

**Archaeological Watching Brief Report  
Strip, Map and Sample Excavation**

**New Access Road, Rathfinny Estate  
Alfriston, East Sussex**

**NGR: 551790, 102258 to 551586, 102092**

**South Downs National Park (SDNP)  
SDNP Planning No: SDNP/13/03623/FUL**



**ASE Project No: 6439  
Site Code: REA 12**

**ASE Report No: 2014232  
OASIS ID: archaeol6-183211**

**By Chris Russel**

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**Abstract**

*Archaeology South-East was commissioned by Buro Four on behalf of The Rathfinny Estate, to undertake an Archaeological Strip, Map and Sample Excavation ahead of the construction of a new access road off White Way, Alfriston, East Sussex, TN31 7LB.*

*Solid chalk geology was encountered at 55.92m AOD in the north west of the works monitored at Rathfinny Estate and a sequence of hill wash head deposits were encountered before clay with flints geology was noted in the south east at a maximum height of 27.12m AOD. Topsoil and ploughsoil were noted directly overlying the geological horizon with a thickness of approximately 0.30m.*

*A former boundary ditch was noted just to the east to the existing field boundary which contained mainly 19<sup>th</sup> Century material. A cluster of Middle to Late Iron Age/ Early Roman pits was excavated at the south eastern extent of the road scheme. These pits produced evidence of salt production or importing, cereal agriculture and local pottery production. Activity from other periods was evidenced by topsoil and residual finds of prehistoric worked flint and topsoil and colluvial finds of medieval pottery.*

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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, University College London, was commissioned by Buro Four on behalf of The Rathfinny Estate, to undertake an Archaeological Strip, Map and Sample Excavation ahead of the construction of a new access road off White Way, Alfriston, East Sussex, TN31 7LB. The new access road runs from NGR: 551790 102258 to 551586 102092; its location is shown on Figure 1.

1.1.2 The work involved the archaeological monitoring of a topsoil and subsoil strip along the route of a new access road, the area of a site compound as well as an area in the south-east of the scheme to allow for spoil storage.

### **1.2 Geology and Topography**

1.2.1 According to the British Geological Survey (BGS 2014) superficial head deposits (comprising clay, silt, sand and gravel) are present adjacent to White Way, overlying Lewes Nodular Chalk Formation bedrock. As the road progresses west it crosses Lewes Nodular Chalk Formation bedrock, with no superficial deposits recorded by the BGS, before progressing on to Seaford Chalk Formation at its highest elevation.

1.2.2 A recent geotechnical survey undertaken in December 2013 (Hemsley 2014) included the excavation of test pits along the proposed road corridor. A total of eight test pits were excavated progressing from TP1 adjacent to White Lane to the south west to TP8 where the proposed road meets the existing track. As suggested by the BGS survey, the geotechnical logs showed gravel/head deposits beneath top soil in the lower elevations by White Lane to a depth of c. 2m, a less gravelly head/colluvium deposit in the middle section to a depth of c. 1m above chalk bedrock, and top soil straight onto chalk in the higher elevations. Top soil was between 200-300mm in depth along the route.

### **1.3 Planning Background**

1.3.1 The work was carried out to satisfy conditions placed on the planning application by the South Downs National Park Authority (SDNPA) in 2013 (Application No.: SDNP/13/03623/FUL). Greg Chuter advised in his consultation letter to SDNPA that:

*The proposed development is situated adjacent to an Archaeological Notification Area defining an area of prehistoric activity, including human burials. There is a high potential for further archaeological remains in the area of the proposed road, but this area has not been subject to past archaeological investigation.*

*The application includes a very comprehensive archaeological desk based assessment and I concur with its conclusion that “the overall site has a very high potential for containing archaeological deposits of prehistoric and Romano-British date relating to fields systems and probable associated settlement” and “Excavation of the easement of the road down to an unknown formation level may impact upon*

*archaeological deposits*

*In the light of the potential for loss of heritage assets on this site resulting from development the area affected by the proposals should be the subject of a **programme of archaeological works**. This will enable any archaeological deposits and features, disturbed during the proposed works, to be adequately recorded. These recommendations are in line with the requirements given in the **NPPF** (the Government's planning policies for England):*

*Local planning authorities should make information about the significance of the historic environment gathered as part of plan-making or development management publicly accessible. They should also require developers to record and advance understanding of the significance of any heritage assets to be lost (wholly or in part) in a manner proportionate to their importance and the impact, and to make this evidence (and any archive generated) publicly accessible. However, the ability to record evidence of our past should not be a factor in deciding whether such loss should be permitted.*

- 1.3.2 Following consultation with the ESCC Archaeologist, the SDNPA attached two conditions to the permission for a programme of archaeological work. Conditions 4 and 5 state:

*Condition 4*

*No development shall take place/commence until a Written Scheme of Investigation has been submitted to and approved by the South Downs National Park Authority. The works shall be undertaken in accordance with the approved details.*

*Reason: to ensure that any archaeological evidence is investigated, recorded and published in compliance with NPPF.*

*Condition 5*

*The development hereby permitted shall not be brought into use until the archaeological site investigation and post investigation assessment (including provision for analysis, publication and dissemination of results and archive deposition) has been completed in accordance with the programme set out in the Written Scheme of Investigation approved under condition 4 to the satisfaction of the South Downs Nation Park Authority, in consultation with the County Planning Authority.*

*Reason: to ensure that the archaeological and historic interest of the site is safeguarded and recorded to comply with the NPPF.*

- 1.3.3 A written scheme of investigation (WSI; ASE 2014) for a programme of archaeological works was submitted to the SDNPA and ESCC Archaeologist for approval prior to commencement of the work. All work was carried out in accordance with this document, as well as with the standard conditions for archaeological fieldwork in East Sussex (ESCC 2008) and the standards and guidance of the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA), and other codes and relevant documents of the IfA (2008).

## **1.4 Aims and Objectives**

### **General**

- 1.4.1 The general aim of the archaeological work was to ensure that any features, artefacts or ecofacts of archaeological interest that were affected by the proposed groundwork were recorded and interpreted to appropriate standards.
- 1.4.2 Where possible, the archaeological strip, map and sample excavation was to seek to ascertain the character date and quality of ancient remains and deposits, determine how they might be affected by the development of the site and consider what options should be considered for mitigation.
- 1.4.3 To make public the results of the archaeological watching brief, subject to any confidentiality restrictions.

### **Specific**

- 1.4.4 Was there any further evidence of the re-structuring of the landscape during the 16<sup>th</sup>/17<sup>th</sup> century, as evidence by the probable partitioning of the fields through which the access road passes?
- 1.4.5 Was there evidence of prehistoric/Roman activity on the site, such as that known from crop marks and finds on adjacent land to the west, which has been masked by the agricultural land use of the fields through which the proposed access route crosses?

## **1.5 Scope of Report**

- 1.5.1 The scope of this report is to detail the results of the watching brief which took place between the 10<sup>th</sup> and the 20<sup>th</sup> of March 2014. The fieldwork was undertaken by Chris Russel, Jim Ball, Jake Wilson, Catherine Douglas with surveying undertaken by John Cook, Kristina Krawiec and Vasilis Tsamis. The project was managed by Jon Sygrave (fieldwork) and Dan Swift (post excavation).



## **2.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND**

- 2.1 A Desk Based Assessment (DBA) of the site was undertaken in 2011 (ASE 2011), which covered the current site and included an assessment of the impact from the proposed new access road.
  
- 2.2 Following the Desk Based Assessment a number of archaeological investigations and watching briefs have taken place on the site including historic building assessment, evaluation and monitoring of test pits. The two evaluation trenches undertaken in Area D (ASE 2012a) c. 200m to the west of the proposed access road were the only aspects of this previous work close to the current works. Apart from a small number of 19<sup>th</sup>/20<sup>th</sup> century finds no archaeological features/finds were recorded in either of these trenches.

### **3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY**

#### **3.1 Fieldwork Methodology**

##### ***Groundwork***

- 3.1.1 The corridor of the proposed new access road was stripped by the contractor and monitored by an ASE archaeologist. The work was undertaken with a suitably sized machine (20t tracked excavator) equipped with a smooth edged grading bucket. Mechanical excavation proceeded until the natural geology or the construction formation level was reached whichever was uppermost. A clean finish was achieved where practicable in order that the presence of any archaeological features, artefacts or ecofacts could be ascertained. There was no tracking of vehicles across machined areas prior to them being monitored by the ASE archaeologist and any necessary hand excavation/recording was completed.
- 3.1.2 The road scheme ran from the high ground in the west downslope before terminating on an area of relatively flat ground overlooking the river valley in the south-east. Monitored works include a site compound approximately 3338m long by 33m wide. Here the solid chalk geology was encountered at a maximum height above ordnance datum (AOD) of 55.92m. A road strip approximately 10m wide was excavated south-eastwards before crossing into a second field and turning south. An area approximately 63m wide and 134m long was then stripped of topsoil to accommodate the road footprint and an area to store spoil. Clay with flints geology was encountered at a maximum height of 16.30m AOD in the south east of the scheme.
- 3.1.3 Any other groundwork excavations (compound construction, services etc) undertaken by the contractors were monitored at all times by an archaeologist until/unless it becomes clear beyond reasonable doubt that no archaeological remains were present.
- 3.1.4 Where mechanical excavation revealed archaeological features, machine or hand excavation by contractor's staff ceased. Features were then hand excavated and recorded to archaeological standards by the archaeologist(s) in attendance.
- 3.1.5 The spoil from the excavations was inspected by archaeologists to recover any artefacts or ecofacts of archaeological interest.
- 3.1.6 All archaeological features were recorded according to standard Archaeology South-East practice and in line with ESCC Standards and Guidance 2008.
- 3.1.7 Archaeological features and deposits were planned at an appropriate scale (usually 1:20 or 1:50) and sections were drawn by hand at a scale of 1:10 on plastic draughting film. Features and deposits were described on standard pro-forma recording sheets used by Archaeology South-East. All remains were levelled with respect to Ordnance Survey datum.
- 3.1.8 Bulk soil samples (of 40 litres where possible or 100% of the context if smaller) were taken to target the recovery of plant remains (including wood

charcoal and macrobotanicals), fish, bird, small mammal and amphibian bone, and small artefacts.

