

**Archaeological Evaluation Report  
Land at Dittons Road,  
Stone Cross, East Sussex**

**NGR 561130 104570  
(TQ 61130 04570)**

**Planning Reference: WD/2012/2583/MAO**

**ASE Project No: 6841  
Site Code: DIT 15**

**ASE Report No: 2015148  
OASIS ID: archaeol6-210441**

**By Simon Stevens BA (Hons) MCIfA**

**With contributions by  
Karine Le Hégarat, Anna Doherty, Luke Barber  
and Elke Raemen**

**May 2015**

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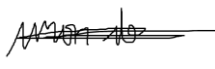

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**Abstract**

*Thirty five trenches, each measuring 1.8m wide and 30m long were mechanically excavated during an archaeological evaluation at Dittons Road, Stone Cross, East Sussex.*

*Some limited archaeological remains were identified, excavated and recorded in three of the trenches. None of the archaeological features were closely datable.*

*A small assemblage of unstratified artefacts was recovered from the overburden in some of the trenches. This included prehistoric flintwork, highly abraded Late Iron Age/Romano-British pottery and post-medieval material.*

## **CONTENTS**

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

**Bibliography**  
**Acknowledgements**

**Appendix 1: Archaeologically Negative Trenches, list of contexts**

**HER Summary**  
**OASIS Form**

## **TABLES**

- Table 1: Quantification of site archive
- Table 2: Trench 5 list of recorded contexts
- Table 3: Trench 14 list of recorded contexts
- Table 4: Trench 40 list of recorded contexts
- Table 5: Quantification of the finds
- Table 6: Finds archive quantification

## **FIGURES**

- Figure 1: Site location
- Figure 2: Trench location
- Figure 3: Trench 5 - plan, section and photographs
- Figure 4: Trench 14 - plan, section and photographs
- Figure 5: Trench 40 - plan, sections and photographs

## **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 Ltd. on behalf of their client Taylor Wimpey Strategic Land to undertake an archaeological evaluation on land at Dittons Road, Stone Cross, East Sussex (NGR 561130 104570) (Figure 1).

### **1.2 Geology and Topography**

1.2.1 The c.4.6ha site lies on the north side of Dittons Road to the west of the village of Stone Cross. It is bounded to the north by the carriageway of the A27, to the west by woodland and to the south-west and west by properties fronting onto Barn Close and St. Michaels Close and further woodland.

1.2.2 Dittons Road runs along a noticeable ridge and the site displays a slope downhill from this feature, which lies at a height of c.28mAOD, down towards the lower-lying land to the north; the height at the northern edge of the site is c.13mAOD. The slope is more marked in the western half of the site.

1.2.3 According to current data from the British Geological Survey, the underlying bedrock is Weald Clay. There are no recorded superficial deposits (BGS 2015).

### **1.3 Planning Background**

1.3.1 Planning permission for a residential development at the site has been granted by Wealden District Council (planning ref. WD/2012/2583/MAO). Following discussions between CgMs Consulting Ltd. and Greg Chuter, Assistant County Archaeologist, East Sussex County Council (ESCC), and based on the information contained in an archaeological desk based assessment (DBA) completed in 2012 (CgMs 2012), ESCC (acting in their capacity as archaeological advisers to the Local Planning Authority, Wealden District Council) has recommended that a condition relating to archaeology should be attached to the planning consent.

*“No development shall take place until the applicant has secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological works in accordance with a written scheme of investigation which has been submitted by the applicant and approved by the Local Planning Authority. A written record of any archaeological works undertaken shall be submitted to the Local Planning Authority within 3 months of the completion of any archaeological investigation unless an alternative timescale for submission of the report is first agreed in writing with the Local Planning Authority. AR01”*

*“REASON: To enable the recording of any items of historical or archaeological interest, in*

*accordance with Policy BE12 of the Non Statutory Wealden Local Plan, coupled with the requirements of paragraphs 129, 131 and 132 of the National Planning Policy Framework 2012.”*

- 1.3.2 A *Written Scheme of Investigation* (WSI) was produced by ASE in 2014 outlining the methodology to be used to archaeologically evaluate the site in advance of development, in this case by mechanically excavated trial trenches. Procedures to be used in recording, reporting and archiving of results were provided (ASE 2014).

## 1.4 Research Aims and Objectives

1.4.1 The research aims given in the WSI (*ibid.*) were to ascertain:

- *Whether archaeological remains are present on the site and if so assess the date, survival and condition of said remains.*
- *The character date and quality of ancient remains and deposits.*
- *Assess how they might be affected by the proposed works on the site*
- *What options should be considered for mitigation*

1.4.2 The site specific aims of the archaeological investigation were to:

- *Establish whether spreads of prehistoric flintwork and pottery seen elsewhere in the locale extend into the site*
- *Ascertain if the spreads of pottery and flintwork are associated with any buried archaeological features*
- *Establish if any elements of a roadside Romano-British settlement like those found at Winfield Farm and the Bluebells Development in Polegate survive at the current site*
- *Attempt to closely date any such remains to ascertain if the farmsteads were occupied at the same time, or offer evidence of shifting settlement through time on the axis of the established routeway.*
- *Ascertain if there was any significant industrial element to the occupation (cf. possible saltworking at the Bluebells Development)?*
- *Assess the character and state of preservation of any First World War practise trenches encountered at the site*

## 1.5 Scope of Report

1.5.1 This report details the results of the archaeological evaluation of the site by trial trenching undertaken during April 2015. The archaeological work was undertaken by a team from ASE comprising Simon Stevens (Senior Archaeologist), Jonathan Hunter, Charli Mansfield, Lucy May, Jake Wilson, (Assistant Archaeologists), and Vasilis Tsamis (Archaeological Surveyor). The project was managed by and Paul Mason (Fieldwork Manager) and by Jim Stevenson (Post-excavation Manager).

## **2.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND**

### **2.1 The Desk Based Assessment**

2.1.1 The DBA (CgMs 2012) provides a comprehensive account of the known archaeological potential and historic development of the site and its environs. The East Sussex County Council Historic Environment Record (HER) was consulted and all known sites and find-spots within a 1km radius of the site are included below. The following section is mostly taken from the DBA (*ibid.*) with due acknowledgement.

