

**Archaeological Excavations of land
at Ashford Golf Complex, Bear's Lane, Bethersden, Ashford,
Kent.**

Post-Excavation Assessment and Watching Brief

NGR Site Centre: NGR 596013 143180

Planning Application Number: 18/01592/AS



Report for: Clarus Homes

Site Code: GCA-EX-22

SWAT ARCHAEOLOGY

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**Archaeological Excavations of land
at Ashford Golf Complex, Bear’s Lane, Bethersden, Ashford,
Kent.
Post-Excavation Assessment, Watching Brief and Updated Project Design**

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Abstract

An archaeological excavation was undertaken by Swale & Thames Survey Company (SWAT) land at Ashford Golf Complex, Bear's Lane, Bethersden, Ashford, Kent. Works were monitored remotely by Senior Archaeological Officer at Kent County Council.

Archaeological investigation has revealed common stratigraphic sequence comprising topsoil, subsoil with made-up ground concealing natural geology and exposed agrarian remains of Early Medieval/ Medieval date comprising wide field-boundary/ drainage ditch in southern part of the site (Area1) with four short field ditches exposed in northern part of the site (Area2) along with large shallow pit of the same date. Additionally two firepits were investigated and these were revealed quite high up in subsoil and produced Victorian to modern potsherds and clay pipe stem.

The excavations have indicated that the site's previous use was primarily agricultural in nature since medieval and until modern period. Activity appears to have declined during the High Medieval and Late Medieval periods and resumed during the Late Post-Medieval/ Modern period suggesting either depopulation of the area and/or significant change in usage.

Acknowledgements

SWAT Archaeology would like to thank to the Client for commissioning the project. Thanks are also extended to Wendy Rogers, Senior Archaeological Officer from KCC Heritage for her advice and assistance.

Peter Cichy supervised the archaeological fieldwork. Site survey and illustrations were produced by Bartek Cichy. Archaeological fieldwork and watching brief were carried out by Peter Cichy, Django Rayner and Bartek Cichy and the report was written by Peter Cichy. On behalf of the client project was directed by Dr Paul Wilkinson, MCiFA.

The pottery sherds analysis was undertaken by Paul Hart.

**Archaeological Excavations of land
at Ashford Golf Complex, Bear's Lane, Bethersden, Ashford, Kent
Post-Excavation Assessment**

NGR Site Centre: NGR 596013 143180

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project background

1.1.1 SWAT archaeology were commissioned by the client to carry out an archaeological investigation on land at Ashford Golf Complex, Bear's Lane, Bethersden, Ashford.

1.1.2 The archaeological excavation formed part of a staged programme of archaeological works associated with planning application (18/01592/AS), submitted to Ashford Borough Council for the erection of 10 no. dwellings, internal access road layout and landscaping.

1.1.3 Taking into consideration a phased approach of the development schedule, the archaeological works were carried out as a staged programme of works comprising an initial targeted trial trenching evaluation (Phases 1 and 2). In the event that significant archaeological remains were encountered during this phase, a strip, map and sample (SMS) excavation was required in order to investigate and record archaeological remains present. The archaeological programme is detailed further, below (Section). Three areas of the development site were identified as having archaeological potential during phases 1 and 2.

1.2 Planning Background

1.2.1 An outline planning application was granted on the 5th August 2020 (Application 18/01592/AS) for the outline application for the erection of 10 no. Dwellings to consider access, layout and landscaping. A Condition of archaeological works were attached to Outline Planning Decision Notice and it was:

(29) 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.*

- 1.2.2 On the basis of the present archaeological information KCCHC advising Ashford Borough 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.

2 SITE DESCRIPTION, TOPOGRAPHY AND GEOLOGY

- 2.1.1 The application site is located in the village of Great Chart and the civil parish of Great Chart with Singleton and the Ashford Borough in the county of Kent and the south east of England. Great Chart is situated 2 miles (3.2 km) west of Ashford. The proposed development area (PDA) is used as a golf course and is formed of around 29 acres of grassland bounded to the east and west by dense woodland, to the north by agricultural fields and to the south by the railway. The site is characterised as Golf Courses, surrounded by pre 1810 woodland and late medieval to post medieval rectilinear fields with wavy boundaries. The site was more or less level with an OD height of about 39m OD. Although all three fields (now a golf course) were walked as part of the Archaeological Desk Based Assessment and no archaeological features or artefacts were identified.
- 2.1.2 The Geological Survey of Great Britain (1:50,000) shows that the site is set on bedrock geology of Weald Clay Formation (Mudstone), a sedimentary bedrock formed approximately 125 to 134 million years ago in the Cretaceous Period in a local environment previously dominated by swamps, estuaries and deltas. These rocks were formed in marginal coastal plains with lakes and swamps periodically inundated by the sea; or estuaries and deltas, and shallow seas. No superficial deposits are recorded and the OD height is about 40m aOD.

3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

- 3.1.1 The Proposed Development Area (PDA) is located close to a number of archaeological sites which are identified on the KCCHER database and in the Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment in Advance of Development at Great Chart Golf Course, Bear's Lane, Ashford (Swat Archaeology 18/08/2016).
- 3.1.2 There are two records for Bronze Age period held at the Kent HER that fall within the assessment area. A copper alloy axe (MKE56150) was found c. 450m northeast of the PDA and a copper alloy awl was also found c. 480m northeast (MKE93964).

- 3.1.3 There is one record dating to the Anglo-Saxon period within the assessment area, a silver sceatta coin dating from 710-750 AD found c.480m northeast of the PDA.
- 3.1.4 There are two records dating to the medieval period within the assessment area both found c. 180m northwest of the PDA. Both archaeological finds were of copper alloy vessels dated 1400-1700 AD (MKE93962, MKE93963).
- 3.1.5 The PDA is located c. 80m south of the London and Dover Railway, which was completed in 1844 AD. There are also two post-medieval farmsteads c. 500m from the PDA on the Kent HER. Outfarm is an isolated field barn with no associated yard, the farmstead having been demolished (MKE87269). Rippers Cross farm is a regular courtyard multiyard with detached elements and a farmhouse in a central position set in an isolated position retaining less than 50% of its original form (MKE87267).

4 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

4.1 Primary Aims

- 4.1.1 The excavation aimed to ascertain the range of past activities, and specifically whether the evidence suggests transient human activity, domestic/settled occupation, burial, industry, agriculture and/or combinations of these. Linked to this, the excavations also sought to recover stratified assemblages of artefacts and ecofacts which are capable of analysis and research to assist in determining the date and function of the site during different periods.
- 4.1.2 In accordance with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' guidance (CIfA 2014a), the general aims of the programme of archaeological works were:
- to examine the archaeological resource within the site;
 - within a framework of defined research objectives, to seek a better understanding of and compile a lasting record of that resource;
 - to analyse and interpret the results; and disseminate them.

- 4.1.3 All excavation and post-excavation procedures were conducted in compliance with the standards outlined in the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' Standard and Guidance Archaeological Excavation (2014a).

4.2 Project Objectives

- 4.2.1 The objective of the archaeological mitigation was to identify, excavate, record and analyse any significant archaeological remains that will be disturbed by the proposed development. The physical archaeological remains were to be replaced by a detailed record and a better

understanding of the past activities that have taken place on the site, thereby contributing to an increased knowledge of Kent's past and providing a resource for future research and education.

4.2.2 The objective of the Strip, Map and Sample approach was to understand the broad pattern of settlement dynamics and how key elements of the archaeological landscape (sites, activities, deposits and finds) relate to each other spatially, functionally and chronologically.

4.2.3 In accordance with the Specification, this phase of the archaeological works aimed to;

- Record the presence or absence of any elements of the archaeological resource, both artefacts and ecofacts of archaeological interest across the area of the development;

- To ascertain the extent, depth below ground surface, depth of deposit if possible, character, date and quality of any such archaeological remains by sample excavation;

- To determine the state of preservation and importance of the archaeological resource if present and to assess the past impacts on the site and pay particular attention to the character, height/depth below ground level, condition, date and significance of any archaeological deposits.

4.2.4 The opportunity was also taken during the course of the SMS to place and assess any archaeology revealed within the context of other recent archaeological investigations in the immediate area and within the setting of the local landscape and topography. Specific research questions that may be answered are to include the origins of the adjacent prehistoric activity and is there any evidence for prehistoric and Saxo-Norman settlement activity on the site? In general, the work is to ensure compliance with the archaeological planning condition and to publish the results on line and through OASIS and/or in a local journal.

5 METHODOLOGY

5.1 Introduction

5.1.1 The archaeological excavation was undertaken in accordance with a Written Specification (SWAT Archaeology 2022), and in accordance with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIFA 2014a) *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Excavation*.

5.2 Fieldwork

Archaeological Strip, map and Sample Excavation

5.2.1 The area of excavation was located in south-eastern and northern parts of proposed development area and comprised c. 2190 sq metres.

5.2.2 A 21 ton 360° tracked mechanical excavator, fitted with a flat bladed ditching bucket was used to remove overlying topsoil and subsoil deposits to expose the underlying natural geology. Overlying

deposits were removed in spits of c.100mm thickness under constant archaeological supervision. Machined deposits were examined, and any artefacts were bagged by context.

