

**Archaeological Evaluation Report  
7-13 Lansdown Road, Sidcup  
London Borough of Bexley**

**NGR: TQ 4664 7235**

**Planning Ref: 15/00352/F**

**ASE Project No: 8516  
Site Code: LAS 15**

**ASE Report No: 2015437  
OASIS id: archaeol6-231164**



**By Ian Hogg**

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7-13 Lansdown Road, Sidcup  
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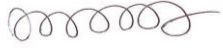
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<b>Revision:</b>			

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**Abstract**

*Archaeology South-East has undertaken an archaeological evaluation at 7-13 Lansdown Road, Sidcup, London Borough of Bexley. The evaluation comprised five trenches.*

*Natural Harwich Formation gravelly clay was recorded across the site between 39.92m and 42.96m aOD. The natural deposits were uniformly overlain by topsoil; in the east of the site, the topsoil was sealed by modern levelling deposits and imported topsoil.*

*A late post-medieval pit was recorded on the site as were two other features likely to be root boles relating to the pre-20<sup>th</sup> century woodland which previously covered the site.*

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## 1.0 INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Site Background

1.1.1 Archaeology South-East (ASE) was commissioned by CgMs Consulting to undertake an archaeological evaluation at 7-13 Lansdown Road, Sidcup, London Borough of Bexley (Figures 1 and 2, NGR: TQ 4664 7235).

1.1.2 The site is an irregular parcel of land, bound to the west by Lansdown Road and Bexley Lane, to the north by Sidcup arts centre, to the east by Waring Park, and to the south by residential properties.

1.1.3 The evaluation comprised five machine excavated trenches.

### 1.2 Geology and Topography

1.2.1 The desk-based assessment for the site (CgMs 2014) states that the underlying geology of the site is Harwich Formation sands and gravels. The site is level at c. 41m AOD. It was occupied by four private dwellings and their associated gardens to the front and rear.

### 1.3 Planning Background

1.3.1 Planning consent has been granted (Ref. No.: 15/00352/F) for the demolition of the existing buildings and erection of a three storey residential apartment building. The consent was granted subject to conditions; condition

*“No development shall take place within the site until the applicant has secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological work in accordance with a written scheme of investigation, which has been submitted by the applicant and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority”.*

1.3.2 A desk-based assessment was prepared for the site in support of the planning application (CgMs 2014). This document stated that the site had a low potential for remains from all archaeological periods; it also highlighted the lack of archaeological interventions in the area.

1.3.3 An Archaeological Written Scheme of Investigation (ASE 2015) was prepared prior to the commencement of this phase of works, this document set out the methodology for the evaluation. All works were carried out in accordance with the ClfA standards and guidance (ClfA 2014a, b and c) and the Greater London Archaeology Advisory Service (GLAAS) Standards for Archaeological Work (2014a & b).

## **1.4 Research Aims and Objectives**

1.4.1 The research aims of the evaluation as set out in the WSI (ASE 2015) were:

- To establish the presence or absence of archaeological remains and deposits with palaeoenvironmental potential within the footprint of the proposed development
- To determine the survival, extent and minimum depth below modern ground level of any such remains
- To determine the nature and significance of any archaeological deposits
- To enable the archaeology advisor at GLAAS to make an informed decision as to the requirement for any further archaeological work at the site

## **1.5 Scope of Report**

1.5.1 This report details the results of the archaeological evaluation carried out on the site between the 17th and the 19th November 2015 and has been prepared in accordance with the Written Scheme of Investigation (ASE 2015). The work was carried out by Ian Hogg (Archaeologist), Tom Rugg (Assistant Archaeologist) and Michael Lobb (Archaeologist). The fieldwork was managed by Andy Leonard and the post-excavation work by Dan Swift.

## **2.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND**

### **2.1 Prehistoric**

- 2.1.1 Some Palaeolithic, Mesolithic and Neolithic tools and a working surface have been found at various sites that are at least 1,300m to the south-east of the site.
- 2.1.2 Bronze Age artefacts comprising a flint dagger 1,200m to the north-east of the site and a couple of pottery sherds 1,200m to the west are all that have been found in the vicinity of the site dating to this period.

