

**Archaeological Evaluation Report  
Land off Littlehampton Road  
Ferring, West Sussex**

**NGR: 508890 103320  
(TQ 08890 03320)**

**ASE Project No: 7632  
Site Code: FRR15  
ASE Report No: 2016043  
OASIS id: archaeol6-242600**



**By Greg Priestley-Bell**

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## **Abstract**

*Archaeology South-East was commissioned by CgMs Consulting Ltd, to undertake an archaeological evaluation in advance of the development of land at Littlehampton Road, Ferring, West Sussex. The evaluation was undertaken in 2 phases of work, June 2015 and January 2016. Additional targeted trenches were cut during the second phase by way of mitigation. Minimal truncation was recorded.*

*The evaluation & subsequent mitigation comprised twelve trenches, each measuring 15m or 30m x 2m. Archaeological remains were recorded across much of the site. These are mostly ditches, but several discrete features including a hearth were also recorded.*

*Two areas of activity were recorded. The archaeology is predominantly Late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age (Beaker) but less obvious Late Bronze Age and Middle-Late Iron Age activity also exists. Features recorded include ditches that form parts of a north-west to south-east aligned coaxial field system with two probable alignments of trackway, tree clearance and associated discrete features from which settlement activity are inferred.*

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## **1.0 INTRODUCTION**

### **1.1 Site Background**

- 1.1.1 Archaeology South-East (ASE) was commissioned by CgMs Consulting Ltd, to undertake an archaeological evaluation in advance of the development of land at Littlehampton Road, Ferring, West Sussex. The site is centred at National Grid Reference (NGR) 508890 103320 and its location is shown in Figure 1.

### **1.2 Geology and Topography**

- 2.1 The British Geological Survey shows the site to be bedrock deposits of Lewes Nodular Chalk/Seaford Chalk/Newhaven Chalk/Culver Chalk Formation with overlying river terrace deposits (BGS 2015).
- 2.2 The site is situated c. 0.5k inland of the coast on the fertile coastal plain south of the Downs. The site is approximately 1.3ha and is bounded to the north by the A259 Littlehampton Road, to the east by residential properties and to the west and south by business park development. The nearest watercourse is the Ferring Rife which runs broadly NE-SW c.200m east of the site. The site is flat and lies at an elevation of approximately 7m AOD.

### **1.3 Planning Background**

- 1.3.1 In considering any planning application for development, the local planning authority Arun District Council (ADC) are advised on matters concerning archaeology and the historic environment by their archaeological advisor, James Kenny. In view of the archaeological potential of the site (see below), James Kenny advised that a field evaluation should be carried out as the first stage of a programme of archaeological investigation; prior to development.
- 1.3.2 A Written Scheme of Investigation for an archaeological evaluation (ASE 2015) was prepared outlining the scope and requirements of the initial evaluation, and was submitted to James Kenny for approval in advance of the work. All work was carried out in accordance with the WSI and to the Standards and Guidance: Archaeological Evaluations of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA), and other codes and relevant documents of the CIfA (CIfA 2014a).

### **1.4 Scope of Report**

- 1.4.1 This report details the results of the archaeological evaluation & mitigation carried out on the site on 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> June 2015 (Phase 1, Trenches 1-3), and between 21<sup>st</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> January 2016 (Phase 2, Trenches 4-12); it has been prepared in accordance with the WSI (ASE 2015). The work was carried out by Giles Dawkes and Greg Priestley-Bell (Senior Archaeologists), Hayley Nicholls (Archaeologist) and Vas Tsamis (Senior Archaeological Surveyor). The fieldwork was managed by Darryl Palmer and the post-excavation work by Dan Swift.

## **2.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND**

2.1 The following is summarised from the DBA (CgMs 2013):

### **2.2 Prehistoric**

2.2.1 There are no finds of Palaeolithic or Mesolithic date within the 1km study area. There are two records of isolated Neolithic axes within the study area found c.500m north-east and the other roughly 650m north of the study site (MWS3131;MWS3160). Various flints were found at Hangleton Farm c.500m north of the study site (MWS2970).

2.2.2 A hoard of Bronze Age artefacts was found during widening of Ferring Rife c.900m south of the study site. Four areas of burnt flint ('burnt mounds') were also found in the area and two further pits were recorded to the north (MWS3171). Further work in the area of the hoard established that it had been buried in a marshy environment which was gradually raised by the movement of alluvium from agricultural land to the north (MWS8019). Another burnt mound was recorded c.450m south-west of the study site (MWS8018). It is suggested that this mound lay in a hollow formed by a branch of Ferring Rife, which further indicates the former marshy nature of the area.

2.2.3 A scheduled Bronze Age enclosure is located on High Down Hill c.1.1km north-east of the study site (National Heritage List 1015877).

2.2.4 Lynchets indicating cultivation probably during the Iron Age were recorded around High Down Hill Farm c.900m north (MWS3144). Some Iron Age artefacts were also recovered in this area during metal detecting (MWS8306).

### **2.3 Roman**

2.3.1 A single cremation of Roman date was found adjacent to the study site in the front garden of 3 Langbury Close (MWS5562). Five other cremations were found c.950m south of the study site (MWS3140). There are also records of Roman pottery found c.650m east and c.1km south-east (MWS3133; MWS3158).

2.3.2 The lynchet field systems observed c.900m north of the study site is likely to have continued in use into the Roman period and Roman period artefacts have been recovered from the area (MWS3144; MWS8306).

2.3.3 The nearest major Roman road was the Chichester-Brighton road which ran c.2.5km north of the study site close to the present day A27. However, a possible Roman road along with Roman coins was reported c.1.1km west of the study site.

### **2.4 Anglo Saxon/Early Medieval/Medieval**

2.4.1 Despite an Anglo-Saxon cemetery being located within the Bronze Age enclosure at High Down Hill c.1.1km north-east, there are no other records for the Anglo-Saxon or early medieval periods in the study area.

2.4.2 The only records of medieval date in the area relate to artefacts found in the High Down Hill area dating from the 14<sup>th</sup> century onwards (MWS8306) and the church of St Andrew, located c.900m south-east of the study site, which has existing fabric dating from the 13<sup>th</sup> century (MWS3130/DWS1297).

2.4.2 In addition, two large archaeological excavations have been undertaken in the vicinity of the site: Northbrook College (c 100m to the north-east) and Rustington (2 kms to the west). At Northbrook College, a series of excavations by ASE and Thames Valley Archaeological Unit over the last 10 years have identified a multi-period site, including an Iron Age settlement and extensive Roman occupation centred on a Roman villa (Northbrook). At Rustington, a series of Bronze Age salt-working enclosures were found, as well as a burnt mound with trough and Roman field boundary ditches (ASE).

## **2.5 Post Medieval and Modern**

2.5.1 In this period our understanding of settlement, land use and landscape utilisation is enhanced by cartographic and documentary sources.

2.5.2 Budgen's map of 1724 does not give much detail, but it does show that by this time there was settlement at Ferring and Angleton, and the road now called Littlehampton Road was in existence.

2.5.3 Gardner and Gream's map of 1795 shows the study site as lying in fields at the crossroads of Hangleton

2.5.4 The 1806 Ordnance Survey Drawing shows little change to the site, though there are differences in the field boundaries and the 1837 Ferring Tithe map and award shows the site lying within an arable field called 'The Eight Acres'.

2.5.5 The first edition Ordnance Survey plan of 1876 shows a footpath running diagonally across a field. This becomes the site's southern extent. There is no change to the site between 1876 and 1932.

2.5.6 By 1961-72 a nursery had been set up to the south of the study site, though the study site itself remained undeveloped. By 1983 a track had been laid north west/south-east. The only change that subsequently took place on the study site was the sub-division of the site into two fields which happened by 1993 and was still in place by 2007.



## **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 Fieldwork Methodology**

- 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 During the first phase of work three 30mx2m trenches were excavated in the eastern part of the site (at that time there was no access to the western part of the site. During the second phase, six 30mx2m trenches were initially excavated in the western part of the site. After discussions with the ADC Archaeological Advisor a mitigation strategy comprising of the excavation of a further three targeted 15mx2m trenches was agreed and these were excavated across the site, primarily in order to clarify the alignment of linear features.
- 3.1.3 The location of the trenches was accurately established using a survey grade GPS. All trenches were scanned prior to excavation using a Cable Avoidance Tool.
- 3.1.4 The trenches were excavated using a 360° mechanical excavator equipped with a toothless ditching bucket. All machining was undertaken under the supervision of a suitably qualified and experienced archaeologist.
- 3.1.5 Only topsoil and subsoil/colluvium was removed by machine and kept separately. The excavation was taken down in spits of no more than 0.2m, to the top of the first significant archaeological horizon or the top of the underlying 'natural' – whichever was uppermost.
- 3.1.6 All archaeological features and deposits were recorded using the standard context record sheets used by Archaeology South-East. Soil colours were recorded using visual. A metal detector was used to scan all excavated material.
- 3.1.7 All exposed archaeological features and deposits were cleaned by hand, planned and recorded. Cut features were sampled sufficiently so as to meet the aims of the evaluation.
- 3.1.8 Trenches completed to the satisfaction of CGMS & James Kenny, archaeological advisor to ADC, 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.

### 3.4 Archive

3.4.1 The site archive is currently held at the offices of ASE and will be deposited at a local museum in due course. The contents of the archive are tabulated below:

Context sheets	75
Section sheets	3
Plans sheets	0
Colour photographs	17
B&W photos	17
Digital photos	50
Context register	1
Drawing register	1
Watching brief forms	0
Trench Record forms	0
Bulk finds (quantity e.g. 1 bag, 1 box, 0.5 box 0.5 of a box )	3
Registered finds (number of)	0
Flots and environmental remains from bulk samples	3
Palaeoenvironmental specialists sample samples (e.g. columns, prepared slides)	0
Waterlogged wood	0
Wet sieved environmental remains from bulk samples	0

Table 1: Quantification of site archive

## 4.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESULTS

### 4.1 Trench 1

4.1.1 The recorded sequence of deposits was: natural [1/003] consisting of mid yellowish brown clayey silt; subsoil/colluvium [1/002] consisting of compact mid greyish brown clayey silt; topsoil [1/001] consisting of friable light/mid greyish brown clayey silt.

4.1.2 A ditch [1/004], measuring >11m long, 0.73m wide and 0.20m deep, contained a fill [1/005] consisting of mid orangey brown silty clay that produced fire-cracked flint.

4.1.3 A ditch [1/006], broadly parallel with ditch [1/004], measured >5m long, 0.40m wide and 0.16m deep; it contained a fill [1/007] consisting of mid greyish brown silty clay that produced fire-cracked flint.

