



Archaeological Evaluation of Lane at 2 Egbert Road, Faversham, Kent ME13 8SJ

April 2023

Archaeological Evaluation of Land at 2 Egbert Road, Faversham, Kent ME13 8SJ

Site Code: ERF-EV-23

NGR Site Centre: 601000 160701

Planning Application Number: 22/505895/FULL



Report for;

Mr Billy McQuoid

30/04/2023

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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

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Summary

Swale & Thames Survey Company (SWAT Archaeology) were commissioned by Mr Billy McQuoid to undertake an archaeological evaluation on the land at 2 Egbert Road, Faversham, Kent ME13 8SJ. The works have been carried out as part of a planning condition which required an archaeological evaluation in order to further characterise the potential archaeological impact from any proposed development.

The archaeological evaluation has been successful in evaluating the proposed development site for the possibility of archaeological remains. Three features were recorded within two trenches, two of which represent the same undated ditch. Unfortunately, however in this case the lack of positive dating material is not possible to suggest whether the ditches relate to the Roman road or an earlier/later period altogether.

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 Principal Archaeological Officer of any further archaeological mitigation measures that may be necessary in connection with any future development proposals.

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NGR Site Centre: 601000 160701

Site Code: ERF-EV-23

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project Background

1.1.1 Swale & Thames Survey Company (SWAT Archaeology) were commissioned by Mr Billy McQuoid to undertake an archaeological evaluation on the Land at 2 Egbert Road, Faversham, Kent ME13 8SJ (Figure 1).

1.1.2 A planning application (PAN: 22/505895/FULL) for the demolition of the existing building and erection of 2 No. semi-detached bungalows, including creation of a new access onto London Road and relocation of the access onto Egbert Road, was submitted to Swale Borough Council (SBC) whereby Kent County Council Heritage and Conservation (KCCHC), on behalf of SBC, 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:

(a) Prior to any development works the applicant (or their agents or successors in title) shall secure and have reported a programme of archaeological field evaluation works, in accordance with a specification and written timetable which has been submitted to and approved by the Local Planning Authority.

(b) Following completion of archaeological evaluation works, no development shall take place until the applicant or their agents or successors in title, has secured the implementation of any safeguarding measures to ensure preservation in situ of important archaeological remains and/or further archaeological investigation and recording in accordance with a specification and timetable which has been submitted to and approved by the Local Planning Authority.

(c) The archaeological safeguarding measures, investigation and recording shall be carried out in accordance with the agreed specification and timetable.

(d) Within 6 months of the completion of archaeological works a Post-Excavation Assessment Report shall be submitted in writing to the Local planning authority. The Post-Excavation Assessment Report shall be in accordance with Kent County Council's requirements and include:

- a. a description and assessment of the results of all archaeological investigations that have been undertaken in that part (or parts) of the development;
- b. an Updated Project Design outlining measures to analyse and publish the findings of the archaeological investigations, together with an implementation strategy and timetable for the same;
- c. a scheme detailing the arrangements for providing and maintaining an archaeological site archive and its deposition following completion.

(e) The measures outlined in the Post-Excavation Assessment Report shall be implemented in full and in accordance with the agreed timings.

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

(22/505895/FULL, Condition 15, 7th March 2023)

1.1.4 The archaeological evaluation comprised the excavation of two trenches measuring approximately 11m and 8m in length respectively. The location and length of each trench is described below in Section 5.3 and shown on Figure 2.

1.1.5 The archaeological works were carried out over the course of four days in April 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	15 th March 2023	SWAT Archaeology
Archaeological Evaluation – Fieldwork	11 th – 14 th April 2023	SWAT Archaeology David Britchfield BA MCIfA Simon Holmes
Archaeological Evaluation Report	This document	SWAT Archaeology David Britchfield BA MCIfA

Table 1 Timetable for the archaeological programme of works

1.3 Site Description and Topography

1.3.1 The site is centred on NGR 601000 160701 within a private residence measuring approximately 415sq.m in area (Figure 1). The application site is located in a corner plot on the north side of London Road (Watling Street) and the east side of Egbert Road. To the south is The Abbey School, to the north Ethelbert Road and Ethelbert Primary School. The area is suburban with detached houses and gardens.

