

**Archaeological Evaluation Report
Land at Barn Cottage, Lewes Road
Scaynes Hill, West Sussex**

**NGR: 536770 122980
(TQ 36770 22980)**

Planning Ref: DM/16/3119

**ASE Project No: 170297
Site Code: SYE 17
ASE Report No: 2017216
OASIS id: archaeol6-285997**



By Ian Hogg



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Prepared by:	Ian Hogg	Senior Archaeologist	
Reviewed and approved by:	Dan Swift	Project Manager	
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Revision:			

**Archaeology South-East
Units 1 & 2
2 Chapel Place
Portslade
East Sussex
BN41 1DR**

**Tel: 01273 426830
Fax: 01273 420866
Email: fau@ucl.ac.uk**

Abstract

Archaeology South-East was commissioned by Greenplan Designer Homes (Hassocks) Ltd to undertake an archaeological evaluation at land at Barn Cottage, Lewes Road, Scaynes Hill, West Sussex. The evaluation comprised 13 machine excavated trenches.

The natural weald clay was recorded between 65.48m and 74.17m aOD. It was overlain by subsoil and topsoil across almost the entire site; in the north-east the ground level had been raised during the 20th century to create a terrace.

A small drainage gully was recorded running southwards in the south of the site, although this feature could not be securely date the presence of CBM in the fill and the fact that it cut the subsoil suggest a post-medieval date.

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Site Background

- 1.1.1 Archaeology South-East (ASE) was commissioned by Greenplan Designer Homes (Hassocks Ltd), to undertake an archaeological evaluation of land at Barn Cottage, Scaynes Hill, Haywards Heath, West Sussex (NGR: 536770 122980).
- 1.1.2 The site is currently given over to pasture and is bounded to the west and south by woodland, to the north by residential developments and to the east by housing and a small wooded area.
- 1.1.3 The evaluation comprised 14 trenches each measuring 30m x 1.8m in plan. One trench could not be excavated due to access issues.

1.2 Geology and Topography

- 1.2.1 The underlying solid geology of the site comprises Upper Tunbridge Wells Sand. Superficial deposits are not recorded (BGS 2017); Weald Clay is mapped as lying to the south of the site.

1.3 Planning Background

- 1.3.1 An outline planning application has been approved by Mid Sussex District Council (MSDC) for the residential development of the site (DM/16/3119). Trial trench evaluation is required by condition|:

8. No development shall take place until the applicant has secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological work in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation which has been submitted by the applicant and approved by the Planning Authority.

Reason: To ensure that the archaeological and historical interest of the site is safeguarded and recorded to comply with policy B18 of the Mid Sussex Local Plan.

- 1.3.2 Accordingly, prior to the commencement of the work, a Written Scheme of Investigation (ASE 2017) was prepared and approved by Alex Egginton of the Surrey Heritage Conservation Team. This set out the methodology for the evaluation and all works were carried out in accordance with it and with the ClfA standards and guidance (ClfA 2017) and with the Sussex Archaeological Standards (WSCC, ESCC & CDC 2015).

1.4 Scope of Report

- 1.4.1 This report details the results of the archaeological evaluation carried out on the site between the 15th and the 18th of May 2017 by Ian Hogg (Senior Archaeologist) and Naomi Humphrey (Archaeologist). The fieldwork was managed by Paul Mason, the post-excavation work by Jim Stevenson and Dan Swift.

2.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 2.1 As part of the WSI (ASE 2017), an HER search (Search Number 67736-17-028) was ordered, targeting a 500m radius around the site. The search came back showing 4 sites (all of post-medieval date) and 2 listed buildings within the study area; a 500m radius of the site.
- 2.2 No finds of prehistoric, Roman or medieval material have been recorded within the study area.
- 2.3 The Church of St Augustine of Canterbury is a Grade II Listed building and is located about 255m north-east of the site. It dates back to the 19th century. Inces House is another Grade II Listed Building and is a post-medieval historic farmstead, located 150m south-east of the site.
- 2.4 The other post-medieval sites to have been identified within the study area are brickworks (early 20th century), a War Memorial within the grounds of the Church of St. Augustine of Canterbury, the site of a historic outfarm south-east of the Anchor Inn and the Scaynes Hill Historic Farmstead. They have all been dated to the 19th century.

