

**Archaeological Evaluation Report  
Land at 22 Falkenham Road  
Kirton, Suffolk**

**NGR: TM 27801 39352**

**ASE Project No: 8414  
Site Code: KIR063**

**ASE Report No: 2015295  
OASIS id: 220770**



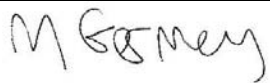

**By Mark Germany**

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Reviewed and approved by:	Dan Swift	Project Manager	
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**Abstract**

*CgMs Consulting commissioned Archaeology South-East to undertake archaeological evaluation on a 1.4ha of green-field land at 22 Falkenham Road, Kirton, Suffolk prior to residential development. The site lay within a largely green field area, immediately south of the village of Kirton.*

*Only 3 of the 9 trenches revealed archaeological remains: a large post-medieval pit, a small undated pit and two small undated post-holes. All of the features were located in the north part of the site, suggesting that they may have been peripheral to the village of Kirton. The minimal finds recovered (one tiny post-medieval potsherd) suggest that the site contains no significant archaeological remains and has always been marginal land.*

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## **1.0 INTRODUCTION**

### **1.1 Site Background**

1.1.1 CgMs Consulting commissioned Archaeology South-East (ASE) to undertake archaeological evaluation on a 1.4ha of green-field land at 22 Falkenham Road, Kirton, Suffolk (NGR: TM 27801 39352; Figure 1) prior to residential development.

1.1.2 The site has a irregular footprint of approximately 1.3ha. Its west side comprises green fields and has area of 9415m<sup>2</sup>, while its east side consists of concrete hard standing. The north and west sides of the site are bounded by residential housing. A recreation field lies to the east, and a farm to the south.

### **1.2 Geology and Topography**

1.2.1 The underlying solid geology, as identified by the British Geological Survey, comprises a sedimentary rock formed from clay and silt. The overlying superficial geology consists of glaciolacustrine deposits; deposits of clay and silt laid down in ice age conditions during the Quaternary period.

1.2.2 The underlying superficial deposits were found to be variable during the trenching, consisting of pale sand to the north, which then became more silty and gravelly further south-wards, interrupted by pockets of clay.

1.2.2 The site is more or less level at c.14m AOD. In the middle of the site is a small copse of trees.

### **1.3 Scope of Report**

1.3.1 This report presents and assesses the results of the archaeological evaluation undertaken between the 3rd and 5th of August 2015.

## **2.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND**

### **2.1 Introduction**

2.1.1 The following information derives from a Desk-Based Assessment, produced specifically for the site by Heritage Collective (2014). The sites mentioned below lie within a 2km radius of the site's centre.

### **2.2 Prehistoric**

2.2.1 Earlier prehistoric remains within 2km of the site include a small scatter of flints, all of which come from unstratified contexts. A possible Neolithic cursus has been identified as a cropmark, 1.7km north-west of the application site.

2.2.2 Circular cropmarks lie within the site's wider area and are probably footprints of Bronze Age barrows and/or Iron Age roundhouses. Linear cropmarks are present as well and perhaps remains of Early Bronze Age to Early Roman field systems.

2.2.3 Notable prehistoric artefacts found within 2km of the site include an Iceni gold coin.

### **2.3 Roman**

2.2.4 The wider area of the site has produced little evidence for Roman settlement activity.

2.2.5 Roman artefacts from within 2km of the site include an early 4th century coin, part of a large brooch, and two sherds of pottery, which were discovered during monitoring of a pipeline.

### **2.4 Saxon and Early Medieval**

2.4.1 Sutton Hoo lies 10km north of the site and both Kirton and Falkenham are mentioned in the Domesday Survey, indicating their Saxon origins. There is no recorded archaeological evidence within 1km of the site for Saxon remains, however.

2.4.2 The historic core of the village of Kirton, which lies north of the site, dates back to the medieval period at least.

2.4.3 No evidence for medieval activity has been found within the area of the development site, although there is evidence for medieval field systems within the wider vicinity.

### **2.5 Post-medieval**

2.5.1 Cartographic evidence implies that the development site remained in agricultural use, with little change to its boundaries, throughout the post-medieval period and into the second half of the 20th century. Furthermore, historic cartographic evidence suggests that prior to enclosure in 1807, much of the area south of Kirton consisted of heathland (Heritage Collective 2014;

appendices 3.4 and 3.5).

## **2.6 Project Aims and Objectives**

### 2.6.1 The aims of the evaluation are:

- To establish the presence or absence of prehistoric, Roman and medieval features on the site and to record and characterise any such evidence.
- To identify, sample and analyse any environmental remains to aid understanding of the site.
- To determine the survival, extent and minimum depth below modern ground level of any archaeological remains.
- To determine the nature and significance of any archaeological deposits.
- To enable the Suffolk County Council Archaeology Advisor to make an informed decision as to the requirement for any further archaeological work at the site should planning consent be granted.

