SWAT Archaeology – Archaeological Fieldwork Progress Report

Site Name:	Cottington Road, Cliffs End, Thanet
Site Address:	Cottington Road, Cliffs End, Thanet
Site Code:	CRT-EX-19
HER Reference:	-
Week Number:	10
Week Ending:	10/07/2020
Report Number:	10

Client:	WWMartin
Developer:	WWMartin
County:	Kent
Archaeological Officer:	Simon Mason

Author(s):	Dan Worsley
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Circulation:	Simon Mason (KCC), WW Martin (Jay Bartling, Peter Clelford, Derek Anas, Trevor Codd and David Barker) and Dr Paul Wilkinson (SWAT Archaeology)

Archaeological Fieldwork Progress Form

1 WORKS PROGRESS

1.1 Site overview

1.1.1 Work this week consisted of the continuation of the hand excavation of Phase 1 North and South Site archaeology. On the North Site, we have focused on excavating and recording the SFB's as well as dealing with the remaining archaeological features left on Phase 1. Due to bad weather we lost a day (Wednesday) this week and so North Site Phase 1 will be finished by Monday (other than what additional work may be required on the large feature which will be subject to the impact assessment). All that is left to do within that area is the recording of one pit, recording of the second intervention in the linear that is situated along the base of the large feature and the completed excavation/recording of the last SFB. We have continued to work along the Western LOE of the South Site Phase 1 in order to get ready the area demarcated in last weeks WPR, ready for sign off by next Friday. The intention for next week is to finish the North Site Phase 1 work on Monday, then to move the North team over to the South side so that the whole team can start establishing the relationships between the large Medieval spread and the features that interact with it. Whilst this is happening, we will be starting the machine strip on Phase 2 (formerly Phase 3 in the WSI).

1.1.2 Three out of the four SFBs have now been 100% excavated, they were initially quaded, recorded, then fully excavated and recorded again. All four SFBs have been of a very similar construction consisting of a rectangular cut with two structural postholes centrally placed along its E-W axis, though all of the buildings have had internal postholes as well. No internal structures such as furnaces etc. have been encountered. Each fill within the buildings has had a 40L soil sample taken from it. The buildings have produced a good assemblage of ceramic data as well a rich assemblage of food waste. Interestingly the buildings have produced waste from industry such as slag, which has not been encountered on the site yet, though there is no evidence for where this industry might be taking place yet. The positions and depths of all small finds have been recorded and are displayed on the plan drawings of the features.

-SFB 1 [1634] consisted of a rectangular cut with steep inwards sloping sides and a flat base measuring, 3.9m x 2.4m x 0.25m and contained 10 postholes (Plates 1 & 2, Fig. 3). [1634]

Has produced 1 x Whetstone, 1 x Cu alloy object, 1 x bone pin, 1 x fragment of quern and 1 x bone comb (Plate 3).

- SFB 2 [1565] consisted of a rectangular cut with steep inwards sloping sides and a flat base measuring, 3.2m x 2.4m x 0.24m and contained 3 postholes (Plates 4 & 5, Fig. 4). The only small find from this structure was a diamond shaped small Fe object.

- SFB 3 [1639] consisted of a rectangular cut with steep inwards sloping sides and a flat base measuring, 2.7m x 2.1m x 0.45m and contained 3 postholes (Plates 6 & 7, Fig. 5). 1 x Fe knife was found.

- SFB 4 [1625] consisted of a rectangular cut with steep inwards sloping sides and a flat base measuring, 3.4m x 2.4m x 0.55m and contained 4 postholes (Plates 8 & 9, Fig. 6). [1625] produced 2 x Fe knives, 3 x Whetstones, 1 x antler, 1 x Cu alloy pin, 1 x Cu allot object, 1 x bone comb fragment.

1.1.3 Mike Allen came out for a site visit on Thursday. See section 2.2 for details.

1.1.4 We are looking at starting the machine strip for Phase 2 (formerly Phase 3 on the North Site) once WWMartin have removed the topsoil that is currently situated on the area. This week WWMartin has continued to remove these bunds and backfill/ store spoil on the signed off Western half of Phase 1 North Site.

1.1.5 The site was surveyed on Tuesday.

1.2 Works Carried Forward

1.2.1 Continuation of the hand excavation of both Phase 1 areas.

1.3 Works Carried Out

1.3.1 Continuation of the hand excavation of both Phase 1 areas.

1.3.2 On the North site 38 features were excavated this week.

1.3.3 On the South Site 10 features were excavated this week, work has been slower within this area due to the size of the features being excavated, one of which has had to be stopped due to it continuing below 1.2m in depth. Though we are still on track to have the previously agreed area along the Western LOE ready for sign off by Friday.

1.4 Forthcoming Works

1.4.1 Continuation of Phase 1 excavation. Start of Phase 2 (formerly Phase 3) machine strip starting with the WWMartin's Road.

