

Report



Archaeological Monitoring and Recording Report: Land Adjacent to No. 116 Priory Road, Dartford, Kent

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Quality Assurance

ADAS Project Code	Accession Code	Local Authority HER No.	Planning Application Ref.	OASIS Reference No.	Site Code
<i>CEN3050 – Priory Road, Dartford, Kent</i>	<i>TBC</i>	<i>N/A</i>	<i>N/A</i>	<i>adasuklt1- 278174</i>	<i>PRIOR17</i>

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Revision History

Revision	Date	Amendment

Summary

In May 2017 RSK ADAS Ltd carried out an archaeological watching brief for UK Power Networks for groundworks of eight trial holes at land adjacent to No. 116 Priory Road, Dartford, Kent (TQ 53925 74680, Figure 1).

A heritage statement indicated that the site had potential to contain archaeological deposits dating to the Medieval and Post-medieval periods in particular relating to the Medieval Dartford Priory.

The monitoring works recorded made ground deposits and backfill of service existing trenches up to 2.0m deep across the Site. This suggests that there is highly unlikely to be any potential for archaeological significant deposits or artefacts to survive up to this depth across the site and in the construction cuts of the existing service trenches.

No deposits or artefacts which could be associated with the nearby Medieval Priory were observed during the archaeological monitoring. It is considered that the potential for the Site to contain Medieval remains is low.

The remains of the narrow brick wall was recorded in Trial hole 7 can most likely be interpreted as part of the garden boundary wall of 19th or 20th century date. It is considered to have a negligible archaeological value.

A layer or deposit of peat was recorded at the base of Trial holes 6, 7 and 9. Due to health and safety risks these deposits could not be examined in detail within these Trial Holes. The peat deposits exposed at the base of these Trial Pits were also contaminated by the made ground and modern services. Nevertheless these deposits may have some potential for containing Prehistoric or Palaeolithic material.

The archaeological monitoring work carried out fulfilled UKPN's obligations to the Historic Environment under Section 38 and Schedule 9 of the Electricity Act 1989.

Acknowledgements

This archaeological watching brief was commissioned by UK Power Networks, and thanks are due in this regard. The report and supporting illustrations were prepared by James McNicoll-Norbury, and checked by Diarmuid O Seaneachain.

1 Introduction

Project Background

- 1.1.1 In May 2017 ADAS carried out an archaeological watching brief for UK Power Networks at land adjacent to 116 Priory Road, Dartford, Kent. The proposed development involves the diversion of an underground 33kV and a 132kV cable route. The existing underground lines pass through the land adjacent to No. 116 Priory Road (the Site).
- 1.1.2 Planning permission was granted in February 2009 for the erection of a detached two storey building to provide three two bedroom flats, one bedroom studio flat and seven car parking spaces in this site (Planning Ref: 07/00657/FUL). The existing 33kV and 132kV cables along a wayleave through this development area may need to be diverted to allow the residential development to proceed. The objective of the watching brief was to record all archaeological remains exposed during the groundworks which consisted of eight trial holes at TQ 53925 74680 (Figure 1).
- 1.1.3 The works were carried out within the permitted development rights of UK Power Networks under the Electricity Act 1989, and therefore were not subject to a planning application. However, a heritage statement (ADAS 2017) indicated that the site was located within an area of archaeological potential and archaeological monitoring was recommended.
- 1.1.4 RSK ADAS Ltd were instructed to prepare a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) to carry out the required archaeological works and record any archaeological remains during the monitoring of the groundworks (ADAS 2017).
- 1.1.5 The fieldwork followed the *Standard and Guidance for an archaeological watching brief* (CIfA 2014), *the Management of Archaeological Projects 2* (English Heritage 1991) and the *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MORPHE): Project Manager's Guide* (EH 2006).
- 1.1.6 In carrying out this work UK Power Networks complied with their obligations to the historic environment, as outlined in Section 38 and Schedule 9 of the Electricity Act 1989.

The Site, Location and Geology

- 1.1.7 The proposed works comprised the excavation of eight trial holes at 116 Priory Road, Dartford, Kent.
- 1.1.8 The underlying geology of this site is recorded as chalk of the Seaford and Newhaven Chalk Formations with superficial deposits consisting of clay silty peaty alluvium (BGS 2017). The nearest useful borehole data indicates that the stratigraphy of the Route consists of 1.15m of made

ground overlying 1m of brown silty clay with gravel and chalk fragments. This deposit in-turn overlies 0.35m of light brown clay coarse sand with chalk and flint gravel which sealed 3.05m of brown sandy fine to coarse gravel with some chalk cobbles. It is likely that this layer represents the natural substrate at this location (TQ57SW181- Dartford PMG STN and Bridge S3) however natural substrate was not observed during the archaeological monitoring.

2 Objectives

Aims and Scope

2.1.1 The aims of this watching brief were:

- *To ensure that any archaeological features/deposits exposed during groundworks associated with the development area were identified, recorded and interpreted to an acceptable standard;*
- *To ensure that any significant discoveries of artefactual evidence were recorded and analysed to an acceptable standard;*
- *To record and analyse any archaeological remains that were revealed during the course of the works;*
- *The specific aim of the fieldwork was to establish whether any archaeological remains that may be associated with the nearby Medieval Dartford Priory.*
- *A specific aim of the fieldwork was to establish if the site had any potential for Palaeolithic or Prehistoric deposits and artefacts*
- *To ensure that the fieldwork took place within, and contributes to the goals of South East Research Framework (SERF) for East Sussex, Kent, Surrey and West Sussex (Kent County Council 2007);*
- *To report the results as appropriate.*

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4 Archaeological and Historical Context