2.5 Project Aims and Objectives

- 2.6 The broad aims of the evaluation were:
- 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 the Archaeological Advisors to MSDC to make an informed decision as to the requirement for any further archaeological work at the site
- 2.7 The site also had the potential to address a number of more specific research questions drawn from the South-East Research Framework:
- The chronology and typology of farm buildings and other lesser noticed post-medieval agricultural features, such as dew ponds and sheepfolds
 - The development of the village in the post-medieval period
 - The morphology of brick production sites, from kiln technology to ancillary buildings

3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY

3.1 Evaluation Methodology

- 3.1.1 Fourteen 30m x 1.8m trenches were to be excavated originally. Due to access issues, Trench 4 could not be excavated; Trench 2 had to be shortened and Trenches 13 and 14 had to be slightly moved due to their proximity to trees. The trench locations, as excavated, are shown on Figure 2.
- 3.1.2 All trenches were scanned using a cable avoidance tool prior to excavation. Mechanical excavation was undertaken under archaeological supervision in spits of no more than 0.25m to the top of archaeological deposits.
- 3.1.3 All deposits were recorded using ASE standard context sheets. Vertical sections were taken across features where necessary and a comprehensive photographic record taken.
- 3.1.4 Trenches were hand planned and tied in to the Ordnance Survey.
- 3.1.5 Spoil heaps and trial pit bases were scanned by eye for unstratified finds.
- 3.1.6 Trenches were backfilled using the machine bucket, no formal reinstatement was undertaken.

3.2 Archive

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

Context sheets	44
Section sheets	1
Plans sheets	2
Colour photographs	0
B&W photos	0
Digital photos	30
Context register	1
Drawing register	1
Watching brief forms	0
Trench Record forms	13
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	0
Palaeoenvironmental specialists sample samples (e.g. columns, prepared slides)	0
Waterlogged wood	0
Wet sieved environmental remains from bulk samples	0

Table 1: Quantification of site archive

4.0 RESULTS

4.1 Trench 11 (Figure 3)

Context	Type	Interpretation	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Height (m aOD)
11/001	Layer	Topsoil	30.00	1.80	0.25-0.35	67.50-68.31
11/002	Layer	Subsoil	30.00	1.80	0.13-0.26	67.15-68.03
11/003	Layer	Natural	30.00	1.80	-	66.89-67.90
11/004	Fill	Fill, primary	1.80	0.76	0.29	67.97
11/005	Cut	Gully	1.80	0.76	0.29	67.97

Table 2: Trench 11 list of recorded contexts

- 4.1.1 Trench 11 was located towards the south of the site and measured 30.00m x 1.80m in plan. Excavation ceased at the top of the natural Weald Clay. The trench contained a single gully.
- 4.1.2 The natural yellow Weald Clay [11/003] was recorded between 67.15m and 68.03m aOD. The natural deposits were overlain by mid-brownish orange clayey silt subsoil [11/002] between 0.13m and 0.26m thick. The subsoil was cut by a north to south aligned gully [11/005]; this feature had steep sides and a flat base and measured 1.80m in visible length, 0.76m in width and 0.29m in depth. The gully fill [11/004] comprised mid greyish brown clayey silt and contained two fragments of undiagnostic CBM. This feature was also recorded in Trench 13. Given that the gully cuts the subsoil and shares a similar alignment to present-day field boundaries, it seems likely that it is of relatively recent origins, and is probably a post-medieval drainage ditch.
- 4.1.3 The gully was sealed by dark brownish grey silt topsoil [11/001] which measured between 0.25m and 0.35m in thickness.

