Archaeology South-East

ASE

Archaeological Evaluation Report
Maudlin Nursery, Stane Street
Westhampnett, West Sussex

NGR: SU 884 062

Planning Ref: WH/12/02360/OUT

ASE Project No: 7379
Site Code: MNW15

ASE Report No: 2015087
OASIS ID: archaeol6-208192

By Odile Rouard

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Abstract

Archaeology South-East was commissioned by CgMs to undertake an archaeological evaluation at Maudlin Nursery, Stane Street, Westhampnett, West Sussex. Thirty-two trenches were mechanically excavated at the site and features were identified in nine of them. Fourteen features were investigated variously producing material of Early Neolithic to Bronze Age, Late Iron Age to Roman and post-medieval date.

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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 to carry out an archaeological trial trench evaluation prior to the construction of a residential scheme with associated services and landscaping at Maudlin Nursery, Stane Street, Westhampnett, West Sussex (NGR SU 884 062; Figure 1).

1.2 Geology and Topography

1.2.1 The site lies on the coastal plain of West Sussex to the south of the dip slope of the South Downs, situated on a gradual slope from c. 23m AOD on Stane Street at the north of the site, down to c. 18m AOD in the south of the site. There are no watercourses on or in the immediate vicinity of the site; The River Lavant flows c. 1km to the west of the site. The site is bounded to the north by Stane Street, to the east by fields and Maudlin Farm, to the south by fields and to the west by houses on Tilemakers Close.

1.2.2 The British Geological Survey shows the site to be located on a solid geology of Upper Chalk (England and Wales 1:50, 000 Series, Sheet 317/332 – Chichester and Bognor, 1996). The drift geology across the site is Older Raised Storm Beach Deposits comprising sand and gravels. The area of Raised Storm Beach Deposits underlying the site overlies head gravel in the surrounding area. The British Geological Survey sheet shows a large area of the head gravels to the south of the site has been quarried and reinstated with made ground. A further area of historic quarrying is documented to the north of the site.

1.3 Planning Background

1.3.1 Planning permission has been granted for residential development of the site (Planning reference: WH/12/02360/OUT), consisting of the construction of a residential scheme with associated services and landscaping. Due to the archaeological potential of the site, as outlined in a prior Desk Based Assessment (CgMs 2012), a programme of archaeological works was required as a condition of consent which states:

20) An archaeological investigation of the site shall be carried out in accordance with a specification to be submitted to and agreed by the Local Planning Authority in writing following the demolition of any existing buildings and before the commencement of any building works. The investigation shall be undertaken by an appropriately qualified archaeologist, and shall include the recording of findings and subsequent publication of results.

Reason: This site is of archaeological significance and it is important that it is recorded by excavation before it is destroyed by development.

1.3.2 The next stage of such archaeological works consisted of a trial trench evaluation of the site. A Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) was prepared

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(ASE 2015) which outlined the scope of an archaeological evaluation, and submitted to the Local Planning Authority for approval prior to the commencement of fieldwork. All work was carried out in accordance with this document (unless otherwise specified below) as well as the relevant standard and guidance documents of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA 2014a; 2014b) and the Chichester District Council recommended standard conditions for archaeological fieldwork, recording, and post-excavation work.

1.4 Scope of Report

1.4.1 This report details the results of the archaeological evaluation of the site by trial trenching undertaken in March 2015. The archaeological work was undertaken by Odile Rouard (Archaeologist). The project was managed by Darryl Palmer (Fieldwork) and by Jim Stevenson (Post-Excavation).

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2.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 An archaeological desk-based assessment was carried out by CgMs Consulting, on behalf of Iceni Projects Ltd. in 2012 (CgMs 2012). A brief summary of the results follows. Event and record numbers from the Chichester District Historic Environment Record (HER) are given in brackets e.g. (E1234) or (CD4321).

2.2 Prehistoric

2.2.1 Although there are several important early prehistoric archaeological sites in the Chichester District, at Eartham Quarry Boxgrove for instance, their location tends to depend on very specific geological and topographical factors. The site lies south of the Boxgrove cliff line and related deposits which are known to contain Palaeolithic land surfaces and artefactual evidence. Nonetheless Older Raised Storm Beach deposits can contain residual and in situ flint tools within the gravel. An Upper Acheulian handaxe was found in Portfield gravel pit in 1945 about 0.6m below the top of the Coombe Rock. A tooth of an elephant, possibly a mammoth was also found, c. 600m south-west of the site (HER Ref; CD2341). Excavations on the A27 Bypass revealed a Late Upper Palaeolithic buried land surface c. 1km east of the site.

2.2.2 Quantities of worked flint dating to the Mesolithic period were recovered during the evaluation in 2000 at Claypit Lane, Westhampnett, c. 150m north-east of the site, and during the excavation in 2000 (HER Ref; CD4112 & CD4113 respectively). They included blades and broken blades in relatively fresh condition though they were associated with Middle or Late Bronze Age pottery.

2.2.3 Prior to the construction of the A27 Westhampnett Bypass, archaeological evaluation and subsequent excavation centred on OS Grid ref SU 8923 0641, recorded a quantity of Mesolithic features, seven of these features contained Mesolithic worked flint (mostly microliths) and struck flint was recorded in the surrounding topsoil. The large quantity of unabraded worked flint, representing both manufacture and use, imply that the assemblage had not moved far from its point of deposition or discard, there was also a large quantity of burnt flint found, both in the ploughsoil and scattered around on the Mesolithic land surface (HER Ref; CD1851).

2.2.4 Fieldwalking at Strettington Farm, Boxgrove, c. 750m north-east of the site, yielded up to 90 Neolithic and Mesolithic flints (HER Ref; 2425).

2.2.5 A broken Neolithic polished flint axe (HER Ref; 4119) and a pit containing pottery sherds from two or more Neolithic vessels and worked flint (HER Ref; 4114) were recorded during the excavation at Claypit Lane in 2000 to the northeast of the study site. Evidence of Neolithic settlement was also found in Area 4 of the A27 Bypass in the form of pottery and pits (HER Ref; 2415).

2.2.6 Accordingly, a moderate to high potential for artefactual evidence of early prehistoric activity is identified on the study site.

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2.2.7 Evidence of Mid to late Bronze Age occupation at Claypit Lane c. 100m north of the site was represented by a number of pits (HER Ref; 4115), two ditches representing a trackway (HER Ref; 4116), a late Bronze Age field system (HER Ref; 4097). Burial evidence from Clay pit Lane was represented by a number of unurned Middle Bronze Age cremations, two pennanular ditches (and a probable third) probably represented small roundbarrows, as well as a series of associated pits containing damaged inurned cremation burials. Seven burials in total were excavated (HER Ref; 4120).

2.2.8 A pit containing two sherds of late Bronze Age pottery was excavated to the east of the Council Depot at Westhampnett in 2004-5 prior to the construction of a new access road to the Depot, c. 400m south-west of the study site (HER Ref; 7950). Three other, otherwise undated, pits in the north-west corner of the site may also have been of this date.

2.2.9 A late Bronze Age/early Iron Age ditch terminal or pit was exposed and excavated during an evaluation for the River Lavant Flood Alleviation Scheme in 1999, c. 750m south-east of the study site (HER Ref; 4090).

2.2.10 A small quantity of late prehistoric pottery was found during the construction of a new gas pipeline between Shopwyke and the new Rolls Royce Factory at Westhampnett c. 20m north of the site (HER Ref; E634). A quantity of probable Iron Age metalwork has been recovered by metal detectorists from fields in the Westhampnett area (J. Kenny pers comm).

2.2.11 Excavations on the A27 Bypass revealed an extensive unenclosed settlement tentatively dated to the Middle Iron Age and a Late Iron Age religious site. The settlement, located c. 500m south of the site, probably comprised a Middle Iron Age farm with a small number a circular buildings and four-post structures. A scatter of late Bronze Age/early Iron Age, probably residual, pottery was also recovered. These Iron Age settlement features are probably associated with the Iron Age ditches and gullies recorded in advance of gravel quarrying at Shopwyke Park, c. 600m south of the site (HER Ref; 1855). The religious site, located 1.25km north-east of the site, comprised at least two and perhaps four shrines, a range of pyre sites and related features and 161 cremation burials.

2.2.12 A middle Iron Age ditch and a single circular pit containing Late Iron Age or early Romano-British pottery was exposed during the evaluation on land east of the Council depot, Stane Street in 2004 (HER Ref; 7948) and (HER Ref; 4202) respectively.

2.2.13 The Iron Age oppidum of Verica is presumed to have been sited at Selsey, over 10km south-east of the site.

2.2.14 It is considered that the likelihood of Bronze Age and Iron Age material being found on the study site would have been moderate, although due to recent post-depositional impacts, is now thought to be moderate to low.

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2.3 Roman

2.3.1 The site lies c. 3km to the east of the Roman town of Noviomagus Regnensium, the Roman name for Chichester, which was occupied from the 1st to the 4th centuries. Noviomagus was built on the route of Stane Street, the main Roman road from London to south-west Sussex. As the civitas capital, Noviomagus Regnensium, was the administrative centre of probably the whole of Sussex. The villa economy south of Chichester may have been partly based on salt production which was widely practised along the coast.

2.3.2 Stane Street, runs from East Gate, Chichester, north-eastwards toward London. The road had 'a central agger, or raised cambered trackway, up to about 10m wide and 1.8m high flanked on each side by a ditch. The roadside ditches survive in places as a depression up to around 7m wide and 0.8m deep (HER Ref; 770). The side ditches and eroded agger of Roman Stane Street were exposed during an evaluation in 2004 on land to the east of the Council Depot at Westhampnett. A flanking ditch for the road was seen in two of the evaluation trenches (HER Ref; 4201). The road was c. 25m wide and comprised at least two, probably three, lanes or ‘carriageways’. Although metalling was present on the southern carriageway, no trace of metalling was found on the proposed northern carriageway. The angle of the north-east south-west aligned road, recorded east of the council depot would suggest that the road and its ditches lie directly beneath the current line of Stane Street to the north of the boundary of the site.

2.3.3 The watching brief on the gas pipeline between Shopwyke and the new Rolls Royce Factory at Westhampnett (HER Ref; E634) revealed Roman pottery c. 50m west of the site. Evidence for the Stane Street beneath the former A27 appeared to have been removed by successive surfaces of the modern tarmac road. A Roman ditch was recorded at the Tarmac Quarry, Shopwyke (HER Ref; 1856).

2.3.4 Excavations at Area 5 on the A27 Bypass, c. 500m south of the study site revealed Romano-British pits, postholes and ditches, likely associated with a network of cattle droveways and corrals of the sort identified on air photographs in the wider area and specifically at Copse Farm, Oving south-east of the study site. A Romano-British ditched enclosure was recorded in Area 3, c. 1km east of the site (HER Ref; 1848).

2.3.5 A large amount of Samian ware, and native 'Western Belgic' ware was found by workmen in 1945 in Portfield Gravel Pit, c. 1km south-west of the study site. There are thought to have been pits and gullies over a restricted area, suggesting the site of a small farmstead or village. A Roman well was found at a depth of 1m (HER Ref; 2325).

2.3.6 The Fishbourne Roman ‘Palace’ site is a Scheduled Monument (SAM233) and covers an area of 7.7 hectares, it lies west of Roman Chichester c. 5km west of the site. At Fishbourne the palace would certainly have been the centre of a large estate, the limits of which are unknown.

2.3.7 Overall the archaeological potential of the study site for the Roman period would have been defined as good particularly along the northern frontage of

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the site adjacent to the Roman road. However, due to the past post-depositional impact of development at Maudlin Nursery, the potential is now considered to be low to moderate.

