

**Land at
Robertsbridge Abbey,
Redlands Lane,
Salehurst,
Robertsbridge,
East Sussex**

Archaeological test pit evaluation

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Summary

Between 4 and 8 September 2014, the Canterbury Archaeological Trust (CAT) undertook an archaeological evaluation of land at Robertsbridge Abbey, Redlands Lane, Salehurst, Robertsbridge, East Sussex TN32 5NB. The work was commissioned by Mrs. CM and Prof. PN Leigh (whom currently reside at 'The Abbey' at the above address) as part of preparations for the proposed development comprising the installation of a new sewage system with associated drainage and service trenches. The current Abbey house, originally the monastic inner guest house or Abbot's house, lies within the precincts of Robertsbridge Abbey a Cistercian monastery founded in 1178 and dissolved in 1538. Robertsbridge Abbey, and its grounds, is currently a Scheduled Ancient Monument (English Heritage List Entry No. 1221354). The proposed new sewage system is located in a field immediately to the north of 'The Abbey', between it and monastic fishponds.

Three hand excavated evaluation test pits were excavated, but no significant archaeological remains were identified. The earliest deposit present appeared to represent a naturally formed alluvial soil horizon. Although part of the drift geology it had potentially been reworked by horticultural or agricultural activity that may predate the establishment of the abbey. This overlay natural clay forming part of the Ashdown beds formation. A later cultivated horticultural or agricultural soil attest to the area's use as agricultural land from at least the late medieval/early post-medieval period through to the present day. There was no evidence for features or deposits that could be directly related to the medieval abbey, or any other medieval activities. A large linear feature partly exposed in two of the test pits, and landscaping activity identified in the third, are almost certainly associated with the construction of the existing sewage system.

1 Introduction and background

- 1.1 An archaeological evaluation of land at Robertsbridge Abbey, East Sussex was undertaken by CAT between 4 and 8 September 2014.
- 1.2 The work was commissioned by Mrs. CM and Prof. PN Leigh (The Abbey, Redlands Lane, Salehurst, Robertsbridge, East Sussex TN32 5NB Tel: 01580 880452) as part of preparations for proposed development comprising the installation of a new sewage system to replace an existing septic tank.
- 1.3 The area of the proposed development (PDA) is to the rear (north) of a residential property 'The Abbey' which falls within the Scheduled Ancient Monument of Robertsbridge Abbey (English Heritage List Entry No. 1221354), and as such scheduled monument consent for the works was required under the 1979 Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act.
- 1.4 An archaeological impact assessment and mitigation statement for the proposed development had previously been prepared (Martin and Martin 2014), which outlined the options available for the proposed new sewage system and the impact each would have on any archaeological resource. The preferred option (option 2) for the proposed development comprises the installation of a below ground sewage treatment plant and the removal of the existing foul tank. The new treatment plant is to be linked to an existing

section of drainage trench which will require the excavation of a new trench c37m in length along the line of the existing trench.

- 1.5 The evaluation was undertaken to assess the potential impact of the proposed development on any buried archaeological resource that may be present within the PDA, and was conducted in accordance with a written scheme of investigation (WSI) prepared by CAT (2014) and agreed with the English Heritage Inspector / Asst Inspector of Ancient Monuments (SE Office Guildford).

2 Site location, topography and geology

- 2.1 The PDA (Fig. 1) is centrally located on national grid reference (NGR) 575481 123890 within the precincts of Robertsbridge Abbey, and comprises an open field to the north of the current residential property 'The Abbey' and to the south of the monastic fishponds. The field is currently utilised as pasture land. The existing foul tank is located directly to the north-east of 'The Abbey', approximately 5m from the property wall. An existing outfall pipe enters a culvert associated with the monastic fishponds approximately 70m directly to the north of the existing foul tank. It remains unclear whether this outfall pipe is directly connected to the foul tank as a survey in 2012 of the tank, failed to identify a connection (Martin and Martin 2014, 1).
- 2.2 The field in which the PDA is located, although flat along its southern edge, slopes markedly down towards the north in the direction of the River Rother which is located less than 150m to the north of 'The Abbey'. The current ground levels vary between c. +6 and 10m OD, and follow the contours of the River Rother valley.
- 2.3 The British Geological Survey (1980, sheet 304 Tenderden, Solid and Drift edition) shows the PDA as lying on the Cretaceous Ashdown beds formation, which comprises interbedded sandstone and siltstone sedimentary bedrock and forms the solid geology. The centre of the abbey grounds (including 'The Abbey', the surviving ruins of the refectory southern range, and the former site of the abbey church) appear to be sited on an outcrop of bedrock which forms a very slight promontory mapped as being surrounded to the north, east and west by (Pleistocene or later) Alluvium; a drift deposit which follows the line of the River Rother flood plain.

