

**Archaeological Evaluation Report  
Harrow Lane Playing Fields, Harrow Lane  
Saint Leonards-on-Sea  
Hastings, TN37 7RF**

**NGR: NGR TQ 79901 12871**

**Hastings Borough Council Planning Reference  
HS/OA/17/00901**

**ASE Project No: 171158  
Site Code: HLH 18**

**ASE Report No: 2018058  
OASIS id: archaeol6-311232**

**By Chris Russel**

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**Abstract**

*Archaeology South-East (ASE) was commissioned by The Environmental Dimension Partnership Ltd on behalf of their client Hastings Borough Council to undertake an archaeological evaluation at land on the Harrow Lane Playing Fields, Harrow Lane, Saint Leonards-on-Sea, Hastings. The evaluation was conducted at Harrow Lane, St Leonards on Sea, East Sussex between the 6th and the 9th February 2018. Thirteen trenches measuring 30m in length were excavated.*

*Although Trenches 1 and 3 displayed signs of modern disturbance as previously indicated by the geophysical survey along the western edge of the site it is clear that this disturbance did not extend far into the site as archaeological features were recorded in 8 of the trenches beneath intact subsoil and topsoil horizons. Undated, Late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age and Roman activity was recorded comprising of both discrete and linear features with a concentration of features throughout the centre and north-eastern part of the site. Some of the features appear to correlate with some of the anomalies noted in the geophysical survey.*

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## 1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 Archaeology South-East (ASE) was commissioned by The Environmental Dimension Partnership Ltd on behalf of their client Hastings Borough Council to undertake an archaeological evaluation at land on the Harrow Lane Playing Fields, Harrow Lane, Saint Leonards-on-Sea, Hastings centred on National Grid Reference TQ 79901 12871 (Figure 1).
- 1.2 The site is located on the north side of Hastings, and is situated within an Archaeological Notification Area which defines an area of prehistoric, Roman and medieval activity. The site comprises a sub-rectangular plot to the east of Harrow Lane. It is bounded to the north by The Ridge; to the east by a field and residential properties, and to the south by a small area of woodland and residential properties.
- 1.3 An outline application (seeking approval of Access) for the erection of 140 residential units (22 no. 4-bed, 61 no. 3-bed, 36 no. 2-bed, 21 no. 1-bed units) of which 56 are 'affordable homes', public open space, access and landscaping at Harrow Lane Playing Fields, St Leonards-on-sea. Was sought in October of 2017 (Planning Ref. HS/OA/17/00901). Prior to the awarding of permission, correspondence from ESCC Archaeology Service (2017) requested the following conditions to be added:

*[1] No development shall take place until the developer has secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological work, in accordance with a Written Scheme of Archaeological Investigation which has been submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority.*

*Reason: To ensure that the archaeological and historical interest of the site is safeguarded and recorded to comply with the National Planning Policy Framework*

*[2] The development hereby permitted shall not be brought into use until the archaeological site investigation and post investigation assessment (including provision for analysis, publication and dissemination of results and archive deposition) has been completed in accordance with the programme set out in the Written Scheme of Investigation approved under condition [1] to the satisfaction of the Local Planning Authority, in consultation with the County Planning Authority.*

*Reason: To ensure that the archaeological and historical interest of the site is safeguarded and recorded to comply with the National Planning Policy Framework*

- 1.4 The proposed development is situated within an area that has been a focus for activity and settlement from at least the Roman period onwards. Pre-application investigations on the development sites immediately to the north and north-east have identified archaeological remains.
- 1.5 Consultation between the client and Greg Chuter, East Sussex County Council (ESCC) Archaeologist, in his capacity as archaeological advisor to Hastings Borough Council established that a trial-trench evaluation was required with trenches targeted on several anomalies identified by

geophysical work (MoLA 2018). Specifically the requirement was for 14 x 30m x 2m evaluation, a 2% sample of the 4ha site.

- 1.6 A written scheme of investigation (ASE 2108) was produced detailing the archaeological methodology for the trial-trench evaluation and was submitted to the ESCC Archaeologist for approval prior to onward submission to the client and Hastings Borough Council. All work was undertaken in accordance with this document and with the Sussex Archaeological Standards, (ESCC, MDC, WSCC 2017), and with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists Regulations, Standards and Guidance (ClfA 2018).

## **1.7 Geology and Topography**

- 1.7.1 The British Geological Survey (BGS 2018) records the bedrock geology of the site as Wadhurst Clay Formation-Sandstone. No superficial geology is recorded. Contour values fall off sharply from north to south with an Ordnance Survey bench mark recording the height in the north as 138.94m AOD and ground level values in the south of the site recorded at 129.12-129.35m.

## **1.8 Scope of Report**

- 1.8.1 This report details the results of the evaluation which took place between the 6<sup>th</sup> and the 9<sup>th</sup> of February 2018.

## 2.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 A search of the ESCC Historic Environment Record (HER) was undertaken in order to identify entries falling within 500m of the site (unique HER reference number 513/17). Entries are summarised below in Table 1 and illustrated on Figure 1.

HER No		Description
<b>Event Data</b>		
1	EES14387	DBA – low to moderate potential
2	EES15420	DBA
3	EES15603	DBA
4	EES17064	Evaluation - No archaeology
5	EES17408	Geophysical Survey where anomalies corresponding to archaeological features were found
6	EES18018	WB - presumably negative
7	EES18091	WB?
8	EES18092	Evaluation - presumably negative
9	EES16542	HBR of Beaulieu Farmhouse
<b>Monument</b>		
10	MES999	Baldslow Windmill: 19th century Smock Mill
11	MES1009	Findspot: Neolithic flint axe found at Beaulieu Farmhouse
12	MES3434	Monument: Netherfield Ridgway- probably prehistoric or Roman trackway
13	MES15539	Baldslow Medieval hamlet
14	MES19787	Anti-tank cubes (WW2)
15	MES19788	Anti-tank block (WW2)
16	MES20026	Aircraft crash site

17	MES21201	Holmhurst St Marys; 19th century building
18	MES25075	Beaulieu Farmhouse: 16th century building
19	MES29341	Beauport brickworks: 19th century brickworks
20	MES29345	Harrow Lane brickworks: 19th century brickworks
21	MES29370	Seddlescombe Road North Brickworks: 19th century brickworks
22	MES29408	Ditch, enclosure, pit
23	MES31314	Beaulieu Farm: 19th century farmstead
24	MES32916	Ashdown Farm: Site of 19th century farmstead
25	MES32919	Outfarm: Site of 19th century farmstead
<b>Listed Buildings</b>		
26	DES630	Baldslow Windmill: Grade II Listed Building
27	DES632	Holmstead St Marys School: Grade II Listed Building
<b>ANA</b>		
28	DES9240	Post-medieval windmill

Table 1: HER data summary for a 500m radius search centred on the site

2.2 A preceding geophysical survey of the site noted several anomalies which may relate to archaeological features (Figure 3), as summarised in the report's conclusion reproduced below:

*The survey has identified a circular feature which would be best interpreted as a small ring ditch or a roundhouse gully of probable late prehistoric or Roman date. Other possible ditches have been detected in the same vicinity, two of them seeming to be continuations of undated ditches previously detected in the field to the north. Further to the south, a potential path or trackway has been detected, but this is quite straight and aligns with a modern footpath to the south, so may be of relatively recent date (MOLA 2018).*

## **2.3 Project Aims and Objectives**

2.3.1 The broad aims of the evaluation were:

- To assess the character, extent, preservation, significance, date and quality of any archaeological remains and deposits
- To assess how they might be affected by the development of the site
- To establish the extent to which previous groundworks and/or other processes have affected archaeological deposits at the site
- To assess what options should be considered for mitigation (e.g. further archaeological investigation and recording and/or engineering design to allow for meaningful preservation in situ)

2.3.2 Specific aims were:

- To establish whether any archaeological remains associated with prehistoric, Roman or medieval activity known to exist will be impacted by development of the site

2.3.3 With regards to the South East Research Framework (SERF 2018):

- Clarification of the characteristics of the lesser nucleated settlements, and hence of their role in relationship to surrounding rural settlements (SERF, Roman)

### **3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY**

#### **3.1 Fieldwork Methodology**

(Figures 2 and 3)

- 3.1.1 Fourteen trenches targeted on geophysical anomalies were located as per the WSI (ASE 2018).
- 3.1.2 The trenches were excavated under archaeological supervision using a 13-tonne tracked excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket. The trenches were excavated through undifferentiated topsoil and modern made ground in spits of no more than 0.20m until archaeological deposits were encountered, or the top of the underlying natural sediments were reached. Care was taken that archaeological deposits were not damaged due to over machining.
- 3.1.3 Any exposed archaeological deposits were first cleaned by hand and recorded in plan, and in section. Sample hand-excavation and recording of features and deposits was then undertaken on standard ASE pro-forma recording sheets. All remains were levelled with respect to Ordnance Survey datum. A photographic record was made in digital format.
- 3.1.4 Samples were collected from suitable excavated contexts, chiefly sealed features containing evident carbonised remains. These features were relatively small and shallow, so 100% of the context was collected where practical.
- 3.1.5 The ESCC Archaeologist was kept informed of progress and given the opportunity to attend site once the initial trenching was opened. Once the ESCC Archaeologist had authorised it, all trenches were backfilled and compacted upon completion. No formal re-instatement was undertaken.

### 3.2 Archive

3.2.1 The site archive is currently held at the offices of ASE and will be deposited at Hastings Museum & Art Gallery in due course.

Context sheets	43
Section sheets	3
Plans sheets	0
Colour photographs	0
B&W photos	0
Digital photos	125
Context register	1
Drawing register	1
Watching brief forms	0
Trench Record forms	14

Table 2: Quantification of site paper archive

Bulk finds (quantity e.g. 1 bag, 1 box, 0.5 box 0.5 of a box )	0.5 box
Registered finds (number of)	0
Flots and environmental remains from bulk samples	3
Palaeoenvironmental specialists sample samples (e.g. columns, prepared slides)	0
Waterlogged wood	0
Wet sieved environmental remains from bulk samples	3

Table 3: Quantification of artefact and environmental samples



## 4.0 Results. Trenches with Archaeology

### 4.1 Trench 2

(Figure 4)

4.1.1 Trench 2 was orientated east to west and located in the north of the site. The geological substrate [2/003] was recorded at 138.41m AOD in the east of the trench and at 137.59 in the west. This was overlain by 0.05-0.15 of mid-yellow brown fine silty clay subsoil [2/002] with the stratigraphy sealed by 0.18-0.25 of dark grey brown fine clay silt topsoil [2/001].

