Archaeology South-East

ASE

Archaeological Evaluation Report
Land West of Southwater
West Sussex

NGR: 515336 126731
(TQ 15336 26731)

Planning Ref: DC/14/0590

ASE Project No: 7466
Site Code: WSW13
ASE Report No: 2016127
OASIS id: archaeol6-248215

By Tom Munnery

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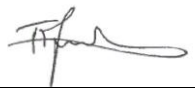
Prepared by:	**Tom Munnery**	**Archaeologist**	
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Abstract

This report presents the results of an archaeological evaluation carried out by Archaeology South-East at Land west of Southwater, West Sussex between the 14th and 18th March 2016. Twenty-three trenches measuring up to 30m in length were excavated.

Small quantities of residual worked flint were recovered from the overburden across the site. Evidence of Iron Age activity, represented by ditches and an occupation layer was identified in a small area of the site. Evidence of burn beating was also encountered which might derive from this period. Post-medieval activity was represented by a small collection of 19th and 20th century pottery in the overburden.

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1.0 Introduction

1.1 Site Background

1.1.1 Archaeology South-East (ASE) was commissioned by Berkeley Homes (Southern) Limited, to undertake a first phase of archaeological evaluation (Phase 1 and Sports Pitch) of land west of Worthing Road, Southwater, West Sussex (Figure 1). The site is centred at National Grid Reference (NGR) 515407 126559.

1.1.2 The site is currently given over to a mixture of pasture and arable land and is bounded to the north and west by agricultural fields, to the east by Station Road and rear gardens of residential properties and to the south by Church Lane.

1.1.3 The underlying solid geology of the site comprises Weald Clay Formation (Mudstone). Superficial deposits are not recorded (BGS 2015).

1.1.4 Proposals for residential development of the wider site have been submitted to Horsham District Council. The proposals have been informed by a Desk-Based Assessment (ASE 2014) and full magnetometer survey of the site (Stratascan 2011). Based on the findings of these surveys a mitigation strategy was agreed with WSCC Archaeology and included in an Environmental Impact Assessment in support of the application (WSP 2014).

1.1.5 An outline planning application for the residential development of the site has subsequently been approved by Horsham District Council (HDC) subject to a Section 106 Agreement and appropriate conditions (Planning Ref: DC/14/0590). A Development Management Plan presents the outcome of various consultations, including that with WSCC Archaeology whose comments are summarised thus:

- *The preservation intact within the development and enhancement for interpretation to the local community of the transport heritage assets is welcomed (the surviving abutments and railings of two former bridges over the infilled railway cutting);*
- *Desk-based and remote sensing surveys have identified probable and possible buried archaeological features on the site, anticipated to be of medieval, post-medieval, and to some extent of pre-medieval date;*
- *Proposed mitigation of the impact of development of these features would involve their investigation and recording, in advance of any reduction and removal by development-related ground excavations, and the subsequent reporting of the investigation findings, in a format accessible to local communities;*
- *It is proposed within the Environmental Statement that archaeological investigation works take place in advance of submission of each Reserved Matters planning application;*
- *This timing of archaeological investigations should allow maximum scope for localised layout or design changes, or site-specific engineering solutions, should any specific, exceptionally rare or significant archaeological features be revealed, which might deserve to be preserved intact within the development;*
- *These mitigation proposals are considered to be proportionate and appropriate.*

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1.1.6 Further to this consultation, the plan proposes the following archaeological condition be attached to consent:

> *No development shall take place within the site until the applicant, or the applicant's agents or successors in title, have secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological work in accordance with a written scheme of investigation and timetable which has been submitted and approved by the Local Planning Authority.*
>
> *Reason: In order to ensure that archaeological features, deposits and artefacts revealed during development works will be adequately recorded in accordance with policy DC10 of the Horsham District Local Development Framework: General Development Control Policies (2007) and in accordance with the NPPF.*

1.1.7 Therefore, in line with the agreed mitigation strategy, a first phase of trial trench evaluation was proposed to target geophysical anomalies within the Phase 1 and Sports Pitch elements of the development (Figures 2 – 4). This evaluation comprises 23 machine excavated trenches measuring between 15m and 40m in length.

1.1.8 Accordingly, a written scheme of investigation (ASE 2016) for the first phase of archaeological evaluation was submitted to Horsham District Council for approval prior to the commencement of fieldwork.

1.2 Scope of Report

1.2.1 This report details the results of the archaeological evaluation which was carried out between the 14th and 18th March 2016.

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2.0 Historical and Archaeological Background

2.1 The archaeological background of the site is set out in the Desk-based Assessment (ASE 2014) and Environmental Impact Assessment (WSP 2014) and is not repeated here. What follows is a summary of the geophysical survey results (Figure 12) from the Phase 1 and Sports Pitch areas paraphrased from the Stratascan report (2011).

2.2 The magnetic gradiometer survey identified a number of anomalies throughout the area in question that have been interpreted as being of a probable archaeological origin. The majority of these anomalies are long linear features that are likely to be related to former field boundaries. However a rectilinear feature located towards the northern part of the Phase 1 area may be interpreted as an enclosure.

2.3 Anomalies indicative of possible archaeology were also identified. These include possible archaeological cut features, such as pits and ditches evident in all the fields within the area in question.

2.4 Anomalies possibly of a thermoremanent origin related to former kilns or hearths were evident in the southern and eastern parts of the area in question.

2.5 The geophysical survey report concluded that the southern part of the Phase 1 and Sports Pitch areas have the most archaeological potential. These areas contain cut features that are likely to be of an archaeological origin. Elsewhere anomalies that may be of possible archaeological interest such as weaker cut features and thermoremanent anomalies were present.

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3.0 Research aims and objectives

3.1 The aims of the evaluation are:

- To test and corroborate the results of the geophysical survey 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 Horsham District Council to make an informed decision as to the requirement for any further archaeological work at the site

3.2 The site also has the potential to address a number of more specific research questions drawn from the South-East Research Framework.

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4.0 Archaeological Methodology

4.1 Fieldwork methodology

4.1.1 All but four trenches were excavated in their proposed locations. Trenches 10 and 12 were reduced in length to 17.00m and 18.60m respectively as both were bisected by a public footpath. Trenches 13 and 14 remained the same lengths, but were moved 3.00m and 6.00m east along their axes to avoid tree roots. All other trenches were 30.00m long except Trench 23 which was 15.00m in length (Figure 2).

4.1.2 The trenches and exposed features were accurately surveyed by means of a Digital Global Positioning System (DGPS) and DGPS Total Station (Leica 1205 R100 Total Station, Leica System 1200 GPS or similar).

4.1.3 All trenches were scanned prior to excavation with a cable avoidance tool. Mechanical excavation using a flat-bladed ditching bucket was undertaken under archaeological supervision in spits of no more than 0.10m to the top of the underlying substrate, or to the top of the archaeological deposits, whichever was the higher.

4.1.4 All deposits and archaeological features were recorded on ASE context sheets, with colours recorded by visual inspection only. Vertical sections were drawn of features and a comprehensive photographic record taken.

4.1.5 Spoil heaps and trench bases were visually scanned for unstratified finds. Spoil heaps, features, spoil derived from excavated features and trench bases were also scanned with a metal detector.

4.1.6 Trenches were backfilled using the machine bucket but no formal reinstatement was undertaken.

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4.2 Archive

4.2.1 The site archive is currently held at the offices of ASE and will be deposited at a suitable local repository in due course. The contents of the archive are tabulated below (Table 1).

Context sheets	29
Section sheets	2
Plans sheets	0
Colour photographs	0
B&W photos	0
Digital photos	156
Context register	1
Drawing register	2
Watching brief forms	0
Trench Record forms	23

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 bag
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	3

Table 2: Quantification of artefact and environmental samples

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5.0 Results

5.1 Trench 1

Context	Type	Interpretation	Length m	Width m	Depth m
1/001	Layer	Topsoil	-	-	0.15-0.24
1/002	Layer	Subsoil	-	-	0.11-0.14
1/003	Layer	Natural	-	-	-
1/004	Cut	Ditch	-	0.71	0.28
1/005	Fill	Fill, single	-	0.71	0.28

Table 3: Trench 1 list of recorded contexts

5.1.1 Trench 1 was excavated to a depth of 0.41m. The natural (1/003) was overlaid by 0.13m of light grey-brown silt clay subsoil (1/002) and 0.20m brown-grey loamy clay topsoil (1/001). No finds were recovered from the overburden. A single ditch was observed cutting the natural.

