

**An Archaeological Evaluation Report
Land East of Hawthorn Road, Staines, Surrey, TW18 3BP**

**NGR: 502275 171583
(SU 9801945864)**

**Planning Ref: RU.16/1806
ASE Project No: 170238
Site Code: HRS17
ASE Report No: 2017242
OASIS id: archaeol6-286037**



By Ian Hogg

**With contributions from
Anna Doherty, Isa Benedetti-Whitton, Karine Le Hégarat, Luke Barber,
Mariangela Vitolo, Dr Paola Ponce and Trista Clifford**

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Abstract

This report presents the results of an archaeological evaluation carried out by Archaeology South-East on Land East of Hawthorn Road, Staines, Surrey between the 8th and 11th May 2017 and a subsequent further phase of evaluation trenching between the 1st and 2nd June 2017. The fieldwork was commissioned by CgMs Consulting.

The initial evaluation comprised nine trenches and revealed natural Shepperton Gravels between 13.34m and 14.25m aOD; the gravels were overlain by subsoil where present, which has been overlain by modern made ground deposits.

The most notable features are a series of north-east/south-west aligned Roman ditches, one of which seems to have had an associated fence line running along the ditch bottom. This feature dates likely dates to the 1st century AD and stratigraphic evidence suggests that there was at least one, and possibly two, additional phases of similarly aligned boundary ditches at the site. A modest assemblage of finds suggest that the ditches may have been associated with a nearby settlement and one pit produced a fairly large assemblage of hammerscale, indicative of smithing activity in the area.

Isolated late post-medieval and modern truncation was recorded across the site. Nineteenth and early 20th century quarrying was observed in the southern and eastern parts of the site while modern truncation from successive developments was observed in the north and central areas.

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Site Background

- 1.1.1 Archaeology South-East (ASE) was commissioned by CgMs Consulting to carry out an archaeological field evaluation on land East of Hawthorn Road, Staines, Surrey, TW18 3BP hereafter 'the site'. The site is centred at National Grid Reference (NGR 502275 171583) its location is shown on Figure 1.
- 1.1.2 The site comprises an irregularly shaped parcel of land bound to the north by the A306 The Causeway, to the south by a railway, to the west by Hawthorne Road and to the east by housing.

1.2 Geology and Topography

- 1.2.1 The underlying geology of the site is Shepperton Gravels with an area of Langley Silt to the east. A geotechnical investigation (CgMs 2016) has demonstrated thicknesses of made ground across the site, related to the impact of previous development. All of the test pits were completed within the made ground; Borehole 201 towards the south-western corner, and Borehole 202 towards the north-western corner revealed 1.2m of made ground, above Shepperton Gravels. Within the southern part of the site, DTS210-11 revealed 2.65-3m+ of made ground, reflecting the impact of twentieth century excavations. Within the northern boundary, DTS201 also revealed 2.65m of made ground, reflecting the impact of previous buildings fronting the Causeway.
- 1.2.2 The surface topography of Staines is relatively flat, masking a gently undulating gravel sub-surface, which forms a number of islands or eyots surrounded by river or former river channels.

1.3 Planning Background

- 1.3.1 A planning application has been submitted to Runnymede Borough Council for the commercial redevelopment of the site. Dr Nick Truckle, Surrey County Council Archaeology Officer has recommended that the below condition is attached to the granting of planning consent.

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.

- 1.3.2 An archaeological desk-based assessment (DBA) was compiled in support of the planning application (CgMs 2016). This document highlighted the moderate potential for later prehistoric, Roman, Anglo-Saxon and medieval remains.
- 1.3.3 Accordingly, an Archaeological Written Scheme of Investigation (CgMs 2017) was prepared prior to the commencement of this phase of works, this document set out the methodology for the evaluation. All works were carried out in accordance with this document and with the ClfA standards and guidance (ClfA 2014a, b).

- 1.3.4 After the completion of the initial evaluation trenching a further phase of work was commissioned to provide further information on the nature and extent of the archaeology encountered. This phase comprised a further five trenches targeting features recorded during Phase 1.

1.4 Scope of Report

- 1.4.1 This report details the results of the Phase 1 archaeological evaluation carried out on the site between the 8th and the 11th May 2017 and the Phase 2 evaluation between 1st and 2nd June 2017. It has been prepared in accordance with the Written Scheme of Investigation (CgMs 2017). The work was carried out by Ian Hogg, Tom Munnery, Nathalie Gonzales (Senior Archaeologists), Paulo Clemente (Archaeologist) and Jasmine Vieri (Assistant Archaeologist). The fieldwork was managed by Andy Leonard, the post-excavation work by Jim Stevenson and Dan Swift.

2.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 Introduction

2.1.1 The following information is a summary drawn from an archaeological Desk-Based Assessment prepared for the site (CgMs 2016), used with due acknowledgement. For further detail please refer to the original DBA.

2.2 Prehistoric

2.2.1 It is now widely recognised (Bridgland 1996 and Wymer 1999) that the Shepperton gravel river Terrace underlying the bulk of the site was deposited in a phase of the last (Devensian) cold stage (at around 70,000 to 10,000 BC) when the country was unoccupied. While it is possible that the gravels may contain individual early Prehistoric flintwork artefacts, they are likely to be in a derived context having been eroded and moved from their original position of deposition, most likely in a higher, older gravel terrace further upstream.

2.2.2 Finds of Palaeolithic date identified within the area search radius include an Upper Palaeolithic activity/settlement site identified at Church Lammas, north of the site, in an area of alluvium and river terrace gravels. Upper Palaeolithic flintwork was also identified at the Glanty roundabout during the construction of the M25, west of the site.

2.2.3 Finds of Mesolithic date within the area include flintwork from the site of The Close, Vicarage Road, northeast of the site. Evidence of an axe trimmed forest, interpreted as being of prehistoric date, has been identified on land east of River Park Avenue, north of the Causeway on the south side of the Thames, northeast of the site.

2.2.4 From around 4000 BC, the mobile hunter-gathering economy of the Mesolithic gradually gave way to a more settled agriculture-based subsistence. The pace of woodland clearance to create arable and pasture-based agricultural land varied regionally and locally, depending on a wide variety of climatic, topographic, social and other factors. The trend was one of a slow, but gradually increasing pace of forest clearance.

2.2.5 By the 1st millennium, i.e. 1000 BC, the landscape was probably a mix of extensive tracts of open farmland, punctuated by earthwork burial and ceremonial monuments from distant generations, with settlements, ritual areas and defended locations reflecting an increasingly hierarchical society.

2.2.6 Evidence for Neolithic and Bronze Age settlement, agriculture, funerary and ritual activity across the Lower Colne and Thames Valleys is now extensive and increasingly well documented (Grimes 1960, Canham 1978, Cotton et al 1986, Robertson-Mackay 1987, and O'Connell 1986 and 1990). It is evident that within a landscape centred on the so called Heathrow-Stanwell cursus, some 3.5 km north-east of Staines, was an area which, through time, became increasingly cleared of its woodland cover, to become an intensely settled and farmed landscape. Despite extensive damage and destruction to this landscape by gravel extraction, reservoir construction, urbanisation and the expansion of Heathrow Airport, there is still a considerable potential for structural and artefactual evidence from this period to survive.

- 2.2.7 Excavations by Surrey County Council and more recently the British Museum at Runnymede Bridge/M25, north-west of the site, have revealed a major Bronze Age riverside settlement with rectangular and round houses. The nature of the site at the confluence of the Thames and Colne Brook and the range of exotic trade items, with evidence of feasting, suggests this was no ordinary settlement. Part of this site is now a designated Scheduled Monument, of national significance; it also comprises a CSAI Red Archaeological Constraint site.
- 2.2.8 Neolithic flint implements have been revealed to the north-east of the site, to the north, and from the Thames. Struck and burnt flint, pottery, bone and antler were identified at Runnymede Bridge to the north-west. Neolithic pottery has been identified at Vicarage Road to the north-east.
- 2.2.9 Pottery and mid to late Bronze Age features have been identified to the north-east, at Vicarage Road and at Church. Excavation at the Central Trading Estate to the north-east of the site has produced evidence of Late Bronze Age occupation and probable field systems. Excavations at the Duncroft School to the north of the site revealed a Bronze Age ring ditch and water hole, together with a Neolithic arrowhead and Bronze Age flintwork. Neolithic and Bronze Age features were recorded during excavations at the Friends' Burial Ground Site to the east of the site, and Bronze Age occupation was identified at 2-8 High Street, also to the south-east. Limited evidence of Bronze Age activity has been identified at Tilly's Lane also to the east of the site.
- 2.2.10 To the west of the site at Petters Sports field, excavations during the 1970's revealed extensive evidence of Neolithic, Middle and Late Bronze Age settlement and activity. A late Bronze Age ditch and associated flintwork has been identified at 133-9 High Street Egham to the south-west. Bronze Age finds and features have also been identified from fields adjacent to the M25, west of the site.
- 2.2.11 Numerous individual findspots of Neolithic and Bronze Age artefacts have been recorded from the area.
- 2.2.12 Salvage excavations by Grimes in 1944 (Grimes 1960 and Grimes *et al* 1993), Roy Canham in 1969 (Canham 1978), at Heathrow Airport to the north of the site (Framework Archaeology 2010), suggest fairly extensive settlement and agriculture across the Taplow Gravel Terrace. However, evidence from this period was not located during excavations at Stanwell (O'Connell 1990) and investigations in and around Staines have generally failed to yield artefactual or structural evidence from this period. Indeed, evidence from the Friends Burial Ground site to the south-east suggests that an increase in the water table during the Late Bronze Age and Iron Age may have made this area unattractive for settlement.
- 2.2.13 Late Iron Age occupation has however been identified at 2-8 High Street, to the east of the site. An Iron Age gully was identified at the Duncroft School to the north-east of the site, and a pit was identified at Vicarage Road also to the north-east. Evaluation of land to the south of the Causeway, west of the site, revealed a truncated ditch of probable Mid-late Iron Age date.

2.3 Roman

- 2.3.1 A wealth of stray finds, found from the 19th century onwards, combined with an increasing quantity of material recovered from archaeological interventions, evidences a significant Roman settlement centred on the High Street, north-east of the site, and along the approaches to a presumed bridging point across the Thames to the east. As early as 1695 an antiquarian writer was identifying Staines as the site of the Roman settlement of Pontes ('at the Bridges'), whilst William Stukeley writing in 1726 suggests that the settlement "was fenced round with a ditch". It was the Thames crossing point, on the principal Roman road from London to Silchester and the West Country, which gave Staines its strategic and economic importance (Margary 1955).
- 2.3.2 Current understanding of the origins and growth of Roman Staines suggests that an as yet undiscovered military installation may have protected the bridging point. Such a fort would have been short lived and a civilian settlement would have followed no doubt straddling the Roman Road (Crouch and Shanks 1984). Archaeological investigations suggest that the civil settlement was destroyed by fire in c.60 AD, a date that suggests the destruction was associated with the Boudiccan revolt. The strategic position of Staines suggests that it would have seen military reoccupation in the 60's for perhaps half a dozen years, but with the stabilisation of Roman authority and the redeployment of the army, civilian Staines grew, possibly around a 'mansio' (an official posting station).
- 2.3.3 A section of Roman road has been identified at the Coach and Horses public house on the Glanty roundabout to the west of the site. A possible ditch was discovered during the construction of the M25 at Egham, to the south-west. Excavations at Egham to the south-west of the site also revealed finds and features interpreted as a Roman farmstead. The later prehistoric site at Petters Sports Field to the west of the site also revealed Roman ditches and finds including a military harness mount.
- 2.3.4 To the northeast, Roman pottery and settlement related features have been found at Vicarage Road, and pottery has been found at Moor Lane, Staines.

2.4 Anglo Saxon and Medieval

- 2.4.1 Current understanding of Saxon settlement at Staines, derived from the results of archaeological work, suggests that it was focused to the south of the High Street, north-east of the site. Identified activity and occupation in this area has been dated from the late 5th or 6th century onwards, ceasing in or around the 9th century. It has been suggested that Danish raids up the Thames Valley may have caused the demise of the settlement (Jones 1982 and Jones 2010).
- 2.4.2 Archaeological work at the Duncroft School to the north-east of the site revealed numerous Saxon features around the parish church, suggestive of some settlement shift away from the established Roman town to the southeast. Saxon pottery has been found at Moor Lane to the northeast of the site, and at Church Street. The multi-phase Petters Sports Field site to the west has revealed Saxon pottery, as has the Anne Boleyn site to the east.

- 2.4.3 From the Thames close to Staines Bridge to the east of the site, a Saxon spear has been found during dredging; spearheads are also recorded from the Thames at Staines. A Viking sword has been derived from the Thames at Staines.
- 2.4.4 To the east of the site, significant settlement appears to resume around the Staines High Street Island in the 10th century, and may have shifted around the island rather than abandoned it altogether. It is not until the 12th or 13th centuries that settlement appears to reach the extent of the 2nd century Roman settlement, and a market was established here circa 1200. The focus of the Medieval settlement was the High Street along the approaches to a bridge across the Thames (first documented in 1222), and no doubt the planned combination of bridging point and market spurred the growth and prosperity of the settlement. The line of the Causeway, along the northern boundary of the site, linking Staines to Egham, has been dated to the medieval period as well as to the Roman period.
- 2.4.5 Medieval occupation has been identified archaeologically in the historic core of Egham to the west of the site, at the former Catherine Wheel public house, at 89-95 High Street and at Oliver Court. The site of Manor Farm, adjacent to the church in Egham, is known to date to the medieval period. A moated site of probable medieval date has been identified at Pooley Green, Egham, to the south-west of the site. Another moat, associated with Imworth Manor, has also been identified to the south-west, with another identified at Hope Cottage to the west. Medieval pits have been identified in Egham, also to the southwest.
- 2.4.6 The Glanty was the name given to a landing stage on the River Thames at the east end of Egham village, noted in 1259 as Glenthuthe. The Surrey HER places the location of this at the Glanty roundabout to the west of the site. Another landing stage is noted at Woodhaw, northwest of the site. The multi-phase site identified at Petters Sports Field to the west also revealed medieval activity including a building, enclosure ditch and associated material culture.