4.2 Trench 13 (Figure 4)

Context	Type	Interpretation	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Height (m aOD)
13/001	Layer	Topsoil	30.00	1.80	0.25-0.31	67.04-67.15
13/002	Layer	Subsoil	30.00	1.80	0.13-0.23	66.79-66.87
13/003	Layer	Natural	30.00	1.80	-	66.56-66.74
13/004	Fill	Fill, primary	1.80	0.85	0.33	66.79
13/005	Cut	Gully	1.80	0.85	0.33	66.79

Table 3: Trench 13 list of recorded contexts

- 4.2.1 Trench 13 was located in the south of the site and measured 30.00m x 1.80m in plan. Excavation ceased at the top of the natural Weald Clay. The trench contained a single gully.
- 4.2.2 The natural yellow Weald Clay [13/003] was recorded between 66.56m and 66.74m aOD. The natural deposits were overlain by mid-brownish orange clayey silt subsoil [13/002] between 0.13m and 0.23m thick. The subsoil was cut by a north to south aligned gully [13/005]; this feature had steep sides and a flat base and measured 1.80m in visible length, 0.85m in width and 0.31m in depth. The gully fill [13/004] comprised mid greyish brown clayey silt and did not contain any finds. This feature was also recorded in Trench 11. Given that the gully cuts the subsoil and on a similar alignment to present-day field boundaries, it seems likely that it is of relatively recent origins, and is probably a post-medieval drainage ditch.
- 4.2.3 The gully was sealed by dark brownish grey silt topsoil [13/001] which measured between 0.25m and 0.31m in thickness.

4.3 Trenches 1, 2, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 12 and 14

- 4.3.1 These ten trenches were located across the site and with the exception of Trench 2, which was shortened to 26.00m in length, they all measured 30.00m x 1.80m in plan; they all displayed the same stratigraphic sequence. Excavation ceased at the top of the natural Weald Clay; no archaeology was recorded any of these trenches.
- 4.3.2 The natural yellow Weald Clay [003] was overlain by mid brownish grey clayey silt subsoil [002]. The subsoil was sealed by dark brown grey silt topsoil [001]. Context detail for the archaeologically negative trenches is listed in Appendix 1 at the back of this report.

4.4 Trench 3

- 4.4.1 Trench 3 was located in the north-east of the site and measured 30.00m x 1.80m in plan. Excavation ceased at the top of the natural Weald Clay. The trench did not contain any archaeology.
- 4.4.2 The natural yellow Weald Clay [3/004] was recorded between 72.32m and 74.17m aOD; it was overlain by mid-brownish grey clayey silt subsoil [3/003] between 0.22m and 0.24m thick. The subsoil was overlain by a mixed dark grey and yellow rubbly clay modern made ground deposit [3/002] which measured between 0.10m and 0.40m in thickness. The made ground was sealed by dark brown grey silt topsoil [3/001] measuring between 0.28m and 0.38m in thickness. Context detail for this trench is listed in Appendix 1 at the back of this report.

5.0 THE FINDS

- 5.1 Two very small fragments of ceramic building material (CBM) collectively weighing less than a gram were found in [11/004]. Due to their small size little information could be recovered from the CBM. Both were under-fired which could indicate an early post-medieval date but this is entirely speculative.

6.0 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

6.1 Overview of stratigraphic sequence

6.1.1 Natural Weald Clay was recorded across the site between 65.48m and 74.21m aOD; the natural deposits were almost uniformly overlain by subsoil and topsoil except in Trench 3 where modern landscaping had led to made ground overlying the subsoil. This landscaping also accounted for a modern truncation at the northern end of Trench 5.

6.1.2 The only feature recorded on site was a north to south aligned drainage gully observed in Trenches 11 and 13; this feature was cut through the subsoil and this, the presence of small fragments of CBM and the alignment of the feature, suggest a post-medieval date.

6.2 Deposit survival and existing impacts

6.2.1 The site has not been previously developed and with the exception of the landscaping the north-east, no traces of horizontal truncation were recorded. The landscaping appeared to be an attempt to terrace a small rectangular part of the site. The modern truncation recorded in Trench 5 appears to have been part of this.

6.3 Discussion of archaeological remains by period

6.3.1 The only feature on site was the probable drainage gully in the south of the site. Given that the gully cuts the subsoil and on a similar alignment to present-day field boundaries, it seems likely that it is of relatively recent origins, and is probably a post-medieval drainage ditch.

6.4 Consideration of Research Aims

6.4.1 The evaluation has established that limited archaeological remains were present in the south of the site. Survival was good with localised disturbance only in the north-east of the site.

6.4.2 The archaeological remains comprised a single north to south aligned drainage gully which is likely to be of post-medieval date. This feature was most likely associated with agricultural activity and represents an attempt to alleviate the water problems in this, the lowest portion of the site.