1.3.2 The Geological Survey of Great Britain (1:50,000) shows that the site is located on bedrock geology of Seaford Chalk Formation - Chalk. Superficial deposits are recorded as Head - Clay and Silt.

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 Principal Archaeological Officer (KCC) of any further archaeological mitigation measures that may be necessary in connection with potential future development proposals.

2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 Introduction

2.1.1 The proposed development area is located close to several archaeological sites which are identified on the KCCHER database. A KCCHER search shows that the proposed development area is located close to a number of important archaeological sites. Approximately 240m to the NNW is the site of a smock mill which can be identified on the historic OS map 1865 (MAP 1) as a corn mill (TR 06 SW 199). At about 210m to the west is Chapel House, a Grade II Listed Building (TR 06 SW 1128) and can also be identified on the OS map of 1865 (MAP 1). About 400m NNE Iron Age burials have been found (TR 06 SW 118) and at about 450m NNE evidence of a Roman and Anglo-Saxon cemetery in an area known as Kings Field (TR 06 SW 16) can be seen on the OS map of 1896 (MAP 2). To the south and possibly under or adjacent to the site is the Roman road called Watling Street (MAP 3) and identified by Ivan D. Margary in 'Roman Roads in Britain :1' (TEXT 1).

2.1.2 In a consultation document with the Principal Archaeological Officer the following points were made:

The property lies immediately north of the Roman road between London and the Kent coast. To the northeast a rich Anglo-Saxon burial ground was discovered during the excavation of brick

earth. The extent of that quarrying is not clear from historic mapping, but it is probable that this area of Egbert Road was not affected. The area is shown as allotments prior to the present dwelling on the site. A watching brief at the school to the northeast identified extant brickearth deposits but did not identify Anglo Saxon burials extending into that site.

Simon Mason (Principal Archaeological Officer), email dated 21st February 2023)

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 2023; 6.1) which stated that;

- *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.*

3.1.2 The general aims (or purpose) of the evaluation, in compliance with the *CifA Standard and guidance for archaeological field evaluation* (CifA 2014a), are therefore to:

- provide information about the archaeological potential of the site; and
- inform either the scope and nature of any further archaeological work that may be required; or the formation of a mitigation strategy (to offset the impact of the development on the archaeological resource); or a management strategy.

3.2 General Objectives

3.2.1 In order to achieve the above aims, the general objectives of the evaluation are 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 2023) 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 Two trenches were excavated within areas available on the site (Figure 2, Plates 1-3). 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, 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 (1:50 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.
- 5.1.2 The site, as shown on Figure 2, provides the trench layout with Figures 3 and 4 illustrating the results for each individual archaeological evaluation trench. Plates 1-12 consist of photographs of features and selected trenches that have been provided to supplement the text. 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 most of the site comprising topsoil sealing an intact subsoil, which overlay the natural geological bedrock. Further details for individual trenches are provided below.
- 5.2.2 The topsoil generally consisted of mid to dark grey, brown silt clay, frequent roots, occasional rounded stones, topped with grass, overlying the subsoil which consisted of pale brown grey sand silt with moderate rounded and angular stones, with occasional charcoal flecks. Natural geology comprised moderately firm brown, orange silt clay with moderate large shattered stone and occasional iron panning.

5.3 Archaeological Narrative

Trench 1 (Figure 3, Plates 5, 6, 9 and 10)

- 5.3.1 Trench 1 was located within the western extent of the site, directly adjacent to Egbert Road orientated broadly N-S (Figure 2). This trench measured 8.1m in length, 1.75m in width and a maximum depth of 0.75m (Figure 3). Natural geological deposits were recorded at a level of approximately 20.27m OD.
- 5.3.2 Two ditches were recorded within the trench. Within the southern extent of the trench, Ditch [104] measured approximately 1.51m in width, with a maximum depth of 0.72m. The relatively steep sloping side dropped to a concave V-shaped profile (Plates 9 and 10) that gave way to a lower fill consisting of dark brown very silty clay with frequent chalk flecks and occasional angular flint (109) that was sealed by an upper fill of dark brown silty clay with occasional chalk flecks and angular flint (108). A single fragmented undatable sherd of pottery was retrieved from fill (109).
- 5.3.3 Directly to the north, and on a slightly different alignment, Ditch [107] was oriented NW-SE and measured 0.59m in width with a maximum depth of 0.18m. The relatively shallow sloping sides and bowl-shaped profile gave way to a single fill that consisted of light brown silt that contained no dateable finds.