Trench	Context	Type	Description	Max Length m	Max Width m	Deposit Thickness m (average)	Height m AOD (average) *
T1	1/001	Layer	Topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.30	6.25-6.55
T1	1/002	Deposit	Subsoil/colluvium	Tr.	Tr.	0.40	5.85-6.25
T1	1/003	Deposit	Natural	Tr.	Tr.	Na	5.85
T1	1/004	Cut	Ditch	>11	0.73		<b>5.85</b>
T1	1/005	Fill	Of 1/004	>11	0.73	0.20	<b>5.65-5.85</b>
T1	1/006	Cut	Ditch	>5	0.40		<b>5.85</b>
T1	1/007	Fill	Of 1/006	>5	0.40	0.16	<b>5.69-5.85</b>

Table 2: Trench 1 list of recorded contexts \***precise heights in bold type**

### 4.2 Trench 2

4.2.1 The recorded sequence of deposits was: natural [2/003] consisting of mid yellowish brown clayey silt; subsoil/colluvium [2/002] consisting of compact mid greyish brown clayey silt; topsoil [2/001] consisting of friable light/mid greyish brown clayey silt.

4.2.2 No archaeological remains were identified or collected.

Trench	Context	Type	Description	Max Length m	Max Width m	Deposit Thickness m (average)	Height m AOD (average) *
T2	2/001	Layer	Topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.30	6.06-6.36
T2	2/002	Deposit	Subsoil/colluvium	Tr.	Tr.	0.40	5.66-6.06
T2	2/003	Deposit	Natural	Tr.	Tr.	Na	5.66

Table 3: Trench 2 list of recorded contexts \***precise heights in bold type**

### 4.3 Trench 3

4.3.1 The recorded sequence of deposits was: natural [3/003] consisting of mid yellowish brown clayey silt; subsoil/colluvium [3/002] consisting of compact mid greyish brown clayey silt; topsoil [3/001] consisting of friable light/mid greyish brown clayey silt.

4.3.2 A ditch [3/005], measuring >11m long, 0.73m wide and 0.20m deep, contained a fill [3/004] consisting of mid brown clay silt. Ditch [3/005] turned a right angle and continued as ditch [3/007], measuring >2m long, 0.30m wide and 0.14m deep; it contained a fill [3/006] consisting of mid brown clay silt.

4.3.3 A ditch [3/009], broadly parallel with ditch [3/005], measured >3m long, 0.90m wide and 0.30m deep; it contained a fill [3/008] consisting of mid greyish brown clay silt with occasional charcoal. A ditch [3/011] came off ditch [3/009] at right angles, measuring >1m long, 0.70m wide and 0.20m deep; it contained fill [3/010] consisting of mid greyish brown clay silt with occasional charcoal.

4.3.4 A single piece of Late Neolithic-Middle Bronze Age dated worked flint was recovered in each ditch.

Trench	Context	Type	Description	Max Length m	Max Width m	Deposit Thickness m (average)	Height m AOD (average) *
T3	3/001	Layer	Topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.20	6.18-6.38
T3	3/002	Deposit	Subsoil/colluvium	Tr.	Tr.	0.60	5.58-6.18
T3	3/003	Deposit	Natural	Tr.	Tr.	Na	5.58
T3	3/004	Fill	Of 3/005	>3	0.50	0.14	<b>6.05-6.19</b>
T3	3/005	Cut	Ditch	>3	0.50		<b>6.19</b>
T3	3/006	Fill	Of 3/007	>2	0.30	0.14	<b>6.05-6.19</b>
T3	3/007	Cut	Ditch	>2	0.30		<b>6.19</b>
T3	3/008	Fill	Of 3/009	>3	0.90	0.30	<b>5.46-5.76</b>
T3	3/009	Cut	Ditch	>3	0.90		<b>5.76</b>
T3	3/010	Fill	Of 3/011	>1	0.70	0.20	<b>5.56-5.76</b>
T3	3/011	Cut	Ditch	>1	0.70		<b>5.76</b>

Table 4: Trench 3 list of recorded contexts \*precise heights in bold type

#### 4.4 Trench 4

4.4.1 The recorded sequence of deposits was: natural [4/003] consisting of mid yellowish brown clayey silt; subsoil/colluvium [4/002] consisting of compact mid greyish brown clayey silt; hard-standing [4/001] consisting of very dark blackish grey silt with 90% ash and 10% modern hardcore.

4.4.2 No archaeological remains were identified.

Trench	Context	Type	Description	Max Length m	Max Width m	Deposit Thickness m (average)	Height m AOD (average) *
T4	4/001	Layer	Hard-standing	Tr.	Tr.	0.40	6.40-6.80
T4	4/002	Deposit	Subsoil/colluvium	Tr.	Tr.	0.30	6.10-6.40
T4	4/003	Deposit	Natural	Tr.	Tr.	Na	6.10

Table 5: Trench 4 list of recorded contexts \***precise heights in bold type**

#### 4.5 Trench 5

4.5.1 The recorded sequence of deposits was: natural [5/003] consisting of mid yellowish brown clayey silt; subsoil/colluvium [5/002] consisting of compact mid greyish brown clayey silt; topsoil [5/001] consisting of friable light/mid greyish brown clayey silt.

4.5.2 A ditch [5/004], measuring >2.2m long, 0.57m wide and 0.18m deep, contained a fill [5/005] consisting of light greyish brown silty clay. No finds were recovered from the ditch.

Trench	Context	Type	Description	Max Length m	Max Width m	Deposit Thickness m (average)	Height m AOD (average) *
T5	5/001	Layer	Topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.30	6.52-6.82
T5	5/002	Deposit	Subsoil/colluvium	Tr.	Tr.	0.50	6.02-6.52
T5	5/003	Deposit	Natural	Tr.	Tr.	Na	6.02
T5	5/004	Cut	Ditch	>2.2	0.57		<b>5.92</b>
T5	5/005	Fill	Of 1/004	>2.2	0.57	0.18	<b>5.74-5.92</b>

Table 6: Trench 5 list of recorded contexts \***precise heights in bold type**

#### 4.6 Trench 6

- 4.6.1 The recorded sequence of deposits was: natural [6/003] consisting of mid yellowish brown clayey silt; subsoil/colluvium [6/002] consisting of compact mid greyish brown clayey silt; topsoil [6/001] consisting of friable light/mid greyish brown clayey silt.
- 4.6.2 A ditch [6/004]/[6/012], measuring >3.2m long, up to 0.57m wide and up to 0.20m deep, contained a fill [6/005]/[6/013] consisting of mid greyish orange silty clay with occasional flint and three sherds of Late Bronze Age pottery from fill [6/005].
- 4.6.3 A depression [6/006], measuring 0.85m long, 0.40m wide and 0.07m deep, contained a fill [6/007] consisting of mid greyish orange silty clay.
- 4.6.4 A gully [6/008], measuring >2m long, 0.68m wide and 0.12m deep, contained a fill [6/009] consisting of mid greyish brown silty clay with occasional flint, worked flint, fire-cracked flint and an animal tooth.
- 4.6.5 A depression [6/010], measuring 0.64m long, 0.59m wide and 0.07m deep, contained a fill [6/011] consisting of light greyish orange silty clay.
- 4.6.6 A possible pit or tree throw [6/014], measuring 1.4m in diameter and 0.39m deep, contained a fill [6/015] consisting of mid orangey brown silty clay.

Trench	Context	Type	Description	Max Length m	Max Width m	Deposit Thickness m (average)	Height m AOD (average) *
T6	6/001	Layer	Topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.30	6.46-6.76
T6	6/002	Deposit	Subsoil/colluvium	Tr.	Tr.	0.50	5.96-6.46
T6	6/003	Deposit	Natural	Tr.	Tr.	Na	5.96
T6	6/004	Cut	Ditch	>2.9	0.55		<b>5.96</b>
T6	6/005	Fill	Of 1/004	>2.9	0.55	0.20	<b>5.76-5.96</b>
T6	6/006	Cut	Depression	0.85	0.40		<b>5.96</b>
T6	6/007	Fill	Of 6/006	0.85	0.40	0.07	<b>5.89-5.96</b>
T6	6/008	Cut	Gully	>2	0.68		<b>5.96</b>
T6	6/009	Fill	Of 6/008	>2	0.68	0.12	<b>5.84-5.96</b>
T6	6/010	Cut	Depression	0.64	0.59		<b>5.96</b>
T6	6/011	Fill	Of 6/010	0.64	0.59	0.07	<b>5.89-5.96</b>
T6	6/012	Cut	Ditch	>3.2	0.57		<b>5.96</b>
T6	6/013	Fill	Of 6/012	>3.2	0.57	0.17	<b>5.79-5.96</b>
T6	6/014	Cut	Pit/tree throw?	1.4	1.4		<b>5.96</b>
T6	6/015	Fill	Of 6/014	1.4	1.4	0.39	<b>5.57-5.96</b>

Table 7: Trench 6 list of recorded contexts \***precise heights in bold type**

#### 4.7 Trench 7

4.7.1 The recorded sequence of deposits was: natural [7/003] consisting of mid yellowish brown clayey silt; subsoil/colluvium [7/002] consisting of compact mid greyish brown clayey silt; topsoil [7/001] consisting of friable light/mid greyish brown clayey silt.

4.7.2 A ditch [7/004], measuring >11m long, 1.4m wide and 0.39m deep, contained a fill [7/005] consisting of light greyish brown silty clay that produced a significant quantity of probably Middle to Late Iron Age pottery, together with worked and fire-cracked flint.

Trench	Context	Type	Description	Max Length m	Max Width m	Deposit Thickness m (average)	Height m AOD (average) *
T7	7/001	Layer	Topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.30	6.47-6.77
T7	7/002	Deposit	Subsoil/colluvium	Tr.	Tr.	0.50	5.97-6.77
T7	7/003	Deposit	Natural	Tr.	Tr.	Na	5.97
T7	7/004	Cut	Ditch	>11	1.4		<b>5.97</b>
T7	7/005	Fill	Of 7/004	>11	1.4	0.39	<b>5.58-5.97</b>

Table 8: Trench 7 list of recorded contexts \***precise heights in bold type**



## 4.8 Trench 8

- 4.8.1 The recorded sequence of deposits was: natural [8/003] consisting of mid yellowish brown clayey silt; subsoil/colluvium [8/002] consisting of compact mid greyish brown clayey silt; topsoil [8/001] consisting of friable light/mid greyish brown clayey silt.
- 4.8.2 A ditch [8/004], measuring >11m long, 0.73m wide and 0.20m deep, contained a fill [8/005] consisting of mid brown clay silt. Four worked flints and fire-cracked flints were recovered.
- 4.8.3 A ditch [8/006], measuring >3m long, 0.90m wide and 0.30m deep, contained a fill [8/007] consisting of mid greyish brown clay silt with occasional charcoal that produced two sherds of Late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age pottery (Beaker), 2 worked flints and fire-cracked flints.
- 4.8.4 A ditch [8/008], measuring >3m long, 0.90m wide and 0.30m deep, contained a fill [8/009] consisting of mid greyish brown clay silt with occasional charcoal, 2 worked flints and fire-cracked flints were found.

