Archaeological Evaluation of Land at Crown Quay, Sittingbourne, Kent

Site Code: CQL/EV/17

NGR Site Centre: 90862 64058

Planning Application Number: 16/507877/FULL



Report for Redrow Homes 05/06/2018

SWAT ARCHAEOLOGY

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Summary

Swale & Thames Survey Company (SWAT) carried out an archaeological evaluation of land at Crown Quay, Sittingbourne in Kent (Phase 1). A Planning Application (16/507877/FULL) to develop this site for the development of residential and affordable housing went to Swale Borough Council, whereby the Council requested that an Archaeological Evaluation be undertaken in order to determine the possible impact of the development on any archaeological remains.

The work was carried out in accordance with the requirements set out within an Archaeological Specification (SWAT Specification and KCC Manual Part B) and in discussion with the Principal Archaeological Heritage Officer, Kent County Council. The results of the excavation of 55 evaluation trenches revealed that in some areas archaeological features were present within the trenches (Figure 1 and Plates 1-20). The natural bedrock geology of Seaford Chalk Formation and Superficial Deposits of Brickearth were revealed along with some areas of concrete.

The Archaeological Investigations have therefore been successful in fulfilling the primary aims and objectives of the Archaeological Specification.

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INTRODUCTION

1

1.1 **Project Background**

1.1.1 Swale & Thames Survey Company (SWAT) was commissioned by Redrow Homes to carry out an

archaeological evaluation at the above site. The work was carried out in accordance with the

requirements set out within an Archaeological Specification (SWAT 2017) and in discussion with the

Principal Archaeological Heritage Officer, Kent County Council. The evaluation was carried out on

2nd-10th May 2017.

1.2 **Planning Background**

1.2.1 Development proposals for this site comprise the erection of 383 market and affordable houses

(16/507877/FULL). On the basis of present archaeological information, the Principal Archaeological

Officer for Kent Borough Council recommended that the site should be subject to a programme of

archaeological work in order to clarify the historical and archaeological elements within the site.

The results can then guide appropriate mitigation measures for the future development.

1.3 Site Description and Topography

The proposed development site is a large brownfield site on the northern edge of Sittingbourne 1.3.1

town centre. The site is vacant and has been reduced to slab level. Its northern boundary is an

important frontage to Milton Creek whilst its southern boundary adjoins Eurolink Way. The

Sittingbourne Retail Park and Eurolink Industrial Estate border the site to the west and east. The

OS location is NGR 90862 64058 and is approximately 10.68 hectares in extent (Figure 1).

1.3.2 On the basis of current information from BGS, the site lies on Bedrock Geology of Seaford Chalk

Formation. The site has been subject to extensive brick earth extraction and geotechnical

investigations undertaken on the site as recently as June 2015 show that Made Ground was

encountered in almost all of the exploratory holes. Ground levels are 12m aOD on the south

western corner of the site to 4m aOD on the north.

2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 Introduction

- 2.1.1 The Kent County Council Historic Environment Record (KCCHER) has provided details of any previous investigations and discoveries. The potential of this area has been gauged in relation to the proximity of known archaeological remains. A high status Bronze Age burial or metal workers hoard was recovered within the site in 1824.
- 2.1.2 Roman burials are recorded close to the site at TQ 913 640 (HER EWX 6567).
- 2.1.3 A 7th century Anglo Saxon cemetery, with two clusters of burials were also recorded just to the west of the site in 1824-1826 (TQ 96 SW 27).
- 2.1.4 Further information on the above is provided in the Archaeological Desk-based Assessment and Archaeological Impact Assessment (CgMS 2016).

3 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

3.1 General Aims

3.1.1 According the SWAT Archaeology Specification, the aims and objectives for the archaeological work were to ensure that:

"The aims of this investigation are to determine the potential for Prehistoric, Iron Age, Roman and Anglo-Saxon activity and in particular the investigation of any surviving 19th century brick-making kilns and facilities.

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. This specification sets out the requirements for trial trenching on the site and any further archaeological work, such as detailed excavation work or a watching brief, would need to be subject to further specifications" (SWAT 2017).

(SWAT Archaeology 2017)

4 METHODOLOGY

4.1 Introduction

4.1.1 All fieldwork was conducted in accordance with the methodology set out in the Specification (SWAT Archaeology 2017) 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 The Archaeological Specification called for an evaluation by trial trenching comprising 28 trenches within the footprint of the proposed development. An 8.5 ton 360° tracked mechanical excavator with a flat-bladed ditching bucket was used to remove the topsoil and subsoil to expose the natural geology and/or the archaeological horizon. All archaeological work was carried out in accordance with the specification. A single context recording system was used to record the deposits, and context recording numbers were assigned to all deposits for recording purposes.
- 4.2.2 All archaeological work was carried out in accordance with KCC, SWAT and ClfA standards and guidance. The evaluation consisted of 49 machine excavated trenches (c.18-28m X 1.5m) in a layout agreed with the County Archaeologist. A plan is attached (Figure 2). Each trench was machine excavated down to natural or previous buildings.
- 4.2.3 On the 1897 and 1937 OS maps (Figures 4 & 5) there are areas of interest and the adjacent trenches were moved to focus on:
 - The Smithy (Phase 2)
 - Brickwork kilns and the contemporary larger building (T 23 and T 31)
 - On the 1937 OS map (Figure 4) Brickwork Kilns:
 - Kilns (T 23 and T 31)
- 4.2.4 There was an allowance of c.30m of contingency trenching which could be used if it would help address the aims set out above. Contingency trenching would be activated following agreement with the County Archaeologist. Further requirements are set out in KCC Spec Manual for Trial Trenching Part B.
- 4.2.5 Care was taken to ensure that unnecessary additional excavation did not take place where archaeological deposits or structures are exposed; in particular, there was to be no reduction of the underlying soils to further enhance archaeological features.

- 4.2.6 A soil sampling programme was put in place to facilitate palaeo-environmental analysis, bulk screening, and soil micromorphology in the case that suitable deposits are identified (within the limits of the objectives of this evaluation), from which data can be recovered.
- 4.2.7 If required, cultural material was to be recovered and subjected to screening (wet or dry) through mesh with a width of 10mm mesh in control samples of between 100 and 200 litres. Any on site screening was not to impede the removal of further bulk soil samples for screening at a separate wash facility off-site (see also KCC Evaluation Specification Part B: 6. Machine and Hand Excavation).

4.3 Monitoring

4.3.1 Curatorial monitoring was available during the course of the evaluation.

4.4 Recording

- 4.4.1 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 aOD heights.
- 4.4.2 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.

5 RESULTS

5.1 Introduction

5.1.1 A total of 55 evaluation trenches were mechanically excavated under archaeological supervision. Individual trench results are discussed below.

5.2 Trench 1

5.2.1 Not excavated because of site restrictions.

5.3 Trench 2

- 5.3.1 The plan is recorded in Figures 1 and 2. The trench lay on an NNE-SSW alignment and measured approximately 25m by 1.70m.
- 5.3.2 The removal of the topsoil (201), which had a thickness of 0.08m, revealed at the NNE end, brick rubble and modern concrete blocks (201) to a depth of 0.80m (6.27m aOD). Within the centre of

the trench was a platform of crushed burnt bright red brick platform [202] less than 15cm below the current ground surface at 6.89m aOD (Plate 1). Cut into this platform was the footprint of a brick structure, comprising of a NNE-SSW aligned red brick wall [205] opposite two redbrick 'pillars' [206] and [216], and a partition [207] located between the pillars. The inner chamber/flue had a width of 1.60m and was in-filled with a darker burnt fill (203). It is likely this is part of a foundation of a brick kiln or Clamp (see front cover). Bedrock chalk was exposed at the SSW of the platform at a depth of 6.30m aOD and was overlaid by crushed red brick (204).

5.4 Trench 3

- 5.4.1 The plan is recorded in Figure 1. The trench lay on an NNE-SSW alignment and measured approximately 15m by 1.70m.
- 5.4.2 The removal of the topsoil (301), which had a thickness of 0.18m, and a 0.14m thick layer of crushed and broken red frogged brick (302), exposed the bedrock chalk at the NNE end of the trench at a depth of 7.21m aOD. In the middle of the trench was a modern reinforced concrete manhole enclosed within a circle of crushed red brick (307). The chalk at the SSW end of the trench was exposed at a depth of 7.34m aOD. No archaeology was revealed in this trench.

5.5 Trench 4

- 5.5.1 The plan is recorded in Figure 1. The trench lay on an NNE-SSW alignment and measured approximately 15m by 1.70m.
- 5.5.2 The natural bedrock of chalk was exposed at 5.40m aOD. Overlaying the chalk was a 0.45m thick layer of crushed red and yellow frogged brick (402). No archaeology was revealed in this trench.

5.6 Trench 5

5.6.1 Not excavated because of contamination.

5.7 Trench 6

- 5.7.1 The plan is recorded in Figure 1. The trench lay on an NNW-SSE alignment and measured approximately 25m by 1.70m.
- 5.7.2 The topsoil (601) had a thickness of 0.14m. At the SEE end of the trench, natural light grey-brown clayey brickearth was exposed at a depth 5.10m aOD and was overlaid by a 0.20m thick layer of crushed red brick (602). In the middle of the trench were two wide modern concrete features [605] and [606] and at the NNW end of the trench (excavated to a depth of 5.24m aOD) a concrete sewer was exposed [607]. No archaeology was revealed in this trench.

5.8 Trench 7

- 5.8.1 The plan is recorded in Figures 1 and 3. The trench lay on an NNE-SSW alignment and measured approximately 15m by 1.70m.
- 5.8.2 At the NNE end of the trench, the natural light grey-brown clayey brickearth was exposed at a depth of 5.39m aOD and was overlaid by a thin layer (0.12m) mix of crushed and fragments of brick mixed with topsoil (700). A modern linear shaped feature, aligned NNW-SSE, was exposed at the SSW end of the trench. It had an upper fill of yellow-grey sandy clay (701) that had a thickness of 0.29m and sealed a secondary (702) layer of dark red-brown sandy soil mixed with red and yellow frogged brick that was 0.26m thick. The primary layer (703) comprised of yellow-green clay that had a thickness of 0.12m.
- 5.8.3 The natural light grey-brown clayey brickearth at the base of the feature occurred at a depth 4.62m aOD. In the middle of the trench was a 1m wide wall (at 5.36m aOD), also aligned NNW-SSE, constructed from red and yellow frogged brick [705]. No archaeology was revealed in this trench.

5.9 Trench 8

- 5.9.1 The plan is recorded in Figure 1. The trench lay on a NNW-SSE alignment and measured approximately 15m by 1.70m.
- 5.9.2 The natural chalk bedrock was exposed at 5.57m aOD at the NNW end of the trench and was overlaid by a 0.10m thin layer of crushed and broken red brick mixed with soil (800). The chalk dipped sharply (5.04m aOD) at the SSE end of the trench and the incline contained natural mid brown clayey brickearth, indicating the presence of a naturally formed channel within the chalk at this location. No archaeology was revealed in this trench.

5.10 Trench 9

- 5.10.1 The plan is recorded in Figure 1. The trench lay on a NNW-SSE alignment and measured approximately 15m by 1.70m.
- 5.10.2 The topsoil (901) had a thickness of 0.10m. The natural light grey-brown brickearth was exposed at a depth of about 4.82m aOD and was overlaid by a 0.26m thick layer of mid brown clay (902) that contained chalk inclusions. In the middle of the trench a large modern pit in-filled with fragments of modern ceramic pipe and brick fragments (903) was exposed. At the SSE end of the trench a modern concrete manhole was exposed [905]. No archaeology was revealed in this trench.

5.11 Trench 10

- 5.11.1 The plan is recorded in Figures 1 and 4. The trench lay on a NNE-SSW alignment and measured approximately 15m by 1.70m.
- 5.11.2 The natural light grey-brown clayey brickearth was exposed at a depth of 5.23m aOD and was overlaid by a 0.14m thin layer of crushed and broken brick mixed with soil (1000).
- 5.11.3 In the middle of the trench was a drain [1001] aligned NE-SW and built with red and yellow frogged brick (Plate 2). The NNE end of the trench exposed a large pit [1003] in-filled with crushed bricks and concrete (1002). No archaeology was revealed in this trench.

5.12 Trench 11

- 5.12.1 The plan is recorded in Figures 1 and 5. The trench lay on a NE-SW alignment and measured approximately 15m by 1.70m.
- 5.12.2 The base of the trench was in-filled with large pits cut into the natural light grey-brown clayey brickearth at 4.85 aOD and in-filled with an interesting dump of early 20th century domestic rubbish (1102) and overlaid with a 0. 30m thick layer of topsoil (1101). A modern concrete clad service [1103] and [1104] was observed at the end of the trench. No archaeology was revealed in this trench.

5.13 Trench 12

- 5.13.1 The plan is recorded in Figures 1 and 6. The trench lay on a NNE-SSW alignment and measured approximately 15m by 1.70m.
- 5.13.2 The removal of the topsoil (1200), which had a thickness of 0.18m, exposed the natural light grey-brown clayey brickearth at 4.43m aOD and also exposed the early 20th century infill observed in Trench 11. The trench was bisected by two modern services in-filled with pea gravel [1202] and [1203]. The NNE end of the trench and the east side was cut by a large pit [1204] in-filled with burnt red brick and fragments of yellow frogged brick. No archaeology was revealed in this trench.

