

**Archaeological Trial Trenching Report on  
Land at Bathingbourne Lane  
Isle of Wight**

**NGR: 455032, 083993**

**ASE Project No: 6836  
Site Code: BAL14**

**ASE Report No: 2014311  
OASIS id: archaeol6-190428**



**By Steve Price**

**JACOBS®**

**ameycespa**

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**Abstract**

*Archaeology South-East was commissioned by Jacobs UK Ltd, on behalf of their client, AmeyCespa, to undertake archaeological trial trenching on land at Bathingbourne Lane, Isle of Wight. The main aim of the trial trenching was to assess the significance of a potential undated enclosure ditch, identified on aerial photographs.*

*In total, 17 trenches were excavated 30 metres long by 2 metres wide, apart from Trench 1 which had to be cut short by 5m at the south-west end in order to avoid an overhead power cable, and Trench 8 which was cut short by 5.40m at the north-west end in order to avoid a public footpath (Figure 2).*

*The results of the trial trenching suggest that the postulated enclosure ditch is in fact more likely to be a series of ditches, infilling in the late-post medieval period. These ditches were located in Trenches 4, 8, 12 and 16. Further ditches were also encountered in Trenches 11 and 14. It is likely that the post-medieval ditches relate to earlier field divisions within the site and/or boundaries to the plot that have since been moved. Some of the ditches do broadly relate to the cropmarks identified in aerial photographs (in Trenches 8, 12, 16 and 17), although not in the exact location in some these instances.*

*An undated curvilinear gully was found in Trench 4, cut by the 'enclosure' ditches, and given this stratigraphic relationship, and its leached fill, is potentially of prehistoric date.*

*A possible shallow gully was located in Trench 2 and a shallow ditch and modern machine-cut ditch were encountered in Trench 7. In Trench 15 a further gully and a possible shallow post hole were found and Trench 17 contained two possible shallow pits.*

*No archaeological features were found in Trenches 1, 3, 5, 6, 9, 10 and 13.*

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## **1.0 INTRODUCTION**

### **1.1 Site Background**

1.1.1 Archaeology South-East (ASE), the contracting division of the Centre for Applied Archaeology (CAA), Institute of Archaeology (IoA), University College London (UCL) was commissioned by Jacobs UK Ltd, on behalf of their client, AmeyCespa, to undertake archaeological trial trenching on land at Bathingbourne Lane, Isle of Wight. The site is centred on National Grid Reference (NGR) 455032 83993 and its location is shown on Figure 1.

### **1.2 Geology and Topography**

1.2.1 The site consists of a broadly rectangular block of land, 2.4ha in area and approximately 3.8km to the north-west of Shanklin. It is bounded to the south-east by Bathingbourne Lane and to the north-east by the A3056. It is bounded to the north-west and south-west by Nurseries and by Gards Farm, with a public footpath running along the north-western perimeter of the site. The site currently comprises pasture. The underlying geology of the site, according to data from the British Geological Survey, consists of Ferruginous Sands Formation overlain by River Terrace Deposits (BGS 2014).

### **1.3 Planning Background**

1.3.1 The trial trenching was undertaken to inform an assessment of the significance of an undated enclosure known to exist on the site. A specification outlining the scope and requirements for the work was prepared by Jacobs UK Ltd (Jacobs 2014). A Written Scheme of Investigation has been prepared by Archaeology South East with reference to this specification (ASE 2014).

### **1.4 Scope of Report**

1.4.1 This report presents the results of the archaeological trial trenching undertaken by ASE from the 30<sup>th</sup> June - 8<sup>th</sup> July 2014. The fieldwork was directed by Steve Price with the assistance of John Hirst and Lucy May. The fieldwork was managed by Paul Mason, and the post excavation work was managed by Jim Stevenson and Dan Swift.

## **2.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND**

### **2.1 Introduction**

2.1.1 The following archaeological background is taken from the Written Scheme of Investigation for the site (ASE 2014) and the specification for archaeological trial trenching (Jacobs 2014).

2.1.2 The site is known to contain the remains of an undated rectilinear ditched enclosure, visible as cropmarks and as low earthworks (Isle of Wight HER ref MIW11782). The enclosure measures around 72m across. A Neolithic polished flint knife was also recorded on the site (Thompson-Lawrence pers. comm.).

### **2.2 Project Aims and Objectives**

2.2.1 Aerial photographs suggest the presence of the remains of an enclosure on the site (Aerial Photograph: RAF. 12/07/1946. 106G-UK-1665 4034). The trial trenching aimed to determine the character and significance of this potential enclosure and also to ascertain the location, extent, date, character, condition and significance of any other surviving archaeological remains (ASE 2014; Jacobs 2014).

### **3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY**

#### **3.1 Fieldwork Methodology**

- 3.1.1 The archaeological trial trenching comprised the machine excavation under archaeological supervision of 17 archaeological trial trenches in a predetermined pattern on land at Bathingbourne Lane, Isle of Wight. Each trench measured 30m in length by 2m in width, except for Trench 1 which had to be cut short by 5m at the south-west end in order to avoid an overhead power cable, and Trench 8 had to be cut short by 5.40m at the north-west end in order to avoid a public footpath.
- 3.1.2 The trenches were accurately located using a Digital Global Positioning System (DGPS).
- 3.1.3 All trenches were scanned prior to excavation using a CAT scanner.
- 3.1.4 Trenches were mechanically excavated using a toothless ditching bucket under archaeological supervision.
- 3.1.5 Machine excavation continued to the top of archaeological deposits or the surface of geological drift deposits, whichever was uppermost. Where required, the exposed sub-soil or archaeological horizon was cleaned by hand immediately after machine stripping and any archaeological deposits were planned.
- 3.1.6 All areas were left open to allow for potential weathering out of features, and inspected regularly. All excavated deposits and features were recorded according to current professional standards using the ASE recording sheets. Post-excavation plans were made both by digital means and by hand planning at a scale of 1:20. Sections were drawn at a scale of 1:10. All features were photographed and levelled with reference to Ordnance Datum.
- 3.1.7 All finds were collected and retained and spoil heaps scanned for unstratified artefacts.
- 3.1.8 Any land drains damaged or disturbed during the archaeological works were photographed prior to backfilling. The location of any such damaged land drains were clearly marked pending re-excavation and full reinstatement by a specialist third party contractor.
- 3.1.9 Backfilling was undertaken by the machine in reverse order in layers of no more than 0.25m, each compacted by machine bucket.
- 3.1.10 A terrestrial photographic condition survey was carried out prior to and following the fieldwork. These photographs form part of the site archive.
- 3.1.11 The fieldwork was carried out in accordance with the WSI (ASE 2014) and ClfA (formally IfA) guidance for field evaluation (IfA 2008) (note that updated guidance was released by the ClfA in December 2014).



### **3.2 Archive**

- 3.2.1 The site archive is currently held at the offices of ASE and will be deposited with the Isle of Wight Heritage Service in due course (Accession number IWCMS:2014.7239).

The contents of the archive are tabulated below (Table 1).

|                           |        |
|---------------------------|--------|
| Number of Contexts        | 83     |
| No. of files/paper record | 1      |
| Plan and sections sheets  | 13     |
| Photographs               | 118    |
| Bulk finds                | 3 bags |

Table 1: Quantification of site archive

## 4.0 RESULTS

All trenches measured 30m long by 2m wide unless otherwise stated.

### 4.1 Trench 2 (Figure 3)

| Context | Type  | Description   | Max. Length m | Max. Width m | Deposit Thickness m | Height m AOD |
|---------|-------|---------------|---------------|--------------|---------------------|--------------|
| 2/001   | Layer | Topsoil       | >30m          | >2m          | 0.29-0.39m          | 28.94        |
| 2/002   | Layer | Subsoil       | >30m          | >2m          | 0.13-0.17m          | -            |
| 2/003   | Layer | Natural       | >30m          | >2m          | -                   | 28.46        |
| 2/004   | Cut   | Poss. Gully   | >1.30m        | 0.37m        | 0.11m               | 28.46        |
| 2/005   | Fill  | Fill of 2/004 | >1.30m        | 0.37m        | 0.11m               | -            |

Table 2: Trench 2 list of recorded contexts

4.1.1 The natural geology [2/003] comprised mid reddish-brown slightly clayey coarse sand with frequent angular flint inclusions measuring 30-90mm. This was overlain by subsoil [2/002], comprising mid orange-brown clayey silt with occasional angular flint inclusions measuring 30-50mm. Overlying [2/002] was a dark greyish-brown sandy silt topsoil [2/001], which had occasional angular stone inclusions measuring 20-30mm.

4.1.2 At 10.30m from the south-east end of Trench 2, a shallow possible gully terminus [2/004] was recorded. It was cut into the natural [2/003], and sealed by the subsoil [2/002]. It was 0.37m wide and 0.11m deep and contained a single fill [2/005] comprising loosely compacted light grey sandy silt with occasional patches of charcoal. No finds were recovered.

### 4.2 Trench 4 (Figure 4)

| Context | Type  | Description   | Max. Length m | Max. Width m | Deposit Thickness m | Height m AOD |
|---------|-------|---------------|---------------|--------------|---------------------|--------------|
| 4/001   | Layer | Topsoil       | >30m          | >2m          | 0.22-0.45m          | 29.83        |
| 4/002   | Layer | Subsoil       | >5m           | >2m          | 0.05m               | -            |
| 4/003   | Layer | Natural       | >30m          | >2m          | -                   | 29.45-29.36  |
| 4/004   | Cut   | Curvilinear   | >12.48m       | 0.72m        | 0.18m               | 29.35        |
| 4/005   | Fill  | Fill of 4/004 | >12.48m       | 0.72m        | 0.18m               | -            |
| 4/006   | Cut   | Same as 4/004 | >12.48m       | 0.72m        | 0.22m               | 29.47        |
| 4/007   | Fill  | Same as 4/005 | >12.48m       | 0.72m        | 0.22m               | -            |
| 4/008   | Cut   | Ditch         | >2m           | 0.78m        | 0.53m               | 29.59        |
| 4/009   | Fill  | Fill of 4/008 | >2m           | 0.78m        | 0.26m               | -            |
| 4/010   | Fill  | Fill of 4/008 | >2m           | 0.78m        | 0.27m               | -            |
| 4/011   | Cut   | Same as 4/004 | >12.48m       | 0.72m        | 0.19m               | 29.41        |
| 4/012   | Fill  | Same as 4/005 | >12.48m       | 0.72m        | 0.19m               | -            |

Table 3: Trench 4 list of recorded contexts

- 4.2.1 The natural geology [4/003] consisted of mid yellowish-brown coarse sandy silt with frequent gravel throughout. A very thin layer of subsoil [4/002] measuring 0.05m thick overlay the natural at the south-east end of the trench which became indistinct after 5m. The topsoil [4/001] was the same as that recorded for Trench 2, and varied in thickness between 0.22 to 0.45m.
- 4.2.2 A curvilinear feature [4/004] was encountered at the north-west end of Trench 4 cut into the natural [4/003] and sealed by topsoil [4/001]. This feature was not visible on aerial photographs. It was visible for a length of 12.48m before apparently terminating, and was 0.72m wide with a maximum depth of 0.22m. It contained a single fill [4/005] comprising mid greyish-brown friable fine sandy silt with occasional angular stone inclusions measuring 10-40mm. The function of this feature was uncertain and no finds or dating evidence were recovered from the fill.
- 4.2.3 Further slots were dug into the curvilinear feature to establish its relationship with two other potential features ([4/006] and [4/008]) (Figure 4). At 7.60m from the north-west end of Trench 4, slot [4/006] was dug to examine the relationship between it and a rectangular feature which proved to be the result of root disturbance.
- 4.2.4 A ditch, [4/008], was identified 11.34m from the north-west end of Trench 4. In plan, it appeared to truncate the terminus of the curvilinear feature [4/011], and so a relationship slot was dug which established that this was indeed the case. The ditch [4/008] measured a width of 0.82m, and was found to be 0.53m deep. It was found to contain two fills. The lower fill [4/009] consisted of dark brown fine sandy silt, and measured a thickness of 0.26m. It had a diffuse interface with the upper fill [4/010], which appeared to be a deliberate mixed backfill deposit consisting of dark greyish-brown sandy silt and gravel with moderate angular flints measuring 50-80mm. It measured 0.27m thick. No finds or dating were recovered from either fill.
- 4.2.5 Ditch [4/008] is potentially the same boundary/ enclosure ditch as that encountered in Trenches 8, 12 and 16 as it had the same profile, similar dimensions and was found to be on the same alignment. It was identified on the aerial photographs as extending into Trench 4.