Trench	Context	Type	Description	Max Length m	Max Width m	Deposit Thickness m (average)	Height m AOD (average) *
T8	8/001	Layer	Topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.20	6.65-6.85
T8	8/002	Deposit	Subsoil/colluvium	Tr.	Tr.	0.60	6.05-6.65
T8	8/003	Deposit	Natural	Tr.	Tr.	Na	<b>6.05</b>
T8	8/004	Fill	Of 8/005	>3	0.50	0.14	<b>5.91-6.05</b>
T8	8/005	Cut	Ditch	>3	0.50		<b>6.05</b>
T8	8/006	Fill	Of 8/007	>2	0.30	0.14	<b>5.91-6.05</b>
T8	8/007	Cut	Ditch	>2	0.30		<b>6.05</b>
T8	8/008	Fill	Of 8/009	>3	0.90	0.30	<b>5.75-6.05</b>
T8	8/009	Cut	Ditch	>3	0.90		<b>6.05</b>

Table 9: Trench 8 list of recorded contexts \***precise heights in bold type**

#### 4.9 Trench 9

4.9.1 The recorded sequence of deposits was: natural [9/003] consisting of mid yellowish brown clayey silt; subsoil/colluvium [9/002] consisting of compact mid greyish brown clayey silt; topsoil [9/001] consisting of friable light/mid greyish brown clayey silt.

4.9.2 A ditch [9/004], measuring >2m long, 1.20m wide and 0.26m deep, contained a fill [9/005] consisting of mid brown silty clay that produced a small quantity of undiagnostic later prehistoric pottery.

4.9.3 A depression [9/006], measuring 1.8m long, 1.45m wide and 0.30m deep, contained a fill [9/007] consisting of mid yellowish grey slightly clay silt.

Trench	Context	Type	Description	Max Length m	Max Width m	Deposit Thickness m (average)	Height m AOD (average) *
T9	9/001	Layer	Topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.25	6.61-6.86
T9	9/002	Deposit	Subsoil/colluvium	Tr.	Tr.	0.30	6.31-6.61
T9	9/003	Deposit	Natural	Tr.	Tr.	Na	<b>6.31</b>
T9	9/004	Cut	Ditch	>2	1.20		<b>6.31</b>
T9	9/005	Fill	Of 9/004	>2	1.2	0.26	<b>6.05-6.31</b>
T9	9/006	Cut	Depression	>1.8	1.45		<b>6.31</b>
T9	9/007	Fill	Of 9/006	>1.8	1.45	0.30	<b>6.01-6.31</b>

Table 10: Trench 9 list of recorded contexts \*precise heights in bold type

#### 4.10 Trench 10

4.10.1 The recorded sequence of deposits was: natural [10/003] consisting of mid yellowish brown clayey silt; subsoil/colluvium [10/002] consisting of compact mid greyish brown clayey silt; topsoil [10/001] consisting of friable light/mid greyish brown clayey silt.

4.10.2 A ditch [10/004], measuring >6m long, 0.46m wide and 0.13m deep, contained a fill [10/005] consisting of mid brown silty clay that contained possible wheat remains.

4.10.3 A pit/hearth [10/006], measuring 0.88m in diameter and 0.26m deep, contained a fill [10/007] consisting of dark brown very silty clay that produced a significant quantity of probably Late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age (Beaker) pottery, together with worked and fire-cracked flint, including a refitting flint flake and core; hazel nut shell fragments were also recovered.

Trench	Context	Type	Description	Max Length m	Max Width m	Deposit Thickness m (average)	Height m AOD (average) *
T10	10/001	Layer	Topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.30	6.27-6.57
T10	10/002	Deposit	Subsoil/colluvium	Tr.	Tr.	0.50	5.77-6.27
T10	10/003	Deposit	Natural	Tr.	Tr.	Na	5.77
T10	10/004	Cut	Ditch	>6	0.46		<b>5.77</b>
T10	10/005	Fill	Of 10/004	>6	0.46	0.13	<b>5.64-5.77</b>
T10	10/006	Cut	Pit/hearth	0.88	0.88		<b>5.77</b>
T10	10/007	Fill	Of 10/006	0.88	0.88	0.26	<b>5.51-5.77</b>

Table 11: Trench 10 list of recorded contexts \***precise heights in bold type**

#### 4.11 Trench 11

4.11.1 The recorded sequence of deposits was: natural [11/003] consisting of mid yellowish brown clayey silt; subsoil/colluvium [11/002] consisting of compact mid greyish brown clayey silt; topsoil [11/001] consisting of friable light/mid greyish brown clayey silt.

4.11.2 No archaeological remains were identified.

Trench	Context	Type	Description	Max Length m	Max Width m	Deposit Thickness m (average)	Height m AOD (average) *
T11	11/001	Layer	Topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.30	6.50-6.80
T11	11/002	Deposit	Subsoil/colluvium	Tr.	Tr.	0.50	6.00-6.50
T11	11/003	Deposit	Natural	Tr.	Tr.	Na	6.00

Table 12: Trench 11 list of recorded contexts \***precise heights in bold type**

## 4.12 Trench 12

4.12.1 The recorded sequence of deposits was: natural [12/003] consisting of mid yellowish brown clayey silt; subsoil/colluvium [12/002] consisting of compact mid greyish brown clayey silt; topsoil [12/001] consisting of friable light/mid greyish brown clayey silt.

4.12.2 A ditch [12/004], measuring >2m long, 1.30m wide and 0.18m deep, contained a fill [12/005] consisting of light yellowish brown silty clay.

4.12.3 A ditch [12/006], measuring >2m long, 0.50m wide, contained a fill [12/007] consisting of dark yellowish grey clay silt.

4.12.4 A ditch [12/008], measuring >2m long, 0.90m wide, contained a fill [12/009] consisting of mid yellowish brown slightly clay silt.

Trench	Context	Type	Description	Max Length m	Max Width m	Deposit Thickness m (average)	Height m AOD (average) *
T12	12/001	Layer	Topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.30	6.33-6.83
T12	12/002	Deposit	Subsoil/colluvium	Tr.	Tr.	0.50	5.83-6.33
T12	12/003	Deposit	Natural	Tr.	Tr.	Na	5.83
T12	12/004	Cut	Ditch	>2	1.30		<b>5.83</b>
T12	12/005	Fill	Of 12/004	>2	1.30	0.18	<b>5.65-5.83</b>
T12	12/006	Cut	Ditch	>2	0.92		<b>5.83</b>
T12	12/007	Fill	Of 12/006	>2	0.92	0.30	<b>5.53-5.83</b>
T12	12/008	Cut	Ditch	>2	1.00		<b>5.83</b>
T12	12/009	Fill	Of 12/008	>2	1.00		

Table 13: Trench 12 list of recorded contexts \***precise heights in bold type**

## 5.0 THE FINDS

### 5.1 Summary

5.1.1 A small assemblage of mostly prehistoric finds was recovered during the evaluation at Littlehampton Road, Ferring. All finds were washed and dried or air dried as appropriate. They were subsequently quantified by count and weight and were bagged by material and context (Table 14). All finds have been packed and stored following ClfA guidelines (2014b). No further conservation is required

Context	Pottery	Wt(g)	Bone	Wt(g)	Flint	Wt(g)	FCF	Wt(g)
1/005							1	44
1/007							8	56
3/004					1	<2		
3/008					1	20		
6/002					1	64		
6/005	3	34						
6/009			4	9	2	13	3	107
7/002					1	26		
7/005	30	43			5	238	16	901
8/005					4	39	17	213
8/007	2	5			2	42	17	518
8/009					2	52	7	123
9/005	5	5						
10/006	7	33						
10/007	1	7			10	552	4	124
<b>Total</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>127</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>1046</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>2086</b>

Table 14: Finds quantification (hand-collected bulk finds)

## 5.2 The Flintwork by Karine Le Hégarat

### *Introduction*

5.2.1 In total, 46 pieces of flint considered to be humanly struck weighing 1144g were recovered during the evaluation work at Littlehampton Road in Ferring. Fragments of un-worked burnt flint with a total weight of 2167g were also recovered from nine numbered contexts. The material was retrieved through hand collection and subsequent sorting of three environmental samples.

### *Methodology*

5.2.2 The pieces of struck flint were quantified by piece count and weight. They were individually examined and classified using standard set of codes and morphological descriptions (Butler 2005, Ford 1987 and Inizan *et al.* 1999). Basic technological details as well as further information regarding the condition of the artefacts were recorded. Dating was attempted when possible. All data have been entered onto a Microsoft Excel spreadsheet, and it is summarized by artefact categories in Table 15. Hand collected fragments of burnt unworked flint were quantified by piece and by weight.

Category	Flakes	Blade, Bladelet-like	Irregular waste pieces	Chips	Cores	Retouched forms	Total
No	27	2	3	8	2	4	46

Table 15: the flintwork

### Condition and raw material

5.2.3 The majority of the material exhibits fresh edge condition, with only a few pieces displaying very light edge damage. This suggests that the material has undergone negligible post-depositional disturbance. No artefacts displayed signs of weathering suggesting that the pieces endured successive re-deposition. The majority of the artefacts were free from surface discolouration, with only seven pieces displaying partial white surface re-cortication. Light to dark grey flint or light to mid-brown flint with a thin (1mm or less) stained outer surface was the most frequently occurring material in the assemblage. Cherty inclusions were noted, and the material appears to offer moderate flaking quality. The raw material would have been available locally from gravel sources or from superficial deposits.

### *Results*

5.2.4 The flintwork came from 12 contexts in five trenches (trenches 3, 6, 7, 8 and 10). Trench 10 produced the largest concentration of material with 22 pieces, all of which came from context [10/007].

5.2.5 The assemblage of struck flint consists principally of unmodified waste pieces, of which flakes are the dominant types (Table 15). They represent 84.8% of the débitage component (excluding chips). The majority of the flakes are irregular and crudely worked, displaying plain unprepared platforms. But a small amount of flakes

have been slightly more carefully struck from an abraded platform. They often display a winged platform. Although much of the material is not particularly diagnostic, the flake-based character of the assemblage (Ford 1987) suggests a date spanning mostly the later Neolithic to the Bronze Age or even Early Iron Age. A bladelet and a blade were present, but these artefacts lacked characteristics associated with a blade-based industry. They are likely to be results from knapping accidents. Two cores were present: a multiplatform flake core from context [10/007] and a core on a flake from context [7/007]. Although the multiplatform flake core has been extensively reduced, it was rather crudely worked. Four modified pieces were recovered: a thumbnail scraper from context [10/007], an end scraper from context [6/002], a retouched flake from [7/006] and a retouched blade from [3/008]. A further two unmodified flakes (context [10/007]) displayed signs of having been utilised. The end scraper was made on a thick blade-like flake with a wide plain butt. It displays minimal but fine retouch. A broad Late Neolithic-Middle Bronze Age date is likely for the scraper. The thumbnail scraper is likely to belong to the same period. The date for the retouched flake and the retouched blade remains uncertain.

### *Conclusion*

- 5.2.6 The evaluation work produced a small amount of struck flints and unworked burnt flints. The assemblage provides limited evidence for prehistoric presence at the site. No diagnostic implements were recovered, but based on morphological and technological traits, a broad Late Neolithic to Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age can be proposed. The presence of cores, chips and pieces of irregular waste indicate knapping activities, and the modified and utilised pieces provide evidence for tool using activities. The majority of the artefacts display fresh edge condition suggesting minimal movement after deposition. Furthermore refitting flintwork – a core and a flake from [10/007] - suggests knapping activity in the vicinity or within this feature. However, the small size of the assemblage suggests only low-key activity during that period.

