

## **Archaeological Evaluation**

**Land East of Warren Avenue, Church Hill  
Saxmundham, Suffolk**

**ASE Project No: 8298  
Site Code: ESF 22629  
HER No: SXM 036**

**ASE Report No: 2015017**



**January 2015**



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**NGR: TM 38960 63260**

**Planning Ref: DC/14/1497/FUL**

**ASE Project No: 8298  
Site Code: ESF 22629  
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**ASE Report No: 2015017  
OASIS id: 200048**

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## **Abstract**

*In December 2014, Archaeology South-East (ASE), the contracting division of the Centre for Applied Archaeology (CAA), Institute of Archaeology (IoA), University College London (UCL) undertook an archaeological evaluation on land east of Warren Avenue, Church Hill, Saxmundham prior to the determination of a planning application for residential development.*

*The development area is located on undulating ground with broad valleys running from north-east to south-west and from south-east to north-west, meeting at the central west edge of the site.*

*Previous archaeological work to the southwest of the site identified Bronze Age remains, although a geophysical survey of the development area had identified very few anomalies of likely archaeological origin. These included a series of possible infilled field boundary ditches or an enclosure. Eleven trenches, each measuring 30m by 2m, were excavated in the central section of the site, primarily targeted to test the results of the geophysical survey.*

*The suggested infilled ditches/ possible enclosure were shown to be naturally infilled shallow dry valleys or coombs. Archaeological remains were found in a number of trenches, primarily in the dry valleys, and comprised Late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age finds within possible occupation deposits. In addition, further prehistoric finds were recovered from the overlying colluvial deposits. Identifiable cut features were scarce and comprise only one undated gully. Additional recorded features include a probable natural linear feature and a tree bole which contained prehistoric struck flint.*

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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 CgMs Consulting acting on behalf of Hopkins Homes to undertake an archaeological evaluation on land east of Warren Avenue, Church Hill, Saxmundham. The evaluation was undertaken prior to the determination of planning application DC/14/1497/FUL for the residential development of the site. The scope of work complies with requirements agreed during pre-application discussions between the client and SCCAS/CT, and subsequently set out in a *Brief for Trenched Archaeological Evaluation* (SCCAS/CT 2014).

1.1.2 The proposed development site lies to the east of the historic town of Saxmundham and encompasses a large area in a valley location on the east side of the River Fromus that is topographically favourable for occupation of all periods. The development area currently comprises arable farm land to both the north and south of 'Street Farm' (NGR TM 3883 6333). This stage of archaeological work was restricted to a targeted area of the land to the south of the farm, bounded to the north and east by further farm land, to the south by 'Church Hill' (B1119) and to the west by new residential development centred around 'Warren Avenue' and 'Fromus Walk'.

### **1.2 Topography and Geology**

1.2.1 The site sits on undulating ground and varies in height between c.22m and c.15.5m above mean sea-level. A series of wide and shallow valleys slope in a generally westerly direction across the site towards the River Fromus, which flows from north to south approximately 150-200m to the west.

1.2.2 The superficial geology of the site comprises glacial tills of the Lowestoft Formation, with sand and gravel-rich till present in the eastern part of the site and Diamicton in the west, overlying bedrock deposits of Crag Group sand (British Geological Survey © NERC 2015). During fieldwork, the geology was recorded as light brownish yellow clay on the higher ground to the west and light orangey yellow sand on the lower ground to the east.

### **1.3 Planning Background**

1.3.1 Prior to the determination of a planning application (DC/14/1497/FUL) for the residential development of the site, pre-application discussions between CgMs consulting and Jess Tipper, County Archaeologist at SCCAS/CT established a requirement for archaeological work.

- 1.3.2 The site lies in an area highlighted by the Historic Environment Record as having a high potential for archaeological deposits to be present. Accordingly, SCCAS/CT, in their capacity as archaeological advisors to the local planning authority, recommended that a geophysical survey be carried out across the development area, followed by a review and targeted trial trenching as needed to test the survey results (ArchaeoPhyisca Ltd 2014). The archaeological recommendation was based upon guidance given in the National Planning Policy Framework (DCLG 2012).
- 1.3.3 The requirements of the trial trenching were confirmed with Dr Matt Brudenell Senior Archaeological Officer at SCCAS/CT and stipulated in a design brief (SCCAS/CT 2014), which includes the stated intention to seek to secure a further programme of trial trenching by condition if planning consent is granted. A Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) was subsequently prepared by ASE (2014) and approved by SCCAS/CT prior to the commencement of works.
- 1.3.4 The results of this evaluation will be used to inform decisions regarding the need for and extent of further evaluation work. Then, in combination with any subsequent results, they will be used to inform decisions as to the need for, and extent of, any further archaeological work required in order to mitigate the impact of the development on any remains that are present where a design solution cannot be implemented to ensure their preservation in-situ.

#### **1.4 Scope of Report**

- 1.4.1 This report details the results of archaeological evaluation of an area of land prior to development. It also assesses the archaeological potential of the site. The fieldwork was carried out by Adam Dyson (Archaeologist) between the 15th and 18th December 2014, and was managed by Adrian Scruby.
- 1.4.2 Recipients of this report comprise CgMs Consulting, Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service Conservation Team, Suffolk Coastal District Council, and Suffolk County Council Historic Environment Record. Copies of the report will be submitted to support the current planning application.

## **2.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND**

- 2.1 The development site lies in an area of archaeological interest, with potential for the presence of remains from multiple periods.
- 2.2 The following background makes use of the Suffolk Historic Environment Record, a desk-based assessment for the recently developed neighbouring fields to the west (Rolfe 2006), information provided by CgMs Consulting and the geophysical survey of the site undertaken in October 2014 (ArchaeoPhyisca Ltd 2014).
- 2.3 The most significant evidence of prehistoric remains in the area comprise Late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age 'Beaker' pit clusters revealed approximately 200m south-west of the site during archaeological works conducted in 2010 and 2011. This work was undertaken prior to the residential development immediately west of the current site (SXM 022, Figure1). The 2010 evaluation identified a range of finds and features including residual Neolithic finds and a concentration of Early Bronze Age pits indicative of settlement activity (Adams 2010). The excavation that followed was confined to the south end of the site and revealed a further concentration of some 42 Bronze Age pits (Brown *et al* 2012).
- 2.4 Enclosure ditches of Roman or later date were also revealed on the neighbouring site (Adams 2010). Various Roman finds are known from the general area (SXM001, SXM005, SXM011) together with Saxon finds including a metal brooch and bridal fitting discovered nearby to the south (Rolfe 2006).
- 2.5 The site itself appears to be largely unchanged since at least the late 19th century, with the extant field boundaries depicted on the 1884 Ordnance Survey map.

### Previous work in the development area

- 2.6 The site was the subject of a geophysical survey (magnetometer) in October 2014, which identified a general absence of anomalies of potential archaeological origin apart from a number of possible in-filled field boundaries which appear to predate the 1st Edition Ordnance Survey (Figure 2). Other areas of magnetic enhancement/variation that were encountered are likely to represent variations in the underlying natural geology and areas of modern dumping/debris, possibly associated with activity at Street Farm (ArchaeoPhyisca Ltd 2014).



### **3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHOD**

#### **3.1 Project Aims and Objectives**

3.1.1 The main aim of the archaeological evaluation was to determine the presence or absence, location, extent, date, character, condition and significance of any archaeological remains.

3.1.2 More specifically the trial trenches aimed to fulfil the following objectives:

- to test the results of the earlier geophysical survey of the site and prospect for archaeological features of a nature or date that may not respond to magnetic survey;
- to identify the date, approximate form and purpose of any archaeological deposit,
- to determine the likely extent, localised depth and quality of preservation.
- to evaluate the likely impact of past land uses, and the possible presence of masking colluvial/alluvial deposits.
- to establish the potential for the survival of environmental evidence.
- to establish the suitability of the area for development.

3.1.3 The results of the evaluation will be used to help determine the need for and extent of any mitigation works that may be required, or to inform a design solution to facilitate the preservation in-situ of any threatened remains.

3.1.4 The results of the fieldwork had the potential to contribute towards an improved understanding of settlement and landuse in the Saxmundham area from prehistory to the present day. As further work is likely to be required, any significant discoveries will have the potential to contribute to regional research objectives for the Late Neolithic and Early Bronze Age, in line with those laid out in *Research and Archaeology Revisited: a revised framework for the East of England* (Medlycott 2011).

#### **3.2 Fieldwork Method**

3.2.1 Eleven trenches measuring 30m by 2m were excavated in primarily targeted locations in the central section of the development area (Figures 1 and 2). Initial mechanical excavation was carried out under close supervision using a tracked 360° excavator equipped with a toothless ditching bucket. Mechanical excavation removed the topsoil and either partially or entirely removed the underlying subsoil/colluvium to reveal the surface of underlying geological deposits of clay or sand, which after cleaning by hand were inspected for archaeological features and finds.