Trench 2 (Figure 4, Plates 3 and 12)

- 5.3.4 Within the eastern extent of the site (Figure 2), Trench 2 was excavated on a E-W alignment and measured approximately 8.2m in length, 1.75m in width with a maximum depth of 0.61m (Figure 3). Natural geological deposits were recorded at a level of approximately 20.52m OD. A modern water pipe was present within the trench and was left intact.
- 5.3.5 Running along the middle of the trench on an E-W orientation Ditch [203] was partially visible; the northern extent being beyond the trench edge (Figure 3). This ditch was filled with dark brown silty clay with occasional chalk flecks and angular flint, similar to (108) in Trench 1 (Plate 12). This ditch was on the same alignment as Ditch [104] and is most likely the same feature.

6 FINDS

6.1 Overview

- 6.1.1 A single fragment of undiagnostic pottery was retrieved from Ditch [104].

7 DISCUSSION

7.1 Introduction

7.1.1 The archaeological investigation on Land at 2 Egbert Road, Faversham, Kent has investigated the extents of the proposed development area using two evaluation trenches, measuring between 11.2m and 8.1m in length and 1.75m in width. The natural geology was encountered within both trenches at an average depth of approximately 0.62m below the existing ground surface, directly underlying subsoil and topsoil.

7.2 Archaeological Narrative

7.2.1 The total area of the site measured approximately 415sq.m. The two trenches excavated covered an area of approximately 33.7sq.m giving an evaluation sample size of 8.1%. The recording of an intact subsoil across the majority of the site suggested that preservation conditions are favourable with upper archaeological horizons recorded at a level of 20.4m OD.

7.2.2 Three features were recorded within the two trenches; two of which represent the same undated ditch. Ditches running parallel, or at least broadly parallel, alongside a Roman road are not at all unexpected. Unfortunately, however in this case the lack of positive dating material is not possible to suggest whether the ditches relate to the Roman road or an earlier/later period altogether.

7.2.3 Roman sites are particularly known for the amount of finds they produce, particularly when within urban landscapes and alongside roads. In this case there are no finds. Again, the site is way beyond the main Roman settlement in Faversham to the east and at Syndale to the west therefore it is possible that the proposed development area is with a hinterland between the two.

7.2.4 Ultimately it is possible that one or both of the ditches relate to the Roman road. It is also possible that they may relate to the Saxon burial ground to the east. Without positive dating to provide confirmation very little can be added at this stage.

7.3 Impact Assessment

7.3.1 With regards to impact, Figure 5 provides the proposed development with the evaluation trenches overlaid, along with projected ditches. It is understood at this time that traditional strip foundations will be used, which will be excavated to a minimum depth of 1m below the existing ground level (c. 20.1m OD) which will cut into the upper archaeological horizon and any archaeological features that may be present.

7.3.2 The possibility of changing the foundation design to a slab foundation, which will have a shallower impact, is currently being considered.

7.3.3 The proposed development includes the foundations and services for two semi-detached properties. Within the southern extent of the site, adjacent to Watling Street, ground levels will be raised in order to tie in with paving levels outside of the site area, approximately 21.3m OD. This area will be used as access and parking which will have an impact depth of approximately 0.5m, 20.8m OD, which would leave a buffer of approximately 0.4m above the upper archaeological horizon.

7.4 Conclusions

7.4.1 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. An impact assessment has suggested that archaeological features will be under threat from foundations and any possible services assuming that the foundation are up to 1m in depth. The construction of a driveway and access alongside Watling Street will involve the raising of current ground levels meaning that archaeological features will be protected by a buffer measuring approximately 0.4m in depth.

