

**Archaeological Evaluation on Land at
10 CHELSFIELD ROAD, ORPINGTON, KENT, BR5**

EVALUATION REPORT

NGR Site Centre: **547156E 167271N**

Planning Application Number: **20/01273**



Commissioned by: David Morrall

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Abstract

Swale & Thames Survey Company (SWAT Archaeology) was commissioned by Dave Morrall to undertake an archaeological evaluation on land at 10 CHELSFIELD ROAD, ORPINGTON, BR5, Kent. The archaeological works were monitored by the Senior Archaeological Officer from GLAAS.

The fieldwork was carried out on 9th October 2020 in accordance with an archaeological specification (Archaeology Collective, August 2020) submitted to the Local Planning Authority prior to commencement of works.

The Archaeological Evaluation consisted of four trenches, which encountered a relatively common stratigraphic sequence comprising topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology to a depth of approximately 1.3m. Northern part of the site is located on the slope where natural sand and gravel geology is concealed by 0.9 to 1.2-1.3 metres thick top-soil deposited with purpose of levelling off the site prior to erection of existing buildings.

The archaeological evaluation has demonstrated the absence of archaeological within evaluated north-western extent of the property. Trench 4 was not excavated due to its proposed location within an existing building imprint. Additionally trench 5 excavated by volunteers in south-central part of the garden was assessed, surveyed and is included in this report.

One scheduled monument is located within desk-based assessment study area; the remains of a Roman bathhouse and Anglo-Saxon cemetery which survives as both upstanding and below ground archaeological remains. The bathhouse have formed part of a larger complex of buildings, possibly a villa, likely associated with a larger settlement which centred on the River Cray although complete absence of archaeological artefacts from excavated trenches precludes its continuation into proposed development area.

A number of archaeological sites were identified in the vicinity of the proposed development, many of Roman date (AD 43 – 410), one of which is located within the Site. The find spot of Roman artefacts (070846/00/00) is located within the site, some of which was identified by a limited archaeological excavation. Although no structures were identified, pottery, tile, a mill stone, plaster and pieces of mortaria were identified, indicating a Roman building had been located within the vicinity. The excavation identified the archaeological horizon at a maximum depth of 30cm below existing ground level.

Recent excavation of small evaluation trenches within north-western extent of the site did not exposed any archaeological cuts or deposits and carefully assessed spoils derived from excavation did not produced any finds of archaeological significance.

It has therefore been suggested that the proposed development may not have any impact on buried archaeological remains. Further archaeological mitigation, should not be deemed necessary for proposed development within north-western extent of the site.

Acknowledgements

SWAT Archaeology would like to thank David Morrall for commissioning the project. Thanks are also extended to Mark Stevenson, Senior Archaeological Officer from GLAAS for his advice and assistance.

Peter Cichy supervised the archaeological fieldwork. Site survey and illustrations were produced by Bartek Cichy and this report was written by Peter Cichy.

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1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project background

The client is intending to convert existing stables in north-western part of the site. Planning application has been submitted for the conversion of the existing detached outbuilding/former stable block to form a self-contained one bedroom dwelling with associated car parking, refuse, cycle stores and amenity area (London Borough of Bromley Council Planning Ref: 20/01273).

1.2 Planning background; Condition stipulating the necessity for archaeological works was attached to the outline planning permission (20/01273) which states:

No development of any phase or sub-phase shall take place until the applicant or their agents or successors in title has secured the implementation of any mitigation measures identified within the Environmental Statement for that phase or sub-phase including:

(i) Archaeological field evaluation works in accordance with a specification and written timetable which has been submitted and approved by Local Planning Authority. The archaeological field evaluation works are to be completed and reported on prior to the layout and detailed design of the development being finalised and:

(ii) Following on from the evaluation any safeguarding measures to ensure preservations in situ of important archaeological remains and/or further archaeological investigation and recording in accordance with specification and timetable which has been submitted and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority.

Reason: To ensure appropriate assessment of the archaeological implications of any development proposals and the subsequent mitigation of adverse impacts through preservation in situ or by record.