5.1.2 Ditch [1/004] was northwest to southeast aligned with relatively steep sides and a rounded base. It was filled with a homogeneous mid grey silt-clay with orange mottling (1/005) but contained no finds.

5.2 Trench 2

Context	Type	Interpretation	Length m	Width m	Depth m
2/001	Layer	Topsoil	-	-	0.21-0.24
2/002	Layer	Subsoil	-	-	0.14-0.19
2/003	Layer	Natural	-	-	-
2/004	Cut	Posthole	0.29	0.25	0.14
2/005	Fill	Fill	0.29	0.25	0.14

Table 4: Trench 2 list of recorded contexts

5.2.1 Trench 2 was 0.41m deep with a stratigraphy comprising 0.22m topsoil (2/001) and 0.17m subsoil (2/002). A probable posthole cut the natural. No finds were recovered.

5.2.2 Probable posthole [2/004] was predominantly filled with charcoal in a grey silt-clay matrix. This was sampled (BS <2>) and yielded a moderate quantity of charcoal. No other finds were recovered

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5.3 Trench 6

Context	Type	Interpretation	Length m	Width m	Depth m
6/001	Layer	Topsoil	-	-	0.21-0.24
6/002	Layer	Subsoil	-	-	0.15-0.19
6/003	Cut	Burn beating	>1.80	1.20	0.45
6/004	Fill	Fill	1.15	1.02	0.12
6/005	Fill	Fill	>1.80	1.20	0.07
6/006	Layer	Natural	-	-	-
6/007	Fill	Fill	1.25	1.00	0.16

Table 5: Trench 6 list of recorded contexts

5.3.1 This trench was 0.51m deep with an average of 0.22m topsoil (6/001) and 0.16m subsoil (6/002) above the natural (6/006). One shallow feature was recorded at the eastern end of the trench and an undated flint flake was recovered from the topsoil.

5.3.2 Feature [6/003] was ovoid in plan and *c*.0.45m deep with gently sloping sides. It was filled with three distinct layers. The basal fill comprised redeposited natural yellow-grey sandy clay (6/007) with a few flecks of charcoal incorporated within it. Above this was a layer of baked-hard clay lumps (6/005) averaging around 60mm in diameter, which had compacted into a solid layer. Further charcoal flecks were noted within this layer. The final fill (6/004) was a yellow-grey silt-clay which contained fragments of baked clay and large quantities of charcoal. No artefacts were recovered from the feature.

5.4 Trench 7

Context	Type	Interpretation	Length m	Width m	Depth m
7/001	Layer	Topsoil	-	-	0.15-0.21
7/002	Layer	Subsoil	-	-	0.13-0.18
7/003	Layer	Natural	-	-	-
7/004	Cut	Ditch	-	1.69	0.28
7/005	Fill	Fill	-	1.69	0.28

Table 6: Trench 7 list of recorded contexts

5.4.1 Trench 7 was excavated to a depth of 0.48m and was cut through 0.19m topsoil (7/001) and 0.15m subsoil (7/002). A single sherd of pottery dated to the post-medieval period was recovered from the overburden.

5.4.2 At the southwestern end of Trench 7 was northwest to southeast aligned ditch [7/004]. The ditch had fairly gently sloping sides and a near flat base. It contained a single homogeneous fill comprising a light yellow-grey silt-clay with occasional charcoal flecks. There were no finds.

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5.5 Trench 12

Context	Type	Interpretation	Length m	Width m	Depth m
12/001	Layer	Topsoil	-	-	0.19-0.25
12/002	Layer	Subsoil	-	-	0.12-0.21
12/003	Layer	Natural	-	-	-
12/004	Layer	Colluvium	-	-	0.25
12/005	Layer	Deposit	-	-	0.17
12/006	Cut	Ditch	-	0.29	0.08
12/007	Fill	Fill	-	0.29	0.08
12/008	Cut	Ditch	-	0.70	0.27
12/009	Fill	Fill	-	0.55	0.08
12/010	Fill	Fill	-	0.70	0.19
12/011	Cut	Posthole	0.48	0.40	0.13
12/012	Fill	Fill	0.48	0.40	0.13

Table 7: Trench 12 list of recorded contexts

5.5.1 Trench 12 was mostly excavated to a depth of 0.50m except at the point where colluvium was observed. The depth here increased to 0.68m. Stratigraphy comprised topsoil (12/001) above subsoil (12/002) which sat above the natural, or the light yellow-grey clay colluvium (12/004) where present. As well as the colluvium, two linear features, a posthole and deposition layer were encountered.

5.5.2 At the western end of the trench was possible posthole [12/011]. It was filled with a homogeneous mid grey silt clay with occasional charcoal flecks but contained no finds.

5.5.3 To the east of [12/011] was a spread of light grey silt-clay (12/005) which extended for *c*. 7.00m. It contained six sherds of Iron Age pottery along with a moderate amount of charcoal flecks which were sampled. The spread was up to 0.17m thick and bounded on the east by ditch [12/008].

5.5.4 Once (12/005) was removed, linear [12/006] was exposed, which ran on a northwest to southeast alignment. The relationship between the two is unclear as both had similar fills and artefacts. The ditch was filled with a light grey silt-clay with orange mottling and yielded two sherds of pottery dated to the Iron Age.

5.5.5 Directly to the east of deposit (12/005) was ditch [12/008]. This feature was on a northwest to southeast alignment with steep sides and a rounded base. It contained a basal fill of light grey clay silt (12/009) with occasional flecks of charcoal and an upper fill of light orange-grey silt-clay (12/010) which also contained some flecks of charcoal.

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5.6 Trench 13

Context	Type	Interpretation	Length m	Width m	Depth m
13/001	Layer	Ploughsoil	-	-	0.27-0.40
13/002	Layer	Natural	-	-	-
13/003	Cut	Ditch	-	0.50	0.17
13/004	Fill	Fill	-	0.50	0.17

Table 8: Trench 13 list of recorded contexts

5.6.1 Trench 13 was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.45m. It had a stratigraphy comprising 0.27-0.40m of mid brown silt-clay ploughsoil (13/001) directly above the natural (13/002). No finds were recovered from the overburden, but a single ditch was observed cutting the natural.

5.6.2 Ditch [13/003] was northwest to southeast aligned with gently sloping sides and a rounded base. It contained an orange-grey silt-clay fill from which no finds were recovered.

5.7 Trench 18

Context	Type	Interpretation	Length m	Width m	Depth m
18/001	Layer	Ploughsoil	-	-	0.07-0.26
18/002	Layer	Natural	-	-	-
18/003	Cut	Burn beating	-	0.80	0.23
18/004	Fill	Fill	-	0.80	0.23

Table 9: Trench 18 list of recorded contexts

5.7.1 Trench 18 was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.39m with an average of 0.25m ploughsoil (18/001) laying above the natural. No finds were recovered from the overburden but a feature associated with burning was recorded.

5.7.2 Towards the western end of Trench 18 was an irregularly shaped feature, [18/003]. It had gently sloping sides and a generally flat base, except for a depression at the northern excavated extremity. It was filled with a mixture of consolidated baked clay fragments within a red-orange silt-clay which contained a moderate quantity of charcoal.

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5.8 Trench 19

Context	Type	Interpretation	Length m	Width m	Depth m
19/001	Layer	Ploughsoil	-	-	0.22-0.32
19/002	Layer	Natural	-	-	-
19/003	Cut	Burn beating	-	1.45	0.34
19/004	Fill	Fill	-	1.45	0.34

Table 10: Trench 19 list of recorded contexts

5.8.1 This trench had a depth of 0.41m with an average thickness of 0.28m ploughsoil (19/001) above the natural. No artefacts of archaeological interest were recovered from the ploughsoil. A single feature was observed towards the south of the trench.

5.8.2 Feature [19/003] appeared ovoid in plan and had relatively steep sides with an irregular base. It contained a firm fill of baked clay within a grey-orange silt-clay matrix which contained a moderate quantity of charcoal.