### **2.2 Roman**

- 2.2.1 Roman artefacts have been recovered 700m to the south-west (a small bronze figurine and a sherd of cinerary urn), and a coin some 700m to the north-west of the site. However, these were find spots only; no features were associated with these finds.

### **2.3 Anglo-Saxon and Medieval**

- 2.3.1 There is no recorded evidence for any Saxon activity within the vicinity of the site.

### **2.4 Post-medieval**

- 2.4.1 A Tudor manor house has been recorded 1,100m to the north of the site. Post-medieval structures and deposits have been noted in the area during archaeological interventions but these are few in number and some distance from the site.
- 2.4.2 Throughout the post-medieval period the site is depicted in historic maps as being occupied by woodland. The 1933 Ordnance Survey map depicts the houses that currently occupy the site.

### **3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY**

#### **3.1 Fieldwork Methodology**

- 3.1.1 Five evaluation trenches were excavated by machine (Figure 2). Each trench measured 15.00m x 1.80m in plan. A contingency for two further trenches was included but was not activated.
- 3.1.2 All trenches were scanned using a cable avoidance tool prior to excavation. Excavation was undertaken in spits of no more than 0.25m to the top of the underlying natural substrate, or to the top of archaeological deposits, whichever was higher.
- 3.1.3 All deposits were recorded using ASE standard context sheets. Vertical sections were taken across features where necessary and a comprehensive photographic record taken.
- 3.1.4 Trenches were located and planned using GPS and tied in to the Ordnance Survey.
- 3.1.5 Spoil heaps and trench bases were scanned by eye for unstratified finds.
- 3.1.6 Trenches were backfilled using the machine bucket, no formal reinstatement was undertaken.

#### **3.2 Archive**

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

Number of Contexts	21
No. of files/paper record	1
Plan and section sheets	3
Bulk Samples	0
Photographs	27 digital
Bulk finds	2 bags
Registered finds	0
Environmental flots/residue	0

Table 1: Quantification of site archive



## 4.0 RESULTS

### 4.1 Trenches 1, 3 and 4

4.1.1 These three trenches all measured 15.0m x 1.80m in plan and displayed the same stratigraphic sequence. The trenches did not contain any archaeology.

4.1.2 The natural gravelly clay Harwich Formation [002] was overlain by dark grey sandy topsoil [001]. Context detail for the archaeologically negative trenches is listed in Appendix 1 at the back of this report.

4.1.3 Trenches 1 and 3 showed signs of root disturbance which is likely to have occurred during the later post-medieval period when the site was occupied by woodland, or the 20<sup>th</sup> century when laid out as gardens. Trench 3 also contained an animal burrow.

### 4.2 Trench 2

Context	Type	Description	Max. Length m	Max. Width m	Deposit Thickness m	Height m AOD
2/001	Layer	Topsoil	15.00	1.80	0.36-0.40	41.50-42.01
2/002	Fill	Upper pit fill	3.30	1.20	0.43	
2/003	Fill	Lower pit fill	3.30	1.20	0.25	
2/004	Cut	Pit	3.30	1.20	0.66	
2/005	Layer	Harwich Formation	15.00	1.80	-	41.12-41.65

Table 2: Trench 2 list of recorded contexts

4.2.1 Trench 2 was located in the north-east of the site; it measured 15.00m x 1.80m in plan. The trench was 0.41m deep at the north-eastern end and 0.38m deep at the south-western end. Excavation ceased at the top of the natural gravelly clay (Harwich Formation).

