

Archaeological Evaluation on Land at Tricklebrook Fishery, Colts Hill, Five Oak Green, Tonbridge, Kent

Site Code: TBF-EV-23

NGR Site Centre: 565359 144476

Planning Application Number: TW/22/02970/FULL



Report for;

Mr Andy Halford

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SWAT ARCHAEOLOGY

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Summary

Swale & Thames Survey Company (SWAT Archaeology) were commissioned by Mr Andy Halford to undertake an archaeological evaluation on land at Tricklebrook Fishery, Colts Hill, Five Oak Green, Tonbridge in Kent. The archaeological programme was monitored by the Senior Archaeological Officer at Kent County Council.

The archaeological evaluation consisted of 26 trenches, of which 21 were excavated, that recorded a relatively common stratigraphic sequence comprising topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology. Despite the archaeological potential of the surrounding area and the favourable preservation conditions recorded no archaeological finds or features were present within any of the trenches excavated.

The archaeological evaluation has therefore 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.

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1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project Background

1.1.1 Swale & Thames Survey Company (SWAT Archaeology) were commissioned by Mr Andy Halford to undertake an archaeological evaluation on land at Tricklebrook Fishery, Colts Hill, Five Oak green, Tonbridge in Kent (Figure 1).

1.1.2 A planning application (PAN: TW/22/02970/FULL) for the extension of the existing fishery enterprise including a new fishing lake, four chalets, a new building, and hard and soft landscaping was submitted to Tunbridge Wells Borough Council (TWBC) whereby Kent County Council Heritage and Conservation (KCCHC), on behalf of TWBC, 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 conditions were attached to the planning consent:

Prior to the commencement of development, the applicant, or their agents or successors in title, will secure:

a) 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

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; and

c) a programme of post excavation assessment and publication.

Reason: To ensure that features of archaeological interest are properly examined, recorded, reported and disseminated.

(TW/22/02970/FULL, Condition 9, 19 June 2023)

1.1.4 The archaeological evaluation, which comprised the excavation of 21 trenches measuring between 19.3m and 25m in length and 1.8m in width, was carried out over the course of four days in September 2023 (see Table 1 below). The evaluation was carried out in accordance with an archaeological Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) prepared by SWAT Archaeology (2023), prior to commencement of works.

1.2 Timetable

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

Task	Dates	Personnel/Company
Submission of the Written Scheme of Investigation	10 th August 2023	SWAT Archaeology
Archaeological Evaluation – Fieldwork	5 th – 7 th August and 11 th August 2023	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 565359 144476 to the south of Badsell Road (B2017) and east of the A228 and Capel Grange Farm. To the south is Spring Farm and the springs flow to the north into ponds and lakes and Tudeley Brook. Just to the north-east is Badsell Manor Farm with its moat (Figure 1).

1.3.2 Ground levels slope from the southwest corner of the site towards the northeast corner at levels ranging from approximately 32m OD to 23m OD. The Geological Survey of Great Britain shows that the site is located on Tunbridge Wells Sand Formation- Sandstone & Siltstone interbedded. Superficial deposits are River Terrace Deposits- Clay & Silt (BGS Online).

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 is located close to a number of archaeological sites which are identified on the KCCHER database. About 300m NE is a medieval moated Manor House (TQ 64 SE 5) and about 280m NE Badsell Manor Farm (MKE 81824) including the boundary wall (TQ 64 SE 178) and Oast House (TQ 64 SE 190) and about 350m NW Mill House (TQ 64 SE 174).

2.1.2 During consultation and determination of the planning condition the Senior Archaeological Officer stated that:

The site of proposed development lies in an area of general potential for multi-period remains with evidence of prehistoric through to medieval activity. To the north of the site lies the medieval manorial manor complex of Badsell Manor. This includes a moated complex, utilising the natural water channels in the area. The site of development may have been part of the manorial estate and land management features may survive.

(Reference: 22/02970, letter dated 3 November 2022)

3 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

3.1 General Objectives

3.1.1 The specific objectives of the archaeological fieldwork were set out in a Written Scheme of Investigation (SWAT Archaeology 2023; 6.1-6.2) as stated below;

3.1.2 The general aims (or purpose) of the evaluation, in compliance with the ClfA *Standard and guidance for archaeological field evaluation* (ClfA 2014a), were as follows:

- 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, Roman, early medieval and later archaeological activity.
- 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.

3.2 General Aims

3.2.1 In order to achieve the above objectives, the general aims of the evaluation were to:

- determine the presence or absence of archaeological features, deposits, structures, artefacts or ecofacts within the specified area;
- establish, within the constraints of the evaluation, the extent, character, date, condition and quality of any surviving archaeological remains;
- place any identified archaeological remains within a wider historical and archaeological context in order to assess their significance; and
- 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 Archaeology 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 26 evaluation trenches were initially planned with 21 being 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 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.

- 4.2.3 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, survey, 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 and drone 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 (101), whilst the cut of the feature is shown as [101]. 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 in order to cover as many areas of the site as possible as set out in the WSI. Shortening of the lengths of the trenches was required when on site obstacles were present.
- 5.1.2 The site, as shown on Figure 2, provides the trench layout with Figures 3 to 7 illustrating the archaeological evaluation trenches, Figure 8 provides an image of the site with a 3rd Edition OS Map from 1929-1952. Plates 1-11 consist of photographs of selected trenches that have been provided to supplement the text.

5.1.3 Appendix 1 provides the stratigraphic sequence and contextual information for all trenches, with the location of Representative Sections provided on each Trench plan (Figures 3-7).

5.2 Stratigraphic Deposit Sequence

5.2.1 A relatively consistent stratigraphic sequence was recorded across the majority of the site comprising topsoil sealing an intact subsoil, which overlay the natural geological drift deposits.

5.3 Trench Narrative

Trenches 1-4

5.3.1 Trenches 1 to 4 were located along the eastern extent of the site directly below, or within close proximity to existing overhead cables. Health & Safety concerns meant that these trenches were therefore not excavated.

Trench 5 to 26 (Figures 3 to 7, Plates 1 to 11)

5.3.2 All trenches were mechanically excavated in hot and dry conditions and allowed to weather over the course of the project. The stratigraphic sequence for each trench was similar where the topsoil generally consisted of firm/compact mid brown grey clay silt, moderate roots, and occasional small rounded stones, topped with scrub, overlying the subsoil which consisted of medium orange brown silt. Natural geology comprised firm orange brown, silty clay.

5.3.3 Selected photographs of Trenches 5, 9, 16, 19, and 23 are provided at the end of this report in order to show general conditions and an overview of the results (Plates 3 to 11).

5.3.4 The upper surface in most of the trenches had been truncated by ploughing and root action and so, where necessary, slight overcutting was required to expose the clean natural clay. Two trenches contained anomalies that were investigated; Trench 13 and Trench 23.

5.3.5 Trench 13 was located within the central northern extent of the trench and contained an anomaly that was initially thought to represent a ditch. Investigation of the feature [1305], however, proved that undercutting of the natural geology was frequent; an indicative sign for tree/hedge rooting (Plate 8).

5.3.6 Within Trench 23, which was located at the northwestern extent of the site, two features of interest were investigated, both of which proved to be more natural in origin. Within the southern extent of the trench feature [2305] possessed similar characteristic to the anomalies recorded in Trench 13, linear in orientation with undercut sides and heavily undulated base (Plates 9 and 10). To the north a single circular feature [2309] was filled with charcoal with small

friable organic remains and most likely represent a former tap root (Plate 11), burnt out during the removal of the formal orchard.