6.4.3 No evidence of brick production was recorded and given the nature of the feature, nothing can be said of the development of Scaynes Hill as a settlement.

6.5 Conclusions

6.5.1 The evaluation confirmed the presence of very limited archaeological remains in the south of the site comprising of a probable post-medieval drainage ditch. The remainder of the trenches did not contain any archaeology and generally displayed an undisturbed sequence of subsoil and topsoil overlying the natural Weald Clay.

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

ASE would like to thank Greenplan Designer Homes (Hassocks) Ltd for commissioning the work and for their assistance throughout the project. The evaluation was directed by Ian Hogg. The author would like to thank all archaeologists who worked on the excavations. John Cook produced the figures for this report; Paul Mason managed the excavations and Jim Stevenson and Dan Swift the post-excavation process.

HER Summary

Site Code	SYE 17					
Identification Name and Address	Land at Barn Cottage, Lewes Road, Scaynes Hill					
County, District &/or Borough	West Sussex					
OS Grid Refs.	536770 122980					
Geology	Weald Clay					
Arch. South-East Project Number	170297					
Type of Fieldwork	Eval.					
Type of Site	Green Field					
Dates of Fieldwork	15-05-17 - 08-05-17					
Sponsor/Client	Greenplan Designer Homes (Hassocks) Ltd					
Project Manager	Paul Mason					
Project Supervisor	Ian Hogg					
Period Summary						
			PM	Other Modern		
<p><i>The evaluation comprised 13 machine excavated trenches each measuring 30m x 1.8m in plan. The natural weald clay was recorded between 65.48m and 74.17m aOD. It was overlain by subsoil and topsoil across almost the entire site; in the north-east the ground level had been raised during the 20th century to create a terrace.</i></p> <p><i>The evaluation confirmed the presence of very limited archaeological remains in the south of the site comprising of a probable post-medieval drainage ditch. The remainder of the trenches did not contain any archaeology and generally displayed an undisturbed sequence of subsoil and topsoil overlying the natural Weald Clay.</i></p>						

OASIS Form

OASIS ID: archaeol6-285997

Project details

Project name Land at Barn Cottage, Lewes Road, Scaynes Hill

Short description of the project The evaluation comprised 13 machine excavated trenches. The natural weald clay was recorded between 65.48m and 74.17m aOD. It was overlain by subsoil and topsoil across almost the entire site; in the north-east the ground level had been raised during the 20th century to create a terrace. The evaluation confirmed the presence of very limited archaeological remains in the south of the site comprising of a probable post-medieval drainage ditch. The remainder of the trenches did not contain any archaeology and generally displayed an undisturbed sequence of subsoil and topsoil overlying the natural Weald Clay.

Project dates Start: 15-05-2017 End: 18-05-2017

Previous/future work No / Not known

Any associated project reference codes SYE17 - Sitecode

Any associated project reference codes 170297 - Contracting Unit No.

Type of project Field evaluation

Site status None

Current Land use Grassland Heathland 2 - Undisturbed Grassland

Monument type DITCH Post Medieval

Significant Finds NONE None

Methods & techniques "Sample Trenches"

Development type Rural residential

Prompt National Planning Policy Framework - NPPF

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

Project location

Country England

Site location WEST SUSSEX MID SUSSEX HAYWARDS HEATH Land at Barn Cottage, Lewes Road, Scaynes Hill

Postcode RH17 7NE

Study area 1.9 Hectares

Site coordinates TQ 36770 22980 50.989390181887 -0.051043822268 50 59 21 N 000 03 03 W Point

