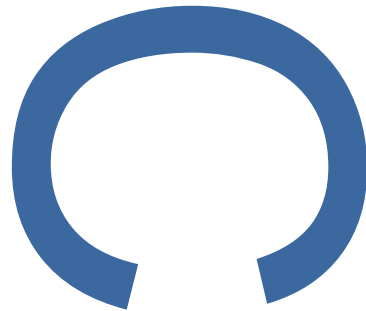
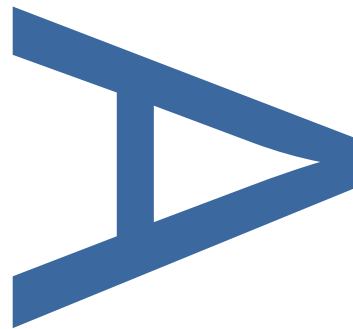


**Land East of Wrotham Road,
Meopham, Kent, DA13 0JL**



An Archaeological Evaluation



Planning reference **20250992**

Local planning authority **Gravesham Borough Council**

PCA report no. **R18593** ***Site Code*** **KMEO26**

PCA project no **K11304** ***Date*** **July 2026**

PRE-CONSTRUCT ARCHAEOLOGY LIMITED

www.pre-construct.com

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Site name	Land East of Wrotham Road, Meopham, Kent, DA13 0JL
Project type	An Archaeological Evaluation
Site address	Land East of Wrotham Road, Meopham, Kent, DA13 0JL
NGR	TQ 64570 66652
Local planning authority	Gravesham Borough Council
Planning reference	20250992 Pre-determination
Commissioning client	Richborough
Project dates	29.05.2026 – 12.06.2026
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PCA Information			
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1 ABSTRACT

- 1.1 This report details the results of an archaeological evaluation undertaken by Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited (PCA) on land forming the development site referred to as Land East of Wrotham Road, Meopham, Kent, DA13 0JL. The site was centered at National Grid Reference TQ 64570 66652 (Figure 1).
- 1.2 The archaeological investigation was carried out between 29th May – 12th June 2026 and consisted of thirty-two machine excavated evaluation trenches measuring 30m x 1.80m (Figure 2). These were positioned to provide broad coverage across the site whilst also targeting geophysical anomalies identified during an earlier geophysical survey, and to assess the presence or absence of archaeological remains within the footprint of the proposed development.
- 1.3 The evaluation recorded the natural chalk bedrock in trenches predominantly located in the central and northern parts of the site. This was overlain by natural superficial deposits consisting of gravelly, sandy clay, which were observed in all evaluation trenches.
- 1.4 The site topography slopes downward from the southern boundary, where ground levels reach approximately 124m OD, towards the northern boundary, where levels fall to around 110m OD. This gradient reflects a steady slope northward across the site.
- 1.5 Several archaeological features were recorded during the evaluation undertaken on the site. These comprised three undated linear features, and numerous large-scale quarry pits, which were predominately undated due to the lack of dating evidence, although two did contain later post-medieval peg tile.
- 1.6 The three linear features were dispersed broadly across the site, as represented by two probable, shallow boundary ditches, and one curvilinear, which may have formed the fragmentary remains of an enclosure. No dating evidence was recovered from these features.
- 1.7 A series of large features, representing quarry pits for extraction of the underlying chalk, were recorded across multiple trenches of the evaluation. Only two of these pits yielded dating evidence, a very small assemblage of later post-medieval peg tile dated broadly to AD 1700-1900. The remaining pits, despite having flecks of undiagnostic ceramic building material within the otherwise sterile and homogenous backfills, provided no definitive dating evidence. However, it could be argued, due to the similarity between these features, that they all represent quarrying of the underlying chalk during the post-medieval period.
- 1.8 The evaluation proved the presence of features associated with the previously identified geophysical anomalies. However, it also recorded numerous instances where the identified anomalies were not present. The geophysical anomalies identified during the earlier survey were identified as undetermined (weak) by the associated report and did not represent strong signals which could be identified as certain archaeological remains. This likely explains the varied results of features associated with identified anomalies.

- 1.9 The depositional sequence across the site was overlain by a subsoil horizon, which was in turn sealed by topsoil representing the modern surface level.
- 1.10 Based on the limited results of the evaluation, which was dominated by quarry pits, and the distinct lack of material culture recovered in association, the site appears to have a low potential for further archaeological remains, and those that have been encountered, are considered to be of low significance.

2 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 An archaeological evaluation was carried out by Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd (PCA) on land forming the development site referred to as Land East of Wrotham Road, Meopham, Kent, DA13 0JL. The site was centered on NGR TQ 64570 66652 (Figure 1).
- 2.2 The site is located to the east of Wrotham Road and south of Green Lane. The site is 15.73ha in size and encompasses one large arable field and a stretch of land extending into a larger field to the east, forming two parcels. The surrounding area to the north and northwest of the site comprises the residential areas of Hook Green (Figure 2).
- 2.3 A Heritage Statement and Archaeological Desk Based Assessment produced for the site (Pegasus Group 2025) concluded that there is a moderate potential for Palaeolithic archaeology, a low potential for later prehistoric, Roman, Saxon, medieval and post-medieval remains.
- 2.4 A geophysical survey was undertaken across the site in April 2025 (Magnitude Surveys 2025). The survey identified anomalies of natural and undetermined origins. Modern interference was limited to the edges and isolated areas within the survey areas, associated with extant field boundaries and ferrous debris.
- 2.5 The evaluation works were to comprise the excavation and investigation of thirty-two machine dug trenches with dimensions of 30m x 1.80m. The trenches were positioned across the areas of the site which are to be subject to development. The eastern area of the site was excluded from the evaluation with agreement from the County Archaeological for Kent County Council, due to this area of the site being left undeveloped.
- 2.6 The work was required as a pre-determination investigation for a scheme for which planning consent has been submitted (Planning ref: 20250992).
- 2.7 The methodology for the evaluation was negotiated by Pegasus Group and outlined within a Written Scheme of Investigation prepared by PCA 2026. The fieldwork was carried out between 29th May – 12th June 2026.
- 2.8 All work was undertaken in accordance with the following documents:
 - PCA 2026 Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Evaluation at Land East of Wrotham Road, Meopham, Kent, DA13 0JL, unpublished report
 - Manual of Specification – Trial Trenching Requirements (Kent County Council)
 - Standard for archaeological field evaluation (Chartered Institute for Archaeologists CIfA 2023)
 - Universal guidance for archaeological field evaluation (Chartered Institute for Archaeologists CIfA 2023)
 - Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE Historic England 2015)
- 2.9 The investigation was conducted by PCA under the supervision of Tomasz Mazurkiewicz and

the project was managed by Neil Hawkins and Kathy Davidson and was monitored by County Archaeologist Jake Warrender of Kent County Council.

- 2.10 The archaeological work was commissioned by Richborough through the agency of Pegasus Planning Group Ltd.

3 PLANNING BACKGROUND

- 3.1 Outline planning permission has been sought for:

The erection of up to 350 residential dwellings, public open space and associated works. Approval is sought for the principal means of vehicular access from Wrotham Road and all other matters are reserved (Planning ref: 20250992).

- 3.2 When consulted, the Kent County Council County Archaeologist, made the following comments¹:

The site lies within an area of archaeological potential associated with medieval and postmedieval settlement. Evidence for which includes the Grade I listed St John the Baptist church, which is situated c. 200 south of the development site and a record of Anglo-Saxon buildings within the general area of the church. In the wider area of Meopham there is archaeological evidence for prehistoric and Romano-British activity including evidence of Romano-British within the vicinity of the church.

The Desk based assessment suggests a possible paleochannel extends into the site through superficial head deposits and considers the potential for Palaeolithic archaeology within the Site to be moderate. While the DBA suggests that potential for evidence of settlement from later archaeological periods is low, it should be noted that the lack of known sites dating to these periods within the local area may be partially due to the paucity of archaeological work carried out within the local area rather than necessarily a lack of archaeological sites. The Geophysical survey has detected several anomalies that are potentially archaeological in nature.

- 3.3 The Kent County Council County Archaeologist, in the same consultation outlined the below recommendations:

In view of the size of the site and the potential for as yet unknown significant archaeology, I would recommend that a programme of pre-determination trial trenching is carried out on the site targeting identified geophysical anomalies and the area of the site to the south located towards the St John Church.

¹ Email from Jake Warrender, County Archaeologist, Kent County Council, dated 2 December 2025.

4 GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY

The following geological and topographical background is derived from the site-specific Heritage Statement and Archaeological Desk Based Assessment (Pegasus Group 2025).

4.1 Geology, Topography and Site Description

- 4.1.1 The solid geology within the site is mapped as a mixture of Lewes Nodular Chalk Formation, Seaford Chalk Formation and Newhaven Chalk Formation across the northern extent, which was formed between 93.9 and 72.1 million years ago during the Cretaceous period; and Thanet Formation across the southern extent comprising sand, which formed between 59.2 and 56 million years ago during the Palaeogene period. The superficial geology mapped across the southern and central areas of the site is mapped as Head, comprising clay, silt, sand and gravel, which formed between 2.588 million years ago and the present during the Quaternary period.
- 4.1.2 The superficial geology which extends within the site may form part of wider paleochannels; however, such features do not appear clearly in LiDAR imagery of the site. As described in the geophysical survey, the spread of anomalies detected in Area 2 are likely associated with the superficial deposits and solid geology bedrock within the site.
- 4.1.3 A review of the borehole records shows there have been no surveys within the site or within its immediate surrounds.
- 4.1.4 The topography of the site slopes downwards from the southern boundary at c.124m OD to the northern boundary at c.110m OD
- 4.1.5 The site is located to the east of Wrotham Road and south of Green Lane. The site is 15.73ha in size and encompasses one large arable field and a stretch of land extending into a larger field to the east, forming two parcels. The surrounding area to the north and northwest of the site comprises the residential areas of Hook Green. A low hedgerow runs through the site separating the two land parcels. The western and northern boundaries of the site, which run along Wrotham Road and Green Lane comprise a mature vegetation screen, consisting of tall trees and lower-height shrubs.

4.2 Digital terrain model (LiDAR)

- 4.2.1 Following a review of the LiDAR data for the site, there are no obvious features visible in the imagery. The imagery does not show any indications of previous settlement activity within the site or any geological features.

5 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The following archaeological and historical background is derived from the site-specific Heritage Statement and Archaeological Desk Based Assessment (Pegasus Group 2025).

5.1 Previous Archaeological Works

5.1.1 Geophysical surveys (Magnitude Surveys 2025) were undertaken across the site in April 2025. This also included the survey of an additional site referred to in the Survey Report as 'Area 1'. The site, comprises 'Area 2' and 'Area 3'. The survey made the following conclusions:

- *Several anomalous spreads were detected in Area 2. The spreads detected to the north of Area 2 likely result from accretions of superficial deposits of clay, silt, sand and gravel. The southern spread is likely due to the weathering of the underlying chalk bedrock.*
- *Several weakly enhanced, linear, curvilinear and discrete anomalies have been detected within Areas 1-3 and categorised as undetermined. Due to a limited context and a lack of clear anthropogenic patterns or morphologies a more confident interpretation cannot be provided, though an archaeological provenance cannot be discounted.*
- *Numerous weakly enhanced linear, curvilinear and discrete anomalies have been detected across Areas 1-3. These anomalies do not correspond with any mapped features meaning a more definite classification cannot be given. (from Pegasus Group 2025, 14)*

5.1.2 No other archaeological investigations have been undertaken previously with the site boundary

5.2 Prehistoric (pre-c. AD 43)

5.2.1 No archaeology relating to the prehistoric period has been recorded by the HER within the site and no anomalies suggestive of activity of prehistoric date were recorded within the site during the geophysical survey. As discussed above, the geological record shows there may have been possible paleochannels extending into the site associated with superficial head deposits. It is possible for Palaeolithic activity to have occurred around the edges of such channels.