3 Archaeological background and potential

- 3.1 The WSI identifies the site as in an area of known archaeological potential (CAT 2014, 2) within the precincts of Robertsbridge Abbey an Archaeological Notification Area and a Scheduled Ancient Monument (English Heritage List Entry No. 1221354, National Monuments Record NMR TQ 72 SE 1 and East Sussex Historic Environment Record MES2300).
- 3.2 Robertsbridge Abbey represents the remains of a Cistercian monastery which was founded in 1178 and dissolved in 1538. Until recently these remains had been incorporated into the Abbey Farm complex, parts of which are now private residences. Surviving elements of the monastery include the ruins of the Abbey Frater or Refectory (NMR TQ 72 SE 92) currently a Grade II listed building (English Heritage Building ID: 416167). The present 'Abbey House' formed part of the former monastic inner guesthouse (3.3, below). Available evidence suggests that PDA lies in an area that would

- have been open ground within the inner precinct, the southernmost area being the approach to the abbey church (Martin & Martin 2014, 3–4). To the west the remains of a bridge have been identified which formed part of the approach to the abbey. There are no visible remains of the church, but its outline plan has been mapped through cropmarks identified in aerial photographs in through a detailed resistivity scan (ibid, 3; see Figure 1) along with the presumed western boundary of the cemetery to the east of the PDA.
- 3.3 The ‘Abbey House’ is a Grade 1 listed building (English Heritage Building ID; 412929, NMR TQ 72 SE 93). Referred to as the former ‘Abbot’s House’ it is identified as the inner guest house by Martin and Martin (2014) and until recently it was known as the Abbey Farmhouse. The English Heritage listings suggest the Abbots House would have been the last of the monastic buildings to have been built, by c1250. The original range built from stone with a tiled roof, includes a thirteenth-century undercroft (NMR TQ 72 SE 90). The building was altered in the sixteenth century and in the seventeenth century when a weather-boarded T-wing was added on the south side; further alterations were again undertaken in the early nineteenth century.
 - 3.4 To the south west of the ‘Abbey House’ is the former thirteenth century warming house, which was converted to an oast house, granary and cart shed in the nineteenth century and is now a Grade II listed building (English Heritage Building ID: 416167, NMR TQ 72 SE 92).
 - 3.5 The WSI includes an overview of known archaeological investigations, observations, find-spots and other discoveries within the site’s immediate vicinity (CAT 2014, 2–3) included here as 3.6–3.9.
 - 3.6 Approximately 300m to the south-west of the PDA, a series of cropmarks are recorded. Possibly associated with the abbey, or perhaps post-medieval in date, the features appear to represent rectilinear enclosures and a droveway (ESHER MES8677).
 - 3.7 In Lordship Wood, situated approximately 500m south-east of the PDA, a section of bank has been recorded which may represent part of a medieval park pale (MES3893).
 - 3.8 Situated c250m south-east of the PDA, at Robertsbridge Abbey Farm, lies the site of a post-medieval iron-working forge (MNR TQ 72 SE 6) with associated ponds, leats and potential charcoal burning sites (NMR TQ 72 SE 55). This industrial complex is a key site representing the Wealden iron industry and was in operation between 1541 and 1801 (MES 3826).
 - 3.9 The site of a kiln (NMR TQ 72 SE 91) was recorded approximately 150m south of the PDA. This structure is thought to be the remains of a malt-drying kiln probably dating to the sixteenth century. A post-Dissolution survey carried out in 1567 recorded a number of buildings in the outer ward of the abbey including a malting house and a brewhouse (MES22277).
 - 3.10 The earliest available maps indicate that the area of the PDA has been an open field, utilised for agricultural purposes, from the late eighteenth century onwards. Martin and Martin (2014, 4–5) suggest that this area has always been open ground within the precinct, citing the manorial survey of 1567 which indicates that the abbey’s service area would have been to the west within the outer court.

4 Objectives and methodologies

Aims and objectives

- 4.1 The archaeological investigation was undertaken in accordance with those methods outlined in the WSI (CAT 2014), and in accordance with methods of practice outlined by the Institute for Archaeologists (1999).
- 4.2 The principal objective of the evaluation was to establish whether there are any surviving archaeological deposits or features at the site which may be affected by the proposed development, and relate them, where possible, to the known archaeological/historical background. In doing so the evaluation would aim to ascertain the extent, depth below ground surface, depth of deposit, character, significance and condition of any archaeological remains on the site and the impact of the proposed development on them.
- 4.3 Specific aims and questions detailed in the specifications (CAT 2014, 3–4) were:
1. To assess the depth of the existing overflow pipeline and its level (if present) and the level of associated modern disturbance
 2. Is there any evidence for activity within the area of the PDA that predate the establishment of the abbey?
 3. If so, does such activity relate to settlement or more transient occupation of the area?
 4. How does and such activity relate to the wider historic landscape?
 5. Does evidence survive of structures, features or deposits associated with the development of the abbey?
 6. If present, how does this evidence relate to the monastic complex?
 7. Does evidence survive within the PDA for post-Dissolution structures or activities?

Methods

- 4.4 The specification called for three hand-dug evaluation test pits (test pits 1–3) to be investigated. These all measured between approximately 2m in length and were 1m wide.
- 4.5 The proposed trench array was agreed with English Heritage Inspector / Asst Inspector of Ancient Monuments (SE Office Guildford) prior to fieldwork commencing. Final positions have been digitally plotted using an AutoCAD graphics program (Fig. 2).
- 4.6 The trenches were excavated using appropriate hand tools under close archaeological supervision. All undifferentiated topsoil, made ground, and modern overburden was removed in spits of c.100mm thickness. Any underlying ploughsoil and disturbed subsoil was then removed in c.50mm spits until either the first significant archaeological horizon or natural subsoil was encountered.
- 4.7 Following the initial hand reduction, the base and sections of each test pit were inspected and cleaned using appropriate hand tools. Any identified archaeological deposits and features were subjected to sample excavation, by hand, to ascertain their extent, depth, date, character and quality. Appropriate test pit sections were drawn at a scale of 1:10, and the base planned at a scale of 1:20; all were leveled with respect to Ordnance Datum (OD) using a Ordnance Survey bench mark with a value of + 11.469 located on the north-east corner of 'The Oasthouse', Redlands Lane.

