



## ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION of land at Shepway Close, Folkestone, Kent

Report date: 31/03/2021

Site code: **SCF-EV-21**

NGR: 622800 136660

Planning ref.: (Y18/1529/FH)

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# **1 INTRODUCTION AND SUMMARY**

## **1.1 Project Background**

1.1.1 SWAT Archaeology was commissioned by the Client to carry out an archaeological evaluation in preparations for the development of land at Shepway Close, Folkestone, Kent.

1.1.2 Archaeological evaluation commenced on 1st March 2021 and was completed by 5<sup>th</sup> March 2021. Monitoring visit from Senior Archaeological Officer was carried out on 3rd March 2021.

1.1.3 Works were carried out within Area of PDA where 13 trenches were dug. Evaluation exposed natural geology comprising orange-brown to yellow-green-grey clay-sand-silt with infrequent gravel and moderate decaying mudstone/ sandstone. Trenches have exposed a number of modern disturbances including building remains, hardcore driveway or pathway and tennis court. No archaeological cuts or deposits were revealed during the course of evaluation.

1.1.4 Three geological test-pits were excavated across the site to establish geological sequence of the parent material.

## **1.2 Planning background**

1.3 The land has a planning application (Y18/1529/FH) for the erection of 22 two storey dwellings and 2 three storey apartment blocks comprising 18 apartments with associated access, parking, private amenity space and public open space.

1.3.1 On the basis of the present archaeological information, the Senior Archaeological Officer KCC advising Folkestone and Hythe District Council recommended that the proposed development should be subject to a programme of archaeological works in order to clarify the archaeological elements within the site.

1.3.2 The site lies in an area of archaeological potential associated with past finds and discoveries in the local area. These include the site of a possible Bronze Age barrow (burial

mound), known locally as the 'giant's grave', thought to have lain immediately to the north-west of the present site.

1.3.3 A possible Roman villa is recorded around 650m to the east of the site in question, whilst separate finds of 3 Romano- British pottery have been recorded around 200m to the south-west. Other finds of archaeological interest in the area include finds of prehistoric flint tools to the west, all of which demonstrate the broad archaeological potential of this part of Folkestone.

1.3.4 Historic mapping and aerial photographs suggest the site has largely remained undeveloped, other than the former youth centre buildings and a sewer which passes through the site. As such the site presents an opportunity to archaeologically examine an area of Folkestone that has good archaeological potential, but has otherwise largely been built-over in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. It is possible that the proposed development might affect remains of archaeological interest.

1.3.5 The following planning condition covers what would be required:

*AR1 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 by the Local Planning Authority. Reason: To ensure that features of archaeological interest are properly examined and recorded.*

1.3.6 On the basis of the present archaeological information, the Senior Archaeological Officer KCC advising Folkestone and Hythe District Council recommended that the proposed development should be subject to a programme of archaeological works in order to clarify the archaeological elements within the site.

1.3.7 The methodology of the archaeological evaluation phase of investigation is identified within this specification which is based on the KCC site specific specification A and in the KCC Evaluation Manual Part B.

#### 1.4 Site description, Geology and Topography

1.4.1 The Geological Survey of Great Britain (1:50,000) shows that the site is set on bedrock geology of Folkestone Formation- Sandstone for the western part of the PDA and Gault Formation Mudstone on the eastern third of the site. There are no superficial deposits recorded.

1.4.2 The Lower Greensand Group is a geological unit, which forms part of the underlying geological structure of southeast England. South of London in the counties of West Sussex, East Sussex and Kent, which together form the wider Weald, the Lower Greensand can usually be subdivided to formational levels with varying properties into the Atherfield Clay Formation, the Hythe Formation, the 4 Sandgate Formation, Bargate Formation and the Folkestone Formation.

1.4.3 The Lower Greensand is one of the most landslide-susceptible formations in the UK. The Lower Greensand Group was deposited during the Early Cretaceous Period, which lasted for approximately 40 million years from 140 to 100 million years ago. The OD height of the site is about 26m aOD at the SW and 28m aOD at the SE area of the site. The NGR for the centre of the site is NGR 622795 136644.

