

Land at 30 St Dunstan's Terrace, Canterbury, Kent, CT2 8AX

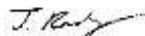
Evaluation report

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Summary

An evaluation was undertaken by the Canterbury Archaeological Trust on 25 November 2015 to the rear of 30 St Dunstan's Terrace, Canterbury, Kent, CT2 8AX (NGR 614172 158195 centred). The archaeological work was undertaken in response to proposals for the demolition of conservatories, extensions and chimneys, and the erection of side and rear extensions, rear conservatory and replacement windows.

The evaluation comprised a single trench approximately 3.75m long by 1m wide. This demonstrated that an in situ stratigraphic sequence lies within the proposed development area. The lowermost deposit in this sequence, a layer of gravel, may represent a metaled surface of Roman date. However, the possibility that it forms part of the underlying natural river gravels could not be entirely ruled out. Subsequently the PDA would seem to have seen agricultural use from the post-Roman period to at least the nineteenth century.

General ground reduction within the PDA is not anticipated to penetrate to sufficient depth to endanger any remains that may survive in the area to the immediate rear of the standing building. However, should excavation exceed a depth of 0.85m some impact to remains in this area is possible.

1. Introduction

1.1 Project background

- 1.1.1 An evaluation was undertaken by the Canterbury Archaeological Trust on 25 November 2015 to the rear of 30 St Dunstan's Terrace, Canterbury, Kent, CT2 8AX (NGR 614172 158195 centred). The work was commissioned by the owners of the property Mr and Mrs G Mayho (Flat 4, Lionard House, Queens Avenue, CT2 8QH). The archaeological work was undertaken in response to proposals for the demolition of conservatories, extensions and chimneys, and the erection of side and rear extensions, rear conservatory and replacement windows. A planning application for the proposed development (CA/15/02540/FUL) has been granted by Canterbury City Council with an attached condition number 5:

5 Prior to the commencement of development, the following components of a scheme for the archaeological evaluation of the site, to be 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.

1.2 Location, topography and geology

- 1.2.1 The site comprises an area measuring approximately 183m², located to the rear of 30 St Dunstan's Terrace (NGR 614172 158195). The proposed development is situated immediately adjacent to the property, and includes existing conservatories and extensions.

- 1.2.2 Bedrock geology within the site is indicated by the British Geological Survey to be formed by Thanet formation overlain by Stour second terrace gravels.¹ The PDA stands at an elevation of approximately 17m above Ordnance Datum (OD).

1.3 *Heritage potential*

- 1.3.1 The archaeological potential is based on the proximity of archaeological remains presently recorded in the HER. The site is located within an area of known archaeological potential. The PDA falls wholly within the city's Area of Archaeological Importance, as designated by the Secretary of State on 30 March 1984 pursuant to the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979, National Heritage Act 1983 and the Area of Archaeological Importance (Canterbury) Designation Order 1984, and within the Canterbury Conservation Area, as defined in the Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas Act 1990, administered by the city council.

1.4 *Prehistoric*

- 1.4.1 Stour Second Terrace Gravels are recorded within the PDA, and such materials were indeed recorded in section in 1982 nearby during construction of warden assisted housing at Cranmer House (Bennett 1987), 100m to the north-west. These deposits are particularly important in relation to Pleistocene archaeology, and may preserve artefacts made by early hominids, or ecofacts and geoarchaeological data that contribute to an understanding of palaeogeography, topography, climate etc. The present evaluation should map the extent and height in relation to mean sea level of such gravels should they be encountered, with a view to informing future impact assessments and specialised mitigation strategies.

1.5 *Late Iron Age and Romano-British*

- 1.5.1 Another key area for consideration is the location of the proposed development within an established late Iron Age field system (with attendant burials) and an extensive Romano-British cemetery area in St Dunstan's (see Weekes 2011). There is a clear focus of funerary activity within the area, around Orchard Street, Church Street, Cross Street, Ryde Street and New Street, and further reports of cremation burials at St Dunstan's Street indicate another probable focus there.
- 1.5.2 Open area excavation at St Dunstan's Terrace, just 70m to the north-west of the PDA, and rescue excavations at Cranmer House (Weekes forthcoming; Bennett 1987, 56–68;), along with earlier observations at 22 and 24 Crown Gardens and 12 Princes Way (HER No. TR 15 NW 2109), seem to indicate at least three cemetery plots here separated by two known boundary ditches. At least fifty-three burial groups were recorded, some less than 0.25m beneath the present surface. These and other features cut a buried soil horizon presumed to be the original cemetery surface, at which finds of pottery, tile and cremated bone appeared to confirm contemporary ceremonial activity. A number of low mounds (especially vulnerable to machine excavation) above burial cuts were also recorded, along with negative features comprising pits and post-holes.