### **2.2 Prehistoric**

2.2.1 No certain finds of Palaeolithic material are recorded within a 1km radius of the study site. A Mesolithic 'pick' is recorded from south of Pellings Manor, Hankham, Westham (HER Ref: MES19849; TQ 617 048). Small quantities of Mesolithic and Neolithic flintwork including a Mesolithic core and Neolithic arrowhead were recovered from the Polegate section of the A22 during archaeological monitoring work (HER Ref: EES9625; TQ 603 039). A 'flint implement' is recorded from Hankham, but the precise form and date of this is unknown (HER Ref: MES5045; TQ 6305).

2.2.2 The archaeological monitoring of the construction of the Polegate section of the A22 recorded eight sherds of Bronze Age pottery (HER Ref: EES 9625; TQ 603 059). An Early Bronze Age 'votive' axe is recorded from the area of Jubilee Farm, Hankham (MES20145; TQ 6173 0552). On the wetlands south of the study site extensive evidence for Neolithic and Bronze Age trackways has been identified (HER 4753; TQ 5329 0816, also HER Ref; EES 9250; TQ 61700 04600 and HER Ref: MES5058; TQ 5860 0323).

2.2.3 The DBA concluded that the potential for the identification of prehistoric archaeological features was moderate.

### **2.3 Romano-British**

2.3.1 The route of Dittons Road immediately south of the current site follows a Roman Road alignment along the higher ground between the marshland to the south and north (HER Ref: MES 4753; TQ 5329 0816, also HER Ref; EES 9250; TQ 61700 04600 and HER Ref: MES5058; TQ 5860 0323).

2.3.2 Recent archaeological work to the north of Dittons Road as it passes through Polegate at the Bluebells Development, c.2km to the west of the current site revealed the presence of Late Iron Age/Early Romano-British farmstead and associated field systems (ASE 2011).

2.3.3 A possible Roman settlement site is recorded at Jubilee Farm, Hankham represented by a scatter of Roman tile and artefacts together with third century coins recovered as metal detecting finds (HER Ref: MES 20144; TQ 61726 05476).

2.3.4 In addition, recent geophysical surveys to the east have identified significant prehistoric/Roman/ medieval features including field systems and settlement areas. Based on these results, it was thought likely the Pevensy to Arlington



Roman road went straight through the current site (Greg Chuter *pers. comm.*)

- 2.3.5 The DBA concluded that the potential for the identification of Romano-British archaeological features was moderate to high

## **2.4 Anglo-Saxon**

- 2.4.1 An eleventh century lead coffin is referenced in the East Sussex HER at Winford Farm, Polegate, but no other details appear available (HER Ref: MES 4534; TQ 5977 0483). Middle Saxon features were identified during the recent archaeological work to the north of Dittons Road in Polegate (*ibid.*).

- 2.4.2 The DBA concluded that the potential for the identification of Anglo-Saxon archaeological features was low.

## **2.5 Medieval and Post-medieval**

- 2.5.1 During these periods the current site was agricultural land at the western edge of the Hamlet of Stone Cross. This is how the site is represented in the Gardner and Gream's map of 1795, the Ordnance Survey map of 1789, the Ordnance Survey map of 1813 and Greenwood's map of 1825.

- 2.5.2 The Tithe map of 1839 records the western half of the site as woodland and the eastern half of the site as a 'yard' to a barn complex south of the southern boundary of the study site. The Ordnance Survey map of 1873 shows the study site as agricultural land and this is how the study site is shown in subsequent Ordnance Survey maps of 1898, 1908, 1925, 1937, 1962 and 2012.

- 2.5.3 The remains of a medieval farmstead were excavated at the western end of the Polegate Bypass, some 3km from the current site (Stevens 2007).

- 2.5.4 However, considerably closer to the site, First World War practice trenches have been identified from aerial photographs immediately to the west. Limited excavation was undertaken in 2000 (Brown 2000).

- 2.5.5 The DBA concluded that the potential for the identification of High Medieval and Post-Medieval archaeological features was low. Nevertheless, the possibility that the practise trenches extended into the current site could not be discounted.

## **2.6 Listed Buildings**

- 2.6.1 In addition, a small number of listed buildings are recorded with a 1km radius of the site:

*Corner Cottage*, Foords Lane, Hankham  
Grade II (DES 5571; TQ 61862 05276)

*Peelings*, Hankham Road, Hankham  
Grade II (DES 5573; TQ 61827 04968)

*Stone Cross Windmill*, Windmill Green, Stone Cross

Grade II (DES 5577; TQ 61963 04316)

*The Dog House*, Hankham Road, Hankham  
Grade II (DES 4972; TQ 61922 05547)

*The White House*, Hankham Road, Hankham  
Grade II (DES 4971; TQ 61531 04731)

### 3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY

#### 3.1 Fieldwork Methodology (Figure 2)

- 3.1.1 Forty evaluation trenches, each measuring 30m by 1.8m were proposed to provide a 5% sample of the 4.6ha site (ASE 2014). In the event, three of the trenches (T33, T34 and T37) could not be excavated owing to the presence of a buried high pressure gas main.. Another trench could not be excavated as it passed through ecologically sensitive undergrowth (T31), and another could not be dug due to the presence of the site compound (T30). There were also minor alterations to the position of trenches to avoid ecologically sensitive areas subject to Tree Preservation Orders.
- 3.1.2 Mechanical excavation, under archaeological supervision, using a flat-bladed bucket was taken in small spits down to the top of natural geological deposits, or to the top of any recognisable archaeological deposits, whichever was the higher. Care was taken not to damage archaeological deposits through excessive use of mechanical excavation. Revealed surfaces of the natural geology were manually cleaned to identify archaeological features. Spoil was scanned for the presence of artefacts, both visually and with a metal detector.
- 3.1.3 All encountered archaeological deposits, features and finds were collected, sampled and recorded to accepted professional standards (ESCC 2015) using standard Archaeology South-East recording forms.
- 3.1.4 The trenches and all features were planned using digital survey technology. Sections were hand-drawn at a scale of 1:10. A digital photographic record was maintained of all excavated features and of the site in general.

#### 3.2 Archive

- 3.2.1 The site archive is currently held at the offices of ASE and will be deposited with Eastbourne Museum in due course (accession number: ELHAMS 2015.124). The contents of the archive are tabulated below (Table 1).

