

Archaeological Evaluation Report Land South of Butler's Green Road Haywards Heath, West Sussex

> NGR 53212 12386 (TQ 321 238)

Planning ref: 11/02123/OUT

ASE Project No: 5721 Site Code: BGR12

ASE Report No: 2012233
OASIS ID: archaeol6-137727

By Diccon Hart
With contributions by
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September 2013

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Abstract

Archaeology South-East was commissioned by CgMs Consulting Ltd to undertake an archaeological evaluation on land to the south of Butler's Green Road, Haywards Heath, West Sussex, in advance of the redevelopment of the site.

A total of 22 trenches were excavated across the site, totalling some 481m trenching. The underlying natural geology, consisting of Tunbridge Wells Sand, was encountered at a maximum height of a maximum elevation of 94.41m OD in the south central part of the site, falling away to 92.79m OD in the far northwest of the site and 93.83m in the far northeast, with a minimum elevation of 91.34m OD recorded in the north central part of the site.

Archaeological features recorded during the course of the evaluation largely consisted of field boundary ditches, with at least three superimposed field systems present on the site, including a north-south/east west field system, a NNE-SSW/WNW-ESE aligned field system and a northwest-southeast aligned field system. Other features revealed include a handful of pits, most of which are scattered across the site with no obvious patterning, although a slight concentration of features, including a small hearth, in the south of the site might indicate transitory occupation. There was very scant dating evidence and the features and field boundary ditches remain essentially undated.

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Archaeology South-East Eval: Butlers Green Road, Haywards Heath, West Sussex ASE Report No: 2012233

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.0 Site Background

Archaeology South-East (ASE), a division of University College London 1.0.1 (UCL) Centre for Applied Archaeology (CAA), Institute of Archaeology (IoA) was commissioned by CgMs Consulting Ltd to undertake an archaeological evaluation on land to the south of Butler's Green Road, Haywards Heath, West Sussex in advance of the redevelopment of the site. The site is centred on National Grid Reference (NGR) 53212 12386 and its location is shown in Figure 1.

1.1 **Geology and Topography**

- 1.1.1 According to the latest data from the British Geological Survey, the underlying geology at the site consists of Upper Tunbridge Wells Sand formation (BGS) 2012).
- 1.1.2 The site is bounded to the north by Butler's Green Road, to the west by Isaac Lane, Downlands Park Nursing Home to the south and Beech Hurst Recreation Ground to the east. The site is situated at around 93m OD and at the time of the fieldwork comprised a combination of pasture and scrub.

1.2 **Planning Background**

1.2.1 Planning permission has been granted for the construction of a residential facility for the elderly incorporating a care home, dementia care facility, community building and associated infrastructure (Planning reference: 11/02123/OUT) subject to conditions. Due to the archaeological potential of the site, Condition 4 of the decision notice stated that:

'No development shall be carried out on the land until the applicant, or their agents or successor in title, has secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological works in accordance with a written specification and timetable which has been submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority.

Reason: In accordance with policy B18 of the Local Plan because the site is potentially of archaeological interest.'

1.2.2 Accordingly, a Written Scheme of Investigation (ASE 2012), outlining the scope of an archaeological evaluation, was submitted to and approved by John Mills, WSCC Senior Archaeologist in his capacity as archaeological advisor to Mid Sussex District Council. All work was undertaken in accordance with this document and with the relevant standard and guidance documents of the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA 2009) and the WSCC Recommended Standard Archaeological Conditions (WSCC 2007)

1.3 **Aims and Objectives**

- 1.3.1 The aims of the programme of trial trenching were outlined in the Written Scheme of Investigation (ASE 2012) and are reproduced in full below:
 - The evaluation will aim to determine, as far as is reasonably possible, the location, form, extent, date, character, condition, significance and quality of any surviving archaeological remains, irrespective of period, liable to be threatened by the proposed development. An adequate representative sample of all areas where archaeological remains are potentially threatened will be studied.
 - The evaluation will also seek to clarify the nature and extent of existing disturbance and intrusions and hence assess the degree of archaeological survival of buried deposits and any surviving structures of archaeological significance.
 - Within these parameters, the evaluation of this site presents an opportunity to address the following objectives:
 - 1) To establish the presence or absence of archaeological deposits, especially those identified in Section 2 below
 - 2) Evaluate the likely impact of past land use and development. The aims of the archaeological works are to establish the presence or absence of any archaeological features and to inform as to the need for any further mitigation as necessary.
 - The Haywards Heath Extended Urban Survey (EUS) focuses its research criteria on the origins and development of Haywards Heath. Given the highest potential for archaeological remains to survive on the site is for the Roman road, or associated features, the only framework consideration relevant to the investigation is RQ1 ("What is the nature of the palaeoenvironment and the prehistoric, Roman and medieval human activity in the area?")

1.4 Scope of report

This report details the results of the archaeological evaluation of the site, 1.4.1 carried out between 5th and 13th November 2012 by Diccon Hart (Senior Archaeologist), Lesley Davidson (Surveyor) and John Hurst and Daniel (Assistant Archaeologists) and on 16th September 2013 by Kathryn Grant (Archaeologist). The project was managed by Andy Leonard and Darryl Palmer (Project Managers) and Dan Swift (Post-excavation Manager).

2.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 Introduction

2.1.1 The archaeological background to the site was outlined in a prior Desk Based Assessment (CgMs 2010) and is summarised below with due acknowledgement.

2.2 Prehistoric

2.2.1 There are few remains dating to the prehistoric period within the vicinity of the site and as such it is anticipated that the potential for identifying remains of this period is low. A number of worked flints of Mesolithic date were found c. 900m to the south of the site and flints dating from Mesolithic to Bronze Age were found during a watching brief c. 500m to the south of the site. A small late Bronze Age urn was found at Lucastes Avenue to the north of the site.

2.3 Roman

2.3.1 The London to Hassocks Roman road lies 50m to the east of the site and has been identified during the course of both a watching brief and geophysical survey to the south. Roman pottery has been found c. 800m to the northeast of the site but otherwise there is little recorded on the HER for the presence of Roman activity in the area. Nonetheless, the proximity of the road suggests the site must have moderate potential for the discovery of Roman material.

2.4 Saxon

2.4.1 There are no records of any Saxon or early medieval material on the HER in the vicinity of the site and it is considered unlikely that any material of this date will be present.

2.5 Medieval – post-medieval

- 2.5.1 There is a solitary entry for the medieval period on the WSCC HER; an assemblage of pottery sherds found during a watching brief to the south of the site.
- 2.5.2 The layout of the surviving Haywards Heath pre-town houses suggest a pattern of dispersed farmsteads typical of the Wealden settlement pattern, originating in the Anglo-Saxon transhumance. It is therefore possible that features and finds dating from the medieval period may be found in the location of existing pre-town (or no longer present pre-town) houses. However, there is no evidence for pre-town houses within the boundaries of the proposed development site.

3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY

- 3.1 The *Written Scheme of Investigation* (ASE 2012) originally allowed for the excavation of 17 trenches measuring 30.0m by 1.6m across the site and totalling 510m of trenching, with a contingency for the excavation of a further three 30.0m trenches. Due to on-site constraints, however, including existing trees and live services, significant revision to the specified trench layout proved necessary.
- In addition to minor revisions to trench positions, several trenches, including Trenches 1, 5, 6, 13 and 15 were excavated in two separate sections (each numbered Trench XXa and Trench XXb) due to existing obstructions and a planned seventeenth trench was abandoned due to the presence of numerous trees in the southeast corner of the site.
- 3.3 In the event, therefore, the evaluation comprised the excavation of 22 separate trenches, totalling some 481.0m of trenching, as shown in Figure 2. All modifications to the trench layout were carried out with the prior approval of CgMs Consulting Ltd and John Mills.
- 3.4 The trenches were excavated utilising a 5 ton tracked excavator fitted with a smooth blade ditching bucket, under constant archaeological supervision. Mechanical excavation was undertaken in thin spit of no more than 0.10m thickness and ceased at the top of geological deposits.
- 3.5 Trench locations and all exposed archaeological features were surveyed using DGPS.
- 3.6 All excavation and recording was carried out in accordance with the WSI (ASE 2012). All encountered deposits were recorded according to accepted professional standards using standard Archaeology South-East recording sheets.
- 3.7 The spoil from the excavations was inspected to recover any artefacts or ecofacts of archaeological interest.
- **3.8** Trenches were backfilled and compacted by machine but no further reinstatement was undertaken.
- 3.9 On Monday 16th September 2013 a site visit was undertaken to excavate an additional trench in the north-western part of the site to see if the remains of the old Toll Gate House (indicated on the 1874 Ordnance Survey map) could be identified. The decision for the excavation of this trench was delayed due the presence of several large trees within the area, a constraint that also prevented a geophysical resistivity survey from being undertaken.

3.10 **The Site Archive**

- 3.10.1 A full photographic record of the work, comprising digital images, was kept and will form part of the site archive.
- The archive, which has been quantified in the table below, is presently held 3.10.2 at the Archaeology South-East offices in Portslade and has been offered to Lewes Museum.

Number of Contexts	113
No. of files/paper record	1
Plan and sections sheets	12
Bulk Samples	1
Photographs	119 digital images
Bulk finds	1 small box
Registered finds	N/A
Environmental flots/residue	1 small box

Table 1: Quantification of site archive

4.0 RESULTS

4.1 Geology and overburden

- 4.1.1 The underlying natural geology recorded on the site generally comprised Upper Tunbridge Wells Sand Formation, usually consisting of a fine sandy clay containing fragments of sandstone, although Weald Clay was recorded towards the centre of the site in Trenches 6, 11 and 12. The natural geology was recorded at a maximum elevation of 94.41m OD in the south central part of the site (Trench 14) falling away to 92.79m OD in the far northwest of the site (Trench 4) and 93.83m in the far northeast (Trench 3), with a minimum elevation of 91.234m OD recorded in the north central part of the site (Trench 1a)
- 4.1.2 The overburden recorded across the site generally consisted of a subsoil horizon of mid yellowish brown sandy clay that varied in depth from 0.10m to 0.35m, overlain by a topsoil horizon of mid brown silty clay measuring between 0.20m and 0.40m deep. In the far east of the site, in Trench 12, a thin layer of recent made ground measuring up to 0.40m deep overlay the subsoil horizon and was in turn sealed by topsoil. Here, the total depth of overburden measured up to 1.00m deep. Elsewhere across the site total depths of overburden generally measured between 0.45m and 0.60m, although in the far northeast of the site (Trenches 3 and 8), the subsoil horizon survived only intermittently and here depth of cover over the natural geology was as little as 0.25m.

4.2 Trench 1a

4.2.1 Length: 20.00m Width: 1.60m Depth: 0.65m max

Orientation: E-W

Number	Туре	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Deposit Depth	Height m. OD
1a/001	Layer	Topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.40m	91.94
1a/002	Layer	Subsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.26m	91.54
1a/003	Layer	Natural	Tr.	Tr.	N/A	91.34
1a/004	Cut	Ditch cut	1.60m	0.87m	0.18m	91.25
1a/005	Fill	Fill of 1a/004	1.60m	0.87m	0.18m	91.25

Table 2: List of recorded contexts Trench 1a

Summary

4.2.2 Natural Tunbridge Wells Sand [1a/003] was encountered at a maximum height of 91.34m OD at the western end of the trench, falling away to 91.32m OD to the east. A single north-south aligned ditch was recorded within this trench, consisting of a shallow ditch cut with irregular rounded profile [1a/004], filled with mid yellowish brown silty clay [1a/005]. An unabraded rim sherd from a medieval cooking pot was recovered from this feature and is dated to c. AD1300-1375. The feature was sealed by the subsoil horizon of the site [1a/002], in turn overlain by topsoil horizon [1a/001].