- 3.2.2 Standard ASE excavation, artefact collection and recording methodologies were employed throughout, with all work carried out in accordance with the IfA (Institute for Archaeologists) Code of Conduct, by-laws and guidelines (IfA 2008a, 2010) and in compliance with *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England* (Gurney 2003).
- 3.2.3 All stratigraphy was recorded using the ASE context recording system, with all exposed archaeological features and deposits recorded and excavated, except obviously modern features and disturbances.
- 3.2.4 A 50% sample of all contained features and an appropriate sample to sufficiently characterise layers was excavated. Post-medieval and modern features were excavated as necessary in order to establish their date and significance. Features were excavated using hand tools.
- 3.2.5 The trenches were accurately located using Real Time Kinematic Global Positioning System (RTK-GPS) planning technology, which also enabled the recording of datum levels. An all features trench plan was also produced using this method with any accompanying hand drawn plans drawn at 1:20 scale and sections at 1:10 scale. A full digital photographic record was created, which includes working shots to represent more generally the nature of the fieldwork.
- 3.2.5 Finds were identified by context number to a specific deposit, and have been properly processed according to ASE and IfA guidelines (ASE 2011 and IfA 2008b). All pottery and other finds where appropriate were marked with the site code and appropriate context number.
- 3.2.6 Environmental samples were taken from well-stratified deposits that were deemed to have potential for the preservation/survival of ecofactual material. Bulk soil samples (a minimum 40 litres or 100% of context) were taken for wet sieving and flotation, and for finds recovery.

### 3.3 Archive

- 3.3.1 Subject to the landowner's permission, Archaeology South-East will arrange with the Suffolk County Council Archaeology Service Store for the deposition of the archive and artefact collection, currently held at the offices of ASE. The contents of the archive are tabulated below (Table 1).

Number of contexts	44
No. of files/paper record	1
Plan and sections sheets	2 (A2)
Photographs	70 (colour digital)
Bulk finds	64g
Finds from environmental analysis	112g

Table 1: Quantification of site archive

## **4.0 RESULTS**

### **4.1 Summary**

- 4.1.1 Eleven trenches were excavated measuring 30m in length and between 2m and 5.3m in width. Mechanical excavation of the trenches reached depths that varied from 0.24m to 1.68m, with trenches stepped in order to safely reach the lower depths.
- 4.1.2 The existing ground surface consisted of pasture across the whole site. Mechanical excavation removed an overburden comprising modern topsoil and an underlying subsoil/colluvial silt. Colluvium is defined here as sediment carried by gravity down hill/valley slopes. Two wide valleys are evident in the landscape, one running downhill NE-SW from trench 1 to 6, and the other running downhill SE to NW from just south of trench 9 to trench 7.
- 4.1.3 The depth of the sediments varied greatly. On higher ground the topsoil was approximately 0.15-0.3m thick and the subsoil was a maximum of 0.2m thick (trenches 1 and 9); whereas on lower ground, topsoil reached a maximum depth of 0.48m (Tr 5) and the underlying subsoil/colluvial layers were recorded at a maximum depth of 1.02m (Tr 6).
- 4.1.4 The subsoil / colluvial silt was not securely dated by finds but is likely to be a slowly accumulating deposit formed continually over thousands of years. A lower, slightly darker colluvium was recorded in trenches 1, 3, 4 and 6. This material may represent a distinguishable earlier phase of colluviation, or the difference in colour may simply be due to variation in levels of oxidisation; a distinguishable lower colluvium was not identified in any of the other trenches.
- 4.1.5 The underlying geological deposits were revealed beneath the subsoil/colluvium. Their composition varied between light brownish yellow clay with flint and chalk inclusions on the higher ground and light orangey yellow sand on the lower ground.
- 4.1.6 Prehistoric finds and features were encountered in trenches 1, 3, 4, 6, 7 and 10. The results from these 6 trenches will be presented below, with the results from the remaining 'negative' trenches presented in appendix 1. The archaeological remains primarily comprise Late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age finds within possible occupation deposits at the bases of trenches 7 and 4, in addition to prehistoric finds, which are potentially residual, from the colluvium in trenches 1, 6 and 10. Identifiable cut features were scarce and comprise only one undated gully in trench 1. Additional recorded features include a probable natural linear feature in trench 3, and a tree bole in trench 4 which contained prehistoric struck flint.
- 4.1.7 Specialist analysis of the finds is presented in section 5. Environmental samples from the possible buried soils were also recovered, the specialist analysis of which is presented in section 6.

## 4.2 Trench 1 (Figure 3)

Heights at NW end of trench = 22.12m AOD (top) 21.77m AOD (base)  
Heights at SE end of trench = 21.60m AOD (top) 20.43m AOD (base)

Context	Type	Description	Dimensions (L x W x D in m)
[1/001]	Layer	Modern topsoil – mid to dark grey brown, loose clay silt with occasional chalk flecks.	27+ x 2+ x 0.23–0.31
[1/002]	Layer	Subsoil/colluvium – mid yellow brown, compact clay silt with occasional medium flint and moderate chalk flecks.	27+ x 2+ x 0.09–0.63
[1/003]	Cut	Gully – filled by [1/004].	2+ x 0.76 x 0.21
[1/004]	Fill	Single fill of gully [1/003] – mid yellow brown, compact sandy silt.	2+ x 0.76 x 0.21
[1/005]	Layer	Lower colluvium – dark brown grey, compact clay silt with occasional medium flint (only present at SE end of trench).	7.5+ x 2+ x 0.23+
[1/006]		Natural – light brown yellow, compact clay with occasional medium flint and chalk inclusions.	

Table 2: Trench 1 list of recorded contexts

### Summary of results

- 4.2.1 Trench 1 was located at the north-east corner of a broad valley that drops from north-east to south-west across the site. The shallow edge of the valley is revealed in the base of the trench with colluvium [1/002] becoming deeper towards the south-east end, where a partially excavated lower colluvium ([1/005]) is also revealed.
- 4.2.2 Undated gully [1/003] was located at roughly the centre of the trench, linear in plan and oriented north-east to south-west. It had shallow sides and a concave base. Its single fill [1/004] appears to have been formed through natural silting and therefore is likely to represent sediment deposited during the gully's use. [1/004] did not contain any finds and therefore cannot be reliably dated. It was not revealed in any of the trenches to the south-west of trench 1.
- 4.2.3 Lower colluvium [1/005] was partially excavated at the south-east end of the trench. It contained a small amount of pottery likely to date to the Late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age Beaker tradition (c.2500-1700BC) (5.3).

### 4.3 Trench 3 (Figure 4)

Heights at NW end of trench = 19.37m AOD (top) 18.26m AOD (base)  
Heights at SE end of trench = 20.17m AOD (top) 19.50m AOD (base)

Context	Type	Description	Dimensions (L x W x D in m)
[3/001]	Layer	Modern topsoil – mid to dark grey brown, loose clay silt.	30+ x 2+ x 0.41–0.47
[3/002]	Layer	Subsoil/colluvium – Mid yellow brown, compact clay silt	30+ x 2+ x 0.26–0.38
[3/003]	Fill	Single fill of feature [3/004] – Mid yellow grey, compact clay silt.	2.2 x 1.3 x 0.22
[3/004]	Fill	Linear feature [1/004].	2.2 x 1.3 x 0.22
[3/005]	Layer	Lower colluvium – dark brown grey, compact clay silt with occasional medium flint and charcoal (not present at SE end or far NE end of trench).	11+ x 2+ x 0.35+
[3/006]		Natural – light brown orange, compact sandy clay with occasional patches of flint and chalk.	

Table 3: Trench 3 list of recorded contexts

#### Summary of results

- 4.3.1 Trench 3 bisected the valley running from north-east to south-west through the northern field. Natural geology was revealed at each end with a section of colluvium left unexcavated towards the north-west end of the trench.
- 4.3.2 Feature [3/004] was located at the south-east end of the trench, linear in plan and oriented roughly east to west. It had very shallow irregular sides and an irregular base. Its formation appears to be the result of natural disturbance and silting rather than a deliberate cut. Fill [1/003] did not contain any finds and the feature was not revealed in trench 4 to the west.
- 4.3.3 Lower colluvium [3/005] was revealed and partially excavated in the deepest section of the trench towards its north-west end. It appears to be an extension of the possible prehistoric sediment revealed in trench 1, although no finds were recovered from it.