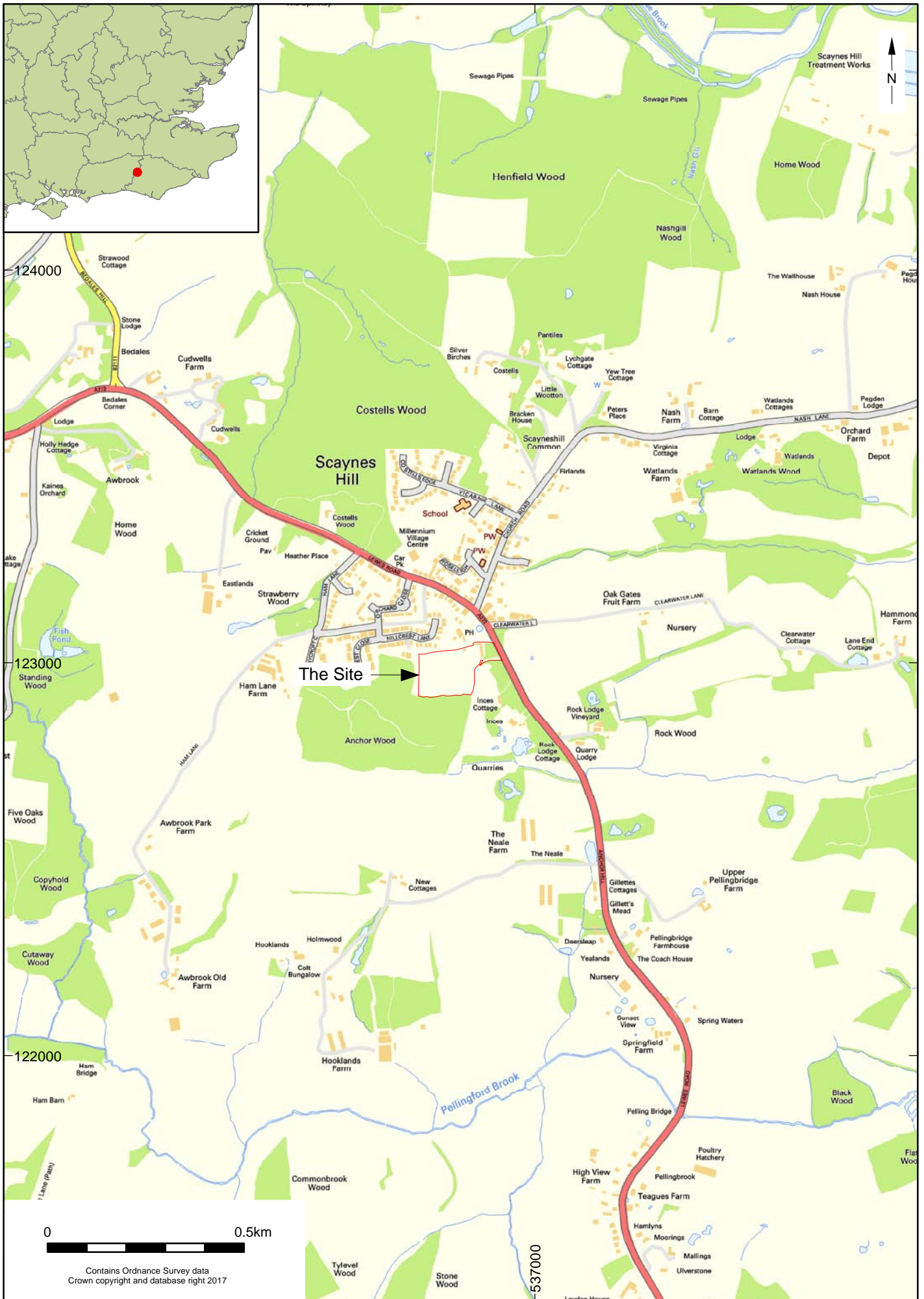
Height OD / Depth Min: 65.48m Max: 74.19m

