

INVICTA ARCHAEOLOGICAL



S E R V I C E S L T D

## **Archaeological Evaluation at Church Farm, Throwley, Kent.**

**Planning reference: 23/500397**

**Site code: CFT-EV-23**

**Report number: 2023/35**

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## **SUMMARY**

A trial trench archaeological evaluation took place on land at Church Farm, Throwley, Kent. The evaluation was warranted due to the archaeological importance of the area.

The Evaluation revealed a consistent stratigraphic sequence across the site consisting of subsoil overlying the natural geology. No archaeological remains were encountered. The archaeological evaluation has been successful in fulfilling the primary aims and objectives of the Specification and has assessed the archaeological potential of land intended for development. The results from this work will be used to aid and inform the Senior Archaeological Officer of any further archaeological mitigation measures that may be necessary in connection with any future development proposals.

## **1 INTRODUCTION**

- 1.1 This scheme of works sets out details of a project specification by Invicta Archaeological Services Ltd for an archaeological field evaluation at Church Farm, Throwley Road, Throwley, ME13 0PF at the request of the client, Mr Roger Linch.
- 1.2 Planning permission (23/500397) has been granted for the erection of a replacement dwelling, detached garage block, conversion of outbuilding for ancillary use (following demolition of existing dwelling).
- 1.3 The proposed development area (PDA) is situated within the village of Throwley, Kent (centred at TR 19748 35040) south of Faversham. The site is located next to St Michaels Church on Throwley road, which is a Grade I listed building. The site is c.1,805m<sup>2</sup> and lies in a rural location.

## **2 GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY**

- 1.1 The site sits in a relatively flat area of land, fronting Throwley Road to the east and the Church of St Michael directly to the west.
- 1.2 The PDA lies at approximately 94.236m OD. The underling bedrock for the PDA is recorded as Seaford Chalk Formation - Chalk. Sedimentary bedrock formed between 89.8 and 83.6 million years ago during the Cretaceous period (British Geological Survey 2023). Approximately 50m to the west of the PDA, the natural chalk geology is capped by superficial deposits of Clay-with-flints

Formation - Clay, silt, sand and gravel. Sedimentary superficial deposit formed between 23.03 million and 11.8 thousand years ago during the Neogene and Quaternary periods (British Geological Survey, 2023).

### **3 PLANNING BACKGROUND**

3.1 The planning application, for which this report pertains to, was submitted to Swale Borough Council in January 2023 (application reference: 23/500397).

3.2 In response to planning, KCC Archaeological Officer Simon Mason stated;

‘The site lies adjacent to the medieval church of St Michael which is a Grade I Listed building. The church dates back to at least Norman times based on the evidence of the west doorway. To the north east of the church, Glebe Cottage sits on the site of the alien priory of Throwley, a Benedictine cell to the abbey of St. Bertin at St. Omer in France. The cell was founded in the mid-12th century by Hugh de Chilham and William de Ipra and dissolved in 1414 being granted to Syon Abbey. It seems to have been small, for a prior and 2 or 3 monks at most and later a prior alone. There may have been no monks after 1385. A walkover survey / aerial photographic assessment carried out during an assessment of a cable route in 2010 noted ditches and small features in the field north of St Michael's church. These are interpreted as perhaps relating to medieval settlement around the church. The development proposals involve construction of a replacement dwelling partially on the footprint of the existing dwelling and a new garage block. Given the potential for medieval remains in the area around the parish church it is possible that ground excavations associated with the proposals could affect archaeological remains.’

3.3 As part of the planning decision, Condition 19 was therefore added;

*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.*

3.3 A Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) was produced for an archaeological evaluation of the site (IAS 2023) which was submitted to the Local Planning Authority and accepted by the KCC Archaeological Officer.

#### **4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND**

4.1 Throwley comes from the Old English words ‘*prūh*’ meaning a ‘water pipe, conduit’ and ‘*lēah*’ as a ‘forest, wood, glade’; therefore, a ‘wood/clearing at the trough’. The Domesday book chronicles Throwley as ‘*Brulege*’.

4.2 Hasted (1800) describes Throwley as the following; "THROWLEY, a parish in the hundred of Faversham, lathe of Scray, county Kent, 4 miles S.W. of Faversham, its post town, and 12 from Canterbury. The village is near the road from Faversham to Ashford. It has been held by the Sondes of Lee Court since the reign of Henry VI. The land is partly in hop grounds. The soil is a strong loam, with an admixture of flints, and rests upon chalk. The vicarage-house occupies the site of a priory, founded as a cell to the abbey of St. Bertin, at St. Omers, in Artois, and granted in the 22nd of Henry VI. to Sion Abbey. The living is a vicarage in the diocese of Canterbury, value £200, in the patronage of the archbishop. The church, dedicated to St. Michael, contains a brass bearing date 1558, and effigies of the Sondes.

