Archaeology South-East

ASE

An Archaeological Evaluation Report: Land at Drovers Roundabout, Ashford, Kent

NGR: TR 0016 4380

ASE Project No: 5267
Site Code: DRA 13

ASE Report No: 2013029
OASIS ID: archaeol6-143613

By Kathryn Grant, BA MSc AIFA
With contributions by Karine Le Hégarat and Dawn Elise Mooney

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Abstract

An archaeological evaluation was carried out by Archaeology South East (ASE) on land at the M20 Junction 9 and Drovers Roundabout, Ashford, Kent (NGR 600200, 143900) between the 30th January and 1st February 2013. The work was commissioned by CgMs Consulting Limited to assess the archaeological potential of the site in advance of a proposed retail development.

Seven trial-trenches were excavated to a cumulative length of 210m. The trenches showed little sign of disturbance to the natural horizon suggesting the potential for good preservation of any archaeological remains which may have been present. Four, possibly five, shallow ditches were encountered in Trenches 2, 6 and 7. Though dating is very limited, it is likely that these ditches formed part of a wider field system, perhaps of prehistoric date.

The results of the archaeological evaluation suggest that the site has probably mainly functioned as agricultural land; no archaeological evidence for settlement activity was identified. Natural geology consisted of mid reddish orange and light brownish yellow clay with variable gravel inclusions across the site and was encountered at 56.80m AOD in the southwest and 51.40m AOD in the north. This was sealed beneath largely intact subsoil, although some modern disturbances were identified in the southern part of the site where a temporary compound was positioned in 2010.

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project Background

1.1.1 Archaeology South-East (ASE), a division of the Centre for Applied (CAA) Archaeology at the Institute of Archaeology (IoA), University College London (UCL) was commissioned by CgMs Consulting Limited to undertake an archaeological evaluation on land at the M20 Junction 9 and Drovers Roundabout, Ashford, Kent, hereafter referred to as the 'site'. The site is centred on National Grid References (NGR) 600200, 143900 (Figure 1).

1.1.2 The archaeological evaluation was undertaken in advance of a new retail development.

1.2 Planning Background

1.2.1 Planning permission was granted (Number: 11/00932/AS) for the construction of a new retail store with associated car parking, access and landscaping. Condition 5 stated the requirement for a programme of archaeological work on the site.

1.2.2 In 2011, an archaeological Desk Based Assessment (DBA) (CgMs 2011) for the site as a whole was produced. The assessment demonstrated the moderate potential of the site to contain archaeological remains of prehistoric date. Prior to the production of the DBA, a watching brief had been conducted in the south of the site during groundwork associated with the construction of a footbridge (SWAT 2011); this work revealed a ditch of mid to late Iron Age date.

1.2.3 In advance of the work, a comprehensive Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) was prepared for the archaeological evaluation in reference to communications between ASE and CgMs Consulting Limited and KCC Heritage Conservation Group (ASE 2013). This document conformed to the relevant *Standards and Guidance* of the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA 2001) and was duly approved by the relevant parties prior to the commencement of fieldwork.

1.3 Research Aims and Objectives

1.3.1 The broad aims of the evaluation were:

- To assess the character, extent, preservation, significance, date and quality of any such remains and deposits
- To assess how they might be affected by the development of the site
- To establish the extent to which previous groundwork and/or other processes have affected archaeological deposits at the site
- To assess what options should be considered for mitigation

1.3.2 The specific objectives in order to fulfil the above aims were:

- To identify any evidence of prehistoric activity on the site and to determine what impact previous groundworks have had to any archaeology encountered.

1.3.3 The specific research objectives for the evaluation were:

- To determine the presence of any Roman remains, be it field/enclosure ditches or settlement remains and, if present, consider in consultation with Kent County Council's forthcoming South East Research Framework.

1.4 Scope of report

1.4.1 This report details the results of the archaeological evaluation on the site. The fieldwork was undertaken between 30th January and 1st February 2013 by Kathryn Grant (Archaeologist), Steve Price (Assistant Archaeologist) and Rob Cole (Surveyor).

1.4.2 The fieldwork was managed by Darryl Palmer and post-excavation managed by Jim Stevenson.

2.0 BACKGROUND

2.1 Site Location, Topography and Geology

2.1.1 The site measures approximately 2.1ha in size and is located to the north of Ashford. It comprises grassland with some derelict farm buildings and is bounded by the A20 Maidstone Road to the south and east, the Ashford to Maidstone Railway to the west and the Warrens to the north.

2.1.2 The underlying geology of the site is a mix of Hythe Formation inter-bedded sandstone and limestone and Sandgate Formation sandstone, siltstone and mudstone (BGS 2013).

2.2 Archaeological Background

2.2.1 Introduction

The following information is derived from the DBA (CgMS 2011) with due acknowledgment.

2.2.2 Prehistoric

A limited cluster of find spots relating to Prehistoric remains were recorded in the Kent HER to the north west of the site in the area of The Warren. A Neolithic serrated flint axe is recorded as having been found c. 300m to the north west of the site (TQ94 SE5). A Bronze Age axe has been recorded as being found on the Ashford Golf Course c. 600m to the north of the site (HER TQ04 SW17). A late Bronze Age urn is recorded as having been found in a sandpit on The Warren c. 250m to the north west of the site (TQ 94 SE9).

Several phases of archaeological fieldwork have been undertaken on the site opposite, often referred to as Repton Park or Ashford Barracks which is located on the south-eastern side of the A20. These phases of work are listed below.

Phase 1 evaluation:	March 2004 (ASE 2004a)
Phase 2 excavation:	April-May 2004 (ASE 2005a)
Phase 3 evaluation:	October 2004 (ASE 2004b)
Phase 4 evaluation:	November 2004 (ASE 2004c)
Phase 5 evaluation:	July 2005 (ASE 2005b)
Phase 6 excavation:	January 2005 (ASE 2005a)
Phase 7 evaluation:	January 2007 (ASE 2007)
Phase 8, 9 and 10 evaluation:	May-June 2011 (ASE 2011)

Much of the archaeological activity revealed during the course of these various phases of archaeological fieldwork appears to be Late Iron Age or

early roman in date and includes a variety of pits, postholes and ditches, including two possible ditched enclosures. The 2011 phase of work revealed a number of ditches on a variety of alignments, interspersed with occasional pits, postholes and tree throws that were consistent with low-level agricultural landuse. The dating of these features was unfortunately limited, but it was thought that two superimposed co-axial field systems are represented among the various ditch alignments; one of possible Middle-Late Bronze Age date and another of probable medieval date. Other features present include medieval and post-medieval ditches in the immediate environs of Repton Manor. These evaluations also revealed a large amount of truncation and disturbance across much of the site. These remains have been interpreted as indicative of agricultural usage rather than settlement.

