Archaeology South-East

ASE

Archaeological Evaluation Report
Drift Road, Selsey
West Sussex

NGR: 486600, 094007
(SU 86600 94007)

Planning Ref: SY/1402418/OUT

ASE Project No: 7191
Site Code: DRI15

ASE Report No: 2015283
OASIS id: archaeol6-220021

By Greg Priestley-Bell

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Prepared by:	Greg Priestley-Bell	Archaeologist	
Reviewed and approved by:	Dan Swift	Project Manager	
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Archaeology South-East
Units 1 & 2
2 Chapel Place
Portslade
East Sussex
BN41 1DR

Tel: 01273 426830
Fax: 01273 420866
Email: fau@ucl.ac.uk

Abstract

Archaeology South-East (ASE) was commissioned by ACD Archaeology, to undertake an archaeological evaluation on land at Drift Road, Selsey, West Sussex. Nineteen 50m x 1.8m trenches were investigated.

Marsh Farm Formation deposits were overlain by head deposits of silt and clay (brickearth), subsoil (plough pan) and topsoil.

The evaluation has revealed three periods of activity. This is thought to be predominantly of a Late Bronze Age date and includes elements of co-axial land-division (field-system) spread across much of the site and occupation in the south-east. Late-Roman and post-medieval activity may also be represented. There was overall a shortage of dating evidence which has made the effective dating and therefore the characterisation of the remains difficult.

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Site Background

1.1.1 Archaeology South-East (ASE) was commissioned by ACD Archaeology, to undertake an archaeological evaluation on land at Drift Road, Selsey, West Sussex, centred at National Grid Reference (NGR) 486600, 094007 (Figure 1).

1.2 Geology and Topography

1.2.1 According to the British Geological Survey (BGS 2015), the site lies on deposits of the Marsh Farm Formation, consisting of clays, silts and sands, overlain by head deposits of silt and clay.

1.2.2 The site is situated 250m north-west of the shoreline and just north of Drift Road on the coastal plain south of the South Downs. It is located in the Manhood Peninsula which makes up the far south-western area of the county of West Sussex. The site is roughly rectangular in shape with an area of approximately 6.1ha and is composed of grassy fields used for pasture. The elevation is between 3.2m and 4.3m AOD.

1.3 Planning Background

1.3.1 Full planning permission (SY/14/02418) has been granted by Chichester District Council (CDC) for the construction of a residential development comprising 110 dwellings and vehicular access from Drift Road.

1.3.2 In considering any planning application for development the local planning authority, Chichester District Council (CDC), is bound by the policy BE3 within the Local Plan (Revised 2011). On matters concerning archaeology and the historic environment CDC are advised by their Archaeological Officer, James Kenny.

1.3.3 In this instance it has been advised that the archaeological potential justifies a trial trench evaluation secured through a version of standard condition G09F as follows:

An archaeological investigation of the site shall be carried out in accordance with a specification to be submitted to and agreed by the District Planning Authority in writing before the commencement of any building works. The specification shall include proposals for an initial trial investigation and for mitigation of damage though development to deposits of importance thus identified. The investigation shall be undertaken by an appropriately qualified archaeologist, and shall include the recording of findings and subsequent publication of results.

1.3.4 A Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for an archaeological evaluation was prepared by ASE (2015). The WSI was submitted to, and approved by James Kenny, Archaeological Officer for Chichester District Council (CDC) prior to fieldwork commencing. All works were carried out in accordance with the WSI and with the relevant CIfA standards and guidance (CIfA 2015).

1.4 Scope of Report

1.4.1 This report details the results of the archaeological evaluation carried out on the site between the 20th and 30th July 2015, and has been prepared in accordance with the WSI (ASE 2015). The work was carried out by Greg Priestley-Bell (Senior Archaeologist), Vasilis Tsamis (Senior Archaeological Surveyor) Nathalie Gonzalez (Archaeological Surveyor), and John Hirst and Suzie Westall (Archaeologists). The fieldwork was managed by Paul Mason and the post-excavation work by Jim Stevenson and Dan Swift.

2.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 An archaeological watching brief was carried out at East Beach Pond (about 300m south of the site) by Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd in 2002 (Moore 2002). A brief summary of the results follows, as well as evidence for other sites and finds recorded in the area.

2.2 Prehistoric

2.2.1 An evaluation followed by an excavation took place on a site off Chichester Road in Selsey and produced evidence for Bronze Age and Iron Age occupation (Preston 2002). Cremation burials dating to the Middle Bronze Age were excavated and recorded within a contemporary penannular ring ditch just east of the Beach Pond site (CBA 1989).

2.2.2 No features were identified during the watching brief at East Beach Pond but four pieces of struck flint were found. They were unstratified and have been dated broadly to the Neolithic to Bronze Age period (Ford 2002).

2.2.3 There is evidence that suggests the presence of a substantial Iron Age site: many gold coins (*Commius, Tincommius, Verica, Epillus* and *Cunobelin*) and other pieces of scrap gold were found on the beach in 1877 (White 1934). Marine erosion is probably responsible for the lack of Iron Age occupation evidence.

2.3 Roman

2.3.1 There is evidence for a possible Roman settlement nearby as finds such as pottery, coins and metal work have been recovered from the surrounding areas.

2.3.2 A Roman *villa* with a bath house has been recorded in Sidlesham, three miles north of Selsey.

2.4 Early Medieval

2.4.1 A monastery was founded in 681 by Saint Wilfrid in Selsey, or *Seolesiae* in Old English, although none of it is thought to survive. Saint Wilfrid was given the land by King Ethalwald, as recorded by Bede. The remains of the first cathedral are now believed to be under the sea.

2.4.2 Selsey was recorded as *Seleisie* in Domesday Book (1086), which means 'The Island of the Seal' (Mills 1998).

2.4.3 There is evidence for a medieval deer park having existed in the vicinity of the site but its exact location is unknown.

2.4.4 One green-glazed pottery sherd was recovered during the East Beach Pond watching brief and appears to be of medieval date although it was unstratified.

2.5 Post-medieval

2.5.1 There is increased activity in the area during the post-medieval period with the site situated within a landscape of isolated farmsteads and cottages scattered throughout the western part of the peninsula.

2.6 Aims and Objectives

2.6.1 The aims of the archaeological field evaluation are to:

- Clarify the presence/absence and extent of any buried archaeological remains within the site that may be impacted by development.
- Identify, within the constraints of the evaluation, the date, character, condition and depth of any surviving remains within the site.
- Assess the degree of existing impacts to sub-surface horizons and to document the extent of archaeological survival of buried deposits.
- Produce a report which will present the results of the evaluation in sufficient detail to allow an informed decision to be made concerning the site's archaeological potential.

3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY

3.1 General method

3.1.1 Health and Safety considerations were of paramount importance in conducting all fieldwork. Safe working practices overrode archaeological considerations at all times. All work was carried out in accordance with the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974, and the Management of Health a Safety Regulations 1992, and all other relevant Health and Safety legislation regulations and codes of practice in force at the time.

3.1.2 Before excavation began the client provided information regarding the presence of any below/above ground services. The site was walked-over and inspected to visually identify, where possible, the location of above and below ground services.

3.1.3 All evaluation trench locations were scanned before and during excavation with a Cable Avoidance Tool (CAT) in order to verify the absence of any live underground services. All works were undertaken in accordance with the standards set out within the Specification.

3.1.4 All works were conducted in compliance with the standards outlined in the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Evaluations* (CIfA 2008), excepting where they are superseded by statements made below.

3.1.5 The evaluation comprised the mechanical excavation of nineteen trenches each measuring 50m by 1.8m (Figure 2).The trenches were be laid out using GPS/TST in general accordance with the pattern given in Figure 2. One minor adjustment to the layout was required: Trench 1 was moved 5m to the south-west in order to allow access to Selsey Town Council storage containers. The trench locations were be tied in to the Ordnance Survey.

3.1.6 The trial trenches were excavated using a 360º tracked excavator equipped with a toothless bucket and under constant supervision by ASE. Machine excavation proceeded to a depth at which the top of archaeological levels, or the top of natural deposits, were exposed, whichever was the higher.

3.1.7 Trenches were completed to the satisfaction of James Kenny, Archaeological Officer CDC, and were backfilled using the excavated material in the approximate stratigraphic sequence in which they were excavated. They were left level on completion. No other reinstatement or surface treatment was undertaken.

3.2 Hand Excavation Method

3.2.1 Once the level of archaeological deposits had been exposed by machine, cleaning of the trench base was undertaken by hand where necessary. Appropriate sampling of all archaeological features identified in the evaluation trench was be carried out by hand.

3.2.2 Examination and cleaning of all archaeological deposits was by hand using appropriate hand tools. Any archaeological deposits were examined and recorded both in plan and section. Features were investigated, where possible, as follows:

- 50% of each intrusive feature (pits, postholes).
- All terminals and intersections of linear features.

- 50% structural features (beamslots, ring ditches) - actual surviving structural elements (walls, collapse/debris fields) only require exposure, cleaning and preservation for excavation in more appropriate circumstances.

- 50-100% domestic/industrial working features (hearths, ovens) – unless large and structural, in which case see above. However, excavation was sufficient to enable the principal aims and objectives of this evaluation to be achieved, without the risk of over-excavation which could damage the integrity of the archaeological remains should development not be pursued or subsequent mitigation be required. The scope of the sampling was agreed with James Kenny, CDC.

3.2.3 Provision was made that in the event of the identification of an exceptional number and complexity of archaeological deposits, sample excavation would be more circumspect and will aim to be minimally intrusive. Excavation would, however, be sufficient to resolve the principal aims of the evaluation.

3.2.4 Provision was also made that where complex archaeological stratification was encountered, deposits would be left *in situ* and measures to assess the depth of this stratification agreed with James Kenny, CDC. Where modern features were seen to truncate the archaeological stratification, these were carefully removed without damage to surrounding deposits to enable the depth of stratification to be assessed.

3.3 Recording and Sampling

3.3.1 All exposed archaeological deposits were recorded using ASE's *pro forma* recording system.

3.3.2 A complete drawn record of excavated archaeological features and deposits was compiled. This included both plans where appropriate and sections, drawn to appropriate scales (1:20 for plans, 1:10 for sections), and with reference to a site grid tied to the Ordnance Survey National Grid. The Ordnance Datum (OD) height of all principal features and levels was calculated and plans/sections were annotated with OD heights.

3.3.3 A photographic record was maintained during the evaluation using digital cameras equipped with an image sensor of not less than 10 megapixels.

3.3.4 Excavated spoil was visually scanned for artefacts. Where appropriate, a metal detector was used to enhance artefact recovery. Trench areas and spoil heaps from excavation were examined.

3.3.5 Environmental samples were taken from dated features where appropriate, according to a strategy devised by ASE's Finds and Environmental Specialists.

3.3.6 All artefacts from excavated contexts were retained, except those from features or deposits of obviously modern date. In such circumstances, sufficient artefacts were retained in order to elucidate the date and/or function of the feature or deposit.

3.4 Archive

3.4.1 The site archive is currently held at the offices of ASE and will be deposited at Chichester Museum in due course. The contents of the archive are tabulated below (Table 1).

Number of Contexts	135
No. of files/paper record	1
Plan and sections sheets	8
Bulk Samples	5
Photographs	90 Digital
Bulk finds	1 box
Registered finds	nil
Environmental flots/residue	5

Table 1: Quantification of site archive

4.0 RESULTS

4.1 Trench 4

4.1.1 The recorded sequence of deposits was: natural [4/003] consisting of mid yellowish brown very silty clay with occasional/frequent manganese and rare flint pebbles; subsoil [4/002] consisting of pale yellowish brown fine clayey silt; topsoil [4/001] consisting of pale pinkish brown very fine silt.

4.1.2 A ditch [4/005], measuring at least 1.9m long, 1.1m wide and 0.66m deep, contained a single fill [4/006] of mid orangey grey silty clay with frequent charcoal. A significant quantity of later Roman pottery was recovered, dated to between *c.* AD270-350, together with hobnails.

4.1.3 A large modern pit [4/007], measuring at least 10m long, of unknown width and 1.7m deep from the ground surface, contained a primary fill [4/010] of dark greenish grey very silty clay, a secondary fill [4/009] of mid yellowish brown silty clay with occasional pebbles and an upper fill [4/008] of light greyish orange silty clay with 5% rounded flint pebbles and occasional modern metal debris including re-bar and a drain cover. Subsoil [4/002] was not present above pit [4/007]. No finds were uncovered.

Trench	Context	Type	Description	Max Length m	Max Width m	Deposit Thickness m (average)	Height m AOD (average)
T4	4/001	Deposit	Topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.25	3.94-4.19
T4	4/002	Deposit	Subsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.25	3.69-3.94
T4	4/003	Deposit	Natural	Tr.	Tr.	Na	3.69
T4	4/004	Not used					
T4	4/005	Cut	Ditch	1.9 min.	1.10	0.66	3.69
T4	4/006	Fill	Of 4/005	1.9 min.	1.10	0.66	3.03-3.69
T4	4/007	Cut	Pit	c.10	?	1.7	3.94
T4	4/008	Fill	Upper of 4/007	c.10	?	0.40	3.54-3.94
T4	4/009	Fill	Secondary fill of 4/007	c.10	?	0.80	2.74-3.54
T4	4/010	Fill	Lower fill of 4/007	c.10	?	0.60	2.14-2.74

Table: 2 Trench 4 list of recorded contexts

4.2 Trench 5

4.2.1 The recorded sequence of deposits was: natural [5/003] consisting of mid yellowish brown very silty clay with occasional/frequent manganese and rare flint pebbles; subsoil [5/002] consisting of pale yellowish brown fine clayey silt; topsoil [5/001] consisting of pale pinkish brown very fine silt.

4.2.2 A ditch [5/004], measuring at least 2.1m long, 0.5m wide and 0.22m deep, contained a single fill [5/005] of pale whitish grey clayey silt with frequent fine rootlets. No finds were recovered.

4.2.3 A pit or post-hole [5/006], measuring 0.47m long, 0.30m wide and 0.25m deep, contained a single fill [5/007] of pale whitish grey clayey silt. No finds were recovered.

4.2.4 A ditch [5/008], measuring at least 1.8m long, 0.50m wide and 0.25m deep, contained a single fill [5/009] of pale whitish grey clayey silt. No finds were recovered.

Trench	Context	Type	Description	Max Length m	Max Width m	Deposit Thickness m (average)	Height m AOD (average)
T5	5/001	Deposit	Topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.30	3.91-4.21
T5	5/002	Deposit	Subsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.20	3.71-3.91
T5	5/003	Deposit	Natural	Tr.	Tr.	Na	3.71
T5	5/004	Cut	Ditch	2.1 min.	0.50	0.22	3.71
T5	5/005	Fill	Of 5/004	2.1 min.	0.50	0.22	3.49-3.71
T5	5/006	Cut	Pit/Post Hole	0.47	0.30	0.25	3.71
T5	5/007	Fill	Of 5/006	0.47	0.30	0.25	3.46-3.71
T5	5/008	Cut	?Ditch	1.8 min.	0.50	0.25	3.71
T5	5/009	Fill	Of 5/008	1.8 min.	0.50	0.25	3.46-3.71

Table: 3 Trench 5 list of recorded contexts

4.3 Trench 6

4.3.1 The recorded sequence of deposits was: natural [6/003] consisting of mid yellowish brown very silty clay with occasional/frequent manganese and rare flint pebbles; subsoil [6/002] consisting of pale yellowish brown fine clayey silt; topsoil [6/001] consisting of pale pinkish brown very fine silt.

4.3.2 A ditch/gully with terminus [6/004], measuring at least 1.4m long, 0.5m wide and 0.16m deep, contained a single fill [6/005] of light brownish grey silty clay with occasional pebbles. No finds were recovered.

4.3.3 A ditch/gully with terminus [6/006], measuring at least 1.5m long, 0.30m wide and 0.11m deep, contained a single fill [6/007] of mid orangey brown silty clay. No finds were recovered.