### 5.3 The Prehistoric Pottery by Anna Doherty

- 5.3.1 A small assemblage of prehistoric pottery, totalling 48 sherds, weighing 126g, was recovered during the evaluation. Although a limited amount of diagnostic material is present, it is considered likely that several prehistoric periods are represented. Probably the earliest material comes from context [10/006]/[10/007]. Here nine small sherds, probably of the same vessel, are associated with a relatively fine fabric containing sparse grog and flint in the size-range 0.5-2mm. The sherds have unoxidised interior and oxidised exterior surfaces; although quite abraded, they seem to feature some kind surface impressions, possibly representing fingernail rustication. Although it is possible that flint-with-grog fabrics could occur in the Middle/Late Iron Age, the firing characteristics and possible use of fingernail impressions seem much more typical of Late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age Beaker pottery (c.2500-1700BC), particularly given the association with flintwork and hazelnut shell in this feature. Two small conjoining sherds in a similar fabric, possibly also representing Beaker, were noted in context [8/007] although, as these are associated with a linear feature, they seem more likely to be residual.
- 5.3.2 Context [6/005] contained fresh conjoining rim sherds from a typical Late Bronze Age (c.1150-800BC) plain ware post-Deverel-Rimbury vessel, in a coarse flint-tempered ware with moderate inclusions ranging from 0.5-3.5mm. Not all of the upper profile is present but it possibly represents a bipartite or slightly shouldered jar form. Context [9/005] contained a small group of slightly finer flint-tempered wares with moderate inclusions of c.0.5-2mm. It is difficult to place these within the later prehistoric period as similar fabrics often make up a component of groups ranging from Late Bronze Age to Late Iron Age on the Sussex coastal plain. Context [7/005] contained a large number of fragmented sherds from a single vessel in a distinctive leached calcareous rock-tempered fabric. This ware type is thought to originate from a Wealden source but has been noted in Middle and Late Iron Age assemblages on a number of sites in the general vicinity of Ferring, including Roundstone Lane, Angmering and Titnore Lane, Goring (Seager Thomas in prep; Doherty 2010).



#### **5.4 The Fired Clay** by Isa Benedetti-Whitton

- 5.4.1 A single lump of fired clay weighing 11g was extracted from environmental sample <10>, collected from context [10/007]. The clay was worn smooth with no indication of original form or human utilisation. The clay is medium orangey beige with iron-rich deposits up to 4mm.

#### **5.5 The Geological Material** by Luke Barber

- 5.5.1 The only stone recovered came from two environmental samples. Context [6/005] (sample <12>) produced a single granule of coal (<1g), while [7/005] (sample <11>) contained in excess of 20 small coal granules (1g). The presence of this material suggests some intrusion, probably from 18<sup>th</sup>- to 19<sup>th</sup>- century steam-powered machinery on the land.

#### **5.6 The Metallurgical Remains** by Luke Barber

- 5.6.1 Very small quantities of slag were recovered from the site – all deriving from environmental residues. Context [6/005] (sample <12>) produced less than 1g of magnetic fines. These are small granules, usually clay pellets and ferruginous stone, which have had their magnetism enhanced by heating. They can be produced by any burning event and are not indicative of metal-working, however, the same sample also produced three small flakes of hammerstone, suggesting iron smithing occurred in the area.
- 5.6.2 Context [7/005] (sample <11>) produced under 1g of magnetic fines but 2g of fuel ash slag. Although this slag type is not diagnostic of process some of the current material is very similar to clinker and the pieces could be intrusions from post-medieval coal burning. Context [10/007] (sample <10> only produced magnetic fines (>1g).

#### **5.7 The Animal Bone** by Gemma Ayton

- 5.7.1 Just 5 fragments of animal teeth and no bones were recovered from a single context, [6/009]. All five fragments have been identified as cattle tooth enamel possibly deriving from the same molar tooth. The specimens are in a poor condition been highly eroded and friable.

## 6.0 THE ENVIRONMENTAL SAMPLES by Mariangela Vitolo

- 6.1 Three bulk soil samples were taken from the fills of a pit and two ditches to recover environmental material such as charred plant macrofossils, wood charcoal, fauna and mollusca as well as to assist finds recovery. The following report summarises the contents of these samples and discusses the information provided by the charred plant remains on diet, agrarian economy and vegetation environment.
- 6.2 The samples were processed in their entirety in a flotation tank and the residues and flots were retained on 500µm and 250µm meshes respectively before being air dried. The residues were passed through graded sieves of 8, 4 and 2mm and each fraction sorted for environmental and artefactual remains (Table 16). Artefacts recovered from the samples were distributed to specialists, and are incorporated in the relevant sections of this volume where they add further information to the existing finds assemblage.
- 6.3 The flots were scanned under a stereozoom microscope at 7-45x magnifications and their contents recorded (Table 17). Preliminary identifications of macrobotanical remains were made with reference to modern comparative material and published reference atlases (Cappers *et al.* 2006, Jacomet 2006, NIAB 2004). Nomenclature used follows Stace (1997).

### Results

*Samples <10> [10/07], <11> [7/05] and <12> [6/005]*

- 6.4 All samples produced small flots, which were dominated by uncharred vegetative material, such as rootlets, small twigs and seeds of bramble (*Rubus fruticosus*) and goosefoots (*Chenopodium* sp.). This material is indicative of low level disturbance and is likely to have infiltrated the deposits through root action.
- 6.5 Charred plant remains were limited to a poorly preserved caryopsis of possible wheat (*cf. Triticum* sp.) from ditch [10/04] and various fragments of hazel (*Corylus avellana*) nutshell from pit [10/06].
- 6.6 Charcoal fragments were present in the residues of all the samples, but not in large enough an amount to warrant identification work. Most of these fragments displayed evidence of sediment encrustation which is probably due to fluctuations in ground water level and repeated cycles of wetting and drying. No other types of environmental remains were recorded from the samples. Finds from the residues included fire cracked flint, flint, burnt clay, coal, slag and hammerscale.

### Discussion

- 6.7 The bulk soil samples from Ferring have yielded sporadic plant remains and have provided limited information on diet and vegetation environment at the site. The nuts found in pit/hearth [10/06] could have been consumed and their shells discarded in the fire. This also suggests that shrubs were probably growing nearby.
- 6.8 Despite the paucity of remains, these samples show that there is potential for nearby deposits to also preserve plant macrofossils and charcoal and any future work at the site should continue to include sampling, targeting primary deposits.

Table 16: Residue quantification (\* = 1-10, \*\* = 11-50, \*\*\* = 51-250, \*\*\*\* = >250) and weights in grams

Sample Number	Context	Parent Context	Context / deposit type	Sample Volume litres	Sub-Sample Volume litres	Charcoal >4mm	Weight (g)	Charcoal <4mm	Weight (g)	Charred botanicals (other than charcoal)	Weight (g)	Other (eg ind, pot, cbm)
10	10/07	10/06	Pit/hearth	20	20	**	<1	**	1	** <i>Corylus avellana</i>	2	FCF */ 48g - flint **/ 80g - burnt clay */ 9g - pottery */ 10g - hammerscale */ <1g
11	7/05	10/04	Ditch	40	40			**	<1	* cf <i>Triticum</i> sp. (1)	<1	Pottery */8g - slag **/ 3g - coal **/ 1g - flint */ 176g - hammerscale **/ <1g - FCF **/ 27g
12	6/005		Ditch	30	30	*	<1	*	<1	* Unidentified nutshell (1)	<1	FCF */ 6g - coal */ <1g - hammerscale */ <1g

Table 17: Flot quantification (\* = 1-10, \*\* = 11-50, \*\*\* = 51-250, \*\*\*\* = >250) and preservation (+ = poor, ++ = moderate, +++ = good)

Sample Number	Context	Weight g	Flot volume ml	Volume scanned	Uncharred %	Sediment %	Seeds uncharred	Charcoal <2mm
10	10/07	2	30	30	40	20	* <i>Rubus fruticosus</i>	***
11	7/05	1	25	25	70	10	** <i>Chenopodium</i> sp.	*
12	6/005	2	30	30	70	10	** <i>Chenopodium</i> sp.	**

## 7.0 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

### 7.1 Stratigraphic Summary

#### *Trenches 1, 2, 3 and 10*

- 7.1.1 Trenches 1, 2, 3 and 10 were located in the eastern part of the site c. 6.8m AOD. Natural [1/003] was mid orangey brown silty clay (brickearth) with occasional flints, overlain by up to 0.55m of subsoil/colluvium [1/002] consisting of light orangey brown silty clay with occasional flints. Topsoil [1/001] was 0.30m thick and consisted of light greyish brown clayey silt.
- 7.1.2 In Trench 1, a pair of parallel ditches ([1/004] and [1/006]), ran ENE-WSW 2.7m apart. Ditch [1/006] continued to the south-west through Trench 10 as ditch [10/004]. A pit/hearth [10/006] was recorded in the eastern end of Trench 10. No archaeological features were recorded in Trench 2.
- 7.1.3 In the eastern end of Trench 3, two ditches ([3/009] and [3/011]) intersected at right angles. At the western end of the trench two further ditches ([3/005] and [3/007]) formed a right angle. The similar alignments of the pairs of ditches suggested that they represented elements of a NE-SW/NW-SE coaxial field system.

#### *Trenches 4, 5, 6 and 11*

- 7.1.4 Trenches 4, 5, 6 and 11 were located in the central part of the site at c. 6.8m AOD. Natural and subsoil/colluvium were as described above. Topsoil in the central part of Trench 5 was up to 0.50m thick, apparently as a result of modern topsoil stripping over the area of Trench 4; no topsoil was present in Trench 4.
- 7.1.5 No significant archaeological features were identified in Trench 4, although an area of modern hardstanding was recorded. The north-western continuation of ditch [3/009] seen in Trench 3, was recorded in Trench 5 as ditch [5/004] and in Trench 6 as ditch [6/004]. A second possible ditch [6/008] and two shallow depressions ([6/006] and [6/010]) were grouped in the centre of Trench 6 close to ditch [6/004]. A depression, a possible tree throw, [6/014] lay at the eastern end of the trench.

#### *Trenches 7, 8, 9 and 12*

- 7.1.6 Trenches 7, 8, 9 and 12 were located in the western part of the site at c. 6.9m AOD. Natural, subsoil/colluvium and topsoil were as described above.
- 7.1.7 A ditch [7/004] ran NNW-SSE through Trench 7, probably continuing northwards through Trenches 12 and 8 as ditches [12/006] and [8/004] respectively. Two broadly parallel ditches [12/004]/[8/006] and [12/008]/[8/008] ran through Trenches 8 and 12 in the broadly the same alignment as ditch [7/004]. Ditch [9/004] in Trench 9 was probably the northern continuation of either ditch [8/006] or [8/004].
- 7.1.8 A depression [9/006] at the eastern end of Trench 9 perhaps represented a tree throw.

## 7.2 Deposit survival and existing impacts

- 7.2.1 The archaeological features were generally covered by subsoil/colluvium to a depth of c. 0.50m, but it was unclear what degree of truncation had occurred prior to this build up. The only identified area of modern disturbance was Trench 4, where topsoil had been replaced with hardstanding.