4.1.2 A single linear feature was recorded mid trench running from north-west to south-east. This was made up of a gradual-sided cut [2/004] with a rounded, concave base filled by mid-grey brown fine clay silt [2/005] with sandstone block inclusions. No finds were recovered from this feature. This feature broadly corresponds with the western part of the circular anomaly noted in the geophysics survey.

Context	Type	Interpretation	Length m	Width m	Depth m	Height m AOD
2/001	Layer	Topsoil	30	1.8	0.25	138.69
2/002	Layer	Subsoil	30	1.8	0.15	138.54
2/003	Layer	Natural	30	1.8		138.31
2/004	Cut	Ditch	2.5	0.5	0.27	138.31
2/005	Fill	Fill, single	2.5	0.5	0.27	138.31

Table 4: Trench 2 list of recorded contexts

### 4.2 Trench 4

(Figure 5)

4.2.1 Trench 4 was orientated east-west in the north-central part of the site. Natural yellow brown clay geology [4/003] was encountered at 136.03m AOD in the east and 134.78m in the west. This was overlain by 0.17-0.20m of subsoil [4/002] with the sequence capped by 0.10-0.15 of topsoil [4/001]. These contexts were as described for Trench 2.

4.2.2 Two ditches were recorded in Trench 4. [4/004] ran north-west to south-east and was located towards the western end on the trench. This shallow cut [4/004] have a rounded-concave base filled by friable mid brown grey fine clay silt [4/005]. No finds were recovered from the ditch.

4.2.3 The second ditch was to the west and consisted of a steep-sided cut [4/011] running north-west to south-east with a rounded-concave base. This was filled by mid-grey brown fine clay silt [4/012]. No finds were recovered from the ditch.

4.2.4 Three pits or postholes were also recorded in Trench 4. The westernmost [4/013] was only partly exposed in the trench and continued beyond the

northern limit of the trench. It consisted of a semi- circular cut with almost vertical sides and a flattish base. It contained two fills. The earliest [4/014] was made up of friable, light brown grey fine silt. Above this was friable mid grey brown silty clay [4/015] containing frequent burnt clay and charcoal. A bulk sample from this feature contained oak charcoal, slate and heat affected sandstone. No other finds were recovered.

4.2.5 To the east was another semi-circular feature only partly exposed in the trench which continued beyond the southern limit of the trench. It consisted of a steep sided cut [4/008] with a rounded base. This contained two fills one of which was a possible post pipe. The post pipe [4/010] was made up of friable mid grey brown clay silt localised to the west of the feature. The latest fill [4/009] consisted of friable mid yellow grey clay silt. No finds were recovered.

4.2.6 The final discrete feature [4/006] was apparently cut by ditch [4/004]. It was made up of a shallow cut [4/006] with a rounded base and filled by mid-brown grey clay silt [4/007]. No finds were recovered.

Context	Type	Interpretation	Length m	Width m	Depth m	Height m AOD
4/001	Layer	Topsoil	30	1.8	0.1	136.34
4/002	Layer	Subsoil	30	1.8	0.2	136.14
4/003	Layer	Natural	30	1.8		136.04
4/004	Cut	Ditch	2	1	0.12	136.04
4/005	Fill	Fill, single	2	1	0.12	136.04
4/006	Cut	Posthole	0.31	0.31	0.1	136.04
4/007	Fill	Fill, single	0.31	0.31	0.1	136.04
4/008	Cut	Pit	0.8	0.8	0.3	136.04
4/009	Fill	Fill	0.8	0.44	0.27	136.04
4/010	Fill	Fill	0.8	0.27	0.3	136.04
4/011	Cut	Ditch	2	0.83	0.1	136.04
4/012	Fill	Fill, single	2	0.83	0.1	136.04
4/013	Cut	Pit	0.81	0.81	0.37	136.04
4/014	Fill	Fill, basal	0.81	0.81	0.21	136.04
4/015	Fill	Fill, upper	0.81	0.81	0.20	136.04

Table 5: Trench 4 list of recorded contexts

### 4.3 Trench 6

(Figure 6)

4.3.1 Trench 6 was located in the north-east of the site and was orientated north-east to south-west. Clay geology was encountered at 137.35m AOD in the north-east and 136.87 in the south-west. The clay geology [6/003] was identical to that described for Trench 4. This was overlain by subsoil [6/002] and topsoil [6/001] which were identical to the deposits described above.

4.3.2 A single ditch was recorded at the south-western end of the trench running north-west to south-east. This feature appears to correspond with an anomaly noted in the geophysical survey (Figure 2). This was had a moderately-sided cut [6/004] with a rounded base filled by mid-grey brown fine clay silt [6/005]. No finds were recovered from this feature.

Context	Type	Interpretation	Length m	Width m	Depth m	Height m AOD
6/001	Layer	Topsoil	30	1.8	0.23	137.93
6/002	Layer	Subsoil	30	1.8	0.35	137.35
6/003	Layer	Natural	30	1.8		137.35
6/004	Cut	Ditch	1.8	0.7	0.25	137.35
6/005	Fill	Fill, single	1.8	0.7	0.25	137.35

Table 6: Trench 6 list of recorded contexts

#### 4.4 Trench 7

(Figure 7)

4.4.1 Trench 7 was located in the west-central part of the site and was orientated north-west to south-east. Clay geology [7/003] was noted at 133.18 AOD in the north-west and 132.25m in the south-east. This was overlain by 0.15-0.20m of subsoil [7/002] and capped by 0.30-0.35 of topsoil [7/001]. These contexts are identical to those described above. The eastern end of the trench contained no visible subsoil with topsoil sitting directly over clay geology.

4.4.2 Two features were recorded, one ditch and one pit. Both features were located approximately mid-trench. The pit was made up of an ovoid cut with moderately sloping sides [7/006] and a flat base. It was filled by mid-grey brown clay silt [7/007] with occasional manganese inclusions. No finds were recovered from this feature.

4.4.3 The ditch was located to the west and in close proximity to the pit. It was made up of cut [7/008] with moderately sloped sides and a flattish base. It was filled with mid grey brown clay silt [7/009] with occasional manganese inclusions. A single fragment of Late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age pottery and a single late prehistoric flint flake were recovered. This feature does not appear to correspond with any anomaly noted in the geophysical survey (Figure 2).

Context	Type	Interpretation	Length m	Width m	Depth m	Height m AOD
7/001	Layer	Topsoil	30	1.8	0.35	133.62
7/002	Layer	Subsoil	30	1.8	0.2	133.27
7/003	Layer	Natural	30	1.8	0.2	133.07
7/006	Cut	Pit	1.6	1.1	0.3	132.25
7/007	Fill	Fill, single	1.6	1.1	0.3	132.25
7/008	Cut	Ditch	1.8	0.7	0.25	132.25
7/009	Fill	Fill, single	1.8	0.7	0.25	132.25

Table 7: Trench 7 list of recorded contexts

## 4.5 Trench 8

(Figure 8)

- 4.5.1 Trench 8 was located in the centre of the site and was orientated north-south. Clay geology [8/003] was encountered at 135.07m AOD in the north and 133.99m in the south. This was overlain by 0.12-0.14m of subsoil [8/002] which was in turn overlain by 0.17-0.20 of topsoil [8/002]. These contexts were identical to those described above.
- 4.5.2 Two shallow, north-east aligned ditches were recorded in the north of the trench. These features does not appear to correspond with any anomaly noted in the geophysical survey (Figure 2).
- 4.5.3 The most northerly of these had a shallow-sided cut [8/004] with a rounded base filled with mid grey brown fine clay silt [8/005]. No finds were recovered from this feature.
- 4.5.4 The other consisted of [8/006], a shallow cut with concave sides and a rounded base. It was filled by friable mid grey brown clay silt [8/007] from which a fragment of Samian (Roman) pottery was recovered.

Context	Type	Interpretation	Length m	Width m	Depth m	Height m AOD
8/001	Layer	Topsoil	30	1.8	0.2	135.51
8/002	Layer	Subsoil	30	1.8	0.14	135.31
8/003	Layer	Natural	30	1.8		135.17
8/004	Cut	Ditch	2.5	0.53	0.04	135.17
8/005	Fill	Fill, single	2.5	0.53	0.04	135.17
8/006	Cut	Ditch	2.5	0.71	0.12	135.17
8/007	Fill	Fill, single	2.5	0.71	0.12	135.17

Table 8: Trench 8 list of recorded contexts

## 4.6 Trench 9

(Figure 9)

- 4.6.1 Trench 9 was located in the east-central part of the site and was orientated north-west to south-east. Clay geology [9/003] was recorded at 134.20m AOD in the north-west and 133.01m in the south-east. This was overlain by 0.15-0.20m of subsoil [9/002] with the trench sequence capped by 0.19-0.28 of topsoil [9/001]. These contexts are as described previously.
- 4.6.2 Two features were identified in Trench 9, one ditch and one pit. These features does not appear to correspond with any anomaly noted in the geophysical survey (Figure 2). No finds were recovered from either feature.
- 4.6.3 The pit [9/006] was located at the north-western end of the trench and had moderately sloping sides and a rounded base. It was filled with mid grey brown fine clay silt [9/007] with occasional sandstone block inclusions.

4.6.4 The ditch [9/004] was located at the south-eastern end of the trench. It ran from north-east to south-west and consisted of a moderately sided cut filled by mid-brown grey fine sandy silt [9/005].

