

**Archaeological Evaluation Report  
Millfield, Southwater, Horsham**

**NGR 516256 125440  
(TQ 16256 25440)**

**Horsham District Council Planning Ref. DC/11/0657**

**Project No. 5045  
Site Code: SOU11  
Horsham Museum Accession No.: HDM: 2011.275**

**ASE Report No. 2012079  
OASIS ID: archaeol6-121811**

**By  
Simon Stevens BA MIFA**

**With contributions by  
Luke Barber, Trista Clifford, Anna Doherty, Karine Le Hégarat and Sarah Porteus**

**Illustrations by Justin Russell**

**April 2012**

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**Abstract**

*Archaeology South-East was commissioned by Bovis Homes Ltd. to undertake an archaeological evaluation on land at Millfield, Southwater, Horsham, West Sussex. A total of 24 trial trenches of varying lengths were mechanically excavated to provide a c.3% sample of the site. The trenches were located to target both geophysical anomalies identified during a previous magnetometry survey and to test some of the apparently 'blank' areas, to achieve an even sample across the remainder of the development area.*

*The results show a clear concentration of Late Iron Age/Romano-British, medieval and post-medieval features at the northern end of the examined area. Some correspond to geophysical anomalies and suggest the presence of enclosures/field system(s), ponds and other features.*

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## **1.0 INTRODUCTION**

### **1.1 Site Background**

- 1.1.1 Archaeology South-East (ASE), a division of the Centre for Applied Archaeology (CAA), Institute of Archaeology (IoA), University College London (UCL) was commissioned by Bovis Homes Ltd. to undertake an archaeological evaluation on land at Millfield, Southwater, Horsham, West Sussex (NGR 516256 125440) (Fig. 1)

### **1.2 Topography and Geology**

- 1.2.1 The 4.5ha site is located to the south-east of the centre of Southwater on land between the current extent of the settlement and the A24. It is bounded to the north by Stakers Lane and to the west by boundaries of properties fronting onto Millfield and Turners Close. The eastern boundary is with a pathway next to the A24, and the southern boundary is with Mill Straight, from which the site is currently accessed via a bridleway.
- 1.2.2 According to current data from the British Geological Survey, the underlying bedrock is the Weald Clay formation. There is no recorded superficial geology (BGS 2012).

### **1.3 Planning Background**

- 1.3.1 A planning application has been submitted to Horsham District Council for the erection of 131 houses with associated parking and access (planning ref. DC/11/0657). Following consultation between Horsham District Council and West Sussex County Council (Horsham District Council's advisers on archaeological issues) a condition has been attached to any permission requiring a programme of archaeological work prior to the commencement of the development.
- 1.3.2 Initial archaeological work consisted of the production of an archaeological desk-based assessment (DBA) of the potential of the site prior (ASE 2010). This was followed by the completion of a detailed magnetometer survey of the site carried out in August 2011 (ASE 2011a). Based on the results of this survey, John Mills, Senior Archaeologist, West Sussex recommended the implementation of an archaeological evaluation of the site by trial trenching.
- 1.3.3 Subsequently ASE prepared a *Written Scheme of Investigation* for the archaeological evaluation of the site by mechanically excavated trial trenches, which was approved by West Sussex County Council in advance of the commencement of work (ASE 2011b).

## **1.4 Aims and Objectives**

- 1.4.1 The broad aim stated in the *Written Scheme of Investigation (ibid.)* was to ascertain 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. This would be achieved by studying an adequate representative sample of all areas where archaeological remains could potentially be threatened.
- 1.4.2 The evaluation also sought 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.
- 1.4.3 Within these parameters, the evaluation of this site presented an opportunity to address the following objectives:
- To establish the presence or absence of archaeological deposits, especially those identified in the Stage 2 magnetometry survey.
  - To evaluate the likely impact of past land use.'

## **1.5 Scope of Report**

- 1.5.1 The current report provides the results of the archaeological evaluation carried out in March and April 2012. The on-site work was undertaken by Andrew Margetts and Simon Stevens (Senior Archaeologists), Liz Chambers and Catherine Douglas (Assistant Archaeologists) and by John Cook and Lesley Davidson (Archaeological Surveyors). The project was managed by Neil Griffin (Project Manager) and by Dan Swift (Post-Excavation Manager).

## 2.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

### 2.1 Summary of HER Data

2.1.1 The desk-based assessment detailed all archaeological sites and listed buildings on the West Sussex County Council Historic Environment Record, from a radius of 1 km around the current site (ASE 2010). These data are summarised in Table 1 and plotted on Figure 1. The DBA suggested low potential for the survival of archaeological remains. However, this probably partly reflects the paucity of published archaeological fieldwork in the vicinity.

Site No.	HER/LBS No.	NGR (TQ)	Description	Period
1	3556	16000 26000	Neolithic worked flints found 3 feet down at Stakers prior to 1931.	Neolithic
2	3570	1620 2640	Large number of Mesolithic or Neolithic sites found in the Horsham/Nuthurst area by fieldwalking. <i>Archaeologically Sensitive Area</i>	Mesolithic - Neolithic
3	299251	16740 26169	Stakers Farm. 15C hall-house. <i>Grade II Listed Building</i>	Medieval
4	3580	15800 26000	Former brickworks operated by the Sussex & Dorking United Brick Company.	Post-Medieval
5	6166	16100 26000	Brickworks in operation by 1874 and still marked on 1899 mapping.	Post-Medieval
6	3584	16100 25300	Cripplegate Windmill, built in 1806. Destroyed by fire 1914.	Post-Medieval
7	3609	16950 24850	Copsale Mill, a watermill predating 1874.	Post-Medieval
8	8410	1597 2540	Milestone from 1764 turnpiking, erected by the Horsham and Steyning Turnpike Trust. Inscribed '40 MILES FROM LONDON'.	Post-Medieval
9	299498	16703 24759	Big Pollardshill Farmhouse (17 <sup>th</sup> century) <i>Grade II Listed Building</i>	Post-Medieval
10	299283	15619 26213	The Cock Inn (16 <sup>th</sup> century) <i>Grade II Listed Building</i>	Post-Medieval
11	5281	1684 2608	Sunken track and bridge.	Undated

Table 1: WSCC HER and Listed Building Data.

### 2.2 Recent Prospection and Fieldwork

2.2.1 Recent field-walking to the west of Southwater uncovered a limited assemblage of flintwork and fire-cracked flint which suggests Mesolithic and Neolithic activity in the vicinity. A small quantity of Romano-British pottery and medieval tile was also collected (ASE 2011c).

2.2.2 The Stage 2 magnetometry survey at the current site detected several anomalies (ASE 2011a). Most were linear and positive in response, although there were some positive anomalies potentially relating to discrete cut features and other dipolar anomalies which could indicate areas of burning (Fig. 2). Other features were interpreted as relating to recent agricultural activity or attributed to areas of magnetic disturbance caused by surface metal objects. An archaeological watching brief was also carried out during the excavation of four geotechnical test pits (Fig. 2). The results of this watching brief were described in the Stage 2 report (*ibid.*); no archaeological features, deposits or artefacts were identified.



### **3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY**

#### **3.1 Excavation**

- 3.1.1 A total of 24 trial trenches of 1.8m in width and of varying lengths, were originally planned to provide a c.3% sample of the site (Fig. 2). They were located both to target geophysical anomalies identified during the magnetometry survey and to test some of the apparently 'blank' areas to achieve an even sample across the remainder of the development area.
- 3.1.2 As a result of ecological restraints in the northern part of the site, a smaller machine with a narrower bucket was used. This meant that the Trenches 21-23 were only 1.2m in width so a further trench (Trench 24) was added to complete the c.3% sample of the area.
- 3.1.3 The location of each of the trenches was scanned prior to excavation using a CAT scanner. The trenches were then excavated by a mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket, under the constant supervision of staff from Archaeology South-East.
- 3.1.4 The mechanical excavation was taken down to the top of 'natural' geological deposits, or to the top of any recognisable archaeological deposits, whichever was the higher. Care was taken not to damage archaeological deposits through excessive use of mechanical excavation. Revealed surfaces of the 'natural' geology were manually cleaned in an attempt to identify archaeological features. Spoil was scanned for the presence of artefacts, both visually and with a metal detector.

#### **3.2 Recording**

- 3.2.1 All encountered archaeological deposits, features and finds were recorded to accepted professional standards using standard Archaeology South-East context record forms. Deposit colours were recorded by visual inspection and not by reference to a Munsell Colour chart. Sections were drawn on drafting film at a scale of 1:10 or 1:20 as appropriate. A full photographic record of the work was also kept.

### 3.3 Archive

- 3.3.1 The site archive is currently held by Archaeology South-East at the offices in Portslade, and will be deposited at Horsham Museum in due course under the accession number HDM: 2011.275. The archive consists of the following material:

Number of Contexts	121
Trench Record Forms	24
No. of files/paper record	1
Plan and sections sheets	2
Bulk Samples	2
Photographs	95
Bulk finds	1 box
Registered finds	-
Environmental flots/residue	2 of each

Table 2: Quantification of Site Archive

## **4.0 RESULTS**

### **4.1 Introduction (Fig. 2)**

- 4.1.1 Four trenches were excavated to the south of the bridleway that divides the site (T1 to T4). The locations of Trenches 2 and 3 were moved owing to the presence of overhead services. Nineteen trenches were excavated to the north of the bridleway (T5 to T24), including four which were excavated in an area occupied by trees and saplings, located at the extreme north end of the site (T21 to 24), using a smaller machine and a narrower bucket than used for the other evaluation trenches to avoid damage to the trees.
- 4.1.2 The whole site had been subjected to a destructive reptile survey which involved the removal of the upper part of the topsoil from the majority of the area. Although this clearly resulted in a significant campaign of earthmoving, there was no evidence that any damage had been caused to archaeological deposits.
- 4.1.3 The archaeological evaluation was undertaken in March and early April. Although misty during the early morning on occasions, light conditions were good for initial identification and recording of archaeological features. Heavy overnight rain caused some problems with localised flooding of features, but on the whole, manual excavation of the features proceeded smoothly.

### **4.2 Trench 1**

<b>Context Number</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Max. Deposit Thickness</b>
1/001	Deposit	Topsoil	200mm
1/002	Deposit	Subsoil	190mm
1/003	Deposit	'Natural'	-

Table 3: List of Recorded Contexts in Trench 1

- 4.2.1 Trench 1 was excavated to a length of 20m and to a depth of 280mm (48.06m AOD) at the north-eastern end and to 390mm (47.70m AOD) at the south-western end. At this level natural geology was encountered and mechanical excavation ceased. The overburden consisted of two distinct layers, context [1/001], a mid-greyish brown silty clay topsoil, and context [1/002], a subsoil which was virtually indistinguishable in colour and texture from the topsoil. It directly overlay the natural geology, [1/003], which was a yellow clay with patches of grey mottling and occasional outcrops of laminar mudstone of a similar colour, especially at the southern end of the trench.
- 4.2.2 No archaeological deposits or features were encountered in the trench. A small assemblage of 20<sup>th</sup> century artefacts was recovered from the overburden.

#### 4.3 Trench 2

Context Number	Type	Description	Max. Deposit Thickness
2/001	Deposit	Topsoil	120mm
2/002	Deposit	Subsoil	170mm
2/003	Deposit	'Natural'	-
2/004	Cut	Ditch	
2/005	Fill	Ditch	30mm
2/006	Fill	Ditch	80mm

Table 4: List of Recorded Contexts in Trench 2

- 4.3.1 The location of Trench 2 was moved c.19m to the south-west of its proposed location to avoid the alignment of an overhead service. It was excavated to a length of 30m and to a depth of 290mm (48.19m AOD) at the north-eastern end and to 240mm (48.06m AOD) at the south-western end. At this level natural geology was encountered and mechanical excavation ceased. The layers of overburden and natural geology were similar to those found in Trench 1.
- 4.3.2 A feature located during the geophysical survey was identified and investigated (Fig. 2, M14; Fig. 3). Ditch [2/004] was 850mm wide and 110mm deep and ran broadly north-west to south-east across the trench. The primary fill was context [2/005], a yellowish grey silty clay, presumably resulting from silting on the base of the feature. The upper fill was context [2/006], a brownish grey silty clay, which contained pottery of 17<sup>th</sup> to mid 18<sup>th</sup> century date and a number of large roots. Other elements of this feature (presumed to be a hedgerow), were located in the trench but not recorded in detail.

#### 4.4 Trench 3

Context Number	Type	Description	Max. Deposit Thickness
3/001	Deposit	Topsoil	330mm
3/002	Deposit	'Natural'	-

Table 5: List of Recorded Contexts in Trench 3

- 4.4.1 Trench 3 was shortened from the planned length to avoid overhead services. It was excavated to a length of 21m and to a depth of 230mm (49.74m AOD) at the western end and to 330mm (49.39m AOD) at the eastern end. At this level, the natural geology was encountered and mechanical excavation ceased. The topsoil and natural geology were similar in character to those found in Trench 1. There was no discernible subsoil layer.
- 4.4.2 No archaeological deposits, features or finds were encountered in the trench.

#### 4.5 Trench 4

Context Number	Type	Description	Max. Deposit Thickness
4/001	Deposit	Topsoil	180mm
4/002	Deposit	Subsoil	90mm
4/003	Deposit	'Natural'	-

Table 6: List of Recorded Contexts in Trench 4

- 4.5.1 Trench 4 was excavated to a length of 30m and to a depth of 150mm (48.92m AOD) at the north-western end and to 230mm (248.17m AOD) at the south-eastern end. At this level natural geology was encountered and mechanical excavation ceased. The layers of overburden and natural geology were similar to those found in Trench 1.
- 4.5.2 No archaeological deposits or features were encountered in the trench. A small assemblage of artefacts, including 19<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup> century peg-tile, was recovered from the overburden.

#### 4.6 Trench 5

Context Number	Type	Description	Max. Deposit Thickness
5/001	Deposit	Topsoil	340mm
5/002	Deposit	'Natural'	-

Table 7: List of Recorded Contexts in Trench 5

- 4.6.1 Trench 5 was excavated to a length of 30m and to a depth of 340mm (47.13m AOD) at the northern end and to 280mm (47.66mAOD) at the southern end. At this level the natural geology was encountered and mechanical excavation ceased. The topsoil and natural geology were similar in character to those found in Trench 1. There was no discernible subsoil layer.
- 4.6.2 No archaeological deposits or features were encountered in the trench. A small amount of fire-cracked flint was recovered from the overburden.

