

**An archaeological evaluation
of land adjacent to Newington
Court, Keycol Hill, Newington,
Sittingbourne, Kent.**

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Summary

An evaluation was undertaken by the Canterbury Archaeological Trust (CAT) on land adjacent to Newington Court, Keycol Hill, Newington, Sittingbourne (NGR 586984 164542).

The results from the three cut trenches suggest the presence of a small Roman settlement lying alongside Roman Watling Street. It seems likely, from the quantity of Roman material recovered that the present site lies on the edge of this area. A clay layer encountered in trench 1, closest to the road, although very heavily truncated by later cut features (mainly modern services) appears to be the remnants of a clay floor suggesting the presence of a small, probably timber structure. It is tempting to suggest that the linear feature and later re-cut located at the south west end of this trench represent the Roman roadside ditch.

Away from the front of the site a small pit was located in trench 2 and a further substantial ditch in trench 3. The ditch was again on a very similar alignment to the Roman road with its size suggesting that it formed some form of boundary or enclosure probably relating to the activity encountered in trenches 1 and 2. The Roman road was not located in trench 1 suggesting that a metalled surface encountered during a watching brief at Newington Court represents a courtyard area.

The presence of large amounts of pottery together with smaller quantities of charred plant remains, hammerscale and slag suggests domestic activity with perhaps small scale metal working also taking place on or near the present site. The majority of the pottery appears to date from the early second to fourth centuries suggesting that the site was most intensively occupied during the middle of the Roman period.

The archaeological features in trenches 1 and 2 were sealed by a soil containing large quantities of Roman pottery, brick and tile. It seems that this deposit built up after the abandonment of the site, perhaps the result of material washing down the slope. The presence of colluvial material would explain why the depth of overburden was so much greater in trenches 2 and 3.

Later deposits located in trenches 2 and 3 appear to be colluvial in nature with several modern features also encountered.

1. Introduction

- 1.1 An evaluation was undertaken by the Canterbury Archaeological Trust (CAT) on land adjacent to Newington Court, Keycol Hill, Newington, Sittingbourne (NGR 586984 164542) under the supervision of James Holman between 17-23 July 2007. The work was commissioned by Fletcher King Howard on behalf of their client Swanton Care & Community Limited.
- 1.2 The proposed development, outlined in planning condition SW/07/0138, has been granted planning permission and is for the demolition of a one storey bungalow and its replacement by an eight bedroom, two storey care facility and the change of use of an existing dwelling (Honeysuckle Cottage) to care facility purposes.

2. Site location, topography and geology.

- 2.1 The site lies on Keycol Hill alongside the line of Roman Watling Street approximately 1 km. east of Newington.
- 2.2 The area of development is roughly rectangular in shape and slopes gently down from approximately 53.74 m. OD at the north end of the site to 52.73 m. OD at the south end. There are variations in height across the area due to modern landscaping
- 2.2 According to the British Geological Survey the underlying geology is lies on the boundary between Thanet Beds, Bullhead Beds and Woolwich Beds with material encountered in the evaluation trenches considered to be Thanet Beds (Geological Survey of Great Britain (England and Wales) Sheet 272).

3. Archaeological potential

3.1 Prehistoric

- 3.1.1 A Palaeolithic handaxe was recovered from the site of Southlands hospital approximately 350 m. east of the present site (**TQ 86 SE 92**)

3.2 Roman

- 3.2.1 The site lies just to the north of the main Roman road between Canterbury and Rochester. This is assumed to more or less have followed the line of the A2, although Wilkinson (2000) suggests that it may have lain slightly further to the south. Roman sites, settlements and cemeteries are known to congregate along the roads, for obvious reasons, and some in the area are listed below.
- 3.2.2 Keycol Hill is a known focus of Roman activity. Approximately 250 m. to the north west of the present site is an area that has been known as the site of a Roman cemetery (**TQ 86 NE 1**) since the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries. The field within which the highest point of Keycol Hill is situated derived the name of Crockfield due to the immense number of Roman urns discovered (TQ 8690 6477). Although many hundreds, if not thousands of

cremation urns and ancillary vessels have been removed from the site by antiquarians in the past few centuries, or destroyed by the plough, the full extent of the cemetery has never been established.

- 3.2.3 In addition, the hilltop itself has long been considered the site of a defended Roman station (**TQ 86 NE 2**). Hasted describes numerous earthworks in the area but these had been totally eradicated by the later nineteenth century partly perhaps during the grubbing up of woodland. George Payne, who observed much of this work, was of the opinion that there was nothing of importance on the hill. However, the possibility remains that there was a military site here.
- 3.2.4 Significant Roman remains were discovered during a watching brief on the adjacent plot of land to the east of the present site during its redevelopment (**TQ 86 SE 80**). Pottery typologies suggested a date in the second half of the first Century AD to the late second or early third century. The volume of material recovered suggests that there is a Roman settlement or buildings in the near vicinity. Much ceramic building material was also encountered. Features included a ditch, possible road or platform and a possible human cremation burial (dated to between the first century BC and the first century AD).

3.3 *Medieval*

- 3.3.1 Newington probably originated just before the Norman period; the name Newington deriving from 'new town' (Wallenberg 1934), although there was possibly an earlier settlement. Most of the medieval records deal with the medieval remnants of the village, such as St Mary's Church (**TQ 86 NE 21**), parts of which may date to *c.* 1200. The church is significant for an earlier period, as a niche in the porch contains re-used Roman tiles in the fabric. Such tiles are often found in the much later fabric of churches, and usually indicate the presence of a Roman building in the vicinity.

3.4 *Post medieval and undated*

- 3.4.1 The site of the now demolished Sittingbourne and Milton joint Hospital for Infectious Diseases lies approximately 325 m. east of the development area (**TQ 886 SE 88**). This was designed by W. Leonard Grant and opened in 1882. It consisted of two wards, for twenty four patients, an administration block with wash house, laundry, disinfecting house, ambulance house and a small mortuary. It went through several phases of redevelopment notably in 1915 when the War Office constructed new sanatorium together with two pavilions for the treatment of troops in the area. The function of the hospital changed in the twentieth century and closed at the end of the century.
- 3.4.2 A World War II pillbox, part of the Chatham Land Front Defences, lies approximately 325 m. of the site (**TQ 86 SE 70**).
- 3.4.3 A possible enclosure and several linear features are visible on aerial photos lying at approximately 400 m. from the site (**TQ 86 SE 53**).

4. Objectives

- 4.1 The purpose of the evaluation was to establish whether any significant archaeological deposits survive at the site that would be affected by the proposed development.
- 4.2 The evaluation is thus to:
- a) ascertain the extent, depth below ground surface, depth of deposit, character, date, significance and condition of any archaeological remains on the site
 - b) establish the extent to which previous development and/or other processes have affected archaeological deposits at the site
 - c) establish the likely impact on archaeological deposits of the proposed development
- 4.3 The site specific aims were to:
- a) identify any further evidence of Roman activity in the development area, how this related to previous findings within the surrounding area and whether any activity informs further on the location and character of settlement of this period in the area
 - b) identify any evidence for prehistoric and/or medieval activity within the development area
 - c) identify any evidence for post-medieval activity along the route
 - d) identify whether any modern disturbances connected with construction or farming have reduced archaeological potential
 - e) assess the impact the development proposals will have on the buried archaeology (Heritage Conservation Group 2007).

5. Methodology

- 5.1 The field methods employed were conducted in accordance with the written specification (Heritage Conservation Group 2007) and to the accepted professional standards as set out in the Institute of Field Archaeologists, 'Standards and guidance for archaeological field evaluation' (2001).
- 5.2 The specification stated that three trenches were to be cut. These formed approximately 5% of the of 704.43 m² area of the site. The trenches were dug by machine using a flat-bladed bucket to a set pattern, subject to on site constraints, with any changes made agreed by the county archaeologist. The trenches were to be 10 m. long and approximately 2 m. wide.

- 5.3 The trenches were cut to the top of either the undisturbed natural subsoil or the top of the buried archaeology under constant archaeological supervision.
- 5.4 Following machine excavation the trenches were hand cleaned. Sufficient hand excavation of features and deposits was undertaken to characterise and date them. Environmental samples were taken from any excavated features.
- 5.5 The trenches were planned and any significant sections drawn. Trench plans were drawn at a scale of 1:20 and sections at 1:10. These were tied into the Ordnance Survey Site Plan at a scale of 1:1250 by total station. Plans and sections were levelled with respect to Ordnance Datum using a level value transferred from Keycol Hospital. This had a value of 58.62 m. OD.
- 5.5 A photographic record was maintained using digital, black and white and colour transparencies. The complete archive is presently held by CAT.

6 Results

6.1 Trench 1

- 6.1.1 The trench measured approximately 9.8 m. in length and lay on a south west by north east alignment.
- 6.1.2 Natural sand was located at a depth of approximately 0.56 m. beneath current ground level (51.80 m. OD).
- 6.1.3 This was sealed by a deposit of disturbed natural (146) consisting of a mottled yellow grey sand containing occasional rounded flints and measured approximately 0.08 m. in thickness at the south west of the trench.
- 6.1.4 At the north east end of the trench the natural was sealed by (148) that consisted of a moderate mid brown red silty sand containing occasional flecks of carbon and burnt flints. This was visible only in the section provided by an excavated modern service trench and had a maximum depth of 0.34 m.
- 6.1.5 This was sealed by (147), a deposit of mid grey brown sandy silt containing carbon flecks, pieces of burnt clay and very rare flints. The deposit had a maximum depth 0.42 m.
- 6.1.4 The disturbed natural was truncated by two features [129] and [145]. Feature [129] was a substantial ditch on an east-west alignment roughly parallel with the line of Watling Street. It had moderately sloping sides and a flat base and was filled by (128) and (127). Fill (128) consisted of a clean very light grey yellow sand, it was unclear whether this represented a deliberate infilling or a gradual silting up. Deposit (127) was formed from mid grey brown silty sand with small pebble inclusions. This was later truncated when the ditch was re-cut as [126]. The later ditch had steeper and more concave sides than [129] and a concave base. It contained at least six fills (125), (124), (123), (122), (121) and (120). Fill (125) consisted of light brown yellow sand, quite similar to the natural and measured approximately 0.2 m. in depth. It is likely it

represents a natural silting dating to very soon after the ditch was cut. This deposit contained a small quantity of pottery dated to between AD 50 and 400. It was sealed by a deposit of light grey green silty clay (124) approximately 0.18 m. in thickness. Above this lay a deposit of light grey yellow sand (123), coarser than the surrounding natural which had a maximum depth of approximately 0.4 m. Fill (122), above (123) was very similar to (125) and is again assumed to be a natural silting. It measured approximately 0.18 m. in thickness. Fill (121), a deposit of very light grey sand, may again represent natural silting as it contained no inclusions. The deposit was 0.40 m. thick at its deepest point. This was sealed by (120) consisting of mottled brown silty sand containing occasional rounded flints and was 0.44 m. in thickness.