5.2.3 A site grid was established using an EDM and tied to the National Grid. On completion of hand-cleaning, a site plan was produced at a scale of 1:100. Spray paint line marker was used to mark the edges of unexcavated features prior to mapping. Levels were taken across the site prior to excavation of archaeological features and added to the site plan.

5.2.4 The broad sampling strategy implemented across the site, in agreement with KCC Archaeological Officer can be summarised as follows:

- All targeted archaeological features were hand-cleaned prior to excavation in order to more clearly define edges and relationships in plan.
- Sections were excavated at all intersections between mapped archaeological features to clarify stratigraphic relationships and inform the overall phasing of the site.
- Slots were excavated across linear ditch features at appropriate intervals (between 2m and 4m as appropriate) measuring no less than 1m in length. All terminal ends of features were investigated through appropriate sized interventions.
- All discrete features including pits and post-holes were half-sectioned at a minimum. Where necessary, features were fully excavated to facilitate retrieval of datable artefacts and/or environmental samples.
- Charred and cremated deposits or potential 'placed deposits' were 100% excavated.

5.2.5 All artefacts recovered during the excavations were bagged and marked by context. Bulk finds were bagged together by context and small-finds were individually bagged by context and their locations recorded in three-dimensions using an EDM.

5.2.6 All features, deposits and finds were recorded in accordance with accepted professional standards. The following broad recording strategy was followed:

- All archaeological contexts were recorded individually on SWAT Archaeology context record sheets.
- All excavated sections were drawn on polyester drawing film at a scale of 1:10 and fully labelled with context numbers and other appropriate recording numbers and levelled with respect to m. OD.
- Features were planned at a scale of 1:20, labelled and levelled with respect to m. OD. All archaeological interventions including linear slots, intercutting relationship slots and half-sections were also marked on the overall site plan.
- Registers of contexts, small finds, environmental samples, site drawings and photographs were maintained and monitored by the site supervisor.

- A full photographic record including digital photographs was maintained; all excavated sections and features were photographed pre and post-excavation, and a selection of working and site photos were also taken.
- In general, multi-context recording was adopted across the site, however single-context recording was completed for deposits/features considered to be possible placed deposits or cremations.

5.3 Monitoring

- 5.3.1 Curatorial monitoring was made available to Wendy Rogers, Senior Archaeological Officer from Kent County Council throughout the archaeological investigation. Site visit was undertaken remotely via exchange e-mails/ photographs.

6 RESULTS/STRATIGRAPHIC ASSESSMENT

6.1 Introduction

6.1.1 Archaeological investigation has revealed common stratigraphic sequence comprising topsoil, subsoil with made-up ground concealing natural geology and exposed three ditches of. The excavations have indicated that the site's previous use was primarily agricultural in nature.

6.2 Stratigraphic Sequence

<i>Phase No.</i>	<i>Chronological Period</i>	<i>Dates</i>
9	Early Medieval – Medieval (EM, M)	c.1050-1350 AD
10	Late Post Medieval - Modern (LPM, MOD)	c.1800-1900 AD plus

Table 3 Chronological Periods used for this Assessment

6.3 Area 1

6.3.1 Area 1 comprised 720 sq metres and exposed medieval ditch in NW-SE alignment running for over 25metres in length. Feature was investigated in three exploratory slots recorded as 4, 8 and 10.

6.3.2 Intervention [04] has revealed NW-SE aligned linear cut with shallow sides and flat slightly convex base. It measured 1.98metres in width and 0.18metres in depth and was filled-in by context (05) comprising firmly compacted, grey-brown silty-clay with infrequent angular stones and moderate manganese nodules.

6.3.3 Intervention [08] exposed E-W aligned linear cut with shallow sides and flat slightly concave base. It measured 1.8metres in width and 0.18metres in depth and was filled by context (09) which was firmly compacted grey-yellow silty-clay orange mottled with frequent manganese.

6.3.4 Intervention [10] revealed NW-SE aligned linear cut with very shallow sides gradually breaking into concave base. It measured 0.9metres in width and 0.08metres in depth and was filled by context (11) comprising firmly compacted yellow-grey silty-clay with infrequent angular stones and moderate manganese.

6.3.5 Adjacent to the NW terminus of linear ditch Pit [06] was investigated. Feature was sub-circular in plan with very shallow sides and uneven base and was filled by context (07) comprising firmly compacted dark-grey clay-silt with infrequent angular stones. Fill produced several modern and Victorian potsherds. Feature measured 0.8metres in width and 0.04metres in depth.

6.3.6 Three other suspected discrete features were investigated in area 1 but these turn-outs to be bioturbations.

6.4 Area 2

- 6.4.1 Area 2 comprised 1120 sq metres and exposed four short medieval ditches or field patches, two shallow pits, two natural manganese patches giving overall feature-like impression and a series of modern land drains and modern ground truncations associated with existing landscaping of a golf-course.
- 6.4.2 Ditch [16] terminus comprised NW-SE aligned shallow linear cut with flat slightly uneven base. It measured 1metre in width and 0.1metres in depth and was filled by context (17=19=25) comprising firmly compacted yellow-grey silty clay with infrequent angular stones and moderate manganese. Fill (17) in slot [16] produced single potsherd dated 1150/1175 to 1225/1250 AD.
- 6.4.3 Feature was also investigated in two other relation slots [18] and [24] as it was truncated by another shallow Ditch [20] and shallow Pit [22]
- 6.4.4 Ditch [20] was found in N-S alignment and run for approximately 12metres. Feature was investigated in three exploratory slots [20], [20A] and [20B] and exposed N-S aligned shallow linear cut with flat, slightly concave base. It measured at averaged 1.05metres in width and 0.15metres in depth and was filled by context (21) comprising firmly compacted yellow-grey silty clay with moderate amount of manganese nodules.
- 6.4.5 Pit [22] comprised NE-SW aligned sub-oval cut with shallow sides and mainly flat base. It measured 3.6metres in length, 1.97metres in width and 0.18metres in depth and was filled by context (23) comprising firmly compacted yellow-grey silty-clay with moderate manganese.
- 6.4.6 Located adjacently to the north-east and east were two short ditches [14] and [26, 28, 30]. Linear [14] was investigated in three exploratory slots a, b and c and revealed N-S aligned linear cut with shallow sides and concave base. It measured 0.7metres in width and 0.16metres in depth and was filled by context (15) comprising firmly compacted yellow-grey silty-clay with moderate manganese and angular stones. Fill produced single potsherd dated 1150/1175 to 1225/1250 AD.
- 6.4.7 Another Ditch [26, 28, 30] was found in NW-SE alignment and intervention slots revealed shallow sides and concave base. It measured 8.3metres in length, 1.1metres in width and 0.18metres in depth and was filled by context (27=29=31) comprising firmly compacted yellow-grey, silty-clay with infrequent angular stones and moderate manganese.
- 6.4.8 Approximately 30 metres to the south of discussed above was shallow Pit [32] feature comprised sub-oval cut with shallow sides and mainly flat base. It measured 2.5metres in length, 1.1metres in width and 0.05 metres in depth and its backfill (33) comprised brown clay-silt with moderate amount of charcoal flecks and modern finds comprising post-1900's potsherds and modern glass fragments. Potentially bonfire remains. Environmental soil samples were acquired but not processed and recommended for disposal due to modern date of the feature.

6.5 Archaeological Watching Brief

- 6.5.1 Following completion of SMS investigation in Areas 1, 2 and 3 a subsequent watching brief was carried out during internal road stripping, excavation of the footings and during drainage/ services works.
- 6.5.2 Watching brief on internal road system was carried out on 16/06/23, 17/06/23, 21/06/23, 22/06/23, 23/06/23, 28/06/23, 29/06/23, 30/06/23, 5/07/23, 6/07/23 and 7/07/23.
- 6.5.3 Observations during excavation of house plots (foundations) were carried out on 29/06/23, 30/06/23, 5/07/23, 6/07/23, 7/07/23, 11/07/23, 12/07/23, 18/07/23 and 19/07/23.
- 6.5.4 Watching brief on drainage and services excavations was carried out on 18/07/23, 22/07/23, 25/07/23, 27/07/23 and 29/07/23.
- 6.5.5 Archaeological watching brief was negative in all instances listed above and did not exposed any features of archaeological interest or artefacts.

7 FINDS

7.1 Introduction

- 7.1.1 Two potsherds were retrieved from context (17) and from context (15)

7.2 Ceramic Assessment (by Paul Hart)

- 7.2.1 Context [14b] (15). Start date: Nothing certainly before 1150 AD and likely after around 1175 AD. End date: Unclear. Nothing certainly after 1250 AD, could be residual to some degree. Dating: As given. Relationship to context unclear, as slightly worn, though not significantly so. Consider the nature of the context and their distribution, if possible.
- 7.2.2 Context [16] (17). Start date: Likely after 1175 AD. Unclear. Nothing certainly after 1250 AD and possibly by or shortly after 1225 AD, though residual to some degree. Dating: As given. Relationship to context unclear, as slightly worn, though not significantly so. Consider the nature of the context and their distribution, if possible.
- 7.2.3 Context [06] (07) produced modern finds post 1900's with addition of Victorian potsherd and clay-pipe stem.
- 7.2.4 Context [32] (33) produced modern post 1900's finds, mainly plant pots fragments and glass shards.