Trench	Context	Type	Description	Max Length m	Max Width m	Deposit Thickness m (average)	Height m AOD (average)
T6	6/001	Deposit	Topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.30	3.96-4.26
T6	6/002	Deposit	Subsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.20	3.76-3.96
T6	6/003	Deposit	Natural	Tr.	Tr.	Na	3.76
T6	6/004	Cut	Ditch	1.4 min.	0.50	0.16	3.76
T6	6/005	Fill	Of 6/004	1.4 min.	0.50	0.16	3.60-3.76
T6	6/006	Cut	Ditch/Gully	1.5 min.	0.30	0.11	3.76
T6	6/007	Fill	Of 6/006	1.5 min	0.30	0.11	3.65-3.76

Table: 4 Trench 6 list of recorded contexts

4.4 Trench 7

4.4.1 The recorded sequence of deposits was: natural [7/003] consisting of mid yellowish brown very silty clay with occasional/frequent manganese and rare flint pebbles; subsoil [7/002] consisting of pale yellowish brown fine clayey silt; topsoil [7/001] consisting of pale pinkish brown very fine silt.

4.4.2 A ditch [7/004], measuring at least 9.5m long, up to 0.75m wide and 0.17m deep, contained a single fill [7/005] of light brownish beige silty clay with occasional pebbles. A small quantity of fire-cracked flint recovered.

Trench	Context	Type	Description	Max Length m	Max Width m	Deposit Thickness m (average)	Height m AOD (average)
T7	7/001	Deposit	Topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.25	3.92-4.17
T7	7/002	Deposit	Subsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.30	3.62-3.92
T7	7/003	Deposit	Natural	Tr.	Tr.	Na	3.62
T7	7/004	Cut	Ditch	9.5 min.	0.75	0.17	3.62
T7	7/005	Fill	Of 7/004	9.5 min.	0.75	0.17	3.45-3.62

Table: 5 Trench 7 list of recorded contexts

4.5 Trench 9

4.5.1 The recorded sequence of deposits was: natural [9/003] consisting of mid yellowish brown very silty clay with occasional/frequent manganese and rare flint pebbles; subsoil [9/002] consisting of pale yellowish brown fine clayey silt; topsoil [9/001] consisting of pale pinkish brown very fine silt.

4.5.2 A ditch [9/004], measuring at least 1.8m long, 0.9m wide and 0.30m deep, contained a single fill [9/005] of light brownish grey/orange clay with occasional pebbles. Small quantities of worked and fire-cracked flint were recovered.

4.5.3 A ditch/gully [9/006], measuring at least 1.8m long, 0.50m wide and 0.30m deep, contained a single fill [9/007] of mid brown silty clay. No finds were recovered.

Trench	Context	Type	Description	Max Length m	Max Width m	Deposit Thickness m (average)	Height m AOD (average)
T9	9/001	Deposit	Topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.25	3.93-4.18
T9	9/002	Deposit	Subsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.30	3.63-3.93
T9	9/003	Deposit	Natural	Tr.	Tr.	Na	3.63
T9	9/004	Cut	Ditch	1.8 min.	0.90	0.30	3.63
T9	9/005	Fill	Of 9/004	1.8 min.	0.90	0.30	3.33-3.63
T9	9/006	Cut	Ditch	1.8 min.	0.50	0.30	3.63
T9	9/007	Fill	Of 9/006	1.8 min	0.50	0.30	3.33-3.63

Table: 6 Trench 9 list of recorded contexts

4.6 Trench 10

4.6.1 The recorded sequence of deposits was: natural [10/003] consisting of mid yellowish brown very silty clay with occasional/frequent manganese and rare flint pebbles; subsoil [10/002] consisting of pale yellowish brown fine clayey silt; topsoil [10/001] consisting of pale pinkish brown very fine silt.

4.6.2 A ditch/gully [10/004], measuring at least 1.8m long, 0.52m wide and 0.24m deep, contained a single fill [10/005] of light grey silty clay. No finds were recovered.

4.6.3 A ditch/gully [10/006], measuring at least 1.5m long, 0.35m wide and 0.14m deep, contained a single fill [10/007] of light greyish yellow silty clay. No finds were recovered.

4.6.4 A ditch [10/008], measuring at least 4.3m long, 1.15m wide and 0.40m deep, contained a single fill [10/009] of mid grey silty clay. No finds were recovered.

4.6.5 A post-hole? [10/010], measuring 0.22 long, 0.17m wide and 0.11m deep, contained a single fill [10/011] of light yellowish grey grey silty clay. No finds were recovered.

4.6.6 A gully [10/012], measuring at least 4m long, 0.30m wide and 0.08m deep, contained a single fill [10/013] of light grey silty clay. No finds were recovered.

Trench	Context	Type	Description	Max Length m	Max Width m	Deposit Thickness m (average)	Height m AOD (average)
T10	10/001	Deposit	Topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.30	3.90-4.20
T10	10/002	Deposit	Subsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.20	3.70-3.90
T10	10/003	Deposit	Natural	Tr.	Tr.	Na	3.70
T10	10/004	Cut	Ditch	1.8 min.	0.52	0.24	3.70
T10	10/005	Fill	Of 10/004	1.8 min.	0.52	0.24	3.46-3.70
T10	10/006	Cut	Ditch/Gully	1.5 min.	0.35	0.14	3.70
T10	10/007	Fill	Of 10/006	1.5 min	0.35	0.14	3.56-3.70
T10	10/008	Cut	Ditch	4.3	1.15	0.40	3.70
T10	10/009	Fill	Of 10/008	4.3	1.15	0.40	3.30-3.70
T10	10/010	Cut	Post-hole?	0.22	0.17	0.11	3.70
T10	10/011	Fill	Of 10/010	0.22	0.17	0.11	3.59-3.70
T10	10/012	Cut	Gully	4	0.30	0.08	3.70
T10	10/013	Fill	Of 10/012	4	0.30	0.08	3.62-3.70

Table: 7 Trench 10 list of recorded contexts

4.7 Trench 11

4.7.1 The recorded sequence of deposits was: natural [11/003] consisting of mid yellowish brown very silty clay with occasional/frequent manganese and rare flint pebbles; subsoil [11/002] consisting of pale yellowish brown fine clayey silt; topsoil [11/001] consisting of pale pinkish brown very fine silt.

4.7.2 A ditch [11/004], measuring at least 1.8m long, 2.8m wide and 0.70m deep, contained a primary fill [11/006] of light yellowish grey sandy silt, and an upper fill [11/005] of mid yellowish brown silty clay with occasional pebbles. No finds were recovered.

4.7.3 A ditch [11/008], measuring at least 1.8m long, 2.1m wide and 0.37m deep, contained a single fill [11/009] of light greyish yellow silty clay. A single sherd of Roman, probably later Roman pot was recovered.

4.7.8 A deposit [11/007], measuring at least 0.80m wide and 0.70m deep and of unknown length, consisted of dark yellowish grey silty clay. Deposit [11/007] was cut by [11/004].

Trench	Context	Type	Description	Max Length m	Max Width m	Deposit Thickness m (average)	Height m AOD (average)
T11	11/001	Deposit	Topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.20	3.87-4.07
T11	11/002	Deposit	Subsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.30	3.57-3.87
T11	11/003	Deposit	Natural	Tr.	Tr.	Na	3.57
T11	11/004	Cut	Ditch	1.8 min.	2.8	0.70	3.57
T11	11/005	Fill	Upper Of 11/004	1.8 min.	2.8	0.38	3.19-3.57
T11	11/006	Fill	Primary? Of 11/004	1.8 min.	2.1	0.37	2.82-3.19
T11	11/007	Deposit	Natural?	?	0.60	0.80	2.77-3.57
T11	11/008	Cut	Ditch	2.3 min.	1.7	0.70	3.57
T11	11/009	Fill	Of 11/008	2.3 min.	1.7	0.70	2.87-3.57

Table: 8 Trench 11 list of recorded contexts

4.8 Trench 13

4.8.1 The recorded sequence of deposits was: natural [13/003] consisting of mid yellowish brown very silty clay with occasional/frequent manganese and rare flint pebbles; subsoil [13/002] consisting of pale yellowish brown fine clayey silt; topsoil [13/001] consisting of pale pinkish brown very fine silt.

4.8.2 A ditch terminus/pit? [13/004], measuring at least 0.78m long, 0.54m wide and 0.12m deep, contained a single fill [13/005] of greyish brown silty clay. No finds were recovered.

4.8.3 A ditch terminus? [13/006], measuring at least 1.45m long, 0.60m wide and 0.17m deep, contained a primary fill [13/007] of mid grey silty sand, and an upper fill [13/008] of whitish grey silty sand. No finds were recovered.

4.8.4 A post-hole [13/009], measuring at least 0.36m long, 0.30m wide and 0.14m deep, contained a single fill [13/010] of mid grey silty clay. Small fragments of flint-tempered prehistoric pottery were noted in environmental sample <2>.

4.8.5 A post-hole [13/011], measuring 0.26 long, 0.26m wide and 0.14m deep, contained a single fill [13/012] of mid grey silty clay. Two conjoining sherds of prehistoric pot were recovered, probably dating to Late Bronze Age *c.* 1150-800BC, but an Early Neolithic (c. 3650-3300) origin cannot be totally ruled out.

4.8.6 A pit? [13/013], measuring at 0.86 long, 0.40m wide and 0.20m deep, contained a single fill [13/014] of greyish orange silty clay. Small fragments of flint-tempered prehistoric pottery were noted in environmental sample <4>.

4.8.7 A post-hole [13/015], measuring at least 0.32m long, 0.22m wide and 0.13m deep, contained a single fill [13/016] of mid grey silty clay. Small fragments of flint-tempered prehistoric pottery were noted in environmental sample <5>.

4.8.8 A ditch [13/018], measuring at least 5m long, 1.5m wide and 0.65m deep, contained a primary fill [13/021] of mid yellowish brown silty clay, a secondary fill [13/020] of light whitish brown silty clay with 80% rounded flint pebbles, and an upper fill [13/019] of mid yellowish brown silty clay with occasional pebbles. A probably residual saddle quern was recovered from fill [13/019].

Trench	Context	Type	Description	Max Length m	Max Width m	Deposit Thickness m (average)	Height m AOD (average)
T13	13/001	Deposit	Topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.25	3.75-4.00
T13	13/002	Deposit	Subsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.30	3.45-3.75
T13	13/003	Deposit	Natural	Tr.	Tr.	Na	3.45
T13	13/004	Cut	Ditch terminus?	0.78 min.	0.54	0.12	3.45
T13	13/005	Fill	Of 13/004	0.78 min.	0.54	0.12	3.33-3.45
T13	13/006	Cut	Ditch terminus?	1.45 min.	0.60	0.17	3.45
T13	13/007	Fill	Primary Of 13/006	1.40 min.	0.60	0.14	3.28-3.42
T13	13/008	Fill	Upper of 13/006	1.45 min.	0.60	0.03	3.42-3.45
T13	13/009	Cut	Post-hole	0.36	0.30	0.14	3.45
T13	13/010	Fill	Of 13/009	0.36	0.30	0.14	3.31-3.45
T13	13/011	Cut	Post-hole	0.26	0.26	0.14	3.45
T13	13/012	Fill	Of 13/011	0.26	0.26	0.14	3.31-3.45
T13	13/013	Cut	Pit?	0.86	0.40	0.20	3.45
T13	13/014	Fill	Of 13/013	0.86	0.40	0.20	3.25-3.45
T13	13/015	Cut	Post-hole	0.32	0.22	0.13	3.45
T13	13/016	Fill	Of 13/015	0.32	0.22	0.13	3.32-3.45
T13	13/017	Not used					
T13	13/018	Cut	Ditch	5 min.	1.5	0.65	3.45
T13	13/019	Fill	Upper of 13/108	5 min.	1.5	0.26	3.19-3.45
T13	13/020	Fill	Secondary of 13/018	5 min	1.2	0.12	3.07-3.19
T13	13/021	Fill	Primary of 13/018	5 min.	1	0.30	2.77-3.07

Table: 9 Trench 13 list of recorded contexts

4.9 Trench 14

4.9.1 The recorded sequence of deposits was: natural [14/003] consisting of mid yellowish brown very silty clay with occasional/frequent manganese and rare flint pebbles; subsoil [14/002] consisting of pale yellowish brown fine clayey silt; topsoil [14/001] consisting of pale pinkish brown very fine silt.

4.9.2 A ditch [14/004], measuring at least 3m long, 0.61m wide and 0.16m deep, contained a single fill [14/005] of mid greyish brown silty clay. A small quantity of worked flint was recovered.

Trench	Context	Type	Description	Max Length m	Max Width m	Deposit Thickness m (average)	Height m AOD (average)
T14	14/001	Deposit	Topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.34	3.58-3.92
T14	14/002	Deposit	Subsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.24	3.34-3.58
T14	14/003	Deposit	Natural	Tr.	Tr.	Na	3.34
T14	14/004	Cut	Ditch	3 min.	0.61	0.16	3.34
T14	14/005	Fill	Of 14/004	3 min.	0.61	0.16	3.18-3.34

Table: 10 Trench 14 list of recorded contexts

4.10 Trench 15

4.10.1 The recorded sequence of deposits was: natural [15/003] consisting of mid yellowish brown very silty clay with occasional/frequent manganese and rare flint pebbles; subsoil [15/002] consisting of pale yellowish brown fine clayey silt; topsoil [15/001] consisting of pale pinkish brown very fine silt.

4.10.2 A ditch [15/004], measuring at least 2.2m long, 0.60m wide and 0.17m deep, contained a single fill [15/005] of light yellowish grey sandy silt with occasional pebbles. No finds were recovered.

4.10.3 A ditch [15/006], measuring at least 2.2m long, 0.36m wide and 0.11m deep, contained a single fill [15/007] of mid yellowish brown very silty clay. No finds were recovered.

Trench	Context	Type	Description	Max Length m	Max Width m	Deposit Thickness m (average)	Height m AOD (average)
T15	15/001	Deposit	Topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.30	3.75-4.05
T15	15/002	Deposit	Subsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.20	3.55-3.75
T15	15/003	Deposit	Natural	Tr.	Tr.	Na	3.55
T15	15/004	Cut	Ditch	2.2 min.	0.60	0.17	3.55
T15	15/005	Fill	Of 15/004	2.2 min.	0.60	0.17	3.38-3.55
T15	15/006	Cut	Ditch	2.2 min.	0.36	0.11	3.55
T15	15/007	Fill	Of 15/006	2.2 min.	0.36	0.11	3.44-3.55

Table: 11 Trench 15 list of recorded contexts

4.11 Trench 17

4.11.1 The recorded sequence of deposits was: natural [17/003] consisting of mid yellowish brown very silty clay with occasional/frequent manganese and rare flint pebbles; subsoil [17/002] consisting of pale yellowish brown fine clayey silt; topsoil [17/001] consisting of pale pinkish brown very fine silt.

4.11.2 An undated ditch terminus? [17/004], measuring at least 1.6m long, 0.46m wide and 0.15m deep, contained a single fill [17/005] of mid yellowish grey very silty clay. No finds were recovered.

4.11.3 An undated post-hole? [17/006], measuring 0.60 long, 0.35m wide and 0.16m deep, contained a single fill [17/007] of mid yellowish grey very silty clay. No finds were recovered.

4.11.4 An undated ditch/gully [17/008], measuring at least 3m long, 0.55m wide and 0.20m deep, contained a single fill [17/009] of mid yellowish brown very silty clay. No finds were recovered.

4.11.5 An undated depression [17/010], measuring at least 5m long, 0.75m wide and 0.12m deep, contained a single fill [17/011] of mid yellowish brown silty clay. No finds were recovered.

