

**Archaeological Watching Brief Report
Hemstead Forest Equestrian Centre
Benenden, Kent**

NGR: TQ 80442 34743

Planning Ref: TWBC 13/01338/FULMJ

**ASE Project No: 6372
Site Code: HEN13**

**ASE Report No: 2014020
OASIS id: archaeol6-168529**



By Catherine Douglas

**Archaeological Watching Brief Report
Hemstead Forest Equestrian Centre
Benenden, Kent**

NGR: TQ 80442 34743

Planning Ref: TWBC 13/01338/FULMJ

**ASE Project No: 6372
Site Code: HEN13**

**ASE Report No: 2014020
OASIS id: archaeol6-168529**

By Catherine Douglas

January 2014

**Archaeology South-East
Units 1 & 2
2 Chapel Place
Portslade
East Sussex
BN41 1DR**

**Tel: 01273 426830
Fax: 01273 420866
Email: fau@ucl.ac.uk**

Abstract

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 Andrew Hobbs to undertake an archaeological watching brief during development works at Hemstead Forest Equestrian Centre, Benenden, Kent, TN17 4AJ, (centred on NGR: TQ 80442 34743).

No significant archaeological findings were made. A single undated ditch with a ceramic land drain inserted into the base is likely to be 19th-20th century in date.

CONTENTS

- 1.0 Introduction**
- 2.0 Archaeological Background**
- 3.0 Archaeological Methodology**
- 4.0 Results**
- 5.0 Discussion and Conclusions**

Bibliography
Acknowledgements

Appendix 1: Archaeological sites within 1km of the study area
Appendix 2: HER Summary
Appendix 2: OASIS Form

TABLES

Table 1: Quantification of site archive
Table 2: List of recorded contexts

FIGURES

Figure 1: Site location including sites within 1km of the study area
Figure 2: Monitored area
Figure 3: North facing section of ditch [06]

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 Andrew Hobbs to undertake an archaeological watching brief during development works at Hemstead Forest Equestrian Centre, Benenden, Kent, TN17 4AJ, (centred on NGR: TQ 80442 34743; Figure 1).

1.2 Geology and Topography

1.2.1 The site is bounded by Goldford Road to the east and surrounded by green fields and woodland, with Little Farningham Wood to the west.

1.2.2 According to the British Geological Survey 1:50,000 map (BGS 2014) the bedrock geology of the site is Tunbridge Wells Sand Formation.

1.3 Planning Background

1.3.1 Planning permission for the construction of a horse riding arena, or sand school, south of Hemstead Forest Equestrian centre, was granted by Tunbridge Wells Borough Council (Ref: TWBC 13/01338/FULMJ). The Local Planning Authority placed the following condition on the planning consent:

'No development shall take place until the applicant, or their agents or successors in title, has secured the implementation of a watching brief to be undertaken by an archaeologist approved by the Local Planning Authority so that the excavation is observed and items of interest and finds are recorded. The watching brief shall be in accordance with a written programme and specification, which has been submitted to and approved by the Local Planning Authority'

'Reason: To ensure that features of archaeological interest are properly examined and recorded.'

1.3.2 A standard specification for archaeological watching brief was supplied by KCC (2007).

1.4 Aims and Objectives

1.4.1 The objectives of the archaeological watching brief, as stated in the KCC specification for archaeological watching brief, were to:

'contribute to heritage knowledge of the area through the recording of the archaeological remains exposed as a result of excavations in connection with the groundworks.'

1.5 Scope of Report

- 1.5.1 This report presents the findings from the archaeological watching brief carried out on 17th-18th December 2013. The fieldwork was undertaken by Catherine Douglas and Susan Chandler. The project was managed by Neil Griffin (fieldwork) and by Dan Swift (post-excavation).

2.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 Introduction

- 2.1.1 The Historic Environment Record maintained by Kent County Council and held at Maidstone, was consulted and details were taken of all archaeological sites within 1km of the study area. Relevant sites are tabulated in Appendix 1 (Figure 1). Listed buildings and post-medieval sites have been omitted from this table.
- 2.1.2 No Prehistoric or Anglo-Saxon sites have been located within 1km of the site. A number of historic farmsteads lie within close proximity to the site. These have not been plotted on Figure 1.