### **3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY**

(Figure 2)

#### **3.1 Fieldwork Methodology**

- 3.1.1 Nine trenches were mechanically excavated, each measuring 1.8m x 30m. Physical obstacles meant that 3 trenches were moved from their proposed location (ASE 2015; Figure 2). Trench 5 was shifted 5m east because it blocked the site access, and Trenches 7 and 9 were moved north-west and west because their intended locations were covered by a large stockpile of earth. The 9 trenches had a combined surface area of 486m<sup>2</sup>, or 3.5% of the development site.
- 3.1.2 A tracked excavator equipped with a broad toothless ditching bucket was used under archaeological supervision to strip each trench of its subsoil and topsoil. The surface of the exposed natural geology was then cleaned and inspected for archaeological features and finds.
- 3.1.3 Hand excavation was employed to establish the nature, date, condition, character and extent of any exposed feature. All discrete features were half sectioned.
- 3.1.4 Details of encountered deposits and features were recorded on pro-forma sheets. A digital photographic record was maintained and section drawings were drawn at a scale of 1:10.
- 3.1.4 No deposits were sampled for environmental remains since no closely datable deposits were encountered.
- 3.1.5 A DGPS (Differential Global Positioning System) was used to plan, locate and spot height each trench and its features.

#### **3.3 Archive**

- 3.3.1 The full site archive, including finds, is to be prepared in accordance with the SCCAS guidelines Deposition of Archaeological Archives in Suffolk (SCCAS 2010). The contents of the archive are tabulated below (Table 1).

Number of Contexts	26
No. of files/paper record	19
Plan and sections sheets	1
Bulk Samples	0
Photographs	60
Bulk finds	0
Registered finds	0
Environmental flots/residue	0

Table 1: Quantification of the site archive



## 4.0 RESULTS

### 4.1 Summary

4.1.1 Archaeological remains were encountered in trenches 1, 3 and 4 and are described in sections 4.2 to 4.4 below. The contents of the other 6 archaeologically-negative trenches are tabulated in Appendix 1.

### 4.2 Trench 1

(Figure 3)

Context	Type	Description	Max. Length m	Max. Width m	Deposit Thickness m	Height m AOD
1/001	Layer	Topsoil	30+	1.8+	0.12 – 0.18	22.91 – 22.95
1/002	Layer	Subsoil	30+	1.8+	0.1 – 0.28	
1/003	Layer	Natural	30+	1.8+		22.61 – 22.67
1/004	Fill	Single fill of 1/005	1.8		0.56	
1/005	Cut	Pit	1.8+	1.8		22.89 – 22.90

Table 2: Trench 1 list of recorded contexts

4.2.1 Part of a large rounded pit, measuring at least 0.58m deep, extended into the south-east part of Trench 1 [1/005]. It had steep-sloping sides and a slightly irregular concave base. Its contents composed light greyish brown sand, and it contained a tiny fragment of post-medieval red earthenware.

4.2.2 The overlying layered stratigraphy consisted of subsoil and topsoil. The subsoil increased in thickness from east to west.

### 4.3 Trench 3

(Figure 4)

Context	Type	Description	Max. Length m	Max. Width m	Deposit Thickness m	Height m AOD
3/001	Layer	Topsoil	30+	1.8+	0.16 – 0.18	23.02 – 23.22
3/002	Layer	Subsoil	30+	1.8+	0.12 – 0.20	
3/003	Layer	Natural				22.67 – 22.89
3/004	Fill	Single fill of 3/006	0.5	0.5	0.1	
3/005	Cut	Pit	0.5	0.5		22.86

Table 3: Trench 3 list of recorded contexts

4.3.1 The only feature in Trench 3 was a small shallow pit [3/005] towards its west end. This pit measured 0.1m deep and was rounded in plan and profile. Within it lay a single fill, consisting dark greyish brown sand with frequent flecks of charcoal. It was unable to date because it contained no artefacts.

4.3.2 Topsoil and subsoil sealed the pit, with the thickness of the subsoil being

slightly uneven.

#### 4.4 Trench 4

(Figure 5)

Context	Type	Description	Max. Length m	Max. Width m	Deposit Thickness m	Height m AOD
4/001	Layer	Topsoil	30+	1.8+	0.1 – 0.12	23.20 – 23.23
4/002	Layer	Subsoil	30+	1.8+	0.1 – 0.3	
4/003	Layer	Natural	30+	1.8+		22.70 – 22.76
4/004	Fill	Single fill of 4/005	0.3	0.22	0.09	
4/005	Cut	Post-hole	0.3	0.22		22.77 – 22.80
4/006	Fill	Single fill of 4/007	0.1	0.1	0.1	
4/007	Cut	Post-hole	0.1	0.1		22.77 – 22.80

Table 4: Trench 4 list of recorded contexts

- 4.4.1 Trench 4 uncovered two small post-holes sitting alongside each other, not far from the north-east end of the trench. Neither contained artefacts and both remain undated.
- 4.4.2 Post-hole [4/005], the larger of the two, was rounded in plan and vertical sided. Its single fill [4/004] held dark grey burnt sand and numerous flecks and small pieces of charcoal. Neighbouring post-hole [4/007] was smaller in size and more rounded in plan. Dark greyish brown friable silt sand sat within it and appeared to be un-scorched. It contained less charcoal than that of [4/005].
- 4.4.3 Sealing both post-holes and the rest of the trench were subsoil and topsoil, the thicknesses of which were fairly constant.

