

Archaeological Evaluation of Land at 17 Egerton Avenue and the former Egerton Nursery, Hextable, Kent BR8 7LG

Site Code: HEN-EV-22

NGR Site Centre: 551790 169820

Planning Application Number: 20/00992/FUL



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

© SWAT Archaeology 2022 all rights reserved

Archaeological Evaluation of Land at 17 Egerton Avenue and the former Egerton
Nursery, Hextable, Kent BR8 7LG

1	INTRODUCTION.....	1
1.1	Project Background.....	1
1.2	Planning Background.....	1
1.3	Site Description, Topographical and Geological background	2
1.4	Scope of Report.....	3
2	ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND.....	3
2.1	Introduction.....	3
2.2	Historic Environment Record (HER).....	3
2.3	Map regression	3
2.4	Recent investigations in the area	4
3	AIMS AND OBJECTIVES	4
3.1	General Aims.....	4
3.2	General Objectives.....	5
4	METHODOLOGY	5
4.1	Introduction.....	5
4.2	Fieldwork.....	5
4.3	Recording	6
5	RESULTS	6
5.1	Introduction.....	6
5.2	Stratigraphic Deposit Sequence.....	6
5.3	Archaeological Narrative	7
6	FINDS.....	12
6.1	Overview	12
7	DISCUSSION.....	12
7.1	Introduction.....	12
7.2	Conclusions.....	13
8	ARCHIVE.....	13
8.1	General	13
9	ACKNOWLEDGMENTS.....	13
10	REFERENCES	13
11	APPENDIX 2 – HER FORM.....	15

Tables

Table 1 Timetable for the archaeological programme of works	1
---	---

Plates

Plate 1: Looking south at the site from the entrance.....	16
Plate 2: Looking south east at the site from its western boundary. Trench 3 is visible in the foreground. ...	16
Plate 3: Looking north east at trench 9; 2metre scale	17
Plate 4: Looking south at representative section exposed in trench 14; one metre scale.	17

Figures

Figure 1	Site Location Map
Figure 2	Trench locations in relation to OS map
Figure 3	Trench plan
Figure 4	Representative sections

Summary

Swale & Thames Survey Company (SWAT Archaeology) was commissioned to undertake an archaeological evaluation on land at Archaeological Evaluation of Land at 17 Egerton Avenue and the former Egerton Nursery, Hextable, Kent BR8 7LG. The archaeological programme was monitored by the Senior Archaeological Officer at Kent County Council Wendy Rogers.

The archaeological works have investigated the extents of the proposed development area using fifteen trenches, each measuring between 25m in length. Evaluation revealed modern made ground and numerous modern features comprising 20th Century landfill, service trenches and post holes. No archaeological finds, features or deposits were present within the trenches.

The archaeological evaluation has been successful in fulfilling the primary aims and objectives of the Specification and has assessed the archaeological potential of land intended for development. The results from this work will be used to aid and inform the Senior Archaeological Officer of any further archaeological mitigation measures that may be necessary in connection with any future development proposals.

Archaeological Evaluation of Land at 17 Egerton Avenue and the former Egerton Nursery, Hextable, Kent BR8 7LG

NGR Site Centre: 551790 169820

Site Code: HEN-EV-22

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 17 Egerton Avenue, Hextable, Kent BR8 7LG (Figure 1). This archaeological evaluation clarified the absence of archaeological remains on the proposed development.

1.1.2 The archaeological evaluation, which comprised the excavation of fifteen trenches measuring between 25m in length, was carried out over the course of a week in June 2022 (see Table 1 below). The evaluation was carried out in accordance with an archaeological Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) prepared by SWAT Archaeology (2021), prior to commencement of works. The WSI is based on KCC site specific specifications and in the KCC Evaluation Manual Part B.

1.1.3 A timetable for the archaeological programme of works, to date, is provided below;

<i>Task</i>	<i>Dates</i>	<i>Personnel/Company</i>
Submission of the Written Scheme of Investigation	23 rd May 2022	SWAT Archaeology
Archaeological Evaluation: Fieldwork	13 th -17 th June 2022	SWAT Archaeology
Archaeological Evaluation Report	This document	SWAT Archaeology

Table 1 Timetable for the archaeological programme of works

1.2 Planning Background

1.2.1 A planning application was granted (Application 20/00992/FUL) for the demolition of the existing house at No. 17 Egerton Avenue and clearance of commercial buildings at the former Egerton Nursery and development of 35 no. 2, 3 & 4 bedroom houses with associated access and parking including on-site provision of 14 no. affordable homes.

A Condition of archaeological works was attached to Planning Decision Notice and it was:

(3) Prior to the commencement of development the applicant, or their agents or successors in title, has secured and implement: A) archaeological work in accordance with a written specification and timetable which has been submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority; and
B) Further archaeological investigation, recording and reporting, determined by the results of the evaluation, in accordance with a specification and timetable which has been submitted to and approved by the local planning authority. To ensure that features of archaeological interest are properly examined and recorded as supported by policy EN4 of the Councils Allocations and Development Management Plan.

1.2.2 On the basis of the present archaeological information. KCCHC advising Sevenoaks 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 Site Description, Topographical and Geological background

1.3.1 The application site is located about 500m from the centre of Hextable on its southern outskirts and is about 1.2 ha in size and comprises previously developed land. The site comprises a former agricultural nursery along with various buildings and structures, a builder's yard, storage containers, greenhouses and poly tunnels. In close proximity to the site there are: to the north-west is Birchwood Park, south-west Swanley Park, Swanley Village and to the south Darent and Horton Kirby villages (Figure 1). The site borders with: Egerton Avenue and houses to the north; housing estate to the east, paddock to the south; woodland-field and garden to the west.

