

**Report on an Archaeological Evaluation at
Theobalds Road, Burgess Hill, East Sussex**



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June 2008

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Theobalds Road, Burgess Hill, East Sussex**

**Planning Reference: LW/07/0732
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Abstract

An archaeological evaluation of 11 trial trenches was undertaken by Archaeology South-East at Theobalds Road, Burgess Hill, East Sussex, between 16th and 20th June 2008 and was commissioned by CgMs Consulting on behalf of their client. The trenches were laid out to target or respecting geophysical anomalies, identified in an earlier survey by Stratascan (2008).

The underlying natural of clay and sand was encountered between the heights of 48.82m OD in the north of the site (Trench 1) and 43.71m OD in the south (Trench 8). The topography was of gently undulating, overgrown, pasture.

The evaluation identified two main phases of archaeological features. The earliest was a series of shallow ditches and pits dating to the Late Iron Age/Early Roman period. The ditches possibly form part of an enclosure located immediately south of the prehistoric ridgeway route and the recovery of significant amounts of burnt daub indicates the former presence of timber buildings, possibly roundhouses. Finds from the subsoil of sherds of Middle Iron Age and Late Roman pottery may also indicate a broader time-scale of activity.

The main medieval features on the site were two large negative features, interpreted as ditches aligned north-east to south-west and east to west, possibly forming the south-west portion of an enclosure. However only one side of each of these ditches was found and these features may alternatively be clay extraction pits or even ponds. All of the finds from the features were sherds of pottery dating from the 13th-14th centuries and the features almost certainly relate to activity focused on the medieval ridgeway route and associated with the moated settlement of Theobalds Farm, immediately to the west of the site.

The results of the geophysical survey were borne out to some extent by the trial trenching. However, while the geophysical survey was beneficial in initial identification of some the features, it appears that generally the survey is not a wholly accurate guide to the extent or character of the archaeological remains.

No archaeological features were identified in the northernmost field, closest to Theobalds Road.

CONTENTS

1.0	Introduction
2.0	Archaeological Background
3.0	Archaeological Methodology
4.0	Results
5.0	The Finds
6.0	The Environmental Samples
7.0	Discussion
8.0	Conclusion

References

Acknowledgements

SMR Summary Sheet

OASIS Form

LIST OF FIGURES

Figure 1:	Site location
Figure 2:	Trench location plan (1:1250)
Figure 3:	Trench location plan showing geophysical anomalies and features identified during the evaluation
Figure 4:	Plans and sections of Trenches 4, 5 and 7
Figure 5:	Plans and sections of Trenches 8 and 9
Figure 6:	Plans and section of Trenches 10 and 11
Figure 7:	Late Iron Age/ Roman ditches [5/010] and [5/007] facing southwest
Figure 8:	Roman ditches [9/020] and [9/024] facing southeast
Figure 9:	Medieval ditch [11/004] facing east

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Site Background

- 1.1.1 Archaeology South-East (ASE), the contracting division of the Centre for Applied Archaeology at the UCL Institute of Archaeology, were commissioned by CgMs Consulting Ltd, on behalf of their client, to undertake an archaeological evaluation on land at Theobalds Road, Burgess Hill, East Sussex, (centred NGR 532600, 120500), (Figs 1 and 2).

1.2 Geology and Topography

- 1.2.1 The British and Geological Survey (Sheets 318/333) shows the site lies on Weald Clay, with a narrow band of Horsham Stone Member in the north of the site. The site lies on a south western facing slope from 50.1m OD in the north western corner of the site dropping to c. 44.0m OD in the south western.
- 1.2.1 The site is bounded to the west by residential properties to the north by Theobalds Road and to the east and south by farmland.

1.3 Planning Background

- 1.3.1 The work was carried out in response to a Desk Based Assessment (2008) of the site carried out by CgMs Consulting Ltd and discussions with the East Sussex County Council's (ESCC) Archaeologist, Greg Chuter.
- 1.3.2 A planning application for the site has been lodged (LW/07/0732) and is at present being considered. However, the committee report on the application recommends that permission be granted on a number of conditions, one of which being that a program of archaeological works be carried out on the site.
- 1.3.3 A Written Scheme of Investigation (Archaeology South-East, 2008)) was prepared and approved by Greg Chuter (ESCC). All work was carried out in accordance with this document

1.4 Scope of Report

- 1.4.1 This report details the results of the archaeological evaluation carried out between 16th June and 20th June 2008. The work was undertaken by Giles Dawkes, Louise Munns, Nick Garland and Kayleigh Marillion.

2.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 2.1** For a full discussion of the archaeological and historic background of the site, reference should be made to the preceding Desk Based Assessment (CgMs 2008), summarised below with due acknowledgement.
- 2.2** A geophysical survey was undertaken by Stratascan (2008) and showed a number of potential archaeological features and a possible enclosure in the centre of the site (Fig. 2). The evaluation trenches were targeted on these geophysical anomalies and also placed in blank areas to test the validity of the results.
- 2.3** Mesolithic and Early Bronze Age activity is known c. 2km to the south west of the site.
- 2.4** The northern boundary of the site borders a postulated east west prehistoric ridgeway route, now covered (adjacent to the site) by Theobalds Road. This route is thought to have continued in use during the Romano-British period linking the London to Brighton Roman road with either the Greensand Way or the London to Ouse Valley road, both of which lie to the east of the site. By the Saxon period the route is known as the 'Long Ridge' and is currently regarded as a sunken medieval road.
- 2.5** The site lies c. 1km to the east of the postulated route of the London to Brighton Roman Road, which was observed during archaeological investigations at Church Road c. 1km to the south west. Other Romano-British sites are known in the vicinity c. 1km to the north, and the ridgeway route which borders the north of the site would have been active during this period.
- 2.6** A Saxon charter of AD765 suggests that the ridgeway in the vicinity of the site was divided into five separate settlements, the Theobalds/Antye (the existing farms) area forming one of these. Wording in the document, relating to 'at the high enclosure', suggests that the settlement in the Theobalds/Antye area was close to the ridgeway.
- 2.7** The site is adjacent to Theobalds and Antye Farms. Theobalds Farm, just to the west of the site, has traces of a moated settlement and has probable medieval origins. Antye Farm to the north east is also likely to have Anglo-Norman or Anglo-Saxon origins.
- 2.8** Cartographic evidence from the 18th and 19th centuries suggests that the site was open farmland during this period.

3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY

3.1 Aims and Objectives

3.1.1 The WSI, (Sygrave 2008) outlined the aims and objectives. These are detailed below

3.1 The purpose of the archaeological investigation was to ascertain the character, quality and degree of survival of archaeological remains on the site and the potential impact of development upon them and to record all archaeological features that will be impacted by the scheme.

3.1.2 Research Aims

- To understand the prehistoric development of landuse in the area
- To understand the use and development of the Roman landscape
- To understand the use and development of the Anglo-Saxon and medieval landscape and settlement patterns within it
- To investigate the post-medieval landscape of the area
- To investigate the continued use of prehistoric ridgeway routes through later periods and their influence on other landscape features

3.1.3 Specific Research Objectives of the evaluation:

- To investigate and record any buried deposits of geo-archaeological or palaeo-environmental importance
- To investigate evidence of prehistoric activity associated with the nearby probable Ridgeway Route
- To investigate and record any prehistoric flint and/or any other artefact scatters present in the top soil
- To investigate evidence of Romano British activity associated with the nearby probable Ridgeway Route
- To investigate the probable Anglo-Saxon origins of the nearby Antye Farm and the possible 'at the high enclosure' settlement
- To investigate evidence of Anglo-Saxon/medieval activity associated with the nearby probable Ridgeway Route known as 'Long Ridge'
- To investigate the probable medieval origins of the adjacent Theobalds Farm
- To investigate evidence of medieval activity associated with the nearby probable Ridgeway Route
- To investigate the post-medieval development of the site

3.2 Eleven trenches were excavated in the three fields of the proposed development area (Fig. 2).

3.3 The trenches were located using a Global Positioning System (DGPS) and DGPS Total Station (Leica 1205 R100 Total Station, Leica System 1200 GPS) ensuring the geophysical anomalies were accurately targeted. Trench 3 was moved approximately 10m further east to ensure there was no disturbance to a badger set.