5.9 Trench 20

Context	Type	Interpretation	Length m	Width m	Depth m
20/001	Layer	Ploughsoil	-	-	0.23-0.37
20/002	Layer	Natural	-	-	-
20/003	Cut	Burn beating	1.75	1.25	0.27
20/004	Fill	Fill	1.75	1.25	0.27

Table 11: Trench 20 list of recorded contexts

5.9.1 Trench 20 was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.47m and had an average thickness of 0.32m of ploughsoil above the natural. The trench overburden yielded no finds but a feature was observed cutting the natural.

5.9.2 The feature was ovoid in shape with gently sloping sides and a slightly irregular base. It contained a firm fill comprising baked clay within a yellow-orange clay. Occasional charcoal flecks were noted, but no finds were observed.

5.10 Trenches 3-5, 8-11, 14-17 and 21-23

5.10.1 These trenches had similar stratigraphies to the other trenches described. Trenches 3-5 and 8-11 all had topsoil above subsoil with thicknesses of between 0.20m and 0.30m topsoil and 0.11m and 0.22m subsoil. The remaining trenches had only ploughsoil above the natural, with between 0.20m and 0.43m thickness present (Appendix 1).

5.10.2 A small collection of late-medieval pottery was recovered from the overburden of some of these trenches.

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6.0 THE FINDS

6.1 Summary

6.1.1 A small assemblage of finds was recovered, washed and dried or air dried as appropriate. They were subsequently quantified by count and weight and were bagged by material and context (Table 12). All finds have been packed and stored following CIfA guidelines (2014). No further conservation is required.

Context	Pot	Wt (g)	Flint	Wt (g)
6/001			1	11
7/002	1	14		
8/001	2	16		
11/002	1	73		
12/001			1	11
12/002	2	65		
12/005	6	53		
12/007	2	6		
16/001			2	9
17/001			2	23
Total	11	197	5	53

Table 12: Hand collected finds quantification

6.2 **Worked Flint** by Karine Le Hégarat

6.2.1 The evaluation produced a total of five pieces of struck flint weighing 53g. All the flints derive from topsoil deposits (in Trenches 6, 12, 16 and 17). The condition of the artefacts varies. While some pieces are fresh others display edge damage characteristics of successive re-deposition. No diagnostic pieces were found, and the assemblage consists entirely of flakes. Based on technological traits three of the pieces of flint débitage could pre-date the Middle Bronze Age.

6.3 **Prehistoric Pottery** by Anna Doherty

6.3.1 A small assemblage of prehistoric pottery, totalling eight sherds, weighing 59g, was recovered from two contexts in Trench 12. At present the assemblage has been examined for spot-dating purposes but not fully recorded according to a fabric and form type-series. It is recommended that it should be retained and integrated into the recording process should any future assessment/analysis work take place, in the event of further archaeological work at the site.

6.3.2 The sherds are likely of Iron Age date although their precise chronology is slightly ambiguous. The only feature sherd is a rim, found in occupation layer (12/005), from a well-formed necked/everted rim jar of sinuous profile with well-smoothed surfaces. Both the form and surface treatment are very typical of the Middle Iron Age. However, the three estimated vessels represented in this group are all in reasonably coarse ill-sorted flint-tempered wares, with inclusions of up to 3mm in size. The two bodysherds from ditch fill (12/007) are also in similar fabrics and one of them possibly derives from the same vessel as three of the sherds in (12/005).

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6.3.3 Whilst fabrics of this type are not entirely atypical of the Middle Iron Age in West Sussex, it should be noted that the largest substantial Middle Iron Age assemblage from a nearby Wealden site, at Broadbridge Heath *c*.5km to the north, was of very different fabric composition. Here about 90% of fabrics were made up by a distinctive leached calcareous rock-tempered ware and flint-tempered wares, where they occurred, were finer and much better-sorted fabrics (Doherty in prep). By contrast, a predominantly Early Iron Age assemblage from the Billingshurst area (Barber 1999) was much more dominated by flint-tempered wares. This could suggest the possibility of an Early Iron Age date for the current assemblage, though the single diagnostic rim sherd looks less typical of this period.

6.4 The Post-Roman Pottery by Luke Barber

6.4.1 The evaluation recovered just six sherds of post-Roman pottery, weighing 153g, from four individually numbered contexts. The whole assemblage consists of late post-medieval material with slight signs of abrasion strongly suggesting some reworking. Context [7/002] produced a 14g sherd of unglazed earthenware flower pot of probable mid-19th- to early 20th- century date. A similar date range can be ascribed to the two sherds from context [8/001]: a fragment of English stoneware bottle with grey Bristol glaze finish (12g) and part of a bone china fluted cup (2g). Context [11/002] produced the base of a Nottingham/Derby stoneware bowl (72g) that can be placed in the 19th century while context [12/002] contained two sherds (64g) from two different glazed red earthenware vessels that can only be ascribed a general c. 1750-1900 date range. These sherds are notably fresher than the others from the site.

6.4.2 The post-Roman pottery consists of a small and late assemblage of well-known types for Sussex. It holds no potential for further analysis and has been discarded.

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6.5 **The Glass** by Luke Barber

6.5.1 The environmental residue from context [12/005] produced a tiny chip (<0.5g) of amber glass, probably deriving from a beer bottle of mid-19th- to early 20th- century date. Almost certainly this piece is intrusive to the deposit.

6.5.2 The glass has no potential for further study and has been discarded.

6.6 **The Geological Material** by Luke Barber

6.6.1 The environmental residue from context [2/005] produced four unworked pieces of weathered stone. Two of these are of medium-grained ferruginous sandstone (36g) while the other two are of light grey-buff mudstone (32g). All are of local Wealden origin.

6.6.2 The stone has no potential for further study and has been discarded.

6.7 **Slag** by Luke Barber

6.7.1 The environmental residues from contexts [2/005] and [12/005] produced 2 and 20g of magnetic fines respectively. Close examination of this material showed it to consist solely of rounded granules of ferruginous siltstone and sandstone whose magnetic properties had been enhanced through burning. Such burning could be the result of any high temperature process including stubble burning and domestic hearths.

6.7.2 The samples contained no evidence of proper slag/metal working residues. The material has been discarded.

6.8 **The Fired Clay** by Isa Benedetti-Whitton

6.9.1 A total of 904 pieces of fired clay weighing 2792g were extracted from environmental sample <1>, from context [6/004] (NB. total based on quantified sample of 220 fragments <8mm weighing 250g). Approximately 765 of these were less than 8mm in size and totally undiagnostic, although there was evidence of burning and some pieces were fully reduced.

6.9.2 Within the sample of fragments measuring greater than 8mm were some more substantial and modelled-looking pieces (e.g. one of 100mm x 110mm) that showed contrasting surfaces of a slightly oxidised orange exterior and a heavily reduced blackened interior. However the condition of these fragments was too poor to indicate the form they would have originally taken, although they do provide evidence that clay was subject to human utilisation rather than just passively burnt.

6.9.3 All the fired clay was formed from the same fine, pale iron-rich orange clay with few visible inclusions.

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7.0 THE ENVIRONMENTAL SAMPLES by Mariangela Vitolo

7.1 Introduction

7.1.1 Three bulk soil samples were taken to recover environmental material such as charred plant macrofossils, wood charcoal, fauna and Mollusca as well as to assist finds recovery. Sampled features included a pit/hearth, a posthole and a deposit/layer. The following report summarises the contents of these samples and discusses the information provided by the charred plant remains and charcoal on diet, agrarian economy, vegetation environment and fuel selection and use.

7.2 Methodology

7.2.1 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 13). 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 (or 100ml subsamples for the larger ones) were scanned under a stereozoom microscope at 7-45x magnifications and their contents recorded (Table 14). Nomenclature follows Stace (1997).

7.2.2 Charcoal fragments recovered from the heavy residues were fractured along three planes (transverse, radial and tangential) according to standardised procedures (Gale & Cutler 2000). Specimens were viewed under a stereozoom microscope for initial grouping, and an incident light microscope at magnifications up to 400x to facilitate identification of the woody taxa present. Taxonomic identifications were assigned by comparing suites of anatomical characteristics visible with those documented in reference atlases (Hather 2000, Schoch *et al.* 2004, Schweingruber 1990). Genera, family or group names have been given where anatomical differences between taxa are not significant enough to permit more detailed identification. Nomenclature used follows Stace (1997), and taxonomic identifications of charcoal are recorded in Table 13.

