



HERITAGE NETWORK



BURY GREEN FARM **Bury Green, Little Hadham, Herts.**

HN549

Archaeological Evaluation Report



THE HERITAGE NETWORK LTD

Registered with the Institute of Field Archaeologists as an Archaeological Organisation

Archaeological Director: David Hillelson, BA MIFA

BURY GREEN FARM Bury Green, Little Hadham, Herts.

HN549

Archaeological Evaluation

Prepared on behalf of Romehold Ltd

by

Chris Turner, BSc

Report no.309

October 2005

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The cover illustration shows an extract from the Clintons Estate Map of 1588

Acknowledgements

The fieldwork for this project was carried out by Chris Turner, David Kaye and Alison Hudson. The finds assessment was carried out by Helen Ashworth. The report text and illustrations were prepared by Chris Turner and the report was edited by David Hillelson.

The Heritage Network would like to express its thanks to Phil Roberts and David Wenham, Romehold Ltd; Robert Swann, Swann Plant Hire; and Jonathan Smith, County Archaeology Office, HCC, for their co-operation and assistance in the execution of this project.

Summary

Site name and address:	Bury Green Farm, Bury Green, Little Hadham. Hertfordshire		
County:	Hertfordshire	District:	East Herts
Village/town:	Bury Green	Parish:	Little Hadham
Planning reference:	N/a	NGR:	TL 4500 2115
Client name and address:	Romehold Ltd 18 Church Street. Bishops Stortford, Herts, CM23 2LY		
Nature of work:	Housing Development	Former land use:	Farm Buildings
Size of affected area:	c.9600m ²	Size of area investigated:	91m ²
Site Code:	HN549	Other reference:	n/a
Organisation:	Heritage Network	Site Director:	David Hillelson
Type of work:	Evaluation	Curating Museum:	Bishops Stortford Museum
Start of work	12/09/2005	Finish of work	15/09/2005
Related SMR Nos:	n/a	Periods represented:	
Previous summaries/reports:	Archaeological Solutions report 1768, May 2005		

Synopsis:

In order to characterise the archaeological risk posed by a proposal to build new dwellings at Bury Farm, Bury Green, Little Hadham, Hertfordshire, the Heritage Network was commissioned by the developer to undertake a programme of archaeological evaluation.

Six trenches each measuring approximately 1.6 x 10m each were excavated. The evaluation demonstrated that the site had been significantly disturbed by the construction of modern surfaces, and the widespread installation of services linking the various standing buildings. A single truncated early Roman pit was recorded in Trench 2, and a 19th-20th century cobbled surface was recorded in Trench 6 to the south of Bury Green farmhouse.

1. Introduction

1.1 This report has been prepared on behalf of Romehold Ltd, as part of the archaeological evaluation of a proposed development at Bury Green Farm, Bury Green, Little Hadham, Hertfordshire. The evaluation was requested by the County Archaeological Office (CAO) of Hertfordshire County Council, acting as adviser to the planning authority, in order to characterise the risk that such development might disturb archaeological remains, and to model their survival across the site. This request follows the provisions set out in Planning Policy Guidance Note No.16 (PPG16) on Archaeology and Planning. The scope of the required investigation was defined in discussions between the developer and the (CAO) of Hertfordshire County Council. The evaluation followed the detailed specification set out in the Heritage Network's approved Project Design dated August 2005.

1.2 Bury Green is a hamlet situated approximately 2km SE of Little Hadham and 2.5km NE of Much Hadham. The study area covers a rectangular plot located on the north-west side of the street running through the hamlet, centred on NGR TL 4495 2115. The site has been operated by pharmaceutical manufacturers Glaxo Smith Kline, and its predecessors, since the 1950s and is largely built up. The development proposes the demolition of the existing buildings on the site and the construction of housing.

1.3 The site lies partially within Area of Archaeological Significance (AAS) 377, as designated in the District Local Plan. An archaeological desk-based assessment of the site, carried out by Archaeological Solutions Ltd, has noted that the site has low potential for the discovery of remains of prehistoric date associated with a Bronze Age enclosure to the east and undated cropmarks to the north and west of the study area; moderate potential for Romano-British occupation evidence associated with activity at Clinton's Farm to the south, and Medieval occupation evidence associated with an earlier farm on the site; and high potential for post-medieval occupation evidence associated with Bury Green Farm itself.