Number of Contexts	106
No. of files/paper record	1
Plan and sections sheets	1
Colour photographs	-
B&W photos	-
Digital photos	58 images
Permatrace sheets	1
Trench Record Forms	36
Artefacts	0.10 box

Table 1: Quantification of site archive

- 3.3.2 A county-wide policy of selection and retention of archaeological finds is currently under review by the Sussex Archaeological Museum Group working party. Once the policy is agreed and in place, it will be implemented by Archaeology South-East. The finds archive will be revised in accordance with this policy in the event that it is implemented before deposition of the archive occurs.

## 4.0 RESULTS

### 4.1 Introduction

4.1.1 Archaeological features were identified in three of the thirty five completed evaluation trenches. Small assemblages of artefacts were recovered from the overburden in the some of the trenches.

### 4.2 Trench 5 (Figure 3)

Context	Type	Description	Max. Length m	Max. Width m	Deposit Thickness m	Height mAOD
5/001	Layer	Topsoil	Trench	Trench	0.21 - 0.26	12.23 - 13.63
5/002	Layer	Subsoil	Trench	Trench	0.17 - 0.23	
5/003	Layer	'Natural'	Trench	Trench	-	11.87 - 13.17
5/004	Cut	Gully	-	0.51	0.23	-
5/005	Fill	Gully		0.51	0.23	12.47 - 12.48

Table 2: Trench 5 list of recorded contexts

4.2.1 The stratigraphic sequence recorded in Trench 5 (and in the majority of trenches excavated at the site) was straightforward and consisted of a layer of mid-brown silty clay topsoil, context [5/001], which overlay a deposit of a mid- greyish brown clayey silt subsoil, context [5/002], which directly overlay the 'natural' brownish orange/yellowish orange stiff clay [5/003].

4.2.2 A single feature was encountered. Cut [5/004] was a shallow irregular gully which ran from east to west across the trench. The only fill was a greyish brown silty clay, context [5/005] from which no datable artefacts were recovered.

### 4.3 Trench 14 (Figure 4)

Context	Type	Description	Max. Length m	Max. Width m	Deposit Thickness m	Height mAOD
14/001	Layer	Topsoil	Trench	Trench	0.18 - 0.23	16.77 - 17.55
14/002	Layer	Subsoil	Trench	Trench	0.12 - 0.27	
14/003	Layer	'Natural'	Trench	Trench	-	16.40 - 17.05
14/004	Cut	Gully	-	0.98	0.08	
14/005	Fill	Gully	-	0.98	0.08	17.05 - 17.09

Table 3: Trench 14 list of recorded contexts

4.3.1 The stratigraphic sequence was the same as that recorded in Trench 5. Again a single feature was encountered. Cut [14/004] was highly irregular in shape and profile and appeared to be a tree throw. The only fill was context [14/005], an orangey grey clay. No datable material was recovered from the feature.

#### 4.4 Trench 40 (Figure 5)

Context	Type	Description	Max. Length m	Max. Width m	Deposit Thickness m	Height mAOD
40/001	Layer	Topsoil	Trench	Trench	0.21 - 0.31	23.90 - 24.31
40/002	Layer	Subsoil	Trench	Trench	0.10 - 0.18	
40/003	Layer	'Natural'	Trench	Trench	-	23.70 - 23.92
40/004	Cut	Gully	-	1.19	0.29	
40/005	Fill	Gully	-	1.19	0.29	23.92 - 23.95
40/006	Cut	Gully	-	0.82	0.13	
40/007	Fill	Gully	-	0.82	0.13	23.91 - 23.92

Table 4: Trench 40 list of recorded contexts

- 4.4.1 The stratigraphic sequence was the same as that seen in Trenches 5 and 14. Two archaeological features were identified; a pair of broadly flat-bottomed parallel gullies running from north to south, encountered near the western end of the trench.
- 4.4.2 The widest of the features was cut [40/004]. The single fill was context [40/005], a greyish brown silty clay, from which small fragments of fired clay were recovered. The other feature was cut [40/006]. The only fill was context [40/007], a mid-greyish brown silty clay. Again the only finds were small fragments of fired clay.

#### 4.5 Other Trenches (Appendix 1)

- 4.5.1 The remainder of the trenches (1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38 and 39) contained no archaeological deposits or features. The stratigraphic sequence and character of the deposits was on the whole similar to that found in Trench 5 (i.e. topsoil over subsoil over 'natural'), although the subsoil was not present in all of the trenches, and was intermittent in others.
- 4.5.2 The thickness of topsoil varied between 100mm and 470mm. The subsoil was often intermittent and had a maximum thickness of 450mm. Thicknesses of the overburden deposits are tabulated in Appendix 1 at the end of this report. Small assemblages of artefacts were recovered from the overburden and are tabulated and described below (5.0).

## 5.0 THE FINDS

### 5.1 Introduction by Elke Raemen

5.1.1 A small assemblage of finds was recovered during the evaluation on land at Dittons Road, Stone Cross. Finds were all washed and dried or air dried as appropriate. They were subsequently quantified by count and weight and bagged by material and context (Table 5). Finds were all packed and stored according to ClfA guidelines (ClfA 2013) (Table 6).

Context	Pottery	Wt (g)	CBM	Wt (g)	Flint	Wt (g)	FCF	Wt (g)	Fe	Wt (g)	Glass	Wt (g)	F Clay	Wt (g)
4/001			1	22	2	19	1	66						
5/001			2	254										
9/001	1	16									1	10		
11/002	2	3											6	42
15/001							1	80						
19/001									7	649				
21/001			1	390	1	30					1	8		
23/001	2	22												
25/001			1	8	1	2			2	6				
26/001													1	8
27/001	1	2	1	12										
35/001					1	21								
38/001	4	10	4	64	2	27	1	6						
38/001	6	<2												
39/001			5	144										
40/001			3	168										
40/005													1	34
40/007													3	3
<b>Total</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>1062</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>99</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>152</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>655</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>87</b>

Table 5: Quantification of the finds

Finds	Quantity
Bulk finds boxes (450mm x 240mm x 220mm)	0.10

Table 6: Finds archive quantification

### 5.2 The Flintwork by Karine Le Hégarat

5.2.1 A total of seven pieces of struck flint weighing 99g and three pieces of burnt unworked flint (152g) were recovered through hand collection during the evaluation. All the pieces of struck flint came from topsoil deposits. No concentration was observed with the flintwork originating from five trenches (Trenches 4, 21, 25, 35 and 38). The small assemblage consists of seven flakes one of which from context [35/001] displaying partial retouch.