8 ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

8.1 Introduction

8.1.1 Two environmental soil samples were acquired during the course of SMS investigation. Soil Sample <1> from shallow Pit [06] (07) and sample <2> from Pit [32] (33).

8.1.2 Both features produced modern dating evidence (post-1900's) with some addition of Victorian pottery sherds. Both features are potential remnants of recent bonfires therefore these samples weren't processed and are recommended to be discarded.

9 ARCHAEOLOGICAL NARRATIVE (PHASED)

9.1 Introduction

9.1.1 Archaeological investigation at Great Chart, Ashford has been successful in fulfilling aim and objectives of the specification and exposed common stratigraphic sequence comprising top-soil and sub-soil sealing off natural geology. Archaeological features were sealed below the subsoil with relatively little modern truncation having occurred. Land drains were present on the site and on occasion modern landscaping associated with existing golf course has impacted on the natural and archaeological horizons.

9.2 Early Medieval to Medieval 1150/1175 to 1225/1250 AD

9.2.1 Short Ditch [16=18=24] in E-W alignment and very short one [14] were revealed in Area 2. Both features have produced single potsherds on Early Medieval to Medieval date. These features are remains of agricultural activity of that period although on very limited scale.

9.3 Modern

9.3.1 Two Pits [06] in Area 1 and [32] in Area 2 have produced modern dating evidence. These features are evidence for fairly recent bonfires that happened on this site.

9.4 Undated

9.4.1 Ditch [4=8=10] was exposed in Area 1, Ditch [20] and [26=28=30] in Area 2. All three features did not produced any dating evidence but it is believed that they belong to Early Medieval/ Medieval phase as their fills share very similar characteristics of firmly compacted yellow-grey silty clay with moderate to frequent amount of manganese nodules.

9.4.2 Manganese nodules tend to develop in flooded soils (Hudson, 2005) thus giving an evidence of protracted flooding of the area or for high groundwater levels. Probably due to periodical flooding and/or high water table the area was not successively used as arable parcel but was converted into grazing pasture thus lack of well-established field system and the scattered ditches are related to drainage.

10 UPDATED PROJECT DESIGN AND RECOMMENDATION FOR FURTHER ANALYSIS

10.1 Introduction

10.1.1 The excavation has revealed two phases of activity on the site, dated by finds (pottery) to the Early Medieval/Medieval and Modern Periods. The provisional phasing will be checked and refined at the analysis stage

10.2 Stratigraphic

10.2.1 Basis on stratigraphic relationships between revealed features two sub-phases of Early Medieval/Medieval activity can be distinguish.

10.3 Finds

10.3.1 Two single pottery sherds dated 1150/1175 to 1225/1250 AD were retrieved from linear features exposed in Area 2. There are no recommendations for further work on this assemblage. Potsherds to be retained as a part of project archive.

10.3.2 Victorian/Modern potsherds are recommended to be discarded.

10.4 Environmental

10.4.1 Two environmental soil samples acquired from modern features are recommended to be discarded.

10.5 Statement of Potential

Early Medieval/ Medieval 1150/1175 to 1225/1250 AD

10.5.1 The findings comprising Early Medieval/ Medieval field ditches are of regional importance.

10.6 Significance of the Data

10.6.1 Research into local sites of a similar period, may inform us further as to the function of this phase of activity.

10.7 Original Research Aims and Objectives (ORAO's)

10.7.1 In light of the potential of the results of the fieldwork to answer not only the original research aims but other questions raised during the excavation, this section provides revised research aims, and details of the further analyses recommended to achieve them.

10.7.2 Original research aims were to establish the character, condition, date and significance of archaeological features and deposits;

- *The majority of features and deposits recorded in the south and in the north of the Site appeared to date to the Early Medieval/ Medieval Period.*

- *Activity has declined by Hi Medieval Period and resumed in Late Post Medieval and Modern times.*

10.8 Updated Project Design - Revised Research Aims and Objectives for Further Analysis (RRAO's)

- *Determine the nature and extent of activity within the Site, and its development during the Early Medieval/ Medieval period c. 1150/1175 to 1225/1250 AD, along with its subsequent decline. Particular attention will be paid to relationships with other known sites of this period in the area, such as the agricultural activity*
- *Determine the nature and extent of activity within the Site, and its development during the 12-13th century and consider the reasons for this brief period of use. Particular attention will again be paid to relationships with other known sites of this period in the area.*

11 RESOURCES AND PUBLICATION

11.1 Introduction

11.1.1 This report will be published in PDF A format for publication with OASIS.

11.2 Final Analysis Report

11.2.1 Following approval of this final Full Report and publication draft, a final site archive will be ordered in accordance with Guidelines for the preparation of excavation archives for long term storage (UKIC 1990). SWAT Archaeology will retain the site archive until suitable provision is made by local museum for deposition in a suitable archive facility

11.3 Publication

11.3.1 The results of the fieldwork are of local and regional significance. It is therefore proposed that, following the further assessment and analyses outlined above, the results of the fieldwork will be prepared for submission to a chapter in Monograph comprising c. 7500 words, up to 3 illustrations (excluding finds).

11.3.2 All publication works will be carried out in consultation with KKCHC.

11.4 Personnel

11.4.1 The team consists primarily of self-employed specialist staff. The post-excavation project will be managed by Dr Paul Wilkinson of SWAT Archaeology. The following staff (Table 3) are scheduled to undertake the work as outlined in the task list (Table 4) and the programme.

Name	Position
Dr Paul Wilkinson	Post-Excavation Manager
Peter Cichy	Project Manager
Peter Cichy	Site Supervisor
KORA/ Elissia Burrows	Cremations
Carol White	Animal bone specialist

Paul Hart	Flint specialist
QUEST	Environmental specialist
Mike Allen	Archaeobotany
Peter Cichy	Palaeomagnetism
David Dungworth	Archaeometallurgist
Paul Hart	Ceramic Specialist
Simon Holmes	Small Finds
SWAT Archaeology	Photography
Bartek Cichy	Illustrator
SWAT Archaeology	Archiving
Dr Paul Wilkinson	Publication Manager

Table 1 List of Contributing Personnel

11.4.2 It is therefore proposed that following final approval of this post-excavation assessment, a final Full Report and publication draft will be submitted to the Senior Archaeological Officer at Kent County Council within 6 months following completion of post-excavation assessment.

11.4.3 A landowner is required to transfer archive ownership rights to SWAT Archaeology and the archive will be held at SWAT offices until suitable museum is able to take the files.

11.5 Task list

11.5.1 Table 4 lists the stages and tasks, the personnel and scheduled work duration required to achieve the project objectives. Specialist recommendations are taken into consideration in the table below;

Task No.	Description	Days	Staff
Managment			
1	Project management	1	SWAT Archaeology
Analysis			
2	Phasing and startigraphy	2	SWAT Archaeology
3	Background research	1	SWAT Archaeology
Ceramic Analysis			
4	Report writing and comparison to other sites	0,5	SWAT Archaeology
5	Illustration (up to 2 sherds, although is not recommended)	0,5	SWAT Archaeology
Environmental Analysis			
6	Nothing recommended	0	QUEST

Report			
7	Introduction and background	0,5	SWAT Archaeology
8	Collation and integration of report	1	SWAT Archaeology
9	Discussion	1	SWAT Archaeology
10	Illustrations	1	SWAT Archaeology
11	Bibliography/ footnotes	0,5	SWAT Archaeology
12	Edit draft report	1	SWAT Archaeology
Publication			
13	Submission/liaison with journal editor	0,5	SWAT Archaeology
14	Journal charges	£75 per page	SWAT Archaeology
Archive			
15	Archive preparation	0,5	SWAT Archaeology
16	Archive deposition	0,5+museum dep cost	SWAT Archaeology

Table 2 Task List

11.6 Client's statement

11.6.1 Hereby, Clarus Homes is guaranteeing to secure necessary funding to cover all expenses associated with post-excavation tasks listed above and with publication of the site in Monograph.

12 ARCHIVING

12.1 General

12.1.1 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).

12.1.2 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 & A4 graphics.

13 ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

13.1.1 SWAT Archaeology would like to Clarus Homes for commissioning the project. Thanks are also extended to Wendy Rogers, Kent County Council, for her advice and assistance.

13.1.2 Peter Cichy supervised the archaeological fieldwork; illustrations were produced by Bartek Cichy. The pottery analysis was undertaken by Paul Hart. The Assessment report was prepared by Peter Cichy.

13.1.3 The project was managed by Peter Cichy and Dr Paul Wilkinson MCIfA.

14 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)

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SMA 1993. Selection, Retention and Dispersal of Archaeological Collections, Society of Museum Archaeologists. SMA 1995. Towards an Accessible Archaeological Archive, Society of Museum Archaeologists

Specification (SWAT 2021) Specification for an Archaeological Evaluation of land at Ashford Golf Complex, Bears Lane, Bethersden, Ashford, Kent

Specification (SWAT 2022) for a programme of archaeological strip map and sample and archaeological watching brief of land at Ashford Golf Complex, Bear's Lane, Bethersden, Ashford, Kent.

