

**Archaeological Evaluation Report  
Westwood Cross, Thanet  
Kent**

**NGR: TR 36455 67441**

**Planning Ref: F/TH/12/0781**

**ASE Project No: 6729  
Site Code: TWE14**

**ASE Report No: 2014159  
OASIS id: archaeol6-179227**



**Catherine Douglas**

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**Abstract**

*Archaeology South-East was commissioned by CgMs Ltd, to undertake an archaeological evaluation by trial trenching on land at Westwood Cross, Thanet, Kent. Five trenches were excavated.*

*A single undated post hole containing a piece of struck flint was identified in Trench 2, and a sherd of medieval pottery was retrieved from the topsoil in Trench 5.*

*Some degree of modern truncation was identified in Trench 1, but the paucity of archaeology in the other trenches and the survival of an intact subsoil horizon suggest a lack of past activity on the site.*

## **CONTENTS**

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

**Bibliography**  
**Acknowledgements**

**HER Summary**  
**OASIS Form**

## **FIGURES**

Figure 1: Site location  
Figure 2: Site plan  
Figure 3: Trench 2  
Figure 4: Photos of trenches 1, 2 , 3 and 5

## **TABLES**

Table 1: Quantification of site archive  
Table 2: Trench 2 list of recorded contexts  
Table 3: Trenches 1, 3, 4 and 5 list of recorded contexts

## **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 Ltd, to undertake an archaeological evaluation by trial trenching on land at Westwood Cross, Thanet, Kent, centred on NGR: TR 36455 67441.

### **1.2 Geology and Topography**

1.2.1 The site is situated on land south of the Westwood Cross Shopping Centre, bounded by New Haine Road to the South. The site currently comprises overgrown land, with a former commercial unit and attendant hard-standing to the west, open land to the south and commercial units and car-parking to the north and east. (CgMs 2014).

1.2.2 According to the British Geological Survey 1:50,000 mapping, the underlying geology of the site comprises Thanet Formation sand, silt and clay. (BGS 2014)

### **1.3 Planning Background**

1.3.1 Planning permission was granted for the commercial redevelopment of the site (planning ref: F/TH/12/0781) with the following conditions attached to the granting of planning consent:

*“7) No development shall take place, apart from demolition, on land defined as phase 2a of the development within the ‘Phase 2 Application Boundary’ (the full application boundary) identified on drawing 2701-P-62 Rev C until the applicant, or their agents or successors in title, has secured the implementation of the following in relation to that phase:*

*(i) Archaeological field evaluation works in accordance with a specification and written timetable which has been submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority; and*

*(ii) Following on from the evaluation, any safeguarding measures to ensure preservation in situ of important archaeological remains and/or further archaeological investigation and recording in accordance with a specification and timetable which has been submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority.*

**GROUND:**

*To ensure that due regard is had to the preservation in situ of important archaeological remains in accordance with advice in the NPPF.*

*8) No development shall take place, apart from demolition on land defined as phase 2b of the development within the ‘Phase 2 Application Boundary’ (the full application boundary) identified on drawing 2701-P-62 Rev C until the applicant, or their agents or successors in title, has secured the*

*implementation of the following in relation to that phase:*

*(iii) Archaeological field evaluation works in accordance with a specification and written timetable which has been submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority; and*

*(iv) Following on from the evaluation, any safeguarding measures to ensure preservation in situ of important archaeological remains and/or further archaeological investigation and recording in accordance with a specification and timetable which has been submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority.*

**GROUND:**

*To ensure that due regard is had to the preservation in situ of important archaeological remains in accordance with advice in the NPPF.”*

- 1.3.2 A specification was prepared (CgMs 2011b), in consultation with Wendy Rogers, Kent County Council (KCC) Archaeological Advisor, detailing the aims and written timetable for the archaeological evaluation.

#### **1.4 Aims and Objectives**

- 1.4.1 Evaluation of the proposed petrol station site, which had not been previously archaeologically investigated, aimed to determine whether archaeological remains survive on this part of the site and to provide an assessment of their significance if present. This information will be used by Kent County Council to inform the necessity for any further work.
- 1.4.2 The evaluation on the site of the proposed petrol station was designed to ascertain the location, extent, date, character, condition and significance of any surviving remains.