5.2.2 Eight palaeolithic handaxes (surface-finds) have been recorded within Meopham; however, the precise location of each find is unknown. The HER has georeferenced the record c.230m south of the site.

5.2.3 A potential Mesolithic site has been recorded c.615m southwest of the site; however, the accuracy of the record's location is uncertain as it was based on the finds of Mesolithic implements 'found at Meopham'.

5.2.4 Settlement activity dating from the late Neolithic to the early Romano-British periods was recorded during excavation work (2016) at Meopham School, c.600m south of the site. A single pit was found containing flint provisionally dated to the Neolithic period. Further pits in the vicinity may also have dated to this period but contained no dateable evidence. A number of other prehistoric features were recorded, including boundary ditches, pits and a potential flint trackway. These all included large quantities of late Bronze Age to Iron Age pottery, common burnt flint and worked flint. A large curvilinear ditch aligning with eight postholes, were found

containing Iron Age and early Romano British pottery. The ditch appeared to have been deliberately backfilled in the late Iron Age or early Roman period and a child inhumation was inserted into the ditch. The above features were covered by a deposit of colluvium that was in places up to 0.5m thick and contained prehistoric material including burnt flint. Topographical data shows the possible settlement sat upon a raised area between the mapped extent of two water channels, as indicated by geological data, to the east and west.

- 5.2.5 Metal detectorists in the area have recorded several metal artefacts, including an Iron Age copper alloy toggle c.270m southeast of the site; and an Iron Age copper alloy coin c.615m southwest of the site
- 5.2.6 Faint cropmarks of a possible Bronze Age ring ditch and a possible later prehistoric rectilinear enclosure are visible on aerial photographs from June 2008. These are recorded in a field c.940m southwest of the site. The ring ditch appears to sit within the enclosure; however, no strong relationship between them is apparent from the cropmarks.

5.3 Romano-British (AD 43 - 410)

- 5.3.1 No archaeology relating to the Romano-British period has been recorded by the HER within the site and no anomalies suggestive of activity of Romano-British date were recorded within either site during the geophysical survey.
- 5.3.2 A Romano-British site has been recorded by the HER c.270m south of the site. The HER states the site was 'discovered near the church in 1988'; however, no further information is provided in reference to the record.
- 5.3.3 As discussed above, early Romano-British finds were recorded during excavation work at Meopham School, c.600m south of the site.
- 5.3.4 Roman copper alloy coin was recorded by metal detectorists c.490m northeast of the site.

5.4 Early medieval (AD 410– 1066) and Medieval (1066 – 1539)

- 5.4.1 No archaeology relating to the early medieval or medieval periods has been recorded by the HER within the site and no anomalies suggestive of activity of medieval date were recorded within either site during the geophysical survey.
- 5.4.2 Documentary sources indicate early settlement activity during the late Anglo-Saxon period, with a number of primary sources mentioning Meopham and a group of Saxon wooden buildings. The precise location of this earlier settlement is uncertain; although, the HER has georeferenced the record c.120m south of the site within the grounds of the later established Meopham Court.
- 5.4.3 Within the field directly to the east of the site, metal detectorists have found an early medieval lead gaming piece, c.60m from the site's edge; and a medieval copper alloy mount, c.180m from the site's edge.
- 5.4.4 The Grade I Listed Parish Church of St John the Baptist lies c.200m south of the site. The Church was built between 1320 and 1325 and rebuilt in 1326 following an earthquake. The

church experienced a number of restorations during the 19th century.

5.5 Post-Medieval (1540 – 1750), Early Modern (1750 – 1901), Modern (1901 – present)

- 5.5.1 No archaeology relating to the post-medieval, early modern or modern periods has been recorded by the HER within the site and no anomalies suggestive of significant activity of post-medieval to modern date were recorded within the site during the geophysical survey.

6 METHODOLOGY

- 6.1 The full methodology for the archaeological evaluation was outlined within the site-specific Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI, PCA 2026). The investigation comprised the excavation of 32 trenches (TR) (TR's 1 – 32) with proposed dimensions of 30m x 1.80m (Figure 2).
- 6.2 The trenches were marked out using a Geomax GNNS survey instrument loaded with the pre-defined setout data as derived from the trench location plan within the WSI.
- 6.3 A utility search has been undertaken via Linesearch BeforeUdig (LSBUD) which identified the overhead electricity cable running across the northern section of the site, within the wooded strip, and across the northeast entrance.
- 6.4 All trench locations were scanned with a Cable Avoidance Tool (CAT) to detect for the presence of buried services prior to machining and again at 300mm intervals, until the desired depth and horizon was achieved.
- 6.5 Excavation of the trenches was carried out using a 13-tonne 360-degree mechanical excavator. The excavator was fitted with a flat-bladed 1.80m wide ditching bucket.
- 6.6 The machining was conducted under constant archaeological supervision and the excavation was carried out in 100mm spits until the natural deposits were found.
- 6.7 Subsequent to a monitoring meeting with the County Archaeologist, Jake Warrender (KCC), it was agreed that a machine excavated sondages could be utilised to further investigate the character and depth of a series of substantial features, possibly of late post-medieval date. As such, four machine-excavated slots were undertaken on targeted large features. These are discussed in detail with the specific trench details below. A 0.5 m-wide, flat-bladed bucket was employed for the excavation. Each slot was excavated to a maximum depth of 1.20 m. All works were undertaken under archaeological supervision, with the site supervisor present at all times.
- 6.8 Following the cessation of excavation by machine and where necessary, the bases of the trenches, features and representative sections were subsequently cleaned using hand tools, such as trowels, hoes, shovels, and mattocks, by the archaeological team prior to recording.
- 6.9 Adopting a single context recording methodology, all deposits, structures, and features were recorded on *pro-forma* context sheets with sections within each trench recorded at a scale of 1:10 with trench plans recorded by means of Geomax GNNS survey instrument. Digital photographs were taken throughout the archaeological evaluation.
- 6.10 The recording system adopted during the investigations was fully compatible with those developed out of the Department of Urban Archaeology Site Manual, now presented within PCA's Site Manual (Taylor & Brown 2009, updated 2018). The site archive was compiled to be compatible with other archaeological archives produced within Kent.
- 6.11 The trenches were surveyed, and the heights of all interventions and below ground deposits encountered were calculated and recorded in meters above ordnance datum (m OD), using Geomax GNNS survey equipment.

- 6.12 Context number [1] was assigned to the Topsoil, which was used for all the trenches. In this report all context numbers (cuts, layers and fills etc) are written in squared brackets [].

7 POSITIVE EVALUATION RESULTS, BY TRENCH

- 7.1 The following section contains a data table for each evaluation trench which yielded archaeological results, with the relevant data derived from the site context records, including dimensions and photographs as appropriate.
- 7.2 Phasing is assigned based on specialist assessment and dating, which has produced the following phases to the results:
- Phase 1: Natural Geology
 - Phase 2: Undated
 - Phase 3: Post-medieval
 - Phase 4: Modern
- 7.3 A series of substantial features, initially interpreted as quarry pits, were encountered across the site in a number of trenches. Following on site discussions with the Kent CC County Archaeologist, it was agreed that targeted machine excavated sondages would be undertaken to test some of these features, in an effort to further establish the nature and depth of these features. As such machine excavated sondages were undertaken in such features in Trenches 2, 6, 13 and 29. These features were identified for testing via sondage as a representative sample of clusters of such features and positioned across the site.

Trench Number		Dates of Investigation		Relevant Figures		Recorded by		
Trench 2		10/06/2026		S2, S36		TS		
Orientation		Dimensions (L x W)		Archaeological horizon		Depth to natural		
NE/SW		30m x 1.80m		111.93m OD		0.50m		
Con.	Type	Interpretation	L	W	D/T	Fill of	= to	Finds
001	layer	topsoil	30.00	1.80	0.29	-	-	-
005	layer	subsoil	30.00	1.80	0.25	-	-	-
006	layer	Natural - chalk	3.00	1.80	0.08	-	-	-
007	layer	Natural - chalk	2.00	1.80	0.10	-	-	-
114	fill	fill	21.70	1.80	0.57	117	-	-
115	fill	fill	21.70	1.80	0.20	117	-	-
116	fill	fill	21.70	1.80	0.48	117	-	-
117	cut	cut	21.70	1.80	0.84	-	-	-



Plate 1 Trench 2 overview, looking northeast, 1m scale



Plate 2 Trench 2, quarry pit [117] looking south, 1m scale

Brief discussion

Trench 2 revealed a natural deposit comprising a chalk-rich layer [006], [007], which had been truncated by a substantial quarry pit [117]. No artefacts were recovered from the excavation of this trench; however, flecks of undiagnostic ceramic building material (CBM) were observed within the upper fill [114] of the feature.

Trench Number		Dates of Investigation		Relevant Figures		Recorded by		
Trench 3		10/06/2026		S3		TS		
Orientation		Dimensions (L x W)		Archaeological horizon		Depth to natural		
NW/SE		30m x 1.80m		113.55m OD		0.42m		
Con.	Type	Interpretation	L	W	D/T	Fill of	= to	Finds
001	layer	topsoil	30.00	1.80	0.29	-	-	-
008	layer	subsoil	30.00	1.80	0.25	-	-	-
009	layer	natural	30.00	1.80	0.08	-	-	-
010	layer	natural - chalk	30.00	1.80	0.05	-	-	-
110	fill	fill of a quarry	7.23	1.80	n/a	-	-	-
111	cut	cut of a quarry	7.23	1.80	n/a	-	-	-



Plate 3, Trench 3 overview, and an unexcavated large quarry pit [011], looking northeast, 1m scale

Brief discussion

Trench 3 exposed a sequence of natural deposits comprising the basal chalk layer [010], overlain by a head deposit [009]. This sequence had been truncated by a substantial quarry pit [111]. The pit was not excavated but was fully recorded in plan. No artefacts were recovered during the excavation of Trench 3 or during the exposure of quarry pit [111]. However, flecks of undiagnostic CBM were observed within the upper fill [110] of the feature.

