

**Archaeological Evaluation Report
4 Canterbury Road
Sittingbourne, Kent**

**NGR: 591531 163428
(TQ 91531 63428)**

**Planning Ref: 16/501883/FULL
ASE Project No: 170440
Site Code: CRS17
ASE Report No: 2017265
OASIS id: archaeol6-287046**



By Ian Hogg


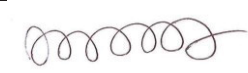
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Revision:			

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Abstract

Archaeology South-East was commissioned by Orion Heritage to undertake an archaeological evaluation at 4 Canterbury Road, Sittingbourne, Kent. The evaluation comprised three machine excavated trenches.

The natural Thanet Sand was recorded at between 12.00m and 13.71m aOD. Despite often substantial horizontal truncation, an undated linear feature, a probable hedge line, was recorded in Trench 1, running perpendicular to Canterbury Road. This is thought likely to represent some relict minor land division. The feature demonstrates that there may be some potential for cut features to survive on the site.

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Site Background

- 1.1.1 Archaeology South-East (ASE) was commissioned by Orion Heritage, to undertake an archaeological evaluation of 4 Canterbury Road, Sittingbourne, Kent (NGR: TQ 91531 63428).
- 1.1.2 The site is located on the southern side of Canterbury Road and is bound to the north by Canterbury Road, to the east by School Road, to the west by Gaze Hill Avenue, and to the south by housing.
- 1.1.3 The evaluation comprised three trenches, two measuring 20.0m x 1.8m in plan and one measuring 10.0m x 1.8m in plan.

1.2 Geology and Topography

- 1.2.1 The underlying solid geology of the site comprised Thanet Sand, silt and clay; a sedimentary bedrock formed approximately 56 to 59 million years ago in the Palaeogene Period. Superficial deposits were not recorded (BGS 2017).
- 1.2.2 The site occupies a gradual slope from c. 12m AOD on Canterbury Road in the north-west up to c. 13m AOD in the north-east. The site lies c. 1km south-east of the Milton Creek, a tidal Creek which flows into the Swale.

1.3 Planning Background

- 1.3.1 A planning application for the construction of sheltered accommodation on the site submitted to Swale Borough Council was approved (16/501883/FULL). Trial trench evaluation was required by condition 16:

(16) No development shall take place until the applicant, or their agents or successors in title, has secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological work in accordance with a written specification and timetable which has been submitted to and approved by the Local Planning Authority.

Reason: To ensure that features of archaeological interest are properly examined and recorded.

- 1.3.2 Accordingly, an Archaeological Written Scheme of Investigation (Orion 2017) was prepared prior to the commencement of the work, this document set out the methodology for the evaluation. All works were carried out in accordance with this document and with the ClfA standards and guidance (ClfA 2017).

1.4 Scope of Report

- 1.4.1 This report details the results of the archaeological evaluation carried out on the site between the 6th and 7th June 2017. It has been prepared in accordance with the Written Scheme of Investigation (Orion 2017). The work was carried out by Ian Hogg and Paulo Clemente (Archaeologist). The fieldwork was managed by Darryl Palmer, the post-excavation work by Jim Stevenson and Dan Swift.

2.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The following information is drawn from the Desk Based Assessment (CgMs 2016) and the WSI (Orion 2017).
- 2.2 Mesolithic and Neolithic activity within 750m of the site is limited to isolated finds spots in and around Sittingbourne. An important Bronze Age cemetery was identified 200m south-east of the site during the 19th century. Finds included a cist burial found in 1883, containing a male skeleton, a Bronze Age dagger and a slate archer's bracer; several further skeletons were found in 1835 and 1879. Further Bronze Age activity has been noted during an excavation at Fulston Manor to the south and at Meadowfield School to the east of the site. No Iron Age activity has been recorded close to the site.
- 2.3 Sittingbourne sits astride the Roman Road (Watling Street) from London to Canterbury (now High Street/East Street), which runs on an east-west alignment immediately north of the site on the line of Canterbury Road. However, Roman settlement in the Sittingbourne area appears to be concentrated to the north of the modern town around Milton, where extensive evidence for Roman buildings, settlement and cemeteries was found in the late 19th century (VCH 1974, Volume 3, p96, 97 and 98).
- 2.4 A Roman cemetery is recorded c. 700m north-west of the site at Murston. The Roman burial ground was found in c. 1875 in an area formerly worked for brickearth. The burials were mostly pre-Hadrianic cremations, but with two inhumation burials. Vessels of pottery, glass and bronze were recovered including a bronze lamp-stand and jugs of 1st and early 2nd century types. Three areas of burning were recorded as possible huts associated with the cemetery.
- 2.5 Early Anglo-Saxon burials are recorded north-west of Sittingbourne Parish Church (St Michael's) and a more extensive early cemetery was recorded in 1881 in the Rondeau area of Sittingbourne, at the western end of the town north of the Roman Road (VCH 1974, Volume 1, p373-374). A number of mid and late Saxon finds are recorded from the general area of the town but little Saxon material has been recorded close to the site.
- 2.6 The site is located outside of the eastern limits of medieval Sittingbourne. Evidence of medieval occupation was recorded during work at Bell Road car park 750m east of the site.
- 2.7 The site lay to the east of the settlement at Sittingbourne during much of the post-medieval period; historic mapping shows the site as open arable land until the late 19th century when 'Mission Rooms' are marked in the south-east of the site. Between 1960 and 1977 the 'Mission Rooms' were replaced by a garage and showroom which occupied the site until very recently.