4.3 Throwley parish church is a Grade I listed building, dedicated to Saint Michael and All Angels. The Saxons built the first wooden structure in the 9th century, although, replaced with a stone building in the 11th century. Additions and extensions followed throughout the next 300 years. In 1780, Pack and Chapman cast and hung a ring of six bells. Edward Hasted described the church in his 1798 topographical survey as consisting ‘*of three isles and three chancels. The steeple is a square tower, and stands in the centre of the south side of it, in which there is a peal of six bells, given in 1781, at the expence of Mr. Montresor, of Belmont.*’ In 1866, the Victorians heavily restored the Throwley church including heightening the tower. In 1933, Mears and Stainbank added two treble bells to complete the ring of eight.

4.4 A brief summary of the archaeological and historical background to the site is presented below, having consulted the Heritage Gateway which records data held at the SME Excavation Index and Kent Historical Environment Records (KHER) and National Heritage List for England (NHLE).

#### 4.5 Post Medieval-Modern

4.6 There are several listed buildings surrounding the PDA. Approximately 30m from the PDA is a Post Medieval farmstead, Church Farm, constructed around c.1800 AD to 1800 AD, and recorded as a regular multi-yard farmstead (HER: MKE85774).

4.7 Approximately c.50m from the PDA is a Grade II listed building Church House. Medieval to Post Medieval in date with the main construction periods c.1500 to c.1599 (HER: TQ 95 NE 92).

4.5 C.47m northwest of the PDA lies the Church of St Michael and All Angels. Recorded as a Grade I listed building, with the main construction periods between c.1100 to c.1899. The earliest part of the Church has a Norman west doorway (HER: TQ 95 NE 116).

4.6 C.47m northwest of the PDA are three listed monuments dedicated to John Hughes (to the south of St Michael and All Angels Church); Grade II listed Monument to John Kemp (to the south of St Michael and All Angels Church) (HER: TQ 95 NE 122); Grade II listed monument (HER: TQ 95 NE 89), a Monument to Robert Chapman (to the west of St Michael and All Angels Church) and a Grade II monument (HER: TQ 95 NE 127).

4.7 C.133m to the north of the PDA is an undated earthwork. A walkover survey/aerial photographic assessment was carried out during an assessment of a cable route in 2010. The assessment noted ditches and small features in the field north of St Michael's church. These are interpreted as perhaps relating to a medieval settlement around the Church (HER: MKE110799).

4.8 Approximately 212m northeast of the PDA is Benedictine priory cell of St Bertin, St Omer, founded circa 1150 by Hugh de Chilham and William de Ipra. It was dissolved in 1414 and granted to Syon Abbey. There are no visible remains and the site and it is now occupied by Glebe Cottage (HER: TQ 95 NE 8).

## **5 METHODOLOGY**

- 5.5 A total of three evaluation trenches were placed across the area of proposed development (Figure 2). Trench 2 was shortened due to moling being undertaken under Throwley road.
- 5.6 Trenches were opened using a 360° excavator fitted with a 1.8m wide toothless bucket. Machine excavation was halted at the first archaeological horizon, or at the natural geology where no archaeological deposits or features were observed. The trenches were cleaned by hand and the excavation of features were carried out by hand.
- 5.7 Trenches were drawn in plan at scales of 1:50. The drawn record was supplemented by a full photographic archive in digital format. Deposits and cuts were recorded using IAS context sheets and trench recording sheets.
- 5.8 The evaluation was attended by Emily Brown on 19<sup>th</sup> October 2023.
- 5.9 Curatorial monitoring was undertaken by KCC Archaeological Officer Simon Mason via email.

## **6 RESULTS**

### **6.1 TRENCH 1 (Plates 1 and 2)**

- 6.1.1 Trench 1 was oriented northeast to southwest and measured 25m in length.
- 6.1.2 The natural (103) was encountered at an average depth of 0.98m and consisted of medium orange/brown sandy clay with very frequent natural flint nodules. The natural was capped by subsoil (102) consisting of medium brown silty clay with frequent natural flint nodules and chalk lumps and topsoil (100).
- 6.1.3 No archaeological features or deposits were encountered.