2.2 Roman site summaries

- 2.2.1 The site lies near to the Benenden to Canterbury Roman road, and not far from the Rochester-Maidstone-Hastings Roman Road. A number Roman sites of sites have been located within 1km of the site, suggesting there is some potential for the presence of Roman archaeology within the study area.
- 2.2.1 At Cranbrook a Roman iron-working site was excavated in the 1950s/60s; the foundations of a small building and associated pottery, stamped tiles and iron-working equipment were located on site. In 2000, excavations west of the scheduled monument found a Roman road surface, ditches and hearths.
- 2.2.2 Romano-British glass, a Samian dish and fragments of a coarseware pot were found near Hemstead Brickworks near Benenden School. The artefacts were found just outside the kiln.
- 2.2.3 A hollow and agger at Folley Gill are thought to relate to the Roman road from Rochester to Hastings.
- 2.2.4 A Roman copper alloy brooch and an unidentified copper alloy object were also located within 1km of the site.

2.3 Post-medieval

- 2.3.1 The site can be traced back as far as 1870 on the Ordnance Survey map. It appears to have remained an undeveloped green field bounded by Chittenden farm to the north.

3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY

3.1 Fieldwork Methodology (Figure 2)

- 3.1.1 All intrusive ground works were monitored by an archaeologist to the level of the natural sand geology. A mechanical tracked excavator fitted with a flat blade toothless ditching bucket was used for removal of material above undisturbed natural subsoil. All hand and machine excavations undertaken by the ground work contractor were undertaken with due regard for the potential to encounter archaeological remains.
- 3.1.2 A rectangular area measuring 21m x 19.40m in the south-east corner of the sand school was excavated to the level of the geology. An L-shaped area around this, in the centre of the sand school measuring 21m x 60m, was excavated to the level of the subsoil. No ground reduction occurred in the west side of the building, as the ground here will need to be raised to reach the required floor level.
- 3.1.3 Overburden deposits (e.g. demolition material, modern made ground) were removed and excavation continued to the surface of natural geology whereupon archaeological features were exposed. Care was taken not to machine off seemingly homogenous layers that might have been the upper parts of archaeological features.
- 3.1.4 The areas were CAT scanned to detect any live services prior to excavation, and all machining was carried out under the supervision of a qualified archaeologist.
- 3.1.5 The spoil from the excavations was also inspected by archaeologists to recover artefacts or ecofacts of archaeological interest.
- 3.1.6 The areas were left open to allow for potential weathering out of features, and inspected regularly. A single linear feature was excavated in 3 sondages and recorded in section, plan and by written record using standard ASE recording sheets.
- 3.1.7 All excavated deposits and features were recorded according to current professional standards. Features were hand-planned at a scale of 1:20 and levelled using a dumpy level after excavation. Sections were drawn at a scale of 1:10.

3.2 The Site Archive

3.3.1 The site archive is currently held at the offices of ASE and will be deposited at a suitable local museum in due course. The contents of the archive are tabulated below (Table 1).

Number of Contexts	9
No. of files/paper record	1
Plan and sections sheets	1
Bulk Samples	0
Photographs	18
Bulk finds	0
Registered finds	0
Environmental flots/residue	0

Table 1: Quantification of site archive

4.0 RESULTS (Figure 3)

4.0.1 All archaeological contexts encountered during the watching brief have been summarised in Table 2, below.

Context	Type	Description	Max. Length m	Max. Width m	Deposit Thickness m	Height m AOD
01	Layer	Topsoil	>62	>30	0.20	-
02	Layer	Subsoil	>62	>19.40	0.13	-
03	Layer	Natural	>21	>19.40	-	85.33
04	Cut	Ditch cut	>24.20	0.71	0.12	-
05	Fill	Ditch fill	>1.00	0.71	0.12	-
06	Cut	Ditch cut	>24.20	1.20	0.40	-
07	Fill	Ditch fill	>1.00	1.20	0.40	-
08	Cut	Ditch cut	>24.20	0.78	0.27	-
09	Fill	Ditch fill	>24.20	0.78	0.27	-

Table 2: List of recorded contexts

4.0.2 The natural substrate [03] comprised orange and blue mottled compact silty clay. The field undulated and the ground was generally higher in the south-east corner, sloping down towards the north-west. The clay [03] was encountered at 85.33m AOD in the north-east corner of the sand school. As the ground was higher towards the west, it was not necessary to strip the topsoil and subsoil down to this level on the west side of the sand school.