5.14 Trench 13

5.14.1 The plan is recorded in Figures 1 and 7. The trench lay on a NNE-SSW alignment and measured approximately 15m by 1.70m.

- 5.14.2 The removal of the topsoil (1301) and the subsoil (1302), which had a combined thickness of 0.26m, exposed the natural light grey-brown clayey brickearth at 4.46m aOD. Cut into the natural at the SSW end of the trench was a large pit [1303] filled with burnt red and yellow frogged bricks (1304).
- 5.14.3 The pit abutted a wall [1305] that was aligned NW-SE and had a width of 2.20m and was constructed from yellow frogged bricks. No archaeology was revealed in this trench.

5.15 Trench 14

- 5.15.1 The plan is recorded in Figures 1 and 8. The trench lay on a NWW-SSE alignment and measured approximately 15m by 1.70m.
- 5.15.2 The topsoil (1408) had a thickness of 0.10m. The natural light grey-brown clayey brickearth was exposed at 4.39m aOD and cut into the natural at the same depth were four rectangular shaped post holes [1411], [1412], [1413] and [1414] that measured 0.60m x 0.40m and were in-filled with loosely packed red and yellow frogged brick fragments. The trench also exposed three red and yellow frogged brick walls [1402], [1403] and [1404] aligned NE-SW. Two manholes [1415] and [1416] were also present. No archaeology was revealed in this trench.

5.16 Trench 15

- 5.16.1 The plan is recorded in Figure 1. The trench lay on a NWW-SEE alignment and measured approximately 15m by 1.70m.
- 5.16.2 On removal of the topsoil (1500), the trench was excavated through a series of layers of demolition materials (1501), (1502), (1503) and re-deposited clay layers (1504), (1505) and (1506) to a depth of 0.60m (3.53m aOD) to expose a thick layer of crushed burnt red brick (1507). A sondagé at each end of the trench revealed that the crushed burnt red brick layer sealed two layers of alluvium (Plate 3). The uppermost layer (1508) comprised of dark grey clay, whereas the lower layer (1509) at 3.31m aOD and 2.99m aOD comprised of mid grey clay. Both were inclusion free and suggested that there was a channel feeding in to Milton Creek. The crushed burnt red brick layer suggests that it is part of the Victorian brickworks.

5.17 Trench 16

- 5.17.1 The plan is recorded in Figure 1. The trench lay on a NNE-SSW alignment and measured approximately 20m by 1.70m.
- 5.17.2 The removal of the topsoil (1600), which had a thickness of 0.12m, exposed the natural light grey-brown clayey brickearth at 4.23 at the NNE end of the trench and at 4.47m aOD at the SSW end.

The centre of the trench was disturbed by a series of modern concrete services [1601], [1602], [1603] and [1604]. No archaeology was revealed in this trench.

5.18 Trench 17

- 5.18.1 The plan is recorded in Figure 1. The trench lay on a NWW-SSE alignment and measured approximately 15m by 1.70m.
- 5.18.2 The removal of the topsoil (1701) and a layer of greensand (1702), with a combined thickness of 0.16m, exposed a series of well defined, compacted floor surfaces (1703) (1708) that produced an overall thickness of 0.18m (Plates 4 and 5). The sequence of floor surfaces sealed a series of thin layers of silts (1709) (1711) that in turn, sealed a sequence of clay layers (1712) (1715) with an overall thickness of 0.63m, containing industrial waste materials. Below this was a 0.12m thin layer of light brown clayey silt that sealed the natural light grey-brown clayey brickearth at 3.70m aOD. A sondage was cut at the SEE end of the trench to 90cm (3.48m aOD) and revealed made ground. The sequence of floor surfaces suggests that archaeology relating to the Victorian brickworks was exposed in this trench.

5.19 Trench 18

5.19.1 Located in the existing roadway and was not excavated.

5.20 Trench 19

- 5.20.1 The plan is recorded in Figure 1. The trench lay on a NNE-SSW alignment and measured approximately 15m by 1.70m.
- 5.20.2 Removal of the topsoil (1900), which had a thickness of 0.14m, revealed made-up ground of chalk mixed with red brick fragments, modern electric cables and modern tarmac pieces (1901) at a depth of 4.98m aOD. No archaeology was revealed in this trench.

5.21 Trench 20

- 5.21.1 The plan is recorded in Figure 1. The trench lay on a NWW-SEE alignment and measured approximately 15m by 1.70m.
- 5.21.2 The topsoil (2000) and the subsoil (2001) had a combined thickness of 0.48m. The trench was excavated to a depth of 4.45m aOD at the NWW end and 4.49m aOD at the SEE end of the trench and revealed the natural light grey-brown clayey brickearth sealed by a 0.09m thin layer of charcoal (2003) which in turn, was sealed a 0.50 layer of re-deposited green clay (2002). No archaeology was revealed in this trench.

5.22 Trench 21

- 5.22.1 The plan is recorded in Figure 1. The trench lay on a NNE-SSW alignment and measured approximately 15m by 1.50m.
- 5.22.2 The removal of 0.20m of topsoil (2101) exposed a 0.21m thick series of well-defined compacted burnt floors (2102) (2105) at 6.50m aOD. The sequence of floor surfaces sealed a 0.59m thick series of layers of clays and silts (2106) (2111). The natural light grey-brown clayey brickearth underneath this sequence was revealed at a depth of 5.95m aOD. The sequence of floor surfaces suggests that archaeology relating to the Victorian brickworks was exposed in this trench.

5.23 Trench 22

- 5.23.1 The plan is recorded in Figures 1 and 9. The trench lay on a NWW-SEE alignment and measured approximately 25m by 1.70m.
- 5.23.2 The removal of the topsoil (2200), which had a thickness of 0.10m, exposed the natural light grey-brown clayey brickearth with flint at 5.41m aOD at the NWW end of the trench and at 4.94m aOD at the SEE end. Cut into the natural was a manhole [2201], a concrete capped service [2202] and a large pit [2203] in-filled with red frogged brick fragments. No archaeology was revealed in this trench.

5.24 Trench 23

- 5.24.1 The plan is recorded in Figures 1 and 10. The trench lay on a NWW-SEE alignment and measured approximately 25m by 1.70m. It was located in the area of the early 20th century brick kilns shown on the OS map of 1937.
- 5.24.2 The removal of the topsoil (2300), which had a thickness of 0.20m, exposed a layer of crushed burnt red frogged brick (2301). This sealed the remnants of a red and yellow frogged brick drain [2302] aligned N-S (PI?) cut into the natural light grey-brown clayey brickearth at 4.27m aOD. A modern concrete foundation [2303] and a service [2304] were observed in the middle of the trench and a concrete slab was situated at the SEE end of the trench at a depth of 4.44m aOD. No archaeology was revealed in this trench.

5.25 Trench 24

5.25.1 The plan is recorded in Figures 1 and 11. The trench lay on a NWW-SEE alignment and measured approximately 25m by 1.70m. It was located in the area of sunken, walled features, shown on the OS map of 1897.

5.25.2 The removal of the topsoil (2400), which had a thickness of 0.10m, exposed a layer of dark grey-black clay that sealed two yellow frogged brick retaining walls [2407] and [2408] (Plate 6) aligned E-W and shown on the 1897 OS map. Abutting the walls was an infill (2402) that comprised of Victorian domestic rubbish, including bottles; porcelain and a ceramic Ocarina (musical wind instrument) made in Austria and stamped 1877 (Plates 7 and 8). The layer of domestic rubbish overlay the natural light grey-brown clayey brickearth, which occurred at 4.06m aOD. Cut into the brickearth, at this level, was an oval shaped pit [2403] and two oval-shaped post holes [2404] and [2405]. All three features were backfilled with (2402). A timber post [2406] also cut the natural.

5.26 Trench 25

- 5.26.1 The plan is recorded in Figure 1. The trench lay on an N-S alignment and measured approximately 15m by 2.50m.
- 5.26.2 The trench was excavated down to a maximum depth of 1.50m (2.33m aOD). The natural geology was not encountered. The removal of the topsoil (2500), which had a thickness of 0.12m, exposed a 0.17m thick layer of crushed red brick mixed with light grey mortar (2501). This sealed a 0.10m thick layer of dark grey-brown clay, that contained brick (2502) and this in turn, sealed a 0.18m layer of mid grey loamy gravel (2503). Underneath was a +80cm thick layer of red and yellow frogged brick debris (2504). No archaeology was revealed in this trench.

5.27 Trench 26

- 5.27.1 The plan is recorded in Figure 1. The trench lay on a NNE-SSW alignment and measured approximately 15m by 1.70m.
- 5.27.2 The topsoil (2600) had a thickness of 0.13m. The natural light grey-brown clayey brickearth was revealed at the extreme NNE end of the trench at 4.52m aOD and at 4.40m aOD at the SSW end. The remainder of the trench comprised of demolition debris (2601). No archaeology was revealed in this trench.

5.28 Trench 27

- 5.28.1 The plan is recorded in Figure 1. The trench lay on a NWW alignment and measured approximately 25m by 1.70m.
- 5.28.2 The removal of the topsoil (2700), which had a thickness of 0.20m, exposed the natural light grey-brown clayey brickearth at 4.28m aOD. Truncating the natural were the remains of a concrete and

brick-built manhole [2701] and a cast iron service pipe [2702]. No archaeology was revealed in this trench.

5.29 Trench 28

- 5.29.1 The plan is recorded in Figures 1 and 12. The trench lay on a NWW-SEE alignment and measured approximately 25m by 1.70m.
- 5.29.2 The removal of the topsoil (2800), which had a thickness of 0.30m, exposed the natural light grey-brown clayey brickearth at a depth of 5.29m aOD at the NWW end of the trench and at 4.94m aOD at the SEE end. Cut into the natural was a red and yellow frogged brick drain [2804] (Plates 9 and 10) and three square shaped post holes [2801], [2802] and [2803], all measuring 0.50m x 0.50m and in-filled with broken brick and soil. No archaeology was revealed in this trench.

5.30 Trench 29

- 5.30.1 The plan is recorded in Figure 1. The trench lay on a E-W alignment and measured approximately 25m by 2.50m.
- 5.30.2 The trench was excavated to a depth of 1.45m (3.59m aOD) at the E end and 1.10m (3.05m aOD) at the W end.
- 5.30.3 The removal of the topsoil (2900), which had a thickness of 0.12m, and a series of layers of modern backfill (2901) (2906), that had a combined thickness of 0.54m, exposed a layer of dark grey-brown clayey silt (2907) and the outcrop of a significant layer of brick rubble (2908) and (2909) at both ends of the trench at a depth of 3.43m aOD (Plate 11). A sondagé was excavated to a maximum depth of 1.90m aOD at the W end of the trench and light yellow-grey alluvial deposits were encountered at 1.60m aOD. No archaeology was revealed in this trench.

5.31 Trench 30

5.31.1 Was not excavated because of tree conservation.

5.32 Trench 31

- 5.32.1 The plan is recorded in Figure 1. The trench lay on a NWW-SEE alignment and measured approximately 15m by 1.70m.
- 5.32.2 This trench was moved to the north to pick up the OS mapped kilns. The topsoil (3100) had a thickness of 0.10m. The natural light grey-brown clayey brickearth with flint occurred at 5.49m aOD

at the NWW end and at 5.13m aOD at the SEE end of the trench. This was sealed by a layer of mid grey silty brickearth mixed with crushed brick (3101). No archaeology was revealed in this trench.

5.33 Trench 32

5.33.1 Not excavated because of site restrictions.

5.34 Trench 33

- 5.34.1 The plan is recorded in Figure 1. The trench lay on a NWW-SEE alignment and measured approximately 10m by 1.70m.
- 5.34.2 The removal of the topsoil (3301), which had a thickness of 0.12m, revealed the natural bedrock chalk at 7.66m aOD at the NWW end of the trench and 7.89m aOD at the SEE end. No archaeology was revealed in this trench.

5.35 Trench 34

- 5.35.1 The plan is recorded in Figures 1 and 13. The trench lay on a NNE-SSW alignment and measured approximately 15m by 1.70m.
- 5.35.2 The overlying topsoil (3400) and subsoil (3401), which had an overall thickness of 0.29m, revealed the natural light grey-brown clayey brickearth at 4.07m aOD at the NNE end of the trench and 3.96m aOD at the SSW end. The natural at the NNE end of the trench was truncated by a series of services [3408] and [3410], as was the extreme SSW end [3409]. Also truncating the natural was a group of five oval post holes (at 4.07m aOD). They all measured 0.60m x 0.40m and were filled with crushed, burnt brick and porcelin. No archaeology was revealed in this trench.

