

**An Archaeological Evaluation on 'Glebe Land' at
Church Lane, Frant, East Sussex**

Planning Reference: WD/2860/CC

**TQ 5885 3568
NGR: 458850 135680**

**Project No: 4186
Site Code: FRA10**

**ASE Report No: 2010015
OASIS ID: archaeol6-73045**

**Kathryn Grant, MSc AIFA
With contributions by
Elke Raemen & Luke Barber**

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Abstract

An archaeological evaluation was carried out by Archaeology South East (ASE) on 'Glebe Land' at Church Lane, Frant, East Sussex (NGR: TQ 5885 3568) between the 8th and 11th February 2010. The work was commissioned by Development Archaeological Services (DAS) on behalf of their client, to assess the archaeological potential of the site in advance of the proposed new school development.

The site is located in a field adjacent to Church Lane. Eleven trenches were excavated with a cumulative length of 230 metres, positioned so as to target anomalies identified during a detailed gradiometer magnetic survey conducted by ASE in 2009. Archaeological features comprising ditches and postholes were identified during the field evaluation in six of the trenches. These features did not correlate with the linear features identified during the geophysical survey.

Of the four postholes uncovered during the excavations, only one contained artefacts and was datable to the 11th-12th century by pottery sherds. A north-south ditch was also revealed along the western edge of the site and contained pottery and tile fragments of 14th-15th century date. This ditch corresponds with the alignment of a dark shaded area identified in the LiDAR survey. Four of the trenches revealed undated linear gullies on a northwest-southeast orientation. Finds from the overburden across the site comprised pottery sherds and post-medieval ceramic building material, slate, slag and a single clay tobacco pipe stem fragment. Natural geology consisting of Tunbridge Wells Sand was encountered at its highest in the northeast of the site at 172.85m AOD (Trench 11) and at its lowest in the southwest at 166.04m AOD in the south (Trench 3).

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project Background

1.1.1 Archaeology South-East (ASE), a division of the Centre for Applied Archaeology at the Institute of Archaeology, Development Archaeological Services (DAS) on behalf of their client, to undertake an archaeological evaluation on 'Glebe Land' at Church Lane, Frant, East Sussex (NGR: 458850 135680; Figure 1).

1.2 Site Location, Topography and Geology

1.2.1 The site is situated in a c.1.4ha field ('Glebe Land') north of Church Lane and south of a football pitch (Figure 1). It is bounded to the west by Frant Road (A267) and the church lies to the east of the site. The site is located at around 174m AOD on its east side and slopes gently down to approximately 166m AOD at its south-west side. The site is currently mown grass, surrounded by hedge and fence boundaries.

1.2.2 The British and Geological Survey Sheet 303 (BGS 1996) shows the site lies on Lower Tunbridge Wells Sand. There is a broad band of Ashdown Beds to the north of the site and at the lower ground to the west and southeast there are outcrops of Wadhurst Clay. The soil is described as a slightly acid loamy and clayey soil with impeded drainage.

1.2.3 The site is located immediately to the north of the Frant Conservation Area, which extends along Church Lane and includes the properties to the east of the site. The Historic Landscape Characterisation survey for Frant has designated Glebe Land as a 'Fieldscape' of early 20th Century date (1914-1945).

1.3 Planning Background

1.3.1 A planning application is currently under consideration by East Sussex County Council (ESCC) for the new primary school on 'Glebe Land', Church Lane, Frant with associated recreational space and parking provision (Planning Reference: WD/2860/CC).

1.3.2 The ESCC Assistant County Archaeologist, Greg Chuter, in his capacity as advisor to the local planning authority on archaeological matters recommended that a planning condition requiring a programme of archaeological work be attached to the proposed development. The proposed archaeological work consisted of:

- A geophysical survey
- A targeted archaeological field evaluation informed by the results from the geophysical survey and the results from the LIDAR survey (ESCC)

1.3.3 In addition, a Desk-based Archaeological Assessment (DBA) was carried out by Chris Butler Archaeological Services in 2008 (Butler 2008) to establish the likely presence and importance of any archaeological remains that may be

affected by the proposed construction, as part of an initial feasibility study.

- 1.3.4 The geophysical survey (ASE project: 3103) was carried out by Chris Russel in December 2009. The results of this survey were reported on and made reference to throughout the field evaluation (ASE 2009).
- 1.3.5 Following the geophysical survey a specification for the excavation of ten 20m long and one 30m long trial trenches was established. The trenches were targeted in reference to anomalies identified in the 2009 geophysical survey.
- 1.3.6 A Written Scheme of Investigation was prepared after further discussion between the DAS, ASE and ESCC (ASE 2010). This document was submitted to and approved by ESCC Archaeologist prior to archaeological works commencing on site.
- 1.3.7 The Written Scheme of Investigation complies with the Standards and Guidance of the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA 2001) and the ESCC Standards for Archaeological Fieldwork, Recording, and Post-Excavation Work in East Sussex (ESCC 2008).

1.4 Aims and Objectives

- 1.4.1 The purpose of the archaeological investigation was to ascertain the character, quality and degree of survival of any archaeological remains on the site and to record any such archaeological features that may be impacted by the scheme. The findings from the archaeological evaluation are considered within this document with a view to assessing the potential impact of development upon any revealed archaeological remains.
- 1.4.2 The specific aims of the archaeological work as stipulated in the WSI (ASE 2010) were:
 - To assess with a greater degree of certainty the presence or absence of any archaeological features at the site with reference to the results from the geophysical survey and the LIDAR survey.
 - To assess whether archaeological remains extend across the development site
 - To assess the character, extent, preservation, significance, date and quality of remains and deposits
 - To assess whether any of the features can be related to features in the geophysical and LIDAR surveys
 - To assess how they might be affected by the development of the site
 - To assess what options should be considered for mitigation

1.5 Scope of the report

- 1.5.1 This report details the results of archaeological evaluation works on the site. The fieldwork was undertaken between 8th and 11th February 2010 by Kathryn Grant (Archaeologist) and Chris Russel (Assistant Archaeologist). The trenches were located by Leslie Davidson (Surveyor).
- 1.5.2 The fieldwork was managed by Neil Griffin (Project Manager) and the post-excavation was managed by Jim Stevenson (Project Manager).