### **6.2 TRENCH 2 (Plates 3 and 4)**

- 6.2.1 Trench 2 was oriented northwest to southeast and measured 25m in length. A modern drain truncated the trench slightly off of a west to east alignment to the northeastern end of the trench.
- 6.2.2 The natural (203) was encountered at an average depth of 0.97m and consisted of medium orange/brown sandy clay with very frequent natural flint nodules. The natural was capped by subsoil (202) consisting of medium brown silty clay with frequent natural flint nodules and chalk lumps and topsoil (200).

6.2.3 No archaeological features or deposits were encountered.

### **6.3 TRENCH 3 (Plates 5 and 6)**

6.3.1 Trench 3 was oriented east to west and measured 15m in length.

6.3.2 The natural (303) was encountered at an average depth of 0.66m and consisted of medium orange/brown sandy clay with very frequent natural flint nodules. The natural was capped by subsoil (302) consisting of medium brown silty clay with frequent natural flint nodules and chalk lumps and topsoil (300).

6.3.3 No archaeological features or deposits were encountered.

## **7 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSION**

7.1 A consistent stratigraphic sequence was recorded within the trenches, with subsoil capping the natural geology. Superficial deposits of Clay-with-flints formation over the natural were encountered in every trench, which the British Geological Survey maps as being present c.50m west. Modern intrusion was only observed in Trench 2.

7.2 The results from this work can aid and inform the County Archaeologist of any further archaeological mitigation measures that may be necessary in connection with any future development proposals of the site.

## **8 ACKNOWLEDGMENTS**

8.1 Invicta Archaeological Services Ltd (IAS) would like to thank Julian Linch for the commissioning of the project and allowing access to the site. IAS would also like to thank KCC Archaeological Officer Simon Mason for his advice and guidance. Thanks are also extended to Jonathon Maddon (DigitiseThis) for the site survey and illustrations. The fieldwork was undertaken by Emily Brown. The report was written by Elissia Burrows (BA Hons, MSc, PhD Researcher) and Vince Burrows.



## REFERENCES

British Geological Survey (2023)

Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIFA), *Standard and guidance for archaeological field evaluation*.

English Heritage, 2002. *The Centre for Archaeological Guidelines for Environmental Archaeology*

Hasted, Edward (1800). *The History and Topographical Survey of the County of Kent*. Accessed via [www.british-history.ac.uk](http://www.british-history.ac.uk)

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National Heritage List for England (NHLE)

National Library of Scotland – Ordnance Survey mapping

## APPENDIX 1 – CONTEXTS

<b>Trench 1</b>			
Dimensions: L: 25m W: 1.80m D: 1.14m			
<b>Context</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Depth (m)</b>
100	Topsoil	Dark grey silty clay with frequent rooting, occasional chalk lump and frequent small natural flint nodules	0.33m
102	Subsoil	Medium brown silty clay with frequent natural flint nodules and chalk lumps	0.65m
103	Natural	Medium orange/brown sandy clay with very frequent natural flint nodules	0.98m+
<b>Trench 2</b>			
Dimensions: L: 25m W: 1.80m D: 1m			
<b>Context</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Depth (m)</b>
200	Topsoil	Dark grey silty clay with frequent rooting, occasional chalk lump and frequent small natural flint nodules	0.49m
201	Subsoil	Medium brown silty clay with frequent natural flint nodules and chalk lumps	0.48m
202	Natural	Medium orange/brown sandy clay with very frequent natural flint nodules	0.97m+
<b>Trench 3</b>			
Dimensions: L: 15m W: 1.80m D: 0.69m			
<b>Context</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Depth (m)</b>
300	Topsoil	Dark grey silty clay with frequent rooting, occasional chalk lump and frequent small natural flint nodules	0.36m
301	Subsoil	Medium brown silty clay with frequent natural flint nodules and chalk lumps	0.30m
302	Natural	Medium orange/brown sandy clay with very frequent natural flint nodules	0.66m+

## **APPENDIX 2 - Kent County Council HER Summary Form**

**Site Name:** Church Farm, Throwley

**Site Code:** CFT-EV-23

**Site Address:** Church Farm, Throwley Road, Throwley, ME13 0PF

**Summary:** Invicta Archaeological Services Ltd (IAS) carried out an Archaeological Evaluation on land at Church Farm, Throwley prior to development. No archaeological features or deposits were encountered.