2.2.3 Roman, Saxon and Medieval

No recorded Roman, Saxon or Medieval remains exist within a 500m radius of the site. The nearby evaluations revealed no remains of these dates. The site is located away from the historic cores of nearby settlements and therefore would have been agricultural during the Saxon and Medieval periods.

2.2.4 Post-medieval

The nearby Ashford Barracks were constructed in 1797 to house 2,000 soldiers (TQ94 SE41). This establishment was expanded and modernised over many years until it was closed in 1998. Other post-medieval sites recorded on the Kent HER within 500m radius of the site are Ashford Isolation Hospital (TR04 SW109), Ashford Hospital (TR 04 SW106) and various WWII structures and defences.

2.2.5 Cartographic Sources (CgMs 2011)

The earliest map that shows the site is Hasted's Map of Kent (1793) at which time, it lay beyond the historic core of Ashford within agricultural fields. The Ashford Tithe map (1840) depicts the site as being part of a large field between Warren Lane and Maidstone Road. No structures are noted. By the time that the first edition OS map is published (1871) a volunteer rifle range crossed the middle of the site. The Ashford to Maidstone railway is first shown on the 1898 OS map but the rest of the site remained unchanged. The site remained unchanged (with the exception of the disappearance of the rifle range) until the 1980s when the A20 Fougeres Way was constructed through the middle of site although the A20 had been widened and the bypass had been constructed beside the site in the late 1950s. The site has remained unchanged from the late 1980s to the present.

2.2.6 Modern Disturbances

The southern part of the site was used in 2010 for a temporary compound. An archaeological watching brief was carried out during this phase of groundwork (SWAT 2011). The archaeological monitoring recorded a few linear ditches, one of which was dated to the Middle to Late Iron Age (SWAT 2011).

3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY

3.1 Methodology

3.1.1 The archaeological work was carried out in accordance with the WSI (ASE 2013) and complies with the relevant Standards and Guidance of the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA 2000, 2001). A Method Statement/Risk Assessment of the fieldwork was produced prior to work on site.

3.1.2 The evaluation work comprised seven archaeological trenches excavated under constant archaeological supervision to a cumulative length of 210m using a 13-tonne mechanical tracked excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket to minimise damage to deposits. Each trench was scanned with a cable avoidance tool (CAT) prior to excavation to ensure no unknown services were present.

3.1.3 The trenches were positioned across the development area so as to ensure an optimum sample (Figure 2).

3.1.4 Excavation was undertaken in 0.10m spits through undifferentiated topsoil and subsoil, during which the removed spoil and surface of each spit was scanned for any stray, unstratified artefacts. These finds were recovered and bagged according to the context and trench number from which they were found. The excavations were taken down to the top of the underlying natural geology or to the surface of any significant archaeological deposit; whichever was higher. When removed, topsoil, subsoil and made ground deposits were kept separate to ensure that they could be redeposited stratigraphically during the backfilling process for optimum reinstatement.

3.1.6 All seven trenches were located and levelled using a GPS and tied into the Ordnance Survey 1:1250 scale map of the area.

3.1.7 All of the trenches, features and deposits were recorded using ASE standard record sheets. Each deposit uncovered during the archaeological trial-trenching was assigned its own unique context number system prefixed with the trench number. A photographic record was maintained throughout the evaluation.

3.1.8 On the completion excavation and recording the Senior Archaeological Officer, Wendy Rogers (KCC), was informed and attended the site to inspect the trenches. Following this meeting, permission was obtained for the trenches to be backfilled and compacted.

3.2 The Site Archive

3.2.1 Currently museums in this area are not accepting archives however, the archive will be offered to the appropriate local museum (Ashford Museum) once collections resume.

3.2.2 The contents of the archive are tabulated below (Table 1).

Number of Trenches	7
Number of Contexts	33
No. of files/paper record	1 file, 2 permatrace sheets
Photographs	45
Bulk finds	1 small box
Registered finds	none
Environmental Samples	1

Table 1: Quantification of archive

4.0 RESULTS (Figures 3- 6)

4.1 Summary

4.1.1 Seven trial-trenches were excavated to a cumulative length of 210m. The trenches were all 30m long and 2m wide. Three out of the seven trial trenches contained potential archaeological features, all cutting the natural geology. No features were found to extend across more than one trench. Only one of the features contained datable finds.

4.1.2 A total of thirty-three contexts were recorded during the archaeological trial-trenching. The natural and overburden deposits have been described in section 4.2. The specific details of each trench and any variations in deposits have been presented in order from 4.3 onwards.

4.1.3 Groundwater ingress was observed in the base of all trenches.

4.2 Natural and Overburden

4.2.1 Natural geology [003] consisted of mid reddish orange and light brownish yellow clay with variable gravel inclusions across the site and was encountered at 56.80m AOD in the southwest and 51.40m AOD in the north (*c.*0.7-1.0m below ground level).

4.2.2 This natural horizon was overlain by mid orange brown clayey silt subsoil. Sealing the subsoil in all of the trenches was mid grey brown clayey silt topsoil The overburden deposits varied in thickness from 0.55m to 1.0m in most of the site, but were only 0.15-0.4m in the south of the site where the 2010 temporary compound was located.

4.2.3 Made ground was encountered in the southern extent of the site (Trenches 1 and 6) where a temporary compound was located in 2010.

4.3 Trench 1

4.3.1 Trench 1 was positioned in the southern corner of the site on a northeast to southwest alignment. No archaeological features were revealed within this trench and no finds were recovered.

