

Archaeological Evaluation on Land at The Garth, St Stephens Road, Canterbury, Kent

Site Code: GARTH-EV-17

NGR: NGR Site Centre: 614875 158375

Planning Application Number: 16/01429



15/12/2017

SWAT ARCHAEOLOGY

Swale and Thames Archaeological Survey Company

The Office, School Farm Oast, Graveney Road

Faversham, Kent ME13 8UP

Tel; 01795 532548 or 07885 700 112

info@swatarchaeology.co.uk www.swatarchaeology.co.uk

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Summary

Swale & Thames Survey Company (SWAT Archaeology) were commissioned by Sterling Architecture to undertake an archaeological evaluation on land at The Garth, St Stephens Road, Canterbury, Kent. The archaeological works were monitored by Rosanne Cummings the CCC Archaeological Officer.

The fieldwork was carried out in 22nd November 2017 in accordance with an archaeological specification (SWAT Archaeology 2017) submitted to the Local Planning Authority prior to commencement of works.

The Archaeological Evaluation consisted of five trenches, which encountered a relatively common stratigraphic sequence comprising concrete and subsoil overlying natural geology of dark silty clay. In Trench 1 the surface of Roman foundations was revealed. In addition a Roman cobbled surface was identified in Trench 3. The other three trenches revealed no archaeology.

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1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project Background

- 1.1.1 Swale & Thames Survey Company (SWAT Archaeology) were commissioned by Sterling Architecture to undertake an archaeological evaluation on land at The Garth, St Stephens Road, Canterbury, Kent (**Figures 1-**). A planning application (16/01429) was approved by Canterbury City Council (CCC) for the proposed build of three storey building containing 12 two-bedroom apartments, on condition that a programme of works comprising an archaeological evaluation followed by appropriate mitigation measures, if considered necessary. This recommendation was subsequently added as a Condition to the planning approval, which stated that;

No development, *other than demolition*, shall take place until the applicant, or their agents or successors in title, has secured the implementation of:

- (i) archaeological field evaluation works in accordance with a specification and written timetable which has first been submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority; and
- (ii) following on from the evaluation, any safeguarding measures to ensure preservation in situ of important archaeological remains and/or further archaeological investigation, post-excavation assessment, analysis, publication or conservation in accordance with a specification and timetable which 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 BE16 of the Canterbury District Local Plan 2006, policy HE11 of the Canterbury District Local Plan Publication Draft 2014 and the Notional Planning Policy Framework.

(CA/16/01429, Condition 3, 23/06/2017)

- 1.1.2 The fieldwork was carried out in November 2017 in accordance with an archaeological specification prepared by SWAT Archaeology (2017), prior to commencement of works, and in discussion with Rosanne Cummings Archaeological Officer, at CCC. A copy of the Specification is provided in **Appendix 2**.

1.2 Site Description and Topography

- 1.2.1 The site is centred on NGR 614875 158375, and is located in the city of Canterbury, a district of the county of Kent in the South East of England. It lies north of the River Stour in an area of urban development within a Conservation Area. The plot forms approximately one third of an acre of hard standing that provides a parking area. It is bounded to the south by a branch of the Great Stour, to the north by St Stephens Road (B2248), to the west by the Registration of marriages and civil partnerships and to the east by residential development. The site covers an area of approximately 1.2ha.
- 1.2.2 According to the British Geological Society (BGS), the geology on site is Bedrock Geology of Seaford Chalk Formation- Chalk. Sedimentary Bedrock formed approximately 56 to 59 million years ago in the Palaeogene Period. Superficial Deposits are Alluvium- Clay, Silt, Sand and Gravel. Superficial Deposits formed up to 2 million years ago in the Quaternary Period (www.bgs.ac.uk/lexicon.cfm).