Context	Type	Interpretation	Length m	Width m	Depth m	Height m AOD
9/001	Layer	Topsoil	30	1.8	0.28	134.7
9/002	Layer	Subsoil	30	1.8	0.20	134.5
9/003	Layer	Natural	30	1.8		134.3
9/004	Cut	Ditch	2	0.85	0.20	133.01
9/005	Fill	Fill, single	2	0.85	0.20	133.01
9/006	Cut	Pit	0.7	0.63	0.32	134.3
9/007	Fill	Fill, single	0.7	0.63	0.32	134.3

Table 9: Trench 9 list of recorded contexts

#### 4.7 Trench 10

(Figure 10)

4.7.1 Trench 10 was located in the south-west of the site and was orientated north-south. Clay geology [10/003] was encountered at 131.57m AOD in the north and at 131.01m in the south. This was overlain by 0.20m of subsoil [10/002] with the sequence capped by 0.30m of topsoil [10/001]. These contexts were as described above. The southern end of Trench 10 contained no visible subsoil and here the topsoil sat directly over the clay geology.

4.7.2 Three discrete and one linear feature were noted in Trench 10.

4.7.3 A small sub-circular pit [10/008] was noted in the south of the trench. This had gradually sloping sides and a rounded base and was filled by dark grey brown fine silty clay [10/009] from which Late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age pottery and a single late-prehistoric flint flake was recovered. This feature may correspond with a positive anomaly noted in the geophysics results.

4.7.4 A larger pit was recorded in the northern part of the trench. This consisted of a moderately sided cut [10/010] with a rounded base which was filled by light grey fine silty clay [10/011] with occasional sandstone block inclusions. No other finds were recovered from the feature.

4.7.5 The final discrete feature was seen to be cut by a narrow ditch or gully. This was made up of a cut [10/006] with moderately steep sides and a concave base. It was filled by mid-orange brown fine clay silt [10/007]. No finds were recovered from the feature.

4.7.6 This feature was cut by a shallow gull [10/004] with moderately sloped sides and a rounded base. The ditch/gully was filled by mid-grey brown fine clay silt [10/005]. This group of features corresponds broadly with an anomaly identified in the geophysical survey results.

Context	Type	Interpretation	Length m	Width m	Depth m	Height m AOD
10/001	Layer	Topsoil	30	1.8	0.3	132.05
10/002	Layer	Subsoil	30	1.8	0.2	131.75
10/003	Layer	Natural	30	1.8		131.5
10/004	Cut	Ditch	1.5	0.5	0.2	131.01
10/005	Fill	Fill, single	1.5	0.5	0.2	131.01
10/006	Cut	Pit	1.4	0.9	0.4	131.01
10/007	Fill	Fill, single	1.4	0.9	0.4	131.01
10/008	Cut	Pit	0.8	0.8	0.15	131.01
10/009	Fill	Fill, single	0.8	0.8	0.15	131.01
10/010	Cut	Pit	1	1	0.3	131.57
10/011	Fill	Fill, single	1	1	0.3	131.57

Table 10: Trench 10 list of recorded contexts

#### 4.8 Trench 12

(Figure 11)

- 4.8.1 Trench 12 was located in the south of the site and orientated east to west. Clay geology [12/003] was located at 130.97m AOD in the east and 129.56m in the west. This was overlain in the east by 0.15m of subsoil [12/002]. The remainder of the trench contained no visible subsoil and the geological substrate was directly overlain by topsoil [12/001]. These contexts were as described above.
- 4.8.2 Two small discrete features were noted mid-trench close to the northern baulk of the trench. These features does not appear to correspond with any anomaly noted in the geophysical survey (Figure 2).
- 4.8.3 Shallow cut [12/004] had a rounded base and was filled by mid-yellow brown fine silty clay [12/005] with frequent oak charcoal inclusions. A single sherd of early Roman pottery was recovered from this context. A bulk sample from this feature contained a small amount magnetic material.
- 4.8.4 The other feature consisted of a shallow cut [12/006] with a rounded base filled with mid yellow grey fine clay silt [12/007] with frequent oak and holly charcoal inclusions. A bulk sample from this feature contained a small amount magnetic material. No other finds were recovered from the feature.

Context	Type	Interpretation	Length m	Width m	Depth m	Height m AOD
12/001	Layer	Topsoil	30	1.8	0.3	130.81
12/002	Layer	Subsoil	30	1.8	0.15	130.51
12/003	Layer	Natural	30	1.8		130.36
12/004	Cut	Pit	0.45	0.45	0.1	129.99
12/005	Fill	Fill, single	0.45	0.45	0.1	129.99
12/006	Cut	Pit	0.36	0.36	0.1	129.99
12/007	Fill	Fill, single	0.36	0.36	0.1	129.99

Table 11: Trench 12 list of recorded contexts

## **4.9 Archaeologically Negative Trenches**

*These trenches are tabulated in Appendix 1.*

### **4.9.1 Trenches 1 & 3**

4.9.2 Both trenches contained very deep deposits of made ground. Trench 1 was excavated to 1.2m deep at its northern end with no sign of the base of the made ground deposit [1/0003] which was made up of blue grey silty clay and which contained modern CBM and metal. A collection of 19th and 20th century finds were recovered. The geological horizon was recorded around 14m from the southern end of the trench. No features were observed here.

4.9.3 The made ground in Trench 3 was different and appeared to be redeposited geological material. It consisted of yellow brown clay silt [3/003] containing modern CBM and metal. A sondage to 1.2m BGL in the north did not reveal the base of the deposit.

### **4.9.4 Trenches 5, 11, 13 & 14**

4.9.5 These trenches contained no visible archaeological features or made ground. Clay geology was present in all (as described for Trench 4) and was recorded at between 137.28m AOD and 129.99m. This was sealed by subsoil (see Trench 2 description) which was between 0.10 and 0.20 thick. Topsoil capped all these trenches (see Trench 2) which was between 0.16 and 0.25m thick.



## 5.0 THE FINDS

### 5.1 Summary

5.1.1 A small assemblage of finds was recovered and were washed and dried or air dried as appropriate. They were subsequently quantified by count and weight and bagged by material and context (Table 12). All finds have been packed and stored following CIfA guidelines (2018).

Context	Lithics	Weight (g)	Pottery	Weight (g)	Concrete	Weight (g)	Clay Tobacco Pipe	Weight (g)	Glass	Weight (g)
1/003			1	2	1	128	1	2	2	10
7/009	1	19	2	5						
8/007			1	4						
10/009	1	25	1	4						
12/005			1	10						
Total	2	44	6	25	1	128	1	2	2	10

Table 12: Finds quantification

### 5.2 The Flintwork by Karine Le Hégarat

5.2.1 Two pieces of struck flint weighing 44g were recovered during the evaluation. Context [7/009] produced a flake made from mid-grey flint gravel. It displays a cortical platform. Context [10/009] also produced a flake, but it was made on a light grey chalk-derived flint. The proximal end is damaged, and the flake displays a hinged termination. Both pieces show evidence of post-depositional movement. They are likely to be late prehistoric (Middle Neolithic to Late Bronze Age / Early Iron Age).

### 5.3 The Prehistoric and Roman Pottery by Anna Doherty

5.3.1 A small assemblage of prehistoric and Roman pottery was recovered from the site, totalling five sherds, weighing 23g. Prehistoric material was recovered from two contexts, [7/009] and [10/009]. The former contained two small sherds, likely from the same vessel. The sherds are relatively thin-walled and low-fired with an oxidised exterior; they are associated with a coarse grog-tempered fabric containing common rounded grog inclusions of c.1-3mm. Although very abraded, some areas of the exterior surfaces appear to stand out in relief suggesting the possibility that applied decoration is present. A single poorly formed sherd in a similar fabric, also containing sparse flint in a similar size range, was recovered from context [10/009].



- 5.3.2 Grog-tempered fabrics of this type usually belong broadly to the Late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age and can belong to a number of different ceramic traditions, including Grooved Ware, Beaker and Collared/Biconical Urn (though the relatively thin walls of the sherds from this assemblage make the latter less likely). In the Weald, grog-tempered fabrics – and especially grog-tempered wares with flint – can persist in later periods, including into the earlier part of the Late Bronze Age. There are no comparative published assemblages of this date from the immediate area of Hastings but these fabrics are probably less likely to occur in the later Bronze Age in coastal areas.
- 5.3.3 A sherd of probable early Roman pottery was noted in context [12/005]. This bodysherd is in a hard-fired but possibly hand-made coarse sandy ware, containing rare fine grog or naturally occurring argillaceous inclusions. Finally, a highly abraded sherd of Les Martres-de-Veyre samian ware, produced in central Gaul between AD100-120, was recovered from context [8/007].

#### **5.4 The Post-Roman Pottery** by Luke Barber

- 5.4.1 The archaeological work recovered a single sherd of post-Roman pottery from [1/003]. This consists of a 2g fragment from a blue transfer-printed whiteware plate with willow pattern design. A date between c. 1825 and 1875 is suspected though the sherd could be residual. The pottery has no potential for further analysis and has been discarded.

#### **5.5 The Clay Tobacco Pipe** by Elke Raemen

- 5.5.1 A single clay stem fragment (weight 2g) was recovered from [1/003]. It is plain and unmarked and dates between c. 1750-1910.

#### **5.6 The Glass** by Elke Raemen

- 5.6.1 Two fragments of glass (10g) were recovered from [1/003]. Included are a 19<sup>th</sup>- to mid-20<sup>th</sup>-century wine bottle body shard. The second piece consists of a colourless window pane fragment of late 19<sup>th</sup>- to 20<sup>th</sup>-century date.

#### **5.7 The Stone** by Elena Baldi

- 5.7.1 One small fragment of slate was recovered from sample <1>, from context [4/015], weighing 0.45 g. The fragment is undiagnostic.

#### **5.8 Magnetic material** by Elena Baldi

- 5.8.1 A small amount magnetic material was also recovered from the flotation of samples <1>, <2> and <3>, collected from contexts [4/015], [12/005] and [12/007] totalling to ca. < 15 g in weight. The material was recovered exclusively from magnetic collection and it was analysed using a binocular

microscope (x40). All of the material recovered comprised tiny specks of ferruginous sandstone, which had undergone heating processes. These are not diagnostic.

## **6.0 The Environmental Samples** by Mariangela Vitolo

### **6.1 Introduction**

6.1.1 Three bulk soil samples were taken during the archaeological evaluation at Harrow Lane for the recovery of environmental remains such as plant macrofossils, wood charcoal, fauna and Mollusca as well as to assist finds retrieval. Samples were taken from three pit fills. The following reports on the contents of the environmental samples and discusses the information that the archaeobotanical and anthracological remains can provide on vegetation environment, diet and economy and fuel selection and use at the site.

