

# Archaeological Evaluation of Land north-west of Hampton Farm formally Hampton Manor, Hampton Lane, Brabourne, Kent

Site Code: HLB-EV-22

NGR Site Centre: 607462 143851

Planning Application Number: 19/00547/AS



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](http://www.swatarchaeology.co.uk)

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## **Summary**

*Swale & Thames Survey Company (SWAT Archaeology) were commissioned to undertake an archaeological evaluation on land north-west of Hampton Farm, Hampton Lane, Brabourne, Kent. The archaeological programme was monitored by the Senior Archaeological Officer at Kent County Council.*

*The archaeological works have investigated the extents of the proposed development area using three trenches, each measuring between 15m and 20m in length. Although preservation conditions were considered favourable no archaeological finds or features 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 negative results from this work are showing that development proposals won't be having any impact on buried archaeological resource therefore no further mitigation is proposed.*

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## 1 INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Project Background

1.1.1 Swale & Thames Survey Company (SWAT Archaeology) were commissioned to undertake an archaeological evaluation on land north-west of Hampton Farm, Hampton Lane, Brabourne, Kent (Figure 1).

1.1.2 A planning application (19/00547/AS) for the erection of a proposed three bedroom dwelling to incorporate two storey centrally located oast-like structure; detached annexe accommodation, studio and new barn was submitted to Ashford District Council (ADC) whereby Kent County Council Heritage and Conservation (KCCHC), on behalf of ADC, requested that an archaeological evaluation be undertaken in order to determine the possible impact of the development on any archaeological remains.

1.1.3 The following condition were attached to the planning consent:

*(20) Prior to the commencement of development the applicant, or their agents or successors in title, will secure and implement:*

*i. archaeological field evaluation works in accordance with a specification and written timetable which has been submitted to and approved by the Local Planning Authority;*

*and*

*ii. 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*

*Reason: To ensure that features of archaeological interest are properly examined and recorded.*

1.1.4 The archaeological evaluation, which comprised the excavation of three trenches measuring between 15m and 20m in length, was carried out 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 (2022), prior to commencement of works.

## 1.2 Timetable

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

<b>Task</b>	<b>Dates</b>	<b>Personnel/Company</b>
Submission of the Written Scheme of Investigation	September 2021	SWAT Archaeology
Archaeological Evaluation: Fieldwork	21 <sup>st</sup> June 2022	SWAT Archaeology
Archaeological Evaluation Report	This document	SWAT Archaeology

Table 1 *Timetable for the archaeological programme of works*

## 1.3 Site Description and Topography

1.3.1 The site is centred on NGR 607462 143851 and is situated in an isolated location, with the small village of Brook circa 1km to the north-west and the village of Brabourne is just over 3km to the south east. The town of Ashford is circa 7km to the west, south west. The PDA (Proposed Development Area) covers an area of just under 10 acres. The site is accessed from Hampton Lane to the south east and is located in an area of pasture. Circa 700m to the east on a north west-south east axis are the North Downs of which the Pilgrims way runs along Brabourne Road at the base of The Downs.

1.3.2 The Geological Survey of Great Britain shows that the natural geology comprises of bedrock comprising of Gault Formation Mudstone deposited between 100 and 112 million years ago in the Cretaceous period. Mudstone is made up of fine-grained clay particles compressed together. Mudstones form where clay has settled out in calm water such as in lakes, lagoons, or deep sea. Immediately west of the PDA on a north west to south east axis following the line of the North Downs is West Melbury Marley Chalk Formation – Chalk, which is part of the grey chalk sub-group of the late Cretaceous period.

## 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**

The current owner reported that in 2016 he had hosted a community dig at the moated manor site with the Canterbury Archaeological Trust in conjunction with Operation Nightingale. This report does not appear in the KHER record. Five trenches were opened with the aim only to remove turf and topsoil onto the top of the archaeological remains, rather than excavate into any features. Trench 1 was by far the largest and located on the higher platform area in the north west of the internal moated area. Post Medieval ceramic building material (CBM) was recovered and Post Medieval occupational waste. None of the pottery found was earlier than 17th century. It was interpreted as part of the levelling of the earlier medieval building when the west wing was demolished circa 1770. The remaining trenches were between 1x1 and 1x2m in size also located on the raised platform area. Trench 2 identified Post Medieval wall and culvert. The north-west side of the wall suggested possible remnants of interior floor of the building along with demolition rubble of brick and tile. Trench 3 discovered a metalled surface with CBM present on the surface interpreted to be a yard surface of unknown date. Trench 4 on the far west of the raised platform area to investigate a large unworked stone and the trench revealed worked topsoil likely to be related to the garden area of the house.