Trench Number		Dates of Investigation		Relevant Figures		Recorded by		
Trench 6		03/06/2026		S6, S37		TS		
Orientation		Dimensions (L x W)		Archaeological horizon		Depth to natural		
NE/SW		30m x 1.80m		116.45m OD		0.50m		
Con.	Type	Interpretation	L	W	D/T	Fill of	= to	Finds
001	layer	topsoil	30.00	1.80	0.37	-	-	-
017	layer	subsoil	30.00	1.80	0.18	-	-	-
018	layer	natural	30.00	1.80	0.13	-	-	-
019	layer	natural - chalk	16.57	1.80	0.10	-	-	-
118	fill	fill of a natural feature	3.15	1.20	0.30	120	-	-
119	fill	fill of a natural feature	3.25	1.20	0.36	120	-	-
120	cut	cut of a naturally formed feature	3.25	1.20	0.80	-	-	-
121	fill	fill of a quarry pit	2.55	0.93	0.62	122	-	-
122	cut	Cut of a quarry pit	2.55	0.93	0.62	-	-	-



Plate 4, Trench 6 overview looking northeast, 1m scale



Plate 5, Trench 6, quarry pit [122] and a naturally formed feature [120], looking east, 1m scale

Brief discussion

Trench 6 exposed a sequence of natural deposits comprising the basal chalk layer [019], overlain by a head deposit [018]. This sequence had been truncated by a substantial quarry pit [122] and by a second feature [120], which may represent a naturally formed hollow. A slot was excavated through both [122] and [120]. No artefacts were recovered during the excavation of Trench 6 or during the exposure of quarry pit [122]. However, very small flecks of undiagnostic CBM were observed within the upper fill [121] of the feature.

Trench Number		Dates of Investigation		Relevant Figures		Recorded by		
Trench 7		03/06/2026		S7		TS		
Orientation		Dimensions (L x W)		Archaeological horizon		Depth to natural		
NW/SE		30m x 1.80m		116.45m OD		0.48m		
Con.	Type	Interpretation	L	W	D/T	Fill of	= to	Finds
001	layer	topsoil	30.00	1.80	0.37	-	-	-
020	layer	subsoil	30.00	1.80	0.24	-	-	-
021	layer	natural	4.00	1.80	0.05	-	-	-
022	layer	natural - chalk	26.00	1.80	0.05	-	-	-
112	fill	fill of a quarry pit	16.17	1.80	n/a	-	-	-
113	cut	cut of a quarry pit	16.17	1.80	n/a	-	-	-



Plate 6, Trench 7 overview and a large unexcavated quarry pit [113], looking northeast, 1m scale



Plate 7 Trench 7 overview, unexcavated quarry pit [113], looking east, 1m scale

Brief discussion

Trench 7 exposed a sequence of natural deposits comprising the basal chalk layer [022], overlain by a silty sandy, head deposit [021]. This sequence had been truncated by a substantial quarry pit [113]. The pit was not excavated but was fully recorded as an unexcavated feature. No artefacts were recovered during the excavation of Trench 7 or during the exposure of quarry pit [113]. However, very small flecks of undiagnostic CBM were observed within fill [112] of the feature.

Trench Number		Dates of Investigation		Relevant Figures		Recorded by		
Trench 10		03/06/2026		S10, S33		TS		
Orientation		Dimensions (L x W)		Archaeological horizon		Depth to natural		
W-E		30m x 1.80m		115.31m OD		0.45m		
Con.	Type	Interpretation	L	W	D/T	Fill of	= to	Finds
001	layer	topsoil	30.00	1.80	0.35	-	-	-
0.29	layer	subsoil	30.00	1.80	0.13	-	-	-
030	layer	natural	28.50	1.80	0.08	-	-	-
031	layer	natural - chalk	1.50	1.80	0.05	-	-	-
100	fill	fill of a ditch	1.80	0.74	0.16	101	-	-
101	cut	cut of a ditch	1.80	0.74	0.16	-	-	-



Plate 8, Trench 10 overview, looking east, 1m scale



Plate 10, a ditch [101], looking south, 1m scale

Brief discussion

Trench 10 exposed a sequence of natural deposits comprising the basal chalk layer [031], overlain by a silty-sandy head deposit [030]. This sequence had been truncated by a linear feature [101], interpreted as a ditch. The fill [100] of ditch [101] did not contain any artefacts, and no further dating evidence was recovered. Owing to the absence of diagnostic material and the lack of stratigraphic indicators, ditch [101] has been assigned to an undated phase.

Trench Number		Dates of Investigation		Relevant Figures		Recorded by		
Trench 13		13/08/2024		S13		TS		
Orientation		Dimensions (L x W)		Archaeological horizon		Depth to natural		
NW/SE		30m x 1.80m		115.71m OD		0.m		
Con.	Type	Interpretation	L	W	D/T	Fill of	= to	Finds
001	layer	topsoil	30.00	1.80	0.35	-	-	-
038	layer	subsoil	30.00	1.80	0.18	-	-	-
039	layer	natural	30.00	1.80	0.10	-	-	-
040	layer	natural - chalk	5.00	1.80	0.05	-	-	-
125	fill	fill of a quarry pit	9.10	1.80	0.44	127	-	-
126	fill	fill of a quarry pit	9.10	2.33	0.67	127	-	-
127	cut	a quarry pit	9.10	1.80	0.81	-	-	-
128	fill	fill of a quarry pit	9.10	0.46	0.09	127	-	-



Plate 11, trench 13, overview and quarry pit [127], looking west, 1m scale



Plate 12 Trench 12 overview, looking northeast, 1m scale

Brief discussion

Trench 13 exposed a sequence of natural deposits comprising the basal chalk layer [040], overlain by a silty-sandy head deposit [039]. This sequence had been truncated by a substantial quarry pit [127]. A slot was excavated through feature [127]. No artefacts were recovered during the excavation of Trench 13 or during the exposure of quarry pit [127]. However, very small flecks of undiagnostic CBM were observed within the upper fill [125] of the feature.

Trench Number		Dates of Investigation		Relevant Figures		Recorded by		
Trench 15		03/06/2026		S15		TS		
Orientation		Dimensions (L x W)		Archaeological horizon		Depth to natural		
NE/SW		30m x 1.80m		115.51m OD		0.81m		
Con.	Type	Interpretation	L	W	D/T	Fill of	= to	Finds
001	layer	topsoil	30.00	1.80	0.32	-	-	-
044	layer	subsoil	30.00	1.80	0.10	-	-	-
045	layer	natural	30.00	1.80	0.13	-	-	-
046	layer	natural - chalk	30.00	1.80	0.05	-	-	-
134	fill	fill of a quarry pit	12.86	1.80	n/a	-	-	-
135	cut	cut of a quarry pit	12.86	1.80	n/a	-	-	-
136	fill	fill of a quarry pit	4.73	1.80	n/a	-	-	-
137	cut	cut of a quarry pit	4.73	1.80	n/a	-	-	-



Plate 13, Trench 15 overview and a quarry pit [137] and [134], looking southwest, 1m scale



Plate 14, Trench 15 overview and a quarry pit [135] and [137], looking northeast, 1m scale

Brief discussion

Trench 15 exposed a sequence of natural deposits comprising the basal chalk layer [046], overlain by a head deposit [045]. This sequence had been truncated by two substantial quarry pits [135] and [137]. Neither pit was excavated, but both were fully recorded and interpreted as quarrying features.

Trench Number			Dates of Investigation		Relevant Figures		Recorded by		
Trench 19			03/06/2026		S19		TS		
Orientation			Dimensions (L x W)		Archaeological horizon		Depth to natural		
NE/SW			30m x 1.80m		121.67m OD		0.40m		
Con.	Type	Interpretation	L	W	D/T	Fill of	= to	Finds	
001	layer	topsoil	30.00	1.80	0.15	-	-	-	
056	layer	subsoil	30.00	1.80	0.30	-	-	-	
057	layer	natural	30.00	1.80	0.26	-	-	-	
098	fill	fill	9.34	1.10	0.19	99	-	-	
099	cut	cut of a ditch	9.34	1.10	0.19	-	-	-	



Plate 15, Trench 19, overview, looking north, 1m scale



Plate 16, Trench 19, a shallow linear feature [099], looking southwest, 1m scale

Brief discussion

The earliest deposit encountered in Trench 19 was a silty-sandy head deposit [057], which had been truncated by a curvilinear feature [099]. No archaeological finds were recovered from the fill [098] of cut [099]. Although it is possible that feature [099] formed part of an enclosure, the absence of dating evidence prevents any secure interpretation. Consequently, the feature has been assigned to an undated phase.

Trench Number		Dates of Investigation		Relevant Figures		Recorded by		
Trench 20		03/06/2026		S20		TS		
Orientation		Dimensions (L x W)		Archaeological horizon		Depth to natural		
NW/SE		30m x 1.80m		122.09m OD		0.40 m		
Con.	Type	Interpretation	L	W	D/T	Fill of	= to	Finds
001	layer	topsoil	30.00	1.80	030	-	-	-
059	layer	subsoil	30.00	1.80	0.10	-	-	-
060	layer	natural	18.00	1.80	0.05	-	-	-
061	layer	natural - chalk	30.00	1.80	0.05	-	-	-
102	fill	fill of a quarry pit	2.95	1.80	n/a	-	-	-
103	cut	cut of a quarry pit	2.95	1.80	n/a	-	-	-



Plate 17, Trench 20 overview, looking north, 1m scale



Plate 18, Trench 20 overview, looking west, 1m scale

Brief discussion

Trench 20 exposed a sequence of natural deposits comprising the basal chalk layer [061], overlain by a silty sandy, head deposit [060]. This sequence had been truncated by a substantial quarry pit [103]. The pit was not excavated but was fully recorded in plan. No artefacts were recovered during the excavation of Trench 20 or during the exposure of quarry pit [103]. However, very small flecks of undiagnostic CBM were observed within fill [102] of the feature.

Trench Number		Dates of Investigation		Relevant Figures		Recorded by		
Trench 28		03/06/2026		S35		TS		
Orientation		Dimensions (L x W)		Archaeological horizon		Depth to natural		
NW/SE		30m x 1.80m		121.57m OD		0.44m		
Con.	Type	Interpretation	L	W	D/T	Fill of	= to	Finds
001	layer	topsoil	30.00	1.80	0.31	-	-	-
083	layer	subsoil	30.00	1.80	0.21	-	-	-
084	layer	natural	30.00	18.0	0.10	-	-	-
108	fill	fill	4.10	1.80	0.22	109	-	-
109	cut	cut	4.10	1.80	0.22	-	-	-



Plate 19, Trench 28, overview, looking southeast, 1m scale



Plate 30, Trench 8 overview, looking west, 1m scale

Brief discussion

The earliest deposit encountered in Trench 20 was a silty-sandy head deposit [084], which had been truncated by a wide linear feature [109] recorded in central part of the trench. No archaeological finds were recovered from the fill [108]. This feature may have represented a simple boundary ditch, despite its width. As no dating evidence was recovered, the feature has been assigned to an undated phase.