1.4 The aim of the evaluation has been to consider the location, extent, date, character, condition, significance and quality of any such remains which are liable to be threatened by the development, and to provide a local and regional archaeological and historical context for them, in accordance with the current published regional research agenda (Glazebrook 1997, Brown and Glazebrook 2000), if they are discovered.

1.5 The present report is intended to provide the planning authority with sufficient data to allow it to consider the archaeological implications of the proposed development, and to determine what further, if any, mitigation measures may be required to allow the development to proceed.

2. Fieldwork

SITE TOPOGRAPHY AND GEOLOGY

2.1 The study area is located in the historic core of the village. The river Ash runs 1.5km to the west of the site and the Blackthorn Spring flows 0.4km to the south east. The site lies at approximately 86m OD rising gradually to 88m to the north-west.

2.2 The site is located at the junction between the Hanslope soil association and the Wickham 4 association, overlying boulder clay (SSEW 1983). Calcareous clayey soils equivalent to those of the former association, together with sandy gravels and boulder clay, were encountered in the course of the fieldwork.

METHODOLOGY

2.3 All work was carried out in accordance with the approved *Project Design*, current health and safety legislation, and current IFA and ALGAO standards.

2.4 The trenches were triangulated from known points on the client's site survey, using fibreglass tape measures.

2.5 Six trenches were opened using a wheeled JCB excavator fitted with a breaker and a 1.6m wide toothless bucket, under close archaeological supervision (see Figure 2).

2.6 Trenches 1 to 5 lie within the former Glaxo Smith Kline facility. Trench 6 lies immediately to the east, to the south of Bury Green farmhouse.

2.7 Spoil from the machining was inspected for archaeological artefacts. Trenches were machined to the first significant archaeological horizon.

2.8 All potential archaeological features and deposits were sampled to ascertain their nature, depth, date, and quality of preservation.

2.9 All identified contexts were photographed and recorded using the appropriate pro-forma. Scaled plans and sections were drawn on drafting film at scales of 1:20 and 1:50.

RESULTS

Stratigraphy

2.10 The stratigraphy observed within these trenches has demonstrated that:

- All trenches had modern layers consisting of tarmac and associated levelling layers. Nowhere was an undisturbed natural sequence of stratigraphy observed.
- The site is cross-crossed with services running between the numerous outbuildings.
- Trenches 4 & 6 both had lower silty fills indicative of standing water such as a pond.
- The ground levels had been raised over the cobbled yard surface in Trench 6.
- Natural geology was encountered between 0.55 and 1.30m from the present surface.

Trench 1

Length (m):	10	Width (m):	1.6	Maximum Depth (m):	0.55	Orientation	NW-SE
Level at East End of Trench (mOD)		Top	88.22	Level at West End of Trench (mOD)		Top	88.24
		Base	87.64			Base	87.59
Context	Type	Description			Dimensions (m)		
					Length	Width	Depth
101	Layer	Tarmac			10+	1.6+	0.12
102	Layer	Type 1 aggregate			10+	1.6+	0.42
103	Service	Natural gas and water			1.6+	0.90+	-
104	Service	Unknown service running between buildings 10 and 44			10+	0.65	-
105	Layer	Yellowish brown boulder clay 10YR 5/4			10+	1.6+	-

2.11 A large service trench, [103], carrying the live gas and water supplies around the outbuildings, covered most of this trench. A further service, [104], ran across the trench and cut [103].

