Archcliffe Fort,

Dover, July 2020

Archaeological Evaluation (Trench 3)

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Prepared by: Keith Parfitt, MCIfA

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Canterbury Archaeological Trust Limited
92a Broad Street · Canterbury · Kent· CT1 2LU
Tel +44 (0)1227 462062 · Fax +44 (0)1227 784724
email: admin@canterburytrust.co.uk
www.canterburytrust.co.uk

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Evaluation trenching at Archcliffe Fort: Trench 3, July 2020

1. Summary

1.1 As a continuation to evaluation trenching begun in March 2020 (Trenches 1 & 2), a third trench was hand-excavated within the interior of Archcliffe Fort in July 2020 (Trench 3). This was dug on the site of a proposed new soakaway pit. The excavation was around 1.50m square, cut immediately to the east of Gipson's block, partially across the site of Trench 1.

1.2 Trench 3 revealed a sequence of stratified archaeological deposits more than 1.60m thick but no building remains. In the lower half of the trench a brown clay colluvial deposit was revealed. A quantity of prehistoric struck flints was recovered from this, but none appeared to be *in situ*, all seemingly being derived from somewhere further upslope.

1.3 Above the colluvium, a succession of post-medieval soil layers was exposed, mostly dump deposits. None of these pre-dated the end of the eighteenth century and the latest must belong to the twentieth century.

1.4 No structural remains relating to the fort would seem to be threatened by any future deep excavations in this area.

2. General introduction and background (based on Parfitt 2016 and 2020b)

2.1 Although damaged, Archcliffe Fort on the western outskirts of Dover (Fig. 1; NGR 631542 140291, centred) constitutes a multi-period defence work of considerable archaeological/historical interest. It forms an important element within the surviving sequence of artillery defences represented at Dover. The bulk of the extant structures here date to between the seventeenth- and early twentieth-centuries. The walls and outer defences are the oldest parts and include the most significant elements of the fort, with the interior containing a series of nineteenth- and twentieth-century structures, reflecting the use and habitation of the fort over the last two hundred years. The site is a Scheduled Monument (No. 26797).

2.2 The fort is situated on the western outskirts of Dover, adjacent to the old coast road to Folkestone. It stands at an elevation of around 17 metres OD, upon a low promontory overlooking Shakespeare Beach and Dover's historic Western Docks (Fig. 1). In topographical terms, although the site occupies a cliff-top position, it actually lies in the bottom of a dry chalk valley, truncated obliquely by the Strait of Dover. The marine truncation of this valley led to the creation of a slight bay immediately to the north-east of the Archcliffe headland (Fig. 1). From the sixteenth century this bay formed Dover's principal harbour area (Biddle and Summerson 1982).

2.3 Although no in-depth study of the history of the fort has yet been carried out, the general story is now tolerably clear. Expanding on Doug Welby's booklet of 1991, Liv Gibbs has provided the most detailed account of the history of the fort so far (Gibbs 2004; summarised in Parfittt 2020b).

2.4 Archcliffe Fort is today occupied by the Emmaus Dover community, a charity offering a home and work to formerly homeless people. The community has plans to undertake new building work on the site and to carry-out certain other groundworks to improve access to its busy second-hand furniture shop and the general amenities available on the site. Canterbury Archaeological Trust has been engaged to advise on this new project and to undertake any fieldwork required. A study considering

the archaeological implications of the new proposals was prepared in 2016 (Parfitt 2016, revised 2019).

2.5 In March 2020 two archaeological evaluation trenches (Trenches 1 & 2) were cut to investigate specific parts of the fort ahead of the proposed new building works (Fig. 2). Shallow Trench 1, adjacent to the site of a concrete building platform (Parfitt 2016, Building 9), revealed little of consequence and established that a visible mound here was nothing more than a dump of twentieth century soils. No attempt to examine the lower sequence of deposits in this area was then made (Parfitt 2020b). Trench 2, cut on the site of a proposed new soakaway, somewhat unexpectedly revealed the remains of a cellared brick structure and no pre-fort deposits. Subsequent cartographic research identified a building occupying this area during the early nineteenth century (Parfitt 2020b). Given that this lost structure constituted an important new element in the Fort's structural history, yet to be fully researched, Historic England required that the proposed soakaway be repositioned, leaving this newly discovered structure undisturbed.

2.6 After due consideration, the site engineers identified a spot around 15 metres to the south-west of Trench 2 as being a suitable new site for the soakaway (Fig. 2). This partially overlapped with the position of Trench 1 previously excavated and provided a good opportunity to examine the full sequence of deposits present in this area. Trench 1 itself had been confined to an examination of the upper-most layers only and specifically the construction of a low mound that exists in this area (Parfitt 2020b).

2.7 The main aim of the new excavation was to establish the full thickness and sequence of deposits present at this point. In particular, it was intended to establish the presence of any prehistoric flint bearing layers above the natural geology here, and also to confirm that the locality was clear of buried structural remains relating to the fort.

2.8 The new excavation was designated Trench 3, superseding the previous allocation of this trench number to a site by the shop entrance (Parfitt 2020b). Following recording, Trench 3 was backfilled for safety until such time as it is re-excavated for the new soakaway.

3. Trench 3 (Figs 2–5; Table 1)

3.1 Working to the previously approved Written Scheme of Investigation (Parfitt 2020a), Trench 3 was dug by a small team over the weekend of 25–26 July, 2020. It was positioned partially across the site of Trench 1 (Fig. 2), immediately to the east of Gipson's block where the low mound of soil had previously been eliminated as being of minimal archaeological interest.

3.2 The new trench was roughly square in plan, about 1.50m across (Figs 2–5). It was hand-excavated to a maximum depth of 1.60m but the natural geology was not reached. No building remains were revealed but a significant thickness of stratified deposits was exposed. As previously concluded from Trench 1 (Parfitt 2020b), the visible surface mound could be seen to be of relatively modern date and of no special archaeological significance. According to the detailed site plan prepared in 1884 (TNA: MP/AF C0002), this part of the fort was then occupied by a kitchen garden, with no trace of any mound here.