Site Name: Great Chart, Ashford Site code: GCA-EX-22	
Site Address: <i>Ashford Golf Complex, Bear's Lane, Bethersden, Ashford, Kent.</i>	
<p>Summary: An archaeological excavation was undertaken by Swale & Thames Survey Company (SWAT) land at Ashford Golf Complex, Bear's Lane, Bethersden, Ashford, Kent. Works were monitored remotely by Senior Archaeological Officer at Kent County Council.</p> <p>Archaeological investigation has revealed common stratigraphic sequence comprising topsoil, subsoil with made-up ground concealing natural geology and exposed agrarian remains of Early Medieval/ Medieval date comprising wide field-boundary/ drainage ditch in southern part of the site (Area1) with four short field ditches exposed in northern part of the site (Area2) along with large shallow pit of the same date. Additionally two firepits were investigated and these were revealed quite high up in subsoil and produced Victorian to modern potsherds and clay pipe stem.</p> <p>The excavations have indicated that the site's previous use was primarily agricultural in nature since medieval and until modern period. Activity appears to have declined during the High Medieval and Late Medieval periods and resumed during the Late post-medieval period suggesting either depopulation of the area and/or significant change in usage.</p>	
District/Unitary: Ashford Borough Council	Parish: Bethersden
<p>Period(s):</p> <p>1 Early Medieval/ Medieval c. 1150-1250 AD</p> <p>2. Late Post Medieval to Modern c. 1800 – 1900 AD plus</p>	
<p>NGR (centre of site : 8 figures): 571097 108055</p> <p>(NB if large or linear site give multiple NGRs) NGR 596013 143180</p>	
<p>Type of archaeological work (delete)</p> <p>Evaluation: Watching Brief Field Walking</p>	

<p>Documentary study Building recording Earthwork survey</p> <p>Excavation: Watching Brief Geophysical Survey Field Survey</p> <p>Geoarchaeological investigation</p>	
<p>Date of Recording: 2022</p>	
<p>Unit undertaking recording: SWAT Archaeology</p>	
<p>Geology: bedrock geology of Weald Clay Formation (Mudstone), a sedimentary bedrock formed approximately 125 to 134 million years ago in the Cretaceous Period in a local environment previously dominated by swamps, estuaries and deltas.</p>	
<p>Title and author of accompanying report: SWAT ARCHAEOLOGY archaeological strip map and sample and archaeological watching brief of land at Ashford Golf Complex, Bear's Lane, Bethersden, Ashford, Kent.</p>	
<p>Summary: An archaeological excavation was undertaken by Swale & Thames Survey Company (SWAT) land at Ashford Golf Complex, Bear's Lane, Bethersden, Ashford, Kent. Works were monitored remotely by Senior Archaeological Officer at Kent County Council.</p> <p>Archaeological investigation has revealed common stratigraphic sequence comprising topsoil, subsoil with made-up ground concealing natural geology and exposed agrarian remains of Early Medieval/ Medieval date comprising wide field-boundary/ drainage ditch in southern part of the site (Area1) with four short field ditches exposed in northern part of the site (Area2) along with large shallow pit of the same date. Additionally two firepits were investigated and these were revealed quite high up in subsoil and produced Victorian to modern potsherds and clay pipe stem.</p> <p>The excavations have indicated that the site's previous use was primarily agricultural in nature since medieval and until modern period. Activity appears to have declined during the High Medieval and Late Medieval periods and resumed during the Late post-medieval period suggesting either depopulation of the area and/or significant change in usage</p>	
<p>Location of archive/finds: SWAT Archaeology</p>	
<p>Contact at Unit: Dr Paul Wilkinson</p>	<p>Date: 11th June 2023</p>



Plate 1: Area 1, looking east.



Plate 2: Ditch [04] in Area 1. Looking northwest with one-metre scale.



Plate 3: Ditch 08 in Area 1. Looking east with one-metre scale.



Plate 4: Pit 06 in Area 1. Looking southeast with one-metre scale.



Plate 5: NE part of Area 2. Looking southeast with two metre scale.

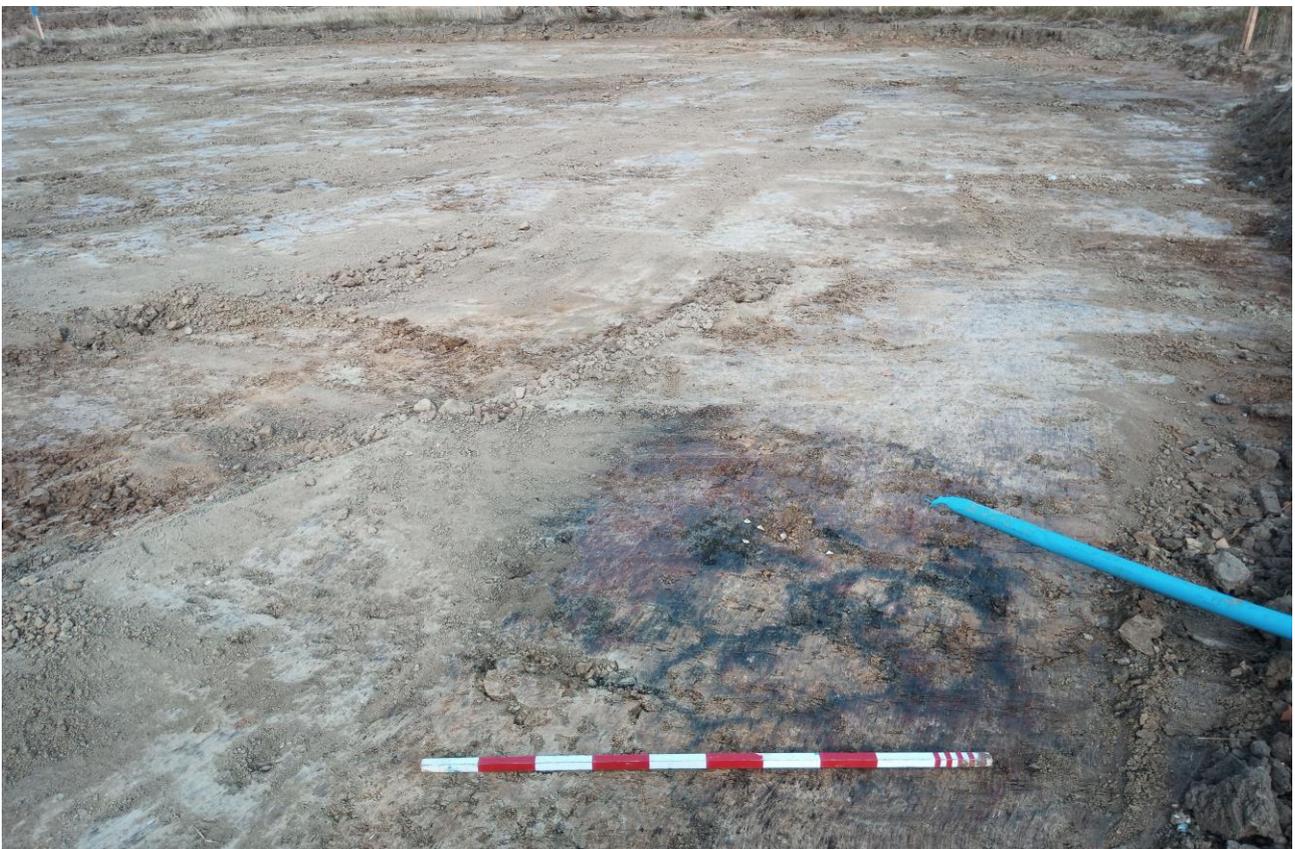


Plate 6: SW part of Area 2. Modern feature 32 visible in foreground. Looking north with one-metre scale.