1.5 Scheduled Meetings

1.5.1 Continuation of Phase 1 excavation. Start of Phase 2 (formerly Phase 3) machine strip starting with the WWMartin's Road.

1.5.2 Paul Wilkinson (SWAT) came out to check progress and discuss potential release phases.

1.5.3 Mike Allen site visit on Thursday to sample and advise on the Large feature situated against the Eastern LOE of North Site Phase 1.

1.5.4 On the North Site Mike looked at the Large feature [1588] and complied a full field geoarchaeological description, took two monolith samples and three kubiena samples from the fills of [1588]. He also had a look at Linear [1471], which is situated at the base of [1588] and complied an outline of its geoarchaeological record.

1.5.5 On the South Site Mike looked at the concentrations of marine shells that are present in the Large Iron Age feature situated at the Eastern end of Phase 1 and is going to provide a sampling strategy for these in order to be able to identify are they forming a primary part of the diet on site, and if so is there evidence of intensely harvesting these resources or is it forming a supplementary part of the diet on site.

1.5.6 The molluscs that were found within the primary fill (3285) of [3286] were looked at as well as three samples taken from the fills of this linear in order to see if further snails survive and if so to provide a sampling strategy to be used across site to capture this data. Full geoarchaeological descriptions of the fill of [3286] were also recorded.

1.5.7 The results of this (Allen 2020) is that it is unclear if [1588] is of natural origin or an anthropogenic feature. It could be an early Holocene, Post-Glacial deflation hollow, though Wessex's interpretation of a quarry is still plausible, though Mike did question the need to quarry large amounts of silt. There are no indications that [1588] held a large body of water (pond). In fact its fills have been deposited by wind, rain splash and surface run of. The dark primary fill (1587) is a Colluvial accumulation that has stabilised, possibly engendered by humans and became vegetated creating a buried soil horizon. The linear

[1471] that is situated along the base of [1588] shows evidence in its primary fill (1470) for seasonally holding water before it was in filled in a similar manner to [1588].

1.6 SWAT Archaeology Personnel

1.6.1 SWAT Archaeology staff for this week included:

Project Director:	Dr. Paul Wilkinson	
Project Manager:	Dan Worsley BA MA	5 days
Project Supervisors:	Ali McKeever + Matt Goulden	5 days
Site Surveyor:	Jonny Madden	1 days
Site Archaeologists:	Ali McKeever	5 days
	Matt Goulden	4 days
	Lesley Jones	4 days
	Neil Chaney	4 days
	Sonni Chamberlain	3 days
	Kevin Theobald	4 days
	Scott H	4 days
	E. Burrows	2 days
	Jeff West	4 days
	D. Rayner	4 days
	T. Meaney	4 days
	Steve .T	4 days
	Chris Cole	0 days
	T. Brabham	
	Mark Foulds	1 day
	Daisy Foulds	

