

Archaeological Evaluation on Land to the rear of 19 Royal Road, Ramsgate, Kent

NGR Site Centre 637849 164597

Planning Application Number: F/TH/18/1755



SWAT ARCHAEOLOGY

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Summary

Swale & Thames Survey Company (SWAT Archaeology) was commissioned to undertake an archaeological evaluation on land to the rear of 19 Royal Road, Ramsgate in Kent. The archaeological works were monitored by Simon Mason, Kent County Council Principal Archaeological Officer.

The fieldwork was carried out in May 2020 in accordance with an archaeological specification (SWAT Archaeology 11th December 2019) submitted to the Local Planning Authority prior to commencement of works.

The Archaeological Evaluation consisted of four trenches and three test pits which encountered a relatively common stratigraphic sequence comprising demolition material and subsoil overlying natural geology with modern features of previous buildings and of limited 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 to the rear of 19 Royal Road, Ramsgate in Kent (**Figures 1-3**).

1.1.2 In mitigation of the potential impact that the development may have on the buried archaeological resource Kent County Council Heritage & Conservation (KKCHC), who provide an advisory service to Thanet District Council, requested that a programme of archaeological works comprising an archaeological evaluation be undertaken to satisfy one of the proposed planning conditions of the planning application F/TH/18/1755.

1.1.3 The archaeological evaluation was carried out in May 2020 in accordance with an archaeological specification prepared by SWAT Archaeology, prior to commencement of works, and in discussion with Simon Mason Principal Archaeological Officer at KCCHC.

1.1 4 Site Description and Topography

The application site is located in the centre of Ramsgate and to the south of Rodney Street and to the east of Royal Road and to the north of Townley Street (Figure 2).

The NGR to the centre of the site is NGR 637849 164597 (Figure 2).

The Geological Survey of Great Britain (1:50,000) shows that the application site is set on a Bedrock Geology of Thanet Chalk. Superficial Deposits are not recorded but found to be on site a mix of topsoil and demolition material. The site has planning permission (F/TH/18/1755) for: *Erection of 9no. 3-storey 3-bed terraced dwellings, conversion and external alterations to former chapel to 5no. 2 bed self-contained flats, including insertion of windows and doors and erection of canopies to side elevation, together with associated landscaping following demolition of existing extensions and buildings to rear 19 Royal Road, Ramsgate, Kent CT11 9LE.*

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 WSI Specification produced by SWAT Archaeology (December 2019) and these include A KCCHER search shows that Archaeological investigations in the vicinity of the PDA show that 35m to the

east is a WWII Pillbox (TR 36 SE 468) whilst 135m to the west is a WWII air raid shelter tunnel system (TR 36 SE 69) and 120m to the south a WWII emergency water supply tank and associated features (MWX 43112).

In addition Simon Mason Principal Archaeological Officer KCC noted in his response to Thanet District Council that:

Thank you for consulting on the above application with respect to the archaeological interest in the site. I have checked our records and the Kent Historic Environment Record. The site lies in the town to the rear of the historic port of Ramsgate. This location has seen limited archaeological work in the past due to its developed nature however Roman and prehistoric findings have been made within 400m of the site.

The site has been developed since the mid to late 19th century with a school and I note that buildings on the site relate to the 19th century school and are considered as non-designated heritage assets. The retention of the 'Chapel' building is welcome and it would be for the District Council's Conservation Officer to advise on the treatment of this and the other buildings proposed for demolition.

I note that new build elements on the site would involve development of areas that have seen limited previous building works. Given the general background to the site for prehistoric and Roman archaeology, potentially early elements of the townscape of Ramsgate I would recommend that provision is made for archaeological works through the following condition.

(3) No development shall take place until the applicant, or their agents or successors in title, has secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological work in accordance with a written 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 the advice contained within the National Planning Policy Framework.*

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 2020) were to:

2.1 *(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, Roman and later archaeological activity.

2.2 General Aims

2.2.1 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 Dec 2019 and KCC Manual of Specifications 'B') and carried out in compliance with the standards outlined in the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' Standards Guidance for Archaeological Evaluations (CifA 2017).

3.2 Fieldwork

3.2.1 A total of four evaluation trenches and test pits were excavated across the Site (Figures 3-7).

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 KCC and CifA standards and guidance. A complete photographic record was maintained on site that included working shots; during mechanical excavation, following archaeological investigations and during back filling.

3.3 Recording

- 3.3.1 A complete drawn record of the evaluation trenches comprising both plans and sections, drawn to appropriate scales (1:20 for plans, 1:10 for sections) was undertaken. The plans and sections were annotated with coordinates and aOD heights. These are retained in the site project archive.
- 3.3.2 Photographs were taken as appropriate providing a record of excavated features and deposits, along with images of the overall trench to illustrate their location and context. The record also includes images of the Site overall. The photographic record comprises digital photography. A photographic register of all photographs taken is contained within the site project archive.
- 3.3.3 A single context recording system was used to record the deposits. A full list is presented in Appendix 1. Layers and fills are identified in this report thus (100), whilst the cut of the feature is shown [100]. Context numbers were assigned to all deposits for recording purposes. Each number has been attributed to a specific trench with the primary number(s) relating to specific trenches (*i.e.* Trench 1, 101+, Trench 2, 201+, Trench 3, 301+ etc.).

4 RESULTS

4.1 Introduction

- 4.1.1 A total of four evaluation trenches and test pits 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 demolition material sealing an intact subsoil of mid brown clay silt overlaying the natural chalk bedrock.
- 4.2.2 Appendix 1 provides the stratigraphic sequence for all trenches. Figures 1-8 provide a site plan, trench location plan and sections and plans whilst Plates 1-25 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. The test pits were to ascertain the location of a burst water pipe.

5 FINDS

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

6 Discussion

6.1 Archaeological Narrative

The primary objective of the archaeological evaluation was to establish presence of any potential archaeological features. The archaeological investigation failed to expose any meaningful archaeology and all four trenches exposed material from modern deposits. The evaluation revealed absence of archaeological features, deposits and artefacts.

Trench location was designated to give a good coverage of an area to be impacted on by the proposed development.

Four trenches (1, 2, 3, 4), 1.8m wide, were excavated to the depth of 0.35-1.20m. Trench 1 was 12.5m long, trench 2 was 10.5m, trench 3 was 10m long and trench 4 10.5m long.