### 4.3 Trench 7 (Figure 5)

| Context | Type  | Description   | Max. Length m | Max. Width m | Deposit Thickness m | Height m AOD |
|---------|-------|---------------|---------------|--------------|---------------------|--------------|
| 7/001   | Layer | Topsoil       | >30m          | >2m          | 0.30-0.35m          | 30.27-29.81  |
| 7/002   | Layer | Natural       | >30m          | >2m          | -                   | 29.95-29.49  |
| 7/003   | Cut   | Linear        | >13.34m       | 0.92m        | 0.12m               | 29.97-29.72  |
| 7/004   | Fill  | Fill of 7/003 | >13.34m       | 0.92m        | 0.12m               | -            |
| 7/005   | Cut   | Modern ditch  | >1.32m        | 0.40m        | >0.55m              | 29.75        |
| 7/006   | Fill  | Fill of 7/005 | >1.32m        | 0.40m        | >0.55m              | -            |

Table 4: Trench 7 list of recorded contexts

- 4.3.1 The natural geology [7/002] was the same as that encountered in Trench 2 and was immediately overlain by topsoil [7/001].
- 4.3.2 At the north-west end of Trench 7, a shallow linear feature [7/003] cut into the natural was encountered which was visible for a length of 13.34m, and measured 0.92m wide and 0.12m deep. It contained a single fill [7/004] that consisted of dark greyish-brown friable fine sandy silt with occasional sub-angular stone inclusions. No finds or dating evidence were recovered.
- 4.3.3 Another feature [7/005] was found at 0.26m from the south-east end of Trench 7, running north-east/ south-west across the trench. It was visible for a length of 2.64m, and measured 0.74m wide. A slot was excavated to investigate the feature, but it was found to have very regular, completely vertical sides. As such, it was concluded this was a modern machine-cut ditch and was not bottomed. A single fill [7/006] was encountered, which consisted of mid greyish-brown sandy silt with frequent gravel, likely to have been a deliberate backfill deposit. No finds were recovered.

### 4.4 Trench 8 (Figure 6)

| Context | Type  | Description   | Max. Length m | Max. Width m | Deposit Thickness m | Height m AOD |
|---------|-------|---------------|---------------|--------------|---------------------|--------------|
| 8/001   | Layer | Topsoil       | >30m          | >2m          | 0.24-0.38m          | 30.48-30.31  |
| 8/002   | Layer | Subsoil       | >30m          | >2m          | 0.08-0.13m          | -            |
| 8/003   | Layer | Natural       | >30m          | >2m          | -                   | 30.00-29.33  |
| 8/004   | Cut   | Ditch         | >2m           | 0.96m        | 0.55m               | 29.97        |
| 8/005   | Fill  | Fill of 8/004 | >2m           | 0.96m        | 0.55m               | -            |

Table 5: Trench 8 list of recorded contexts

- 4.4.1 The length of Trench 8 had to be reduced by 5.40m in order to avoid a public footpath, and so measured 24.60m in length. The natural geology [8/003] was the same as that recorded in Trench 4. This was overlain by subsoil [8/002], which consisted of mid orange-brown sandy silt with occasional sub-angular stone inclusions. There appeared to be a break in the subsoil at around 15.50m from the north-west end, and it resumed again at 23.20m from the north-west end of the trench. This was overlain by topsoil [8/001], which was the same as that described for Trench 2.

4.4.2 At 15.60m from the north-west end of Trench 8, a ditch [8/004] was encountered cut into the natural and sealed by topsoil, running north-east/south-west through the trench. This had previously been picked up on aerial photography and appears to be part of a boundary/enclosure ditch which also runs through Trenches 4, 12 and 16. It measured 0.96m wide by 0.55m deep, and contained a single fill [8/005], a mixed backfill deposit consisting of dark greyish-brown sandy silt and gravel with moderate angular flints measuring 50-80mm, the same as [4/010].

#### 4.5 Trench 11 (Figure 7)

| Context | Type  | Description    | Max. Length m | Max. Width m | Deposit Thickness m | Height m AOD |
|---------|-------|----------------|---------------|--------------|---------------------|--------------|
| 11/001  | Layer | Topsoil        | >30m          | >2m          | 0.32-0.35m          | 30.71-30.49  |
| 11/002  | Layer | Subsoil        | >4.62m        | >2m          | 0.16m               | -            |
| 11/003  | Layer | Natural        | >30m          | >2m          | -                   | 30.17-30.10  |
| 11/004  | Cut   | Ditch          | >2m           | 2.12m        | 0.86m               | 30.19-30.13  |
| 11/005  | Fill  | Fill of 11/004 | >2m           | 0.28m        | 0.16m               | -            |
| 11/006  | Fill  | Fill of 11/005 | >2m           | 0.67m        | 0.42m               | -            |
| 11/007  | Fill  | Fill of 11/006 | >2m           | 1.51m        | 0.50m               | -            |

Table 6: Trench 11 list of recorded contexts

4.5.1 The natural geology [11/003] was variable in Trench 11. For the first 7m from the south-west end of the trench, it consisted of mottled mid orange-red/ light greyish-green fine sand with frequent patches of angular flints measuring 10-80mm. For the remainder of the trench, the natural changed to mid brownish-yellow coarse sand with frequent gravels. The subsoil [11/002] overlying the natural was mottled mid reddish-brown/ mid greyish-brown friable sandy silt with occasional angular flint inclusions measuring 20-50mm. The subsoil was present from the south-west end of the trench for 4.62m before becoming indistinct. The topsoil [11/001] was the same as that recorded for Trench 2.

4.5.2 At 5.45m from the south-west end of Trench 11, a substantial ditch [11/004] was encountered running north-west/ south-east across the trench. It measured a width of 2.12m and a depth of 0.86m, and contained three fills. The lower fill [11/005] consisted of mottled mid yellowish-brown/ mid greyish-brown slightly clayey sand, softly compacted, and looked to be a result of slumping. It had occasional angular flint inclusions measuring 50-70mm. The middle fill [11/006] was a dark greyish-brown, softly compacted, clayey silt with moderate angular flints measuring between 40 to 100mm. This fill was a further slumping event. The uppermost fill [11/007] consisted of mid yellowish-brown friable silty sand with moderate angular flint inclusions measuring 30-70mm. This was potentially a deliberate backfill deposit after the feature was no longer in use.

4.5.3 Glass of early/mid 19<sup>th</sup> to early 20<sup>th</sup> century date and a fragment of creamware pottery dating to the late 18<sup>th</sup> to mid 19<sup>th</sup> century were recovered from the uppermost fill, [11/007].

#### 4.6 Trench 12

| Context | Type  | Description    | Max. Length m | Max. Width m | Deposit Thickness m | Height m AOD |
|---------|-------|----------------|---------------|--------------|---------------------|--------------|
| 12/001  | Layer | Topsoil        | >30m          | >2m          | 0.26-0.39m          | 30.52-30.37  |
| 12/002  | Layer | Subsoil        | >30m          | >2m          | 0.10-0.17m          | -            |
| 12/003  | Layer | Natural        | >30m          | >2m          | -                   | 29.96        |
| 12/004  | Cut   | Ditch          | >2m           | 0.82m        | -                   | 29.96        |
| 12/005  | Fill  | Fill of 12/004 | >2m           | 0.82m        | -                   | -            |

Table 7: Trench 12 list of recorded contexts

4.6.1 The natural geology [12/003] was the same as that recorded in Trench 4. This was overlain by subsoil [12/002], which consisted of mid orange-brown sandy silt with occasional sub-angular stone inclusions. This was overlain by topsoil [12/001], which was the same as that described for Trench 2.

4.6.2 At 10.54m from the north-west end of Trench 12, a ditch [12/004] was encountered measuring 0.82m wide. This ditch was on the same alignment and had the same upper fill composition as ditch [4/008] and [8/004] in Trenches 4 and 8. Given time constraints this ditch was not excavated as it had been sampled in Trenches 4 and 8.

#### 4.7 Trench 14 (Figure 8)

| Context | Type  | Description    | Max. Length m | Max. Width m | Deposit Thickness m | Height m AOD |
|---------|-------|----------------|---------------|--------------|---------------------|--------------|
| 14/001  | Layer | Topsoil        | >30m          | >2m          | 0.20-0.29m          | 30.65        |
| 14/002  | Layer | Subsoil        | >30m          | >2m          | 0.05-0.24m          | -            |
| 14/003  | Layer | Natural        | >30m          | >2m          | -                   | 30.28        |
| 14/004  | Cut   | Ditch          | >2m           | 2.31m        | 0.60m               | 30.28        |
| 14/005  | Fill  | Fill of 14/004 | >2m           | 2.31m        | 0.60m               | -            |

Table 8: Trench 14 list of recorded contexts

4.7.1 The natural geology [14/003] consisted of mid brownish-yellow coarse sand with frequent gravels. This was overlain by the subsoil [14/002] which was made up of mid orange-brown clayey silt with occasional angular flint inclusions measuring 30-50mm. Overlying this was the topsoil [14/001], which was the same as that recorded in Trench 2.

4.7.2 At 8.70m from the south-east end of Trench 14, a substantial ditch [14/004] was encountered running north-west/ south-east across the trench, which had been identified aerial photographs. It measured a width of 2.31m and was 0.60m deep, cut through the natural [14/003] and sealed by subsoil [14/002]. It contained a single fill [14/005] which consisted of mixed loosely compacted dark brown and mid orange-brown fine sandy silts. Inclusions consisted of moderate sub-angular stones, and it was likely a deliberate backfilling deposit. No finds or dating evidence were recovered.

4.7.3 It appears from the aerial photographs that the ditch in Trench 14 is a

continuation of that found in Trenches 8, 12 and 16. Although this still may be the case, it is worth noting that it is larger, its profile is different (Figure 8, section 3), and it has a different fill composition and this interpretation is not definitive.