## 7.3 Discussion of archaeological results

### *Late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age*

- 7.3.1 In Trench 10, pit/hearth [10/006] produced seven sherds of pottery of this period, together with a significant quantity of worked flint that included a refitting flint flake and core, and fire-cracked flint; fragments of hazel nut shells were also recovered. The range of finds suggested that the feature was possibly associated with nearby settlement, perhaps a hunting/foraging camp.
- 7.3.3 In Trench 8, two sherds of pottery of this period were recovered from the fill [8/005] of ditch [8/004], together with quantities of worked and fire-cracked flint. However, ditch [8/004] was almost certainly the northern continuation of ditch [7/004] in Trench 7 which produced thirty sherds of Middle/Late Iron Age pottery.
- 7.3.4 Worked flint and fire-cracked flints were also recovered from features in Trenches 1, 3, 6, 7, 8 and 10.

### *Late Bronze Age (LBA)*

- 7.3.5 In Trench 6, the fill [6/005] of ditch [6/004] produced three sherds of LBA pottery. Ditch [6/005] was probably the northern continuation of ditches [3/009] and [5/004] recorded in Trenches 3 and 5 respectively. Together with undated ditches [3/005], [3/007] and [3/011] in Trench 3, the features perhaps represent a small coaxial field system enclosing fields measuring c. 16m x 23m. Ditch [9/004] produced a small quantity of probably LBA pottery and was perhaps the continuation of ditch [8/006] or [8/008] in Trench 8.

### *Middle/Late Iron Age (M/LIA)*

- 7.3.6 In Trench 7, the fill [7/005] of ditch [7/004] produced thirty sherds of M/LIA pottery. The SE-NW ditch probably continued northwards, recorded as (Late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age) ditches [12/006] and [8/004] in Trenches 12 and 8 respectively, giving a minimum total length of 40m.

### *Unspecified prehistoric*

- 7.3.6 Parallel ditches [1/004] and [1/006]/[10/004] ran through Trenches 1 and 10 and both produced fire-cracked flint. These ditches were probably prehistoric in origin and possibly represented a trackway/droeway. If the Bronze Age field system represented stock pens, one possible interpretation was that the suggested droeway might have guided cattle into the fields. A cattle tooth was recorded in nearby undated feature [6/008] in Trench 6. Ditch [8/006] or ditch [8/008] was likely to be the northern continuation of probably LBA ditch [9/004].

## 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*

Archaeological remains occur across much of the site. These are mostly ditches, but several discrete features including a hearth were also recorded.

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

There appears to be at least two distinct areas of activity. The exact date and character of these remains unclear, however the following interpretation seems probable:

The first area of activity is a Late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age (Beaker) field system with possible tree clearance, trackways and associated settlement activity. This is located in the eastern half of the site. The field system is aligned along a north-westerly orientation; quite different to the modern street layout. Late Bronze Age pottery was also recorded in the field ditches suggesting later occupation of the area. It remains unclear which material is residual and which is intrusive, or if two distinct phases of activity actually exist.

The second area of activity is of several ditches that may make up a trackway(s) in the western half of the site. Predominantly Late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age pottery and worked flint etc were recovered in this area but Late Bronze Age and Middle to Late Iron pottery was also recovered in two ditches, separately. It remains unclear which material is residual and which is intrusive, or if three distinct phases of activity actually exist. The orientation of the features here is similar, though not identical, to the activity recorded to the east.

The recorded features were cut into natural geology, undisturbed and in good condition, and existed beneath an intact subsoil horizon at depths of c. 0.70m to 0.80m below ground level. This stratigraphic position further emphasises the probability that the features are of considerable age.

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

As discussed above, the recorded features all appeared pristine. Existing impacts were only recorded in Trench 4, however, even here the subsoil horizon appeared intact throughout the trench.

No archaeological features were recorded within Trenches 4 and 11, or in the western part of Trench 5, suggesting that minimal archaeological activity may be present in the central part of the site.

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## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

ASE would like to thank CgMs Consulting Ltd for commissioning the work and for their assistance throughout the project, and James Kenny, archaeological advisor to Arun District Council for his guidance and monitoring. The evaluation was directed by Giles Dawkes and Greg Priestley-Bell. The author would like to thank all archaeologists who worked on the excavations. Lauren Gibson produced the figures for this report; Darryl Palmer managed the excavations and Jim Stevenson and Dan Swift the post-excavation process.

## HER Summary

Site code	FRR15				
Project code	7632				
Planning reference					
Site address	Land at Littlehampton Road, Ferring, West Sussex				
District/Borough	Arun District				
NGR (12 figures)	508890 103320				
Geology	Lewes Nodular Chalk Formation withoverlying River Terrace Deposits				
Fieldwork type	Eval				
Date of fieldwork	24 <sup>th</sup> -25 <sup>th</sup> June 2015 and 21 <sup>st</sup> -26 <sup>th</sup> January 2016				
Sponsor/client	CgMs				
Project manager	Darryl Palmer				
Project supervisor	Greg Priestley-Bell				
Period summary			Neolithic X	Bronze Age X	Iron Age X
Project summary (100 word max)	<p><i>The evaluation &amp; subsequent mitigation comprised twelve trenches, each measuring 15m or 30m x 2m. Archaeological remains were recorded across much of the site. These are mostly ditches, but several discrete features including a hearth were also recorded.</i></p> <p><i>Two areas of activity were recorded. The archaeology is predominantly Late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age (Beaker) but less obvious Late Bronze Age and Middle-Late Iron Age activity also exists. Features recorded include ditches that form parts of a north-west to south-east aligned coaxial field system with two probable alignments of trackway, tree clearance and associated discrete features from which settlement activity are inferred.</i></p>				

## Finds summary

Find type	Material	Period	Quantity
Pottery	Prehistoric	Late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age	48 sherds
Bone	Cattle tooth	undiagnostic	5 fragments
Flint	Worked flint	Late Neolithic to Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age	46 pieces
Fired Clay	Clay	undiagnostic	1 piece
Geological	coal	18 <sup>th</sup> -19 <sup>th</sup> century	21 pieces
Metallurgical	Iron slag	undiagnostic	>5g

## OASIS Form

### OASIS ID: archaeol6-242600

#### Project details

Project name Archaeological evaluation at Littlehampton Road, Ferring, West Sussex

The evaluation & subsequent mitigation comprised twelve trenches, each measuring 15m or 30m x 2m. Archaeological remains were recorded across much of the site. These are mostly ditches, but several discrete features including a hearth were also recorded.

Short description of the project Two areas of activity were recorded. The archaeology is predominantly Late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age (Beaker) but less obvious Late Bronze Age and Middle-Late Iron Age activity also exists. Features recorded include ditches that form parts of a north-west to south-east aligned coaxial field system with two probable alignments of trackway, tree clearance and associated discrete features from which settlement activity are inferred.

Project dates Start: 24-06-2015 End: 26-01-2016

Previous/future work No / Not known

Any associated project reference codes 7632 - Contracting Unit No.

Any associated project reference codes FRR15 - Sitecode

Type of project Field evaluation

Site status None

Current Land use Vacant Land 2 - Vacant land not previously developed

Monument type HEARTH Late Neolithic

Monument type DITCH Late Bronze Age

Monument type DITCH Iron Age

Significant Finds POT Late Neolithic

Significant Finds POT Late Bronze Age

Significant Finds POT Iron Age

Methods & techniques "Sample Trenches"

Development type Housing estate

Prompt Planning condition

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

#### Project location

Country England

Site location WEST SUSSEX ARUN FERRING Littlehampton Road, Ferring, West Sussex

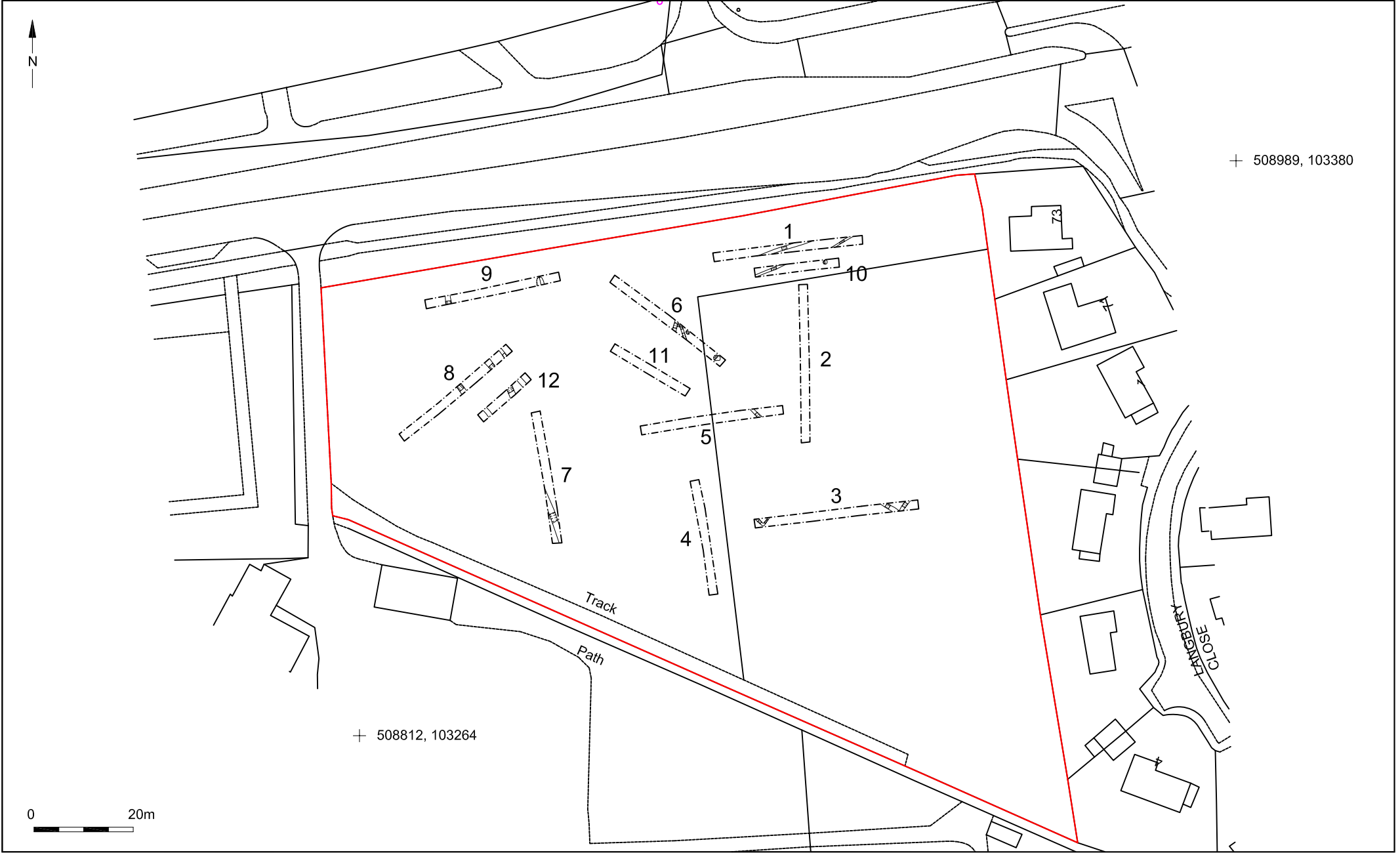
Postcode	BN
Study area	1.5 Hectares
Site coordinates	TQ 0889 0332 50.818605888799 -0.454021491791 50 49 06 N 000 27 14 W Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 6.27m Max: 6.86m
Project creators	
Name of Organisation	Archaeology South East
Project brief originator	James Kenny
Project design originator	ASE/CgMs
Project director/manager	Darryl Palmer
Project supervisor	Greg Priestley-Bell
Type of sponsor/funding body	Client
Name of sponsor/funding body	CgMs
Project archives	
Physical Archive recipient	Local Museum
Physical Contents	"Ceramics", "Environmental", "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	"Stratigraphic"
Paper Media available	"Context sheet", "Drawing", "Photograph", "Report", "Section", "Survey "
Project bibliography 1	
Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	An archaeological evaluation on land at Littlehampton Road, Ferring, West Sussex
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Priestley-Bell, G
Other bibliographic details	Rep no 2016043