5.2.2 The raw material selected for the production of the flints is characterised by

chalk-derived flint. The condition of the flintwork is variable, with surface rolling and edge-damage associated with successive deposition noted on several pieces. All the artefacts were recorded as broken, and even based on technological grounds, no pieces can be closely dated.

### **5.3 The Late Iron Age/Roman Pottery** by Anna Doherty

5.3.1 Eleven sherds of grog-tempered pottery, weighing 13g were recovered during the evaluation, from overburden contexts [11/002], [27/001] and [38/001]. All are undiagnostic bodysherds and, since grog-tempered wares were common in East Sussex throughout the Late Iron Age and Roman periods, the pottery cannot be narrowed down in date within this c.500 year period.

### **5.4 The Post-Roman Pottery** by Luke Barber

5.4.1 The evaluation recovered a very small assemblage of post-Roman pottery, all of which is of late post-medieval date. The earliest material was recovered from [38/001] and consists of a 1g sherd of pearlware and a 2g sherd from a yellow ware bowl with blue annular industrially slipped lines. Both can be placed in the first half of the 19th century. Although small, these two sherds are not particularly abraded suggesting only limited reworking. The same deposit produced an 8g sherd from an early 20th- century refined whiteware bowl and a piece of modern plastic.

5.4.2 Context [23/001] produced a further sherd of early 20th- century refined whiteware, this time from a plate with brown rim-edge line. The same context also produced the rim of a similarly dated English stoneware preserve jar with grey Bristol glaze. The last sherd was recovered from [9/001] and consists of a 16g fragment from a 20th- century mould-made flower pot in unglazed earthenware.

5.4.3 The post-Roman pottery from the site consists of a small, unstratified group composed of common industrially produced wares of the late post-medieval period. They do not hold any potential for further analysis and have been discarded.

### **5.5 The Ceramic Building Material** by Elke Raemen

5.5.1 A small assemblage comprising 18 fragments of ceramic building material (CBM) was recovered from 15 individually numbered contexts, mostly from the overburden.

5.5.2 Only three brick fragments were found, all three of post-medieval date. However, all three were vitrified and partially self-glazed (including on the breaks) and their fabric is therefore undiagnostic.

5.5.3 The remainder comprises flat roof tile, probably peg tile although no peg holes survive. Fragments are all small and in some cases abraded. Three fabrics were encountered. T1a is a reddish orange clay with moderate fine quartz and rare medium/coarse calcium carbonates. T1b is in reddish orange with moderate very fine quartz, moderate very fine to fine calcium carbonates, rare coarse calcium carbonates and rare iron oxides to 1.5mm. Both are of post-medieval date, likely to be later post-medieval. T2 comprises

an orange fabric with pale orange calcareous streaks, moderate fine quartz and rare medium red iron oxides inclusions. T2 is of probable early post-medieval date.

## **5.6 The Glass** by Elke Raemen

- 5.6.1 The overburden encountered in Trenches 9 and 21 each contained an unstratified fragment of glass. A colourless window glass fragment (2.9mm thick) of 20<sup>th</sup>-century date was recovered from [9/001]. Topsoil [21/001] contained an amber base fragment, probably from a bottle and dating to the mid 19<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> century.

## **5.7 The Ironwork** by Elke Raemen

- 5.7.1 A small assemblage comprising 9 fragments of ironwork (wt 655g) was recovered from two individually numbered contexts. All material is unstratified and dates to the mid 19<sup>th</sup> to mid 20<sup>th</sup> century. The majority was found in Trench 19, including two bolts, various sheet fragments, a possible lid and a strip with in situ nail. Trench 25 contained a machine-made, general purpose nail and a sheet fragment from a vessel, e.g. a food tin.

## **5.8 The Fired Clay** by Elke Raemen

- 5.8.1 A total of eleven fragments (wt 87g) were found in four different contexts. Context [11/002] contained six amorphous fragments in a silty fabric with rare organic temper and rare iron oxides to 1mm. An amorphous fragment in silty orange clay with moderate black and red iron oxides to 1mm and sparse very fine quartz was recovered from [26/001]. Contexts [40/005] and [40/007] both contained amorphous fragments in a pale orange fabric with calcareous streaks, moderate red iron oxides to 1mm and rare black iron oxides to 1mm as well as rare fine quartz. Some of the fragments are likely to represent daub.

## **5.9 Summary** by Elke Raemen

- 5.9.1 The assemblage from the site is small and includes Iron Age, Roman and late post-medieval pottery. Prehistoric worked flint was recovered from the topsoil. The remainder of material is largely of post-medieval to modern date and the finds were nearly all unstratified and have been discarded. The assemblage as it stands is therefore of little significance.



## **7.0 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS**

### **7.1 Overview**

7.1.1 The evaluation of the available area by trial trenching strongly suggests that no significant archaeological deposits survive at the site. Undated gullies were identified in Trenches 5 and 4 and a probable tree throw in Trench 14.

### **7.2 Deposit Survival and Existing Impacts**

7.2.1 The presence of subsoil and the absence of any obvious indications of widespread disturbance to the surface of the 'natural' clearly show that the integrity of any archaeological remains at the site is good and that little or no truncation has occurred. Although there was evidence of extensive tree planting in the western part of the site, this appeared to have had surprisingly little impact on the encountered surface of the underlying 'natural'.

7.2.2 All of the encountered features were sealed below the subsoil, cut into the 'natural' Weald Clay. The gully in Trench 5 was encountered at a height of 12.47m aOD sealed by 200mm of subsoil and 250mm of topsoil. The tree throw recorded in Trench 14 was encountered at a height of 17.09m aOD and was sealed by 220mm of subsoil and 270mm of topsoil. The gullies in Trench 40 were buried by 140mm of subsoil and 210mm of topsoil and were encountered at heights between 23.91mAOD and 23.95m aOD.

### **7.3 Prehistoric**

7.3.1 No prehistoric features were identified but a small assemblage of residual worked and fire-cracked flint was recovered from the overburden.