**District/Unitary:** Swale District Council

**Period(s):** Modern

**NGR (centre of site to eight figures):** TR 19748 35040

**Type of Archaeological work:** Archaeological Evaluation

**Date of recording:** October 2023

**Unit undertaking recording:** Invicta Archaeological Services Ltd (IAS)

**Geology:** Seaford Chalk Formation

**Title and author of accompanying report:** Brown, E (2023). Archaeological Evaluation at Church Farm, Throwley, Kent.

**Summary of fieldwork results (begin with earliest period first, add NGRs where appropriate):** No archaeological features or deposits encountered.

**Location of archive/finds:** IAS Archaeology, 258 Anzio Crescent, Burgoyne Heights, Guston, Near Dover, CT15 5LZ

**Contact at Unit:** Elissia Burrows



Figure 1 Site location 1:250,000: 1:50,000

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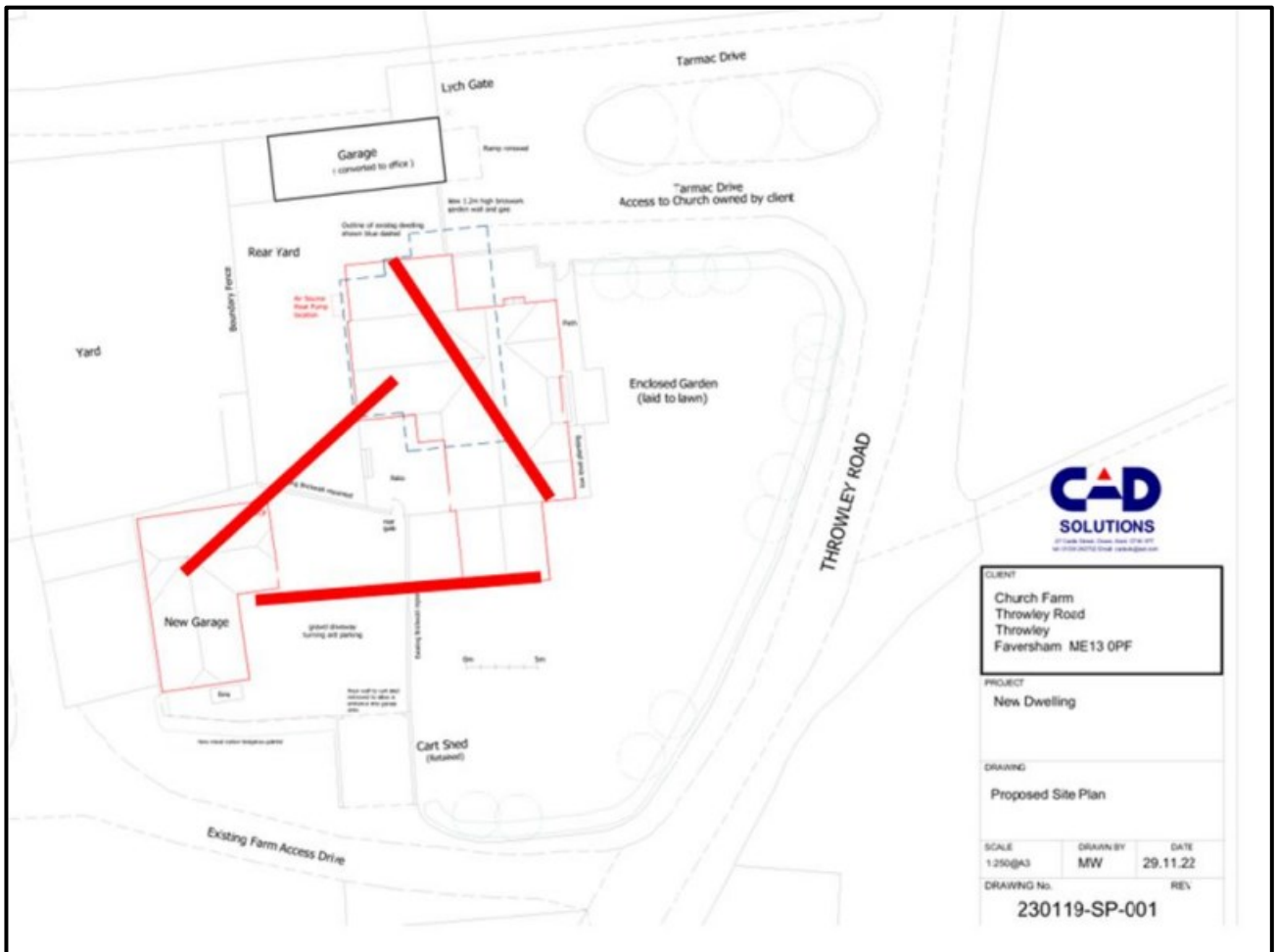