3.3 The excavation of Trench 3 generated an archive which comprises 16 recorded contexts, a measured plan, a measured section and 17 digital photographs. A moderate quantity of finds was recovered, including pottery, glass, clay tobacco pipe, prehistoric struck flint and animal bone. All the field records have been checked and indexed.

3.4 *The excavated sequence* (Figs 3, 5, 7–9; Table 1)

3.4.1 In the lower half of the excavated trench a brown silty clay colluvial deposit was revealed (Figs 3 and 5). For the purpose of excavation, this deposit was subdivided into three separate layers, largely based on the quantity of small chalk pieces present (Fig. 3, Section 3, Contexts 311, 314 & 315). The divisions between the recorded layers were diffuse and poorly defined, suggesting that they were merely gradations within a single thick deposit. The overall thickness of this deposit was not revealed but it was at least 0.67m.

3.4.2 *Lowest clay layer (Context 315)*

The lowest clay layer exposed (S.3, Context 315) lay at a depth of 1.40m and was at least 0.20m thick. It seems likely that this deposit was resting directly on the surface of the natural geology, quite possibly buried not much deeper below. The layer itself, produced some archaeological material in the form of eight prehistoric struck flints, a small calcined flint and a single flint-and-grog tempered pot-sherd (18g). This is a plain wall sherd and, based on the fabric, it is likely to date to the later Iron Age. Its association with earlier flintwork suggests that the material contained within this layer is chronologically mixed, and the flints themselves did not have the appearance of being fresh and undisturbed. All this would be consistent with a down-washed colluvial deposit, collected in the bottom of the valley and derived from further upslope.

3.4.3 *Subsequent clay layers (Contexts 311 & 314)*

The lowest clay layer (Context 315) was sealed by two further deposits of very similar composition (S. 3, Contexts 311 & 314). Earliest was Context 314. This was about 0.28m thick and produced 26 prehistoric struck flints and two burnt flints but no pottery. Above this, Context 311 represented the highest layer in the colluvial sequence. It was about 0.21m thick and was slightly darker in colour than the underlying layers. It yielded a further 17 prehistoric struck flints, two calcined flints and two pot-sherds. One of these pieces is a small, plain black wall sherd of flint-tempered ware, most probably Iron Age in date, whilst the other is a well glazed piece of late eighteenth- or nineteenth-century date and clearly intrusive from the layer above (Context 310) where sherds from the same vessel are present.

3.4.4 *Soil layer (Context 310)*

The highest clay (311) was sealed by a thin layer of dark grey-brown clay loam about 0.12m thick. This appeared to represent a topsoil layer formed on the surface of the clay (S. 3, Context 310). The layer produced a significant quantity of domestic rubbish, including pottery, glass, clay tobacco pipe, animal bone, marine shell and several small pieces of coal. Fragments of clay roof tile, Welsh slate, brick and lead window came fragments (SFs 37 & 38) clearly derive from buildings on the site. Also of interest was part of a double-sided bone hair comb (SF 36).

This layer might equate with soil of the kitchen garden shown as being present here on the 1884 site plan. The pottery, glass and clay pipe material is chronologically mixed and mostly heavily fragmented. The majority of the items seem to belong to the late eighteenth- or nineteenth-century with a few pot-sherds and clay pipe fragments that could be a little earlier.

3.4.5 *Chalk surface (Context 309)* (Figs 3 & 4)

Resting on soil layer 310 was a thin layer of cream chalky silt containing frequent small chalk pieces (=redeposited natural solifluction deposit; Context 309; Fig. 3 plan, Fig. 4). This dipped gently down to the south-east and appeared to represent some sort of floor or walking surface. It was patchy, up to 0.06m thick and was cut by a pit, F. 313, in the north corner of the excavation (Figs 3 & 4, see below).

3.4.6 *Pit F. 313* (Figs 3, 4 & 5)

About a quarter of this small pit was exposed in the north corner of the excavation, cutting through the chalk surface. As seen, it was at least 0.40m across and 0.48m deep, with steep sides and a rounded base. The filling consisted of a lower layer of loose chalk rubble with occasional flints, brick fragments and broken ceramic tile (Fig. 3, S. 3, Context 312). This deposit was overlain by an upper filling of grey loam (S. 3, Context 316) containing frequent small chalk pieces and small brown flint pebbles. It produced a single piece of plain dark green glazed earthen ware broadly datable to the seventeenth- to eighteenth-century.

3.4.7 The infilled pit (F. 313) and the chalk surface (309) were sealed by a continuous thin layer of mid grey-brown loam (Context 308), which contained chalk grit, occasional small brown flint pebbles and small rounded flints, together with a quantity of domestic refuse. The pebbles and flints might represent the eroded remnants of a metalled surface originally resting on the chalk layer. The latest pottery, clay pipe and glass recovered suggests a nineteenth century date for the deposition of this layer.

3.4.8 Layer 308 was partially sealed on the south-eastern side by a dump of orange-brown clay containing much small chalk and some flints (S. 3, Context 307). This might have represented levelling or up-cast. It produced two pot-sherds of plain white nineteenth-century china ware, three clay pipe fragments and some animal bone.

3.4.9 Two successive layers of loam (S. 3, Contexts 305 and 36) sealed the clay (307) and totalled about 0.45m in thickness. These contained quantities of small chalk lumps and pebbles. The upper deposit (305) also contained a piece of frogged yellow stock brick and fragments of Welsh slate. Finds included pottery, glass, clay pipe, animal bone, and residual struck flints. The bulk of this material would seem to date to the later nineteenth- or early twentieth-century.

3.4.10 The top of Context 305 supported a thin layer of soil, pebbles and rubble (S. 3, Context 304), more of which had been seen in Trench 1 adjacent (Context 104). This layer was previously suggested as representing part of the base deposit of the low mound that occurs in this area (Parfitt 2020b). Welsh slate, yellow stock brick and pottery within its make-up are all consistent with an early twentieth century date.