Trench Number		Dates of Investigation		Relevant Figures		Recorded by		
Trench 29		03/06/2026		S29		TS		
Orientation		Dimensions (L x W)		Archaeological horizon		Depth to natural		
NE/SW		30m x 1.80m		120.87m OD		0.37m		
Con.	Type	Interpretation	L	W	D/T	Fill of	= to	Finds
001	layer	topsoil	30.00	1.80	0.36	-	-	-
086	layer	subsoil	30.00	1.80	0.13	-	-	-
087	layer	natural	30.00	1.80	0.10	-	-	-
129	fill	fill of a pit	2.78	1.80	0.25	131	-	CBM
130	fill	fill of a pit	2.78	1.80	0.31	131	-	-
131	cut	cut of a pit	2.78	1.80	0.56	-	-	-
132	fill	fill	11.03	1.80	0.28	133	-	-
133	cut	cut	11.03	1.80	0.28	-	-	-



Plate 21, Trench 29, overview, looking southwest, 1m scale



Plate 42 Trench 29, quarry pits [131], [133], looking south, 1m scale

Brief discussion

The earliest deposit identified in Trench 29 comprised a silty-sandy head deposit [087], which had been truncated by two substantial features, [131] and [133]. These features are best interpreted as large-scale quarry pits, with cut [133] clearly truncating cut [131], thereby indicating a sequence of quarrying activity.

Four fragments of post-medieval peg tile, three from fill [129] of pit [131], and one from fill [132] of pit [133], were recovered. These peg tile fragments are broadly dated to AD 1700-1900 (Appendix 3), suggesting these features were later post-medieval in date, or at least backfilled during the late post-medieval period.

8 NEGATIVE EVALUATION RESULTS, BY TRENCH

8.1 The table below shows each of the trenches which produced no archaeological results. A single feature of natural origin, or variation in natural deposits was recorded within Trench 14. A selection of sections from the above trenches are shown at Figure 15.

Trench	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Depth to Natural (m)	Top of a trench (m OD Height)	Context Nos		
						topsoil	subsoil	natural
1	30	1.80	0.60	0.50	108.48	001	002	003,004
3	30	1.80	0.58	0.45	113.55	001	008	009
4	30	1.80	0.55	0.39	112.91	001	011	012/013
5	30	1.80	0.50	0.43	115.92	001	014	015/016
8	30	1.80	0.58	0.33	119.21	001	023	024,025,141
9	30	1.80	0.45	0.33	116.66	001	026	027,028
11	30	1.80	0.65	0.44	113.12	001	032	033
12	30	1.80	0.48	0.50	113.66	001	035	036
14	30	1.90	0.50	0.44	114.47	001	041	042,043,142
16	30	1.80	0.50	0.46	116.80	001	047	048
17	30	1.80	0.52	0.38	119.46	001	050	052,051
18	30	1.80	0.64	0.42	120.64	001	053	054,143
21	30	1.80	0.48	0.32	119.98	001	062	063
22	30	1.80	0.49	0.44	118.59	001	065	066
23	30	1.80	0.53	0.45	118.31	001	068	069
24	30	1.80	0.44	0.33	117.69	001	071	072,073
25	30	1.80	0.45	0.30	118.62	001	074	075,076
26	30	1.80	0.50	0.38	120.17	001	077	078,079
27	30	1.80	0.50	0.25	120.27	001	080	081
28	50	1.90	0.60	0.56	108.89	001	185	186
30	30.00	1.80	0.44	0.35	122.06	001	089	090
31	30.00	1.80	0.56	0.38	123.10	001	092	093,094
32	30.00	1.80	0.47	0.17	124.09	001	095	096,097

8.2 Representative Negative Trench Photos:



Plate 23, Trench 1, looking west, 1m scale



Plate 24, Trench 4, looking southeast, 1m scale



Plate 25, Trench 14, looking northeast, 1m scale



Plate 26, Trench 17, looking northwest, 1m scale



Plate 27, Trench 18, looking northeast, 1m scale



Plate 28, Trench 24, looking northwest, 1m scale



Plate 29, Trench 25, looking northeast



Plate 30, Trench 26, looking northeast, 1m scale



Plate 31, Trench 27, looking north, 1m scale



Plate 32, Trench 33, looking southeast, 1m scale

9 PHASED ARCHAEOLOGICAL SEQUENCE

9.1 Phase 1: Natural Geology and Topography

- 9.1.1 Natural deposits were encountered in all evaluation trenches and formed the substrate into which the archaeological features were cut. These deposits comprised varying proportions of sand, silt, brickearth, and gravel representing head deposits, overlying the chalk bedrock. In some trenches, only head deposits were encountered.
- 9.1.2 The site topography displayed notable variation. The highest recorded elevation was 124.09m OD, located in the southeastern part of the site (Trench 32). From this point, the ground surface decreased in all directions, with the most pronounced descent occurring towards the northern part of the site, where the lowest elevation of 108.21m OD was recorded around the western part of Trench 1.

9.2 Phase 2: Undated

- 9.2.1 Three undated linear features were recorded across the site in Trenches 10, 19, and 28. No datable artefacts were recovered during hand excavation of these features. All linear features were notably shallow, with two of them likely represented simple field boundaries. However, the curvilinear feature in Trench 19 may have represented an enclosure. This feature matched the geophysical survey anomaly in this location (Figure 3), however, the continuation of this feature, as per the geophysical survey, was not encountered within Trench 18 to the north.
- 9.2.2 Features interpreted as quarry pits were recorded across Trenches 2, 3, 6, 7, 13, 15, and 20. Three of these pits were investigated using machine excavated sondages, as agreed during a site meeting with the County Archaeologist, to further establish their nature and date. No dateable material was recovered from these quarry pits, although small flecks of undiagnostic CBM were observed within the fills, and therefore are assigned to the undated phase.

9.3 Phase 3: Post-Medieval

- 9.3.1 Two quarry pits, features [131] and [133] in Trench 29 produced datable material, consisting of a very small assemblage of small fragments of post-medieval peg tile, dated to AD 1700-1900 (Appendix 3), and therefore assigned to a post-medieval phase of activity. These pits were very similar in nature to the other quarry pits described above and were also backfilled with a very similar sterile and homogenous fill, and as such may represent the same phase of activity.

10 DISCUSSION, RESEARCH OBJECTIVES AND STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

10.1 Discussion

10.1.1 The archaeological investigation was designed to determine the presence or absence of surviving archaeological deposits and features at the site and, if present, to investigate, record and establish their significance. This preliminary investigation aims to provide archaeological information to be considered by KCC when further advising in regard to development on the site.

10.1.2 Several archaeological features were recorded during the evaluation undertaken on the site. These comprised three undated linear features, and numerous large-scale quarry pits, which were predominately undated due to the lack of dating evidence, although two did contain later post-medieval peg tile fragments.

10.1.3 The three linear features were dispersed broadly across the site, with a north-south shallow ditch present in Trench 10, located centrally within the site, an east-west ditch in Trench 28 in the southern central area, and a curvilinear feature in the southeastern corner of the site in Trench 19. No dating evidence was recovered from these features, all three of which were notably shallow in depth. This suggests the site has undergone considerable disturbance related to agricultural activity and ploughing over the past centuries. The curvilinear feature recorded within Trench 19 was consistent with an anomaly recorded during the geophysical survey undertaken prior to the evaluation (Figure 3). However, the northern continuation of this feature, present on the geophysical survey was not encountered within Trench 18 to the north. This was a recurring pattern during the evaluation, with geophysical anomalies either not being confirmed by excavation or proving to be less extensive than the archaeological features subsequently recorded.

10.1.4 A series of large features, representing quarry pits, for extraction of the underlying chalk, were recorded across multiple trenches of the evaluation. Due to the notable size of these features, and potential depths, it was agreed during a site meeting with the Kent CC County Archaeologist, that machine excavated sondages were appropriate for further investigation of a representative sample of these features. As such, machine excavated sondages were undertaken in quarry pits recorded in Trenches 2, 6, 13 and 29. These features were chosen for testing via sondage as a representative sample of clusters of such features, and due to their distribution across the site. The machine excavated sondages confirmed the depths of the pits, and identified potential multiple phases of quarrying activity as represented by the intercutting pits in Trench 29. The fills of the quarry pits were sterile and homogenous, with the vast majority of them not yielding dating evidence. However, two of the quarry pits, in the same evaluation trench (Trench 29), did contain a very small assemblage of late post-medieval peg tiles, broadly dated to AD 1700-1900 (Appendix 3). It is probable, that given the similarity in the quarry pits recorded across the site, that they all date to the post-medieval period. However, this cannot

be proven definitively without appropriate dating evidence.

10.1.5 As mentioned above, not all anomalies identified on the geophysical survey were present within the excavated evaluation trenches (see Figure 3). Trenches 1, 4, 5, 11, 17, 18, 22, 23, 25, and 30 did not record any features associated with geophysical anomalies. In contrast, some features recorded were more substantial than identified by the geophysical survey. This is true of quarry pits in Trenches 2, 3, 7, 15 and 29. Overall, the results of the evaluation in relation to identified anomalies on the geophysical survey was mixed. However, it should be noted that the features identified during the geophysical survey were identified as undetermined (weak) by the associated report, and did not represent strong signals, confident archaeological remains. This may be the reason for varied results.

10.1.6 All natural strata, and archaeological features where present, were sealed by a sequence of subsoil and topsoil.

10.1.7 The evaluation fieldwork was completed in good conditions.

10.2 Research Objectives

10.2.1 The work sought to understand the context of the findings in relationship to the wider settlement pattern, landscape, economy, and environment.

10.2.2 The following site-specific research questions were also posed:

- *Are there any prehistoric remains on site?*

10.2.3 No evidence for prehistoric remains was recorded during the evaluation. Three undated linear features were recorded, one being curvilinear in plan. This curvilinear in plan was reminiscent of prehistoric enclosures. However, the northern continuation for this feature was not recorded within the adjacent trench, and without definitive dating, cannot be ascribed to a prehistoric phase of activity.

- *Is there Roman archaeological evidence on site?*

10.2.4 No evidence for Roman activity was recorded during the evaluation. Three undated linear features were recorded, one being curvilinear in plan. However, no definitive dating evidence was encountered.

- *Is there any Anglo-Saxon / Early Medieval archaeological evidence on site?*

10.2.5 No evidence for Anglo-Saxon / Early Medieval activity was recorded during the evaluation. Three undated linear features were recorded, one being curvilinear in plan. However, no definitive dating evidence was encountered

- *Are there any medieval and/or post-medieval remains on site and are they related to agricultural or other activity?*

10.2.6 A series of several quarry pits were recorded during the archaeological investigation, spread across multiple trenches and across most areas of the site area spatially. Only two of these

provided dating evidence as represented by a very small number of fragments of late post-medieval peg tile. However, given the similarity in nature of these pits, it is plausible to suggest that they were all post-medieval in date, but without further dating evidence this cannot be definitively concluded.

10.2.7 All these pits are most plausibly interpreted as components of a chalk-quarrying operation. The shallow depth of the natural chalk bedrock within the site boundary likely played a significant role in attracting quarrying activity during the post-medieval period.

10.2.8 The number, size, and distribution of these features further suggest that the site may have been exploited over an extended period, potentially serving as a local source of chalk for surrounding communities. This interpretation aligns with the widespread use of chalk in post-medieval domestic, agricultural, and industrial practices.

10.3 Statement of Significance

10.3.1 The archaeological evaluation recorded a series of features across multiple trenches. However, the features were predominantly represented by quarry pits, likely of a later post-medieval date. Outside of the numerous quarry pits, only three other features were recorded, two being probable boundary ditches, and the third being a curvilinear ditch, potentially forming a part of an enclosure. A small number of fragments of post-medieval peg tiles were recovered from two of the quarry pits, and no dating evidence was recovered from the ditches.