3.4 The trial trenches were excavated under constant archaeological supervision.

The trenches were cut by JCB 3CX fitted with a toothless ditching bucket.

- 3.5** The excavations were taken down to the top of the underlying geology or to the surface of any significant archaeological deposit, whichever was higher. Revealed surfaces were manually cleaned in an attempt to identify individual archaeological features. The sections of the trenches were selectively cleaned to observe and record their stratigraphy. The removed spoil was scanned for the presence of any stray, unstratified artefacts. Subtle differences in the natural were drawn as they may represent possible prehistoric features which are difficult to identify in trial trenching.
- 3.6** All encountered archaeological deposits, features and finds were recorded according to accepted professional standards in accordance with the agreed specification of the works using pro-forma context record sheets. Deposit colours were verified by visual inspection. The spoil, from site clearance prior to development, was inspected by the archaeologist to recover any artefacts of archaeological interest.
- 3.7** A full photographic record of the work was kept (monochrome prints, colour slides and digital), and will form part of the site archive. The archive (including the finds) is presently held at the Archaeology South-East offices at Portslade, and will in due course be offered to a suitable local museum.
- 3.8** Environmental samples were taken where appropriate and in the amount and regularity specified in the agreed specification of the works.

4.0 RESULTS

4.1 Trench 1 (Figs 2-3)

4.1.1 List of recorded contexts

Number	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Max. Depth
1/001	Layer	Topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.20m
1/002	Layer	Subsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.15m
1/003	Deposit	Natural	Tr.	Tr.	N/A

4.1.2 Summary

Natural geology, comprising of yellow brown sand with moderate ironstone gravel lenses and frequent manganese/mineral flecking (1/003) was encountered at 48.82m OD.

Above was light brown silt clay subsoil (1/002), with finds of post-medieval tile and overlying this was dark brown silt topsoil (1/001).

No archaeological features were identified.

4.2 Trench 2 (Figs 2-3)

4.2.1 List of recorded contexts

Number	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Max. Depth
2/001	Layer	Topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.30m
2/002	Layer	Subsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.27m
2/003	Deposit	Natural	Tr.	Tr.	N/A

4.2.2 Summary

Natural geology, comprising of blue brown clay sand with occasional ironstone gravel lenses and manganese/mineral flecking, (2/003) was encountered at 48.78m OD.

A series of possible features were investigated. These proved to be variations in the natural, including two north-east to south-west aligned seams of blue sand which may well account for the linear anomalies identified by the geophysical survey.

Above was light brown silt clay subsoil, (2/002) with finds of post-medieval tile and overlying this was dark brown silt topsoil (2/001).

No archaeological features were identified.

4.3 Trench 3 (Figs 2-3)

4.3.1 List of recorded contexts

Number	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Max. Depth
3/001	Layer	Topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.30m
3/002	Layer	Subsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.26m
3/003	Deposit	Natural	Tr.	Tr.	N/A

4.3.2 Summary

Natural geology of stiff orange brown clay (3/003) with frequent manganese/mineral flecking was encountered at 47.78m OD.

Above was light brown silt clay subsoil (3/002) with finds of post-medieval tile and a sherd of Roman pottery and overlying this, dark brown silt topsoil (3/001).

No archaeological features were identified.

4.4 Trench 4 (Figs 2 & 3)

4.4.1 List of recorded contexts

Number	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Max. Depth
4/001	Layer	Topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.30m
4/002	Layer	Subsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.25m
4/003	Deposit	Natural	Tr.	Tr.	N/A
4/004	Fill	Ditch fill	5m	Tr.	0.25m
4/005	Fill	Ditch fill	5m	Tr.	0.20m
4/006	Cut	Ditch cut	5m	Tr.	0.55m
4/007	Interface	4/002 and 4/004	N/A	N/A	N/A

4.4.2 Summary

Natural geology of stiff orange brown clay (4/003) was encountered at 47.91m OD.

Cutting the natural was ditch [4/006], aligned north-east to south-west. The trench was apparently located obliquely across the ditch and only the south side was seen. The south side was concave and shallow with a flat base. The lower fill was light brown silt clay (4/005) with moderate rooting and above was dark brown silt clay (4/004) with moderate pebbles.

At the interface between upper fill (4/004) and overlying subsoil (4/002) was a single sherd of medieval pottery (4/007) dating to the mid/late 13th-mid 14th centuries.

The subsoil was light brown silt clay (4/002) with finds of post-medieval tile and a flint scraper. Above was dark brown silt topsoil (4/001).

4.5 Trench 5 (Figs 2-4 and 7)

4.5.1 List of recorded contexts

Number	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Max. Depth
5/001	Layer	Topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.30m
5/002	Layer	Subsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.20m
5/003	Fill	Gully fill	Tr.	1.8m	0.05m
5/004	Cut	Gully cut	Tr.	1.8m	0.05m
5/005	Fill	Ditch fill	Tr.	2.26m	0.22m
5/006	Fill	Ditch fill	Tr.	2.16m	0.08m
5/007	Cut	Ditch cut	Tr.	2.26m	0.30m

5/008	Fill	Ditch fill	Tr.	0.65m	0.16m
5/009	Fill	Ditch fill	Tr.	0.60m	0.08m
5/010	Cut	Ditch cut	Tr.	0.65m	0.24m
5/011	Deposit	Natural	Tr.	Tr.	N/A

4.5.2 Summary

Natural geology of stiff orange brown clay (5/011) was encountered at 44.24m OD.

Three apparently parallel linear features were identified aligned north-east to south-west and cut into the natural geology.

Gully [5/004] had shallow concave sides and a flat base. The fill was light brown with occasional pebbles (5/003) with a find of a 14th century pottery sherd.

Ditches [5/010] and [5/011] were filled by similar material and no definitive relationship between the two features could be discerned suggesting they were of a contemporary date.

Ditch [5/010] had steep concave sides and a concave base. The primary fill was mottled black and light brown mixed charcoal, silt and burnt clay (5/009). This fill possibly represents debris of a demolished, burnt, wattle and daub wall from a timber-framed building. The silt and the cut appeared to be heat-affected and this fill may therefore have been dumped still hot.

The upper fill was light grey silt clay (5/008) with occasional gravel.

Ditch [5/007] had concave sides and a flat base. The primary fill was mottled brown and light grey silt clay, (5/006), with black lenses of charcoal and finds of Late Iron Age/ Early Roman pottery dating to AD10-100. This fill was similar to (5/009) and was possibly also the debris of a demolished burnt wattle and daub wall. Above was light grey silt clay (5/005) with occasional gravel with finds of Roman pottery dating to AD60-100.

Overlying the features was light brown silt clay subsoil (5/002) with finds of post-medieval tile and medieval pottery and dark brown silt topsoil (5/001).