#### 4.8 Trench 15 (Figure 9)

| Context | Type  | Description     | Max. Length m | Max. Width m | Deposit Thickness m | Height m AOD |
|---------|-------|-----------------|---------------|--------------|---------------------|--------------|
| 15/001  | Layer | Topsoil         | >30m          | >2m          | 0.37-0.40m          | 30.80-29.90  |
| 15/002  | Layer | Subsoil         | >30m          | >2m          | 0.13-0.20m          | -            |
| 15/003  | Layer | Natural         | >30m          | >2m          | -                   | 30.23-29.30  |
| 15/004  | Cut   | Poss. Gully     | >2.12m        | 0.40m        | 0.25m               | 30.23        |
| 15/005  | Fill  | Fill of 15/004  | >2.12m        | 0.40m        | 0.25m               | -            |
| 15/006  | Cut   | Poss. Post hole | 0.34m         | 0.30m        | 0.07m               | 29.26        |
| 15/007  | Fill  | Fill of 15/006  | 0.34m         | 0.30m        | 0.07m               | -            |

Table 9: Trench 15 list of recorded contexts

4.8.1 The natural geology [15/003] was the same yellowish-brown coarse sandy silt as encountered in trench 14. This was overlain by the subsoil [15/002] which consisted of dark orange-brown fine sandy silt with occasional gravel inclusions. The topsoil [15/001] was as described for Trench 2.

4.8.2 At 3.28m from the south-east end of Trench 15 a shallow possible gully [15/004] was encountered. It was visible running north-east/ south-west across the trench for 2.12m, and measured 0.40m wide by 0.25m deep. It was cut into the natural [15/003] and sealed by subsoil [15/002]. It contained a single fill [15/005] which consisted of dark greyish-brown sandy silt with occasional sub-angular stone inclusions.

4.8.3 At 3.86m from the north-west end of Trench 15, a single possible post hole [15/006] was found cut into the natural. It measured 0.34m long by 0.30m wide by 0.07m deep (Figure 9, Section 8). It contained a single fill [15/007], mid greyish-brown sandy silt with occasional sub-angular stone inclusions. No finds were recovered.

#### 4.9 Trench 16 (Figure 10)

4.9.1 The natural geology [16/003] was made up of mid brown silty clay with occasional small sub-angular stone inclusions. This was overlain by subsoil [16/002], which consisted of mid orange-brown silty clay with occasional small sub-angular stones. The subsoil was overlain by topsoil [16/001], which was the same as that described for Trench 2.

4.9.2 At 2.50m from the north-east end of Trench 16 a ditch [16/004] was encountered running north-west/ south-east across the trench. It measured 1m wide by 0.53m deep, cut through the subsoil and natural, and was sealed by topsoil. It contained a single fill [16/005], which consisted of mid greyish-brown fine sandy silt with frequent sub-angular stone inclusions. It was most likely deliberate backfilling and a sherd from an English stoneware bottle of

19<sup>th</sup>-century date was recovered. The morphology of this ditch is similar to the ditches identified in Trenches 4, 8 and 12 and it could represent the south-east aligned return of this ditch.

| Context | Type  | Description    | Max. Length m | Max. Width m | Deposit Thickness m | Height m AOD |
|---------|-------|----------------|---------------|--------------|---------------------|--------------|
| 16/001  | Layer | Topsoil        | >30m          | >2m          | 0.31-0.35m          | 30.68        |
| 16/002  | Layer | Subsoil        | >30m          | >2m          | 0.14-0.20m          | -            |
| 16/003  | Layer | Natural        | >30m          | >2m          | -                   | 30.17        |
| 16/004  | Cut   | Ditch          | >2m           | 1m           | 0.53m               | 30.33        |
| 16/005  | Fill  | Fill of 16/004 | >2m           | 1m           | 0.53m               | -            |

Table 10: Trench 16 list of recorded contexts

#### 4.10 Trench 17 (Figure 11)

| Context | Type  | Description    | Max. Length m | Max. Width m | Deposit Thickness m | Height m AOD |
|---------|-------|----------------|---------------|--------------|---------------------|--------------|
| 17/001  | Layer | Topsoil        | >30m          | >2m          | 0.38-0.45m          | 30.64        |
| 17/002  | Layer | Subsoil        | >14.75m       | >2m          | 0.14-0.16m          | -            |
| 17/003  | Layer | Natural        | >30m          | >2m          | 0.59m               | 30.05        |
| 17/004  | Cut   | Poss. Pit      | 1.14m         | 1m           | 0.15m               | 29.99        |
| 17/005  | Fill  | Fill of 17/004 | >1.14m        | 1m           | 0.15m               | -            |
| 17/006  | Cut   | Poss. Pit      | 1.30m         | 1.30m        | 0.08m               | 30.06        |
| 17/007  | Fill  | Fill of 17/006 | 1.30m         | 1.30m        | 0.08m               | -            |
| 17/008  | Layer | Natural Clay   | >30m          | >2m          | >0.20m              | -            |

Table 11: Trench 17 list of recorded contexts

4.10.1 The natural geology [17/003] consisted of mid brownish-yellow coarse sand with frequent gravels. This was overlain by subsoil [17/002], which was the same as that found in Trench 14. It was not present throughout Trench 17, but was visible from the south-east end of the trench for 14.75m before becoming indistinct. The overlying topsoil [17/001] was the same as that described for Trench 2.

4.10.2 The boundary ditch that ran through Trenches 4, 8, 12 and 16 was apparently also identified on aerial photography as running through Trench 17. However, on excavation of the trench, this did not appear to be the case. A substantial sondage was machine-dug in the area where the ditch was shown to be on the site plan in an attempt to locate it, but it was concluded that it was not present in Trench 17. The sondage was dug through the natural sand [17/003] and reached a layer of natural mottled mid reddish-orange/ mid greyish-green silty clay [17/008], with inclusions of moderate angular flints measuring 20-50mm.

4.10.3 Two possible shallow pits of unclear function were encountered towards the north-west end of Trench 17. Pit [17/004] was found at 10.26m from the north-west end of the trench, cut into the natural sand [17/003] and sealed by the topsoil [17/001]. It was visible for a length of 1.14m, continuing beyond the north-east trench baulk, and measured 1m wide by 0.15m deep. It contained a single fill [17/005], which consisted of light greyish-brown silt with



frequent gravel. No finds or dating evidence were recovered.

4.10.4 Pit [17/006] was situated next to [17/004], 8.62m from the north-west end of Trench 17, cut into the natural sand [17/003] and sealed by the topsoil [17/001]. It measured 1.40m long by 1.14m wide by 0.08m deep. It contained a single fill [17/007]. No finds were recovered. Given the ephemeral nature of these features, it is unclear whether they are of archaeological and may be of natural origin.

#### **4.11 Trenches 1, 3, 5, 6, 9, 10 and 13**

4.11.1 Trenches 1, 3, 5, 6, 9, 10 and 13 each measured a length of 30m by a width of 2m. No archaeological features were encountered in these trenches. All contexts encountered have been summarised in Table 12 below.

| <b>Context</b> | <b>Type</b> | <b>Description</b> | <b>Max. Length m</b> | <b>Max. Width m</b> | <b>Deposit Thickness m</b> |
|----------------|-------------|--------------------|----------------------|---------------------|----------------------------|
| 1/001          | Layer       | Topsoil            | >30m                 | >2m                 | 0.31-0.39m                 |
| 1/002          | Layer       | Subsoil            | >30m                 | >2m                 | 0.15-0.20m                 |
| 1/003          | Layer       | Natural            | >30m                 | >2m                 | -                          |
| 3/001          | Layer       | Topsoil            | >30m                 | >2m                 | 0.29-0.39m                 |
| 3/002          | Layer       | Subsoil            | >30m                 | >2m                 | 0.12-0.20m                 |
| 3/003          | Layer       | Natural            | >30m                 | >2m                 | -                          |
| 5/001          | Layer       | Topsoil            | >30m                 | >2m                 | 0.34-0.40m                 |
| 5/002          | Layer       | Subsoil            | >30m                 | >2m                 | 0.08-0.28m                 |
| 5/003          | Layer       | Natural            | >30m                 | >2m                 | -                          |
| 6/001          | Layer       | Topsoil            | >30m                 | >2m                 | 0.32-0.43m                 |
| 6/002          | Layer       | Subsoil            | >30m                 | >2m                 | 0.10-0.20m                 |
| 6/003          | Layer       | Natural            | >30m                 | >2m                 | -                          |
| 9/001          | Layer       | Topsoil            | >30m                 | >2m                 | 0.30-0.32m                 |
| 9/002          | Layer       | Natural            | >30m                 | >2m                 | -                          |
| 10/001         | Layer       | Topsoil            | >30m                 | >2m                 | 0.32-0.35m                 |
| 10/002         | Layer       | Natural            | >30m                 | >2m                 | -                          |
| 13/001         | Layer       | Topsoil            | >30m                 | >2m                 | 0.28-0.35m                 |
| 13/002         | Layer       | Natural            | >30m                 | >2m                 | -                          |

Table 12: Trenches 1, 3, 5, 6, 9, 10 and 13 list of recorded contexts

4.11.2 Trench 1 had to be cut short by 5m at the south-west end in order to avoid an overhead power cable, and so measured 25m long.

4.11.3 The natural geology in Trenches 1, 3, 5 and 6 was the same as that encountered in Trench 2, consisting of slightly clayey coarse sand with frequent angular flint inclusions measuring 30-90mm, although in trench 3 the flints did measure up to 140mm. The subsoil and topsoil were also the same in these trenches as that described for Trench 2.

4.11.4 The natural geology in Trenches 9, 10 and 13 consisted of mid brownish-yellow coarse sand with frequent gravel. There was no subsoil present in any of these trenches, and the natural was directly overlain by topsoil, the same as that described for Trench 2.

4.11.5 The same boundary/ enclosure ditch as found in Trenches 4, 8, 12 and 16 was shown on aerial photography to be running through Trenches 9 and 10.

Possible features in Trenches 9 and 10 were investigated, but they turned out to be very shallow depressions in the natural that had filled with topsoil and no evidence of the ditch or any other archaeological features were found.

## **5.0 THE FINDS AND ENVIRONMENTAL SAMPLE**

### **5.1 The Finds by Elke Raemen**

5.1.1 A small assemblage of finds was recovered during the trial trenching (Table 13). Finds were washed and dried or air dried as appropriate and were subsequently quantified by count and weight. They were bagged by material and context and are stored following IfA guidelines (2008) (note that updated guidance was released by the ClfA in December 2014). No further conservation is required.

| <b>Context</b> | <b>Pottery</b> | <b>Wt (g)</b> | <b>CBM</b> | <b>Wt (g)</b> | <b>Glass</b> | <b>Wt (g)</b> |
|----------------|----------------|---------------|------------|---------------|--------------|---------------|
| 11/007         | 1              | <2            | 5          | 14            | 9            | 74            |
| 12/001         |                |               | 1          | 46            |              |               |
| 16/005         | 1              | 6             |            |               |              |               |
| <b>Total</b>   | <b>2</b>       | <b>6</b>      | <b>6</b>   | <b>60</b>     | <b>9</b>     | <b>74</b>     |

Table 13: Quantification of the finds

### **5.2 The Pottery**

5.2.1 Two pieces of post-medieval pottery were recovered. Ditch fill [11/007] contained a fragment of creamware pottery dating to the late 18<sup>th</sup> to mid 19<sup>th</sup> century. A sherd from an English stoneware bottle of 19<sup>th</sup> century date was found in ditch fill [16/005].