#### **1.5 Scope of Report**

- 1.5.1 This report presents the results of the archaeological evaluation undertaken by ASE between the 14<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup> May 2014 on land at Westwood Cross, Thanet, Kent. The field work was directed by Catherine Douglas with the assistance of Steve Price. The field work was managed by Paul Mason, and the post excavation work was managed by Jim Stevenson and Dan Swift.

## **2.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND**

### **2.1 Overview**

2.1.1 The following archaeological background is taken from an archaeological desk-based study of the site (CgMs 2011a), the specification for archaeological evaluation (CgMs 2014b) and the Kent HER, together with programmes of previous evaluation fieldwork.

2.1.2 The site is considered to have potential for the later prehistoric and Roman periods. The impact of previous development is believed to be concentrated within the northern and eastern parts of the Phase 2a-2b area, due to the construction of the former Antolin building to the west, and the Sainsbury's and MacDonalds buildings to the north and east, with attendant car-park hard-standing.

### **2.2 Recent work**

2.2.1 Previous evaluation to the north of the Antolin Building (Archaeology South East, August 2010) revealed no archaeological finds or features. Archaeological evaluation of the south-western part of the study site (Archaeology South East, December 2011) revealed a background of Mesolithic and Neolithic flintwork, together with a focus of Romano-British activity to the south-east.

### **3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY**

- 3.1 The archaeological evaluation comprised the machine excavation under archaeological supervision of 5 archaeological trial trenches in a predetermined pattern within the footprint of the proposed petrol station (Figure 2). The locations of Trenches 1 and 2 were altered slightly from those described in the specification (CgMs 2011b) in order to avoid a haul road. Each trench measured 30m in length by 1.8m in width.
- 3.2 The trenches were accurately located using a Digital Global Positioning System (DGPS).
- 3.3 All trenches were scanned prior to excavation using a CAT scanner
- 3.4 Trenches were mechanically excavated using a toothless ditching bucket and under constant archaeological supervision.
- 3.5 Machine excavation continued to the top of archaeological deposits or the surface of geological drift deposits, whichever was uppermost. Where required, the exposed sub-soil or archaeological horizon was cleaned by hand immediately after machine stripping and any archaeological deposits or negative features were planned.
- 3.6 All areas were left open to allow for potential weathering out of features, and inspected regularly. The single discreet feature encountered during the evaluation was half sectioned and recorded before being fully excavated.
- 3.7 All excavated deposits and features were recorded according to current professional standards using the ASE recording sheets. Post-excavation plans were made both by digital means and by hand planning at a scale of 1:20. Sections were drawn at a scale of 1:10. All features were photographed and levelled with reference to Ordnance Datum.
- 3.8 All finds were collected and retained.
- 3.9 Backfilling and compaction was undertaken by the machine on completion of the work, but there was no reinstatement to existing condition.
- 3.10 The site archive is currently held at the offices of ASE and will be deposited at Thanet Museum in due course. The contents of the archive are tabulated below (Table 1).

Number of Contexts	24
No. of files/paper record	1
Plan and sections sheets	1
Photographs	17
Bulk finds	1 bag

Table 1: Quantification of site archive



## 4.0 RESULTS

### 4.1 Trench 2 (Figures 3 and 4)

4.1.1 Trench 2 measured 30m by 1.80m, and was excavated to a maximum depth of 1.09m below ground surface level. All contexts encountered in Trench 2 have been summarised in Table 2, below.

Context	Type	Description	Max. Length m	Max. Width m	Deposit Thickness m
2/01	Cut	Post hole	0.37	0.34	0.13
2/02	Fill	Post hole fill	0.37	0.34	0.13
2/03	Layer	Chalk levelling layer	>30.00	>1.80	0.18-0.24
2/04	Layer	Make up layer	>30.00	>1.80	0.30
2/05	Layer	Subsoil	>30.00	>30.00	0.22-0.38
2/06	Layer	Natural	>30.00	>30.00	>0.16

Table 2: Trench 2 list of recorded contexts

4.1.2 The natural geology [2/06] comprised mid-yellowish brown sandy clay containing frequent pebble inclusions, and frequent angular flint stones ranging in size from 40mm to 200cm. This was encountered at 50.62m AOD.