2.5 Post-medieval and modern

- 2.5.1 The Glanty was the name given to a landing stage on the River Thames at the east end of Egham village, noted in 1259 as Glenthuthe. The Surrey HER places the location of this at the Glanty roundabout to the west of the site. Another landing stage is noted at Woodhaw, northwest of the site. The multi-phase site identified at Petters Sports Field to the west also revealed medieval activity including a building, enclosure ditch and associated material culture.
- 2.5.2 Early maps show the site to remain undeveloped, south of the Causway linking Staines with Egham (CgMs 2016). The Egham Tithe Map and the associated Award shows the site to comprise arable land. The First Edition Ordnance Survey of 1869 shows the site occupied by a row of houses fronting the Causeway within the northern boundary, with a circular feature north of the centre of the site. The central/southern parts of the site are labelled as a brickfield. The Second Edition Ordnance Survey (1897) shows the absence of the circular feature shown on the First Edition.
- 2.5.3 The 1920 Ordnance Survey shows the presence of a rectangular building to the south-east of the buildings fronting the Causeway, and a large sub-

rectangular feature (likely to be the extent of quarrying) within the southern part of the site, with a trackway leading to it along the western boundary. The Revised Ordnance Survey shows houses within the northern part of the site, and the remains of quarrying to the south. The 1940 Ordnance Survey shows additional areas of quarrying to the south-west, and additional buildings within the centre of the site.

- 2.5.4 The 1963 Ordnance Survey shows the construction of Hawthorne Road on the western boundary, the construction of a warehouse in the southern part of the site, and the layout of Gordon Road to the north of the warehouse. The 1977-1990 composite Ordnance Survey shows the addition of a large rectangular building north of Gordon Road, and the site labelled as an industrial estate. The houses formerly within the northern part of the site have been removed and replaced with a single rectangular building towards the Causeway. The current site survey both shows the presence of an additional large square building within the site, currently in use as a Royal Mail Delivery Centre.

3.0 RESEARCH AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

3.1 General Aims

The general aims of the archaeological evaluation were:

- To establish whether any archaeological sites exist in the area, with particular regard to any which were of sufficient importance to require preservation *in situ*.
- To determine, as far as is reasonably possible, the location, form, extent, date, character, condition, significance and quality of any surviving archaeological remains, irrespective of period, liable to be threatened by the proposed development. An adequate representative sample of all areas where archaeological remains are potentially threatened was to be studied, and attention should be given to sites and remains of all periods (inclusive of evidence of past environments).
- 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.

3.2 Specific Research Aims

The specific aims of the evaluation were:

- To seek to understand the context of the findings in relationship to the wider settlement pattern, landscape, economy and environment;
- To interpret locally distinctive or regionally/nationally significant archaeological features
- To assess how the site's topography has influenced past activity and settlement.
- To advance our knowledge of the archaeology of the region through the application of appropriate scientific dating techniques.
- To understand the impact of development since the eighteenth century.
- Where physical preservation was likely to be considered as a mitigation option, the primary factors affecting the present state of preservation and the direct and indirect effect of the proposed development were also to be considered.

4.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY

4.1 Fieldwork Methodology

- 4.1.1 The WSI for the evaluation (CgMs 2017) required the excavation of ten trenches, seven measuring 30.0m x 1.8m, two measuring 10.0m x 1.8m and one measuring 20.0m x 1.8m (Fig. 2). Due to spatial constraints and services Trenches 4 and 10 could not be excavated, while Trenches 1, 3, 6 and 7 were moved from their original locations.
- 4.1.2 Subsequently, a second phase of evaluation trenching was conducted to further inform on the nature of the remains recorded during the earlier phase. Five further trenches were excavated; two (Trenches 11 and 12) targeted similarly aligned ditches previously identified in Trenches 2, 5, 7 and 8. Trench 12 had to be shortened due to the presence of services. Three further trenches (13-15) ran perpendicular to the ditches and were designed to investigate any further features to the east and west. The final position of trenches is shown in Figure 2.
- 4.1.3 The trial trenches were excavated using a 360 back-hoe excavator equipped with a toothless bucket and under constant supervision by an ASE Archaeologist. Machine excavation proceeded to a depth at which the top of archaeological levels, or the top of natural deposits, were exposed, whichever was the higher.
- 4.1.4 The trenches were backfilled using the excavated material in the approximate stratigraphic sequence in which they were excavated, and were left level on completion. No other reinstatement or surface treatment was undertaken.
- 4.1.5 Excavation and recording strategy was in accordance with the WSI (ibid) and with CifA *Standards and Guidance* (CifA 2014a).

4.2 Archive

- 4.2.1 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 (Tables 1 and 2).

Context sheets	80
Section sheets	4
Plans sheets	1
Colour photographs	0
B&W photos	0
Digital photos	77
Context register	1
Drawing register	1
Watching brief forms	0
Trench Record forms	14

Table 1: Quantification of site paper archive

Bulk finds (quantity e.g. 1 bag, 1 box, 0.5 box 0.5 of a box)	14 bags
Registered finds (number of)	0
Flots and environmental remains from bulk samples	9
Palaeoenvironmental specialists sample samples (e.g. columns, prepared slides)	0
Waterlogged wood	0
Wet sieved environmental remains from bulk samples	1

Table 2: Quantification of artefact and environmental samples

5.0 RESULTS

5.1 Trench 1

Context	Type	Interpretation	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Height (m aOD)
1/001	Layer	Made ground	30.00	2.00	0.67-1.25	14.45-14.85
1/002	Layer	Natural	30.00	2.00	-	13.34-14.18
1/003	Cut	Pit	0.60	0.60	0.14	13.94
1/004	Fill	Fill, upper	0.40	0.40	0.14	13.94
1/005	Fill	Fill, basal	0.20	0.20	0.13	13.94

Table 3. Trench 1 List of recorded contexts

- 5.1.1 Trench 1 was located in the north of the site; it was north to south aligned and measured between 0.71m and 1.25m in depth (Figures 2 and 3). The trench alignment was altered slightly due to spatial constraints. A sondage was excavated at the southern end of the trench.
- 5.1.2 The natural orange brown Shepperton gravels [1/002] were observed between 13.34m and 14.18m aOD. At the northern end of the trench the gravels were cut by a small pit [1/003], 0.65m in diameter and 0.14m in depth; the pit was circular with steep sides and a rounded base. The primary pit fill [1/005] comprised dark grey brown silt sand 0.13m thick, it did not contain any finds. The upper pit fill [1/004] consisted of mid grey brown silt sand 0.14m thick; it contained post-medieval Ceramic Building Material (CBM) and an iron nail.
- 5.1.3 The pit was sealed by mid grey brown silt sand modern made ground [1/001], which contained concrete fragments as well as CBM and iron; this deposit measured between 0.67m and 1.25m in thickness.

5.2 Trench 2

Context	Type	Interpretation	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Height (m aOD)
2/001	Layer	Made ground	30.00	2.00	0.50-0.58	14.54-14.61
2/002	Layer	Natural	30.00	2.00	-	14.03-14.04
2/003	Cut	Ditch	1.44	0.65	0.15	14.14
2/004	Fill	Fill	1.44	0.65	0.15	14.14

Table 4. Trench 2 List of recorded contexts

- 5.2.1 Trench 2 was located in the north-east of the site; it was northwest to southeast aligned and measured between 0.55-1.16m in depth (Figures 2 & 4).
- 5.2.2 The natural orange brown Shepperton gravels [2/002] were observed between 14.03m and 14.04m aOD. The gravels were cut by a small north to south aligned ditch [2/003], which measured 2.44m in length 0.65m in diameter and 0.25m in depth with gently sloping sides and a rounded base. The ditch fill

[2/004] comprised mid grey sand clay and contained early Roman pottery, Roman CBM, fire cracked flint and fired clay; a small fragment of intrusive glass was also retrieved. This ditch was not recorded in Trench 11 immediately to the south and may have been truncated by the large ditch recorded within this trench; the ditch ran on a similar but not identical alignment to the small ditches recorded in Trenches 5, 8, 11 and 12.

5.2.3 The ditch was sealed by mid grey brown rubble sand modern made ground [2/001], which contained concrete fragments as well as CBM and iron fragments; this deposit measured between 0.50m and 0.58m in thickness.

5.3 Trench 5

Context	Type	Interpretation	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Height (m aOD)
5/001	Layer	Made ground	30.00	2.00	0.68-1.11	14.74-15.09
5/002	Layer	Subsoil	10.00	2.00	0.16	14.41
5/003	Layer	Natural	30.00	2.00	-	13.63-14.25
5/004	Cut	Ditch	3.05	0.82	0.18	13.81
5/005	Fill	Fill, single	3.05	0.82	0.18	13.81
5/006	Cut	Ditch	3.15	1.10	0.24	13.83
5/007	Fill	Fill, upper	3.15	1.08	0.11	13.83
5/008	Fill	Fill, basal	3.15	0.6	0.13	13.70
5/009	Cut	Posthole	0.21	0.21	0.10	13.59
5/010	Fill	Fill, single	0.21	0.21	0.10	13.59
5/011	Cut	Posthole	0.29	0.29	0.14	13.57
5/012	Fill	Fill, single	0.29	0.29	0.14	13.57

Table 5. Trench 5 List of recorded contexts

5.3.1 Trench 5 was located in the centre of the site, it was north-west to south-east aligned and measured between 0.79m-1.20m in depth (Figures 2 & 5).

5.3.2 Natural grey orange Shepperton gravels [5/003] were recorded between 13.63m and 14.25m aOD. At the south-eastern end of the trench the gravels were cut by two small north-northeast to south-southwest aligned ditches [5/004] and [5/006], the latter of which had two postholes cut into the base [5/009] and [5/011]. The postholes ran on the same alignment as the ditches and were both circular with vertical sides and concave bases; posthole [5/009] measured 0.21m in diameter and 0.10m in depth which posthole [5/011] measured 0.29m in diameter and 0.14m in depth. The fills [5/010] and [5/012] respectively, were very similar, comprising mid orange grey silt clay. It is likely that the postholes were contemporary with the ditch [5/006] but the postholes did fill up first. The ditch [5/006] had gently sloping sides and a flat base and measured 3.15m in length, 1.10m in width and 0.24m in depth. The primary fill [5/008] comprised orange brown silt clay, 0.13m thick and contained Roman pottery and worked flint. The upper fill [5/007] consisted of grey brown silt 0.11m and did not contain any finds.

5.3.3 Upper ditch fill [5/007] was cut by the second ditch [5/004], which had moderately sloping sides and a flat base; it measured 3.05m in length, 0.82m

in width and 0.18m in depth. The fill [5/005] consisted of grey brown silt clay and contained animal bone. Ditches [5/004] and [5/006] were also recorded in Trench 11 and also run on the same alignment as the Roman ditch recorded in Trenches 8 and 12.

5.3.4 The features were sealed by mid brown sand silt subsoil [5/002] which measured 0.16m in thickness and was present only at the southern end of the trench. The subsoil was overlain by loose dark grey brown rubble silt modern made ground [5/001] between 0.68m and 1.11m in thickness.

5.4 Trench 6

Context	Type	Interpretation	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Height (m aOD)
6/001	Layer	Made ground	28.00	2.00	0.59-0.86	14.71-14.87
6/002	Layer	Natural	28.00	2.00	-	13.85-14.13
6/003	Fill	Fill, single	2.50	0.80	0.51	13.95
6/004	Cut	Pit	2.50	0.80	0.51	13.95

Table 6. Trench 6 List of recorded contexts

5.4.1 Trench 6 was located in the east of the site; it was north to south aligned and measured between 0.59m and 1.00m in depth (Figures 2 and 6). The trench alignment was altered and the trench shortened slightly due to spatial constraints.

5.4.2 The natural grey orange Shepperton gravels [6/002] were observed between 13.85m and 14.13m aOD. The gravels were cut by a large pit [6/004], 2.50m in length, 0.80m in visible width and 0.51m in depth; the pit was rectangular with undercutting sides and a flat base. The fill [6/003] comprised dark brown grey clay silt and contained CBM and 20th century pottery.

5.4.3 The pit was sealed by mid grey brown rubble sand modern made ground [6/001], which contained concrete fragments as well as CBM and iron; this deposit measured between 0.59m and 0.86m in thickness.

5.5 Trench 7

5.5.1 Trench 7 was located towards the centre of the site; it was east to west aligned and measured between 0.77-0.98m in depth (Figures 2 & 7). The trench was moved slightly north-east to avoid services.

5.5.2 The natural orange Shepperton gravels [7/003] were recorded between 13.60m and 14.12m aOD. At the eastern end of the trench the gravels were cut by a large ditch [7/011]; this feature was aligned north-northeast to south-southwest and had steep sides, the base was not observed to the ingress of groundwater. The ditch measured 2.20m in visible length, 2.18m in width and was at least 0.64m deep. The primary ditch fill [7/012] comprised pale grey silt clay and measured at least 0.20m in thickness; it did not contain any finds. The upper ditch fill [7/013] consisted of grey orange silt clay 0.42m thick and contained a single fragment of Middle Neolithic pottery; the pottery is likely to

be residual given that the ditch (also recorded in Trench 11) contained probable Roman metalwork in another intervention and runs on a similar alignment to other Roman ditches.

Context	Type	Interpretation	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Height (m aOD)
7/001	Layer	Made ground	19.00	2.00	0.65-0.86	14.58-15.10
7/002	Layer	Subsoil	19.00	2.00	0.12-0.13	13.93-14.24
7/003	Layer	Natural	19.00	2.00	-	13.60-14.12
7/004	Cut	Posthole	0.40	0.40	0.13	13.60
7/005	Fill	Fill, single	0.40	0.40	0.13	13.60
7/006	Cut	Posthole	0.27	0.23	0.21	13.77
7/007	Fill	Fill, single	0.27	0.23	0.21	13.77
7/008	Cut	Pit	0.90	0.86	0.18	13.83
7/009	Fill	Fill, primary	0.90	0.86	0.14	13.79
7/010	Fill	Fill, secondary	0.68	0.45	0.04	13.83
7/011	Cut	Ditch	2.20	2.18	0.64	13.65
7/012	Fill	Fill, primary	2.20	1.65	0.20	13.65
7/013	Fill	Fill, secondary	2.20	2.18	0.42	13.27

Table 7. Trench 7 List of recorded contexts

- 5.5.3 In the centre of the trench, the natural gravels were cut by a small circular pit [7/008]; it had steep sides and a flat base and measured 0.90m in diameter and 0.18m in depth. The primary pit fill [7/009] consisted of dark orange brown silt clay 0.14m thick; fragments of unidentifiable burnt bone and a fairly large assemblage of hammerscale were retrieved from this fill. The upper pit fill [7/010] comprised mid orange grey sand silt 0.04m thick and again did not contain any finds.
- 5.5.4 The ditch and pit were overlain by mid brown sand silt subsoil [7/002] which measured between 0.12m and 0.13m in thickness. Two modern postholes cut the subsoil in the centre of the trench [7/004] and [7/006]; posthole [7/004] was circular with vertical sides and a flat base; it measured 0.40m in diameter and was 0.14m deep. The fill [7/005] comprised brown grey sand silt and contained 20th century CBM and pottery. The second posthole [7/006] was rectangular again with vertical sides and a flat base; it measured 0.27m in diameter and 0.21m in depth. The fill [7/007] consisted of grey silt clay and contained modern window glass and pottery.
- 5.5.5 The postholes were sealed by loose, dark grey brown rubble silt modern made ground [7/001] between 0.65m and 0.86m in thickness.