4.0.3 A single ditch [04][06][08] was encountered near the east end of the site on a north-north-east/south-south-west axis. Three sondages were excavated at regular intervals, which revealed a bowl shaped profile and single silty clay fill with occasional sandstone inclusions. No finds were retrieved from any of the sondages, and a ceramic land drain had been inserted into the base. The ditch extended beyond the limit of the excavation area measuring a length greater than 24.20m by a maximum width of 1.20m and depth of 0.27m. It does not appear on the 1938-1951 ordnance survey map, so it is likely to be earlier than mid-20th century, but unlikely to be older than mid-19th century.

4.0.4 No artefacts or other archaeological features were encountered.

4.0.5 The clay geology [03] was overlain by a layer of silty clay subsoil [02] measuring a thickness of 0.13m.

4.0.6 This in turn was overlain by a layer of silty clay topsoil [01] measuring a thickness of 0.20m.

5.0 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

- 5.1 No archaeological features or artefacts were encountered relating to the Roman Road to the west of the site.
- 5.2 A single undated ditch with a ceramic land drain inserted into the base is likely to be 19th-20th century in date.
- 5.3 On the basis of the watching brief, the development is considered unlikely to impact upon significant archaeological remains.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Kent County Council 2007. *Standard Specification for an Archaeological Watching Brief/evaluation/excavation*

Ordnance Survey 1938-1951 map of Kent

Ordnance Survey 1870 map of Kent

Websites

www.bgs.ac.uk – accessed on 13/01/14

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

ASE would like to thank Andrew Hobbs for commissioning the work and for his assistance throughout the project, and Kent County Council for his guidance and monitoring. The excavation was directed by Catherine Douglas. The author would like to thank all archaeologists who worked on the excavations; Justin Russel who produced the figures for this report; Neil Griffin who project managed the excavations and Dan Swift who project managed the post-excavation process.

Appendix 1: List of sites within 1km of the study area

Figure 1 No.	HER No.	NGR (TQ, unless otherwise indicated)	Location	Description
1	TQ 83 NW 3	8012 3522	Cranbrook	Roman iron-working site excavated in 1950s/60s; the foundations of a small building and associated pottery, stamped tiles, and iron working apparatus.
2	TQ83 NW 3	8012 3522	Cranbrook	Roman road surfaces, ditches, hearths found in later excavations west of the scheduled monument in 2000.
3	TQ 83 SW 8	8009 3402	Near the site of Hemsted Brickworks, Benenden	Romano-British glass, a Samian dish and fragments of a coarseware pot were found near Hemsted Brickworks near Benenden School. The artefacts were found just outside the kiln.
4	TQ 83 NW 21	80093 35553	Close to Folly Gil	A hollow and agger probably relate to the Roman road from Rochester to Hastings
5	TQ 83 SW 46	80807 34152	Beach House, Benenden	A small survey using a metal detector located a linear iron slag deposit that may represent the Roman road to the Ashford area
6	TQ 74 SE 36	7836 4023	Rochester-Maidstone-Hastings	Roman road, (Kent-East Sussex), running from Rochester - Maidstone - Hastings. 43 AD to 409 AD
7	TQ 93 NE 66	TQ 97380 45608	Benenden to Canterbury	Roman road running from Benenden to Canterbury via Ashford
8	TQ 83 SW 246	8014 3379	Benenden School	'Box of finds' of items accumulated in and around Beneden School suggest the presence of Roman buildings. The location at a junction of two Roman roads hints at the possibility of a small roadside settlement
9	MKE74587	80200 35600	Findspot	Roman copper alloy brooch
10	MKE75619	80100 35300	Findspot	Roman copper alloy unidentified object
11	MKE81116	7957 3498	Folly Farm	Historic farmstead
12	TQ 83 SW 250	TQ 8029 3387	Benenden - Landscape	Park (Medieval to Modern - 1216 AD? to 2050 AD)
13	TQ 83 SW 28	8005 3403	Hemsted Brickworks, Benenden	The Hemsted Brickworks operated in the 18th century and is marked on an estate plan from 1779. Two brick firing tunnels are all that remain.
14	TQ 83 NW 35	80451 35483	House to north of West Farningham Oast	Grade II listed building: farmhouse, main construction periods 1500 to 1999
15	TQ 83 SW 132	8024 3380	Hemsted House Benenden School	Grade II listed building. Main construction periods 1859 to 1965