2.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 Desk Based Assessment

- 2.1.1 A Desk Based Assessment (DBA) was prepared for the site by Chris Butler Archaeological Services in 2008 (Butler 2008). A brief summary of the findings of this assessment are given below with due acknowledgment.
- 2.1.2 The DBA searched ESCC's Historic Environment Records (HER) for archaeological sites and monuments from within a 1km radius of the site in order to assess the potential impact of the development on the site's archaeological resource. A full listing of all the known archaeological sites in the immediate surroundings of this site have been tabulated in the Appendix (derived from Butler 2008). The assessment concluded that the site had the following archaeological potential:

Period	Probability
Palaeolithic	Very Low
Mesolithic	Medium
Neolithic	Low
Bronze Age	Low
Iron Age	Low
Roman	Low
Saxon	Low
Medieval	High
Post Medieval	High

- 2.1.2 Two terraces were noted running across the field in a northwest to southeast direction with the slope. Although these were quite distinct features, it is not clear whether they are cultivation lynchets or the result of natural land-slip. At the western edge of the field a sudden steeper drop in height down to the level of the road was noted, some of which also resembles land-slip, however, this could also be as the result of quarrying in the past as it is located close to the road. Aerial photographs also show that an enclosure of unknown date may also extend into the western side of the field.
- 2.1.3 The DBA highlighted that very little archaeological work has been conducted in Frant, and it was recommended that a programme of archaeological work be undertaken prior to the development. A geophysical survey was suggested as an initial form of investigation, with the possible terraces and enclosure investigated by targeted trial trenches to establish whether they are of archaeological or natural origin.

2.2 The Geophysical and LIDAR surveys

- 2.2.1 Although some weak linear and rectilinear anomalies were identified in the magnetometer survey there was a high concentration of magnetic debris and natural manganese in the geology on site making the identification of buried archaeology problematic and so rendering the survey inconclusive (ASE 2009). Potential anomalies identified are shown on Figure 2 and detailed below:

- M1 was an area of modern disturbance around a service inspection hatch
- M2, M3 and M8 follow the topography of the site and may represent natural terraces or man-made terraces such as strip lynchets
- M4 is probably modern in origin
- M5, M6 and M7 may represent further terraces (as M2, M3 and M8) or possibly small ditched enclosures
- M9 and M9.1 are modern inspection hatches

2.2.2 There is LiDAR (Light Detection And Ranging) data of the site, derived from a previous survey, and this is also shown on Figure 2. The LIDAR survey images appear to mirror some of the results of the geophysical survey though there is one linear feature which runs roughly north-south across the western part of the site, with a curvilinear feature near its northern end, which do not appear in the geophysics results.

3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY

3.1 Methodology

- 3.1.1 The archaeological work was carried out in accordance with the Written Scheme of Investigation, (ASE 2010), and complies with the Standards and Guidance of the Institute for Archaeologists, (IfA 2001), and the ESCC Standards for Archaeological Fieldwork, Recording, and Post-Excavation Work in East Sussex (ESCC 2008). The complete adopted methodology can be referenced in the WSI (ASE 2009). A summary of the methodology is given below. A Risk Assessment of the fieldwork to be carried out was produced prior to any work on site.
- 3.1.2 The evaluation work comprised eleven archaeological trenches (ten measuring 20m in length and one measuring 30m in length with a width of 1.8m) which were excavated under constant archaeological supervision to a cumulative length of 230m using a 8-tonne mechanical tracked excavator fitted with a 1.80m wide toothless ditching bucket to minimise damage to deposits. The trenches were positioned across the development area so as to ensure an optimum sample of the area (Figure 2). The trenches were located using a Topcom GR3 Global Positioning System (GPS).
- 3.1.3 The trenches were arranged around a known mains sewer pipe, but each trench was also CAT scanned prior to excavation to ensure no other unknown services were present. No other services were encountered during the archaeological works.
- 3.1.4 Excavation was undertaken in 100mm thick spits through undifferentiated topsoil and subsoil during which the removed spoil and surface of each spit was scanned for any stray, unstratified artefacts. These finds were recovered and bagged according to the context and trench number from which they were found. The spoil heaps were regularly scanned by eye and metal detector to facilitate the collection of artefacts.
- 3.1.5 The excavations were taken down to the top of the underlying natural geology or to the surface of any significant archaeological deposit; whichever was higher. When removed, topsoil, subsoil and made ground deposits were kept separate to ensure that they could be redeposited stratigraphically during the backfilling process for optimum reinstatement. 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. Each trench was left open and was periodically inspected over the course of at least two days to ensure that any features were given time to weather out.
- 3.1.6 All of the trenches, features and deposits were recorded using ASE standard record sheets. Each deposit uncovered during the archaeological trial-trenching was assigned its own unique context number system prefixed with the trench number. None of the deposits were deemed suitable for environmental sampling.
- 3.1.7 A digital photographic record was maintained throughout the evaluation in addition to a black and white (monochrome) and colour (35mm transparency)

SLR photographic record of all of the trenches. All features were drawn in plan at a scale of 1:20 on permatrace sheets and section drawings of the excavated profiles were drawn at a scale of 1:10. Where only simple stratigraphic sequences of the overburden were revealed, representative measured sections at the end and the middle of each trench were drawn. Due to their simplicity these sections will be kept as part of the archive for the site but have not been included within this report.

- 3.1.8 All of the trenches were securely marked using hazard tape to warn the general public of the excavations.
- 3.1.9 On the completion of all excavation and recording, the County Archaeologist, Casper Johnson (ESCC) was informed and attended the site to inspect the trenches. Following this meeting, permission was obtained for the trenches to be backfilled and compacted.

3.2 The Site Archive

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

Number of Trenches	11
Number of Contexts	61
No. of files/paper record	1 file
Plan and sections sheets	2 large sheets
Photographs	65
Bulk finds	1 small box
Registered finds	None

Table 1: Quantification of Site Archive

4.0 RESULTS

4.1 Introduction

4.1.1 Six of the eleven trial trenches (Trenches 2, 4, 5, 6, 8 and 11) contained archaeological features comprising ditches and postholes. Although five trenches did not exhibit any archaeological features, artefacts in the form of ceramic building materials (CBM) were recovered from the overburden deposits (e.g. topsoil/subsoil) in most of the trenches (see 5.0).

4.1.2 The trench locations are shown on Figure 2.

4.1.3 Sixty-one contexts were recorded at the site. The majority of the contexts pertain to the overburden and natural geology in each trench which have been described in 4.2. The details of each trench, including revealed contexts and trench dimensions, orientation and levels of deposits have been provided chronologically from 4.3 onwards.

4.2 Natural Geology, Overburden and Topography

4.2.1 The natural geology across the site (Hastings Beds) comprised soft light brownish yellow fine sandy clay with patches of light greyish brown mottling. Small pockets of pinkish-brown clay were also noted. The geology seemed to be more compact in the north of the site with a looser substrate in the south which contained more sandstone inclusions. This was particularly evident in Trench 7 (Figure 5). The geological horizon was encountered at its highest in the northeast of the site at 172.85m AOD (Trench 11) and at its lowest in the southwest at 166.04m AOD in the south (Trench 3). The site has a natural slope from east at its peak falling gradually to the western edge where it meets the road.

4.1.2 The overburden observed in all trenches consisted of a fairly sterile layer of soft mid yellowish brown fine clayey silt. This layer of subsoil varied in thickness across the site (see section 4.3 onwards).