1.3.2 The site is set on the mid slope of gently sloping hill that is descending to the east and north east. The highest site level of 52.29 metres was recorded on the southern part of western boundary. The ground was descending to the east where recorder levels at north east corner and south east corner of the site were respectively 50.3metres and 50.58metres O.D. Centred NGR of the site is: 551790 169820.

1.3.3 The Geological Survey of Great Britain shows that the PDA (Proposed Development Area) is set on Bedrock Geology of Lewes Nodular Chalk Formation- Chalk. Superficial Deposits are recorded as Head – Clay, Silt sand and Gravel. The natural revealed within the trenches was the Head clay and in deeper trenches outcropping chalk marl.

1.4 Scope of Report

- 1.4.1 This report has been produced to provide initial information regarding the results of the archaeological evaluation. The results from this work will be used to aid and inform the Senior Archaeological Officer (KCC) of any further archaeological mitigation measures that may be necessary in connection with any future development proposals.

2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 Introduction

- 2.1.1 The Proposed Development Area (PDA) is located close to a number of archaeological sites which are identified on the KCCHER database and have been highlighted in advice to the LPA by the Senior Archaeological Officer KCC: *The site of the proposed development lies in an area of general potential for prehistoric and later remains. There is early map evidence for 19th century activity on this site for horticultural greenhouses of local heritage interest.*
- 2.1.2 Further details of previous discoveries and investigations within the immediate and wider area may be found in the Kent County Council Historic Environment Record (HER).

2.2 Historic Environment Record (HER)

- 2.2.1 The HER shows no record within area of the site or neighbouring land. The nearest record is located 126metres to the south west and consists of Post Medieval farmstead (MKE83680). Further away, 400m to the north west there are recorded Gates, Gate Piers and Wall of a Grade II Listed Building (TQ 57 SW 1019). There are a number of listed buildings located within the Swanley village that is located about 500metres to the south east from the site.
- 2.2.2 The nearest sites that recorded pre post medieval activity are undated ring crop mark (TQ 56 NW 258) located 880metres to the west and Dene hole (TQ 56 NW 129) located 600metres to the south.

2.3 Map regression

- 2.3.1 1871-1890 map shows field and orchard divided by field boundary within area of the site that was also surrounded by the agricultural fields that cover the whole area of present day Hextable. The dwellings in the area are Hextable house estate (TQ 57 SW 1019) and row of six terrace houses and a house located near the junction of B258 and College Road.
- 2.3.2 1897-1900 map shows that the land covered by present day Hextable was transformed into massive nursery. There also appeared a Home for Orphans estate that site is currently

occupied by Furness School. Within the site extent there was a greenhouse, orchard and small rectangular field.

2.3.3 1907-1923 map shows further development of nursery. Located within northern extent of the PDA area the small greenhouse was expanded into two larger ones.

2.3.4 1929-1952 map shows further development of the nursery. Within the PDA are the previously expanded greenhouses were further expanded and within southern extent of PDA previously occupied by orchard two massive greenhouses were erected. Also within northern extent of the PDA a few smaller buildings appeared, one of them (Plate 1) was still standing during the evaluation phase.

2.3.5 The part of nursery within the PDA area lasted until 2006 when it was demolished and started to develop into working yard. The major part of the nursery was overtaken by housing development in 50's.

2.4 Recent investigations in the area

2.4.1 There are no known recent archaeological investigations within the area.

3 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

3.1 General Aims

3.1.1 The specific aims of the archaeological fieldwork were set out in a Written Scheme of Investigation (SWAT Archaeology 2021) as stated below;

- *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 prehistoric period and also any Roman, medieval, Post medieval and later horticultural 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.*

(SWAT Archaeology 2022: Section 6)

3.2 General Objectives

3.2.1 The general objectives of the archaeological fieldwork were therefore:

- To determine the presence or absence of archaeological features, deposits, structures, artefacts, or ecofacts within the specified area;
- To establish, within the constraints of the evaluation, the extent, character, date, condition, and quality of any surviving archaeological remains;
- To place any identified archaeological remains within a wider historical and archaeological context in order to assess their significance; and
- To make available information about the archaeological resource within the site by reporting on the results of the evaluation.

4 METHODOLOGY

4.1 Introduction

4.1.1 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).

4.2 Fieldwork

4.2.1 A total of fifteen evaluation trenches were excavated (Figure 2). Excavation was carried out using a 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.

4.2.2 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.

4.2.3 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, surveying, and monitoring had been completed.

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 OD 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. 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.).

5 RESULTS

5.1 Introduction

- 5.1.1 All trenches were mechanically excavated under archaeological supervision. Trenches were positioned to evenly sample the whole extent of the site. Two of the trenches, trench 2 and 5 couldn't be excavated at proposed location drawn in WSI and had to be repositioned due to presence of obstructions such as building and building concrete platform.
- 5.1.2 The site, as shown on Figure 2, provides the trench layout while Figures 3 illustrates the results for each individual archaeological evaluation trench along with representative soil sequence sections shown on Figure 4 and 5. Plates 1-4 consist of photographs of the site, features and selected trenches that have been provided to supplement the text.
- 5.1.3 Individual trench results are discussed below. Appendix 1 provides the stratigraphic sequence and contextual information for all trenches.

5.2 Stratigraphic Deposit Sequence

- 5.2.1 A relatively consistent stratigraphic sequence was recorded across the majority of the Site comprising made ground sealing truncated and partially reduced subsoil, which overlay the natural geological Superficial deposits of Head clay. The site was stripped off top soil prior deposition of made ground sometime after 2007. The made ground consisted of compacted

grey gravel laid on the geo membrane in places overlaid by concrete or dark gravel. Elsewhere made ground consist of re deposited subsoil. The made ground was overlying the subsoil which consisted of dark brown clayey silt with moderate modern rubbish. Natural bedrock geology comprised chalk marl (Lewes Nodular Chalk Formation - Chalk) was revealed at the base of excavated modern features.

