

**An Archaeological Evaluation
on Land at the former West End Nursery,
Roundstone Lane, Angmering,
West Sussex.**

**NGR: 507621, 103533
(TQ0762103533)**

Planning Ref: A/122/12

**ASE Project No: 9009
Site Code: ALR16**

**ASE Report No: 2016067
OASIS id: archaeol6-244757**



**Garret Sheehan
With contributions by Elena Baldi,
Anna Doherty, Karine Le Hégarat
and Mariangela Vitolo
Illustrations by Justin Russell**

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Abstract

This report presents the results of an archaeological evaluation carried out by Archaeology South-East at the former West End Nursery, Roundstone Lane, Angmering, West Sussex, between the 8th and 12th February 2016. The fieldwork was commissioned by The Environmental Dimension Partnership Ltd (EDP), on behalf of their client CALA Homes in advance of the proposed construction of residential dwellings with associated access roads, services and landscaping.

The evaluation uncovered a cluster of postholes and shallow pits, of probable Middle Bronze Age date, located within a slight hollow. Furthermore, a gully and quantity of residual pottery indicating possible activity on the site in the early Roman period as well as an undated linear hollow feature or large pit of unknown date were recovered.

The evaluation has also established that both the prehistoric and Roman phases of activity appear to have been focused on the northern part of the site.

Landscaping works associated with various phases of construction and demolition of the former nursery greenhouses, and associated structures, have resulted in significant truncation of the north-central part of the site and it appears that the potential for further surviving archaeological deposits exists only in the north-eastern and north-western parts of the site.

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Site Background

1.1.1 Archaeology South-East (ASE) have been commissioned by The Environmental Dimension Partnership Ltd (EDP), on behalf of their client CALA Homes, to undertake an archaeological evaluation of land at the former West End Nursery, Roundstone Lane, Angmering, West Sussex, hereafter referred to as 'the site'. The site is centred at National Grid Reference (NGR) 507621, 103533 and its location is shown on Figure 1.

1.1.2 The site is located to the southeast of Angmering town centre and was formerly occupied by a large greenhouse and auxiliary buildings. The site is bounded to the north by Worthing Rugby Football Club to the east by the A280, to the south by a retail park and to the west by Roundstone lane.

1.2 Geology and Topography

1.2.1 The site lies at around 10m OD. According to recent data from the British Geological Survey (BGS 2014) the underlying solid geology of the site consists of the Lewes Modular Chalk Foundation, the Seaford Chalk Formation and the Newhaven Chalk Formation, while the superficial geology comprises undifferentiated river terrace deposits - sand, silt and clay.

1.3 Planning Background

1.3.1 Planning permission has been granted by Arun District Council for the residential development of the site (Planning reference: A/122/12), consisting of the construction of residential dwellings with associated access roads, services and landscaping. Due to the archaeological potential of the site, as outlined in a prior Heritage Statement (EDP 2015a), a programme of archaeological works was required as a condition of consent (Condition 12).

1.4 Scope of Report

1.4.1 This report summarises the results of first stage of archaeological works, which comprised an archaeological trial trench evaluation of the site. A Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) which outlined the scope of a Stage 1 archaeological evaluation has previously been submitted to EDP and the Arun District Council Archaeological Advisor (James Kenny), for approval prior to the commencement of fieldwork (ASE 2016).

2.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 The Heritage Statement

2.1.1 The previous Heritage Statement (EDP 2015a) should be referred to for a detailed discussion of the site's archaeological and historic background.

2.1.2 The Heritage Statement broadly concluded that whilst the site does not contain any previously recorded non-designated heritage assets, its topographical position appears to be favourable for prehistoric, Roman and, to a lesser extent, early medieval activity. This is reflected in the wider study area, where there is a general scatter of findspots from the Mesolithic and Neolithic periods and more substantial evidence for Bronze Age activity.

2.2 Project Aims and Objectives

2.2.1 The general aims of the evaluation were to:

- To establish the presence or absence of archaeological remains and deposits within the site
- 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 Arun District Council to make an informed decision as to the requirement for any further archaeological work at the site

2.2.2 In addition, specific research aims, based on the findings of the South-East Research Framework (SERF) include the following:

Bronze Age and Iron Age

- Is there any evidence for Later Bronze Age land division on the site and can such evidence inform on the long-term history of Bronze Age land division in Sussex?
- Is there any evidence for Later Iron Age occupation on the site and if so, can this inform on the nature of the Middle Iron Age – Late Iron Age transition?

Roman

- Is there any evidence for Roman occupation on the site and can this inform on the character of Roman rural settlement and the Roman agricultural economy in the area?

3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY

3.1 Fieldwork Methodology

3.1.1 The WSI originally provided for the excavation of a total of 14 trenches measuring 50m long and 2m wide in line with the previous Archaeological Mitigation Strategy (EDP 2015b). However following on-site consultation with the Arun District Council Archaeological Advisor (James Kenny) two additional trenches, measuring 2m in width by 30m and 20m in length, were also excavated.

3.1.2 In addition Trench 5 was shortened by 7m in order to avoid a positive signal from CAT scan carried out prior to excavation. (Fig.2).

3.1.3 Excavation strategy was in accordance with ClfA *Standards and Guidance*. Archaeological deposits/features were cleaned, recorded and excavated sufficiently to characterise their nature (CifA 2014).

3.2 Archive

3.2.1 Littlehampton Museum, have been notified of the project and agreed to accept the archive. The archive will be prepared according the principles of MoRPHE (English Heritage, 2006) and the requirements of the recipient museum. The contents of the archive are tabulated below (Table 1).

Context sheets	84
Section sheets	2
Plans sheets	Incorporated on section sheet
Colour photographs	0
B&W photos	0
Digital photos	122
Context register	3
Drawing register	1
Watching brief forms	0
Trench Record forms	16

Table 1: Quantification of site paper archive

Bulk finds (quantity e.g. 1 bag, 1 box, 0.5 box 0.5 of a box)	1 box
Registered finds (number of)	0
Flots and environmental remains from bulk samples	2
Palaeoenvironmental specialists sample samples (e.g. columns, prepared slides)	0
Waterlogged wood	0
Wet sieved environmental remains from bulk samples	0

Table 2: Quantification of artefact and environmental samples

4.0 RESULTS

4.1 Archaeologically Negative Trenches: Trenches 1, 4 – 8, 11, 13, 15 & 16 (see Appendix 1)

- 4.1.1 Across most of the site the surface of the geological substrate was directly overlain by a made ground deposit of somewhat sandy silt clay, clearly derived from the superficial geology, which measured 0.20m in average thickness. This deposit contained occasional fragments of modern building debris, as well as occasional amounts of chalk fragments, clinkers and ash.
- 4.1.2 This made ground layer was thinnest towards the north-central part of the site, and in parts of Trenches 6 and 7 it was not present at all, with the geological substrate directly overlain by the most recent made-ground layer. Mechanical digger toothed bucket impressions were also visible in the surface of the superficial geology in these trenches.
- 4.1.3 Modern pile holes, concrete pads and deposits of building and industrial refuse were observed at various depths in all trenches, indicative of several phases of construction and modification of the former nursery during the approximate century of its existence.
- 4.1.4 The greatest thicknesses of made-ground deposits were observed in the western part of the site, where there were alternating layers of ash-rich layers and redeposited clay observed in Trenches 1 to 5.
- 4.1.5 The uppermost layer in all trenches comprised a mixed deposit of light to mid-brown friable silt clay and firm orange clay, which contained frequent amounts of modern building rubble and crushed stone.

4.2 Trench 2

Context	Type	Interpretation	Length m	Width m	Depth m
2/001	Layer	Made ground	NA	NA	0.10 - 0.20
2/002	Layer	Made ground	NA	NA	0.36 – 0.45
2/003	Layer	Made ground	NA	NA	0.08 – 0.17
2/004	Cut	Ditch	NA	0.65	0.14
2/005	Fill	Ditch fill	NA	0.65	0.14
2/006	Layer	Geological substrate	NA	NA	-

Table 3: Trench 2 list of recorded contexts

- 4.2.1 Trench 2 was located in the western part of the site, was northeast – southwest aligned and measured 50m in length by 1.90m in width and between 0.37m and 0.85m deep (Fig. 3).
- 4.2.2 The surface of the superficial geological substrate [2/006] was achieved at between 10.64m and 11.03m AOD. A number of features of apparent modern date impacted upon this surface; mostly piles but a dump of modern building debris and industrial waste [2/002], observed at the southwest end of the

trench, may have been filling a ditch or large scoop, similar to a feature recorded in Trench 3, to the south (see section 4.3 below).

- 4.2.3 A shallow, east – west aligned ditch or gully [2/004] was recorded to the immediate northeast of this dumped modern material. This feature had a shallow ‘bowl’-shaped profile and was filled by firm clay silt [4/005], from which two pottery sherds of early Roman date were recovered.