4.1.4 The subsoil was in turn overlain by a loose layer of friable mid yellowish grey-brown silt topsoil which varied in thickness across the site (see 4.3 onwards), but was generally fairly thin.

4.3 Trench 1

4.3.1 Length: 20.00m, Width: 1.80m, Depth: 0.52m. Orientation: Northwest - Southeast

Number	Type	Description	Deposit Thickness (m)	Height m AOD
1/001	Deposit	Topsoil	0.20 – 0.27	NW 168.78/ SE 169.16
1/002	Deposit	Subsoil	0.23 - 0.27	-
1/003	Deposit	Natural Geology	-	NW 168.26/ SE 168.69

Table 2: List of Recorded Contexts – Trench 1

4.3.2 Context Summary

Natural geology [1/003] was encountered at 168.69m AOD in the southeast falling away to 168.26m AOD in the northwest. This was overlain in sequence by subsoil [1/002] and topsoil [1/001]. A green glass wine bottle base fragment of late 18th to 19th century date and some early post-medieval tile fragments were recovered from the topsoil covering this trench.

No archaeological features or deposits were encountered within this trench.

4.4 Trench 2 (Figure 3)

4.4.1 Length: 20.00m, Width: 1.80m, Depth: 0.70m. Orientation: East - West

Number	Type	Description	Deposit Thickness (m)	Height m AOD
2/001	Deposit	Topsoil	0.22 – 0.43	E 169.83/ W 168.76
2/002	Deposit	Subsoil	0.33 – 0.44	-
2/003	Deposit	Natural Geology	-	E 169.13/ W 168.33
2/004	Cut	N-S Ditch	-	168.60
2/005	Fill	Fill of 2/004	0.30	-
2/006	Cut	Field Drain	-	-
2/007	Fill	Fill/Pipe in 2/004	-	-

Table 3: List of Recorded Contexts – Trench 2

4.4.2 Context Summary

Natural geology [2/003] was encountered at 169.13m AOD in the east falling away to 168.33m AOD in the west. This was overlain in sequence by subsoil [2/002] and topsoil [2/001].

A ditch, [2/004], on an approximate north-south alignment, was encountered crossing the trench obliquely at the bottom of the gradual slope, to the west of the site. The ditch measured 1.4m in width with a depth of 0.3m and had moderately sloping sides with a concave base. The fill, [2/005], within this feature was a single mid brown clayey silt with yellowish brown mottling. Two 14th-to 15th-century and four sand tempered greyware sherds from a cooking pot, also of 14th- to early 15th- century date, were recovered from this fill. It is possible that this ditch formed a medieval boundary along the western edge of this field. The alignment of this feature can be seen clearly on the LIDAR survey as a darker line (Figure 2).

A north-south aligned field drain [2/006] was recorded cutting [2/004].

4.5 Trench 3 (Figure 7)

4.5.1 Length: 20.00m, Width: 1.80m, Depth: 0.55m. Orientation: East - West

Number	Type	Description	Deposit Thickness (m)	Height m AOD
3/001	Deposit	Topsoil	0.21 – 0.55	E 169.06/ W 166.58
3/002	Deposit	Subsoil	0.59	-
3/003	Deposit	Natural Geology	-	E 168.26/ W 166.04

Table 3: List of Recorded Contexts – Trench 3

4.5.2 Context Summary

Natural geology [3/003] was encountered at 168.26m AOD in the east falling away to 166.04m AOD in the west. This was overlain in sequence by subsoil [3/002] and topsoil [3/001]. An 18th century pottery sherd and a plain clay tobacco pipe stem fragment were recovered from the topsoil from this trench.

No archaeological features or deposits were encountered within this trench.

4.6 Trench 4 (Figure 4)

4.6.1 Length: 30.00m, Width: 1.80m, Depth: 0.75m. Orientation: Northeast - Southwest

Number	Type	Description	Deposit Thickness (m)	Height m AOD
4/001	Deposit	Topsoil	0.20 – 0.23	NE170.84 / SW 169.40
4/002	Deposit	Subsoil	0.27 – 0.52	-
4/003	Deposit	Natural Geology	-	NE 170.09/ SW 168.90
4/004	Cut	Posthole	-	168.99
4/005	Fill	Fill of 4/004	0.46	-

Table 5: List of Recorded Contexts – Trench 4

4.6.2 Context Summary

Natural geology [4/003] was encountered at 170.09m AOD in the northeast falling away to 168.90m AOD in the southwest. This was overlain by subsoil [4/002] and topsoil [4/001]. One transitional pottery sherd of possible mid 15th- to mid 16th- century date and two 18th century peg tiles from the topsoil covering this trench.

A small sub-circular posthole [4/004], measuring 0.3m by 0.4m with a depth of 0.46m, was uncovered towards the south-western end of the trench. This feature was tapered with near vertical sides into a rounded base and was located approximately 0.5m below surface level. The posthole was filled with sterile light reddish brown silt [4/005]. No artefacts were recovered from the fill. The posthole was recorded in section (Figure 4) before being fully excavated.

A ceramic field drain was revealed crossing the middle of the trench on a north-south alignment. This is the same field drain revealed to the south in Trench 2.

4.7 Trench 5 (Figure 4)

4.7.1 Length: 20.00m, Width: 1.80m, Depth: 0.81m. Orientation: Northeast - Southwest

T

Number	Type	Description	Deposit Thickness (m)	Height m AOD
5/001	Deposit	Topsoil	0.15 – 0.22	NE 171.22/ SW 170.04
5/002	Deposit	Subsoil	0.31 – 0.58	-
5/003	Deposit	Natural Geology	--	NE170.41/ SW 169.51
5/004	Cut	Gully	-	170.47
5/005	Fill	Fill of 5/004	0.20	-
5/006	Cut	Posthole	-	170.02
5/007	Fill	Fill of 5/006	0.20	-
5/008	Cut	Gully	-	170.47
5/009	Fill	Fill of 5/008	0.10	-

Table 6: List of Recorded Contexts – Trench 5

4.7.2 Context Summary

Natural geology [5/003] was encountered at 170.41m AOD in the northeast falling to 169.51m AOD in the southwest. This was overlain in sequence by subsoil [5/002] and topsoil [5/001]. Some 18th to 19th century tile fragments were recovered from the topsoil covering this trench.

[5/004] was a linear gully on a northwest-southeast alignment, measuring 0.5m with a depth of 0.2m, with gradual sides into a concave base. The feature was uncovered in the north-eastern end of the trench adjacent to a narrower gully [5/008] (measuring 0.3m wide with a depth of 0.1m) running parallel to the south. The gullies crossed the trench obliquely on a northwest-southeast alignment and contained a similar fill comprising mottled brownish grey clayey silt with occasional manganese staining. No artefacts were recovered from these features. The section showed that [5/004] was later than [5/008] as it slightly cuts the north-eastern edge.