### **5.3 Ceramic Building Material**

5.3.1 A roof tile fragment undiagnostic of form was found in [12/001]. The piece is in an orange sparse sand-tempered fabric with cream calcareous bands and common red iron oxide inclusions to 3mm. The fragment is of post-medieval date. In addition, four crumbs undiagnostic of form or fabric as well as a brick fragment in a fine orange fabric with cream bands and sparse fine sand-temper were recovered from [11/007]. Fragments are too small to be diagnostic of date.

### **5.4 The Glass**

5.4.1 Nine fragments from an aqua cylindrical bottle, possibly a mineral water bottle, were recovered from [11/007]. The glass is of early/mid 19<sup>th</sup> to early 20<sup>th</sup> century date.

### **5.5 Finds Summary**

5.5.1 The assemblage from land at Bathingbourne Lane is small, containing some fragments of pottery, ceramic building material and glass, all of post-medieval date. As it stands, its only significance lies in its provision of limited dating evidence and the assemblage is of no further potential. Finds are recommended for discard.

## **5.6 Environmental Sample Summary**

- 5.6.1 No deposits suitable for environmental sampling were identified during the trial trenching.

## **6.0 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS**

### **6.1 Overview of stratigraphic sequence**

- 6.1.1 The natural geology consisting of coarse sand with gravels was generally encountered throughout all trenches with slight variations in colour, although in Trench 11 the natural was noted as mottled mid orange-red/ light grey green fine sand for the first 7m from the south-west end of the trench, then changing to the coarse sand for the remaining 23m. In Trench 16, the natural was recorded as silty clay, though still with frequent gravel inclusions.
- 6.1.2 The natural was recorded at heights varying between 28.46 and 30.28m AOD. It was cut by archaeological features in Trenches 2, 4, 7, 8, 11, 12, 14, 15, 16 and 17.
- 6.1.3 Subsoil overlying the natural was identified in Trenches 1 to 6, 8, 11, 12 and 14 to 17, although it was not always present throughout the full length of the trenches. The ditch in Trench 16 also appeared to be cut through the subsoil. There was no subsoil present in Trenches 7, 9, 10 and 13. The subsoil, or natural where no subsoil was present, was sealed by topsoil.
- 6.1.4 The archaeological remains identified were, generally, sealed by c.0.50m of overburden (subsoil and topsoil).

### **6.2 Deposit survival**

- 6.2.1 The presence of subsoil across most of the site suggests that there has been little horizontal truncation of archaeological deposits and therefore there is good potential for the survival of archaeological features cut into the natural geology.

### **6.3 Discussion of archaeological remains by period**

- 6.3.1 Potentially the earliest feature identified is a small curvilinear gully in Trench 4. However, there was no dating evidence recovered and it is only the leached nature of the feature's fill and its stratigraphic relationship with a later ditch that suggests a potential, although by no means definitive, prehistoric date.
- 6.3.2 The majority of the archaeological remains identified relate to a series of probable post medieval ditches, although dating evidence is relatively sparse. These ditches are present in the eastern half of the site, in the approximate area of the cropmarks identified by aerial photography (see, 6.3.4 below).
- 6.3.3 A ditch was recorded in Trenches 4, 8, 12, potentially turning toward the south and is also present in Trench 16. Pottery and glass recovered from this ditch (in Trench 16) suggests a 19<sup>th</sup> Century date for its infilling. Further similar ditches were recorded in Trenches 7, 14 and 11. The ditch in Trench 14 could, potentially, represent a right angled, eastward return of the ditch in Trench 11, although this is not certain. Dating evidence recovered from ditch [11/07] in Trench 11 also suggests that it fell out of use by the 19<sup>th</sup> century.
- 6.3.4 It seems likely that the post-medieval ditches relate to earlier field divisions

within the site and/or boundaries to the plot that have since been moved and thereby fallen out of use. Certainly their alignment, broadly northeast-southwest and north-northwest – south-southeast is in keeping with the surrounding, existing boundaries. With regard to the veracity of the aerial photographs, some of the ditches do broadly relate to the cropmarks identified on the aerial photographs (in Trenches 8, 12, 16, and 17), although not in the exact location in some these instances.

- 6.3.5 There is no strong evidence that these ditches represent an enclosure, which is now considered unlikely, In keeping with this, the comparative lack of artefacts recovered suggests that there was no major focus of occupation in the vicinity.

#### **6.4 Conclusions**

- 6.4.1 The trial trenching has successfully identified a number of archaeological features, the majority probable relating to post-medieval field boundaries with a single example of a possible prehistoric ditch, although the evidence for this is circumstantial only.
- 6.4.2 Given that the trial trenching was successful in identifying a number of archaeological features, and assessing the deposits survival, the methodology employed during the fieldwork is considered appropriate.

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## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

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## HER Summary

|   |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|---|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| Site Code   | BAL14  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Identification Name and Address   | Land at Bathingbourne Lane, Isle of Wight                      |  |  |  |  |  |
| County, District &/or Borough   | Isle of Wight  |  |  |  |  |  |
| OS Grid Refs.   | SZ 55032 83993   |  |  |  |  |  |
| Geology   | Ferruginous Sands Formation overlain by River Terrace Deposits |  |  |  |  |  |
| Arch. South-East Project Number   | 6836   |  |  |  |  |  |
| Type of Fieldwork   | Eval.  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Type of Site  | Green Field  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Dates of Fieldwork  | 30/06/14-08/07/14  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Sponsor/Client  | Jacobs UK Ltd  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Project Manager   | Paul Mason   |  |  |  |  |  |
| Project Supervisor  | Steve Price  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Period Summary  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|   |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| <p><b>Summary</b></p> <p>Archaeology South-East was commissioned by Jacobs UK Ltd, on behalf of their client, AmeyCespa, to undertake archaeological trial trenching on land at Bathingbourne Lane, Isle of Wight. The main aim of the trial trenching was to assess the significance of a potential undated enclosure ditch, identified on aerial photographs.</p> <p>In total, 17 trenches were excavated 30 metres long by 2 metres wide, apart from Trench 1 which had to be cut short by 5m at the south-west end in order to avoid an overhead power cable, and Trench 8 which was cut short by 5.40m at the north-west end in order to avoid a public footpath (Figure 2).</p> <p>The results of the trial trenching suggest that the postulated enclosure ditch is in fact more likely to be a series of ditches, infilling in the late-post medieval period. These ditches were located in Trenches 4, 8, 12 and 16. Further ditches were also encountered in Trenches 11 and 14. It is likely that the post-medieval ditches relate to earlier field divisions within the site and/or boundaries to the plot that have since been moved. Some of the ditches do broadly relate to the cropmarks (in Trenches 8, 12, 16 and 17), although not in the exact location in some these instances.</p> <p>An undated curvilinear gully was found in Trench 4, cut by the 'enclosure' ditches, and given this stratigraphic relationship, and its leached fill, is potentially of prehistoric date.</p> <p>A possible shallow gully was located in Trench 2 and a shallow ditch and modern machine-cut ditch were encountered in Trench 7. In Trench 15 a further gully and a possible shallow post hole were found and Trench 17 contained two possible shallow pits.</p> <p>No archaeological features were found in Trenches 1, 3, 5, 6, 9, 10 and 13.</p> |  |  |  |  |  |  |



**OASIS ID: archaeol6-190428**

**Project details**

Project name            An Archaeological Trial Trenching Report On Land at Bathingbourne Lane, Isle of Wight .

Short description of the project    Archaeology South-East was commissioned by Jacobs UK Ltd, on behalf of their client, AmeyCespa, to undertake an archaeological trial trenching on land at Bathingbourne Lane, Isle of Wight. The main aim of the trial trenching was to assess the significance of a potential undated enclosure ditch, identified on aerial photographs.

In total, 17 trenches were excavated 30 metres long by 2 metres wide, apart from Trench 1 which had to be cut short by 5m at the south-west end in order to avoid an overhead power cable, and Trench 8 which was cut short by 5.40m at the north-west end in order to avoid a public footpath (Figure 2).

The results of the trial trenching suggest that the postulated enclosure ditch is in fact more likely to be a series of ditches, infilling in the late-post medieval period. These ditches were located in Trenches 4, 8, 12 and 16. Further ditches were also encountered in Trenches 11 and 14. It is likely that the post-medieval ditches relate to earlier field divisions within the site and/or boundaries to the plot that have since been moved. Some of the ditches do broadly relate to the cropmarks (in Trenches 8, 12, 16 and 17), although not in the exact location in some these instances.

An undated curvilinear gully was found in Trench 4, cut by the 'enclosure' ditches, and given this stratigraphic relationship, and its leached fill, potentially, (although circumstantially), of prehistoric date.

Project dates            Start: 30-06-2014 End: 08-07-2014

Previous/future work        No / Not known

Type of project            Field evaluation

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**Project location**

Country                    England

Site location              ISLE OF WIGHT ISLE OF WIGHT SHANKLIN Bathingbourne Lane

Postcode                  PO36 0LX

Study area                0 Square metres

Site coordinates        SZ 455032 083993 49.9733831356 -1.36536255353 49 58 24 N 001 21 55 W  
Point

**Project creators**

Name of Organisation      Archaeology South East

Project brief originator      Archaeology South East

Project design originator      Jacobs UK Limited

Project director/manager      Paul Mason

Project supervisor      Steve Price

**Project archives**

Physical Archive recipient      Local Museum

Physical Contents      "Ceramics", "Glass"

Digital Archive recipient      Local Museum

Digital Media available      "Images raster / digital photography"