Date 2016  
Issuer or publisher ASE  
Place of issue or publication Portslade  
Description Booklet  
Entered by Greg Priestley-Bell (gregpbell@btinternet.com)  
Entered on 14 February 2016

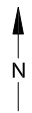


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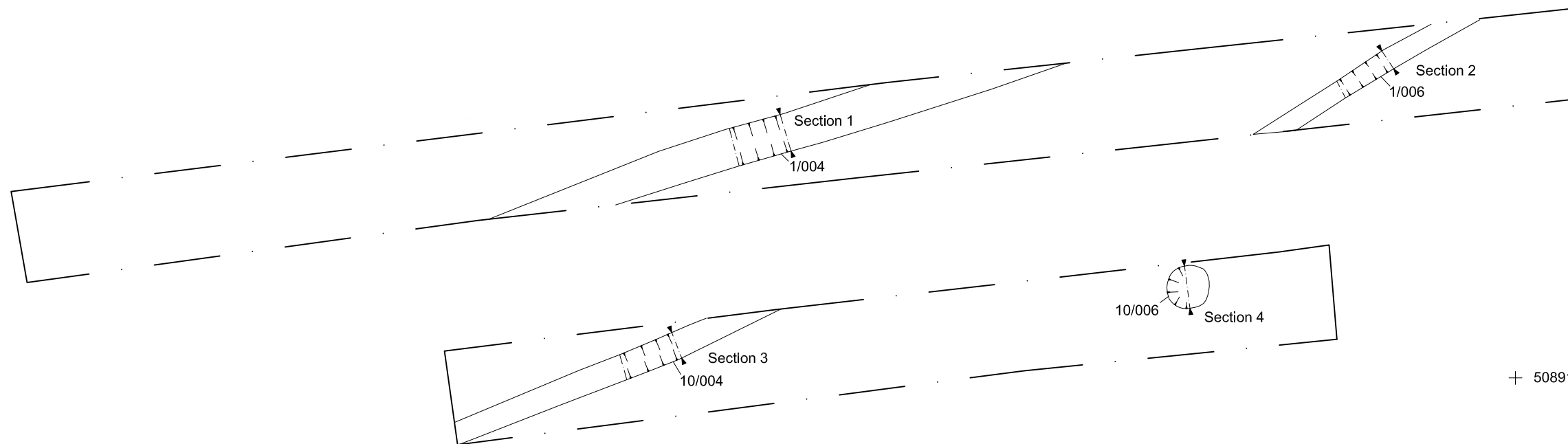
© Archaeology South-East		Land off Littlehampton Road, Ferring		Fig. 1
Project Ref: 7632	February 2016	Site location		
Report Ref: 2016043	Drawn by: LG			



© Archaeology South-East		Land off Littlehampton Road, Ferring	Fig.2
Project Ref: 7632	February 2016	Trench Location	
Report Ref: 2016043	Drawn by: LG		



+ 508883, 103367



+ 508913, 103358



1/004 looking north-east



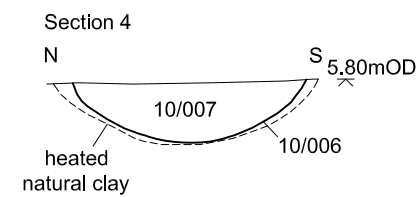
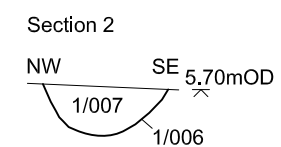
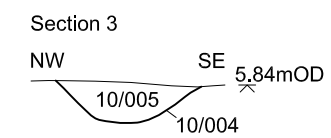
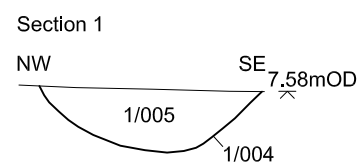
10/004 looking north-east



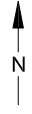
1/006 looking north-east



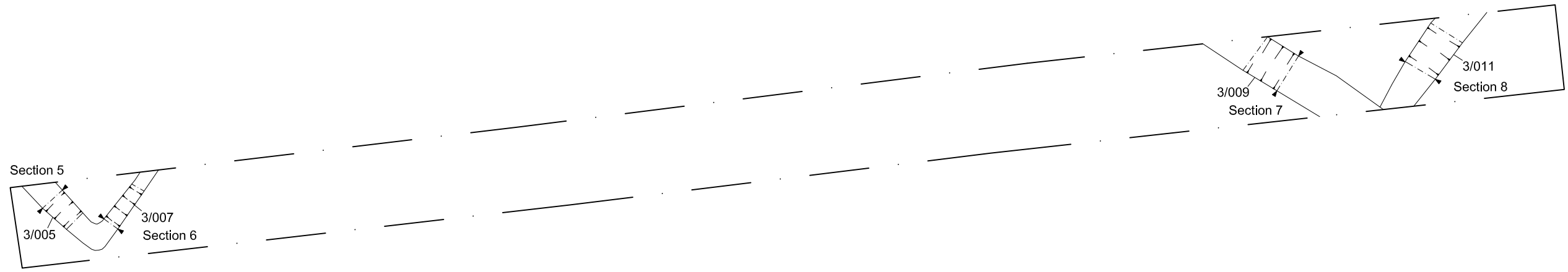
10/006 looking east







+ 508894, 103313



+ 508919, 103302

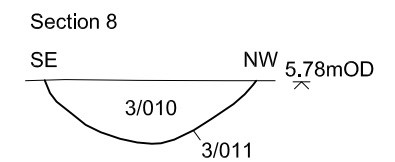
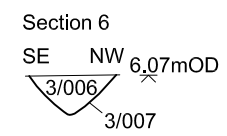
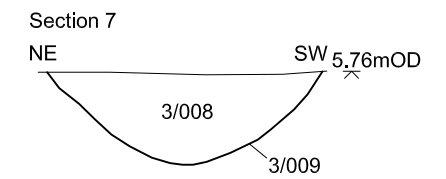
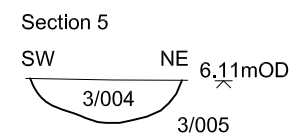