Trench	Context	Type	Description	Max Length m	Max Width m	Deposit Thickness m (average)	Height m AOD (average)
T17	17/001	Deposit	Topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.28	3.60-3.88
T17	17/002	Deposit	Subsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.25	3.35-3.36
T17	17/003	Deposit	Natural	Tr.	Tr.	Na	3.35
T17	17/004	Cut	Ditch	1.6 min.	0.46	0.15	3.35
T17	17/005	Fill	Of 17/004	1.6 min.	0.46	0.15	3.20-3.35
T17	17/006	Cut	Post-hole?	0.60	0.35	0.16	3.35
T17	17/007	Fill	Of 17/006	0.60	0.35	0.16	3.19-3.35
T17	17/008	Cut	Ditch/gully	3 min.	0.55	0.20	3.35
T17	17/009	Fill	Of 17/008	3 min.	0.55	0.20	3.15-3.35
T17	17/010	Cut	Depression	5	0.75	0.12	3.35
T17	17/011	Fill	Of 17/010	5	0.75	0.12	3.23-3.35

Table: 12 Trench 17 list of recorded contexts

4.12 Trench 18

4.12.1 The recorded sequence of deposits was: natural [18/003] consisting of mid yellowish brown very silty clay with occasional/frequent manganese and rare flint pebbles; subsoil [18/002] consisting of pale yellowish brown fine clayey silt; topsoil [18/001] consisting of pale pinkish brown very fine silt. Two conjoining sherds of Later Roman pottery were unstratified.

4.12.2 An undated ditch [18/004], measuring at least 2m long, 1.1m wide and 0.40m deep, contained a single fill [18/005] of mid yellowish grey silty clay. No finds were recovered.

4.12.3 An undated ditch [18/006], measuring at least 2m long, 0.60m wide and 0.38m deep, contained a single fill [18/007] of mid orangey grey silty clay. No finds were recovered.

Trench	Context	Type	Description	Max Length m	Max Width m	Deposit Thickness m (average)	Height m AOD (average)
T18	18/001	Deposit	Topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.27	3.62-3.89
T18	18/002	Deposit	Subsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.30	3.32-3.62
T18	18/003	Deposit	Natural	Tr.	Tr.	Na	3.32
T18	18/004	Cut	Ditch	2min.	1.1	0.40	3.32
T18	18/005	Fill	Of 18/004	2 min.	1.1	0.40	2.92-3.32
T18	18/006	Cut	Ditch	2 min.	0.60	0.38	3.32
T18	18/007	Fill	Of 18/006	2 min.	0.60	0.38	2.94-3.32

Table: 13 Trench 18 list of recorded contexts

4.13 Trench 19

4.13.1 The recorded sequence of deposits was: natural [19/003] consisting of mid yellowish brown very silty clay with occasional/frequent manganese and rare flint pebbles; subsoil [19/002] consisting of pale yellowish brown fine clayey silt; topsoil [19/001] consisting of pale pinkish brown very fine silt.

4.13.2 A ditch [19/004], measuring at least 2.2m long, 1.25m wide and 0.45m deep, contained a single fill [19/005] of mid yellowish grey silty clay. No finds were recovered.

4.13.3 A ditch [19/006], measuring at least 5m long, 1.6m wide and 0.50m deep, contained a single fill [19/007] of mid yellowish grey very silty clay. A small quantity of bone was recovered.

Trench	Context	Type	Description	Max Length m	Max Width m	Deposit Thickness m (average)	Height m AOD (average)
T19	19/001	Deposit	Topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.25	3.52-3.77
T19	19/002	Deposit	Subsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.25	3.27-3.52
T19	19/003	Deposit	Natural	Tr.	Tr.	Na	3.27
T19	19/004	Cut	Ditch	2.2min.	1.25	0.45	3.27
T19	19/005	Fill	Of 19/004	2.2 min.	1.25	0.45	2.82-3.27
T19	19/006	Cut	Ditch	5 min.	1.6	0.50	3.27
T19	19/007	Fill	Of 19/006	5 min.	1.6	0.50	2.7-3.27

Table: 14 Trench 19 list of recorded contexts

4.14 Archaeologically Negative Trenches 1-3, 8, 12, and 16

4.14.1 The recorded sequence of deposits in these archaeologically negative trenches was: natural [/003] consisting of mid yellowish brown very silty clay with occasional/frequent manganese and rare flint pebbles; subsoil [/002] consisting of pale yellowish brown fine clayey silt; topsoil [/001] consisting of pale pinkish brown very fine silt.

Trench	Context	Type	Description	Max Length m	Max Width m	Deposit Thickness m (average)	Height m AOD (average)
T1	1/001	Deposit	Topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.30	3.97-4.27
T1	1/002	Deposit	Subsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.20	3.77-3.97
T1	1/003	Deposit	Natural	Tr.	Tr.	Na	3.77
T2	2/001	Deposit	Topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.36	3.88-4.24
T2	2/002	Deposit	Subsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.12	3.76-3.88
T2	2/003	Deposit	Natural	Tr.	Tr.	Na	3.76
T3	3/001	Deposit	Topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.32	3.95-4.27
T3	3/002	Deposit	Subsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.18	3.77-3.95
T3	3/003	Deposit	Natural	Tr.	Tr.	Na	3.77
T8	8/001	Deposit	Topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.34	3.84-4.20
T8	8/002	Deposit	Subsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.22	3.62-3.84
T8	8/003	Deposit	Natural	Tr.	Tr.	Na	3.62
T12	12/001	Deposit	Topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.37	3.68-4.05
T12	12/002	Deposit	Subsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.22	3.46-3.68
T12	12/003	Deposit	Natural	Tr.	Tr.	Na	3.46
T16	16/001	Deposit	Topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.24	3.79-4.03
T16	16/002	Deposit	Subsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.30	3.49-3.79
T16	16/003	Deposit	Natural	Tr.	Tr.	Na	3.49

Table: 15 Trenches 1-3, 8, 12 and 16 list of recorded contexts

5.0 THE FINDS

Context	Pottery	Wt(g)	Bone	Wt(g)	Flint	Wt(g)	FCF	Wt(g)	Stone	Wt(g)
4/006	40	260								
7/005					1	10				
9/005					1	42	1	8		
11/007	1	8								
12/001	1	6								
12/002							6	124		
13/002					3	84			2	124
13/012	2	18								
13/019									1	4078
14/001					1	220				
14/005					2	28				
19/002			7	22						
U/S TR3					1	22				
U/S TR8	2	8								
U/S TR9					1	4				
U/S T13					1	20				
U/S TR15									1	842
Total	**46**	**300**	**7**	**22**	**11**	**430**	**7**	**132**	**4**	**5044**

Table 16: Finds quantification

5.1 **Worked Flint** by Karine Le Hégarat

5.1.1 The evaluation on Land North West of Park Road produced 13 pieces of flint considered to be humanly struck weighing 411g. A further 7 fragments (132g) of burnt unworked flint were recovered from two contexts. The flintwork was hand-collected and subsequently retrieved from environmental samples. The material was quantified by piece count and weight and was catalogued directly into an Excel spreadsheet.

5.1.2 In total, 12 of the 13 pieces of struck flint originate from eight numbered contexts in four trenches (trenches 4, 9, 13 and 14), with the largest concentration coming from trench 13 (seven pieces). The remaining piece was also recovered from trench 13. It was found unstratified.

5.1.3 With the exception of an unfinished core tool re-used as a hammerstone (or as a chopper), the entire assemblage consists of knapping waste. It comprises five flakes, two blade-like flakes, three chips, a piece of irregular waste and a core. A large proportion of the flakes are actually broken. Where present, the platforms are wide or cortical. The fragmentary condition of the flakes does not allow particularly confident dating. Nonetheless, their dominance suggests a flake-based industry (Ford 1987).

5.1.4 The core from context [13/002] was made on a crude flake with a plain platform. Several cones of percussion indicate mis-hits, and the core has been used in a rather unsystematic fashion to remove small flakes. It probably belongs to later Neolithic or Bronze Age / early Iron Age flintworking tradition.

5.1.5 Context [14/001] produced an unfinished/broken core tool re-used as a hammerstone. It is in a relatively poor condition, displaying heavy post-depositional edge damage. Iron marks are also present on the surface of the artefact. The unfinished/broken core tool displays only very limited signs of use as a hammerstone with only two small areas of faceting. It may also have been used as a chopper. The artefact exhibits a slight "S" shape, but it is far from being symmetrical. While one side displays very fine retouch, the other side exhibits a large dull inclusion with absolutely no signs of retouch. The originally intended tool was possibly unfinished, but the piece was recycled - possibly re-shaped, retouched and certainly re-used.

5.1.6 The archaeological investigation produced a small assemblage of flint artefacts, consisting of unmodified knapping waste and an unfinished/broken core tool re-used as a hammerstone. The pieces were principally recovered from trenches 13 and 14. Based on technological and morphological grounds, the assemblage suggests a late prehistoric presence (Late Neolithic to Late Bronze Age / Early Iron Age), but the absence of typologically diagnostic pieces and large enough groups hinder the flintwork to be more precisely dated. Both gravel flint and chalk-derived flint (from superficial deposits) sources appear to have been used for the production of the knapping waste and the unfinished/broken core tool.

5.2 The Prehistoric and Roman Pottery by Anna Doherty

5.2.1 A small assemblage of hand-collected prehistoric and Roman pottery from the site totals 46 sherds, weighing 294g, mostly derived from a single context in Trench 4. At present the assemblage has been examined for spot-dating purposes but not recorded in detail according to a fabric and form type-series. It is recommended that it should be retained and fully integrated into any future assessment/analysis programme in the event of further work at the site.

5.2.2 The only well-stratified hand-collected prehistoric pottery comprises two conjoining bodysherds from context [13/012]. The sherds, which appear to come from the shoulder area of a bowl or jar, are relatively thin-walled but associated with quite a coarse flint-tempered fabric, with inclusions ranging from 0.5-3.5mm. These characteristics are probably broadly typical of Late Bronze Age (c.1150-800BC) assemblages, which are particularly common on the West Sussex Coastal Plain. Having said this, flint-tempered wares occur in most prehistoric periods in the local area so it is difficult to date undiagnostic bodysherds of this type with certainly; coarsely flint-tempered but fairly thin-walled vessels may also occur in the Early Neolithic, for example, although pottery of this period is much less commonly encountered in West Sussex. Very small sherds of flint-tempered prehistoric pottery of uncertain date were also noted in the residues of environmental samples from contexts [13/010], [13/014] and [13/016].

5.2.3 Roman pottery was noted in contexts [4/006], [11/007] and as unstratified material in Trench 18. The largest group (42 sherds, weighing 262g) from [4/006] contains a mixture of Alice Holt and Rowland's Castle grey wares, as well as a fragmentary bowl in the style of Oxfordshire red-slipped ware (though it is possibly of more local origin) – together with a residual later prehistoric flint-tempered sherd. Overall, this context can be well-dated to *c*.AD270-350. Other individual bodysherds from [11/007] and Trench 18 are also probably of later Roman date. They comprise a single sherd of Alice Holt grey ware and two conjoining sherds in very high-fired, almost vitrified coarse ware, perhaps a product of the New Forest industry.

5.3 Post-Roman pottery by Luke Barber

5.3.1 A single sherd of post-Roman pottery was recovered during the evaluation (context [12/001]). This consists of a slightly worn oxidised bodysherd tempered with abundant white, grey and black flint grits to 1mm (4g). Although not particularly closely datable a 10th- to 11th- century date range is considered most likely.

5.4 The Geological Material by Luke Barber

5.4.1 The evaluation recovered stone from three different contexts. Context [13/002] contained two conjoining pieces from a dark grey quartzite cobble fragment (124g) with no obvious signs of use-wear.

5.4.2 Context [13/019] contained a 4090g saddle quern fragment made from a water-worn granite boulder (maximum width 164mm and up to 90mm thick). Most of the 270mm long flattened grinding face appears to be present. Whether this was a finished quern imported from the south-west or a locally made quern that utilised an available erratic is difficult to say.

5.4.3 The final piece of stone was recovered from unstratified deposits in Trench 15. This consists of an 844g flattened water-worn cobble of Mixon Rock with no obvious signs of human modification. The piece would have been washed ashore from the Mixon Reef that is situated just off the coast to the south of Selsey. Only the quern was retained.

5.5 The Animal Bone by Gemma Ayton

5.5.1 A small assemblage of animal bone weighing 22g was hand-collected from a single context [19/007]. The specimens are unidentifiable as they are in a very poor state of preservation being highly fragmented and showing considerable signs of surface erosion. A further fragment of charred, unidentifiable bone was recovered from sample <4>.

6.0 THE ENVIRONMENTAL SAMPLES by Angela Vitolo and Lucy Allott

6.1 Introduction

6.1.1 During evaluation work at Drift Road, Selsey, five bulk soil samples were taken from ditch and posthole fills to recover environmental material such as charred plant macrofossils, wood charcoal, fauna and mollusca as well as to assist finds recovery. This report summarises the contents of the samples, and utilises the results to contribute to discussions of environment and fuel use at the site.

6.2 Methodology

6.2.2 The samples were processed by flotation; the flots and residues were captured on 250µm and 500µm meshes, respectively, and were air dried. The dried residues were passed through graded sieves of 8, 4 and 2mm and each fraction sorted for environmental and artefactual remains (Table 17). The flots were scanned under a stereozoom microscope at 7-45x magnifications and their contents recorded (Table 18). Identifications of macrobotanical remains have been made through comparison with published reference atlases (Cappers *et al*. 2006, Jacomet 2006, NIAB 2004) and nomenclature used follows Stace (1997).

6.2.3 Charcoal fragments were fractured along three planes (transverse, radial and tangential) according to standardised procedures (Gale & Cutler 2000). Specimens were viewed under a stereozoom microscope for initial grouping, and an incident light microscope at magnifications up to 400x to facilitate identification of the woody taxa present. Taxonomic identifications were assigned by comparing suites of anatomical characteristics visible with those documented in reference atlases (Hather 2000, Schoch *et al.* 2004, Schweingruber 1990). Identifications have been given to species where possible, however genera, family or group names have been given where anatomical differences between taxa are not significant enough to permit satisfactory identification. Taxonomic identifications of charcoal are recorded in Table 1, and nomenclature used follows Stace (1997).

6.3 Results

Prehistoric Period. Sample <3>, [13/012]

6.3.1 Sample <3> was taken from the fill of a posthole which also contained prehistoric pottery (see A. Doherty, this report). This was the only flot with one, poorly preserved, wheat/barley (*Triticum/Hordeum* spp.) caryopsis. The matrix was mostly made of uncharred rootlets that are modern contaminants penetrated into the soil. Other finds included worked and fire cracked flint. Oak (*Quercus* sp.), cherry/blackthorn (*Prunus* sp.), alder/hazel (*Alnus/Corylus* spp.), willow/poplar (*Salix/Populus* spp.).This sample also contained a fragment that was unidentifiable because it was too heavily sediment encrusted to obtain sections displaying clear anatomical features.

Roman Period. Sample <1>, [4/006]

6.3.2 Sample <1> was taken from the fill of a ditch. The flot was dominated by twigs and rootlets, with some uncharred seeds and no charred plant macrofossils were recorded. Finds from the residue of this sample include Roman pottery and hobnails, in addition to coal, magnetic material and flint. Woody taxa present in the charcoal assemblage include oak, taxa from the Maloideae subfamily (a group which includes hawthorn, apple, rowan, sorbus and whitebeam for example), cherry/blackthorn and

willow/poplar.

Undated (probably prehistoric). Samples <2> [13/010], *<4> [13/014], <5> [13/016]*

6.3.3 These three samples came from two postholes and a pit that produced small fragments of flint tempered probably prehistoric pottery. All the samples were dominated by roots and twigs and no charred plant macrofossils were present in any of the flots. A small quantity of burnt bone was recovered from the residue of sample <4>. Some non diagnostic finds were also recovered from all three residues, including: pottery, fire cracked flint, stone, flint and magnetic material. Sample <4> also contained a moderate amount of wood charcoal and taxonomic identifications include oak, cherry/blackthorn, hazel/alder, willow poplar and a fragment of charcoal displaying anatomical features consistent with the Leguminosae family which includes gorse and broom.