#### 4.7 Trench 6

Context Number	Type	Description	Max. Deposit Thickness
6/001	Deposit	Topsoil	260mm
6/002	Deposit	'Natural'	-

Table 8: List of Recorded Contexts in Trench 6

- 4.7.1 Trench 6 was excavated to a length of 30m and to a depth of 140mm (46.66m AOD) at the north-eastern end and to 260mm (47.78m AOD) at the south-western end. At this level the natural geology was encountered and mechanical excavation ceased. The topsoil and natural geology were similar in character to those found in Trench 1. There was no discernible subsoil

layer.

- 4.7.2 No archaeological deposits or features were encountered in the trench. A small assemblage of artefacts was recovered from the overburden

#### **4.8 Trench 7**

<b>Context Number</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Max. Deposit Thickness</b>
7/001	Deposit	Topsoil	160mm
7/002	Deposit	Subsoil	140mm
7/003	Deposit	'Natural'	-

Table 9: List of Recorded Contexts in Trench 7

- 4.8.1 Trench 7 was excavated to a length of 30m and to a depth of 240mm (45.79m AOD) at the north-eastern end and to 300mm (45.54m AOD) at the south-western end. At this level the natural geology was encountered and mechanical excavation ceased. The two layers of overburden and natural geology were similar in character to those found in Trench 1.
- 4.8.2 No archaeological deposits or features were encountered in the trench. A small assemblage of artefacts, including peg-tile of 19<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> century date, was recovered from the overburden.

#### **4.9 Trench 8**

<b>Context Number</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Max. Deposit Thickness</b>
8/001	Deposit	Topsoil	270mm
8/002	Deposit	'Natural'	-

Table 10: List of Recorded Contexts in Trench 8

- 4.9.1 Trench 8 was excavated to a length of 30m and to a depth of 270mm (45.73m AOD) at the north-western end and to 170mm (46.42m AOD) at the south-eastern end. At this level natural geology was encountered and mechanical excavation ceased. The topsoil and natural geology were similar in character to those found in Trench 1. There was no discernible subsoil layer.
- 4.9.2 No archaeological deposits or features were encountered in the trench, although a modern field drain, containing a ceramic pipe was located on the alignment of geophysical anomaly M4, which followed a field boundary seen on the 1897 Ordnance Survey map (Fig. 16). A small assemblage of artefacts, including pottery dating to the mid 16<sup>th</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup> centuries and to the earlier 19<sup>th</sup> century, was recovered from the overburden.

#### 4.10 Trench 9

Context Number	Type	Description	Max. Deposit Thickness
9/001	Deposit	Topsoil	200mm
9/002	Deposit	Subsoil	130mm
9/003	Deposit	'Natural'	-

Table 11: List of Recorded Contexts in Trench 9

4.10.1 Trench 9 was excavated to a length of 30m and to a depth of 240mm (43.08m AOD) at the northern end and to 330mm (44.50m AOD) at the southern end. At this level the natural geology was encountered and mechanical excavation ceased. The two layers of overburden and natural geology were similar in character to those found in Trench 1.

4.10.2 No archaeological deposits or features were encountered in the trench. A small assemblage of artefacts, including CBM of 17<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> century date, was recovered from the overburden.

#### 4.11 Trench 10

Context Number	Type	Description	Max. Deposit Thickness
10/001	Deposit	Topsoil	160mm
10/002	Deposit	Subsoil	220mm
10/003	Deposit	'Natural'	-

Table 12: List of Recorded Contexts in Trench 10

4.11.1 Trench 10 was excavated to a length of 30m and to a depth of 250mm (42.88m AOD) at the north-western end and to 380mm (42.59m AOD) at the south-eastern end. At this level the natural geology was encountered and mechanical excavation ceased. The two layers of overburden and natural geology were similar in character to those found in Trench 1.

4.11.2 No archaeological deposits or features were encountered in the trench. A small assemblage of artefacts was recovered from the overburden. A modern field drain, containing a ceramic pipe was located on the alignment of geophysical anomaly M4 (Fig. 2). A small assemblage of artefacts, including CBM of 19<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> century date, was recovered from the overburden

#### 4.12 Trench 11

Context Number	Type	Description	Max. Deposit Thickness
11/001	Deposit	Topsoil	180mm
11/002	Deposit	Subsoil	170mm
11/003	Deposit	'Natural'	-

Table 13: List of Recorded Contexts in Trench 11

4.12.1 Trench 11 was excavated to a length of 30m and to a depth of 230mm (43.09m AOD) at the north-western end and to 330mm (44.22m AOD) at the south-eastern end. At this level natural geology was encountered and mechanical excavation ceased. The two layers of overburden and natural geology were similar in character to those found in Trench 1.

4.12.2 No archaeological deposits, features or artefacts were encountered in the trench.

#### 4.13 Trench 12

Context Number	Type	Description	Max. Deposit Thickness
12/001	Deposit	Topsoil	200mm
12/002	Deposit	Subsoil	60mm
12/003	Deposit	'Natural'	-

Table 14: List of Recorded Contexts in Trench 12

4.13.1 Trench 12 was excavated to a length of 30m and to a depth of 140mm (44.34m AOD) at the north-western end and also to 140mm (43.87m AOD) at the south-eastern end. At this level the natural geology was encountered and mechanical excavation ceased. The two layers of overburden and natural geology were similar in character to those found in Trench 1.

4.13.2 No archaeological deposits or features were encountered in the trench. A small assemblage of artefacts, including slag and CBM or 19<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> century date, was recovered from the overburden.



#### 4.14 Trench 13

Context Number	Type	Description	Max. Deposit Thickness
13/001	Deposit	Topsoil	180mm
13/002	Deposit	'Natural'	-
13/003	Cut	Gully	-
13/004	Fill	Gully	370mm
13/005	Cut	Gully	-
13/006	Fill	Gully	280mm

Table 15: List of Recorded Contexts in Trench 13

- 4.14.1 Trench 13 was excavated to a length of 30m and to a depth of 180mm (42.33m AOD) at the western end and to 110mm (41.20m AOD) at the eastern end. At this level the natural geology was encountered and mechanical excavation ceased. The topsoil and natural geology were similar in character to those found in Trench 1. There was no discernible layer of subsoil. A small assemblage of artefacts, including peg-tile of 18<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> century date, was recovered from the overburden.
- 4.14.2 Two gullies corresponding to the alignment of geophysics anomaly M13 were identified and recorded (Fig 2; Fig 4). A recent disturbance (containing frogged bricks and plastic) was encountered at the eastern end of the trench, corresponding to geophysical anomaly M7. This feature was not further investigated.
- 4.14.3 Gully [13/003] ran south-east to north-west across the trench. It was 810mm in width and 370mm in depth. The single fill was context [13/004], an orangeish brown silty clay, from which tile of 17<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> century date was recovered. Gully [13/005] lay on a similar alignment. It was 1.03m wide and 280mm deep. The single undated fill was context [13/006], a mid-greyish brown silty clay.

#### 4.15 Trench 14

Context Number	Type	Description	Max. Deposit Thickness
14/001	Deposit	Topsoil	200mm
14/002	Deposit	'Natural'	-
14/003	Cut	Gully	-
14/004	Fill	Gully	170mm

Table 16: List of Recorded Contexts in Trench 14

4.15.1 Trench 14 was excavated to a length of 30m and to a depth of 110mm (42.50m AOD) at the north-western end and to 150mm (42.69m AOD) at the south-eastern end. At this level the natural geology was encountered and mechanical excavation ceased. The topsoil and natural geology were similar in character to those found in Trench 1. There was no discernible subsoil layer. A small assemblage of artefacts, including CBM of 17<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> century date and a prehistoric flint flake, was recovered from the overburden.

4.15.2 A single archaeological feature was identified and recorded, roughly corresponding to geophysical anomaly M1 (Fig 2; Fig 5). Gully [14/003] ran broadly east to west across the trench. It was 550mm wide and 170mm deep. The single undated fill was context [14/004], a mid-brownish grey silty clay.

#### 4.16 Trench 15

Context Number	Type	Description	Max. Deposit Thickness
15/001	Deposit	Topsoil	190mm
15/002	Deposit	Subsoil	80mm
15/003	Deposit	'Natural'	-
15/004	Cut	Gully	-
15/005	Fill	Gully	280mm
15/006	Cut	Post Hole	
15/007	Fill	Post Hole	30mm
15/008	Fill	Post Hole	40mm
15/009	Cut	Gully	-
15/010	Fill	Gully	310mm
15/011	Cut	Ditch	-
15/012	Fill	Ditch	140mm

Table 17: List of Recorded Contexts in Trench 15

4.16.1 Trench 15 was excavated to a length of 40m and to a depth of 220mm (41.76m AOD) at the western end and to 120mm (40.61m AOD) at the eastern end. At this level the natural geology was encountered and mechanical excavation ceased. The two layers of overburden and natural geology were similar in character to those found in Trench 1. A small amount of fire-cracked flint was recovered from the overburden.

4.16.2 Two gullies corresponding to the alignment of geophysics anomaly M13 were identified and recorded (Fig 2; Fig 6). A further ditch corresponding to geophysical anomaly M12 was also encountered.

- 4.16.3 Gully [15/004] ran from south-east to north-west across the trench. It was 670mm wide and 280mm deep. The single undated fill was context [15/005], a mid-brownish grey silty clay. Post hole [15/006] lay to the south-west. It was 240mm in diameter and 70mm in depth. The primary fill was context [15/008], a 40mm thick layer of greyish yellow clay. The upper fill was context [15/007], a 30mm thick mid-brownish grey silty clay. No datable artefacts were recovered from either of the fills.
- 4.16.4 Gully [15/009] lay on a similar alignment. It was 730mm wide and 310mm deep. The single undated fill was context [15/010], a mid-brownish grey silty clay. The other encountered feature also lay on a similar alignment but was of a different character.
- 4.16.5 Ditch [15/011] was 2.71m wide, but survived to a depth of only 140mm. The single fill was context [15/012], an orangeish grey silty clay, which contained a small assemblage of Late Iron Age/Romano-British pottery.

#### 4.17 Trench 16

Context Number	Type	Description	Max. Deposit Thickness
16/001	Deposit	Topsoil	150mm
16/002	Deposit	Subsoil	130mm
16/003	Deposit	'Natural'	-
16/004	Cut	Ditch	-
16/005	Fill	Ditch	80mm
16/006	Cut	Post Hole	-
16/007	Fill	Post Hole	40mm
16/008	Cut	Post Hole	-
16/009	Fill	Post Hole	90mm
16/010	Fill	Ditch	140mm
16/011	Fill	Ditch	100mm
16/012	Cut	Post Hole	-
16/013	Fill	Post Hole	240mm

Table 18: List of Contexts in Trench 16

- 4.17.1 Trench 16 was excavated to a length of 30m and to a depth of 120mm (40.08m AOD) at the western end and to 140mm (38.80m AOD) at the eastern end. At this level natural geology was encountered and mechanical excavation ceased. The two layers of overburden and natural geology were similar in character to those found in Trench 1. A small assemblage of fire-cracked flint and 18<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> century CBM was recovered from the overburden.
- 4.17.2 Archaeological features were encountered close to geophysical anomaly M10, although not corresponding directly with it and apparently following a slightly different alignment (Fig. 2; Fig 7). Ditch [16/004] was 1.64m wide and 210mm deep. The primary fill was context [16/005], a greyish orange clay, containing pottery of late 13<sup>th</sup> to mid 14<sup>th</sup> century date. This was probably the result of silting of the base of the open feature.
- 4.17.3 Overlying [16/005] was fill [16/011], a brownish grey silty clay which contained cotemporary pottery. A sample taken for analysis of environmental potential contained only poorly preserved charcoal.

- 4.17.4 Overlying [16/011] was fill [16/010], a deposit of charcoal rich greyish black silty clay, which may actually represent a recut of the feature. Again, it contained a small assemblage of contemporary medieval pottery. A sample taken for analysis of environmental potential produced only poorly preserved charcoal.
- 4.17.5 Post hole [16/012] was located close to ditch [16/004]. It was 240mm in both diameter and maximum depth. The single undated fill was context [16/013], a brownish grey silty clay.
- 4.17.5 Two heavily-truncated post holes were also encountered near the eastern end of the trench. Post hole [16/006] was 330mm in diameter and 40mm in depth. The single undated fill was context [16/007], a brownish grey silty clay. Nearby post hole [16/008] was 370mm in diameter and 90mm in depth. The single undated fill was context [16/009], a brownish grey silty clay.

#### **4.18 Trench 17**

<b>Context Number</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Max. Deposit Thickness</b>
17/001	Deposit	Topsoil	410mm
17/002	Deposit	'Natural'	-
17/003		NOT USED	-
17/004	Cut	Ditch	-
17/005	Fill	Ditch	-
17/006	Cut	Gully	-
17/007	Fill	Gully	-
17/008	Cut	Gully	-
17/009	Fill	Gully	150mm

Table 19: List of Recorded Contexts in Trench 17

- 4.18.1 Trench 17 was excavated to a length of 40m and to a depth of 270mm (41.41m AOD) at the western end and to 410mm (38.91mAOD) at the eastern end. At this level the natural geology was encountered and mechanical excavation ceased. The topsoil and natural geology were similar in character to those found in Trench 1. There was no discernible subsoil layer. A small assemblage of artefacts, including slag and 19<sup>th</sup> century pottery, was recovered from the overburden.
- 4.18.2 Two gullies, [17/006] and [17/008], corresponding to the alignment of geophysics anomaly M13 were identified but not excavated (Fig 2). A further ditch corresponding to geophysical anomaly M12 was also encountered, and this was investigated and recorded.
- 4.18.3 Ditch [17/004] ran from south-east to north-west across the trench. It was 2.43m wide but only survived to a depth of 150mm. The single undated fill was context [17/005], a mid-brownish grey silty clay.