- 6.1.5 Feature [145] was a small sub-circular post hole measuring approximately 0.5 m. in diameter and 0.2 m. in depth. It was filled by (144), a deposit of sterile light grey sand. The majority of the feature lay under the north western trench edge.
- 6.1.6 Ditch [129] and post hole [145] were sealed by (143) a deposit of pale grey sand clay silt that contained small quantities of Roman pottery dated to between AD 175-300, tile and slag. This measured approximately 0.12 m. in thickness.
- 6.1.7 Above (143) lay (142), virtually identical to (143) but slightly darker. This had a maximum depth of 0.2 m.
- 6.1.8 Layer (142) was sealed by (141). This measured 0.1 m. in thickness and was located only in the central area of the trench. It was identical to layer (143) and contained small quantities of Roman pottery and hammerscale. The pottery was dated to between AD 120-350.
- 6.1.9 This was truncated by [140], a sub-circular pit partially obscured by the north western edge of excavation and by part of layer (119) to the north east. The pit was not fully excavated and measured at least 1.04 m. south west to north east and 0.60 m. north west to south east. The pit was lined with a deposit of brown yellow silty clay (139). This was left *in situ* but from the top appears to have been at least 0.08 m. thick. Above the clay lining lay (137), a deposit of mid grey brown silty clay containing occasional rounded flints, degraded animal bone and carbon flecks. The deposit measured 0.2 m. in thickness. This was sealed by (138), a 0.03 m. thick layer of grey clay silt containing common carbon flecks. Fill (138) was sealed by (136) a deposit of dark grey brown loose silt clay measuring 0.16 m. in thickness. This was sealed by (135), a deposit of light grey brown silty clay that was 0.35 m. thick. Above this lay fill (134) that consisted of mid grey brown silt clay containing occasional patches of orange brown sand and Roman pottery. The deposit had a maximum depth of 0.18 m. Fill (133), a pale orange brown sandy silt clay lay above (134). This contained occasional rounded flints, Roman pottery, a single piece of daub and carbon flecks and was 0.1 m. thick. This was sealed by a layer of grey brown clay silt (132) containing small rounded flints, Roman pottery and occasional flecks of carbon. The deposit measured 0.1 m. in thickness. The final fill within [140] consisted of a deposit of mid brown

yellow silty clay (131) with a maximum thickness of 0.32 m. The pottery from this pit suggests a date of between *c.* AD 200 to 425.

- 6.1.11 A deposit of brown yellow clay (130) sealed deposit (147), was located to the north west of feature [140] and had a maximum depth of 0.11 m. The deposit was very compacted suggesting that it may represent the remains of a clay floor although modern truncation makes this interpretation difficult to verify without further work. This deposit appears to disappear before it reaches the edge of pit [140] although this remains slightly unclear.
- 6.1.12 Sealing (130) and pit [140] was a deposit of dark grey brown silty clay (119) containing large amounts of rounded flints and smaller quantities of Roman pottery (dating from between *c.* AD 70 to 275) and brick. An identical deposit (118) was located in the north east of the trench. The deposits were bi-sectioned by modern service trenches.
- 6.1.13 Layer (119) was sealed by (116) at the south-east end of the trench was sealed by (116) and (117) in the central area. Layer (116) consisted of mid grey brown clay silt and may represent a surviving Roman or post-Roman soil horizon. Deposit (117) consisted of slightly compacted dark brown clay sand silt containing small quantities of carbon, coal and rounded flints and measured approximately 0.12 m. in thickness
- 6.1.14 Deposit (118) was sealed by (115), equated to (117).
- 6.1.15 Layers (115) and (117) were truncated by a modern service trench [114] containing moderate brown clay silt containing fragments of modern brick, Roman pottery, rounded flints and modern glass measuring 0.8 m. in width and 0.74 m. deep. Layer (115) was also truncated by [112], another service trench. This was left unexcavated and contained a deposit of brown clay silt with inclusions of modern brick.
- 6.1.16 Approximately 2.5 m. of trench was left largely unexcavated at the north east end of the trench due to the presence of a foul sewer [110], filled by (109) measuring approximately 1 m. in width and a gas service [108], filled by (107) measuring 0.4 m. wide.
- 6.1.17 Sewer trench [110] was truncated by two further features [148] and [106]. Feature [148] was a modern soakaway containing grey brown sandy silt (147) with inclusions of rounded flints, tiles (possibly containing asbestos) and fragments of modern brick. A large portion of this feature lay under the north western edge of excavation. The portion that was visible measured 0.6 m. in width and 1.4 m. in length. Feature [106] was the cut for a modern driveway containing (105) and (104). Deposit (105) consisted of modern concrete forming the foundation for (104) a concrete slab forming the driveway itself. This feature covered an area measuring 0.86 m. by 1.4 m. and largely lay under the north eastern edge of excavation on a north-south alignment.

- 6.1.18 Feature [106] and soakaway [148] were sealed by a deposit of modern leveling (103) consisting of compacted concrete and brick rubble with a maximum depth of 0.6 m.
- 6.1.19 At the south-west end of the site a deposit of topsoil was located consisting of moderate grey brown sandy clay silt containing occasional rounded flints with a maximum depth of 0.8 m.
- 6.1.20 This was truncated by [102], a linear cut containing the kerbstone for the present driveway (101) that measured 0.64 m. in depth.
- 6.1.21 Sealing this was a 0.12 m. thick layer of tarmac (100) forming the present driveway.

6.2 Trench 2

- 6.2.1 The trench measured approximately 11.4 m. in length and lay on an approximate north west to south east alignment.
- 6.2.2 Natural subsoil, consisting of light grey yellow fine sand, was identified at between 0.72 and 1.22 m. beneath current ground level (52.08 to 52.22 m. OD).
- 6.2.3 A small pit [216] cut through the natural at the north-west end of the trench. This was sub-circular in shape, with concave sides that sloped down at a moderate angle to a rounded base and measured approximately 0.6 m. across and 0.38 m. deep. It was filled by (215) a deposit of moderate grey-brown silty clay sand that contained occasional rounded flints and several sherds of Roman pottery dated to between *c.* 70-200.
- 6.2.4 Pit [216] was sealed by (214), a deposit of pale grey brown silt clay sand that contained very small quantities of Roman brick or tile and a single sherd of Roman pottery (?*c.* 70-200). It measured between 0.4 to 0.1 m. thick.
- 6.2.5 A shallow feature [213] was visible in the north-west facing section. The sides of this feature sloped at a moderate angle down to an uneven base and measured approximately 1.72 m. in width and 0.3 m. in depth. This was filled by (212) and (211). Fill (212) measured 0.1 m. in depth and lay only in the south east portion of the feature. It consisted of mid grey orange brown clay silt and contained occasional sherds of Roman pottery dated to *c.* AD 175-300. This was sealed by (211) a deposit of dark grey brown silt clay. This measured approximately 0.3 m. in depth and contained abundant carbon flecks, frequent sherds of Roman pottery (*c.* AD 120-200) and very rare pieces of animal bone. The top of this fill contained a significant quantity of chalk fragments.
- 6.2.6 This was sealed by (210), a deposit of grey brown silty clay sand containing a small quantity of rounded flints, Roman pottery (*c.* AD 175-300) and tile. The deposit measured approximately 0.4 m. in thickness.

- 6.2.7 Layer (210) was sealed by (209) consisting of slightly compacted orange brown clay silt and containing occasional rounded flints. This deposit had a maximum depth of 0.22 m. and was about 2.35 m. long.
- 6.2.8 Above this, filling a shallow depression in (209) lay (208), a small deposit of brown orange silty clay containing occasional rounded flints and fragments of coal. It measured 0.2 m. in depth.
- 6.2.9 This was sealed by (207) a deposit of dark grey brown clay silt and contained frequent rounded flints and smaller quantities of chalk and coal. This deposit had a maximum depth of 0.26 m.
- 6.2.10 Layer (207) was sealed by (206) a deposit of fine gravel mixed with yellow brown clay and measuring approximately 0.10 m. in thickness along most of its length but deeper (0.42 m.) at the south east end.
- 6.2.11 Sealing (206) were layers (205) and (217). Layer (205) consisted of a 0.24 m. thick deposit of mid brown sandy clay silt containing a small amount of rounded flints, modern glass and coal. Layer (217) consisted of mid grey sandy clay silt forming a topsoil and measured 0.22 m. in thickness.
- 6.2.12 At the north-west end of the trench layer (206) was truncated by a small pit [204] which was partially obscured by the edge of excavation. This was sub-circular in shape and measured approximately 0.6 m. in width and 0.46 m. in depth. This was filled by (203), a deposit of mid grey mortar and concrete rubble.
- 6.2.13 Layer (205) was truncated by [202] a substantial modern soakaway, partially visible in the north west facing section. This was filled with modern bricks (201) and measured at least 1.2 m. in depth.
- 6.2.14 Sealing soakaway [202] was a 0.10 m. thick layer of tarmac (200) forming the present driveway.