### **3.2 The Site Archive**

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

Number of Contexts	48
No. of files/paper record	1
Plan and sections sheets	2
Bulk Samples	6
Photographs	113
Bulk finds	1 box
Registered finds	2

Table 1: Quantification of site archive

## **4.0 RESULTS**

### **4.1 Geology and Overburden**

- 4.1.1 Solid chalk geology [002] was encountered at a maximum height of 55.92m AOD in the south-west of the road strip. This was directly overlain by loose mid grey brown fine silt plough soil [001] with an approximate depth of 0.30m.
- 4.1.2 As the road strip progressed northwards the geological deposits became more mixed. A localised deposit of loose colluvial chalk blocks with a silty chalk matrix [003] roughly 7.0m wide was noted. To the north of this was a silty clay head deposit [004] with localised patches of silty colluvium. Further north still the geology turned to clay with flints with localised degraded chalk deposits [005].
- 4.1.3 As the roads strip crossed into the eastern field the clay with flints [005] continued before giving way to a fine silt colluvium [006] which appeared to be overlapping the geological horizon. To the north and east of this clay with flints geology was revealed [007]. The sequence in the eastern field was capped by dark grey brown fine silt top/plough-soil [008].

### **4.2 Undated Features**

- 4.2.1 A number of features in the east of the scheme were excavated but produced no finds. The westernmost of these was to the west of the main cluster of features and consisted of an ovoid cut [009] with gradually sloping sides and a concave base which was filled by friable yellow grey brown fine silt [010].
- 4.2.2 To the west of this and in close physical association with the Late Iron Age/Early Roman feature [028] (see below). This was relatively shallow and consisted of an irregular cut [026] with moderately sloping sides and a concave base. It was filled by a friable dark brown silty clay [027].
- 4.2.3 An irregular pit or tree throw [038] was noted close to the south-eastern baulk. This had moderately sloping sides and a concave/irregular base and was filled by light orange brown fine silt [039] with sub-angular flint inclusions. This feature was seen in close physical proximity to the pit [046] described below. Although no datable finds were recovered the fill did contain residual worked flint.
- 4.2.4 A group of undated postholes was seen in close physical proximity to the pit complex [030] (see below). The southern-most of these [040] was sub circular in plan and 0.21m deep with steep sides and a concave base. This was filled by a friable dark brown silty clay fill [041] with frequent sub angular flint inclusions. To the north-east of this was a similar posthole [042] which was more circular in plan and around 0.33m deep with steep sides and a slightly concave base. This filled by plastic dark grey brown silty clay [043] with sub-angular flint inclusions. The northern-most feature in this group [044] was circular in plane and 0.32m deep with steeply sloping sides and a concave base and filled by friable dark brown silty clay [045] with frequent sub-angular flint inclusions.

### **4.3 Phase One: Early Middle Iron Age**

- 4.3.1 Two features produced pottery sherds of a Mid-Iron Age date. The southernmost of these was a pit [015] was seen in close physical association with the transitional feature [018] described below. This pit had almost vertical sides and a flat base and contained two fills. The uppermost of these [016] was friable dark grey brown fine silt with very frequent sub-angular flint fragments and very frequent sub-angular chalk blocks. This upper fill contained early middle Iron Age pottery sherds from undecorated jars which were probably locally made. Also present were gnawed, burnt and butchered animal bone and evidence of burnt wheat and barley and grass and watercress seeds. The thin lower fill [017] consisted of a plastic mid red brown fine silty clay with frequent sub-angular flint fragment inclusions and pottery sherds of an Early Mid-Iron Age date.
- 4.3.2 The second feature was situated to the north-east at the very extent of the road strip. This was an oval pit [048] with steeply sloping sides and an irregular base. This appeared to have been disturbed by root action along its northern edge. It was filled by loose mid-orange brown fine silt [049] with frequent sub angular flint inclusions. This fill contained Early Mid-Iron Age pottery sherds of a possible local manufacture. Also present were fragments of butchered bone and evidence for small mammal and amphibian pit falls. Additionally, one very weathered piece of non-local granite was recovered.

### **4.4 Phase Two: Transitional**

- 4.4.1 A single pit produced pottery from two distinct industries and may be considered transitional in date. This feature was an ovoid pit [018] with steep sides and a flat base. The lower fill of this feature [019] was dark brown friable silt with rare sub-angular flint inclusions. This fill contained Early Mid-Iron Age pottery sherds along with briquetage fragments associated with salt production. Also present was evidence of wheat, barley and oat remains as well as watercress and a possible pea. Small mammal and amphibian remains were also recovered. These were possibly from pit falls.
- 4.4.2 A middle fill [020] was noted which appeared to have been intentionally deposited to cap [019]. This capping layer was 0.12m in depth and made up of orange brown plastic fine silty clay. No finds were recovered from this fill.
- 4.4.3 The upper fill of the pit [021] was dark grey brown fine silty clay with frequent sub-angular flint inclusions. This fill produced pottery sherds of a Mid-Late Iron Age date. This was burnished and decorated. Also present was sheep bone along with other bone fragments that displayed evidence of both butchery and cooking.

#### **4.5 Phase 3: Middle to Late Iron Age**

4.5.1 Middle to late Iron Age pottery sherds were recovered from a single feature close to the southern baulk of the road strip. It was made up of an oval cut [024] with steeply sloping sides and a flat base. It was filled by friable dark brown fine clay silt [025] with rare sub spherical flint pebbles. This fill contained decorated and burnished pottery sherds as well as processed bone. Evidence of wheat, barley and oats was recovered from the sample as well as chamomile and a possible pea.

#### **4.6 Phase 4: Late Iron Age/Early Roman**

4.6.1 Three features yielded pottery of Late Iron Age/ Early Roman date. The southernmost of these [046] was seen close to the southern baulk and in close physical association with the possible tree throw [038] (described above). This pit had an ovoid cut [046] with almost vertical sides and a flat base. It was filled by friable dark brown fine silty clay with frequent sub angular flint inclusions. This fill contained pottery sherds and a possible imbrex tile fragment along with butchered bone.

4.6.2 To the north-east was a complex of three intercutting pits, one of which contained Late Iron Age/Early Roman pottery sherds. The earliest pit [030] was ovoid in plan with gently sloping sides and a concave base. This was filled by firm light brown fine clay silt. This had been cut by an ovoid pit or post hole [032] which was filled by light grey brown fine silty clay which contained pottery sherds, and some residual struck flint. The latest feature in this group was a circular pit or posthole [034] with steeply sloping sides and a concave base. This was filled by light to mid brown silty clay [035].

4.6.3 A circular cut [028] with steeply sloping sides and flat base was recorded to the north-west of the cluster of features. It was filled by friable dark brown fine silty clay [029]. This fill produced a large sherd of Gaulish samian ware along with briquetage and evidence of two types of wheat, barley, sedge and fragments of gnawed bone.

#### **4.7 Phase 5: Post Medieval**

4.7.1 A single ditch of post medieval date was noted close to the existing boundary between the western and eastern fields. This ditch had been recut and appeared to be on a similar alignment to the modern boundary although a little further east.

4.7.2 The earliest cut [011] had moderately sloping sides and a slightly concave base and was filled by light yellow brown fine silty clay with very frequent sub-angular chalk blocks.

4.7.3 The recut of the ditch [013] had moderately sloping sides and a concave base and was filled by friable dark brown fine silty clay [014] with frequent sub spherical flint pebbles. It produced undated peg tile, 19<sup>th</sup> century glass and metal and fragments of 17<sup>th</sup> century brick.

## **5.0 THE FINDS**

### **5.1 Introduction**

- 5.1.1 A moderate assemblage was recovered during the watching brief at Rathfinny Estate, Alfriston. An overview can be found in table 2. Finds were all washed and dried or air dried as appropriate. They were subsequently quantified by count and weight and bagged by material and context. Finds were all packed according to IFA guidelines. None of the metalwork requires x-radiography and finds do not require further conservation.
- 5.1.2 Prehistoric flintwork is undiagnostic of period. A significant assemblage of Middle to Late Iron Age pottery was recovered which has the potential to contribute to the chronology of pottery in Sussex.
- 5.1.3 The small amount of medieval pottery is of significance due to a lack of pottery of this period from the area.
- 5.1.4 Late Iron Age/ Early Roman salt working or consumption is evidenced by the recovery of briquetage fragments.
- 5.1.5 Other finds were of late post medieval date.

Context	Pot	Wt (g)	Bone	Wt (g)	Flint	Wt (g)	FCF	Wt (g)	Stone	Wt (g)	CBM	Wt (g)	Burnt clay	Wt (g)	Fe	Wt (g)	Glass	Wt (g)	Shell	Wt (g)
1	3	14																		
5	2	26			1	3														
6	4	108									1	64							2	114
14			9	94							2	64			2	368	4	114		
16	87	1000	19	302	1	<1	11	1216					7	74						
17	7	98	1	2			1	41												
19	1	8																		
21	12	166	10	56			3	210	1	150										
25	7	68	2	14																
27			2	6			1	9												
29	10	62	11	58			5	238												
39					1	16														
33	1	8			5	22	8	292												
43	2	18																		
49	15	136	5	100			5	192												
47	4	32	3	172																
<b>Total</b>	<b>155</b>	<b>1744</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>804</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>2198</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>150</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>128</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>74</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>368</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>114</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>114</b>

Table 2: Overview of the finds assemblage



## **5.2 The Iron Age and Roman Pottery by Anna Doherty**

5.2.1 The watching brief recovered a relatively substantial assemblage of Iron Age pottery, together with a single Roman sherd. In total 139 sherds, weighing 1.58kg were hand-collected; a small amount of material was also recovered from the residues of environmental samples. This was scanned for dating purposes but only recorded in detail where diagnostic sherds were present. The majority of the pottery appears to be of Middle Iron Age date although there is some clear chronological variation between earlier and later groups of this period.

5.2.2 The pottery was examined using a x 20 binocular microscope and quantified by sherd count, weight and Estimated Vessel Number (ENV) on pro-forma record sheets and in an Excel spreadsheet. The pottery was recorded according to a site-specific fabric type-series, formulated in accordance with the guidelines of the Prehistoric Ceramics Research Group (PCRG 2010).

