Archaeology South-East

ASE

An Archaeological Evaluation on Land at Westergate, West Sussex

NGR: 494120 105790
Arun District Council
Pre-Application

ASE Project No: 5981
Site Code: LAW 12
ASE Report No: 2013079
OASIS ID: archaeol6-148554

By Kathryn Grant, BA MSc AIFA
With contributions by Luke Barber, Liz Chambers, Anna Doherty, Karine Le Hégarat, Dawn Elise Mooney and Elke Raemen

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Abstract

Between 11th and 28th March 2013 an archaeological evaluation was carried out by Archaeology South-East (ASE) on Land at Westergate, West Sussex in advance of a planning application for the proposed redevelopment of the site. The work was commissioned by Ramboll UK Ltd.

Seventy-two trial trenches were excavated to a cumulative length of 1764m. Of these trenches, twenty-five contained archaeological remains. Three periods of archaeological activity were identified: Early Neolithic (Period 1), Late Bronze Age (Period 2) and post-medieval (Period 3). Period 1 (c.3650-3300 BC) activity was represented by pits/tree-boles. Period 2 (c.1150-800 BC) and Period 3 (Late 18th Century) activity was represented by ditches, probably elements of field systems. With the exception of three features of probable Early Neolithic date, the general absence of discrete features, suggests that the site was utilised for pastoral or arable farming activity, perhaps since the Late Bronze Age.

Natural geology was encountered at 10.89m AOD (Trench 55) in the southwest of the site rising by over three metres to 14.22m AOD (Trench 21) in the north of the site. This was overlain by subsoil. In some parts of the site a possible relict soil was identified beneath the later intact subsoil. Generally there was a considerable build-up of overburden deposits found across the site (c.350-700mm of coverage over archaeological features).

Surface topography lies at 12.23m AOD in the southeast rising by over two metres to 14.52m AOD in the north.

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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 Archaeology at the Institute of Archaeology (IoA), University College London (UCL) was commissioned by Ramboll UK Ltd to undertake an archaeological evaluation on land at Westergate, West Sussex (NGR 494120 105790: Figure 1), hereafter referred to as 'the site'.

1.2 Planning Background

1.2.1 The archaeological evaluation was undertaken pre-application to support an outline planning application for demolition of existing glasshouses, residential bungalow, stables and various outbuildings and residential development of up to 268 dwellings including 30% affordable housing with Senior Living accommodation, with associated access, public open space and landscaping.

1.2.2 As part of this consideration an archaeological Desk Based Assessment (Ramboll 2013) was prepared. That document recommended that a programme of archaeological fieldwork be undertaken. After consultation with Mark Taylor (County Archaeologist, West Sussex County Council) it was agreed that 3.5% of the area would be subject to evaluation which equated to 72trial trenches at 25m length.

1.2.3 A Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) was prepared (ASE 2013) and submitted to West Sussex County Council's archaeologists for approval prior to archaeological works commencing on site. The WSI set out the strategy and methodology which was to be implemented during the archaeological fieldwork on site. It conforms with current best practice and to the guidance outlined in *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment* (MoRPHE, English Heritage 2006) and the Institute for Archaeologists' *Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation* (IfA 2008).

1.3 Research Aims and Objectives

1.3.1 The evaluation set out to determine 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.

1.3.2 The evaluation 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.

1.3.3 To make a statement concerning the geoarchaeological potential of any deposits uncovered and recorded during geoarchaeological monitoring.

1.3.4 Within these parameters, the evaluation presented an opportunity to address the following objectives:

- To establish the presence or absence of archaeological deposits, especially those identified in section 2.0 of this report.

- Evaluate the likely impact of past land use and development.
- To enable Ramboll UK and the West Sussex County Council archaeologist to make an informed decision as to the requirement for any further mitigation work.

1.3.5 Specific research aims for the investigation sought to establish:

- If there was evidence for Bronze Age settlement as found at the Westergate Primary School site?
- If Bronze Age settlement was noted on the site, was there evidence for a cessation of activity by the end of the Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age, as has been evidenced on other sites across the Coastal Plain?
- If there was any evidence of Iron Age settlement on or near the site linked with the development of the territorial Oppida in the area, as defined by the Chichester Entrenchments?
- If there was evidence of Roman settlement on or near the site and whether this suggests a continuation from the preceding Later Iron Age or the imposition of a new order?
- If there was evidence for Early Anglo-Saxon activity on the site as typified by Sunken Feature Buildings (SFB) such as the examples found at Westhampnett to the west and Bersted to the south?

1.3.6 The broad aims of the archaeological evaluation were to:

- Clarify the presence/absence and extent of any buried archaeological remains within the site that may be impacted by development;
- Identify, within the constraints of the evaluation, the date, character, condition and depth of any surviving remains within the site;
- Assess the degree of existing impacts to sub-surface horizons and to document the extent of archaeological survival of buried deposits;
- Assess the geoarchaeological potential of deposits uncovered during geoarchaeological monitoring;
- Produce a report which will present the results of the evaluation in sufficient detail to allow an informed decision to be made concerning the site's archaeological potential;

1.4 Scope of the Report

1.4.1 This report details the results of archaeological evaluation works on the site which were undertaken between the 11th and 28th March 2013.

1.4.2 The fieldwork was carried out by Alice Thorne (Senior Archaeologist), Kathryn Grant, Ian Hogg (Archaeologists), Liz Chambers, Susan Chandler, Jo Ahmet, Lauren Gibson, Antonio Reis and Gary Webster (Assistant Archaeologists). The trenches were surveyed by Chris Russel, John Cook and Rob Cole (Surveyors). The fieldwork was managed by Andy Leonard (fieldwork) and Jim Stevenson (post-excavation).

2.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 Site Location, Topography and Geology

2.1.1 The site, which is centred at NGR 494120 105790 (Figure 1), lies at the northern edge of the village of Westergate, which itself lies on the edge of the Sussex Coastal Plain and close to the transition to the higher ground of the South Downs.

2.1.2 The site is irregular in shape and measures *c.*11ha. It is bound by residential units to the south, Northfields Lane to the west, open fields to the north and Fontwell Avenue to the east.

2.1.3 The current land use over most of the site consists of pasture fields and paddocks which are separated into land parcels by a mix of post and wire fencing and electric fences. A light industrial unit/barn lies in the centre of the site and is accessed by a farm track off of Fontwell Avenue at the eastern end of the site. A disused plant nursery, including a large greenhouse, occupies the southwest corner of the site and is accessed via a track off Nyton Road.

2.1.4 Ground-level is relatively flat at *c.*12m AOD.

2.1.5 The British Geological Survey (BGS 2013) identifies the geology of the site and the surrounding area as London Clay. This is overlain by a Head deposit across most of the site with an area of river terrace sands, silts and clays recorded at the central southern edge in the vicinity of the greenhouse.

2.2 Archaeological Background

2.2.1 The following information is a summary of the results from the Desk Based Assessment (Ramboll 2013).

Prehistoric

2.2.2 As with much of the Sussex Coastal Plain archaeological evidence in the vicinity of the site indicates that there was a significant level of activity in the area during the prehistoric period. Remains of Bronze Age settlement features found at the nearby Community School may extend onto the current site.

Roman

2.2.3 There are several sites and findspots on the HER within the vicinity of the site, including cremation burials and a probable villa to the southwest of the site. It is clear that the area was well exploited and settled during this time.

Saxon and medieval

2.2.4 Westergate is not mentioned in the Domesday Book but it is not clear if its origins were from this period or earlier. Certainly the site lay in the agricultural hinterland of Westergate by the later medieval period, with the historic maps clearly depicting it as part of an open field.

Post-medieval

2.2.5 Throughout most of the post-medieval period the site remained in use as agricultural land, initially being divided up into several, relatively small, holdings which had occurred by the time of the 1777 Enclosure Act. The site remained thus until the 19th century when the holdings were 'rationalised' into larger plots.

2.3 Previous Investigations

2.3.1 Although no investigations have been undertaken within the site itself, several evaluations were undertaken at Westergate Community School in the 1990s, c. 250m south of the site. Bronze Age activity was found in the form of both artefactual material and features, while the Roman, medieval and post-medieval periods were all represented artefactually (AOC 1998, ASE 2000 and TVAS 1996). Post-medieval boundary ditches were also found at the School site. Geoarchaeological sampling was carried out as part of this fieldwork and found that marine sediments with some palaeoenvironmental potential lay at depths of c.2-4m below the present ground surface (AOC 1998, Appendix B; Archaeology South-East 2000, 7-8).

2.3.2 Evaluation trenching undertaken at the Church of St George in Eastergate recovered artefacts from the prehistoric through to modern periods, as well as a series of medieval ditches and a post-medieval field boundary.

3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY

3.1 Archaeological Fieldwork Methodology

3.1.1 The evaluation comprised 72 trenches (Figure 2) excavated under archaeological supervision by 360-degree mechanical excavators fitted with flat-bladed ditching buckets.

3.1.2 The excavations stopped at the top of the underlying geology or at the surface of any significant archaeological deposit; whichever was higher. When removed, topsoil and subsoil were kept separate to ensure that they could be replaced sequentially. Revealed surfaces were manually cleaned in an attempt to identify individual archaeological features and trench sections were selectively cleaned to observe and record stratigraphy. The removed spoil was scanned for the presence of any stray, unstratified artefacts which were recovered and bagged for dating and analysis. None of the trenches exceeded a depth of 1.2m.

3.1.3 All archaeological deposits, features and finds were excavated and recorded in accordance with accepted professional standards (IFA 2000 & 2008, EH 1991) using *pro-forma* context record sheets. Each deposit uncovered during the archaeological trial-trenching was assigned its own unique context number system prefixed by the trench number. Any uncovered archaeological features or deposits were planned and sections of every feature were drawn. A photographic record of the site, trenches and archaeological features was maintained throughout the evaluation. Samples deemed suitable for environmental sampling were collected from archaeological deposits for environmental processing.

3.1.4 The trenches were located and levelled using a Global Position System (GPS) and tied into the Ordnance Survey 1:1250 scale map of the area.

3.2 Geoarchaeological monitoring methodology

3.2.1 Geotechnical Investigations were carried out by sub-contractors, Structural Soils Ltd., in order to test the water permeability at the site through the machine-excavation of soakaways. These excavations which comprised five geotechnical pits ,were monitored by a geoarchaeologist (Figure 2).

3.2 Onsite Constraints

Services

3.2.1 A water pipe traverses the site from the central southern part of the southeast field. An electricity cable also crosses the site on a north-south alignment. Consequently, Trenches 68 and 70 were moved away from this area. In addition, ASE were informed whilst on site that a ‘British Telecom’ cable ran adjacent to the access road to the barn/light industrial unit and a small water pipe ran along the east-west boundary separating the northeast and southeast fields. Trenches 35, 36 and 41 were moved further south to ensure they avoided this service.

Groundwater

3.2.2 Problems with groundwater were mostly encountered in the paddock fields to the northwest and southwest particularly in the vicinity of Trenches 3 and 68 where groundwater appeared as soon as the machine-excavations began.

Trenches relocated for archaeological reasons

3.2.3 Trench 68 was relocated to the northwest of the red field (Figure 2) with a view to exposing the east-west aligned linear feature found in Trench 72. Trench 70 was positioned between Trenches 37 and 39 with a view to picking up the east-west aligned linear features found in the trenches either side. Trench 44 was positioned to the north of Trench 48 and was intended to assess if the east-west linear features continued beyond trench 39.

3.3 The Project Archive

3.3.1 The project archive is currently held at offices of ASE in Portslade and will be submitted to the Novium (Chichester Museum) in due course.

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

Number of Trenches	72
Number of Contexts	314
No. of files/paper record	1 file
Photographs	304
Bulk finds	1 box
Registered finds	NONE
Environmental Samples	10

Table 1: Quantification of site archive

4.0 RESULTS (Figures 2 to 27)

4.1 Natural and Overburden Deposits

4.1.1 Natural geology, [003], varied across the site but consisted primarily of mid to dark orange brown silty/gravelly clay. This was generally overlain by firm mid orange brown silty clay subsoil [002], but in some parts of the site, a further deposit, underlying the subsoil was also identified (various contexts: [17/006], [20/004], [22/014], [23/006], [36/004], [37/004], [39/004], [44/004], [48/004], [49/004], [50/004], [51/004], [52/003], [53/003], [59/004], [67/004], [71/004]) . This meant that there was generally a considerable build-up of overburden deposits (*c.*350-700mm of coverage over archaeological features). This earlier deposit, consisting of firm mid brown orange silty clay, was very similar to the natural brickearth, but potentially had been disturbed by agricultural activity. It was necessary to remove this layer to expose undisturbed natural substrate and define archaeological features. Some features, however, were faintly seen cutting through the earlier soil, but were not clearly defined because of the general homogeneity of the fills and surrounding soil.

4.1.2 The subsoil was overlain by friable dark grey brown silty clay topsoil in all areas of the site.

4.2 Trench descriptions (Figure 2)

4.2.1 A summary of every trench has been tabulated in the appendix of this report (Table 2).

4.2.2 Twenty-five of the seventy-two trenches contained archaeological features and these are descried in the main report text (4.3 onwards).

4.2.3 47 trenches were archaeologically negative. These are tabulated in Appendix 1 (Table 3).

4.3 Trench 1 (Figure 3)

4.3.1 Natural geology, [1/003] was encountered at heights of between 12.78 and 12.89m AOD and was overlain by subsoil, [1/002], (100-160mm thick), and topsoil, [1/001], (180-300mm thick). Two features were cut into the natural and sealed by the subsoil.

4.3.2 A very shallow, small circular feature, [1/004], (0.29m x 0.31m x 0.09m), a truncated pit or posthole was found at 12.77m AOD. It had a single fill consisting of soft dark grey brown silty clay, [1/005], which contained one piece of fire-cracked flint.

4.3.4 To the east of [1/004] was an irregular sided feature, [1/006], on a rough northwest-southeast alignment (5.3m wide, 450m deep) at 12.76m AOD. It contained a single fill, [1/007], consisting of friable mid grey brown silty clay with frequent flint gravels. Some undiagnostic worked flints and fire-cracked flints were recovered. This is possibly a large boundary ditch or, more likely, a tree-bole.

4.4 Trench 3 (Figure 4)

4.4.1 Natural geology [3/003] was encountered at heights of between 12.15 and 12.37m AOD and was overlain by subsoil, [3/002], (200-220mm thick) and topsoil, [3/001], (140-160mm thick). Two, or possibly one very large, linear features were present, cut into the natural and sealed by the subsoil (measurements unknown due to water coverage).

4.4.2 During machining, the trench quickly filled with water and, consequently, no hand-excavation or detailed recording was possible. It is possible that feature, [3/004], was a ditch aligned west-northwest to east-southeast, potentially a continuation of the ditch recorded in Trenches 72 and 68. No finds were recovered.

4.5 Trench 8 (Figure 5)

4.5.1 Natural geology, [8/003], was encountered at heights of between 11.98 and 12.13m AOD and was overlain by subsoil, [8/002], (200mm thick) and topsoil, [8/001], (250mm thick). A single feature was cut into the natural and sealed by the subsoil.

4.5.2 A west-northwest to east-southeast aligned ditch, [8/004] (2.3m wide, depth unknown), was seen during the machining of this trench, but the trench quickly filled with water and no hand-excavation or detailed recording was possible. This feature is, however, likely to be a continuation of the ditch boundary observed in Trenches 11, 37, 39, 43 and 70 to the east (group G1, Figure 26).

4.6 Trench 11 (Figure 6)

4.6.1 Natural geology, [11/003], was encountered at heights of between 12.32 and 12.34m AOD and was overlain by subsoil, [11/002], (170-200mm thick) and topsoil, [11/001], (200-300mm thick). A single feature was cut into the natural and sealed by the subsoil.

4.6.2 A west-northwest to east-southeast aligned ditch [11/004] (2.9m wide, 700mm deep) was found crossing this trench at 12.25m AOD. This feature contained two fills: loose dark grey brown silty gravel [11/006] and soft dark brown sandy clay [11/005]. It contained one possible Late Bronze Age pottery sherd and fire-cracked flints. Further ditches were recorded on a similar alignment to the east in Trenches 37, 39, 43 and 70 (group G1, Figure 26).

4.7 Trench 17 (Figure 7)

4.7.1 Natural geology, [17/003], was encountered at heights of between 13.20 and 13.30m AOD and was overlain by deposit, [17/006], (160mm thick) which was overlain by subsoil, [17/002], (80-250mm thick) followed by topsoil [17/001] (280-310mm thick). A single feature was cut through [17/006] and sealed by [17/002].

4.7.2 A shallow and narrow gully, [17/004] (0.52m wide, 220mm deep), on a rough northwest-southeast alignment was identified at 13.20m AOD. The feature was filled with compact mid orange brown silty clay, [17/005]. No finds were

revealed within the fill. This gully is parallel to a ditch found in Trench 19 to the east and may be part of the same ditch system. It was not encountered in any other trenches.

4.8 Trench 19 (Figure 8)

4.8.1 Natural geology, [19/003], was encountered at heights of between 13.42 and 13.61m AOD and was overlain by subsoil, [19/002], (310-400mm thick) and topsoil [19/001] (320-390mm thick). A single feature was cut into the natural and sealed by the subsoil.

4.8.2 A very shallow and narrow gully, [19/004] (0.42m wide, 110mm deep), of was identified at 13.47m AOD. It was not revealed in any other trenches. The feature was filled with compact mid orange brown silty clay, [19/005]. No finds were revealed within the fill. This ditch is parallel to the ditch found in Trench 17 to the west.

4.9 Trench 21 (Figure 9)

4.9.1 Natural geology, [21/003], was encountered at heights of between 13.59 and 14.22m AOD and was overlain by subsoil, [21/002], (200-250mm thick) and topsoil, [21/001], (250-350mm thick). A single feature was cut into the natural and sealed by the subsoil.

4.9.2 A sub-circular feature, [21/004], with clear sides and undulating base (1.65m, 0.85m+, 200mm deep) was identified in the north of the trench at 14.08m AOD). It had a single fill, [21/005], consisting of lightly compacted light yellowish brown silty clay with occasional charcoal flecks. A small group of possible Early Neolithic pottery was recovered. Burnt food residue adhered to one of the sherds and this was submitted to the Scottish Universities Environmental Research Centre (SUERC) for radiocarbon dating to confirm the date of this pottery group. A C14 date of 3777-3652CalBC (SUERC-46777:4937±30BP was returned. An environmental sample was collected from this fill <10> and a small assemblage of charred wood remains was identified containing fragments of ash, oak, Maloideae and alder buckthorn (*Frangula alnus*).

4.10 Trench 22 (Figure 10)

4.10.1 Natural geology, [22/003], was encountered at heights of between 13.73 and 14.04m AOD and was overlain by deposit, [22/014,] (100-200mm thick) and sealed by subsoil, [22/002], (200-250mm thick), followed by topsoil [22/001] (250-350mm thick). Several features were found, all cut through [22/014] and sealed by [22/002].

4.10.2 One of the earliest features, (based on dating evidence), in this trench was a sub-circular small pit, [22/006] (*c*.0.85m diameter, 450mm deep), of probable Early Neolithic date which was identified at 13.86m AOD. The feature contained two fills: a lower compact mid yellowish orange silty clay, [22/007], with no finds and an upper ashy/charcoal rich grey brown silty clay fill, [22/008], containing four large, probably Early Neolithic, pottery bodysherds (from a Plain Bowl *c*.3650-3300 BC), worked flints (including bladelets and a piercer) and fire-cracked flint. Amid the charred wood fragments observed

within the environmental sample <7> were two charred grains, one of wheat (*Triticum* sp.), and a small hazel nut (*Corylus avellana*).

4.10.3 An irregular shaped feature [22/009], (2.6m, 1.3m, 300mm deep), with irregular sides and concave base was identified at 13.66m AOD. This feature was cut by ditch [22/011]. The compact mid grey yellow silty clay fill [22/010] contained a small group of probable Early Neolithic pottery bodysherds (from a Plain Bowl dating to *c*.3650-3300 BC) and worked flints. The irregularity of this feature suggests it could be a tree-bole rather than a deliberately excavated pit.

4.10.4 A north-northeast to south-southwest aligned linear gully, [22/004] (0.55m wide, 220mm deep), was located in the western end of this trench at 13.96m AOD. This feature was filled with a compact mid brown orange silty clay. [22/005], which contained a single undiagnostic pottery bodysherd of prehistoric date and a few fire-cracked flint pieces.

4.10.5 Another north-northeast to south-southwest aligned linear ditch, [22/011] (1.4m x 420mm deep), was recorded at 13.68m AOD. This feature cut Early Neolithic feature [22/009]. The ditch contained two fills: mid yellow brown silting, [22/012], overlain by a mid brown orange silty clay [22/013] which contained a small group of prehistoric pottery of probable Mid Bronze Age date and undiagnositic worked flints and fire-cracked flints. The environmental sample from this feature <8> was dominated mainly by uncharred vegetation. This ditch continues to the south in Trench 23, (group G5, Figure 26).