## **2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND**

2.1 The Proposed Development Area (PDA) is located close to a number of archaeological sites which have been researched and published in the SWAT Archaeology Desk Based Assessment dated August 2018.

2.2 The Archaeological Desk Based Assessment by shows that the archaeological potential is:

- Prehistoric: low
- Iron Age: low
- Roman: low/moderate
- Anglo-Saxon: low
- Medieval: low
- Post-Medieval: low
- Modern: low

## **3 METHODOLOGY**

3.1 Introduction

3.1.1 All fieldwork was conducted in accordance with the methodology set out in the Specification (SWAT 2021) and carried out in compliance with the standards outlined in the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' Standards Guidance for Archaeological Evaluations (CIfA 2014).

3.2 Fieldwork

3.2.1 A total of 13 evaluation trenches were excavated within the extents of the Site.

3.2.2 Each trench was initially scanned by metal detector 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 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.

3.2.4 All archaeological work was carried out in accordance with LPA and ClfA standards and guidance. A complete photographic record was maintained on site that included 8 working shots; during mechanical excavation, following archaeological investigations and during back filling.

3.2.5 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.

### 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.

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 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 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 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES**

- 4.1 The principle objective of the archaeological evaluation is 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.
- 4.2 To 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.
- 4.3 To 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.
- 4.4 The opportunity was also taken during the course of the evaluation to place and assess any archaeology revealed within the context of other recent archaeological investigations in the immediate area and within the setting of the local landscape and topography. In general the work is to ensure compliance with the archaeological requirements from the Senior Archaeologist at Kent County Council that an archaeological evaluation to take place as a post-planning requirement, and to publish the results either on line, or through OASIS and/or in a local journal.

## **5 RESULTS**

- 5.1 Introduction and Summary Results
  - 5.1.1 Archaeological evaluation of land at Shepway Close, Folkestone, Kent has exposed natural geology comprising orange-brown to yellow-grey clay-sand-silt with infrequent mudstone and sandstone flecks.
  - 5.1.2 Evaluation trenches exposed common stratigraphic sequence comprising top-soil and sub-soil concealing natural geology. Trenches 4 and 13 were cutting through modern made-up ground.

- 5.1.3 Trenches 1 and 2 exposed compound remains. Trenches 3, 7, 9 and 11 revealed modern driveway. Trenches 5 and 6 unearthed modern building remains and Trenches 12 and 13 exposed tennis court surface.
- 5.1.4 No archaeological cuts, deposits or artefacts were revealed in all evaluation trenches.
- 5.2 Trench Narratives
- 5.2.1 Trench 1 (Figure 3) was placed in northern part of the site in east-west alignment and measured 1.8metre wide by 12.60metres in length and 0.58metre in maximum depth. It exposed natural geology context (103) comprising orange-brown to yellow-grey clay-sand-silt with infrequent sandstone flecks. Modern water pipe was exposed here. No archaeological cuts, deposits or artefacts were revealed in this trench.
- 5.2.2 Trench 2 (Figure 3) was placed in northern part of the site in north-south alignment and measured 1.8metre wide by 10.20metres in length and 0.49metre in maximum depth. It exposed natural geology context (203) comprising orange-brown to yellow-grey clay-sand-silt with infrequent sandstone flecks. No archaeological cuts, deposits or artefacts were revealed in this trench.
- 5.2.3 Trench 3 (Figure 3) was placed in northern part of the site in south-east; north-west alignment and measured 1.8metre wide by 18.67metres in length and 0.45metre in maximum depth. It exposed natural geology context (303) comprising orange-brown to yellow-grey clay-sand-silt with moderate sandstone flecks. Modern driveway comprising shallow linear hollow backfilled with hardcore was exposed at eastern end of this trench. No archaeological cuts, deposits or artefacts were revealed here.
- 5.2.4 Trench 4 (Figure 3) was placed in northern part of the site in north-south alignment and measured 1.8metre wide by 13.07metres in length and 0.47metre in maximum depth. It exposed natural geology context (403) comprising orange-brown to yellow-grey clay-sand-silt with infrequent mudstone and sandstone flecking. No archaeological cuts, deposits or artefacts were revealed in this trench. Geological test pit A was excavated here.
- 5.2.5 Trench 5 (Figure 3) was placed in the eastern part of the site in north-east; south-west alignment and measured 1.8metre wide by 14.33metres in length and 0.42metre in maximum depth. It exposed natural geology context (503) comprising orange-brown to yellow-grey clay-sand-silt with infrequent sandstone. Remnants of modern building were

exposed here comprising concrete slabs and platforms. No archaeological cuts, deposits or artefacts were revealed in this trench.

