Archaeology South-East

ASE

An Archaeological Evaluation at Land at peninsula Way, Chattenden, Kent

NGR: TQ 76058 72047

Planning Ref: MC/15/3104

ASE Project No: 160090
Site Code: CLP17

ASE Report No: 2017170
OASIS id: archaeol6-282028

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With contributions by
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Abstract

Archaeology South-East (ASE) was commissioned by CgMs Consulting on behalf of Abbey Developments Limited to undertake an archaeological evaluation in advance of a proposed residential development at land off Peninsula Way, Chattenden, Kent. Forty-five trenches were excavated to reveal the underlying natural, firm yellowish grey-mottled silt clay, mixed with natural gravels at a maximum elevation of 40.65m AOD. Archaeological features were excavated in 14 of the 45 trenches.

The most significant discovery were three features of Mesolithic date (Trenches 9, 42 and 43). These are very rare for the vicinity and contain flint assemblages that relate to a blade-orientated industry. Features which appeared similar in character were identified in a further 14 trenches but were left unexcavated until appropriate mitigation strategies can be developed. These features are concentrated broadly in the vicinities of Trenches 7 and 9 in the north-west of the site and 42 and 43 in the south-east of site

Securely dated post-medieval activity was limited to three ditches; two of these features laying in close proximity may be contemporaneous.

CONTENT

TABLES

FIGURES

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Site Background

1.1.1 Archaeology South-East (ASE) was commissioned by Sally Dicks of CgMs Consulting on behalf of Abbey Developments Limited to undertake an archaeological evaluation in advance of the proposed residential development at land off Chattenden Lane, Chattenden, Kent. The site is centred on National Grid Reference TQ 76058 72047 and its location is shown in Figure 1.

1.2 Geology and Topography

1.2.1 The site lies on the north-eastern edge of Chattenden, on the lower slopes of Beacon Hill. Within the site, levels fall in a north-easterly direction from the south-western corner of the site at c. 42m Above Ordnance Datum (AOD) to the north-eastern corner of the site at c. 30m AOD.

1.2.2 To the south of the site, land rises to Beacon Hill at c. 57m AOD and then falls steeply down to the River Medway, c. 680m to the south of the site.

1.2.3 As a result of the local topography, the site drains towards the north-east.

1.2.4 The solid geology of the site is London Clay, as shown by the British Geological Survey (BGS 2017).

1.2.5 The British Geological Survey records no drift deposits on the site.

1.2.6 There is currently no geotechnical information for the site.

1.3 Planning Background

1.3.1 Planning permission (Planning Ref: MC/15/3104) has been obtained for the construction of a residential development of up to 131 dwellings, landscaping, public open space and associated works. Following consultation with the Archaeological Officer at Kent County Council (KCC) it was recommended that a programme of archaeological work should be undertaken to clarify the presence/absence of any archaeological remains.

1.3.2 The planning permission contains the following condition:

Condition 26
No development shall take place until the applicant, or their agents or successors in title, has secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological work in accordance with a written specification and timetable which has been submitted to and approved by the Local Planning Authority. The development shall be undertaken in accordance with the approved programme. Reason: Required before commencement of development to avoid any irreversible detrimental impact on potential archaeological interests and to ensure that features of archaeological interest are properly examined and recorded.

1.3.3 The Written Scheme of Investigation (CgMS 2016) provided for a programme of 4% archaeological trenching, comprising forty-four 30m x 1.8m trenches. The layout and dimensions of the trenches were informed by the layout of the proposed development.

1.3.4 The WSI was prepared in accordance with all relevant guidelines set out by CIfA, Historic England and KCC.

1.4 Scope of Report

1.4.1 The current report provides the results of the archaeological evaluation of the site, carried out between the 12th and 24th March 2017. The fieldwork work was supervised by John Hirst (Archaeologist) with assistance from Tom Simms and Sophie Austin (Assistant Archaeologists). The fieldwork was managed by Jon Sygrave and post-excavation by Jim Stevenson.

2.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 Introduction

2.1.1 The following background information has been drawn from the Written Scheme of Investigation of the site, with due acknowledgement (CgMS 2016).

2.1.2 The London Clays underlying the site appear to have been less favoured for prehistoric activity sites and settlement than the lighter gravels or chalk areas further to the west. Indeed, there are no HER records that date to the prehistoric, Iron Age or Roman periods within a 1km radius of the site.

2.2 Prehistoric

2.2.1 The London Clay geology of the study site indicates that there is no likelihood of 'in situ' Palaeolithic deposits being encountered due to post depositional erosion and land use, and little likelihood of derived residual (redeposited) Palaeolithic material.

2.3 Iron Age and Roman

2.3.1 There are no Iron Age or Roman sites recorded on the HER within the study site, although evidence for land division and agricultural activity could conceivably be present.

2.4 Anglo-Saxon and Early Medieval

2.4.1 There are two entries relating to the Anglo-Saxon or Early Medieval period within the study area. These relate to the discovery of a penny of Cnut discovered at Four Elms Hill, c. 390m south-west of the site (HER Ref. MKE2663). During this period it is likely that the site lay beyond the limits of settlement, probably within pasture or arable land, although again evidence for land division could conceivably be present.

2.5 Post-medieval and modern

2.5.1 From the Post-Medieval period onwards, the study site principally comprised agricultural land. A light railway from Chattenden Depot to Hoo was established along the northern boundary of the site prior to 1875 but appears to have gone out of use by 1889. Evidence of agricultural activity and the remains of a former light railway could be present.

2.6 Project Aims and Objectives

2.6.1 The general aims of the project, as defined by the Kent Archaeology General Standards for Fieldwork Projects were:

- To determine the existence or absence of any archaeological remains.
- To determine or confirm the approximate date or date range of the remains by means of artefactual or other evidence.
- To determine or confirm the approximate extent of the remains.
- To determine the condition and state of preservation of the remains.

- To determine the degree of complexity of the horizontal and/or vertical stratigraphy present.
- To assess the associations and implications of any remains encountered with
- reference to the historic landscape.
- To determine, as far as is possible, the implications of the remains with reference to economy, status, utility and social activity.
- To determine or confirm the likely range, quality and quantity of the artefactual evidence present.

2.6.2 The specific aims of the project were:

- To establish in more detail the date, character and extent of the archaeological remains on the site.
- To seek to clarify the nature and extent of existing disturbance and intrusions and hence assess the degree of archaeological survival of buried deposits and any surviving structures of archaeological significance.
- To clarify the recent development history of the site and its impact on the sites archaeological significance.

3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY

3.1 Fieldwork Methodology

3.1.1 The archaeological methodology was initially set out in the Written Scheme of Investigation (CgMS 2016). All work was carried out in accordance with this document and in line with the relevant professional standards and guidelines of the Charted Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA 2014a; 2014b).

3.1.2 All 44 trenches were excavated in their intended locations as shown in Figure 2.

3.1.3 One extra trench of 5m length (No. 45) was opened directly adjacent to trench 34 at its SE end to ascertain the direction of ditch [34/003].

3.1.4 Upon encountering features potentially dated to the Mesolithic period on site it was agreed between KCC and CgMS Consulting to alter the fieldwork methodology; 3 features which were established as containing worked flint were 100% excavated and sampled then any subsequent potential prehistoric features were mapped using a total station and covered with tarpaulin. The trenches containing these features were then backfilled awaiting further investigation.

3.1.5 Due to the potential Mesolithic archaeological significance of the site, it was agreed that remaining work at the site would fully record the spatiality of the lithics using a total station. Each piece was given an individual ID number, taken from a single series, and bagged separately recording this and context information. 100% of all excavated fills were sampled for palaeoenvironmental remains and smaller lithics such as debitage, and micromorphology samples retrieved from appropriate deposits to determine the nature of the fill.

3.1.6 Due to the possible truncation of a Mesolithic landsurface, a strategy to efficiently evaluate the incidence of worked lithics in the ploughsoil was devised; 20 test pits were dug to retrieve bulk samples of 10L each across trenches 33, 34, 42 and 43.

3.1.6 The locations of trenches were scanned prior to excavation using a Cable Avoidance Tool (CAT scanner) in order to check for services.

3.1.7 The location of the trenches was accurately established using a Leica Viva CS15 RTK GPS instrument.

3.2 Archive

3.2.1 The site archive is currently held at Archaeology South-East offices in Portslade, and will be offered to a suitable museum in due course. The contents of the archive are tabulated below (Table 1).

Context sheets	38
Section sheets	1
Plans sheets	0
Colour photographs	0

B&W photos	0
Digital photos	274
Context register	0
Drawing register	1
Watching brief forms	0
Trench Record forms	45

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)	130
Flots and environmental remains from bulk samples	0.5 box
Palaeoenvironmental specialists sample samples (e.g. columns, prepared slides)	1
Waterlogged wood	0
Wet sieved environmental remains from bulk samples	0

Table 2: Quantification of artefact and environmental samples

4.0 RESULTS

4.1 Geology and Overburden

4.1.1 The trenches were situated on a gentle north west facing slope, with ground level falling in a north-easterly direction from the south-western corner of the site at c. 42m Above Ordnance Datum (AOD) to the north-eastern corner of the site at c. 30m AOD.

4.1.2 All trenches revealed a similar sequence of natural firm light brown-orange/ greyish yellow silt clay with frequent natural gravel inclusions overlain by a soft/friable dark brown silt clay topsoil/ploughsoil. The only exceptions to this were in Trenches 2, 3, 4 and 7 where partial, heavily truncated colluvium was present. The colluvial deposit comprised a firm mottled mid grey/orange-brown clayey silt with occasional natural gravels.

4.1.3 A colluvial deposit measuring between 0.04m and 0.35m thick overlay the natural substrate in Trenches 1, 2 and 3. The north-west end to the mid- section of Trench 4 and the north-west end in Trench 7. Elsewhere the deposit appeared to have been subject to extensive truncation, possibly by modern ploughing. The deposit comprised a moderately soft mid grey/orange-brown silty clay with moderate gravels.

4.1.4 A topsoil/ploughsoil deposit overlay the subsoil in all trenches in which the deposit was present or directly overlay the natural substrate where it was not and comprised a friable dark brown silt clay which measured between 0.17m and 0.36m thick.

4.1.5 Narrow trencher-dug land drains and were encountered in Trenches 2, 9, 10, 13 and 14. All cut the natural substrate.

4.1.6 Of the 45 trenches excavated, three contained archaeological features of prehistoric date whilst two contained features of a post-medieval date. Ten undated ditches were also identified across the evaluation area. See Figures 3-24.

4.1.7 Trenches 6, 7, 9, 11, 13, 14, 17, 18, 23, 24, 25, 27, 34 and 43 contained pale, regularly shaped features that may potentially be prehistoric; being consistent in character to those securely identified on site. These features were unexcavated (by agreement with KCC) and are not further described but are shown on the accompanying illustrations. The features were covered over with tarpaulin and the trenches backfilled.

4.2 Trench 9

Context	Type	Interpretation	Length m	Width m	Depth m	Height m AOD
9/001	layer	Topsoil	trench	trench	0.26-0.30	35.41
9/002	layer	Natural	trench	trench	0.00-0.00	35.10
9/003	fill	Fill, single	1.26	0.5	0.35	35.51
9/004	cut	Pit	1.26	1.26	0.5	35.51

Table 3: Trench 9 list of recorded contexts

4.2.1 Trench 9 was located in the north west of the site. The trench measured 29.60m in length, 1.8m wide and was orientated on a north west to south east alignment.

4.2.2 One archaeological feature was identified within the trench, comprising a pit.

4.2.3 Pit [9/003] was located towards the centre of the trench and ovate in plan. The pit fill [9/004] comprised a soft pale yellow/grey silt clay with occasional gravel inclusions.

4.2.4 A single struck flint flake and retouched flint form was retrieved from the feature, both pieces were of Mesolithic date. No finds were retrieved from the overlying topsoil deposit.

4.2.5 One other potential feature of prehistoric date, located in the south east of the trench, was mapped by total station and covered with tarpaulin (Figure 3).

4.3 Trench 11

Context	Type	Interpretation	Length m	Width m	Depth m	Height m AOD
11/001	layer	Topsoil	trench	trench	0.26-0.28	35.06
11/002	layer	Natural	trench	trench	N/A	34.68
11/003	cut	Ditch	4	0.74	0.2	34.40
11/004	fill	Fill, single	4	0.74	0.2	34.40
11/005	cut	Gully	+1.2	0.39	0.11	34.37
11/006	fill	Fill, single	+1.2	0.39	0.11	34.37

Table 4: Trench 11 list of recorded contexts

4.3.1 Trench 11 was located in the north-west of the site. The trench measured 29.70m in length, 1.8m wide and was orientated on a north west to south east alignment.

4.3.2 Two archaeological features were identified within the trench, comprising an intercutting ditch and gully.

4.3.3 Ditch [11/003] was located towards the south east end of the trench, orientated on a north to south alignment and truncated gully [11/005]. The ditch fill [11/004] comprised a soft mid yellow/orange silt clay with moderate manganese flecking and occasional gravel inclusions. No finds were retrieved from the feature.

4.3.4 Gully [11/005] was also located towards the south east of the trench, orientated on a west to east alignment and truncated by ditch [11/003]. The gully fill [11/006] comprised a soft, light pale yellow/orange mottled silt clay with occasional manganese inclusions. No finds were retrieved from the feature.

4.3.5 No finds were retrieved from the overlying topsoil deposit.

4.4 Trench 12

Context	Type	Interpretation	Length m	Width m	Depth m	Height m AOD
12/001	layer	Topsoil	trench	trench	0.27-0.30	34.33
12/002	layer	Natural	trench	trench	N/A	33.91
12/003	cut	Gully	+1.8	0.52	0.11	-
12/004	fill	Fill, single	+1.8	0.52	0.11	-

Table 5: Trench 12 list of recorded contexts

4.4.1 Trench 12 was located in the north of the site. The trench measured 30.70m in length, 1.8m wide and was orientated on a north east to south west alignment.

4.4.2 One archaeological feature was identified within the trench, comprising a gully.

4.4.3 Gully [12/003] was located towards the north west of the trench, oriented on a north-west to south-east alignment. The gully fill [12/004] comprised a friable mid yellow/grey silt clay with occasional gravel inclusions.

4.4.4 No finds were retrieved from the feature or from the overlying topsoil deposit.

4.5 Trench 16

Context	Type	Interpretation	Length m	Width m	Depth m	Height m AOD
16/001	layer	Topsoil	trench	trench	0.26-0.28	33.05
16/002	layer	Natural	trench	trench	N/A	32.60
16/003	cut	Ditch	+1.00	0.74	0.26	32.22
16/004	fill	Fill, single	+1.00	0.74	0.26	32.22

Table 6: Trench 16 list of recorded contexts

4.5.1 Trench 16 was located in the north of the site. The trench measured 29.20m in length, 1.8m wide and was orientated on a north east to south west alignment.

4.5.2 One archaeological feature was identified within the trench, comprising a ditch.

4.5.3 Ditch [16/003] was located towards the north west of the trench, oriented on a north-west to south-east alignment. The ditch fill [16/004] comprised a soft, dark brown silt clay with occasional chalk inclusions.

4.5.4 A single mandibular cattle molar and 3 pieces of fresh coal were retrieved from the feature and are likely to be of a post medieval date.

4.5.5 No finds were retrieved from the overlying topsoil deposit.

4.6 Trench 27

Context	Type	Interpretation	Length m	Width m	Depth m	Height m AOD
27/001	layer	Topsoil	trench	trench	0.27-0.32	30.20

27/002	layer	Natural	trench	trench	N/A	30.50
27/003	cut	Ditch terminus	+3.10	0.51	0.30	30.50
27/004	fill	Fill, single	+3.10	0.51	0.30	30.50

Table 7: Trench 27 list of recorded contexts

4.6.1 Trench 27 was located in the far north-west of the site. The trench measured 29.20m in length, 1.8m wide and was orientated on a north-west to south-east alignment.

4.6.2 One archaeological feature was identified within the trench, comprising a ditch terminus.

4.6.3 Ditch terminus [27/003] was located towards the north west of the trench, oriented on a north-west to south-east alignment. The ditch fill [27/004] comprised a soft, light pale yellow silt clay with occasional gravel inclusions.

4.6.4 No finds were retrieved from the feature or from the overlying topsoil deposit.

4.6.5 Two other potential features of prehistoric date, located towards the south east of the trench, were mapped by total station and covered with tarpaulin (Figure 16).

4.7 Trench 30

Context	Type	Interpretation	Length m	Width m	Depth m	Height m AOD
30/001	layer	Topsoil	trench	trench	0.28-0.34	38.93
30/002	layer	Natural	trench	trench	N/A	37.82
30/003	cut	Ditch	+1.80	0.90	0.22	30.19
30/004	fill	Fill, single	+1.80	0.90	0.22	30.19

Table 8: Trench 30 list of recorded contexts

4.7.1 Trench 30 was located in the south-west of the site. The trench measured 30.00m in length, 1.8m wide and was orientated on a north-west to south-east alignment.

4.7.2 One archaeological feature was identified within the trench, comprising a ditch.

4.7.3 Ditch [30/003] was located towards the north west of the trench, oriented on a north-east to south-west alignment. The ditch fill [30/004] comprised a firm, mid brown silt clay with occasional gravel inclusions and manganese flecks.

4.7.4 No finds were retrieved from the feature or from the overlying topsoil deposit.

4.8 Trench 31

Context	Type	Interpretation	Length m	Width m	Depth m	Height m AOD
31/001	layer	Topsoil	trench	trench	0.31-0.34	37.82

31/002	layer	Natural	trench	trench	N/A	37.30
31/003	cut	Ditch	+2.00	1.05	0.26	37.10
31/004	fill	Fill, single	+2.00	1.05	0.26	37.10

Table 9: Trench 31 list of recorded contexts

4.8.1 Trench 31 was located towards the south of the site. The trench measured 29.90m in length, 1.8m wide and was orientated on a north-east to south-west alignment.

4.8.2 One archaeological feature was identified within the trench, comprising a ditch.

4.8.3 Ditch [31/003] was located towards the north east of the trench, oriented on a north to south alignment and was also found in Trench 40. The ditch fill [31/004] comprised a soft, mid brown silt clay with occasional gravel inclusions. A single fragment of pig tibia was retrieved from the feature.

4.8.4 No finds were retrieved from the overlying topsoil deposit.

4.9 Trench 34

Context	Type	Interpretation	Length m	Width m	Depth m	Height m AOD
34/001	layer	Topsoil	trench	trench	0.28-0.33	34.05
34/002	layer	Natural	trench	trench	N/A	33.75
34/003	cut	Ditch terminus	+1.00	1.12	0.43	34.43
34/004	fill	Fill, single	+1.00	1.12	0.43	34.43

Table 10: Trench 34 list of recorded contexts

4.9.1 Trench 34 was located towards the north-east of the site. The trench measured 29.70m in length, 1.8m wide and was orientated on a north-west to south-east alignment.

4.9.2 One archaeological feature was identified and excavated within the trench, comprising a ditch/possible elongated pit terminus. One other potential prehistoric pit like feature was also identified at the south-east end of the trench and mapped using a total station. Three pieces of worked flint likely to be of Mesolithic date were retrieved from the surface of this feature.

4.9.3 Ditch or elongated pit terminus [34/003] was located towards the centre of the trench, oriented on a west to east alignment and was also found to terminate in Trench 45. The ditch fill [34/004] comprised a soft, light pale yellow silt/slightly sandy clay with occasional manganese inclusions throughout. Four flakes, one blade like piece and one chip of worked flint were retrieved from the feature and are likely to be of a Mesolithic to Neolithic date.

4.9.4 A single retouched flint flake and irregular piece of flint waste was retrieved from the overlying topsoil deposit.

4.10 Trench 39

Context	Type	Interpretation	Length m	Width m	Depth m	Height m AOD
39/001	layer	Topsoil	trench	trench	0.32-0.40	39.99
39/002	layer	Natural	trench	trench	N/A	39.52
39/003	cut	Ditch	+1.80	1.72	0.20	39.42
39/004	fill	Fill, single	+1.80	1.72	0.20	39.42
39/005	cut	Ditch	+2.00	1.60	0.23	39.43
39/006	fill	Fill, single	+2.00	1.60	0.23	39.43

Table 11: Trench 39 list of recorded contexts

4.10.1 Trench 39 was located in the south-west of the site. The trench measured 29.83m in length, 1.8m wide and was orientated on a north east to south west alignment.