3.4.11 Above Context 304, a dump of dark grey-brown loam containing some fragments of brick, concrete and pebble (Section 3, Context 103) represented the main body of the mound here. It was sealed by modern topsoil and turf (Context 301).

Context	**Soil description**	**Coarse component**	**Finds**	**Notes**
301	Dark grey-brown loam	Occ. small pebbs; occ. small red & yellow brick frags; occ. small chalk pieces	Bone toothbrush, pot; clay pipe	Modern topsoil
302	Grey-white concrete	-	-	Modern yard
F. 303	Cut	-	-	Cut for 302
304	Grey-brown loam	Freq. small pebbs; occ. Welsh slate frags; occ. yellow brick frags	Pot; glass; clay pipe; shell; copper alloy frag.	Layer

305	Light brown clay	Moderate small pebbs; mod. small chalk pieces; v. occ. yellow brick frags	Pot; glass; clay pipe; tile; bone; shell; flint; nail; button	Layer
306	Dark grey-brown loam	Moderate small pebbs; occ. small chalk pieces	Pot; glass; clay pipe; tile, bone; shell; flint	Layer
307	Orange-brown clay	Freq. small chalk pieces; occ. small pebbs; occ. flints	Pot; clay pipe; bone	Clay dump
308	Mid grey-brown loam	Moderate small chalk pieces; occ. small pebbs; occ. flints	Pot; glass; clay pipe; tile, bone; shell; flint	Layer
309	Cream chalky silt	Freq. small chalk pieces; occ. small flints	Pot; clay pipe; tile; bone	Possible floor layer
310	Dark grey-brown clay loam	Occ. small pebbs; occ. small chalk pieces; occ. flints; occ. red brick frags; occ. tile frags;	Pot; glass; clay pipe; tile; brick; bone; shell; coal; nail; lead; button	Layer
311	Mid-dark brown clay	Moderate small chalk pieces; Moderate flints	Pot; flint	Upper colluvium
312	Chalk rubble	Occ. flints; occ. brick frags	Tile; brick	Fill of F. 313 (lower)
F. 313	Cut	-	-	Small pit
314	Mid brown silty clay	Moderate flints; occ. chalk pieces	Flint	Middle colluvium
315	Mid brown silty clay	Occ. flints; v. occ. chalk pieces	Pot; flint	Lower colluvium
316	Grey loam	Freq. small chalk pieces; mod. small pebbs	Pot	Fill of F. 313 (upper)

Table 1 Evaluation Trench 3, details of recorded contexts (see Section 3)

4. Finds (not illustrated; Tables 2–5)

4.1 A moderate quantity of finds was recovered during the cutting of Trench 3 (Table 1), which amounted to more than the total material previously recovered from Trenches 1 and 2. The bulk of the items collected from Trench 3 consist of pottery and glass, clay tobacco pipe fragments, animal bone and prehistoric flintwork. There are also ten registered small finds.

4.2 The finds have been processed according to standard Canterbury Archaeological Trust procedures. Along with material from Trenches 1 and 2, these finds currently remain in the possession of the Trust (Dover Office) but will shortly be transferred to the English Heritage regional store at Dover Castle, together with a complete copy of the field archive.

4.3 With the obvious exception of the prehistoric flintwork, the bulk of the finds recovered would seem to be of post-medieval date, reflecting previous habitation and activity within the fort from the seventeenth century onwards. The prehistoric flints found join other lithic material previously discovered on the site. Brief notes on the main categories of find are set out below.

4.4 Small Finds

4.4.1 There are 10 registered finds (SFs 30–39) and these are detailed in Table 2 below. In contrast to Trench 2, only one military metal button was found (SF 39). Four of the items listed from Trench 3 are corroded iron nails.

4.4.2 Of passing interest are two bone objects (SFs 30 & 36). From the modern topsoil (Context 301) comes a complete but broken bone toothbrush, missing its bristles (SF 30). This could be of nineteenth- or early twentieth-century date. Soil layer 310 produced part of a double-sided bone comb with one side of very fine teeth and the other with slightly larger but still fine teeth. This could be of either eighteenth- or nineteenth-century date (SF 36).

4.4.3 Only one military button was recovered from Trench 3 (SF 39). Although its surface is corroded, this would appear to be plain and it cannot be closely dated.

4.4.4 Two small fragments of lead window came (SFs 37 & 38) must be derived from leaded windows of buildings that formerly occupied the site. No such windows are now present on any building within the fort and no nineteenth century drawings or photographs showing structures with such windows are known.

Small Find	Context	Object	Material	Notes
30	301	Toothbrush	bone	Broken but complete (no bristles, 16g)
31	304	Thin sheet	copper alloy	Broken fragment (1g)
32	305	Nail	iron	Corroded (41g)
33	310	Nail (small)	iron	Corroded (8g)
34	310	Nail	iron	Corroded (25g)
35	310	Nail	iron	Corroded (25g)
36	310	Double sided comb	bone	Broken, surviving length, 30mm (3g)
37	310	Window came	lead	Length, 49mm (5g)
38	310	Window came	lead	Length, 89mm (9g)
39	310	Button (small)	copper alloy	Corroded but probably plain (2g)

Table 2 Registered small finds from Trench 3 (*NB*: numbering continues on from Trenches 1 & 2)

4.5 *Pottery*

4.5.1 Trench 3 produced a total of 176, sherds of pottery (836g), mainly scattered throughout the higher levels in the trench. Most of the sherds are small and fragmented. The bulk of the material appears to date to the eighteenth- or nineteenth-century, with only a few earlier pieces.

4.5.2 The oldest sherds came from two of the colluvial deposits. Context 315 produced a single plain flint-and-grog tempered wall-sherd (18g), with a fabric that would be consistent with a later Iron Age date. Context 311 contained a small, plain black wall-sherd of flint-tempered ware, also probably of Iron Age date.

