



Land at the former Sturdee Club and Land at Stoke Road, Hoo St Werburgh, Kent ME3 9BJ

Archaeological evaluation report

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Summary

Between 10 April and 14 May 2025, Canterbury Archaeological Trust (CAT) undertook an archaeological evaluation on land at the former Sturdee Club and on land at Stoke Road, Hoo St Werburgh, Kent, ME3 9BJ (NGR 579081 172806; centred). The archaeological work was commissioned by RPS Consultancy Ltd, on behalf of clients Esquire Developments, in support of planning application reference MC/23/2857, submitted to Medway Council.

A total of fifty-four evaluation trenches were excavated, measuring between 22m and 50m in length and up to 2.3m wide. Underlying geology varied within the site with the majority of trenches exposing deposits of silt and clay. However, deposits associated with previously unmapped possible River Terrace gravels were also revealed within parts of the development area and a small number of trenches exposed bedrock geology of London Clay Formation at shallow depths.

The investigations revealed the presence of a small number of linear features, ditches, pits and field drain alignments, identified at a shallow depth, with most features concentrated towards the western extent of the development site.

The majority of the features remain undated as only a very small datable finds assemblage was recovered. Those finds that were recovered suggest a possible prehistoric presence for at least one feature, as recorded in Trench 5.

A post-medieval linear feature and a Second World War anti-tank ditch were also identified.

The evaluation has demonstrated a limited, but shallow archaeological presence within the site, with exposed features considered to be of low, local significance.

Project contributors

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The evaluation was monitored remotely by Ben Found, Principal Archaeological Officer at the Heritage Conservation Group of Kent County Council.

1 Introduction

1.1 Project background

- 1.1.1 Between 10 April and 14 May 2025 Canterbury Archaeological Trust (CAT) undertook an archaeological evaluation on land at the former Sturdee Club and land at Stoke Road, Hoo St Werburgh, Kent, ME3 9BJ (NGR: 579081 172806 centred; Figure 1). The archaeological works were commissioned by RPS Consultancy on behalf of their clients, Esquire Developments, and were monitored by Ben Found of the Kent County Council (KCC) Heritage Conservation Group (HCG).
- 1.1.2 The archaeological evaluation was conducted in support of a proposal for the ‘construction of 134no. residential dwellings (including affordable and over 55's homes), children's nursery (Class E(f)), cafe/community hub (Class E(b)/F2(b)) and commercial/retail floorspace (E(g)/E(a), new public open spaces, sustainable urban drainage systems, landscaping and biodiversity areas and play areas. Access to be from 4no. new locations from Stoke Road. Provision of roads, parking spaces and earthworks - Demolition of the Sturdee Club and associated structures’ (Planning Application Ref: MC/23/2857). A decision is yet to be issued by Medway Council, the Local Planning Authority (LPA), in accordance with the provision of the National Planning Policy Framework (DLHC 2024).
- 1.1.3 The archaeological evaluation was carried out in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI; CAT 2025a). The WSI recommended the excavation of fifty-seven evaluation trenches across the proposed development area (PDA), to be cut to the top of natural geology or archaeology, whichever was shallower. The approved trench layout within the WSI was altered upon excavation due to the presence of high powered pylons at the west end of the PDA and the presence of hardstanding within the north-west area of development land to the west of Jacob’s Lane. Other trench alignments and positions had to be altered in order to avoid existing field boundaries and overgrown vegetation. Subsequently, the number of trenches cut was reduced to a total of fifty-four trenches.
- 1.1.4 This report sets out the results of the evaluation to inform on the potential below ground archaeological resource surviving within the PDA. The results will enable the LPA to inform on the planning decision and to formulate the scope of any further archaeological mitigation works that might be required in line with existing national and local planning policy and guidelines.

1.2 Location, geology and topography

- 1.2.1 The PDA comprises three separate plots of agricultural arable land, occupying a total area of c 10.16ha located to the east of Hoo St Werburgh (Figure 1; Plates 1–3). Two of the plots lie to the south of Stoke Road with one plot situated to the east of Thomas Aveling Road and residential properties (Area 1) and the second plot located to the west of Jacob’s Lane (Area 2). The third plot of land lies to the north of Stoke Road (Area 3), directly adjacent to residential properties known as Sturdee Cottages.
- 1.2.2 Bedrock geology within the PDA is mapped as London Clay Formation – clay and silt, overlain by a superficial Head deposit – clay, silt, sand and gravel, with large patches of River Terrace (2) sands and gravels recorded to the north and south of the site (BGS on-line 2025).
- 1.2.3 The existing ground within the north part of the PDA lies at c 16m above Ordnance Datum (OD), sloping down to the south to an elevation of 7m OD. On the eastern extent, the elevation is recorded as c 17m OD, sloping down to 7m OD to the south-west.

2 Archaeological background

2.1 Introduction

- 2.1.1 The archaeological and historical background has been reviewed in a desk-based assessment (HCUK 2023) submitted in support of the present planning application. The desk-based assessment comprised an examination of evidence from the Kent Historic Environment Record (KHER) and other sources within vicinity of the PDA. A summary of results is reproduced below, with only relevant results repeated.

2.2 Designations

- 2.2.1 The PDA does not affect or impact upon any World Heritage Sites, Scheduled Monuments, Registered Battlefields or Registered Parks and Gardens.
- 2.2.2 The PDA does not lie within a Conservation Area.
- 2.2.3 There are six Grade II listed structures within a 500m radius of the PDA:
- The seventeenth-century property called Jacob's Lane lies 300m south-east from the eastern plot of the PDA (National Heritage List for England (NHLE) 1085753; KHER TQ77 SE1185).
 - Four of the listings refer to Second World War pillboxes comprising part of the defensive Hoo Stop Line (NHLE 1472640; 1472635; 1472644; 1472643).
 - The final listing refers to concrete roadblock plinths to the east of Hoo St Werburgh, to the north-east of the PDA (NHLE 1471998; KHER TQ77 SE246). This also comprises part of the defensive Hoo Stop Line.

2.3 Recent geophysical survey

- 2.3.1 Headland Archaeology conducted a recent geophysical survey at the PDA (Headland Archaeology 2023). It found:

'Anomalies indicative of recent agricultural activity (ploughing and boundary removal), modern services and recreational activity (sports field) and geological variation have been identified by the survey.

In addition, the survey has confirmed the alignment and location of the Hoo Stop Line anti-tank ditch. One linear anomaly and four discrete anomalies have been categorised as being of uncertain origin but none of these are thought likely to be of archaeological potential with agricultural or modern origins being considered a more likely cause.

It should be noted that the prevailing bedrock geology combined with the presence of overlying Quaternary deposits may not be particularly conducive for clear results. This allied with the fact that the types and periods of archaeological remains known within the wider search area, specifically prehistoric and Saxon remains, do not necessarily show up well mean that it is considered possible that there may be archaeological features present (particularly those that may be small, shallow, or discrete) that cannot be detected by the survey.'

2.4 Archaeological and historical setting

Prehistoric (500,000 BP–AD 43)

- 2.4.1 The KHER holds records for eleven assets of prehistoric date within the wider area of the PDA.
- 2.4.2 There is one asset of Palaeolithic date within proximity of the PDA; that of a number of flakes and flake-tools recovered from a brickearth pit to the south-west of St Werburgh's Church

(MWX20842), some 1.5km to the south-west of the westernmost site boundary. These were found in 1937 and were *in situ*, in bedded sand deposits below brickearth.

- 2.4.3 A desk-based geoarchaeological investigation at Kingsnorth (to the east of the PDA) suggested that two phases of gravel accumulation had taken place, with alluvium overlying the gravel likely to consist of sediments deposited during the Holocene as well as one or more Pleistocene interglacial event. The interglacial deposits, if present, may well contain evidence from plant and animal remains, as well as potential for archaeological material to exist within both the Pleistocene gravels and finer grained sediments.
- 2.4.4 However, an excavation undertaken by Wessex Archaeology in 2010 in connection with a new lagoon being constructed some 460m to the south-west of the PDA revealed a small collection of 13 sherds of prehistoric pottery and 63 worked flints within later features and topsoil (MKE78711). The flints included core and flakes, there were only two pieces with retouching and only a single end scraper. These are likely to date from the late Neolithic or earlier Bronze Age, with some possibly from earlier in the Neolithic period, indicating the possibility of flint production occurring within the surrounding landscape.
- 2.4.5 There are a number of finds in the area of Bronze Age date, including a Bronze Age founder's hoard, found in 1973 at Roper's Farm, Hoo St. Werburgh and consisting of socketed axe heads, spear heads and gouges (MKE3274). These finds, as well as other occupation evidence surrounding Hoo, suggests relatively widespread activity across the surrounding landscape during this period.
- 2.4.6 A number of Iron Age finds have been recovered from within the PDA surrounds, including a silver torc with a hinged back and expanding pieces attached found at Hoo (MKE2648) and an Iron Age coin (MKE2649), both found in the nineteenth century. A fragment of copper alloy probable Colchester derivative brooch of late Iron Age date has also been recovered (MKE114223).

Romano-British (43–450)

- 2.4.7 There are fourteen assets of Roman date recorded within proximity of the PDA, representing a wide range of activities. Evidence of occupation has been found at a number of locations: at Hoo Lodge Brickfield (1.4km to the south-west of the PDA) a Romano-British cemetery/occupation site was uncovered in 1894 during excavations in the Hoo Lodge brickfield. Finds included a small burnt clay box and cinerary urns containing calcined bone, ash remains and a possible gold snake bracelet (MKE2639), with three pits and part of a possible large linear feature dated to the Romano-British period (based on very small assemblages of pottery and two larger concentrations of Roman ceramic building material) also found nearby (MKE20345).
- 2.4.8 A short distance to the east of these assets is another Roman site, reportedly found in 1991 (MKE115919), however no details are available. Although, a Roman rectangular pit, excavated by SWAT in 2007 prior to construction of a housing development, was found slightly to the north (MKE99067), indicating relatively widespread activity dating to this period at this location. This is further evidenced by the discovery of Romano-British saltern debris and pottery sherds in Hoo saltings to the south (MWX17306), along with pottery sherds indicating potential occupation (MWX17630).
- 2.4.9 A number of finds of Roman date have also been found in the vicinity: including a possible Roman pseudo-Venus clay figurine from "Hoo, or neighbourhood", although this may be doubtful (MKE2631) and a Roman coin, an aureus of Avitus, found at Hoo in the late nineteenth century (MKE2646). Closer to the PDA (210m to the south), a Roman copper alloy coin was found (MKE79813).

- 2.4.10 Further evidence of intense occupation was found to the east during excavations at Kingsnorth Power Station. This included a Roman inhumation cemetery consisting of twenty-two burials, mostly inhumations but also two cremations, dating from the late Roman period (AD 250–400). The cemetery may have been placed within an enclosure, with the east–west alignment of the graves suggesting these were Christian burials (MKE111687). In addition, evidence of a kiln was found in the form of a shallow sub-oval pit possibly representing the rake out from a kiln, dating from the second to early third century AD and containing burnt deposits with a large amount of pottery and pieces of tile and brick (MKE20397).
- 2.4.11 Other features nearby included a possible droveway and enclosure, as well as loomweights and quernstones indicating that industrial activity may have taken place (MKE44664). All of this would suggest a settlement of relatively large size, especially considering the presence of an inhumation cemetery.
- 2.4.12 The assets discussed above suggest concentrated areas of Roman settlement, with associated industrial activity (including coastal salt production). The position of the PDA between what appears to be two settlements (at Hoo St Werburgh and Kingsnorth) suggests that it may have occupied an area of agricultural land between, however this does not rule out the possibility of small scale settlement or industrial activity having taken place.

Anglo-Saxon (450–1066)

- 2.4.13 The KHER holds six records of Anglo-Saxon date within proximity of the PDA. Although there are no entries in the Domesday Survey of 1086 for Hoo St Werburgh that might indicate a Saxon settlement, a nunnery was founded at Hoo in c 686–97 by Werburgh, daughter of King Wulfhere of Mercia. It is thought that this was either destroyed or dissolved in the ninth century (MKE2651). The parish church (see below) is dedicated to Werburgh, and although of twelfth-century origin may be founded on the site of a former minster (MKE30113).
- 2.4.14 Archaeological investigations in 2000 in Hoo St Werburgh revealed a number of features of early Anglo-Saxon date, including a post-hole structure, which may have been contained within an enclosure represented by two very different groups of north–south running linear features, east and west of the structure (MKE20348). The features were dated on the basis of small assemblages of pottery, which included a small number of continental imports (more commonly found on cemetery sites). This may suggest a relatively early date for the settlement evidence, perhaps even consistent with that of the seventh-century nunnery. In addition, significant quantities of smithing slag and fired clay fragments, hammerscale and predominantly oak charcoal were found, which suggests iron working or smelting; again indicative of settlement.
- 2.4.15 Evidence of funerary activity is also present, with the discovery of an organised cemetery dating to the seventh to ninth century during archaeological excavations at Kingsnorth. The cemetery contained 20 graves which contained 25 individual skeletons, orientated east–west, suggesting Christian burial practices. Nearby, a cluster of features was discovered that indicate cereal processing, along with finds suggesting domestic and iron working activities. This would all indicate that, while the main focus of settlement was at Hoo St Werburgh, a small community was present at Kingsnorth during the Anglo-Saxon period (Museum of London Archaeology 2016).
- 2.4.16 A number of finds from this period have also been recovered from the area, including a silver strap end (MKE109816), a gold pendant (MKE109817) and a copper alloy mount (MKE114226).
- 2.4.17 Activity during this period appears to have been concentrated within the southern side of Hoo St Werburgh, and was likely centred around the nunnery and potential minster, close to the location of the church. Accordingly, it is likely that the PDA was situated within the agricultural land surrounding the settlement.

Medieval (1066–1540)

- 2.4.18 There are fifteen records of medieval date recorded within proximity of the PDA, with at least two separate areas of settlement represented. As discussed above, Hoo St Werburgh may have been the site of an Anglo-Saxon settlement contemporary with the seventh-century nunnery. The Grade I Listed Church of St Werburgh (NLHE 1204440, MKE30113) originally dates to the eleventh century, and incorporates Roman tile and brick into its fabric. Nearby, archaeological investigations have uncovered medieval occupation evidence, including a kiln oven base, substantial butchery debris from the middle-medieval period and two late medieval rubbish pits along with a late medieval ditch and an inhumation burial (MKE97627).
- 2.4.19 Further to the east, and some 590m to the south of the PDA, are the remains of a medieval moated site at Abbots Court (MKE2653). This was first identified from an aerial photograph taken in 1950, and subsequently excavated revealing some occupation evidence potentially dating from the thirteenth century.
- 2.4.20 Other medieval activity has been found at Kingsnorth, again demonstrating an apparent continuity of occupation, including a number of ditches containing medieval pottery (MKE44663 & MKE44665). In addition, White Hill House (to the north of Kingsnorth) is a Grade II Listed timber framed house originally dating to the fifteenth century (NHLE 1336495, MKE30414).
- 2.4.21 A large number of medieval stray finds have also been recovered from within proximity of the PDA; a medieval bronze seal die found near Kingsnorth Industrial Estate (MKE3276), a copper alloy belt (MKE66924), sherds of medieval pottery of twelfth-century date (MKE71543), a lead token (MKE109227), a copper alloy sword pommel (MKE109228), a gold dress fastener (MKE109840), a copper alloy jetton (MKE114210), a copper alloy thimble (MKE114222) and a silver coin (MKE114224). These finds range in date from the fourteenth century onwards and rather than being representative of activity are more individual lost objects or the results of manuring practices.

Post-medieval (1540–1900)

- 2.4.22 The majority of assets recorded within proximity of the PDA date to the post-medieval period, reflecting growing development within the area; there are thirty-four records, ranging from the sixteenth to nineteenth centuries.
- 2.4.23 Many of these are for extant farmsteads, such as Whitehall Farm (MKE83350) and Lancers Farm (MKE83346), situated 320m to the south-east of the PDA, the farmhouse of which is Grade II Listed and dates from the seventeenth century (NHLE 1085753, MKE29880). A number of eighteenth-century farmsteads are also present, including at Meadow House (MKE84784, MKE30115), but the majority date from the nineteenth century, such as Church Farm (MKE83326), White's Farm (MKE83327), Abbot's Court (MKE83328) and Street Farm (MKE83329). These farmsteads illustrate the increasing agricultural exploitation of the surrounding landscape.
- 2.4.24 Evidence of other activity is also present. A beacon at Hoo St. Werburgh was noted on a map of about 1570, but the precise location is unable to be verified (MKE2657), and a series of earthworks near Abbots Court Wharf have been interpreted as possible post-medieval sea defences (MWX18037), with a further earthwork near the Sewage Works at Hoo St Werburgh interpreted as a possible field or land boundary (MWX19462).
- 2.4.25 The village of Hoo St Werburgh also continued to develop during this period, evidenced by the presence of a number of extant buildings dating to the eighteenth century, such as the Grade II

Listed Chequers Public House (NHLE 1085752, MKE29879) and Ivy House (NHLE 1204447, MKE30114). Development continued into the nineteenth century, evidenced by the presence of a former National School (MKE111623), Wesleyan Chapel (MKE100038) and Methodist Chapel (MKE100061) on Stoke Road, all now since demolished.

- 2.4.26 There was also a railway station at 'Beluncle Halt', situated on the former Hundred of Hoo Line, which was opened in 1882 and closed in 1961 (MKE8293), along with a Union Workhouse established in 1836 (MKE110936) and two brickworks (MKE16999 and MKE116808).
- 2.4.27 During the nineteenth century a number of railway lines was also established. A 1' 6" gauge 1½ mile spur line light railway was built running from Chattenden to Hoo (MKE44100), and a single track railway ran from Hoo Junction on the North Kent Line to Port Victoria on the Isle of Grain (MKE44047).
- 2.4.28 In addition, there are a number of barge wrecks (MWX0049, MWX18033-5) situated on the coast that were recorded during the North Kent Coast Rapid Coastal Zone Assessment undertaken by Wessex Archaeology in 2005. Although these are undated, they are likely to be of nineteenth-century date.
- 2.4.29 The earliest map to depict the PDA in any detail is the 1840 Tithe Map, which records the three development areas as being situated within arable fields. The westernmost area lies within Plot 432, named as 'Spring Meadow' and both owned and occupied by Edward Lake. The northern area is situated within Plot 428, named as 'Little Spring'; owned by Reverend John Hutchinson and occupied by Henry Everest.
- 2.4.30 The larger easternmost area encompasses three former plots: 434, 435 and 436. All of these are named as 'Peppers' and are owned by Charles Tutt and Frank Miskin, while occupied by Walter Miskin. No structures are depicted in any of the plots.
- 2.4.31 The field boundaries present on the Tithe Map are still in place on the 1863 Ordnance Survey (OS) map, although the current footpath that travels south-east across the PDA is now depicted, but on the 1896 OS map, a school has been constructed to the west and a boundary has been removed from the easternmost area creating one field as opposed to two.