4.6 Trench 6 (Fig. 2-3)

4.6.1 List of recorded contexts

Number	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Max. Depth
6/001	Layer	Topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.30m
6/002	Layer	Subsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.20m
6/003	Deposit	Natural	Tr.	Tr.	N/A

4.6.2 Summary

Natural geology of stiff orange brown clay (6/003) was encountered at 46.26m OD.

Overlying was light brown silt clay subsoil (6/002) with finds of post-medieval pottery and tile as well as a single sherd of Middle Iron Age

pottery. Above was dark brown silt topsoil (6/001).

No archaeological features were observed.

4.7 Trench 7 (Figs 2-4)

4.7.1 List of recorded contexts

Number	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Max. Depth
7/001	Layer	Plough soil	Tr.	Tr.	0.27m
7/002	Layer	Subsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.25m
7/003	Deposit	Natural	Tr.	Tr.	N/A
7/004	Cut	Gully cut	8m	0.90m	0.06m
7/005	Fill	Gully fill	8m	0.90m	0.06m
7/006	Cut	Gully cut	Tr.	0.60m	0.14m
7/007	Fill	Gully fill	Tr.	0.60m	0.14m
7/008	Cut	Gully cut	Tr.	1.15m	0.29m
7/009	Fill	Gully fill	Tr.	1.15m	0.17m
7/010	Fill	Gully fill	Tr.	0.92m	0.12m
7/011	Cut	Pit cut	1.80m	0.9m	0.41m
7/012	Fill	Pit fill	1.80m	0.9m	0.41m

4.7.2 Summary

Natural geology of stiff orange brown clay (7/003) was encountered at 47.00m OD.

A series of features was recorded cut into the natural.

Irregular feature [7/004] was aligned north-west to south-east and had shallow irregular sides and an uneven base. The fill was clean light orange clay (7/005) and had no finds. This feature is probably non-archaeological and of natural origin.

Feature [7/006] was aligned east to west and had steep convex sides and a concave base. The fill was clean light orange clay (7/007) and had no finds. This feature is probably non-archaeological and of natural origin.

Gully [7/008] was aligned east to west with concave sides and a flat base. The primary fill was blue grey clay (7/010) with occasional charcoal flecks. Above was light brown grey silt clay (7/009) with moderate charcoal flecks.

Subcircular pit [7/011] had irregular concave sides and an uneven base. The fill was brown grey silt clay (7/012) with moderate rooting and pebbles. Finds from the pit consisted of 681g of burnt daub.

Overlying the features was light brown silt clay subsoil, (7/002), with finds of post-medieval tile and pottery. A single fragment of a late Roman fineware dating to AD270-400 was also recovered. Above was dark brown silt topsoil (7/001).

4.8 Trench 8 (Figs 2-3 and 5)

4.8.1 List of recorded contexts

Number	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Max. Depth
8/001	Layer	Topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.30m
8/002	Layer	Subsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.25m
8/003	Deposit	Natural	Tr.	Tr.	N/A
8/004	Cut	Ditch cut	Tr.	2.65m	0.42m
8/005	Fill	Ditch fill	Tr.	2.65m	0.42m
8/006	Cut	Pit cut	0.40m	-	0.14m
8/007	Fill	Pit fill	0.40m	-	0.14m
8/008	Cut	Pit cut	1.04m	0.85m	0.11m
8/009	Fill	Pit fill	1.04m	0.85m	0.11m
8/010	Cut	Pit cut	1.15m	0.98m	0.15m
8/011	Fill	Pit fill	1.15m	0.98m	0.15m
8/012	Cut	Pit cut	1.80m	0.50m	0.07m
8/013	Fill	Pit fill	1.80m	0.50m	0.07m

4.8.2 Summary

Natural geology of orange brown clay (8/003) was encountered at 43.71m OD. The trench was extended to the south-west to investigate a geophysical anomaly. The natural here was flecked with manganese but no archaeological features were seen in the south-west portion of the trench to account for this anomaly.

A ditch and a series of pits were recorded, cut into the natural.

Ditch [8/004] was aligned north-west to south-east and had irregular convex sides and a flat base. The fill was mottled light brown and blue clay (8/005) with occasional pebbles and finds of Roman pottery dating to AD60-100.

Subcircular pit [8/006] had steep regular sides and a concave base. The fill was light brown clay, (8/007).

Subcircular pit [8/008] had irregular concave sides and an uneven base. The fill was light orange clay,(8/009), with occasional gravel.

Subcircular pit [8/010] had shallow irregular sides and a concave base. The fill was light brown clay (8/011) with finds of Roman pottery dating to AD60-100.

Subcircular pit [8/012] had shallow concave sides and a flat base. The fill was orange clay (8/013).

Overlying the features was light brown silt clay subsoil (8/002) and dark brown silt topsoil (8/001).

4.9 Trench 9 (Figs 2-3 5 and 7)

4.9.1 List of recorded contexts

Number	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Depth
9/001	Layer	Topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.30m
9/002	Layer	Subsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.25m

9/003	Deposit	Natural	Tr.	Tr.	N/A
9/004	Cut	Pit cut	0.19m	0.11m	0.06m
9/005	Fill	Pit fill	0.19m	0.11m	0.06m
9/006	Cut	Pit cut	0.21m	0.07m	0.05m
9/007	Fill	Pit fill	0.21m	0.07m	0.05m
9/008	Cut	Pit cut	0.26m	0.19m	0.14m
9/009	Fill	Pit fill	0.26m	0.19m	0.14m
9/010	Cut	Pit cut	0.73m	0.62m	0.06m
9/011	Fill	Pit fill	0.73m	0.62m	0.06m
9/012	Cut	Pit cut	0.89m	0.61m	0.08m
9/013	Fill	Pit fill	0.89m	0.61m	0.08m
9/014	Cut	Gully cut	Tr.	2.69m	0.05m
9/015	Fill	Gully fill	Tr.	2.69m	0.05m
9/016	Cut	Pit cut	1.10m	2.23m	0.08m
9/017	Fill	Pit fill	1.10m	2.23m	0.08m
9/018	Cut	Pit cut	0.47m	0.38m	0.08m
9/019	Fill	Pit fill	0.47m	0.38m	0.08m
9/020	Cut	Ditch cut	Tr.	0.95m	0.43m
9/021	Fill	Ditch fill	Tr.	0.95m	0.43m
9/022	Cut	Pit cut	0.78m	0.42m	0.14m
9/023	Fill	Pit fill	0.78m	0.42m	0.14m
9/024	Cut	Ditch cut	1.8m	0.58m	0.28m
9/025	Fill	Ditch fill	1.8m	0.58m	0.28m

4.9.2 Summary

Natural geology of stiff orange brown clay (9/002) encountered at 44.54m OD.

A series of features were recorded throughout the trench cut into the natural. These are described from the south-east end first.

Subcircular pit [9/004] had steep concave sides and a concave base. The fill was light grey brown silt clay (9/005) with no finds.

Irregular shaped pit [9/006] had irregular sides and base. The fill was orange grey silt clay (9/007) with no finds.

Subcircular pit [9/008] had steep convex sides and a flat base. The fill was grey brown silt clay (9/009) with no finds.

Subcircular pit [9/010] had regular concave sides and an uneven base. The fill was light grey brown clay silt (9/011) with no finds.

Subcircular pit [9/012] had irregular sides and an uneven base. The fill was light grey brown clay silt (9/013) with no finds.

Shallow, irregular gully [9/014] had irregular sides and an uneven base. The fill was orange grey silt clay (9/015) with no finds.