#### 4.5 Trenches 2, 5, 6, 7, 8 and 9

- 4.5.1 Trenches 2, 5, 6, 7, 8 and 9 contained no archaeological remains but did contain intact subsoil and topsoil horizons. Details of these deposits are tabulated in Appendix 1 of this report.

## **5.0 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS**

### **5.1 Overview of stratigraphic sequence**

- 5.1.1 The stratigraphic sequence comprises a very small number of archaeological features cut into the natural substrate sealed beneath intact, thin layers of subsoil and topsoil in the north-central part of the site. No features were recorded in the extreme northern trenches or in the southern half of the site.
- 5.1.2 The features were a large late post-medieval pit in Trench 1 [1/005], a small undated pit in Trench 3 [3/005] and two undated small post-holes in Trench 4 [4/005 and 4/007].
- 5.1.3 Post-holes [4/005 and 4/007] are perhaps part of a structure, possibly a small post-supported building or fence-line. That the fills of both features were charcoal rich may be due to the bases of the post-holes' wooden posts having been deliberately scorched before placement in order to harden the tips and to minimise rot.

### **5.2 Deposit Survival and Existing Impacts**

- 5.2.1 Intact subsoil and topsoil horizons were recorded in all of the trenches suggesting that the underlying substrate is pristine, however, these upper deposits had been ploughed, so there may have been some truncation to the stratigraphy.

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

- 5.3.1 All of the trenches containing archaeology are located in the northern part of the site with Kirton village situated just beyond the site boundary.
- 5.3.2 The northernmost feature, a pit in Trench 1, contained a single, tiny post-medieval potsherd; south of this, an undated small pit and 2 undated postholes were located in Trenches 3 and 4.
- 5.3.3 The date of the large pit and the proximity of the features to the village perhaps implies that these are outlying features relating to the village of Kirton to the immediate north and are probably post-medieval. However, the village is known to have existed by Saxo-Norman times so they could also potentially be Saxon or medieval. It is highly unlikely that they are prehistoric or Roman given the lack of finds of this date.

### **5.4 Potential impact on archaeological remains**

- 5.4.1 The development work is unlikely to be detrimental to the archaeological record since the evaluation has yielded little archaeology and no finds that predate the post-medieval period were found.

## 5.5 Consideration of research aims

- *To establish the presence or absence of prehistoric, Roman and medieval features on the site and to record and characterise any such evidence.*

No evidence for prehistoric, Roman and medieval archaeology was found.

- *To identify, sample and analyse any environmental remains to aid understanding of the site.*

No environmental samples were taken as no suitable deposits were encountered.

- *To determine the survival, extent and minimum depth below modern ground level of any archaeological remains.*

Archaeological remains survived intact in the northern part of the site at approximately 0.30m below present ground level and sealed beneath subsoil and topsoil horizons that had been subject to ploughing. The rest of the site was archaeologically negative.

- *To determine the nature and significance of any archaeological deposits.*

The only dated pit is post-medieval, 3 further features are probably also post-medieval, however, some could also be Saxon or medieval, but it is highly unlikely that they are, or prehistoric or Roman either given the lack of finds of these dates. The low density and type of features as well as the lack of finds suggests that these are not significant archaeological remains.

Linear features; ditches and gullies, are notably absent perhaps indicating that the site and its surrounding area underwent no or minimal subdivision in the past. If so then for much of its history the site and its immediate setting may have comprised unenclosed scrub, woodland or a large open field. Historic cartographic evidence provides evidence to support this as it suggest that prior to enclosure in 1807, much of the land south of Kirton consisted of heath (Heritage Collective 2014, appendices 3.4 and 3.5).

## 5.6 Conclusions

- 5.6.1 Only 3 of the 9 trenches revealed archaeological remains: a large post-medieval pit, a small undated pit and two small undated post-holes. All of the features were located in the north part of the site, suggesting that they may have been peripheral to the village of Kirton. The minimal finds recovered (1 tiny post-medieval potsherd) suggest that the site contains no significant archaeological remains and has always been marginal land.

## **BIBLIOGRAPHY**

ASE 2015 Written Scheme of Investigation Archaeological Evaluation on Land at 22 Falkenham Road, Kirton, Suffolk

Heritage Collective 2015 Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment on Land at 22 Falkenham Road, Kirton, Suffolk

SCCAS 2010 Deposition of Archives in Suffolk

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

The archaeological work was commissioned by CgMs Consulting and was undertaken by Archaeology South-East. ASE thanks Duncan Hawkins of CgMs for his assistance and guidance. The archaeological fieldwork was managed by Andy Leonard, was undertaken by Robin Wroe-Brown and Robert Cullum. Andrew Lewsey produced the figures. Post-excavation management was by Dan Swift and Jim Stevenson.

