

Archaeological Evaluation of Land at the Former White Horse Public House Site, The Street, Stoke, Kent

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SWAT ARCHAEOLOGY

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Summary

Swale & Thames Survey Company (SWAT Archaeology) were commissioned by Urban and Rural Limited to undertake an archaeological evaluation on land at the former White Horse Public House, The Street, Stoke, Medway, Kent. The archaeological programme was monitored by the Principal Archaeological Officer at Kent County Council.

The Archaeological Evaluation consisted of four trenches, which recorded a relatively common stratigraphic sequence comprising topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology. Evidence for modern landscaping associated with the former public house was present within the eastern area of the site.

A total of eight features of archaeological interest were recorded within three of the four trenches, including seven ditches and a single pit. Finds recorded have suggested three phases of activity; the first associated with the latter prehistoric Middle Bronze Age/Early Iron Age, the second to the 11th-12th century and the third with the 16th-17th century. The domination of linear features suggests management of the landscape, forming features such as field boundaries and droveways necessary for the demarcation of land divisions and the management of an agrarian landscape.

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.

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1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project Background

1.1.1 Swale & Thames Survey Company (SWAT Archaeology) were commissioned by Urban and Rural Limited to undertake an archaeological evaluation on land at the former White Horse Public House, The Street, Stoke, Medway, Kent. (Figure 1).

1.1.2 A planning application (PAN: MC/21/0192) for the demolition of an existing site outbuilding together with the subsidiary side and rear projections of the former public house and construction of a two-storey extension to side/rear to facilitate conversion of the building into a dwelling along with construction of four detached dwellings and associated parking was submitted to Medway Council (MC). Kent County Council Heritage and Conservation (KCCHC), on behalf of MC, 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:

No development shall take place until the applicant, or their agents or successors in title, has secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological work (involving archaeological evaluation (trial trenching)) in accordance with a written specification, timetable and scope of mitigation measures) that has been submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority.

Reason: To ensure that features of archaeological interest are properly examined and recorded, in accordance with Policy BNE21 of the Medway Local Plan 2003.

(MC/21/0192, Condition 6, 1st April 2021)

1.1.4 The archaeological evaluation, which comprised the excavation of four trenches measuring between 14.5m and 19.55m in length and 1.5m in width, was carried out over the course of three days in September 2021 (see Table 1 below). The evaluation was carried out in accordance with an archaeological Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) prepared by SWAT Archaeology (2021), prior to commencement of works.

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 May 2021	SWAT Archaeology
Archaeological Evaluation – Fieldwork	27 th – 29 th September 2021	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 582224 175187 and is situated on vacant ground of approximately 1,750 square metres in area, located adjacent and to the west of The Street (Figure 1). The northern boundary opens out to agricultural land, while the western boundary is demarcated by private housing. The southern boundary of the site is demarcated by Vicarage Lane.

1.3.2 Ground levels are relatively level with a height of approximately 17.3m Ordnance Datum (OD), and no significant changes in level. The Geological Survey of Great Britain shows that the natural geology comprises bedrock geology of London Clay Formation- Clay and Silt. Superficial Deposits are recorded as River Terrace Deposits 2- Sand and Gravel.

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 impacts of the proposed development are also considered and presented in an Impact Assessment (Section 7). The results from this work will be used to aid and inform the Senior Archaeological Officer (KCC) of any further archaeological mitigation measures that may be necessary in connection with any future development proposals.

2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 Introduction

2.1.1 The Proposed Development Area (PDA) is located approximately 150m northwest of the Church dedicated to St Peter and St Paul. The church was associated with the Manor of Great Hoo and has visible fabric dating to 1175 AD, although an earlier church is believed to have existed there (MacDougall 1980:198). The church would have formed the focal point of the relatively isolated medieval village. The surrounding area comprises marshland where Roman and medieval salterns sites have been recorded.

2.1.2 Further details of previous discoveries and investigations within the immediate and wider area may be found in the Kent County Council Historic Environment Record (HER) and have been summarised in correspondence with the KCCHC Senior Archaeological Officer.

2.2 Historic Environment Record (HER)

2.2.1 The KCC HER records show fourteen sites within a 500m radius of the proposed development including Listed Buildings and cropmarks. The White Horse Public House is also recorded in the HER as being detailed in an Historic Area Assessment carried out by English Heritage in 2014 as “rebuilt in the mid to late 19th century” (SWAT Archaeology 2021, Plate 1).

2.2.2 The following listings are recorded in the HER:

HER Number	Name
TQ 87 NW 1046	CHURCH OF ST PETER AND ST PAUL
TQ 87 NW 6	Palaeolithic handaxe, Stoke
MKE83363	Court Lodge Farm (Parsonage Farm)
TQ 87 SW 55	Unidentified barge, Stoke Creek
TQ 87 NW 54	Possible medieval/post-medieval hollow, The Street, Stoke
TQ 87 NW 1055	GRANARY 20 YARDS TO NORTH OF COURT LODGE FARM HOUSE
TQ 87 NW 1049	COURT LODGE FARM HOUSE
TQ 87 SW 1093	Earthwork, Stoke Creek Crossing
TQ 87 NW 1085	Church Terrace, Upper Stoke, Stoke Parish
TQ 87 NW 1083	The White Horse Public House, Upper Stoke, Stoke Parish
MKE83364	Court Lodge
TQ 87 NW 1084	Elm Tree Cottages, Upper Stoke, Stoke Parish
TQ 87 NW 1086	Clematis Cottage, Upper Stoke, Stoke Parish
TQ 87 NW 97	Cropmarks of 2 ring ditches, to the NE of Stoke

Table 2 Historic Environment Record listing within a 500m radius of the site

2.3 Recent investigations in the area

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

3 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

3.1 General Aims

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

- *The primary objective of the archaeological evaluation is to establish or otherwise the presence of any potential archaeological features which may be impacted by the proposed development. The aims of this investigation are to determine the potential for archaeological activity and in particular the earlier prehistoric period and also any Roman, 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.*

(SWAT Archaeology 2021: Section 6)

3.2 General Objectives

3.2.1 The general objectives of the archaeological fieldwork were therefore;

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

4 METHODOLOGY

4.1 Introduction

4.1.1 All fieldwork was conducted in accordance with the methodology set out in the Specification (SWAT 2021) and carried out in compliance with the standards outlined in the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' Standards Guidance for Archaeological Evaluations (CIfA 2014).