4.2.2 The natural mid greyish yellow gravelly clay (Harwich Formation) [2/005] was recorded between 41.12m and 41.65m aOD. It was cut by a pit [2/004] at the north-eastern end of the trench. The ditch was only part observed in the trench but appeared oval in shape with sides which sloped gently at the top, steepening towards the base. The pit measured 3.30m in length, 1.20m in width and 0.66m in depth. The primary pit fill [2/003] comprised extremely compact dark grey silty clay which 0.25m thick; this deposit contained brick and tile from a relatively wide period, brick of 17<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> century date and tile of 19<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> century date were retrieved. The upper fill consisted of mottled greyish yellow clay 0.43m thick; it contained slag, coal and a single brick fragment of probable Tudor date, this was residual as the feature almost certainly dates to the late 19<sup>th</sup> or early 20<sup>th</sup> century.

4.2.3 The pit was sealed by dark brownish grey silt topsoil deposit [2/001] between 0.36m and 0.40m thick.

### 4.3 Trench 5

Context	Type	Description	Max. Length m	Max. Width m	Deposit Thickness m	Height m AOD
5/001	Layer	Topsoil	15.00	1.80	0.22-0.6-0	40.54-41.30
5/002	Layer	Levelling deposit	15.00	1.80	0.24-0.44	40.32-40.70
5/003	Layer	Buried topsoil	15.00	1.80	0.14-0.15	40.06-40.45
5/004	Layer	Harwich Formation	15.00	1.80	-	39.92-40.30
5/005	Fill	Fill of possible linear	3.60	1.43	0.47	40.30
5/006	Cut	Possible linear	3.60	1.43	0.47	40.30
5/007	Fill	Fill of possible linear	6.60	0.60	0.29	40.11
5/008	Cut	Possible linear	6.60	0.60	0.29	40.11
5/009	Fill	Fill of possible linear	6.60	0.60	0.29	40.05
5/010	Cut	Possible linear	6.60	0.60	0.29	40.05

Table 3: Trench 5 list of recorded contexts

4.3.1 Trench 5 was located in the east of the site; it measured 15.00m x 1.80m in plan. The trench was 1.00m deep at the north-eastern end and 0.72m deep at the south-western end. Excavation ceased at the top of the natural gravelly clay (Harwich Formation).

4.3.2 The natural mid greyish yellow gravelly clay (Harwich Formation) [5/004] was recorded between 39.92m and 40.30m aOD. It was cut by two features of uncertain origin; both were either curvilinear or oval in shape, it was impossible to discern the definite shape as they lay only partially within the trench. The south-western of these features [5/006] had steep sides and a concave base; it measured 3.60m in length, 1.43m in width and 0.47m in depth. The fill [5/005] comprised mottled brownish grey clay silt with root staining; no finds were recovered from this feature.

4.3.3 The second feature, variously numbered [5/008] and [5/010], was similar in shape and profile; it measured 6.60m in length, 0.60m in width and 0.29m in depth. The fill [5/007], [5/009] was very similar to [5/005] and again contained no finds.

- 4.3.4 These features are most likely to be extensive root boles from the pre-20<sup>th</sup> century woodland which occupied the site.
- 4.3.5 The features were overlain by a buried topsoil deposit [5/003] comprising dark grey silt with frequent roots; it measured between and 0.16m in thickness. The buried topsoil was overlain by a levelling deposit [5/002] of mottled dark grey and yellow clay between 0.24m and 0.44m in thickness; this deposit was related the construction of the existing gardens in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. The levelling deposit was sealed by between 0.22m and 0.60m of dark grey silt topsoil [5/001].

## 5.0 THE FINDS

### 5.1 Summary

- 5.1.1 A small assemblage of finds was recovered during the evaluation at Lansdown Road; it comprised CBM, slag and coal from the two fills of the pit in Trench 2.