Context Number	Context Type	Context Description	Deposit Thickness (m)	Height m AOD
1/001	Deposit	Topsoil	0.15-0.35	54.37 – 55.05
1/002	Deposit	Subsoil	0.15-0.25	-
1/003	Deposit	Natural	-	53.87 – 54.75
1/004	Deposit	Made Ground	0.10-0.15	-

Table 2: List of recorded contexts for Trench 1

4.3.2 Summary

Natural geology, [1/003,] was encountered at 53.87m AOD in the northeast of the trench and 54.75m AOD in the southwest and was overlain by subsoil

[1/002]. This was sealed by topsoil [1/001] in the northern part of the trench and made ground [1/004] in the south where a temporary compound was previously located. The maximum depth of the overburden deposits within this trench was 0.60m.

4.4 **Trench 2** (Figure 3)

4.4.1 Trench 2 was positioned in the northeast corner of the site on a northwest to southeast alignment. Two linear ditches and another feature, thought to be a possible ditch terminus were revealed within this trench.

Context Number	Context Type	Context Description	Deposit Thickness (m)	Height m AOD
2/001	Deposit	Topsoil	0.15-0.25	52.37 – 52.45
2/002	Deposit	Subsoil	0.10-0.55	-
2/003	Deposit	Natural	-	51.75 – 52.07
2/004	Cut	NE-SW Ditch	-	51.85
2/005	Fill	Fill of 2/004	-	-
2/006	Cut	Ditch (terminus?)	-	51.86
2/007	Fill	Fill of 2/006	-	-
2/008	Cut	E-W Ditch Gully	-	51.66
2/009	Fill	Fill of 2/008	-	-

Table 3: List of recorded contexts for Trench 2

4.4.2 Summary

Natural geology, [2/003], was encountered at 51.75m AOD in the southeast of the trench and 52.07m AOD in the northwest and was overlain by subsoil, [2/002]. This was sealed by topsoil, [2/001], in the north-western part of the trench and made ground, [2/004], in the southeast where a temporary compound was previously located. The maximum depth of the overburden deposits was 0.70m.

A linear ditch, [2/004], with a width of 1.35m and a depth of 0.26m was revealed crossing the middle of the trench on a rough northeast-southwest alignment, *c*.0.70m below current ground level. This feature was filled with loose mid grey brown sandy clay with occasional sub-angular flint inclusions [2/005]. No finds were recovered from the fill. The ditch was cut by a later shallow feature (0.12m deep), a possible gully terminus, [2/006]. The gully was filled by lightly compacted grey brown sandy clay with occasional flecks of manganese [2/007]. No finds were recovered from [2/005] or [2/007], therefore these features are undated.

A north-south aligned linear gully [2/008] with a width of 0.64m and a depth of 0.19m was revealed in the southeast of the trench *c*.0.70m below current ground level. This feature was filled with soft mid grey brown sandy clay with occasional angular flint inclusions [2/009]. Two undiagnostic flint flakes were recovered from the [2/009].

Ditches [2/004], [2/006] and [2/008] were overlain by subsoil [2/002], which was overlain by topsoil [2/001]. No finds were recovered from the deposits within this trench. The maximum depth of the overburden deposits within this trench was 0.70m.

4.5 Trench 3

4.5.1 Trench 3 was positioned in the northeast of the site on a northwest to southeast alignment. No archaeological features or artefacts were revealed within this trench.

Context Number	Context Type	Context Description	Deposit Thickness (m)	Height m AOD
3/001	Deposit	Topsoil	0.40	53.21 – 53.57
3/002	Deposit	Subsoil	0.25-0.60	-
3/003	Deposit	Natural	-	52.21 – 52.92

Table 4: List of recorded contexts for Trench 3

4.5.2 Summary

Natural geology, [3/003], was encountered at 52.21AOD in the southeast of the trench and 52.92m AOD in the northwest. The natural was overlain by subsoil, [3/002], which was in turn covered by topsoil, [3/001]. No finds were recovered. The maximum depth of the overburden deposits was 1.0m.

4.6 Trench 4

4.6.1 Trench 4 was positioned in the northwest of the site on a northeast to southwest alignment. No archaeological features were revealed within this trench.

Context Number	Context Type	Context Description	Deposit Thickness (mm)	Height m AOD
4/001	Deposit	Topsoil	200-300	54.33 – 55.07
4/002	Deposit	Subsoil	250-350	-
4/003	Deposit	Natural	-	53.78 – 54.52

Table 5: List of recorded contexts for Trench 4

4.6.2 Summary

Natural geology, [4/003], was encountered at 53.78m AOD in the northeast of the trench and 54.52m AOD in the southwest. This was overlain by subsoil, [4/002] and topsoil, [4/001]. A small amount of late post-medieval finds, including, pottery sherds and a clay tobacco pipe stem fragment were recovered from the topsoil covering this trench. The maximum depth of the overburden deposits within this trench was 0.55m.

4.7 Trench 5

4.7.1 Trench 5 was positioned in the northern part of the site on a northeast to southwest alignment. No archaeological features were revealed within this trench.

Context Number	Context Type	Context Description	Deposit Thickness (m)	Height m AOD
5/001	Deposit	Topsoil	0.30-0.40	52.40 – 53.33

5/002	Deposit	Subsoil	0.30-0.60	-
5/003	Deposit	Natural	-	51.40 – 52.73

Table 6: List of recorded contexts for Trench 5

4.6.2 Summary

Natural geology was encountered at 51.40m AOD in the northeast of the trench and 52.73m AOD in the southwest. The natural was overlain by subsoil, [5/002], which was in turn covered by topsoil, [5/001]. No finds were recovered. The maximum depth of the overburden deposits within this trench was 1.0m.

4.8 Trench 6 (Figure 4)

4.8.1 Trench 6 was positioned in the south of the site on a northwest to southeast alignment. A single north-south linear ditch feature was revealed within this trench.

Context Number	Context Type	Context Description	Deposit Thickness (mm)	Height m AOD
6/001	Deposit	Topsoil	0.20-0.35	54.91 – 55.41
6/002	Deposit	Subsoil	0.10-0.20	-
6/003	Deposit	Natural	-	54.51 – 54.86
6/004	Deposit	Made Ground	0.30	-
6/005	Cut	N-S Ditch Gully	-	54.65
6/006	Fill	Fill of 6/005	-	-

Table 7: List of recorded contexts for Trench 6

4.8.2 Summary

Natural geology, [6/003], was encountered at 54.51m AOD in the southeast of the trench and 54.86m AOD in the northwest.