Modern (1900–present)

- 2.4.32 Hoo St Werburgh and its landscape environs continued to be developed into the twentieth century. In 1912, an experimental naval airship station (MWX17968) was constructed at Kingsnorth, some 950m to the east of the PDA. It was built for the design and testing of airships and later became a training school for airship captains and technical staff, and included two airship sheds, workshops, barracks and facilities for perhaps over 600 personnel, gas-holders and a hydrogen gas generating station. The site was linked to a pier on the Medway by a narrow gauge railway (MKE44099), but was abandoned by 1920. However, in the 1930s, Berry Wiggins & co. established an oil refinery (MKE100214) on the site reusing many of the same buildings and a jetty.
- 2.4.33 By far the greatest landscape change within the PDA and its environs was the construction of the Hoo Stop Line (GHQ Line) during the Second World War; a number of elements of which lie within the PDA. The Newhaven-Hoo General Headquarters (GHQ) Line was constructed in July and August 1940 as a defensive measure in case of invasion by Axis forces from the beaches in Kent and Sussex, forming part of a national system of anti-invasion defences. It was 128km in length and extended between Newhaven, on the East Sussex coast, to the River Thames in Kent. The Hoo Peninsula section of the Newhaven-Hoo GHQ Line stretches from the northern bank of the River Medway, near Hoo St Werburgh, to Higham Marshes, near Cliffe, on the southern bank of the River Thames.

- 2.4.34 The purpose of the GHQ Line was multifaceted, including protecting the strategically important Chatham dockyards from possible enemy landings, as well as to reinforce defences around the Lodge Hill and Chattenden ordnance depots. It comprised sections of anti-tank ditches, as well as natural and manmade obstacles such as woodland, quarries and drainage ditches, and was supported on its western side by pillboxes, anti-tank gun emplacements and road blocks.
- 2.4.35 However, by 1941 the strategic thinking regarding defence against invasion had shifted away from static defences, due to greater consideration of invasion from airborne troops. As such, the Line was no longer considered to be an appropriate defensive measure and was no longer maintained and by 1943 most sections of the ditch had been infilled.
- 2.4.36 The course of the Line to the east of Hoo St Werburgh and south of Stokes Road consisted of an anti-tank ditch, flanked by a cleared strip of ground (MKE98147) and defended to the west by two pillboxes, both designated as Grade II Listed Buildings (NHLE 1472640, MKE42169 and NHLE 1472643, MKE42170). These would have created a field of fire across the open ground towards the ditch. In addition, two weapons pits (MKE98188) were also present to the south of Abbots Court House, but these have now been infilled, and fragments of a flanking earthwork (MKE98182). The Line is shown clearly on an aerial photograph taken in 1942, but the ditch had been infilled by May 1944, reflecting the changes in anti-invasion strategy from 1941.
- 2.4.37 The line of the anti-tank ditch (MKE98145 and MKE98146) runs roughly north–south through the centre of the westernmost portion of the PDA. The ditch can be clearly seen on modern aerial photography as a cropmark, indicating the presence of sub surface remains. Excavations undertaken on another portion of the back-filled ditch (at Kingsnorth) revealed it to be 5.6m wide, 1.48m deep and with a profile that had near vertical sides, a flat base and a marked shoulder. In general, the ditch forming the Line was generally dug to a depth of 1.83m with a width of 4.57 m, with a v shaped or square profile, in order to trap enemy tanks or to present them with an impossible to climb vertical face. As such, it is likely that the buried ditch to the east of Hoo St Werburgh will be of similar dimensions.
- 2.4.38 There are a number of other assets that are of Second World War date recorded within proximity of the PDA that formed part of the Line, which ran to the north of the PDA and then in a north westerly direction. These include further pillboxes (MKE15169, MKE15176, MKE16362, MKE42154 and MKE98189), anti-tank roadblocks (MKE16363, MKE16364, MKE42155, MKE115297, MKE115303 and MKE115619) and a tank trap in the form of a section of water filled ditch at the southern end of the Line (MKE42152).
- 2.4.39 Other assets of Second World War date recorded nearby, but not directly related to the Line, include a surviving Anderson air raid shelter (MKE42178) and the site of an oil tank farm, identified in aerial photographs taken in 1946 (MWX17968). In addition, the Grade II Listed Hoo St Werburgh War Memorial (NHLE 1451504, MKE104023) is situated within the churchyard at Hoo St Werburgh, and commemorates the dead from both the First and Second World Wars.
- 2.4.40 Historic map regression shows that by 1907 the plot of land situated between the west and east PDA areas was orchards; in addition a small building is shown at the location of the existing Abbots Court Lodge. On the 1940 OS map, the row of extant cottages to immediate east of the PDA northernmost portion have been constructed, but the PDA boundaries remain unchanged, a situation that remains up to the current day.
- 2.4.41 The PDA remained as agricultural fields until the Second World War and the construction of the Hoo Stop Line. Following the infill of the anti-tank ditch and disuse of the Line, the PDA reverted back to agrarian use, which it has remained up to the present day.

3 Objectives and Methodology

3.1 Aims and objectives

- 3.1.1 Archaeological field evaluation is defined by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA) as ‘a programme of non-intrusive and/or intrusive fieldwork which seeks to determine the presence or absence of archaeological features, structures, deposits, artefacts or ecofacts. It may form a single or final phase of work within a defined area or site on land, in an inter-tidal zone or under water’ (CIfA 2023a). The purpose is to ‘determine, record and report on the nature, extent, preservation and significance of archaeological remains within a defined area’ (CIfA 2023a).
- 3.1.2 The principal objective of the evaluation was to determine whether any significant archaeological remains survive on site. The purpose of the evaluation was to ascertain the extent, depth below ground surface, depth of deposits, character, significance and condition of any archaeological remains on site.
- 3.1.3 More specific objectives included to:
- understand the nature of any Prehistoric, Roman, Anglo-Saxon, medieval and later activity;
 - place and assess any archaeological remains revealed within the context of other recent investigations in the immediate area and within the setting of the local urban landscape; and
 - identify the nature and extent of Second World War defensive structures, including those that comprise the Hoo Stop Gap, and the extent of potential later truncation of buried archaeological features.
- 3.1.4 The evaluation is to provide sufficient information for all parties concerned, particularly the LPA, to devise appropriate mitigation strategies, if required. An evaluation may therefore result in the need for an agreed mitigation strategy and the implementation of further archaeological works to fulfil the planning condition. These works may include another phase of evaluation, more detailed excavation, an archaeological watching brief during groundworks or, where feasible and appropriate, design measures to accommodate the preservation of archaeology *in situ*.

3.2 Methodology

- 3.2.1 The archaeological investigations were carried out in accordance with the WSI (CAT 2025a), and to professional standards as set out in CIfA's *Standard for archaeological field evaluation* (2023a) and *Universal guidance for archaeological field evaluation* (2023b). CAT is a Registered Archaeological Organisation (RAO) with CIfA and conforms to their by-laws, standards and policy statements.
- 3.2.2 The archaeological evaluation comprised the excavation of fifty-four evaluation trenches using a 14-tonne mechanical excavator fitted with a flat-bladed ditching bucket. The trenches were opened at their proposed positions and to the measurements specified in the WSI (CAT 2025a), with trenches measuring approximately 30m in length and 2.1m in width.
- 3.2.3 Mechanical excavation was conducted under constant archaeological supervision and was limited to the removal of overburden to expose the uppermost archaeological deposits or the natural geological surface, whichever was the higher. The underlying geological deposits were not overly reduced but identified and recorded in terms of extent and depth below the present ground surface.

- 3.2.4 Following mechanical clearance, the exposed soil profiles in each trench were photographed and the trenches recorded using pro forma trench recording sheets. The trenches were tied to the Ordnance Survey (OS) grid system using GPS equipment. A full digital photographic record of the evaluation was produced and comprises part of the site archive.

3.3 Health, safety and welfare

- 3.3.1 All site investigation works were conducted in accordance with a project specific risk assessment and method statement (CAT 2025b), and CAT's Company Policy and Procedural Manual for Health, Safety and Welfare (CAT 2024).
- 3.3.2 All CAT operatives held valid Construction Skills Certification Scheme (CSCS) cards. CAT is a member of Constructionline and is AcclaimSSIP (Safety Schemes in Procurement) accredited.
- 3.3.3 All necessary precautions to the satisfaction of the statutory or other service authorities and the landowner concerned were taken to avoid interference with, or damage to, their services, and to comply with any applicable codes of practice. Prior to excavation, all trench locations were scanned using a cable avoidance tool.

3.4 Project archive

- 3.4.1 The project archive has been prepared in accordance with the procedures laid down in Historic England's 2015 Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE) and the archiving guidelines set out by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA 2020).
- 3.4.2 The archive name 'Land at The Former Sturdee Club and Land at Stoke Road, Hoo St Werburgh, Kent ME3 9BJ', CAT site code EV SSRH 25, and archive number 5350 have been used.
- 3.4.3 All fieldwork records have been collated and checked for consistency and a full digital copy made. Photographic records have been catalogued and cross-referenced with trench records. A digitised plan of the archaeological resource has been compiled using QGIS and digitised section drawings have been compiled using AutoCAD.
- 3.4.4 A very small artefact assemblage was collected and no environmental samples were recovered during the evaluation.
- 3.4.5 The project archive is presently held in the offices of CAT (92a Broad Street, Canterbury, Kent CT1 2LU). Upon completion of the project, the project archive will be transferred to an approved local archive receiving body, as recommended by KCC HCG.

4 Results

4.1 Introduction

- 4.1.1 The evaluation results are presented in trench tables listed below. Context data is expressed as thickness of deposit/feature and depth below ground level (BGL) in metres to the top of the deposit.

4.2 Geology

- 4.2.1 Bedrock geology of London Clay Formation was exposed at shallow depths within a number of trenches located within the eastern side of Area 2 (Trenches 34–36 and 40–46).
- 4.2.2 Superficial geology was confirmed to mainly comprise Head deposits of clay and silt. Whilst River Terrace Deposits (1) are not mapped within the PDA, but are shown as present in the nearby area (both to the south and north of the PDA), the evaluation exposed areas of abundant flint patches, strongly suggesting, in contrast to information mapped by the BGS (2025), the possible presence of River Terrace gravels within the site, particularly within Area 3 (Trenches 55–60) and the north end of Area 1 (Trenches 2 and 3).
- 4.2.3 The geological horizon was identified at an average depth range of between 0.35m and 0.39m BGL. Within land to the south of Stoke Road, in the north-east part of the development plot situated to the west of Jacob's Lane, geology was identified as shallow as just 0.20–0.25m BGL (Trenches 32, 34 and 35).
- 4.2.4 Geological deposits were identified at greater depths in Trenches 25, 51 and 54 where they were sealed by colluvium. Colluvial deposits were also recorded in Trenches 9 and 10. All of the aforementioned trenches were located downslope and close to the south-eastern boundary edge of the development plot.
- 4.2.5 Deposits of subsoil and/or colluvium were identified within Trenches 26–32 and 38–45, located across the central bulk of Area 2. These deposits likely derive from agricultural processes and the historical use of the PDA.

4.3 Trench 1 (Figure 2 and Plates 4–5)

- 4.3.1 Trench 1 was located within a development plot situated to the east of Thomas Aveling Road (Area 1). A summary of recorded contexts is provided in Table 1.

Table 1. Trench 1 contexts

TR 1 Length: 30.32m Width: 2.18m Orientation: ENE-WSW Ground level: 15.02m OD (ENE) 14.70m OD (WNW)						
Context	Interpretation	Description	Thickness (m)	Depth BGL (m)	Provisional dates	
100	Topsoil	Mid-dark brownish grey friable silty clay with small flints	0.25–0.26	-	Modern	
101	Subsoil	Mid greyish brown firm silty clay with occasional small and medium sub-angular flints	0.10	0.25–0.26	Undated	
102	Natural	Orange brown firm silty clay with occasional gravel and flint	-	0.35–0.36	-	

- 4.3.2 Geology (102) was identified as Head deposits of silty clay and was encountered at a depth of 0.35–0.36m BGL.
- 4.3.3 This was sealed by a layer of subsoil, up to 0.10m thick, in turn overlain by topsoil (100), up to 0.26m thick.
- 4.3.4 No archaeological features or deposits were observed within this trench.

4.4 Trench 2 (Figure 2)

- 4.4.1 Trench 2 was located within a development plot situated to the east of Thomas Aveling Road (Area 1). A summary of recorded contexts is provided in Table 2.

Table 2. Trench 2 contexts

TR 2	Length: 29.68m	Width: 2.22m	Orientation: E-W	Ground level: 14.23m OD (E) 14.30m OD (W)		
Context	Interpretation	Description	Thickness (m)	Depth BGL (m)	Spot date	
200	Topsoil	Dark brownish grey friable silty clay with small flint and occasional charcoal inclusions	0.20–0.24	-	Modern	
201	Subsoil	Mid greyish brown firm silty clay with occasional charcoal flecks	0.12–0.16	0.20–0.24	Undated	
202	Fill of [203]	Yellowish grey, brown, firm silty sandy clay with occasional charcoal flecks (unexcavated)	-	0.38	Modern	
203	Field drain	Aligned SE–NW (0.30m wide)	-	0.38	Modern	
204	Fill of [205]	Mid greyish brown silty clay mottled with yellow sand, with occasional flecks of charcoal and small flints	0.25	0.48	C19th–C20th	
205	Field drain	Linear aligned SE–NW, with very s-eep sides and concave base (0.33m wide). Modern ceramic pot sherd retrieved from deposit	0.25	0.48	C19th–C20th	
206	Fill of [207]	Light greyish brown silty clay, with occasional small flints/gravels	0.26	0.41	Modern	
207	Ditch	Linear aligned SE–NW, with gradually sloping edges and a concave base	0.26	0.41	Modern	
208	Fill of [209]	Mid greyish brown silty clay mottled with yellow sand, with occasional flecks of manganese and small flints	0.35	0.48	Modern	
209	Field drain	Linear aligned SE – NW, with very steep sloping sides and concave base.	0.35	0.48	Modern	
210	Natural	Orange brown firm silty clay with patches of gravel and flint	-	0.32–0.48	-	

- 4.4.2 Geology (210) was identified as Head deposits of silty clay, with compacted patches of abundant flint gravel, and was encountered at a depth of 0.32–0.48m BGL.
- 4.4.3 Geology was cut by a total of three linear field drains [203], [205] and [209], each aligned north-west to south-east. A sherd of eighteenth- to twentieth-century pottery was recovered from the surface fill (202) of field drain [203]. A north-west to south-east aligned ditch may also have been a field drain, however it appears to vary in size and shape to the others.
- 4.4.4 This was sealed by a layer of subsoil, up to 0.16m thick, in turn overlain by topsoil (200), up to 0.24m thick.
- 4.4.5 A possible Palaeolithic worked flint was identified and retrieved from the topsoil, as a residual find.
- 4.4.6 No archaeological features or deposits were observed within this trench.

4.5 Trench 3 (Figure 2 and Plate 6)

- 4.5.1 Trench 3 was located within a development plot situated to the east of Thomas Aveling Road (Area 1). A summary of recorded contexts is provided in Table 3.

Table 3. Trench 3 contexts

TR 3	Length: 30.33m	Width: 2.10m	Orientation: WNW-ESE	Ground level: 13.86m OD (WNW) 13.48m OD (ESE)		
Context	Interpretation	Description		Thickness (m)	Depth BGL (m)	Spot date
300	Topsoil	Dark brownish grey friable silty clay with small flint and occasional charcoal inclusions		0.30	-	Modern
301	Fill of [302]	Mid-orange, brown firm silty clay with rare small flints. A small piece of undated fired clay was retrieved from this deposit		0.22–0.34	0.30	Undated
302	Linear	Curvilinear feature with concave sides onto a flat base, aligned N–S, 1.13m wide and 2m+ long		0.22–0.34	0.30	Undated
303	Fill of [304]	Mid-brown firm silty clay mottled with yellow sand (unexcavated)		-	0.30	Modern - 1940s
304	Linear	WW2 anti-tank ditch, aligned N/NW – S/SE (unexcavated) 2.00m+ wide		-	0.30	Modern - 1940s
305	Natural	Orange brown firm silty clay with patches of gravel and flint		-	0.30	-

4.5.2 Geology (305) was identified as Head deposits of silty clay, with compacted patches of abundant flint gravel, and was encountered at a depth of 0.30m BGL.

4.5.3 Geology was cut by two features. These comprised a linear field drain [302] of uncertain date and a Second World War anti-tank ditch [304] which runs across this part of the PDA from north-north-west to south-south-east.

4.5.4 Each feature was overlain by topsoil (300), up to 0.30m thick.

4.6 Trench 4 (Figure 3 and Plate 7)

4.6.1 Trench 4 was located within a development plot situated to the east of Thomas Aveling Road (Area 1). A summary of recorded contexts is provided in Table 4.

Table 4. Trench 4 contexts

TR 4	Length: 29.90m	Width: 2.23m	Orientation: NNW-SSE	Ground level: 13.11m OD (NNW) 12.15m OD (SSE)		
Context	Interpretation	Description	Thickness (m)	Depth BGL (m)	Spot date	
400	Topsoil	Dark brownish grey friable silty clay with small flint and occasional charcoal inclusions	0.14 – 0.20	-	Modern	
401	Fill of [403]	Flint deposit with a layer of medium and large sub-angular and sub-rounded flints, tightly packed and unworked	0.05	0.53	Undated	
402	Fill of [403]	Mid grey, firm but soft silty clay with occasional small to medium flints and charcoal flecks. A large ball of dark red undated fired clay with burnt flint inclusions was also retrieved from this deposit	0.29	0.48	Undated	
403	Linear	Linear ditch with steep sloping sides and a concave base, aligned E-W	0.29	0.48	Undated	
404	Natural	Orange brown firm silty clay with occasional gravel and flint	-	0.40–0.48	-	

4.6.2 Geology (404) was identified as Head deposits of silty clay, with occasional flint gravel, and was encountered at a depth of 0.40–0.48m BGL.

4.6.3 Geology was cut by an east–west aligned linear feature [403] which contained two fills (401 and 402). A large ball of fired clay was recovered from the primary fill (402). An unusual find, it may represent material that was intended to possibly be used for the production of a ceramic object. The function of the linear feature remains unclear but it may form a remnant of an agricultural or field drainage ditch.

4.6.4 Each feature was overlain by topsoil (400), up to 0.20m thick.

4.7 Trench 5 (Figure 3 and Plates 8–9)

4.7.1 Trench 5 was located within a development plot situated to the east of Thomas Aveling Road (Area 1). A summary of recorded contexts is provided in Table 5.

