

# Archaeological Evaluation of Land at Thomas Way, Lakesview Business Park, Hersden, Westbere, Kent



NGR: 621179 152296

Site Code: LAKE/EV/19

(Planning Application: CA/18/00963)

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## Contents

|  |   |
|--|---|
| List of Figures.....                             | 3 |
| List of Plates.....                              | 3 |
| 1. Summary.....                                  | 4 |
| 2. Introduction.....                             | 4 |
| 3. Site Description and Topography.....          | 4 |
| 4. Planning Background.....                      | 5 |
| 5. Archaeological and Historical Background..... | 5 |
| 6. Aims and Objectives.....                      | 5 |
| 7. Methodology.....                              | 6 |
| 8. Monitoring.....                               | 6 |
| 9. Results.....                                  | 6 |
| 10. Discussion.....                              | 8 |
| 11. Finds.....                                   | 8 |
| 12. Conclusion.....                              | 8 |
| 13. Acknowledgements.....                        | 8 |
| 14. References.....                              | 8 |
| 15. CCC Summary Form.....                        | 9 |

List of Figures:

Figures 1-3 –Location of site and evaluation trenches

List of Plates:

Plate 1 - Site view

Plates 2 – 5 Trench 1 (looking SE)

Plate 6 – Trench 2 (looking S)

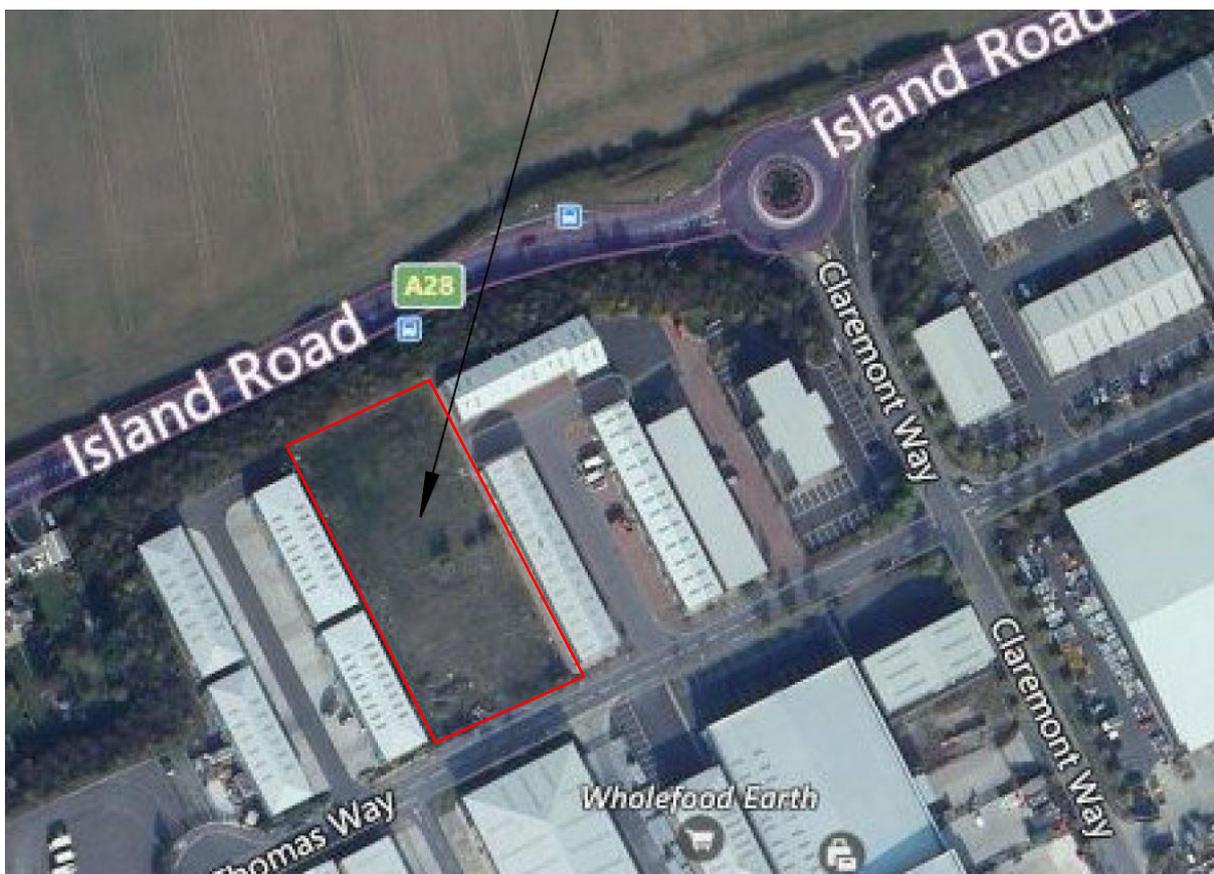
Plate 7 – Trench 2 (looking NE)

Plate 8 – Trench 3 (looking SSE)

Plate 9 – Trench 3 (section looking NE)

Plate 10 – Trench 4 (looking W)