5.3.7 No archaeological finds or features were encountered within any of the remaining trenches.

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 investigation at Tricklebrook Fishery, Colts Hill, Five Oak Green, Tonbridge, Kent has investigated the extents of the proposed development area using 21 trenches, measuring between 19.3m and 25m in length and 1.8m in width. The natural geology was encountered within all trenches at an average depth of approximately 0.35m below the existing ground surface, directly underlying subsoil and topsoil. Truncation of the upper geological surface was evident and comprised modern ploughing scars and rooting.

7.2 Archaeological Narrative

7.2.1 A total impact area of the site that was evaluated measured approximately 12,780sq.m with the 21 trenches excavated covering an area of approximately 742sq. giving an evaluation sample size of 5.8%. The eastern extent of the site was not accessible due to the presence of overhead power cables.

7.2.2 Despite the archaeological potential of the site no archaeological finds or features were recorded within any of the trenches. The burning of roots which was carried out following the removal of the former orchard (Andy Halford *pers comm*) was evident within the northeastern extent of the site where subsoil included moderate to frequent charcoal flecks.

7.2.3 Natural features recorded within two trenches, Trench 13 and Trench 23, were investigated. The three features represent former rooting, two directly corresponding with a possible hedge line and/or boundary visible on the 3rd Edition Ordnance Survey mapping which dates to 1929-1952, when the site was used as an orchard (Figure 8). Although no archaeological features were present within the excavated trenches, the recording of an intact subsoil across the majority of the site suggested that preservation conditions are favourable.

7.3 Conclusions

7.3.1 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.

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 Archaeology would like to thank Mr Andy Halford 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 David Britchfield BA (Hons) MCifA carried out the archaeological fieldwork; illustrations were produced by Ravelin Archaeological Services. David Britchfield produced the draft text for this report. The Project Manager for the project was Dr Paul Wilkinson MCifA, FRSA of SWAT Archaeology.

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APPENDIX 1 – TRENCH TABLES

Trench 5 Dimensions: 25m x 1.8m Depth: 0.25m Ground Level: 24.78m OD – 25.05m OD			
Context	Interpretation	Description	Depth (m)
(501)	Layer	TOPSOIL – Mid firm mid brown grey silt clay with occasional charcoal	0.00-0.05
(502)	Layer	SUBSOIL – Dark grey black silt clay with moderate to frequent charcoal (possible scrub burning)	0.05-0.20
(503)	Layer	NATURAL – pale orange brown compact silt clay	0.20-0.25+

Trench 6 Dimensions: 21.8m x 1.8m Depth: 0.33m Ground Level: 25.09m OD – 25.32m OD			
Context	Interpretation	Description	Depth (m)
(601)	Layer	TOPSOIL – Mid firm mid brown grey silt clay with occasional charcoal	0.00-0.11
(602)	Layer	SUBSOIL – Dark grey black silt clay with moderate to frequent charcoal (possible scrub burning)	0.11-0.26
(603)	Layer	NATURAL – pale orange brown compact silt clay	0.26-0.33+

Trench 7 Dimensions: 25m x 1.8m Depth: 0.24m Ground Level: 25.32m OD – 25.68m OD			
Context	Interpretation	Description	Depth (m)
(701)	Layer	TOPSOIL – Mid firm mid brown grey silt clay with occasional charcoal	0.00-0.13
(702)	Layer	SUBSOIL – Dark grey black silt clay with moderate to frequent charcoal (possible scrub burning)	0.13-0.19
(703)	Layer	NATURAL – pale orange brown compact silt clay	0.19-0.24+

Trench 8 Dimensions: 19.3m x 1.8m Depth: 0.56m Ground Level: 25.32m OD – 25.64m OD			
Context	Interpretation	Description	Depth (m)
(408)	Layer	TOPSOIL – Mid firm mid brown grey silt clay with occasional charcoal	0.00-0.21
(408)	Layer	SUBSOIL – Dark grey black silt clay with moderate to frequent charcoal (possible scrub burning)	0.21-0.42
(408)	Layer	NATURAL – pale orange brown compact silt clay	0.42-0.56+

Trench 9			
Dimensions: 25m x 1.8m Depth: 0.29m			
Ground Level: 26.13m OD – 26.73m OD			
Context	Interpretation	Description	Depth (m)
(901)	Layer	TOPSOIL – Mid firm mid brown grey silt clay with occasional charcoal	0.00-0.13
(902)	Layer	SUBSOIL – Mid yellow brown silt clay with rare rounded stones	0.13-0.29
(903)	Layer	NATURAL – Pale orange brown compact silt clay with occasional round stones	0.29+

Trench 10			
Dimensions: 25m x 1.8m Depth: 0.28m			
Ground Level: 26.62m OD – 27.92m OD			
Context	Interpretation	Description	Depth (m)
(1001)	Layer	TOPSOIL – Mid firm mid brown grey silt clay with occasional charcoal	0.00-0.20
(1002)	Layer	SUBSOIL – Mid yellow brown silt clay with rare rounded stones	0.20-0.28
(1003)	Layer	NATURAL – Pale orange brown compact silt clay with occasional round stones	0.28+

Trench 11			
Dimensions: 25m x 1.8m Depth: 0.38m			
Ground Level: 26.21m OD – 27.03m OD			
Context	Interpretation	Description	Depth (m)
(1101)	Layer	TOPSOIL – Mid firm mid brown grey silt clay with occasional charcoal	0.00-0.11
(1102)	Layer	SUBSOIL – Mid yellow brown silt clay with rare rounded stones	0.11-0.27
(1103)	Layer	NATURAL – Pale orange brown compact silt clay with occasional round stones	0.27-0.38+

Trench 12			
Dimensions: 25m x 1.8m Depth: 0.23m			
Ground Level: 25.53m OD – 26.15m OD			
Context	Interpretation	Description	Depth (m)
(1201)	Layer	TOPSOIL – Mid firm mid brown grey silt clay with occasional charcoal	0.00-0.09
(1202)	Layer	SUBSOIL – Mid yellow brown silt clay with rare rounded stones	0.09-0.11
(1203)	Layer	NATURAL – Pale orange brown compact silt clay with occasional round stones	0.11-0.23+

Trench 13			
Dimensions: 25m x 1.8m Depth: 0.33m			
Ground Level: 25.14m OD – 25.60m OD			
Context	Interpretation	Description	Depth (m)
(1301)	Layer	TOPSOIL – Mid firm mid brown grey silt clay with occasional charcoal	0.00-0.07
(1302)	Layer	SUBSOIL – Mid yellow brown silt clay with rare rounded stones	0.07-0.21
(1303)	Layer	NATURAL – Pale orange brown compact silt clay with occasional round stones	0.21-0.33+
(1304)	Fill of [1305]	Mottled orange grey silt clay, moderate charcoal and occasional fibrous rooting wood	0.48
[1305]	Cut of (1304)	Cut of tree rooting filled by (1304)	

Trench 14			
Dimensions: 23m x 1.8m Depth: 0.28m			
Ground Level: 24.95m OD – 25.43m OD			
Context	Interpretation	Description	Depth (m)
(1401)	Layer	TOPSOIL – Mid firm mid brown grey silt clay with occasional charcoal	0.00-0.04
(1402)	Layer	SUBSOIL – Mid yellow brown silt clay with rare rounded stones	0.04-0.16
(1403)	Layer	NATURAL – Pale orange brown compact silt clay with occasional round stones	0.16-0.28+

Trench 15 Dimensions: 25m x 1.8m Depth: 0.38m Ground Level: 25.48m OD – 26.21m OD			
Context	Interpretation	Description	Depth (m)
(1501)	Layer	TOPSOIL – Mid firm mid brown grey silt clay with occasional charcoal	0.00-0.16
(1502)	Layer	SUBSOIL – Mid yellow brown silt clay with rare rounded stones	0.16-0.23
(1503)	Layer	NATURAL – Pale orange brown compact silt clay with occasional round stones	0.23-0.38+

