

# Land adjoining 2 Selwood Cottages, Hooper's Lane, Broomfield

## Archaeological evaluation report

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## ABSTRACT

*On 19 January 2016, Canterbury Archaeological Trust undertook an archaeological evaluation of land adjoining 2 Selwood Cottages, Hooper's Lane, Broomfield, Kent, at the site of two proposed new dwellings. Two trenches were machine cut. Trench 1 was 11m long, 0.95m wide and cut to a depth of 0.81m. Trench 2 was 10.50m long, 0.95m wide and cut to a depth of 0.55m.*

*A linear archaeological feature was identified, aligned approximately east–west across the centre of Trench 1. It was 0.10m deep and contained an assemblage of struck flints of probable Neolithic to early Bronze Age date. The feature may once have been a land boundary, later truncated, possibly associated with prehistoric settlement known to exist in the area.*

*No other features of archaeological significance were observed. Overlying the prehistoric linear feature was a probable ploughsoil, cut by features of nineteenth-/twentieth-century date. Capping the trenches was modern topsoil and turf.*

## 1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 On 19 January 2016, Canterbury Archaeological Trust undertook an archaeological evaluation of land adjoining 2 Selwood Cottages, Hooper's Lane, Broomfield, Kent (NGR 619718, 166988). The evaluation was commissioned and funded by Mr G George following a planning application (CA/15/01085) to erect two new dwellings.
- 1.2 The planning application was granted 16 December 2015, with a condition (3) attached, stating that:

*Prior to the commencement of development, the following components undertaken for the purpose of determining the presence or absence of any buried archaeological features and deposits and to assess the importance of the same, shall each be submitted to and approved in writing by the local planning authority:*

- a) A written scheme of investigation, to be submitted a minimum of fourteen days in advance of the commencement of fieldwork.*
- b) A report summarising the results of the investigations, to be produced on the completion of fieldwork, in accordance with the requirements set out in the written scheme of investigation.*
- c) Any further mitigation measures considered necessary as a result of the archaeological investigations, to ensure preservation in situ of important archaeological remains and/or further archaeological investigation and recording in accordance with a specification and timetable which has been submitted to and approved by the Local Planning Authority.*
- d) If necessary, a programme of post-excavation assessment, analysis, publication and conservation.*

*Fieldwork, including further mitigation works and post-excavation work shall be completed in accordance with the approved details and programme timings unless otherwise agreed in writing with the local authority, and the local authority shall be notified in writing a minimum of fourteen days in advance of the commencement of any fieldwork.*

*REASON: Pursuant to Articles 35 (1) and (2) of the Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (England) Order 2015, the local planning authority is satisfied that the requirements of this condition (including the timing of compliance) are so fundamental to the development permitted that, if not imposed, it would have been necessary to refuse permission for the development. This is because, at the time of granting permission, full archaeological details were not yet available but this information is necessary to ensure the development complies with Canterbury District Local Plan 2006 Policy BE15 and Draft Canterbury District Local Plan 2014 Policy HE11 and otherwise to protect the environment of the site and its locality.*

## 2. LOCATION, TOPOGRAPHY AND GEOLOGY

- 2.1 The proposed development area (PDA) lies on the southern side of Hooper's Lane, Broomfield, Kent. It currently forms a relatively flat grassed plot of ground, covering an area of c 462m<sup>2</sup> and lying at a height of c 38m OD (Fig. 1, Plates 1 and 2). The plot is bordered by wooden fencing to the west, south and east and meets Hooper's Lane at an open boundary to the north.

- 2.2 According to the online British Geological Survey viewer (accessed 21/01/16), the solid geology of the site is London Clay, overlain by superficial Head deposits of gravel, sand, silt and clay.