A small linear ditch gully, [6/005] was revealed crossing the middle of the trench on a rough north-south alignment *c.*0.35m below current ground level. This feature was filled with firm mid grey brown silty clay with frequent sub-angular flint inclusions, [6/006]. No finds were recovered from the fill.

Gully [6/003] was overlain by subsoil [6/002] which was in turn sealed by topsoil [6/001]. Subsoil was overlain by made ground [6/004] in the southeast of the trench where a temporary compound was previously located. No finds were recovered from the deposits within this trench. The maximum depth of the overburden deposits within this trench was 0.55m.

4.9 Trench 7 (Figure 5)

4.9.1 Trench 7 was positioned in the south-western corner of the site on a northeast to southwest alignment. It was repositioned 5m to the northeast to avoid a tree canopy. A single north-south linear feature was revealed. The recorded contexts have been tabulated and are summarised below (Table 6).

Context Number	Context Type	Context Description	Deposit Thickness (m)	Height m AOD
7/001	Deposit	Topsoil	0.30-0.40	56.43 – 57.50

7/002	Deposit	Subsoil	0.40-0.45	-
7/003	Deposit	Natural	-	55.68 – 56.80
7/004	Cut	N-S Ditch	-	56.03
7/005	Fill	Fill of 7/004	-	-

Table 8: List of recorded contexts for Trench 7

4.9.2 Summary

Natural geology was encountered at 55.68m AOD in the northeast of the trench and 56.80m AOD in the southwest.

A linear ditch, [7/004], with a width of 1.22m and a depth of 0.21m was revealed crossing the middle of the trench on a rough north-south alignment *c*.0.8m below current ground level. This feature was filled with moderately compacted mid grey brown clayey silt with occasional sub-angular flint inclusions, [7/005]. No finds were recovered from the fill. A sample of the ditch fill, <1>, was collected for environmental analysis.

Ditch [7/004] was overlain by subsoil [7/002], which was in turn covered by topsoil [7/001]. No finds were recovered from the deposits within this trench. The maximum depth of the overburden deposits within this trench was 0.8m.

5.0 FINDS AND ENVIRONMENTAL

5.1 Introduction

5.1.1 A small collection of finds was recovered during the archaeological evaluation at Drovers Roundabout, Ashford Kent. An overview of the assemblage is given in Table 1.

Context	Pottery	wt (g)	CBM	wt (g)	Flint	wt (g)	CTP	Wt(g)
2/009					2	12		
4/001	4	128	2	36			1	2
Total	4	128	2	36	2	12	1	2

Table 9: Quantification of the finds assemblage

5.2 **The Pottery** by Trista Clifford

5.2.1 A total of four pot fragments (128g) were recovered from the topsoil in Trench 4 [4/001]: Two abraded fragments from blue transfer ware plates, together with a salt glazed stoneware fragment from a large vessel and a red earthenware fragment with interior cream glaze, probably from a shallow plate or dish. All are of late 18th-early 20th century date.

5.3 **The CBM** by Trista Clifford

5.3.1 Two small fragments of roof tile (weight 36g) in a fine sand tempered fabric were recovered from [4/001]. A 19th-20th century date is probable.

5.4 The Clay tobacco pipe

5.4.1 A small section of clay tobacco pipe stem weighing 2g came from [4/001]. It is of 18-19th century date .

5.5 **The Flintwork** by Karine Le Hégarat

5.5.1 Two pieces of struck flint weighing 11g were recovered from the fill [2/009] of ditch [2/008]. The material is in a moderate state of preservation, implying some degree of post-depositional disturbance. Rust marks often associated with ploughing activities were also noted on both artefacts. The small assemblage consists of flake fragments. They are made on light to dark grey flint, and are otherwise undiagnostic.

5.6 **Environmental Remains** by Karine Le Hégarat

5.6.1 A single 40L bulk soil samples was taken during evaluation work at the site to establish the presence of environmental remains such as wood charcoal, charred macrobotanical remains, fauna and mollusca and to assist finds recovery. The sample was extracted from clayey silt fill [7/005] of ditch [7/004]. The sample was processed in its entirety in a flotation tank and the residue and flot were retained on 500 and 250µm meshes respectively and

air dried. The residue was passed through graded sieves (8, 4 and 2mm) and each fraction sorted for environmental and artefact remains. The flot was scanned under a stereozoom microscope at x7-45 magnifications.

5.6.2 The small flot (10ml) consisted almost entirely of uncharred vegetation (85%) including high numbers of very fine roots, which suggests some post-depositional disturbances and potential modern contamination of the deposit. Occasional uncharred seeds of fat-hen (*Chenopodium* sp.) were also present. The only charred plant remains in the samples were fragments of wood. The small charcoal assemblage was limited to a single roundwood fragment of cherry/blackthorn (*Prunus sp.)* >4mm in size and infrequent smaller pieces and flecks. No other environmental remains were recorded and no artefact remains were found.

				Flot						Residue				
Sample Number	**Context**	**Context / deposit type**	**Sample Volume litres**	**Weight g**	**Flot volume ml**	**Uncharred %**	**Sediment %**	**Seeds uncharred**	**Charcoal <2mm**	**Charcoal >4mm**	**Weight (g)**	**Charcoal <4mm**	**Weight (g)**	**Charcoal Identifications**
1	7/005	Ditch	40	4	10	85	15	* *Chenopodium* sp.	*	*	<2	*	<2	*Prunus* sp. (1)

Table 10: Environmental sample quantification (* = 1-10, ** = 11-50, *** = 51-250, **** = >250) and weights in grams

6.0 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

6.1 Overview

6.1.1 Seven trial-trenches were excavated to a cumulative length of 210m. The trenches were all 30m long and 2m wide. The thickness of the overburden (0.55m-1m) and the intact subsoil observed in all seven trenches suggests potential for archaeological remains to survive at the site if originally present. Groundwater ingress was observed in the base of all trenches.