4.2 Fieldwork

4.2.1 A total of four evaluation trenches were excavated (Figure 2). Each trench was initially scanned by 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 MC 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. A photographic register of all photographs taken is contained within the project archive.

4.3.3 A single context recording system was used to record the deposits. A full list is presented in Appendix 1. Layers and fills are identified in this report thus (100), whilst the cut of the feature is shown as [100]. Context numbers were assigned to all deposits for recording purposes. Each number has been attributed to a specific trench with the primary number(s) relating to specific trenches (*i.e.* Trench 1, 101+, Trench 2, 201+, Trench 3, 301+, and Trench 4, 401+).

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. Slight variations in the location

and size of the trenches was required on site, in order to avoid obstacles such as drains, services, and an existing cess pit (as shown on Figure 2).

5.1.2 Individual trench results are discussed below.

5.1.3 The site, as shown on Figure 2, provides the trench layout and distribution of archaeological features. Figures 3-6 illustrate the results for each individual archaeological evaluation trench along with representative soil sequence sections. Plates 1-10 consist of photographs of features and selected trenches that have been provided to supplement the text.

5.1.4 Appendix 1 provides the stratigraphic sequence and contextual information for all trenches.

5.2 Stratigraphic Deposit Sequence

5.2.1 A relatively consistent stratigraphic sequence was recorded across the majority of the Site comprising topsoil sealing an intact subsoil, which overlay the natural geological drift deposits. At the front of the property, an area previously used for parking, tarmac directly overlay a hardcore formation layer which sealed relatively disturbed natural gravel (Trench 4 – see below).

5.2.2 The topsoil generally consisted of soft dark brown silt clay with moderate roots and occasional small rounded stones, topped with grass/vegetation, overlying the subsoil which consisted of mid grey clay silt. Natural geology comprised both mottled mid orange, brown, silty clay with occ. iron/manganese panning and clean relatively loose gravel.

5.3 Archaeological Narrative

Trench 1 (Figure 3, Plates 1-3)

5.3.1 Within the northern extent of the site, Trench 1 was excavated on an NE-SW alignment and measured approximately 10m in length with a maximum depth of 0.62m (Figure 3, Plates 1 and 2). The trench was slightly relocated and shortened due to limited space and the presence of an existing cess pit.

5.3.2 Natural geological deposits were recorded at a level ranging between 17.64m OD and 17.94m OD with the upper horizon being cut by three distinctive archaeological features. Within the northeastern extent of the trench the terminus of a linear feature [107] contained a single fill (106) which contained a worn, likely residual, flint which has been dated to the latter prehistoric periods (see section 6.1). To the southwest two additional linear features were similar in size and shape with the first being orientated east-west [105] and the second north-south [109]. A worked flint from the fill (104) of linear [105] has been positively dated to the middle Bronze Age/early Iron Age.

Trench 2 (Figure 4, Plates 4-6)

- 5.3.3 Within the central western area of the site, Trench 2 was excavated on a north-south alignment and measured approximately 20m in length with a maximum depth of 0.68m (Figure 4). Natural geological deposits were recorded at a level ranging between 17.68m OD and 17.77m OD.
- 5.3.4 Within the northern area of the trench an NW-SE aligned linear feature [209] which measured 0.58m in width and contained a single fill which comprised mottled dark grey and mid brown silty clay (208). Two sherds of pottery and three fragments of tile present within the fill have suggested a 16th-17th century date for this feature. To the south a much larger ditch was investigated [205/210]. Orientated north-south this feature measured approximately 1.22m in width with an exposed depth exceeding 0.32m. Two interventions excavated within this ditch examined the terminus [210] which contained two sherds of 11th-12th century pottery and a single worked flint (residual) which has been possibly dated to the Neolithic/Early Bronze Age. A second intervention to the south [205] recorded a base sloping from the north to the south, with edges of the cut exposed in the southern extent of the intervention. No finds were presented within this intervention.

Trench 3 (Figure 5, Plates 7-10)

- 5.3.5 Located within the central southern area of the site (Figure 5), Trench 3 measured approximately 20m in length with a maximum depth of 0.66m. Natural geological deposits were recorded at a level ranging between 17.57m OD and 17.59m OD. Three features of archaeological interest were recorded within this trench.
- 5.3.6 Within the northern extent of the trench, pit [304] measured 1.24m in width, with a depth of 0.84m. The fill (303) comprised mottled light orange brown silty clay (305) that produced fragments of animal bone, mortar, and CBM along with a single sherd of pottery dating to the 12th-13th century.
- 5.3.7 At the far southern extent of the site a larger linear [308] was recorded on a north-south alignment and had a single undated fill (309) of mottled dark grey and mid brown green silty clay. This feature had clearly been truncated by curvilinear feature [307] that produced fragments of animal bone, mortar, and CBM along with a single sherd of pottery dating to the 12th-13th century (306). The true extent of this feature was difficult to ascertain within the narrow confines of the evaluation trench but modern truncation (310) at the northern end of the feature was clear.

Trench 4 (Figure 6, Plates 11-12)

- 5.3.8 Within the eastern extent of the site, Trench 4 was excavated on an NW-SE alignment and measured approximately 14.5m in length with a maximum depth of 1.12m (Figure 6, Plate 11). The upper surviving surface of natural geological deposits (403) were recorded at a level ranging between 17.44m OD and 17.02m OD exposed to a level of approximately 16.46m with a test pit excavated in the centre of the trench (Figure 6). The stratigraphic sequence within this trench consisted of made ground directly overlying the natural gravel, the absence of any subsoil was noted (see Section 7 below for further comments). The trench was disturbed by a modern surface water drain (404) and modern pit (405).
- 5.3.9 No archaeological finds or features were present in Trench 4.