#### 4.4 Trench 4 (Figure 5)

Heights at NW end of trench = 18.73m AOD (top) 18.02m AOD (base)  
Heights at SE end of trench = 18.32m AOD (top) 17.29m AOD (base)

Context	Type	Description	Dimensions (L x W x D in m)
[4/001]	Layer	Modern topsoil – mid to dark grey brown, loose clay silt with occasional small chalk inclusions.	30+ x 4+ x 0.3–0.35
[4/002]	Layer	Subsoil/colluvium – mid yellow brown, compact silt with occasional medium flint inclusions.	30+ x 4+ x 0.3–0.4
[4/003]	Layer	Occupation deposit/buried soil – dark grey brown, compact silty sand with frequent charcoal flecks.	4+ x 2+ x 0.12
[4/004]		Natural – light brownish yellow and orange, compact silty sand.	
[4/005]	Cut	Tree bole? – filled by [4/006].	0.9+ x 1.1 x 0.2
[4/006]	Fill	Fill of [4/005] – dark blackish grey, compact sandy silt with occasional small angular flint inclusions.	0.9+ x 1.1 x 0.2
[4/007]	Fill	Lower colluvium – mid brown grey, compact sandy silt (not present at NW end of trench)	c.25+ x 2+ x 0.28–0.78

Table 4: Trench 4 list of recorded contexts

##### Summary of results

- 4.4.1 Trench 4 also bisected the valley running from north-east to south-west though the northern field. Natural geology was revealed at each end with a section of lower colluvium similar to that revealed in trenches 1 and 3 left unexcavated towards the south-east end of the trench. The centre of the trench was stepped out and excavated to a lower depth, where layer [4/003] was revealed. A test pit was then dug through this layer in order to reveal the natural geology beneath.
- 4.4.2 Occupation deposit [4/003] was located at the centre of the trench. It contained burnt material and the natural sand revealed in the base of the test pit showed signs of scorching or dark red staining. Scorching would suggest a site of in-situ burning. The fill contained pottery likely to date to the Late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age Beaker tradition (c.2500-1700BC), and struck flint possibly of a similar age (5.2 and 5.3).
- 4.4.3 Probable tree bole [4/005] was located at the centre of the trench, with an irregular plan and irregular pitted sides and base, it appears to be a natural feature. However, it is of some interest as its fill contained struck flint suggesting it may be contemporary with the adjacent occupation layer (5.2).

## 4.5 Trench 6 (Figure 6)

Heights at NW end of trench = 15.79m AOD (top) 14.75m AOD (base)  
Heights at SE end of trench = 15.37m AOD (top) 14.43m AOD (base)

Context	Type	Description	Dimensions (L x W x D in m)
[6/001]	Layer	Modern topsoil – mid to dark grey brown, loose clay silt.	30+ x 2+ x 0.3–0.46
[6/002]	Layer	Subsoil/colluvium – mid yellow brown, compact silt with occasional medium flint inclusions.	30+ x 5+ x 0.42–0.98
[6/003]	Layer	Lower colluvium – mid brown grey, compact sandy silt (not present at NW end of trench).	23.5+ x 2+ x 0.2–0.4
[6/004]		Natural – light brownish yellow compact sand.	

Table 5: Trench 6 list of recorded contexts

### Summary of results

4.5.1 Trench 6 bisected the northern field's valley at its lowest point. The trench was stepped in order to reach and follow the slope of the natural geology, excepting approximately 5m at the north-east end where a modern service pipe was preserved. Natural geology was revealed at the base of the valley at a depth of 1.68m below ground level (Figure 6 Section 5).

4.5.2 The possible continuation of the lower colluvium revealed in trenches 1, 3 and 4 was revealed here ([6/004]). Here it contained a single sherd of prehistoric pottery unlikely to pre-date the Late Bronze Age (5.3).

## 4.6 Trench 7 (Figure 7)

Heights at N end of trench = 15.90m AOD (top) 14.98m AOD (base)  
Heights at S end of trench = 17.30m AOD (top) 16.30m AOD (base)

Context	Type	Description	Dimensions (L x W x D in m)
[7/001]	Layer	Modern topsoil – mid to dark grey brown, loose sandy silt.	30+ x 2+ x 0.28–0.3
[7/002]	Layer	Subsoil/colluvium – mid orange brown, compact sandy silt with occasional small flint inclusions.	30+ x 2+ x 0.58–0.7
[7/003]	Layer	Occupation deposit/buried soil – dark brown grey, compact sandy silt with occasional small angular flint and occasional charcoal flecks.	10 x 2+ x 0.32
[7/004]		Natural – light orange yellow, compact sand.	

Table 6: Trench 7 list of recorded contexts

### Summary of results

4.6.1 Trench 7 was located at the lowest point of the investigation area, in the southern field, at the base of a slope/valley running roughly south-east to north-west.



4.6.2 Occupation deposit/buried soil [7/003] was located near the centre of the trench. Two excavated segments were dug in order to investigate the layer, which contained pottery likely to date to the Late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age Beaker tradition (c.2500-1700BC) including examples with impressed decoration (5.3). An environmental sample was also taken, but provided little in the way of additional information (6.3).

#### 4.7 Trench 10 (Figure 8)

Heights at NE end of trench = 19.66m AOD (top) 19.02m AOD (base)  
Heights at SW end of trench = 19.61m AOD (top) 18.94m AOD (base)

Context	Type	Description	Dimensions (L x W x D in m)
[10/001]	Layer	Modern topsoil – mid to dark grey brown, loose clay silt with occasional medium flint inclusions.	30+ x 3+ x 0.31–0.42
[10/002]	Layer	Subsoil/colluvium – mid brown orange, compact clay silt with occasional small chalk and flint inclusions.	30+ x 3+ x 0.31–0.88
[10/003]		Natural – light brown yellow, compact clay with moderate medium and large chalk and flint inclusions.	

Table 7: Trench 10 list of recorded contexts

#### Summary of results

4.7.1 Trench 10 was located roughly a third of the way down the slope in the southern field. Natural geology was revealed at each end with a central section of colluvium left unexcavated, therefore revealing the large shallow sided valley, bisected by the trench. A stepped section of the trench enabled deeper excavation, where colluvium [10/002] reached a depth of 0.88m. Two small conjoining fragments of heavily abraded pottery or fired clay were recovered from the colluvium. If considered to be pottery, they may be Iron Age or Saxon, however if fired clay they are not inherently datable (5.3).



## 5.0 FINDS ANALYSIS

### 5.1 Summary

5.1.1 A small assemblage of finds was recovered during the evaluation including pottery and struck flint (Table 8). The bulk of the material dates from the Late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age.

5.1.2 The finds were all washed and dried or air dried as appropriate. They were subsequently quantified by count and weight and were bagged by material and context. All finds have been packed and stored following IFA guidelines (2008). No further conservation is required.

Context	Pottery	Wt (g)	Flint	Wt (g)
1/005	4	2		
4/003	1	6	2	16
4/006			1	14
6/003	1	14		
7/003 A	2	6		
7/003 B			1	2
10/002	2	4		
Total	10	32	4	32

Table 8: Quantification of hand-collected bulk finds

### 5.2 Flintwork by Karine Le Hégarat

5.2.1 Four pieces of struck flint weighing 34g were recovered. The small assemblage was recovered from trench 4 (contexts [4/006] and [4/003]) and from trench 7 (context [7/003 B]). It consists of three flakes and a blade-like flake. The flints were manufactured from dark grey flint with thin abraded cortex. Two pieces are free from surface cortication, but the blade-like flake, from context [4/003], is partly recorticated, and one of the flakes, from context [4/006], is recorticated light bluish to white. On technological grounds, the latter could pre-date the mid-Bronze Age. The other pieces are not chronologically distinctive.

### 5.3 Pottery by Anna Doherty

5.3.1 A small assemblage of pottery was recovered from the site, totalling 12 sherds, weighing 25g. At this stage the pottery has not been quantified according to detailed fabric type-series but a broad quantification according to major inclusion type is provided in Table 9. It is recommended that the pottery should be retained for integration into any future assemblage recovered in the event of further archaeological work at the site.

Major inclusion type	Sherds	Weight (g)	Estimated Number of Vessels
Flint	1	4	1
Grog	9	17	5
Quartz	2	4	1
Total	12	25	7

Table 9: Quantification of pottery according to major inclusion type

- 5.3.2 All of the sherds from contexts [1/005], [4/003], [7/003] and [7/003B] are in similar grog-tempered fabrics with fairly coarse sandy matrixes, containing rare fine flint. One example, from [7/003A], features two fingernail impressions possibly in a “crow’s feet” pattern; another sherd from [7/003A] also possibly has some form of impressed decoration, although it is too highly abraded to make out. It seems likely all of these sherds belong to the Late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age Beaker tradition (dated c.2500-1700BC).
- 5.3.3 Another relatively thin-walled sherd, from context [6/003], is associated with a very different fabric type containing sparse/moderate medium fine flint (c.0.5-1.5mm) in a coarse sandy background matrix. Fabrics of this type are probably unlikely to pre-date the Late Bronze Age, although it is impossible to assign a precise date within the later prehistoric period based on a single isolated bodysherd.
- 5.3.4 Two small conjoining oxidised ceramic fragments from [10/002] are of uncertain date. They have a fine sandy laminar matrix, containing sparse linear organic inclusions. Although they appear to have fairly regular flat surfaces, they are very highly abraded meaning that it is not entirely clear whether they represent a pottery vessel or just fine, well-fired pieces of fired clay. Where fine sandy organic-rich fabrics are associated with pottery, they are most likely to date to Middle Iron Age or Early/Middle Saxon periods; however, if fired clay, the pieces are not inherently datable.