5.6 Trench 8

Context	Type	Interpretation	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Height (m aOD)
8/001	Layer	Made ground	28.00	2.00	0.59-1.05	14.76-14.95
8/002	Layer	Subsoil	28.00	2.00	0.11-0.28	13.94-14.17
8/003	Layer	Natural	28.00	2.00	-	13.34-14.05
8/004	Cut	Ditch	2.51	0.78	0.23	13.66
8/005	Fill	Fill, primary	2.51	0.78	0.08	13.51
8/006	Fill	Fill, secondary	2.51	0.55	0.15	13.66
8/007	Cut	Posthole	0.31	0.27	0.12	13.34
8/008	Fill	Fill, single	0.31	0.27	0.12	13.34
8/009	Cut	Pit	2.83	1.21	0.24	13.83
8/010	Fill	Fill, single	2.83	1.21	0.24	13.83

Table 8. Trench 8 List of recorded contexts

- 5.6.1 Trench 8 was located in the south of the site, it was northeast to southwest aligned and measured between 0.71m-1.20m in depth (Figures 2 & 8).
- 5.6.2 Natural grey orange Shepperton gravels [8/003] were recorded between 13.34m and 14.05m aOD. At the south-western end of the trench, the gravels were cut by small ditch [8/004] and a posthole [8/007]. The ditch was aligned roughly north-east to south-west, it had gently sloping sides and a rounded base and measured 2.59m in length, 0.78m in width and 0.23m in depth. The primary fill [8/005] consisted of brown grey silt clay 0.18m thick and contained Roman CBM as well as animal bone and undiagnostic burnt bone. The upper ditch fill [8/006] comprised red brown silt clay 0.15m thick and did not contain any finds. This ditch appears to run on the same alignment as those in Trenches 5 and 12.
- 5.6.3 The posthole [8/007] was cut into the base of the ditch and it is likely that the two features are contemporary. The posthole was circular in shape with steep sides and a rounded base; it measured 0.31m in diameter and 0.12m deep. The posthole fill [8/008] was very similar to the primary ditch fill [8/005] and only contained undiagnostic burnt bone.
- 5.6.4 The ditch and posthole were overlain by the mid brown silt sand subsoil [8/002] which measured between 0.11m and 0.28m in thickness. Towards the north-eastern end of the trench, the subsoil was cut by a probable rectangular pit [8/009] this feature had steeply sloping sides and a flat base, it measured 2.83m in length, 2.21m in visible width and 0.24m in depth. The fill [8/010] comprised mid brown grey clay silt and contained 18th or 19th century CBM and a copper alloy rod. The probable pit was sealed by modern made ground [8/001] comprising loose, dark grey brown rubble silt between 0.59m and 1.05m in thickness.

5.7 Trench 11

Context	Type	Interpretation	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Height (m aOD)
11/001	Layer	Made ground	50.00	2.00	0.71-0.96	14.11-14.79
11/002	Layer	Natural	50.00	2.00	-	13.40-13.99
11/003	Fill	Fill, single	3.13	1.61	0.31	14.11
11/004	Cut	Ditch	3.13	1.61	0.31	14.11
11/005	Fill	Fill, secondary	2.15	0.76	0.26	14.07
11/006	Fill	Fill, primary	2.15	0.82	0.19	13.89
11/007	Cut	Ditch	2.15	0.91	0.39	14.07
11/008	Fill	Fill, upper	28.35	2.35	0.38	13.98
11/009	Fill	Fill, tertiary	28.35	2.51	0.42	13.98
11/010	Fill	Fill, secondary	28.35	1.71	0.12	13.49
11/011	Fill	Fill, primary	28.35	1.54	0.12	13.29
11/012	Cut	Ditch	28.35	2.51	0.88	13.98

Table 9. Trench 11 List of recorded contexts

- 5.7.1 Trench 11 was located towards the north of the site; it was north-east to south-west aligned and targeted similarly aligned ditches previously identified in Trenches 2, 5, 7 and 8. It measured between 0.79m and 1.00m in depth (Figures 2 & 9).
- 5.7.2 The natural Shepperton gravels [11/002] were recorded between 13.40m and 13.99m aOD. Towards the southern end of the trench, the natural deposits were cut by two small ditches [11/004] and [11/007]. The earlier ditch [11/007] measured 2.15m in visible length, 0.91m in width and 0.39m in depth; it had steep sides and a concave base and was aligned north-east to south-west. The primary ditch fill [11/006] comprised dark brown sand silt 0.19m thick and contained a sherd of Late Iron Age/early Roman pottery as well as worked flint. The upper fill [11/005] consisted of dark grey sand silt 0.26m thick and did not contain any finds. This ditch is almost certainly the same as [5/006].
- 5.7.3 The later ditch, [11/004], cut fill [11/005]; it again ran on a north-east to south-westerly alignment and had steeply sloping sides and a flat base. The ditch measured 3.15m in visible length, 1.61m in width and 0.31m in depth. The fill, [11/003], comprised dark brown grey sand silt and did not contain any finds. This ditch is very likely to be the same as [5/004], recorded to the south.
- 5.7.4 A large ditch, [11/012], was observed in the northern half of the trench; again it ran on a north-east to south-west alignment; it had steeply sloping sides and a concave base. The ditch measured at least 28.35m in length, 2.51m in width and 0.88m in depth; however, it was not observed running continuously in plan as it was interrupted by several areas of modern truncation. The primary fill [11/011] consisted of mid brown orange silt gravel, 0.12m thick; this fill did not contain any finds and seems to be the result of slumping. The secondary fill [11/010] comprised pale grey gravel silt 0.12m thick, again this did not contain

finds. The tertiary fill [11/009], a mid grey clay silt 0.42m thick, contained a single worked flint. The upper ditch fill [11/008] comprised mid brown clay silt 0.38m thick, it contained animal bone fragments and several copper alloy plate fragments of probable Roman date; this deposit is likely to be part of a preserved subsoil slumped into the top of the ditch. This ditch almost certainly represents an extension of [7/011] recorded to the south.

- 5.7.5 The features were sealed by loose, dark grey brown rubble silt modern made ground [11/001] between 0.71m and 0.96m in thickness.

5.8 Trench 12

Context	Type	Interpretation	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Height (m aOD)
12/001	Layer	Made ground	15.00	2.00	0.83-1.06	14.64-14.92
12/002	Layer	Subsoil	15.00	2.00	0.11-0.26	13.57-14.00
12/003	Layer	Natural	15.00	2.00	-	13.39-13.74
12/004	Fill	Fill, secondary	5.50	0.47	0.24	13.75
12/005	Fill	Fill, primary	5.50	0.44	0.29	13.65
12/006	Cut	Ditch	5.50	0.47	0.36	13.75
12/007	Fill	Fill, single	0.32	0.26	0.13	13.40
12/008	Cut	Posthole	0.32	0.26	0.13	13.40

Table 10. Trench 12 List of recorded contexts

- 5.8.1 Trench 12 was located in the south of the site and intended to target ditches previously recorded in Trenches 5 and 8. The northern end of the trench could not be excavated due to the presence of services and standing water. The trench measured between 1.11m and 1.24m in depth (Figures 2 & 10).
- 5.8.2 The natural orange Shepperton gravels, [12/003], were recorded between 13.39m and 13.74m aOD. Towards the southern end of the trench, the natural deposits were cut by a ditch [12/006] with a posthole [12/008] in its base. The ditch was again aligned north-east to south-west and had very steeply sloping sides and a flat base; it measured 5.50m in visible length, 0.47m in width and 0.36m in depth. The primary fill [12/005] consisted of pale grey clay sand, 0.29m thick; it did not contain any finds. The upper ditch fill, [12/004], comprised brown grey clay silt 0.24m thick, contained a substantial part of a fragmented Roman grey ware vessel, dating to the mid 1st to earlier 2nd century AD, as well as a small amount of animal bone.
- 5.8.3 Posthole [12/008] was located in the base of the ditch and appeared to be contemporaneous. It was circular with steep sides and a flat base and measured 0.32m in diameter and 0.13m in depth. The fill, [12/007], was almost indistinguishable from primary ditch fill [12/005] and, again, did not contain any finds. The ditch and posthole are almost certain to represent a continuation of the boundary recorded in Trench 8 and also run on a similar alignment to the ditches recorded in Trenches 5 and 11.

5.9 Trenches 3, 9, 13, 14 and 15

- 5.9.1 Trenches 13, 14 and 15 (Figure 2) were located in the north and centre of the site and displayed similar stratigraphic sequences. They ran perpendicular to Trench 11 and were designed to give full profiles of ditches within that trench and to investigate any surrounding features.
- 5.9.2 Natural Shepperton Gravels [002] were observed between 14.02m and 14.16m aOD. The gravels were sealed by modern dark brown grey rubble silt made ground [001] between 0.62m and 0.79m thick.
- 5.9.3 No archaeological remains were recorded within these trenches other than the parts of the ditches recorded in Trench 11 and described above. The individual context information for these trenches is presented in Appendix 1.

5.10 Trenches 3 and 9

- 5.10.1 Trenches 3 and 9 (Figure 2) were located in the west and south of the site and displayed similar stratigraphic sequences. Trench 3 measured 10.00m x 2.00m in plan; it was aligned north to south and was moved east from its original location due to spatial constraints. Trench 9 was situated in the south-east of the site and was aligned northeast to southwest, measuring 30.00m x 2.00m in plan.
- 5.10.2 The natural Shepperton gravels [003] were recorded between 13.75m and 14.03m aOD. The natural gravels were sealed by mid brown sand silt subsoil [002] between 0.26m and 0.42m thick. The subsoil was overlain by loose, mid grey brown rubble silt modern made ground [001] between 0.47m and 0.62m thick.
- 5.7.3 No archaeological remains were recorded within these trenches. The individual context information is presented in Appendix 1.

6.0 THE FINDS

6.1 Summary

6.1.1 A small assemblage of finds was recovered during the evaluation on land east of Hawthorn Road, Staines. All finds were washed and dried or air dried as appropriate. They were subsequently quantified by count and weight and bagged by material and context. The hand-collected finds are quantified in Table 11, whilst material recovered from environmental samples is quantified in Appendix 2. All finds have been packed and stored following ClfA guidelines (2014b).

Context	Lithics	Weight (g)	Pottery	Weight (g)	CBM	Weight (g)	Stone	Weight (g)	Iron	Weight (g)	Metal	Weight (g)	Bone	Weight (g)	Fire Cracked Flint	Weight (g)	Fired Clay	Weight (g)	Glass	Weight (g)
1/004					3	32	1	18	1	21										
2/004			3	19	14	231	1	77							7	227	2	13	1	1
5/005	1	2											1	14						
5/008	1	9	5	20																
5/010															1	86				
6/003			1	4	2	48	1	32												
7/005			1	42	1	84														
7/007									1	5	1	11							1	2
8/005	1	3			2	72							2	98	1	5				
8/010					5	3307					1	1								
11/006	2	40	1	18																
11/008											4	21	1	4						
12/004			25	360									1	41						
Total	6	54	36	463	27	3774	3	127	2	26	6	33	5	157	9	318	2	13	2	3

Table 11: Quantification of hand-collected bulk finds

6.2 The Flintwork by Karine Le Hégarat

6.2.1 Five pieces of flint weighing 54g considered to be humanly struck were recovered. They came from trenches 5, 8 and 11 and were hand collected and retrieved from sample <04>. Context [11/006] contained a fragmentary core which is entirely re-corticated milky blue. The same context contained a flake fragment with thin flake scars on the dorsal face. Contexts [8/005], [5/005] and [5/008] produced single flakes. They are made from dark brown and dark grey flint. While the piece from [5/008] displays fresh edges, the piece from [8/005] is well weathered, being shiny and rolled. It is difficult to date single pieces, but based on technological and morphological grounds, the flakes are likely to belong to the Neolithic / Bronze Age period. Contexts [2/004], [5/010] and [8/005] produced small amounts of burnt unworked flint (319g). The fragments are well calcined to a light grey to white colour. Burnt flint are frequently

associated with prehistoric activities (for instance cooking or craft-related activities), but the small amount recovered from the evaluation could simply relate to more recent burning events.

6.3 The Prehistoric and Roman Pottery by Anna Doherty

- 6.3.1 A total of 36 sherds of prehistoric and Roman pottery, weighing 423g, was recovered during the evaluation. The earliest fragment was recovered from environmental sample <8>, taken from upper fill [7/013], of ditch [7/011]. It is associated with an ill-sorted flint-tempered ware with inclusions of c.0.5-4mm and comprises an abraded partial rim of triangular section with some form of impressed decoration – probably bird bone or short whipped cord. The fabric, form and decoration are all typical of the Middle Neolithic Peterborough Ware tradition (dating to c.3500-2700BC).
- 6.3.2 Single flint-tempered sherds were also noted in contexts [5/005] and [2/004] (the former recovered from environmental sample <4>). Both contain moderate well-sorted fine flint-temper of c.0.5-2mm and moderate coarse quartz of up to 0.5mm. It is more likely that these finer, sandier flint-tempered wares date to the (pre-1st century AD) Iron Age. The sherd from context [2/004] is likely residual since it occurs with other Roman finds.
- 6.3.3 The other material in context [2/004] comprises a sherd of grog-tempered pottery and another in a well-fired Roman black-surfaced fabric. Together these wares suggest an early Roman date of deposition. A single grog-tempered sherd was also noted in context [11/006] and this could be of pre- or post-Conquest 1st century date.
- 6.3.4 Context [5/008] contained five conjoining sherds in a Roman grey ware fabric. This cannot be closely dated though it is relatively coarse and not particularly highly-fired: attributes which are more typical in earlier Roman assemblages.
- 6.3.5 The largest quantity of Roman pottery came from context [12/004]. This contained 25 sherds, weighing 360g, comprising a substantial portion of a single grey ware jar. The vessel is in an Alice Holt-like fabric (though it has an oxidised core which is slightly atypical for this fabric). No rim sherds are represented but a substantial portion of the shoulder is present and it is possible to determine that the form is a carinated jar, similar to Marsh & Tyers (1978) form 2C, and dating to the mid 1st to earlier 2nd centuries AD.

6.4 The Post Roman Pottery by Luke Barber

6.4.1 The archaeological evaluation recovered a small assemblage of pottery from the site. The assemblage is listed in Table 12 as part of the visible archive.

Context	Fabric/ware	No	Weight	Comments (including estimated number of vessels by form)
5/008 <3>	Black transfer-printed whiteware	9	2g	Preserve jar x1 (James Keiller marmalade)
6/003	Unglazed red earthenware	1	4g	Flower pot x1
7/005	English stoneware	1	42g	Preserve jar x1 (grey Bristol glaze, string groove for gauze closure, close-set vertical ribbing)

Table 12: Post-Roman pottery

6.4.2 The two hand-collected sherds are quite fresh suggesting they have not been subjected to any significant reworking. The preserve jar is certainly of the late 19th or, more likely, early 20th century and the flower pot fragment could easily be of the same date. The material from the environmental sample residue is essentially plain except one fragment with the distinctive black transfer-printed wreath of the Keiller marmalade jars. These are of later 19th- to early 20th-century date.