Table 5. Trench 5 contexts

TR 5	Length: 29.94m	Width: 2.11m	Orientation: NNW-SSE	Ground level: 12.06m OD (NNW) 11.26m OD (SSE)		
Context	Interpretation	Description		Thickness (m)	Depth BGL (m)	Spot date
500	Topsoil	Dark brownish grey friable silty clay with small flint and occasional charcoal inclusions		0.40–0.44	-	Modern
501	Fill of (502)	Mid orange, brown soft but firm silty clay with occasional manganese flecks. A sherd of late Bronze/Iron age pottery was also retrieved from this deposit		0.43	0.35	LBA/IA
502	Linear	Ditch with steep sloping sides and a flat base, aligned E–W		0.43	0.35	LBA/IA
503	Natural	Orange brown firm silty clay		-	0.40–0.44	-

4.7.2 Geology (503) was identified as Head deposits of silty clay and was encountered at a depth of 0.40–0.44m BGL.

4.7.3 Geology was cut by an east–west aligned ditch [502] that contained a fill (501) from which a single pottery sherd of late Bronze Age/Iron Age date was recovered.

4.7.4 The ditch was overlain by topsoil (500), up to 0.44m thick.

4.8 Trench 6 (Figure 3)

4.8.1 Trench 6 was located within a development plot situated to the east of Thomas Aveling Road (Area 1). A summary of recorded contexts is provided in Table 6.

Table 6. Trench 6 contexts

TR 6		Length: 30.88m	Width: 2.08m	Orientation: ENE-WSW	Ground level: 12.49m OD (ENE) 12.42m OD (WSW)		
Context	Interpretation	Description	Thickness (m)	Depth BGL (m)	Spot date		
600	Topsoil	Dark brownish grey friable silty clay with small flint and occasional charcoal inclusions	0.32–0.36	-	Modern		
601	Natural	Orange brown firm silty clay	-	0.32–0.36	-		

4.8.2 Geology (601) was identified as Head deposits of silty clay and was encountered at a depth of 0.32–0.36m BGL.

4.8.3 Geology was sealed by topsoil (600).

4.8.4 No archaeological features or deposits were observed within this trench. A field drain was identified at the east end of the trench.

4.9 Trench 7 (Figure 3)

4.9.1 Trench 7 was located within a development plot situated to the east of Thomas Aveling Road (Area 1). A summary of recorded contexts is provided in Table 7.

Table 7. Trench 7 contexts

TR 7	Length: 30.15m	Width: 2.39m	Orientation: ENE-WSW	Ground level: 11.70m OD (ENE) 11.69m OD (WSW)		
Context	Interpretation	Description	Thickness (m)	Depth BGL (m)	Spot date	
700	Topsoil	Dark brownish grey friable silty clay with small flint and occasional charcoal inclusions	0.30–0.31	-	Modern	
701	Natural	Orange brown firm silty clay	-	0.30–0.31	-	

4.9.2 Geology (701) was identified as Head deposits of silty clay and was encountered at a depth of 0.30–0.31m BGL.

4.9.3 Geology was sealed by topsoil (700).

4.9.4 No archaeological features or deposits were observed within this trench.

4.10 Trench 8 (Figure 3 and Plate 10)

4.10.1 Trench 8 was located within a development plot situated to the east of Thomas Aveling Road (Area 1). A summary of recorded contexts is provided in Table 8.

Table 8. Trench 8 contexts

TR 8	Length: 30.06m	Width: 2.10m	Orientation: ENE-WSW	Ground level: 11.11m OD (ENE) 11.09m OD (WSW)		
Context	Interpretation	Description	Thickness (m)	Depth BGL (m)	Spot date	
800	Topsoil	Dark brownish grey friable silty clay with small flint and occasional charcoal inclusions	0.29–0.31	-	Modern	
801	Natural	Orange brown firm silty clay with rare flint gravel	-	0.29–0.31	-	

4.10.2 Geology (801) was identified as Head deposits of silty clay, with rare flint gravel, and was encountered at a depth of 0.30–0.31m BGL.

4.10.3 Geology was sealed by topsoil (800).

4.10.4 No archaeological features or deposits were observed within this trench.

4.11 Trench 9 (Figure 3)

4.11.1 Trench 9 was located within a development plot situated to the east of Thomas Aveling Road (Area 1). A summary of recorded contexts is provided in Table 9.

Table 9. Trench 9 contexts

TR 9	Length: 30.08m	Width: 2.20m	Orientation: ENE-WSW	Ground level: 10.70m OD (ENE) 10.63m OD (WSW)		
Context	Interpretation	Description	Thickness (m)	Depth BGL (m)	Spot date	
900	Topsoil	Dark brownish grey friable silty clay with small flint and occasional charcoal inclusions	0.23–0.45	-	Modern	
901	Colluvium	Mid-greyish brown firm silty clay with very common manganese flecks, likely a layer of colluvium	0.05	0.23	Post-med	
902	Natural	Orange brown firm silty clay with flint gravel (at west end of trench), as well as occasional manganese flecks	-	0.28–0.45	-	

4.11.2 Geology (902) was identified as Head deposits of silty clay, with flint gravel (at the west end of the trench), and was encountered at a depth of 0.28–0.45m BGL.

4.11.3 Geology was sealed by a layer of possible colluvium (901) that contained occasional CBM and tile fragments, and has likely been deposited by natural processes, up until the area was made into a playing field. Colluvium was sealed by a layer of topsoil (900), up to 0.45m thick.

4.11.4 No archaeological features or deposits were observed within this trench.

4.12 Trench 10 (Figure 4)

4.12.1 Trench 10 was located within a development plot situated to the east of Thomas Aveling Road (Area 1). A summary of recorded contexts is provided in Table 10.

Table 10. Trench 10 contexts

TR 10 Length: 29.88m Width: 2.13m Orientation: E-W Ground level: 10.35m OD (E) 10.51m OD (W)						
Context	Interpretation	Description	Thickness (m)	Depth BGL (m)	Spot date	
1000	Topsoil	Dark brownish grey friable silty clay with small flint and occasional charcoal inclusions	0.29–0.30	-	Modern	
1001	Fill of [1002]	Mid-brown firm silty clay mottled with yellow sand (unexcavated)	-	0.30	Modern	
1002	Linear	WW2 anti-tank ditch, aligned N/NW – S/SE (unexcavated) 1.20m+ wide	-	0.30	Modern	
1003	Colluvium	Mid-greyish brown firm silty clay with very common manganese flecks, likely a layer of colluvium	0.18	0.31	Undated	
1004	Natural	Orange brown firm silty clay with common flint gravel, as well as occasional manganese flecks	-	0.29–0.31	-	

4.12.2 Geology (1004) was identified as Head deposits of silty clay, with common flint gravel, and was encountered at a depth of 0.29–0.31m BGL.

4.12.3 Geology was sealed by a layer of possible colluvium (1003) that contained occasional CBM and tile fragments, and has likely been deposited by natural processes, up until the area was made into a playing field. This was cut by a linear feature [1002] that formed the eastern edge of a Second World War anti-tank ditch, which remained unexcavated for health and safety reasons, due to their being the possibility of unexploded ordnance buried within the fill of the ditch (1001). This feature was identified at a depth of 0.30m below ground level.

4.12.4 The Second World War ditch was sealed by topsoil (1000), up to 0.30m thick.

4.12.5 No other archaeological features or deposits were observed within this trench.

4.13 Trench 11 (Figure 4)

4.13.1 Trench 11 was located within a development plot situated to the east of Thomas Aveling Road (Area 1). A summary of recorded contexts is provided in Table 11.

Table 11. Trench 11 contexts

TR 11 Length: 30.78m Width: 2.20m Orientation: ENE-WSW Ground level: 10.33m OD (ENE) 10.13m OD (WSW)						
Context	Interpretation	Description	Thickness (m)	Depth BGL (m)	Spot date	
1100	Topsoil	Dark brownish grey friable silty clay with small flint and occasional charcoal inclusions	0.36	-	Modern	
1101	Subsoil	Mid greyish brown firm silty clay with occasional small and medium sub-angular flints	0.14	0.36	Undated	
1102	Natural	Orange brown firm silty clay with flint gravel (at west end of trench)	-	0.39	-	

4.13.2 Geology (1102) was identified as Head deposits of silty clay, with flint gravel (at the west end of the trench), and was encountered at a depth of 0.39m BGL.

4.13.3 Geology was sealed by a layer of agricultural subsoil (1101), up to 0.14m thick, in turn sealed by topsoil (1100), up to 0.36m thick.

4.13.4 No archaeological features or deposits were observed within this trench.

4.14 Trench 12 (Figure 4 and Plate 11)

4.14.1 Trench 12 was located within a development plot situated to the east of Thomas Aveling Road (Area 1). A summary of recorded contexts is provided in Table 12.

Table 12. Trench 12 contexts

TR 12 Length: 30.27m Width: 2.07m Orientation: WNW-ESE Ground level: 10.02m OD (WNW) 10.04m OD (ESE)						
Context	Interpretation	Description	Thickness (m)	Depth BGL (m)	Spot date	
1200	Topsoil	Dark brownish grey friable silty clay with small flint and occasional charcoal inclusions	0.18–0.26	-	Modern	
1201	Subsoil	Mid greyish brown firm silty clay with occasional small and medium sub-angular flints	0.11–0.12	0.18–0.26	Undated	
1202	Fill of [1203]	Mid-brown firm silty clay mottled with yellow sand (unexcavated)	-	0.26	Modern	
1203	Ditch	WW2 anti-tank ditch, aligned N/NW – S/SE (unexcavated) 5.60m wide	-	0.26	Modern	
1204	Natural	Orange and yellow brown firm silty clay with gravel and flint patches, as well as occasional manganese flecks	-	0.29–0.38	-	

4.14.2 Geology (1204) was identified as Head deposits of silty clay, with patches of flint gravel, and was encountered at a depth of 0.29–0.38m BGL.

4.14.3 Geology was cut by a wide ditch [1203] that formed the eastern edge of a Second World War anti-tank ditch, which remained unexcavated for health and safety reasons, due to their being the possibility of unexploded ordnance buried within the fill of the ditch (1202). This feature was identified at a depth of 0.26m below ground level. Significantly, the neighbouring property of Abbots Court Lodge incorporates a Second World War shelter (Plate 12) into its eastern boundary, with this property located 210m north-west of ditch [1203].

4.14.4 The Second World War ditch was sealed by a layer of agricultural subsoil (1201), up to 0.12m thick, in turn sealed by topsoil (1200), up to 0.26m thick.

4.14.5 No other archaeological features or deposits were observed within this trench.

4.15 Trench 13 (Figure 4 and Plates 13–15)

4.15.1 Trench 13 was located within a development plot situated to the east of Thomas Aveling Road (Area 1). A summary of recorded contexts is provided in Table 13.

Table 13. Trench 13 contexts

TR 13 Length: 29.72m Width: 2.25m Orientation: NE-SW Ground level: 9.94m OD (NE) 9.62m OD (SW)						
Context	Interpretation	Description	Thickness (m)	Depth BGL (m)	Spot date	
1300	Topsoil	Dark brownish grey friable silty clay with small flint and occasional charcoal inclusions	0.36	-	Modern	
1301	Subsoil	Mid greyish brown firm silty clay with occasional small and medium sub-angular flints and common manganese	0.09	0.36	Undated	
1302	Fill of [1304]	Silty clay with abundant charcoal and burnt daub material	0.17	0.44	Undated	
1303	Fill of [1304]	Greyish brown firm silty clay with common flints and rare charcoal flecks	0.06	0.57	Undated	

TR 13 Length: 29.72m Width: 2.25m Orientation: NE-SW Ground level: 9.94m OD (NE) 9.62m OD (SW)

Context	Interpretation	Description	Thickness (m)	Depth BGL (m)	Spot date
1304	Pit	Large sub-circular shallow pit with concave sides and an irregular base. 1.60m long, 1.47m wide, 0.22m deep, cuts pit [1306]	0.22	0.44	Undated
1305	Fill of [1306]	Mid-grey firm silty clay with common charcoal and flint inclusions	-	0.43	Undated
1306	Pit	Sub-circular shallow pit, 0.83m long, 0.62m wide, and cut by pit [1304]	-	0.43	Undated
1307	Natural	Orange and yellow brown firm silty clay with gravel and flint patches, as well as occasional manganese flecks	0.12+	0.43	-

4.15.2 Geology (1307) was identified as Head deposits of silty clay, with patches of flint gravel, and was encountered at a depth of 0.43m BGL.

4.15.3 Geology was cut by a shallow pit [1306] that remained unexcavated, the fill (1305) of which was cut by a second shallow pit [1304] that contained two fills (1302) and (1303). The uppermost fill, (1302), contained abundant charcoal and burnt daub, suggesting *in situ* burning or the deposition of burnt material within the pit. Each pit remains undated. The pits were identified at a depth of 0.43–0.44m below ground level.

4.15.4 The pits fills were sealed by a thin layer of agricultural subsoil (1301), up to 0.09m thick, in turn sealed by topsoil (1200), up to 0.36m thick.

4.16 Trench 14 (Figure 4)

4.16.1 Trench 14 was located within a development plot situated to the east of Thomas Aveling Road (Area 1). A summary of recorded contexts is provided in Table 14.

Table 14. Trench 14 contexts

TR 14 Length: 24.61m Width: 2.13m Orientation: NW-SE Ground level: 9.60m OD (NW) 9.53m OD (SE)

Context	Interpretation	Description	Thickness (m)	Depth BGL (m)	Spot date
1400	Topsoil	Dark brownish grey friable silty clay with small flint and occasional charcoal inclusions	0.26–0.28	-	Modern
1401	Subsoil	Mid grey soft silty clay with occasional small and medium sub-angular flints	0.13	0.26	Undated
1402	Natural	Grey brown firm clayey slit with gravel and flint patches, as well as occasional manganese flecks	-	0.26	-
1403	Natural	Reddish brown silty clay with gravel and flint patches	-	0.26	-
1404	Natural	Yellowish brown firm clay with flints	-	0.26	-

4.16.2 Geology (1404) was identified as Head deposits of silty clay with outcrops of silt (1402) and flint (1403), potentially infilling solution hollows, and was encountered at a depth of 0.26m BGL.

4.16.3 Geology was sealed by a layer of agricultural subsoil (1401), up to 0.13m thick, in turn sealed by a layer of topsoil (1400), up to 0.28m thick.

4.17 Trench 15 (Figure 4 and Plate 16)

4.17.1 Trench 15 was located within a development plot situated to the east of Thomas Aveling Road (Area 1). A summary of recorded contexts is provided in Table 15.

Table 15. Trench 15 contexts

TR 15 Length: 29.87m Width: 2.21m Orientation: NNW-SSE Ground level: 11.43m OD (NNW) 10.74m OD (SSE)

Context	Interpretation	Description	Thickness (m)	Depth BGL (m)	Spot date
1500	Topsoil	Dark brownish grey friable silty clay with small flint and occasional charcoal inclusions, rare post-med CBM	0.27	-	Modern
1501	Subsoil	Mid grey soft silty clay with rare small and medium sub-angular flints	0.12	0.27	Undated
1502	Fill of [1503]	Dark grey brown firm silty clay with common small-medium flints and rare manganese flecks	0.22	0.37	Undated
1503	Linear	NW-SE aligned shallow ditch with moderate sloping sides and a flat base. Traced for over 10m and 1.13m wide	0.22	0.37	Undated
1504	Natural	Compact flint gravel in reddish clay	-	0.37	-
1505	Natural	Grey brown firm silty clay in shallow irregular bands	-	0.46	-
1506	Natural	Orange brown firm silty clay	-	0.46	-

4.17.2 Geology (1506) was identified as Head deposits of silty clay with outcrops of silty clay (1505) and flint gravel (1504), potentially infilling solution hollows, and was encountered at a depth of 0.37–0.46m BGL.

4.17.3 Geology was cut by a shallow north-west to south-east aligned ditch [1503] which may have formed part of a boundary or enclosure. No datable material was recovered from its fill (1502).

4.17.4 The ditch was sealed by a layer of agricultural subsoil (1501), up to 0.12m thick, in turn sealed by a layer of topsoil (1500), up to 0.27m thick.

4.18 Trench 16 (Figure 5)

4.18.1 Trench 16 was located within a development plot situated to the west of Jacob's Lane (Area 2). A summary of recorded contexts is provided in Table 16.

Table 16. Trench 16 contexts

TR 16	Length: 25.77m	Width: 2.18m	Orientation: NW-SE	Ground level: 18.07m OD (NW) 17.16m OD (SE)		
Context	Interpretation	Description	Thickness (m)	Depth BGL (m)	Spot date	
1600	Topsoil	Dark brownish grey friable silty clay with small flint and occasional charcoal inclusions	0.28–0.30	-	Modern	
1601	Natural	Orange brown firm silty clay with gravel and flint patches	-	0.28–0.30	-	

4.18.2 Geology (1601) was identified as Head deposits of silty clay, with flint gravel patches, and was encountered at a depth of 0.28–0.30m BGL. Geology was cut by two north-east to south-west aligned field drains (unrecorded).

4.18.3 Geology was sealed by topsoil (1600).

4.18.4 No archaeological features or deposits were observed within this trench.

4.19 Trench 17 (Figure 5)

4.19.1 Trench 17 was located within a development plot situated to the west of Jacob's Lane (Area 2). A summary of recorded contexts is provided in Table 17.

Table 17. Trench 17 contexts

TR 17 Length: 23.69m Width: 2.29m Orientation: NE-SW Ground level: 16.98m OD (NE) 16.33m OD (SW)

Context	Interpretation	Description	Thickness (m)	Depth BGL (m)	Spot date
1700	Topsoil	Dark brownish grey friable silty clay with small flint and occasional charcoal inclusions	0.29–0.31	-	Modern
1701	Natural	Orange brown firm silty clay with gravel and flint patches	-	0.29–0.31	-

4.19.2 Geology (1701) was identified as Head deposits of silty clay, with flint gravel patches, and was encountered at a depth of 0.29–0.31m BGL.

4.19.3 Geology was sealed by topsoil (1700).

4.19.4 No archaeological features or deposits were observed within this trench.

4.20 Trench 18 (Figure 5)

4.20.1 Trench 18 was located within a development plot situated to the west of Jacob's Lane (Area 2). A summary of recorded contexts is provided in Table 18.

Table 18. Trench 18 contexts

TR 18 Length: 29.75m Width: 2.20m Orientation: E-W Ground level: 15.70m OD (E) 15.82m OD (W)

Context	Interpretation	Description	Thickness (m)	Depth BGL (m)	Spot date
1800	Topsoil	Dark brownish grey friable silty clay with small flint and occasional charcoal inclusions	0.31–0.33	-	Modern
1801	Natural	Orange brown firm silty clay with gravel and flint patches	-	0.31–0.33	-

4.20.2 Geology (1801) was identified as Head deposits of silty clay, with flint gravel patches, and was encountered at a depth of 0.31–0.33m BGL.