6.1.2 Levels taken in all of the trenches provide a good picture of the site's natural topography. The natural horizon falls from 56.80m AOD in Trench 7 in the southwest of the site to 51.40mAOD in the north. Natural geology [003] consisted of mid reddish orange and light brownish yellow clay with variable gravel inclusions across the site

6.1.3 The overburden in the south-eastern corner of the site was found to be very shallow and recent in origin and equates to the location of a compound that was present here in 2010. Some modern truncation and disturbances were observed in this part of the site.

6.2 Archaeological Evidence

6.2.1 Three out of the seven trial trenches contained archaeological features. No features were found to extend across more than one trench. Datable finds were only recovered from one of these features. They were all cut into the natural substrate and sealed by subsoil.

6.2.2 The north-south ditch revealed in Trench 7 is very likely to be the same ditch as the 1st Century BC ditch recorded by SWAT during the 2010 watching brief.

6.2.3 The ditches and gullies are thought to be part of a wider linear field system which may be a continuation of that seen on the Ashford Barracks site to the southwest. These features are indicative of agricultural function rather than pertaining to settlement activity.

6.3 Conclusions

6.3.1 Given the absence of features in four of the trenches and the intact subsoil, it is reasonable to conclude that the majority of the site was probably not intensively occupied in the past and has perhaps mainly functioned as agricultural land.

6.3.2 The results of the investigation allow for conclusions to be reached regarding the archaeological potential of the site and the possible impact that the development will have upon any archaeological remains. In this regard the works carried out on land at Drover's Roundabout, Ashford, can be seen to have fulfilled the aims of the investigation as stipulated in the WSI (ASE 2013).

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

ASE would like to thank Rob Bourn (CgMs Consulting) for commissioning the work and the Kent County Archaeological Officer, Wendy Rogers, for her guidance throughout the project.

HER Summary Form

Site Code	DRA 13					
Identification Name and Address	DROVERS ROUNDABOUT					
County, District &/or Borough	Ashford, Kent					
OS Grid Refs.	NGR: 600200, 143900					
Geology	Hythe Formation inter-bedded sandstone and limestone and Sandgate Formation sandstone, siltstone and mudstone					
Arch. South-East Project Number	5267					
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.** 30-01-13 to 1-02-13	~~Excav.~~	~~WB.~~	~~Other~~		
Sponsor/Client	CgMs Consulting Ltd					
Project Manager	Darryl Palmer					
Project Supervisor	Kathy Grant					
Period Summary	~~Pala~~	~~Meso.~~	~~Neo.~~	~~BA~~	**IA?** 4-5 Linear ditches/agricultural field system	~~RB~~
	~~AS~~	~~MED~~	~~PM~~	**Other** Modern disturbance in south from 2010 temporary compound		

Summary

An archaeological evaluation was carried out by Archaeology South East (ASE) on land at the M20 Junction 9 and Drovers Roundabout, Ashford, Kent (NGR 600200, 143900) between the 30th January and 1st February 2013. The work was commissioned by CgMs Consulting Limited to assess the archaeological potential of the site in advance of a proposed retail development.

Seven trial-trenches were excavated to a cumulative length of 210m. The trenches showed little sign of disturbance to the natural horizon suggesting the potential for good preservation of any archaeological remains which may have been present. Four, possibly five, shallow ditches were encountered in Trenches 2, 6 and 7. Though dating is very limited, it is likely that these ditches formed part of a wider field system, perhaps of prehistoric date.

The results of the archaeological evaluation suggest that the site has probably mainly functioned as agricultural land; no archaeological evidence for settlement activity was identified. Natural geology consisted of mid reddish orange and light brownish yellow clay with variable gravel inclusions across the site and was encountered at 56.80m AOD in the southwest and 51.40m AOD in the north. This was sealed beneath largely intact subsoil, although some modern disturbances were identified in the southern part of the site where a temporary compound was positioned in 2010.

OASIS FORM

OASIS ID: archaeol6-143613

Project details

Project name	Land at Drovers Roundabout, Ashford, Kent
Short description of the project	Seven trial-trenches were excavated to a cumulative length of 210m. The trenches showed little sign of disturbance to the natural horizon suggesting the potential for good preservation of any archaeological remains which may have been present. Four, possibly five, shallow ditches were encountered in Trenches 2, 6 and 7. Though dating is very limited, it is likely that these ditches formed part of a wider field system, perhaps of prehistoric date. The results of the archaeological evaluation suggest that the site has probably mainly functioned as agricultural land; no archaeological evidence for settlement activity was identified. Natural geology consisted of mid reddish orange and light brownish yellow clay with variable gravel inclusions across the site and was encountered at 56.80m AOD in the southwest and 51.40m AOD in the north. This was sealed beneath largely intact subsoil, although some modern disturbances were identified in the southern part of the site where a temporary compound was positioned in 2010.
Project dates	Start: 30-01-2013 End: 01-02-2013
Type of project	Field evaluation
Current Land use	Cultivated Land 1 - Minimal cultivation