6.4 Discussion

6.4.1 Overall, the samples from Drift Road contained very little in terms of charred plant macrofossil remains, which hinders any discussion regarding the agricultural economy and subsistence at the site. The strong presence of rootlets, twigs and uncharred seeds in all of the samples suggests a moderate degree of bioturbation and potential disturbances within the deposits. The samples were, however, very charcoal rich and the lack of charred seeds could be due to the nature of the sampled features and modes of deposition/accumulation. The preservation of wood charcoal was generally poor, with many fragments being brittle and displaying signs of sediment encrustation and percolation which may be a result of fluctuations in ground water.

6.4.2 The identified woody taxa suggest a variety of local vegetation habitats were exploited for fuel procurement and perhaps also for the acquisition of wood for other purposes. Oak suggests the presence of deciduous woodland while possible willow and alder could indicate the local presence of wetland habitats, many of the remaining taxa are common components of various habitats including woodland margins, open scrub or hedgerow vegetation. Gorse and broom prefer heathland, scrubland or waste ground and suggest that at least some wood was procured from further inland, perhaps on the South Downs. As well as being known to make an excellent fuel wood (Taylor 1981) oak would also have been relied upon for structural timbers and the available woodland may have been managed carefully.

6.4.3 Other assemblages from the region also reveal an almost ubiquitous presence of oak in Roman and prehistoric charcoal assemblages (Mooney et al 2014, Gale 2008 for example) together with a broad range of other taxa as noted at the current site. Although woodland clearance must have had a huge impact on stands of deciduous woodland vegetation in the region it appears that the inhabitants of this and other sites in the area maintained regular access to such woodland and oak in particular but that other vegetation stands were regularly used for fuel as well as other timber resources.

6.4.4 The high variety of species present within these relatively small charcoal assemblages is also likely to reflect the fact that the sampled features all contained secondary deposits with no signs of *in situ* burning. As such these deposits are likely to contain amalgams of waste deriving from several different sources and activities.

6.4.5 These assemblages provide further evidence to contribute to the considerable body

of data obtained from the Medmerry coastal realignment site located to the west. The presence of charcoal in these samples suggests that there is a potential for the preservation of other charred plant remains at the site and any future work should continue sampling for both charcoal and plant macrofossils, targeting primary deposits.

Table 17: Residue quantification (* = 1-10, ** = 11-50, *** = 51-250, **** = >250) and weights in grams. Charcoal key: cf. = compares with, indet. = indeterminate/unidentifiable

Sample Number	Context	Context / deposit type	Sample Volume litres	Sub-Sample Volume litres	Charcoal >4mm	Weight (g)	Charcoal <4mm	Weight (g)	Charcoal Identifications	Burnt bone 4-8mm	Weight (g)	Other (eg ind, pot, cbm)
1	4/006	Ditch	40	40	***	52	****	80				coal */ <2g - mag.mat. */ <2g - pottery **/ 30g - metal */ 4g - flint */ <2g
2	13/010	Posthole	10	10	***	8	**	4				stone */ 18g - pottery */ 8g - FCF **/ 198g
3	13/012	Posthole	10	10	***	10	***	4				flint */ 14g - FCF **/ 84g
4	13/014	Ditch	40	40	***	38	****	40		*	<2	stone */ 248g - FCF **/ 226g - pottery */ 4g - flint */ 14g
5	13/016	Posthole	10	10	**	2	***	10				burnt stone */ 56g - FCF */ 10g - pottery */ 2g - mag. mat. */ <2g - flint */ <2g

Sample Number	Context	Context / deposit type	Weight g	Flot volume ml	Volume scanned	Uncharred %	Sediment %	Seeds uncharred	Charcoal >4mm	Charcoal <4mm	Charcoal <2mm	Crop seeds charred	Identifications	Preservation	notes
1	4/006	Ditch	6	120	120	70	10	**	*	**	***				root and twig dominated
2	13/010	Posthole	7	150	150	80	10	**			**				root dominated
3	13/012	Posthole	4	100	100	80	10				*	*	*Triticum/Hordeum* spp. (1)	+	root dominated, some sclerotia
4	13/014	Ditch	22	250	150	80	10	**			*				root dominated
5	13/016	Posthole	2	70	70	80	10			**	**				root dominated

Table 18: Flot quantification (* = 1-10, ** = 11-50, *** = 51-250, **** = >250) and weights in gram

7.0 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

7.1 Summary of Results

7.1.1 The site was generally covered by *c.* 0.30m of topsoil and *c.* 0.20m of subsoil overlying head deposits (Brickearth). For the most part, the subsoil represented a very compacted plough pan. Archaeological features were usually identified immediately below this suggesting that the archaeological horizon has suffered a significant degree of truncation by ploughing.

7.1.2 In addition to a probably modern pit in Trench 4, three periods of archaeological activity were tentatively identified: prehistoric (probably LBA), later Roman and perhaps post-medieval. Many undated ditches probably represented elements of prehistoric or Roman field systems.

7.1.3 A single apparent focus of prehistoric activity was identified in Trench 13 where possible LBA structural features were recorded, together with a quern stone and worked flint.

7.1.4 Only one feature, ditch [4/005] in Trench 4 was firmly dated to the later Roman period and was probably associated with nearby domestic or industrial activity. A second ditch in Trench 11 produced a single sherd of later Roman pottery.

7.1.5 Although undated, ditch [11/004]/[130/018] was possibly a post-medieval boundary ditch with a signature pebble fill that would have served as a French drain after infilling.

Trench 4

7.1.6 A later Roman ditch [4/004] produced a large assemblage of pottery and was firmly dated to *c.* AD270-350. The presence of the pottery and the significant quantity of charcoal within the ditch fill suggests that a dwelling of that period lay nearby.

7.1.7 Ditch [4/004] was cut by a large(>10m wide) pit [4/007] that contained modern metal including re-bar and a drain cover in the upper fill, together with plastic at depth. This feature is not shown on the 1st edition OS map, nor on any subsequent edition, suggesting that it was a transitory modern feature in the landscape.

Trench 5

7.1.8 Two undated ditches [5/004] and [5/008] ran broadly SW-NE and were perhaps elements of a field system. The character of the features perhaps suggests a prehistoric origin. An undated possible post-hole [5/006] beside ditch [5/004] may have been associated.

Trench 6

7.1.9 Ditch/gully termini [6/004] and [6/006] were elements of the same undated linear feature, where the gap between the termini represented an interruption. The irregular character of the linear feature perhaps suggests that it represented a hedge line. The SE-NW alignment perhaps indicated that it was a further element of a coaxial field system possibly identified in Trench 5.

Trench 7

7.1.10 Ditch [7/004] was orientated ESE-WNW and perhaps represented a further element of the previously suggested coaxial field system. Ditch [7/004] was quite possibly the north-western extension of ditch [9/006] recorded in Trench 9. Although no datable material was found, fire-cracked flint was recovered from the fill, *perhaps* indicating a prehistoric origin.

Trench 9

7.1.11 Two parallel ditches [9/004] and [9/006] lay *c*. 10m apart and were orientated ESE-WNW. These features perhaps represented further elements of the previously suggested coaxial field system. Ditch [9/006] was quite possibly the south-eastern extension of ditch [7/004] recorded in Trench 7. Although no datable material was recovered, fire-cracked and worked flint was produced by ditch [9/004], a further indication of a possible prehistoric origin for the postulated field system.

Trench 10

7.1.12 Undated ditch/gully [10/004] was orientated SE-NW and was perhaps a further element of the postulated prehistoric field system. Gully [10/006] was rather irregular in plan and section and was perhaps a natural run-off feature.

7.1.13 Two undated parallel ditches [10/008] and [10/012] lay *c.* 4m apart and were orientated SE-NW. The features perhaps represented a trackway.

7.1.14 Undated discrete feature [10/010] was perhaps a post-hole or *may* have been geological in origin.

Trench 11

7.1.15 Undated ditch [11/004] was probably a large (c.2.8m wide) boundary ditch running SW-NE. The south-western extension of ditch [11/004] was recorded in Trench 13 as ditch [13/018]. Although ditch [13/018] was somewhat narrower at 1.5m wide, both ditches contained a signature gravel fill, probably intended to facilitate drainage after infilling in the manner of a French drain.

7.1.16 This is a well understood technique used in the post-medieval period in areas where beach gravel was locally available, and has been frequently recorded during the long-running archaeological investigation of an extensive medieval/post-medieval field system at Lydd Quarry in Kent (ASE 1994-present).

7.1.17 Ditch [11/008] was orientated SE-NW and was perhaps the south-eastern end of ditch [9/004] in Trench 9. Ditch [11/008] produced a single sherd of Roman, probably later Roman pot.

Trench 12

7.1.18 Although no archaeological features were identified, a single sherd of probably 10th- to 11th- century pottery was recovered from the topsoil [12/001].

Trench 13

7.1.19 A possible undated ditch terminus or pit [13/004] was recorded at the southern end of the trench, while a very similar undated feature [13/006] lay in the centre of the

trench. The character of the respective fills was very similar to the probably prehistoric post-hole/pit group [13/009] *et al.* described below.

7.1.20 Three probable post-holes ([13/009], [13/011] and [13/015]) and a small pit [13/013] lay in a slightly curving row *c.* 6.3m long; all four features contained fills of identical character. Post-hole [13/011] produced two large conjoining sherds of probably Late Bronze Age pottery dating to between 1150-800BC. Given the relatively small size of the post-hole (0.26m in diameter), it is very unlikely that the pottery was residual. Small fragments of flint-tempered prehistoric pottery were also noted in environmental samples <2>, <4> and <5> from features [13/009], [13/013] and [13/015] respectively.

7.1.21 This feature group was therefore almost certainly LBA (it should be noted that the pottery specialist states that although probably LBA in origin 'an Early Neolithic date of between 3650-3300BC for the pottery cannot be totally ruled out'). Given the wealth of evidence for Bronze Age settlement in the Selsey area it is more likely that the features were LBA in origin.

7.1.22 If the curving arc of the features [13/009] *et al.* were extended to make a circle, the diameter would be *c.* 8m; given the estimated dimensions it is quite possible that [13/009] *et al.* represent structural elements of a prehistoric roundhouse. That this feature group represents settlement is supported by the presence of prehistoric pottery in all four features and the recovery of a saddle quern from a nearby probably later feature [13/018]. Interestingly a single wheat/barley (*Triticum/Hordeum* spp.) caryopsis was recovered from environmental sample <3> from post-hole [13/009], supporting the suggested association of the quern with features [13/009] *et al.* A relatively large range of wood species was also identified in sample <3> comprising oak, cherry/blackthorn, alder/hazel and willow/poplar, together with gorse/broom from sample <4>, indicating that a range of habitats were being exploited and that various activities were probably taking place. In addition, although only 13 total pieces of worked flint were recovered from the site as a whole, seven pieces came from Trench 13.

7.1.23 A large perhaps boundary ditch [13/018] contained a secondary fill [13/020] of rounded flint pebbles, probably intended to allow drainage along the line of the feature after infilling, thereby acting as a French drain. The saddle quern from the upper fill [13/019] was probably residual (see para.7.1.17 above). Ditch [13/018] was probably the south-eastern extension of ditch [11/004] in Trench 11.

Trench 14

7.1.24 Ditch [14/004] was orientated SW-NE and perhaps represented a further element of the previously suggested coaxial field system. Although no datable material was found, worked flint was recovered from the fill, *perhaps* indicating a prehistoric origin.

Trench 15

7.1.25 Two undated, broadly parallel ditches [15/004] and [15/006] lay *c*. 6m apart and were orientated SW-NE. These features perhaps represented further elements of the previously suggested coaxial field system.

Trench 17

7.1.26 Undated possible ditch terminus [17/004] and undated possible post-hole [17/006] were isolated features with no clear associations. However, the orientation of [17/004] was SE-NW, corresponding with many of the linear features recorded.

7.1.27 Undated ditch [17/008] was orientated WSW-ENE and was perhaps the eastern extension of ditch [9/004] in Trench 9.

Trench 18

7.1.28 Two undated, possibly parallel ditches [18/004] and [18/006] lay *c*. 12m apart and were orientated SW-NE. These features perhaps represented further elements of the previously suggested coaxial field system; ditch [18/006] was perhaps the northern extension of ditch [14/004] in Trench 4.

Trench 19

7.1.29 Two undated, possibly parallel ditches [19/004] and [19/006] lay *c*. 6.5m apart and were orientated SE-NW. These features perhaps represented further elements of the previously suggested coaxial field system.

7.2 Existing Impacts

7.2.1 Although the site had almost certainly undergone some degree of truncation due to ploughing, it had never been subject to modern deep ploughing (subsoiling or 'pan busting'), therefore the degree of archaeological survival at the site is good.

7.2.2 A large (10m + wide) modern pit [4/007] on the western edge of the site was the only recent feature found to have impacted archaeological features where it truncated the eastern-end of a Late Roman ditch.

7.3 Impact on archaeological remains

7.3.1 The archaeological remains identified during the current work were spread across the site, with the possible exception of the north-western corner of the site, and all lay within *c.* 0.6m of the existing ground surface. Therefore development related groundworks would certainly destroy all archaeological remains where they are present.

7.4 Discussion of archaeological remains by period

7.4.1 Three periods of activity are represented: Late Bronze Age, Late Roman and post-medieval / modern.

7.4.2 Elements of an undated co-axial field-system, including probable paddocks and trackways defined predominantly by small ditches and occasionally by hedgerows were recorded. These features follow a predominantly NNE-SSW alignment. The ditches occasionally contained fire-cracked flint and were excavated in evaluation trenches across much of the site. This, their character, and the proximity of known Bronze Age activity to the immediate west of the site implies that this organisation is of Bronze Age date. In Trench 13 several posts containing Late Bronze Age pottery were found. When extrapolated, these form a round some 8m across and may well therefore represent the remains of a roundhouse.

7.4.3 In the extreme west (Trench 4) and south central part (Trench 11) of the site, a ditch along a similar alignment contained Later Roman pottery. This may represent Late Roman field boundaries, or is possibly residual or intrusive material within Late Bronze Age or post-medieval/modern features (see below 7.4.4).

7.4.4 Post-medieval/modern pitting was recorded in the western (Trench 4) part of site and in the south-central (Trenches 7, 9 11) part of the site, several drainage features were undated and may represent further Bronze Age activity or post-medieval/modern activity.

7.5 Consideration of research aims

- Clarify the presence/absence and extent of any buried archaeological remains within the site that may be impacted by development.

  The date of the archaeological remains cannot be precisely dated by the data recovered in the evaluation. They are thought to predominantly represent elements of extensive Late Bronze Age land division across most of the site with possible occupation in the south-east of the site.

  Late Roman land division and post-medieval/modern drainage cannot be ruled-out in the southern part of the site either.

- Identify, within the constraints of the evaluation, the date, character, condition and depth of any surviving remains within the site.

  The evaluation is constrained by a lack of dating evidence which has rendered the effective dating and therefore the interpreted character of the surviving remains inconclusive. The condition of archaeological survival is good with archaeological features surviving within *c.* 0.6m of the existing ground surface.

- Assess the degree of existing impacts to sub-surface horizons and to document the extent of archaeological survival of buried deposits.

  The degree of archaeological survival at the site is good.

7.5 Conclusions

7.5.1 The evaluation has revealed three periods of activity. This is thought to be predominantly of a Late Bronze Age date and includes elements of co-axial land-division (field-system) spread across much of the site and occupation in the south-east. Late-Roman and post-medieval activity may also be represented. There was overall a shortage of dating evidence which has made the effective dating, and therefore the characterisation, of the remains difficult.