6.4.3 The pottery is of common types of the late post-medieval period and constitutes a small insignificant assemblage. As such it is not considered to hold any potential for further analysis and has been discarded.

6.5 The Ceramic Building Material by Isa Benedetti-Whitton

6.5.1 Twenty-nine pieces of ceramic building material weighing 3602g were hand-collected from six contexts: [1/004], [2/004], [6/003], [7/005], [8/005] and [8/010]. Much of the assemblage was weathered and abraded, and in terms of date was either of Roman or post-medieval date.

6.5.2 Roman brick and imbrex pieces were recovered in two fabric types, R1 and R2 (see Table 13). Most of this was found in [2/004], although the condition would suggest this to be re-deposited debris. Three co-joining fragments of Roman brick collected from [8/005]. This may be a fired clay object, as they seem very underfired for Roman brick, but fit together to form one definitely flat, slightly reduced surface.

6.5.3 Most of the post-Roman brick was collected from [8/010], and was comprised of three partial bricks in a fabric very similar to post-Great Fire Museum of London Archaeology (MOLA) defined fabric 3034. The dimensions and forms of these bricks all suggest a later 18th or 19th century manufacture date, although the fabric was generally quite underfired which had contributed to the abraded surfaces. None of the bricks were frogged but one did have a partial stamp: ? _J_ B, although the first and middle letter[s] were not entirely legible.

A single brick spall fragment in a different, very micaceous fabric was also retrieved from [1/004].

Fabric	Description
T1	Slightly micaceous dense orange fabric with moderate medium and fine quartz and sparse white inclusions.
T2	Gritty fabric with common medium sand and moderate mica.
T3	Medium orange fabric with moderate coarse and very coarse quartz and both cream and red deposits and marbling.
T4	Dense orange fabric with moderate very coarse blue-white quartz and calcareous material.
B1	Underfired micaceous fabric with sparse harder clay inclusions up to 7mm.
R1	Slightly micaceous orange fabric with sparse quartz.
R2	Moderate coarse and very coarse sand; sparse mica.

Table 13: CBM fabric descriptions

6.5.4 Roof tile fragments were collected from [1/004], [6/003], [7/005] and [8/010], and several fabric types were apparent. None of the roof tile can be dated, although fragments in Trenches 1 and 4 both appeared fairly recent of c.19th century date. The roof tile was generally in poor and fragmentary condition.

6.6 The Fired Clay by Trista Clifford

6.6.1 Two fragments of fired clay weighing 13g in total were recovered from [2/004]. The fabric is fine sand tempered with coarse sand and iron rich inclusions. Both are amorphous with no indication of form or function.

6.7 The Glass by Trista Clifford

6.7.1 Two pieces of glass were recovered weighing 3g in total. Context [2/004] contained a small fragment of thin clear vessel glass. A fragment of blue bottle glass came from [7/007]. A late post medieval date is probable.

6.8 The Metal Objects by Trista Clifford

6.8.1 Metal objects weighting a total of 78g were recovered from four separate contexts. Context [1/004] produced a very corroded iron nail stem, while [7/007] contained a modern valve and a curving fragment of iron plate. A small circular sectioned copper alloy rod fragment came from [8/010]. This may be Roman in date. Lastly, context [11/008] produced four copper alloy plate fragments, one of which has a visible casting line on either side. Two of the fragments conjoin and all appear to be part of the same object. A Roman date is probable.

6.9 The Stone by Luke Barber

6.9.1 Context [2/004] produced a 78g unworked fragment of non-calcareous mid grey quartzose sandstone of uncertain origin while context [6/003] produced a burnt 32g fragment of coal shale that is almost certainly of the late post-medieval period. The stone does not hold any potential for further analysis and

has been discarded.

6.10 The Magnetic Material by Elena Baldi

6.10.1 A small assemblage of magnetic material was recovered during the evaluation. They were collected with the use of a magnet, from the residues of environmental samples <3>, <4>, <6>, <7> and <8>, respectively from contexts [5/008], [5/005], [8/005], [7/009] and [7/013]. All were collected from the <2 mm sieves, apart from sample <7>, which also produced material from the 2-4mm fraction (see Table 14). The analysis of the small fragments was carried out using a binocular microscope (x40).

Context/sample	<2 mm sieve	2-4mm sieve	No. of hammerscale flakes
5/008 <3>	0.35 g		10
5/005 <4>	0.15 g		30
8/005 <6>	0.15 g		xx
7/009 <7>	16.00 g	15.15 g	100+ from both sieves
7/013 <8>	0.05 g		8

Table 14: Quantification of magnetic material

6.10.2 Only sample <6> produced no humanly modified material. Small amounts of quite irregularly shaped and shiny flake hammerscale were recovered from samples <3>, <4> and <8>. Also a few fragments of slag materials were found in sample <4>. These are vitrified, irregularly shaped and not magnetic.

6.10.3 Sample <7> produced a very rich assemblage, with over 100 pieces of irregular subangular flake hammer-scale from each sieve, as well as 50+ pieces of spheroidal hammerscale.

6.10.4 Hammerscale is a shiny, black and magnetic product which forms during the smithing process, in which the iron object is repeatedly heated and hammered to remove impurities. Experimental investigation has proven that spheroidal hammer-scale is produced during fire welding of wrought iron (Dungworth and Wilkes 2007).

6.10.5 The presence of hammerscale from sample <7>, can be taken as an indication of smithing activities carried out on site or in the close vicinity.

6.10.6 The smaller assemblages of hammerscale from samples <3>, <4> and <8> all came from linear features of probable Roman date, based on. The largest

6.11 The Animal Bone by Hayley Forsyth-Magee

6.11.1 A small assemblage of animal bone containing 28 fragments weighing 174g was recovered from the evaluation. The animal bone was recovered by hand from four contexts; ditches [5/005], [8/005] and [11/008] as well as [12/004] and retrieved from five whole earth samples; <1>, <3>, <4>, <6> and <7>. The bones are in a moderate state of preservation with some signs of surface erosion evident. The majority of the bones are fragmented.

6.11.2 Context [5/005] contained a large mammal thoracic vertebrae fragment and context [8/005] contained an incomplete cattle astragalus fragment and a complete horse astragalus (Table 15). Context [11/008] contained a single medium mammal long bone fragment and context [12/004] contained a horse femoral head fragment.

Taxa	Bone	Greatest Breadth	Greatest Height
Horse	Astragalus	57.03mm	54.46mm

Table 15: Horse astragalus measurements with reference to Von Den Driesch (1976)

6.11.3 Whole earth samples produced a collection of faunal remains and includes a medium mammal 1st phalanx distal fragment and two unidentified animal bones from sample <1> post-hole [5/010]. Sample <3> ditch [5/008] produced two medium mammal long bone fragments with sample <4> ditch [5/005] containing six medium mammal long bone fragments, a medium mammal vertebrae fragment and an anuran pelvis. Sample <6> ditch [8/005] produced a medium mammal rib fragment and six unidentifiable animal bones. Two unidentifiable animal bones and a charred fish vertebrae fragment were recovered from sample <7> pit [7/009]. No evidence of butchery, gnawing, non-metric traits or pathology was observed.

6.12 The Burnt Bone by Dr Paola Ponce

6.12.1 A small amount of unidentifiable burnt bone weighing 3.21 grams was recovered from three individual contexts (Table 14). These were found in fill [7/009] of pit [7/008], fill [8/005] of ditch [8/004] and fill [8/008] of post-hole [8/007]. The excavated fills of the deposits underwent flotation and were processed as bulk environmental samples <7>, <6>, and <5>.

Context	Weight (grams)			
	2-4mm	4-8mm	>8mm	Total
7/009 <7>	0.01	0.57	-	0.58
8/005 <6>	0.01	2.61	-	2.62
8/008 <5>	0.01	-	-	0.01
Total	0.03	3.18	-	3.21

Table 16: total amount of burnt bone according to size

6.12.2 With regards to the degree of oxidation of the organic component of bone it was noted that the fragment exhibited a combination of white with grey/blue hues. White colour in bone suggests an efficient burning process with heat exposure to c. >600° C whereas grey/blue hues indicate an incomplete oxidation process (below c. 600° C).

6.13 The Environmental Samples by Mariangela Vitolo

Introduction

6.13.1 Nine bulk soil samples were taken from fills of postholes, ditches and a pit to recover environmental material such as charred plant macrofossils, wood charcoal, fauna and molluscs as well as to assist finds recovery. The following report summarises and discusses the contents of the samples and the information they provide.

Methodology

6.13.2 Samples <1> to <8> originated from dry deposits and were processed by flotation in their entirety. The residues and flots from the flotation samples were retained on 500µm and 250µm meshes respectively before being air dried. The residues were passed through graded sieves of 8, 4 and 2mm and each fraction sorted for environmental and artefactual remains (Appendix 2). Artefacts recovered from the samples were distributed to specialists, and are incorporated in the relevant sections of this volume where they add further information to the existing finds assemblage.

6.13.3 Sample <9> was taken from the bottom fill of ditch [7/011] and because the deposit was deemed to be waterlogged, the sample was wet-sieved. A 2 L subsample was washed through a stack of geological sieves of 4, 2, and 1mm and 500 and 250 µm. The remaining soil from this sample was retained.

6.13.4 The flots and the wet sieved fractions were scanned under a stereozoom microscope at 7-45x magnifications and their contents recorded (Appendix 2). Nomenclature used follows Stace (1997).

Results

Samples <1> [5/010], <2> [5/012], <3> [5/008], <4> [5/005], <5> [8/008], <6> [8/005], <7> [7/009], <8> [7/013] and <9> [7/012].

6.13.5 Most of the flotation samples produced rather small flots, dominated by sediment and uncharred vegetative material, such as rootlets and occasional uncharred seeds of goosefoot (*Chenopodium* sp.) and bramble (*Rubus* sp.) Sample <7> produced a fairly large flot, dominated by industrial debris, coal and clinker. Snail shell fragments were noted in all flots. No charred plant macrofossils were noted and charcoal was infrequent and too small to warrant identification.

6.13.6 The heavy residues yielded a small amount of charcoal and burnt bone and a number of finds, including flint, fire cracked flint, pottery, burnt clay, industrial material, metal, coal, glass and magnetic material.

6.13.7 The wet sieved fractions did not produce any organic remains preserved in anoxic conditions and only yielded a small amount of small charcoal fragments.

Discussion

- 6.13.8 The environmental samples did not yield any plant macrofossils preserved either as a result of charring or in anoxic conditions. The large amount of industrial debris, coal and clinker indicate that some of the features might have been used for the disposal of waste from metalworking activities, but the absence of charcoal suitable for identification means that it is not possible to know what wood was used to fuel such activities.

7.0 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

7.1 Overview of stratigraphic sequence

- 7.1.1 The natural Shepperton Gravels were recorded across the site between 13.34m and 14.25m aOD. Across much of the area, particularly in the south, the natural deposits were overlain by subsoil. The northern part of the site showed more evidence of modern disturbance, with isolated heavy truncation in a number of trenches. All of the trenches were sealed by modern made ground.
- 7.1.2 The natural deposits were cut by a series of Roman linear features which were found in Trenches 2, 5, 7, 8, 11 and 12. A single undated pit in Trench 7, containing evidence for metalworking activity, may also belong to this period.
- 7.1.3 The Roman features were overlain in part by subsoil. The subsoil was cut by several post-medieval or modern features; these included possible quarry pits as well as a ditch in the north of the site and postholes in the central area. Modern made ground sealed all of the trenches.

7.2 Deposit survival and existing impacts

- 7.2.1 Most of the trenches showed some signs of modern truncation, this was most severe in the north of the site where substantial previous development had taken place. Despite the damage caused by previous developments, an extant subsoil was recorded across much of the centre and south of the site.
- 7.2.2 The fact that relatively small features such as postholes had survived in a number of trenches demonstrated that, in many areas, deposit survival was good.

7.3 Discussion of archaeological remains by period (Figure 11)

Prehistoric

A very small amount of residual prehistoric pottery and flintwork was recovered from the site. Most of this material was poorly-dated though a single sherd of residual Middle Neolithic Peterborough Ware was recorded in probable Roman feature [7/011].

Roman

- 7.3.1 The most notable archaeological remains were a series of ditches which ran roughly north-east to south-west across the site.
- 7.3.2 Four aligned linear features, [8/004], [12/006], [5/006] and [11/007], are all of similar profile, and appear to represent elements of single ditch. Ditches [8/004], [12/006] and [5/006] all had one or more contemporary post-holes, cut into their bases. These features probably indicate that the ditch served primarily as a boundary feature, used in conjunction with a fence-line. In intervention [12/006], the ditch contained a substantial part of a single Roman pottery vessel, meaning that it can be assigned confidently to the mid 1st to earlier 2nd centuries AD. The other interventions produced much smaller

groups of finds, also broadly of Roman date; however, in [11/007], a single sherd of Late Iron Age/early Roman grog-tempered pottery was recovered, which may be indicative of a 1st century date of filling. In the north-eastern part of the site, ditch [2/003] contained a relatively large assemblage of Roman material, including 1st century pottery. It therefore seems to be broadly contemporary with ditch [8/004]/[12/006]/[5/006]/[11/007], though it appears to run on a marginally different orientation (north-north-east/south-south-west).

7.3.3 In Trenches 5 and 11, the original north-east/south-west aligned ditch was cut by a parallel linear feature [5/004]/[11/004]. Although no datable finds were recovered from this stratigraphically later feature, its similarity to the earlier ditch suggests that it is likely to represent a near contemporary recut. Like several other Roman features, it contained very small quantities of hammerscale.

7.3.4 Another similarly aligned, though much more substantial ditch was noted in Trenches 7 and 11. The orientation, profile and substantial dimensions of ditches [7/011] and [11/012] suggest that they represent part of a single boundary, although much of the feature was obscured by modern disturbance in Trench 11. The ditch does not seem to have continued beyond the northern extent of Trench 11, as it was not observed in Trench 2. Given that a much shallower feature, [2/003], does survive in this area, it seem likely that the ditch terminated immediately beyond Trench 11. Ditch [7/011] produced a small sherd of Middle Neolithic pottery; however; this is considered likely to be residual as [11/012] produced fragments of copper alloy plate, of probable Roman date. The fills of ditches [7/011] and [11/012] were quite distinct from those of the other Roman features and appeared to have built up in damp conditions. This perhaps suggests that that they may have been filled during a different phase of Roman activity, though it is unclear whether this feature is of earlier or later date than the other ditches.

