

**Archaeological Evaluation Report
Land at Drovers Roundabout (Area A)
Ashford, Kent**

**NGR: 599984 143932
(TQ 99984 43932)**



**ASE Project No: 5986
Site Code: DRK 13**

**ASE Report No: 2013241
OASIS id: archaeol6-160198**

By Anna Doherty

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October 2013

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Abstract

Archaeology South-East was commissioned by CgMs Consulting Ltd to undertake an archaeological evaluation on land at Drovers Roundabout, Ashford, Kent. Twelve trenches were excavated.

The evaluation has demonstrated that archaeology has not been significantly impacted by previous groundworks in the area. A number of linear features may represent two differently orientated phases of agricultural land division. These are unfortunately both very poorly-dated and it has not been possible to ascribe a date to either. There was no indication of any intensive past activity for instance such as relating to settlement activity.

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Site Background

1.1.1 Archaeology South-East (ASE), the contracting division of the Centre for Applied Archaeology (CAA), Institute of Archaeology, University College London (UCL) was commissioned by CgMs Consulting Ltd to undertake an archaeological evaluation on land at Drovers Roundabout, Ashford, Kent (NGR 599984 143932; Figure 1).

1.2 Geology and Topography

1.2.1 According to the British Geological Survey (BGS 2013) a narrow strip of land on the southern part of the site, close to the A20, lies on bedrock geology of sandstone, siltstone and mudstone of the Sandgate Formation. However, sandstone and limestone (interbedded) of the Hythe Formation has been recorded over the majority of the area under evaluation (Area A). Sandstone of the Folkestone Formation is shown just to the north of Area A. No superficial geology has been recorded in the vicinity of the site.

1.2.2 The current evaluation area is located to the north-west of Ashford and is bounded by the A20 Maidstone Road to the south and west, the Ashford to Maidstone Railway to the east and the Warrens to the north. It comprises grassland on which some derelict farm buildings stand.

1.3 Project Background

1.3.1 Area A forms part of a wider scheme of work. A previous watching brief on the northern part of this wider site (SWAT 2011) had revealed a ditch of Middle to Late Iron Age date. Subsequently an archaeological Desk Based Assessment was produced for the whole c. 2.1 ha site (CgMs 2011). That document demonstrated that it has moderate potential to contain archaeological remains of prehistoric date.

1.3.2 As part of the same wider scheme of works, a seven trench evaluation was carried out on an adjacent parcel of land to the east of Area A (ASE 2013a). It uncovered several undated ditches interpreted as possible elements of a prehistoric field system. ASE is also currently undertaking an on-going watching brief on a separate parcel of land to the south-east (Area C) bounded by the A20 (Fougeres Way) and the A28 (Simone Weil Avenue).

1.3.3 CgMs and the Heritage Conservation Group (HCG) at Kent County Council agreed a programme of archaeological evaluation in Area A. ASE produced a Written Scheme of Investigation (ASE 2013b) for this work, setting out the methodology and the aims and objectives of the work, which was submitted to and approved by HCG before work commenced.

1.4 Research Aims and Objectives

1.4.1 The following broad research aims were set out in the Written Scheme of Investigation (*ibid.*):

- to assess the character, extent, preservation, significance, date and quality of any such remains and deposits
- to assess how they might be affected by the development of the site
- to establish the extent to which previous groundworks and/or other processes have affected archaeological deposits at the site

1.4.2 In addition, two specific research objectives were identified:

- to identify any evidence of prehistoric activity on the site and to determine what impact previous groundworks have had on any archaeology encountered
- to identify any remains associated with the medieval ovens known to exist to the south-east of the site

1.5 Scope of Report

1.5.1 This report presents the results of the archaeological evaluation carried out by Dylan Hopkinson, Ian Hogg (Archaeologists) and Jake Wilson (Assistant Archaeologist) on the 16th-19th September 2013. The site was surveyed by Kristina Krawiec. The fieldwork was managed by Andy Leonard and the post-excavation work by Dan Swift.

2.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 Introduction

2.1.1 The following archaeological background is largely drawn from the Desk Based Assessment (DBA; CgMs 2011) of the site and is summarised below. Research for the DBA included a search of entries on the Kent Historic Environment Record (HER) within a 500m radius of the site.

2.2 Prehistoric

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

2.2.2 There have been a series of evaluations and excavations of the former Ashford Barracks on the south eastern side of the A20, immediately to the south-east of Area A (ASE 2000; ASE 2007). A small number of features including a ditch, two gullies and a small pit contained Late Iron Age pottery. These probably form the earliest features on a site which continued in use into the early Roman period (see below). These remains have been interpreted as indicative of agricultural usage rather than settlement.

2.2.3 As part of the wider scheme of works on the current site, a seven trench evaluation was carried out on an adjacent parcel of land to the east of Area A (ASE 2013a). It uncovered several undated ditches interpreted as possible elements of a prehistoric field system. A previous watching brief on the northern part of this wider site (SWAT 2011) had also revealed a ditch of Middle to Late Iron Age date.

2.2.4 Other evidence of prehistoric activity is known from slightly further afield including a few Middle/Late Iron Age features found during a watching brief at Lodge Wood (part of the High Speed 1 scheme) c.1km to the west of Area A (OAU 2000). More extensive prehistoric remains were found on the High Speed 1 project at Beechbrook Wood c. 3km to the north-west, including a Neolithic pit, several barrows and settlement sites dating to the Middle/Late Bronze Age and Middle Iron Age (MoLAS 1999).

2.3 Roman

2.3.1 An agricultural landscape, consisting largely of linear features was recorded at Ashford Barracks, immediately to the south-east of Area A. It is thought to date to the Late Iron Age/early Roman period with some features containing pottery certainly datable to the post-conquest period (ASE 2000; 2007). Evidence of Late Iron Age/earlier Roman settlement has been recorded in other locations north-east of Ashford, including at Beechbrook Wood and Eureka Park (MoLAS 1999; ASE 2006).

2.4 Saxon and Medieval

- 2.4.1 No Saxon sites or find-spots have been recorded within a 500m radius of the site.
- 2.4.2 A watching brief and subsequent excavation carried out on land to the south of the A28 (Simone Weil Avenue) found several late 12th to late 13th century ovens together with associated enclosures, pits and possible post-built fences or other light structures (OAE 2010).

2.5 Post-Medieval

- 2.5.1 The nearby Ashford Barracks were constructed in 1797 to house 2000 soldiers (TQ94 SE41). This establishment was expanded and modernised over many years until it was closed in 1998. Other post-medieval sites recorded on the Kent HER within 500m radius of the study site are Ashford Isolation Hospital (TR04 SW109), Ashford Hospital (TR 04 SW106) and various WWII structures and defences.
- 2.5.1 The earliest relevant map is Hasted's Map of Kent (1793). At this time, the site lay beyond the historic core of Ashford within agricultural fields. The Ashford Tithe map (1840) depicts the site as being part of a large field between Warren Lane and Maidstone Road. By the time of the first edition OS map (1871) a volunteer rifle range crosses the middle of the site. The Ashford to Maidstone railway is first shown on the 1898 OS map but the rest of the site remained unchanged. Apart from the disappearance of the rifle range there were few changes to the site in subsequent mapping.

3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY

(Figure 2)

3.1 Excavation Methodology

- 3.1.1 The evaluation was carried out in accordance with the methodology set out in the Written Scheme of Investigation (ASE 2013b) and with current professional guidelines (IfA 2009).
- 3.1.2 Twelve trenches, each measuring 30m x 1.8m, were excavated in order to provide a random evenly-spaced sample of the site (Figure 2). Slight alterations were made to the trench plan proposed in the WSI (ASE 2013b): Trenches 1 and 10 were moved because access was obstructed by fencing.
- 3.1.3 The proposed trench locations were scanned with a Cable Avoidance Tool (CAT). Overburden such as topsoil, subsoil or made-ground of recent origin was removed in spits using a mechanical excavator fitted with a flat bladed ditching bucket. Mechanical excavation proceeded under constant archaeological supervision until the surface of the underlying natural geology or archaeological deposits or features were exposed. A metal detector was used to scan the spoil heaps derived from mechanical excavation as well as the surface of the exposed archaeological features
- 3.1.4 All discrete features were excavated by half section and a minimum of 10% of exposed linear features were excavated.
- 3.1.5 The trenches were laid out and all features were planned using a GPS survey system. The survey data has been tied in to the National Grid. All contexts were recorded using standard ASE *pro forma* record sheets. Sections were hand drawn at a scale of 1:10. A digital photographic record was maintained throughout the evaluation.

3.2 Site Archive

- 3.2.1 Kent museums are not currently accepting archaeological archives. ASE currently holds the archive from the site at its offices in Portslade and will continue to do so until a suitable museum or archive depository can be identified. The contents of the archive are tabulated below (Table 1).

Number of Contexts	57
No. of files/paper record	1 file
Plan and sections sheets	3
Photographs	65 digital images
Bulk finds	<1 box: pot; CBM

Table 1: Quantification of the site archive

4.0 RESULTS

4.1 Introduction

4.1.1 In the following results section those trenches containing archaeological features are described in detail below followed by those trenches without archaeology.