**HER Summary**

Site Code	KIR 063					
Identification Name and Address	Land at 22 Falkenham Road, Kirton, Suffolk					
County, District &/or Borough						
OS Grid Refs.	TM 27801 39352					
Geology	Clay and silt					
Arch. South-East Project Number	8414					
Type of Fieldwork	Eval.					
Type of Site	Green Field					
Dates of Fieldwork	4/8/15 – 6/4/18					
Sponsor/Client	CgMs Consulting					
Project Manager	Andy Leonard					
Project Supervisor	Robin Wroe-Brown					
Period Summary	undated					
<b>Summary</b>						
<p><i>An archaeological evaluation consisting of nine trial-trenches preceded residential development at Land at 22 Falkenham Road, Kirton, Suffolk in August 2015. It was recommended by Suffolk County Council Archaeology Services, was commissioned by CgMs Consulting and was undertaken by Archaeology South-East. The site lay within a largely green field area, immediately south of the village of Kirton.</i></p> <p><i>Only 3 of the 9 trenches revealed archaeological remains: a large post-medieval pit, a small undated pit and two small undated post-holes. All of the features were located in the north part of the site, suggesting that they may have been peripheral to the village of Kirton. The minimal finds recovered (1 tiny post-medieval potsherd) suggest that the site contains no significant archaeological remains and has always been marginal land.</i></p>						

## OASIS Form

**OASIS ID: 220770**

### Project details

Project name	Falkenham Road, Kirton, Suffolk
Short description of the project	<p>An archaeological evaluation consisting of nine trial-trenches preceded residential development at Land at 22 Falkenham Road, Kirton, Suffolk in August 2015. It was recommended by Suffolk County Council Archaeology Services, was commissioned by CgMs Consulting and was undertaken by Archaeology South-East. The site lay within a largely green field area, immediately south of the village of Kirton.</p> <p>Only 3 of the 9 trenches revealed archaeological remains: a large post-medieval pit, a small undated pit and two small undated post-holes. All of the features were located in the north part of the site, suggesting that they may have been peripheral to the village of Kirton. The minimal finds recovered (1 tiny post-medieval potsherd) suggest that the site contains no significant archaeological remains and has always been marginal land.</p>
Project dates	Start: 04-08-2015 End: 06-08-2015
Previous/future work	No / No
Any associated project reference codes	KIR064 - Sitecode
Any associated project reference codes	8414 - Contracting Unit No.
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Current Land use	Cultivated Land 3 - Operations to a depth more than 0.25m
Monument type	NONE None
Significant Finds	NONE None
Methods & techniques	"Sample Trenches"
Development type	Rural residential
Prompt	Direction from Local Planning Authority - Direction 4
Position in the planning process	After full determination (eg. As a condition)

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**Project location**

Country	England
Site location	SUFFOLK SUFFOLK COASTAL KIRTON Land at 22 Falkenham Road, Kirton, Suffolk
Study area	1.30 Hectares
Site coordinates	TM 27801 39352 52.0052068298 1.31943587615 52 00 18 N 001 19 09 E Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 22.75m Max: 23.32m

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**Project creators**

Name of Organisation	Archaeology South East
Project brief originator	Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service
Project design originator	ASE/CgMs
Project director/manager	Andy Leonard
Project supervisor	Robin Wroe-Brown
Type of sponsor/funding body	CgMs Consulting

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**Project archives**

Physical Archive Exists?	No
Digital Archive recipient	Suffolk County Council Archive Store
Digital Contents	"Stratigraphic","Survey"
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography","Survey","Text"
Paper Archive recipient	Suffolk County Council Archive Store
Paper Contents	"Stratigraphic","Survey"
Paper Media available	"Context sheet","Drawing","Photograph","Plan","Report","Section","Survey "



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**Project  
bibliography 1**

