

**An Archaeological Evaluation Report -
Wye Court Farm, Wye, Kent**

**NGR: 605108 147029
(TR 0510 4702)**

**ASE Project No: 5873
Site Code: WFW13**

**ASE Report No: 2013313
OASIS id: archaeol6-165494**



Hayley Nicholls

**With contributions by
Gemma Ayton Luke Barber Trista Clifford Karine Le Hégarat Dawn Mooney**

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Abstract

Archaeology South-East was commissioned by CgMs Consulting Ltd, on behalf of their client, Taylor Wimpey South-East, to conduct an archaeological evaluation on land at Wye Court Farm, Wye, Kent. A total of 10 trenches were excavated

Undisturbed topsoil and subsoil horizons were recorded in all of the trenches. Five of the 10 trenches investigated were devoid of archaeological features and finds.

Four archaeological features were identified within the site area. These comprised of a shallow slightly curvilinear pit containing a small assemblage of struck flint of Mesolithic/ early Neolithic date, a single undated posthole and two medieval ditches probably representing previously removed internal field divisions.

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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 Consulting Limited on behalf of their client, Taylor Wimpey South-East, to undertake an archaeological evaluation in advance of residential development on land at Wye Court Farm, Wye, Kent (Figure 1; NGR TR 0510 4702).

1.2 Geology and Topography

1.2.1 According to the British Geological Survey (BGS 2013), the natural geology of the site comprises Gault formation mudstone with superficial head deposits of clay and silt.

1.2.2 The site lies at approximately 37m AOD and forms an irregular parcel of land, situated to the north of Churchfields Way and to the northeast of residential development associated with Abbots Walk. A sewage works is situated to the west of the site and to the north is open land associated with Wye Court Farm.

1.3 Planning Background

1.3.1 The proposed development comprises the construction of a residential development at the site. Based on current evidence available within the Kent County Council Historic Environment Record (HER), a desk based assessment undertaken by CgMs Consulting (2012) considered the site as having a moderate to high potential for below ground archaeological remains.

1.3.2 Considering the archaeological potential of the site and the nature of the proposed development, it was considered that further archaeological work would be required by the Kent Archaeological Officer in advance of development at the site to clarify the archaeological potential of the site.

1.3.3 Accordingly, a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for an archaeological evaluation was prepared (ASE, 2013) and submitted to the KCC Heritage Conservation Group prior to the commencement of fieldwork. The document outlined the research aims and objectives of the current project and the methodology to be followed. The WSI was approved by the KCC Conservation Group in their capacity as archaeological advisors to the Local Planning Authority.

1.4 Research Aims and Objectives

1.4.1 The general aims of the evaluation as set out in the WSI (ASE, 2013) were to ascertain:

- Whether archaeological remains were present on the site and if so to assess the date, survival and condition of said remains.
- The character, date and quality of archaeological remains and deposits.

- How they might be affected by the development of the site
- What options should be considered for mitigation
- To make public the results of the archaeological evaluation, subject to any confidentiality restrictions.

1.4.2 The specific research aims of the investigation were to:

- Determine the presence or absence of prehistoric activity on the site. If present the work should seek to clarify the form, character and extent where possible.
- Determine the presence or absence of Roman activity given the proximity of known Roman sites and the site's location adjacent to the river. If present what form are these remains in (industrial, agricultural, settlement etc.?).

1.4.3 Should the investigation establish the presence of archaeological remains the research aims of the investigation will take into account the forthcoming South East Research Framework.

1.5 Scope of Report

1.5.1 This report details the findings of the archaeological evaluation which was undertaken by Hayley Nicholls (Archaeologist), Lauren Gibson (Assistant Archaeologist), and John Cook (Surveyor) between the 19th and the 22nd of November 2013. The project was managed by Darryl Palmer (Project Manager, fieldwork) and by Jim Stevenson (Project Manager, post-excavation).

2.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 The following archaeological background has been derived from the Desk-based Assessment (CgMs Consulting 2012) with due acknowledgment. The full background to the site is contained in that document.

2.2 Prehistoric

2.2.1 There is no record for early prehistoric activity within the vicinity of the site, the earliest activity being a solitary Neolithic flint axe found some 800m to the southeast of the site

2.2.2 Late Bronze Age/early Iron Age pottery sherds were recovered during an archaeological evaluation in Bridge Street, c. 80m to the south of the site. The sherds were found overlying a ditch and struck flints of similar date were also found at the site.

2.2.3 Iron Age finds, predominantly comprising coins from metal detecting, have been found in the wider area of Wye, including a cluster of six approximately 900m to the north. Pottery of this date has also been recovered, albeit residual within Roman contexts. There is a general lack of features dating to this period.

2.3 Roman

2.3.1 Pottery, iron objects, coins and ceramic building material of Roman date have been found within close proximity (c. 100m) of the site. On the opposite side of the Stour, 200m west of the site a large number of Romano-British features were recorded including ditches, gullies, pits, a kiln, burials and a large sub-circular feature, as well as a series of postholes with a possible structural alignment. The activity here seemed largely industrial in nature. To the northwest of the site a number of smelting hearts and cinder remains were discovered in 1970 although the extent of the industrial area was not defined.

2.3.2 A 4th century Roman building was excavated c. 800m to the south of the site which was situated adjacent to the course of the river.

2.3.3 The presence of both settlement and industrial activity within proximity of the site from the 1st century onwards would suggest that an agricultural landscape expanded out into the surrounding area. This evidence, combined with the site's location adjacent to the River Stour, would suggest the site has moderate to high potential for Roman remains to be present.

2.4 Anglo-Saxon and medieval

2.4.1 Wye is mentioned in the Domesday Survey of 1086 ('Wy') and there are several features and finds dating to the medieval period from the town itself. However, the site's location at the periphery of the medieval town makes it an unlikely venue for further archaeology of this date, with the possible exception of agricultural land management (field boundary ditches etc.).

2.5 Post-medieval and Modern

- 2.5.1 Historic maps show the site as open land until 1933 when the East Ashford Sewage Works were constructed to the west of the site. By 1961 residential development had encroached to the east boundary of the site along Abbot's Way and by 1980 residential housing lined the southern boundary also. No development has occurred on the site during the post-medieval period.

3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY

3.1 Fieldwork methodology

- 3.1.1 The archaeological methodology was initially set out in the Written Scheme of Investigation (ASE 2013). All work was carried out in accordance with this document and in line with professional standards and guidelines (KCC, 2007 IfA, 2009)
- 3.1.2 The proposed locations of trenches were scanned using a Cable Avoidance Tool (CAT scanner) in order to check for services.
- 3.1.3 An extension was excavated perpendicular to and close to the north-east end of Trench 1 in order to determine the extent of a feature partially revealed within the trench area. The extension measured 3.5m in length and 1.75m wide.
- 3.1.4 An extension was also excavated perpendicular to and close to the west end of Trench 8 in order to determine the extent of a feature partially revealed within the trench area. The extension measured 4.7m in length and 2.4m wide.

3.2 The Archive

- 3.2.1 The site archive is currently held at the offices of ASE and will be deposited with an appropriate museum in due course. The contents of the archive are tabulated below (Table 1).