A simple stratigraphic sequence was exposed across all trenches. Top layer a mix of demolition material, gravel, chalk nodules (01).

The subsoil mid brown clay silt (02) overlaying the natural chalk (03).

In all trenches and test pits the excavation exposed cellar walls, foundation walls and service trenches.

6.2 Conclusions

6.2.1 The archaeological evaluation has been successful in fulfilling the primary aims and objectives of the Specification.

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

7 ARCHIVE

7.1 General

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

7.1.2 All archive elements will be marked with the site/accession code, and a full index will be prepared. The physical archive comprises 1 file/document case of paper records & A4 graphics and will be retained by SWAT Archaeology until a Kent museum archive procedure is in place.

8 ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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

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

9 REFERENCES

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

Dated 2nd June 2020.

Appendix 1: Trench Tables

Trench 1			
Dimensions: 12.5m x 1.8m Depth: 0.9m Trench alignment: NE-SW Ground level at NE end: 28.25m OD Ground level at SW end: 28.11m OD			
Context	Interpretation	Description	Depth (m)(bgl)
101	Top layer – demolition deposit	Compact modern hardcore containing bricks, roof tiles and concrete	0-0.3
102	Subsoil - natural	Firm compaction, mid brown clayey silt with freq. chalk (<40mm), occ. flint and small brick fragment. Natural subsoil overlying chalk bedrock 103	0.6-0.9

103	Bedrock - natural	Chalk bedrock; top weathered or disturbed by roots	0.9+
<104>	Sewer structure	NW-SE aligned brick sewer with the opening measuring 0.5m in width and 0.6m in height. Feature was truncated by demolition cut [113] and backfilled with hardcore containing fragments of structural elements as wall, vaulted roof. The floor wasn't exposed. The depth was estimated using pin. The floor and walls were tightly laid in construction trench [104A]. The walls were half brick wide and brick wide at the top (two uppermost courses). At the top a vaulted roof was constructed and topped with concrete with chalk aggregate (104C) to form a flat roof at the top. Only fragment of the vaulted roof exposed in section, survived former demolition.	0.67-1.52
[104A]	Cut of sewer trench	NW-SE aligned trench excavated to accommodate sewer <104>	0.67-1.52
104B	Fill of [104A]- gap filler	Backfill of chalk and brick rubble between sewer structure and trench wall	
104C	Roof of the sewer	Cement mortar with chalk rubble (<0.1m) at the top of brick vaulted roof forming the flat roof at the top.	
<105>	Man hole structure	Rectangular in plan man hole was cutting through cellar wall <111>. Most of the feature was exposed except it southern wall. Feature was 1.05m wide. Only the base was present directly overlaid by hardcore infill of the cellar defined by wall <111>	0.9-1
[106]	Cut of 19 th /20 th C rubbish pit	Oval in plan pit with vertical sides and flat base was exposed at trench base and cutting into chalk bedrock. Feature was 0.9m wide, 1.3m long and 0.6m deep	0.95-1.55
107	Fill of pit [106]	Loose gravel with black active loam. Gravel (<0.4m) is pottery sherds (plates, vases), glass (broken and bottles), flower pot, slate, roof tiles, brick fragments.	0.95-1.55
108	Layer – 20 th C hard standing	Compacted chalk gravel(<0.1m) with occ. brick	0.05-0.7
109	Top layer - modern	Firm compaction, dark brown clayey silt with occ. chalk and brick fragment	0-0.11
<110>	Foundation wall – Circa 1920-30	NW-SE aligned foundation wall was brick wide. At the base there was wider concrete bed that was 0.7m thick on top of which two following courses of brick wall were respectively two bricks wide and brick and a half wide. Above there was 6 courses of brick wide wall visible at the site surface to the north from trench 1. English bond; Flush pointing 10mm wide; yellow handmade frogged brick with sandy faces measuring 227.5mm by 111mm by 65.5mm. Mortar contained coarse sand as major ingredient and was light grey with occ. inclusions of chalk and coke; it was very hard when pressed but easy to brake. Occasionally in places mortar was buff, too sandy and crumbling. The wall was abutted to the NW corner of the cellar wall <111>	0.0-0.8
<111>	Cellar wall – 1870-1920 NW extension of the school	NW-SE and NE-SW aligned wall, L shape in plan – NW corner of the cellar backfilled with hardcore 113. The wall was brick wide and brickwork was arranged in English bond with flush pointing. Instead of use a whole brick across the wall in header course there was often two half broken ones used. Handmade, water struck bricks was yellow with red or pale brown areas. Surface contained parallel lines, curved lines dents, occasional small pores (<1mm),	0.05-0.9+

		rare chalk inclusions (<5mm) and letter W pressed onto bed face. The brick measured between 217-227mm by 104-105.5mm by 64.5-67mm. Mortar contained coarse sand as major ingredient and was light grey with occ. inclusions of chalk and coke; it was very hard when pressed but easy to brake. Occasionally in places mortar was buff, too sandy and crumbling.	
112	Layer – 20 th C Made ground	Firm compaction, black clayey silt with freq. chalk and occ. brick and concrete.	0.34-0.7
[113]	Machine demolition cut	Vast sewer and cellar demolition cut with uneven sides and base. Cuts off sewer roof, walls and cellar wall located within E extent of trench 1. Backfilled with (113A-C)	0-1.55+
113A	Backfill of [113]	Loose hardcore – material derived from building related to the cellar wall <111> and wall <110>. Deposit was filling in demolished sewer <104>	0-1.55+
113B	Backfill of [113]	Re deposited fragment of the sewer vaulted roof and wall	0.3-0.7
113C	Backfill of [113]	Concrete boulder	0.6-0.85