4.20.3 Geology was sealed by topsoil (1800).

4.20.4 No archaeological features or deposits were observed within this trench. A modern pipe was identified (and also in trench 19).

4.21 Trench 19 (Figure 5)

4.21.1 Trench 19 was located within a development plot situated to the west of Jacob's Lane (Area 2). A summary of recorded contexts is provided in Table 19.

Table 19. Trench 19 contexts

TR 19 Length: 29.31m Width: 2.19m Orientation: NE-SW Ground level: 15.46m OD (NE) 14.49m OD (SW)

Context	Interpretation	Description	Thickness (m)	Depth BGL (m)	Spot date
1900	Topsoil	Dark brownish grey friable silty clay with small flint and occasional charcoal inclusions	0.31–0.34	-	Modern
1901	Natural	Orange brown firm silty clay with gravel and flint patches	-	0.31–0.34	-

4.21.2 Geology (1901) was identified as Head deposits of silty clay, with flint gravel patches, and was encountered at a depth of 0.31–0.34m BGL.

4.21.3 Geology was sealed by topsoil (1900).

- 4.21.4 No archaeological features or deposits were observed within this trench. A modern pipe was identified (and aligned with that in trench 18).

4.22 Trench 20 (Figure 5)

- 4.22.1 Trench 20 was located within a development plot situated to the west of Jacob's Lane (Area 2). A summary of recorded contexts is provided in Table 20.

Table 20. Trench 20 contexts

TR 20 Length: 32.41m Width: 2.39m Orientation: NW-SE Ground level: 14.84m OD (NW) 13.68m OD (SE)						
Context	Interpretation	Description	Thickness (m)	Depth BGL (m)	Spot date	
2000	Topsoil	Dark brownish grey friable silty clay with small flint and occasional charcoal inclusions	0.30–0.33	-	Modern	
2001	Natural	Orange brown firm silty clay with gravel and flint patches	-	0.30–0.33	-	

- 4.22.2 Geology (2001) was identified as Head deposits of silty clay, with flint gravel patches, and was encountered at a depth of 0.30–0.33m BGL. A north-east to south-west aligned field drain (unrecorded) was identified.
- 4.22.3 Geology was sealed by topsoil (2000).
- 4.22.4 No archaeological features or deposits were observed within this trench.

4.23 Trench 21 (Figure 6)

- 4.23.1 Trench 21 was located within a development plot situated to the west of Jacob's Lane (Area 2). A summary of recorded contexts is provided in Table 21.

Table 21. Trench 21 contexts

TR 21 Length: 30.50m Width: 2.13m Orientation: NW-SE Ground level: 13.66m OD (NW) 12.35m OD (SE)						
Context	Interpretation	Description	Thickness (m)	Depth BGL (m)	Spot date	
2100	Topsoil	Dark brownish grey friable silty clay with small flint and occasional charcoal inclusions	0.29–0.31	-	Modern	
2101	Fill of [2102]	Mid brown grey soft silty clay with occasional manganese flecks	0.34	0.37	Undated	
2102	Linear?	Possibly a ditch or a natural variation. NE-SW aligned. Traced for at least 2m in length and 0.80m wide	0.34	0.37	Undated	
2103	Natural	Orange brown firm silty clay with gravel and flint patches	-	0.37	-	
2104	Subsoil?	Mid orange brown firm silty clay	0.05	0.30	Undated	

- 4.23.2 Geology (2103) was identified as Head deposits of silty clay, with flint gravel patches, and was encountered at a depth of 0.37m BGL.
- 4.23.3 Geology was cut by a possible ditch or natural variation in the natural [2102], identified at a depth of 0.37 BGL. It contained a single fill (2101) which was sealed by an agricultural subsoil (2104), up to 0.05m thick, in turn sealed by a layer of topsoil (2100), up to 0.31m thick. A north-east to south-west field drain (unrecorded) was also identified.

4.24 Trench 22 (Figure 6 and Plate 17)

- 4.24.1 Trench 22 was located within a development plot situated to the west of Jacob's Lane (Area 2). A summary of recorded contexts is provided in Table 22.

Table 22. Trench 22 contexts

TR 22	Length: 30.65m	Width: 2.23m	Orientation: NE-SW	Ground level: 14.25m OD (NE) 13.76m OD (SW)		
Context	Interpretation	Description	Thickness (m)	Depth BGL (m)	Spot date	
2200	Topsoil	Dark brownish grey friable silty clay with small flint and occasional charcoal inclusions	0.28–0.29	-	Modern	
2201	Natural	Orange brown firm silty clay	-	0.28–0.29	-	

4.24.2 Geology (2201) was identified as Head deposits of silty clay and was encountered at a depth of 0.28–0.29m BGL.

4.24.3 Geology was sealed by topsoil (2200).

4.24.4 No archaeological features or deposits were observed within this trench.

4.25 Trench 23 (Figure 6)

4.25.1 Trench 23 was located within a development plot situated to the west of Jacob's Lane (Area 2). A summary of recorded contexts is provided in Table 23.

Table 23. Trench 23 contexts

TR 23	Length: 30.61m	Width: 2.21m	Orientation: NE-SW	Ground level: 13.13m OD (NE) 12.60m OD (SW)		
Context	Interpretation	Description	Thickness (m)	Depth BGL (m)	Spot date	
2300	Topsoil	Dark brownish grey friable silty clay with small flint and occasional charcoal inclusions	0.28–0.30	-	Modern	
2301	Natural	Orange brown firm silty clay	-	0.28–0.30	-	

4.25.2 Geology (2301) was identified as Head deposits of silty clay and was encountered at a depth of 0.28–0.30m BGL.

4.25.3 Geology was sealed by topsoil (2300).

4.25.4 No archaeological features or deposits were observed within this trench.

4.26 Trench 24 (Figure 6)

4.26.1 Trench 24 was located within a development plot situated to the west of Jacob's Lane (Area 2). A summary of recorded contexts is provided in Table 24.

Table 24. Trench 24 contexts

TR 24	Length: 29.46m	Width: 2.09m	Orientation: NW-SE	Ground level: 14.05m OD (NW) 13.08m OD (SE)		
Context	Interpretation	Description	Thickness (m)	Depth BGL (m)	Spot date	
2400	Topsoil	Dark brownish grey friable silty clay with small flint and occasional charcoal inclusions	0.34–0.36	-	Modern	
2401	Natural	Orange brown firm silty clay	-	0.34–0.36	-	

4.26.2 Geology (2401) was identified as Head deposits of silty clay and was encountered at a depth of 0.34–0.36m BGL.

4.26.3 Geology was sealed by topsoil (2400).

4.26.4 No archaeological features or deposits were observed within this trench.

4.27 Trench 25 (Figure 6 and Plates 18–19)

- 4.27.1 Trench 25 was located within a development plot situated to the west of Jacob's Lane (Area 2). A summary of recorded contexts is provided in Table 25.

Table 25. Trench 25 contexts

TR 25 Length: 30.25m Width: 2.26m Orientation: NE-SW Ground level: 12.19m OD (NE) 11.73m OD (SW)						
Context	Interpretation	Description	Thickness (m)	Depth BGL (m)	Spot date	
2500	Topsoil	Dark brownish grey friable silty clay with small flint and occasional charcoal inclusions	0.23–0.27	-	Modern	
2501	Subsoil	Light grey firm silty clay with common rounded flints, clinker, glass and modern ceramics	0.28	0.23–0.32	Modern	
2502	Colluvium	Grey brown firm silty clay with moderate flints, rare small chalk fragments and finds of small prehistoric pottery and post-medieval CBM	0.23	0.53–0.54	Post-med?	
2503	Colluvium	Dark grey brown firm clay silt with common small manganese and flints	0.20	0.71–0.82	Undated	
2504	Natural	Orange brown firm silty clay with rare flints		0.87–0.95	-	

- 4.27.2 Geology (2504) was identified as Head deposits of silty clay and was encountered at a depth of 0.87–0.95m BGL.
- 4.27.3 Geology was sealed by two successive layers of colluvial silt (2502) and (2503), which had a combined thickness of 0.43m.
- 4.27.4 Colluvium was sealed by an agricultural subsoil (2501), up to 0.28m thick, in turn sealed by topsoil (2500), up to 0.27m thick.
- 4.27.5 No archaeological features or deposits were observed within this trench.

4.28 Trench 26 (Figure 7 and Plates 20–21)

- 4.28.1 Trench 26 was located within a development plot situated to the west of Jacob's Lane (Area 2). A summary of recorded contexts is provided in Table 26.

Table 26. Trench 26 contexts

TR 26 Length: 22.02m Width: 2.06m Orientation: NW-SE Ground level: 14.47m OD (NW) 13.47m OD (SE)						
Context	Interpretation	Description	Thickness (m)	Depth BGL (m)	Spot date	
2600	Topsoil	Dark brownish grey friable silty clay with small flint and occasional chalk and charcoal inclusions	0.21	-	Modern	
2601	Subsoil/colluvium ?	Grey brown firm silty clay with moderate flints, rare small chalk fragments	0.10	0.21	Post-med?	
2602	Natural	Orange brown firm silty clay with rare flints	-	0.31	-	

- 4.28.2 Geology (2602) was identified as Head deposits of silty clay and was encountered at a depth of 0.31m BGL.
- 4.28.3 Geology was sealed by a layer of agricultural subsoil or colluvium (2601), up to 0.10m thick, in turn sealed by topsoil (2600), up to 0.21m thick.
- 4.28.4 No archaeological features or deposits were observed within this trench.

4.29 Trench 27 (Figure 7 and Plate 22)

- 4.29.1 Trench 27 was located within a development plot situated to the west of Jacob's Lane (Area 2). A summary of recorded contexts is provided in Table 27.

Table 27. Trench 27 contexts

TR 27	Length: 25.52m	Width: 2.25m	Orientation: NE-SW	Ground level: 14.79m OD (NE) 14.53m OD (SW)		
Context	Interpretation	Description	Thickness (m)	Depth BGL (m)	Spot date	
2700	Topsoil	Dark brownish grey friable silty clay with small flint and occasional chalk and charcoal inclusions	0.30–0.32	-	Modern	
2701	Subsoil/colluvium ?	Grey brown firm silty clay with moderate flints, rare small chalk fragments	0.10	0.21	Post-med?	
2702	Natural	Orange brown firm silty clay with gravel and flint patches, as well as occasional manganese flecks	-	0.30–0.32	-	

- 4.29.2 Geology (2702) was identified as Head deposits of silty clay with abundant flint gravel, and was encountered at a depth of 0.30–0.32m BGL.
- 4.29.3 Geology was sealed by a layer of agricultural subsoil or colluvium (2701), up to 0.10m thick, in turn sealed by topsoil (2700), up to 0.21m thick.
- 4.29.4 No archaeological features or deposits were observed within this trench.

4.30 Trench 28 (Figure 7)

- 4.30.1 Trench 28 was located within a development plot situated to the west of Jacob's Lane (Area 2). A summary of recorded contexts is provided in Table 28.

Table 28. Trench 28 contexts

TR 28	Length: 27.59m	Width: 2.35m	Orientation: NW-SE	Ground level: 16.25m OD (NW) 15.04m OD (SE)		
Context	Interpretation	Description	Thickness (m)	Depth BGL (m)	Spot date	
2800	Topsoil	Dark brownish grey friable silty clay with small flint and occasional charcoal inclusions	0.30–0.32	-	Modern	
2801	Subsoil/colluvium ?	Mid grey brown firm silty clay with occasional small chalk flecking	0.10–0.12	0.30–0.32	Undated	
2802	Natural	Orange brown firm silty clay with gravel and flint patches, as well as occasional manganese flecks	-	0.38–0.40	-	
2803	Natural	Mottled pale grey orange heavy clay with common manganese	-	0.71–0.75	-	

- 4.30.2 Bedrock geology (2803) was identified as London Clay Formation, exposed at a depth of 0.71–0.75m BGL. This was sealed by Head deposits of silty clay (2802) with patches of flint gravel, encountered at a depth of 0.38–0.40m BGL.
- 4.30.3 Geology was sealed by a layer of agricultural subsoil or colluvium (2801), up to 0.12m thick, in turn sealed by topsoil (2800), up to 0.32m thick. A north-west to south-east aligned field drain (unrecorded) was identified.
- 4.30.4 No archaeological features or deposits were observed within this trench.

4.31 Trench 29 (Figure 7)

- 4.31.1 Trench 29 was located within a development plot situated to the west of Jacob's Lane (Area 2). A summary of recorded contexts is provided in Table 29.

Table 29. Trench 29 contexts

TR 29	Length: 30.07m	Width: 2.24m	Orientation: NE-SW	Ground level: 16.56m OD (NE) 15.77m OD (SW)		
Context	Interpretation	Description	Thickness (m)	Depth BGL (m)	Spot date	
2900	Topsoil	Dark brownish grey friable silty clay with small flint and occasional charcoal inclusions	0.26–0.28	-	Modern	
2901	Subsoil/colluvium ?	Mid-dark brownish grey friable silty clay with small flint and occasional charcoal inclusions	0.08–0.11	0.26–0.28	Post-med?	
2902	Natural	Orange brown firm silty clay with gravel and flint patches, as well as occasional manganese flecks	-	0.35–0.37	-	

4.31.2 Geology (2902) was identified as Head deposits of silty clay with patches of flint gravel, and was encountered at a depth of 0.35–0.37m BGL.

4.31.3 Geology was sealed by a layer of agricultural subsoil or colluvium (2901), up to 0.11m thick, in turn sealed by a layer of topsoil (2900), up to 0.28m thick.

4.31.4 No archaeological features or deposits were observed within this trench.

4.32 Trench 30 (Figure 7)

4.32.1 Trench 30 was located within a development plot situated to the west of Jacob's Lane (Area 2). A summary of recorded contexts is provided in Table 30.

Table 30. Trench 30 contexts

TR 30	Length: 21.41m	Width: 2.22m	Orientation: NW-SE	Ground level: 18.24m OD (NW) 17.43m OD (SE)		
Context	Interpretation	Description	Thickness (m)	Depth BGL (m)	Spot date	
3000	Topsoil	Dark brownish grey friable silty clay with small flint and occasional chalk inclusions	0.22–0.25	-	Modern	
3001	Subsoil/colluvium ?	Mid grey brown firm silty clay with occasional small chalk flecking	0.10	0.22–0.25	Post-med?	
3002	Natural	Orange brown firm silty clay with common gravel and flint patches	-	0.32–0.35	-	

4.32.2 Geology (3002) was identified as Head deposits of silty clay with common patches of flint gravel, and was encountered at a depth of 0.32–0.35m BGL.

4.32.3 Geology was sealed by a layer of agricultural subsoil or colluvium (3001), up to 0.10m thick, in turn sealed by topsoil (3000), up to 0.25m thick.

4.32.4 No archaeological features or deposits were observed within this trench.

4.33 Trench 31 (Figure 7)

4.33.1 Trench 31 was located within a development plot situated to the west of Jacob's Lane (Area 2). A summary of recorded contexts is provided in Table 31.

Table 31. Trench 31 contexts

TR 31	Length: 14.68m	Width: 2.35m	Orientation: NW-SE	Ground level: 19.06m OD (NW) 18.44m OD (SE)		
Context	Interpretation	Description	Thickness (m)	Depth BGL (m)	Spot date	
3100	Topsoil	Dark brownish grey friable silty clay with small flint and occasional charcoal inclusions	0.17–0.19	-	Modern	
3101	Subsoil/colluvium ?	Mid grey brown firm silty clay with occasional small chalk flecking	0.10	0.17–0.19	Post-med?	

TR 31	Length: 14.68m	Width: 2.35m	Orientation: NW-SE	Ground level: 19.06m OD (NW) 18.44m OD (SE)		
Context	Interpretation	Description	Thickness (m)	Depth BGL (m)	Spot date	
3102	Natural	Orange brown firm silty clay with common gravel and flint patches		0.27–0.29		

- 4.33.2 Geology (3102) was identified as Head deposits of silty clay with common patches of flint gravel, and was encountered at a depth of 0.27–0.29m BGL.
- 4.33.3 Geology was sealed by a layer of agricultural subsoil or colluvium (3101), up to 0.10m thick, in turn sealed by topsoil (3100), up to 0.19m thick.
- 4.33.4 No archaeological features or deposits were observed within this trench.

4.34 Trench 32 (Figure 7)

- 4.34.1 Trench 32 was located within a development plot situated to the west of Jacob's Lane (Area 2). This trench was split into two trench lengths due to the presence of a tree line. A summary of recorded contexts is provided in Table 32.

Table 32. Trench 32 contexts

TR 32	Length: 7.66m and 15.97m	Width: 2.12m	Orientation: NE-SW	Ground level: 18.53m OD (NE) 18.29m OD (SW)		
Context	Interpretation	Description	Thickness (m)	Depth BGL (m)	Spot date	
3200	Topsoil	Dark brownish grey friable silty clay with small flint and occasional charcoal inclusions	0.19–0.20	-	Modern	
3201	Subsoil/colluvium ?	Mid grey brown firm silty clay with occasional small chalk flecking	0.07	0.19–0.20	Post-med?	
3202	Natural	Orange brown firm silty clay with common gravel and flint patches		0.27–0.30		

- 4.34.2 Geology (3202) was identified as Head deposits of silty clay with common patches of flint gravel, and was encountered at a depth of 0.27–0.30m BGL.
- 4.34.3 Geology was sealed by a layer of agricultural subsoil or colluvium (3201), up to 0.07m thick, in turn sealed by topsoil (3200), up to 0.20m thick.
- 4.34.4 No archaeological features or deposits were observed within this trench.

4.35 Trench 33 (Figure 7)

- 4.35.1 Trench 33 was located within a development plot situated to the west of Jacob's Lane (Area 2). A summary of recorded contexts is provided in Table 33.

Table 33. Trench 33 contexts

TR 33	Length: 28.84m	Width: 2.21m	Orientation: NW-SE	Ground level: 19.84m OD (NW) 18.96m OD (SE)		
Context	Interpretation	Description	Thickness (m)	Depth BGL (m)	Spot date	
3300	Topsoil	Dark brownish grey friable silty clay with common small flint and occasional charcoal inclusions	0.27	-	Modern	
3301	Natural	Orange brown very firm slightly silty clay		0.27		

- 4.35.2 Geology (3301) was identified as possible outcropping London Clay Formation within Head deposits of silty clay and was encountered at a depth of 0.27m BGL.

4.35.3 Geology was sealed by topsoil (3300).

4.35.4 No archaeological features or deposits were observed within this trench.

4.36 Trench 34 (Figure 8 and Plates 23–24)

4.36.1 Trench 34 was located within a development plot situated to the west of Jacob's Lane (Area 2). A summary of recorded contexts is provided in Table 34.