1.3 Site Description, Topography and Geological background

1.3.1 Cartographic evidence indicates that the Site formed part of a large undeveloped irregular plot of land until the late 19th century and the construction of the existing dwelling and associated outbuildings.

1.3.2 The British Geological Survey identifies the underlying solid geology across the Site as Lewes Nodular Chalk Formation, Seaford Chalk Formation and Newhaven Chalk Formation (undifferentiated) – Chalk, a sedimentary bedrock formed in the Cretaceous Period, indicating a local environment previously dominated by warm chalk seas. The northern part of the Site is overlain with superficial deposits of Taplow Gravel Member – Sand and Gravel, formed in the Quaternary Period and indicating a local environment previously dominated by rivers.

2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 Introduction

- 2.1.1 A desk-based assessment was produced for the Site in May 20203 in support of the planning application. A summary of the findings of the desk-based assessment is provided below.
- 2.1.2 There is one scheduled monument located within the study area; the remains of a Roman bathhouse and Anglo-Saxon cemetery which survives as both upstanding and below ground archaeological remains (1001973). The bathhouse is through to have formed part of a larger complex of buildings, possibly a villa, likely associated with a larger settlement which centred on the River Cray, and finds indicate that it was in use between 270 and 400 AD. Areas of burning, metal working waste and possible kiln indicate that part of the monument was used for small scale industrial activities. The Anglo-Saxon cemetery is located to the north and east of the bathhouse and comprises approximately 85 burials and cremations.
- 2.1.3 The Site is located within the Upper Cray Archaeological Priority Area (APA) (DLO33106), which has been identified as a such in relation to evidence of prehistoric, Roman, medieval and post-medieval activity.
- 2.1.4 The DBA found that the Greater London Historic Environment Record (GLHER) contains seven records of prehistoric date (450,000 BC to AD43) within the study area, none of which are located within the Site. The majority of the assets relate to the find spots of material and artefacts, although prehistoric features, pits and ditches (MLO106566), not dated to a specific prehistoric period, have also been recorded within the study area. The DBA concluded that there is a low potential for archaeological remains of prehistoric date.
- 2.1.5 The DBA found that the GLHER contains 30 records of Roman date (AD 43 – 410) within the study area, one of which is located within the Site. The find spot of Roman artefacts (070846/00/00) is located within the site, some of which was identified by a limited archaeological excavation. Although no structures were identified, pottery, tile, a mill stone, plaster and pieces of mortaria were identified, indicating a Roman building had been located within the vicinity. The excavation identified the archaeological horizon at a maximum depth of 30cm below ground level. Although the majority of recorded Roman assets relate to the find spots of material and artefacts, there is also evidence of Roman occupation and use of part of the study area as a cemetery. The DBA concluded there was a high potential for archaeological remains of Roman date.
- 2.1.6 The DBA found that the GLHER contains three records of early medieval date (AD 410 – 1600) , one of which relates to the scheduled cemetery (MLO25014). The location of a grubenhaus

(070839/00/0) and find spot of coins (071021/00/00) have also been identified within the study area. The DBA concluded there was a low potential for archaeological remains of early medieval date.

2.1.7 The DBA found that the GLHER contains two records of medieval date (AD 1066 – 1485), both of which are find spots. The DBA concluded there was a low potential for archaeological remains of medieval date.

2.1.8 The DBA found that the GLHER contains five records of post-medieval to modern date (AD 1485 – Present) which indicate that the study area developed during these periods, forming part of the wider suburban Greater London. The DBA concluded that there was a low potential for archaeological remains of Post-Medieval to modern date.

2.2 Recent investigations in the area

2.2.1 A limited archaeological excavation has been undertaken within the Site by the Orpington and District Archaeological Society which identified Roman remains discussed in Section 2.1.5 above.

3 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

3.1 General Aims

3.1.1 The general aims of the archaeological fieldwork were therefore 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.

Project Specific Objectives

3.1.2 The primary objective of the archaeological evaluation was to establish or otherwise the presence of any potential archaeological features which may be impacted by the proposed development. The aims of this investigation were to determine the potential for archaeological activity and in particular the Roman, the earlier Medieval, Post-Medieval and Modern history of the PDA and also any other Prehistoric and later archaeological activity.