4.1.3 A single undated post hole [2/01] was encountered in the north end of Trench 2. It had an oval shape and measured 0.37m in length by 0.34m in width, and had a depth of 0.13m. It contained a single dark grey-brown sandy fill [2/02] containing a single piece of struck flint. The posthole was half sectioned, and recorded before being fully excavated, but no dating evidence was retrieved.

4.1.4 The natural [2/06] was immediately overlain by a layer of mid grey-brown compact sandy clay subsoil [2/05]. This measured a thickness of 0.20m and contained occasional manganese and chalk flecks, moderate rounded stones, and occasional flint stones.

4.1.5 [2/05] was immediately overlain by another layer of made ground [2/04], similar in appearance and consistency to [2/05] but a slightly darker shade of brown. This also contained manganese, chalk and flint inclusions, and measured a thickness of 0.22 -0.34m.

4.1.6 The sandy clay made ground was immediately overlain by a layer of silt and chalk [2/03] which covered the entire site, and appeared to be a make-up or levelling layer, used to achieve a smooth level ground surface.

## 4.2 Trenches 1, 3, 4 and 5 (Figure 4)

4.2.1 Trenches 1, 3, 4 and 5 each measured a length of 30m by a width of 1.80m. No archaeological features were encountered in these trenches. All contexts encountered have been summarised in Table 3, below.

Trench Number	Context	Type	Description	Deposit Thickness m	Height m AOD
1	01	Layer	Made ground	0.15-0.25	51.15
1	02	Layer	Sandy Clay	0.22	-
1	03	Layer	Sandy clay	0.22	-
1	04	Layer	Chalk levelling	0.15	-
1	05	Deposit	Chalk dump	>0.36	-
1	06	Layer	Natural	>0.13	50.43
3	01	Layer	Chalk levelling	0.25	51.51
3	02	Layer	Levelling deposit	0.13-0.50	-
3	03	Layer	Made Ground	0.24	-
3	04	Layer	Subsoil	0.20	-
3	05	Layer	Natural	>0.10	50.69
4	01	Layer	Chalk levelling	0.21	51.27
4	02	Layer	Made ground	0.24	-
4	03	Layer	Made ground	0.25	-
4	04	Layer	Subsoil	0.10	-
4	05	Layer	Natural	>0.04	50.48
5	01	Layer	Topsoil	0.25	51.33
5	02	Layer	Subsoil	0.18	-
5	03	Layer	Silty Sand natural	0.30	-
5	04	Layer	Natural	0.08	50.17

Table 3: Trench 1, 3, 4, and 5 list of recorded contexts

4.2.2 The natural geology comprised mid yellowish brown sandy clay, containing a moderate quantity of flint stones, and occasional chalk flecks. The site was fairly level, and the geology was encountered at roughly the same level in each trench, ranging from 50.17m AOD in Trench 5 to 50.69m AOD in Trench 3. No archaeological finds or features were encountered.

4.2.3 The natural at the base of Trench 1 was truncated by a modern chalk 'dump' deposit [1/05], which would have truncated any archaeology existing at this level (50.43m AOD).

4.2.4 A layer of grey brown sandy clay subsoil immediately overlay the natural in Trenches 3, 4 and 5. This contained frequent chalk flecks and flints measuring 20-30mm. Any subsoil in trenches 1 and 2 appeared to have been truncated during previous development of the site, as the natural geology was immediately overlain by made ground.

4.2.5 A layer of silty clay topsoil overlay the subsoil in Trench 5, measuring a thickness of 0.25m. A single sherd of medieval pottery was retrieved from this layer.

4.2.6 Various layers of made ground and levelling deposits overlay the subsoil in Trenches 3 and 4, and immediately overlay the natural in Trenches 1 and 2. These were comprised of dark grey brown silty clay, containing frequent

chalk inclusions, and occasional stones and CBM.

- 4.2.7 The made ground in Trenches 1, 3, 4 and 5 was overlain by a chalk levelling deposit, measuring a thickness of around 0.25m.

## **5.0 THE FINDS**

### **5.1 Flintwork** by Karine Le Hégarat

- 5.1.1 A single piece of struck flint weighing 6g was recovered from the fill [2/002] of posthole [2/001] during archaeological work at the site. It consists of a relatively thin light brown flake with a cortical butt. It exhibits a flake scar removal on the dorsal surface but the piece of flint débitage is otherwise chronologically undiagnostic.