7.3 Results

7.3.1 Samples <1> [6/004], <2> [2/005] and <3> [12/005]
All the samples contained a large amount of uncharred vegetative matter, such as twigs, rootlets and seeds of bramble (*Rubus* sp.). This material indicates low level disturbance across the site and is likely to have infiltrated the deposits through root action.

7.3.2 No charred plant remains were recovered from these samples. Charcoal was present in good amounts in all the deposits. The preservation conditions were generally poor, with most fragments displaying signs of vitrification and/or being split. Vitrification occurs when the wood anatomy fuses, becoming glassy. Occasional fragments were distorted or sediment encrusted. Sediment encrustation and percolation can occur when there are fluctuations in ground water level. The poor preservation hindered secure identifications of some of the fragments. Identified taxa included oak (*Quercus* sp.), hazel/alder (*Corylus avellana/Alnus* sp.), possible hazel (cf *Corylus avellana*) and possible Maloideae. The Maloideae subfamily comprises taxa, such as pear, apple, rowan and hawthorn among others, which are indistinguishable on grounds of

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their wood anatomy.

7.3.3 The heavy residues contained no environmental remains, except for an indeterminate plant remain, and only a few finds, including burnt clay, magnetic material, foreign stone, glass, flint and pottery.

7.4 Discussion

7.4.1 The bulk soil samples from Land West of Southwater have yielded no charred plant remains and do not allow for a discussion on diet and agrarian economy. Charcoal was on the other hand fairly abundant, suggesting that the absence of crop and wild seeds is probably due to circumstances of deposition and/or nature of the sampled features. In many cases, identification of the charcoal fragments was hindered by the poor preservation conditions, particularly by vitrification. Although a secure cause for charcoal to become vitrified is not clear yet, experimental evidence (McParland *et al*.2010) has shown that high temperatures alone are not a sufficient cause for this phenomenon to happen. It is possible that other circumstances, such as prolonged burning, or external material, for example fat, leaking into the wood, might concur with high temperatures to make charcoal vitrified.

7.4.2 The dominant woody taxon in these samples was oak. If on one hand this could be due to the wide availability of this tree in the area, it is also possible that oak wood was particularly sought after because of its characteristics. Oak is known to make an excellent fuel wood and can also be used for joinery (Taylor 1981). Its dominance suggests that deciduous woodland was certainly present in the site vicinity. Other local vegetation environments might have included woodland margins, scrub and shrubs.

7.4.3 These samples show that there is potential for nearby deposits to preserve plant macrofossils and charcoal and any future work at the site should continue to include sampling, targeting primary deposits.

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Sample Number	Context	Context / deposit type	Sample Volume litres	Sub-Sample Volume litres	Charcoal >4mm	Weight (g)	Charcoal <4mm	Weight (g)	Charcoal Identifications	Charred botanicals (other than charcoal)	Weight (g)	Other (eg ind, pot, cbm)
1	6/004	Pit/hearth	25	25	****	120	****	60	*Quercus* sp. 4, cf *Quercus* sp. 1, *Corylus avellana/Alnus* sp. 1, cf *Corylus avellana* 1 cf Maloideae 1, indet. 1 (knot). indet. 1(vitrified)			burnt clay >8mm ****/ 2873g
2	2/005	Posthole	5	5	***	55	****	30	*Quercus* sp. 8 (vitrified, 3 split, cf *Quercus* sp. (3 (vitrified, 2 split), Indet. 2 (split/vitrified)	* indeterminate plant remain	<1	Mag. Mat. **/ 5g - foreign stone */ 73g
3	12/005	Deposit/layer	40	40	***	6	****	4	Quercus sp. 7 (vitrified), cf Quercus sp. 5 (vitrified, 1 split and vitrified), Indet. 3 (distorted)			Mag. Mat. ***/ 26g - pottery */ 13g - glass * /<1g - flint */ 1g

Table 13: Residue quantification (* = 1-10, ** = 11-50, *** = 51-250, **** = >250) and weights in grams

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Sample Number	Context	Weight g	Flot volume ml	Volume scanned	Uncharred %	Sediment %	Seeds uncharred	Charcoal >4mm	Charcoal <4mm	Charcoal <2mm
1	6/004	18	150	100	60	10		*	***	****
2	2/005	3	30	30	70	10		*	**	***
3	12/005	8	120	100	30	20	*Rubus* sp.	**	***	***

Table 14: Flot quantification (* = 1-10, ** = 11-50, *** = 51-250, **** = >250) and preservation (+ = poor, ++ = moderate, +++ = good)

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8.0 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

8.1 Overview of stratigraphic sequence

8.1.1 The stratigraphy of the evaluated varies between two groups of trenches; trenches 1 to 12 and trenches 13 to 23. Trenches 1 to 12 had a stratigraphy of topsoil over subsoil, with thicknesses were between 0.10m and 0.30m and 0.11m and 0.22m respectively. The thickness of the ploughsoil in trenches 13 to 23 ranged between 0.20m and 0.43m.

8.1.2 Eleven features were recorded in nine of the 23 trenches. These comprised five ditches, four burnt features and two postholes. In addition to this, a probable occupation layer was also encountered in Trench 12.

8.1.3 Residual prehistoric flintwork was recovered from the overburden across the site, while Iron Age pottery was recovered from recorded contexts in Trench 12. A small collection of post-medieval pottery was recovered from the overburden across the site.

8.1.4 The methodology employed was successful in defining the results of the geophysical survey and also demonstrated that additional features not identified during the survey exist (Figure 12).

8.2 Deposit survival and existing impacts

8.2.1 The archaeological horizon remained intact across the evaluated parts of the site and do not appear to have been significantly affected by any previous groundworks or activity, despite ploughsoil sitting directly above the natural geology in trenches 13 to 23. The encountered features were recorded beneath 0.27m to 0.56m of overburden, except in Trench 18 where 0.67m of overburden was recorded at its eastern end.

8.2.2 Evidence for truncation is apparent in the area of and bordering on the Downs Link, formerly a railway line. The geophysical survey suggests that the installation and removal of this railway line has significantly affected survival of any archaeological remains.

8.2.2 Archaeological features were encountered at heights of between 48.09m OD and 57.15m OD, with the area of Trenches 6 and 7 lower and slightly overlooked by the rest of the sight.

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8.3 Discussion of archaeological remains by period

Prehistoric

8.3.1 The earliest evidence observed on site pertains to a small assemblage of residual flintwork recovered from the overburden. Most of this dates to before the Late Bronze Age.

Iron Age

8.3.2 Trench 12 contained features dated to the Iron Age. These comprise a ditch and an occupation layer. However, the second ditch in Trench 12 and the undated burning-related features across the site are all also thought likely to originate from this period.

8.3.3 The occupation layer is on the higher, western side of ditch [12/008] and probably originates from the downward movement of soil higher up, suggesting further activity up the hill, some of which might have been disturbed by the building of the Downs Link railway. The observed section of ditch [12/008] indicates that it was present during the formation of layer (12/005) and that a portion of the ditch's basal layer might have derived from the same material. A similar explanation could explain the similarity in fills between layer (12/005) and ditch [12/006].

8.3.4 The burnt features encountered across the site are most likely related to the practise of burn beating, an activity designed to clear large areas of scrub and fertilise soil by burning and turning over the soil by hand. Although these features have no formal dating, the paucity of other dated material from the investigated area suggests that they might relate to the Iron Age activity encountered elsewhere. Similar features have been encountered at Broadbridge Heath, *c*. 5km to the north which have been dated to between the Iron Age and post-medieval periods (Margetts in prep).

8.3.5 The undated ditches encountered elsewhere on site that share a similar alignment might also be of Iron Age origin.

Post-medieval

8.3.6 The post-medieval period is represented by a handful of pottery sherds recovered from the overburden across the site which probably derive from manuring.