### 3. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- 3.1 A programme of archaeological evaluation was carried out to assess the potential impact of the proposed development on buried archaeological features and deposits. The main objectives were to: establish the presence or absence of archaeological remains across the PDA; ascertain the extent, depth below existing, depth of deposit, character, date and quality of any such remains without materially damaging intact deposits; and gauge the state of preservation and importance of the archaeological resource if present.
- 3.2 If archaeological remains could potentially be affected by subsequent development, the work would also identify what mitigation measures would be appropriate.

### 4. METHODOLOGY

- 4.1 All archaeological work was undertaken according to a Written Scheme of Investigation, prepared by Richard Cross and submitted to the client. It was carried out in accordance with the accepted professional standards set out in the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists *Standard and guidance for archaeological evaluation*. Canterbury Archaeological Trust is a registered organisation with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists and conforms to their by-laws, standards and policy statements.
- 4.2 The evaluation comprised the machine cutting of two trenches. The trenches were aligned approximately north–south and sited within the location of each new dwelling (Fig. 1). Trench 1, towards the west of the PDA, was 11m long, 0.95m wide and cut to a depth of 0.81m. Trench 2, towards the east, was 10.50m long, 0.95m wide and cut to a depth of 0.55m. The total evaluation area was therefore 20.4m<sup>2</sup>, representing a 4.4% sample of the PDA.
- 4.3 The trenches were cut using a mechanical excavator fitted with a 0.9m wide flat-bladed ditching bucket, working under constant archaeological supervision. Each trench was opened to reveal the natural ground. Following machine clearance of topsoil and overburden, features and deposits were mapped and sample excavation was undertaken by hand.
- 4.4 Archaeological recording of the cut trenches was undertaken using Canterbury Archaeological Trust *pro forma* context and trench recording sheets. Measured plan and section drawings were compiled and a photographic record was maintained using digital format. The complete archive relating to the excavation is currently held by Canterbury Archaeological Trust.

## 5. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 5.1 Settlement within the landscape extending back as far as the middle Bronze Age has been demonstrated by archaeological investigations to the east of Bogshole Lane, c 100m to the south-east of the PDA (Helm 2001a, 23–24). Ditched field systems and a metalled trackway, dated c 1500–600 BC, were uncovered. The ground was later cut by boundary ditches, associated with a complex of pits and post-holes suggestive of a ritual purpose. A late Bronze Age ‘founder’s hoard’, dated c 850–750 BC, was also recovered from the site, buried in a pit (Allen 1999, 12). Late Bronze Age/early Iron Age activity has also been identified at the Willow Farm site, c 120m to the north-west of the PDA. Here, late Bronze Age remains included pits, ditches, gullies, a quarry pit, post-holes, occupation layers and a metalled surface, suggestive of long-term settlement within ditched enclosures (Willson 2000, 18; Helm 2001b, 22). The site is thought to have ‘formed part of an extensive scatter of late Bronze Age or early Iron Age settlements occupying the wide area north of the Blean upland and overlooking the North Kent coastal plain’ (Helm 2001b, 22).
- 5.2 The Willow Farm and Bogshole Lane sites had evidence of late Iron Age to Roman settlement. Several phases of activity were identified at Willow Farm, comprising boundary and enclosure ditches suggestive of a long-lived farmstead and, in the later Roman period, small-scale industrial activity (Willson 2000, 18; Helm 2001b, 22–23). A post-built rectangular building of Roman date was uncovered at the Bogshole Lane site (Helm 2001a, 23–24).
- 5.3 The PDA forms part of a settled medieval landscape. Field boundary ditches and pits dated between the eleventh and thirteenth centuries were excavated at the Willow Farm site (Willson 2000, 18; Helm 2001b, 23). At Bogshole Lane several phases of medieval activity spanned the twelfth to sixteenth centuries, comprising rubbish pits, ditches and gullies probably associated with a centre of settlement located towards the west of the site (Helm 2001a, 24).
- 5.4 In the later medieval period, the Bogshole Lane and Willow Farm sites formed areas of open agricultural land. The Herne Tithe Apportionment Plan dated 1840 shows the PDA lying to the south of Hooper’s Lane, amongst a small cluster of buildings and associated plots of ground. Selwood Cottages, to the east of the PDA, are thought to date to the late eighteenth/early nineteenth century (Cross 2015, 2). A pond is depicted lying towards the north-west of the PDA, together with a small building. A not dissimilar arrangement is shown on the first edition Ordnance Survey map of 1872. The pond is thought to have been infilled in 1980, when an extensive area of ground to the north was developed.