2.4 Project Aims and Objectives

2.4.1 The broad aims of the evaluation were:

- To establish the presence/absence, extent and character of any archaeological features on the site and to consider the archaeological interest of these in the context of the regional archaeological framework
- To examine any available evidence for economic activity and environmental conditions
- To generate an archive which will allow future research of the evidence to be undertaken if appropriate
- To disseminate the results of the work in a format and manner proportionate to the significance of the findings

2.4.2 In addition, in the event that extensive archaeological deposits were located then more detailed research aims could be generated; if this was the case these would have been formally agreed and added as a supplement to the WSI (Orion 2017).

3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY

3.1 Evaluation Methodology

- 3.1.1 Three evaluation trenches were excavated (Figure 2); Trenches 1 and 2 measured 20.0m x 1.8m in plan while Trench 3 measured 10.0m x 1.8m.
- 3.1.2 All trenches were scanned using a cable avoidance tool prior to excavation. Mechanical excavation was undertaken under archaeological supervision in spits of no more than 0.25m to the top of archaeological deposits.
- 3.1.3 All deposits were recorded using ASE standard context sheets. Vertical sections were taken across features where necessary and a comprehensive photographic record taken.
- 3.1.4 Trenches were planned using GPS and tied in to the Ordnance Survey.
- 3.1.5 Spoil heaps and trial pit bases were scanned by eye for unstratified finds.
- 3.1.6 Trenches were backfilled using the machine bucket, no formal reinstatement was undertaken.

3.2 Archive

- 3.2.1 The site archive is currently held at the offices of ASE and will be deposited at a local museum in due course. The contents of the archive are tabulated below (Tables 1).

Context sheets	10
Section sheets	1
Plans sheets	0
Colour photographs	0
B&W photos	0
Digital photos	9
Context register	1
Drawing register	1
Watching brief forms	0
Trench Record forms	3

Table 1: Quantification of site archive

4.0 RESULTS

4.1 Trench 1

Context	Type	Interpretation	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Height (m aOD)
1/001	Layer	Made ground	20.00	1.80	0.33-0.36	12.61-12.99
1/002	Layer	Natural	20.00	1.80	-	12.25-12.66
1/003	Fill	Fill, primary	16.00	0.37	0.10	12.49
1/004	Cut	Hedge line	16.00	0.37	0.10	12.49

Table 2: Trench 1 List of recorded contexts

4.1.1 Trench 2 was located in the north of the site and measured 20.00m x 1.80m in plan. Excavation ceased at the top of the natural Thanet Sand.

4.1.2 The natural yellow grey Thanet Sand [1/002] was recorded between 12.25m and 12.66m aOD; it was cut by a linear feature running on a north to south alignment [1/004] thought to be a hedge line. This measured 16.00m in length, 0.37m in width and 0.10m in depth, it had unevenly sloping sides and base. The fill [1/003] comprised firm, pale red brown sand silt; CBM flecks were noted in the fill but no finds were retrieved.

4.2 Trench 2

4.2.1 Trench 2 was located in the north-east of the site and measured 20.00m x 1.80m in plan. Excavation ceased at the top of the natural Thanet Sand. The trench did not contain any archaeology.

