

**Archaeological Evaluation Report
Land at Crawley Down Road, Felbridge
Surrey**

**NGR: 536867 139517
TQ 36876 39629**

**Planning Ref: DM/17/2570
ASE Project No: 180688
Site Code: CDS20
ASE Report No: 2020196
OASIS id: archaeol6-404051**



By Rae Regensberg

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Abstract

This report presents the results of an archaeological evaluation carried out by Archaeology South-East at Crawley Down Road, Felbridge, Surrey between the 31st August and the 3rd of September 2020. The fieldwork was commissioned by Vanderbilt Homes and Wates Developments in advance of the development of land. Fourteen trenches were excavated, two of which had archaeological features present.

No finds were recovered. The archaeological horizon is considered to be intact. Two undated ditches were the only features recorded. The ditches are probably post-medieval or medieval field boundary / drainage ditches. Based on these results, it is considered unlikely that development of the site will pose significant impact on archaeological remains.

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Site Background

- 1.1.1 Archaeology South-East (ASE) was commissioned by Vanderbilt Homes and Wates Developments to undertake an archaeological evaluation in advance of development of land at Crawley Down Road, Felbridge, Surrey (NGR 536867 139517; Figure 1).
- 1.1.2 Whilst the majority of the site is situated in Mid Sussex District of West Sussex, the access is situated in the Tandridge District of Surrey in which most of the village of Felbridge is located.
- 1.1.3 The site comprises a roughly rectangular plot of land on a south facing slope situated to the south of Crawley Down Road. It is bounded by residential properties on the north-west and by open land to the west, south and east. The majority of the plot is laid to grass and is currently utilised as a horse paddock.
- 1.1.4 A desk-based assessment concluded that the site had some potential for heritage assets of archaeological interest to be present, particularly as there has apparently been limited previous disturbance (ASE 2017).

1.2 Geology and Topography

- 1.2.1 According to British Geological Survey online mapping (BGS 2020), the site is positioned on Upper Tunbridge Wells Sand. An area consisting of interbedded sandstone and siltstone.

1.3 Planning Background

- 1.3.1 Mid Sussex District Council (MSDC) granted planning permission for the development to be carried out in accordance with the submitted application (DM/17/2570), subject to compliance with the following archaeological condition:

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

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

- 1.3.2 Accordingly, a *Written Scheme of Investigation for Archaeological Evaluation* (WSI; ASE 2020) was prepared and submitted to all parties for approval. It was subsequently approved by Alexandra Egginton, Archaeological Officer, Historic Environment Planning, Surrey County Council in her capacity as archaeological advisor to MSDC, prior to the commencement of fieldwork at the site. All work has been carried out in accordance with the WSI; the *Standards and Guidance of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists* (CIfA

2020) and with the *Sussex Archaeological Standards* (ESCC / MDC / WSCC 2019).

1.4 Scope of Report

- 1.4.1 This report details the results of the archaeological evaluation which was carried out between the 31st August and the 3rd of September 2020.

2.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 Introduction

The below archaeological background is summarised from the desk-based assessment (ASE 2017).

2.2 Prehistoric

- 2.2.1 The prehistoric archaeology within the area are limited to find spots and find scatters. These include scatters of worked flints found to the south-west of the site, and a Bronze Age axe-head recovered from North End, to the east.

2.3 Iron Age

- 2.3.1 Although the Weald was exploited for iron ore deposits in the Iron Age around the 1st century AD, the evidence for iron working within the study area has been identified as Roman in date.

2.4 Romano-British

- 2.4.1 The route of a Roman road from London to Brighton lies approximately 400m to the west of the site. Further to this, various bloomery sites have been recorded along the Felbridge Water, which is next to the site. Small finds consisting of some Roman pottery, found on Heathy Field, and a Roman coin, found close to Copthorne Road in the vicinity of the site.

2.5 Medieval

- 2.5.1 The site is thought to have been woodland originally that was possibly cleared for meadowland during this period. No early medieval sites are situated within the area, however, several local farmsteads may have originated during the medieval period.