6 FINDS

6.1 Overview

- 6.1.1 Finds retrieved during the evaluation included worked flint, pottery and ceramic building material (CBM). Quantification and spot dating is carried out below.

(104) [105]

- 6.1.2 1 worked flint, 16 g medium sized long flake with chips and retouch scars, all retouch simple and marginal. Originally a side + possible hollow scraper, with platform preparation suggesting broadly Mesolithic>Early Bronze Age, more likely Neolithic>EBA. Given the basic retouch, a Beaker Period>EBA date seems more typical/most likely (2450-1550 BC). A second phase of scarring and probably some minor limited retouching for later re-use as side scraper, these scars with a slight orangey patina, possibly deposited in a watery/iron-rich environment post second discard. Re-use is most common in the Later Prehistoric, Middle Bronze Age to Early to Mid-Iron Age or later, but this re-use preferably MBA>Earliest Iron Age (1550-600 BC).

(106) [107]

- 6.1.3 1 worked flint, 4g small flake, utilised as knife, could date almost anywhere, slight preference for Later Prehistoric (1550-350+ BC) given the use of a flake of this small size, but raw material size/availability could be a factor.
- 6.1.4 1 fragment of cow tooth, 11g worn, likely residual.

(208) [209]

- 6.1.5 2 sherds of pottery, 9g 1 ?Kentish redware, small plain body sherd, sandy, some minor chalk and buff marl spot inclusions, quite hard, 1550-1675/1750 AD. Chipped, possibly residual to some degree.
- 6.1.6 1 ?Surrey/Hampshire Border Whiteware, very small body sherd, iron flecked glaze, 1550-1750 AD, possibly at the 1750 end of this range due to the glaze. Small but appears fairly fresh.
- 6.1.7 3 fragments of tile, 197g small to large, slightly sandy, often with small buff marl spot inclusions as seen in 1 pot sherd from this context, though in 1 tile they are fairly frequent; tiles probably from at least 2 different sources.

(210) [211]

- 6.1.8 1 sherd of pottery, 3g North/West Kent shelly ware, small plain body sherd, likely 1150-1250/1300 AD. Possibly Woolwich Beds source; any such nearby? More common pre 1200 AD, falling out of use generally by around 1250 AD, though fabric could continue in West Kent to 1300 AD. Includes some grog-like elements.
- 6.1.9 1 worked flint, 6g small long flake simply/marginally retouched as a side scraper. Platform preparation suggests broadly M>Early Bronze Age, but more likely N>EBA. Though raw material availability and quality will affect the products produced, the flake size and retouching would be more likely to/more commonly occur in the EBA, but this piece is not specifically diagnostic of such on its own merits. Residual because of pottery, despite being unpatinated (presume underlying geology is sands, silts or clays).
- 6.1.10 1 'fe object', 1g very small rounded sandy iron lump, natural.

(306) [307]

- 6.1.11 1 sherd of pottery, 1g shell dusted sandy ware, small plain body sherd, 1150/1175-1250/1275 AD. Slightly worn. Possibly residual because of size and being the single sherd recovered.
- 6.1.12 1 medium sized fragment of cbm, 61g thick, orangey, fabric slightly sandy with occasional large chalk-like fragment inclusions as noted immediately below. Medieval or later. Possibly related to the pottery, but not sure if bricks would occur this early (?rare if so), so if contemporary might be a very thick tile, though the pottery is tiny and could be residual.
- 6.1.13 6 small fragments of hard chalk-like material, ?mortar, 3g.
- 6.1.14 1 fragment of animal bone, ?large rib (?cow/horse), 12g.

7 DISCUSSION

7.1 Introduction

7.1.1 The archaeological works on land at the White Horse Public House, Stoke, Kent, has investigated the extents of the proposed development area using four trenches, each measuring between 14.5m and 20m in length and 1.5m in width.

7.1.2 Within the western extent of the site the natural geology was encountered at an average depth of approximately 0.6m below the existing ground surface, directly underlying a subsoil sealed by the extant topsoil, at a level between 18.19m OD and 18.46m OD. The eastern area of the site differed in as much as there was no subsoil present, the site having been stripped prior to the construction of the existing buildings and car park.

7.2 Archaeological Narrative

7.2.1 The archaeological investigation has been successful in evaluating the proposed development site for the possibility of archaeological remains. Preservation conditions were considered favourable, particularly in the western and northern extents of the site, to the rear of the existing Public House. It is acknowledged that the footprint of the existing buildings and car parking areas have suffered a degree of truncation.

7.2.2 A total of eight features of archaeological interest were recorded, including seven ditches and a single pit. Finds recorded have suggested three phases of activity, the first associated with the latter prehistoric Middle Bronze Age/Early Iron Age, the second to the 11th-12th century, and the third with the 16th-17th century. The domination of linear features suggests the historic management of the landscape, forming features such as field boundaries and droveways necessary for the demarcation of land divisions and the management of an agrarian landscape.

7.2.3 No evidence for domestic occupation was recorded, evident by the lack of post holes, floors, walls, hearths, etc., and no evidence for industry (i.e., kilns, furnaces, etc.) was present. That said, considering the position of the site within the medieval core village the presence of such features within the proposed development area is a possibility.

7.3 Preliminary Impact Assessment

7.3.1 Archaeological horizons, features and finds have been recorded at approximately 0.6m below the existing ground surface, directly underlying a subsoil sealed by the extant topsoil, at a level between 17.02m OD and 17.94m OD. Therefore, any development requiring excavation work to that depth or deeper may have an archaeological impact.

7.3.2 It is noted, however, that preserved remains are only recorded in the northern and western areas of the site, the east suffering impacts from previous development (existing public house, outhouses, services, and utilities). Figure 7 shows the proposed site plan with five detached domestic properties located primarily with the eastern extent of the site. Proposed works within the western area are minimal with this area being retained as gardens, while proposed Plot 1 falls within the northern area of the site, which may have an archaeological impact. Archaeological remains within the western extent of the site would therefore remain preserved in-situ.