### **5.2.3 Site-specific fabric codes:**

FLIN1 An atypical fabric for this period with very coarse poorly-sorted, incompletely-calcined flint of 1-5mm, set within a silty matrix

FLQU1 Moderate ill-sorted flint of 0.5-2.5mm in a silty matrix with moderate large quartz up to 0.5mm

FLQU2 Similar to FLQU1 but flint tends to be in a slightly larger size range (c.1-3mm); quartz is common and sized between 0.4-0.6mm

FLSH1 Sparse to moderate ill-sorted flint of 0.5-2.5mm and sparse to moderate shell of 0.5-2.5mm. May contain rare quartz up to 0.5mm and rare glauconite up to 0.2mm

GLAU1 Abundant glauconite of c.0.3-0.5mm, rare quartz grains in a similar size range

GLFL1 Moderate glauconite of 0.2-0.4mm, rare to sparse quartz grains in a similar size range and rare flint of 0.5-2mm

GROG1 Common grog of c.1-2mm; frequently quite rounded and mostly in darker hues; very few examples of the white siltstone-like inclusions seen in later 'East Sussex' wares

QGFL1 Moderate to common well-sorted quartz of 0.1-0.2mm, rare to sparse glauconite in a similar size range and rare/sparse flint of 0.2-0.8mm

QUAR1 Moderate large but ill-sorted rounded quartz grains of 0.2-0.7mm set within a silty background matrix

QUFL1 sparse/moderate quartz of 0.2-0.4mm and rare/sparse flint of 0.2-1.5mm

QUGL1 moderate to common well-sorted quartz of 0.1-0.2mm, rare to sparse glauconite in a similar range

ROCK1 Moderate pale soft quartz-rich sedimentary rock inclusions of 0.5-4mm; also contains sparse shell inclusions possibly from a fossil shell source

SHEL1 Moderate shell of 0.5-2mm in a generally silty background matrix with rare larger quartz grains up to 0.6mm

5.2.4 Earlier Middle Iron Age groups (? c.400-150BC)

5.2.5 There is one relatively well-dated earlier Middle Iron Age group from pit fill [016]; several other similar contexts, including [017], [019] and [049] contained comparable fabric types suggesting a broadly contemporary date. Quite a wide range of fabric types are represented (see Table 3). The biggest single fabric group is a flint-with-shell ware (FLSH1) making up about a third of the fabrics. Shelly wares lacking flint inclusions (SHEL1) make up over 10% of the assemblage. It is perhaps worth comparing the fabric composition of these groups with other sites in the vicinity. At Rookery Hill, Bishopstone, the Early Iron Age enclosed settlement phase was associated with a much larger proportion of shelly fabrics (up to 70%), a figure which reduced markedly in phases where Middle Iron Age Saucepan pottery appeared, although it still made up a much larger proportion than in the current assemblage (Hamilton 1977, Table Va, 88). This perhaps reflects slightly different access to tempering resources on inland sites as opposed to coastal ones. However, shelly wares also make up a very large proportion of the wholly Middle Iron Age assemblage at Norton just a few kilometres to the south-west (Seager Thomas 2005).

5.2.6 The current site also has a much larger component of flint-tempering than either Norton or Rookery Hill. Most of the other fabric types contain variable frequencies of quartz and flint (e.g. FLQU1; FLQU2; GLFL1; QGFL1; QUFL1). It is notable that a large proportion of the fabrics contain rare or sparse glauconite inclusions, probably suggesting that they come from clay sources to the north of the site on Gault/Upper Greensand geology; however only one example of an intensely glauconitic fabric was recorded. It is also worth noting that calcareous rock-tempering, which made up quite a significant component of the broadly earlier Middle Iron Age assemblage from Norton, appears to be absent from these groups. This probably suggests quite localised patterns of resource procurement resulting in quite variable tempering choices on sites which are relatively close to one another.

<b>Fabric</b>	<b>Sherds</b>	<b>Weight (g)</b>	<b>ENV</b>	<b>Sherds %</b>	<b>Weight %</b>	<b>ENV %</b>
<b>FLIN1</b>	1	22	1	0.9%	1.8%	1.4%
<b>FLQU1</b>	12	116	11	11.2%	9.4%	15.9%
<b>FLQU2</b>	10	190	10	9.3%	15.5%	14.5%
<b>FLSH1</b>	36	264	20	33.6%	21.5%	29.0%
<b>GLAU1</b>	1	2	1	0.9%	0.2%	1.4%
<b>GLFL1</b>	6	28	6	5.6%	2.3%	8.7%
<b>QGFL1</b>	23	466	10	21.5%	37.9%	14.5%
<b>QUFL1</b>	2	44	2	1.9%	3.6%	2.9%
<b>SHEL1</b>	16	96	8	15.0%	7.8%	11.6%
<b>Total</b>	<b>107</b>	<b>1228</b>	<b>69</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

Table 3: Quantification of fabrics in contexts [016], [017], [019] and [049]

5.2.7 Context [016] was the only one of these groups to contain any diagnostic feature sherds. These include three examples of ovoid plain rim jars, one jar with a long flaring, everted rim and another shouldered jar with a short upright rim. All of these groups are entirely free of decorated sherds: something which is possibly chronologically significant. In many Middle/Late Iron Age transitional assemblages, such as those from Lewes House and St Anne's Road Eastbourne, decorated sherds tend to make up more than 10% of the assemblage (Doherty in prep; Barber in prep).

5.2.8 Middle/Late Iron Age (?c.150-1BC)

5.2.9 Two groups from contexts [021] and [025] contained feature sherds which belong stylistically to the Middle Iron Age but also produced some evidence that they belong to the end of this period and may even have been sealed in the Late Iron Age. Both produced examples of vessels related to the decorated Saucepan tradition, probably dating to c.300-100/50BC. Context [021] includes the rim from a plain ovoid vessel with highly burnished surfaces and a double burnished line below the rim. A fragment from the base/lower wall of another vessel also features horizontal and curvilinear burnished line decoration. A rim from a neutral profile saucepan with a series of horizontal burnished lines and a burnished arc was noted in the environmental sample of context [025]. This context also contained another highly-decorated sherd with numerous small burnished dots surrounding a large indent on the vessel wall.

5.2.10 Although some of the fabric types encountered in these contexts are similar to those in the probable earlier Middle Iron Age groups, shelly fabrics are completely absent and flint only occurs as a minor component in quartz-rich fabric types (see Table 4). Very densely glauconitic fabric types also appear to be more frequent. Perhaps most significantly, both of these contexts produced very small quantities of grog-tempered wares. This is a tempering tradition which is more strongly identified with the Late Iron Age. However there is increasing evidence from the East Sussex and Wealden, from sites like Lewes House and St Anne's Road, Eastbourne (ibid) that it may have emerged at the end of the Middle Iron Age: indeed one of the Saucepan related rimsherds from [021] was itself grog-tempered. A single example of a sedimentary rock-tempered fabric was also recorded in the group from context [021].

Fabric	Sherds	Weight (g)	ENV	Sherds %	Weight %	ENV %
<b>GLAU1</b>	6	62	3	28.6%	24.8%	17.6%
<b>GLFL1</b>	2	28	2	9.5%	11.2%	11.8%
<b>GROG1</b>	5	66	5	23.8%	26.4%	29.4%
<b>QGFL1</b>	1	22	1	4.8%	8.8%	5.9%
<b>QUAR1</b>	3	32	2	14.3%	12.8%	11.8%
<b>QUFL1</b>	1	24	1	4.8%	9.6%	5.9%
<b>QUGL1</b>	2	12	2	9.5%	4.8%	11.8%
<b>ROCK1</b>	1	4	1	4.8%	1.6%	5.9%
<b>Total</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>250</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

Table 4: Quantification of fabrics in contexts [021] and [025]

### 5.2.11 Late Iron Age/Roman

5.2.12 Two other contexts, [033] and [047] produced very small quantities of grog-tempered wares which can only be dated very broadly to the Middle/Late Iron Age or Roman period. Those from [047] were associated with Roman CBM. Another grog-tempered sherd which was residual in medieval context [006] showed some evidence of wheel-throwing techniques which are strongly suggestive of continuing activity in the Late Iron Age or beyond. One small group from context [029] generally contained a similar range of fabric types to those in contexts [021] and [025] but also produced a sherd from a large central Gaulish samian platter dated to c.AD120-200. It seems unlikely that all of sherds in this group are contemporary and given the relatively large size of the samian sherd, the earlier material is probably residual.

### 5.3 The Post-Roman Pottery by Luke Barber

5.3.1 Two contexts produced post-Roman pottery from the site. Three conjoining (freshly broken) sherds of 11<sup>th</sup>- to mid 12<sup>th</sup>- century oxidised cooking pot were recovered from context [1] (13g). The vessel is tempered with abundant fine alluvial flint grits. The other pottery was recovered from context [6] and although dating later, to between c. 1250 and 1325, the two sherds are more worn than those in [1]. One sherd is from an oxidised cooking pot with tapering club rim (15g). This vessel is tempered with fine/medium sand with common fine flint to 0.5mm. The other sherd is from another oxidised cooking pot, but this time tempered only with medium sand (11g).

5.3.2 Due to the current lack of medieval pottery from the Cuckmere valley it is proposed that the current sherds are retained by the collecting museum.

### 5.4 The Ceramic Building Material by Trista Clifford

5.4.1 A total of seven fragments of CBM weighing 296g were recovered from three separate contexts. Five fabrics were identified (Table \*\*). The similarity of fabrics suggests a similar geology, and local clay source.

Fabric	Comments
R1	Pale orange. Moderate grey sub angular coarse quartz, silty matrix with very sparse red inclusions.
T1	Mid orange fabric with paler marls and streaks. Moderate medium to coarse sub angular qartz, sparse coarse iron rich inclusions.
T2	Sparse fine quartz, sparse coarse quartz, moderate very fine calcareous speckle.
T3	Mid orange poorly sorted sparse to moderate angular coarse quartz, coarse calcareous inclusions and red iron rich inclusions. Sparse fine and very coarse quartz.
B1	Dark orange. Abndant coarse dark red rounded quartz, sparse coarse to very coarse white inclusions (shell?)