5.36 Trench 35

5.36.1 Not excavated because of site restrictions.

5.37 Trench 36

- 5.37.1 The plan is recorded in Figure 1. The trench lay on a NW-SE alignment and measured approximately 15m by 2.50m.
- 5.37.2 The trench was excavated down to a maximum depth of 1.10m (3.17m aOD). The natural geology was not encountered. The removal of the topsoil (3600), which had a thickness of 0.23m, exposed a layer of crushed red brick mixed with dark grey soil (3601). This sealed a layer (3602) of mid brown clay that contained Tarmac, chalk, flint and brick. This in turn, sealed a layer of black clinker (3603). Underneath the clinker was a layer of mid-dark grey-brown brickearth (3604) that contained

charcoal, chalk and brick. This sealed a layer (3605) of mid orange-brown brickearth that contained frequent charcoal and very occasional chalk (Plate 12). Truncating this layer was a frogged, red brick wall [3606] that formed part of the cellar of The Barge Public House. The cellar was filled with modern demolition debris (3607). No archaeology was revealed in this trench.

5.38 Trench 37

- 5.38.1 The plan is recorded in Figures 1 and 14. The trench lay on a NWW-SEE alignment and measured approximately 10m by 1.70m.
- 5.38.2 The overlying topsoil (3700) and subsoil (3701), which had a combined thickness of 0.46m, revealed the natural light grey-brown clayey brickearth at the NWW end of the trench at 4.02m aOD. A red frogged brick wall [3702], 0.40m wide, also occurred at this level and is shown on the 1897 OS map as a rear property boundary. A second, yellow frogged brick construct (not bonded) occurred at a depth of 3.49m aOD and was truncated by pit [3705] containing dark grey-black flint gravel. This also truncated a pit [3703] containing mid grey soil containing gravel and chalk and this, in turn, truncated a pit [3706] containing red-brown finely crushed CBM. No archaeology was revealed in this trench.

5.39 Trench 38

- 5.39.1 The plan is recorded in Figure 1. The trench lay on a NW-SE alignment and measured approximately 15m by 2.50m.
- 5.39.2 The natural chalk bedrock was exposed at 4.27m aOD and was overlaid by light grey, loamy, chalky soil (3800) that had a thickness of 0.12m. No archaeology was revealed in this trench.

5.40 Trench 39

- 5.40.1 The plan is recorded in Figures 1 and 15. The trench lay on a NW-SE alignment and measured approximately 25m by 2.50m.
- 5.40.2 The trench was excavated down to a maximum depth of 1.20m (2.69m aOD). The natural geology was not encountered. The removal of a mix of topsoil and debris (3900), which had a thickness of 0.60m, exposed a layer of very dark grey-black clayey soil and brick (3901). This sealed a light-mid grey, compacted metalled gravel road [3904] (Figures 16, 17 and Plate 13), shown on the 1897 OS map and a demolition layer (3902) of red and yellow frogged brick. The demolition layer sealed a layer of dark grey silty clay (3903) that contained frequent charcoal and chalk. This layer had a thickness of +25cm. The road also sealed this layer. No archaeology was revealed in this trench.

5.41 Trench 40

- 5.41.1 The plan is recorded in Figure 1. The trench lay on an N-S alignment and measured approximately 15m by 2.50m.
- 5.41.2 The trench was excavated down to a maximum depth of 1.20m (3.07m aOD). The natural geology was not encountered. The removal of the topsoil (4000), which had a thickness of 0.13m, exposed a layer of crushed red brick (4001). This sealed a layer (4002) of mid grey sandy mortar and brick, which in turn, sealed a layer (4003) of red-brown mortar, crushed red brick and red and yellow brick debris that had a depth of +40cm. No archaeology was revealed in this trench.

5.42 Trench 41

- 5.42.1 The plan is recorded in Figure 1. The trench lay on a NW-SE alignment and measured approximately 15m by 2.50m.
- 5.42.2 The trench was excavated down to a maximum depth of 1.25m (2.60m aOD). The natural geology was not encountered. The removal of the topsoil (4100), which had a thickness of 0.12m, exposed a layer of crushed red brick (4101). This sealed a layer (4102) of black silty clinker which in turn sealed a layer of light brown sandy mortar (4103). Underneath was a +26cm layer (4104) of dark grey-brown silty clay containing frequent charcoal. This layer was sealed by a layer of Victorian glass and ceramic bottles (4106) at the extreme NW end of the trench. Sealing this layer and lying underneath layer (4103) was a layer of red and yellow frogged bricks (4105). A sondagé was excavated to a maximum depth of 1.90m aOD at the W end of the trench and light yellow-grey alluvial deposits were encountered at 1.60m aOD. No archaeology was revealed in this trench.

5.43 Trench 42

- 5.43.1 The plan is recorded in Figure 1. The trench lay on a NE-SW alignment and measured approximately 15m by 2.50m.
- 5.43.2 The trench was excavated down to a maximum depth of 1.65m (2.14m aOD). The natural geology was not encountered.
- 5.43.3 The removal of the topsoil (4200), which had a thickness of 0.19m, sealed a layer of mid brown loamy soil (4201) which, in turn sealed a 0.50m thick layer of black silty soot (4202) that produced a circular brass tag made by Drake & Fletcher, Maidstone (1898-2010) and stamped '31' (Plate 14). This overlaid a thin layer of re-deposited chalk (4203) that sealed a layer of crushed red and yellow brick (4204). Underneath was a layer of Victorian glass and ceramic bottles (4205) which lay on dark

grey silty clay (4206) that contained frequent chalk pieces and occasional brick fragments. A sondagé was excavated to an additional depth of 0.60m at the SW end of the trench and orange-brown brickearth was encountered at 1.54m aOD. No archaeology was revealed in this trench.

5.44 Trench 43

- 5.44.1 The plan is recorded in Figures 1 and 18. The trench lay on a NE-SW alignment and measured approximately 15m by 2.50m.
- The trench was excavated to a maximum depth of 1.37m (2.25m aOD) at the NE end of the trench. The natural geology was not encountered. A continuation of the metalled gravel road [4309] observed in Trench 39 was encountered at the SW end of the trench at 3.67m aOD (Figure 19. Plate 15). The observed stratigraphic sequence (up to a thickness of 0.56m) within the trench post-dated the road. The removal of the topsoil (4300), which had a thickness of 0.10m, sealed a layer of red-brown crushed brick and mortar (4301) which, in turn sealed a layer of black clinker (4302). This overlaid a second layer of red-brown crushed brick and mortar (4303) that sealed a layer of dark brown-black soot (4304). Underneath (and probably contemporary with the road) was a thin layer of re-deposited-deposited chalk (4305), as seen in Trench 42. This also sealed a layer of crushed red and yellow brick (4306). This sealed a layer of 'type 1' gravel (4307) that lay on orange-brown brickearth that contained frequent brick and clinker (4308). A sondagé was excavated to an additional depth of 0.70m at the NE end of the trench and orange-brown brickearth was encountered at 1.95m aOD. No archaeology was revealed in this trench.

5.45 Trench 44

- 5.45.1 The plan is recorded in Figure 1. The trench lay on an N-S alignment and measured approximately 15m by 2.50m.
- 5.45.2 The trench was excavated down to a maximum depth of 1m (3.37m aOD). The natural geology was not encountered. The removal of the topsoil (4400), which had a thickness of 0.25m, exposed a thin layer of yellow coarse sand (4401) that sat on a layer of black silt (4402). This sealed a layer (4403) of mid brown and black clay which in turn sealed a layer of mottled grey-brown and black clayey silt (4404). Underneath was a layer (4405) of crushed red brick. This layer sealed a layer crushed black clinker (4406) which sealed a layer of light green-grey clayey silt containing rubble. No archaeology was revealed in this trench.

5.46 Trench 45

- 5.46.1 The plan is recorded in Figure 1. The trench lay on an N-S alignment and measured approximately 15m by 2.50m.
- 5.46.2 The trench was excavated down to a maximum depth of 1.20m (2.65m aOD) at the N end of the trench and 0.60m (4.23m aOD) at the S end, due to a service. The natural geology was not encountered. The removal of the topsoil (4500), which had a thickness of 0.15m, exposed a layer of dark red-brown sandy silt (4501) that sat on a layer of black and mid brown sandy silt (4502). This sealed a layer (4503) of red and yellow brick. Underneath was a thin layer of red sandy silt (4504) that sealed a thin layer of mid grey sandy silt (4505). This layer sealed a layer of Victorian glass and ceramic bottles (4506), including a 'JJG Patent Star Lamp' bottle, which in turn lay on top of a layer of mottled grey and light brown sandy silt (4507) that contained frequent charcoal. Underneath was a layer of mid orange-brown brickearth (4508) that contained frequent brick and charcoal. A sondagé was excavated to an additional depth of 0.25m at the N end of the trench and natural orange-brown brickearth was encountered at 2.40m aOD. No archaeology was revealed in this trench.

5.47 Trench 46

- 5.47.1 The plan is recorded in Figure 1. The trench lay on an NE-SW alignment and measured approximately 30m by 2.50m.
- 5.47.2 The trench was excavated down to a maximum depth of 1.20m (6.61m aOD) at the NE end of the trench and 0.15m (7.66m aOD) at the SW end. The natural chalk geology was encountered at the southwest end at 7.66m aOD and was observed for a length of 18m.
- 5.47.3 The removal of the topsoil (4600), which had a thickness of 0.09m, exposed a layer of dark grey silt (4601) that sat on a layer of light grey silt (4602). This sealed a layer (4603) of burnt red clay that in turn, sealed a dark grey silty landfill (4604) that contained china and glass bottles. The landfill was observed for a length of 12m. A sondagé was excavated to a depth of 1.20m, through the landfill at the NE end of the trench and the landfill was still observed at +1.20m (6.61m aOD). No archaeology was revealed in this trench.

5.48 Trench 47

5.48.1 The plan is recorded in Figure 1. The trench lay on an N-S alignment and measured approximately 15m by 2.50m.

The trench was excavated to a maximum depth of 1.25m (2.89m aOD). The natural geology was not encountered. The removal of the topsoil (4700), which had a thickness of 0.20m, exposed a layer of dark grey sandy silt (4701) that sat on a layer of mid grey-brown sandy silt (4702). This sealed a layer (4703) of dark grey-black sandy silt. Underneath was a layer of light grey-brown sandy silt (4704) that sealed a layer of dark grey-black sandy silt (4705). This lay on a layer of mottled orange and black clayey silt (4706), which in turn sealed a layer of dark grey sandy silt (4707). Underneath was another layer of mottled orange and black clayey silt (4708). This sealed a layer (4709) of finely crushed brick and burnt clay, which lay on top of a layer of crushed clinker (4710). Beneath this was a 1m thick layer of red and yellow brick debris (4711). A sondagé was excavated to a maximum depth of 1.30m at the S end of the trench and a layer of brick rubble mixed with crushed brick was encountered at 1.59m aOD. No archaeology was revealed in this trench.

5.49 Trench 48

- 5.49.1 The plan is recorded in Figure 1. The trench lay on an N-S alignment and measured approximately 15m by 2.50m.
- 5.49.2 The trench was excavated down to a depth of 1.65m (2.74m aOD) at the N end of the trench and 1m (3.06m aOD) at the S end. The natural geology was not encountered. The removal of the topsoil (4800), which had a thickness of 0.20m, exposed a layer of grey and reddish-brown sandy silt (4801) that sat on a layer of light grey sandy silt (4802).
- 5.49.3 This sealed a second layer (4803) of grey and reddish-brown sandy silt. Underneath was a layer (4804) of concrete rubble that sealed a layer of yellow silt (4805). This lay on a layer of light grey clay (4806), which in turn sealed a layer of red crushed brick and burnt clay (4807). Underneath was a layer of light grey-brown sandy silt (4808). This sealed a layer (4809) of crushed clinker. Beneath this was a layer of light red-brown sandy silt (4810), which in turn sealed a layer of dark red sandy silt (4811). Underneath this was a layer of red and yellow brick debris (4812) that sealed a 1m thick layer of crushed red brick, burnt clay and clinker (4813). A sondagé was excavated to an additional depth of 1.30m at the N end of the trench and a layer of brick rubble mixed with crushed brick was encountered at 1.44m aOD. No archaeology was revealed in this trench.

5.50 Trench 49

5.50.1 The plan is recorded in Figure 1. The trench lay on an E-W alignment and measured approximately 15m by 2.50m.

5.50.2 The trench was excavated to a depth of 1.50m (2.35m aOD) at the E end of the trench and 1.30m (2.49m aOD) at the W end. The natural geology was not encountered. The removal of the topsoil (4900), which had a thickness of 0.20m, exposed a layer of light brown sandy silt (4901) that sat on a layer of light reddish-brown sandy silt (4902). This sealed a layer (4903) of dark reddish-brown sandy silt. Underneath was a layer (4904) of crushed black gravel and clinker. This lay on a layer of red and yellow brick debris (4905), which sealed a layer (4906) of Victorian glass and ceramic bottles. Underneath was a layer of grey sandy silt (4907). This sealed a layer (4908) of reddish-brown sand and crushed rubble (Plate 16).