Trench 16 Dimensions: 25m x 1.8m Depth: 0.30m Ground Level: 25.97m OD – 26.77m OD			
Context	Interpretation	Description	Depth (m)
(1601)	Layer	TOPSOIL – Mid firm mid brown grey silt clay with occasional charcoal	0.00-0.03
(1602)	Layer	SUBSOIL – Mid yellow brown silt clay with rare rounded stones	0.03-0.20
(1603)	Layer	NATURAL – Pale orange brown compact silt clay with occasional round stones	0.20-0.30+

Trench 17 Dimensions: 25m x 1.8m Depth: 0.27m Ground Level: 26.62m OD – 27.77m OD			
Context	Interpretation	Description	Depth (m)
(1701)	Layer	TOPSOIL – Mid firm mid brown grey silt clay with occasional charcoal	0.00-0.06
(1702)	Layer	SUBSOIL – Mid yellow brown silt clay with rare rounded stones	0.06-0.17
(1703)	Layer	NATURAL – Pale orange brown compact silt clay with occasional round stones	0.17-0.27+

Trench 18 Dimensions: 25m x 1.8m Depth: 0.28m Ground Level: 27.48m OD – 28.37m OD			
Context	Interpretation	Description	Depth (m)
(1801)	Layer	TOPSOIL – Mid firm mid brown grey silt clay with occasional charcoal	0.00-0.08
(1802)	Layer	SUBSOIL – Mid yellow brown silt clay with rare rounded stones	0.08-0.20

Trench 18	Dimensions: 25m x 1.8m Depth: 0.28m Ground Level: 27.48m OD – 28.37m OD		
(1803)	Layer	NATURAL – Pale orange brown compact silt clay with occasional round stones	0.20-0.28+

Trench 19	Dimensions: 25m x 1.8m Depth: 0.36m Ground Level: 28.65m OD – 29.24m OD		
Context	Interpretation	Description	Depth (m)
(1901)	Layer	TOPSOIL – Mid firm mid brown grey silt clay with occasional charcoal	0.00-0.03
(1902)	Layer	SUBSOIL – Mid yellow brown silt clay with rare rounded stones	0.03-0.36
(1903)	Layer	NATURAL – Pale orange brown compact silt clay with occasional round stones	0.36+

Trench 20	Dimensions: 25m x 1.8m Depth: 0.34m Ground Level: 27.53m OD – 28.92m OD		
Context	Interpretation	Description	Depth (m)
(2001)	Layer	TOPSOIL – Mid firm mid brown grey silt clay with occasional charcoal	0.00-0.04
(2002)	Layer	SUBSOIL – Mid yellow brown silt clay with rare rounded stones	0.04-0.16
(2003)	Layer	NATURAL – Pale orange brown compact silt clay with occasional round stones	0.16-0.34+

Trench 21	Dimensions: 25m x 1.8m Depth: 0.34m Ground Level: 26.70m OD – 27.57m OD		
Context	Interpretation	Description	Depth (m)
(2101)	Layer	TOPSOIL – Mid firm mid brown grey silt clay with occasional charcoal	0.00-0.06
(2102)	Layer	SUBSOIL – Mid yellow brown silt clay with rare rounded stones	0.06-0.17
(2103)	Layer	NATURAL – Pale orange brown compact silt clay with occasional round stones	0.17-0.34+

Trench 22			
Dimensions: 25m x 1.8m Depth: 0.28m			
Ground Level: 26.26m OD – 26.91m OD			
Context	Interpretation	Description	Depth (m)
(2201)	Layer	TOPSOIL – Mid firm mid brown grey silt clay with occasional charcoal	0.00-0.10
(2202)	Layer	SUBSOIL – Mid yellow brown silt clay with rare rounded stones	0.10-0.23
(2203)	Layer	NATURAL – Pale orange brown compact silt clay with occasional round stones	0.23-0.28+

Trench 23			
Dimensions: 23m x 1.8m Depth: 0.34m			
Ground Level: 26.10m OD – 26.98m OD			
Context	Interpretation	Description	Depth (m)
(2301)	Layer	TOPSOIL – Mid firm mid brown grey silt clay with occasional charcoal	0.00-0.04
(2302)	Layer	SUBSOIL – Mid yellow brown silt clay with rare rounded stones	0.04-0.20
(2303)	Layer	NATURAL – Pale orange brown compact silt clay with occasional round stones	0.20-0.30+
(2304)	Fill	Fill of rooting [2305]	
[2305]	Cut	Rooting filled by (2304)	
(2306)	Fill of Animal burrow	Fill of Animal burrow [2307]	
(2307)	Cut	Animal burrow filled by (2306)	
(2308)	Fill	Fill of rooting	
[2309]	Cut	Rooting	0.30-0.34

Trench 24			
Dimensions: 25m x 1.8m Depth: 0.39m			
Ground Level: 26.80m OD – 27.71m OD			
Context	Interpretation	Description	Depth (m)
(2401)	Layer	TOPSOIL – Mid firm mid brown grey silt clay with occasional charcoal	0.00-0.20
(2402)	Layer	SUBSOIL – Mid yellow brown silt clay with rare rounded stones	0.20-0.25
(2403)	Layer	NATURAL – Pale orange brown compact silt clay with occasional round stones	0.25-0.39+

Trench 25			
Dimensions: 25m x 1.8m Depth: 0.40m			
Ground Level: 27.52m OD – 28.76m OD			
Context	Interpretation	Description	Depth (m)
(2501)	Layer	TOPSOIL – Mid firm mid brown grey silt clay with occasional charcoal	0.00-0.06
(2502)	Layer	SUBSOIL – Mid yellow brown silt clay with rare rounded stones	0.06-0.20
(2503)	Layer	NATURAL – Pale orange brown compact silt clay with occasional round stones	0.20-0.40+

Trench 26			
Dimensions: 25m x 1.8m Depth: 0.40m			
Ground Level: 28.12m OD – 29.47m OD			
Context	Interpretation	Description	Depth (m)
(2601)	Layer	TOPSOIL – Mid firm mid brown grey silt clay with occasional charcoal	0.00-0.04
(2602)	Layer	SUBSOIL – Mid yellow brown silt clay with rare rounded stones	0.04-0.25
(2203)	Layer	NATURAL – Pale orange brown compact silt clay with occasional round stones	0.25-0.40+

Site Name: Tricklebrook Fishery, Colts Hill, Five Oak green, Tonbridge, Kent

SWAT Site Code: TBF-EV-223

Site Address: As above

Summary. *Swale & Thames Survey Company (SWAT Archaeology) were commissioned by Mr Andy Halford to undertake an archaeological evaluation on land at Tricklebrook Fishery, Colts Hill, Five Oak Green, Tonbridge in Kent. The archaeological programme was monitored by the Senior Archaeological Officer at Kent County Council.*

The archaeological evaluation consisted of 26 trenches, of which 21 were excavated, that recorded a relatively common stratigraphic sequence comprising topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology. Despite the archaeological potential of the surrounding area and the favourable preservation conditions recorded no archaeological finds or features were present within any of the trenches excavated.