4.3 Trench 3

Context	Type	Interpretation	Length m	Width m	Depth m
3/001	Layer	Made ground	NA	NA	0.20 -0.50
3/002	Layer	Made ground	NA	NA	0.20
3/003	Layer	Made ground	NA	NA	0.30
3/004	Layer	Geological substrate	NA	NA	-
3/005	Fill	Tertiary pit/ditch fill	NA	>11	0.90
3/006	Fill	Secondary pit/ditch fill	NA	>11	0.08 - 0.20
3/007	Fill	Primary pit/ditch fill	NA	>11	0.10 – 0.47
3/008	Cut	Large hollow-pit or ditch	NA	>11	1.36

Table 4: Trench 3 list of recorded contexts

- 4.3.1 Trench 3 was located south of Trench 2, perpendicular to Roundstone Lane in the western part of the site. This trench measured 50m in length by 1.90m in width and between 0.70m and 1.36m in depth (Fig. 4).
- 4.3.2 The surface of the superficial geological substrate was achieved at between 10.21m and 10.60m AOD and was overlain by a series of made-ground deposits ([3/003] and [3/002]), which were cut at the trench’s western end by a large hollow feature [3/008]. This feature measured 1.36m in depth by a least 11m in east to west width and was filled by a series of alternating layers of ash and redeposited clay, from which later post-medieval pottery and glass was recovered.
- 4.3.3 This feature may have extended a considerable distance to the north as large dumps of similar material were recorded in Trenches 1 and 2; alternately there may have been a number of discrete pits dug at this end of the site to dispose of ash-rich waste.

4.4 Trench 9

Context	Type	Interpretation	Length m	Width m	Depth m
9/001	Layer	Made ground	NA	NA	0.20 – 0.26
9/002	Layer	Made ground	NA	NA	0.20 – 0.22
9/003	Layer	Geological substrate	NA	NA	-
9/004	Cut	Ditch/ hollow	NA	3.30	0.56

Context	Type	Interpretation	Length m	Width m	Depth m
9/005	Fill	Ditch/ hollow fill	NA	2	0.30
9/006	Fill	Ditch/ hollow fill	NA	3.30	0.30

Table 5: Trench 9 list of recorded contexts

- 4.4.1 Trench 9 was located at the north eastern end of the site, parallel to the northern site boundary. This trench was excavated along an east to west alignment and measured 50m in length by 1.90m in width and between 0.40m and 0.80m in depth (Fig. 5).
- 4.4.2 The surface of the superficial geological substrate was achieved at between 10.77m and 10.86m AOD and was cut, towards the centre of the trench by a large hollow or pit feature [9/004]. This feature measured 3.30m in width by 0.56m in depth and extended across the width of the trench.
- 4.4.3 The primary fill of the cut was a 0.30m thick silt deposit [9/005] which contained rare amounts of tiny charcoal and fire-reddened clay fragments. This was overlain by firm clay silt [9/006] with occasional amounts of redeposited gravel and tiny charcoal flecks. A small quantity of fire-cracked, but apparently unworked, flint was recovered from this upper fill.
- 4.4.4 This feature had a broad, ditch-like, profile with gradually sloping sides which broke gently to a somewhat concave base, but it was unclear if it extended into Trench 12 to the south. It may have been associated with the slight hollow filled with [12/003], for a description of which see section 4.6 below.

4.5 Trench 10

Context	Type	Interpretation	Length m	Width m	Depth m
10/001	Layer	Made ground	NA	NA	0.10 – 0.20
10/002	Layer	Made ground	NA	NA	0.20 – 0.35
10/003	Layer	Geological substrate	NA	NA	-
10/004	Cut	Ditch/Gully	NA	0.50	0.22
10/005	Fill	Ditch/Gully fill	NA	0.50	0.22

Table 6: Trench 10 list of recorded contexts

- 4.5.1 Trench 10 was located towards the eastern end of the site, perpendicular to the western end of Trench 12. This trench was aligned from north to south and measured 50m in length by 1.90m in width and between 0.45m and 0.75m in depth (Fig. 6).
- 4.5.2 The surface of the superficial geological substrate was achieved at between 10.65m and 10.95m AOD and was cut towards the northern end of the trench by a broadly east to west aligned curvilinear feature [10/004], with a 'v'-shaped profile, which was filled by fine silt clay [10/005] that contained rare tiny charcoal inclusions. While this feature may have been a gully or

shallow ditch, it's somewhat meandering shape, as well as the lack of anthropogenic material from its fill, indicate that it may also possibly have been derived from bioturbation.

4.6 Trench 12

Context	Type	Interpretation	Length m	Width m	Depth m
12/001	Layer	Made ground	NA	NA	0.16 – 0.22
12/002	Layer	Made ground	NA	NA	0.20 – 0.22
12/003	Layer	Subsoil	7	NA	0.20
12/004	Layer	Geological substrate	NA	NA	-
12/005	Cut	Posthole	0.35	>0.25	0.14
12/006	Fill	Posthole fill	0.35	>0.25	0.14
12/007	Cut	Posthole	0.30	>0.23	0.28
12/008	Fill	Posthole fill	0.30	>0.23	0.28
12/009	Cut	Posthole	0.21	0.20	0.13
12/010	Fill	Posthole fill	0.21	0.20	0.13
12/011	Cut	Pit/ scoop	2.05	>0.98	0.18
12/012	Fill	Pit/ scoop fill	2.05	>0.98	0.18
12/013	Cut	Pit	0.62	>0.50	0.12
12/014	Fill	Primary pit fill	0.62	>0.50	0.10
12/015		Secondary pit fill	0.62	>0.50	0.03

Table 7: Trench 12 list of recorded contexts

- 4.6.1 Trench 12 was located in the north-eastern part of the site, south of, and parallel to, Trench 9. This trench measured 50m in length by 1.90m in width and between 0.52m and 1m in depth (Fig. 7).
- 4.6.2 The surface of the superficial geological substrate was achieved at between 10.55m and 10.81m AOD and was cut by a group of features concentrated in a cluster, perhaps within a slight hollow, towards the centre of the trench. This group comprised three closely-positioned postholes [12/005], [12/007] and [12/009] and two shallow pits or scoops [12/011] and [12/013], all filled with compositionally similar sandy silt clay deposits, containing varying amounts of charcoal and small fired-clay fragments.
- 4.6.3 A single sherd of Middle Bronze Age Deverel-Rimbury Ware was recovered from the fill of the pit / scoop [12/011] and a small sherd of similarly coarse pottery was found within posthole [12/007]. Burnt and unburnt flint flakes were recovered from the fills of all five cut features and a single possible daub fragment was recovered from the larger of the two pits/ scoops [12/011].
- 4.6.4 This cluster of features was, as noted above, situated within in a slight depression in the surface geology which was subsequently filled with dark grey brown silt clay [12/003]. This deposit extended from east to west for approximately 7m and measured up to 0.20m in thickness. Occasional amounts of charcoal flecking and small burnt clay fragments were

distributed throughout this deposit, which also produced 427 grams of fire-cracked flint and a single sherd of pottery of either Middle Bronze Age to Early Iron Age or Middle to Late Iron Age date; although given the presence of Deverel-Rimbury Ware in the fills of the immediately underlying features, the earlier date seems more likely.

4.7 Trench 14

Context	Type	Interpretation	Length m	Width m	Depth m
14/001	Layer	Made ground	NA	NA	0.23 – 0.25
14/002	Layer	Made ground	NA	NA	0.22 – 0.25
14/003	Layer	Geological substrate	NA	NA	-
14/004	Cut	Tree throw	NA	>1.15	0.90
14/005	Fill	Tree throw primary fill	NA	NA	-
14/006	Fill	Tree throw fill - root?	NA	NA	-
14/007	Fill	Tree throw fill	NA	NA	-
14/008	Fill	Tree throw fill	NA	NA	-
14/009	Fill	Tree throw fill	NA	NA	-

Table 8: Trench 14 list of recorded contexts

- 4.7.1 Trench 14 was located at the north-eastern corner of the site, parallel to the A280. This trench measured 50m in length by 1.90m in width and between 0.57m and 0.87m in depth (Fig. 8).
- 4.7.2 The surface of the superficial geological substrate was achieved at between 10.53m and 10.58m AOD and was cut, at the trench's northern end by an irregular shaped feature, which measured 0.80m in depth and was filled by a series of bands of gravel and silty clay [14/005] – [14/009] and an irregular band of charcoal or decayed wood [14/006]. This feature appeared to have been 'cut' from high up, as the upper fill was directly sealed by the latest made ground deposit [14/001], suggesting that it was of recent origin.
- 4.7.3 It is likely the irregularly shaped wood represents the remains of a tree root and the irregular form of this feature, and it's apparently recent date, suggests that it is a tree throw originating from land clearance prior to a late phase of expansion of the former nursery.

5.0 THE FINDS

5.1 Summary

5.1.1 A small assemblage of finds was recovered during the evaluation at Roundstone Lane Angmering. 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 9). All finds have been packed and stored following ClfA guidelines (2014).