5.51 Trench 50

- 5.51.1 The plan is recorded in Figure 1. The trench lay on an E-W alignment and measured approximately 20m by 2.50m.
- 5.51.2 The trench was excavated down to a depth of 1.20m (2.83m aOD) at the E end of the trench and 0.80m (3.09m aOD) at the W end. The natural geology was not encountered. The removal of the topsoil (5000), which had a thickness of 0.30m, exposed a layer of mid orange-brown brickearth (5001) that lay on top of a layer of fine black gravel and grey-brown sandy silt (5002).
- 5.51.3 This sealed a layer (5003) of mid brown silty clay with brick inclusions. Underneath was a layer (5004) of black gravel and clinker. This sealed a layer of crushed red brick and burnt clay mixed with Victorian glass and ceramic bottles (5005). A fragment of a ceramic dish, with a maker's mark (B.WM&Co) was recovered from this context and was dated to 1862-1904 (Plate 17) and a seal from an Italian glass cordial bottle, depicting a double headed imperial eagle and the legend 'I.R.RIV.FAB.MARASCHINO.F.DRIOLI.ZARA, was also recovered and has been dated 1890-1910 (Plate 18). A sondagé was excavated to an additional depth of 0.20m at the W end of the trench and natural mid orange-brown brickearth was encountered at 2.89m aOD. No archaeology was revealed in this trench.

5.52 Trench 51

- 5.52.1 The plan is recorded in Figure 1. The trench lay on an NE-SW alignment and measured approximately 15m by 2.50m.
- 5.52.2 The trench was only excavated down to a depth of 0.40m (4.48m aOD) due to a service that ran the entire length of the trench. The natural geology was not encountered. The removal of the topsoil (5100), which had a thickness of 0.10m, exposed a layer of red-brown sandy silt (5101) that lay on top of a layer of black sandy silt (5102). This sealed three distinct deposits. Deposit (5103) was

located at the NE end of the trench and comprised of crushed black clinker. A large deposit of crushed red brick and burnt clay (5104) was observed across the trench. Also situated at the NE of the trench was a deposit of crushed red brick (5105).

5.53 Trench 52

5.53.1 Not excavated because of site restrictions.

5.54 Trench 53

5.54.1 Not excavated because of site restrictions.

5.55 Trench 54

- 5.55.1 The plan is recorded in Figures 1 and 20. The trench lay on an N-S alignment and measured approximately 20m by 2.50m.
- The trench was excavated down to a depth of 1.10m (3.72m aOD) at the N end of the trench and 1m (4.31m aOD) at the S end. The natural chalk geology was encountered in the centre of the trench and the natural brickearth was exposed at the north end at 3.72m aOD. The removal of the topsoil (5400), which had a thickness of 0.25m, exposed a layer of burnt clay (5401) that lay on top of a layer of red and tallow brick debris (5402). This sealed a layer (5403) of crushed black clinker. Underneath was a layer (5404) of mottled very dark reddish-brown and black clayey silt. This sealed a layer of very dark reddish-brown clayey silt (5405) that sealed in turn very light grey silt (5406), which lay on top of a mottled grey and grey-brown silty clay (5407). This sealed a large pit [5410] that was backfilled with orange-brown silt mixed with brick (5408). Layer (5407) also sealed a layer of orange-brown clayey silt that contained rubble. Cut into the opposing edges of the natural chalk were red brick lined culverts [5411] and [5412] (Plates 19 and 20). Both were aligned NE-SW. No archaeology was revealed in this trench.

5.56 Trench 55

- 5.56.1 The plan is recorded in Figure 1. The trench lay on a NW-SE alignment and measured approximately 15m by 1.70m. This trench was an additional trench, moved to the north of Trench 51, in an attempt to pick up the OS mapped boat building shed shown on the 1897 OS map.
- 5.56.2 The trench was excavated down to a depth of 1.20m (3.19m aOD) at the NW end of the trench and 1.20m (2.86m aOD) at the SE end. The natural geology was not encountered. The removal of the topsoil (5500), which had a thickness of 0.20m, exposed a layer of grey and reddish-brown sandy silt (5501) that sat on a layer of light grey sandy silt (5502). This sealed a second layer (5503) of grey

and reddish-brown sandy silt. Underneath was a layer (5504) of light grey clay, which in turn sealed a layer of red crushed brick and burnt clay (5505). This sealed a layer (5506) of crushed clinker and beneath this was a layer of red and yellow brick debris (5507)

5.56.3 A sondagé was excavated to an additional depth of 1.30m at the SW end of the trench and a layer of brick rubble mixed with crushed brick was encountered at 1.76m aOD. No archaeology was revealed in this trench.

6 FINDS

6.1 Overview

6.1.1 Numerous early 20th century glass bottles and jars (such as meat paste and Bovril) were found in Trenches 11 and 12 and Victorian bottles (glass and ceramic) and an Ocarina (Plates 7 and 8) were found in Trench 24. Other Victorian bottles were noted in several trenches and Trench 50 produced a fragment of a ceramic dish dated 1862-1904 (Plate 17) and an Italian glass bottle seal, dated 1890-1910 (plate 18).

7 DISCUSSION

- 7.1.1 The only intact and in-situ deposits exposed during the evaluation occurred in the following trenches.
 - Trench 2 Possible Brick Clamp/Kiln.
 - Trench 11 Dumps of early 20th century rubbish into contemporary brickfield pits.
 - Trench 12 Dumps of early 20th century rubbish into contemporary brickfield pits.
 - Trench 15 Early Brickfield levels.
 - Trench 17 Burnt brick bases of kilns?
 - Trench 21 Burnt brick bases of kilns?
 - Trench 24 Retaining walls and dumps of Victorian rubbish.
 - Trench 39 Metalled road surface.
 - Trench 42 Dumps of Victorian rubbish.

- Trench 43 Metalled road surface.
- Trench 45 Dumps of Victorian rubbish.
- Trench 46 Dumps of Victorian/Modern rubbish
- Trench 49 Dumps of Victorian rubbish
- Trench 50 Dumps of Victorian rubbish
- 7.1.2 The proposed development can therefore be judged to pose a threat to significant remains contained within the circled areas shown on Figure 4. However, most of the rest of the Historic Brickworks structures have been destroyed by previous, deep and relatively recent large-scale groundworks and demolition on the site.

7.2 Conclusions

- 7.2.1 The evaluation trenches at the proposed development site revealed important archaeological features or artefacts.
- 7.2.2 The archaeological evaluation has been successful in fulfilling the primary aims and objectives of the Specification. A common stratigraphic sequence was recognised across the site that comprised of the recent demolition of the brickworks, the survival (in two small areas) of early brickworks and the exposure, within the central area, of the natural brickearth and bedrock chalk due to large scale truncation and landscaping of the sites' topography. The evaluation also revealed that extensive truncation or land in-filling had taken place across the site, especially to the north, nearest Milton Creek, where extensive deposits of material suggest that the foreshore was reclaimed during the Victorian period, probably to facilitate the expansion of the brickworks.
- 7.2.3 Therefore, this evaluation has been successful in fulfilling the aims and objectives as set out in the Planning Condition and the Archaeological Specification.

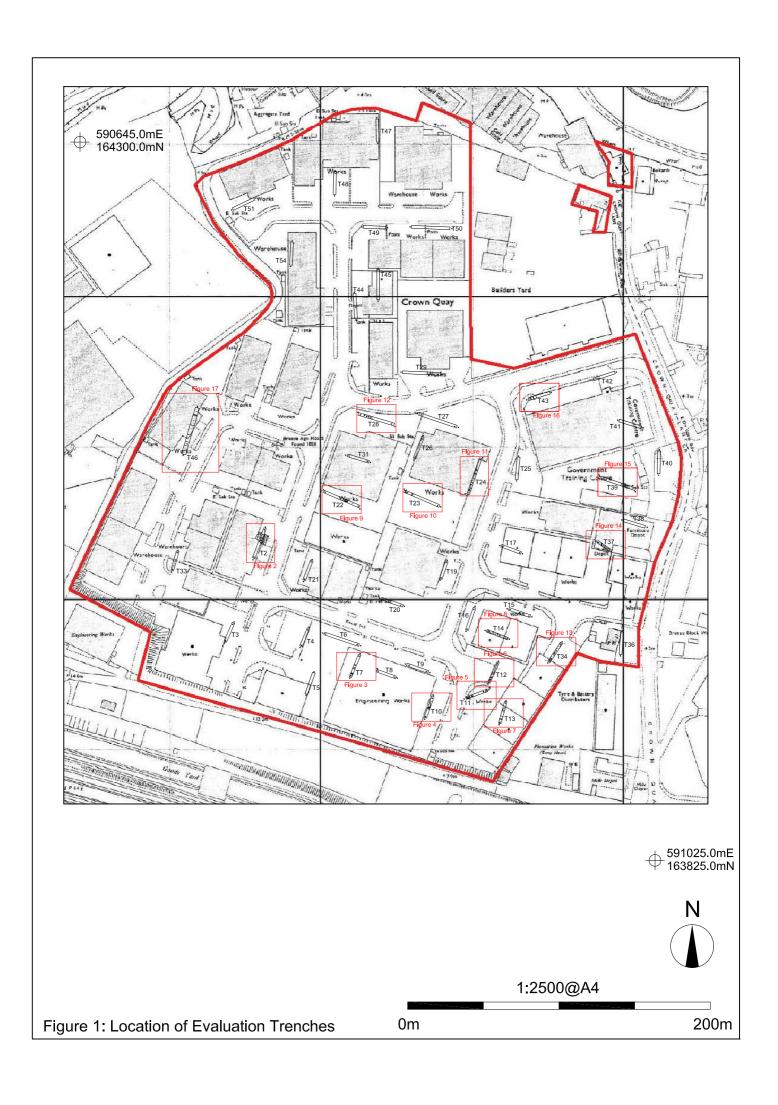
8 ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

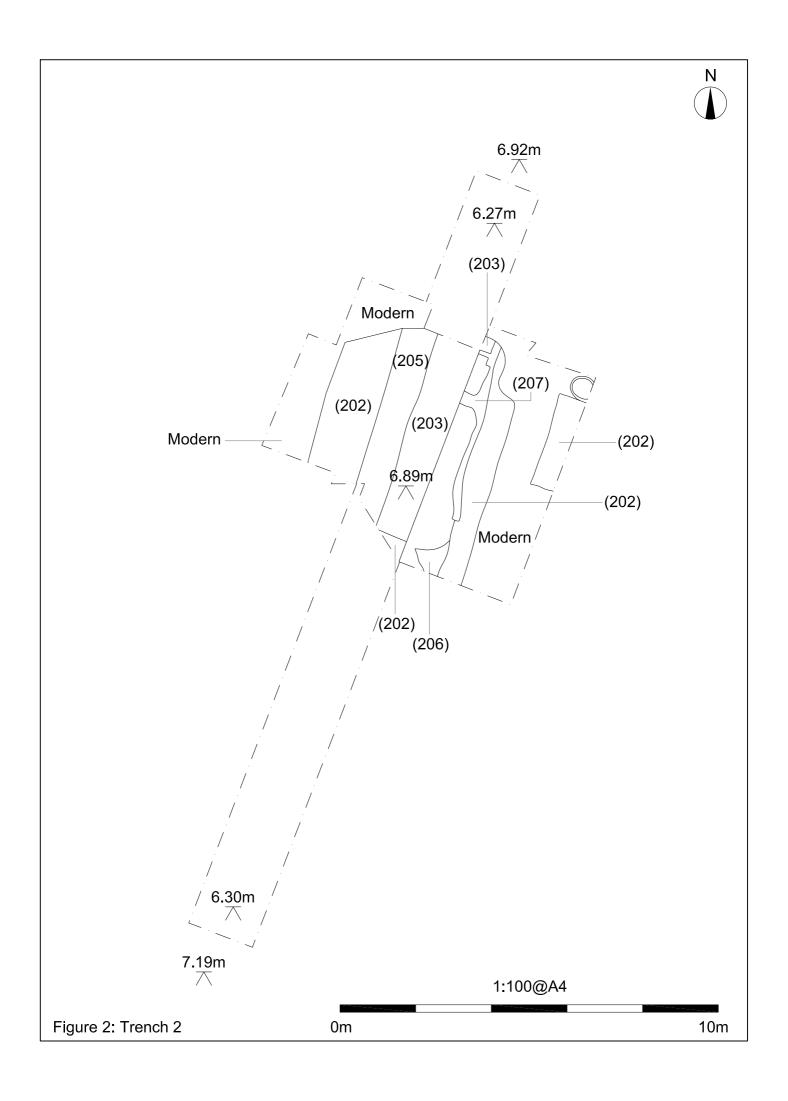
8.1.1 SWAT Archaeology would like to thank the client, Redrow Homes for commissioning the project. Thanks are also extended to Simon Mason, Principal Heritage Officer, Kent County Council. Site survey and illustrations were produced by 'Digitise This'. The fieldwork was undertaken by Simon Holmes and Dan Worsley. The report was written by Simon Holmes MA and Paul Wilkinson PhD. The project was managed by Paul Wilkinson PhD., MCIfA.