Trench 2	Dimensions: 10.5m x 1.8m Depth: 0.41-1.2m Trench alignment: NW-SE Ground level at NW end: 28.17m OD Ground level at SE end: 28.11m OD Trench shortened on SE side due to passing service trench connected to manhole		
Context	Interpretation	Description	Depth (m)(bgl)
201	Top layer – 20 th C made ground/ hardstanding	Mix of various materials: Hardcore, flint pebble gravel, flint cobbles, sand, clay, chalk nodules and electric cable.	0-0.19
202	Subsoil - natural	Firm compaction, mid brown clayey silt with freq. chalk (<40mm), occ. flint and small brick fragment. Natural subsoil overlying chalk bedrock 203	0.19-0.36
203	Bedrock - natural	Chalk bedrock; top weathered or disturbed by roots	0.36+
<204>	Cellar wall – 1870-1920	NW-SE and NE-SW aligned wall, L shape in plan – NW corner of the cellar backfilled with hardcore 113. The wall was brick wide and brickwork was arranged in English garden bond with flush pointing. Instead of use a whole brick across the wall in header course there was mainly two half broken ones used. Handmade, frogged bricks were orangey red with some yellow or cherry areas. Surface contained parallel lines, curved lines dents, occasional small pores (<1mm), rare chalk inclusions (<5mm). The brick measured between 225-230mm by 93-104mm by 62.5-70mm. Edges were rounded. Mortar contained coarse sand as major ingredient and was light grey with occ. inclusions of chalk and coke; it was very hard when pressed but easy to brake. Occasionally in places mortar was buff, too sandy and crumbling.	0.5-1.7
205	Cellar backfill	Loose hardcore – material derived from building related to the cellar wall <204> and wall <206>	0.0-1.6
<206>	Foundation wall	NW-SE aligned wall abutted on S side of contemporary cellar wall <204> that is part of the same building	0.12-0.36
[207]	Cut of 20 th C service trench	NE-SW aligned trench with moderate sides and concave base.	0.17-0.31
208	Backfill of [207]	Plastic pipe backfilled with loose pebbles	0.17-0.31
209	Made ground	Compacted chalk gravel. Context filling in area enclosed by walls <204> and <206>	0.15-0.35

Trench 3			
Dimensions: 10m x 1.8m Depth: 0.38-0.45m Trench alignment: NE-SW Ground level at NE end: 28.13m OD Ground level at SW end: 28.66m OD			
Context	Interpretation	Description	Depth (m)(bgl)
301	Top layer – demolition deposit	Compact modern hardcore containing bricks, roof tiles and concrete	0-0.2
302	Subsoil - natural	Firm compaction, mid brown clayey silt with freq. chalk (<40mm), occ. flint and small brick fragment. Natural subsoil overlying chalk bedrock 303	0.2-0.3
303	Bedrock - natural	Chalk bedrock; top weathered or disturbed by roots	0.3+
<304>	Cellar wall – 1870-1920 Same as <204>	NE-SW aligned wall, SE wall of the cellar The wall was brick wide and brickwork was arranged in random bond with flush pointing. Outer elevation of the wall was exposed on the face of trench wall. The wall was built in 0.1m wider trench where the gap space was backfilled with chalk.	0.1-0.45
<305>	Foundation wall– 1870-1920		
<306>	Foundation wall– 1870-1920		
307	20 th C Made ground		
308	20 th C Made ground		

Trench 4			
Dimensions: 10.5m x 1.8m Depth: 0.3-0.5m Trench alignment: NW-SE Ground level at NW end: 28.81m OD Ground level at SE end: 28.65m OD			
Context	Interpretation	Description	Depth (m)(bgl)
401	Top layer – 20 th C made ground/ hardstanding	Mix of various materials: Hardcore, flint pebble gravel, flint cobbles, sand, clay, chalk nodules and electric cable.	0-0.19
402	Subsoil - natural	Firm compaction, mid brown clayey silt with freq. chalk (<40mm), occ. flint and small brick fragment. Natural subsoil overlying chalk bedrock 203	0.19-0.36
403	Bedrock - natural	Chalk bedrock; top weathered or disturbed by roots	0.36+
<404>	Brick drain		
<405>	Brick drain		
[405A]			
405B			
405C			
[406]	Modern cut		
406A	Fill of [406]		
[407]	Modern cut		
408	Fill of [407]		
[409]	Modern cut		
410	Fill of [409]		
411	20 th c Made ground		

Kent County Council HER Summary Form

Site Name: Land to the rear of 19 Royal Road, Ramsgate, Kent

SWAT Site Code: ROY/EV/2020

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 permission (F/TH/18/1755) whereby Thanet District 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: Thanet District Council

Period(s):

NGR (centre of site to eight figures) NGR 637849 164597

Type of Archaeological work: Archaeological Evaluation

Date of recording: May 2020

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

Geology: Underlying geology is Bedrock Geology of Chalk

Title and author of accompanying report: Wilkinson P. (2020) Archaeological Evaluation of Land to the rear of 19 Royal Road, Ramsgate, 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

