

**Archaeological Evaluation Report
Oldlands Farm, Bognor Regis
West Sussex**

NGR: 494183 101885



ASE Project No: 6594

Site Code: OFB14

**ASE Report No: 2014303
OASIS id: archaeol6-189654**

By Catherine Douglas

**Archaeological Evaluation Report
Oldlands Farm, Bognor Regis
West Sussex**

NGR: 494183 101885

**ASE Project No: 6594
Site Code: OFB14**

**ASE Report No: 2014303
OASIS id: archaeol6-189654**

By Catherine Douglas

**With contributions by
Lucy Allott, Luke Barber
Anna Doherty and Elke Raemen**

September 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) was commissioned by CgMs to undertake an evaluation at Oldlands Farm, Bognor Regis, West Sussex. Seventeen archaeological evaluation trenches, each measuring 50.00m x 2.00m were excavated.

Archaeological features were identified within 12 of the 17 trenches. These comprised field boundary ditches, gullies and pits. The periods represented on the site are Late Bronze Age (c.1150-800) and Roman (AD50 – 140).

Clearly there is both a phase of Bronze Age and a phase of Roman activity present on the site. Further excavation work is currently underway, and this will hopefully shed further light on the dating and nature of this activity.

CONTENTS

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

Bibliography
Acknowledgements

Appendix 1: HER Summary
Appendix 2: OASIS Form
Appendix 3: Finds Quantification
Appendix 4: Environmental Residue Quantification
Appendix 5: Environmental Flots Quantification

TABLES

- Table 1: Quantification of site archive
- Table 2: Trench 2 list of recorded contexts
- Table 3: Trench 3 list of recorded contexts
- Table 4: Trench 4 list of recorded contexts
- Table 5: Trench 5 list of recorded contexts
- Table 6: Trench 6 list of recorded contexts
- Table 7: Trench 7 list of recorded contexts
- Table 8: Trench 8 list of recorded contexts
- Table 9: Trench 9 list of recorded contexts
- Table 10: Trench 10 list of recorded contexts
- Table 11: Trench 11 list of recorded contexts
- Table 12: Trench 14 list of recorded contexts
- Table 13: Trench 15 list of recorded contexts
- Table 14: Archaeologically negative trenches: list of recorded contexts

FIGURES

- Figure 1: Site location
- Figure 2: Trench location
- Figure 3: Trenches 1 – 3
- Figure 4: Trenches 4 – 11, 14 and 15
- Figure 5: Trench 2 plan, photos and sections
- Figure 6: Trench 3 plan, photos and sections
- Figure 7: Trench 4 plan, photos and sections
- Figure 8: Trench 5 plan, photos and sections
- Figure 9: Trench 6 plan, photos and sections
- Figure 10: Trench 7 plan, photos and sections
- Figure 11: Trench 8 plan, photos and sections
- Figure 12: Trench 9 plan, photos and sections
- Figure 13: Trench 10 plan, photos and sections
- Figure 14: Trench 11 plan, photos and sections
- Figure 15: Trench 14 plan, photos and sections
- Figure 16: Trench 15 plan, photos and sections

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 to undertake an evaluation on land north of Oldlands Farm, Bognor Regis, West Sussex, (NGR: 494170 101300; Figure 1). Seventeen archaeological evaluation trenches, measuring 50m x 2m were excavated on the site.

1.1.2 The surrounding immediate area has previously undergone two archaeological evaluations (Wessex 2007, Cotswolds Archaeology 2008) that recorded archaeological features ranging from the prehistoric to Roman periods. More recently, a geophysical survey (ArchaeoPhysica 2014) over most of the site and a geoarchaeological watching brief during geotechnical works (ASE 2014) on the site, and the slightly wider area, have also been conducted as informative pre-determination works (Figure 2).

1.1.3 A single posthole infilled by burnt flint was identified in the watching brief (*ibid.*). However, also recorded was a horizon of archaeological material across the site from which Bronze Age pottery and worked flint were recovered.

1.2 Geology and Topography

1.2.1 The underlying geology comprises the heavily weathered Cretaceous chalk of the Culver Formation overlain by Middle-Late Pleistocene calcareous basin deposits. The drift sediments comprise loessic brickearth and raised marine deposits. The site lies on the interfluvium between the Aldingbourne and Lydney Rifes and is currently under arable cultivation as part of Oldlands Farm.

1.2.2 The general topographic relief demonstrates an area of higher ground within the western half of the area with the east characterised by lower lying floodplain. The site is bounded by the A29 to the west, the Bognor Regis Industrial Estate to the south and the railway to the east.

1.3 Planning Background

1.3.1 Bericote Properties Limited have made a planning application for the "Erection of 2 detached industrial/distribution units (B1(c)/B2/B8) including access and servicing arrangements, car parking, landscaping and associated flood compensation area". (CgMs 2014). Planning permission was granted on 28 August 2014. This included a condition to ensure that appropriate investigation and recording of archaeological heritage assets took place on the site prior to the commencement of new building works

1.3.2 Accordingly, a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI), detailing proposals for evaluation and borehole survey work was prepared (CgMs 2014) and approved by Mark Taylor, Principal Archaeologist, West Sussex County Council.

1.4 Scope of Report

- 1.4.1 This report details the results of the archaeological evaluation undertaken by ASE in July 2014. The site was staffed by ASE archaeologists, project managed by Paul Mason (fieldwork) and by Jim Stevenson and Dan Swift (post-excavation) and directed by Catherine Douglas.

2.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 Introduction

2.1.1 A HER search has been requested from West Sussex County Council, (Ref: 5034/130263) detailing all sites within a 1km radius of the site. This information will be included in the excavation report from the mitigation work currently being undertaken by ASE at Oldlands Farm. The Following information is taken from the WSI (CgMs 2014).

2.2 Recent work

2.2.1 An archaeological evaluation within the corridor of the Bognor Regis Northern Relief Road (Wessex 2007; Figure 2) involved the excavation of 15 trenches in the zone between the proposed development area and the Flood Compensation Area. The trenches contained no significant archaeology, although localised areas of Bronze Age and Roman activity were identified within the road corridor in the east and south-east. The project also involved a detailed geological and palaeoenvironmental investigation of late Middle-Late Pleistocene sediments.

2.2.2 In 2008 an archaeological evaluation of the surrounding immediate area (Cotswolds Archaeology 2008; Figure 2). Thirty-eight trenches were excavated, thirteen of which were within, or partially within, the proposed development area. The development area was assessed to contain a possible Bronze Age settlement along with Iron Age settlement-related activity. There was also some potential for Bronze Age field systems which may have continued in use into the Iron Age.

2.2.3 A geophysical survey (ArchaeoPhysica 2014; Figure 2) identified a number of weakly enhanced anomalies, possibly ditches, a significant number of which correlated with the features identified by Cotswold Archaeology (Cotswolds Archaeology 2008).

2.2.4 Finally, a geoarchaeological watching brief during the excavation of 43 geotechnical test pits was undertaken (ASE 2014; Figure 2). The report on this watching brief provides a detailed account of the deposit sequence within the site. In summary, the eastern half of the main site was found to contain a deep alluvial sequence, with a profile of c. 0.30 m of topsoil directly overlying alluvium. To the west of the site, current ground levels were found to be higher. Between 0.40 and 0.70 m of topsoil and subsoil overlay brickearth, the highest significant archaeological horizon.

2.3 Project Aims and Objectives

2.3.1 The general aims of the evaluation trenching, as stated in the WSI (CgMs 2014) were:

- To augment the baseline understanding (built on the CA evaluation; geophysical survey and geoarchaeological monitoring).
- To provide information on the extent, date, character, condition, significance and quality of archaeological remains within the development site
- To provide information to inform the design solution

2.3.2 More specific aims of the fieldwork within the Flood Compensation Area were as follows:

- To provide information on the extent, date, character, condition, significance and quality of archaeological remains within the development site
- To determine the local prevailing conditions that influence settlement sites in prehistory
- provide information on the extent, date, character, condition, significance and quality of archaeological remains within the development site
- To assess the artefactual and environmental potential of any archaeological deposits encountered
- To assess the impact of previous land use on the site
- To inform formulation of a further measures, if required, to mitigate impacts of the proposed development on surviving archaeological remains
- To produce a site archive for deposition with an appropriate museum and to provide information for accession to the West Sussex HER.

3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY

3.1 Fieldwork Methodology

- 3.1.1 An initial 11 archaeological trial trenches numbered 1-11 were excavated, as per the WSI (CgMs 2014). Additionally, following discussions between CgMs and Mark Taylor, Principal Archaeologist, West Sussex County Council, a further 6 trenches numbered 12-17 were also excavated. All trenches measured 50m by 2m (Figures 2, 3 and 4).
- 3.1.2 The area was surveyed using GPS survey equipment and excavated using a 20 tonne mechanical excavator fitted with a 2m wide flat blade ditching bucket under archaeological supervision. Overburden deposits (e.g. topsoil and subsoil) 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.
- 3.1.3 All discrete features were sectioned and recorded. Linear features were sample-sectioned. Ditches and gullies had all relationships defined, investigated and recorded. Sufficient of the feature lengths were excavated to determine the character of the feature over its entire course; the possibility of recuts of parts, and not the whole, of the feature were considered.
- 3.1.4 All excavated deposits and features were recorded according to current professional standards using the ASE recording sheets. Features planned and levelled using GPS survey equipment after excavation. Sections were drawn at a scale of 1:10. All features and trenches were photographed.
- 3.1.5 All finds recovered from excavated deposits were collected and retained in line with the ASE artefacts collection policy.

3.2 Archive

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

Number of Contexts	110
No. of files/paper record	1
Plan and sections sheets	6
Bulk Samples	5
Photographs	109
Bulk finds	1 box
Registered finds	1
Environmental flots/residue	5

Table 1: Quantification of site archive

4.0 RESULTS

4.1 Geology and Overburden

- 4.1.1 Manganese-flecked orange-brown brickearth was encountered 1.70m AOD in the northern part of site, and at a lower level of 1.18m AOD in the southern part of site.
- 4.1.2 The brickearth was generally overlain by light-mid reddish orange silt subsoil, between 0.15m and 0.44m thick.
- 4.1.3 In Trenches 7, 8, 9 and 10, the brickearth was overlain by a 0.14-0.32m thick layer comprised of light-mid grey orange clayey silt [7/004], [8/004] and [10/010] which was cut by archaeological features. This was overlain by the same light-mid-reddish orange silt subsoil seen in the other trenches.
- 4.1.4 The subsoil was sealed by a thick layer of silt topsoil measuring between 0.30m and 0.40m thick. Trenches 11, 15, 16 and 17 were located in a cereal field, whereas all of the other trenches were positioned in a potato field, where the topsoil was looser and thicker.

4.2 Trench 2 (Figures 3 and 5)

- 4.2.1 A ditch, [2/004], oriented roughly north-east south-west cut the natural brickearth, [2/003]. It contained a single firm clay fill [2/004]. No finds or dating evidence were recovered.
- 4.2.2 Five pieces of fire-cracked flint were identified within the subsoil [2/002], possibly suggesting prehistoric activity.

Context	Type	Description	Max. Length m	Max. Width m	Deposit Thickness m	Level m AOD
2/001	Layer	Topsoil	>50	>2	0.32	2.09
2/002	Layer	Subsoil	>50	>2	0.15	-
2/003	Layer	Natural	-	-	-	1.53
2/004	Cut	Ditch	>50	2	0.47	-
2/005	Fill	Ditch fill	>50	2	0.47	1.54

Table 2: Trench 2 list of recorded contexts

4.3 Trench 3 (Figures 3 and 6)

4.3.1 A large feature, [3/006] extended across the eastern 15m of the trench. A sondage was excavated in the centre of the feature, which revealed the underlying brickearth geology, [3/003]. The single fill, [3/007], comprised grey and red brown mottled silty clay and contained Early Roman pottery dated to c.AD50-140.