4.11 Trench 23 (Figure 11)

4.11.1 Natural geology, [23/003], was encountered at heights of between 13.5 and 13.6m AOD and was overlain by deposit, [23/006], (100-160mm thick) and sealed by subsoil, [23/002], (200-220mm thick) followed by topsoil [23/001] (300-330mm thick). A single feature was present, cut through [23/006] and sealed by [23/002].

4.11.2 A north-northeast to south-southwest aligned linear ditch [23/004] (1.72m, 520mm) was recorded crossing this trench at 13.56m AOD. This feature contained a single mid brown orange silty clay fill, [23/005], which contained one prehistoric pottery bodysherd of probable Late Bronze Age date and fire-cracked flints. This ditch continues to the north in Trench 22 and to south in Trenches 42 and 55.

4.12 Trench 27

4.12.1 Natural geology [27/003] was encountered at heights of between 13.31 and 13.37m AOD and was overlain by subsoil, [27/002], (100-240mm thick) and topsoil, [27/001] (320-340mm thick). A single feature was cut into the natural and sealed by the subsoil.

4.12.2 The northern edge of a roughly west-northwest to east-southeast linear ditch was present along the southern edge of this trench. The trench did not extend sufficiently to the south to ascertain the definite form or function of this feature, but it was presumed to be a continuation of a similar ditch, which was

observed in Trench 68 to the west and possibly in Trench 3, (group G8, Figure 26). The feature was not excavated.

4.13 Trench 37 (Figure12)

4.13.1 Natural geology [37/003] was encountered at heights of between 12.09 and 12.47m AOD and was overlain by deposit, [37/004], (280mm thick) which was overlain by subsoil, [37/002], (300-320mm thick) followed by topsoil, [37/001], (260-340mm thick). Several features were present, cut through [37/004] and sealed by [37/002]. The trench was machined a little deeper (around 100mm) in the southeast end in order to clarify the edges of features [37/007] and [37/009], which were undefined within the soil layer at a shallower depth. This explains why these features are more distinct and shallower in profile within this trench as the upper part of their fills was removed.

4.13.2 A very shallow, irregular feature, [37/005] (2.10m, 0.86m, 110mm deep), containing charcoal flecks and burnt clay patches within the black brown fill [37/006], was identified in the western end of this trench at 12.71m AOD. One piece of fired-clay with a flat surface, possibly structural daub, was recovered.

4.13.3 Two west-northwest to east-southeast aligned linear boundary ditches [37/007] (0.82m wide, 220mm deep) and [37/009] (0.82m wide, 200mm deep), were encountered at 12.40m AOD and 12.39m AOD respectively. The relationship between the two ditches is unclear. The northernmost ditch [37/007] (0.66m x 0.23m) was filled with firm mid brown grey silty clay, [37/008], containing fire-cracked flints and a single undiagnostic, but probably late prehistoric, pottery sherd. Ditch [37/009] (0.68m x 0.13m) was filled by firm mid brown grey silty clay, [37/009], which contained no finds. They are aligned with ditches found in Trenches 8, 11 and 43 to the east and also in Trenches 39 and 70 the west (group G1, Figure 26). Pottery recovered from some of these other ditches, ([11/005] in Trench 11 and [39/008] in Trench 39) may suggest a possible Late Bronze Age date for one, or both of these ditches, also corroborated by the sherd found in ditch [37/007].

4.14 Trench 39 (Figure 13)

4.14.1 Natural geology [39/003] was encountered at heights of between 12.46 and 12.97m AOD and was overlain by deposit [39/004] (190-400mm thick) which was overlain by subsoil [39/002] (230-250mm) and topsoil [37/001] (220-250mm). Several features were present, cut through [39/004] and sealed by [39/002].

4.14.2 Two west-northwest to east-southeast aligned linear boundary ditches, [39/005] (c.1.2m wide, 430mm deep) and [39/007] (1.4m wide, 430mm deep) were encountered at 12.70m AOD. The relationship between the two ditches is unclear. The northernmost ditch [39/005] was filled with firm mid reddish brown silty clay [39/006] containing frequent flint gravels and ditch [37/006] was filled with firm mid reddish brown silty clay [39/009], which contained a single pottery sherd of possible Late Bronze Age date, an undiagnostic worked flint and several fire-cracked flints. They are aligned with ditches found to the west in Trenches 8, 11, 37, 43 and 70. Trench 44 was excavated

to investigate whether the ditches continued to the east. It was found that they did not.

4.15 Trench 42 (Figure 14)

4.15.1 Natural geology [42/003] was encountered at heights of between 12.56 and 12.86m AOD and was overlain by deposit, [42/010], (150-200mm thick) and sealed by subsoil, [49/002], (150-350mm thick), followed by topsoil, [42/001], (350-400mm thick). Several features were present, cut through [42/010] and sealed by [49/002].

4.15.2 Two small, sub-circular undated, features [42/004] (*c*.0.82m diam., 320mm deep) and [42/006] (*c*.0.7m diam.,120mm deep), were encountered at 12.5m AOD. Both of these features contained charcoal flecks and burnt clay patches, but no finds were recovered.

4.15.3 A north-northeast to south-southwest aligned linear ditch, [42/008] (0.63m wide, 120mm deep), was recorded crossing this trench at 12.57m AOD. This feature contained a single mid brown grey silty clay fill, [42/009], but no finds. This ditch is aligned with a similar ditch to the south in Trench 55 (group G4. Figure 26).

4.16 Trench 43 (Figure 15)

4.16.1 Natural geology, [43/003], was encountered at heights of between 12.46 and 12.58m AOD and was overlain by subsoil, [43/002], (270-360mm thick) followed by topsoil [43/001] (260-300mm thick). The following features were cut into the natural and sealed by subsoil.

4.16.2 Two west-northwest to east-southeast aligned linear boundary ditches, [43/005] (1.15m wide, 430mm) and [43/007] (0.72m wide, 320mm deep), were encountered at 12.32m AOD. The relationship between the two ditches is unclear. The northernmost ditch [43/006] was filled with firm mid brown silty clay [43/007] containing frequent natural flint gravels and fire-cracked flints and ditch [43/004] was filled with firm mid brown silty clay [42/005], which contained undiagnostic worked flints and several fire-cracked flints. The features are aligned with other ditches found in Trenches 8 and 11 and to the east in Trenches 37, 39 and 70 (group G1, Figure 26).

4.16.3 A small, irregular sided and undated, tree-bole [43/008]/[43/009] (1m, 0.87m, 140mm deep), was located to the south of at 12.42m AOD. No finds were found within this feature.

4.17 Trench 49 (Figure 16)

4.17.1 Natural geology [49/003] was encountered at heights of between 12.45 and 12.76m AOD and was overlain by deposit, [49/004], (100-150mm thick) which was overlain by subsoil, [49/002], (500mm thick) followed by topsoil, [49/001], (300-350mm thick). A single feature was cut through [49/004] and sealed by [49/002].

4.17.2 A north-northeast to south-southwest aligned linear ditch, [49/005] (0.82m wide, 450mm deep), was recorded crossing the northern end of this trench at

12.64m AOD. This feature contained a single, soft mid grey brown silty clay fill, [49/006], which contained no finds. The feature does, however, fit the position of a plot boundary marked on the 1778-1783 Yeakell and Gardner map (Figure 27) and probably continues to the south in Trench 59 (group G9, Figure 26).

4.18 Trench 55 (Figure 17)

4.18.1 Natural geology [55/003] was encountered at heights of between 10.89 and 11.20m AOD and was overlain by deposit, [55/004], (240-340mm thick) and sealed by subsoil, [55/002], (140-300mm thick) followed by topsoil, [55/001], (260-300mm thick). A single feature was cut through [55/004] and sealed by [55/002] (140-300mm).

4.18.2 A north-northeast to south-southwest aligned linear ditch, [55/005] (0.8m wide, 350mm deep), was recorded crossing this trench at 12.45m AOD. This feature contained a single mid orange brown silty clay fill, [55/006], with undiagnostic worked flint and fire-cracked flint inclusions. This feature is aligned with a ditch to the north in Trench 42 (group G4).

4.19 Trench 58 (Figure 18.)

4.19.1 Natural geology [58/003] was encountered at heights of between 12.39 and 12.48m AOD and was overlain by deposit, [58/006] (180-350mm thick) which was overlain by subsoil, [58/002], (200-220mm thick) and topsoil [58/001] (200-300mm). A single feature was present, cut through [58/006] and sealed by [58/002].

4.19.2 An east-west aligned linear ditch, [58/004] (1.7m, 900mm), was encountered at 12.34m AOD. This feature was filled with compact mid brown orange silty clay, [58/005], containing a small group of Late Bronze Age (*c.*1150-800) pottery sherds, undiagnostic worked flints and fire-cracked flints. This ditch is aligned with a similar ditch in Trench 63 to the east (group G3, Figure 26).

4.20 Trench 59 (Figure 19)

4.20.1 Natural geology [59/003] was encountered at heights of between 12.22 and 13.36m AOD and was overlain by deposit, [59/004], (150-200mm thick) which was overlain by subsoil, [59/002], (400-650mm thick) and topsoil, [59/001], (300-350mm thick). A single feature was present, cut through [59/004] and sealed by [59/002].

4.20.2 A north-northeast to south-southwest aligned linear ditch, [59/005] (1m wide, 410mm deep), was recorded crossing this trench at 12.7m AOD. This feature contained a single, soft mid grey brown silty clay fill [59/006], with no finds. The feature does, however, fit the position of a plot boundary marked on the 1778-1783 Yeakell and Gardner map (Figure 27). It is aligned with a ditch to the north in Trench 49 (group G9).

4.21 Trench 60

4.21.1. Natural geology [60/003] was encountered at heights of between 11.9 and 12.3m AOD and was overlain by subsoil, [60/002], (200-320mm thick) and

topsoil, [60/001], (230-280mm thick). A single feature was cut into the natural and sealed by the subsoil.

4.21.2 The eastern edge of a roughly north-northeast to south-southwest linear ditch was present along the northwest corner of this trench. This feature was aligned with ditches in Trenches 65 and 66 to the north. This feature was not excavated.

4.22 Trench 63 (Figure 20)

4.22.1 Natural geology [63/003] was encountered at heights of between 12.16 and 12.5m AOD and was overlain by subsoil [63/002] (200mm thick) followed by topsoil [63/001] (250mm thick). A single feature cut the natural and was sealed by the subsoil.

4.22.2 An east-west aligned ditch, [63/004] (0.94m wide, 490mm deep), was encountered at 12.02m AOD. This feature was filled with compact mid brown silty clay [63/005] containing a small group of prehistoric, possibly Late Bronze Age, pottery, a few residual Early Neolithic pottery sherds, fired-clay structural daub fragments, undiagnostic worked flints and frequent fire-cracked flints. This ditch is aligned with a further ditch in Trench 58 to the west (group G3, Figure 26).

4.23 Trench 65 (Figure 21)

4.23.1 Natural geology [65/003] was encountered at heights of between 12.55 and 12.91m AOD and was overlain by subsoil [65/002] (200-300mm thick) and topsoil [65/001] (220-290mm thick). A single feature cut the natural and was sealed by the subsoil.

4.23.2 A north-northeast to south-southwest aligned linear ditch, [65/004] (0.62 wide, 180mm deep), was recorded crossing this trench at 12.46m AOD. This feature contained a friable mid brown grey silty clay fill, [65/006], which contained a single peg tile fragment of probable 18th-19th century date. This feature fits the position of a plot boundary marked on the 1778-1783 Yeakell and Gardner map (Figure 27). It continues to the south in Trench 66 (group G 10, Figure 26).

4.24 Trench 66 (Figure 22)

4.24.1 Natural geology, [66/003], was encountered at heights of between 12.32 and 12.39m AOD and was overlain by soil layer, [66/006], (100-120mm thick) and sealed by upper subsoil, [66/002], (90-160mm thick) followed by topsoil [66/001] (240-260mm thick). A single feature cut soil layer [66/006] and was sealed by the subsoil.

4.24.2 A north-northeast to south-southwest aligned linear ditch, [66/004] (0.9m wide, 330mm deep), was recorded crossing this trench at 12.36m AOD. This feature contained a friable mid brown orange silty clay fill [66/006] with occasional natural flints, shell and sub-angular chalk fragments. No finds were recovered from the fill. An environmental sample <5> was collected from this fill which was found to contain a single fragment of unburnt bone and a moderate quantity of land snail shells. This feature fits the position of a

plot boundary marked on the 1778-1783 Yeakell and Gardner map (Figure 27) and continues to the south in Trench 60 and to the north in Trench 65 (Group G10, Figure 26).

4.25 Trench 68 (Figure. 23)

4.25.1 Natural geology [68/003] was encountered at heights of between 13.1 and 13.25m AOD overlain by deposit, [68/008], (100mm thick) which was overlain by subsoil, [68/002], (200-300mm thick) followed by topsoil [68/001] (250-300mm thick). Two features were cut through [68/008] and sealed by [68/002].

4.25.2 A west-northwest to east-southeast aligned linear ditch, [68/006] (2.1m wide, 620mm+), was encountered at 13.11m AOD. This feature was filled with soft mid grey brown silty clay, [68/007], with occasional natural flint gravels. No finds were recovered from this feature which continues as in Trench 72 to the west (group G2, Figure 26).

4.25.3 Another west-northwest to east-southeast linear ditch, [68/004] (1m wide, 400mm deep), was located to the north of the trench. This feature contained compact dark grey brown silty clay [68/005] but no finds were recovered. It continues to the east in Trench 27, (group G8, Figure 26).

4.26 Trench 70 (Figure. 24)

4.26.1 Natural geology [70/003] was encountered at heights of between 12.69 and 12.73m AOD and was overlain by deposit, [70/008], (200-300mm thick) which was overlain by subsoil, [70/002], (250-300mm thick) followed by topsoil [70/001] (250-300mm). Several features were present, cut through [70/008] and sealed by [70/002].

4.26.2 Two west-northwest to east-southeast aligned linear boundary ditches, [70/004] (2.1m wide, 720mm deep) and [70/006] (0.5m wide, 700mm deep), were encountered at 12.6m AOD. The relationship between the two ditches is unclear. The northernmost ditch [70/004] (was filled with firm mid brownish grey silty clay [70/005] containing frequent flint gravels and fire-cracked flint and ditch [70/006] was filled with firm mid brown silty clay [70/007] with yellowish grey mottling, sub angular natural flints and fire-cracked flints. The ditches are aligned with further ditches to the west in Trenches 8, 11, 37 and 43 and to the east in Trench 39 (group G1, Figure 26)..

4.27 Trench 72 (Figure. 25)

4.27.1 Natural geology, [72/003], was encountered at heights of between 12.65 and 12.86m AOD and was overlain by subsoil, [72/002], (120-150mm thick) and topsoil, [72/001], (220-300mm thick). A single feature was present, cut into the natural and sealed by subsoil.

4.27.2 A west-northwest to east-southeast aligned linear ditch, [72/004] (*c.* 2.2m wide, 520mm+), was encountered at 12.62m AOD. This feature was filled with soft dark grey brown silty clay, [72/005] with occasional natural flint gravels and fire-cracked flints. This feature continues in Trench 68 to the east

and possibly in Trench 3 to the west (group G2, Figure 26). The alignment of this feature suggests that it is probably part of the Late Bronze Age linear field system.

4.28 **Geotechnical Investigations** (Figure 2) by Liz Chambers

4.28.1 Structural Soils Ltd were contracted to test soakaways within the proposed area. Five geotechnical pits (designated by the prefix 'SA') were excavated, by machine (Figure 2). A 1.5m toothed bucket was used on the 20 tonne machine and a 0.5m non-toothed bucket on the 8 tonne machine. An ASE Geoarchaeologist was present at the excavations to monitor deposits and assess any potential archaeology. Each pit was photographed (by the ASE Geoarchaeologist) and, as sediment logs were completed by the geotechnicians, context numbers were not assigned to deposits within test pits.

4.28.2 Two boreholes were also excavated as part of the geotechnical works. However, these produced sleeved cores from which no onsite observations can be made.

Test pit	Sediment log	Description	Depth (m)
SA2a	Fairly friable, mid-dark blackish brown, silty clay with moderate small to large angular and subangular flint pebbles and stones. Clear boundary with lower deposit.	Topsoil	0-0.25
	Firm, mid orangeish brown silty clay with moderate small to large angular and subangular flint pebbles and stones. Very diffuse boundary with lower deposit.	Subsoil	0.25-0.45
	Firm, mid-dark orange brown silty clay with moderate to frequent, small to large, angular, subangular and subrounded flint pebbles and stones, also occasional cobbles.	Head deposit	0.45-0.55
SA2b	Fairly friable, mid-dark blackish brown, silty clay with moderate small to large angular and subangular flint pebbles and stones. Clear boundary with lower deposit.	Topsoil	0-0.30
	Firm, mid orangeish brown silty clay with moderate small to large angular and subangular flint pebbles and stones. Very diffuse boundary with lower deposit.	Subsoil	0.30-0.60
	Firm, mid orange-brown yellow, silty clay with occasional small to large angular to subrounded flint pebbles and stones. Fairly diffuse boundary with upper and lower deposits.	Relict subsoil	0.60-1.05
	Firm, mid-dark orange brown silty clay with moderate to frequent, small to large, angular, subangular and subrounded flint pebbles and stones, also occasional cobbles.	Head deposit	1.05-1.50
SA3	Fairly friable, mid-dark blackish brown, silty clay with moderate small to large angular and subangular flint pebbles and stones. Clear boundary with lower deposit.	Topsoil	0-0.29

	Firm, mid orangeish brown silty clay with moderate small to large angular and subangular flint pebbles and stones. Very diffuse boundary with lower deposit.	Subsoil	0.29-0.65
	Firm, mid-dark orange brown silty clay with moderate to frequent, small to large, angular, subangular and subrounded flint pebbles and stones, also occasional cobbles.	Head deposit	0.65-1.40
SA4	Fairly friable, mid-dark blackish brown, silty clay with moderate small to large angular and subangular flint pebbles and stones. Clear boundary with lower deposit.	Topsoil	0-0.26
	Firm, mid orangeish brown silty clay with moderate small to large angular and subangular flint pebbles and stones. Very diffuse boundary with lower deposit.	Subsoil	0.26-0.78
	Firm, mid-dark orange brown silty clay with moderate to frequent, small to large, angular, subangular and subrounded flint pebbles and stones, also occasional cobbles.	Head deposit	0.78-1.25
	Loose, pale yellow, sandy marl observed at very base of pit.		1.25-1.30
SA5	Fairly friable, mid-dark blackish brown, silty clay with moderate small to large angular and subangular flint pebbles and stones. Clear boundary with lower deposit.	Topsoil	0-0.25
	Firm, mid orangeish brown silty clay with moderate small to large angular and subangular flint pebbles and stones. Very diffuse boundary with lower deposit.	Subsoil	0.25-0.55
	Firm, mid-dark orange brown silty clay with moderate to frequent, small to large, angular, subangular and subrounded flint pebbles and stones, also occasional cobbles.	Head deposit	0.55-0.80

Table 4: Geoarchaeological observations

4.28.3 No archaeological remains or significant geological/palaeoenvironmental deposits were encountered within the geotechnical test pits. All of the geotechnical pits revealed the mid-dark orange brown silty clay, Head deposits. The depth of the excavations was not great enough to reveal deposits underlying this brickearth.

4.28.4 The water table was very high in some places, leading to almost immediate flooding of certain trenches and groundwater seepage within the test pits, therefore full investigation could not be carried out in those areas.

4.28.5 No archaeological remains were encountered and no deposits suitable for sampling were exposed.

5.0 THE FINDS

5.1 **Overview** by Elke Raemen

5.1.1 A small-sized assemblage of finds, mainly comprising pottery and flint (Table 5), was recovered during the evaluation. All finds have been washed and dried or air dried. They were quantified by count and weight and subsequently bagged by material and context. None of the finds require further conservation.

Context	Pot	Wt (g)	CBM	Wt (g)	Flint	Wt (g)	FCF	Wt (g)	Stone	Wt (g)	F clay	Wt (g)
1/007					1	11	2	56				
3/004			1	46								
11/005	1	8			1	13	1	10				
21/005	8	38										
22/005	1	2					8	182				
22/008	4	56			12	898					1	6
22/010	13	46			4	39						
22/012	4	12			2	57	17	318				
23/005	1	4					2	32				
27/012												
37/006												
37/008							1	44				
39/008	1	6			1	6	5	84				
43/005					1	221	10	342			2	4
43/007							2	36				
55/006					1	4	10	162				
58/005	13	120			2	13	37	952				
63/005	14	122			4	39	49	3034	1	6	7	34
65/005			1	356								
70/005							5	254				
70/007							9	152				
72/005							4	38				
Total	60	414	2	402	29	1301	162	5696	1	6	10	44

Table 5: Quantification of the finds

5.2 **The Pottery** by Anna Doherty

5.2.1 A total of 60 sherds of prehistoric pottery, weighing 414g, were hand-collected from 10 individual contexts during the evaluation. A small amount of pottery was also recovered from the residues of the environmental samples. In most cases these were very small sherds of comparable type to the hand-collected material from the same contexts.