2.4 Anglo-Saxon and Medieval

2.4.1 Chichester appears to have been abandoned between the end of the Roman period and the later Saxon period. Early forms of the name Chichester appear in 895 and 1085 and the derivations of the name also suggest that the town was not continuously occupied.

2.4.2 Two friable fragments of early Saxon pottery were recovered from the surface of Stane Street during excavations to the east of the Council Depot at Westhampnett (HER Ref; 7949). The fragments were dated to c. AD 450-600.

2.4.3 Two Anglo-Saxon sunken featured buildings were recorded during the excavations at Claypit Lane, to the north of the site (HER Ref; 4112). A single Anglo-Saxon sunken featured building was recorded in Area 7 ahead of the A27 Bypass c. 1.5km north-east of the site.

2.4.4 The Westhampnett Parish Church of St Peter is of Anglo-Saxon date, its walls contain a large quantity of reused Roman tile and lies c. 300m west of the study site (HER Ref; 2339).

2.4.5 At the time of the Domesday Survey, Westhampnett included a mill, a church and was held as 9 hides (VCH).

2.4.6 A medieval enclosure was exposed during the excavation at Claypit Lane to the north of the site in 2000. Two abraded sherds of medieval pottery and seven quern fragments were recovered from a sub-rectangular enclosure ditch although its full extent could not be determined (HER Ref; 4123).

2.4.7 During the Anglo-Saxon and Medieval periods the site probably lay within fields to the south of Stane Street. Overall the archaeological potential of the study site for these periods can be defined as moderate to low. Evidence of land division may be represented in areas beyond those impacted by recent construction related activity.

2.5 Late Medieval and Post-Medieval

2.5.1 Many of the existing farms and homesteads within the study area and possibly Maudlin Farm near the site, may have originated within this period.

2.5.2 A 17th to 18th century brick kiln was excavated on land east of the Council Depot, Westhampnett (HER 4203).

2.5.3 Two 18th century Grade II Listed Buildings lie to the north-east of the site; The Old Post Office lies c. 250m north-east of the study site (HER Ref; 4956 LB No 301487), and the Coach and Horses Public House lies c. 250m north-east of the study site (HER Ref; 6207, LB No 301488). The Grade II Listed Maudlin House is early 19th century in date and lies c. 250m east of the site (HER Ref; 5793 LB No 301489). A pair of mid-19th century Goodwood Estate

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cottages lie c. 20m to the north-west of the study site and are Grade II Listed (HER Ref; 6210 & 7211, LB No 300302).

2.5.4 The Westhampnett Tithe map and award of 1838 record the field at the study site as arable land. A 'Brick field and Buildings' are recorded immediately west of the study site.

2.5.5 By 1896 no change is apparent on the site. No further changes occur to the site between 1910 and 1989. Maudlin Nursery was built in the west of the site by 1993 (Plate 2). The Nursery comprised a large glasshouse in the north-west of the site with stables to the rear, and a house in the south-west of the site. No further changes are apparent by the 2009 site survey.

2.5.6 Overall the archaeological potential of the study site for the late medieval and Post-Medieval periods would have been confined to any evidence of land division. However the impact of the construction of Maudlin Nursery and a house is likely to have removed archaeological deposits and structures within the footprint of the buildings.

2.7 Project Aims and Objectives

2.7.1 The general aims of the evaluation were:

- To establish the presence or absence of archaeological remains and deposits within the site
- To determine the survival, extent and minimum depth below modern ground level of any such remains
- To determine the nature and significance of any archaeological deposits
- To enable Mid Sussex District Council to make an informed decision as to the requirement for any further archaeological work at the site

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3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY

3.1 Fieldwork Methodology

3.1.1 Thirty-four trenches were proposed to be excavated for the evaluation, each measuring 30m x 2m (Figure 2). However, two trenches (trenches 1 and 13) could not be dug due to the presence of overhead cables and buried services.

3.1.2 Mechanical excavation using a flat-bladed bucket, under archaeological supervision, was taken in small spits down to a maximum depth of 17.024m OD.

3.1.3 All archaeological features were recorded according to standard ASE practice. All features were planned using DGPS survey equipment, and sections were drawn by hand at a scale of 1:10. Drawings were on plastic draughting film. Features and deposits were described on standard pro-forma recording sheets used by ASE. All remains were levelled with respect to Ordnance Survey datum. A digital photographic record was maintained throughout the evaluation.

3.1.4 The spoil from the excavations was inspected by the ASE archaeologist to recover any artefacts or ecofacts of archaeological interest. All finds recovered from excavated deposits were collected and retained in line with the ASE artefacts collection policy.

3.2 Archive

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

Number of Contexts	137
No. of files/paper record	1
Plan and sections sheets	2
Photographs	129
Bulk Finds	1 x box
Registered finds	1

Table 1: Quantification of site archive

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4.0 RESULTS

4.1 Negative trenches: 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 9, 10, 11, 12, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18 and 23

4.1.1 Trench 2 was shortened to 19.20m as it was located at the front of the greenhouses and had to be fitted around the existing buildings. No archaeological features were identified and the natural, which consisted of gravel with flints, was reached at a maximum depth of 0.53m BGL.

4.1.2 Trench 3 measured 30.30m and was located on the east side of the greenhouses. It contained no archaeology and the natural was reached at a maximum depth of 20.783m OD.

4.1.3 Trench 4 measured 29.80m and was located on the northern edge of the site. No archaeology was identified but some modern disturbances were clearly visible. The natural was reached at a maximum depth of 21.269m OD.

4.1.4 Trench 5 measured 29.30m and was located along the northern edge of the site. No archaeological features were identified but some modern disturbances were recorded, as well as some rooting. The natural was reached at a maximum depth of 22.227m OD.

4.1.5 Trench 6 measured 29.30m and was located on the northern edge of the site. No archaeology was identified but some modern disturbance was recorded in the northern part of the trench. The natural was reached at a maximum depth of 22.699m OD.

4.1.6 Trench 9 measured 29.30m and was located south of trench 5. No archaeological features were identified and the natural gravel was reached at a maximum depth of 21.479m OD.

4.1.7 Trench 10 measured 29m and was located south of trench 6. No archaeological features were identified but some modern disturbances were observed towards the eastern end of the trench. The natural gravel was reached at a maximum depth of 22.254m OD.

4.1.8 Trench 11 measured 29.50m and was located south of trench 7. No archaeological features were identified but some disturbances were recorded at the eastern end of the trench and some rooting appeared in the western end of the trench. The natural gravel was reached at a maximum depth of 22.581m OD.

4.1.9 Trench 12 measured 29.30m and was located south of trench 8. No archaeological features were identified but some modern disturbances were observed in the western part of the trench. The natural gravel was reached at a maximum depth of 0.50m BGL

4.1.10 Trench 14 measured 28.50m and was located south of trench 4. No archaeological features were identified but some modern disturbances were observed, as well as some rooting. The natural gravel was reached at a maximum depth of 19.631m OD.

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4.1.11 Trench 15 measured 28.70m and was located south of trench 9. No archaeological features were identified but a modern linear was observed in the northern end of the trench. The natural gravel was encountered at a maximum depth of 19.716m OD.

4.1.12 Trench 16 measured 29m and was located south of trench 10. No archaeological features were identified but some modern disturbances were observed in the middle of the trench and some rooting appeared in the southern part of the trench. The natural gravel was reached at a maximum depth of 20.906m OD.

4.1.13 Trench 17 measured 29m and was located south of trench 11. No archaeological features were identified but a modern disturbance was noted towards the centre and some rooting was visible in the southern part of the trench. The natural gravel was reached at a maximum depth of 21.471m OD.

4.1.14 Trench 18 measured 29m and was located south of trench 12. No archaeological features were identified but some rooting was observed in the southern part of the trench. The natural gravel was reached at a maximum depth of 22.151m OD.

4.1.15 Trench 23 measured 28.50m and was located south of trench 17. No archaeological features were identified but some modern disturbances were noted as well as some rooting. The natural gravel was reached at a maximum depth of 20.813m OD.

4.1.16 The stratigraphy in the northern part of the site consisted of natural gravel with flints mixed with a mid-orange silty clay ([2/003], [3/003], [4/003], [5/003], [6/002], [9/003], [10/002], [11/002], [12/002], [14/003], [15/003], [16/002], [17/002], [18/003] and [23/002]) beneath 0.12 to 0.25m thick subsoil consisting of dark orange-brown silty clay ([2/002], [3/002], [4/002], [5/002], [6/003], [9/002], [10/003], [11/003], [12/003], [14/002], [15/002], [16/003], [17/003], [18/002] and [23/003]), and covered by 0.09 to 0.33m of topsoil ([2/001] – [6/001], [9/001] – [18/001] and [23/001]). No archaeological features were identified in these trenches, summarised in Table 2 below.

4.2 Negative trenches: 19, 22, 28, 30, 31, 32, 33 and 34

4.2.1 Trench 19 measured 28m and was located in the south-west corner of the site. No archaeological features were identified but modern disturbances and a layer of made-ground between 0.20 and 0.48m were recorded. The natural brickearth was reached at a maximum depth of 17.024m OD.

4.2.2 Trench 22 measured 29.30m and was located south of trench 16. No archaeological features were found but some rooting was observed. The natural was patchy, consisting of either gravel with flints or brickearth. It was reached at a maximum depth of 20.291m OD.

4.2.3 Trench 28 measured 29m and was located south of trench 24. No archaeological features were identified but some modern disturbance was noted. The natural was patchy and consisted of either gravel with flints or brickearth. It was reached at a maximum depth of 20m OD.

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4.2.4 Trench 30 measured 29m and was located south of trench 28. No archaeological features were identified. The natural consisted of either gravel with flints or brickearth and was reached at a maximum depth of 19.027m OD.

4.2.5 Trench 31 measured 29m and was located south of trench 29. No archaeological features were found but modern disturbances were recorded in the eastern part of the trench. A layer of made-ground was observed directly underneath the topsoil and may explain the lack of archaeology in this area. The natural gravel was reached at a maximum depth of 0.60m BGL.

4.2.6 Trench 32 measured 29m and was located north of trench 34. No archaeological features were identified and no subsoil was present. It seems the ground was damaged, either by ploughing or by more recent activity when the Works Compound was set up. The natural gravel was reached at a maximum depth of 0.35m BGL.

4.2.7 Trench 33 measured 27m and was located south of trench 31. No archaeological features were identified and no subsoil was present. A layer of made-ground was observed, directly under the topsoil. The natural was gravel with flints in the western part of the trench and brickearth in the northern part. It was reached at a maximum depth of 19.425m OD.

4.2.8 Trench 34 measured 29.30m and was located in the south-east corner of the site. No archaeological features were identified and no subsoil was present. It is possible that the archaeological horizon was disturbed either by ploughing or by activity when the site was occupied by a Works Compound. The natural gravel was reached at a maximum depth of 0.40m BGL.

4.2.9 The stratigraphy in the southern part of the site was more varied and the natural was either gravel with flints or brickearth. Made-ground was also recorded in several of the trenches and seems to be linked with activity in the 1990s when a Works Compound occupied part of the site. No archaeology was recorded in these trenches, summarised in Table 3 below.