### **6.2 Methodology**

6.2.1 Samples ranged from 20L to 30 L in volume and were processed, in their entirety, by flotation using a 250µm mesh for retention of the flot and a 500µm mesh for the heavy residue, before being air dried. The heavy residues were passed through graded sieves of 8, 4 and 2mm and each fraction sorted for environmental and artefactual remains (Table 13). Artefacts recovered from the samples were distributed to specialists, and are incorporated in the relevant sections of this volume where they add further information to the existing finds assemblage. The flots were scanned under a stereozoom microscope at 7-45x magnifications and their contents recorded (Table 14). Nomenclature follows Stace (1997).

6.2.2 Charcoal fragments recovered from the heavy residues were fractured along three planes (transverse, radial and tangential) according to standardised procedures (Gale & Cutler 2000). Specimens were viewed under a stereozoom microscope for initial grouping, and an incident light microscope at magnifications up to 500x to facilitate identification of the woody taxa present. Taxonomic identifications were assigned by comparing suites of anatomical characteristics visible with those documented in reference atlases (Hather, 2000; Schoch *et al.*, 2004; Schweingruber, 1990). Genera, family or group names have been given where anatomical differences between taxa are not significant enough to permit more detailed identification. Quantification and taxonomic identifications of charcoal are recorded in (Table 13) and nomenclature follows Stace (1997).

### **6.3 Results**

6.3.1 *Samples <1> [4/015], <2> [12/005] and <3> [12/007]*

The bulk soil samples from Harrow Lane produced flots of large size, containing 30 to 60% of uncharred material, including roots and occasional seeds of knotweeds (*Persicaria* sp.), indicating some degree of disturbance. Flots contained no charred plant macrofossils but a large amount of very fragmented charcoal (<2mm).

6.3.2 The heavy residues contained larger charcoal fragments, possibly due to sediment encrustations that did not allow for the charcoal to float. Radial cracks and vitrification were noted frequently. Most of the fragments were identified as oak (*Quercus* sp.), with a single fragment from pit [12/006] identified as holly (*Ilex aquifolium*).

#### 6.4 Discussion

6.4.1 The absence of charred plant macrofossils from the samples could indicate that cereal production and processing were only being carried out on a small scale, but could also be due to chance or circumstances of deposition. The presence of charcoal indicates that there is a good chance for the preservation of charred material in the local deposits. Any future work at the site should continue to include sampling, targeting well-sealed primary contexts.

Sample Number	Context	Context / Deposit Type and Parent Context	Sample Volume (L)	Charcoal >4mm	Weight (g)	Charcoal 2-4mm	Weight (g)	Charcoal Identifications	Other (eg. pot, cbm, etc.) (quantity/ weight)
1	4/015	Pit [4/013]	30	**	2	***	2		F.Clay (* /30g) Slate (* /<1g) Mag.Mat. >2mm (** /1g) Mag.Mat. <2mm (***/2g)
2	12/005	Pit [12/004]	20	***	15	****	12	<i>Quercus</i> sp. 10 (vitrified)	CBM (** /514g) Mag.Mat. >2mm (** /4g) Mag.Mat. <2mm (***/3g)
3	12/007	Pit [12/006]	20	***	18	****	16	<i>Quercus</i> sp. 9 (radial cracks), <i>Ilex aquifolium</i> 1 (vitrified)	F.Clay (* /10g) Mag.Mat. >2mm (** /2g) Mag.Mat. <2mm (***/1g)

Table 13: Environmental residue summary

Sample Number	Context	Spit (if relevant eg. cremation)	Weight (g)	Flot volume (ml)	Volume Scanned (ml)	Uncharred (%)	Sediment (%)	Seeds Uncharred	Charcoal >4mm	Charcoal 2-4mm	Charcoal <2mm
1	4/015		119	200	100	30	40	* <i>Persicaria</i> sp.	**	***	****
2	12/005		45	200	100	60	30		**	***	****
3	12/007		25	120	100	50	30		**	***	****

Table 14: Environmental flot summary

## **7.0 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS**

### **7.1 Overview of stratigraphic sequence**

7.1.1 The geological substrate was encountered at 137.59m AOD in the north of the site and at 128.79 in the south. Across most of the trenches this consisted of yellow brown fine clay. Trench 2 in the north contained a high percentage of large sandstone block inclusions.

7.1.2 A total of 20 linear and 8 discrete features were noted across 8 trenches. Many of these were undated but those that were dateable belonged to two distinct phases. Two contained Late Neolithic/Bronze Age pottery and two contained Roman pottery.

### **7.2 Deposit survival and existing impacts**

7.2.1 Trenches 1 and 3 both showed signs of heavy disturbance. Both these trenches contained made ground deposits which contained very modern material. These deposits correspond to an area of magnetic disturbance evident in the geophysical survey. It would appear that much of the west of the site has been heavily disturbed or landscaped very recently. The remainder of the trenches appeared undisturbed (containing 0.39-0.45 of topsoil and subsoil) although many of the features were shallow hinting that geological processes or less obvious landscaping may have affected the surviving archaeology.

### **7.3 Discussion of archaeological remains by period**

#### Late Neolithic/Bronze Age

7.3.1 The two earliest dateable features on site were located in the south-west in Trenches 7 and 10. One pit and one ditch were recorded that contained pottery sherds (all be it abraded) that were dated to this period as well as flint flakes that were roughly contemporary. There are too few features of this date to build up a detailed interpretation of the activity on site but the presence of a shallow rubbish pit or posthole in Trench 10 suggests something other than purely agricultural use. Other than a Neolithic axe identified in the HER search above these features appear to be the first secure evidence of Neolithic/Bronze Age activity in the Harrow Lane area.

#### Roman

7.3.2 One ditch and one small pit or posthole produced pottery sherds from the Roman period. Both features were noted in close proximity to other, undated features which may or may not be contemporary. The two dateable features were seen in Trenches 8 and 12, located in the middle and in the south of the site, the two sherds dating from the mid-1<sup>st</sup> to early 2<sup>nd</sup> Centuries. The ditch in Trench 8 and its undated neighbour may continue into Trench 4 to the north. Again the evidence produced by the evaluation is fragmentary but there is some kind of land division and some evidence for settlement nearby. The ditches appear on a contrary alignment to the earlier ditch noted in Trench 7 suggesting a reorganisation of landscape in this later period.

#### Undated

7.3.3 As discussed above, ditches recorded in Trenches 4 and 8 did not produce dating evidence but were seen in close association with features that did appear to be continuations of those features. The ditch recorded in Trench 6 was undated but was on a very similar alignment to those in Trenches 4 and 8 and may be contemporary. The ditch in Trench 2 may be a continuation of that in Trench 6. The ditch noted in Trench 9 is on a north-east to south west alignment but could conceivably work as part of a ditch system with those discussed above.

7.3.4 Discrete features in Trenches 4, 7, 10 and 12 were also undated but in close association with features that were; and are potentially contemporary with a single outlying pit in Trench 9 unable to be dated even by speculation. A small pit with a burnt fill in Trench 4 [4/013] contained a fragment of roof slate suggesting that it is probably later than the dateable features described above.

#### **7.4 Potential impact on archaeological remains**

7.4.1 Shallow, undated, prehistoric and Roman archaeological remains were identified in Trenches 2, 4, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10 and 12. Intact subsoil and topsoil horizons collectively c. 0.40m thick were recorded sealing these features, and archaeological survival was good across most of the site - with the exception of the north-western part of the site where Trenches 1 and 3 revealed extensive modern truncation. It is considered therefore that any mechanical construction/clearance activities will detrimentally affect the archaeological resource on this site.

#### **7.5 Consideration of research aims**

7.5.1 In relation to the broad aims for the site set out in section 2.3.1, the evaluation has identified undated features and Late Neolithic/early Bronze age and Roman features. The exact nature of the activity remains uncertain, but the features suggest both land division and settlement activity. The features are generally shallow and little truncation is obvious, with the exception of the extreme north-western corner of the site (Trenches 1 and 3). Most features were concentrated in the middle and south-west of the site with a few outliers in the east and north.

7.5.2 The modern disturbance noted in Trenches 1 and 3 was suspected in the results of the geophysical survey which show disturbance along the western boundary of the site although this evaluation has shown that this disturbance did not extend into the site as far as Trenches 7 and 10 where subsoil and topsoil were recorded intact..

7.5.3 With reference to the specific aims for the work set out in section 2.3.2; undated, prehistoric and Roman archaeology will be impacted by the proposed development.

#### **7.6 Updated Research Agenda**

7.6.1 Evidence of Late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age activity was recovered during the evaluation but it is not clear what the extent or nature of this activity was.

Any further archaeological work at the site should focus on understanding the nature of this prehistoric occupation.

7.6.2 Evidence of Roman activity was also recovered at Harrow Lane. It was unclear if this was related to settlement industry or agriculture. Any further archaeological work at the site should focus on understanding the nature of this Roman occupation.

7.6.3 Equally, the nature of the currently undated activity needs to be understood.

## **7.7 Conclusions**

7.7.1 Although Trenches 1 and 3 displayed signs of modern disturbance as previously indicated by the geophysical survey along the western edge of the site it is clear that this disturbance did not extend far into the site as archaeological features were recorded in 8 of the trenches beneath intact subsoil and topsoil horizons. Undated, Late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age and Roman activity was recorded comprising of both discrete and linear features with a concentration of features throughout the centre and north-eastern part of the site. Some of the features appear to correlate with some of the anomalies noted in the geophysical survey.