Context	CBM	Wt (g)	Stone	Wt (g)	Slag	Wt (g)
2/002	1	78	1	14	1	2
2/003	5	626	2	106		
<b>Total</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>704</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>120</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>

Table 4: Finds Quantification

### 5.2 The Ceramic Building Material by Isa Benedetti-Whitton

- 5.2.1 Six pieces of ceramic building material (CBM) weighing a total of 704g were taken from two evaluation contexts at LAS15. The single brick fragment from [2/002] was heavily abraded and made of an evenly fired orange fabric that could be a local Tudor fabric as it is reminiscent of these fairly clean fabric types.
- 5.2.2 A greater variety of material was found in [2/003]; two fragments of brick in Museum of London fabric 3032, a post-Great Fire material. These pieces were both fully vitrified but the type of inclusions are indicative of 3032. One highly fragmentary and abraded piece of CBM – to the point that it is uncertain whether the item was originally brick or tile – and a further piece of tile were also recovered from [2/003], as well as a fragment of 3035 brick, another post-1666 fabric. Although the tile was broken and tile as a form is difficult to date as the form changes very little between the 14th and 18th centuries this particular piece seems very well fired and is believed to be of a c.18th-20th century date.

### 5.3 The Slag by Luke Barber

- 5.3.1 A single 2g scrap of black aerated clinker was recovered from context [2/002]. This almost certainly relates to coal burning in the later post-medieval period.

### 5.4 The Geological Material by Luke Barber

- 5.4.1 Two partially burnt pieces of coal were recovered during the evaluation: a 14g piece from [2/002] and a 28g piece from [2/003]. Both probably relate to later post-medieval activity.

## **6.0 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS**

### **6.1 Overview of stratigraphic sequence**

- 6.1.1 Natural gravelly clays (Harwich Formation) were recorded throughout the trenches at between 39.93m and 42.96m AOD. This superficial geology was uniformly overlain by a topsoil deposit. In Trench 5 in the east the topsoil was overlain by a levelling deposit and modern topsoil, both probably laid down to raise the level of the gardens during their construction in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century.
- 6.1.2 The natural deposit was cut by a pit of probable late 19<sup>th</sup> or early 20<sup>th</sup> century date in the north-east of the site. Two further features were recorded in the east although their origin is unclear, they may have been large root boles.

### **6.2 Deposit survival and existing impacts**

- 6.2.1 No truncation had occurred within the gardens on site, the only disturbance was due to the extensive rooting which took place while the gardens existed and previously when the site was given over to woodland. A single animal burrow was also noted.

### **6.3 Consideration of research aims**

- 6.3.1 No features pre-dating the late 19<sup>th</sup> century were recorded on site although residual finds within pit [2/004] are likely to be of Tudor date. The pit recorded in Trench 2 is of uncertain function. The undated features recorded in Trench 5 are most likely to have been root boles from the pre-20<sup>th</sup> century woodland which lay on site.

### **6.4 Conclusions**

- 6.4.1 The evaluation confirmed the limited nature of the remains on site. Despite low levels of truncation little archaeological activity was recorded. The only features were a single late post-medieval pit and two probable root boles.

## **BIBLIOGRAPHY**

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CgMs Consulting 2014 Archaeology Desk Based Assessment: 7-13 Lansdown Road, Sidcup, London Borough of Bexley

ClfA, 2014a *Code of Conduct*

ClfA, 2014b *Standard and Guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials*

ClfA, 2014c *Standard and guidance for an archaeological evaluation.*

Greater London Archaeology Advisory Service, 2014a *Guidance Paper No 3 Standards and Practices in Archaeological Fieldwork in London*

Greater London Archaeology Advisory Service, 2014b *Guidance Paper No 4 Reporting, dissemination and publication*

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

ASE would like to thank CgMs Consulting for commissioning the work and for their assistance throughout the project, and Mark Stevenson of GLAAS for his guidance and monitoring.