Introduction

- 4.1.1 The groundworks comprised the excavation of eight trial holes in advance of development at adjacent to No. 116 Priory Road, Dartford, Kent (TQ 53925 74680).
- 4.1.2 A heritage statement (ADAS 2017) was produced which assessed the historic environment potential of the landscape within a 500m radius around the Site boundary. The results of this assessment are summarized below.
- 4.1.3 There were seventeen designated heritage assets recorded by Historic England within 500m of the development. These heritage assets include the one Grade II* and sixteen Grade II Listed buildings, the closest of these are the Grade II Listed walls of Dartford Priory (1086053) which are located 44m to the south-west of the proposed works (ADAS 2017).
- 4.1.4 The Kent HER records seventy-seven non-designated heritage assets within 500m of the development. There are no recorded heritage assets on the site and no visible remains of archaeological significance were identified along the cable route during the field inspection (ADAS 2017).
- 4.1.5 In the wider landscape the earliest evidence for human activity is a Palaeolithic handaxe 469m to the south of the development. A possible ring ditch has been previously recorded from aerial photographs and is located 21m east of the development area and is likely to be Bronze Age in origin.
- 4.1.6 The Romano-British period is represented by eight records in the HER with the closest being the site of a possible early Romano-British cemetery 98m west from the development although the majority of Roman deposits are located much further afield including the major Roman road of Watling street over 500m to the south of the development. The Medieval period is primarily represented by Dartford Priory which was located 156m to the south-east of the development and its Grade II Listed walls 44m from the development. The Post-medieval and modern periods represent Dartford's industrial past and military defences during the Second World War during the Post-medieval and modern periods (ADAS 2017).
- 4.1.7 The Kent HER contains sixty-four records for previous archaeological investigations within 500m of the development area (ADAS 2017).

5 Methodology

Introduction

- 5.1.1 The fieldwork followed the methodology set out within the WSI (ADAS 2017). An archaeologist was present during all intrusive groundworks to excavate the trial holes within the watching brief area.
- 5.1.2 Where archaeological deposits were encountered written, graphic and photographic records were compiled in accordance with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists *Standard and Guidance: Archaeological watching brief 2014* and Kent County Council (KCC) Specification for an Archaeological Watching Brief in Kent (Kent County Council 2017).

Artefacts, Human Remains, Treasure and Environmental Sampling

- 5.1.3 No artefacts or human remains were encountered during the watching brief. No archaeologically significant deposits were disturbed by the groundworks, so no environmental sampling was undertaken.

Post-Excavation Analysis

- 5.1.4 No archaeological artefacts or deposits were encountered during the watching brief, and therefore no post-excavation analysis was required.

Archives and Deposition

- 5.1.5 The archive is currently held by ADAS at their offices in Milton Park. No artefacts were recovered during the monitoring and therefore no artefacts will need to be deposited with an approved local museum. A paper archive will be deposited Dartford Borough Museum within six months of the completion of the fieldwork under an accession number. A summary of information from this project, set out within Appendix C, will be entered onto the OASIS database of archaeological projects in Britain. An OASIS form, ID reference adasukt1-278174 has been provisionally completed and will be submitted at the time of completion.

ADAS Project Team

- 5.1.6 Fieldwork was undertaken by Richard Woolley. The report was written by James McNicoll-Norbury. The illustrations were prepared by James McNicoll-Norbury. The archive was compiled and prepared for deposition by James McNicoll-Norbury. The project was managed for ADAS by Andrew Brown.

6 Results

6.1.1 This section provides an overview of the monitoring results; detailed summaries of the recorded contexts and finds are to be found in Appendices A and B respectively.

6.1.2 The watching brief area followed the proposed location for the trial holes (Figure 2; Plates 1 - 8). The ground works consisted of the digging of trial holes using a mechanical excavator with a flat bladed 0.40m bucket under constant archaeological supervision. The works were completed over four days (Tuesday 9th to Monday 15th May 2017). The weather generally consisted of sunshine and clouds (Plates 1 - 8).

Trial Hole 1

6.1.3 Trial Hole 1 measured 5m in length by 4.5m in width and was up to 2m in depth. The topsoil (100) was approximately 0.25m deep and consisted of mid grey brown clayey silt. This overlay group (101) which was comprised of the cut of modern service trenches, the pipes and backfills of these trenches and made ground consisting of gravels, crush and silt up to 1.75m thick. This group of deposits is likely to have truncated the natural substrate which was not observed (Figure 3).

6.1.4 No archaeological features or artefacts were observed or recovered from the trial hole.

Trial Hole 2

6.1.5 Trial Hole 2 measured 2.5m in length by 3.5m in width and was 1.4m deep. The topsoil (200) was approximately 0.25m deep and consisted of mid grey brown clayey silt. This overlay group (201) which was comprised of the cut of modern service trenches, the pipes and backfills of these trenches and made ground consisting of gravels, silt and sand up to 1.15m thick. This group of deposits is likely to have truncated the natural substrate which was not observed.

6.1.6 No archaeological features or artefacts were observed or recovered from the trial hole.

Trial Hole 3

6.1.7 Trial Hole 3 measured 4.25m in length by 2.5m in width and was 1.8m deep. The topsoil (300) was approximately 0.25m deep and consisted of mid grey brown clayey silt. This overlay made ground (301) comprised of grey brown clayey silt around 0.30m thick which in turn overlay a layer of red gravels and silt (302) 0.45m thick and black gravels and silt (303) 0.30m thick which in turn overlay a layer of clay with chalk nodules (304) up to 0.50m thick which was the backfill of a service trench. The undisturbed natural substrate was not observed (Figure 3).

6.1.8 No archaeological features or artefacts were observed or recovered from the trial hole.

Trial Hole 4

- 6.1.9 Trial Hole 4 measured 4.25m in length by 3.0m in width and was 2.0m deep. The topsoil (400) was approximately 0.10m deep and consisted of mid-grey brown clayey silt. This overlay group (401) which was comprised of the cut of modern service trenches, the pipes and backfills of these trenches and made ground consisting of gravels, concrete, crush and sand up to 1.90m thick. This group of deposits is likely to have truncated the natural substrate which was not observed.
- 6.1.10 No archaeological features or artefacts were observed or recovered from the trial hole.