Table 5: The CBM fabrics

5.4.2 The earliest material consists of a probable Roman imbrex fragment from [47] in fabric R1. The same context produced a tile flake in T3 which may also be

of Roman date. Context [6] produced a fragment of medieval peg tile with two incomplete circular nail holes measuring 13mm and 10mm in diameter in T1. A late medieval to post medieval date is probable. A roof tile fragment in calcareous fabric T2 also came from [14]. The fragment is undiagnostic of date. A small brick fragment with sharp arrises in fabric B1 from the same context is probably of late 17<sup>th</sup> century or later date.

## **5.5 The Fired Clay** by Trista Clifford

5.5.1 The watching brief produced a total of 50 fragments of fired clay weighing 152g, both hand collected and recovered from environmental samples. Three fabrics were identified (Table 6)

<b>Fabric</b>	<b>Description</b>
F1	Fine quartz with moderate fine to coarse sandstone and sparse grassy voids
F2	Fine quartz with sparse to moderate coarse chalk inclusions
F3	Fine pink fabric with moderate to abundant flint and calcined flint coarse pebbles

Table 6: The fired clay fabrics

5.5.2 Fragments in fabrics F1 and F2, although utilised, were undiagnostic of form. Small briquetage fragments in F3 were recovered from [19] and [29]. These derive from thin walled vessels and may indicate salt import, trade or consumption. Vessel fragments in similar fabrics were recovered in quantity from Roman features at Scotney Court (Barber 1998).

## **5.6 Flintwork** by Karine Le Hégarat

5.6.1 The watching brief at the Rathfinny Estate produced a total of eight pieces of struck flint considered to be humanly struck and weighing 41g. Thirty-four fragments (2198g) of burnt unworked flint were also found. The pieces of struck flint came from four numbered contexts; [006], [016], [033] and [039]. Dark grey flint with a thin abraded buff cortex was the most frequently occurring material. One piece was made on a dark brown flint. The condition of the flint varied with most pieces displaying moderate edge damage likely to be the result of successive re-depositions. Three pieces were broken, and two were re-corticated bluish white. The small assemblage comprised three blade-like flakes and five flakes, none of which were closely datable. All of the burnt unworked flint was light grey to white in colour. A temperature as high as 600° C is required to colour the flint grey or white (Larsson 2000). This suggests that the flint from the estate had been heavily calcined. The assemblage contained fragments measuring up to 60mm in size. Burnt unworked flint isn't chronologically datable, but it frequently occurs on prehistoric sites.

5.6.2 The small assemblage of burnt flint fragments and unmodified pieces of flint débitage provides evidence for prehistoric activity at and around the site, but it is limited and most pieces are likely to be residual in later contexts. There is little potential for further work on this small assemblage.

## **5.7 The Glass** by Elke Raemen

- 5.7.1 Context [14] contained four fragments of glass, including two aqua cylindrical bottle fragments and a clear cylindrical bottle fragment. A pale blue panelled pharmaceutical bottle shard with spoon measurements was recovered as well. Fragments all date to the second half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century.
- 5.7.2 In addition, environmental residues from samples <1> ([49]) and <6> ([19]) contained a very small chip of glass each. The fragment from [19] probably dates to the second half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. The chip from [49] can only be dated broadly to the late post-medieval period.

## **5.8 The Geological Material** by Luke Barber

- 5.8.1 Four pieces of hand-collected stone were recovered during the archaeological work, though only two are not local to the immediate vicinity. In addition, the environmental residues produced a further six pieces of stone weighing 12g. Context [21] produced a 151g fragment of hard chalk with slight scuffing but no deliberate working, while context [27] produced a 6g piece of black-stained tabular flint from Tertiary deposits. The 19g fragment of ferruginous siltstone from context [42] is likely to have been derived from the Weald, though it could have been naturally washed down the Cuckmere to the site's vicinity. The only truly non-local stone is represented by a very weathered piece of granite (47g) from context [49]. Although Longshore Drift may have brought this from the south-west to the Sussex coast naturally, it has been deliberately brought to the site at the hand of man. The stone from the residues consists of a collection of worn ferruginous fissure fill and iron pyrites fragments, all of which are local to the site.
- 5.8.2 The stone assemblage is not considered to hold any potential for further analysis beyond that already done for the current note. The material has been discarded.

## **5.9 The marine mollusc** by Trista Clifford

- 5.9.1 Context [6] contained an adult upper and lower edible oyster (*Ostrea edulis*) valve (MNI1). The valves show no indication of parasitic infestation.

## **5.10 The Registered Finds** by Trista Clifford

- 5.10.1 Two Registered Finds were recovered from context [14]. The objects are in good condition. RF<1> is the right branch of a 19-20<sup>th</sup> century iron horseshoe measuring 148mm in length. One nail remains in situ. A large rectangular iron buckle, RF<2> was also recovered. The buckle measures 67 x 51mm and has a circular sectioned frame with complete in situ pin. A 19-20<sup>th</sup> century date is probable.

## **6.0 THE ENVIRONMENTAL SAMPLES** by Lucy Allott

### **6.1 Introduction**

6.1.1 A total of seven bulk environmental samples were taken during archaeological work at the site. Samples derive from pits containing ceramics dating to the Middle to Late Iron Age and Roman phases of land use and were taken to retrieve environmental artefacts such as wood charcoal, charred macro plant remains, fauna and mollusca as well as aiding finds recovery.

### **6.2 Methods**

6.2.1 Samples were processed in their entirety in a flotation tank with the residues and flots retained on 500µm and 250µm meshes and air dried prior to sorting. The residues were passed through graded sieves (8, 4 and 2mm) and each fraction sorted for environmental and artefact remains (Table 1).

6.2.2 The flots were scanned under a stereozoom microscope at x7-45 magnifications and their contents recorded (Table 2). Taxonomic identifications were made by comparing the macrobotanical remains with modern specimens and with those documented in reference manuals (Cappers *et al.* 2006, Jacomet 2006, and NIAB 2004). Nomenclature used follows Stace (1997). Where identifications are uncertain 'cf.' is used to denote 'compares with'.

6.2.3 Charcoal fragments recovered from both the heavy residues and flots are quantified in Tables 1 and 2. No identifications have been obtained at present for woody taxa represented in the charcoal due to the small size of the assemblages recovered and the presence of abundant uncharred modern roots. Faunal remains and other artefacts from the samples have been incorporated into the relevant finds reports.

### **6.3 Results**

6.3.1 Uncharred, modern roots and seeds were common in almost all of the samples indicating moderate potential for post-depositional disturbances within these pit features. Land snail shells were also abundant and the snail assemblage includes burrowing taxa that are commonly considered modern and intrusive to archaeological features. As such, the integrity of the contents of these samples is compromised. The following provides an overview of the range of plant taxa represented in the macrofossil assemblages.

#### **6.3.2 *Pit [018], Sample <1> [019] basal fill***

The basal fill of pit feature [018] was rich in charred cereal caryopses and wild/weed seeds. Cereal crops noted include wheat (*Triticum* sp.), spelt/emmer glume wheat (*T. spelta/dicoccum*), barley (*Hordeum* sp.) and oat (*Avena* sp.). Although chaff was not common the presence of a few glume bases lends support to the identification of glume wheat caryopses. One of the glume bases is consistent in form with spelt wheat and positively identifies that spelt was used during the Iron Age occupations. The remains

of weed/wild taxa were also common and include goosefoot (*Chenopodium* sp.), watercress (*Rorippa* sp.), knotgrass/dock (*Polygonum/Rumex* sp.), chickweed (*Stellaria* sp.), bedstraw (*Galium* sp.), brome/fescue (*Bromus/Festuca* sp.), sedges (*Carex* sp.) and common pea/vetch (*Lathyrus/Vicia* sp.). This pit feature also contained a small quantity of wood charcoal including fragments both <4mm and >4mm in size.

6.3.3 *Pit [015], samples <3> [017] and <2> [016] from the basal and upper fills*

Although no charred macrobotanical remains were present in the basal fill [017] of pit [015], the upper deposit [016] contained a small assemblage of charred cereals including barley and wheat, with seeds of oat/brome (*Avena/Bromus* sp.) grass, watercress andampions (*Silene* sp.). Wood charcoal fragments were infrequent in in both deposits.

6.3.4 *Pit [028], <4> [029]*

During excavation the fill of pit [029] was considered superficially similar to that of [018] (discussed above). Charred macro plant remains were present in [029], although not as abundant as in [018]. Taxa noted include wheat and barley caryopses, a spelt/emmer glume base, a possible tuber, sedge, bedstraw, mallow (*Malva* sp.), knotgrass/dock and goosefoot seeds. A very small assemblage of wood charcoal fragments was also recovered from this sample.

6.3.5 *Pit [032], <5> [033]*

Charred macro plant remains were infrequent and poorly preserved in the sample from this pit feature. The assemblage comprised cereal caryopses some of which were identified as wheat. Wood charcoal fragments were also infrequent and primarily less than 4mm in size.

6.3.6 *Pit [048], <6> [049]*

Large pit feature [048] contained an array of charred macrobotanical remains including cereal caryopses, weed/wild seeds and chaff although none of these remains were abundant. Several cereals caryopses were identified as wheat and barley and the small quantity of glume bases indicates the presence of spelt and perhaps emmer. Weed/wild plants represented are similar to those noted above. Preliminary identifications include watercress, grass (Poaceae) and sedge. A possible apple (cf. *Malus* sp.) pip is also present. Charcoal fragments were primarily small and infrequent.

6.3.7 *Pit [024], <3x> [25]*

Charred cereal caryospes were abundant. Taxonomic identifications of caryopses include spelt/emmer wheat, barley and oat/brome grass. In addition a spelt glume base positively identifies this taxon. A possible pea (cf. *Pisum* sp.) was the only non-cereal crop noted in all of the samples. Seeds of weed/wild taxa were comparatively infrequent and include knotgrass/dock, a poorly preserved chamomile (cf. *Anthemis* sp.) and several seeds that are



unidentifiable due to poor preservation. The sample also produced a small amount of wood charcoal fragments.