4 METHODOLOGY

4.1 Introduction

4.1.1 The initial evaluation consisted of 4 machine excavated trenches (c.2m x 1m) in a layout agreed with the County Archaeologist. The area of investigation is the proposed development area. Each trench was machine excavated under constant archaeological supervision using machine equipped with toothless grading bucket down to the first recognizable archaeological horizon or natural geology. Two trenches positions were adjusted to avoid intrusion into existing buried services. One trench was not excavated following negative results from other adjacent trenches. Also its proposed location within the imprint of existing building and consultation with Mark Stevenson from GLAAS has played major role in undertaking this decision.

4.1.2 A soil sampling programme was not implemented at this stage as suitable deposits were not identified to facilitate palaeo-environmental analysis.

4.1.3 Where appropriate, trenches, or specific areas of trenches, were subsequently hand-cleaned to reveal clearer picture in plan. All archaeological work was carried out in accordance with GLAAS 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.

4.1.4 On completion, the trenches were made safe and left open in order to provide the opportunity for a curatorial monitoring visit. Backfilling was carried out once all recording, survey and monitoring had been completed.

4.2 Monitoring

4.2.1 Project was monitored by Mark Stevenson from GLAAS. Due to Covid-19 pandemic restrictions site visit was carried out via phone call conversation and relevant photographs accompanied by video recording were provided to archaeological officer.

4.3 Recording

4.3.1 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.

4.3.2 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 project archive.

- 4.3.3 A single context recording system was used to record the deposits. Layers and fills are identified in this report thus (100), whilst the cut of the feature is shown as [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.).
- 4.3.4 A site plan to indicate the location of the boundaries of the proposed development site and the position of evaluation trenches drawn at a scale of 1:100 is shown on Figures 2 and 3. Plans to indicate the locations of archaeological features are drawn to a scale of 1:50. Detailed plans were drawn at a scale of 1:20 and sections at a scale of 1:10. All detailed plans and sections are related to the site plans.
- 4.3.5 All plans and sections were drawn on polyester based drawing film, and each plan and/or section was clearly labelled. A GPS site grid was established where necessary across the areas subjected to evaluation. All field surveying were preceded by a site visit to clarify the site specific surveying methodology, determine lines of sight and locate appropriate survey points. All recording points were accurately surveyed with a GPS/GNSS RTK survey kit in 1cm/1ppm accuracy and located to the National Grid.

4.4 Project timetable, project management and staff structure

- 4.4.1 On behalf of the client, project was directed by Dr Paul Wilkinson, MCIFA and fieldwork was undertaken by Peter Cichy who also prepared text for this report.

5 RESULTS

5.1 Introduction

- 5.1.1 Three of total four evaluation trenches were machine excavated and revealed relatively common stratigraphic sequence comprising top-soil and sub-soil overlaying natural geology comprising superficial deposit of sand and gravel.
- 5.1.2 A consistency of exposed geology was additionally evaluated in evaluation trench 1 by machine excavated sondage into natural geology. Underlying sand and gravel was very firmly compacted and 4 tons machine has had to struggle to excavated barely 200mm below exposed parent material upper surface.
- 5.1.3 Trench 1 was placed in south-western part of the site in northwest-southeast alignment and measured 2.8metres in length by 0.91metre in width and 0.45metre in depth. It exposed mildly bioturbated natural geology context (103) comprising brown-grey coarse sand with angular flints. No archaeological cuts or deposits were exposed in this trench.
- 5.1.4 Trench 2 was placed in north-western part of the site in northwest-southeast alignment and measured 2.16metres in length by 1.01metre in width and 1.3metre in maximum depth. It exposed natural geology context (203) comprising brown-grey coarse sand with angular flints. Infrequent bioturbations were observed throughout backfill sequence of underlying top-soil and sub-soil. No archaeological cuts or deposits were exposed in this trench.
- 5.1.5 Trench 3 was placed in north-western part of the site in northeast-southwest alignment and measured 1.8metre in length by 1.16metre in width and 0.9metre in depth. It exposed natural geology context (303) comprising brown-grey coarse sand with angular flints. No archaeological cuts or deposits were exposed here.
- 5.1.6 Trench 4 proposed location in south-western part of the site under floor of existing building was not excavated at this stage.
- 5.1.7 Trench 5 excavated by volunteers was placed in southern-central part of the site and measured 1.57metre in length by 0.78metre in width and 0.35metre in maximum depth. This trench did not exposed underlying natural geology and its backfill consisting solely of top-soil was heavily bioturbated by live tree roots.
- 5.1.8 All trenches 1-3 exposed natural geology (context x03) capped by up to 0.1m thick band of pale-grey subsoil (x02) which was sealed on top by accumulation of top-soil (x01)