Context	Pottery	Wt (g)	Flint	Wt (g)	FCF	Wt (g)	Glass	Wt (g)	Stone	Wt (g)	F. clay	Wt (g)
2/005	2	5	1	2								
3/006	2	33					1	27				
9/006			2	25								
10/005			1	3	4	29						
12/003	1	9	6	136	14	427					5	17
12/006			2	2	1	34						
12/008	1	2			6	192						
12/012	1	23			7	162					1	6
13/002	5	34	2	44	5	135	1	7	1	207		
14/002	1	1										
Total	13	107	14	212	37	979	2	34	1	207	6	23

Table 9: Finds quantification

5.2 Prehistoric and/or Roman Pottery

By Anna Doherty

5.2.1 The evaluation produced nine hand-collected sherds of prehistoric and Roman pottery, weighing 63g. Almost certainly the earliest of these is from context [12/012]. The very thick-walled profile and the coarse flint-tempered fabric with ill-sorted inclusions, ranging from 0.5-6mm in size, are typical attributes of the Middle Bronze Age Deverel-Rimbury (DR) tradition. This example has a style of decoration – formed by closely spaced fingernail impressions on a bodysherd – which has not previously been identified in Sussex DR groups but which has been noted in Ardleigh style assemblages in Essex/Suffolk (Brown 1999, 82-83). Other stylistic links between Sussex and Ardleigh pottery have however, been suggested in the past (e.g. Seager Thomas 2008, 37).

5.2.2 Some fragmentary sherds recovered from the residue of environmental sample <2> which included material from fills [12/008] and [12/010], are in moderately coarse flint-tempered wares with fairly ill-sorted inclusions of c.0.5-2.5mm. These fabrics, together with the relatively thin wall profiles and the presence of a flat, pinched base sherd in [13/002], suggest that they belong broadly to the Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age post-Deverel-Rimbury tradition (c.1150-600BC).

5.2.3 Two flint-tempered bodysherds from stratified contexts [12/003] and [12/008]

are more difficult to place with certainty within the later prehistoric period. They have common, well-sorted fine flint of c.0.5-1.5mm and fairly well finished, dark surfaces. Well-sorted flint-tempered wares with common inclusions are perhaps most typical of Middle and Late Iron assemblages on the coastal plain. However, it is notoriously difficult to distinguish such fabrics from the finer wares of earlier ceramic traditions (including DR and PDR) when only isolated undiagnostic sherds are present.

- 5.2.4 Two small conjoining sherds in a coarse black-surfaced sandy ware, from context [2/005], were of early Roman date, representing a 1st century precursor to Rowlands Castle grey wares. Earlier Roman pottery – a single sherd in an Arun Valley grey ware fabric – was also noted in subsoil [13/002].

Site Code	Context	Fabric	Form	Dec	Sh	Smp	ENV	State	I/R	Comments	RimD	EVE	Wt (g)
ALR16	13/002	FLIN			3		1			probable LBA/EIA flint-tempered with ?pinched flat base sherd			19
ALR16	13/002	AVGW			1		1						4
ALR16	2/005	SAND1			1		1			Black surfaced ware and probable RWCG precursor			5
ALR16	14/002	FLIN			1		1						2
ALR16	12/003	FLIN			1		1			Well-sorted common flint 0.2-1.5mm; looks probably more typically MIA but hard to rule out any other later prehistoric date			9
ALR16	12/012	FLIN			1		1			NB potentially interesting dec possibly showing further links with the Ardleigh style in Essex. Thick walled typical DR fabric with mod ill-sorted flint 0.5-6mm.			23
ALR16	12/008	FLIN			1		1						1
					9								63

Table 10: Prehistoric/ Roman pottery quantification

5.3 Flintwork

By Karine Le Hégarat

5.3.1 The evaluation produced 14 pieces of struck flint weighing 135g and 38 fragments (980g) of unworked burnt flint. Both the burnt and unburnt flints were hand collected and subsequently retrieved from environmental samples taken in three trenches (Trenches 10, 12 and 13). The burnt unworked flints came from seven contexts, and the pieces of struck flint came from five contexts. Trench 12 was the most productive with 11 pieces of struck flint. The assemblage of struck flints comprises six flakes, a blade-like flake, a piece of irregular waste, three chips, a fragmentary core, an end scraper and a retouched flake. The modified flake is chronologically undiagnostic, but based on technological traits, it is likely to be late prehistoric in date (Late Neolithic to Late Bronze Age / Early Iron Age). It is made on a broken flake. It displays discontinuous direct retouch on the left and right-hand sides that form small notches and straight direct retouch along the broken proximal end. The end scraper is likely to pre-date the Middle Bronze Age. It displays direct retouch along the distal end that forms a convex curve. The small core (44g) is too fragmented to be classified. It exhibits several cones of percussion indicating mishits. None of the pieces of flint débitage could be closely dated on technological ground. Six of the eight artefacts are broken. They display minimal signs of weathering indicating that they were not exposed for long before burial.

5.3.2 No diagnostic pieces were present. Nonetheless, the flake-based character of the assemblage from Roundstone Lane suggests a broad Neolithic to Bronze Age date.

Category	Flakes	Blade-like flake	Irregular waste	Chips	Core	Retouched forms	Total
No	6	1	1	3	1	2	14

Table 11: Flint quantification

5.4 The Fired Clay

By Elena Baldi

5.4.1 A small assemblage of fired clay was recovered from the evaluation on Land at the former West End Nursery, Roundstone Lane, Angmering, West Sussex. A total of 16 pieces were recovered from Trench 12, from contexts [12/003], [12/008] and [12/012] and weigh 185 g in total.

5.4.2 Some fired clay was also recovered from flotation, within contexts [12/006], [12/008] and [12/010], all from the >8 mm sieve, with a total weight of 196 g.

5.4.3 All fragments are amorphous and in a brownish orange fabric, with abundant fine quartz, moderate black specks and rare specks of organic material and widespread porosity.

5.4.4 The clay was poorly fired and all fragments are undiagnostic, however all were found with pottery that was dated to the later prehistoric and Roman periods and are likely to be contemporary with the pottery.

5.5 Geological Material

By Elena Baldi

5.5.1 One reddish sandstone fragment with widespread quartz inclusions was recovered from context [13/002]. The piece is rectangular in shape and seems to be smoother at one end. However it was recovered from the silty clay deposit overlaying the superficial geological substrate, which also included modern building debris, as well as a piece of post-medieval glass.

5.5 The glass

By Elena Baldi

5.5.1 Two fragments of glass were recovered from contexts [3/006] and [13/002]. The first is a fragment of window glass, colourless/transparent with degraded surface and staining caused by its deposition. The second is a fragment of a green bottle. Both are undiagnostic but are likely to date to the post-medieval period.

5.6 The post-medieval pottery

By Elena Baldi

5.6.1 Two pottery sherds were recovered from context [3/006]; these are conjoining coarse ware fragments from the body of a vase or container. There is no evidence of glazing. The sherds were retrieved from a pit, with a fragment of glass and are likely to be modern.

6.0 THE ENVIRONMENTAL SAMPLES

By Mariangela Vitolo

6.1 Introduction

6.1.1 Two bulk soil samples were taken from the fills of post holes to recover environmental material such as charred plant macrofossils, wood charcoal, fauna and molluscs as well as to assist finds recovery. The following report summarises the contents of the samples and discusses the information provided by the charred plant remains and charcoal on diet, agrarian economy, vegetation environment and fuel selection and use.

6.2 Methodology

6.2.1 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 12). 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. The flots were scanned under a stereozoom microscope at 7-45x magnifications and their contents recorded (Table 13). 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).

6.3 Results

Samples <1> [12/006], <2> [12/008-12/010].

6.3.1 Both samples produced fairly small flots, in which occasional uncharred rootlets were noted. This material is indicative of low level disturbance and is likely to have infiltrated the deposits through root action. Charred crop seeds were present in low amounts in both deposits and included mostly broad bean (*Vicia faba*) and hulled barley (*Hordeum sp.*). Charcoal was present in both deposits, but not in high enough an amount to warrant identification work. Finds from the residues included fire cracked flint, flint, burnt clay and pottery.

6.4 Discussion

6.4.1 The bulk soil samples from Angmering have yielded a scatter of crop remains, which could have originated from domestic waste. The presence of charcoal as well as charred plant macrofossils suggests that there is potential for nearby deposits to preserve charred material and any future work at the site should continue to include sampling, targeting primary deposits and securely dated features. Furthermore, although these samples do not require further analysis work, if excavation is carried out at the site it is recommended that the results from the evaluation are integrated into the post-excavation assessment.