A small circular posthole [5/006], measuring 0.4m in diameter with a depth of 0.2m, was uncovered towards the middle of Trench 5. This posthole had moderately sloping straight sides and a concave base. The feature contained sterile light reddish brown, soft clayey silt [5/007]. No artefacts were recovered from the fill. The posthole was recorded in section (Figure 4) before being fully excavated.

4.8 Trench 6 (Figure 5)

4.8.1 Length: 20.00m, Width: 1.80m, Depth: 0.89m. Orientation: Northeast - Southwest

Number	Type	Description	Deposit Thickness (m)	Height m AOD
6/001	Deposit	Topsoil	0.22 - 0.25	NE 171.56/ SW 170.24
6/002	Deposit	Subsoil	0.26 – 0.64	-
6/003	Deposit	Natural Geology	-	NE 170.67/ SW 169.74
6/004	Cut	Posthole	-	170.61
6/005	Fill	Fill of 6/004	0.19	-
6/006	Cut	Posthole	-	170.63
6/007	Fill	Fill of 6/006	0.11	-
6/008	Cut	Gully	-	170.47
6/009	Fill	Fill of 6/008	0.15	-
6/010	Cut	Gully	-	170.47
6/011	Fill	Fill of 6/010	0.08	-

Table 7: List of Recorded Contexts – Trench 6

4.8.2 Context Summary

Natural geology [6/003] was encountered at 170.67m AOD in the northeast falling away to 169.74m AOD in the southwest. This was overlain in sequence by subsoil [6/002] and topsoil [6/001]. A fragment of Welsh slate, a piece of blast furnace slag and a single pottery sherd of 18th to 19th century date were recovered from the subsoil within this trench.

Two small circular postholes were uncovered in the north-eastern end of this trench. [6/004], measuring 0.45m in diameter with a depth of 0.2m, had gradual concave sides and a concave base and was positioned to the south of [6/006]. The posthole contained a single light yellowish brown, soft clayey silty fill, [6/005], with grey mottled patches, rare sub- rounded sandstones and a number of very small sherds from a shell tempered cooking pot of probable 11th- to 12th- century date. This was the only posthole uncovered at the site from which datable finds were recovered. [6/006] was also circular with a diameter of 0.35m. This posthole was shallower than [6/004] with a depth of only 0.11m. This feature contained a very similar fill, [6/007] to [6/005], although no finds were recovered. Both of the postholes were recorded in section (Figure 5) before being fully excavated.

The gullies encountered in Trench 5 continue in a south-easterly direction across this trench to the southwest of the postholes. These were contexted as [6/008] and [6/010]. A sample slot was excavated through these features. The gullies are no longer intercutting at this point. No artefacts were recovered from the fills, which were the same as [5/005] and [5/009].

4.9 Trench 7 (Figure 5)

4.9.1 Length: 20.00m, Width: 1.80m, Depth: 0.9m. Orientation: Northeast - Southwest

Number	Type	Description	Deposit Thickness (m)	Height m AOD
7/001	Deposit	Topsoil	0.20 – 0.40	NE 171.82/ SW 170.73
7/002	Deposit	Subsoil	0.20 – 0.40	-
7/003	Deposit	Natural Geology	-	NE 170.92/ SW 170.13
7/004	Deposit	Re-deposited Natural	0.25	-
7/005	Deposit	Buried soil	0.20	-
7/006	Deposit	Re-deposited Natural	0.10 – 0.15	-

Table 8: List of Recorded Contexts – Trench 7

4.9.2 Context Summary

Natural geology [7/003] was encountered at 170.92m AOD in the northeast falling away to 170.13m AOD in the southwest. This was overlain in sequence by subsoil [7/002] and topsoil [7/001] (apart from the variation in stratigraphy described below). A slight change in the geology was observed in Trench 7 where the substrate became looser with more sandstone inclusions towards the southwest.

This trench was the deepest excavated and revealed thick overburden deposits. A lens of buried soil [7/005] comprising dark grey soft peaty silt (0.2m thick) was revealed in section at the north-eastern end of the trench. Two varying layers of redeposited natural were also present within this trench. [7/004] comprised light orange sandy silty clay (0.25m thick) and [7/006] consisted of mid orange sandy silty clay with occasional flecks of manganese staining and frequent brick fragments of 18th to 19th century date. Deposits [7/004]-[7/006] were not present in the south-western end of the trench where, like Trench 6, the natural geology had become fairly loose and sandy with large sandstone inclusions.

No archaeological features were encountered within this trench.

4.10 Trench 8 (Figure 6)

4.10.1 Length: 20.00m, Width: 1.80m, Depth: 0.70m. Orientation: Northeast - Southwest

Number	Type	Description	Deposit Thickness (m)	Height m AOD
8/001	Deposit	Topsoil	0.05 - 0.06	NE 171.83/ SW 170.93
8/002	Deposit	Upper Subsoil	0.20 – 0.38	-
8/003	Deposit	Natural Geology	-	NE 171.13/ SW 170.23
8/004	Cut	Gully Terminus	-	170.45
8/005	Fill	Fill of 8/004	0.20	-
8/006	Deposit	Lower Subsoil	0.30	-

Table 9: List of Recorded Contexts – Trench 8

4.10.2 Context Summary

Natural geology [8/003] was encountered at 171.13m AOD in the northeast falling away to 170.23m AOD in the southwest. This was overlain in sequence by subsoil [8/002] and topsoil [8/001]. A layer of mid reddish brown silty clay [8/006] was recorded underlying the subsoil in the western end of the trench.

A terminating gully [8/004], measuring 0.4m wide with a depth of 0.2m, was uncovered in this trench. It extended for 0.9m from the northern baulk. The full extent of the terminus was excavated. This was filled with light yellowish brown clayey silt [8/005] with occasional sub-rounded sandstones. No artefacts were recovered from this fill.

4.11 Trench 9

4.11.1 Length: 20.00m, Width: 1.80m, Depth: 0.95m. Orientation: Northeast - Southwest

Number	Type	Description	Deposit Thickness (m)	Height m AOD
9/001	Deposit	Topsoil	0.20 - 0.35	NE 172.12/ SW 171.74
9/002	Deposit	Subsoil	0.45 – 0.60	-
9/003	Deposit	Natural Geology	-	NE 171.47/ SW 170.79

Table 10: List of Recorded Contexts – Trench 9

4.11.2 Context Summary

Natural geology [9/003] was encountered at 171.47m AOD in the northeast falling away to 170.79m AOD in the southwest. This was overlain in sequence by subsoil [8/002] and topsoil [8/001]. Early post-medieval tile fragments were recovered from the topsoil covering this trench.

No archaeological features or deposits were encountered within this trench.