5.3 Archaeological Narrative

5.3.1 Trench 1 was placed in NW-SE alignment within north west corner area of the site. It was 25 metres long, 1.8metres wide and 0.40metres deep. The ground level at NW and SE end of the trench was respectively 50.83m and 50.72m. The overburden (Figure 4) was 0.20metres thick made ground layer (101) and underlying 0.2metres thick subsoil (102). At the base of the trench the revealed natural (103) was relatively uniform and comprised mid orangey brown silty clay. The subsoil (102) was firmly compacted, dark brown clayey silt. The made ground (101) comprised compacted grey gravel laid on geo-membrane. No archaeological features, deposits or artefacts were exposed in this trench.

5.3.2 Trench 2 was placed in E-W alignment within north east corner area of the site. It was 25 metres long, 1.8metres wide and 0.45metres deep. The ground level at W and E end of the trench was respectively 50.57m and 50.3m. The overburden (Figure4) was 0.20metres thick made ground layer (201) and underlying 0.25metres thick subsoil (202). At the base of the trench the revealed natural (203) was relatively uniform and comprised mid orangey brown silty clay with occasional flint. The subsoil (202) was firmly compacted, dark brown clayey silt with occasional fragments of flower pot, occasional glass and other modern rubbish. The made ground (201) comprised tarmac layer overlying compacted grey gravel laid on geo-membrane. No archaeological features, deposits or artefacts were exposed in this trench.

5.3.3 Trench 3 was placed in NW-SE alignment within north west extent of the site. It was 25 metres long, 1.8metres wide and 0.5metres deep. The ground level at NW and SE end of the trench was respectively 50.84m and 50.66m. The overburden was 0.25metres thick made ground layer (301) and underlying 0.25metres thick subsoil (302). At the base of the trench the revealed natural (303) was relatively uniform and comprised mid orangey brown silty clay with occasional flint. The natural surface was truncated by modern features: deep pit filled with bricks, small pit, linear trench, metal pipe in narrow trench in E-W alignment and terminus. The deep modern pit has been excavated with machine revealing near vertical sides and flat base. Feature was 2.2metres wide and 0.5metres deep below the base of the trench. Feature was cut through subsoil horizon and was filled with loose bricks and occasional rubbish. Feature was overlying the location of greenhouse wall and most likely indicates the robbed out

foundations. The linear trench in east-west alignment overlaid the central axis of the former greenhouse most likely indicate robbed out foundations and services. The trench profile had vertical sides and it was filled with firm, dark grey loam including occasional modern rubbish and fragments of metal pipe. Within excavated section of the pit, 0.3metres below natural Head deposit there was a wavy horizon of chalk marl. The subsoil (202) was firmly compacted, dark brown clayey silt with occasional fragments of flower pot, occasional glass and other modern rubbish. The made ground (201) comprised compacted grey gravel laid on geo-membrane. Within western half of the trench instead of made ground there was a top soil No archaeological features, deposits or artefacts were exposed in this trench.

5.3.4 Trench 4 was placed in NE-SW alignment within north east extent of the site. It was 25 metres long, 1.8metres wide and 0.7metres deep. The ground level at NE and SW end of the trench was respectively 50.32m and 50.92m. The overburden was 0.7metres thick and consisted of made ground layer (401) and underlying 0.35metres thick subsoil (402). At the base of the trench the revealed natural (403) was relatively uniform and comprised mid orangey brown silty clay with occasional flint. The natural surface was truncated by modern features: blue plastic pipe in N-S alignment and steel pipe in E-W alignment. The subsoil (402) was firmly compacted, dark brown clayey silt with occasional fragments of flower pot, steel pipe fragments, occasional glass and other modern rubbish. The made ground (401) comprised compacted grey gravel laid on geo-membrane. No archaeological features, deposits or artefacts were exposed in this trench.

5.3.5 Trench 5 was placed in N-S alignment within north east central extent of the site. It was 19.3 metres long, 1.8metres wide and 0.65metres deep. The ground level at N and S end of the trench was respectively 50.13m and 50.58m. The overburden was 0.6metres thick and consisted of made ground layer (501) and underlying 0.3metres thick subsoil (502). At the base of the trench the revealed natural (503) was relatively uniform and comprised mid orangey brown silty clay with occasional flint. The natural surface was truncated by modern pit. The subsoil (502) was firmly compacted, dark brown clayey silt with occasional fragments of flower pot, steel pipe, occasional glass and other modern rubbish. The made ground (501) comprised compacted grey gravel and pebble laid on geo-membrane. No archaeological features, deposits or artefacts were exposed in this trench.

5.3.6 Trench 6 was placed in NW-SE alignment within north west central extent of the site. It was 25 metres long, 1.8metres wide and 0.5metres deep. The ground level at NW and SE end of the trench was respectively 52.29m and 51.71m. The overburden was 0.3metres thick made ground layer (601) and underlying 0.5metres thick subsoil (602). At the base of the trench the

revealed natural (603) was relatively uniform and comprised mid orangey brown silty clay. The natural surface was truncated by NE-SW aligned narrow modern trench. The subsoil (602) was firmly compacted, dark brown clayey silt with occasional fragments of steel pipe and modern rubbish. The made ground (601) comprised compacted grey gravel laid on geo-membrane. No archaeological features, deposits or artefacts were exposed in this trench.