#### 4.19 Trench 18

Context Number	Type	Description	Max. Deposit Thickness
18/001	Deposit	Topsoil	350mm
18/002	Deposit	'Natural'	-
18/003	Cut	Gully	-
18/004	Fill	Gully	90mm
18/005	Cut	Gully	-
18/006	Fill	Gully	200mm
18/007	Fill	Gully	130mm
18/008	Cut	'Spread'	-
18/009	Fill	'Spread'	220mm
18/010	Deposit	'Spread'	120mm

Table 20: List of Recorded Contexts in Trench 18

- 4.19.1 Trench 18 was excavated to a length of 40m and to a depth of 300mm (38.18m AOD) at the north-western end and to 350mm (38.68m AOD) at the south-eastern end. At this level natural geology was encountered and mechanical excavation ceased. The topsoil and natural geology were similar in character to those found in Trench 1. There was no discernible subsoil layer. A small amount of fire-cracked flint was recovered from the overburden.
- 4.19.2 Two shallow undated gullies were encountered running broadly east to west across the trench (Fig. 9). Gully [18/003] was 530mm wide and 90mm deep. The single fill, context [18/004] was an orangeish brown silty clay. Parallel gully [18/005] was 800mm wide and 200mm deep. The lower fill was context [18/006], a light grey silty clay. Overlying this was context [18/007], a dark grey silty clay with frequent charcoal inclusions. Although possibly the upper fill of the gully, this deposit might represent a later activity, such as the burning of a tree whose roots had extended into the fill of the gully. Neither feature produced any dating evidence.
- 4.19.3 The north-western part of the trench was occupied by a feature of uncertain extent, recorded as cut [18/008], which corresponded to features identified in the geophysical survey (Fig 2, M12 and M8B). Following consultation with John Mills of West Sussex County Council it was agreed that a narrow trench would be mechanically excavated through this deposit in order to further investigate its character.
- 4.19.4 Two fill numbers were assigned, contexts [18/009] and [18/010], both mid brownish grey silty clays, which probably represent a shallow pond and/or flood deposit; no datable material was recovered.

## 4.20 Trench 19

Context Number	Type	Description	Max. Deposit Thickness
19/001	Deposit	Topsoil	330mm
19/002	Deposit	'Natural'	-
19/003	Cut	Gully	-
19/004	Fill	Gully	60mm
19/005	Cut	Gully	-
19/006	Fill	Gully	230mm

Table 21: List of Recorded Contexts in Trench 19

- 4.20.1 Trench 19 was excavated to a length of 30m and to a depth of 330mm (37.29m AOD) at the north-western end and to 240mm (39.40m AOD) at the south-eastern end. At this level the natural geology was encountered and mechanical excavation ceased. The topsoil and natural geology were similar in character to those found in Trench 1. There was no discernible subsoil layer. A small assemblage of 19<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> century CBM was recovered from the overburden.
- 4.20.2 Two undated gullies were excavated and recorded (Fig. 10). Gully [19/003] was 490mm wide and 60mm deep. The single fill was context [19/004], an orangeish brown silty clay. Gully [19/005] was 970mm wide and 230mm deep. The single fill was context [19/006], another orangeish brown silty clay.
- 4.20.3 These features did not appear to be related to geophysical anomaly M8A which was located nearly 10 metres to the south-east (Fig. 2).

## 4.21 Trench 20

Context Number	Type	Description	Max. Deposit Thickness
20/001	Deposit	Topsoil	300mm
20/002	Deposit	'Natural'	-
20/003	Cut	?Pond	-
20/004	Fill	?Pond	240mm
20/005	Cut	Gully	-
20/006	Fill	Gully	120mm

Table 22: List of Recorded Contexts in Trench 20

- 4.21.1 Trench 20 was excavated to a length of 30m and to a depth of 300mm (36.21m AOD) at the northern end, at which the surface of an archaeological deposit was encountered, and to 130mm (37.71m AOD) at the southern end at which the natural geology was encountered. The topsoil and natural geology were similar in character to those found in Trench 1. There was no discernible subsoil layer. One piece of 18<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> century peg tile was recovered from the overburden.
- 4.21.2 A pond or flood deposit was encountered at the northern end of the trench, and recorded as cut [20/003] (Fig. 11). It was of unknown extent (although a similar deposit was encountered in Trenches 21, 24 and possibly Trench 22,

suggesting that it may have extended to the north-west). Two sondages of c.2m<sup>2</sup> were hand excavated through the features, showing that the maximum thickness of the mid grey silty clay fill, context [20/004], was 240mm. Late Iron Age/Early Romano-British pottery was recovered from this deposit. Although this feature corresponded with the location of discrete anomaly M11 (Fig. 2), it appeared to be much larger in size.

- 4.21.3 The only other feature encountered in the trench was gully [20/005]. It was 910mm wide and 120mm deep and ran broadly east to west. The single fill was context [20/006], an orangeish brown silty clay which contained sherds of Late Iron Age/early Romano-British pottery.

#### **4.22 Trench 21**

<b>Context Number</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Max. Deposit Thickness</b>
21/001	Deposit	Topsoil	260mm
21/002	Deposit	'Natural'	-
21/003	Cut	?Pond	-
21/004	Fill	?Pond	150mm

Table 23: List of Recorded Contexts in Trench 21

- 4.22.1 Trench 21 was excavated to a length of 30m and to a depth of 210mm (37.29m AOD) at the north-western end and to 260mm (36.41m AOD) at the south-eastern end. At this level the natural geology was encountered and mechanical excavation ceased. The topsoil and natural geology were similar in character to those found in Trench 1. There was no discernible subsoil layer.
- 4.22.2 A pond or flood deposit was encountered and recorded as cut [21/003] (Fig. 12). The feature was c.6m in width but only 150mm in depth. The single fill/deposit was context [21/004], a mid-grey silty clay from which a small quantity of Late Iron Age/early Romano-British pottery was recovered. This may represent a continuation of the pond or flood deposit encountered to the south in Trenches 20 and to the north-west in Trench 24, and possibly in Trench 22.

#### 4.23 Trench 22

Context Number	Type	Description	Max. Deposit Thickness
22/001	Deposit	Topsoil	310mm
22/002	Deposit	'Natural'	-
22/003	Cut	?Pond	-
22/004	Fill	?Pond	210mm

Table 24: List of Recorded Contexts in Trench 22

4.23.1 Trench 22 was excavated to a length of 25m and to a depth of 310mm (35.77m AOD) at the north-western end and to 280mm (35.52m AOD) at the south-eastern end at which the natural geology was encountered and mechanical excavation ceased. The topsoil and natural geology were similar in character to those found in Trench 1. There was no discernible subsoil layer. A small assemblage of artefacts was recovered from the overburden.

4.23.2 A pond or flood deposit was encountered in the trench and recorded as cut [22/003] (Fig. 13). The feature occupied most of the area of the trench, and was investigated by the manual excavation of four sondages of c. 2m<sup>2</sup>; it was found to a maximum of 210mm in thickness. The single fill/deposit was context [22/004], a mid-grey silty clay from which a small quantity of medieval pottery was recovered, dating to the late 13<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> centuries.

#### 4.24 Trench 23

Context Number	Type	Description	Max. Deposit Thickness
23/001	Deposit	Topsoil	300mm
23/002	Deposit	Subsoil	180mm
23/003	Deposit	'Natural'	-
23/004	Cut	Gully	-
23/005	Fill	Gully	180mm
23/006	Cut	Ditch	-
23/007	Fill	Ditch	80mm
23/008	Cut	?Ditch	-
23/009	Fill	?Ditch	130mm

Table 25: List of Recorded Contexts in Trench 23

4.24.1 Trench 23 was excavated to a length of 30m and to a depth of 150mm (35.06m AOD) at the northern end and to 260mm (35.47m AOD) at the southern end. At this level, the natural geology was encountered and mechanical excavation ceased. The topsoil and natural geology were similar in character to those found in Trench 1. There was a subsoil layer at the extreme southern end of the trench. A small assemblage of artefacts, including 14<sup>th</sup> to early 15<sup>th</sup> century pottery was recovered from the overburden.

4.24.2 Three archaeological features were encountered, investigated and recorded (Fig. 14). Gully [23/004] was 560mm wide and 180mm deep and ran east to west across the trench. The single mid-grey silty clay fill, context [23/005]



contained 13<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> century pottery. Immediately to the north, ditch [23/006] ran on a similar orientation. It was 1.56m wide but only survived to a depth of 80mm. The single fill, context [23/007] was a brownish grey silty clay from which medieval pottery was recovered.

- 4.24.3 The other feature was a wide shallow feature, [23/008], possibly a ditch, located towards the northern end of the trench. Partial excavation of the feature suggested that it was a maximum of 130mm in thickness. It contained a single fill, context [23/009], a dark greyish brown silty clay. Medieval pottery of mid 14<sup>th</sup> to mid 15<sup>th</sup> century was recovered from this deposit in significant quantities.

#### **4.25 Trench 24 (Fig. 15)**

<b>Context Number</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Max. Deposit Thickness</b>
24/001	Deposit	Topsoil	290mm
24/002	Deposit	'Natural'	-
24/003	Cut	?Pond	-
24/004	Fill	?Pond	350mm

Table 26: List of Recorded Contexts in Trench 24

- 4.25.1 Trench 24 was excavated to a length of 20m and to a depth of 290mm (34.83m AOD) at the western end and to 270mm (33.99m AOD) at the eastern end. At this level the natural geology was encountered and mechanical excavation ceased. The topsoil and natural geology were similar in character to those found in Trench 1. There was no discernible subsoil layer.
- 4.25.2 A pond or flood deposit was encountered in the trench and recorded as cut [24/003] (Fig. 15). The exact extent was unclear owing to similarity of the fill to the natural geology at the edges of the feature. The single fill/deposit was context [24/004], a mid-grey silty clay from which a small quantity of Late Iron Age/early Romano-British pottery was recovered. The feature may be a continuation of the flood deposit or pond encountered in Trench 20, or equally may form part of a larger area of marshy ground incorporating deposits in Trenches 20, 21, 22 and 24.

## 5.0 THE FINDS

Context	Pot	Wt (g)	CBM	Wt (g)	Flint	Wt (g)	FCF	Wt (g)	Fired Clay	Wt (g)	Slag	Wt (g)	Glass	Wt (g)
1/001	2	8												
2/001			1	48										
2/004	2	6					1	36	7	26				
4/001			1	64			1	8						
5/001							5	30						
6/001			1	14			1	56						
7/001			1	38			1	38						
8/001	3	34												
9/001			2	60			2	30						
10/001			2	20									1	10
12/001	1	6	2	30			2	26			1	132	1	2
13/001			3	56			1	8						
13/004			5	420										
14/001			1	18	1	14	1	10						
15/001							2	34					1	26
15/012	4	8												
16/001			2	110			3	168						
16/005	3	14												
16/010	4	10							1	12				
16/011	1	2												
17/001	1	34									1	66		
18/001							2	6						
19/001			2	32			1	24						
20/001			1	12			1	10						
20/004	2	2												
20/006	4	34												
T21 U/S			1	64										
21/004	2	8												
T22 U/S			2	30			1	68						
22/004	4	16												
T23 U/S	6	24	1	54										
23/005	6	20												
23/007	5	22												
23/009	46	376												
T24 U/S			1	24										
24/004	1	0									1	6		
Total	97	624	29	1094	1	14	25	552	8	38	3	204	3	38

Table 27: Overview of the Finds Assemblage

## **5.1 Introduction**

- 5.1.1 A small collection of finds was recovered during the evaluation, collected both from the overburden and from excavated features. The assemblage is quantified in Table 27.

## **5.2 Late Iron Age/Roman Pottery by Anna Doherty**

- 5.2.1 A very small abraded assemblage of Late Iron Age or Roman pottery was recovered across five contexts [15/012], [20/004], [20/006] [21/004] and [24/004]. All are in grog-tempered fabrics, often including other calcareous sedimentary inclusions. Amongst the assemblage is a small rimsherd from a simple, necked jar which is not very closely datable. Further west in Sussex, the grog-tempering tradition was fairly rapidly replaced by Roman wheel-thrown sandy wares in the later 1<sup>st</sup> century AD. By contrast, in East Sussex, very similar fabrics and forms continued to dominate assemblages throughout the Roman period and this is also the case in some assemblages from mid Sussex, such as that from Hassocks (Biddulph 2010).
- 5.2.2 Since there are no well-dated published groups of Roman pottery from the immediate vicinity of the site, it remains uncertain whether grog-tempered wares survived into the mid and later Roman periods in Southwater, although, given the very low-fired nature of the ceramics and the lack of any other fabric types, a Late Iron Age/early Roman date seems probable.

## **5.3 The Post-Roman Pottery by Luke Barber**

- 5.3.1 The evaluation recovered a small assemblage of post-Roman pottery. A number of different periods are represented with the material being in variable condition depending on the period represented.
- 5.3.2 The earliest potential post-Roman sherd consists of a small (3g) weathered reduced bodysherd, tempered with calcareous inclusions (voids, possibly shell) to 2mm. The sherd, residual in [22/004] could be of the 11<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> centuries but an earlier date cannot be ruled out.
- 5.3.3 The majority of the assemblage is of the High Medieval period, perhaps spanning 1250 to 1350/75. The dominant type consists of medium (to coarse) sand tempered wares, usually oxidised brown or orange brown, though some reduced grey vessels are also represented. All appear to be from cooking pots though with the exception of a club rim in [23/009], an internally glazed base from [23/007] and a bodysherd with incised wavy line decoration from [16/010], no distinctive sherds are present. On the whole, the sherds are quite small (up to 30mm across) and show adverse effects of the acidic burial environment. Many, particularly those from Trench 16, are notably abraded. There are also a few sherds of fine sand tempered wares, apparently from green glazed jugs (e.g. contexts [22/004], T23 u/s, [23/005] and [23/009]) but these only total five sherds.
- 5.3.4 Sherds of a slightly later medieval date were also recovered. Although these may have been in contemporaneous use with the earlier medium sandy

wares they sit more comfortably in a mid 14<sup>th</sup>- to mid 15<sup>th</sup>- century date range. A single sherd from an internally glazed Coarse Border Ware vessel was recovered from unstratified deposits in Trench 23; however, most were recovered from [23/009]. This context produced by far the largest group (46 sherds) and although 32 of these sherds can be seen as belonging to the High Medieval period, the remaining pieces (from at least four jars) are likely to be of this later date. All are in a quite well fired buff fine sandy ware, notably less abraded than the earlier sherds. The three rims present are all of the flaring type typical of this period. The lack of any white slip painting, together with the firing, suggests these sherds do not post-date 1450. This is a period not well represented by previous assemblages from the area and indeed West Sussex as a whole.

5.3.5 The early post-medieval period is represented by only three sherds. This low density of finds suggests the land was no longer occupied but subjected to some manuring with domestic refuse. A heavily abraded glazed red earthenware bodysherd from [8/001] can be placed anywhere between the mid 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> centuries. The other two sherds (conjoining) are from a mug or jug in glazed red earthenware, likely to be of 17<sup>th</sup>- to mid 18<sup>th</sup> century date (context [2/004]).