2.12 Natural clay was observed along the northern edge of the trench.

2.13 No archaeological features or deposits were observed in this trench

Trench 2

Length (m):	10	Width (m):	1.6	Maximum Depth (m):	0.70	Orientation	NE-SW
Level at North End of Trench (mOD)		Top	88.39	Level at South End of Trench (mOD)		Top	88.33
		Base	87.72			Base	87.61
Context	Type	Description			Dimensions (m)		
					Length	Width	Depth
201	Layer	Tarmac			10+	1.6+	0.12
202	Layer	Concrete			10+	1.6+	0.42
203	Layer	Silty rubble levelling layer			10+	1.6+	0.30
204	Layer	Mid grey silty clay			10+	1.6+	0.27
205	Layer	Natural yellow brown clay with grey mottles.			10+	1.6+	-
206	Pit cut	Sub circular pit with steep sides and a flat base.			1.80	0.90	0.15
207	Pit fill	Dark grey clay fill, with Roman pottery			1.80	0.90	0.15
208	Service	Modern service trench, running N-S across corner of trench			3+	0.20+	-
209	Post	Modern square wooden post			0.10	0.10	-

2.14 The truncated base of a pit [206] was investigated at the southern end of this trench. The feature contained a single dark grey clay fill (207). This pit was sub circular, with steep sides and a flat base. Sherds of pottery were recovered from the fill dating to the early Roman period (late 1st –early 2nd AD).

2.15 This feature may be related to the Roman activity identified at Clintons Farm, 200m south of the present site (ASL 2005). However, there were no features or deposits dating to this period identified in any of the other trenches.

Trench 3

Length (m):	10	Width (m):	1.6	Maximum Depth (m):	0.90	Orientation	NW-SE
Level at East End of Trench (mOD)		Top	88.19	Level at West End of Trench (mOD)		Top	88.06
		Base	87.28			Base	87.26
Context	Type	Description	Dimensions (m)				
			Length	Width	Depth		
301	Layer	Tarmac	10+	1.6+	0.08		
302	Layer	Aggregate	10+	1.6+	0.08		
303	Layer	Modern silty CBM levelling layer	10+	1.6+	0.28		
304	Layer	Dark grey silty gravel	10+	1.6+	0.15		
305	Layer	Grey Silty clay	10+	1.6+	0.25		
306	Layer	Natural yellowish brown (10YR 5/4) clay meeting reddish brown (7.5YR 4/6) gravels	10+	1.6+	-		

2.16 An outcrop of gravel at the eastern end of the trench gave way to boulder clay towards the west.

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

Trench 4

Length (m):	10.50	Width (m):	1.6	Maximum Depth (m):	1.3	Orientation	NE-SW
Level at North End of Trench (mOD)		Top	87.37	Level at South End of Trench (mOD)		Top	86.94
		Base	86.14			Base	85.80
Context	Type	Description	Dimensions (m)				
			Length	Width	Depth		
401	Layer	Tarmac	10.50+	1.6+	0.08		
402	Layer	Sandy gravel aggregate	10.50+	1.6+	0.10		
403	Layer	Silty CBM and levelling layer	10.50+	1.6+	0.20		
404	Layer	Mid grey silty clay	10.50+	1.6+	0.25		
405	Layer	Greenish Grey silty clay	10.50+	1.6+	0.35-0.40		
406	Layer	Dark grey silty clay	10.50+	1.6+	0.19		
407	Service	Modern ceramic foul water pipe	1.6+	Dia: 0.20	-		
408	Layer	Natural olive brown (5Y 5/2) clay with grey mottles.	10.50+	1.6+	-		

2.18 The upper three layers all relate to the modern surface. They sealed a subsoil layer [404], which may predate the construction of the 20th century farm buildings. The nature of this layer is similar to [504].

2.19 The two lower layers, [405] and [406] are very fine silty clays indicative of standing water. During excavation the lower part of the trench flooded quickly, suggesting a perched water table in this area. Alternatively this may be the location of a natural spring. No archaeological artefacts were observed or recovered from these layers.

2.20 A step in the natural was observed at the base of this trench, approximately 4.5m from the southern end, which may define the edge of a pond.