5.3.7 Trench 7 was placed in NW-SE alignment within north west central extent of the site. It was 25 metres long, 1.8metres wide and 0.55metres deep. The ground level at NW and SE end of the trench was respectively 51.18m and 51.05m. The overburden was 0.55metres thick made ground layer consisting of 0.2metres thick concrete (701), underlying 0.15metres thick gravel (701a) laid on geo-membrane and underlying subsoil (702). At the base of the trench the revealed natural (703) was relatively uniform and comprised mid orangey brown silty clay. The natural surface was truncated by modern features: field boundary hollow [704], pit and two post holes. The field boundary (Figure 5) was 8.7metres wide, 0.1metres deep, east-west aligned linear feature with its profile showing shallow sides and flat base. It was filled with (705) brown silt with moderate chalk flakes and occasional 20th C. rubbish. The subsoil (702) was firmly compacted, dark brown clayey silt with occasional fragments of steel pipe and modern rubbish. No archaeological features, deposits or artefacts were exposed in this trench. Small man hole with metal pipes and wheelhead gate valve was located 0.5metres to the south east from south east end of the trench. The structure is related to the robbed out sparkling system.

5.3.8 Trench 8 was placed in NE-SW alignment within south east central extent of the site. It was 26.5 metres long, 1.8metres wide and 0.8metres deep. The ground level at NE and SW end of the trench was respectively 50.46m and 51.16m. The overburden was 0.8metres thick and consisted of made ground layer (801a) and (801b), and underlying 0.3metres thick subsoil (802). At the base of the trench the revealed natural (803) was relatively uniform and comprised mid orangey brown silty clay with occasional flint. The natural surface was truncated by modern features: steel pipe in narrow trench in N-S alignment two partially exposed pits and two post holes. All the features were cut into subsoil horizon. The subsoil (802) was firmly compacted, dark brown clayey silt with occasional fragments of flower pot, steel pipe fragments, occasional glass and other modern rubbish. The made ground (801a) comprised 0.2metres thick, compacted grey gravel laid on geo-membrane and underlying gravel layer (801b) that was 0.3metres thick. No archaeological features, deposits or artefacts were exposed in this trench.

- 5.3.9 Trench 9 was placed in NE-SW alignment within south west central extent of the site. It was 25 metres long, 1.8metres wide and 0.5metres deep. The ground level at NE and SW end of the trench was respectively 51.36m and 51.94m. The overburden was 0.5metres thick and consisted of made ground layer (901) and underlying 0.2metres thick subsoil (902). At the base of the trench the revealed natural (903) was relatively uniform and comprised mid orangey brown silty clay with occasional flint. The subsoil (902) was firmly compacted, dark brown clayey silt with occasional fragments of flower pot, steel pipe fragments, occasional glass and other modern rubbish. The made ground (901) comprised 0.1metres thick concrete slabs overlying 0.2metres thick, compacted grey gravel laid on geo-membrane. No archaeological features, deposits or artefacts were exposed in this trench.
- 5.3.10 Trench 10 was placed in NW-SE alignment within south west corner area of the site. It was 25 metres long, 1.8metres wide and 0.4metres deep. The ground level at NW and SE end of the trench was respectively 52.06m and 51.83m. The overburden was 0.4metres thick made ground layer and underlying subsoil (1002). At the base of the trench the revealed natural (1003) was relatively uniform and comprised mid orangey brown silty clay. The natural surface was truncated by modern features: two deep linear trenches in NE-SW alignment and trench terminus. The modern trenches were machine excavated and revealed similar profile (Figure 5) that had steep sides and flat base. Both features were filled with brick rubble, steel sheets, concrete, metal pipe fragments and glass. The northern trench was 4.85 metres wide and 0.3metres deep while the southern trench was 3.3metres wide and 0.45metres deep. The subsoil (1002) was firmly compacted, dark brown clayey silt with occasional fragments of steel pipe and modern rubbish. The made ground (1001) comprised 0.1metres thick concrete slabs overlying 0.15metres thick, compacted grey gravel laid on geo-membrane. No archaeological features, deposits or artefacts were exposed in this trench.
- 5.3.11 Trench 11 was placed in NW-SE alignment within southern extent of the site. It was 25 metres long, 1.8metres wide and 0.65metres deep. The ground level at NW and SE end of the trench was respectively 51.4m and 50.72m. The overburden was 0.5metres thick made ground layer (1101) and underlying subsoil (1102) that was 0.05metres thick. At the base of the trench the revealed natural (1103) was relatively uniform and comprised mid orangey brown silty clay. The subsoil (1102) was firmly compacted, dark brown clayey silt with occasional fragments of steel pipe and modern rubbish. The made ground (1101) comprised 0.2metres thick concrete slabs or dark grey gravel overlying 0.3metres thick, compacted grey gravel laid on geo-membrane. No archaeological features, deposits or artefacts were exposed in this trench.