4.2.2 The natural yellow grey Thanet Sand [2/003] was recorded between 12.00m and 13.20m aOD; it was overlain by mixed red brown silt clay modern made ground [2/002] measuring between 0.26m and 0.78m in thickness. The made ground was sealed by between 0.14m and 0.41m of reinforced concrete [2/001]. Context detail for this trench is listed in Appendix 1 at the back of this report.

4.3 Trench 3

4.3.1 Trench 2 was located in the south-east of the site and measured 10.00m x 1.80m in plan. Excavation ceased at the top of the natural Thanet Sand. The trench did not contain any archaeology.

4.3.2 The natural yellow grey Thanet Sand [3/003] was recorded between 13.49m and 13.71m aOD; it was overlain by mixed red brown silt clay modern made ground [3/002] measuring between 0.71m and 0.81m in thickness. The made ground was sealed by a 0.08m thick asphalt surface [3/001]. Context detail for this trench is listed in Appendix 1 at the back of this report.

5.0 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

5.1 Overview of stratigraphic sequence

- 5.1.1 Natural Thanet Sand was recorded at between 12.00m and 13.71m aOD. The natural deposits were uniformly overlain by modern made ground deposits. Across the eastern part of the site the made ground was sealed by asphalt and concrete surface.
- 5.1.2 In Trench 1 the natural deposits were cut by a probable hedge line; this feature ran on a north to south alignment perpendicular to Canterbury Road and is likely to represent a property boundary. The feature was undated.

5.2 Deposit survival and existing impacts

- 5.2.1 The site showed evidence of substantial horizontal truncation with natural Thanet Sand directly overlain by modern made ground deposits and no surviving subsoil. The site may, therefore, have been stripped and levelled before the laying of the current concrete and asphalt surfaces.
- 5.2.2 The presence of the hedge line in Trench 1 demonstrates that despite this horizontal truncation, there may be some potential for cut features to survive in localised areas of the site.

5.3 Discussion of archaeological remains by period

- 5.3.1 The single linear feature running perpendicular to Canterbury Road was recorded in Trench 1; this feature almost certainly represents a hedge line perhaps forming a property boundary or other land division. The feature did not contain any dating evidence.

5.4 Consideration of Research Aims

- 5.4.1 The site established the presence of archaeological remains in the form of a single undated hedge line running perpendicular to Canterbury Road. This feature is likely to be representative of some minor land division; however the lack of any dating evidence makes further interpretation impossible.

5.5 Conclusions

- 5.5.1 Despite often substantial horizontal truncation, an undated linear feature, a probable hedge line, was recorded in Trench 1, running perpendicular to Canterbury Road. This is thought likely to represent some relict minor land division. The feature demonstrates that there may be some potential for cut features to survive on the site.

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Victoria County History, 1974 *History of the County of Kent Volume 3*

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

ASE would like to thank Orion Heritage for commissioning the work and Simon Mason of Kent County Council for his assistance throughout the project. The excavation was directed by Ian Hogg. The author would like to thank all archaeologists who worked on the excavations. Justin Russell produced the figures for this report; Darryl Palmer managed the excavations and Jim Stevenson and Dan Swift the post-excavation process.

HER Summary

Site Code	CRS 17					
Identification Name and Address	4 Canterbury Road, Sittingbourne, Kent					
County, District &/or Borough	Swale Borough					
OS Grid Refs.	591531 163428					
Geology	Thanet Sand					
Arch. South-East Project Number	170440					
Type of Fieldwork	Eval.					
Type of Site		Shallow Urban				
Dates of Fieldwork		6/6/17 to 7/6/17				
Sponsor/Client	Orion Heritage					
Project Manager	Darryl Palmer					
Project Supervisor	Ian Hogg					
Period Summary						
				Other Uncertain		
<p><i>Archaeology South-East was commissioned by Orion Heritage to undertake an archaeological evaluation at 4 Canterbury Road, Sittingbourne, Kent. The evaluation comprised three machine excavated trenches.</i></p> <p><i>The natural Thanet Sand was recorded between 12.00m and 13.71m aOD. Despite often substantial horizontal truncation, an undated linear feature, a probable hedge line, was recorded in Trench 1, running perpendicular to Canterbury Road. This is thought likely to represent some relict minor land division. The feature demonstrates that there may be some potential for cut features to survive on the site.</i></p>						

OASIS Form

OASIS ID: archaeol6-287046

Project details

Project name 4 Canterbury Road, Sittingbourne, Kent

Short description of the project Archaeology South-East was commissioned by Orion Heritage to undertake an archaeological evaluation at 4 Canterbury Road, Sittingbourne, Kent. The evaluation comprised three machine excavated trenches. The natural Thanet Sand was recorded between 12.00m and 13.71m aOD. Despite often substantial horizontal truncation, an undated linear feature, a probable hedge line, was recorded in Trench 1, running perpendicular to Canterbury Road. This is thought likely to represent some relict minor land division. The feature demonstrates that there may be some potential for cut features to survive on the site.