### **7.4 Late Iron Age/Romano-British**

7.4.1 It is clear that the Roman road thought to run across the current site does not do so, and it seems inherently more likely that it ran along the current alignment of Dittons Road on the marked east to west ridge, as it is also presumed to do to the west (Stevens 2011). The marked slope of the site is unsuitable for the construction of a road, especially given a more convenient topographical feature immediately to the south.

7.4.2 The few abraded pottery sherds of Late Iron Age/Romano-British date recovered from the overburden represents a background scatter of material in an area close to known settlement of the period (*ibid.*), and is not indicative of activity within the boundaries of the site at that time.

### **7.5 Post-medieval**

7.5.1 No remains of World War One era practise trenches were encountered in any of the trenches. An extremely thin scatter of post-medieval material was recovered from the overburden spread across the site, again presumably the result of manuring/casual deposition of detritus.

## **7.6 Consideration of Research Aims**

7.6.1 Given the paucity of archaeological remains encountered at the site, and problems with closely dating them, it has proved impossible to address the research aims in any meaningful way.

## **7.7 Conclusions**

7.7.1 No significant archaeological remains were encountered in any of the evaluation trenches. The gullies identified in trenches 5 and 40 did not produce any artefacts and mostly likely relate to agriculture or drainage. They are not indicative of dense pattern of archaeological activity within the site boundary.

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## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

ASE would like to thank CgMs Consulting Ltd. for commissioning the work. Thanks are also due to Greg Chuter, Assistant County Archaeologist, East Sussex County Council for this input throughout the project, and to the on-site contractors from P. J. Brown Construction Ltd. for their co-operation and hospitality.

**Appendix 1: Archaeologically Negative Trenches, list of contexts**

Trench Number	Context	Type	Description	Deposit Thickness m	Height mAOD
1	001	Layer	Topsoil	0.18 - 0.22	12.63 - 14.09
1	002	Layer	Subsoil	0.04 - 0.24	
1	003	Layer	'Natural'	-	12.29 - 13.63
2	001	Layer	Topsoil	0.20 - 0.22	13.25 - 13.41
2	002	Layer	Subsoil	0.10 - 0.21	
2	003	Layer	'Natural'	-	12.86 - 13.09
3	001	Layer	Topsoil	0.03 - 0.09	12.76 - 14.50
3	002	Layer	Subsoil	0.20 - 0.45	
3	003	Layer	'Natural'	-	12.60 - 13.99
4	001	Layer	Topsoil	0.13 - 0.21	12.61 - 13.16
4	002	Layer	Subsoil	0.14 - 0.20	
4	003	Layer	'Natural'	-	12.31 - 13.23
6	001	Layer	Topsoil	0.20 - 0.25	15.04 - 15.25
6	002	Layer	Subsoil	0.10 - 0.15	
6	003	Layer	'Natural'	-	14.73 - 14.91
7	001	Layer	Topsoil	0.32 - 0.47	14.23 - 16.69
7	003	Layer	'Natural'	-	14.00 - 16.06
8	001	Layer	Topsoil	0.28 - 0.42	15.17 - 15.32
8	003	Layer	'Natural'	-	14.76 - 15.00
9	001	Layer	Topsoil	0.21 - 0.43	13.84 - 15.78
9	003	Layer	'Natural'	-	13.71 - 15.25
10	001	Layer	Topsoil	0.22 - 0.28	14.16 - 14.70
10	002	Layer	Subsoil	0.02 - 0.21	
10	003	Layer	'Natural'		13.67 - 14.27
11	001	Layer	Topsoil	0.28 - 0.30	17.06 - 20.00
11	002	Layer	Subsoil	0.12 - 0.40	
11	003	Layer	'Natural'	-	16.90 - 19.60
12	001	Layer	Topsoil	0.18 - 0.20	18.63 - 18.74
12	002	Layer	Subsoil	0.18 - 0.35	
12	003	Layer	'Natural'	-	18.30 - 18.32
13	001	Layer	Topsoil	0.14 - 0.18	16.87 - 19.49
13	002	Layer	Subsoil	0.08 - 0.12	
13	003	Layer	'Natural'	-	16.75 - 19.39
15	001	Layer	Topsoil	0.23 - 0.31	15.32 - 17.35
15	002	Layer	Subsoil	0.08 - 0.19	
15	003	Layer	'Natural'	-	15.10 - 16.90
16	001	Layer	Topsoil	0.22 - 0.45	15.42 - 16.40
16	002	Layer	'Natural'	-	14.99 - 16.07
17	001	Layer	Topsoil	0.10 - 0.26	21.45 - 21.45
17	002	Layer	Subsoil	0.07 - 0.14	
17	003	Layer	'Natural'	-	21.03 - 21.20
18	001	Layer	Topsoil	0.12 - 0.22	20.85 - 23.34
18	002	Layer	Subsoil	0.11 - 0.18	
18	003	Layer	'Natural'	--	20.67 - 22.95
19	001	Layer	Topsoil	0.18 - 0.26	20.35 - 21.14
19	003	Layer	'Natural'	-	19.97 - 20.96
20	001	Layer	Topsoil	0.21 - 0.36	18.60 - 21.11
20	003	Layer	'Natural'	-	18.39 - 20.72
21	001	Layer	Topsoil	0.19 - 0.37	18.08 - 19.29
21	002	Layer	Subsoil	0.19 - 0.20	
21	003	Layer	'Natural'		17.66 - 18.70