7.3.5 A small undated pit, [7/008], contained a relatively large quantity of hammerscale, indicative of smithing processes taking place nearby. Since much smaller quantities of similar hammerscale were also noted in several of the Roman features, including ditches [5/004], [5/006] and [7/011], it is probably reasonable to assume that this feature may also be of Roman date. Pit [7/008] also contained a very small quantity of unidentified burnt bone, a material type which was also noted in the Roman ditch [8/004] and associated posthole [8/007].

Late post medieval and modern

7.3.6 The remaining features comprised later post-medieval and modern pits and postholes. Some of the pits were likely to have been associated with the quarrying seen in the south of the site from the First Edition Ordnance Survey of 1869 and on subsequent mapping.

7.4 Consideration of research aims

7.4.1 The evaluation has succeeded in addressing the general aims of the evaluation as outlined in the WSI (CgMs 2017). The evaluation found that the site showed evidence of isolated modern truncation, particularly in the north; this was associated with 19th and 20th century activity. Elsewhere, despite

disturbance, subsoil deposits were recorded overlying the natural Shepperton Gravels and, in these areas, survival was generally good. The south and east of the site showed evidence of later post-medieval disturbance particularly in the form of quarrying.

- 7.4.2 The most notable features were a series of Roman ditches and associated postholes which ran across the site on a north-east to south-west alignment; these features may well have formed successive boundaries. The Roman settlement at Staines is thought to have lain to the north-east of the site while the surrounding area was given over to agriculture and was occupied by farmsteads (Jones 2010; CgMs 2016). Within this environment, land division by boundary ditches would have been common. The use of a fenceline in conjunction with ditch [8/004]/[12/006]/[5/006]/[11/007] is of interest and seems to suggest a substantial boundary, perhaps containing livestock or providing a defensive and/or visually-imposing enclosure.
- 7.4.3 Overall, the relatively modest assemblage of finds, tends to suggest that the site was not an intensive focus of settlement activity, though the fragmented but partially-complete pottery vessel from ditch [12/006], may suggest that some domestic waste was being deposited fairly directly, near its context of use. The metalworking waste found in the environmental samples – especially that from pit [7/008] – suggests that smithing activity was taking place nearby. The presence of burnt bone fragments within the same pit fill, might be associated with metal-working processes; as bone was sometimes used to increase the uptake of carbon within iron and steel in a process known as ‘case hardening’ (Higgins 1983).
- 7.4.4 Despite the River Thames being in close proximity to the north of the site, the topography did not slope down towards the river; in part, this could be explained by modern truncation and landscaping but the site does appear to have been extremely level. Certainly, the site showed limited evidence of having occupied the kind of damp environment often seen close to rivers. It seems likely that the site, despite its proximity to the Thames, lay on a higher area of relatively dry land; this would have made it suitable for both settlement and agriculture while maintaining access to a water source. One exception was the large Roman ditch recorded in Trenches 7 and 11, which did appear to contain possible alluvial or waterlain fills. It is unclear whether this indicates changing environmental conditions at the time that ditch [7/011]/[11/012] was filling or simply reflects the fact that this is a much deeper feature, whose base may have lain below the water table.

7.5 Conclusions

- 7.5.1 The evaluation established that the site had undergone isolated horizontal truncation during the later post-medieval and modern periods. Despite this deposit survival was relatively good with extant subsoil recorded in some trenches.
- 7.5.2 The most notable features are a series of north-east/south-west aligned Roman ditches, one of which seems to have had an associated fence line running along the ditch bottom. This feature dates likely dates to the 1st century AD and stratigraphic evidence suggests that there was at least one, and possibly two, additional phases of similarly aligned boundary ditches at the site.

A modest assemblage of finds suggest that the ditches may have been associated with a nearby settlement and one pit produced a fairly large assemblage of hammerscale, indicative of smithing activity in the area.

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HER Summary

Site code	HRS 17				
Project code	170238				
Planning reference	RU.16/1806				
Site address	Land East of Hawthorn Road, Staines				
District/Borough	Runnymede Borough				
NGR (12 figures)	502275 171583				
Geology	Shepperton Gravels				
Fieldwork type	Eval				
Date of fieldwork	08-05-2017 to 02-06-2017				
Sponsor/client	CgMs Consulting				
Project manager	Andy Leonard				
Project supervisor	Ian Hogg				
Period summary			Neolithic		
	Roman			Post-medieval	Modern
Project summary	<p>The evaluation comprised 14 trenches and revealed natural Shepperton Gravels between 13.34m and 14.25m aOD. The most notable features are a series of north-east/south-west aligned Roman ditches, one of which seems to have had an associated fence line running along the ditch bottom. This feature likely dates to the 1st century AD and stratigraphic evidence suggests that there was at least one, and possibly two, additional phases of similarly aligned boundary ditches at the site. A modest assemblage of finds suggest that the ditches may have been associated with a nearby settlement and one pit produced a fairly large assemblage of hammerscale, indicative of smithing activity in the area.</p>				

OASIS Form

OASIS ID: archaeol6-286037

Project details

Project name Land East of Hawthorn Road, Staines, Surrey

Short description of the project The evaluation comprised 14 trenches and revealed natural Shepperton Gravels between 13.34m and 14.25m aOD. The most notable features are a series of north-east/south-west aligned Roman ditches, one of which seems to have had an associated fence line running along the ditch bottom. This feature dates likely dates to the 1st century AD and stratigraphic evidence suggests that there was at least one, and possibly two, additional phases of similarly aligned boundary ditches at the site. A modest assemblage of finds suggest that the ditches may have been associated with a nearby settlement and one pit produced a fairly large assemblage of hammerscale, indicative of smithing activity in the area.

Project dates Start: 08-05-2017 End: 02-06-2017

Previous/future work No / Not known

Any associated project reference codes HRS17 - Sitecode

Any associated project reference codes 170238 - Contracting Unit No.

Type of project Field evaluation

Site status None

Current Land use Vacant Land 1 - Vacant land previously developed

Monument type DITCHES Roman

Monument type POSTHOLES Roman

Monument type DITCHES Uncertain

Monument type PIT Uncertain

Significant Finds POTTERY Late Neolithic

Significant Finds POTTERY Roman

Significant Finds CBM Roman

Methods & techniques "Sample Trenches", "Targeted Trenches"

Development type Urban commercial (e.g. offices, shops, banks, etc.)

Prompt National Planning Policy Framework - NPPF

Position in the planning process Between deposition of an application and determination

Project location

Country England

Site location SURREY RUNNYMEDE EGHAM Land East of Hawthorn Road,
Staines

Postcode TW18 3BP

Study area 1.7 Hectares

Site coordinates TQ 02275 71583 51.433508178645 -0.528529738119 51 26 00
N 000 31 42 W Point

Height OD / Depth Min: 13.34m Max: 14.25m

Project creators

Name of Organisation Archaeology South-East

Project brief originator Surrey County Council

Project design originator CgMs Consulting

Project director/manager Andrew Leonard

Project supervisor Ian Hogg

Project supervisor Tom Munnery

Type of sponsor/funding body CgMs Consulting

Name of sponsor/funding body CgMs Consulting

Project archives

Physical Archive recipient local museum

Physical Contents "Animal Bones", "Ceramics", "Glass", "Metal", "Worked
stone/lithics"

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 5 June 2017

Appendix 1 Archaeologically negative trenches: list of recorded contexts

Trench	Context	Type	Interpretation	Depth (m)	Height (m aOD)
3	3/001	Layer	Made ground	0.48-0.53	14.83-14.91
3	3/002	Layer	Subsoil	0.27-0.46	14.33-14.43
3	3/003	Layer	Natural	-	13.97-14.03
9	9/001	Layer	Made ground	0.47-0.62	14.73-14.81
9	9/002	Layer	Subsoil	0.26-0.42	14.17-14.26
9	9/003	Layer	Natural	-	13.75-14.00
13	13/001	Layer	Made ground	0.62-0.79	14.76-14.81
13	13/002	Layer	Natural	-	14.02-14.14
14	14/001	Layer	Made ground	0.71-0.78	14.74-14.88
14	14/002	Layer	Natural	-	14.03-14.10
15	15/001	Layer	Made ground	0.62-0.70	14.79-14.86
15	15/002	Layer	Natural	-	14.12-14.16

Appendix 2: Residue quantification (* = 1-10, ** = 11-50, * = 51-250, **** = >250) and weights in grams.**

Sample Number	Context	Context / Deposit Type	Sample Volume (L)	Charcoal >4mm	Weight (g)	Charcoal 2-4mm	Weight (g)	Bone and Teeth	Weight (g)	Burnt Bone 4-8mm	Weight (g)	Burnt Bone 2-4mm	Weight (g)	Other (eg. pot, cbm, etc.) (quantity/ weight)
1	5/010	Posthole	2					*	<1					Ind.Mat. (*/<1g) FCF (*/<1g)
2	5/014	Posthole	2			*	<1							Ind.Mat. (*/<1g)
3	5/008	Ditch	40					*	1					Pot (*&3g) B.Clay (**&12g) Ind.Mat. (**&2g) FCF (**&10g) Mag.Mat. <2mm (**&1g)
4	5/005	Ditch	40	*	<1	*	<1	*	2					Flint (*&3g) Pot (*&3g) Ind.Mat. (**&1g) B.Clay (*&1g) FCF (**&26g) Mag.Mat. <2mm (**&1g)
5	8/008	Posthole	2									*	<1	Ind.Mat. (*/<1g) FCF (*/<1g)
6	8/005	Ditch	40			*	<1			*	2	*	<1	Ind.Mat. (**&4g) Coal (*&1g) B.Clay (*&1g) FCF (**&20g) Mag.Mat. <2mm (**&1g)

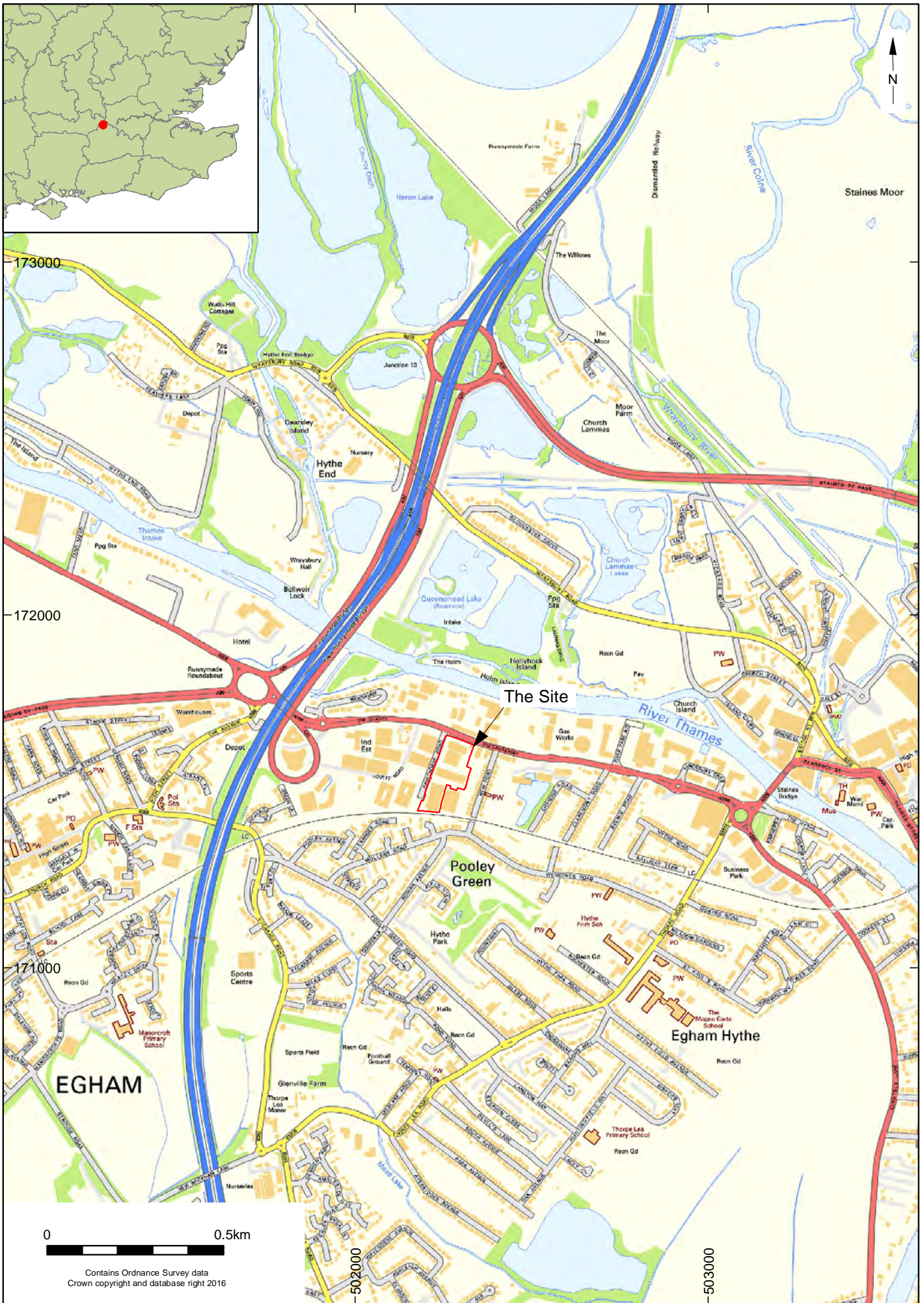
Sample Number	Context	Context / Deposit Type	Sample Volume (L)	Charcoal >4mm	Weight (g)	Charcoal 2-4mm	Weight (g)	Bone and Teeth	Weight (g)	Burnt Bone 4-8mm	Weight (g)	Burnt Bone 2-4mm	Weight (g)	Other (eg. pot, cbm, etc.) (quantity/ weight)
7	7/009	Pit	40							*	<1	*	<1	Metal (*9g) Ind.Mat. (**/12g) Coal (**/18g) Glass (*1g) B.Clay (*2g) FCF (*24g) Mag.Mat. >2mm (***/15g) Mag.Mat. <2mm (***/16g)
8	7/013	Ditch	20											Pot (*3g) Glass (*3g) Ind.Mat. (**/<1g) Flint (*1g) FCF (**/36g) Mag.Mat. (*/<1g)

Appendix 3: Flot quantification (* = 1-10, ** = 11-50, * = 51-250, **** = >250))**