7.4 Conclusions

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

8 ARCHIVE

8.1 General

8.1.1 The Site archive, which will include paper records, photographic records, graphics and digital data, will be prepared following nationally recommended guidelines (SMA 1995; 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 one file/document case of paper records and A4 graphics. The Site Archive will be retained at SWAT Archaeology offices until such time it can be transferred to a Kent Museum.

9 ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

9.1.1 SWAT would like to thank Mr Richard Baron (Architect/Director) at Urban & Rural Limited for commissioning the project. Thanks are also extended to Ben Found, Senior Archaeological Officer at Kent County Council, for his 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. Paul Hart provided specialist dating of the finds assemblage and the project was managed by Dr Paul Wilkinson MCIfA, FRSA of SWAT Archaeology.

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11 APPENDIX 1 – TRENCH TABLES

Trench 1 Dimensions: 10m x 1.5m Depth: 0.62m Ground Level: 18.43m OD – 18.46m OD			
Context	Interpretation	Description	Depth (m)
(101)	Topsoil	Soft, dark brown silty clay, moderate roots, occasional small, rounded stones and occasional building material	0.00-0.12
(102)	Subsoil	Compact mid grey clay silt with occasional flint and modern building material	0.12-0.41
(103)	Natural	Mottled mid orange brown gravel (River Terrace Deposits 2).	0.41-0.62+
(104)	Fill of [105]	Grey mid brown friable loam, moderately compact with occasion rounded stones.	-
[105]	Ditch	E-W aligned shallow linear feature filled by (104).	-
(106)	Fill of [107]	Mottled grey green and light blue silty clay with moderate manganese, frequent angular stone and occasional rooting.	-
[107]	Ditch terminus	WNW-ESE aligned linear filled by (106).	-
(108)	Fill of [109]	Mottled dark grey and mid brown sandy clay with frequent angular stones and occasional rooting.	-
[109]	Ditch	SSE-NNW aligned linear filled by (108).	-

Trench 2 Dimensions: 19.6m x 1.5m Depth: 0.68m Ground Level: 18.05m OD – 18.35m OD			
Context	Interpretation	Description	Depth (m)
(201)	Topsoil	Soft, dark brown silty clay, moderate roots, occasional small, rounded stones and occasional building material.	0.00-0.29
(202)	Subsoil	Compact mid grey clay silt with occasional flint and modern building material.	0.29-0.66
(203)	Natural	Mottled mid orange brown silt with frequent gravel.	0.66-0.68+
(204)	Fill of [205]	Mottled dark grey and mid brown silty clay with moderate angular flint, charcoal and rooting.	-
[205]	Ditch	Linear filled by (204), same as [211].	-
(206)	Natural	Mottled light orange brown silty clay with occasional rounded stone and gravel patches.	0.66-0.68+
(207)	Disturbance	Dark brown black silt clay with moderate brick, slate and oyster shell, along with occasional scraps of plastic.	-

Trench 2		Dimensions: 19.6m x 1.5m Depth: 0.68m Ground Level: 18.05m OD – 18.35m OD	
(208)	Fill of [209]	Mottled dark grey and brown relatively loose sandy clay with frequent small rounded stone and occasional rooting.	-
[209]	Ditch	WNW-ESE aligned linear filled by (208).	-
(210)	Fill of (211)	Mid brown grey firm clay silt with frequent rounded stone and rooting.	-
[211]	Ditch terminus	N-S aligned linear filled by (210), same as [205].	-

Trench 3		Dimensions: 17.5m x 1.5m Depth: 0.66m Ground Level: 18.15m OD – 18.19m OD	
Context	Interpretation	Description	Depth (m)
(301)	Topsoil	Soft, dark brown silty clay, moderate roots, occasional small, rounded stones and occasional building material.	0.00-0.17
(302)	Subsoil	Compact mid grey clay silt with occasional flint and modern building material.	0.17-0.66
(303)	Natural	Mottled light orange brown silty clay with occasional rounded stone and gravel patches.	0.66+
[304]	Pit?	Pit filled by (305).	-
(305)	Fill of [304]	Mid grey sandy clay with occasional rounded stone and charcoal flecks.	-
[306]	Ditch	?Curvilinear feature filled by (306).	-
(307)	Fill of [306]	Dark grey brown silty clay with occasional charcoal flecks, fragments of mortar and chalk and moderate crumbled fired clay.	-
[308]	Ditch	Linear filled by (309).	-
(309)	Fill of [308]	Mottled dark grey and mid brown green silty clay with moderate angular flint, charcoal and rooting.	-
(310)	Disturbance	Dark brown black silt clay with moderate brick, slate and oyster shell, along with occasional scraps of plastic.	

Trench 4		Dimensions: 14.5m x 1.5m Depth: 1.12m Ground Level: 17.39m OD – 17.76m OD	
Context	Interpretation	Description	Depth (m)
(401)	Surface	Tarmac surface of existing car park.	0.00-0.11
(402)	Formation	Crushed hardcore and stone, including modern brick.	0.11-0.32

Trench 4			
Dimensions: 14.5m x 1.5m Depth: 1.12m			
Ground Level: 17.39m OD – 17.76m OD			
Context	Interpretation	Description	Depth (m)
(403)	Natural	Light mid brown orange gravel, upper surface quite heavily truncated.	0.32-1.12+
(404)	Drain	Modern storm drain, ceramic pipe 0.1m diameter.	0.32+
(405)	Disturbance	Modern black as and clinker mixed with dark brown silt clay containing moderate modern building materials.	0.32+

12 APPENDIX 2 – HER FORM

Site Name: *White Horse Public House, The Street, Stoke, Medway, Kent*

SWAT Site Code: WHS-EV-21

Summary. *Swale & Thames Survey Company (SWAT Archaeology) were commissioned by Urban and Rural Limited to undertake an archaeological evaluation on land at the former White Horse Public House, The Street, Stoke, Medway, Kent. The archaeological programme was monitored by the Principal Archaeological Officer at Kent County Council. The Archaeological Evaluation consisted of four trenches, which recorded a relatively common stratigraphic sequence comprising topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology. Evidence for modern landscaping associated with the former public house was present within the eastern area of the site.*

A total of eight features of archaeological interest were recorded within three of the four trenches, including seven ditches and a single pit. Finds recorded have suggested three phases of activity, the first associated with the latter prehistoric Middle Bronze Age/Early Iron Age, the second to the 11th-12th century and the third with the 16th-17th century. The domination of linear features suggests management of the landscape, forming features such as field boundaries and droveways necessary for the demarcation of land divisions and the management of an agrarian landscape.