5.2.2 Potentially the earliest material came from contexts in Trenches 21 and 22 (25 sherds in total). Groups of bodysherds from contexts [21/005], [22/008] and [22/010] were all in laminar fabrics with sparse to moderate extremely ill-sorted flint inclusions: some in the size range c.0.5-2mm with others ranging

up to 6mm. These fabrics also tend to have concentrations of flint on certain areas of the vessel surfaces rather than having inclusions evenly distributed throughout the fabric. These fabric types are fairly typical of the Early Neolithic Plain Bowl tradition dated to *c.*3650-3300 BC. Although evidence for Early Neolithic pottery on the Coastal Plain is relatively sparse and usually confined to very small groups from individual pits, much of it is found relatively close to the current site, including at Oving, Westhampnett and Barnham (Bedwin & Holgate 1985; Chadwick 2006; Dunkin et al in prep).

5.2.3 Having said this, no diagnostic feature sherds were recovered from these contexts and it is always difficult to date such assemblages with certainty because of the longevity of flint-tempering, which continued to be the most common fabric type throughout most of the later prehistoric period. One of the sherds from context [21/005] had a substantial burnt food residue. The residue was submitted to the Scottish Universities Environmental Research Centre (SUERC) for AMS radiocarbon dating in order to confirm the possible Early Neolithic dating of this group, which returned a date 3777-3652CalBC (SUERC-46777:4937±30BP).

5.2.4 The remainder of the assemblage tended to be in better sorted flint-tempered fabrics, often with very silty matrixes. These are much more typical of the later prehistoric period although, in most cases these were found as very small groups of undiagnostic bodysherds. In one context, [63/005], there appeared to be a mixture of possible Early Neolithic and later prehistoric fabric types. Only one context, [58/008] produced a diagnostic group of pottery, including two rimsherds from shouldered jar/bowl forms which can be dated to the Late Bronze Age (*c.*1150-800 BC).

5.2.5 Two residues from environmental samples produced sherds from contexts which had not generated any hand-collected pottery. A small flint-tempered sherd of indeterminate prehistoric date was recovered from sample <3> of context [37/010]. Sample <1> of context [55/006] produced two flint-tempered sherds of likely later Bronze Age date together with a single non-flint tempered sherd containing common well sorted quartz of c.0.2-0.3mm. Quartz rich fabrics of this type may have been used towards the end the Late Bronze Age although they are more typical of Iron Age assemblages and it is possible that the three sherds are not directly contemporary.

5.3 The Ceramic Building Material by Luke Barber

5.3.1 The evaluation recovered two pieces of tile from the site. The earliest was recovered from context [3/004]. This consists of a heavily abraded piece, undiagnostic of form, tempered with sparse/moderate medium sand and sparse iron oxides to 3mm. The general fabric and form of the piece strongly suggest this is a reworked Roman tile. The other tile was recovered from context [65/005] and is not abraded. This piece is from a well formed and fired 11mm thick peg tile, tempered with sparse/moderate fine sand, very occasional white flint inclusions to 0.5mm and rare marl streaks. An 18th- to 19th- century date is probable for this piece.

5.4 **The Flintwork** by Karine le Hégarat

Introduction

5.4.1 In total, 35 pieces of struck flint weighing 1320g and a further 162 fragments of burnt unworked flints (5696g) have been recovered through hand collection (29 pieces weighing 1301g) and from environmental samples (6 pieces weighing 19g, not shown in Table 5) during the evaluation work at the site. The assemblage of struck flint was retrieved from nine ditch interventions, from a pit and from a tree-bole. Pit fill [22/008] produced the largest assemblage (42.8% of the total assemblage of struck flint; n=15). The ditch fill contexts contained only small quantities of flint with each context producing fewer than three artefacts. Tree-bole [22/009] contained only four pieces of flint. Although no typologically diagnostic pieces were found, the assemblage from pit fill [22/008] comprised pieces that suggest a Mesolithic to Early Bronze Age date. The general technological appearance of the assemblage from the remaining features (ditches and tree-bole) indicates human activity from the Neolithic to the early Bronze Age although a small possible middle to late Bronze Age component may also be present.

Methodology

5.4.2 The pieces of struck flint were quantified by piece count and weight. They were individually examined and classified using standard set of codes and morphological descriptions (Butler 2005, Ford 1987 and Inizan *et al.* 1999). Basic technological details as well as further information regarding the condition of the artefacts were recorded. Dating was attempted when possible. All data have been entered onto a Microsoft Excel spreadsheet, and it is summarised by feature and artefact types in Table 6. Hand collected fragments of burnt unworked flint were quantified by piece and by weight, and a summary of the assemblage is provided in Table 5.

Context types	Contexts	Flakes	Blades, Blade-like flakes, Bladelets	Chips	Irregular waste	Cores, Core fragments, Tested nodule / bashed lump	Retouched forms	Total
Ditches	43/005, 1/007, 55/006, 22/012, 39/008, 63/005, 58/005, 11/005 & 65/005	12	-	-	1	1	2	**16**
Pit	22/008	5	6	1	1	1	1	**15**
Tree-bole	22/010	4	-	-	-	-	-	**4**
Total		**21**	**6**	**1**	**2**	**2**	**3**	**35**

Table 6: The flint by feature type and artefact type

Condition and raw material

5.4.3 The condition of the flintwork varied within the assemblage. Overall, the assemblage from pit fill [22/008] contained material which was in a fresh condition with only a few artefacts displaying very light edge damage. This implies that the material had undergone negligible post-depositional disturbance. The artefacts from the other features were slightly more damaged with several pieces displaying edge chipping associated with successive re-depositions. In total, nine pieces were recorded as broken.

5.4.4 Two raw materials were identified. Light to dark grey flint with a thin abraded cortex was the most frequently occurring raw material in the assemblage. This was almost certainly collected from a chalk flint source. A single piece from ditch fill [63/005] was manufactured from a grey flint with a pitted greyish cortex, and this material could have been acquired from a local gravel source. With the exception of a flake from ditch fill [11/005], the assemblage of flintwork was free from surface cortication.

The assemblage

5.4.6 The assemblage of flint comprised pieces of flint débitage and three retouched pieces which are mostly characteristic of the Mesolithic, Neolithic and Early Bronze Age. Pit fill [22/008] and tree-bole fill [22/010] contained Early Neolithic Plain Bowl pottery. Tree-bole [22/009] contained four irregular but thin flakes. Although the artefacts cannot be closely dated, they display characteristics indicating an early prehistoric date. The bladelet, blade fragment and the narrow and thin blade-like flakes from pit [22/006] display platform edge abrasion and blade scar removals; they are the product of a blade-orientated industry and can be dated to the Mesolithic or Early Neolithic. The regular relatively thin flakes with platform preparation and moderate bulb of percussion are likely to date to the Neolithic / Early Bronze Age. Use-wear was noted on three of these artefacts, and a well-curved example with multi-directional flake scar on the dorsal surface resembles an axe thinning flake. Pit fill [22/008] contained also a piercer and a very large tested nodule / bashed lump. Overall, the assemblage recovered from the ditches is typical of an early prehistoric date. Nonetheless, it comprised a small quantity of more crudely worked flakes with prominent bulb of percussion and recurrent cones of percussion, and they could be of later date (Late Neolithic or Bronze Age). A very small end scraper, a notched piece and a fragmentary core were recovered from these ditch features.

5.4.7 Burnt unworked flints were hand-collected from fifteen individually numbered contexts; they were particularly numerous in context (63/005). They often indicate prehistoric activities.

Discussion

5.4.8 The archaeological work has revealed limited evidence for prehistoric activity. Pit fill context (22/008) context produced a moderate concentration of flints in a relatively fresh condition. Despite the absence of chronologically diagnostic pieces, this material is more suggestive of a Mesolithic to Early Bronze Age date. Nonetheless, later prehistoric activity may also be represented in the assemblage from the other features.

5.5 **The Fired Clay** by Elke Raemen

5.5.1 A small assemblage consisting of 13 fragments was recovered from four individually numbered contexts. Both hand collected pieces and fragments from the environmental residues are included. Three fabrics were established (Table 7).

Fabric	Description
F1	Silty fabric with sparse fine sand-temper. Occasional (small) voids/organic temper. Rare calcinated flint to 6.2mm.
F2	Silty fabric with sparse fine sand-temper. Moderate organic temper (elongated, thin). Rare calcinated flint to 7.7mm.
F3	Silty fabric with sparse fine sand-temper. Rare iron oxides to 0.5mm.

Table 7: Summary of the fired clay fabrics

Most pieces are amorphous, however, two retain one flat surface (37/006). Fragments all represent structural daub.

5.6 **The Geological Material** by Luke Barber

5.6.1 Context [63/005] produced a single small fragment of ill-sorted Tertiary ferruginous sandstone. This piece could easily be derived at the site from natural processes.

6.0 ENVIRONMENTAL SAMPLES by Karine Le Hégarat and Dawn Elise Mooney

6.1 Introduction

6.1.1 Ten samples were taken during the evaluation work at the site to recover environmental remains such as charcoal, charred macroplant remains, shells and bones, and to assist find recovery. The majority of the samples came from ditches which have been interpreted as possible prehistoric field ditches. In addition, sample <07> was taken from pit fill [22/008] and sample <10> originated from the fill of a possible pit, [21/005].

6.2 Method

6.2.1 Samples were processed in a flotation tank and the residues and flots were retained on 500µm and 250µm meshes and were air dried prior to sorting. The residues were passed through graded sieves (8, 4 and 2mm) and each fraction sorted for environmental and artefact remains (Table 8 - appendix). The flots were scanned under a stereozoom microscope at x7-45 magnifications and their contents recorded (Table 9 - appendix). Preliminary identifications were made for the macrobotancial remains by comparing them with specimens documented in reference manuals (Cappers *et al.* 2006, Jacomet 2006, NIAB 2004).

6.2.2 Charcoal fragments recovered from the heavy residue of each sample were fractured along three planes (transverse, radial and tangential) according to standardised procedures (Gale & Cutler 2000). Specimens were viewed under a stereozoom microscope for initial grouping, and an incident light microscope at magnifications up to 400x to facilitate identification of the woody taxa present. Taxonomic identifications were assigned by comparing suites of anatomical characteristics visible with those documented in reference atlases (Hather 2000, Schoch *et al.* 2004), and by comparison with modern reference material held at the Institute of Archaeology, University College London. Identifications have been given to species where possible, however genera, family or group names have been given where anatomical differences between taxa are not significant enough to permit satisfactory identification. Nomenclature used follows Stace (1997).

6.3 Results

Ditches – samples <1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 and 8>

6.3.1 The relatively large flots from samples <1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 and 8> were dominated by uncharred vegetation including fine modern rootlets and uncharred weed seeds such as goosefoot (*Chenopodium* sp.), blackberry / raspberry (*Rubus fruticosus* agg. / *idaeus*), common fumitory (*Fumaria officinalis*), nightshade (*Solanum* sp.) and bedstraw (*Galium* sp.). The charred archaeobotanical remains were largely restricted to infrequent and mainly small-sized fragments <4mm and flecks of wood charcoal evident in each sample as well as a single grass (Poaceae) caryopsis in the flot from sample <03> (ditch [37/009] fill [37/010]).

6.3.2 The small quantity of charcoal recovered from the residues of the ditch samples was in general poorly preserved, but comprised a variety of woody taxa including cherry/blackthorn (*Prunus* sp.), oak (*Quercus* sp.), ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*), birch (*Betula* sp.), beech (*Fagus sylvatica*) and hazel (*Corylus avellana*). Wood fragments of the Leguminosae family, including gorse (*Ulex europaeus*) and broom (*Cytisus scoparius*), and the Maloideae subfamily, which includes hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*), rowan (*Sorbus aucuparia*), apple (*Malus* sp.) and pear (*Pyrus* sp.), were also identified.

Sample <05> from ditch [65/004] (fill (65/005) contained a single fragment of unburnt bone and a moderate quantity of land snail shells. No other biological remains were present in the other samples. The residues produced small amounts of pottery and burnt clay as well as small quantities of struck flint and burnt unworked flint.

Pit [22/006] – sample <07>

6.3.3 Charred wood fragments were relatively abundant in sample <07> taken from the upper fill (22/006) of pit [22/006], and were identified as oak. The sample contained two charred grains one of which consisted of wheat (*Triticum* sp.) and a small hazel nut (*Corylus avellana*) fragment. A small fragment of burnt bone was noted in the residue which produced a small amount of burnt clay, struck flint and burnt unworked flint.

Pit? [21/005] - sample <10>

6.3.4 The flot from sample <10> taken from a possible pit, context (21/005) contained a large proportion of uncharred vegetation including modern rootlets and uncharred seeds of goosefoot. Charred wood fragments were uncommon, and the small assemblage comprised fragments of ash, oak, Maloideae and alder buckthorn (*Frangula alnus*). No charred macroplant remains were recorded. The residue from sample <10> contained a small amount of pottery.

6.4 Discussion

6.4.1 Sampling has confirmed the presence of a limited amount of environmental remains including bones, shells, charcoal and charred macroplant remains. It has also produced evidence for the presence of roots and uncharred weed seeds. As the deposits were not waterlogged or well enough sealed for anaerobic preservation, this could indicate some post-depositional disturbance and potential modern contamination.

6.4.2 The assemblage of charred macrobotanical remains is very small. The assemblage was limited to two grains of wheat, a single grass seed and a single small hazel nutshell fragment. As such, the remains have no potential to provide detailed information regarding the infilling of the linear features and other features or the agricultural economy or the past vegetation environment.

6.4.3 The wood charcoal remains recovered from the environmental samples were in general poorly-preserved, and the assemblages small. The range of taxa identified suggests that wood for use as fuel was procured primarily from oak-

dominated deciduous woodland, with woodland margin environments also being exploited as evidenced by the presence of Leguminosae wood. However, as the samples originate from ditch and pit features the charcoal assemblage is likely to be composed of amalgams of wood remains from numerous burning events, and as such cannot contribute to a more detailed discussion of fuel wood procurement and use.

7.0 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS by Kathy Grant and Jim Stevenson

7.1 Archaeological Summary

7.1.1 Twenty-five of the seventy-two trial trenches excavated during the evaluation contained archaeological features (Trenches 1, 3, 8, 11, 17, 19, 21, 22, 23, 27, 37, 39, 42, 43, 49, 55, 58, 59, 60, 63, 65, 66, 68, 70, 72). These were primarily ditches with only a few discrete features present, usually found in close proximity to the ditches.

7.1.2 Three periods of archaeological activity were identified:

Period 1: Early Neolithic (*c.*3650-3300 BC)

Period 2: Late Bronze Age (*c.*1150-800 BC)

Period 3: Post-medieval (Late 18th Century)

7.1.3 Period 1 activity was represented by possible pits. Period 2 activity was evidenced by a potential field system, and Period 3 by two boundary ditches matched to historic mapping.

7.1.4 Much of the archaeological evidence is of a similar period to the features found at the nearby Community School site and in line also with much of the Sussex Coastal Plain archaeological evidence.

7.2 Geoarchaeological Summary

7.2.1 All of the geotechnical pits revealed the mid-dark orange brown silty clay, Head deposits. The depth of the excavations was not great enough to reveal deposits underlying this brickearth. The deposits as exposed were not of geoarchaeological or palaeoenvironmental significance

7.3 Stratigraphic Sequence

7.3.1 Natural geology was recoded at 10.89m AOD (Trench 55) in the southwest of the site rising by over three metres to 14.22m AOD (Trench 21) in the north of the site. This was overlain by overburden ranging from *c.*350-700mm. The thickness of overburden was greatest in the south of the site. Surface topography is 12.23m AOD (Trench 69) in the southeast of the site rising by over two metres to 14.52m AOD (Trench 21) in the north of the site.

7.3.2 Evidence of truncation of the archaeological horizon, thought to be as a result of deep ploughing, is apparent in the variable survival and preservation of the features across the site. This is particularly apparent from the intermittent nature of the ditches uncovered (7.5.5).

7.3.3 A layer found underlying the subsoil in some of the trenches appeared in two broad, but not continuous, concentrations; one in the north of the site (Trenches 17, 20, 22 and 23) and one further south (Trenches 36, 37, 44, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 59, 67, 71). This distribution does not seem to be a product of the overarching topography, which is broadly flat, but may be related to micro-topography (hollows in these areas for example). The layer did appear uniform where present, being a firm mid-brown orange silty clay and similar to the surrounding brickearth and ranging in thickness from 100mm-270mm in the

north and 100-450mm in the south. No artefacts were found in this layer. Where archaeological features were also present, they clearly cut through it. The earliest, a pit containing Neolithic, pottery suggests that the layer was formed, before this date, (at least in this specific area as it cannot be assumed that this was lain down in a single event). The latest feature was a potential post-medieval field boundary, in Trenches 49 and 59. A possible interpretation for the layer is that it is relict subsoil, subsequently ploughed over time but leaving remnants in hollows and dips in the natural landscape and then sealed by the formation of later subsoil. A similar deposit, was found at the site nearby, described as 'disturbed brickearth' although this contained Bronze Age pottery (AOC 1998).

7.3.4. The subsoil was sterile and demonstrated little in the way of artefacts.

7.4 Neolithic pits

7.4.1 All of the Early Neolithic activity found was identified at the northeast of the site (Trenches 21 and 22, Figures 2 and 26). Similarly dated evidence has been found at other sites in the area, for example a polished stone axe at Hales Barn Farm and flint tools and flint-working debris found near Nyton (Ramboll 2013). Early Neolithic pottery is usually sparse and confined to very small groups from individual pits, but much of the evidence for it across the Coastal Plain has been identified at locations relatively close to the current site, including at Oving, Westhampnett, Barnham (Bedwin & Holgate 1985; Chadwick 2006; Dunkin et al in prep) and more recently at Medmerry in Selsey (ASE *forthcoming*).

7.5 Late Bronze Age field system (Figure 26)

7.5.1 Morphologically similar ditches, on the same west-northwest to east-southeast alignment were found in Trenches 8, 11, 43, 37, 70 and 39 (G1, Figure 26). Dating evidence from this group of ditches was sparse; single sherds of 'prehistoric' date in Trenches 11 [11/005], 37 [37/010] and 39 [39/008]. These ditches all cut the natural brickearth or the 'relict' subsoil where present (Trenches 37 and 70) and were sealed by the subsoil.

7.5.2 Similarly aligned (west-northwest to east-southeast) ditches were found 140m to the north in Trenches 72 and 68 (G2, Figure 26) which were also morphologically similar to ditch group G1. No dating evidence was recovered from ditch group G2. These ditches were cut into the natural brickearth and sealed by the subsoil.

7.5.3 Two ditches on broadly the same west-northwest to east-southeast were present in Trenches 58 and 63 (G3, Figure 26), again morphologically similar to groups G1 and G2. Dating evidence was better for these ditches, with a diagnostic group (13 sherds) of Late Bronze Age pottery recovered from [58/005], and late prehistoric (with residual Neolithic sherds) found in [63/005]. These ditches were cut into the natural brickearth and were sealed by the subsoil.

7.5.4 The final two ditch groups were all on a north-northeast to south-southwest alignment and found in Trenches 42 and 55 (G4, Figure 26) and Trenches 22 and 23 (G5, Figure 26), although they were not picked up in an intervening

trench (Trench 41). A north–south aligned ditch to the west of group G5 in Trench 22 may also be associated. Again these were morphological similar to the other groups. Limited dating evidence was recovered from the ditch in Trench 55 [55/006]; two sherds of later Bronze Age date. These ditches all cut the natural brickearth or the 'relict' subsoil where present (Trench 22) and were sealed by the subsoil.

7.5.5 Taken together, ditch groups G1 to G5 appear to form a coherent, but intermittently surviving, field system, broadly aligned west-northwest to east-southeast. It is probable that where undetected, much of the system has been removed by later ploughing and it is notable that the best survival is broadly focussed on the two areas where the 'relict' subsoil also remains. Although sparse, the dating evidence would suggest that the field system was infilling sometime in the Late Bronze Age. It is worth noting the structural daub fragments identified in some of the ditch fills (Trenches 22, 43 and 63) may be evidence of nearby settlement activity, although no features directly associated with structures were identified on the site itself.

7.5.6 Ditches found in Trenches 68 and 27 (G8), Trench 17 (G6) and Trench 19, (G7) may also be part of this field system. This is less sure because no dating evidence was recovered from any of these ditches and they appear to be on a slightly different orientation. That said, they were sealed by the subsoil or cut the relict soil where present and do not appear to correspond to any boundaries shown on historic mapping. Therefore, on balance it is more likely than not that they are of early date and are part of or a realignment of, the field system formed by ditch groups G1 to G5.

7.5.7 This evidence of a Bronze Age agricultural landscape is in keeping with what is known from the surrounding area and the wider coastal plain (TVAS 1996, AOC 1998 and ASE 2000).

7.6 Iron Age and Romano-British

7.6.1 No evidence of Iron Age settlement linked with the development of the territorial Oppida in the area (e.g. the Chichester Entrenchments) was identified on or near the site.

7.6.2 Despite significant Romano-British activity within this part of West Sussex, the only evidence of activity of this date found was a residual, reworked Roman tile, which was recovered from Trench 3. This apparent cessation of activity following the Late Bronze Age period is paralleled on other sites across the Coastal Plain.