Paper Archive recipient      Local Museum

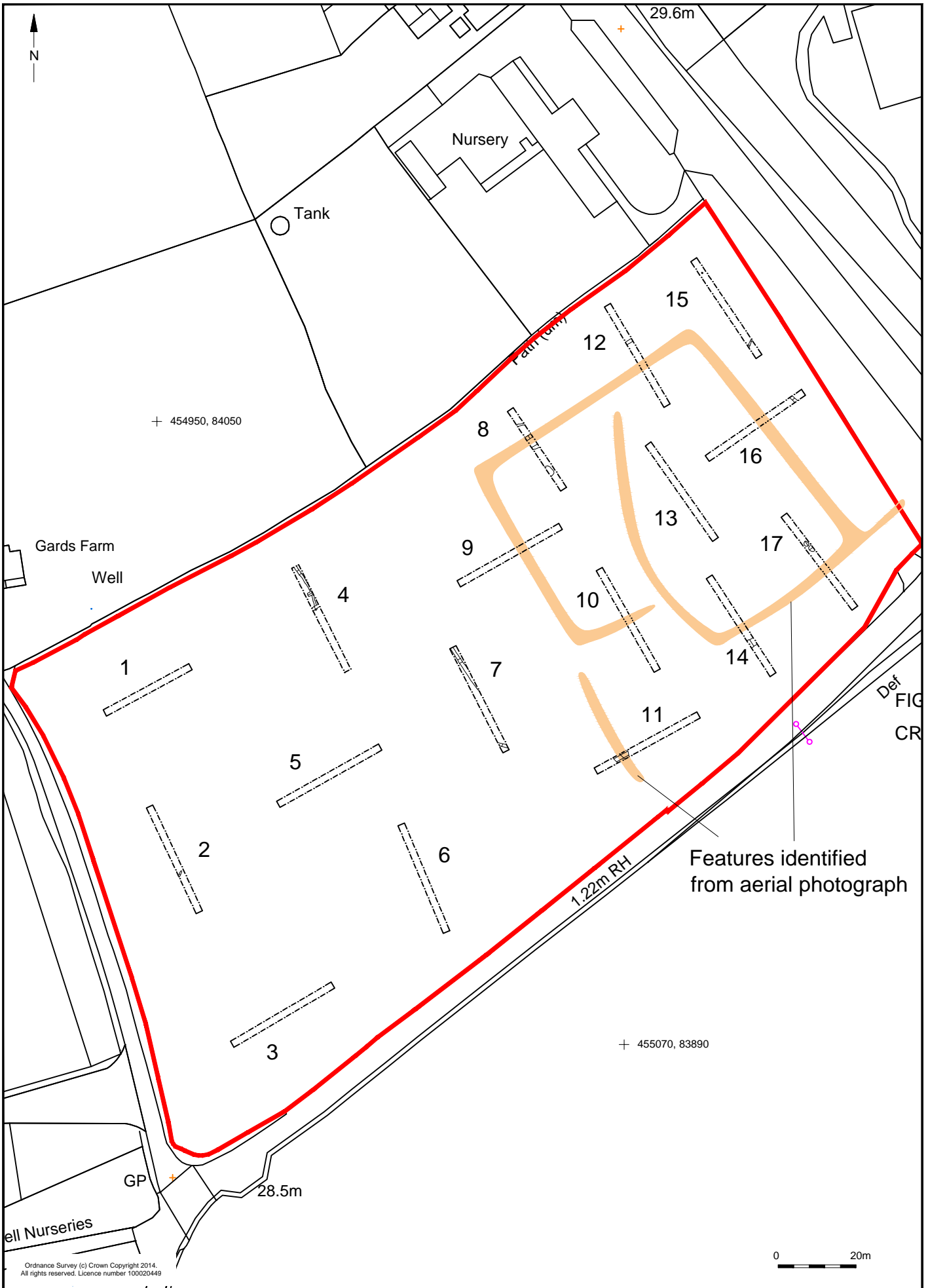
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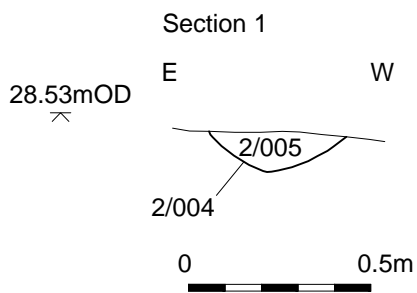
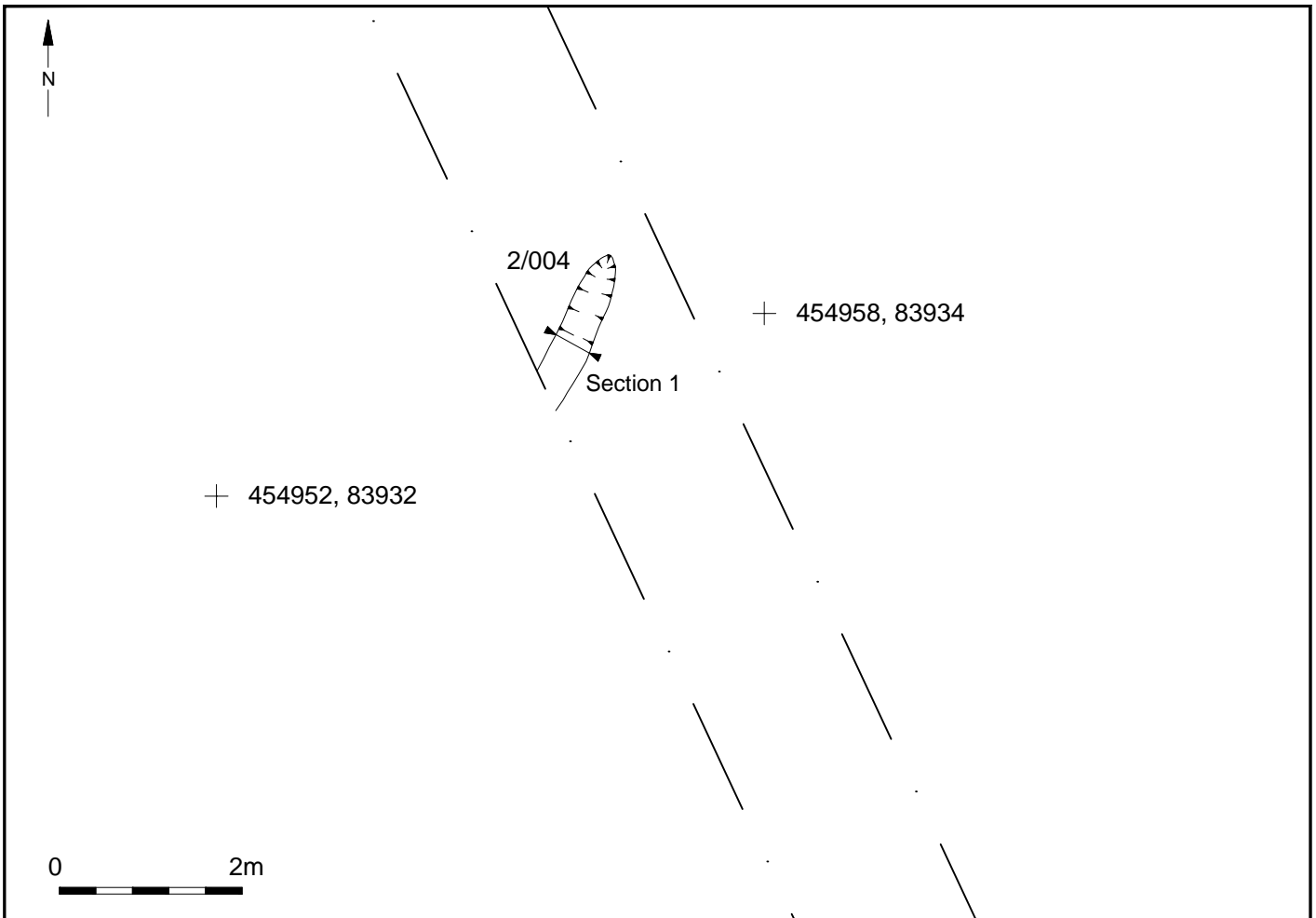
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|--------------------------|----------------|-----------------------------------|--------|
| © Archaeology South-East |                | Bathingbourne Lane, Isle of Wight | Fig. 1 |
| Project Ref: 6836        | September 2014 | Site location                     |        |
| Report Ref: 2014311      | Drawn by: RHC  |                                   |        |

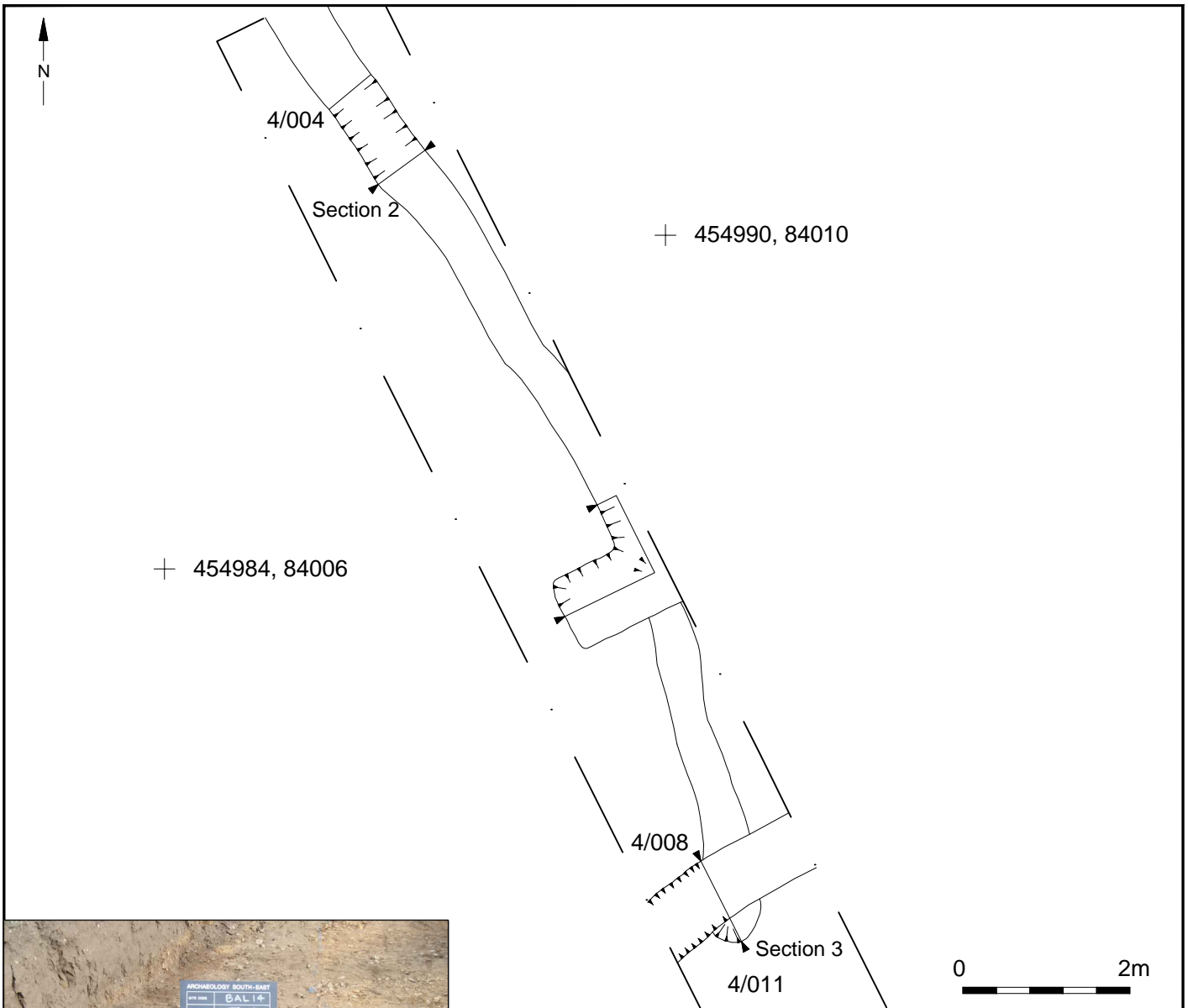


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| Project Ref: 6836        | September 2014 | Site plan                         |        |
| Report Ref: 2014311      | Drawn by: RHC  |                                   |        |