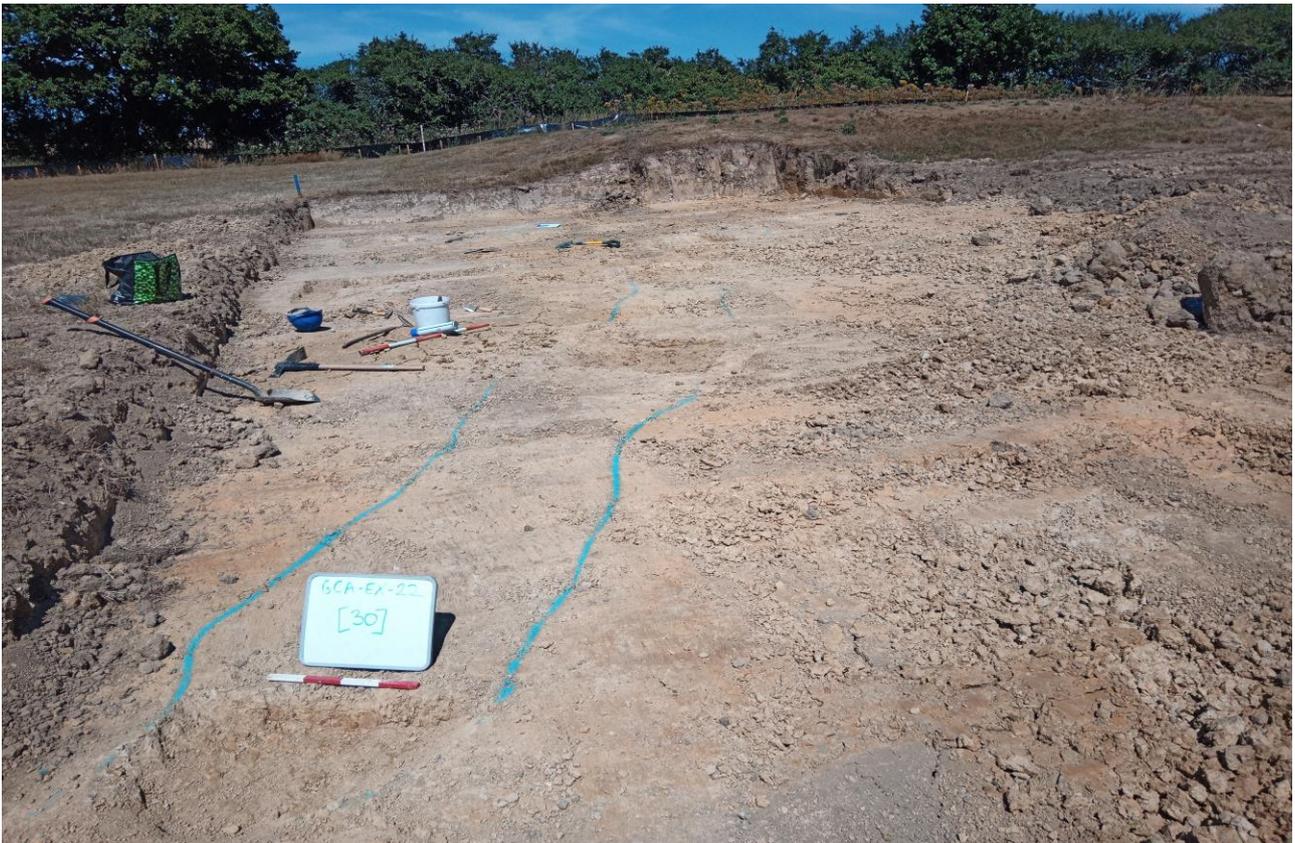


Plate 7: Terminus of Ditch 30. Looking north with point four metres scale.



Plate 8: Showing section of Ditch 28 in Area 2. Looking south with one-metre scale.



Plate 9: Showing terminus 16. Looking southeast with one metre scale.

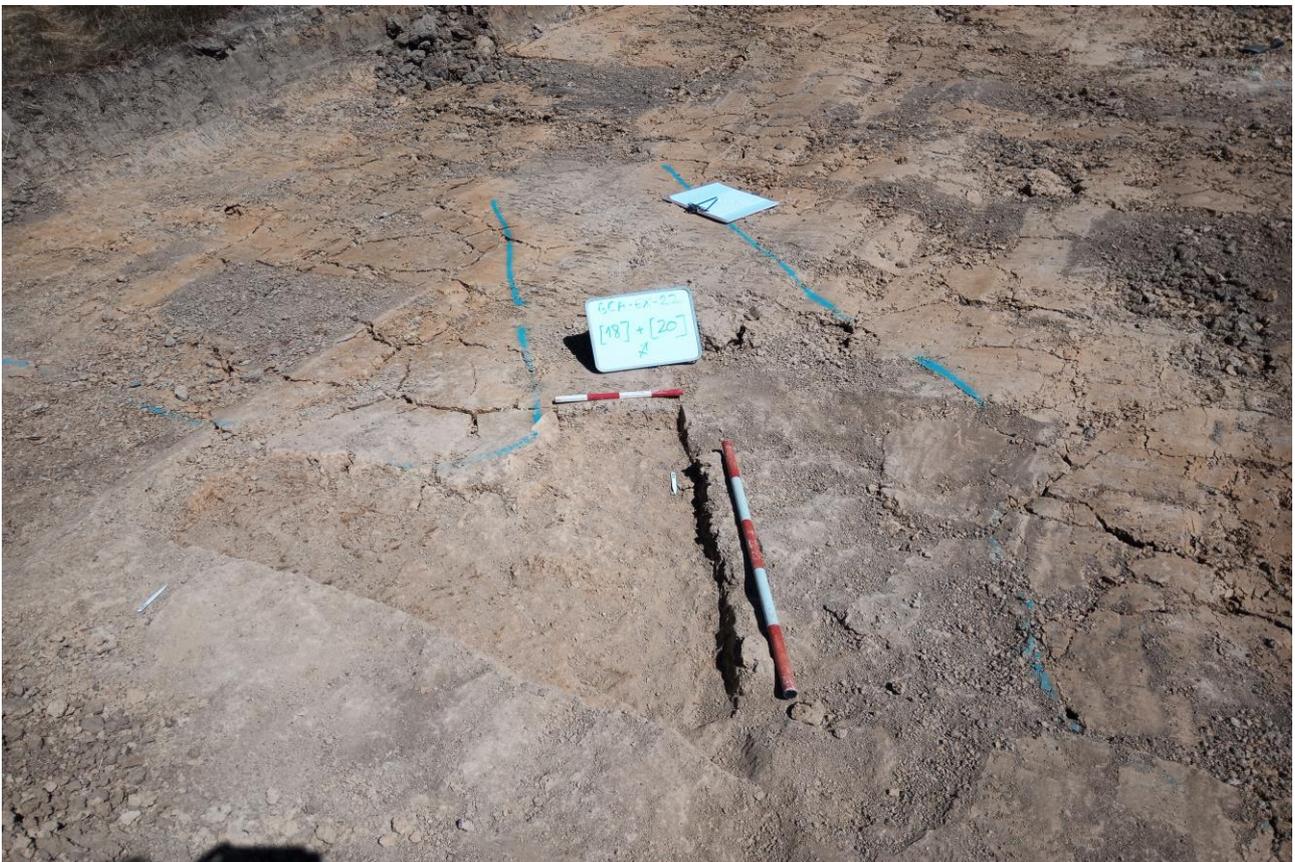


Plate 10. Showing relation slot of ditches 18 and 20. Looking northwest with point four and one metre scales.



Plate 11: Archaeological watching brief during internal road construction. Looking south with one-metre scale.



Plate 12: Archaeological watching brief during excavation of foundations (Plot 4). Looking southwest with one-metre scale.