7.7 Anglo Saxon and medieval

7.7.1 Unlike sites to the west (Westhampnett) and south (Bersted), which identified evidence of Sunken Feature Buildings (SFB), no evidence for Early Anglo-Saxon or medieval activity was identified on this site.

7.8 **Post-medieval boundary ditches** (Figures 26 and 27)

7.8.1 Morphologically similar ditches on a north-northeast to south-southwest alignment were found in Trenches 49 and 59 (G9) and Trenches 65 and 66

(G10). No dating evidence was recovered from them but they appear to be a good fit with plots recorded on the 1778-1783 Yeakell and Gardner map (Figure 27), suggesting that these boundaries were in use until at least the 18th century. Both ditch groups were sealed by the subsoil, suggesting that it developed fairly rapidly over the last 200 years or, perhaps, visible cuts have been removed by later ploughing or there has been some landscaping and importation of soil in this part of the site.

7.8.2 The archaeological, combined with the cartographic evidence, suggests that the site remained in use as agricultural land throughout the post-medieval period, initially being divided up into several, relatively small, holdings until the 19th century when the holdings were 'rationalised' into larger plots.

7.9 Conclusions

7.9.1 The three discrete features of probable Early Neolithic date are comparatively rare and the submission of a sample of residue from one of the pot sherds for radiocarbon dating provided a good opportunity to further refine chronologies for this period. The radiocarbon date obtained supports the ceramic dating of these features. The general absence of discrete features from other periods suggests that the site was utilised for pastoral or arable farming activity. The archaeological evidence for this agricultural landscape is mostly from Late Bronze Age field ditches, which are relatively common throughout the coastal plain.

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

ASE would like to thank the team at Ramboll UK Ltd. for commissioning the work and the West Sussex County Archaeological Officer, James Kenny, for his guidance throughout the project. The author would also like to thank the land owner for his assistance and cooperation on site during the archaeological evaluation. The author would also like to thank all the field staff involved on this project as well as the post-excavation team. Figures for this report were produced by Lesley Davidson.

APPENDIX

Table 2: Summary of all trenches

Trench	Length (m)	Max. Depth (m)	Height m AOD (natural)	Contexts	Archaeological Features
1	25	0.43	12.78-12.89	001-007	Y
2	25	0.39	12.04-12.22	001-003	N
3	25	0.5	12.15-12.37	001-004	Y
4	25	0.39	13.06-13.08	001-003	N
5	25	0.49	11.5-12.09	001-003	N
6	25	0.65	11.98-12.13	001-003	N
7	25	0.46	12.25-12.59	001-003	N
8	25	0.55	11.98-12.13	001-005	Y
9	25	0.5	11.8-12.02	001-003	N
10	25	0.46	11.17-12.11	001-003	N
11	25	0.58	12.32-12.44	001-003	Y
12	25	0.48	12.33-12.48	001-003	N
13	25	0.5	12.09-12.25	001-003	N
14	25	0.74	13.33-13.42	001-003	N
15	25	0.85	13.49-13.93	001-003	N
16	25	0.8	13.59-13.89	001-004	N
17	25	0.72	13.20-13.30	001-006	Y
18	25	0.73	13.62-13.67	001-003	N
19	25	0.79	13.42-13.61	001-005	Y
20	25	0.47	13.73-13.83	001-004	N
21	25	0.8	13.59-14.22	001-005	Y
22	25	0.8	13.73-14.04	001-014	Y
23	25	0.73	13.5-13.6	001-006	Y
24	25	0.95	13.45-13.82	001-003	N
25	25	0.7	13.42-13.76	001-003	N
26	25	0.58	13.07-13.12	001-004	N
27	25	0.56	13.31-13.47	001-003	Y
28	25	0.9	13.6-14.08	001-004	N
29	25	0.9	13.36-13.68	001-003	N
30	25	0.47	13.06-13.18	001-003	N
31	25	0.64	13.08-13.20	001-003	N
32	25	0.61	13.44-13.81	001-003	N
33	25	0.95	13.17-13.41	001-003	N
34	25	0.59	12.65-12.85	001-003	N
35	25	0.52	12.87-12.98	001-003	N
36	25	0.56	12.81-12.93	001-004	N
37	25	0.86	12.09-12.47	001-010	Y
38	25	0.66	12.84-12.85	001-003	N
39	25	0.88	12.46-12.97	001-008	Y
40	25	0.8	12.51-12.93	001-003	N
41	25	0.69	13.10-13.15	001-003	N

Trench	Length (m)	Max. Depth (m)	Height m AOD (natural)	Contexts	Archaeological Features
42	25	0.9	12.56-12.86	001-010	Y
43	25	0.63	12.46-12.58	001-009	Y
44	13	1	12.44-12.87	001-004	N
45	25	0.6	12.89-12.89	001-003	N
46	25	0.92	12.45-12.70	001-004	N
47	25	1.2	12.28-12.77	100-003	N
48	25	1	12.68-13.55	100-004	N
49	25	0.85	12.45-12.76	001-006	Y
50	25	0.82	12.44-12.50	001-004	N
51	25	0.88	12.27-12.65	001-004	N
52	25	1.05	11.97-12.27	001-004	N
53	25	0.78	12.33-12.45	001-004	N
54	25	1	11.11-11.86	001-003	N
55	25	0.91	10.89-11.20	001-006	Y
56	25	0.68	12.41-12.48	001-003	N
57	25	0.61	12.29-12.50	001-003	N
58	25	0.7	12.39-12.48	001-006	Y
59	25	1	12.22-13.36	001-006	Y
60	25	0.9	11.9-12.3	001-003	Y
61	25	0.55	12.27-12.44	001-003	N
62	25	0.9	12.26-12.44	001-003	N
63	20	0.7	12.16-12.50	001-005	Y
64	25	0.6	12.85-12.91	001-003	N
65	25	0.58	12.55-12.91	001-005	Y
66	25	0.61	12.32-12.39	001-006	Y
67	25	0.82	12.3-12.8	001-004	N
68	21	0.55	13.1-13.25	001-008	Y
69	25	0.44	11.92-12.27	001-003	N
70	10	0.9	12.69-12.73	001-008	Y
71	25	0.95	11.97-12.27	001-004	N
72	25	0.7	12.65-12.86	001-005	Y

Table 3: Archaeologically negative trench descriptions

Trench No	Context	Type	Description	Deposit Thickness (mm)	Height m AOD (natural)	Max. Trench Depth (m)
2	2/001	Deposit	Topsoil	140-160	-	0.39
2	2/002	Deposit	Subsoil	200-220	-	0.39
2	2/003	Deposit	Natural Geology	-	12.04-12.22	0.39
4	4/001	Deposit	Topsoil	150-230	-	0.39
4	4/002	Deposit	Subsoil	140-180	-	0.39
4	4/003	Deposit	Natural Geology	-	13.06-13.08	0.39
5	5/001	Deposit	Topsoil	220-270	-	0.49
5	5/002	Deposit	Subsoil	200-230	-	0.49
5	5/003	Deposit	Natural Geology	-	11.5-12.09	0.49
6	6/001	Deposit	Topsoil	300-330	-	0.65
6	6/002	Deposit	Subsoil	180-200	-	0.65
6	6/003	Deposit	Natural Geology	-	11.98-12.13	0.65
7	7/001	Deposit	Topsoil	250-260	-	0.46
7	7/002	Deposit	Subsoil	100-200	-	0.46
7	7/003	Deposit	Natural Geology	-	12.25-12.59	0.46
9	9/001	Deposit	Topsoil	260-300	-	0.5
9	9/002	Deposit	Subsoil	180-200	-	0.5
9	9/003	Deposit	Natural Geology	-	11.8-12.02	0.5
10	10/001	Deposit	Topsoil	250-330	-	0.46
10	10/002	Deposit	Subsoil	180-200	-	0.46
10	10/003	Deposit	Natural Geology	-	11.17-12.11	0.46
18	18/001	Deposit	Topsoil	340-390	-	0.73
18	18/002	Deposit	Subsoil	130-340	-	0.73
18	18/003	Deposit	Natural Geology	-	13.62-13.67	0.73
20	20/001	Deposit	Topsoil	300-330	-	0.47
20	20/002	Deposit	Subsoil	150-160	-	0.47
20	20/004	Deposit	Soil layer	210-270	-	0.47
20	20/003	Deposit	Natural Geology	-	13.73-13.83	0.47
24	24/001	Deposit	Topsoil	200-300	-	0.95
24	24/002	Deposit	Subsoil	350-650	-	0.95
24	24/003	Deposit	Natural Geology	-	13.45-13.82	0.95
25	25/001	Deposit	Topsoil	250-300	-	0.7
25	25/002	Deposit	Subsoil	350-450	-	0.7

Trench No	Context	Type	Description	Deposit Thickness (mm)	Height m AOD (natural)	Max. Trench Depth (m)
25	25/003	Deposit	Natural Geology	-	13.42-13.76	0.7
26	26/001	Deposit	Topsoil	220-320	-	0.58
26	26/002	Deposit	Subsoil	140-160	-	0.58
26	26/003	Deposit	Natural Geology	-	13.07-13.12	0.58
28	28/001	Deposit	Topsoil	300	-	0.9
28	28/002	Deposit	Subsoil	400-500	-	0.9
28	28/004	Deposit	Soil layer	100-200	-	0.9
28	28/003	Deposit	Natural Geology	-	13.6-14.08	0.9
29	29/001	Deposit	Topsoil	250-300	-	0.9
29	29/002	Deposit	Subsoil	400-600	-	0.9
29	29/003	Deposit	Natural Geology	-	13.36-13.68	0.9
30	30/001	Deposit	Topsoil	120-300		0.47
30	30/002	Deposit	Subsoil	140-170		0.47
30	30/003	Deposit	Natural Geology	-	13.06-13.18	0.47
31	31/001	Deposit	Topsoil	300-370		
31	31/002	Deposit	Subsoil	170-340		
31	31/003	Deposit	Natural Geology	-	13.08-13.20	0.64
32	32/001	Deposit	Topsoil	280-330	-	0.61
32	32/002	Deposit	Subsoil	100-360	-	0.61
32	32/003	Deposit	Natural Geology	-	13.44-13.81	0.61
33	33/001	Deposit	Topsoil	250-300	-	0.95
33	33/002	Deposit	Subsoil	250-650	-	0.95
33	33/003	Deposit	Natural Geology	-	13.17-13.41	0.95
34	34/001	Deposit	Topsoil	230-300		0.59
34	34/002	Deposit	Subsoil	270-290		0.59
34	34/003	Deposit	Natural Geology	-	12.65-12.85	0.59
35	35/001	Deposit	Topsoil	230-330	-	0.52
35	35/002	Deposit	Subsoil	250-330	-	0.52
35	35/003	Deposit	Natural Geology	-	12.87-12.98	0.52

Trench No	Context	Type	Description	Deposit Thickness (mm)	Height m AOD (natural)	Max. Trench Depth (m)
36	36/001	Deposit	Topsoil	220-260	-	0.56
36	36/002	Deposit	Subsoil	80-150	-	0.56
36	36/004	Deposit	Soil layer	190	-	0.56
36	36/003	Deposit	Natural Geology	-	12.81-12.93	0.56
38	38/001	Deposit	Topsoil	230-350	-	0.66
38	38/002	Deposit	Subsoil	260-310	-	0.66
38	38/003	Deposit	Natural Geology	-	12.84-12.85	0.66
40	40/001	Deposit	Topsoil	260-280	-	0.8
40	40/002	Deposit	Subsoil	370-540	-	0.8
40	40/003	Deposit	Natural Geology	-	12.51-12.93	0.8
41	41/001	Deposit	Topsoil	220-320	-	0.69
41	41/002	Deposit	Subsoil	270-360	-	0.69
41	41/003	Deposit	Natural Geology	-	13.10-13.15	0.69
44	44/001	Deposit	Topsoil	300-400	-	1.0
44	44/002	Deposit	Subsoil	300-500	-	1.0
44	44/004	Deposit	Soil layer	100	-	1.0
44	44/003	Deposit	Natural Geology	-	12.44-12.87	1.0
45	45/001	Deposit	Topsoil	300-350	-	0.6
45	45/002	Deposit	Subsoil	200-350	-	0.6
45	45/003	Deposit	Natural Geology	-	12.89-12.89	0.6
46	44/001	Deposit	Topsoil	300-330	-	0.92
46	44/002	Deposit	Subsoil	180-300	-	0.92
46	44/004	Deposit	Soil layer	300-500	-	0.92
46	44/003	Deposit	Natural Geology	-	12.45-12.70	0.92
47	45/001	Deposit	Topsoil	300-350	-	1.2
47	45/002	Deposit	Subsoil	500-850	-	1.2
47	45/003	Deposit	Natural Geology	-	12.28-12.77	1.2
48	48/001	Deposit	Topsoil	300-400		1.0
48	48/002	Deposit	Subsoil	300-500		1.0

Trench No	Context	Type	Description	Deposit Thickness (mm)	Height m AOD (natural)	Max. Trench Depth (m)
48	48/004	Deposit	Soil layer	100		1.0
48	48/003	Deposit	Natural Geology	-	12.68-13.55	1.0
50	50/001	Deposit	Topsoil	260-270	-	0.82
50	50/002	Deposit	Subsoil	230-250	-	0.82
50	50/004	Deposit	Soil layer	230-330	-	0.82
50	50/003	Deposit	Natural Geology	-	12.44-12.50	0.82
51	51/001	Deposit	Topsoil	200-300	-	0.88
51	51/002	Deposit	Subsoil	160-200	-	0.88
51	51/004	Deposit	Soil layer	180-380	-	0.88
51	51/003	Deposit	Natural Geology	-	12.27-12.65	0.88
52	52/001	Deposit	Topsoil	300	-	1.05
52	52/002	Deposit	Subsoil	160-300	-	1.05
52	52/003	Deposit	Soil layer	350-450	-	1.05
52	52/004	Deposit	Natural Geology	-	11.97-12.27	1.05
53	53/001	Deposit	Topsoil	200-240	-	0.78
53	53/002	Deposit	Subsoil	200-350	-	0.78
53	53/003	Deposit	Soil layer	300	-	0.78
53	53/004	Deposit	Natural Geology	-	12.33-12.45	0.78
54	54/001	Deposit	Topsoil	350	-	1.0
54	54/002	Deposit	Subsoil	500-650	-	1.0
54	54/003	Deposit	Natural Geology	-	11.11-11.86	1.0
56	56/001	Deposit	Topsoil	260-300	-	0.68
56	56/002	Deposit	Subsoil	320-440	-	0.68
56	56/003	Deposit	Natural Geology	-	12.41-12.48	0.68
57	57/001	Deposit	Topsoil	230-260	-	0.61
57	57/002	Deposit	Subsoil	180-360	-	0.61
57	57/003	Deposit	Natural Geology	-	12.29-12.50	0.61
61	61/001	Deposit	Topsoil	260-280	-	0.55
61	61/002	Deposit	Subsoil	270-360	-	0.55

Trench No	Context	Type	Description	Deposit Thickness (mm)	Height m AOD (natural)	Max. Trench Depth (m)
61	61/003	Deposit	Natural Geology	-	12.27-12.44	0.55
62	62/001	Deposit	Topsoil	300	-	0.9
62	62/002	Deposit	Subsoil	300-600	-	0.9
62	62/003	Deposit	Natural Geology	-	12.26-12.44	0.9
64	64/001	Deposit	Topsoil	280-300	-	0.6
64	64/002	Deposit	Subsoil	240-350	-	0.6
64	64/003	Deposit	Natural Geology	-	12.85-12.91	0.6
67	67/001	Deposit	Topsoil	280-300	-	0.82
67	67/002	Deposit	Subsoil	200-230	-	0.82
67	67/004	Deposit	Soil layer	300-400	-	0.82
67	67/003	Deposit	Natural Geology	-	12.3-12.8	0.82
69	69/001	Deposit	Topsoil	240-270	-	0.44
69	69/002	Deposit	Subsoil	100-170	-	0.44
69	69/003	Deposit	Natural Geology	-	11.92-12.27	0.44
71	71/001	Deposit	Topsoil	250-350	-	0.95
71	71/002	Deposit	Subsoil	300-400	-	0.95
71	71/004	Deposit	Soil layer	300	-	0.95
71	71/003	Deposit	Natural Geology	-	11.97-12.27	0.95

Table 8: Residue quantification (* = 0-10, ** = 11-50, *** = 51 – 250, **** = >250) and weights (in grams)

Sample Number	Context	Context / deposit type	Sample Volume litres	Sub-Sample Volume litres	Charcoal >4mm	Weight (g)	Charcoal <4mm	Weight (g)	Charcoal Identifications	Charred botanicals (other than charcoal)	Weight (g)	Bone and Teeth	Weight (g)	Burnt bone 4-8mm	Weight (g)	Land Snail shells	Weight (g)	Other (eg ind, pot, cbm)
1	55/006	Ditch	40	40	*	<2	*	<2	*Prunus* sp. (2), *Quercus* sp. (2), Leguminosae (1)									Pottery */14g - FCF */84g
2	37/008	Ditch	40	40	*	<2	*	<2	Indet. distorted (4), *Prunus* sp. (1), *Quercus* sp. (2), Maloideae (1)									FCF */54g
3	37/010	Ditch	40	40														Pottery */<2g - FCF */138g
4	63/005	Ditch	40	40	*	<2	**	<2	*Fraxinus excelsior* (1), *Prunus* sp. (1), *Quercus* sp. (6), Maloideae (1), *Betula* sp. (1)									Pottery */10g - FCF ***/1712g
5	65/005	Ditch	40	40								*	8			**	110	FCF **/152g - Flint */15g
6	49/006	Ditch	40	40	*	<2	*	<2	Maloideae (2), *Fagus sylvatica* (3), *Corylus avellana* (1), *Quercus* sp. (4)									FCF **/180g - Fired clay */18g
8	22/012	Ditch	40	40	*	<2	**	<2	*Quercus* sp. (5), *Prunus* sp. (4), *Fraxinus excelsior* (1)									Pottery */2g - FCF **/246g
9	68/007	Ditch	40	40														FCF **/204g

Sample Number	Context	Context / deposit type	Sample Volume litres	Sub-Sample Volume litres	Charcoal >4mm	Weight (g)	Charcoal <4mm	Weight (g)	Charcoal Identifications	Charred botanicals (other than charcoal)	Weight (g)	Bone and Teeth	Weight (g)	Burnt bone 4-8mm	Weight (g)	Land Snail shells	Weight (g)	Other (eg ind, pot, cbm)
7	22/008	Pit	40	40	***	32	***	7	*Quercus* sp. (10)	*	<2			*	<2			Burnt clay */<2g - Flint */4g - FCF *26g
10	21/005	Pit?	40	40	**	3	**	3	*Fraxinus excelsior* (1), Maloideae (3), *Frangula alnus* (1), *Quercus* sp. (5)									Pottery **/16g

Table 9: Flots quantification (* = 0-10, ** = 11-50, *** = 51 – 250, **** = >250) and preservation (+ = poor, ++ = moderate, +++ = good)

Sample Number	Context	Weight g	Flot volume ml	Volume scanned	Uncharred %	Sediment %	Seeds uncharred	Charcoal >4mm	Charcoal <4mm	Charcoal <2mm	Crop seeds charred	Identifications	Preservation	Weed seeds charred	Identifications	Preservation	Land Snail Shells
1	55/006	38	45	45	33	65	*** *Chenopodium* sp., *Fumaria officinalis*, *Rubus fruticosus* agg. / *idaeus*, *Solanum* sp.		*	***							
2	37/008	2	4	4	80	20	* *Chenopodium* sp., *Rubus fruticosus* agg. / *idaeus*, *Galium* sp.			***							
3	37/010	2	2	2	85	15	** *Chenopodium* sp., unid. seed			***				*	Poaceae	+++	
4	63/005	4	10	10	55	5	* *Chenopodium* sp.		*	****							
5	65/005	14	100	100	43	2	*** *Chenopodium* sp., *Sambucus nigra*, *Galium* sp., *Solanum* sp.		*	**							** 55%
6	49/006	6	45	45	82	15	*** *Chenopodium* sp., *Sambucus nigra*, *Rubus fruticosus* agg. / *idaeus, Galium* sp.		*	**							
8	22/012	<2	2	2	75	20	* *Chenopodium* sp.			**							
9	68/007	8	40	40	80	20	* *Chenopodium* sp.			**							

7	22/008	18	110	100	50	5	** *Chenopodium* sp., *Sambucus nigra*	*	***	****	*	*Triticum* sp., cf. *Triticum* sp.	+ to ++				
10	21/005	8	40	40	85	15	* *Chenopodium* sp.	*	*	***							

HER Summary Form

Site Code	LAW 13					
Identification Name and Address	Land at Westergate					
County, District &/or Borough	West Sussex					
OS Grid Refs.	SU 9412 0579					
Geology	London Clay + Head deposit with an area of river terrace sands, silts and clays					
Arch. South-East Project Number	5981					
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.** ✓ 11-28/03/13	~~Excav.~~	~~WB.~~	~~Other~~		
Sponsor/Client	Ramboll UK Ltd.					
Project Manager	Andy Leonard					
Project Supervisor	Kathryn Grant					
Period Summary	~~Pala~~	~~Meso~~	**Neo**. *c.*3650-3300 BC **Early Neolithic pits/tree-boles**	**BA LBA ditches/field system**	~~IA~~	~~RB~~
	~~AS~~	~~MED~~	**PM Late 18th Century ditches/ field system**	Other		

Summary

Between 11th and 28th March 2013 an archaeological evaluation was carried out by Archaeology South East (ASE) on Land at Westergate, West Sussex in advance of a planning application for the proposed redevelopment of the site. The work was commissioned by Ramboll UK Ltd.