4.10.2 Two archaeological features were identified within the trench, comprising two ditches.

4.10.3 Ditch [39/003] was located towards the centre of the trench, orientated on a north-west to south-east alignment. The ditch fill [39/004] comprised a soft, dark brown silt clay with occasional chalk flecks and gravel inclusions. A large assemblage of peg tile and a single fragment of medieval brick was retrieved from the feature, whilst the peg tile was likely to be of a post medieval date the presence of the brick fragment would suggest it to date to an earlier point, c.16th-17th century.

4.10.4 Ditch [39/005] was located towards the south west of the trench, orientated on a north to south alignment. The ditch fill [39/006] comprised a soft, mid brown silt clay with occasional chalk flecks and gravel inclusions. Again a large assemblage of peg tile was retrieved from the feature as well as a single pottery fragment of a medieval bodysherd, suspected to date from the c.12th to 13th century.

4.10.5 The consistency of fabrics and forms across these two features would strongly suggest they were contemporaneous deposits.

4.10.6 No finds were retrieved from the overlying topsoil deposit.

4.11 Trench 40

Context	Type	Interpretation	Length m	Width m	Depth m	Height m AOD
40/001	layer	Topsoil	trench	trench	0.28-0.30	38.06
40/002	layer	Natural	trench	trench	N/A	39.71
40/003	cut	Ditch	+5.00	0.95	0.26	38.11
40/004	fill	Fill, basal	+1.00	0.39	0.05	38.11
40/005	fill	Fill, upper	+5.00	0.95	0.21	38.11

Table 12: Trench 40 list of recorded contexts

4.11.1 Trench 40 was located in the south of the site. The trench measured 30.00m

in length, 1.8m wide and was orientated on a north-west to south-east alignment.

4.11.2 One archaeological feature was identified within the trench, comprising a single ditch.

4.11.3 Ditch [40/003] was located towards the north-west end of the trench, orientated on a north to south alignment and was also found in Trench 34. The basal ditch fill [40/004] comprised a soft, mid brown silt clay with occasional gravel inclusions.

4.11.4 Upper fill [40/005] comprised a firm, mid orangey brown silt clay with frequent gravel inclusions, which overlay basal fill [40/004] with a diffuse interface.

4.11.5 No finds were retrieved from the feature or the overlaying topsoil deposit.

4.12 Trench 42

Context	Type	Interpretation	Length m	Width m	Depth m	Height m AOD
42/001	layer	Topsoil	trench	trench	0.27-0.32	36.18
42/002	layer	Natural	trench	trench	N/A	35.93
42/003	cut	Pit	+2.20	1.45	0.63	36.60
42/004	fill	Fill, single	+2.20	1.45	0.63	36.60

Table 13: Trench 42 list of recorded contexts

4.12.1 Trench 42 was located towards the south-east of the site. The trench measured 30.00m in length, 1.8m wide and was orientated on a north-west to south-east alignment.

4.12.2 One archaeological feature was identified within the trench, comprising a single pit/possible tree throw.

4.12.3 Pit [42/003] was located towards the centre of the trench and was irregular in plan. The pit fill [42/004] comprised a friable, pale yellowish grey silt clay.

4.12.4 A large assemblage of worked flint was retrieved from the feature, the bulk of the assemblage is technologically coherent. It consists almost entirely of pieces of flint debitage, only three cores were present. The pieces of flint débitage comprise 90 flakes, 96 blades, bladelets and blade-like flakes, a micro-burin, ten chips and three pieces of irregular waste. Technological traits indicate a blade-orientated industry, likely to be of Mesolithic date.

4.12.5 A multi-platform blade core and a multi-platform flake core as well as three flint flakes and a single flint chip were retrieved from the overlaying topsoil deposit.

4.13 Trench 43

Context	Type	Interpretation	Length m	Width m	Depth m	Height m AOD

43/001	layer	Topsoil	trench	trench	0.26-0.33	36.18
43/002	layer	Natural	trench	trench	N/A	35.77
43/003	cut	Pit	+1.12	+0.91	0.36	34.58
43/004	fill	Fill, single	+1.12	+0.91	0.36	34.58
43/005	cut	Ditch	+1.80	0.66	0.22	35.34
43/006	Fill	Fill, single	+1.80	0.66	0.22	35.34

Table 14: Trench 43 list of recorded contexts

4.13.1 Trench 43 was located towards the south-east of the site. The trench measured 29.60m in length, 1.8m wide and was orientated on a north-east to south-west alignment.

4.13.2 Two archaeological features were identified and excavated within the trench, comprising a single pit and ditch with four other potential prehistoric features being mapped with a total station and covered with tarpaulin.

4.13.3 Pit [43/003] was located at the extreme south-west of the trench with potentially only a quarter of the entire feature being exposed. The pit fill [43/004] comprised a firm, pale yellow silt clay with orange brown mottling. Two flint blades and three flakes were retrieved from the feature, likely to be of Mesolithic date.

4.13.4 Ditch [43/005] was located towards the north-east of the trench and orientated on a north to south alignment. The ditch fill [43/006] comprised a friable mid brownish grey silt clay with occasional gravel inclusions. No finds were retrieved from the feature

4.13.5 Three flint flakes were retrieved from the overlaying topsoil deposit.

4.14 Trench 45

Context	Type	Interpretation	Length m	Width m	Depth m	Height m AOD
45/001	layer	Topsoil	trench	trench	0.26-0.32	34.00
45/002	layer	Natural	trench	trench	N/A	34.22
45/003	cut	Ditch terminus	+1.00	1.03	0.18	34.26
45/004	fill	Fill, single	+1.00	1.03	0.18	34.26
45/005	cut	Ditch	+2.00	0.73	0.17	34.22
45/006	Fill	Fill, single	+2.00	0.73	0.17	34.22

Table 15: Trench 45 list of recorded contexts

4.14.1 Trench 45 was located towards the south-east of the site. The trench measured 6.30m in length, 1.8m wide and was orientated on a north-west to south-east alignment.

4.14.2 Two archaeological features were identified within the trench, comprising a ditch/elongated pit terminus and single a ditch.

4.14.3 Ditch terminus [45/003] was located towards the south-east of the trench orientated on a west to east alignment, the feature was also observed in trench 34. The ditch terminus fill [45/004] comprised a soft, pale yellowish brown silt

clay with occasional gravel inclusions. No finds were retrieved from the feature.

4.14.4 Ditch [45/005] was located towards the north-west of the trench and orientated on a north to south alignment. The ditch fill [45/006] comprised a soft, mid brown silt clay with occasional gravel inclusions. No finds were retrieved from the feature or the overlaying topsoil deposit.

4.15 Archaeologically negative trenches: Trenches 1-5, 8, 10, 15, 19-22, 26, 28, 32, 33, 35-38, 41 and 44

4.15.1 All of the above trenches were devoid of archaeology. A list of all recorded contexts in each trench is provided in Appendix 1. The archaeologically negative trenches were located roughly towards the south-west of the site. No pre-modern archaeological deposits were revealed in any of the above trenches and the sequence of overburden deposits was consistent with that identified across the site area.

4.15.2 One piece of irregular worked flint waste was retrieved from the topsoil of Trench 33.

5.0 THE FINDS

5.1 Summary

5.1.1 A moderate-sized assemblage of finds was recovered during the evaluation on land at Peninsula Way, Chattenden. 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 16). All finds have been packed and stored following CIfA guidelines (2014).

Context	Lithics (plotted finds)	Weight (g)	Lithics	Weight (g)	Pottery	Weight (g)	CBM	Weight (g)	Coal	Weight (g)	Bone	Weight (g)	Fire Cracked Flint	Weight (g)
U/00S			2	48										
16/004			1	5					3	7	1	6		
25/004	1	16												
26/001			1	6										
29/001			1	18										
31/004											1	28		
34/006	1	51												
39/004							151	6234						
39/006					1	19	27	1088						
42/001	1	<2	1	83										
42/004	95	479	77	341									2	3
43/004	3	5	1	9										
Total	101	551	84	510	1	19	178	6750	3	7	2	34	2	3

Table 16: Finds quantification

5.2 **The Flintwork** Karine Le Hégarat

5.2.1 Introduction

The evaluation produced a moderate quantity of struck flint totalling 213 pieces weighing 1251g (Table 17). The majority of the material (181 pieces) came from pit [42/003], fill [42/004]. A small amount of burnt unworked flint (143g) was also recovered. The material came from a series of top soil deposits, from six features and from unstratified deposits. It was retrieved through hand collection and from environmental residues. The flintwork from the features forms a technologically coherent assemblage of likely Mesolithic date, and the presence of diagnostic pieces including a micro-burin, a bipolar blade core, a truncated piece and two retouched pieces almost certainly representing unfinished microliths supports this attribution.

Location	Flakes*	Bladelet, blades and blade-like flakes**	Micro-burin	Chip	Irregular waste	Core	Retouched forms	Total
TP1 - 42/001	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0
TP2 - 42/001	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0
TP3 - 42/001	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1
TP4 - 42/001	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
TP5 - 42/001	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
TP6 - 43/001	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
TP7 - 43/001	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0
TP8 - 43/001	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0
TP9 - 43/001	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0
TP10 - 43/001	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
TP11 - 33/001	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0
TP12 - 33/001	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
TP13 - 33/001	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1
TP14 - 33/001	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0
TP15 - 33/001	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0
TP16 - 33/001	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0
TP17 - 34/001	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
TP18 - 34/001	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0
TP19 - 34/001	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0
TP20 - 34/001	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0
Pit [9/003], fill [9/004]	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	2
Pit [42/003], fill [42/004]	73	90	1	8	2	1	6	181
Pit [43/003], fill [43/004]	3	2	-	-	-	-	-	5
Possible pit [?], fill [25/004]	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Possible pit [?], fill [34/006]	2	1	-	-	-	-	-	3
Ditch [34/003], fill [34/004]	4	1	-	1	-	-	-	6
Top soil [26/001]	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1
Top soil [29/001]	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
Top soil [42/001]	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	2
U/S	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	2
Total	90	96	1	10	3	3	10	213

Table 17: The flintwork (*: includes two core/face edge rejuvenation flakes; **: includes a core/face edge rejuvenation blade)

5.2.2 Methodology

The lithics were individually examined and classified using standard set of codes and morphological descriptions (Butler 2005 and Inizan *et al*. 1999). Basic technological details as well as further information regarding the condition of the artefacts were recorded. Dating was attempted when possible. All data have been entered onto a Microsoft Excel spreadsheet, and it is summarised by context types (or test pits) and artefact types in Table 17

5.2.3 Provenance

The bulk of the pieces of struck flint (195 pieces) came from four features excavated in three trenches, all grouped in the east of the site (Trenches 34, 42 and 43) (Table 17). The number of flint recovered from these four features varied from three pieces (possible pit [34/006]) to 181 pieces (pit [42/004]). It should be noted that the total of 181 pieces for pit [42/004] is only an estimated figure, and the final figure is likely to be higher. The pit was only partially excavated, and 40L of the 940L bulk soil samples extracted from the partially excavated fill were processed. In addition, a pit in Trench 9 and a possible pit in Trench 25 produced two pieces and one piece of flint each respectively. The flintwork from the features is generally in a very fresh condition. This implies that it has undergone negligible post depositional movement, and that it is contemporary with the infilling of the features.

A series of 20 test pits were excavated in four trenches (Trenches 33, 34, 42 and 43) in order to comprehend the site formation in the area where the concentration of fresh flints was found. A ten litre bulk soil sample was taken and processed from each test pit. These twenty samples produced only nine pieces of struck flint. Although they came from eight test pits, sprayed over the four trenches (Table 17), a small concentration was noted in the south west of Trench 43 and north east of Trench 42. Compared to the fresh condition of the flints recovered from the features, the condition of the flint from the test pits varied. While some pieces are unabraded, others display moderate or heavy edge damage. This suggests some post depositional edge movement. Furthermore the majority of the pieces are chronologically mixed, with several pieces that are likely to be later prehistoric.

5.2.4 Raw material and condition

The majority of the pieces were manufactured from a light to dark grey (sometimes almost black) or light to mid brown flint. Where present the cortex was mainly thin (up to 3mm but principally less than 1mm) and slightly stained off-white to light grey/brown. Inclusions were occasionally noted. This raw material could have acquired from superficial deposits. Several pieces exhibited a slightly pitted thin mid grey outer surface; this raw material is likely to derived from a local flint-gravel source (river/stream beds or terrace gravel to the east).

Regarding the condition of the flint, two groups are evident. Overall the struck flints from the features displayed unabraded edges, and their fresh condition suggests that they are contemporary with the features. The condition of the flints from the test pits and from unstratified deposits is more variable. Some pieces are also fresh, but some artefacts displayed signs of weathering. This is unsurprising given the presence of Victorian/modern finds from these top soil

deposits, and this implies that this material has undergone a certain degree of post depositional movement.

Although the bulk of the flints was remarkably fresh, 136 pieces were recorded as broken. Eight pieces were slightly recorticated, mainly displaying incipient traces of light blue surface coloration; and at least 42 pieces were stained in a honey colour.

The assemblage from pit [42/003] contained a mix of raw material (some gravel-derived flint and some possibly from surface deposits; some stained and some with their original colour), but the sharpness of the edges indicates that the material is contemporary with the pit. Due to time restriction, only a small attempt at finding refits was carried out. A near-refit was observed, and it is clear that pieces from the same nodules were present. A proper refit exercise with the entire assemblage (once the feature is fully excavated and once the samples are all processed) will clarify this.

5.2.5 Composition of the assemblage and dating

The bulk of the assemblage is coherent. It consists almost entirely of pieces of flint débitage (Table 17). Only three cores were present, and the evaluation produced just ten modified pieces. The pieces of flint débitage comprise 90 flakes, 96 blades, bladelets and blade-like flakes, a micro-burin, ten chips and three pieces of irregular waste. Technological traits indicates a blade-orientated industry. In fact the evaluation produced 96 blades, bladelets and blade-like flakes, which represents 50.52% of the débitage element (excluding the chips). Although blades elements can be found in both Mesolithic and Early Neolithic assemblages, here the figure for the combined blades matches with certainty the figure proposed by Ford (1987, 79, table 2) for a Mesolithic assemblage. Furthermore the presence of diagnostic pieces supports this attribution. The bulk of the pieces were carefully worked; they were principally products of a systematic reduction strategy. Careful platform preparations were regularly noticed. The use of soft hammer percussion and the presence of thin narrow blade scars from previous removal were also noted.

Although cores were uncommon (only three were recorded), two core face/edge preparation flakes and a core face/edge preparation blade were recovered. The later (all from pit [42/004]) confirm that the technology was aimed at a well-controlled production of blades. Two of the cores (from topsoil context [42/001]) may be later prehistoric, but the core from pit [42/004] is clearly Mesolithic. It consists of a bipolar blade core. The selected raw material for this core was gravel-derived flint. It is exhausted, weighing only 32g, and one side still displays some cortex, a feature commonly recorded amongst the Mesolithic assemblage from Falmer, in East Sussex (Garland and Anderson-Whymark 2016). Chips were surprisingly uncommon, but this may change if the remaining bulk samples are processed.

A total of ten modified pieces were recovered. A retouched bladelet from pit [42/003] and a backed blade from pit [9/003] are likely to represent two unfinished microliths. The honey-stained bladelet displays an oblique truncation at the distal end, and the broken blade displays abrupt retouch along the left edge. A truncated bladelet from pit [42/003] can also be attributed to the Mesolithic.

Two end scrapers were found. The first one from pit [42/003] is damaged. It is made on a flake and displays direct abrupt retouch on distal end that forms a nose-like edge. The second one from top soil context [29/001] is finely made. It exhibits semi-abrupt retouch on the distal end that forms a convex edge. It is almost entirely recorticated light blue. Scrapers are difficult to date, but they can be broadly be placed within the Mesolithic-Early Bronze Age periods. The remaining modified pieces consist of a backed knife (found unstratified), a retouched flake from Test pit 17 and a retouched blade and a notched piece from pit [42/003].

A very small quantity of unworked burnt flints were recovered (143g); the fragments derived from pit [42/003], ditch fills [31/004] and [34/004] and from top soil context [42/001]. Although burnt unworked flint are frequently associated with prehistoric activities, this small assemblage may relate to more recent burning activities.

5.2.6 Discussion and recommendations

The evaluation has revealed a moderate assemblage of struck flint. It produced very few diagnostic pieces, but it clearly relates to a blade-orientated industry. The proportion of combined blades and the presence of a bipolar blade core, a truncated bladelet, a micro-burin and two likely unfinished microliths place the assemblage in the Mesolithic period. The importance of the site relates to the sharpness of the material recovered from the features, especially the assemblage from pit [42/003]. The fresh condition of the material suggests that the flints are contemporary with the features. It should be noted that most of the diagnostic pieces come from pit [42/003] (the bipolar blade core, the truncated bladelet, the micro-burin and one of the likely unfinished microlith).

Mesolithic sites are known in this area of north-east Kent. For example a small tranchet axe manufacturing site discovered at Cliffe (Ashbee 1988; Ashton & Kinnes 1998). Closer to the site, a small amount of Mesolithic flints were recovered during work on the A289 and in association with the Hoo Road Wainscott development site (Clark *et al*, 2009). But the site on Land at Peninsula Bay is important because it can add to our knowledge regarding the types of sites exploited by the Mesolithic people in this part of Kent. It is easy to categorised clayey sites as unfavoured locations. But several sites on the Weald Clay in Sussex, including the Late Mesolithic pits site in Charlwood (Ellaby 2004) have demonstrated that clayey locations were also occupied (though this might have been on a seasonal basis).

It is difficult at this stage to interpret with certainty the assemblage because it is incomplete. It appears that the site was used for flint knapping activities. Given the freshness of the material, this activity is likely to have been relatively *in-situ*. The micro-burin provides evidence for tool production or tool repair / replacement. The two likely unfinished microliths confirm this. Finally the presence of artefacts with evidence of usewear (including a blade with possible gloss from [42/004]), supports the idea that the site was more than a knapping site. With more work at this important site, it should also be possible to refine the dating of the assemblage.

The material should be retained to allow integration with the material found during the next phase of excavation. The remaining samples from the evaluation should be fully processed to maximise the recovery of flints, especially microliths and micro-débitage pieces. During the next phase of work, a 100% sampling approach similar to the one used during the evaluation should be adopted for the flint-rich features. The low quantity of flints (mixed with recent finds) recovered from the test pits indicate loss of the original surface, and no specific sampling methodology is recommended for the top soil deposits.

5.3 The Pottery by Luke Barber

5.3.1 A single medieval bodysherd was recovered during the evaluation (context [39/006]). This consists of a somewhat abraded 18g neck fragment from a fine sand tempered oxidised London Ware jug decorated with a white slip under a green glaze. A date in the later 12th to 13th century is suspected.

5.4 The Ceramic Building Material by Isa Benedetti-Whitton

5.4.1 A total of 178 pieces of ceramic building material weighing 7322g were collected from two contexts: [39/004] and [39/006]. The consistency of fabrics and forms across these two contexts would strongly suggest they were contemporaneous deposits.

5.4.2 The assemblage was mostly comprised of peg tile fragments in four fabric types (see Table 18). It was not possible to date the material specifically, but there was a single fragment of medieval brick (B1) amongst the material from [39/004], and one of the pieces of T4 tile from the same context has traces of green glaze on it. Glazed roof tiles generally date before 1480, as do bricks of paler and calcareous clays such as B1.

5.4.3 Tiles in fabrics very similar to T2 (Canterbury Archaeological Trust – CAT - fabric 32) have been found in Canterbury and Wye, and even further to the south and west of Kent, respectively in Appledore and Sandwich. The tile from Chattenden differs in regard to the tile found elsewhere by having a very distinctive red-brown coloured moulding sand, which appears coarse and well-sorted. The tile in similar fabrics elsewhere across Kent are generally noted as having very fine or barely noticeable moulding sand, which could indicate similar clays but a different tile works. As a fabric, T2 / CAT32 has a long period of use from c.1420s-1800s, which does not help dating.

5.4.4 The rest of the roof tile may date to any time between 1400-1800, and is most likely to be of a post-medieval date. The presence of medieval material, whilst meagre, would suggest it to date to an earlier point, c.16th-17th century. The same red-brown moulding sand was found on tile of all fabrics except T4. Peg-holes, where present, were generally round or very irregular diamond shapes.