Table 34. Trench 34 contexts

TR 34 Length: 29.99m Width: 2.35m Orientation: E-W Ground level: 19.67m OD (E) 19.87m OD (W)						
Context	Interpretation	Description	Thickness (m)	Depth BGL (m)	Spot date	
3400	Topsoil	Dark brownish grey friable silty clay with common small flint and occasional charcoal inclusions	0.20–0.22	-	Modern	
3401	Natural	Orange brown very firm slightly silty clay	0.25+	0.20–0.22		
3402	Deposit	Thin lens or patch of silty clay with abundant manganese	0.05	0.40		
3403	Natural	Mottled pale grey orange firm London Clay with common manganese – variation of London Clay	-	0.39	-	

4.36.2 Geology (3403 and 3401) was identified as variations of London Clay Formation, with the lowermost deposit (3403) possibly water affected. The uppermost layer of geology was encountered at a depth of 0.20–0.22m BGL. A deposit of concentrated manganese was sealed between the clay deposits.

4.36.3 Geology was sealed by a layer of topsoil (3400), up to 0.22m thick.

4.36.4 No archaeological features or deposits were observed within this trench.

4.37 Trench 35 (Figure 8)

4.37.1 Trench 35 was located within a development plot situated to the west of Jacob's Lane (Area 2). A summary of recorded contexts is provided in Table 35.

Table 35. Trench 35 contexts

TR 35 Length: 31.16m Width: 2.24m Orientation: NW-SE Ground level: 20.92m OD (NW) 19.68m OD (SE)						
Context	Interpretation	Description	Thickness (m)	Depth BGL (m)	Spot date	
3500	Topsoil	Dark brownish grey friable silty clay with common small flint and occasional charcoal inclusions	0.22–0.23	-	Modern	
3501	Natural	Orange brown very firm slightly silty clay with occasional gravel	-	0.22–0.23	-	

4.37.2 Geology (3501) was identified as London Clay Formation and was encountered at a depth of 0.22–0.23m BGL.

4.37.3 Geology was sealed by topsoil (3500).

4.37.4 No archaeological features or deposits were observed within this trench.

4.38 Trench 36 (Figure 8)

4.38.1 Trench 36 was located within a development plot situated to the west of Jacob's Lane (Area 2). A summary of recorded contexts is provided in Table 36.

Table 36. Trench 36 contexts

TR 36	Length: 30.66m	Width: 2.23m	Orientation: NE-SW	Ground level: 19.47m OD (NE) 18.16m OD (SW)		
	Context	Interpretation	Description	Thickness (m)	Depth BGL (m)	Spot date
	3600	Topsoil	Dark brownish grey friable silty clay with common small flint and occasional charcoal inclusions	0.28–0.30	-	Modern
	3601	Natural	Orange brown very firm slightly silty clay	-	0.28–0.30	-

4.38.2 Geology (3601) was identified as London Clay Formation and was encountered at a depth of 0.28–0.30m BGL.

4.38.3 Geology was sealed by topsoil (3600).

4.38.4 No archaeological features or deposits were observed within this trench.

4.39 Trench 37 (Figure 8)

4.39.1 Trench 37 was located within a development plot situated to the west of Jacob's Lane (Area 2). A summary of recorded contexts is provided in Table 37.

Table 37. Trench 37 contexts

TR 37	Length: 29.87m	Width: 2.29m	Orientation: NE-SW	Ground level: 19.65m OD (NE) 19.15m OD (SW)		
Context	Interpretation	Description	Thickness (m)	Depth BGL (m)	Spot date	
3700	Topsoil	Dark brownish grey friable silty clay with common small flint and occasional charcoal inclusions	0.30	-	Modern	
3701	Natural	Orange brown very firm slightly silty clay with occasional gravel	-	0.30	-	

4.39.2 Geology (3701) was identified as London Clay Formation and was encountered at a depth of 0.30m BGL.

4.39.3 Geology was sealed by topsoil (3700).

4.39.4 No archaeological features or deposits were observed within this trench.

4.40 Trench 38 (Figure 8)

4.40.1 Trench 38 was located within a development plot situated to the west of Jacob's Lane (Area 2). A summary of recorded contexts is provided in Table 38.

Table 38. Trench 38 contexts

TR 38	Length: 22.39m	Width: 2.14m	Orientation: NE-SW	Ground level: 17.10m OD (NE) 16.19m OD (SW)		
Context	Interpretation	Description	Thickness (m)	Depth BGL (m)	Spot date	
3800	Topsoil	Dark brownish grey soft friable silty clay with common small flint and occasional charcoal inclusions	0.33–0.38	-	Modern	
3801	Subsoil	Light brown firm silty clay with common small and medium flints	0.06–0.16	0.33–0.38	-	
3802	Natural	Orange brown firm clay with flints		0.43–0.50		

4.40.2 Geology (3802) was identified as London Clay Formation and was encountered at a depth of 0.43–0.50m BGL.

4.40.3 Geology was sealed by a layer of subsoil (3801), up to 0.16m thick, in turn sealed by a layer of topsoil (3800), up to 0.38m thick.

4.40.4 No archaeological features or deposits were observed within this trench.

4.41 Trench 39 (Figure 8 and Plate 25)

4.41.1 Trench 39 was located within a development plot situated to the west of Jacob's Lane (Area 2). A summary of recorded contexts is provided in Table 39.

Table 39. Trench 39 contexts

TR 39 Length: 31.19m Width: 2.22m Orientation: NE-SW Ground level: 18.79m OD (NE) 17.63m OD (SW)						
Context	Interpretation	Description	Thickness (m)	Depth BGL (m)	Spot date	
3900	Topsoil	Dark brownish grey friable silty clay with small flint and occasional charcoal inclusions	0.10–0.11	-	Modern	
3901	Subsoil	Mid grey compact silty clay with occasional chalk flecks and sub-rounded flints	0.20	0.10–0.11	-	
3902	Fill of [3903]	Dark grey firm silty clay with occasional small rounded flint, manganese and charcoal	0.12	0.30	Post-med?	
3903	Linear	Identified mid trench. Possibly continues into trench 45. 0.66m wide and traced for over 3m in length with concave sides and base.	0.12	0.30	Post-med?	
3904	Natural	Orange brown firm silty clay with gravel and flint patches	-	0.30	-	

4.41.2 Geology (3904) was identified as Head deposits of silty clay with common patches of flint gravel, and was encountered at a depth of 0.30m BGL.

4.41.3 Geology was cut by a linear feature [3903] that may have represented a boundary or enclosure ditch. It contained a single fill (3902) which was sealed by a layer of subsoil (3901), up to 0.20m thick, in turn sealed by a layer of topsoil (3900), up to 0.11m thick.

4.42 Trench 40 (Figure 9)

4.42.1 Trench 40 was located within a development plot situated to the west of Jacob's Lane (Area 2). A summary of recorded contexts is provided in Table 40.

Table 40. Trench 40 contexts

TR 40 Length: 29.98m Width: 2.37m Orientation: NW-SE Ground level: 15.91m OD (NW) 14.75m OD (SE)						
Context	Interpretation	Description	Thickness (m)	Depth BGL (m)	Spot date	
4000	Topsoil	Dark brownish grey friable silty clay with small flint and occasional charcoal inclusions	0.32–0.36	-	Modern	
4001	Subsoil	Light brown firm silty clay with moderate small to medium flints	0.05–0.10	0.32–0.36	Undated	
4002	Fill of [4003]	Ceramic cylindrical pipe	-	-	Modern	
4003	Field drain	N–S aligned modern field drain, traced for 5m+ in length	-	-	Modern	
4004	Natural	Orange brown firm clay with flints	-	0.40–0.42	-	

4.42.2 Geology (4004) was identified as London Clay Formation and was encountered at a depth of 0.40–0.42m BGL.

4.42.3 Geology was sealed by a layer of subsoil (4001), up to 0.10m thick, which had been cut by a field drain [4003] that contained a cylindrical ceramic pipe (4002). A layer of topsoil (4000), up to 0.36m thick sealed the pipe.

4.42.4 No archaeological features or deposits were observed within this trench.

4.43 Trench 41 (Figure 8)

- 4.43.1 Trench 41 was located within a development plot situated to the west of Jacob's Lane (Area 2). A summary of recorded contexts is provided in Table 41.

Table 41. Trench 41 contexts

TR 41 Length: 30.72m Width: 2.19m Orientation: NE-SW Ground level: 16.78m OD (NE) 16.25m OD (SW)						
Context	Interpretation	Description	Thickness (m)	Depth BGL (m)	Spot date	
4100	Topsoil	Dark brownish grey friable silty clay with small flint and occasional pottery inclusions	0.15–0.18	-	Modern	
4101	Subsoil	Mid grey compact silty clay with occasional chalk flecks and sub-rounded flints	0.11–0.15	0.15–0.18	-	
4102	Natural	Orange brown compact clay with common gravel and flint patches, as well as occasional manganese flecks	-	0.26–0.33	-	

- 4.43.2 Geology (4102) was identified as London Clay Formation and was encountered at a depth of 0.26–0.33m BGL.
- 4.43.3 Geology was sealed by a layer of subsoil (4101), up to 0.15m thick, which in turn was sealed by a layer of topsoil (4100), up to 0.18m thick.
- 4.43.4 No archaeological features or deposits were observed within this trench.

4.44 Trench 42 (Figure 9)

- 4.44.1 Trench 42 was located within a development plot situated to the west of Jacob's Lane (Area 2). A summary of recorded contexts is provided in Table 42.

Table 42. Trench 42 contexts

TR 42 Length: 30.48m Width: 2.28m Orientation: NE-SW Ground level: 15.72m OD (NE) 14.89m OD (SW)						
Context	Interpretation	Description	Thickness (m)	Depth BGL (m)	Spot date	
4200	Topsoil	Dark brownish grey friable silty clay with small flint and occasional charcoal inclusions	0.10–0.15	-	Modern	
4201	Subsoil	Mid grey compact silty clay with occasional chalk flecks and sub-rounded flints	0.17–0.18	0.15–0.18	-	
4202	Natural	Orange brown compact clay with common gravel and flint patches, as well as occasional manganese flecks	-	0.28–0.32	-	

- 4.44.2 Geology (4202) was identified as London Clay Formation and was encountered at a depth of 0.28–0.32m BGL.
- 4.44.3 Geology was sealed by a layer of subsoil (4201), up to 0.18m thick, which in turn was sealed by a layer of topsoil (4200), up to 0.15m thick.
- 4.44.4 No archaeological features or deposits were observed within this trench.

4.45 Trench 43 (Figure 9)

- 4.45.1 Trench 43 was located within a development plot situated to the west of Jacob's Lane (Area 2). A summary of recorded contexts is provided in Table 43.

Table 43. Trench 43 contexts

TR 43	Length: 30.33m	Width: 2.04m	Orientation: NW-SE	Ground level: 14.87m OD (NW) 13.71m OD (SE)		
Context	Interpretation	Description	Thickness (m)	Depth BGL (m)	Spot date	
4300	Topsoil	Dark brownish grey friable silty clay with small flint and occasional charcoal inclusions	0.10–0.13	-	Modern	
4301	Subsoil	Mid grey compact silty clay with occasional chalk flecks and sub-rounded flints	0.12–0.16	0.10–0.13	-	
4302	Natural	Orange brown compact clay with common gravel and flint patches, as well as occasional manganese flecks	-	0.27–0.31	-	

4.45.2 Geology (4302) was identified as London Clay Formation and was encountered at a depth of 0.27–0.31m BGL.

4.45.3 Geology was sealed by a layer of subsoil (4301), up to 0.16m thick, which in turn was sealed by a layer of topsoil (4300), up to 0.13m thick.

4.45.4 No archaeological features or deposits were observed within this trench.

4.46 Trench 44 (Figure 9)

4.46.1 Trench 44 was located within a development plot situated to the west of Jacob's Lane (Area 2). A summary of recorded contexts is provided in Table 44.

Table 44. Trench 44 contexts

TR 44	Length: 28.91m	Width: 2.26m	Orientation: NNW-SSE	Ground level: 14.51m OD (NNW) 13.12m OD (SSE)		
Context	Interpretation	Description	Thickness (m)	Depth BGL (m)	Spot date	
4400	Topsoil	Dark brownish grey friable silty clay with small flint and occasional charcoal inclusions	0.34–0.38	-	Modern	
4401	Subsoil	Light brown firm silty clay with rare small and medium flints	0.12–0.16	0.34–0.38	-	
4402	Fill of [4403]	Ceramic cylindrical pipe	-	-	Modern	
4403	Field drain	NW–SE aligned modern field drain, traced for 5m+ in length	-	-	Modern	
4404	Natural	Orange brown compact clay with common gravel and flint patches, as well as occasional manganese flecks	-	0.47–0.49	-	

4.46.2 Geology (4404) was identified as London Clay Formation and was encountered at a depth of 0.47–0.49m BGL.

4.46.3 Geology was sealed by a layer of subsoil (4401), up to 0.16m thick, which had been cut by a field drain [4403] that contained a cylindrical ceramic pipe (4402). A layer of topsoil (4400), up to 0.38m thick sealed the pipe.

4.46.4 No archaeological features or deposits were observed within this trench.

4.47 Trench 45 (Figure 9 and Plate 26)

4.47.1 Trench 45 was located within a development plot situated to the west of Jacob's Lane (Area 2). A summary of recorded contexts is provided in Table 45.

Table 45. Trench 45 contexts

TR 45	Length: 30.60m	Width: 2.16m	Orientation: NW-SE	Ground level: 13.15m OD (NW) 12.04m OD (SE)		
Context	Interpretation	Description	Thickness (m)	Depth BGL (m)	Spot date	
4500	Topsoil	Dark brownish grey friable silty clay with small flint and occasional charcoal inclusions	0.28–0.36	-	Modern	

TR 45	Length: 30.60m	Width: 2.16m	Orientation: NW-SE	Ground level: 13.15m OD (NW) 12.04m OD (SE)		
Context	Interpretation	Description	Thickness (m)	Depth BGL (m)	Spot date	
4501	Subsoil	Light brown orange firm silty clay with moderate small and medium flints	0.16–0.23	0.28–0.36	Undated	
4502	VOID	Number not used	-	-	-	
4503	Fill of [4504]	Dark greyish brown soft silty clay with rare small and medium flints and charcoal. Post-med? CBM	0.09	0.50	Post-med?	
4504	Ditch	Shallow NW–SE aligned ditch.	0.09	0.50	Post-med?	
4505	Natural	Orange brown compact clay with common gravel and flint patches, as well as occasional manganese flecks		0.50–0.52	-	

4.47.2 Geology (4505) was identified as London Clay Formation and was encountered at a depth of 0.50–0.52m BGL.

4.47.3 Geology was cut by a shallow ditch [4504] that was identified at a depth of 0.50m BGL. It contained a single fill (4503) from which a fragment of possible post-medieval CBM was recovered. The ditch fill was sealed by a layer of subsoil (4501), up to 0.23m thick, which in turn was sealed by topsoil (4500), up to 0.36m thick.

4.47.4 No archaeological features or deposits were observed within this trench.

4.48 Trench 46 (Figure 9)

4.48.1 Trench 46 was located within a development plot situated to the west of Jacob's Lane (Area 2). A summary of recorded contexts is provided in Table 46.

Table 46. Trench 46 contexts

TR 46	Length: 29.40m	Width: 2.29m	Orientation: NW-SE	Ground level: 14.36m OD (NW) 13.15m OD (SE)		
Context	Interpretation	Description	Thickness (m)	Depth BGL (m)	Spot date	
4600	Topsoil	Dark brownish grey friable silty clay with small flint and occasional charcoal inclusions	0.10–0.12	-	Modern	
4601	Subsoil	Mid grey compact silty clay with occasional chalk flecks and sub-rounded flints	0.14–0.24	0.10–0.12	-	
4602	Natural	Orange brown compact clay with common gravel and flint patches, as well as occasional manganese flecks	-	0.24–0.34	-	

4.48.2 Geology (4602) was identified as London Clay Formation and was encountered at a depth of 0.24–0.34m BGL.

4.48.3 Geology was sealed by a layer of subsoil (4601), up to 0.24m thick, which in turn was sealed by a layer of topsoil (4600), up to 0.12m thick.

4.48.4 No archaeological features or deposits were observed within this trench.

4.49 Trench 47

4.49.1 Trench 47 was not cut due to the presence of high powered pylons running across the west end of the development plot situated to the west of Jacob's Lane.

4.50 Trench 48

4.50.1 Trench 48 was not cut due to the presence of high powered pylons running across the west end of the development plot situated to the west of Jacob's Lane.

4.51 Trench 49

- 4.51.1 Trench 49 was not cut due to the presence of high powered pylons running across the west end of the development plot situated to the west of Jacob's Lane.

4.52 Trench 50

- 4.52.1 Trench 50 was not cut due to the presence of high powered pylons running across the west end of the development plot situated to the west of Jacob's Lane.

4.53 Trench 51 (Figure 6)

- 4.53.1 Trench 51 was located within a development plot situated to the west of Jacob's Lane (Area 2). A summary of recorded contexts is provided in Table 47.

Table 47. Trench 51 contexts

TR 51 Length: 33.02m Width: 2.08m Orientation: NW-SE Ground level: 12.20m OD (NW) 11.33m OD (SE)						
Context	Interpretation	Description	Thickness (m)	Depth BGL (m)	Spot date	
5100	Topsoil	Dark grey firm silty clay with small flints	0.11–0.16	-	Modern	
5101	Colluvium	Mid-dark grey firm silty clay with occasional manganese flecks	0.16–0.17	0.11–0.16	-	
5102	Colluvium	Light brown grey firm silty clay with common manganese flecks and occasional CBM fragments	0.29–0.45	0.39–0.61		
5103	Natural	Orange brown compact silty clay with occasional gravel and flint patches	-	0.65–0.71	-	

- 4.53.2 Geology (5103) was identified as Head deposits of silty clay and was encountered at a depth of 0.65–0.71m BGL.
- 4.53.3 Geology was sealed by two successive layers of colluvium (5102 and 5101) which had a combined thickness of 0.40–0.61m. The uppermost layer of colluvium (5101) was sealed by a layer of topsoil (5100), up to 0.16m thick. The colluvium was cut by a north-west to south-east aligned field drain (unrecorded).
- 4.53.4 No archaeological features or deposits were observed within this trench.

4.54 Trench 52

- 4.54.1 Trench 52 was not cut due to the presence of extant buildings, located to the south-east of the Stoke Road roundabout.

4.55 Trench 53

- 4.55.1 Trench 53 was not cut due to the presence of extant buildings, located to the south-east of the Stoke Road roundabout.

4.56 Trench 54 (Figure 9 and Plate 27)

- 4.56.1 Trench 54 was located within a development plot situated to the west of Jacob's Lane (Area 2). A summary of recorded contexts is provided in Table 48.