Plate 11- Trench 5 test pit



AP 1. Aerial photograph of site (9/4/2017) Google Earth

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NGR: 621179 152296

Site Code: LAKE-EV-19

## **1. Summary**

*Swale & Thames Survey Company (SWAT) carried out an archaeological evaluation of land at Thomas Way, Hersden in Kent. A Planning Application (CA/18/00963) to develop this site for the proposed 1 no. part single storey & part two-storey building, 1 no. two storey building and 1 no. single-storey building comprising 14 no. units for light industrial and office use was submitted to Canterbury City 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 CCC Manual Part B) and in discussion with the Archaeological Heritage Officer, Canterbury City Council. The results of the excavation of five evaluation trenches revealed that archaeological features were present within Trench 1 (Plates 2-5). The natural geology of mid yellow brown Clay was reached at an average depth of between 0.50m and 0.60m below the present surface. The Archaeological Evaluation has been successful in fulfilling the primary aims and objectives of the Archaeological Specification.*

## **2. Introduction**

Swale & Thames Survey Company (SWAT) was commissioned by the landowners 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 2019) and in discussion with Rosanne Cummings, Archaeological Heritage Officer Canterbury City Council. The evaluation was carried out on the 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> April 2019.

## **3. Site Description and Topography**

The proposed development area (PDA) sits at an average height of circa 28m AOD. The site is located to the north of the industrial park by the Island Road and to the west, east and

south by industrial units. In the 1990's the site was open fields but by 2003 development work had started on the industrial estate and by 2017 most of the industrial park had been developed.

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. OD heights for the site are about 28.59m AOD at the north of the site and 28.72m AOD to the south.

#### **4. Planning Background**

Planning permission has been obtained with the following Condition (8):

*No development, other than demolition shall take place until the applicant or their agents or their successor(s) in title has secured the implementation of: implementation of a programme of archaeological works in accordance with a specification and written timetable, which has first been submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority; and following on any safeguarding measures to ensure preservation in situ of important archaeological remains and/or further archaeological investigation, post-excavation assessment, analysis, publication or conservation in accordance with a specification and timetable which has been submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority.*

*REASON: To ensure that features of archaeological interest are properly examined and recorded in accordance with policies HE11 and HE12 of the Canterbury Local Plan 2017 and the National Planning Policy Framework.*

The results from this evaluation will be used to inform CCC Archaeology and Heritage and Canterbury City Council of any further archaeological mitigation measures that may be necessary in connection with the development proposals.

**5. Archaeological and Historical Background** The KCCHER data indicated that this area is located in an area of known archaeological activity.

Substantial Middle and Late Iron Age settlement was recorded on the site of the Lakeview Business Park with identified features included ditches, some forming substantial enclosures

(including one D shaped enclosure), pits and at least one roundhouse. Also recorded were the remains of possible furnaces and fragments of a sword with evidence for metal-working recovered from environmental samples.

An archaeological evaluation carried out by Canterbury Archaeological Trust on the adjacent site to the PDA (Proposed Development Area) in 1998 revealed a well preserved Roman road about 6m wide and flanked by drains which ran into an enclosure of a Roman settlement (TR 26 SW 90). The report notes that every evaluation trench revealed archaeological features. The finds consisted features and pottery dating from Iron Age and Roman periods and in addition a burial was revealed dating to the Late Roman period (TR 26 SW 86). The report on the finding which continue into the present PDA is Canterbury Archaeological Trust 1998 *Archaeological Evaluation: Land south of Island Road, Westbere* (Unpublished document) SKE8296.

About 200m to the south east is the remains of a WWII defended gun position (MWX43081).

To the north east at about 150m is a trackway of unknown date (TR 26 SW 56).

## **6. Aims and Objectives**

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

*(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 (Figure 1).*

*(6.2) Also to find out the depths of features below the surface, how much overburden and the extent of the depth of deposits themselves. In addition the dates and quality of any archaeological remains which will be achieved through a limited sample excavation of features...*

## **7. Methodology**

The Archaeological Specification called for an evaluation by trial trenching comprising a first phase of four trenches 15-25m long and 1.8m wide within the footprint of the proposed development. An 8.5 ton 360° tracked mechanical excavator with a flat-bladed ditching

bucket was used to remove the demolition material and subsoil to expose the natural geology. 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. All archaeological work was carried out in accordance with CCC, SWAT and CifA standards and guidance.

## **8. Monitoring**

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

## **9. Results**

The evaluation has identified archaeological features within Trench 1 (Figures 1-3 and Plates 2-5).

### ***Trench 1***

Trench 1 was NW-SE aligned and located alongside south boundary of the site at a height of 28.07m O.D. It measured 25m by 1.8m and was excavated to the depth of 0.5m.

At the bottom of the trench natural deposit of Clay, Sand and Gravel (102) was exposed successively overlaid or cut by archaeological features.