Project creators

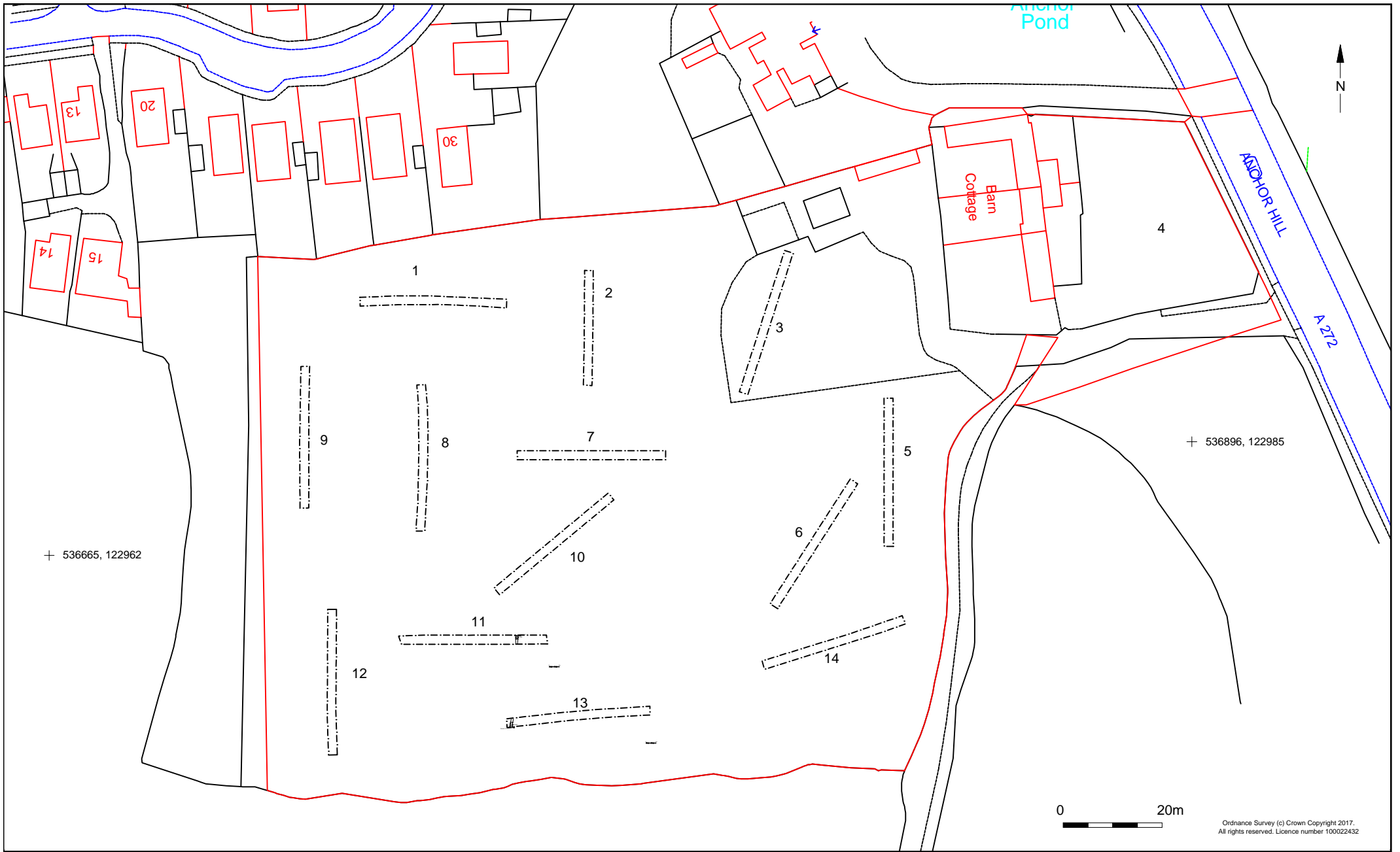
Name of Organisation	Archaeology South-East
Project brief originator	Mid Sussex District Council
Project design originator	ASE
Project director/manager	Paul Mason
Project supervisor	Ian Hogg
Type of sponsor/funding body	Developer
Name of sponsor/funding body	Greenplan Designer Homes (Hassocks) Ltd
Project archives	
Physical Archive recipient	Local Museum
Physical Contents	"Ceramics"
Digital Archive recipient	Local Museum
Digital Contents	"Stratigraphic", "Survey"
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography", "Survey"
Paper Archive recipient	Local Museum
Paper Contents	"Stratigraphic"
Paper Media available	"Context sheet", "Plan", "Report", "Section"
Entered by	Ian Hogg (ian.hogg@ucl.ac.uk)
Entered on	26 May 2017