4.5.3 The remaining material is post-medieval in date, mostly china wares with some stone wares and a range of earthen wares. Most of the material is of nineteenth- or early twentieth-century, probably with some residual eighteenth century and earlier pieces.

Context	Pottery	Glass	Clay pipe	Roof tile	Brick	Struck flint	Animal bone	Marine shell	Other
301	5 (14g)	-	3 (6g)	-	-	-	-	-	Bone toothbrush (SF 30)
304	11 (148g)	3 (14g)	5 (16g)	-	-	-	-	1 (4g)	Copper alloy sheet frag (SF 31)
305	14 (133g)	22 (162g)	22 (51g)	1 (85g)	-	6 (194g)	23 (63g)	3 (37g)	Iron nail (SF 32)
306	3 (21g)	1 (1g)	4 (6g)	1 (24g)	-	1 (3g)	6 (44g)	1 (6g)	-
307	2 (5g)	-	3 (4g)			-	8 (72g)	-	-
308	28 (109g)	5 (14g)	16 (26g)	5 (59g)	-	1 (6g)	36 (180g)	2 (8g)	-
309	12 (37g)	-	7 (18g)	2 (47g)	-	-	21 (93g)	-	-
310	97 (335g)	17 (59g)	27 (54g)	16 (368g)	5 (165g)	-	182 (963g)	18 (54g)	Iron nails (SF 34 & 35); bone comb (SF 36); lead window cames (SF 37 & 38); copper alloy button (SF 39)
311	2 (7g)	-	-	-	-	17 (638g)	-	-	-
312	-	-	-	1 (50g)	2 (527g)	-	-	-	
314	-	-	-	-	-	26 (1318g)	-	-	-
315	1 (9g)	-	-	-	-	8 (369g)	-	-	
316	1 (18g)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	***176 (836g)***	***48 (250g)***	***85 (181g)***	***26 (633g)***	***7 (692g)***	***59 (2528g)***	***276 (1415g)***	***25 (109g)***	

Table 3 Distribution of finds recovered from Evaluation Trench 3

4.6 *Glass*

A quantity of glass was recovered from Trench 3. In all, there are 48 fragments (250g); 23 pieces are from vessels and 25 are fragments of window glass. The bulk of this material is likely to be of nineteenth century date. Amongst the vessel glass recovered are fragments from several bases including one large, heavy one in clear pale green glass (305). There is also the complete neck and rim of a small bottle in clear green glass (308) and the broken thick stem of a wine glass in clear glass (310).

4.7 *Clay tobacco pipes*

4.7.1 Eighty-five clay tobacco pipe fragments (181g) were recovered during the excavation of Trench 3. There are no complete bowls preserved and the assemblage overall is somewhat fragmentary. Most of the pieces are broken stem, ranging in length between 20 and 58mm. Amongst these are seven or eight fragments whose overall thickness and wide bore diameter suggest that they are relatively early, probably seventeenth-century, but the remainder seem to be of a later date.

4.7.2 One short stem fragment has the original mouth-piece remaining. There are five fragments where the junction of the stem with the bowl survives and this includes two specimens which preserve the heel with a maker's mark. Unfortunately, only one of these is partially legible: ? N. Stylistically, the surviving bowl suggests an eighteenth-century date for this piece.

4.7.3 There are seven fragments of bowl, mostly plain and seemingly representing both eighteenth- and nineteenth-century forms. Of note is a bowl fragment from Context 309 which preserves the heel with a marker's mark: TL. Stylistically, the surviving bowl would again appear to be eighteenth century. The initials may equate with Thomas Langley (or Longley), recorded pipe maker of Dover between 1714 and 1763 (Boyden 2015, 284).

4.8 *Ceramic tile*

4.8.1 A total of twenty-six pieces of ceramic roof tile was recovered during the excavation (633g) with more than half coming from soil layer Context 310. The material is all somewhat fragmentary with no complete dimensions surviving.

4.8.2 Several fragments preserve part of one original edge and two have a peg/nail hole remaining (one square and one round). One curved fragment is probably from a bonnet rather than a flat roof tile. All the pieces are of hard orange-red fabrics, most probably of post-medieval rather than medieval date. About one third of the fragments, including the curved piece, show traces of adhering white mortar.

4.8.3 Assuming that the roof tile fragments recovered have not been brought onto the site from elsewhere, the implication must be that there were once buildings within the fort with tiled roofs. All the surviving military buildings within the fort today are roofed with Welsh slate. Perhaps significantly, early representations of the fort drawn in 1595 (BM Cott. MS Aug. I.i.46*)* and 1641 (William Eldred map) both depict buildings on the site with red roofs that were presumably tiled.

4.9 *Brick*

4.9.1 Occasional fragments of brick were contained within several deposits (Table 1). Frogged yellow pieces are clearly nineteenth- or early twentieth-century in date, but some other fragments are probably somewhat older. Two fragments recovered from the filling of pit F. 313 (Context 312) are of a distinctive orange-pink silty fabric. Although both are less than half complete, from the surviving dimensions it is apparent that these are small 'Dutch' bricks, probably of seventeenth- or eighteenth-century date. Five smaller fragments recovered from soil layer 310, based on the fabrics represented, may include further examples of such bricks.

4.9.2 Dutch bricks have been previously seen at Archcliffe. Indeed, examples are still visible in the front elevation of the extant fort gateway. Gibbs (2004, 5) has suggested that these might represent the last remnants of a curtain wall, built of brick in 1639, which collapsed due to poor workmanship and was soon replaced by the still extant ragstone wall. Just inside the gateway a buried wall foundation composed of Dutch bricks was exposed in a shallow trench cut in 20 (Parfitt 2012, wall 6).