## 6. EVALUATION RESULTS

### *Trench 1*

(Figs 2 and 3, Plates 3 and 5)

- 6.1 Trench 1 was machine excavated to a depth of 0.81m to the north and 0.48m to the south, revealing natural London Clay (100) in the centre and towards the southern end

of the trench<sup>1</sup>. Cutting the London Clay, and extending approximately east–west across the centre of the trench, was a linear feature [101], c 0.63m wide. The feature was sample excavated on the eastern side and was seen to have gently sloping sides, a rounded base and a depth of 0.10m. Infilling feature [101] was a deposit of light grey clay (102) containing an assemblage of 12 struck flint pieces, as well as occasional natural flints and charcoal flecks.

- 6.2 Overlying feature [101] was a horizontal deposit of disturbed yellow-brown clay (103), up to 0.14m thick, quite clean and probably forming the remains of an old ploughsoil horizon.
- 6.3 Three modern features cut deposit (103). Towards the south, a sub-circular post-hole [112] contained the burnt-out stump of the original post (111). It was sample excavated to the west and was seen to have steeply sloping sides, a rounded base and a depth of 0.10m. Further north was the cut of a modern rectangular pit [110] containing a mixed deposit of yellow clay, dark grey-black topsoil and flint gravel (109). The feature was not sampled so its depth is unknown. The third modern feature covered the northern end of the trench. It was represented by a curving cut to the south [104] with a gently sloping side, observed to a depth of 0.36m but not bottomed. Feature [104] was infilled towards the south with a lower deposit of fairly compact blue-grey clay (105), seen to a depth of up to 0.17m, overlain by an upper deposit of compact light yellow-brown clay (106) containing occasional natural flint and charcoal flecks, lying up to 0.36m deep.
- 6.4 Overlying infilled feature [104] at the northern end of the trench was a deposit of dark grey gritty loam (107; not illustrated in plan), up to 0.28m thick, containing flecks of mortar and modern red brick. Covering the northern extent of deposit (107) was a thin layer of coal and ash (108), up to 0.05m thick.
- 6.5 Capping the trench was a layer of topsoil and turf (113), up to 0.46m thick.

## *Trench 2*

(Figs 2 and 3, Plates 4 and 6)

- 7.1 Trench 2 was machine excavated to a depth of up to 0.54m to the north and 0.44m to the south, revealing natural London Clay (200) to the north, south and in the centre of the trench. Overlying the London Clay was a horizontal deposit of disturbed yellow-brown clay (201), up to 0.20m thick, quite clean and probably forming the remains of an old ploughsoil horizon.
- 7.2 Cutting deposit (201) were five modern features. To the north, feature [202] extended into the eastern side of the trench. It had a curved edge, a gently sloping side and contained a fill of dark grey gritty loam (203) containing occasional natural flint and modern glass fragments (not kept). The feature was seen to a depth of 0.14m but was not excavated. Two post-holes [209] and [211] lay at the northern end of the trench. Neither was excavated so their depths remain unknown. Both were infilled with dark grey-brown gritty loam containing charcoal and modern brick ((208) and (210) respectively).

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<sup>1</sup> Heights OD of deposits and features can be identified from the relevant section and plan drawings.