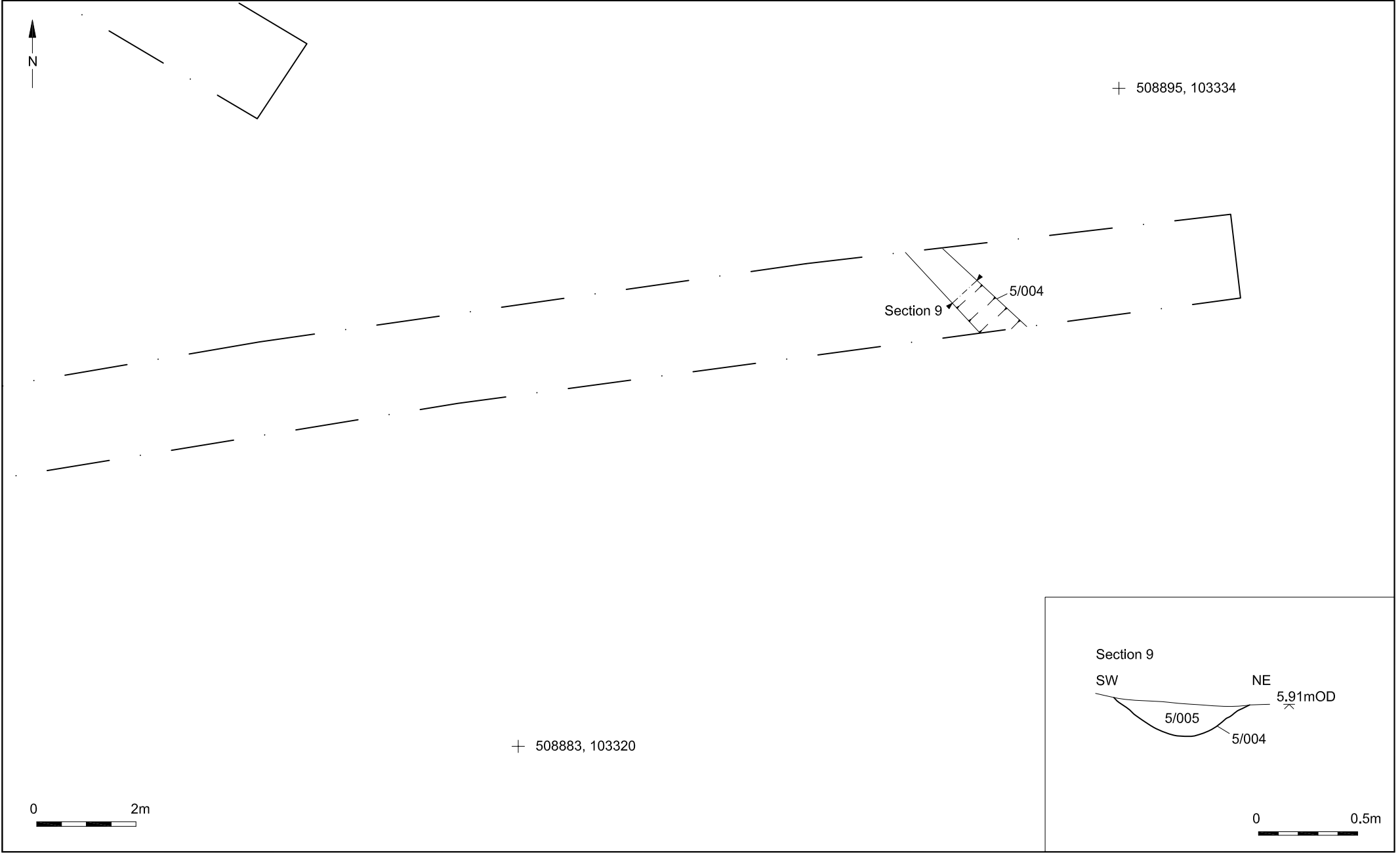
3/005 looking south-east

3/007 looking north-east

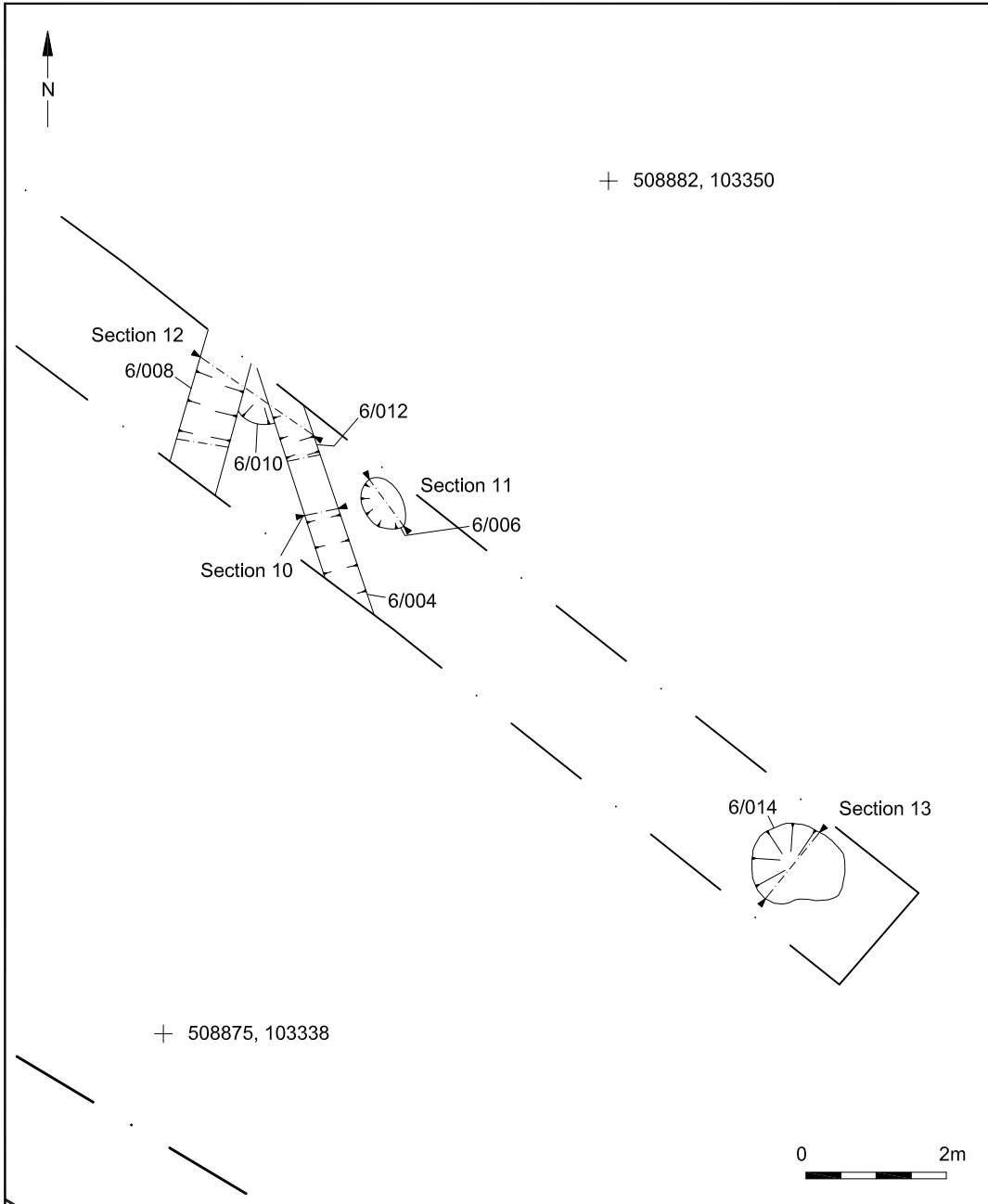
3/009 looking north-west

3/011 looking north-east





© <b>Archaeology South-East</b>		Land off Littlehampton Road, Ferring	Fig.5
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6/004 looking north



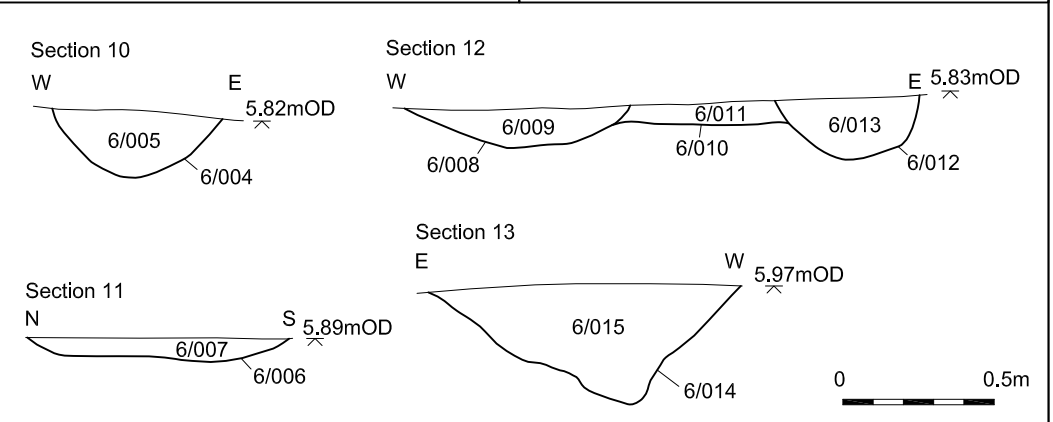
6/006 looking north-east



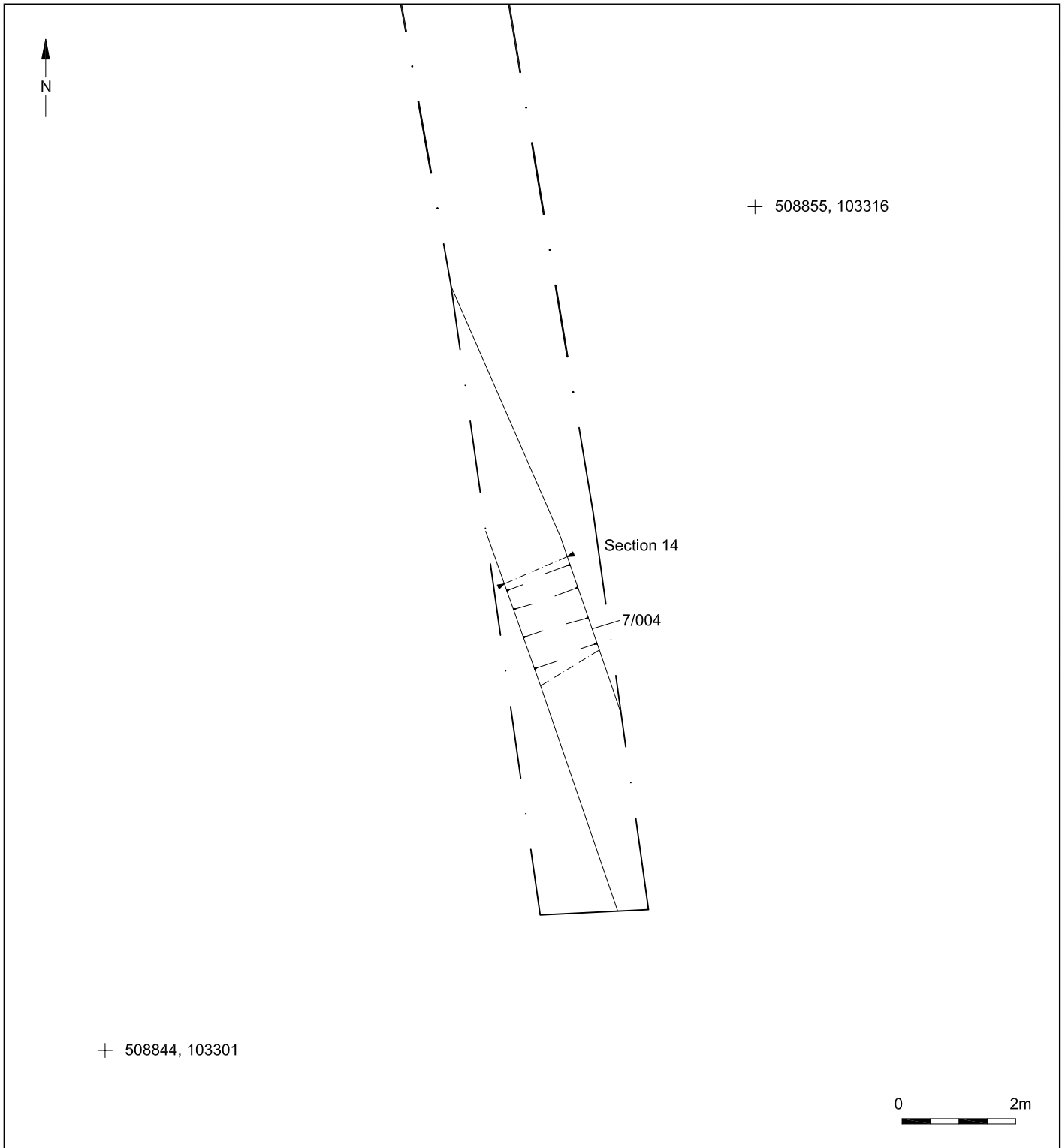
6/008, 6/010 and 6/012 looking north-east