2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 Introduction

Further details of previous discoveries and investigations within the immediate and wider area may be found in the Kent County Council Historic Environment Record and have been summarised in the DBA produced by SWAT Archaeology (2016). Also an Archaeological and Historical Assessment of the Stour Valley undertaken by English Heritage (EKE14738) was consulted.

2.1 Canterbury Archaeological Trust has carried out several evaluations within a c.500m vicinity of the PDA. An evaluation at Dean's Mill (EKE14122) c.300m SE of the PDA in 1992, revealed an extensive range of medieval floors and walls and post medieval mid-19thC bonded brick foundation walls and gravel and brick courtyards representing several phases of construction of the mill. Beneath this were east west aligned timber structures and sediments that closely resembled sequences seen in the City of London and known to be related to Roman and post-Roman waterfronts; ceramic and coin evidence confirmed this.

2.2 In 1995 evaluation trenching at the Old Bus Garage at St Stephen's Road (EKE6090) c.100m N, uncovered two postholes that remain undated. A second evaluation at St Stephens Field (EKE6013) in 1998 proved negative. 9.3.3 An evaluation at Station Road West (EKE6010) c.500m NW, in 1998 revealed well preserved 16th/17th century brick clamp kilns to the north of the site and terracing and the remains of a medieval chalk wall were found towards the south. Additional work

uncovered two further brick clamp kilns and a series of brick earth quarry pits. The kilns most closely resemble those found in Wijk bij Duurstede (Hollestelle 1974).

2.3 An 'Old Brick Kiln' is marked on a C19th map to the north of the site and may be a later more permanent kiln. Linear features were thought to be clay quarries for the extraction of brick earth; similar features were found at Wijk bij Duurstede. 9.3.4 Further excavations to the west of Station Road West revealed an infilled brick earth quarry pit. Archaeomagnetic dating of the scorched surfaces revealed a potential date range of 1360-1410AD for clamp 1 and 1580-1640AD for clamp 2. Pottery fragments found in clamps 2, 3 and 4 suggested an early C17th date. Storage sheds, puddling pits, and moulding and drying areas that formed part of the process of brick preparation were not observed on the site.

5.4 An excavation at St Stephens Field (EKE14346) c.500m E, in 2000 revealed modern 20th century overburden overlying a complicated sequence of post-medieval (probably Victorian) building and yard deposits. Beneath these were the fragmented remains of an earlier timber-framed structure or structures, represented by stone and chalk built dwarf walls and badly disturbed floors. Deposits dated to 13th century and the timber structure to 15th or 16th century and the brick to 18th century (SWAT DBA 2016).

3 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

3.1 Specific Aims (SWAT 2017)

3.1.1 The specific aims of the archaeological fieldwork are set out in the Specification (Appendix 2). These were to;

'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.

Also to find out the depths of features below the surface, how much overburden and the extent of the depth of deposits themselves. In addition the dates and quality of any archaeological remains which will be achieved through a limited sample excavation of features. Human remains will not be excavated'.

(SWAT Archaeology 2017: 6)

3.2 General Aims

3.2.1 The general aims of the archaeological fieldwork were to;

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

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

4.1 Introduction

4.1.1 All fieldwork was conducted in accordance with the methodology set out in the Specification (SWAT 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 A total of five evaluation trenches were proposed within the extents of the Site (Figure 1).

4.2.2 The concrete slab was removed by the contractors under archaeological supervision. Excavation of the subsoil was carried out using a 360° 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.

4.2.3 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 CCC and CIfA standards and guidance. A complete photographic record was maintained on site that included working shots; during mechanical excavation, following archaeological investigations and during back filling.

4.3 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 aOD 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 [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+ etc.).

5 RESULTS

5.1 Introduction

- 5.1.1 A total of five evaluation trenches were mechanically excavated under archaeological supervision.