### **5.2 The Post-Roman Pottery** by Luke Barber

- 5.2.1 The evaluation recovered a single sherd of medieval pottery from context [5/001]. This consists of a 10g wide horizontal stabbed rim fragment from an oxidised bowl in Tyler Hill Sandy Ware.
- 5.2.2 The sherd, which shows a little sign of abrasion, probably dates to between c. 1275 and 1350.

**6.0 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS**

- 6.1 The sandy clay geology was encountered at the same level across the site, ranging from 50.17m to 50.69m AOD.
- 6.2 A single undated post hole containing a piece of undiagnostic struck flint was identified in Trench 2. This was the only archaeological feature encountered during the evaluation.
- 6.3 Some degree of modern truncation was identified in Trench 1, but the paucity of archaeology in the other trenches and the survival of an intact subsoil horizon suggests a lack of past activity on the site.

## **BIBLIOGRAPHY**

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Kent County Council 2007. *Standard Specification for an Archaeological evaluation*

## **Websites:**

[www.bgs.ac.uk](http://www.bgs.ac.uk) (accessed on 16/05/14)

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

ASE would like to thank CgMs for commissioning the work and for their assistance throughout the project, and Wendy Rogers, Kent County Council Archaeological Advisor for her guidance and monitoring. The excavation was directed by Catherine Douglas. The author would like to thank all archaeologists who worked on the excavations; Justin Russell who produced the figures for this report; Paul Mason who project-managed the excavations and Jim Stevenson who project-managed the post-excavation process.

**HER Summary**

Site Code	TWE14					
Identification Name and Address	Land at Westwood Cross, Thanet, Kent					
County, District &/or Borough	Kent					
OS Grid Refs.	TR 36455 67441					
Geology	Thanet Formation sand, silt and clay					
Arch. South-East Project Number	6729					
Type of Fieldwork	Eval.					
Type of Site						
Dates of Fieldwork	14 <sup>th</sup> -15 <sup>th</sup> May 2014					
Sponsor/Client	CgMs Consulting Ltd					
Project Manager	Paul Mason					
Project Supervisor	Catherine Douglas					
Period Summary						
<p>Summary</p> <p>Archaeology South-East was commissioned by CgMs Ltd, to undertake an archaeological evaluation by trial trenching on land at Westwood Cross, Thanet, Kent. Five trenches were excavated.</p> <p>A single undated post hole containing a piece of struck flint was identified in Trench 2, and a sherd of medieval pottery was retrieved from the topsoil in Trench 5.</p> <p>Some degree of modern truncation was identified in Trench 1, but the paucity of archaeology in the other trenches and the survival of an intact subsoil horizon suggest a lack of past activity on the site.</p>						

## OASIS Form

**OASIS ID: archaeol6-179227**

### Project details

Project name	An Archaeological Evaluation at Land at Westwood Cross, Thanet, Kent
Short description of the project	Archaeology South-East was commissioned by CgMs Ltd, to undertake an archaeological evaluation by trial trenching on land at Westwood Cross, Thanet, Kent. Five trenches were excavated. A single undated post hole containing a piece of struck flint was identified in Trench 2, and a sherd of medieval pottery was retrieved from the topsoil in Trench 5. Some degree of modern truncation was identified in Trench 1, but the paucity of archaeology in the other trenches and the survival of an intact subsoil horizon suggest a lack of past activity on the site.
Project dates	Start: 14-05-2014 End: 15-05-2014
Previous/future work	Yes / Not known
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Current Land use	Vacant Land 1 - Vacant land previously developed
Significant Finds	FLINTWORK Late Mesolithic
Significant Finds	FLINTWORK Neolithic
Methods & techniques	"Sample Trenches"
Development type	Urban commercial (e.g. offices, shops, banks, etc.)
Prompt	Planning condition
Position in the planning process	After full determination (eg. As a condition)

### Project location

Country	England
Site location	KENT THANET BROADSTAIRS AND ST PETERS Land at Westwood Cross, Thanet, Kent
Postcode	CT10 2QA
Study area	100.00 Square metres
Site coordinates	TR 36455 67441 51.35608962 1.39660081753 51 21 21 N 001 23 47 E Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 50.17m Max: 50.69m

### Project creators

Name of Organisation	Archaeology South-East
----------------------	------------------------