- 4.8 The test pits were recorded on CAT *pro forma* recording sheets following the conventions set out in the CAT site recording manual (CAT 1996). Each identified archaeological feature and deposit was recorded on CAT *pro forma* context recording sheets. Any deposit that could be distinguished from those above and below was considered as a context and recorded individually; these stratigraphic units were numbered sequentially and are shown below in brackets e.g. (101). Where cut archaeological features have been identified, the cut is also considered a separate context or stratigraphic unit and is shown in square brackets, thus [100]. Photographic coverage employed digital photographs. Where identified, all artefacts were retrieved from stratified archaeological contexts. Retrieval of finds from non-stratified deposits was carried out on an opportunistic basis.
- 4.9 The site archive, including all the project records and cultural material produced by the project, is to be prepared in accordance with the United Kingdom Institute for Conservation guidelines for the preparation of archives for long term storage (UKIC 1990). A site code (RAR EV 14) was provided by CAT, and all records can be referenced from this code.

5 Test pit descriptions

5.1 Test pit 1 (Fig 3.1–3.3, Plates 1–2)

- 5.1.1 Test pit 1 was positioned immediately to the west of the existing foul tank, in an area where the proposed new treatment plant is to be located. It was aligned roughly east to west.
- 5.1.2 The initial hand excavation exposed natural subsoil in the base of the test pit at depths of +8.72–8.77m OD, c0.59m below the present ground level, indicating a slight slope down towards the west.
- 5.1.3 The natural subsoil, recorded as (108), comprised moderately compact mid to light dull yellowish brown very slightly sandy silty clay. Interpreted as part of the Ashdown beds it contained moderate quantities of small-sized (c. 0.01–0.06m) angular fragments of sandstone with very occasional fragments of limestone, iron stone and flecks/staining of orange/red and black/brown iron/manganese mineral panning.
- 5.1.4 No cut archaeological features, were identified in the base of the test pit.
- 5.1.5 The natural brickearth was sealed by a build-up of soft to moderately compacted mid yellowish brown clayish silt (107) with occasional small-sized rounded and sub-rounded flints (0.005–0.02m), very occasional small angular fragments of sandstone (up to 0.06m) and moderate flecks/staining of orange/red and black/brown iron/manganese mineral panning. It extended along the complete area of the trench, and was between 0.14 and 0.18m thick. This deposit represents a naturally formed water lain soil horizon, such as an alluvium. The presence of the mineral panning may indicate a marshland environment. Three fragments of nibbed roof tile, dated to the late medieval or early post-medieval period, were present. Although likely to be residual their presence may indicate that (107) has been reworked by later horticultural or agricultural activities; an abrupt horizon with the underlying natural clay could be indicative of tilling or ploughing.

- 5.1.6 Sealing layer (107) was a thin layer of moderately compacted mid grey/brown clayey silt (106) mixed with frequent small-sized angular and sub-angular/rounded sandstone (0.005–0.02m) and moderate to occasional larger fragments (up to 0.06m) of sand and limestone. Cultural material present included moderate to frequent small- to mid-sized fragments (up to 0.12m) of ‘nibbed’ roofing tile, of late medieval or early post-medieval date, occasional small-sized fragments (up to 0.08m) of stone (fragmented ashlar blocks?), two fragments of chalk, oyster shell and charcoal flecking. Again present along the complete length of the test pit, it was between 0.03 and 0.05m thick, although there was a diffuse horizon between it and the overlying soil horizon (105). This deposit represents a ‘plough pan’; resulting from continued re-working by agricultural and/or horticultural activities.
- 5.1.7 Sealing layer (106) was a build up of soft to moderately compacted mid to grey brown clayey silt (105) with occasional small- to medium-sized (0.02–0.08m) rounded to sub-angular fragments of sandstone, limestone and other stone (from ashlar blocks?). Cultural material present included occasional fragments of ‘nibbed’ roofing tile and charcoal flecking. Present along the complete length of the trench, it was recorded in section as between 0.15 and 0.16m. This deposit represents a cultivated or developed soil horizon, such as a plough soil, formed by agricultural activities reworking the underlying naturally formed soils.
- 5.1.8 Layer (105) was overlain by a build up of made ground comprising redeposited natural clay and limestone (104), up to 0.17m thick, which extended for 1.75m from the eastern end of the test pit. This deposit contained fragments of late nineteenth- to twentieth-century tile, china and ‘frogged’ bricks and represents upcast and debris from the construction of the nearby foul tank.
- 5.1.9 The remainder of the test pit was occupied by a more recently formed cultivated or developed soil horizon (103) and topsoil/turf horizon (100), up to 0.21m thick. Recorded in section only was a posthole [102], filled by (101). Although undated, this was cutting through (103) and therefore post dates the construction of the existing foul tank.
- 5.2 Test pit 2** (Figs 3.4–3.6, Plates 3–4)
- 5.2.1 Test pit 2 was positioned on the projected line of the drainage pipe connecting the existing foul tank and exposed outfall pipe, at a position roughly 11m from the foul tank. It was aligned roughly north to south.
- 5.2.2 After initial hand excavation, natural subsoil was exposed, for just 0.12–0.15m along the western limits of the test pit’s base, at depths of +8.74–8.61m OD, c0.31m below the present ground level.
- 5.2.3 The natural subsoil, recorded as (205), comprised moderately compact mid to light dull yellowy brown very slightly sandy silty clay with moderate quantities of small-sized (c. 0.01–0.06m) angular fragments of sandstone, very occasional fragments of limestone, iron stone and flecks/staining of orange/red and black/brown iron/manganese mineral panning. Interpreted as part of the Ashdown beds, it is the same deposit as (108) seen in test pit 1.
- 5.2.4 Sealing the natural was a thin layer of moderately compacted mid grey/brown clayey silt (204) mixed with frequent small-sized angular and sub-angular/rounded sandstone