## **6.0 ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS** by Lucy Allott

### **6.1 Introduction**

Two bulk soil samples were taken in order to retrieve environmental remains such as charred plant macrofossils, wood charcoal, fauna and mollusca, and to assist finds recovery. Sample <1> was taken from layer [4/003] a possible site of in-situ burning and sample <2> was taken from layer [7/003A]. The following report summarises the contents of these samples, their potential to contribute to the interpretation of the site, and the suitability of remains present for scientific dating.

### **6.2 Methodology**

- 6.2.1 The samples were processed by flotation. The flots and residues were retained on 250µm and 500µm meshes respectively, and air dried. The dried residues were passed through graded sieves of 8mm, 4mm and 2mm and each fraction sorted for environmental and artefactual remains (Appendix 2). The flots was scanned under a stereozoom microscope at 7-45x magnifications and the contents recorded (Appendix 3). Identifications of macrobotanical remains have been made through comparison with published reference atlases (Cappers *et al.* 2006, NIAB 2004), and nomenclature used follows Stace (1997).
- 6.2.2 Charcoal fragments from sample <1> were fractured along three planes (transverse, radial and tangential) according to standardised procedures (Gale & Cutler 2000). Specimens were viewed under a stereozoom microscope for initial grouping, and an incident light microscope at magnifications up to 400x to facilitate identification of the woody taxa present. Taxonomic identifications were assigned by comparing suites of anatomical characteristics visible with those documented in reference atlases (Hather 2000, Schoch *et al.* 2004, Schweingruber 1990). Identifications have been given to species where possible, however genera, family or group names have been given where anatomical differences between taxa are not significant enough to permit satisfactory identification. Taxonomic identifications of charcoal are recorded in Appendix 2, and nomenclature used follows Stace (1997).

### **6.3 Results**

- 6.3.1 These samples produced small flots in which uncharred vegetation such as rootlets and seeds were moderately common. Both samples also contained wood charcoal which were predominantly small, (measuring <2mm). Oak (*Quercus* sp.) and possible Maloideae sub-family taxa (a group which includes hawthorn, apple, whitebeam and pear) were noted in sample <1>. Fragments in sample <2> were too small and infrequent to merit identification. A single fragment of charred macrofossil was present in sample <1>; however this was poorly preserved and unidentifiable. Small fragments of charred hazel (*Corylus avellana*) nut shell were present in sample <2>.

## **6.4 Discussion**

- 6.4.1 Sample <1> was from a site of possible in-situ burning and the deposit was underlain by scorched ground, however, the resulting charcoal assemblage was small, consisting primarily of small fragments. The absence of significant quantities of charcoal suitable for analysis is the result of much of the charred material having broken down into very small fragments. In addition some charcoal may have leached from the deposit leaving staining and a charred appearance. Nevertheless, both oak and taxa from the Maloideae family were identified and both provide good fuel resources which are common components of charcoal assemblages. Of these, the Maloideae taxa provide some potential for dating if this is considered of value for further understanding the feature. Although the hazel nut shell fragments, in sample <2>, may represent wild food resources collected from woodland or hedgerow environments they are infrequent and may equally represent accidentally burnt inclusions deriving either from the surrounding environment or introduced by animals.
- 6.4.2 The limited macrobotanical remains and wood charcoal in these samples provide little potential to draw conclusions regarding the vegetation environment, use of plants at the site or the origins of the deposits and the assemblages are considered of low significance.

## **7.0 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS**

### **7.1 Overview of stratigraphic sequence**

- 7.1.1 Natural geology was encountered at a range of heights between 21.77m AOD (NW end of trench 1) and 13.91m (section 5 in trench 6). Archaeological remains were encountered at this level, in addition to finds recovered from sealing deposits of colluvium. The evaluated area of the development site is located on undulating ground with broad valleys running from north-east to south-west and from south-east to north-west, coming together in the area of lowest ground just south of trench 6.
- 7.1.2 The archaeological remains revealed in the trenches comprised possible Late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age occupation deposits in trench 4 and trench 7, a potentially contemporary tree bole in trench 4, and an undated gully in trench 1. The shallow and irregular linear feature recorded in trench 3 is probably naturally formed. In addition, prehistoric finds, which are potentially residual, were recovered from colluvial deposits.
- 7.1.3 Taking into account the targeted locations of the trenches, it is suggested that the evaluation results reliably test the results of the geophysical survey. In addition, despite the presence of deep colluvial deposits, it is suggested that the evaluation results reliably reflect the archaeological content of the sampled area.
- 7.1.4 However, due to this phase of work only sampling a limited part of the wider development area the results of this evaluation may not reflect the archaeological content and potential of the development area as a whole.

### **7.2 Deposit survival and existing impacts**

- 7.2.1 The evaluation has demonstrated that post-medieval truncation, namely shallow impact agriculture may have had an effect on the survival of archaeological remains on the higher ground, whereas the deposits of colluvium have provided a sealing layer which will have helped to preserve any archaeological remains at lower depths.

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

#### Late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age Beaker tradition (c.2500-1700 BC)

- 7.3.1 The remains from this period provide the most significant findings from this evaluation. They comprise two occupation deposits in trenches 4 and 7 and a tree bole in trench 4 that may be contemporary. The dark layer revealed in trench 4 ([4/003]) appears to have formed at the site of an in-situ burning, although the layer does cover an area at least 4m in diameter. Only a small area was fully excavated, meaning its interpretation as a large hearth / large area of burning is somewhat tentative.
- 7.3.2 Tree bole [4/005] was sealed by the colluvium and can therefore be considered prehistoric. Its fill contained struck flint that may be Early Neolithic (5.2), therefore it may be a contemporary feature.

- 7.3.3 The layer in trench 7 [7/003] appears to be a buried soil filling the base of the shallow valley. It contained pottery dating to this period and is further evidence of Beaker period occupation at the site, prior to the accumulation of the overlying colluvium.
- 7.3.4 This evidence of Beaker period occupation, corresponds with the Beaker pit clusters revealed approximately 200m to the south-west (SXM022) during previous excavations in the area (Adams 2010 and Brown *et al* 2012).

#### Colluviation

- 7.3.5 Finds were recovered from a lower colluvium in trenches 1 and 6. Those from [1/005] appear to date to the Late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age, whereas that from [6/003] is of a fabric unlikely to predate the Late Bronze Age (5.3), suggesting the earlier pottery is residual. Although the two contexts represent comparable events in the stratigraphic sequence of their individual trenches, they are too far apart to reliably interpret the contexts as being comparable across the site as a whole.
- 7.3.6 The colluvium in trench 10 contained small fragments of heavily abraded pottery or fired clay, possibly Iron Age or Saxon, however if fired clay they are not inherently datable (5.3).
- 7.3.7 Precise dating of the colluvium is of course impossible from such a limited assemblage of finds and perhaps the discrepancy in dates only goes to support an interpretation of slowly accumulating colluvium containing residual finds from multiple periods.

#### Undated

- 7.3.8 Gully [1/003] appeared to be sealed by a layer of colluvium and therefore is unlikely to be modern in date. However little else can be surmised regarding either its date or function. Its fill did not contain any finds and it was not revealed in any trenches south-west of trench 1, meaning its orientation beyond the small area exposed remains unknown.

### **7.4 Consideration of project aims**

- 7.4.1 The evaluation has achieved its primary aim of determining the presence and location of archaeological remains. An indication of extent, date, character, condition and significance has also been given
- 7.4.2 The more specific objective of testing the results of the previous geophysical survey has also been achieved. The survey results suggested the presence of an enclosure formed by two boundary ditches running at right angles across the site (Figure 2). Contrary to this, the evaluation suggests these anomalies are the result of natural dry valleys filled by colluvial silt.

- 7.4.3 The evaluation has also determined the impact of past land uses upon the preservation of archaeological remains, confirmed the presence of colluvial deposits and established the potential for the survival of environmental remains. These were only recovered from charred deposits, with the colluvium appearing dry and sterile.

## **7.5 Conclusions**

- 7.5.1 The evaluation has demonstrated the presence of a low density of archaeological remains. The anticipated enclosure was not discovered, however the revealed remains are further evidence of the Beaker period occupation known to the south-west, and therefore hold some potential for further investigation. Given that the evaluation trenches have sampled only a small proportion of the development area, and that the results from the adjacent excavations in 2010/11 show a concentration of activity further to the south, it is likely that additional trial trenching will be required in order to fully assess the archaeological content and potential of the development area as a whole.