Fabric	Description
T1	Micaceous orange fabric with sparse unsorted quartz and occasional pale silty marbling. Often with distinctive very coarse sorted red-brown moulding sand.

T2	Fine calcareous fabric, similar or equivalent to Canterbury Archaeological Trust fabric 32 / Museum of London fabric 3201, although many examples too had very coarse sorted red-brown moulding sand.
T3	Pale yellow-cream fabric, often with pink clay deposits or marbling, sparse-common.
T4	Brown-orange fabric with common medium and coarse quartz. Medieval fabric?
B1	Underfired creamy white fabric; medieval.

Table 18: CBM fabric description

5.5 The Geological Material by Luke Barber

5.5.1 Context [16/004] produced three quite fresh pieces (6g) of coal, likely to be from the post-medieval period.

5.6 The Animal Bone by Hayley Forsyth-Magee

5.6.1 A small assemblage of animal bone containing just 2 fragments weighing 34g was recovered from the excavation. The faunal remains were hand-collected from two contexts; [16/004] and [31/004] and are in a moderate state of preservation with minimal signs of surface erosion present. There are no complete bones within the assemblage.

5.6.2 Context [16/004] produced a single mandibular adult cattle molar, the tooth is not in-wear suggesting that it is an un-erupted specimen from a young animal. Context [31/004] contained a shaft fragment of pig tibia with signs of canid gnawing suggesting that the bone was accessible for a time after disposal. No evidence of burning, non-metric traits or pathology was recorded.

6.0 **The Environmental Samples** by Stacey Adams

6.1 Introduction

6.1.1 Twenty-six bulk samples were taken during excavations at Chattenden, Kent from test pits and Mesolithic pit and ditch features predominantly for the recovery of lithics, also for environmental remains including plant macrofossils, wood charcoal, fauna and Mollusca. The following report details the preservation of the plant material and discusses its potential to inform on the diet, economy, and local environment as well as dating potential.

6.2 Methods

6.2.1 The flotation samples, ranging from 10 to 920L in volume, were processed by flotation tank with a 250µm mesh for retention of the flot and a 500µm mesh for the heavy residue, before being air dried. Where necessary, a 40L subsample was processed. The heavy residues were passed through graded sieves of 8, 4 and 2mm and each fraction sorted for environmental and artefactual remains (Table 19). 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 from the features were scanned under a stereozoom microscope at 7-45x magnifications and their contents recorded (Table 20). Where necessary, a 100ml subsample of the flots were scanned. The flots from test pits were not submitted for evaluation due to high levels of contamination retracting from the security of the deposits. Provisional identification of the charred remains was based on observations of gross morphology and surface cell structure and quantification was based on approximate number of individuals. Nomenclature follows Stace (1997) for wild species.

6.3 Results

6.3.1 *Samples <1> [42/004], <2> [43/004], <24 [34/004], <25> [9/004] and <26> [31/004].*

The environmental samples contained significant amounts of intrusive material from the medieval and post-medieval periods including pottery, industrial waste, ceramic building material, clay pipes and glass. Other finds included flint, fire-cracked flint, stone and coal. Much of this material was not submitted to specialists for evaluation as it was largely seen as intrusive. Charcoal fragments from pit fills [42/004] and [9/004] and ditch fill [34/004] were the only environmental remains recovered from the features. The fragments were too few in quantity (<3g from the >4mm fraction of the heavy residue) to be submitted for evaluation.

The flots contained between 95 and 100% uncharred material of modern roots, twigs and cereal rachis as well as uncharred recent seeds of goosefoots (Chenopodiaceae), blackberry (*Rubus* sp.) and knotgrass (*Polygonum aviculare*). A small number of lithics were present within the flots of pit fill [42/004] and ditch fill [34/004] and ditch fill [24/004] also contained industrial debris. Land mollusc shells were occasional within pit [9/004] and modern fungi spores of *Cenococcum* sp. were present in ditch [31/004].

Seeds of bedstraw (*Galium* sp.) from pit fill [43/004] and ditch fill [34/004] were the only charred plant remains, other than charcoal, identified within the flots and residues from Chattenden.

6.4 Discussion

6.4.1 The plant remains recovered from the evaluation at Chattenden do not have the potential to inform on the diet, economy or local environment of the site. The bedstraw seeds have the potential to be submitted for c14 dating although it is likely that they are intrusive considering the high levels of contamination within the features. The charcoal fragments, although rare, also have dating potential if they are able to be identified and derive from datable taxa. Again, it is possible that the charcoal is intrusive and is not contemporary with the Mesolithic activity at the site.

Sample Number	Context	Context / Deposit Type	Sample Volume (L)	Sub-Sample Volume (L)	Charcoal >4mm	Weight (g)	Other (eg. pot, cbm, etc.) (quantity/ weight)
1	42/004	Pit	920	40	*	<1	Coal (*/<1g) Ind.Waste? (**/640g) Flint (*/20g)
2	43/004	Pit	180	40			Pot (*/<1g) Ind.Waste? (*/1g) Flint (*/1g)
3	42/001	TP1	10	10			FCF (*/66g) Pot (*/7g) Glass (*/<1g) Coal (**/6g) Ind.Waste (***/20g)
4	42/001	TP2	10	10			CBM (*/5g) Coal (*/2g) Glass (*/<1g) Ind.Waste (**/8g) Pot (*/2g)
5	42/001	TP3	10	10			Ind.Waste (**/17g) Coal (**/3g) Glass (*/6g) Pot (*/6g) Flint (*/<1g)
6	42/001	TP4	10	10			Coal (*/17g) Flint (*/8g) Glass (*/6g) Ind.Waste (***/14g) CBM (*/5g)
7	42/001	TP5	10	10			Ind.Waste (***/18g) Glass (*/6g) C.Pipe (*/<1g) Pot (*/1g) CBM (*/9g) Coal (*/1g) Flint (*/96g)
8	43/001	TP6	10	10			CBM (*/6g) Ind.Waste (***/7g) Pot (*/<1g) Coal (*/<1g) Glass (*/<1g) Flint (*/<1g)
9	43/001	TP7	10	10	*	<1	Ind.Waste (***/8g) Glass (*/<1g) Coal (*/<1g) Pot (*/1g) C.Pipe (*/<1g) B.Clay (*/<1g)
10	43/001	TP8	10	10			Coal (*/<1g) Ind.Waste (***/8g) Glass (*/12g)
11	43/001	TP9	10	10	*	2	Glass (*/<1g) Coal (*/<1g) Pot (*/<1g) Ind.Deb. (***/6g)
12	43/001	TP10	10	10			Ind.Waste (**/12g) Flint (*/4g) Coal (**/1g) Glass (*/1g)
13	33/001	TP11	10	10			Pot (*/6g) Coal (**/2g) Glass (*/1g) Ind.Waste (***/24g)
14	33/001	TP12	10	10			Ind.Waste (***/13g) Coal (**/2g) Glass (*/<1g) Pot (*/6g)

Sample Number	Context	Context / Deposit Type	Sample Volume (L)	Sub-Sample Volume (L)	Charcoal >4mm	Weight (g)	Other (eg. pot, cbm, etc.) (quantity/ weight)
15	33/001	TP13	10	10			Flint (*/10g) Ind.Waste (***/16g) Glass (*/<1g) Coal (*/<1g)
16	33/001	TP14	10	10	*	<1	Coal (*/<1g) Glass (*/9g) Ind.Waste (***/14g) Pot (*/<1g) C.Pipe (*/<1g)
17	33/001	TP15	10	10			Coal (**/2g) Ind.Waste (***/12g) Pot (*/3g)
18	34/001	TP16	10	10			Ind.Waste (***/6g) Coal (*/<!g) Glass (*/1g) Pot (*/<1g)
19	34/001	TP17	10	10			Coal (*/<1g) Ind.Waste (***/8g) Glass (*/12g)
20	34/001	TP18	10	10			Ind.Waste (***/8g) Pot (*/2g) Glass (*/<M1g) Coal (**/3g)
21	34/001	TP19	10	10			Stone (*/3g) B.Clay (*/6g) Pot (*/<1g) Coal (**/2g) Glass (*/2g) Ind.Waste (***/14g)
22	34/001	TP20	10	10			Glass (*/<1g) Pot (*/1g) CBM (*/1g) Coal (*/<1g) Ind.Waste (***/11g)
24	34/004	Ditch	30	30	*	1	FCF (*/15g) Ind.Waste (**/640g) Flint (*/20g)
25	9/004	Pit	60	40	*	<1	Flint (*/1g) Ind.Waste? (*/900g)
26	31/004	Ditch	20	20			Pot (*/1g) FCF (*/60g)

Table 19: Residue quantification (* = 1-10, ** = 11-50, *** = 51-250, **** = >250) and weights in grams.

Sample Number	Context	Weight (g)	Flot Volume (ml)	Volume Scanned (ml)	Uncharred (%)	Sediment (%)	Seeds Uncharred	Charcoal 2-4mm	Charcoal <2mm	Weed Seeds Charred	Identifications	Preservation	Land Snail Shells	Lithics	Industrial Debris	Notes
1	42/004	43	200	100	90	10	Chenopodiaceae ***							*		
2	43/004	7	25	25	80	19	Chenopodiaceae ** *Rubus* sp. *			*	*Galium* sp.	++				
24	34/004	5	20	20	90	5	Chenopodiaceae ** *Polygonum aviculare* *	*	*	*	*Galium* sp.	++		*	*	
25	9/004	25	30	30	25	75	*Rubus* sp. * Chenopodiaceae **						**			
26	31/004	2	15	15	60	40	Chenopodiaceae ** Cereal rachis *									*Cenococcum* **

Table 20: Flot quantification (* = 1-10, ** = 11-50, *** = 51-250, **** = >250). Preservation (+ = good, ++ = moderate, +++ = good).

7.0 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

7.1 Overview of stratigraphic sequence

7.1.1 All trenches revealed a similar sequence of natural firm light brown-orange/ greyish yellow silt clay with frequent natural gravel inclusions overlain by a soft/friable dark brown silt clay topsoil/ploughsoil. The only exceptions to this were in Trenches 2, 3, 4 and 7 where partial, heavily truncated colluvium was present. The colluvial deposit comprised a firm mottled mid grey/orange-brown clayey silt with occasional natural gravels.

7.1.2 The natural geology was encountered at a maximum elevation of 40.65m AOD in the west of the site area (Trench 38), falling away slightly to 30.60m AOD in the east of the site (Trench 27).

7.1.3 The depth of overburden varied between 0.25m and 0.40m across the site.

7.1.4 Of the forty-five trenches excavated, three contained archaeological features of prehistoric date, two contained features of a post-medieval date and there were 10 undated ditches across the evaluation area. A number of potentially Mesolithic dated features were left unexcavated (see 7.7).

7.1.5 The methodology, as set out in the WSI (CgMS 2016), was successfully employed during the evaluation. The conditions on site were conducive to confident and efficient identification and recording of archaeological remains.

7.2 Deposit survival and existing impacts

7.2.1 Intact topsoil deposits were identified in all trenches, however, the absence of a subsoil deposit demonstrated extensive horizontal truncation, presumably from modern ploughing.

7.2.2 Narrow trencher-dug land drains were encountered in Trenches 2, 9, 10, 13 and 14. All cut the natural substrate.

7.4 Discussion of archaeological remains by period

7.4.1 Prehistoric

The evaluation revealed a moderate assemblage of struck flint. It produced very few diagnostic pieces, but it clearly relates to a blade-orientated industry. The proportion of combined blades and the presence of a bipolar blade core, a truncated bladelet, a micro-burin and two likely unfinished microliths place the assemblage in the Mesolithic period. The fresh condition of the recovered material suggests that the flints are contemporary with the features. It should be noted that most of the diagnostic pieces come from pit [42/003] (the bipolar blade core, the truncated bladelet, the micro-burin and one of the likely unfinished microlith).

Three features of Mesolithic date were identified, one each within Trenches 42 and 43 located towards the south-east of site and one in Trench 9 located towards the north-west of site. Features which appeared similar in character

were observed across site with concentrations of activity broadly located in the vicinities of Trenches 7 and 9 in the north-west of the site and 42 and 43 in the south-east of site.

It appears that the site was used for flint knapping activities. Given the freshness of the material, this activity is likely to have been relatively *in-situ*. The micro-burin provides evidence for tool production or tool repair/replacement. The two likely unfinished microliths confirm this. Finally, the presence of artefacts with evidence of use wear (including a blade with possible gloss from [42/004]), supports the idea that the site was more than a knapping site.

A detailed evaluation of the significance of the Mesolithic remains identified is given by Dr Ed Blinkhorn in section 7.5, below

7.4.2 Post-medieval

Three features of post-medieval date were identified, two shallow ditches within Trench 39 towards the south-west of the site and one ditch within trench 16 at the far north of site.

The consistency of fabrics and forms of the CBM recovered from across the two contexts in Trench 39 would strongly suggest they were contemporaneous deposits. The assemblage was mostly comprised of peg tile fragments, there was also a meagre presence of medieval material, which would suggest an earlier date, c.16th-17th century.

The ditch in Trench 16 produced three quite fresh pieces of coal, likely to be from the post-medieval period.

7.4.3 Undated

The majority of archaeological features on the site remained undated. These comprised 10 ditches. All features were sealed only by a topsoil/ploughsoil deposit. The ditch identified in Trenches 40 and 31 may represent a post-medieval land division.

7.5 Regional significance of the Mesolithic evidence by Dr Ed Blinkhorn

7.5.1 Context of the Mesolithic discoveries

The discovery of probable Mesolithic features at the site is remarkable, considering both the paucity of similarly dated evidence nearby, and the site's location on clay geology which is thought to have been a less-preferable landscape for Mesolithic hunter-gatherers. The Mesolithic of Kent is not well understood as few sites have been studied in detail, although many findspots are concentrated on the Greensand ridge (CTRL ref; Harding 2006).

Although the BGS does not map any superficial geology (BGS 2017), shallow depths of Head have formed on the hillslope though no buried land surface has been preserved at its upper horizon. Dispersed gravel units hint at a remnant, massively degraded river terrace deposit also being present. Features are cut into the Pleistocene superficial geology, and the overlying ploughsoil suggests

all archaeology has been truncated, where no subsoil development has been demonstrated to overlie archaeological deposits.

7.5.2 Pits

Pits are an increasingly recognised phenomenon at Mesolithic sites, largely due to the sizeable and widespread investigations undertaken during developer-funded archaeology (Blinkhorn 2012), and the situation is similar in neighbouring countries such as Ireland and France (Blinkhorn et al in press). However, due to routinised excavation procedures necessitated by commercial archaeology and the infrequency with which Mesolithic archaeology is identified in the field, Mesolithic pits are poorly understood. In addition to signposting possible concentrations of early prehistoric archaeology, negative features preserving lithics which can be identified as being 'placed' and not deriving from a palimpsest are of great value in refining lithics typo-chronologies. The feature fills may also be of palaeoenvironmental value and geoarchaeological analysis of these may enhance understanding of the life history of the pit (i.e. immediate backfill or gradual silting) (S2.12 - Blinkhorn and Milner 2013, 32). The sharp distinction between anthropogenic and natural features commonly described for later prehistoric sites is not in evidence at Mesolithic sites where tree-throws are frequently utilised in similar ways to pits, meaning that 'natural' features should not be discounted.

The shape of pit 42/003 and the distribution of flints therein leads to equivocal interpretations. In plan the feature is reminiscent of a tree-throw, with one concave linear side and further rounded curvilinear edges, although steep sides might point more towards an anthropogenic origin. The distribution of lithics throughout the fill of the feature does not help refine interpretations of the assemblage, the feature, or landscape processes at the site. It is notable that very few chips were recovered during excavation from the 40l sample that to date has been processed. Diverse processes, both anthropogenic and natural may have caused the distribution of the lithics assemblage. The presence of chips is crucial in determining the intentionality of deposition in the feature as knapping scatters should be associated with smaller waste. Additionally, colluvial deposition should be less discriminatory in terms of clast sizes than that which is represented within the pit. Understanding site formation is therefore of the highest importance in interpreting Mesolithic activities in Chattenden.

7.5.3 Potential mitigation strategies

Owing to the probable truncation of a buried land surface a large concentration of lithics may be present in the plougshoil. Although this assemblage is of limited value in determining the location of truncated occupation horizons, as partially demonstrated by the test-pitting exercise undertaken during this phase of works, it may be of value in differentiating between 'placed deposits' within features and knapping scatters formerly distributed throughout an occupation horizon. For this reason, it is suggested that a number of machine excavated, ploughsoil grab samples targeting the area around which features are clustered are collected and stockpiled, so that if necessary lithics can be retrieved from large spatially discrete samples. Samples can be processed or discarded based on their importance in relation to discoveries made during excavation. Following this, the area should be

carefully stripped by machine taking care not to truncate any possible remnant buried soils or land surfaces. Differentiation between superficial geology and feature fills is noted as being particularly difficult at the site, due to rapid oxidation of the stripped surface, although archaeological deposits tend to be more friable and bleached in section. As superficial deposits at the site have only been preliminarily interpreted as Head with input from river terrace deposits, close inspection of deposits underlying the ploughzone will be necessary to determine areas of better preservation.

Input from a geoarchaeological specialist will be required to help determine site formation processes and if necessary modify the excavation strategy. Advice will comprise selection of features to target for sampling and where necessary the excavation of shallow test-pits into Pleistocene deposits to determine their origins.

Due to the earlier prehistoric archaeological significance of the site, future work at the site will need to closely record spatiality of finds recovered from features. 3D recording of lithics is recommended, as is a photographic record of clustered finds, and those revealed at the completion of a spit within a feature fill. Each piece will require an individual ID number, taken from a single series continuing that started during the evaluation, and bagged separately recording this and context information.

7.5.4 Potential Sampling Strategies

Presuming the discovery of further earlier prehistoric features, these will require on-site triage to target the best preserved features for palaeoenvironmental remains. Due to the heavy clay soils and the large amount of samples generated, the sampling strategy will need to be clearly articulated in the written scheme of investigation, although flexibility will be required to target resources. Bulk samples should target basal deposits and sample vertically through features in fills with lower degrees of post-depositional disturbance. Where appropriate, kubiena tin samples for soil micromorphology and column samples for pollen and microfossils should be taken from feature fills or buried land surfaces.

7.6.9 Where appropriate, 100% of all excavated fills should be sampled for smaller lithics such as microliths, microburins and microdebitage to ensure discrete assemblages can be correctly characterised. These samples can be processed using a deflocculant such as Calgon to speed up processing, separate palaeoenvironmental samples having been taken.

7.6 Consideration of research aims

7.6.1 The general aims of the archaeological field evaluation were to:

- To determine the existence or absence of any archaeological remains.
- To determine or confirm the approximate date or date range of the remains by means of artefactual or other evidence.
- To determine or confirm the approximate extent of the remains.

7.6.2 The field evaluation has established that there are significant archaeological

remains, probably of Mesolithic date located on the site with generally higher concentrations of activity identified in the north-west and south-east. The archaeological remains have been interpreted as an area utilised for flint knapping activities.

7.6.3 The probable Mesolithic features afford the opportunity to develop further research aims for any mitigation that may take place. The project design or WSI should draw on information provided in the Mesolithic Research and Conservation Framework 2013 (Blinkhorn and Milner 2014).

7.7 Conclusions

7.7.1 The investigation has succeeded in identifying archaeological features in 14 of the 45 excavated trenches with further trenches identified as potentially containing prehistoric features, although left preserved 'in situ' for the present (see 7.5.2, accompanying illustrations and Appendix).

7.7.2 The most significant discovery were three features of Mesolithic date (Trenches 9, 42 and 43). These are very rare for the vicinity and contain flint assemblages that relate to a blade-orientated industry. Further features which appeared similar in character and were left unexcavated until appropriate mitigation strategies can be developed. These are concentrated broadly in the vicinities of Trenches 7 and 9 in the north-west of the site and 42 and 43 in the south-east of site

7.7.3 Securely dated post-medieval activity was limited to three ditches; two of these features laying in close proximity may be contemporary. The features' characters were hard to ascertain and do not appear to form part of a larger field system. The post-medieval remains are not significant.