Sample Number	Context	Weight (g)	Flot volume (ml)	Volume Scanned	Uncharred (%)	Sediment (%)	Seeds Uncharred	Charcoal <2mm	Land Snail Shells	Industrial Debris Hammerscale
1	5/010	<0.5	<5	<5	60	30	* <i>Rubus</i> sp	*		
2	5/014	<0.5	<5	<5	60	30	* <i>Rubus</i> sp	*		
3	5/008	26	20	20	30	50	** <i>Chenopodium</i> sp.	**	****	***
4	5/005	5	8	8	70	10		*	****	***
5	8/008	<0.5	<5	<5	60	30		*		**
6	8/005	<0.5	<5	<5	30	50		*		
7	7/009	155	500	100	20	20		**	**	****
8	7/013	<05	<5	<5	50	30		**	***	**

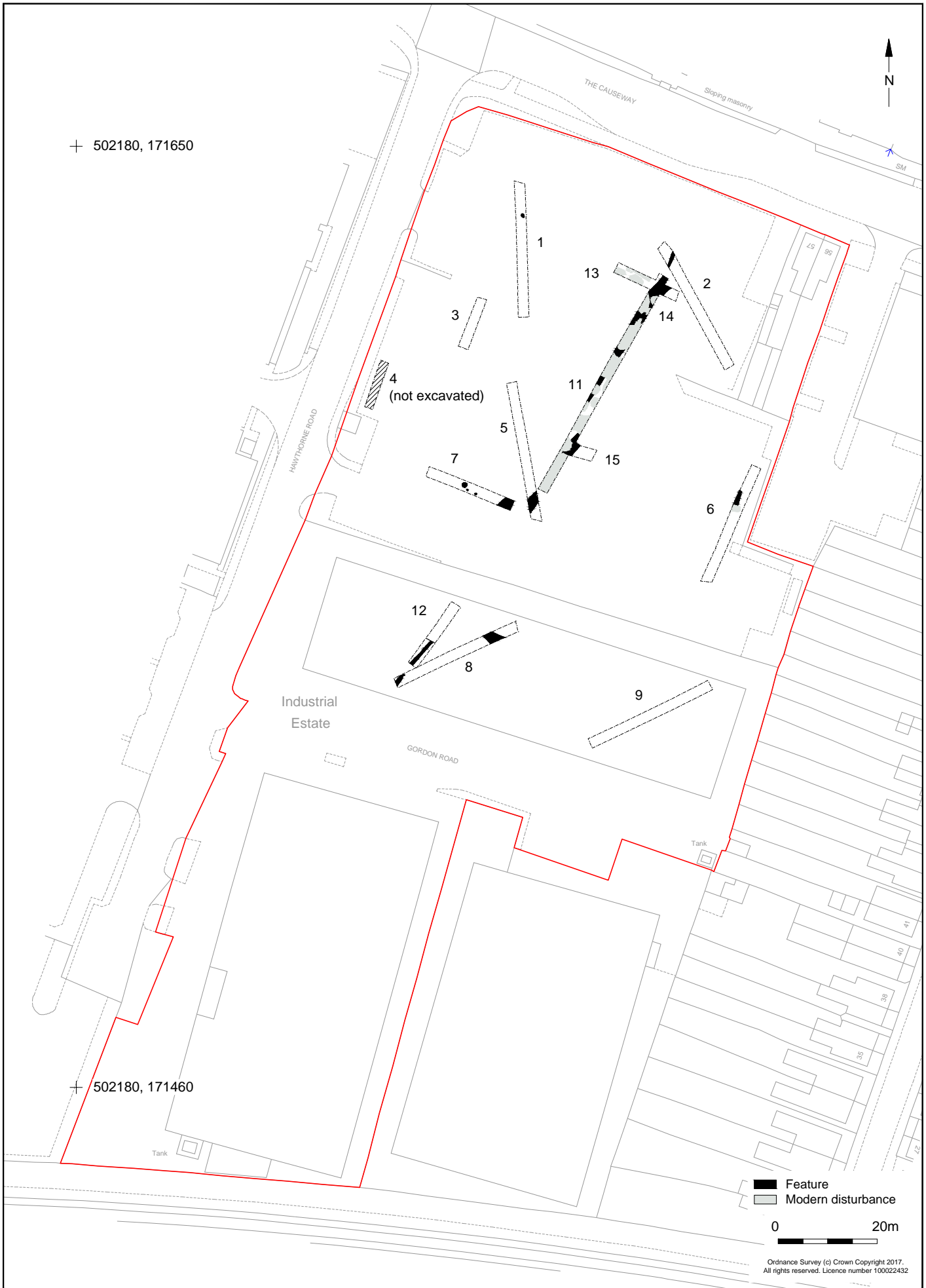
Appendix 4: Waterlogged sample data (= 11-50)**

Sample Number	Context	Sample Volume	Sub-sample processed	Sieves used	Sub-sample scanned	Wood	Notes on Preservation of Wood
9	7/012	12	2L	4,2,1 mm, 500, 250 µm	100ml	**	small fragments of charred wood

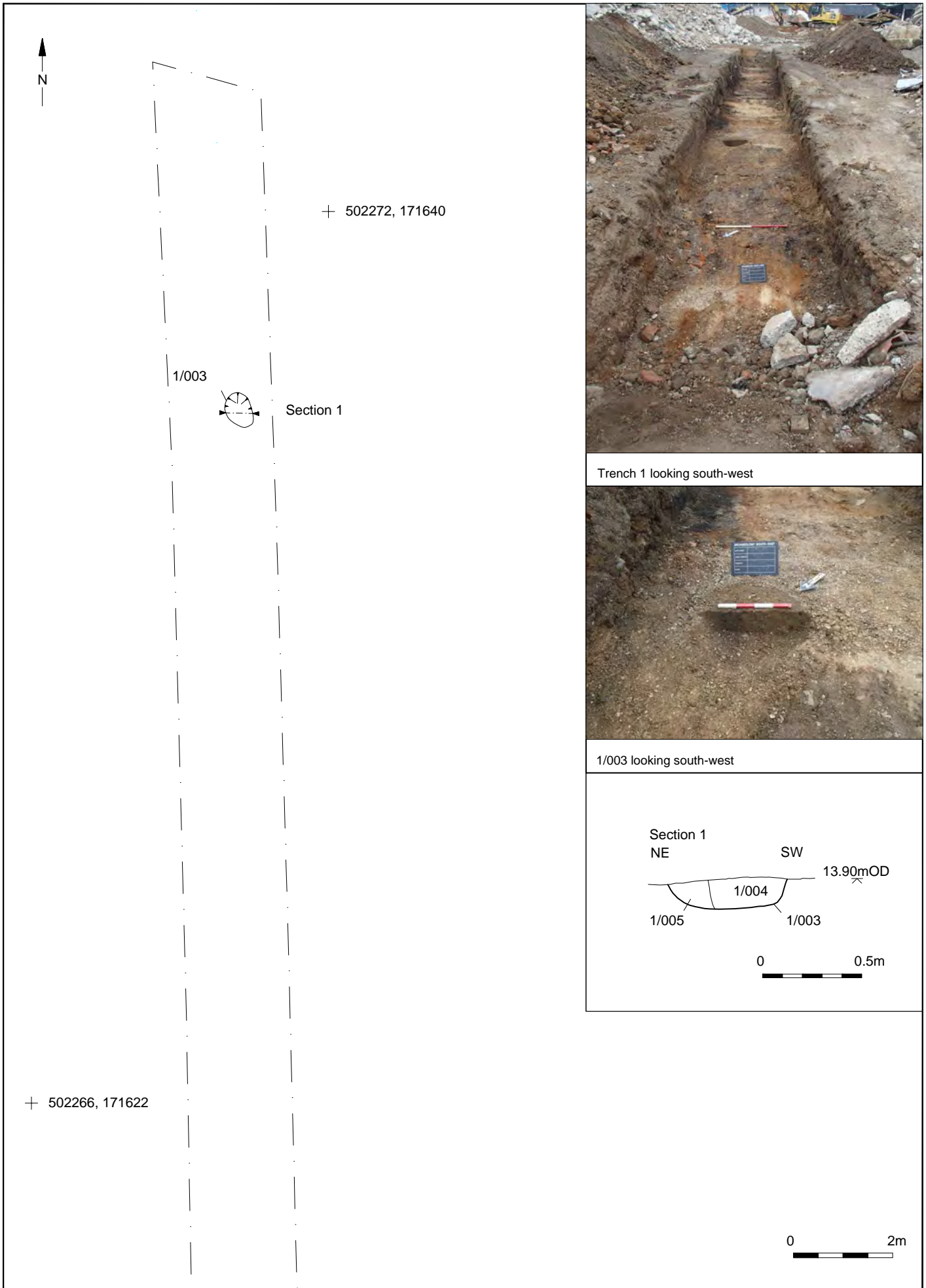


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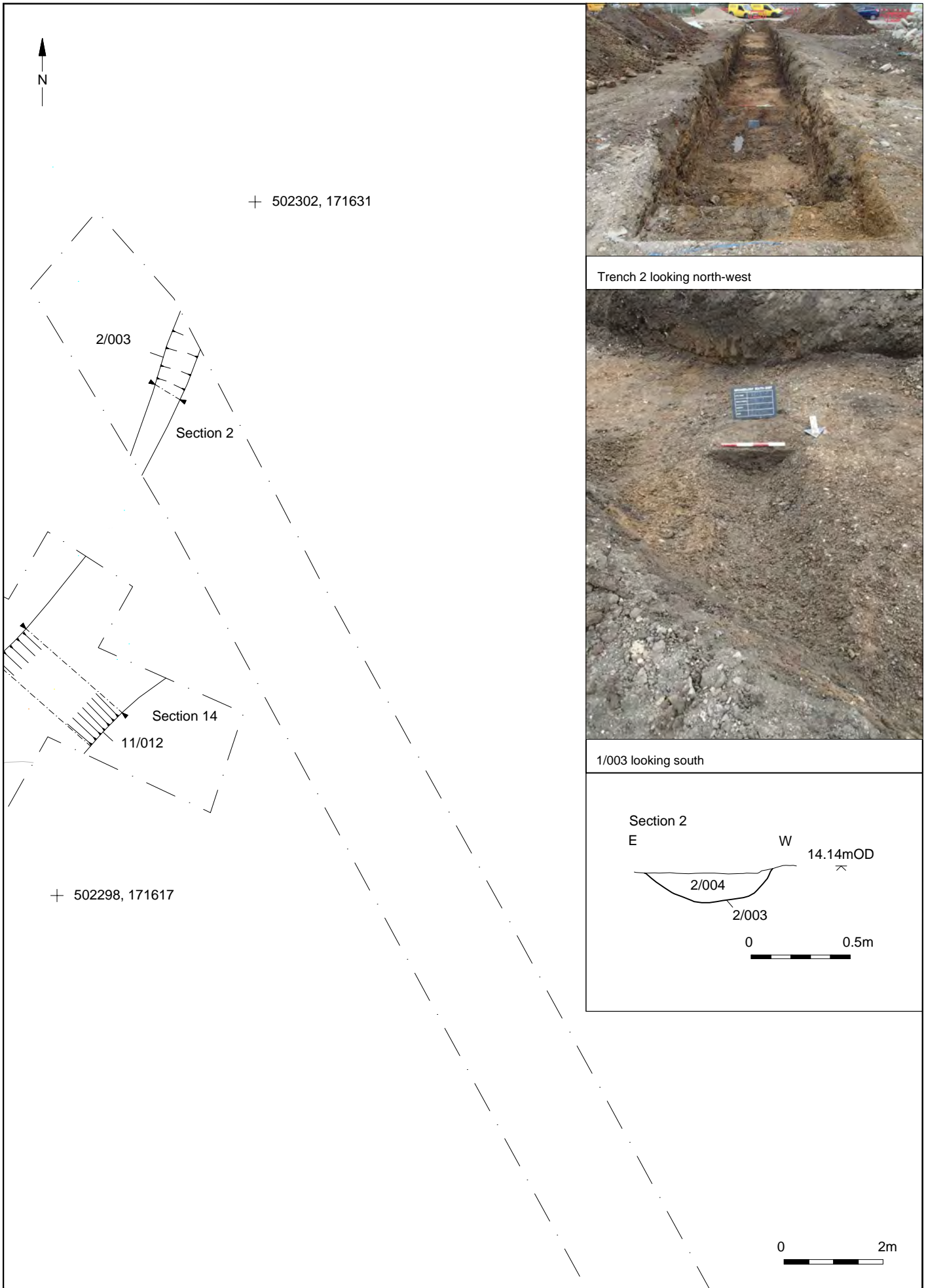
© Archaeology South-East		Land East of Hawthorn Road, Staines	Fig. 1
Project Ref: 170238	May 2017	Site location	
Report Ref: 2017242	Drawn by: JC		



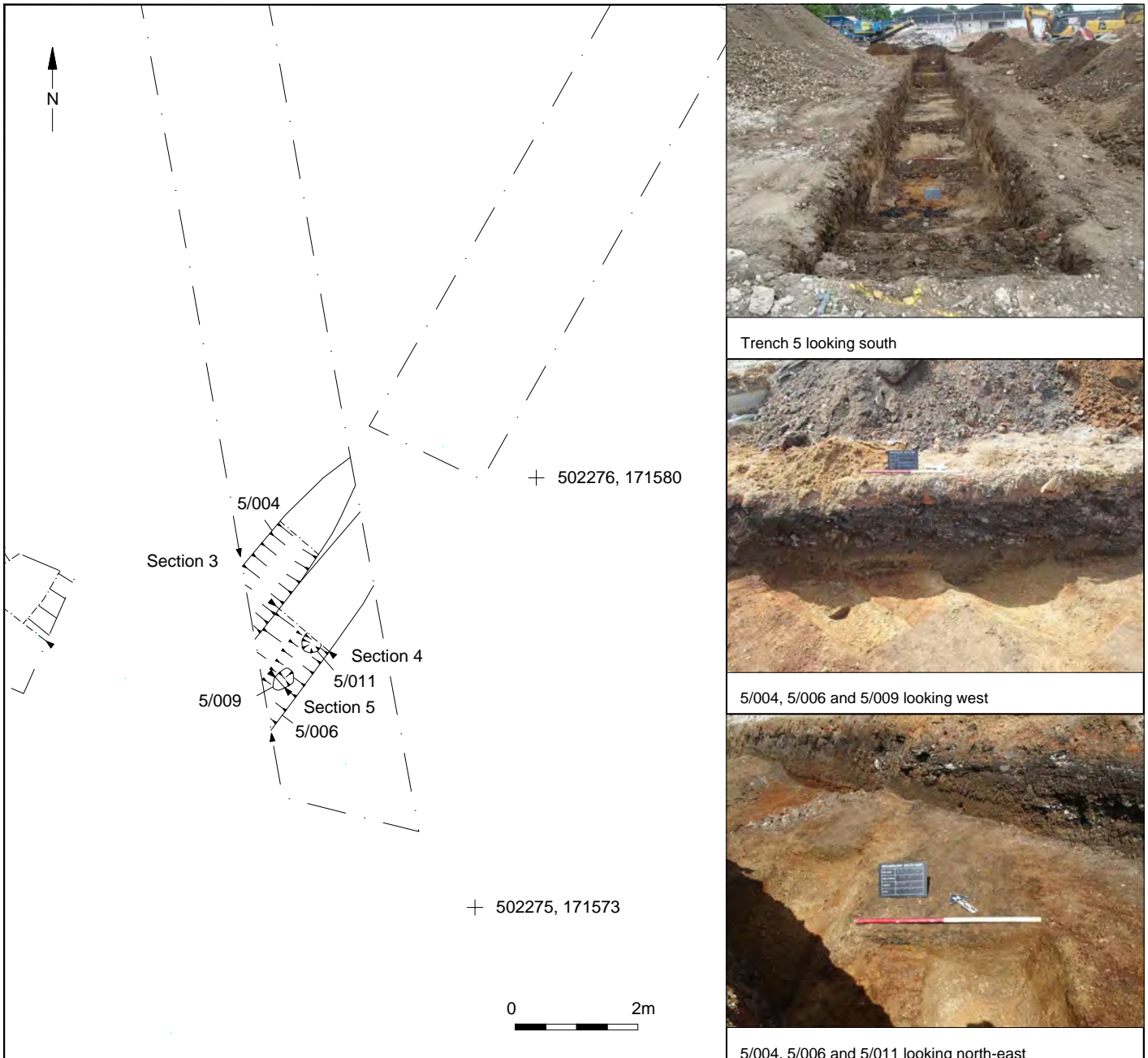
© Archaeology South-East		Land East of Hawthorn Road, Staines	Fig. 2
Project Ref: 170238	May 2017	Trench location	
Report Ref: 2017242	Drawn by: JC		