7.4.2 The results from this work will be used to aid and inform the Principal 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 Archaeology would like to thank Mr Billy McQuaid for commissioning the project. Thanks are also extended to Simon Mason, Principal Archaeological Officer at Kent County Council, for his advice and assistance.

9.1.2 David Britchfield BA (Hons) MCIfA and Simon Holmes 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.

10 REFERENCES

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SWAT Archaeology (2023) Specification for an Archaeological Evaluation on Land at 2 Egbert Road, Faversham, Kent ME13 8SJ

11 APPENDIX 1 – TRENCH TABLES

Trench 1 Dimensions: 11.2m x 1.75m Depth: 0.75m Ground Level: 20.85m OD – 21.00m OD			
Context	Interpretation	Description	Depth (m)
(101)	Topsoil	Mid to dark grey, brown silt clay, frequent roots, occasional rounded stones, topped with turf	0.00-0.30
(102)	Subsoil	Pale brown grey sand silt with moderate rounded and angular stones, occasional charcoal flecks.	0.22-0.66
(103)	Natural	Moderately firm brown, orange silt clay with moderate large shattered stone and occasional iron panning	0.72+
[104]	Ditch	Filled by (108) and (109)	-
(105)	-	NOT USED	-
(106)	Fill	Fill of [107]. Very light brown silt	-
[107]	Ditch	Filled by (106)	-
(108)	Fill	Lower fill of [104]. Dark brown silty clay with occasional chalk flecks and angular flint	-
(109)	Fill	Lower fill of [104]. Dark brown very silty clay with frequent chalk flecks and occasional angular flint	-

Trench 2 Dimensions: 8.1m x 1.75m Depth: 0.61m Ground Level: 21.06m OD – 21.20m OD			
Context	Interpretation	Description	Depth (m)
(201)	Topsoil	Mid to dark grey, brown silt clay, frequent roots, occasional rounded stones, topped with turf	0.00-0.32
(202)	Subsoil	Pale brown grey sand silt with moderate rounded and angular stones, occasional charcoal flecks.	0.35-0.58
[203]	Ditch	Filled with (205)	-
(204)	Natural	Moderately firm brown, orange silt clay with moderate large shattered stone and occasional iron panning	0.58-0.61+
(205)	Fill of ditch	Fill of [203]. Dark brown silty clay with occasional chalk flecks and angular flint	-

12 APPENDIX 2 – HER FORM

Site Name: Land at 2 Egbert Road, Faversham, Kent ME13 8SJ

SWAT Site Code: ERF-EV-23

Site Address: as above

Summary. *Swale & Thames Survey Company (SWAT Archaeology) were commissioned by Mr Billy McQuoid to undertake an archaeological evaluation on the Land at 2 Egbert Road, Faversham, Kent ME13 8SJ The works have been carried out as part of a planning condition which required an archaeological evaluation in order to further characterise the potential archaeological impact from any proposed development.*

The archaeological evaluation has been successful in evaluating the proposed development site for the possibility of archaeological remains. Three features were recorded within two trenches; two of which represent the same undated ditch. Unfortunately, however in this case the lack of positive dating material is not possible to suggest whether the ditches relate to the Roman road or an earlier/later period altogether.

The results from this work will be used to aid and inform the Principal Archaeological Officer of any further archaeological mitigation measures that may be necessary in connection with any future development proposals.

District/Unitary: Swale Borough Council & Kent County Council

Period(s): NA

NGR (centre of site to eight figures) NGR 601000 160701

Type of Archaeological work: Archaeological Evaluation

Date of recording: April 2023

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

Geology: Seaford Chalk Formation - Chalk. Superficial deposits are recorded as Head - Clay and Silt.