4.12 Trench 10

4.12.1 Length: 20.00m, Width: 1.80m, Depth: 0.70m. Orientation: Northwest - Southeast

Number	Type	Description	Deposit Thickness (m)	Height m AOD
10/001	Deposit	Topsoil	0.25	NW 172.51/ SE 172.71
10/002	Deposit	Subsoil	0.30 – 0.55	-
10/003	Deposit	Natural Geology	-	NW 171.81/ SE 172.16

Table 11: List of Recorded Contexts – Trench 10

4.12.2 Context Summary

Natural geology [10/003] was encountered at 172.16m AOD in the southeast falling away to 171.81m AOD in the northwest. This was overlain by subsoil [10/002] and topsoil [10/001].

No archaeological features or deposits were encountered within this trench.

4.13 Trench 11 (Figure 6)

4.13.1 Length: 20.00m, Width: 1.80m, Depth: 0.55m. Orientation: Northeast - Southwest

Number	Type	Description	Deposit Thickness (m)	Height m AOD
11/001	Deposit	Topsoil	0.25 – 0.30	NE 173.40/ SW 172.86
11/002	Deposit	Subsoil	0.15 – 0.25	-
11/003	Deposit	Natural Geology	-	NE 172.85/ SW 172.46
11/004	Cut	Linear Terminus	-	172.54
11/005	Fill	Fill of 11/004	0.30	-

Table 12: List of Recorded Contexts – Trench 11

4.13.2 Context Summary

Natural geology [11/003] was encountered at 172.85m AOD in the northeast falling away to 172.46m AOD in the southwest. This was overlain by subsoil [11/002] and topsoil [11/001].

A terminating irregular gully, feature [11/004], measuring 0.8m wide at the section and narrowing to 0.3m at the terminus with a depth of 0.2m, was uncovered in this trench. It extended for 1.0m from the southern baulk on a northwest-southeast alignment. The full extent of the terminus was excavated. This was filled with light yellowish brown clayey silt [11/005] with occasional sub angular stones. No artefacts were recovered from this fill.

5.0 FINDS

5.1 Introduction

5.1.1 A small assemblage of finds, mainly consisting of pottery and ceramic building material (CBM), was recovered during the archaeological field evaluation at Church Lane, Frant. An overview of the recovered finds is given in Table 13. A detailed assessment of the finds is given in 5.2 onwards.

Context	Pot	Wt (g)	CBM	Wt (g)	Stone	Wt (g)	Slag	Wt (g)	Glass	Wt (g)	CTP	Wt (g)
1/001			3	82					1	64		
2/001			1	70								
2/005	4	80	2	150								
3/001	1	66	2	16							1	2
4/001	1	12	2	94								
5/001			3	330								
6/002	1	2	14	236	1	8	1	16				
6/005	12	14										
7/006			9	334								
9/001			3	158								
Total	19	174	39	1470	1	8	1	16	1	64	1	2

Table 13: Quantification of the Finds

5.2 The post-Roman Pottery by Luke Barber

5.2.1 The archaeological work recovered a small assemblage of post-Roman pottery from five individually numbered contexts. Although sherd sizes range from very small (< 10mm) to medium (to 60mm across) generally the material is in a fresh condition suggesting it has not been subjected to repeated reworking.

5.2.2 By far the earliest pottery was recovered from context [6/005] which produced a number of very small sherds from a shell tempered cooking pot of probable 11th- to 12th- century date. Although small, the material is relatively fresh and almost certainly comes from the same vessel. Context [2/005] produced four notably larger sherds all of which have some weathering from the acidic ground conditions. Again, all these sherds are from the same vessel – this time part of the base section of a fine/medium sand tempered greyware cooking pot of 14th- to early 15th- century date. A single Transitional sherd was recovered from context [4/001]. This consists of a fresh bodysherd of sandy hard-fired earthenware with deliberately reduced outer face. A mid 15th- to mid 16th- century is probable.

5.2.3 Two post-medieval sherds are also present, both of the 18th century. Context [3/001] produced an unabraded bodysherd from a glazed red earthenware jar while context [6/002] produced a small slightly abraded sherd from a Staffordshire combed slipware dish.

5.3 The Ceramic Building Material (CBM) by Elke Raemen

- 5.3.1 A small assemblage of 39 pieces was recovered from ten individually numbered contexts. Most of these were found in topsoil or subsoil and consist of 18th- to 19th-century tile fragments. Earlier pieces however were also recovered, including two high fired 14th-to 15th-century tile fragments from [2/005]. Early post-medieval tile fragments, both medium fired, were recovered from [1/001], and [9/001], the latter exhibiting a diamond-shaped nail hole. Topsoil [4/001] contained two peg tile fragments of 18th-century date.
- 5.3.2 All other pieces are of 18th-to 19th-century date and include mainly high fired (peg) tile fragments. Two brick fragments of the same date were recovered from [6/002] and [7/006], neither retaining full dimensions.
- 5.3.3 All ceramic building material is in a sparse fine sand-tempered fabric, with occasional to moderate iron oxide inclusions to 3mm. Some of these exhibit rare clay pellets to 2mm. The early post-medieval tile fragment from [1/001] is in a moderate fine sand-tempered fabric with occasional iron oxide inclusions to 1mm.

5.4 Other Finds by Elke Raemen

- 5.4.1 Subsoil [6/002] contained a fragment of Welsh slate as well as a piece of blast furnace slag. A plain clay tobacco pipe (CTP) stem fragment was recovered from [3/001]. The piece is of mid 18th- to 19th-century date. In addition, a green glass wine bottle base fragment from topsoil [1/001] dates to the late 18th to 19th century.

6.0 DISCUSSION

6.1 Geology, Stratigraphy and Preservation of Archaeological Remains

- 6.1.1 The evaluation revealed a fairly consistent geology across the site comprising mixed sands and clays. A slight change was observed in Trench 7 where the substrate became looser with more sandstone inclusions towards the southwest (Figure 5). This geological horizon was encountered at its highest in the northeast of the site at 172.85m AOD (Trench 11) and at its lowest in the southwest at 166.04m AOD in the south (Trench 3). The site has a natural slope from east at its peak falling gradually to the western edge where it meets the road. Overlying the natural geology was a layer of subsoil averaging 0.15m-0.65m in thickness. Topsoil covered all of the trenches.
- 6.1.2 Archaeological features (ditches and postholes) were revealed in six out of the eleven trenches. The trenches containing archaeology were: Trenches 2, 4, 5, 6, 8 and 11. The trenches were left open for a period of at least two days to give potential features time to weather-out. This was in the event necessary as some of the postholes and gullies were not apparent during the initial machining of the trenches. Features were also obscured by the poor wintry weather conditions experienced during the field evaluation.
- 6.1.3 The preservation of the archaeological horizon is generally good with little obvious major truncation of the sequence. A known sewer line runs across the site in a northeast-southwest direction between Trenches 6 and 7.