¹ <http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html>

- 1.5.3 To the north of the PDA, excavation of a new sewer trench opposite 5-7 New Street exposed the remains of four Roman cremation burials and, at 5 New Street, three further cremation burials were encountered at a depth of 1.7m (HER Nos. TR 15 NW 2081 & TR 15 NW 306). In the basements of 7 and 8 New Street, five inhumation burials were recorded, in addition to a probable Roman ditch (HER Nos. TR 15 NW 241 & TR 15 NW 2087). At Ryde Street, a late Roman cremation burial was discovered in 2008 (HER No. TR 15 NW 1598). Evidence for Roman industrial activity and metalled surfaces that potentially relate to a Roman road were also recorded at this location (HER No. TR 15 NW 1597).

1.6 *Anglo-Saxon*

- 1.6.1 Anglo-Saxon period features may also exist in the area. At least two inhumation burials, and highly significant finds from the Cranmer House site (Bennett 1987, 68–70), were discovered clustered at the western end of that site, near to Princes Way. The extraordinary finds, all dating from the early seventh century, included two glass palm cups, a sceatta (coin) and a gold and garnet medallion.

1.7 *Medieval and post-medieval*

- 1.7.1 Medieval and post-medieval finds are also likely with the proposed development area, given that London Road continued to be used in the medieval period, heading for St Dunstan's Church as it does today, and that Westgate Farm was centred in this area. Post-medieval structural elements of the latter were encountered in the excavations at Cranmer House.

1.8 *Further information*

- 1.8.1 Further details of previous discoveries and investigations within the immediate and wider area may be found in the Canterbury & District Historic Environment Record and the County Historic Environment Record. These records should be consulted by the appointed archaeological contractor prior to commencement of the fieldwork so an understanding of the surrounding archaeological resource and the general historical and topographical landscape can be made.

2. Objectives

- 2.1 The evaluation formed the first stage of intrusive investigation aims as set out in the specification, as approved by the Canterbury City Council Archaeological Officer (CAT 2016).
- 2.2 The aim of the evaluation work is to determine whether any significant archaeological remains survive on site. Assessment of the results should provide guidance on what mitigation measures would be appropriate. Such measures may, for example, include preservation *in situ* and/or further detailed archaeological excavation prior to development and/or an archaeological watching brief during construction work. This specification sets out the requirements for trial trenching on the site only. Further mitigation measures will be subject to other documents or specifications which will need to be agreed with the Local Planning Authority.
- 2.3 The evaluation is thus to ascertain the extent, depth below ground surface, depth of deposit, character, significance and condition of any archaeological remains on site.

3. Methodology

3.1 Excavation methodology

- 3.1.1 The archaeological evaluation was conducted in accordance with accepted professional standards as set out in the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, *Standard and Guidance for archaeological field evaluation* (2008). It consisted of a single trench approximately 3m long by 1m wide (Fig 1).
- 3.1.2 The trench was excavated by machine to a depth of approximately 1.2m. Machine excavation ceased at this level due to health and safety restrictions. Ground reduction was undertaken using a 360° tracked machine with a flat-bladed bucket in 100mm spit intervals under constant archaeological supervision.
- 3.1.3 Following the mechanical clearance of overburden, the trenches were cleaned by hand and photographed.
- 3.1.4 A general site safety strategy was formulated and implemented prior to the commencement of all fieldworks. Safety procedures follow the guidelines established by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists *Policy Statement on Health and Safety; Standards and guidance* and the SCAUM manual *Health and Safety in field archaeology*.
- 3.1.5 All necessary precautions were taken, to the satisfaction of the Statutory or other Service Authorities and the landowner concerned, to avoid interference with or damage to their services, and to comply with any of their Codes of Practice that may be applicable. Prior to excavation all trench locations were scanned using a CAT scanner. Any services uncovered during the course of the investigation were left intact.