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HER Summary

Site Code	DRI 15					
Identification Name and Address	Land at Drift Road, Selsey, West Sussex					
County, District &/or Borough	Chichester					
OS Grid Refs.	486600 094007					
Geology	Marsh Farm Formation with superficial Head deposits					
Arch. South-East Project Number	7191					
Type of Fieldwork	Eval.					
Type of Site	Green Field					
Dates of Fieldwork	Eval. 20-30/7/2015					
Sponsor/Client	ACD Archaeology Consulting					
Project Manager	Paul Mason					
Project Supervisor	Greg Priestley-Bell					
Period Summary				BA		RB
			PM			

Summary

Archaeology South-East (ASE) was commissioned by ACD Archaeology, to undertake an archaeological evaluation on land at Drift Road, Selsey, West Sussex. Nineteen 50m x 1.8m trenches were investigated.

Marsh Farm Formation deposits were overlain by head deposits of silt and clay (brickearth), subsoil (plough pan) and topsoil.

The evaluation has revealed three periods of activity. This is thought to be predominantly of a Late Bronze Age date and includes elements of co-axial land-division (field-system) spread across much of the site and occupation in the south-east. Late-Roman and post-medieval activity may also be represented. There was overall a shortage of dating evidence which has made the effective dating and therefore the characterisation of the remains difficult.

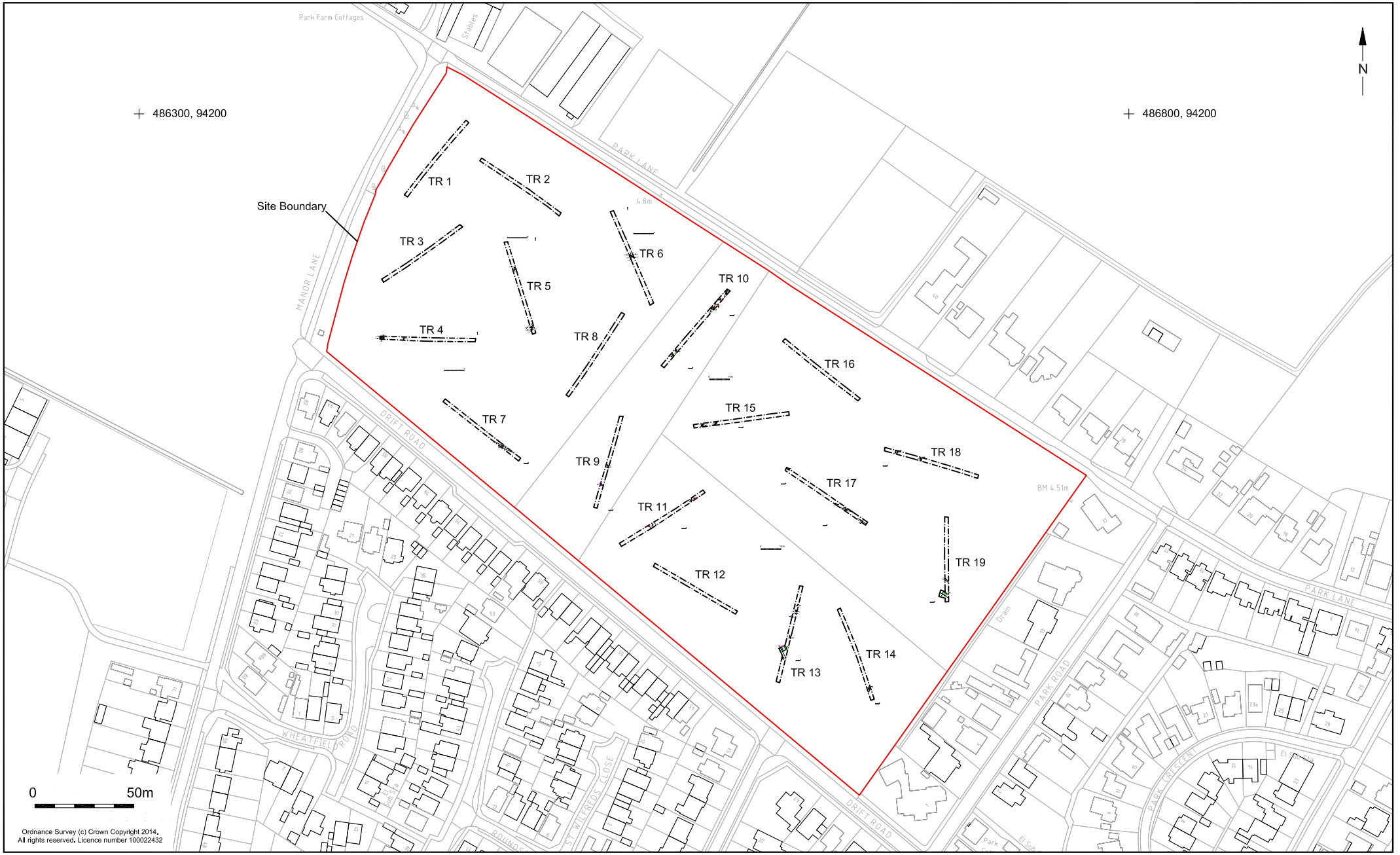
OASIS Form

OASIS ID: archaeol6-220021	
Project details	
Project name	Land off Drift Road, Selsey, West Susex
Short description of the project	Archaeology South-East (ASE) was commissioned by ACD Archaeology, to undertake an archaeological evaluation on land at Drift Road, Selsey, West Sussex. Nineteen 50m x 1.8m trenches were investigated. Marsh Farm Formation deposits were overlain by head deposits of silt and clay (brickearth), subsoil (plough pan) and topsoil. The evaluation has revealed three periods of activity. This is thought to be predominantly of a Late Bronze Age date and includes elements of co-axial land-division (field-system) spread across much of the site and occupation in the south-east. Late-Roman and post-medieval activity may also be represented. There was overall a shortage of dating evidence which has made the effective dating and therefore the characterisation of the remains difficult.
Project dates	Start: 20-07-2015 End: 30-07-2015
Previous/future work	No / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	7191 - Contracting Unit No.
Any associated project reference codes	DRI15 - Sitecode
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Current Land use	Grassland Heathland 3 - Disturbed
Monument type	POST-HOLES Late Bronze Age
Monument type	DITCHES Late Prehistoric
Monument type	DITCHES Roman
Significant Finds	POT Late Bronze Age
Significant Finds	QUERN Late Prehistoric
Significant Finds	POT Roman
Methods & techniques	''Sample Trenches''
Development type	Housing estate
Prompt	Planning condition
Position in the planning process	After outline determination (eg. As a reserved matter)
Project location	
Country	England
Site location	WEST SUSSEX CHICHESTER SELSEY Land off Drift Road, Selsey, West Sussex

Postcode	PO20 0PP
Study area	6.10 Hectares
Site coordinates	SZ 86600 94007 50.7386352293 -0.77259300485 50 44 19 N 000 46 21 W Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 3.20m Max: 4.30m
Project creators	
Name of Organisation	Archaeology South East
Project brief originator	Chichester District Council
Project design originator	ASE
Project director/manager	Paul Mason
Project supervisor	Greg Priestley-Bell
Type of sponsor/funding body	Client
Name of sponsor/funding body	ACD Archaeology
Project archives	
Physical Archive recipient	Local Museum
Physical Contents	''Ceramics'',''Environmental'',''Metal'',''Worked stone/lithics''
Digital Archive recipient	Local Museum
Digital Contents	''Survey''
Digital Media available	''Database'',''Images raster / digital photography'',''Survey'',''Text''
Paper Archive recipient	Local Museum
Paper Contents	''other''
Paper Media available	''Context sheet'',''Drawing'',''Report'',''Section'',''Unspecified Archive''
Project bibliography 1	
Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	An archaeological evaluation of land off Drift Road, Selsey, West Sussex
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Priestley-Bell, G.
Other bibliographic details	report no 2015283

Date	2015
Issuer or publisher	Archaeology South-East
Place of issue or publication	Portslade
Description	Booklet
Entered by	Greg Priestley-Bell (gregpbell@btinternet.com)
Entered on	9 August 2015

© Archaeology South-East		Land NW of Park Road, Selsey	Fig. 1
Project Ref: 7191	August 2015	Site location	
Report Ref: 2015283	Drawn by: LG		



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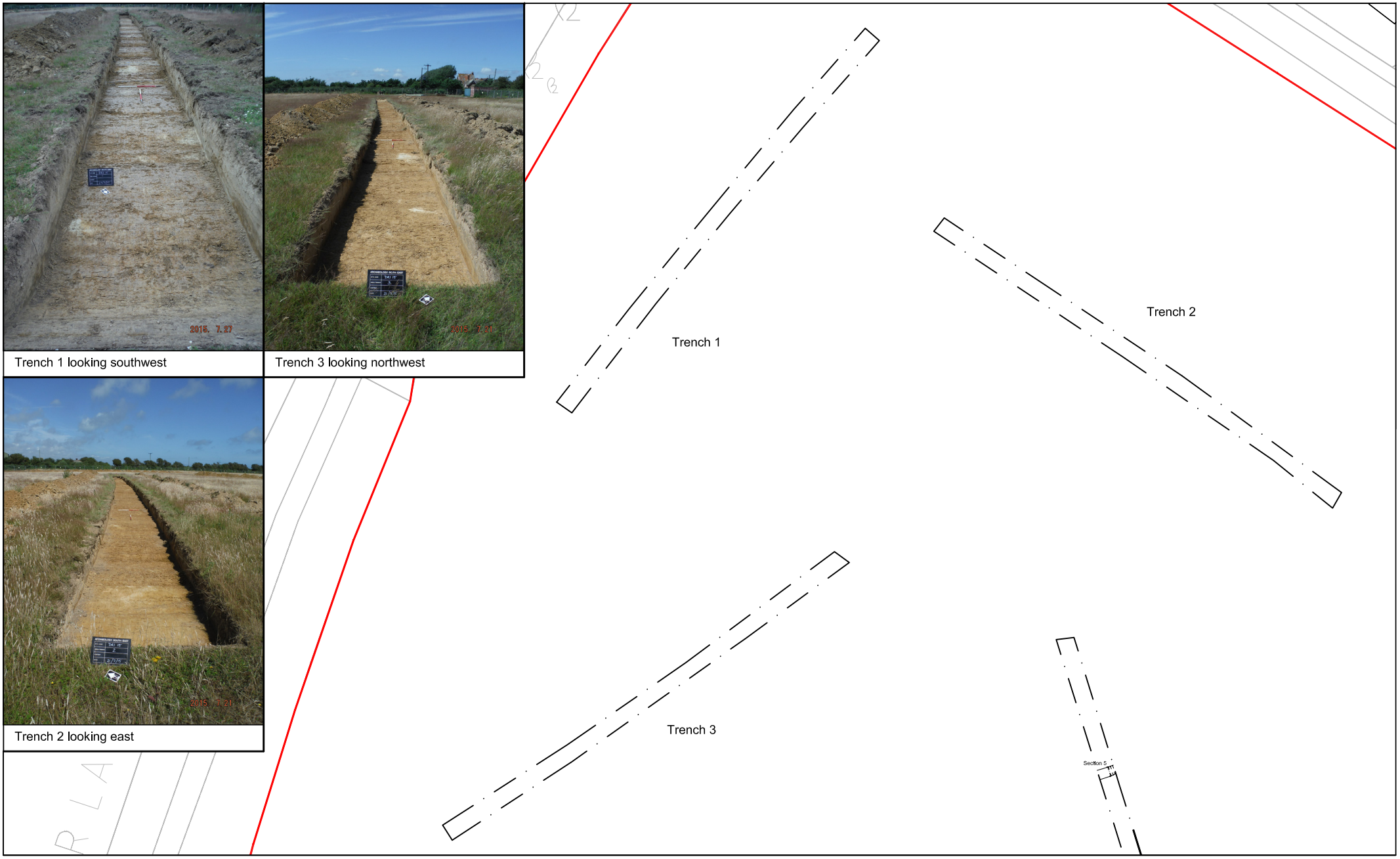
Project Ref: 7191	August 2015	Trench location	
Report Ref: 2015283	Drawn by: DJH		

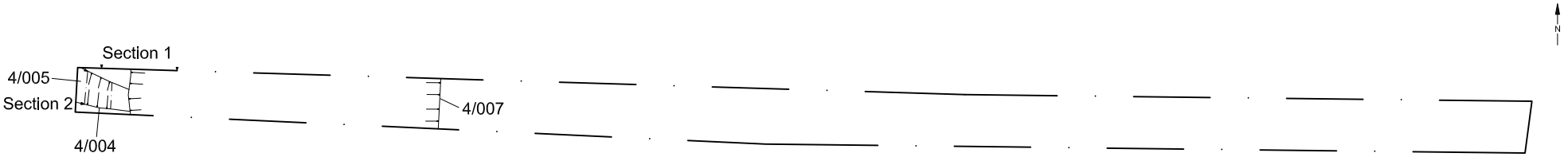
Trench 1 looking southwest

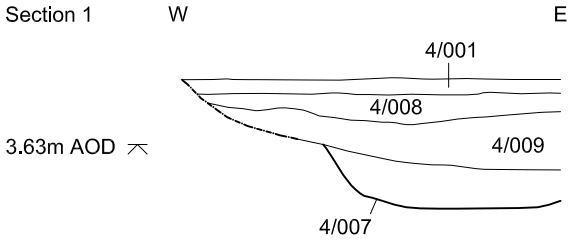
Trench 3 looking northwest

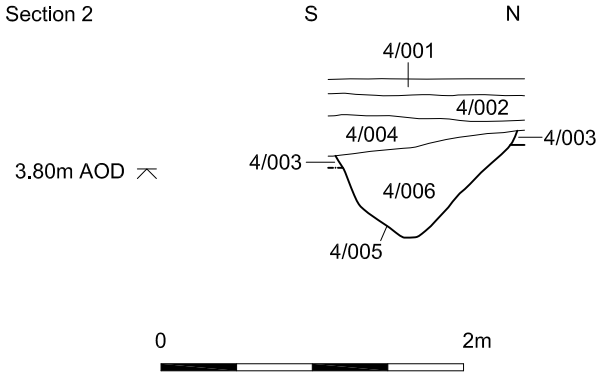
Trench 2 looking east



© Archaeology South-East		Land NW of Park Road, Selsey	Fig. 3
Project Ref: 7191	August 2015	Trenches 1, 2 and 3 plan and photos	
Report Ref: 2015283	Drawn by: DJH		



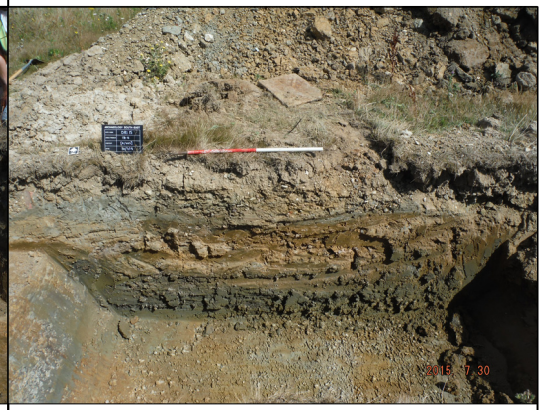




Trench 4 looking west

0 10m

Trench 4: Ditch 4/005 viewed looking northwest



Trench 4: Ditch 4/007 viewed looking north

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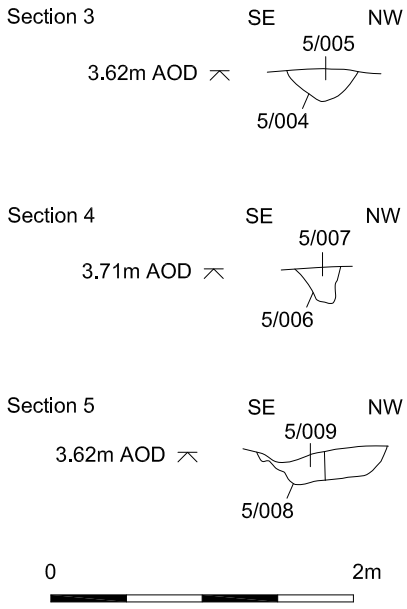
Project Ref: 7191	August 2015	Trench 4 plan, sections and photos	
Report Ref: 2015283	Drawn by: DJH		