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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HER Summary

Site code	CLP17					
Project code	160090					
Planning reference	MC/15/3104					
Site address	Land at Peninsula Way, Chattenden, Kent					
District/Borough	Medway					
NGR (12 figures)	TQ 76058 72047					
Geology	London Clay					
Fieldwork type	Eval					
Date of fieldwork	13/03/17 to 24/03/17					
Sponsor/client	CgMS					
Project manager	Jon Sygrave					
Project supervisor	John Hirst					
Period summary		Mesolithic				
				Post-medieval		
Project summary **(100 word max)**	*Forty-five trenches were excavated to reveal the underlying natural, firm yellowish grey-mottled silt clay, mixed with natural gravels at a maximum elevation of 40.65m AOD. Archaeological features were excavated in 14 of the 45 trenches.* *The most significant discovery were three features of Mesolithic date (Trenches 9, 42 and 43). These are very rare for the vicinity and contain flint assemblages that relate to a blade-orientated industry. Features which appeared similar in character were identified in a further 14 trenches but were left unexcavated until appropriate mitigation strategies can be developed. These features are concentrated broadly in the vicinities of Trenches 7 and 9 in the north-west of the site and 42 and 43 in the south-east of site* *Securely dated post-medieval activity was limited to three ditches; two of these features laying in close proximity may be contemporaneous.*					

OASIS Form

OASIS ID: archaeol6-282028

Project details	
Project name	An Archaeological Evaluation at land at Peninsula Way, Chattenden, Kent
Short description of the project	*Forty-five trenches were excavated to reveal the underlying natural, firm yellowish grey-mottled silt clay, mixed with natural gravels at a maximum elevation of 40.65m AOD. Archaeological features were excavated in 14 of the 45 trenches.* *The most significant discovery were three features of Mesolithic date (Trenches 9, 42 and 43). These are very rare for the vicinity and contain flint assemblages that relate to a blade-orientated industry. Features which appeared similar in character were identified in a further 14 trenches but were left unexcavated until appropriate mitigation strategies can be developed. These features are concentrated broadly in the vicinities of Trenches 7 and 9 in the north-west of the site and 42 and 43 in the south-east of site* *Securely dated post-medieval activity was limited to three ditches; two of these features laying in close proximity may be contemporaneous.*
Project dates	Start: 13-03-2017 End: 24-03-2017
Previous/future work	No / Yes
Type of project	Field evaluation
Current Land use	Cultivated Land 1 - Minimal cultivation
Project location	
Country	England
Site location	KENT MEDWAY HOO ST WERBURGH Land at Peninsula Way, Chattenden, Kent
Postcode	ME3 8LE
Study area	1.4 Hectares
Site coordinates	TQ 76058 72047 51.419513372188 0.532365553174 51 25 10 N 000 31 56 E Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 30.6m Max: 40.65m
Project creators	
Name of Organisation	Archaeology South-East
Project brief	CgMs Consulting

originator	
Project design originator	Archaeology South-East
Project director/manager	JON SYGRAVE
Project supervisor	John Hirst
Project archives	
Physical Contents	''Animal Bones'',''Worked stone/lithics'',''other''
Digital Media available	''Images raster / digital photography''
Paper Media available	''Context sheet'',''Section'',''Survey '',''Unpublished Text''
Entered by	John Hirst (j.hirst@ucl.ac.uk)
Entered on	10 April 2017

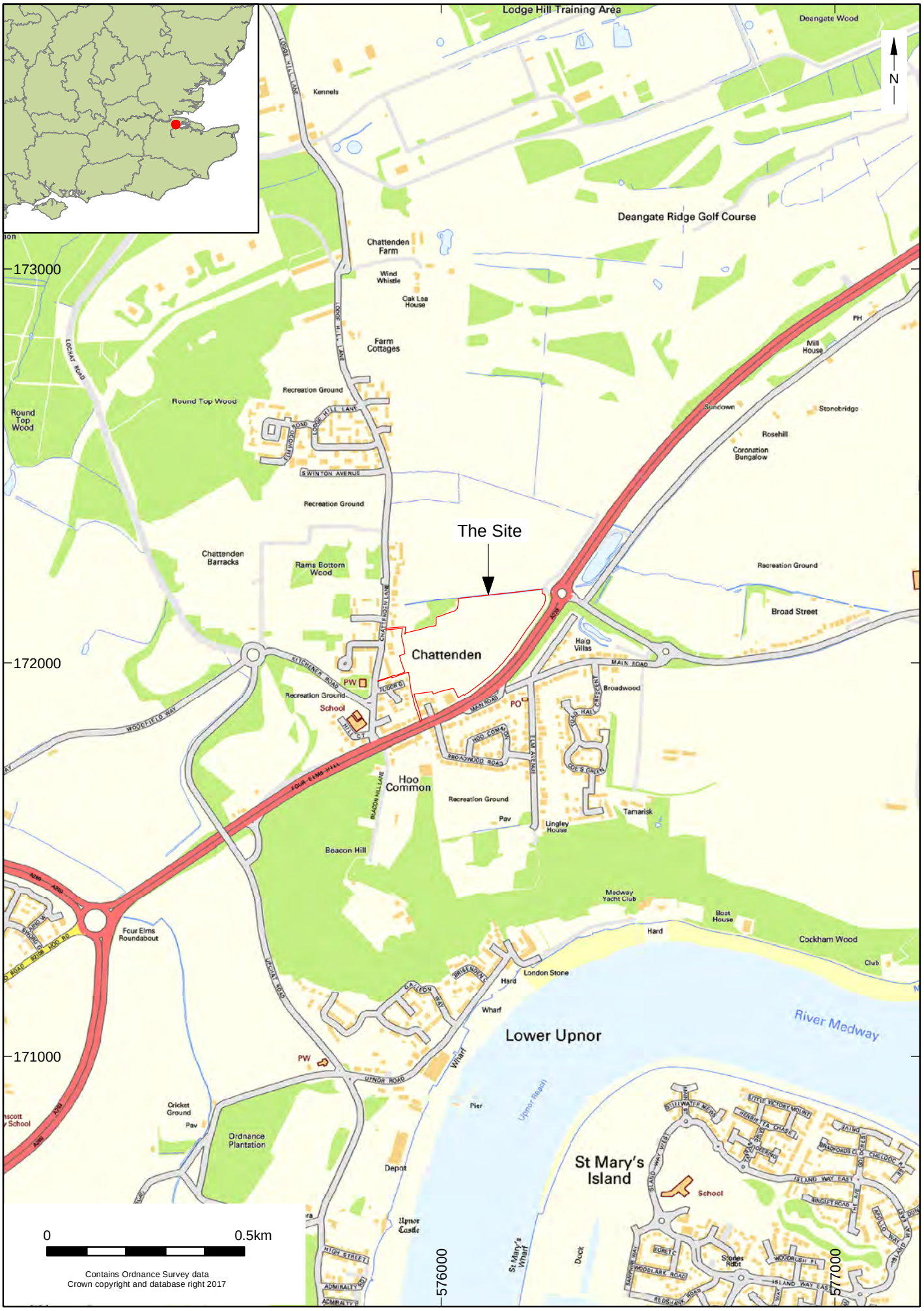
Appendix 1

Context	Type	Interpretation	Depth	?Prehistoric features left 'in situ'
1/001	Layer	Topsoil	0.27-0.31	No
1/002	Layer	Natural		No
2/001	Layer	Topsoil	0.25-0.32	No
2/002	Layer	Colluvium	0.05-0.35	No
2/003	Layer	Natural		No
3/001	Layer	Topsoil	0.26-0.27	No
3/002	Layer	Colluvium	0.17-0.32	No
3/003	Layer	Natural		No
4/001	Layer	Topsoil	0.27-0.32	No
4/002	Layer	Colluvium	0.05-0.09	No
4/003	Layer	Natural		No
5/001	Layer	Topsoil	0.26-0.29	No
5/002	Layer	Natural		No
6/001	Layer	Topsoil	0.28-0.33	Yes
6/002	Layer	Natural		Yes
7/001	Layer	Topsoil	0.25-0.28	Yes
7/002	Layer	Colluvium	0.03-0.04	Yes
7/003	Layer	Natural		No
8/001	Layer	Topsoil	0.26-0.36	No
8/002	Layer	Natural		No
10/001	Layer	Topsoil	0.28-0.31	No
10/002	Layer	Natural		No
13/001	Layer	Topsoil	0.26-0.32	Yes
13/002	Layer	Natural		Yes
14/001	Layer	Topsoil	0.31-0.34	Yes
14/002	Layer	Natural		Yes
15/001	Layer	Topsoil	0.28-0.30	No
15/002	Layer	Natural		No
17/001	Layer	Topsoil	0.24-0.26	Yes
17/002	Layer	Natural		Yes
18/001	Layer	Topsoil	0.28-	Yes

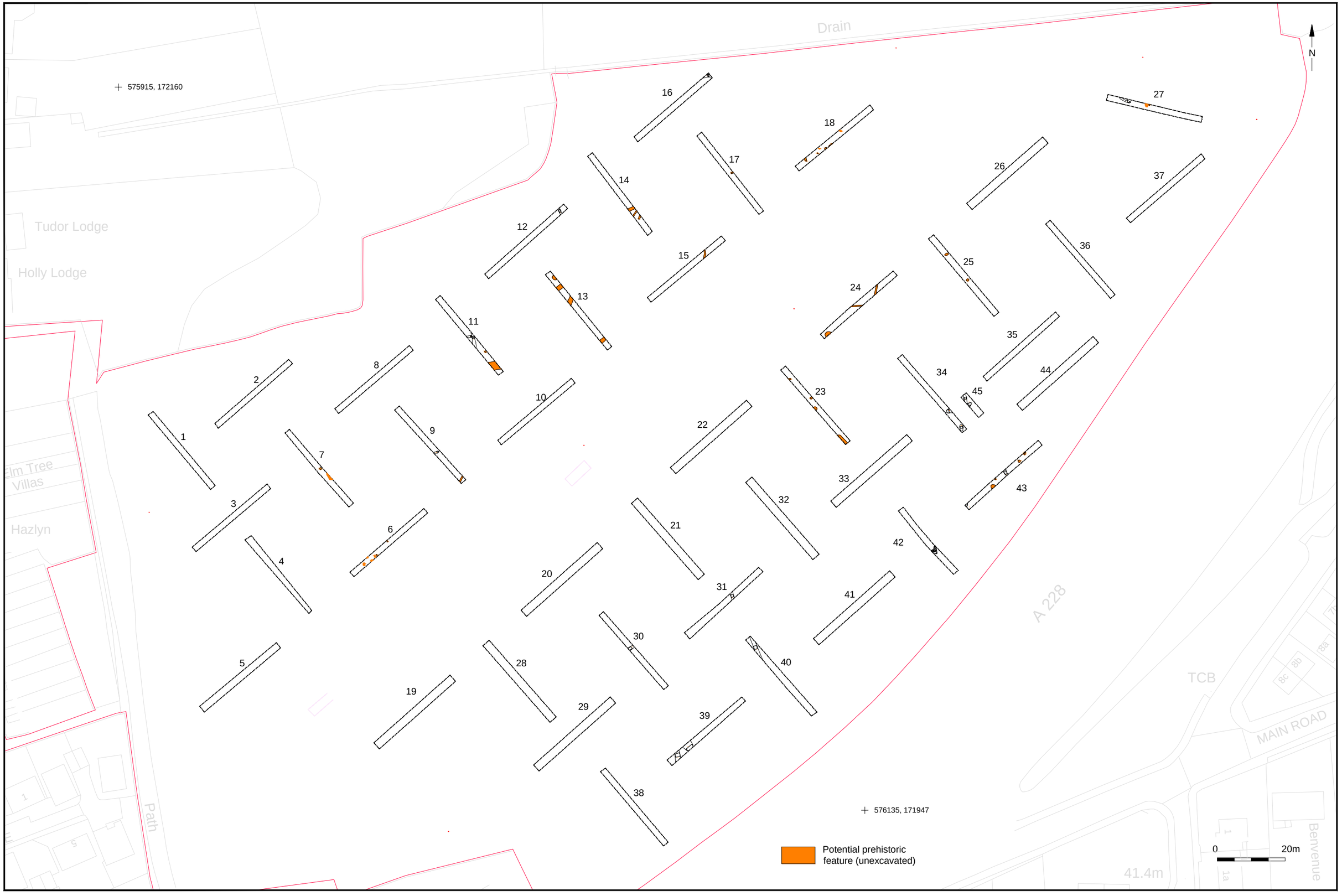
Context	Type	Interpretation	Depth	?Prehistoric features left 'in situ'
			0.30	
18/002	Layer	Natural		Yes
19/001	Layer	Topsoil	0.26-0.29	No
19/002	Layer	Natural		No
20/001	Layer	Topsoil	0.25-0.32	No
20/002	Layer	Natural		No
21/001	Layer	Topsoil	0.27-0.30	No
21/002	Layer	Natural		No
22/001	Layer	Topsoil	0.28-0.30	No
22/002	Layer	Natural		No
23/001	Layer	Topsoil	0.27-0.28	Yes
23/002	Layer	Natural		Yes
24/001	Layer	Topsoil	0.27-0.32	Yes
24/002	Layer	Natural		Yes
25/001	Layer	Topsoil	0.25-0.33	Yes
25/002	Layer	Natural		Yes
26/001	Layer	Topsoil	0.28-0.33	No
26/002	Layer	Natural		No
28/001	Layer	Topsoil	0.29-0.33	No
28/002	Layer	Natural		No
29/001	Layer	Topsoil	0.32-0.35	No
29/002	Layer	Natural		No
32/001	Layer	Topsoil	0.28-0.30	No
32/002	Layer	Natural		No
33/001	Layer	Topsoil	0.29-0.39	No
33/002	Layer	Natural		No
35/001	Layer	Topsoil	0.28-0.33	No
35/002	Layer	Natural		No
36/001	Layer	Topsoil	0.26-0.29	No
36/002	Layer	Natural		No
37/001	Layer	Topsoil	0.25-0.30	No
37/002	Layer	Natural		No
38/001	Layer	Topsoil	0.31-0.35	No

Context	Type	Interpretation	Depth	?Prehistoric features left 'in situ'
38/002	Layer	Natural		No
41/001	Layer	Topsoil	0.27-0.32	No
41/002	Layer	Natural		No
43/001	Layer	Topsoil	0.26-0.33	Yes
43/002	Layer	Natural		Yes
44/001	Layer	Topsoil	0.29-0.34	No
44/002	Layer	Natural		No
				Trenches 9, 11, 27, 34 also have features preserved in situ and are described in the main report text

Archaeologically negative trenches: list of recorded contexts



© **Archaeology South-East**		Land at Chattenden	Fig. 1
Project Ref: 160090	April 2017	Site location	
Report Ref: 2017170	Drawn by: AR		



© Archaeology South-East		Land at Chattenden	Fig. 2
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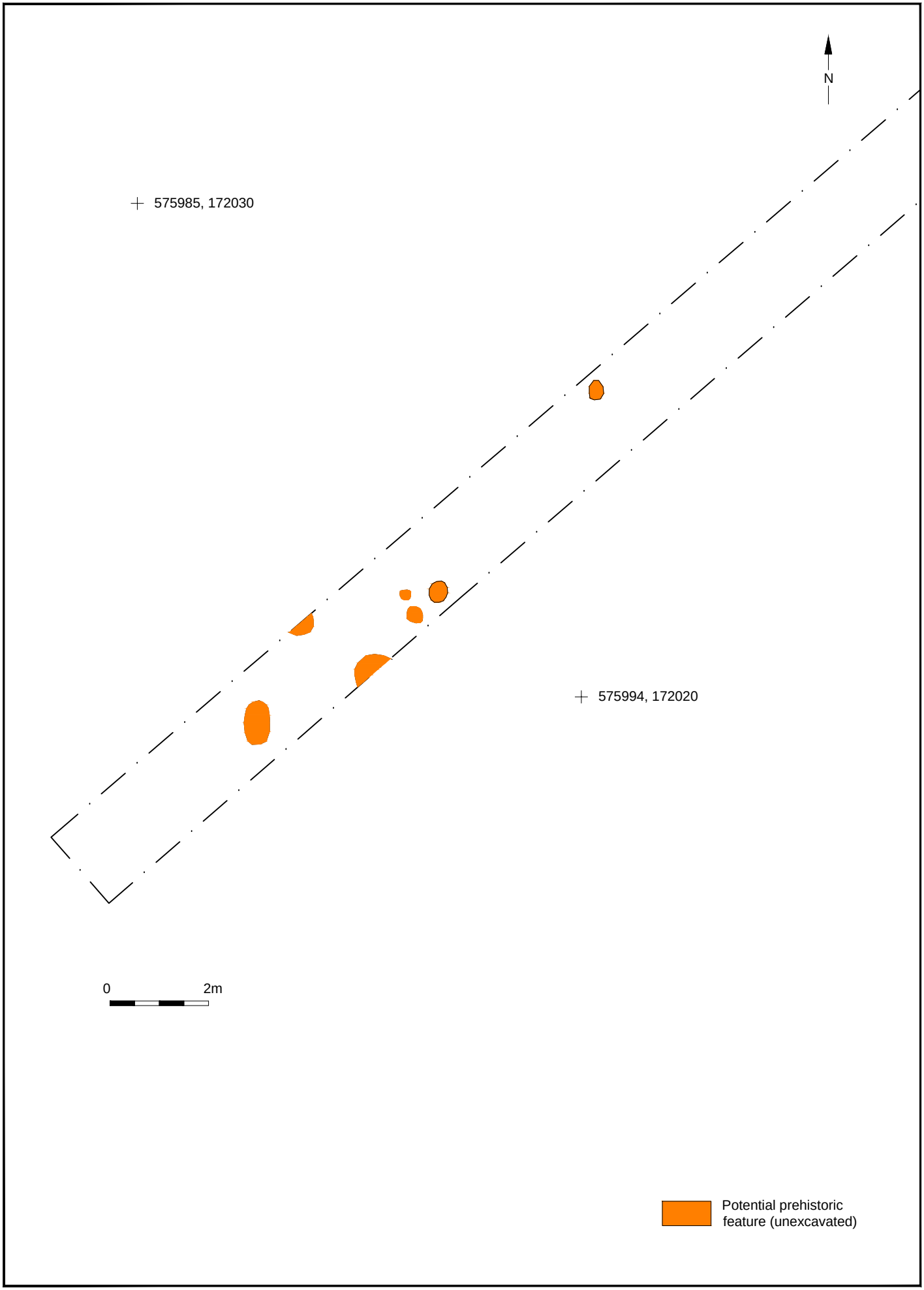
Report Ref: 2017170	Drawn by: AR		



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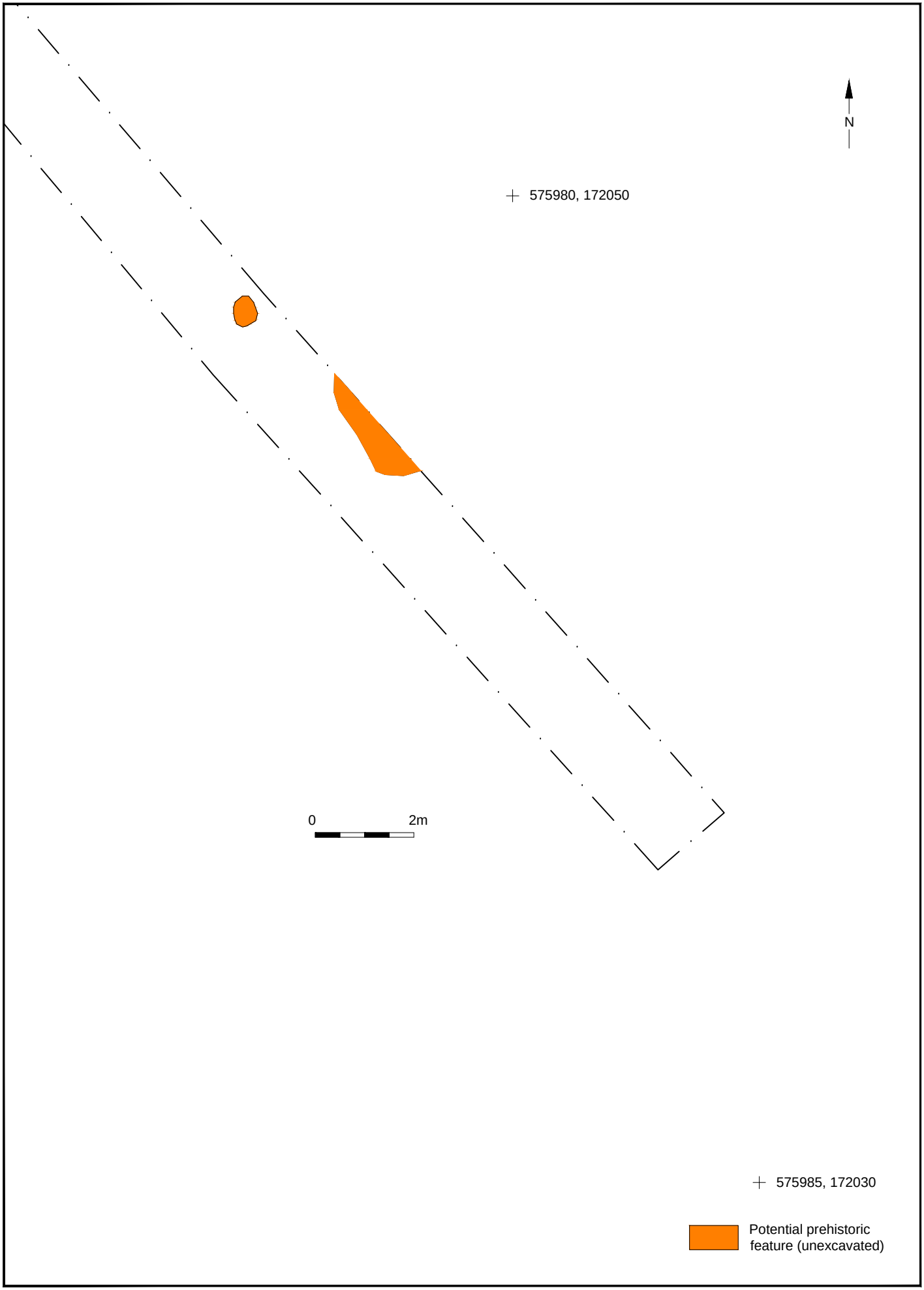