Context	Type	Description	Max. Length m	Max. Width m	Deposit Thickness m
3/001	Layer	Topsoil	>50	>2	0.35
3/002	Layer	Subsoil	>50	>2	0.18
3/003	Layer	Natural	-	-	-
3/004	-	Void	-	-	-
3/005	-	Void	-	-	-
3/006	Cut	Ditch	>15	>2	0.50
3/007	Fill	Ditch Fill	>15	>2	0.50

Table 3: Trench 3 list of recorded contexts

4.4 Trench 4 (Figures 4 and 7)

4.4.1 A large ditch [4/005] with a width of 2.90m and a depth of 0.28m was cut by a further, similar ditch, [4/003]. Both ditches were oriented on a north-south alignment and contained silty clay fills. Fill [4/006] contained fire-cracked flint.

4.4.2 A small gully [4/009] was also encountered on a north/south alignment.

4.4.3 A large ditch [4/007] with a profile very similar to that of [5/004] was also present. No dating evidence was retrieved from its fill.

4.4.4 A possible ditch terminus [4/011] was also found, also undated, but this also contained flint and fire-cracked flint.

Context	Type	Description	Max. Length m	Max. Width m	Deposit Thickness m	Level m AOD
4/001	Layer	Topsoil	>50	>2	0.40	1.95
4/002	Layer	Natural	>50	>2	-	1.33
4/003	Cut	Ditch	1.40	1.00	0.46	-
4/004	Fill	Ditch fill	1.40	1.00	0.46	-
4/005	Cut	Ditch	2.40	1.00	0.30	-
4/006	Fill	Ditch fill	2.40	1.00	0.30	-
4/007	Cut	Ditch	>2.00	1.27	0.60	-
4/008	Fill	Ditch fill	>1.00	1.27	0.60	-
4/009	Cut	Gully	-	0.43	0.07	-
4/010	Fill	Gully fill	-	-	0.07	-
4/011	Cut	ditch terminus	1.30	1.16	0.45	-
4/012	Fill	Fill of 4/011	-	1.16	0.45	-
4/013	Layer	Subsoil	>50	>2	0.25	-

Table 4: Trench 4 list of recorded contexts

4.5 Trench 5 (Figures 4 and 8)

4.5.1 A northeast-southwest oriented ditch [5/004] contained Roman pottery. The northern terminus of an undated ditch or pit [5/006] was also found.

Context	Type	Description	Max. Length m	Max. Width m	Deposit Thickness m	Level m AOD
5/001	Layer	Topsoil	>50	>2	0.36	2.37
5/002	Layer	Subsoil	>50	>2	0.20	-
5/003	Layer	Natural	-	-	-	1.76
5/004	Cut	Ditch	>1	1.25	0.70	-
5/005	Fill	Ditch fill	>1	0.70		-
5/006	Cut	Ditch terminus	>1	1.20	0.35	-
5/007	Fill	Ditch Fill	>1	1.20	0.35	-

Table 5: Trench 5 list of recorded contexts

4.6 Trench 6 (Figures 4 and 9)

4.6.1 Two parallel gullies [6/004] and [6/006] were oriented on a north-south alignment. A small sherd of prehistoric pottery (probably LBA c.1150-800) was retrieved from the manganese-rich silt fill [6/007] of gully [6/006]. A possible pit [6/008] containing fire-cracked flint and a possible ditch [6/010] were also present.

Context	Type	Description	Max. Length m	Max. Width m	Deposit Thickness m	Level m AOD
6/001	Layer	Topsoil	>50	>2	0.35	2.40
6/002	Layer	Subsoil	>50	>2	0.20	-
6/003	Layer	Natural	>50	>2	-	1.86
6/004	Cut	Gully	0.80	0.43	0.40	-
6/005	Fill	Gully fill	0.80	0.43	0.40	-
6/006	Cut	Gully	0.30	0.28	0.15	-
6/007	Fill	Gully fill	0.30	0.28	0.15	-
6/008	Cut	Possible pit	0.30	0.25	0.28	-
6/009	Fill	Pit fill	0.30	0.25	0.28	-
6/010	Cut	Possible gully	>2	0.48	0.28	-
6/011	Fill	Gully fill	>2	0.48	0.28	-

Table 6: Trench 6 list of recorded contexts

4.7 Trench 7 (Figures 4 and 10)

4.7.1 A single undated ditch [7/005] containing a mid-dark reddish-brown silt fill [7/006] was encountered in Trench 7.

Context	Type	Description	Max. Length m	Max. Width m	Deposit Thickness m	Level m AOD
7/001	Layer	Topsoil	>50	>2	0.36	2.59
7/002	Layer	Subsoil	>50	>2	0.20	-
7/003	Layer	Natural	-	-	-	1.73
7/004	Layer	Deposit	20	>2	0.20	-
7/005	Cut	Ditch	>1	0.76	0.26	-
7/006	Fill	Ditch fill	>1	0.76	0.26	-

Table 7: Trench 7 list of recorded contexts

4.8 Trench 8 (Figures 4 and 11)

4.8.1 A north-south oriented ditch [8/009] was located at the north-west end of the trench. The lower fill [8/010] contained a number of prehistoric pot sherds, (probably Late Bronze Age c.1150-800). Both [8/010] and upper fill [8/011] contained a large quantity of fire-cracked or burnt flint. Two parallel linear gullies [8/005] and [8/007] were found. Hand excavated sondages through the gullies revealed one Roman (or later) sherd of pot, and another probable middle-Bronze Age sherd of pot, both from fill [8/008].

Context	Type	Description	Max. Length m	Max. Width m	Deposit Thickness m	Level m AOD
8/001	Layer	Topsoil	>50	>2	0.40	2.61
8/002	Layer	Subsoil	>50	>2	0.20 -0.32	-
8/003	Layer	Natural	-	-	-	1.85
8/004	Layer	Deposit	10	>2	0.40	-
8/005	Cut	Gully	>0.80	0.32	0.18	-
8/006	Fill	Gully fill	>0.80	0.32	0.18	-
8/007	Cut	Gully	>1	0.45	0.23	-
8/008	Fill	Gully fill	>1	0.45	0.23	-
8/009	Cut	Ditch	>1	2.12	>0.96	-
8/010	Fill	Ditch fill	>1	2.12	0.35	-
8/011	Fill	Ditch fill	>1	1.40	0.62	-

Table 8: Trench 8 list of recorded contexts

4.9 Trench 9 (Figures 4 and 12)

4.9.1 A single pit [9/005] contained two fills [9/006] and [9/007]. This was a large feature, with vertical sides and a deep base, which may represent a water hole or well. Pottery of probable Bronze Age date (probably c.1150-800) was retrieved from the lower clay-silt fill [9/006].

Context	Type	Description	Max. Length m	Max. Width m	Deposit Thickness m	Level m AOD
9/001	Layer	Topsoil	>50	>2	0.36	2.27
9/002	Layer	Subsoil	>50	>2	0.31-0.52	-
9/003	Layer	Natural	-	-	-	1.64
9/004	Layer	Deposit	-	>2	0.14	-
9/005	Cut	Pit	1.40	1.20	1.52-1.82	-
9/006	Fill	Pit fill	1.28	1.20	0.52	-
9/007	Fill	Pit fill	1.40	1.20	0.52	-

Table 9: Trench 9 list of recorded contexts

4.10 Trench 10 (Figures 4 and 13)

4.10.1 Two pits [10/004] and [10/006] were encountered c.1.50m apart. Pit [10/004] contained one sherd of Bronze Age pottery (probably c.1150-800). A small ditch or gully [10/008] was encountered on a northwest-southeast alignment, containing a soft silt fill. Burnt or fire-cracked flint was encountered within the fills of each feature.

Context	Type	Description	Max. Length m	Max. Width m	Deposit Thickness m	Level m AOD
10/001	Layer	Topsoil	>50	>2	0.30-0.45	2.01
10/002	Layer	Subsoil	>50	>2	0.26-0.40	-
10/003	Layer	Natural	-	-	-	1.49
10/004	Cut	Pit	0.64	0.64	0.26	-
10/005	Fill	Pit Fill	0.64	0.64	0.26	-
10/006	Cut	Pit	0.58	0.58	0.09	-
10/007	Fill	Pit fill	0.58	0.58	0.09	-
10/008	Cut	Ditch	>2	0.77	0.29	-
10/009	Fill	Ditch fill	>2	0.77	0.29	-
10/010	Layer	Deposit	>50	>2	0.32	-

Table 10: Trench 10 list of recorded contexts

4.11 Trench 11 (Figures 4 and 14)

4.11.1 Two ditches and one gully were located in Trench 11, each with differing fills suggesting they may not be contemporaneous. Ditch [11/004] was oriented east-west, and contained a single pale grey brown sandy silt fill [11/005]. No finds were retrieved.

4.11.2 A shallow gully [11/006] oriented on a similar east-west alignment. This contained a pale-mid grey brown silty fill [11/007].

4.11.3 A large ditch [11/008] was oriented on a north-south axis. This contained a single compact blue clay fill [11/009]. The fill contained a single sherd of Late Bronze Age (c.1150-800) pottery.

Context	Type	Description	Max. Length m	Max. Width m	Deposit Thickness m	Level m AOD
11/001	Layer	Topsoil	>50	>2	0.24	1.92
11/002	Layer	Subsoil	>50	>2	0.16	-
11/003	Layer	Natural	-	-	-	1.15
11/004	Cut	Ditch	>3	1.19	0.38	-
11/005	Fill	Ditch fill	>3	1.19	0.38	-
11/006	Cut	Gully	>2.30	0.53	0.11	-
11/007	Fill	Gully fill	>2.30	0.53	0.11	-
11/008	Cut	Ditch	>2.50	0.94	0.35	-
11/009	Fill	Ditch fill	>2.50	0.94	0.35	-

Table 11: Trench 11 list of recorded contexts

4.12 Trench 14 (Figures 4 and 15)

4.12.1 A north-east - south-west field boundary ditch [14/004] containing Late Bronze Age pottery and worked flint was truncated by a pit [14/006] containing two fills. The lower fill [14/007] comprised mollusc-rich silty clay chalk, containing large flint nodules.

Context	Type	Description	Max. Length m	Max. Width m	Deposit Thickness m	Level m AOD
14/001	Layer	Topsoil	>50	>2	0.38	2.41
14/002	Layer	Subsoil	>50	>2	0.31	-
14/003	Layer	Natural	-	-	-	1.78
14/004	Cut	Ditch	>3.20	1.34	0.60	-
14/005	Fill	Ditch Fill	>3.20	1.34	0.60	-
14/006	Cut	Pit	3	0.75	0.60	-
14/007	Fill	Pit fill	>0.20	-	0.17	-
14/008	Fill	Pit fill	>0.75	0.75	0.43	-

Table 12: Trench 14 list of recorded contexts

4.13 Trench 15 (Figures 4 and 16)

4.13.1 Two similarly aligned ditches, [15/004] and [15/003], were revealed in Trench 15. The single compact silt-clay fill [15/005] of ditch [15/004] contained 2 sherds of Roman pottery and a sherd of medieval pottery, of c.13th date. The other ditch [15/003] contained no dating evidence.

Context	Type	Description	Max. Length m	Max. Width m	Deposit Thickness m	Level m AOD
15/001	Layer	Topsoil	>50	>2	0.30	2.72
15/002	Layer	Subsoil	>50	>2	0.40	-
15/003	Layer	Natural	-	-	-	1.56
15/004	Cut	Ditch	>2.60	1.30	0.38	-
15/005	Fill	Ditch Fill	>2.60	1.30	0.38	-
15/006	Cut	Ditch	3	0.75	0.60	-
15/007	Fill	Ditch fill	-	-	-	-

Table 13: Trench 15 list of recorded contexts

4.14 Trenches 1, 12, 13, 16, 17 (Figures 2-4)

4.14.1 Trenches 1, 12, 13, 16 and 17 were archaeologically negative. A modern field boundary on a north / south orientation was located in Trench 1. A piece of flint was identified within the subsoil [1/002] which may suggest prehistoric activity in the vicinity, although no prehistoric features were identified in Trench 1.

4.14.2 The subsoil varied in thickness, ranging from 0.15m to 0.44m. The overlying topsoil had a similar thickness in all of the trenches of around 0.30m.