- 5.2.6 Trench 6 (Figure 3) was placed in the eastern part of the site in north-east; south-west alignment and measured 1.8metre wide by 20metres in length and 0.5metre in maximum depth. It exposed natural geology context (603) comprising orange-brown to yellow-grey clay-sand-silt with infrequent mudstone flecking. A modern rectangular cut was exposed in southern part of this trench. No archaeological cuts, deposits or artefacts were revealed here.
- 5.2.7 Trench 7 (Figure 3) was placed in central part of the site in east-west alignment and measured 1.8metre wide by 22.84metres in length and 0.46metre in maximum depth. It exposed natural geology context (703) comprising yellow-grey to orange clay-sand-silt with infrequent decaying sandstones. Trench has exposed 5 metre wide driveway at its western end comprising shallow linear cut in NE-SW alignment with crushed demolition debris and Early Modern north-south aligned linear ditch at its eastern end backfilled with coke and frequent glass shards. No archaeological cuts, deposits or artefacts were revealed in this trench.
- 5.2.8 Trench 8 (Figure 3) was placed in central-western part of the site in east-west alignment and measured 1.8metre wide by 17.88metres in length and 0.48metre in maximum depth. It exposed natural geology context (803) comprising yellow-orange-grey clay-sand-silt with infrequent sandstone. No archaeological cuts, deposits or artefacts were revealed in this trench.
- 5.2.9 Trench 9 (Figure 3) was placed in central part of the site in north-west; south-east alignment and measured 1.8metre wide by 23.86metres in length and 0.51metre in maximum depth. It exposed natural geology context (903) comprising yellow-grey to orange clay-sand-silt with infrequent decaying sandstones. Trench has exposed 5 metre wide driveway in its central part comprising shallow linear cut in NE-SW alignment with crushed demolition debris. No archaeological cuts, deposits or artefacts were revealed in this trench.
- 5.2.10 Trench 10 (Figure 3) was placed in central-eastern part of the site in north-eastern; south-western alignment and measured 1.8metre wide by 22.11metres in length and 0.49metre in maximum depth. It exposed natural geology context (1003) comprising yellow-orange-

grey clay-sand-silt with infrequent sandstone. No archaeological cuts, deposits or artefacts were revealed in this trench. Geological test-pit B was excavated here.

- 5.2.11 Trench 11 (Figure 3) was placed in southern part of the site in north-east; south-west alignment and measured 1.8metre wide by 23.78metres in length and 0.51metre in maximum depth. It exposed natural geology context (1103) comprising yellow-orange-grey clay-sand-silt with infrequent sandstone. An edge of modern driveway transecting the site in NE-SW alignment was revealed at north-western end of this trench. No archaeological cuts, deposits or artefacts were revealed here.
- 5.2.12 Trench 12 (Figure 3) was placed in southern part of the site in east-west alignment and measured 1.8metre wide by 22.80metres in length and 0.62metre in maximum depth. It exposed natural geology context (1203) comprising yellow-orange-grey clay-sand-silt with infrequent sandstone. A buried modern tennis court was exposed at eastern end of this trench comprising 0.2metre thick spread of hardcore capped by 0.05metre thick tarmac. Exposed remains measured 7.04metre in width and 0.3metre in maximum depth. No archaeological cuts, deposits or artefacts were revealed in this trench.
- 5.2.13 Trench 13 (Figure 3) was placed in southern part of the site in north-east; south-west alignment and measured 1.8metre wide by 21.47metres in length and 0.62metre in maximum depth. It exposed natural geology context (1203) comprising yellow-orange-grey clay-sand-silt with infrequent sandstone. A buried modern tennis court was exposed at eastern end of this trench comprising 0.2metre thick spread of hardcore capped by 0.05metre thick tarmac. Exposed remains measured 6.67metre in width and 0.3metre in maximum depth. No archaeological cuts, deposits or artefacts were revealed in this trench. Geological test-pit C was excavated here.
- 5.2.14 Three geoarchaeological test pits A, B and C were dug across the area (Figure 3). These have revealed sequence of head deposit comprising lower yellow-grey sandy-silt capped by orange clay-sand-silt with infrequent flint gravel. In some places the deposits were interweaved by thin patches of gravel. Also Test-pits B and C exposed outcrops of eroded underlying chalk bedrock.
- 5.2.15 Test-pit A was placed within north-eastern part of the site at the southern end of evaluation Trench 4 and was excavated to the depth of 2.6metre. It exposed green-grey clay-sand (404) overlain by yellow-grey clay-sand (403) which next in turn was capped by