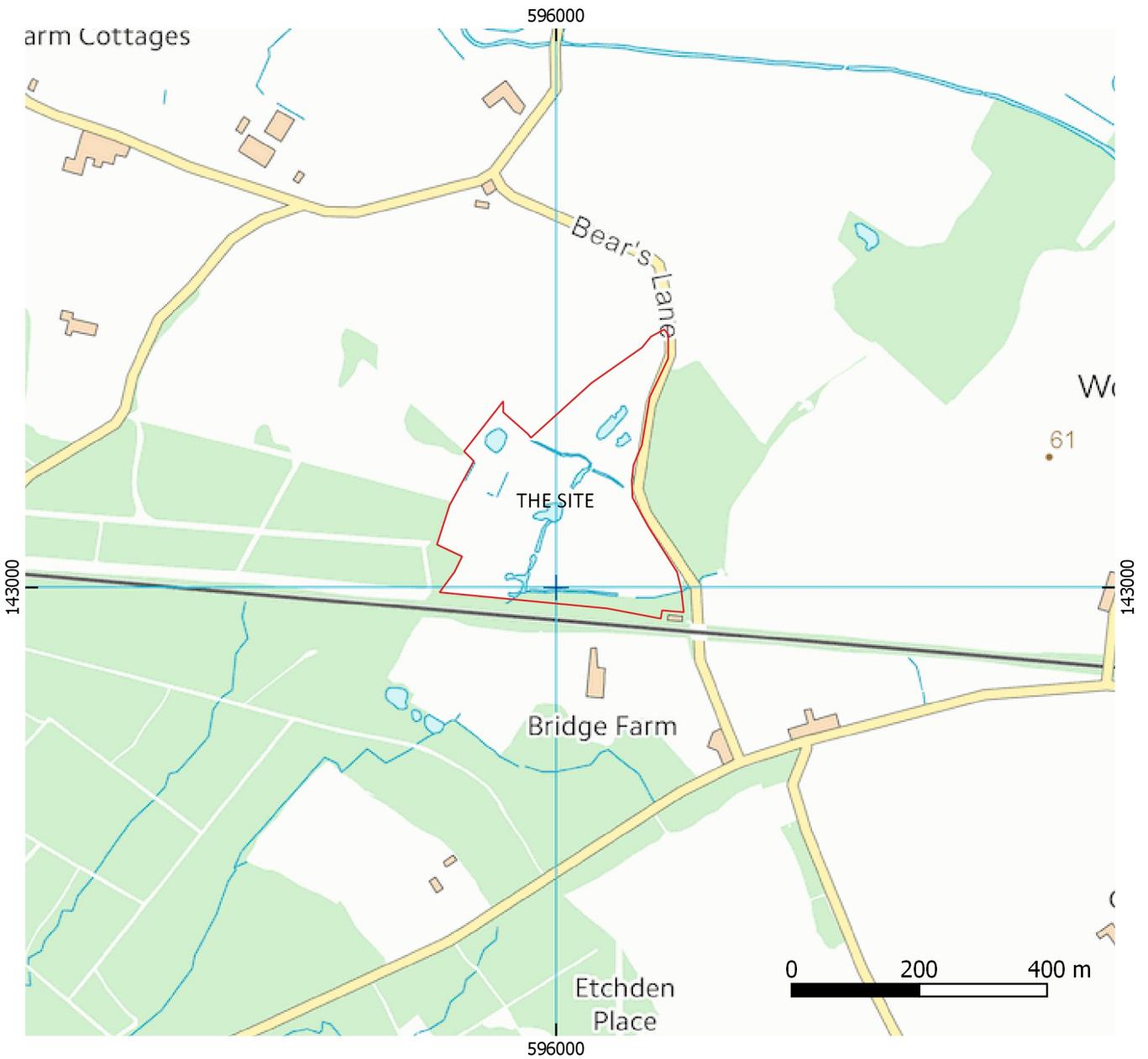
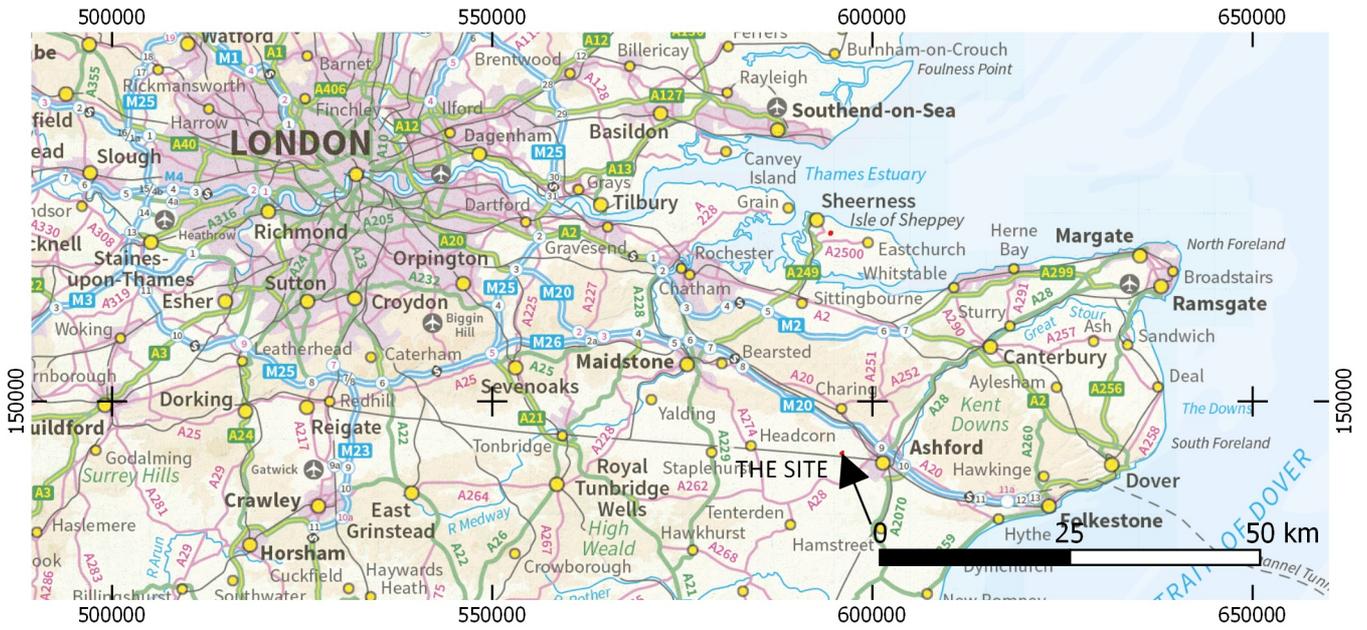