- 5.3.12 Trench 12 was placed in NE-SW alignment within south western extent of the site. It was 25.5 metres long, 1.8metres wide and 0.5metres deep. The ground level at NE and SW end of the trench was respectively 51.51m and 52.07m. The overburden was 0.5metres thick and consisted of made ground layer (1201) and underlying 0.15metres thick subsoil (1202). At the base of the trench the revealed natural (1203) was relatively uniform and comprised mid orangey brown silty clay with occasional flint. The natural surface was truncated by modern features: four post holes, three pits and east – west aligned narrow trench with steel pipe. Pit [1204] was partially exposed at the south west of the trench and its profile had vertical sides. Feature (Figure 4) that was cut into sub soil horizon was filled with black loam mixed with modern rubbish. The subsoil (1202) was firmly compacted, dark brown clayey silt with occasional fragments of flower pot, steel pipe fragments, occasional glass and other modern rubbish. The made ground (1201) comprised 0.35metres thick, compacted grey gravel laid on geo-membrane. No archaeological features, deposits or artefacts were exposed in this trench.
- 5.3.13 Trench 13 was placed in NE-SW alignment within south eastern extent of the site. It was 24.7 metres long, 1.8metres wide and 0.5 to 0.7 metres deep. The ground level at NE and SW end of the trench was respectively 50.4m and 50.21m. The over burden that was thicker on west side of the trench was 0.5 to 0.7metres thick and consisted of made ground layer (1301) and underlying 0.2 to 0.3metres thick subsoil (1302). At the base of the trench the revealed natural (1303) was relatively uniform and comprised mid orangey brown silty clay with occasional flint. The natural surface was truncated by modern features: machine cut and rectangular pit. The subsoil (1302) was firmly compacted, dark brown clayey silt with occasional fragments of flower pot, steel pipe fragments, occasional glass and other modern rubbish. The made ground (1301) comprised 0.2metres thick, compacted grey gravel laid on geo-membrane. No archaeological features, deposits or artefacts were exposed in this trench.
- 5.3.14 Trench 14 was placed in NW-SE alignment within southern end of the site. It was 25 metres long, 1.8metres wide and 0. 5metres deep. The ground level at NW and SE end of the trench was respectively 51.34m and 50.64m. The overburden was 0.5metres thick made ground layer (1401) and underlying subsoil (1402) that was 0.2metres thick. At the base of the trench the revealed natural (1403) was relatively uniform and comprised mid orangey brown silty clay. The subsoil (1402) was firmly compacted, dark brown clayey silt with occasional fragments of steel pipe and modern rubbish. The made ground (1401) comprised 0.3metres thick, compacted grey gravel laid on geo-membrane. No archaeological features, deposits or artefacts were exposed in this trench.

- 5.3.15 Trench 15 was placed in NW-SE alignment within south eastern end of the site. It was 25 metres long, 1.8metres wide and 0.8metres deep. The ground level at NW and SE end of the trench was respectively 50.18m and 50.02m. The overburden was 0.5metres thick made ground layer (1501) and underlying subsoil (1502) that was 0.3metres thick. At the base of the trench the revealed natural (1503) was relatively uniform and comprised mid orangey brown silty clay. The subsoil (1502) was firmly compacted, dark brown clayey silt with occasional fragments of steel pipe and modern rubbish. The subsoil was cut by two late 20th Century landfill features [1504] and [1506] that were cut into made ground layer (1501b). The made ground (1501b) comprised 0.3metres thick, compacted grey gravel laid on geo-membrane and was overlaid by tarmac (1501a). No archaeological features, deposits or artefacts were exposed in this trench.
- 5.3.16 The absence of any pre modern finds within the subsoil may also suggest that archaeological potential of the site is absent.

6 FINDS

6.1 Overview

- 6.1.1 A number of modern finds comprising fragments of flower pot, window glass and metal were retrieved during this evaluation. The finds were dated to second half of 20th C and further discarded.

7 DISCUSSION

7.1 Introduction

- 7.1.1 The archaeological works on land at of land at 17 Egerton Avenue, Hextable in Kent has investigated the extents of the proposed development area using fifteen trenches, each measuring 25m in length and one measuring 20m. Although preservation conditions were considered favourable no archaeological finds or features were present within the trenches. Also there was no survived features or artefacts related to the early phase (circa 1908) of nursery. The earliest asset related to nursery is the standing building, labelled building on figure 2, which appeared on OS map from 1939.
- 7.1.2 Modern features recorded within excavated trenches are mostly related to the clearance of the nursery in circa 2007 and later working yard that featured numerous concrete fences and various small buildings.

7.1.3 Few steel pipes that were found in situ across the site were a remnant of the sprinkler system that was mostly robbed out during the nursery clearance.

7.2 Conclusions

7.2.1 The archaeological investigation has been successful in fulfilling the primary aims and objectives of the Specification and clarified the absence of archaeological potential of land intended for development. The results from this work will be used to aid and inform the Senior Archaeological Officer of any further archaeological mitigation measures that may be necessary in connection with any future development proposals.

8 ARCHIVE

8.1 General

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

8.1.2 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 and A4 graphics. The Site Archive will be retained at SWAT Archaeology offices until such time it can be transferred to a Kent Museum.

9 ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

9.1.1 SWAT would like to thank the Client for commissioning the project. Thanks are also extended to Wendy Rogers, Senior Archaeological Officer at Kent County Council, for her advice and assistance.

9.1.2 Bartosz Cichy SWAT carried out the archaeological fieldwork; illustrations and this report were produced by Bartosz Cichy. The Project Manager for the project was Dr Paul Wilkinson MCIfA, FRSA of SWAT Archaeology.

10 REFERENCES

ADS 2013. Caring for Digital Data in Archaeology: a guide to good practice, Archaeology Data Service & Digital Antiquity Guides to Good Practice

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

Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, 2009, *Standard and Guidance for the creation, compilation, transfer and deposition of archaeological archives*, Institute for Archaeologists

Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, 2014, *Standard and guidance: for field evaluation*.

Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, 2014, *Standard and guidance for the creation, compilation, transfer and deposition of archaeological archives*.

Department of the Environment, 2010, *Planning for the Historic Environment*, Planning (PPS 5) HMSO.

English Heritage 2002. *Environmental Archaeology; a guide to theory and practice of methods, from sampling and recovery to post-excavation*, Swindon, Centre for Archaeology Guidelines

English Heritage, 2006, *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment* (MoRPHE).

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

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

SWAT Archaeology 2022 *Specification for an Archaeological Evaluation of land at 17 Egerton Avenue and the former Egerton Nursery, Hextable in Kent*

11 APPENDIX 2 – HER FORM

Site Name: Land at 17 Egerton Avenue and the former Egerton Nursery, Hextable in Kent

SWAT Site Code: HEN-EV-22

Site Address: 17 Egerton Avenue, Hextable, Kent, BR8 7LG

Summary. *Swale & Thames Survey Company (SWAT Archaeology) was commissioned to undertake an archaeological evaluation on land at Archaeological Evaluation of Land at 17 Egerton Avenue and the former Egerton Nursery, Hextable, Kent BR8 7LG. The archaeological programme was monitored by the Senior Archaeological Officer at Kent County Council Wendy Rogers.*

The archaeological works have investigated the extents of the proposed development area using fifteen trenches, each measuring between 25m in length. Evaluation revealed modern made ground and numerous modern features. No archaeological finds, features or deposits were present within the trenches.

