

**An Archaeological Evaluation Report  
St Clements Valley, London Road  
Greenhithe, Kent**

**NGR: 558525 174275  
(TQ 58525 74275)**

**ASE Project No: 5797  
Site Code: SCV 13**

**ASE Report No: 2013309  
OASIS id: archaeol6-165184**



**By Gary Webster  
With contributions by  
Gemma Ayton, Trista Clifford  
Anna Doherty & Karine Le Hégarat**

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**Abstract**

*Archaeology South-East was commissioned by CgMs Consulting to undertake an archaeological evaluation at St Clements Valley, Greenhithe, Kent. Fifteen archaeological trenches were excavated.*

*Archaeological features were mainly restricted to the northern part of the site where deeper deposits of top and subsoil were present (although signs of disturbance caused by previous allotment gardens were noted). Three archaeological features were identified in Trench 4, which had one burnt pit and two other, undated pits. A ditch was identified in Trench 3, and another, much shallower ditch was seen in Trench 2. A small amount of probable Middle/Late Bronze Age pottery and Late Bronze Age/Iron Age worked flint was recovered, but is potentially residual.*

*Trenches 5 - 15, located in the eastern part of the site, were shallower. Only one feature was identified on this side of the site: an undated pit in Trench 13.*

*Natural geology, comprising of head deposits, was found in every trench.*

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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 (IoA), University College London (UCL) was commissioned by CgMs, on behalf of Berkeley Homes, to undertake an archaeological evaluation at St Clements Valley, Greenhithe, Kent (Figure 1, TQ 58525 74275), hereafter referred to as 'the site.'

### **1.2 Geology and Topography**

1.2.1 The site lies to the south of the River Thames, southeast of the Queen Elizabeth II Bridge. Its northern boundary is defined by the A226 and the B225 lies to the east. Directly to the west there is a residential housing estate.

1.2.2 The north and east of the site was comprised of an open field, which sloped slightly toward the east. There was a boundary down the centre on the site formed of woodland to the north, and bushes and trees along a fence line running roughly north-south. The west of the site was a former chalk quarry and thus was uneven ground and heavily truncated.

1.2.3 The British Geological Website lists the bedrock geology in the north and east of the site (where the trenches were located) as comprising of Seaford Chalk and Newhaven Chalk formation. The superficial geology is listed as being a head deposit of clay, silt sand and gravel.

### **1.3 Planning Background**

1.3.1 The site has been proposed for residential development.

1.3.2 In 2011 GL Hearn commissioned Museum of London Archaeology to carry out a Historic Environment Assessment of the site (MoLA 2011).

1.3.3 In 2012 a borehole survey was carried out by Merebrook Consulting, focussing mainly on the west of the site. A report showing the results was produced (Merebrook Consulting 2012).

1.3.4 ASE was commissioned by CgMs Consulting to undertake an Historic Landscape Assessment (ASE 2013), focussing on the potential survival of a railway in the chalk quarry in the western part of the site.

1.3.5 CgMs produced a Specification for an Archaeological Evaluation of the site in April 2013 (CgMs 2013). This outlined the methodology for the evaluation, and drew on all of the previous documents to ensure that the trenches were located in areas that would hold potential for archaeology.

1.3.6 Copies of all of these documents were available for the entire duration of the archaeological evaluation, and are drawn upon in this report.

## **1.4 Aims and Objectives**

- 1.4.1 Below are the aims and objectives of the archaeological evaluation as listed by CgMs in the specification (CgMs 2013).
- 1.4.2 The aim of this initial phase of evaluation work was to determine whether any archaeological remains survive on site and to provide an assessment (where present) of their significance. The results of the archaeological evaluation will be considered against the development proposals in order to provide an assessment of the likely impact of the scheme on archaeological remains. Assessment of the results should provide guidance on what mitigation measures would be appropriate. Such measures may include further archaeological evaluation works, preservation *in-situ*, further detailed archaeological excavation and/or an archaeological watching brief during construction work.
- 1.4.3 The evaluation also sought to ascertain the extent, depth below ground surface, depth of deposit, character, significance and condition of any archaeological remains on site

## **1.5 Scope of Report**

- 1.5.1 This report details the findings of an archaeological evaluation which took place from the 18<sup>th</sup> to the 22<sup>nd</sup> of November 2013. The work was carried out by Gary Webster (Archaeologist), Steve Price (Assistant Archaeologist) and John Cook (Surveyor). The work was project managed by Darryl Palmer (Project Manager) and the post-excavation work was managed by Jim Stevenson and Dan Swift (Post-Excavation Managers).

## **2.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND**

- 2.1 Below is a summary of the archaeological background produced by CgMs in the specification for the evaluation (CgMs 2013). For a full background, refer to the Historic Environment Assessment (MoLA 2011).
- 2.2 The site was considered to have potential for the prehistoric, Roman, post-medieval and modern periods. The site of a Roman cemetery was identified across the central/southern part of the site in 1904. This part of the site was subsequently used as a chalk quarry from the late 19th century into the 20th century. The northern part of the site has been used as allotment gardens, and the eastern boundary lay within an arable field.
- 2.3 The impact of previous development, derived from the cartographic evidence contained within the desk-based assessment, is believed to be primarily concentrated within the former chalk quarry, together with impacts relating to agricultural and horticultural activity.
- 2.4 The Historic Landscape Assessment (ASE 2013) clarified that the impact of quarrying at the site has been substantial, and concluded that archaeological remains are unlikely to survive across large parts of the site.



### **3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY**

- 3.01 Fifteen trenches were mechanically excavated under the archaeological supervision of the author using a 13 tonne mechanical excavator fitted with a flat-bladed 1.8m-wide bucket. The total length of the trenches excavated was 444m. All fifteen of the trenches were located within the northern and eastern parts of the site, the remainder having been sufficiently truncated as to render it highly unlikely there would be surviving archaeology. The layout of the trenches can be seen in Figure 2.
- 3.0.2 The trenches were laid out using a GPS survey system, tied into the National Grid. Where archaeological features, deposits or structures were encountered, plans and sections were hand-drawn on plastic draughting film at scales of 1:50 and 1:10 respectively. All features, deposits and masonry were recorded using *pro forma* ASE recording sheets. A full digital photographic record of the work was compiled during the course of the fieldwork.
- 3.0.3 All trenches were scanned with a Cable Avoidance Tool (CAT) before excavation commenced, to ensure that live services were not encountered.
- 3.0.4 Trenches were dug down to the top of archaeological deposits or to the surface of the natural geology, whichever was uppermost.
- 3.0.5 Upon completion of the evaluation the trenches were backfilled and then compacted, but no formal re-instatement took place.

### **3.1 Fieldwork Constraints**

- 3.1.1 Of the fifteen trenches that were proposed in the Specification, five of them had to be moved. The alignment of Trenches 1 and 2 was adjusted to avoid nearby trees. Trenches 8, 12 and 14 were moved to the east, on the same alignment, to ensure that their full length could be excavated as their original layout was impeded by the boundary bisecting the site.