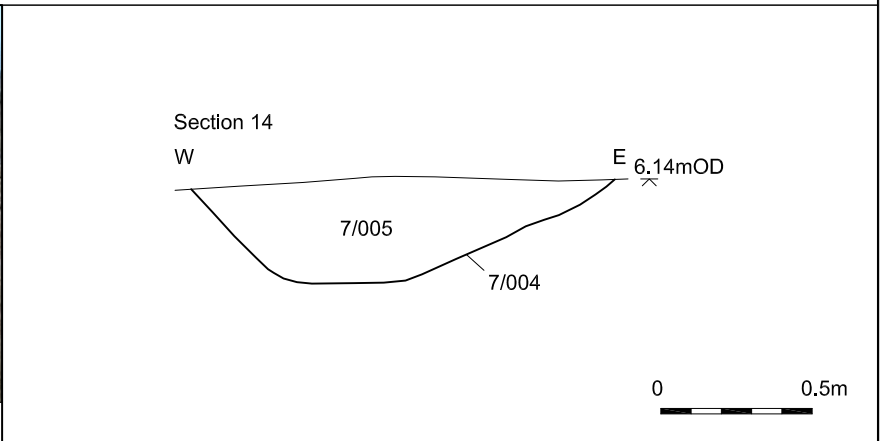
6/014 looking south-east



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Project Ref: 7632	February 2016	Trench 6 plan, sections and photographs	
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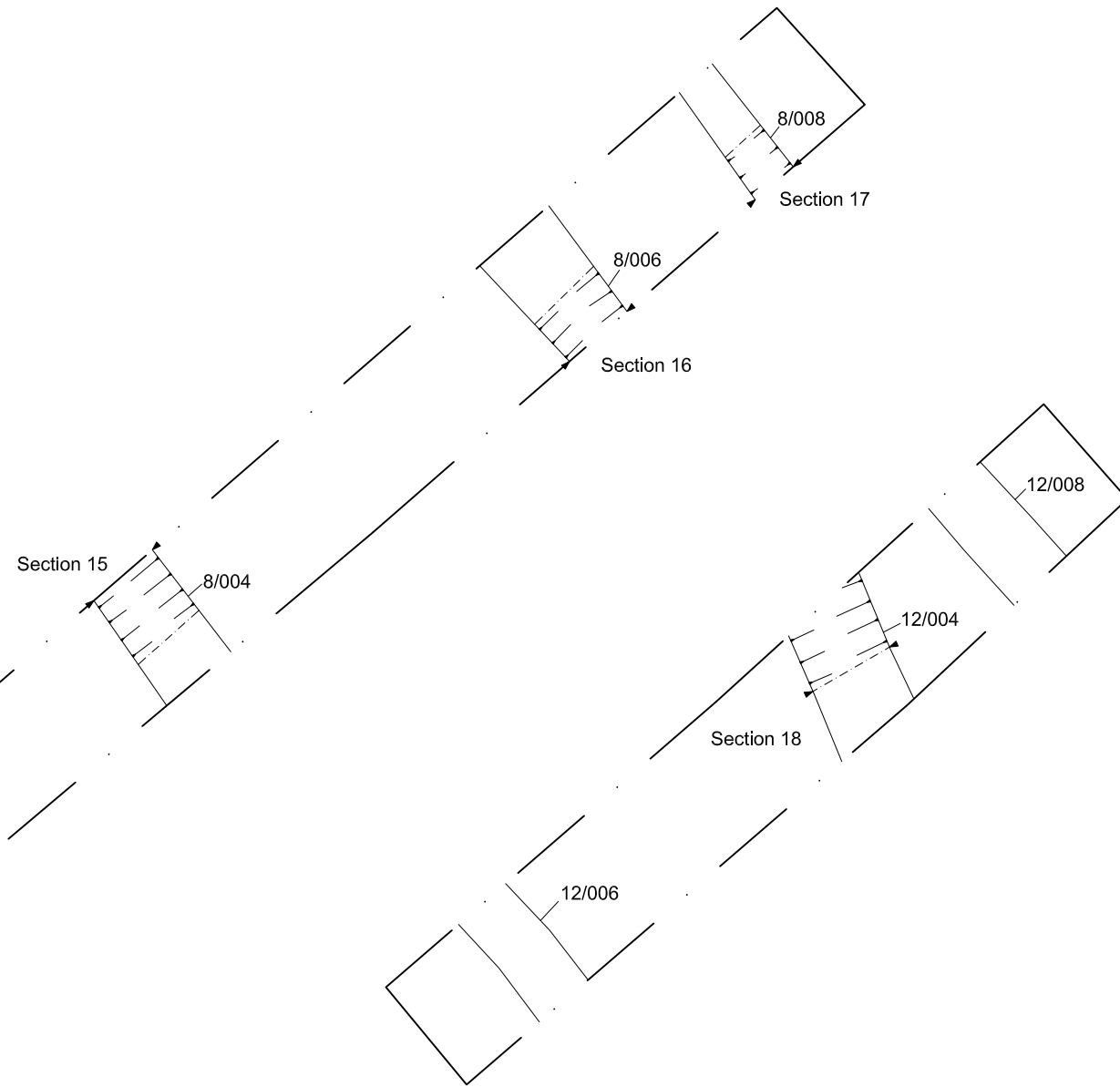


7/004 looking north-west



© Archaeology South-East		Land off Littlehampton Road, Ferring	Fig.7
Project Ref: 7632	2013	Trench 7 plan, section and photograph	
Report Ref: 2016043	Drawn by: LG		

+ 508830, 103347



+ 508842, 103325

0 2m



8/004 looking north-west



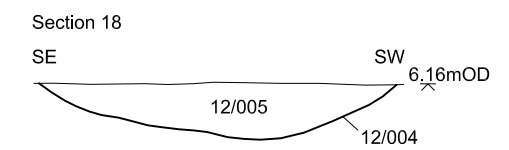
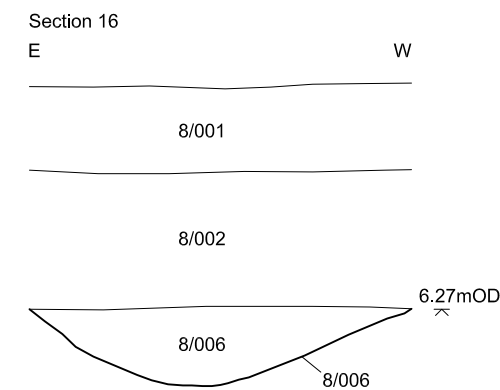
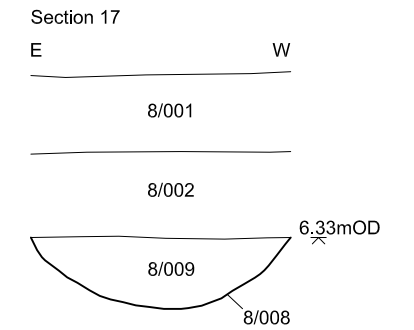
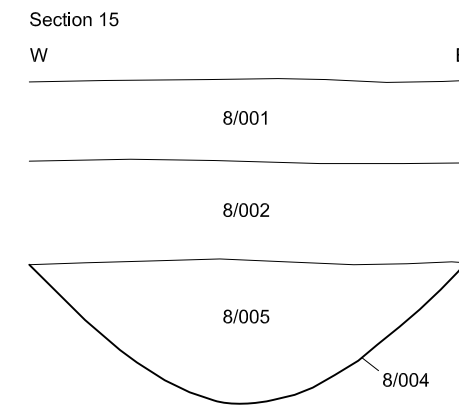
8/006 looking south-east



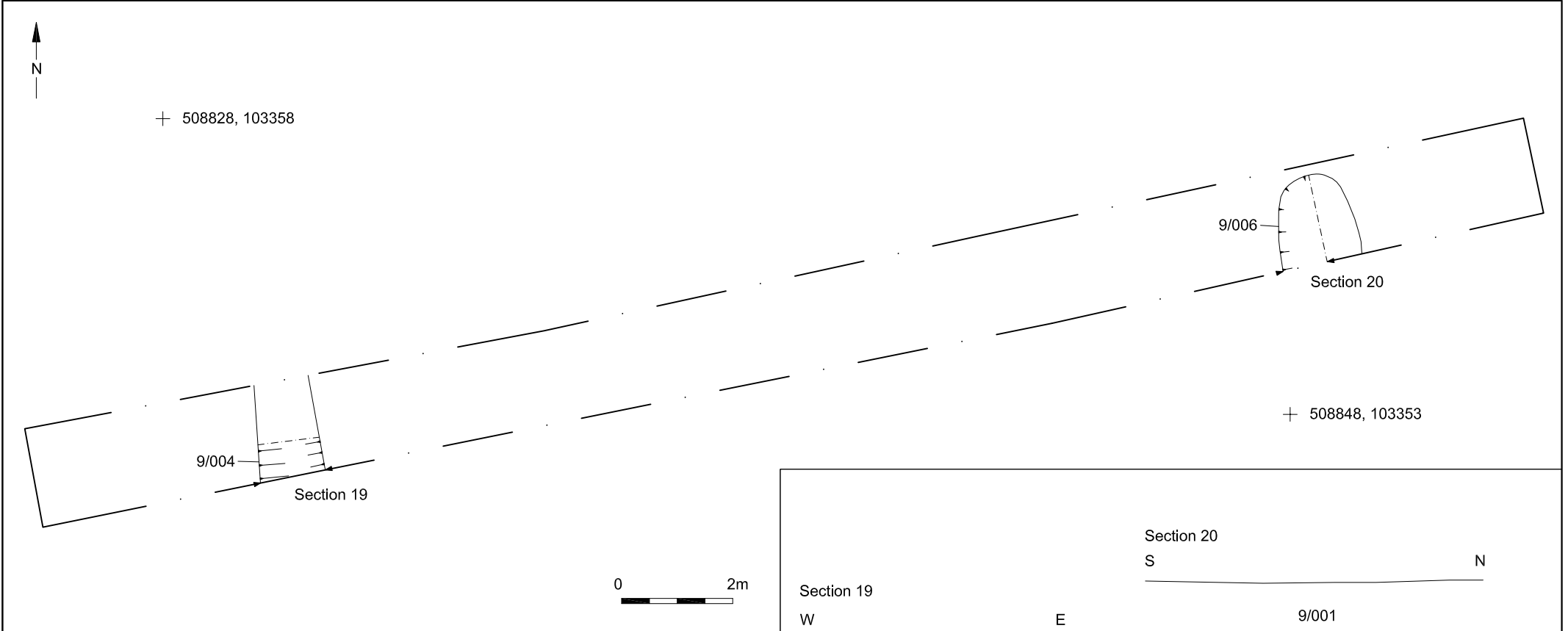
8/008 looking south-east



12/004 looking south-east

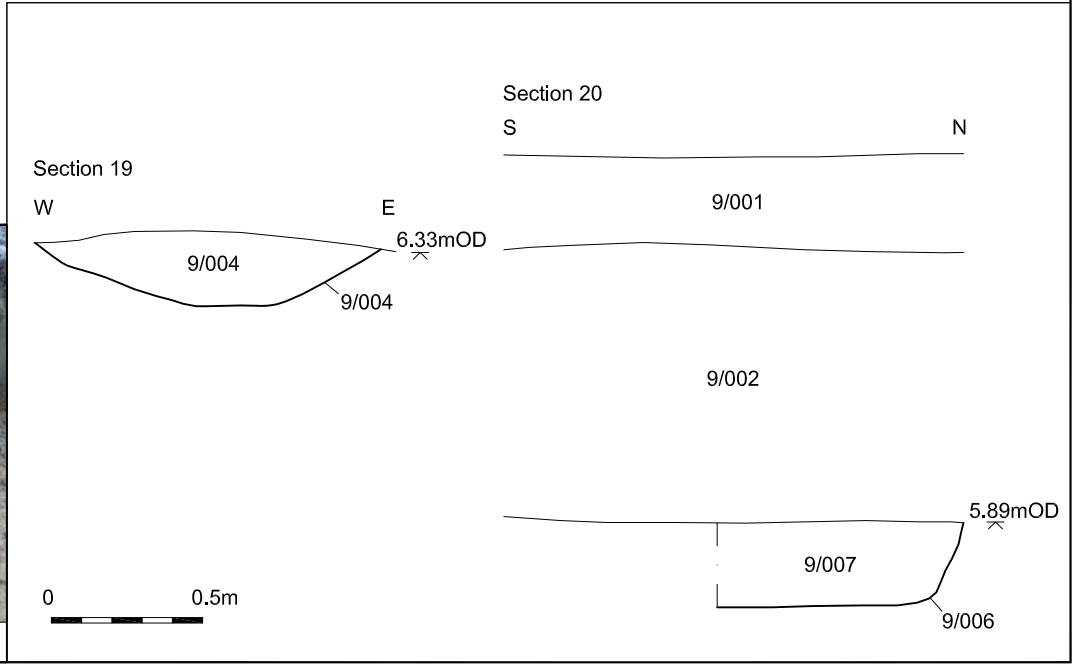


0 0.5m



9/004 looking south

9/006 looking south



© Archaeology South-East		Land off Littlehampton Road, Ferring	Fig.9
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Report Ref: 2016043	Drawn by: LG		

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