Project brief originator	Archaeology South-East
Project design originator	CgMs Consulting
Project director/manager	Paul Mason
Project supervisor	Catherine Douglas
Type of sponsor/funding body	CgMs Consulting

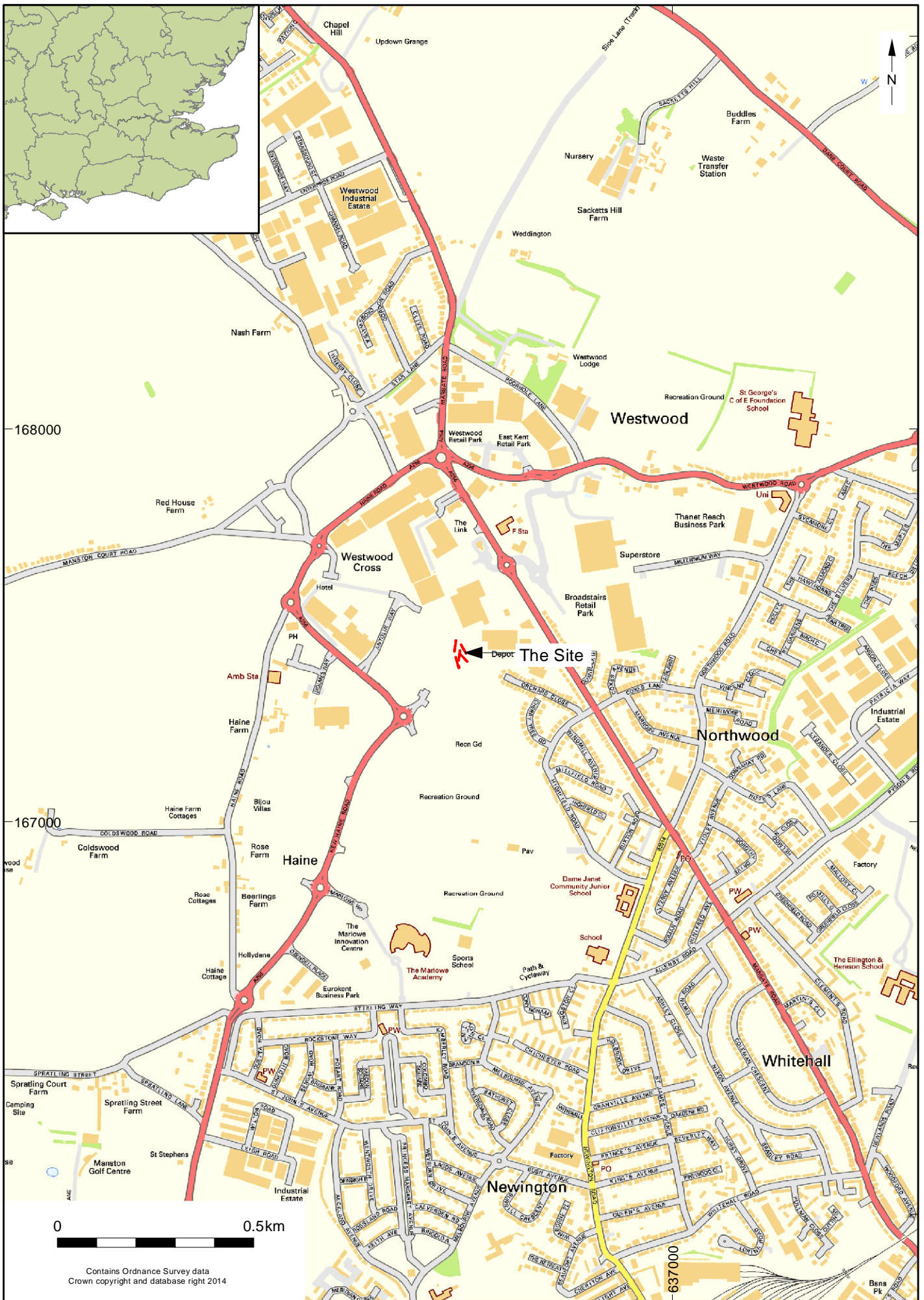
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**Project archives**

Physical Archive recipient	local museum
Physical Contents	"Worked stone/lithics"
Digital Archive recipient	local museum
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography","Survey","Text"
Paper Archive recipient	local museum
Paper Contents	"Survey"
Paper Media available	"Context sheet","Plan","Report","Section","Survey "