Trench Number	Context	Type	Description	Deposit Thickness m	Level m AOD
1	001	Layer	Topsoil	0.32	1.76
1	002	Layer	Subsoil	0.15	-
12	001	Layer	Topsoil	0.28	2.09
12	002	Layer	Subsoil	0.44	-
13	001	Layer	Topsoil	0.32	2.32
13	002	Layer	Subsoil	0.27	-
16	001	Layer	Topsoil	0.26	2.86
16	002	Layer	Subsoil	0.35	-
17	001	Layer	Topsoil	0.26	2.72
17	002	Layer	Subsoil	0.30	-

Table 14: Archaeologically negative trenches: list of recorded contexts

5.0 THE FINDS

5.1 Prehistoric and/or Roman Pottery by Anna Doherty

- 5.1.1 The evaluation trenches produced an assemblage of prehistoric and Roman pottery totalling 58 sherds, weighing 0.70kg. (Appendix 3) At this stage the pottery has not been recorded in detail according to a fabric and form type-series but it has been broadly characterised for spot-dating purposes. It is recommended that the assemblage should be retained and recorded with any further material recovered in the event of further excavation.
- 5.1.2 Most of the pottery-producing contexts (TP 31, TP57, [6/007], [8/010], [9/006], [10/005], [11/009], [14/005]) contained very small numbers of moderately coarse and ill-sorted flint-tempered bodysherds, broadly typical of the Late Bronze Age (c.1150-800BC). One sherd, from [8/008], was a little coarser and thicker-walled, suggesting a date in the Middle Bronze Age or the early part of the Late Bronze Age (c.1500-950BC). However, this was stratified with an extremely small and abraded oxidised sherd of Roman or later date. Generally speaking, most of the prehistoric pottery was in quite abraded condition so it is possible that some of the other sherds are residual within their contexts.
- 5.1.3 Although it is considered likely that this assemblage belongs largely to the late 2nd or early 1st millennium BC, it must be stated that flint-tempering was a long-lived pottery tradition and this makes it difficult to date these fabrics with absolute certainty, where no diagnostic feature sherds are present and there are no substantial stratified groups. Nevertheless, it is a fairly well established pattern that the West Sussex Coastal Plain was very heavily settled in the Middle and Late Bronze but apparently less so after c.800BC (Dunkin *et al* in prep).
- 5.1.4 Context [8/010] produced a large group of fresh Roman bodysherds, mostly derived from two fragmented vessels produced by the Rowland's Castle pottery industry. The two forms are: a necked to slightly everted rim jar and a flat rim bowl with a slight internal lip. Overall the group can be dated to c.AD50-140. Two further bodysherds of Rowland's Castle grey ware, also in very fresh condition, were noted in context [5/005]. Two tiny and abraded sherds in a probable Roman oxidised fine ware fabric were stratified with a similarly small glaze medieval sherd in context [15/005]

5.2 Medieval and/or Post-Medieval Pottery by Luke Barber

- 5.2.1 The archaeological work recovered a single piece of medieval pottery from the site (context [15/005]). This consists of a slightly abraded 2g sherd from a green glazed jug tempered with fine sand and common/moderate flint to 0.5mm. The vessel, which is of 13th- century date, probably originated from one of the kilns at Chichester (eg Southgate).

5.3 Geological Material by Luke Barber

- 5.3.1 Context [8/011] produced two fragments (85g) from light grey quartzite pebbles, one of which shows some signs of having been burnt.

5.4 The Metallurgical Remains by Luke Barber

- 5.4.1 Context [15/005] produced a 1g fragment of black aerated fuel ash slag. This could have originated from a number of different activities, including domestic hearths.

5.5 Bulk Finds by Elke Raemen

- 5.5.1 A single fired clay fragment measuring <20mm across was recovered from [6/0005]. It is amorphous and in a silty orange clay with rare organic inclusions.

5.6 Registered Finds by Elke Raemen

- 5.6.1 The only registered find (RF <1>) comprises a copper-alloy spring fragment from an early bow brooch (weight 2g), probably of 1st-century date. Only four fragmented coils survive (diam. c. 8mm, wire diam c. 2.5mm). The object is in poor condition with active bronze disease and requires conservation.

6.0 THE ENVIRONMENTAL SAMPLES by Lucy Allott

6.1 Introduction and Methodology

6.1.1 Five samples were taken during archaeological work to establish evidence for environmental remains and their potential to provide further information regarding the economy of the site and past vegetation. Samples derive from pits and ditches with both prehistoric (probably LBA 1150-800) and Roman spot dates (Table 1). The samples were processed in their entirety by flotation and the dried residues were passed through 8, 4 and 2mm geological sieves prior to sorting for environmental remains and artefacts (Appendix 4). The flots were scanned under a stereozoom microscope at x7-45 magnifications and estimated quantities of their contents recorded (Appendix 5). 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). Nomenclature used follows Stace (1997) and Zohary and Hopf (2000).

6.2 Results

6.2.1 Sampling has confirmed the presence of small quantities of environmental remains, including occasional charred macro plant remains, small flecks of wood charcoal and land snail shells, bone and teeth. Uncharred seeds, rootlets and modern insects were also present and provide some evidence for a small degree of bioturbation. Worked flint, firecracked flint, pottery and some burnt materials, probably of organic origin were also recovered. These artefacts should be incorporated into the hand collected finds assemblages as part of any further phases of work.

6.2.2 *Prehistoric (probably LBA 1150-800)*

Macro plant remains in samples from Prehistoric deposits include wheat (*Triticum* sp.) caryopses and indeterminate plant remains (<1> [9/006]), indeterminate cereal fragments (in <2> [8/010] and <3> [14/005]) and knotweed/dock (*Polygonum/Rumex* sp.) (in <2>). Small assemblages of bone and tooth fragments were present in samples <1> and <2>. Although many of the bone fragments are likely to be unidentifiable, the tooth assemblage contains some possible pig and human tooth fragments that require identification/confirmation by a specialist. Small quantities of land snail shell fragments were also evident in sample <3>.

6.2.3 *Roman*

Sample <5> [5/005] contained indeterminate charred macro plant remains, very small quantities of wood charcoal, microfauna jaw bones and tooth fragments and a small quantity of land snail shells.

6.2.4 *Undated*

Sample <4> from pit fill [14/008] is currently undated. Indeterminate parenchymous plant tissues were the only macro plant remains present. Two elements of microfauna were recovered and land snail shells were abundant. The snail shell assemblage contains a range of small and large taxa (possibly up to 10 different taxa) that require identification by a specialist.

6.3 Summary

6.3.1 The samples produced small quantities of environmental remains and artefacts. The assemblages of charred macro plant remains and wood charcoal are not sufficiently large or well enough preserved to provide significant information regarding plant or fuel use or the local vegetation environment. The animal bone and teeth assemblage includes remains of both large and small fauna and requires further identification work by a relevant specialist. The moderately large quantity of land snail shells in sample <5> from undated pit fill [14/008] (which overlies prehistoric ditch fill [14/005]) also merits further work and may reveal evidence for vegetation cover in the immediate area during the time of accumulation. Both the faunal remains and shell are moderately well preserved and suggest that further sampling at the site may reveal comparable assemblages.

7.0 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

7.1 Overview of stratigraphic sequence

- 7.1.1 Manganese flecked orange brown brickearth, was encountered 1.70m AOD in the northern part of site, and at a lower level of 1.46m AOD in the southern part of site. The brickearth was generally overlain by silt subsoil, which varied in thickness from 0.15-0.44m.
- 7.1.2 In the centre of the site (Trenches 7, 8, 9 and 10) the brickearth was overlain by a thick layer comprised of light-mid grey orange clayey silt which was cut by archaeological features. This was overlain by the same light-mid-reddish orange silt subsoil seen in the other trenches.
- 7.1.3 Archaeological features were identified within 12 of the 17 trenches. These comprised field boundary ditches, gullies and pits and one possible waterhole. The archaeological features were encountered at a depth of 0.40m-0.70m below ground level at between 0.82m AOD and 1.89m AOD
- 7.1.4 The archaeological periods represented on the site ranged from the Late Bronze Age (c.1150-800) through to the c.13th, although it must be noted that this evidence is based on fragmented pottery sherds, with few diagnostic elements. The densest concentration of prehistoric activity broadly appears to be in the northern central part of site (Trenches 6, 7, 8, 9, 10 and 11). The remains elsewhere appear to form elements of a Roman field system.

7.2 Deposit survival and existing impacts

- 7.2.1 The archaeological horizon does not appear to have been affected by ploughing or any modern farming activities. The features are all sealed by a thick layer of subsoil, in turn sealed by a thick layer of topsoil.

7.3 Discussion of archaeological remains by period

7.3.1 Late Bronze Age (c.1150-800)

- 7.3.2 The Late Bronze Age features comprise field boundary ditches, pits and gullies and one possible waterhole. The ditches appear to be oriented on a number of different alignments, with no clear pattern discernible at present. It is probable they represent part of a Bronze Age field system. The prehistoric features all contained very hard and compact grey silt-clay fills.

- 7.3.3 A large pit [9/005] in Trench 9 with vertical sides and great depth may have functioned as a pit for water storage, or perhaps a waterhole.

7.4 Roman

- 7.4.1 Three ditches containing Roman pottery were identified in the southern part of the site. The fills of the Roman features were slightly looser and siltier than the fills of the prehistoric features. The profiles of the ditches also differed from the prehistoric features, with sharp V-shaped hollows in the base of the Roman ditches. It is unclear, what function these ditches performed, but they

may have been drainage ditches used as part of a Roman field system.

7.5 *Medieval*

- 7.5.1 A small sherd of c.13th green glazed jug was encountered in ditch [15/004]. The vessel, which is of 13th- century date, probably originated from one of the kilns at Chichester (eg Southgate). Two sherds of Roman pottery were also retrieved from the same fill, which may suggest that the medieval sherd is intrusive.

7.4 **Conclusions**

- 7.4.1 Clearly there is both a phase of Bronze Age and a phase of Roman activity present on the site. Further excavation work is currently underway, and this will hopefully shed further light on the dating and nature of this activity.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

- ArchaeoPhysica 2014. *Oldlands Farm, Bognor Regis, West Sussex Geophysical Survey Report*
- ASE. 2014. *A Geoarchaeological Watching Brief at Oldlands Farm, Bognor Regis, West Sussex.*
- Cappers, R.T.J., Bekker R.M. & Jans J.E.A. 2006. *Digital Seed Atlas of the Netherlands*. Groningen Archaeological Series 4. Barkhuis, Netherlands
- CgMs 2014. *Written Scheme of Investigation for Trial Trenching and Borehole Survey: Land at Oldlands Farm, Bognor Regis, West Sussex*, CgMs Ltd.
- Cotswolds Archaeology 2008. *Oldlands Farm, Bognor Regis, West Sussex. Archaeological Evaluation*
- Dunkin, D, Priestley-Bell, G. and Sygrave, J. in prep, *The archaeology of the West Sussex Coastal Plain* (working title), Spoilheap monograph series
- Jacomet, S. 2006. Identification of cereal remains from archaeological sites. 2nd ed. Unpublished manuscript.
- Stace, C. 1997. *New Flora of the British Isles*. Cambridge University Press, Cambridge.
- Zohary, D. & Hopf, M. 2000. *Domestication of Plants in the Old World*. Oxford: University Press.
- Wessex 2007. *Land Between Felpham and Flansham Bognor Regis West Sussex Archaeological Evaluation Report*

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

ASE would like to thank CgMs for commissioning the work and for their assistance throughout the project, and Mark Taylor, Principal Archaeologist, West Sussex County Council for his guidance and monitoring. The excavation was directed by Catherine Douglas and Kristina Krawiec. The author would like to thank all archaeologists who worked on the excavations. Justin Russell produced the figures for this report; Paul Mason project managed the evaluation and Jim Stevenson and Dan Swift project managed the post-excavation process.