Trench Number	Context	Type	Description	Deposit Thickness m	Height mAOD
22	001	Layer	Topsoil	0.18 - 0.23	17.50 - 20.04
22	002	Layer	Subsoil	0.06 - 0.27	
22	003	Layer	'Natural'	-	17.18 - 19.41
23	001	Layer	Topsoil	0.20 - 0.28	23.05 - 24.63
23	002	Layer	Subsoil	0.07 - 0.10	
23	003	Layer	'Natural'	-	22.95 - 24.30
24	001	Layer	Topsoil	0.12 - 0.14	24.41 - 24.62
24	002	Layer	Subsoil	0.11 - 0.13	
24	003	Layer	'Natural'	-	24.21 - 24.41
25	001	Layer	Topsoil	0.07 - .012	22.77 - 25.46
25	002	Layer	Subsoil	0.13 - 0.31	
25	003	Layer	'Natural'	-	22.59 - 25.03
26	001	Layer	Topsoil	0.17 - 0.37	22.50 - 23.95
26	003	Layer	'Natural'	-	22.35 - 23.65
27	001	Layer	Topsoil	0.23 - 0.28	20.28 - 23.28
27	002	Layer	Subsoil	0.23 - 0.24	
27	003	Layer	'Natural'	-	20.02 - 22.75
28	001	Layer	Topsoil	0.13 - 0.19	21.64 - 22.16
28	002	Layer	Subsoil	0.16 - 0.33	
28	003	Layer	'Natural'	-	21.07 - 21.55
29	001	Layer	Topsoil	0.20 - 0.29	25.53 - 26.09
29	002	Layer	Subsoil	0.01 - 0.06	
29	003	Layer	'Natural'	-	25.21 - 25.75
32	001	Layer	Topsoil	0.14 - 0.17	15.55 - 16.81
32	002	Layer	Subsoil	0.11 - 0.28	
32	003	Layer	'Natural'	-	15.47 - 16.39
35	001	Layer	Topsoil	0.21 - 0.31	17.43 - 19.74
35	003	Layer	'Natural'	-	17.22 - 19.06
36	001	Layer	Topsoil	0.13 - 0.19	20.02 - 21.52
36	002	Layer	Subsoil	0.10 - 0.11	
36	003	Layer	'Natural'	-	19.77 - 21.42
38	001	Layer	Topsoil	0.28 - 0.55	20.76 - 22.69
38	003	Layer	'Natural'	-	20.48 - 22.19
39	001	Layer	Topsoil	0.17 - 0.20	22.19 - 24.09
39	002	Layer	Subsoil	0.10 - 0.19	
39	003	Layer	'Natural'	-	21.98 - 23.66

## HER Summary

Site Code	DIT 15					
Identification Name and Address	Land at Dittons Road, Stone Cross					
County, District &/or Borough	Wealden District, East Sussex					
OS Grid Refs.	561130 104570					
Geology	Weald Clay					
Arch. South-East Project Number	6841					
Type of Fieldwork	Eval. ✓					
Type of Site	Green Field ✓					
Dates of Fieldwork	Eval. 20.04.2015 - 29.04.2015					
Sponsor/Client	CgMs Consulting on behalf of Taylor Wimpey Strategic Land					
Project Manager	Paul Mason					
Project Supervisor	Simon Stevens					
Period Summary				?BA ✓	IA ✓	RB ✓
			PM ✓			
<p><i>Summary</i></p> <p><i>Thirty five trenches, each measuring 1.8m wide and 30m long were mechanically excavated during an archaeological evaluation at Dittons Road, Stone Cross, East Sussex.</i></p> <p><i>Some limited archaeological remains were identified, excavated and recorded in three of the trenches. None of the archaeological features were closely datable.</i></p> <p><i>A small assemblage of unstratified artefacts was recovered from the overburden in some of the trenches. This included prehistoric flintwork, highly abraded Late Iron Age/Romano-British pottery and post-medieval material.</i></p>						

**OASIS Form**

**OASIS ID: archaeol6-210441**

Project details

Project name Land at Dittons Road, Stone Cross, East Sussex

Thirty five trenches, each measuring 1.8m wide and 30m long were mechanically excavated during an archaeological evaluation at Dittons Road, Stone Cross, East Sussex.

Short description of the project Some limited archaeological remains were identified, excavated and recorded in three of the trenches. None of the archaeological features were closely datable.

A small assemblage of unstratified artefacts was recovered from the overburden in some of the trenches. This included prehistoric flintwork, highly abraded Late Iron Age/Romano-British pottery and post-medieval material.

Project dates Start: 20-04-2015 End: 29-04-2015

Previous/future work No / Not known

Any associated project reference 6841 - Contracting Unit No. codes

Any associated project reference DIT 15 - Sitecode codes

Any associated project reference WD/2012/2583/MAO - Planning Application No. codes

Type of project Field evaluation

Current Land use Other 13 - Waste ground

Monument type GULLY None

Significant Finds POTTERY Medieval

Methods & ""Sample Trenches"" techniques

Development type Rural residential

Prompt Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPS

Position in the planning process After full determination (eg. As a condition)

Project location

Country England

Site location EAST SUSSEX WEALDEN POLEGATE Land at Dittons Road, Stone Cross

Postcode BN24 5ET

Study area 4.60 Hectares

Site coordinates TQ 61130 04570 50.8176344697 0.28768270151 50 49 03 N 000 17 15 E Point

## Project creators

Name of Organisation Archaeology South-East

Project originator brief CgMs Consulting

Project originator design Archaeology South-East

Project director/manager Paul Mason

Project supervisor Simon Stevens

Type of sponsor/funding body Client

Name of sponsor/funding body CgMs Consulting Ltd.

Project bibliography  
1

Publication type Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)

Title Archaeological Evaluation Report - Land at Dittons Road,  
Stone Cross, East Sussex

Author(s)/Editor(s) Stevens, S.