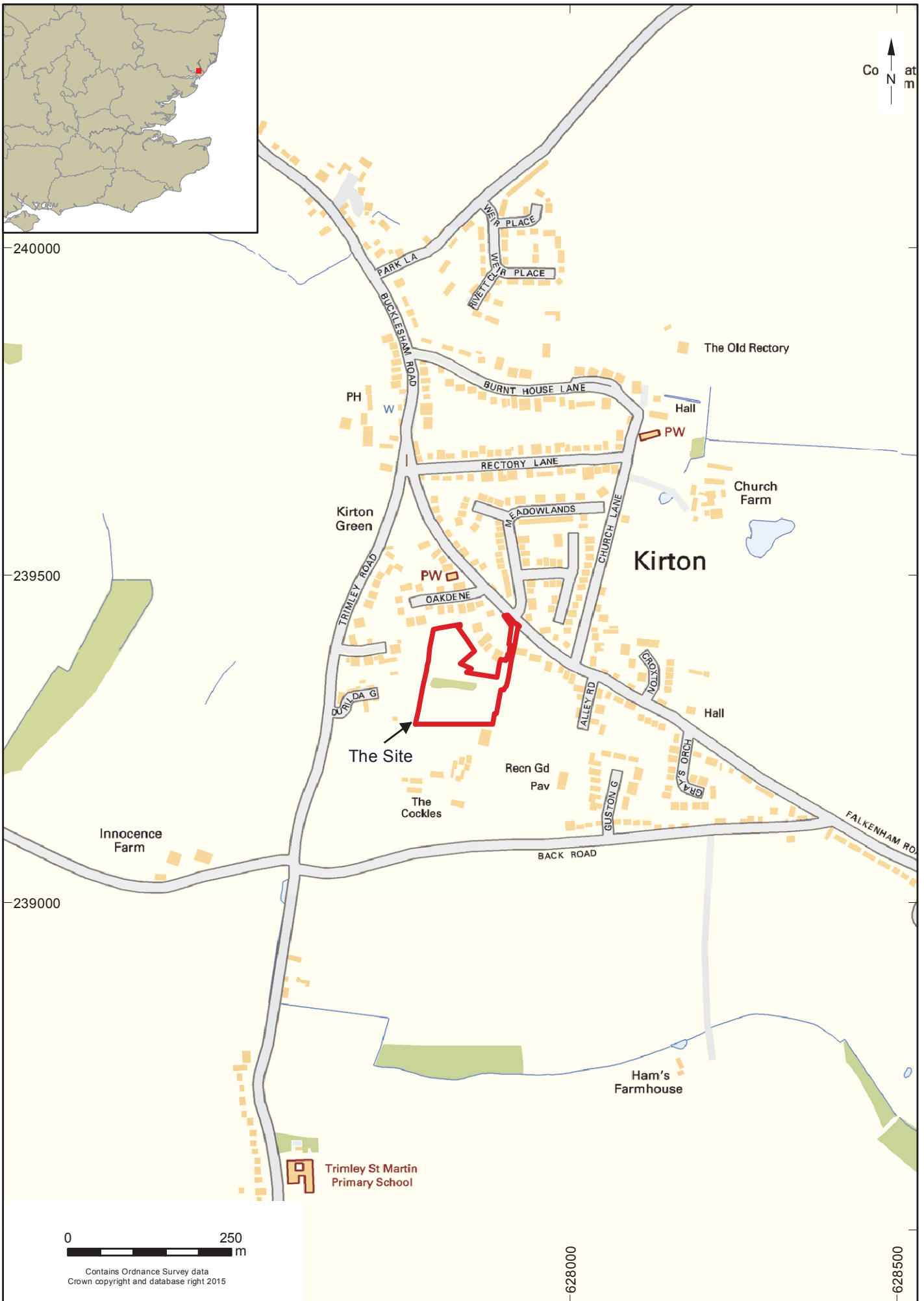
Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
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Author(s)/Editor(s)	Germany, M.
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Description	A4. 15 pages of text. 4 pages of plans, sections and photographs

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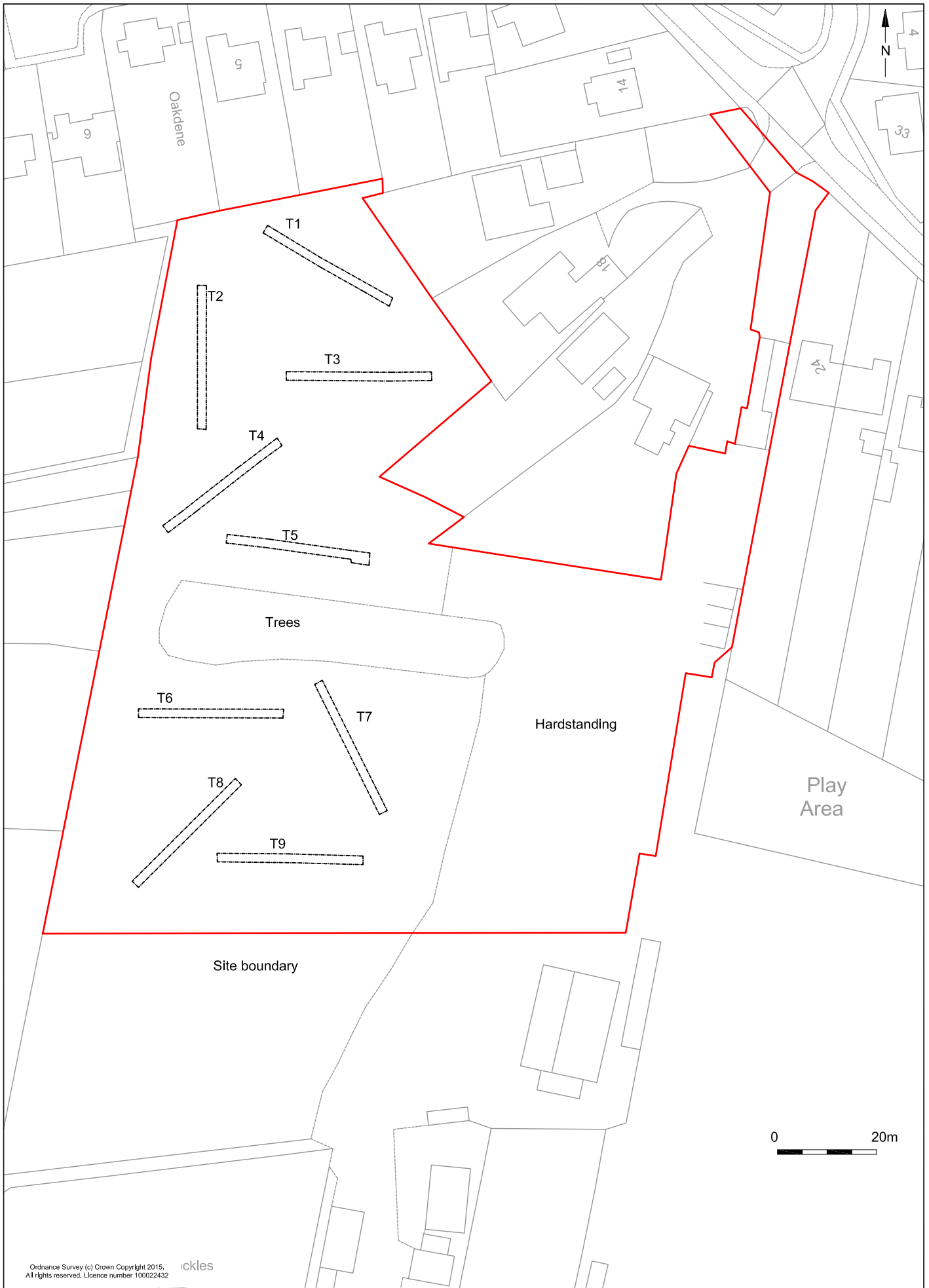
Entered by	Mark Germany (mgermany@ucl.ac.uk)
Entered on	14 August 2015