Trench 5 found Post Medieval finds of glass from a wine bottle, peg tile and brick and is related to the levelling following demolition in the 1920s.

No environmental samples were taken. The report concluded that archaeological remains earlier than the Post Medieval period are likely to be present underneath the Post Medieval demolition layer.

*(Unpublished Document: Canterbury Archaeological trust. 2017. Hampton Farm, Brabourne, Kent: Archaeological Evaluation)*

- 2.1.1 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) and have been summarised in correspondence with the KCCHC Senior Archaeological Officer.

### **2.2 Historic Environment Record (HER)**

The KCC HER records show The Proposed Development Area (PDA) has two KHER entries for this area. Both are at the PDA itself. One record to reflect the site as a medieval moated manor (TR 04 SE 4) and the other reflect the site as a Post Medieval farmstead (MKE 87466). The farmstead was a loose courtyard plan with buildings to three sides of the yard with the farmhouse detached side on to the yard.

The Kent HER record says only the farmhouse remains although it also states that that the ID of the house is uncertain. This record needs updating to reflect that it is only cattle shed that remains and that the farmhouse does not survive having been demolished in the 1920s.

## **2.3 Recent investigations in the area**

2.3.1 There are known recent archaeological investigations within the area (See 2.1).

## **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 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.*

(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 2022) 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 three evaluation trenches were excavated (Figure 2). Each trench was initially scanned by a metal detector for surface finds prior to excavation. 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 using tracked machine equipped with flat ditching buckets. Position of each trench had to be slightly adjusted to avoid damage to the trees and newt fencing.

### **5.2 Stratigraphic Deposit Sequence**

- 5.2.1 A relatively consistent stratigraphic sequence was recorded across the majority of the Site comprising topsoil and subsoil sealing natural geology (Trenches 1 and 3) and modern gravel spread constituting a yard (Trench 2). The topsoil generally consisted of dark organic brown sandy clay with frequent roots and occasional building material (bricks, tiles, etc), overlying the subsoil which consisted of light to mid grey clay silt with moderate small angular stones and occasional chalk flecks. Natural geology comprised chalk with HEAD deposit.

### **5.3 Archaeological Narrative**

#### *Trench 1 (Figure 3, Plate 2)*

- 5.3.1 Trench 1 was placed in central part of the site in NE-SW alignment and measured 20.83metres in length by 1.6metres in width and 0.48metres in depth. Trench has exposed natural geology context (103) comprising firmly compacted, orange-brown clay-silt with infrequent angular stones and chalk bedrock outcrop. No archaeological cut or deposits were exposed here.

#### *Trench 2 (Figure 3, Plate 3)*

- 5.3.2 Trench 2 was placed in eastern part of the site in NW-SE alignment and measured 15.5metres in length by 1.6metres in width and 0.55metres in maximum depth. Trench has exposed natural geology context (203) comprising eroded chalk bedrock in grey silty-clay matrix. No archaeological cuts or deposits were exposed here. A modern gravel spread constituting a yard or hard-standing was noted during excavation of this trench.

### *Trench 3 (Figure 3, Plate 4)*

5.3.3 Trench 3 was placed in south-western part of the site in NE-SW alignment and measured 18.42metres in length by 1.6metres in width and 0.58metres in depth. Trench has exposed natural geology context (303) comprising firmly compacted yellow-orange clay-silt with infrequent angular stones. No archaeological cuts or deposits were exposed in this trench.

5.3.4 Overview

5.3.5 Despite the potential for archaeological remains no finds or features were present within the proposed site. Across the whole site the subsoil and topsoil remained relatively well intact suggesting good levels of preservation.

