

Archaeological Evaluation of Land to the north-east of Chestnut House, Canterbury Road, Wingham, Kent

NGR Site Centre 623516 157193

Planning Application Numbers: DOV/19/00462 & DOV/20/00508



SWAT ARCHAEOLOGY

Swale and Thames Archaeological Survey Company

The Office, School Farm Oast, Graveney Road

Faversham, Kent ME13 8UP

Tel; 01795 532548 or 07885 700 112

info@swatarchaeology.co.uk www.swatarchaeology.co.uk

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Summary

Swale & Thames Survey Company (SWAT Archaeology) was commissioned to undertake an archaeological evaluation on land to the north-east of Chestnut House, Canterbury Road, Wingham in Kent. The archaeological works were progressed by Ben Found, Kent County Council Senior Archaeological Officer.

The fieldwork was carried out in August 2020 in accordance with an archaeological specification (SWAT Archaeology 29/07/2020) submitted to the Local Planning Authority prior to commencement of works.

The Archaeological Evaluation consisted of two trenches which encountered a relatively common stratigraphic sequence comprising topsoil overlying natural geology with no archaeological features.

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 to the north-east of Chestnut House, Canterbury Road, Wingham 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 Dover 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 DOV/20/99508.

1.1.3 The archaeological evaluation was carried out in August 2020 in accordance with an archaeological specification prepared by SWAT Archaeology, prior to commencement of works, and in discussion with Ben Found, Senior Archaeological Officer at KCCHC.

1.1 4 Site Description and Topography

The application site is situated to the west of Wingham and is bounded by the A257 Canterbury Road to the north with Mill Road to the east and centred at NGR 623516 157193 (Figure 2).

The Geological Survey of Great Britain (1:50,000) shows that the application site is set on a Bedrock Geology of Margate Chalk Member- Chalk. Superficial Deposits are recorded as Head-Clay and Silt.

The site has planning permission (DOV/19/00462) for the:

Erection of a detached dwelling, formation of new vehicle access and parking

An additional planning application (DOV/20/00508) with an archaeological condition is awaiting determination.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

1.2 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 (July 2020) and these include a KCCHER search. The Proposed Development Area (PDA) is located close to a number of archaeological sites and

include at about 100m to the east are three probable prehistoric barrow the nearest of which lies around 60m from the proposed development (TR 25 NW 490) and 140m-200m to the NE are further barrows and cropmarks of enclosures have been recorded (TR 25 NW 65) whilst 400m to the east is the site of a Roman villa and associated buildings (TR 25 NW 14).

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

1.3 Specific Aims (SWAT 2020)

1.3.1 The specific aims of the archaeological fieldwork are set out in the Specification (SWAT 2020) were to:

1.1 *(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.*

(6.2) 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, or an archaeological watching brief during construction work or an engineering solution to any preservation in situ requirements.

1.2 General Aims

1.2.1 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.

2 METHODOLOGY

2.1 Introduction

2.1.1 All fieldwork was conducted in accordance with the methodology set out in the Specification (SWAT July 2020 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).

2.2 Fieldwork

2.2.1 A total of two evaluation trenches were excavated across the Site (Figures 2-3).

2.2.2 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.

2.2.3 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.

2.3 Recording

2.3.1 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.

2.3.2 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.

2.3.3 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.).

3 RESULTS

3.1 Introduction

3.1.1 A total of two evaluation trenches were mechanically excavated under archaeological supervision.

3.2 Stratigraphic Deposit Sequence

3.2.1 A relatively consistent stratigraphic sequence was recorded comprising topsoil overlaying subsoil sealing an intact natural of light brown yellow sandy silt with occasional flints.

3.2.2 Appendix 1 provides the stratigraphic sequence for all trenches. Figures 1-3 provide a site plan, trench location plan and sections and plans whilst Plates 1-6 include selected site photographs.

3.3 Overview

3.3.1 The trenches were located across the footprint of the proposed buildings to ensure full coverage of potential archaeological remains.

4 FINDS

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

5 Discussion

5.1 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 the trench exposed layers of modern deposits overlaying the natural geology with the 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.