Other bibliographic details ASE Report No. 2015148

Date 2015

Issuer or publisher Archaeology South-East

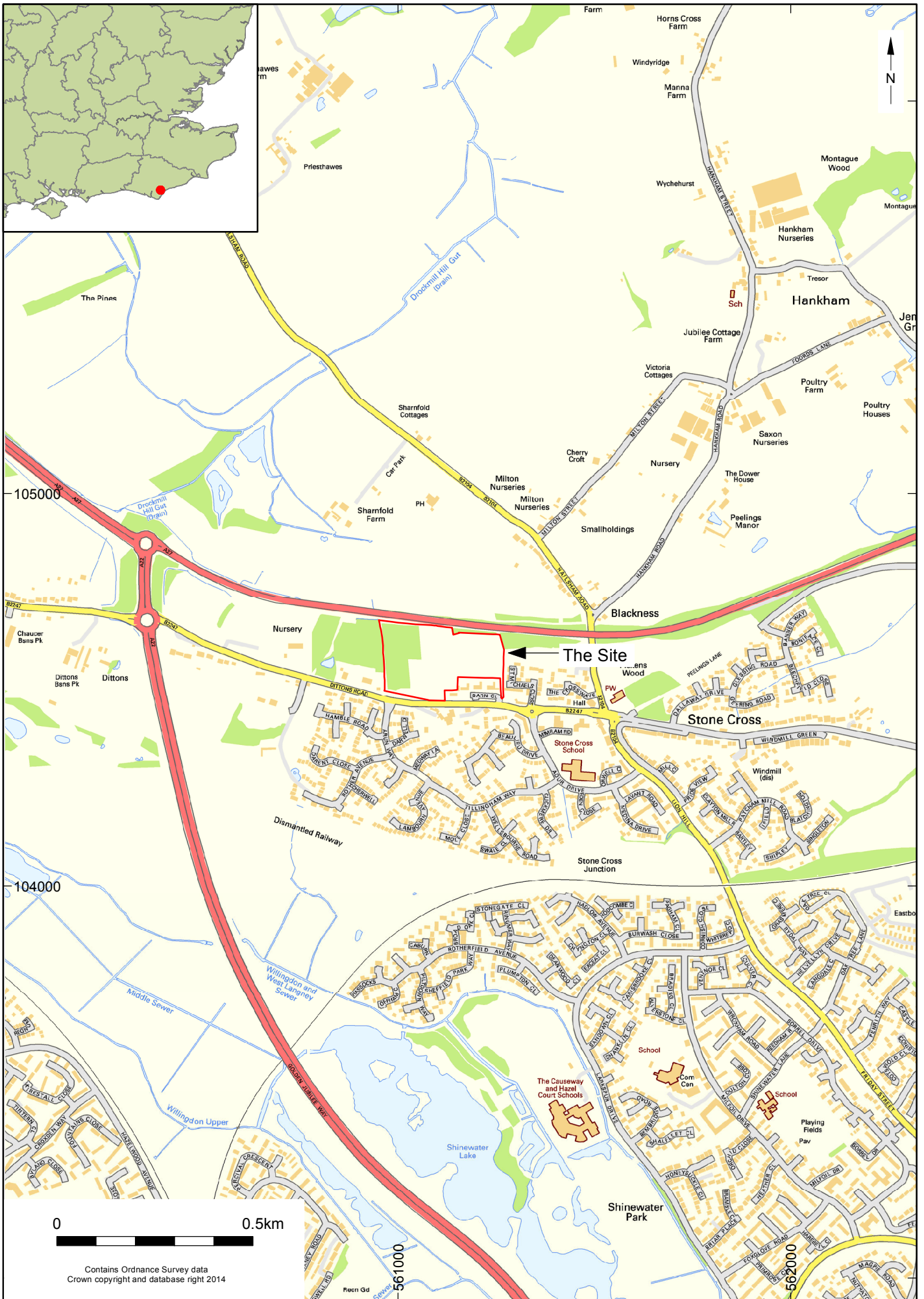
Place of issue or publication Portslade, East Sussex

Description Standard ASE client report. A4-sized with cover logos.

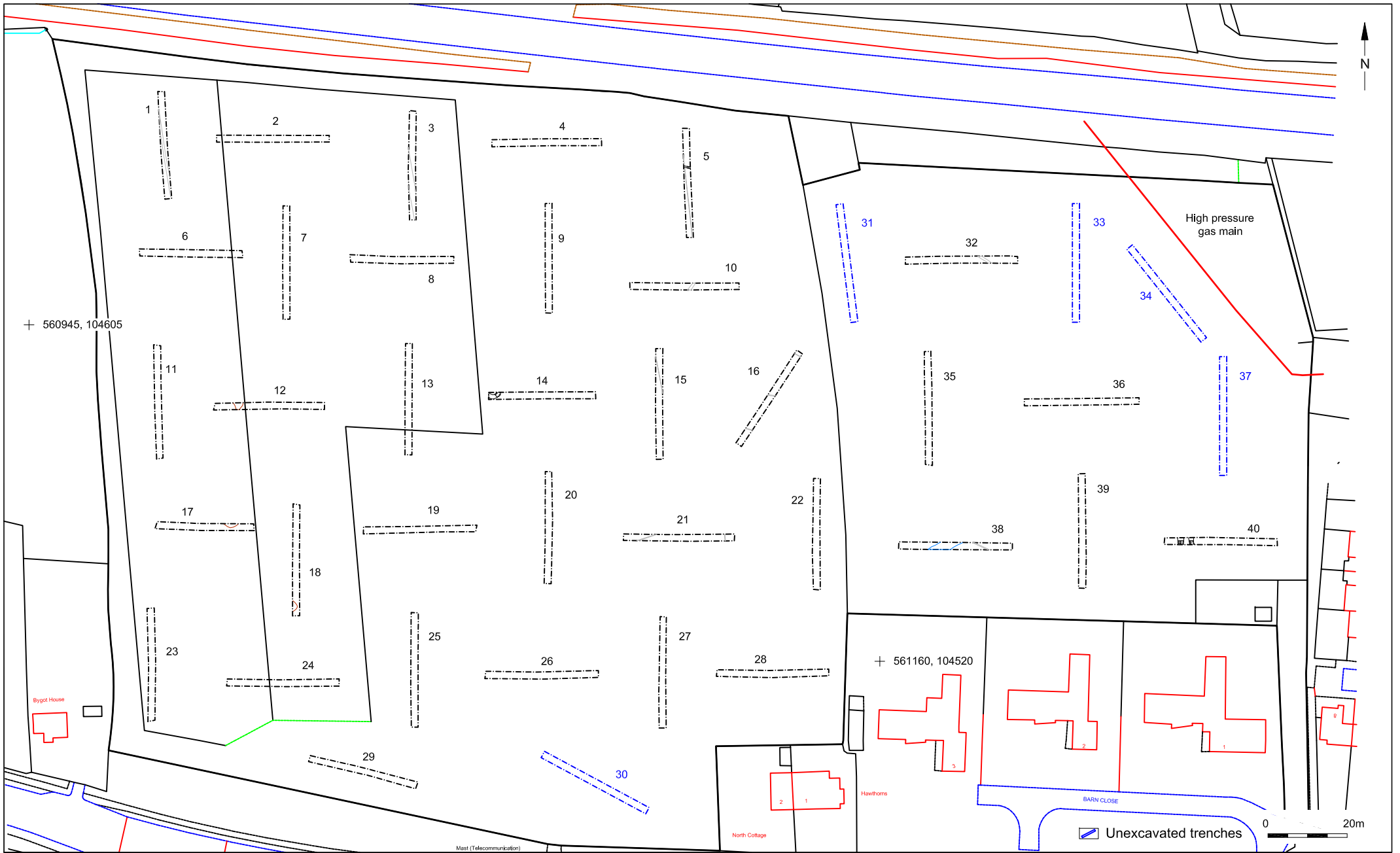
Entered by Simon Stevens (simon.stevens@ucl.ac.uk)