2.6 Post-medieval

- 2.6.1 The earliest cartographic sources apparently show the site as pasture, or cleared fields. By the time of the 1840 Tithe Map (Fig. 5; ASE 2017) the site consisted of two separate fields of different sizes. These had been consolidated by the time of the 1896-7 Ordnance Survey map (Fig. 6; *ibid*). From the later 19th century several buildings are shown across the northern parts of the site (Figs. 6-10; *ibid*).

2.7 Project Aims and Objectives

2.7.1 The aims of the archaeological investigation as listed in the WSI (ASE 2020) are to ascertain:

- *Whether archaeological remains are present on the site and if so to assess their nature, date, survival and significance;*
- *How they might be impacted by the development of the site.*
- *To enable the Surrey County Council Archaeology Officer to make an informed decision as to the requirement for any further archaeological work either in advance of, or during, the development.*

2.7.2 The project also has the potential to inform on the following areas of research from the South-Eastern Research Framework (SERF; KCC 2020):

- *Communications - main road network (Roman period)*
- *An understanding of the multi-faceted landscape (Post-medieval and Modern period)*

3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY

3.1.1 Fieldwork Methodology

(Figure 2)

- 3.1.1 Although sixteen trenches were originally planned (Fig. 2; ASE 2020), in the event Trenches 3 and 16 could not be excavated due to mature standing trees. The fourteen trenches that were excavated were renumbered and measured 30m long by 1.8m wide and were excavated. Trenches 5, 12 and 13 were slightly repositioned to avoid tree canopy areas.
- 3.1.2 All trenches were laid out, or surveyed in using a GPS survey equipment, or a total station and tied into the National Grid.
- 3.1.3 The trenches were scanned prior to excavation using a CAT scanner. The trenches were excavated under archaeological supervision using a mechanical excavator (360° excavator) equipped with a toothless ditching bucket.
- 3.1.4 Only undifferentiated topsoil and overburden of recent origin was removed by machine. These deposits were kept separately. Excavation was taken down to the top of the underlying 'natural' geology.
- 3.1.5 All trenches, deposits and features were recorded using ASE *pro forma* recording sheets and were drawn, and photographed.
- 3.1.6 On conclusion of the excavation, the spoil was backfilled but no formal reinstatement to previous condition (i.e. re-turfing) was undertaken.

3.2 Archive

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

Context sheets	4
Section sheets	1
Plans sheets	4
Colour photographs	0
B&W photos	0
Digital photos	65
Context register	0
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)	0
Registered finds (number of)	0
Flots and environmental remains from bulk samples	0
Palaeoenvironmental specialists sample samples (e.g. columns, prepared slides)	0
Waterlogged wood	0
Wet sieved environmental remains from bulk samples	0

Table 2: Quantification of artefact and environmental samples

4.0 RESULTS

- 4.0.1 The results of the archaeological evaluation are outlined below.
- 4.0.2 A simple stratigraphic sequence was encountered across all trenches comprising Wealden Clay overlain by a topsoil layer. No intact subsoil layer was noted in any of the trenches. A number of land drains were encountered spread across the site in nine of the fourteen trenches.
- 4.0.3 The majority of trenches were archaeologically negative. The overburden etc contexts for these trenches are summarised in 4.3 below and recorded in Appendix 1 at the back of this report.
- 4.0.4 Single, linear archaeological features were located in Trenches 6 and 15 only. Both linear features were fairly shallow, and only had one fill. No archaeological finds whatsoever were recovered from either feature, or from the rest of the trenches.

4.1 Trench 6

Context	Type	Interpretation	Length	Width	Depth	Height
6/001	Layer	Topsoil	Trench	Trench	0.22-0.30	88.02 - 88.42
6/002	Layer	Natural	Trench	Trench	0.02-0.03	87.77 - 88.18
6/003	Cut	Ditch	4	0.9	0.25	87.52
6/004	Fill	Fill, single			0.25	87.52

Table 3: Trench 6 list of recorded contexts

- 4.1.1. Trench 6 was 30m long by 1.8m wide, and was situated within the central western area of the site. The trench was on sloping ground falling from north to south, and it was orientated on a northwest to southeast alignment.
- 4.1.2 An undated, shallow linear feature [6/003] was recorded at the south-east end of the trench running diagonally across the trench on an approximately north-north-west orientation. The feature was 0.9m wide with a maximum depth of 0.25m. It had broadly straight sides and an irregular base, and was cut into the underlying natural geology. One fill [6/004] was present which consisted of a mid-blackish brown silty clay.