- 7.3 Feature [204] crossed the centre of the trench. It had parallel edges aligned east–west, gently sloping sides and a visible depth of up to 0.13m, though the base was not reached. The feature contained a fill of dark grey gritty loam (205) containing nineteenth-century ceramic bottles (one kept), glass bottles (none kept) and fragments of red brick.
- 7.4 Feature [206] lay at the southern end of the trench. It had irregular edges aligned approximately north-west to south-east, moderately angled sides and was visible to a depth of up to 0.19m, though the base was not reached. Contained within the cut was a deposit of mixed dark grey-black loam and yellow-brown clay (207) mixed with twentieth-century red brick fragments.
- 7.5 Capping the trench was a layer of topsoil and turf (212), up to 0.39m thick.

## 7. FINDS

### *The struck flint* (Tania Wilson)

- 7.1 A total of 12 pieces of struck flint were recovered from context (102), the fill of linear feature [101]. The assemblage is summarised in Table 1.

	<b>Total</b>
Blade	2
Flake	7
Flake, blade-like	2
Irregular waste	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>12</b>

Table 1. Assemblage composition.

- 7.2 The raw material comprises a brown semi-translucent flint with a buff, hard cortex and black-semi-translucent flint with a grey, thin cortex. The assemblage is generally in a fresh condition, just three pieces showing patination in the form of slight discolouration. One blade-like flake has been burnt.
- 7.3 This assemblage is fairly undiagnostic in terms of date. However flakes and blades are represented, suggesting a Neolithic to early Bronze Age date range.

### *Other finds* (Plate 6)

- 7.4 Ceramic and glass bottles were recovered from fill (205) of feature [204] during machine excavation, one of which was retained. Those identifiable were ginger beer bottles from Flinn & Co., Burton Brewery and Mineral Water Works, active between 1895 and 1905 in William Street, Herne Bay. The company was originally the Burton Brewery Co, which had been established by George Harris at Herne Street, 1.5 miles from Herne Bay, but had moved to William Street by 1874.

## 8. SUMMARY OF RESULTS

- 8.1 One feature of note was identified, linear feature [101] which crossed the centre of Trench 1 and cut the natural London Clay (100). The assemblage of struck flint recovered from the fill (102) suggests that the feature is of Neolithic to Bronze Age date. Prehistoric settlement is known in the area and this feature may have represented an associated land boundary. It was however very shallow, perhaps having been truncated by later activity. No other prehistoric features were observed in either trench.
- 8.2 Deposit (103) overlying feature [102] may have represented an old topsoil horizon. An equivalent deposit, identical in nature, was observed in Trench 2 (201) overlying the natural London Clay (200).
- 8.3 Cutting deposit (103)/(201) were a number of features ([104], [110], [112], [202], [204], [206], [209] and [211]), all of which are thought to have been of nineteenth-/twentieth-century date. They may have been associated with occupation in Selwood Cottages, probably standing from the late eighteenth/nineteenth century, or with a property to the south-west shown on the first edition Ordnance Survey map of 1872 (Cross 2015, 2). The broad feature [104] at the northern end of Trench 1 may have formed the edge of a pond shown on nineteenth-century maps. The pond is thought to have been infilled in 1980 when development work in the area was undertaken by Greenhill Construction Ltd (*ibid*, 2). Overlying the infilled feature were modern deposits ((207) and (208)) which may have been laid to consolidate the ground.

## 9. CONCLUSIONS AND IMPACT ASSESSMENT

- 9.1 The remains identified by evaluation suggest that prehistoric activity, of Neolithic to Bronze Age date, lies within the PDA but does not appear concentrated within the development area. The single feature identified may have been the remnant of a land boundary. The PDA lies within a broadly settled prehistoric landscape, with features and deposits of note identified to the north-west and to the south-east.
- 9.2 The development therefore has the potential to impact upon archaeological remains, though the manner of construction may mean that such impact would be minimal. The identified feature was heavily truncated; shallower features, if once present, are unlikely to have survived the effects of such truncation. In addition, the feature was isolated and later disturbances were identified, including the probable pond towards the north-west of the PDA.