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

<b>Trench Number</b>	<b>Context</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Deposit Thickness m</b>	<b>Height m AOD</b>
1	001	Masonry	Topsoil	0.30	42.96-43.26
2	002	Layer	Harwich Formation	-	42.66-42.96
3	001	Layer	Topsoil	0.17-0.25	41.53-42.08
3	002	Layer	Harwich Formation	-	41.30-41.91
4	001	Layer	Topsoil	0.20-0.32	40.84-41.22
4	002	Layer	Harwich Formation	-	40.52-41.05

**HER Summary**

Site Code	LAS 15				
Identification Name and Address	7-13 Lansdown Road, Sidcup				
County, District &/or Borough	London Borough of Bexley				
OS Grid Refs.	TQ 4664 7235				
Geology	Harwich Formation				
Arch. South-East Project Number	8516				
Type of Fieldwork	Eval.				
Type of Site	Shallow urban				
Dates of Fieldwork	17-11-2015 to 19-11-2015				
Sponsor/Client	CgMs Consulting				
Project Manager	Andy Leonard				
Project Supervisor	Ian Hogg				
Period Summary					
			Post-medieval	Other	
<p><i>The evaluation comprised five trenches.</i></p> <p><i>Natural Harwich Formation gravelly clay was recorded across the site between 39.92m and 42.96m aOD. The natural deposits were uniformly overlain by topsoil; in the east of the site, the topsoil was sealed by modern levelling deposits and imported topsoil.</i></p> <p><i>A post-medieval pit was recorded on the site as were two other features likely to be root boles relating to the pre-20<sup>th</sup> century woodland which covered the site.</i></p>					



**OASIS Form****OASIS ID: archaeol6-231164****Project details**

Project name	7-13 Lansdown Road, Sidcup
Short description of the project	The evaluation comprised five trenches. Natural Harwich Formation gravelly clay was recorded across the site between 39.92m and 42.96m aOD. The natural deposits were uniformly overlain by topsoil; in the east of the site, the topsoil was sealed by modern levelling deposits and imported topsoil. A post-medieval pit was recorded on the site as were two other features likely to be root boles relating to the pre-20th century woodland which covered the site.
Project dates	Start: 17-11-2015 End: 19-11-2015
Previous/future work	No / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	LAS 15 - Sitecode
Any associated project reference codes	8516 - Contracting Unit No.
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Current Land use	Residential 1 - General Residential
Monument type	PIT Post Medieval
Monument type	ROOT BOLE? Uncertain
Significant Finds	CBM Post Medieval
Methods & techniques	"Sample Trenches"
Development type	Urban residential (e.g. flats, houses, etc.)
Prompt	National Planning Policy Framework - NPPF
Position in the planning process	After full determination (eg. As a condition)

**Project location**

Country	England
Site location	GREATER LONDON BEXLEY SIDCUP 7-13 Lansdown Road
Postcode	DA14 4HP
Study area	0.5 Hectares

Site coordinates TQ 4664 7235 51.430637252275 0.109690087386 51 25 50 N 000 06 34  
E Point

Height OD / Depth Min: 39.92m Max: 42.96m

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**Project creators**

Name of Organisation Archaeology South-East

Project brief originator GLAAS

Project design originator CgMs Consulting

Project director/manager Andy Leonard/Jim Stevenson

Project supervisor Ian Hogg

Type of sponsor/funding body CgMs Consulting

Name of sponsor/funding body CgMs Consulting

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**Project archives**

Physical Archive recipient LAARC

Physical Contents "Ceramics","Metal"

Digital Archive recipient LAARC

Digital Contents "Stratigraphic","Survey"

Digital Media available "Images raster / digital photography","Survey"

Paper Archive recipient LAARC

Paper Contents "Stratigraphic","Survey"

Paper Media available "Context sheet","Plan","Report","Section","Survey "

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Entered by Ian Hogg (ian.hogg@ucl.ac.uk)