5.2 Stratigraphic Deposit Sequence

- 5.2.1 A relatively consistent stratigraphic sequence was recorded across the majority of the Site comprising a concrete surface sealing an intact subsoil.
- 5.2.2 The subsoil consisted of light to mid grey to brown silt clay overlaid by concrete and made up ground with numerous brick and concrete fragments.
- 5.2.3 Appendix 1 provides the stratigraphic sequence for all trenches. Figures 1-2 provide a site plan and trench location plan while Plates 1-4 include selected site photographs.
- 5.2.4 Trench 1 was approximately 17m in length, 1m in width and 1.2m in depth. The trench had an alignment approximately north north-east to south south-west. From a depth of 0 – 0.4m was a solid compacted surface (101) which consisted of mainly modern rubble, such as concrete, mixed brick and tarmac. Beyond 0.4m to a depth of 1.2m was dark grey very silty clay (102). At a depth of 1.2m were the remnants of a compacted Roman surface with a sharp vertical edge [103]. The compacted surface consisted of various small and medium sub-angular/angular flints. A Roman tile fragment was recovered from the compacted surface.
- 5.2.5 Trench 2 was approximately 11m in length, 1m in width and 1.2m in depth. The trench had an alignment approximately north north-west to south south-east. From a depth of 0 – 0.55m was a solid compacted surface which consisted of mainly modern rubble, such as concrete, mixed brick and tarmac (202). Beyond 0.55m to a depth of 1.2m was dark grey very silty clay (203).
- 6 Trench 3 was approximately 17m in length, 1m in width and 1.2m in depth. The trench had an alignment approximately north north-west to south south-east. From a depth of 0 – 0.52m was a

solid compacted surface which consisted of mainly modern rubble, such as concrete, mixed brick and tarmac (301). Beyond 0.52m to a depth of 1.2m was dark grey very silty clay (302). At the base of the trench was the remnant of a compacted surface consisting of angular/sub-angular flints but only a single relatively disturbed layer survived. Some fragments of Roman brick were recovered from the fill (304).

7 Trench 4 was approximately 17m in length, 1m in width and 1.2m in depth. The trench had an alignment approximately north north-west to south south-east. From a depth of 0 – 0.5m was a solid compacted surface which consisted of mainly modern rubble, such as concrete, mixed brick and tarmac (401). Beyond 0.5m to a depth of 1.2m was dark grey very silty clay (402). No archaeological evidence was discovered.

8 Trench 5 was approximately 14m in length, 1m in width and 1.2m in depth. The trench had an alignment approximately west south-west to east north-east. From a depth of 0 – 0.6m was a solid compacted surface which consisted of mainly modern rubble, such as concrete, mixed brick and tarmac (501). Beyond 0.6m to a depth of 1.2m was dark grey very silty clay (502). No archaeological evidence was discovered.

8.1 Overview

8.1.1 Archaeological features were recorded in two trenches, Trench 1 and 3. Trench 1 exposed a horizontal flint and mortar surface with some inclusions of Roman tile whilst Trench 3 exposed at its southern end the same horizontal flint and mortar surface, again with Roman brick and tile inclusions.

9 FINDS

9.1 Introduction

9.1.1 Roman brick and tile were retrieved from Trench 1 and Trench 3.

10 DISCUSSION

10.1 Archaeological Narrative

10.1.1 Archaeological features were recorded within two of the trenches.

10.1.2 Despite the relative absence of archaeological features, finds were present below the subsoil layer, with one large fragment and some smaller fragments of tile positively dating from the

Romano-British period. The presence of these finds and associated archaeological features provides an indication that archaeological activity is present within part of the surrounding area.

10.2 Conclusions

10.2.1 The archaeological evaluation has been successful in fulfilling the primary aims and objectives of the Specification. Development proposals are likely to impact on archaeological remains. Further archaeological mitigation, should it be necessary, will need to be determined in consultation with Canterbury City Council.

10.2.2 This evaluation has, therefore, assessed the archaeological potential of land intended for development. The results from this work will be used to aid and inform the Archaeological Officer (CCC) of any further archaeological mitigation measures that may be necessary in connection with any future development proposals.