Trial Hole 5

- 6.1.11 Trial Hole 5 measured 3.0m in length by 1.5m in width and was 0.70m deep. The topsoil (500) was approximately 0.20m deep and consisted of mid-grey brown clayey silt. This overlay group (501) which was comprised of the cut of modern service trenches, the pipes and backfills of these trenches and made ground consisting of gravels, crush and silt up to 0.50m thick. This group of deposits is likely to have truncated the natural substrate which was not observed.
- 6.1.12 No archaeological features or artefacts were observed or recovered from the trench.

Trial Hole 6

- 6.1.13 Trial Hole 6 measured 2.5m in length by 1.5m in width and was 1.6m deep (Figure 5). The topsoil (600) was approximately 0.15m deep and consisted of mid grey brown clayey silt. This overlay group (601) which was comprised of the cut of modern service trenches, the pipes and backfills of these trenches and made ground consisting of gravels, crush, sand and silt up to 1.15m thick. A layer or deposit of peat (602) was recorded at a depth of 1.25m at the base of the trial hole which measured at least 0.35m in thickness and was truncated by the overlaying service cut. This deposit may have some potential for containing Prehistoric or Palaeolithic material.
- 6.1.14 No archaeological features or artefacts were observed or recovered from the trench.

Trial Hole 7

- 6.1.15 Trial Hole 7 measured 4.8m in length by 2.7m in width and was up to 2.0m deep. The topsoil (700) was approximately 0.2m deep and consisted of mid-grey brown clayey silt. This overlay group (701) which was comprised of the cut of modern service trenches, the pipes and backfills of these trenches and made ground consisting of gravels, silt and sand up to 1.30m thick. A brick wall (702) on a north-east to south-west alignment was recorded at a depth of 1.5m in the north-east facing section of the trial hole which had a height of 0.45m and a width of 0.25m. The cut (703) of the wall measured 0.30m wide with a depth of 0.20m and was not recorded in section and no backfill

was recorded in the cut. It is possible that the wall turned on to a north-west to south-east alignment as further brickwork was disturbed by the machine, however due to water ingress further analysis could not be carried out. A layer or deposit of peat (704) was recorded at a depth of 1.80m at the base of the trial hole which had a thickness of up to 0.20m. This peat deposit is likely to be the same as (602) which was observed in Trial Hole 6 and was truncated by the cut (703).

Trial Hole 8

6.1.16 Trial Hole 8 measured 4.5m in length by 3.0m in width and was 1.4m deep. The topsoil (800) was approximately 0.20m deep and consisted of mid-grey brown clayey silt. This overlay group (801) which was comprised of the cut of modern service trenches, the pipes and backfills of these trenches and made ground consisting of gravels, crush and silt up to 1.20m thick. This group of deposits is likely to have truncated the natural substrate which was not observed.

6.1.17 No archaeological features or artefacts were observed or recovered from the trial hole.

Trial Hole 9

6.1.18 Trial Hole 9 measured 2.5m in length by 2.0m in width and was 1.5m deep. The topsoil (900) was approximately 0.20m deep and consisted of mid-grey brown clayey silt. This overlay group (901) which was comprised of the cut of modern service trenches, the pipes and backfills of these trenches and made ground consisting of gravels, crush and silt up to 1.30m thick. This group truncated a layer or deposit of peat (902). This peat deposit is likely to be the same as (602) which was observed in Trial Holes 6 and 7. This group of deposits is likely to have truncated the natural substrate which was not observed

6.1.19 No archaeological features or artefacts were observed or recovered from the trial hole.

7 Discussion and Conclusions

7.1.1 The monitoring works recorded made ground deposits to a depth of 2.0m across the Site. This suggests that there is highly unlikely to be any potential for archaeological significant deposits or artefacts to survive up to this depth across the site and in the construction cuts of the existing service trenches.

7.1.2 No deposits or artefacts which could be associated with the nearby Medieval Priory were observed during the archaeological monitoring. It is considered that the potential for the Site to contain Medieval remains is low.

- 7.1.3 The remains of the narrow brick wall was recorded in Trial hole 7 can most likely be interpreted as part of the garden boundary wall of 19th or 20th century date which appears on historic and modern Ordnance Survey mapping (Figure 2). It is considered to have a negligible archaeological value.
- 7.1.4 A layer or deposit of peat was recorded at the base of Trial holes 6, 7 and 9. Due to health and safety risks these deposits could not be examined in detail within these Trial Holes. The peat deposits exposed at the base of these Trial Pits were also contaminated by the made ground and modern services. Nevertheless these deposits may have some potential for containing Prehistoric or Palaeolithic material.
- 7.1.5 The archaeological monitoring work carried out fulfilled UKPN's obligations to the Historic Environment under Section 38 and Schedule 9 of the Electricity Act 1989.

8 References

ADAS 2017 Heritage Statement, Land adjacent to No. 116 Priory Road, Dartford, Kent. Unpublished client report.

ADAS 2017 *Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Monitoring and Recording at Land Adjacent to No. 116 Priory Road, Dartford, Kent*. Unpublished Written Scheme of Investigation.

ClfA 2014 *Standard and Guidance: Archaeological Watching Brief*.

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Kent County Council 2017, Specification for an Archaeological Watching Brief in Kent

Online Resources

(BGS 2017) British Geological Survey Geology of Britain Viewer. Available at: <http://www.bgs.ac.uk/discoveringGeology/geologyOfBritain/viewer.html> [accessed May 2017].

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(Historic England Listing 2017) Historic England National Heritage List 2017. Available at: <https://www.historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/list-entry/1005678> [accessed May 2017].