The archaeological evaluation has therefore 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: Tunbridge Wells Borough Council & Kent County Council

Period(s): prehistoric, modern

NGR (centre of site to eight figures) NGR 565359 144476

Type of Archaeological work: Archaeological Evaluation

Date of recording: August 2023

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

Geology: Tunbridge Wells Sand Formation

Title and author of accompanying report: D Britchfield (2023) Archaeological Evaluation of Land at Tricklebrook Fishery, Colts Hill, Five Oak green, Tonbridge, Kent. SWAT Archaeology Ref. TBF-EV-2023

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

Contact at Unit: Paul Wilkinson

Date: 19/09/2023

PLATES



Plate 1 Aerial view of the excavated trenches, taken from an oblique angle from the northwest



Plate 2 Aerial view of the site



Plate 3 Trench 6, viewed from the southeast



Plate 4 Trench 9, viewed from the northeast



Plate 5 Trench 16, viewed from the northeast



Plate 6 Trench 23, viewed from the northeast



Plate 7 Trench 26, viewed from the southeast



Plate 8 Rooting/hedge line [1305] location within Trench 13



Plate 9 Rooting/hedge line [2305] location within Trench 23



Plate 10 Oblique view of Trench 23, viewed from the north, with rooting/hedge line [2305]



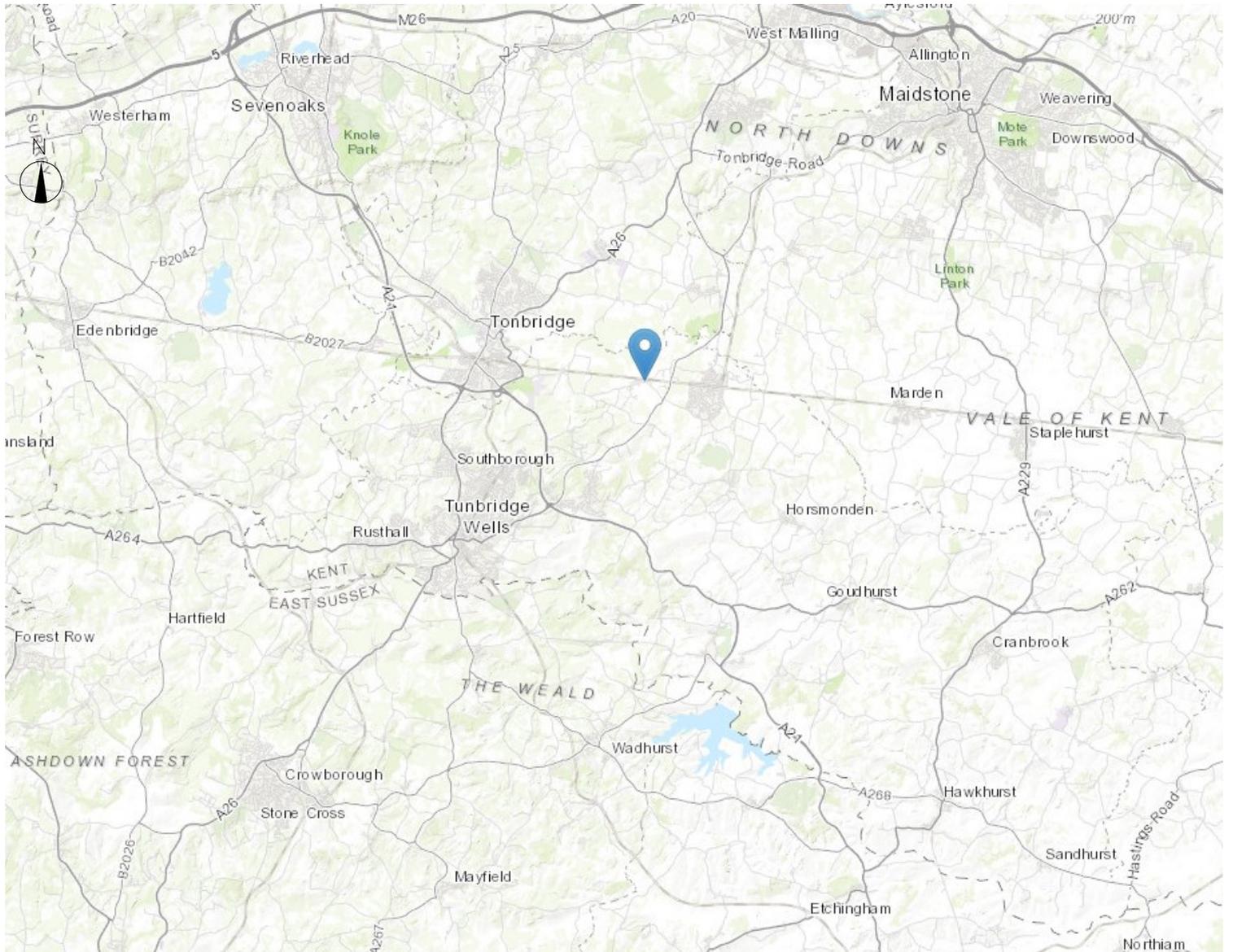
Plate 11 Rooting [2309] location within Trench 23



Map of UK (NTS)



Map of Kent (NTS)



Courtesy of National Library of Scotland

Key

 Site Location

Figure 1 Site Location Plan

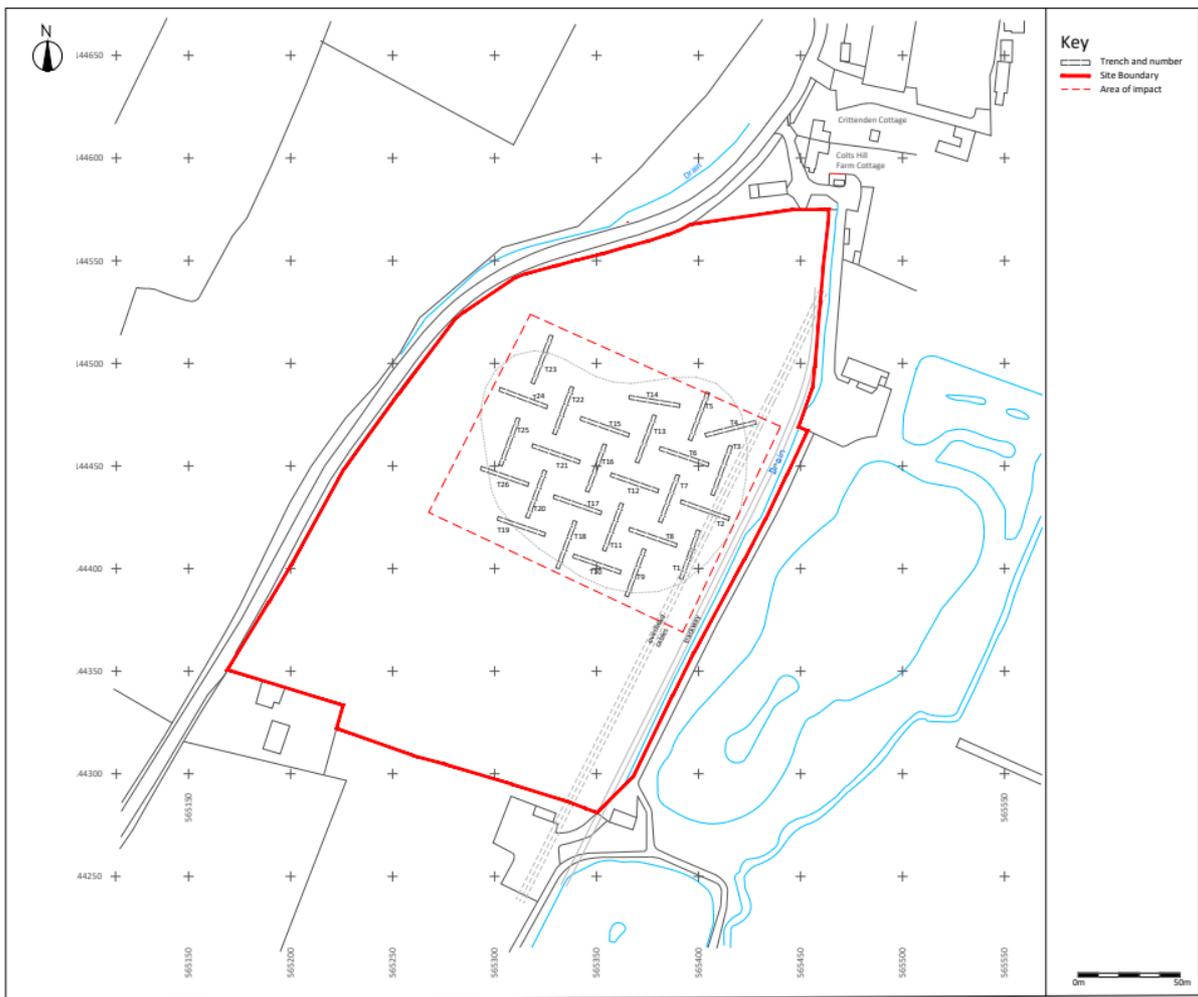
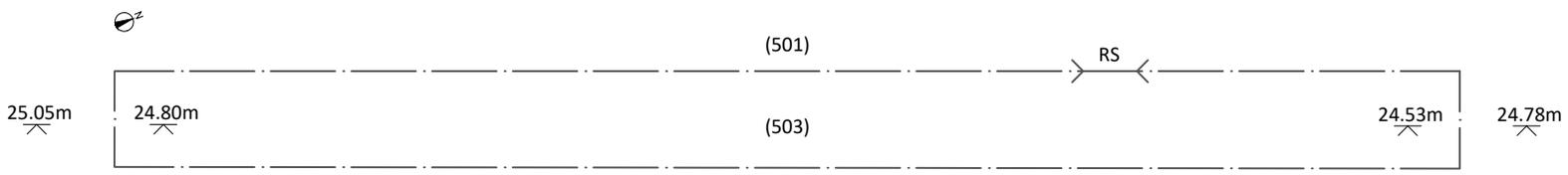
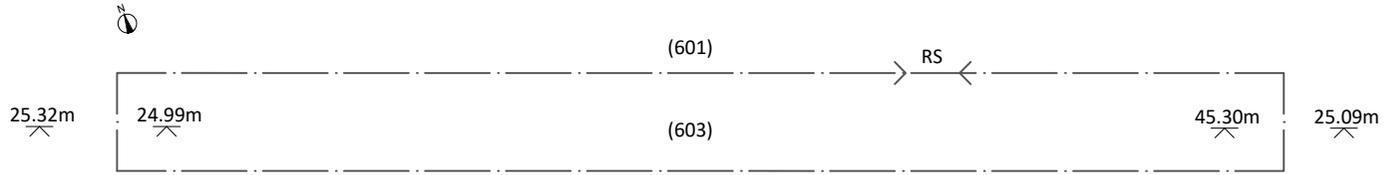