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

District/Unitary: Medway Council & Kent County Council

Period(s): prehistoric, NA

NGR (centre of site to eight figures) NGR 582224 175187

Type of Archaeological work: Archaeological Evaluation

Date of recording: September 2021

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

Geology: River Terrace Deposits 2- Sand and Gravel

Title and author of accompanying report: D Britchfield (2021) Archaeological Evaluation of Land at the former White Horse Public House, The Street, Stoke, Kent. SWAT Archaeology Report Ref: 32760.01

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

Contact at Unit: Paul Wilkinson

Date: 28/01/22

PLATES



Plate 1 Trench 1, viewed from the southwest



Plate 2 Feature [105]



Plate 3 Feature [107]



Plate 4 Trench 2, viewed from the south



Plate 5 Feature [205]



Plate 6 Feature [211]



Plate 7 Trench 3, viewed from the northeast



Plate 8 Feature [304]



Plate 9 Feature [306]



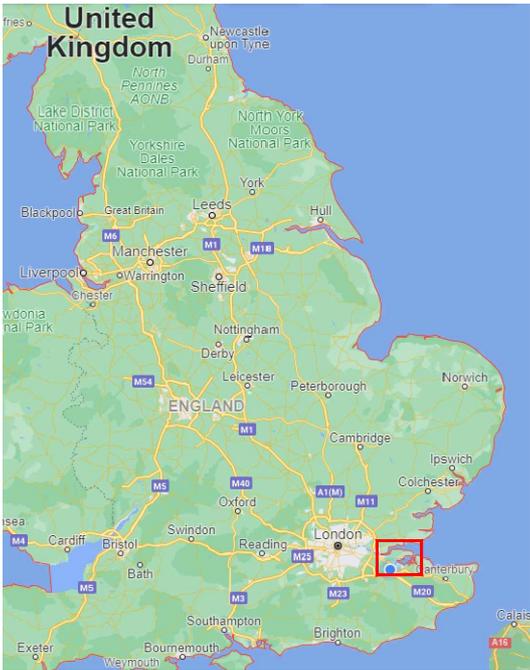
Plate 10 Feature [308]



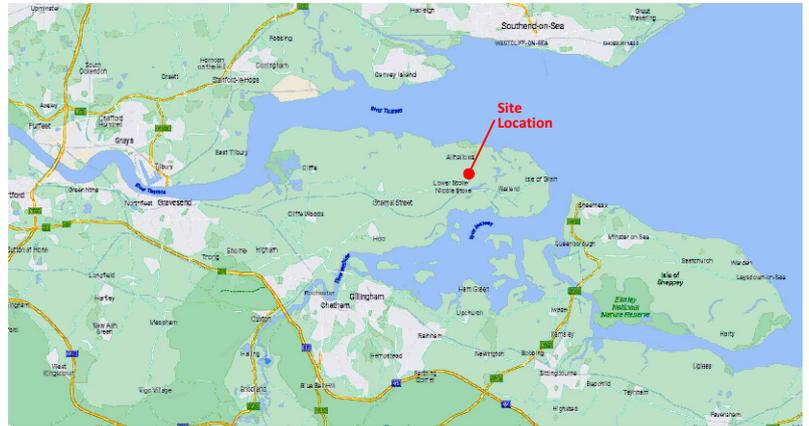
Plate 11 Trench 4, viewed from the northeast



Plate 12 Test pit within Trench 4, viewed from the southeast



Map of UK (NTS)



Map of Isle of Grain (NTS)