2.21 A modern service pipe crossed the northern end of the trench.

2.22 No archaeological features or deposits were observed in this trench.

Trench 5

Length (m):	10.40	Width (m):	1.6	Maximum Depth (m):	0.80	Orientation	NE-SW
Level at North End of Trench (mOD)		Top	86.90	Level at South End of Trench (mOD)		Top	86.28
		Base	86.11			Base	85.53
Context	Type	Description	Dimensions (m)				
			Length	Width	Depth		
501	Layer	Tarmac	10.40+	1.6+	0.08		
502	Layer	Sandy gravel aggregate	10.40+	1.6+	0.08		
503	Layer	Silty CBM levelling layer	10.40+	1.6+	0.34		
504	Layer	Olive grey (5Y 3/2) silty clay	10.40+	1.6+	0.34		
505	Layer	Natural yellow brown 10YR 5/4 boulder clay	10.40+	1.6+	-		
506	Service	Modern ceramic pipe	1.6+	Dia: 0.40	-		

2.23 A modern ceramic pipe [506] crossed this trench.

2.24 The upper three layers all relate to the modern surface. They sealed a subsoil layer [504], similar to layer [404] in Trench 4, which suggests that not all of the site has been heavily truncated.

2.25 No archaeological features or deposits were observed in this trench.

Trench 6

Length (m):	6	Width (m):	1.6	Maximum Depth (m):	1.00	Orientation	NE-SW
Level at North End of Trench (mOD)		Top	85.85	Level at South End of Trench (mOD)		Top	86.00
		Base	84.90			Base	85.05
Context	Type	Description	Dimensions (m)				
			Length	Width	Depth		
601	Layer	Tarmac	6+	1.60+	0.05		
602	Layer	Concrete	6+	1.60+	0.10		
603	Layer	Redeposited yellow brown boulder clay and fragments of CBM	1.60+	3m	0.35		
604	Layer	Dark grey silt and frequent modern CBM	3m	1.60+	0.22		
605	Layer	Dump of mortar	1.60	0.20+	0.07		

606	Layer	Cobble surface	3m+	1.60+	0.10
607	Layer	Grey clay with sub rounded stones and occasional CBM	6+	1.60+	0.37
608	Layer	Dark grey silty clay	6+	1.60+	0.10
609	Layer	Natural yellowish brown (10YR 5/6) clay with grey (5Y 4/1) mottles.	6+	1.60+	-

2.26 This trench is located approximately 15m south of Bury Green Farmhouse. The cobbled layer [606] beneath modern build up layers, appears to be a farm yard surface dating to late 19th-20th century.

2.27 Layer [608] was identical to the lower layer [406] observed in Trench 4, suggesting the presence of standing water. A pond lies 7m to the south-east of this trench and cartographic evidence suggests that this pond was more extensive in the 19th century.

2.28 No further archaeological features or deposits were observed in this trench.

Concordance of finds

2.29 A total of 8 fragments of pottery, weighing 65g, was recovered from the single fill (207) of pit [206]. The assemblage consists of 1 rim sherd of calcite gritted ware, and 7 undiagnostic body sherds. These sherds are early Roman sandy wares dating from the late 1st – early 2nd century AD.

2.30 The sherds in this assemblage were unabraded and recovered from the base of a truncated pit. They are not indicative of a high status site, instead suggesting discarded domestic material.

2.31 No further work is proposed on this assemblage.

3. Discussion

3.1 The desk-based assessment of the present site, undertaken by Archaeological Solutions Ltd, defined a high potential on the site for the survival of post-medieval farm buildings and boundaries, a moderate potential for Romano-British and medieval features, and a low potential for prehistoric remains. The report also noted the high level of modern activity on the site and the likelihood that this would have disturbed earlier remains. The archaeological evaluation of the site has confirmed the extent of the disturbance caused by the modern development of the site, and its impact on earlier features.

3.2 The presence of a perched water table or natural spring is suggested by the stratigraphy in Trenches 2 and 4. The availability of fresh water can act as a focus for archaeological activity and a reason for settlement in the vicinity.

3.3 The earliest remains were recorded in Trench 2, where the base of a large sub-circular pit was identified. This feature had steep sides and a relatively flat base, measuring 1.60m long and 0.90m wide. It only survived to a depth of 0.15m, suggesting that it had been severely truncated. Unabraded domestic pottery recovered from this feature suggests an early Roman date (late 1st – early 2nd Century AD). It is likely that any further evidence from this period that survives on the site, will be limited to the bases of larger features.