**Appendix 1: Archaeologically negative trenches: list of recorded contexts**

Trench	Context	Type	Description	Deposit Thickness m	Height m AOD
2	2/001	Layer	Topsoil	0.12 – 0.20	22.91 – 22.95
2	2/002	Layer	Subsoil	0.15 – 0.20	
2	2/003	Layer	Natural		22.75 – 23.06
5	5/001	Layer	Topsoil	0.10 – 0.20	23.31 – 23.20
5	5/002	Layer	Subsoil	0.18 – 0.22	
5	5/003	Layer	Natural		22.89 – 22.93
6	6/001	Layer	Topsoil	0.15 – 0.25	23.00 – 23.21
6	6/002	Layer	Subsoil	0.14 – 0.22	
6	6/003	Layer	Natural		22.60 – 22.81
7	7/001	Layer	Topsoil	0.10 – 0.16	23.07 – 23.14
7	7/002	Layer	Subsoil	0.15 – 0.20	
7	7/003	Layer	Natural		22.79 – 22.84
8	8/001	Layer	Topsoil	0.09 – 0.18	23.12 – 23.32
8	8/002	Layer	Subsoil	0.17 – 0.23	
8	8/003	Layer	Natural		22.80 – 23.02
9	9/001	Layer	Topsoil	0.05 – 0.13	23.15 – 23.34
9	9/002	Layer	Subsoil	0.20 – 0.23	
9	9/003	Layer	Natural		22.91 – 22.95