### **3.2 The Site Archive**

- 3.2.1 ASE informed Dartford Museum that a site archive would be generated; we are awaiting their response. The site archive is currently held at the offices of ASE and will be deposited at Dartford museum in due course. The contents of the archive are tabulated below.

Number of Contexts	66
No. of files/paper record	1
Plan and sections sheets	1
Bulk Samples	2
Photographs	47
Bulk finds	4
Environmental flots/residue	2

Table 1: Quantification of site archive

## 4.0 RESULTS

### 4.1 Trenches 1, 5 – 12, 14, 15

Trench Number	Context	Type	Description	Deposit Thickness m
1	1/001	Layer	Topsoil	0.32
1	1/002	Layer	Subsoil	0.55
1	1/003	Layer	Natural	-
1	1/004	Layer	Made Ground	0.47
5	5/001	Layer	Topsoil	0.31
5	5/002	Layer	Subsoil	0.13
5	5/003	Layer	Natural	-
6	6/001	Layer	Topsoil	0.26
6	6/002	Layer	Mage Ground	0.5
6	6/003	Layer	Natural	-
7	7/001	Layer	Topsoil	0.42
7	7/002	Layer	Subsoil	0.36
7	7/003	Layer	Natural	-
8	8/001	Layer	Topsoil	0.34
8	8/002	Layer	Subsoil	0.12
8	8/003	Layer	Natural	-
9	9/001	Layer	Topsoil	0.31
9	9/002	Layer	Subsoil	0.17
9	9/003	Layer	Natural	-
10	10/001	Layer	Topsoil	0.30
10	10/002	Layer	Subsoil	0.13
10	10/003	Layer	Natural	-
11	11/001	Layer	Topsoil	0.28
11	11/002	Layer	Natural	-
12	12/001	Layer	Topsoil	0.30
12	12/002	Layer	Subsoil	0.14
12	12/003	Layer	Natural	-
14	14/001	Layer	Topsoil	0.32
14	14/002	Layer	Subsoil	0.38
14	14/003	Layer	Natural	-
15	15/001	Layer	Topsoil	0.27
15	15/002	Layer	Subsoil	0.09
15	15/003	Layer	Natural	-

Table 2: Trenches 1, 5 – 12, 14, 15, list of recorded contexts

4.1.1 The depth of the natural geology varied throughout these trenches from 14.36m AOD to 5.48m AOD in line with the sloping topography of the site. The geology varied in consistency in several of the trenches, in-keeping with the expected nature of the head deposits.

4.1.2 In each trench the natural geology was overlain with subsoil and then capped by topsoil, with the exception of Trench 11, where no subsoil layer was

identified.

- 4.1.3 All of these trenches were devoid of archaeology. Trench 7 had some bone and CBM recovered from the subsoil [7/002]. Trench 6 had some modern disturbance, in the form of plough scarring and modern building foundations.

## 4.2 Trench 2

(Figures 2 + 4)

Context	Type	Description	Max. Length m	Max. Width m	Deposit Thickness m
2/001	Layer	Topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.21
2/002	Layer	Subsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.6
2/003	Deposit	Made Ground	20	Tr.	0.33
2/004	Natural	Natural Geology	Tr.	Tr.	-
2/005	Cut	Cut of Ditch	Tr.	1.08	-
2/006	Fill	Fill of Ditch	Tr.	1.08	0.19

Table 3: Trench 2, list of recorded contexts

- 4.2.1 The natural geology [2/002] was encountered at a depth of 9.2m AOD. This is comprised of a mid reddish brown sandy clay, with frequent angular to rounded stones. Patches of chalk occurred c.10m from the southern end of the trench, for around c.7m. At the eastern edge of the trench this was overlain by a maximum of 0.6m of subsoil [2/004], a dark reddish brown sandy clay, with occasional chalk flecks and angular flints. The topsoil [2/001], a soft, dark greyish brown sandy clay, with occasional chalk and angular flint inclusions, completes the sequence revealed by the trench. The topsoil looked quite disturbed, probably through fairly recent activity. The eastern side of the trench had a disturbed sequence, with the natural geology [2/004] being overlain with [2/003], an undulating dark red-brown sandy clay with frequent angular flint inclusions, which is well over 0.3m thick in places. This was then capped by topsoil, [2/001].
- 4.2.2 One archaeological feature was identified, cut into the natural geology. A ditch [2/005] was seen running at an east-west alignment, c.5m from the south end of the trench, shown in Figure 2. In plan it was 1.08m wide. In section the ditch had a gradual break of slope at the top, with a shallow slope leading to a very gradual break of slope at the bottom. The base was mainly flat, though very slightly irregular. The fill [2/006] was a soft, mid yellowish brown sandy clay. It included frequent angular and sub angular chalk fragments and frequent angular flints. Worked flint and animal bone was recovered from this fill. A piece of probable Middle Bronze Age pottery was found on the surface of the feature, though it is possibly residual. The feature was 100% excavated, and an environmental sample was taken for further finds recovery.

### 4.3 Trench 3

(Figures 2 + 5)

Context	Type	Description	Max. Length m	Max. Width m	Deposit Thickness m
3/001	Layer	Topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.20
3/002	Layer	Subsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.57
3/003	Layer	Made Ground	2.2m	Tr.	0.3
3/004	Layer	Made Ground	2.2m	Tr.	0.15
3/005	Natural	Natural Geology	Tr.	Tr.	-
3/006	Cut	Cut of Ditch	Tr.	0.69	-
3/007	Fill	Fill of Ditch	Tr.	0.69	0.38
3/008	Fill	Fill of Ditch	Tr.	0.69	0.66
3/009	Fill	Fill of Ditch	Tr.	0.69	0.3

Table 4: Trench 3, list of recorded contexts

- 4.3.1 The natural geology [3/005] was encountered at a depth of 7.66 AOD. It was comprised of mottled dark reddish brown and light yellow sand, with frequent fragments of angular flint. Along the majority of the trench this was overlain by subsoil [3/002] and topsoil [3/001]. At the northeast end of the trench the sequence was disturbed, with two layers of made ground [3/004] and [3/003], containing plastic sheeting, sitting over the subsoil and being capped by the re-deposited topsoil.
- 4.3.2 One large ditch [3/006] was identified at the centre of the trench, on a northeast-southwest alignment. As shown in Figure 2, it is not on the same alignment as [2/005]. It was 0.69m wide and was 1.04m deep. It was very sharply cut through the subsoil [3/002], with almost vertical sides, with a gradual break of slope at the bottom, leading to a concave base. The primary fill on the northeast side of the feature, was a compact light, orangey brown sandy clay [3/009], with occasional angular flint and some very fragmentary later prehistoric pottery sherds. A sample was taken of this fill. This was probably the same as [3/007], another fill at the base of the feature on the southwest side, though the compaction and colour was different (potentially explained through water saturation). This fill was a soft mid greyish brown sandy clay, with frequent angular flints and occasional chalk flecks. Worked flint and three tiny sherds of prehistoric pottery was recovered from this fill. The upper fill [3/008], seen in section rather than excavated, was a soft, reddish brown sandy clay, with occasional angular flints and occasional round stones.