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Table 2: List of recorded contexts for trenches 2 to 6, 9 to 18 and 23

Context	Type	Description	Deposit thickness m	Max. height m AOD
2/001	Layer	Topsoil	0.17 – 0.33	
2/002	Layer	Subsoil	0.12 – 0.20	
2/003	Natural	Natural	-	
3/001	Layer	Topsoil	0.20 – 0.30	22.353
3/002	Layer	Subsoil	0.18 – 0.19	
3/003	Natural	Natural	-	20.783
4/001	Layer	Topsoil	0.09 – 0.29	22.545
4/002	Layer	Subsoil	0.16 – 0.20	
4/003	Natural	Natural	-	21.269
5/001	Layer	Topsoil	0.20 – 0.28	23.201
5/002	Layer	Subsoil	0.13 – 0.24	
5/003	Natural	Natural	-	22.227
6/001	Layer	Topsoil	0.25 – 0.30	23.728
6/002	Natural	Natural	0.20 – 0.25	22.699
6/003	Layer	Subsoil	-	
9/001	Layer	Topsoil	0.18 – 0.19	21.971
9/002	Layer	Subsoil	0.12 – 0.22	
9/003	Natural	Natural	-	21.479
10/001	Layer	Topsoil	0.15 – 0.30	22.648
10/002	Natural	Natural	-	22.254
10/003	Layer	Subsoil	0.15 – 0.20	
11/001	Layer	Topsoil	0.20 – 0.25	23.31
11/002	Natural	Natural	-	22.581
11/003	Layer	Subsoil	0.10 – 0.15	
12/001	Layer	Topsoil	0.25 – 0.30	
12/002	Natural	Natural	-	
12/003	Layer	Subsoil	0.20	
14/001	Layer	Topsoil	0.11 – 0.20	21.046
14/002	Layer	Subsoil	0.26 – 0.28	
14/003	Natural	Natural	-	20.573
15/001	Layer	Topsoil	0.19 – 0.21	21.312
15/002	Layer	Subsoil	0.21 – 0.26	
15/003	Natural	Natural	-	19.716
16/001	Layer	Topsoil	0.25 – 0.45	22.321
16/002	Natural	Natural	-	20.906
16/003	Layer	Subsoil	0.15 – 0.20	
17/001	Layer	Topsoil	0.30 – 0.35	22.764
17/002	Natural	Natural	-	21.471
17/003	Layer	Subsoil	0.10 – 0.20	

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Context	Type	Description	Deposit thickness m	Max. height m AOD
18/001	Layer	Topsoil	0.20 – 0.30	23.176
18/002	Layer	Subsoil	0.15 – 0.20	
18/003	Natural	Natural	-	22.151
23/001	Layer	Topsoil	0.25 – 0.30	21.594
23/002	Natural	Natural	-	20.813
23/003	Layer	Subsoil	0.15 – 0.20	

Table 3: List of recorded contexts for trenches 19, 22, 28 and 30 to 34

Context	Type	Description	Deposit thickness m	Max. height m AOD
19/001	Layer	Topsoil	0.18 – 0.20	19.12
19/002	Layer	Subsoil	0.10 – 0.23	
19/003	Layer	Made-ground	0.20 – 0.48	
19/004	Brickearth	Brickearth	-	17.024
22/001	Layer	Topsoil	0.25 – 0.30	20.714
22/002	Natural	Natural	-	20.291
22/003	Layer	Subsoil	0.20 – 0.30	
22/004	Brickearth	Brickearth	-	
28/001	Layer	Topsoil	0.30 – 0.40	21.506
28/002	Natural	Natural	-	20
28/003	Layer	Subsoil	0.20 – 0.25	
28/004	Brickearth	Brickearth	-	
30/001	Layer	Topsoil	0.25 – 0.30	20.087
30/002	Natural	Natural	-	19.027
30/003	Layer	Subsoil	0.15 – 0.20	
30/004	Brickearth	Brickearth	-	
31/001	Layer	Topsoil	0.35	
31/002	Natural	Natural	-	
31/003	Layer	Made-ground	0.25	
32/001	Layer	Topsoil	0.30 – 0.35	
32/002	Natural	Natural	-	
33/001	Layer	Topsoil	0.35	20.581
33/002	Natural	Natural	-	19.425
33/003	Layer	Made-ground	0.20 – 0.25	
33/004	Brickearth	Brickearth	-	
34/001	Layer	Topsoil	0.30 – 0.40	
34/002	Natural	Natural	-	

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4.3 Trench 7

4.3.1 This trench was located in the north-east part of the site and ran north-south. The natural gravel with flints [7/003] was reached at a maximum height of 23.008m OD.

4.3.2 Two linear ditch segments ([7/004] and [7/006]) with concave profiles were identified and seemed to run parallel to each other.

4.3.3 Ditch [7/004] was quite shallow and had one fill: [7/005] was a compact dark grey brown silty clay 0.18m thick. It ran east-west and produced some sherds of Early Roman pottery (AD70 to 120) as well as an illegible copper alloy Roman coin and residual prehistoric flints.

4.3.4 Ditch [7/006] had one fill [7/007] that consisted of mid to dark brown silty clay 0.22m thick. It ran east-west and also contained pot sherds of Early Roman date (AD60 to 150) as well as some fire-cracked flint.

4.3.5 Trench 7 was extended in order to establish the course of the two ditches identified. Ditch [7/004] proved to turn at a right angle, heading north towards the road. Ditch [7/006] appeared to run in a straight line to trench 7A which was opened specifically to trace its course; its orientation remained consistent.

4.3.6 The trench was covered by 0.20m of subsoil [7/002] and approximately 0.15m of topsoil [7/001]. The contexts are detailed in Table 4 below.

Context	Type	Description	Width	Deposit thickness m	Max. height m AOD
7/001	Layer	Topsoil	-	0.20 – 0.22	23.9
7/002	Layer	Subsoil	-	0.12 – 0.22	
7/003	Natural	Natural	-	-	23.008
7/004	Cut	Ditch	1.52	0.18	
7/005	Fill	Fill of [7/004]	1.52	0.18	
7/006	Cut	Ditch	0.80	0.22	
7/007	Fill	Fill of [7/006]	0.80	0.22	
7/008	Layer	Demolition layer	-	0.05 – 0.08	

Table 4: List of recorded contexts for trench 7

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4.4 Trench 8

4.4.1 This trench was located in the north-east part of the site and ran north-south. The natural gravel with flints [8/002] was reached at a maximum height of 23.235m OD.

4.4.2 A linear ditch segment [8/013] with a concave profile was identified in the northern part of the trench. The trench was extended in order to expose the ditch and a one metre slot was dug through it. Another trench (8A) was also opened to establish the course of the ditch and slot [8A/004] was dug.

4.4.3 Ditch [8/013] was quite shallow and had one fill: [8/014] was a firm mid-yellow brown silty clay 0.26m thick. It ran east-west, parallel to the Roman Road and produced one pottery sherd of Early Roman date (AD40 to 150) as well as some residual prehistoric flint.

4.4.4 Ditch [8A/004] had three fills. Primary fill [8A/005] was consistent with fill [8/0014] and seems to represent the same Roman ditch, with finds dating back to the period AD60 to 120. Fill [8A/007] above this was a dark blackish brown silty clay and also contained Early Roman pottery. An iron rod, possibly a tool and some ceramic building materials, all dating back to the Roman period were also found in this fill. Fill [8A/008] was a mid-yellow brown loamy clay and contained Early Roman pottery.

4.4.5 Three post-medieval pits, [8/004], [8/006] and [8/008] were also present in trench 8, probably linked to the works compound that occupied the site from 1993 onwards. They contained modern building materials.

4.4.6 The trench was covered by 0.20m of subsoil [7/002] and approximately 0.15m of topsoil [7/001]. The contexts are detailed in Table 5 below.

Context	Type	Description	Width	Deposit thickness m	Max. height m AOD
8/001	Layer	Topsoil	-	0.15 – 0.35	23.801
8/002	Natural	Natural	-	-	23.235
8/003	Layer	Subsoil	-	0.10 – 0.20	
8/004	Cut	Post-medieval pit	0.57	0.29	
8/005	Fill	Fill of [8/004]	0.57	0.29	
8/006	Cut	Post-medieval pit	0.67	0.07	
8/007	Fill	Fill of [8/006]	0.67	0.07	
8/008	Cut	Post-medieval pit	0.49	0.07	
8/009	Fill	Fill of [8/008]	0.49	0.07	
8/010	Void	Void	-	-	-
8/011	Void	Void	-	-	-
8/012	Layer	Demolition Layer	-	0.45	
8/013	Cut	Ditch	0.90	0.26	

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Context	Type	Description	Width	Deposit thickness m	Max. height m AOD
8/014	Fill	Fill of [8/013]	0.90	0.26	
8A/001	Layer	Topsoil	-	0.10 – 0.21	
8A/002	Natural	Natural	-	-	
8A/003	Layer	Subsoil	-	0.17 – 0.22	
8A/004	Cut	Ditch	2.50	-	
8A/005	Fill	Fill of [8A/004]	1.62	0.42	
8A/006	Void	Void	-	-	
8A/007	Fill	Fill of [8A/006]	2.50	0.26	
8A/008	Fill	Fill of [8A/006]	2.50	0.27	

Table 5: List of recorded contexts for trench 8

4.5 Trench 20

4.5.1 This trench was located in the south-western corner of the site and ran north-south. The natural brickearth was reached at a maximum height of 18.654m OD.

4.5.2 A linear ditch segment [20/004] with a concave profile was identified cutting the natural towards the southern end of the trench.

4.5.3 This ditch was filled with mid-brown silty clay [20/005] and was running northeast-southwest. It contained some flint but remains undated. The other features in this area of the site being of Late Iron Age – Early Roman date, this ditch may tentatively be interpreted as belonging to the same period. This linear may also be the continuation of [21/004] in Trench 21 as both had a similar fill and appeared to be following the same orientation.

4.5.4 The trench was covered by 0.18m of subsoil [20/002] and 0.13m of topsoil [20/001]. The contexts are detailed in Table 6 below.

Context	Type	Description	Width	Deposit thickness m	Max. height m AOD
20/001	Layer	Topsoil	-	0.12 – 0.14	20.013
20/002	Layer	Subsoil	-	0.14 – 0.20	
20/003	Brickearth	Brickearth	-	-	18.654
20/004	Cut	Ditch	0.97	0.56	
20/005	Fill	Fill of [20/004]	0.97	0.56	

Table 6: List of recorded contexts for trench 20

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4.6 Trench 21

4.6.1 This trench was located on the southern side of the site and ran east-west. The natural brickearth was reached at a maximum height of 19.028m OD.

4.6.2 A linear ditch segment [21/004] with a concave profile was identified cutting the natural towards the western end of the trench. It is possible this linear is the continuation of [20/004] in trench 20.

4.6.3 This ditch was filled with mid-brown silty clay [21/005] and was running northeast-southwest. It contained some flint and fire-cracked flint but remains undated. As mentioned above, it could tentatively be dated to the Late Iron Age – Early Roman period when looking at other nearby features.

4.6.4 The trench was covered by 0.20m of subsoil [21/002] and 0.30m of topsoil [21/001]. The contexts are detailed in Table 7 below.

Context	Type	Description	Width	Deposit thickness m	Max. height m AOD
21/001	Layer	Topsoil	-	0.30 – 0.38	19.609
21/002	Layer	Subsoil	-	0.15 – 0.36	
21/003	Natural	Natural	-	-	19.028
21/004	Cut	Ditch	0.71	0.23	
21/005	Fill	Fill of [21/004]	0.71	0.23	

Table 7: List of recorded contexts for trench 21

4.7 Trench 26

4.7.1 This trench was located on the southern side of the site and ran north-south. The natural was patchy and consisted of gravel with flints in the southern part of the trench and brickearth in the northern part of the trench. It was reached at a maximum height of 18.923m OD.

4.7.2 A linear ditch segment [26/004] was identified and seems to correspond in alignment with ditch [27/004]. Finds were recovered from its fill [26/005] and have been dated to the Late Iron Age – Early Roman period. No slot was hand excavated through this ditch as dating evidence was recovered from the fill and a machine slot was dug instead through [27/004].