10.3.2 It therefore appears that the site has a low potential for further archaeological remains, beyond the quarrying activity which is of low significance. The limited potential on the site is attested to by the fragmentary anomalies identified during the geophysical survey, which represented undetermined (weak) signals, not all of which were present within the evaluation trenches, and distinct lack of material culture encountered. This suggests that the site was situated away from any settlement core, where detritus and refuse from occupation would be more prevalent.

10.4 Archiving

10.4.1 The completed archive produced during the evaluation and all subsequent site work by PCA, comprising written, drawn and photographic records, will eventually be deposited with a suitable repository in Kent, when available. At the time of writing no suitable accepting archive is known to exist in Kent. When available, the archive will be identified by unique site code KME026. Until then PCA will store the archive securely at its offices in SE4.

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13 APPENDIX 1: CONTEXT INDEX

Context	Trench	Type	Fill of	Phase	Section no	Interpretation	Length	Width	Depth	Levels high	Levels low
1	sitewide	Layer		4	1	Topsoil layer			0.29	124.09	
2	1	Layer		4	1	Subsoil layer	30.00	1.80	0.28	108.00	107.72
3	1	Natural		1	1	Natural clay layer	30.00	1.80	0.05	107.73	107.68
4	1	Natural		1	1	Natural chalk layer	30.00	1.80		107.68	
5	2	Layer		2	2	Subsoil layer	30.00	1.80	0.29	111.45	111.23
6	2	Natural		1	2	Natural clay layer	30.00	1.80	0.08	111.44	
7	2	Natural		1	2	Natural chalk layer	30.00	1.80	0.14	111.36	111.22
8	3	Layer		4	3	Subsoil layer	30.00	1.80	0.23	112.64	112.41
9	3	Natural		1	3	Natural clay layer	30.00	1.80	0.17	112.47	
10	3	Natural		1	3	Natural chalk layer	30.00	1.80		112.30	
11	4	Layer		4	4	Subsoil layer	30.00	1.80	0.31	112.66	112.59
12	4	Natural		1	4	Natural clay layer	30.00	1.80	0.07	112.49	112.48
13	4	Natural		1	4	Natural chalk layer	30.00	1.80	0.05	112.48	112.34
14	5	Layer		4	5	Subsoil layer	30.00	1.80	0.27	114.96	114.74
15	5	Natural		1	5	Natural clay layer	30.00	1.80	0.11	114.77	114.68
16	5	Natural		1	5	Natural chalk layer	30.00	1.80	0.05	115.42	115.37
17	6	Layer		4	6	Subsoil layer	30.00	1.80	0.37	115.79	115.65
18	6	Natural		1	6	Natural clay layer	30.00	1.80	0.15	115.68	115.53
19	6	Natural		1	6	Natural chalk layer	30.00	1.80	0.04	115.57	115.53
20	7	Layer		4	7	Subsoil layer	30.00	1.80	0.24	117.12	116.87
21	7	Natural		1	7	Natural clay layer	30.00	1.80	0.18	116.89	116.70
22	7	Natural		1	7	Natural chalk layer	30.00	1.80	0.05	116.89	116.80
23	8	Layer		4	8	Subsoil layer	30.00	1.80	0.10	118.67	118.57
24	8	Natural		1	8	Natural clay layer	30.00	1.80	0.10	118.63	118.49
25	8	Natural		1	8	Natural chalk layer	30.00	1.80	0.05	118.51	118.43
26	9	Layer		4	9	Subsoil layer	30.00	1.80	0.10	116.31	116.18
27	9	Natural		1	9	Natural clay layer	30.00	1.80	0.10	116.24	116.13
28	9	Natural		1	9	Natural chalk layer	30.00	1.80	0.05	116.14	
29	10	Layer		4	10	Subsoil layer	30.00	1.80	0.14	114.97	114.82

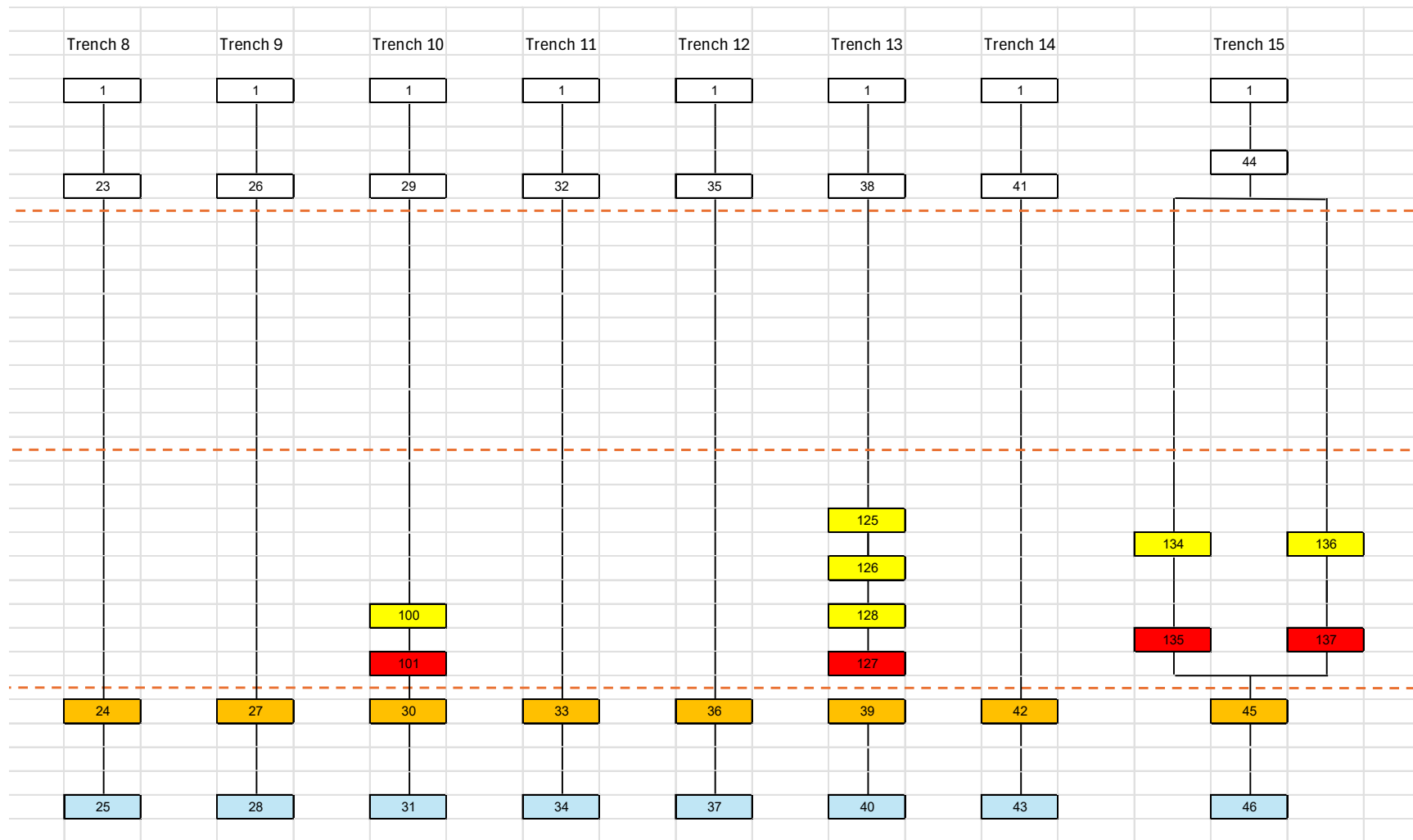
Context	Trench	Type	Fill of	Phase	Section no	Interpretation	Length	Width	Depth	Levels high	Levels low
30	10	Natural		1	10	Natural clay layer	30.00	1.80	0.22	114.97	114.75
31	10	Natural		1	10	Natural chalk layer	30.00	1.80	0.09	115.80	115.71
32	11	Layer		4	11	Subsoil layer	30.00	1.80	0.33	112.61	112.22
33	11	Natural		1	11	Natural clay layer	30.00	1.80	0.08	112.27	112.22
34	11	void				void					
35	12	Layer		4	12	Subsoil layer	30.00	1.80	0.20	112.60	112.37
36	12	Natural		1	12	Natural clay layer	30.00	1.80	0.05	112.39	112.37
37	12	void				void					
38	13	Layer		4	13	Subsoil layer	30.00	1.80	0.20	114.76	114.58
39	13	Natural		1	13	Natural clay layer	30.00	1.80	0.10	114.68	
40	13	Natural		1	13	Natural chalk layer	30.00	1.80	0.10	114.58	114.48
41	14	Layer		4	14	Subsoil layer	30.00	1.80	0.25	115.54	115.28
42	14	Natural		1	14	Natural clay layer	30.00	1.80	0.05	115.54	115.51
43	14	Natural		1	14	Natural chalk layer	30.00	1.80	0.05	115.49	
44	15	Layer		4	15	Subsoil layer	30.00	1.80	0.05	114.58	114.47
45	15	Natural		1	15	Natural clay layer	30.00	1.80	0.05	114.59	114.34
46	15	Natural		1	15	Natural chalk layer	30.00	1.80	0.05	114.45	114.27
47	16	Layer		4	16	Subsoil layer	30.00	1.80	0.28	116.29	115.97
48	16	Natural		1	16	Natural clay layer	30.00	1.80	0.05	116.01	115.92
49	16	void				void					
50	17	Layer		4	17	Subsoil layer	30.00	1.80	0.20	119.23	119.06
51	17	Natural		1	17	Natural clay layer	30.00	1.80	0.05	119.08	
52	17	Natural		1	17	Natural chalk layer	30.00	1.80	0.10	119.03	118.90
53	18	Layer		4	18	Subsoil layer	30.00	1.80	0.20	120.67	120.43
54	18	Natural		1	18	Natural clay layer	30.00	1.80	0.05	120.43	120.29
55	18	void				void					
56	19	Layer		4	19	Subsoil layer	30.00	1.80	0.30	121.54	121.21
57	19	Natural		1	19	Natural clay layer	30.00	1.80	0.16	121.23	120.99
58	19	void				void					
59	20	Layer		4	20	Subsoil layer	30.00	1.80	0.10	121.28	121.17
60	20	Natural		1	20	Natural clay layer	30.00	1.80	0.05	121.24	
61	20	Natural		1	20	Natural chalk layer	30.00	1.80	0.05	121.19	121.01
62	21	Layer		4	21	Subsoil layer	30.00	1.80	0.08	119.04	118.96