Entered on 15 May 2015



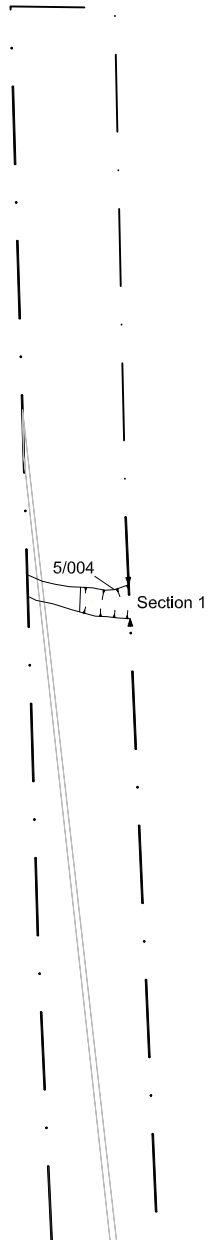


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Project Ref: 6841	May 2015	Site location	
Report Ref: 2015148	Drawn by: NG		



© Archaeology South-East		Barn Close Dittons Road Polegate	Fig. 2
Project Ref: 6841	May 2015	Trench location	
Report Ref: 2015148	Drawn by: NG		

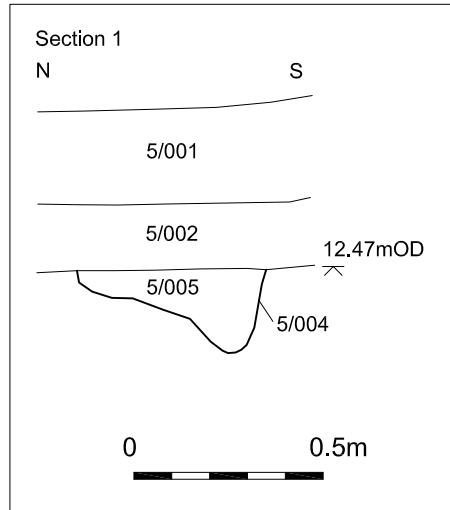
+ 561115, 104655



+ 561125, 104645



Trench 5, looking south



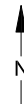
0 2m

0 0.5m



Ditch 5/004, looking east

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Project Ref: 6841	May 2015	Trench 5 : plan, section and photographs	
Report Ref: 2015148	Drawn by: NG		

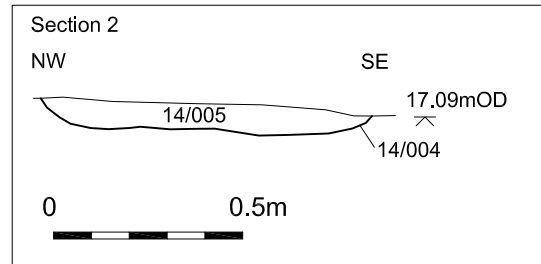


+ 561080, 104595



Trench 14, looking east

+ 561065, 104580



Ditch 14/004, looking south west

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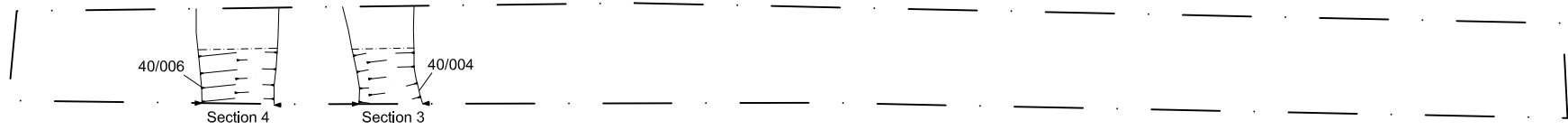
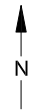
Barn Close Dittons Road Polegate

Project Ref: 6841 May 2015  
Report Ref: 2015148 Drawn by: NG

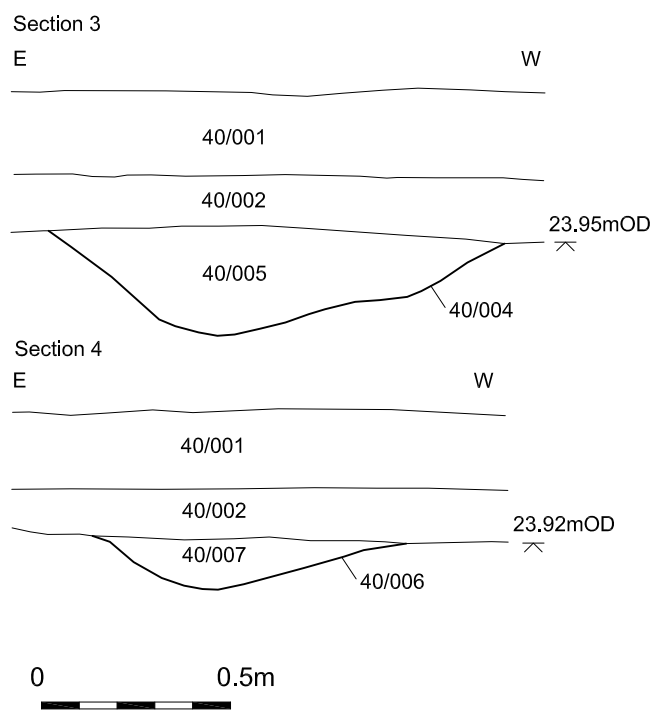
Trench 14 : plan, section and photographs

Fig. 4





+ 561235, 104545



+ 561245, 104540



Trench 40, looking east



Ditch 40/004, looking south



Ditch 40/006, looking south

© Archaeology South-East		Barn Close Dittons Road Polegate	Fig. 5
Project Ref: 6841	May 2015	Trench 40 : plan, section and photographs	
Report Ref: 2015148	Drawn by: NG		

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