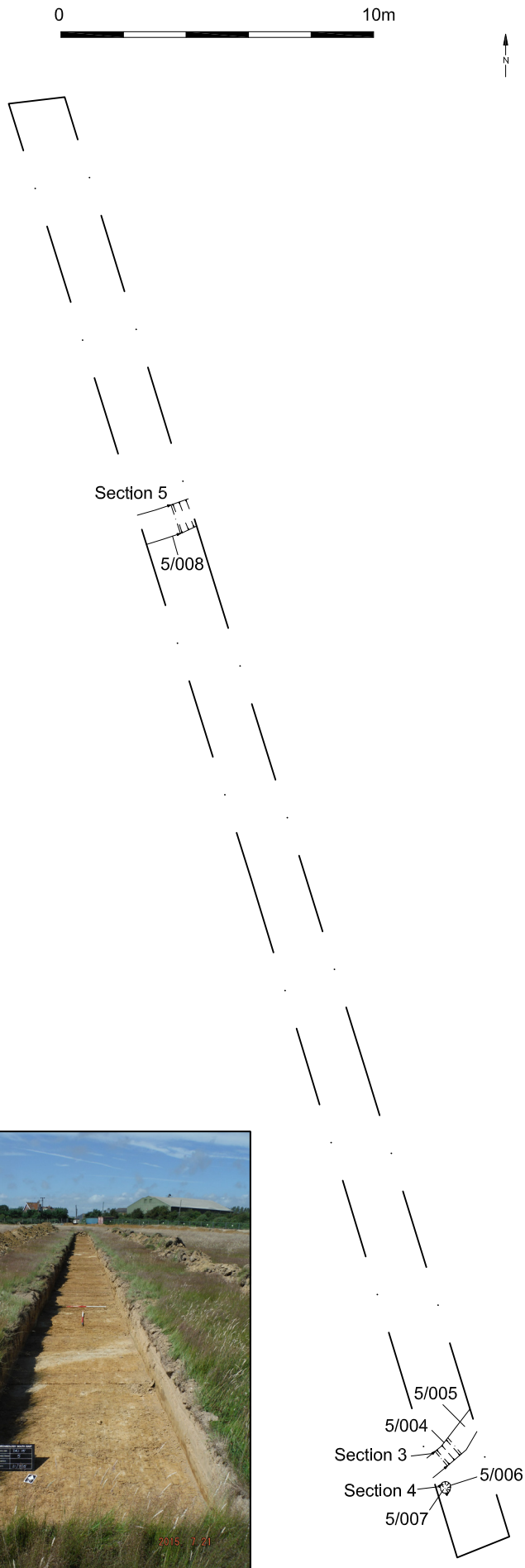
Trench 5: Ditch 5/004 looking northeast

Trench 5: Posthole 5/006 looking south

Trench 5: Ditch 5/008 looking northeast



Trench 5 looking north



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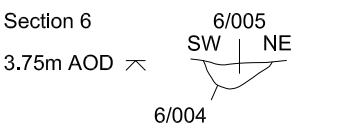
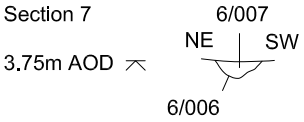
Report Ref: 2015283	Drawn by: DJH		

Trench 6: Ditches 6/004 and 6/006 looking south-west

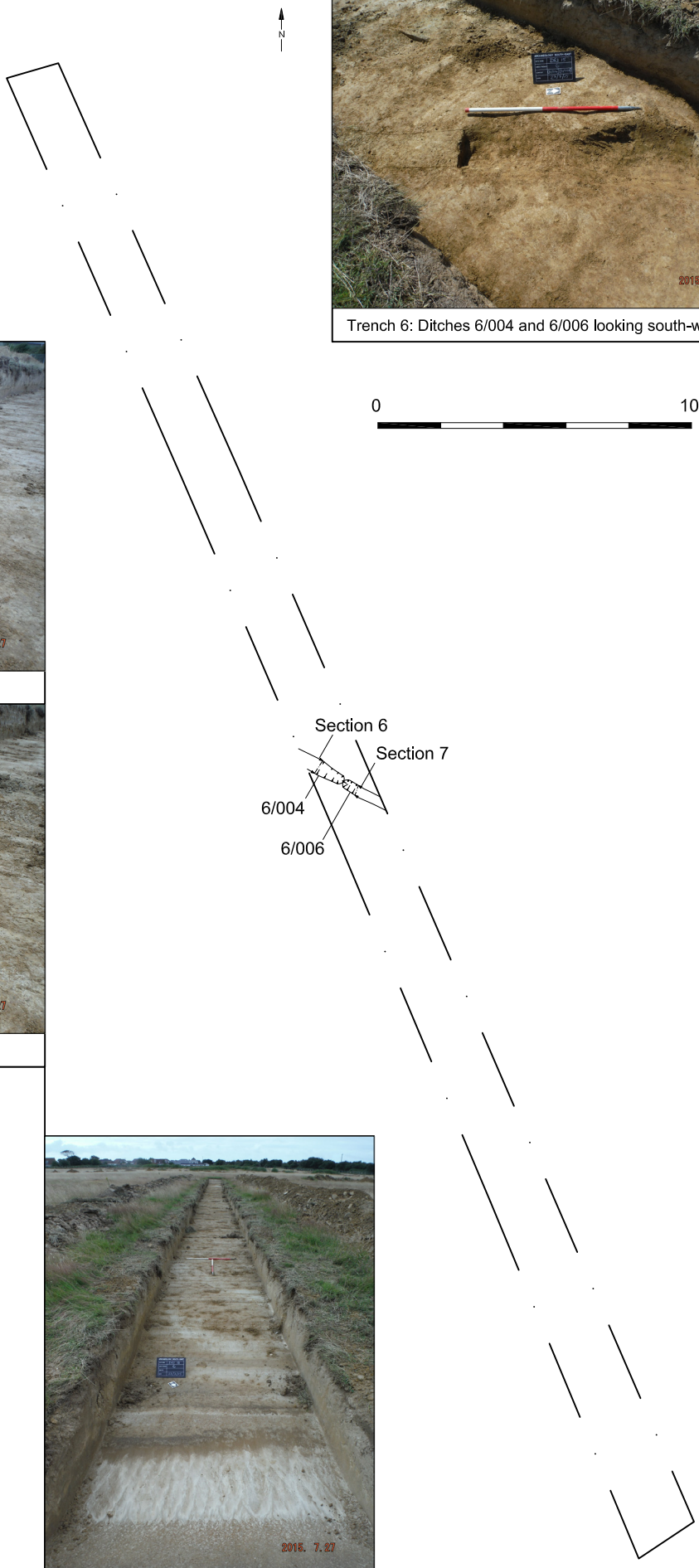
Trench 6: Ditch 6/004 looking north-west

Trench 6: Ditch 6/006 looking south-east





Trench 6 looking southwest



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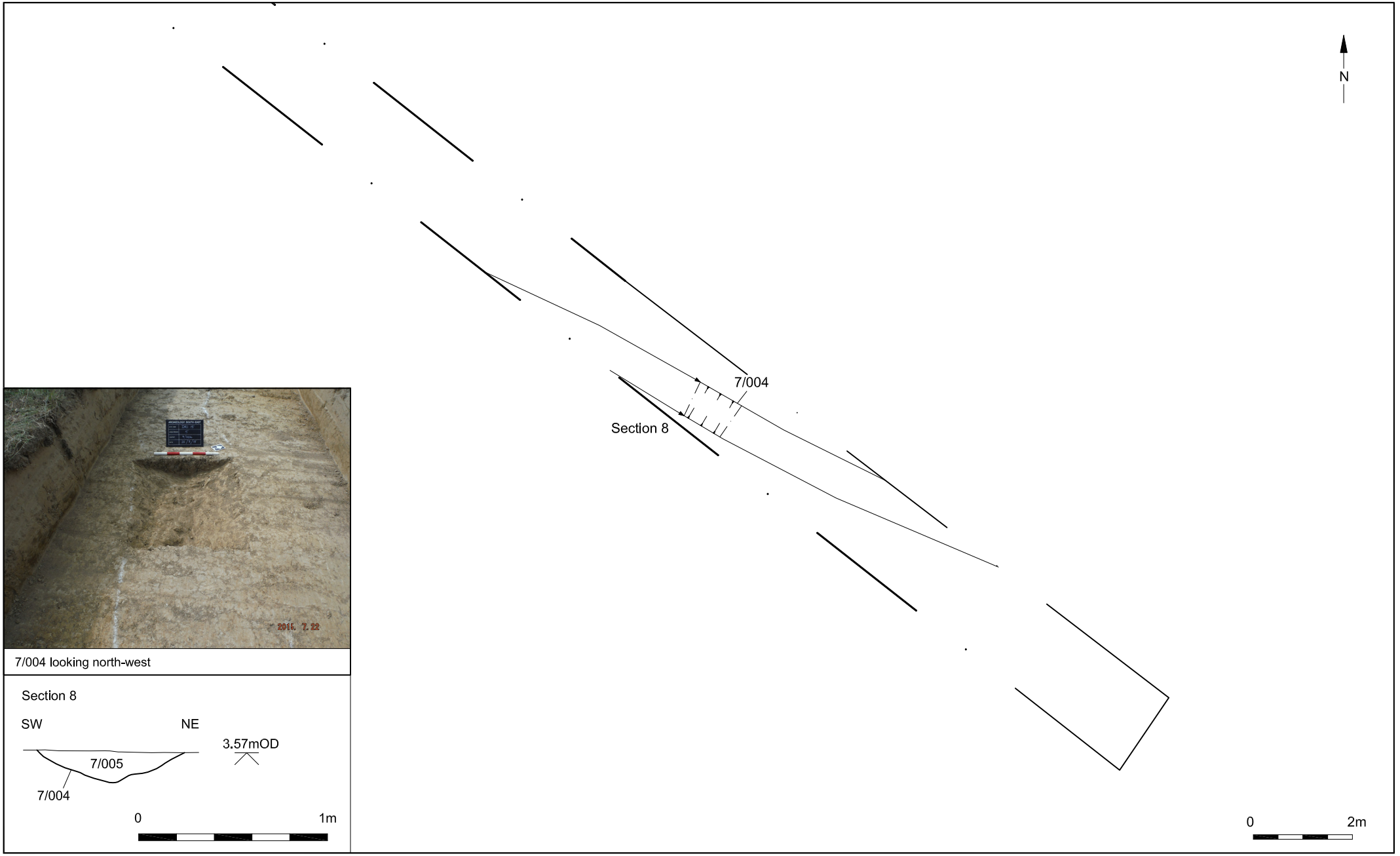
Project Ref: 7191	August 2015	Trench 6 plan, sections and photos	
Report Ref: 2015283	Drawn by: DJH		

7/004 looking north-west

Section 8



© Archaeology South-East		Land NW of Park Road, Selsey	Fig. 7
Project Ref: 7191	Aug 2015	Trench 7 plan, sections and photos	
Report Ref: 2015283	Drawn by: LG		

N

0 2m

Trench 8 looking north-east

© Archaeology South-East		Land NW of Park Road, Selsey	Fig. 8
Project Ref: 7191	August 2015	Trench 8 plan and photos	
Report Ref: 2015283	Drawn by: LG		