## 10. ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

- 10.1 Thanks are extended to Mr George for funding the work. The fieldwork was undertaken by Tania Wilson.

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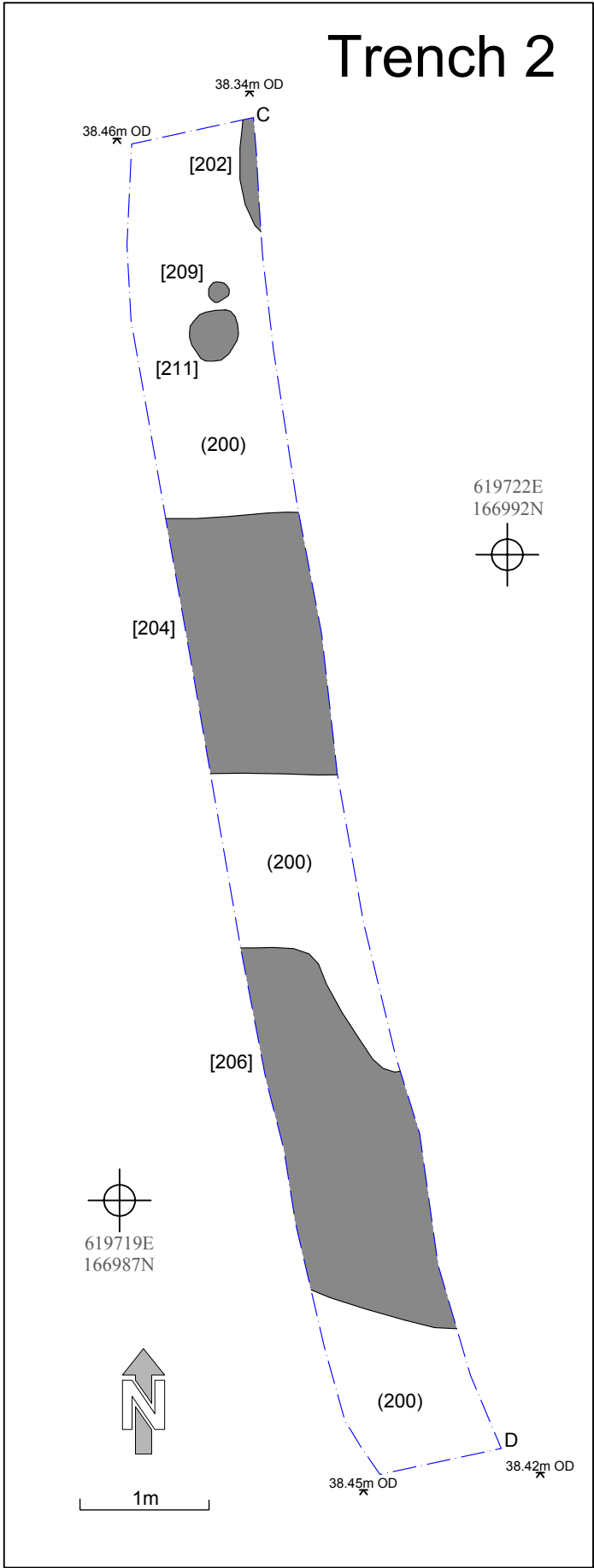