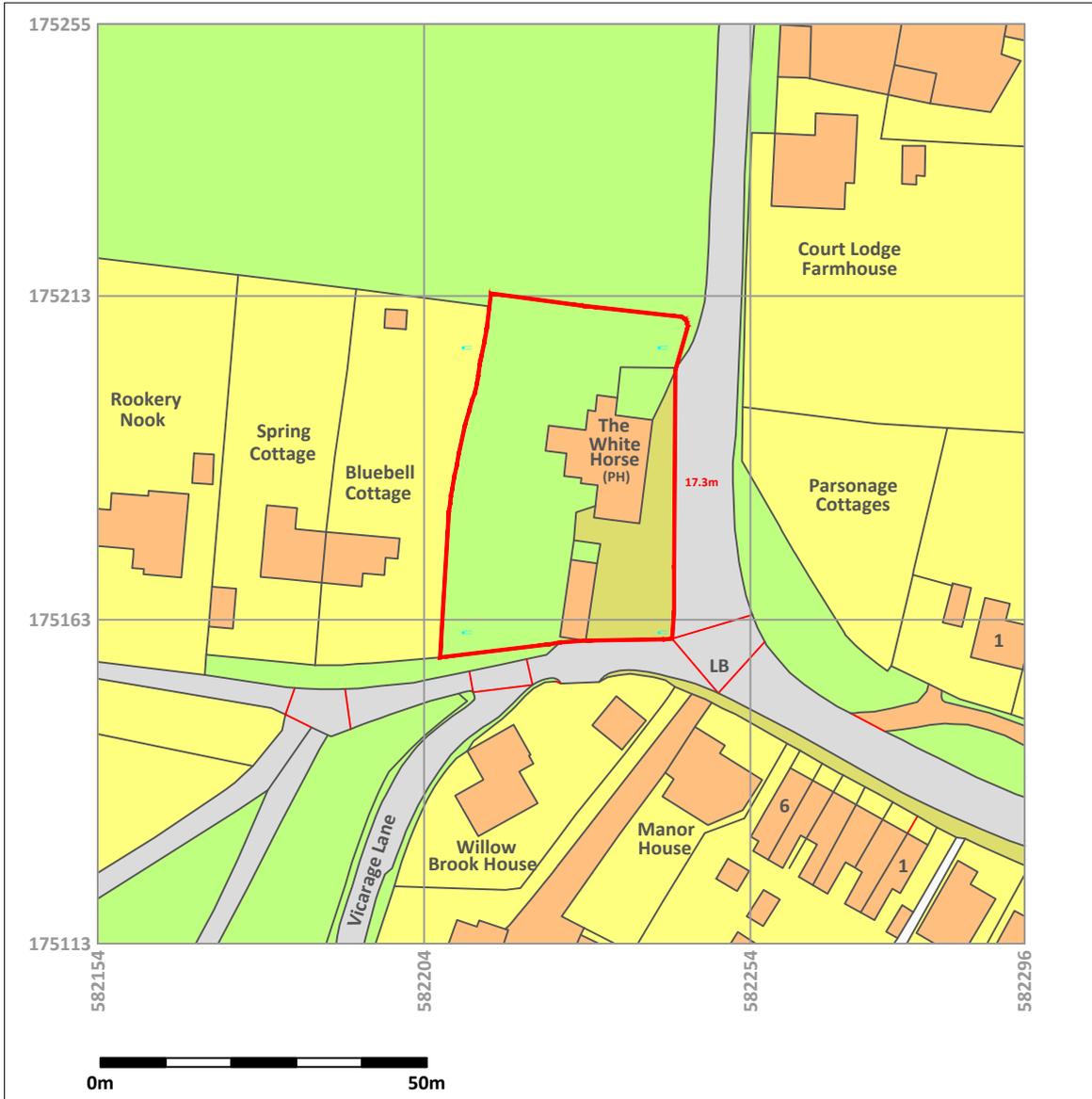


Figure 1 Site Location Plan

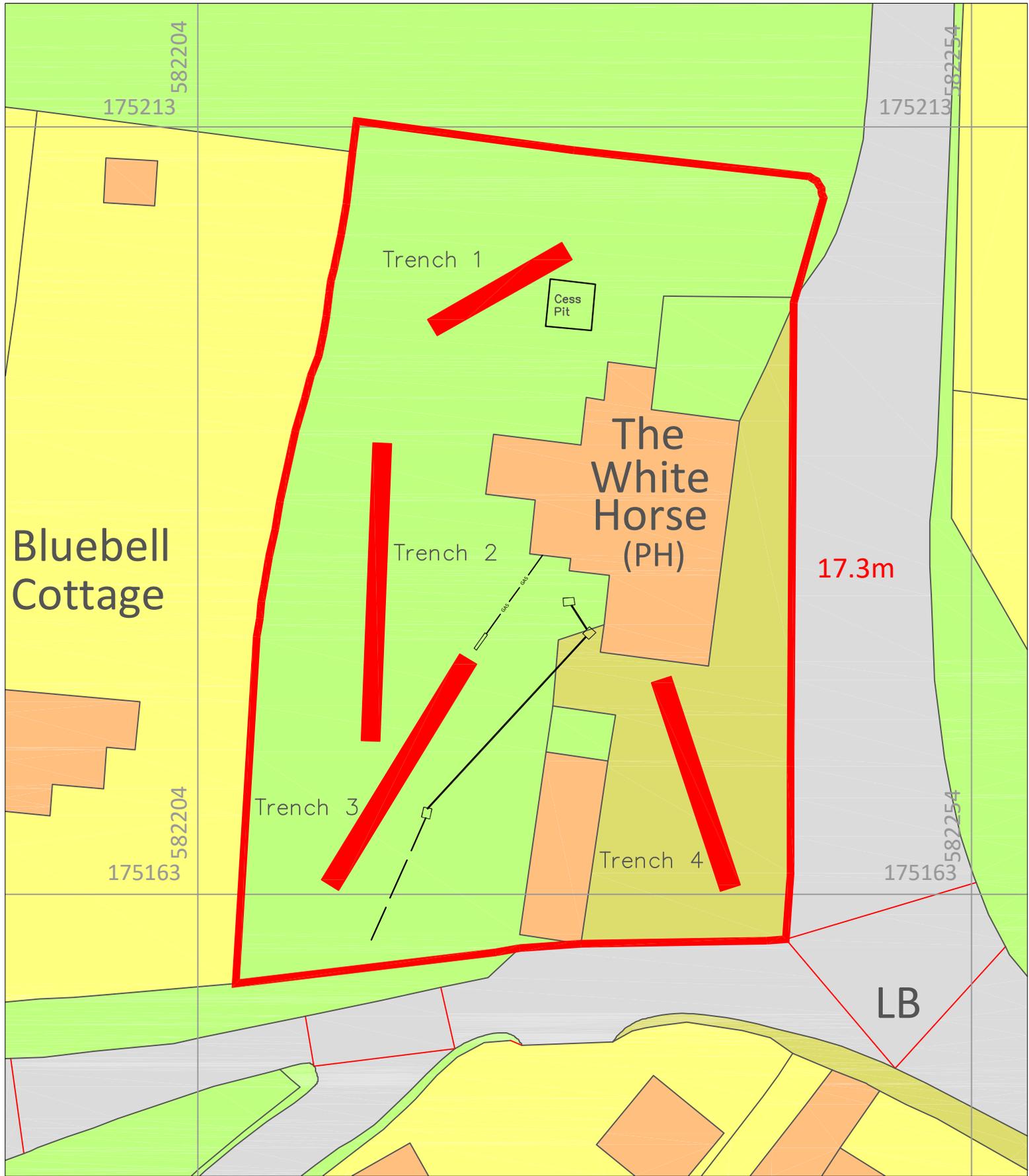


Figure 2 Site Plan

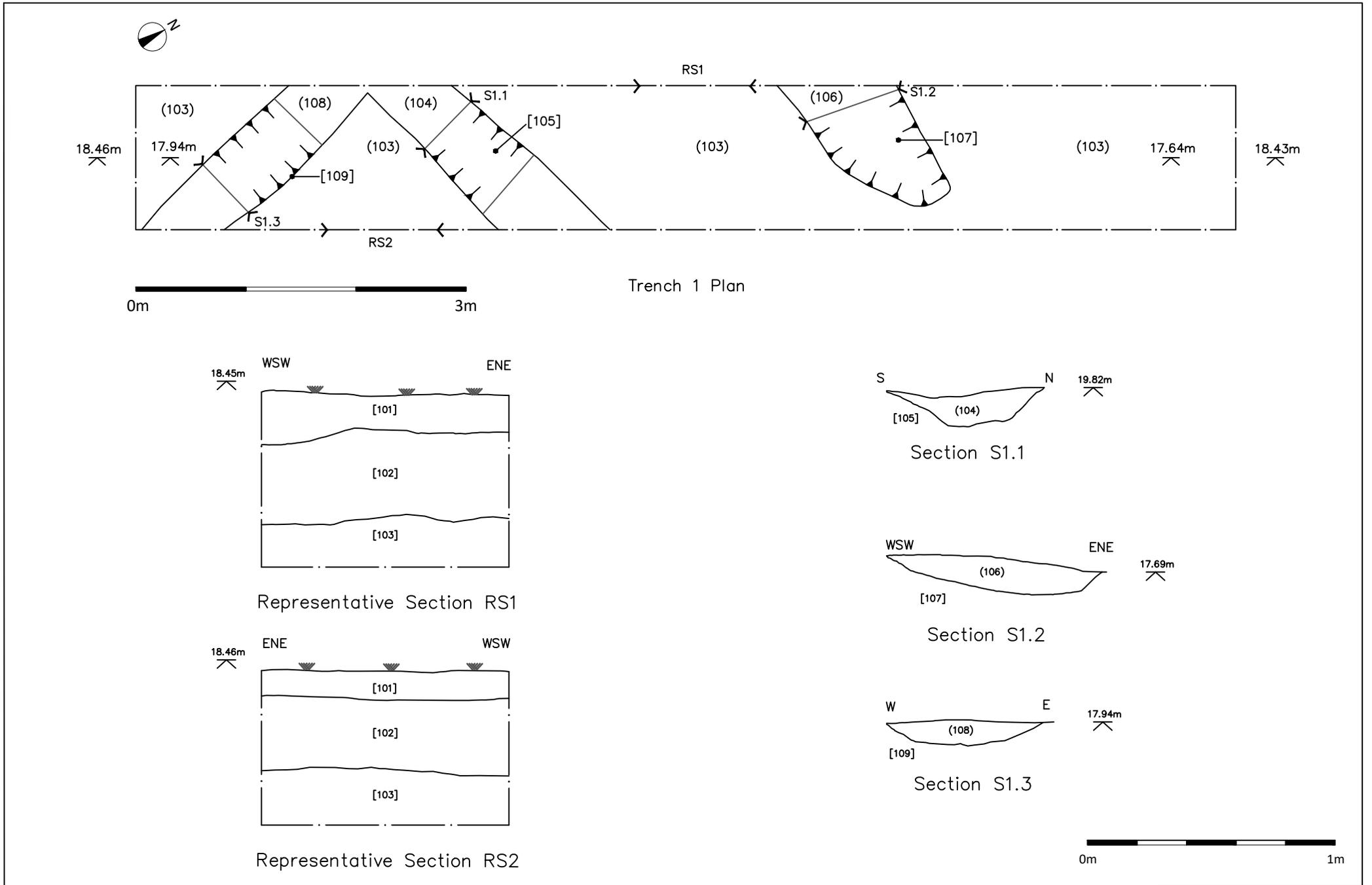


Figure 3 Trench 1 Details