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Appendix A: Context Descriptions

Trial Hole No.	Context No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth below modern ground level (m)	Spot-date
1	100	Layer	Topsoil	5.5	4.5	0.25	n/a
1	101	Layer	Modern made ground including service trench cuts and backfill events	5.5	4.5	2.0	n/a
2	200	Layer	Topsoil	3.5	2.5	0.25	n/a
2	201	Layer	Modern made ground including service trench cuts and backfill events	3.5	2.5	1.4	n/a
3	300	Layer	Topsoil	4.25	2.5	0.25	n/a
3	301	Layer	Modern made ground	4.25	2.5	0.55	n/a
3	302	Layer	Modern made ground (red clay and gravels)	4.25	2.5	1.00	n/a
3	303	Layer	Modern made ground (black gravels and silt)	4.25	2.5	1.30	n/a
3	304	Layer	Backfill of service trench	4.25	2.5	1.80	n/a
4	400	Layer	Topsoil	4.25	3.0	0.1	n/a
4	401	Layer	Modern made ground including	4.25	3.0	2.0	n/a

			service trench cuts and backfill events				
5	500	Layer	Topsoil	2.5	1.7	0.2	n/a
5	501	Layer	Modern made ground including service trench cuts and backfill events	2.5	1.7	0.7	n/a
6	600	Layer	Topsoil	2.5	1.5	0.15	n/a
6	601	Layer	Modern made ground including service trench cuts and backfill events	2.5	1.5	1.3	n/a
6	602	Layer	Peat	2.5	1.5	1.65	n/a
7	700	Layer	Topsoil	4.8	2.7	0.2	n/a
7	701	Layer	Modern made ground including service trench cuts and backfill events	4.8	2.7	1.5	n/a
7	702	Deposit	Brick	0.25	0.45	1.5	n/a
7	703	Cut	Wall	0.30	0.20	1.5	n/a
7	704	Layer	Peat	4.8	2.7	1.80	n/a
8	800	Layer	Topsoil	4.6	2.8	0.2	n/a
8	801	Layer	Modern made ground including service trench cuts and backfill events	4.6	2.8	1.4	n/a
9	900	Layer	Topsoil	2.6	1.6	0.2	n/a

9	901	Layer	Modern made ground including service trench cuts and backfill events	2.6	1.6	1.5	n/a
9	902	Layer	Peat	2.6	1.6	1.6	n/a

Appendix B: The Finds

No artefacts were identified during the course of the archaeological monitoring.

Appendix C: Oasis Report Form

OASIS ID: adasuklt1-278174

Project details

Project name	132kv Cable Diversion at Priory Road, Dartford
Short description of the project	Archaeological monitoring and recording of nine trial holes to locate a 132kv underground electricity cable prior to diversion works.
Project dates	Start: 09-05-2017 End: 15-05-2017
Previous/future work	No / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	PRIOR17 - Sitecode
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	None
Current Land use	Other 13 - Waste ground
Monument type	PRIORY Medieval
Significant Finds	NONE None
Investigation type	""Watching Brief""
Prompt	Electricity Act 1989 Section 36

Project location

Country	England
Site location	KENT DARTFORD DARTFORD Priory Road
Study area	50 Square metres

Site coordinates	TQ 53952 74680 51.449629557219 0.215817826351 51 26 58 N 000 12 56 E Point
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Height OD / Depth	Min: 4.1m Max: 4.6m
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Project creators

Name of Organisation	RSK ADAS Ltd
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Project brief originator	ADAS
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Project design originator	Andrew Brown
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Project director/manager	Andrew Brown
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Project supervisor	Richard Woolley
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Project archives