3.4 In Trench 6, which lies outside the focus of the Glaxo Smith Kline facility and where the disturbance was generally less, a cobbled surface was identified which may form part of the earlier farmyard. The surface extended over the earlier banks of the pond which lies to the south-west of the farmhouse. This pond is clearly represented as a larger feature on 19th century maps of the area, and layer (608) is consistent with the presence of standing water.

3.5 The 1588 estate map (see cover) depicts Bury Green and the farm clearly and confirms that, while the land used by Glaxo Smith Kline has been intensively developed, surprising little change has occurred to the general layout of the rest of the village in the last 400 years.

Conclusion

3.6 The present evaluation has demonstrated limited surviving early Roman archaeological activity on the site, which appears to be focused on the western limits of the study area, immediately to the west of Building 45. No evidence of medieval or prehistoric activity was recorded, although a cobble surface associated with the later post-medieval farm was noted.

3.7 Within the main body of the site, because of the extent of the modern disturbance, it is likely that only the bases of larger features would survive. These could lie within the impact levels of the foundations for the proposed new development.

3.8 At the eastern extent of the site, outside the area intensively developed by Glaxo Smith Kline, the presence of the late post-medieval cobble surface suggests a better level of survival for features associated with the farm and farmyard, but no evidence for Roman activity was noted.

3.9 On this basis, it is considered that the site has limited potential for extending our understanding of rural settlement and economy in the early Roman period, although any information gained might be considered to be of regional significance. It is not considered that the site has any significant potential for extending our understanding of farm design or agricultural practice in the post-medieval period.

Confidence Rating

3.10 In the course of the fieldwork, weather and ground conditions were generally acceptable for the identification of potential features and deposits, and for their investigation. There were no circumstances which would lead to a confidence rating for the work which was less than High.

4. Bibliography

Hillelson, D, 2005 *Bury Green Farm, Bury Green, Little Hadham, Herts.* Project Design: Archaeological Evaluation. Heritage Network.

Doyle, K, and Wotherspoon, M, 2005 *Bury Green Farm, Millfield Lane, Bury Green Hertfordshire.* An archaeological desk-based assessment. Archaeological Solutions Ltd

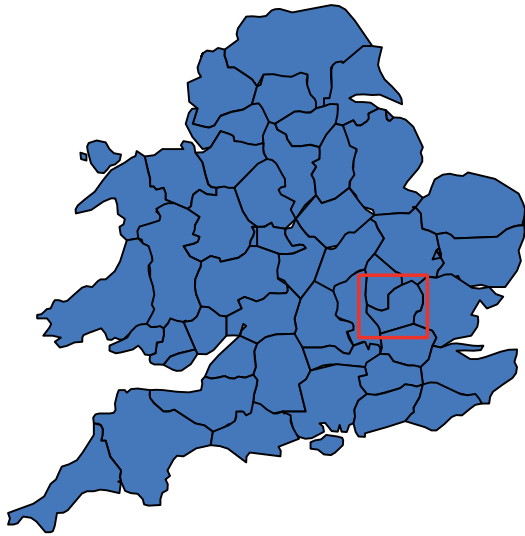
5. Illustrations

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Figure 5	Trench 2: feature 206 section
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Figure 8	Trench 5: section
Figure 9	Trench 6: section