Context	Trench	Type	Fill of	Phase	Section no	Interpretation	Length	Width	Depth	Levels high	Levels low
63	21	Natural		1	21	Natural clay layer	30.00	1.80	0.15	119.05	118.92
64	21	void				void					
65	22	Layer		4	22	Subsoil layer	30.00	1.80	0.24	118.41	118.17
66	22	Natural		1	22	Natural clay layer	30.00	1.80	0.10	118.17	118.11
67	22	void				void					
68	23	Layer		4	23	Subsoil layer	30.00	1.80	0.20	117.53	117.29
69	23	Natural		1	23	Natural clay layer	30.00	1.80	0.05	117.34	117.23
70	23	void				void					
71	24	Layer		2	24	Subsoil layer	30.00	1.80	0.12	117.24	117.09
72	24	Natural		1	24	Natural clay layer	30.00	1.80	0.12	117.13	116.95
73	24	Natural		1	24	Natural chalk layer	30.00	1.80		117.10	
74	25	Layer		4	25	Subsoil layer	30.00	1.80	0.12	118.38	118.26
75	25	Natural		1	25	Natural clay layer	30.00	1.80	0.10	118.40	118.28
76	25	Natural		1	25	Natural chalk layer	30.00	1.80	0.10	118.34	118.22
77	26	Layer		4	26	Subsoil layer	30.00	1.80	0.10	119.85	119.74
78	26	Natural		1	26	Natural clay layer	30.00	1.80	0.08	119.75	119.67
79	26	Natural		1	26	Natural chalk layer	30.00	1.80	0.08	119.68	119.60
80	27	Layer		4	27	Subsoil layer	30.00	1.80	0.07	119.73	119.58
81	27	Natural		1	27	Natural clay layer	30.00	1.80	0.23	119.66	119.34
82	27	void				void					
83	28	Layer		4	28	Subsoil layer	30.00	1.80	0.21	120.13	119.92
84	28	Natural		1	28	Natural clay layer	30.00	1.80	0.05	119.97	
85	28	Natural		1	28	Natural chalk layer	30.00	1.80		119.92	
86	29	Layer		4	29	Subsoil layer	30.00	1.80	0.12	120.13	120.05
87	29	Natural		1	29	Natural clay layer	30.00	1.80	0.54	119.81	119.53
88	29	void				void					
89	30	Layer		4	30	Subsoil layer	30.00	1.80	0.08	121.12	121.07
90	30	Natural		1	30	Natural clay layer	30.00	1.80	0.09	121.05	121.00
91	30	void				void					
92	31	Layer			31	Subsoil layer	30.00	1.80	0.16	122.72	122.70
93	31	Natural		1	31	Natural clay layer	30.00	1.80	0.07	122.55	122.55
94	31	Natural		1	31	Natural chalk layer	30.00	1.80		122.48	
95		void				void					

Context	Trench	Type	Fill of	Phase	Section no	Interpretation	Length	Width	Depth	Levels high	Levels low
96	32	Natural		1	32	Natural clay layer	30.00	1.80	0.19	123.68	123.57
97	32	Natural		1	32	Natural chalk layer	30.00	1.80	0.10	123.52	123.49
98	19	Fill		2	34	Fill of linear feature	1.00	1.10	0.30	121.08	120.04
99	19	Cut		2	34	Cut of linear feature	1.00	1.10	0.30	121.08	120.89
100	10	Fill		2	33	Fill of gully	1.89	0.74	0.16	114.22	114.18
101	10	Cut		2	33	Cut of gully	1.89	0.74	0.16	114.22	114.06
102	20	Fill		2	n/a	Fill of unexcavated quarry pit(?)	2.95	1.80	n/a	120.95	n/a
103	20	Cut		2	n/a	Cut of unexcavated quarry pit(?)	2.95	1.80	n/a	120.95	n/a
104	29	void				void					
105	29	void				void					
106	30	void				void					
107	30	void				void					
108	28	Fill		2	35	Fill of ditch	1.80	4.10	0.22	119.97	
109	28	Cut		2	35	Cut of ditch	1.80	4.10	0.22	119.97	119.75
110	3	Fill		2	n/a	Fill of unexcavated quarry pit(?)	1.80	7.24	n/a	112.78	n/a
111	3	Cut		2	n/a	Cut of unexcavated quarry pit(?)	1.80	7.24	n/a	112.78	n/a
112	7	Fill		2	n/a	Fill of unexcavated quarry pit(?)	1.80	16.17	n/a	117.73	n/a
113	7	Cut		2	n/a	Cut of unexcavated quarry pit(?)	1.80	16.17	n/a	117.73	n/a
114	2	Fill		2	36	Tertiary fill of Quarry pit	1.00	3.30	0.57	111.26	110.72
115	2	Fill		2	36	Secondary fill of quarry pit	1.00	3.10	0.20	111.16	110.55
116	2	Fill		2	36	Primary fill of quarry pit	1.00	2.70	0.48	110.88	110.40
117	2	Cut		2	36	Cut of quarry pit	1.00	21.92	0.84	111.26	110.40
118	6	Fill		2	37	Secondary fill of pit	3.25	1.80	0.56	115.18	115.85
119	6	Fill		2	37	Primary fill of pit	3.25	1.80	0.56	114.93	114.63
120	6	Cut		2	37	Cut of pit	3.25	1.20	0.80	115.18	114.38
121	6	Fill		2	37	Fill of quarry pit	2.55	0.93	0.62	115.23	114.95
122	6	Cut		2	37	Cut of quarry pit	2.55	0.93	0.62	115.23	144.60
123	14	void		2		void					
124	14	void		2		void					

Context	Trench	Type	Fill of	Phase	Section no	Interpretation	Length	Width	Depth	Levels high	Levels low
125	13	Fill		2	13	Tertiary fill of Quarry pit	1.00	2.55	0.44	114.61	114.17
126	13	Fill		2	13	Secondary fill of quarry pit	1.00	2.55	0.44	114.48	113.82
127	13	Cut		2	13	Cut of quarry pit	1.80	9.10	0.81	114.61	113.80
128	13	Fill		2	13	Primary fill of quarry pit [127], burnt deposit	1.00	0.46	0.09	113.88	113.80
129	29	Fill		3	29	Secondary fill of quarry pit	2.78	1.80	0.25	119.97	119.72
130	29	Fill		3	29	Primary fill of quarry pit	2.78	1.80	0.31	119.84	119.54
131	29	Cut		3	29	Cut of quarry pit	2.78	1.80	0.55	119.97	119.54
132	29	Fill		3	29	Fill of quarry pit	11.03	1.80	0.28	119.94	119.66
133	29	Cut		3	29	Cut of quarry pit	11.03	1.80	0.28	119.94	119.66
134	15	Fill		2	n/a	Fill of unexcavated quarry pit(?)	12.86	1.80	n/a	114.50	n/a
135	15	Cut		2	n/a	Cut of unexcavated quarry pit(?)	12.86	1.80	n/a	114.50	n/a
136	15	Fill		2	n/a	Fill of unexcavated quarry pit(?)	4.73	1.80	n/a	114.50	n/a
137	15	Cut		2	n/a	Cut of unexcavated quarry pit(?)	4.73	1.80	n/a	114.50	n/a
138	13	void				Subsoil layer					
139	13	void				Subsoil layer					
140	7	void				void					
141	8	void				void					
142	14	void				void					
143	18	void				void					
144	25	void				void					
145	26	void				void					
146	27	void				void					
147	31	void				void					
148	32	void				void					

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Trench 25	Trench 26	Trench 27	Trench 28	Trench 29	Trench 30	Trench 31	Trench 32
1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
74	77	80	83	86	89	92	95
				132			
				133			
				129			
				130			
				131			
			108				
			109				
75	78	81	84	87	90	93	96
76	79	82	85	88	91	94	97

15 APPENDIX 3: BUILDING MATERIAL ASSESSMENT

By Amparo Valcarcel Estors,, Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd, July 2026

15.1 Introduction

15.1.1 A total of four fragments of ceramic building material (CBM), weighing 123g, were recovered from the site. The assemblage comprises post-medieval roofing tiles recovered from features located in Trench 29 (.

15.2 Methodology

15.2.1 The material was examined under x20 magnification and quantified by context, fabric type, form, count, weight, and dimensions, following standard guidelines (ACBMG, 2002) (Table 1).

15.3 The Assemblage

15.3.1 The assemblage consists of locally manufactured sandy and silty fabrics with occasional quartz and red and black iron oxide inclusions, belonging to peg tiles. The material was recovered from fills [129] and [135] of pits [131] and [133] respectively (Mazurkiewicz, 2026). Although the material is in a very fragmented condition and no complete examples were recovered, the presence of fine moulding sand suggests a late post-medieval date (AD 1700–1900).

Trench	Context	Cut	Fabric	Form	Quantity	Weight	Spot date
29	129	131	Local sandy and silty fabrics	Peg tiles	3	79	1700-1900
29	132	133	Local sandy fabric	Peg tiles	1	44	1700-1900

Table 1: Assemblage by form type/ class, quantity and weight.

15.4 Discussion

15.4.1 The post-medieval assemblage is very small and may be associated with a possible farm or another type of building related to agricultural activity. No further work is recommended on this assemblage, which is not considered to warrant retention and could be discarded at the archival stage of the project.

15.5 References

ACBMG. 2002: Ceramic building material, minimum standards for recovery, curation, analysis and publication,

http://www.archaeologicalceramics.com/uploads/1/1/9/3/11935072/ceramic_building_material_guidelines.pdf (Accessed:17th July 2026).

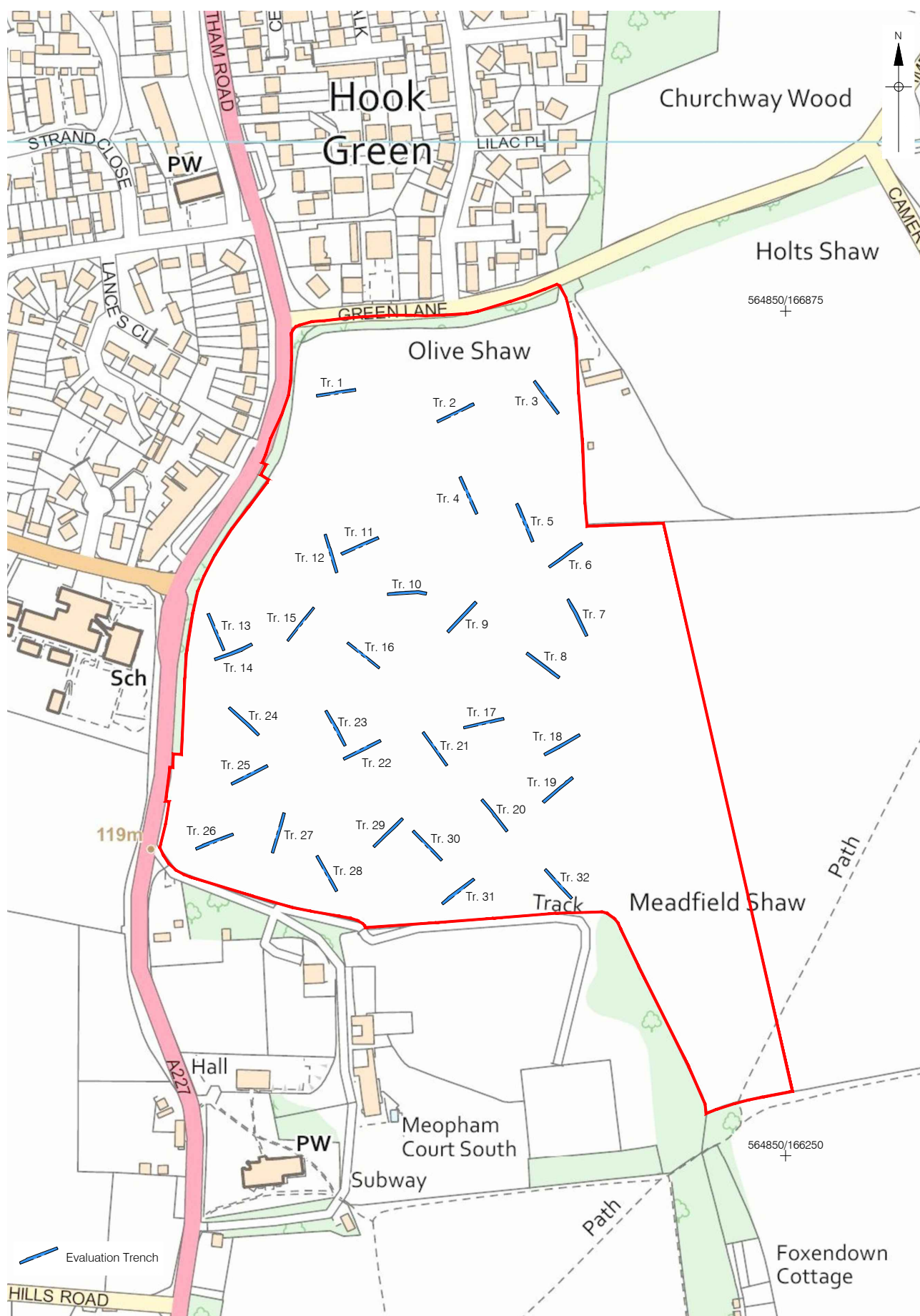
Mazurkiewicz. T. 2026. Land East of Wrotham Road, Meopham, Kent, an archaeological evaluation. An unpublished PCA report.