Number of Contexts	48
No. of files/paper record	1 file
Plan and sections sheets	3
Bulk Samples	5
Photographs	38
Bulk finds	1 small box
Registered finds	0

Table 1: Quantification of site archive

4.0 RESULTS

4.1 Overburden and Geology

- 4.1.1 The trenches were located on slightly undulating ground sloping gradually from south-east to north-west.
- 4.1.2 The topsoil across the site comprised loose mid-dark brown loamy silt with rare gravel inclusions. The deposit measured between 0.10m and 0.39m in thickness and overlay a deposit of subsoil.
- 4.1.3 The subsoil across the site comprised moderately compact mid orange-brown sand-clay-silt with occasional gravel inclusions. The deposit measured between 0.07m and 0.42m in thickness and directly overlay the natural substrate.
- 4.1.4 The natural substrate comprised compact light-mid brown-orange silt with abundant gravel inclusions. Within the gravels were frequent soft pockets of light grey and mid brown-orange sand and mid orange-brown sand silt. The natural substrate was encountered at depths of between 31.02m AOD and 33.48m AOD.
- 4.1.5 The stratigraphic sequence above was consistent across the site and was encountered in all 10 trenches. The only differences were seen at the south-west end of Trench 3 and the west end of Trench 8 where a possible deposit of colluvium lay below the subsoil and directly overlay the natural.
- 4.1.6 A single ceramic land drain of recent/modern date was encountered in Trench 3 orientated on a north-east – south-west alignment.
- 4.1.7 Four archaeological features were identified within the site area and comprised of a north-east to south-west aligned ditch encountered in Trenches 2, 4, and 6, a north-north-west to south-south-east aligned ditch terminus in Trench 8, and a single posthole and a shallow slightly curvilinear pit both in Trench 1.

4.2 Trench 1

- 4.2.1 Trench 1 was located close to the west corner of the site. The trench measured 30m in length, 1.8m wide and was orientated on a north-east to south-west alignment. The natural substrate occurred at c. 32.13m AOD.
- 4.2.2 Two archaeological features were identified; both were situated close to the north-east end of the trench, and comprised a single posthole and a shallow curvilinear pit.
- 4.2.3 Posthole [1/004] was circular in plan with a diameter of 0.22m and a depth of 0.09m and occurred at 32.03m AOD. The posthole was sealed by subsoil [1/002] and cut the natural substrate [1/003]. No dating evidence was retrieved from posthole fill [1/005].
- 4.2.4 Curvilinear pit [1/006] was initially only partially revealed within the area of the

trench and occurred at 32.05m AOD. An extension to the trench was excavated in order to determine the extent of the feature. The pit was revealed to measure 2.48m in length, 0.70m wide and 0.31m deep and was roughly orientated on a north-north-west to south-south-east alignment. A small assemblage of Mesolithic/ early Neolithic flint comprising 19 fragments of struck flint including two bladelets, three blades and 13 flakes, and three fragments of fire cracked flint (FCF) were retrieved from pit fill [1/007]. Although this flintwork is not necessarily *in situ*, it is indicative of knapping activity in the vicinity

Context	Type	Description	Max. Length m	Max. Width m	Deposit Thickness m
1/001	DEPOSIT	Topsoil	NA	NA	0.1 – 0.24
1/002	DEPOSIT	Subsoil	NA	NA	0.29 – 0.38
1/003	DEPOSIT	Natural	NA	NA	NA
1/004	CUT	Posthole	0.22	0.22	0.09
1/005	FILL	Compact mid-dark brown silt clay fill of [1/004]	0.22	0.22	0.09
1/006	CUT	Linear pit?	2.48	0.70	0.31
1/007	FILL	Compact mid grey-brown silt clay fill of [1/006]	2.48	0.70	0.31

Table 2: Trench 1 - list of recorded contexts

4.3 Trench 2

4.3.1 Trench 2 was located in the south-west half of the site. The trench measured 30m in length, 1.8m wide and was orientated on a north-west to south-east alignment. The natural substrate occurred at c. 31.02m AOD.

4.3.2 A single archaeological feature was identified within the trench and comprised a north-east to south-west aligned ditch which was 2.0m wide and 0.76m deep occurring at 31.02m AOD. The ditch [2/004] was sealed by subsoil [2/002] and cut the natural substrate [2/003]. No dating evidence was retrieved from any of the three ditch fills [2/005], [2/006] and [2/007].

Context	Type	Description	Max. Length m	Max. Width m	Deposit Thickness m
2/001	DEPOSIT	Topsoil	NA	NA	0.22 – 0.32
2/002	DEPOSIT	Subsoil	NA	NA	0.30 – 0.42
2/003	DEPOSIT	Natural	NA	NA	NA
2/004	CUT	NE – SW aligned ditch	NA	2.0	0.81
2/005	FILL	Compact mid-dark orange brown silt clay with frequent gravel. Primary fill of [2/004]	NA	2.0	0.10
2/006	FILL	Compact mid orange-brown silt clay with occasional gravel. Fill of [2/004]	NA	1.8	0.76
2/007	FILL	Moderately compact mid-	NA	0.77	0.30

		dark black-brown silt clay. Fill of [2/004]			
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Table 3: Trench 2 - list of recorded contexts

4.4 Trenches 3, 5, 7, 9, and 10 (archaeologically negative trenches)

4.4.1 Trench 3 was located in the south-west half of the site, close to the south-east site boundary. The trench measured 30m in length, 1.8m wide and was orientated on a north-east to south-west alignment. A single north-east to south-west aligned ceramic land drain was encountered towards the south-west end of the trench. A layer of possible colluvium comprising mottled grey-brown/ orange-brown silt clay was encountered at the south-west end of the trench for a length of 15.0m.

4.4.2 Trench 5 was located in the centre of the site, close to the north-west site boundary. The trench measured 30m in length, 1.8m wide and was orientated on a north-east to south-west alignment.

4.4.3 Trench 7 was located in the centre of the site, close to the south-east site boundary. The trench measured 30m in length, 1.8m wide and was orientated on a north-east to south-west alignment.

4.4.4 Trench 9 was located in the north-east half of the site. The trench measured 30m in length, 1.8m wide and was orientated on a north-east to south-west alignment.

4.4.5 Trench 10 was located in the east corner of the site. The trench measured 30m in length, 1.8m wide and was orientated on an east-west alignment.

4.4.6 No archaeological features were identified in Trenches 3, 5, 7, 9 and 10.

Trench Number	Context	Type	Description	Deposit Thickness m	Height m AOD
3	001	DEPOSIT	Topsoil	0.2 – 0.28	33.98
3	002	DEPOSIT	Subsoil	0.16 – 0.22	33.70
3	003	DEPOSIT	Natural	NA	33.48
3	004	DEPOSIT	Possible colluvium	0.05 – 0.33	-
5	001	DEPOSIT	Topsoil	0.18 – 0.32	32.40
5	002	DEPOSIT	Subsoil	0.22 – 0.26	32.08
5	003	DEPOSIT	Natural	NA	31.82
7	001	DEPOSIT	Topsoil	0.22 – 0.39	33.83
7	002	DEPOSIT	Subsoil	0.07 – 0.20	33.44
7	003	DEPOSIT	Natural	NA	33.24
9	001	DEPOSIT	Topsoil	0.25 – 0.28	33.20
9	002	DEPOSIT	Subsoil	0.10 – 0.30	32.92
9	003	DEPOSIT	Natural	NA	32.62
10	001	DEPOSIT	Topsoil	0.26 – 0.35	33.36
10	002	DEPOSIT	Subsoil	0.19 – 0.29	33.01
10	003	DEPOSIT	Natural	NA	32.72

Table 4: Trenches 3, 5, 7, 9, and 10 - list of recorded contexts

4.5 Trench 4

4.5.1 Trench 4 was located in the south-west half of the site. The trench measured 30m in length, 1.8m wide and was orientated on a north-south alignment. The natural substrate occurred at c. 33.04 AOD.

4.5.2 A single archaeological feature was identified within the trench and comprised a north-east to south-west aligned ditch which was 2.60m wide and 0.67m deep and occurred at 33.04m AOD. The ditch [4/004] cut the natural substrate [4/003]. It was not clear whether the ditch was sealed by the subsoil [4/002]. Two fragments of ceramic building material of medieval or post-medieval date, a fragment of animal bone and a single flint blade of Mesolithic/early Neolithic date were retrieved from ditch fill [4/005].