8.4 Potential impact on archaeological remains

8.4.1 Detailed plans of the development are not available at the time of writing. However, zones designated for housing, sports pitches and green spaces are defined. Those areas planned for house construction will have a high impact upon any remaining archaeology, as it is assumed strip foundations shall be used.

8.4.2 Parts of the site designed for sports pitches will have a negative effect on any surviving archaeology, as both reduction and raising of areas for levelling are likely to impact upon remains.

8.4.3 The level of impact upon those areas set aside for green space is unclear as no detailed plans of any potential landscaping are available.

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8.5 Consideration of research aims

8.5.1 The works successfully evaluated the results of the geophysical survey and demonstrated that those features identified in the survey related to field drains or features associated with burn beating (Figure 12). The ditches of archaeological interest that were encountered were not observed during the geophysical survey, but some can, with hindsight, be attributed to anomalies that can be noted in the survey.

8.5.2 The survival, extent, minimum depth and significance of archaeological remains was established in those areas investigated. However, large areas exist between some of the excavated trenches which effectively render these areas unevaluated; within these areas inferences are obviously difficult to make.

8.5.3 The site also has the potential to address research questions drawn from the South-East Research Framework, relating to the use of the Weald during late prehistory in the Iron Age.

8.5.4 The evaluation has been successful in being able to inform Horsham District Council, or its archaeological advisors, on the extent, character and quality of any archaeological remains encountered on the site, however, this has not been achieved within the larger areas between trenching. Closer examination of the geophysical results may result in further features being identified.

8.6 Conclusions

8.6.1 The evaluation has demonstrated the survival of archaeological features with pottery suggesting that the activity dates from the Iron Age.

8.6.2 The remains present are assessed as being of local importance.

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HER Summary

HER enquiry no.	WSHER Ref. 2014-005					
Site code	WSW13					
Project code	7466					
Planning reference	DC/14/0590					
Site address	Land West of Southwater, West Sussex					
District/Borough						
NGR (12 figures)	515336 126731					
Geology	Weald Clay Formation					
Fieldwork type	Eval					
Date of fieldwork	14-18th March 2016					
Sponsor/client	Berkley Homes					
Project manager	Paul Mason					
Project supervisor	Tom Munnery					
Period summary					Iron Age	
				Post-Medieval		
Project summary **(100 word max)**	An archaeological evaluation was conducted at Land west of Southwater, West Sussex NGR 515336 126731, between the 14th and 18th March 2016. Twenty-three trenches measuring up to 30m in length were excavated. Small quantities of residual worked flint were recovered from the overburden across the site. Evidence of Iron Age activity, represented by ditches and an occupation layer was identified. Post-medieval activity was represented by a small collection of 19th and 20th century pottery in the overburden.					

Finds summary

Find type	Material	Period	Quantity
Worked flint	Flint	Prehistoric	5
Pottery	Ceramic	Iron Age	8

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OASIS Form

OASIS ID: archaeol6-248215

Project details	
Project name	An Archaeological Evaluation at Land West of Southwater, West Sussex
Short description of the project	An archaeological evaluation was conducted at Land west of Southwater, West Sussex NGR 515336 126731, between the 14th and 18th March 2016. Twenty-three trenches measuring up to 30m in length were excavated. Small quantities of residual worked flint were recovered from the overburden across the site. Evidence of Iron Age activity, represented by ditches and an occupation layer was identified. Post-medieval activity was represented by a small collection of 19th and 20th century pottery in the overburden.
Project dates	Start: 14-03-2016 End: 18-03-2016
Previous/future work	Not known / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	7466 - Contracting Unit No.
Any associated project reference codes	WSW13 - Sitecode
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Current Land use	Cultivated Land 1 - Minimal cultivation
Significant Finds	POTTERY Iron Age
Methods & techniques	"Targeted Trenches"
Development type	Housing estate
Prompt	Planning condition
Position in the planning process	Not known / Not recorded
Project location	
Country	England
Site location	WEST SUSSEX HORSHAM SOUTHWATER Land West of Southwater, West Sussex
Postcode	RH13 9HA
Study area	0 Square metres
Site coordinates	TQ 153360 267310 51.027813682405 -0.355136343151 51 01 40 N 000 21 18 W Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 46.07m Max: 57.4m
Project creators	
Name of	Archaeology South-East

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Organisation	
Project brief originator	Berkeley Homes (Southern) Ltd
Project design originator	west sussex county council
Project director/manager	Paul Mason
Project supervisor	Tom Munnery
Type of sponsor/funding body	Client
Name of sponsor/funding body	Berkeley Homes (Southern) Ltd
Project archives	
Physical Archive recipient	Local Museum
Physical Contents	"Ceramics","Worked stone/lithics"
Digital Archive recipient	Local Museum
Digital Media available	"Database","GIS","Images raster / digital photography","Spreadsheets","Text"
Paper Archive recipient	Local Museum
Paper Media available	"Context sheet","Drawing","Report","Unpublished Text"
Project bibliography 1	
Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	An Archaeological Evaluation at Land West of Southwater, West Sussex
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Munnery, T.
Other bibliographic details	2016217
Date	2016
Issuer or publisher	Archaeology South-East
Place of issue or publication	West Sussex HER
Entered by	Tom Munnery (t.munnery@ucl.ac.uk)
Entered on	13 April 2016

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Appendix 1: Archaeologically negative trenches, list of recorded contexts

Trench	Context	Type	Interpretation	Depth m	Height m AOD
T3	3/001	Layer	Topsoil	0.12-0.15	52.64-53.73
T3	3/002	Layer	Subsoil	0.11-0.16	52.49-53.58
T3	3/003	Layer	Natural		52.27-53.34
T4	4/001	Layer	Topsoil	0.10-0.22	52.30-52.72
T4	4/002	Layer	Subsoil	0.12-0.21	52.08-52.50
T4	4/003	Layer	Natural		51.90-52.28
T5	5/001	Layer	Topsoil	0.28-0.30	50.93-51.68
T5	5/002	Layer	Natural		50.65-51.38
T8	8/001	Layer	Topsoil	0.20-0.23	46.45
T8	8/002	Layer	Subsoil	0.15-0.18	46.22
T8	8/003	Layer	Natural		46.07
T9	9/001	Layer	Topsoil	0.17-0.20	51.73-52.74
T9	9/002	Layer	Subsoil	0.14-0.22	51.56-52.54
T9	9/003	Layer	Natural		51.42-52.34
T10	10/001	Layer	Topsoil	0.23-0.32	52.92
T10	10/002	Layer	Subsoil	0.12-0.18	52.67
T10	10/003	Layer	Natural		52.50
T11	11/001	Layer	Topsoil	0.19-0.22	52.88
T11	11/002	Layer	Subsoil	0.11-0.13	52.69
T11	11/003	Layer	Natural		52.56
T14	14/001	Layer	Ploughsoil	0.30-0.38	52.65-54.15
T14	14/002	Layer	Natural		52.32-53.77
T15	15/001	Layer	Ploughsoil	0.20-0.35	56.04-56.35
T15	15/002	Layer	Natural		55.82-56.07
T16	16/001	Layer	Ploughsoil	0.33-0.43	53.00-54.82
T16	16/002	Layer	Natural		52.69-54.48
T17	17/001	Layer	Ploughsoil	0.33-0.40	57.61-58.06
T17	17/002	Layer	Natural		57.34-57.40
T21	21/001	Layer	Ploughsoil	0.27-0.31	55.15
T21	21/002	Layer	Natural		54.89
T22	22/001	Layer	Ploughsoil	0.28-0.31	54.14-54.58
T22	22/002	Layer	Natural		53.73-54.24
T23	23/001	Layer	Ploughsoil	0.28-0.38	53.45-53.87
T23	23/002	Layer			53.10-53.49