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

ASE would like to thank Hopkins Homes and CgMs Consulting for commissioning the work and for their assistance throughout the project, and SCC Archaeological Service Conservation Team for their guidance and monitoring. The evaluation was directed by Adam Dyson. Lukasz Miciak produced the figures for this report. Adrian Scruby project managed the excavations and Jim Stevenson and Adrian Scruby project managed the post-excavation process.



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**Appendix 1: Archaeologically negative trenches**

<b>Trench</b>	<b>Heights (m AOD)</b>	<b>Context</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Dimensions (L x W x D in m)</b>
2	<b>E end:</b> 20.59 (top) 20.21 (base) <b>W end:</b> 20.47 (top) 20.07 (base)	2/001	Layer	Modern topsoil – mid to dark grey brown, loose sandy silt	30+ x 2+ x 0.24 - 0.27
		2/002	Layer	Subsoil/colluvium – mid to light brown, compact clay silt	30+ x 2+ x 0.1 - 0.16
		2/003		Natural – light brown orange, compact clay	
5	<b>E end:</b> 18.29 (top) 17.72 (base) <b>W end:</b> 16.69 (top) 15.94 (base)	5/001	Layer	Modern topsoil – mid to dark grey brown, loose sandy silt	30+ x 2+ x 0.34 - 0.48
		5/002	Layer	Subsoil/colluvium – mid yellow brown, sandy silt (not present at E end of trench)	16.8+ x 2+ x 0.23 - 0.28
		5/003		Natural – light yellow, compact silty sand	
8	<b>E end:</b> 20.25 (top) 20.01 (base) <b>W end:</b> 17.39 (top) 16.78 (base)	8/001	Layer	Modern topsoil – mid to dark grey brown, loose sandy silt	30+ x 2+ x 0.24 - 0.47
		8/002	Layer	Subsoil/colluvium – mid yellow brown, compact clay silt	30+ x 2+ x 0.17 - 0.6
		8/003		Natural – light brown yellow, compact clay at E end light yellow orange, compact sand at W end	
9	<b>N end:</b> 20.34 (top) 20.09 (base) <b>S end:</b> 21.26 (top) 20.87 (base)	9/001	Layer	Modern topsoil – mid to dark grey brown, loose sandy silt	30+ x 2+ x 0.16 - 0.26
		9/002	Layer	Subsoil/colluvium – mid brown orange, compact silty clay	30+ x 2+ x 0.08 - 0.19
		9/003		Natural - light yellow grey, compact clay	
11	<b>E end:</b> 20.99 (top) 20.47 (base) <b>W end:</b> 19.87 (top) 19.54 (base)	11/001	Layer	Modern topsoil – mid to dark grey brown, loose sandy silt	30+ x 2+ x 0.21 - 0.28
		11/002	Layer	Subsoil/colluvium – mid yellow brown, compact clay silt	30+ x 2+ x 0.06 - 0.24
		11/003		Natural – light brown yellow, compact clay	

Appendix 2: Environmental residue quantification (\* = 1-10, \*\* = 11-50, \*\*\* = 51-250, \*\*\*\* = >250) and weights in grams

Sample Number	Context	Context / deposit type	Sample Volume litres	Sub-Sample Volume litres	Charcoal >4mm	Weight (g)	Charcoal <4mm	Weight (g)	Charcoal identifications	Charred botanicals (other than charcoal)	Identification	Weight (g)	Other (eg ind, pot, cbm)
1	4/003	layer	40	40	**		Charcoal <4mm	2g	Quercus sp., cf. Maloideae				Flint */26g - Fired Clay */2g - FCF */2g - Magnetised Material **/6g
2	7/003A	layer	40	40	*		Charcoal <4mm	<2g		*	Corylus avellana nut shell fragments	<2g	Flint */30g - FCF */29g - Magnetised Material **/3g

Appendix 3: Environmental flat quantification (\* = 1-10, \*\* = 11-50, \*\*\* = 51-250, \*\*\*\* = >250)

Sample Number	Context	Weight g	Flot volume ml	Volume scanned	Uncharred %	Sediment %	Seeds uncharred/modern	Charcoal >4mm	Charcoal <4mm	Charcoal <2mm	Other botanical charred	Identifications	Preservation
1	4/003	2	5	5	35	60	* <i>Rubus</i> sp.	*	*	**	*	indet cpr	+
2	7/003A	2	<5	<5	60	30	* <i>Sambucus nigra</i> , <i>Rubus</i> sp., <i>Chenopodium</i> sp.			**			

#### Appendix 4 HER summary form

Site Code	ESF 22629 (HER no. SXM 036)					
Identification Name and Address	Land East of Warren Avenue, Church Hill, Saxmundham, Suffolk					
County, District &/or Borough	Suffolk/Suffolk Coastal/Saxmundham					
OS Grid Refs.	TM 38960 63260					
Geology	Glacial tills of the Lowestoft Formation, with sand and gravel-rich till present in the eastern part of the site and Diamicton in the west, overlying bedrock deposits of Crag Group sand					
Arch. South-East Project Number	8298					
Type of Fieldwork	Eval.					
Type of Site	Green Field					
Dates of Fieldwork	Eval. 15th - 18th Dec 2014					
Sponsor/Client	CgMs Consulting					
Project Manager	Adrian Scruby (ASE)					
Project Supervisor	Adam Dyson (ASE)					
Period Summary			Neo.	BA		
<p><b>Summary</b></p> <p><i>The development area is located on undulating ground with broad valleys running from north-east to south-west and from south-east to north-west, meeting at the central west edge of the site.</i></p> <p><i>Previous archaeological work to the southwest of the site identified Bronze Age remains, although a geophysical survey of the development area had identified very few anomalies of likely archaeological origin. These included a series of possible infilled field boundary ditches or an enclosure. Eleven trenches, each measuring 30m by 2m, were excavated in the central section of the site, primarily targeted to test the results of the geophysical survey.</i></p> <p><i>The suggested infilled ditches/ possible enclosure were shown to be naturally infilled shallow dry valleys or coombs. Archaeological remains were found in a number of trenches, primarily in the dry valleys, and comprised Late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age finds within possible occupation deposits. In addition, further prehistoric finds were recovered from the overlying colluvial deposits. Identifiable cut features were scarce and comprise only one undated gully. Additional recorded features include a probable natural linear feature and a tree bole which contained prehistoric struck flint.</i></p>						

## Appendix 5: OASIS form

**OASIS ID: archaeol6-200048**

### Project details

Project name	Land East of Warren Avenue, Church Hill, Saxmundham
Short description of the project	<p>The development area is located on undulating ground with broad valleys running from north-east to south-west and from south-east to north-west, meeting at the central west edge of the site. Previous archaeological work to the southwest of the site identified Bronze Age remains, although a geophysical survey of the development area had identified very few anomalies of likely archaeological origin. These included a series of possible infilled field boundary ditches or an enclosure. Eleven trenches, each measuring 30m by 2m, were excavated in the central section of the site, primarily targeted to test the results of the geophysical survey.</p> <p>The suggested infilled ditches/ possible enclosure were shown to be naturally infilled shallow dry valleys or coombs. Archaeological remains were found in a number of trenches, primarily in the dry valleys, and comprised Late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age finds within possible occupation deposits. In addition, further prehistoric finds were recovered from the overlying colluvial deposits. Identifiable cut features were scarce and comprise only one undated gully. Additional recorded features include a probable natural linear feature and a tree bole which contained prehistoric struck flint.</p>
Project dates	Start: 15-12-2014 End: 18-12-2014
Previous/future work	No / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	8298 - Contracting Unit No. ESF 22629 – Sitecode SXM036 - Related HER No.
Type of project	Field evaluation
Current Land use	Cultivated Land 1 - Minimal cultivation
Monument type	OCCUPATION LAYERS Early Bronze Age GULLY Uncertain
Significant Finds	POTTERY Early Bronze Age
Methods & techniques	"Targeted Trenches"
Development type	Housing estate

### Project location

Country	England
Site location	SUFFOLK SUFFOLK COASTAL SAXMUNDHAM Land East of Warren Avenue, Church Hill
Postcode	IP17 1AL
Study area	2.00 Hectares
Site coordinates	TM 38960 63260 52.2150530361 1.49849707872 52 12 54 N 001 29 54 E Point

**Project creators**

Name of Organisation	Archaeology South-East
Project brief originator	Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service
Project design originator	ASE
Project director/manager	Adrian Scruby
Project supervisor	Adam Dyson

**Project archives**

Physical Archive recipient	Suffolk County Council Archive Store
Physical Contents	"Ceramics", "Environmental", "Worked stone/lithics"
Digital Archive recipient	Suffolk County Council Archive Store
Digital Contents	"Ceramics", "Environmental", "Stratigraphic", "Worked stone/lithics"
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography"
Paper Archive recipient	Suffolk County Council Archive Store
Paper Contents	"Ceramics", "Environmental", "Stratigraphic", "Worked stone/lithics"
Paper Media available	"Context sheet", "Drawing", "Notebook - Excavation", "Research", "General Notes", "Report"