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Bury Green Farm, Bury Green

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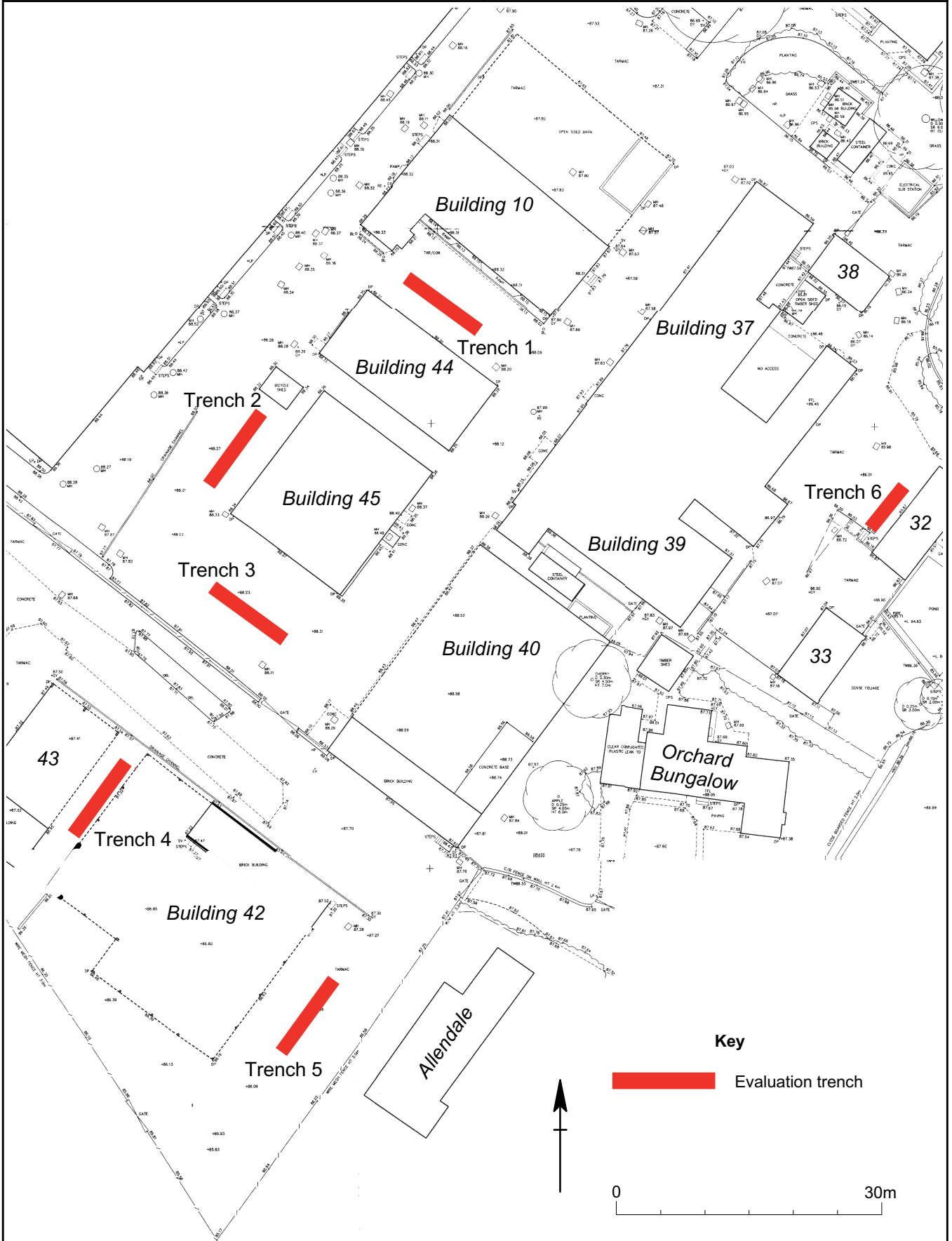


Site Location

Scale 1:10000

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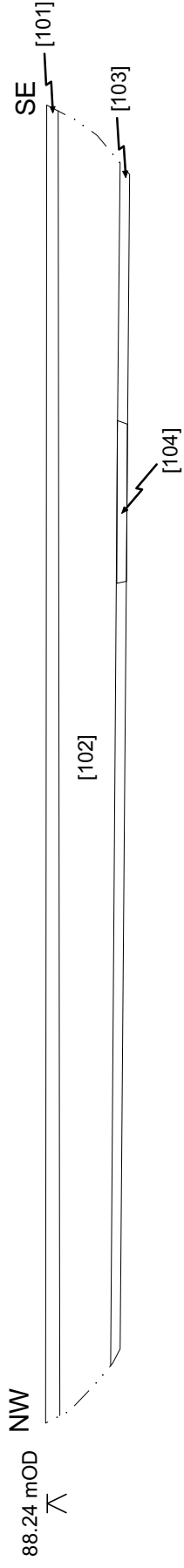
Figure 1