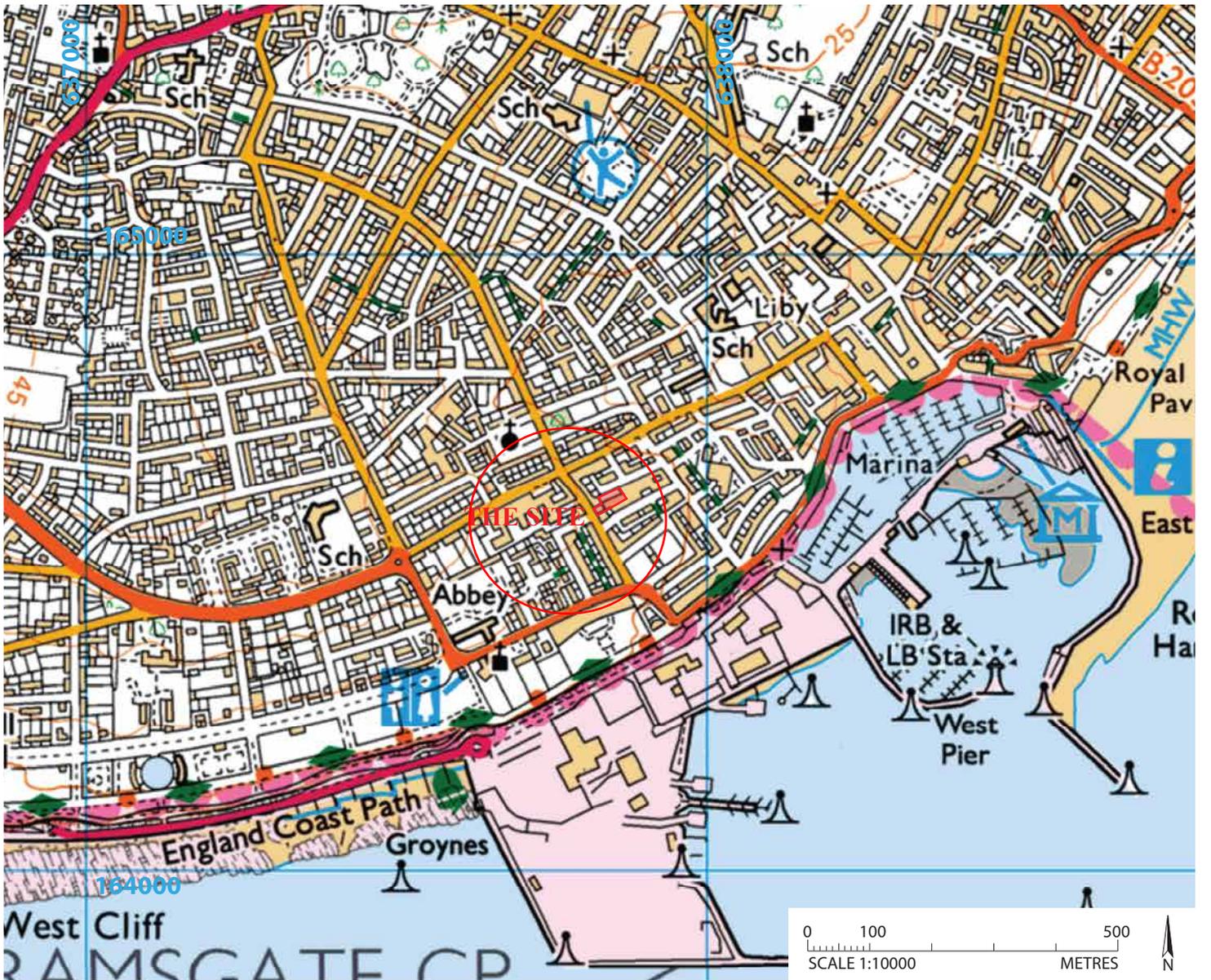
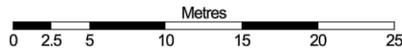


Figure 1: Site location map, scale 1:10000.