Features [103, 105] were identified as Roman ditches and features (104, 102, 106, 107, 109, 110, 111,112, 113,114,115,116, 113, 118, 117) identified but not excavated. Pottery from these features was Late Iron Age to Roman and included:

|         |      |        |              |           |        |
|---------|------|--------|--------------|-----------|--------|
| CRN 102 | C2A  | Jar    | c.270/350    | 6 sherds  | 178gms |
| CRN 102 | 1A3A | Jar    | LIA -150/250 | 2 sherds  | 18gms  |
| CRN 106 | C4A  | Jars   | c.50-170     | 13 sherds | 82gms  |
| CRN 107 | F2A  | Closed | c.43-300     | 6 sherds  | 33gms  |

### ***Trench 2***

Trench 2 was NW-SE aligned and located in the centre of the site at a height of 28.82m O.D. It measured 25m by 1.8m and was excavated to the depth of 0.87m.

At the bottom of the trench natural deposit of Clay, Sand and Gravel (202) was exposed.

No archaeology was exposed.

### ***Trench 3***

Trench 3 was NW-SE aligned and located in the centre left of the site at a height of 28.87m O.D. It measured 25m by 1.8m and was excavated to the depth of 0.62m.

At the bottom of the trench natural deposit of Flint and Gravel outcrops were exposed.

No archaeology was exposed.

### ***Trench 4***

Trench 4 was W-E aligned and located at the top of the site at a height of 28.53m O.D. It measured 25m by 1.8m and was excavated to the depth of 0.68m.

At the bottom of the trench natural deposit of Clay, Sand and Gravel was exposed.

No archaeology was exposed.

### ***Trench 5***

Trench 5 was an additional test trench and was NW-SE aligned and located in the centre right of the site at a height of 28.35m O.D. It measured 5m by 1.8m and was excavated to the depth of 0.57m.

At the bottom of the trench natural deposit of Clay, Sand and Gravel was exposed.

No archaeology was exposed but the CAT evaluation trench 14 was uncovered.

## **10. Discussion**

With a number of archaeological sites known in the vicinity of the PDA it was expected that the evaluation may produce evidence of archaeological activity. The Canterbury Archaeological Trust's evaluation of 1998 found a plethora of features and there continue into the southern area of the present site under investigation with numerous features of

ditches and pits dated by pottery inclusions to the Late Iron Age and Roman periods of activity.

### **11. Finds**

Finds retrieved were pottery sherds dating from the Late Iron Age to Roman (see pottery chart Trench 1).

### **12. Conclusion**

The evaluation trenches at the proposed development site revealed archaeological features and artefacts dating from the Late Iron Age to Roman periods of activity in the southern area of the PDA (Proposed Development Area).

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 demolition/topsoil **(101)** sealing the subsoil **(102)**. Therefore, this evaluation has been successful in fulfilling the aims and objectives as set out in the planning condition and the Archaeological Specification.

### **13. Acknowledgements**

SWAT Archaeology would like to thank the client for commissioning the project. Thanks are also extended to Rosanne Cummings Archaeological Heritage Officer, Canterbury City Council. The fieldwork was undertaken by Bartek Cichy and Paul Wilkinson MCIfA and the report written by Paul Wilkinson MCIfA.

Dr Paul Wilkinson 14/05/2019

### **14. References**

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

SWAT Archaeology (2019) *Site Specific Requirements: Plot at Thomas Way, Lakesview Business Park, Hersden, Westbere, Kent*

## HER Summary Form

**Site Name:** Land at Thomas Way, Lakesview Business Park, Hersden, Westbere, Kent

**SWAT Site Code:** LAKE/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 planning permission for business development whereby Canterbury City Council Heritage and Conservation 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 Late Iron Age and Roman features in the south area of the PDA.

**District/Unitary:** Canterbury City Council

**Period(s):**

**NGR (centre of site to eight figures)** 621179 152296

**Type of Archaeological work:** Archaeological Evaluation

**Date of recording:** April 2019

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

**Geology:** Underlying geology is Bedrock Geology of Clay, Sand and Gravel

**Title and author of accompanying report:** Wilkinson P. (2019) Archaeological Evaluation of Land at Thomas Way, Lakesview Business Park, Hersden, Westbere, Kent