Figure 2 Trench positioning in relation to proposed development

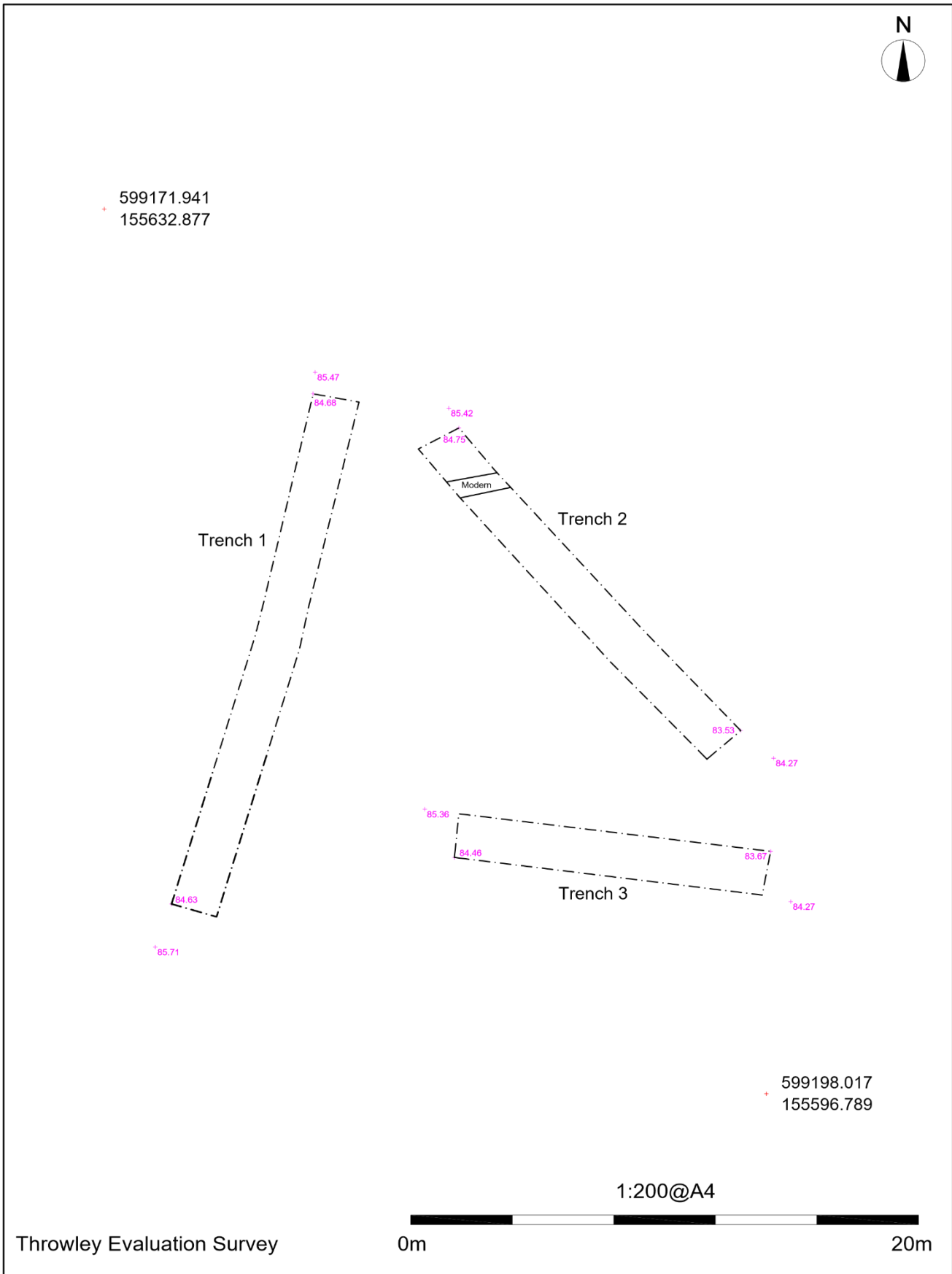


Figure 3 Trench plans





*Plate 1 Trench 1 plan, facing south*





*Plate 2 Trench 1 representative section, facing west*



*Plate 3 Trench 2 representative section, facing southwest*





*Plate 4 Trench 2 plan, facing northwest*





*Plate 5 Trench 3 plan facing west*





*Plate 6 Trench 3 representative section, facing south*