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Scale: 1:500

**19 Royal Road
Ramsgate
CT11 9LE**

Figure 2: Site location in relation to OS map



Figure 3: Trench location in relation to development

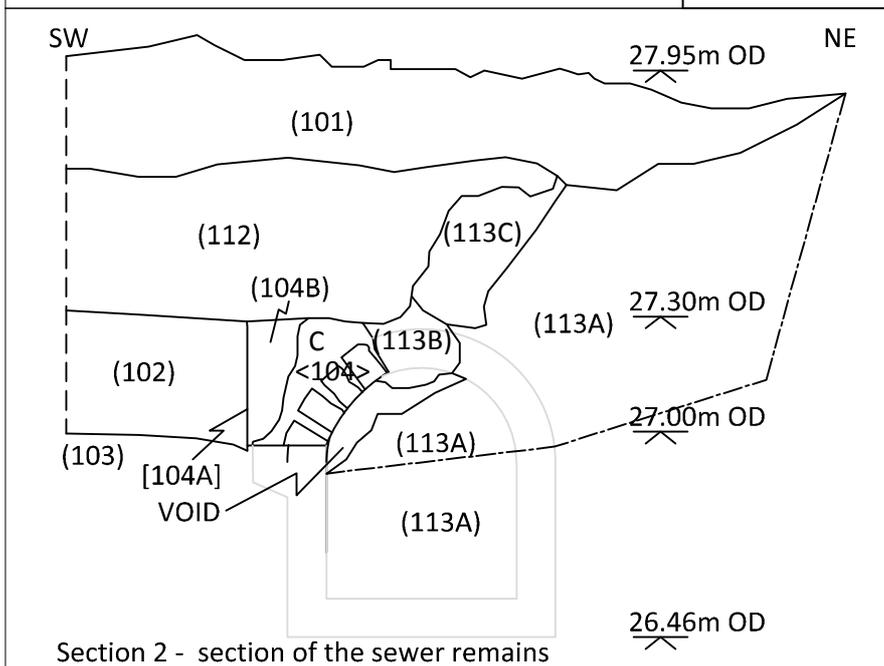
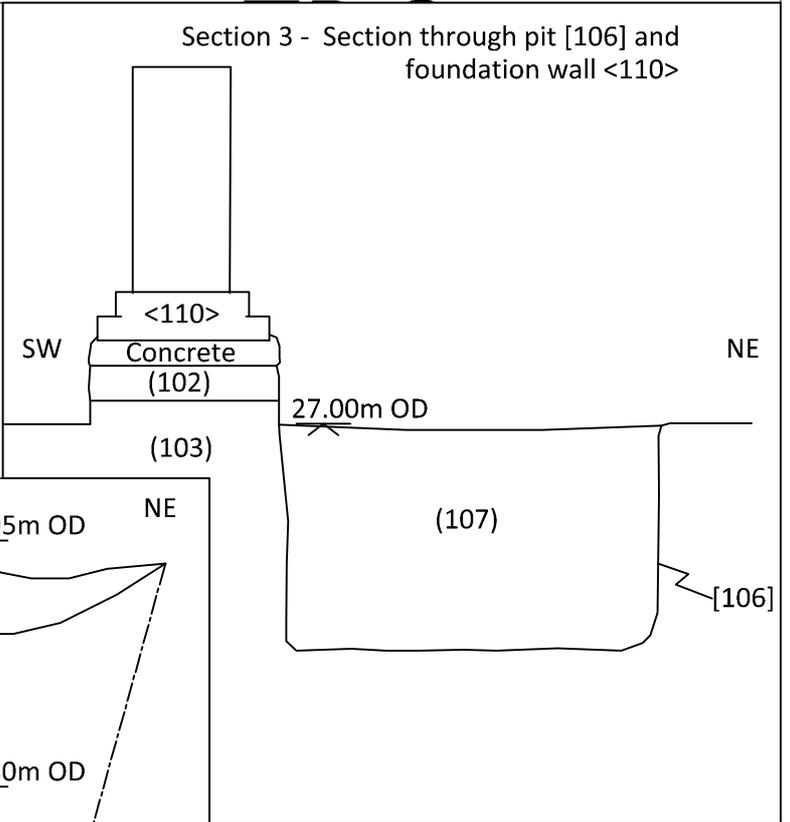
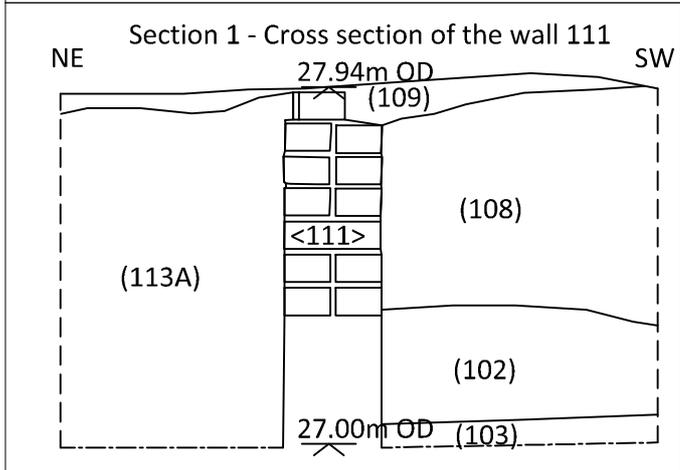
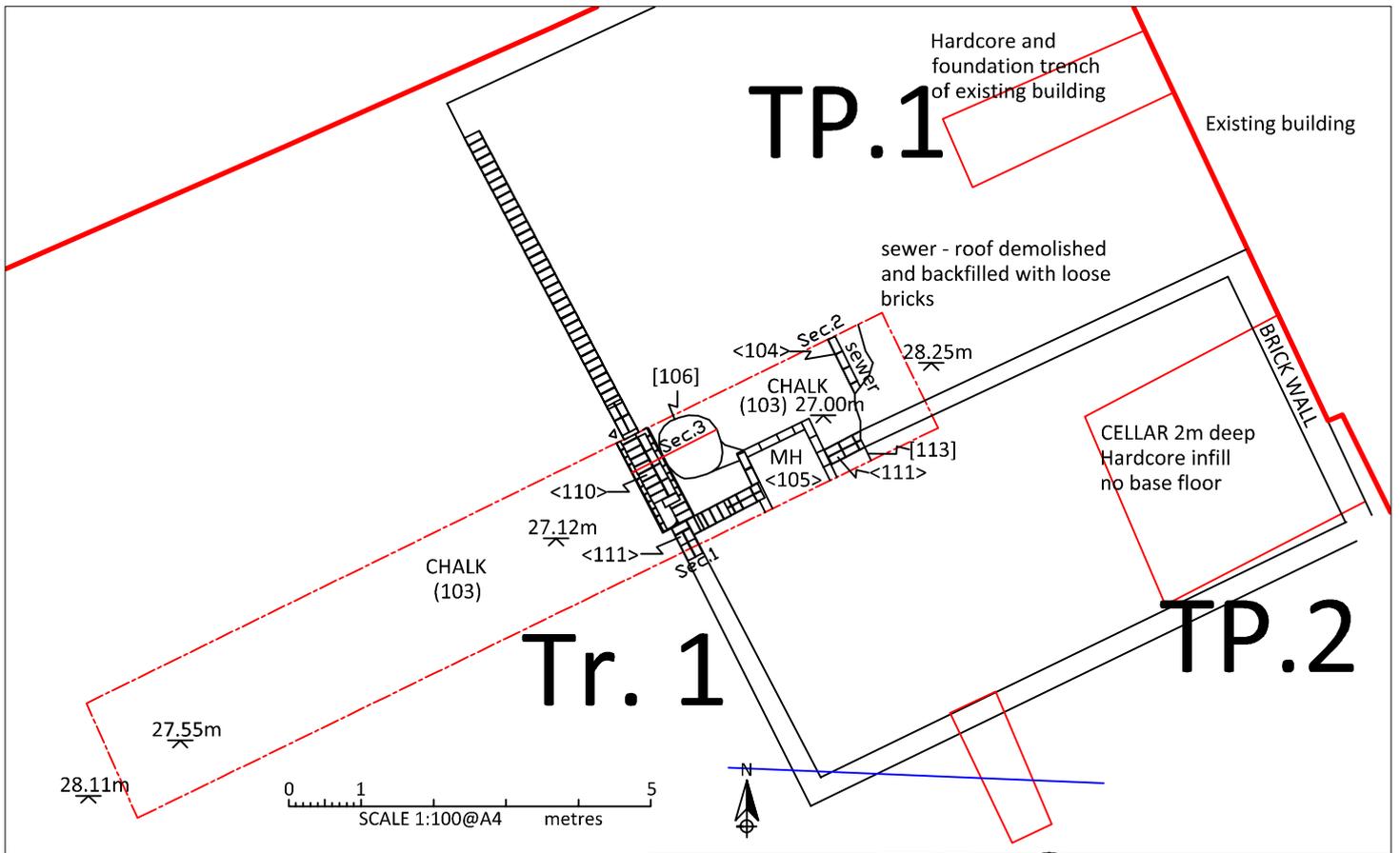