Section 9

NE SW

9/001

9/002

3.38mOD

9/003 9/005 9/003

9/004

Section 10

SW NE

9/001

9/002 9/002 3.43mOD

9/007

9/003 9/003

9/006

0 1m

9/004 looking south-east

9/006 looking north-west

N

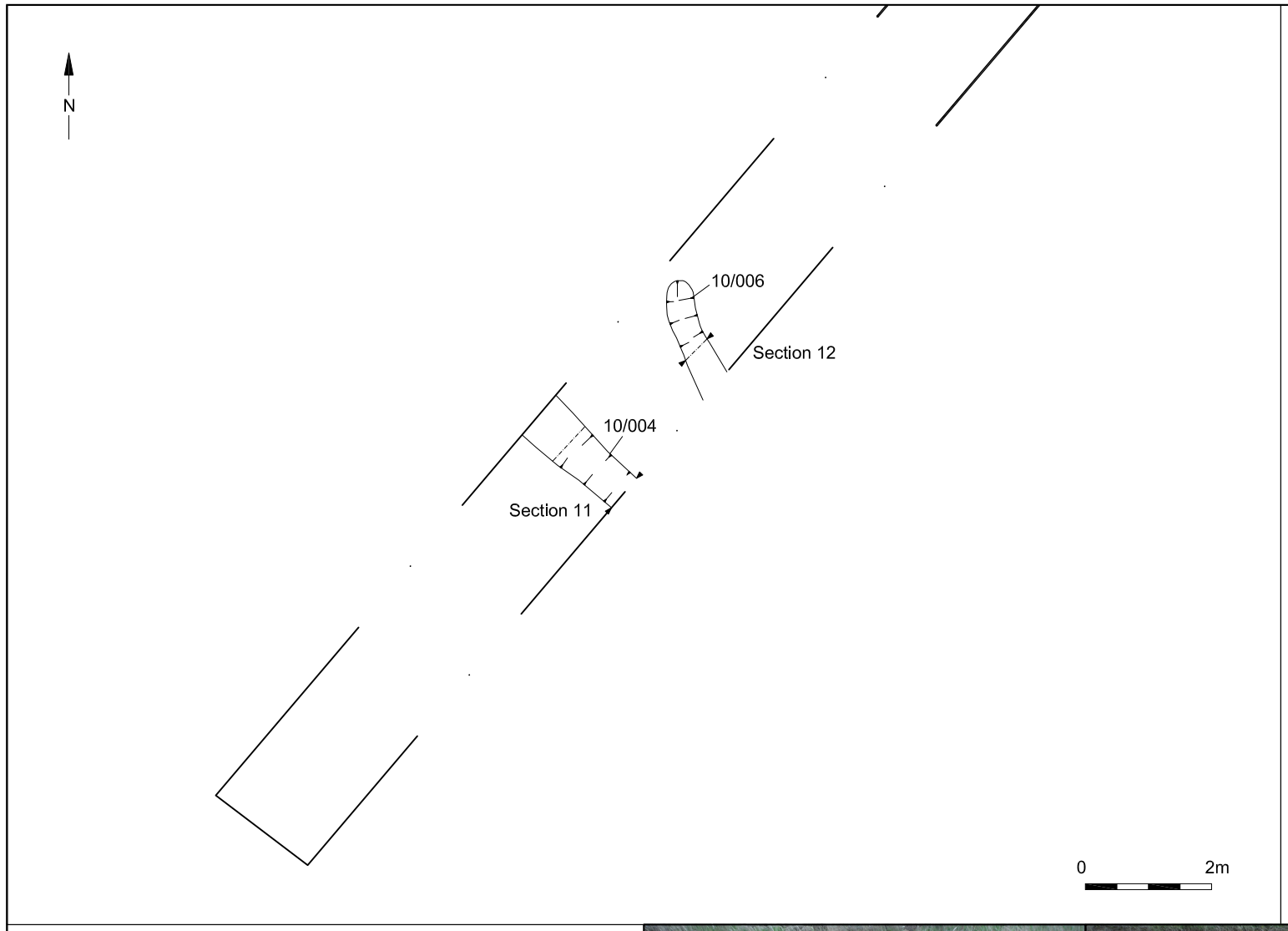
9/004

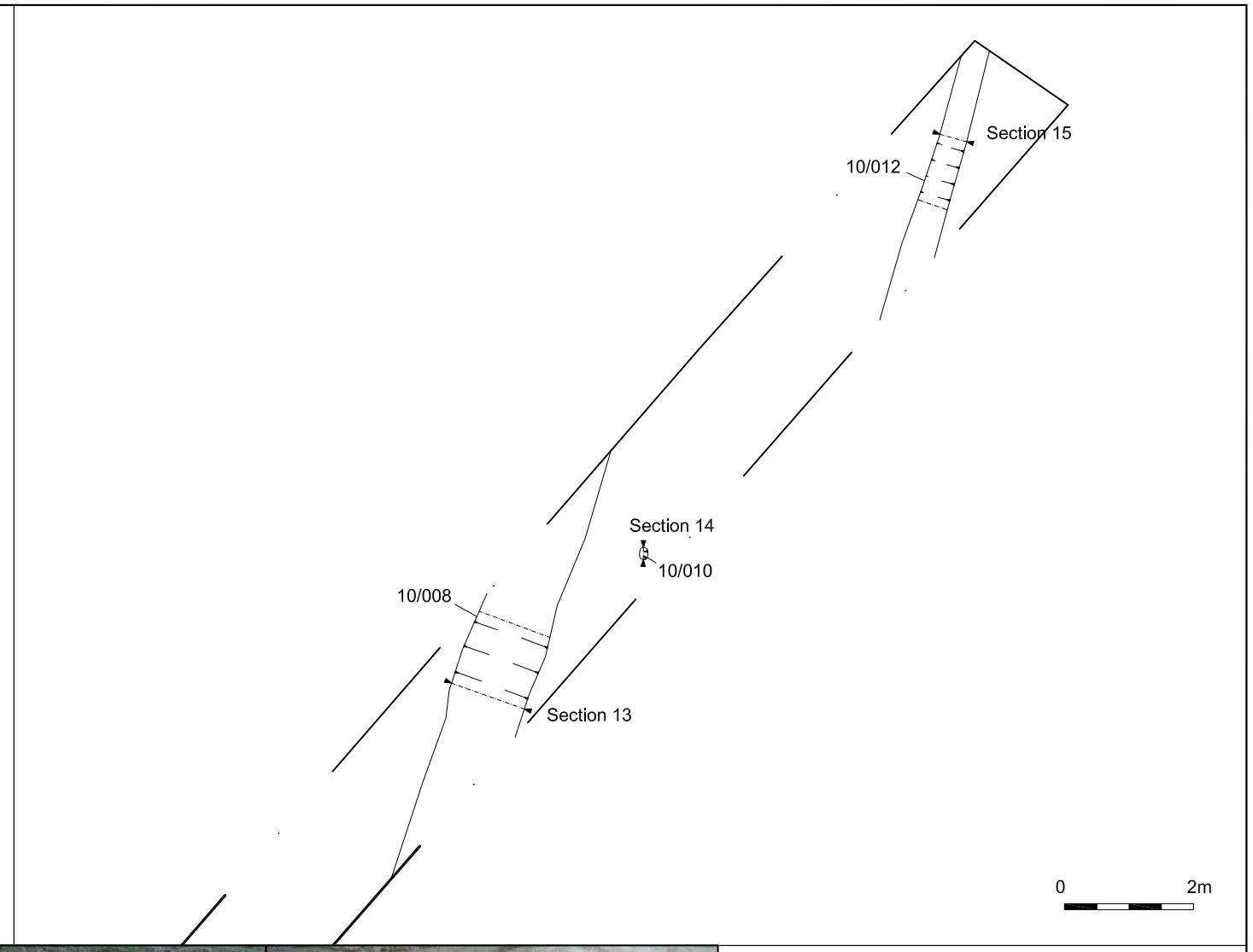
Section 9

Section 10

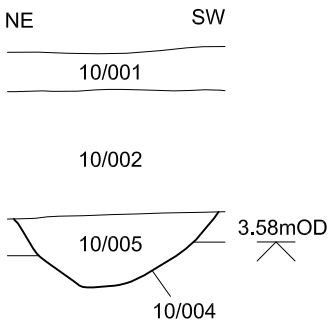
9/006

0 2m





Section 11



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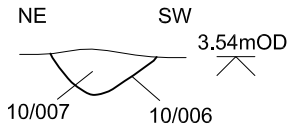

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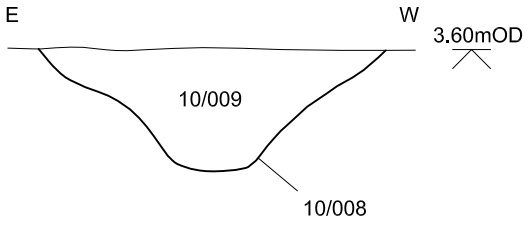

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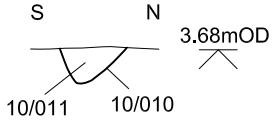

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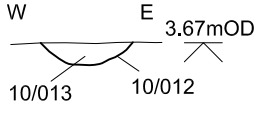


0 1m

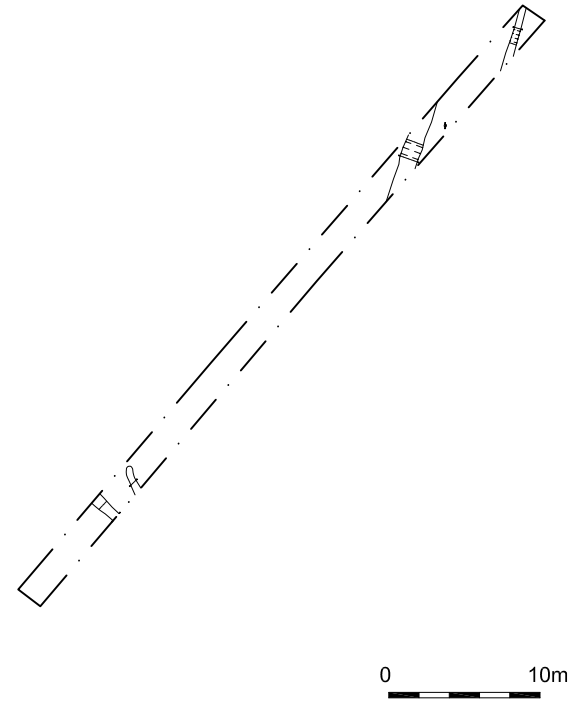

10/004 looking south-east


10/006 looking south-east

10/008 looking south

10/010 looking west

10/012 looking north



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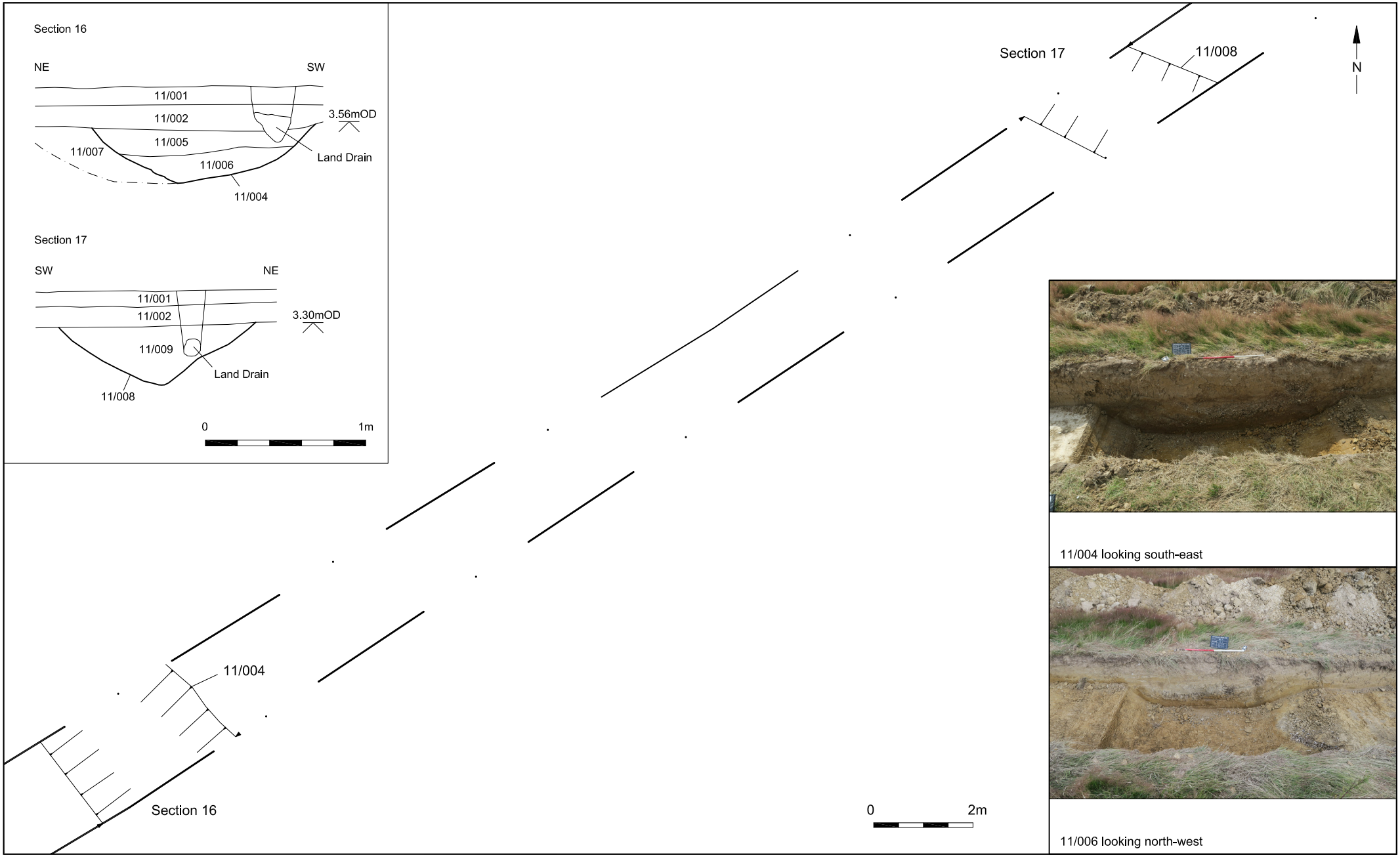
Project Ref: 7191	April 2015	Trench 10 plan, sections and photos	
Report Ref: 2015283	Drawn by: LG		

Section 16

Section 17



11/004 looking south-east

11/006 looking north-west

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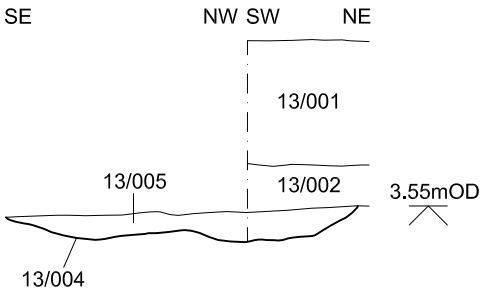
Project Ref: 7191	Aug 2015	Trench 11 plan, sections and photos	
Report Ref: 2015283	Drawn by: LG		

Section 18



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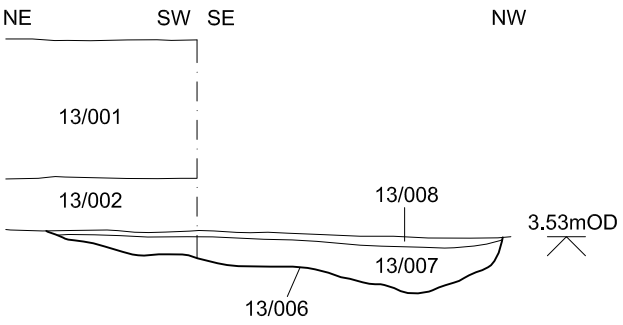
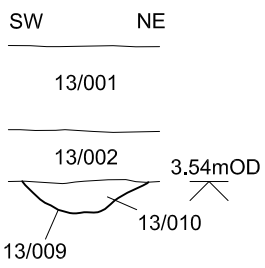


Section 20



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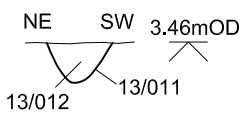

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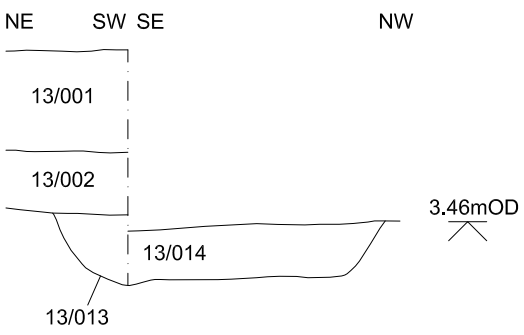

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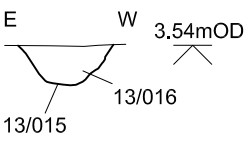

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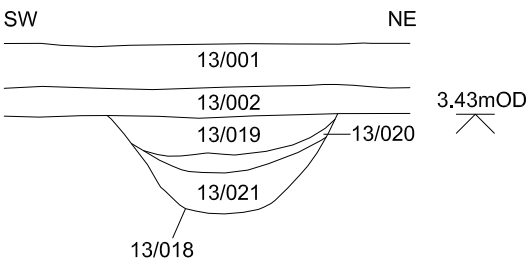


0 1m

13/004 looking south-west

13/006 looking south

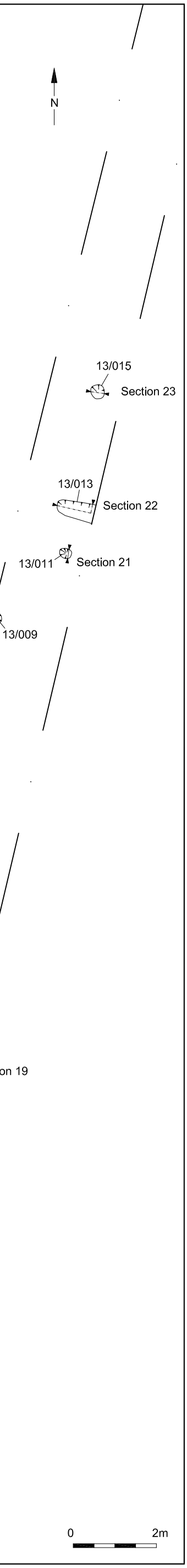
13/009 looking south-west

13/011 looking north-east

13/015 looking south

13/018 looking north-west

13/013 looking south-east



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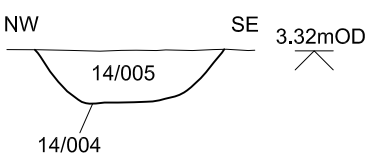
Project Ref: 7191	2015	Trench 13 plan, sections and photos	
Report Ref: 2015283	Drawn by: LG		

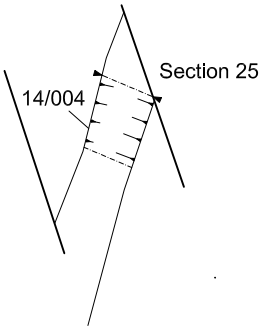
N

14/004 looking north-east

Section 25



0 1m



0 2m

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Project Ref: 7191	August 2015	Trench 14 plan, section and photo	
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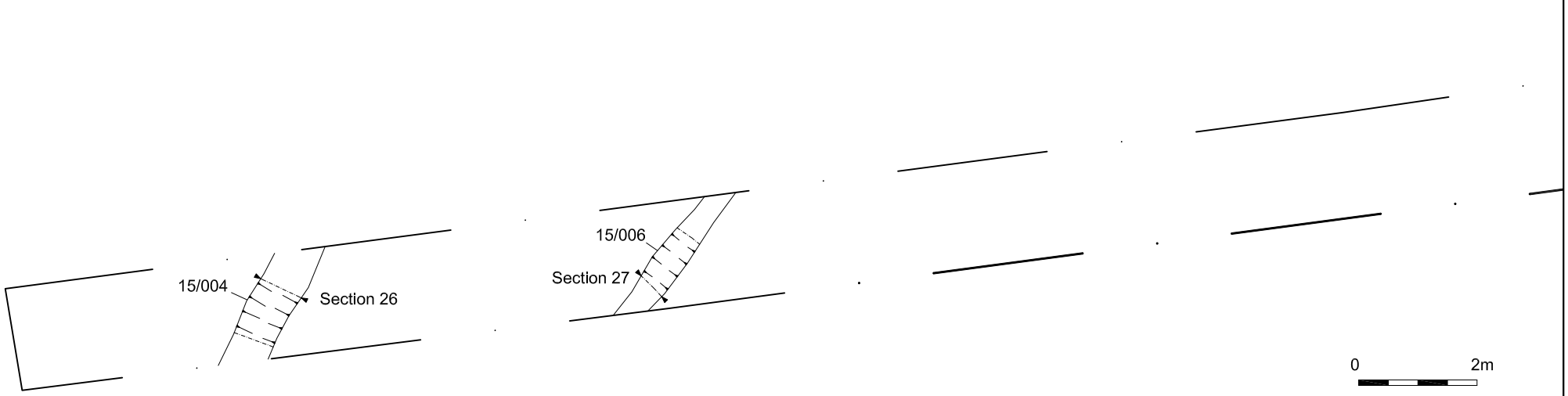
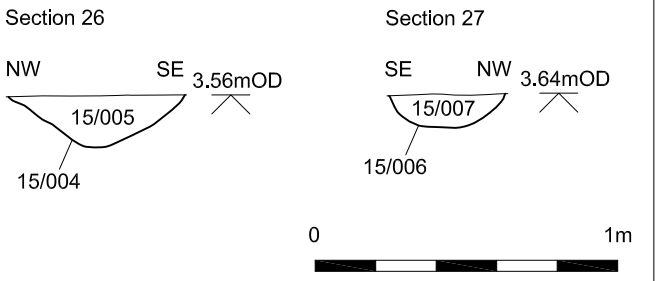