Appendix 2: HER Summary

Site Code	HEN13					
Identification Name and Address	Hemstead Forest Equestrian Centre, Benenden, kent, TN17 4AJ					
County, District &/or Borough	Kent					
OS Grid Refs.	NGR: TQ 80442 34743					
Geology	Tunbridge Wells Sand Formation with overlying clay					
Arch. South-East Project Number	6372					
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.	Excav.	WB. 17 th -18 th December	Other		
Sponsor/Client	Andrew Hobbs					
Project Manager	Neil Griffin					
Project Supervisor	Catherine Douglas					
Period Summary	Palaeo.	Meso.	Neo.	BA	IA	RB
	AS	MED	PM	Other Modern		
<p>Summary</p> <p>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 Andrew Hobbs to undertake an archaeological watching brief during development works at Hemstead Forest Equestrian Centre, Benenden, Kent, TN17 4AJ, (centred on NGR: TQ 80442 34743).</p> <p>No significant archaeological findings were made. A single undated ditch with a ceramic land drain inserted into the base is likely to be 19th-20th century in date.</p>						

Appendix 3: Oasis form

OASIS ID: archaeol6-168529

Project details

Project name	An Archaeological Watching Brief at Hemstead Forest Equestrian Centre, Benenden, Kent
Short description of the project	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 Andrew Hobbs to undertake an archaeological watching brief during development works at Hemstead Forest Equestrian Centre, Benenden, Kent, TN17 4AJ, (centred on NGR: TQ 80442 34743). No significant archaeological findings were made. A single undated ditch with a ceramic land drain inserted into the base is likely to be 19th-20th century in date.
Project dates	Start: 17-12-2013 End: 18-12-2013
Previous/future work	No / Not known
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	None
Current Land use	Cultivated Land 1 - Minimal cultivation
Monument type	ROMAN ROAD - CATERBURY-BENENDED Roman
Monument type	HOLLOW AND AGGER Roman
Monument type	ROAD - KENT-EAST SUSSEX Roman
Significant Finds	POTTERY Roman
Significant Finds	STAMPED TILES Roman
Significant Finds	IRON-WORKING APPARATUS Roman
Significant Finds	COPPER ALLOY BROOCH Roman
Investigation type	"Watching Brief"
Prompt	Planning condition

Project location

Country	England
Site location	KENT TUNBRIDGE WELLS BENENDEN Hemstead Forest Equestrian Centre, Benenden, Kent
Postcode	TN17 4AJ
Study area	60.00 Square metres
Site coordinates	TQ 80442 34743 51 0 51 04 58 N 000 34 35 E Point
Height OD /	Min: 85.33m Max: 85.33m