5.3.6 The late post-medieval period continues the low level of pottery scatter, suggesting a similar land-use. Context [8/001] produced the largest group, consisting of the base of a pearlware jug and part of a transfer-printed pearlware plate with willow pattern design. Both sherds belong to the first half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. The only other sherd is from a 20<sup>th</sup> century English porcelain plate with polychrome floral transfer-print (context [1/001]).

#### 5.4 The Ceramic Building Material by Sarah Porteus

5.4.1 A total of 27 fragments of ceramic building material (CBM) with a combined weight of 1,079g were recovered, predominantly from topsoil contexts. The assemblage contained peg tile and brick of post-medieval date.

5.4.2 The assemblage has been examined with the aid of a X10 magnifying glass and a provisional fabric series drawn up and recorded on pro forma sheets for archive. The bulk of the assemblage (85% by weight) has been discarded with samples of fabric types retained.

5.4.3 Three peg tile fabrics were identified. T1 and T2 are orange with cream silt streaking; in fabric T2 the streaks are fine whilst in T1 they are coarse but both are probably made using similar base clays. Fabric T3 is a fine orange fabric with no visible inclusions. Peg tile in fabric T1 was recovered from contexts T21 U/S, [2/001], [13/001], [13/004] [16/001] and [20/001] and is of 18<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> century date. Peg tile in fabric T2 was recovered from contexts T24 U/S, T22 U/S, [13/004] and [14/001] and is of probable 17<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> century date. Peg tile in fabric T3 was recovered from T22 U/S, [4/001], [7/001], [10/001], [12/001] and [19/001] and is of 19<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> century date.

5.4.4 Also recovered were a fragment of brick in fabric T1 of 19<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> century date from Trench 3, two brick fragments in fabric T3 from context [9/001] and a third from [10/001] of 17<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> century date. A fragment of early 20<sup>th</sup> century ceramic wall tile with a transfer printed pale green floral edge pattern

over white glaze was recovered from context [12/001]. Context [1/001] contained a single fragment from a white glazed wall tile of 20<sup>th</sup> century date.

## **5.5 Flintwork** by Karine Le Hégarat

- 5.5.1 A single piece of struck flint weighing 15g was recovered from the topsoil in Trench 14. In addition 25 fragments of burnt unworked flint were retrieved from 15 individually numbered contexts. The piece of struck flint exhibits moderate post depositional edge damage. It consists of a flake fragment, the proximal and distal ends of which are absent. The artefact is made on a light grey flint and is partially re-corticated white. Although almost certainly of prehistoric origin the flake is not chronologically diagnostic.

## **5.6 The Glass** by Trista Clifford

- 5.6.1 Three fragments of 20<sup>th</sup> century glass were recovered from the topsoil. Context [10/001] contained a piece of clear glass from a large bottle. Contexts [12/001] and [15/001] contained fragments from a green wine bottle.

## **5.7 The Fired Clay** by Trista Clifford

- 5.7.1 Eight fired clay fragments weighing 38g in total were recovered from contexts [2/004] and [16/010]. The fabric is sparsely tempered with fine sand with moderate poorly sorted ferruginous inclusions up to 1mm. None of the pieces are diagnostic of form or function

## **5.8 The Metallurgical Remains** by Luke Barber

- 5.8.1 The evaluation recovered just three pieces of iron slag. These consist of a piece of tap slag (smelting) from [12/001], a piece of general smelting slag from [17/001] and an undiagnostic piece of iron slag from [24/004]. All are likely to predate the 16<sup>th</sup> century. The presence of these fragments is not unexpected in the area. Although they may suggest that iron working was occurring somewhere in the wider vicinity, slag would be expected in much greater quantity if iron-working was occurring on the site itself

## **6.0 THE ENVIRONMENTAL SAMPLES** by Karine Le Hégarat

### **6.1 Introduction**

- 6.1.1 Two bulk soil samples were taken during the evaluation work at the site to confirm the onsite observation of botanical remains and evaluate their richness and state of preservation. Both samples were extracted from ditch [16/004]. Sample <1001> came from a charcoal rich silty clay deposit [16/010], overlying the primary fill [16/005] and sample <1002> came from the silty clay upper fill, [10/011].

### **6.2 Method**

- 6.2.1 The samples were processed in a flotation tank and the flots and residues captured on 500µm and 250µm meshes and air dried. The residues were passed through graded sieves (8mm, 4mm and 2mm) and each fraction sorted for environmental and artefactual remains. The flots were scanned under a stereozoom microscope at x7-45 magnifications. An overview of the samples contents is presented in Table 28.

### **6.3 Results**

- 6.3.1 Sampling produced small flots which were dominated by uncharred vegetation including fine rootlets and infrequent uncharred weed seeds. Wood charcoal fragments were frequent in the flots and residues. No other environmental indicators such as charred macrobotanical remains, bones and shells were present. A single small sherd of pottery was recorded in the residue from sample <1001>.
- 6.3.2 Although wood charcoal fragments were present in both samples, they were more numerous in deposit [16/010] sample <1001>. The assemblage comprised large-sized pieces >20mm. The majority of the charcoal assemblage was in a relatively poor state of preservation with a large proportion of the fragments percolated by sediments. Although several pieces may be suitable for identifications and dating, no identifications have been obtained given the high percentage of modern roots that could introduce potential contaminants or mixing within both deposits. In addition, although the assemblage is relatively rich and appears to represent dumps of charcoal, it is secondary and the samples are unlikely to provide indications of the activities for which fuel was used.

Sample Number	Context	Context / deposit type	Sample Volume litres	Sub-Sample Volume litres	Flot					Residue						
					Weight g	Flot volume ml	Uncharred %	Sediment %	Seeds uncharred	Charcoal >4mm	Charcoal <4mm	Charcoal >4mm	Weight (g)	Charcoal <4mm	Weight (g)	Other (eg ind, pot, cbm)
1001	16/010	Ditch fill	30	30	<2	50	97	2	* cf. <i>Atriplex</i> sp.(1)	* (1)	* (2)	***	110	***	10	Pottery *72g
1002	16/011	Ditch fill	20	20	4	30	97	2	* <i>Polygonum/Rumex</i> sp. (1)			***	52	***	72	

Table 28: Quantification of Samples (\* = 1-10, \*\* = 11-50, \*\*\* = 51-250, \*\*\*\* = >250) and weights in grams

## **7.0 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS**

### **7.1 Introduction**

- 7.1.1 The archaeological evaluation of the site by mechanically excavated trial trenches resulted in the identification and recording of a range of archaeological features. As suggested by the results of the previous geophysical survey, activity is concentrated the northern part of the site (ASE 2011a).
- 7.1.2 Material from a number of periods was recovered, either from excavated archaeological features or found incorporated in the overburden of the trenches.

### **7.2 Prehistoric**

- 7.2.1 Small quantities of unstratified fire-cracked flint, which may be indicative of prehistoric activity, were quite widely distributed across the site; however, only a single piece of worked flint, an undiagnostic unretouched flake, was recovered. Despite the known distribution of Mesolithic findspots identified by Sylvia Standing to the east (Butler 2008) and more recent discoveries to the north-east (e.g. at Bourne Hill; Stevens 2009) results from the current site do not suggest intense Mesolithic activity, despite an elevated location overlooking a watercourse, a favoured location for hunter/gatherer sites/camps (Tebbutt 1974).

### **7.3 Late Iron Age/Romano-British**

- 7.3.1 This is the first period for which material from the evaluation provides tangible evidence of activity within the boundaries of the site. A small amount of pottery is thought to relate to the Late Iron Age/early Roman period; however, a later Roman date cannot be ruled out. Discoveries of assemblages of this date are rare in the Weald as a whole and virtually absent from the Horsham area (although whether this denotes a true pattern or is the result of the scarceness of archaeological fieldwork that has been conducted in the area is open to question).
- 7.3.2 Most of the material was found in the north-eastern, low-lying part of the site, particularly within the extensive features/deposits located in Trenches 20, 21 and 24; although a deposit of similar character in Trench 22 contained a small amount of medieval pottery. These may represent a series of discrete ponds or a single flood deposit spread over a wide area. The small size and abraded character of the pottery sherds may suggest that the material was washed into these areas rather than being directly deposited; however, its presence is clearly indicative of contemporary occupation in the vicinity.
- 7.3.3 A shallow ditch, corresponding with geophysical anomaly M12, appeared to run through Trenches 15, 17 and perhaps Trench 18 (Fig. 2). Only one intervention through this feature, [15/011], produced any dating evidence, consisting of tiny sherds of Late Iron Age/ Romano British pottery. Whilst it is possible that these are residual, this feature may well represent part of a contemporary field system or enclosure.



## **7.4 Medieval**

- 7.4.1 Excavated evidence of medieval activity is also rare in the area, apart from the more heavily-investigated centre of Horsham which is c. 4km to the north. Assemblages of medieval pottery, spanning the period from the mid 13<sup>th</sup> to mid 15<sup>th</sup> centuries were recovered from stratified linear features in Trenches 16 and 23. These do not appear correspond with linear anomalies picked up by the geophysical survey, so the extent and character of medieval land-use remains uncertain; however, the fairly substantial pottery assemblage, particularly the large group from feature [23/008], suggests that there is some potential for further significant remains of this date to be uncovered, possibly in the form of a farmstead, following the known pattern of medieval exploitation of the Weald (Gardiner 1998).
- 7.4.2 Ditches and gullies suggest the division of the land for agricultural use, but unfortunately the poor preservation of environmental material does not allow analysis of local crop cultivation or husbandry.
- 7.4.3 Similar rural medieval sites have been excavated to the south at America Wood, Ashington (Priestley-Bell 1994) and more further afield at Polegate (Stevens 2007). The results from the current site have some scope to add to the limited local evidence of this date and type, especially given the presence of late medieval pottery, a rare discovery in Sussex, except perhaps in the larger Wealden towns such as Crawley (cf. Stevens 2008).

## **7.5 Post-Medieval**

- 7.5.1 In addition to limited post-medieval assemblages recovered from the overburden, some of the excavated features also produced material of post-medieval date. This confirms the hypothesis (put forward in the geophysics report; ASE 2011a and reproduced as Fig. 16) that the ditches recorded as M13 and encountered in Trenches 15, 17 and 18 are the remains of a trackway leading to and from the agricultural buildings shown as '*Nutham Barn*' on the 1897 map (Fig. 16).
- 7.5.2 It is possible that the track alignment fossilised an earlier routeway perhaps forming part of a system of fields and associated accesses connected with a local medieval farmstead as discussed in 7.4 above, and/or buildings at the Nutham Barn site, now partially surviving on the opposite side of the A24.

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## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

ASE would like to thank Bovis Homes Ltd. for commissioning the archaeological work at the site. Thanks are also due to John Mills, Senior Archaeologist, West Sussex County Council for his guidance throughout the project, and to Joan Francis, Horsham and District Archaeological Society for sharing the results of her extensive research on the area.

## HER Summary Form

Site Code	SOU11					
Identification Name and Address	Land at Millfield, Southwater, Horsham					
County, District &/or Borough	Horsham District, West Sussex					
OS Grid Refs.	516256 125440					
Geology	Weald Clay					
ASE Project Number	5045					
Type of Fieldwork	Eval. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Excav.	Watching Brief	Standing Structure	Survey	Other
Type of Site	Green Field <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Shallow Urban	Deep Urban	Other		
Dates of Fieldwork	Eval. 12.03.12 - 4.04.12	Excav.	WB.	Other		
Sponsor/Client	Bovis Homes Ltd.					
Project Manager	Neil Griffin/Dan Swift					
Project Supervisor	Simon Stevens					
Period Summary	Palaeo.	Meso.	Neo.	BA	IA <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	RB <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	AS	MED <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	PM <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Other		
<p>Summary</p> <p>Archaeology South-East was commissioned by Bovis Homes Ltd. to undertake an archaeological evaluation on land at Millfield, Southwater, Horsham, West Sussex. A total of 24 trial trenches of varying lengths were mechanically excavated to provide a c.3% sample of the site. The trenches were located to target both geophysical anomalies identified during a previous magnetometry survey and to test some of the apparently 'blank' areas, to achieve an even sample across the remainder of the development area.</p> <p>The results show a clear concentration of Late Iron Age/Romano-British, medieval and post-medieval features at the northern end of the examined area. Some correspond to geophysical anomalies and suggest the presence of enclosures/field system(s), ponds and other features.</p>						

## OASIS Form

**OASIS ID: archaeol6-121811**

### Project details

Project name	An Archaeological Evaluation at Millfield, Southwater, Horsham, West Sussex
Short description of the project	Archaeology South-East was commissioned by Bovis Homes Ltd. to undertake an archaeological evaluation on land at Millfield, Southwater, Horsham, West Sussex. A total of 24 trial trenches of varying lengths were mechanically excavated to provide a c.3% sample of the site. The trenches were located to target both geophysical anomalies identified during a previous magnetometry survey and to test some of the apparently 'blank' areas, to achieve an even sample across the remainder of the development area. The results show a clear concentration of Late Iron Age/Romano-British, medieval and post-medieval features at the northern end of the examined area. Some correspond to geophysical anomalies and suggest the presence of enclosures/field system(s), ponds and other features.
Project dates	Start: 12-03-2012
Previous/future work	Yes / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	5045 - Contracting Unit No.
Any associated project reference codes	SOU11 - Sitecode
Any associated project reference codes	DC/11/0657 - Planning Application No.
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Current Land use	Cultivated Land 3 - Operations to a depth more than 0.25m
Monument type	POND Late Iron Age
Monument type	GULLY Late Iron Age
Monument type	GULLY Medieval
Monument type	DITCH Medieval
Monument type	PIT Modern
Significant Finds	POTTERY Late Iron Age
Significant Finds	POTTERY Medieval

Significant Finds	POTTERY Post Medieval
Methods & techniques	'Targeted Trenches'
Development type	Rural residential
Prompt	Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPS
Position in the planning process	After full determination (eg. As a condition)

#### **Project location**

Country	England
Site location	WEST SUSSEX HORSHAM SOUTHWATER Millfield
Postcode	RH13 9HU
Study area	4.50 Hectares
Site coordinates	TQ 16256 25440 51.0160226269 -0.342435619742 51 00 57 N 000 20 32 W Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 33.00m Max: 48.00m

#### **Project creators**

Name of Organisation	Archaeology South-East
Project brief originator	West Sussex County Council
Project design originator	Archaeology South-East
Project director/manager	Neil Griffin
Project supervisor	Simon Stevens
Type of sponsor/funding body	Client
Name of sponsor/funding body	Bovis Homes Ltd.