The trench (TR 1) was 20.00m long and 1.75m wide and excavated to the depth of 0.45m-0.55m.

A simple stratigraphic sequence was exposed in the trench. Top layer of topsoil (01) overlaying subsoil (02) which overlaid the light brown sandy silt (03).

5.2 Conclusions

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

5.2.2 This evaluation has, therefore, assessed the archaeological potential of land intended for development. The results from this work show that the proposed development is unlikely to impact on any archaeological remains.

6 ARCHIVE

6.1 General

6.1.1 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).

6.1.2 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.

7 ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

7.1.1 SWAT would like to thank the developer for commissioning the project. Thanks are also extended to Ben Found Senior Archaeological Officer, Kent County Council, for his advice and assistance.

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

8 REFERENCES

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Brown, D.H., 2011. Archaeological archives; a guide to best practice in creation, compilation, transfer and curation, Archaeological Archives Forum (revised edition)

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SMA 1993. Selection, Retention and Dispersal of Archaeological Collections, Society of Museum Archaeologists

SMA 1995. Towards an Accessible Archaeological Archive, Society of Museum Archaeologists

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

Dated 26th August 2020.

Appendix 1: Trench Tables

Trench 1			
Dimensions: 20.00m x 1.75m Depth: 0.47m Trench alignment: N-S Ground level at N end: 14.40m OD Ground level at S end: 14.34m OD			
Context	Interpretation	Description	Depth (m)(bgl)
101	Topsoil	Light brown sandy silt	0-0.12
102	Subsoil	Darker brown sandy silt	0.12-37
103	Natural geology	Yellow orange sandy silt with occasional flints	0.37-47

Trench 2			
Dimensions: 20.00m x 1.75m Depth: 0.54m Trench alignment: N-S Ground level at SW end: 14.50m OD Ground level at NE end: 14.39m OD (Figure 4)			
Context	Interpretation	Description	Depth (m)(bgl)
201	Topsoil	Light brown sandy silt	0-0.15
202	Subsoil	Darker brown sandy silt with chalk fragments	0.15-42
203	Natural geology	Yellow orange sandy silt with occasional flints	0.42-54

Kent County Council HER Summary Form

Site Name: Land to the NE of Chestnut House, Canterbury Road, Wingham, Kent

SWAT Site Code: WING/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 application (DOV/20/00598) whereby Dover 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: Dover District Council

Period(s):

NGR (centre of site to eight figures) NGR 623516 157193

Type of Archaeological work: Archaeological Evaluation

Date of recording: August 2020

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

Geology: Underlying geology is Bedrock Geology of Margate Chalk

Title and author of accompanying report: Wilkinson P. (2020) Archaeological Evaluation of Land to the north-east of Chestnut House, Canterbury Road, Wingham 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

PLATES



Plate 1. View of site (looking SE)



Plate 2. View of Trench 2 (looking NNE)



Plate 3. View of Trench 2 (section)



Plate 4. View of Trench 1 (looking NNW)



Plate 5. View of Trench 1 (section)



Plate 6. View of Trench 2 (section)