7.2 Identified Archaeological Features and Finds

- 7.2.1 Four postholes ([4/004], [5/006], [6/004] and [6/006]) were revealed in Trenches 4, 5 and 6 during the field evaluation. Two of these were located in close proximity at the north-eastern end of Trench Six. One of the postholes within this trench contained pottery sherds of 11th to 12th century date.
- 7.2.2 A north-south ditch, [2/004], containing pottery sherds and tile fragments of 14th- to early 15th- century date, was recorded towards the western edge of the site. It is possible that this ditch, although fairly shallow, may have been an original field boundary.
- 7.2.3 In addition to the two gullies revealed on a northwest-southeast alignment in Trenches 5 and 6, ([5/004]/[6/008] and [5/008]/[6/010]), two terminating gullies on the same alignment were recorded in Trenches 8 and 11 ([8/004] and [11/004]). No datable finds were recovered from any of these features. Although the function of the gullies uncovered during the trial trenching is not certain, it is possible that they are part of a field drainage system.
- 7.2.4 The field evaluation provided a small assemblage of finds from the overburden, mainly consisting of post-medieval pottery and CBM. Welsh slate fragments, a piece of blast furnace slag and a single, undecorated clay tobacco pipe stem were also recovered. No flintwork was recovered during the field evaluation.

7.3 Archaeological Remains and the LIDAR and Geophysics Surveys

7.3.1 A dark north-south line on the LIDAR survey corresponds with the alignment of ditch [2/004] and field drain [2/006]. Another line of darker shading can be seen on a northwest-southeast alignment on the LIDAR survey (Figure 2) crossing the north-eastern ends of Trenches 5, 6 and 7. This bears some correlation to the gully features revealed in Trenches 5 and 6 which are on a similar alignment. Overburden was recorded at its thickest at the north-eastern end of these trenches where there is a slight terrace. It is interesting that both of the dark areas visible on the LIDAR survey coincide with the terraces visible at ground level.

7.3.3 The linear anomalies M2, M3 and M8 recorded on the magnetometer survey reflected the minor topographical and geological changes revealed during the evaluation. M5, M6 and M7 were not identified in any of the trenches during excavation. None of the geophysical anomalies identified during the initial survey pertained to archaeological features uncovered during the field evaluation.

7.4 Conclusion

7.4.1 The archaeological evaluation strategy at the Church Lane site was successful in characterising the nature of the archaeological preservation across the site. Archaeological features have been demonstrated to survive across parts of the site and include ditches and pits that may relate to medieval activity.

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Thanks are due to Chris Pine of Development Archaeological Services (DAS) for commissioning the work and to Greg Chuter and Casper Johnson (ESCC) for their guidance throughout the project.

APPENDIX I: Sites and Listed Buildings on the ESCC Historic Environment Record (HER) (derived from Butler 2008)

SMR No.	NGR	Period	Type of Site	Notes
MES3277	TQ 5901 3536	Medieval/Post Medieval	Archery Butts	Now removed
MES3279 (DES6601)	TQ 58908 35368	18 th Century	One Ash, The Green	Listed Building
MES3280	TQ 5895 3523	World War 2	Type 24 Pillbox	On The Green
MES3285	TQ 59 35	Medieval	Settlement & chapel	Location unknown
MES4875	TQ 6450 3115	Prehistoric/Roman	Trackway	Ridgeway track
MES4876	TQ 5862 4479	Prehistoric/Roman	Trackway	Ridgeway track
DES4800	TQ 59055 35564	19 th Century	Nos 16-32 High Street	Listed Buildings
DES6006	TQ 59027 35542	19 th Century	19 High Street	Listed Building
DES6602	TQ 59018 35560	17 th Century	Rose Cottage, High Street	Listed Building
DES6021	TQ 59006 35613	17 th Century	33 & 35 High Street	Listed Building
DES5788	TQ 58467 36339	19 th Century	Chase Farmhouse	Listed Building
DES4823	TQ 58530 36070	19 th Century	Chasewood Cottage	Listed Building
DES4845	TQ 60055 35373	16 th Century	Cornhill Cottages	Listed Building
DES4829	TQ 58924 35187	17/18 th Century	Court Cottages	Listed Building
DES6002	TQ 59038 35220	19 th Century	East Lodge	Listed Building
DES5307	TQ 58884 35457	19 th Century	Eridge Cottage	Listed Building
DES6219	TQ 59005 35584	19 th Century	Frant Church of England School	Listed Building
DES6164	TQ 58934 35256	19 th Century	Frant Court & attached wall	Listed Building
DES5308	TQ 58911 35428	19 th Century	Post Office, The Green	Listed Building
DES5309	TQ 59137 35446	17/18 th Century	Gable Cottage	Listed Building
DES5827	TQ 59021 35211	19 th Century	Garden railing, Stone Cottage	Listed Building
DES6520	TQ 59026 35463	19 th Century	Greenwood Lodge	Listed Building
DES6022	TQ 59055 35537	19 th Century	Lilac Cottage & Slow Wall	Listed Buildings
DES5313	TQ 59031 35525	19 th Century	Little Wyndhams & Nesta Cottage	Listed Buildings
DES5312	TQ 59029 35504	17 th Century	Manor Cottage	Listed Building
DES4826	TQ 59097 35506	19 th Century	Mastingate & Tollgate	Listed Building
DES5785	TQ 58910 35127	19 th Century	Park Hill	Listed Building
DES4825	TQ 58892 35435	19 th Century	Park View	Listed Building
DES4801	TQ 59042 35617	19 th Century	Priory Cottages	Listed Building
DES5314	TQ 59012 35596	19 th Century	Rymans Cottages	Listed Buildings
DES5310	TQ 58953 35123	18 th Century	Sherfold Lodge	Listed Building
DES4846	TQ 59073 34905	19 th Century	Sherfold Park	Listed Building
DES6600	TQ 59028 35205	18 th Century	Stone Cottage	Listed Building

DES4799	TQ 59060 35546	19 th Century	Stone House, High Street	Listed Building
DES4828	TQ 59030 35193	19 th Century	Stone House, The Green	Listed Building
DES4824	TQ 58872 35482	18 th Century	The Abergavenny Arms Hotel	Listed Building
DES5786	TQ 58804 35570	19 th Century	The Albert Memorial Well	Listed Building
DES4802	TQ 59052 35629	19 th Century	The gates and gate piers to Ely Grange	Listed Building
DES6023	TQ 59040 35603	18 th Century or earlier	The George Public House	Listed Building
DES4831	TQ 59041 35489	19 th Century	Railing at Manor Cottage	Listed Building
DES6001	TQ 58955 35460	19 th Century	The Limes	Listed Building
DES6005	TQ 59031 35656	19 th Century	Parish Church of St Alban	Listed Building
DES5787	TQ 59053 35475	19 th Century	Victoria Well	Listed Building
DES6004	TQ 58887 35410	18 th Century	The White House	Listed Building
DES6003	TQ 58958 35131	19 th Century	Gatepiers and wall, Shernfold Park	Listed Building
DES6215	TQ 59055 35521	19 th Century	Virginia Cottage	Listed Building
DES4822	TQ 58726 35678	19 th Century	Whitehill Lodge	Listed Building