Project location

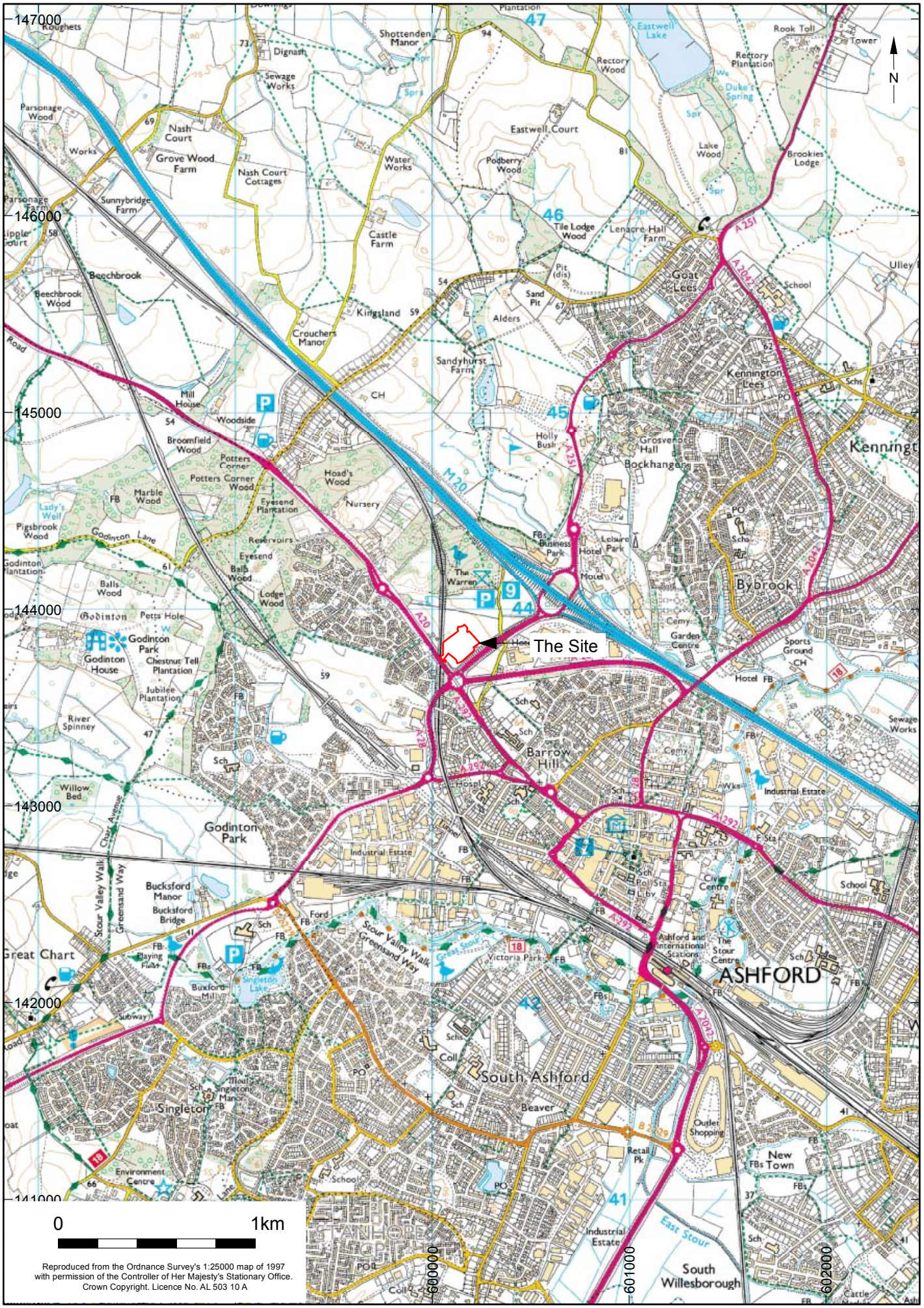
Country	England
Site location	KENT ASHFORD KENARDINGTON Land at Drovers Roundabout
Site coordinates	TQ 600200 143900 50 0 50 54 22 N 000 16 34 E Point

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Archaeology South-East
Project brief originator	CgMs Consulting
Project design originator	CgMs Consulting
Project director/manager	Darryl Palmer/Jim Stevenson
Project supervisor	Kathryn Grant
Type of sponsor/funding body	private client

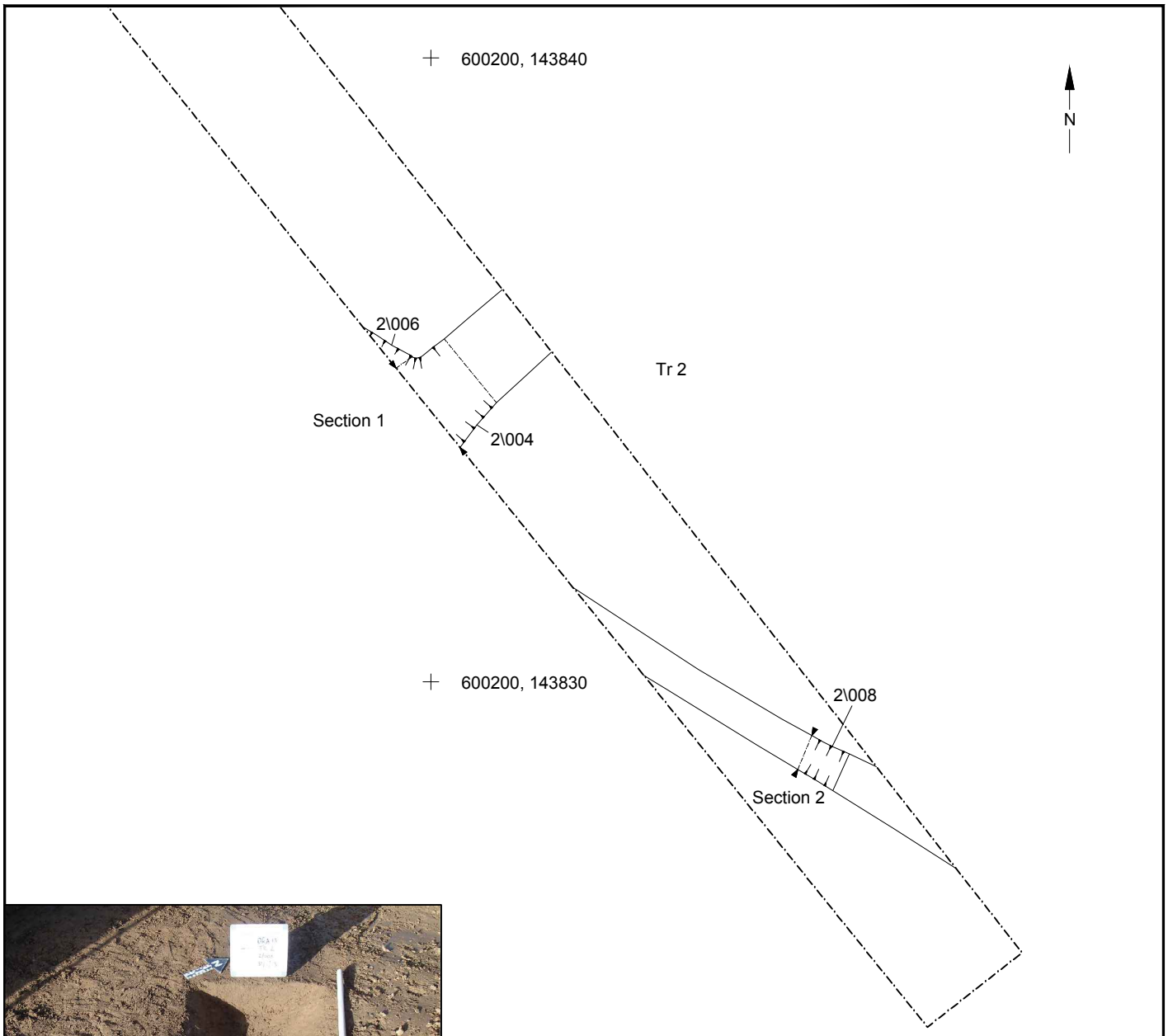
Entered by	Jim Stevenson (jim.stevenson@ucl.ac.uk)