Figure 5: Trench 1

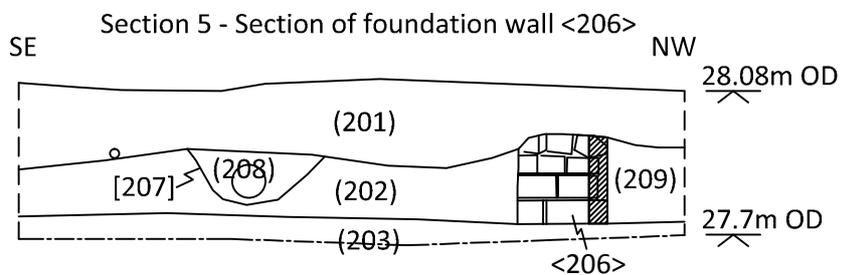
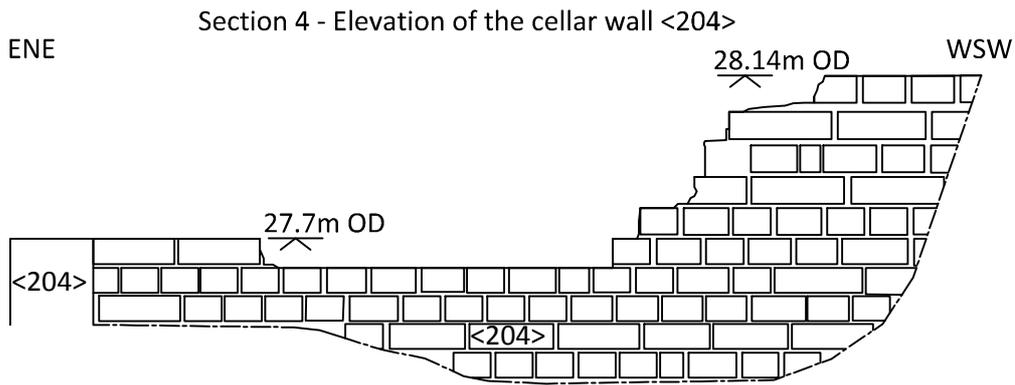
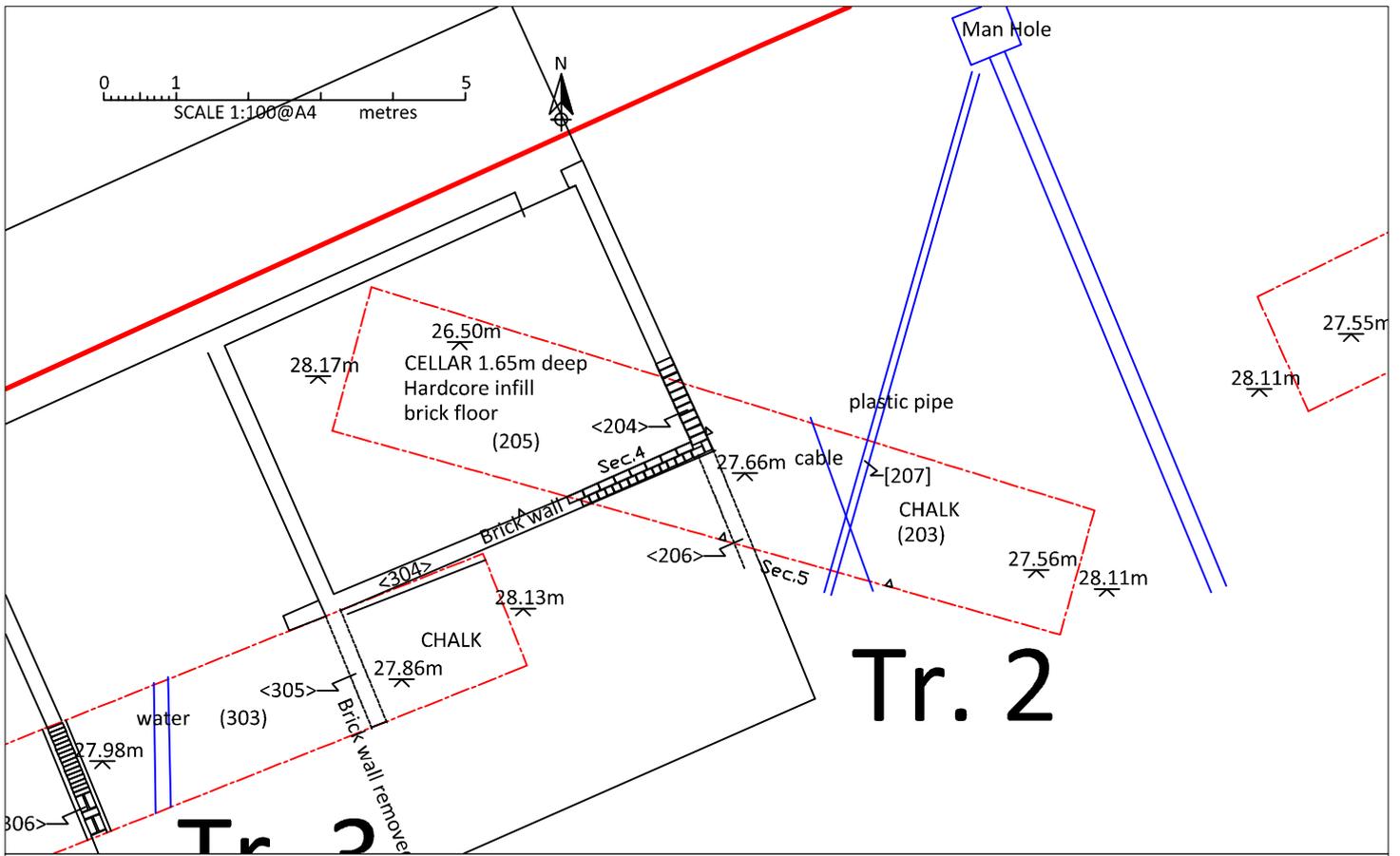