The archaeological evaluation has been successful in fulfilling the primary aims and objectives of the Specification and has assessed the archaeological potential of land intended for development. The results from this work will be used to aid and inform the Senior Archaeological Officer of any further archaeological mitigation measures that may be necessary in connection with any future development proposals.

District/Unitary: Sevenoaks District Council & Kent County Council

Period(s): NA

NGR (centre of site to eight figures) 551790 169820

Type of Archaeological work: Archaeological Evaluation

Date of recording: 13-17 June 2022

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

Geology: Head

Title and author of accompanying report: Bartosz Cichy (July 2022) Archaeological Evaluation of Land at the former Egerton Nursery, Hextable in Kent

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

Contact at Unit: Paul Wilkinson

Date: 12/07/2022

PLATES



Plate 1: Looking south at the site from the entrance



Plate 2: Looking south east at the site from its western boundary. Trench 3 is visible in the foreground.



Plate 3: Looking north east at trench 9; 2metre scale



Plate 4: Looking south at representative section exposed in trench 14; one metre scale.

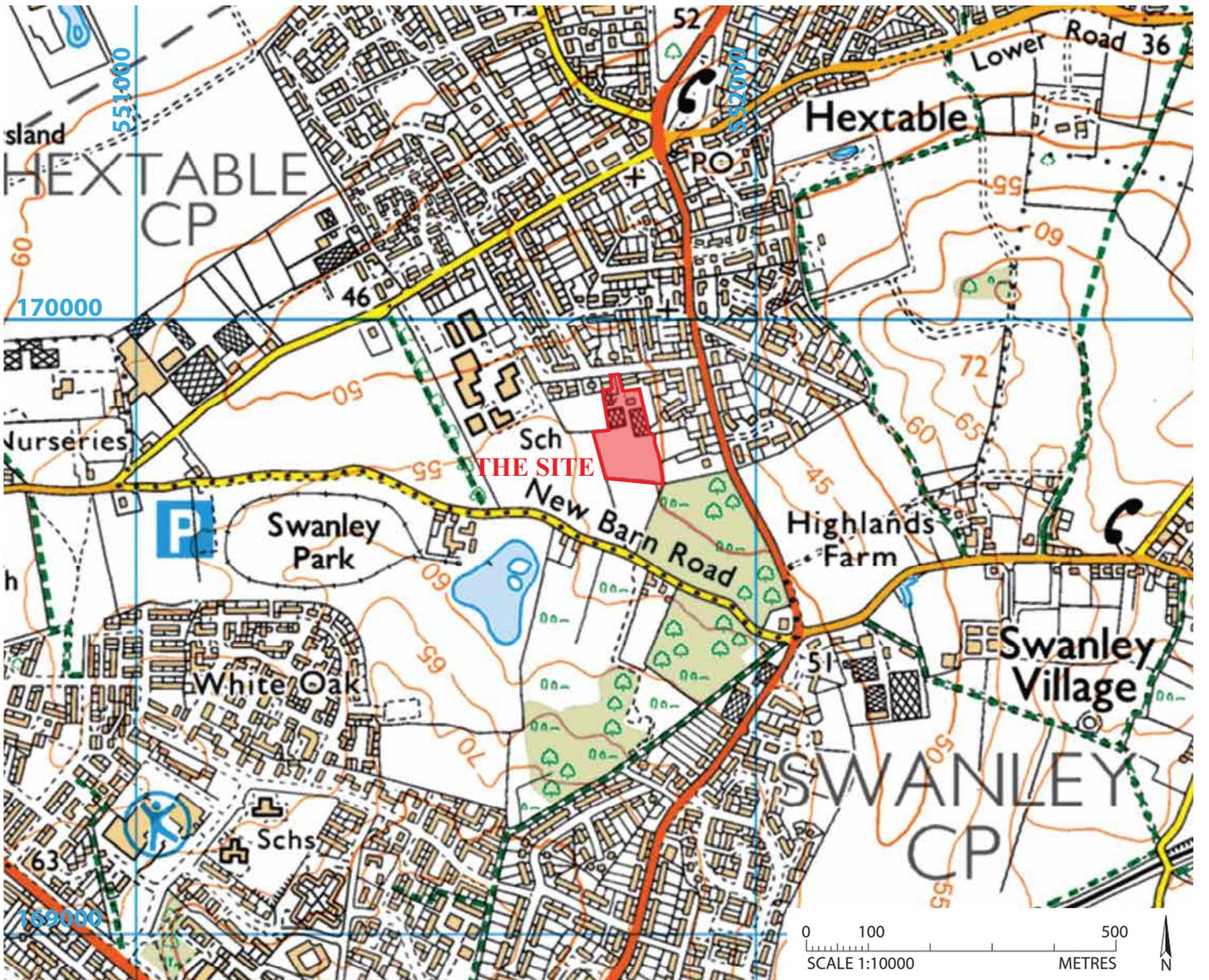
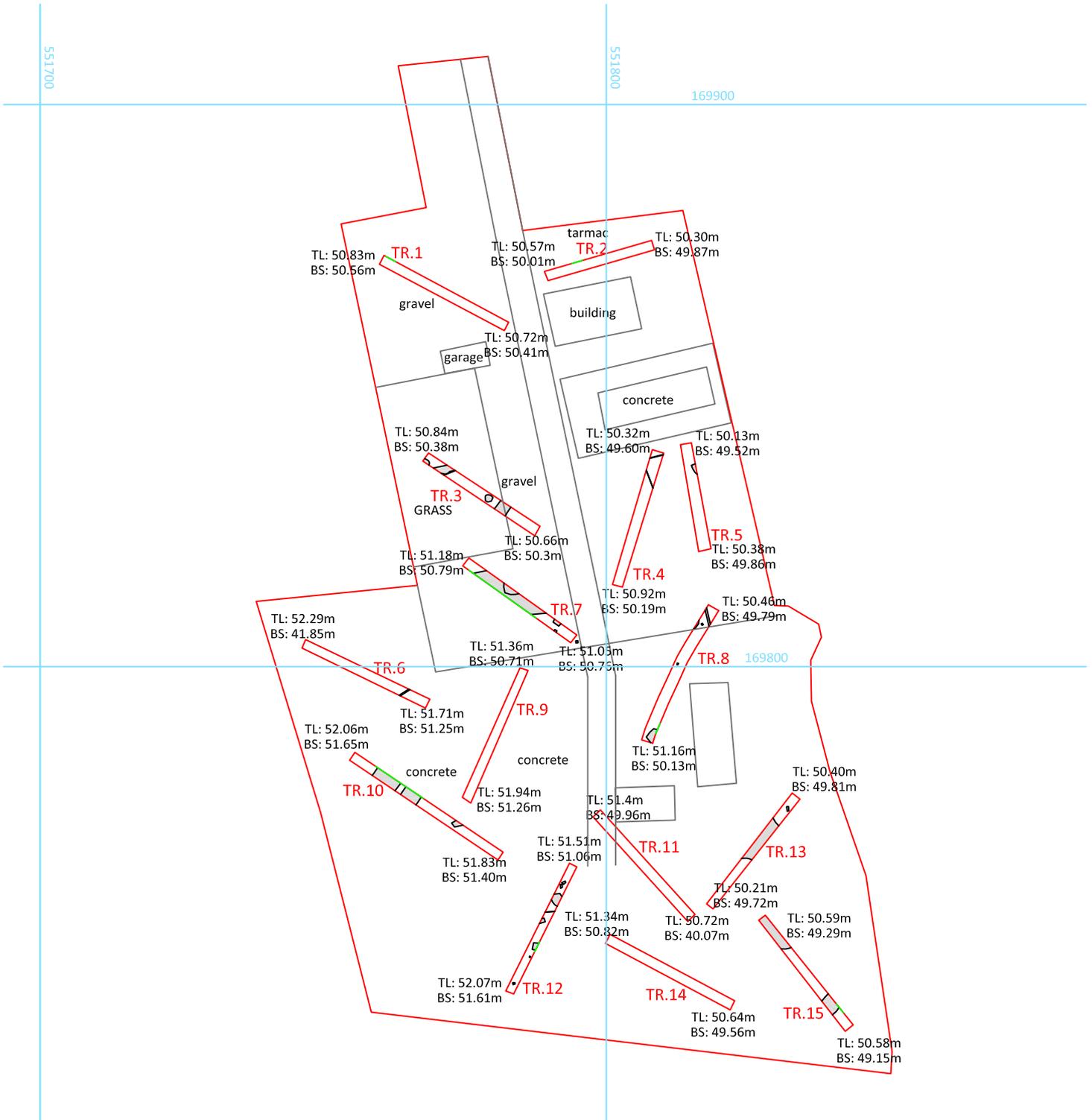