Physical Archive Exists?	No
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Physical Archive recipient	Dartford Broough Museum
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Digital Archive recipient	Dartford Broough Museum
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Digital Media available	"GIS", "Images raster / digital photography", "Spreadsheets", "Text"
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Paper Archive recipient	Dartford Broough Museum
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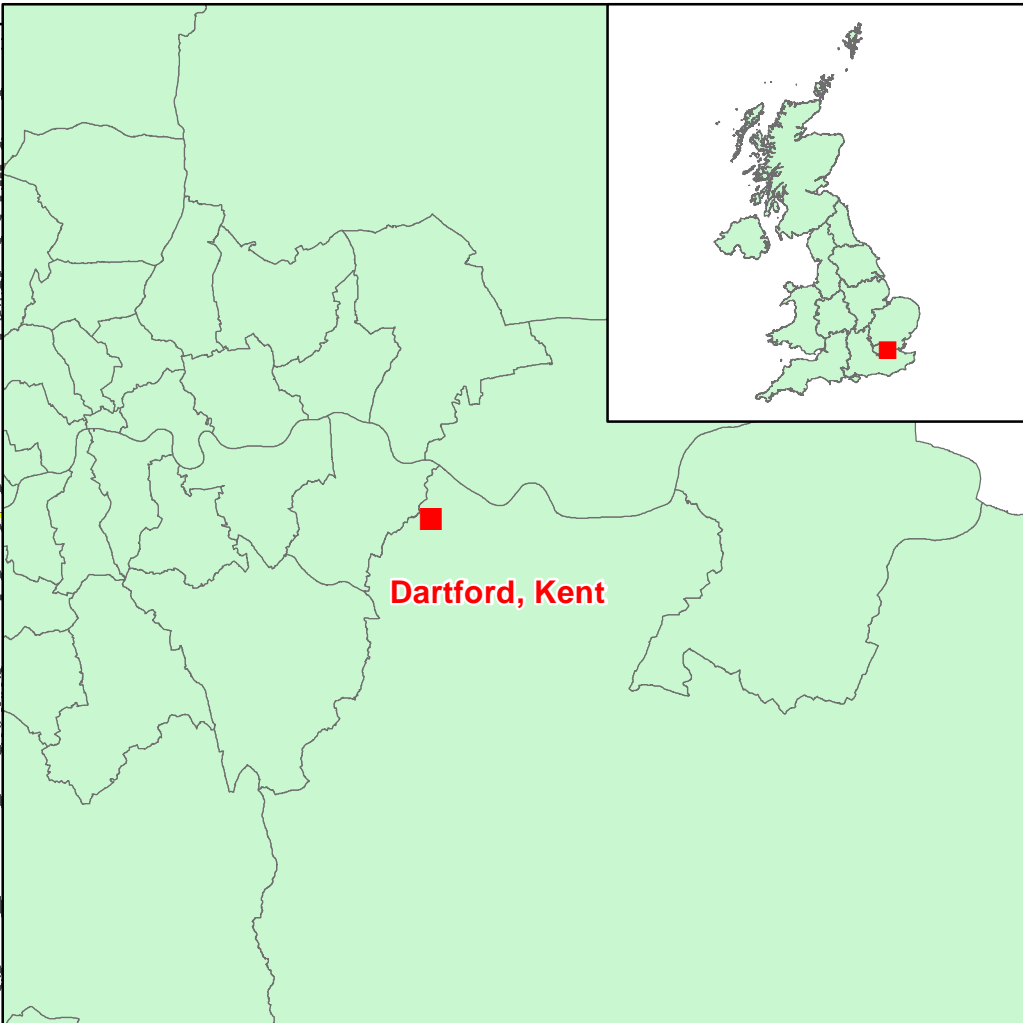
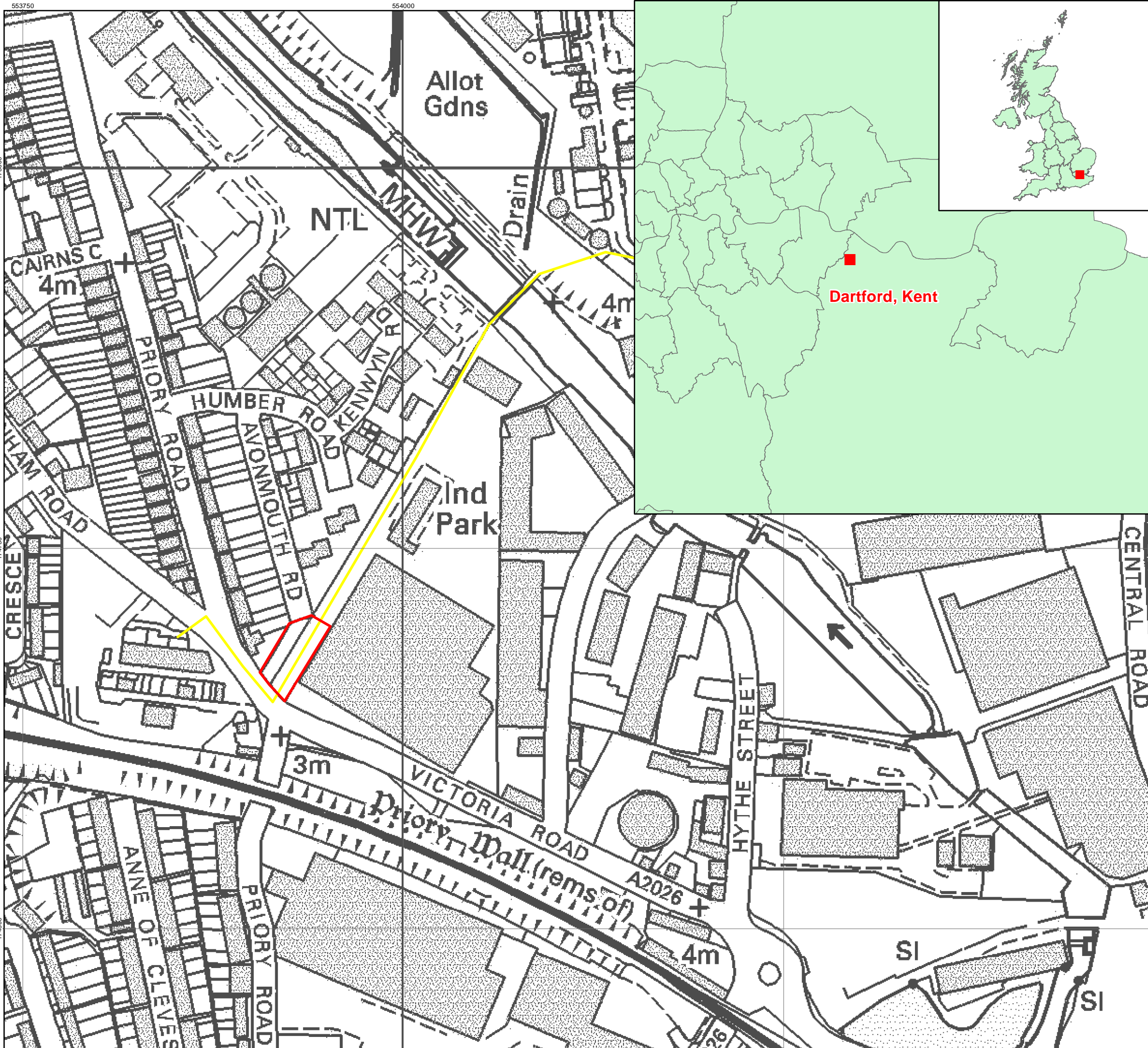
Paper Contents	"none"
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Paper Media available	"Context sheet", "Diary", "Report", "Unpublished Text"
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Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
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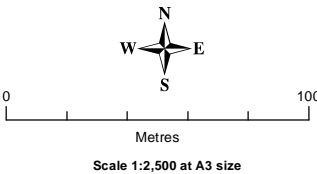
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Land Adjacent to No. 116 Priory Road,
Dartford, Kent