#### 4.4 Trench 4

(Figures 2 + 6)

Context	Type	Description	Max. Length m	Max. Width m	Deposit Thickness m
4/001	Cut	Cut of Pit	0.74	0.61	-
4/002	Fill	Fill of Pit	0.74	0.61	0.28
4/003	Cut	Cut of Pit	1.3	1.24	-
4/004	Fill	Fill of Pit	0.47	0.42	0.19
4/005	Fill	Fill of Pit	1.24	1.3	0.33
4/006	Fill	Same as [4/005]	1.24	1.24	0.33
4/007	Layer	Topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.28
4/008	Fill	Subsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.4
4/009	Natural	Natural Sand	Tr.	Tr.	-
4/010	Natural	Natural Gravel	Tr.	Tr.	-
4/011	Cut	Cut of Pit	1.72	0.39	-
4/012	Fill	Fill of Pit	1.72	0.39	0.38

Table 5: Trench 4, list of recorded contexts

- 4.4.1 The natural geology [4/009], a mottled yellow and greyish brown clayey sand, was encountered at a depth of 6.8m AOD. This was overlain by subsoil, a dark reddish brown sandy clay with occasional chalk flecks and angular flints [4/008]. This was in turn capped by topsoil [4/009] a soft, dark greyish brown sandy clay, with occasional chalk and angular flint inclusions.
- 4.4.2 Three separate pits were identified cut into the geology at the base of the trench, and can be seen in Figures 2 and 6. An oval pit [4/001] measuring 0.74m by 0.61m was identified toward the centre of the trench. This had a gradual cut into the natural, with steeply sloping sides leading to a gradual break of slope at the bottom, and a flat base. It was 0.28m deep. Natural gravel [4/010] was seen in the very base of the pit. The fill [4/002] was a soft, mid yellow brown sandy clay, with occasional charcoal flecks, and a moderate amount of angular flints. This was cut on its southern edge by another oval pit [4/003]. This pit measured 1.3m by 1.24m, and was 0.33m deep. It also had a gradual cut at the top, with slightly concave sides leading to a gradual cut at the bottom of the slope and a flat base. The primary fill [4/005]/[4/006] was a very dark blue/grey black clayey sand, with frequent charcoal flecks. Within this was a soft, dark reddish brown sandy clay, [4/004], with a moderate amount of charcoal flecks. These fills appear to be the result of burning, concentrated at the centre of the pit. No finds were recovered from either of these pits.
- 4.4.3 Another pit [4/011] was identified toward the southeast of [4/003]. Only 0.39m of the width of the pit was seen in the base of the trench, though 1.72 of its diameter was seen in section, along the east side of the trench. The pit had a gradual cut into the natural geology, with shallow sloping, slightly concave sides leading gradually to a generally flat base. It was 0.38m deep. The fill [4/012] was a soft, mid reddish brown sandy clay. It is not clear if this is certainly a cut feature, as it could possibly just be a variation in the head deposit natural. No finds were recovered from this feature.

## 4.5 Trench 13

(Figure 7)

<b>Context</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Max. Length m</b>	<b>Max. Width m</b>	<b>Deposit Thickness m</b>
13/001	Layer	Topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.52
13/002	Layer	Subsoil	13m	Tr.	0.19
13/003	Cut	Cut of Pit	0.98	0.89	-
13/004	Fill	Fill of Pit	0.98	0.89	0.46
13/005	Natural	Natural Geology	Tr.	Tr.	-

Table 6: Trench 13, list of recorded contexts

- 4.5.1 The natural geology [13/005], a sandy clay which was progressively more gravelly toward the northeast, was encountered at a depth of 13.07m AOD. This was overlain directly by topsoil [13/001] in most of the trench, though toward the southwest of the trench there was a layer of subsoil [13/002].
- 4.5.2 A single feature was identified cut into the natural geology. Pit [13/003] was oval in plan, and measured 0.98m by 0.89m by 0.46m deep, though was partially obscured by the limit of excavation on the eastern edge of the trench. It was sharply cut into the natural, with steep, sloping sides leading gradually to a flat base. The fill [13/004] was a soft, dark greyish brown sandy clay, with occasional small rounded stones and occasional chalk and manganese flecks. No finds were recovered from this feature.

## 5.0 THE FINDS

### 5.1 Summary

5.1.1 A small collection of finds was recovered during the evaluation at Clements Valley Greenhithe. An overview of the assemblage is shown in Table 7. Finds were all washed and dried or air dried as appropriate. They were quantified by count and weight and were bagged by material and context. All finds are packed and stored following IFA guidelines (2008). None of the artefacts require further conservation.

Context	Pottery	Wt (g)	CBM	Wt (g)	Bone	Wt (g)	Flint	Wt (g)	FCF	Wt (g)
2/006	1	72			8	24	2	148		
3/007	3	<2					4	234	8	542
7/002			2	108	4	38				
<b>Total</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>72</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>108</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>234</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>542</b>

Table 7: Quantification of the finds assemblage

### 5.2 Flintwork by Karine Le Hégarat

5.2.1 A very small assemblage of flint, comprising just six pieces weighing 218g were recovered through hand collection and from sample residues during the evaluation work at the site (Table 7). In addition eight fragments (542g) of burnt unworked flint were also recovered from context (3/007).

5.2.2 The assemblage consists mostly of unmodified pieces of flint débitage, and no chronologically distinctive types were present. The artefacts came from two ditch fill contexts. Ditch [2/005] fill (2/006) produced a core fragment and a flake. The fragmentary core displays several incipient cones of percussion in one area, and was used to remove small flakes. No platform preparation was noted. The flake, the proximal end of which is absent exhibits a pronounced bulb of percussion. Ditch [3/006] fill (3/007) = (3/009) produced three flakes, three chips and a fragmentary core. Two of the flakes are small, relatively thin, with flake scar removal on the dorsal surfaces. The third flake is a small primary flake with a cortical platform, and it suggests primary stage of de-cortication. The core fragment has been used to remove a small irregular flake.

Fill	Cut	Sample no	Category	Number	Weight (g)
2/006	2/005	<01> >8mm residue	Core fragment	1	136
2/006	2/005	<01> >8mm residue	Flake	1	12
3/009 = 3/007?	3/006	<02> >8mm residue	Flake	1	20
3/009 = 3/007?	3/006	<02> 8mm residue	Chip	3	<1
3/007 = 3/009?	3/006		Flake	2	10
3/007 = 3/009	3/006		Core fragment	1	40

Table 8: The Flintwork

5.2.2 The small assemblage of flint from St Clements Valley consists of pieces which are not chronologically distinctive. Nonetheless, based on technological grounds, they probably belong to the Bronze Age or Iron Age, although some may be earlier. The material was thinly spread in two ditches, and it likely to be residual in later features.