- (0.005–0.02m) and moderate to occasional larger fragments (up to 0.06m) of sand and limestone. Cultural material present included moderate to frequent small- to mid-sized fragments (up to 0.12m) of ‘nibbed’ roofing tile, of late medieval or early post-medieval date, and charcoal flecking. Only present along the western edge of the test pit, it was between 0.03 and 0.07m thick, although there was a very diffuse horizon with the overlying soil horizon (201). This deposit represents a ‘plough pan’, and is the same as (106) seen in test pit 2.
- 5.2.5 Cutting through layer (204) was a large linear feature [203] which occupied the majority of the test pit. Within the limits of the test pit only its western edge was evident, suggesting a rough north to south alignment and a width at least 0.86m. A sondage hand excavated through its exposed southern limits, revealed a depth exceeding 0.73m (1m below present ground level) with a steep even edge. It was infilled with redeposited natural clay (202), containing occasional fragments of roof tile. This feature is thought to represent the drainage trench leading from the foul tank to the outfall pipe.
- 5.2.6 The remainder of the test pit was occupied by a cultivated or developed soil horizon (201) and active topsoil/turf horizon (200), up to 0.25m thick.
- 5.3 Test pit 3** (Figs 3.7–3.8, Plates 5–6)
- 5.3.1 Test pit 3 was positioned to the north of test pit 2, along the projected line of the drainage pipe connecting the existing foul tank and exposed outfall pipe, at a position roughly 29m from the foul tank. It was aligned roughly north to south. Initially 1m wide, the test pit was widened to 1.50m at its southern end.
- 5.3.2 Due to the presence of two linear features occupying the complete area of the test-pit, the natural subsoil was not exposed during the initial hand reduction. However a hand excavated sondage cut through these features, at the southern end of the test pit, exposed the surviving upper horizon of the subsoil at a depth of c0.40m below the present ground level. Recorded as (310) it comprised moderately compact mid to light dull yellowy brown very slightly sandy silty clay with moderate quantities of small-sized (c. 0.01–0.06m) angular fragments of sandstone, very occasional fragments of limestone, iron stone and flecks/staining of orange/red and black/brown iron/manganese mineral panning. Interpreted as part of the Ashdown beds, it is the same deposit as (108) and (205) seen in test pits 1 and 2.
- 5.3.3 Exposed along the eastern side of the test pit was feature [309], the western edge of which was partly exposed in the sondage excavated at the southern end of the test pit. This indicated a roughly north to south aligned linear feature at least 0.13m wide and 0.40m deep. Infilled by (306–8), the lowest fill comprised loose small rounded flint pebbles suggesting that this feature is a field drain. The upper fills comprised redeposited natural clays, from which a single fragment of post-medieval roof tile thought to be of eighteenth- or nineteenth-century date was recovered.
- 5.3.4 Truncating the western edge of the above field drain, was a large linear feature [305] which occupied the majority of the test pit. Within the limits of the test pit only its eastern edge was evident, suggesting a rough north to south alignment with a width at least 1.40m and depth exceeding 0.78m (1m below present ground level). [305] was infilled with a series of mixed redeposited natural clays and clayey silts (302–4), cultural material present included occasional fragments of roof tile and a fragments of ‘frogged’ brick.

This feature is thought to be a continuation of [203], seen in test pit 2, and represents the drainage trench leading from the foul tank to the outfall pipe.