top-soil/ sub-soil recorded as context (402). All was concealed by modern made-up ground represented by context (401).

5.2.16 Test-pit B was placed in the eastern part of the site at the south-western end of Trench 10 and was excavated to the depth of 1.7metre. It exposed green-orange-grey clay-sand (1004) overlain by yellow-grey clay-sand (1003) which subsequently was capped by sub-soil (1002) and next in turn concealed by the most recent top-soil recorded as context (1001).

5.2.17 Test-pit C was placed in the most southern part of the site at the south-western end of evaluation Trench 13 and was excavated to the depth of 2.05metre. It exposed orange-grey greensand context (1303) overlain by a metre thick band of re-deposited loam (1302) and subsequently concealed by the most recent top-soil recorded as context (1301).

## **6 CONCLUSIONS**

6.1 The archaeological evaluation has been successful in fulfilling the primary aims and objectives of the Specification and exposed modern structural remains cutting through exposed natural geology.

6.2 This evaluation has, therefore, assessed the archaeological potential of land intended for development. The negative results within all of the trenches show that the proposed development won't be having any significant impact on buried archaeological resource.

## **7 FINDS**

7.1 No finds were obtained during the course of evaluation

## **8 RECOMMENDATIONS AND FURTHER WORK**

8.1 There is no requirement for further work.

## **9 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

9.1 SWAT Archaeology would like to thank to the client for commissioning the project and thanks are extended to Casper Johnson, Senior Archaeological Officer from Kent County Council for his support and assistance during the fieldwork.

9.2 On behalf of the client project was directed by Dr Paul Wilkinson, MCIFA and fieldwork was carried out by Peter Cichy who also prepared text and illustrations for this report.

## **10 ARCHIVE**

10.1 General

10.2 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).

10.3 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 Kent Museum.

## APPENDIX 1 – HER FORM

**Site Name:** Archaeological Evaluation of land at Shepway Close, Folkestone, Kent

**SWAT Site Code:** SCF-EV-21

**Site Address:** As above

**Summary:** *Swale & Thames Survey Company (SWAT Archaeology) was commissioned by The Client to undertake an archaeological evaluation of land at Shepway Close, Folkestone, Kent. The archaeological programme was monitored by the Senior Archaeological Officer at Kent County Council. The Archaeological Evaluation consisted of 13 trenches, 11 of which recorded a relatively common stratigraphic sequence comprising topsoil and subsoil concealing natural geology. 2 evaluation trenches were cutting through modern made-up ground.*

*No archaeology was found during the course of evaluation.*

***Further mitigation is not required.***

**District/Unitary:** Maidstone Borough Council & Kent County Council

**Period(s):** Modern

**NGR (centre of site to eight figures)** NGR 622800 136660

**Type of Archaeological work:** Archaeological Evaluation

**Date of recording:** March 2021

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

**Geology:** Folkestone Formation- Sandstone for the western part of the PDA and Gault Formation Mudstone on the eastern third of the site.