### **5.3 The Prehistoric Pottery** by Anna Doherty

5.3.1 A total of four sherds of prehistoric pottery, weighing 68 grams, were recovered during the evaluation. The largest sherd, from the surface of ditch fill [2/006], is a thick-walled base fragment in a coarse flint-tempered fabric with common ill-sorted inclusions ranging from 0.2-5mm. Both the fabric and wall thickness are probably most typical of the Middle Bronze Age (c.1500-1150BC) although coarse fabrics of this type sometimes make up a small component of assemblages from the earlier part of the Late Bronze Age.

5.3.2 Another context, [3/007], produced three tiny flecks of pottery from a single vessel. Although these are too small to fully characterise the fabric type, they are clearly from a finer flint-tempered ware. Visible inclusions in the sherds range from 0.2-1.5mm and the sherds appear to be from a relatively thin-walled vessel. As such it can probably be broadly dated to the Late Bronze Age to Middle/Late Iron Age (c.1150-100BC).

5.3.3 Whilst it is feasible that all of the pottery is broadly contemporary and dates to the late 2<sup>nd</sup> millennium, it is possible that the two context groups belong to different periods. Given the small size of the sherds in [3/007] and the lack of certainty regarding the stratification of the sherd from [2/006], there is also a strong possibility that the pottery is residual.

### **5.4 The Ceramic Building Material** by Trista Clifford

5.4.1 Two abraded red brick fragments weighing 108g were recovered from context [7/002]. The fabric is fairly soft, fine sand tempered with sparse coarse coloured quartz and sparse coarse calcareous inclusions; an early post medieval date up to 1700 is probable. The fragments have been recorded for the archive and discarded.

### **5.5 The Animal Bone** by Gemma Ayton

5.5.1 A small assemblage of animal bone containing twelve fragments from two contexts was recovered during the archaeological evaluation at St Clements Valley, Greenhithe. The bone weighs 62g and was recovered from contexts [7/002] and [6/006]. Context [7/002] contains the distal half of a caprine humerus which has been sliced mid-way along the shaft. Three fragments of medium-mammal sized scapulae were also recovered from context [7/002]. Context [2/006] contains eight poorly preserved fragments of large-mammal sized scapulae.

5.5.2 Due to the size and condition of the assemblage, no further analysis can be undertaken and no further work is required.



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

### **6.1 Introduction & Methodology**

6.1.1 During evaluation work at the site, two bulk samples were taken to recover environmental remains such as charred macroplant remains, wood charcoal, fauna and mollusca, and to assist finds recovery. Sample <1> was taken from the fill (2/006) of ditch [2/005] and measured 25 litres in volume. Sample <2> measured 40 litres in volume and was recovered from the basal fill (3/009) of ditch [3/006].

6.1.2 The samples were processed in their entirety in a flotation tank, and the residues and flots were retained on 500µm and 250µm meshes and air dried. The residues were passed through graded sieves (8, 4 and 2mm) and each fraction sorted for environmental and artefact remains (Table 9). The flots were scanned under a stereozoom microscope at x7-45 magnifications and its content recorded (Table 10). Preliminary identifications of macrobotanical remains have been made through comparison with reference atlases (Cappers et al. 2006, Jacomet 2006 and NIAB 2004) and nomenclature used follows Stace (1997).

### **6.2 Results**

6.2.1 Sample <1>, fill (2/006) of ditch [2/005]. The large flot from sample <01> was dominated by uncharred vegetation including modern roots and infrequent uncharred seeds such as elder (*Sambucus nigra*), blackberry / raspberry (*Rubus fruticosus* agg. / *idaeus*) and goosefoot (*Chenopodium* sp.). Charred plant remains were uncommon in this sample. Both the flot and residue contained a few small-sized (<4mm) charred wood fragments, and no charred macroplant remains were recorded. A few shells of land snails were present, and the residue produced a small quantity of struck flint.

6.2.2 Sample <2>, fill (3/009) of ditch [3/006]. Uncharred vegetation was also infrequent in sample <02> including both fine rootlets and a few weed seeds. In addition to blackberry / raspberry and goosefoot, sun spurge (*Euphorbia helioscopia*) and seeds from the pink (*Caryophyllaceae*) family were present. Charred plant remains were also scarce in sample <02>. The assemblage comprised less than five fragments of charcoal, a hazel (*Corylus avellana*) nutshell fragment, two grains of wheat (*Triticum* sp.) and two grains too poorly preserved to be identified. A small amount of burnt and unburnt pieces of flint were present in the residue.

### **6.3 Discussion**

6.3.1 Environmental evidence was uncommon in the samples from St Clements Valley. The material included uncharred weed seeds, charcoal and charred macroplants. The uncharred weed seeds are likely to be intrusive considering the frequency of rootlets in the flots. Overall this small assemblage is too limited and too poorly preserved to provide meaningful interpretations regarding fuel use, agriculture or to provide material suitable for dating.

Sample Number	Context	Context / deposit type	Sample Volume litres	Sub-Sample Volume	Charcoal >4mm	Weight (g)	Charcoal <4mm	Weight (g)	Charred botanicals (other than charcoal)	Weight (g)	Land Snail shells	Weight (g)	Other (eg ind, pot, cbm)
1	2/006	D	25	25			*	<2			**	2	Flint */148g
2	3/009	D	40	40	*	<2	*	<2	* <i>Corylus avellana</i> (1)	<2			FCF */8g - Flint */20g

Table 9: Residue quantification (\* = 1-10, \*\* = 11-50, \*\*\* = 51-250, \*\*\*\* = >250) and weights in grams

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	Insects, Fly Pupae etc. min	Land Snail Shells
1	2/006	16	125	125	94	2	* <i>Chenopodium</i> sp., <i>Rubus fruticosus</i> agg. / <i>idaeus</i> , <i>Sambucus nigra</i>		*	*					**
2	3/009	8	90	90	88	2	* <i>Chenopodium</i> sp., <i>Rubus fruticosus</i> agg. / <i>idaeus</i> , <i>Euphorbia helioscopia</i> , Caryophyllaceae	*	*	*	*	* <i>Triticum</i> sp. (2), <i>Cerealia</i> (2)	+ to ++	FP X 2	**

Table 10: Flot quantification (\* = 1-10, \*\* = 11-50, \*\*\* = 51-250, \*\*\*\* = >250) and preservation (+ = poor, ++ = moderate, +++ = good)