**Project bibliography 1**

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Archaeological Evaluation Land East of Warren Avenue, Church Hill, Saxmundham Suffolk
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Dyson, A
Other bibliographic details	Report no. 2015017
Date	2015
Issuer or publisher	Archaeology South-East
Place of issue or publication	Braintree
Description	Report of approximately 40 pages including plans and photographs (bound paper copy and PDF)
URL	<a href="http://archaeologydataservice.ac.uk/">http://archaeologydataservice.ac.uk/</a>

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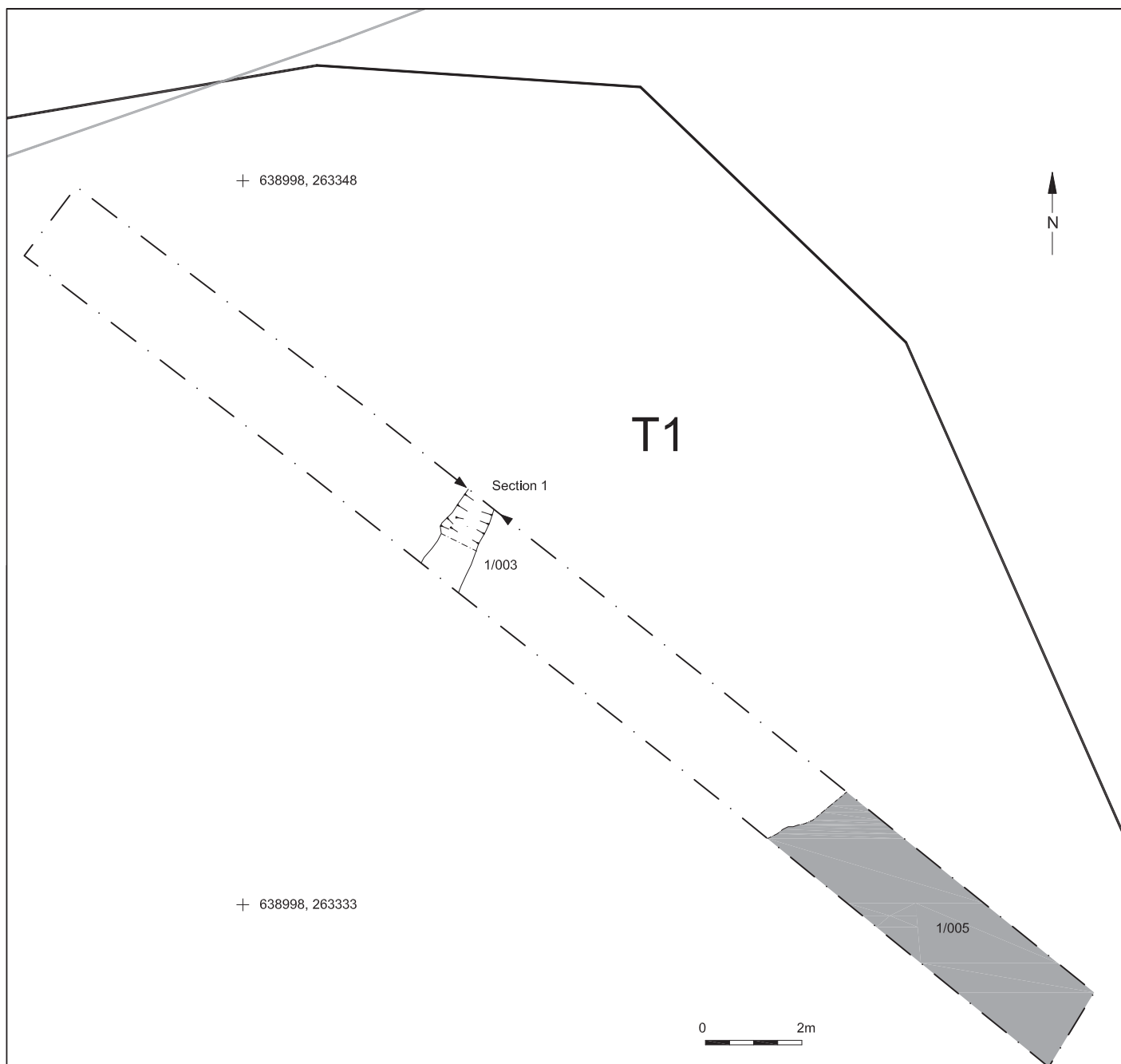
Entered by	A Dyson (adam.dyson@ucl.ac.uk)
Entered on	16 January 2015



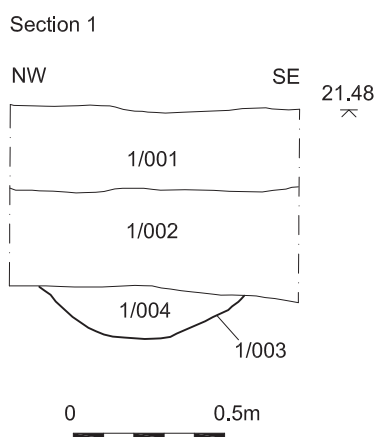




© Archaeology South-East		Land east of Warren Avenue, Church Hill, Saxmundham	Fig.2
Project Ref: 8298	2014	Trench plan with underlying geophysics results	
Report No: 2015017	Drawn by: LM		