**Title and author of accompanying report:** SWAT Archaeology (P. Cichy 2021) Archaeological evaluation of land at Shepway Close, Folkestone, Kent

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

**Contact at Unit:** Paul Wilkinson

## References

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*SWAT Archaeology, 2021, Specification for a Programme of Archaeological Evaluation of land at Shepway Close, Folkestone, Kent.*

## Figures and Plates

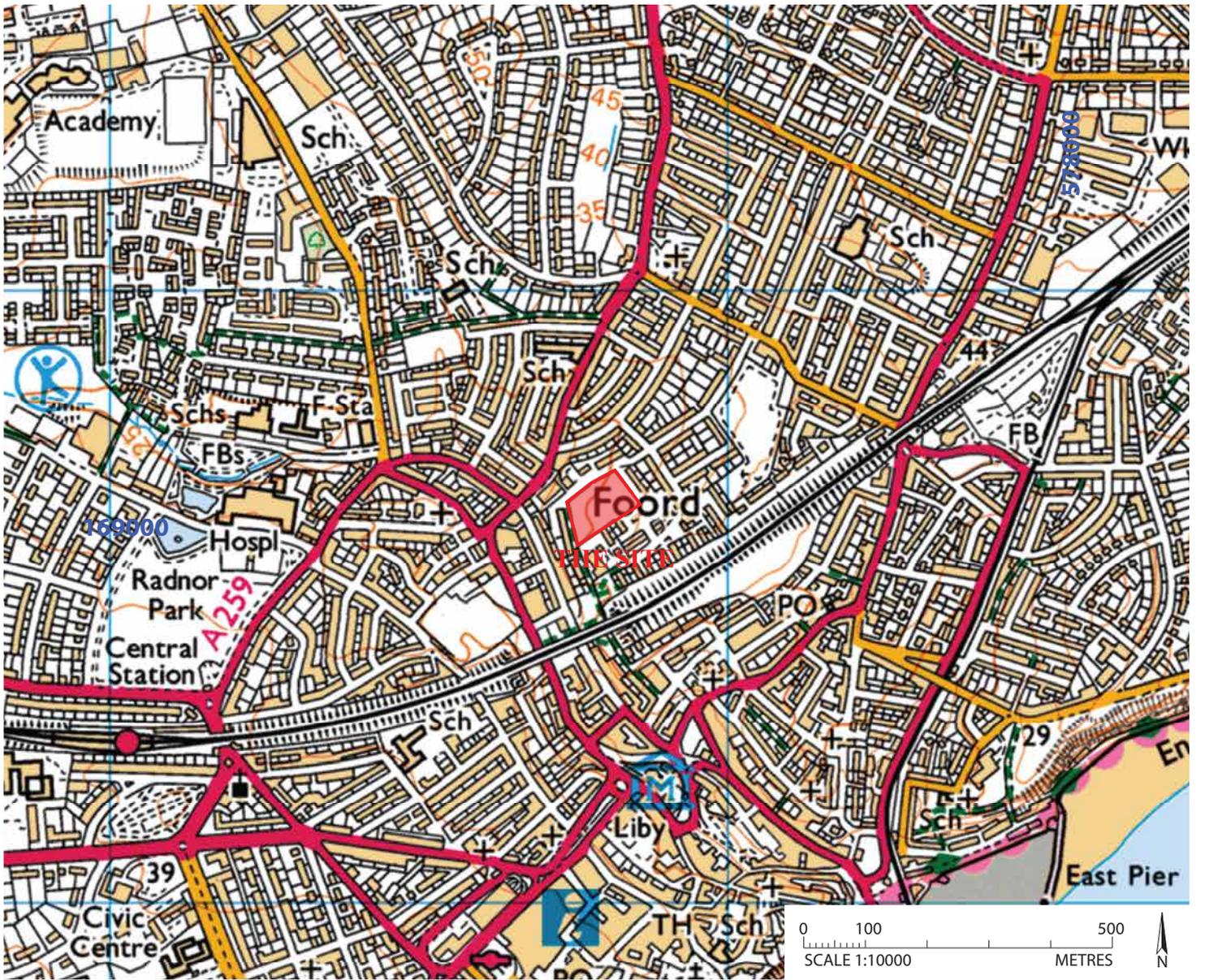
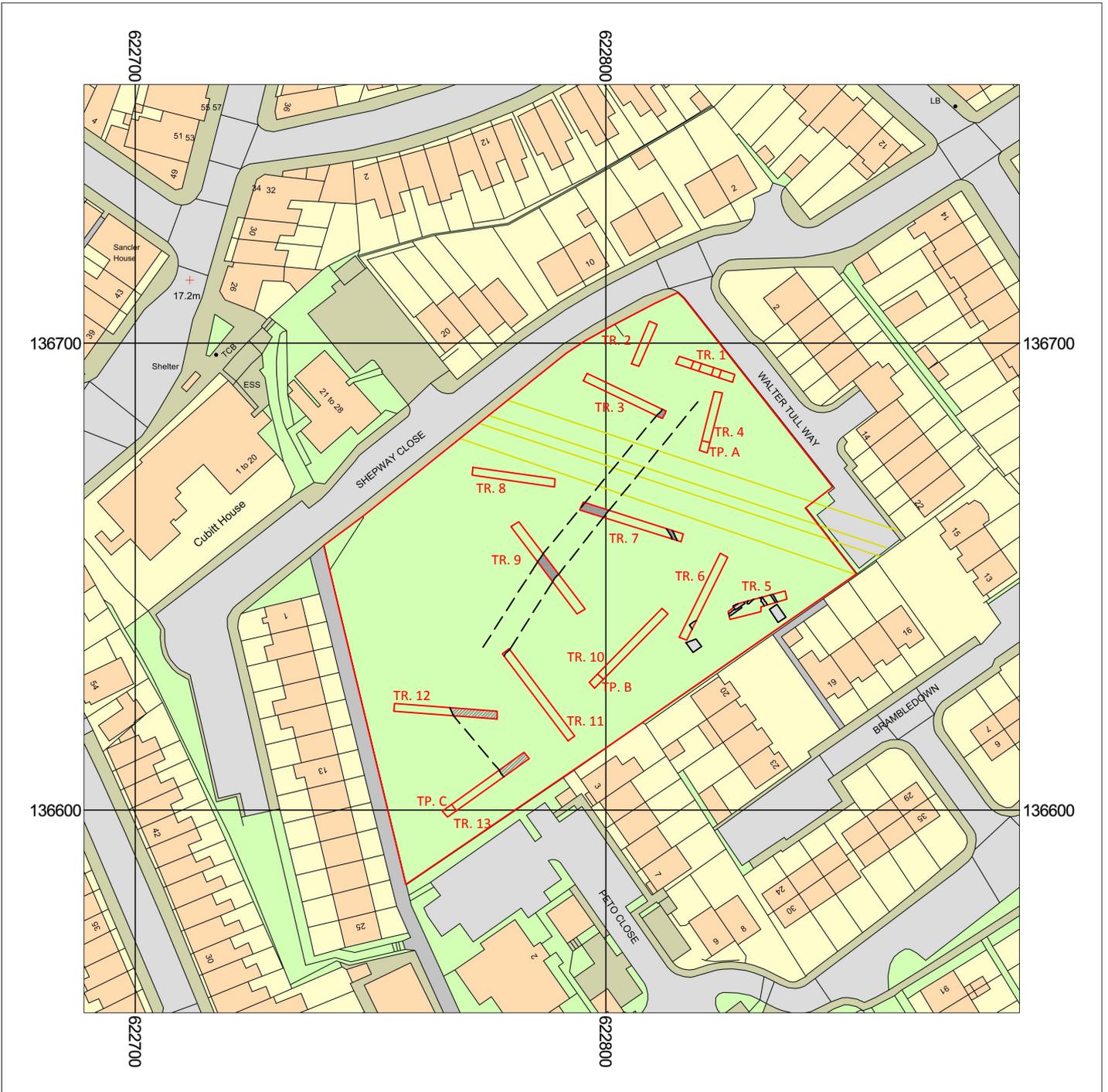
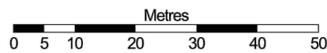