Figure 1: Site location map, scale 1:10000.



Figure 2: Trench location in relation to OS map.



KEY:
 □ Modern feature
 — Section

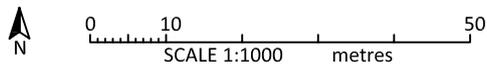


Figure 3: Trench plan

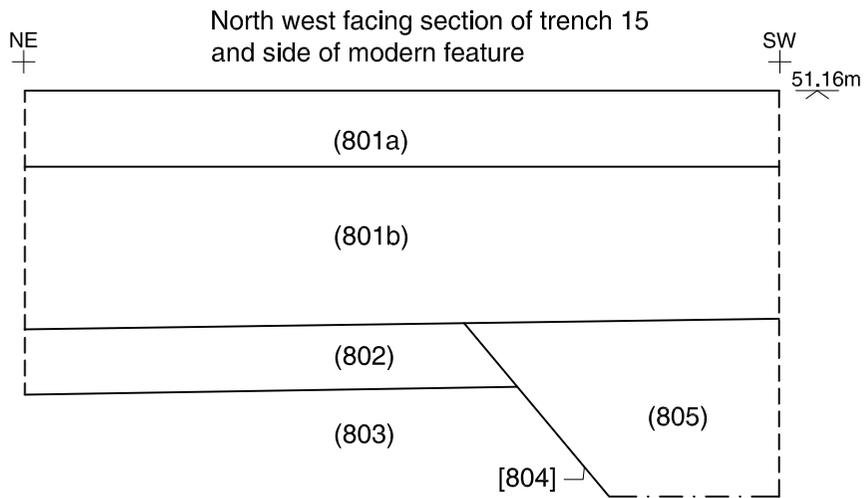
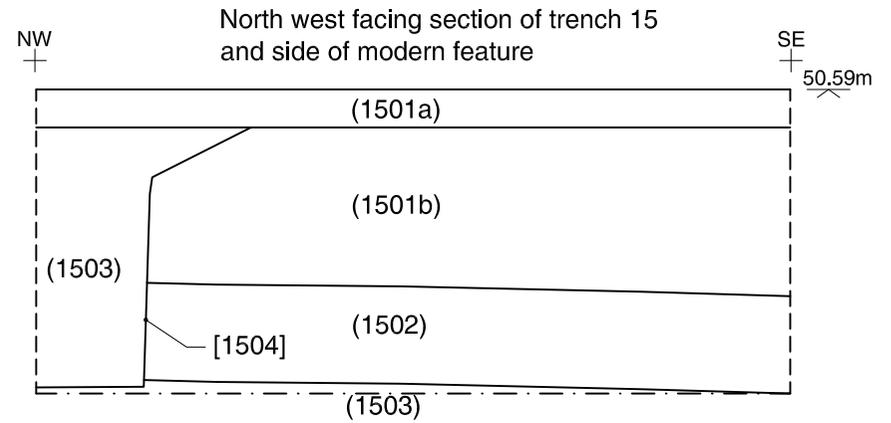
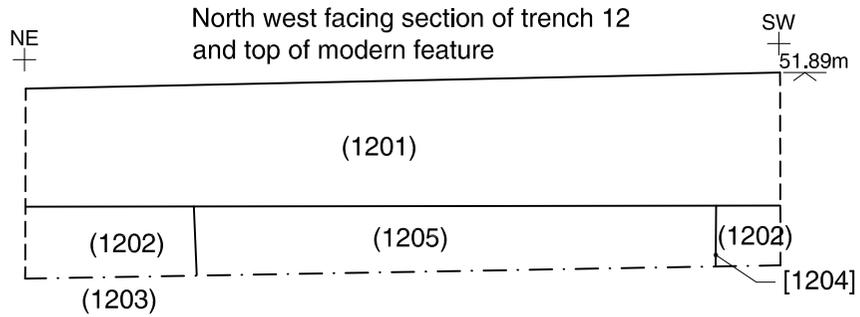
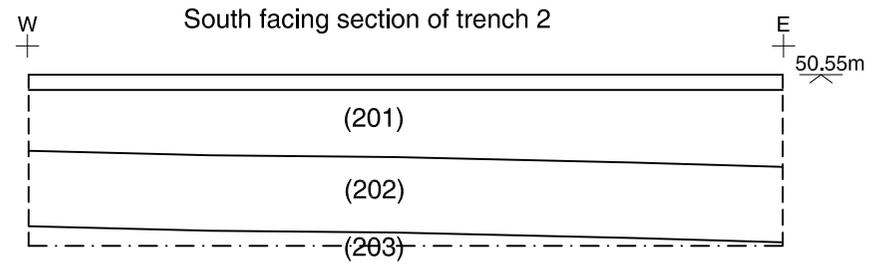
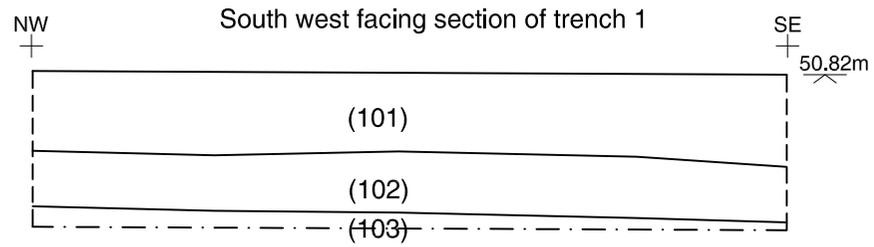


Figure 4: Sections

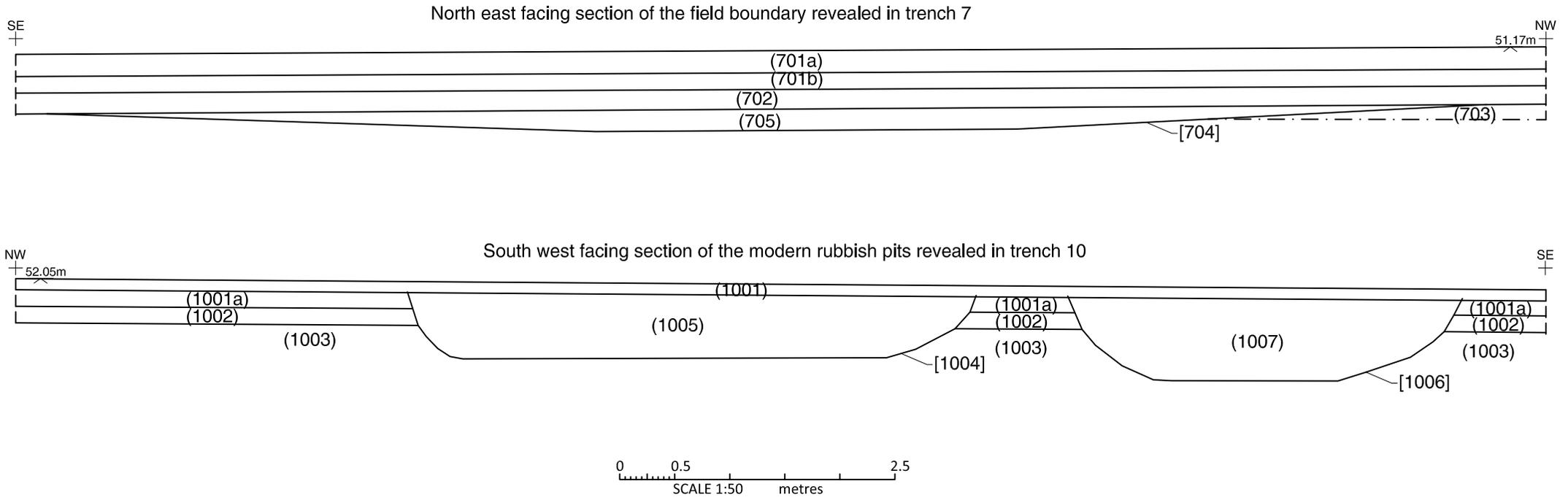


Figure 5: Sections