Title and author of accompanying report: D Britchfield (2023) Archaeological Evaluation of Land at 2 Egbert Road, Faversham, Kent ME13 8SJ. SWAT Archaeology Ref. ERF-EV-2023

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

Contact at Unit: Paul Wilkinson

Date: 30/04/2023

PLATES



Plate 1 The site, viewed from northeast



Plate 2 The front garden, location for Trench 1



Plate 3 The front garden, location for Trench 2



Plate 4 Aerial view of the site following excavation of both trenches



Plate 5 Trench 1, viewed from the northeast



Plate 6 Trench 1, viewed from the southwest



Plate 7 Trench 2, viewed from the northwest



Plate 8 Trench 2, viewed from the southeast



Plate 9 Partial excavation of Ditch [104], viewed from the east



Plate 10 Ditch [104], viewed from the east



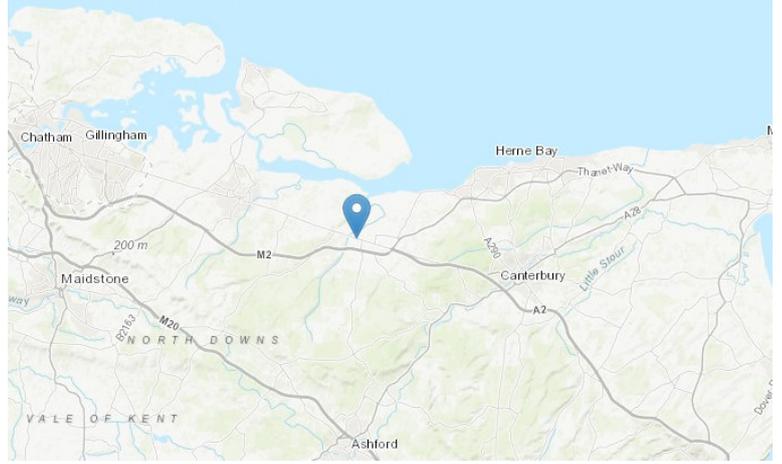
Plate 11 Ditch [107], viewed from the southeast



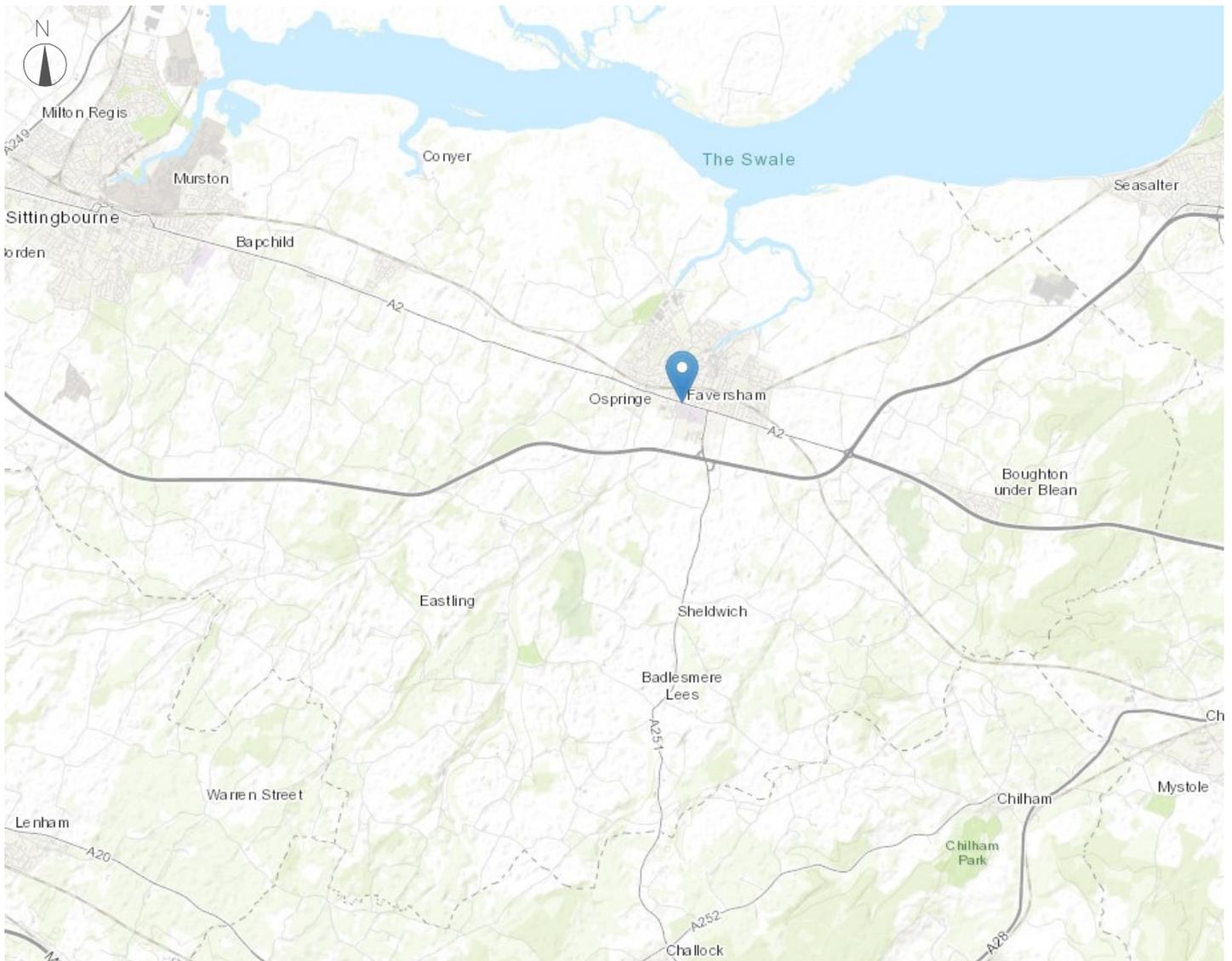
Plate 12 Ditch [203], viewed from the south