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)	Burnt bone 4-8mm Weight (g)	Estimate quant. & weight (eg. Pot star rating *****/5g)		Notes		
										Other (eg ind, pot, cbm)			
12/006	Post hole	5	5	*	<1	**	<1	** <i>Vicia faba</i>	1		burnt clay **/ 30g - stone */ 18g - flint */ 28g	100% <2mm residue retained for CPR	
12/008 + 12/010	Post hole	10	10	*	<1	**	<1	** <i>Vicia faba</i>	1	*	<1	FCF */ 1g - burnt clay */ 156g - pottery */ 4g - flint */ <1g	100% <2mm residue retained for CPR

Table 12: Environmental sample residues

Sample Number	Context	Spit (if relevant eg. 0.5)	Weight g	Flot volume ml	Volume scanned	Uncharred %	Sediment %	Charcoal <4mm	Charcoal <2mm	Crop seeds charred	Identifications	Preservation	Weed seeds charred	Identifications	Preservation	Other botanical	Identifications	Preservation	Min botanicals	Identifications	Preservation	Insects, Fly Pupae	Large mammal bone	Burnt bone	Fish, amphibian,	Land Snail Shells	Marine molluscs	Lithics	Industrial debris	Potential	Further work	notes
1	12/006		0.5	10	10	40	20		*	*	cf <i>Vicia faba</i> (2), <i>Hordeum sp.</i> (1)	+/ ++																				small flot
2	12/008 + 12/010		2	25	25	30	20	*	*	*	<i>Vicia faba</i> , <i>Hordeum sp.</i>	++																				small, charcoal dominated

Table 13: Environmental sample flots

7.0 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

7.1 Overview of stratigraphic sequence

7.1.1 Natural Geology

Only the superficial underlying geology was exposed in any of the evaluation trenches; this comprised pale orange/ brown, somewhat sandy silt clay, which conforms to the British Geological Survey data for the site. This clay was exposed at a depth of between 9.80m and 11.17m AOD, being deepest to the west and shallowest to the centre north with an average height of 10.50m AOD.

7.1.2 Levelling deposits

Overlying the surface geology across most of the site was a series of made-ground deposits, the earliest of which appeared to be deposited at the western end of the site and comprised alternating bands of ash and coke with redeposited sandy clay layers. These ash-rich layers were likely dumps of waste associated with the heating of the earlier twentieth century nursery glass houses.

7.1.3 In the eastern and southern parts of the site the surface geological substrate was overlain by a deposit of firm pale orange brown to mid-orange brown silt clay, clearly derived from redeposited superficial geological deposits. This layer measured 0.20m in average thickness, being thickest to the east, and petered-out to the north central part of the site. Anthropogenic material of prehistoric to modern date was retrieved from this layer at the eastern end of the site and it appeared to have been deposited as levelling material prior to the most recent phase of construction of the former nursery.

7.1.3 Overburden

A layer of very loose mid brown sandy silt clay, containing frequent amounts of modern building debris, including crushed stone and tarmacadam, was distributed across the site and was clearly of recent origin. This deposit measured between 0.06m- 0.50m in thickness, occurring at a height of between 10.94m – 11.50m AOD.

7.1.4 Archaeological features

Ten archaeological features were identified; the earliest of which was a group of three postholes and two shallow pits or scoops, of apparent Middle to Late Bronze Age date, situated in a shallow depression and sealed by a shallow deposit of similar date, exposed at a height of 10.80m and 10.91m AOD within Trench 12 at the north-eastern part of the site.

7.1.5 The possible hollow containing this feature cluster may have been a man-made feature, the continuation of which may be represented by the large hollow recorded in Trench 9 to the north, although, with the exception of a small quantity of fire-cracked flint, no obvious anthropogenic material was recovered from the fills of this cut feature.

- 7.1.6 An east to west aligned shallow ditch was identified in the western side of the site, where it was recorded in Trench 2 at a height of 10.77m AOD. A single sherd of pottery recovered from its fill may indicate that this was a plot boundary or drainage ditch of early Roman date.
- 7.1.7 A similarly shallow linear feature, albeit with a more 'v'-shaped profile and curvilinear shape in plan, was identified in Trench 10 towards the centre of the site; however as noted above this may have been a 'natural' feature generated from burrowing or root action.
- 7.1.8 Finds of residual probable Middle – Late Bronze Age and early Roman pottery, recovered from redeposited clay in made-ground deposits in the eastern part of the site, likely originate from the truncated north-central part of the site. This may indicate that features of these periods originally existed across the central area but have been truncated by modern ground-reduction episodes.

7.2 Deposit survival and existing impacts

- 7.2.1 Parallel rows of mechanical digger bucket tooth-marks, observed in the surface geology in Trenches 6 and 7 in the north-central part of the site, were indicative of ground-reduction prior to the construction of the former nursery.
- 7.2.2 The prehistoric material recovered from the made-ground deposits in the north eastern part of the site likely originated from the north-central area, which, as outlined above, had clearly been subject to ground reduction. The presence of this material indicates that archaeological features and deposits likely previously survived in the north-central part of the site but have been completely truncated or removed by ground reduction in this area.
- 7.2.3 The layers of ash-rich material and rubble, observed in Trenches 1 to 5 at the western end of the site, were likely deposited in an effort to raise the ground level in this area, perhaps prior to a phase of expansion of the nursery. It is likely therefore that any existing archaeological deposits or features will have been subject to less truncation here than in the sites central area and one feature of possible early Roman date was recorded in Trench 2.
- 7.2.4 The largest number of recorded archaeological features were located in the north-eastern part of the site, which, like the western area, had been subject to less ground reduction than the central area, and it would appear that this part of the site retains the potential for the presence of further surviving prehistoric features and deposits.
- 7.2.5 The southern area (in the vicinity of Trenches 8 and 11) appears to have been subject to comparatively little truncation, but no archaeological features or deposits were found.
- 7.2.6 In summary; the strongest potential for archaeological deposit survival is in the north-eastern, and to a lesser extent, the north-western parts of the site. The surviving archaeological deposits in the north-western area were exposed at a height of 10.65m AOD, while those identified in the eastern area were exposed at a height of between 10.77m and 10.91m AOD.

7.3 Discussion of archaeological remains by period

7.3.1 Prehistoric

The cluster of postholes and pits, and the deposit sealing them, recorded in Trench 12 represents the earliest dateable archaeological activity identified on site. No overall pattern could be deduced from the identified postholes, but this is unsurprising given the limited area exposed within the evaluation trench. However given that the pits and postholes appeared to be located within a slight hollow it is possible that these features represent the remains of a structure of some sort, perhaps a temporary shelter for a working area, or a bothy associated with pastoral or hunting activity. Analysis of the recovered pottery from the fills of these cut features, and from the immediately overlying deposit, suggests that this activity dates to the Middle to Late Bronze Age.

7.3.2 The presence of burnt flints in almost all archaeological and made ground deposits is also possibly indicative of later Bronze Age activity; perhaps indicating the presence of a Burnt Mound in the vicinity of the site, although it is possible that any such feature may have been truncated during ground reduction works associated with one of the phases of nursery construction.

7.3.3 Evidence of archaeological activity from this period is represented plentifully in the area surrounding the site; residual burnt flints and worked prehistoric lithic material have been recovered from evaluation excavations within 300m of the site, while more substantial Middle to Late Bronze Age remains have been identified in close proximity to the site including a cremation cemetery and a number of discrete pits, hearth, gully and well and associated artefacts recorded on the opposite side of Roundstone Lane; this excavation also identified features in-filled with burnt flints which again indicated the presence of a Burnt Mound in the vicinity (ASE 2003). Excavations carried out by Oxford Archaeology on the A280 Angmering By-pass identified a Middle to Late Bronze Age enclosed settlement approximately 1km north of the site (Oxford 2002).

7.3.4 Romano British

A single *in-situ* find of coarse black-surfaced sandy ware from the small east to west running ditch, identified in Trench 2, as well as a residual sherd of Arun Valley grey ware from a made ground deposit in Trench 13, is indicative of agricultural exploitation of the site in the early Roman period. This is unsurprising as evidence for Roman field systems and associated agricultural features, including fence lines and a somewhat later Corn-dryer and probable ovens were identified at the site on the opposite site of Roundstone Lane (ASE 2003.).

7.3.5 Post Medieval

The large hollow feature identified at the western end of Trench 3 produced later post medieval to modern pottery and window glass. It is possible that this may have been an in-filled ditch as large dumps of similar material were recorded in Trenches 1 and 2 to the north, however no such ditch is depicted

on the available cartographic material in this position; alternately there may have been a number of discrete pits dug at this end of the site to dispose of this ash-rich material, possibly the result of greenhouse-heating waste.

7.4 Potential impact on archaeological remains

7.4.1 The evaluation suggests that archaeological deposits survive in the north-eastern and western parts of the site. Extensive truncation was recorded in the north-central part of the site and no archaeology was recorded in the south. It is recommended therefore that the north-eastern and north-western parts of the site only be subject to archaeological mitigation, as any sub-surface works associated with the proposed development in these areas may have a detrimental impact on surviving archaeological features or deposits in these areas.