Seventy-two trial trenches were excavated to a cumulative length of 1764m. Of these trenches, twenty-five contained archaeological remains. Three periods of archaeological activity were identified: Early Neolithic (Period 1), Late Bronze Age (Period 2) and post-medieval (Period 3). Period 1 (c.3650-3300 BC) activity was represented by pits/tree-boles. Period 2 (c.1150-800 BC) and Period 3 (Late 18th Century) activity was represented by ditches, probably elements of field systems. With the exception of three features of probable Early Neolithic date, the general absence of discrete features, suggests that the site was utilised for pastoral or arable farming activity, perhaps since the Late Bronze Age.
Natural geology was encountered at 10.89m AOD (Trench 55) in the southwest of the site rising by over three metres to 14.22m AOD (Trench 21) in the north of the site. This was overlain by subsoil. In some parts of the site a possible relict soil was identified beneath the later intact subsoil. Generally there was a considerable build-up of overburden deposits found across the site (c.350-700mm of coverage over archaeological features).

Surface topography lies at 12.23m AOD in the southeast rising by over two metres to 14.52m AOD in the north

OASIS ID: archaeol6-148554

Project details

Project name	Land at Westergate
Short description of the project	Between 11th and 28th March 2013 an archaeological evaluation was carried out by Archaeology South East (ASE) on Land at Westergate, West Sussex in advance of a planning application for the proposed redevelopment of the site. The work was commissioned by Ramboll UK Ltd. Seventy-two trial trenches were excavated to a cumulative length of 1764m. Of these trenches, twenty-five contained archaeological remains. Three periods of archaeological activity were identified: Early Neolithic (Period 1), Late Bronze Age (Period 2) and post-medieval (Period 3). Period 1 (c.3650-3300 BC) activity was represented by pits/tree-boles. Period 2 (c.1150-800 BC) and Period 3 (Late 18th Century) activity was represented by ditches, probably elements of field systems. With the exception of three features of probable Early Neolithic date, the general absence of discrete features, suggests that the site was utilised for pastoral or arable farming activity, perhaps since the Late Bronze Age. Natural geology was encountered at 10.89m AOD (Trench 55) in the southwest of the site rising by over three metres to 14.22m AOD (Trench 21) in the north of the site. This was overlain by subsoil. In some parts of the site a possible relict soil was identified beneath the later intact subsoil. Generally there was a considerable build-up of overburden deposits found across the site (c.350-700mm of coverage over archaeological features). Surface topography lies at 12.23m AOD in the southeast rising by over two metres to 14.52m AOD in the north.
Project dates	Start: 11-03-2013 End: 28-03-2013
Previous/future work	No / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	LAW 13 - Sitecode
Type of project	Field evaluation
Current Land use	Vacant Land 2 - Vacant land not previously developed
Monument type	PITS/TREE-BOLES Early Neolithic
Monument type	DITCHES Late Bronze Age
Monument type	DITCHES Post Medieval
Significant Finds	POTTERY Early Neolithic
Significant Finds	POTTERY Late Bronze Age
Significant Finds	FLINT Late Prehistoric
Methods & techniques	"'Augering'","'Environmental Sampling'","'Photographic Survey'","'Sample Trenches'","'Topographic Survey'"
Development type	Not recorded

Prompt	Planning condition
Position in the planning process	Pre-application

Project location

Country	England
Site location	WEST SUSSEX ARUN EASTERGATE Land at Westergate
Site coordinates	SU 9412 0579 50 0 50 50 36 N 000 39 46 W Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 11.00m Max: 14.00m

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Archaeology South East
Project brief originator	Ramboll
Project design originator	Archaeology South-East
Project director/manager	Andy Leonard
Project supervisor	Kathryn Grant
Type of sponsor/funding body	Consultant
Name of sponsor/funding body	Ramboll UK Ltd.

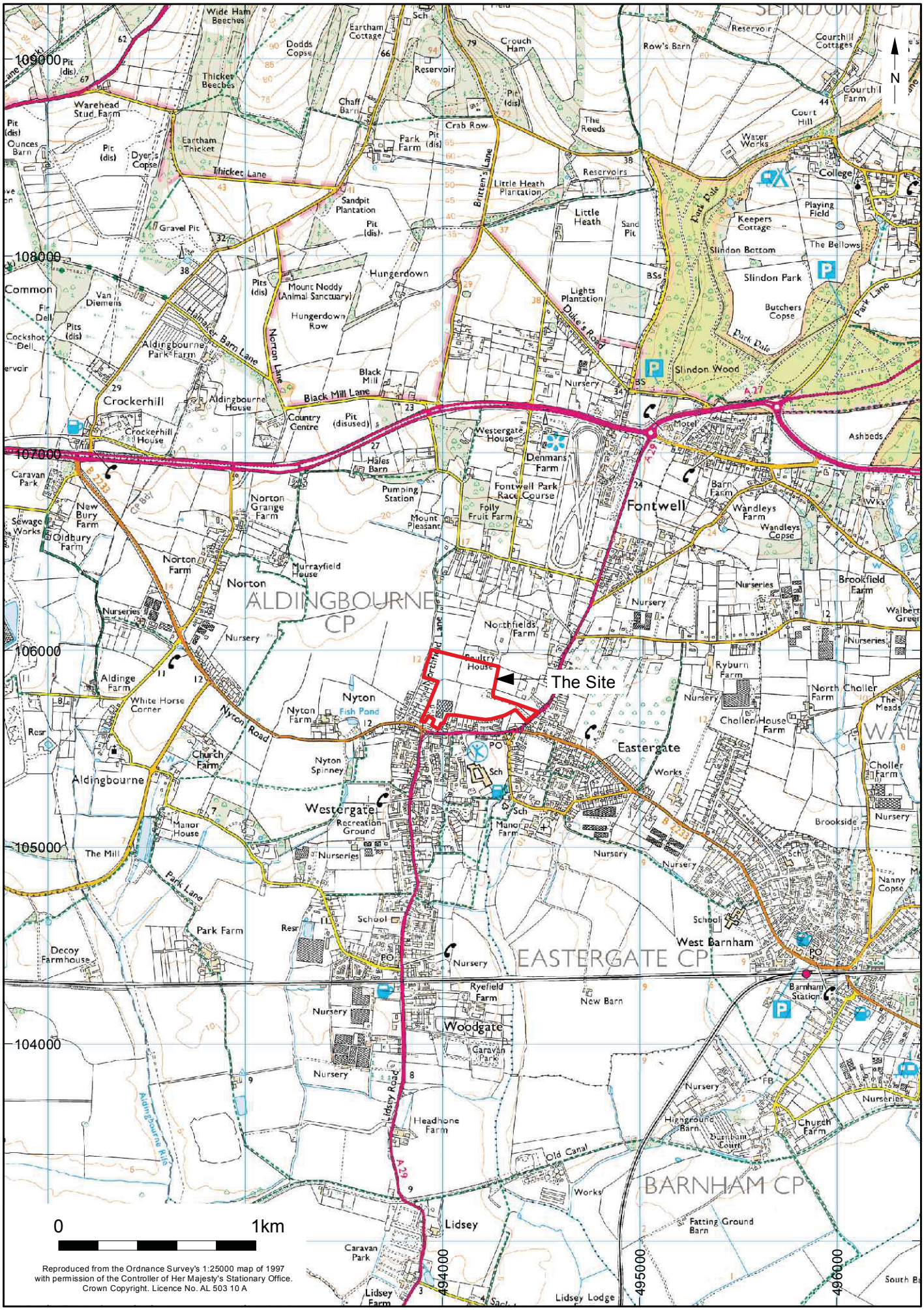
Project archives

Physical Archive recipient	Local Museum
Physical Contents	"Ceramics","Worked stone/lithics"
Digital Contents	"Ceramics","Environmental","Stratigraphic","Survey","Worked stone/lithics"
Digital Media available	"Database","Spreadsheets","Survey","Text"
Paper Archive recipient	Local Museum
Paper Media available	"Context sheet","Drawing","Map","Notebook - Excavation"," Research"," General Notes","Plan","Section","Unpublished Text"

Project

bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	An Archaeological Evaluation Report: Land at Westergate, West Sussex
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Grant, K.
Other bibliographic details	ASE report number: 2013079
Date	2013
Issuer or publisher	Archaeology South East
Place of issue or publication	Portslade
Description	A4 bound report - font Arial 11
Entered by	Kathryn Grant (kathryn.grant@ucl.ac.uk)
Entered on	26 April 2013



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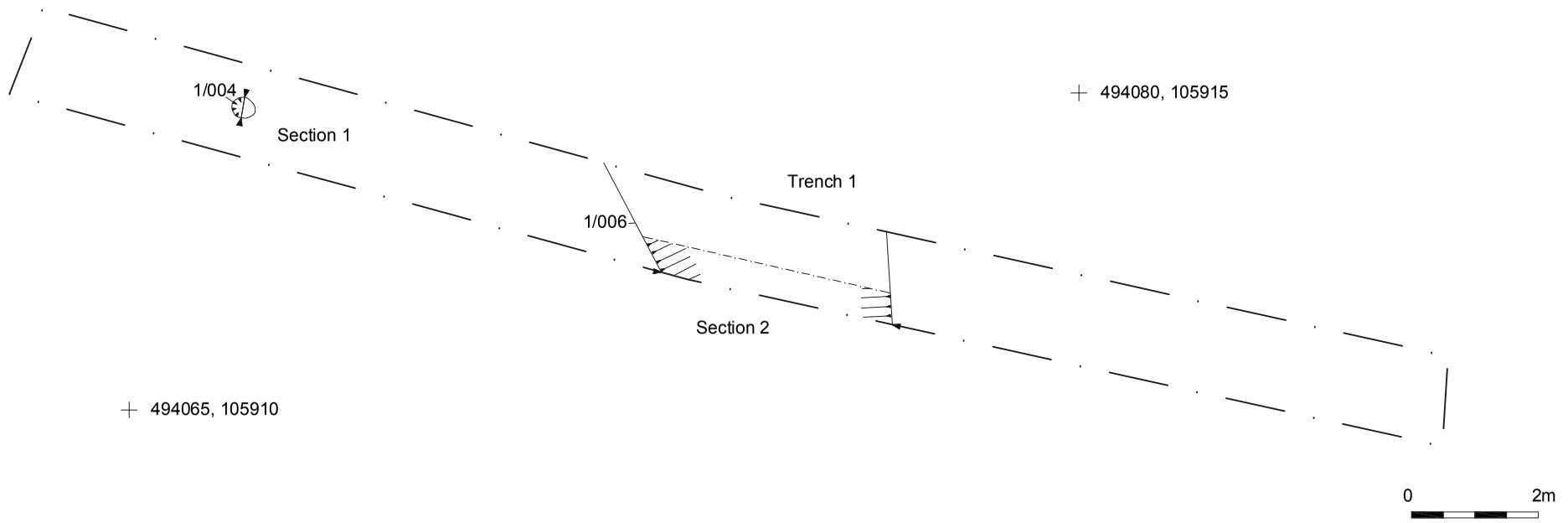
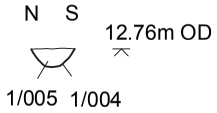
Project Ref: 5981	April 2013	Site location	
Report Ref: 2013079	Drawn by: LD		

© Archaeology South-East		Land at Westergate, West Sussex	Fig. 2
Project Ref: 5981	April 2013	Trench location plan	
Report Ref: 2013079	Drawn by: LD		



Trench 1 looking west

Section 1



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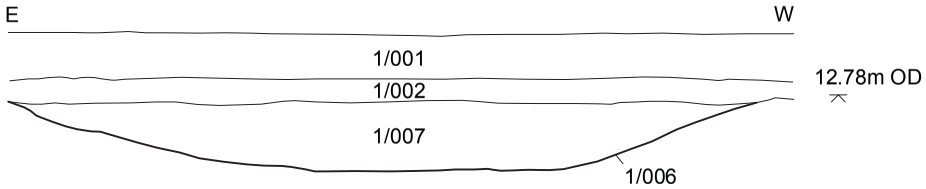

0 1m

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Project Ref: 5981	April 2013	Trench 1 plan, sections and photograph	
Report Ref: 2013079	Drawn by: JC		

N

493980, 105960

3/004 (unexcavated)

Trench 3

493970, 105945

SA1

Trench 3 looking South

0 2m

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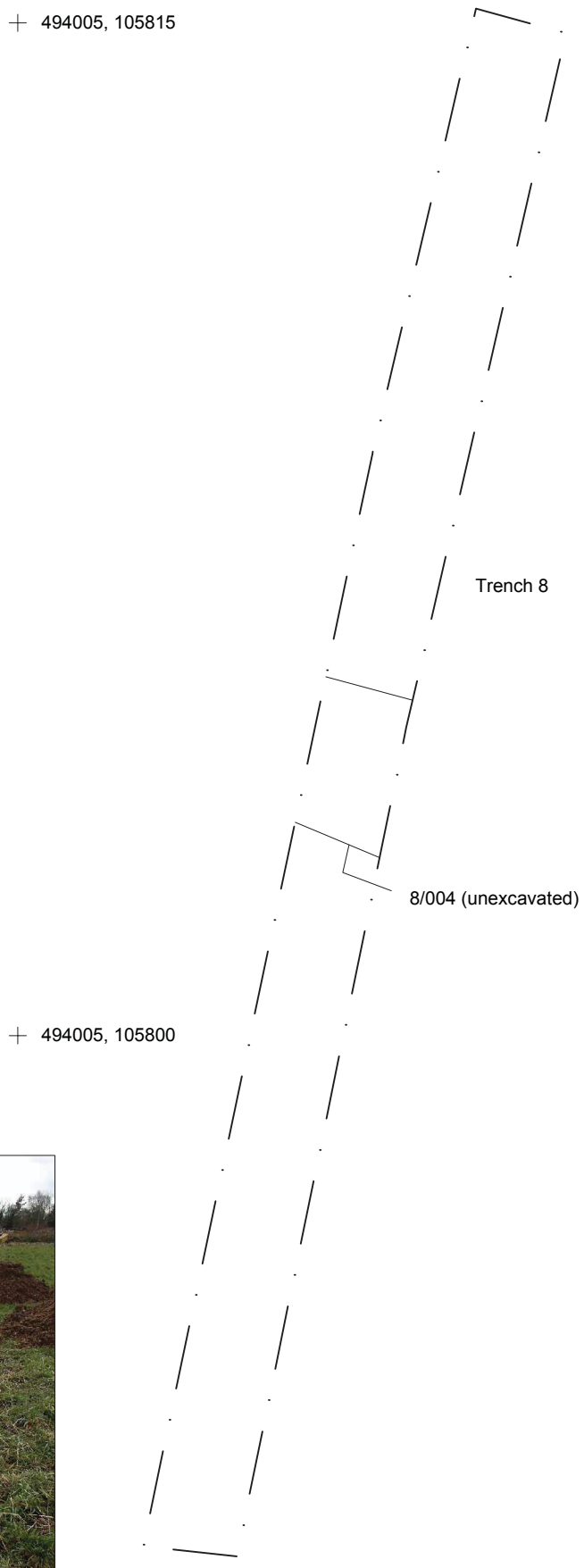
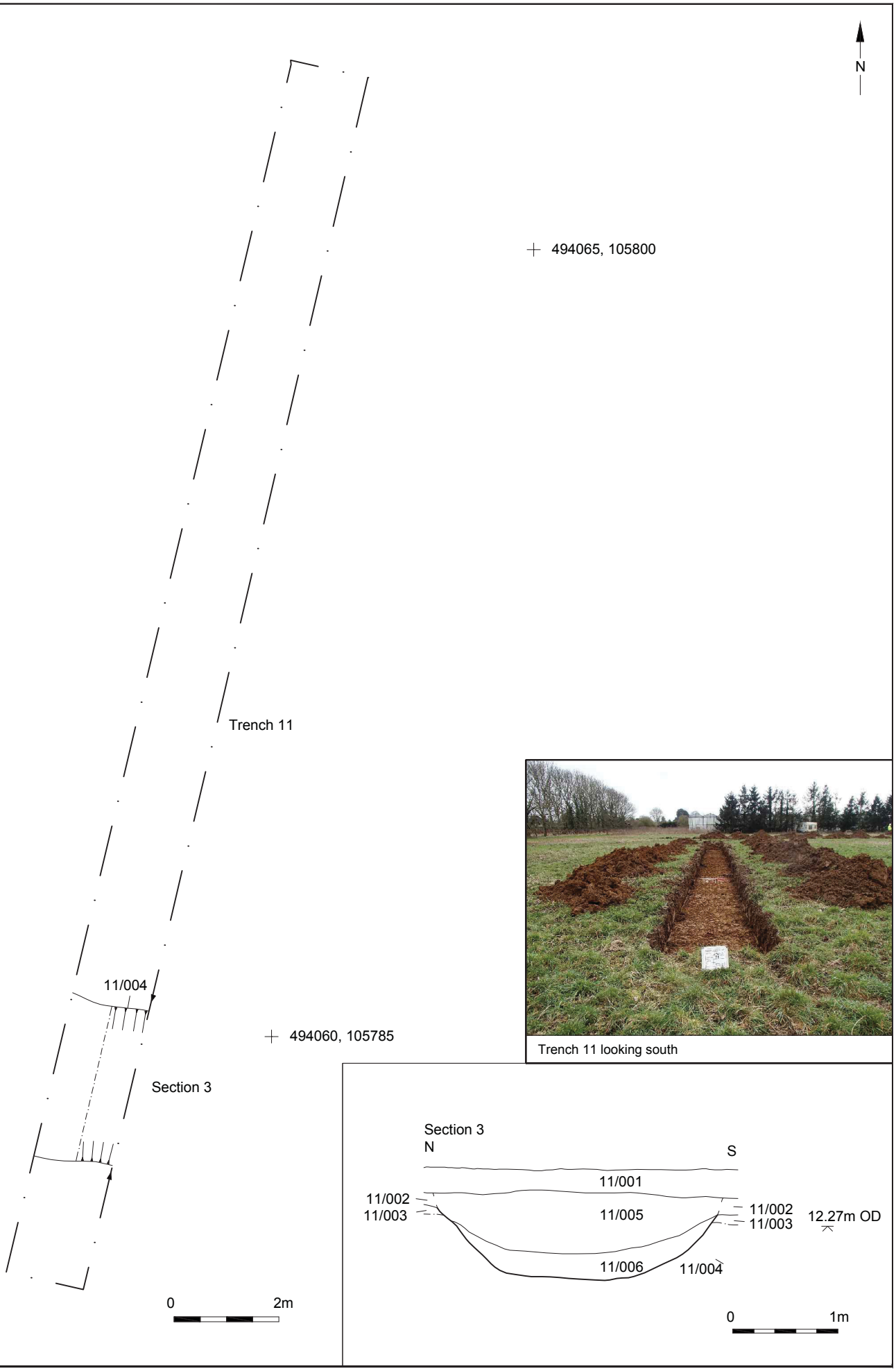
Project Ref: 5981	April 2013	Trench 3 plan and photograph	
Report Ref: 2013079	Drawn by: JC		



Trench 8 looking north

© **Archaeology South-East**		Land at Westergate, West Sussex	Fig. 5
Project Ref: 5981	April 2013	Trench 8 plan and photograph	
Report Ref: 2013079	Drawn by: JC		