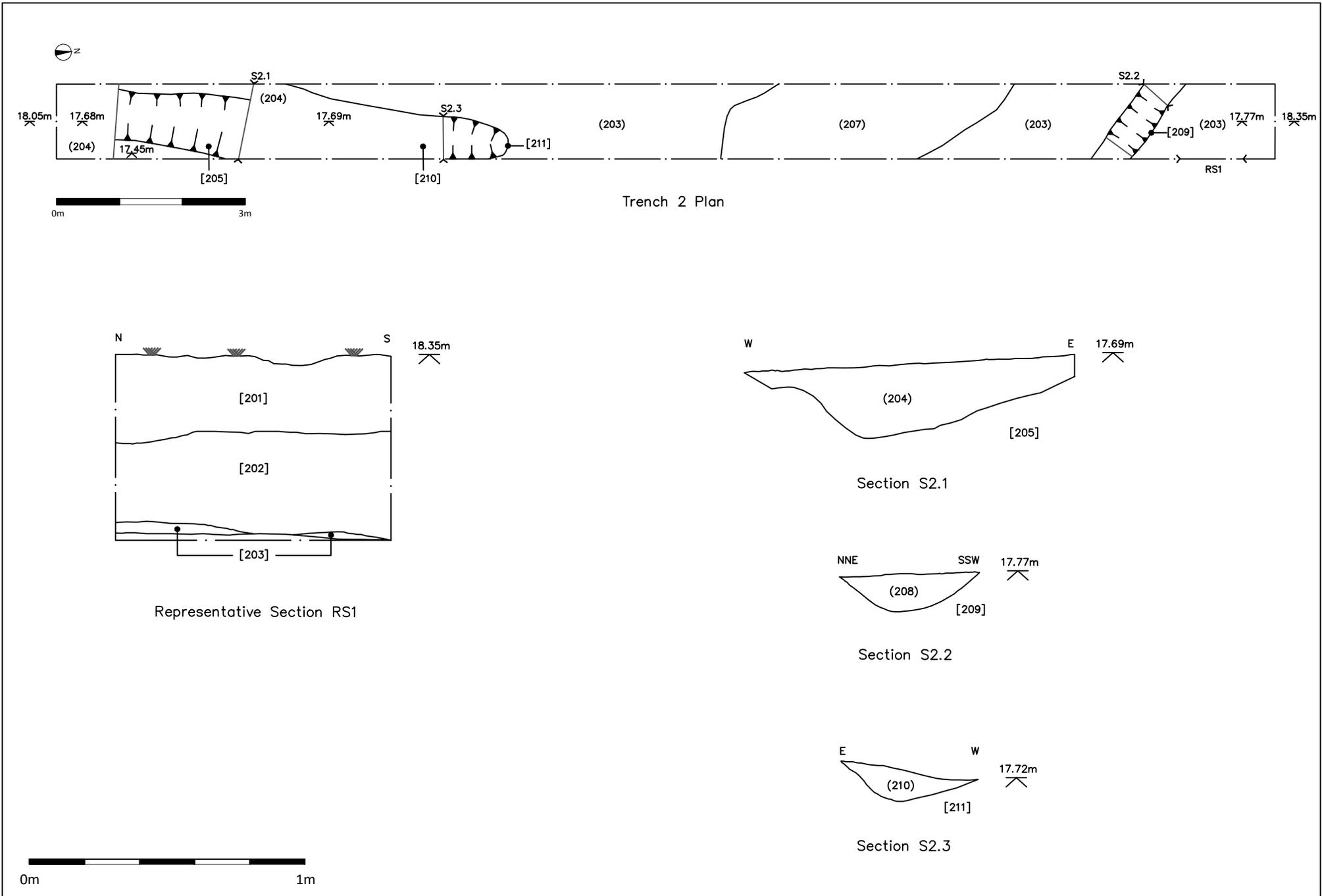
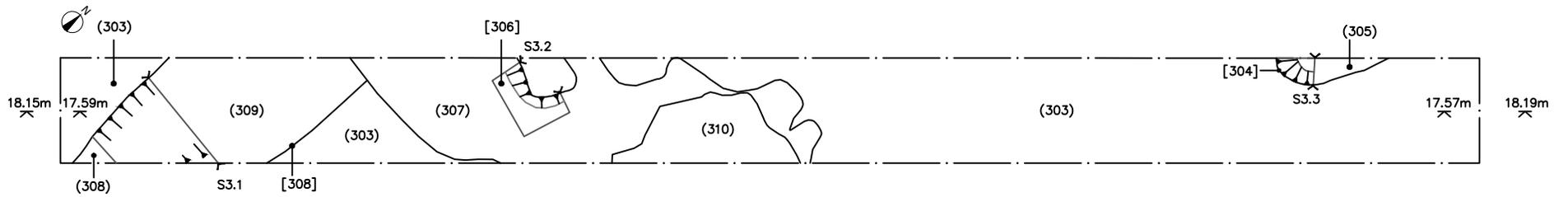
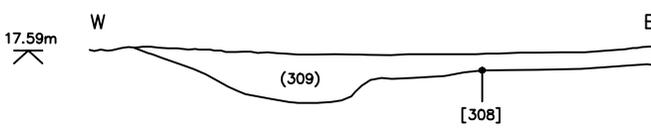


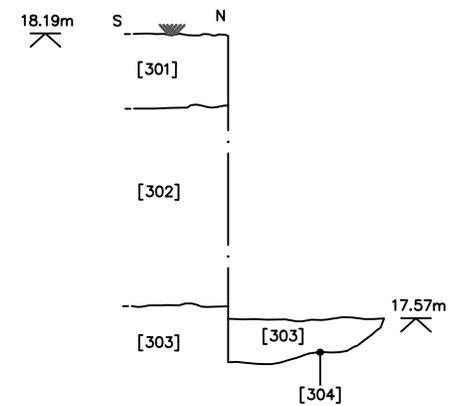
Figure 4 Trench 2 Details



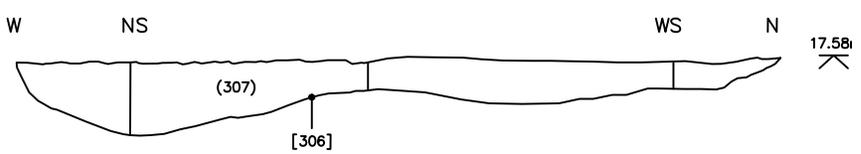