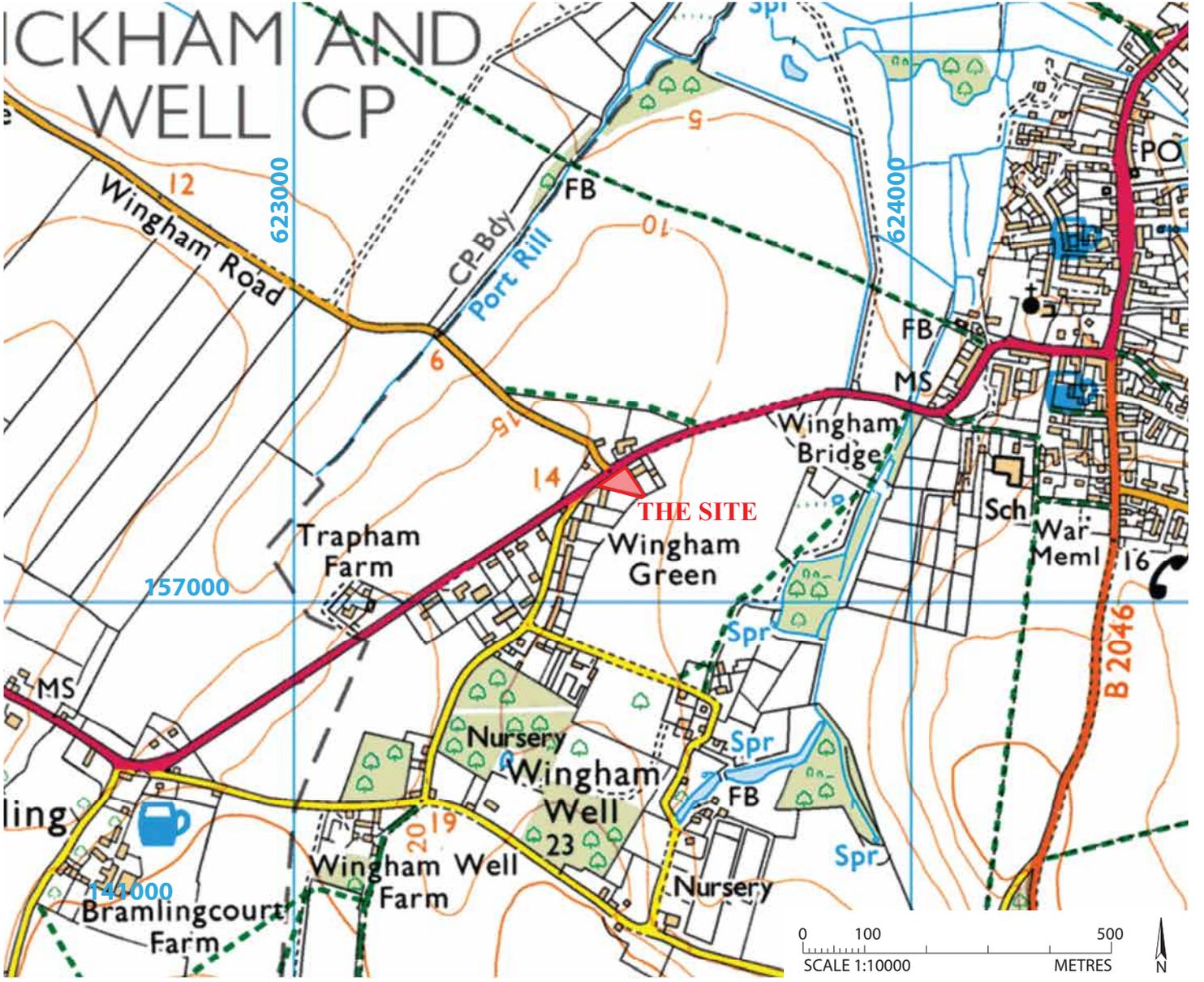


Figure 1: Site location map, scale 1:10000.