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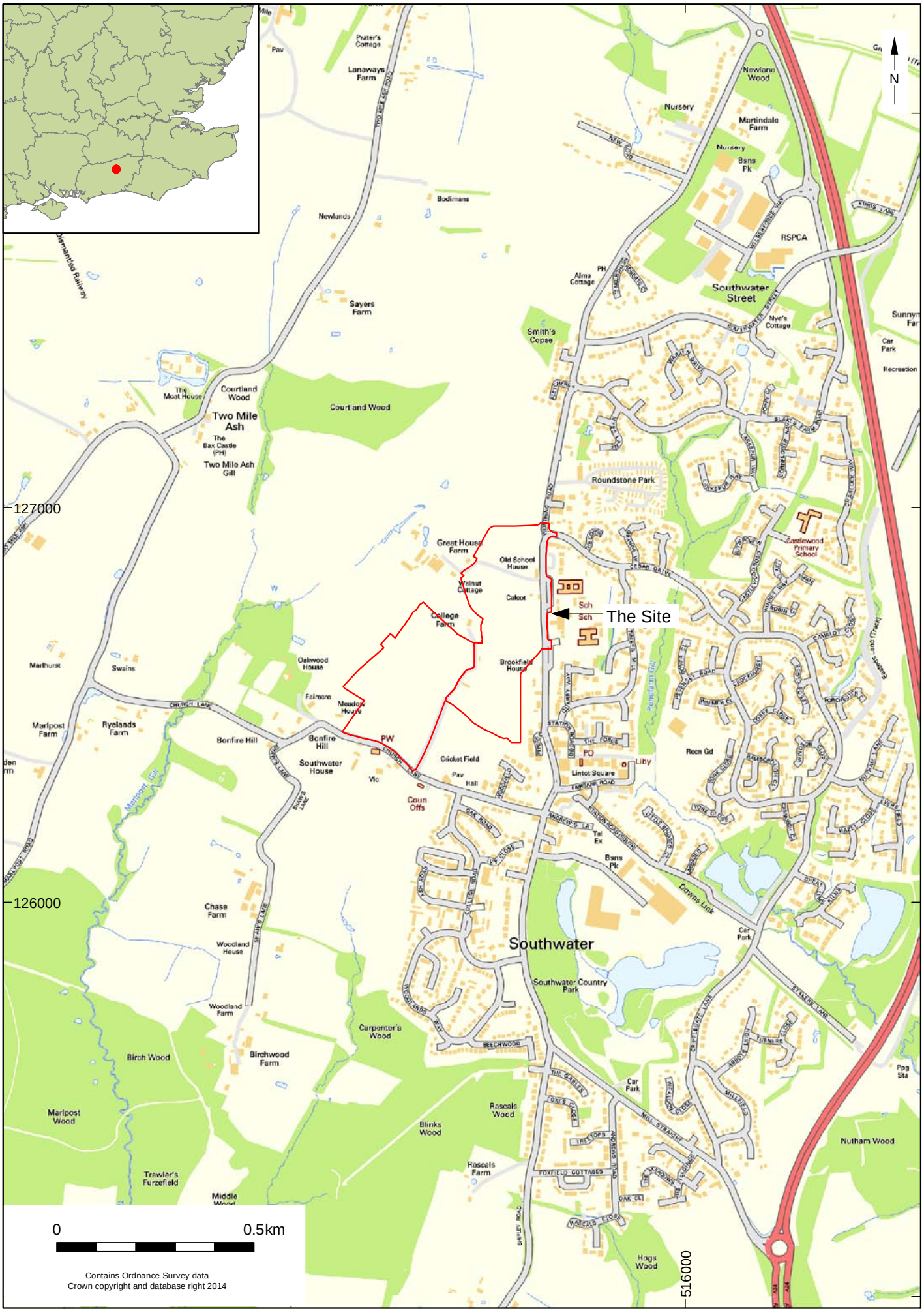

© Archaeology South-East		Land West of Southwater	Fig. 1
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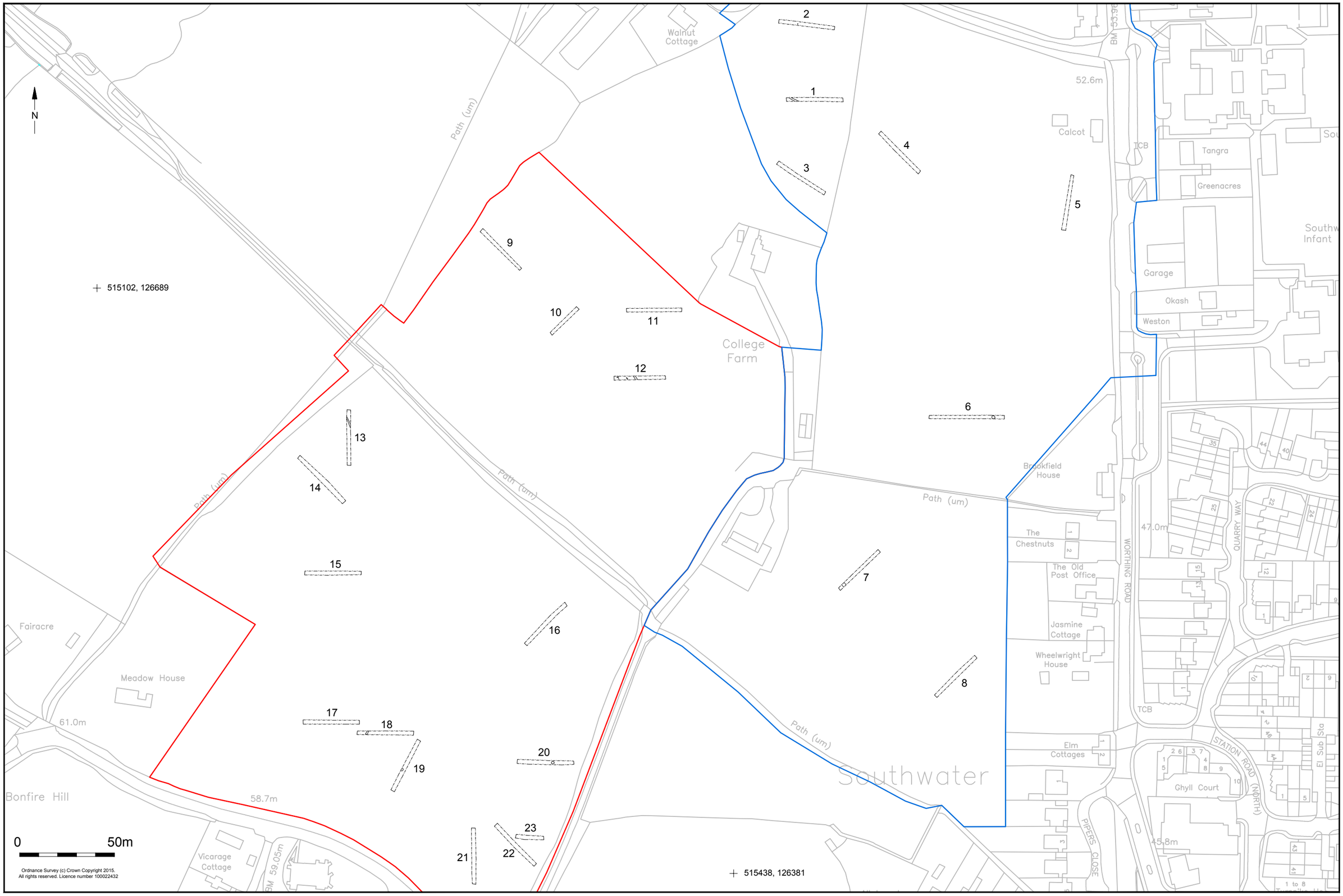
Report Ref: 2016127	Drawn by: LG		



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Report Ref: 2016127	Drawn by: LG		

515464, 126792

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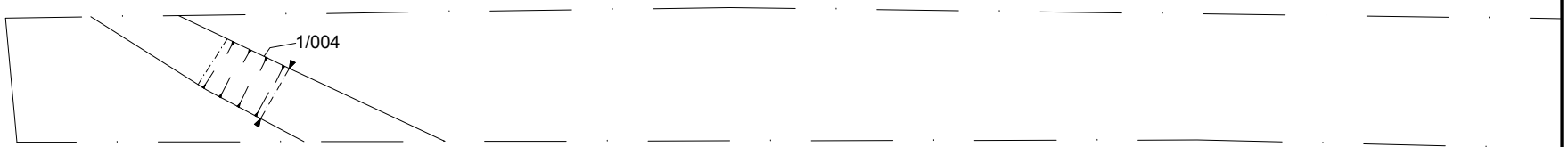
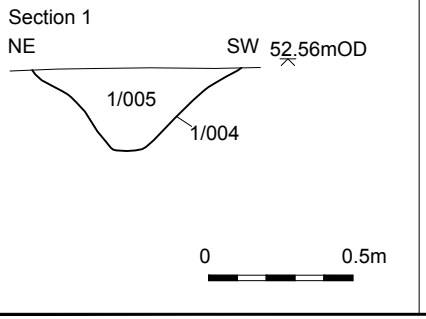