#### **Project archives**

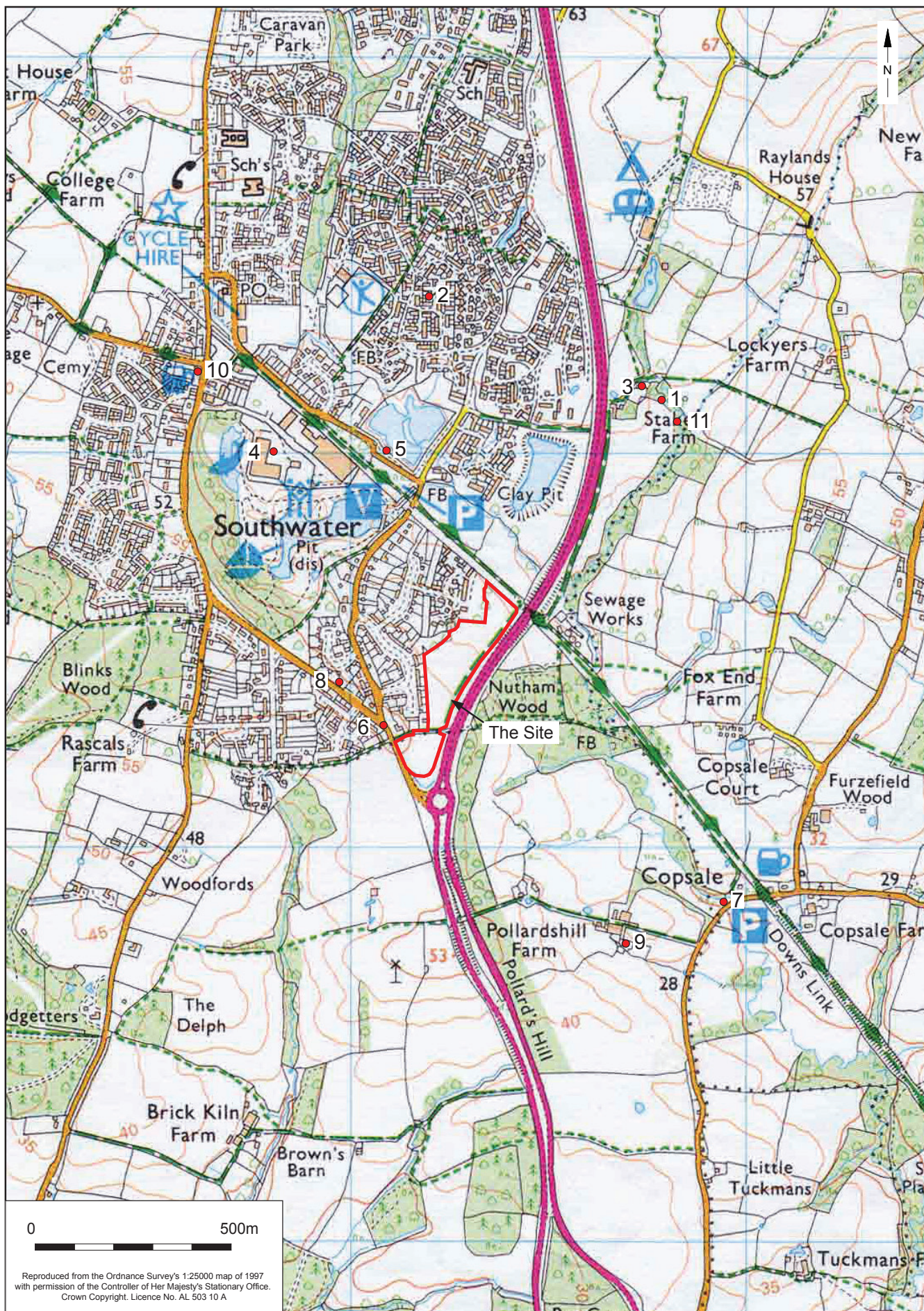
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Paper Archive recipient	Horsham Museum
Paper Archive ID	2011.275
Paper Contents	'other'
Paper Media available	'Context sheet','Correspondence','Miscellaneous Material','Notebook - Excavation',' Research',' General Notes','Report','Section','Survey ','Unpublished Text'

#### **Project bibliography 1**

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	An Archaeological Evaluation at Millfield, Southwater, Horsham, West Sussex
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Stevens, S.
Other bibliographic details	ASE Report No. 2012079
Date	2012
Issuer or publisher	Archaeology South-East
Place of issue or publication	Portslade, East Sussex
Description	ASE client Report, A4-sized with cover logos.
Entered by	Simon Stevens (simon.stevens@ucl.ac.uk)
Entered on	20 April 2012





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Project Ref: 5045

Report Ref: 2012079

April 2012

Drawn by: DJH

Millfield, Southwater

Site location and WSCC HER data

Fig. 1





• Archaeology South-East

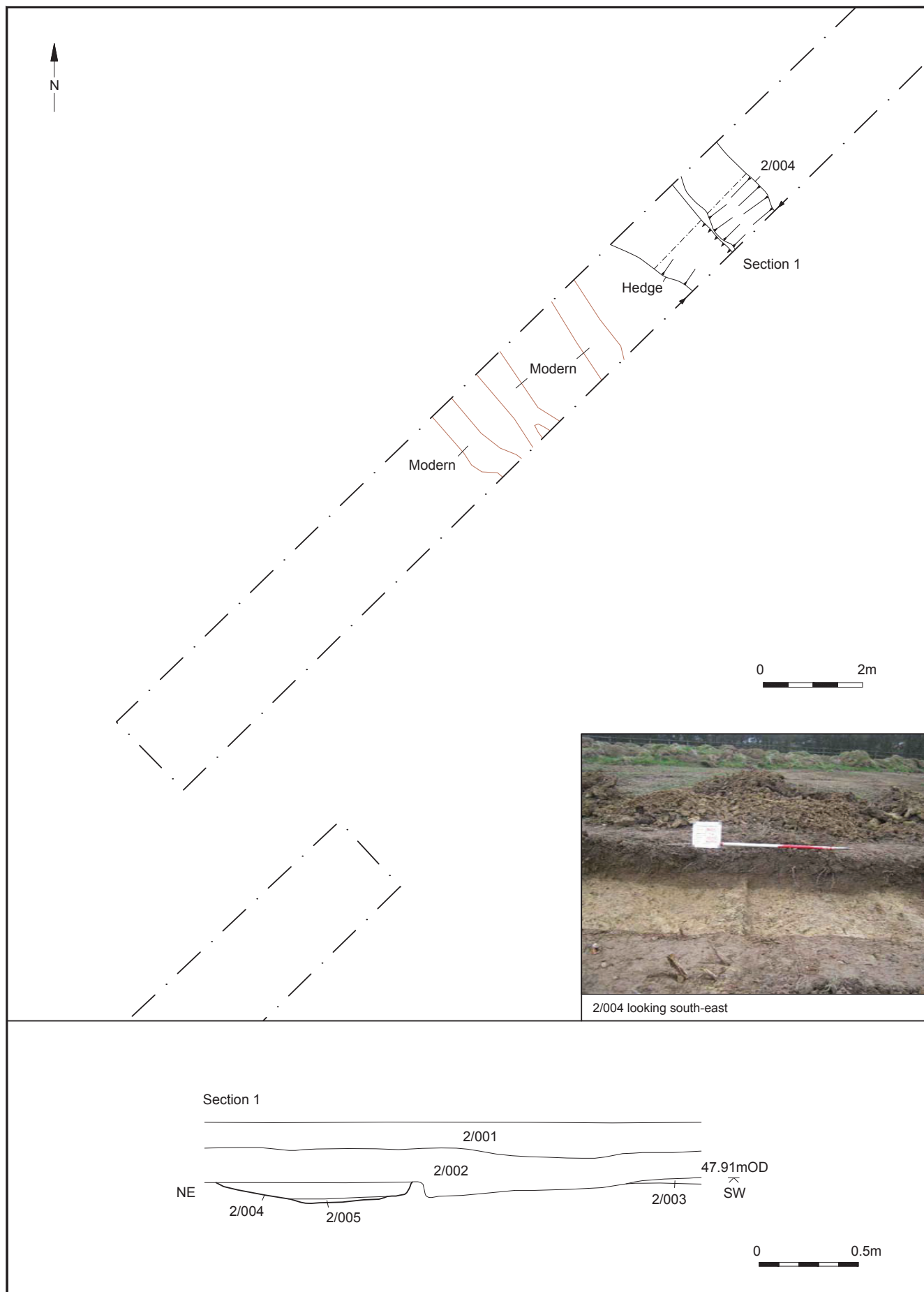
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Millfield, Horsham

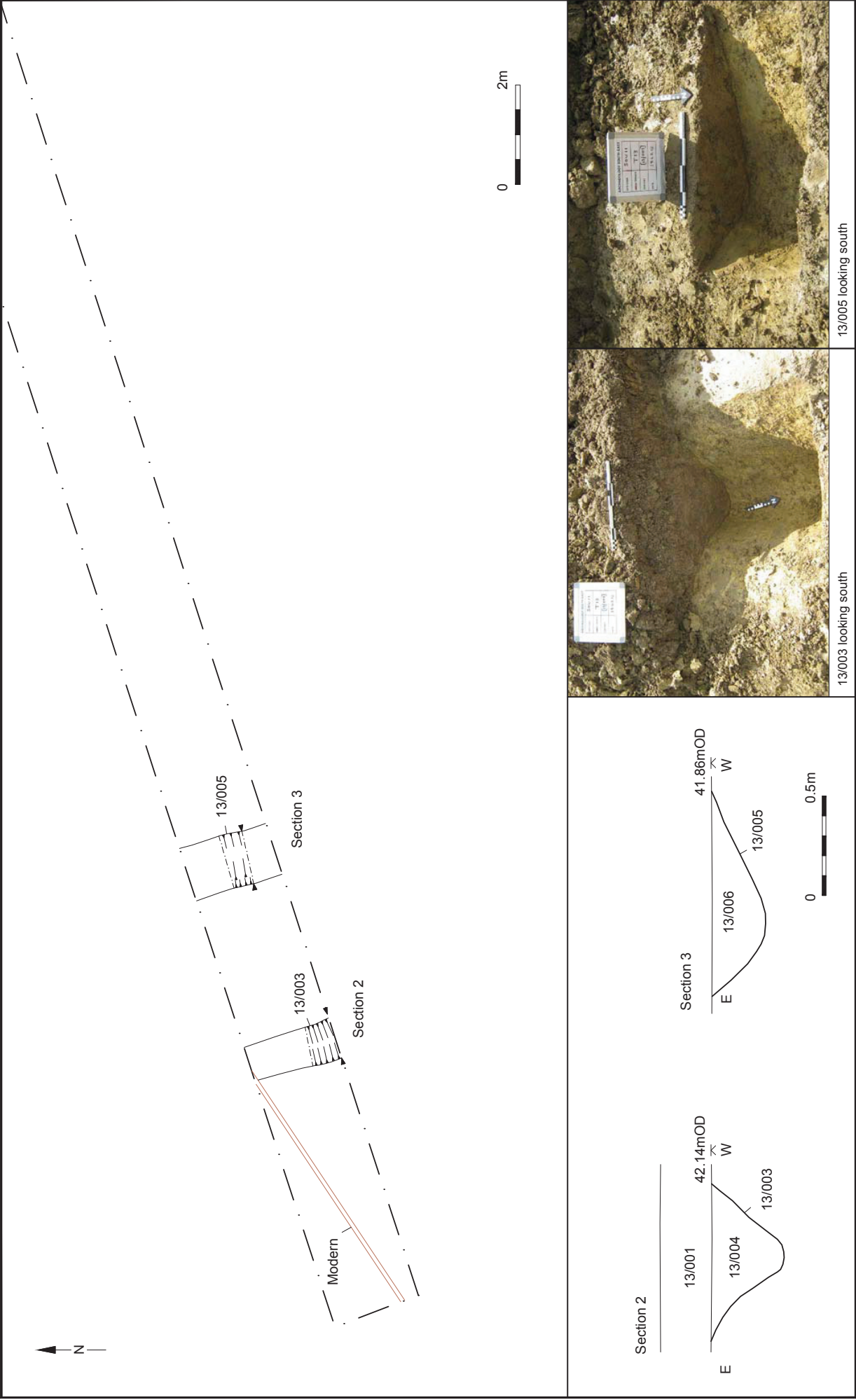
Trench location showing location of geophysical anomalies