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## Online Resources

BGS, 2018 British Geological Survey Map Viewer:  
<http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html>

South East Research Framework (SERF), 2018  
<http://www.kent.gov.uk/leisure-and-community/history-and-heritage/south-east-research-framework>

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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**HER Summary**

<b>HER enquiry no.</b>	513/17					
<b>Site code</b>	HLH 18					
<b>Project code</b>	171158					
<b>Planning reference</b>	HS/OA/17/00901					
<b>Site address</b>	The Recreation Ground, Harrow Lane, St Leonards On Sea, East Sussex. TN 37 7RF					
<b>District/Borough</b>	Hastings					
<b>NGR (12 figures)</b>	TQ 79901 12871					
<b>Geology</b>	Wadhurst Clay Formation-Sandstone					
<b>Fieldwork type</b>	Eval					
<b>Date of fieldwork</b>	06/02/2018-09/02/2018					
<b>Sponsor/client</b>	The Environmental Dimension Partnership Ltd					
<b>Project manager</b>	Darryl Palmer					
<b>Project supervisor</b>	Chris Russel					
<b>Period summary</b>			Neolithic	Bronze Age		
	Roman					
<b>Project summary</b>	<p>An archaeological evaluation was conducted at Harrow Lane, St Leonards on Sea, East Sussex TQ 79901 12871, between the 6<sup>th</sup> and the 9<sup>th</sup> February 2018. Thirteen trenches measuring 30m in length were excavated. Although Trenches 1 and 3 displayed signs of modern disturbance as previously indicated by the geophysical survey along the western edge of the site it is clear that this disturbance did not extend far into the site as archaeological features were recorded in 8 of the trenches beneath intact subsoil and topsoil horizons. Undated, Late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age and Roman activity was recorded comprising of both discrete and linear features with a concentration of features throughout the centre and north-eastern part of the site. Some of the features appear to correlate with some of the anomalies noted in the geophysical survey.</p>					
<b>Museum/Accession No.</b>						

## OASIS Form

### OASIS ID: archaeol6-311232

#### Project details

Project name an Archaeological Evaluation at Harrow Lane Hastings

Short description of the project An archaeological evaluation was conducted at Harrow Lane, St Leonards on Sea, East Sussex TQ 79901 12871, between the 6th and the 9th February 2018. Thirteen trenches measuring 30m in length were excavated. Although Trenches 1 and 3 displayed signs of modern disturbance as previously indicated by the geophysical survey along the western edge of the site it is clear that this disturbance did not extend far into the site as archaeological features were recorded in 8 of the trenches beneath intact subsoil and topsoil horizons. Undated, Late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age and Roman activity was recorded comprising of both discrete and linear features with a concentration of features throughout the centre and north-eastern part of the site. Some of the features appear to correlate with some of the anomalies noted in the geophysical survey.

Project dates Start: 06-02-2018 End: 09-02-2018

Previous/future work Yes / Not known

Any associated project reference codes HLH 18 - Sitecode

Any associated project reference codes 171158 - Contracting Unit No.

Type of project Recording project

Site status None

Current Land use Grassland Heathland 2 - Undisturbed Grassland

Significant Finds POTTERY Bronze Age

Significant Finds POTTERY Roman

Investigation type "Part Excavation"

Prompt Planning condition

#### Project location

Country England

Site location EAST SUSSEX HASTINGS HASTINGS Harrow Lane

Postcode TN37 7RF

Study area 4 Hectares

Site coordinates TQ 579911 112848 50.878844931366 0.246051504763 50 52  
43 N 000 14 45 E Point

Height OD / Depth Min: 129.15m Max: 138.31m

#### Project creators

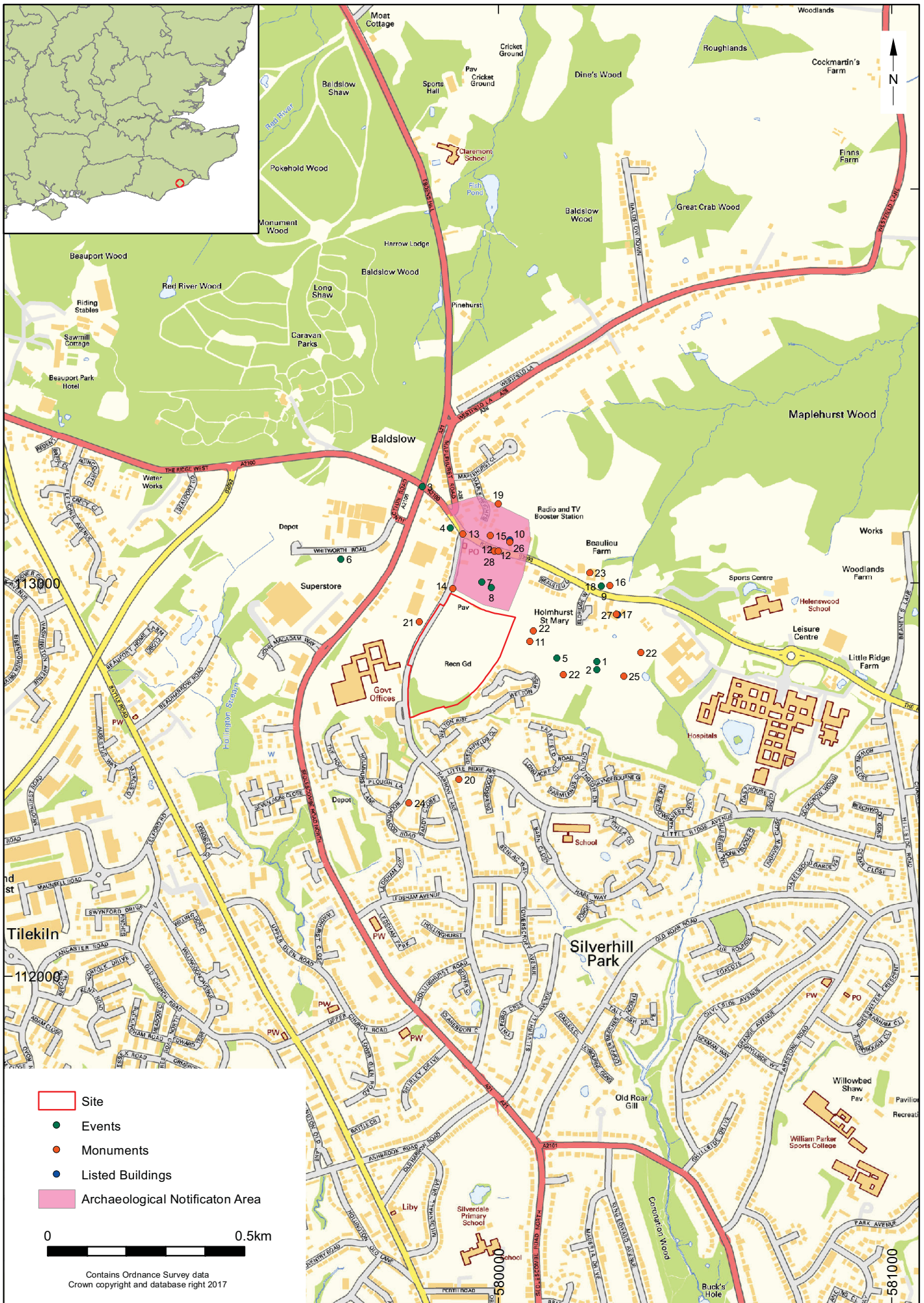
Name of Organisation Archaeology South East

Project brief originator	The Environmental Dimension Partnership Ltd
Project design originator	ASE
Project director/manager	Darryl Palmer
Project supervisor	Chris Russel
Type of sponsor/funding body	Hastings Borough Council
Name of sponsor/funding body	Hastings Borough Council
Project archives	
Physical Archive recipient	Local Museum
Physical Contents	"Worked stone/lithics","Ceramics"
Digital Archive recipient	Local Museum
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography"
Paper Archive recipient	Local Museum
Paper Media available	"Context sheet","Drawing","Report"
Project bibliography 1	
Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	An Archaeological Evaluation at the Harrow Lane Playing Fields, Harrow Lane, Saint Leonards-on-sea, Hastings, TN37 7RF
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Russel,C
Other bibliographic details	Report No:2018058
Date	2018
Issuer or publisher	ASE
Place of issue or publication	Portslade
Entered by	Chris Russel (c.russel@ucl.ac.uk)
Entered on	8 March 2018

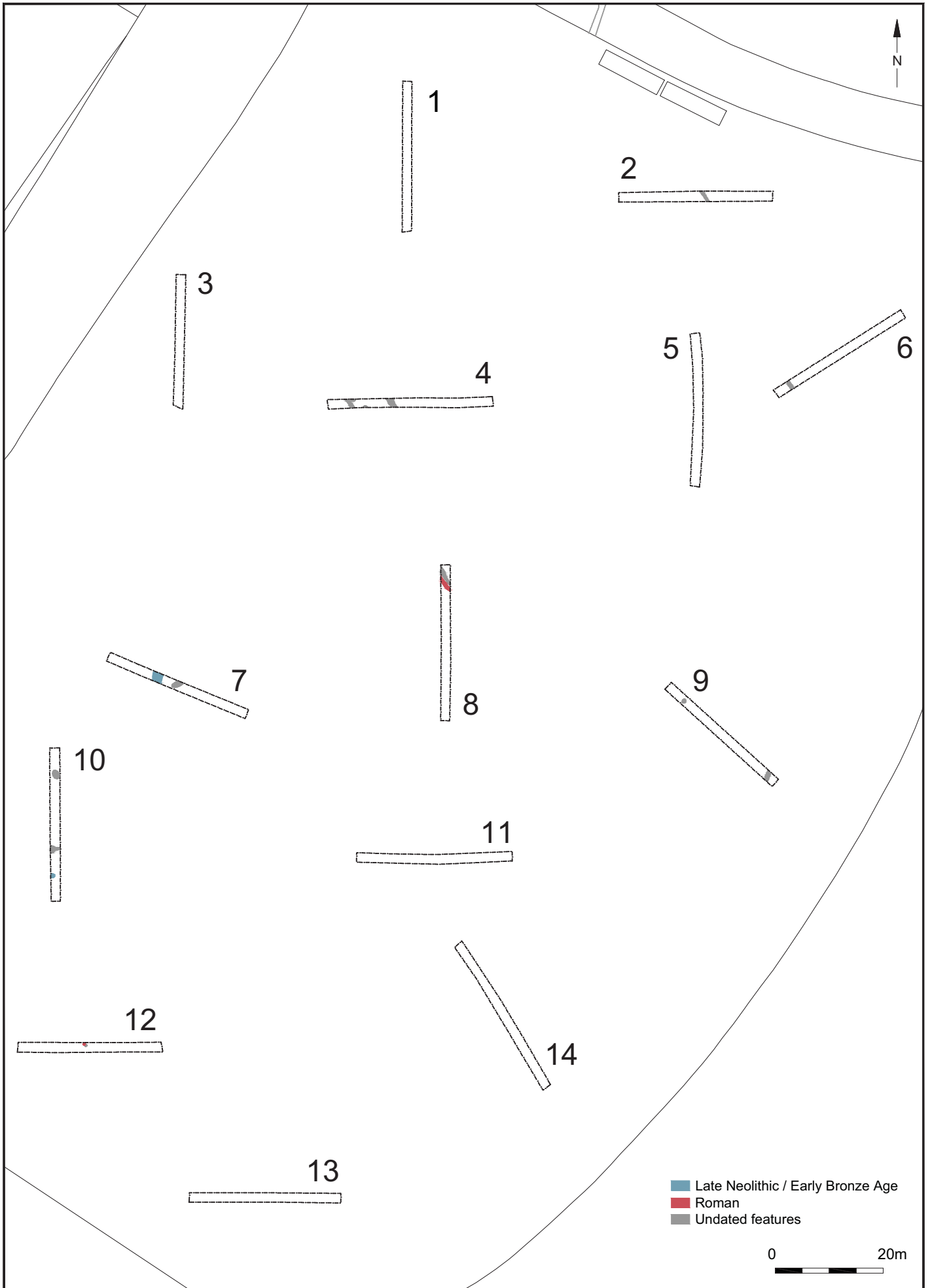
**Appendix 1: List of contexts in archaeologically negative trenches**