4.2 Natural Geology, Overburden and Modern Features

4.2.1 Natural geology was fairly uniform over most of the site, generally consisting of a mid orangeish brown, firm sandy clay, including some patches of gravel. One area of differentiation in geology was observed at the north-west end of Trench 1, where a sandy silt deposit containing light pinkish orange mottling was observed. This may correspond with the boundary between the Hythe and Folkestone Formations recorded in this area by the British Geological Survey (BGS 2013).

4.2.2 A similar subsoil deposit was recorded overlying the natural geology in each trench. This consisted of mid orangeish brown sandy/silty clay containing occasional gravel inclusions and flecks of coal. A few sherds of pottery recovered from subsoil in Trenches 6 and 9 were of late 19th to early 20th century date. The topsoil sealing the site was also similar in every trench, consisting of dark orangeish brown friable sandy/silty clay, containing a similar range of inclusions and finds to the underlying subsoil as well as a few fragments of earlier post-medieval (c.17th-18th) ceramic building material.

4.2.3 Little evidence of modern truncation was observed; however field drains were noted in Trenches 4, 6 and 12 and a backfilled geotechnical pit was observed in Trench 6.

4.3 Trench 3

(Figure 3)

4.3.1 Natural geology [3/003] was recorded at a height of 56.54m AOD. A substantial V-shaped ditch, [3/004], ran on a north-west south-east alignment through the centre of the trench. The primary fill [3/005] was a pale inclusion-free blueish grey sandy/silty clay. Above this was mid yellowish brown silty/sandy clay, again lacking coarse inclusions. The upper ditch fill was overlain by subsoil, [3/002], and topsoil, [3/001]. No finds were recovered from this trench.

Context	Type	Description	Max. Length m	Max. Width m	Deposit Thickness m
3/001	Layer	Topsoil			0.18
3/002	Layer	Subsoil			0.36
3/003	Layer	Natural			N/a
3/004	Cut	Ditch cut	>1.8	0.76	0.45
3/005	Fill	Ditch fill			0.18
3/006	Fill	Ditch fill	>1.8	0.76	0.32

Table 2: Trench 3 list of recorded contexts

4.4 Trench 5

(Figure 4)

4.4.1 Natural geology [5/003] was recorded at a height of 52.54m AOD. At the north-eastern end the trench, a shallow ditch terminus [5/004] was recorded running west under the baulk on an approximately east west alignment. It contained a single fill, [5/005], comprising a mid yellowish brown silty/sandy clay with no visible inclusions. The fill was overlain by subsoil, [5/002] and topsoil [5/001]. No finds were recovered from this trench.

Context	Type	Description	Max. Length m	Max. Width m	Deposit Thickness m
5/001	Layer	Topsoil			0.25
5/002	Layer	Subsoil			0.50
5/003	Layer	Natural			N/a
5/004	Cut	Ditch cut	>1.0	0.47	0.10
5/005	Fill	Ditch fill	>1.0	0.47	0.10

Table 3: Trench 5 list of recorded contexts

4.5 Trench 7

(Figure 5)

4.5.1 Natural geology [7/003] was recorded at a height of 56.15m AOD. A north south aligned ditch, [7/004] was recorded at the west-north-west end of the trench. Its fill, [7/005], was a mid orangeish brown silty/sandy clay containing occasional charcoal flecks. A single sherd of medieval pottery (AD1150-1225) was recovered from this context. The ditch fill was overlain by subsoil [7/002] and topsoil [7/001]; the latter also contained a single piece of later 19th century pottery.

Context	Type	Description	Max. Length m	Max. Width m	Deposit Thickness m
7/001	Layer	Topsoil			0.33
7/002	Layer	Subsoil			0.67
7/003	Layer	Natural			N/a
7/004	Cut	Ditch cut	>1.8	0.46	0.16
7/005	Fill	Ditch fill	>1.8	0.46	0.16

Table 4: Trench 7 list of recorded contexts

4.6 Trench 8

(Figure 6)

4.6.1 Natural geology [8/003] was recorded at a height of 53.98m AOD. Ditch [8/005] was recorded cutting through natural geology on a north-east south-west alignment. It had a wide but relatively shallow profile with a rounded base. Its primary fill [8/006], was a mid yellowish grey silty/sandy clay, containing occasional charcoal flecks. Above this, was secondary fill, [8/004], a darker yellowish brown sandy/silty clay containing occasional charcoal flecks and small flint inclusions. The upper ditch fill was overlain by subsoil, [8/002] and topsoil [8/001]. A small amount of late 19th/early 20th century pottery and CBM was recovered from the topsoil in this trench

Context	Type	Description	Max. Length m	Max. Width m	Deposit Thickness m
8/001	Layer	Topsoil			0.29
8/002	Layer	Subsoil			0.63
8/003	Layer	Natural			N/a
8/004	Cut	Ditch fill	>2.0	1.2	0.30
8/005	Cut	Ditch cut	>2.0	1.2	0.38
8/006	Fill	Ditch fill			0.08

Table 5: Trench 8 list of recorded contexts

4.7 Trench 9

(Figure 7)

4.7.1 Natural geology [9/003] was recorded at a height of 56.27m AOD. Ditch [9/005] ran on a north-west south east orientation and appears to be similarly aligned to ditch [3/004]. However, its profile was much shallower with a more gradual rounded profile at the base. It was filled by [9/004], a blueish grey sandy/silty clay. The ditch fill was overlain by subsoil, [9/002] and topsoil [9/001], which both contained a few fragments of late 19th/ early 20th century pottery and CBM.

Context	Type	Description	Max. Length m	Max. Width m	Deposit Thickness m
9/001	Layer	Topsoil			0.37
9/002	Layer	Subsoil			0.55
9/003	Layer	Natural			N/a
9/004	Fill	Ditch fill	>1.8	0.4	0.10
9/005	Cut	Ditch cut	>1.8	0.4	0.10

Table 6: Trench 9 list of recorded contexts

4.8 Trench 10

(Figure 8)

4.8.1 Natural geology [10/003] was recorded at a height of 57.00m AOD. At the south-east end of the trench, ditch [10/004] was recorded, running on a north-east south west orientation. It had a shallow profile with a rounded base and was filled by [10/005], a light yellowish brown sandy/silty clay containing few coarse inclusions. . At the opposite end of the trench, a shallow pit or post-hole, [10/006], was recorded. It contained a single fill, [10/007], which consisted of mid yellowish brown, sandy/silty clay, containing occasional fine flint inclusions. The fills of the features were overlain by subsoil, [10/002] and topsoil [10/001]. No finds were recovered from this trench.

Context	Type	Description	Max. Length m	Max. Width m	Deposit Thickness m
10/001	Layer	Topsoil			0.23
10/002	Layer	Subsoil			0.56
10/003	Layer	Natural			N/a
10/004	Cut	Ditch cut	>1.8	1.2	0.30
10/005	Fill	Ditch fill	>1.8	1.2	0.38
10/006	Cut	Pit/post-hole cut	0.37	0.37	0.08
10/007	Fill	Pit/post-hole fill	0.37	0.37	0.08

Table 7: Trench 10 list of recorded contexts

4.9 Trench 11

(Figure 9)

4.9.1 Natural geology [11/003] was recorded at a height of 57.28m AOD. Two linear features were recorded in this trench. Ditch [11/004] ran on a north-west south east orientation. There is a possibility that it represents a continuation of ditch [9/005] although it is on a marginally different orientation. It has a broadly similar profile with slightly rounded base. Its fill, [11/005] is a light blueish grey sandy/silty clay. Another ditch of similar profile, [11/006], ran on a north-north-west south-south-east orientation. Its fill, [11/005] was a light yellowish grey sandy/silty clay. The ditch fills were overlain by subsoil, [11/002] and topsoil [11/001]. The topsoil in this trench contained a few sherds of late 19th/early 20th century pottery.

Context	Type	Description	Max. Length m	Max. Width m	Deposit Thickness m
11/001	Layer	Topsoil			0.30
11/002	Layer	Subsoil			0.96
11/003	Layer	Natural			N/a
11/004	Cut	Ditch cut	>2.2	0.30	0.08
11/005	Fill	Ditch fill	>2.2	0.30	0.08
11/006	Cut	Ditch cut	>1.8	0.55	0.06
11/007	Fill	Ditch fill	>1.8	0.55	0.06

Table 8: Trench 11 list of recorded contexts

4.10 Trench 12

(Figure 10)

4.9.1 Natural geology [12/003] was recorded at a height of 57.48m AOD. Two parallel linear features were recorded in this trench. Ditches [12/004] and [12/006] were spaced c.0.3-0.5m apart and ran together on a north-east south-west orientation. They had similar profiles with rounded bases, although [12/004] was slightly wider and deeper. The ditches were not exposed at the south-south-east end of the trench because a ceramic field drain was left *in situ* above the level of the archaeological horizon, meaning that subsoil was left in place in this area. The respective fills of the ditches, [12/005] and [12/007], were very similar, consisting of light yellowish brown sandy/silty clays with few visible inclusions. The ditch fills were overlain by subsoil, [12/002] and topsoil [12/001]. The topsoil in this trench contained a few sherds of late 19th/early 20th century pottery.