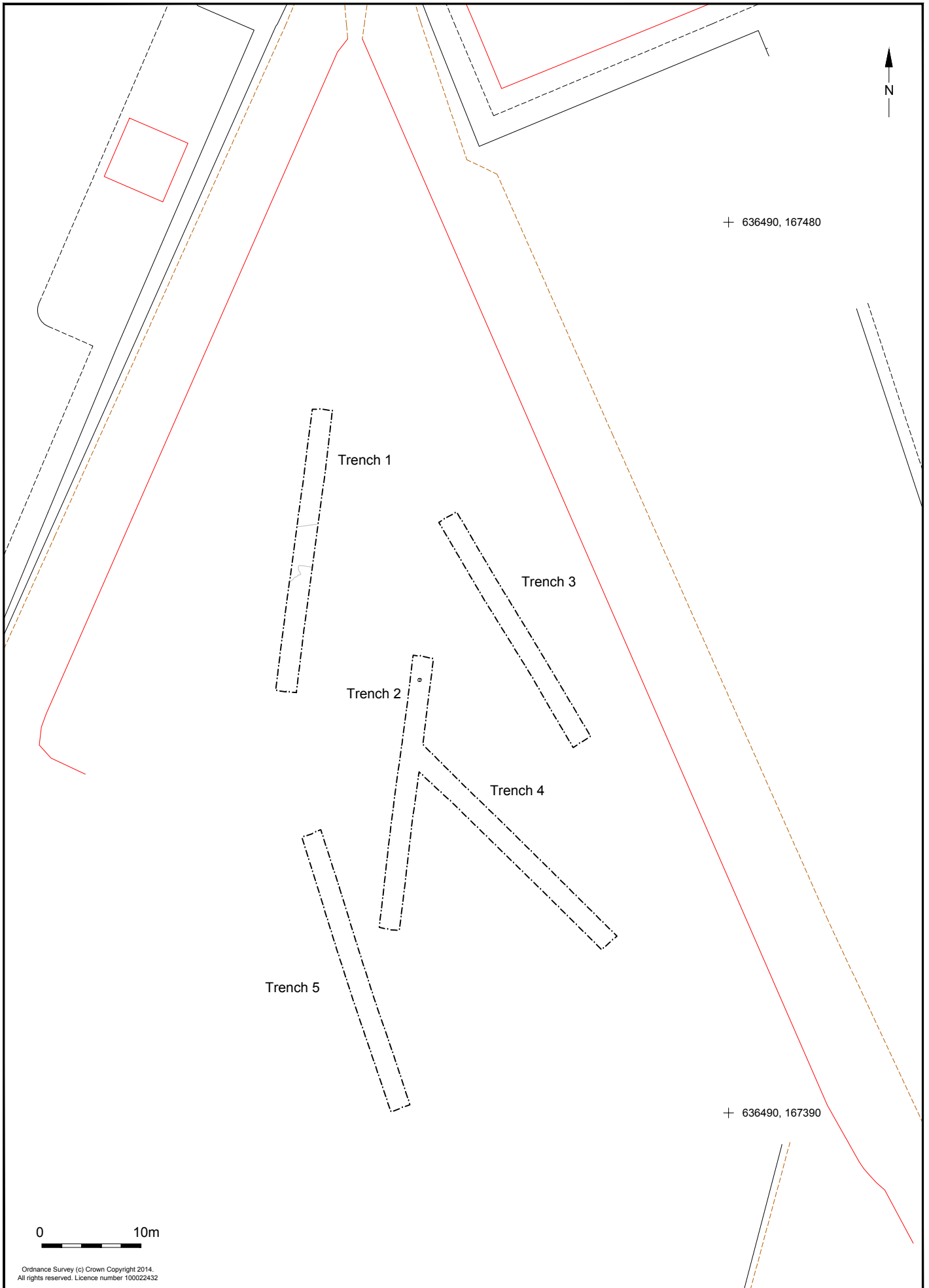
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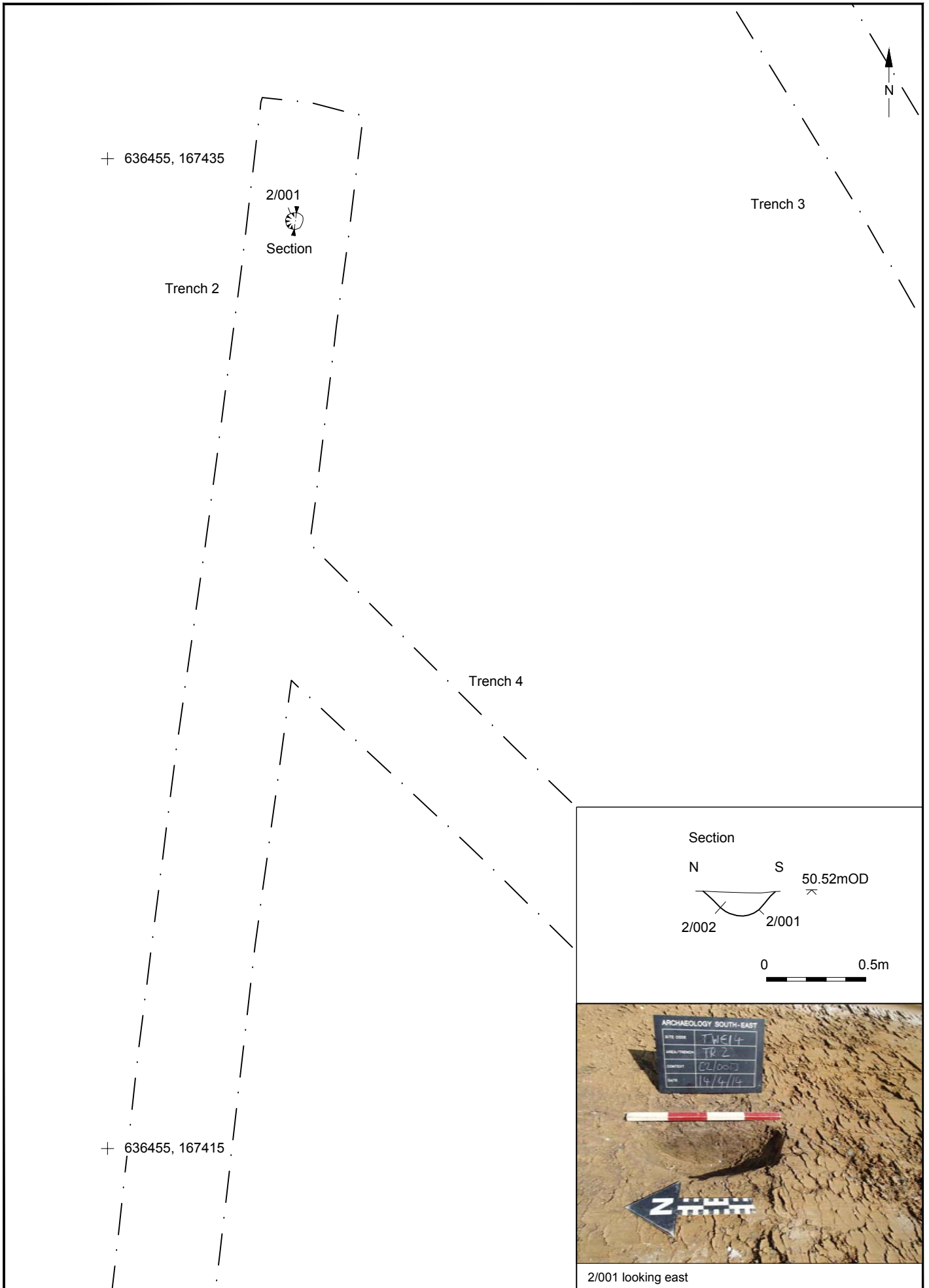
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Project Ref: 6729	May 2014	Site location		
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© Archaeology South-East		Land at Westwood Cross, Thanet	Fig. 2
Project Ref: 6729	May 2014	Trench location	
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© Archaeology South-East		Land at Westwood Cross, Thanet	Fig. 3
Project Ref: 6729	May 2014	Trench 2: plan, section and photograph	
Report Ref: 2014159	Drawn by: JLR		



Trench 1 looking north



Trench 2 looking south-east



Trench 3 looking north-west



Trench 4 looking south-east



Trench 5 looking north

© Archaeology South-East		Land at Westwood Cross, Thanet	Fig. 4
Project Ref: 6729	May 2014	Trench photographs	
Report Ref: 2014159	Drawn by: JLR		

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