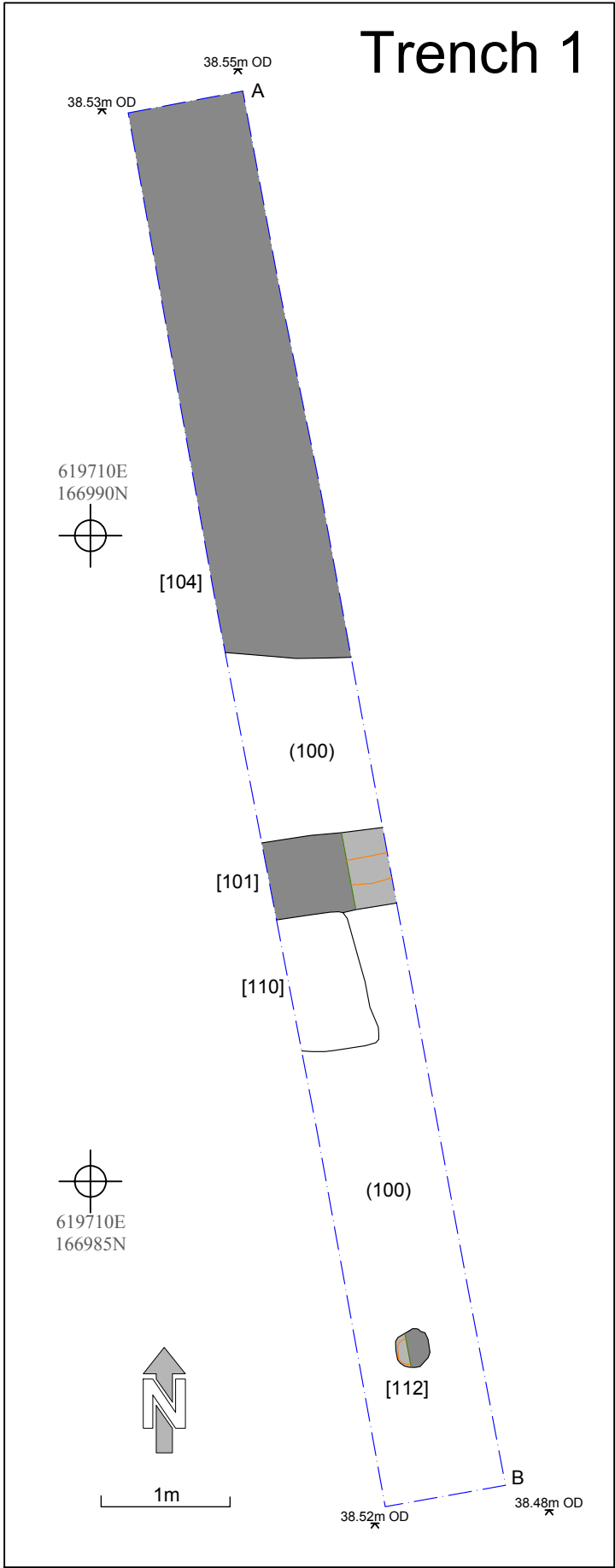
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		<b>REF/DRG NO.</b> N:\Projects Active\Project Managers\Jon Raby\Canterbury District\Hooper's Lane, Broomfield\Figs\Fig 1 HLB-EV15	