4.3 Trench 2

4.3.1 Length: 30.00m Width: 1.60m Depth: 0.65m max

Orientation: NNW-SSE

Number	Туре	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Deposit Depth	Height m. OD
2/001	Layer	Topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.30m	93.60
2/002	Layer	Subsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.25m	93.30
2/003	Layer	Natural	Tr.	Tr.	N/A	93.20
2/004	Cut	Tree throw	2.60m	1.30m	0.25m	91.82
2/005	Fill	Fill of 2/004	2.60m	1.30m	0.25m	91.82
2/006	Cut	Ditch cut	1.60m	1.00m	0.40m	91.99
2/007	Fill	Secondary fill of 2/006	1.60m	1.00m	0.40m	91.99
2/008	Fill	Primary fill of 2/006	1.00m exc.	0.35m	0.18m	91.81
2/009	Cut	Ditch cut	1.60m	1.50m	0.30m	92.97
2/010	Fill	Fill of 2/009	1.60m	1.50m	0.30m	92.97

Table 3: List of recorded contexts Trench 2

- 4.3.2 Natural Tunbridge Wells Sand [2/003] was recorded at 93.20m OD at the eastern end of the trench, falling away to 91.86m OD to the west. Two NNE-SSW aligned ditches were recorded within this trench. The westernmost of these consisted of a ditch cut with pronounced V-shaped profile [2/006], with a primary fill of mid yellowish brown silty clay [2/008] overlain by a secondary fill of mid brown silty clay [2/007]. To the east, was a further NNE-SSW aligned ditch with shallow rounded profile [2/009] containing a single fill of mid yellowish brown silty clay [2/010]. No finds were recovered from either feature.
- 4.3.3 A large irregular feature recorded at the far western end of the trench [2/004[, with a fill of mid brown silty clay [2/005] very similar to the overlying subsoil horizon probably represents a tree throw. No finds were recovered from the feature.
- 4.3.4 All features within this trench were overlain by the subsoil horizon of the site [2/002], in turn sealed by topsoil horizon [2/001].

4.4 Trench 4

4.4.1 Length: 30.00m Width: 1.60m Depth: 0.16m max

Orientation: N-S

Number	Туре	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Deposit Depth	Height m. OD
4/001	Layer	Topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.35m	93.19
4/002	Layer	Subsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.34m	92.99
4/003	Layer	Natural	Tr.	Tr.	N/A	92.79
4/004	Cut	Ditch cut	2.00m	0.74m	0.12m	92.56
4/005	Fill	Fill of 4/004	2.00m	0.74m	0.12m	92.56
4/006	Cut	Ditch cut	1.60m	1.70m	0.12m	92.21
4/007	Fill	Fill of 4/006	1.60m	1.70m	0.12m	92.21

Table 4: List of recorded contexts Trench 4

- 4.4.2 Natural Tunbridge Wells Sand [4/003] was recorded at a maximum height of 92.79m OD at the southern end of the trench, falling away to 91.81m OD to the north.
- 4.4.3 A northwest-southeast aligned ditch was recorded towards the southern end of the trench, consisting of a shallow ditch cut with rounded profile [4/004], filled with light yellowish brown silty clay [4/005]. A single undiagnostic hard-hammer flint flake was recovered from this feature.
- 4.4.4 Towards the centre of the trench a further ditch on a more WNW-ESE orientation was recorded. This consisted of a shallow ditch cut with irregular profile [4/006], filled with mid brown silty clay [4/007] similar to the overlying subsoil horizon [4/002]. No finds were recovered from this feature.
- 4.4.5 Both these features were sealed by the subsoil horizon of the site [4/002], which was in turn overlain by the topsoil horizon [4/001]

4.5 Trench 5a

4.5.1 Length: 15.00m Width: 1.60m Depth: 0.70m max

Orientation: N-S

Number	Туре	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Deposit Depth	Height m. OD
5a/001	Layer	Topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.32m	92.44
5a/002	Layer	Subsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.20m	92.14
5a/003	Layer	Natural	Tr.	Tr.	N/A	91.94
5a/004	Cut	Ditch cut	1.60m	0.85m	0.31m	91.87
5a/005	Fill	Fill of 5a/004	1.60m	0.85m	0.31m	91.87

Table 5: List of recorded contexts Trench 5a

Summary

- 4.5.2 Natural Tunbridge Wells Sand [5a/003] was recorded at a maximum height of 92.51m OD at the southern end of the trench, falling away to 91.48m OD to the north.
- 4.5.3 A single WNW-ESE aligned ditch was recorded at the south end of this trench that probably represents the easterly continuation of ditch [4/006] recorded to the west (see above). Here, the ditch consisted of a shallow ditch cut with irregular rounded profile [5a/004], filled with light brown silty clay [5a/005].
- 4.5.4 No finds were recovered from the feature, which was sealed by the subsoil horizon of the site [5a/002].
- 4.5.5 Topsoil [5a/001] capped the sequence.

4.6 Trench 6a

4.6.1 Length: 20.00m Width: 1.60m Depth: 0.50m max

Orientation: E-W

Number	Туре	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Deposit Depth	Height m. OD
6a/001	Layer	Topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.30m	92.64
6a/002	Layer	Subsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.23m	92.34
6a/003	Layer	Natural	Tr.	Tr.	N/A	92.19
6a/004	Fill	Fill of 6a/004	0.30m	0.30m	N/A	92.10
6a/005	Cut	Possible pit	0.30m	0.30m	N/A	92.10

Table 6: List of recorded contexts Trench 6a

Summary

4.6.2 Natural Weald Clay [6a/003] was recorded between 92.08 and 92.19m OD within this trench.

- 4.6.3 A possible small pit was observed within this trench [6a/005], filled with mid greyish yellow silty clay [6a/004]. However, due to flooding of the trench, the feature could not be excavated.
- 4.6.4 This possible feature was sealed by subsoil horizon [6a/002], in turn overlain by topsoil horizon [6a/001].

4.7 Trench 7

4.7.1 Length: 30.00m Width: 1.60m Depth: 0.50m max

Orientation: N-S

Number	Туре	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Deposit Depth	Height m. OD
7/001	Layer	Topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.30m	93.88
7/002	Layer	Subsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.15m	93.58
7/003	Layer	Natural	Tr.	Tr.	N/A	93.43
7/004	Fill	Fill of 7/005	1.60m	1.15m	0.30m	93.41
7/005	Cut	Ditch cut	1.60m	1.15m	0.30m	93.41
7/006	Fill	Fill of 7/007	1.70m	0.90m	0.30m	93.39
7/007	Cut	Ditch cut	1.70m	0.90m	0.30m	93.39
7/008	Fill	Fill of 7/009	1.15m	0.43m	0.34m	93.37
7/009	Cut	Pit	1.15m	0.43m	0.34m	93.37

Table 7: List of recorded contexts Trench 7

- 4.7.2 Natural Tunbridge Wells Sand [7/003] was recorded between 93.43 and 93.41m OD.
- 4.7.3 A WNW-ESE aligned ditch was recorded towards the southern end of this trench, consisting of a shallow ditch with very irregular rounded profile [7/007], suggestive of a feature disturbed by later rooting, filled with mid brown silty clay [7/006].
- 4.7.4 A further ditch on a more east-west alignment was recorded towards the centre of the trench, consisting of a ditch cut with a shallow V-shaped profile [7/005] filled with mid yellowish brown silty clay [7/004].
- 4.7.5 Finally, a small sub-circular pit [7/009] was also recorded within this trench, which was filled with mid brown silty clay [7/008].
- 4.7.6 No finds were recovered from any of these features, which were all sealed by subsoil horizon [7/002], in turn overlain by topsoil horizon [7/001].

4.8 Trench 9

4.8.1 Length: 30.00m Width: 1.60m Depth: 0.50m max

Orientation: E-W

Number	Туре	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Deposit Depth	Height m. OD
9/001	Layer	Topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.30m	93.89
9/002	Layer	Subsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.22m	93.59
9/003	Layer	Natural	Tr.	Tr.	N/A	93.37
9/004	Fill	Fill of 9/005	1.70m	1.15m	0.33m	92.98
9/005	Cut	Ditch cut	1.70m	1.15m	0.33m	92.98
10/001	Layer	Topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.38m	93.89

Table 8: List of recorded contexts Trench 9

- 4.8.2 Natural Tunbridge Wells Sand [9/003] was recorded at a maximum height of 93.87m OD at the western end of the trench, falling away to 93.39m OD to the east.
- 4.8.3 A northwest-southeast aligned ditch was recorded at the eastern end of this trench, comprising a ditch cut with rounded profile [9/005], filled with mid yellowish brown silty clay [9/004].
- 4.8.4 No finds were recovered from the feature, which *may* form the south-easterly continuation of ditch [4/004].
- 4.8.5 The feature was sealed by subsoil horizon [9/002], in turn overlain by topsoil horizon [9/001].

4.9 Trench 10

4.9.1 Length: 30.00m Width: 1.60m Depth: 0.58m max

Orientation: N-S

Number	Туре	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Deposit Depth	Height m. OD
10/001	Layer	Topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.38m	93.89
10/002	Layer	Subsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.10m	93.51
10/003	Layer	Natural	Tr.	Tr.	N/A	93.41
10/004	Cut	Ditch cut	10.80m	1.00m	0.40m	92.90
10/005	Fill	Fill of 10/004	10.80m	1.00m	0.40m	92.90
10/006	Cut	Ditch cut	3.62m	1.66m	0.22m	93.30
10/007	Fill	Fill of 10/006	3.62m	1.66m	0.22m	93.30

Table 9: List of recorded contexts Trench 10

- 4.9.2 Natural Tunbridge Wells Sand [10/003] was recorded at a maximum height of 93.41m OD at the southern end of the trench, falling away to 92.59m OD to the north.
- 4.9.3 Two ditches were recorded in this trench, including a broadly north-south aligned ditch with pronounced V-shaped profile [10/004], filled with mid brown silty clay [10/005] and a much wider, shallower ditch on a more NNE-SSW alignment [10/006], filled with light brown silty clay [10/007].
- 4.9.4 Neither feature produced any finds and both were sealed by the subsoil horizon of the site [10/002]. Topsoil [10/001] capped the sequence.

4.10 Trench 11

4.10.1 Length: 30.00m Width: 1.60m Depth: 0.60m max

Orientation: E-W

Number	Туре	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Deposit Depth	Height m. OD
11/001	Layer	Topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.40m	93.85
11/002	Layer	Subsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.20m	93.45
11/003	Layer	Natural	Tr.	Tr.	N/A	93.25
11/004	Fill	Fill of 11/005	0.80m	0.40m	0.12m	93.23
11/005	Cut	Pit cut	0.80m	0.40m	0.12m	93.23

Table 10: List of recorded contexts Trench 11

Summary

- 4.10.2 Natural Weald Clay [11/003] was recorded between 92.26m and 92.23m OD across the trench.
- 4.10.3 A single small sub-circular pit [11/005], filled with mid yellowish brown silty clay [11/05] was recorded at the western end of the trench, although no finds were recovered from it.
- 4.10.4 This was sealed by subsoil horizon [11/002], in turn sealed by topsoil horizon [11/001].