Subcircular pit [9/016] had irregular concave sides and a sloping base. The fill was grey orange silt clay (9/017) with no finds.

The above features all appear to have been either the result of root-action or are variation in the natural clay, because of their irregular form and sterile clay fills. They are not, therefore of archaeological significance. However,

the following represent definite archaeological features.

Subcircular pit [9/018] had concave sides and base. The fill was orange brown silt clay (9/019) with moderate charcoal flecking and no finds.

Subcircular pit [9/022] had concave sides and a flat base. The fill was grey brown silt clay (9/023) with moderate charcoal flecking and finds of burnt daub.

Cutting (9/023) was ditch [9/020]. The ditch was aligned north to south and had steep concave sides and a concave base. The fill was orange brown silt clay (9/021) with moderate charcoal flecking and finds of Roman pottery dating to AD60-100.

Only the east edge of ditch [9/024] was seen and this appeared to be similarly aligned north to south,, though not quite parallel to ditch [9/020]. The ditch had a concave side and an apparent flat base. The fill was orange grey silt clay (9/025) with moderate charcoal flecking and finds of Roman pottery dating to AD60-100.

Overlying the features was light brown silt clay subsoil (9/002) with finds of post-medieval tile and dark brown silt topsoil (9/001).

4.10 Trench 10 (Figs 2-3 and 6)

4.10.1 List of recorded contexts

Number	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Depth
10/001	Layer	Topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.30m
10/002	Layer	Subsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.25m
10/003	Deposit	Natural	Tr.	Tr.	N/A
10/004	Fill	Pit fill	1.10m	0.64m	0.14m
10/005	Cut	Pit cut	1.10m	0.64m	0.14m
10/006	Fill	Pit fill	0.41m	0.40m	0.15m
10/007	Cut	Pit cut	0.41m	0.40m	0.15m
10/008	Fill	Pit fill	10m	Tr.	0.2m
10/009	Cut	Pit cut	10m	Tr.	0.2m
10/010	Fill	Gully fill	1.59m	0.88m	0.36m
10/011	Cut	Gully cut	1.59m	0.88m	0.36m

4.10.2 Summary

Natural geology of stiff orange brown clay (10/003) was encountered at 46.74m OD.

A series of intercutting features were identified in the south-east of the trench.

Cut into the natural was subcircular pit [10/005] with concave sides and base. The fill was mottled light brown and blue clay (10/004) with finds of medieval pottery dating to mid13th-mid14th centuries and a flint fragment.

Cut into the natural was gully [10/011] aligned north-west to south-east.

Cutting (10/004) was apparent pit [10/007]. Only the north-west edge of the pit was seen. The pit had a concave edge and the base was not seen. The fill was mottled brown and blue clay (10/006) with no finds.

Cutting (10/004) and (10/010) was large shallow pit [10/009]. The south-east side of the pit was steep and concave, while the north-west side was less apparent, gradually petering out. The fill was mottled light brown and blue clay (10/008) with no finds.

Other potential features in the north-west of the trench were found to be non-archaeological after investigation.

Overlying the features was light brown silt clay subsoil (10/002) with finds of post-medieval tile and dark brown silt topsoil (10/001).

4.11 Trench 11 (Figs2-3, 6 and 9)

4.11.1 List of recorded contexts

Number	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Depth
11/001	Layer	Plough soil	Tr.	Tr.	0.32m
11/002	Deposit	Natural	Tr.	Tr.	N/A
11/003	Fill	Ditch fill	5.70m	Tr.	
11/004	Cut	Ditch cut	5.70m	Tr.	
11/005	Cut	Pit cut	0.38m	-	0.05m
11/006	Fill	Pit fill	0.38m	-	0.05m
11/007	Cut	Ditch cut	2.80m	1.08m	0.19m
11/008	Fill	Ditch fill	2.80m	1.08m	0.19m

4.11.2 Summary

Natural geology of stiff yellow brown clay (11/002) was encountered at a height of 47.99m OD.

Cut into the natural was a series of features.

Ditch [11/007] was aligned east to west with concave sides and a stepped base. The fill was light brown clay (11/008). Cutting (11/008) was ditch [11/004] aligned obliquely along the trench north-west to south-east, with a gradual northern side and an apparent flat base. The fill was light grey brown clay silt (11/003) with frequent rooting and finds of medieval pottery dating to the 13th-14th centuries.

Subcircular pit [11/005] had shallow sides and a flat base. The fill was light orange clay (11/006) with occasional charcoal flecks.

Overlying the features was light brown silt clay subsoil (11/002) with finds of burnt daub and pottery dating to the 13th-16th centuries and dark brown silt topsoil (11/001).

5.0 THE FINDS

A relatively small assemblage of finds was been recovered during the evaluation. These are summarised in Table 1, below.

Context	Pot	wt (g)	CB M	wt (g)	Flint	wt (g)	Fired clay	wt (g)	Charcoal	wt (g)	Glasses	wt (g)
1/002			3	164								
2/002			1	18								
3/002	1	18	2	146								
4/002			2	38	1	12					1	14
4/007	1	8										
5/002	2	24	10	362								
5/003	2	10										
5/005	12	36										
5/006	27	410					1	6				
5/009							15	70	1	<2		
6/002	5	102	1	38			1	36				
7/002	4	8	2	28							1	16
7/012							54	681				
8/005	45	262										
8/011	4	18					1	<2				
9/002			3	322								
9/021	6	30					15	52				
9/025	51	400										
10/002			1	36								
10/004	1	8			1	<2	2	4				
11/002	5	60	2	18			4	48				
11/003	2	16										

Table 1. Quantification of the finds from Theobald Lane Burgess Hill.

5.1 Prehistoric and Roman Pottery by Anna Doherty

- 5.1.1 A small assemblage of 147 sherds, weighing 1.19kg and amounting to 0.71 EVEs was recovered from the evaluation. Several moderate-sized stratified groups are present and most include a mixture of grog-tempered sherds and Romanised grey-wares. The forms, in both grog- and sand-tempered wares, are almost all plain or cordoned necked jars, which are broadly derived from the Aylesford-Swarling tradition. One semi-complete grog-tempered jar with an upright neck but more gently curving profile is a form particularly associated with East Sussex, although it lacks the classic “eyebrow” decoration (see Green 1980). There are also two vessels with plain incurving walls; this is a long-lived form which developed from Middle Iron Age traditions and continued to be produced into the early Roman period.
- 5.1.2 The rate at which pottery assemblages become ‘Romanised’ differs greatly from region to region, and in urban and rural contexts. Although there is relatively little comparative data from rural non-villa sites in Sussex, it would be unusual for significant quantities of grey-wares to occur before *circa* AD60-70 on a rural site located away from intensive centres of pottery

production. In most areas of southern Britain the grog-tempered wares which dominate Late Iron Age/ Early Roman assemblages decline sharply by the end of the 1st century. It is therefore likely that most of the activity on the site dates to within the period AD60-100.

- 5.1.3 Only one tiny, unstratified, sherd of New Forest red-slipped ware (dated to AD270-360) necessarily reflects later Roman activity. Two residual prehistoric sherds were also recovered from the subsoil in Trench 6. One of these is a distinctive glauconitic ware, very similar to a fabric recently identified in a Middle Iron Age assemblage at Peacehaven (Doherty 2008, fabric GQ1). The other sherd contains moderate to common flint, mostly of around 2mm which is somewhat rounded and incompletely calcined, in a laminar matrix, also including sparse organic matter. The sherd is not especially diagnostic of any period but has more similarities to earlier prehistoric wares.