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

Late Iron Age and Roman archaeology found in south area of the PDA

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

**Contact at Unit:** Paul Wilkinson

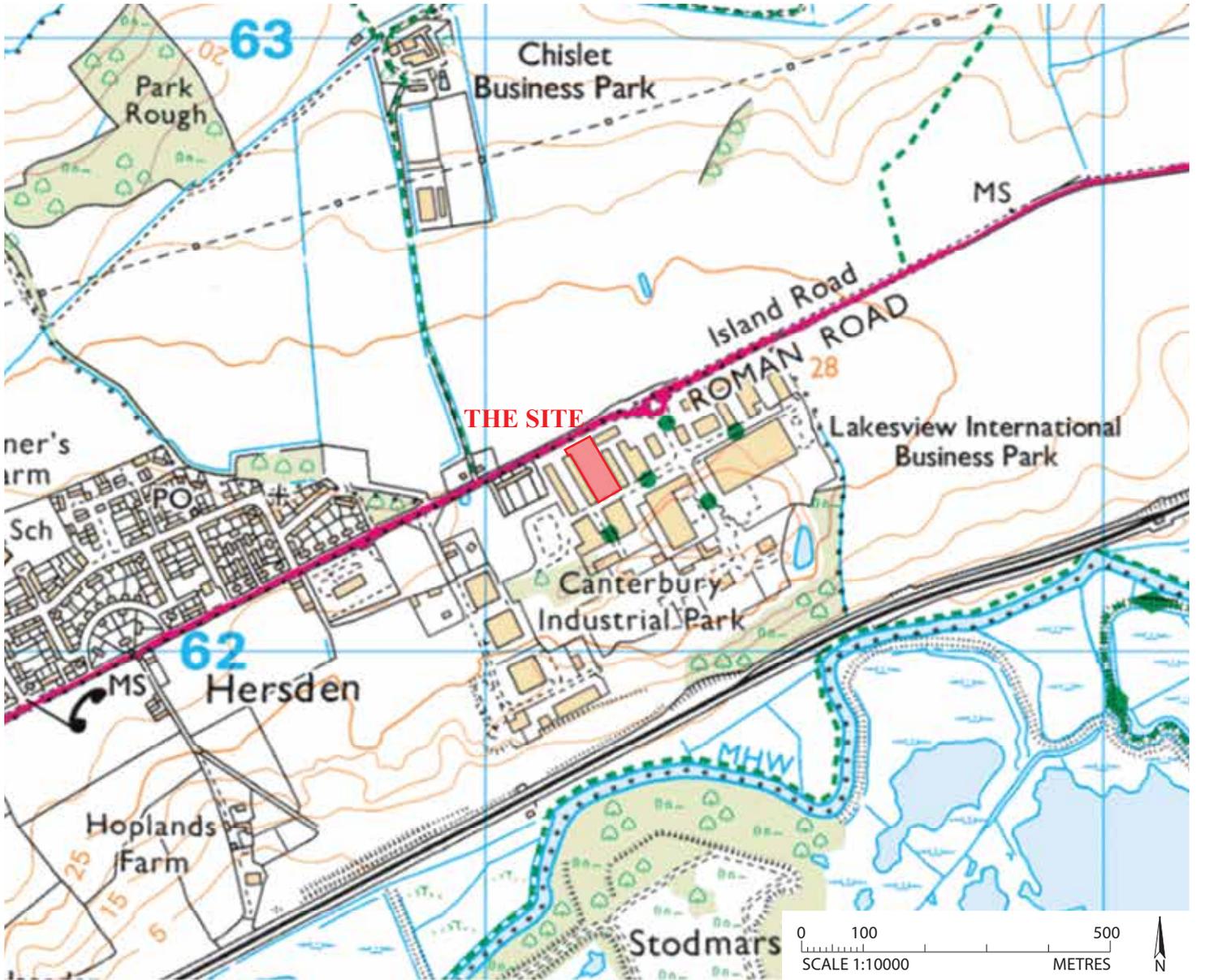
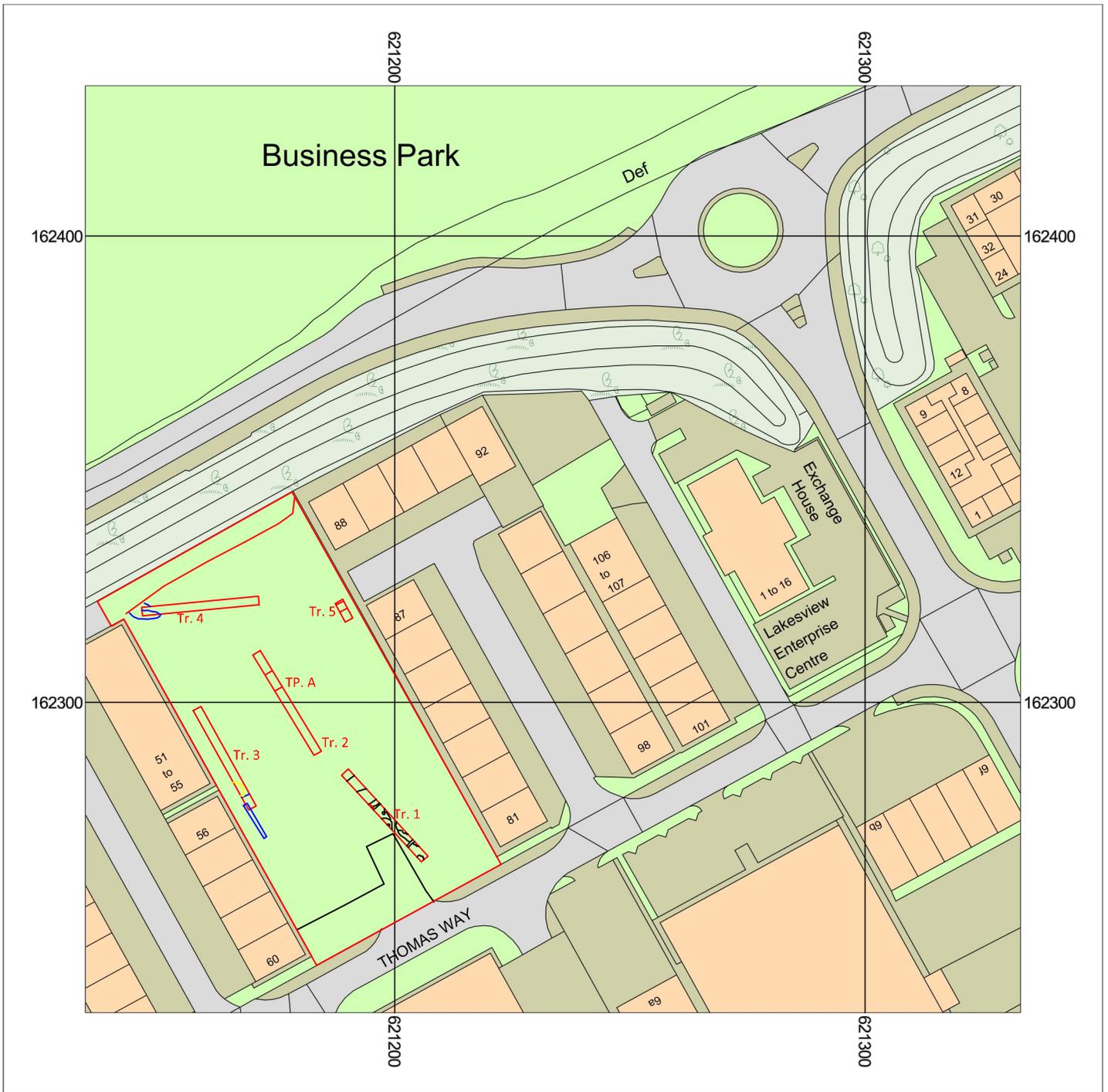