## **6 FINDS**

### **6.1 Overview**

6.1.1 No archaeological finds were retrieved during this evaluation.

## **7 DISCUSSION**

### **7.1 Introduction**

7.1.1 The archaeological works on land north-west of Hampton Farm, Hampton Lane, Brabourne, Kent, has investigated the extents of the proposed development area using three trenches, each measuring between 15m and 20m in length. Although preservation conditions were considered favourable no archaeological finds or features were present within the trenches.

### **7.2 Conclusions**

7.2.1 The archaeological investigation 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.

## **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; CifA 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 Peter Cichy SWAT carried out the archaeological fieldwork; Paul Wilkinson produced the draft text for this report. 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*

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

*SWAT Archaeology 2022 Specification for an Archaeological Evaluation of land north-west of Hampton Farm formally Hampton Manor, Hampton Lane, Brabourne, Kent*

**11 APPENDIX 1 – HER FORM**

**Site Name:** Land north-west of Hampton Farm, Hampton Lane, Brabourne, Kent

**SWAT Site Code:** HLB-EV-22

**Site Address:** As above

**Summary.** *Swale & Thames Survey Company (SWAT Archaeology) were commissioned to undertake an archaeological evaluation on land north-west of Hampton Farm, Hampton Lane, Brabourne, Kent. The archaeological programme was monitored by the Senior Archaeological Officer at Kent County Council.*

*The archaeological works have investigated the extents of the proposed development area using three trenches, each measuring between 15m and 20m in length. Although preservation conditions were considered favourable no archaeological finds or features 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.*

*No further work is proposed.*

**District/Unitary:** Ashford District Council & Kent County Council

**Period(s):** NA

**NGR (centre of site to eight figures)** 607462 143851

**Type of Archaeological work:** Archaeological Evaluation

**Date of recording:** June 2022

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

**Geology:** Gault Formation- Mudstone

**Title and author of accompanying report:** P. Wilkinson (2022) Archaeological Evaluation of land north-west of Hampton Farm, Hampton Lane, Brabourne, Kent

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

**Contact at Unit:** Paul Wilkinson

**Date:** 23/06/22

## PLATES



Plate 1: The site, viewing from northern corner, looking south.



Plate 2: Evaluation Trench 1, looking southwest with one metre scale.



Plate 3: Evaluation Trench 2. Looking west with one metre scale.



Plate 4: Evaluation Trench 3. Looking northeast with one metre scale.