16 APPENDIX 4: OASIS FORM

OASIS ID (UID)	preconst1-543859
Project Name	Evaluation at Land East of Wrotham Road, Meopham, Kent, DA13 0JL
Sitename	Land East of Wrotham Road, Meopham, Kent, DA13 0JL
Sitecode	KMEO26
Project Identifier(s)	Land East of Wrotham Road, Meopham, Kent, DA13 0JL
Activity type	Evaluation
Planning Id	20250992
Reason For Investigation	Planning requirement
Organisation Responsible for work	Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd
Project Dates	29-May-2026 - 12-Jun-2026
Location	Land East of Wrotham Road, Meopham, Kent, DA13 0JL NGR: TQ 64570 66652 LL: 51.37507411480122, 0.363122219763833 12 Fig: 564570,166652
Administrative Areas	Country: England County/Local Authority: Kent Local Authority District: Gravesham Parish: Meopham
Project Methodology	The full methodology for the archaeological evaluation was designed in the site-specific Written Scheme of Investigation (PCA 2026). The investigation was to consist of thirty two trenches (TR) (TR's 1 – 32) with proposed dimensions of 30m x 1.80m. The trenches were marked out using a Geomax GNNS survey instrument loaded with the pre-defined Setout data specified in the WSI. All trench locations were scanned with a Cable Avoidance Tool (CAT) to detect for the presence of buried services prior to machining and again at 300mm intervals. Excavation of the trenches was carried out using a 13-tonne 360-degree mechanical excavator. The excavator was fitted with a flat-bladed 1.80m wide ditching bucket. The machining was conducted under constant archaeological supervision and the excavation was carried out in 100mm spits until the natural deposits were found. Four machine-excavated slots were opened to investigate the character and depth of several substantial archaeological features. A 0.5 m-wide, flat-bladed bucket was employed for the excavation. Each slot was excavated to a maximum depth of 1.20 m in accordance with health and safety regulations. All works were undertaken under archaeological supervision, with the site supervisor present at all times. Following the cessation of excavation by machine and where necessary, the bases of the trenches, features and representative sections were subsequently cleaned using hand tools, such as trowels, hoes, shovels, and mattocks, by the archaeological team prior to recording. Adopting a single context recording methodology, all deposits, structures, and features were recorded on pro-forma context sheets with sections within each trench recorded at a scale of 1:10 with trench plans recorded by means of Geomax GNNS survey instrument. Digital

	photographs were taken throughout the archaeological evaluation. The recording system adopted during the investigations were fully compatible with those developed out of the Department of Urban Archaeology Site Manual, now presented within PCA's Site Manual (Taylor & Brown 2009, updated 2018). The site archive was compiled to be compatible with other archaeological archives produced within the London Area. The trenches were surveyed, and the heights of all interventions and below ground deposits encountered were calculated and recorded in meters above ordnance datum (m OD), using GeoMax GNSS survey equipment.
Project Results	1The evaluation recorded the natural chalk bedrock in trenches predominantly located in the central and northern parts of the site. This was overlain by natural superficial deposits consisting of gravelly, sandy clay, which were observed in all evaluation trenches. The site topography slopes downward from the southern boundary, where ground levels reach approximately 124m OD, towards the northern boundary, where levels fall to around 110m OD. This gradient reflects a steady slope northward across the site. Several archaeological features were recorded during the evaluation undertaken on the site. These comprised three undated linear features, and numerous large-scale quarry pits, which were predominately undated due to the lack of dating evidence, although two did contain later post-medieval peg tile. The three linear features were dispersed broadly across the site, as represented by two probable, shallow boundary ditches, and one curvi-linear, which may have formed the fragmentary remains of an enclosure. No dating evidence was recovered from these features. A series of large features, representing quarry pits for extraction of the underlying chalk, were recorded across multiple trenches of the evaluation. Only two of these pits yielded dating evidence, a very small assemblage of later post-medieval peg tile dated broadly to AD 1700-1900. The remaining pits, despite having flecks of undiagnostic ceramic building material within the otherwise sterile and homogenous backfills, provided no definitive dating evidence. However, it could be argued, due to the similarity between these features, that they all represent quarrying of the underlying chalk during the post-medieval period. The evaluation proved the presence of features associated with the previously identified geophysical anomalies. However, it also recorded numerous instances where the identified anomalies were not present. The geophysical anomalies identified during the earlier survey were identified as undetermined (weak) by the associated report and did not represent strong signals which could be identified with confident archaeological remains. This therefore likely explains the varied results of features associated with identified anomalies. The depositional sequence across the site was completed by a subsoil horizon, sealed by topsoil, which represented modern surface level. Based on the limited results of the evaluation, which was dominated by quarry pits, and the distinct lack of material culture recovered in association, the site appears to have a low potential for further archaeological remains, and those that have been encountered, are considered to be of low significance.
Funder	Private Company
HER	Kent HER - unRev - STANDARD
Person Responsible for work	Neil Hawkins
HER Identifiers	

Report generated on: 20-07-2026:1619



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Figure 2
Detailed Site Location
1:4,000 at A4

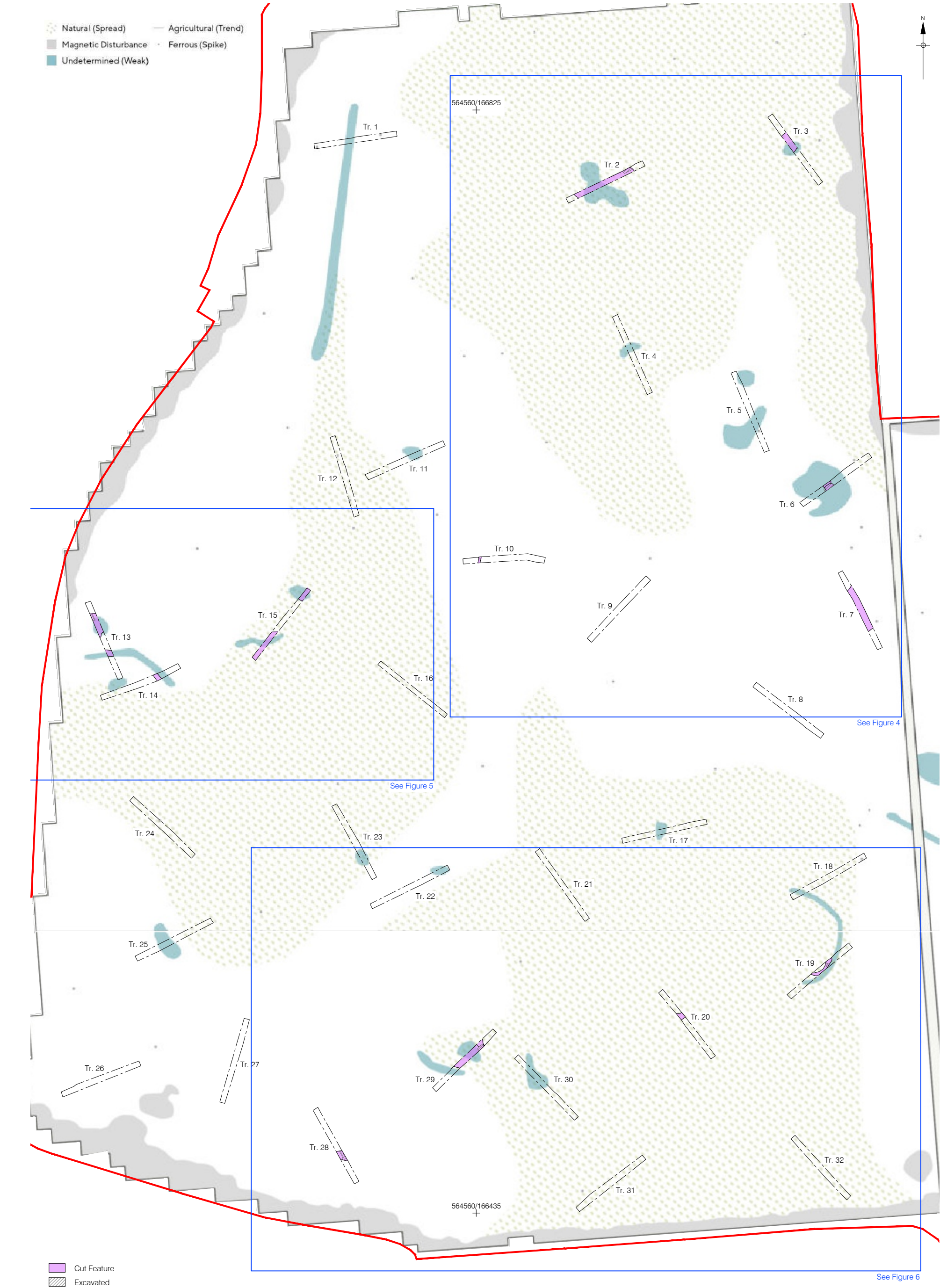


Figure 3
Detailed Site Plan showing Evaluation Trenches and Features overlain onto the Geophysical Survey
1:1,250 at A3