6.2 Trench 3

- 6.3.1 The trench measured approximately 9.8 m. in length and was aligned roughly north east-south west.
- 6.3.2 Natural undisturbed subsoil, consisting of very light grey yellow fine sand, was located at a depth of between 0.84 m. and 1.04 m. beneath present ground level (52.72 to 52.52 m. OD).
- 6.3.3 The natural was sealed by a mixed deposit of brown clay sand and orange brown sand (316) with a maximum depth of 0.14 m.
- 6.3.4 This was truncated by a large ditch [315], running on an east-west alignment across the south-west end of the trench. This measured 2.87 m. in width and was at least 1.02 m. in depth although the feature was not bottomed due to safety restrictions. The sides of the feature broke at a gentle angle from the

top and sloped down at a moderate angle. The feature contained four fills, (314), (313), (312) and (311). Fill (314) was only partly excavated and consisted of light grey brown sand containing very small quantities of carbon and small rounded flints. It measured 0.54 m. in thickness. Deposit (313) consisted of mid brown clay sand containing small patches of pale yellow sand and occasional small rounded flints measuring approximately 0.3 m. in thickness. This was sealed by (312) a very mixed deposit consisting of approximately 30% dark brown clay sand and 70% pale grey brown sand. It contained a small quantity of Roman pottery (*c.* 250-400) and occasional rounded flints and measured approximately 0.18 m. thick. This was sealed by (311) a deposit of dark brown clay sand containing common carbon flecking, occasional small pieces of daub and chalk and pottery dated to *c.* AD 120-250. This deposit measured approximately 0.3 m. in thickness.

- 6.3.5 Feature [315] was sealed by a layer of moderate mid brown clay sand (310) that contained small quantities of sandy gravel and carbon with a maximum depth of 0.38 m. This deposit may have been colluvial material washed down the slope of the hill.
- 6.3.6 This was sealed by a further colluvial deposit consisting of mid orange brown clay sand (309) again probably colluvial in origin. It contained occasional round flints and flecks of carbon, chalk and daub and measured approximately 0.20 m. in thickness.
- 6.3.7 This was truncated by two small pits, [306] and [308] both of which lay partially under the north-west facing section. Pit [306] was sub-circular in shape and measured approximately 0.52 m. in diameter and 0.28 m. in depth with steeply sloping sides and a flat base. It was filled by (305) a deposit of dark grey sandy loam containing a large quantity of gravel. Feature [308] was also sub-circular in shape and was filled by (307) a deposit of dark grey clay containing occasional patches of orange brown clay. This feature was heavily truncated by [303] and measured approximately 0.55 m. in diameter and 0.24 m. in depth.
- 6.3.8 Features [306] and [308] were sealed by (304), a deposit of compact dark grey sandy clay silt containing a significant quantity of small to medium rounded flints, occasional pieces of coal and flecks of carbon.
- 6.3.9 This was truncated by [303] a sub-circular pit partially sealed by the south west and south east facing trench edges. This measured 2.16 m. in diameter and 0.68 m. in depth. It was filled by (302) a deposit of dark grey sandy clay silt containing large quantities of chalk flecks and a smaller quantity of rounded flints.
- 6.3.10 Above feature [303] lay (301) a dark brown sandy clay silt containing occasional chunks of pale orange clay and measuring approximately 0.1 m. in depth.
- 6.3.11 This was sealed by topsoil (300), a deposit of dark grey sandy clay silt containing small quantities of chalk and rounded flints.

7 Interpretation

- 7.1 The results from the cut trenches suggest the presence of a small Roman settlement lying alongside the Roman road with the area of development perhaps lying on the periphery of the area of occupation. The clay layer encountered in trench 1 although very heavily truncated by later cut features (mainly modern services) appears to be the remnants of a clay floor suggesting the presence of small, probable timber structure. It is tempting to suggest that the linear feature and later re-cut located at the south west end of the trench represent the Roman roadside ditch.
- 7.2 Towards the rear of the site a small pit was located in trench 2 and a further substantial ditch in trench 3. The ditch was again on a very similar alignment to the Roman road with its size suggesting that it formed some form of boundary or enclosure probably relating to the activity encountered in trenches 1 and 2. The Roman road was not located in trench 1 suggesting that a metalled surface encountered during a watching brief in Newington Court represents a courtyard area.
- 7.3 The presence of large amounts of pottery together with smaller quantities of charred plant remains, hammerscale and slag suggests domestic activity with perhaps small scale metal working also taking place on or near the present site. The majority of the pottery appears to date from the early second to fourth centuries suggesting that the site was most intensively occupied during the middle of the Roman period.
- 7.2 A soil layer represented by deposits (119), (118), (117) and (210) containing Roman pottery, brick and tile sealed the Roman features in trenches 1 and 2. It seems that this deposit built up after the abandonment of the site, perhaps the result of material washing down the slope. The presence of colluvial material would explain the depth of deposit sealing the archaeological features present in trenches 2 and 3.
- 7.3 Later deposits located in trenches 2 and 3 appear to be colluvial in nature with several modern features also encountered.

8 Impact Assessment

- 8.1 The area of the proposed new building lies directly over the archaeological material located in trench 1 with the existing ground surface lying at between 52.52 and 52.98 m. OD. The removal of foundations and probable re-routing of services after the demolition of the existing property will almost certainly reveal, and potentially cause damage to archaeological deposits.
- 8.2 Comparison of existing and proposed ground levels suggests that very little leveling will take place in the front of the development area where significant deposits have been located in trench 1. However, the archaeological sequence in this area is generally sealed by between only 0.3 and 0.4 m. of modern overburden if the latest archaeological deposit is taken as the top of colluvial layer (119) and its equivalents which lie at between approximately 52.22 to

52.58 m. OD. The addition of the colluvial layer provides an additional 0.1 to 0.18 m. depth of deposit providing between 0.4 and 0.58 m of overburden.

- 8.3 To the rear of the site a far greater depth of material, between 0.8 m. in trench 2 and 0.8 to 1 m. in trench 3 seals the surviving archaeological features which lie at a depth of between 52.56 and 52.18 m OD. Approximately half of trench 2 lies within the footprint of the building. It is possible that the surviving archaeology may be disturbed by the cutting of foundation trenches in this area although the increased depth of deposit sealing the archaeology should provide a greater element of protection.
- 8.4 Trench 3 lay outside the area of the building in an area that is to be retained as a grassed area albeit regraded. Unless significant ground reduction (at least 0.7 m. in depth) takes place it seems unlikely that any surviving archaeology will be disturbed.

9 Conclusion

- 9.1 Significant archaeological deposits exist in the area of development.
- 9.2 These appear to be concentrated in the area of trench 1 although archaeological features probably exist in a scatter across the site possibly bounded by the ditch located in trench 3. It seems likely that settlement activity from the Roman period exists in the area, with the remains of a possible small building located in trench 1 alongside the roadside ditch.
- 9.3 The archaeology encountered in trench 1 is currently sealed by between 0.3 and 0.4 m. of overburden. It is likely that the demolition of the existing property and construction of the proposed development will impact on the surviving archaeological resource. The overburden becomes deeper away from the front of the site suggesting that the archaeology located in the north western portion of trench 2 and trench 3 is unlikely to be disturbed.
- 9.3.1 In the event of further work being undertaken it is likely that an interesting assemblage of Roman ceramics will be recovered along with carbonized organic material from bulk sampled features.

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Appendix 1: The Bulk Finds

Context	Sample	Material	Quantity	Weight	Comments
113		Pottery	9	70	
113		Roman Tile	1	7	small frag
119		Pottery	10	120	
119		Tegula	1	75	flange frag only
125	6	Pottery	4	3	
125	6	Slag/hammerscale	0	4	
132		Pottery	8	45	
133		Pottery	6	55	
133		Daub	1	10	
134		Pottery	6	45	
134		Roman Tile	1	325	
137		Bone	1	10	
141	5	Pottery	2	3	
141	5	Slag/hammerscale	0	3	
143		Pottery	3	35	
143		Roman Tile	1	45	frag, burnt?
143		Slag	2	75	
149		Stone	2	75	burnt flint
210		Pottery	5	45	
210		Roman Tile	1	10	frag, burnt?
211		Pottery	11	355	x1 amphorae sherd
211		Bone	2	5	
212		Pottery	16	95	
215		Pottery	5	75	
215		Roman Tile	1	15	
214		Pottery	1	5	
215	2	Pottery	7	10	
215	2	Slag/hammerscale	0	2	
311		Pottery	14	190	includes mortaria frag
311		Roman Tile	1	55	
311		Bone	46	25	soft-some very small frags
311		Slag	9	115	
311		Hearth Lining	2	10	
312		Pottery	15	215	
313	1	Pottery	3	5	

Appendix 2: The Small Finds

Context	Sample	Find No	Material	Quantity	Weight	Description
212		28	fe	2	20	nails
212		29	fe	1	10	fe object/nail frag?
212		30	stone	1	25	flint frag
311		31	stone	3	45	flint flakes/core
141	5	40	fe	1	1	fe frag

Appendix 3: Environmental Analysis by Enid Allison and Mat Ginever

Introduction

Bulk samples were taken from the fills of features exposed during the archaeological evaluation carried out at Keycol Hill, Sittingborne in July 2007. The excavated deposits appear to be of Roman date.

Methods

The volume of individual bulk samples was generally 10 litres, with one smaller 6 litre sample.

Samples were soaked in water containing washing soda (sodium carbonate) prior to carrying out flotation. Washovers were produced onto 0.5mm mesh, and residues were washed onto 2mm and 1mm nested sieves. Washovers and residues were air-dried. The residues >2mm were sorted in their entirety for animal and plant remains and artefacts. The >1mm residues were checked for the presence of hammerscale using a magnet, and scanned briefly for other remains. Washovers were scanned using a low-power binocular microscope (x10) and the contents recorded.

Results

The results for each sample are presented below in context number order.

Context 124, sample <4> [Fill of pit; 10 litre sample]

The washover from the sample had a volume of 20ml. It contained small charcoal fragments, hazelnut shell (*Corylus*), and traces of seeds. Both the latter were charred. Other remains present were small fragments of orange-brown concretions (?iron pan/?faecal concretions), and fragments of millipedes (Diplopoda).

The residue had a weight of 0.18kg and contained small traces of calcined bone and orange-brown concretions.

Context 125, sample <6> [Fill of ditch; 6 litre sample]

The washover volume was 15ml. Fragments of charcoal, charred cereal grain and chaff, and charred seeds were recovered. The charred plant remains were well preserved.

The residue had a weight of 0.12kg. It contained small pot sherds (3g), a small quantity of slag and hammerscale (5g), and traces of burnt flint, brick or tile.