SMR Summary Form

Site Code	FRA 10					
Identification Name and Address	Church Lane, Frant, East Sussex					
County, District &/or Borough	Wealden District, East Sussex					
OS Grid Refs.	NGR: TQ 5885 3568					
Geology	Tunbridge Wells Sands					
Arch. South-East Project Number	4186					
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. ✓ 08-02-10 to 11-02-10	Excav.	WB.	Other		
Sponsor/Client	Development Archaeological Services (DAS)					
Project Manager	Neil Griffin					
Project Supervisor	Kathy Grant					
Period Summary	Pala	Meso.		Neo.	BA	IA RB
	AS	MED 11 th -12 th c. posthole 14 th -15 th c. Ditch		PM Pot & CBM	Other 4 undated gullies 3 undated postholes	
<p>100 Word Summary.</p> <p><i>An archaeological evaluation was carried out by Archaeology South East (ASE) on 'Glebe Land' at Church Lane, Frant, East Sussex (NGR: TQ 5885 3568) between the 8th and 11th February 2010. The work was commissioned by Development Archaeological Services (DAS) on behalf of their client, to assess the archaeological potential of the site in advance of the proposed new school development.</i></p> <p><i>The site is located in a field adjacent to Church Lane. Eleven trenches were excavated with a cumulative length of 230 metres, positioned so as to target anomalies identified during a detailed gradiometer magnetic survey conducted by ASE in 2009. Archaeological features comprising ditches and postholes were identified during the field evaluation in six of the trenches. These features did not correlate with the linear features identified during the geophysical survey.</i></p> <p><i>Of the four postholes uncovered during the excavations, only one contained artefacts and was datable to the 11th-12th century by pottery sherds. A north-south ditch was also revealed along the western edge of the site and contained pottery and tile fragments of 14th-15th century date. This ditch corresponds with the alignment of a dark shaded area identified in the LiDAR survey. Four of the trenches revealed undated linear gullies on a northwest-southeast orientation. Finds from the overburden across the site comprised pottery sherds and post-medieval ceramic building material, slate, slag and a single clay tobacco pipe stem fragment. Natural geology consisting of Tunbridge Wells Sand was encountered at its highest in the northeast of the site at 172.85m AOD (Trench 11) and at its lowest in the southwest at 166.04m AOD in the south (Trench 3).</i></p>						

OASIS FORM

OASIS ID: archaeo16-73045

Project details

Project name	Glebe Land, Church Lane, Frant
Short description of the project	<p>An archaeological evaluation was carried out by Archaeology South East (ASE) on Glebe Land at Church Lane, Frant, East Sussex (NGR: TQ 5885 3568) between the 8th and 11th February 2010. The work was commissioned by Development Archaeological Services (DAS) on behalf of their client, to assess the archaeological potential of the site in advance of the proposed new school development. The site is located in a field adjacent to Church Lane. Eleven trenches were excavated with a cumulative length of 230 metres, positioned so as to target anomalies identified during a detailed gradiometer magnetic survey conducted by ASE in 2009. Archaeological features comprising ditches and postholes were identified during the field evaluation in six of the trenches. Of the four postholes uncovered during the excavations, only one contained artefacts and was datable to the 11th-12th century by pottery sherds. A north-south ditch was also revealed along the western edge of the site and contained pottery and tile fragments of 14th-15th century date. Four of the trenches revealed undated linear gullies on a northwest-southeast orientation. It is possible that these features formed part of a possible field drainage system. Finds from the overburden across the site comprised pottery sherds and post-medieval ceramic building material, slate, slag and a single clay tobacco pipe stem fragment. Natural geology consisting of Tunbridge Wells Sand was encountered at its highest in the northeast of the site at 172.85m AOD (Trench 11) and at its lowest in the southwest at 166.04m AOD in the south (Trench 3).</p>
Project dates	Start: 08-02-2010 End: 11-02-2010
Any associated project reference codes	FRA 10 - Sitecode
Any associated project reference codes	WD/2860/CC - Planning Application No.
Type of project	Field evaluation

Current Land use	Vacant Land 2 - Vacant land not previously developed
Monument type	POSTHOLE Medieval
Monument type	DICTH Medieval
Monument type	GULLIES Uncertain
Monument type	POSTHOLES Uncertain
Significant Finds	POTTERY AND CBM Medieval
Significant Finds	POTTERY AND CBM Post Medieval
Methods & techniques	'Targeted Trenches'
Development type	Public building (e.g. school, church, hospital, medical centre, law courts etc.)
Prompt	Planning condition
Position in the planning process	After full determination (eg. As a condition)

Project location

Country	England
Site location	EAST SUSSEX WEALDEN FRANT Glebe Land, Church Lane, Frant
Postcode	TN3 9
Study area	1.40 Hectares
Site coordinates	TQ 5885 3568 51.0978299063 0.268919736216 51 05 52 N 000 16 08 E Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 166.04m Max: 172.85m

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Archaeology South East
Project brief originator	Archaeology South East
Project design originator	East Sussex County Council
Project director/manager	Neil Griffin