Project dates Start: 06-06-2017 End: 07-06-2017

Previous/future work No / Not known

Any associated project reference codes 170440 - Contracting Unit No.

Any associated project reference codes CRS17 - Sitecode

Type of project Field evaluation

Site status None

Current Land use Industry and Commerce 3 - Retailing

Monument type HEDGE LINE Uncertain

Significant Finds NONE None

Methods & techniques "Sample Trenches"

Development type Urban residential (e.g. flats, houses, etc.)

Prompt National Planning Policy Framework - NPPF

Position in the planning process After full determination (eg. As a condition)

Project location

Country England

Site location KENT SWALE SITTINGBOURNE 4 Canterbury Road, Sittingbourne

Postcode ME10 4SB

Study area 2187 Square metres

Site coordinates TQ 91531 63428 51.337059126975 0.750013460734 51 20 13 N 000
45 00 E Point

Height OD / Depth Min: 12m Max: 13.71m

Project creators

Name of Organisation Archaeology South-East

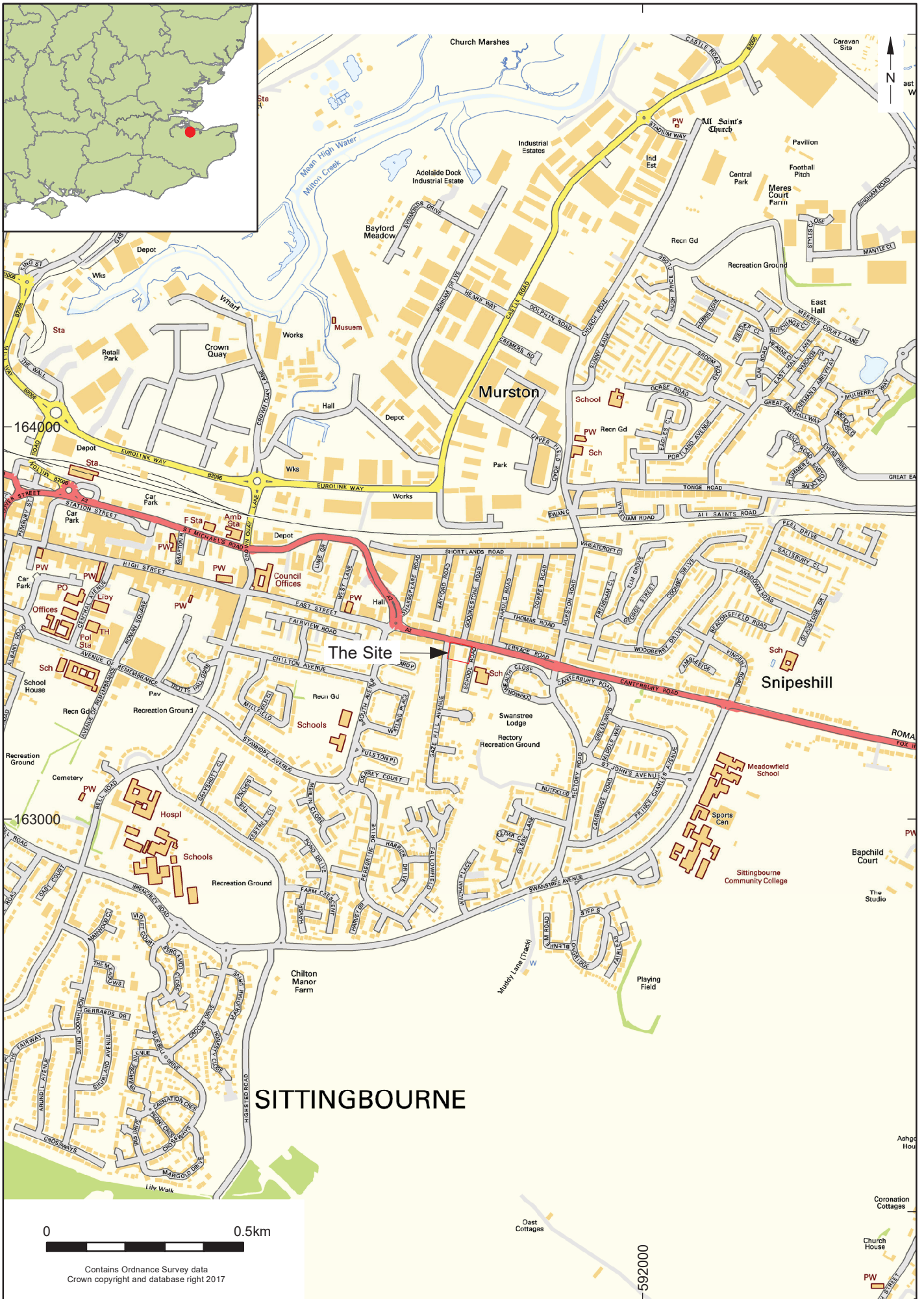
Project brief originator Kent County Council