Context	Type	Description	Max. Length m	Max. Width m	Deposit Thickness m
12/001	Layer	Topsoil			0.21
12/002	Layer	Subsoil			0.43
12/003	Layer	Natural			N/a
12/004	Cut	Ditch cut	>2.8	0.50	0.10
12/005	Fill	Ditch fill	>2.8	0.50	0.10
12/006	Cut	Ditch cut	>1.8	0.31	0.04
12/007	Fill	Ditch fill	>1.8	0.31	0.04

Table 9: Trench 12 list of recorded contexts

4.11 Summary of Deposits in Negative Trenches

4.2.1 Trenches 1, 2, 4 and 6 each contained a similar sequence of natural geology overlain by subsoil and topsoil (as described in 4.2). Details of these deposits are summarised below.

Trench Number	Context	Type	Description	Deposit Thickness m	Height m AOD
1	1/001	Layer	Topsoil	0.18	56.27
1	1/002	Layer	Subsoil	0.36	56.09
1	1/003	Layer	Natural	N/a	55.73
2	2/001	Layer	Topsoil	0.28	55.37
2	2/002	Layer	Subsoil	0.60	55.09
2	2/003	Layer	Natural	N/a	54.49
4	4/001	Layer	Topsoil	0.26	55.74
4	4/002	Layer	Subsoil	0.60	55.48
4	4/003	Layer	Natural	N/a	54.88
6	6/001	Layer	Topsoil	0.26	58.87
6	6/002	Layer	Subsoil	0.46	58.61
6	6/003	Layer	Natural	N/a	58.15

Table 10: Trenches 1, 2, 4 and 6 list of recorded contexts

5.0 THE FINDS

5.1 Summary

5.1.1 A small assemblage of pottery and ceramic building material was recovered during the evaluation. It is quantified by context in Table 11.

Context	Pottery	Wt (g)	CBM	Wt (g)
T2 topsoil	2	40	1	344
1/002	2	18		
6/002	1	58	1	80
7/001	1	36		
7/005	1	6		
8/001	2	42	1	6
9/001	1	22	1	64
9/002	2	30		
11/001	3	236		
12/001	3	66	4	100
Total	18	554	8	594

Table 11: Quantification of finds

5.2 Medieval and Post-Medieval Pottery by Luke Barber

5.2.1 The evaluation recovered just 18 pieces of pottery, weighing 584g, from 10 individually numbered contexts. Some 17 different vessels are represented in the assemblage. The material has been fully listed using MoLA fabric codes on pro forma for the archive, with this data being used to create an Excel spreadsheet.

5.2.2 The pottery is dominated by medium to large-sized sherds (to over 50mm across) though the tendency is toward pieces around 40mm across. Despite the relatively large average sherd size, most sherds show some degree of abrasion, reflecting the fact that most derive from topsoil or subsoil deposits.

5.2.3 The earliest sherd was recovered from ditch fill [7/005]. This consists of a small (5g) notably abraded oxidised bodysherd in a moderate sand tempered fabric with rare milky quartz inclusions to 0.75mm. Although this could be placed in a mid 12th- to early 13th- century date range the sherd is not particularly diagnostic and an earlier date is quite possible.

5.2.4 The remainder of the assemblage can all be placed between about 1850 and 1925, probably with the emphasis on the later part of that date range. English stoneware sherds with Bristol glazes were recovered from [8/001] and [11/001]. Three different preserve jar lids are represented. There is also a scatter of later blue transfer-printed whiteware including fragments from a plate (Trench 2 topsoil), a water closet (context [7/001]), a jug (context

[8/001]) and a tureen (context [9/001]).

- 5.2.5 With nine sherds, plain refined whiteware is the most common fabric and is represented by two preserve jars (including a Maling example from [12/001]), a large lid (possibly from a water filter: Trench 2 topsoil), two bowls (context [9/002]) and a wash basin (context [6/002]). There is also a single English porcelain fragment from the scalloped foot-ring of a tureen. A mixture of vessel functions are represented but the assemblage probably reflects domestic activity.

5.3 Ceramic Building Material (CBM) by Luke Barber

- 5.3.1 The evaluation recovered eight pieces of brick and tile from the site, weighing 596g. The material has been fully listed on pro forma for the archive and a brief summary is given here. All of the material is of post-medieval date but is not particularly diagnostic for close dating. However, the assemblage predominantly appears to predate the bulk of the pottery assemblage recovered.

- 5.3.2 The five pieces of brick (427g) are in one of three different fabrics:

B1 – Well formed and fired. Tempered with moderate fine/medium sand with rare siltstone pellets to 5mm. Possibly 17th to 18th century. Only from T2 topsoil.

B2 – Medium fired and tempered with moderate fine/medium sand and sparse iron oxides to 1mm. Probably 18th to 19th century. Found in [8/001] (1/6g) and [12/001] (2/36g).

B3 – Well formed and medium fired. Tempered with sparse/medium sand with moderate marl swirls and iron oxides to 1mm. Probably 18th to 19th century.

- 5.3.3 All of the roof tile from the site consists of peg tile but only a single fabric is present which is well formed and medium fired, tempered with sparse fine sand and moderate calcareous inclusions (voids) to 1mm. Tiles vary between 11 and 12mm thick (contexts [6/002], [9/001] and [12/001]).

- 5.3.4 Although calcareous tempered pottery and tiles are quite common in the Weald in the later 16th to 17th centuries there is some evidence to suggest calcareous tempered tiles continued later. Considering the refined nature of the finish, a 17th- to 18th- century date is suggested for the current examples.

6.0 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

6.1 Preservation

6.1.1 Apart from a backfilled geotechnical pit in Trench 6 and occasional field drains, no other evidence of truncation was observed to suggest that any of the evaluated areas have suffered significant truncation. All areas revealed a sequence of intact subsoil and topsoil overburden which varied across the site between c.0.6m and 1.2m in thickness.

6.2 Overview of features

6.2.1 Ditches were recorded in 7 of the 12 evaluation trenches but, with the exception of [7/004] which contained a single sherd of pottery tentatively dated to the later 12th to early 13th century, these were completely undated. Only one discrete feature was present, a shallow pit or post-hole, [10/006] which again produced no finds.

6.3 Possible north-west - south-east and north-east - south-west aligned field system

(Figure 11)

6.3.1 The majority of the linear features were aligned either north-west - south-east or north-east - south-west probably represent elements of a former field system of small parcels of land than the present field. Ditches [3/004], [9/005] and (possibly [11/004]) may be parts of the same feature. However, [3/004] had a V-shaped profile which was quite distinct from most of the other features recorded on the site, which were generally shallow with rounded bases. Ditches [8/005] and [10/004] are also aligned and share similar profiles and fills, suggesting that they may be the same feature.

6.3.2 The two parallel ditches in Trench 12 may represent a trackway along the edge of a field on this alignment.

6.3.3 Whilst none of these features contained dating evidence, the lack of field boundaries depicted in this area on historic maps (CgMs 2011) might suggest that they are of medieval or earlier date.

6.3.4 It is of note that these ditches appear to run on a similar alignment to at least one phase of Late Iron Age/early Roman field system recorded directly to the south of Area A at Ashford Barracks (ASE 2000; 2007) and may represent a continuation of the same landscape. That said, medieval ditches, recorded less than 500m to the south-east of Area A, also ran along a broadly a similar alignment (OAE 2010) as does the arrangement of the present day streets to the south-west of the site.

6.4 Possible north-south – east-west field system

(Figure 11)

- 6.4.1 Two ditches, [7/004] and [5/004] followed a more north-south – east-west alignment suggesting that another field division pattern has also existed at some point. The alignment is broadly shared by the train line to the east of the site and the site boundary to the north.
- 6.4.2 Although dating evidence is poor, one sherd of probable later 12th to early 13th century pottery suggests this arrangement of ditches may be medieval, however the alignment differs from the orientation of late 12th to late 13th century ditches recorded on land to the south of the A28 (OAE 2010).

6.5 Other features

- 6.5.1 One other ditch, [11/006], ran on along a slightly different orientation to all other ditches though this may form part of the north-west - south-east and north-east - south-west aligned field system to which it bears most similarity. Only one discreet feature was recorded, a shallow pit or post-hole, [10/006], in Trench 10. There is no dating evidence relating to either of these features.

6.6 Finds evidence

- 6.6.1 The almost total absence of stratified finds suggests that Area A was an agricultural area and most likely located some distance from any Late Iron Age/early Roman, medieval or early post-medieval settlement or farmstead. The small quantities of unstratified 17th-18th century CBM and late 19th – early 20th century pottery may derive from manuring and ploughing activity on site.

6.7 Conclusion

- 6.7.1 The evaluation has demonstrated that archaeology has not been significantly impacted by previous groundworks in the area.
- 6.7.2 A number of linear features may represent two differently orientated phases of agricultural land division. These are unfortunately both very poorly-dated and it has not been possible to ascribe a date to either. There was no indication of any intensive past activity for instance such as relating to settlement activity.

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

ASE would like to thank Sally Dicks of CgMs Consulting Ltd for commissioning the work on behalf of her client and for her assistance throughout the project. Wendy Rogers of the Heritage Conservation Group, Kent County Council is also thanked for her guidance and monitoring.