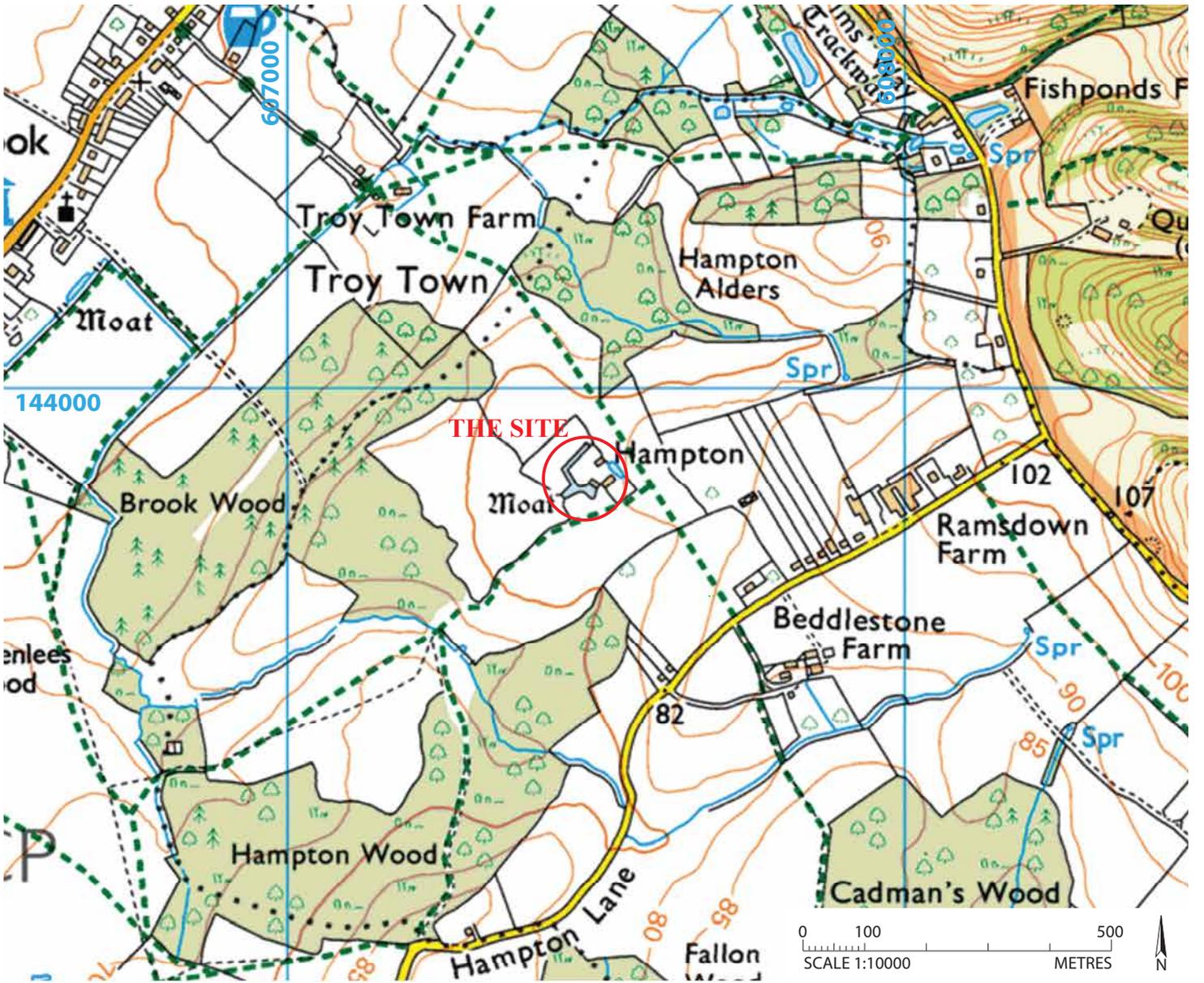
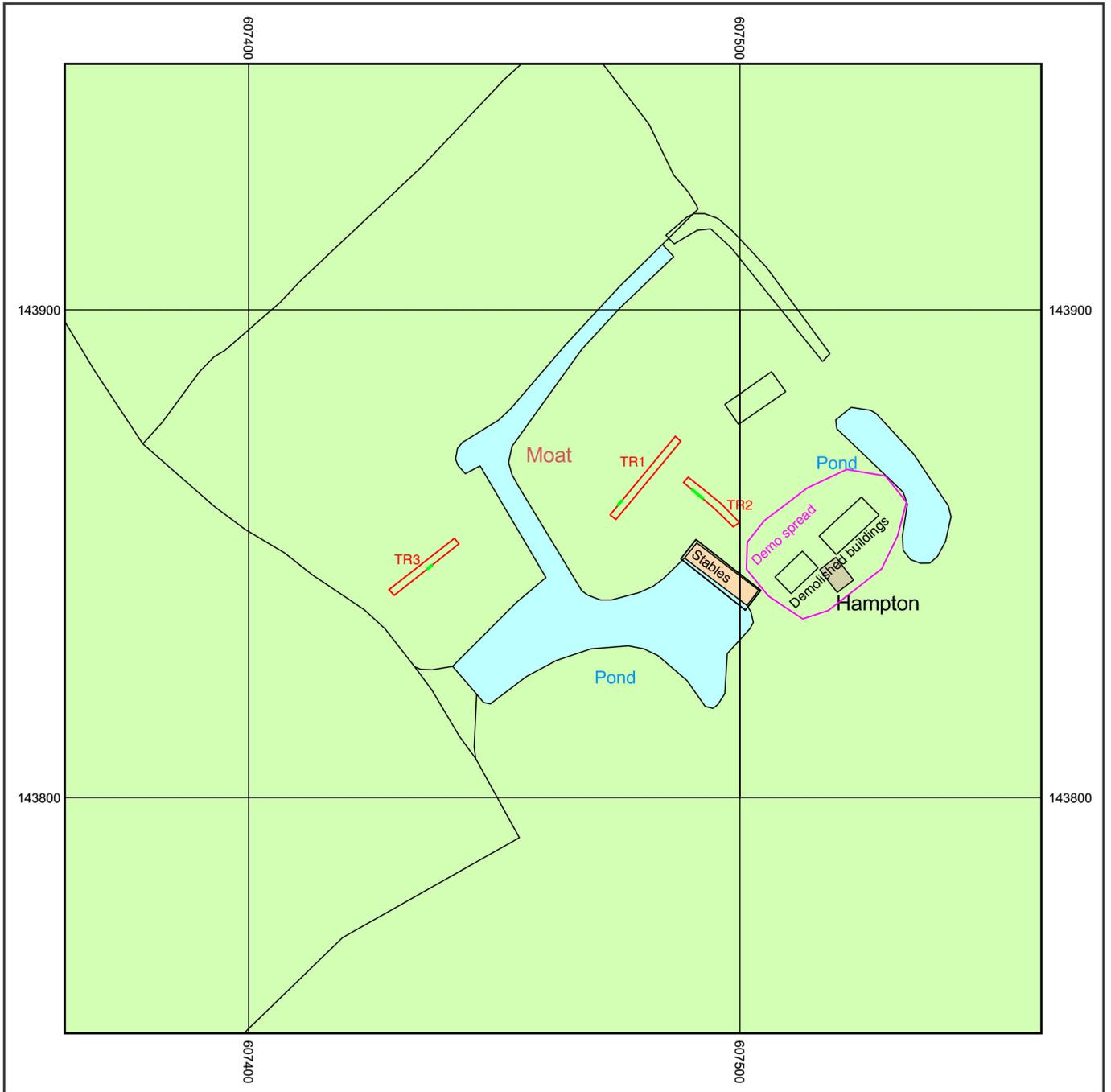
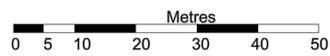