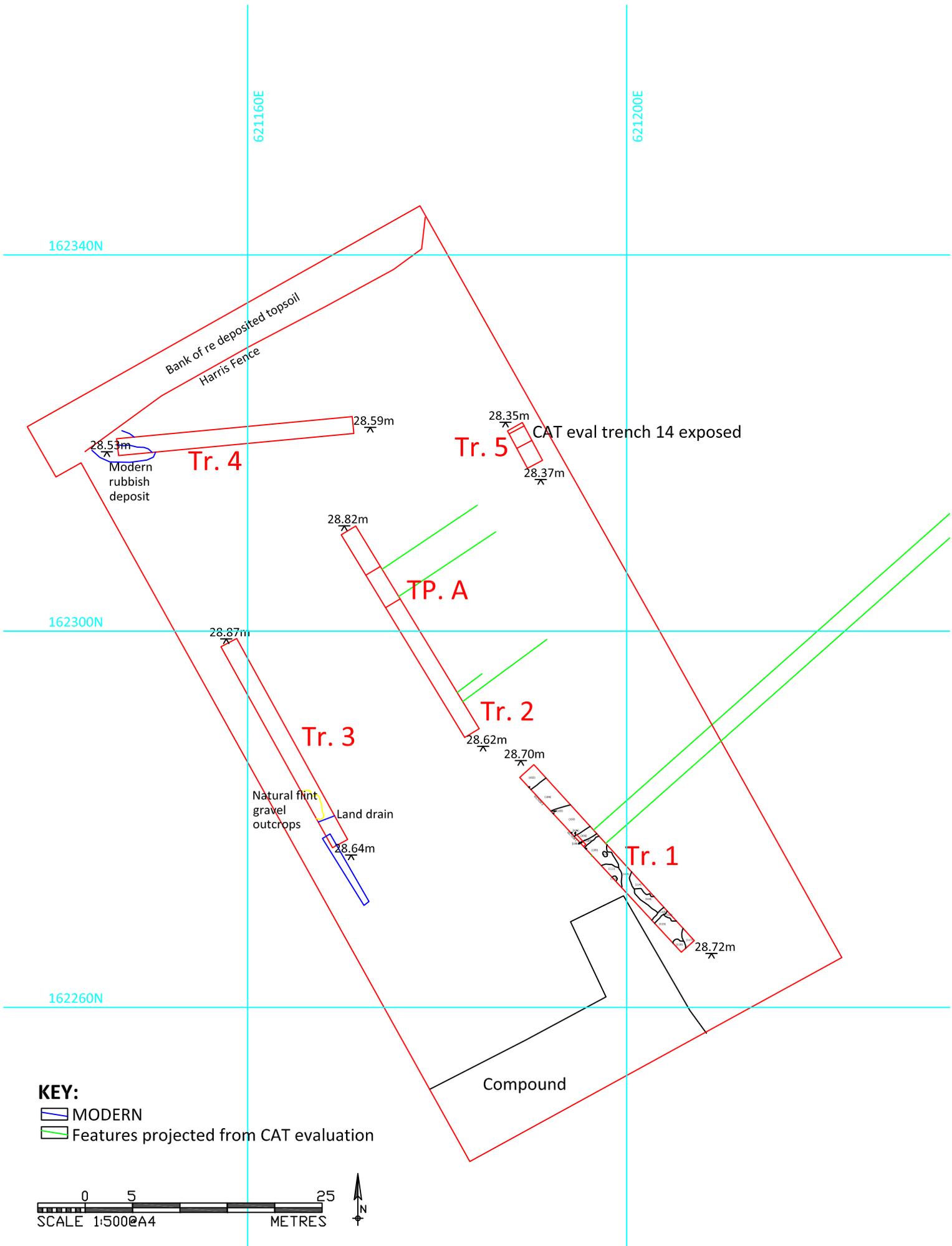
Figure 1: Site location map, scale 1:10000.