## **7.0 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS**

- 7.1 Natural head deposit geology was located in base of each of the excavated trenches. Though the evaluation has been successful in finding archaeology on site, the lack of clear dating evidence has made it difficult to positively characterise what has been found.
- 7.2 With the exception of one pit, found in the south-east of the site, the rest of the archaeology was centred on the north of the site, which is also the area that seems to have seen the most recent disturbance, both through historical use as allotments, or more recent use as a storage area for rubbish to be removed from site.
- 7.3 The single sherd of Middle - Late Bronze Age pottery from Trench 2 was not found sealed within the fill of the ditch, but on top of it and therefore could be a residual sherd deriving from the overlying soil horizons rather than the feature itself. The three small fragments of slightly later pottery found in Trench 3 were sealed within the ditch fill but could also conceivably be residual. Both features, however, contained worked flint of broadly contemporary later prehistoric date. Though the ditches in Trench 2 and 3 appear to be on a similar alignment, they are completely different in profile and fill, and would not appear to represent one continuous feature.
- 7.4 Assuming that all of the features identified share a similar date, and are of later Bronze Age origin, they would represent some outlying, rural activity, rather than any centre of occupation, perhaps hinted at in the residual finds from the vicinity.
- 7.5 A large area of the site was found to be absent of archaeology, despite the potential for Roman remains previously being considered quite high. Based on the results of the evaluation, it would appear that the Roman cemetery did not extend into the eastern (un-truncated) part of proposed development area.

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ASE would like to thank CgMs for commissioning the work and for their assistance throughout the project, and Wendy Rogers, Senior Archaeological Officer at Kent County Council for her guidance and monitoring. The excavation was directed by Gary Webster. The author would like to thank Steve Price who worked on the excavations; Justin Russell who produced the figures for this report; Paul Mason who edited the report; Darryl Palmer who managed the excavations and Jim Stevenson and Dan Swift who managed the post-excavation process.

**HER Summary Form**

Site Code	SCV 13					
Identification Name and Address	St Clements Valley, Greenhithe, Kent					
County, District &/or Borough	Dartford, Kent					
OS Grid Refs.	558525 174275					
Geology	Head Deposits					
Arch. South-East Project Number	2013309					
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. 18 <sup>th</sup> – 22 <sup>nd</sup> November	Excav.	WB.	Other		
Sponsor/Client	CgMs					
Project Manager	Darryl Palmer					
Project Supervisor	Gary Webster					
Period Summary	Palaeo.	Meso.	Neo.	BA✓	IA✓	RB
	AS	MED	PM	Other Modern		
<p>Summary</p> <p><i>Archaeology South-East was commissioned by CgMs Consulting to undertake an archaeological evaluation at St Clements Valley, Greenhithe, Kent. Fifteen archaeological trenches were excavated.</i></p> <p><i>Natural geology, comprising of head deposits, was found in every trench. Trenches 5 - 15, towards the east of the site were quite shallow. Only one feature was identified on this side of the site, in trench 13, which was an undated pit.</i></p> <p><i>Trenches 1, 2, 3 and 4 were deeper, and showed signs of disturbance higher in their stratigraphy probably due to the allotment gardens that used to be on site. Three archaeological features were identified in trench 4, which had one burnt pit and two other, undated pits. A ditch was identified in trench 3, and another, much shallower ditch was seen in trench 2. A small amount of probable Middle/Late Bronze Age pottery was recovered, but is potentially residual</i></p>						

## OASIS Form

**OASIS ID: archaeol6-165184**

Project name	An Archaeological Evaluation at St Clements Valley, Greenhithe, Kent
Short description of the project	Archaeology South-East was commissioned by CgMs Consulting to undertake an archaeological evaluation at St Clements Valley, Greenhithe, Kent. Fifteen archaeological trenches were excavated. Natural geology, comprising of head deposits, was found in every trench. Trenches 5 - 15, towards the east of the site were quite shallow. Only one feature was identified on this side of the site, in trench 13, which was an undated pit. Trenches 1, 2, 3 and 4 were deeper, and showed signs of disturbance higher in their stratigraphy probably due to the allotment gardens that used to be on site. Three archaeological features were identified in trench 4, which had one burnt pit and two other, undated pits. A ditch was identified in trench 3, and another, much shallower ditch was seen in trench 2. A small amount of probable Middle/Late Bronze Age pottery was recovered, but is potentially residual.
Project dates	Start: 18-11-2013 End: 22-11-2013
Previous/future work	Yes / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	SCV 13 - Sitecode
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Current Land use	Vacant Land 2 - Vacant land not previously developed
Methods & techniques	"Sample Trenches"
Development type	Housing estate
Site location	KENT DARTFORD SWANSCOMBE AND GREENHITHE St Clements Valley, Greenhithe, Kent
Postcode	DA 9 9JF
Site coordinates	NGR - TQ 58525 74275 LL - 51 0 (decimal) LL - 51 26 41 N 000 16 53 E (degrees) Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 5.48m Max: 14.36m
Name of Organisation	Archaeology South East
Project brief originator	CgMs Consulting
Project design	CgMs Consulting