4.7.3 A possible colluvium layer [26/006] was identified in the southern part of the trench, above the natural gravel [26/002]. This layer was a mid-grey silty clay with manganese inclusions and had no distinct edge. However, it contained occasional charcoal flecks and some finds were recovered. They have been dated to the Late Iron Age – Early Roman period as well. This layer does not appear in any of the other trenches but is at the bottom of a slight slope and has thus been interpreted as colluvium.

4.7.4 The trench was covered with 0.20m of subsoil [26/003] and 0.22m of topsoil [26/001]. The contexts are detailed in Table 8 below.

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Context	Type	Description	Width	Deposit thickness m	Max. height m AOD
26/001	Layer	Topsoil	-	0.20 – 0.25	20.108
26/002	Natural	Natural	-	-	18.923
26/003	Layer	subsoil	-	0.20	
26/004	Cut	Ditch	3.90	-	
26/005	Fill	Fill of [26/004]	3.90	-	
26/006	Layer	Colluvium	-	0.70	
26/007	Brickearth	Brickearth	-	-	

Table 8: List of recorded contexts for trench 26

4.8 Trench 27

4.8.1 This trench was located on the southern side of the site and ran north-south. The natural was patchy and consisted of gravel with flints in the northern part of the trench and brickearth in the southern part of the trench. It was reached at a maximum height of 19.364m OD.

4.8.2 A linear ditch segment [27/004] with a concave profile was identified cutting the natural towards the middle of the trench. It is likely this linear is the continuation of [26/004] in trench 26.

4.8.3 A machine slot was dug through this ditch. It was filled with mid-grey brown silty clay [27/005] and was running northeast-southwest. It contained some Late Iron Age – Early Roman pottery and a fragment of tegula. The fill was similar to [26/005] and the finds consistent.

4.8.4 The trench was covered by 0.20m of subsoil [27/003] and 0.25m of topsoil [27/001]. The contexts are detailed in Table 9 below.

Context	Type	Description	Width	Deposit thickness m	Max. height m AOD
27/001	Layer	Topsoil	-	0.25 – 0.30	20.677
27/002	Natural	Natural	-	-	19.364
27/003	Layer	Subsoil	-	0.20 – 0.25	
27/004	Cut	Ditch	3.30	0.45	
27/005	Fill	Fill of [27/004]	3.30	0.45	
27/006	Brickearth	Brickearth	-	-	

Table 9: List of recorded contexts for trench 27

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4.9 Trench 24

4.9.1 This trench was located in the eastern part of the site and ran east-west. The natural gravel with flints [24/002] was reached at a maximum height of 21.619m OD.

4.9.2 Two possible pits ([24/004] and [24/006]) were identified in the eastern half of the trench and were half-sectioned. They had similar fills ([24/005] and [24/007]) of mid-grey brown silty clay with frequent flint inclusions. [24/007] contained one sherd of pot dated to the Neolithic period and [24/005] contained flint (including an end scraper) that could be Neolithic or Bronze Age in date. These pits have been tentatively dated to the Early Neolithic because of their proximity with pits [25/004] and [29/006] but their fill was quite similar to other features on site interpreted as the result of root action. It is therefore possible that they are tree throws rather than pits.

4.9.3 The trench was covered by 0.20m of subsoil [24/003] and 0.30m of topsoil [24/001]. The contexts are detailed in Table 10 below.

Context	Type	Description	Width	Deposit thickness m	Max. height m AOD
24/001	Layer	Topsoil	-	0.25 – 0.30	22.184
24/002	Natural	Natural	-	-	21.619
24/003	Layer	Subsoil	-	0.15 – 0.20	
24/004	Cut	Pit	1.05	0.20	
24/005	Fill	Fill of [24/004]	1.05	0.20	
24/006	Cut	Pit	1.76	0.55	
24/007	Fill	Fill of [24/006]	1.76	0.55	

Table 10: List of recorded contexts for trench 24

4.10 Trench 25

4.10.1 This trench was located in the eastern part of the site and ran east-west. The natural gravel with flint [25/003] was reached at a maximum height of 21.800m OD.

4.10.2 A small pit or posthole [25/004] with a concave profile was identified cutting the natural towards the middle of the trench.

4.10.3 This small feature was filled with mid-blackish brown silty clay [25/005] and was sub-circular. It contained some struck flint and some pottery that was dated to the Early Neolithic. The assemblage comprised eight sherds, one of them decorated, as well as Neolithic to Early Bronze Age flint.

4.10.4 The trench was covered by 0.18m of subsoil [25/002] and 0.09m of topsoil [25/001]. The contexts are detailed in Table 6 below.

4.10.5 Trench 25 was extended on either side of the pit to try and identify more

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prehistoric activity, however, none was uncovered.

Context	Type	Description	Width	Deposit thickness m	Max. height m AOD
25/001	Layer	Topsoil	-	0.08 – 0.10	22.814
25/002	Layer	Subsoil	-	0.16 – 0.20	
25/003	Natural	Natural	-	-	21.800
25/004	Cut	Pit	0.33	0.27	
25/005	Fill	Fill of [25/004]	0.33	0.27	

Table 11: List of recorded contexts for trench 25

4.11 Trench 29

4.11.1 This trench was located in the eastern part of the site and ran north-south. The natural gravel with flint [29/003] was reached at a maximum height of 21.45m OD

4.11.2 A small feature [29/006] with a concave profile was identified cutting the natural towards the middle of the trench. There was also a possible gully terminus [29/004] in the northern part of the trench.

4.11.3 The small pit or posthole [29/006] was filled with mid-blackish brown silty clay [29/007] and was sub-circular. It contained some struck flint and some pottery that was dated to the Early Neolithic. It was very similar in shape and content to the small pit [25/004] found in trench 25 and its assemblage comprised 16 sherds of pottery that probably belonged to one vessel, as well as some Neolithic to Early Bronze Age flint.

4.11.4 The possible gully terminus [29/004] was less convincing. Like the features found in trench 24, it produced very little material and had a similar fill of mid grey brown silty clay as identified in the tree boles across the site. One sherd of pottery (tentatively dated to the Neolithic period) was recovered from fill [29/005].

4.11.5 The trench was covered by 0.18m of subsoil [29/002] and 0.20m of topsoil [29/001]. The contexts are detailed in Table 12 below.

4.11.6 Trenches 29 was extended to each side of the pit to identify any further prehistoric activity. None was seen.

Context	Type	Description	Width	Deposit thickness m	Max. height m AOD
29/001	Layer	Topsoil	-	0.19 – 0.22	
29/002	Layer	Subsoil	-	0.11 – 0.25	
29/003	Natural	Natural	-	-	
29/004	Cut	Ditch terminus	0.43	0.25	

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Context	Type	Description	Width	Deposit thickness m	Max. height m AOD
29/005	Fill	Fill of [25/004]	0.43	0.25	
29/006	Cut	Pit	0.56	0.56	
29/007	Fill	Fill of [29/006]	0.28	0.28	

Table 12: List of recorded contexts for trench 29

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6.0 THE FINDS

6.1 Introduction

A small assemblage of bulk finds was recovered during the evaluation at Maudlin Nursery Westhampnett, quantified by context and type in Table 13. Finds were washed and dried or air dried as appropriate. They were quantified by count and weight and subsequently bagged by material and context. Two objects require x radiography and one requires conservation. Packaging and storage policies follow IfA (2013) guidelines.

6.2 **The Flintwork** by Karine Le Hégarat

The evaluation work at the Maudlin Nursery produced a total of 24 pieces of struck flint weighing 111g. A further 24 fragments of burnt unworked flint (784g) were also found from ten numbered contexts.

The fragments of burnt unworked flint were thinly spread over the site, and no large concentrations were recorded. Although un-datable, burnt unworked flints are frequently associated with prehistoric activities.

The struck flints were hand collected from seven numbered contexts in seven trenches (Trenches 7, 8, 20, 24, 25, 26 and 29). Most contexts produced just a few pieces of flint (between one and five flints). Pit [25/004] fill [25/005] was the richest feature with 11 artefacts. This feature also contained Early Neolithic pottery.

Where present the off-white cortex is either thin (<1mm) or between 3 - 4mm thick. It is usually only slightly weathered. The interior is mainly light to dark grey or light to dark brown. This raw material is characteristic of chalk-derived flint. It appears to be of good flaking quality and would have been available in the local landscape. Overall the flintwork was in good condition implying minimal post depositional movement.

The assemblage is largely composed of unmodified pieces of flint débitage. It comprises 14 flakes, three blades and three blade-like flakes. The flakes were principally thin. Although plain platforms were noted, winged or punctiform platforms were common, and evidence of abrasion was also recorded. This indicates that cores were well prepared for a controlled and predictable removal of flakes and blades. Evidence for a careful reduction strategy suggests a Neolithic / Early Bronze Age date. Four retouched pieces were present; an end scraper (from pit [24/004] fill [24/005]), a serrated flake (from pit [29/006] fill [29/007]), a retouched blade (from colluvium [26/006] and a retouched blade-like flake (from ditch slot [8/013] fill [8/014]). None are particularly diagnostic, but the flake from pit [29/006] that displays a series of serrations is likely to be Neolithic in date.

The assemblage of flint from Maudlin Nursery is dominated by unmodified pieces of flint débitage. Based on technological and morphological grounds, they suggest a Neolithic or Early Bronze Age date although the small size of the assemblage doesn't allow particularly confident dating. Nonetheless, the largest group from pit [25/004] also produced Early Neolithic pottery, and the

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flint is likely to be contemporary with the pottery and the pit. Furthermore although no diagnostic tools were present, serrated flakes are frequently found in Neolithic contexts.

Although small, the flint assemblage from Maudlin Nursery is important because evidence for stratified Neolithic material remains uncommon. Previous work in the vicinity of the site produced similar assemblages. An Early Neolithic pit and three Late Neolithic pits with varying quantities of flints and pottery were recently excavated at Claypit Lane, Westhampnett (Harding 2006).

The flint assemblage should be retained to allow integration with the larger assemblage recovered during the subsequent phase of work at the site.

6.3 The Prehistoric and Roman Pottery by Anna Doherty

A fairly substantial assemblage of prehistoric and Roman pottery was recovered in relation to the scale of the evaluation. It includes material of Early Neolithic, Late Iron Age/early Roman and late 1st-early 2nd century Roman date.

The pottery was examined using a x20 binocular microscope. Prehistoric tempered wares were recorded according to site-specific fabric codes, formulated in accordance with the guidelines of the Prehistoric Ceramics Research Group (PCRG 2010). In the absence of a regional pottery types-series for Sussex, Roman fabrics were recorded using an adapted version of the Southwark/London typology (Marsh & Tyers 1978; Davies et al 1994) (with some additional codes for local types) which will be published in a forthcoming summary of Roman pottery from the West Sussex coastal plain (Doherty in prep). Reference is also made to the type-series for Rowland's Castle wares (Dicks 2009). Pottery was quantified by sherd count, weight, Estimated Vessel Equivalent (EVE) and Estimated Vessel Number (ENV). Data was recorded on pro-forma sheets for the archive and entered into an Excel spreadsheet.