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Project Ref: 160090	April 2017	Trench 7 plan	
Report Ref:	Drawn by: AR		

N

576011, 172057

09/004

Section 1

Potential prehistoric feature (unexcavated)

0 2m

9/004, looking south-west

Section 1

S N

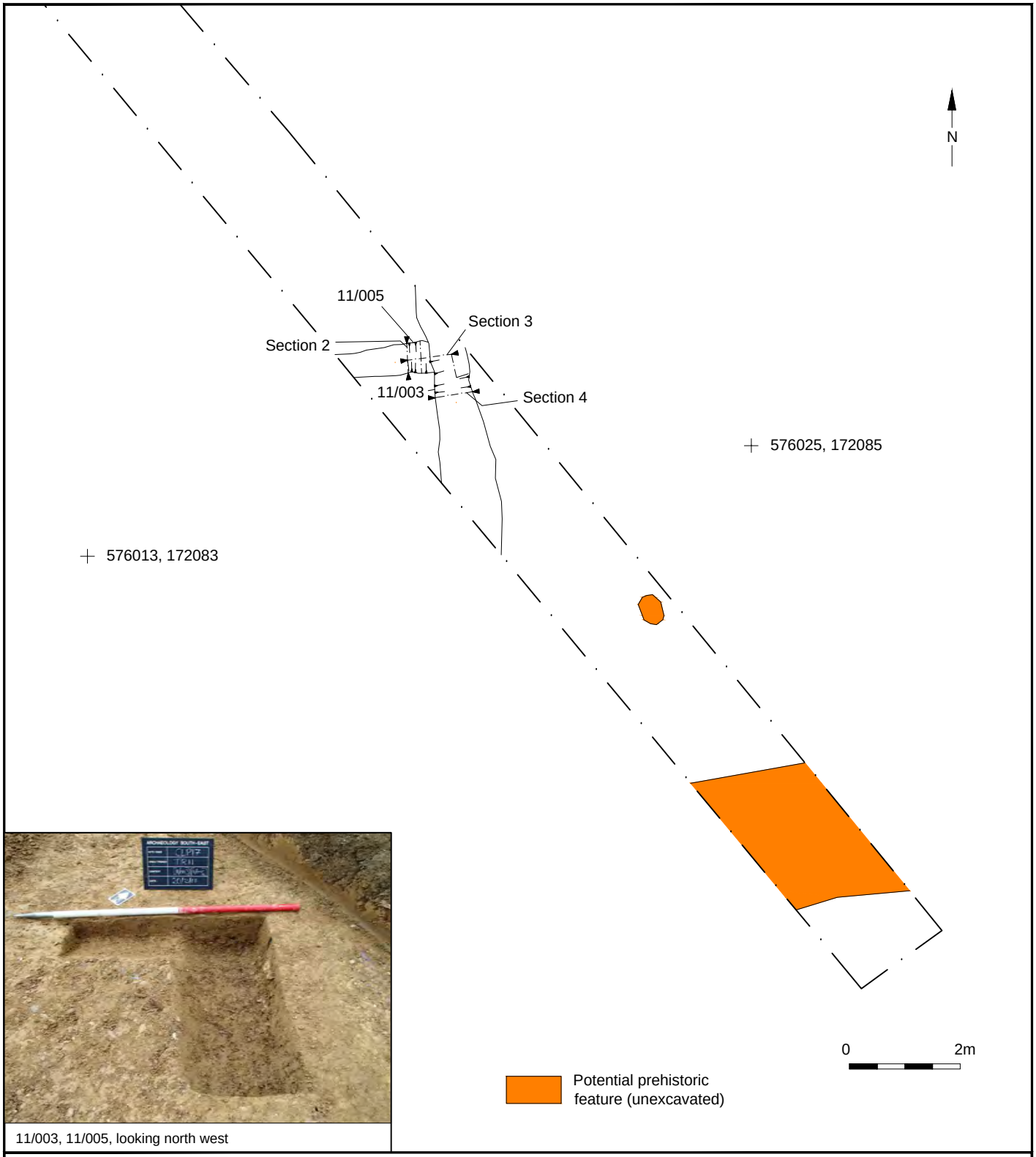
35.51mOD

9/003

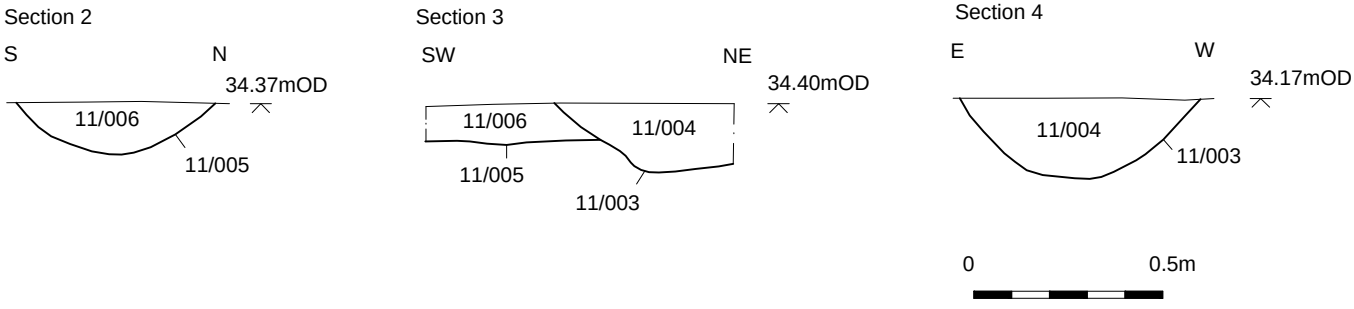
9/004

0 0.5m

© Archaeology South-East		Land at Chattenden	Fig. 5
Project Ref: 160090	April 2017	Trench 9, plan, section and photographs	
Report Ref: 2017170	Drawn by: AR		



11/003, 11/005, looking north west



© Archaeology South-East		Land at Chattenden	Fig. 6
Project Ref: 160090	April 2017	Trench 11, plan, sections and photographs	
Report Ref: 2017170	Drawn by: AR		

576034, 172124

12/003

N

Section

0 2m

576042, 172116

12/003, looking south west

Section 5

NE SW

33.26mOD

12/004

12/003

0 0.5m

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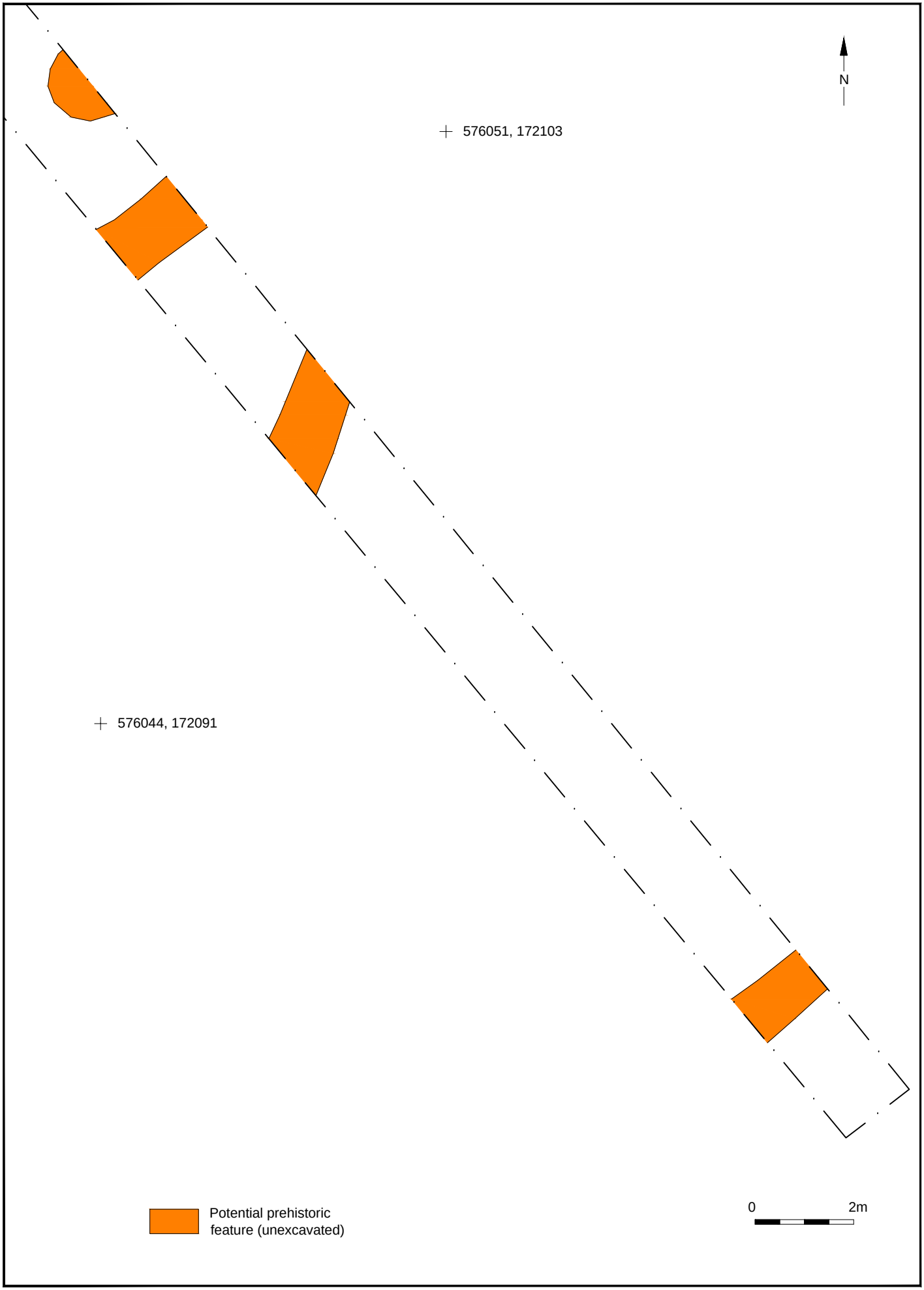
Project Ref: 160090	April 2017	Trench 12, plan, section and photograph	
Report Ref:2017170	Drawn by: AR		



© Archaeology South-East		Land at Chattenden	Fig. 4
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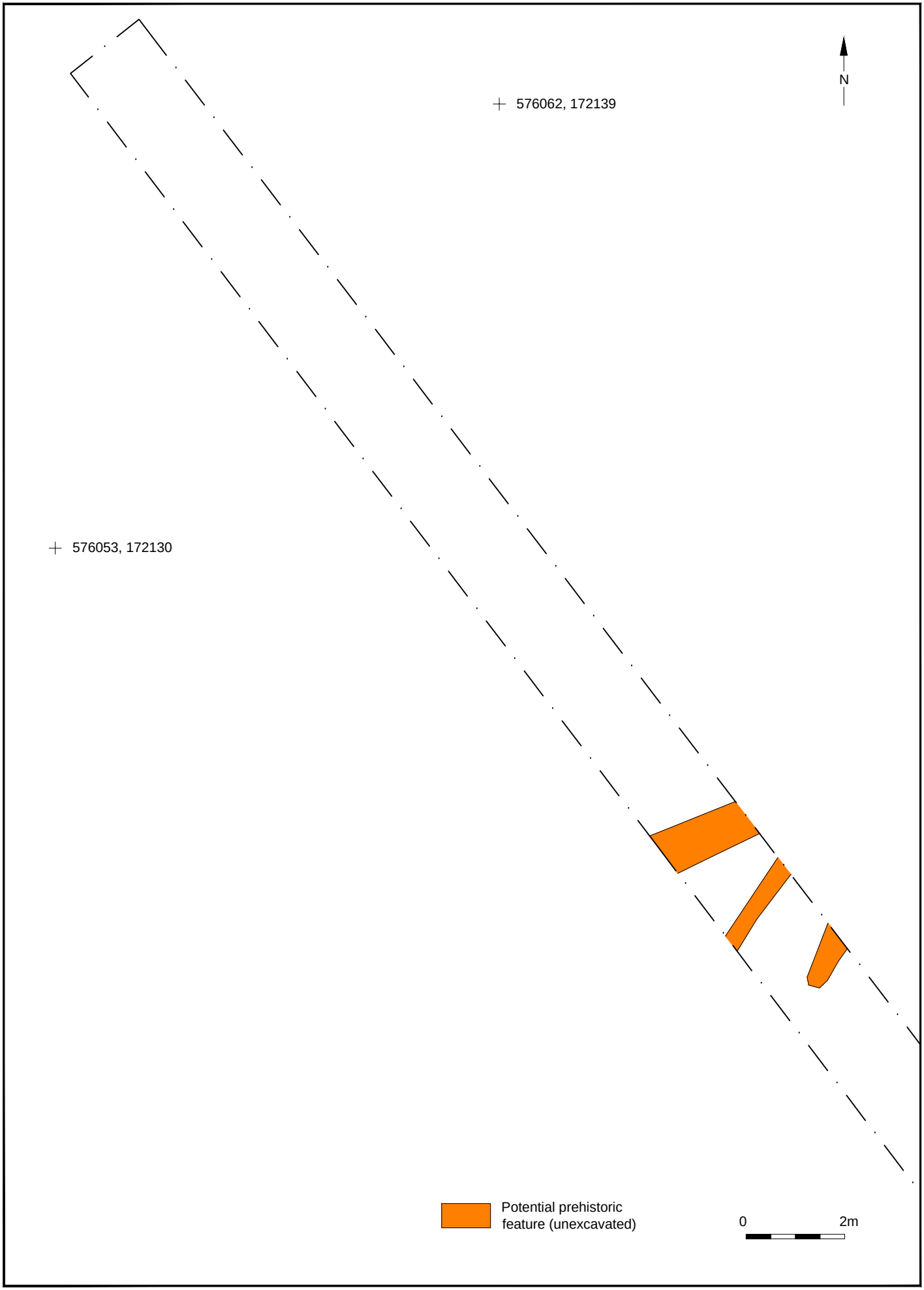

© Archaeology South-East		Land at Chattenden	Fig. 9
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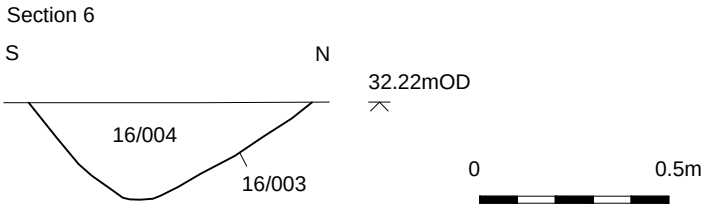
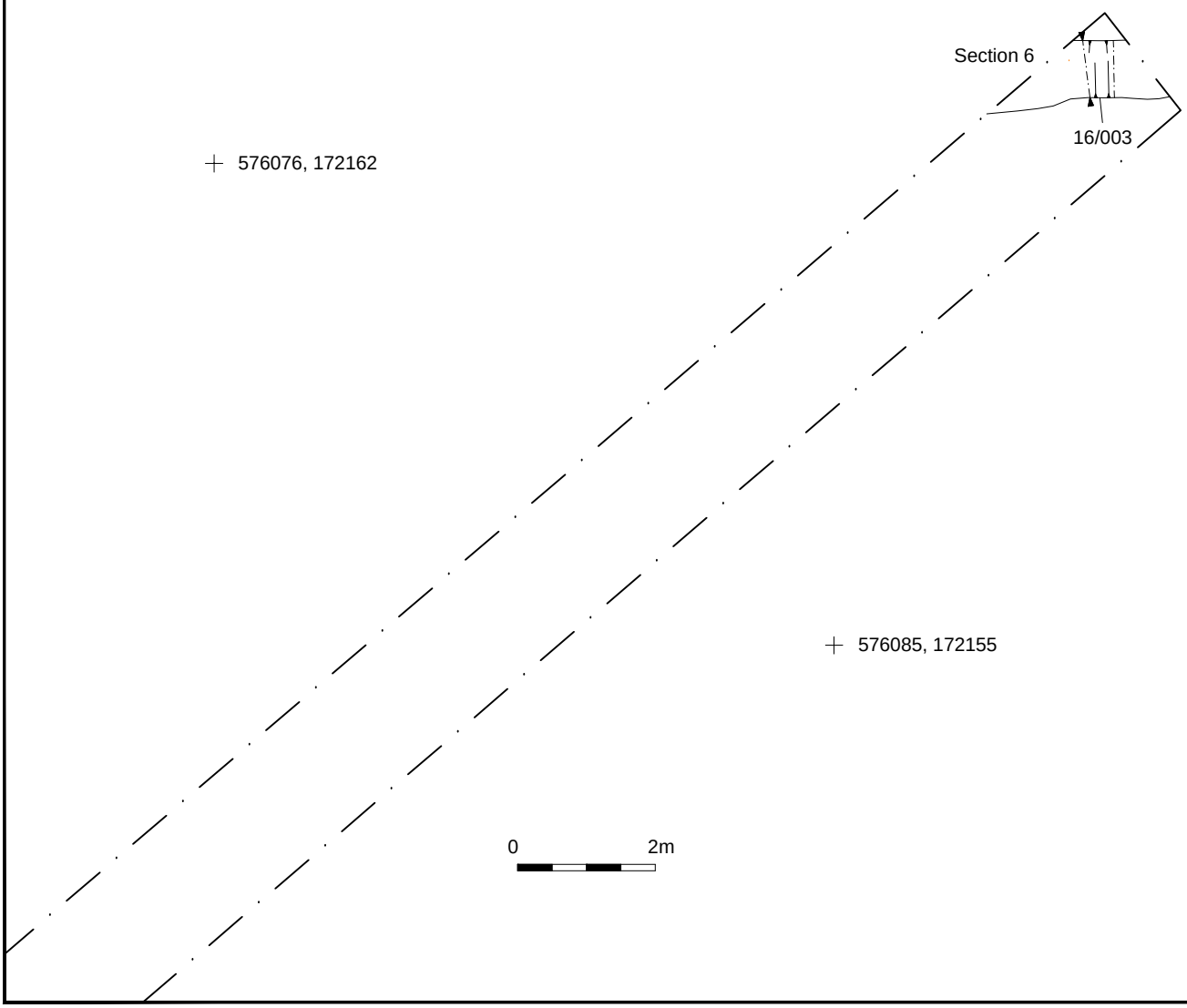