Trench 3 Plan



Section 3.1



Section 3.3



Section 3.2



Figure 5 Trench 3 Details

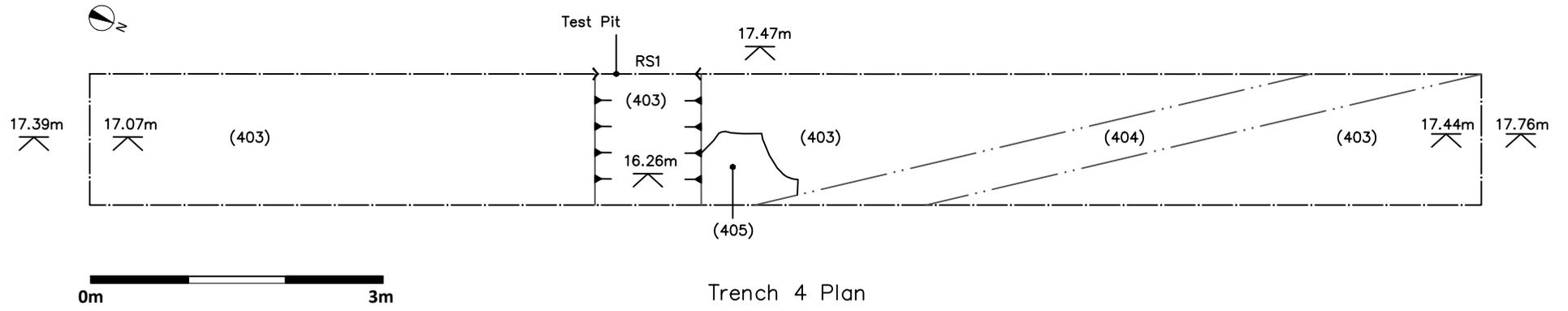


Figure 6 Trench 4 Details



Figure 7 Proposed Development