6 Summary of results

6.1 Geology

- 6.1.1 Natural subsoil was exposed in all three test pits. It comprised moderately compact mid to light dull yellowy brown very slightly sandy silty clay, mixed with angular fragments of sandstone. Interpreted as part of the Ashdown beds it is in accordance with the solid geology mapped by the British Geological Survey.
- 6.1.2 The levels at which the undisturbed natural clays were exposed varied between *c.* +8.77 and 7.55m OD. Although this indicates a marked slope down towards the north, the southerly limits of the PDA are relatively flat.
- 6.1.3 Overlying the Ashdown beds clay in test pit 1 was a naturally formed soil horizon (107) thought to be a water lain alluvium. The British Geological Survey maps alluvium occupying the River Rother flood plain and surrounding the PDA immediately to its east, north and west. The presence of alluvium in the area of test pit 1 suggests it originally extended further to the south than previously plotted. The presence of the abbey buildings within this area probably prevented it from being 'ploughed out'. There was some tentative evidence that the alluvium had been reworked by horticultural or agricultural activity, this potentially predated the establishment of Abbey,

6.2 Archaeological features

- 6.2.1 The evaluation has revealed the presence of very limited archaeological activity across the PDA. Although there was some tentative evidence that the alluvium (107) had been reworked by horticultural or agricultural activity, that could potentially predate the establishment of abbey, the earliest clear evidence for anthropogenic activity is the formation of the 'plough pan' recorded as (105) and (204) in test pits 1 and 2, respectively. The presence of these deposits and the later cultivated/developed soil horizons appears to attest to area of the PDA being open utilised for agricultural or horticultural activities from at least the late medieval/early post-medieval period through to the present day.
- 6.2.3 The wide linear feature, recorded as [203] and [305], in test pits 2 and 3, is almost certainly a drainage ditch connecting the present foul tank with the outlet pipe. Due to constraints it was only tested to a depth of 1m below current ground level and no pipe was found at this level. As recorded in the test pits it exceeds 1.50m in width, suggesting that it was probably hand excavated, or alternatively represents more than one phase of activity.

6.3 Artefactual evidence

- 6.3.1 The evaluation produced a limited assemblage of cultural material, none of which is thought to be significant. The bulk of the assemblage comprises fragments of late medieval or early post-medieval 'nibbed' roofing tiles, identified throughout the excavated deposits. Unfortunately this material is seen in the main as being residual.

7 Conclusions

- 7.1 The archaeological evaluation has demonstrated the absence of significant archaeological remains across the site. There was no evidence for prehistoric, Romano-British, or medieval activity through archaeological deposits or cut features predating the establishment of the abbey. Neither was there any evidence for features or deposits associated with the development of the abbey or post dating its dissolution.
- 7.2 The only archaeological deposits were cultivated horticultural or agricultural soils which attest to the area's use as agricultural land from at least the late medieval/early post-medieval period through to the present day.
- 7.3 The general methodology employed during the evaluation is a proved and effective means of determining the presence, depth, nature and preservation of surviving archaeological deposits. The confidence rating is therefore considered high.

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Appendix I: OASIS Summary Form (ID: canterbu3-190075)

Project details

Project name	Robertsbridge Abbey
Short description of the project	Evaluation comprising three hand dug test pits in advance the proposed development comprising the installation of a new sewage system with associated drainage and service trenches located in a field immediately to the north of 'The Abbey', between it and monastic fishponds.
Project dates	Start: 04-09-2014 End: 08-09-2014
Previous/future work	No / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	RAR EV 14 - Sitecode
Any associated project reference codes	2334 - Contracting Unit No.
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	Scheduled Monument (SM)
Current Land use	Cultivated Land 1 - Minimal cultivation
Monument type	FIELD, PASTURE. Post Medieval
Monument type	FIELD, PASTURE Modern
Significant Finds	NONE None
Methods & techniques	"Test Pits"
Development type	Rural residential
Prompt	Scheduled Monument Consent
Position in the planning process	Not known / Not recorded

Project location

Country	England
Site location	EAST SUSSEX ROTHER SALEHURST Robertsbridge Abbey
Postcode	TN32 5NB
Study area	0 Square metres
Site coordinates	TQ 75481 23890 50.9870376601 0.500523404204 50 59 13 N 000 30 01 E Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 7.00m Max: 9.00m

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Canterbury Archaeological Trust
Project brief originator	English Heritage/Department of Environment
Project design originator	Canterbury Archaeological Trust

Project director/manager	Adrian Gollop
Project supervisor	Adrian Gollop
Type of sponsor/funding body	Landowner
Name of sponsor/funding body	Mrs CM and Prof. PN Leigh