Context 128, sample <3> [Fill of pit; 10 litre sample]

The washover was very small (7ml) but small charred seeds were quite common. Small fragments of charcoal and millipede segments were present.

The residue weighed 0.18kg. The only item kept was a regularly shaped stone.

Context 141, sample <5> [Fill of ditch; 10 litre sample]

The washover was relatively large by the standard of the rest of the samples and had a volume of 30ml. It contained a small assemblage of charred cereal grains, chaff, seeds and hazelnut shell, and fragmentary charcoal. The plant remains were moderately well preserved and identifiable. Very small, soft fragments of bone were common. The general condition of these fragments suggests that an unknown quantity of bone had originally been present in the deposit but that soil conditions were unsuitable for its long term preservation. There were also a few fragments of oyster shell (*Ostrea edulis*).

The residue had a weight of 0.30kg. Traces of brick or tile, daub, pottery (<5g), slag and hammerscale, and calcined mammal bone were present.

Context 217, sample <2> [Fill of pit; 10 litre sample]

The washover from the sample had a volume of 10ml. Charcoal, fragments of charred cereal grain and chaff, and charred seeds were present. There were traces of decayed mammal and fish bone.

The residue had a weight of 0.56kg. It contained several pot sherds (total weight 16g), a small quantity of slag and hammerscale, and traces of mammal bone. Tarmac fragments (weight 30g) were also recovered.

Context 313, sample <1> [Fill of ditch; 10 litre sample]

The washover had a volume of 10ml. It consisted mainly of fragmentary charcoal, with a few charred cereal grains and chaff, and traces of other charred seeds and decayed bone.

The residue weighed 0.30kg. It included 10g of pottery.

Conclusions and recommendations

In the deposits sampled, preservation of plant remains was by carbonization. All six samples produced some charred plant remains other than charcoal, albeit mostly in small quantities. Residuality cannot be ruled out for deposits containing small quantities of material. One sample from the fill of a ditch (context 141) produced an assemblage of charred cereals (20+ grains) and crop weeds. This is more likely to have been part of a deliberately dumped deposit. Preservation of plant material was moderate to good.

If further archaeological excavation is carried out on the site charred plant remains are to be expected from some deposits. Sampling should therefore be targeted towards the fills of pits and ditches, particularly if they appear to contain deliberate dumps of domestic or industrial material. Charred plant assemblages will provide data on local land use, agricultural practices and economy.

The condition of animal bone recovered from the samples, usually only present in the washovers, strongly suggests that soil conditions on the site were unfavourable for the preservation of bone, and probably also molluscan shell. However, local conditions within particular features could vary, and if further archaeological work is carried out,

deposits containing significant quantities of bone should be bulk sampled extensively to augment recovery of small elements and fragments, and particularly fish remains.

Context	Spot - Dates	PHIST	ROM	PR	Total	Comments
113	c120 - 200.	0	9	0	9	R14 Black - Burnished 2 dish rim & ba. Inc. B6 Belgic ?N. Kent shell - tempered rim, R16 fine grey Upchurch bss & R73 ?coarse grey sandy bs.
119	c250 - 400.	0	10	0	10	LR10 Oxford red - brown colour - coat bs. Inc. R7 fine grey sandy bss, R14 Black - Burnished 2 bs, R16 fine grey Upchurch bss, R17.1 fine orange Upchurch rim, R18.1 fine purple/grey Upchurch slipped flagon bss & R71 Other pink - buff bs.
125	c?70 - 200.	0	0	0	0	Environ. Sample <6>. 4 sherds. R73 ?coarse grey sandy & R74.1 ?coarse orange sandy scraps.
132	c175 - 300.	0	8	0	8	LR2 ?local fine grey sandy over - fired bs. Inc. R16 fine grey Upchurch bss, R73 ?coarse grey sandy bss & R73.1 Black - Burnished - type bas and bs.
133	c175 - 300.	0	6	0	6	LR2 ?local fine grey sandy over - fired bss. Inc. R7 fine grey sandy bs, R73 ?coarse grey sandy rim & R73.1 Black - Burnished - type bs w lattice dec.
134	c175 - 300.	0	6	0	6	LR2 ?local fine grey sandy over - fired bs. Inc. B6 Belgic ?N. Kent shell - tempered bs, R14 Black - Burnished 2 ba and bs & R16 fine grey Upchurch bss.
141	c120 - 350	0	0	0	0	Environ. Sample <5>. 2 sherds. R14 Black - Burnished 2 jar scraps.
143	c120 - 350	0	3	0	3	R14 Black - Burnished 2 ba. Inc. R5 Canterbury coarse grey sandy rim & R16 fine grey Upchurch rim.
210	c275 - 425.	0	5	0	5	LR1 prob. local coarse grog - tempered bs. Inc. R16 fine grey Upchurch ba and bs, R73 ?coarse grey sandy bs & LR2 ?local fine grey sandy over - fired bs.
211	c120 - 200.	0	11	0	11	R43 Central Gaulish samian Drag. 18/31 or Drag. 31 dish ba & bs. Inc. R16 fine grey Upchurch bss, R50 South Spanish Dressel 20 amphora bs w ?cut edges, R73.1 Black - Burnished - type bs & R74.1 ?coarse orange sandy bss.
212	c175 - 300.	0	15	0	15	LR2 ?local fine grey sandy over - fired bss. Inc. R14 Black - Burnished 2 bas, R16 fine grey Upchurch Late C1st. rim and bss, 1 w lattice dec, R17.1 fine orange Upchurch bs w rouletted dec, R43 Central Gaulish samian worn and burnt rim and burnt bs, R73 ?coarse grey sandy ba & R74.1 ?coarse orange sandy bs.

Context	Spot - Dates	PHIST	ROM	PR	Total	Comments
214	?c70 - 200.	0	5	0	5	R7 fine grey sandy bs, R16 fine grey Upchurch bs, R73 ?coarse grey sandy ba and bs & R88.93 flagon white ware: Rigby Fabric WW2 - WW8 bs.
215	c70 - 200.	0	1	0	1	R73 ?coarse grey sandy rim.
215	?c70 - 200.	0	0	0	0	Environ. Sample <2>. 7 sherds. R73 ?coarse grey sandy bss & R74.1 ?coarse orange sandy scraps. Inc. B9 Belgic coarse sandy rim, R16 fine grey Upchurch bs & R17.1 fine orange Upchurch ba.
311	c250 - 400.	0	14	0	14	LR7 Oxford "Parchment" Ware mortaria bs w trit. grits. Rest assemblage mostly c70 - 200. R16 fine grey Upchurch bs, R17.1 fine orange Upchurch flagon rim w cream slip, R17.3 fine buff Upchurch bs, R18.2 fine purple/grey Upchurch unslipped flagon ha, R43 Southern Gaulish samian rim, R73 ?coarse grey sandy rim and bss & R73.1 Black - Burnished - type Hadrianic dog dish profile.
312	c120 - 250.	0	15	0	15	R14.1 N. Kent Black - Burnished 2 rims and bas: dog dish profile. ?Same vessel (313 <1>. Inc B6 Belgic ?N. Kent shell - tempered bs, R71 Other pink - buff rim and bs & R73 ?coarse grey sandy bs.
313	c120 - 250.	0	0	0	0	Environ. Sample <1>. 3 sherds. R14.1 N. Kent Black - Burnished 2 dog dish bas: ?same vessel (312).
	TOTAL:	0	108	0	108	

Appendix 5: Kent County Council SMR Summary Form

Site Name: Land adjacent to Newington Court, Keycol Hill, Newington	
Site Address: 'Alwyn', Keycol Hill, Newington, Sittingbourne	
District/Unitary: Swale District	Parish: Newington
Period(s): Roman	
NGR (Centre of site) : 586984 164542	
Type of Archaeological Work (delete): Evaluation	
Date of Recording:	
Unit Undertaking Recording: Canterbury Archaeological Trust (CAT)	
Geology: Thanet Beds	
Title and Author of Accompanying Report: Holman, J. 'An archaeological evaluation of a plot of land adjacent to Newington Court, Keycol Hill, Newington, Kent.	

Summary of Fieldwork Results (begin with the earliest period first, add NGRs where appropriate):

The results from the three cut trenches suggest the presence of a small Roman settlement lying alongside Roman Watling Street. It seems likely, from the quantity of Roman material recovered that the present site lies on the edge of this area. A clay layer encountered in trench 1, closest to the road, although very heavily truncated by later cut features (mainly modern services) appears to be the remnants of a clay floor suggesting the presence of a small, probably timber structure. It is tempting to suggest that the linear feature and later re-cut located at the south west end of this trench represent the Roman roadside ditch.

Towards the rear of the site a small pit was located in trench 2 and a further substantial ditch in trench 3. The ditch was again on a very similar alignment to the Roman road with its size suggesting that it formed some form of boundary or enclosure probably relating to the activity encountered in trenches 1 and 2. The Roman road was not located in trench 1 suggesting that a metalled surface encountered during a watching brief at Newington Court represents a courtyard area.

The presence of large amounts of pottery together with smaller quantities of charred plant remains, hammerscale and slag suggests domestic activity with perhaps small scale metal working also taking place on or near the present site. The majority of the pottery appears to date from the early second to fourth centuries suggesting that the site was most intensively occupied during the middle of the Roman period.