7.5 Consideration of research aims

7.5.1 The evaluation has largely succeeded in addressing the general aims of the evaluation as outlined in the WSI (ASE 2016):

- The presence of archaeological deposits has been confirmed within the site
- These archaeological deposits appear to survive only in the north-eastern and western parts of the site; the north-central part of the site likely formerly contained archaeological deposits, but these have been truncated by past landscaping activity. The southern part of the site appears to have been devoid of archaeological features or deposits
- The identified archaeological deposits appear to date to the Middle to Late Bronze Age and the early Roman period; however the evaluation has not established the precise nature of this archaeological activity
- The evaluation has established the presence, extent and date of archaeological deposits on site which will enable Arun District Council to make an informed decision as to the requirement for any further archaeological work at the site

7.5.2 In addition, the evaluation has addressed the specific research aims, based on the findings of the South-East Research Framework (SERF):

Bronze Age and Iron Age

- While there is evidence for Later Bronze Age activity on the site, the evaluation has not succeeded in identifying the precise nature and function of this activity

- There is no direct evidence for Middle or Later Iron Age occupation on the site

Roman

- There is some evidence for Roman activity on the site but the results from the initial evaluation are too ephemeral to significantly inform on the character of Roman rural settlement and the Roman agricultural economy in the area

7.6 Conclusions

- 7.6.1 The evaluation has succeeded in establishing the presence of archaeological deposits of later prehistoric, particularly Middle to Late Bronze Age, date as well as evidence for perhaps low-level agricultural exploitation of the site in the early Roman period.
- 7.6.2 The evaluation has also established that both the prehistoric and Roman phases of activity appear to have been focused on the northern part of the site.
- 7.6.3 Landscaping works associated with various phases of construction and demolition of the former nursery greenhouses, and associated structures, have resulted in significant truncation of the north central part of the site. It is considered that the north-eastern and north-western areas retain the most potential for deposit survival.

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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HER Summary

HER enquiry no.						
Site code	ALR16					
Project code	9009					
Planning reference	A/122/12					
Site address	Former West End Nursery, Roundstone Lane, Angmering, West Sussex. BN16 4AX					
District/Borough	Arun					
NGR (12 figures)	NGR: 507621, 103533					
Geology	Lewes Modular Chalk Foundation, Seaford Chalk Formation, Newhaven Chalk Formation. Superficial geology comprises undifferentiated river terrace deposits - sand, silt and clay.					
Fieldwork type	Eval	Excav	WB	HBR	Survey	Other
Date of fieldwork	08/02/2016 – 12/ 02/2016					
Sponsor/client	Environmental Dimension Partnership Ltd					
Project manager	Jon Sygrave					
Project supervisor	Garrett Sheehan					
Period summary	Palaeolithic	Mesolithic	Neolithic	Bronze Age	Iron Age	
	Roman	Anglo-Saxon	Medieval	Post-Medieval	Other	
Project summary (100 word max)	<p>An archaeological evaluation was conducted at Roundstone Lane, Angmering, West Sussex (NGR: 507621, 103533), between the 8th and 12th February 2016. The fieldwork was commissioned by The Environmental Dimension Partnership Ltd (EDP), on behalf of their client CALA Homes in advance of the construction of the proposed construction of residential dwellings with associated access roads, services and landscaping.</p> <p>The evaluation uncovered a cluster of postholes and shallow pits, located within a slight hollow, of probable Middle Bronze Age date, a gully and residual pottery indicating possible activity on the site in the early Roman period as well as an undated linear hollow feature or large pit of unknown date.</p> <p>Both the prehistoric and Roman phases of activity appear to have been focused on the northern part of the site and landscaping works associated with various phases of construction and demolition of former nursery greenhouses, and associated structures, have resulted in significant truncation of the north-central part of the site. It appears that the potential for further surviving archaeological deposits exists</p>					

	only in the north-eastern and north-western parts of the site.
Museum/Accession No.	

OASIS Form

OASIS ID: archaeol6-244757

Project details

Project name Land at the former West End Nursery, Roundstone Lane, Angmering, West Sussex

Short description of the project An archaeological evaluation was conducted at Roundstone Lane, Angmering, West Sussex (NGR: 507621, 103533), between the 8th and 12th February 2016. The fieldwork was commissioned by The Environmental Dimension Partnership Ltd (EDP), on behalf of their client CALA Homes in advance of the construction of the proposed construction of residential dwellings with associated access roads, services and landscaping. The evaluation uncovered a cluster of postholes and shallow pits, located within a slight hollow, of probable Middle Bronze Age date, a gully and residual pottery indicating possible activity on the site in the early Roman period as well as an undated linear hollow feature or large pit of unknown date. Both the prehistoric and Roman phases of activity appear to have been focused on the northern part of the site and landscaping works associated with various phases of construction and demolition of former nursery greenhouses, and associated structures, have resulted in significant truncation of the north-central part of the site. It appears that the potential for further surviving archaeological deposits exists only in the north-eastern and north-western parts of the site.

Project dates Start: 08-02-2016 End: 12-02-2016

Previous/future work Yes / Yes

Any associated project reference codes ALR16 - Sitecode

Type of project Field evaluation

Site status None

Current Land use Vacant Land 1 - Vacant land previously developed

Monument type DITCH Roman

Monument type NURSERY GARDEN Modern

Monument type POSTHOLE Bronze Age

Monument type PIT Bronze Age

Significant Finds POTTERY Bronze Age

Significant Finds POTTERY Roman

Project location

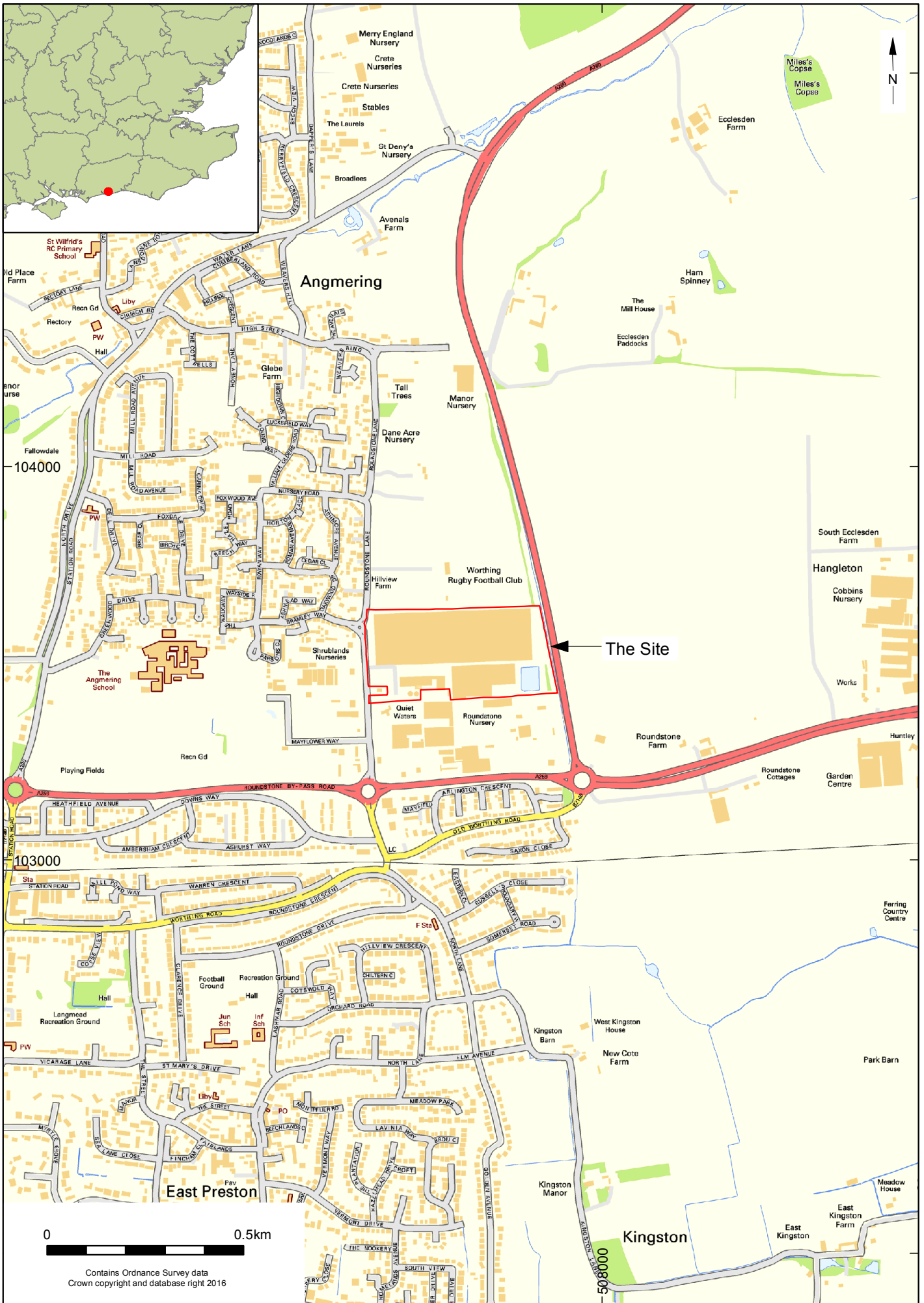
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Site location	WEST SUSSEX ARUN ANGMERING Former West End Nursery, Roundstone Lane
Postcode	BN16 4AX
Study area	9 Hectares
Site coordinates	TQ 507621 103533 50.872410124209 0.142976199899 50 52 20 N 000 08 34 E Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 9.8m Max: 11.17m
Project creators	
Name of Organisation	Archaeology South East
Project brief originator	EDP Ltd
Project design originator	ASE
Project director/manager	JON SYGRAVE
Project supervisor	Garrett Sheehan
Type of sponsor/funding body	Client
Name of sponsor/funding body	EDP LTD.
Project archives	
Physical Archive recipient	Littlehampton Museum
Physical Contents	"Ceramics","Environmental","Glass","Worked stone/lithics"
Digital Archive recipient	Littlehampton Museum
Digital Contents	"Stratigraphic","Survey","other"
Digital Media available	"Database","GIS","Geophysics","Images raster / digital photography","Spreadsheets","Survey","Text"
Paper Archive recipient	Littlehampton Museum
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Text"