Entered on 20 November 2015

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Project Ref: 8516	Dec 2015	Site location	
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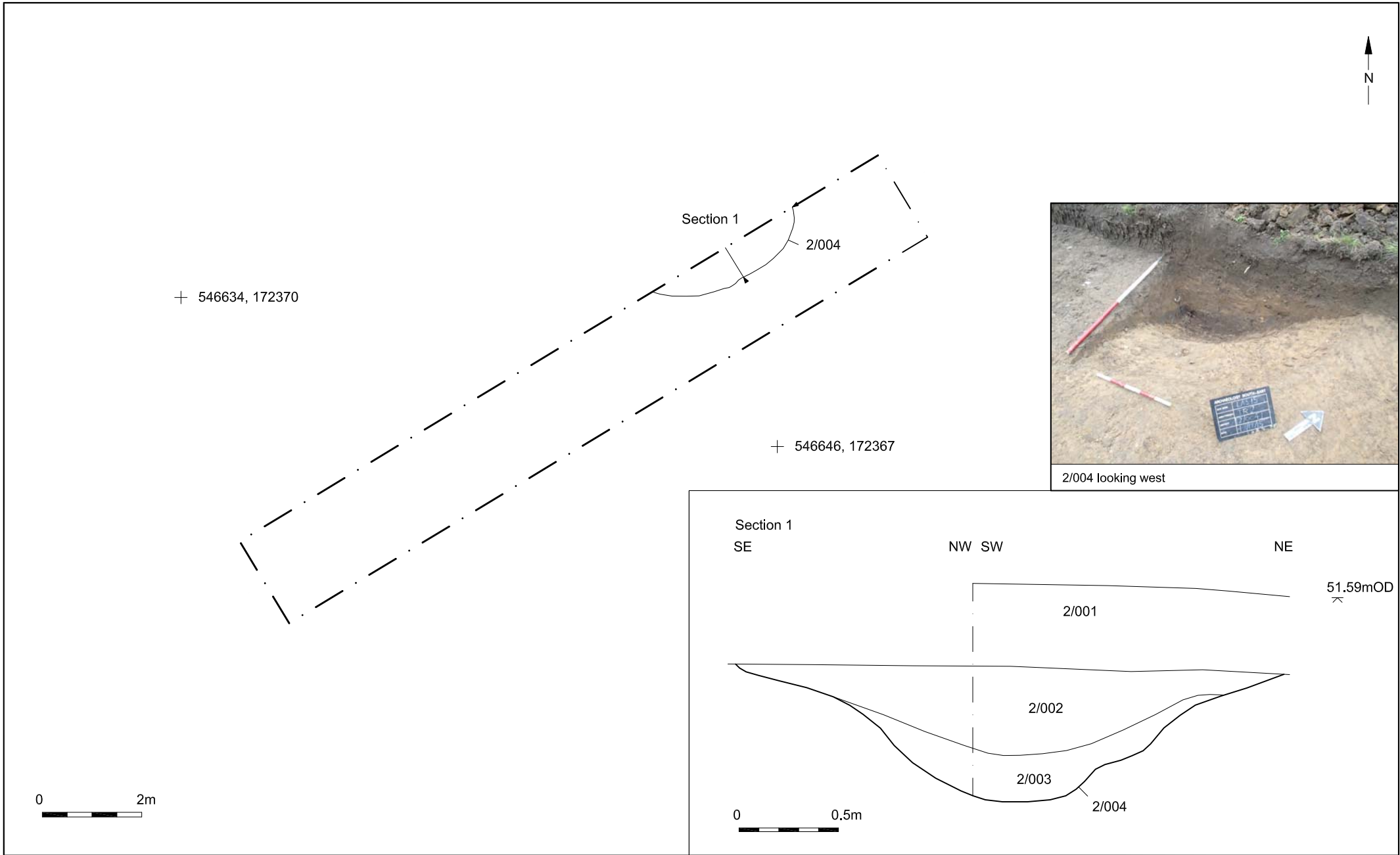
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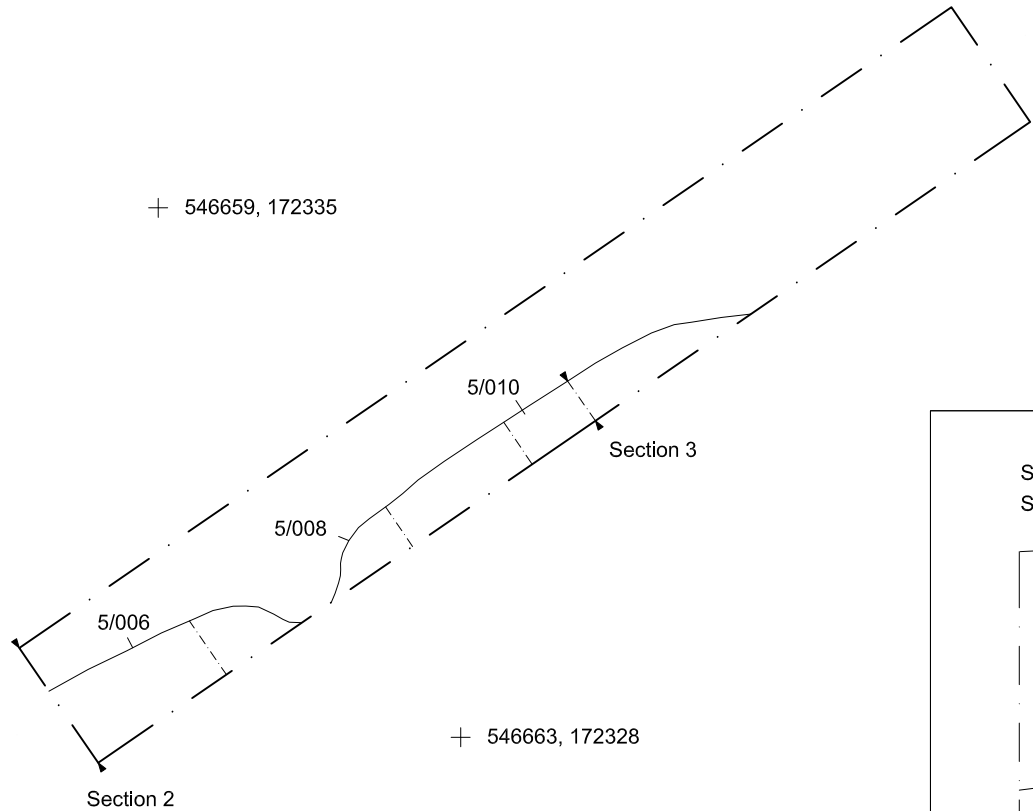
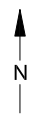
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Trench location