Table 48. Trench 54 contexts

TR 54 Length: 23.70m Width: 2.31m Orientation: E-W Ground level: 12.00m OD (E) 12.21m OD (W)						
Context	Interpretation	Description	Thickness (m)	Depth BGL (m)	Spot date	
5400	Topsoil	Dark brownish grey soft/friable clay silt	0.26–0.30	-	Modern	

TR 54	Length: 23.70m	Width: 2.31m	Orientation: E-W	Ground level: 12.00m OD (E) 12.21m OD (W)		
Context	Interpretation	Description	Thickness (m)	Depth BGL (m)	Spot date	
5401	Colluvium	Light brown firm silty clay with moderate small and medium flints	0.32–0.38	0.26–0.30	-	
5402	Colluvium	Dark brown firm silty clay with common manganese and rare small flints	0.08	0.62–0.66		
5403	Natural	Orange brown firm silty clay with flints	-	0.72–0.77	-	

4.56.2 Geology (5403) was identified as Head deposits of silty clay and was encountered at a depth of 0.72–0.77m BGL.

4.56.3 Geology was sealed by two successive layers of colluvium (5402 and 5401) with a combined thickness of up to 0.46m. The uppermost subsoil layer (5401) was sealed by a layer of topsoil (5400), up to 0.30m thick.

4.56.4 No archaeological features or deposits were observed within this trench.

4.57 Trench 55 (Figure 10 and Plate 28)

4.57.1 Trench 55 was located within a development plot situated to the north of Stoke Road (Area 3). A summary of recorded contexts is provided in Table 49.

Table 49. Trench 55 contexts

TR 55	Length: 31.42m	Width: 2.30m	Orientation: NW-SE	Ground level: 18.63m OD (NW) 17.35m OD (SE)		
Context	Interpretation	Description	Thickness (m)	Depth BGL (m)	Spot date	
5500	Topsoil	Dark brownish grey soft/friable clay silt with common flints and rare post-medieval and modern CBM	0.30	-	Modern	
5501	Natural	Large patches of gravel flint. Present within southern half of trench only	-	0.30	-	
5502	Natural	Orange brown firm clay with flints with flints	-	0.30	-	

4.57.2 Geology (5501 and 5502) comprised a firm clay with abundant flints and was encountered at a depth of 0.30m BGL.

4.57.3 Geology was sealed by a layer of topsoil (5500), up to 0.30m thick.

4.57.4 No archaeological features or deposits were observed within this trench.

4.58 Trench 56 (Figure 10)

4.58.1 Trench 56 was located within a development plot situated to the north of Stoke Road (Area 3). A summary of recorded contexts is provided in Table 50.

Table 50. Trench 56 contexts

TR 56	Length: 29.67m	Width: 2.19m	Orientation: ENE-WSW	Ground level: 17.76m OD (ENE) 17.33m OD (WSW)		
Context	Interpretation	Description	Thickness (m)	Depth BGL (m)	Spot date	
5600	Topsoil	Dark brownish grey soft/friable clay silt with common flints and rare post-medieval and modern CBM	0.35–0.38	-	Modern	
5601	Natural	Orange brown compact London Clay silty clay with large patches of gravel flint. Present within east end of trench only	-	0.35–0.38	-	
5602	Natural	Orange brown compact London Clay silty clay with gravel, flint and silt patches, as well as occasional manganese flecks	-	0.35–0.38	-	

- 4.58.2 Geology (5601 and 5602) comprised a firm clay with abundant flints and was encountered at a depth of 0.35–0.38m BGL.
- 4.58.3 Geology was sealed by a layer of topsoil (5600), up to 0.38m thick.
- 4.58.4 No archaeological features or deposits were observed within this trench.

4.59 Trench 57 (Figure 10)

- 4.59.1 Trench 57 was located within a development plot situated to the north of Stoke Road (Area 3). A summary of recorded contexts is provided in Table 51.

Table 51. Trench 57 contexts

TR 57	Length: 31.19m	Width: 2.20m	Orientation: N-S	Ground level: 17.81m OD (N) 16.55m OD (S)		
Context	Interpretation	Description	Thickness (m)	Depth BGL (m)	Spot date	
5700	Topsoil	Dark brownish firm clay silt with common flints and rare post-medieval and modern CBM	0.29–0.32	-	Modern	
5701	Subsoil	Dark brown firm silty clay within common flints and manganese.	0.13–0.16	0.29–0.32	-	
5702	Natural	Orange brown firm clay with flints	-	0.44–0.45	-	

- 4.59.2 Geology (5702) was identified as Head deposits of silty clay with flints and was encountered at a depth of 0.44–0.45m BGL.
- 4.59.3 Geology was sealed by a layer of subsoil (5701), up to 0.16m thick, which was sealed, in turn, by a layer of topsoil (5700), up to 0.32m thick.
- 4.59.4 No archaeological features or deposits were observed within this trench.

4.60 Trench 58 (Figure 10)

- 4.60.1 Trench 58 was located within a development plot situated to the north of Stoke Road (Area 3). A summary of recorded contexts is provided in Table 52.

Table 52. Trench 57 contexts

TR 58	Length: 30.33m	Width: 2.21m	Orientation: NE-SW	Ground level: 50.79m OD (NE) 50.95m OD (SW)		
Context	Interpretation	Description	Thickness (m)	Depth BGL (m)	Spot date	
5800	Topsoil	Dark brownish grey firm clay silt with common flints	0.35–0.38	-	Modern	
5801	Subsoil	Dark brown firm silty clay within common flints and manganese.	0.07–0.09	0.35–0.38	-	
5802	Natural	Orange brown firm clay with flints	-	0.38	-	

- 4.60.2 Geology (5802) was identified as Head deposits of silty clay with flints and was encountered at a depth of 0.38m BGL.
- 4.60.3 Geology was sealed by a layer of subsoil (5801), up to 0.09m thick, which was sealed, in turn, by a layer of topsoil (5800), up to 0.38m thick.
- 4.60.4 No archaeological features or deposits were observed within this trench.

4.61 Trench 59 (Figure 10 and Plate 29)

- 4.61.1 Trench 59 was located within a development plot situated to the north of Stoke Road (Area 3). A summary of recorded contexts is provided in Table 53.

Table 53. Trench 57 contexts

TR 59 Length: 30.22m Width: 2.19m Orientation: NW-SE Ground level: 16.36m OD (NW) 15.58m OD (SE)						
Context	Interpretation	Description	Thickness (m)	Depth BGL (m)	Spot date	
5900	Topsoil	Dark brownish grey firm clay silt with common flints and rare post-medieval and modern CBM	0.30–0.32	-	Modern	
5901	Fill of [5902]	Backfill and ceramic pipe of modern field drain	-	-	Modern	
5902	Field drain	E–W aligned linear	-	-	Modern	
5903	Fill of [5904]	Backfill and ceramic pipe of modern field drain	-	-	Modern	
5904	Field drain	Roughly E–W aligned linear	-	-	Modern	
5905	Subsoil	Dark brown silty clay	0.07–0.10	0.30–0.32	Undated	
5906	Natural	Orange brown firm clay with gravel, flint and silt patches, as well as occasional manganese flecks	-	0.36–0.40	-	

- 4.61.2 Geology (5906) was identified as Head deposits of silty clay with flints and was encountered at a depth of 0.36–0.40m BGL.
- 4.61.3 Geology was sealed by a thin layer of subsoil (5905), up to 0.10m thick, which was cut by two field drains [5902] and [5904]. The backfill (5901 and 5903) of each field drain was sealed by a layer of topsoil, up to 0.32m thick.
- 4.61.4 No archaeological features or deposits were observed within this trench.

4.62 Trench 60 (Figure 10)

- 4.62.1 Trench 60 was located within a development plot situated to the north of Stoke Road (Area 3). A summary of recorded contexts is provided in Table 54.

Table 54. Trench 60 contexts

TR 60 Length: 31.03m Width: 2.26m Orientation: NE-SW Ground level: 16.79m OD (NE) 16.18m OD (SW)						
Context	Interpretation	Description	Thickness (m)	Depth BGL (m)	Spot date	
6000	Topsoil	Dark brownish grey firm clay silt with common flints and rare post-medieval and modern CBM	0.31–0.36	-	Modern	
6001	Subsoil	Dark brown firm silty clay within common flints and rare manganese.	0.06–0.10	0.31–0.36	-	
6002	Natural	Orange brown firm clay with gravel, flint and silt patches, as well as occasional manganese flecks	-	0.41–0.43	-	

- 4.62.2 Geology (6002) was identified as Head deposits of silty clay with flints and was encountered at a depth of 0.41–0.43m BGL.
- 4.62.3 Geology was sealed by a layer of subsoil (6001), up to 0.10m thick, which was sealed, in turn, by a layer of topsoil (6000), up to 0.36m thick.
- 4.62.4 No archaeological features or deposits were observed within this trench.

5 Finds

5.1 Finds assemblage

- 5.1.1 A very small finds assemblage was recovered from the site comprising 11 finds from six different contexts, weighing a total of 520g. These finds comprised worked flint, pottery, Ceramic Building Material (CBM) and a piece of glass (Table 61).

Table 55. Finds assemblage

Context	Material	Description	Amount	Weight (g)	Spot-date
200	Flint	worked	1	57	Prehistoric
204	Pottery	single sherd	1	12	C18th–C20th AD
301	CBM	light orange ?nodule of clay, no apparent inclusions	1	9	
402	CBM	large 'ball' of ?unprocessed fired clay with burnt flint inclusions, dark reddish in colour; fragment of fired clay also has burnt flint inclusions but also has a flat surface	2	410	
501	Pottery	single sherd	4	10	Late Bronze Age/Iron Age
1200	Glass	x1 clear glass fragment with letters on outer surface 'Djaii'; x1 saturated light blue colour, twisted decoration ?handle/stopper	2	22	Modern

- 5.1.2 The single worked flint and the glass fragment each came from topsoil deposits (200) and (1200), as residual finds.
- 5.1.3 A pottery sherd of eighteenth- to twentieth-century date was recovered from the fill (203) of a field drain [204].
- 5.1.4 An unidentified and undated fragment of CBM was recovered from the fill (301) of a curvilinear [302] and a 'ball' of fired clay was recovered from the upper fill (401) of a ditch [403].
- 5.1.5 A single sherd of late Bronze Age/Iron Age pottery was recovered from the fill (501) of a possible prehistoric ditch [502].

6 Conclusions

6.1 Interpretation

- 6.1.1 Bedrock geology of London Clay Formation was exposed at a depth range of 0.22–0.52m BGL within a number of trenches located within the eastern side of Area 2 (Trenches 34–36 and 40–46).
- 6.1.2 Superficial geology was confirmed to mainly comprise Head deposits of clay and silt. Whilst River Terrace Deposits (1) are not mapped within the PDA, but are shown as present in the nearby area (both to the south and north of the PDA), the evaluation exposed areas of abundant flint patches, strongly suggesting, in contrast to information mapped by the BGS (2025), the possible presence of River Terrace gravels within the site, particularly within Area 3 (Trenches 55–60) and the north end of Area 1 (Trenches 2 and 3).
- 6.1.3 The geological horizon was identified at an average depth range of between 0.35m and 0.39m BGL. Within land to the south of Stoke Road, in the north-east part of the development plot situated to the west of Jacob's Lane, geology was identified as shallow as just 0.20–0.25m BGL (Trenches 32, 34 and 35).

- 6.1.4 Geological deposits were identified at greater depths in Trenches 25, 51 and 54 where they were sealed by colluvium.
- 6.1.5 Archaeological features were identified in a total of 10 trenches (Trenches 3, 4, 5, 10, 12, 13, 15, 21, 39 and 45) with most features recorded in the western extent of the site within Area 1.
- 6.1.6 Very little datable evidence was recovered from the features identified, and any finds retrieved were susceptible to high levels of residuality, given the historic use of the land for farming. A single pottery sherd of late Bronze Age/iron Age date was recovered from a roughly east–west aligned linear in Trench 5, located at a depth of 0.35m BGL. Linear feature [502] ran roughly parallel to an east–west aligned undated linear feature [403] in Trench 4, located 18.5m to the north, which was identified at a depth of 0.48m BGL. Based on their similar alignments, it is possible they may be contemporary to one another.
- 6.1.7 Other undated features, comprised a curvilinear feature in Trench 3 [302], identified at a depth of 0.30m BGL, two pits, [1304] and [1306], in Trench 13, identified at a depth of 0.44m BGL, and a north-west to south-east aligned ditch [1503] in Trench 15, identified at a depth of 0.37m BGL. The ditch in Trench 15 also aligned with a feature identified during the geophysical survey of the site (HA 2023).
- 6.1.8 A linear feature [2102] was identified in Trench 21 at a depth of 0.37m BGL, however this may instead have been a natural striation in the geology as its fill was similar to the surrounding geology. Located on a similar alignment, linear features [3903] and [4504] were identified close to the eastern extent of the evaluation area, at a depth range of 0.3–0.50m BGL. The linear feature in Trench 39 also aligned with a feature identified during the geophysical survey of the site (HA 2023). Each produced small fragments of post-medieval CBM, with each feature thought to represent a former land boundary.
- 6.1.9 Layers of colluvium were recorded within Trenches 9, 10, 25, 51 and 54. Trenches 9 and 10 were located within the south end of land to the east of Thomas Aveling Road, within the lower elevation levels of the PDA. Similarly so, Trenches 25, 51 and 54 were located downslope on land to the west of Jacob’s Lane; two phases of colluvial infilling were identified here. Fragments of post-medieval CBM were recovered from colluvial layers suggesting a late date for a least the second phase of colluvium.
- 6.1.10 Deposits of subsoil and/or colluvium were identified within Trenches 26–32 and 38–45, located across the central bulk of Area 2. These deposits likely derive from agricultural processes and the historical use of the PDA.
- 6.1.11 Field drains, of later post-medieval and early modern date, were observed in a total of 12 trenches (Trenches 2, 3, 16, 18, 19, 20, 21, 28, 40, 44, 51 and 59). Most were generally aligned north-north-west to south-south-east, running perpendicular to Stoke Road and draining to the south. Several field drains were aligned roughly north-east to south-west, lying almost parallel to the surrounding topography.
- 6.1.12 The alignment of a known Second World War anti-tank ditch was picked up in Trenches 3 ([304]), 10 ([1002]) and 12 ([1203]), within the western end of the PDA, at a depth range of 0.26–0.30m BGL. This feature is also shown on aerial photographs and satellite images of the area. The full width of the ditch was exposed in Trench 12 where it measured c 5.6m. This feature was not excavated as part of the evaluation, on the advice of a UXO Engineer, due to the possible presence of ammunition within its fill.
- 6.1.13 The evaluation has revealed that the site has been largely unoccupied with low intensity land use, apart from within the western extent of the PDA where a collection of features suggest potentially early, small-scale settlement and evidence of Second World War activity.

6.2 Development impact

- 6.2.1 The proposed development is for a mixed-use development that includes a residential quota of 134 new homes, along with access, parking and other associated works. Groundworks will include the excavation for any foundations, below-ground services, and hard and soft landscaping.
- 6.2.2 The archaeological evaluation has revealed a low potential to contain archaeological remains and if remains are present they are likely to be of low significance.

6.3 Confidence rating

- 6.3.1 The evaluation is considered to have satisfactorily determined the extent, depth below ground surface, character, significance and condition of the archaeological remains present.
- 6.3.2 The evaluation was sufficiently resourced and was conducted under fair weather and on very dry ground conditions.