15/004 looking north-east

15/006 looking south-west



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Project Ref: 7191	Aug 2015	Trench 15 plan, sections and photos	
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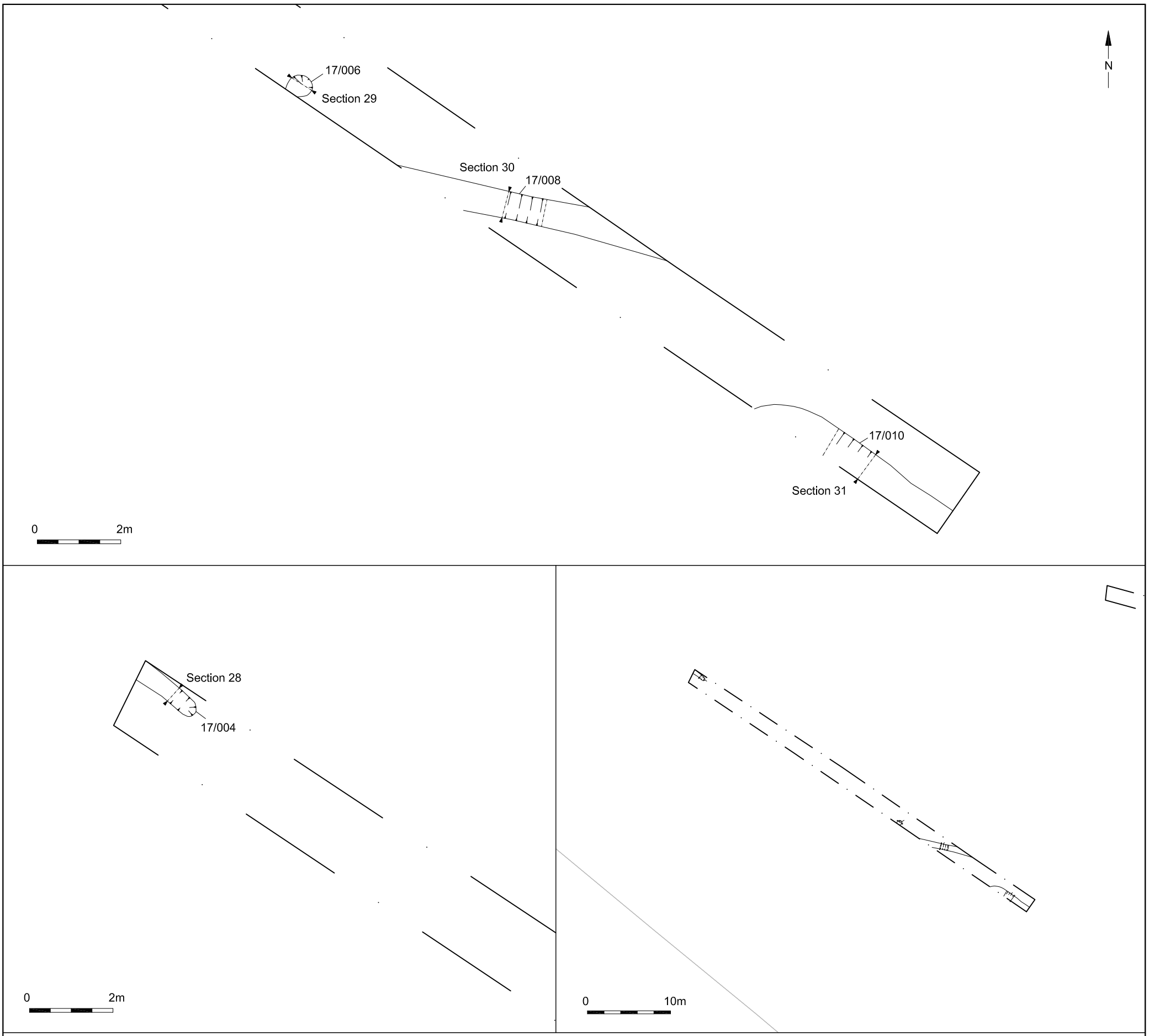

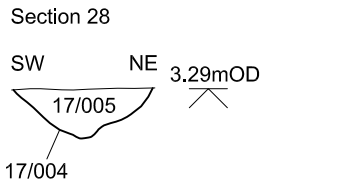

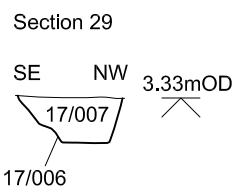

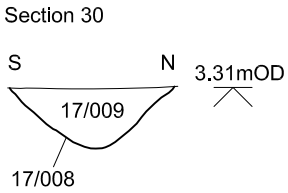

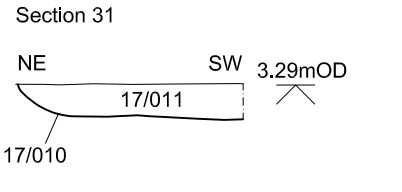

17/004 looking north-west

17/008 looking west

17/010 looking south-east

17/006 looking south-west

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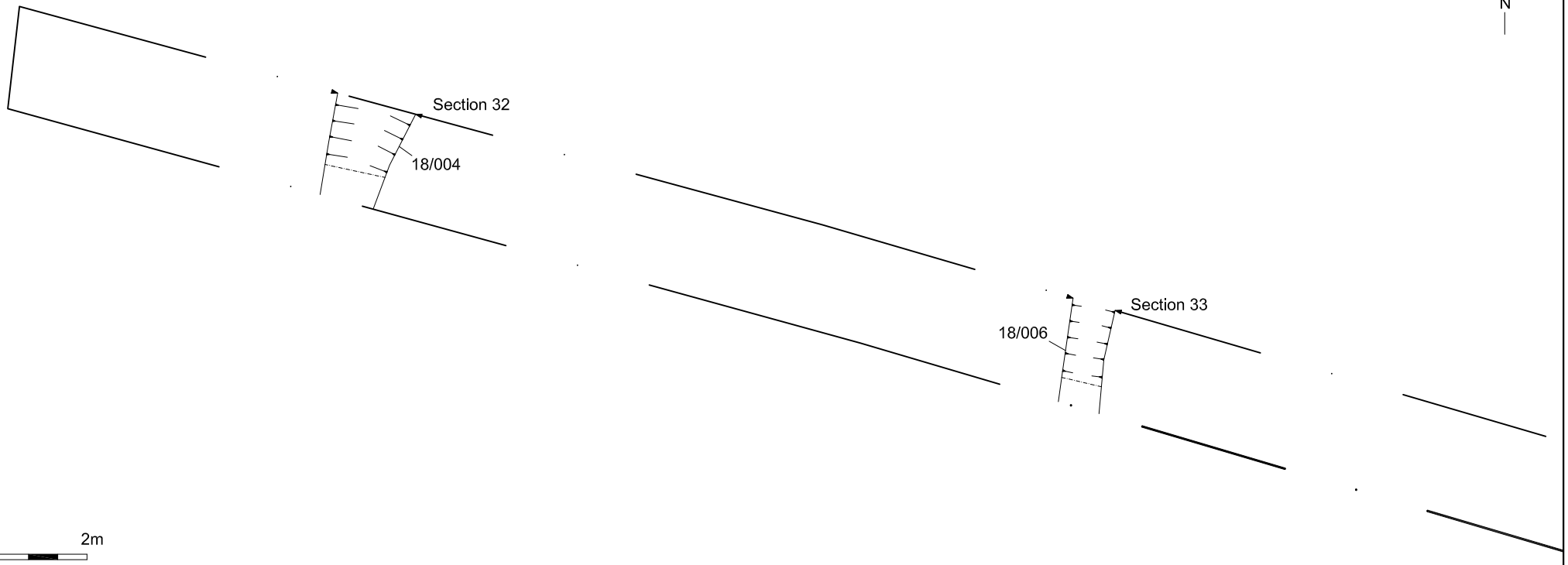
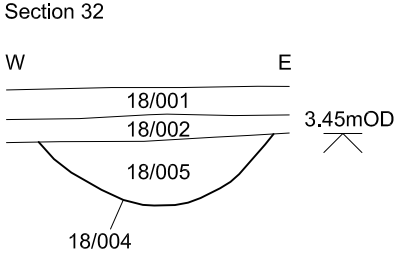
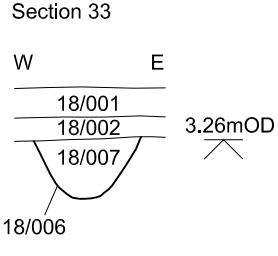
Project Ref: 7191	2011	Trench 17 plan, sections and photos	
Report Ref: 2015283	Drawn by: LG		







18/004 looking north

18/006 looking north

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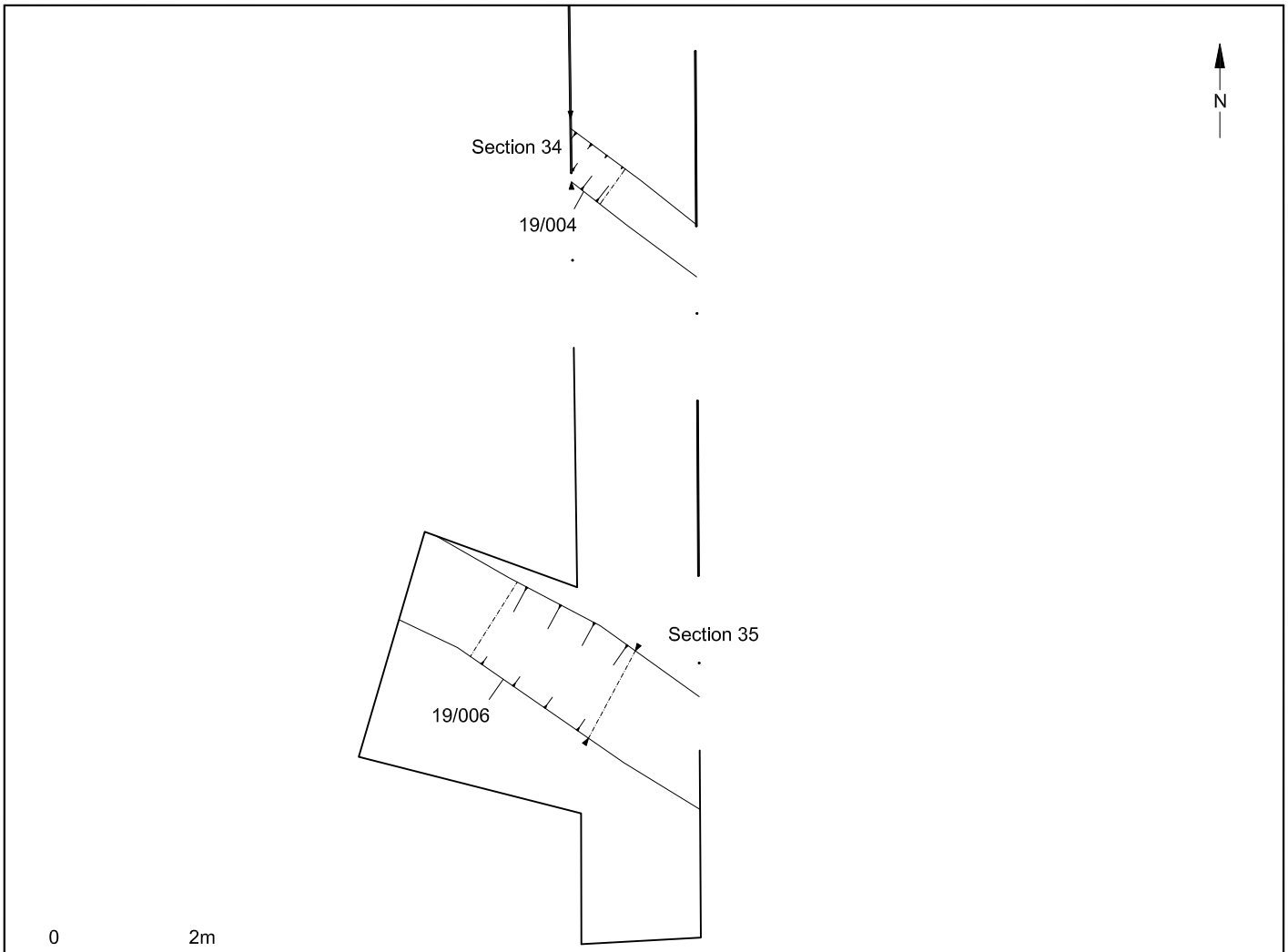
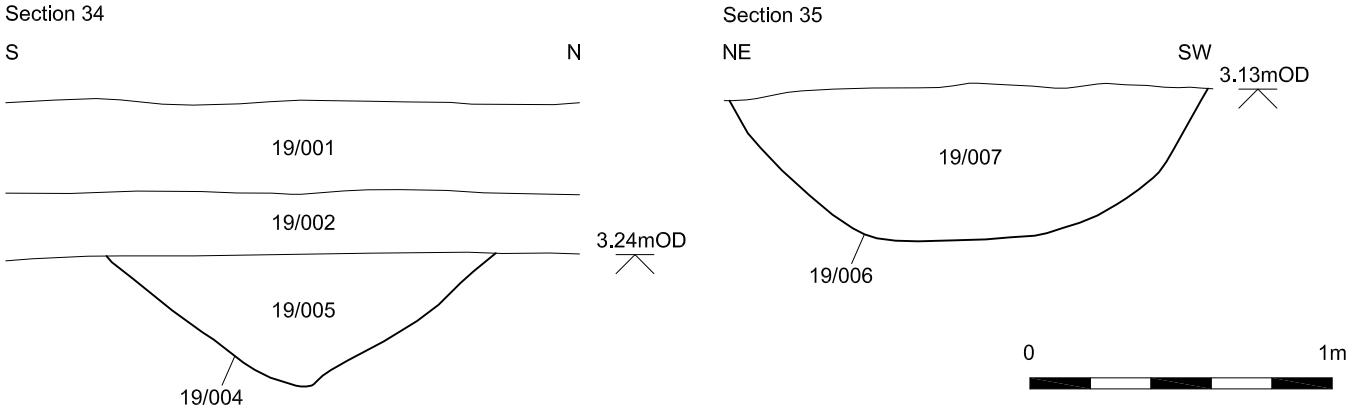
Project Ref: 7191	Aug 2015	Trench 18 plan, sections and photos	
Report Ref: 2015283	Drawn by: LG		



19/004 looking west

19/006 looking south-east



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Project Ref: 7191	August 2015	Trench 19 plan, sections and photos	
Report Ref: 2015283	Drawn by: LG		

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

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

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