16/003, looking west



© Archaeology South-East		Land at Chattenden	Fig. 10
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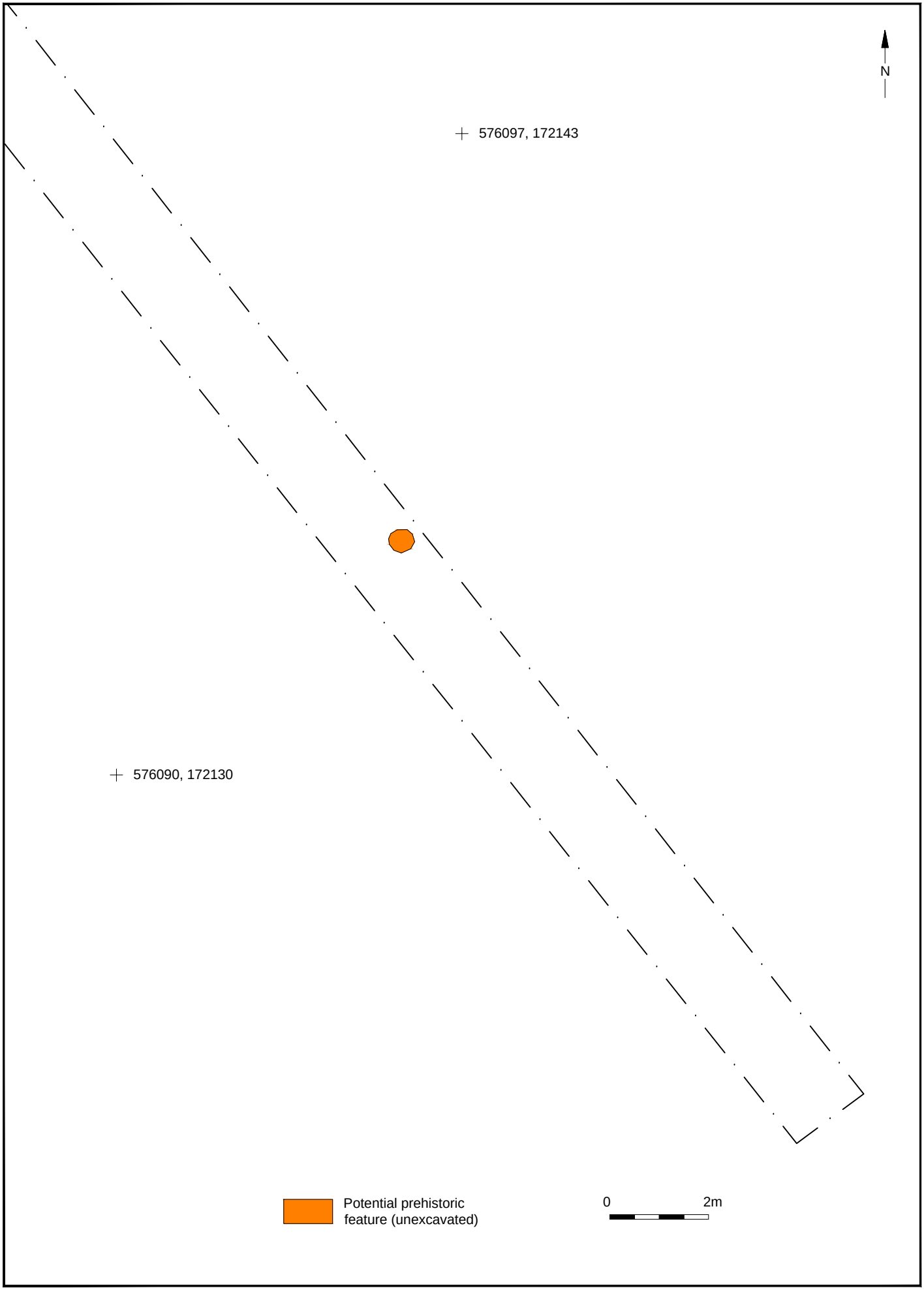
Report Ref:	Drawn by: AR		



© Archaeology South-East		Land at Chattenden	Fig.11
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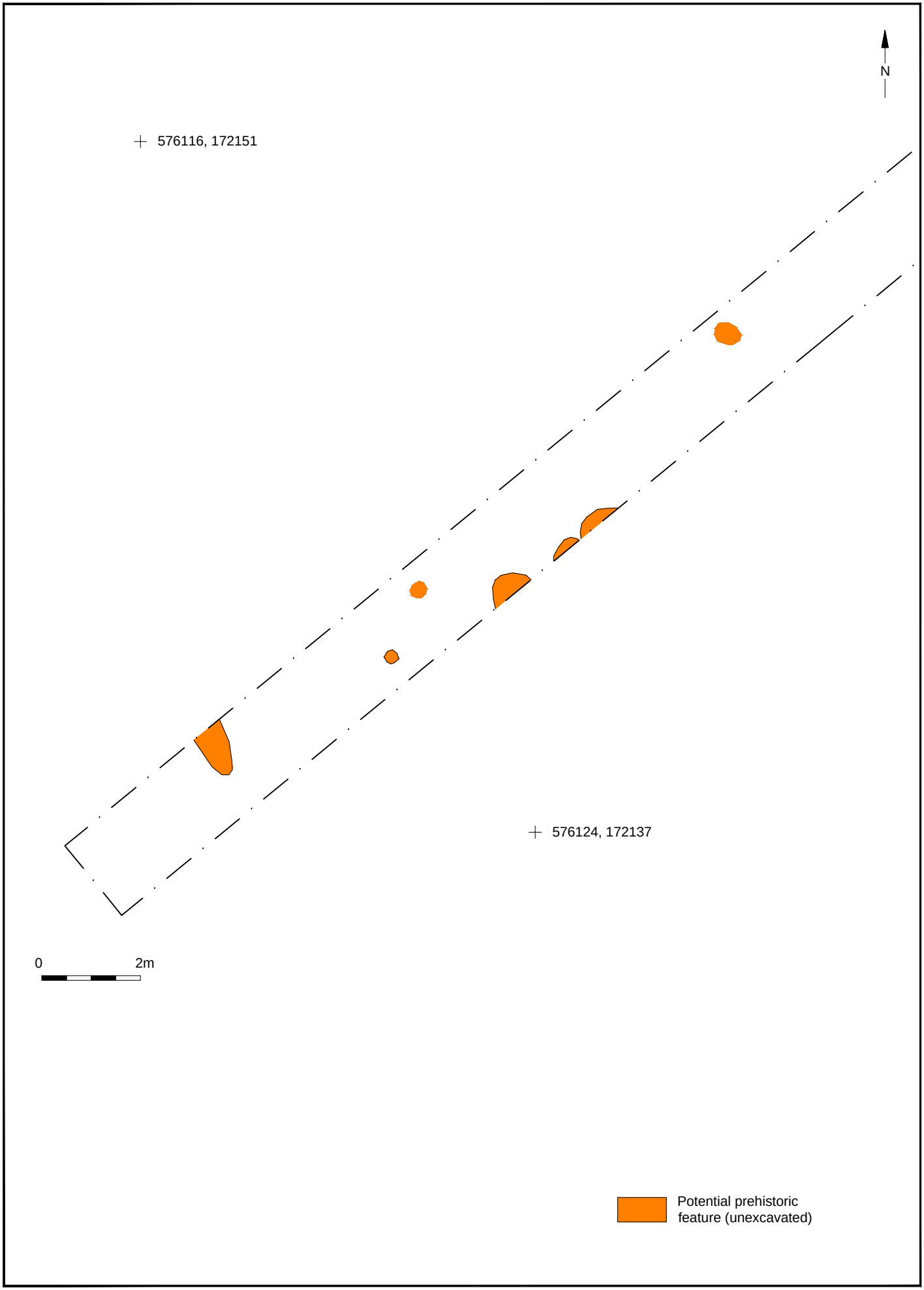

© Archaeology South-East		Land at Chattenden	Fig. 12
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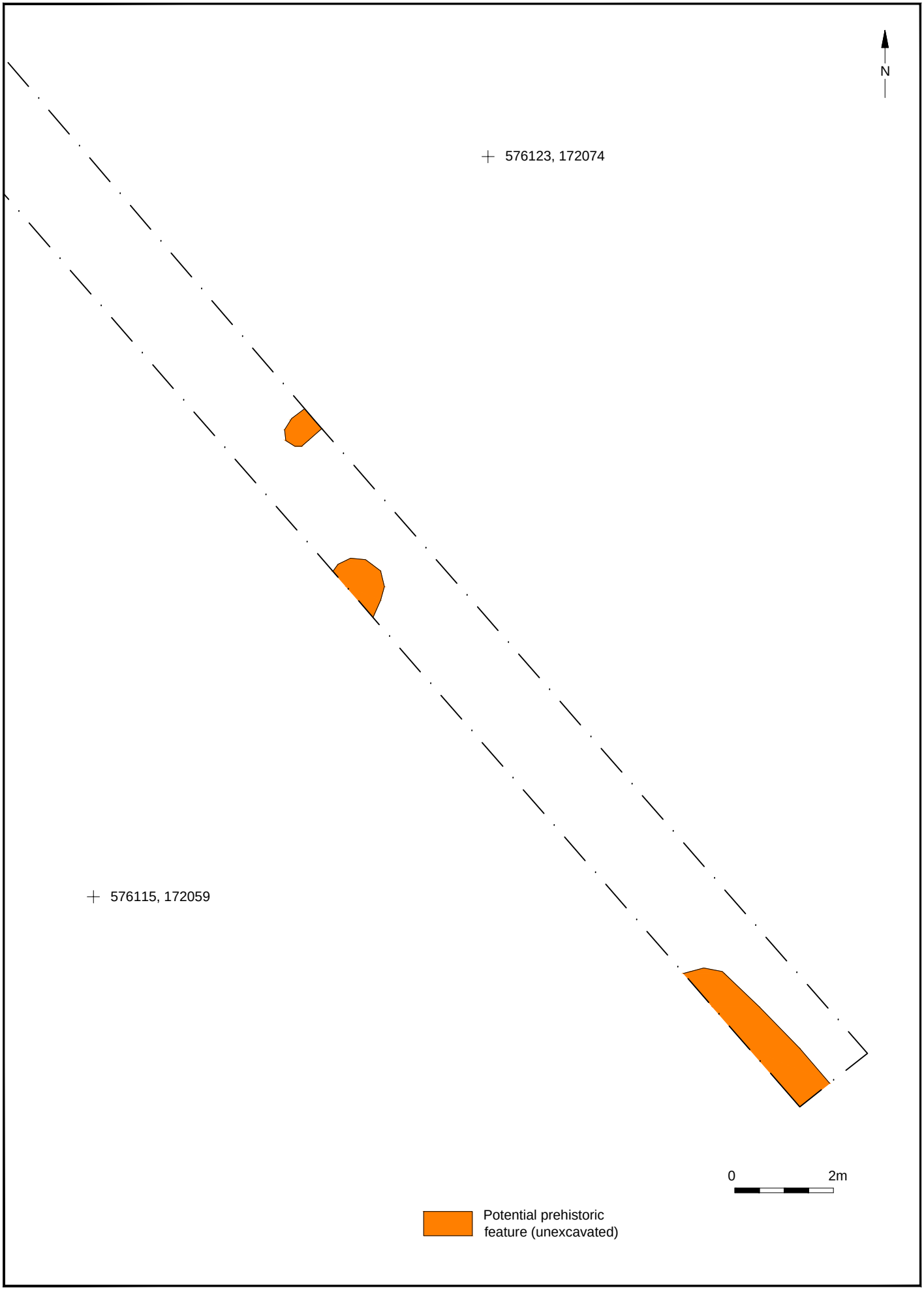

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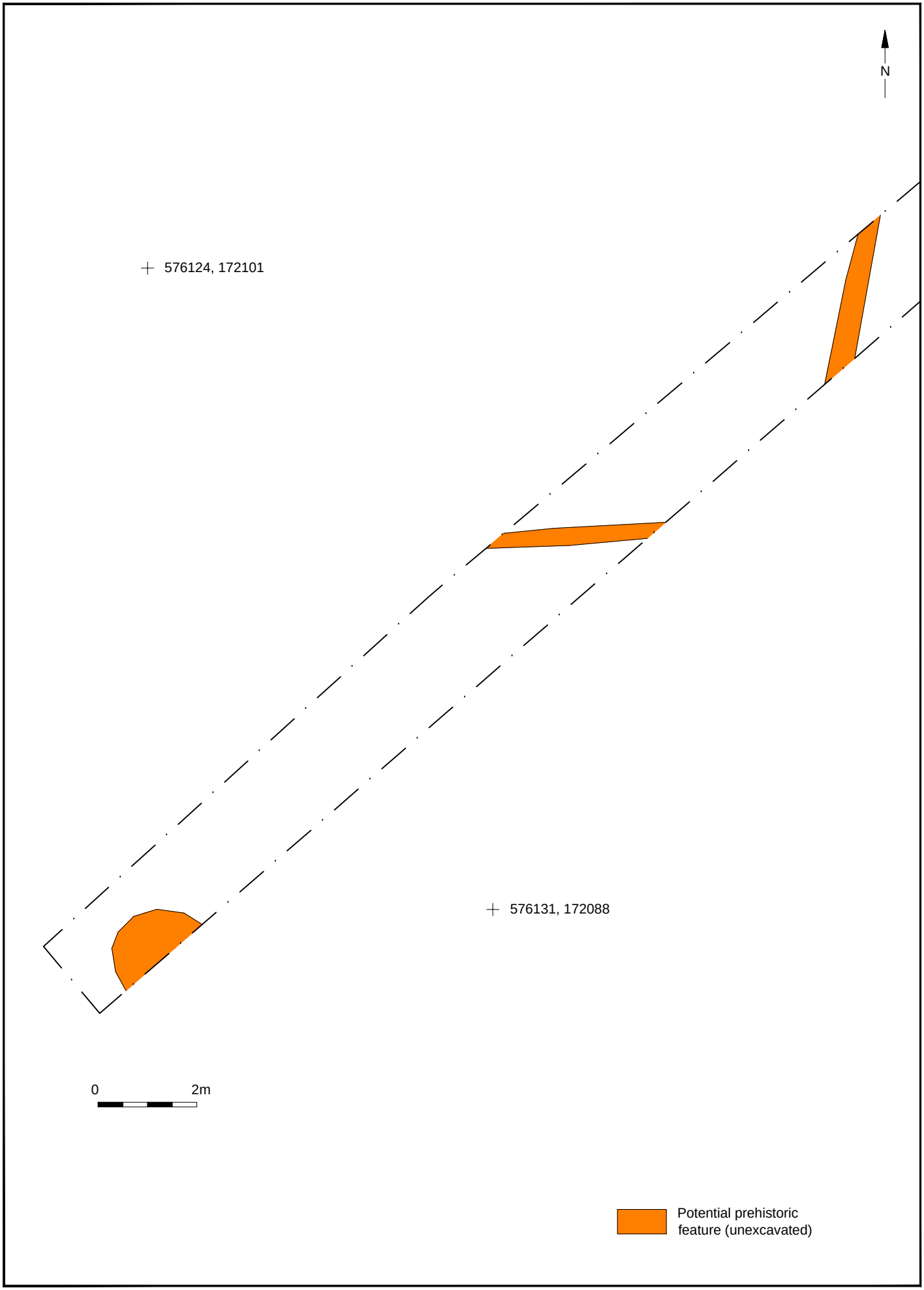

© Archaeology South-East		Land at Chattenden	Fig. 14
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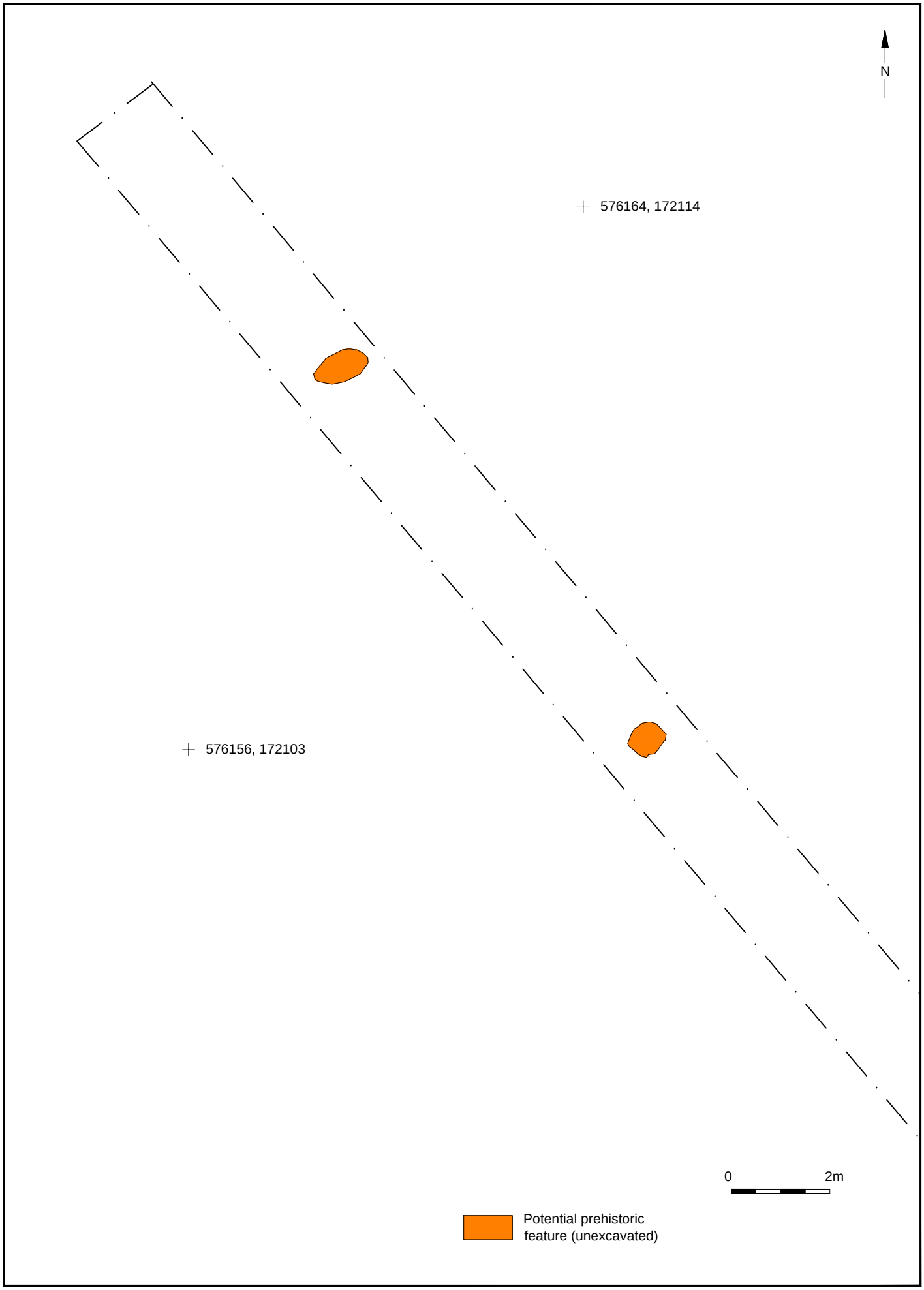
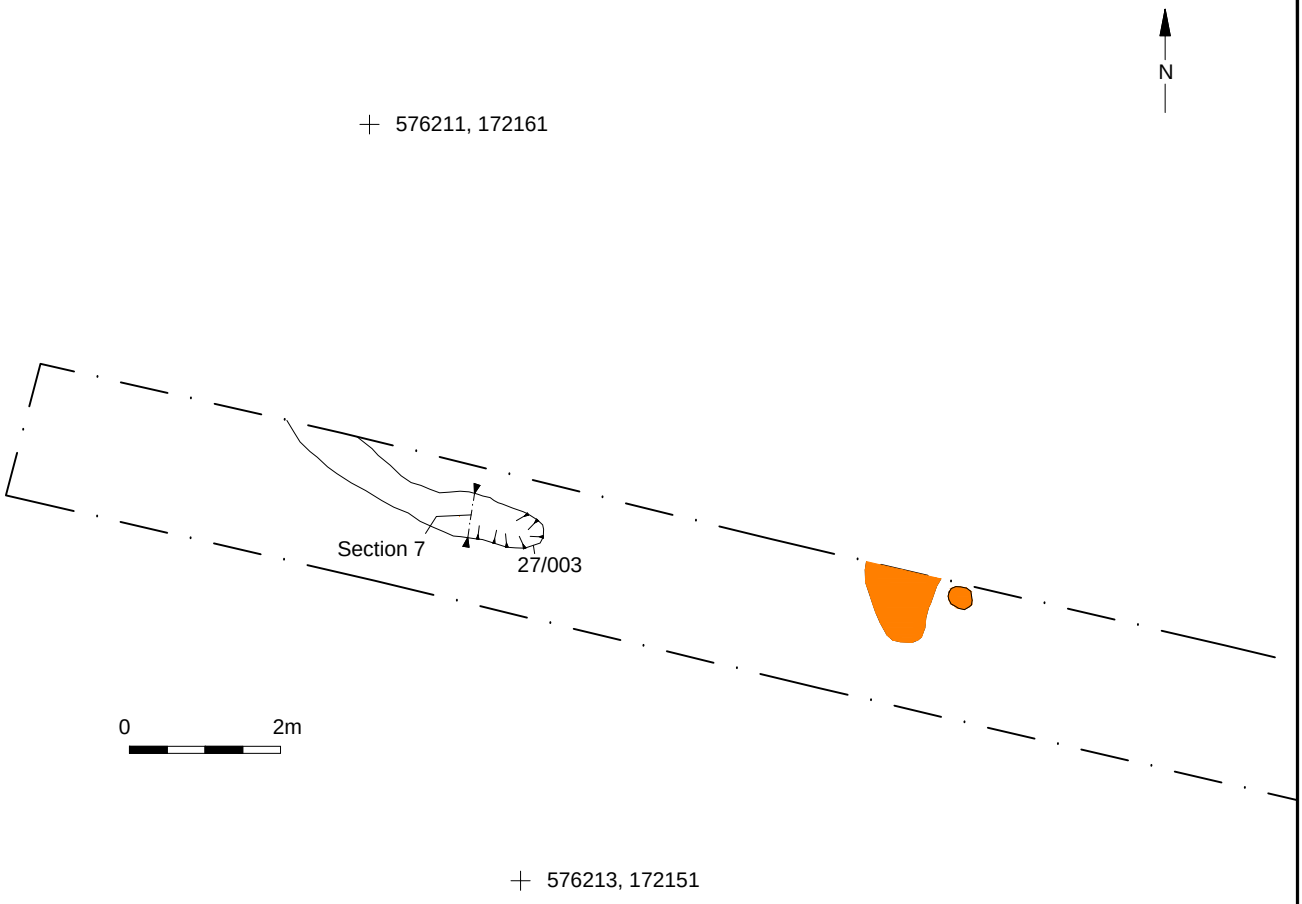
Report Ref: 2171170	Drawn by: AR		