Project design originator Orion Heritage

Project director/manager	Darryl Palmer/Jim Stevenson
Project supervisor	Ian Hogg
Type of sponsor/funding body	Developer
Name of sponsor/funding body	Orion Heritage
Project archives	
Physical Archive Exists?	No
Digital Archive recipient	Local Museum
Digital Contents	"Stratigraphic","Survey"
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography","Survey"
Paper Archive recipient	Local Museum
Paper Contents	"Stratigraphic"
Paper Media available	"Context sheet","Report","Section"
Entered by	Ian Hogg (ian.hogg@ucl.ac.uk)
Entered on	8 June 2017

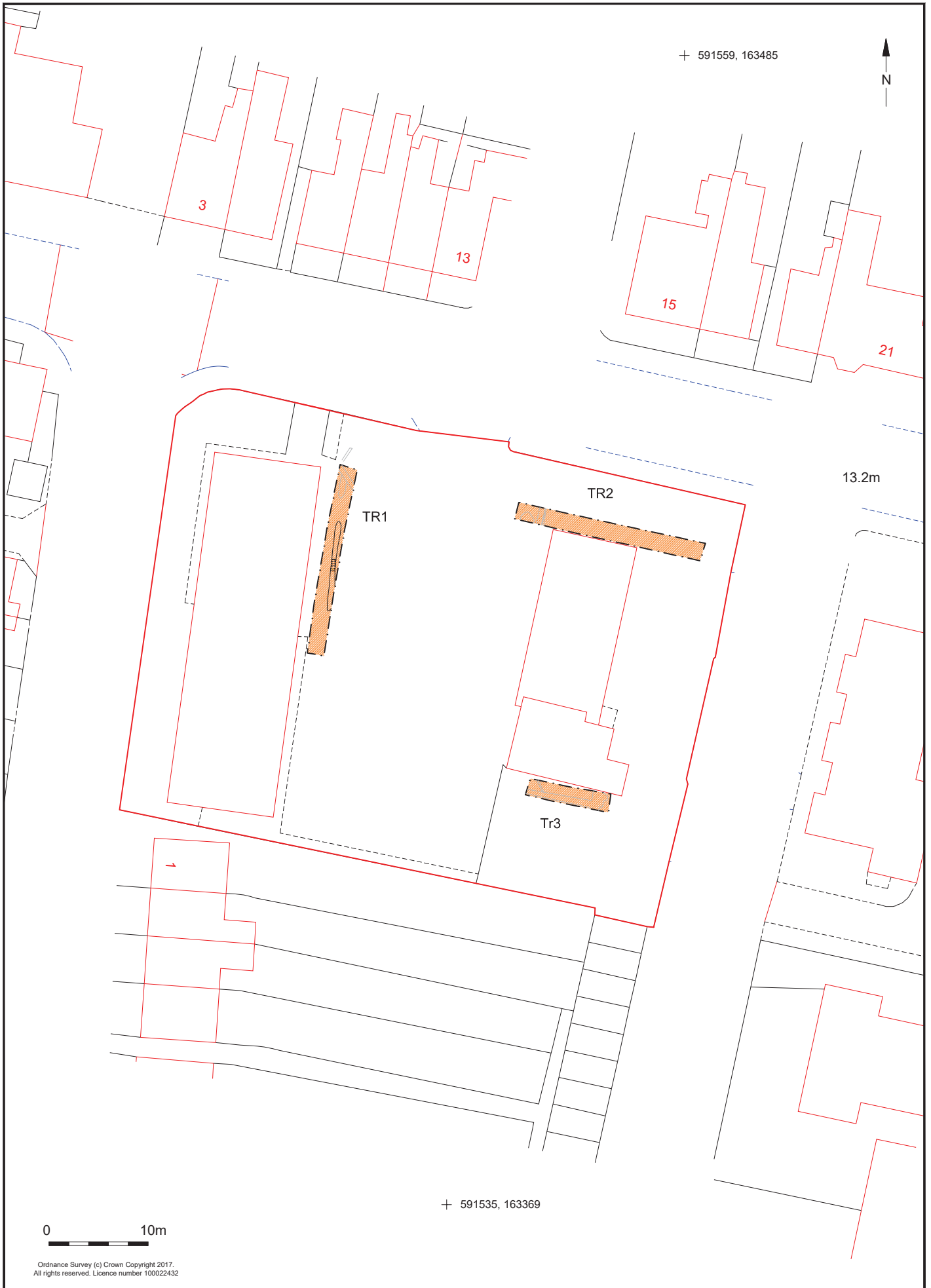
Appendix 1: Archaeologically negative trenches: List of recorded contexts