Figure 6: Trench 2

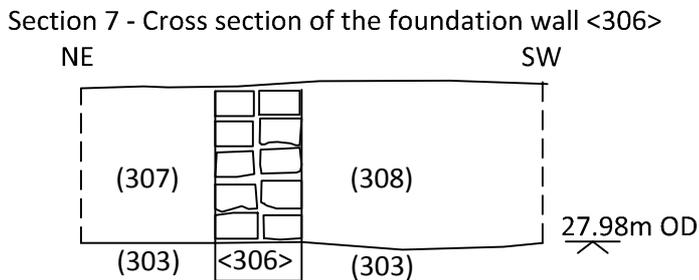
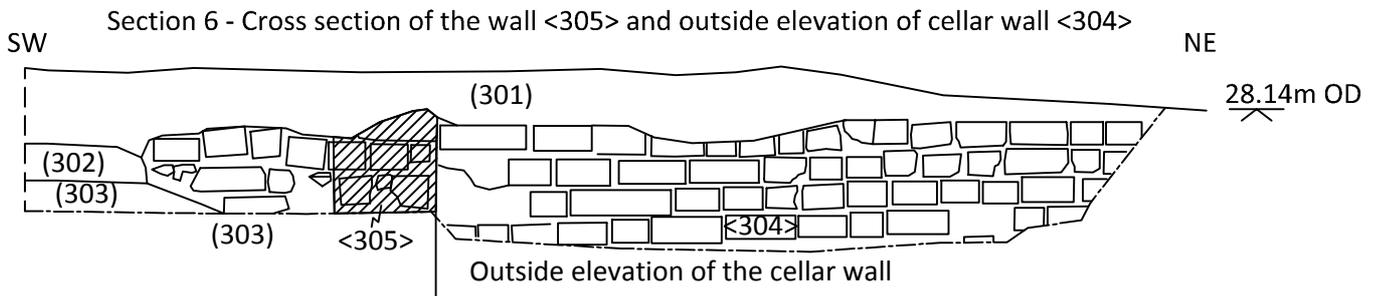
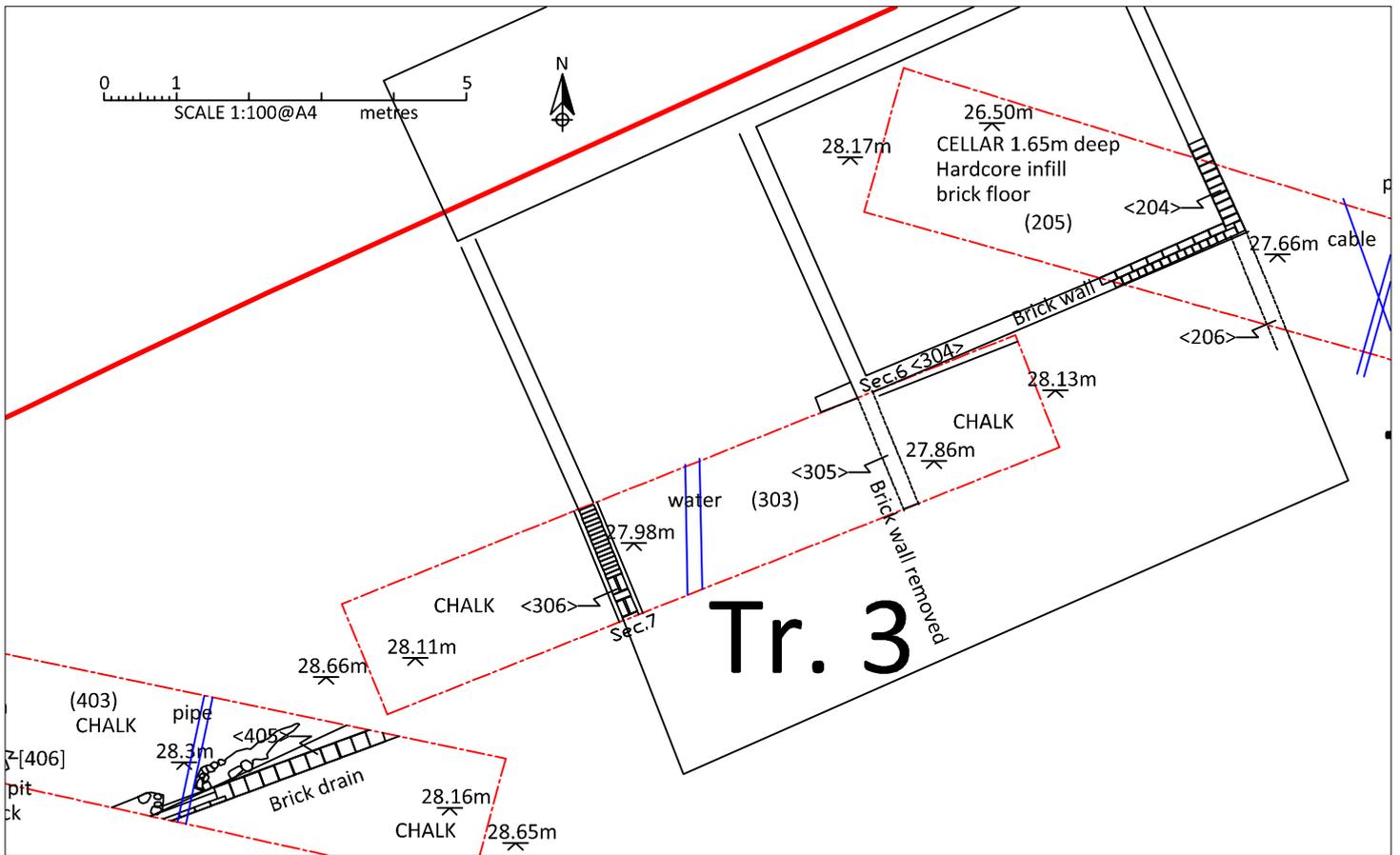