Site-specific fabric type series

FLIN1 Sparse to moderate ill-sorted flint, mostly of 1-2mm although rare examples of up to 4mm also occur; the matrix is dense, laminar and generally lacking in quartz, although occasional coarse grains may occur

FLIN2 Moderate to common fairly well-sorted flint of 0.5-1.5mm in a silty background matrix

FLIN3 Sparse flint, mostly of 0.5-1.5mm, with rare examples up to 3mm in a matrix with some linear organic inclusions. The fabric has at soapy feeling

FLQU1 Sparse to moderate ill-sorted flint inclusions mostly of 2-5mm with rare examples up to 20mm in fairly dense laminar matrix with little silt-sized or fine quartz but which contains sparse/moderate quantities of coarser grains (*c*.0.2-0.4mm)

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FLQU2 Sparse moderately-sorted flint of 1-3mm in a matrix with moderate to common quartz of 0.2-0.4mm

FLQU3 Rare/sparse flint generally of <1mm in a coarse sandy matrix with common quartz of c.0.3-0.6mm

QUAR1 A fairly dense laminar matrix with little silt-sized or fine quartz but containing sparse/moderate quantities of coarser grains (*c*.0.2-0.4mm)

Overview of the assemblage

Of particular note is a small group of 26 sherds of Early Neolithic pottery, weighing 134g, found in pits in Trenches 24, 25 and 29. As shown in Table 13, this material was characterised by very ill-sorted flint-tempered fabrics including examples with very dense, fairly quartz-free matrixes (FLIN1), and others with sandier clay pastes (FLQU1; FLQU2). One sherd is purely quartz-rich and lacks any flint (QUAR 1).

Fabric	Sherds	Weight (g)	ENV
FLIN1	20	103	6
FLQU1	3	15	2
FLQU2	2	7	2
QUAR1	1	9	1
Total	26	134	11

Table 13: Quantification of Early Neolithic pottery fabrics

The most diagnostic piece came from the largest individual group, in fill [25/005] of pit [25/004]. It is a decorated bowl in fabric FLIN1 with a plain open profile and an applied cordon below the rim. It features incised vertical line decoration above the cordon on the vessel exterior and in a similar position on the vessel interior. It also has a post-firing perforation, drilled from the exterior surface and a possible grain impression (although the latter is probably not distinct enough to identify the taxa). The vessel is fairly typical of the Whitehawk style of Plain/Decorated Bowl pottery dated c. 3650-3300 BC, although interestingly, cordons and carinations were said to be more common at Whitehawk itself that at the much more local causewayed enclosure site at the Trundle (Curwen 1931, 134).

This vessel was stratified with a further two bodysherds probably from the same vessel and four others from different vessels. Another context, fill [29/007] of pit [29/006], contained a relatively substantial group of sherds (16, weighing 56g) though most of these are bodysherds from a single vessel. The other probable Early Neolithic pottery, from fill [24/007] of pit [24/006] and [29/005] of feature [29/004], are in fabrics that are very comparable to those found in the two larger Early Neolithic groups. It should however, be noted that Early Neolithic pottery fabrics are not dissimilar to those found in other later prehistoric periods so these are slightly less certainly dated but given their proximity to other Early Neolithic pits they seem most likely to belong to this period. The sherd from [29/005] has a reasonably thick carbonised residue which would probably be viable for radiocarbon dating.

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Early Neolithic pottery is rare on the coastal plain and almost all has been found within quite a short distance of the current site. For example, a few individual pit assemblages have been recorded at Claypit Lane, Westhampnett (Every & Mepham 2006) and Copse Farm, Oving (Drewett 1985), and another contemporary vessel was stratified with later material in a layer in excavations on the A27 Westhampnett bypass (Mepham 2008). The current assemblage is notable for the use of decoration, which is much more strongly identified with causewayed enclosure sites and which has not previously been identified in non-monumental contexts in West Sussex

The rest of the assemblage is of Late Iron Age to earlier Roman date (quantified by fabric in Table 14). The material recovered from Trenches 26 and 27, in the south-western corner of the site, is all of Late Iron Age/early Roman date. The majority of this pottery is flint-tempered, including some relatively fine, well-sorted fabrics (FLIN3) and others with extremely coarse sandy matrixes containing only a little flint (FLQU3). Many of the sherds from fill [26/006] are from a single vessel in a fairly sparsely flint-tempered fabric (FLIN3); only very partial rim sherds are present but it appears to be a necked jar. Also in this context, and in [27/005], a few sherds are considered likely of *c*. Roman conquest date, including well-fired sandy dark-surfaced or unevenly oxidised wares which probably represent early products of the Rowlands Castle Roman pottery industry (SAND1; OXID1). One example of a lid was noted in one of the dark-surfaced wares.

Fabric	Description	Sherds	Weight (g)	ENV
AVBF	Arun Valley fine black-surfaced ware	3	12	3
AVBW	Arun Valley coarse black surfaced ware	4	15	4
AVGW	Arun Valley coarse grey ware	12	83	9
AVOF	Arun Valley fine oxidised ware	2	20	2
AVOX	Arun Valley coarse oxidised ware	3	10	2
AVWH	Arun Valley white ware	2	6	2
BAETE	Baetican Amphora	1	11	1
FLIN2	Flint-tempered ware (site specific fabric)	4	29	2
FLIN3	Flint-tempered ware (site specific fabric)	21	154	1
FLQU3	Sandy flint-tempered (site specific fabric)	2	7	2
MICA	Mica-dusted ware	1	31	1
OXID1	Coarse unevenly oxidised ware (possible precursor of Rowland's Castle ware)	2	11	1
RWCG	Rowland's Castle grey ware	9	93	8
RWCOX	Rowland's Castle oxidised ware	10	91	9
SAMLG	La Graufesenque samian ware	3	12	2
SAND	Unsourced coarse sandy ware	1	5	1
SAND1	Coarse black surfaced ware (possible precursor of Rowland's Castle ware)	8	93	4
VRW	Verulamium region white ware	2	7	1
Total		90	690	55

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Table 14: Quantification of Late Iron Age/Roman fabrics

The remainder of the assemblage, chiefly found in Trenches 7 and 8, is of slightly later date – probably c. late 1st to mid-2nd century AD. The majority of sherds are made up by Arun Valley and Rowland's Castle wares. The products of the former include both fine and coarse examples. Relatively few forms were noted but these include lids, fine necked jar/beakers, and a slightly lid-seated rim probably from a carinated bowl of Dicks (2009) type B2. One example of a mica-dusted reeded-rim (4A) bowl could be an Arun Valley fabric though mica-dusted wares have not previously been reported in this industry. Less local pottery includes examples of Verulamium region white ware, Baetican amphora and La Graufesenque samian. One example of a Dragendorff 18 platter and another of a 27 cup were recorded in the latter. Although, a relatively modest assemblage, the quantity of fine and table wares suggests an assemblage of slightly less rural character than some sites on the coastal plain. This probably reflects the site's proximity to Chichester and to Stane Street. The reasonably dense concentration of pottery in features in Trenches 7 and 8 also seems to indicate the likelihood of settlement activity to the north of the evaluated area.

6.4 The Ceramic Building Materials by Trista Clifford

A small assemblage of six fragments of Roman building materials weighing a total of 854g was recovered from two separate contexts. The ceramic building material (CBM) was recorded in full on pro forma sheets for archive and quantified by fabric, form, weight and fragment count. Fabrics were identified with the aid of a x20 binocular microscope. A single fabric was identified. Data from the *pro forma* recording sheets was entered onto a digital database and forms part of the archive. Samples of identified fabrics were retained.

Context [8A/007] contained a slightly curved fragment, possibly from an imbrex, in a well sorted fabric with medium to coarse grey/opaque quartz and coarse iron oxide inclusions. Three further abraded tile fragments in the same fabric are undiagnostic of form, but are probably tegula fragments. Lastly, this context also contained a fully vitrified fragment 32mm thick which could either be tegula or brick. A single tegula fragment with reduced surfaces came from [27/005]. The fabric is similar, with clear quartz and sparse calcareous inclusions.

6.5 The Fired Clay by Trista Clifford

A single fired clay fragment weighing 26g was recovered from [7/005]. The piece exhibits one flat surface but is otherwise undiagnostic of form and function.

6.6 The Ironwork by Trista Clifford

An iron rod weighing 82g was recovered from [8A/007]. The rod measures 143mm in length and appears to have a circular section. It is probably part of a tool, however x radiography is required to confirm this since the form is obscured by corrosion product.

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6.7 **The Geological Material** by Luke Barber

The evaluation recovered just two pieces of stone, neither of which show any signs of modification at the hand of man. Context [7/005] contained a weathered 422g fragment of light grey non-calcareous medium-grained Tertiary sandstone with some glauconitic grains. Context [25/005] produced an 8g fragment of weathered Lower Greensand chert. Both stone types are likely to have been locally available through natural geological processes.

6.8 **The Metallurgical Remains** by Luke Barber

Context [8/014] produced a typically orange-brown aerated piece of iron smithing slag (12g). A much larger assemblage of similar smithing slag was recovered from context [26/006]. This produced six pieces (454g) that are quite fresh, together with an additional three pieces (58g) of dull red fine sandy clay hearth lining with adhering fuel ash and undiagnostic iron slags. These are likely to derive from a smithing hearth. Certainly the assemblage suggests low-level smithing in the immediate area.

6.9 **The Animal Bone** by Gemma Ayton

A single fragment of medium-mammal sized long-bone was recovered from context [26/006]. The fragment is calcified, the specimen does not display evidence of butchery, burning, gnawing or pathology.

6.10 **Registered Finds** by Trista Clifford

A single coin (RF<1>) was recovered from [7/005]. The coin is an illegible copper alloy *dupondius* or *as* of 1st to 3rd century date. It is actively corroding and requires conservation in order to stabilise it for museum deposition; it may be possible to identify it to ruler following conservation.

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Context	Pottery	wt (g)	CBM	wt (g)	Bone	wt (g)	Flint	wt (g)	FCF	wt (g)	Stone	wt (g)	Iron	wt (g)	F Clay	wt (g)	Slag	wt (g)
7/005	24	156					2	47	3	34	1	422			1	26		
7/007	3	9							2	50								
8/014	1	9					1	5	2	122							1	12
8A/005	5	30																
8A/007	12	159	5	690			11	27					1	84				
8A/008	7	32																
20/005							1	3	1	48								
21/005									3	44								
24/005	1	2					1	18										
24/007	1	5					1	4	4	64								
25/005	8	68									1	10						
26/005	3	15							2	70								
26/006	29	203			1	2	2	8	2	50							10	518
27/005	5	76	1	164					3	286								
29/005	1	5							2	16								
29/007	16	56					5	26										
Total	116	825	6	854	1	2	24	138	24	784	2	432	1	84	1	26	11	530

Table 15: Overview of the finds assemblage

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7.0 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

7.1 Overview of stratigraphic sequence

7.1.1 The stratigraphy across the site was variable. The natural gravel with flints was located between 17.024m and 23.235m OD and was covered with between 0.10 and 0.36m of subsoil and 0.08 and 0.45m of topsoil. However in trenches 7, 8, 19, 31 and 33, some made-ground was also present, between 0.05 and 0.48m thick. The natural geology changed from gravel with flints in the north part of the site to brickearth in the trenches along the southern edge. Some colluvium was also recorded in the southern part of trench 26.

7.1.2 Three different areas that contained archaeology were identified: Trenches 7 and 8 in the north-east corner of the site contained three Roman ditches dated to the 1st to 2nd century AD. They were running east-west, although one of them turns at a right angle and heads north towards Roman Stane Street. There were also three post-medieval pits associated with the Works Compound.

7.1.3 Trenches 24, 25 and 29 contained two isolated Early Neolithic pits. There were also another two other pits and a terminus that contained material from the Neolithic or Bronze Age period but their fills, which were very similar, resembled those of other features on site that turned out to be tree boles.

7.1.4 Trenches 20, 21, 26 and 27 contained two linears, one of them of Late Iron Age to Roman date, running east-west, and another one running southwest to northeast that remains undated. There was also a deposit in the southern part of trench 26 which has been identified as colluvium.

7.2 Deposit survival and existing impacts

7.2.1 Preservation on site was good, with the archaeological deposits being sealed by subsoil in most cases (varying between 0.10 and 0.36m in thickness) and topsoil (between 0.08 and 0.45m thick). However, in trenches 7 and 8, the features were sealed by made-ground or demolition material, making them difficult to identify. Most features still produced good dating evidence and have been interpreted with confidence. It is worth noting that the south-east corner of the site was heavily truncated (there was no surviving subsoil and some made-ground was recorded) and no archaeological features were visible in trenches 28, 30, 31, 32, 33 and 34.