© Archaeology South-East		Land East of Hawthorn Road, Staines	Fig. 3
Project Ref: 170238	May 2017	Trench 1 plan, section and photographs	
Report Ref: 2017242	Drawn by: JC		



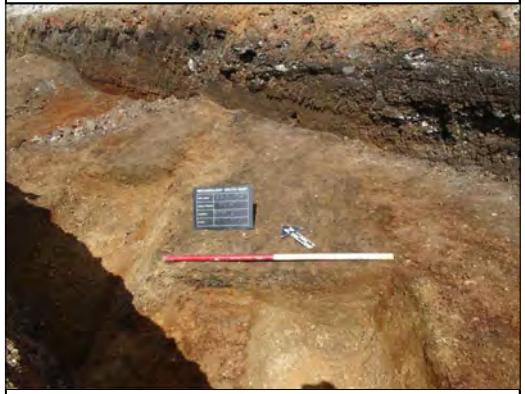
© Archaeology South-East		Land East of Hawthorn Road, Staines	Fig. 4
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Report Ref: 2017242	Drawn by: JC		



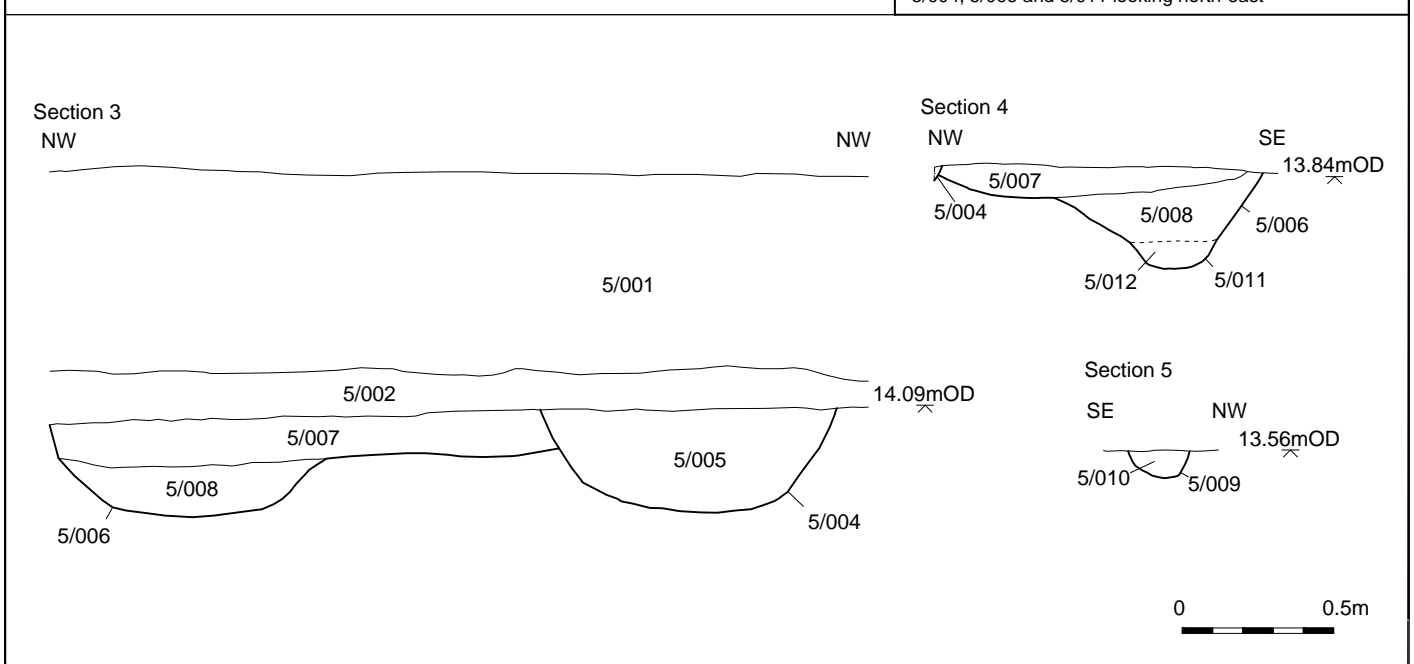
Trench 5 looking south



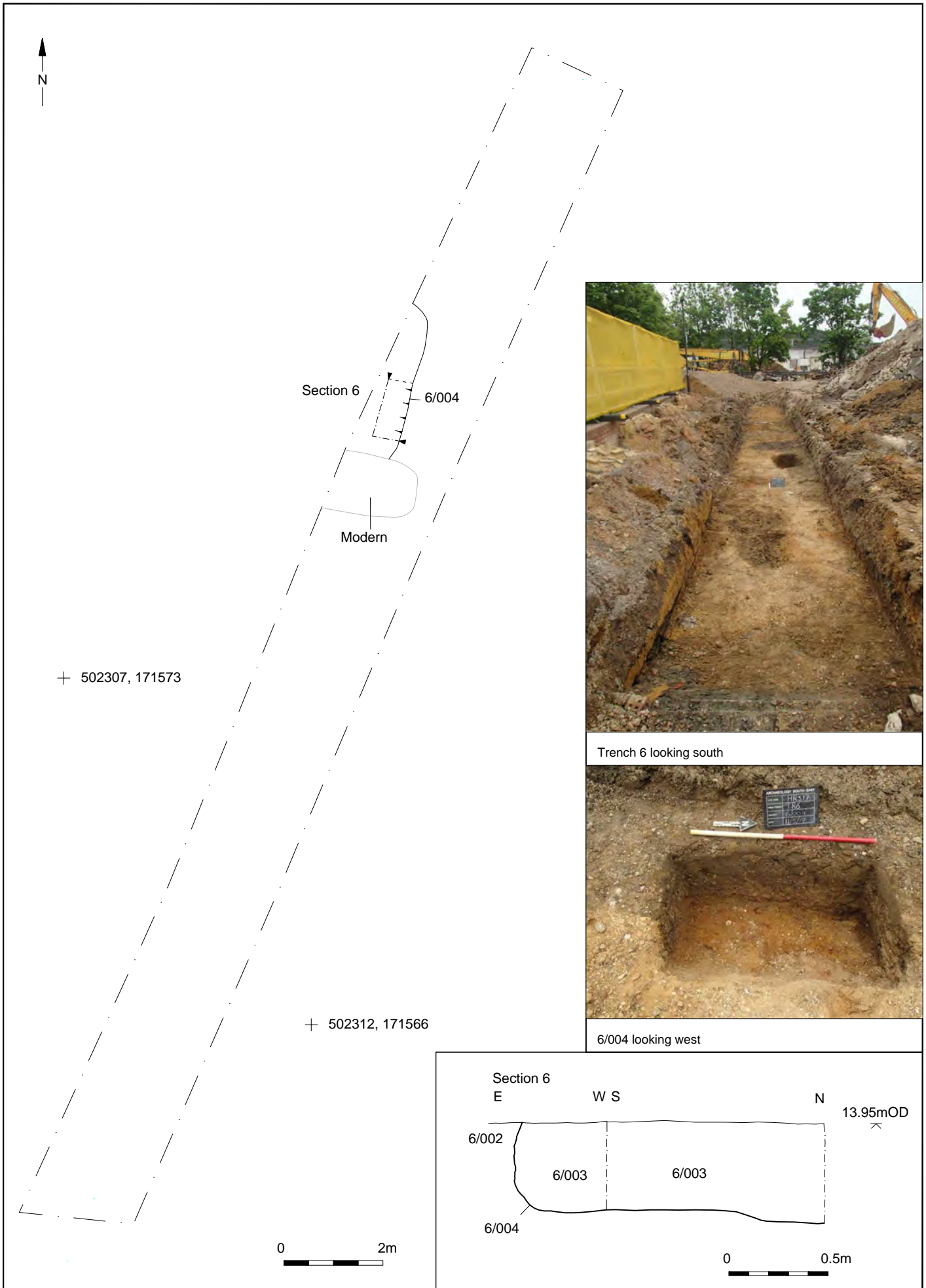
5/004, 5/006 and 5/009 looking west



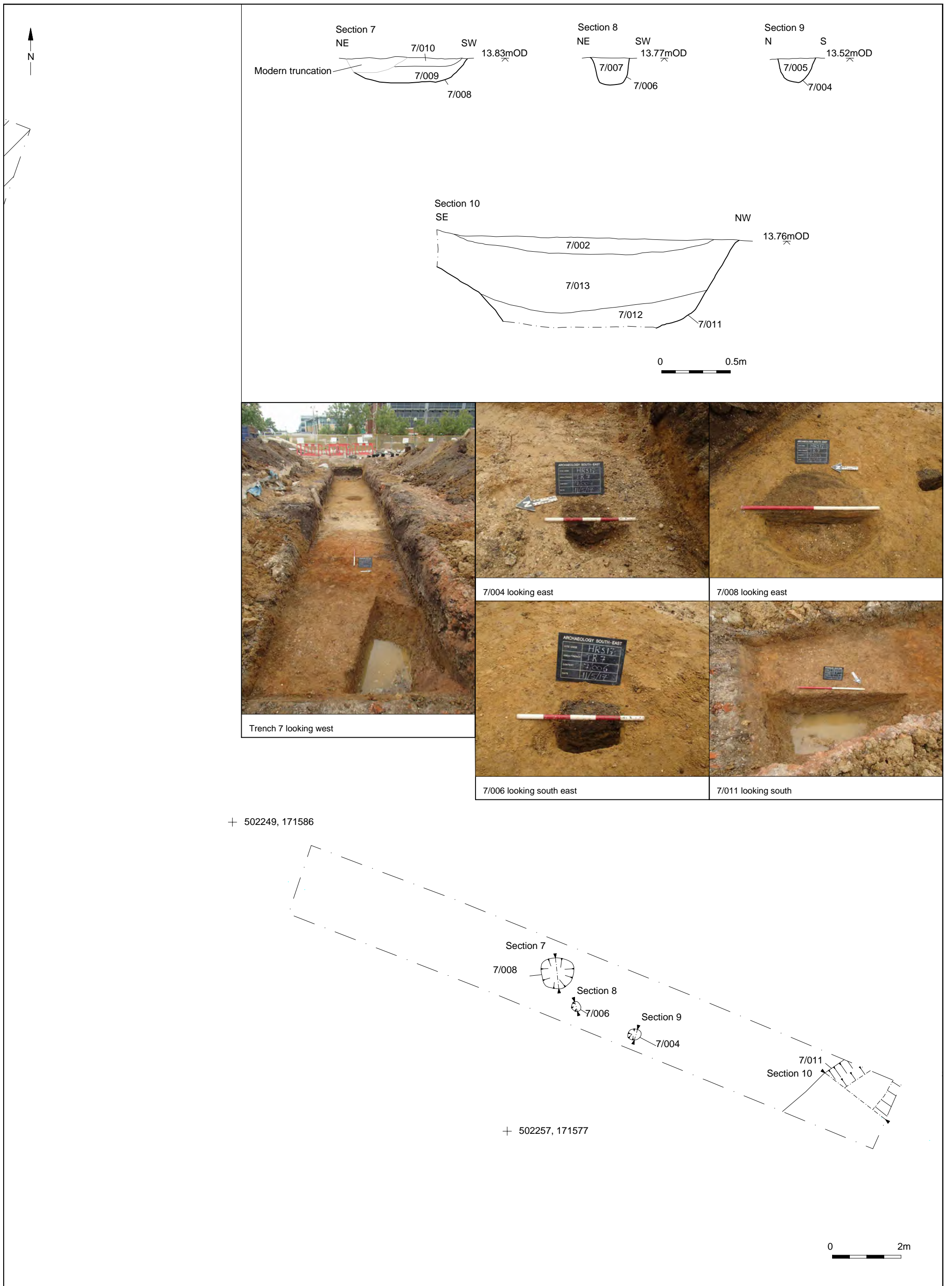
5/004, 5/006 and 5/011 looking north-east