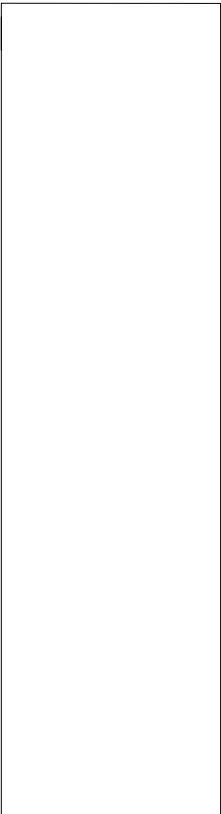
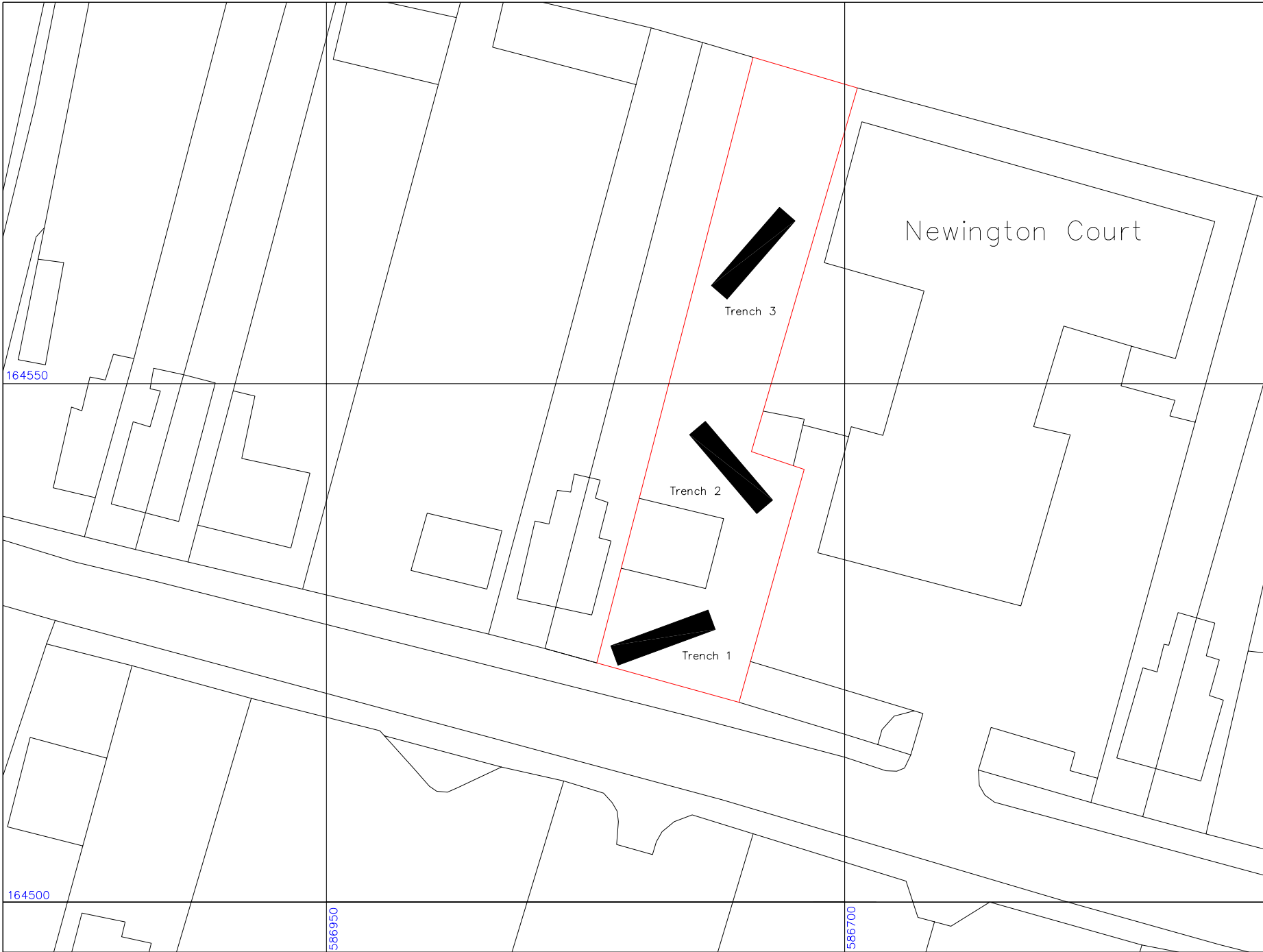
The archaeological features in trenches 1 and 2 were sealed by a soil containing large quantities of Roman pottery, brick and tile. It seems that this deposit built up after the abandonment of the site, perhaps the result of material washing down the slope. The presence of colluvial material would explain why the depth of overburden was so much greater in trenches 2 and 3.

Later deposits located in trenches 2 and 3 appear to be colluvial in nature with several modern features also encountered.

Location of Archive/Finds: CAT, 92a Broad St, Canterbury

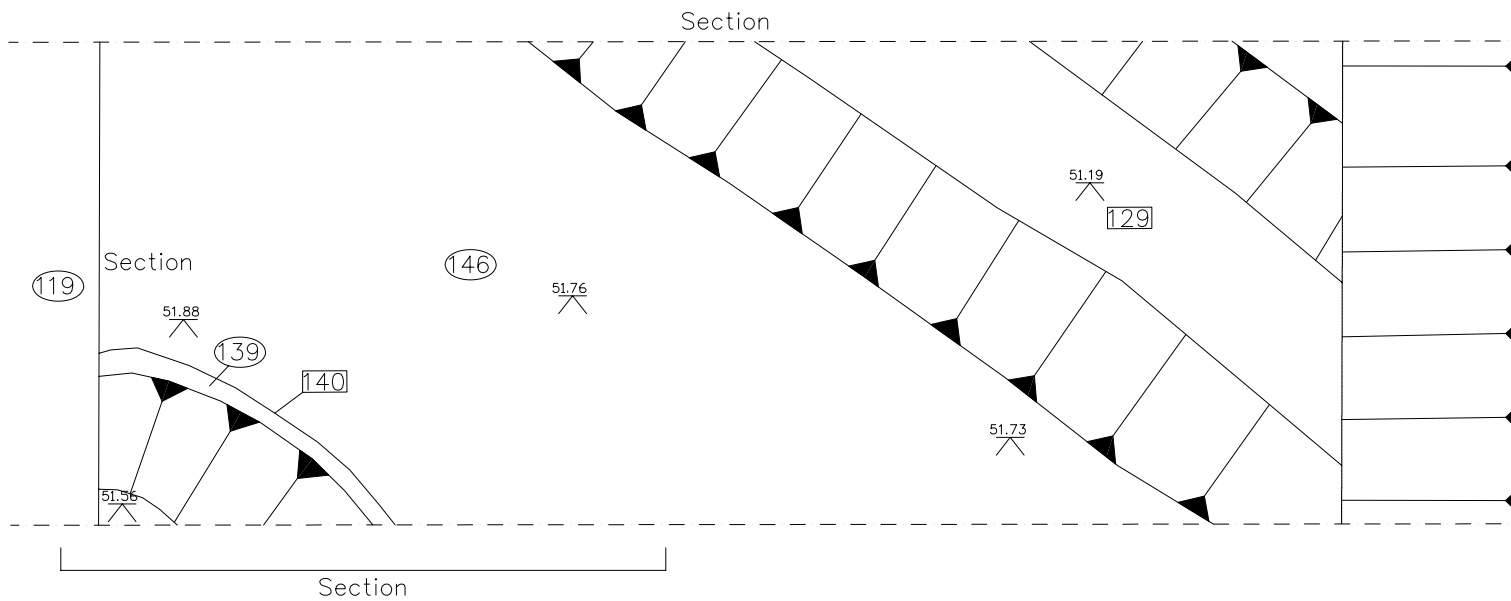
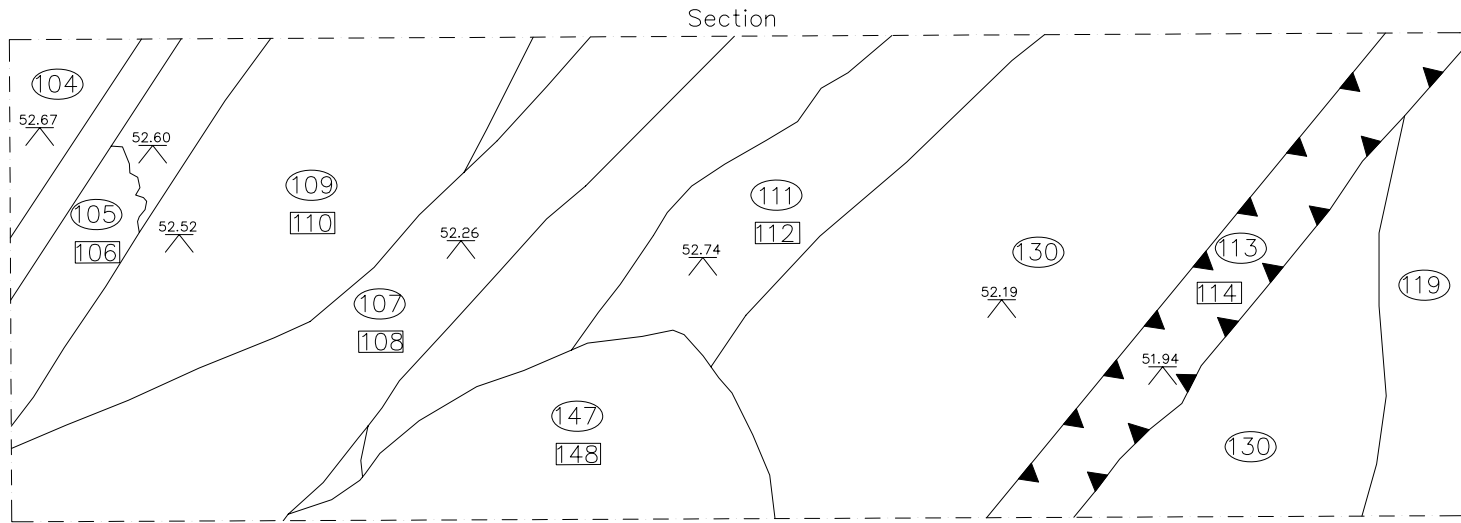
Contact at Unit: James Holman

Date: 03/08/07



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PROJECT Keycol Hill, Sittingbourne	
COMMENTS Ordnance Survey data reproduced by permission of HMSO Copyright Crown Copyright 2001. All rights reserved. License no. AL 100021009	
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REF/DRG NO. KHS-EV-07/FIG 2	

Figure 2. Trench Location Plan.