Figure 1: Site location

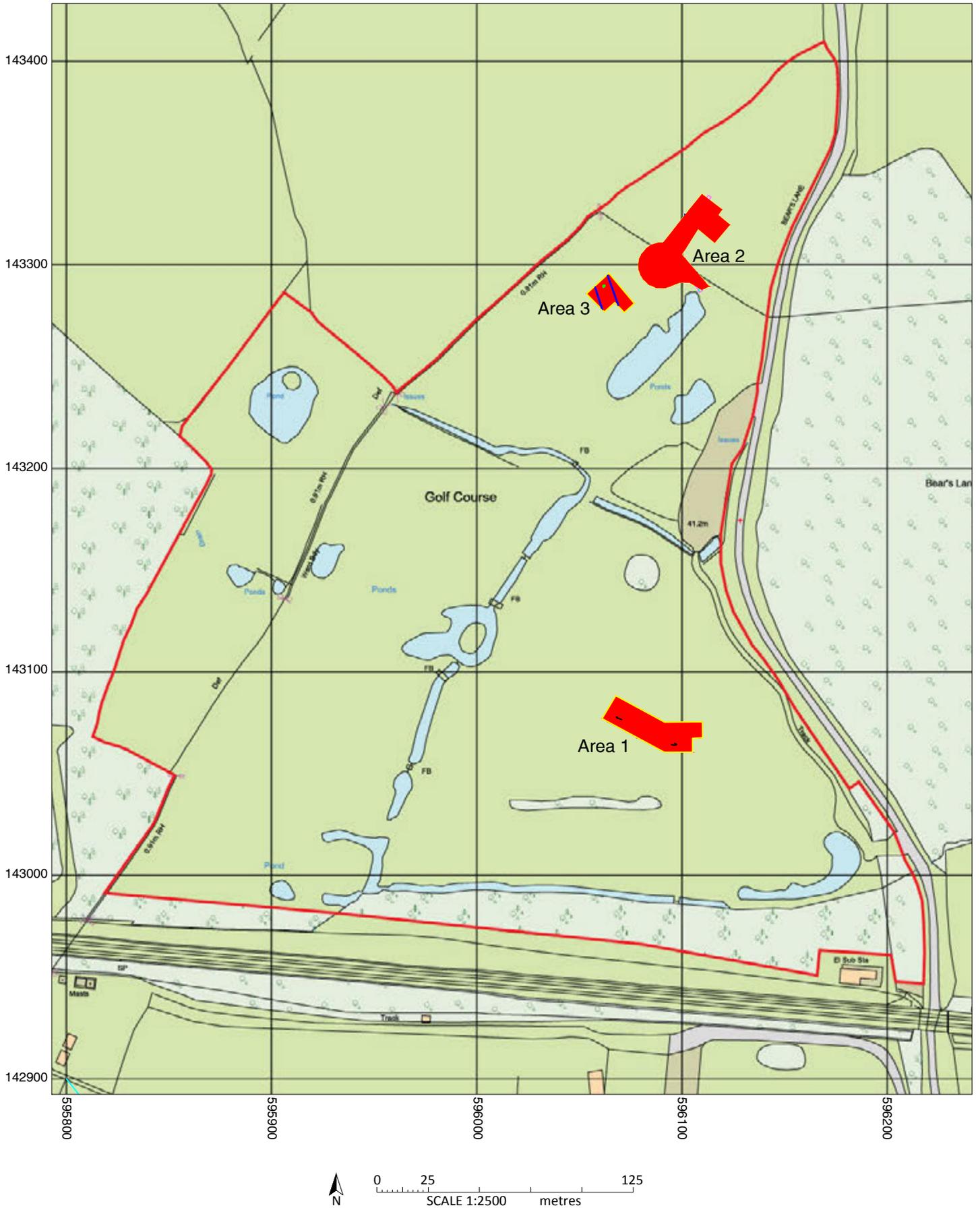


Figure 2: Site and SMS location in relation to OS map; scale 1:2500

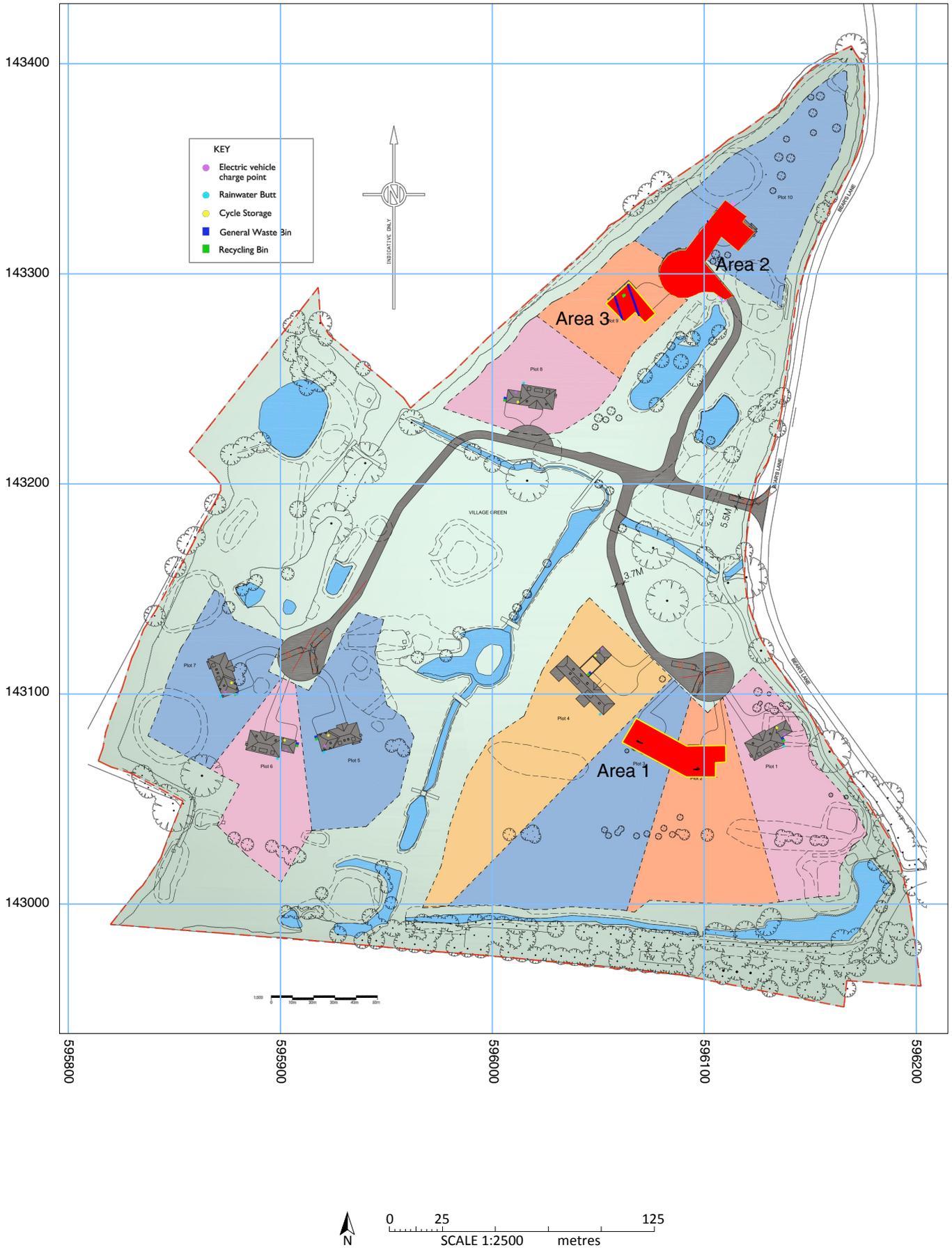


Figure 3: SMS areas (red) in relation to development; scale 1:2500

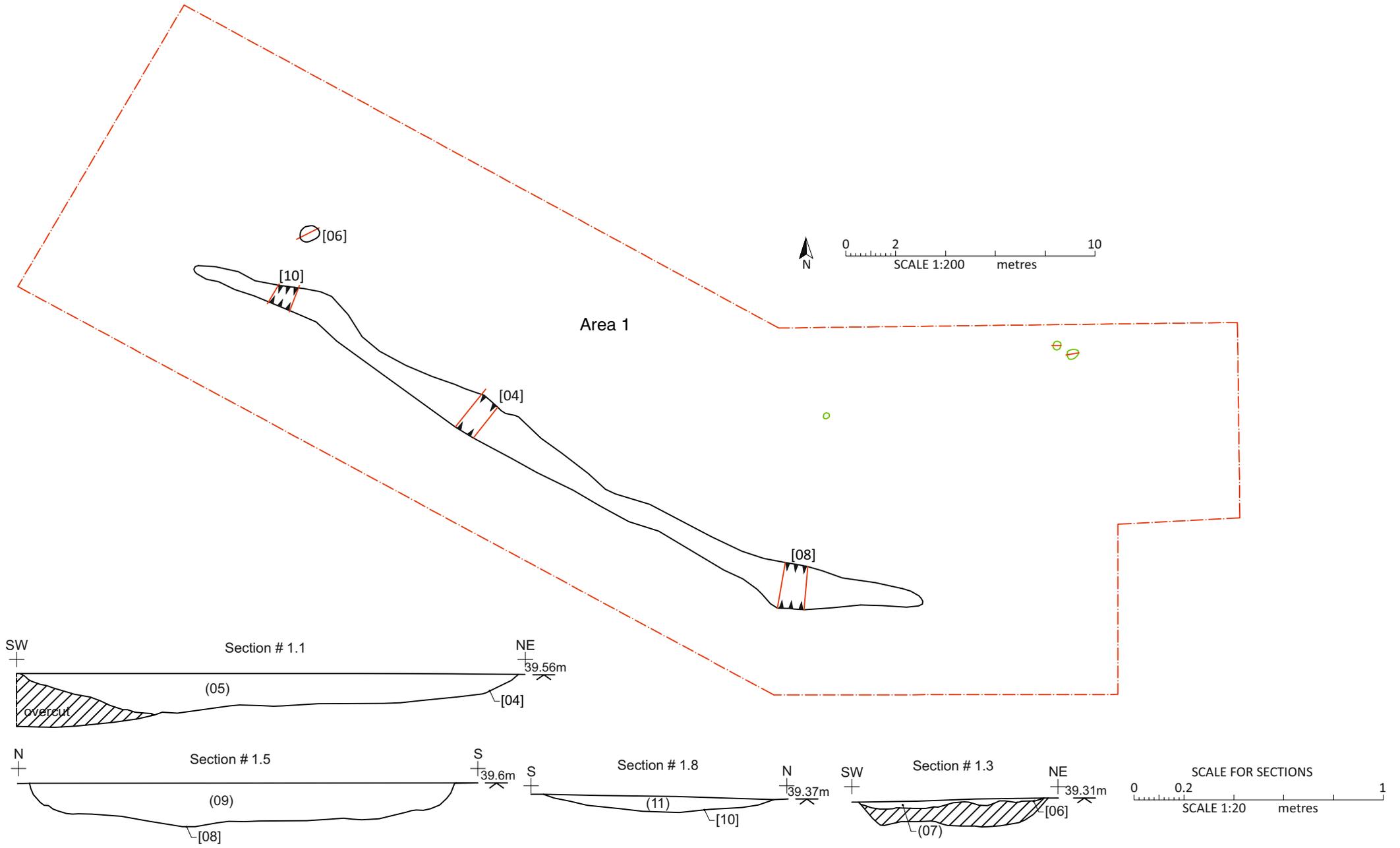