Trench 11 looking south

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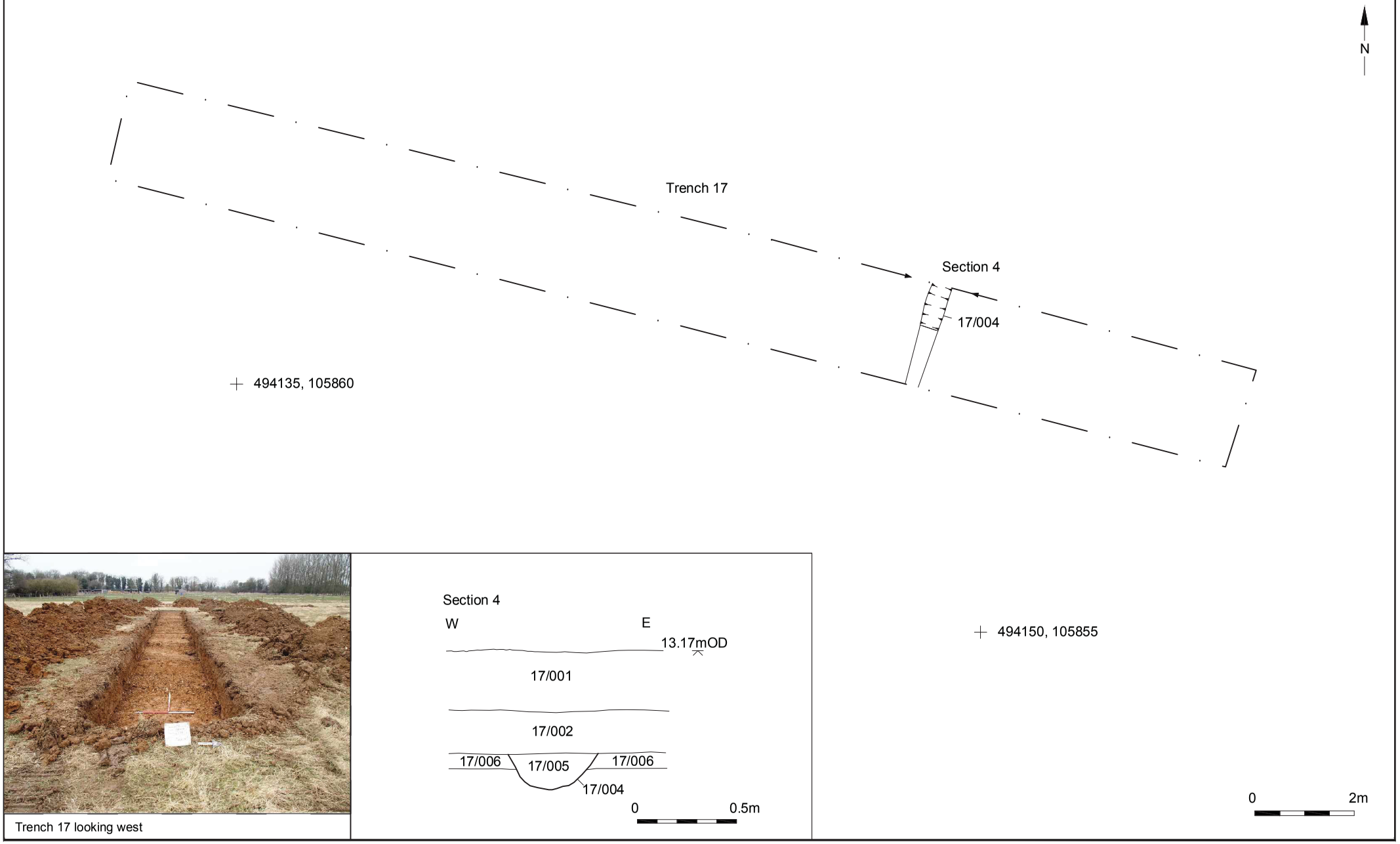
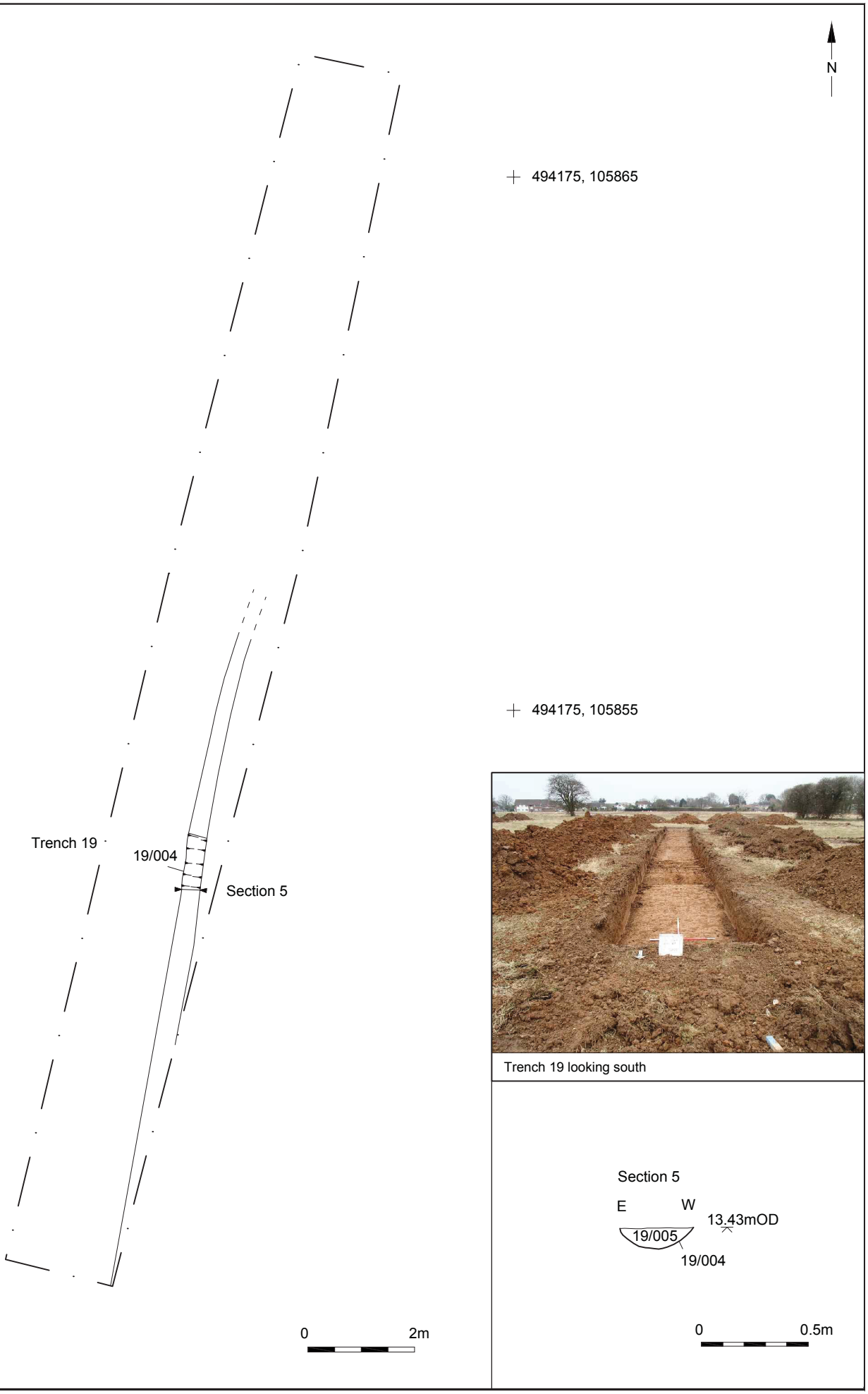
Project Ref: 5981	April 2013	Trench 11 plan, section and photograph	
Report Ref: 2013079	Drawn by: JC		



Trench 17 looking west

© Archaeology South-East		Land at Westergate, West Sussex	Fig. 7
Project Ref: 5981	April 2013	Trench 17 plan, section and photograph	
Report Ref: 2013079	Drawn by: JC		



Trench 19 looking south

0 0.5m

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Project Ref: 5981	April 2013	Trench 19 plan, section and photograph	
Report Ref: 2013079	Drawn by: JC		

494225, 105910

N

Section 6

21/004

Trench 21

494225, 105900

Trench 21 looking north

Section 6

N S

21/001

21/002

14.08mOD

21/005

21/004

0 1m

0 2m

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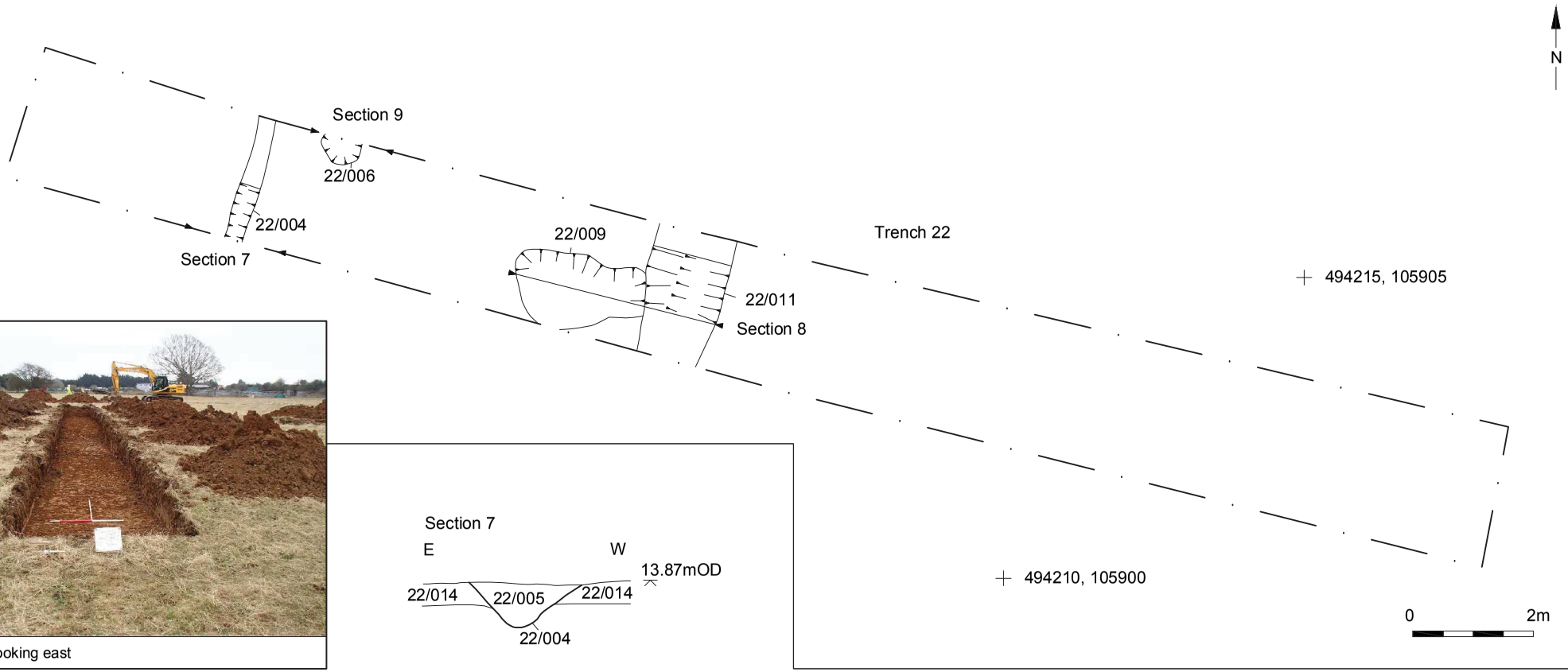
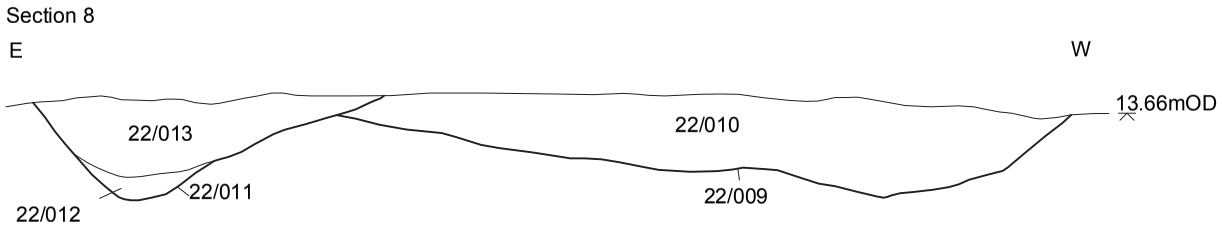
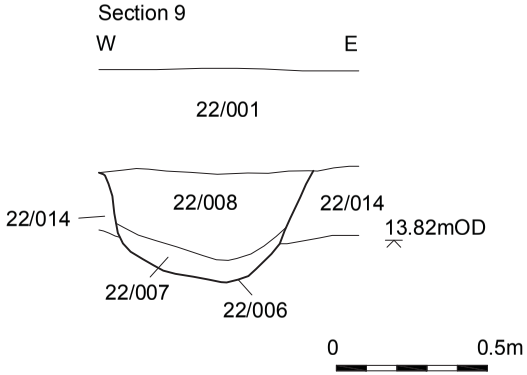
Project Ref: 5981	April 2013	Trench 21 plan, section and photograph	
Report Ref: 2013079	Drawn by: JC		

Trench 22 looking east







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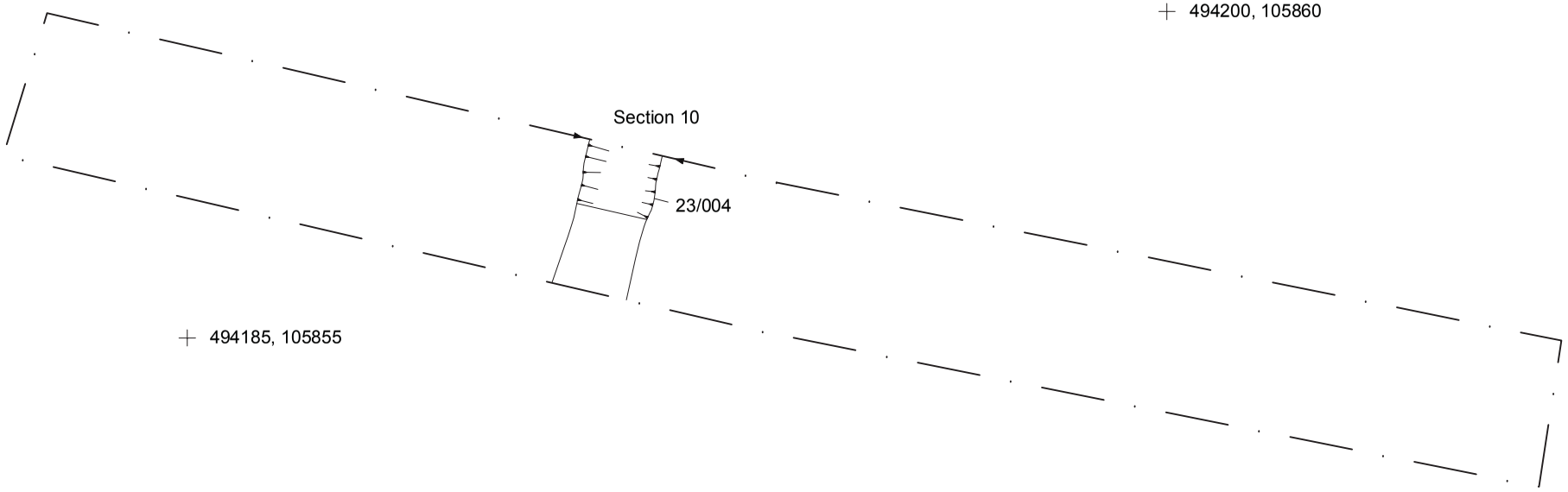
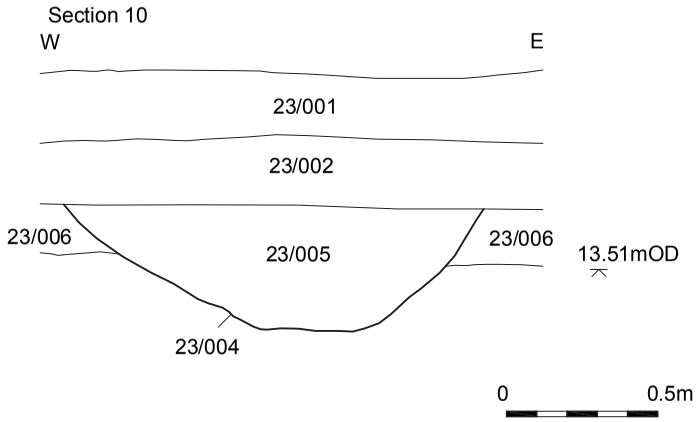
Project Ref: 5981	April 2013	Trench 22 plan, sections and photograph	
Report Ref: 2013079	Drawn by: JC		



Trench 23 looking east



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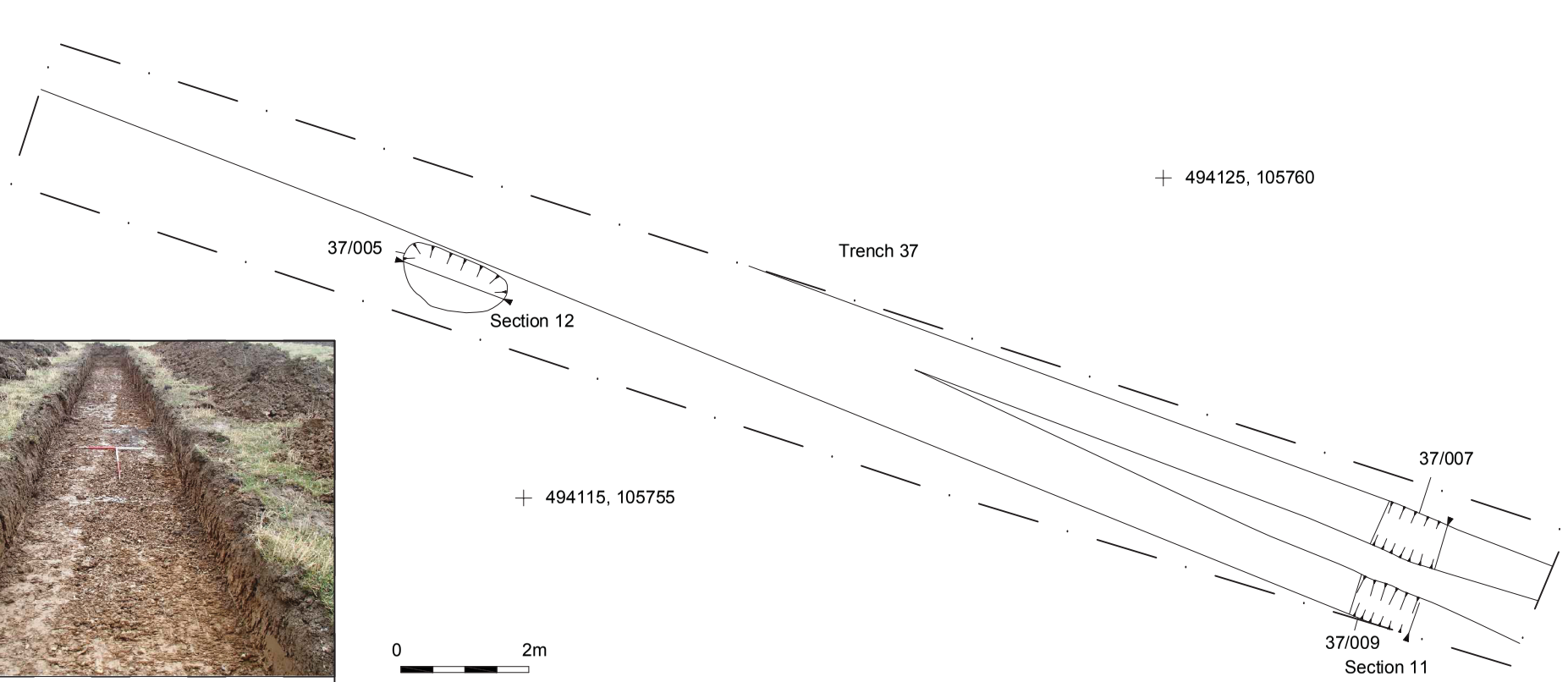
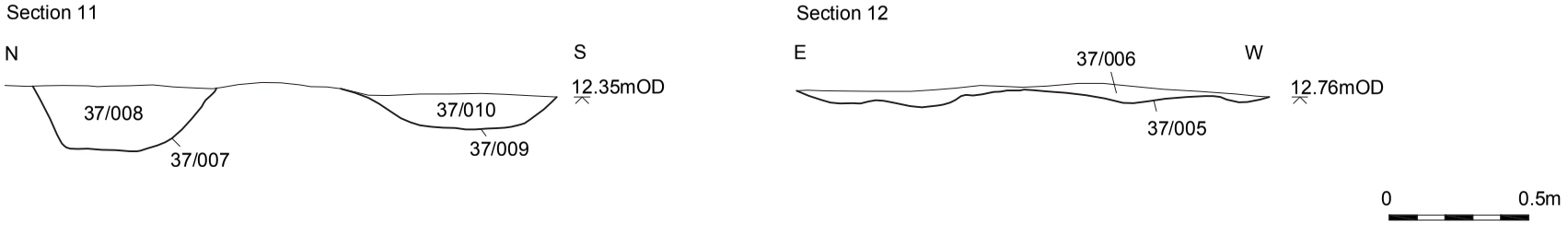
Project Ref: 5981	April 2013	Trench 23 plan,section and photograph	
Report Ref: 2013079	Drawn by: JC		

Trench 37





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Project Ref: 5981	April 2013	Trench 37 plan, sections and photograph	
Report Ref: 2013079	Drawn by: JC		