Fig. 2



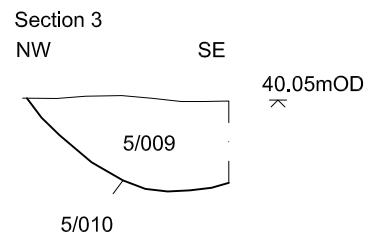
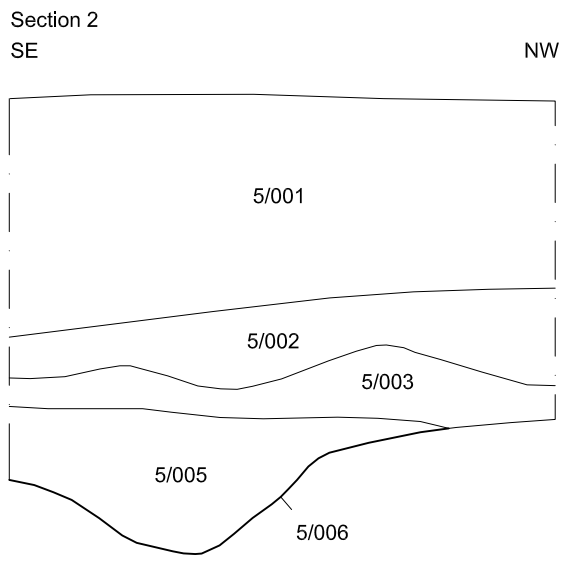
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Project Ref: 8516	Dec 2015	Trench 2 plan, section and photo	
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5/006 looking south-wst



5/010 looking north-east



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Trench 1 looking east



Trench 3 looking south-west



Trench 4 looking north-east

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