HER Summary Form

Site Code	DRK13					
Identification Name and Address	Land at Drovers Roundabout, Ashford, Kent					
County, District &/or Borough	Kent, Ashford					
OS Grid Refs.	599984 143932 (TQ 99984 43932)					
Geology	Hythe Formation					
Arch. South-East Project Number	5986					
Type of Fieldwork	Eval.					
Type of Site	Green Field					
Dates of Fieldwork	Eval. 16.09.13- 19.09.13					
Sponsor/Client	CgMs Consulting Ltd					
Project Manager	Andy Leonard					
Project Supervisor	Dylan Hopkinson					
Period Summary						
Summary						
<p>Archaeology South-East was commissioned by CgMs Consulting Ltd to undertake an archaeological evaluation on land at Drovers Roundabout, Ashford, Kent. Twelve trenches were excavated.</p> <p>The evaluation has demonstrated that archaeology has not been significantly impacted by previous groundworks in the area. A number of linear features may represent two differently orientated phases of agricultural land division. These are unfortunately both very poorly-dated and it has not been possible to ascribe a date to either. There was no indication of any intensive past activity for instance such as relating to settlement activity.</p>						

OASIS Form

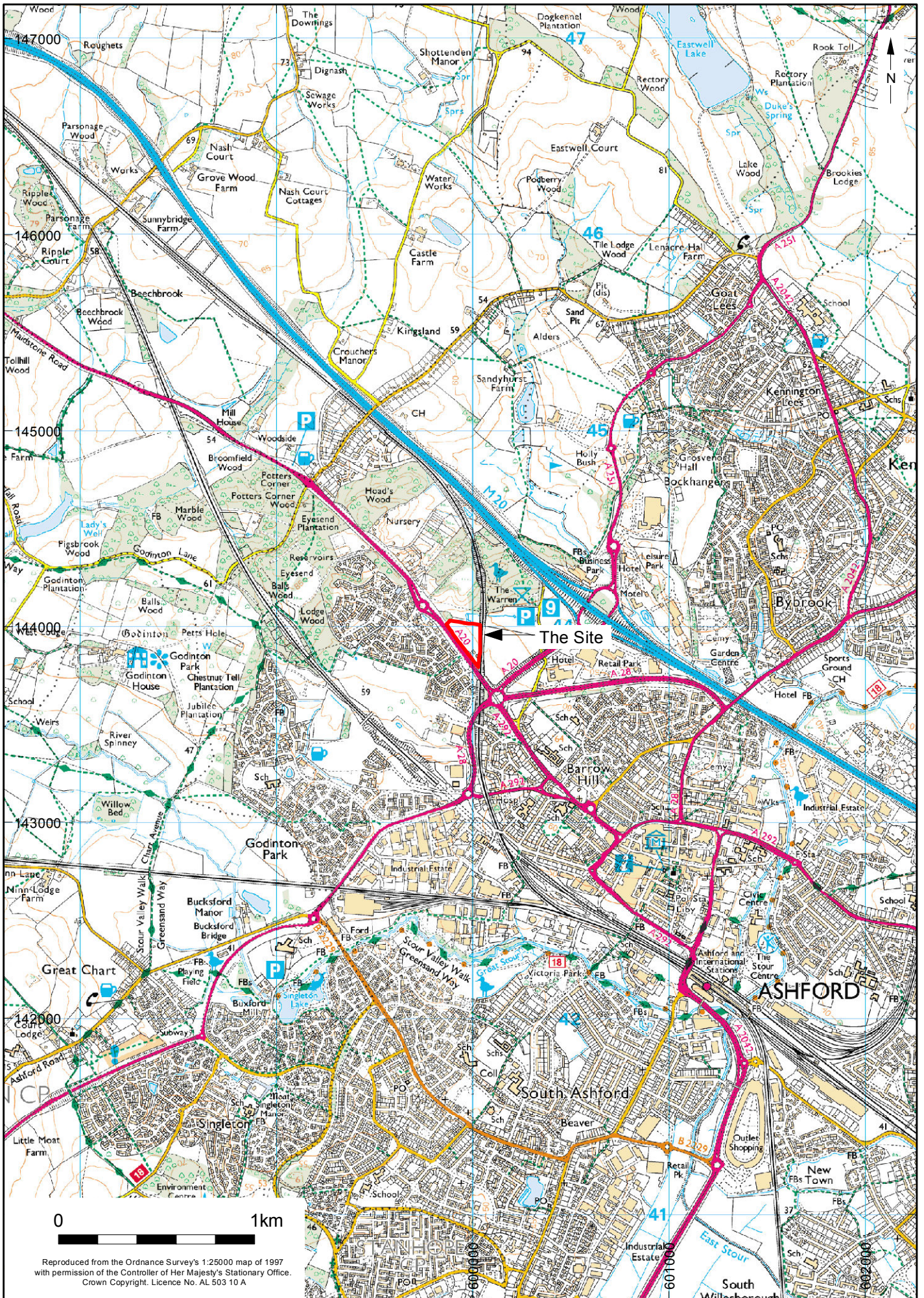
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Project details

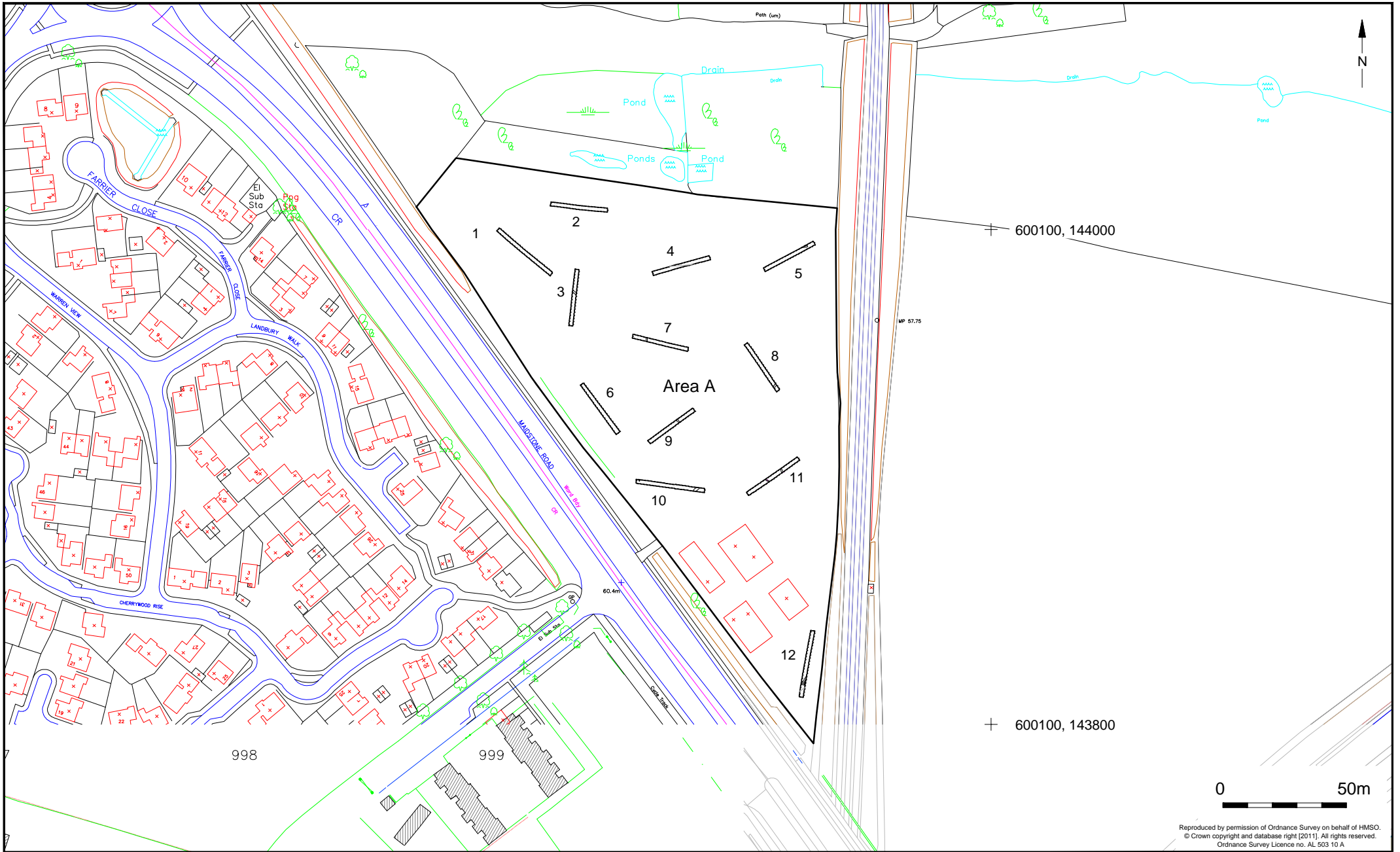
Project name	An Archaeological Evaluation, Land at Drovers Roundabout (Area A), Ashford, Kent
Short description of the project	Archaeology South-East was commissioned by CgMs Consulting Ltd to undertake an archaeological evaluation on land at Drovers Roundabout, Ashford, Kent. Twelve trenches were excavated. The evaluation has demonstrated that archaeology has not been significantly impacted by previous groundworks in the area. A number of linear features may represent two differently orientated phases of agricultural land division. These are unfortunately both very poorly-dated and it has not been possible to ascribe a date to either. There was no indication of any intensive past activity for instance such as relating to settlement activity.
Project dates	Start: 16-09-2013 End: 19-09-2013
Previous/future work	Yes / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	DRK13 - Sitecode
Any associated project reference codes	5968 - Contracting Unit No.
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Current Land use	Other 13 - Waste ground
Monument type	FIELD SYSTEM Late Iron Age
Monument type	FIELD SYSTEM Medieval
Significant Finds	POTTERY Medieval
Methods & techniques	"Sample Trenches"
Development type	Not recorded
Prompt	National Planning Policy Framework - NPPF
Position in the planning process	Not known / Not recorded
Project location	
Country	England

Site location	KENT ASHFORD ASHFORD Land at Drovers Roundabout
Postcode	TN25 4PP
Study area	200.00 Square metres
Site coordinates	TQ 99984 43932 51 0 51 09 32 N 000 51 37 E Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 52.00m Max: 57.00m
Project creators	
Name of Organisation	Archaeology South-East
Project brief originator	Kent County Council
Project design originator	ASE
Project director/manager	Andrew Leonard
Project supervisor	Dylan Hopkinson
Type of sponsor/funding body	Consultant
Name of sponsor/funding body	CgMs Consulting Ltd
Project archives	
Physical Archive recipient	Unknown
Physical Contents	"Ceramics"
Digital Archive recipient	Unknown
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography"
Paper Archive recipient	Unknown
Paper Media available	"Context sheet", "Section", "Survey "
Project bibliography	
1	
Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	An Archaeological Evaluation, Land at Drovers Roundabout (Area A), Ashford, Kent
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Doherty, A.