Trench Layout

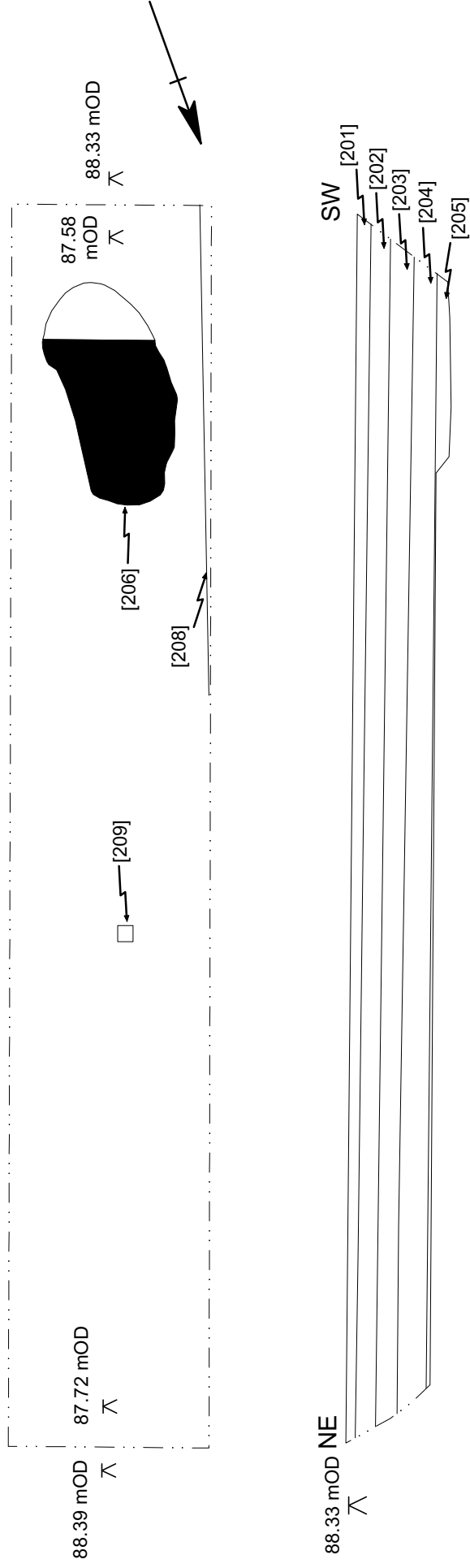
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Figure 2



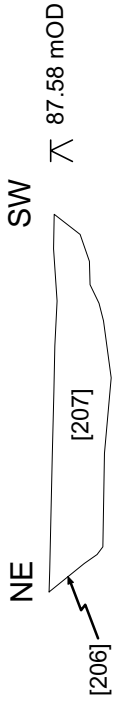
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Figure 3