Appendix 1: HER Summary

Site Code	OFB14					
Identification Name and Address	Oldlands, Farm, Bognor Regis					
County, District &/or Borough	West Sussex					
OS Grid Refs.	494183 101885					
Geology	Heavily weathered Cretaceous Chalk of the Culver formation overlain by Middle-Late Pleistocene Calcareous Basin Deposits. The drift sediments comprise loessic Brickearth					
Arch. South-East Project Number	6594					
Type of Fieldwork	Eval.					
Type of Site	Green Field					
Dates of Fieldwork	Eval. July 2014					
Sponsor/Client	CgMs					
Project Manager	Paul Mason					
Project Supervisor	Catherine Douglas					
Period Summary				BA		RB
		MED				
Summary						
<p>Archaeology South-East (ASE) was commissioned by CgMs to undertake an evaluation at Oldlands Farm, Bognor Regis, West Sussex. Seventeen archaeological evaluation trenches, each measuring 50.00m x 2.00m were excavated.</p> <p>Archaeological features were identified within 12 of the 17 trenches. These comprised field boundary ditches, gullies and pits. The periods represented on the site are Late Bronze Age (c.1150-800) and Roman (AD50 – 140).</p> <p>Clearly there is both a phase of Bronze Age and a phase of Roman activity present on the site. Further excavation work is currently underway, and this will hopefully shed further light on the dating and nature of this activity.</p>						

Appendix 2: OASIS Form

OASIS ID: archaeol6-189654

Project details

Project name	An Archaeological Evaluation at Oldlands Farm, Bognor Regis, West Sussex
Short description of the project	<p>Summary</p> <p>Archaeology South-East (ASE) was commissioned by CgMs to undertake an evaluation at Oldlands Farm, Bognor Regis, West Sussex. Seventeen archaeological evaluation trenches, each measuring 50.00m x 2.00m were excavated.</p> <p>Archaeological features were identified within 12 of the 17 trenches. These comprised field boundary ditches, gullies and pits. The periods represented on the site are Late Bronze Age (c.1150-800) and Roman (AD50 – 140).</p> <p>Clearly there is both a phase of Bronze Age and a phase of Roman activity present on the site. Further excavation work is currently underway, and this will hopefully shed further light on the dating and nature of this activity.</p>
Project dates	Start: 22-07-2014 End: 01-08-2014
Previous/future work	Yes / Yes
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Current Land use	Cultivated Land 2 - Operations to a depth less than 0.25m
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	WEST SUSSEX ARUN BOGNOR REGIS Land North of Oldlands Farm
Postcode	PO22 9NN
Study area	0.50 Kilometres
Site coordinates	SU 494183 101885 50.8885119372 -1.29734205785 50 53 18 N 001 17 50 W Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 1.46m Max: 1.70m

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Archaeology South-East
Project brief originator	West Sussex County Council
Project design originator	Archaeology South-East
Project director/manager	Paul Mason
Project supervisor	Catherine Douglas
Type of sponsor/funding body	CgMs Consulting

Project archives

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

Entered by	Catherine Douglas (catherine.douglas@ucl.ac.uk)
Entered on	8 September 2014

Appendix 3: Finds Quantification

Context	Pot	Wt (g)	CBM	Wt (g)	Flint	Wt (g)	FCF	Wt (g)	Stone	Wt (g)	Slag	Wt (g)	Daub	Wt (g)	Charcoal	Wt (g)
1/002					1	<2										
2/002							4	124								
3/002							5	30								
3/007	26	530														
4/006					8	526	17	572								
4/012					1	<2										
5/004					5	548	10	510								
5/005	2	12			1	4	11	206								
6/005	2	4			2	4	22	204					1	<2		
6/007	1	4			1	6	15	94								
6/009					6	72	20	410								
7/006							4	72								
8/002					1	70										
8/006					4	142										
8/008	2	14			13	382	4	18								
8/010	9	78			32	2478	44	2216								
8/011					35	908	66	2886	2	86						
9/006	8	14			21	720	20	420							2	<2
10/005	1	4			6	86	8	54								

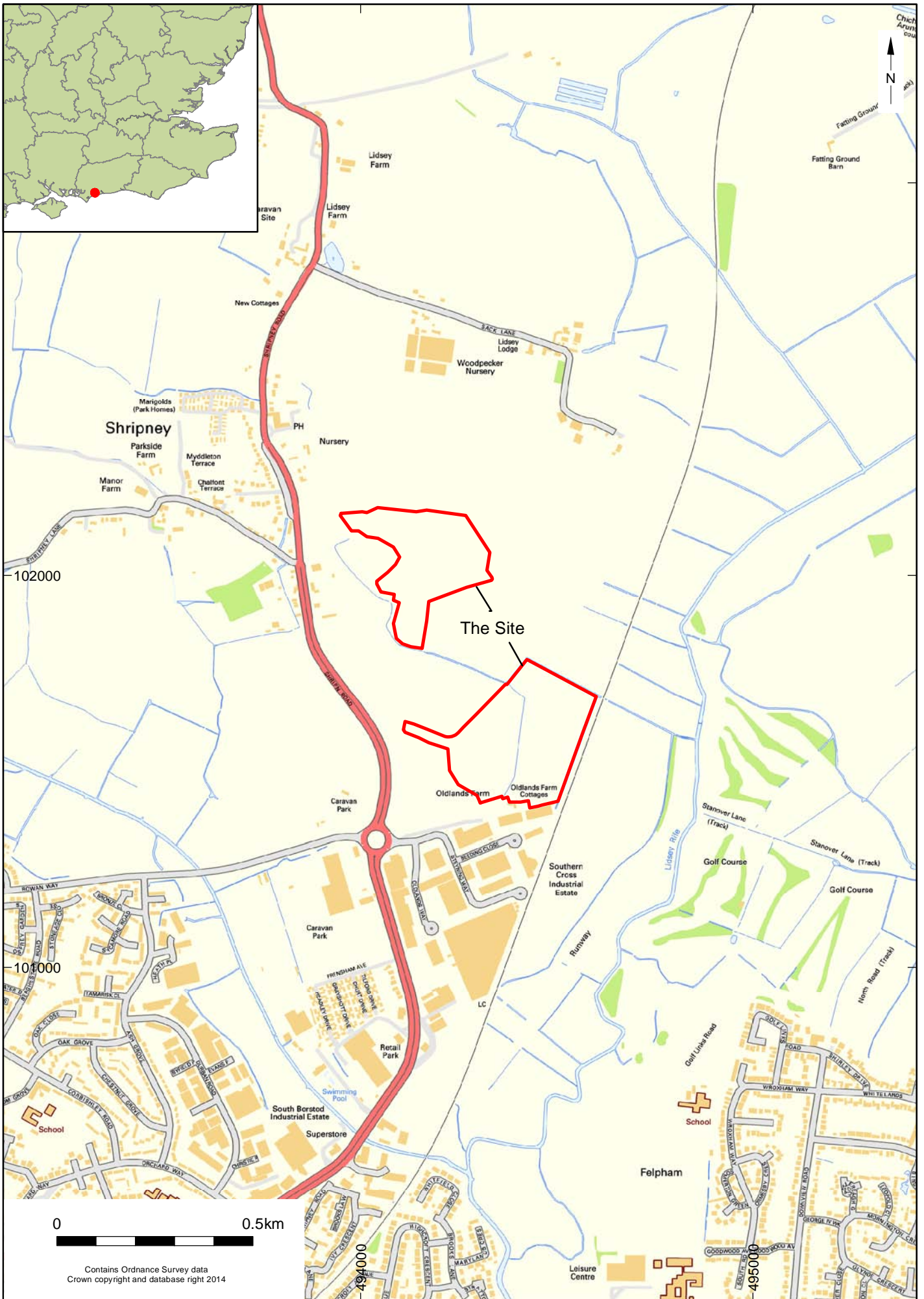
10/007						5	18								
10/009				6	56	1	18								
11/009	1	14													
14/005	1	16		4	2	35	650								
14/008				6	34	11	220								
15/005	3	2		3	28					1	<2				

Appendix 4: Environmental Residue Quantification

Sample Number	Context	Sample Volume litres	Sub-Sample Volume litres	Weight (g)	Weight (g)	Weight (g)	Bone and Teeth	Weight (g)	Land Snail shells	Weight (g)	Estimate quant. & weight (eg. Pot star rating *****/5g)
1	9/006	40	40	2	<2	<2	**	4			FCF **/ 170g - Flint **/ 10g - Beetle */ <2g - Mag. Mat. **/ <2g - Pottery */ 10g - Foreign concretion ****/ 248g
2	8/010	40	40	<2	<2	<2	**	4			FCF **/ 380g - Mag. Mat. */ <2g - Pottery */ 16g - Flint */ 140g
3	14/005	40	40		<2	<2			*	<2	Mag. Mat. **/ <2g - Burnt Sandstone */ <2g - Pottery */ <2g - FCF **/ 112g - Flint ***/ 746g
4	14/008	40	40				*	<2	***	78	Coal */ <2g - Flint **/ 8g - FCF **/ 30g - Mag. Mat. **/ <2g
5	5/005	40	40		<2	<2	*	<2	*	<2	Mag. Mat. */ <2g - Flint */ <2g - Burnt Mat. */ <2g - FCF */ 16g

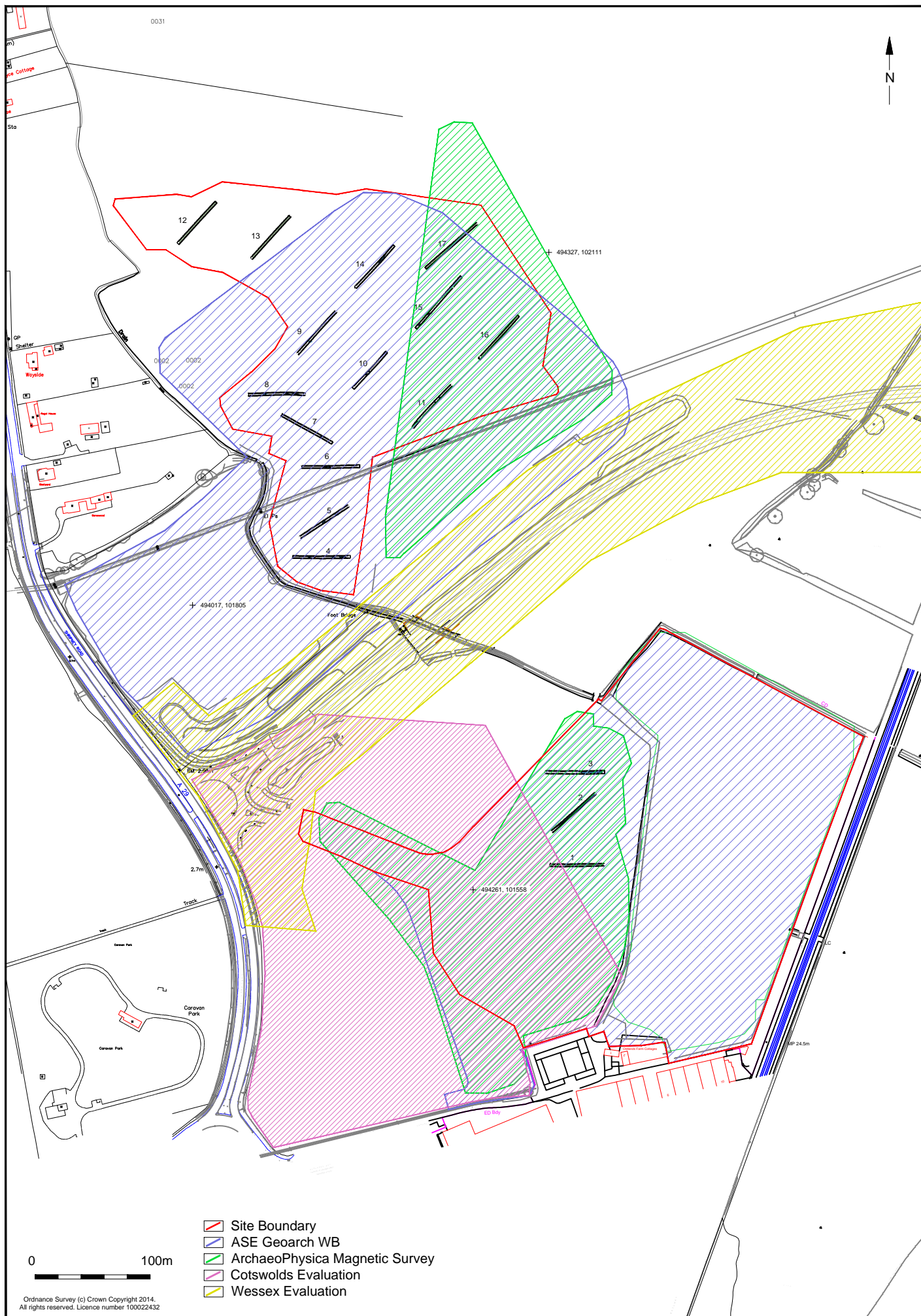
Appendix 5: Environmental Flots Quantification