5.2 The Post-Roman Pottery by Luke Barber

- 5.2.1 The evaluation recovered a relatively small assemblage of post-Roman pottery though a number of different periods are represented. On the whole the sherds are generally small (to 40mm across) and many show signs of abrasion and/or the adverse affect from burial in acidic ground conditions. The one exception to this are the later post-medieval sherds which are larger (to 80mm across) and less abraded.
- 5.2.2 The earliest piece consists of a very small abraded bodysherd tempered with some shell (voids) and coarse sand/grits residual in (5/003). The piece is too small to be certain, but an 11th- to 12th- century date is probable. The majority of the assemblage is of the 13th to mid 14th centuries and is typical of a fairly low-status site in this area though admittedly the sample size is very small. The earliest of these is probable a residual 13th- century cooking pot bodysherd tempered with medium sand with sparse clear sub-rounded quartz inclusions to 1mm (5/002). The remainder of the High medieval sherds can probably best be placed in a later 13th- to mid 14th- century date bracket. All are sand tempered cooking pots, two of which have flat-topped club rims ((4/007) and (10/004)) while another has an internally glazed base more typical of the 14th century (5/003).
- 5.2.3 As well as an abraded residual 13th- to 14th- century sherd context (11/002) produced some Transitional sherds of the 15th to mid 16th centuries. These consist of three well-fired sandy earthenware bodysherds, some with internal spots of glaze, and a single sherd of sparse fine sand tempered hard-fired earthenware. In addition context (5/002) produced a well-fired glazed red earthenware splayed base of probable 16th- to 17th- century date. None of these pieces are abraded suggesting they have not travelled far from their source of origin.
- 5.2.4 The latest pottery from the site is from context (6/002) which produced three sherds from glazed red earthenware jars/bowls all of which appear to be of later 18th- to 19th- century date.

5.3 The Ceramic Building Material by Luke Barber

- 5.3.1 Despite the presence of 13th- to 14th- century pottery no definite tile from this period was recovered from the site though the close dating of tile is notoriously difficult. Although the sample is small, it would suggest any nearby medieval buildings were thatched. With the exception of one ridge tile fragment from (3/002) all pieces appear to be from pegged roof tiles. Probably the earliest pieces consists of a well fired crudely made fragment tempered with moderate fine sand (11/002) and a medium-fired ridge tile tempered with moderate fine sand and rare iron oxides to 2mm (3/002). Both these pieces could be of 15th- to 16th- century date though the ridge tile may be a little earlier. Context (5/002) produced nine fragments of hard-fired crudely made tile tempered with moderate fine/medium sand which would not be out of place in the 16th to 17th centuries. The tiles from (9/002) are quite similar though slightly better made and with some iron oxide inclusions: a mid 16th- to mid 18th- century date is probable. The remaining tiles appear to span the 18th to 19th centuries with the latter consisting of more evenly mixed sparse fine sandy fabrics, neatly formed and usually hard-fired.

5.4 The Fired Clay by Elke Raemen

- 5.4.1 A total of 92 pieces of fired clay from eight different contexts has been recovered from the site. Three different fabrics have been identified:

Fabric 1: Sparse fine sand-tempered with rare clay pellets to 2 mm.

Fabric 2: Sparse fine sand-tempered with occasional iron oxide inclusions to 2 mm.

Fabric 3: Sparse fine sand-tempered.

- 5.4.2 The majority of pieces (59) are in fabric 3, although most of these (54) are from (7/012). Fabric 1 is only represented in one piece (5/008). Most pieces are from undated contexts. The earliest dated fragment, consisting of a piece of daub, is from (6/002) and dates to the Middle Iron Age. Five amorphous pieces of early Roman date were recovered from (9/021). A further two amorphous pieces were recovered from (10/004), the pottery of which dates to the mid 13th to mid 14th century. Context (11/002), dated by the pottery to the 15th to mid 16th century, contained some amorphous pieces, as well as a single piece with two flat faces at a right angle.
- 5.4.3 A large proportion of the fragments are amorphous. However, eight daub fragments containing wattle imprints were recovered as well (5/009), (6/002), and (7/012). The diameters of these wattle imprints range between 2 to 13 mm, with an additional piece from (7/012) containing a partial wattle imprint measuring 25+ mm. As the other fired clay fragments in these contexts are in the same fabric, these are likely to represent daub as well. In addition, three pieces exhibiting a single flat face (5/009) and (7/012), two pieces containing two parallel flat faces (7/012) and a single piece with flat faces at a right angle, representing a corner fragment (11/002), were recovered as well.

5.5 Other Finds by Elke Raemen and Lucy Allott

- 5.5.1 Two pieces of glass were recovered from the subsoil ([4/002] and [7/002]). Both pieces are green glass wine bottle fragments dating to the second half of the 19th to early 20th century.
- 5.5.2 A single flint flake with scraper retouches at distal and lateral end was recovered from the subsoil (4/002). Context (10/004) contained a flake fragment. In addition, a single piece of charcoal was recovered from (5/009).

5.6 Potential

- 5.6.1 The small size of the assemblage combined with the wide date range gives it little potential for further analysis. At this stage, no further work is required. However, the assemblage, in particular the prehistoric and Roman pottery and fired clay, should be integrated and studied in conjunction with material from any further phases of work.

6.0 THE ENVIRONMENTAL SAMPLES by Dr Lucy Allott

6.1 Introduction

6.1.1 Eight samples were taken during the archaeological evaluation at Theobald Road, Burgess Hill to establish the presence of environmental remains such as charred botanicals and bone. The samples were taken from charcoal and daub rich fills in linear features, pits and ditches with the aim of recovering information about their functions and deposition histories.

6.2 Methods

6.2.1 Samples were processed in a flotation tank, the flots and residues were captured on 250µm and 500µm meshes respectively and allowed to air dry. The residues were sorted for archaeological and environmental remains and these are quantified in Table 2. The flots were scanned under a stereozoom microscope at x7-45 magnifications and their contents recorded (Table 3).

6.3 Results

6.3.1 Many of the flots contained uncharred roots that must be considered modern and intrusive however sampling has also confirmed the presence of charred botanical remains. These include wood charcoal, occasional charred wheat (*Triticum* sp.) grains and weed seeds.

6.3.2 The flots and residues from samples <1006> and <1007> (gully and ditch fills (5/009) and (5/006) respectively) contained moderate quantities of well preserved wood charcoal fragments (>4mm in size). Smaller quantities of well preserved charcoal fragments (<4mm) were also recovered from samples <1001> (7/012), <1004> (9/021), <1005> (9/023) and <1008> (9/025). Several moderately well preserved wheat grains were noted in sample <1007> from ditch fill (5/006) and a small number of charred weed seeds were present in sample <1001>, pit fill (7/012).

6.4 Discussion and Potential

6.4.1 Given the dominance of wood charcoal in these assemblages it can be assumed that the deposits are derived from fuel using activities although they may represent redeposited material rather than primary burning locations. It was hoped that the samples would reveal evidence for the functions of several features and in particular provide evidence for building materials such as wattle (as evidenced by impressions in the daub) and thatch in samples <1006> and <1007>, contexts (5/009) & (5/006). Some roundwood fragments have been noted in these samples however identifications on these fragments would be required to establish the presence of taxa commonly used for wattle. The charred botanical assemblage provides no evidence for thatching waste.

6.4.2 Charcoal fragments from samples <1006> (5/009) and <1007> (5/006) are of interest (especially if Iron Age) and may provide further information regarding taxa used for wattle and possible woodland management strategies such as coppicing. Charcoal from samples <1004> (9/021), <1005> (9/023) and <1008> (9/025) may provide further information regarding the local vegetation. Assessment of charcoal from these assemblages should be incorporated into any further programme of work.