<b>Trench</b>	<b>Context</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>Interpretation</b>	<b>Depth m</b>	<b>Height m AOD</b>
1	1/001	Layer	Topsoil	0.30	136.45
1	1/002	Layer	Subsoil	0.16	136.15
1	1/003	Layer	Made ground	0.80	135.35
1	1/005	Layer	Natural		135.95
3	3/001	Layer	Topsoil	0.2	133.4
3	3/002	Layer	Made ground	0.7	132.5
3	3/003	Layer	Natural		132.2
5	5/001	Layer	Topsoil	0.21	137.93
5	5/002	Layer	Subsoil	0.18	137.72
5	5/003	Layer	Natural		137.72
11	11/001	Layer	Topsoil	0.19	133.19
11	11/002	Layer	Subsoil	0.21	133
11	11/003	Layer	Natural		132.79
13	13/001	Layer	Topsoil	0.3	129.35
13	13/002	Layer	Subsoil	0.1	129.25
13	13/003	Layer	Natural		129.15
14	14/001	Layer	Topsoil	0.25	132.37
14	14/002	Layer	Subsoil	0.2	132.12
14	14/003	Layer	Natural		129.92





© Archaeology South-East		Land on the Harrow Lane Playing Fields, Harrow Lane, St Leonards-on-sea, Hastings		Fig. 1
Project Ref: 171158	March 2018	Site location		
Report Ref: 2018058	Drawn by: JLR			



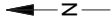
© Archaeology South-East		Harrow Lane, Hastings		Fig.2
Project Ref: 171158	Mar 2017	Trench plan showing location of archaeology and phased features		
Report Ref: 2018058	Drawn by: LG			





© Archaeology South-East		Harrow Lane, Hastings	Fig.3
Project Ref: 171158	Mar 2017	Trench plan with geophysics interpretation	
Report Ref: 2018058	Drawn by: RK		



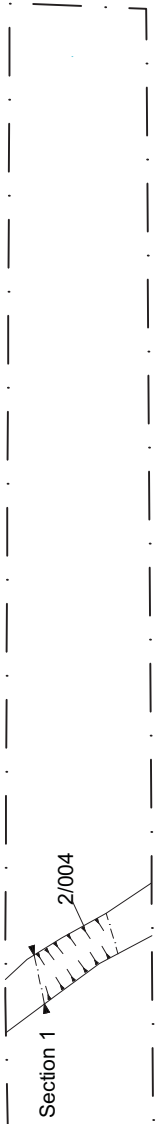
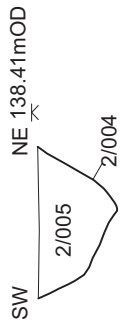


+ 579962, 112918



2/004 looking south-east

Section 1



+ 579948, 112909



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Harrow Lane, Hastings

Project Ref: 171158

Mar. 2017

Report Ref: 2018058

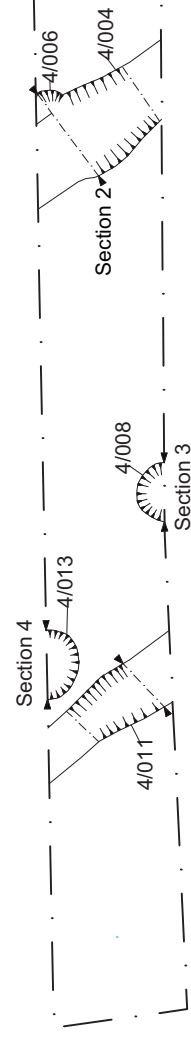
Drawn by: RK

Trench 2 plan, section, and photograph

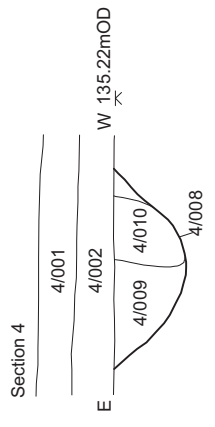
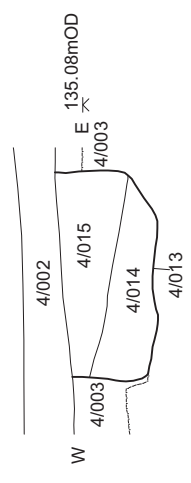
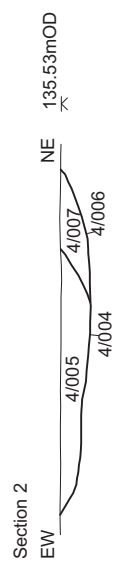
Fig.4



+ 579904, 112878



+ 579883, 112873



Trench 4 looking west



4/004 and 4/006 looking south-east



4/008 looking north



4/013 looking south

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Harrow Lane, Hastings

Project Ref: 171158

Mar 2018

Report Ref: 2018058

Drawn by: RK

Trench 4 plan, sections, and photographs

Fig.5



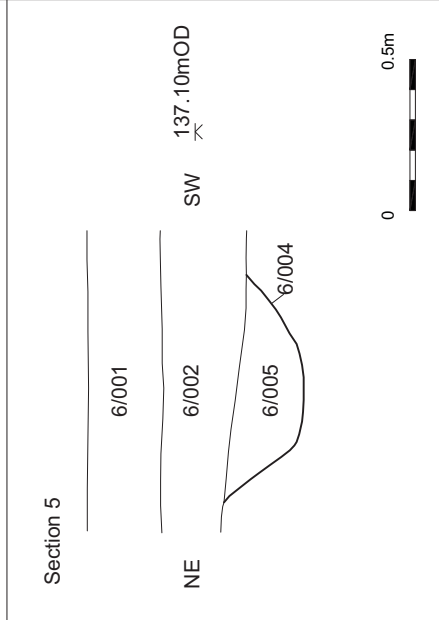
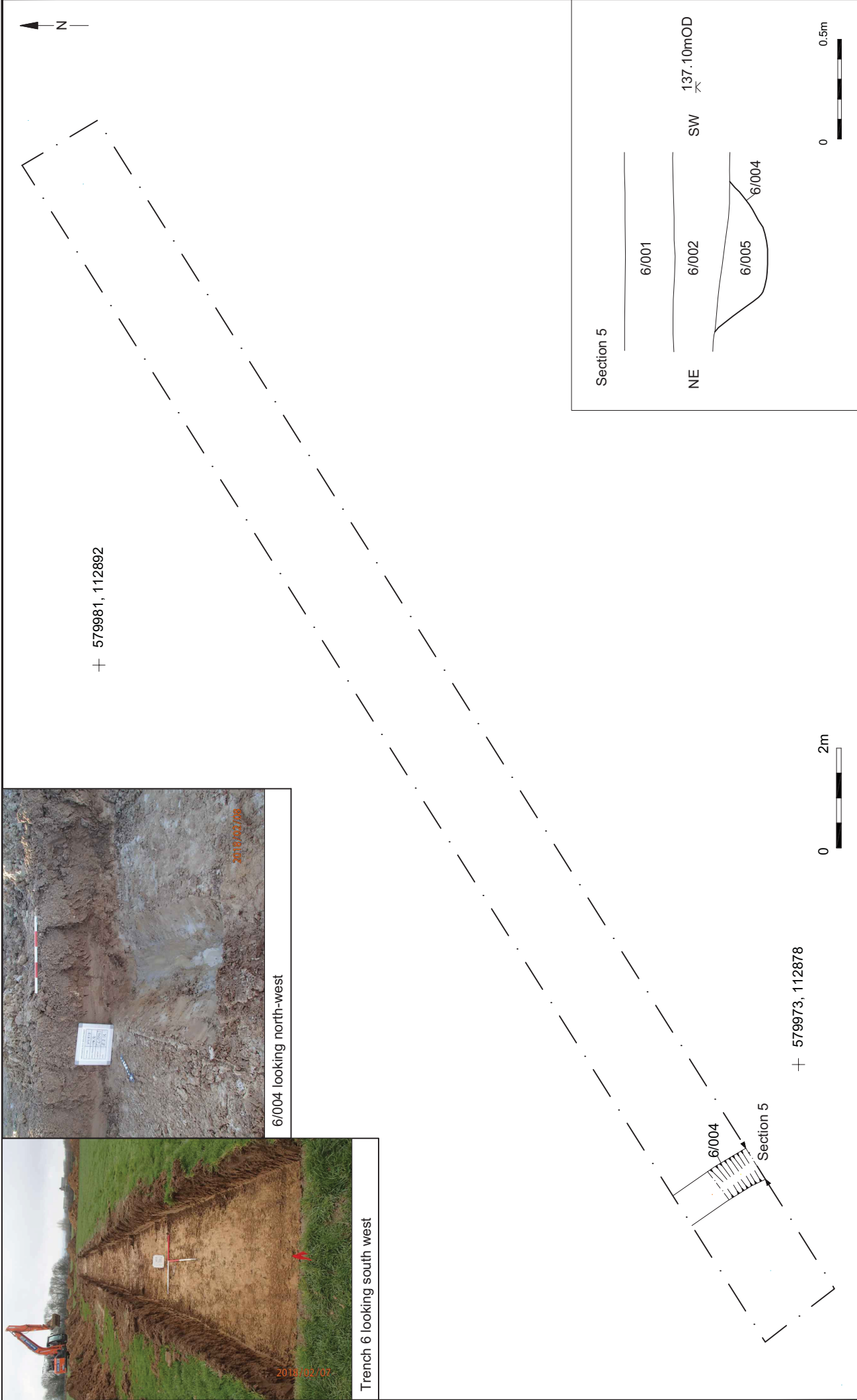
Trench 6 looking south west