Context	Type	Description	Max. Length m	Max. Width m	Deposit Thickness m
4/001	DEPOSIT	Topsoil	NA	NA	0.17 – 0.21
4/002	DEPOSIT	Subsoil	NA	NA	0.16 – 0.31
4/003	DEPOSIT	Natural	NA	NA	NA
4/004	CUT	NE-SW aligned ditch	NA	2.60	0.67
4/005	FILL	Compact mid orange-brown silt clay fill of [4/004]	NA	2.60	0.67
4/006	FILL	Moderately compact dark black-brown silt clay fill of [4/004]	NA	1.08	0.25

Table 5: Trench 4 - list of recorded contexts

4.6 Trench 6

4.6.1 Trench 6 was located in the centre of the site. The trench measured 30m in length, 1.8m wide and was orientated on a north-west to south-east alignment. The natural substrate occurred at c. 32.59m AOD.

4.6.2 A single archaeological feature was identified within the trench and comprised a north-east to south-west aligned ditch which was 1.40m wide and 0.62m deep and present at 32.87m AOD. The ditch [6/004] cut the natural substrate [6/003]. It was not clear whether the ditch was sealed by the subsoil [6/002] as the subsoil and uppermost ditch fill was similar in colour and composition. Earlier fill [6/005] contained two fragments of animal bone whilst uppermost ditch fill [6/006] contained one fragment of pottery of medieval date and three fragments of animal bone.

Context	Type	Description	Max. Length m	Max. Width m	Deposit Thickness m
6/001	DEPOSIT	Topsoil	NA	NA	0.24 – 0.34
6/002	DEPOSIT	Subsoil	NA	NA	0.22 – 0.30
6/003	DEPOSIT	Natural	NA	NA	NA
6/004	CUT	NE-SW aligned ditch	NA	1.40	0.62
6/005	FILL	Compact mid orange-	NA	1.40	0.62

		brown silt clay fill of [6/004]			
6/006	FILL	Moderately compact dark black-brown silt clay fill of [6/004]	NA	1.0	0.38

Table 6: Trench 6 - list of recorded contexts

4.7 Trench 8

4.7.1 Trench 8 was located in the north corner of the site. The trench measured 30m in length, 1.8m wide and was orientated on an east-west alignment. A layer of possible colluvium comprising of mid grey-brown clay silt with frequent gravel inclusions was encountered at the west end of the trench for a length of c. 6.0m. The natural substrate occurred at c. 31.10m AOD.

4.7.2 A single archaeological feature, initially interpreted as a possible pit or tree bole was partially revealed close to the west end of the trench, occurring at 31.06m AOD. An extension to the trench was excavated in order to determine the extent of the feature, at which point it became apparent that it was a ditch terminus rather than a discrete feature. The ditch was orientated on a north-south alignment and measured 1.31m wide and 0.19m deep. A small assemblage of finds were retrieved from ditch fill [8/005] comprising of seven sherds of pottery of medieval date and two fragments of slag, two fragments of fired clay and a single residual flint blade of Mesolithic/ early Neolithic date.

Context	Type	Description	Max. Length m	Max. Width m	Deposit Thickness m
8/001	DEPOSIT	Topsoil	NA	NA	0.27 – 0.35
8/002	DEPOSIT	Subsoil	NA	NA	0.15 – 0.30
8/003	DEPOSIT	Natural	NA	NA	NA
8/004	CUT	Possible N-S aligned ditch terminus	4.0	1.31	0.19
8/005	FILL	Compact dark brown clay silt with frequent flint gravel. Fill of [8/004]	4.0	1.31	0.19
8/006	DEPOSIT	Possible colluvium? Mid grey-brown silt-clay with frequent gravel	NA	4.60	0.10 - 0.24

Table 7: Trench 8 - list of recorded contexts

5.0 THE FINDS

5.1 Introduction

5.1.1 A small assemblage of finds was recovered during the evaluation at Wye Court Farm, Wye. An overview is shown in Table 8. 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)	Fe	Wt (g)	F. clay	Wt (g)	Slag	Wt (g)
1/001			1	6									2	<2		
1/005	1	10														
1/007							19	102	3	62						
3/002			1	4												
4/001					5	22										
4/005			2	52	1	8	1	18								
6/005					2	12										
6/006	1	6			3	70										
7/001			1	366												
7/002	2	<2														
8/005	7	60	1	34			1	14					1	130	2	84
9/002			1	6												
10/001			2	36							1	22				
Total	11	76	9	504	11	112	21	134	3	62	1	22	3	130	2	84

Table 8 Quantification of the finds assemblage

5.2 The Post-Roman Pottery by Luke Barber

5.2.1 Post-Roman pottery was recovered from three different deposits during the evaluation work. The earliest material was recovered from context [8/005], which produced a group consisting of two abraded and residual 11th- to mid-12th- shell tempered sherds (4g), two less abraded shelly-sandy ware sherds (26g: including an oxidised cooking pot base) and three moderately abraded medium sand tempered sherds. Taken as a whole an 1150-1225 deposition range is probable. Context [6/006] produced a single slightly abraded sparsely glazed jug sherd tempered with abundant fine/medium sand. A date between 1225 and 1350 is probable. The final sherds were recovered from context [7/002]. Both these oxidised bodysherds are so small and/or abraded the dating of them is far from certain. One is notably sandy with some calcareous inclusions, the other a more unified fine sand tempered sherd with reduced exterior. Both fabrics could easily be placed between c. 1450 and 1600 but more diagnostic sherds would be needed to be certain.

5.3 The Metallurgical Remains by Luke Barber

- 5.3.1 Context [8/005], dated to the mid -12th to early 13th centuries, produced two pieces of quite dense but aerated grey iron slag. Although one piece has some flow structure on its upper face reminiscent of tap slag, neither piece are conclusively diagnostic in regard to the process that created them.

5.4 The CBM by Trista Clifford

- 5.4.1 Eight fragments of CBM weighing 506g were recovered from seven separate contexts. Fragments were quantified by count and weight and fabrics recorded using a x20 magnification binocular microscope.
- 5.4.2 The earliest piece from [8/005] is a fragment which is too abraded to be diagnostic of form but the fabric suggests a Roman date. Medieval to post medieval tile fragments were recovered from [1/001], [3/002] and [4/005]. All were made in the same calcareous speckled fabric which identify them as the product of the nearby Wye kilns in production throughout the medieval and post medieval period. A brick fragment of early post medieval date, up to c.1700, in a similar fabric (MoL 3039) came from [10/001]. Lastly a modern compressed red brick was recorded from [7/002].