6 FINDS

6.1 Introduction

- 6.1.1 No finds of archaeological interest were exposed during the fieldwork

7 ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

7.1 Introduction

- 7.1.1 No bulk samples were obtained during the evaluation as suitable deposits were not identified

8 DISCUSSION, CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

- 8.1 Archaeological evaluation at 10 Chelsfield Road, Orpington, Kent, BR5 has successively fulfilled aims and objectives of the specification and exposed common stratigraphic sequence comprising topsoil and subsoil concealing natural sand and gravel geology. Northern extent of the site is located on the slope and natural geology is capped by up to 1.2metre thick accumulation of top-soil.
- 8.2 Evaluation recorded an absence of archaeological cuts, structures and deposits within the extent of the proposed development area (north-western part of the site).
- 8.3 Development proposals are very unlikely to impact on any archaeological remains therefore no further strip map and sample programme is recommended to take place within north-western part of the site.

9 ARCHIVE

9.1 The Site archive, which will include; paper records, photographic records, graphics and digital data, will be prepared following nationally recommended guidelines (SMA 1995; ClfA 2009; Brown 2011; ADS 2013).

9.2 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. The Site Archive will be retained at SWAT Archaeology offices until such time it can be transferred to a designated Museum.

10 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

10.1 SWAT Archaeology would like to thank to the Client for commissioning the project. Thanks are extended to Mark Stevenson from GLAAS for his help and advice during the course of investigation and to Michael Meekums from Orpington and District Archaeological Society for providing additional information.

10.2 On completion of the project, the archaeological contractor is to arrange for the transfer, subject to the landowners consent, of the documentary, photographic and material archive to SWAT Archaeology, and to ensure that the appropriate level of

resources for cataloguing, boxing and long term storage are provided for a set fee until such times that designated museum can accept the archive.

10.3 The archaeological contractor is to allow the site records to be inspected and examined at any reasonable time, during or after the evaluation, by the developer, and the GLAAS Archaeological Officer.

10.4 Copies of all reports compiled as a result of the excavation and post-excavation archaeological works will be submitted to the Client as CD containing a .pdfA version. In addition a CD containing a .pdfA version of the report and a selection of site photos in jpeg format to be sent to the GLAAS Archaeological Officer and once approved sent to the GLAAS HER for inclusion in HER Records.

10.5 The work the archaeological contractor is to abide by the Code of conduct and the Codes of approved practice for the regulation of contractual arrangements in field archaeology of the Institute of Field Archaeologists.

10.6 The report was written by: SWAT Archaeology (Peter Cichy) The Office, School Farm Oast, Faversham, Kent, ME13 8UP Date: 23/11/2020.