Section 1 looking south

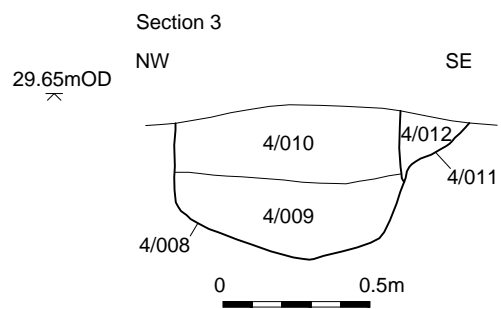
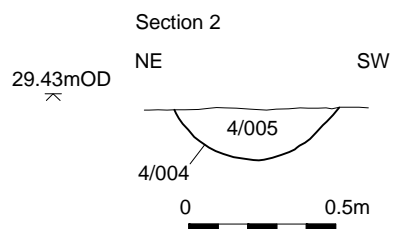
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| Project Ref: 6836        | September 2014 | Trench 2 plan, section and photograph |        |
| Report Ref: 2014311      | Drawn by: RHC  |                                       |        |

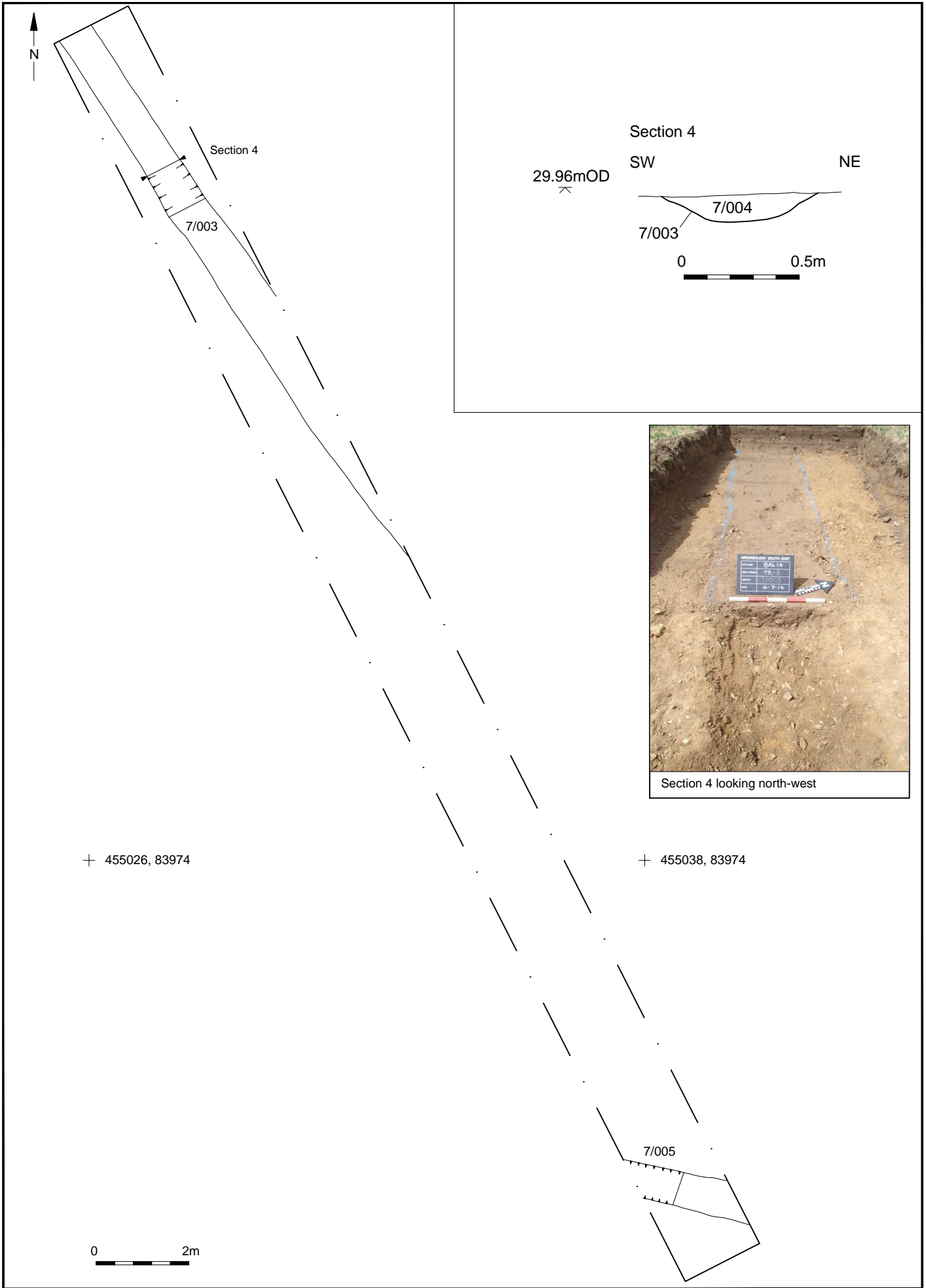


Section 2 looking south-east

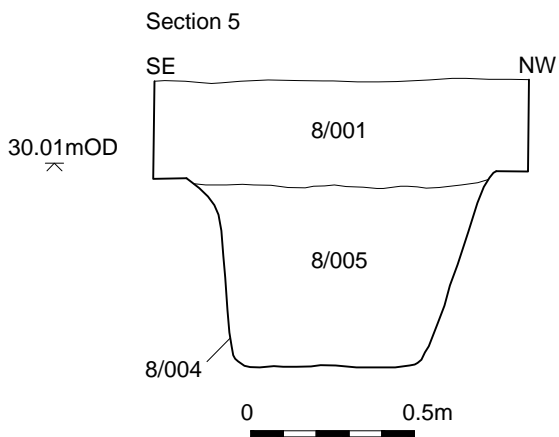
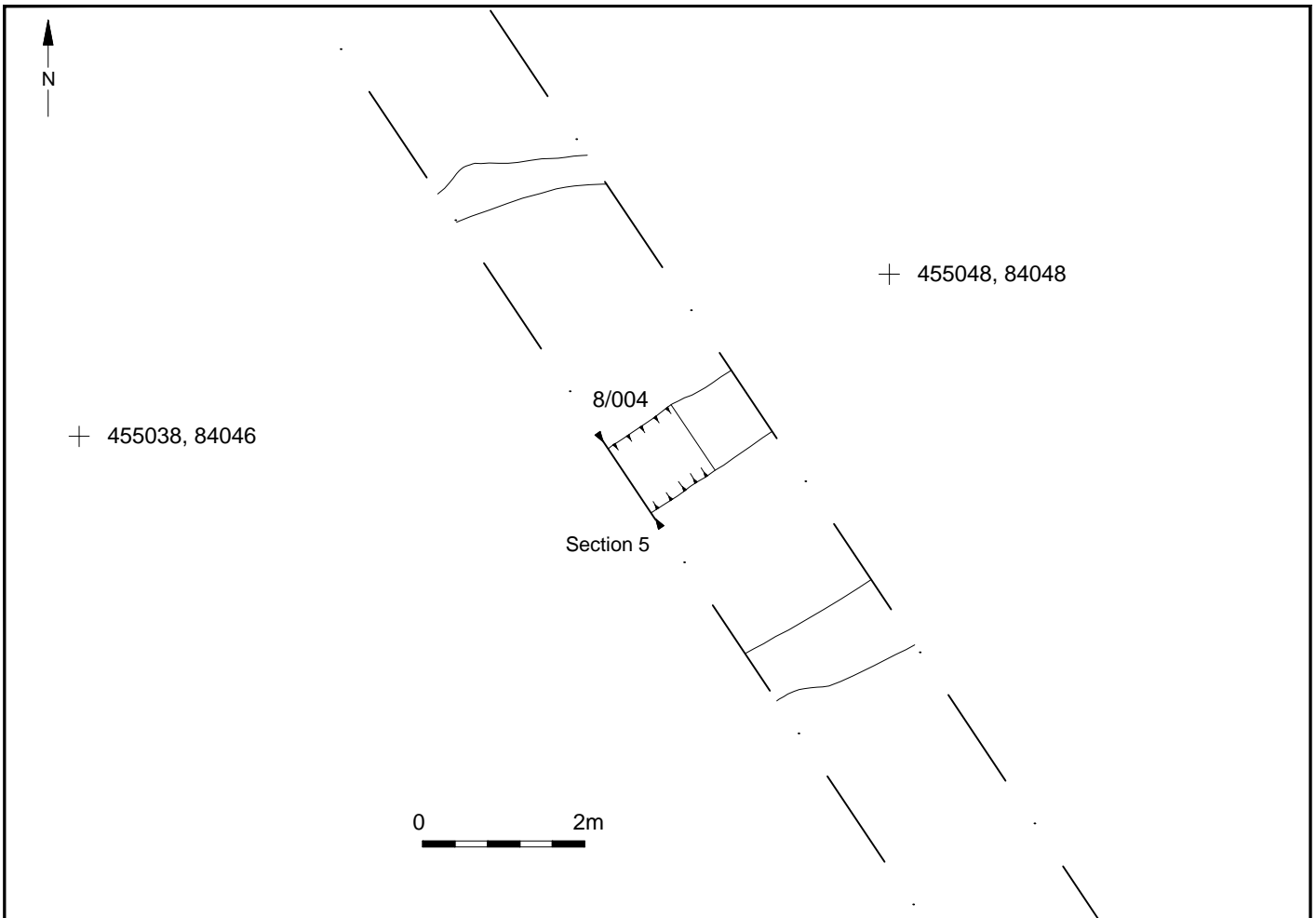