4.11 Trench 12

4.11.1 Length: 30.00m Width: 1.60m Depth: 1.00m max

Orientation: NNE-SSW

Number	Туре	Type Description Max. Max. Length Width		Deposit Depth	Height m. OD	
12/001	Layer	Topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.32m	93.95
12/002	Layer	Natural	Tr.	Tr.	N/A	93.63
12/003	Layer	Made ground	8.5m	Tr.	0.40m	93.57
12/004	Layer	Subsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.35m	93.65
12/005	Cut	Ditch cut	1.60m	0.90m	0.25m	93.75
12/006	Fill	Fill of 12/005	1.60m	0.90m	0.25m	93.75
12/007	Cut	Ditch cut	1.60	1.20m	0.30m	93.40
12/008	Fill	Fill of 12/007	2.60	1.20m	0.30m	93.40

Table 11: List of recorded contexts Trench 12

Summary

4.11.2 Natural Weald Clay [12/002] was recorded at a maximum height of 93.58m OD at the northern end of the trench, falling away to 92.93m OD to the south.

- 4.11.3 Two shallow east-west ditches with rounded profiles were recorded within this trench, including [12/005] to the north, filled with mid yellowish brown silty clay [12/006] and ditch [12/006] to the south, filled with mid brown silty clay [12/007].
- 4.11.4 Neither feature produced any finds and both were sealed by subsoil horizon [12/004]. In the southern half of this trench, the subsoil horizon was sealed by a layer of recent made ground [12/003], deposited in order to level-up this area of the site. This was overlain by topsoil horizon [12/001].

4.12 Trench 14

4.12.1 Length: 30.00m Width: 1.60m Depth: 0.40m max

Orientation: N-S

Number	Туре	Type Description Max. Max. Length Width		Deposit Depth	Height m. OD	
14/001	Layer	Topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.25m	94.76
14/002	Layer	Subsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.10m	94.51
14/003	Layer	Natural	Tr.	Tr.	N/A	94.41
14/004	Fill	Fill of 14/005	1.70m	0.65m	0.10m	93.95
14/005	Cut	Ditch cut	1.70m	0.65m	0.10m	93.95
14/006	Fill	Fill of 14/007	0.96m	0.52m	0.30m	93.88
14/007	Cut	Pit cut	0.96m	0.52m	0.30m	93.88
14/008	Fill	Fill of 14/009	0.70m	0.50m	0.10m	93.43
14/009	Cut	Hearth/fire pit	0.70m	0.50m	0.10m	93.43
14/010	Fill	Burnt natural beneath 14/009	0.75m	0.55m	0.03m	93.43

Table 12: List of recorded contexts Trench 14

- 4.12.2 Natural Tunbridge Wells Sand was recorded at 94.41m OD at the southern end of the trench, falling away to 93.35m OD to the north.
- 4.12.3 At the far northern end of the trench a small hearth or fire pit was recorded, consisting of a shallow sub-circular depression in the underlying natural [14/009], with a fill rich in charcoal [14/008]. The underlying natural geology had been burnt to a mid-reddish colour [14/010].
- 4.12.4 Towards the centre of the trench was a ditch on a WNW-ESE orientation, consisting of a shallow ditch cut [14/005], filled with mid yellowish brown silty clay [14/005].
- 4.12.5 To the south of this ditch a sub-circular pit was recorded, consisting of a steep sided and flat-bottomed pit cut [14/007], filled with mid yellowish brown silty clay [14/006].
- 4.12.6 No finds were recovered from any of these features although a sample retrieved from hearth [14/009] produced an assemblage of charcoal

dominated by oak (*Quercus sp.*) and suggests a reliance on this taxa for fuel wood purposes.

4.12.7 These features were sealed by the subsoil horizon of the site [14/002], in turn overlain by topsoil horizon [14/001].

4.13 Trench 15a

4.13.1 Length: 16.00m Width: 1.60m Depth: 0.56m max

Orientation: E-W

Number	Туре	Description	Max.	Max.	Deposit	Height
			Length	Width	Depth	m. OD
15a/001	Layer	Topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.20m	94.21
15a/002	Layer	Subsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.28m	94.01
15a/003	Layer	Natural	Tr.	Tr.	N/A	93.87
15a/004	Cut	Small pit	0.42m	0.36m	0.13m	93.74
15a/005	Fill	Fill of 15a/004	0.42m	0.36m	0.13m	93.74
15a/006	Cut	Ditch cut	1.60m	0.86m	0.19m	93.72
15a/007	Fill	Fill of 15a/006	1.60m	0.86m	0.19m	93.72
15a/008	Cut	Ditch cut	1.60m	0.86m	0.25m	93.66
15a/009	Fill	Fill of 15a/008	1.60m	0.86m	0.25m	93.66

Table 13: List of recorded contexts Trench 15a

- 4.13.2 Natural Tunbridge Wells Sand was recorded between 93.87m OD and 93.68m OD throughout the trench.
- 4.13.3 At the far eastern end was a wide, shallow ditch with rounded profile [15a/008], with a fill of mid brown silty clay [15/009] that represents the southerly continuation of ditch [10/006] recorded immediately to the north in Trench 10.
- 4.13.4 Similarly, a further ditch recorded in this trench, consisting of a shallow ditch cut with broadly V-shaped profile [15a/006], filled with mid yellowish brown silty clay [15a/007] probably represents the southern continuation of ditch [10/004] observed in Trench 10 to the north.
- 4.13.5 A small sub-circular pit or posthole [15/004], filled with light yellowish brown silty clay [15a/005] was also investigated within this trench.
- 4.13.6 None of these features produced any finds and were sealed by the subsoil horizon of the site [15a/002], in turn overlain by topsoil horizon [15a/001].

4.14 Trench 15b

4.14.1 Length: 14.00m Width: 1.60m Depth: 0.45m max

Orientation: E-W

Number	Туре	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Deposit Depth	Height m. OD
15b/001	Layer	Topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.28m	94.09
15b/002	Layer	Subsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.18m	93.85
15b/003	Layer	Natural	Tr.	Tr.	N/A	93.76
15b/004	Cut	Ditch cut	1.60m	0.57m	0.12m	93.66
15b/005	Fill	Fill of 15b/004	1.60m	0.57m	0.12m	93.66

Table 14: List of recorded contexts Trench 15b

- 4.14.2 Natural Tunbridge Wells Sand was recorded between 93.76m OD and 93.47m OD across this trench.
- 4.14.3 A single north-south aligned ditch was recorded in this trench, comprising a shallow ditch cut with rounded profile [15b/004], filled with light yellowish brown silty clay [15b/005].
- 4.14.4 No finds were recovered from the feature, which was sealed by the subsoil horizon of the site [15b/002], in turn sealed by topsoil horizon [15b/001].

4.15 Trenches devoid of archaeological features

4.15.1 Trenches 1b, 3, 5b, 6b, 8, 13a, 13b and 16 contained no archaeological features or deposits. The dimensions and orientation of these trenches is tabulated in Table 15 and the relevant contexts can be found in Table 16.

Trench no.	Length	Width	Depth	Orientation
1b	11.50m	1.60m	0.55m	NW-SE
3	30.00m	1.60m	0.45m	N-S
5b	15.00m	1.60m	0.50m	N-S
6b	8.50m	1.60m	0.55m	E-W
8	30.00m	1.60m	0.30m	E-W
13a	20.00m	1.60m	0.50m	N-S
13b	11.00m	1.60m	0.45m	NW-SE
16	30.00m	1.60m	0.54m	N-S

Table 15: Details of trenches devoid of archaeological features

Number	Туре	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Depth	Height m. OD
1b/001	Layer	Topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.35m	92.46
1b/002	Layer	Subsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.15m	92.31
1b/003	Layer	Natural	Tr.	Tr.	N/A	91.96
2/001	Layer	Topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.30m	93.60
2/002	Layer	Subsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.25m	93.30
3/001	Layer	Topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.25m	94.08
3/002	Layer	Subsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.15m	93.75
3/003	Layer	Natural	Tr.	Tr.	N/A	93.83
5b/001	Layer	Topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.30m	93.01
5b/002	Layer	Subsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.20m	92.71
5b/003	Layer	Natural	Tr.	Tr.	N/A	92.51
6b/001	Layer	Topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.30m	93.05
6b/002	Layer	Subsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.20m	92.75
6b/003	Layer	Natural	Tr.	Tr.	N/A	92.55
8/001	Layer	Topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.25m	94.16
8/002	Layer	Natural	Tr.	Tr.	N/A	93.91
13a/001	Layer	Topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.33m	94.24
13a/002	Layer	Subsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.13m	93.96
13a/003	Layer	Natural	Tr.	Tr.	N/A	93.84
13b/001	Layer	Topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.30m	94.53
13b/002	Layer	Subsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.15m	94.23
13b/003	Layer	Natural	Tr.	Tr.	N/A	94.08
16/001	Layer	Topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.35m	93.87
16/002	Layer	Subsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.13m	93.59
16/003	Layer	Natural	Tr.	Tr.	N/A	93.47

Table 16: List of recorded contexts, trenches devoid of archaeological features

4.16 Additional Trench to Investigate the Toll Gate House

4.16.1 On arrival at the site to excavate an additional trench proposed to investigate the possible remains of a Toll Gate house, contractors (Landbuild) were in the process of constructing a meandering path in the north-western part of the site. Several trees had been cut down within the small open area (c.8x8m) between the road and the path in which the Toll Gate House is believed to have been. However, the tree stumps had been left within the ground with the cut trunks adjacent. Several live services were observed within the area of proposed trenching, including a large manhole chamber with several associated drains, some electricity cables for the street lighting, fibre-optic cables and an east-west aligned gas main crossing the northern half of the area. There was also an issue with where to sit the machine (as the path was in the process of construction) and where to store the spoil. This information was relayed to the Project Manager and Consultant who agreed that due to access issues and live service constraints the trenching was unfeasible. As a result, the additional trench was not excavated. Inspection of segments of the path excavations nearby showed the undisturbed natural horizon as only 300mm below the ground level with overlying rooty topsoil.

5.0 THE FINDS

5.1 Introduction

5.1.1 A very small collection of finds was recovered:

Context	Pottery	wt (g)	Filnt	wt (g)
1A/005	1	16		
4005			1	28
Total	1	16	1	28

Table 17: Quantification of finds

5.2 The post-Roman pottery by Luke Barber

5.2.1 The evaluation recovered a single 16g sherd of pottery from the site (context [1a/005]). This consists of part of the flat-topped rim from a well-made cooking pot temper with fine sand with occasional inclusions of quartz and iron oxides to 0.5mm. The sherd, which is in fresh condition (ie: unabraded), is best placed between c. 1300 and 1375.

5.3 The struck flint by Karine le Hégarat

- 5.3.1 A single piece of struck flint weighing 28g was recovered from context [4/005] during the course of the evaluation at the site. It consists of a secondary flake manufactured from light grey flint with an off-white relatively smooth cortex. The material is characteristic of chalk-derived flint.
- 5.3.2 The artefact displays moderate edge-damage that probably results from successive re-depositions. It exhibits hinge termination and scars from previous removals on the dorsal face but is otherwise undiagnostic.