11 REFERENCES

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(M. Meekums 2020) ORPINGTON AND DISTRICT ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY A ROMANO-BRITISH SITE IN ST MARY CRAY: EXCAVATIONS AT 10 CHELSFIELD ROAD ST MARY CRAY BR5 4DN

APPENDIX 1 – HER FORM

Site Name: Archaeological Evaluation on Land at 10 Chelsfield Road, Orpington, Kent

SWAT Site Code: CHE-EV-20 **MOLAS Code:** ORP20

Site Address: As above

Summary: *Swale & Thames Survey Company (SWAT Archaeology) was commissioned by David Morrall to undertake an archaeological evaluation on land at 10 Chelsfield Road, Orpington, Kent. The archaeological programme was monitored by the Senior Archaeological Officer at GLAAS. The Archaeological Evaluation consisted of 4 trenches, which recorded a relatively common stratigraphic sequence comprising topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology.*

The archaeological evaluation has recorded the absence of historic and archaeological remains

No Further mitigation is required

District/Unitary: Orpington District Council

Period(s): no archaeology

NGR (centre of site to eight figures) NGR 547156E 167271N

Type of Archaeological work: Archaeological Evaluation

Date of recording: October 2020

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

Geology: Chalk bedrock capped by superficial deposits comprising sand and gravel

Title and author of accompanying report: SWAT Archaeology (2020) Archaeological Evaluation on Land at 10 Chelsfield Road, Orpington, Kent

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

Contact at Unit: Paul Wilkinson

PLATES



Plate 1: Viewing the site from the north. One metre scale.



Plate 2: Viewing south-western part of the site (Trenches 1 and 5)



Plate 3: Showing trench 1, looking north with one-metre scales.



Plate 4: Showing evaluation trench 2. Looking north-west with two-metre scales. Each red-white segment equals to 0.2m.



Plate 5: Showing base in Trench 2. Two-metre scale.



Plate 6: Showing Trench 3. Looking south-west, two 1 metre scales.



Plate 7: Showing Trench 3. Looking south-east, two 1 metre scales.