4.10 *Prehistoric struck flints* (Tables 4 & 5)

4.10.1 Prehistoric flintwork has been previously recorded at Archcliffe Fort (e.g. Parfitt 1996; 1997) and the material from 2020 adds to the existing assemblage. A total of 59 struck flints (2528g; Tables 4 & 5) were recovered from evaluation Trench 3, mostly from the lower clay deposits (Contexts 311, 314 & 315). The bulk have been produced from the immediately available local downland flint but there are two pieces, including a core, which seem to derive from beach pebbles. With only one or two exceptions, all the flints have a mottled pale blue-grey to white patina.

4.10.2 The majority of the pieces found are waste flakes with seven rough core/core fragments and one hammerstone. Virtually all of the struck pieces recovered are either secondary or tertiary flakes, with very few primary ones represented. Two flints have subsequently been scorched by heat but not fully calcined.

Context	Cores/core fragments	Hammerstone	Waste flakes	Tools & retouched pieces	**Total**
305	-	-	5	1	**6**
306	-	-	1	-	**1**
308	-	-	1	-	**1**
311	2	-	13	2	**17**
314	3	1	19	3	**26**
315	2	-	5	1	**8**
Total	***7***	***1***	***44***	***7***	***59***

Table 4 Overall composition of the flint assemblage from Trench 3

4.10.3 A small proportion of assemblage has been worked (total, 7), which amounts to about 12% of the total. There are no well-produced tools and the worked material consists of simple, casually prepared pieces. This includes two rough scrapers, a notched piece, a piercer and odd flakes showing traces of miscellaneous retouching and/or utilisation (Tables 4 & 5).

Context	Scraper	Notched flakes	Piercer/point	Misc. retouch & utilised	Total
305	1	-	-	-	**1**
311	-	-	-	2	**2**
314	?1	-	1	1	**3**
315	-	1	-	-	**1**
Total	***2***	***1***	***1***	***3***	***7***

Table 5 Details of the worked tools & retouched flintwork from Trench 3

4.10.4 The general lack of diagnostic tool types makes dating difficult but the general impression gained is that most of the assemblage belongs to an industry that is relatively late, most probably Bronze Age in date.

4.11 ***Burnt and calcined flint***

Five pieces of burnt flint came from colluvial deposits 311, 314 and 315 (96g). Four are thoroughly calcined throughout but one from Context 314 has not been so intensively heated. Such flints are likely to be the by-product of prehistoric cooking and they may well be contemporary with the struck flints recovered. Indeed, two of these struck flints show evidence of having been subsequently scorched by heat.

4.12 ***Animal bone and marine shell***

4.12.1 *Animal bone*

A total of 276 pieces of animal bone (1415g) was recovered, from six different contexts, all post-medieval layers above the colluvium (Table 3). This material would seem to represent scattered kitchen waste incorporated into general soils layers along with other domestic rubbish. Most pieces of bone are reasonably well preserved but somewhat fragmentary. Many of the identifiable bones are fragments of rib, skull, or loose teeth. Several pieces show butchery cut marks. The largest collection came from soil layer 310 and this includes 9 small fish bones, with 4 vertebrae. Two more fish bones, including one vertebra, come from Context 309.

4.12.2 Overall, the material recovered represents a small, mixed assemblage that is not closely datable – a proportion of the pieces recovered may well be residual. In any future excavation at the fort the recovery of some well stratified bone groups associated with good dating evidence has the potential to provide useful details concerning meat consumption within the fort at any particular period. The present assemblage does not constitute such a group.

4.12.3 *Marine shell*

Twenty-five marine shells (29g) were recovered from five different contexts, all post-medieval layers above the colluvium (Table 3). Most common are limpet shells (n=17), followed by oyster (n=6) and two periwinkles. Certainly today, limpets can be locally collected on the rocky foreshore nearby, below Shakespeare Cliff.

5. Conclusions

5.1 The excavation of evaluation Trench 3 at Archcliffe has provided another opportunity to examine the surviving archaeology within the fort and has shown that a considerable thickness of stratified deposits occurs in this area. The work reaffirms the evidence of Trench 1 – that the visible soil mound adjacent to the concrete building platform (Building 9) is modern and of no particular interest (Parfitt 2020b). Trench 3 also provides further useful information, confirming that there are no earlier building remains at this point.

5.2 The discovery of pre-fort layers of colluvium, over 0.60m thick, buried at a depth of about one metre below the present ground surface (here the soil mound referred to above) and containing a quantity of prehistoric struck flint, re-focuses attention on the nature of the original topography of the area. The combined effects of coastal erosion, fort building and subsequent road and rail construction now make it difficult to understand the early configuration of the ground here.

5.3 There seems little doubt that since prehistoric times there has been significant coastal erosion so that a once more extensive chalkland landscape in this area has now been lost to the sea. The site of Archcliffe Fort itself occupies what was once the bottom of a dry downland valley, bounded by the Western Heights on the inland side and a now eroded continuation of Shakespeare Cliff on the seaward side. This dry valley must have connected with the main valley of the River Dour a little further to the north-east.

5.4 The struck flints, together with the two Iron Age pot-sherds recovered from Trench 3 are indicative of prehistoric activity in the immediate vicinity. The occurrence of these artefacts in down-washed colluvial deposits would seem to imply that they derive from prehistoric habitation or activity that took place a little further up-slope. However, whether this was on the south-eastern slopes of the adjacent Western Heights or on the now destroyed north-west facing valley slope opposite is not clear. Perhaps a south-east facing slope would have been preferred by early settlers. Whether there was any direct access to the foreshore from the Archcliffe area was presumably another important detail for any prehistoric inhabitants of the area.

5.5 Sealing the colluvium, post-medieval deposits accumulated during the occupation the fort, totalling about one metre in thickness. Most appear to be layers of dumped soil containing varying amounts of domestic rubbish with a little building debris. Just above the top of the colluvium, chalk layer Context 309 seemed to be a deliberately laid surface; it was cut by a small pit, F. 313. The highest soil levels examined relate to activity during the later occupation of the fort and are of later nineteenth- and twentieth-century date. There are no readily recognisable layers relating to the sixteenth- to eighteen-century occupation of the fort.