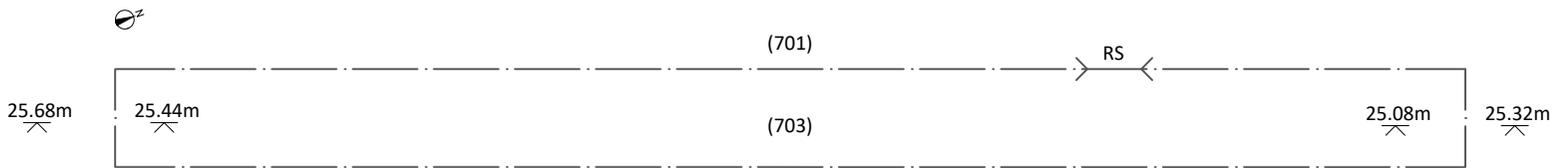
Figure 2 Site Plan



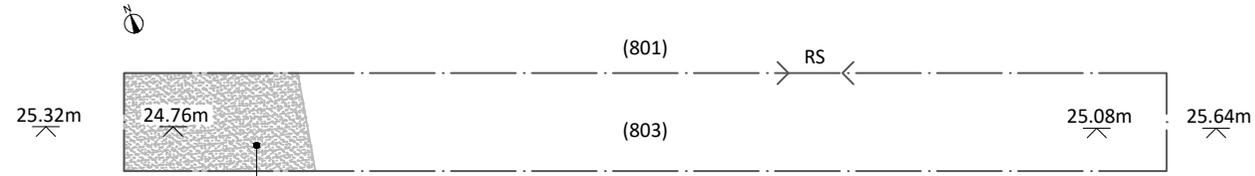
Trench 5 Plan



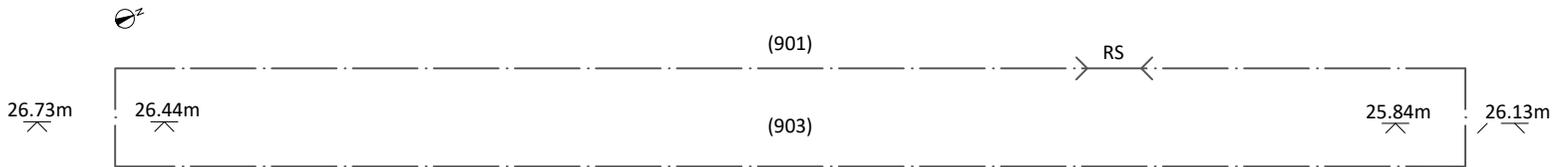
Trench 6 Plan



Trench 7 Plan



Trench 8 Plan



Trench 9 Plan



Figure 3 Trenches 5 to 9 Details

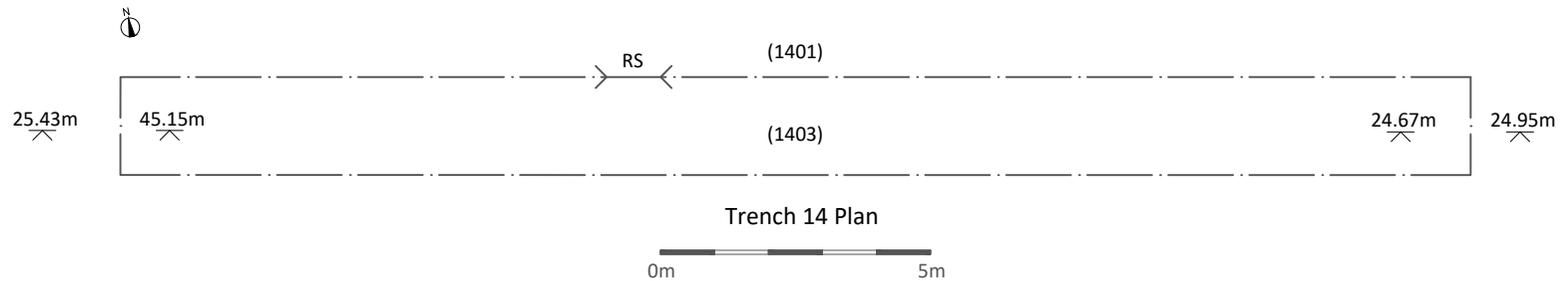
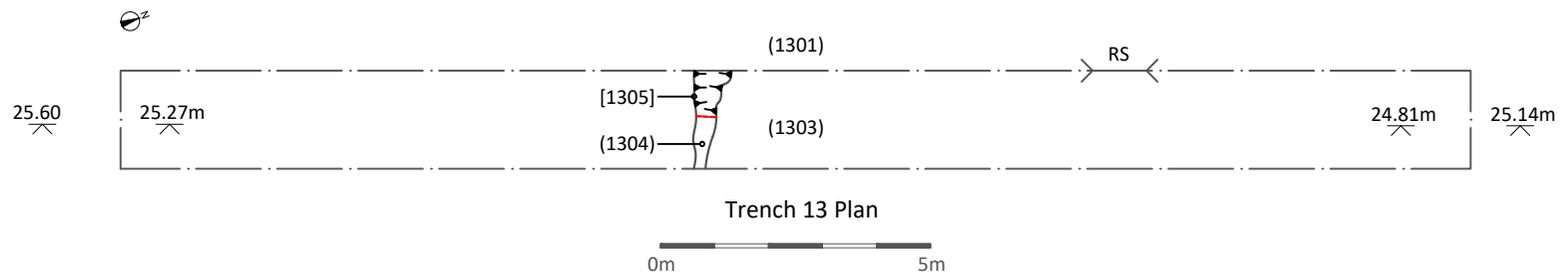
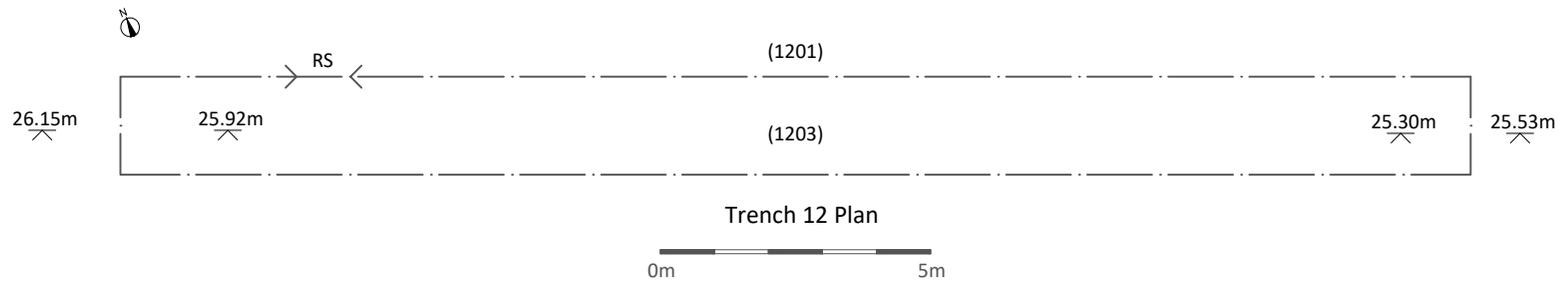
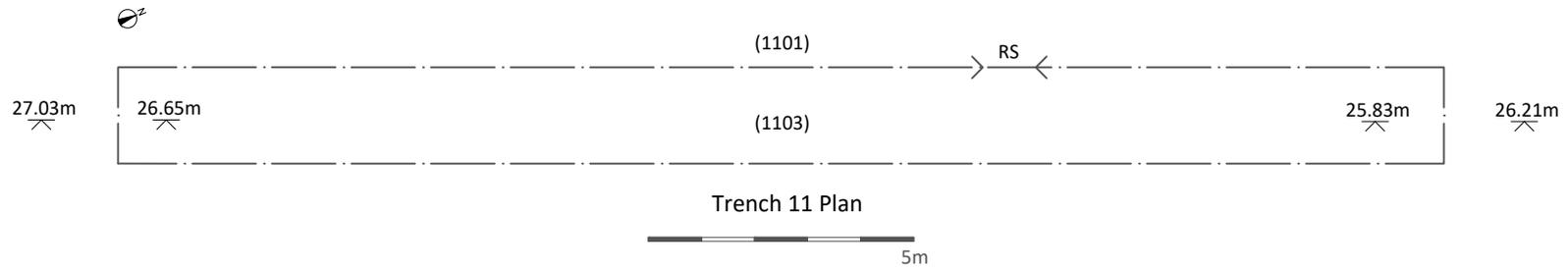
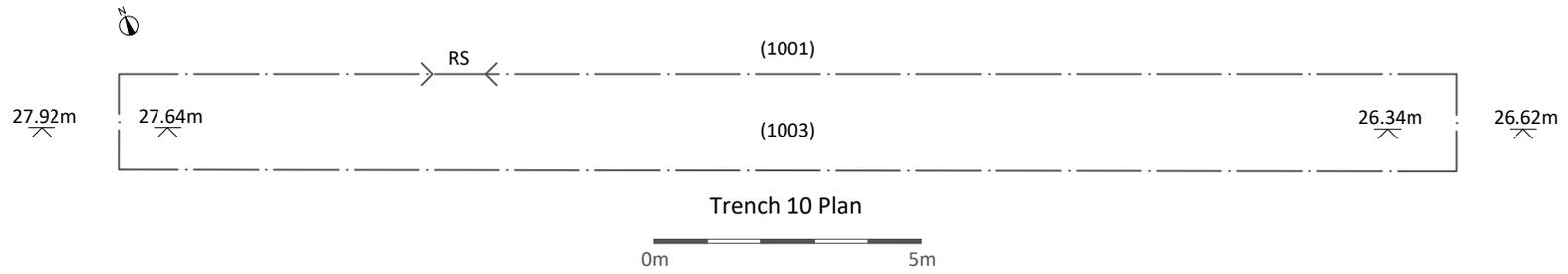
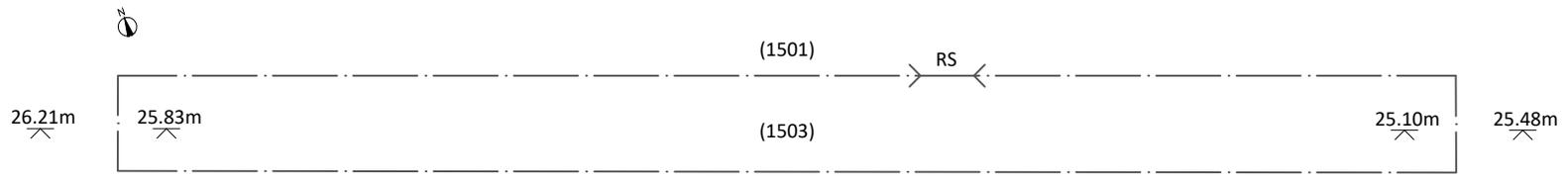
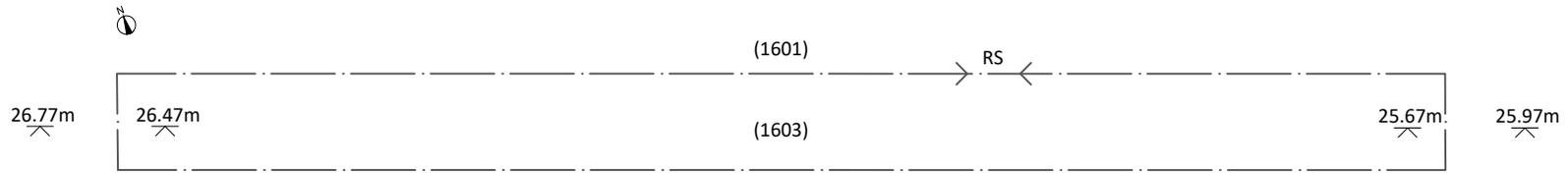