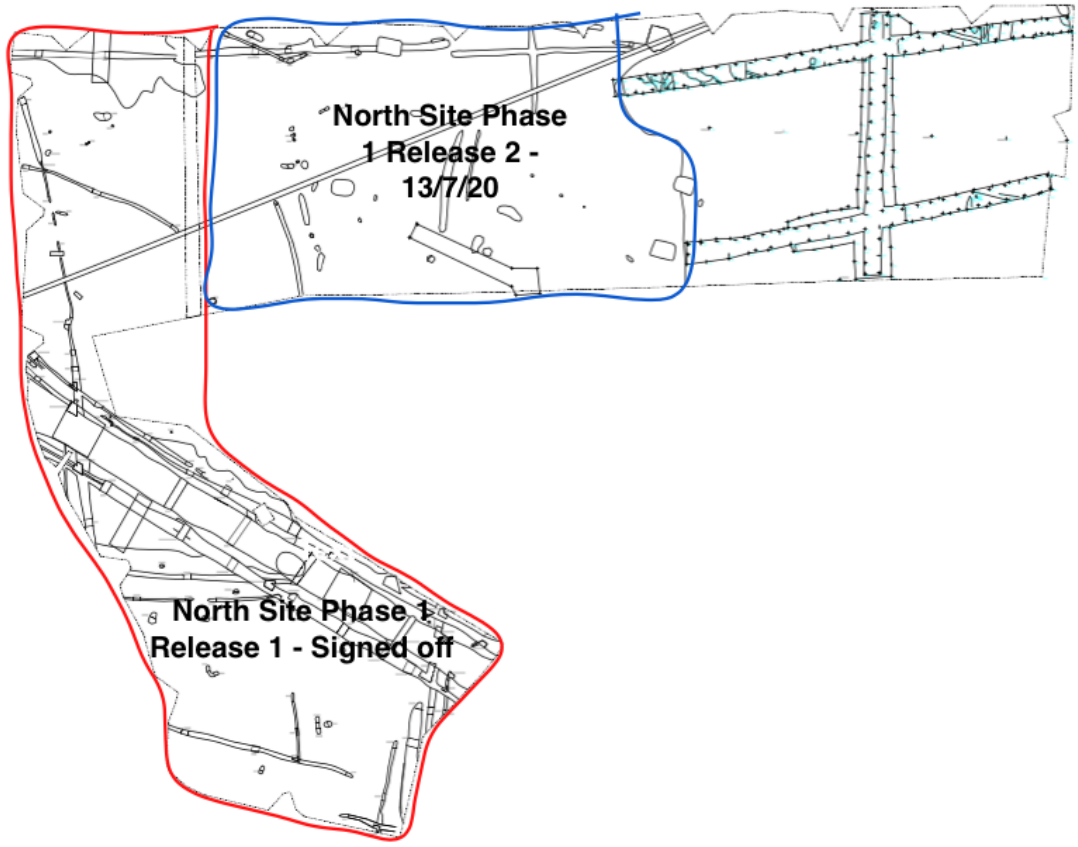

Figure 1 Proposed release phases for North Site Phase 1

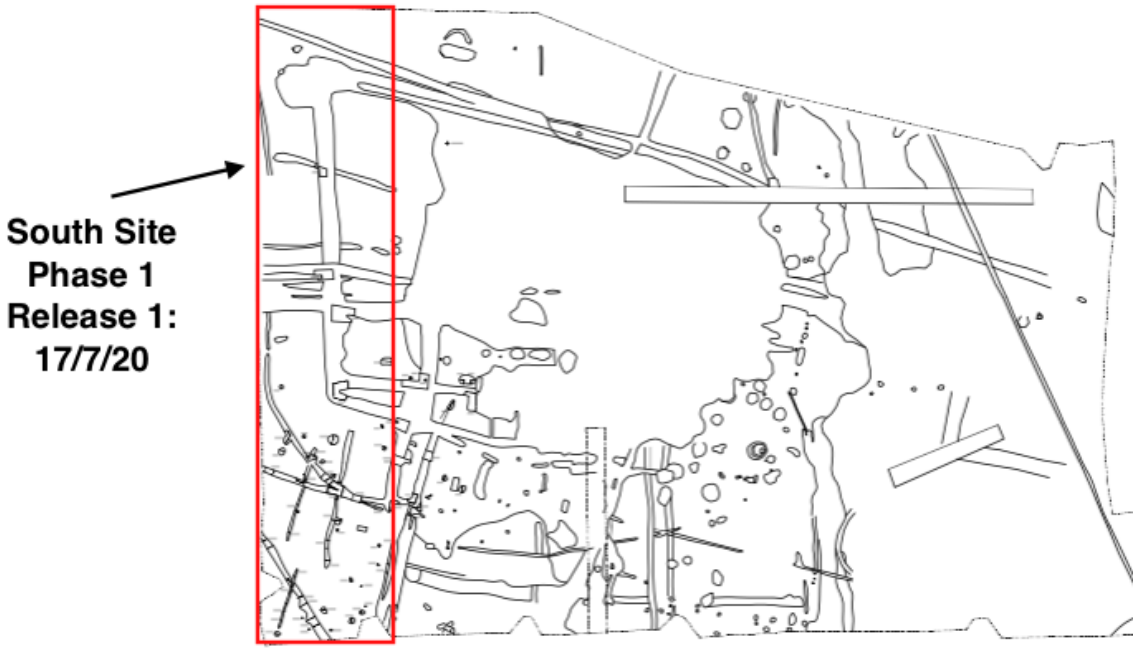

Figure 2 Proposed release phases for South Site Phase 1

Plate 1 [1634] Mid Ex

Plate 2 [1634] Full Ex

Plate 3 Bone comb found within [1634]