## **6.4 Significance and Potential**

### *Macrobotanical remains*

- 6.4.1 Sampling at the site revealed evidence for small assemblages of charred macroplant remains. Although flecks of wood charcoal were present in each of the deposits sampled, charred weed seeds and cereal caryopses were not ubiquitous. They were recorded in samples <1>, <2>, <4>, <5>, <6> and <3x>. On the whole preservation of cereal caryopses was poor to moderate and many of the caryopses are fragmented with pitted surfaces. Although infrequent, the glume bases are moderately well preserved and contribute the species identification of spelt to the assemblage. Weed/wild seeds are moderately well preserved and provide some potential for further identification work.
- 6.4.2 It is clear that wheat and barley were important crops at this time and that several different wheat types including spelt and perhaps emmer were cultivated. A large assemblage of spelt wheat was also recorded at St. Anne's Road, Eastbourne in a storage pit feature (Hinton unpublished/forthcoming) and wheat (including glume wheat) and celtic beans were recorded in an isolated MIA-Roman pit feature at Peacehaven, East Sussex (Le Hegarat forthcoming). Non-cereal crops are represented by a single possible pea at the current site. The scarcity of pulses may be a reflection of their lack of exposure or possible encounters with fire during processing when compared with cereals rather than indicating a true absence. Pulses are also poorly represented in contemporary sites in the region and in fact sites with evidence of Middle to Late Iron Age activities and therefore macro plant remains assemblages as a whole are relatively under-represented in East Sussex.
- 6.4.3 The weed/wild taxa represented are common arable weeds or plants typical of disturbed ground that might have been associated with the occupation and/or agriculture. They may have been brought to the site alongside the crops. Sedges and watercress are also present and may provide evidence for wetter ground conditions. The weed/wild assemblage is sufficiently diverse to help characterise vegetation in the site vicinity.
- 6.4.4 All of the samples derive from pits containing secondary deposits and are therefore likely to contain plant material deriving from several sources. As such, the potential of these assemblages is a little restricted as it is not apparent whether the cereals and wild/weed seeds are directly associated with each other. They do however merit quantification and, in the case of the weed/wild taxa, further identification is warranted. They have potential to provide a glimpse of the range of crops cultivated and used and the vegetation in the area during the Middle to Late Iron Age and Roman periods of land use. These assemblages will contribute important data for an otherwise poorly represented period in the region.

### *Charcoal*

- 6.4.5 These pit features produced infrequent charred wood fragments and the majority were small, measuring less than 4mm in size. Where present the charcoal was moderately well preserved with fragments showing only limited evidence for sediment concretion and infiltration that can be a result of fluctuating groundwater. As noted above these pit features do not contain remains from *in situ* burning events but contain secondary deposits that may originate from several sources. Even if abundant, charcoal from this site would therefore have only limited potential to provide broad information concerning wood types used as fuel, rather than providing detail regarding the selection of fuel in relation to specific activities. Although further work is recommended for the macro plant remains, the wood charcoal assemblages are considered too small to provide a significant contribution to our knowledge of wood use during the Middle to Late Iron Age and Roman periods.

## **7.0 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS**

- 7.1 Solid chalk geology [002] was encountered at 55.92m AOD in the west of the site falling away to 37.58m to the south-east. As the strip moved east a localised hill wash deposit [003] was encountered before giving way to head deposits [004] and [005] at 33.36m and 31.24m respectively. The geology in the eastern field consisted of clay with flints [007] which fell off from 25.44m to 15.56m. This was overlain by colluvium [006] which was first seen at 28.48m AOD. The western field was capped by ploughsoil [001] which was approximately 0.30m thick and a topsoil [008] of similar depth was noted in the eastern field.
- 7.2 Prehistoric activity on, or near, the site is evidenced by finds of several pieces of struck flint both from colluvial deposits and as residual finds from within later features. Unfortunately, none of these pieces were considered to be dateable.
- 7.3 The greatest evidence of activity at the site came from a cluster of Iron Age/Roman features which were uncovered at the eastern extent of the road scheme. These were discovered at the end of a dry valley, sheltered from the prevailing westerly winds and overlooking a wide river valley. The date range of these features is Middle Iron Age through to Early Roman indicating use and reuse of this small area over hundreds of years.
- 7.4 The features on the Rathfinny access road appear to be domestic rubbish pits containing broken household pottery and food waste hinting at long lived settlement near to the site. A broken imbrex tile from context [047] may be tantalising if scant evidence for more substantial structures close by in the Early Roman period. The pit complex [030], [032], [034] and the associated undated post holes may possibly have a structural use, all be it informal.
- 7.5 Sample analysis reveals that the agriculture probably consisted of cereal cultivation possibly in the field system noted to the north-west of the road scheme and the discovery of peas on site may show the employment of a crop rotation system. The assemblage of wild plant species also suggests open arable fields with wetland plants such as Sedge and Watercress being collected from the river valley to the east.
- 7.6 Evidence of salt production or importation was also present in two of the pits [018] and [028]. Pit [018] is Middle to Late Iron Age in date and pit [028] Late Iron Age/Early Roman suggesting that this activity was relatively long lived. Some of the pottery fabrics recovered also suggest the presence of a local pottery industry probably producing vessels for domestic use at or near the site.
- 7.7 Recovery of medieval pottery from the topsoil deposit [001] and from the colluvial deposit [006] indicate activity on or near the site from the 11<sup>th</sup> or 12<sup>th</sup> century through to the 13<sup>th</sup> or 14<sup>th</sup>.
- 7.8 Post medieval land division is evidenced by the ditch and recut [011] and [013]. This did contain fragments of 17<sup>th</sup> century brick although the majority of finds were 19<sup>th</sup> century in date.

7.9 In conclusion and with specific reference to the site specific research aims:

- Evidence for division of the landscape at Rathfinny Estate was discovered in the shape of a boundary ditch and recut. This was slightly to the east of the present field boundary suggesting that the division has migrated eastwards over time. Although this feature did contain 17<sup>th</sup> century material a 19<sup>th</sup> century date for this feature is more likely.
  
- Evidence of late prehistoric and early Roman activity was found on the Rathfinny Estate access road in the form of a cluster of what appeared to be domestic refuse pits. This hints at occupation on or near the site with associate agricultural activity, harvesting of natural resources and possibly small scale industry.

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**HER Summary**

Site Code	REA 12					
Identification Name and Address	New Access Road, Rathfinny Estate Alfriston					
County, District &/or Borough	East Sussex					
OS Grid Refs.	NGR: 551790, 102258 to 551586, 102092					
Geology	Lewes Nodular Chalk and Seaford Chalk Formation					
Arch. South-East Project Number	6439					
Type of Fieldwork			Watching Brief			
Type of Site	Green Field					
Dates of Fieldwork			WB.			
Sponsor/Client	Buro Four					
Project Manager	John Sygrave					
Project Supervisor	Chris Russel					
Period Summary					IA	RB
			PM			
<p>Summary</p> <p><i>Archaeology South-East was commissioned by Buro Four on behalf of The Rathfinny Estate, to undertake an Archaeological Strip, Map and Sample Excavation ahead of the construction of a new access road off White Way, Alfriston, East Sussex, TN31 7LB.</i></p> <p><i>Solid chalk geology was encountered at 55.92m AOD in the north west of the works monitored at Rathfinny Estate and a sequence of hill wash head deposits were encountered before clay with flints geology was noted in the south east at a maximum height of 27.12m AOD. Topsoil and plough soil were noted directly overlying the geological horizon with a thickness of approximately 0.30m. A former boundary ditch was noted just to the east to the existing field boundary which contained mainly 19th Century material. A cluster of Middle to Late Iron Age/ Early Roman pits was excavated at the south eastern extent of the road scheme. These pits produced evidence of salt production or importing, cereal agriculture and local pottery production. Activity from other periods was evidenced by topsoil and residual finds of prehistoric worked flint and topsoil and colluvial finds of medieval pottery.</i></p>						

## OASIS Form

**OASIS ID: archaeol6-183211**

### Project details

Project name	Rathfinny Estate New Access Road Watching Brief
Short description of the project	Archaeology South-East was commissioned by Buro Four on behalf of The Rathfinny Estate, to undertake an Archaeological Strip, Map and Sample Excavation ahead of the construction of a new access road off White Way, Alfriston, East Sussex, TN31 7LB. Solid chalk geology was encountered at 55.92m AOD in the north west of the works monitored at Rathfinny Estate and a sequence of hill wash head deposits were encountered before clay with flints geology was noted in the south east at a maximum height of 27.12m AOD. Topsoil and plough soil were noted directly overlying the geological horizon with a thickness of approximately 0.30m. A former boundary ditch was noted just to the east to the existing field boundary which contained mainly 19th Century material. A cluster of Middle to Late Iron Age/ Early Roman pits was excavated at the south eastern extent of the road scheme. These pits produced evidence of salt production or importing, cereal agriculture and local pottery production. Activity from other periods was evidenced by topsoil and residual finds of prehistoric worked flint and topsoil and colluvial finds of medieval pottery.
Project dates	Start: 10-03-2014 End: 20-03-2014
Previous/future work	Yes / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	REA 12 - Sitecode
Type of project	Recording project
Current Land use	Other 11 - Thoroughfare
Monument type	PIT Iron Age
Significant Finds	POTTERY Iron Age
Investigation type	"Watching Brief"
Prompt	Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPS

### Project location

Country	England
Site location	EAST SUSSEX LEWES SEAFORD Rathfinny Estate

### Project creators



Name of Organisation	Archaeology South-East
Project brief originator	East Sussex County Council
Project design originator	Archaeology South-East
Project director/manager	Jon Sygrave
Project supervisor	Chris Russel
Type of sponsor/funding body	client
Name of sponsor/funding body	Rathfinny Estate

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#### **Project archives**

Physical Archive recipient	Lewes Museum
Physical Archive ID	REA 12
Physical Contents	"Animal Bones", "Ceramics"
Digital Archive ID	REA 12
Digital Contents	"Stratigraphic", "Survey"
Digital Media available	"Survey", "Text"
Paper Archive ID	REA 12
Paper Contents	"Animal Bones", "Ceramics"
Paper Media available	"Miscellaneous Material", "Report"