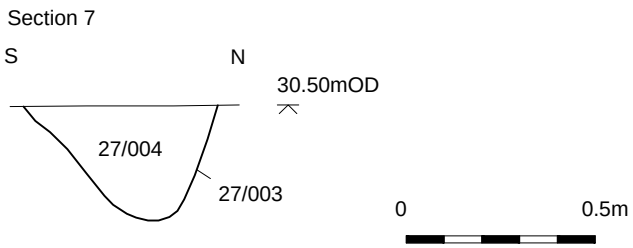


© **Archaeology South-East**		Land at Chattenden	Fig. 15
Project Ref: 160090	April 2017	Trench 25, plan	
Report Ref: 2017170	Drawn by: AR		

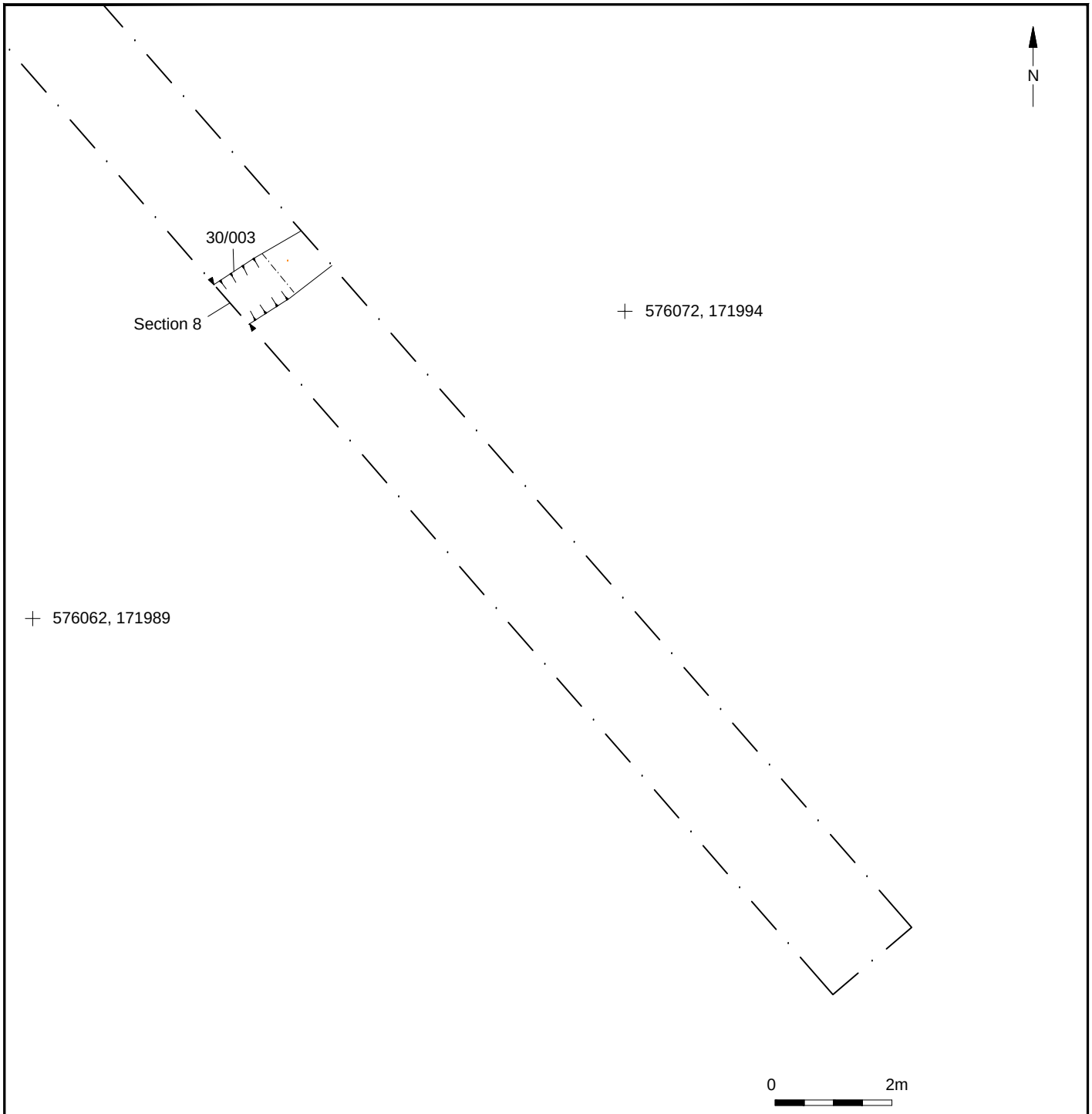


27/003, looking south east

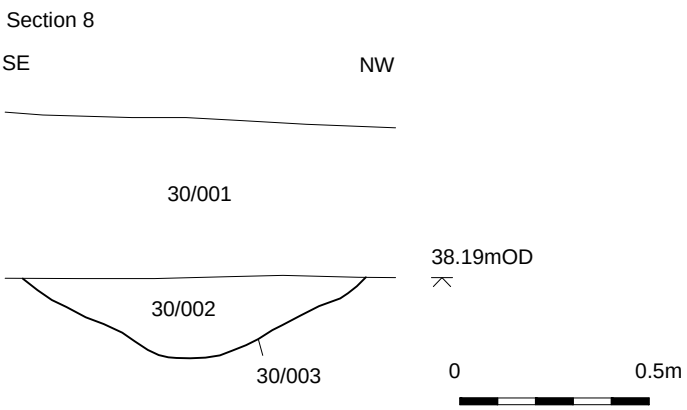
Potential prehistoric feature (unexcavated)



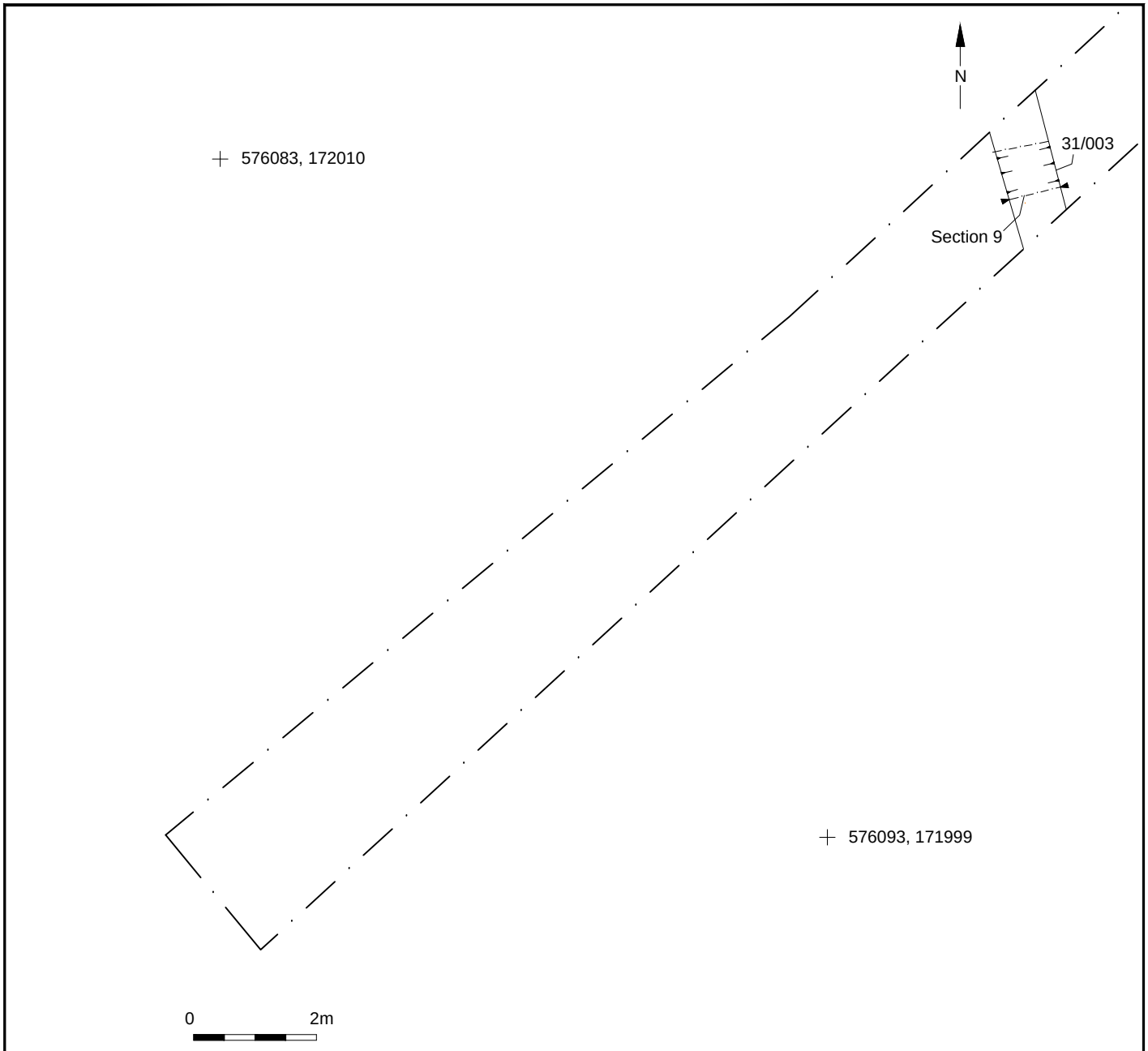
© Archaeology South-East		Land at Chattenden	Fig. 16
Project Ref: 160090	April 2017	Trench 27, plan, section and photograph	
Report Ref: 2017170	Drawn by: AR		



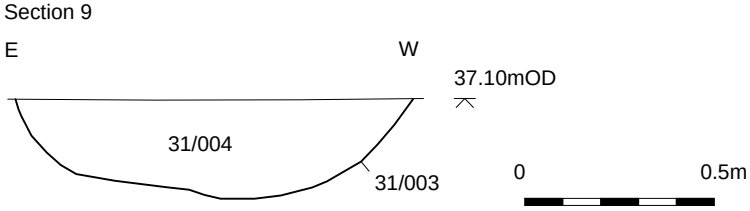
30/003, looking south west



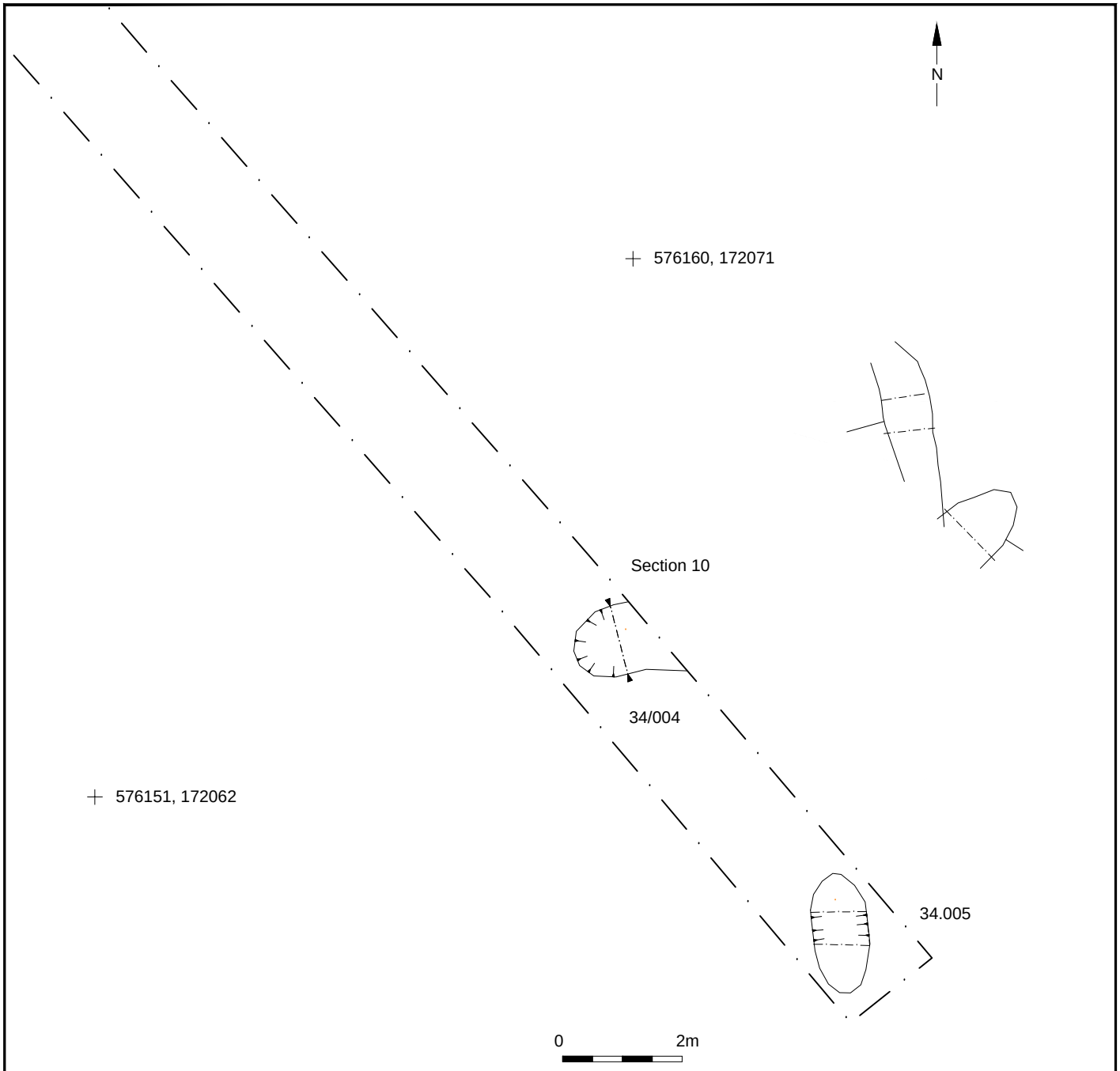
© Archaeology South-East		Land at Chattenden	Fig. 17
Project Ref: 160090	April 2017	Trench 30, plan, section and photograph	
Report Ref: 2017170	Drawn by: AR		



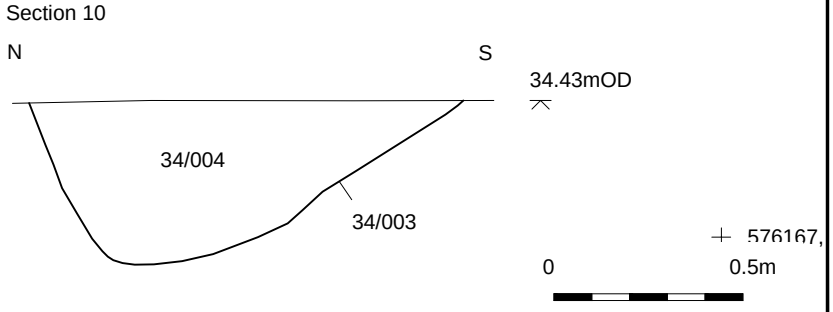
31/003, looking south



© Archaeology South-East		Land at Chattenden	Fig.18
Project Ref: 160090	April 2017	Trench 31, plan, section and photograph	
Report Ref: 2017170	Drawn by: AR		