Figure 1: Site location map, scale 1:10000.



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Scale: 1:1250

Figure 2: Trench location in relation to OS map



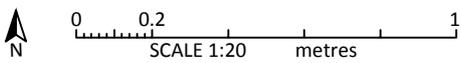
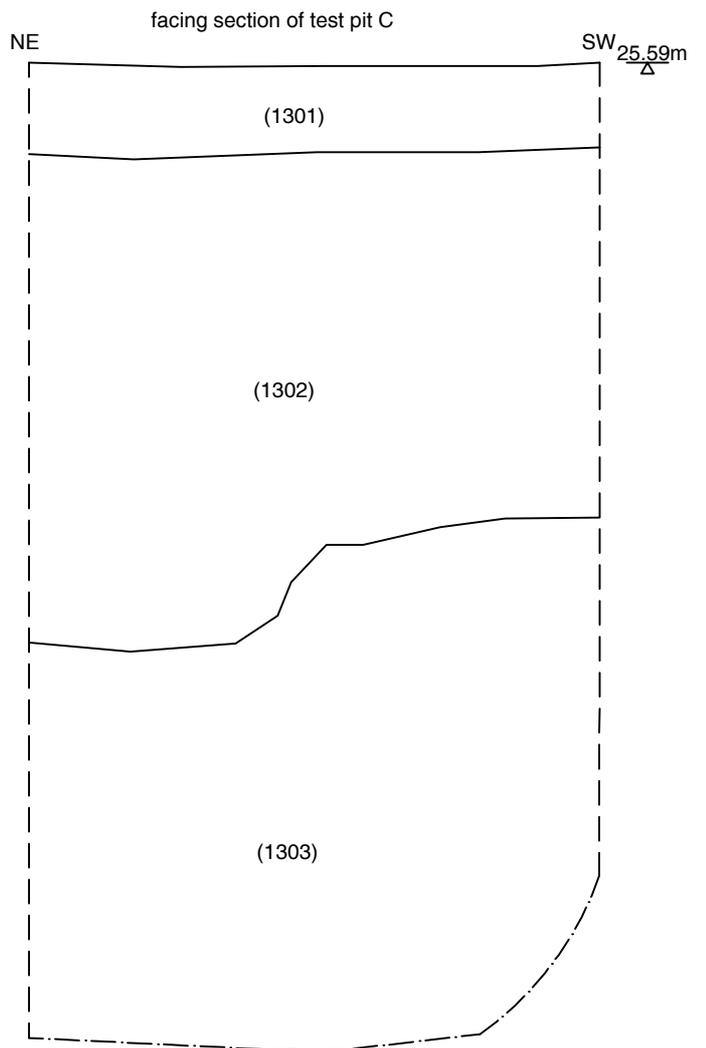
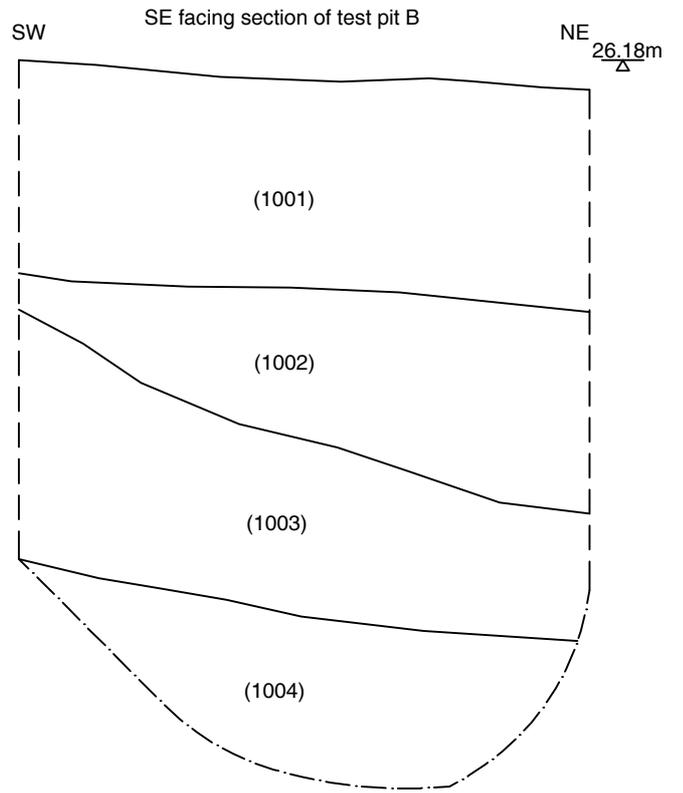
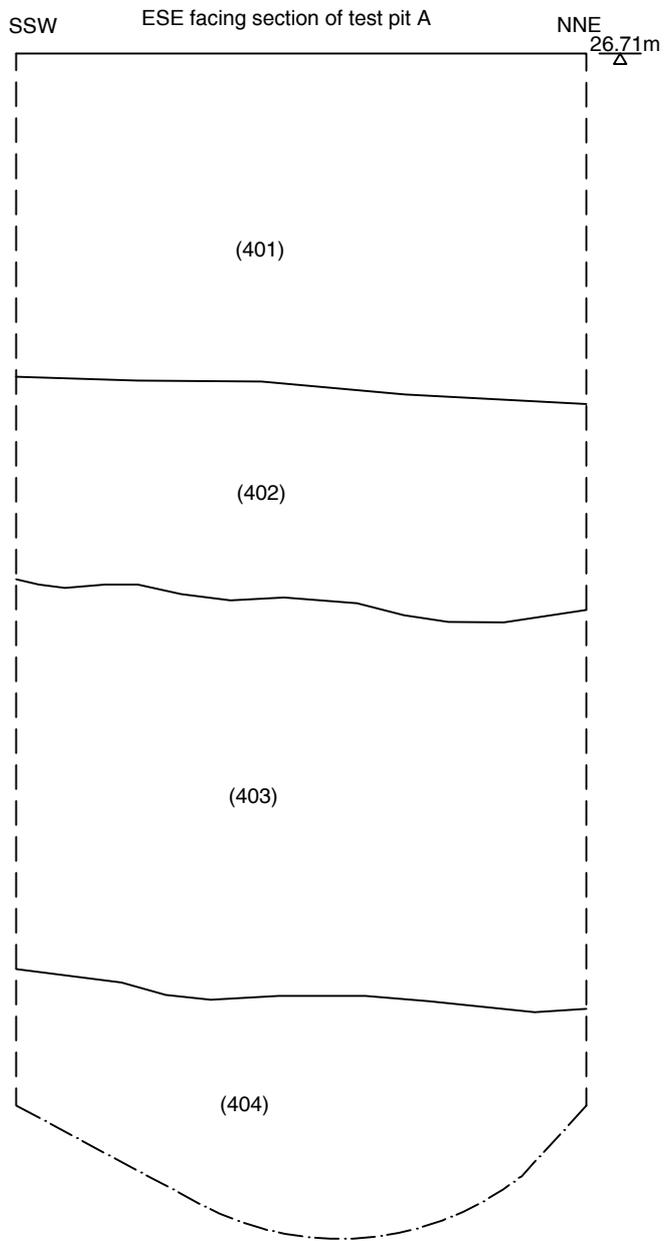