Fig. 2



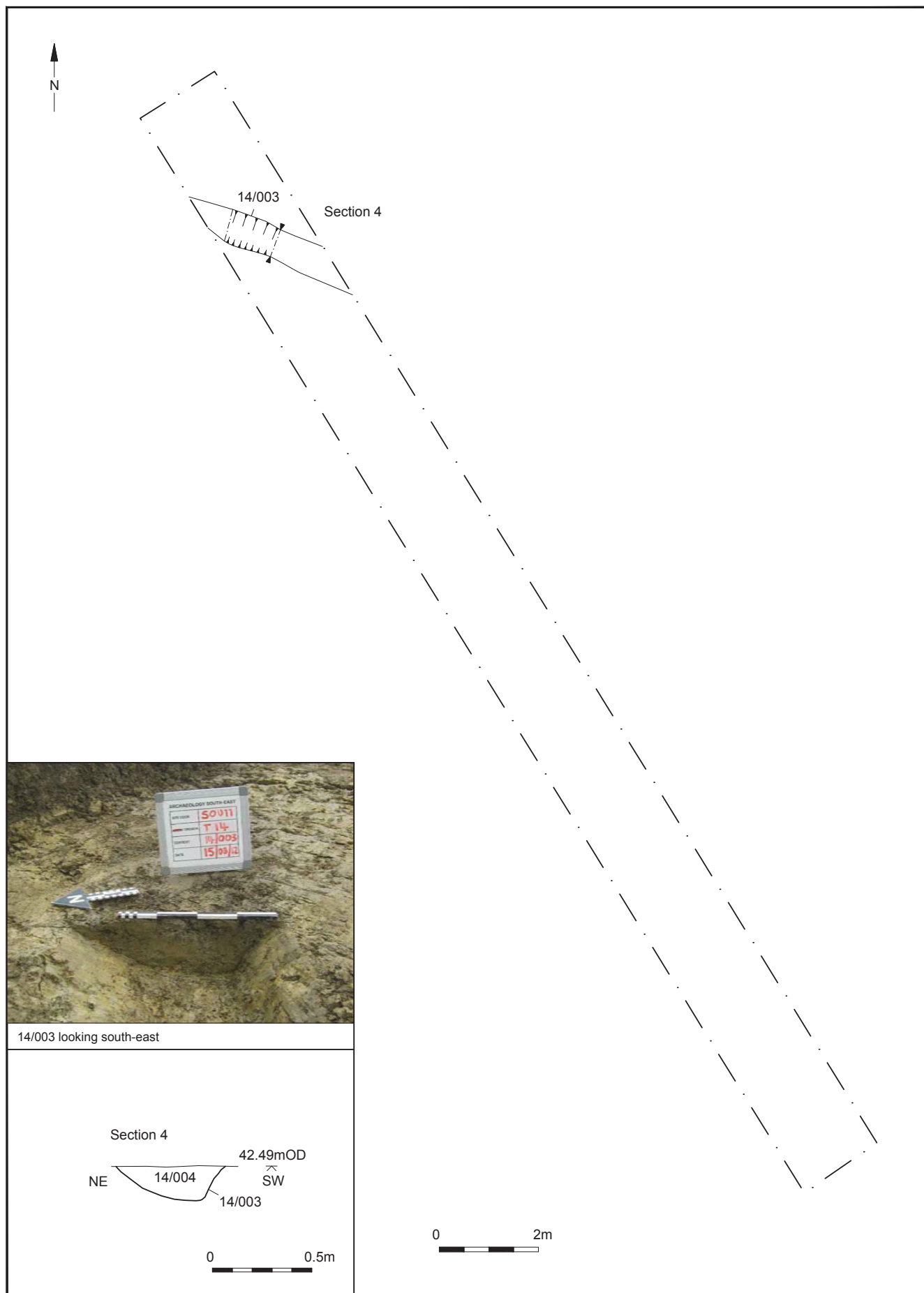


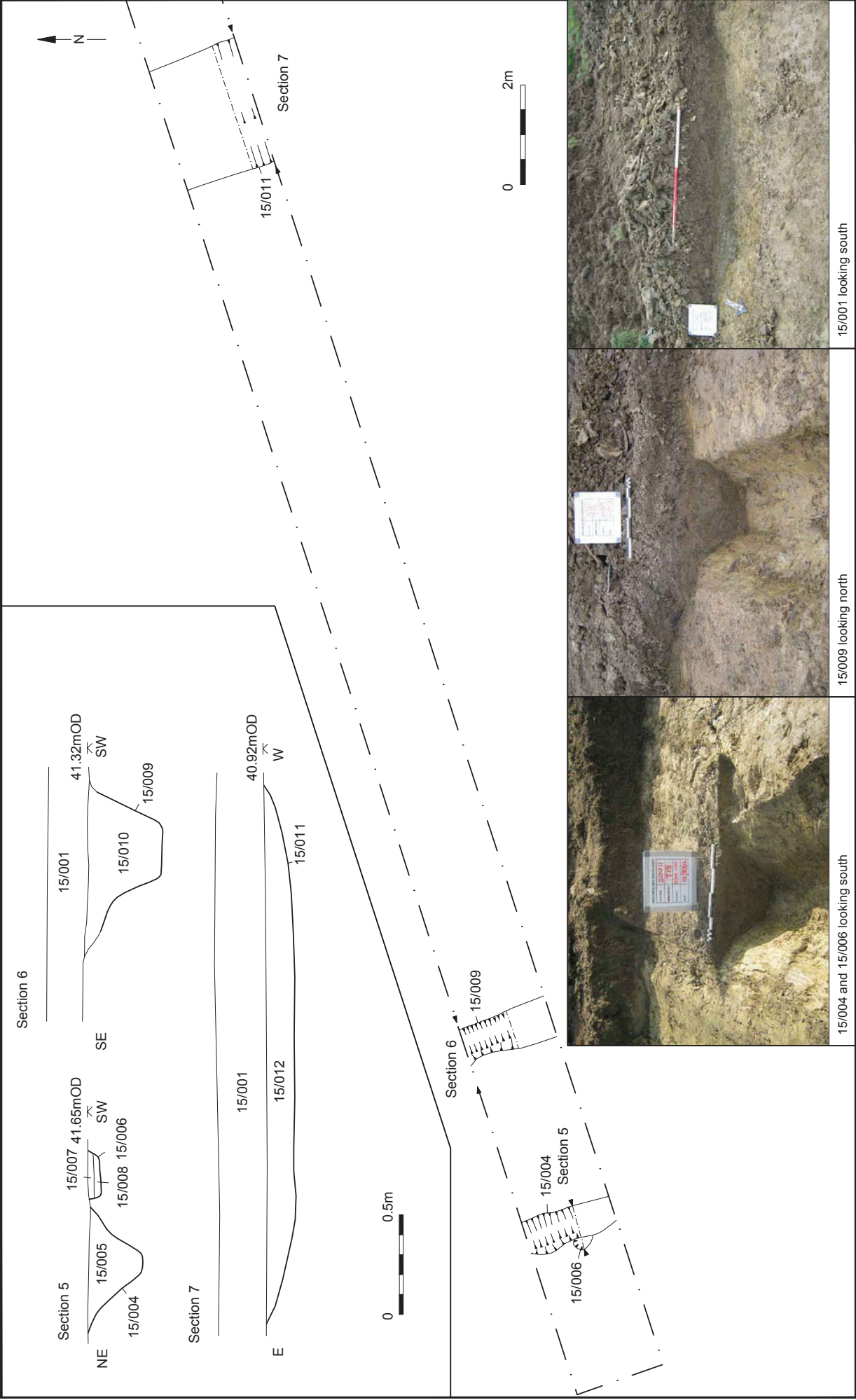
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Report Ref: 2012079	Drawn by: JLR		



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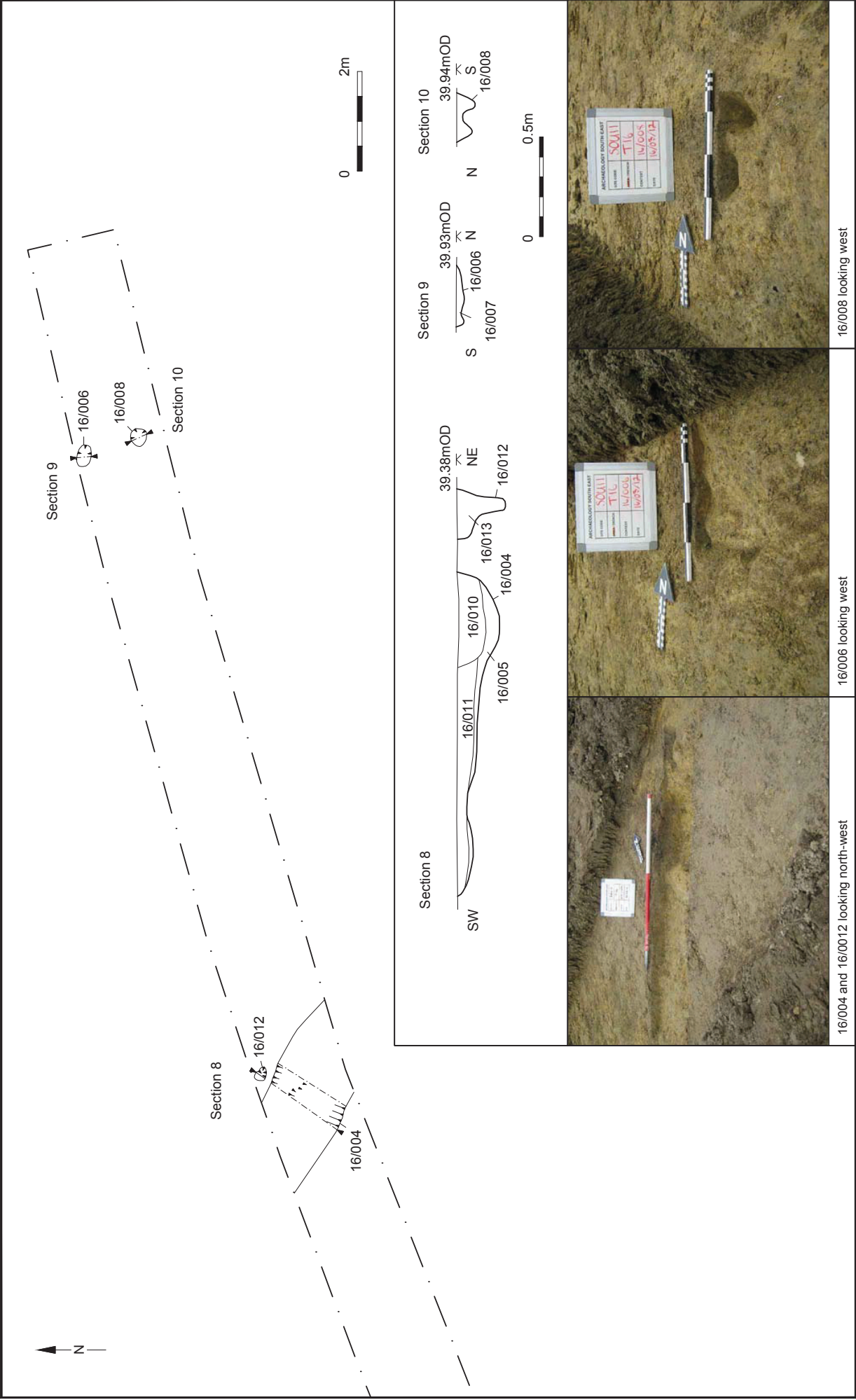
Fig. 4





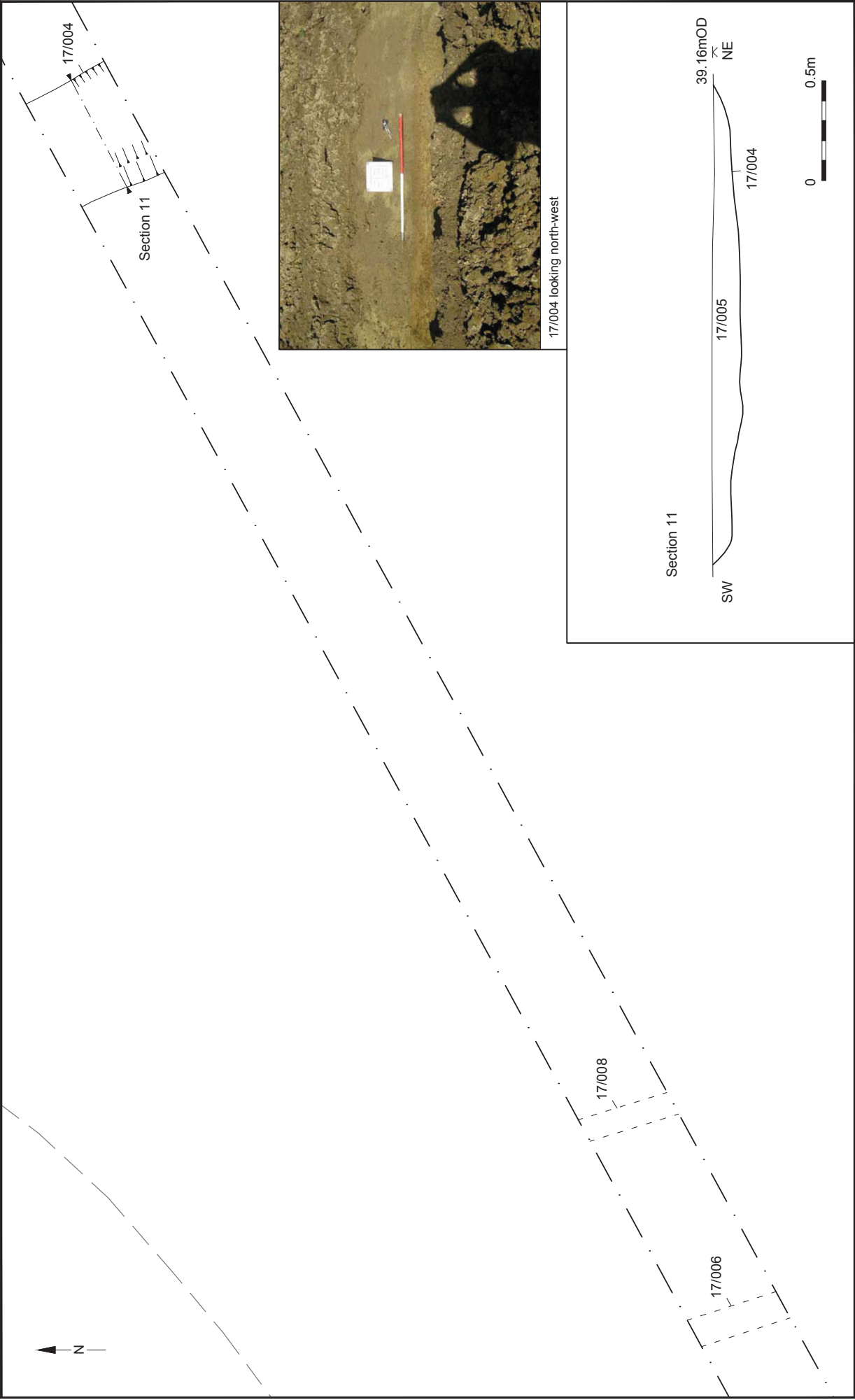
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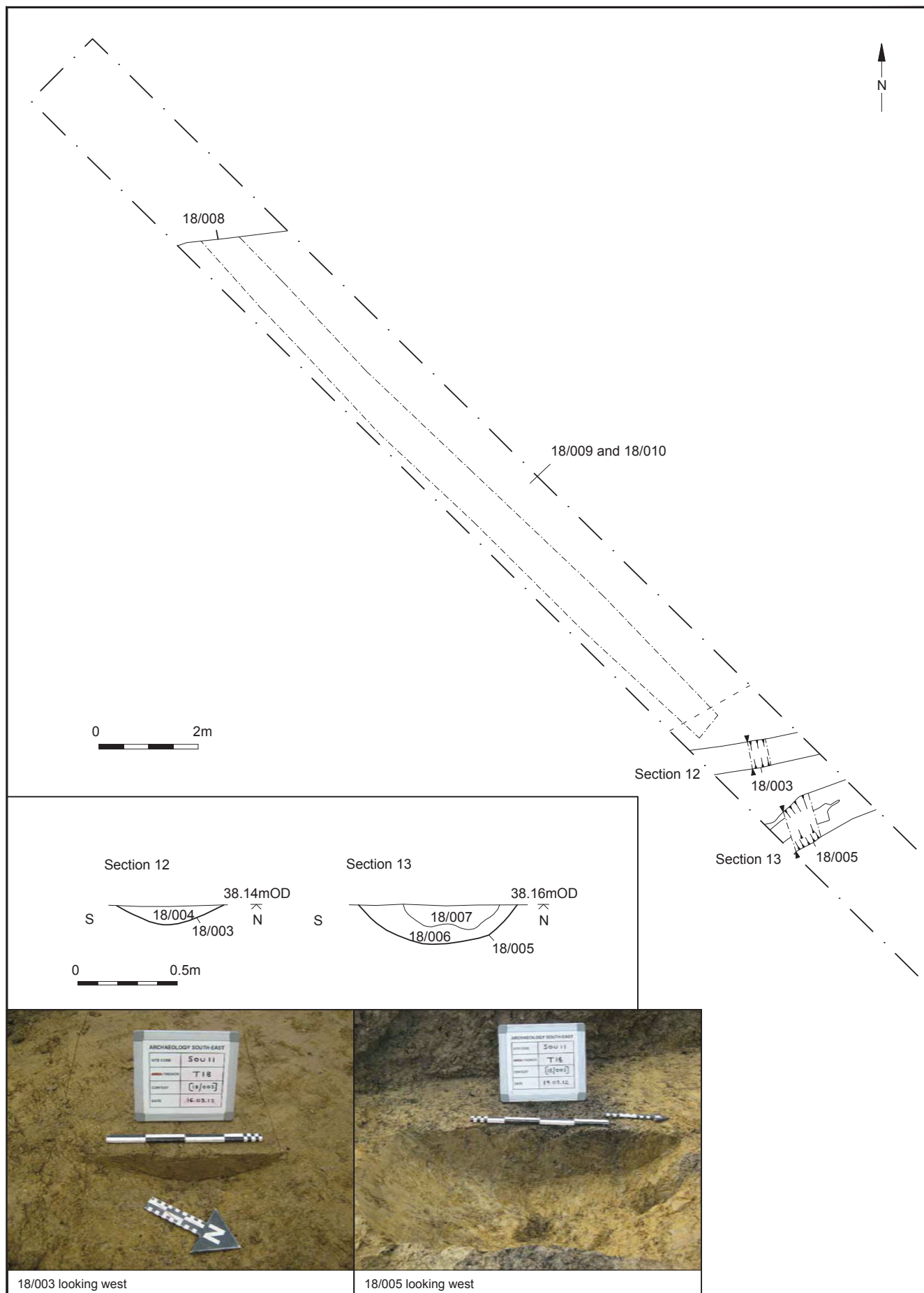