Figure 1: Site Location

-  Existing 132kV Cable Route
-  Site Boundary

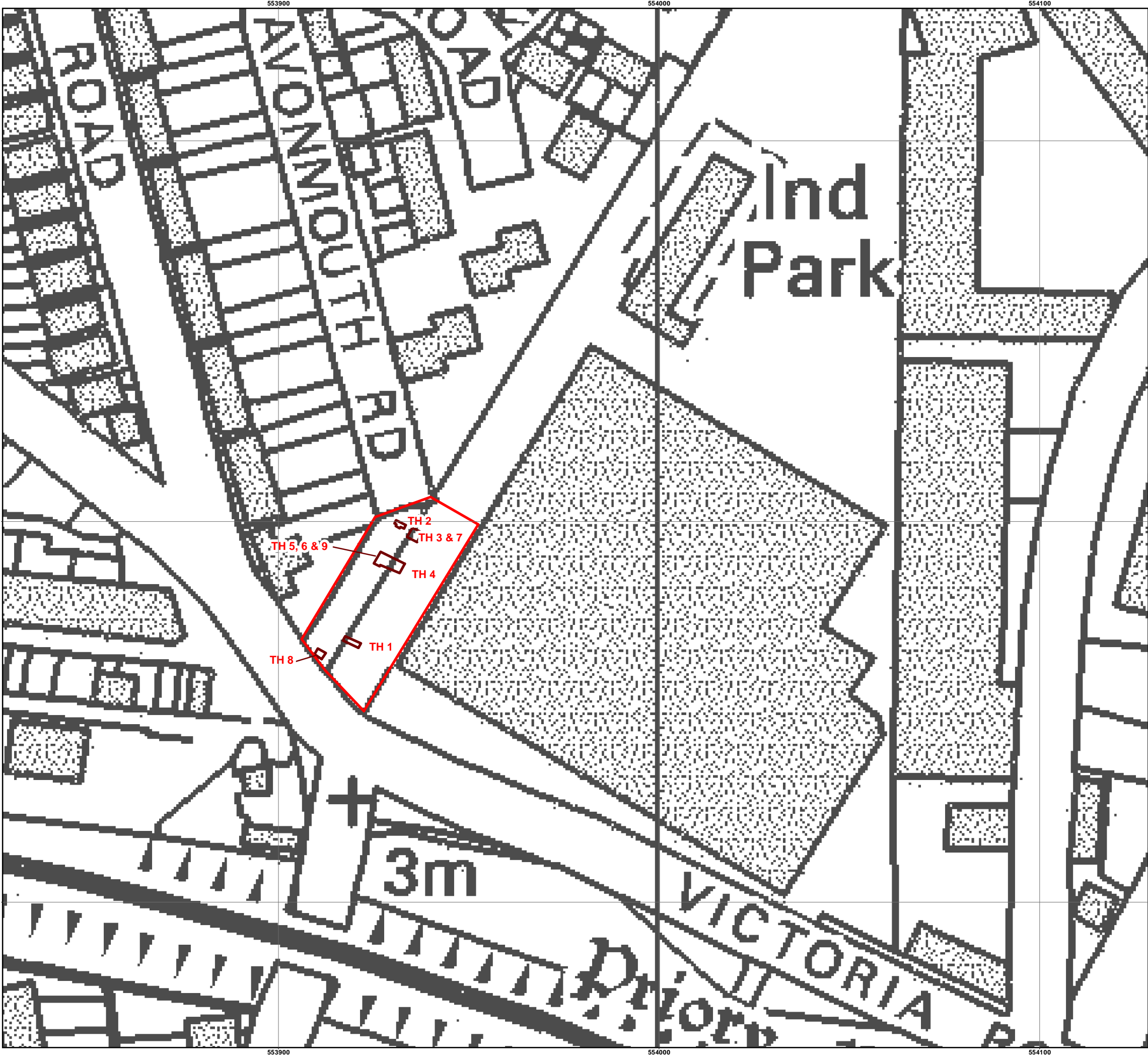
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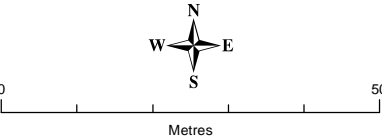
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Land Adjacent to No. 116 Priory Road,
Dartford, Kent

Figure 2: Location of the Trial Holes

-  Site Boundary
-  Trial Hole Locations

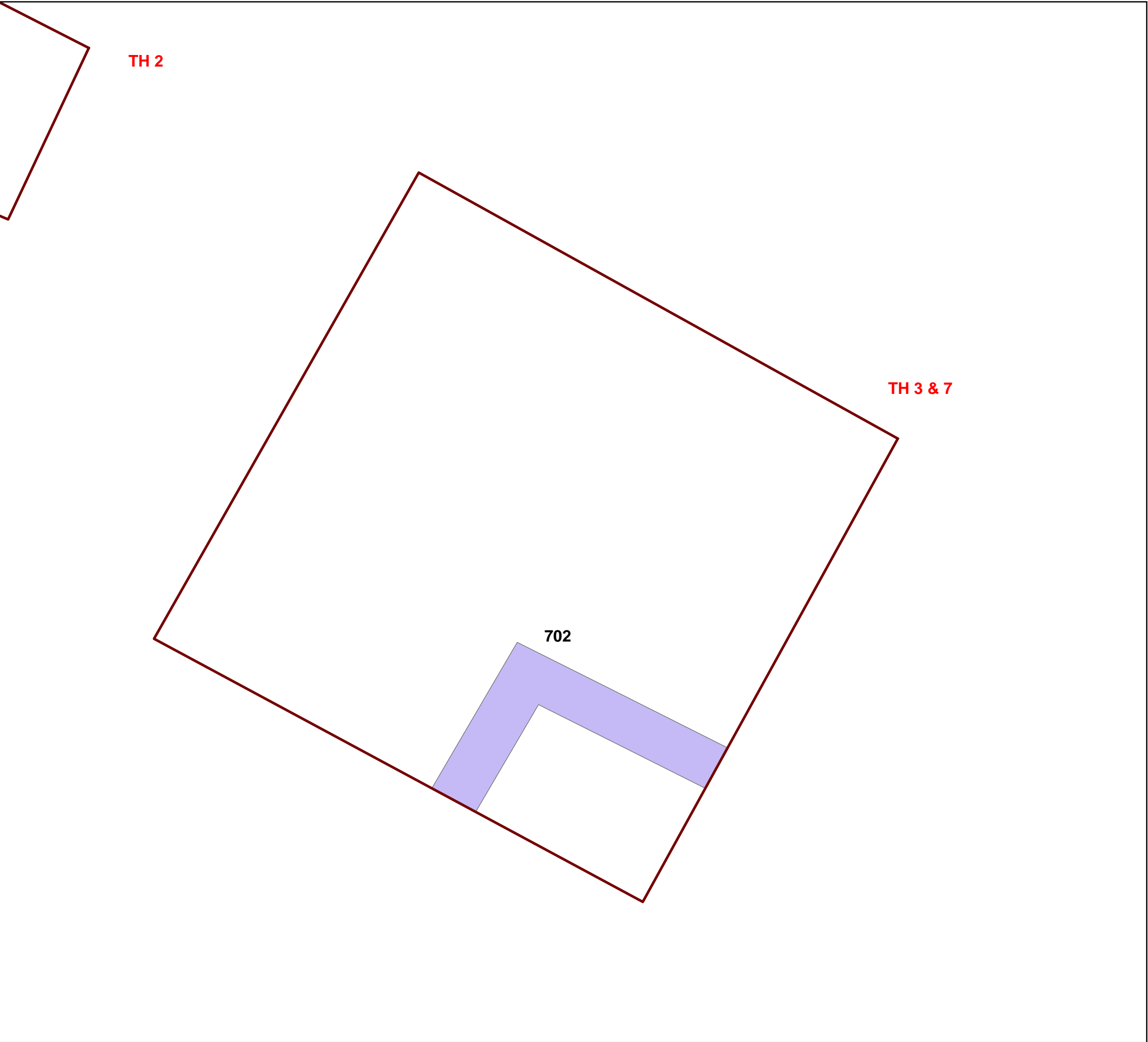
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Verified By: Diarmuid O Seaneachain Date: 12.06.2017