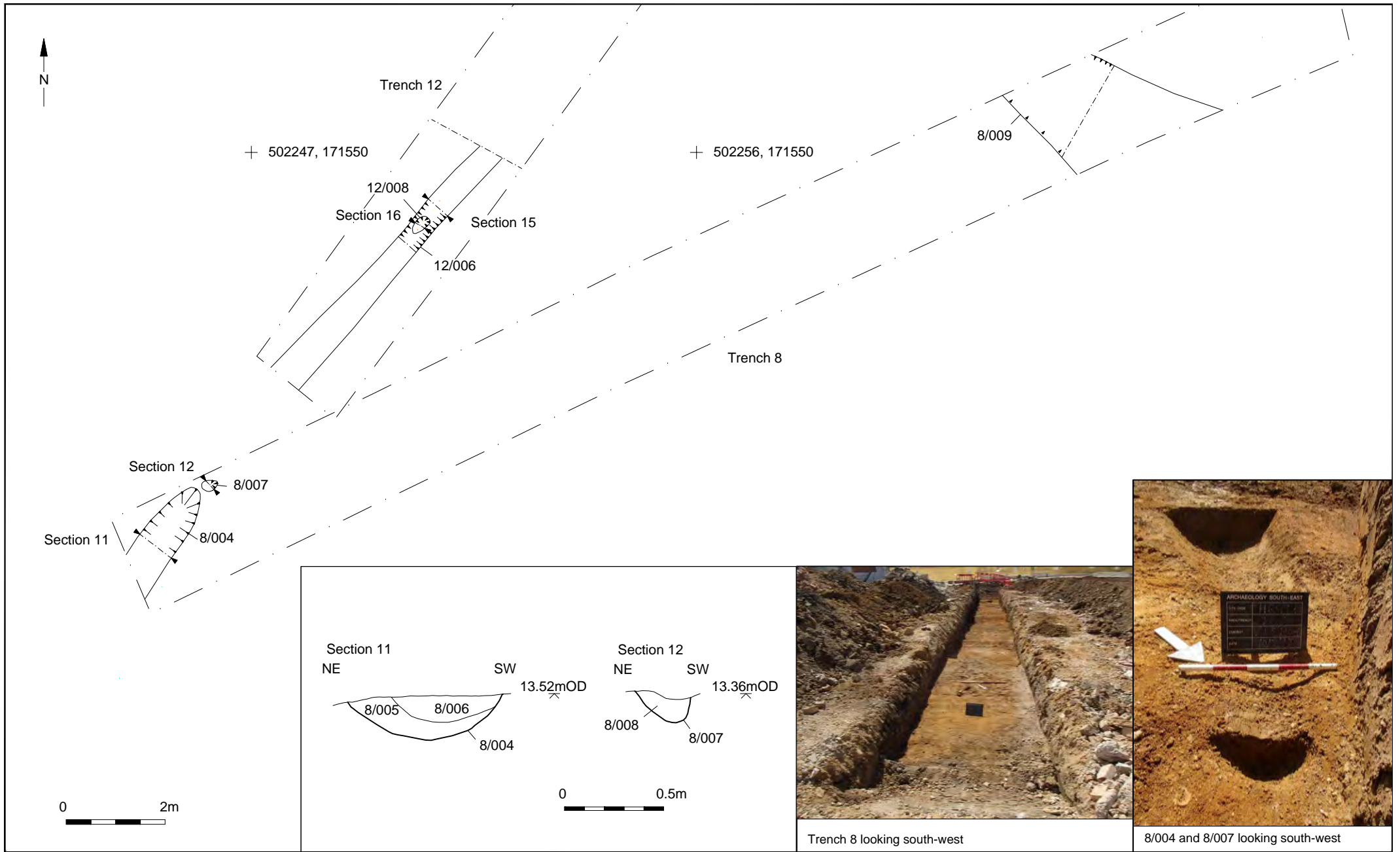


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Project Ref: 170238	May 2017	Trench 5 plan, sections and photographs	
Report Ref: 2017242	Drawn by: JC		

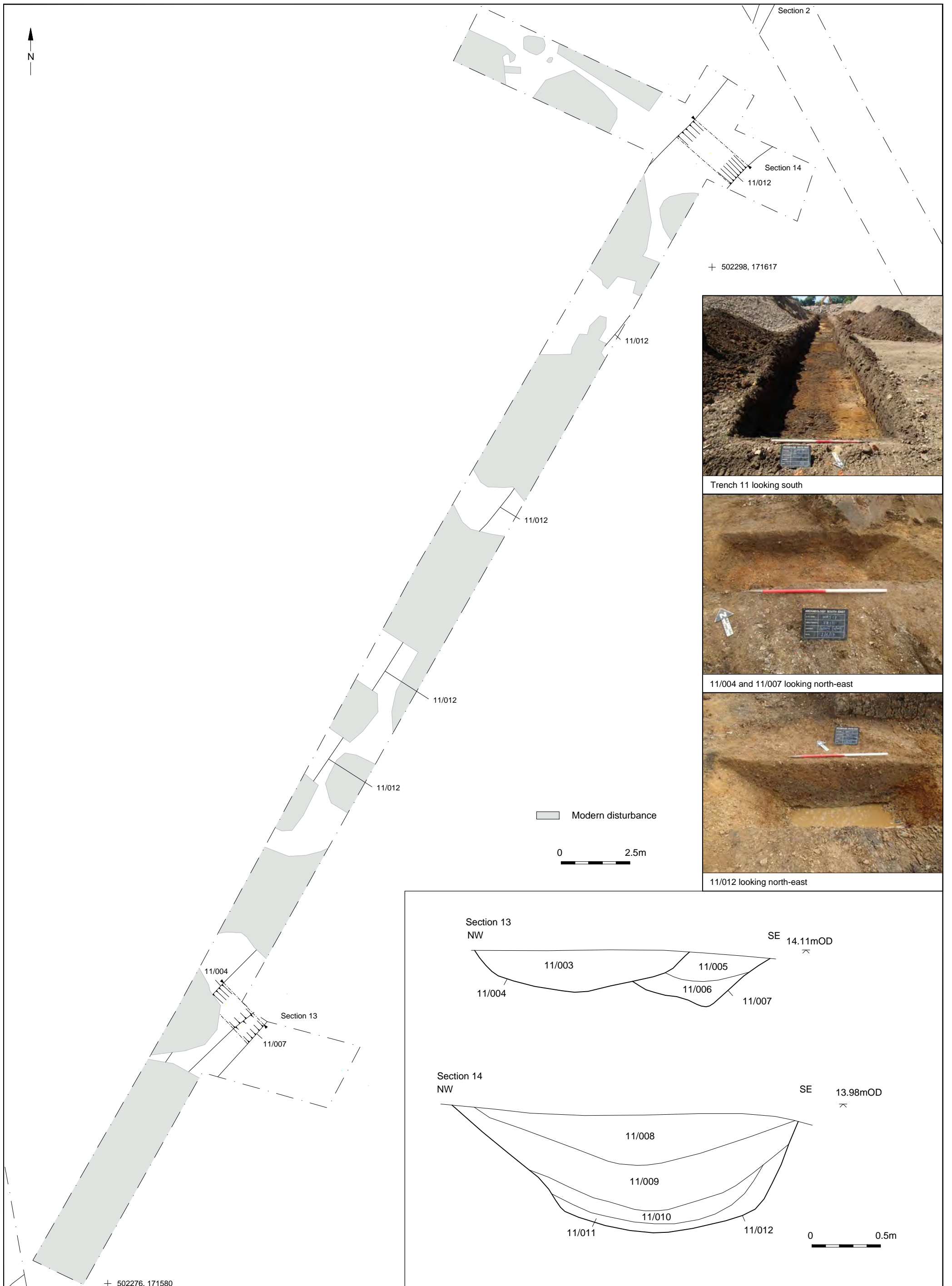


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Project Ref: 170238	May 2017	Trench 6 plan, section and photographs	
Report Ref: 2017242	Drawn by: JC		

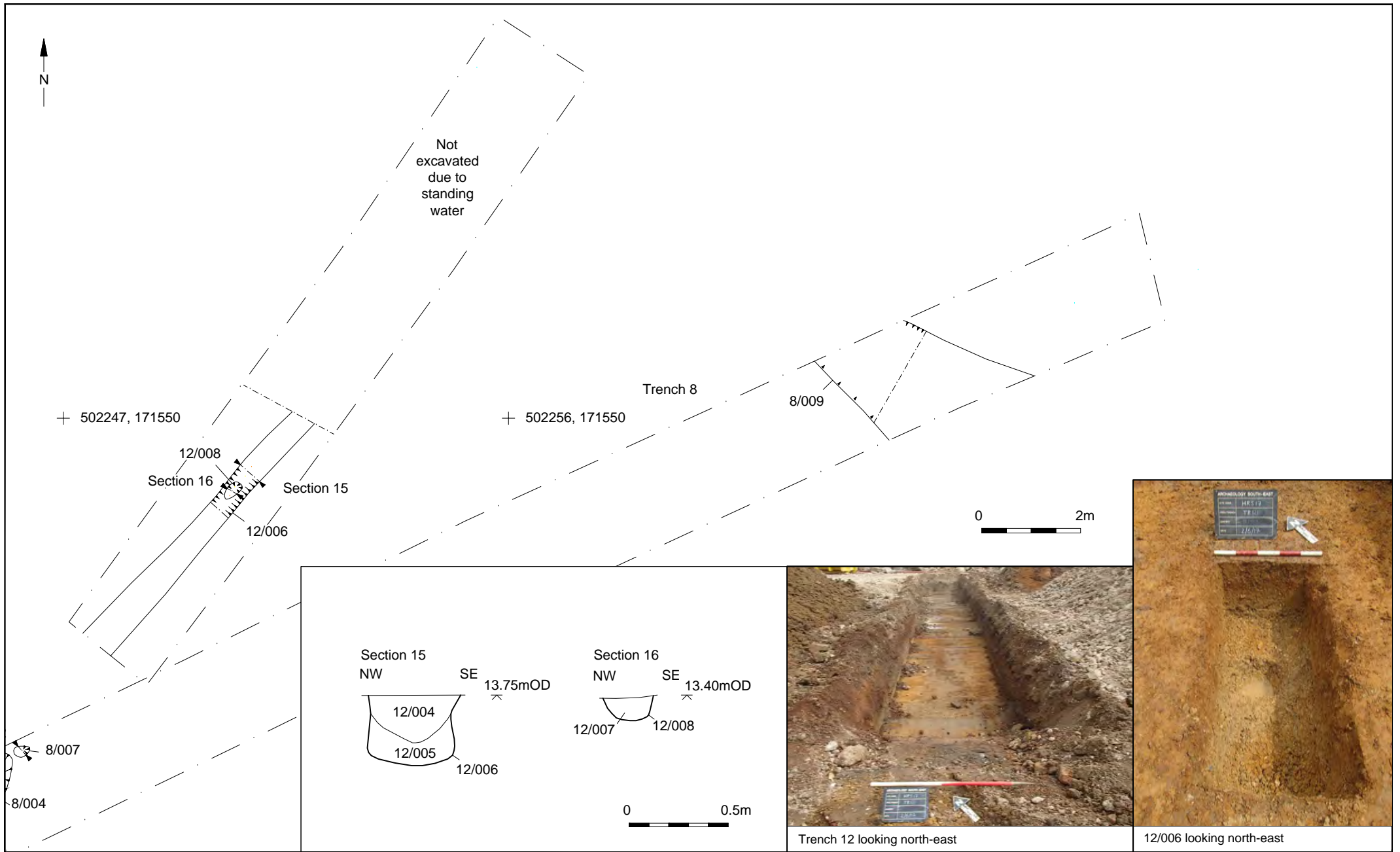




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Project Ref: 170238	May 2017	Trench 8 plan, sections and photographs	
Report Ref: 2017242	Drawn by: JC		



© Archaeology South-East		Land East of Hawthorn Road, Staines	Fig. 7
Project Ref: 170238	May 2017	Trench 11 plan, sections and photographs	
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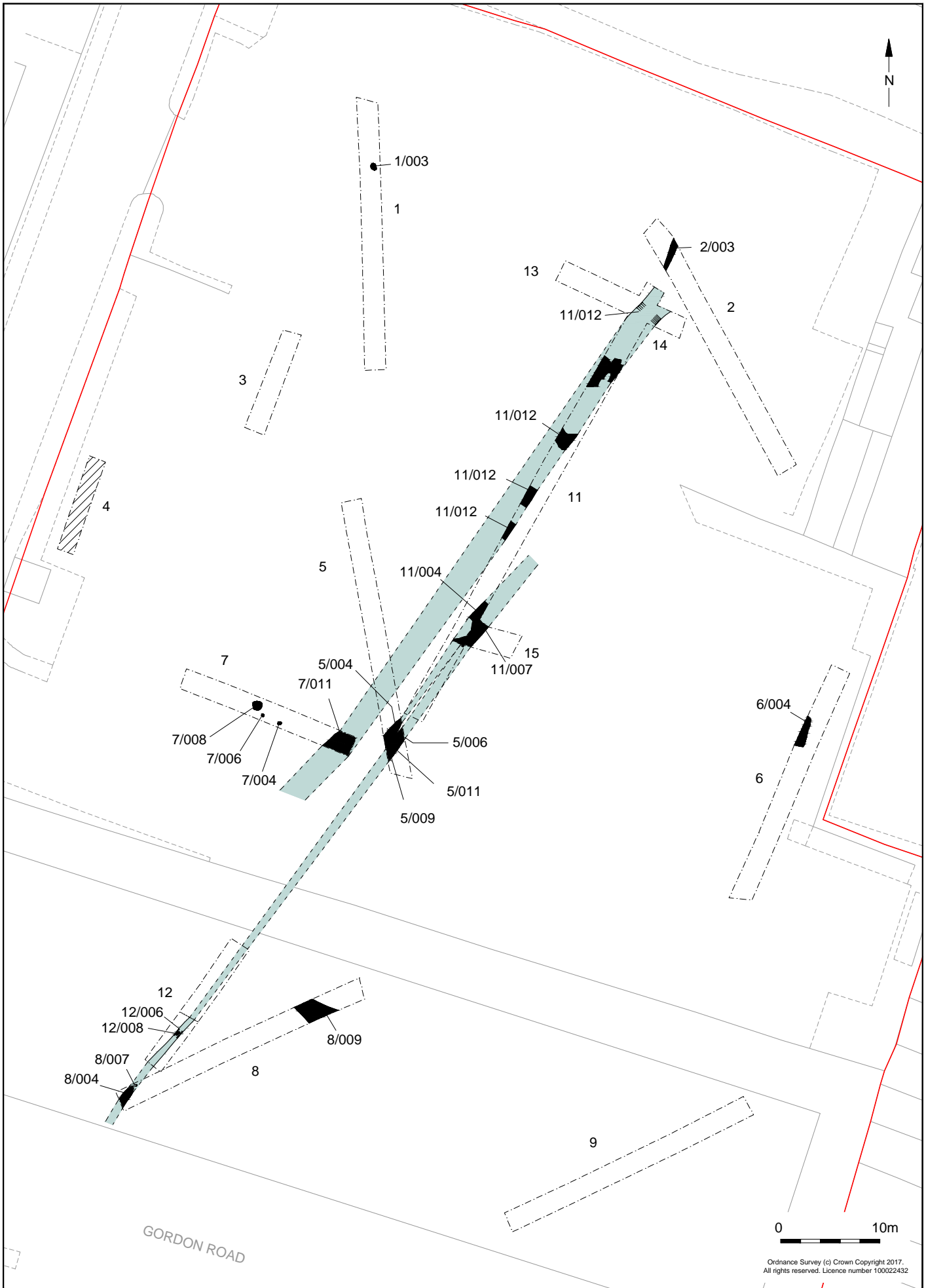
May 2017

Report Ref: 2017242

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Trench 12 plan, sections and photographs

Fig. 10



© Archaeology South-East		Land East of Hawthorn Road, Staines	Fig. 11
Project Ref: 170238	May 2017	Trench location showing projected features	
Report Ref: 2017242	Drawn by: JLR		

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