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Entered on 4 March 2016

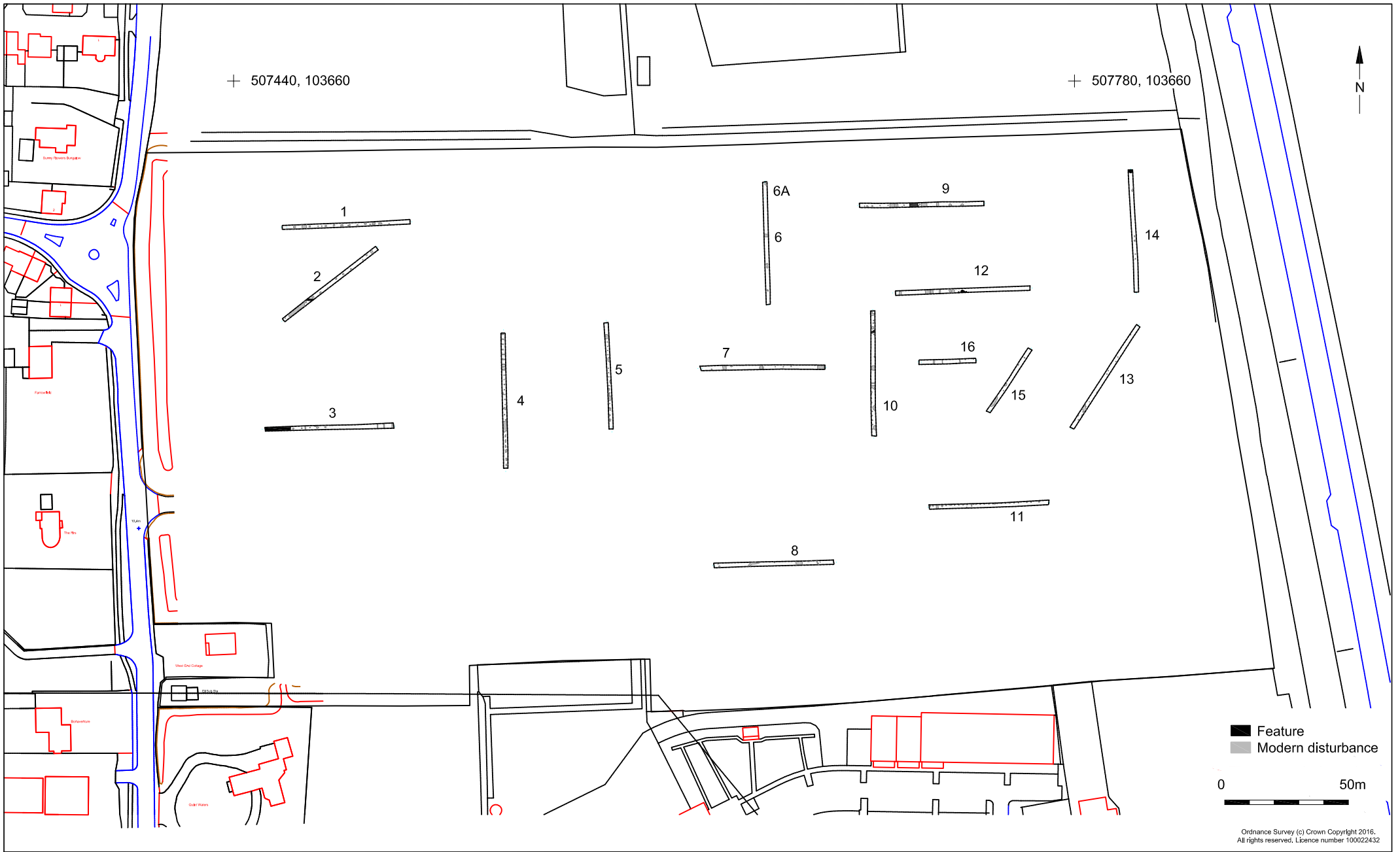
**Appendix 1:
Archaeologically negative trenches: list of recorded contexts**

Trench	Context	Type	Interpretation	Thickness m	Height m AOD
1	1/001	Layer	Topsoil	0.18	11.20
1	1/002	Layer	Made ground	0.25	10.95
1	1/003	Layer	Made ground	0.43-0.53	11.29
1	1/004	Layer	Geological substrate	-	10.61-10.65
4	4/001	Layer	Made ground	0.10-0.20	10.97-11.49
4	4/002	Layer	Made ground	0.20-0.40	10.77-11.39
4	4/003	Layer	Dump	0.20-0.40	10.57-11.09
4	4/004	Layer	Dump	0.20-0.30	10.37-10.69
4	4/005	Layer	Dump	0.05-0.30	10.17-10.49
4	4/006	Layer	Geological substrate	-	10.09-10.53
5	5/001	Layer	Made ground	0.20-0.26	11.14-11.41
5	5/002	Layer	Made ground	0.13-0.30	10.88-11.21
5	5/003	Layer	Dump	0.14-0.55	10.75-10.91
5	5/004	Layer	Geological substrate	-	10.25-10.53
6	6/001	Layer	Made ground	0.20-0.30	11.22-11.52
6	6/002	Layer	Made ground	0.25	11.32
6	6/003	Layer	Geological substrate	-	10.85-11.17
7	7/001	Layer	Made ground	0.16	11.09-11.29
7	7/002	Layer	Made ground	0.14	10.93
7	7/003	Layer	Geological substrate	-	10.73-11.03
8	8/001	Layer	Made ground	0.09-0.26	10.55-10.74
8	8/002	Layer	Made ground	0.20-0.35	10.43-10.48
8	8/003	Layer	Geological substrate	-	10.05-10.26
11	11/001	Layer	Made ground	0.06-0.09	10.75-10.94
11	11/002	Layer	Made ground	0.10-0.26	10.69-10.85
11	11/003	Layer	Geological substrate	-	10.38-10.46
13	13/001	Layer	Made ground	0.22-0.30	11.26-11.34
13	13/002	Layer	Made ground	0.20-0.24	11.00-11.04
13	13/003	Layer	Geological substrate	-	10.76-10.77
15	15/001	Layer	Made ground	0.20-0.40	11.04-11.27
15	15/002	Layer	Made ground	0.26-0.30	10.84-10.87
15	15/003	Layer	Geological substrate	-	10.53-10.80
16	16/001	Layer	Made ground	0.25-0.40	11.21-11.34
16	16/002	Layer	Made ground	0.20-0.30	10.81-11.09
16	16/003	Layer	Geological substrate	-	10.67-10.98



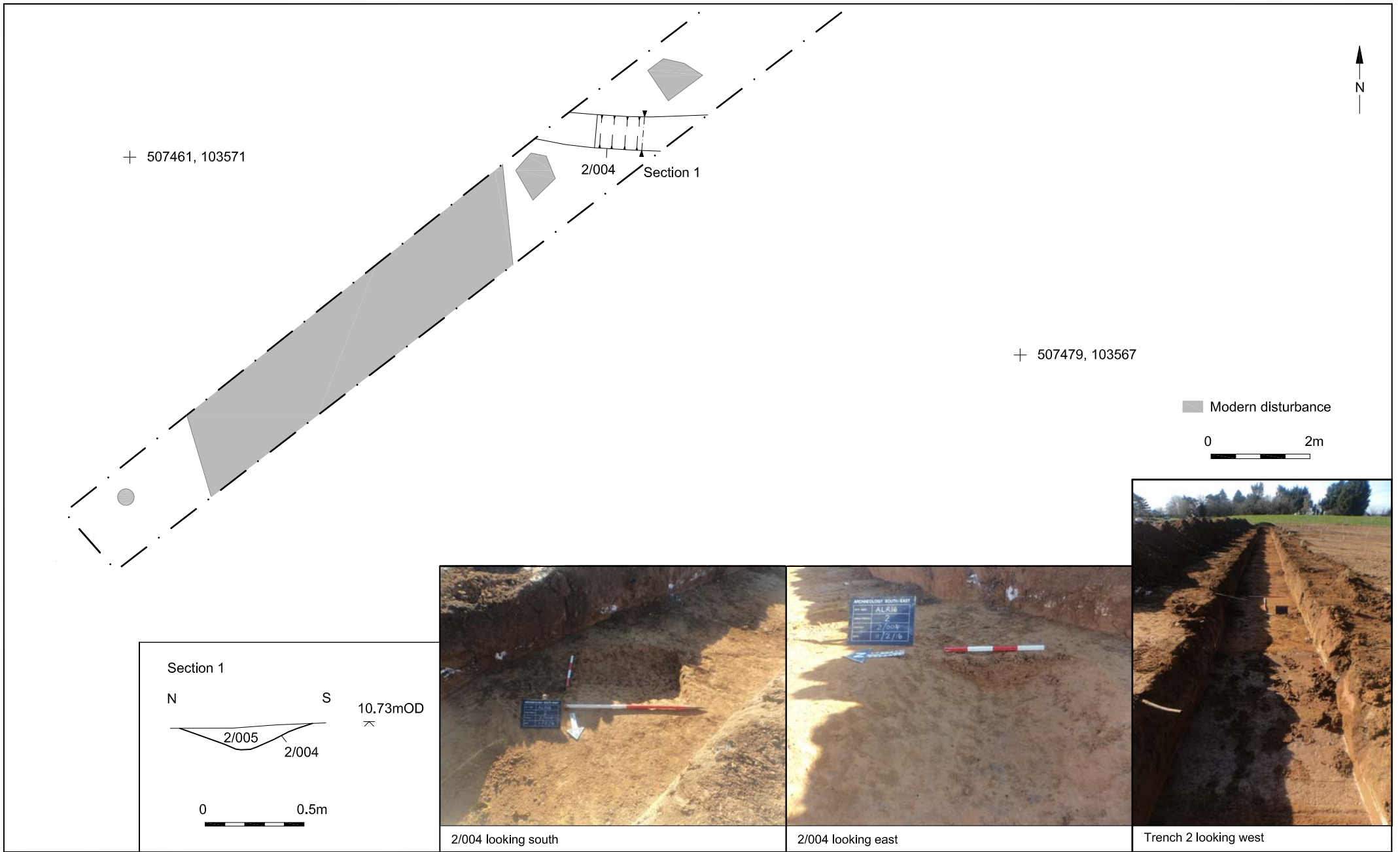
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© Archaeology South-East		Roundstone Lane, Angmering	Fig. 1
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Report Ref:	Drawn by: JLR		