OS Plan Colour



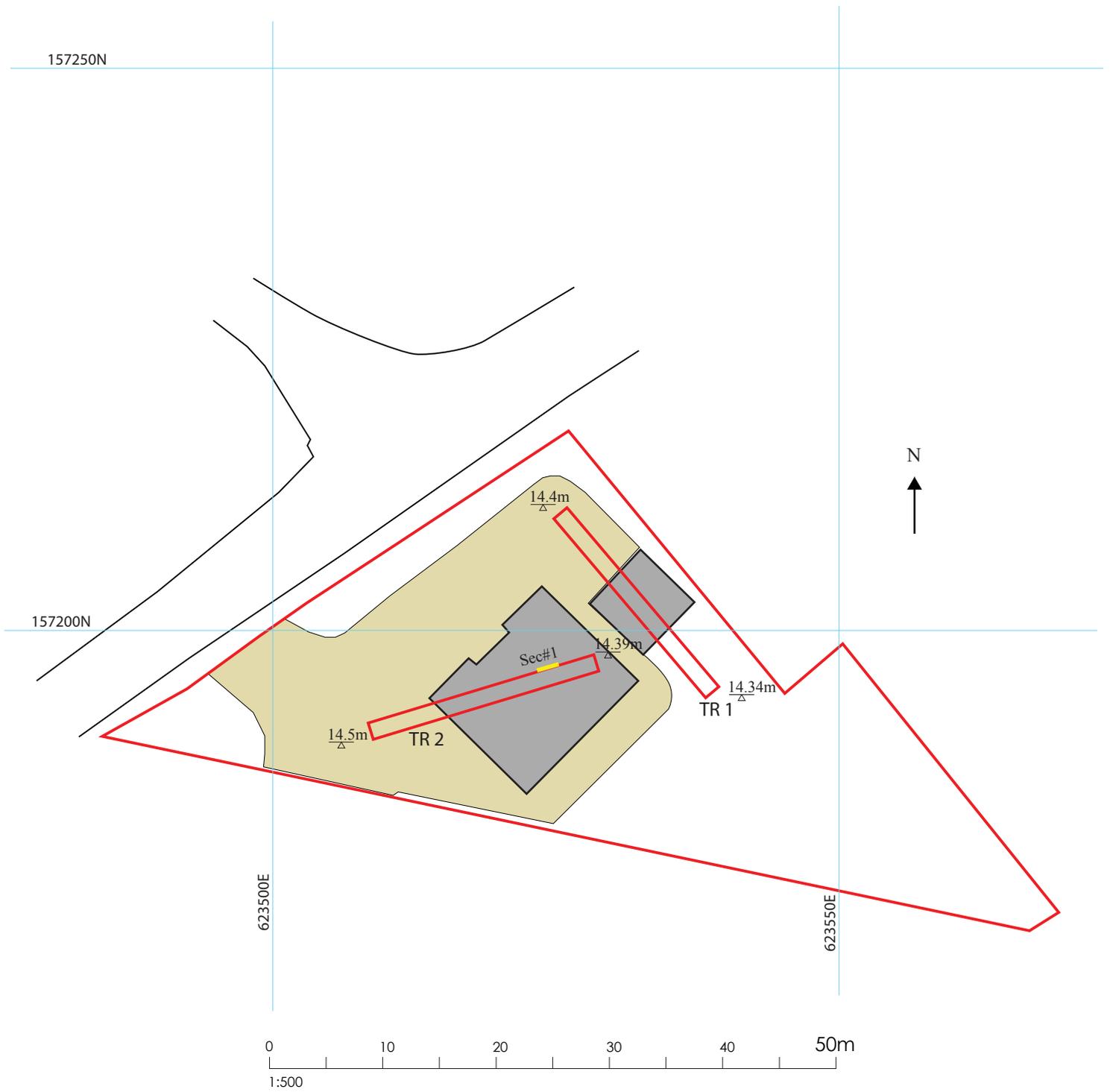


Figure 3: Trenches in relation to development

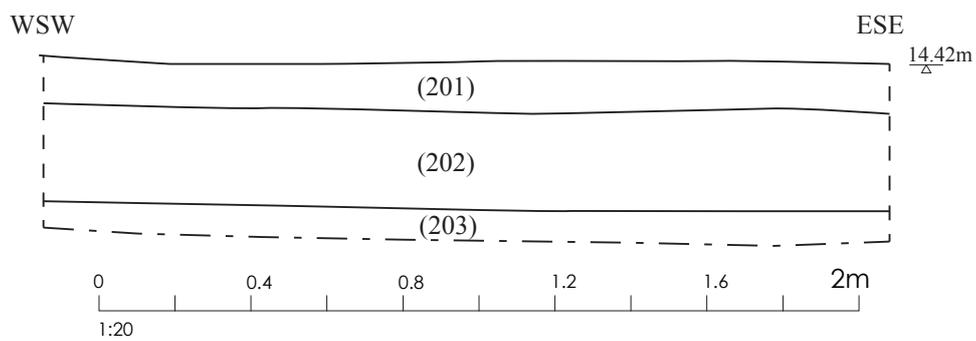


Figure 4: Representative section