Sample Number	Context	Context /type	Sample Volume litres	sub-Sample Volume litres	Charcoal >4mm	Weight (g)	Charcoal <4mm	Weight (g)	Other (eg ind, pot, cbm)
1000	11/003	Linear [11/004]	40	40	**	10	**	2	
1001	7/012	Pit Fill [7/011]	20	20	**	2	**	4	
1003	9/019	Small Pit [9018]	10	10			**	2	
1004	9/021	Ditch fill [9020]	10	10	**	4	**	2	
1005	9/023	Pit fill [9022]	10	10	**	4	**	2	Pot*/6
1006	5/009	gully fill	10	10	***	36	***	18	Pot**/96 FCF*/8
1007	5/006	ditch fill	50	50	**	20	***	14	Pot & CBM */34
1008	9/025	Ditch fill [9024]	10	10	**	6	**	6	Pot*/12

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

Sample Number	Context	weight g	Flot volume ml	Uncharred %	sediment %	seeds uncharred	Charcoal >4mm	Charcoal <4mm	Charcoal <2mm	crop seeds charred	weed seeds charred	Identifications	Preservation
1000	11/003	18	60	85	5		*	**	**				
1001	7/012	10	40	60	5		*	**	***		*		
1003	9/019	2	<5	95				*	**				
1004	9/021	14	40	40			**	***	****				
1005	9/023	8	20	50			**	**	***				
1006	5/009	10	25	60			**	**	***				
1007	5/006	46	150	30		Y	***	****	****	*		<i>Triticum</i> sp.	mod
1008	9/025	8	30	70			**	**	***				

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

7.0 DISCUSSION

7.1 Overview and assessment of geophysical survey

- 7.1.1 The programme of trenching has clearly demonstrated the presence of archaeological remains across the southern portion of the site. Nothing of archaeological significance was found in the northern field. The results of this investigation do permit some useful, if general observations to be made regarding the nature and date of past activity on the site.
- 7.1.2 The results of the geophysical survey, to some extent, were borne out by the trial trenching. Some of the geophysical anomalies equated, to a greater or lesser degree, to archaeological features, exclusively ditches. This was the case in Trench 5, the north-west end of Trench 9 and the south-east end of Trench 11. However, similar geophysical anomalies were found not to be archaeological features in the south-west end of Trench 4, in Trench 6 and in Trench 11. In addition, in these locations undisturbed natural clay was often encountered with no apparent reason for the anomaly. Equally, archaeological features were identified in the trenches where no anomalies were recorded, such as Trench 10 and the north-east end of trench 4.
- 7.1.3 In conclusion, although the geophysical survey was beneficial in initial identification of some features, it appears that as a whole, the geophysical results cannot be relied upon as an accurate guide to the extent or character of the archaeological remains.

7.2 Iron Age/Roman

- 7.2.1 A series of Late Iron Age/Early Roman features were identified mostly in the south-west field. These features were mostly shallow ditches possibly forming the western edge of an enclosure. The recovery of significant amount of burnt daub from Trenches 5 and 7 indicates the former presence of timber buildings, almost certainly roundhouses, in the near vicinity. There was no direct evidence, such as ring gullies, for such structures however.
- 7.2.2 Finds of burnt daub were also found as far eastward as Trench 11 and it is feasible that the undated features identified Trenches 10 and 11 are also of this date. It is possible that a Late Iron Age/Early Roman enclosure, measuring approximately 100m north to south and 150m east to west, was located in the two southern fields of the site. This enclosure would have been immediately south of and respecting the presumed prehistoric ridgeway of Theobalds Road. Finds from the subsoil of sherds of Middle Iron Age and Late Roman pottery may also indicate a broader time-scale of activity.

7.3 Medieval

- 7.3.1 The medieval features on the site were somewhat enigmatic. Two large negative features, interpreted as ditches aligned north-east to south-west and east to west, were recorded in Trenches 4 and 11 respectively, possibly forming the south-west portion of an enclosure. However only one side of each of these ditches was found and these features may alternatively be clay extraction pits or even ponds. In Trench 10 to the south of the presumed ditches was a series of intercutting pits, one of which was dated by a single

sherd of medieval pottery. All of the finds from the features were sherds of pottery dating from the 13th-14th centuries.

- 7.3.2 The pits and possible enclosure almost certainly relate to activity focused on the medieval ridgeway route and may relate to the moated settlement of Theobalds Farm, immediately to the west of the site.

7.4 Other Periods

- 7.4.1 No finds or features were securely datable to the earlier prehistoric or Saxon periods. Frequent finds of post-medieval tile from the subsoil probably indicate the demolition of a farm building of this date in the near vicinity.

8.0 CONCLUSION

- 8.1** The evaluation identified two main phases of archaeological features, Late Iron Age/Early Roman and medieval, both located in the southern two fields of the site. The features of both phases may represent settlement enclosures associated with the former ridgeway route currently occupied by Theobalds Road.
- 8.2** Regarding the Research Aims and Objectives, as outlined in the WSI (Sygrave 2008), the evaluation has successfully proved that the site was a utilised for prehistoric settlement which possibly began in the Middle Iron Age and continued through to the Roman period. The prehistoric ridgeway appears to have survived as a viable route through to the medieval period and still exists in its preset form as Theobalds Road. The Iron Age/Roman and medieval settlements identified clearly utilised and respected the location of this route.
- 8.3** There was however no evidence of earlier prehistoric, Anglo-Saxon activity on the site so that these aims were not fulfilled.

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- Doherty, A. 2008. 'The Pottery' in Riccoboni, P. *Archaeological Investigations at Keymer and Seaview avenues, Peacehaven, East Sussex*. Unpublished ASE report no 2008029
- Stratascan, 2008 'Geophysical Survey Report, Theobalds Road, Burgess Hill, East Sussex', J2463, Unpublished report

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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SMR Summary Form

Site Code	THR 08					
Identification Name and Address	Theobalds Road Burgess Hill					
County, District &/or Borough	East Sussex					
OS Grid Refs.	TQ 53260 12050					
Geology	Predominantly Weald Clay with some sand deposits in the north					
Arch. South-East Project Number	3435					
Type of Fieldwork	Eval. ✓	Excav.	Watching Brief	Standing Structure	Survey	Other
Type of Site	Green✓ Field	Shallow Urban	Deep Urban	Other		
Dates of Fieldwork	Eval. June 08	Excav.	WB.	Other		
Sponsor/Client	CgMs					
Project Manager	John Sygrave					
Project Supervisor	Giles Dawkes					
Period Summary	Palaeo.	Meso.	Neo.	BA	IA✓	RB ✓
	AS	MED ✓	PM	Other Modern		
<p>100 Word Summary.</p> <p><i>An archaeological evaluation of 11 trial trenches was undertaken, laid out to target geophysical anomalies. The evaluation identified two main phases of archaeological features. The earliest was a series of shallow ditches and pits dating to the Late Iron Age/Early Roman period. The ditches possibly form part of an enclosure and the recovery of significant amounts of burnt daub indicates the former presence of timber buildings, almost certainly roundhouses. The main medieval features on the site were two large negative features, interpreted as ditches aligned north-east to south-west and east to west, possibly forming the south-west portion of an enclosure. All of the finds from the features were sherds of pottery dating from the 13th-14th centuries and the features almost certainly relate to activity focused on the medieval ridgeway route and are probably associated with the moated settlement of Theobalds Farm, immediately to the west of the site. No archaeological features were identified in the northern most field, closest to Theobalds Road.</i></p>						