6/004 looking north-west

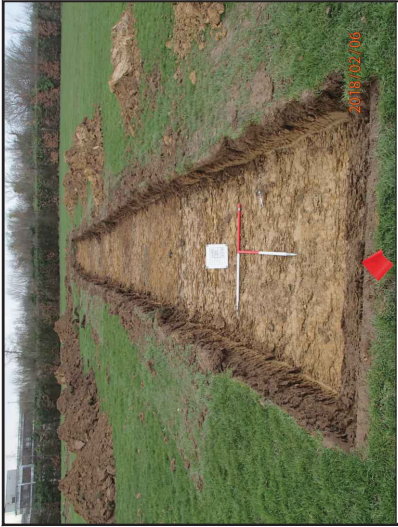
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+ 579973, 112878



© Archaeology South-East		Harrow Lane, Hastings	
Project Ref: 171158	Mar. 2018	Trench 6 plan, section, and photographs	
Report Ref: 2018058	Drawn by: RK	Fig.6	





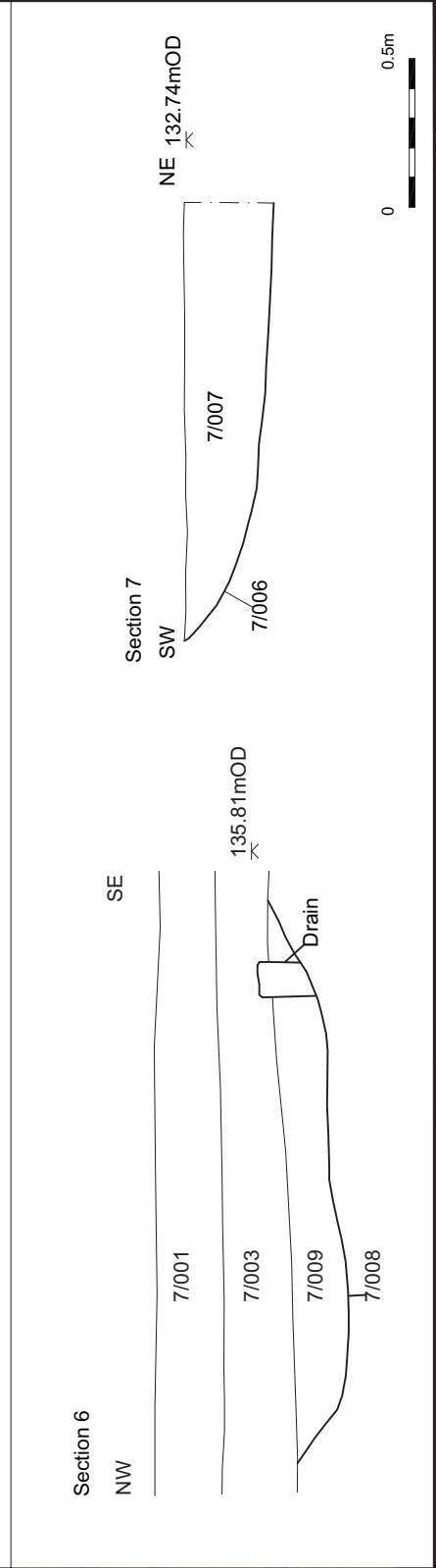
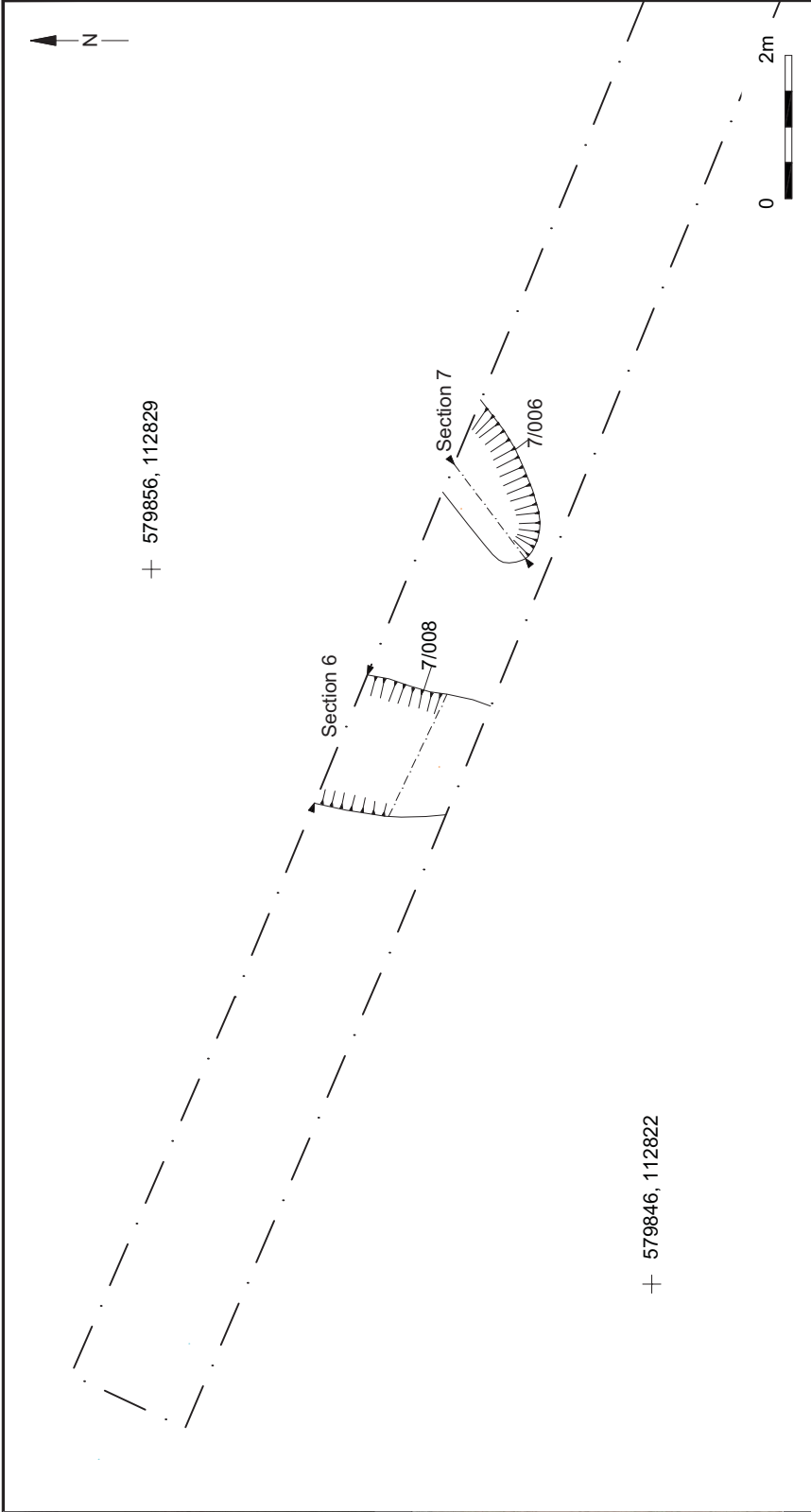
Trench 7 looking north-west



Trench 7 looking north-east



Trench 7 looking south-east

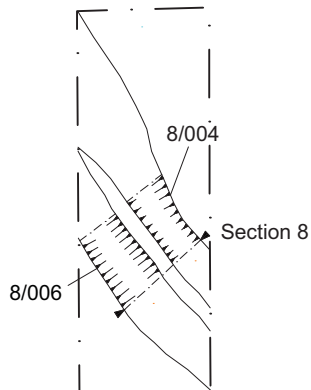


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Project Ref: 171158	Mar 2018	Trench 7 plan, sections, and photographs	
Report Ref: 2018058	Drawn by: RK		