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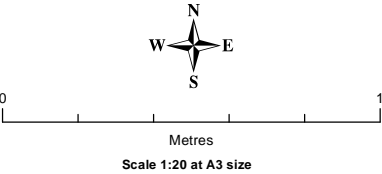
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**Figure 3: Location of Wall 702
in Trial Hole 7**

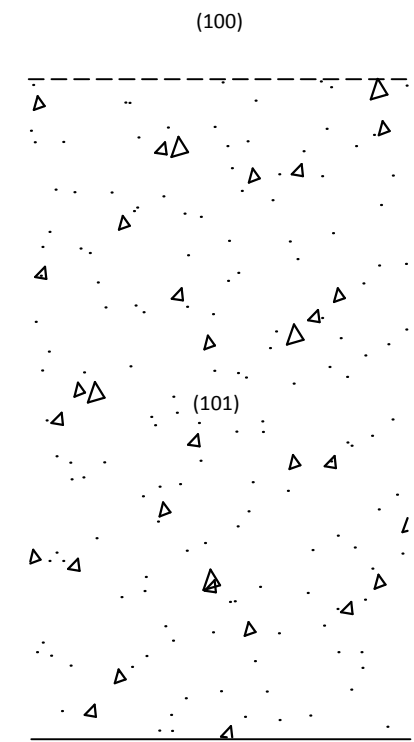
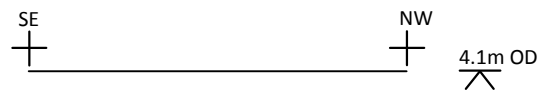
-  Site Boundary
-  Trial Hole Locations

Drawn by: James McNicoll-Norbury Date: 15.06.2017
Verified By: Diarmuid O Seaneachain Date: 15.06.2017



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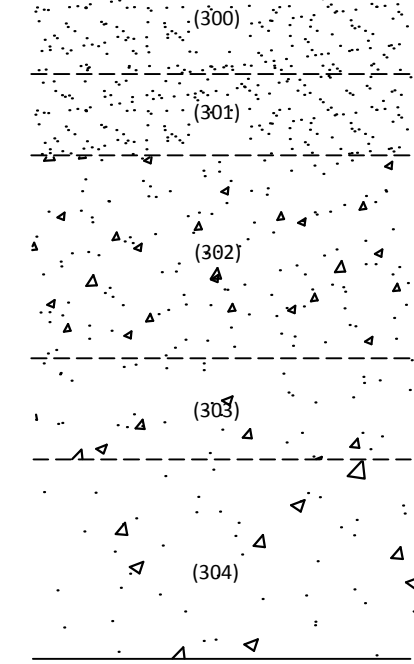
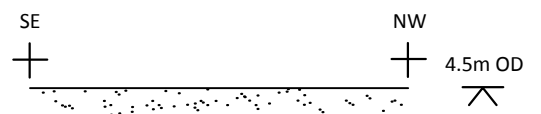




Section 1: North-east facing section of Trial Hole 1



Plate 1: General shot of Trial hole 1, looking east



Section 2: North-east facing section of Trial Hole 3



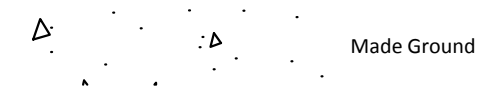
Plate 3: General shot of excavated Trial Hole 3, looking south-west

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Figure 4: Representative Sections

Legend



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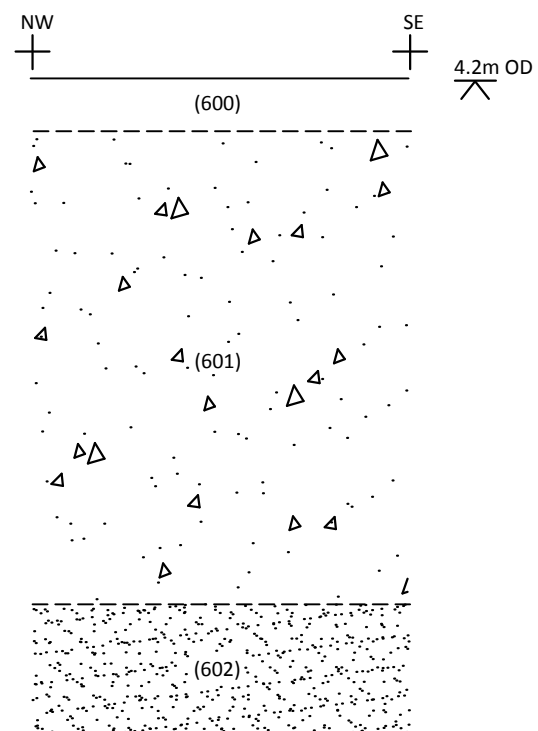
Checked by: Diarmuid O Seaneachain Date: 12/06/2017