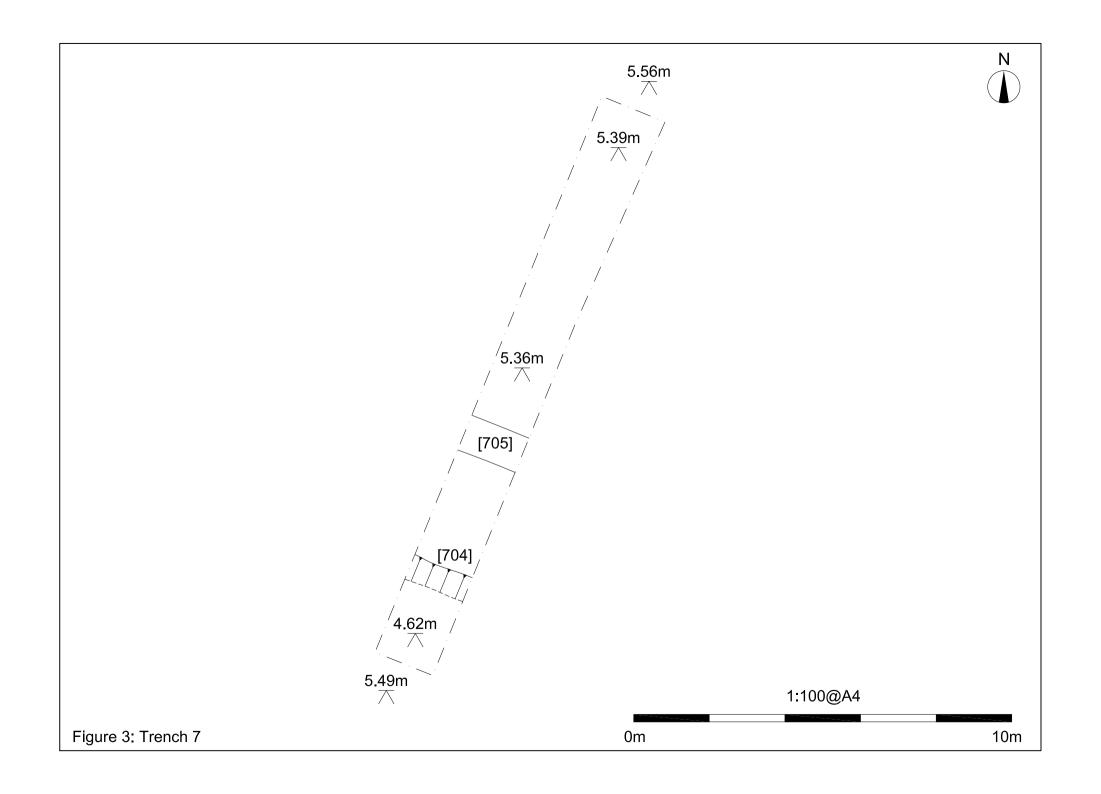
9 REFERENCES

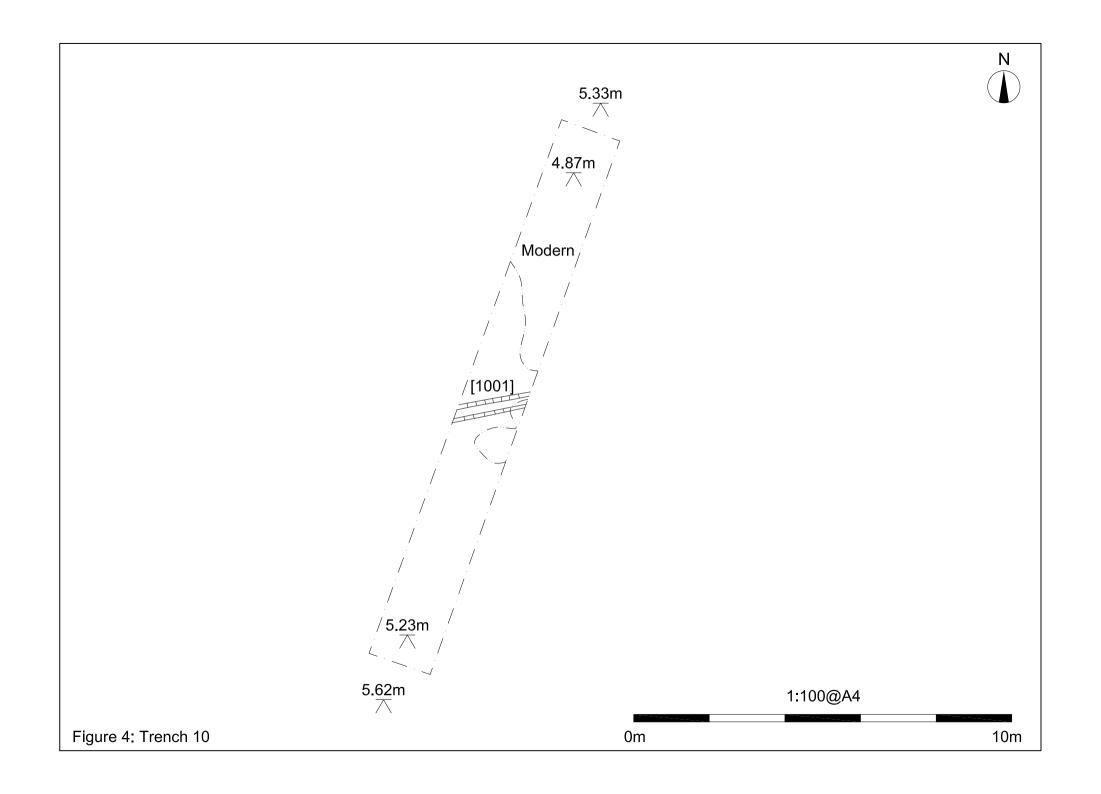
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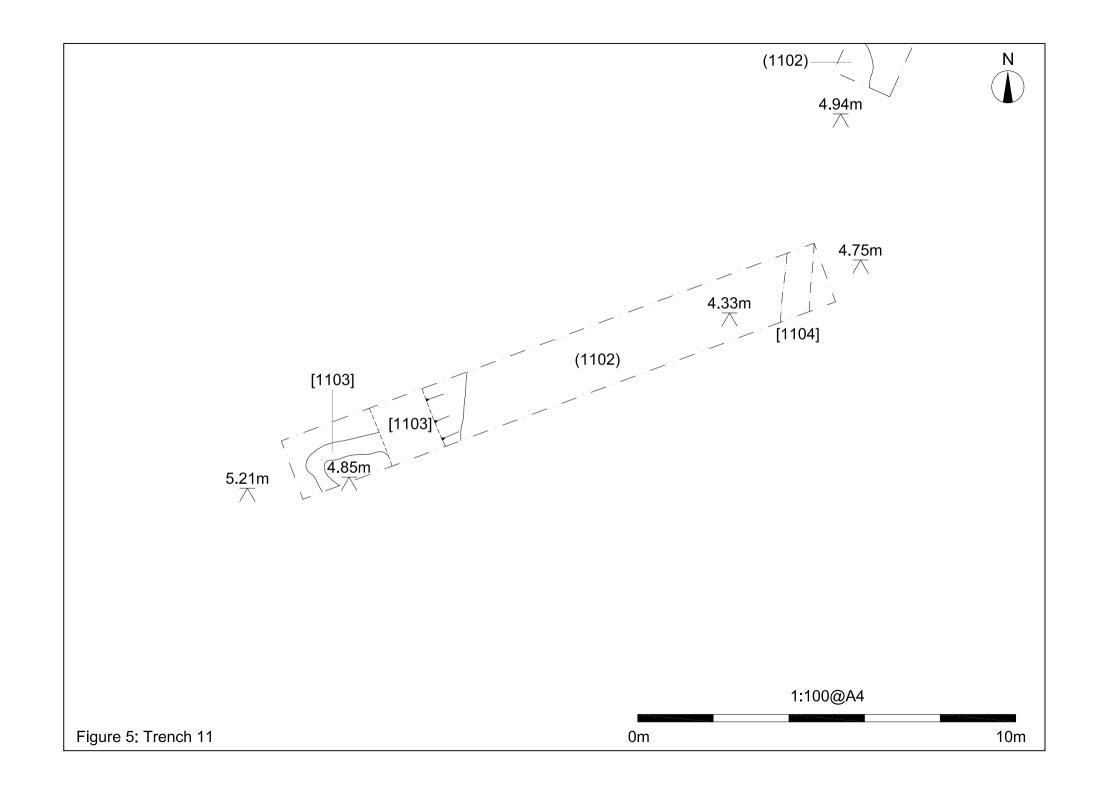
SWAT Archaeology (30/03/17) Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Evaluation