N

494140, 105760

494150, 105760

Trench 39

39/005

Section 13

39/007

0 2m

Trench 39 looking south

Section 13

S N

12.77mOD

39/008 39/006

39/007 39/005

0 1m

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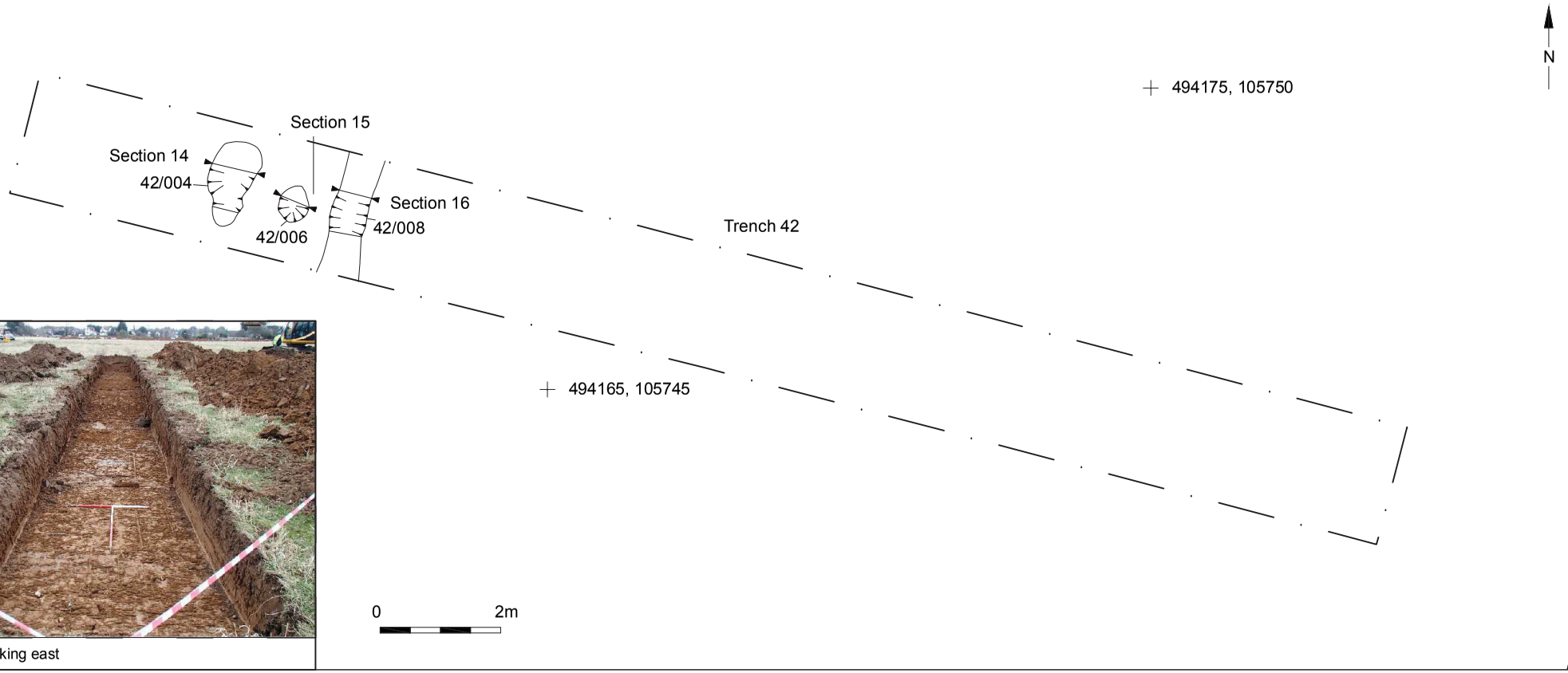
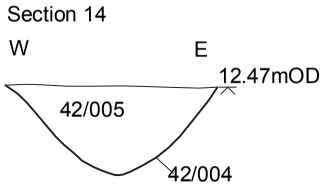
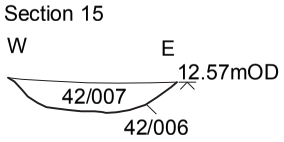
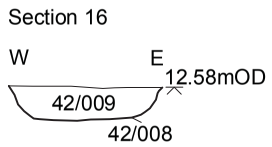
Project Ref: 5981	April 2013	Trenches 39 plan, sections and photograph	
Report Ref: 2013079	Drawn by: JC		

Trench 42 looking east









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Project Ref: 5981	April 2013	Trench 42 plan, section and photograph	
Report Ref: 2013079	Drawn by: JC		

494100, 105775

N

43/006

Section 17

Trench 43

43/004

43/008

Section 18

494095, 105755

0 2m

Trench 43 looking north-east

Section 17

S N

43/001

43/002

12.27mOD

43/005 43/007

43/006 43/008

Section 18

12.44mOD

E 43/009 W

43/008

0 0.5m

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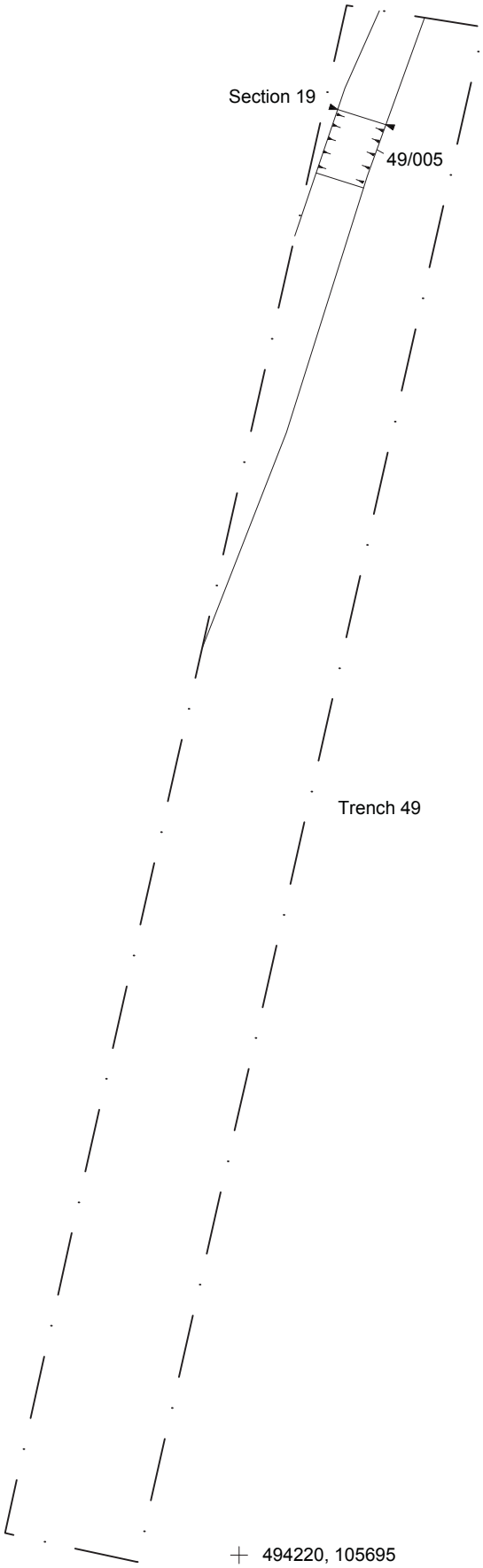
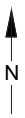
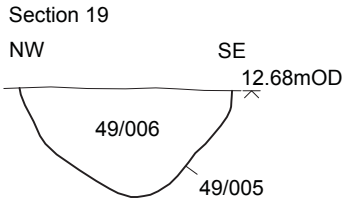
Project Ref: 5981	April 2013	Trench 43 plan, sections and photograph	
Report Ref: 2013079	Drawn by: JC		





Trench 49 looking north



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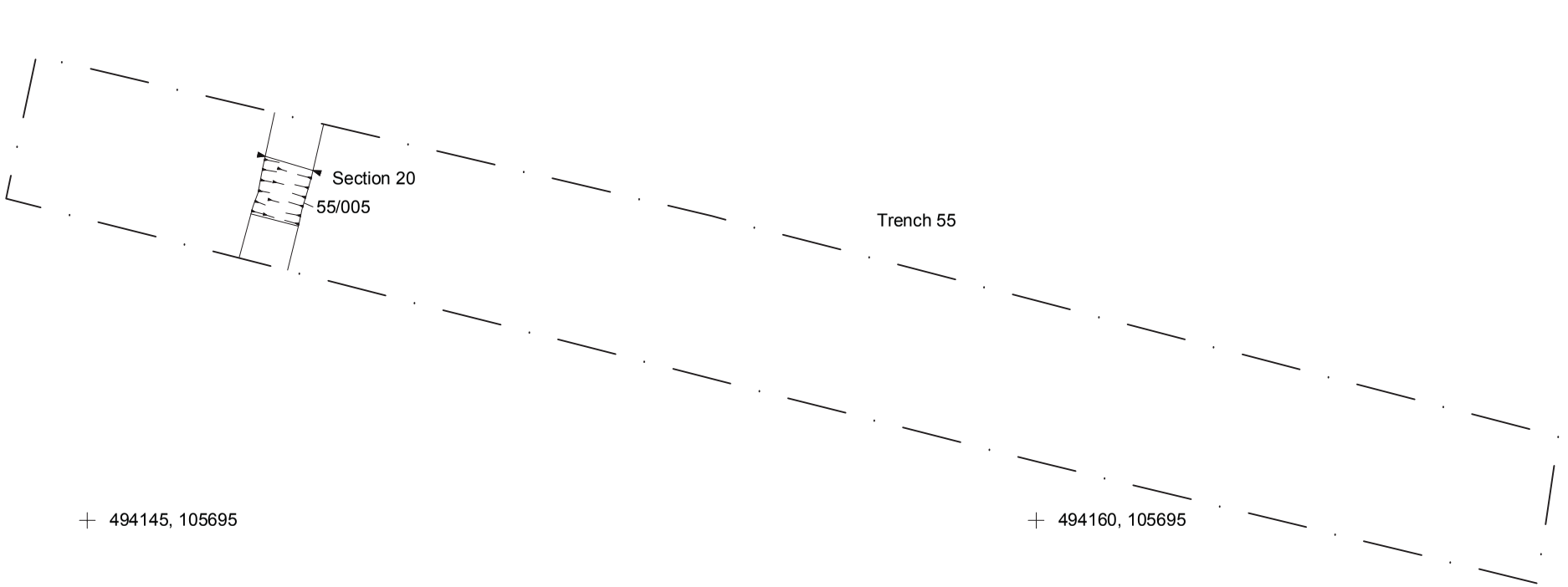
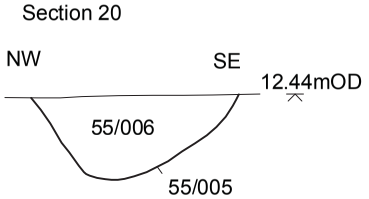
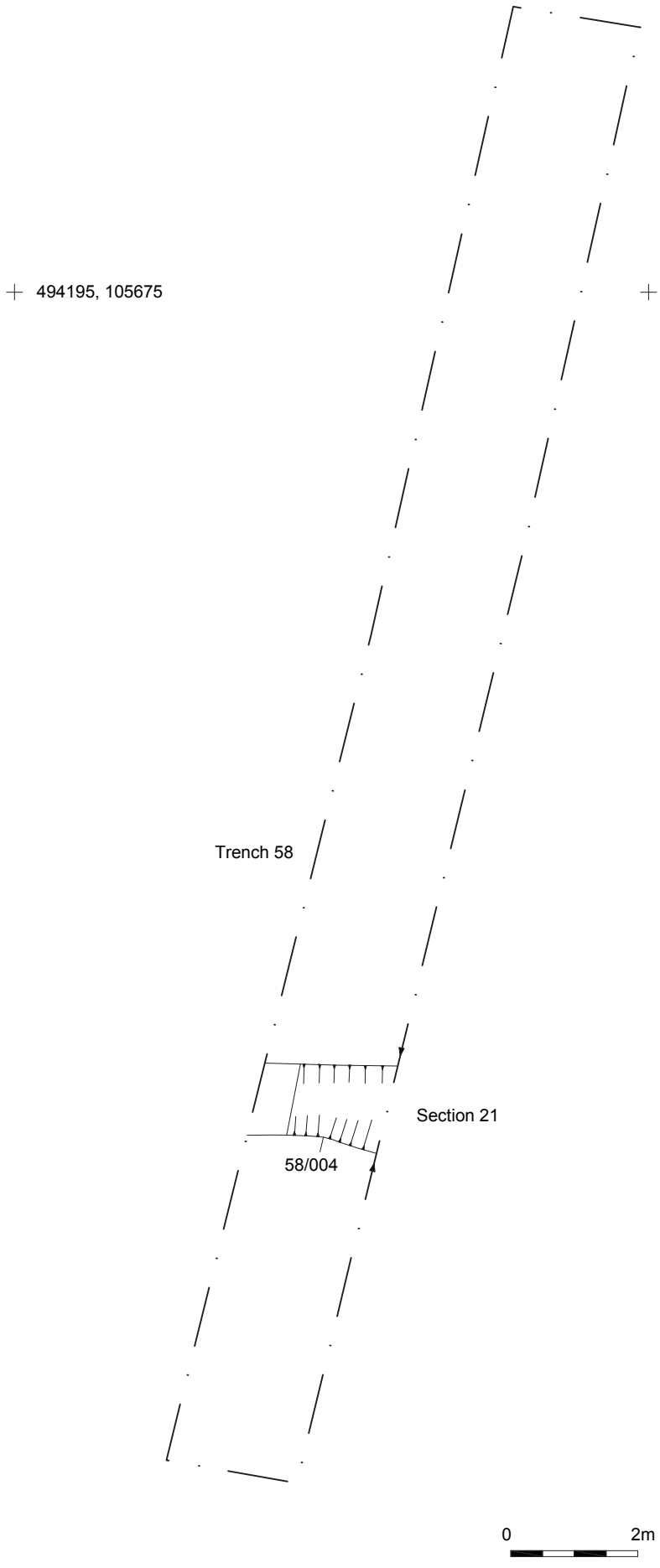
Project Ref: 5981	April 2013	Trench 49 plan, section and photograph	
Report Ref: 2013079	Drawn by: JC		



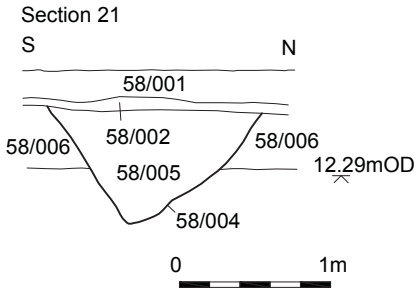
Trench 55



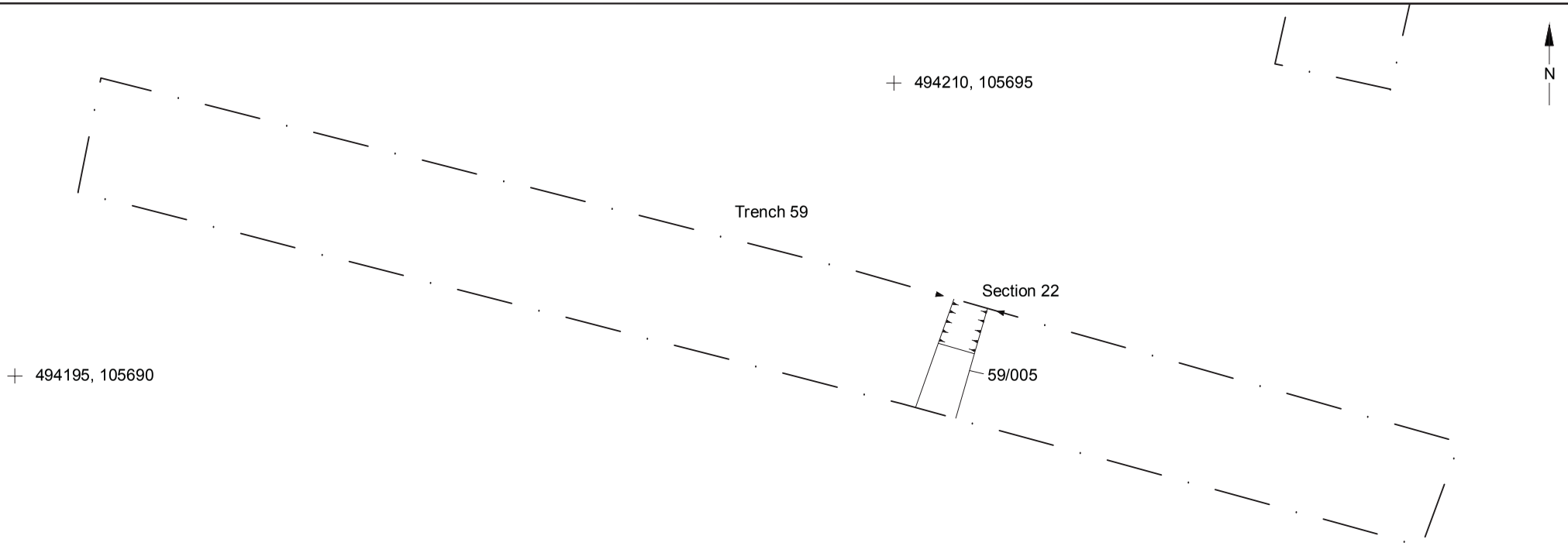
© Archaeology South-East		Land at Westergate, West Sussex	Fig. 17
Project Ref: 5981	April 2013	Trench 55 plan, section and photograph	
Report Ref: 2013079	Drawn by: JC		



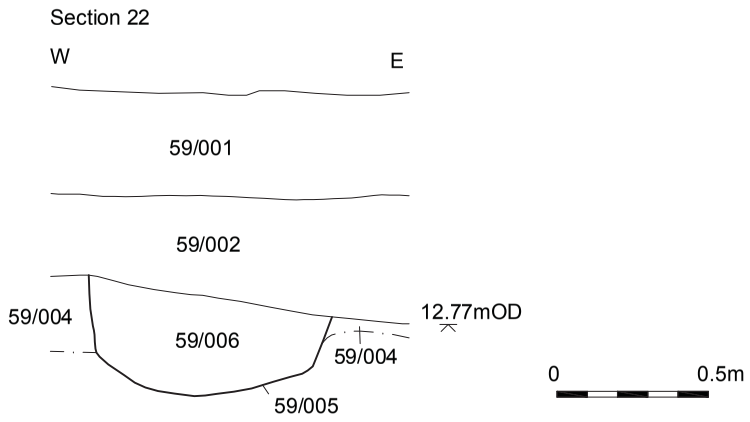
Trench 58



© Archaeology South-East		Land at Westergate, West Sussex	Fig. 18
Project Ref: 5981	April 2013	Trench 58 plan, sections and photograph	
Report Ref: 2013079	Drawn by: JC		



Trench 59 looking west



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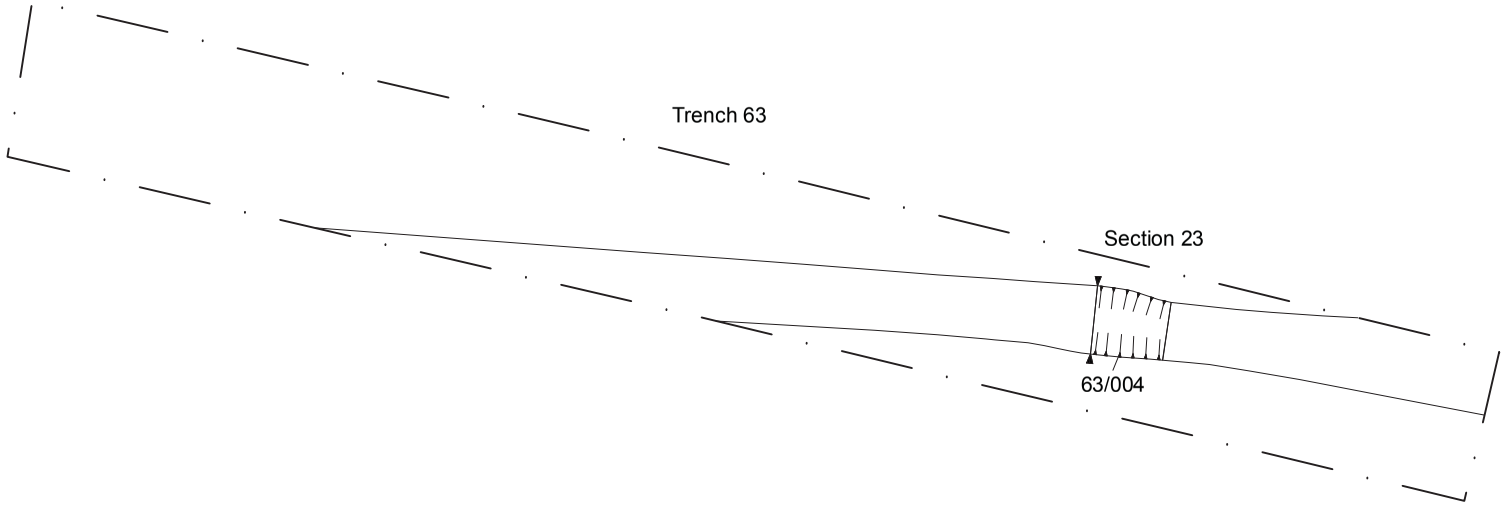
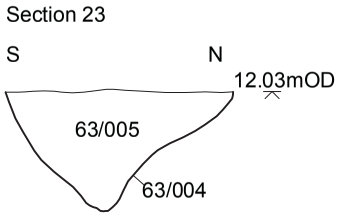
Project Ref: 5981	April 2013	Trench 59 plan, sections and photograph	
Report Ref: 2013079	Drawn by: JC		