Depth

Project creators

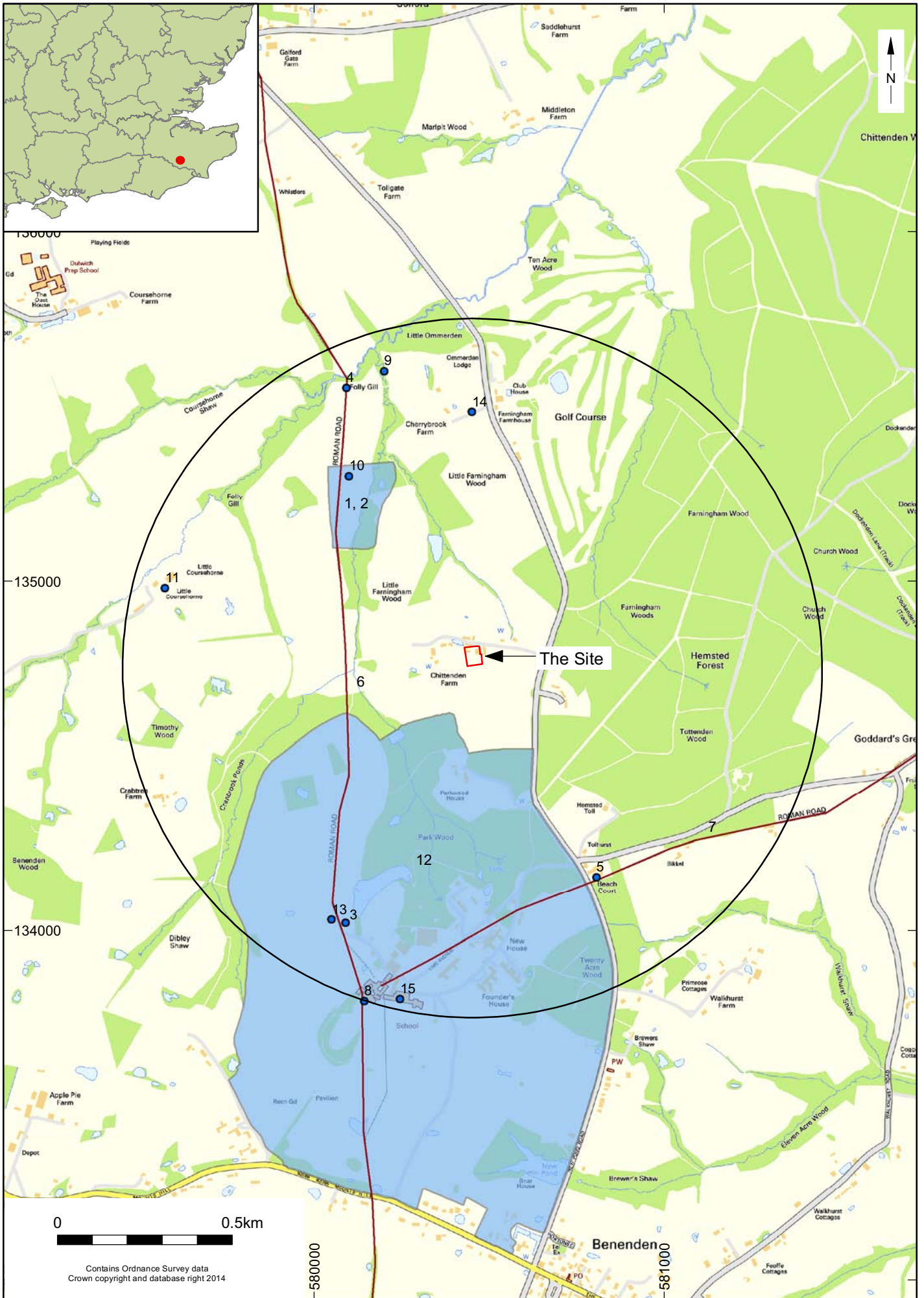
Name of Organisation	Archaeology South-East
Project brief originator	Kent County Council
Project design originator	Archaeology South-East
Project director/manager	Neil Griffin
Project supervisor	Catherine Douglas
Type of sponsor/funding body	Client
Name of sponsor/funding body	Andrew Hobbs