6. Impact assessment

6.1 It is proposed to remove both the concrete building platform (Building 9) and the adjacent mound of soil to the south-west during the new building project. Based on the results from Trench 3 it seems likely that a thickness of earlier stratified archaeological deposits and features is preserved below them.

6.2. Excavation of the new soakaway pit on the site of Trench 3 should allow the full thickness of deposits present in this area to be determined. No structural remains relating to the fort would seem to be threatened by a deep excavation here.

7. Bibliography

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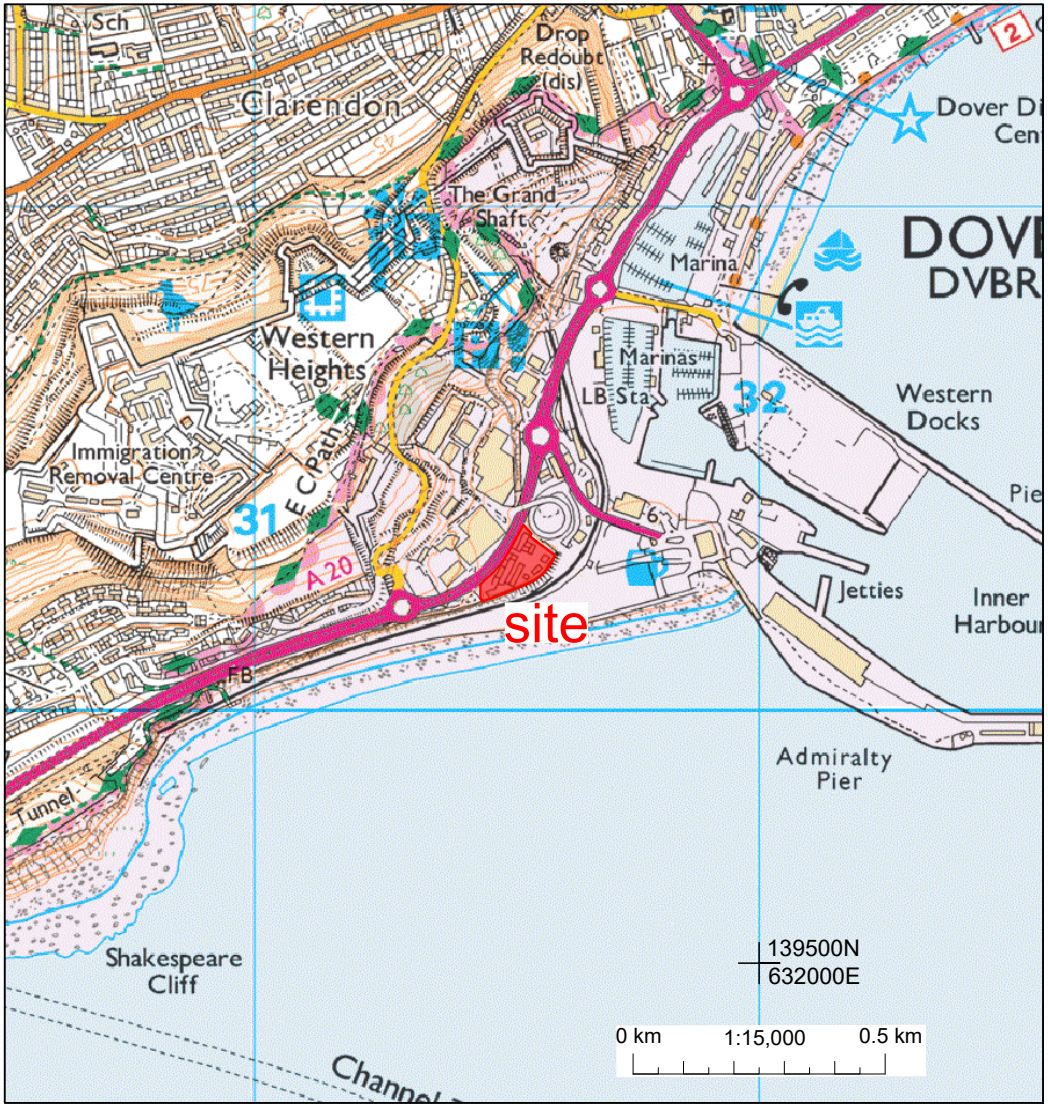