Appendix 1: Archaeologically negative trenches, list of recorded context

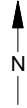
Trench	Context	Type	Interpretation	Depth (m)	Height (m aOD)
1	1/001	Layer	Topsoil	0.36-0.38	74.28-74.42
1	1/002	Layer	Subsoil	0.15-0.21	73.98-74.04
1	1/003	Layer	Natural	-	73.77-73.89
2	2/001	Layer	Topsoil	0.28-0.31	72.96-74.88
2	2/002	Layer	Subsoil	0.15-0.26	72.68-74.57
2	2/003	Layer	Natural	-	72.45-74.21
3	3/001	Layer	Topsoil	0.28-0.38	73.32-74.83
3	3/002	Layer	Made ground	0.10-0.40	72.94-74.55
3	3/003	Layer	Subsoil	0.22-0.24	72.54-74.41
3	3/004	Layer	Natural	-	72.32-74.17
5	5/001	Layer	Topsoil	0.22-0.25	69.51-72.68
5	5/002	Layer	Subsoil	0.19-0.21	69.29-72.25
5	5/003	Layer	Natural	-	69.11-72.04
6	6/001	Layer	Topsoil	0.28-0.31	68.60-70.83
6	6/002	Layer	Subsoil	0.15-0.16	68.29-70.52
6	6/003	Layer	Natural	-	68.13-70.37
7	7/001	Layer	Topsoil	0.25-0.31	71.63-71.99
7	7/002	Layer	Subsoil	0.12-0.24	71.32-71.74
7	7/003	Layer	Natural	-	71.14-71.49
8	8/001	Layer	Topsoil	0.24-0.31	70.42-73.25
8	8/002	Layer	Subsoil	0.15-0.21	70.11-72.94
8	8/003	Layer	Natural	-	69.96-72.79
9	9/001	Layer	Topsoil	0.28-0.32	70.61-73.21
9	9/002	Layer	Subsoil	0.17-0.21	70.33-72.89
9	9/003	Layer	Natural	-	70.12-72.70
10	10/001	Layer	Topsoil	0.25-0.31	69.08-70.99
10	10/002	Layer	Subsoil	0.14-0.17	68.80-70.68
10	10/003	Layer	Natural	-	68.63-70.54
12	12/001	Layer	Topsoil	0.25-0.31	65.94-68.11
12	12/002	Layer	Subsoil	0.15-0.21	65.63-67.80
12	12/003	Layer	Natural	-	65.48-67.59
14	14/001	Layer	Topsoil	0.21-0.39	67.53-67.99
14	14/002	Layer	Subsoil	0.16-0.21	67.32-67.60
14	14/003	Layer	Natural	-	67.16-67.39



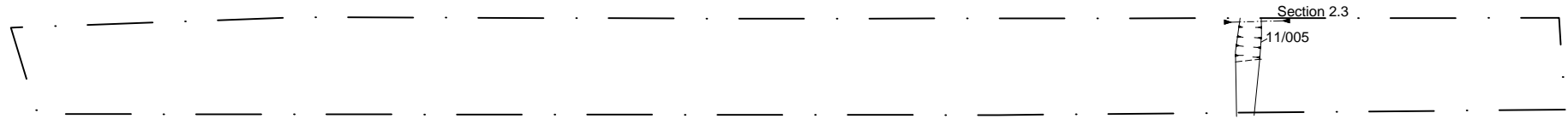
© Archaeology South-East		Barn Cottage, Scaynes Hill	Fig. 1
Project Ref: 170297	May 2017	Site location	
Report Ref: 2017216	Drawn by: JC		



© Archaeology South-East		Barn Cottage, Scaynes Hill	Fig. 2
Project Ref: 170297	March 2017	Trench locations	
Report Ref: 2017216	Drawn by: JC		



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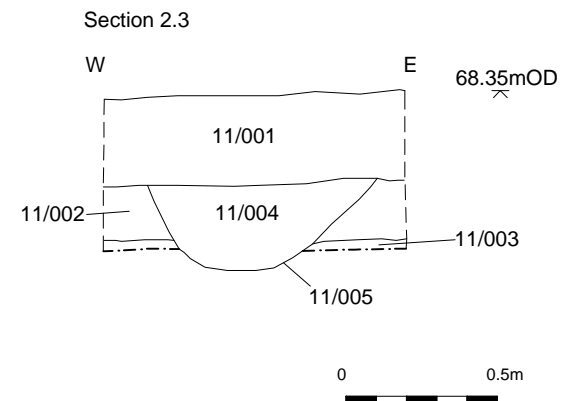
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Trench 11 looking east



Feature [11/005] looking north



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Project Ref: 170238
Report Ref: 2017242