4.2 Trench 15

Context	Type	Interpretation	Length	Width	Depth	Height
15/001	Layer	Topsoil	Trench	Trench	0.22-0.30	88.463 - 89.143
15/002	Layer	Natural	Trench	Trench	0.03-0.06	88.213 - 88.793
15/003	Cut	Ditch	2.5	0.72	0.26	88.21
15/004	Fill	Fill, single			0.26	88.21

Table 4: Trench 15 list of recorded contexts

- 4.2.1 Trench 15 was located in the central eastern edge of the site and had a northeast to southwest alignment. The trench was 30m long and 1.8m wide.
- 4.2.2 An undated, shallow linear feature crossed the trench. The feature had an east-north-east orientation, was 0.72m wide and had a maximum depth of 0.26m. It had mildly convex sides leading to a pointed base. The feature had one fill, a soft mid blackish brown clay silt.

4.3 Archaeologically Negative Trenches; 1, 2, 4, 5, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13 & 14

- 4.3.1 These trenches followed the same basic stratigraphy as recorded in Trenches 6 and 15; a topsoil layer, ranging from minimum depth of 0.12m to a maximum of 0.30m in depth. The topsoil consisted of a dark brown silt, and was directly above the natural geology. This was composed of a white, grey and yellow mottled clay. No subsoil layer was found in any of the trenches. Trench thirteen had a layer of made ground on top of the topsoil that was composed predominantly of rubble and leaf litter.

5.0 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

5.1 Overview of stratigraphic sequence

- 5.1.1 The stratigraphy across the site was consistent with the mottled clay natural geology overlain by a brown silt topsoil. No subsoil was present in any of the trenches.
- 5.1.2 The site slopes gently to the south, from maximum height of 88.84m in the north-west (Trench 2) of the site to a minimum height of 87.05m in the south-west (trench 9).
- 5.1.3 Only two of the fourteen trenches had archaeological features; Trenches 6 and 15. Both trenches contained one shallow linear feature with a single fill and no archaeological artefacts.
- 5.1.4 The methodologies, as set out in the WSIs (ASE 2020), were successfully employed during the evaluation.

5.2 Deposit survival and existing impacts

- 5.2.1 Although there was no detectable subsoil present in the evaluated areas, the underlying geology appeared undisturbed where exposed, other than by land drains. It therefore seems likely that the archaeological horizon is intact. The low number of archaeological features recorded and the complete lack of any finds would therefore seem to accurately reflect a low level of past activity at the site.

5.3 Discussion of archaeological remains by period

Undated / medieval / post-medieval

- 5.3.1 Two ditches were the only features recorded and there were no finds recovered from the evaluation.
- 5.3.2 In Trench 6, in the western part of the site, a north-north-west aligned ditch corresponds broadly with the location of a former field boundary shown on the 1840 Tithe map that had apparently gone by the time of the 1896-7 Ordnance Survey map (Figs. 5 and 6; ASE 2017).
- 5.3.3 In Trench 15 an east-north-east aligned ditch was recorded. This does not seem to correlate with any features on available historic maps (*ibid.*) and may represent an earlier boundary feature, or a drainage feature. The feature appears to be broadly perpendicular to the ditch recorded in Trench 6 and so may be of a similar origin.
- 5.3.4 On balance, the features are probably post-medieval or medieval in origin.

5.4 Potential impact on archaeological remains

- 5.4.1 No discrete features (such as pits or postholes) were found to suggest settlement, or other activity and no finds were made, and the suggested nature

of the two undated ditches as boundary and/or drainage features does not suggest any special archaeological significance. It is therefore considered likely, given that the archaeological horizon is apparently intact, that development of the site would pose only a negligible impact on archaeological remains.