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7.3 Discussion of archaeological remains by period

Prehistoric

7.3.1 The two Early Neolithic pits found in trenches 25 and 29 are of particular interest, especially because remains of this period are quite rare along the coastal plains. Very few Early Neolithic houses have been identified and it has been said that houses of the period left little or no traces at all on the ground, and that therefore pits could be indicative of a settlement. In this case, the two pits found are very small in size (on average 0.55 by 0.45m. Both are 0.28m deep) and could easily be interpreted as postholes.

7.3.2 Both pits produced an interesting assemblage of finds, with in total 24 sherds of pottery (including some decorated sherds) and 16 pieces of flint (including flakes, blades and a serrated flake). It has been argued that objects are ritually deposited in Early Neolithic pits and that they reflect, perhaps, an important moment in time or the abandonment of a settlement (Garrow and Brück in Anderson-Whymark & Thomas 2012). It would certainly make sense in this case since the material recovered from these two pits comes from everyday vessels, yet these vessels were decorated and must have been of some importance to their owner. Pottery being quite rare, it must have been of value: most pottery was locally produced, on a small scale, and locally used (Russell 2002). In any case, Early Neolithic pits being some of the most common features of this period, it can be said that they must have been quite important to the people who dug them, perhaps as boundaries or as remains of settlements. It is also worth noting that their shape and the fact that they seem to have been promptly backfilled means they were probably not used as storage pits (Garrow in Anderson-Whymark & Thomas 2012).

7.3.3 The proximity of a causewayed enclosure at Saint Roche's Hill on the Trundle (Curwen 1931) may explain the presence of settlements or activity in this area. It is worth noting that Early Neolithic remains were also found at the nearby site of Claypit Lane.

Roman

7.3.4 Trenches 26 and 27 contained one linear and one layer of colluvium that contained finds dated to the Late Iron Age to Early Roman period. Ditch [26/004] and [27/004] was the most impressive feature on site, being on average 4m wide and 0.45m deep. It ran east-west and must have been an important land boundary, or perhaps even a hollow way. Since it runs parallel to the later Roman road, it is not impossible that it was its predecessor.

7.3.5 The layer of colluvium in the southern part of trench 26 also produced finds from the Late Iron Age – Early Roman period: 29 sherds of pottery, a flint blade and iron slag were recovered from context [26/006]. This layer of colluvium seems to have formed on the southern edge of the site which is on a slight slope. No features were cut in the colluvium and no features appeared underneath it either.

7.3.6 Trenches 7 and 8 contained three Roman ditches and in total four slots were dug through them. [7/004] runs northeast-southwest, parallel to the Roman

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road but then turns at a right angle and heads towards the road. It produced 24 sherds of pottery, dated from AD70 to AD120, as well as a coin, a copper alloy *dupondius* or *as* of 1st to 3rd century date. The second ditch, [7/006] also ran northeast-southwest and produced 3 sherds of pottery dating to between AD60 and AD150. The third ditch, [8/013] and [8A/004] ran parallel to the Roman road as well and produced 25 sherds of pottery dated to between AD40 and AD 150. Some CBM (imbrex and tegula fragments), an iron object (which could not be identified with certainty but could be a tool) and some residual flint were also present in this ditch.

7.3.7 It is not possible to say whether these ditches represent field boundaries or settlement boundaries. Some of the finds (such as samian pottery and other fine wares) lead us to believe that a Roman settlement must have existed close by.

7.3.8 Two different periods are thus represented: Late Iron Age to Early Roman in the southern part of the site, and 1st to 2nd century AD in the northern part of the site. The features identified probably relate to field boundaries, although they suggest there must have been a settlement nearby.

Post-Medieval

7.3.9 Three pits or postholes, [8/004], [8/006] and [8/008] were identified in trench 8. They contained modern demolition material and seem to have been associated with the works compound that occupied the site from the 1990's.

7.4 Consideration of research aims

7.4.1 Archaeological features of 3 different periods were identified and recorded.

7.4.2 The area around trenches 24, 25 and 29 revealed Early Neolithic activity while the southern part of the site, around trenches 20, 21, 26 and 27, contains Late Iron Age to Roman ditches and the northern part of the site, around trenches 7 and 8, contains Roman ditches.

7.5 Conclusions

7.5.1 The most significant features identified on the site date back to the Early Neolithic and to the Roman period.

7.5.2 Although the Early Neolithic pits seem to be isolated, they contained a fair quantity of pottery and even some decorated sherds, which are rare, and even more so on non-monumental sites. Other Early Neolithic features are noted on a nearby site in Claypit Lane and there is the causewayed enclosure at Saint Roche's Hill on the Trundle, so it seems probable that settlement existed close-by.

7.5.3 The Late Iron Age and/or Roman ditches in the northern and southern parts of the site probably relate to field boundaries although one of these ditches, [26/004] and [27/004] may be a hollow way. Finds from the ditches in the northern part of the site may suggest that roadside settlement existed nearby and included some finer pottery wares, ceramic building material and a coin.

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

ASE would like to thank CgMs for commissioning the work and for their assistance throughout the project, and James Kenny from Chichester District Council for his guidance. Nathalie Gonzalez and Justin Russell produced the figures for this report. The project was managed by Darryl Palmer (fieldwork) and by Jim Stevenson and Dan Swift (post-excavation).

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HER Summary

Site Code	MNW15					
Identification Name and Address	Maudlin Nursery, Stane Street, Westhampnett, West Sussex					
County, District &/or Borough	West Sussex					
OS Grid Refs.	SU 884 062					
Geology	Upper Chalk – Raised Storm Beach – Head Gravel					
Arch. South-East Project Number	7379					
Type of Fieldwork	Eval.					
Type of Site	Green Field					
Dates of Fieldwork	Eval. 10/03/2015					
Sponsor/Client	CgMs					
Project Manager	Darryl Palmer					
Project Supervisor	Odile Rouard					
Period Summary	Early Neolithic	Late Iron Age	Roman			

Summary

Archaeology South-East was commissioned by CgMs to undertake an archaeological evaluation at Maudlin Nursery, Stane Street, Westhampnett, West Sussex. Thirty-two trenches were mechanically excavated at the site and features were identified in nine of them. Fourteen features were investigated variously producing material of Early Neolithic to Bronze Age, Late Iron Age to Roman and post-medieval date.

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OASIS Form

OASIS ID: archaeol6-208192

Project details

Project name	Maudlin Nursery Westhampnett
Short description of the project	Archaeology South-East was commissioned by CgMs to undertake an archaeological evaluation at Maudlin Nursery, Stane Street, Westhampnett, West Sussex. Thirty-two trenches were mechanically excavated at the site and features were identified in nine of them. Fourteen features were investigated variously producing material of Early Neolithic to Bronze Age, Late Iron Age to Roman and post-medieval date.
Project dates	Start: 10-03-2015 End: 18-03-2015
Previous/future work	No / No
Any associated project reference codes	7379 - Contracting Unit No.
Any associated project reference codes	MNW15 - Sitecode
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Current Land use	Industry and Commerce 4 - Storage and warehousing
Monument type	PIT Early Neolithic
Monument type	FIELD SYSTEM Roman
Significant Finds	POT Early Neolithic
Significant Finds	POT Roman
Significant Finds	COIN Roman
Methods & techniques	''Sample Trenches''
Development type	Rural residential
Prompt	Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPS
Position in the planning process	Not known / Not recorded

Project location

Country	England
Site location	WEST SUSSEX CHICHESTER WESTHAMPNETT Maudlin Nursery

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Postcode	PO18 0RN
Study area	6.00 Hectares
Site coordinates	SU 884 062 50.8479962944 -0.74415270598 50 50 52 N 000 44 38 W Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 17.00m Max: 23.00m

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Archaeology South East
Project brief originator	CgMs Consulting
Project design originator	Chichester District Council
Project director/manager	Darryl Palmer
Project supervisor	Odile Rouard
Type of sponsor/funding body	Berkeley Homes (Southern) Ltd

Project archives

Physical Archive recipient	Chichester Museum
Physical Contents	"Ceramics","Metal","Worked stone/lithics"
Digital Archive recipient	Chichester Museum
Digital Contents	"Ceramics","Metal","Stratigraphic","Worked stone/lithics"
Digital Media available	"Text"
Paper Archive recipient	Chichester Museum
Paper Contents	"Ceramics","Metal","Stratigraphic","Worked stone/lithics"
Paper Media available	"Context sheet","Drawing","Photograph","Plan","Report","Section","Survey "

Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	An Archaeological Evaluation at Maudling Nursery, Stane Street, Westhampnett

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Author(s)/Editor(s)	Rouard, O.
Other bibliographic details	2015087
Date	2015
Issuer or publisher	Archaeology South-East
Place of issue or publication	Portslade
Entered by	Odile Rouard (o.rouard@ucl.ac.uk)
Entered on	7 April 2015