Figure 4: Sections



Plate 1: The site looking north-east.



Plate 2: The site looking south-east from the entrance.



Plate 3: The site looking south.



Plate 4: Showing evaluation Trench 1. Looking west with two-metre scale.



Plate 5: Showing evaluation Trench 2. Looking south with two-metre scale.



Plate 6: Showing evaluation Trench 3. Looking west with two-metre scale.



Plate 7: Showing evaluation Trench 4. Looking south-west with two-metre scale.



Plate 8: Showing evaluation Trench 5. Looking south-west with two-metre scale.



Plate 9: Showing evaluation Trench 6. Looking north-east with two-metre scale.



Plate 10: Showing evaluation Trench 7. Looking east with two-metre scale.



Plate 11: Showing Trench 8. Looking east with two-metre scale.



Plate 12: Showing evaluation Trench 9. Looking south-east with two-metre scale.



Plate 13: Showing evaluation Trench 10. Looking south-west with two-metre scale.



Plate 14: Showing evaluation Trench 11. Looking north-west with two-metre scale



Plate 15: Showing evaluation Trench 12. Looking east with two-metre scale.



Plate 16: Showing evaluation Trench 13. Looking north-east with two-metre scale.



Plate 17: Showing Geological Test-pit A in Trench 4.



Plate 18: Showing Geological Test-pit B in Trench 10.



Plate 19: Showing Test-pit C in evaluation Trench 13.