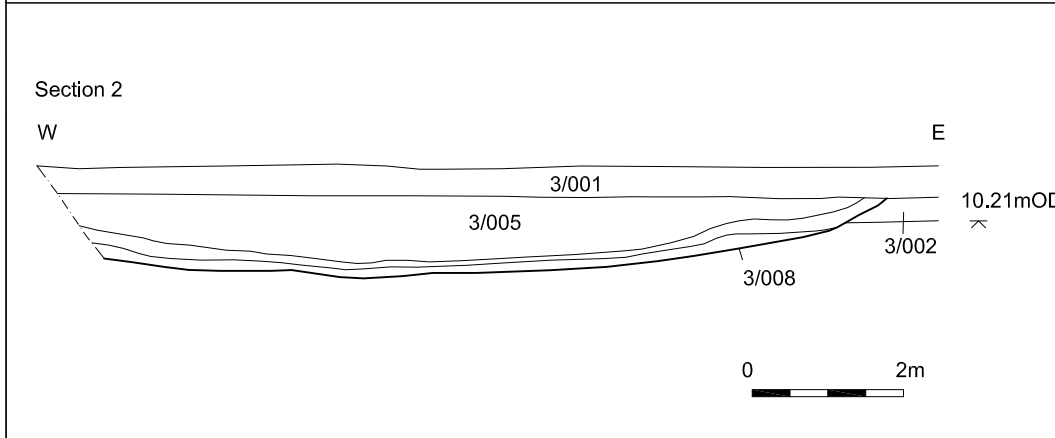
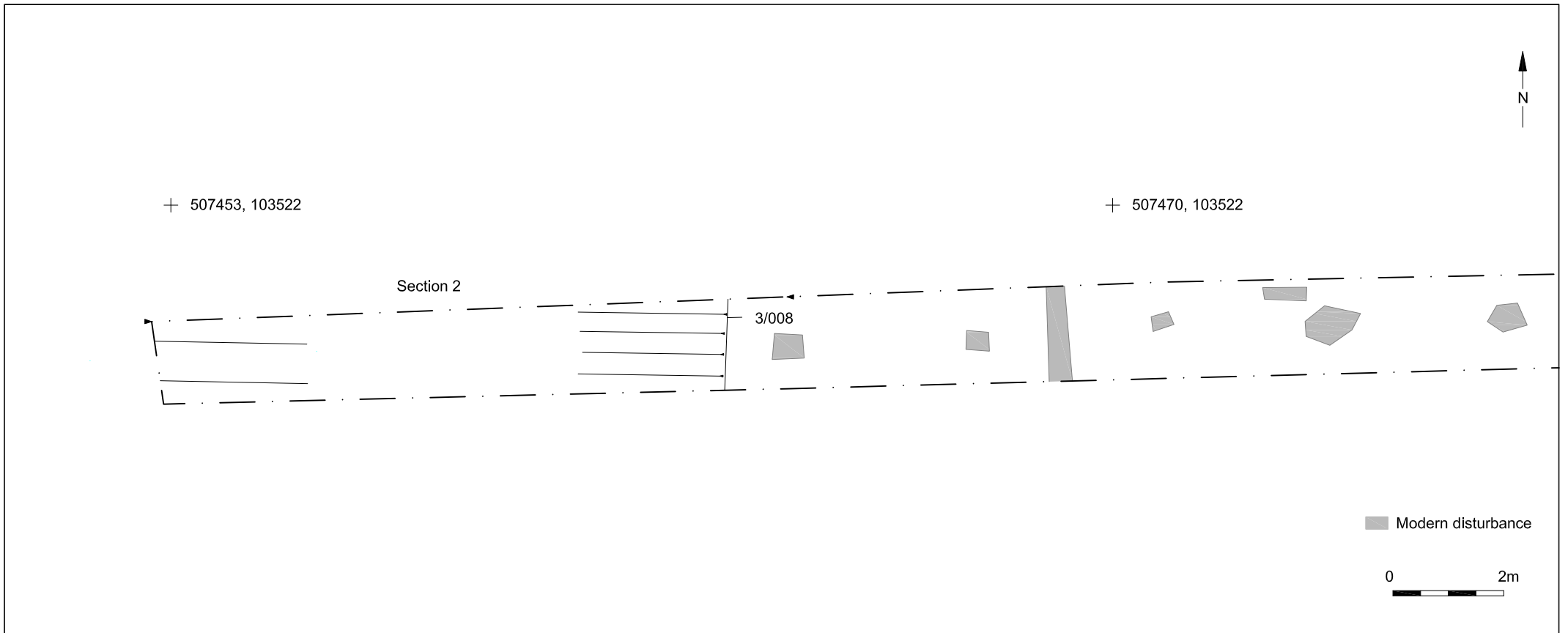


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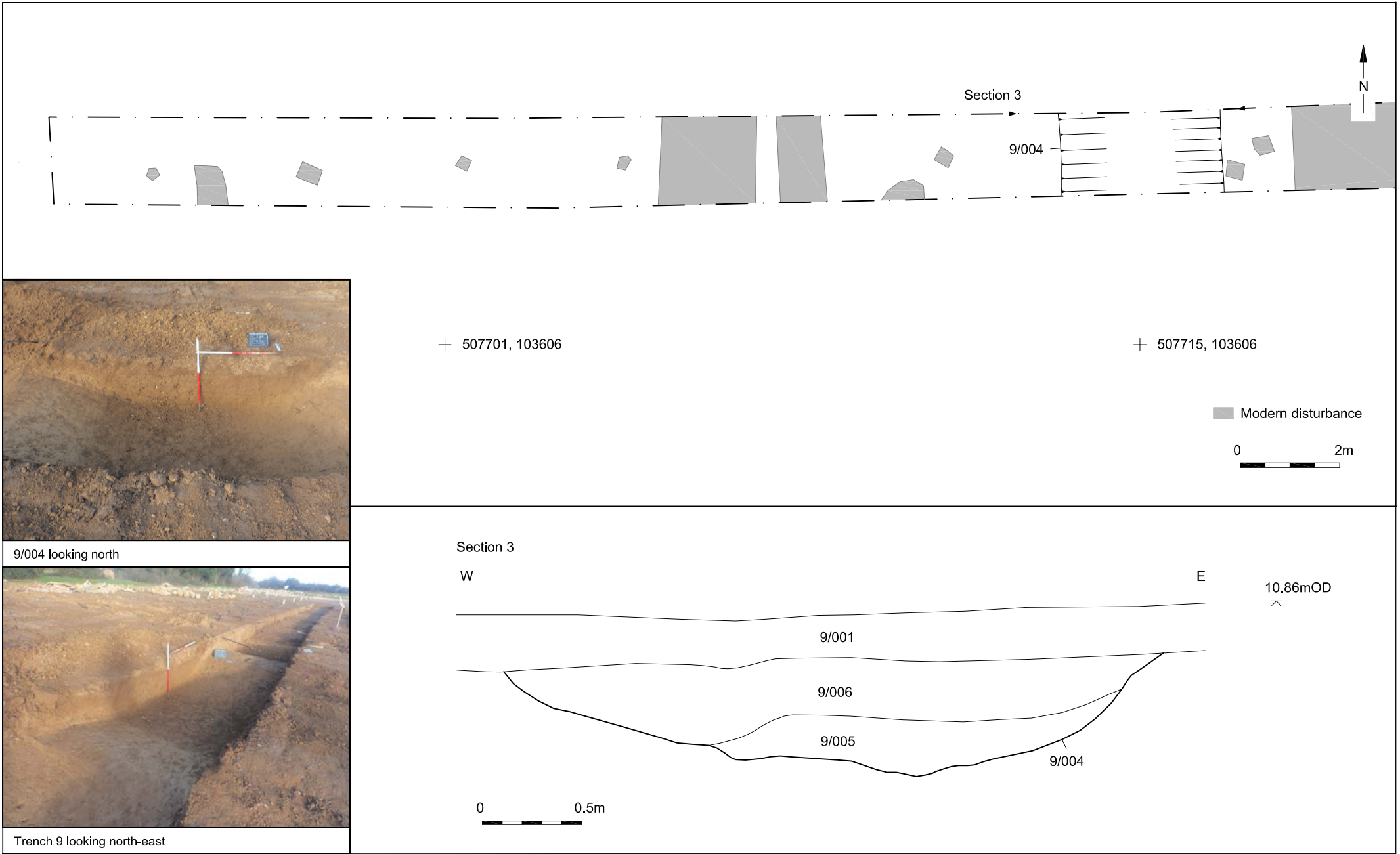
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Report Ref:	Drawn by: JLR		