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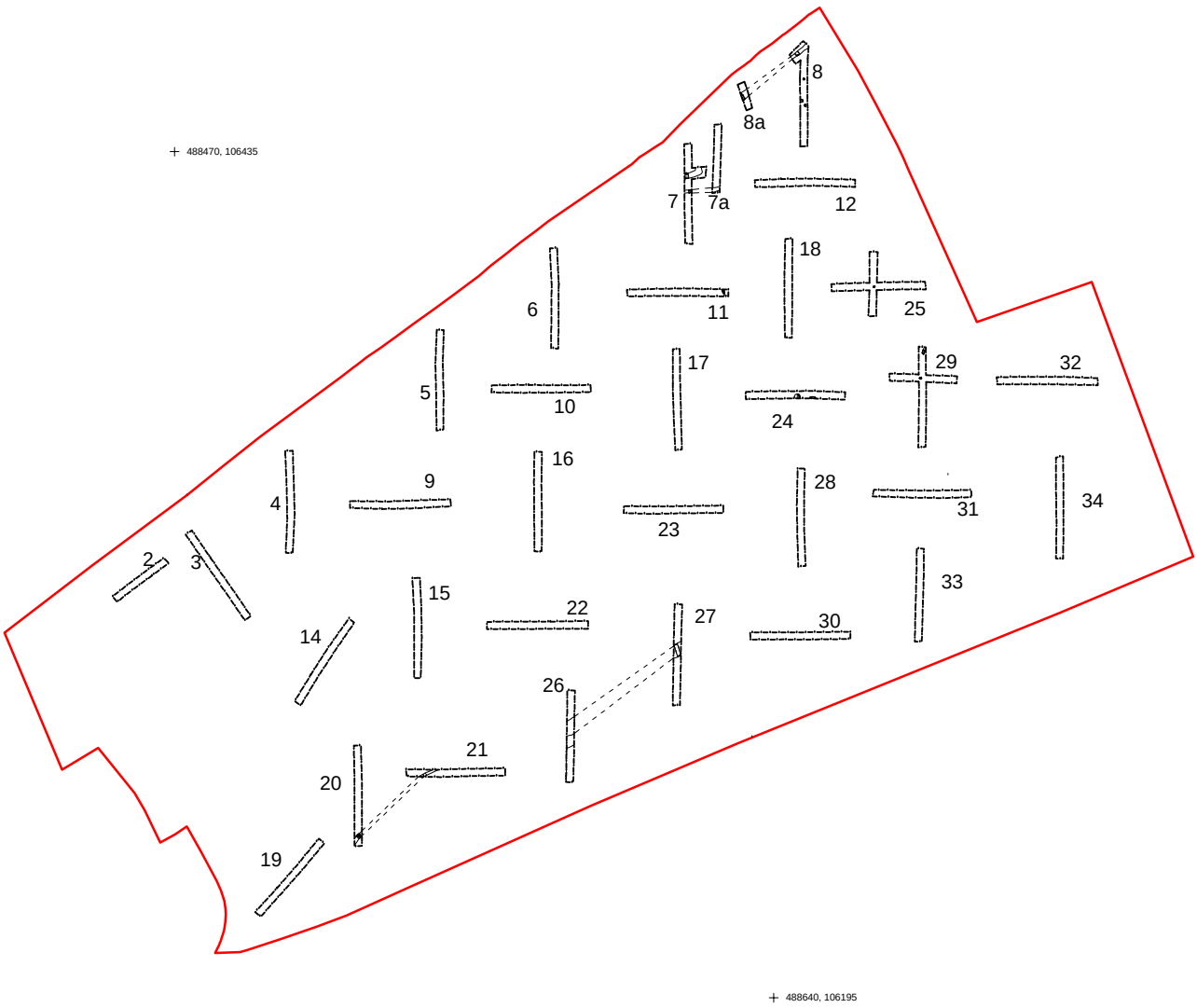
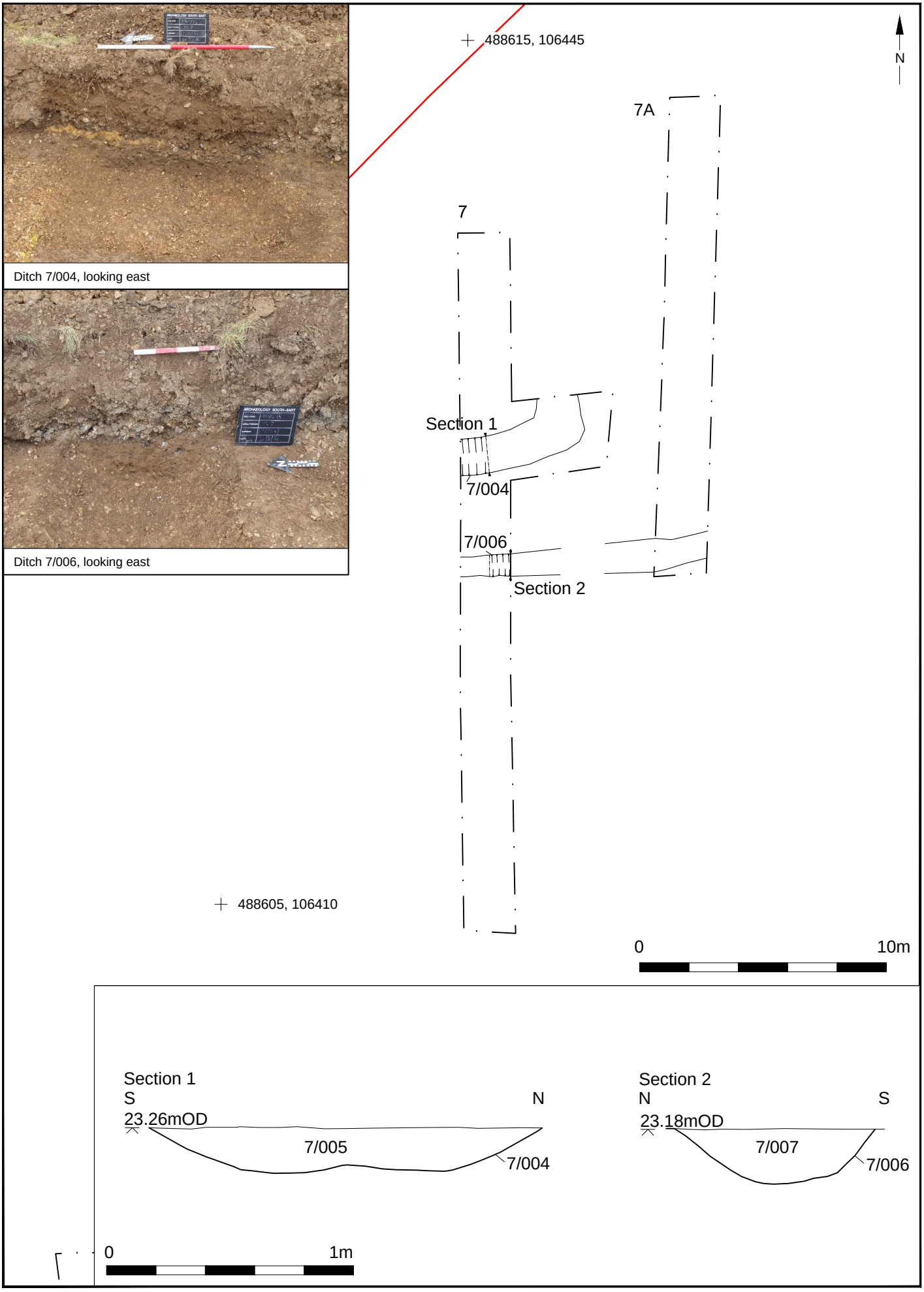
© Archaeology South-East		Westhampnett, Land at Maudlin Nursery	Fig. 1
Project Ref: 7379	March 2015	Site location	
Report Ref: 2015087	Drawn by: NG		



© Archaeology South-East		Westhampnett, Land at Maudlin Nursery	Fig.2
Project Ref: 7379	March 2015	Trench Location	
Report Ref: 2015087	Drawn by: NG		

Ditch 7/004, looking east

Ditch 7/006, looking east



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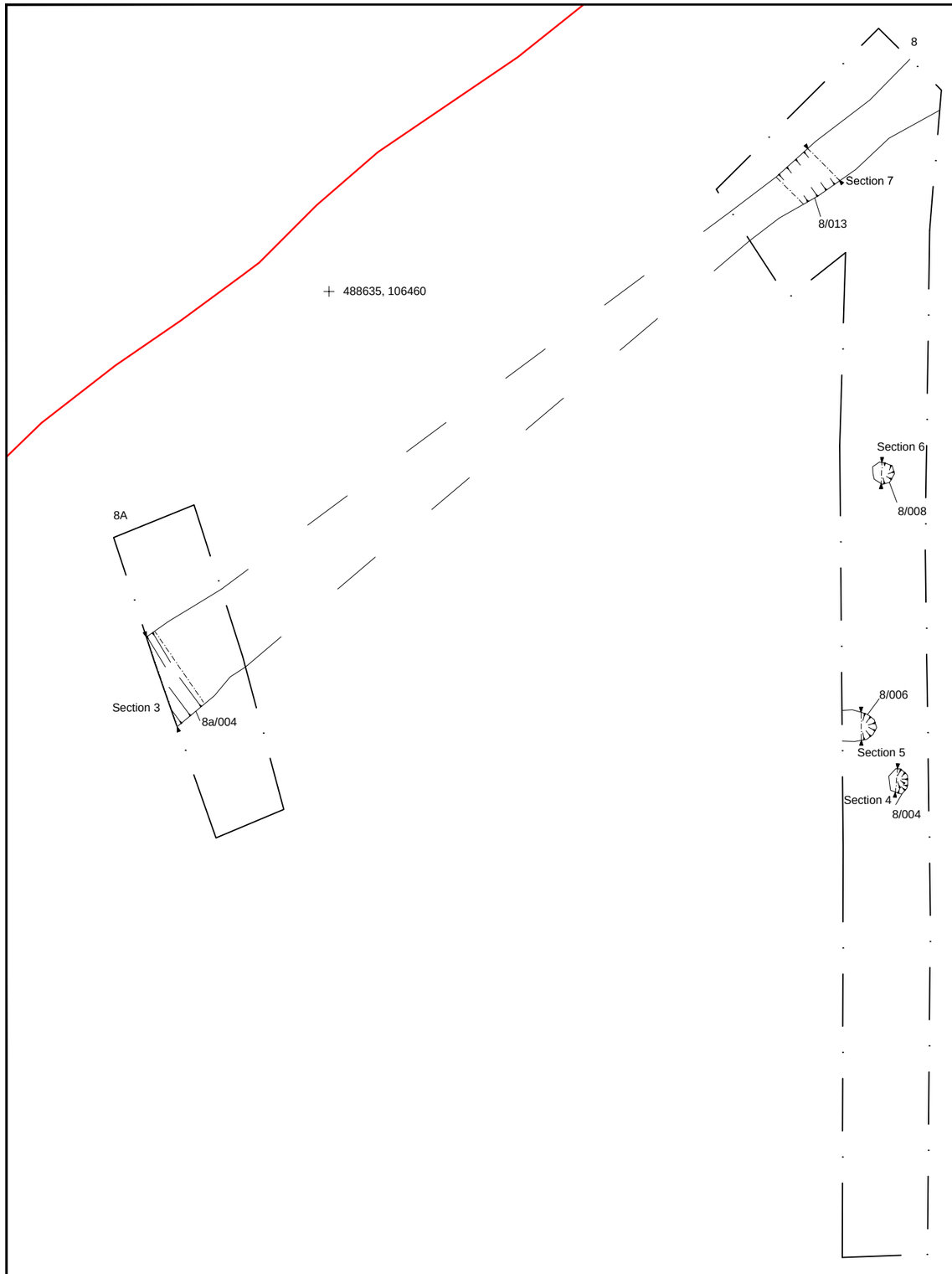
Project Ref: 7379	March 2015	Trench 7 and 7A and sections	
Report Ref: 2015087	Drawn by: NG		



Ditch 8/013, looking east

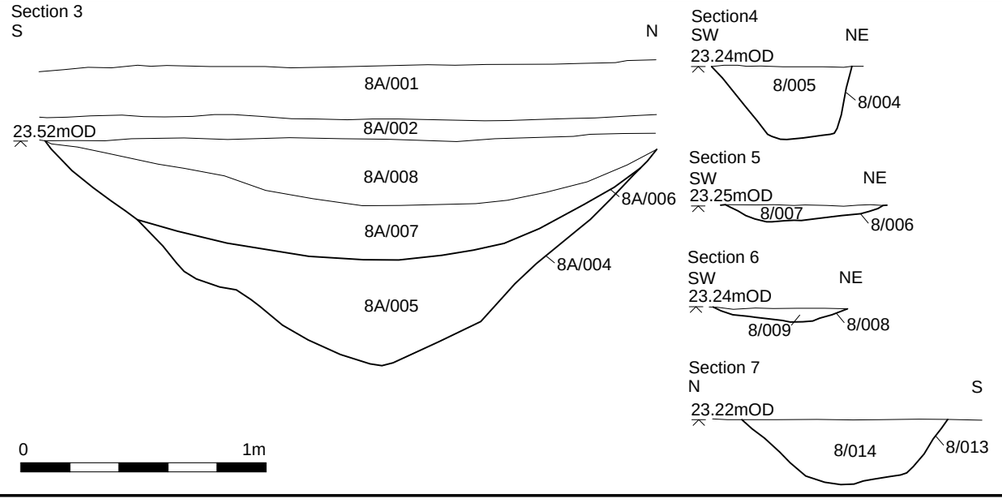
Pit 8/008, looking north east

Pit 8/004, looking north east

Pit 8/006, looking north east

Ditch 8A/004, looking west

488655, 106445



© Archaeology South-East		Westhampnett, Land at Maudlin Nursery	Fig.4
Project Ref: 7379	March 2015	Trench 8 and 8A and sections	
Report Ref: 2015087	Drawn by: NG		

N

488520, 106270

Ditch 20/004, looking north east

488540, 106245

Section 8
20/004

Section 8

NW SE

18.54mOD

20/005

20/004

0 10m

0 1m

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Project Ref: 7379	March 2015	Trench 20 and section	
Report Ref: 2015087	Drawn by: NG		