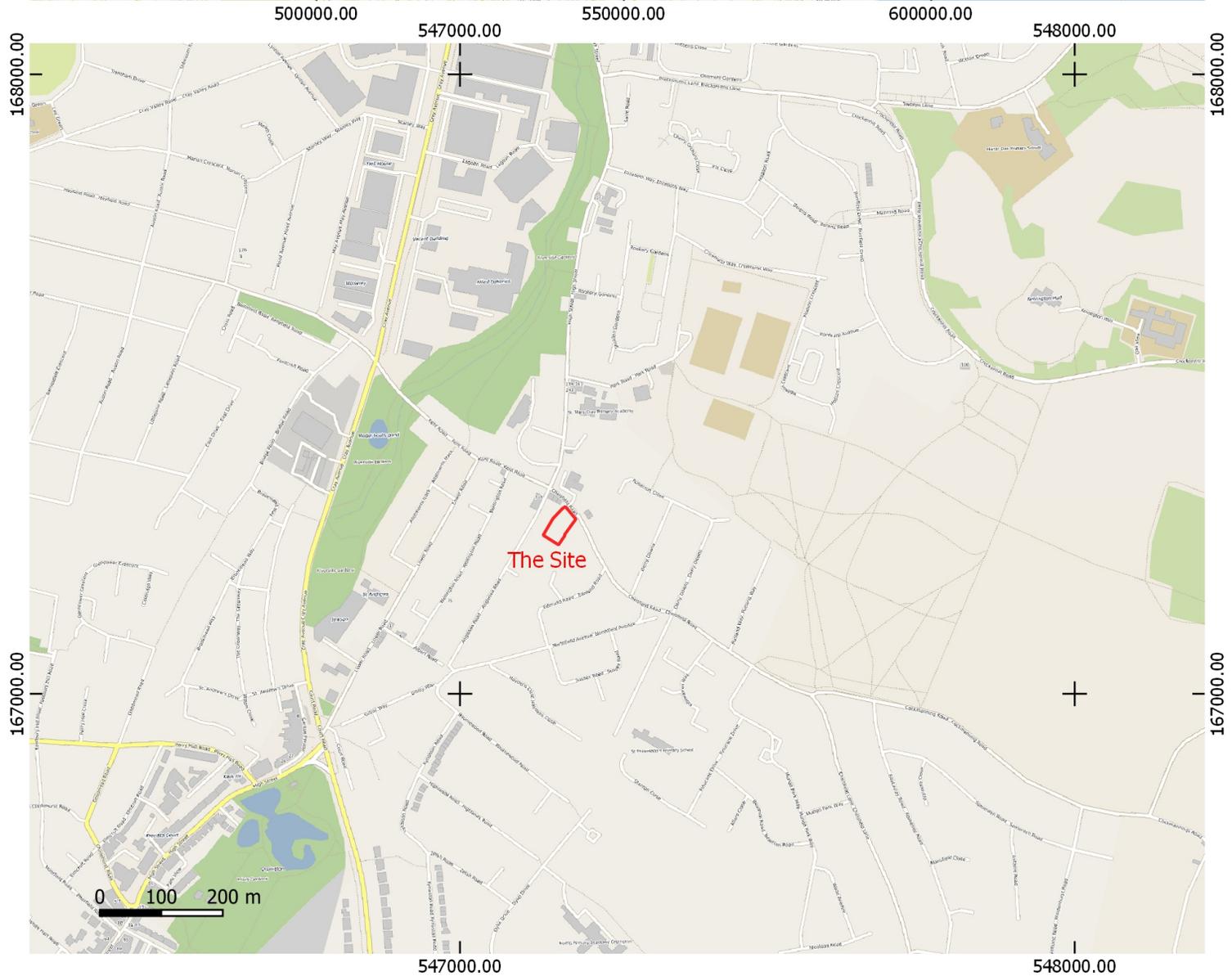
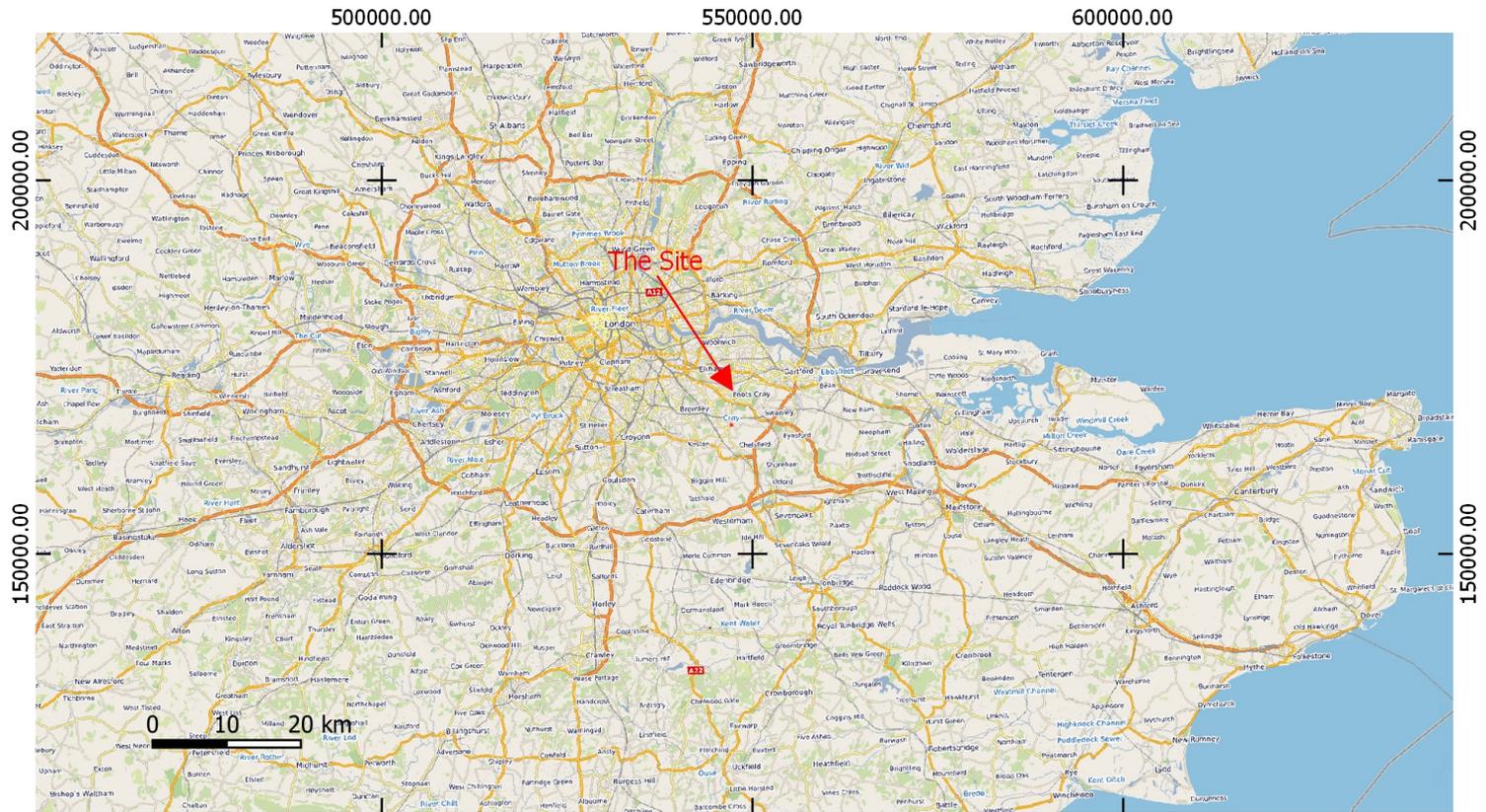
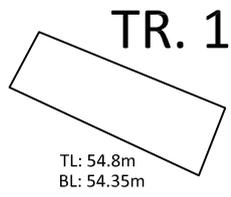
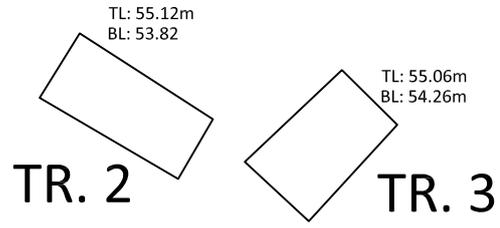