Sample Number	Context	Weight g	Flot volume ml	Volume scanned	Uncharred %	Sediment %	Seeds uncharred	Charcoal <4mm	Charcoal <2mm	Crop seeds charred	Identifications	Preservation	Weed seeds charred	Identifications	Preservation	Other botanical charred	Identifications	Preservation	Insects, Myriapae etc min	Land Snail Shells	Potential	Further work	notes
1	9/006	<1	<5	<5	80	5			***	*	<i>Triticum</i> sp. (2)	++							uncharred modern		D	NFW	
2	8/010	1	<5	<5	95	<5		*(1)	***				*	<i>m/Rumex</i> sp. (1)	+++						D	NFW	
3	14/005	<1	<55	<5	95	<5	<i>Chenopodium</i> sp.		*											*	D	NFW	
4	14/008	10	20	20	25	<5	<i>Chenopodium</i> sp.		**						*		limbous tissues	+		ca 70%	D	NFW	leaf stem frags
5	5/005	<1	10	10	95	<5	<i>dium</i> sp. & others		**											*	D	NFW	leaf stem frags

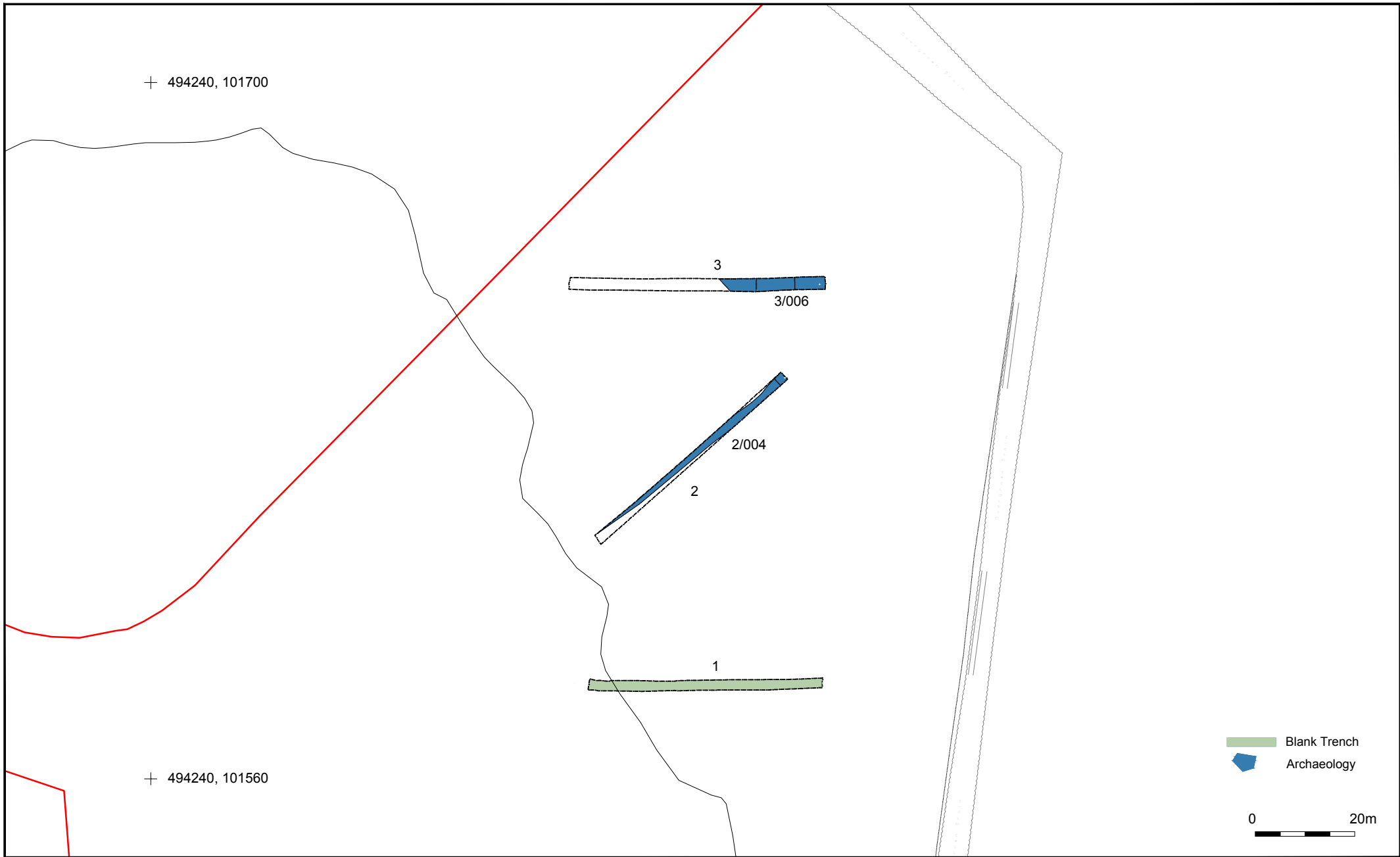


Contains Ordnance Survey data
Crown copyright and database right 2014

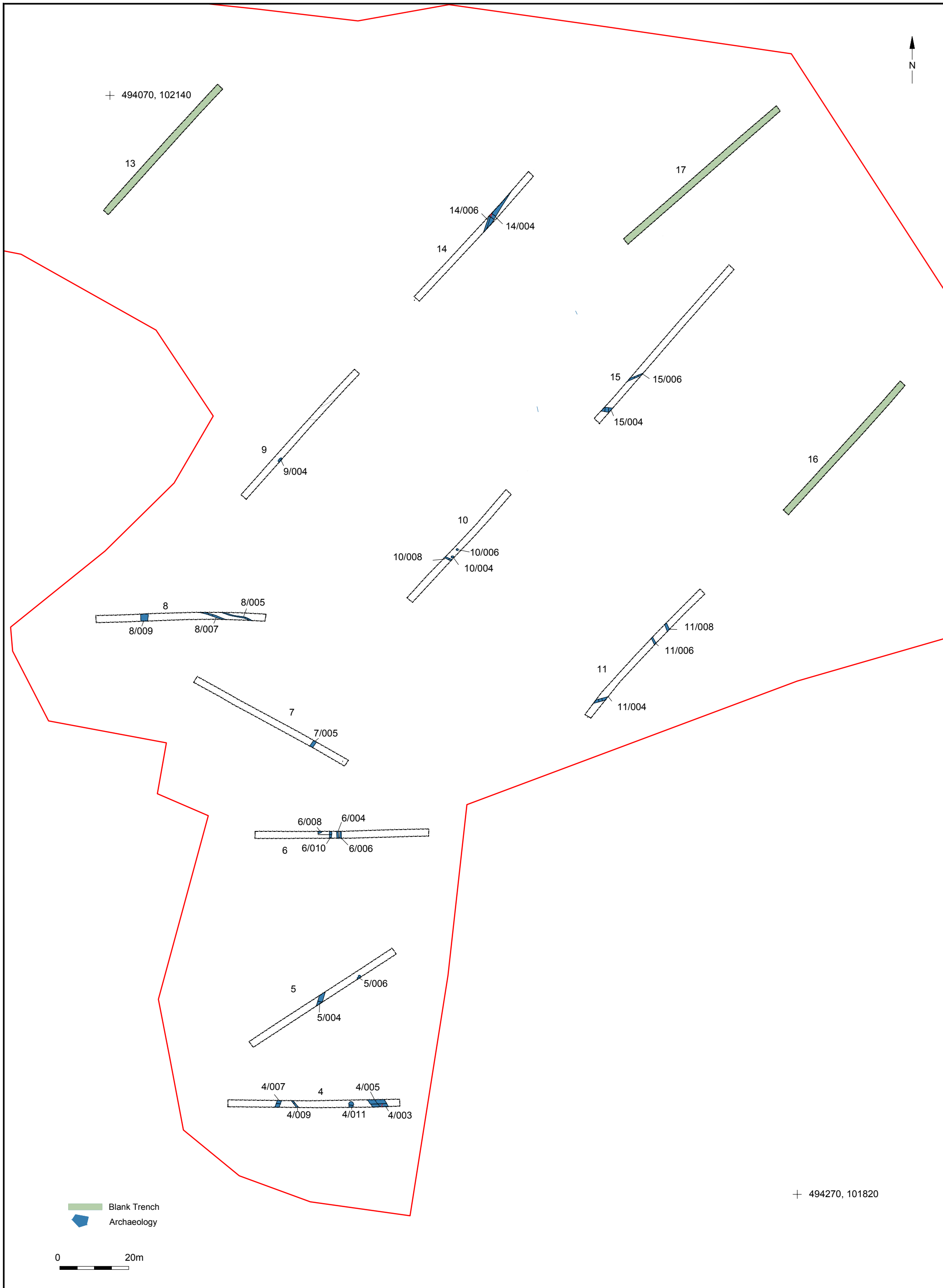
© Archaeology South-East		Oldhams Farm, Bognor Regis	Fig. 1
Project Ref: 6594	Sept 2014	Site location	
Report Ref: 2014303	Drawn by: JLR		

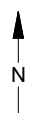


© Archaeology South-East		Oldlands Farm, Bognor Regis		Fig. 2
Project Ref: 6594	Sept 2014			
Report Ref: 2014303	Drawn by:AR	Trench location and previous archaeological works		



© Archaeology South-East		Oldlands Farm, Bognor Regis		Fig. 3
Project Ref: 6594	Sept 2014	Trenches 2 and 3		
Report Ref: 2014303	Drawn by:AR			





+ 494335, 101645

2/004

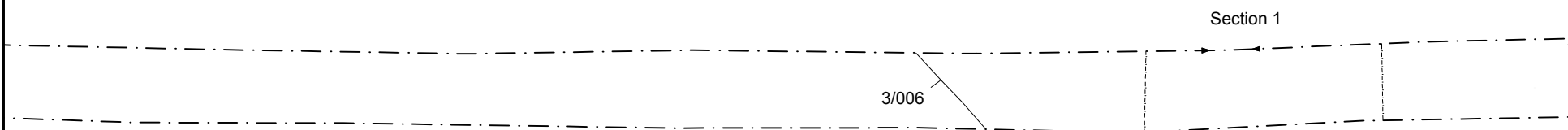
+ 494335, 101605



Trench 2 looking north-east

© Archaeology South-East		Oldlands Farm, Bognor Regis	Fig. 5
Project Ref: 6594	Sept 2014	Trench 2: plan and photograph	
Report Ref: 2014303	Drawn by:JR		