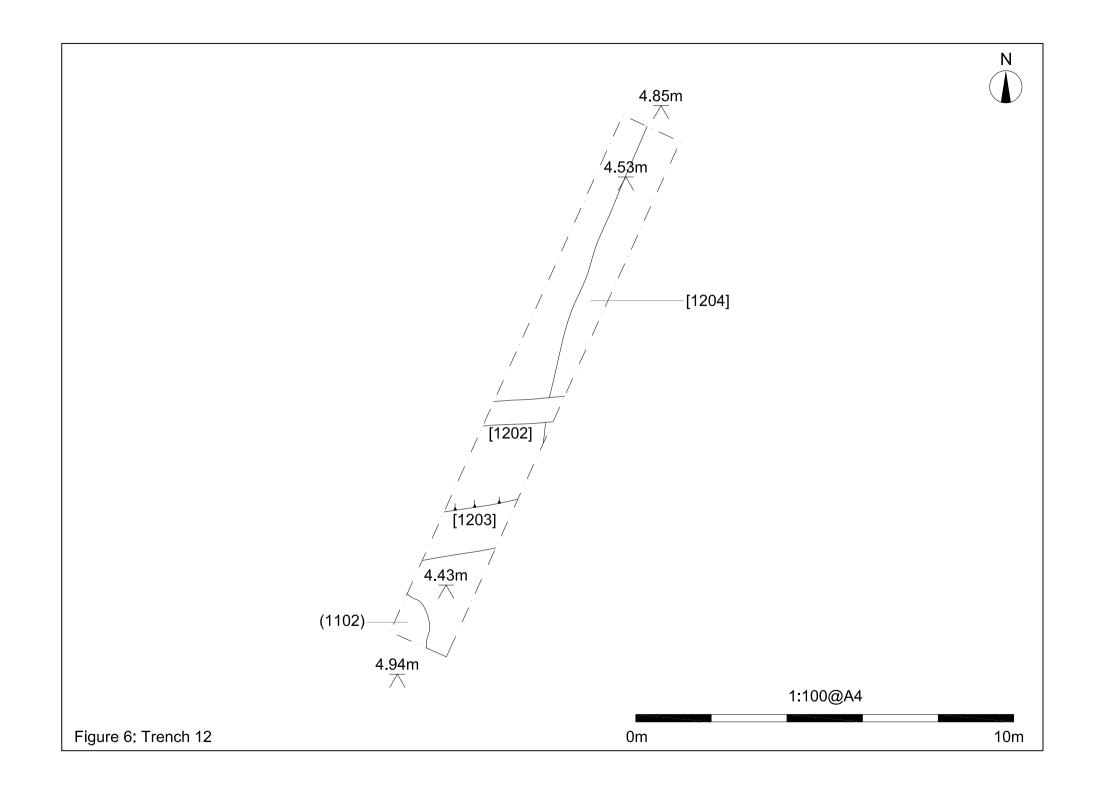


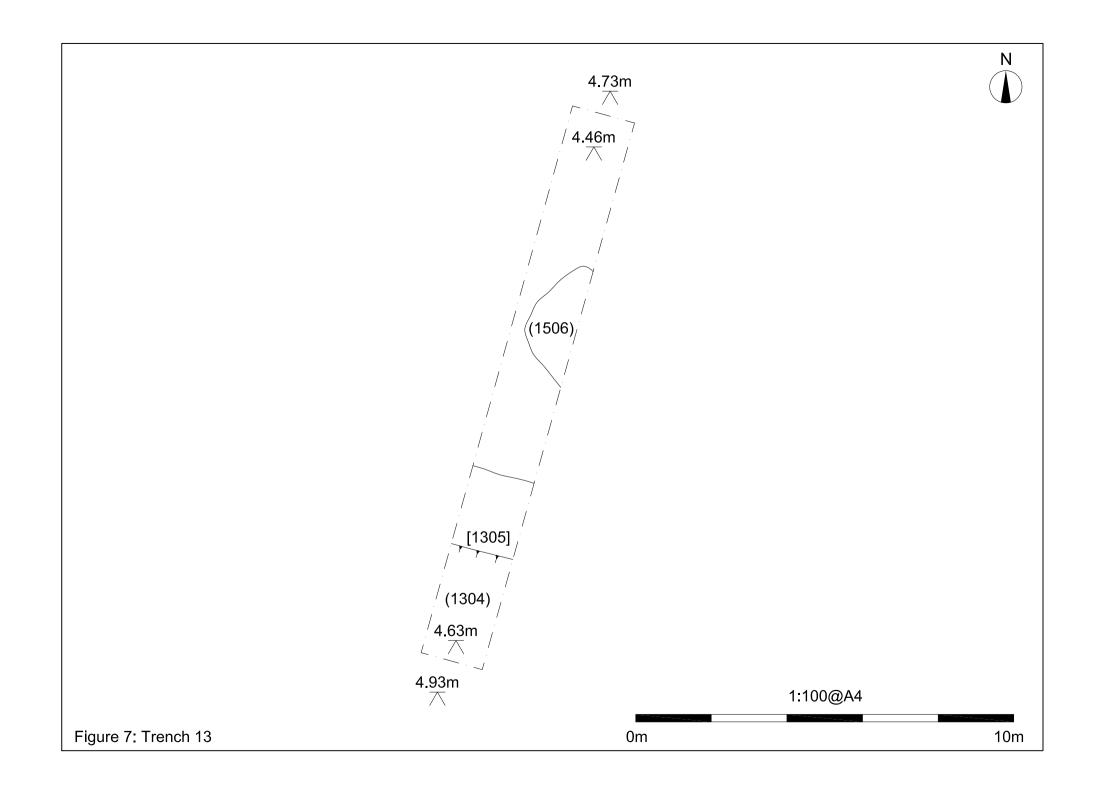


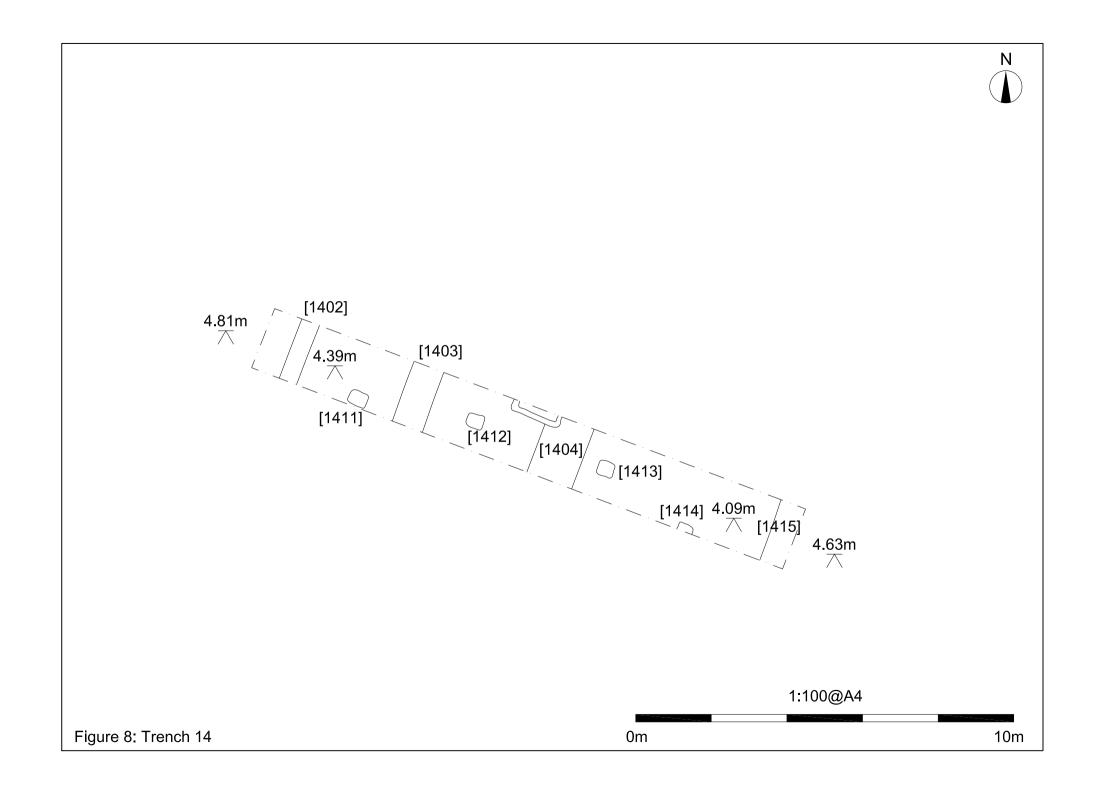


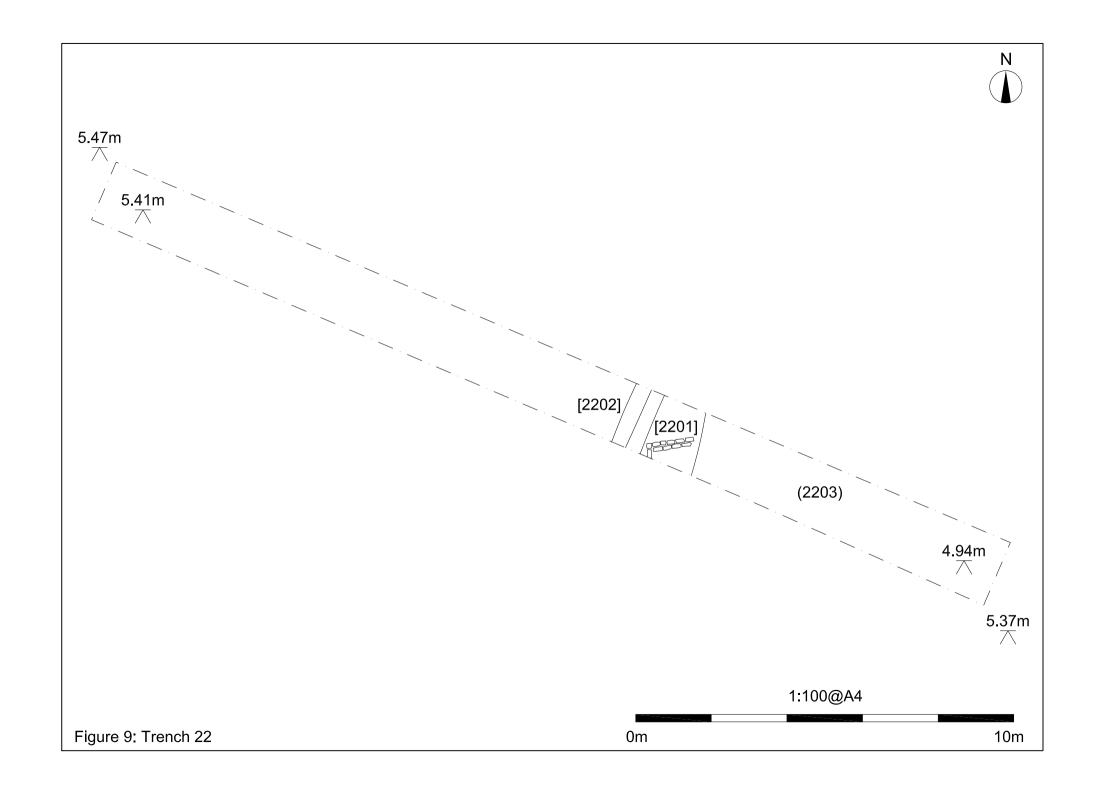


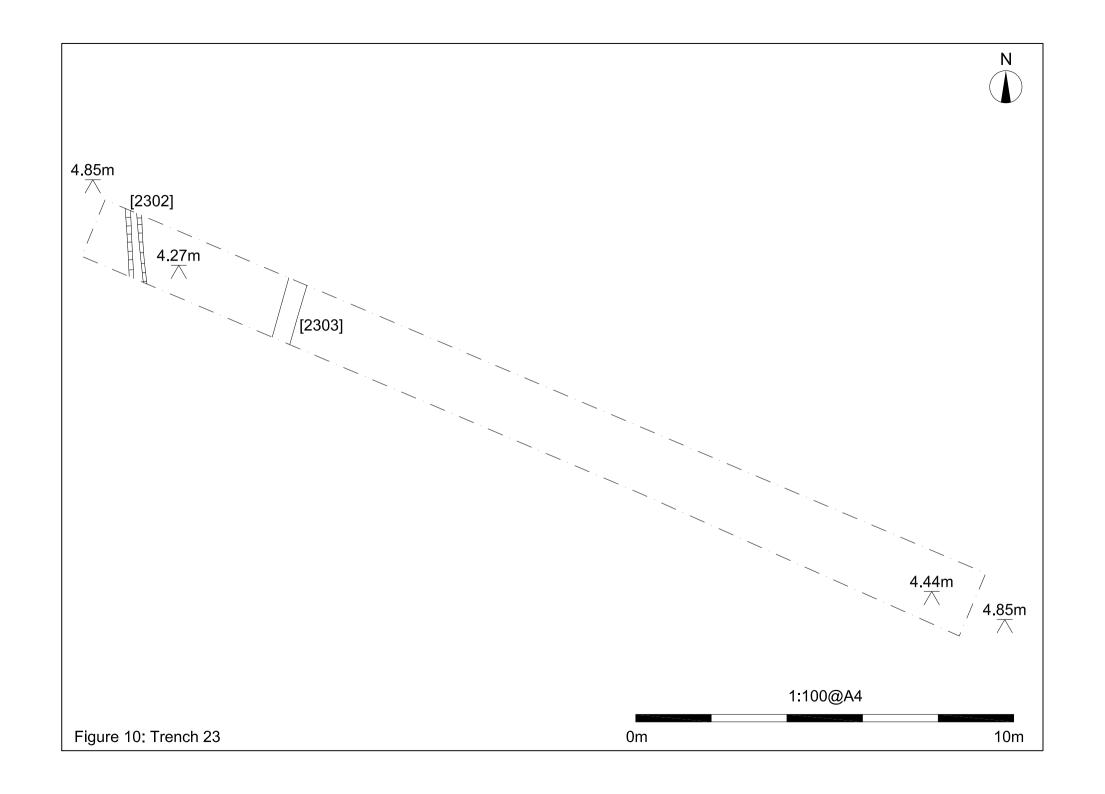


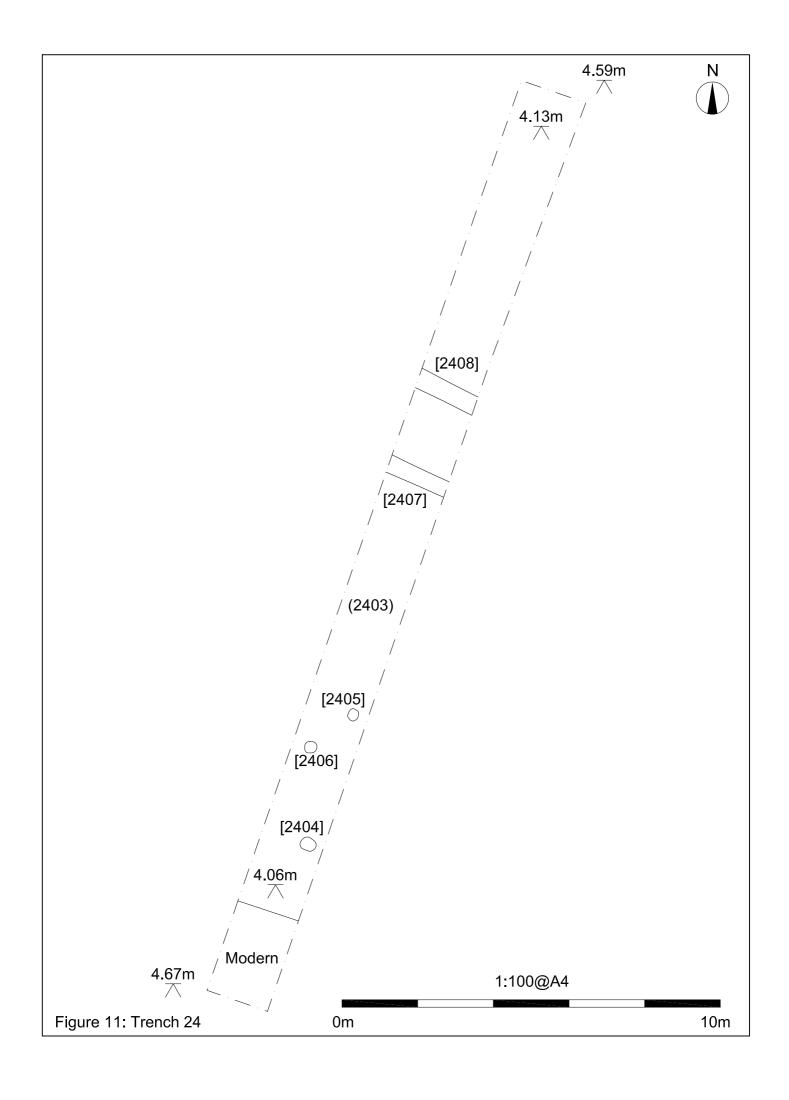


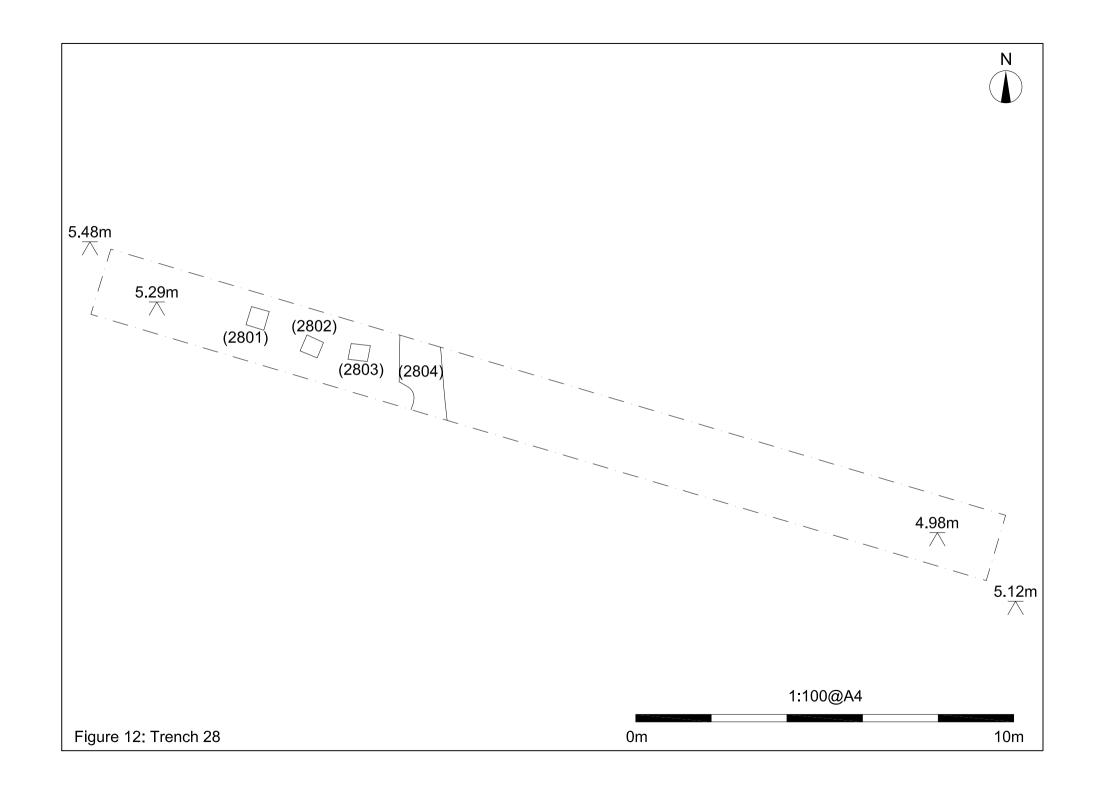


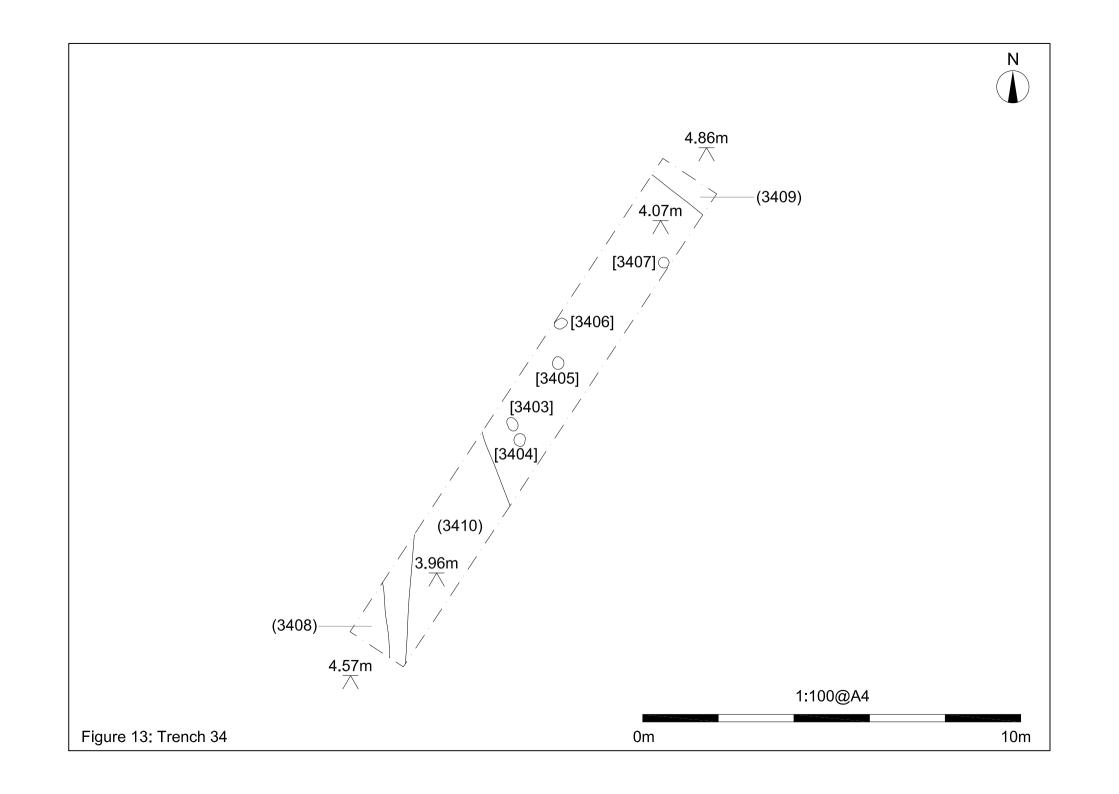


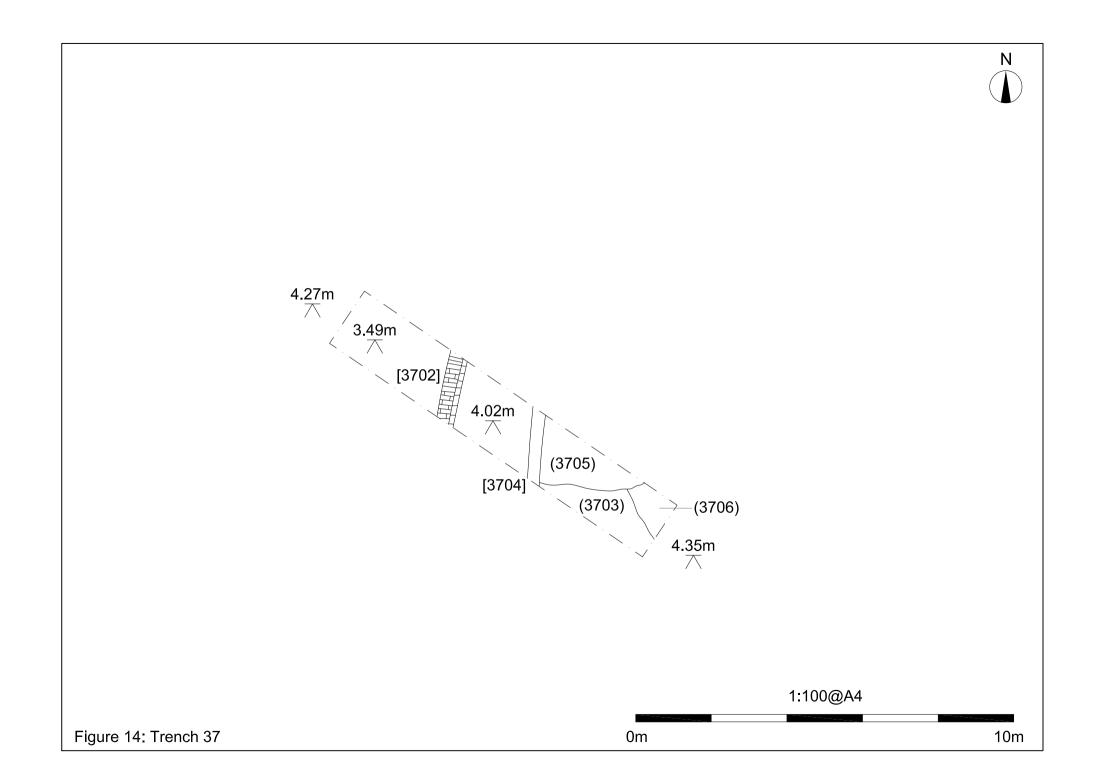


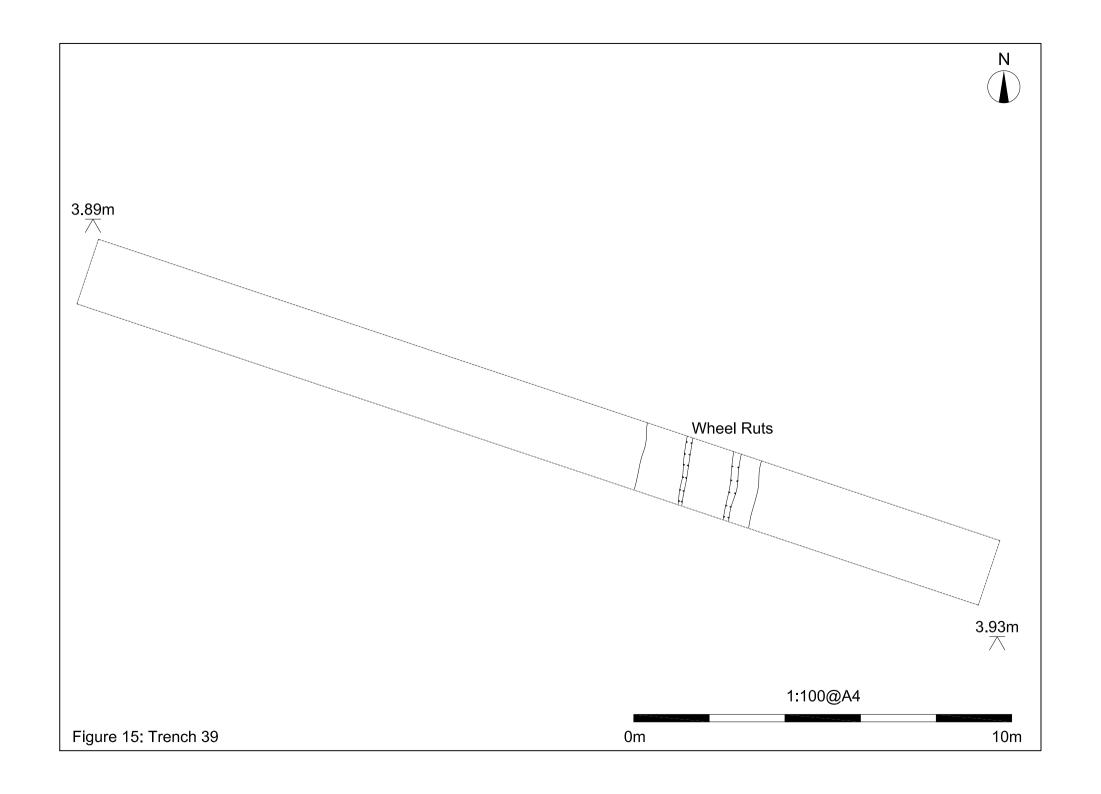


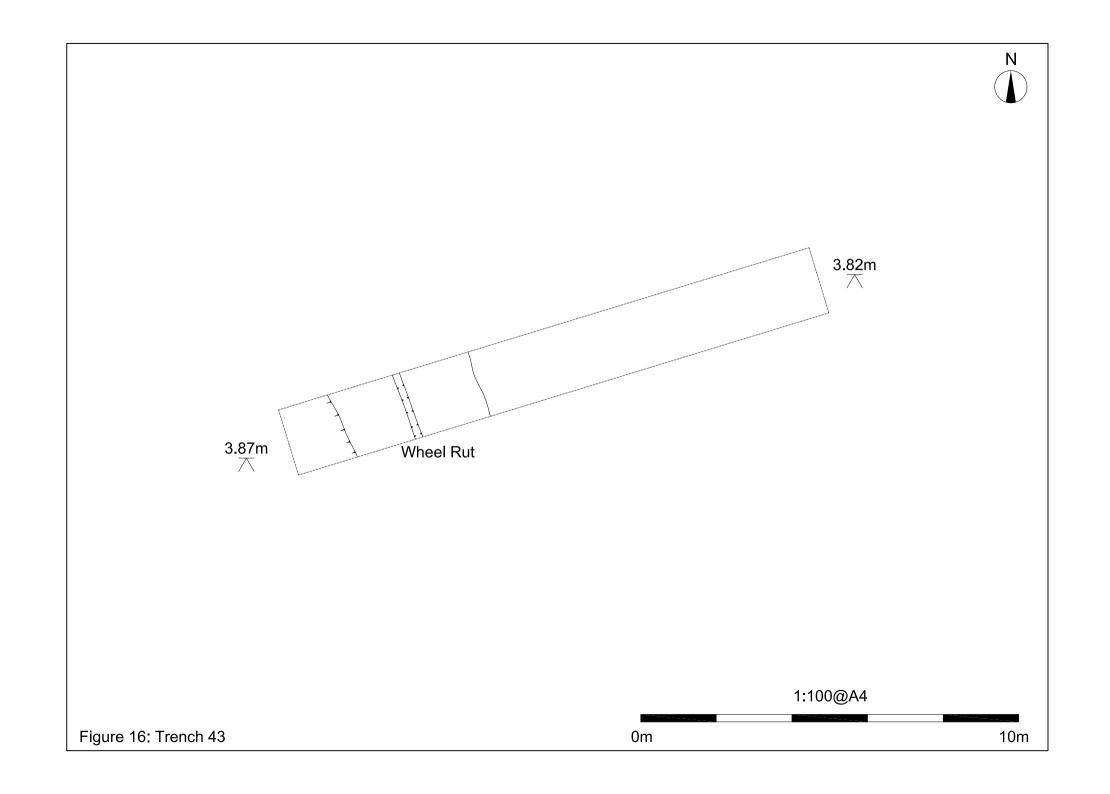