Other bibliographic details 2013241
Date 2013
Issuer or publisher Archaeology South-East
Place of issue or publication Portslade
Description Grey literature report (PDF) with 10 figures
Entered by Anna Doherty (anna.doherty@ucl.ac.uk)
Entered on 1 October 2013

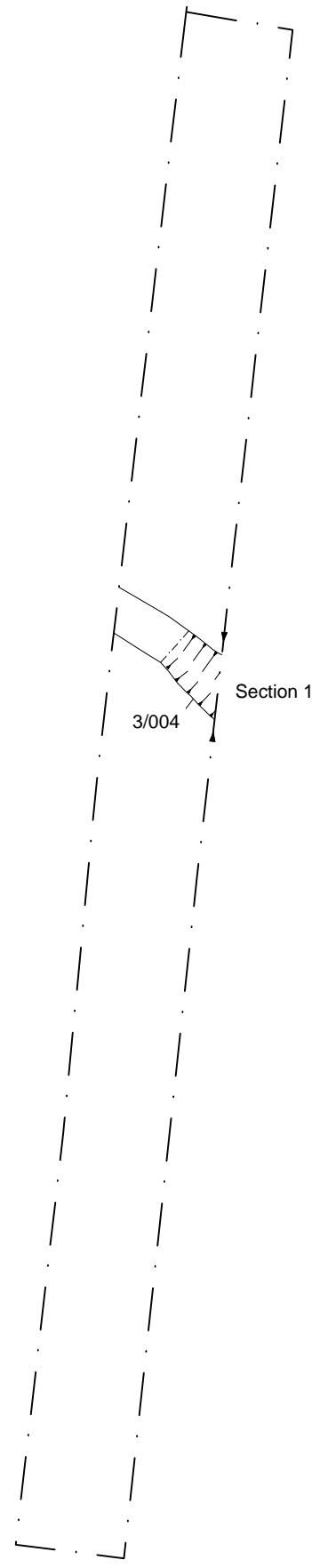


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Project Ref: 5986	Sept 2013	Site location		
Report Ref: 2013241	Drawn by: JLR			



© Archaeology South-East		Land at Drovers Roundabout (Area A)	Fig. 2
Project Ref: 5986	Sept 2013	Trench location	
Report Ref: 2013241	Drawn by: JLR		

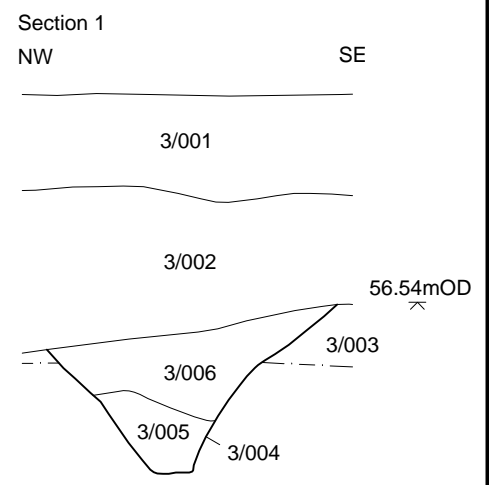
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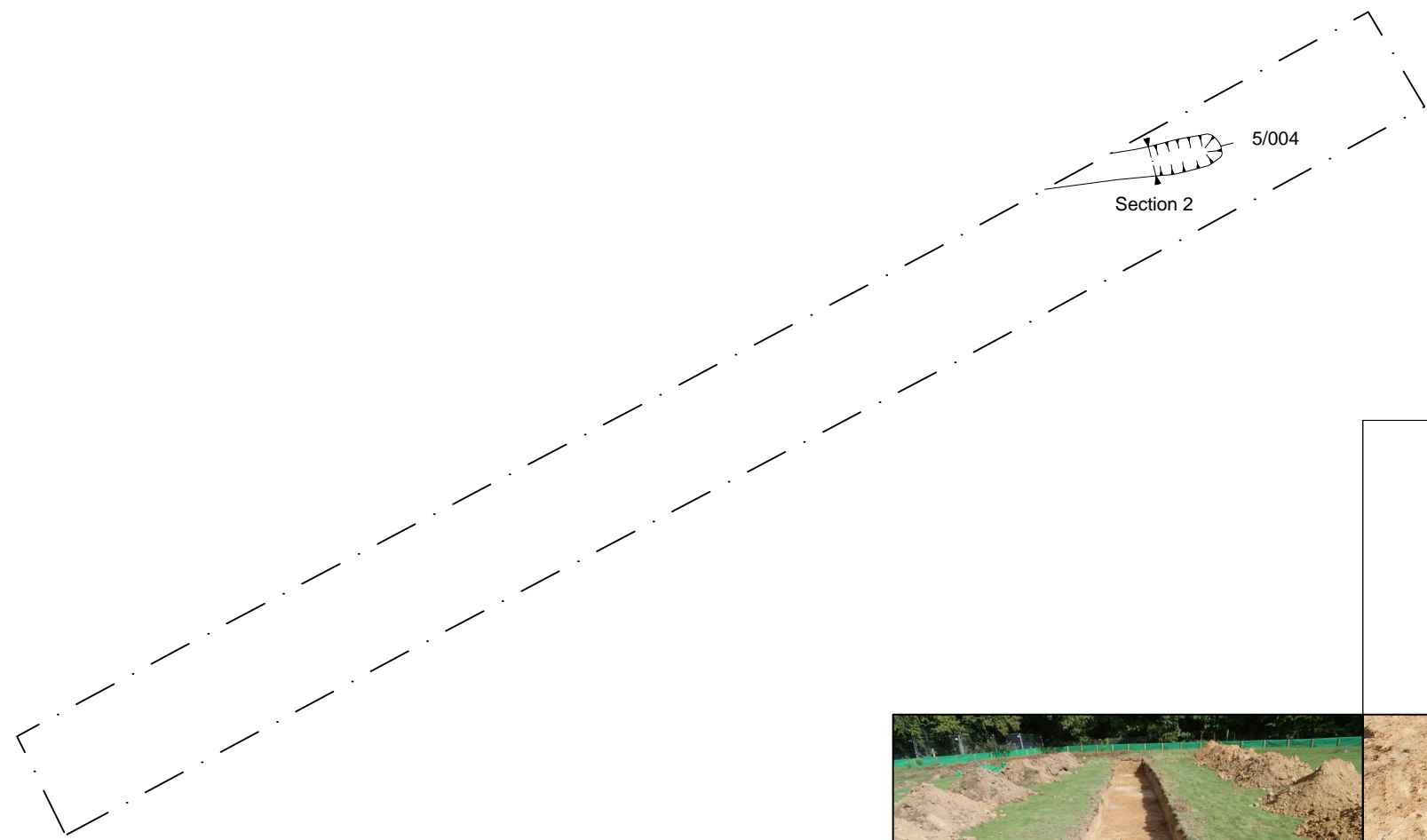
Trench 3 facing north



3/004 facing east



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Project Ref: 5986	Sept 2013	Trench 3: plan, section and photographs	
Report Ref: 2013241	Drawn by: JLR		