6.0 THE ENVIRONMENTAL SAMPLE

By Dawn Elise Mooney and Karine Le Hégarat

- A single sample was taken during evaluation work at the site to establish evidence for environmental indicators such as wood charcoal, charred macrobotanical remains, fauna and mollusca as well as to assist finds recovery.
- The sample was processed in a flotation tank and the residue and flot were retained on 500µm and 250µm meshes and air dried. The residue was passed through graded sieves (8, 4 and 2mm) and each fraction sorted for environmental and artefact remains.
- 6.3 The flot was scanned under a stereozoom microscope at x7-45 magnifications. An overview of the sample content is presented in Appendix 1. One hundred charcoal fragments recovered from the residue of the sample were fractured along three planes (transverse, radial and tangential) according to standardised procedures (Gale & Cutler 2000).
- 6.4 Specimens were viewed under a stereozoom microscope for initial grouping, and an incident light microscope at magnifications up to 400x to facilitate identification of the woody taxa present. Taxonomic identifications were assigned by comparing suites of anatomical characteristics visible with those documented in reference atlases (Hather 2000, Schoch *et al.* 2004), and by comparison with modern reference material held at the Institute of Archaeology, University College London.
- 6.5 Identifications have been given to species where possible, however genera, family or group names have been given where anatomical differences between taxa are not significant enough to permit satisfactory identification. Where identifications were uncertain due to poor preservation or limited size of charcoal specimens the identification is preceded by cf., denoting 'compares with'. Nomenclature used follows Stace (1997).
- Sample <1> was extracted from hearth [14/008]. It produced a moderate flot (35ml in size) which consisted principally of uncharred material including fine broken down plant matter and high numbers of fine rootlets. The sample contained no charred macroplant remains. Nonetheless, it produced a moderate assemblage of charcoal. The assemblage present in the flot comprised only small-size pieces <2mm and flecks. However, the charred wood fragments in the residue were more numerous and comprised larger pieces. Preservation of the charcoal was poor to fair, with all fragments exhibiting sediment infiltration related to fluctuations in groundwater level.
- 6.7 The charcoal assemblage was dominated by oak (*Quercus* sp.), with the only other taxa present being a single fragment of spindle tree (*Euonymus europaeus*) roundwood. Several fragments were unable to be identified due to poor preservation and distortion related to the charring process.

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6.8 No other biological remains were present. A small amount of magnetised material which may represent small pieces of iron stone was present in the residue.

6.9 The sample confirmed the presence of a moderate quantity of botanical remains preserved through carbonisation. The assemblage of wood charcoal suggests a fuel wood procurement strategy exploiting oakdominated deciduous woodland, possibly focusing almost solely on this taxon, while twig wood from a wider range of taxa was used as kindling. However, the range of environmental data available is too small to contribute to further discussion of environment or fuel use strategies at the site.

7.0 DISCUSSION

- 7.1 The evaluation has demonstrated the existence of archaeological features across much of the site, with features present in 13 of the 22 excavated interventions. The archaeological features are sealed by a typical sequence of subsoil and topsoil that indicates minimal disturbance of archaeological features, beyond probable horizontal truncation from ploughing.
- 7.2 For the most part, the features recorded comprise ditches that, in combination with a striking scarcity of finds, are probably best interpreted as the component elements of field systems on varying alignments. In fact, analysis of the orientation of the various field boundary ditches recorded suggests the existence of at least three superimposed field systems on the site, as shown on Figure 16. These include a north-south/east-west aligned field system (Field System 1; ditches [1a/005] and [4/006=5a/004=7/005]), a NNE-SSW/WNW-ESE aligned field system (Field System 2; ditches [2/006=10/004=15a/006], [7/007], [10/006=15a/008], [12/005], [12/007] and [15b/004] and a northwest-southeast aligned field system (Field System 3) including ditches [4/004], [14/005] and perhaps [9/005].
- Unfortunately, a lack of dating evidence means that any assessment of the date of these field systems must necessarily be tentative. Indeed, given that the entire finds assemblage from the site numbers just one sherd of pottery and a flint flake, it is difficult to be certain of the date of any of the features on the site and residuality is an issue that cannot be ignored. None of the recorded ditches appear on any of the historic maps examined as part of the prior *Desk Based Assessment* (CgMs 2010), the earliest of which is the 1843 Haywards Heath Tithe map, which shows the site to form part of a larger, undivided field. Nevertheless, the relatively fresh sherd of medieval pottery recovered from ditch [1a/005] may be taken to suggest a possible medieval date for the associated Field System 1. It is possible that this field system is broadly aligned on Butler's Green Road which forms the northern boundary to the site.
- 7.4 The other field systems identified on the site essentially remain undated. It is possible to propose a prehistoric date for Field System 2 on the basis of a single struck flint flake from ditch [4/006], though this might be demanding too much of the available evidence. However, in itself, this flint flake adds to a small corpus of similar finds in the vicinity of the site that indicates low-level activity during the later prehistoric period.
- Other features revealed during the course of the fieldwork include a handful of pits, including [6/005], [7/009], [11/005], [15a/004] and [14/007] and the small hearth or fire pit [14/009]. Many of these features are scattered across the site with no obvious patterning and are consistent with low-level activity associated with the obviously agricultural character of the site. However, it is possible to perceive a slight concentration of features towards the south of the site in the vicinity of Trenches 14 and 15, including hearth [14/008] and pits [14/007] and [15a/004]. It is possible that this represents occupation though the absence of any associated finds, in itself, suggests that any such occupation might be best described as transitory and, of course, of unknown date.

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7.6 Finally, no evidence for the former Toll Gate House, as shown on the 1874 Ordnance Survey map, was identified during the investigations. The additional proposed trench, which it was hoped would assess the survival of remains, was not possible to excavate due to several onsite constraints. Discussions with the foreman from Landbuild at the time of the site visit indicated that no further groundwork was anticipated within the area of the Toll Gate House and as such there would be no impact on any below ground remains. Additionally, the shallow nature of the natural horizon, as observed in the excavations for the path, suggests that the potential for seeing surviving remains within the small area of proposed excavation is low,

the trees.

particularly in light of previous service excavations and heavy rooting from

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Acknowledgements

ASE would like to thank CgMs Consulting for commissioning the work and John Mills of WSCC for their guidance throughout the project.

APPENDIX 1: ENVIRONMENTAL SAMPLE DATA

Flot and residue quantification (* = 1-10, ** = 11-50, *** = 51-250, **** = >250) and weights

					Flot				Residue							
Sample Number	Context	Context / deposit type	Sample Volume litres	Sub-Sample Volume litres	Weight g	Flot volume ml	Volume scanned	Uncharred %	Sediment %	Charcoal <2mm	Charcoal >4mm	Weight (g)	Charcoal <4mm	Weight (g)	Charcoal Identifications	Other (eg ind, pot, cbm)
1	14/008	Hearth	10	10	8	35	35	90		***	***	24	****	6	Quercus sp. (93), cf. Euonymus europaeus (1), Indet. (6)	Magnetised material ***/44g

HER Summary Form

Site Code	BGR12	BGR12									
Identification Name and Address	Land south	Land south of Butler's Green Road, Haywards Heath, West Sussex									
County, District &/or Borough	West Suss	West Sussex									
OS Grid Refs.	NGR 5321	2 12386									
Geology	Tunbridge	Wells Sand	Formation								
Arch. South-East Project Number	5721	5721									
Type of Fieldwork	Eval. ✓	Excav.	Watching Brief	Standing Structure	Survey	Other					
Type of Site	Green Field ✓	Shallow Urban	Deep Urban	Other							
Dates of Fieldwork	Eval. 5- 13.11.12										
Sponsor/Client	CgMs										
Project Manager	Andy Leon	ard									
Project Supervisor	Diccon Ha	rt									
Period Summary	Palaeo.	Meso.	Neo.	BA	IA	RB					
	AS	MED ✓	PM	Other							

Summary

Archaeology South-East was commissioned by CgMs Consulting Ltd to undertake an archaeological evaluation on land to the south of Butler's Green Road, Haywards Heath, West Sussex, in advance of the redevelopment of the site.

A total of 22 trenches were excavated across the site, totalling some 481m trenching. The underlying natural geology, consisting of Tunbridge Wells Sand, was encountered at a maximum height of a maximum elevation of 94.41m OD in the south central part of the site, falling away to 92.79m OD in the far northwest of the site and 93.83m in the far northeast, with a minimum elevation of 91.34m OD recorded in the north central part of the site.

Archaeological features recorded during the course of the evaluation largely consisted of field boundary ditches, with at least three superimposed field systems present on the site, including a north-south/east west field system, a NNE-SSW/WNW-ESE aligned field system and a northwest-southeast aligned field system. Other features revealed include a handful of pits, most of which are scattered across the site with no obvious patterning, although a slight concentration of features, including a small hearth, in the south of the site might indicate transitory occupation. There was very scant dating evidence and the features and field boundary ditches remain essentially undated.

OASIS Form

Printable version

OASIS ID: archaeol6-137727

Project details

Land south of Butler's Green Road, Haywards Heath, Project name

West Sussex

Archaeology South-East was commissioned by CgMs Consulting Ltd to undertake an archaeological evaluation on land to the south of Butler's Green Road, Haywards Heath, West Sussex, in advance of the redevelopment of the site. A total of 22 trenches were excavated across the site, totalling some 481m trenching. The underlying natural geology, consisting of Tunbridge Wells Sand, was encountered at a maximum height of a maximum elevation of 94.41m OD in the south central part of the

Short description of the project

site, falling away to 92.79m OD in the far northwest of the site and 93.83m in the far northeast, with a minimum elevation of 91.34m OD recorded in the north central part of the site. Archaeological features recorded during the course of the evaluation largely consisted of field boundary ditches, with at least three superimposed field systems present on the site, including a north-south/east west field system, a NNE-SSW/WNW-ESE aligned field system and a northwest-southeast aligned field system. Other features revealed include a handful of pits, most of which are scattered across the site with no obvious patterning, although a slight concentration of features. including a small hearth, in the south of the site might indicate transitory occupation. There was very scant dating evidence and the features and field boundary ditches remain essentially undated.