Figure 1: Site location

+ 547150E
167280N

+ 547160E
167280N



+ 547150E
167260N

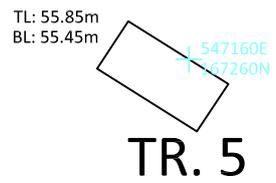


Figure 2: Trench plan, scale 1:100

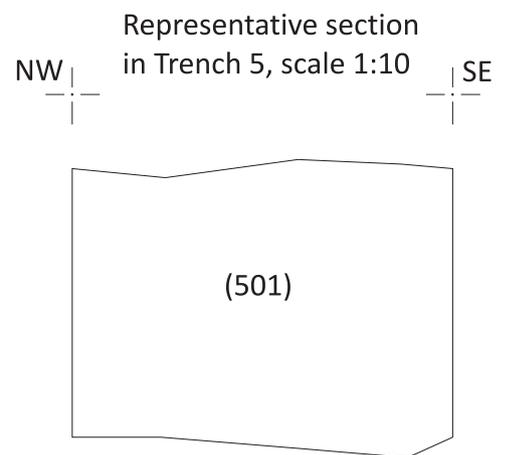
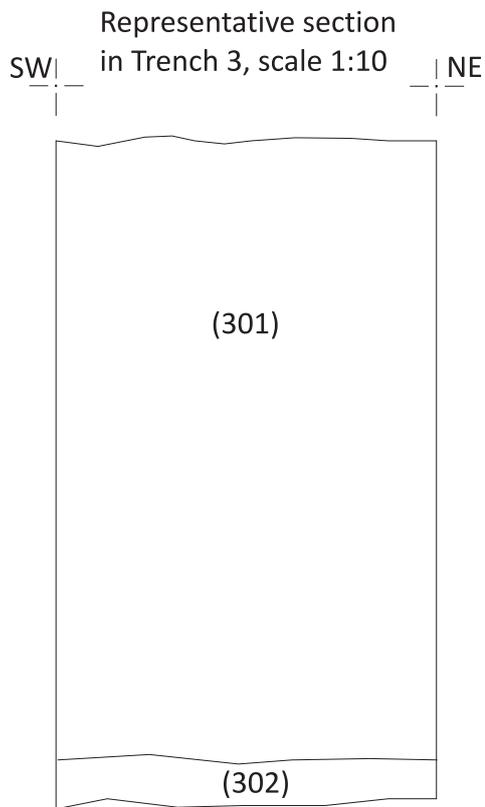
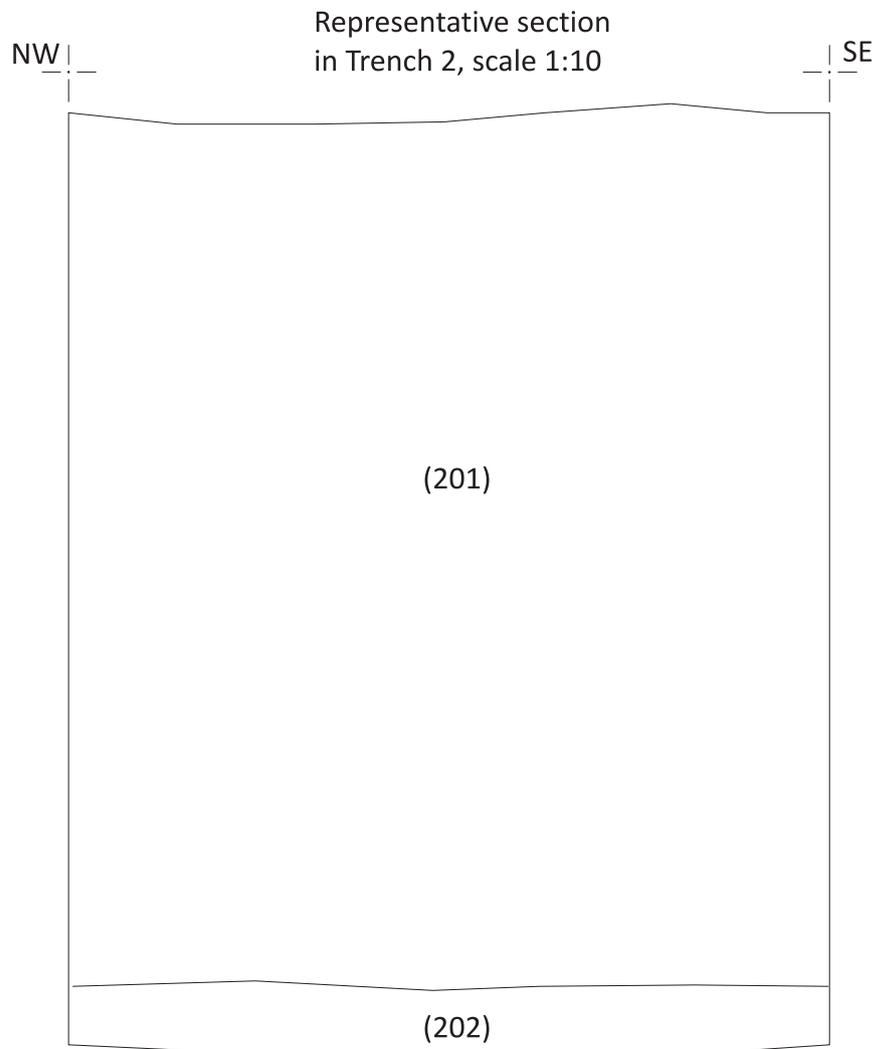
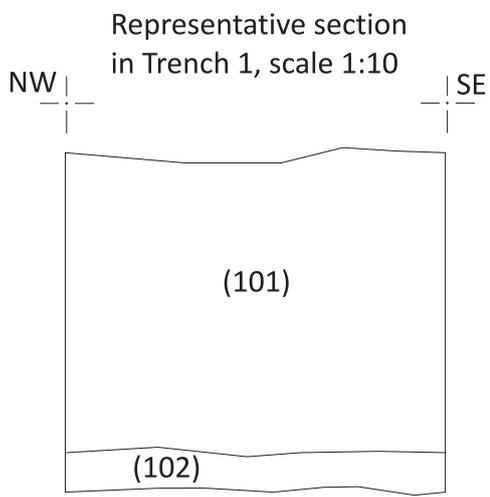


Figure 3: Sections