originator

Project director/manager Neil Griffin

Project supervisor Gary Webster

Type of sponsor/funding body CgMs Consulting

Physical Archive recipient Dartford Museum

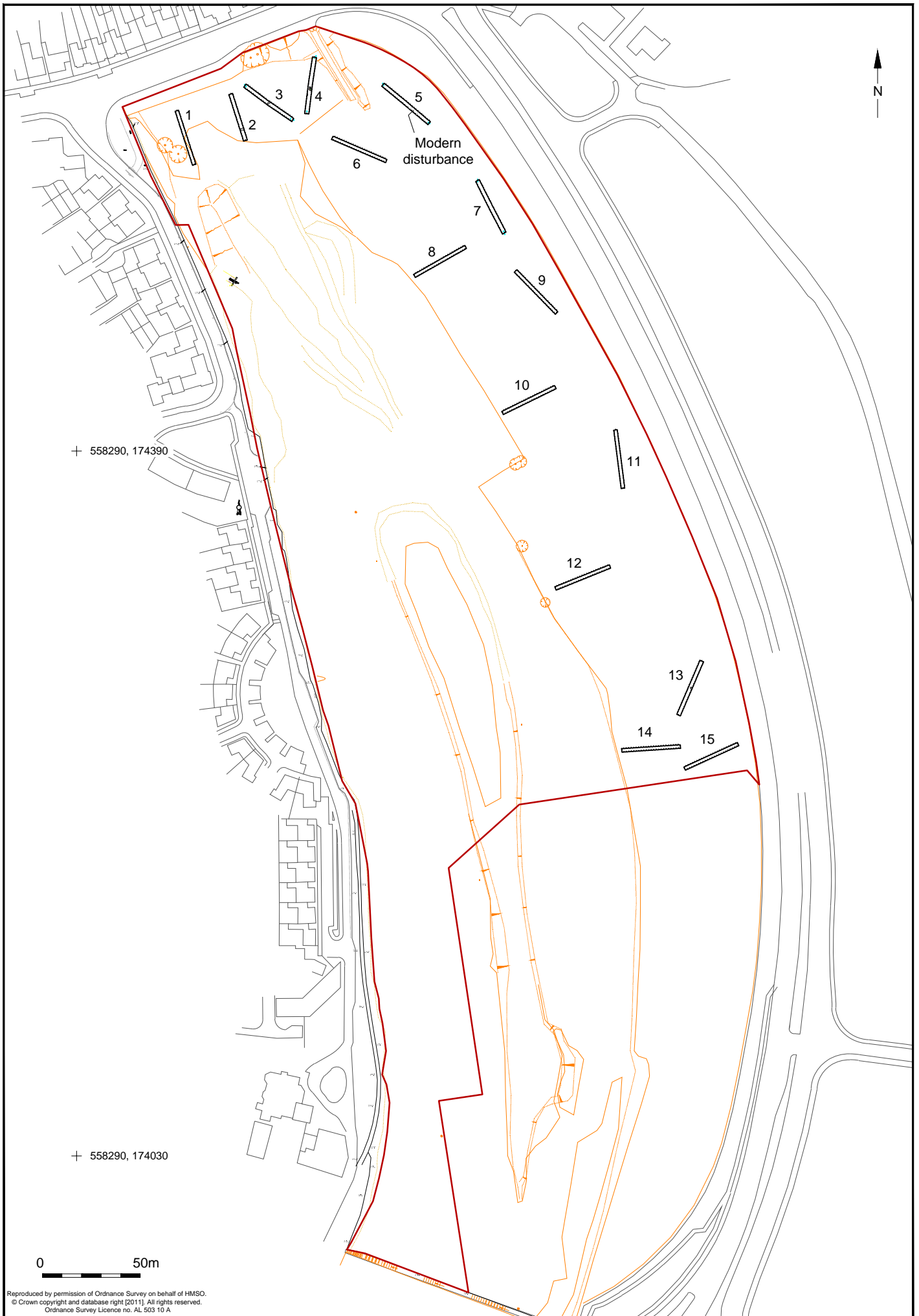
Digital Archive recipient Dartford Museum

Paper Archive recipient Dartford Museum



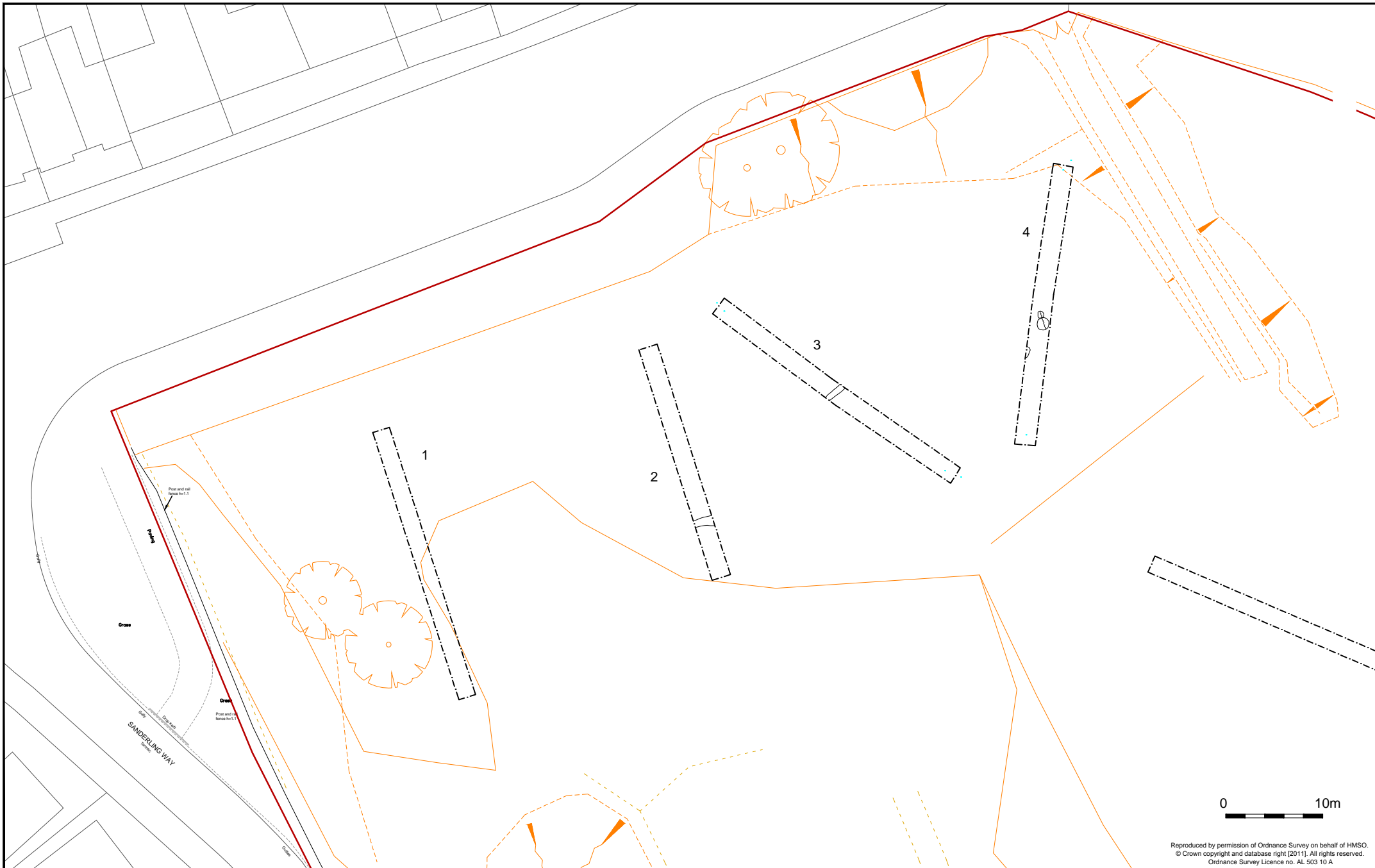
© Archaeology South-East		St. Clement's Valley, Greenhithe		Fig. 1
Project Ref: 5797	Nov 2013	Site location		
Report Ref: 2013309	Drawn by: JLR			





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© Archaeology South-East		St. Clement's Valley, Greenhithe	Fig. 2
Project Ref: 5797	Nov 2013	Trench location	
Report Ref: 2013309	Drawn by: JLR		



© Archaeology South-East		St. Clement's Valley, Greenhithe		Fig. 3
Project Ref: 5797	Nov 2013	TrenchES 1-4		
Report Ref: 2013309	Drawn by: JLR			