Start: 05-11-2012 End: 13-11-2012 Project dates

Previous/future

work

No / Not known

Any associated

project reference BGR12 - Sitecode

codes

Any associated

project reference 5721 - Contracting Unit No.

codes

Type of project Field evaluation

Site status None

Current Land use Vacant Land 2 - Vacant land not previously developed

DITCH Medieval Monument type

Monument type PIT Uncertain

Monument type **HEARTH Uncertain** Monument type **DITCH Uncertain** Significant Finds **POTTERY Medieval** Significant Finds FLAKE Uncertain

Methods & techniques

"Sample Trenches"

Development type Rural residential **Prompt** Planning condition

Position in the planning process

After full determination (eg. As a condition)

Project location

Country **England**

WEST SUSSEX MID SUSSEX HAYWARDS HEATH Land

Site location south of Butler's Green Road, Haywards Heath, West

Sussex

Postcode **RH16 4BQ**

Study area 2.19 Hectares

Site coordinates TQ 321 238 50 0 50 59 52 N 000 07 02 W Point

Height OD / Depth Min: 91.34m Max: 94.41m

Project creators

Name of

Organisation

Archaeology South-East

Project brief

originator

Archaeology South-East

Project design

originator

Archaeology South-East

Project

director/manager

Andy Leonard

Project supervisor Diccon Hart

Type of

sponsor/funding

CgMs Consulting

body

Project archives

Physical Archive

Burgess Hill Museum

recipient

Physical Contents "Ceramics"

Digital Archive

recipient

Burgess Hill Museum

Archaeology South-East

Eval: Butlers Green Road, Haywards Heath, West Sussex ASE Report No: 2012233

Digital Contents "Environmental", "Survey", "Worked stone/lithics"

Digital Media "Images raster / digital

available photography", "Spreadsheets", "Survey", "Text"

Paper Archive

recipient

Burgess Hill Museum

Paper Contents "Ceramics"

Paper Media "Context

available

sheet","Correspondence","Report","Section","Unpublished

Text"

Project

bibliography 1

Publication type Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)

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Date 2012

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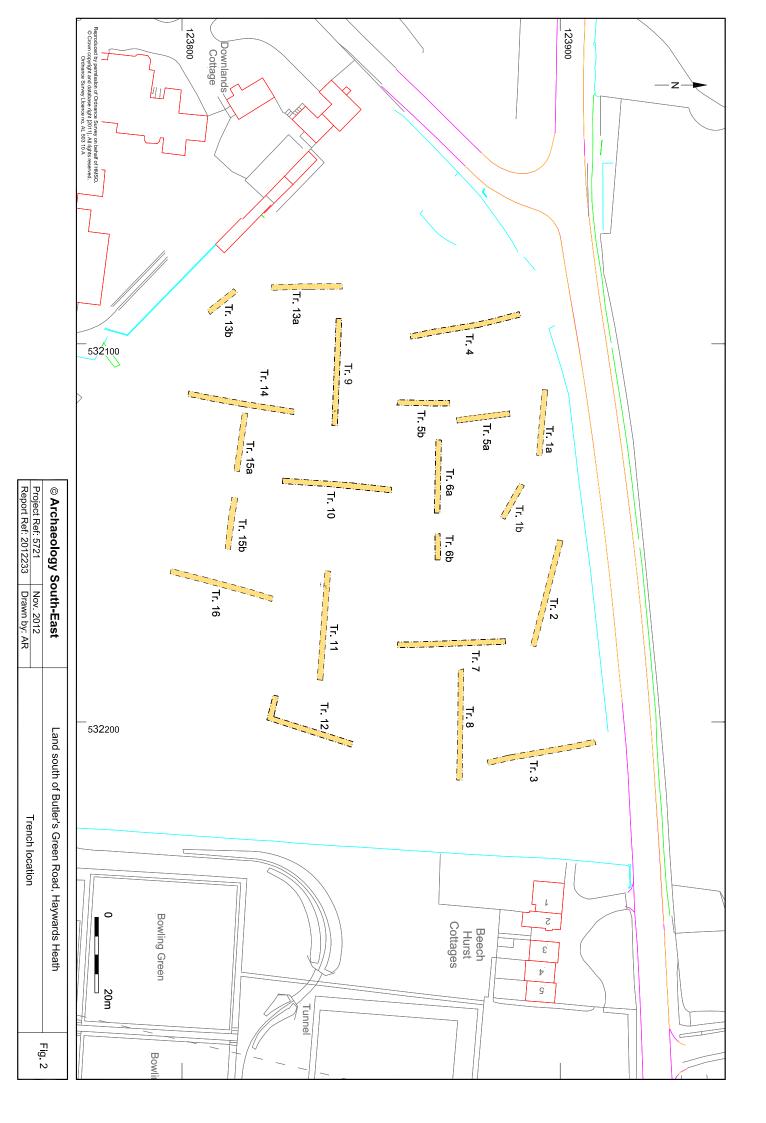
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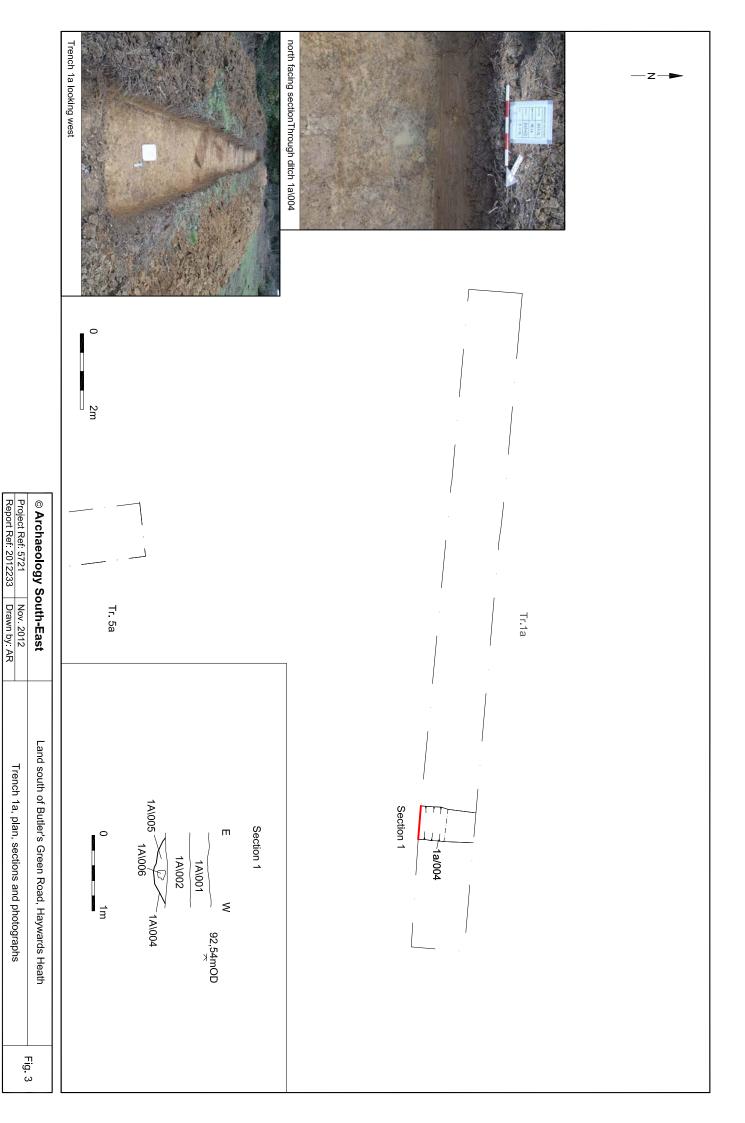
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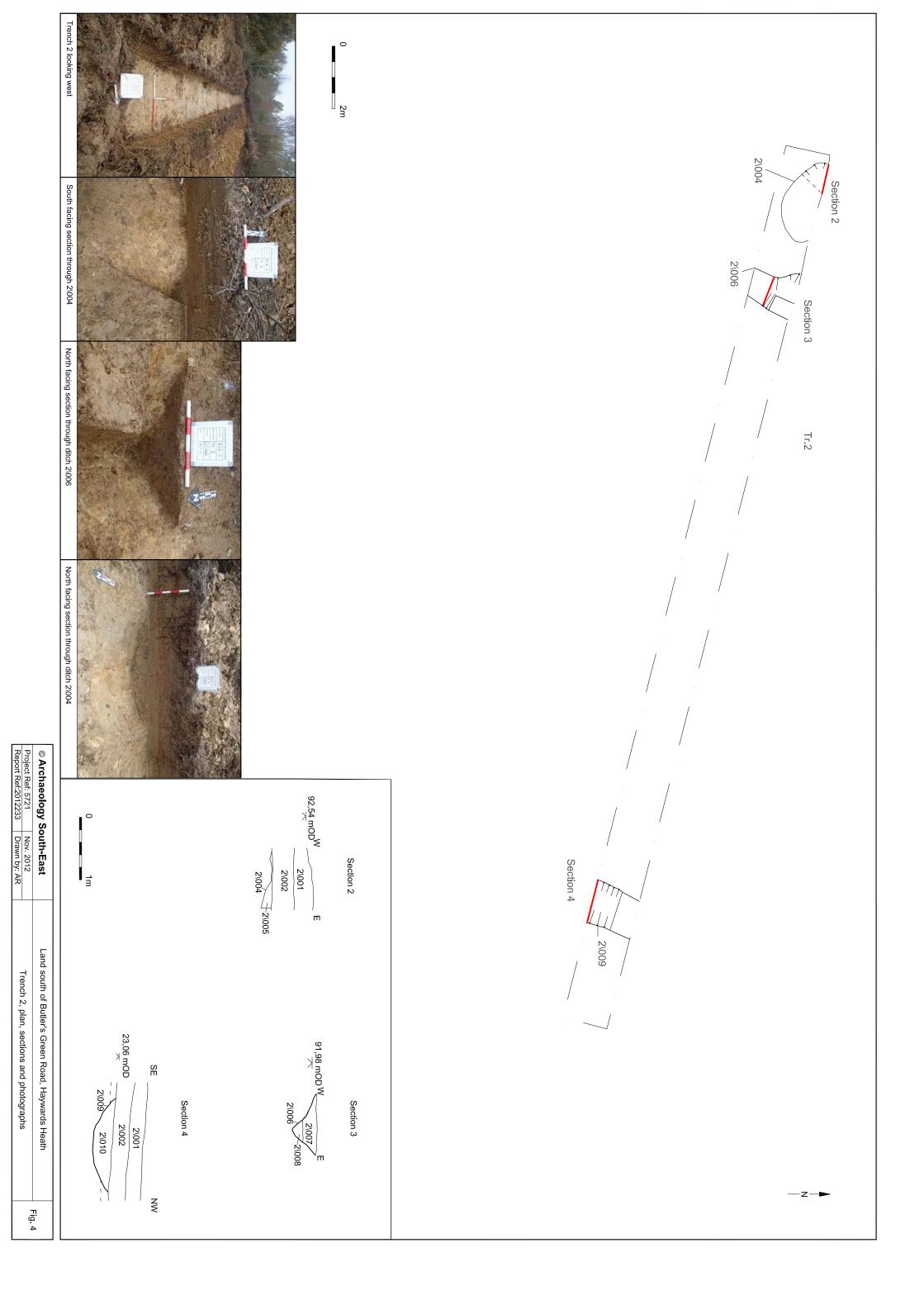
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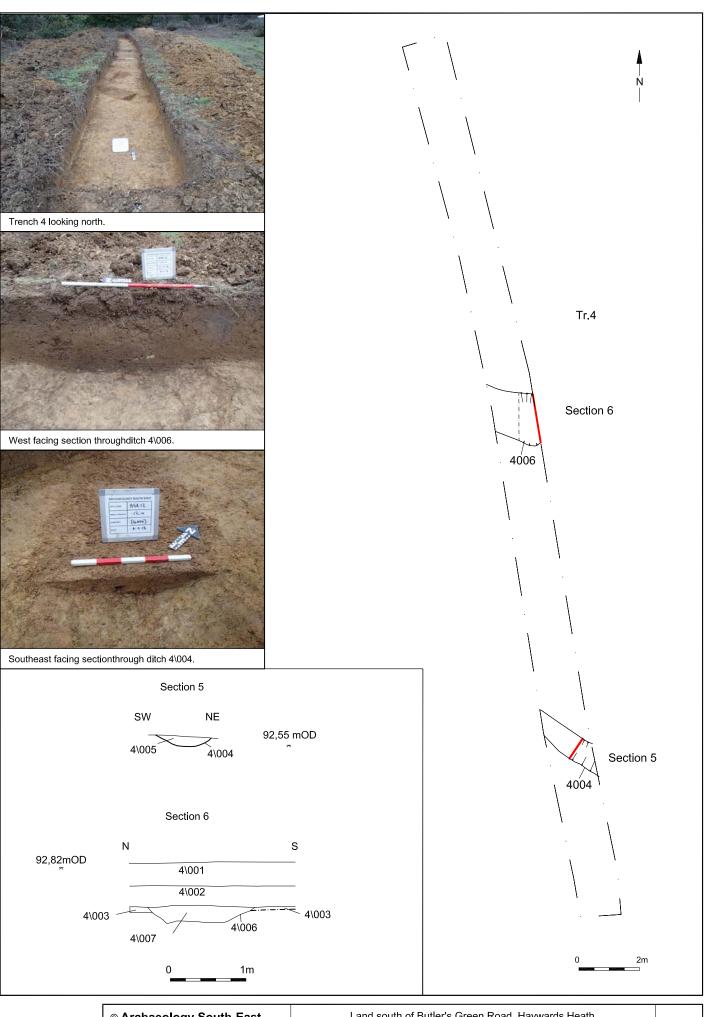