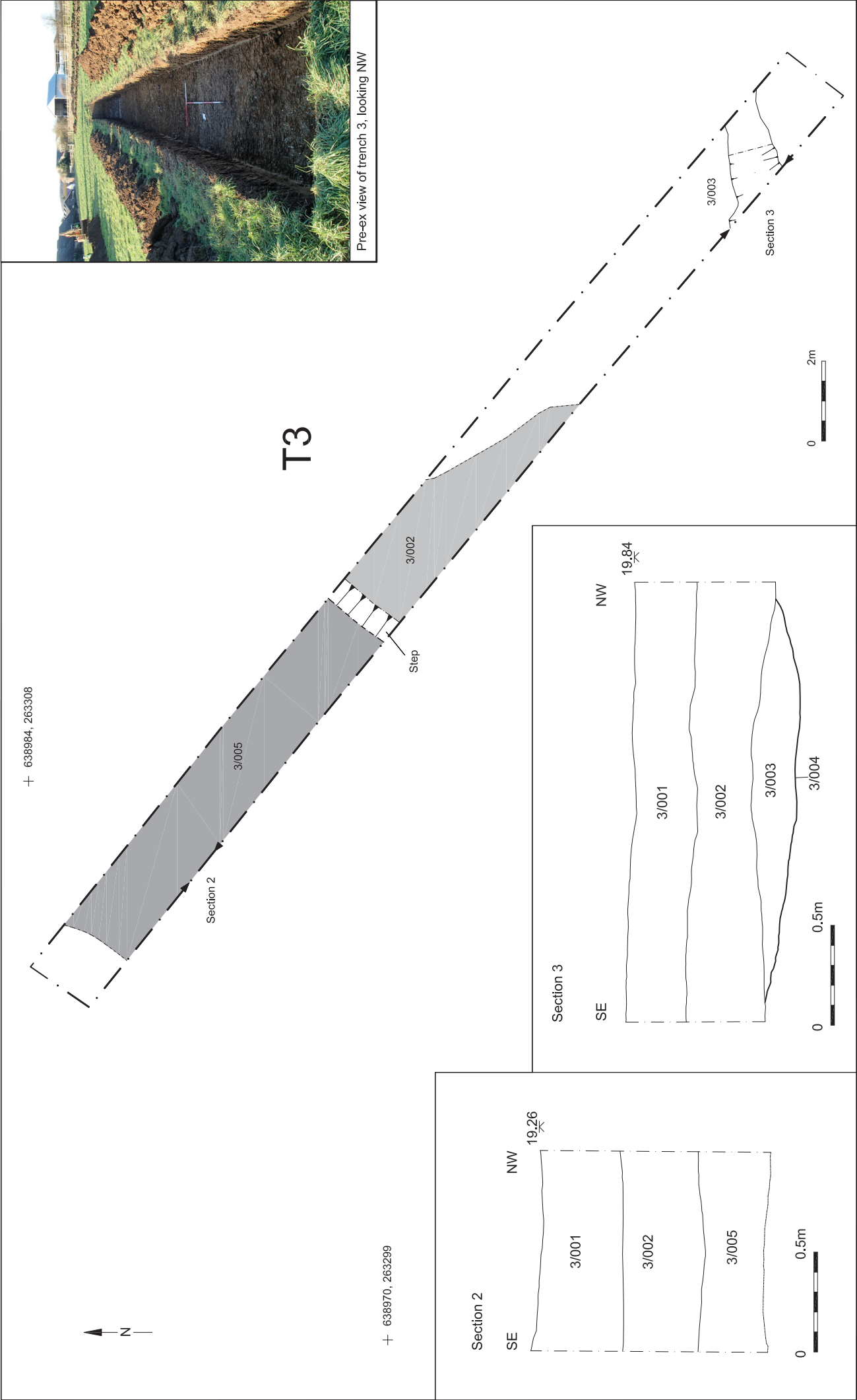


Post-ex view of trench 1

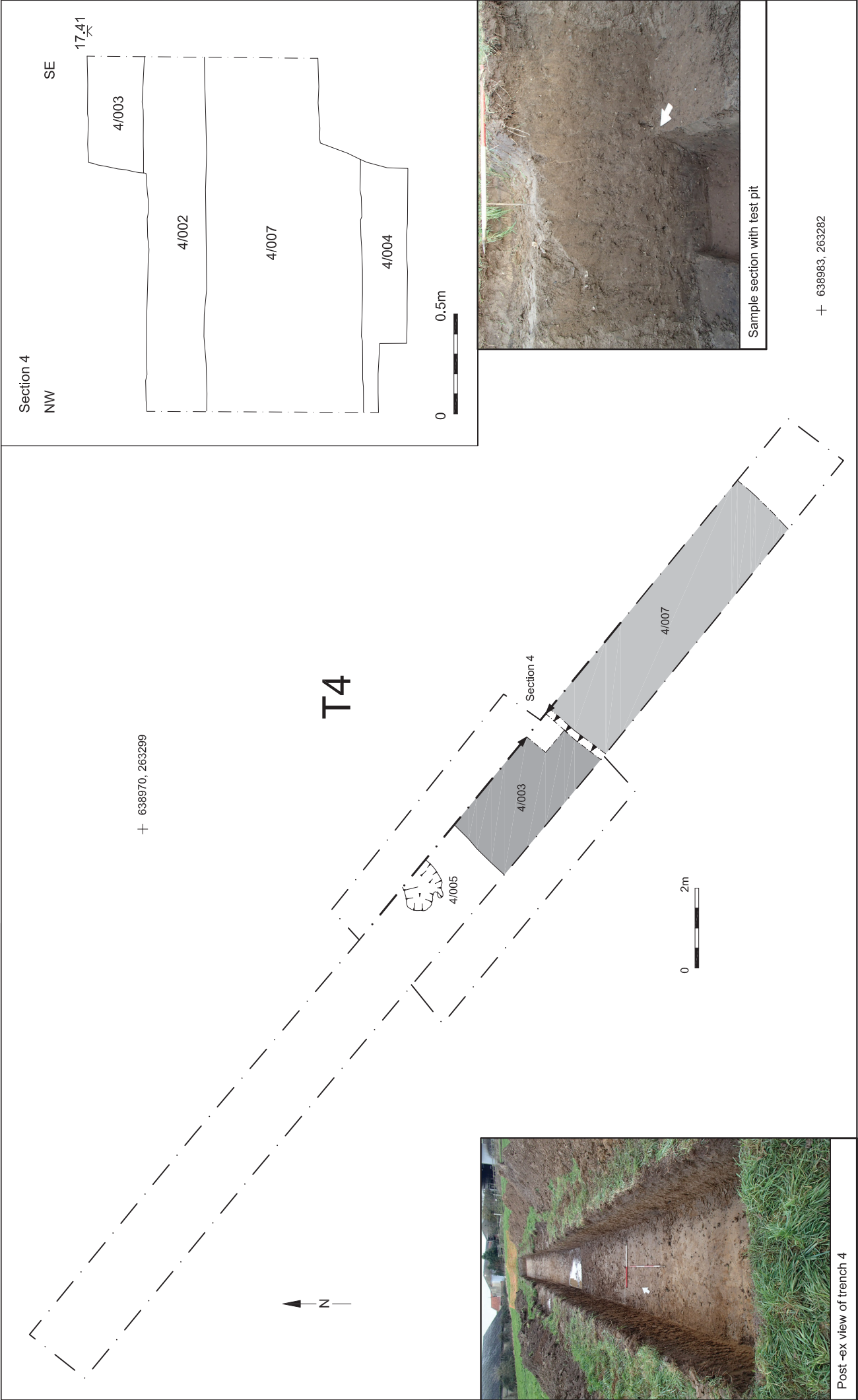


Gully 1/003

© Archaeology South-East		Land east of Warren Avenue, Church Hill, Saxmundham	Fig.3
Project Ref: 8298	Jan 2015	Trench 1 plan, section and photographs	
Report No: 2015017	Drawn by: LM		

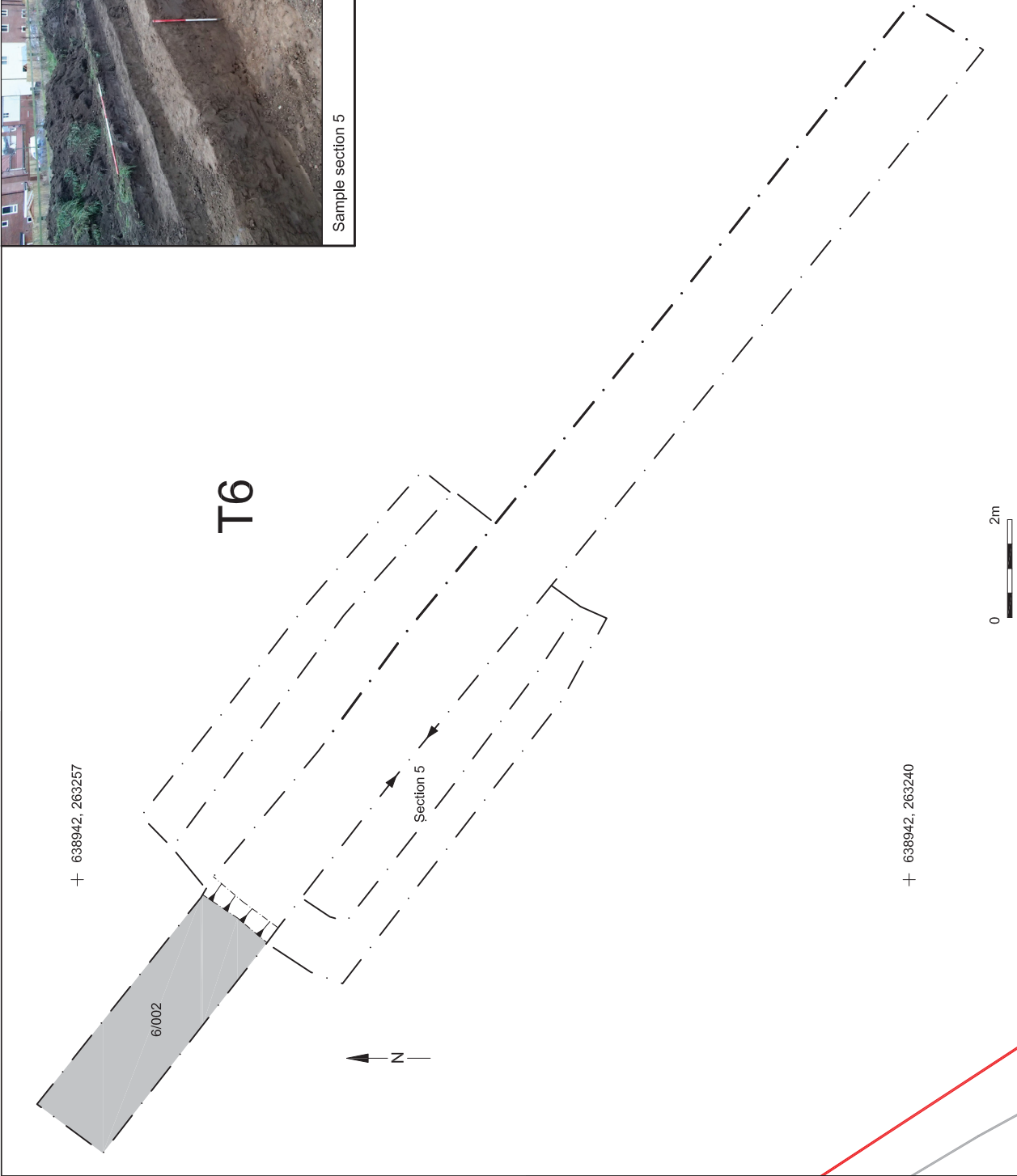
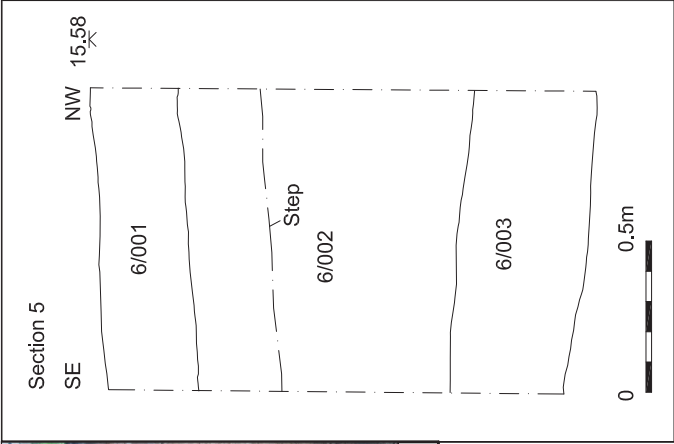