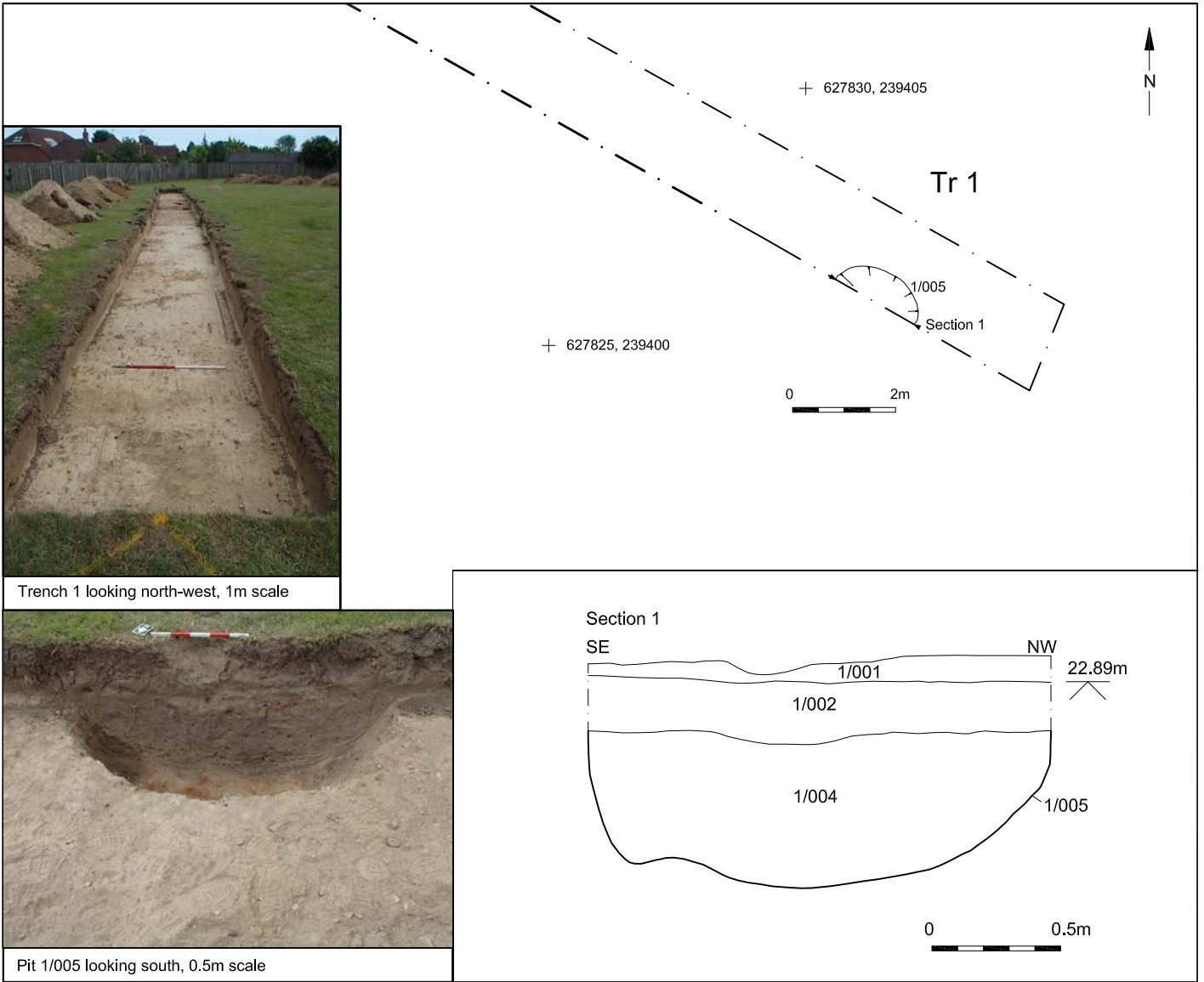


© Archaeology South-East		Land at 22 Falkenham Road, Kirton	Fig. 1
Project Ref: 8414	July 2015	Site location	
Report No:2015295	Drawn by: APL		



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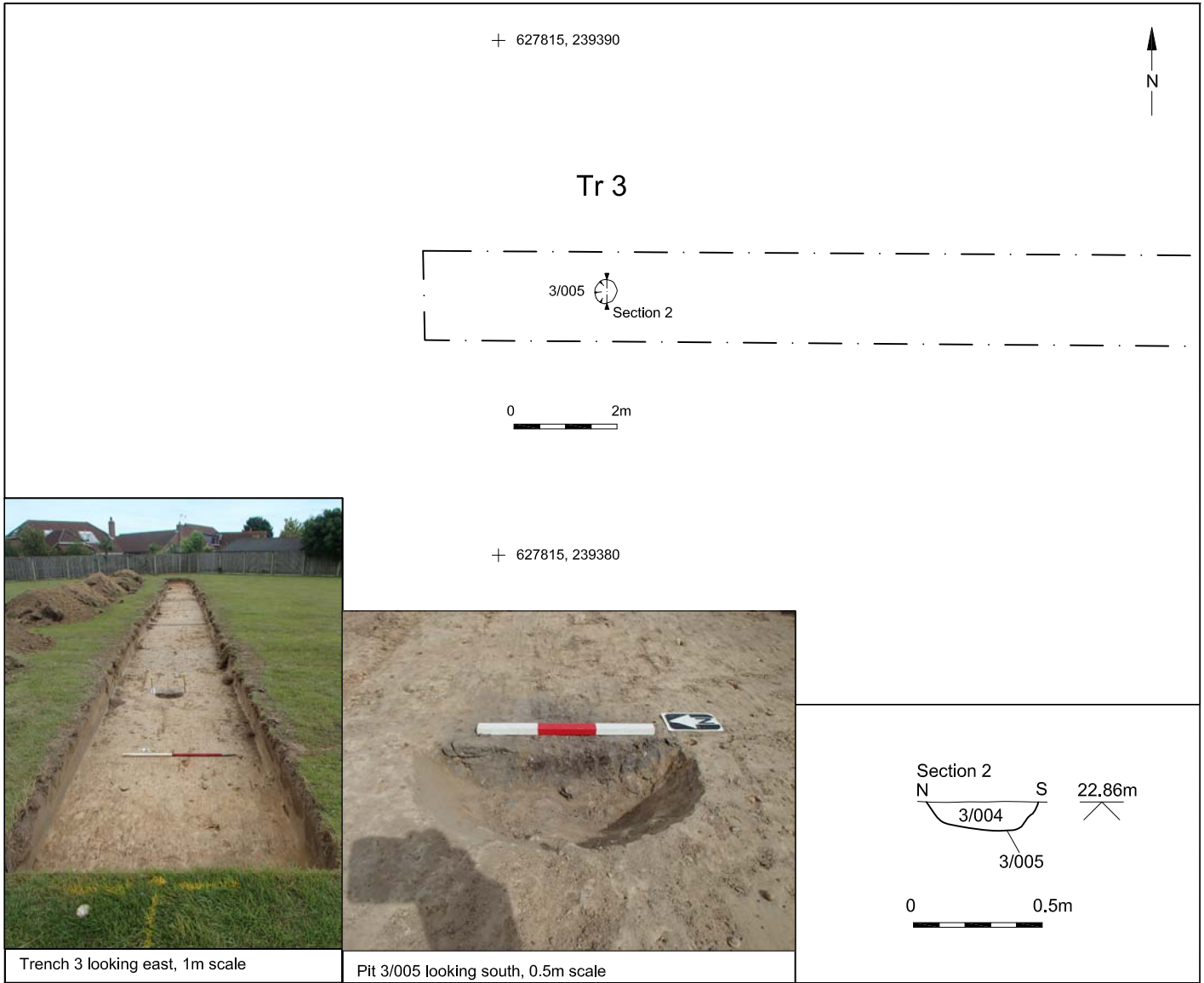
© Archaeology South-East		Land at 22 Falkenham Road, Kirton	Fig. 2
Project Ref: 8414	July 2015	Trench locations	
Report Ref: 2015295	Drawn by: APL		