+ 494330, 101670

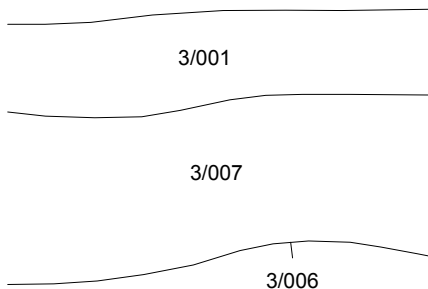


Section 1

E

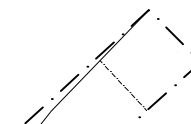
W

1.32mOD
x



Slot within 3/006 looking south-west

+ 494370, 101650



© Archaeology South-East

Oldlands Farm, Bognor Regis

Project Ref: 6594

Sept 2014

Report Ref: 2014303

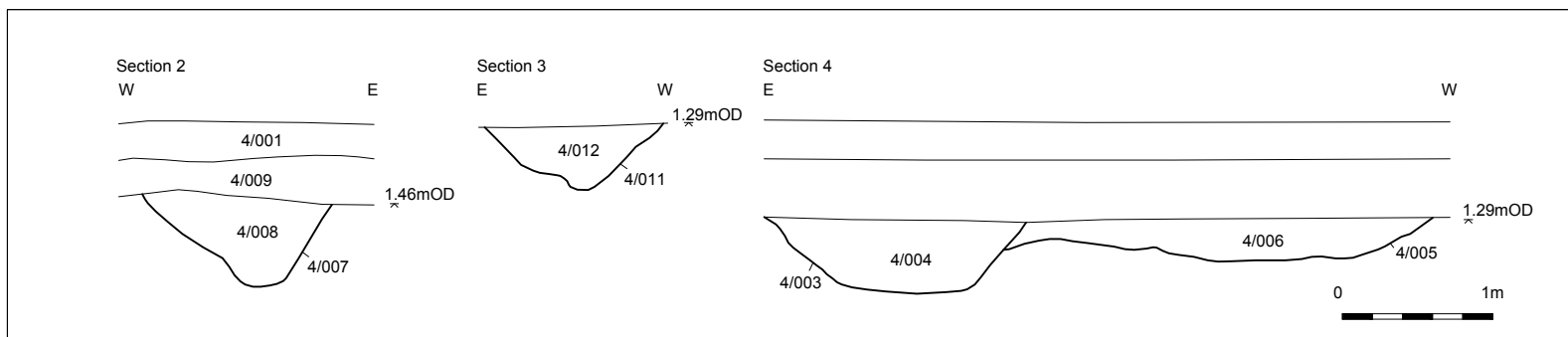
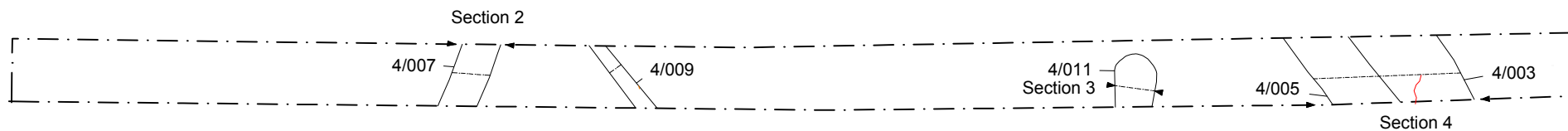
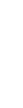
Drawn by:JR

Trench 3: plan, section and photograph

Fig. 6

+ 494110, 101850

+ 494150, 101850



4/003 and 4/005 looking south



4/007 looking north



4/010 looking south

© Archaeology South-East

Oldlands Farm, Bognor Regis

Project Ref: 6594

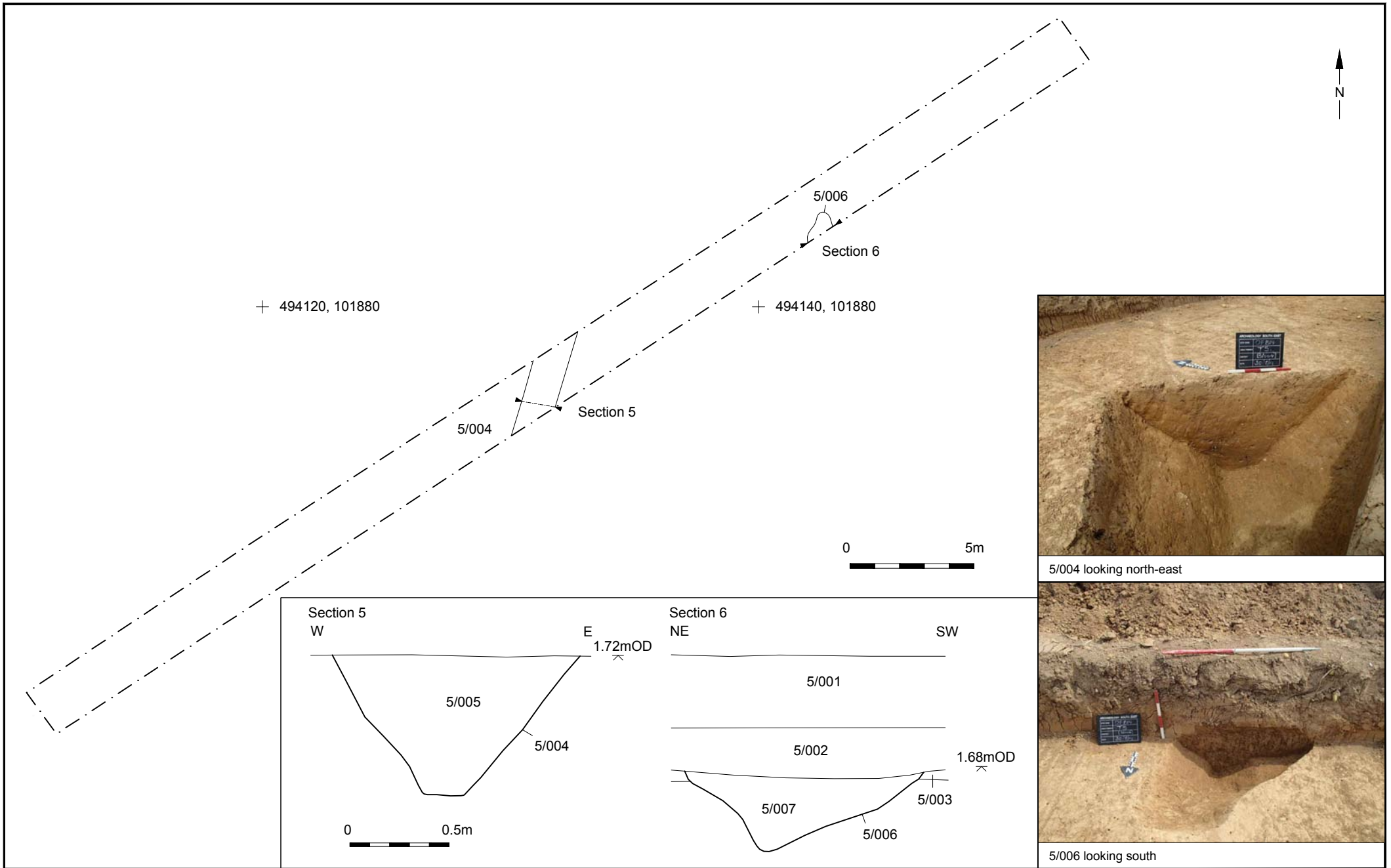
Sept 2014

Report Ref: 2014303

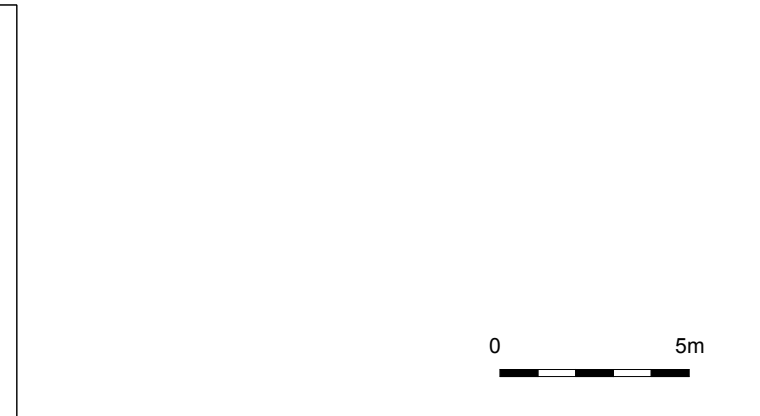
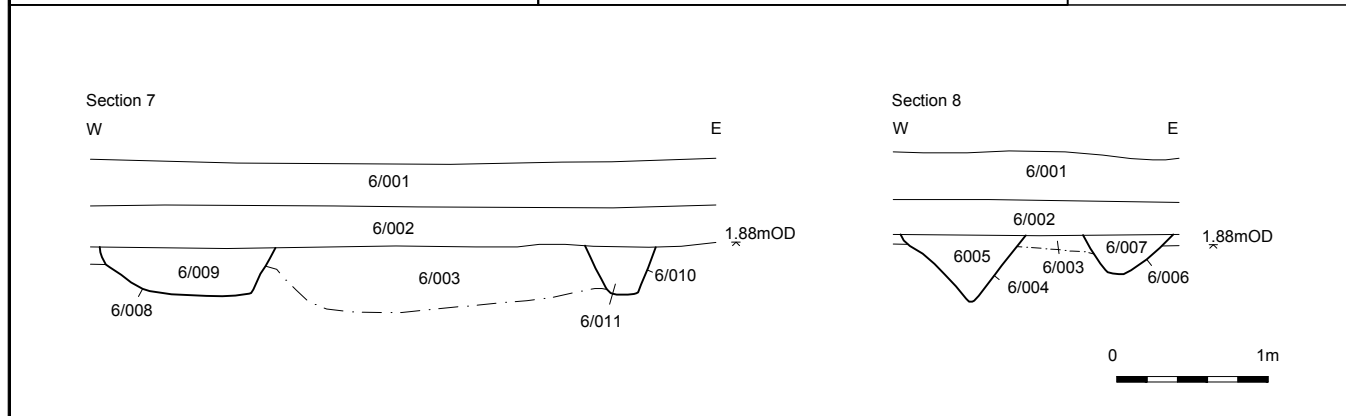
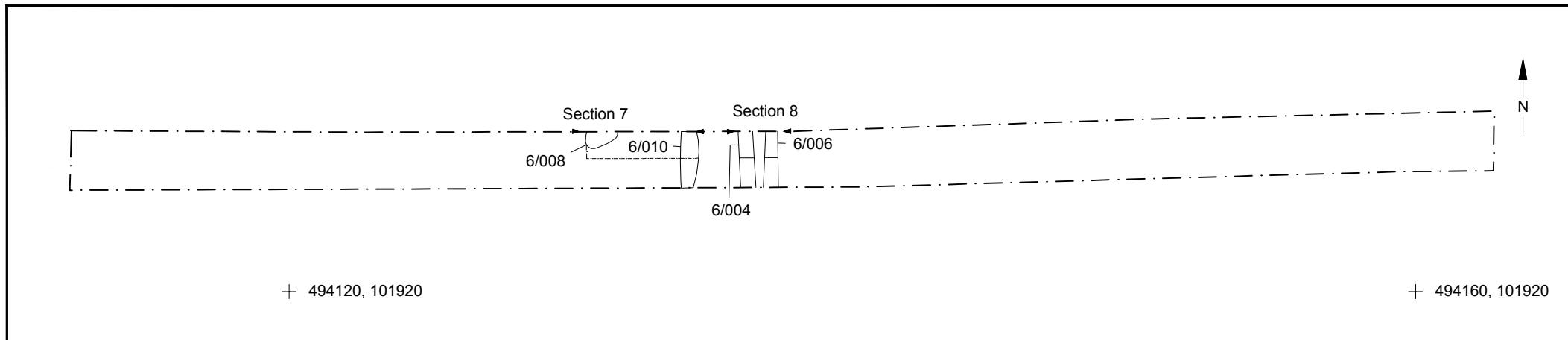
Drawn by:JR