OASIS ID: archaeol6-45314

Project details

Project name	Theobalds Road, Burgess Hill, East Sussex
Short description of the project	An archaeological evaluation of 11 trial trenches was undertaken, laid out to target geophysical anomalies. The evaluation identified two main phases of archaeological features. The earliest was a series of shallow ditches and pits dating to the Late Iron Age/Early Roman period. The ditches possibly form part of an enclosure and the recovery of significant amounts of burnt daub indicates the former presence of timber buildings, almost certainly roundhouses. The main medieval features on the site were two large negative features, interpreted as ditches aligned north-east to south-west and east to west, possibly forming the south-west portion of an enclosure. All of the finds from the features were sherds of pottery dating from the 13th-14th centuries and the features almost certainly relate to activity focused on the medieval ridgeway route and are probably associated with the moated settlement of Theobalds Farm, immediately to the west of the site. No archaeological features were identified in the northern most field, closest to Theobalds Road.
Project dates	Start: 16-06-2008 End: 20-06-2008
Previous/future work	Yes / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	3435 - Contracting Unit No.
Any associated project reference codes	THR08 - Sitecode
Any associated project reference codes	LW/07/0732 - Planning Application No.
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Current Land use	Cultivated Land 2 - Operations to a depth less than 0.25m
Monument type	DITCHES Late Iron Age
Monument type	DITCHES Roman
Monument type	DITCHES Medieval
Significant Finds	POTTERY Late Iron Age
Significant Finds	POTTERY Roman
Significant Finds	POTTERY Medieval
Methods & techniques	'Targeted Trenches'
Development type	Housing estate
Prompt	Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPG16
Position in the planning process	Not known / Not recorded

Project location

Country	England
Site location	EAST SUSSEX LEWES WIVELSFIELD Theobalds Road
Postcode	RH15
Study area	3.00 Hectares
Site coordinates	TQ 532600 120500 50.8869995204 0.179166327088 50 53 13 N 000 10 45 E Point
Height OD	Min: 43.71m Max: 48.82m

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Archaeology South-East
Project brief originator	Local Planning Authority (with/without advice from County/District Archaeologist)
Project design originator	CgMs Consulting
Project director/manager	JON SYGRAVE
Project supervisor	Giles Dawkes
Type of sponsor/funding body	Client
Name of sponsor/funding body	Taylor Wimpey

Project archives

Physical Archive recipient	Lewes Museum
Physical Contents	'Ceramics','Glass','Worked stone/lithics','other'
Digital Archive recipient	Lewes Museum
Digital Contents	'Ceramics','Glass','Worked stone/lithics'
Digital Media available	'Database','Text'
Paper Archive recipient	Lewes Museum
Paper Contents	'Ceramics','Glass','Worked stone/lithics','other'
Paper Media available	'Context sheet','Drawing','Plan','Report','Section','Unpublished Text'

Entered by	Giles Dawkes (giles.dawkes@ucl.ac.uk)
Entered on	11 July 2008

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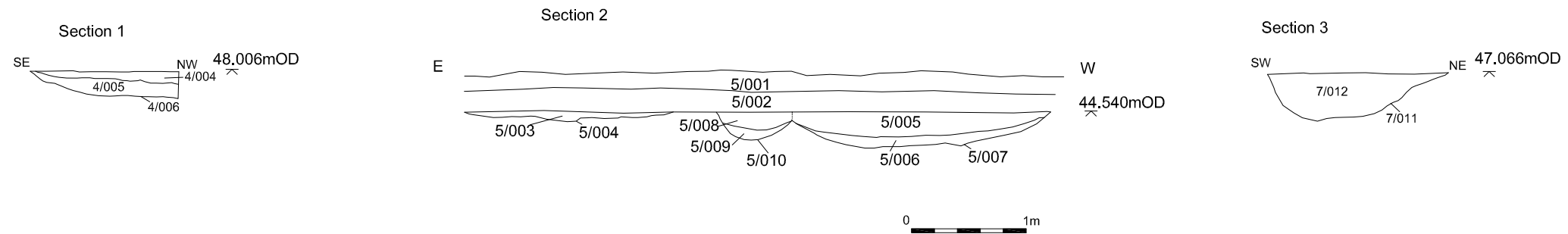
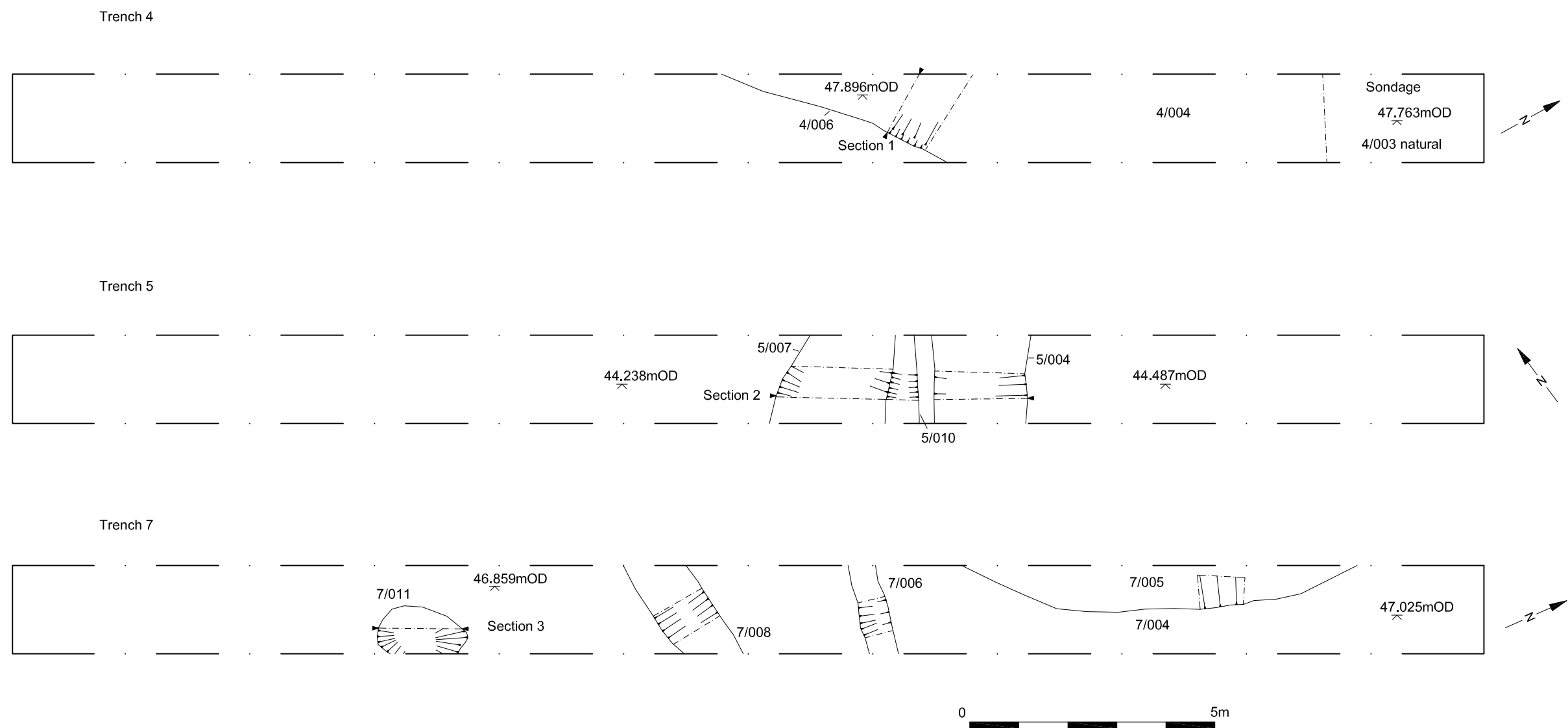
© Archaeology South-East		Theobalds Road, Burgess Hill	Fig. 1
Project Ref: 3435	July 2008	Site Location Plan	
Report Ref: 2008106	Drawn by: SM		