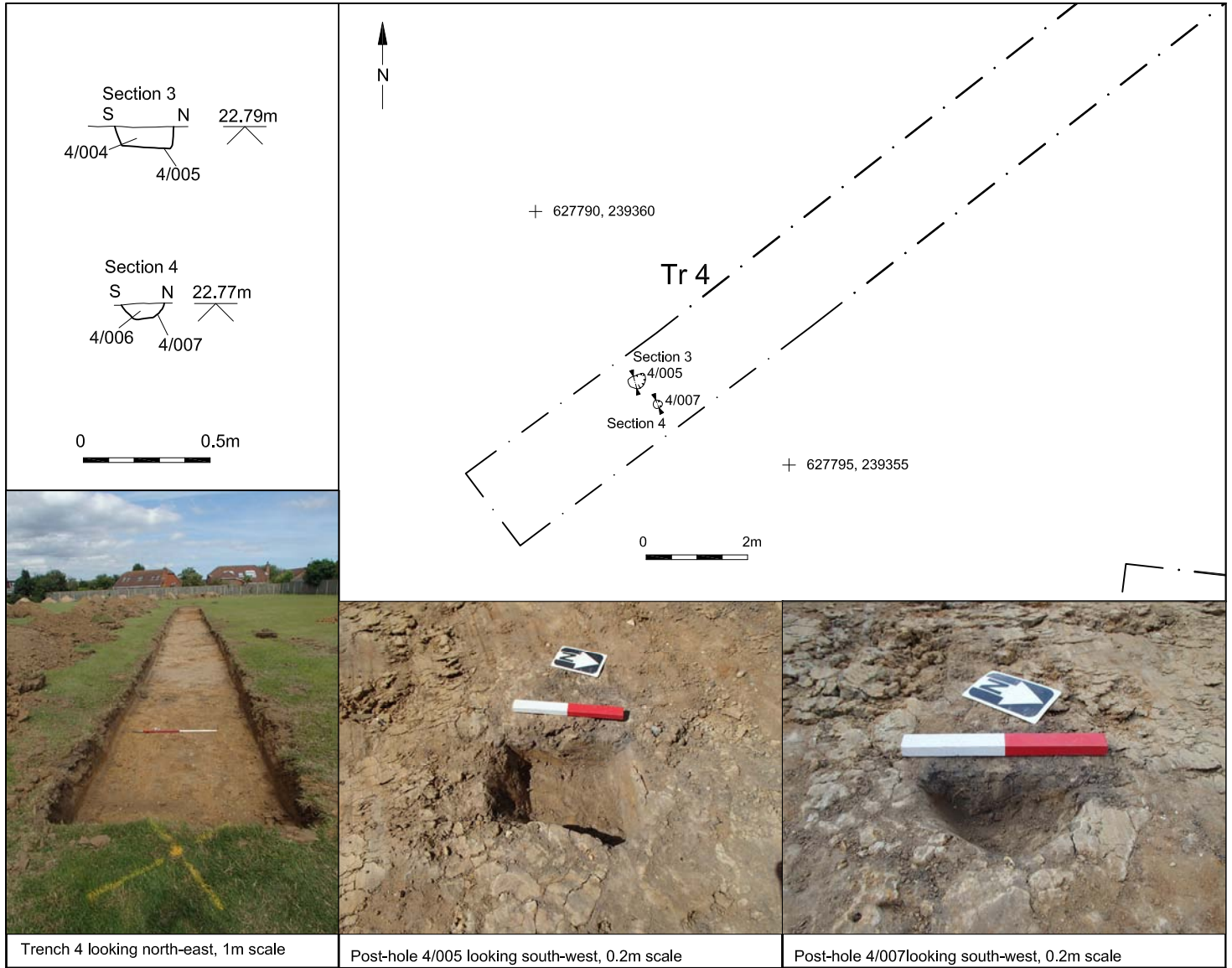
Trench 1 looking north-west, 1m scale

Pit 1/005 looking south, 0.5m scale

© <b>Archaeology South-East</b>		Land at 22 Falkenham Road, Kirton	Fig. 3
Project Ref: 8414	July 2015	Trench 1 plan, section and photographs	
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Project Ref: 8414	July 2015	Trench 3 plan, section and photographs	
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Trench 4 looking north-east, 1m scale

Post-hole 4/005 looking south-west, 0.2m scale

Post-hole 4/007 looking south-west, 0.2m scale

© Archaeology South-East		Land at 22 Falkenham Road, Kirton	Fig. 5
Project Ref: 8414	July 2015	Trench 4 plan, sections and photographs	
Report Ref: 2015295	Drawn by: APL		

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