Trench 4: plan, sections and photographs

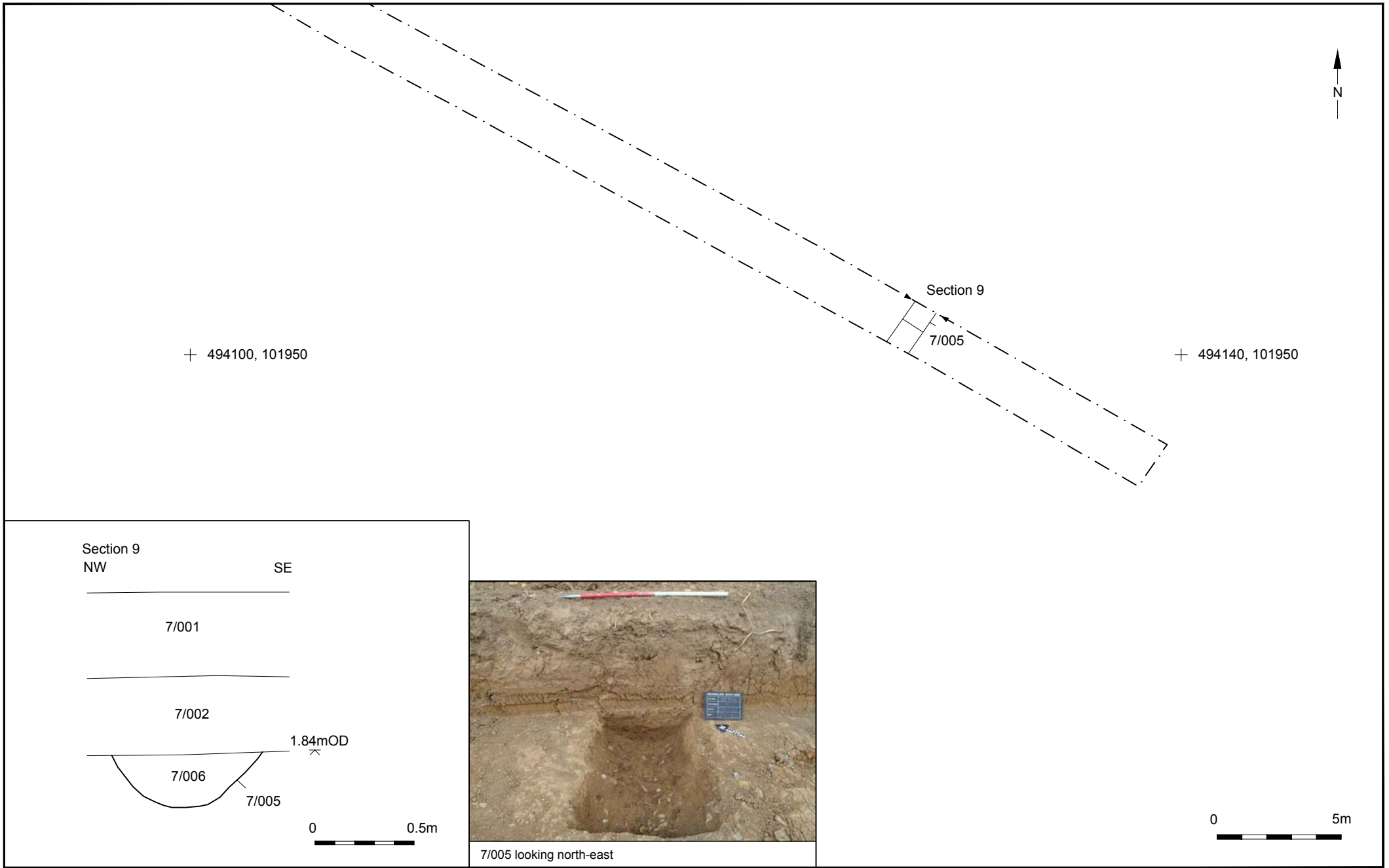
Fig. 7



© Archaeology South-East		Oldlands Farm, Bognor Regis	Fig. 8
Project Ref: 6594	Sept 2014	Trench 5: plan, sections and photographs	
Report Ref: 2014303	Drawn by:JR		



© Archaeology South-East		Oldlands Farm, Bognor Regis	Fig. 9
Project Ref: 6594	Sept 2014	Trench 6: plan, sections and photographs	
Report Ref: 2014303	Drawn by:JR		