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#### **Project bibliography 1**

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Watching Brief at New Access Road, Rathfinny Estate, Alfriston, East Sussex
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Swift, D.
Other bibliographic	ASE Report No: 2014232

details

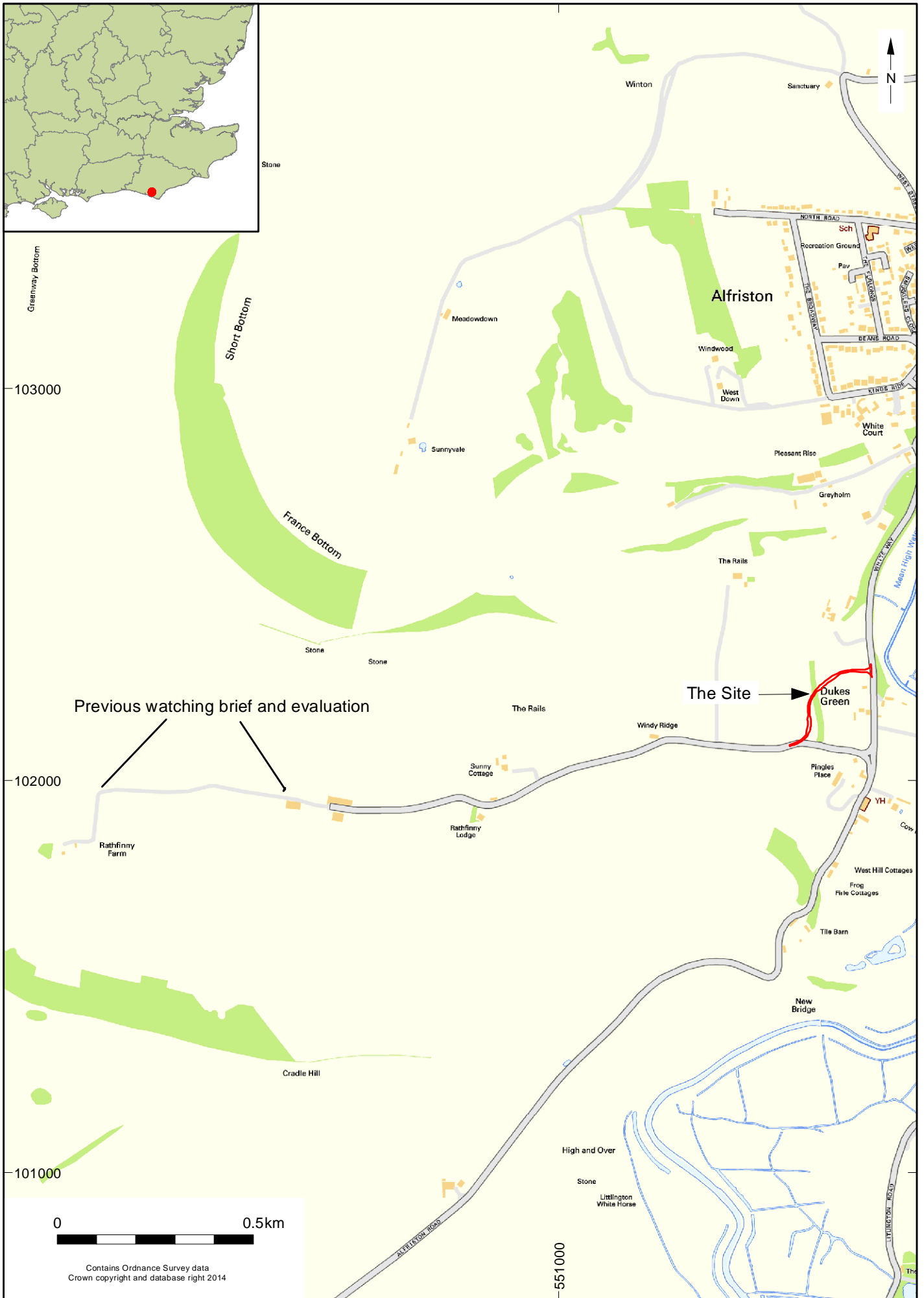
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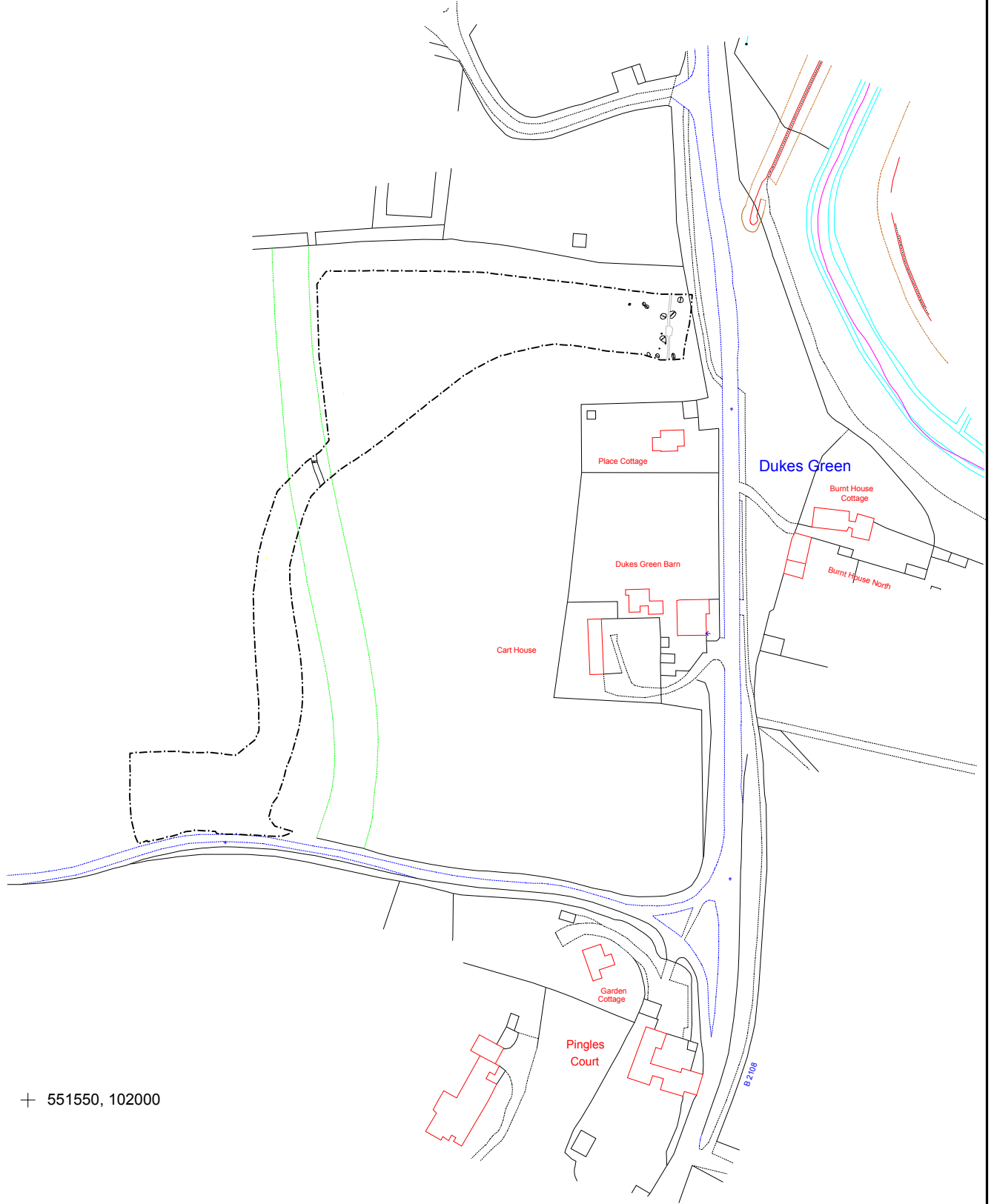
### Context Register

Context	Type	Description	Max Length M	Max Width M	Deposit Thickness M	Max Height AOD M
001	Deposit	Topsoil West Field	99.8	38	0.30m	
002	Deposit	Chalk Geology West Field	99.8	38	-	55.92
003	Deposit	Loose Colluvial Chalk	10	7.0	-	37.58
004	Deposit	Head Deposit	8	10	-	35.75
005	Deposit	Clay With Flint/ Chalk	30	10	-	33.30
006	Deposit	Colluvium East Field	70	20	1	28.48
007	Deposit	Clay with Flints Geology	134	62.8	-	27.57
008	Deposit	Topsoil East Field	134	62.8	0.30	
009	Cut	Cut of Pit	0.90	0.65	0.12	16.49
010	Fill	Fill of [009]	0.90	0.65	0.12	16.49
011	Cut	Cut of Ditch	10	1.55	0.36	31.31
012	Fill	Fill of [011]	10	1.55	0.36	31.31
013	Cut	Recut of Ditch	10	0.57	0.17	31.31
014	Fill	Fill of [013]	10	0.57	0.17	31.31
015	Cut	Cut Of Pit	1.99	1.99	0.85	16.35
016	Fill	Upper Fill of [015]	1.99	1.99	0.70	16.35
017	Fill	Lower Fill of [015]	1.99	1.99	0.55	15.65
018	Cut	Cut of Pit	2.78	2.78	0.80	15.92
019	Fill	Lower Fill of [018]	2.78	2.78	0.36	15.44
020	Fill	Mid Fill of [018]	2.78	2.78	0.12	15.80
021	Fill	Upper Fill of [018]	2.78	2.78	0.34	15.92
024	Cut	Cut of Shallow Pit	1.69	1.02	0.22	16.16
025	Fill	Fill of [024]	1.69	1.02	0.22	16.16
026	Cut	Cut of Pit	1.05	1.05	0.12	16.39
027	Fill	Fill of [026]	1.05	1.05	0.12	16.39
028	Cut	Cut of Pit	1.51	1.51	0.44	16.47
029	Fill	Fill of [028]	1.51		0.44	16.47
030	Cut	Cut of Pit	2.05	1.10	0.34	16.51
031	Fill	Fill of [030]	2.05	1.10	0.34	16.51
032	Cut	Cut of Pit	0.56	0.40	0.53	16.51
033	Fill	Fill of [032]	0.56	0.40	0.53	16.51
034	Cut	Cut of Pit	0.77	0.77	0.56	16.51
035	Fill	Fill of [034]	0.77	0.77	0.56	16.51
038	Cut	Cut of Pit	1.60	1.60	0.30	16.77
039	Fill	Fill of [038]	1.60	1.60	0.30	16.77
040	Cut	Cut of Pit	0.81	0.81	0.21	16.65
041	Fill	Fill of [040]	0.81	0.81	0.21	16.65
042	Cut	Cut of Posthole	0.54	0.54	0.33	16.29
043	Fill	Fill of [042]	0.54	0.54	0.33	16.29
044	Cut	Cut of Posthole	0.70	0.70	0.32	16.54
045	Fill	Fill of [044]	0.70	0.70	0.32	16.54
046	Cut	Cut of Pit	1.40	1.40	0.81	16.77
047	Fill	Fill of [046]	1.40	1.40	0.81	16.77
048	Cut	Cut of Pit	2.10	2.10	0.80	15.47
049	Fill	Fill of [048]	2.10	2.10	0.80	15.47