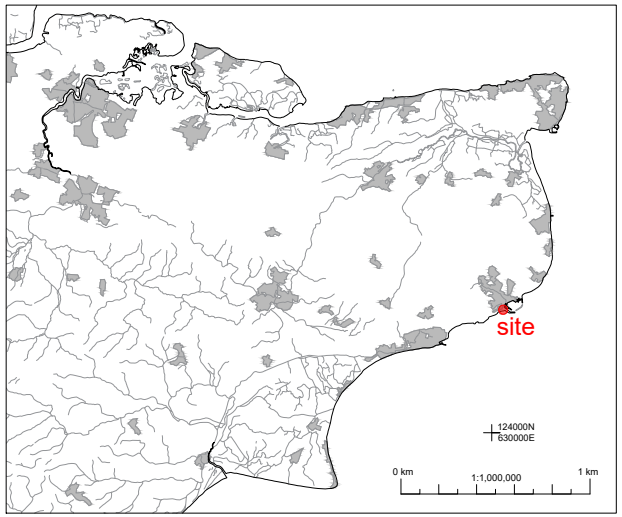

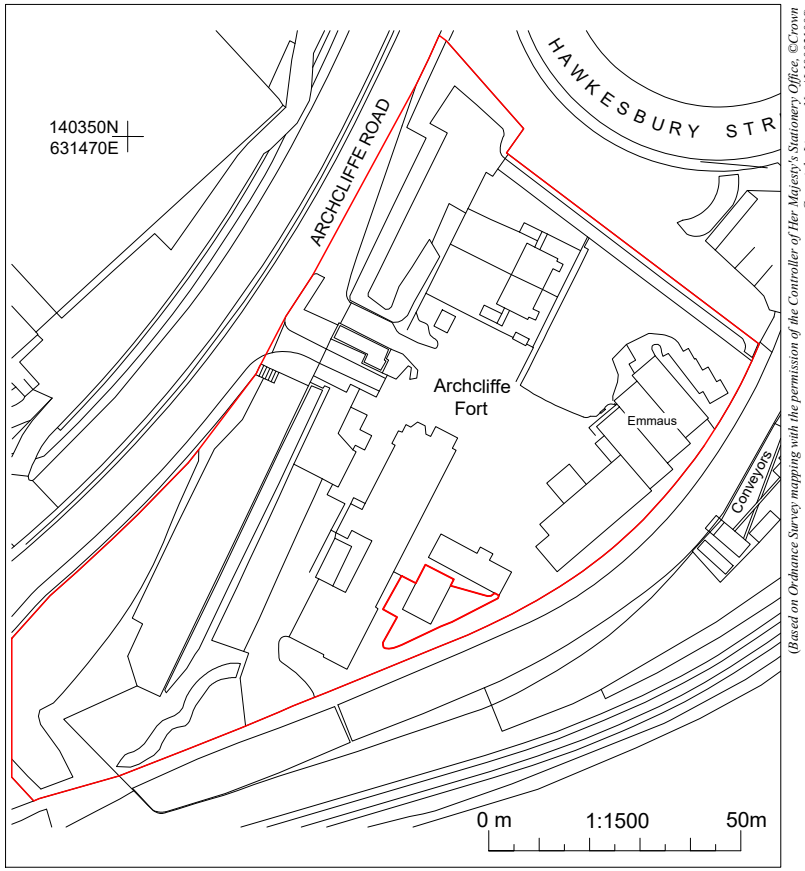

FIG. 1

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CANTERBURY ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST LTD.

A REGISTERED CHARITY

92a Broad Street . Canterbury
Kent . CT1 2LU
Tel 01227 462062 Fax 01227 784724
Email admin@canterburytrust.co.uk

PROJECT NAME
Archcliffe Fort, Dover

PROJECT CODE
AFDW-EV-2020_Phase-2

SITE ADDRESS
Archcliffe Fort
Archcliffe Road A20
Dover
Kent

DRAWN BY	SCALE(S)
P-S.A	see maps
DATE	LAST REVISION
24/03/2020	16/09/2020
REF/DRG NO.	CHECKED
	KP

Fig. 1 General location maps of investigated site

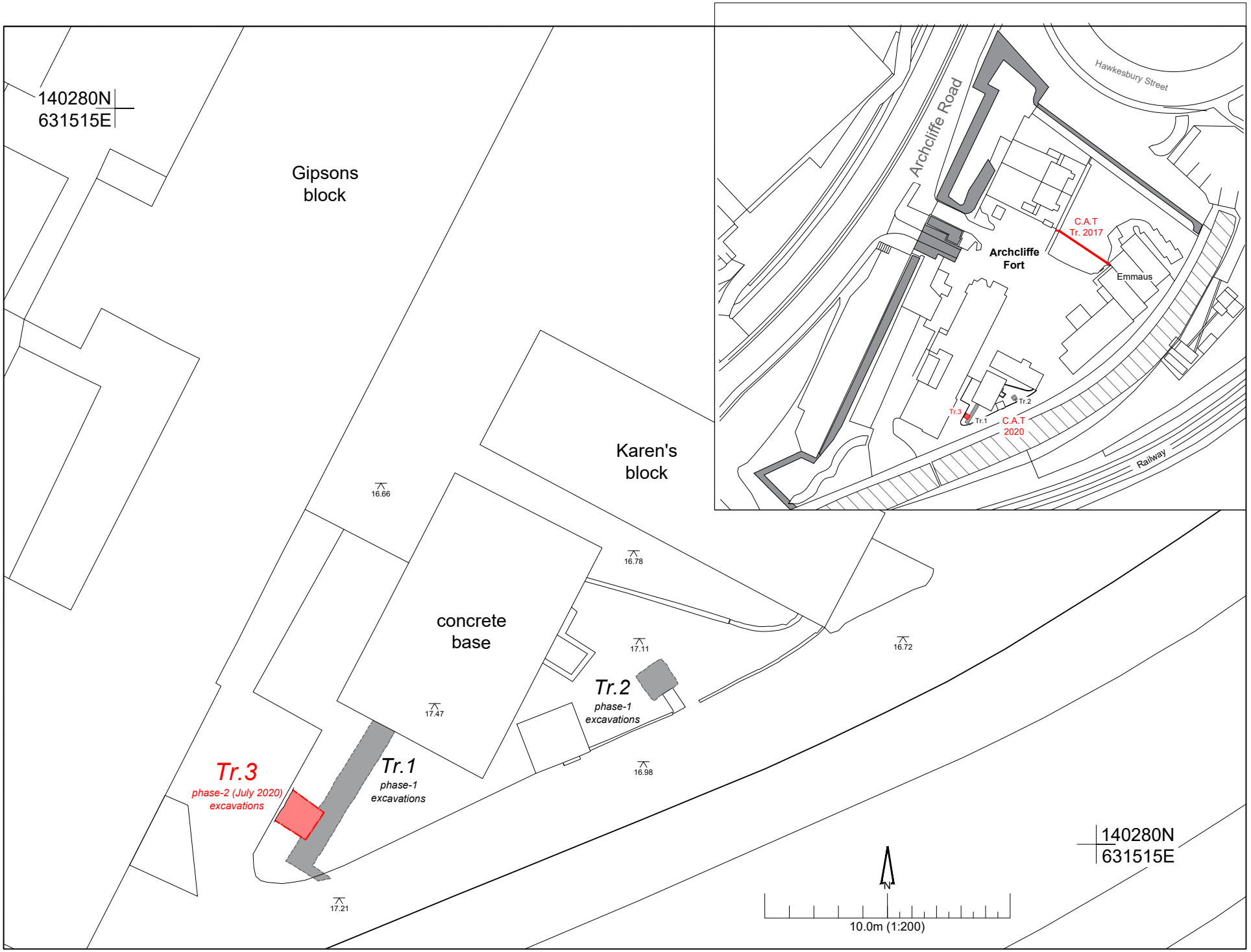

Fig. 2

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CANTERBURY
ARCHAEOLOGICAL
TRUST LTD.
A REGISTERED CHARITY
92a Broad Street . Canterbury
Kent . CT1 2LU
Tel 01227 462062 Fax 01227 784724
Email admin@canterburytrust.co.uk