Trench 63 looking west



0 2m

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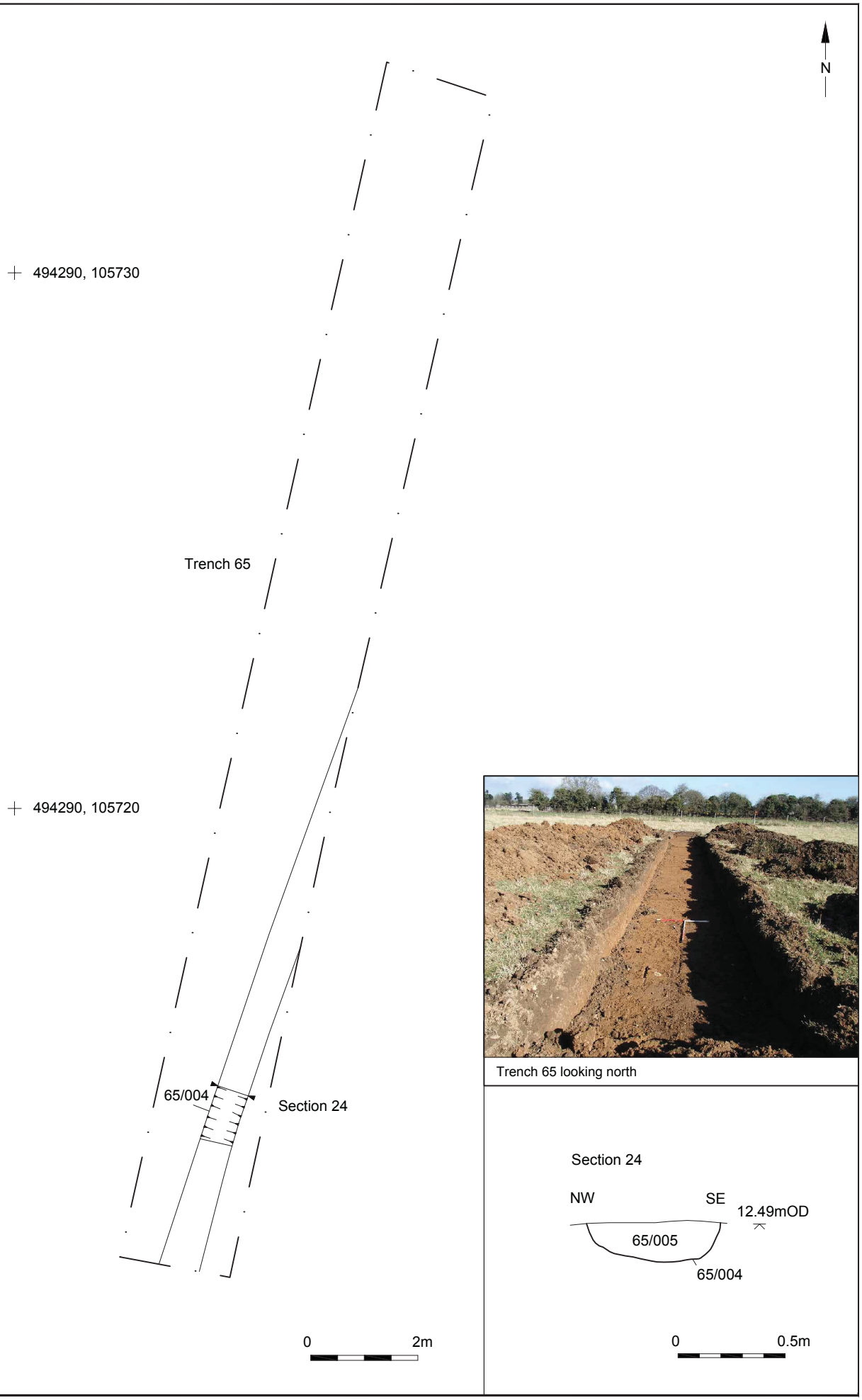
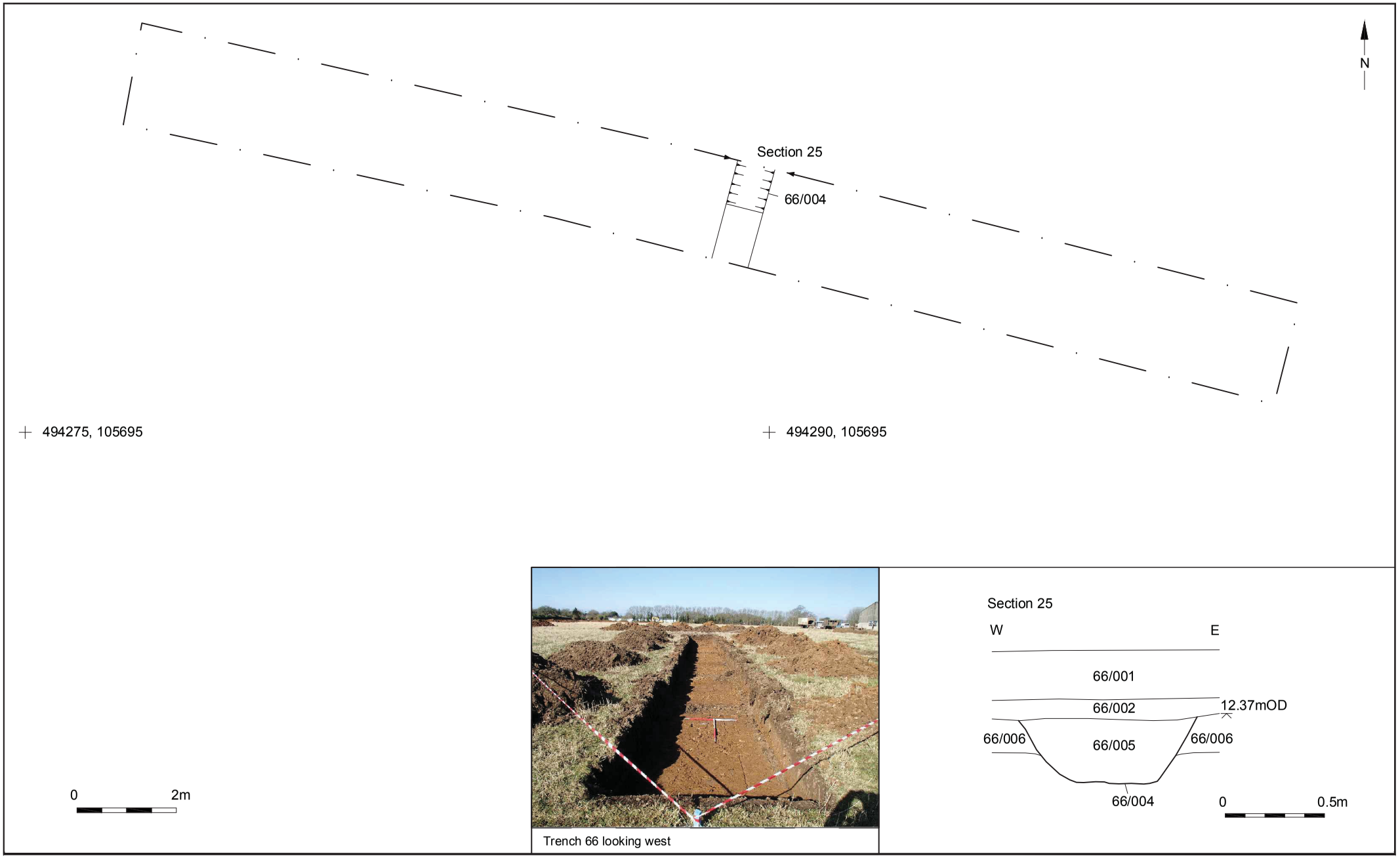
Project Ref: 5981	April 2013	Trench 63 plan, section and photograph	
Report Ref: 2013079	Drawn by: JC		



Trench 65 looking north

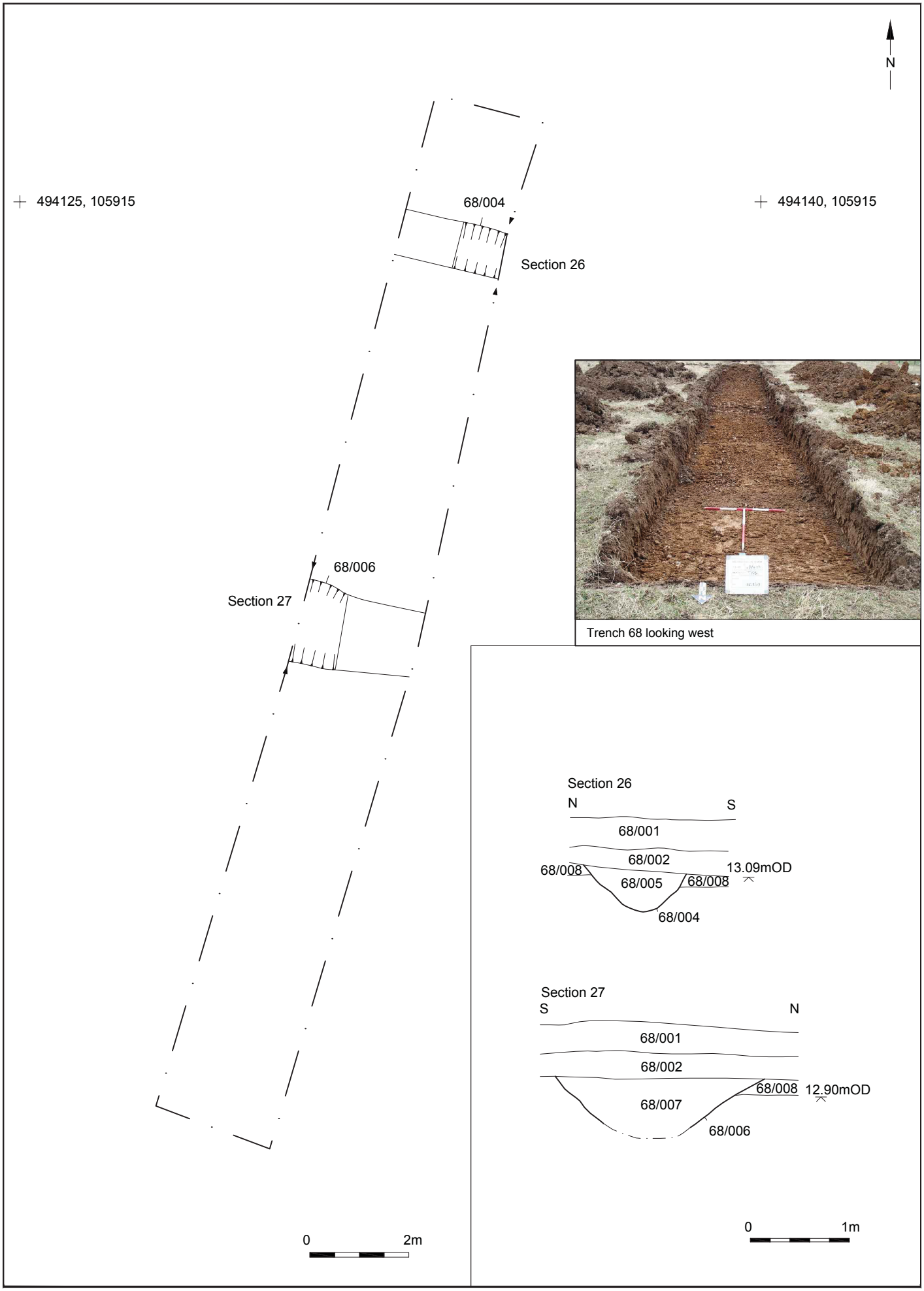
0 0.5m

© Archaeology South-East		Land at Westergate, West Sussex	Fig. 21
Project Ref: 5981	April 2013	Trench 65 plan, section and photograph	
Report Ref: 2013079	Drawn by: JC		



Trench 66 looking west

© **Archaeology South-East**		Land at Westergate, West Sussex	Fig. 22
Project Ref: 5981	April 2013	Trench 66 plan, sections and photograph	
Report Ref: 2013079	Drawn by: JC		



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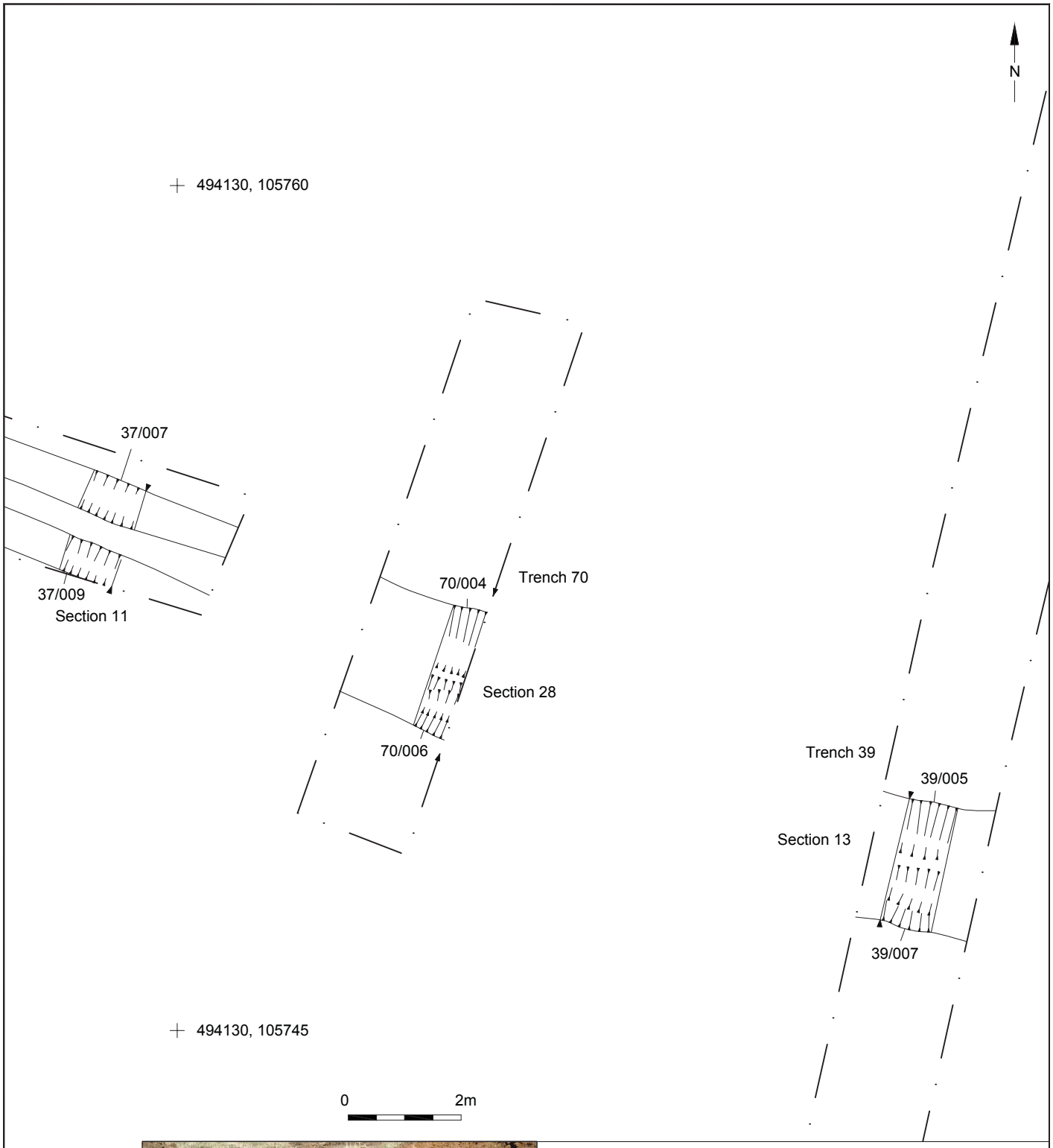
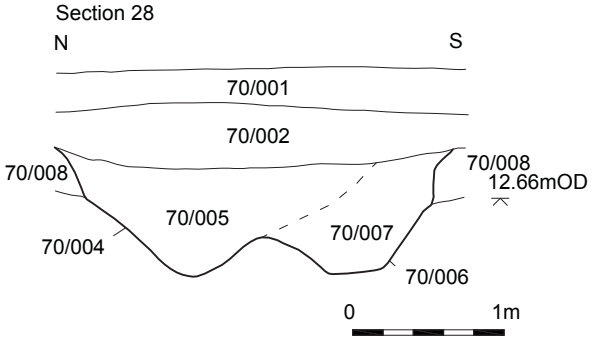
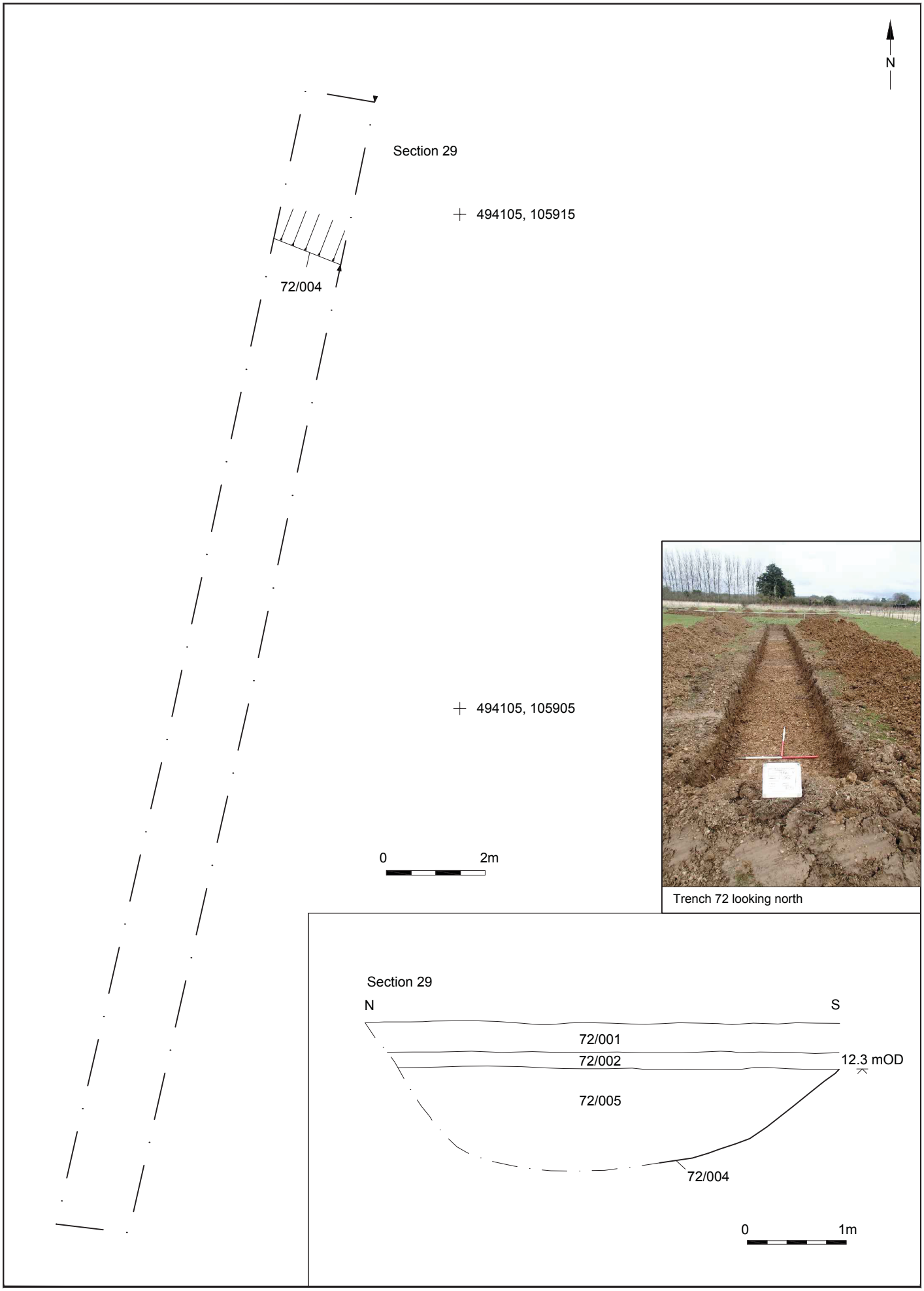
Project Ref: 5981	April 2013	Trench 68 plan, sections and photograph	
Report Ref: 2013079	Drawn by: JC		



Trench 70 looking north



© Archaeology South-East		Land at Westergate, West Sussex	Fig. 24
Project Ref: 5981	April 2013	Trench 70 plan, sections and photograph	
Report Ref: 2013079	Drawn by: JC		



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Project Ref: 5981	April 2013	Trench 72 plan, sections and photograph	
Report Ref: 2013079	Drawn by: JC		

© Archaeology South-East		Land at Westergate, West Sussex	Fig. 26
Project Ref: 5981	April 2013	Plan showing periods 1-3	
Report Ref: 2013079	Drawn by: LD		

© Archaeology South-East		Land at Westergate	Fig. 27
Project Ref: 5981	April 2013	Yeakell and Gardner's Sussex map of 1778-1783	
Report Ref: 2013079	Drawn by: LD		

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