Figure 1: Site location map, scale 1:10000.



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Scale: 1:1250

Figure 2: Trench location in relation to OS map

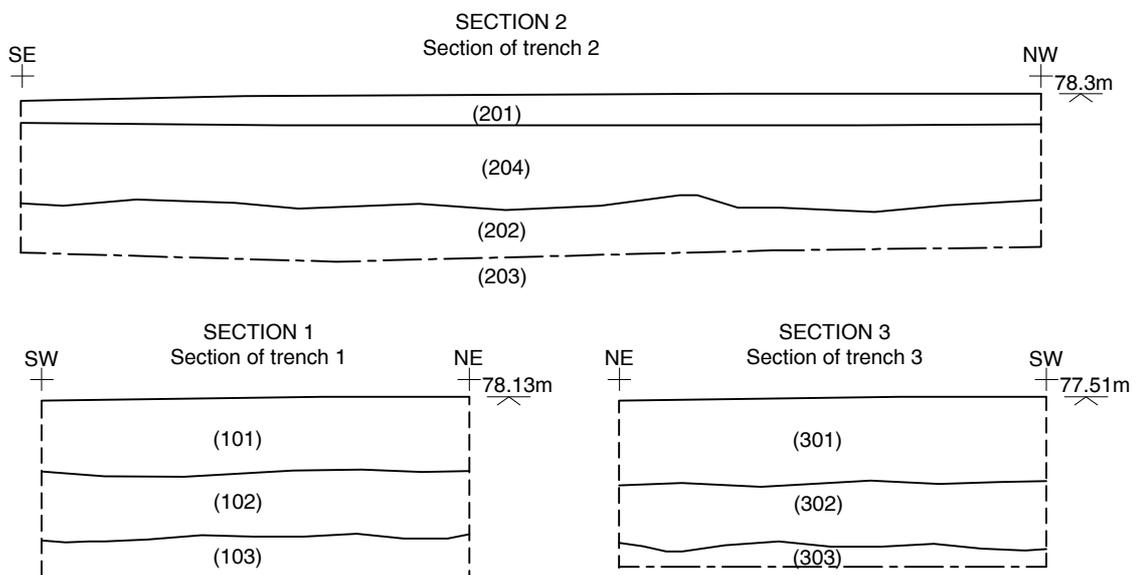
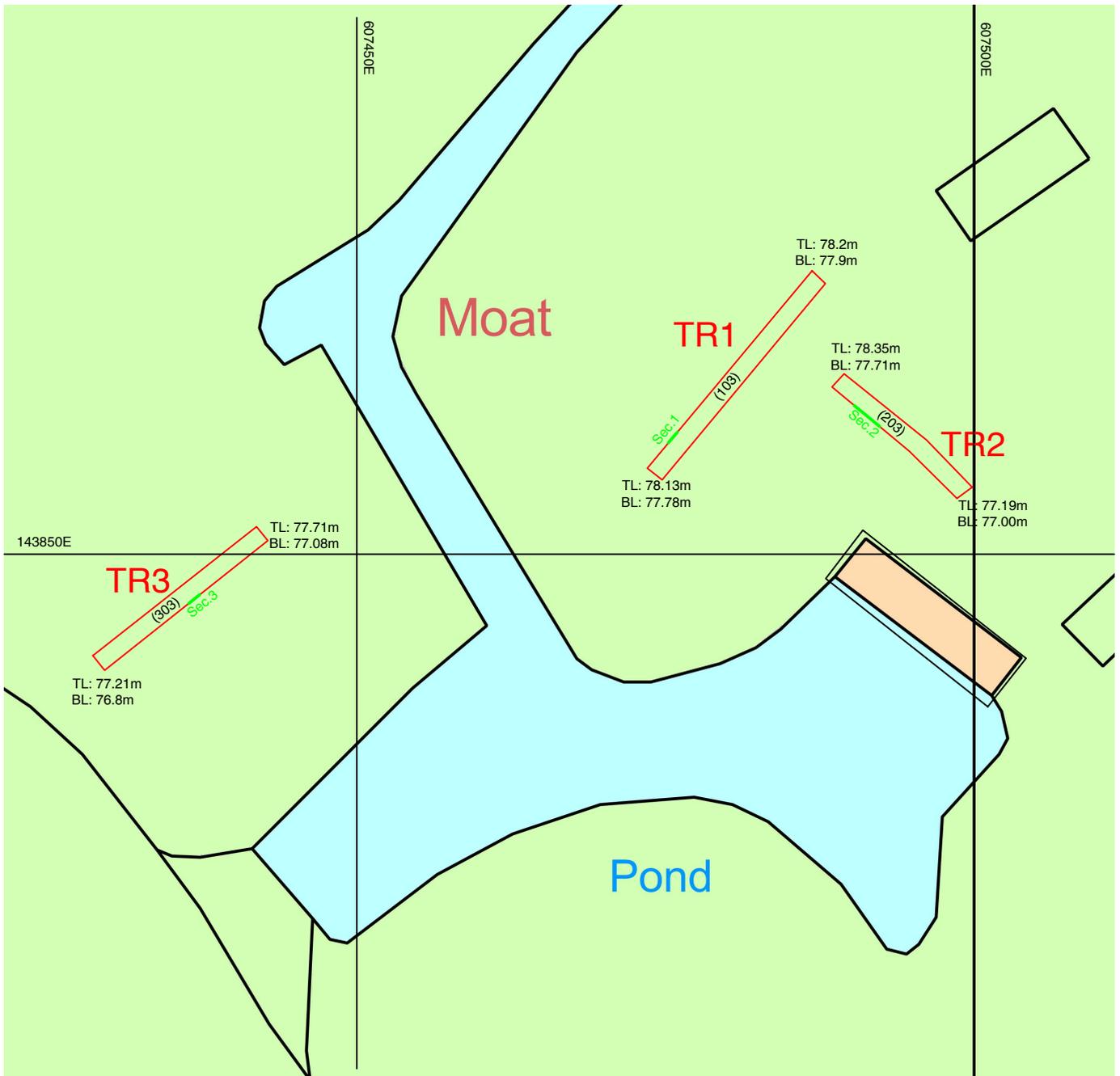


Figure 3: Trench plan and sections