5.5 Flintwork by Karine Le Hégarat

- 5.5.1 A total of 61 pieces of struck flint weighing 157g were recovered through hand collection and from environmental samples during the evaluation work at the site. The material came from three numbered contexts within three trenches (Trenches 1, 4 and 8). The small assemblage consists entirely of pieces of flint débitage, and based on technological grounds the material indicates a Mesolithic, early Neolithic date. The condition of the flintwork was fairly fresh with very few pieces displaying slight edge damage implying that the material had undergone negligible post-depositional disturbance. The raw material with a buff abraded cortex is characteristic of chalk-derived flint. It appears to be of good flaking quality. A small proportion of the artefacts are re-corticated to varying degrees.
- 5.5.2 While Trenches 8 and 4 produced just four blades (context [8/005] one piece and context [4/005] three pieces), the majority of the flintwork derive from Trench 1. Pit [1/006] contained a small assemblage of unmodified pieces of flint débitage. The small group consists of flakes (21 pieces), blades (five pieces), bladelets (two pieces), chips (27 pieces), a microburin and a core rejuvenation flake. The presence of a microburin strongly suggests a Mesolithic / early Neolithic date and indicates tool production or maintenance. Microburins are the discarded pieces originating from the manufacture of microliths. Many of the flakes are small-sized, thin and regularly worked, and the majority are tertiary or secondary flakes. A mixed hammer mode was observed with some pieces displaying plain platforms and minimal preparation and other artefacts indicating that more care was taken while knapping. Although no cores or irregular waste pieces were recorded, a core edge rejuvenation flake and a large quantity of chips were recorded. Although the assemblage from pit [1/006] may not be in-situ, the material suggests flint knapping activities in the vicinity. Material with

varying degrees of re-cortication was recovered from the feature, and the flintwork is likely to represent debris from several knapping events disposed of within the pit. Fragments of burnt unworked flint were also present in the pit.

- 5.5.3 The evaluation work revealed limited evidence for early prehistoric presence at the site with possibly knapping activity in the vicinity of pit [1/006]. In addition the microburin provides evidence for tool production or tool repair / replacement. The material should be retained to allow integration with any assemblage recovered in the event of further work.

5.6 The Ironwork by Trista Clifford

- 5.6.1 A single iron object weighing 22g was recovered from context [6006]. The object is probably a nail of circular section; however both ends are obscured by corrosion product therefore hampering identification. The object measures 65.8mm long, and has a diameter of 8.5mm. A medieval to post medieval date is probable.

5.7 The Fired Clay by Trista Clifford

- 5.7.1 Three fragments of fired clay weighing 130g were recovered from two separate contexts. Context [1/001] contained two tiny amorphous pieces weighing <2g in a sandy fabric with abundant iron rich inclusions. The large fragment from [8/005] was also amorphous but possibly utilised, having been tempered with abundant fine sand and moderate coarse coloured quartz. No date could be ascertained.

5.8 The Animal Bone by Gemma Ayton

- 5.8.1 A small assemblage of mammal bones were recovered during an archaeological evaluation at Wye Court, Wye. The assemblage contains 11 fragments weighing 112g and was recovered from 4 contexts including [4/001], [4/005], [6/005] and [6/006]. Context [4/001] contains five caprine, cranial fragments. Context [4/005] contains the proximal end of a roe deer metatarsal and context [6/005] contains a fragment of mandible from a juvenile pig which includes an unworn first molar and a worn deciduous, fourth pre-molar. Context [6/006] contains a complete, roe deer astragalus and two, large-mammal sized vertebrae fragments. There is no evidence of butchery, burning, gnawing or pathology on the bone.
- 5.8.2 Due the size of the assemblage, it holds no potential for further analysis and no further work is required.

6.0 THE ENVIRONMENTAL SAMPLES by Karine Le Hégarat

6.1 Introduction

6.1.1 During evaluation work at the site, three bulk soil samples were taken to recover environmental remains such as charred plant macrofossils, wood charcoal, fauna and mollusca, and to assist finds recovery. Samples measured 40 litres in volume except sample <05> which came from a feature that produced lower volume of soil after 100% excavation. Sample <02> was taken from the fill [1/007] of linear pit [1/006]. Sample <04> was extracted from the lower fill [6/005] of ditch [6/004], and sample <05> was recovered from the fill [8/005] of ditch terminus [8/004].

6.2 Methodology

6.2.1 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 8). The flots were scanned under a stereozoom microscope at x7-45 magnifications and its content recorded (Table 9).

6.3 Results

6.3.1 Pieces of struck flint and fragments of burnt unworked flint were present in samples <02> and <05>. They were more common in sample <02> (see Le Hégarat). The remaining sample (<04>) contained a large amount of flint, but the material consisted entirely of natural pieces including several pieces exhibiting frost / thermal fractures. The samples produced very few environmental remains. All three flots were dominated by uncharred modern vegetation and sediment. Modern rootlets were very frequent, and occasional uncharred seeds such as goosefoot (*Chenopodium* sp.), elder (*Sambucus nigra*) and red shank/ pale persicaria (*Persicaria maculosa* / *lapathifolia* type) were recorded. The latter are likely to be modern given the frequency of the roots in the samples. As noted above, environmental remains were scarce. Samples <02> and <05> produced only a small assemblage of charred wood fragments. These were relatively well preserved but uncommon and overall small-sized. No identifications have been undertaken as the data would be limited and provide little indication of the taxa targeted for fuel.

6.4 Conclusions

6.4.1 The bulk environmental samples from Wye Court Farm have confirmed the presence of a small assemblage of flint and a small quantity of charcoal. However, the assemblage of charred wood fragments is too limited to provide meaningful interpretations regarding fuel use or the vegetation environment and the evidence for modern disturbance limits their dating potential.

Table 9: Residue Quantification (* = 1-10, ** = 11-50, *** = 51-250, **** = >250)

Sample Number	Context	Context / deposit type	Sample Volume litres	Sub-Sample Volume litres	Charcoal >4mm	Weight (g)	Charcoal <4mm	Weight (g)	Other (eg ind, pot, cbm)
2	1/007	D	40	40	*	<2	*	<2	Flint **/20g - FCF **/139g
4	6/005	D	40	40					empty
5	8/005	D	20	20	*	<2			Flint */4g - FCF */43g

Table 10: Flot Quantification (* = 1-10, ** = 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 <2mm	Weed seeds	Identifications	Preservation
2	1/007	12	40	40	75	25	* <i>Sambucus nigra</i> (1), <i>Persicaria maculosa</i> / <i>lapathifolia</i> type (2)	**	*	unid. seeds (2)	++
4	6/005	46	140	140	75	25	** <i>Chenopodium</i> sp.				
5	8/005	10	100	100	90	10		*			

7.0 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

7.1 Stratigraphic sequence and degree of truncation

- 7.1.1 The evaluation revealed a simple stratigraphic sequence of natural silts / gravels overlain by subsoil and topsoil. A layer of colluvium was present overlying the natural substrate in Trenches 3 and 8.
- 7.1.2 With the exception of a single recent/modern land drain in Trench 3, undisturbed topsoil and subsoil horizons were recorded in all of the trenches and there was no evidence that the natural substrate had been previously disturbed.
- 7.1.3 Five of the 10 trenches investigated were devoid of archaeological features and finds. Probable archaeological features were found in Trenches 1, 2, 4, 6 and 8, sealed by between 0.17m and 0.80m of overburden (topsoil and subsoil and colluvium in Trench 8) and cut into the natural.

7.2 Prehistoric

- 7.2.1 The flint assemblage recovered from the shallow pit found in Trench 1 ([1/006]) is indicative of proximate knapping activity of Mesolithic/ early Neolithic date. The presence of microburins suggests tool production and maintenance. However, there is no suggestion of in situ knapping deposits within this feature.
- 7.2.2 There was only a very small assemblage (four pieces) of flintwork recovered from the remainder of the excavations, suggesting that the activity identified in Trench 1 is isolated.

7.3 Medieval / post-medieval

- 7.3.1 Two ditches on opposing alignments, one of which terminated within the site area, were identified. The first ditch was orientated on a north-east to south-west alignment and was visible in Trenches 2, 4 and 6. The alignment corresponded with that of the surrounding existing field boundaries and is therefore likely to represent a removed field boundary. The medieval pottery retrieved from ditch fill [6/006] and CBM of a similar possible date retrieved from ditch fill [4/005] indicatively suggests a medieval date for the infilling ditch and for existing field system.
- 7.3.2 A further ditch was orientated on a northwest-southeast alignment, terminated within Trench 8 and extended to the north towards the site boundary. The pottery retrieved from its' fill was also of medieval date suggesting that it may be contemporary with the ditch found in Trench 2, 4 and 6.
- 7.3.3 The ditches are not shown on the 1840 Wye Tithe Map which is in keeping with the suggestion that they may have gone out of use by this time.