3.2 Recording methodology

- 3.2.1 All archaeological contexts were recorded individually on CAT pro forma context record sheets. Plans and sections of all trenches were drawn at 1:20 scale on polyester based drawing film.
- 3.2.2 All survey was undertaken with a total station using known station points tied to the Ordnance Survey grid (reproduced by permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of HMSO © Crown Copyright. All rights reserved. Licence No. AL100021009).
- 3.2.3 The trench were levelled and located in respect to Ordnance Datum using a differential global positioning system with an accuracy of +/- 20mm.
- 3.2.4 A full colour digital photographic record of all phases of the excavation works was produced. The photographic record will comprise part of the site archive.
- 3.2.5 All structures, deposits and finds were recorded according to accepted professional standards using appropriate recording systems. The site archive will be prepared according to the guidelines set out in *Management of Archaeological Projects*: appendix 3 (English Heritage, 2nd edn, 1991).
- 3.2.6 The project archive is presently held in the offices of the Canterbury Archaeological Trust (92a Broad Street, Canterbury, Kent CT1 2LU).

4. Results

- 4.1 The trench was aligned approximately north-west by south-east and was 3.75m in length (Figure 2; Plate 1). The south-eastern 1m of the trench could not be fully excavated due to a large number of potentially live services.
- 4.2 Natural geology was not positively identified with excavation ceasing at approximately 1.25m below existing ground level (15.32m OD).
- 4.3 The lowest identified deposit was a layer of mid brown-yellow sandy clay gravel (13), with patches of mid yellow-brown sandy clay gravel contained within. Forming approximately 75% of the deposit, the gravel component consisted of small to large sub-round and sub-angular flints. The deposit was not bottomed and possessed a maximum thickness of 0.26m, with the surface of the deposit lying at approximately 15.58m OD.
- 4.4 Sealing gravel deposit 13 was layer (12), formed by a 0.23m thick deposit of moderate brown-yellow silty clay, that became somewhat darker toward the top of the deposit. The layer was virtually sterile, with a small number of natural flints (probably disturbed from the underlying layer) the only obvious inclusions.
- 4.5 Lying above this was a 0.27m thick deposit of yellow-brown silty clay (11) that contained small quantities of rounded flint and a single fragment of post-medieval tile. Overall, this deposit was very similar to 12, being differentiated only by its slightly different colour.
- 4.6 Deposit 11 was sealed by (10), a layer of mid brown sandy clay silt that contained a large quantity of fragmented post-medieval ceramic building material and crushed yellow grey mortar. This deposit was between 0.07m and 0.1m in thickness.
- 4.7 Sealing layer 10 was deposit (9), a 0.36m thick layer of moderate mid brown sandy clay, the tone of which gradually became slightly darker toward the top of the deposit. Contained within this were common small to medium rounded flints and fragments of post-medieval ceramic building material, mortar and coal.
- 4.8 Cutting layer 9 were three modern services that cut across the trench (8), (6) and (4). These contained fills of mid to dark brown sandy clay silt (7), (5) and (3) and respectively a ceramic sewer pipe, plastic gas service and an iron pipe of uncertain function. The services lay in the south-east half of the evaluation, severely limiting the area available for evaluation.
- 4.9 Overlying the services was a thin layer of modern topsoil (2) of maximum 0.08m thickness, that was in turn sealed by a concrete slab (1, removed prior to excavation; Plate 2, not visible in Figure 2).

5. Interpretation

- 5.1 While deposit 13 was clearly composed of gravel, the slightly mixed nature of this material suggests that it need not necessarily form Second Terrace river gravel. At the St Dunstan's Terrace cemetery site, natural gravel was sealed by a Brickearth deposit of minimum 0.2m thickness (Jake Weekes, pers comm). The absence of Brickearth from the present site perhaps suggests that the gravel within the PDA is not natural in origin, but this is not clear due to the small size of the trench.
- 5.2 Deposit 13 may instead form part of a substantial gravel surface, with similar deposits located 50m to the north-east at Ryde Street (Found 2006, 8). It was considered probable that these

formed part of an extra-mural street, though the possibility that they formed part of a courtyard or other area of hard-standing could not be ruled out.