34/003, looking east



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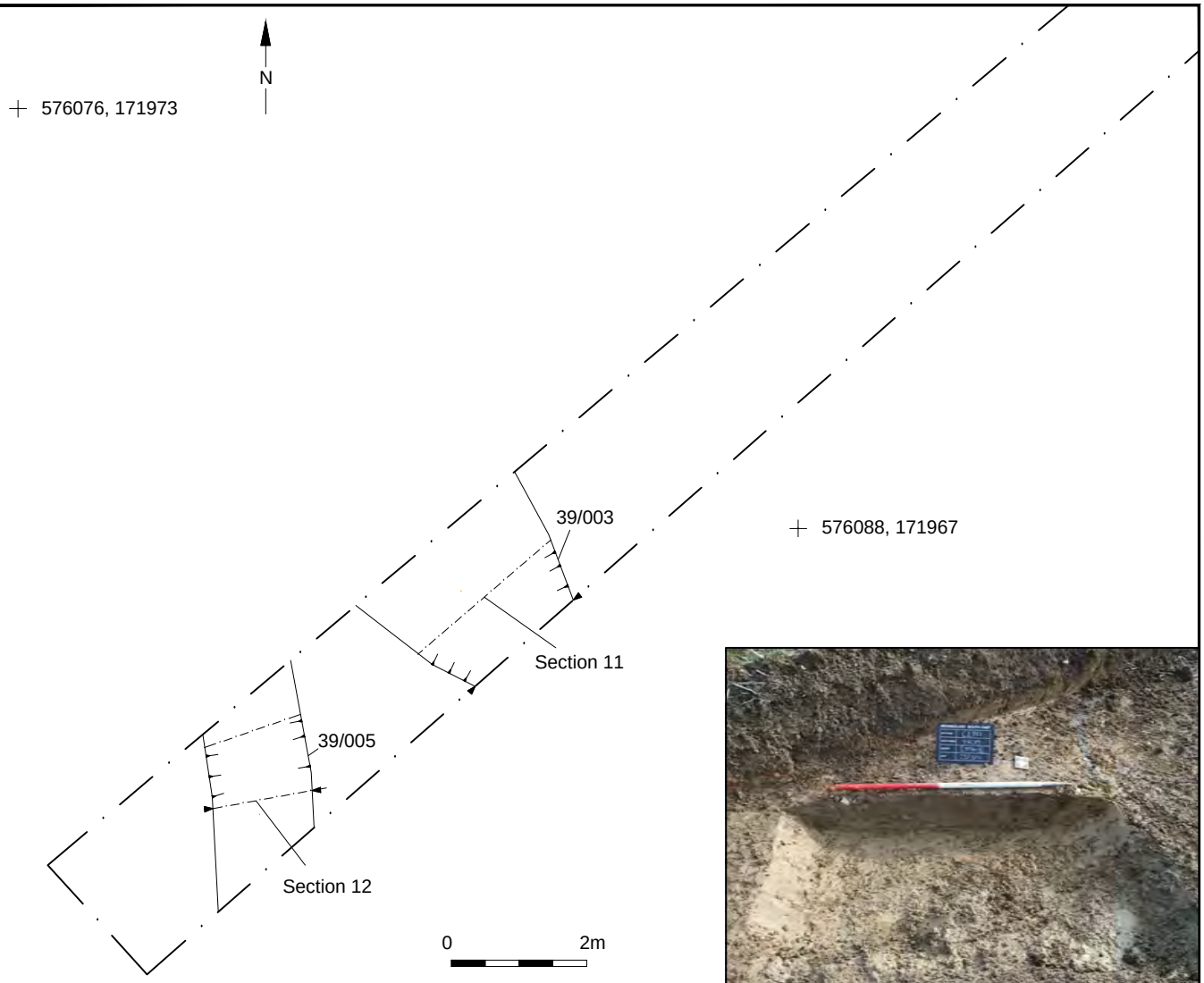
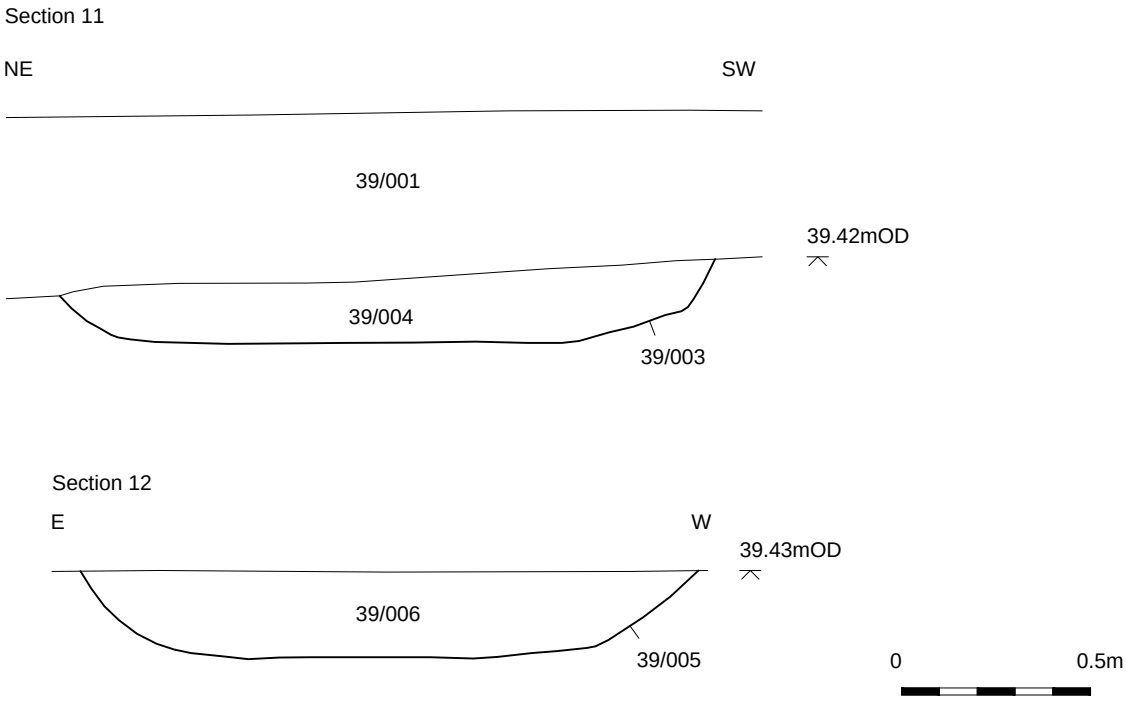
Project Ref: 160090	April 2017	Trench 34, plan, section and photograph	
Report Ref: 2017170	Drawn by: AR		



39/003, looking north west



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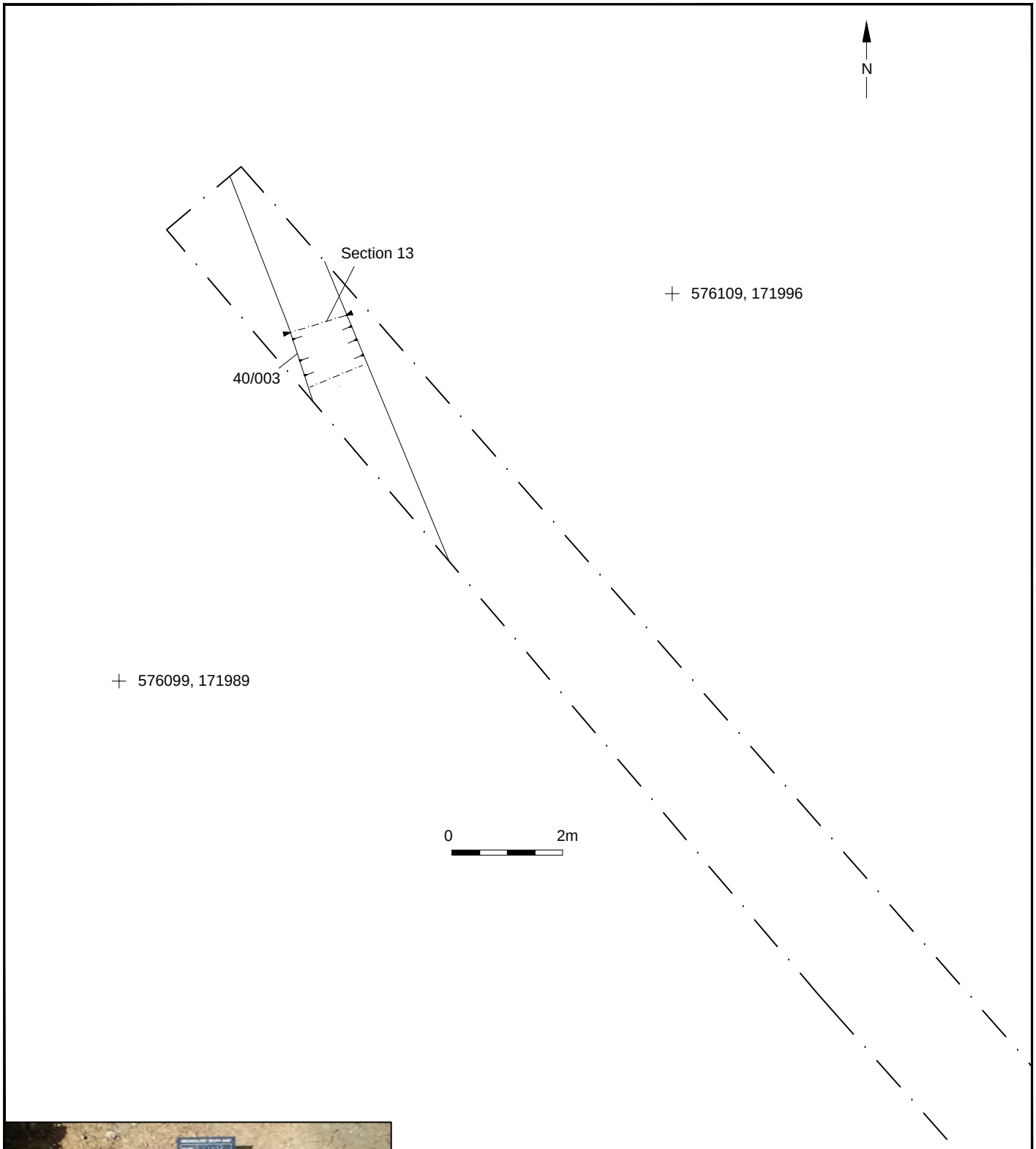
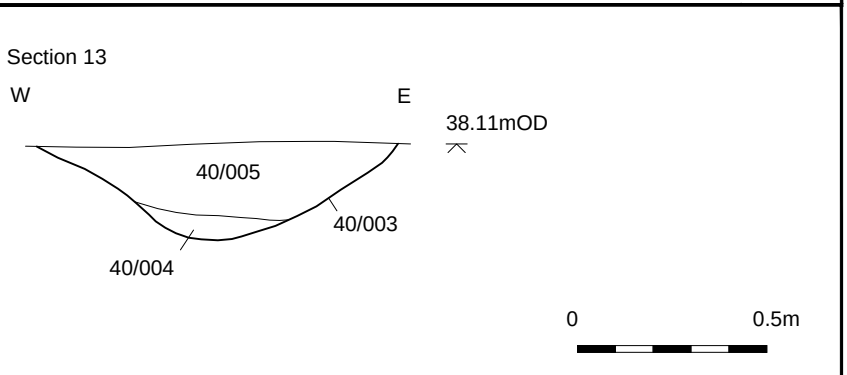
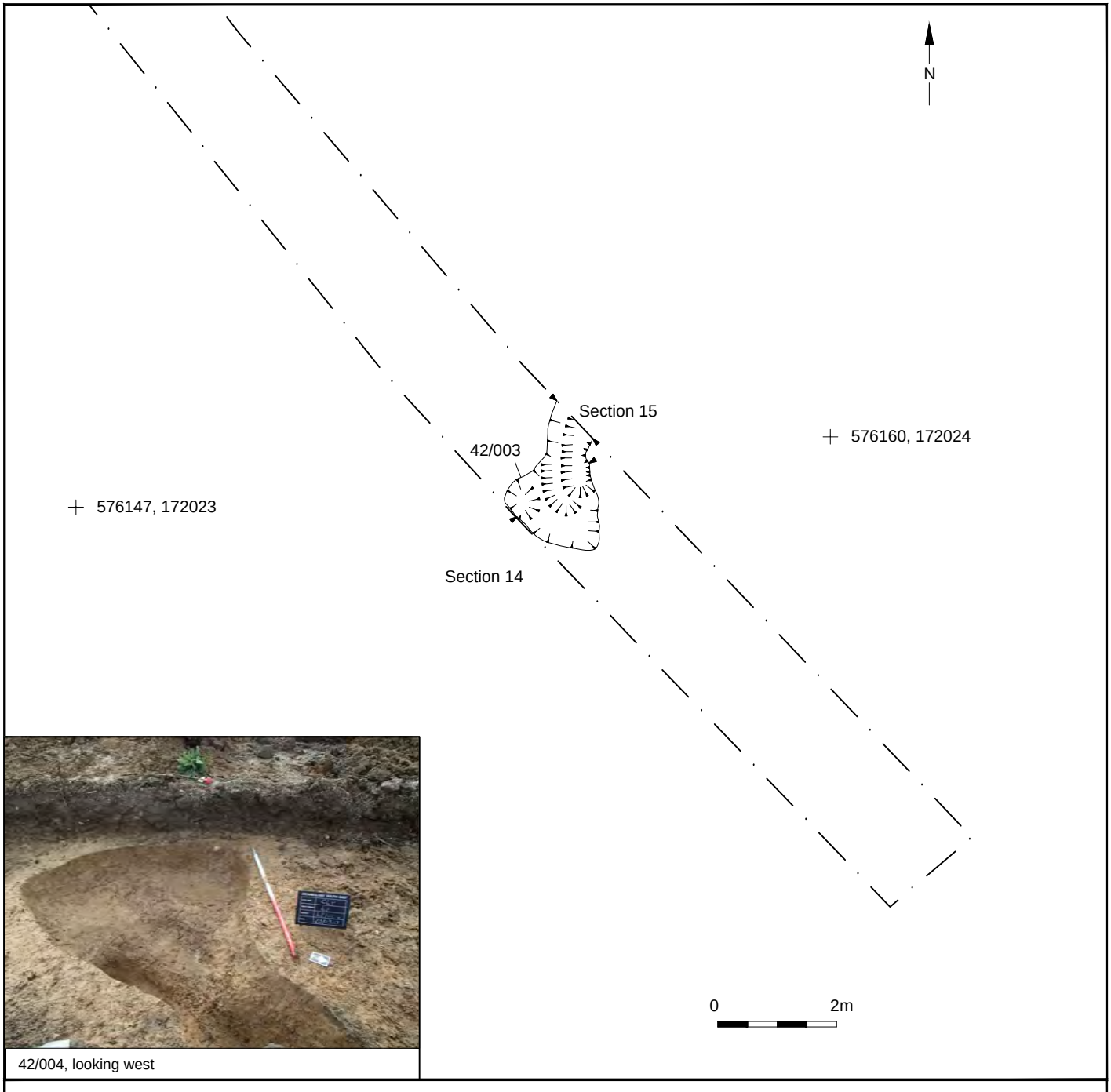
Project Ref: 160090	April 2017	Trench 39, plan, sections and photographs	
Report Ref: 2017170	Drawn by: AR		



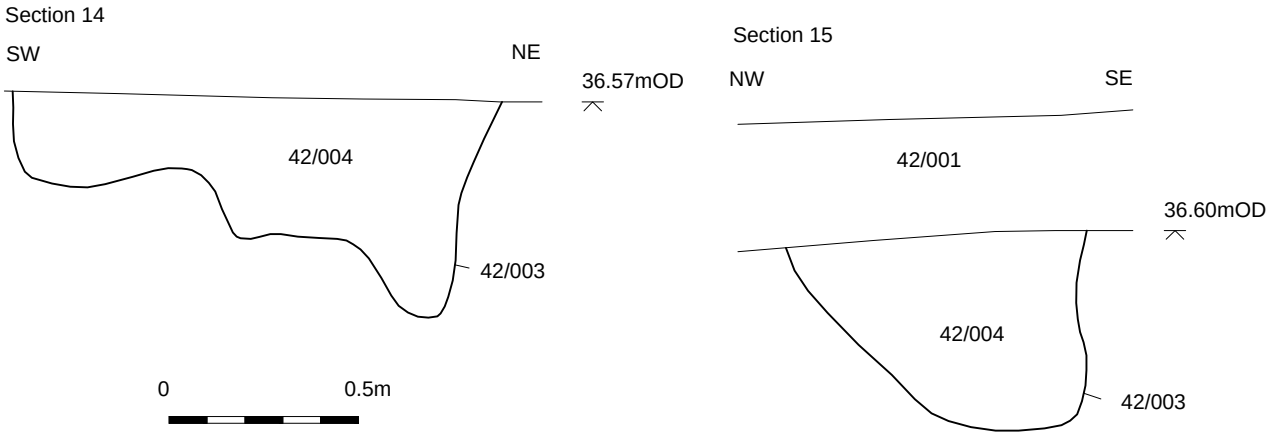
40/003, looking north



© Archaeology South-East		Land at Chattenden	Fig. 21
Project Ref: 160090	April 2017	Trench 40, plan section and photograph	
Report Ref: 2017170	Drawn by: AR		



42/004, looking west



© Archaeology South-East		Land at Chattenden	Fig. 22
Project Ref: 160090	April 2017	Trench 42, plan sections and photograph	
Report Ref:2017170	Drawn by: AR		

N

576167, 172051

43/005

Section 16

576177, 172042

Section 17

43/003

0 2m

Potential prehistoric feature (unexcavated)

43/005, looking south east

Section 16

NE SW

35.34mOD

43/006

43/005

0 0.5m

Section 17

SE NW SW NE

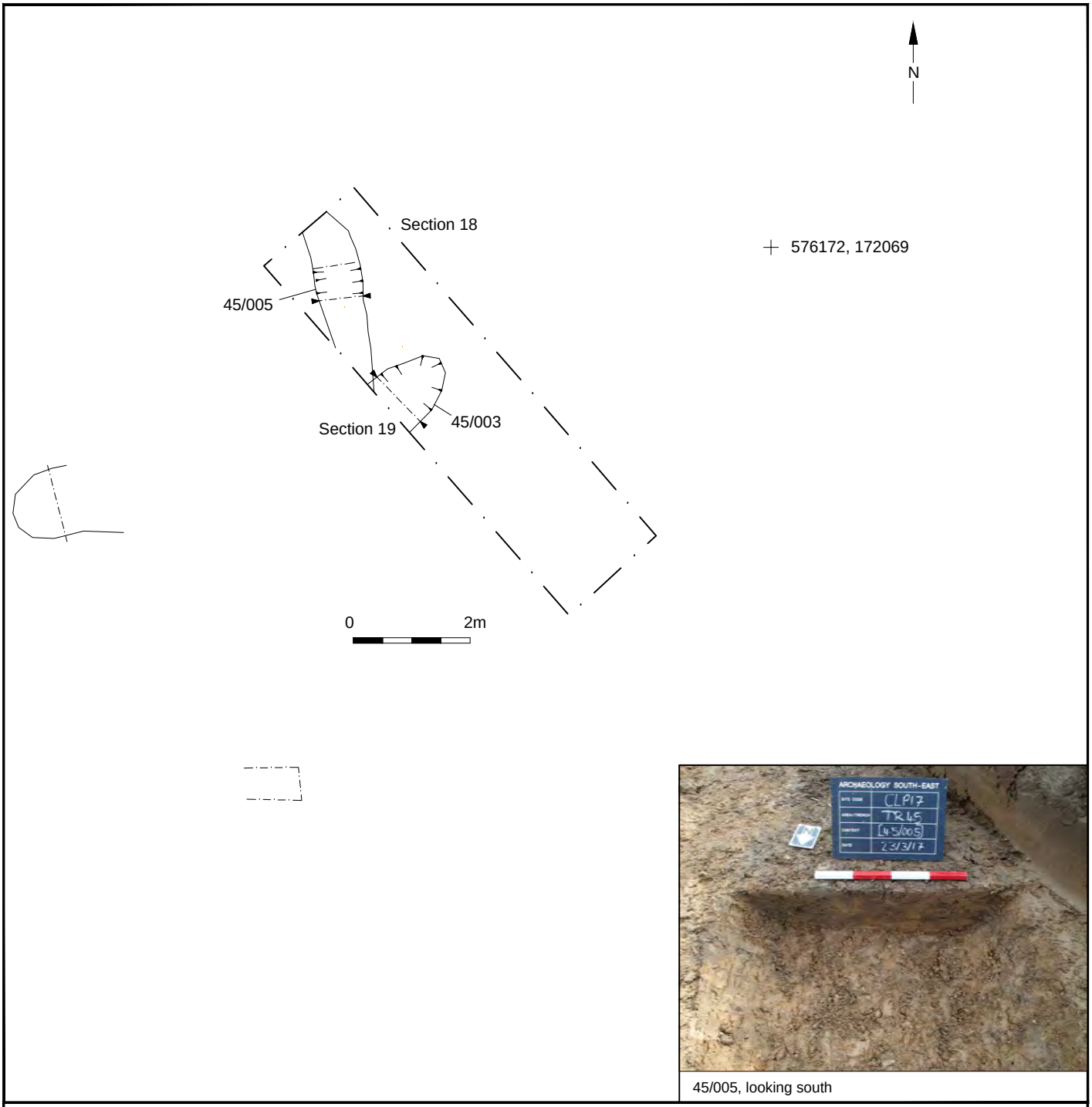
43/001

34.58mOD

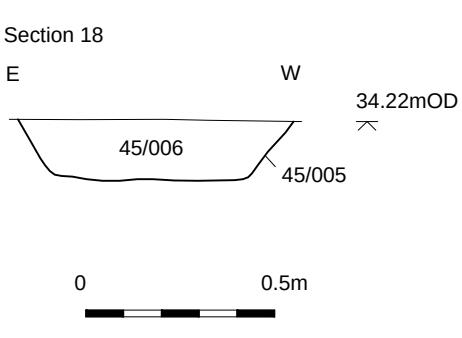
43/004 43/004

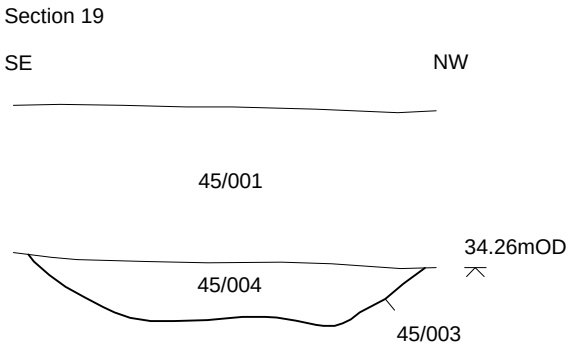
43/003

© Archaeology South-East		Land at Chattenden	Fig. 23
Project Ref: 160090	April 2017	Trench 43, plan, sections and photograph	
Report Ref: 2017170	Drawn by: AR		



45/005, looking south





© Archaeology South-East		Land at Chattenden	Fig. 24
Project Ref: 160090	April 2017	Trench 45, plan, sections and photograph	
Report Ref: 2017170	Drawn by: AR		

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