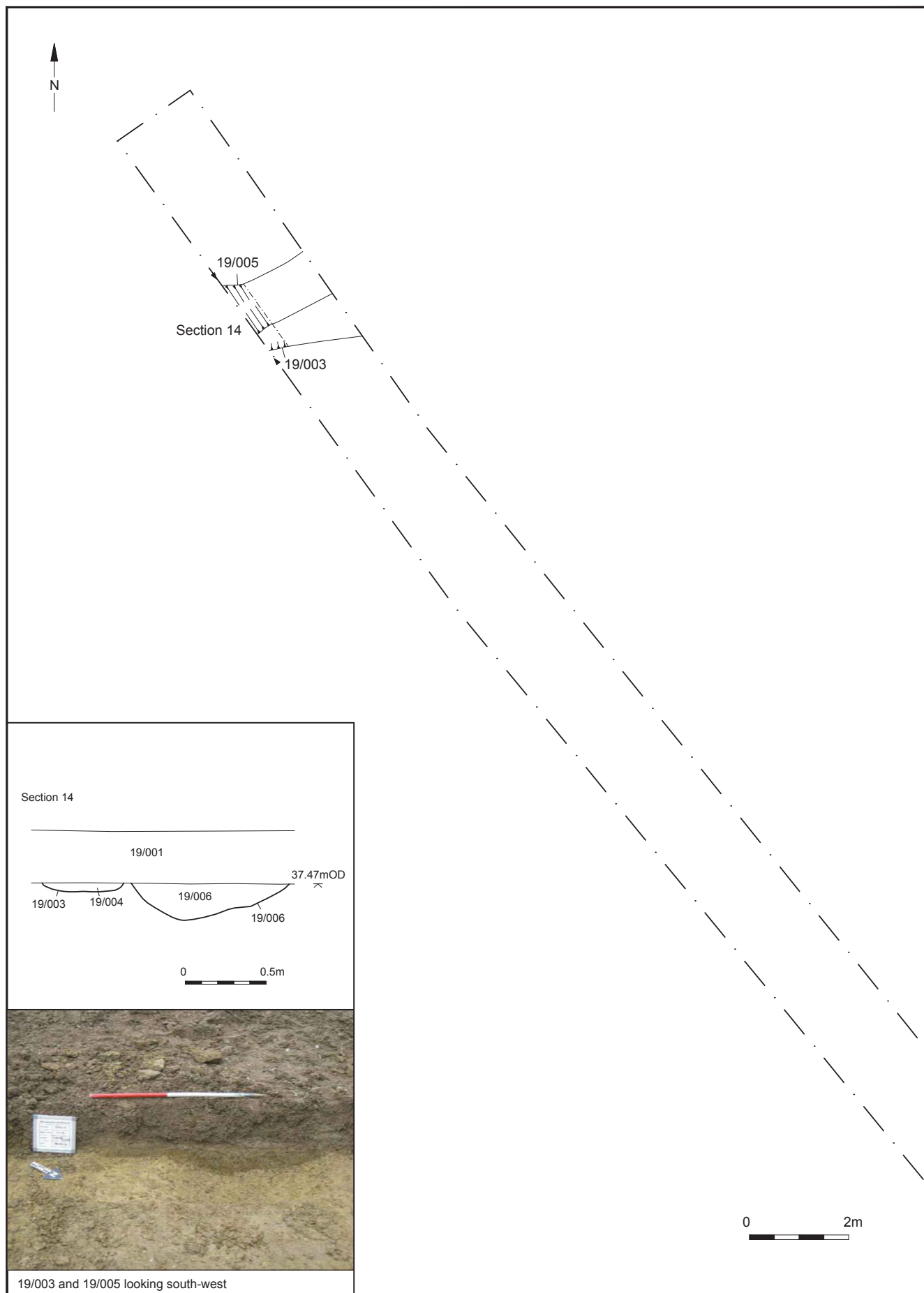
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Fig. 7

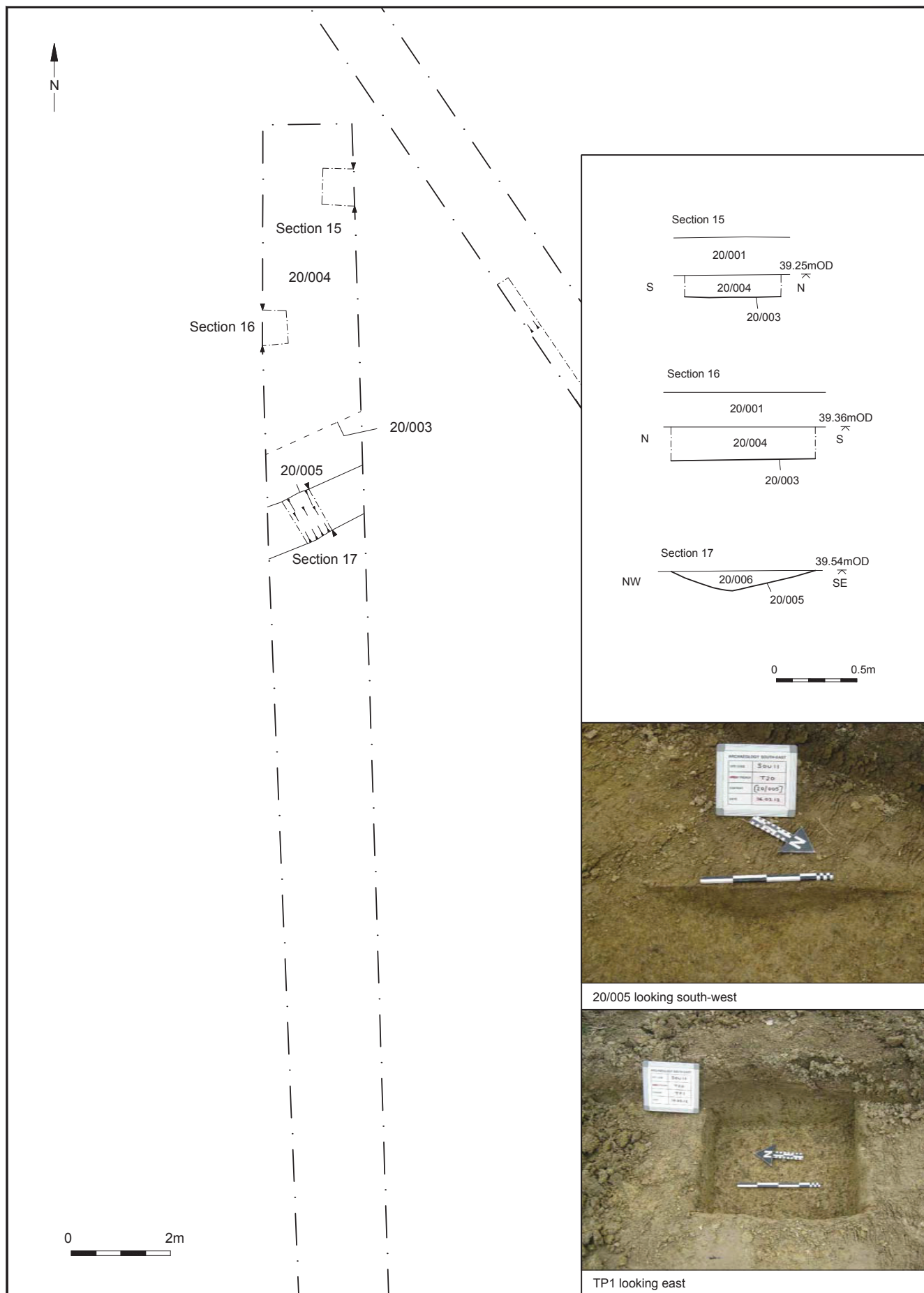


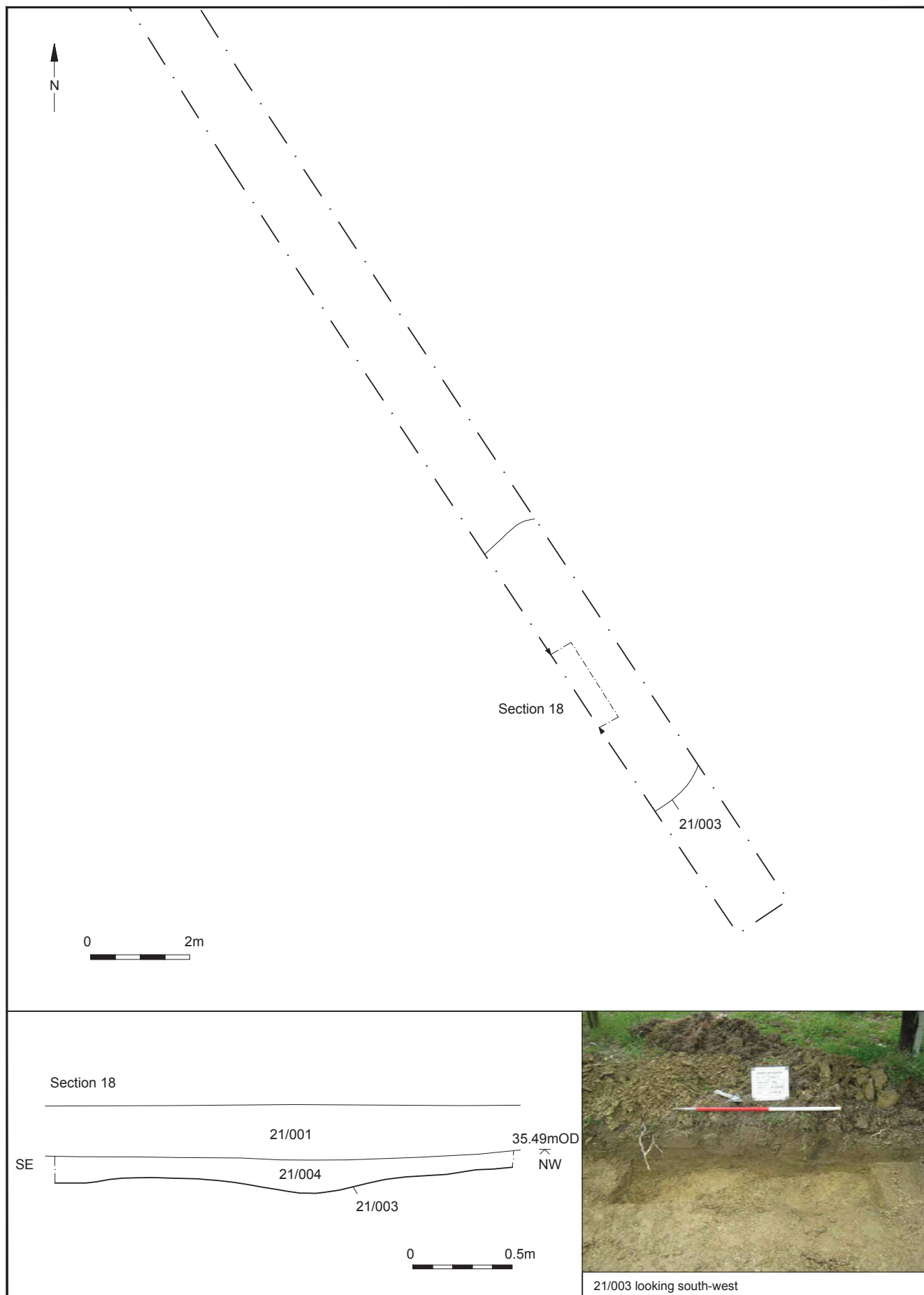
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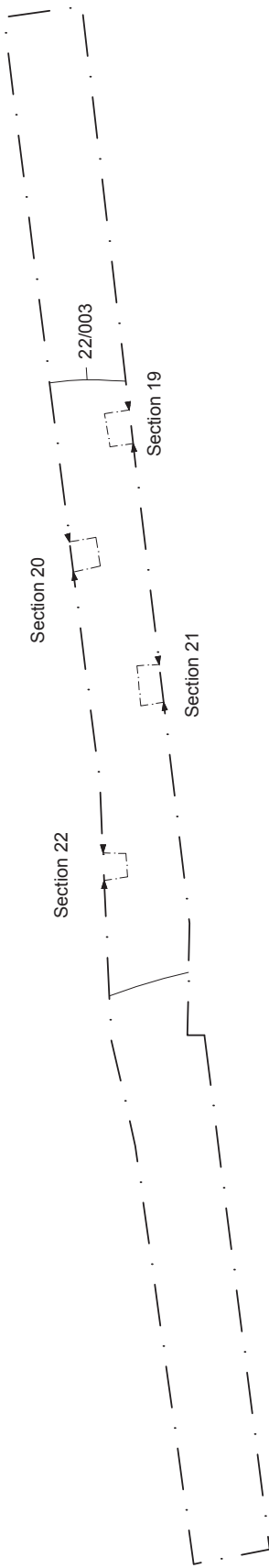
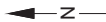