5.5 Consideration of research aims

- 5.5.1 Two undated ditches were recorded. These are probably post-medieval, or medieval boundary and/or drainage features. The features appeared intact but are considered of low archaeological significance.
- 5.5.2 No development proposals were available at the time of writing this report, but given that the features are c 0.22-0.30m below present ground level, even minimal groundworks, or movement of mechanical plant across these parts of the site would impact the two features.
- 5.5.3 The results cannot inform on either of the SERF (KCC 2020) research aims any further than has been postulated above.

5.6 Conclusions

- 5.6.1 Fourteen trenches were excavated across the site. No finds were recovered. The archaeological horizon is considered to be intact. Two undated ditches were the only features recorded. The ditches are probably post-medieval or medieval field boundary / drainage ditches. Based on these results, it is considered unlikely that development of the site will pose significant impact on archaeological remains.

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KCC, 2020 *South East Research Framework (SERF)*
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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

ASE would like to thank Vanderbilt Homes and Wates Developments for commissioning the work and for their assistance throughout the project, and Alexandra Egginton, Archaeological Officer, Historic Environment Planning, Surrey County Council for her guidance and monitoring. The evaluation was undertaken by Hayley Nicholls. Fiona Griffin produced the figures for this report, Paul Mason managed the excavations and Dan Swift the post-excavation process.

HER Summary

Site code	CDS20				
Project code	180688				
Planning reference	DM/17/2570				
Site address	Land at Crawley Down Road, Felbridge Surrey				
District/Borough	Mid Sussex District of West Sussex				
NGR (12 figures)	NGR 536867 139517				
Geology	Upper Tunbridge Wells Sand				
Fieldwork type	Eval				
Date of fieldwork	31 st August to the 3 rd of September 2020				
Sponsor/client	Vanderbilt Homes and Wates Developments				
Project manager	Paul Mason				
Project supervisor	Hayley Nicholls				
Period summary	Unknown				
Project summary	<p>This report presents the results of an archaeological evaluation carried out by Archaeology South-East at Crawley Down Road, Felbridge, Surrey between the 31st August and the 3rd of September 2020. The fieldwork was commissioned by Vanderbilt Homes and Wates Developments in advance of the development of land. Fourteen trenches were excavated, two of which had archaeological features present.</p> <p>No finds were recovered. The archaeological horizon is considered to be intact. Two undated ditches were the only features recorded. The ditches are probably post-medieval or medieval field boundary / drainage ditches. Based on these results, it is considered unlikely that development of the site will pose significant impact on archaeological remains.</p>				

OASIS Form**OASIS ID: archaeol6-404051****Project details**

Project name	Land at Crawley Down Road, Felbridge Surrey
Short description of the project	Fourteen trenches were excavated, two of which had archaeological features present. No finds were recovered. The archaeological horizon is considered to be intact. Two undated ditches were the only features recorded. The ditches are probably post-medieval or medieval field boundary / drainage ditches. Based on these results, it is considered unlikely that development of the site will pose significant impact on archaeological remains.
Project dates	Start: 30-08-2020 End: 03-09-2020
Previous/future work	Not known / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	CDS20 - Sitecode
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Current Land use	Cultivated Land 4 - Character Undetermined