Section 1

1/004 looking south-east



515481, 126781

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Project Ref: 7466	April 2016	Trench 1 plan, section and photograph	
Report Ref: 2016127	Drawn by: LG		

515460, 126833

N

Section 2

2/004

2/004 looking east

Section 2

N S 53.16mOD

2/005 2/004

0 0.5m

515476, 126821

© Archaeology South-East		Land West of Southwater	Fig.4
Project Ref: 7466	April 2016	Trench 2 plan, section and photograph	
Report Ref: 2016127	Drawn by: LG		

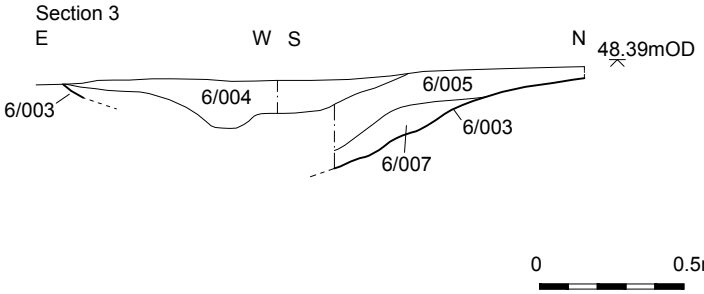
N

515560, 126625

Section 3

6/003

6/003 looking west



515579, 126615

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Project Ref: 7466	April 2016	Trench 6 plan, section and photograph	
Report Ref: 2016127	Drawn by: LG		

N

515492, 126544

Section 4

7/004

515501, 126530

7/004 looking north-west

Section 4

SW NE

7/001

7/002

48.09mOD

7/005

7/004

0 0.5m

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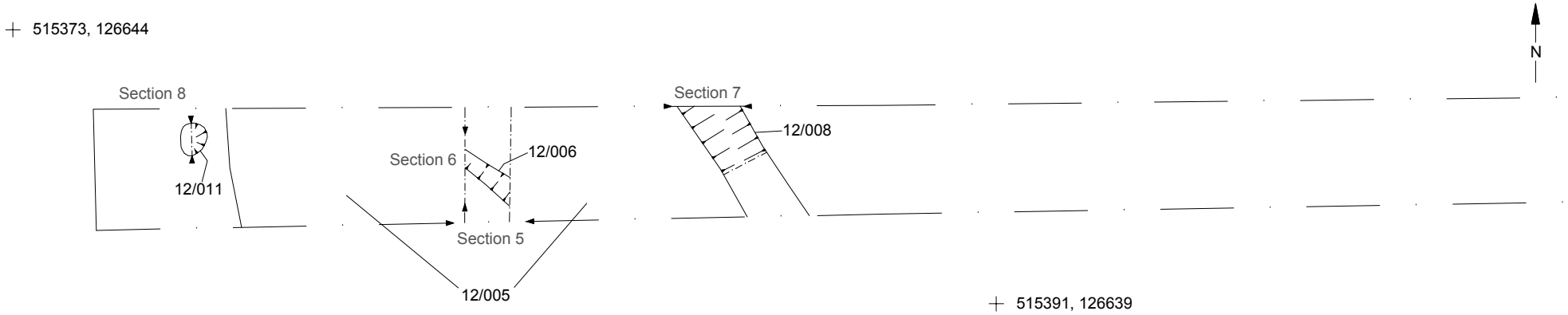
Project Ref: 7466	April 2016	Trench 7 plan, section and photograph	
Report Ref: 2016127	Drawn by: LG		

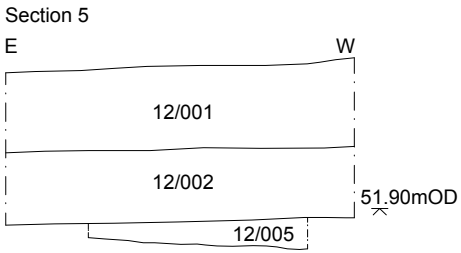


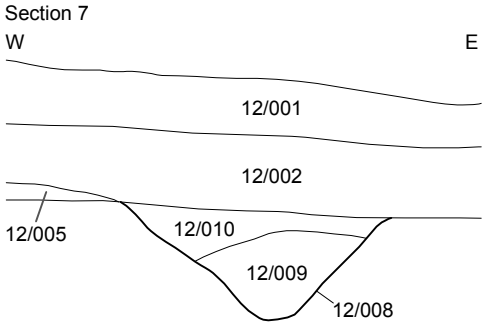
12/005 looking north

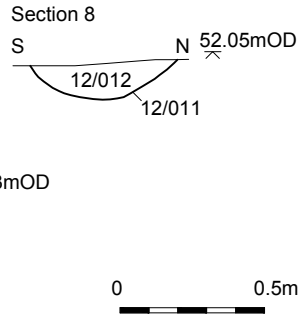
12/005 and 12/006 looking west

12/008 looking north

12/011 looking west







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Project Ref: 7466	April 2016	Trench 12 plan, sections and photographs	
Report Ref: 2016127	Drawn by: LG		

N

515227, 126624

13/003

Section 9

515239, 126609

13/003 looking north-west

Section 9

SW NE 51.91mOD

13/004

13/003

0 0.5m

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Project Ref: 7466	April 2016	Trench 13 plan, section and photograph	
Report Ref: 2016127	Drawn by: LG		