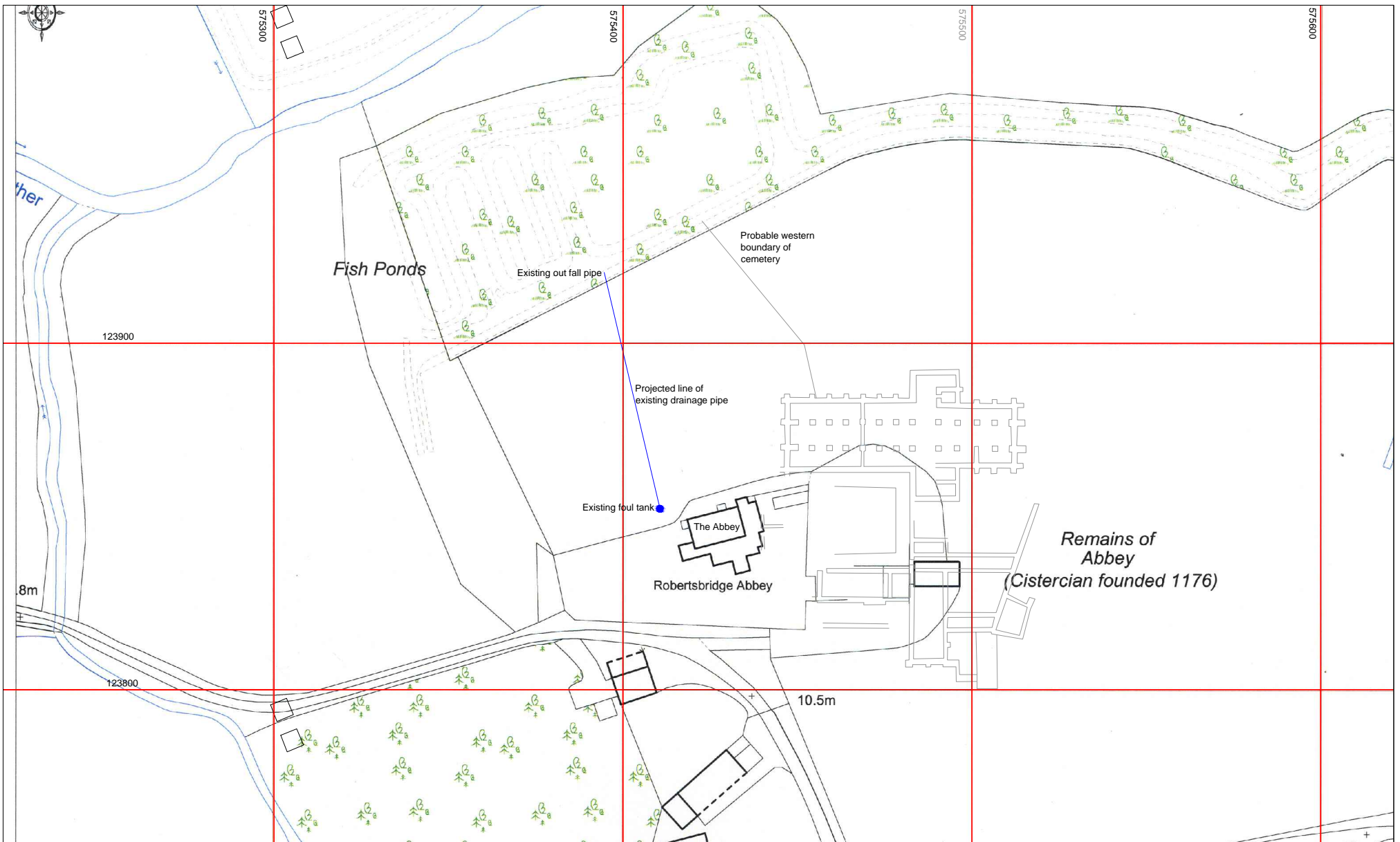
Project archives

Physical Archive recipient	Canterbury Archaeological Trust
Physical Contents	"Ceramics"
Digital Archive recipient	Canterbury Archaeological Trust
Digital Contents	"other"
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography","Text"
Paper Archive recipient	Canterbury Archaeological Trust
Paper Contents	"other"
Paper Media available	"Context sheet","Correspondence","Drawing","Plan","Report","Section","Survey "

Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Land at Robertsbridge Abbey, Redlands Lane, Salehurst, Robertsbridge, East Sussex: Archaeological test pit evaluation
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Gollop, A
Other bibliographic details	Report No 2014/111
Date	2014
Issuer or publisher	Canterbury Archaeological Trust
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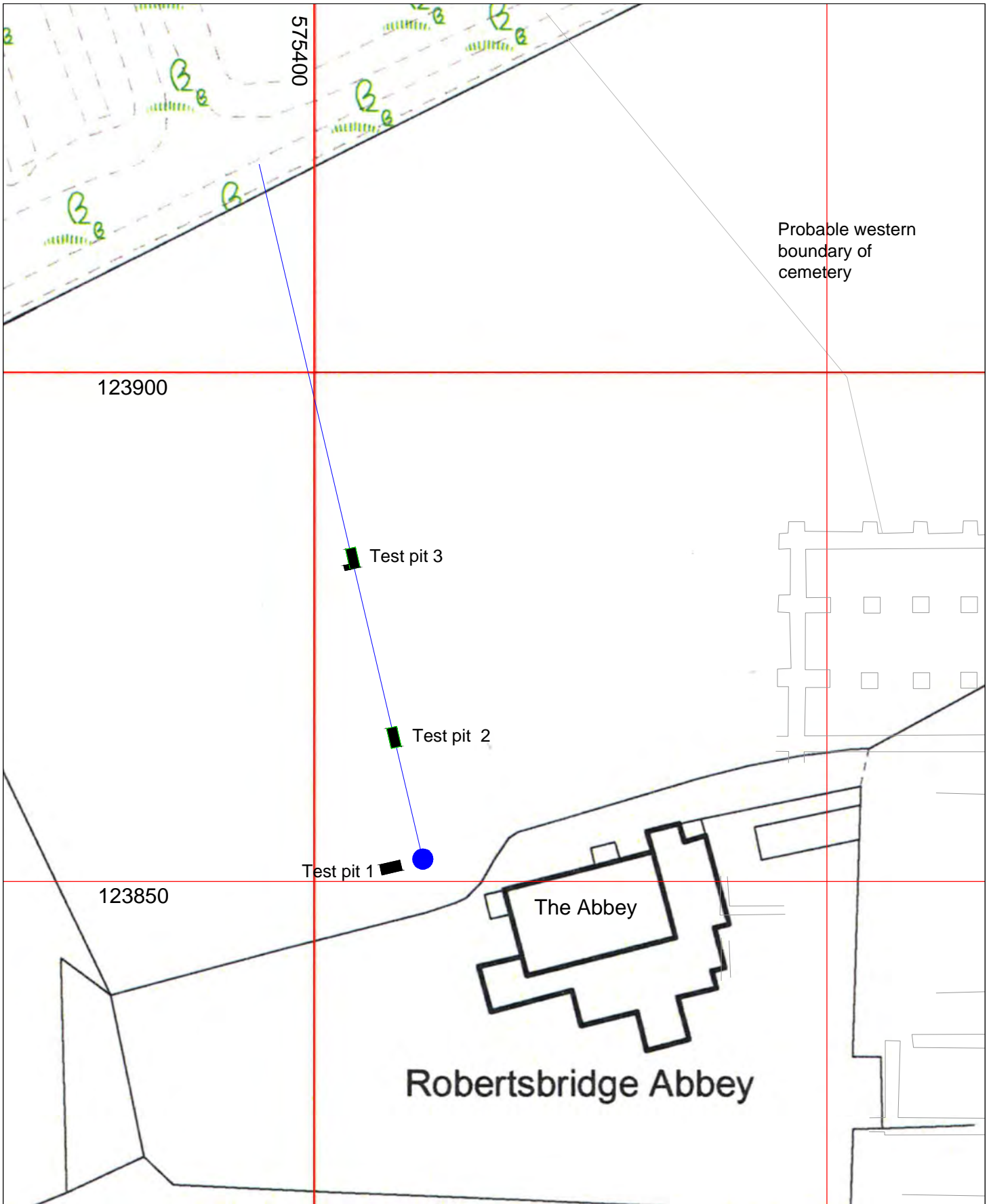
Entered by	Adrian Gollop (adrian.gollop@canterburytrust.co.uk)
Entered on	15 September 2014