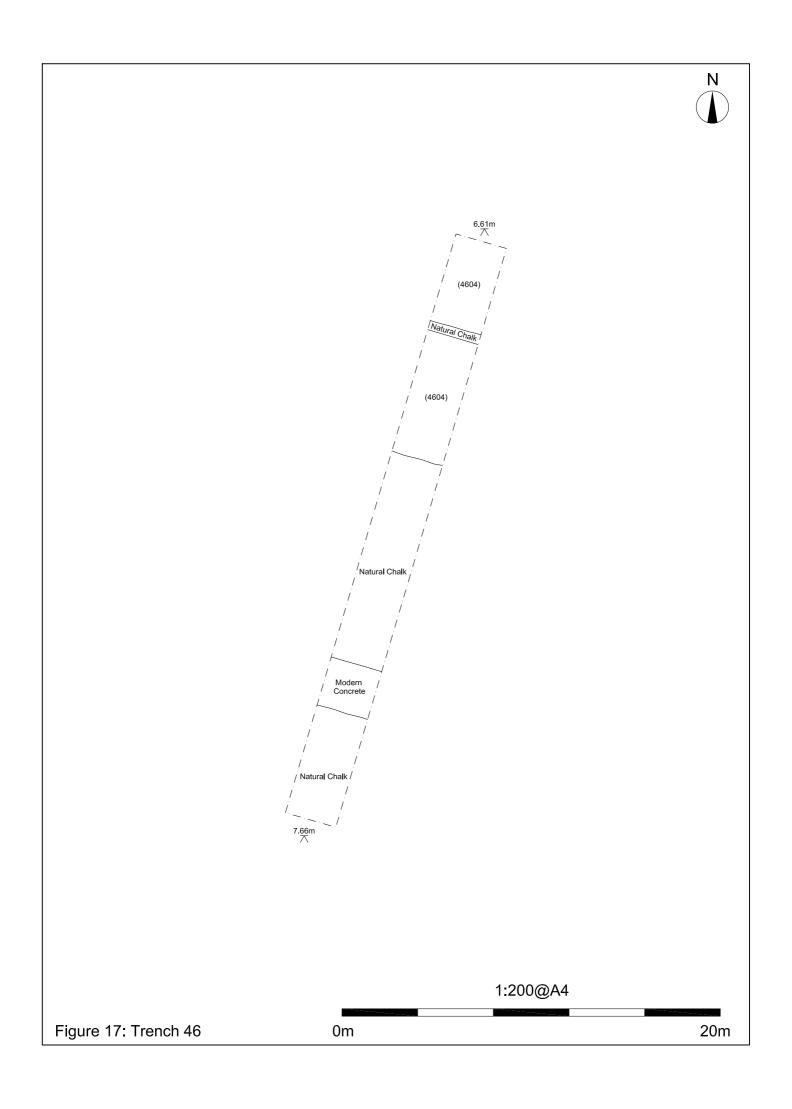


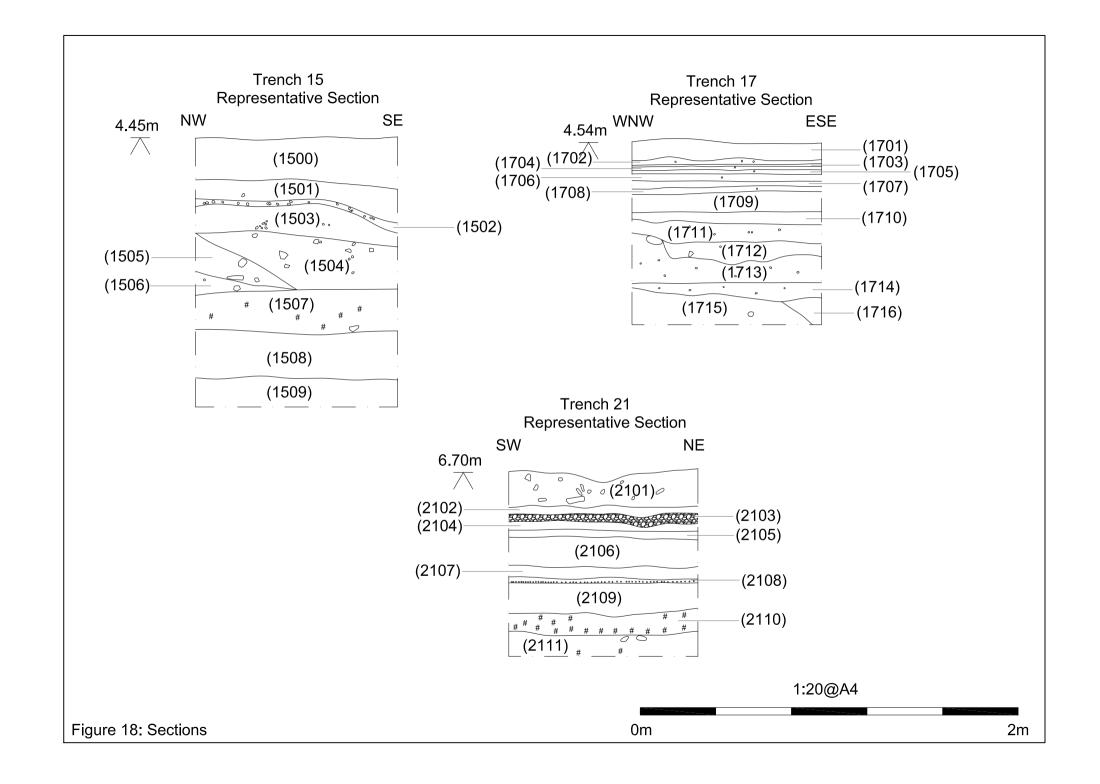


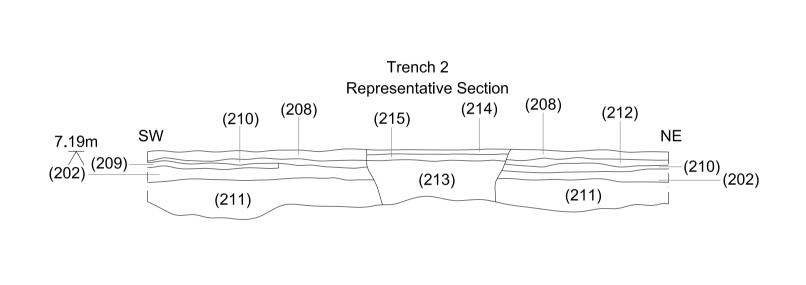


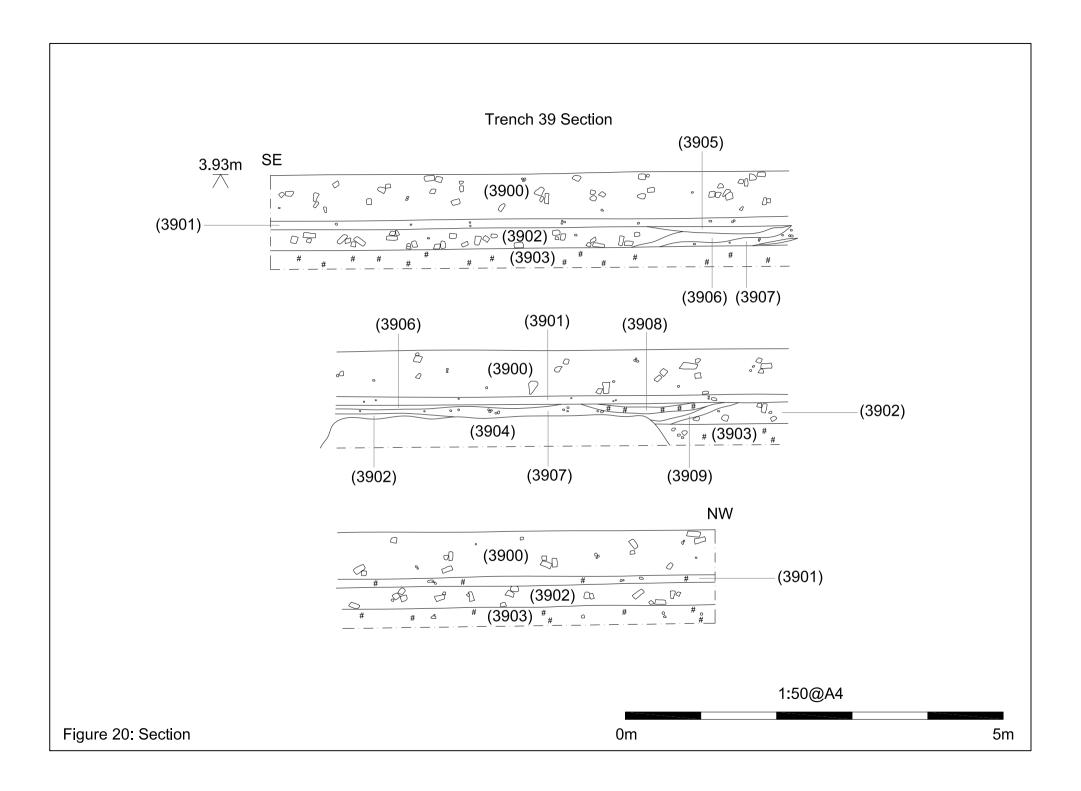












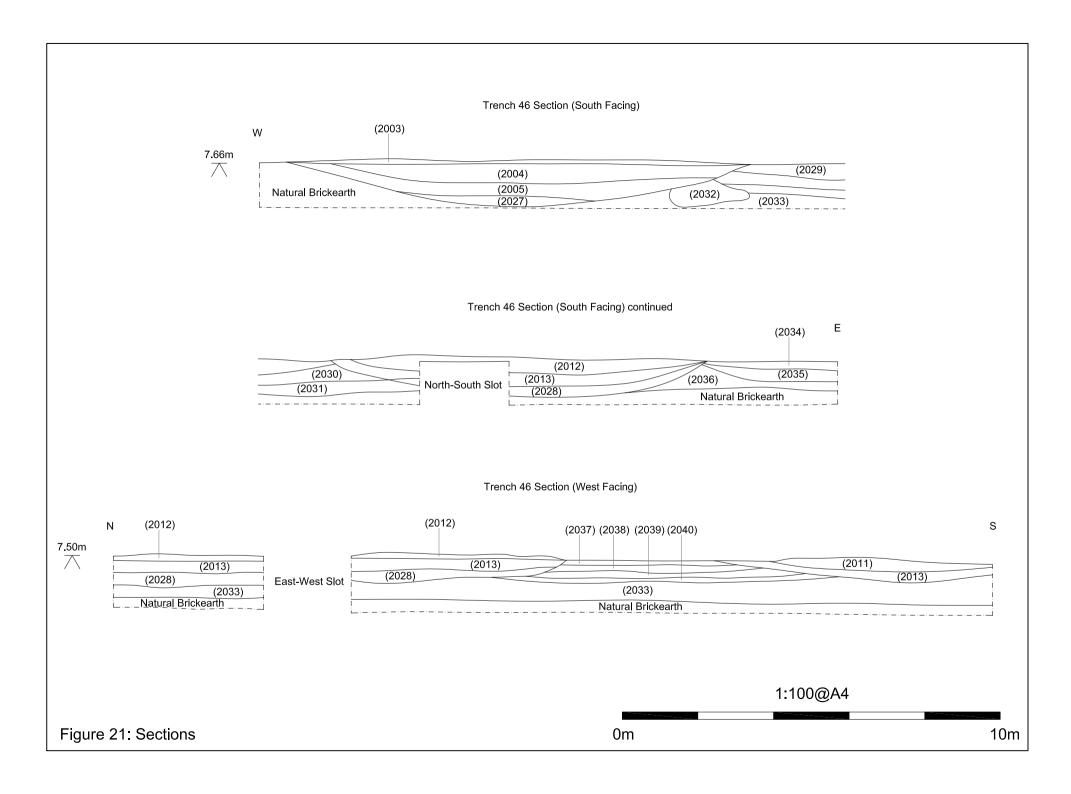




Plate 1. View of site (looking NE)



Plate 2. Trench 22 with brickwork structure



Plate 3. Trench 27



Plate 4. Trench 28



Plate 5. Trench 2 Brick Kiln



Plate 6. Section of Trench 2 Brick Kiln



Plate 7. Trench 7



Plate 8. Trench 8



Plate 9. Trench 17 Brickfield levels



Plate 10. Trench 17 Section Brickfield levels



Plate 11. Trench 11 Dumps of Victorian rubbish



Plate 12. Trench 12. Dumps of Victorian rubbish



Plate 13. Trench 3



Plate 14. Trench 23 Brickfield foundations



Plate 15. Trench 21 Brickfield levels



Plate 16. Trench 21 Brickfield levels



Plate 17. Trench 23 Brickfield foundations



Plate 18. Trench 23-section



Plate 19. Trench 23-Brick drain



Plate 20. Trench 4



Plate 21. Trench 15



Plate 22. Trench 15