Section 3 looking north-east



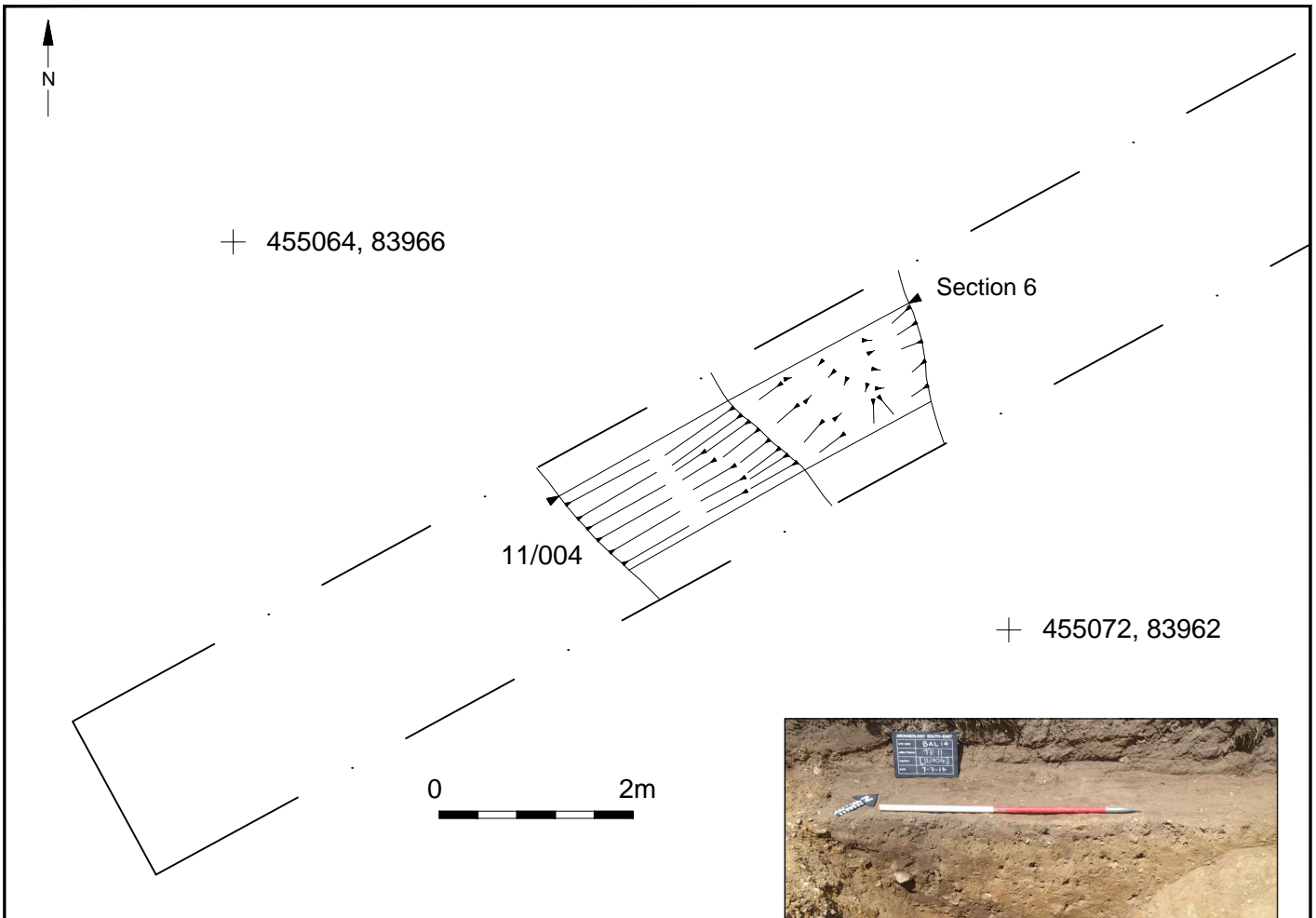


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| Project Ref: 6836        | September 2014 | Trench 7 plan, section and photograph |        |
| Report Ref: 2014311      | Drawn by: RHC  |                                       |        |

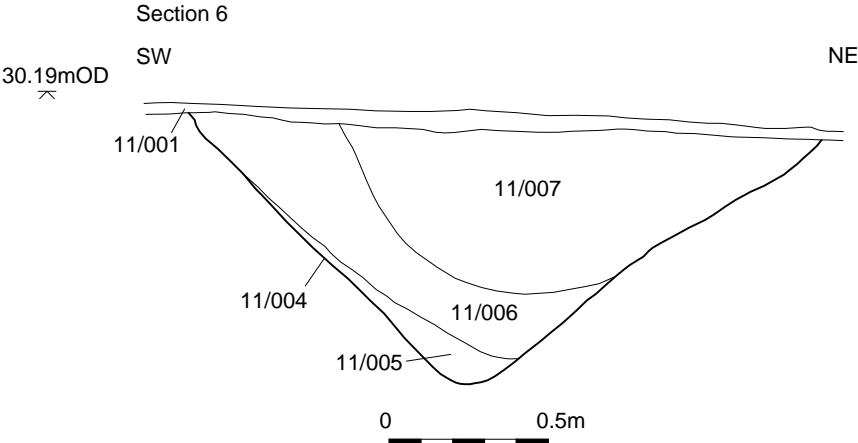


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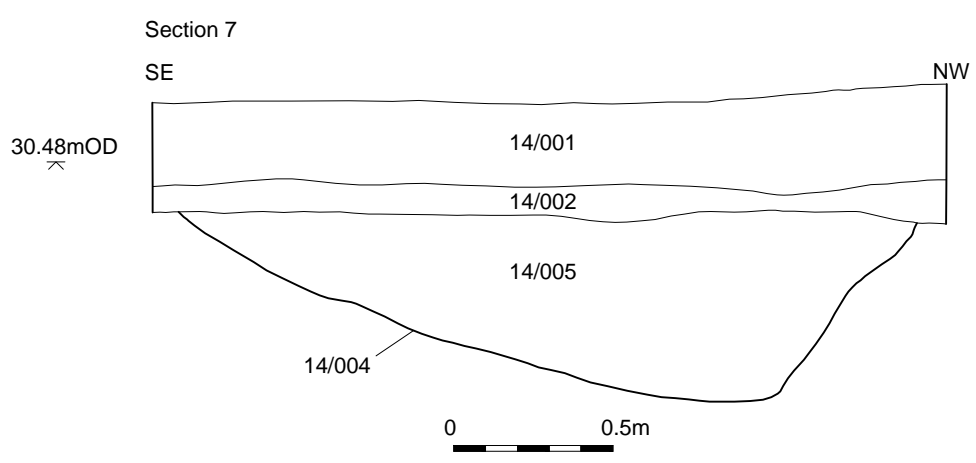
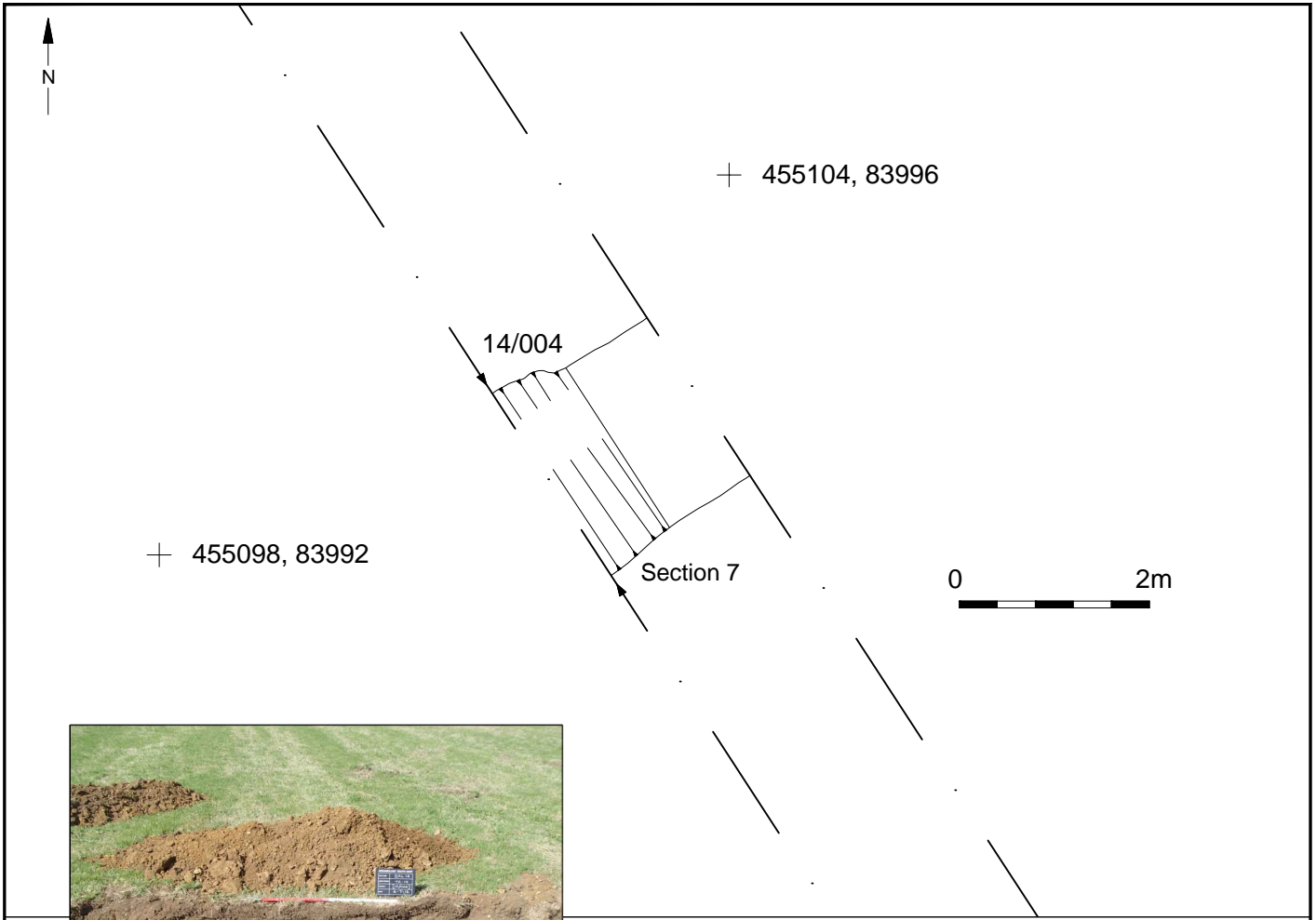