+ 558372, 174572

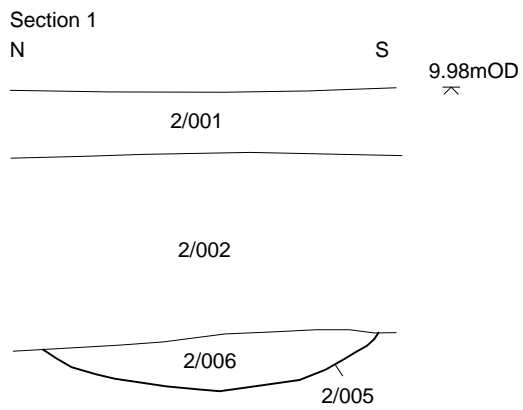
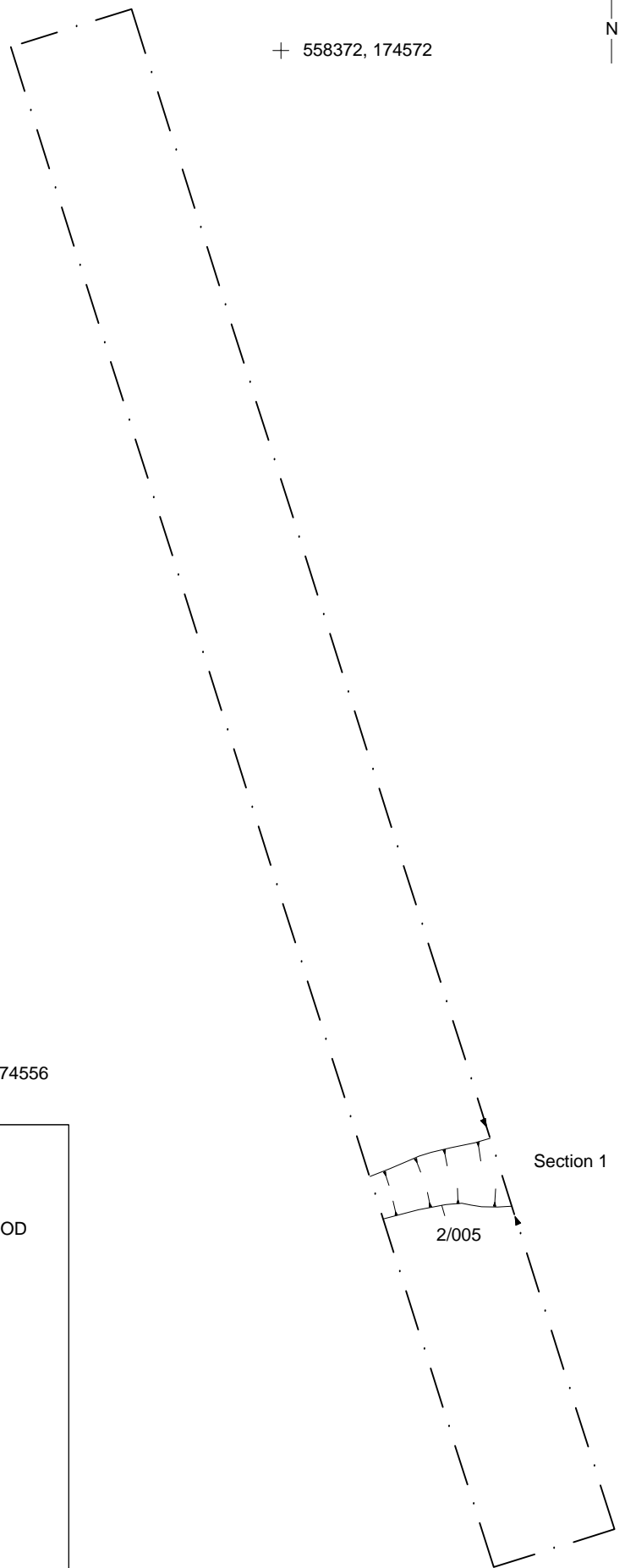