CANTERBURY ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST LTD. <small>A REGISTERED CHARITY</small> <small>92a Broad Street, Canterbury Kent, CT1 2LU Tel 01227 462062 Fax 01227 784724 Email admin@canterburytrust.co.uk</small>	PROJECT NAME	DRAWN BY	SCALE(S)
	PROJECT CODE	DATE	LAST REVISION
	SITE ADDRESS	CHECKED	
	REF/DRG NO.		
	Robertsbridge Abbey, Robertsbridge	JEH/AGG	1:1250
	RAR-EV-14	12.09.14	---
	Robertsbridge Abbey Redlands Lane Robertsbridge East Sussex	---	
		N/Sites Active/Project Managers/Jon Rady/Robertsbridge Abbey, Robertsbridge/Report/Fig 1	

Figure 1: General site location plan
Shows position of the Abbey church and postulated western edge of the cemetery (after Martin and Martin 2014)

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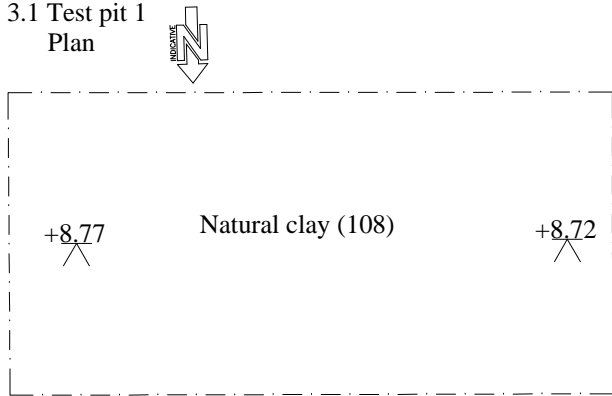


CANTERBURY ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST LTD. <small>A REGISTERED CHARITY</small> <small>92a Broad Street, Canterbury Kent, CT1 2LU Tel 01227 462062 Fax 01227 784724 Email admin@canterburytrust.co.uk</small>	PROJECT NAME Robertsbridge Abbey, Robertsbridge	DRAWN BY AGG	SCALE(S) 1:500	
	PROJECT CODE RAR-EV-14	DATE 12.09.14	LAST REVISION ---	
	SITE ADDRESS Robertsbridge Abbey Redlands Lane Robertsbridge East Sussex	CHECKED ---	REF/DRG NO. N/Sites Active/Project Managers/Jon Rady/Robertsbridge Abbey, Robertsbridge/Report/Fig 2	

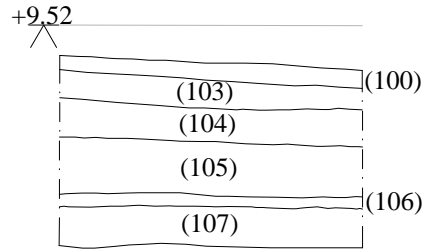
Figure 2: Test pit location plan

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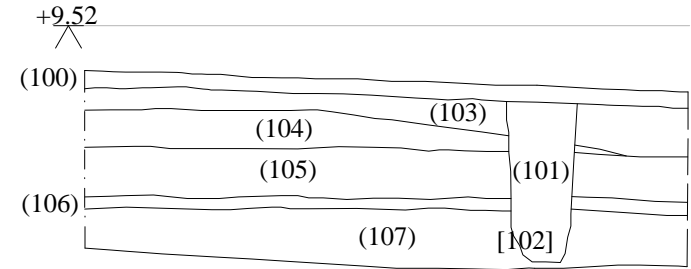
3.1 Test pit 1
Plan



