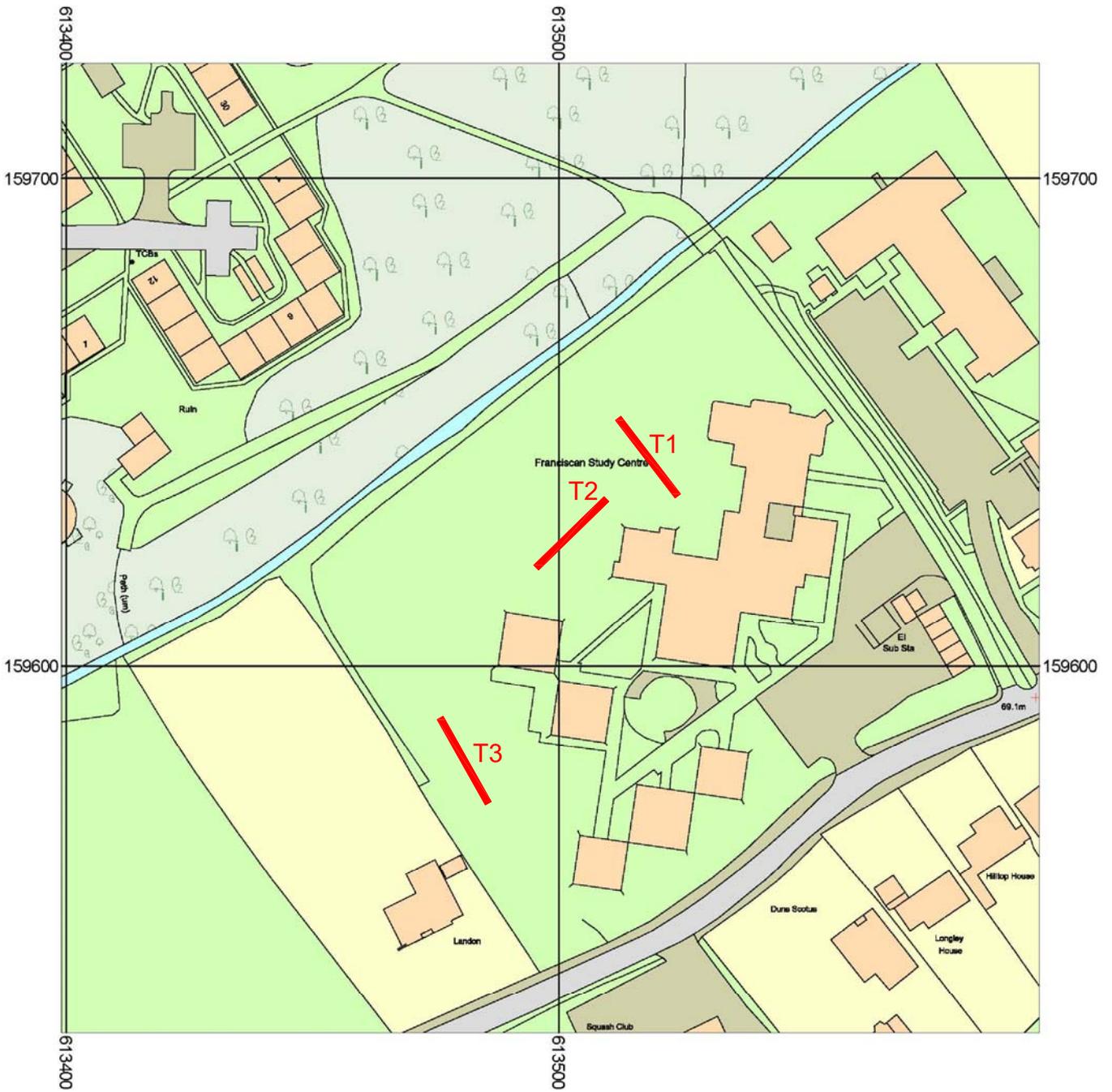
Plate 5. Trench 2 section



Plate 6. Trench 3 section



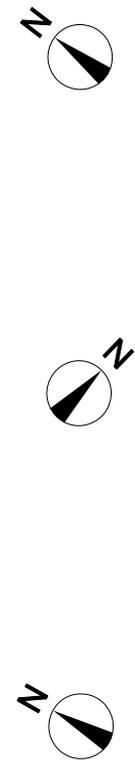
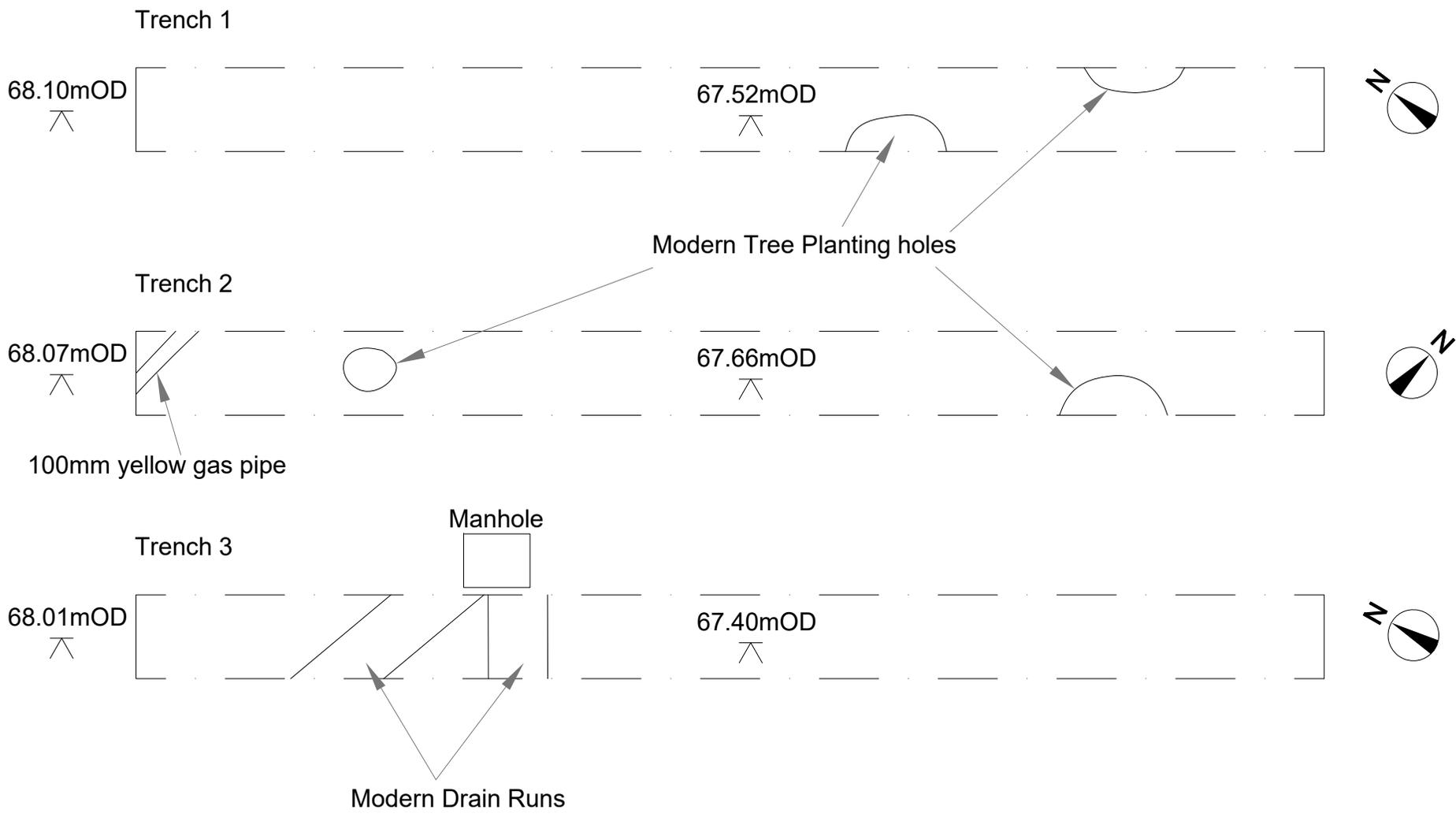
Plate 7. Trench 3. Modern service trenches



1:1250@A4