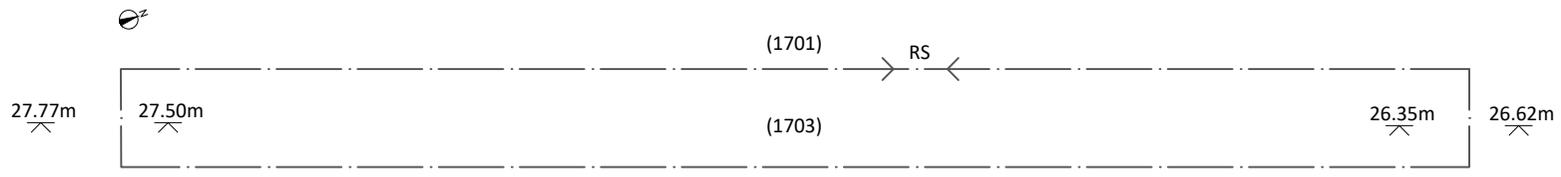
Figure 4 Trenches 10 to 14 Details



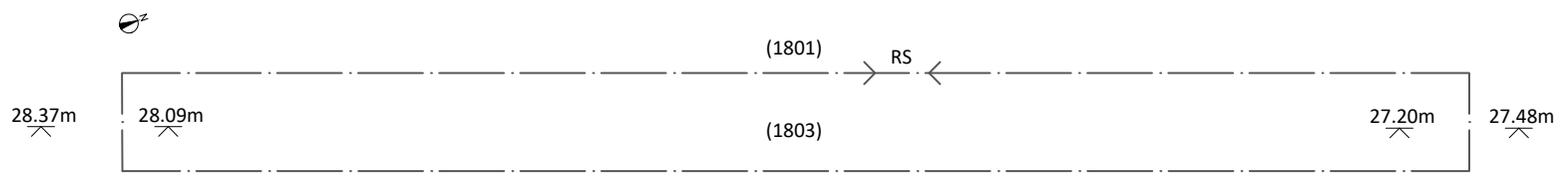
Trench 15 Plan
0m 5m



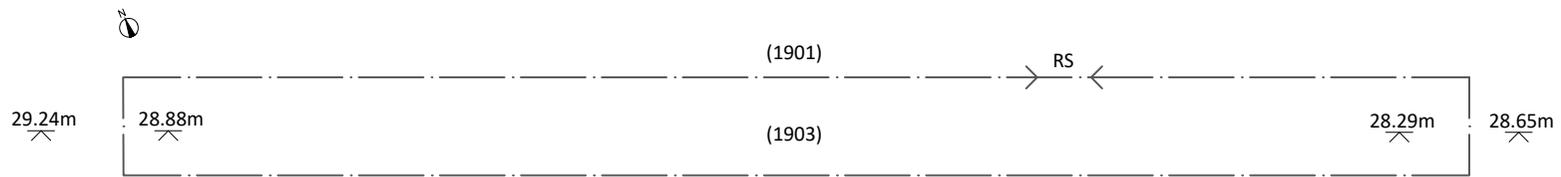
Trench 16 Plan
0m 5m



Trench 17 Plan
0m 5m



Trench 18 Plan
0m 5m



Trench 19 Plan
0m 5m

Figure 5 Trenches 15 to 19 Details