PROJECT NAME
Archcliffe Fort, Dover

PROJECT CODE
AFDW-EV-20

SITE ADDRESS
Archcliffe Fort
Archcliffe Road A20
Dover

DRAWN BY	SCALE(S)
P-SA	1:1500 @ A4 1:200
DATE	LAST REVISION
26/03/2020	16/09/2020

CHECKED
KP

Fig.2 General plan of Trench 3 in relation to previously excavated trenches (March 2020) and inset showing location within Fort

Trench 3

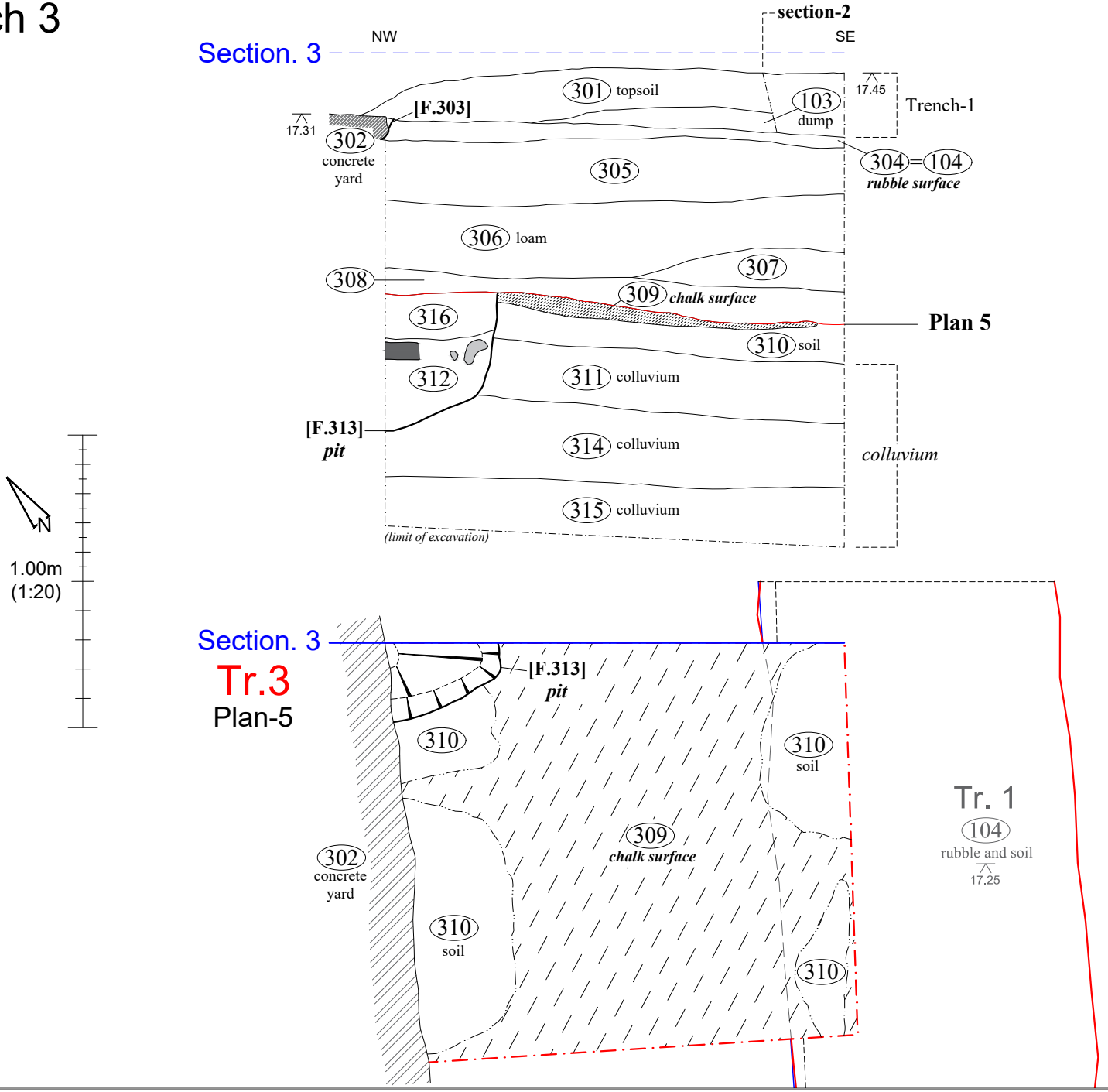

Fig. 3
Trench 3

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92a Broad Street . Canterbury
Kent . CT1 2LU
Tel 01227 462062 Fax 01227 784724
Email admin@canterburytrust.co.uk

PROJECT NAME	Archcliffe Fort, Dover
PROJECT CODE	AFDW-EV-2020-p2
SITE ADDRESS	Archcliffe Fort Archcliffe Road A20 Dover Kent
DRAWN BY	P-S.A
SCALE(S)	1:20 @ A4
DATE	15/09/20
LAST REVISION	16/09/20
REF/DRG NO.	
CHECKED	KP

Fig. 3 Trench 3, Plan and section

Fig. 4 General view of chalk surface 309, looking north-west. Scale, 1m

Fig. 5 General view of the completed trench, looking north-east. Scale, 1m