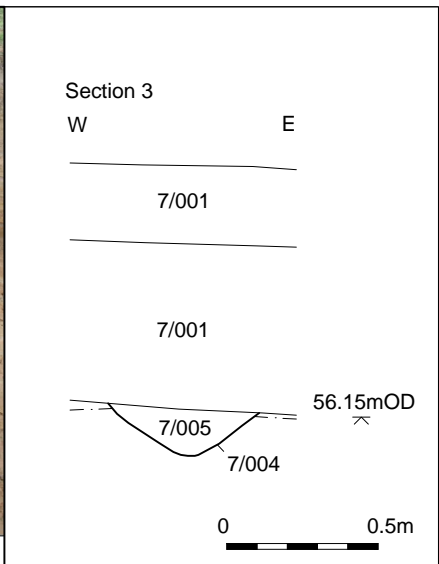
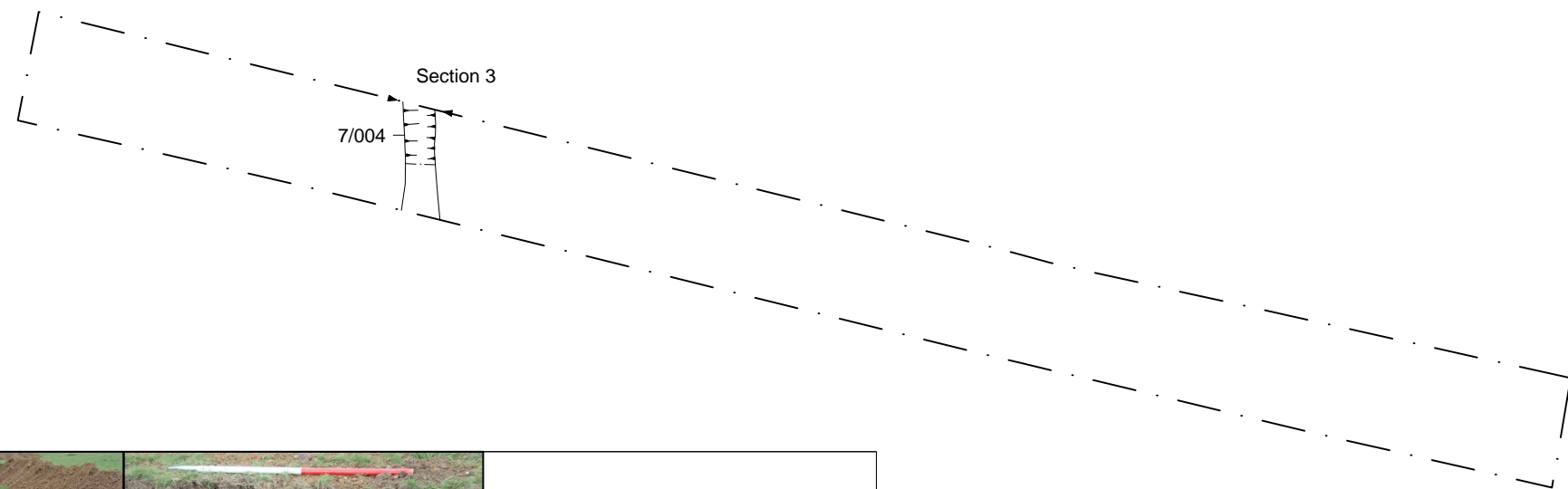
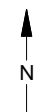


Trench 5 facing east



5/004 facing west

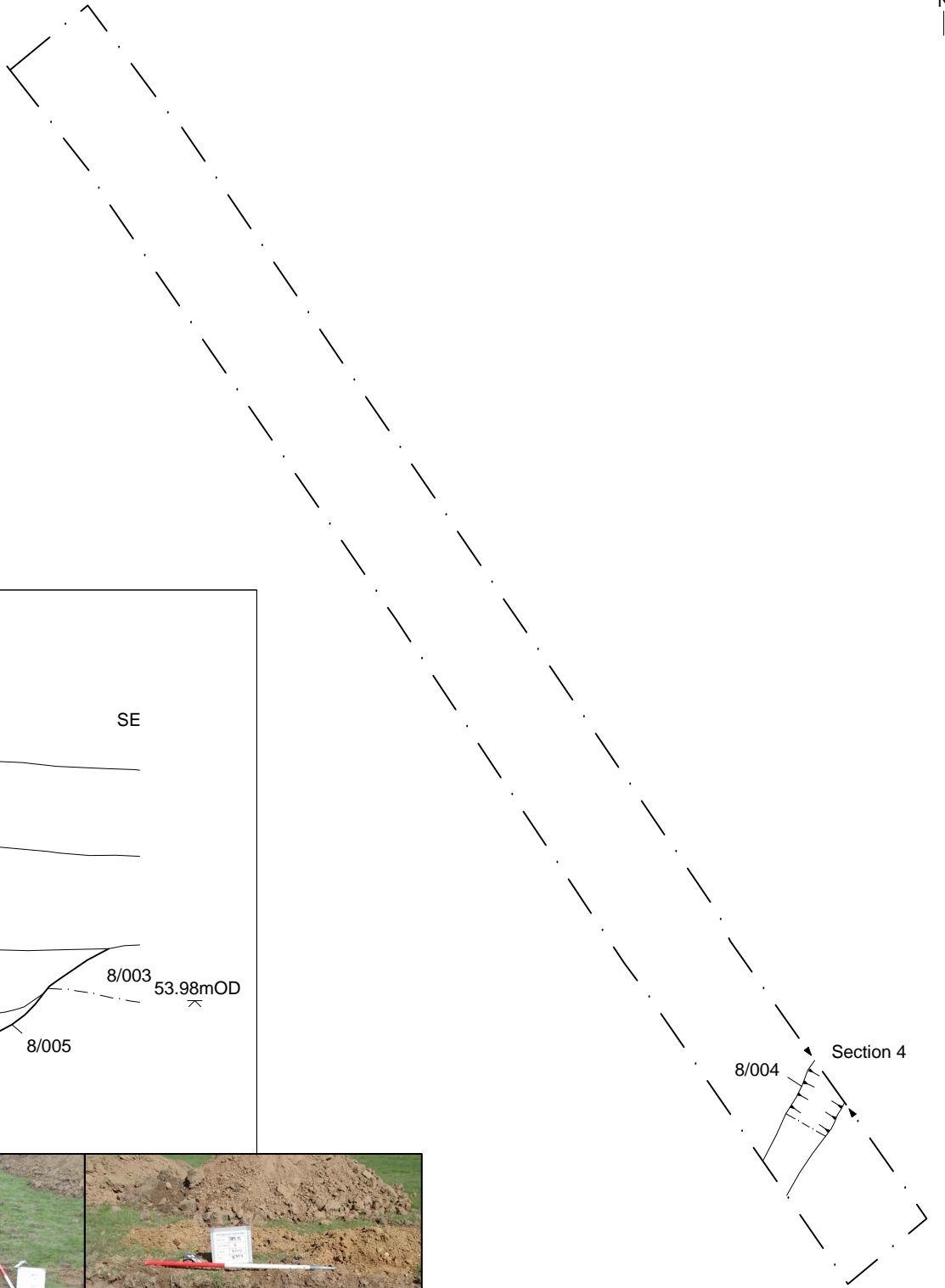
© Archaeology South-East		Land at Drovers Roundabout (Area A)	Fig. 4
Project Ref: 5986	Sept 2013	Trench 5: plan, section and photographs	
Report Ref: 2013241	Drawn by: JLR		



Trench 7 facing east

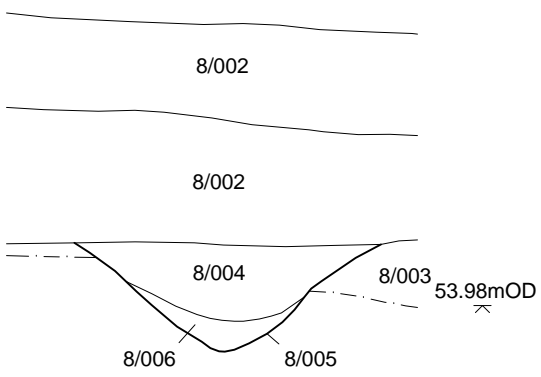
7/004 facing north

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Project Ref: 5986	Sept 2013	Trench 7: plan, section and photographs	
Report Ref: 2013241	Drawn by: JLR		