7.4 Conclusions

- 7.4.1 Regarding the specific research aims (section 1.4.2) the evaluation has succeeded in identifying isolated prehistoric activity in Trench 1. Interestingly, given the proximity of known sites in the area, no remains of Roman date were found.
- 7.4.2 The ditches of possible medieval infilling date found in four of the evaluation trenches seem to represent previous internal field divisions.

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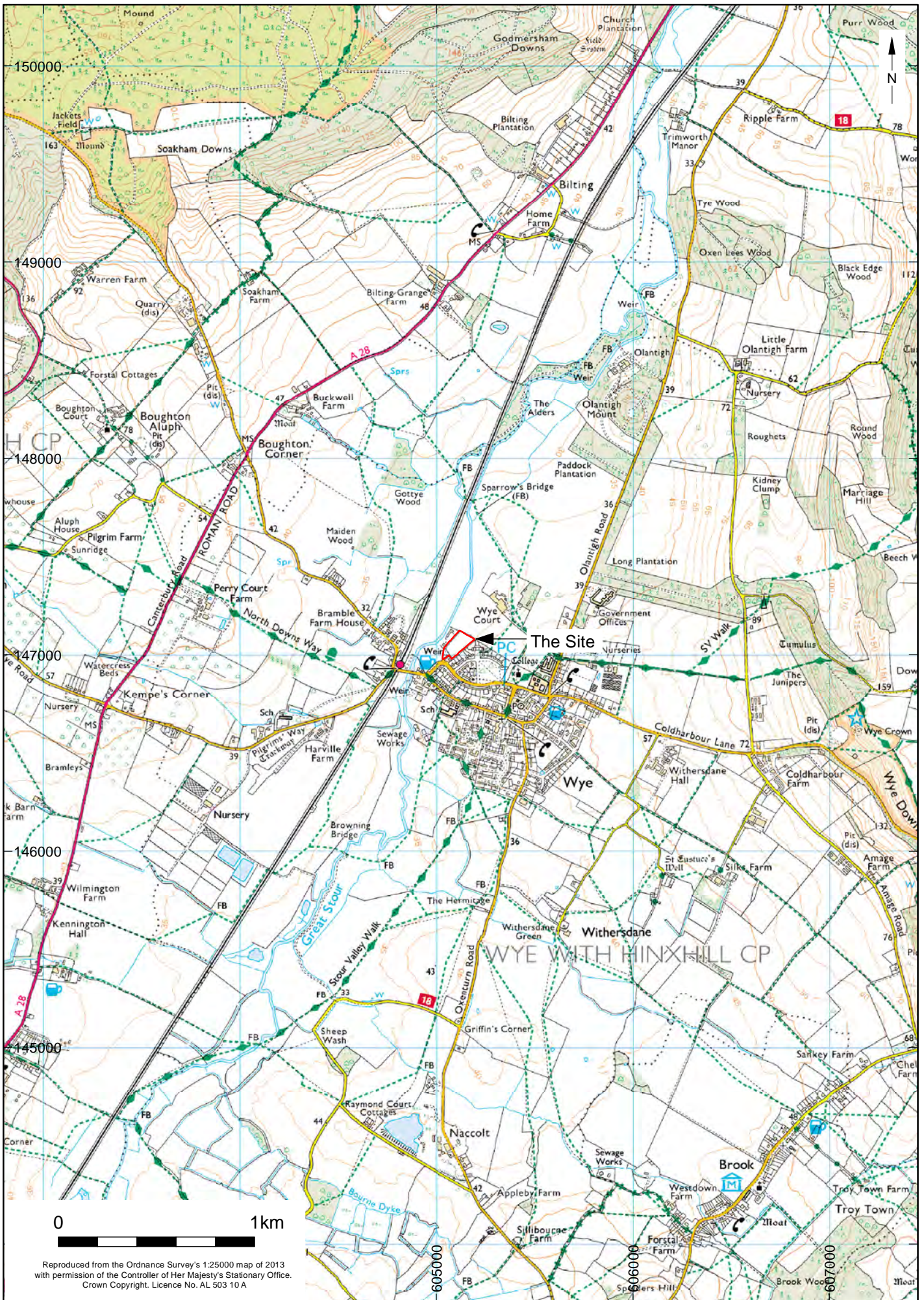
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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

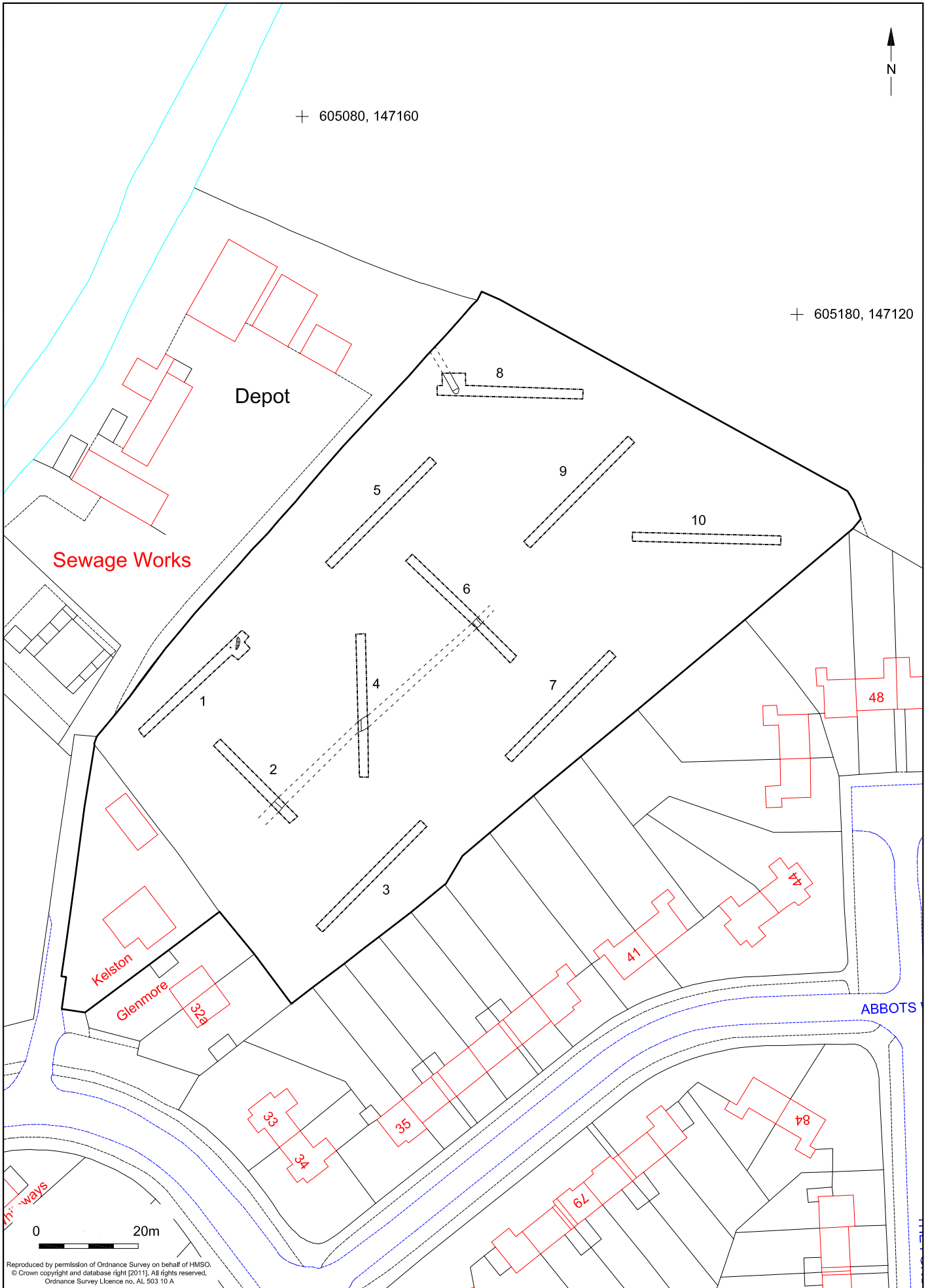
ASE would like to thank CgMs for commissioning the work and for their assistance throughout the project, and Wendy Rogers Senior Archaeological Officer, KCC for her advice and monitoring.