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Project Ref: 6439	July 2014	Site location		
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+ 551550, 102400

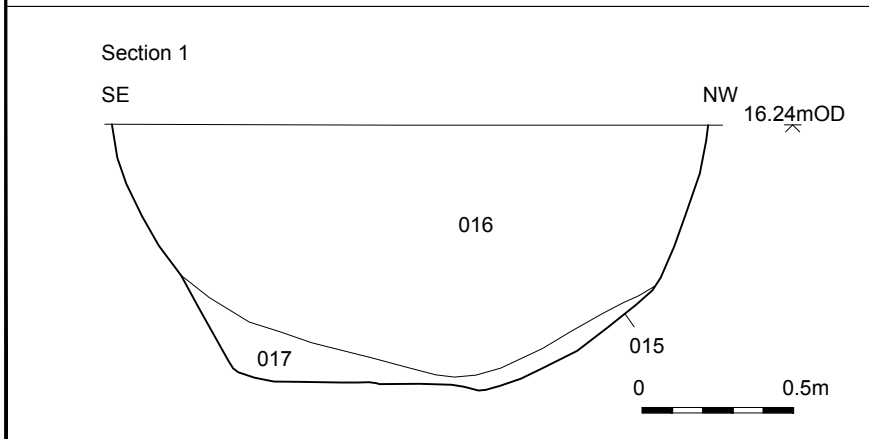


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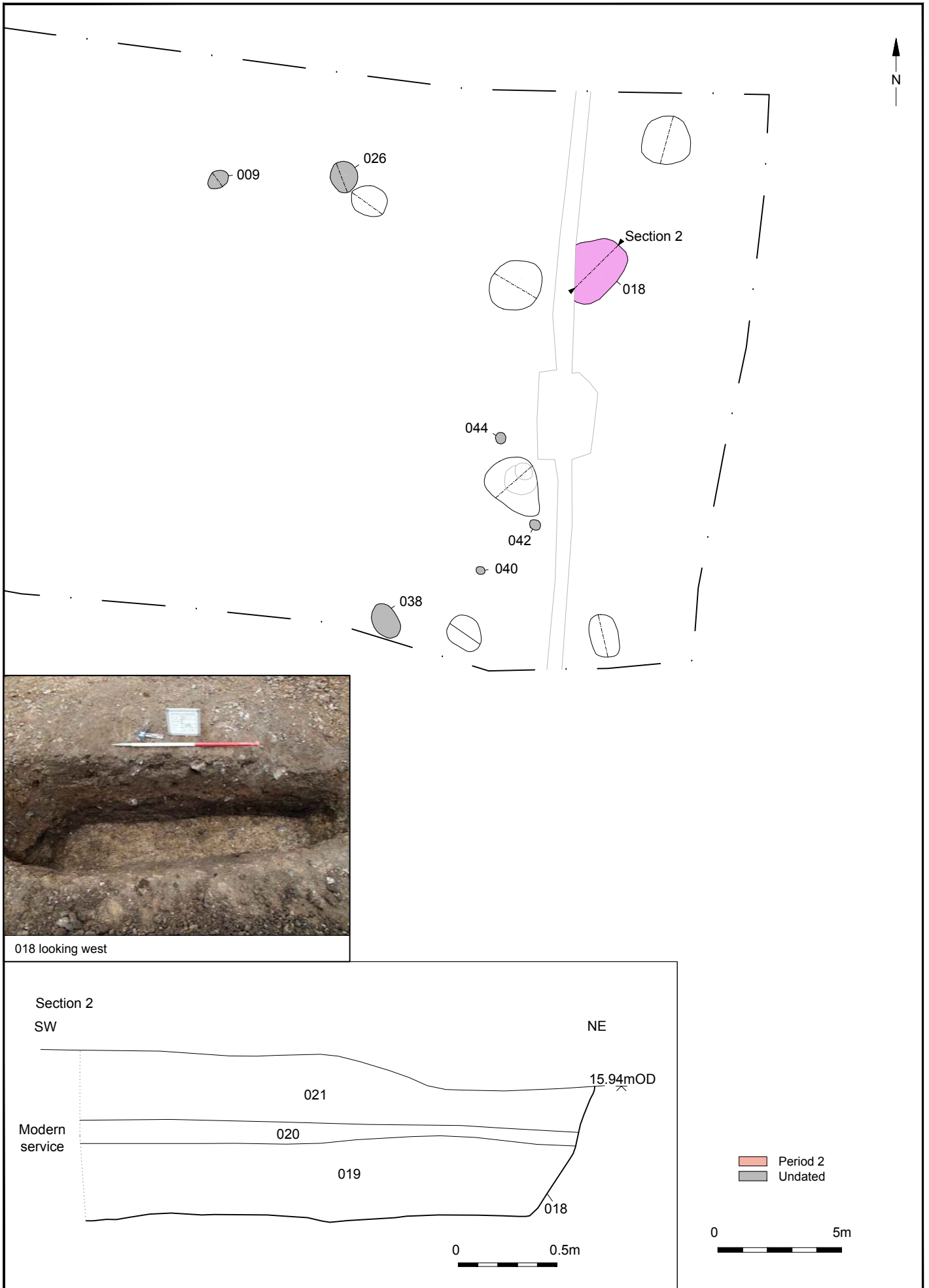


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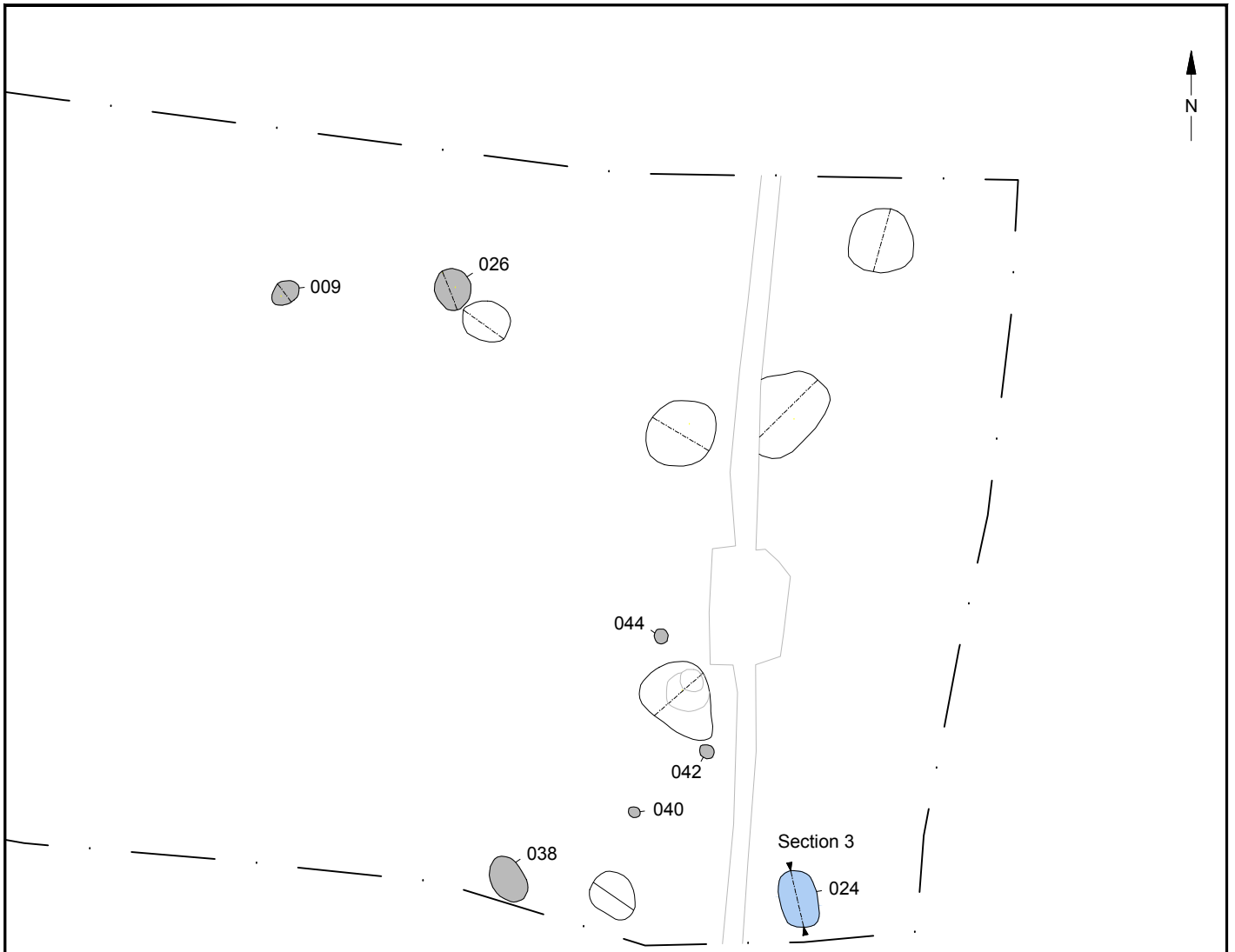
© Archaeology South-East		New Access Road, Rathfinny Estate		Fig. 2
Project Ref: 6439	July 2014	Site plan		
Report Ref: 2014232	Drawn by: JLR			