Section 4
NW

SE



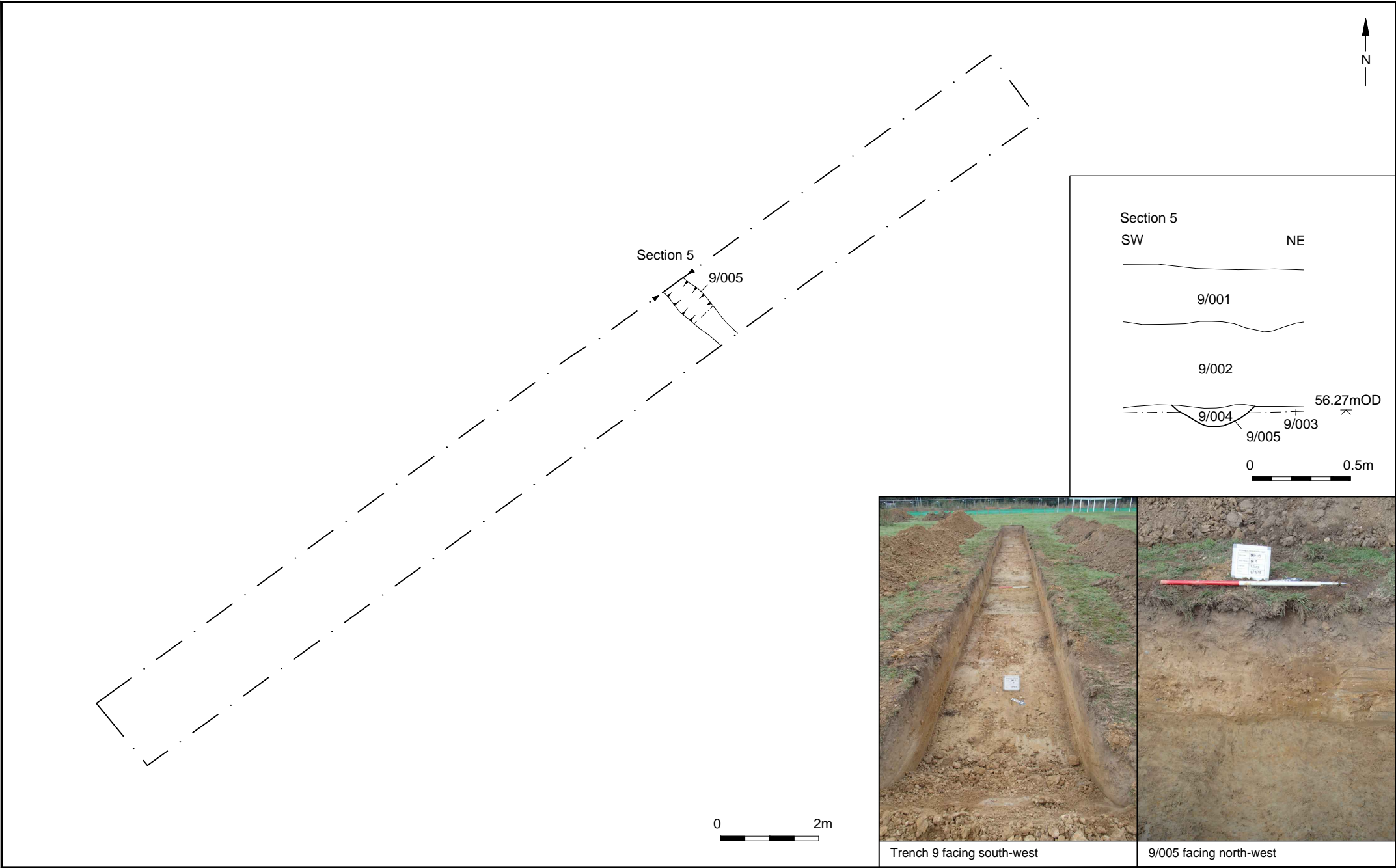
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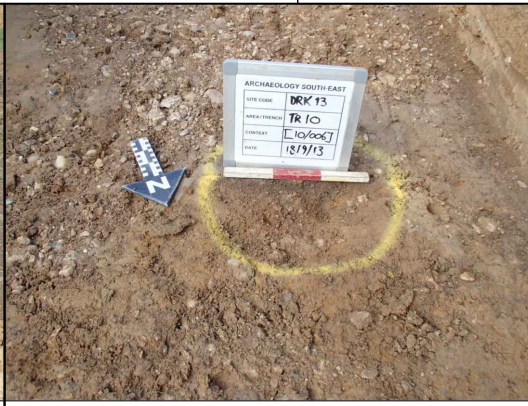
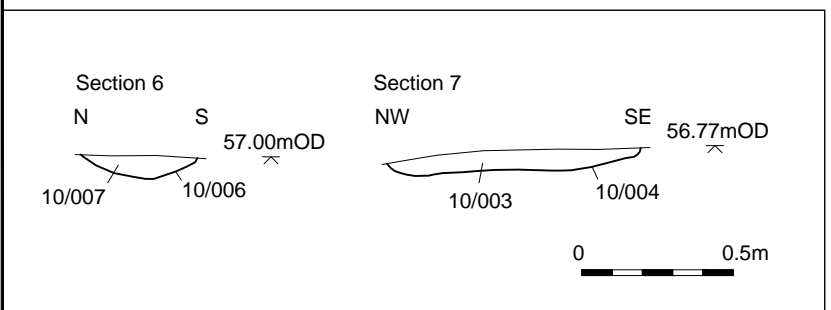
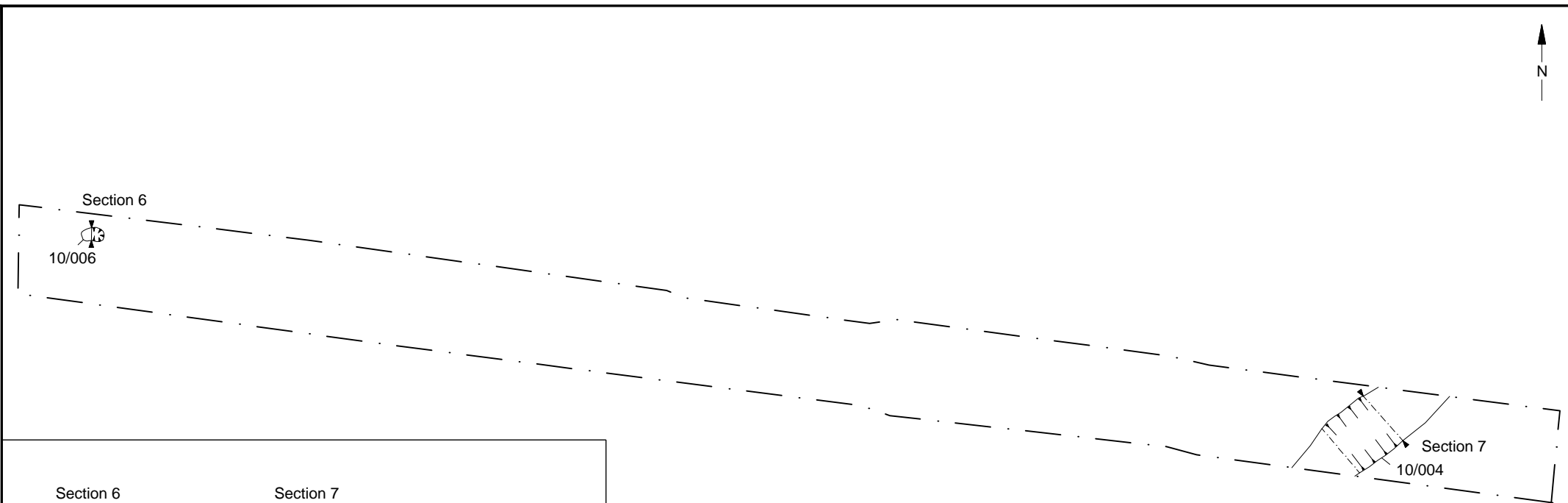
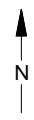


Trench 8 facing north-west

8/005 facing north-east



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Project Ref: 5986	Sept 2013	Trench 9: plan, section and photographs	
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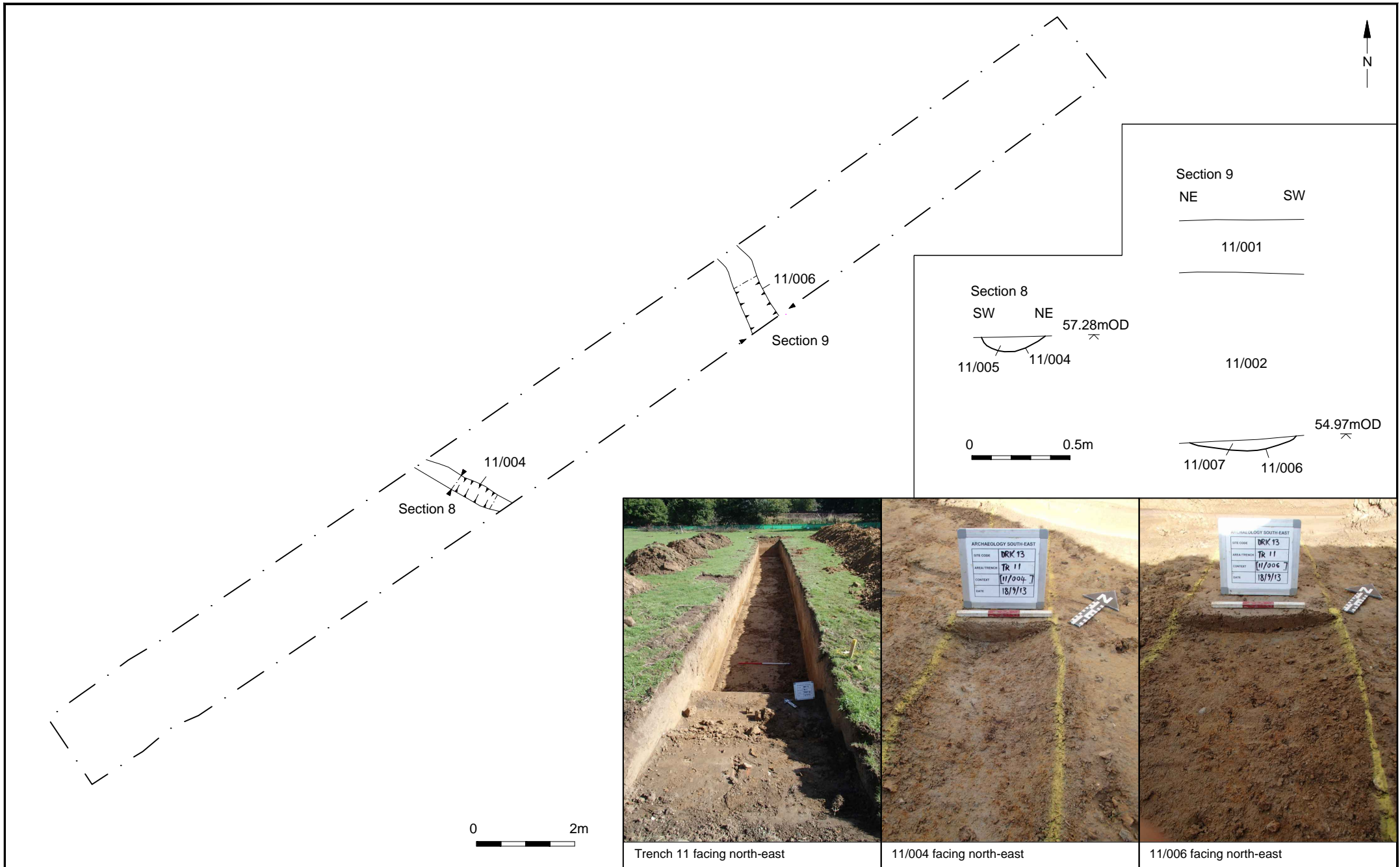