Trench 2 looking south



2/005 looking east

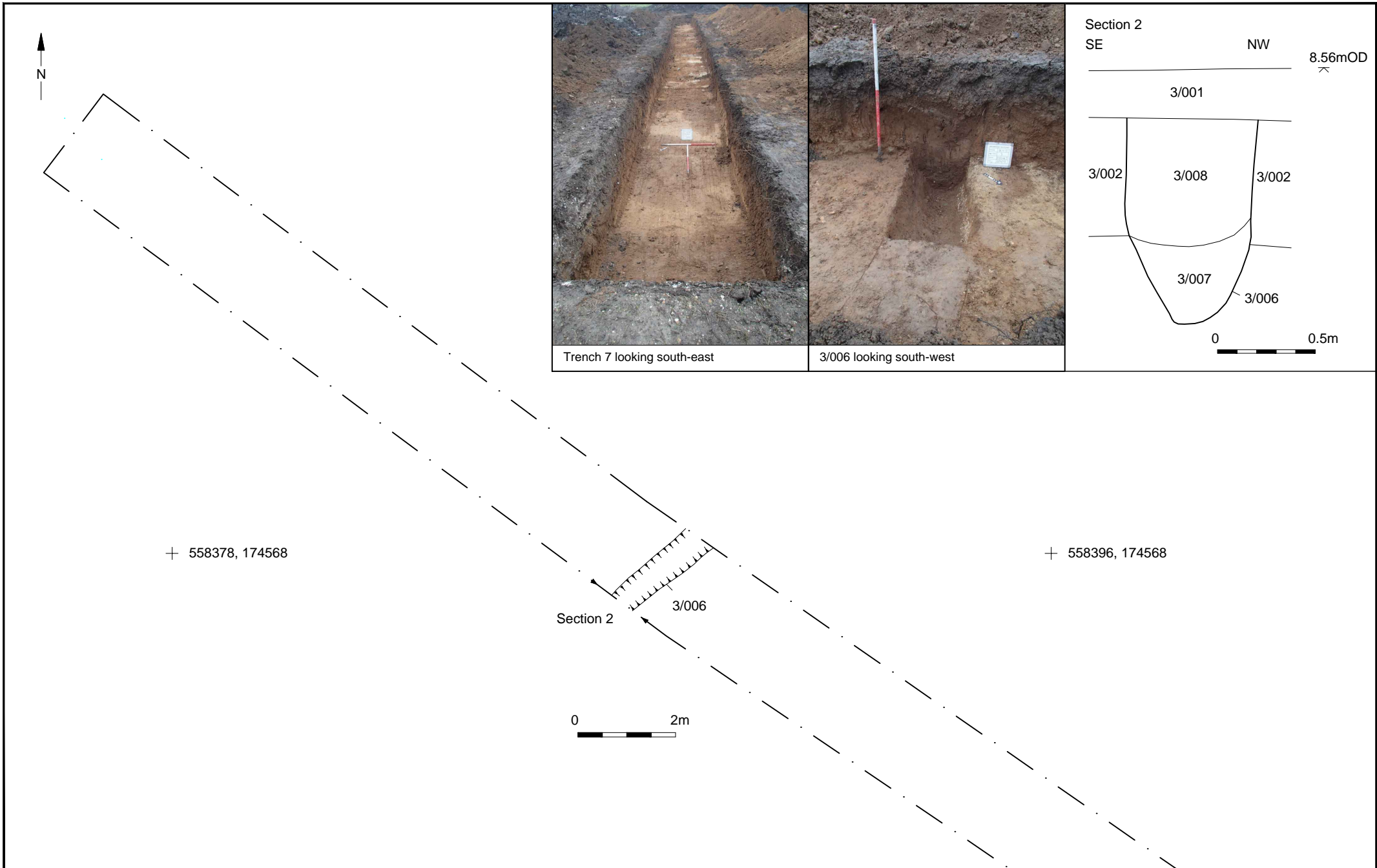
+ 558366, 174556



0 0.5m

0 2m

© Archaeology South-East		St. Clement's Valley, Greenhithe	Fig. 4
Project Ref: 5797	Nov 2013	Trench 2 plan, section and photographs	
Report Ref: 2013309	Drawn by: JLR		



© Archaeology South-East		St. Clement's Valley, Greenhithe	Fig. 5
Project Ref: 5797	Nov 2013	Trench 3 plan, section and photographs	
Report Ref: 2013309	Drawn by: JLR		



+ 558408, 174588

+ 558408, 174568



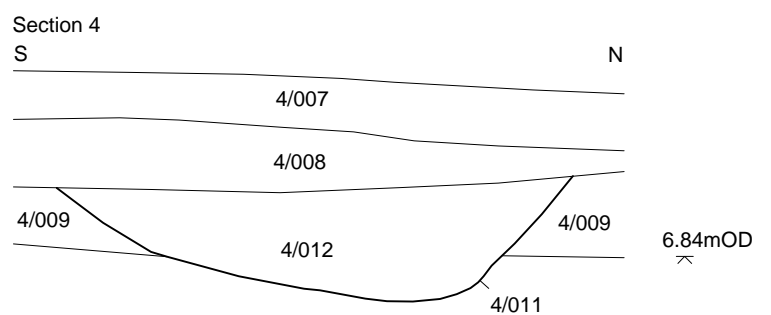
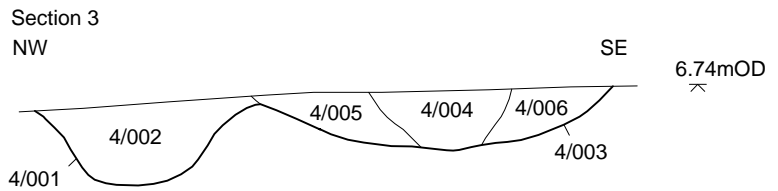
Trench 4 looking south

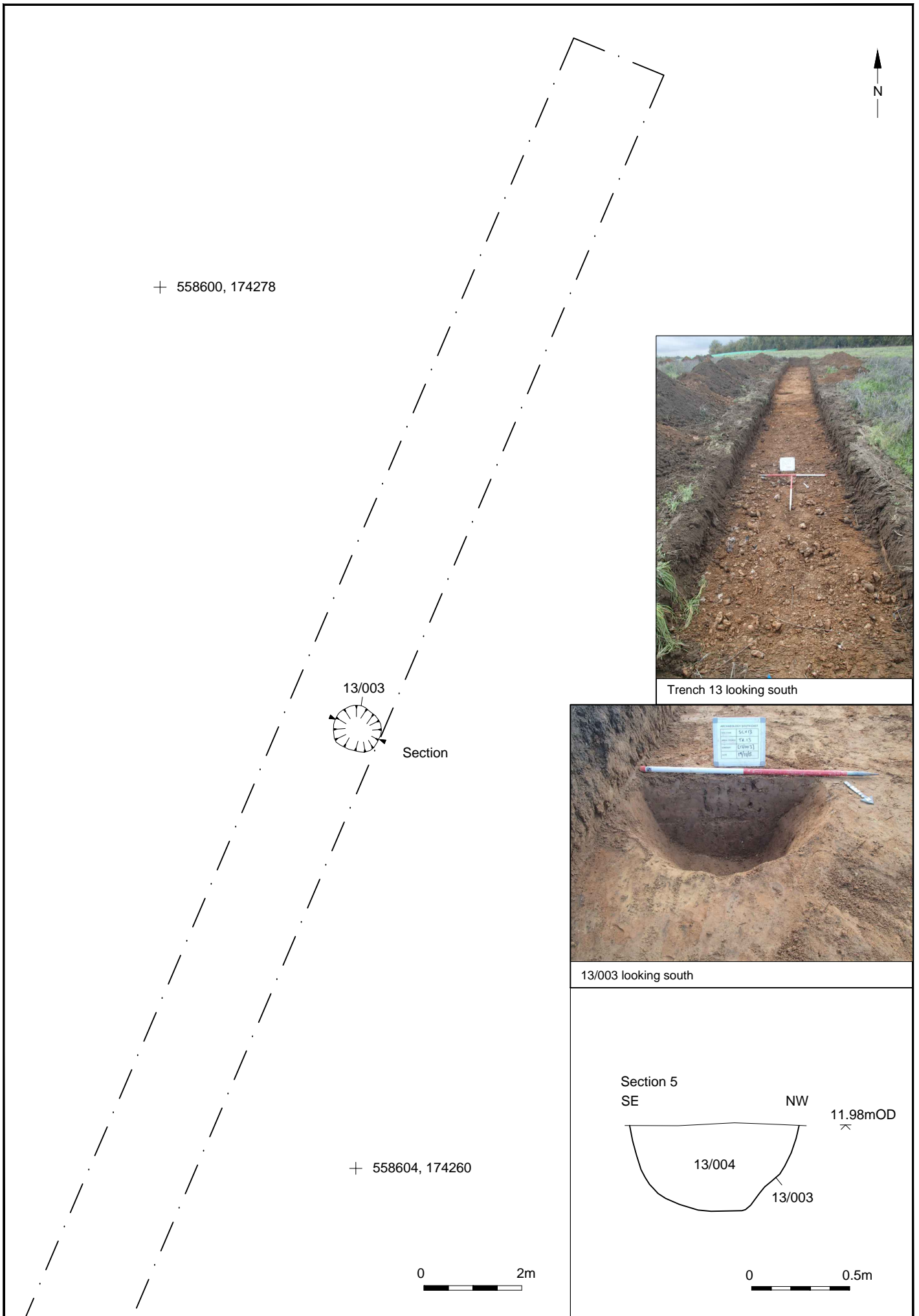


4/001 and 4/003 looking north-east



4/011 looking west





© Archaeology South-East		St. Clement's Valley, Greenhithe	Fig. 7
Project Ref: 5797	Nov 2013	Trench 13 plan, section and photographs	
Report Ref: 2013309	Drawn by: JLR		

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