Project archives

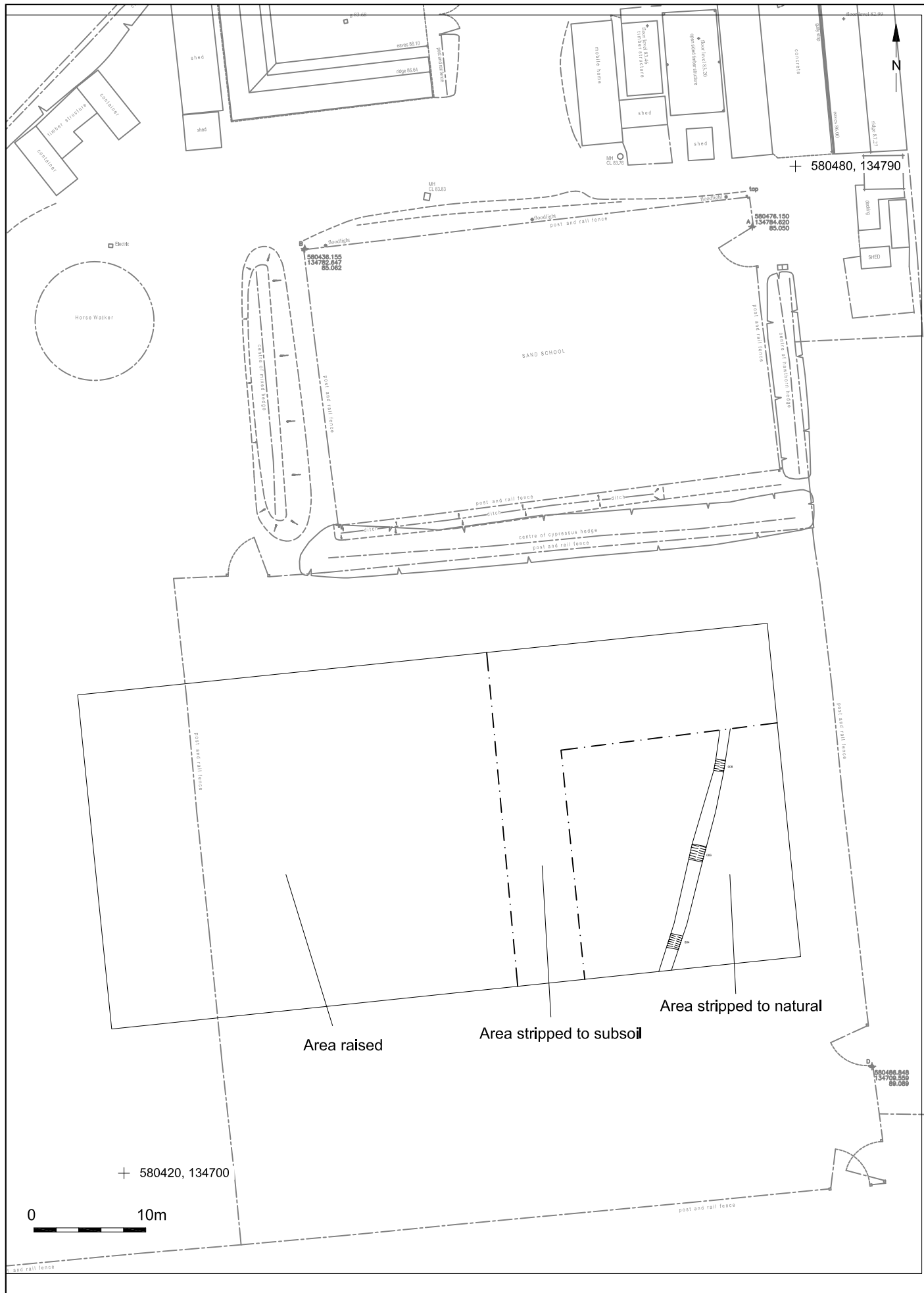
Physical Archive Exists?	No
Digital Archive recipient	Local Museum
Digital Media available	"Database","Images raster / digital photography"
Paper Archive recipient	Local Museum
Paper Media available	"Context sheet","Drawing","Map","Photograph","Plan","Report","Section"

Entered by Catherine Douglas (catherine.douglas@ucl.ac.uk)

Entered on 14 January 2014



© Archaeology South-East		Hemstead Forest Equestrian Centre		Fig. 1
Project Ref: 6372	January 2014	Site location, study area and archaeological data		
Report Ref: 2014020	Drawn by: RHC			



© Archaeology South-East		Hemstead Forest Equestrian Centre		Fig. 2
Project Ref: 6372	January 2014	Plan of monitored areas		
Report Ref: 2014020	Drawn by: RHC			