Ditch 21/004, looking south west

N

488555, 106275

Section 9

21/004

488540, 106245

0 10m

Section 9

SE NW

18.95mOD

21/005

21/004

0 1m

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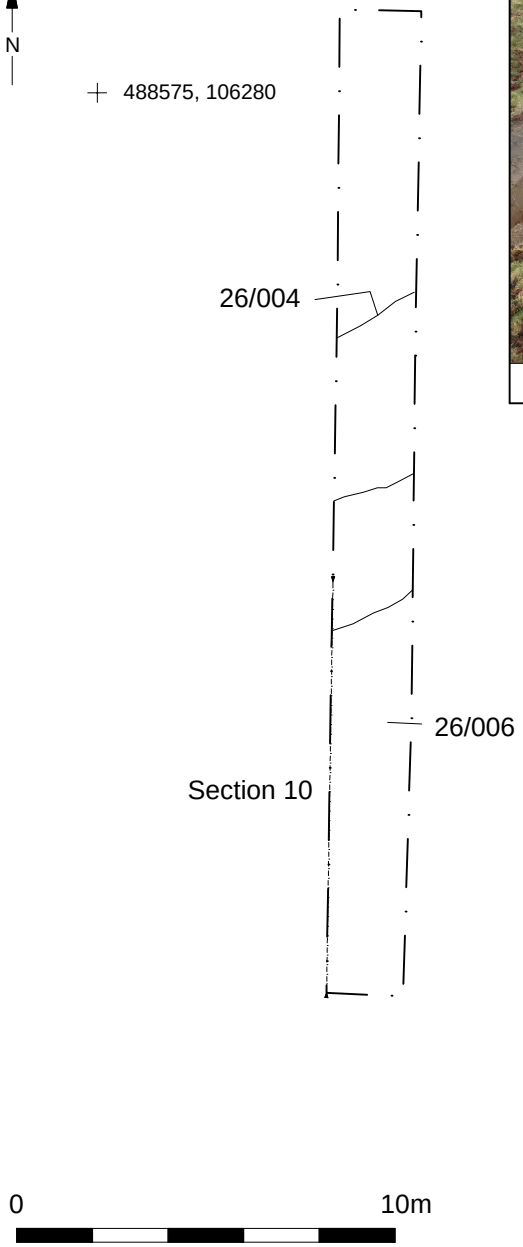
Project Ref: 7379	March 2015	Trench 21 and section	
Report Ref: 2015087	Drawn by: NG		

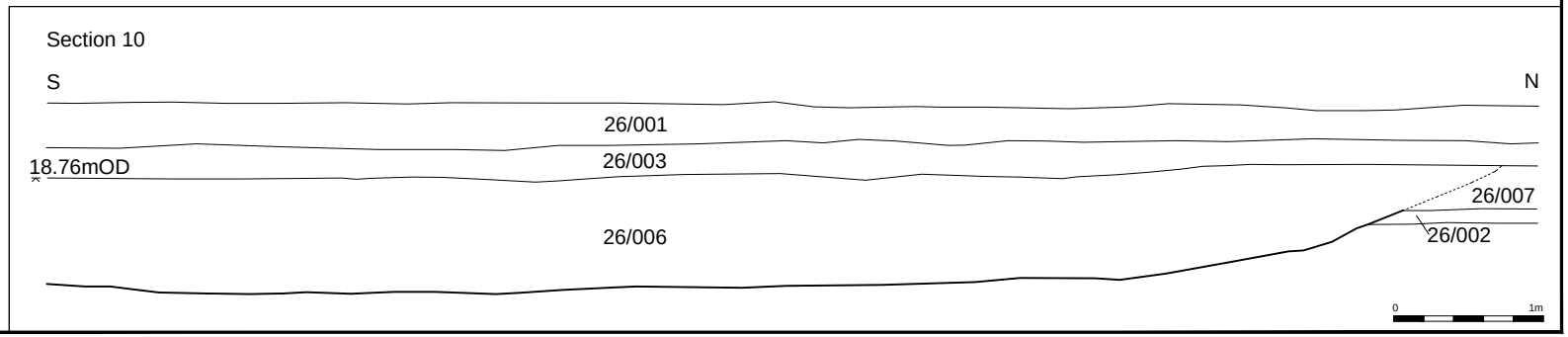


Section 10 part 1, looking west

Section 10 part 2, looking west

Section 10 part 3, looking west

488615, 106260



© **Archaeology South-East**		Westhampnett, Land at Maudlin Nursery	Fig.7
Project Ref: 7379	March 2015	Trench 26 and section	
Report Ref: 2015087	Drawn by: NG		

N

488605, 106300

Section 11

27/004

Ditch 27/004 , looking east

488620, 106280

0 10m

Section 11

N S

19.58mOD

27/005

27/004

0 1m

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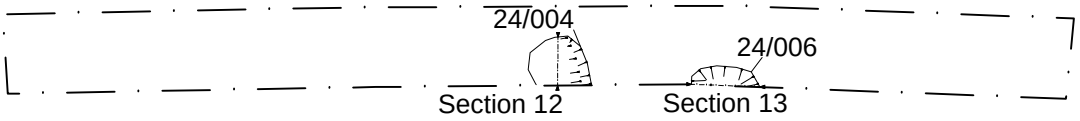
Project Ref: 7379	March 2015	Trench 27 and section	
Report Ref: 2015087	Drawn by: NG		

N

488635, 106375

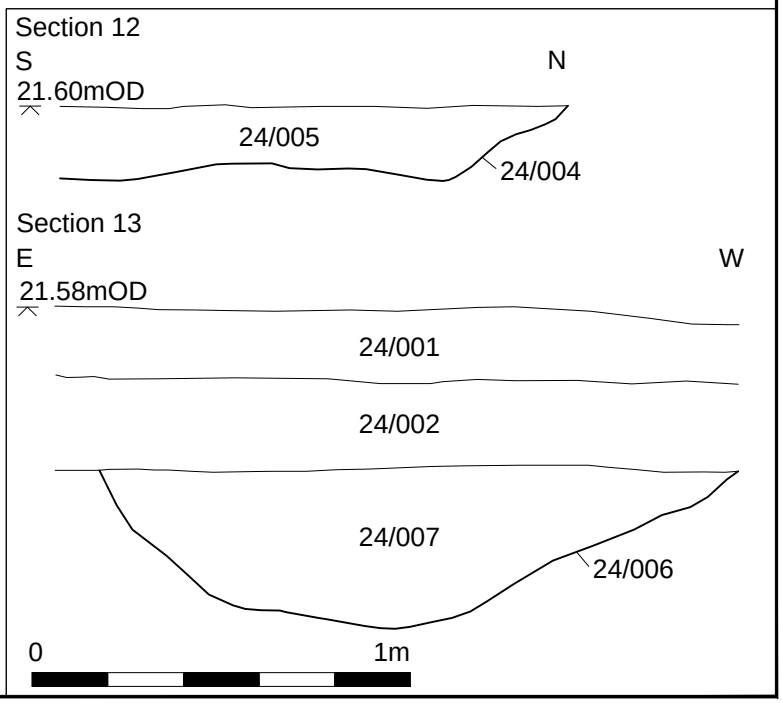


488650, 106355

Feature 24/004, looking west

Feature 24/006, looking south

0 10m



© Archaeology South-East		Westhampnett, Land at Maudlin Nursery	Fig.9
Project Ref: 7379	March 2015	Trench 24 and sections	
Report Ref: 2015087	Drawn by: NG		

N

488655, 106410

Section 14

25/004

Pit 25/004, looking east

488670, 106385

0 10m

Section 14

N S

22.35mOD

25/005

25/004

0 1m

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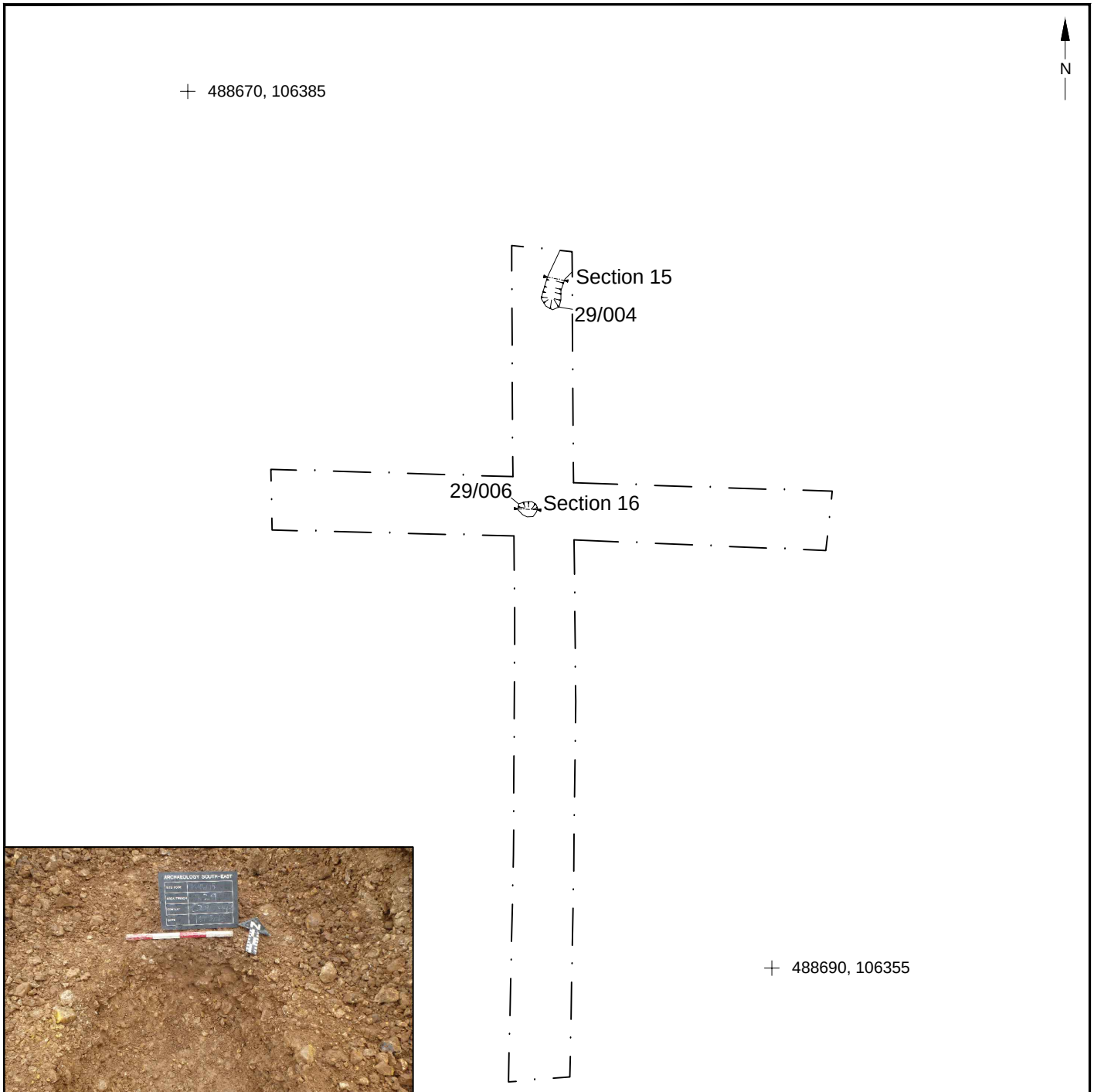
Project Ref: 7379	March 2015	Trench 25 and section	
Report Ref: 2015087	Drawn by: NG		



Ditch 29/004, looking north

Pit 29/006, looking south

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Project Ref: 7379	March 2015	Trench 29 and sections	
Report Ref: 2015087	Drawn by: NG		

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