N

515238, 126458

18/003

Section 10

18/003 looking south-east

Section 10

NW SE 57.15mOD

18/004

18/003

0 0.5m

515257, 126448

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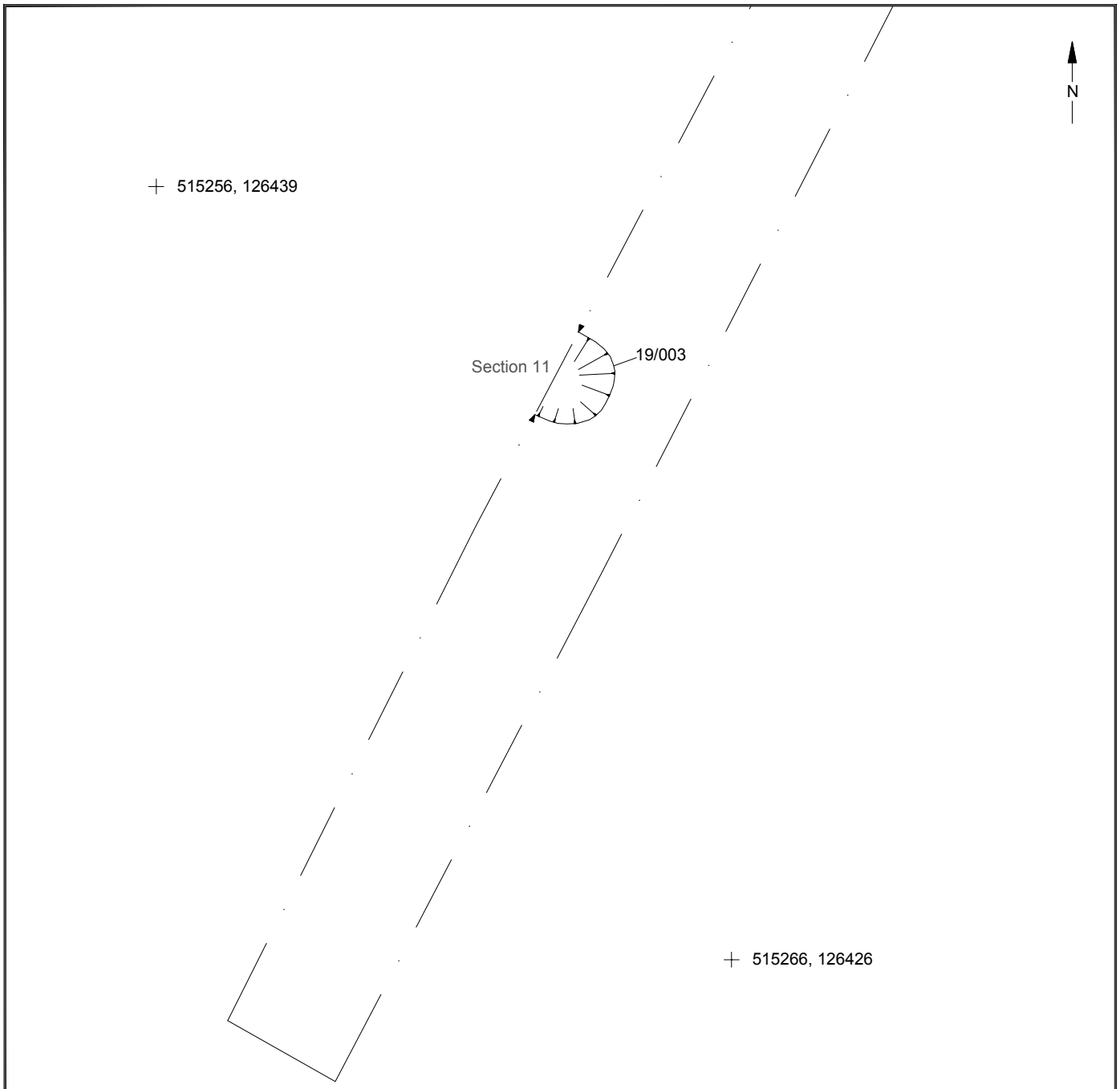
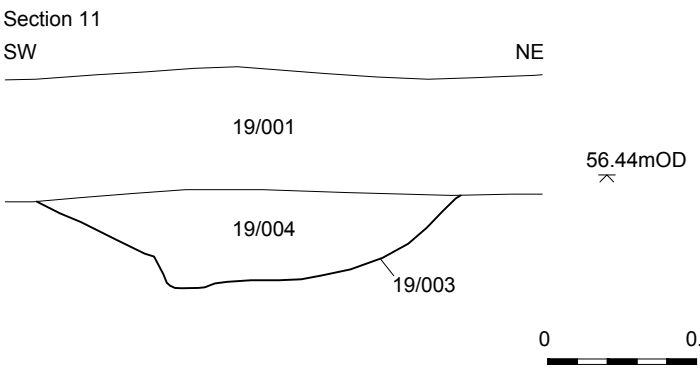
Project Ref: 7466	April 2016	Trench 18 plan, section and photograph	
Report Ref: 2016127	Drawn by: LG		



19/003 looking north-west



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Project Ref: 7466	April 2016	Trench 19 plan, section and photograph	
Report Ref: 2016127	Drawn by: LG		

N

515332, 126443

20/003

Section 12

515350, 126434

20/003 looking south

Section 12

E W 53.12mOD

20/004

20/003

0 0.5m

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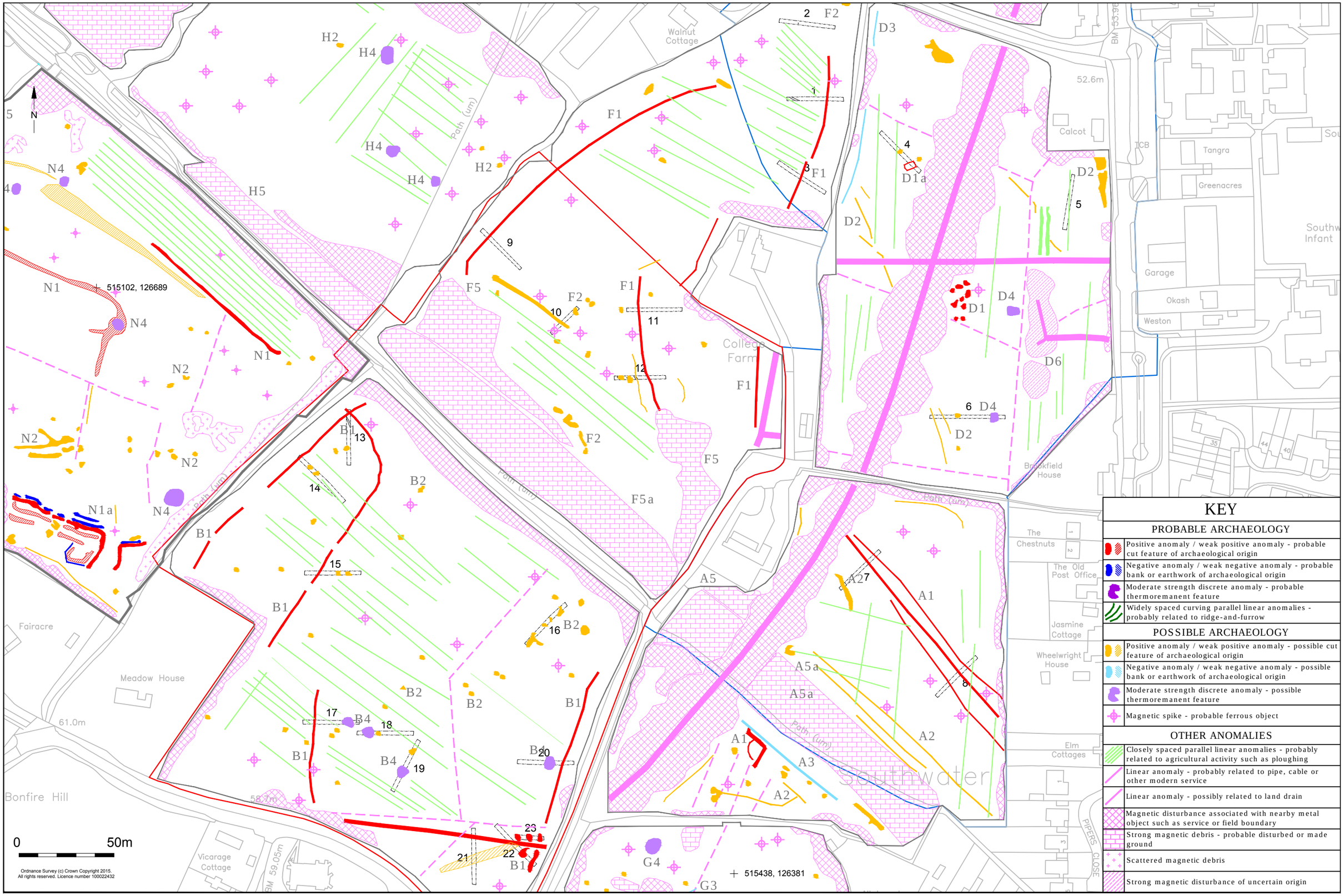
Project Ref: 7466	April 2016	Trench 20 plan, section and photograph	
Report Ref: 2016127	Drawn by: LG		



KEY

PROBABLE ARCHAEOLOGY

- Positive anomaly / weak positive anomaly - probable cut feature of archaeological origin
- Negative anomaly / weak negative anomaly - probable bank or earthwork of archaeological origin
- Moderate strength discrete anomaly - probable thermoremanent feature
- Widely spaced curving parallel linear anomalies - probably related to ridge-and-furrow

POSSIBLE ARCHAEOLOGY

- Positive anomaly / weak positive anomaly - possible cut feature of archaeological origin
- Negative anomaly / weak negative anomaly - possible bank or earthwork of archaeological origin
- Moderate strength discrete anomaly - possible thermoremanent feature
- Magnetic spike - probable ferrous object

OTHER ANOMALIES

- Closely spaced parallel linear anomalies - probably related to agricultural activity such as ploughing
- Linear anomaly - probably related to pipe, cable or other modern service
- Linear anomaly - possibly related to land drain
- Magnetic disturbance associated with nearby metal object such as service or field boundary
- Strong magnetic debris - probable disturbed or made ground
- Scattered magnetic debris
- Strong magnetic disturbance of uncertain origin

© **Archaeology South-East**		Land West of Southwater	Fig.12
Project Ref: 7466	April 2016	Trench Locations over geophysical survey interpretation	
Report Ref: 2016127	Drawn by: JC		

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