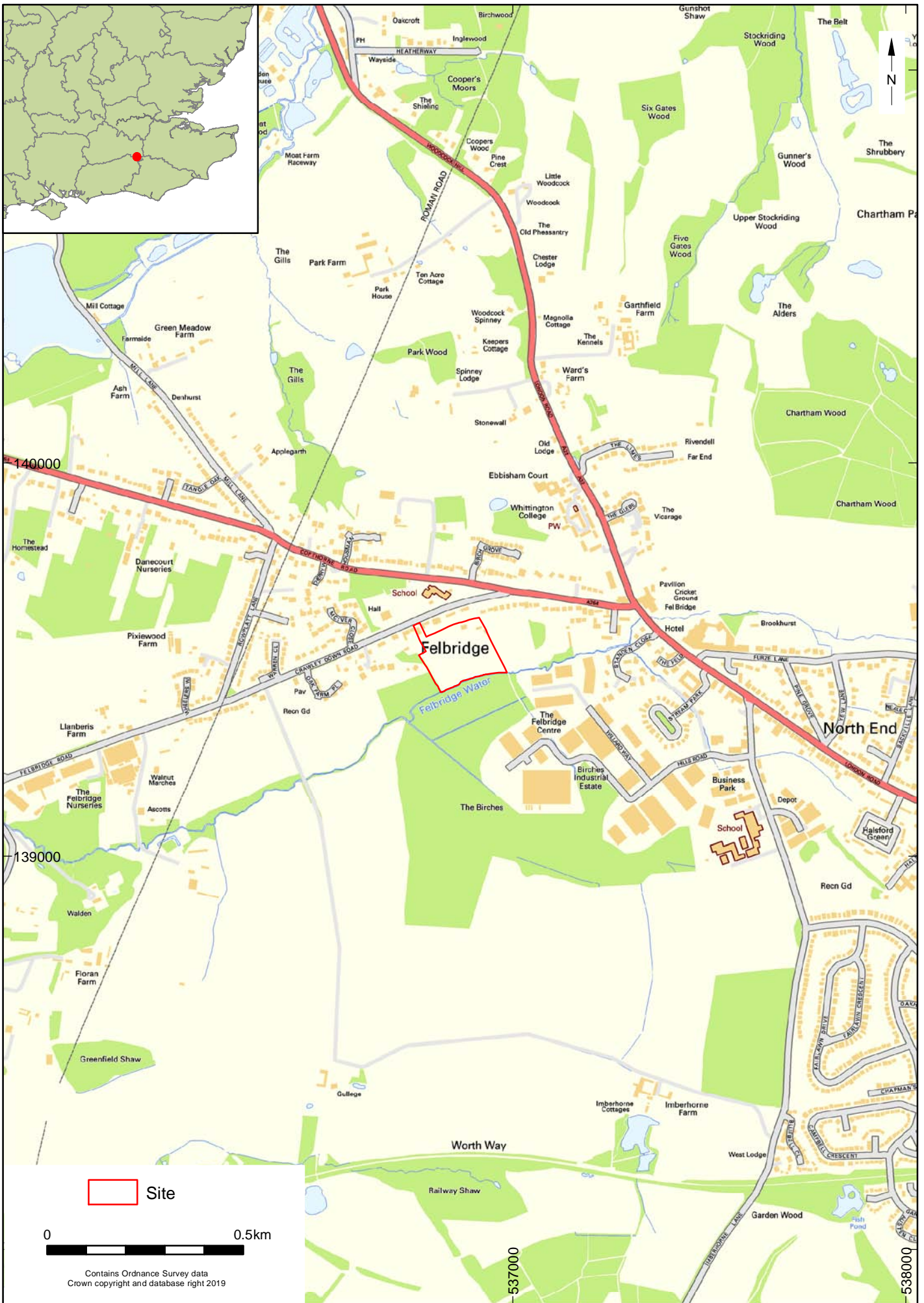
Project location

Country	England
Site location	SURREY TANDRIDGE TANDRIDGE Land at Crawley Down Road, Felbridge
Postcode	RH19 2NT
Study area	2.16 Hectares
Site coordinates	TQ 536876 139629 50.90407657614 0.186046603148 50 54 14 N 000 11 09 E Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 86.75m Max: 88.63m