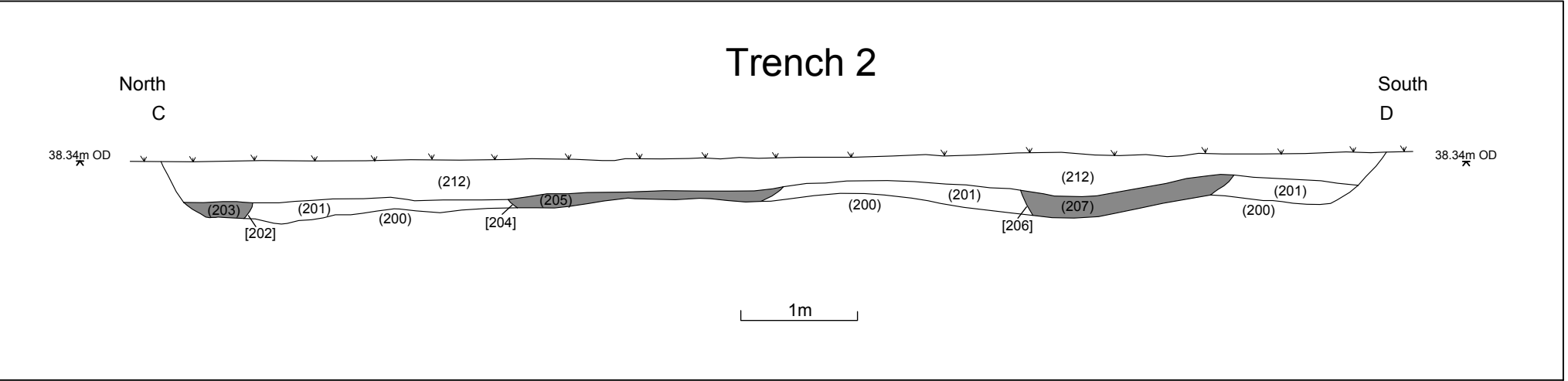
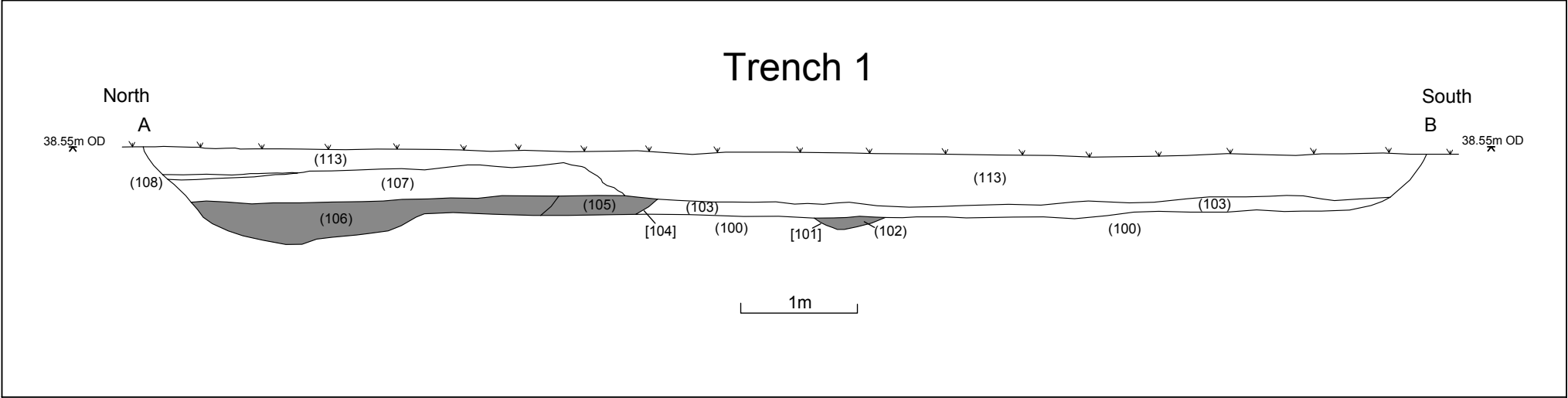
**Figure 1: Site and trench location**

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	SITE ADDRESS Land adjacent to Hooper's Lane Broomfield Kent	CHECKED ---	
		REF/DRG NO. <small>N:\Projects Active\Project Managers\Jon Raby\Canterbury District\Hooper's Lane, Broomfield\Figs\Fig 1 HLB EV16</small>	

Figure 2: Site plan, Trenches 1 and 2.



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Figure 3: Site sections, Trenches 1 and 2.



Plate 1. The development area looking south-west.



Plate 2. The development area looking north, with Trench 2 to the east (right).





Plate 3. Trench 1 looking north. Scale 1m.



Plate 4. Trench 2 looking north. Scale 1m.





Plate 5. Feature [102] (centre) and feature [110] (bottom right), looking east. Scale 0.5m



Plate 6. Collection of bottles recovered from feature [204].