Map of UK (NTS)



Map of North Kent (NTS)



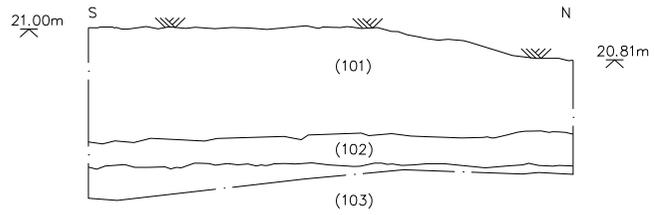
Map courtesy of National Library of Scotland (NTS)

Key
 Site Location

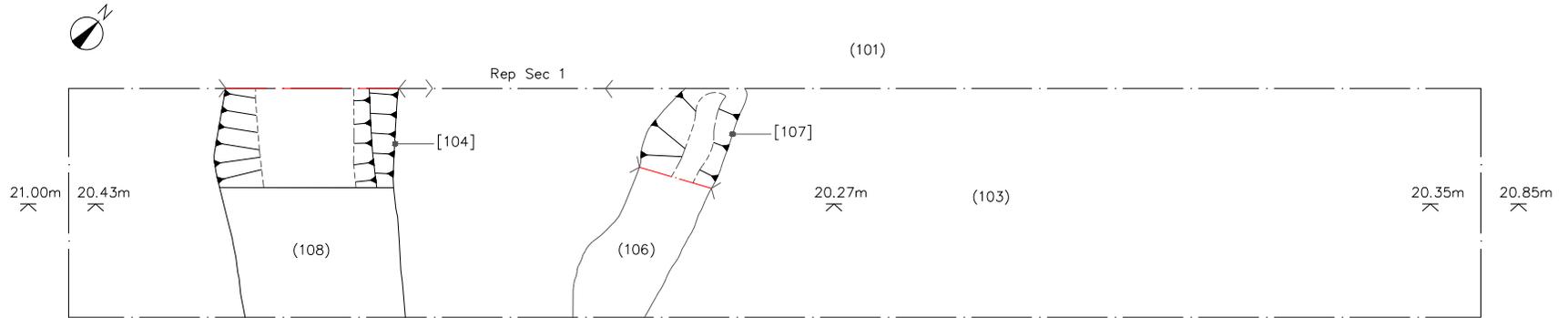
Figure 1 Site Location Plan



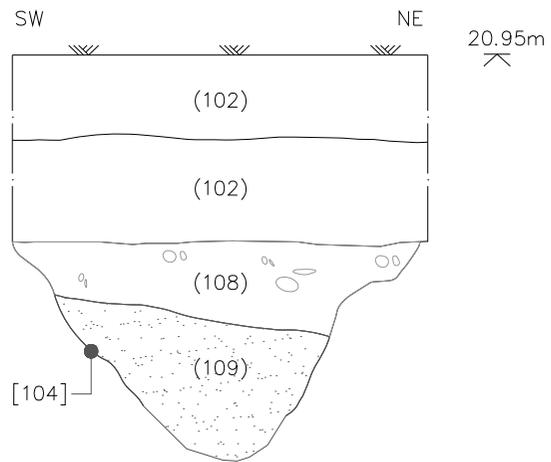
Figure 2 Site Plan



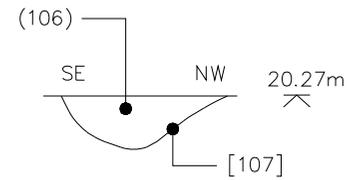