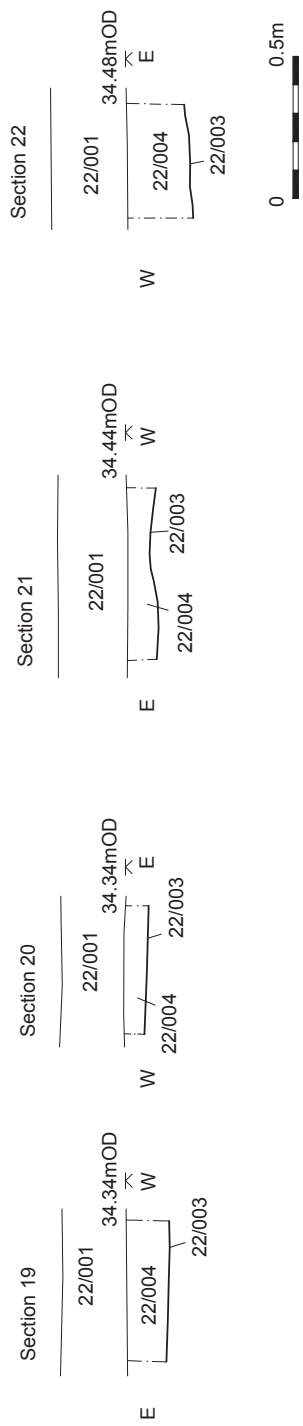




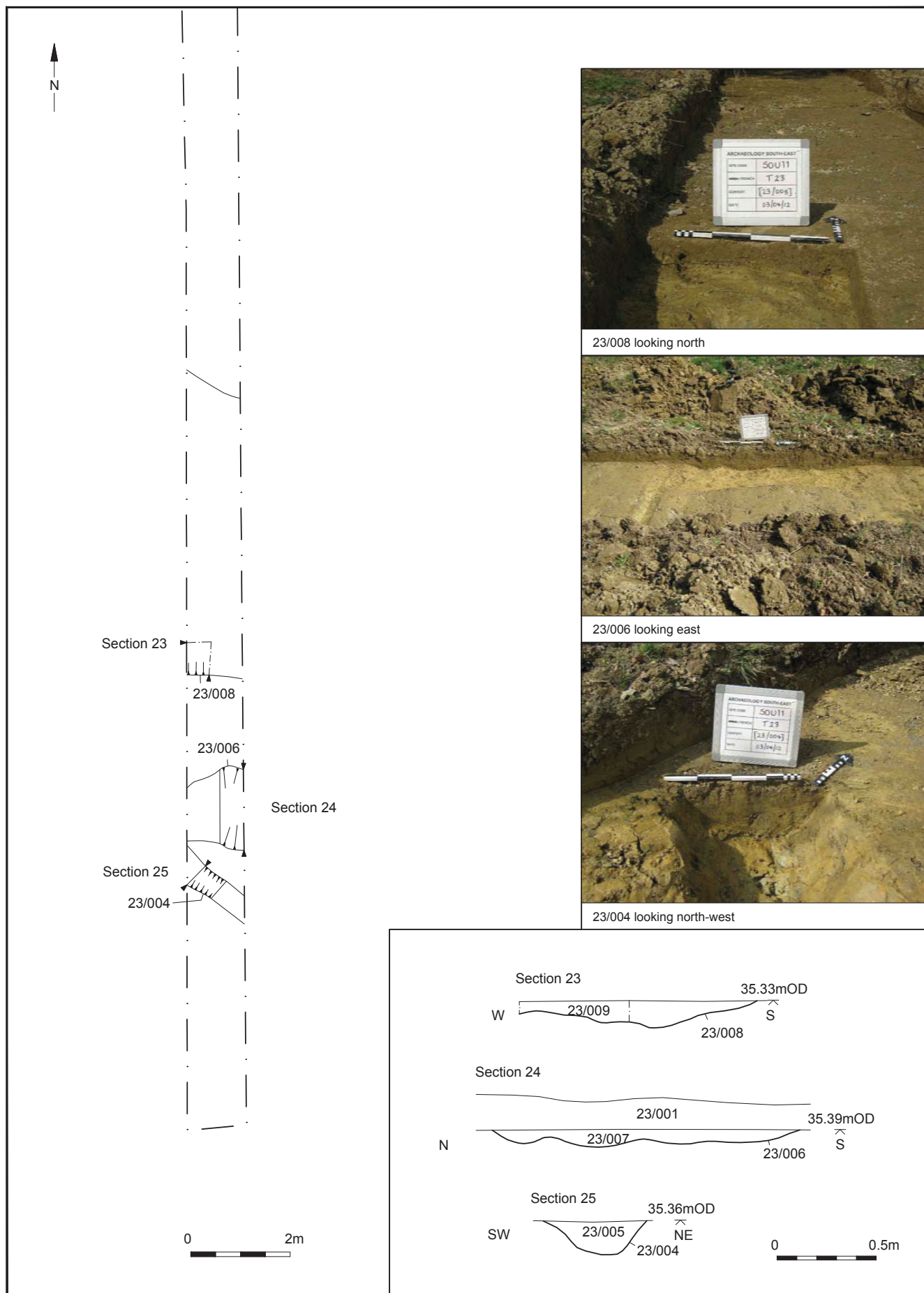
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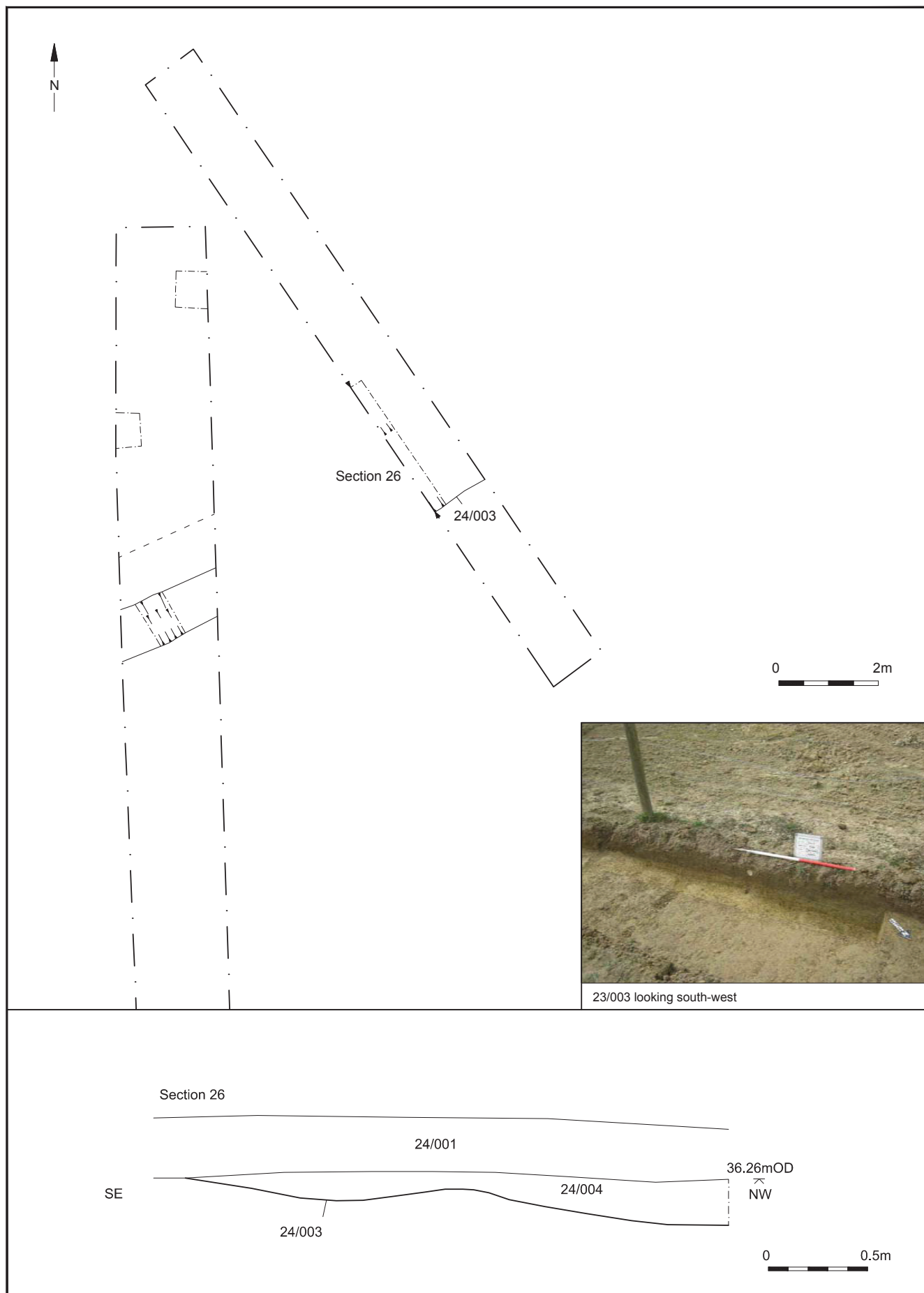


Sondage 1 looking south



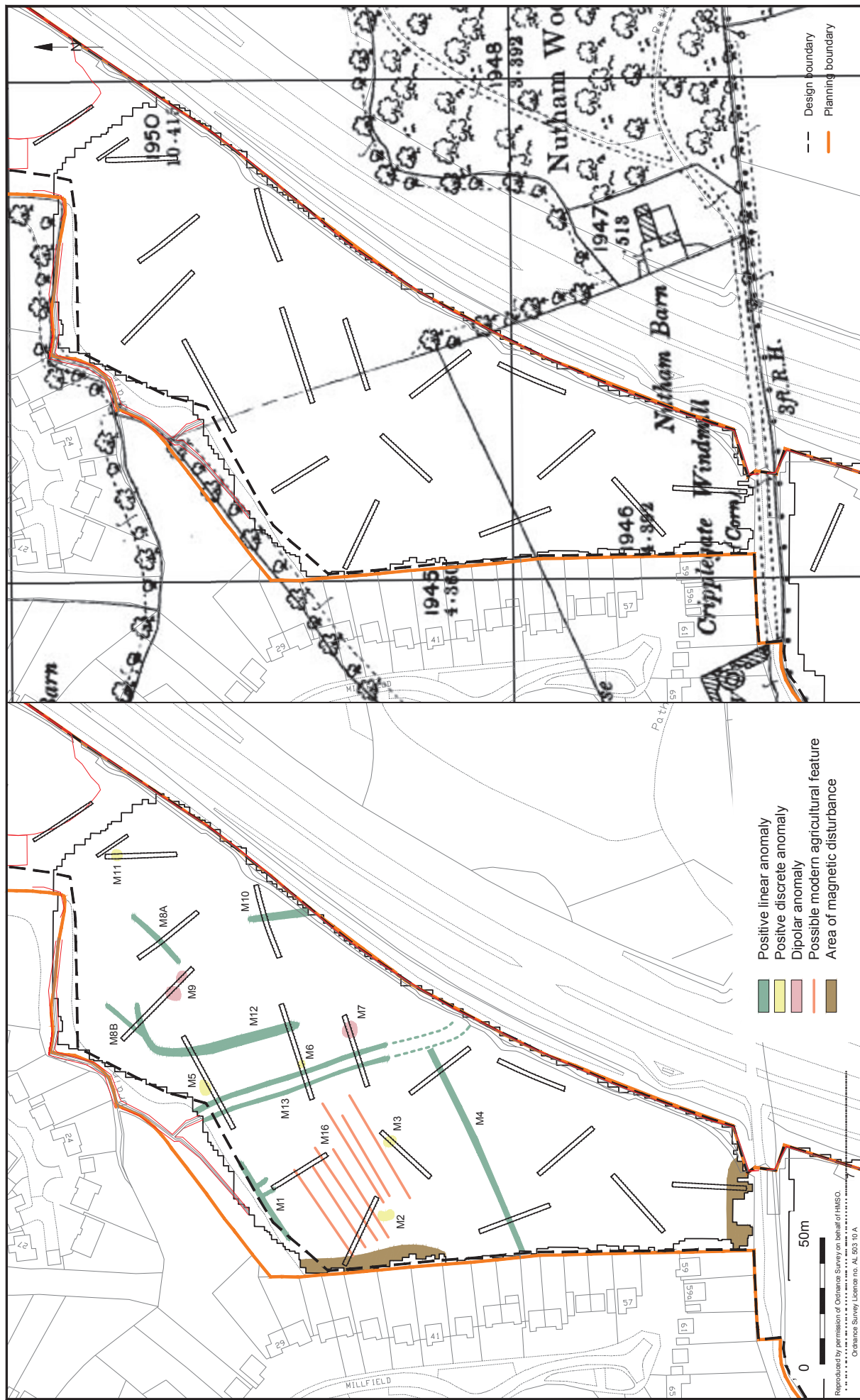
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Report Ref: 2012079	Drawn by: JLR			





• <b>Archaeology South-East</b>		Millfield Southwater	Fig. 15
Project Ref: 5045	April 2012	Trench 24: Plan, section and photograph	
Report Ref: 2012079	Drawn by: JLR		





<b>• Archaeology South-East</b>		Millfield, Southwater	Fig. 16
Project Ref: 5045 Report Ref: 2012079	April 2012 Drawn by: JLR		

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