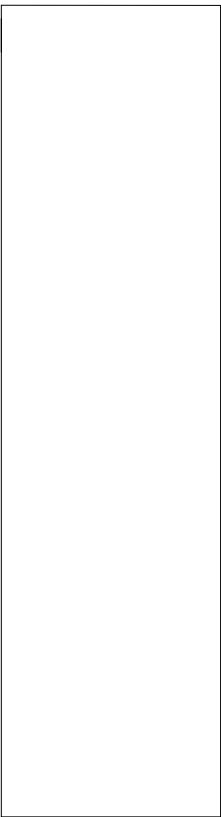
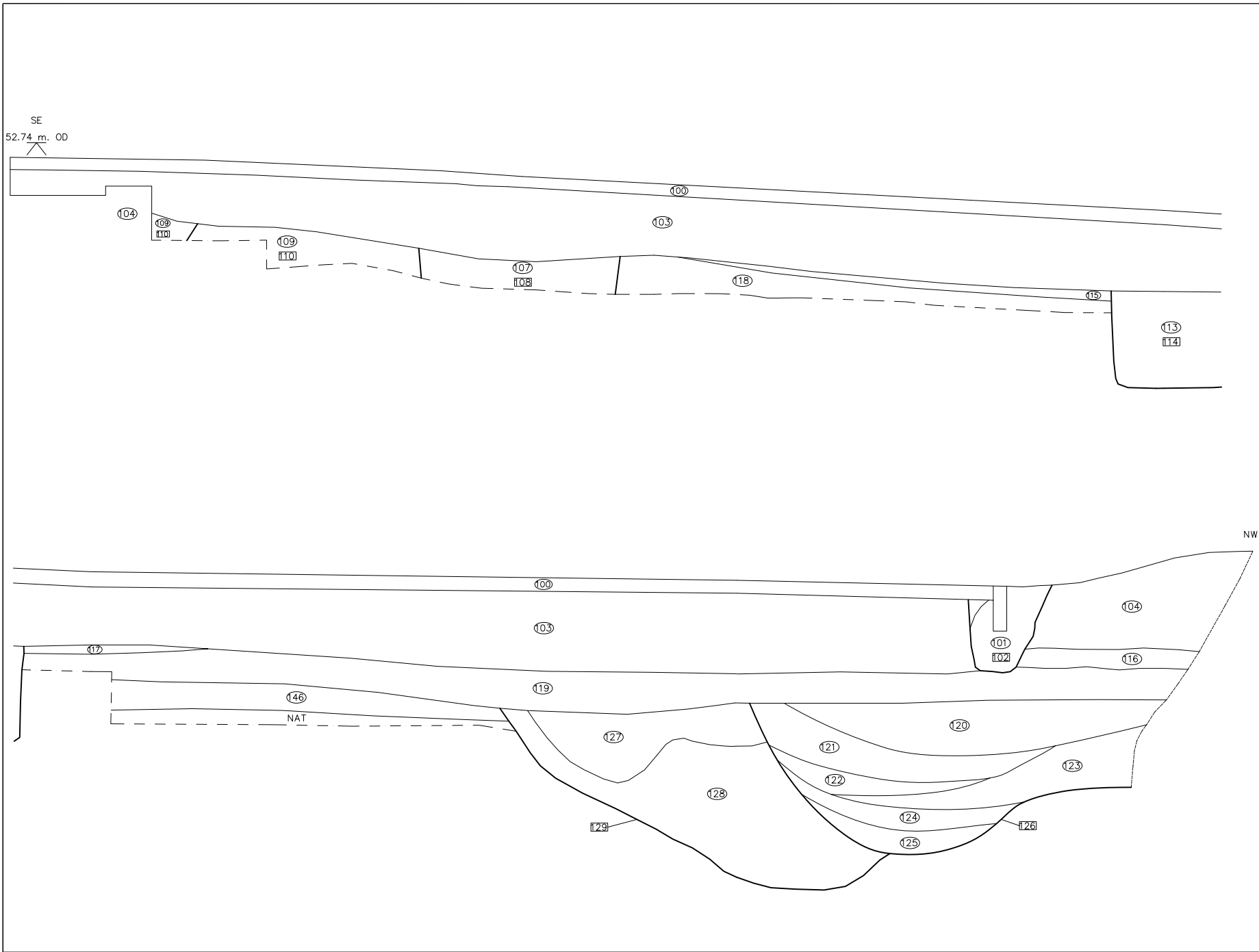
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Figure 3. Plan of Trench 1



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Figure 4. North west facing section, trench 1.

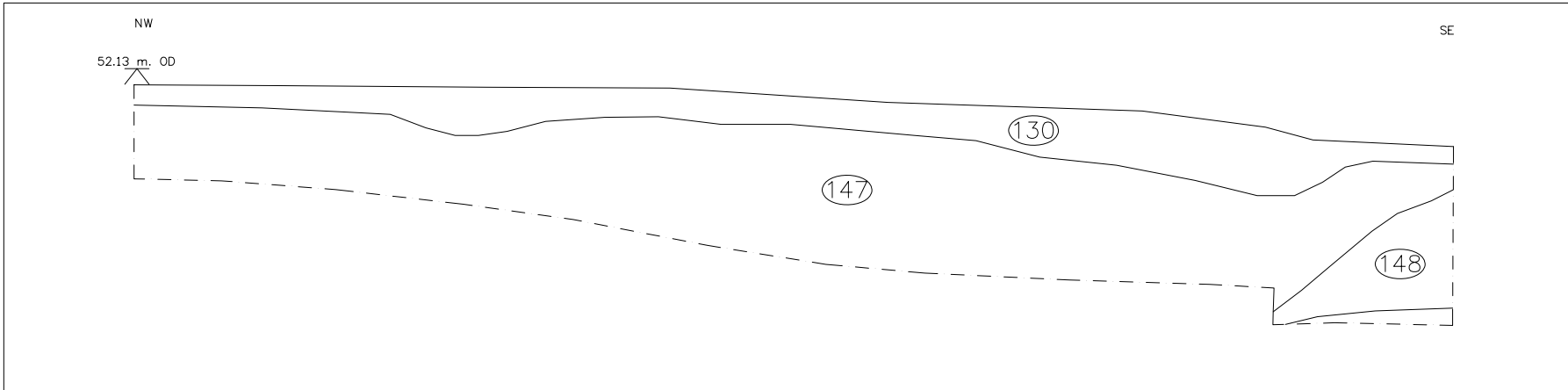


Figure 5. South west facing section through service trench [114] showing possible floor (130), trench 1.