Trench	Context	Type	Interpretation	Depth (m)	Height (m aOD)
2	2/001	Layer	Concrete	0.14-0.41	13.19-13.65
2	2/002	Layer	Made ground	0.26-0.78	12.77-13.51
2	2/003	Layer	Natural	-	12.00-13.20
3	3/001	Layer	Asphalt	0.08	14.33-14.60
3	3/002	Layer	Made ground	0.71-0.81	14.25-14.52
3	3/003	Layer	Natural	-	13.49-13.71



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© Archaeology South-East		4 Canterbury Road Sittingbourne, Kent		Fig. 1
Project Ref: 170440	June 2017	Site location		
Report Ref: 2017265	Drawn by: AR			

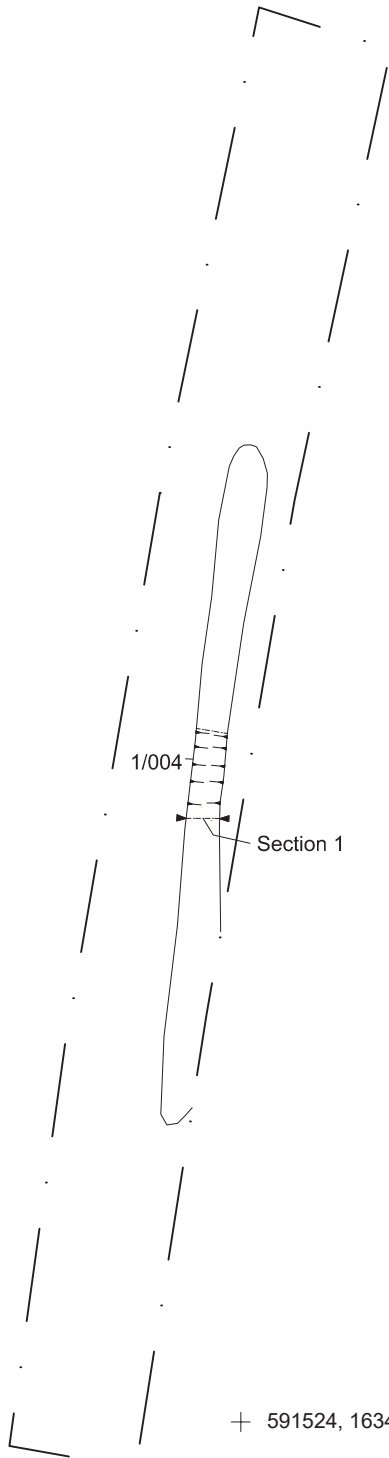


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© Archaeology South-East		4 Canterbury Road Sittingbourne, Kent		Fig. 2
Project Ref: 170440	June 2017	Trench location		
Report Ref: 2017265	Drawn by: AR			



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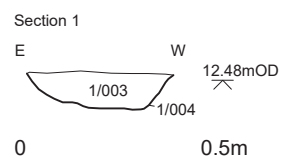
0 2m



Trench 1, general view, looking north



1/004, looking south





Trench 2, general view, looking west



Trench 3, general view, looking east

© Archaeology South-East		4 Canterbury Road Sittingbourne, Kent		Fig. 4
Project Ref: 170440	June 2017	Trench 2 and 3 photographs		
Report Ref: 2017265	Drawn by: AR			

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