Fig.7



+ 579900, 112845



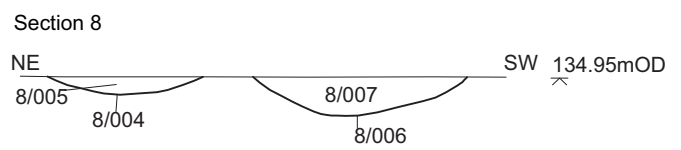
+ 579910, 112840



Trench 8 looking south



8/004 and 8/006 looking north-west



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Project Ref: 171158	Mar 2018	Trench 8 plan, section, and photographs	
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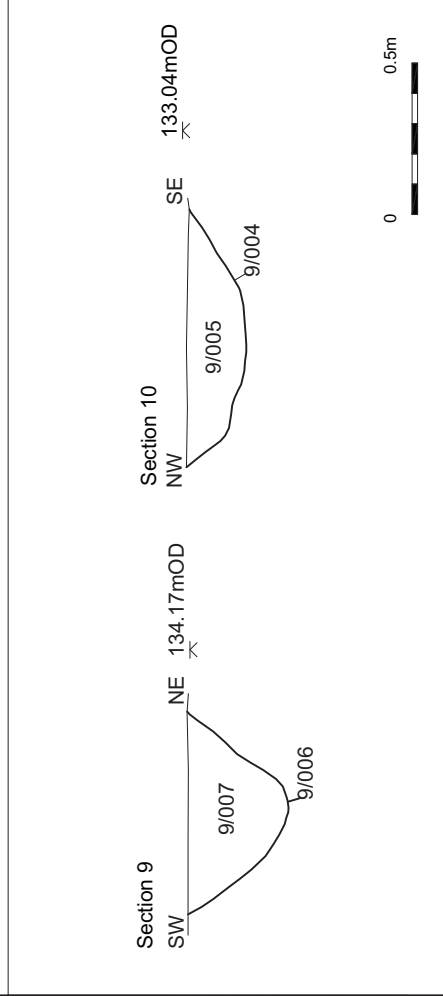
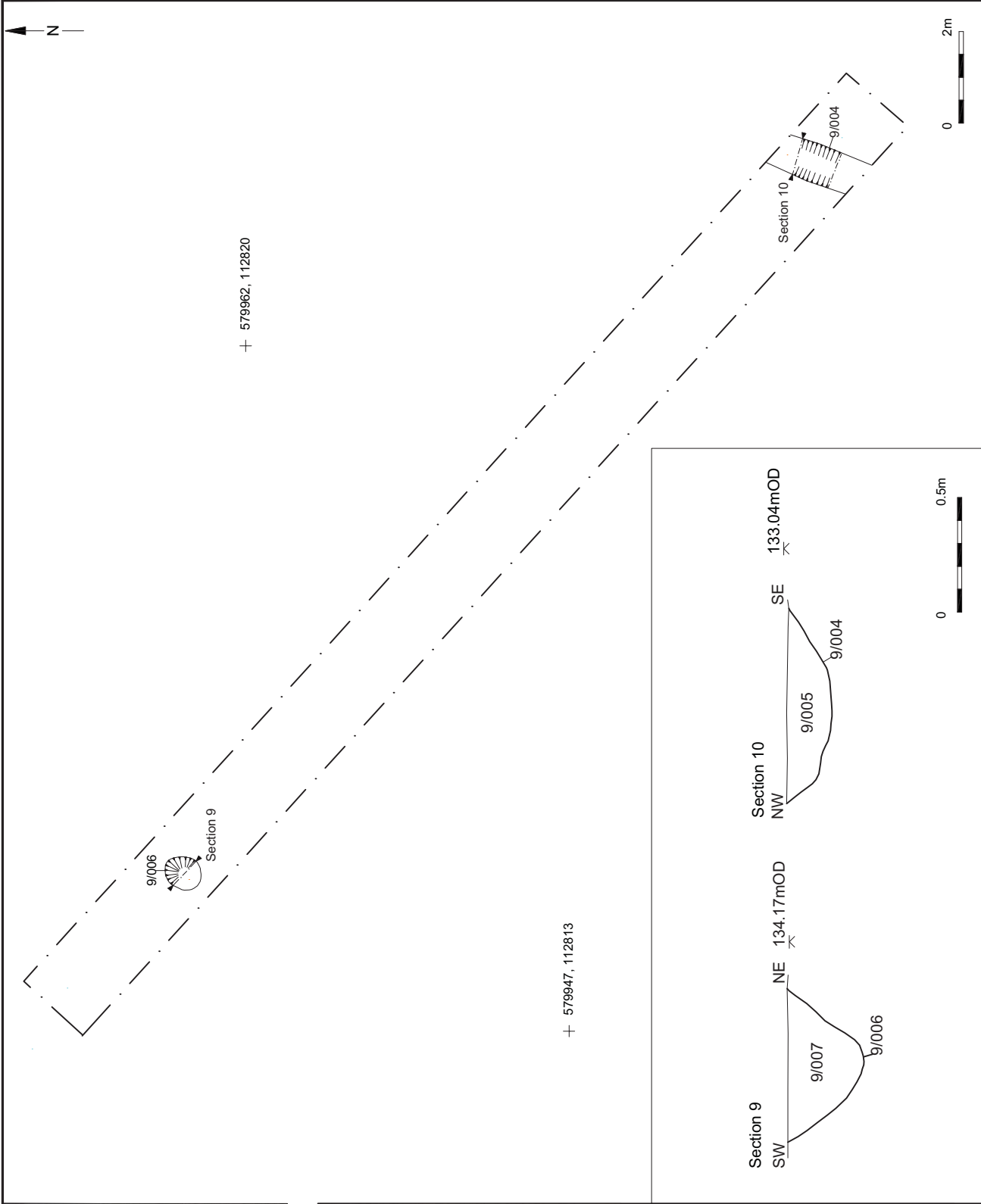
Trench 9 looking east



9/004 looking south-west



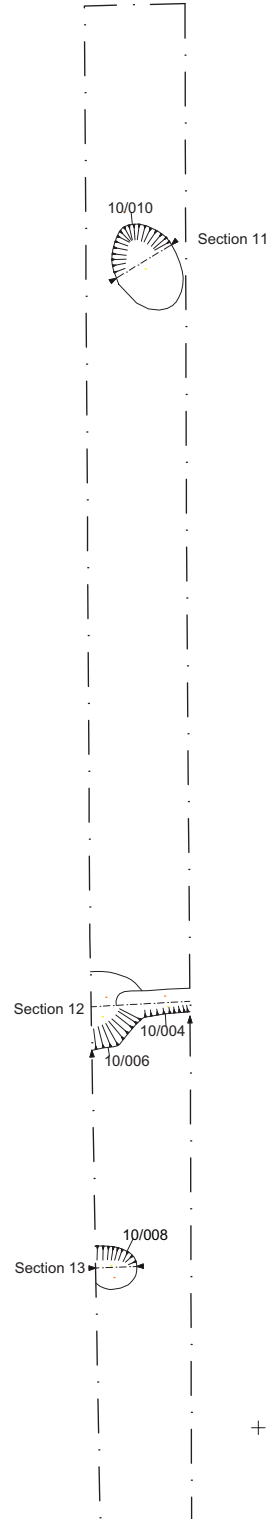
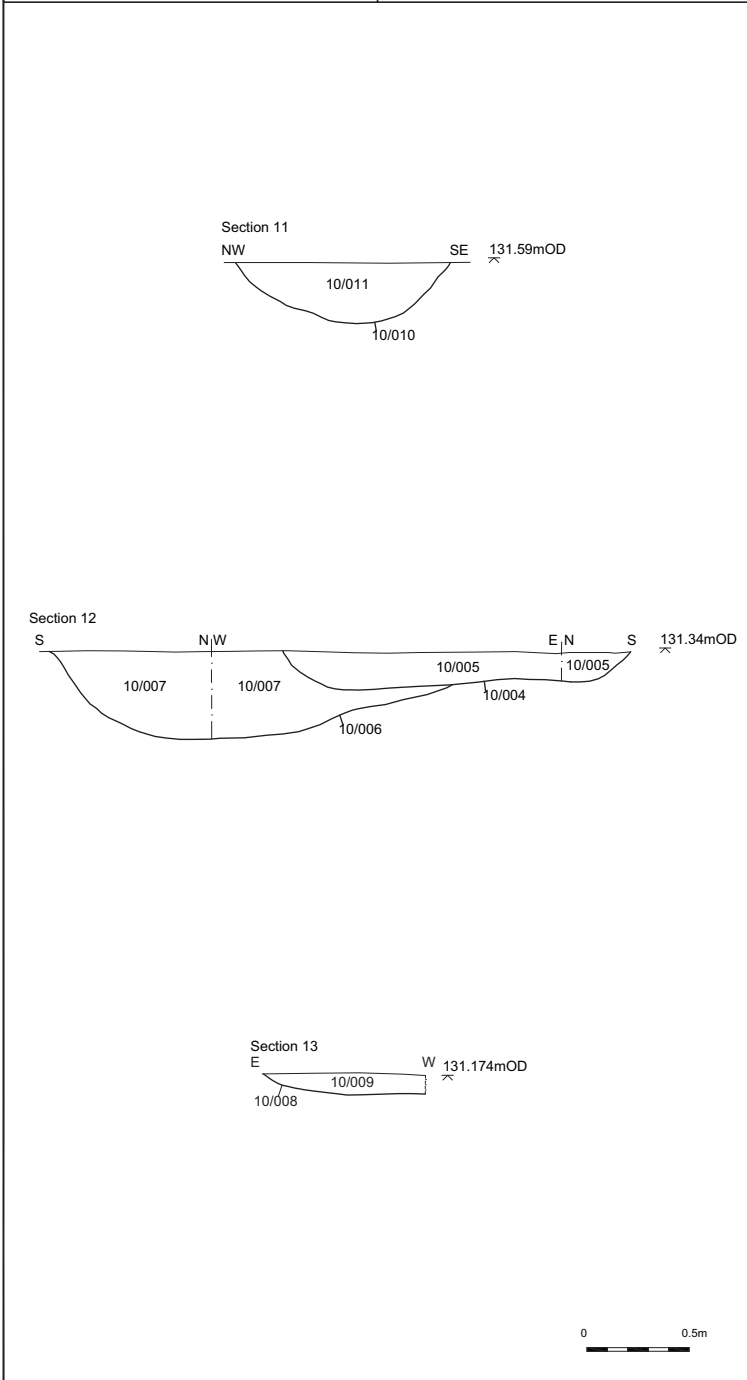
9/006 looking north-east





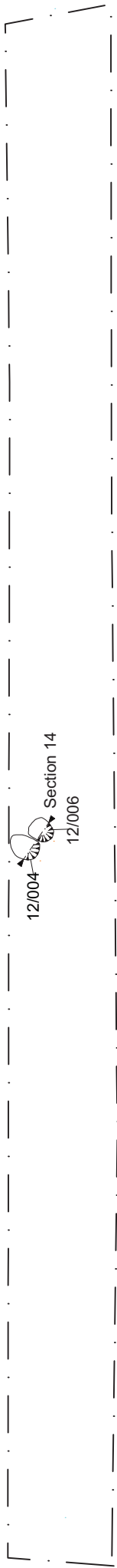
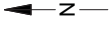


+ 579829, 112814



+ 579837, 112786

+ 579829, 112760



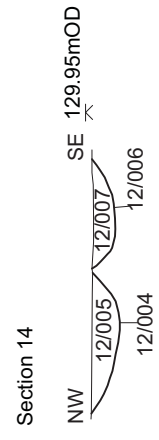
+ 579847, 112753



12/004 and 12/006 looking south-west



Trench 12 looking west



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Project Ref: 171158

Mar 2018

Report Ref: 2018058

Drawn by: RK

Trench 12 plan, section, and photographs

Fig.11

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