HER Summary Form

Site Code	WFW13					
Identification Name and Address	Wye Court Farm, Wye, Kent					
County, District &/or Borough	Kent					
OS Grid Refs.	TR 0510 4702					
Geology	Gault Formation mudstone with overlying superficial deposits of clay, silt, sand and gravel					
Arch. South-East Project Number	5873					
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. 19/11/13 – 22/11/13	Excav.	WB.	Other		
Sponsor/Client	CgMs					
Project Manager	Darryl Palmer					
Project Supervisor	Hayley Nicholls					
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 Ltd, on behalf of their client, to conduct an archaeological evaluation on land at Wye Court Farm, Wye, Kent. A total of 10 trenches were excavated</i></p> <p><i>Undisturbed topsoil and subsoil horizons were recorded in all of the trenches. Five of the 10 trenches investigated were devoid of archaeological features and finds.</i></p> <p><i>Four archaeological features were identified within the site area. These comprised of a shallow slightly curvilinear pit containing a small assemblage of struck flint of Mesolithic/ early Neolithic date, a single undated posthole and two medieval ditches probably representing previously removed internal field divisions.</i></p>						



© Archaeology South-East		Wye Court Farm, Wye	Fig. 1
Project Ref: 5873	Nov 2013	Site location	
Report Ref: 2013313	Drawn by: JLR		



© Archaeology South-East		Wye Court Farm, Wye		Fig. 2
Project Ref: 5873	November 2013	Trench location		
Report Ref: 2013313	Drawn by: RHC			

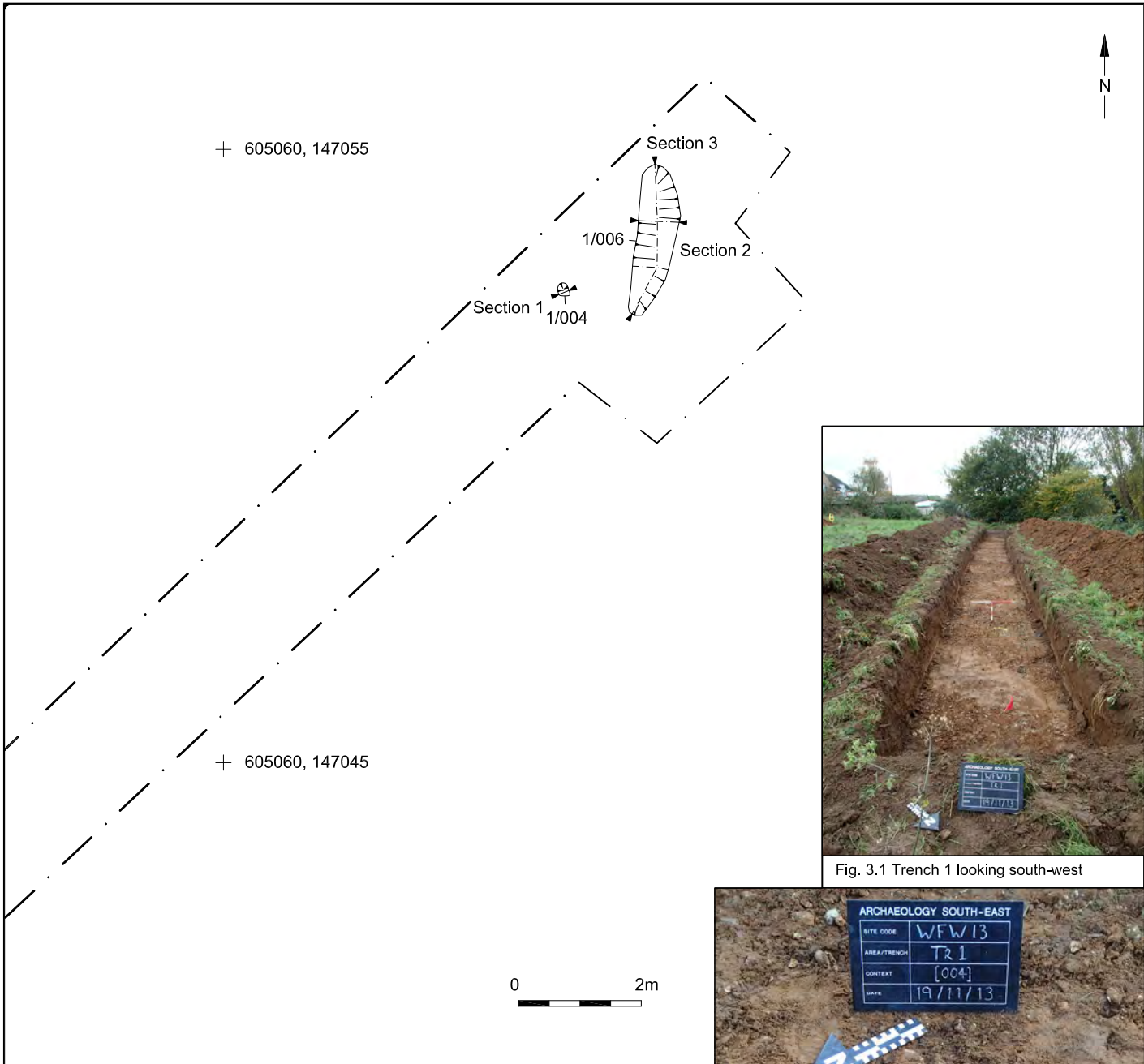


Fig. 3.1 Trench 1 looking south-west



Fig. 3.2 1/004 looking south-east

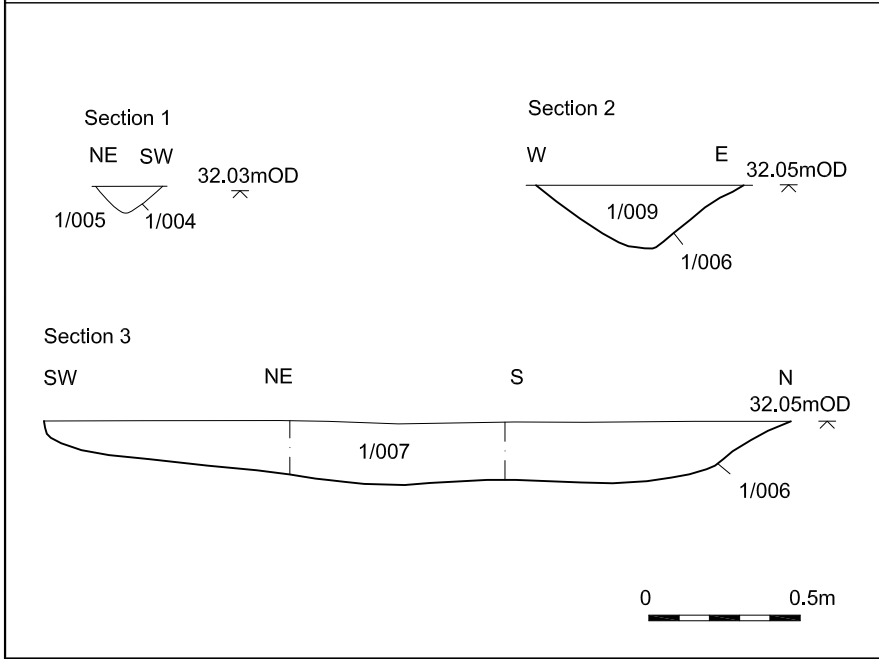


Fig. 3.3 1/006 looking west

© Archaeology South-East		Wye Court Farm, Wye	Fig. 3
Project Ref: 5873	November 2013	Trench 1 plan, sections and photographs	
Report Ref: 2013313	Drawn by: RHC		