Figure 4: SMS area 1

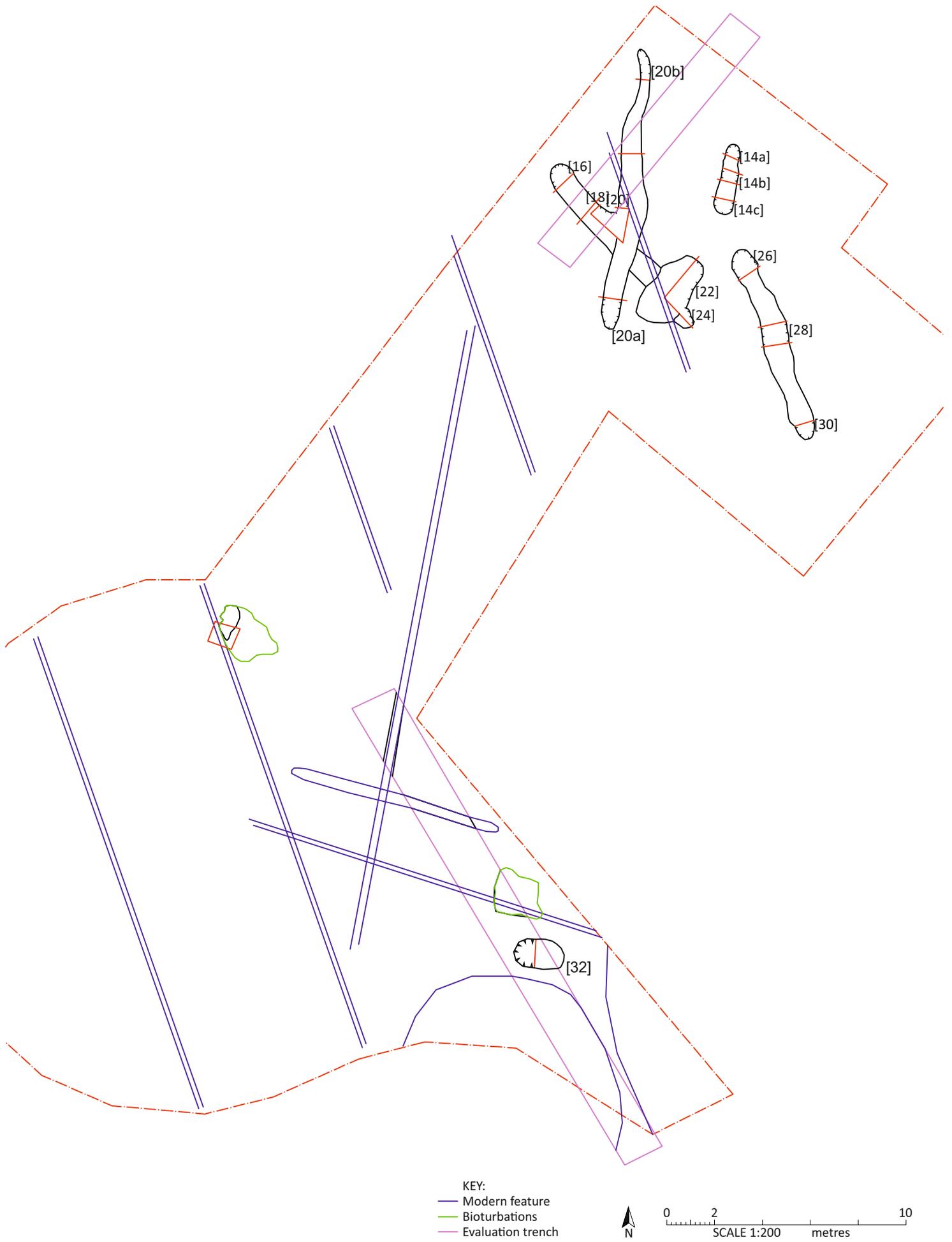


Figure 5: SMS area 2

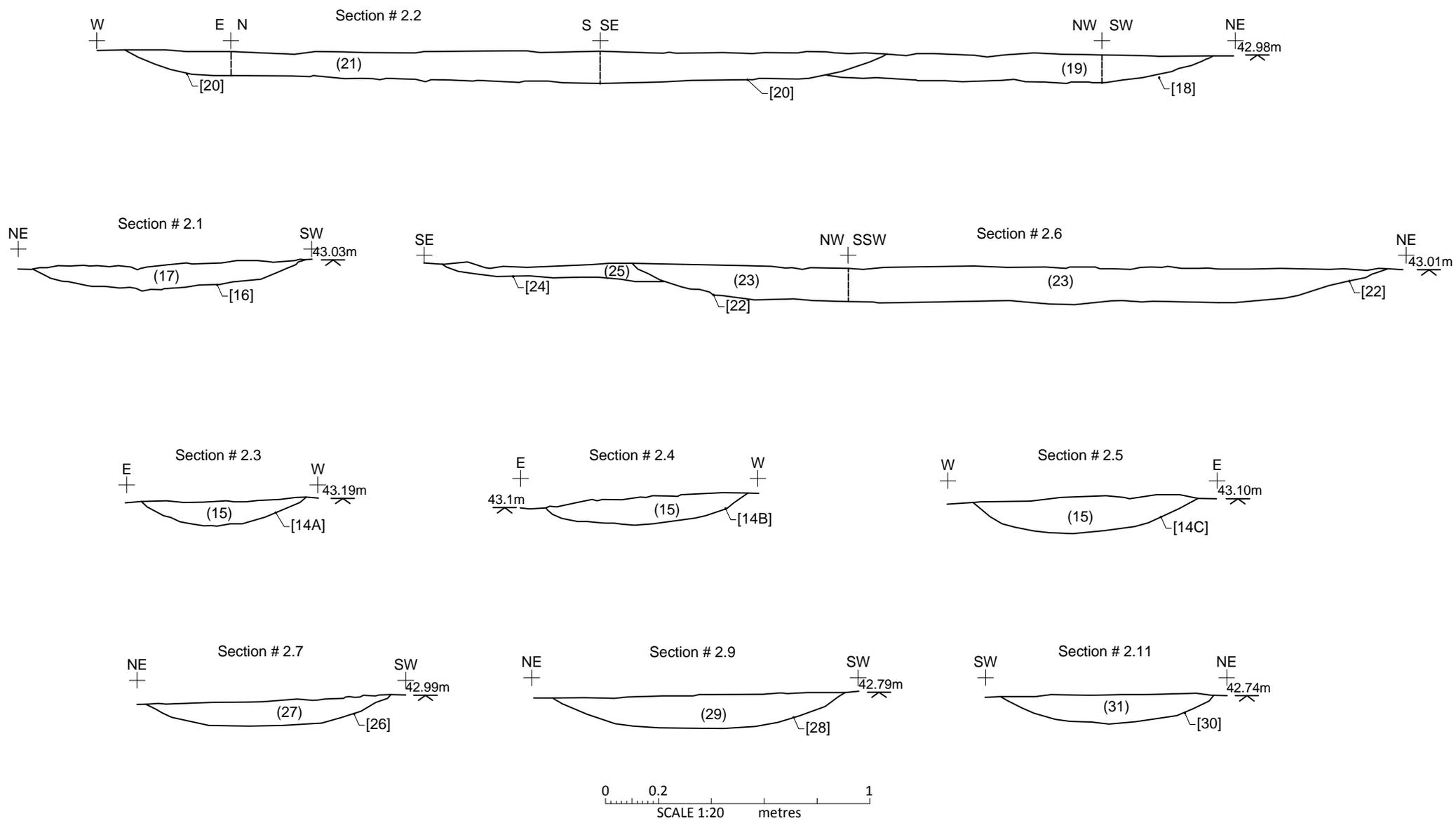
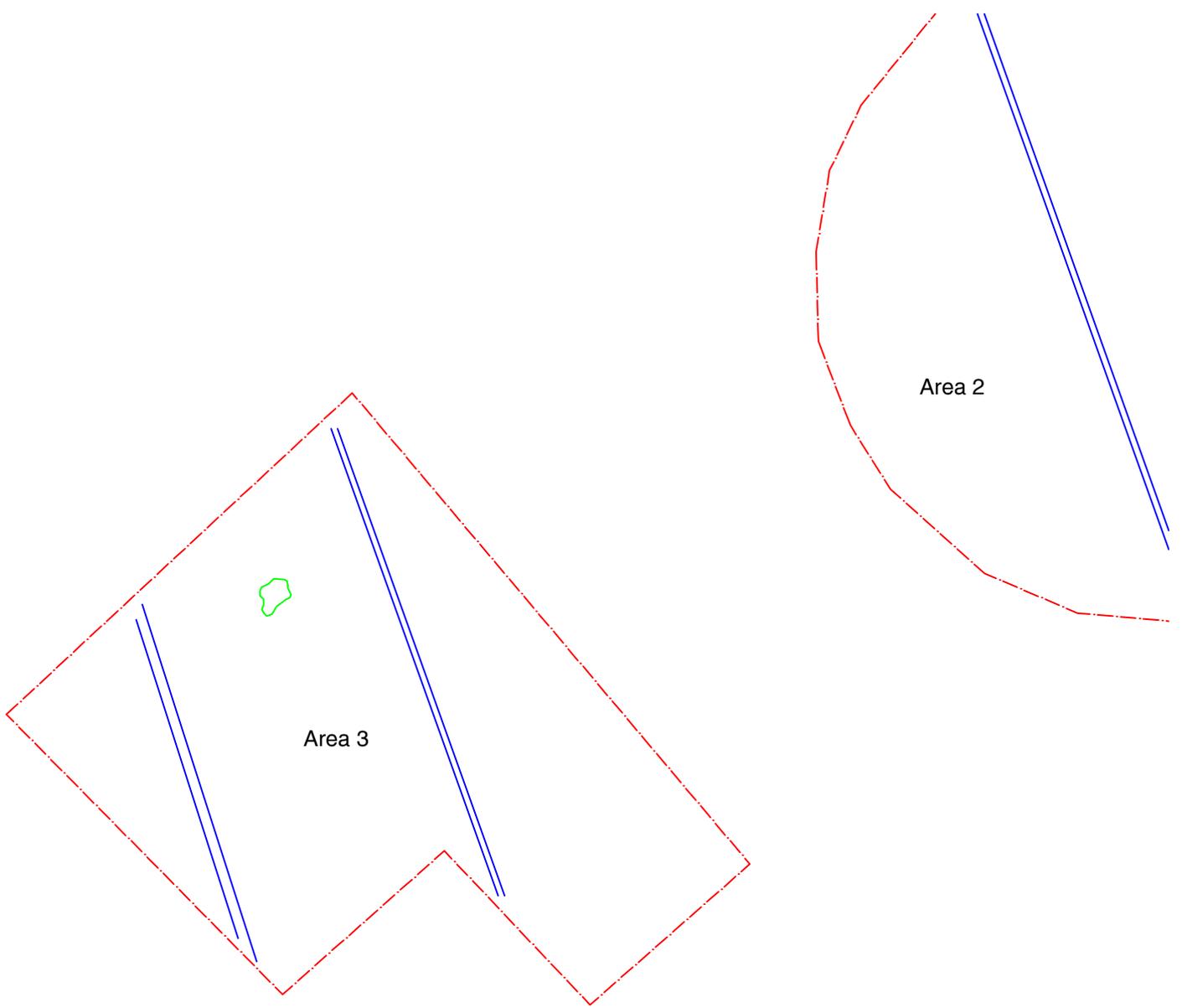


Figure 6: Features in SMS area 2



KEY:
— Modern feature
— Bioturbations



0 2 10
SCALE 1:200 metres

Figure 7: SMS area 3