Entered on	13 February 2013



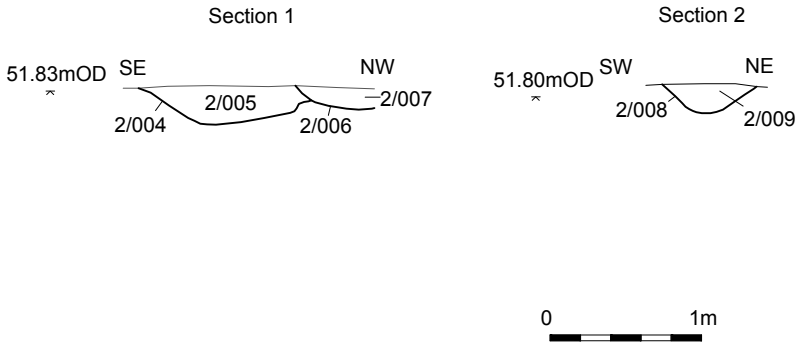
© Archaeology South-East		Land at the M20, Junction 9, Ashford, Kent	Fig. 1
Project Ref: 5267	Jan 2013	Site location	
Report Ref: 2013029	Drawn by: AR		

© **Archaeology South-East**		Land at the M20 Junction 9, Ashford, Kent	Fig. 2
Project Ref: 5267	Jan 2013	Trench location	
Report Ref:	Drawn by: AR		