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Report Ref: 2012233	Drawn by: JLR	Site location	

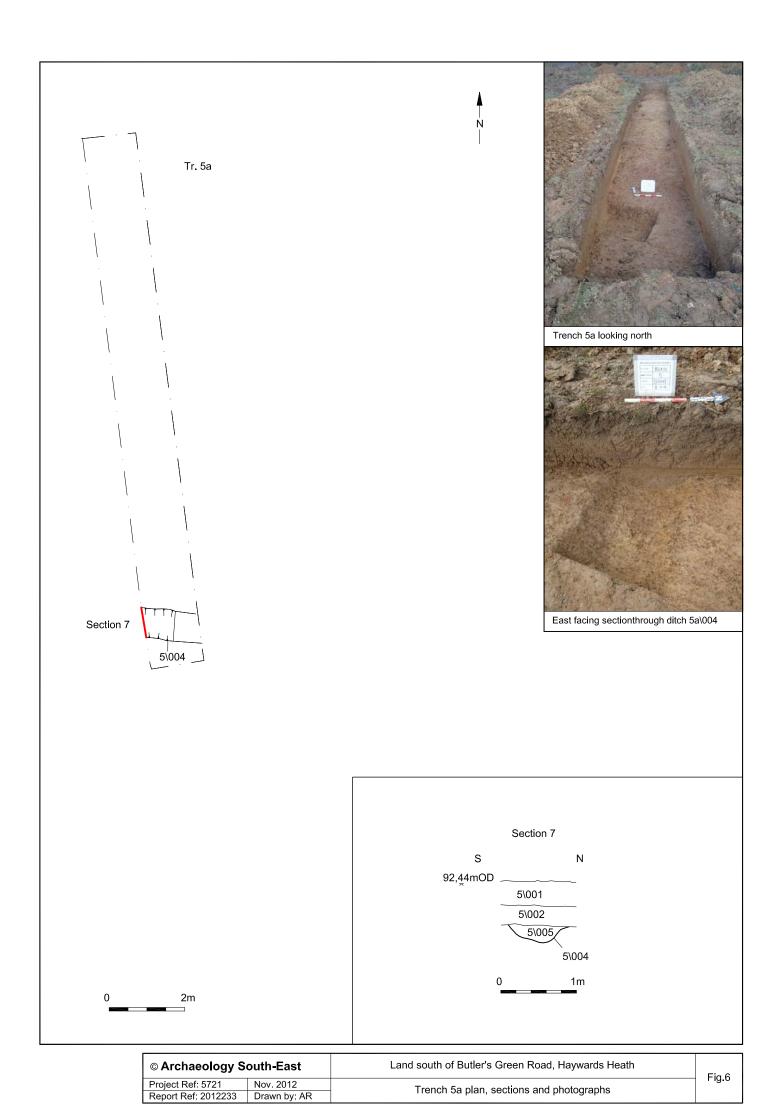


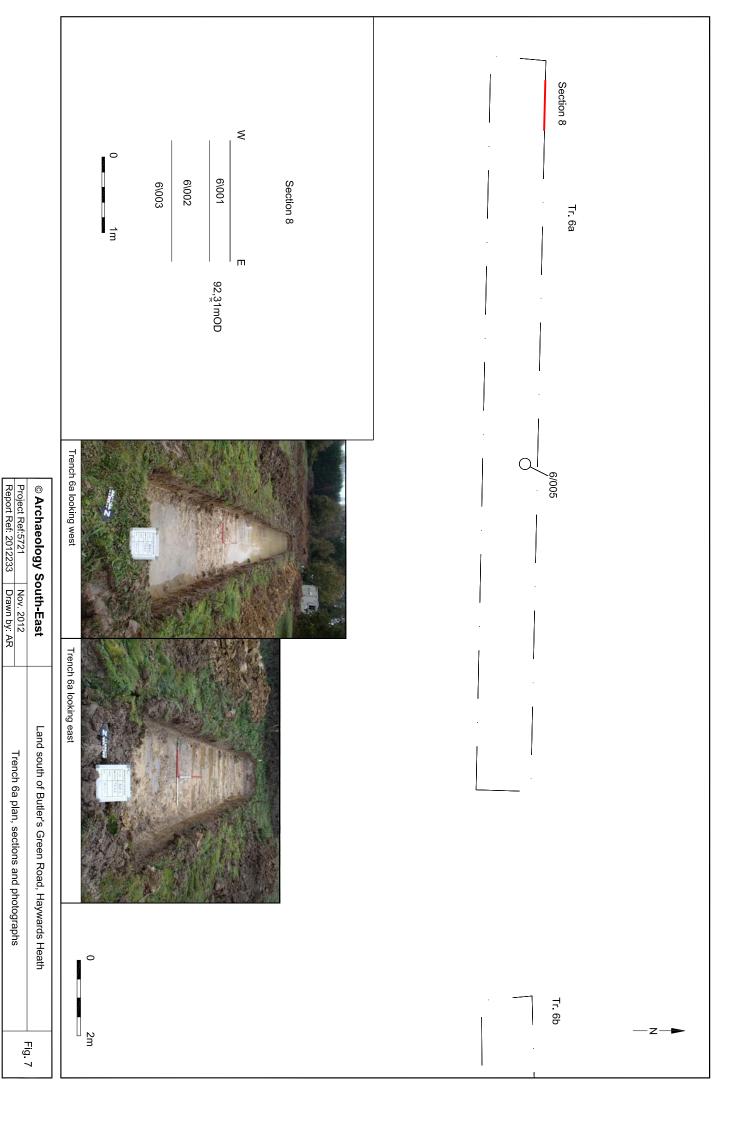


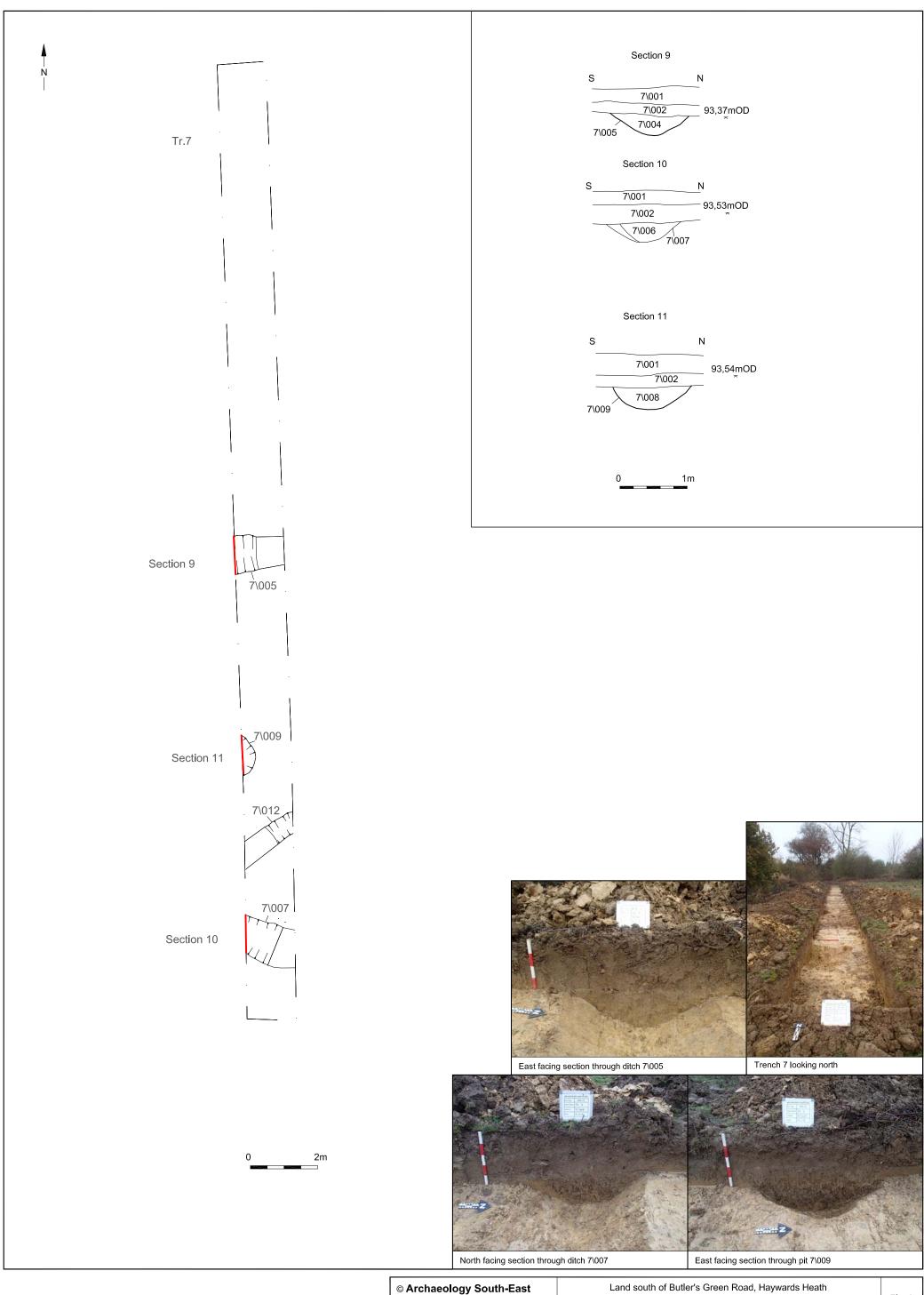




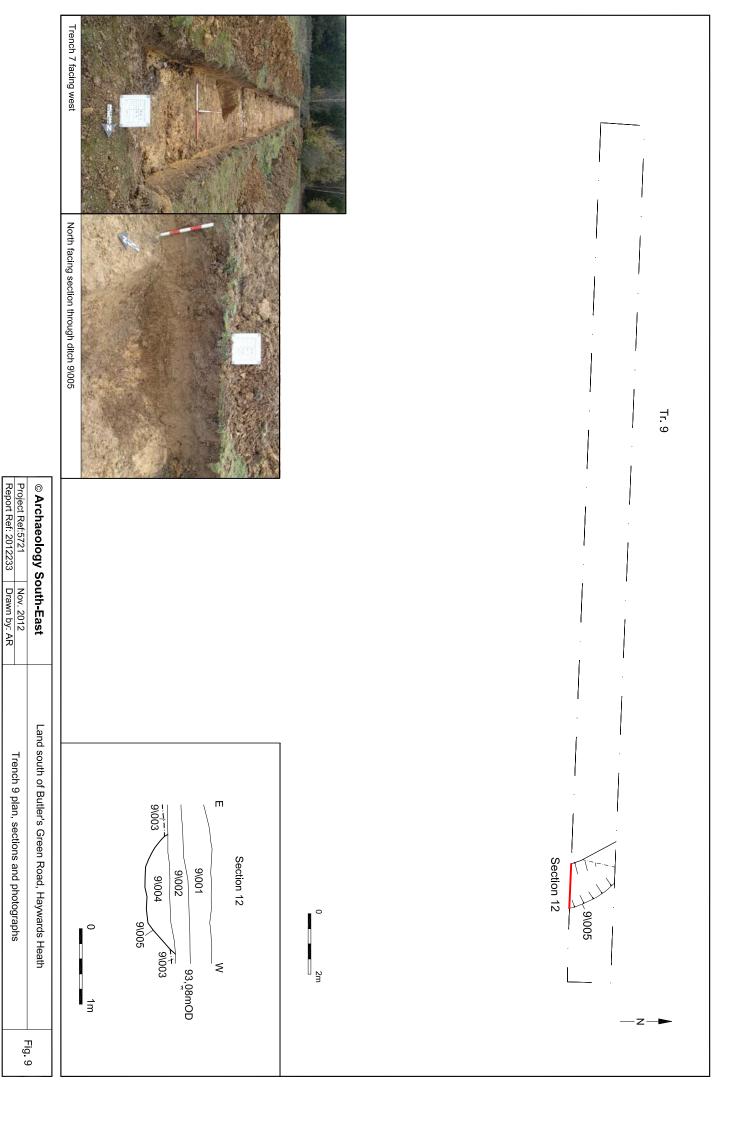
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Project Ref 5721	Nov. 2012	Trench 4 plan, sections and photographs	1 lg. 5	l