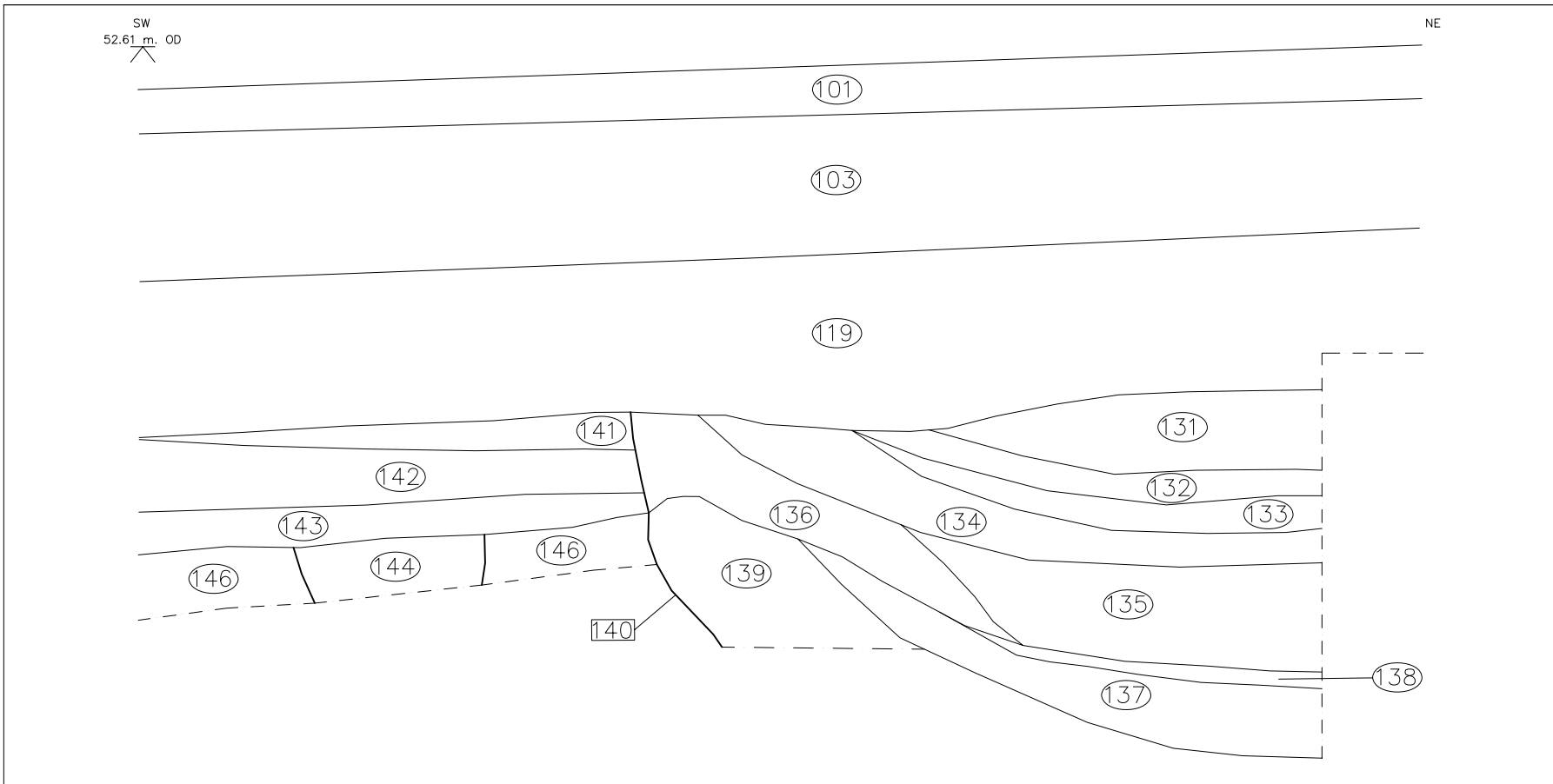
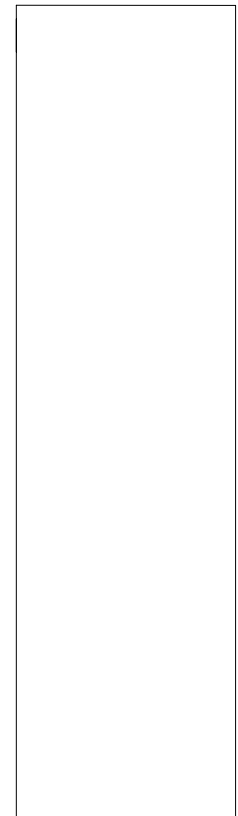
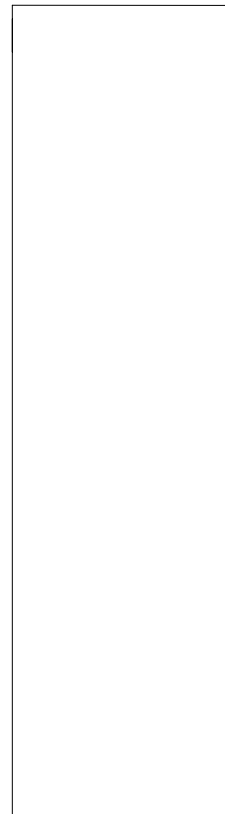
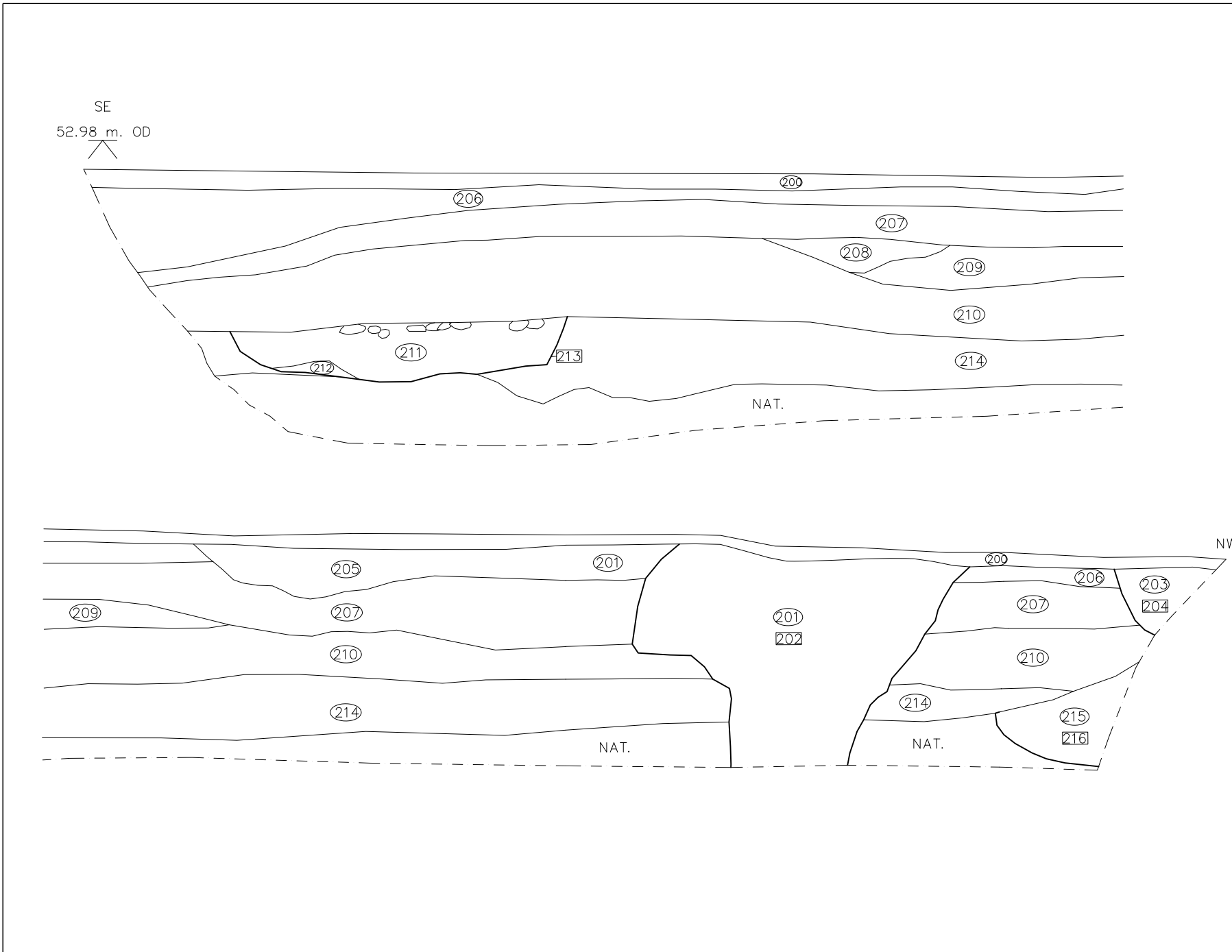


Figure 6. South east facing section showing clay lined pit [140], trench 1.



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Figure 7. North east facing section, trench 2



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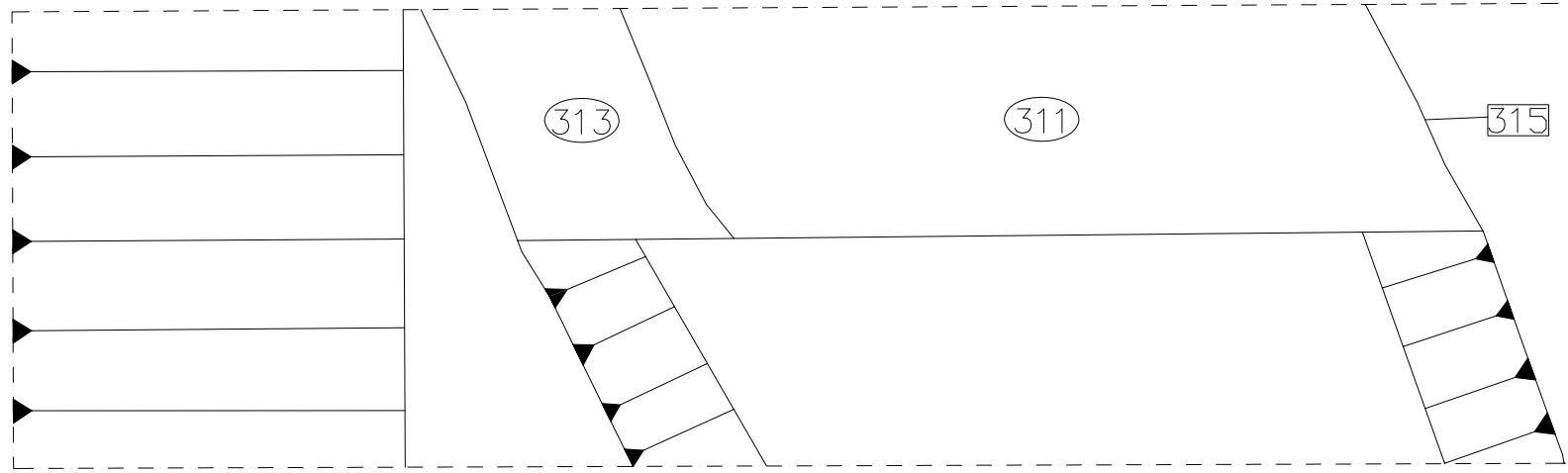
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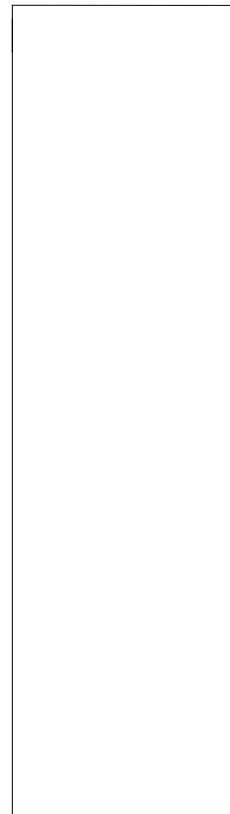
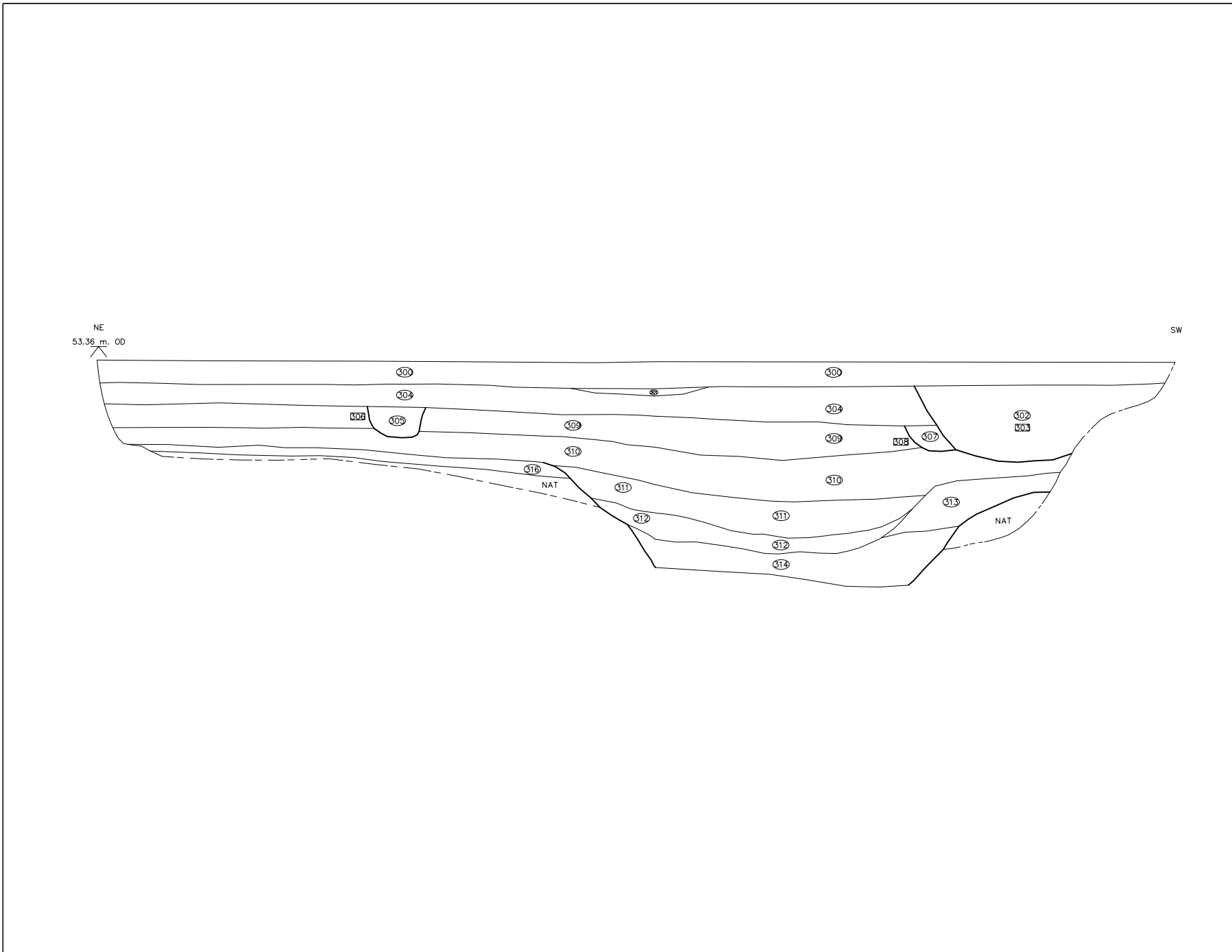