11 ARCHIVE

11.1 General

11.1.1 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).

11.1.2 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

12 ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

12.1.1 SWAT would like to thank Sterling Architecture for commissioning the project. Thanks are also extended to Rosanne Cummings Archaeological Officer CCC, for her advice and assistance.

12.1.2 Paul Wilkinson supervised the archaeological fieldwork which was undertaken by Scott Skinner; illustrations were produced by Bartek Cichy and Scott Skinner produced the report which was edited by Paul Wilkinson (MCIfA).

13 REFERENCES

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14 APPENDIX 1 – TRENCH TABLES

Trench 1	Dimensions: 17m x 1.0m Ground Level: 7.30 m aOD		
Context	Description	Interpretation	Depth (m)
101	Solid compacted surface of mainly modern rubble	Made up ground	0.00-0.40
102	Dark grey very silty clay	Subsoil	0.40-1.20
103	Compacted Roman surface	Structure	1.20+

Trench 2	Dimensions: 11m x 1.0m Ground Level: 7.29m aOD		
Context	Description	Interpretation	Depth (m)
201	Solid compacted surface of mainly modern rubble	Made up ground	0.00-0.55
202	Dark grey very silty clay	Subsoil	0.55-1.20

Trench 3	Dimensions: 17m x 1.0m Ground Level: 7.29m aOD		
Context	Description	Interpretation	Depth (m)
301	Solid compacted surface of mainly modern rubble	Made up ground	0.00-0.52
302	Dark grey very silty clay	Subsoil	0.52-1.20
303	Compacted Roman surface	Structure	1.20

Trench 4	Dimensions: 17m x 1.0m Ground Level: 7.29m aOD		
Context	Description	Interpretation	Depth (m)
401	Solid compacted surface of mainly modern rubble	Made up ground	0.00-0.50
402	Dark grey very silty clay	Subsoil	0.50-1.20

Trench 5	Dimensions: 14m x 1.6m Ground Level: 7.20m aOD		
Context	Description	Interpretation	Depth (m)
501	Solid compacted surface of mainly modern rubble	Made up ground	0.00-0.60
502	Dark grey very silty clay	Subsoil	0.60-1.20

15 APPENDIX 1 – KCC HER FORM

Site Name: Archaeological Evaluation on Land at The Garth, St Stephens Road, Canterbury, Kent

SWAT Site Code: GARTH-EV-17

Site Address: As above

Summary:

Swale & Thames Survey Company (SWAT Archaeology) were commissioned by Sterling Architecture to undertake an archaeological evaluation on land at the Garth, St Stephens Road, Canterbury, Kent. The archaeological works were monitored by the CCC Archaeological Officer.

The fieldwork was carried out in November 2017 in accordance with an archaeological specification (SWAT Archaeology 2017) submitted to the Local Planning Authority prior to commencement of works.

The Archaeological Evaluation consisted of five trenches, which encountered a relatively common stratigraphic sequence comprising made up ground overlaying subsoil overlying some archaeological features which were recorded and Romano-British finds were present within the subsoil.

District/Unitary: Canterbury City Council

Period(s):

NGR (centre of site to eight figures) NGR 614875 158375

Type of Archaeological work: Archaeological Evaluation

Date of recording: Nov 2017

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

Geology: Brickearth

Title and author of accompanying report: SWAT Archaeology (2017) Archaeological Evaluation on Land at the Garth, St Stephens Road, Canterbury, Kent

Summary of fieldwork results (begin with earliest period first, add NGRs where appropriate)

See above

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

Contact at Unit: Paul Wilkinson

Date: 15/12/2017



Figure 1: Site location map, scale 1:20000.