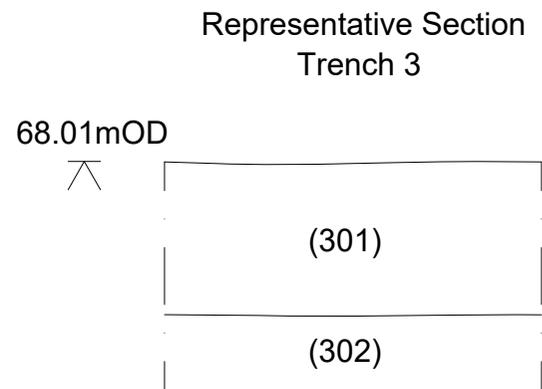
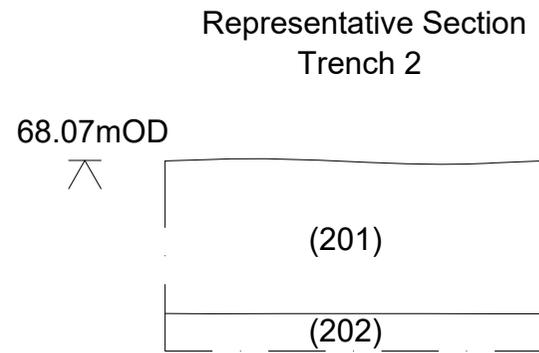
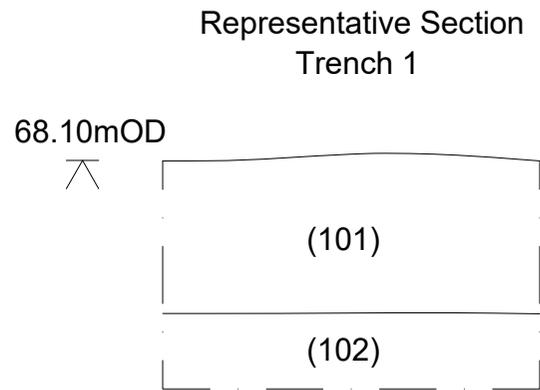
Figure 1: Location of site



1:100@A4



Figure 2: Trench Plans



1:20@A4



Figure 3: Representative Sections