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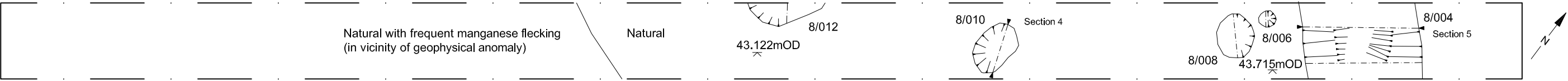




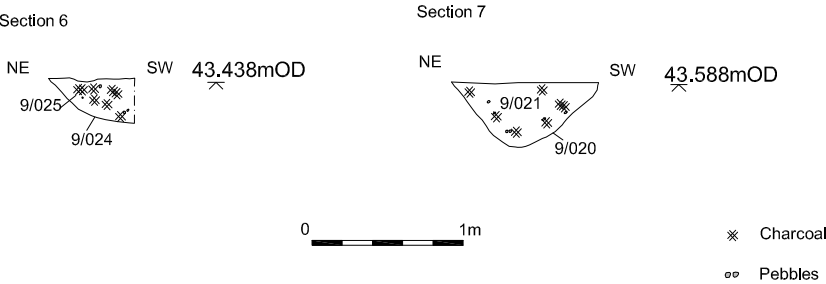
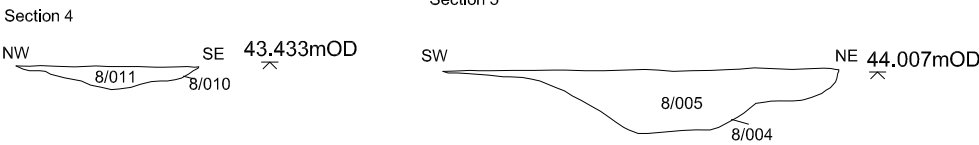
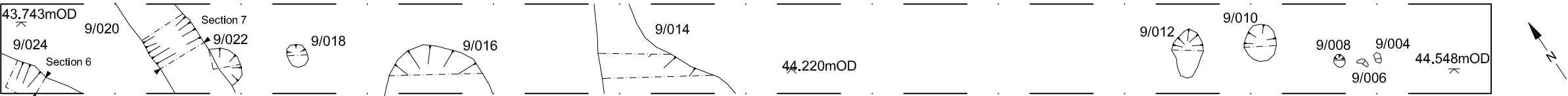
© Archaeology South-East		Theobalds Road, Burgess Hill	Fig. 3
Project Ref: 3435	July 2008	Trench Location Plan showing conjectural enclosure ditches	
Report Ref: 2008106	Drawn by: RC/FG		



Trench 8



Trench 9



✖ Charcoal
○ Pebbles

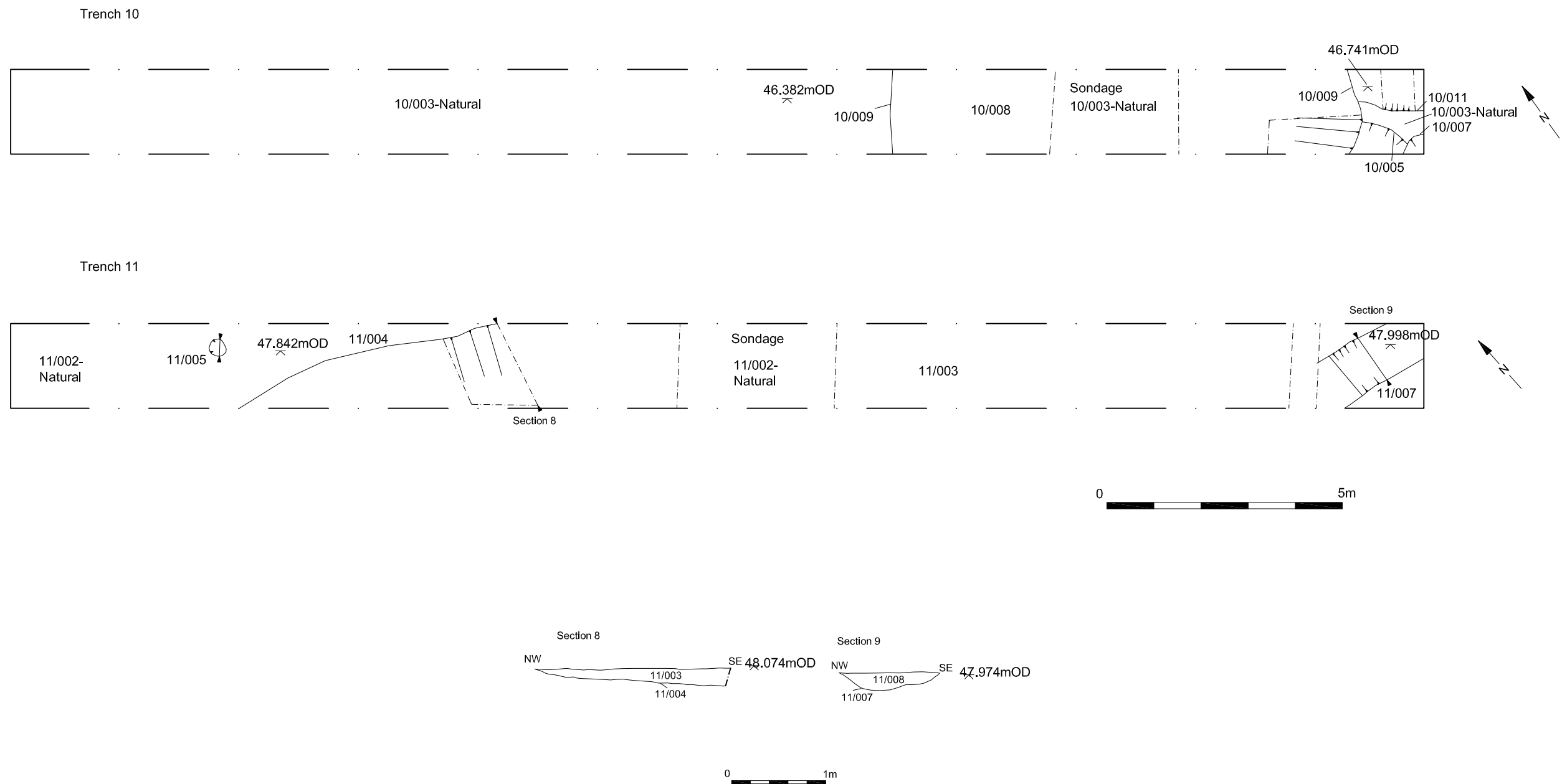




Fig. 7: Late Iron Age/ Roman ditches 5/010 and 5/007 facing southwest



Fig. 8: Roman ditches 9/020 and 9/024 facing southeast

© Archaeology South-East		Theobalds Road, Burgess Hill	Fig.7&8
Project Ref: 3435	July 2008	Site photographs	
Report Ref: 2008106	Drawn by: FEG		



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