Section



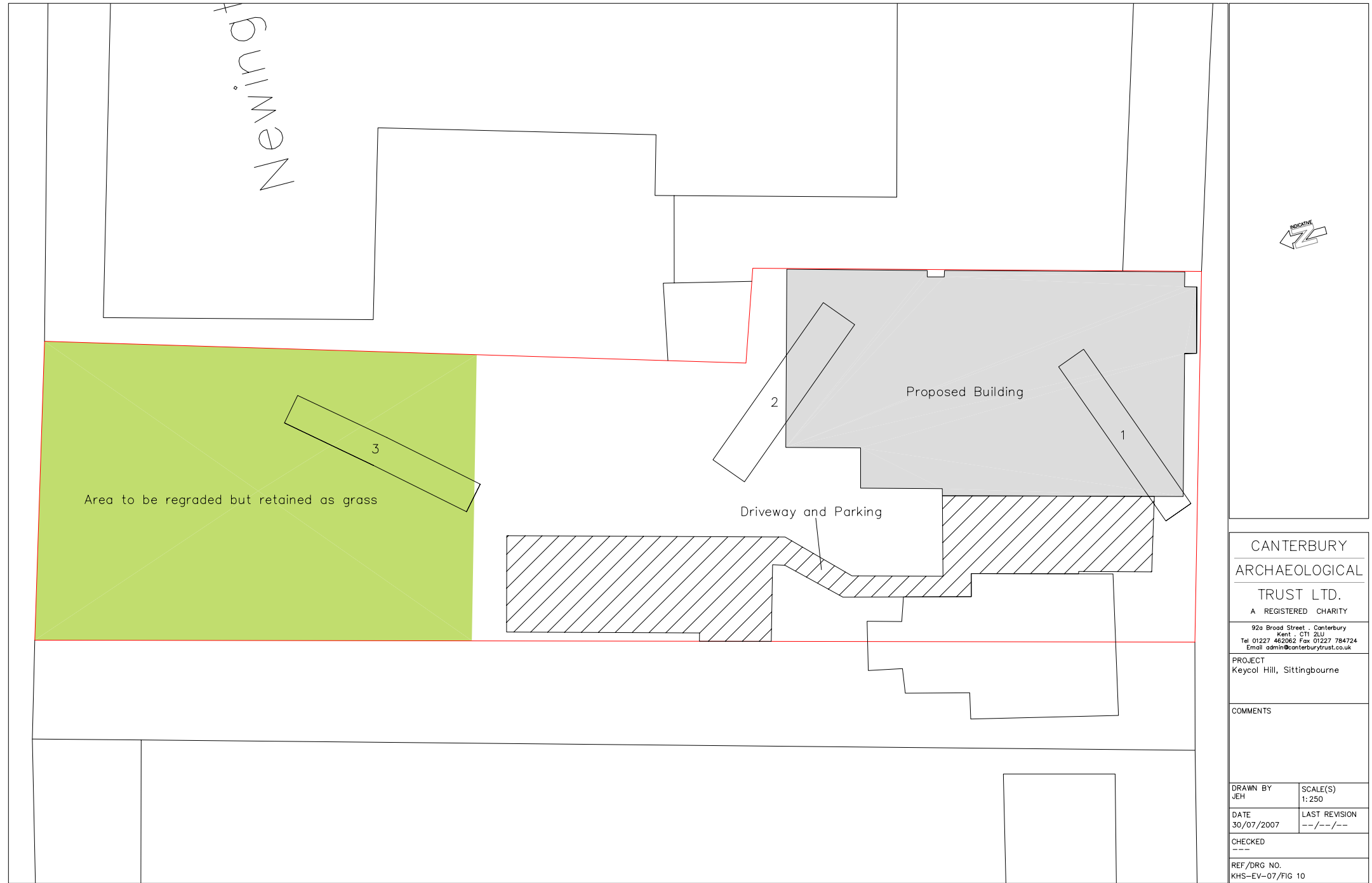
Section

Figure 8. Plan of trench 3.



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Figure 9. South east facing section, trench 3.



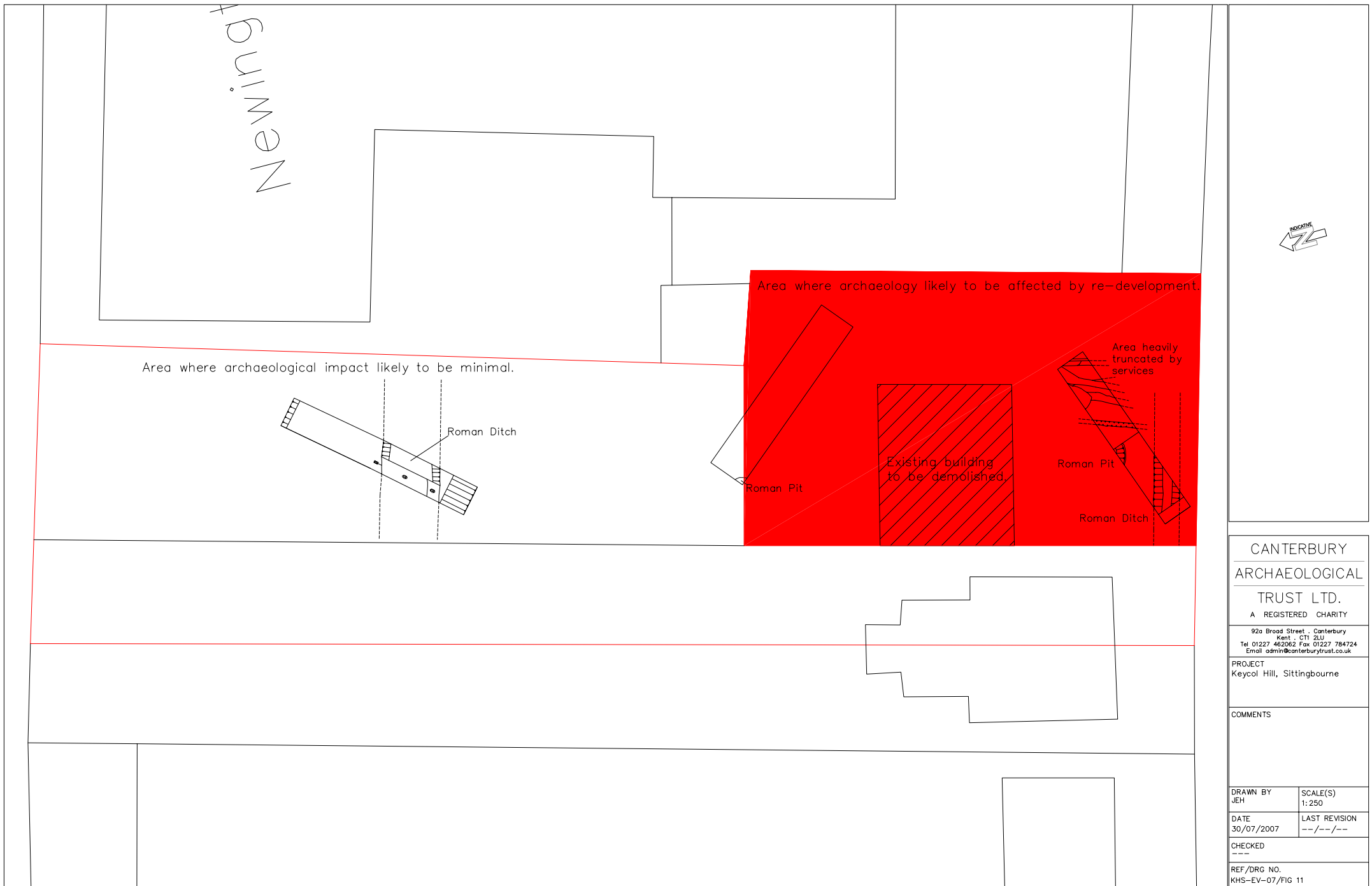
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Figure 10. Plan of proposed development in relation to archaeological trenches.



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Figure 11. Plan of proposed site showing archaeological features and potential impact of the proposed development.



Plate 1: Trench 1 showing modern services, looking SW.

Plate 2: Trench 1 showing unexcavated ditch [129] and re-cut [126], looking NE.





Plate 3: Trench 1 showing ditch [129] and re-cut [126] after excavation, looking SE.



Plate 4: Trench 1 showing pit [140] with in situ clay lining (139), looking NW.



Plate 5: Trench 2 showing section, looking E.



Plate 6: Trench 3, looking NE.



Plate 7: Trench 3 showing unexcavated ditch [315], looking SW.



Plate 8: Trench 3 showing ditch [315] after partial excavation, looking NW.