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Figure 2: Site location in relation to OS map



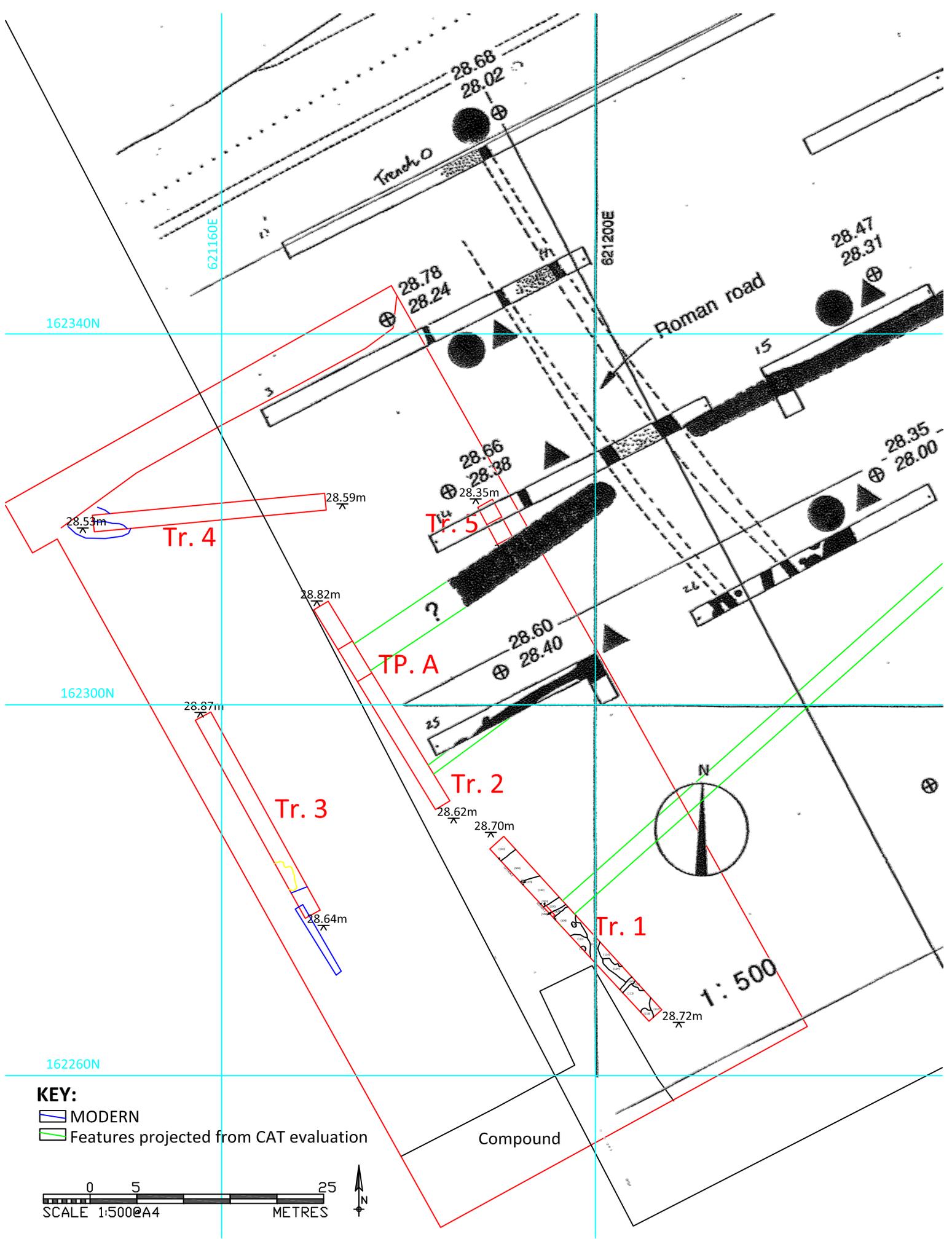
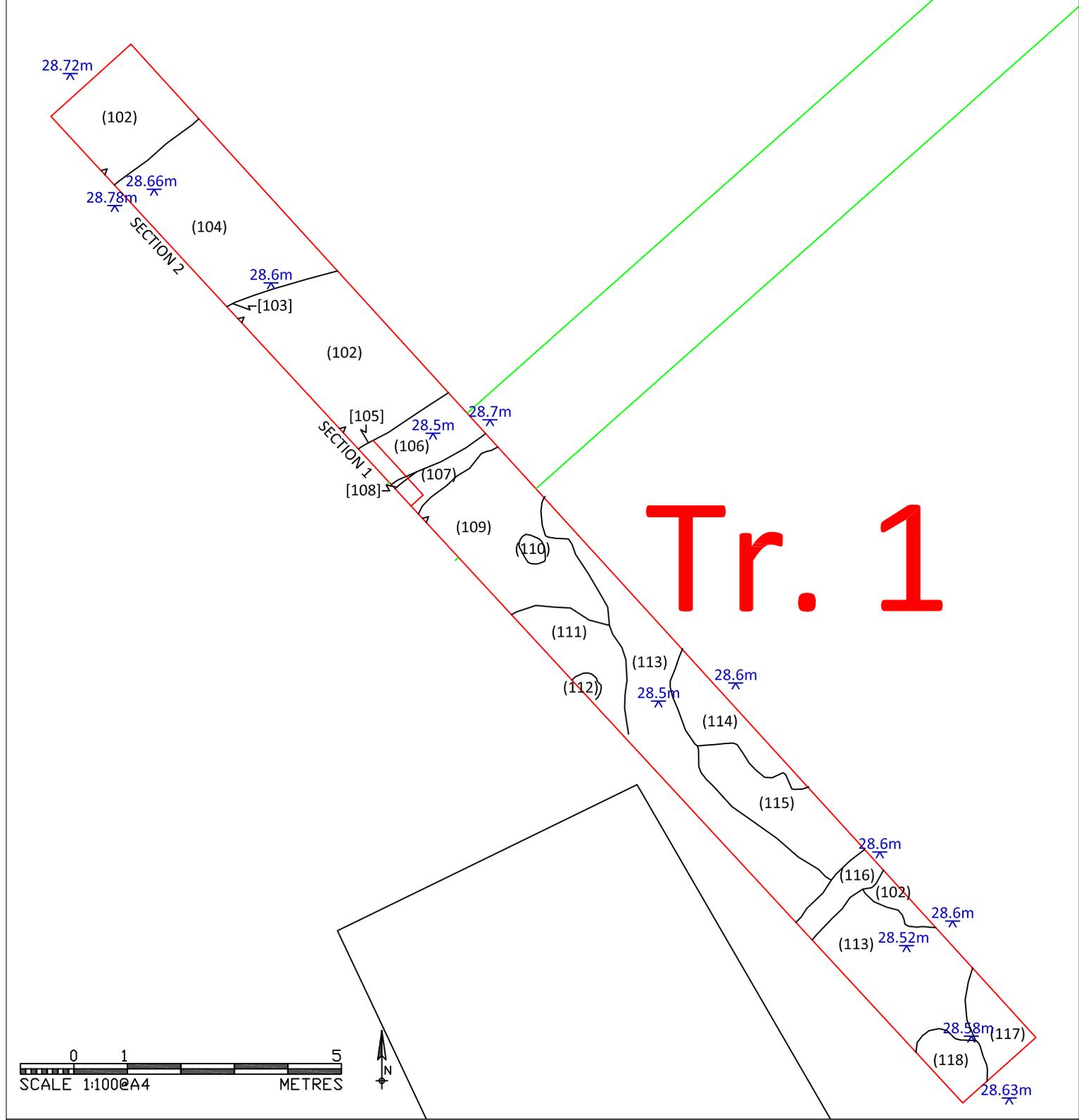