Figure 7: Trench 3

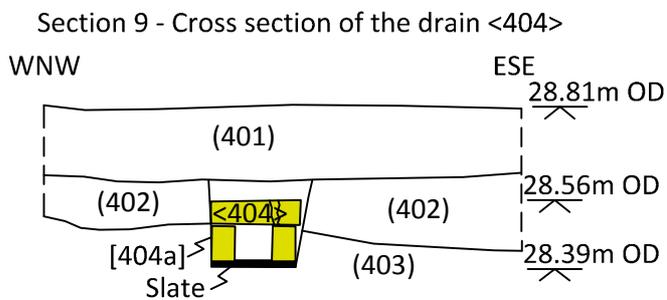
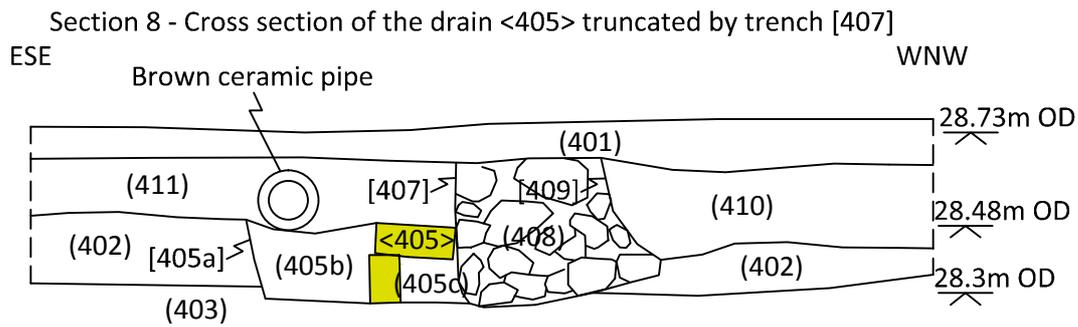
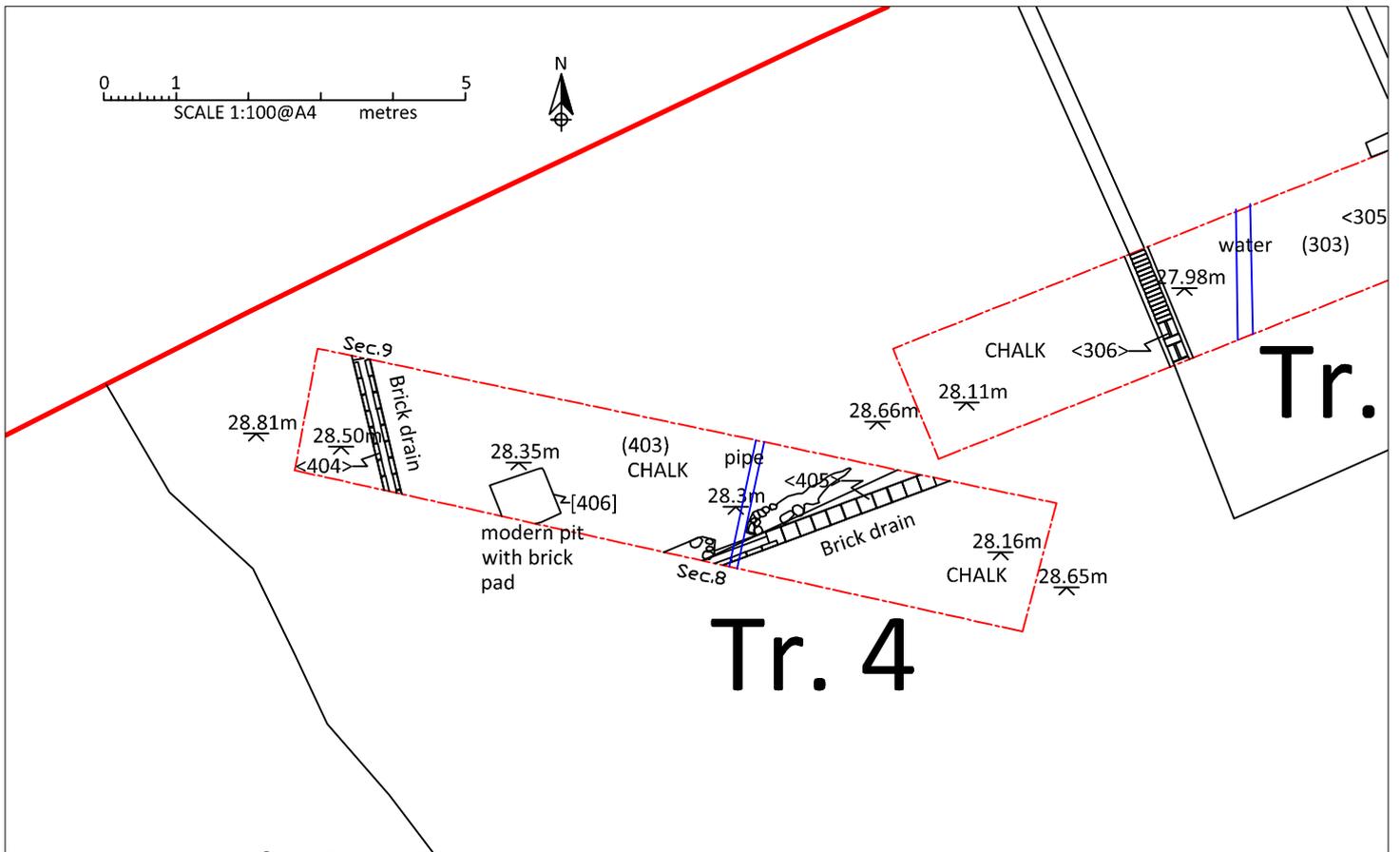


Figure 8: Trench 4

Plates



Plate 1: Looking west at the site from its east end



Plate 2: Looking north east at trench 1; 2m scale.



Plate 3: Looking south east at foundation wall <110> and corner of cellar wall <111> in the back; 1m scales.



Plate 4: Looking south east (towards Trench 1) at the wall <110>; 2m scale.



Plate 5: Looking north west at section of the wall <110>; 1m scale.



Plate 6: Looking west north west at east end of trench 1: Visible features are sewer remains <104> under the scale rod, manhole <105> cutting through the cellar wall <111> located to the left of the sewer, foundation wall <110> abutting to the corner of cellar wall and rubbish pit [106] in the corner at front of foundation wall.



Plate 7: Looking south east at Section #1 through infill (113) of cellar enclosed by wall <111> visible here on both sides of the manhole <105>



Plate 8: Looking north at sewer remains <104>; Section #2. Only fragment of the sewer vaulted roof remained after demolition, visible here in section at the bottom and to the left of vertical 1m scale. Notice re deposited fragment of sewer roof visible behind middle section of vertical scale.



Plate 9: Looking south west at 19th/20th C. rubbish pit [106] and recovered finds lying on the wall; 1m scales.



Plate 10: Looking north west at Trench 2; 2m scale.



Plate 11: Looking south-south-west at Section #5 through modern deposits exposed in trench 2 and foundation wall <206> visible below the spade on the right.



Plate 12: Looking south east at elevation of cellar wall <204> (Section #4). Visible here wall elevation was plaster rendered and painted white.



Plate 13: Looking north east at cellar wall <204> exposed in Trench 2; 1m scale.



Plate 14: Looking south-west at trench 3; 2m scale.



Plate 15: Looking north-west at outer elevation of cellar wall <304> visible below 2m scale rod. Section and elevation of foundation wall <305> is visible on the left side of the scale.



Plate 16: Looking south east at section of the wall <305>; scale colour section is equal 0.2m.



Plate 17: Looking north west at section of foundation wall <306>



Plate 18: Looking north-east at wall <306>



Plate 19: Looking west-north-west at Trench 4



Plate 20: Looking north-north-west at brick drain <404>



Plate 21: Looking south-west at drain <405> remains. Chalk nodules visible on the right side of 2m scale are remains of the infill (408) of the trench [407] cutting through the drain. Floor of the drain was built using slate tiles.



Plate 22: Looking south-south-west at Section #8 showing truncated brick drain <405>



Plate 23: Looking north-east at test pit 1



Plate 24: Looking north-east at test pit 1 showing elevation of cellar wall exposed in trench 1



Plate 25: Looking north at Test pit 3 that revealed modern service wall and cellar wall exposed previously in Trench 1.