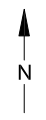
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Project Ref: 9009	Feb 2016	Trench 2: plan, section and photographs	
Report Ref:	Drawn by: JLR		



© Archaeology South-East		Roundstone Lane, Angmering	Fig. 4
Project Ref: 9009	Feb 2016	Trench 3: plan, section and photographs	
Report Ref:	Drawn by: JLR		

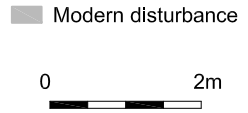
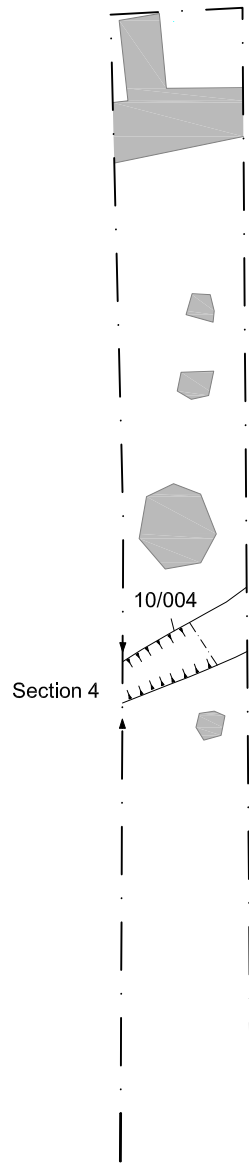


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Project Ref: 9009	Feb 2016	Trench 9: plan, section and photographs	
Report Ref:	Drawn by: JLR		

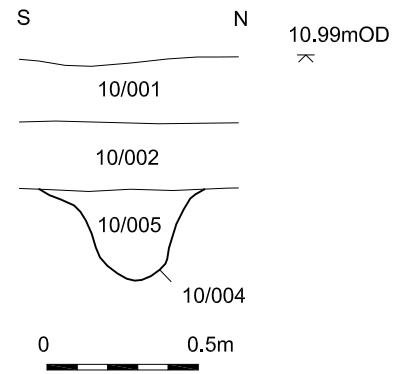


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Section 4

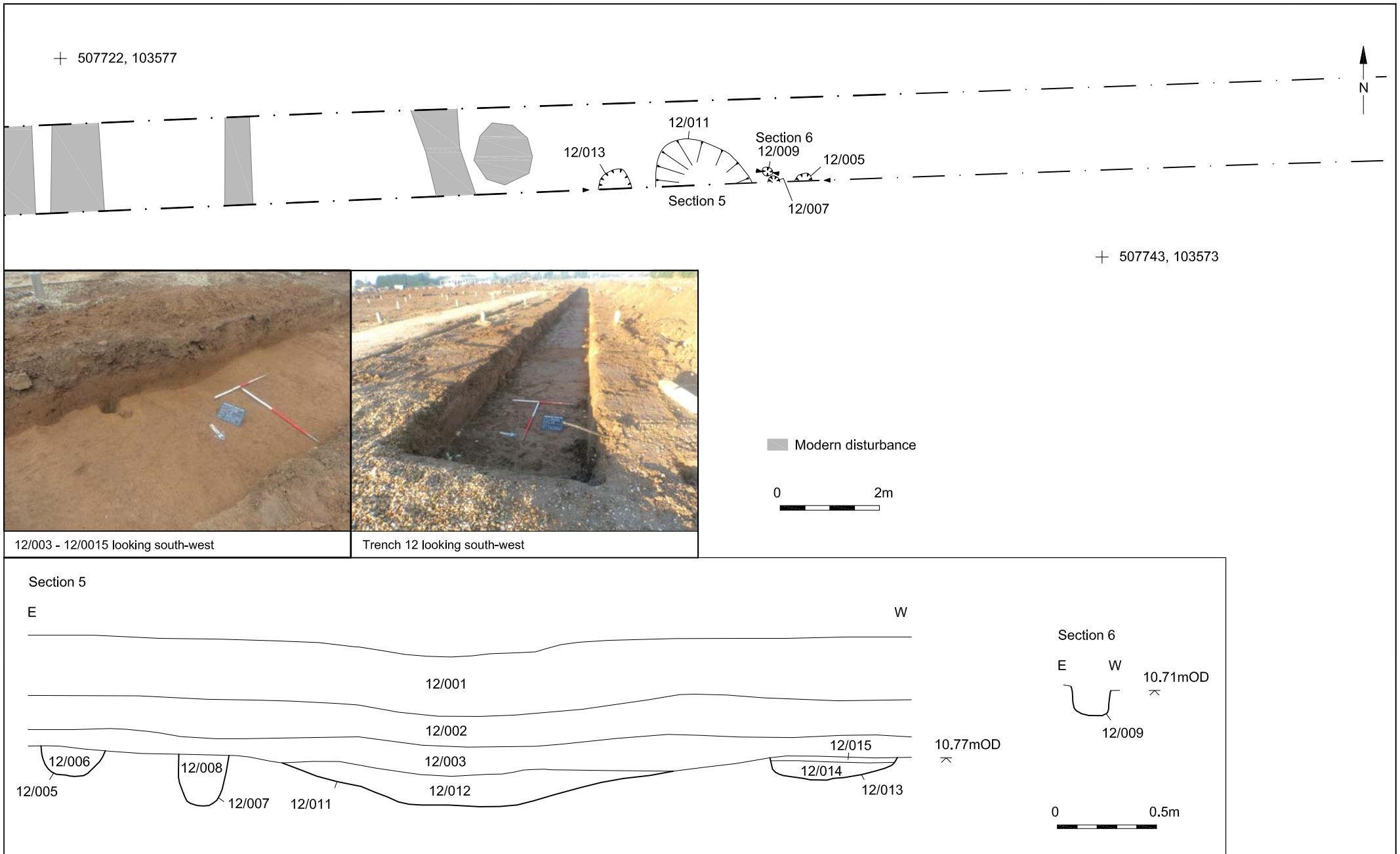


10/004 looking west

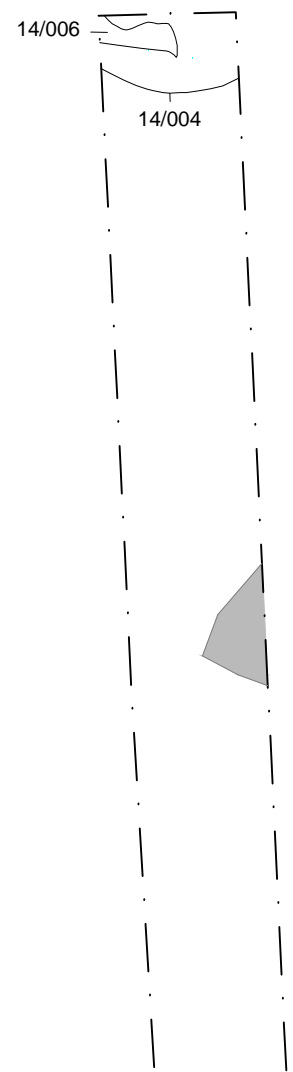
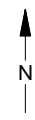


Trench 10 looking north-west

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Project Ref: 9009	Feb 2016	Trench 10: plan, section and photographs	
Report Ref:	Drawn by: JLR		



© Archaeology South-East		Roundstone Lane, Angmering	Fig. 7
Project Ref: 9009	Feb 2016	Trench 12: plan, sections and photographs	
Report Ref:	Drawn by: JLR		



+ 507795, 103620

+ 507812, 103620

■ Modern disturbance



14/004 looking north-west



Trench 14 looking south

© Archaeology South-East		Roundstone Lane, Angmering	Fig. 8
Project Ref: 9009	Feb 2016	Trench 14: plan and photographs	
Report Ref:	Drawn by: JLR		

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