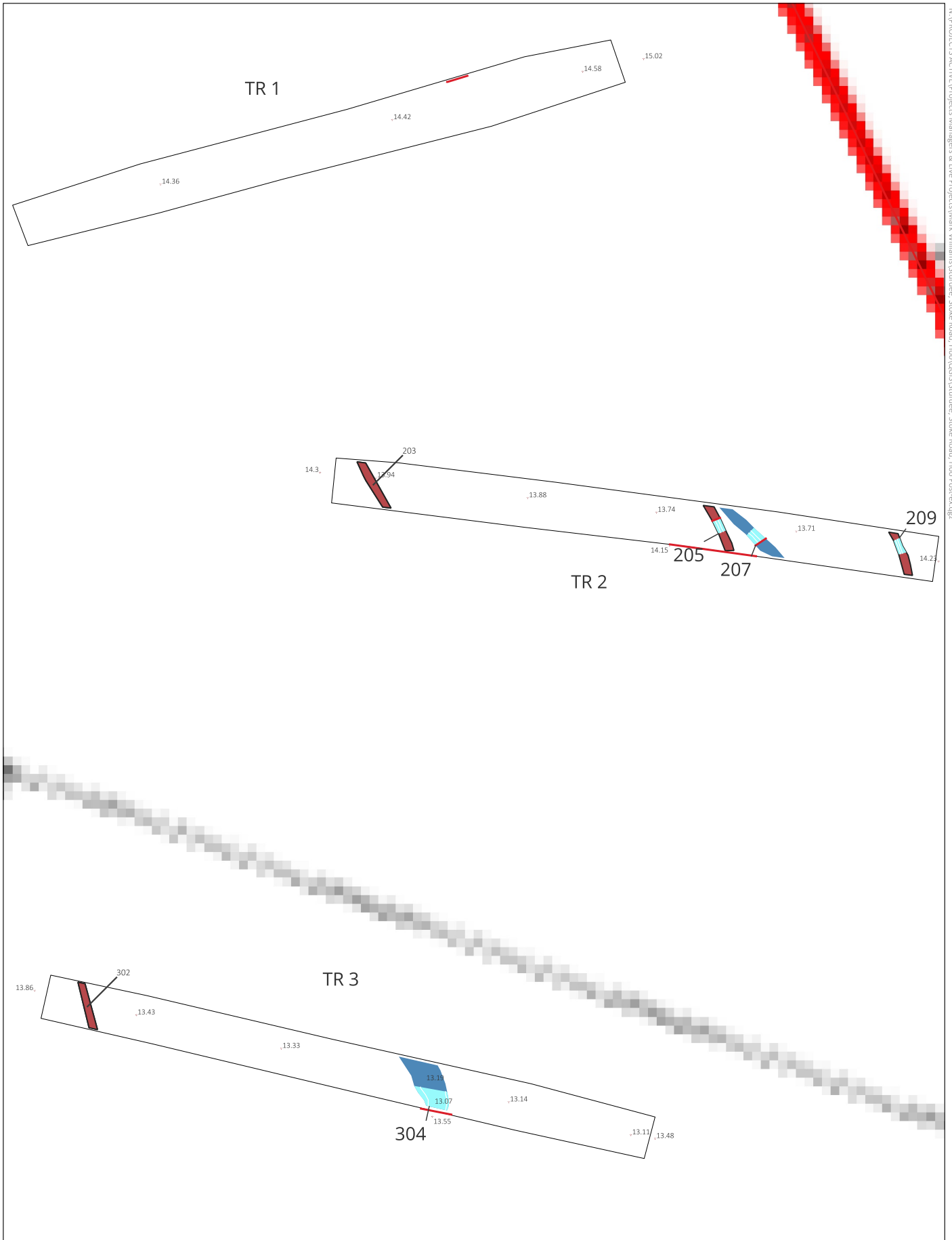
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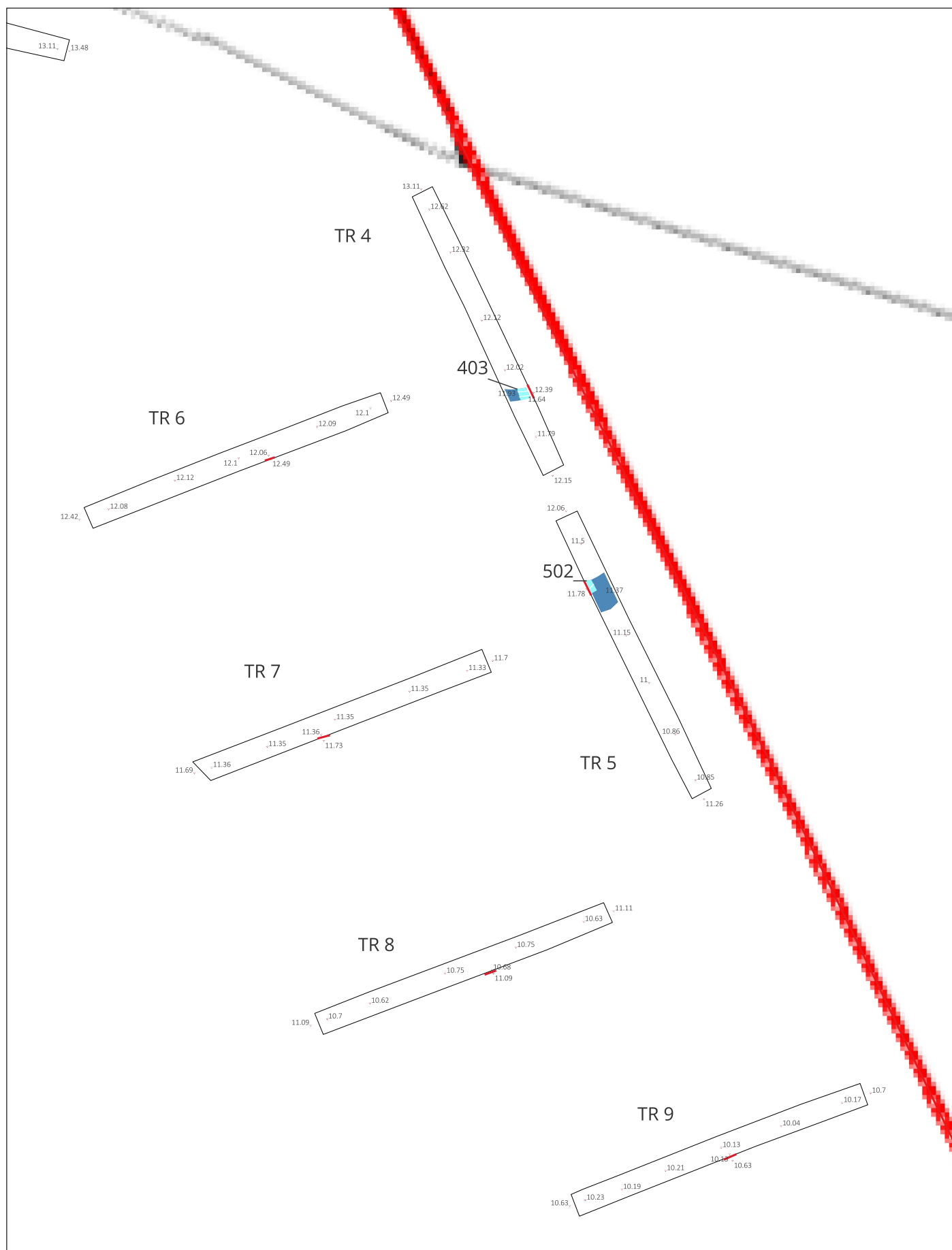
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	COMMENTS Contains Ordnance Survey data @ Crown Copyright and database right 2025. CRS: OSGB36 / British National Grid	DATE 05/06/2025	LAST REVISION -/-/-/-	Key Site Outline Trenches
	CHECKED —	REF/DRG NO. EV SSRH 25 Figure 1	0 50 100 m	

Figure 1. Site and Trench location plan



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	COMMENTS Contains Ordnance Survey data @ Crown Copyright and database right 2025.	DATE 06/06/2025	LAST REVISION --/--/----	Key: - Features - Field Drain - Height - Sections - Interventions
	CHECKED ---	REF/DRG NO. EV SSRH 25 Fig02		0 2.5 5 m
				0 2.5 5 m

Figure 2. Trenches 1-3



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	COMMENTS Contains Ordnance Survey data @ Crown Copyright and database right 2025.		DATE 06/06/2025	LAST REVISION --/--/----
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			REF/DRG NO. EV SSRH 25 Figure 3	



0

7.5

15 m

Key:

Features

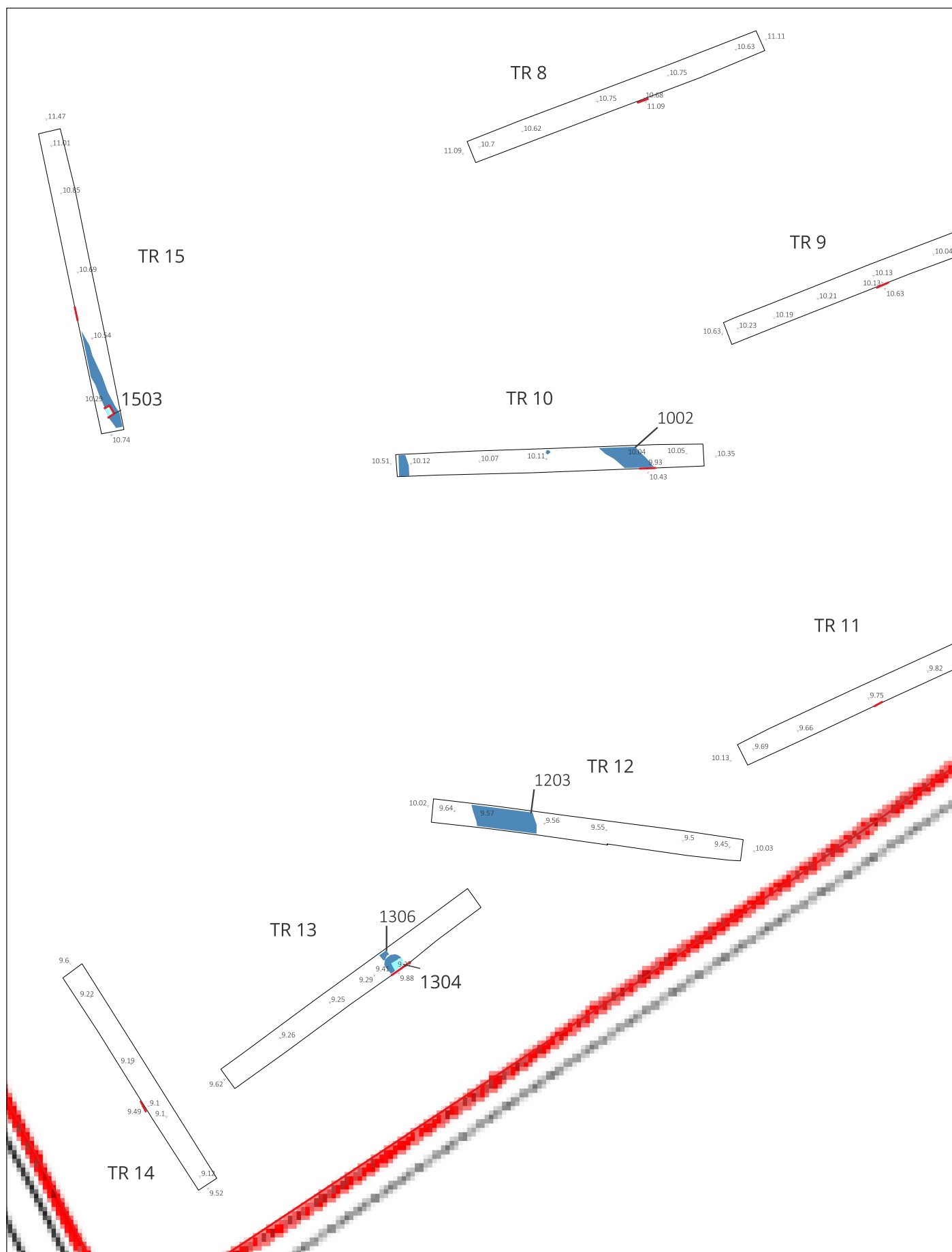
Field Drain

Height

Sections

Interventions

Figure 3. Trenches 4, 5, 6, 7, 8 and 9



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	COMMENTS Contains Ordnance Survey data @ Crown Copyright and database right 2025.	DATE 06/06/2025	LAST REVISION -/-/-/-	Key: - Features - Field Drain - Height - Sections - Interventions
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		REF/DRG NO. EV SSRH 25 Figure 4		

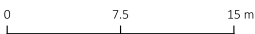
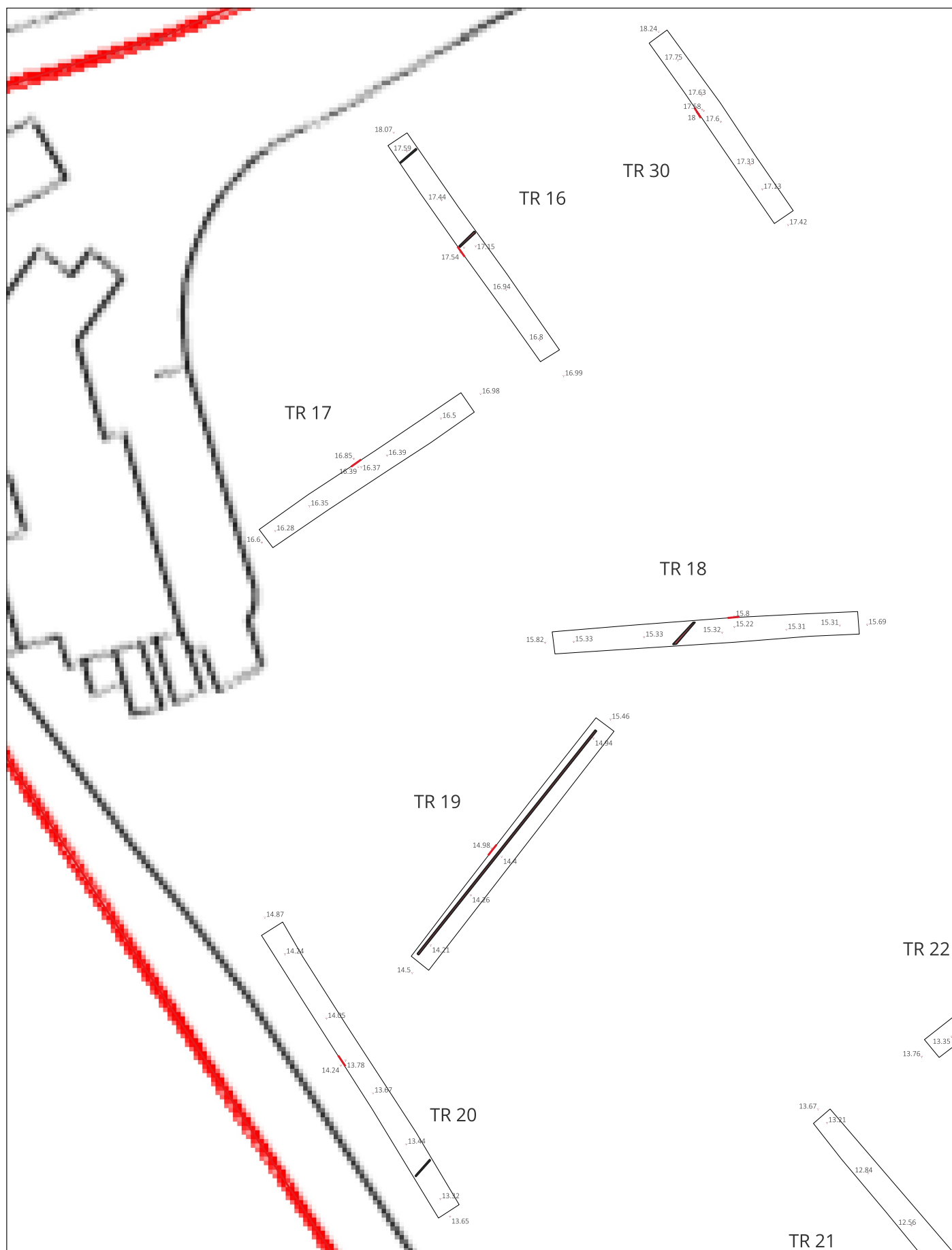



Figure 4. Trenches 10, 11, 12, 13, 14 and 15



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			DATE 06/06/2025	LAST REVISION --/--/----
	COMMENTS Contains Ordnance Survey data @ Crown Copyright and database right 2025.		CHECKED —	
			REF/DRG NO. EV SSRH 25 Figure 4	



0

7.5

15 m

Key:

Features

Field Drain

Height

Sections

Interventions

Figure 5. Trenches 16, 17, 18, 19, 20 and 30

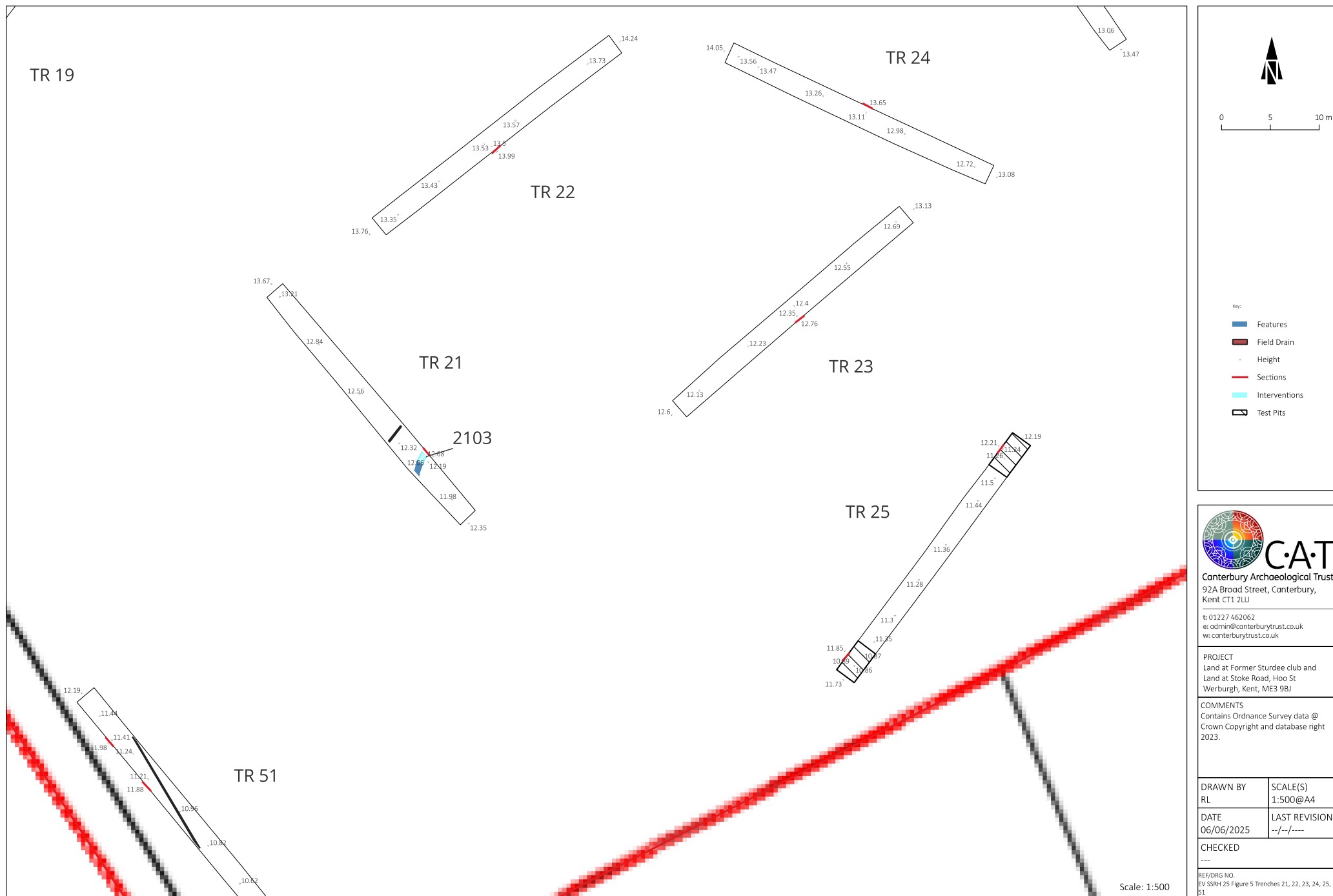
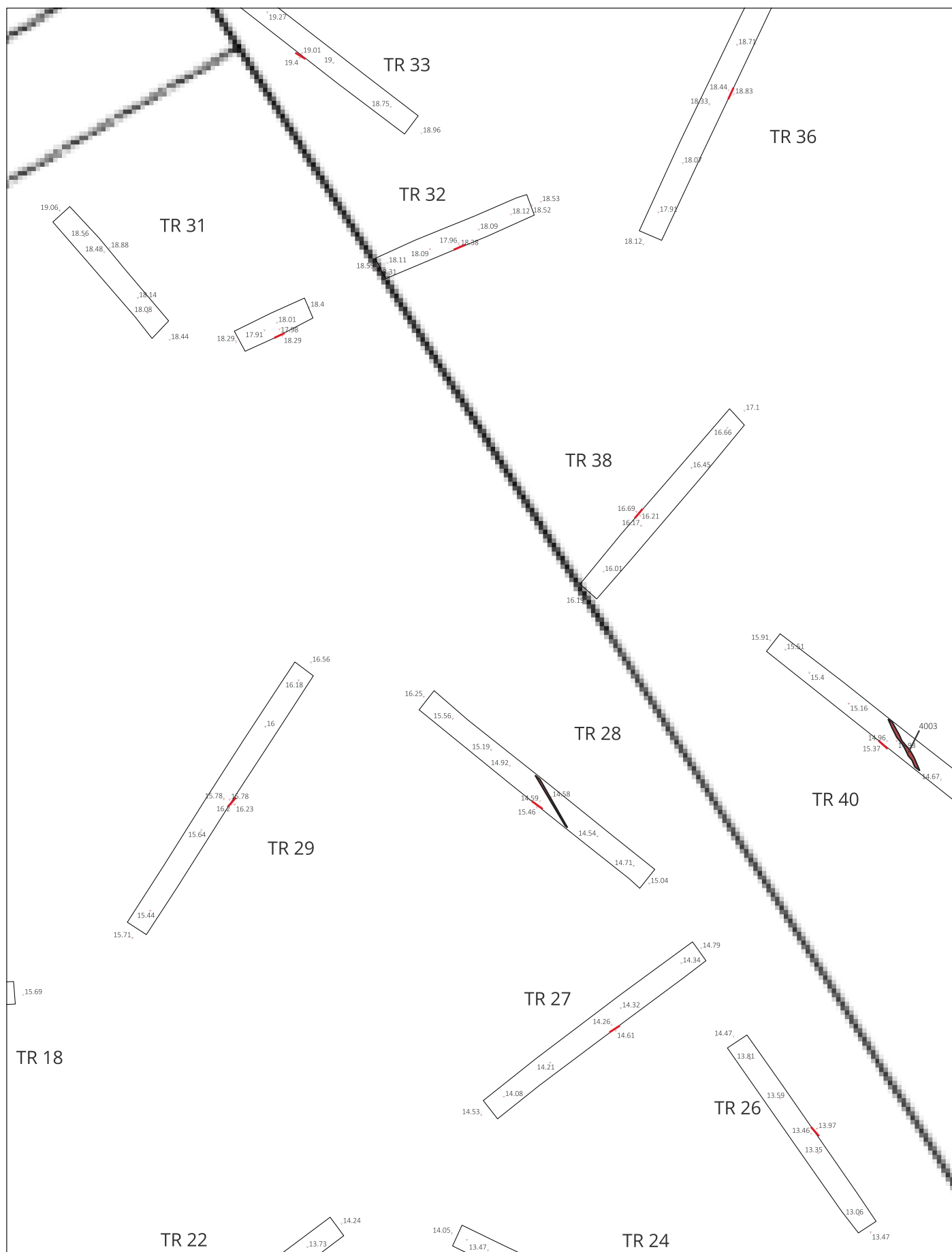
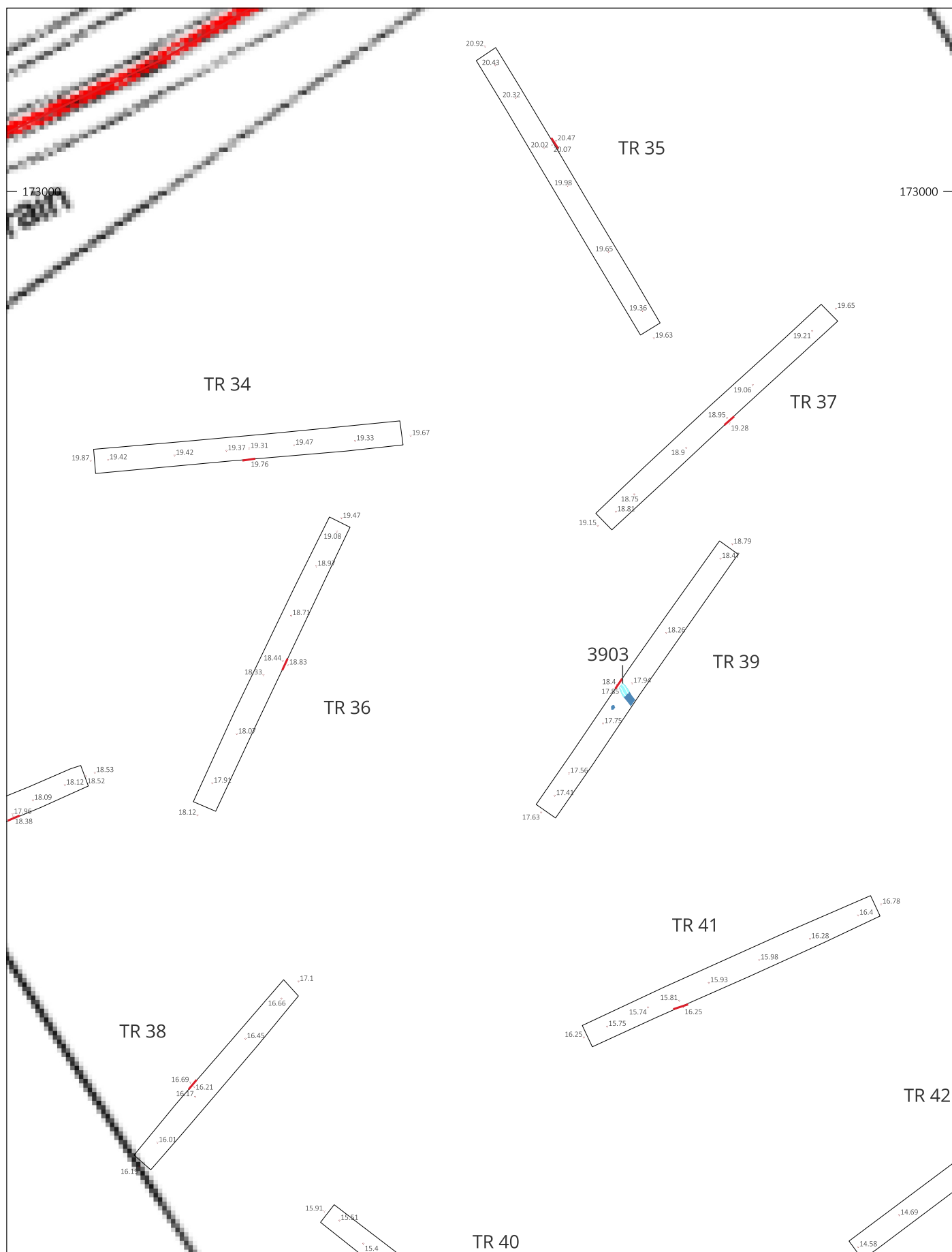


Figure 6. Trenches 21, 22, 23, 24, 25 and 51



 C.A.T. Canterbury Archaeological Trust 92A Broad Street, Canterbury, Kent CT1 2LU t: 01227 462062 e: admin@canterburytrust.co.uk w: canterburytrust.co.uk	PROJECT Land at Former Sturdee club and Land at Stoke Road, Hoo St Werburgh, Kent, ME3 9BJ	DRAWN BY RL	SCALE(S) 1:500@A4
	DATE 06/06/2025	CHECKED —	LAST REVISION —/—/—
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Figure 7. Trenches 26, 27, 28, 29, 31, 32 and 33



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	CHECKED —	REF/DRG NO. EV SSRH 25 Figure 4		



0 5 10 m

Key:

- Features
- Field Drain
- Height
- Sections
- Interventions

Figure 8. Trenches 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39 and 41

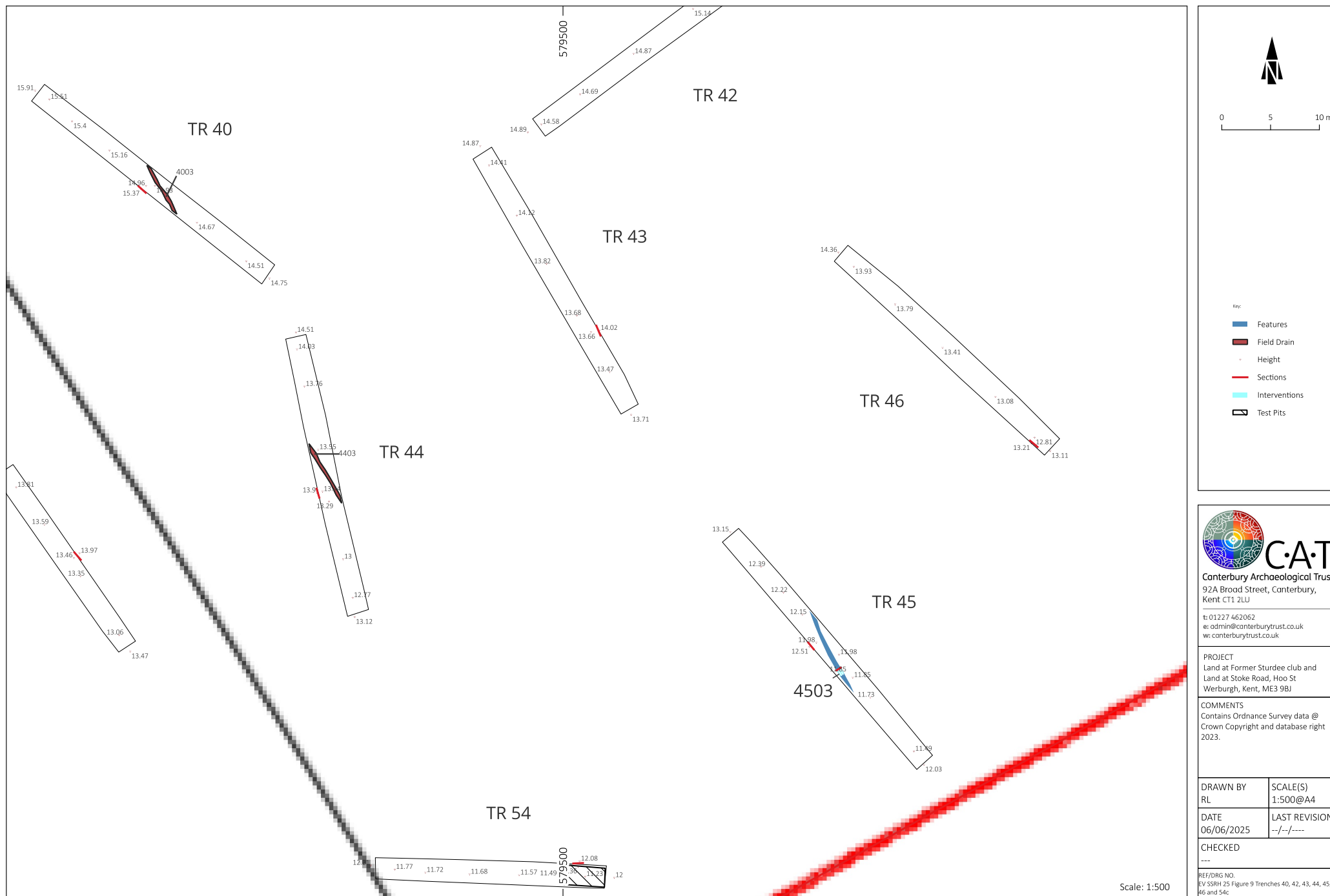


Figure 9. Trenches 40, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46 and 54

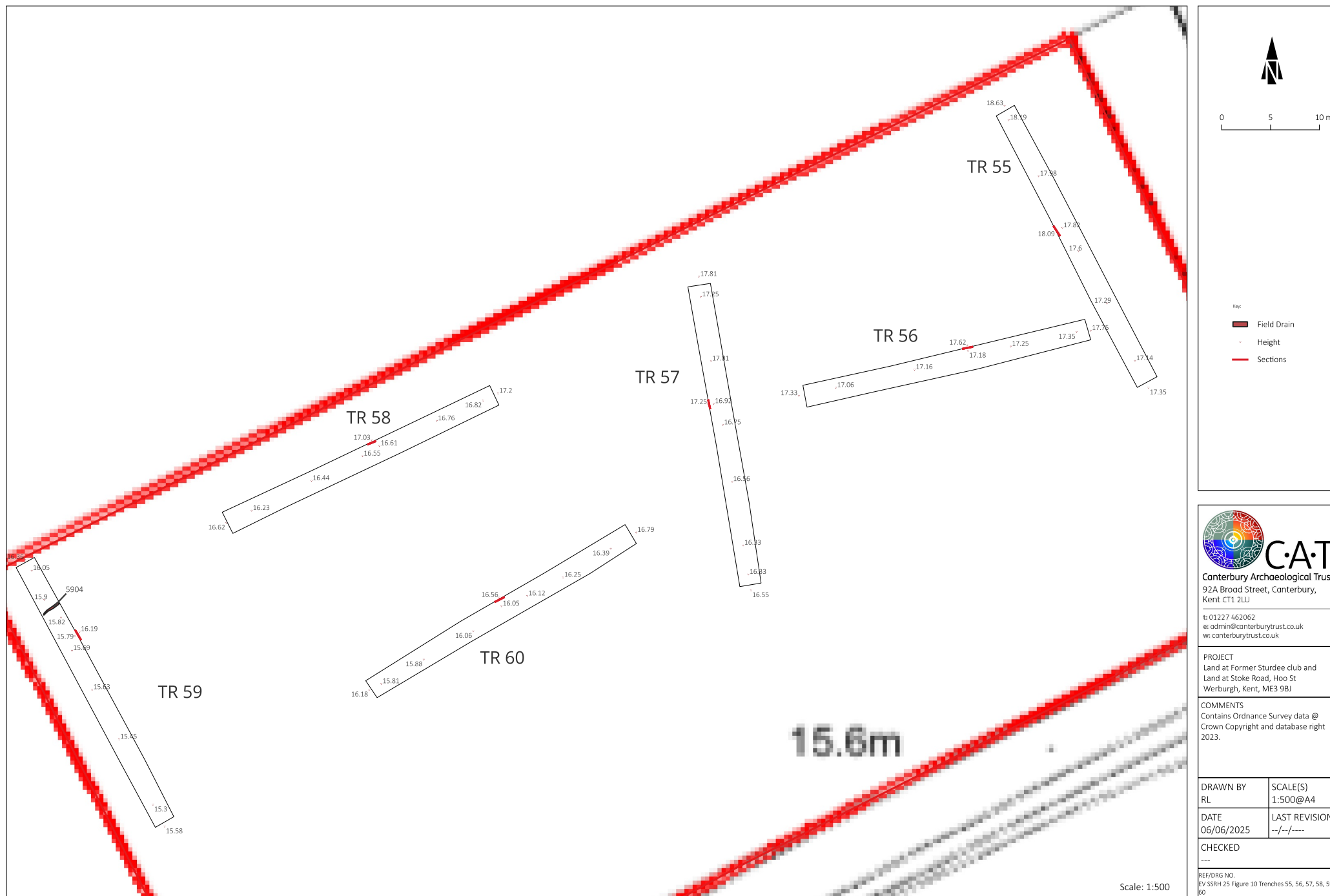


Figure 10. Trenches 55, 56, 57, 58, 59 and 60

Appendix 1 Kent County Council Historic Environment Record Form

Site Name: Land at the former Sturdee Club and land at Stoke Road, Hoo St Werburgh	
Site Code: EV SSRH 25	
Site Address: Land at the former Sturdee Club and land at Stoke Road, Hoo St Werburgh, Kent ME3 9BJ	
District: Medway Parish: Hoo St Werburgh	
<i>Between 10 April and 14 May 2025 Canterbury Archaeological Trust (CAT) undertook an archaeological evaluation on land at the former Sturdee Club and land at Stoke Road, Hoo St Werburgh, Kent, ME3 9BJ. The archaeological works were commissioned by RPS Consultancy on behalf of their clients, Esquire Developments as part of preparations for the construction of a total of 134 dwellings, children's nursery, café/community hub, commercial/retail floorspace, new public open spaces, drainage, landscaping and biodiversity and play areas, with four new access points (Planning Reference MC/23/2857).</i> <i>The evaluation comprised the excavation of 54 trenches.</i>	
Periods: Prehistoric?, Post-medieval, Modern	
National Grid Reference: 579081 172806 (centred)	
Type of Fieldwork: Evaluation	
Date of Recording: 10 April – 14 May 2025	
Contractor: Canterbury Archaeological Trust 92A Broad Street, Canterbury, Kent, CT1 2LU Tel: (01227) 462062 email: admin@canterburytrust.co.uk	
Title and Author of accompanying report: Land at the former Sturdee Club and land at Stoke Road, Hoo St Werburgh, Kent ME3 9BJ Archaeological evaluation report Report no. 2025/61 T Axtell, J Revell and L O'Shea-Walker	
Summary of Field Results: <i>The archaeological investigations revealed the presence of a small number of linear features, ditches, pits and other features, identified at a shallow depth and mainly concentrated towards the western extent of the development site. The majority of the features remain undated as only a very small datable finds assemblage was recovered. Those finds that were recovered suggest a possible prehistoric presence for at least one feature. The features identified within the western extent of the site suggest possible small-scale settlement, with the focus of the latter perhaps situated further to the west.</i> <i>A post-medieval linear feature and a Second World War anti-tank ditch, along with a series of field drains (present across the site), were also identified.</i>	
Location of Archive: CANTERBURY ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST	
Compiler: Laura O'Shea-Walker	Date: 30 May 2025

Plates



Plate 1. View of Area 1 of the PDA, looking north-east



Plate 2. View of Area 2 of the PDA, looking south-south-west



Plate 3. View of Area 3 of the PDA, looking south



Plate 4. View of Trench 1, looking east-north-east. Scale 1m



Plate 5. South facing section of Trench 1. Scale 1m



Plate 6. View of Linear feature [302] in Trench 3, looking north-west. Scale 1m



Plate 7. View of Linear feature [403] in Trench 4, looking east. Scale 1m



Plate 8. View of Trench 5, looking north-west. Scale 1m



Plate 9. View of Linear [502] in Trench 5, looking south-west. Scale 1m



Plate 10. View of Trench 8, looking south-west. Scale 1m



Plate 11. View of Second World War anti-tank ditch [1203] in Trench 12, looking north. Scale 1m



Plate 12. View of Second World War shelter, incorporated into the property of Abbots Court Lodge, located at the north-western boundary of Area 1



Plate 13. View of Trench 13, looking north-east. Scale 1m



Plate 14. View of Pit [1304] in Trench 13, looking north-east. Scale 1m



Plate 15. View of Pit [1306] in Trench 13, looking north-east. Scale 1m



Plate 16. View of Linear feature [1503] in Trench 15, looking north-east. Scale 1m



Plate 17. View of Trench 22, looking south-west. Scale 1m



Plate 18. View of Trench 25, looking north-east. Scale 1m



Plate 19. South-east facing section in Trench 25, showing thick deposits of colluvium. Scale 1m



Plate 20. View of Trench 26, looking north-east. Scale 1m



Plate 21. South-west facing section in Trench 26, showing thick deposits of colluvium. Scale 1m



Plate 22. View of Trench 27, looking north-east. Scale 1m



Plate 23. View of Trench 34, looking east. Scale 1m



Plate 24. North facing section in Trench 34. Scale 0.5m



Plate 25. View of linear feature [3904] in Trench 39, looking south-east. Scale 0.5m



Plate 26. View of linear feature [4504] in Trench 45, looking south. Scale 1m



Plate 27. View of Trench 54, looking west. Scale 1m



Plate 28. View of Trench 55, looking north-east. Scale 1m



Plate 29. View of Trench 59, looking south. Scale 1m