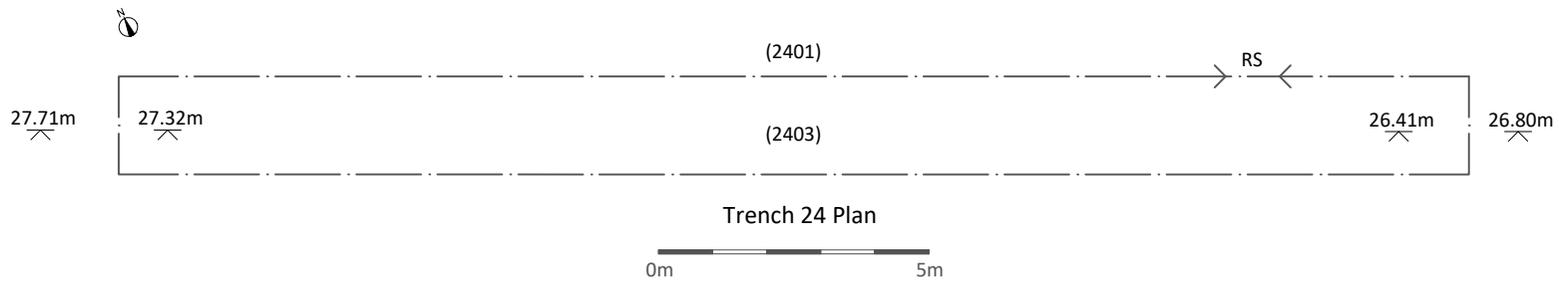
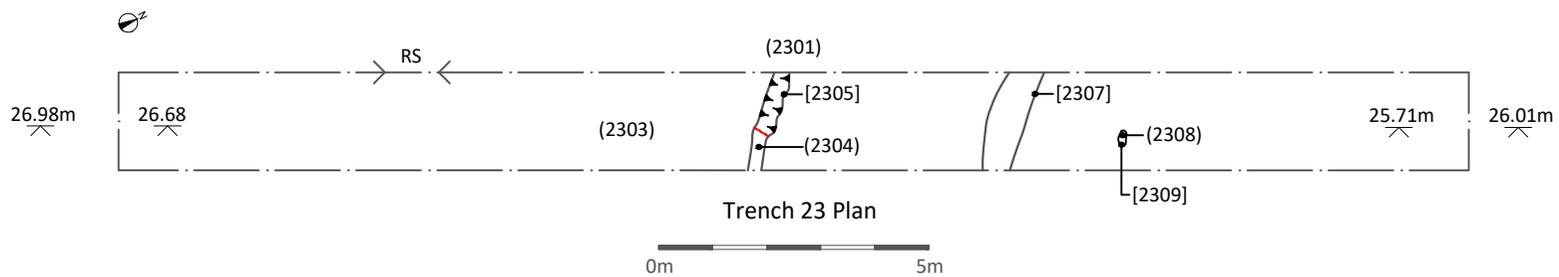
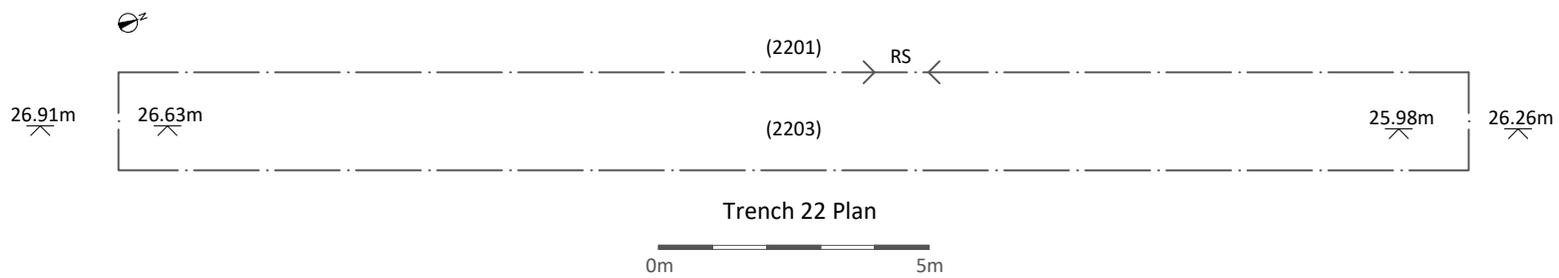
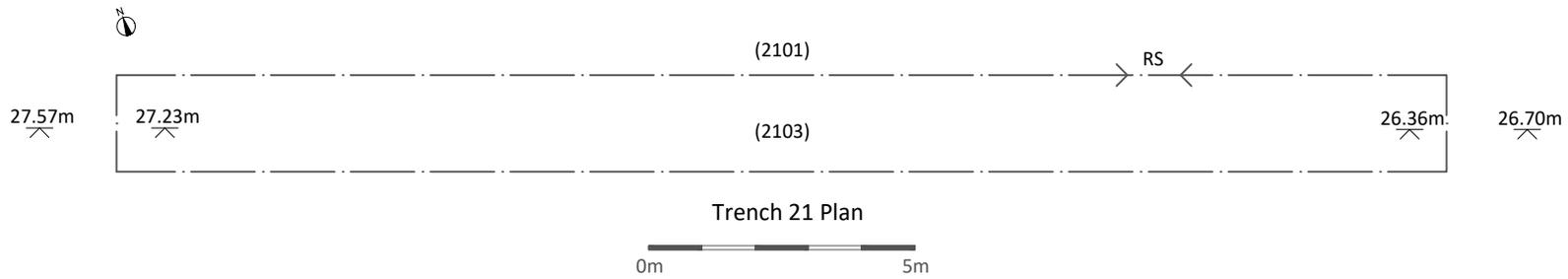
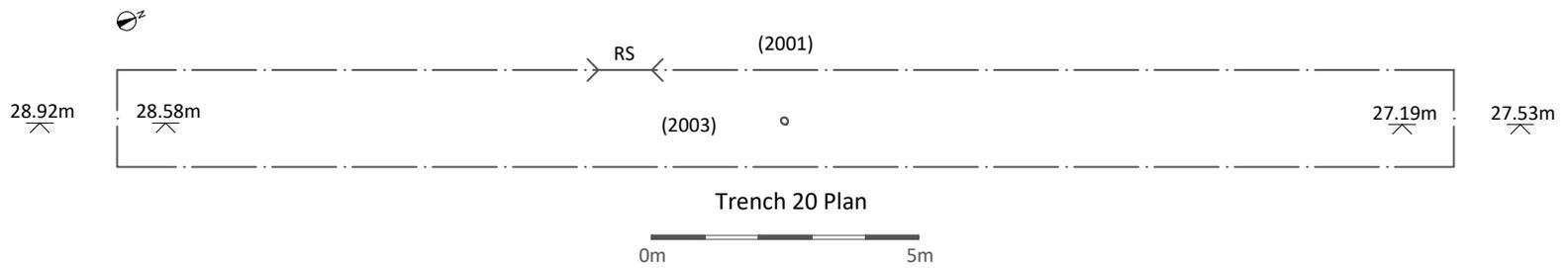
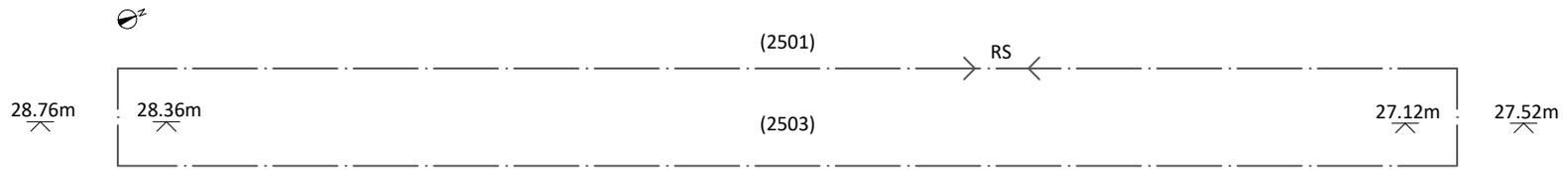
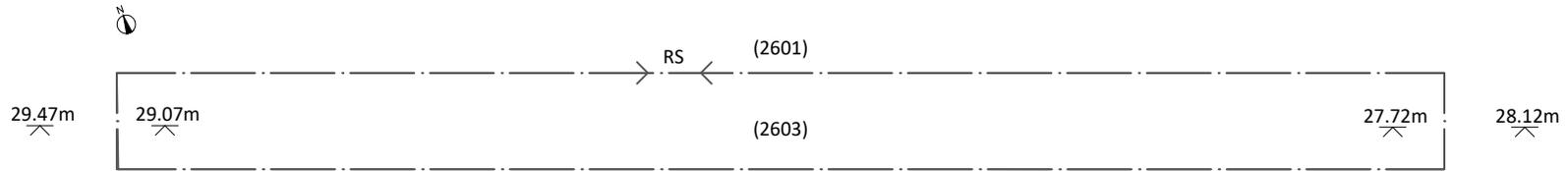