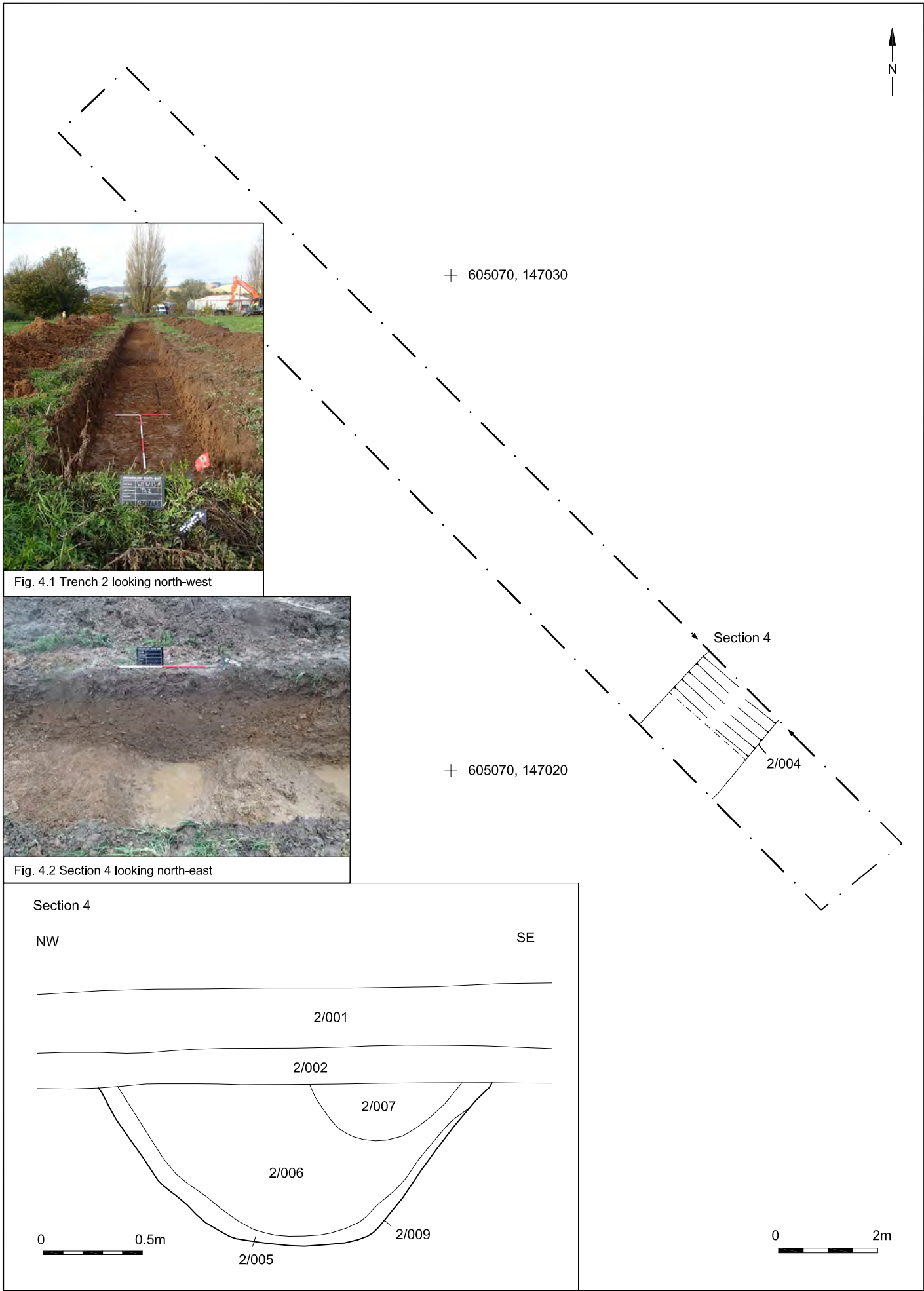
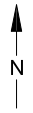


Fig. 4.1 Trench 2 looking north-west

Fig. 4.2 Section 4 looking north-east

© Archaeology South-East		Wye Court Farm, Wye	Fig. 4
Project Ref: 5873	November 2013	Trench 2 plan, section and photograph	
Report Ref: 2013313	Drawn by: RHC		