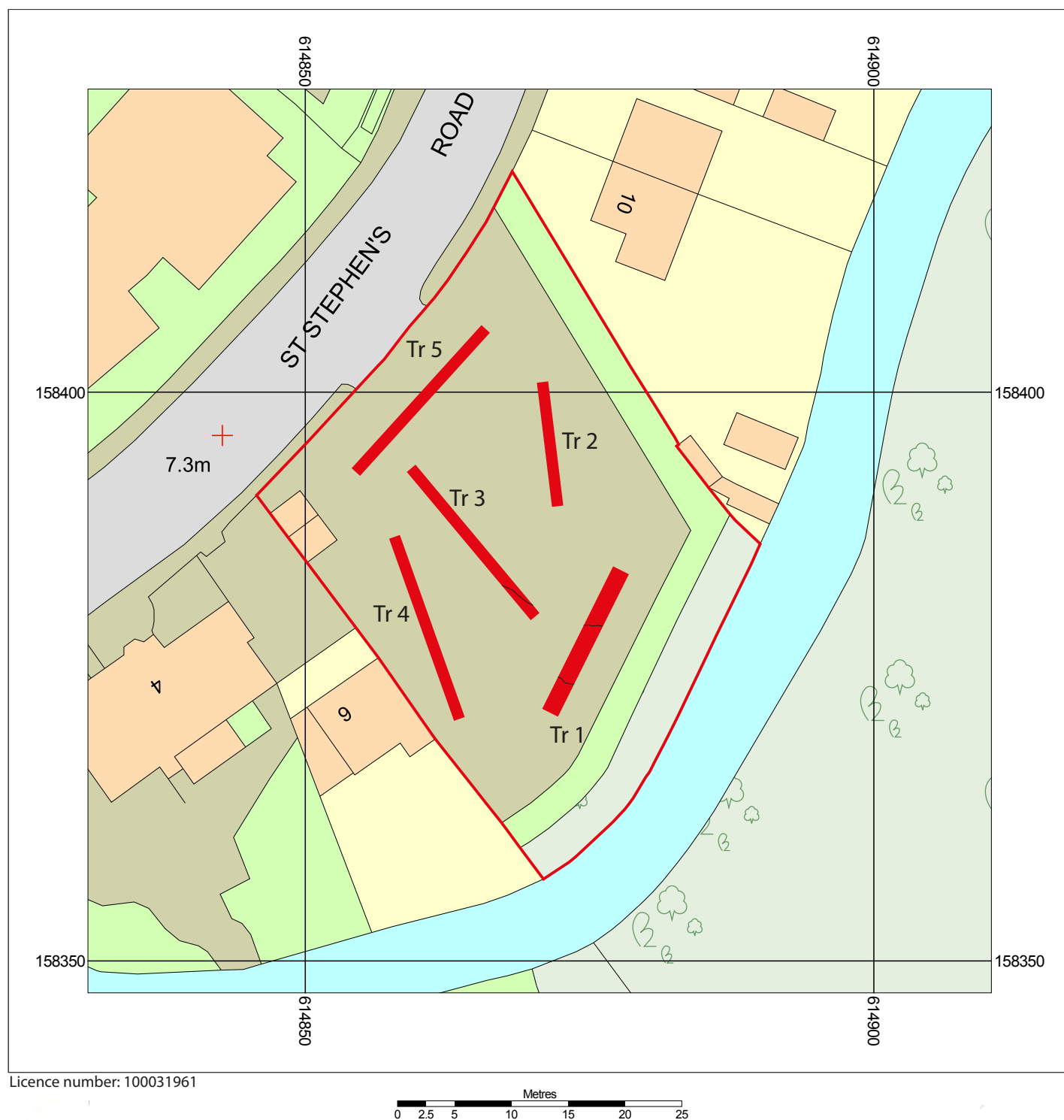


Figure 2: Site location OS map, scale 1:500 @ A4

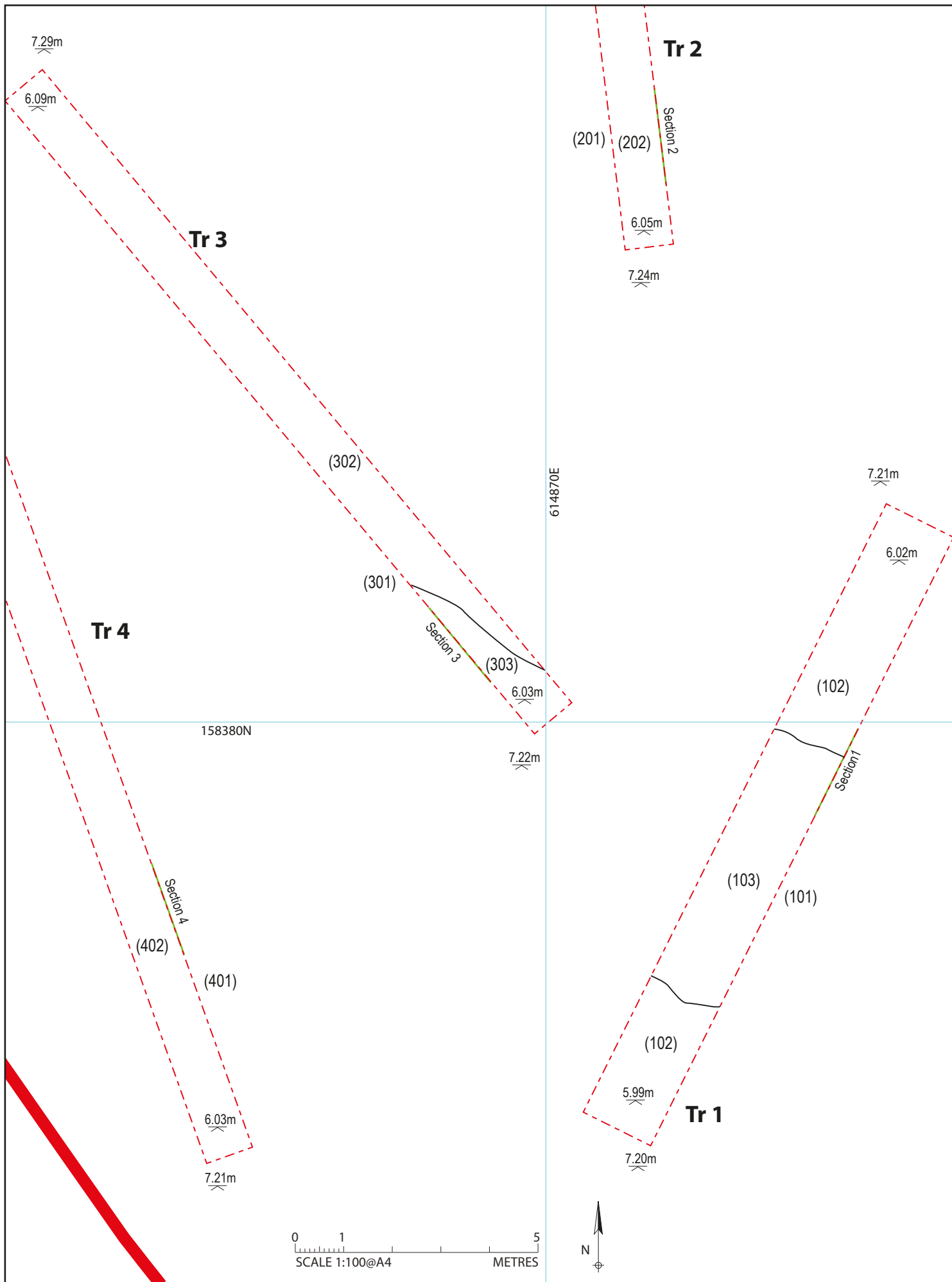


Figure 3: Trench plan

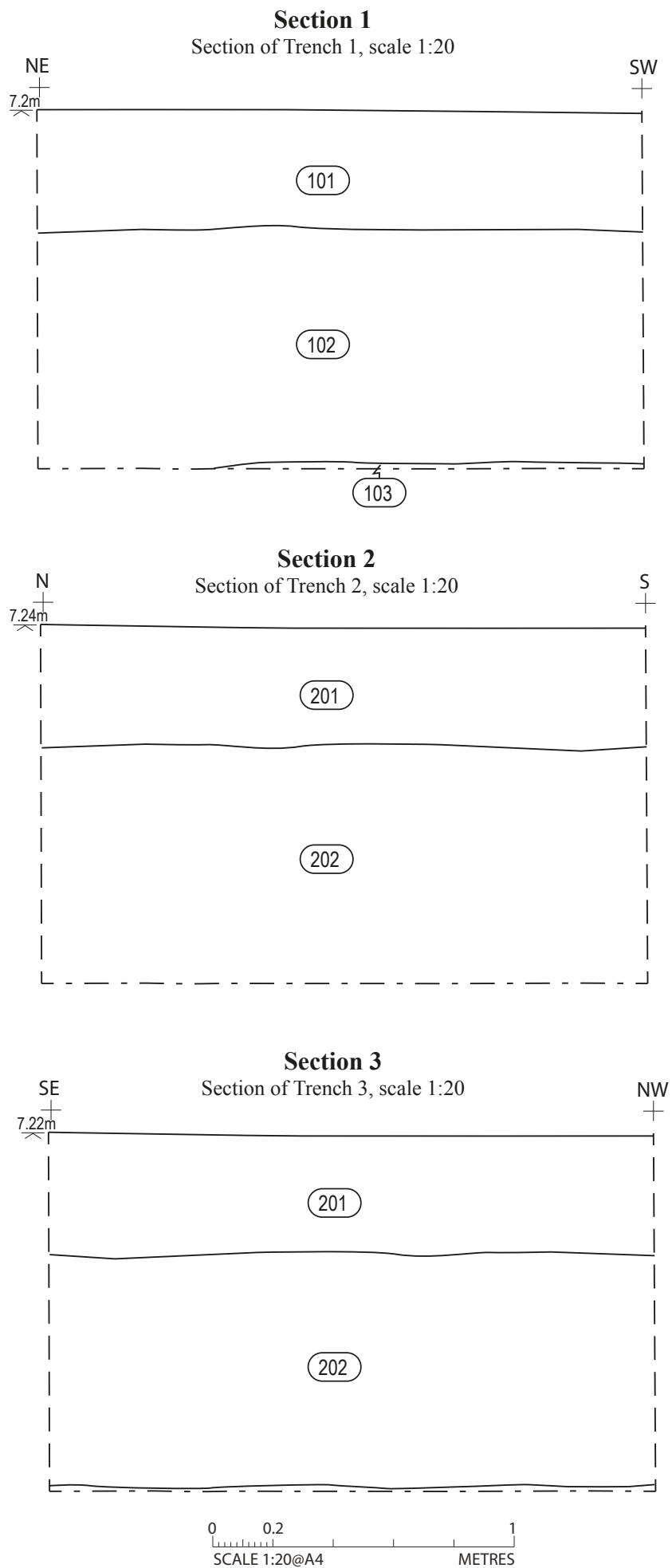
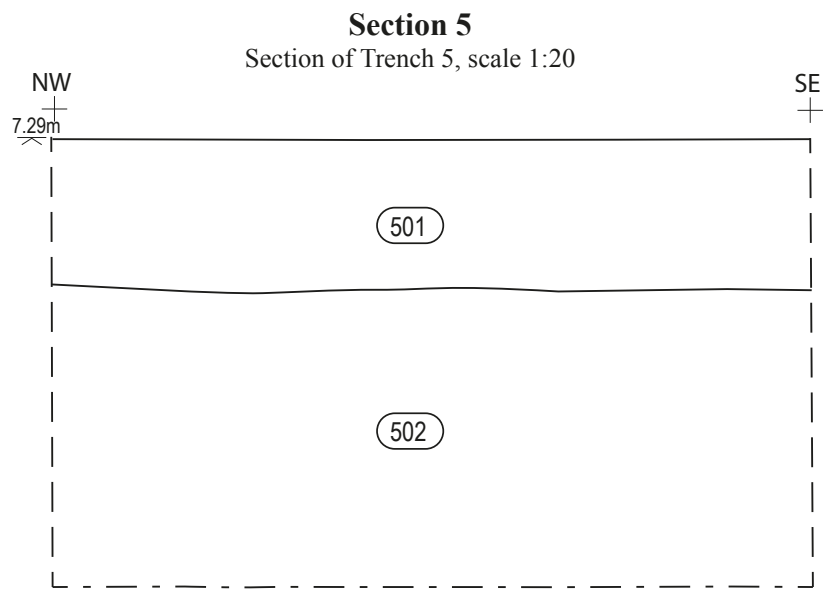
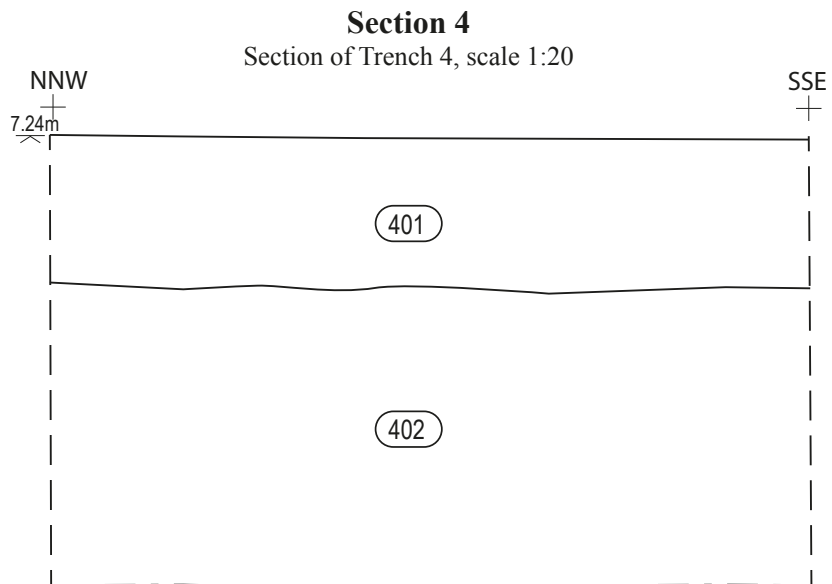


Figure 4: Representative sections 1 - 3 (Trenches 1 - 3)



Section located in the middle of trench 5 - NW trench wall



Figure 5: Representative sections 4 - 5 (Trenches 4 - 5)



Plate 1. Trench 1 (looking NNE)



Plate 2. The Site (looking SSW)



Plate 3. Trench 1. Roman feature (red arrow on edge of feature)



Plate 4. Trench 1. (Looking NNE)



Plate 5. Trench 1 (showing Roman surface)



Plate 6. Trench 1 (looking SSW)



Plate 7. Section Trench 1



Plate 8. Trench 2 (looking NNE)



Plate 9. Trench 2 (looking SSW)



Plate 10 Section Trench 2



Plate 11. Trench 3 (looking NNW)



Plate 12. Trench 3 (looking SSE)



Plate 13. Section of Trench 3



Plate 14. Trench 4 (looking N)



Plate 15. Trench 4 (looking S)



Plate 16. Section Trench 5



Plate 17. Trench 4 (looking N)



Plate 18. Trench 5 section



Plate 19. Trench 5 (looking NE)