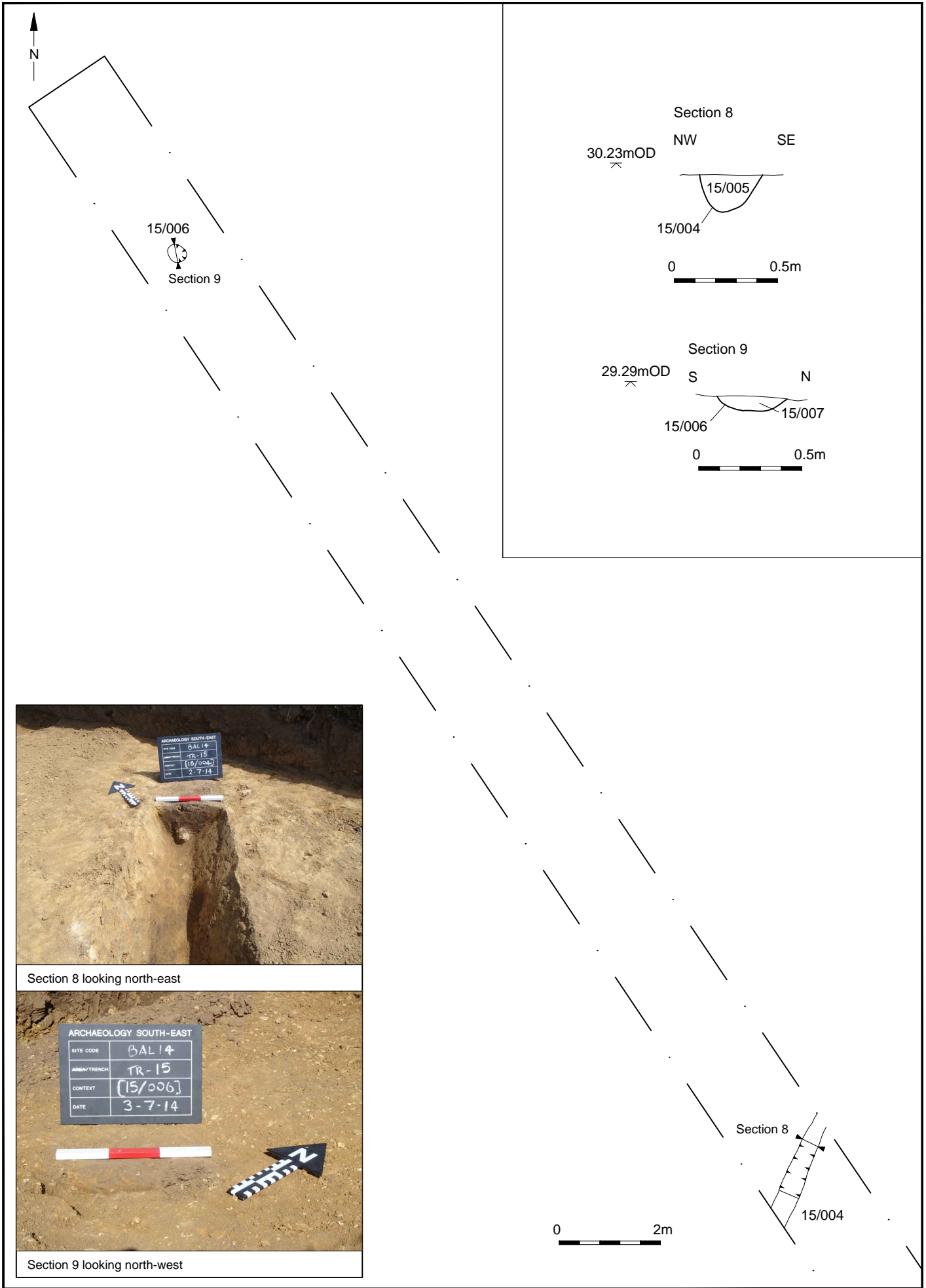
Section 6 looking north-west



|                          |                |  |        |
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| Project Ref: 6836        | September 2014 | Trench 11 plan, section and photograph |        |
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|                          |                |  |        |
|--------------------------|----------------|--|--------|
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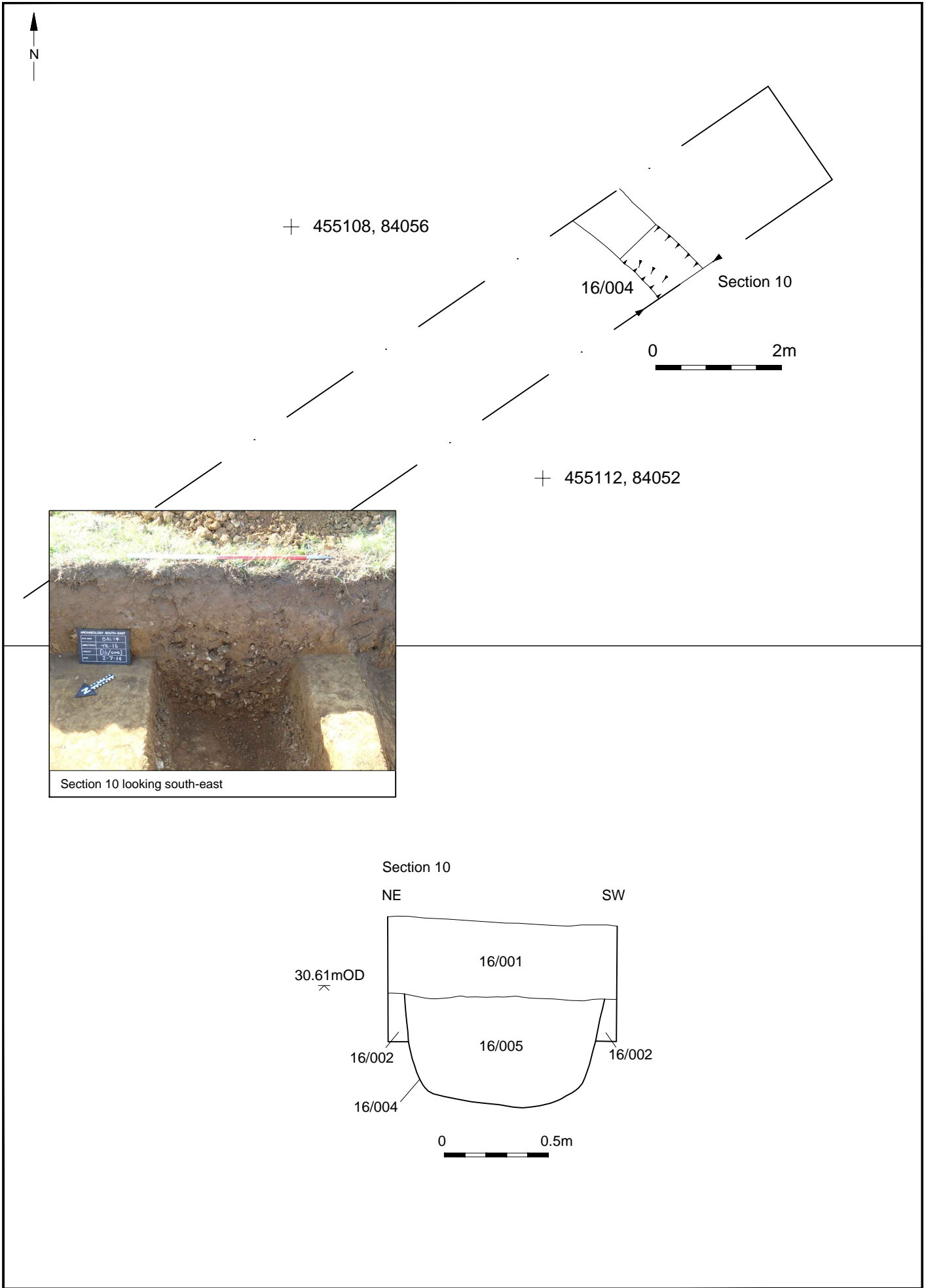


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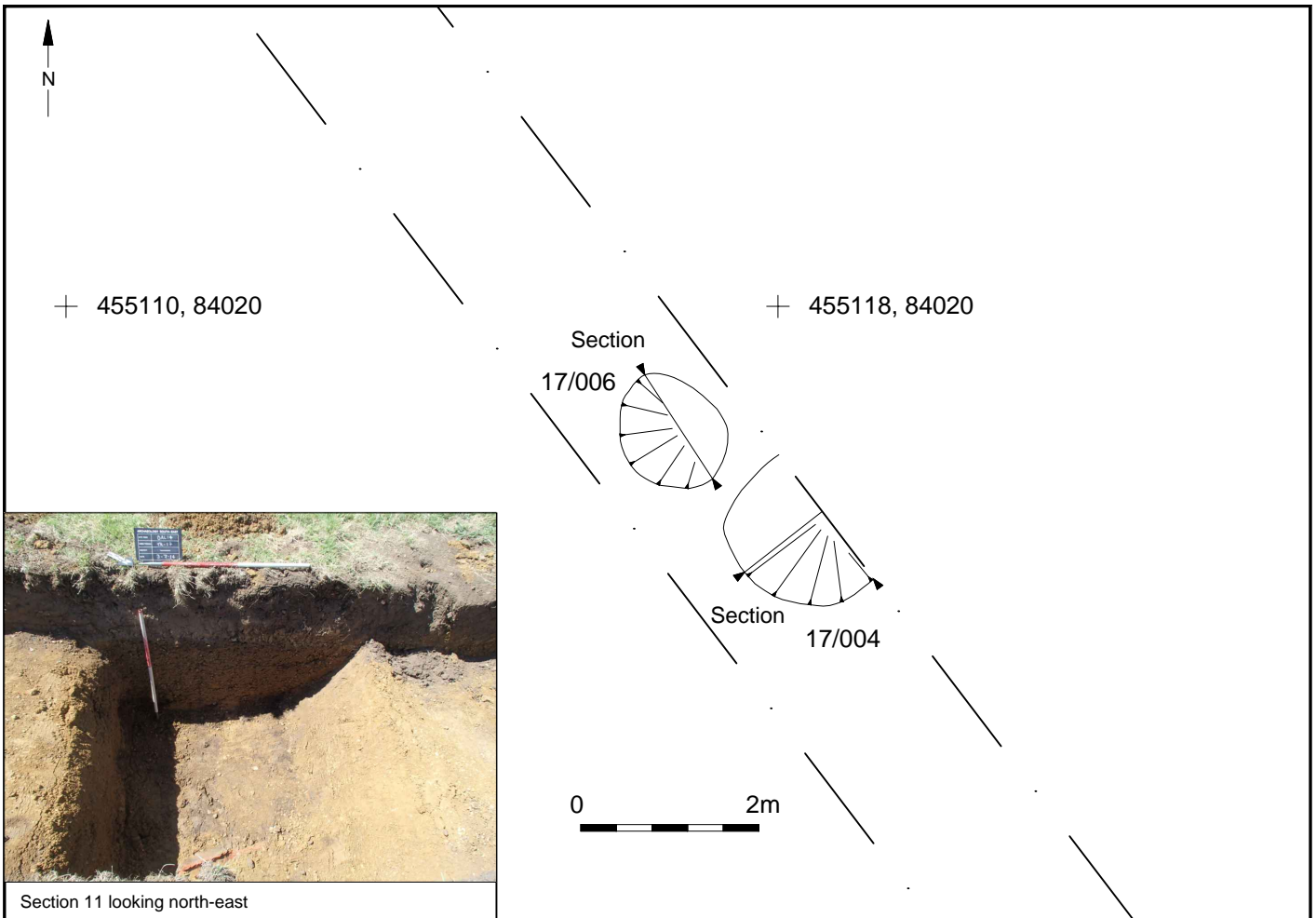


Section 9 looking north-west

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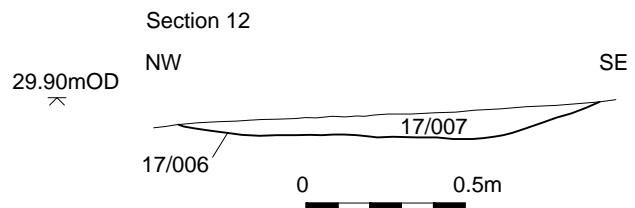
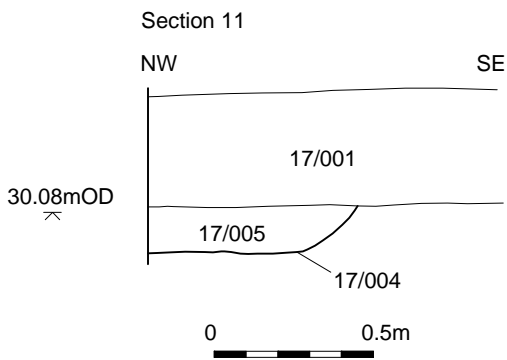
|                          |                |  |         |
|--------------------------|----------------|--|---------|
| © Archaeology South-East |                | Bathingbourne Lane, Isle of Wight      | Fig. 10 |
| Project Ref: 6836        | September 2014 | Trench 16 plan, section and photograph |         |
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Section 11 looking north-east



Section 12 looking north-east



|                          |                |  |         |
|--------------------------|----------------|--|---------|
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