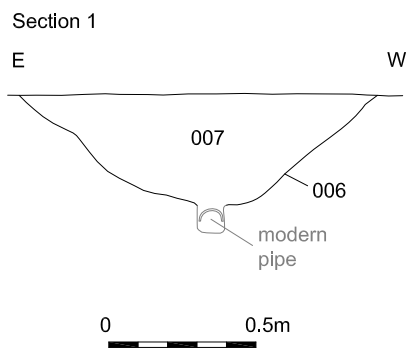
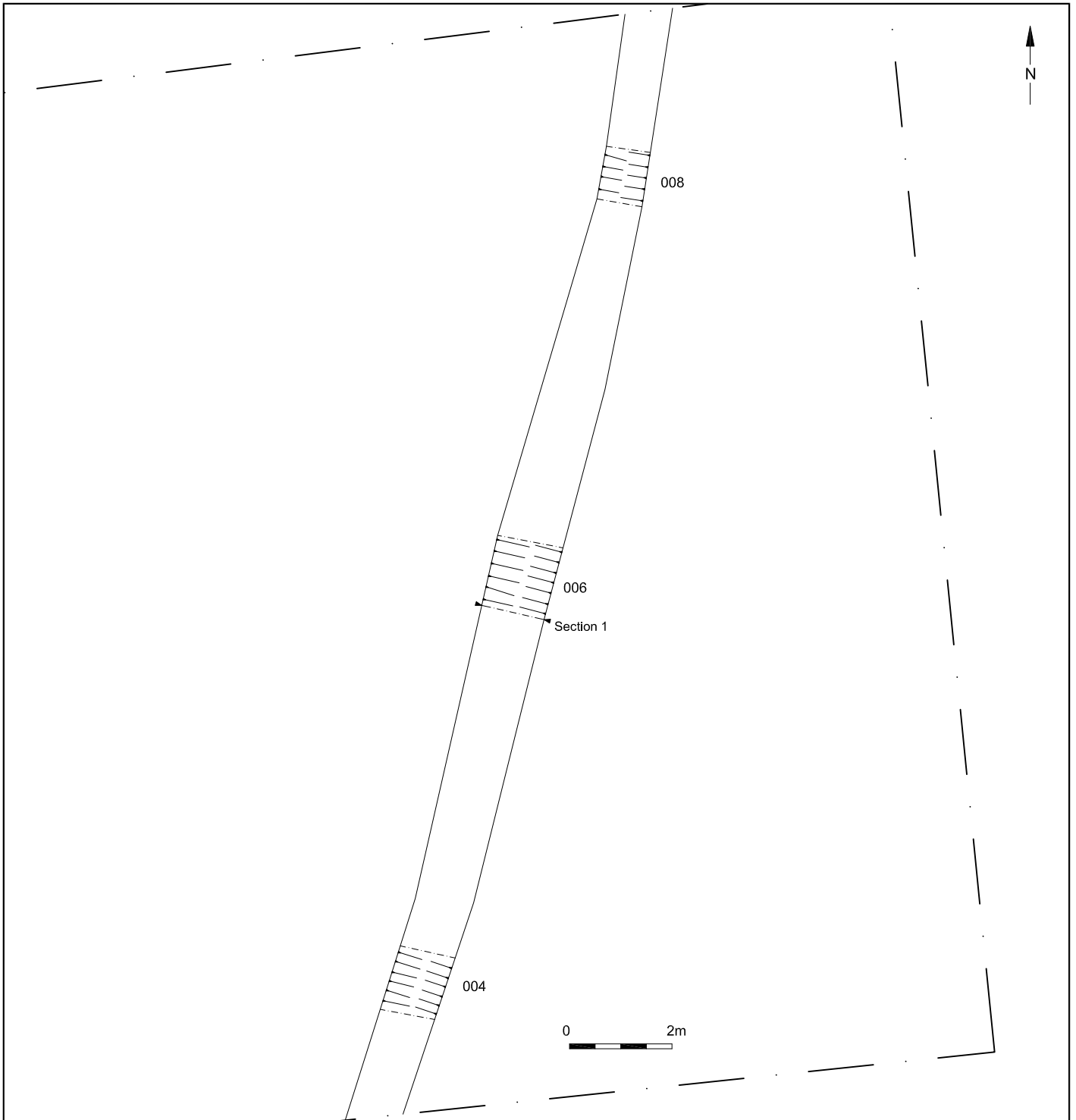


Fig. 3.1 Feature [006] looking south

© Archaeology South-East		Hemstead Forest Equestrian Centre	Fig. 3
Project Ref: 6372	January 2014	Feature [006] plan, section and photograph	
Report Ref: 2014020	Drawn by: RHC		

Head Office
Units 1 & 2
2 Chapel Place
Portslade
East Sussex BN41 1DR
Tel: +44(0)1273 426830 Fax: +44(0)1273 420866
email: fau@ucl.ac.uk
Web: www.archaeologyse.co.uk



London Office
Centre for Applied Archaeology
Institute of Archaeology
University College London
31-34 Gordon Square, London, WC1 0PY
Tel: +44(0)20 7679 4778
Fax: +44(0)20 7383 2572
Web: www.ucl.ac.uk/caa

The contracts division of the Centre for Applied Archaeology, University College London 

©Archaeology South-East