Plate 4 [1565] Mid Ex

Plate 5 [1565] Full Ex

Plate 6 [1639] Mid Ex

Plate 7 [1639] Full Ex

Plate 8 [1625] Mid Ex

Plate 9 [1625] Full Ex

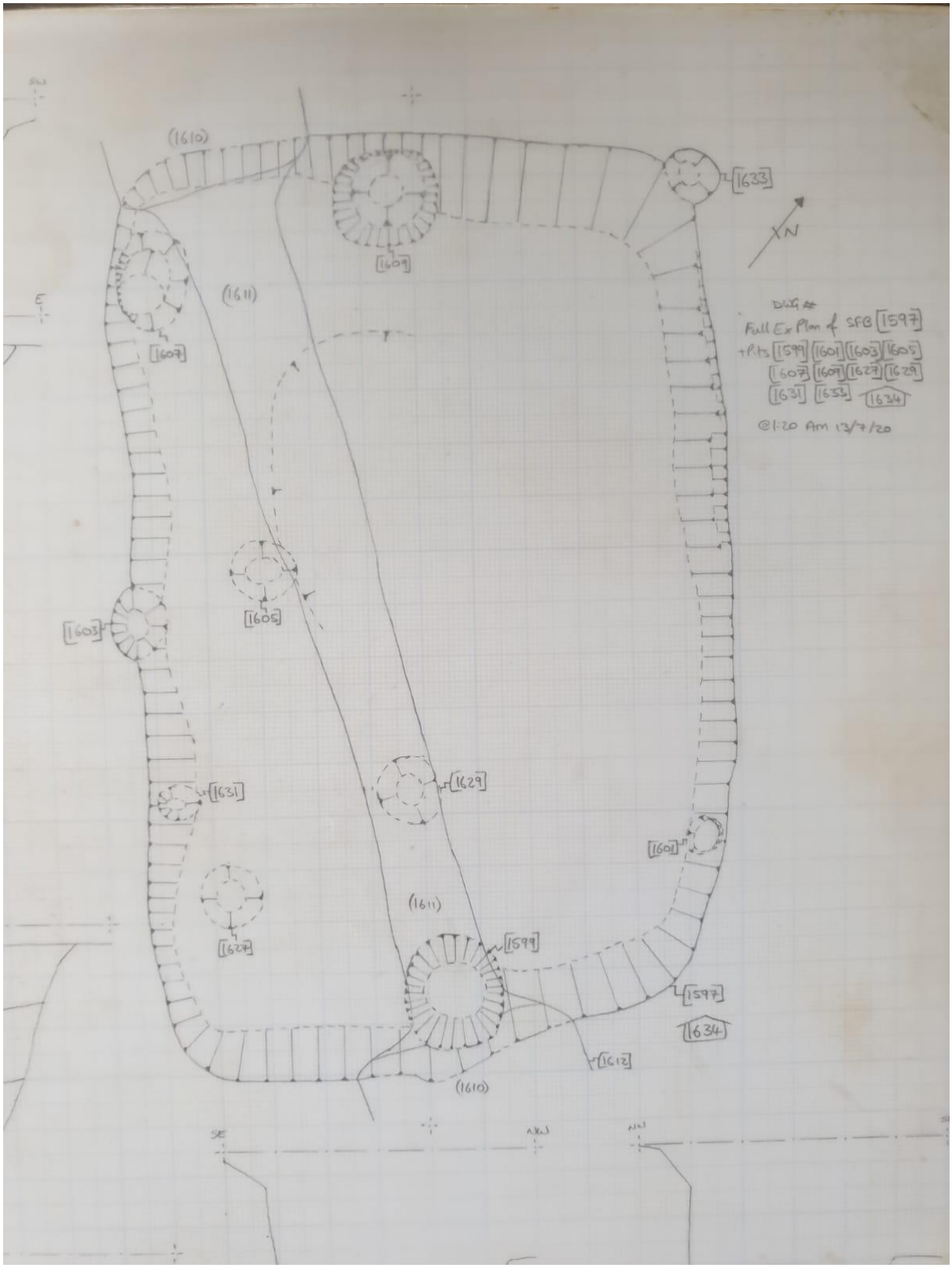

Figure 3 SFB 1 [1634] Plan

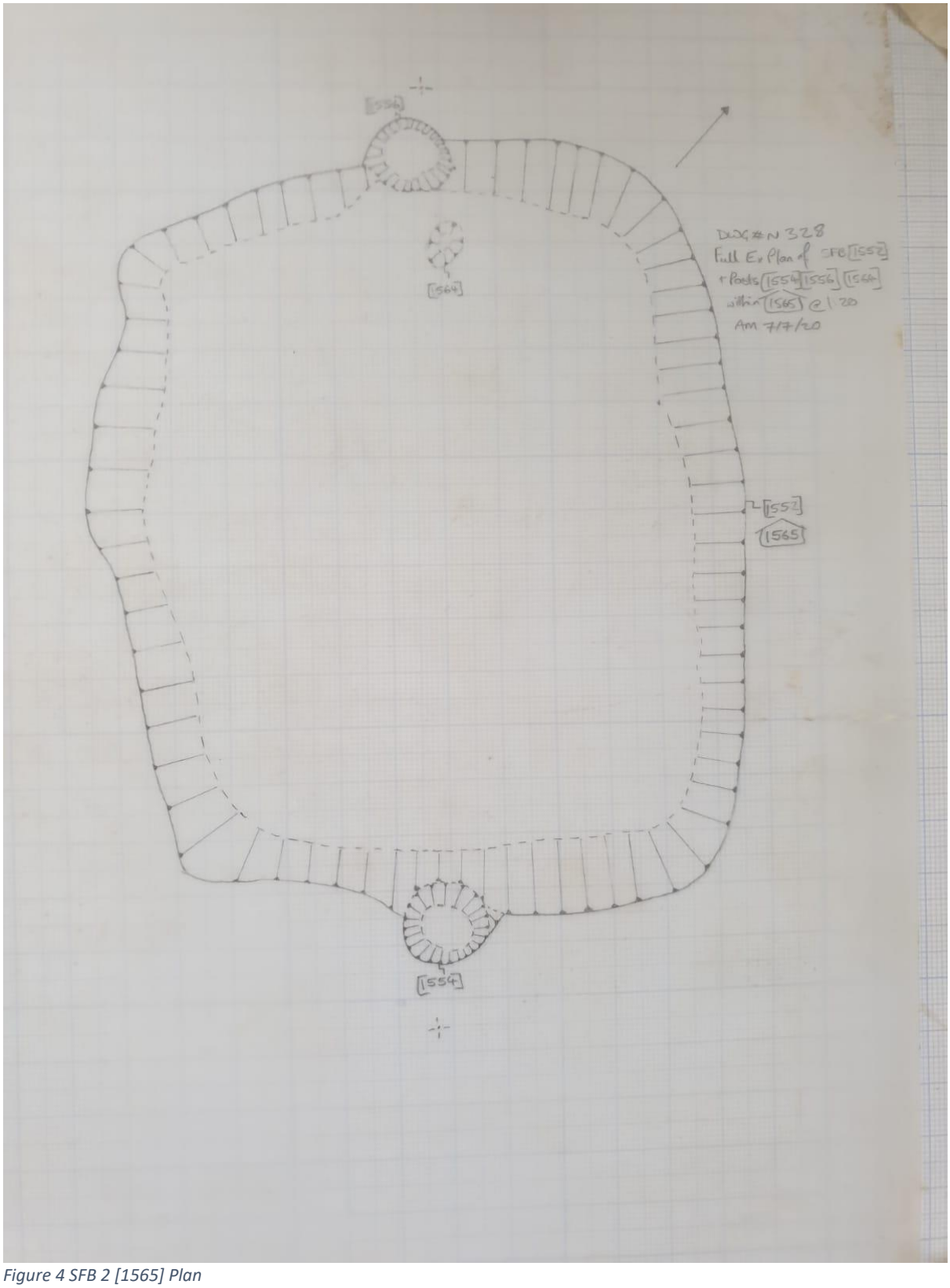

Figure 4 SFB 2 [1565] Plan

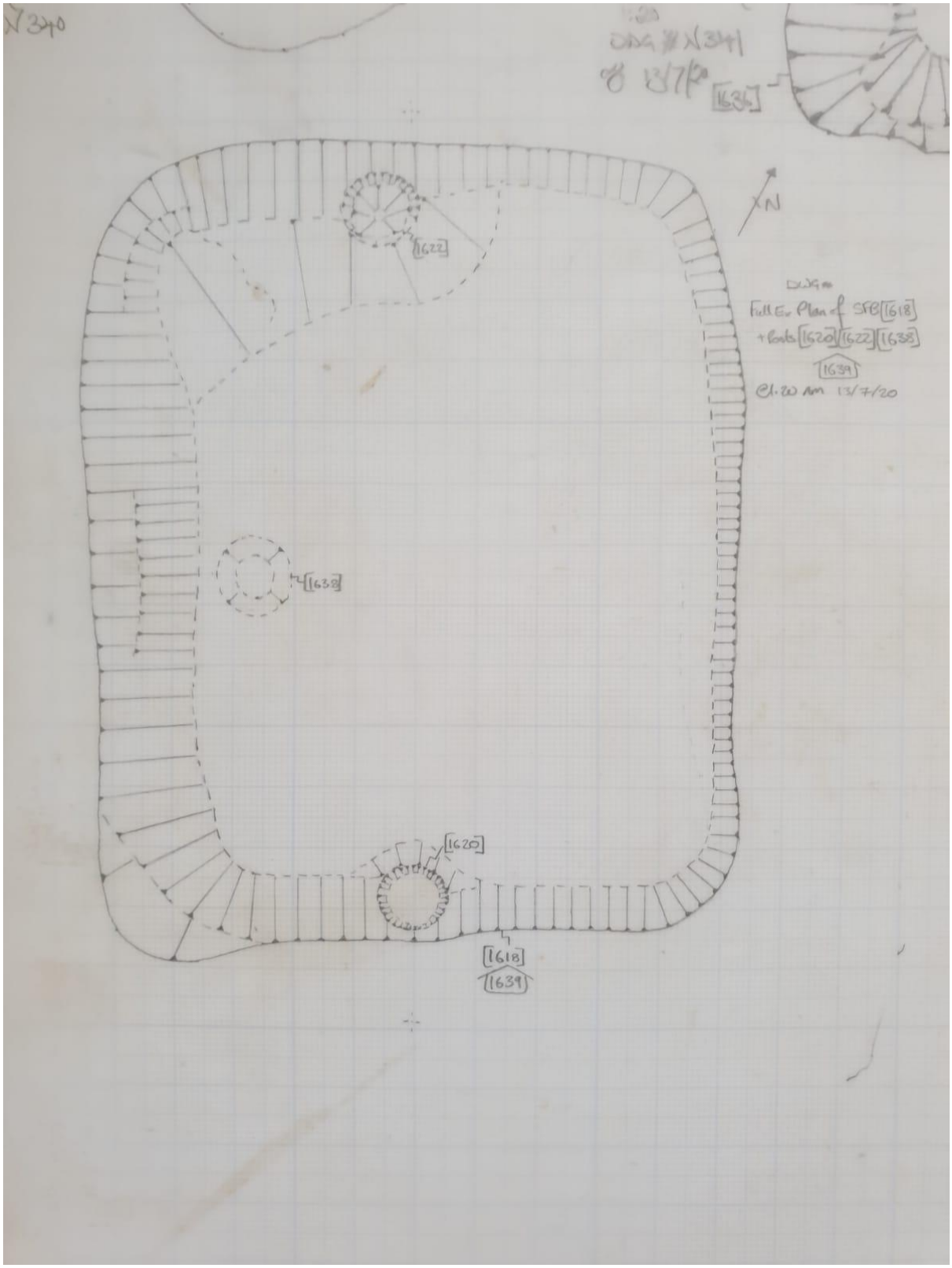

Figure 5 SFB 3 [1639] Plan

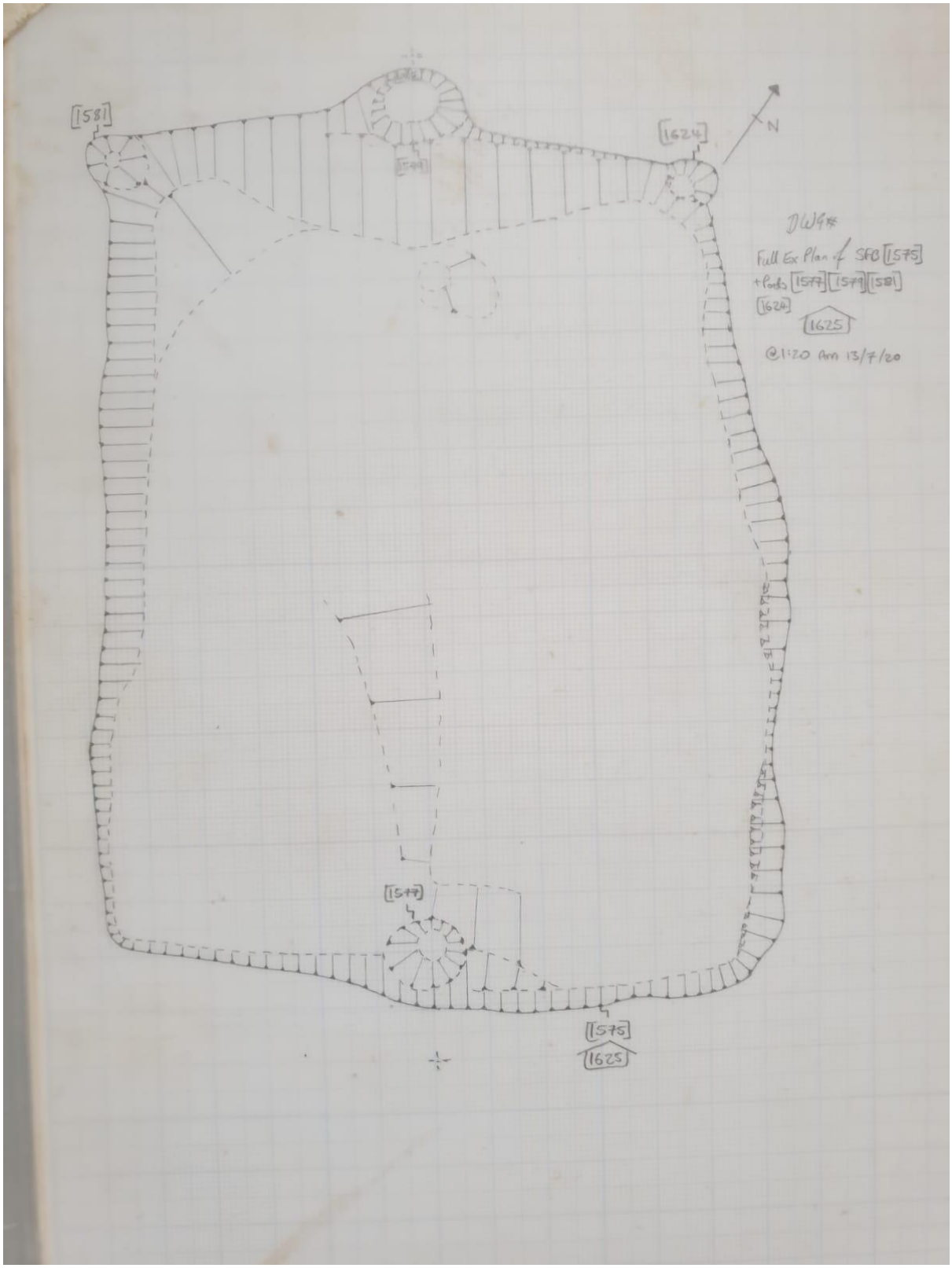

Figure 6 SFB 4 [1625] Plan

2 PHASE 1 (NORTH) ESATERN EXTENT – HOLLOWAY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

2.1 Introduction

The following impact assessment takes into consideration the eastern extent of Phase 1 (North) where a large unidentified feature has recently been evaluated, following instruction from the Kent County Council Principal Archaeology Officer.

The large feature is not fully exposed and continues beneath the northern, southern and eastern extents if the excavated site. It will continue into Phase 2 (North) immediately south of the current excavated limit of excavation (see plan below).