© <b>Archaeology South-East</b>		Land east of Warren Avenue, Church Hill, Saxmundham	Fig.4
Project Ref: 8298	Jan 2015		
Report No: 2015017	Drawn by: LM		
		Trench 3 plan, sections and photograph	



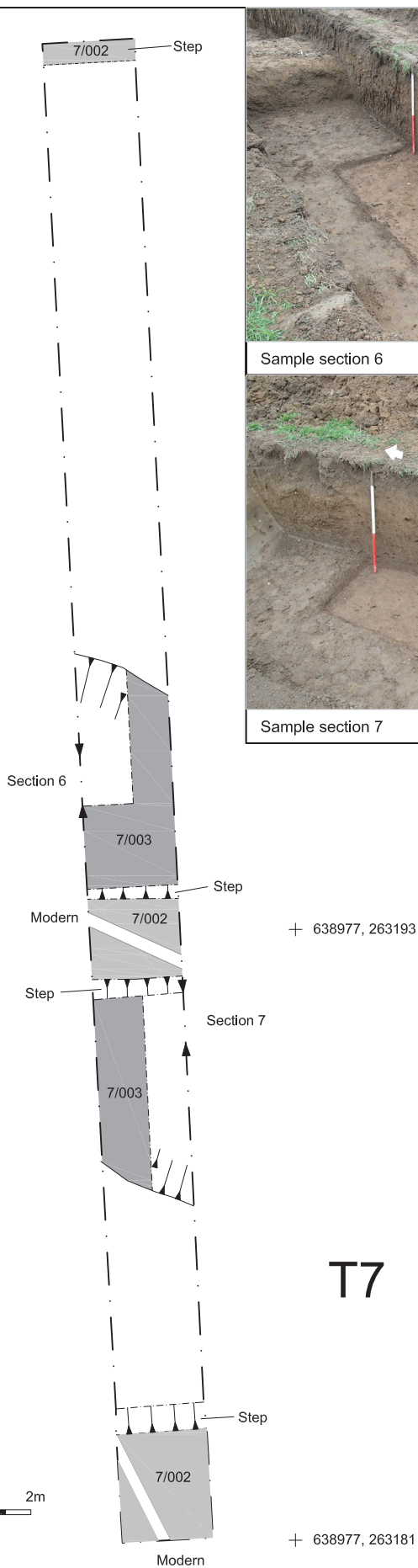
© Archaeology South-East			Land east of Warren Avenue, Church Hill, Saxmundham	Fig.5
Project Ref: 8298	Jan 2015			
Report No: 2015017	Drawn by: LM			
			Trench 4 plan, section and photographs	





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	Project Ref: 8298	Jan 2015	
	Report No: 2015017	Drawn by: LM	

Trench 6 plan, section and photographs

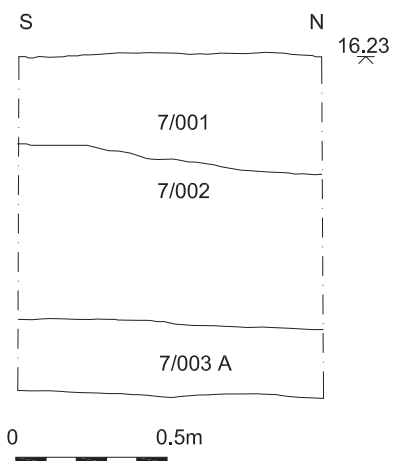


Sample section 6

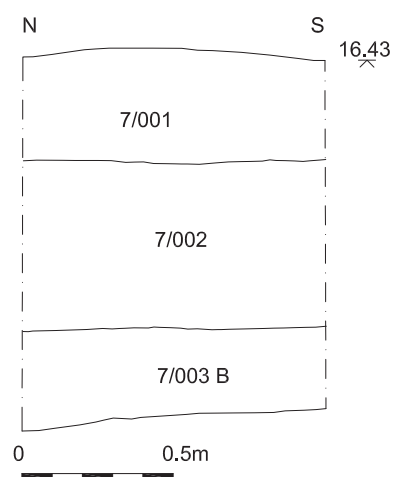


Sample section 7

Section 6



Section 7

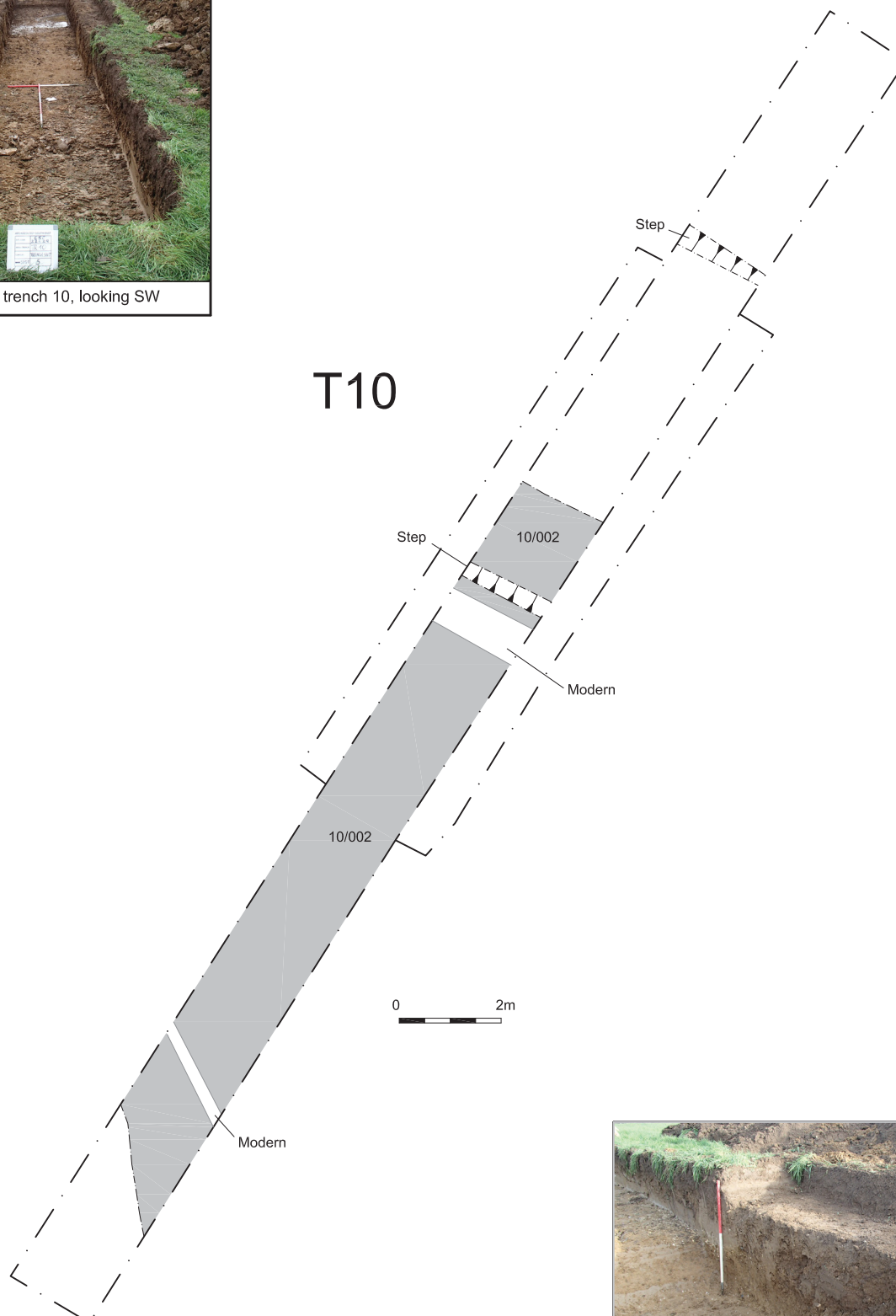


Post-ex view of trench 7



Post-ex view of trench 10, looking SW

T10



NE end of trench, NW facing section showing valley edge

© Archaeology South-East		Land east of Warren Avenue, Church Hill, Saxmundham	Fig.8
Project Ref: 8298	Jan 2015	Trench 10 plan and photographs	
Report No: 2015017	Drawn by: LM		





General shot of trench excavation (trench 8), looking SW



General shot of trench excavation (trench 5), looking SW



Post-ex view of trench 11, looking N



Post-ex view of trench 2, looking E



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