Trench 10 facing west

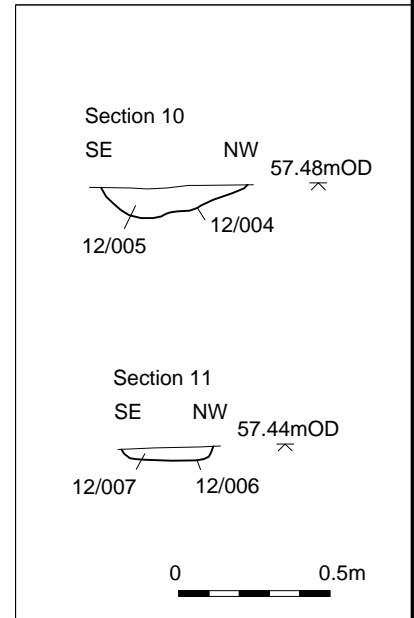
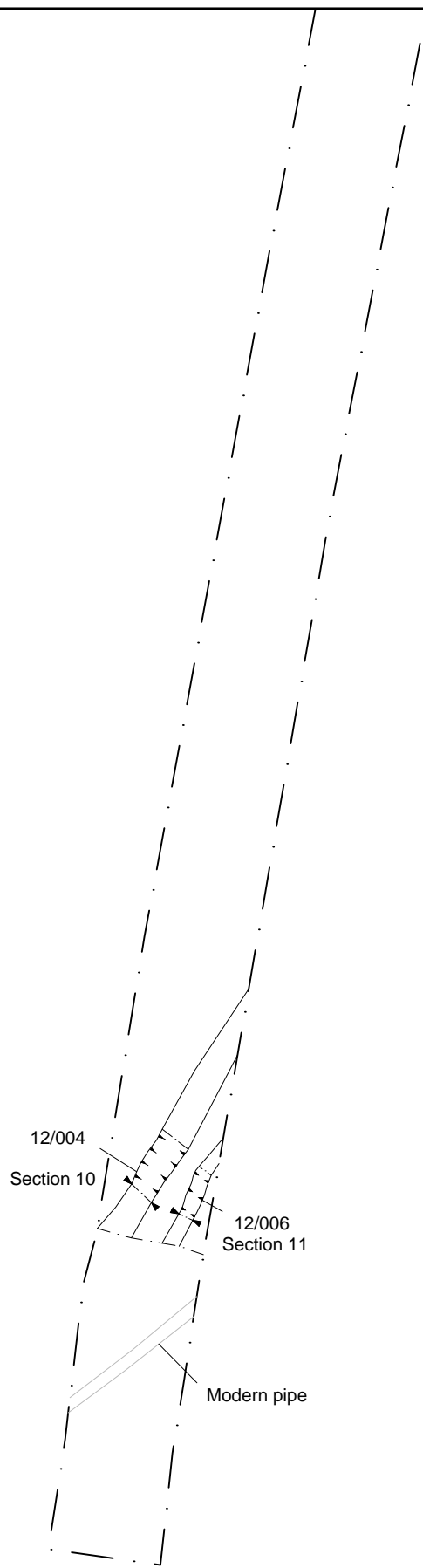
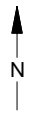
10/006 facing south

10/004 facing south-east

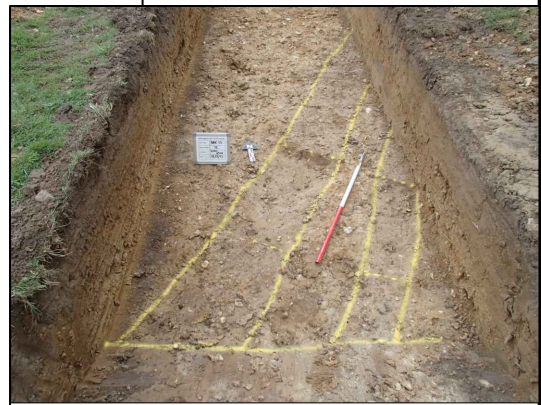
© Archaeology South-East		Land at Drovers Roundabout (Area A)	Fig. 8
Project Ref: 5986	Sept 2013	Trench F€ plan, section and photographs	
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© Archaeology South-East		Land at Drovers Roundabout (Area A)	Fig. 9
Project Ref: 5986	Sept 2013	Trench 11: plan, section and photographs	
Report Ref: 2013241	Drawn by: JLR		

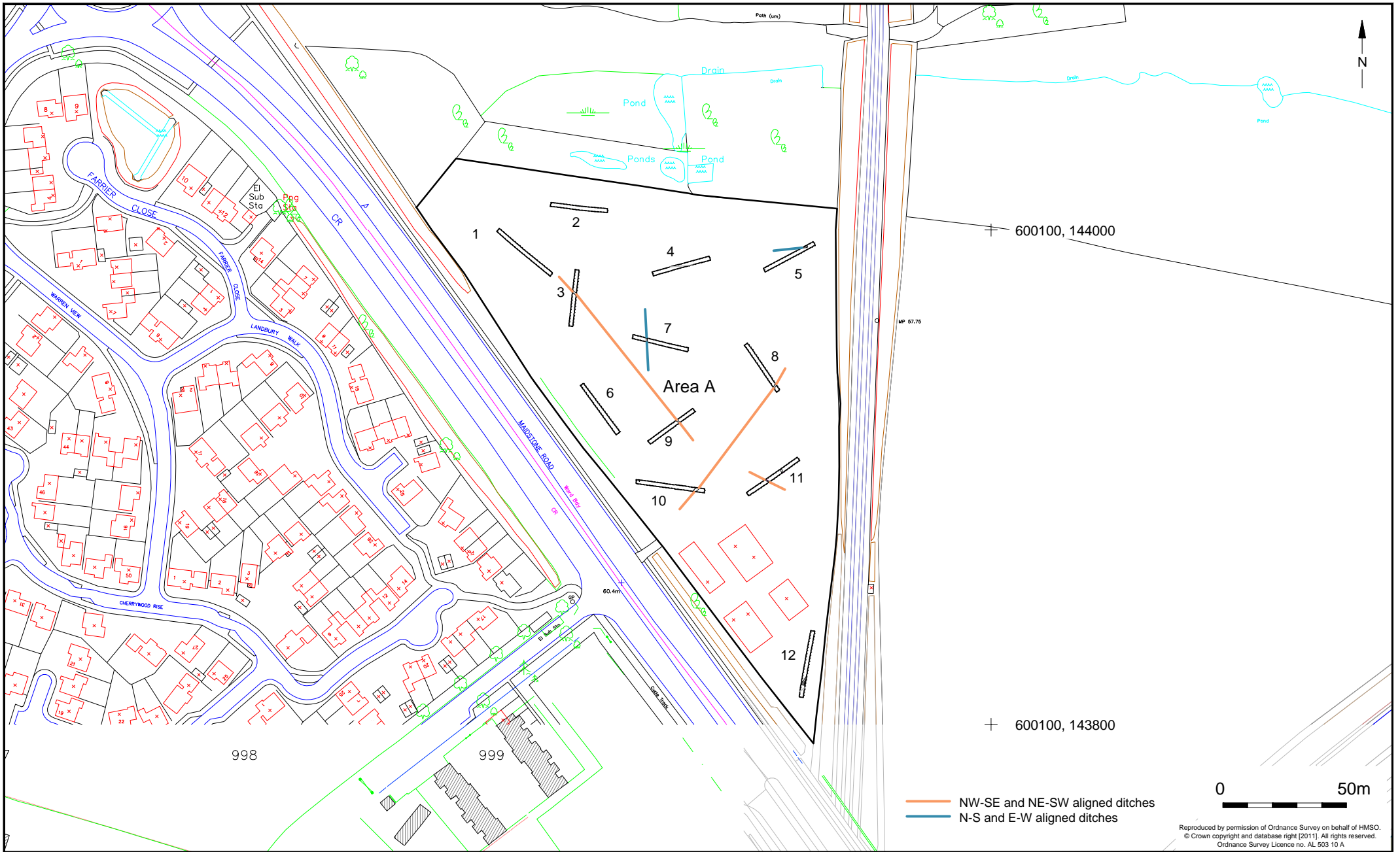


Trench 12 facing north



12/004 and 12/006 facing north

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Report Ref: 2013241	Drawn by: JLR		



© Archaeology South-East		Land at Drovers Roundabout (Area A)	Fig. 11
Project Ref: 5986	Sept 2013	Overview of conjectured field systems	
Report Ref: 2013241	Drawn by: JLR		

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