Report Ref: 2012233	Drawn by: AR	Trefficit 4 plant, sections and photographs		ı

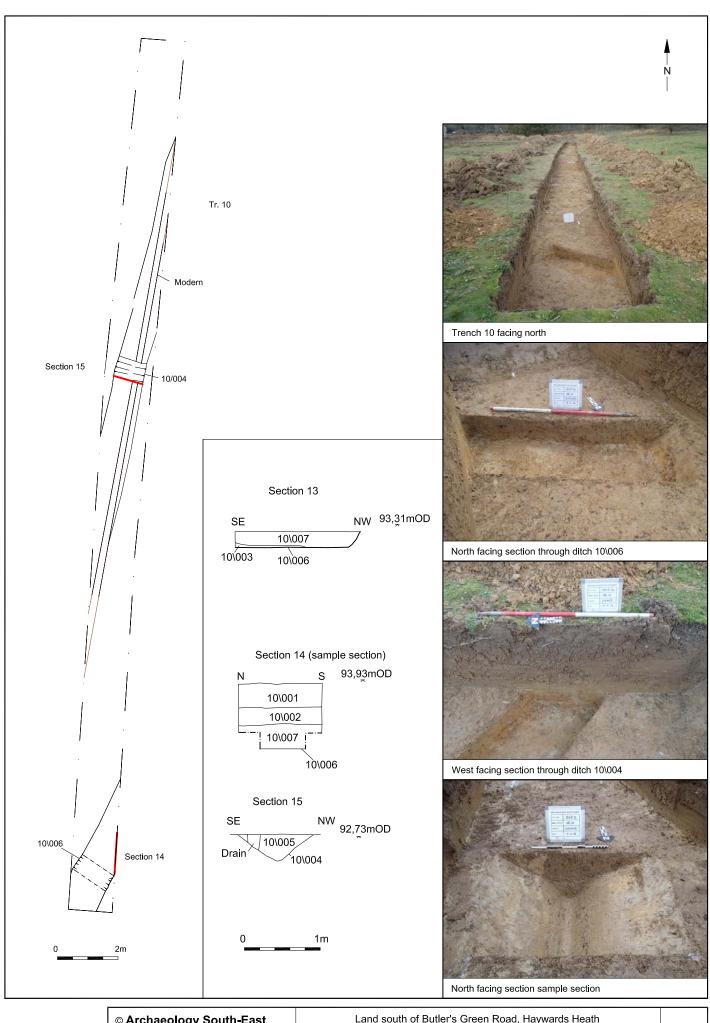




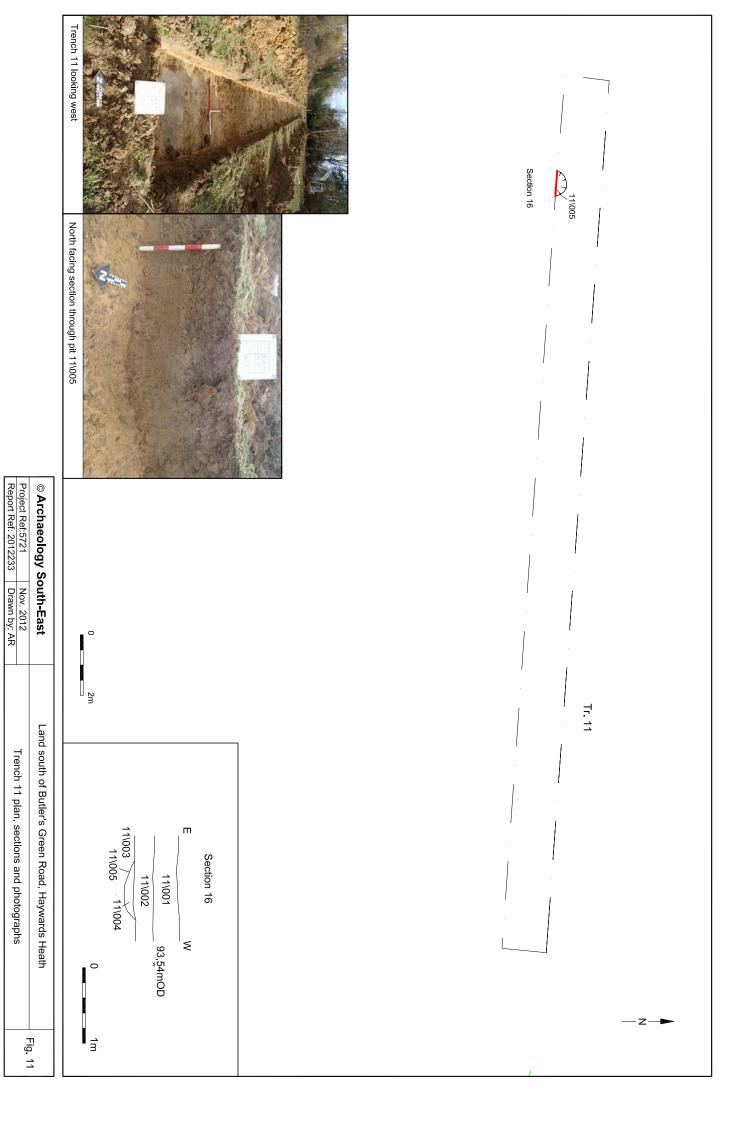


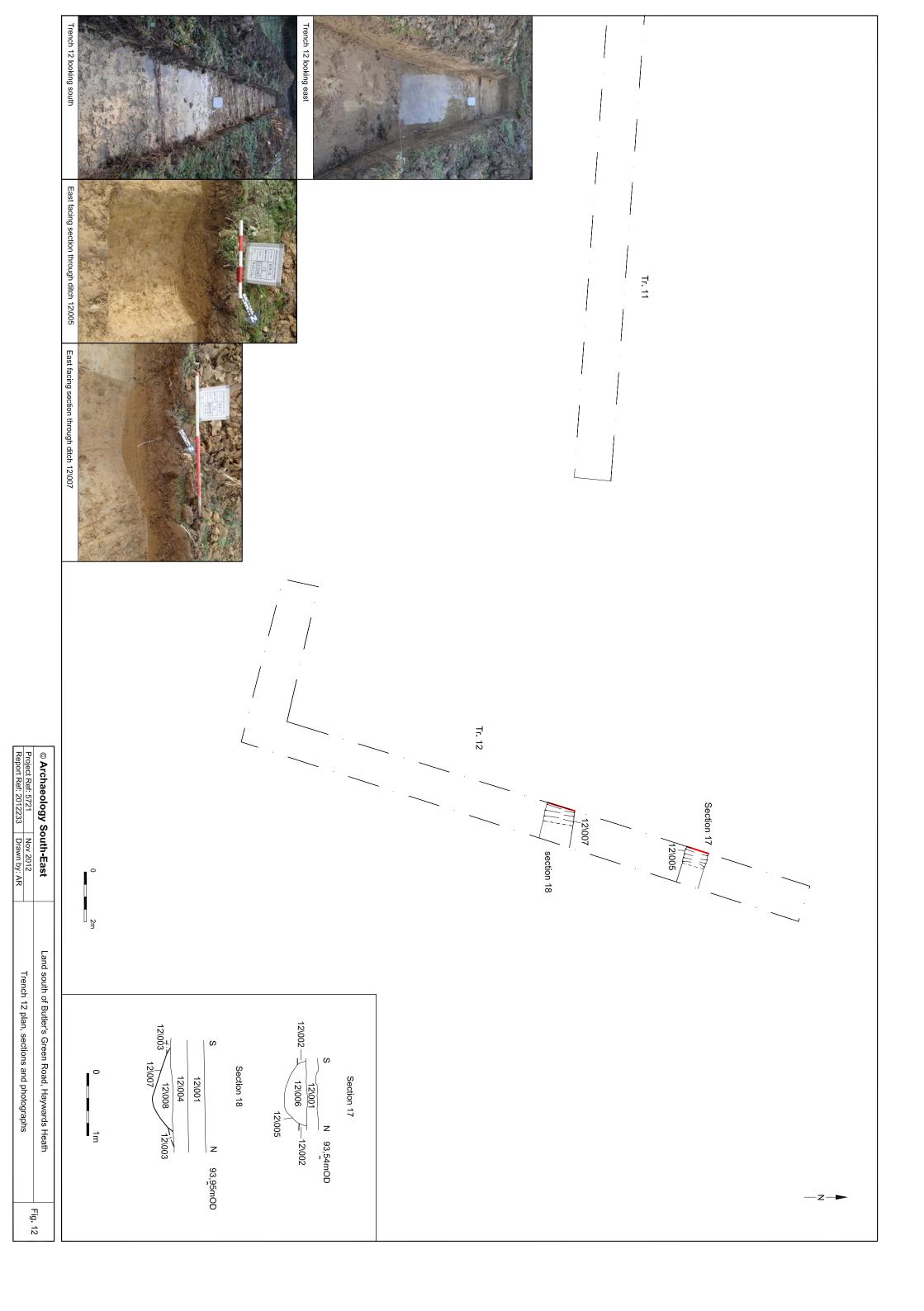
© Archaeology South-East		Land south of Butler's Green Road, Haywards Heath	Fig. 8
Project Ref. 5721	Nov. 2012	Trench 7 plan, sections and photographs	1 19. 0
Report Ref: 2012233	Drawn by: AR	Trench / plant, sections and photographs	