In order to attempt to provide an initial characterisation of the large feature, a rapid auger survey was carried out so that profiles could be established. The results of this work indicated that the features were roughly concave across an east-west access and more undulated a regular on a north-south axis. This initially suggested that the undulated nature of the drift geology had meant that lower areas of the site had been filled, either naturally or deliberately. In a meeting with KCC, an evaluation of the features was requested, comprising three trenches, as detailed below.

2.2 Evaluation

The aim of the evaluation trenches was to determine the nature of the fill i.e. colluvial, alluvial, deliberate etc., to establish whether the fill was one context or multiple (i.e. tipped deposits, slowly filled natural sedimentary deposits etc, to identify any features cutting (i.e. later than) or covered by (i.e. earlier than) the fill and to determine whether any *insitu* archaeological features will be impact by proposed development.

In order to assess the level of impact on underlying features, the levels of the natural geology have ben considered in relation to the levels of the impact depth of the proposed development.

Level of natural geological horizon

The following table includes the results of the trenching using the two east-west orientated trenches. Trench 1 is the northern trench, Trench 2 the southern. Both Trench 1 and Trench levels are provided where they are relevant to an adjacent Plot (i.e. the southern extent of Trench 1 relates to Plots 16 and 41. The northern side of Trench 2 relates to Plots 17 and 40, and the southern (east) relates to Plot 39 – colour coded for reference).

Trench	Axis	Level of Natural Geology (recorded every 5m) along northern extent of trench….												
		0	5	10	15	20	25	30	35	40	45	50	55	60
1 (N)	West to East	NA												
1 (S)	West to East	7.94	7.96	7.94	7.88	7.81	7.28	6.74	6.33	6.80	7.08	7.36	7.39	7.44
2 (N)	West to East	7.93	7.54	7.25	6.76	6.36	6.20	6.33	6.59	6.92	6.89	7.15	NA	
2 (S)	West to East	NA					6.13	6.28	6.96	6.70	6.97	7.31	NA	

Table 1 Levels of natural geology through Evaluation Trench 1 and Trench 2

Impact depth/level of proposed development

The impact LEVEL (above Ordnance Datum) from each of the five proposed plots has been calculated in the following way (see accompanying sketch, Plate 10 below);

FFL – D = L

where;

FFL = Finished Floor Level (provided)