Entered by	Rae Regensberg (r.regensberg@ucl.ac.uk)
Entered on	21 September 2020

Appendix 1: Archaeologically negative trenches: list of recorded contexts

Context	Type	Interpretation	Length	Width	Depth	Height
1/001	Layer	Topsoil	trench	trench	0.25-0.30	89.18 - 89.337
1/002	Layer	Natural	trench	trench	0.02-0.05	88.86 - 88.987
2/001	Layer	Topsoil	trench	trench	0.20-0.26	88.705 - 89.443
2/002	Layer	Natural	trench	trench	0.02-0.40	88.485 - 89.143
4/001	Layer	Topsoil	trench	trench	0.18-0.25	88.26 - 89.06
4/002	Layer	Natural	trench	trench	0.20-0.50	88.06 - 88.81
5/001	Layer	Topsoil	trench	trench	0.17-0.22	88.18 - 88.32
5/002	Layer	Natural	trench	trench	0.02-0.02	87.96 - 88.12
7/001	Layer	Topsoil	trench	trench	0.22-0.30	88.394 - 89.287
7/002	Layer	Natural	trench	trench	0.02-0.10	88.154 - 88.987
8/001	Layer	Topsoil	trench	trench	0.22-0.26	88.117 - 88.385
8/002	Layer	Natural	trench	trench	0.02-0.04	87.877 - 88.085
9/001	Layer	Topsoil	trench	trench	0.20-0.28	87.255 - 87.922
9/002	Layer	Natural	trench	trench	0.05-0.10	87.005 - 87.622
10/001	Layer	Topsoil	trench	trench	0.18-0.25	88.032 - 88.303
10/002	Layer	Natural	trench	trench	0.02-0.08	87.832 - 88.003
11/001	Layer	Topsoil	trench	trench	0.21-0.23	88.289 - 88.393
11/002	Layer	Natural	trench	trench	0.03-0.04	88.029 - 88.133
12/001	Layer	Topsoil	trench	trench	0.25-0.26	88.574 - 88.725
12/002	Layer	Natural	trench	trench	0.02-0.05	88.294 - 88.425
13/001	Layer	Topsoil	trench	trench	0.12-0.20	88.61 - 89.55
13/002	Layer	Natural	trench	trench	0.02-0.05	88.36 - 88.95
13/003	Layer	Made ground	trench	trench	0.30-0.45	
14/001	Layer	Topsoil	trench	trench	0.20-0.23	88.311 - 88.193
14/002	Layer	Natural	trench	trench	0.02 - 0.02	88.091 - 87.943



© Archaeology South-East		Land at Crawley Down Road, Felbridge	Fig. 1
Project Ref: 180688	Sept 2020	Site location	
Report Ref: 2020196	Drawn by: FG		

+ 536756, 139692

+ 536949, 139692



Crawley Down Road

91.4m

LB

8.81m RH
Co Canal Bay

1

2

4

13

7

5

12

15

8

6

10




14

9

11

+ 536756, 139411

+ 536949, 139411

-  Trench with archaeological features
-  Trench without archaeological features
-  Sewer

0 20m

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Crawley Down Road, Felbridge