Trench 1: Section



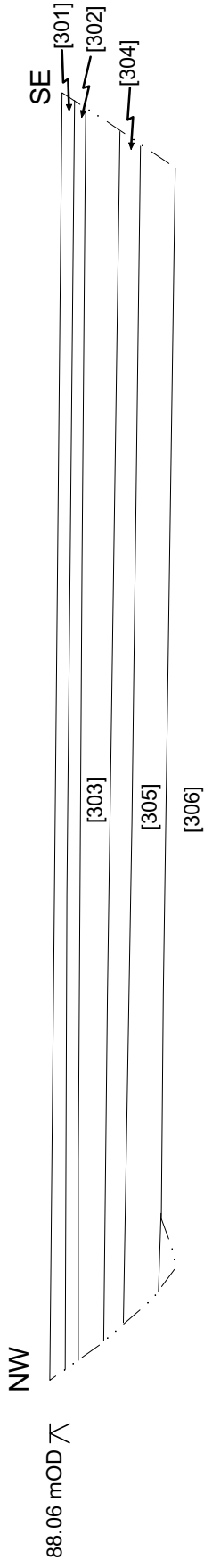
Scale 1:50
Figure 4

Trench 2: Plan and section



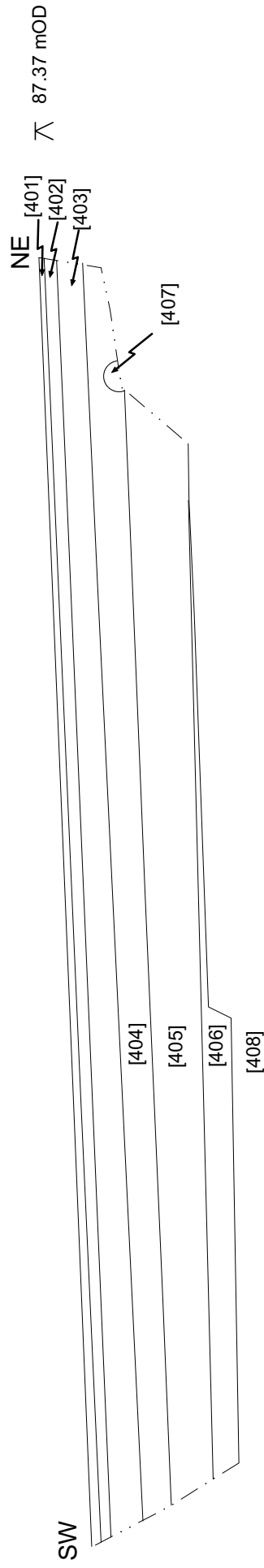
Feature 206: Section

Scale 1:20
Figure 5



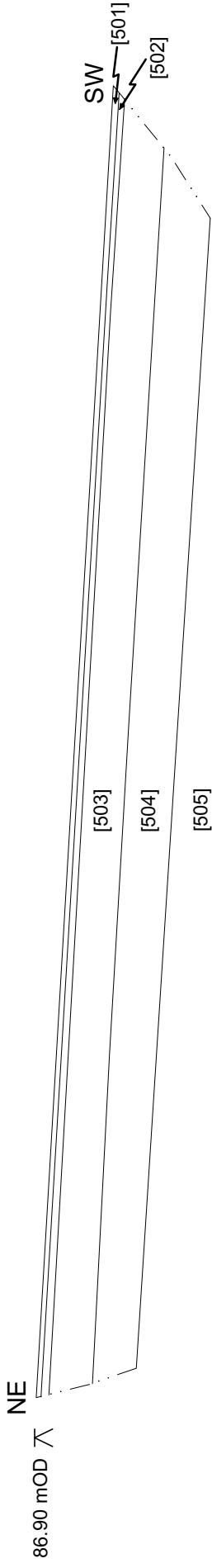
Trench 3: Section

Scale 1:50
Figure 6



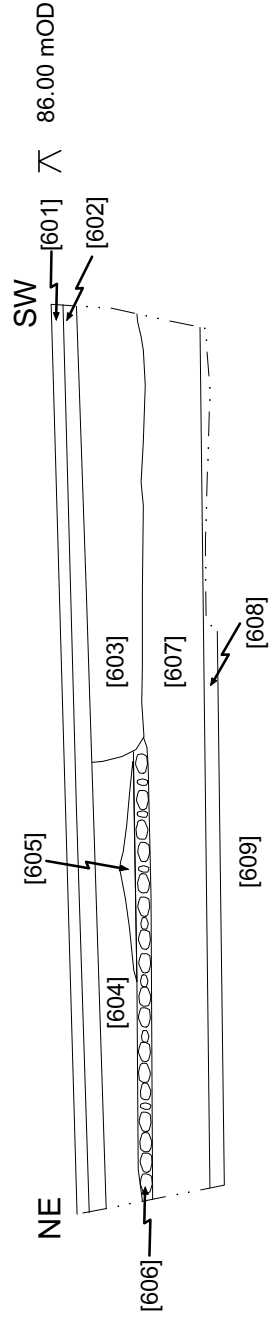
Trench 4: Section

Scale 1:50
Figure 7



Trench 5: Section

Scale 1:50
Figure 8



Trench 6: Section

Scale 1:50
Figure 9