Figure 6 Trenches 20 to 24 Details



Trench 25 Plan



Trench 26 Plan



Figure 7 Trenches 25 to 26 Details

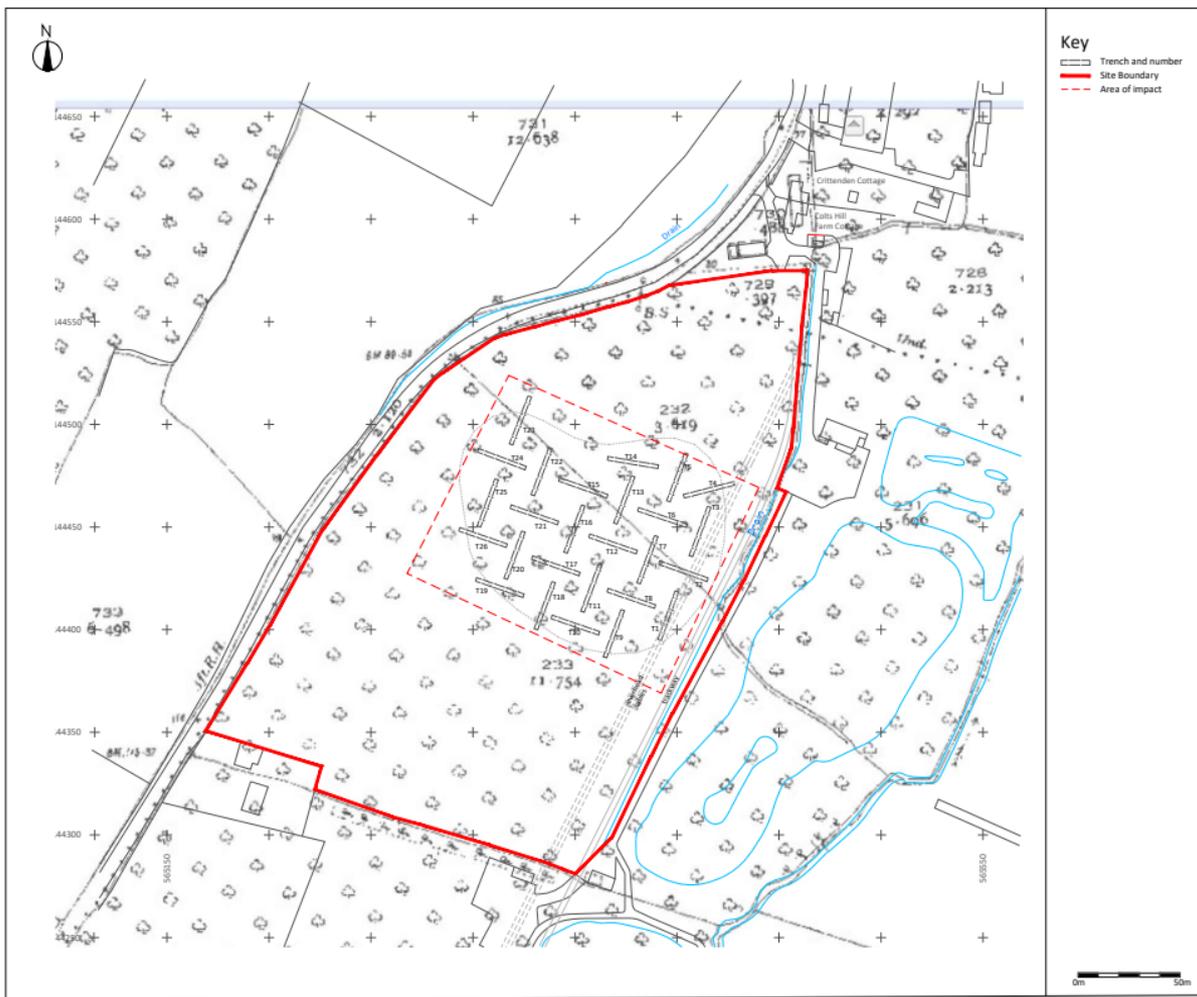


Figure 8 OS Map Overlay 1929 - 1952 3rd Edition