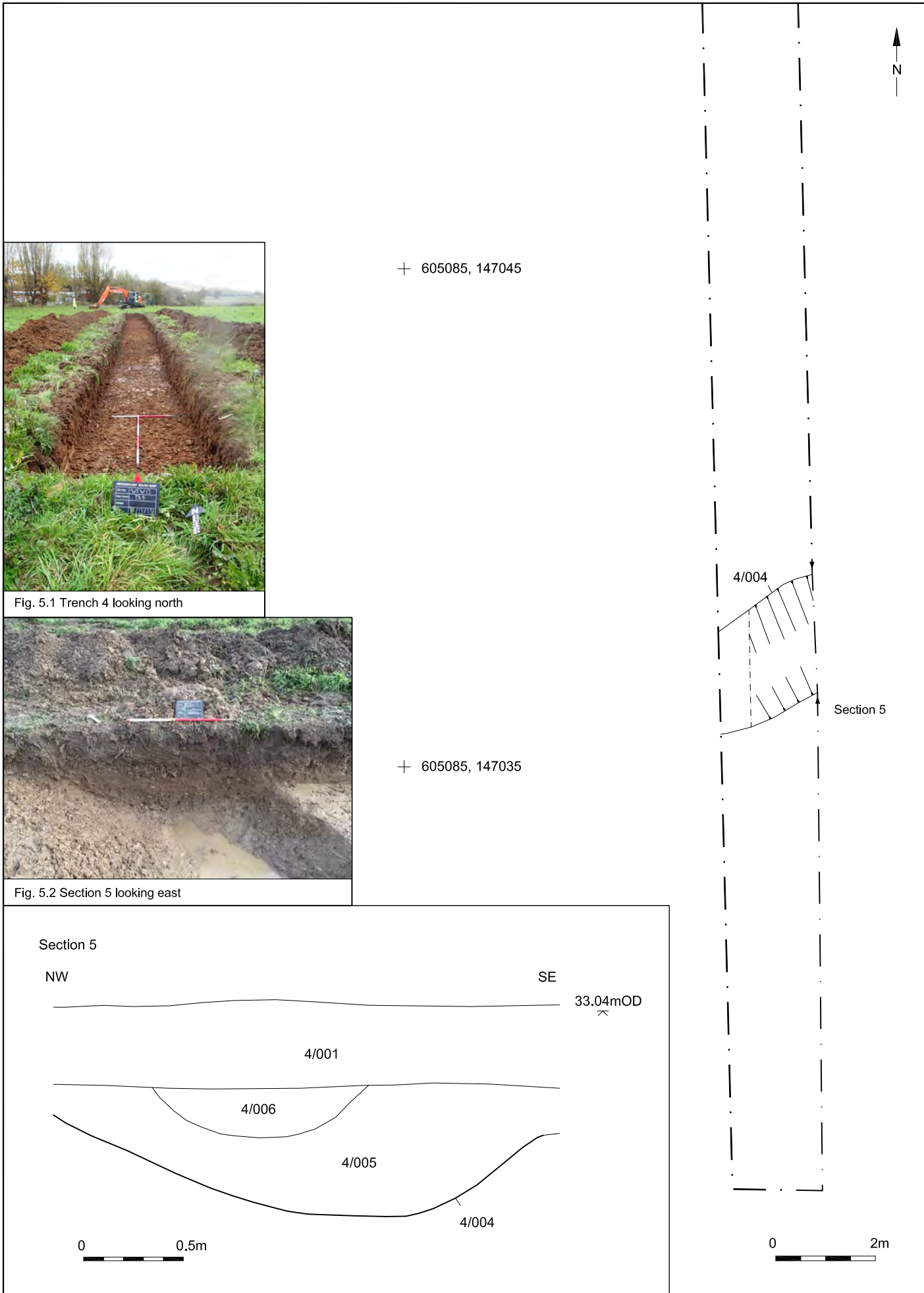


Fig. 5.1 Trench 4 looking north



Fig. 5.2 Section 5 looking east

Section 5

NW

SE

33.04mOD

4/001

4/006

4/005

4/004

0 0.5m

0 2m

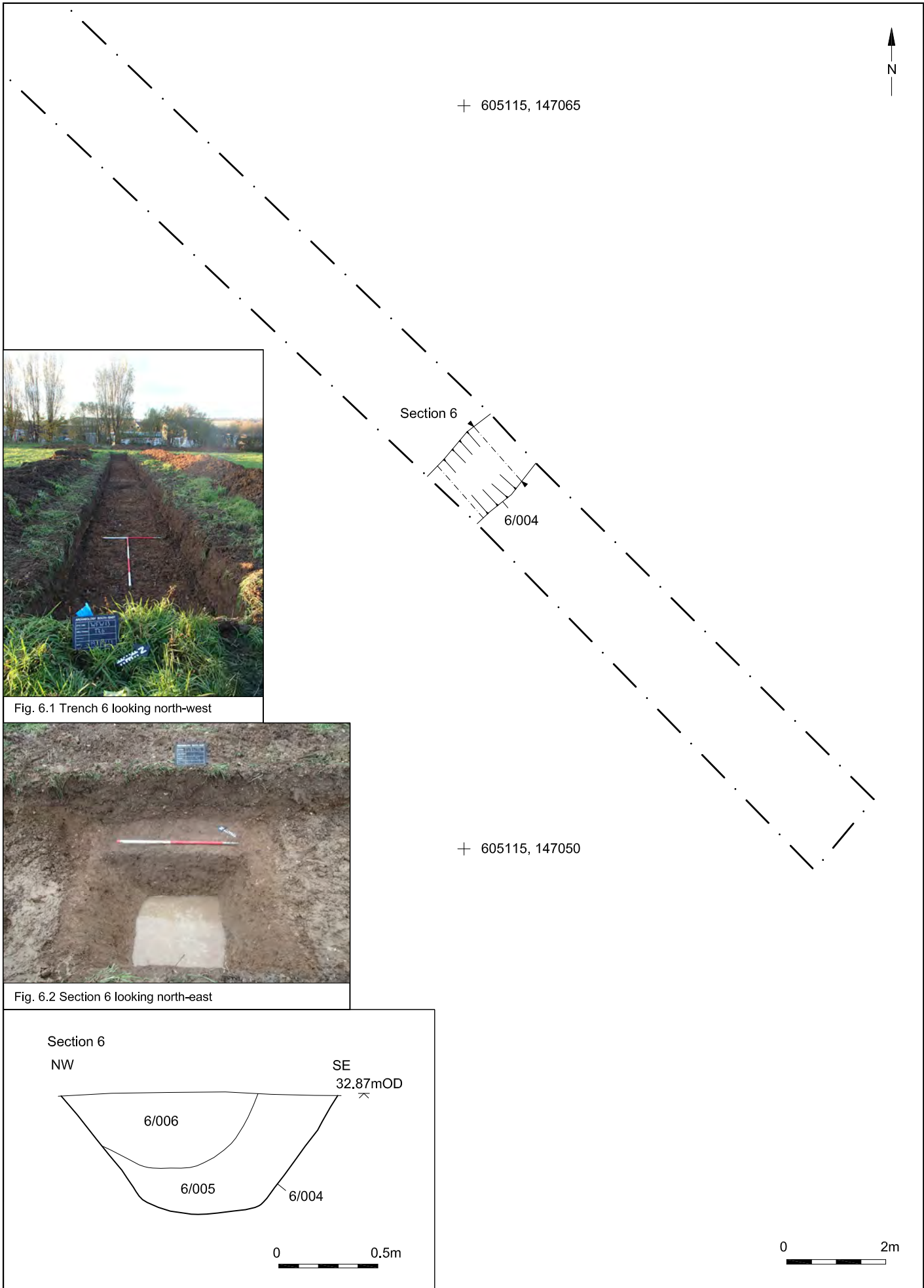
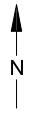


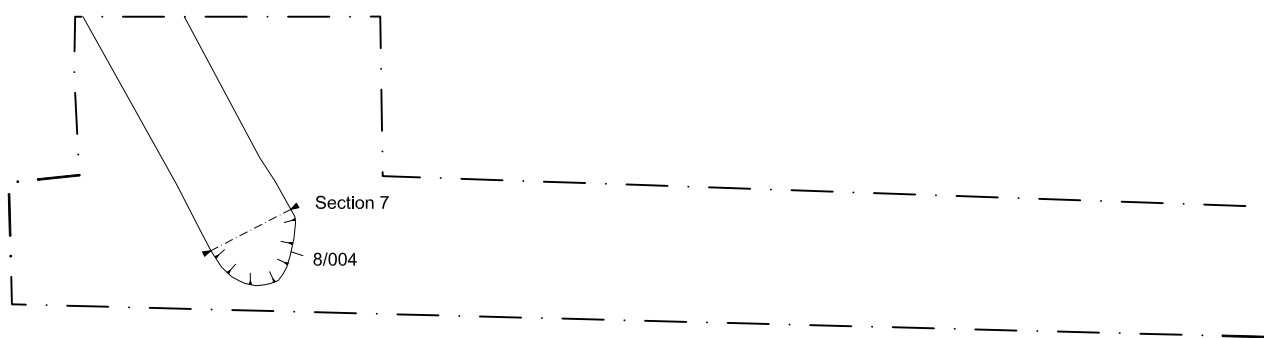
Fig. 6.1 Trench 6 looking north-west

Fig. 6.2 Section 6 looking north-east

© Archaeology South-East		Wye Court Farm, Wye	Fig. 6
Project Ref: 5873	November 2013	Trench 6 plan, section and photograph	
Report Ref: 2013313	Drawn by: RHC		



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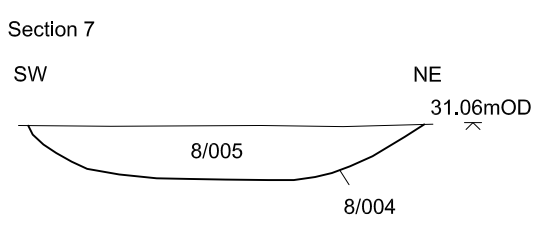


Fig. 7.1 Trench 8 looking north

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Project Ref: 5873	November 2013	Trench 8 plan, sections and photographs	
Report Ref: 2013313	Drawn by: RHC		

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