Representative Section Rep Sec 1



Trench 1 Plan



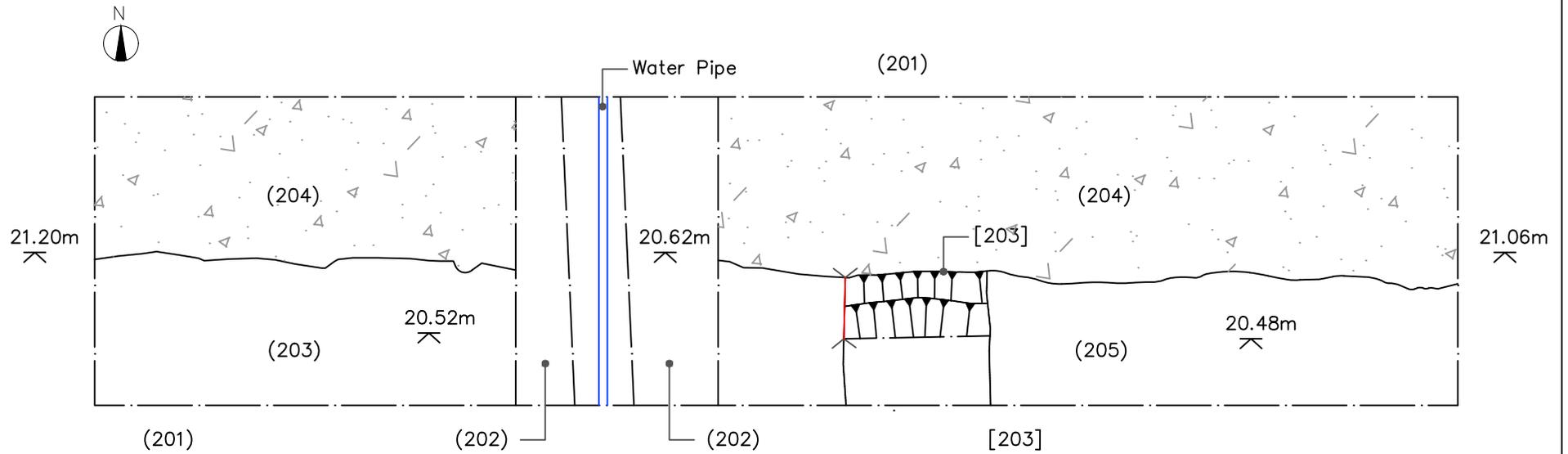
West Facing Section of Ditch [104]



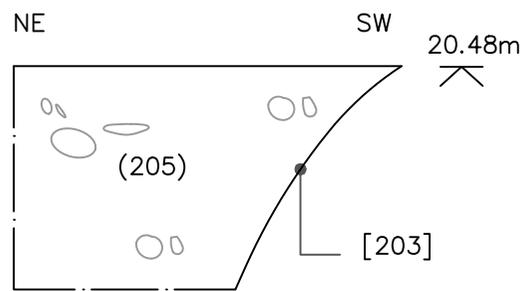
SE Facing Section of Linear [107]



Figure 3 Trench 1



Trench 2 Plan



West Facing Section of Ditch [203]

Figure 4 Trench 2



Figure 5 Impact Assessment