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Section 3: North-east facing section of Trial Hole 6



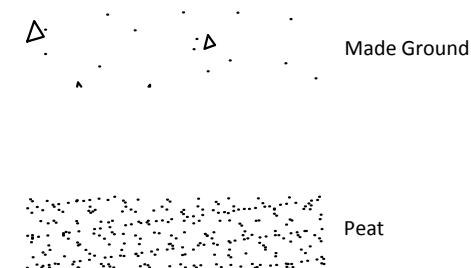
Plate 6: View of north-east facing section of Trial Hole 6, looking south-west.

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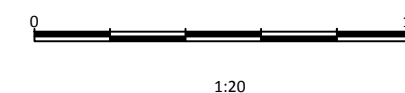
Figure 5: Representative Sections

Legend



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Plates



Plate 1: General shot of excavated Trial Hole 1, looking east.



Plate 2: General shot of excavated Trial Hole 2, looking south-east.



Plate 3: General shot of excavated Trial Hole 3, looking south-west.



Plate 4: View of north-west facing section of Trial Hole 4, looking south-east.



Plate 5: View of north-west facing section of Trial Hole 5, looking south-east.



Plate 6: View of north-east facing section of Trial Hole 6, looking south-west.

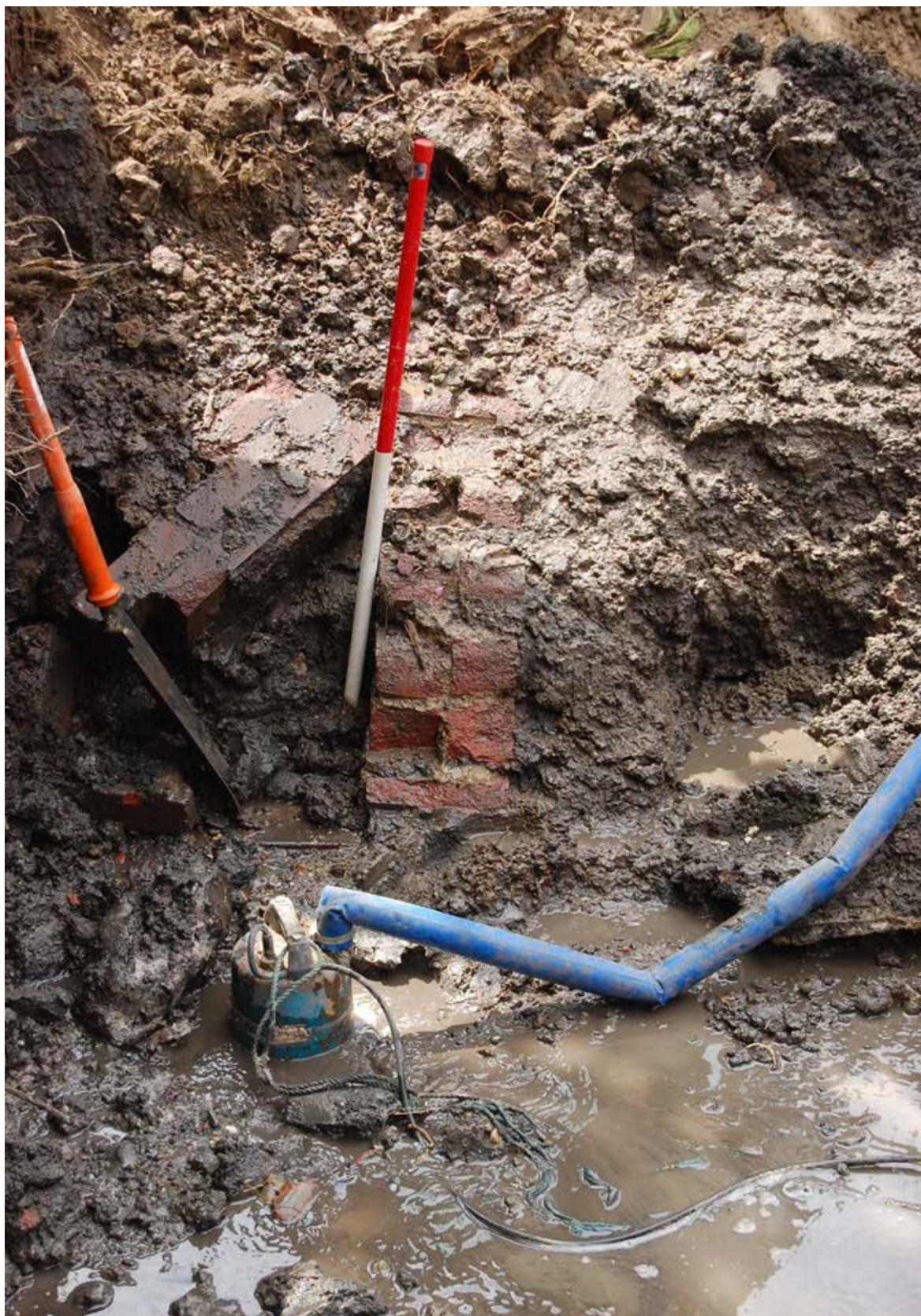


Plate 7: View of Wall (702) and north-east facing section of Trial Hole 7, looking south-west.



Plate 8: General shot of excavated Trial Hole 8, looking south.