© Archaeology South-East

Oldlands Farm, Bognor Regis

Project Ref: 6594

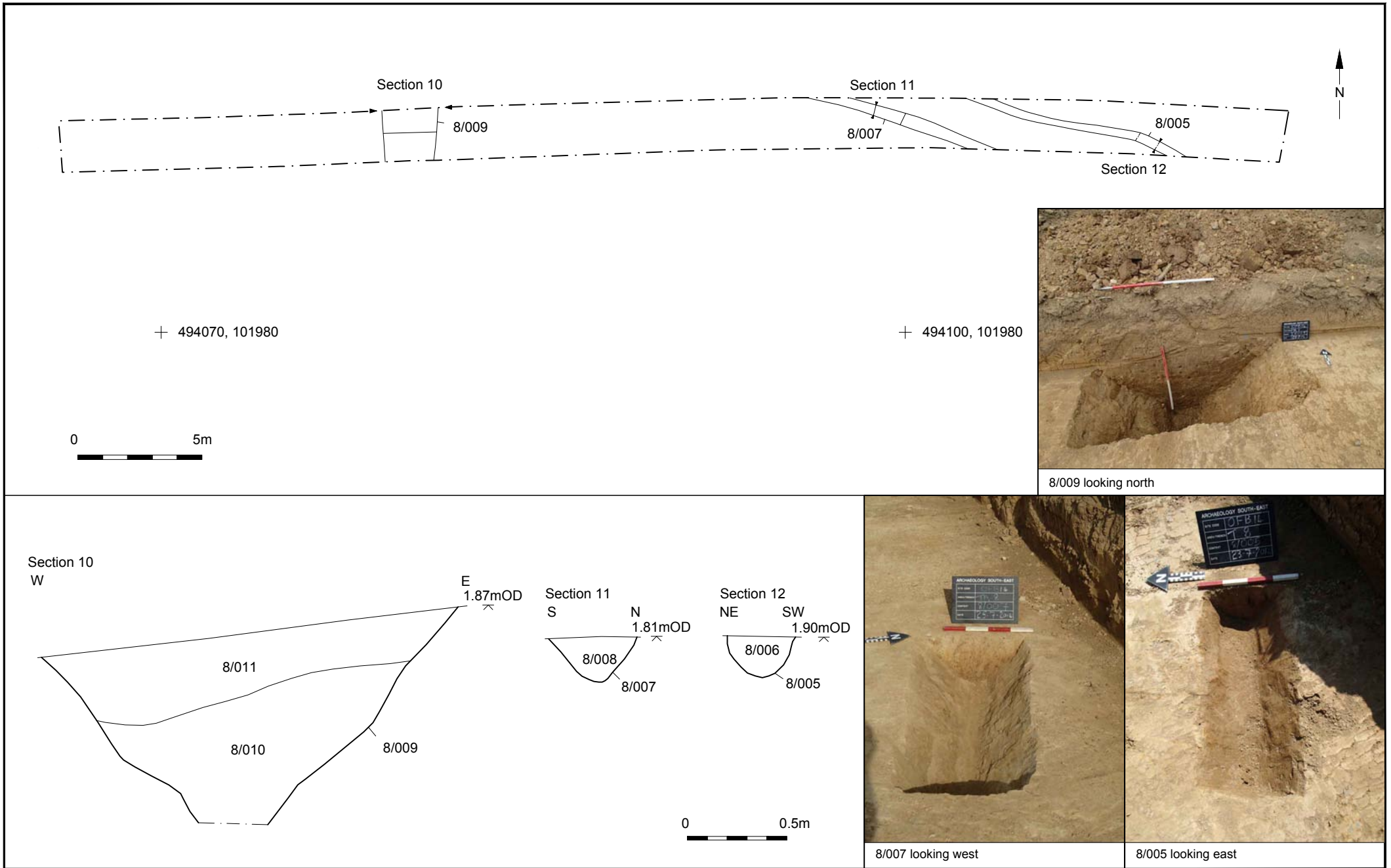
Sept 2014

Report Ref: 2014303

Drawn by:JR

Trench 7: plan, section and photograph

Fig. 10



© Archaeology South-East

Oldlands Farm, Bognor Regis

Project Ref: 6594

Sept 2014

Report Ref: 2014303

Drawn by:JR

Trench 8: plan, sections and photographs

Fig. 11

+ 494110, 102050



9/005 looking south-east

9/005

Section 13

+ 494130, 102030



Section 13
NE

SW

9/001

9/002

1.44mOD

9/003

9/006

9/005



© Archaeology South-East

Oldlands Farm, Bognor Regis

Project Ref: 6594

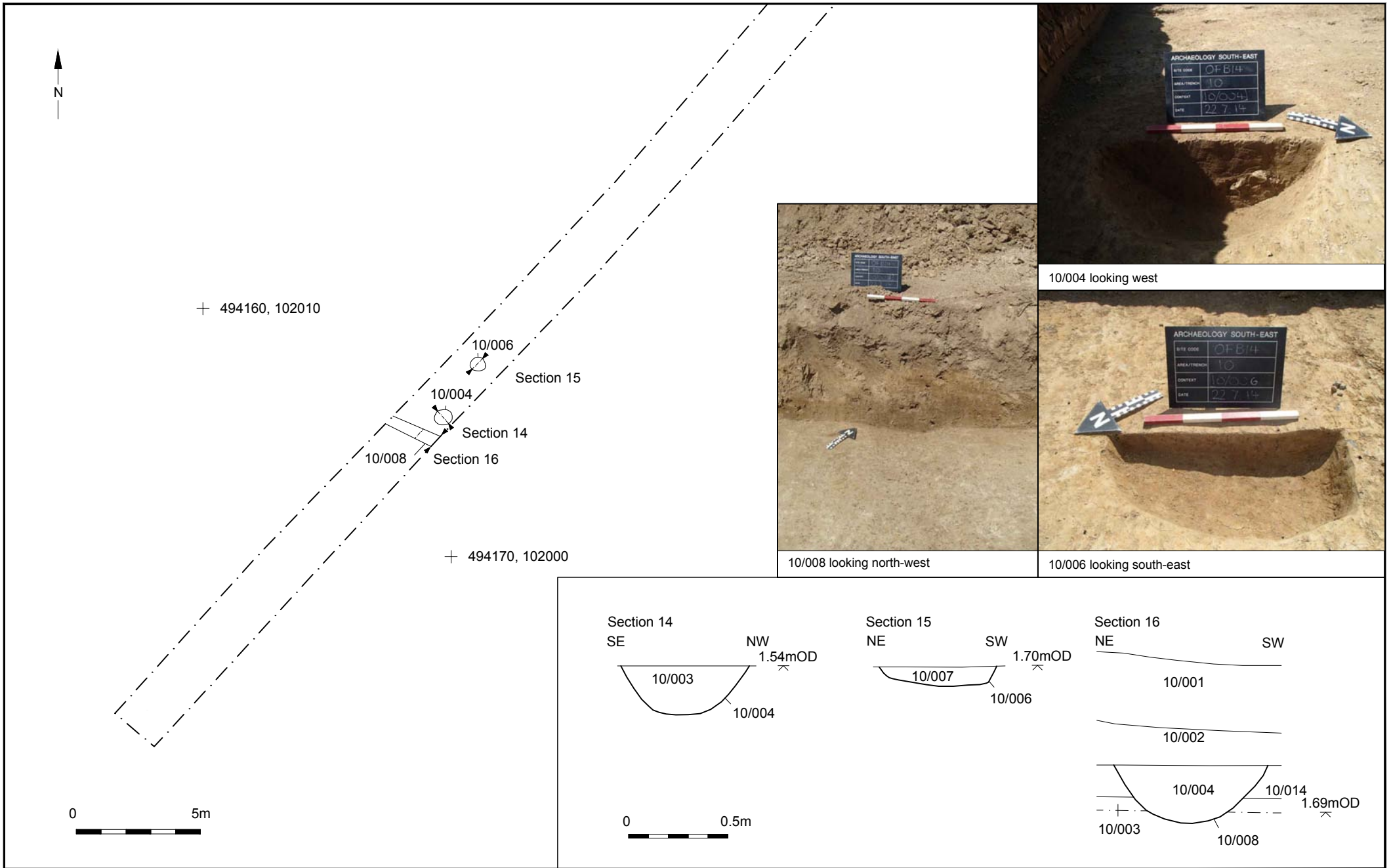
Sept 2014

Report Ref: 2014303

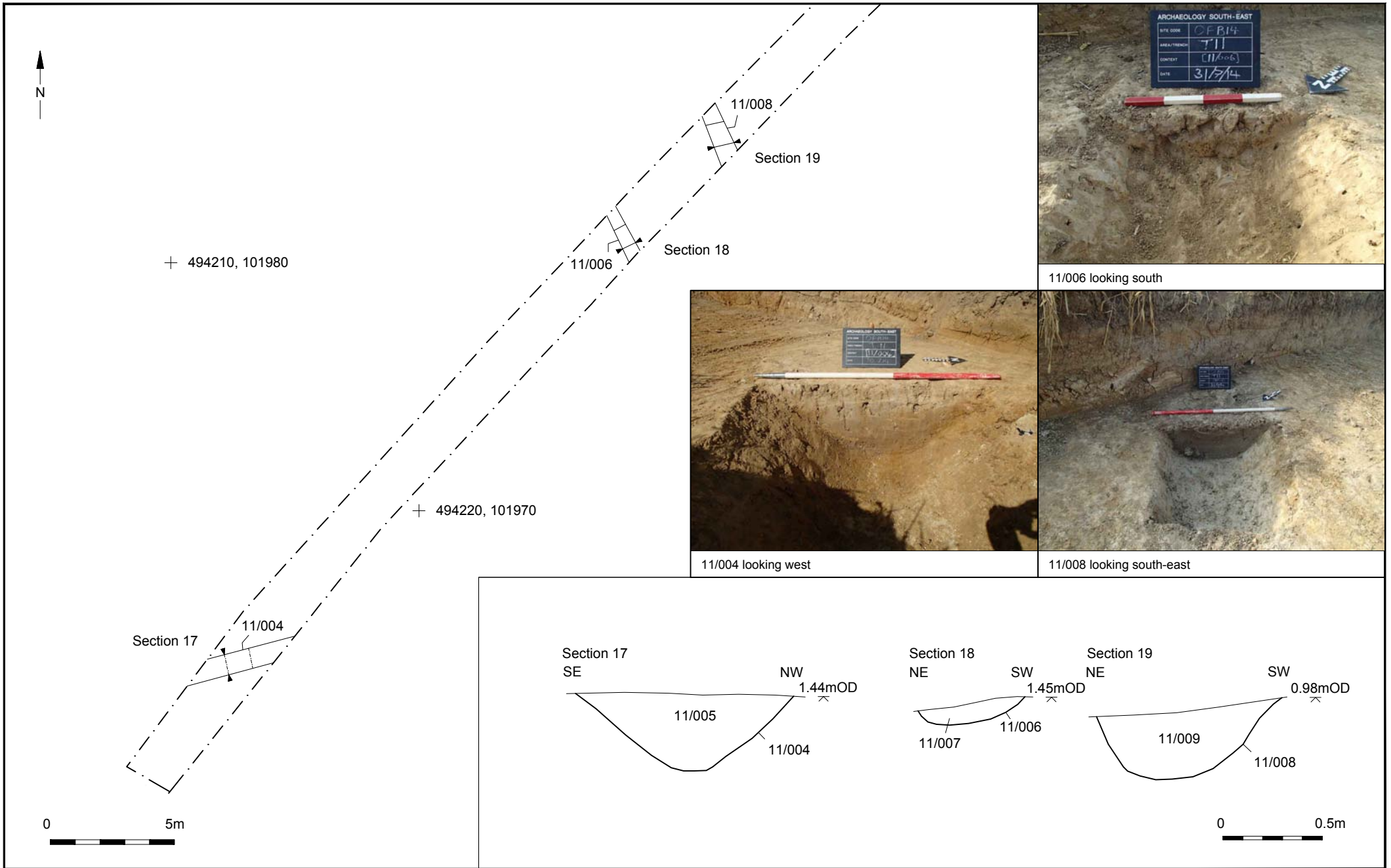
Drawn by:JR

Trench 9: plan, sections and photographs

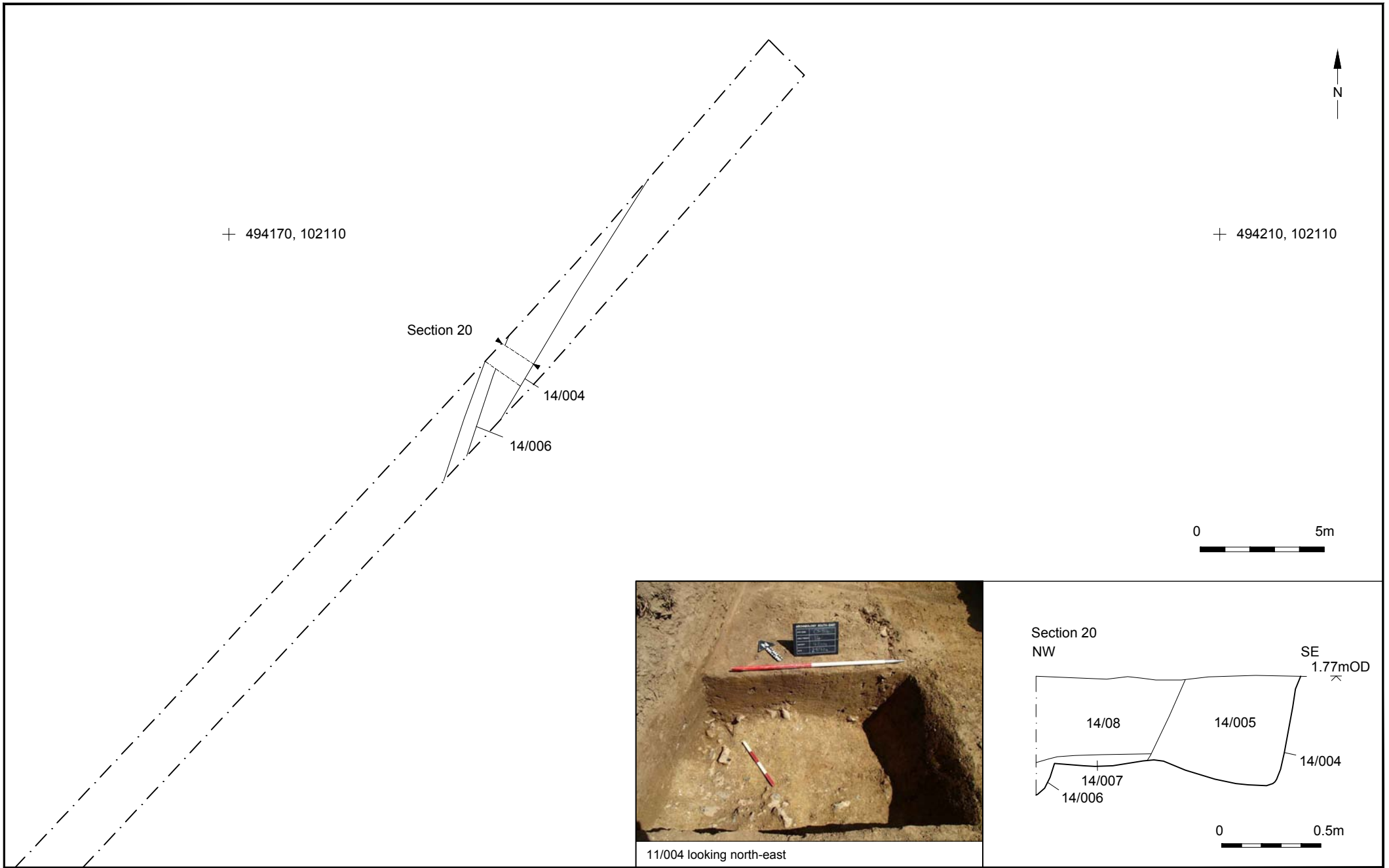
Fig. 12



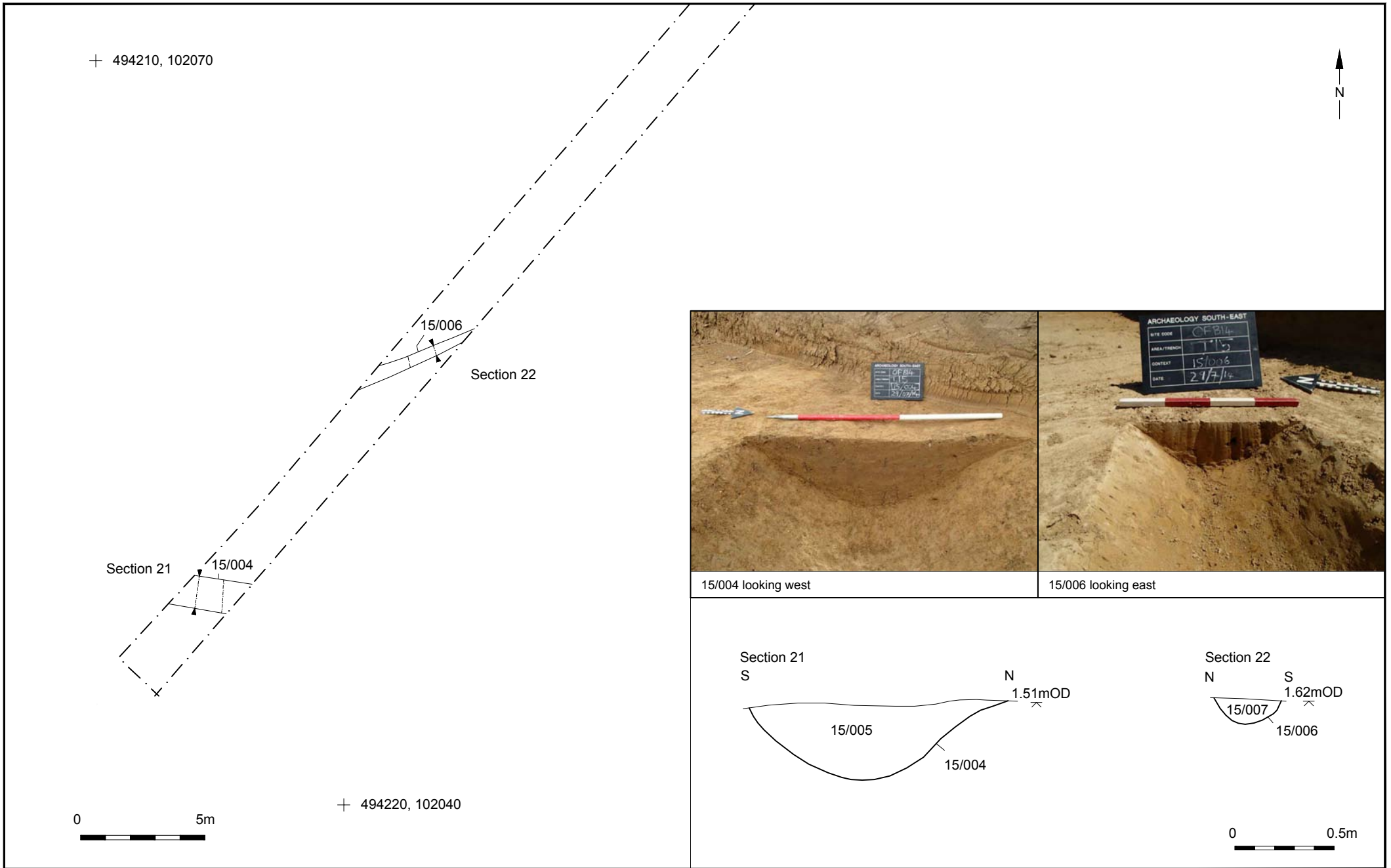
© Archaeology South-East		Oldlands Farm, Bognor Regis	Fig. 13
Project Ref: 6594	Sept 2014	Trench 10: plan, sections and photographs	
Report Ref: 2014303	Drawn by:JR		



© Archaeology South-East		Oldlands Farm, Bognor Regis	Fig. 14
Project Ref: 6594	Sept 2014	Trench 11: plan, sections and photographs	
Report Ref: 2014303	Drawn by:JR		



© Archaeology South-East		Oldlands Farm, Bognor Regis	Fig. 15
Project Ref: 6594	Sept 2014	Trench 14: plan, section and photograph	
Report Ref: 2014303	Drawn by:JR		



© Archaeology South-East		Oldlands Farm, Bognor Regis	Fig. 16
Project Ref: 6594	Sept 2014	Trench 15: plan, sections and photograph	
Report Ref: 2014303	Drawn by:JR		

Sussex Office

Units 1 & 2
2 Chapel Place
Portslade
East Sussex BN41 1DR
tel: +44(0)1273 426830
email: fau@ucl.ac.uk
web: www.archaeologyse.co.uk

Essex Office

The Old Magistrates Court
79 South Street
Braintree
Essex CM7 3QD
tel: +44(0)1376 331470
email: fau@ucl.ac.uk
web: www.archaeologyse.co.uk

London Office

Centre for Applied Archaeology
UCL Institute of Archaeology
31-34 Gordon Square
London WC1H 0PY
tel: +44(0)20 7679 4778
email: fau@ucl.ac.uk
web: www.ucl.ac.uk/caa