May 2017
Drawn by: JC

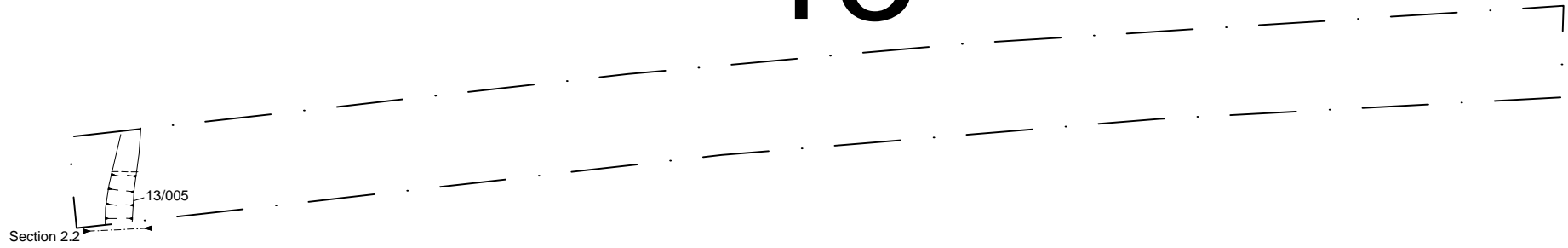
Barn Cottage, Scaynes Hill

Trench 11 plan, section and photographs

Fig. 3



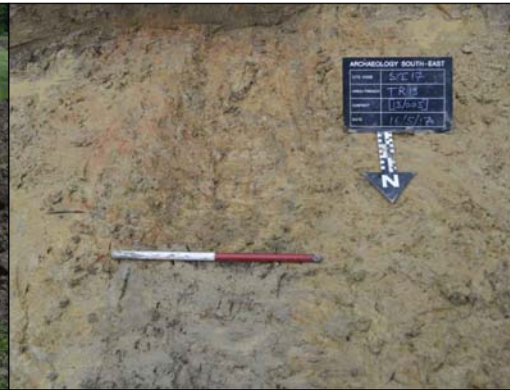
13



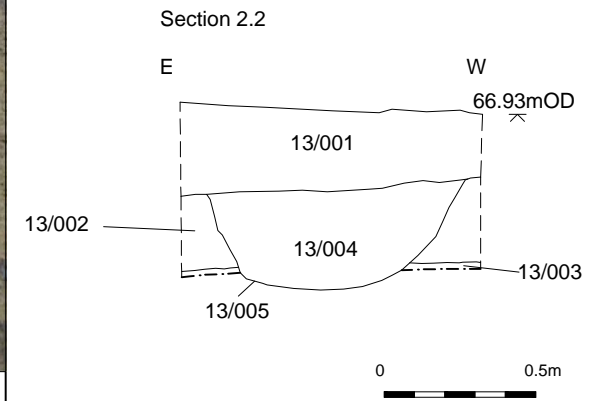
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Trench 13 looking west



Feature [13/005] looking south



© Archaeology South-East		Barn Cottage, Scaynes Hill	Fig. 4
Project Ref: 170297	May 2017	Trench 13 plan, section and photographs	
Report Ref: 2017216	Drawn by: JC		



Trench 1 facing south west



Trench 2 facing south



Trench 3 facing north



Trench 4 facing south west



Trench 5 facing south



Trench 6 facing north east



Trench 7 facing west



Trench 8 facing north



Trench 9 facing north



Trench 10 facing north east



Trench 12 facing south



Trench 14 facing west

© Archaeology South-East		Barn Cottage, Scaynes Hill	Fig. 7
Project Ref: 170297	May 2017	Trenches 9-14 photographs	
Report Ref: 2017216	Drawn by: JC		

Sussex Office

Units 1 & 2
2 Chapel Place
Portslade
East Sussex BN41 1DR
tel: +44(0)1273 426830
email: fau@ucl.ac.uk
www.archaeologyse.co.uk

Essex Office

27 Eastways
Witham
Essex
CM8 3YQ
tel: +44(0)1376 331470
email: fau@ucl.ac.uk
www.archaeologyse.co.uk

London Office

Centre for Applied Archaeology
UCL Institute of Archaeology
31-34 Gordon Square
London WC1H 0PY
tel: +44(0)20 7679 4778
email: fau@ucl.ac.uk
www.ucl.ac.uk/caa