D = depth of impact (a+b+c) = 1900mm

a = depth to DPC (i.e. construction of block and beam floor - assumed) = 450mm

b = block construction (i.e. build up from foundation to underside of DPC- assumed) = 450mm

c = depth of foundation (assumed) = 1000mm

L = Level of impact

The Level of Natural has been taken from the recent SWAT of the evaluation trenches – adopting results from the closest axis to the Plot.

Plot No.	FFL aOD	Eval Trench	Level of Impact (L) aOD	Level of natural (Table 1) aOD		Diff (m)	
				Min	Max	Min	Max
16	8.950	Trench 1 (S)	7.050	7.28	7.94	+ 0.23	+ 0.89
17	8.950	Trench 2 (N)	7.050	6.36	7.93	- 0.69	+ 0.88
39	8.600	Trench 2 (S)	6.700	6.13	7.31	- 0.57	+ 0.31
40	8.600	Trench 2 (N)	6.700	6.18	7.15	+ 0.52	+ 0.45
41	8.600	Trench 1 (S)	6.700	6.33	7.36	- 0.37	+ 0.66

Table 2 Impact levels of proposed development and depth of archaeological 'buffer'

2.3 Conclusion

The above assessment has suggested that foundations proposed during the proposed development will have an archaeological impact during the construction of Plot 17, Plot 39 and Plot 41. An archaeological 'buffer' is likely for all remaining plots, ranging from 0.23m to 0.89m.