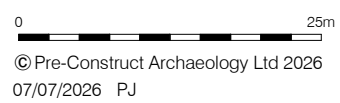


Figure 4
Detailed Plan of Trenches 2 - 7, 9 and 10
1:625 at A3

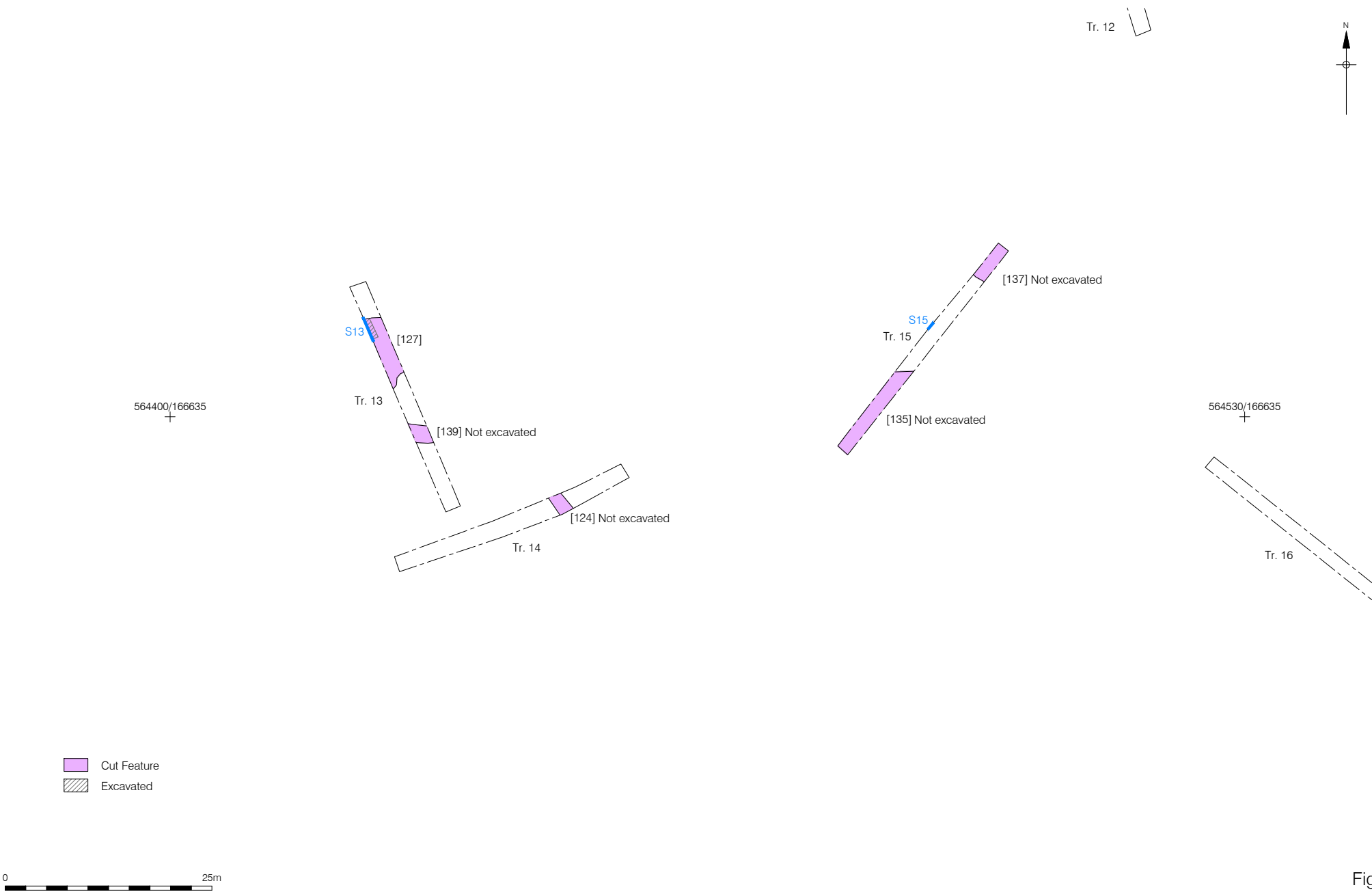


Figure 5
Detailed Plan of Trenches 13, 14 and 15
1:625 at A4

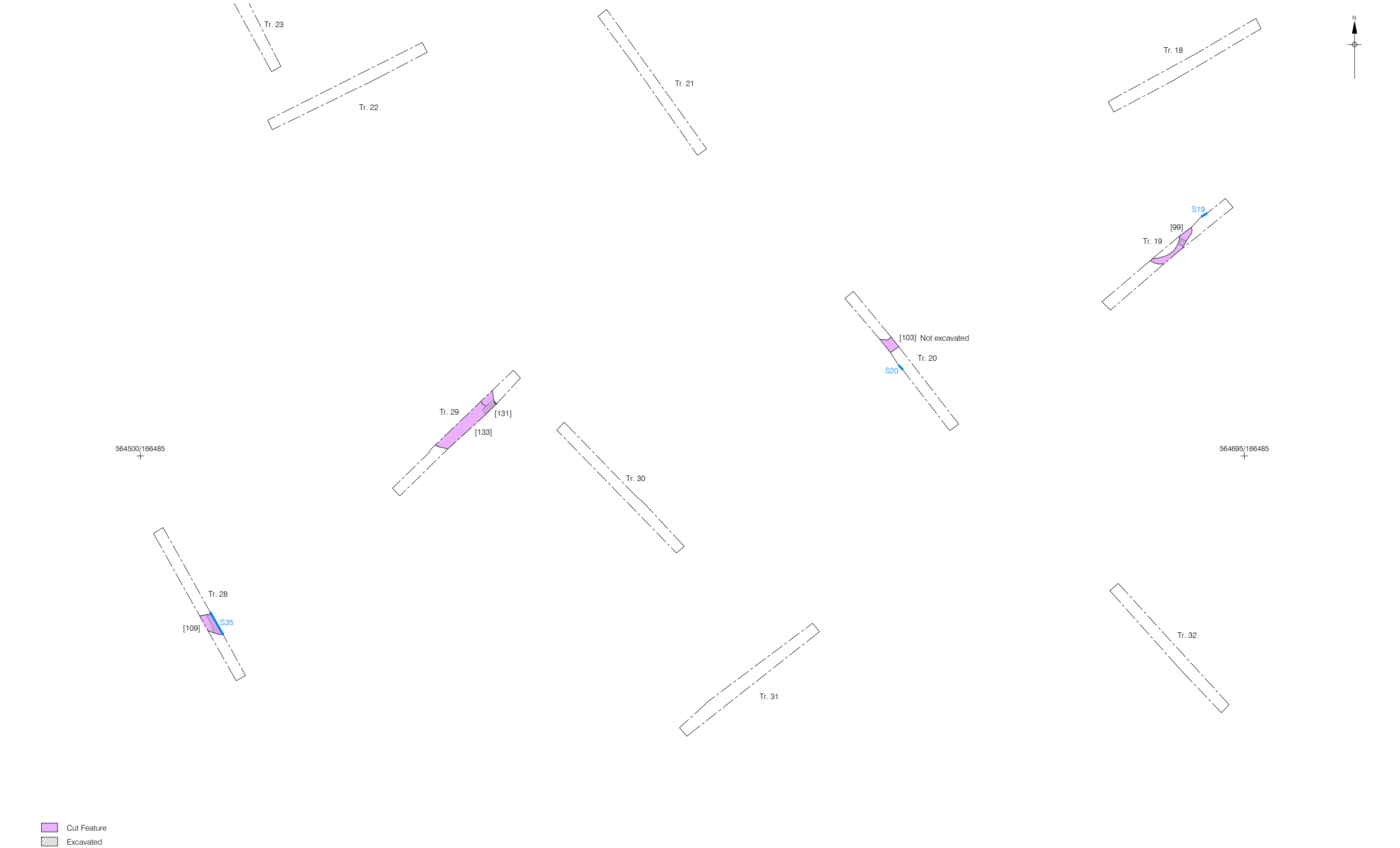
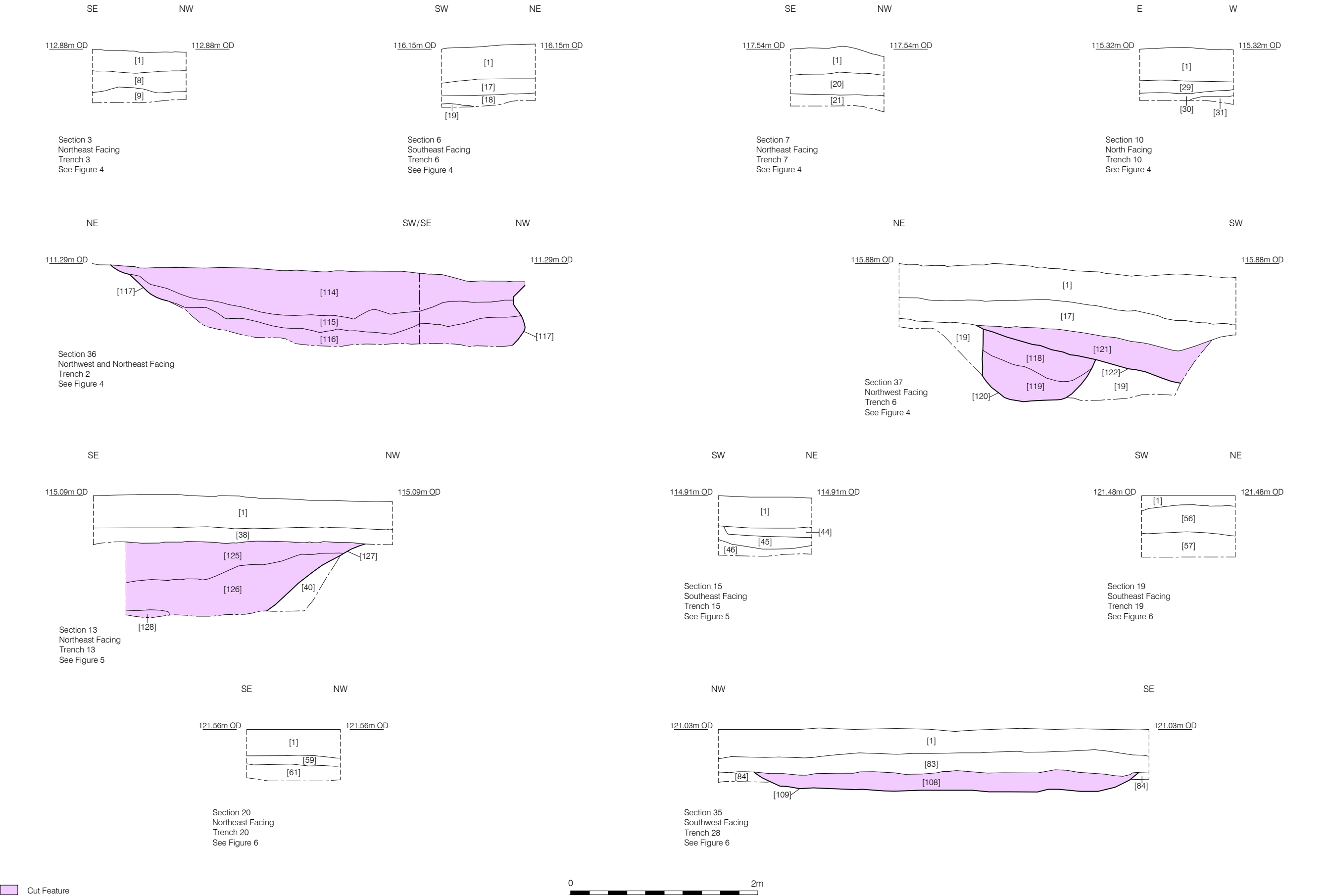


Figure 6
Detailed Plan of Trenches 18 - 22 and 28 - 32
1:625 at A3





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