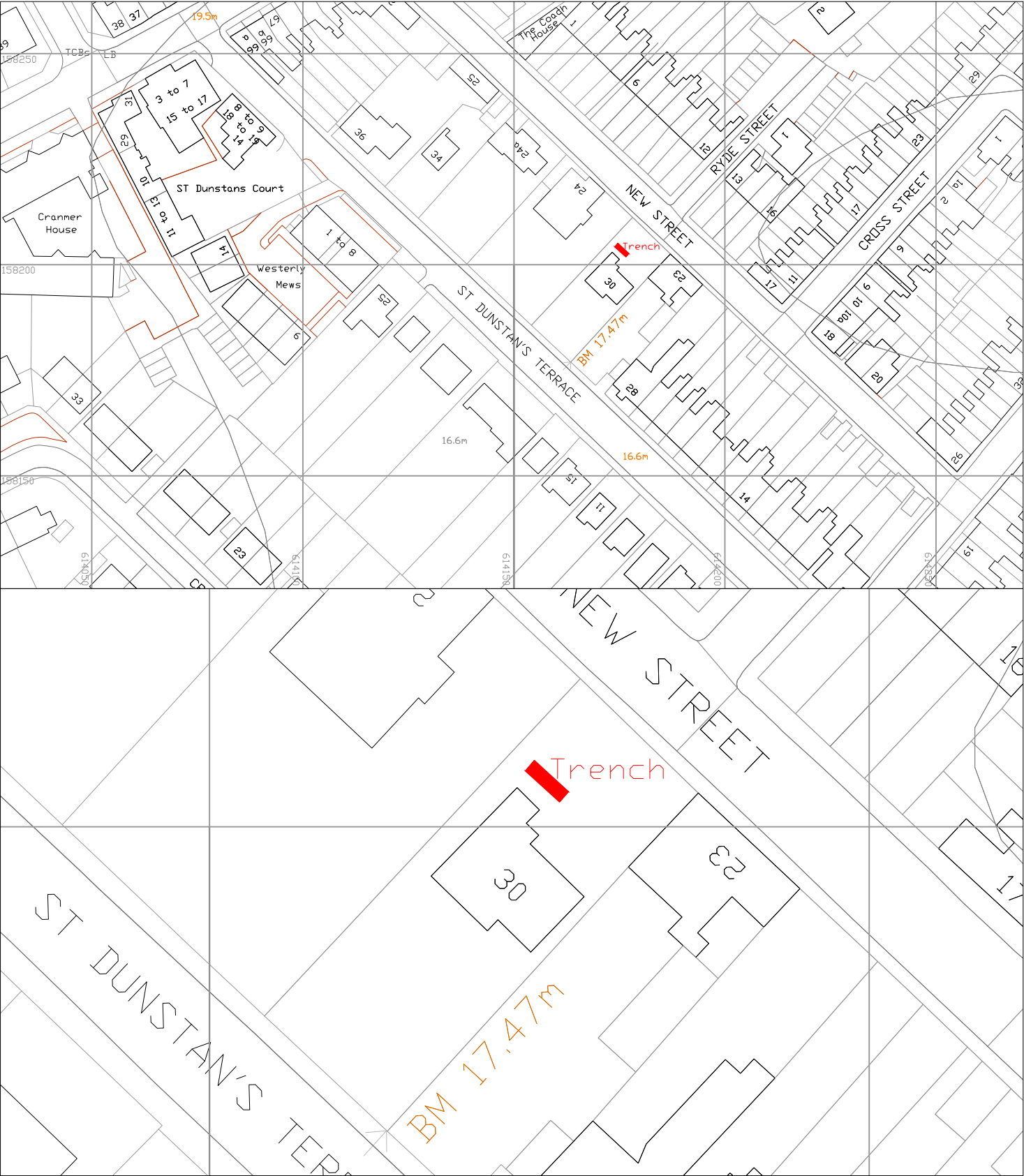
- 5.2 Sealing the gravel, context 12 would seem to represent an agricultural soil of post-Roman origin. Again similar deposits were recorded at Ryde Street, upslope at 43 Crown Gardens and elsewhere in the vicinity (Found 2006, 8; Carstairs 2013, 7; Rady 2015, 6; Mosley 2013, 13). The development of agricultural soils is further indicated by layer 11, with the tile suggestive of an early post-medieval date for this part of the sequence. The area was certainly in agricultural use (hopfields in the post-medieval period), prior to the construction of the Westgate Court Farm complex. It is probable that layers 10 and 9 relate to this later phase of activity, with the latter further indicating an agricultural use for the PDA.
- 5.3 Features and deposits 1–8 are all considered modern, relating to the present house.

6. Conclusion

- 6.1 The archaeological evaluation has demonstrated that a potential *in situ* stratigraphic sequence lies within the PDA. It remains slightly unclear as to the nature of this sequence due to the limited area that was available for evaluation. While the gravel deposit recorded at the base of the investigated sequence is of a potential Roman date, forming part of a metalled surface (perhaps a road), the possibility exists that it may be of natural origin.
- 6.2 General ground reduction within the PDA is not anticipated to penetrate to sufficient depth to endanger any sensitive remains that may survive within the PDA. However, should excavation exceed a depth of 0.95–1m some impact to remains is possible should they not prove natural in origin.