Project Ref: 180688

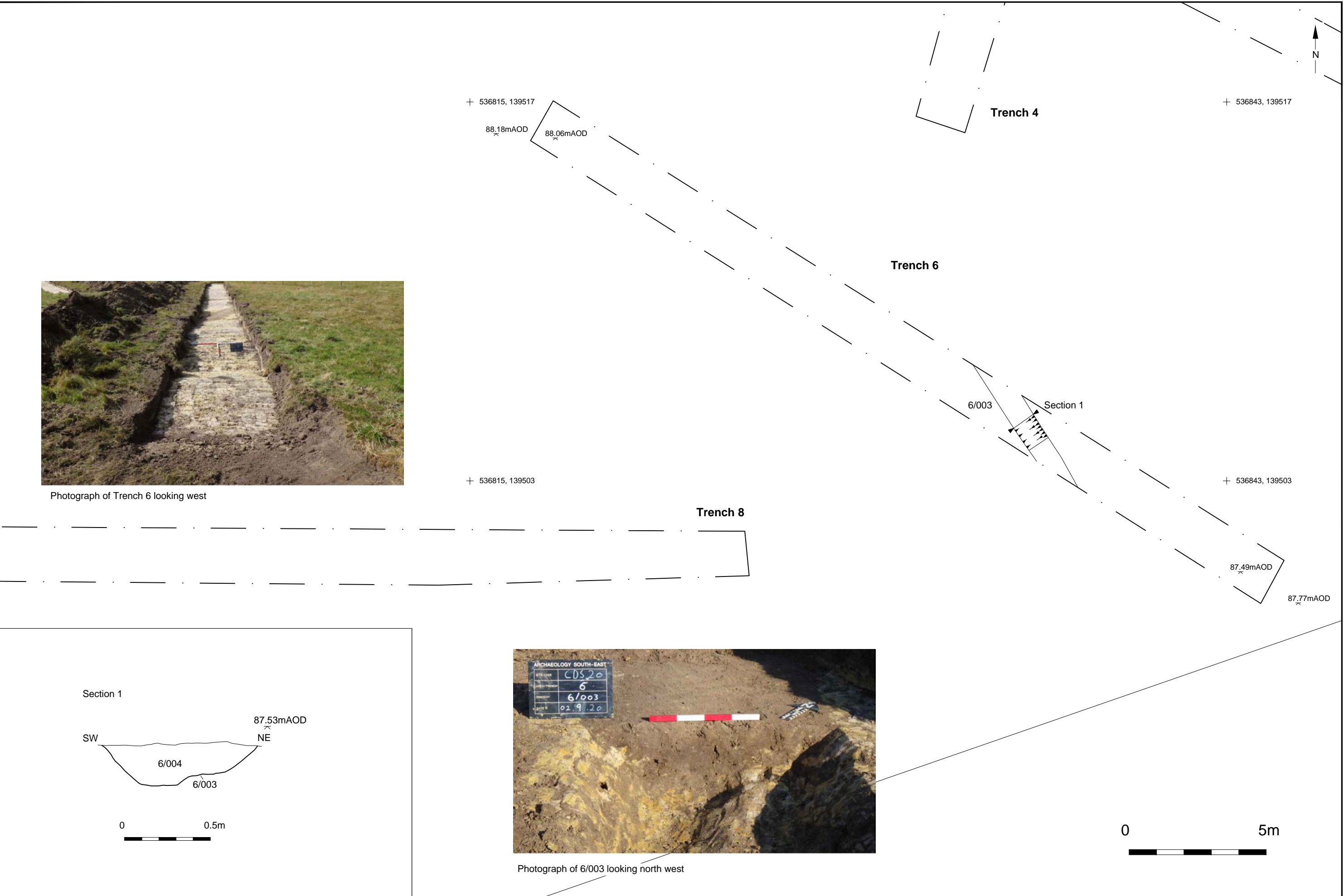
Sept 2020

Report Ref: 2020196

Drawn by: FG

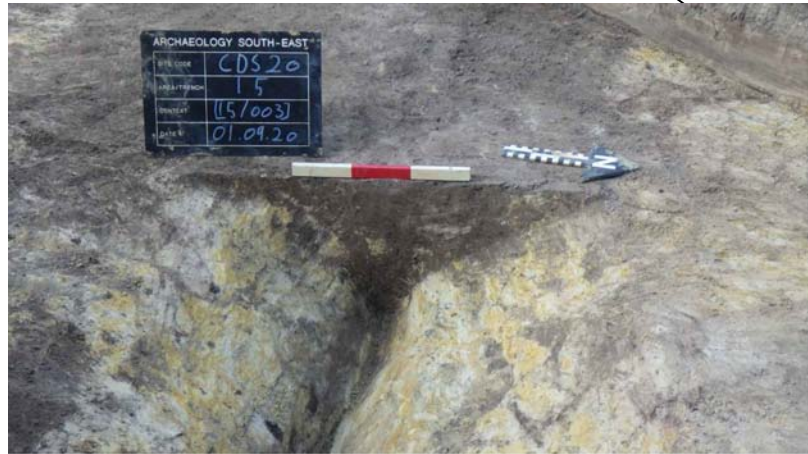
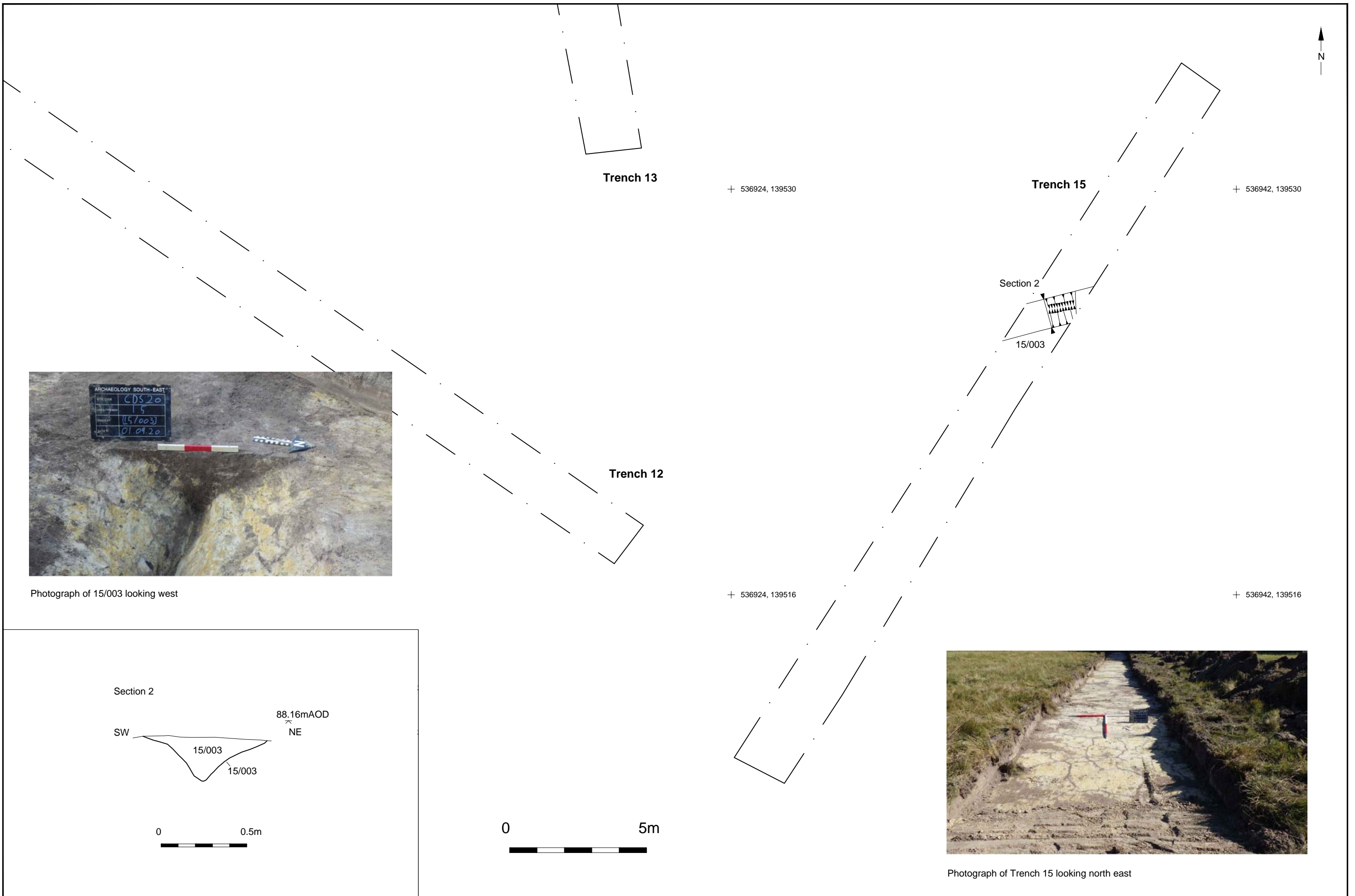
Trench location

Fig. 2



Photograph of Trench 6 looking west

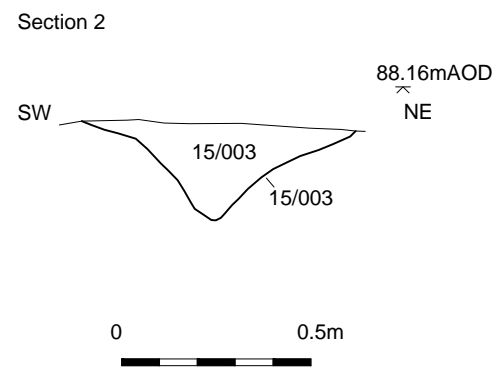
Photograph of 6/003 looking north west



Photograph of 15/003 looking west



Photograph of Trench 15 looking north east





Photograph trench 1 looking west



Photograph trench 2 looking south



Photograph trench 4 looking north



Photograph trench 5 looking west



Photograph trench 7 looking north east



Photograph trench 8 looking east



Photograph trench 9 looking south



Photograph trench 10 looking west



Photograph trench 11 looking south west



Photograph trench 12 looking south west



Photograph trench 13 looking south



Photograph trench 14 looking east

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