Figure 4: Trench location in relation to CAT excavations



**Tr. 1**

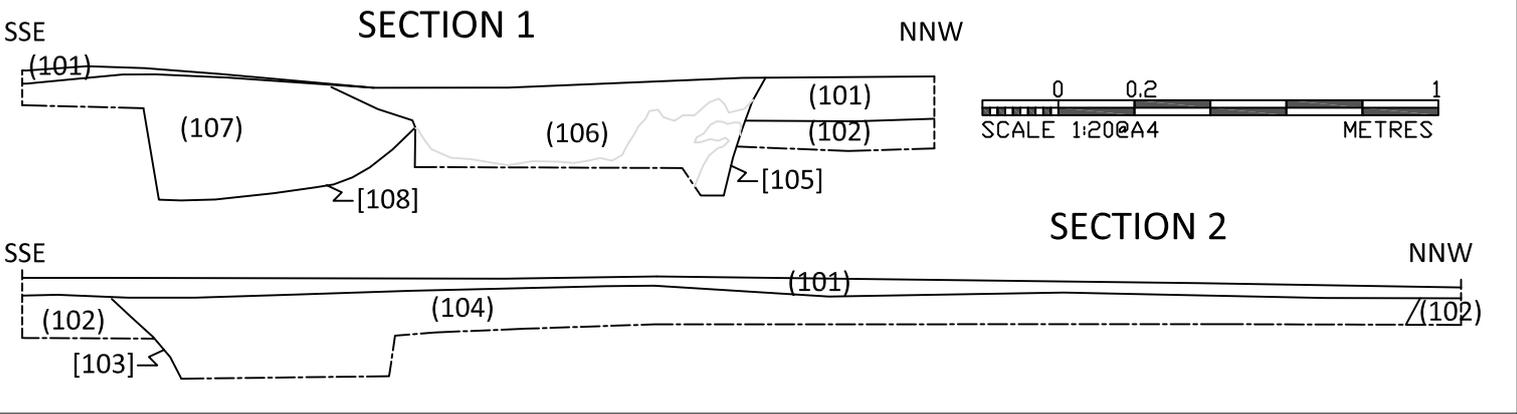
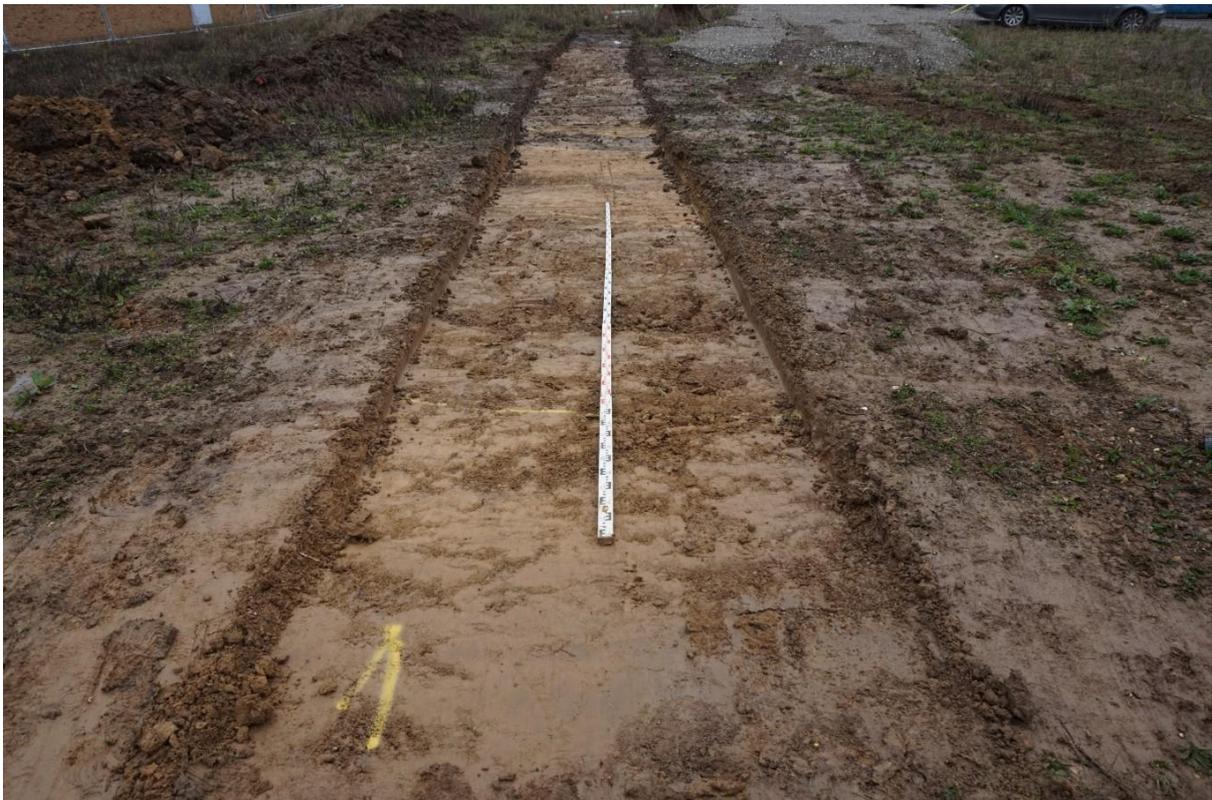


Figure 5: Trench 1 plan and sections

## Plates



**Plate 1: Looking north-north-west at the site**



**Plate 2: Looking south-east at Trench 1, large ditch [103] under the scale**



Plate 3: Looking north-west at Trench 1



**Plate 4: Looking south west at section of the trench 1. Excavation of small slot along south edge of the feature [103] exposed steep sloping side suggesting large deep ditch.**



**Plate 5: Looking south west at section of the trench 1. Visible on the left side excavated small slot along northern edge of the feature [108] exposed moderate sloping side and flat base. Visible on the right side excavated section through feature [105] exposed vertical sides and infill composed of re deposited natural (102) mixed with blackish clay, this feature hasn't been bottomed**



**Plate 6: Looking south at Trench 2 cutting rooted natural (201)**



**Plate 7: Looking south west at section of Test pit excavated through natural deposits located in Trench 2.**



Plate 8: Looking south-south-east at Trench 3



Plate 9: Looking north east at section of Trench 3



**Plate 10: Looking west at Trench 4**



**Plate 11: Looking north east at feature exposed in Trench 5 turn out to be CAT evaluation trench 14**