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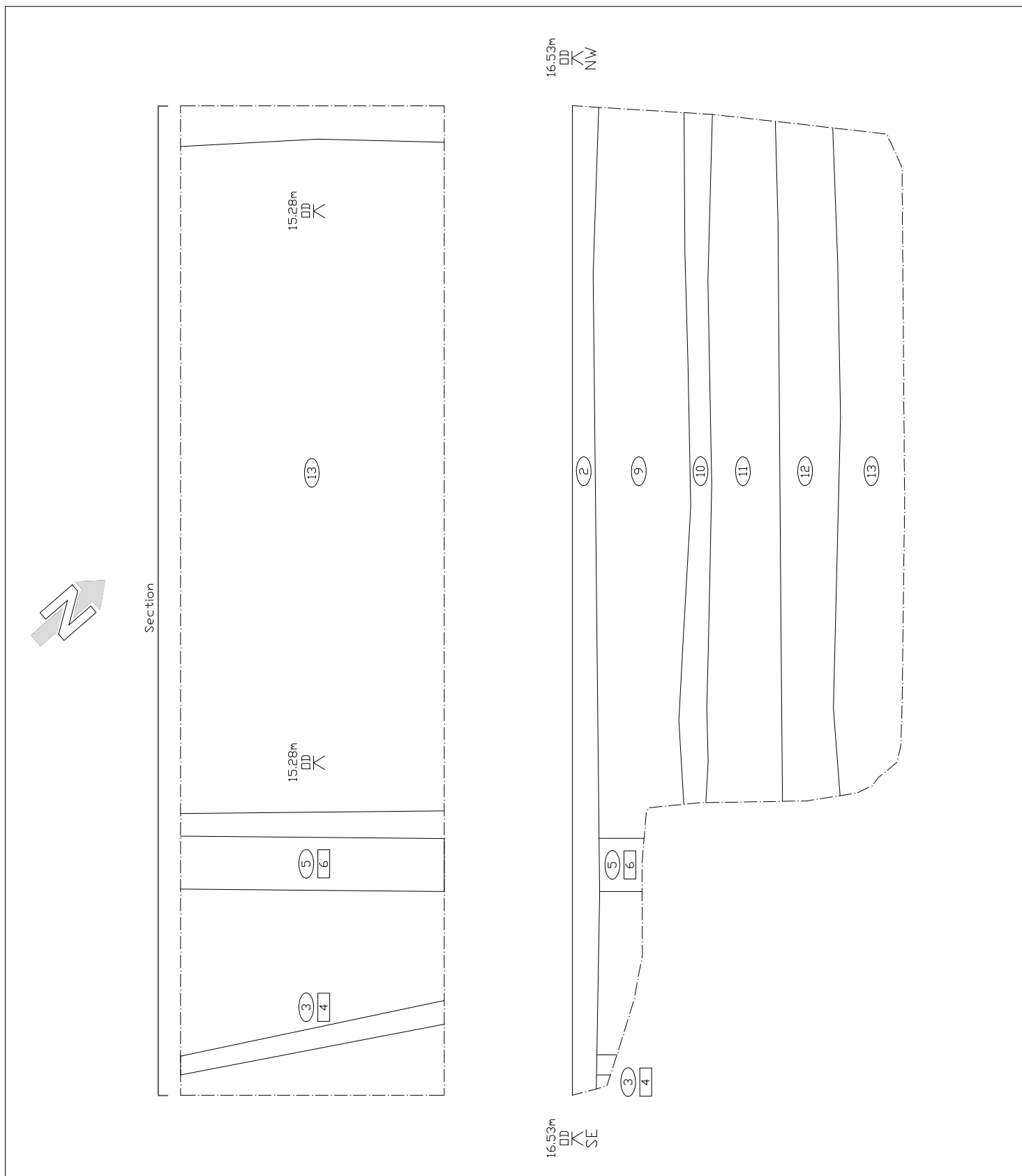
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30SDTC-EV-16\EV\Figs\Fig 1

SCALE(S)
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Figure 1: Site and trench location

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	PROJECT CODE 30SDTC-EV-1	DATE 29/02/16	LAST REVISION ---
	SITE ADDRESS 30 St Dunstan's Terrace Canterbury Kent	CHECKED ---	
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Figure 2: Trench plan and section

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Plate 1: Evaluation trench showing surface of gravel deposit 13, looking south-west (scale 1m)



Plate 2: Concrete slab (context 1) prior to removal