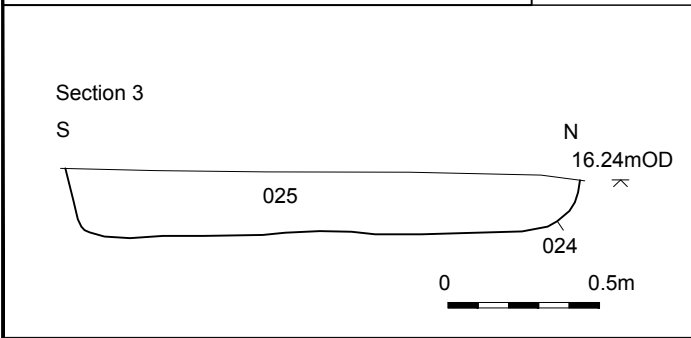
© Archaeology South-East		New Access Road, Rathfinny Estate	Fig. 3
Project Ref: 6439	July 2014	Period 1: plan, section and photograph	
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024 looking west

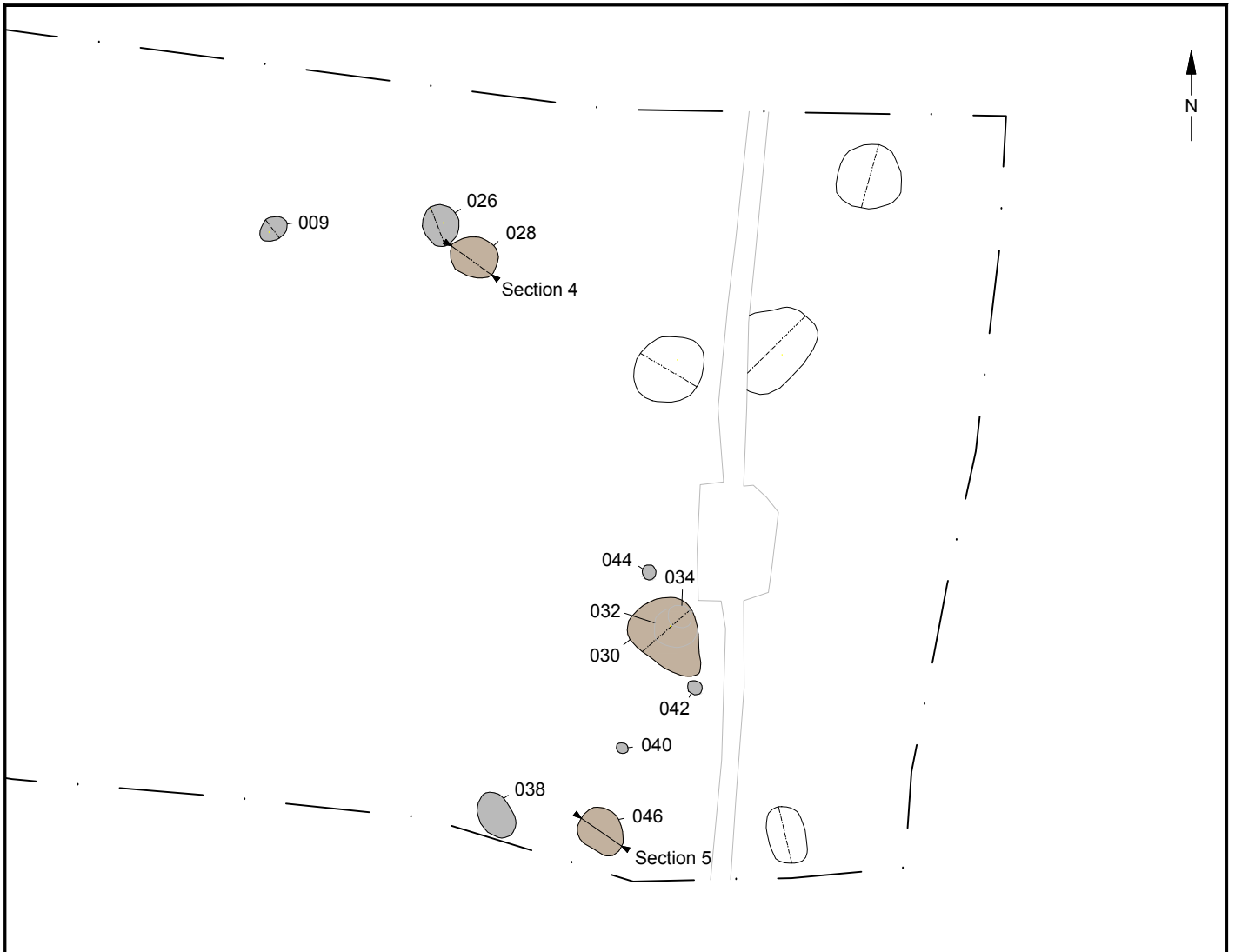


Period 3  
Undated



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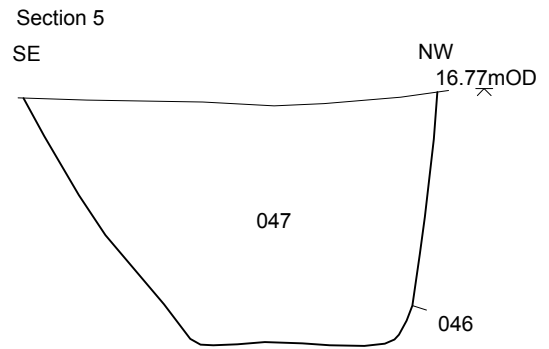
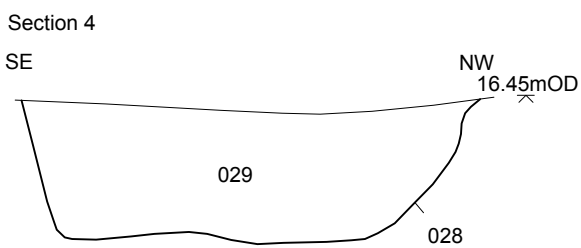


Period 4  
 Undated

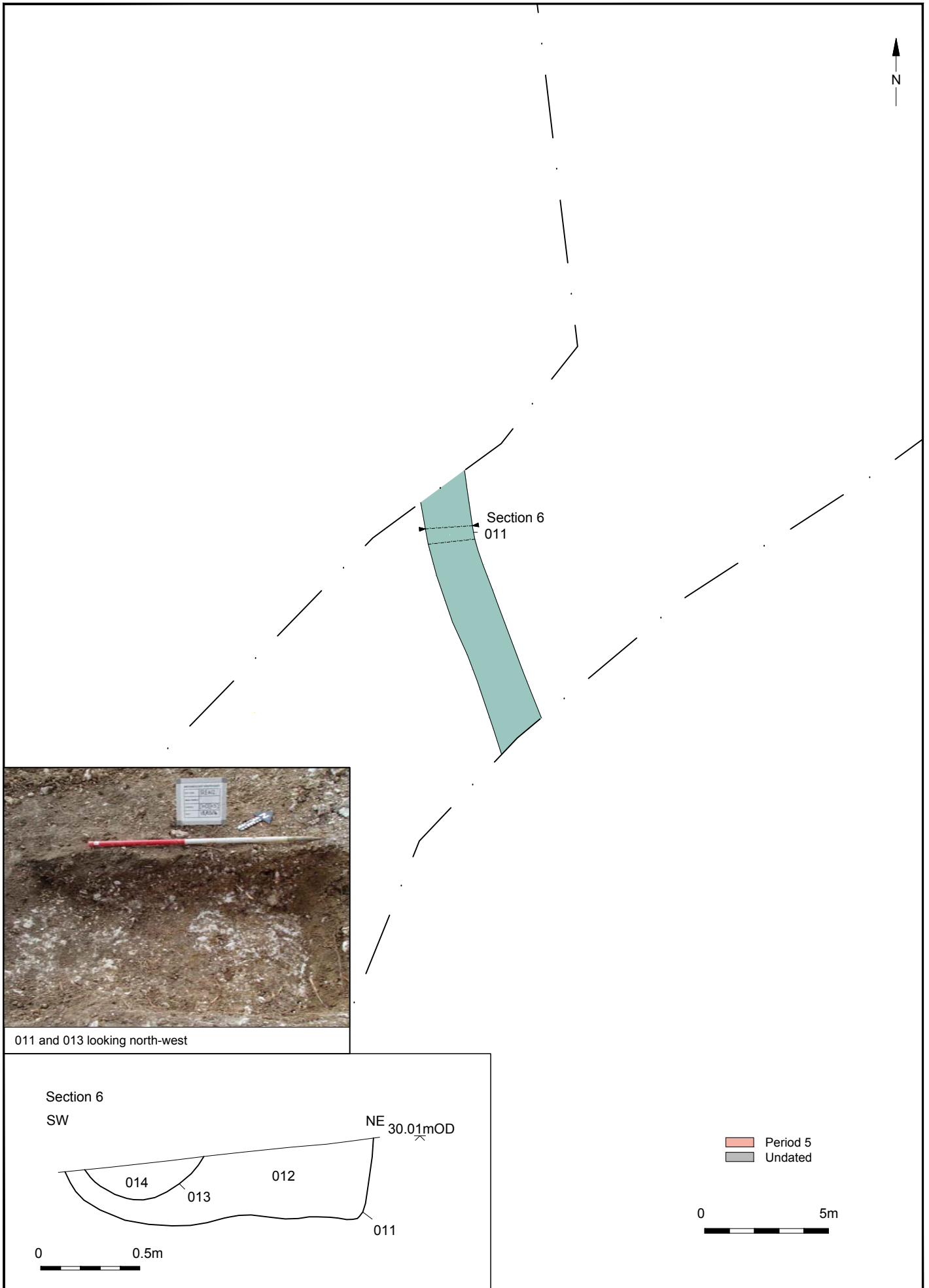


028 looking south-west

046 looking south-west



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Report Ref: 2014232	Drawn by: JLR			



© Archaeology South-East		New Access Road, Rathfinny Estate	Fig. 7
Project Ref: 6439	July 2014	Period 5: plan, section and photograph	
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