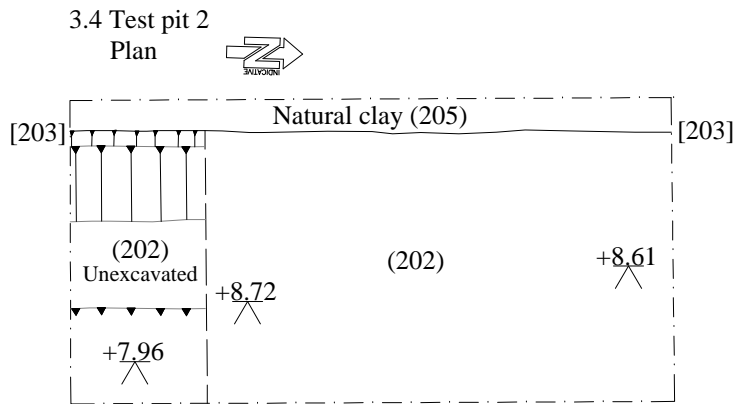
3.2 Test pit 1
West facing section



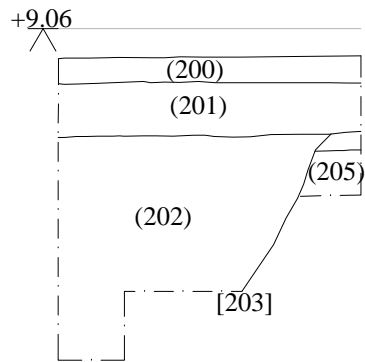
3.3 Test pit 1
North facing section



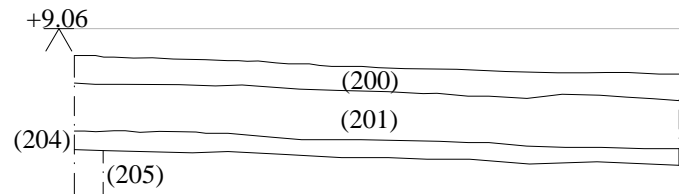
3.4 Test pit 2
Plan



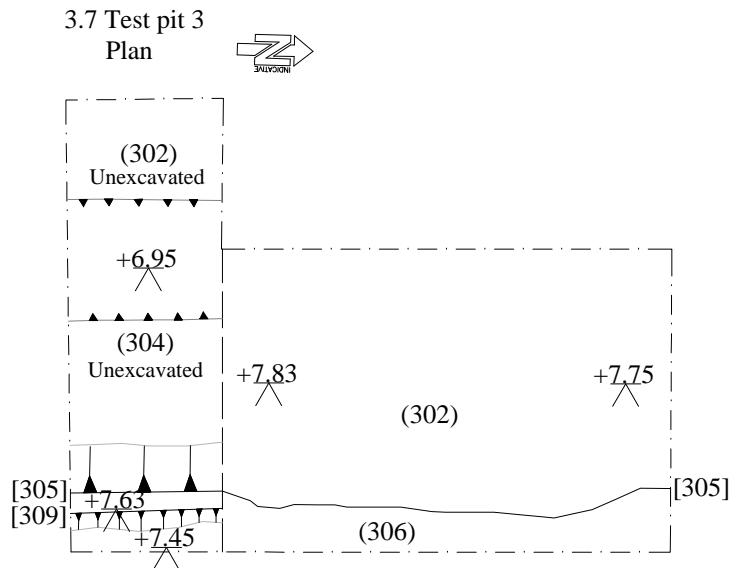
3.5 Test pit 2
North facing section



3.6 Test pit 2
East facing section



3.7 Test pit 3
Plan



3.8 Test pit 3
North facing section

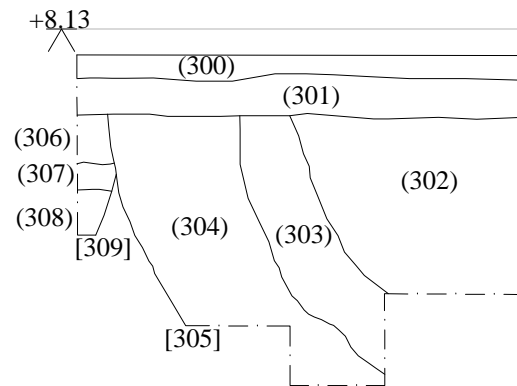


Figure 3: Test pit plan and sections
Scale 1:25 @ A4



Plate 1: Test pit 1 after excavation, as viewed from the west. Scale 1m



Plate 2: West facing section at the eastern end of test pit 1. Scale 1m.



Plate 3: Test pit 2 after excavation as viewed from the north. Scale 1m



Plate 4: North facing section of partially excavated slot through [203] in test pit 2. Scale 1m



Plate 5: Test pit 3 after initial hand reduction, showing upper surface of cut [305]. Scale 1m.



Plate 6: Detail of north facing section through ditch [305] and field drain [309], on the right, at the southern end of test pit 3. Scale 1m.