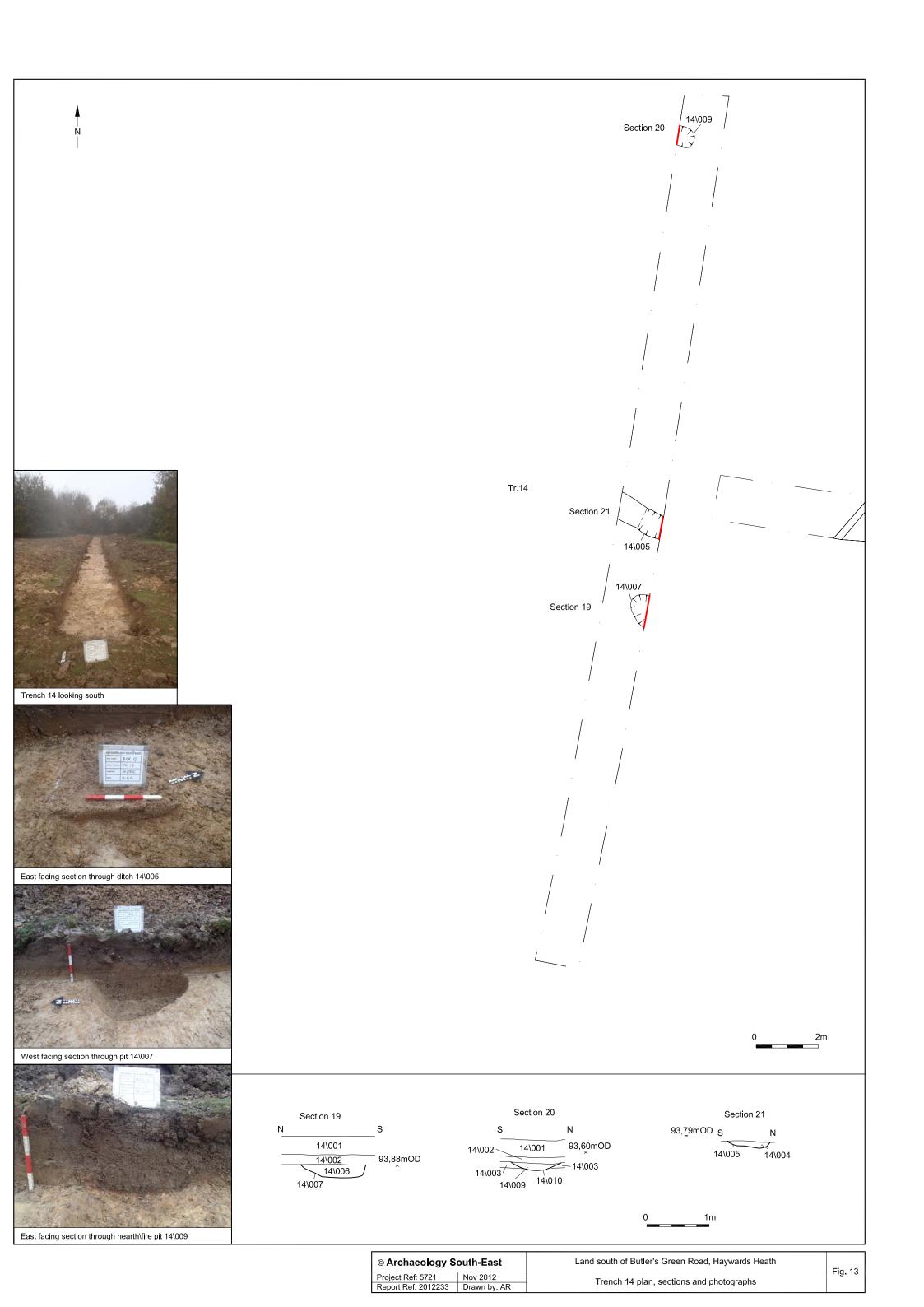


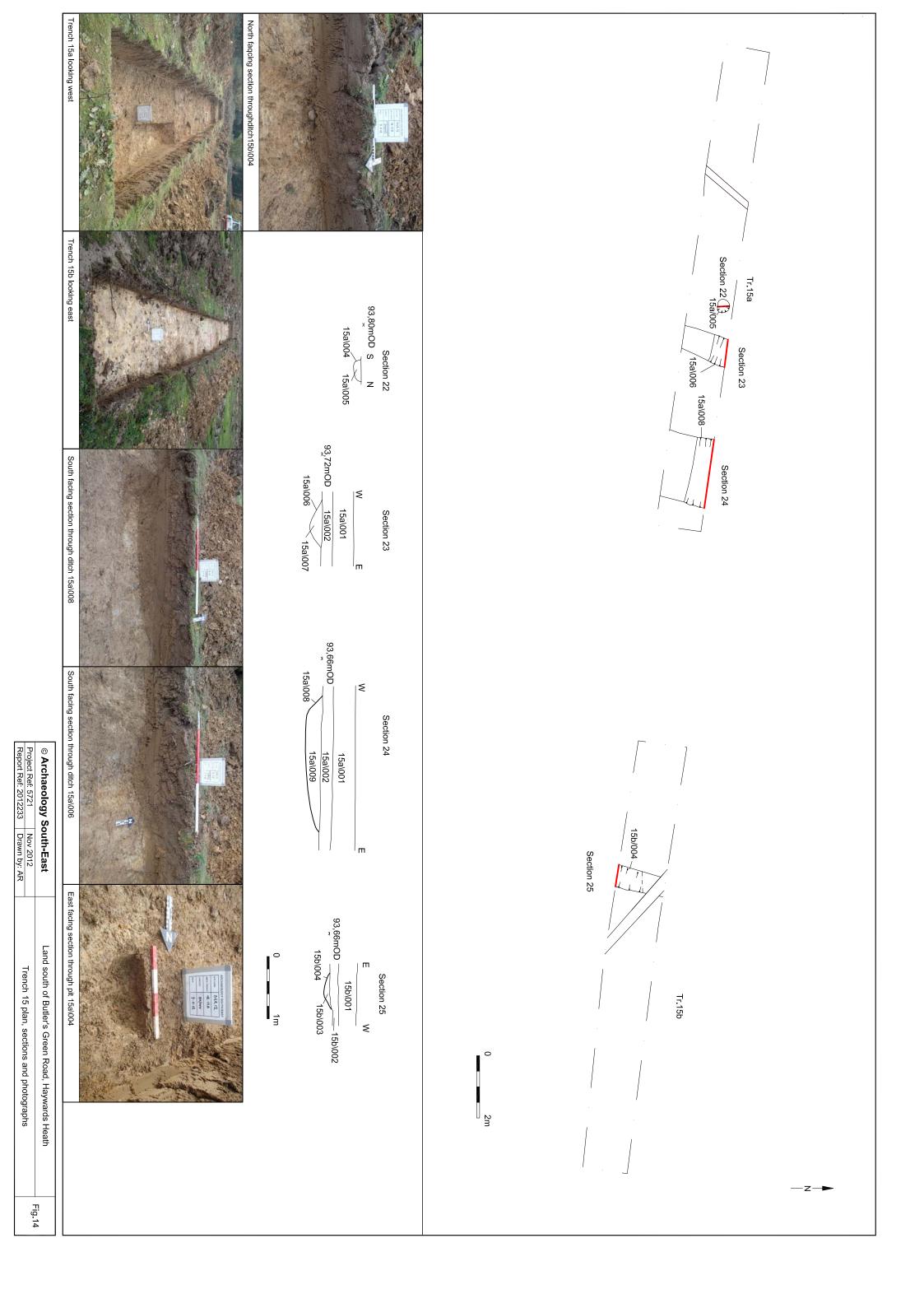


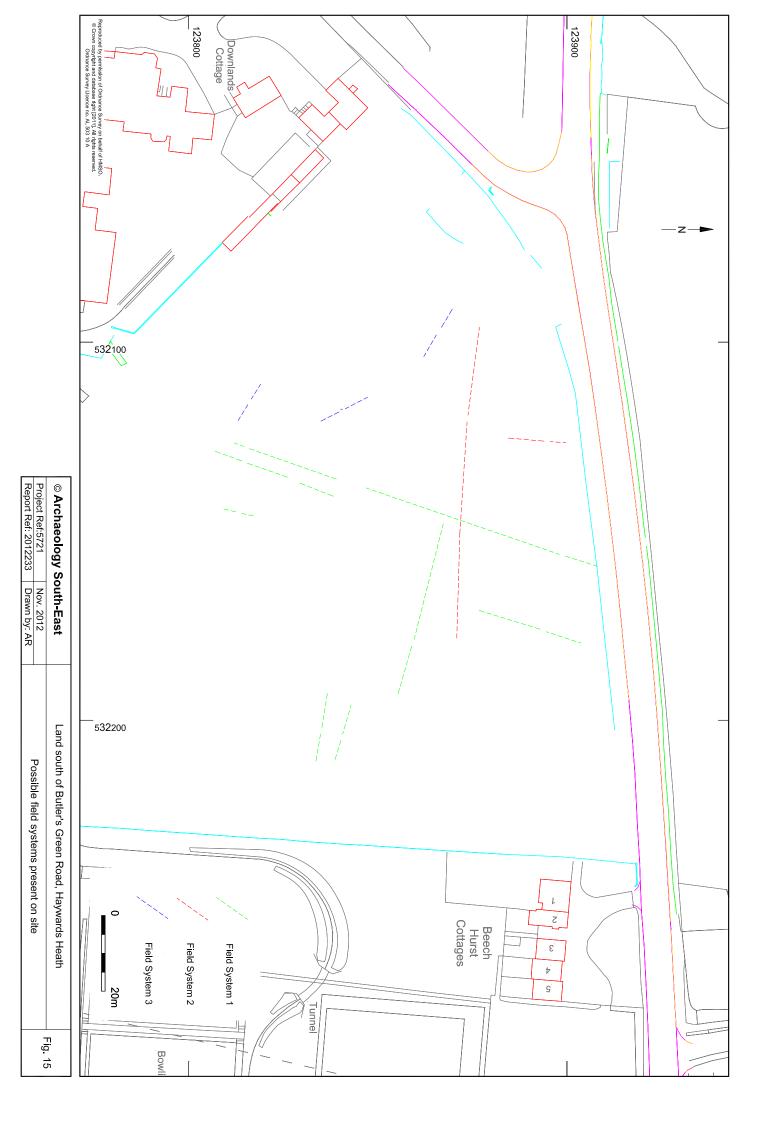
	© Archaeology S	outh-East	Land south of Butler's Green Road, Haywards Heath	Fig. 10
	Project Ref. 5721	Nov 2012	Trench 10 plan, sections and photographs	1 19. 10
ı	Report Ref: 2012233	Drawn by: AR	Trench to plan, sections and photographs	











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