Ditch 2\008, facing north-east

Ditch 2\004 and 2\006, facing south-west



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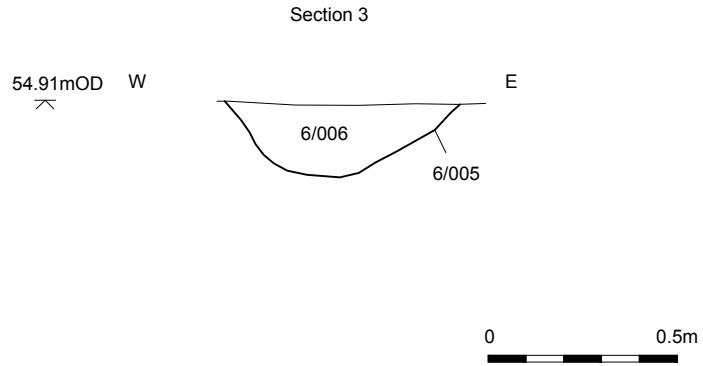
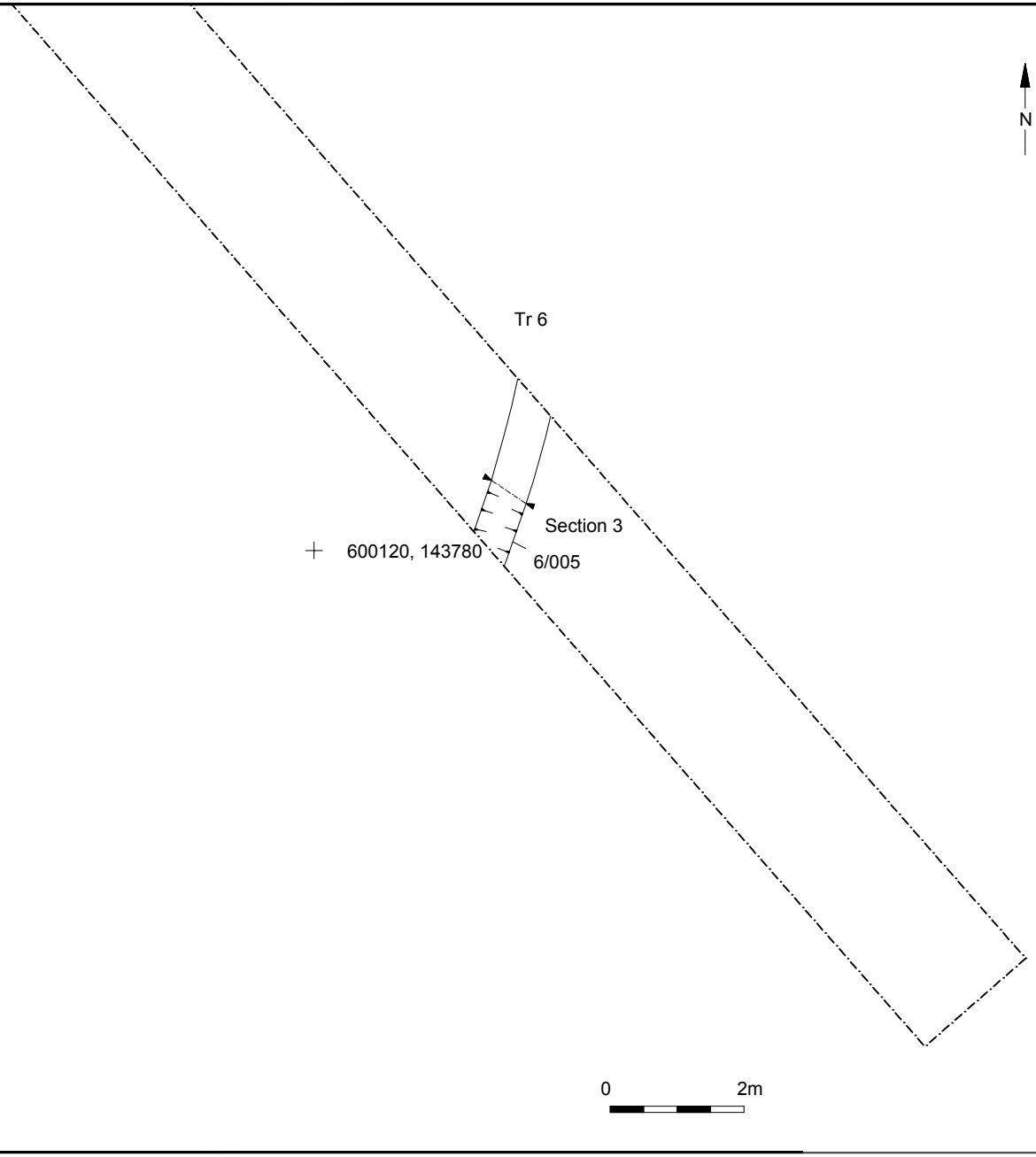
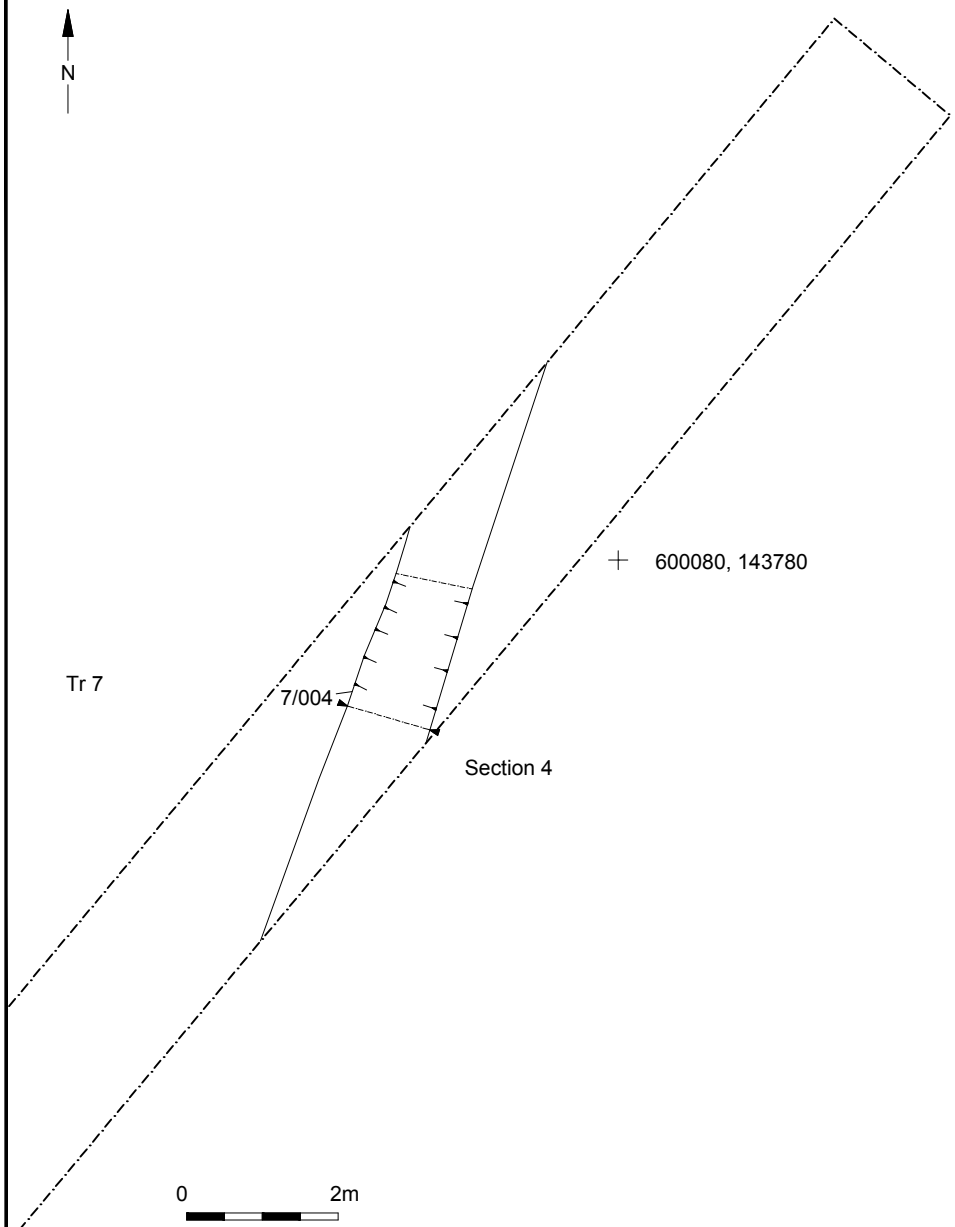
Project Ref: 5267	Feb 2013	Trench 2, plan, sections and photographs	
Report Ref: 2013029	Drawn by: AR		

Ditch 6\005, facing north





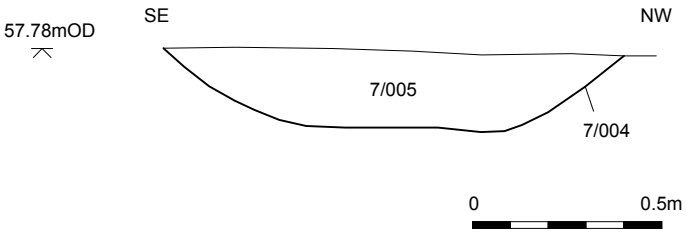
© Archaeology South-East		Land at the M20 Junction 9, Ashford, Kent	Fig. 4
Project Ref: 5267	Feb 2013	Trench 6, plan, section and photograph	
Report Ref: 2013029	Drawn by: AR		



Ditch 7\004, facing south-west

Trench 7, facing south

Section 4



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Project Ref: 5267	Feb 2013	Trench 7, plan, section and photographs	
Report Ref: 2013029	Drawn by: AR		

Trench 1, Facing North-east

Trench 2, facing North-west

Trench 3, facing South-east

Trench 4, facing North-east

Trench 5, facing North-east

Trench 6, facing South-east

Trench 7,facing South-west

© **Archaeology South-East**		Land at the M20 Junction 9, Ashford, Kent	Fig. 6
Project Ref: 5267	Feb 2013	Trench photographs	
Report Ref: 2013029	Drawn by: AR		

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