2.4 Proposed Mitigation

It is clear that in specific areas of the site there will be an archaeological impact on remains that have been identified during the evaluation. These remains include linear features associated with an early (pre-Roman?) landscape (see summary in WPR). That said, impacts may be minimal and be focussed purely on the foundation trenches which measure approximately 0.6m in width.

It is therefore proposed that any archaeological remains threatened within the trenches are investigated and recorded during a later phase of archaeological monitoring. As a minimum, this should be carried out on Plot 17, Plot 39 and Plot 41.

Any methodology adopted will need to be approved by the Principal Archaeological Officer at KCC.

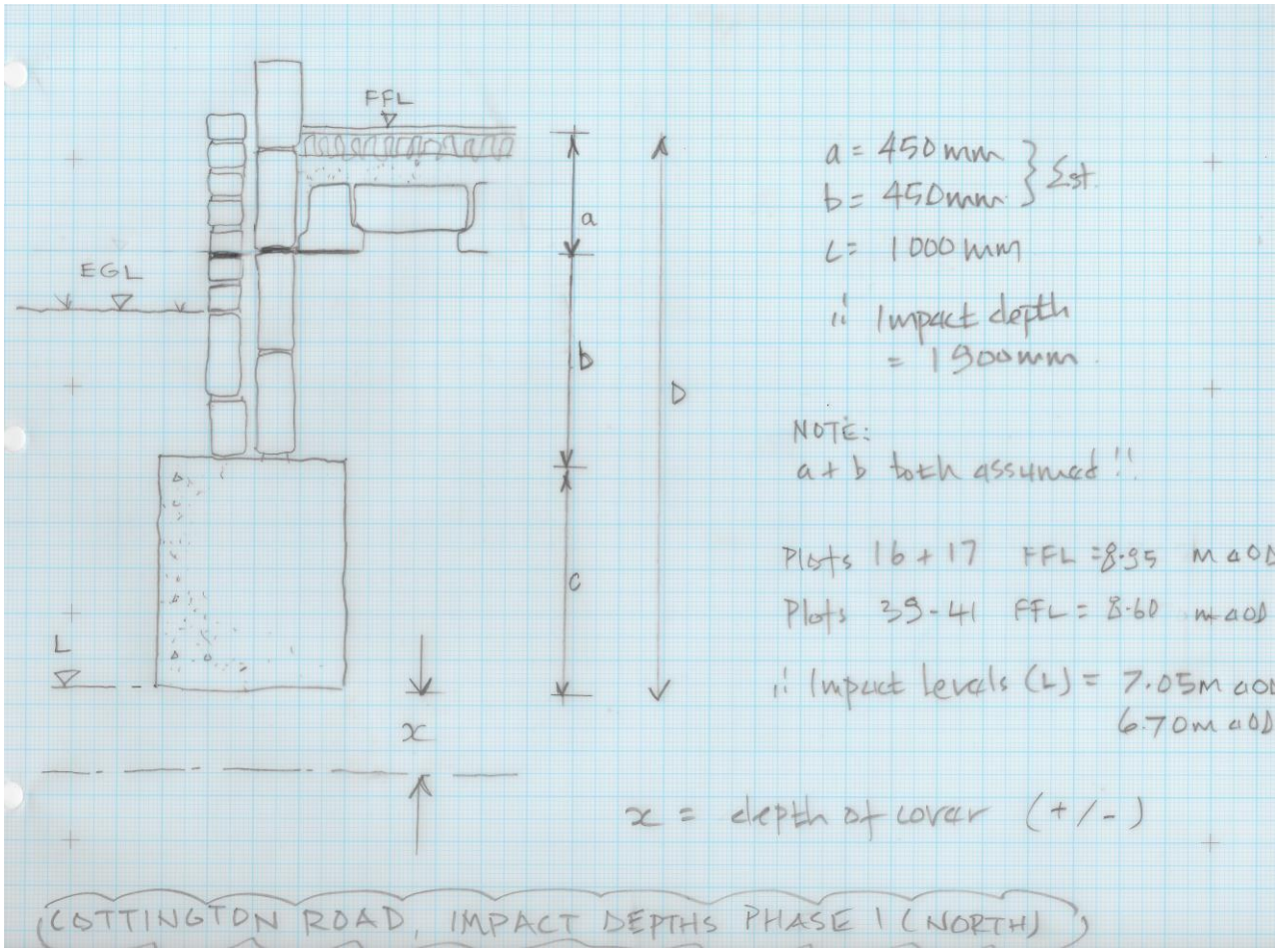

Plate 10 Rough sketch of IA workings