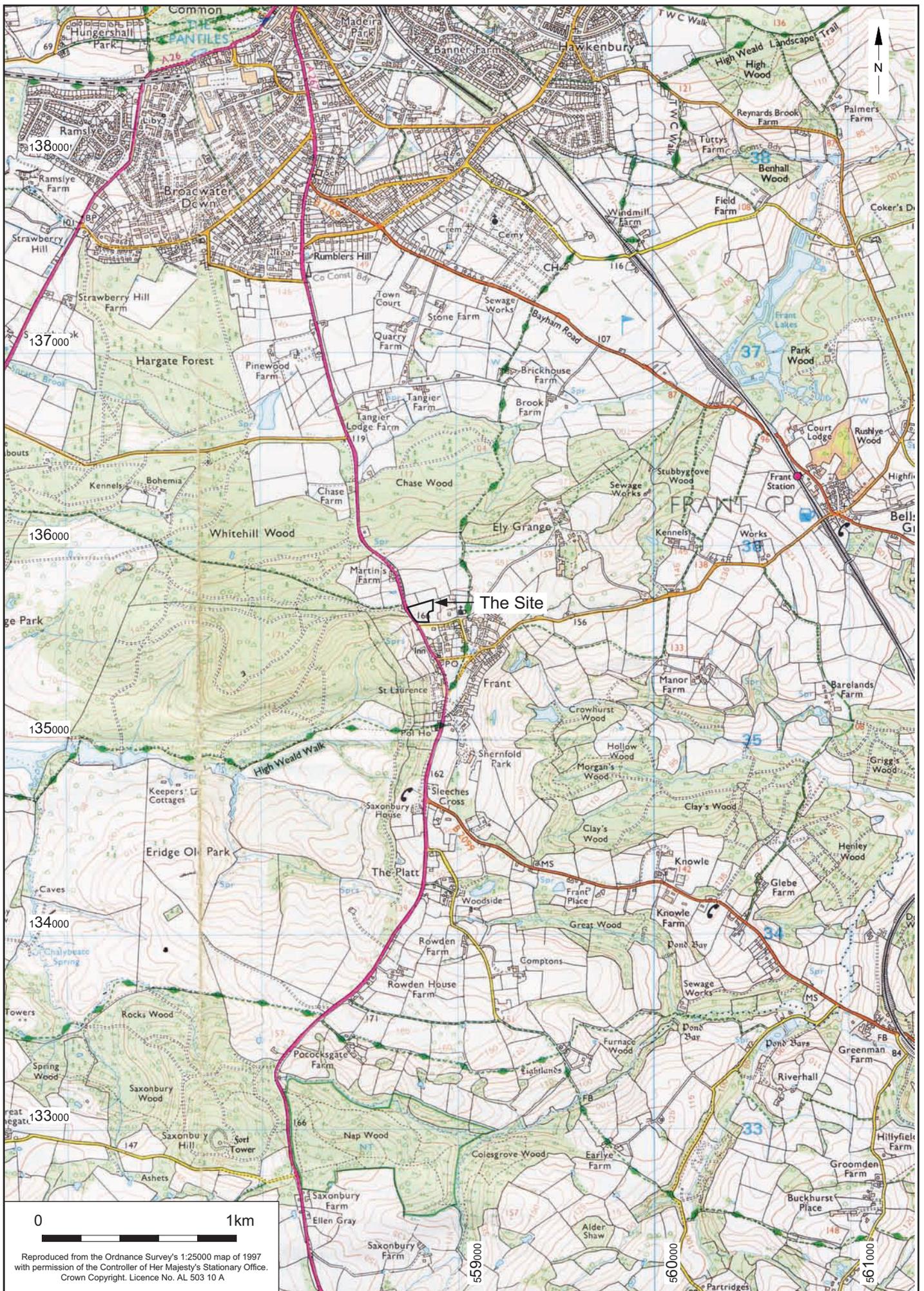
Project supervisor Kathryn Grant

Type of sponsor/funding body consultant

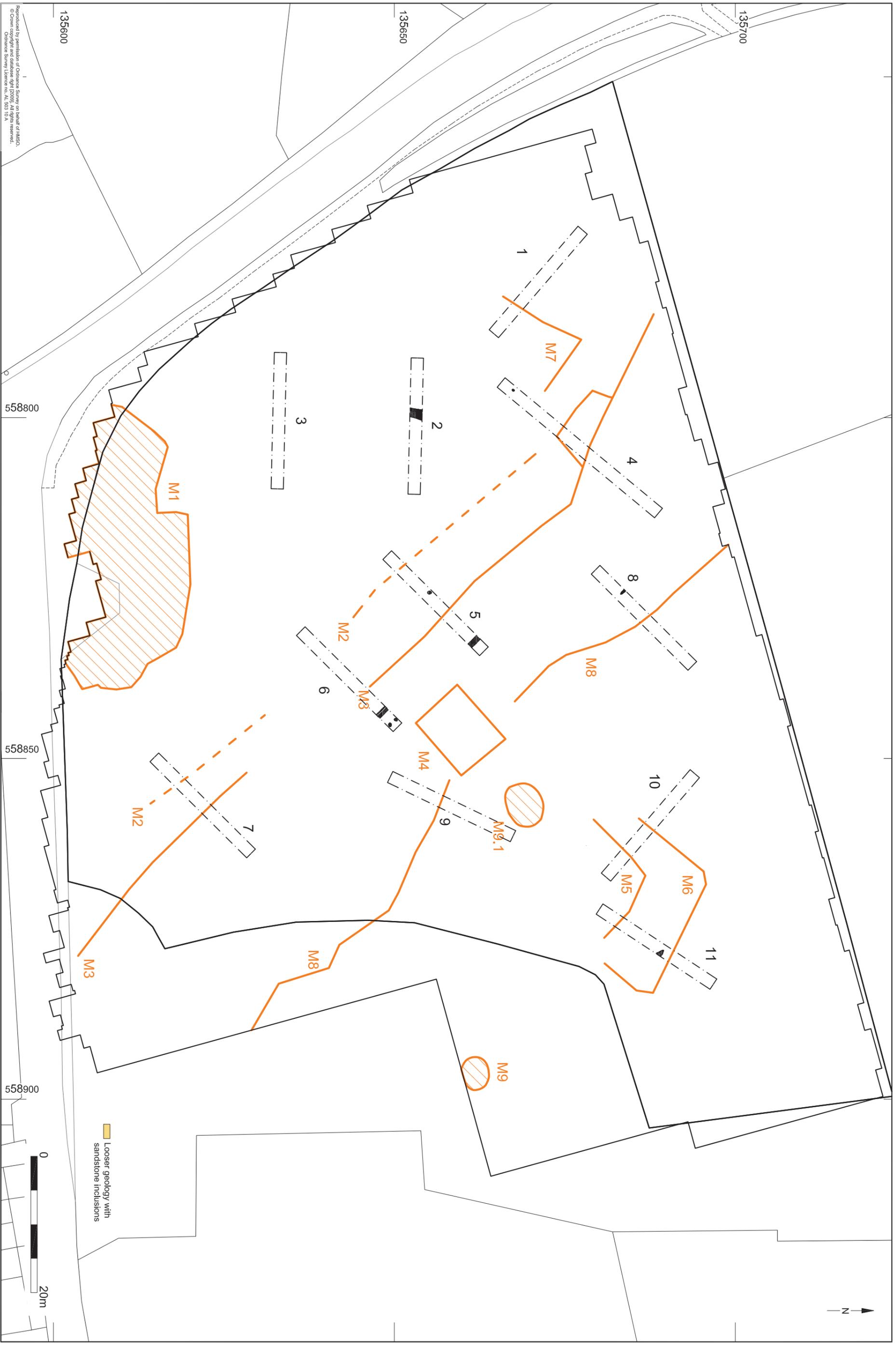
Name of sponsor/funding body Development Archaeological Services (DAS)

Entered by Kathryn Grant (Kathryn.Grant@ucl.ac.uk)

Entered on 26 February 2010



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Project Ref: 4186	Feb 2010	Site location	
Report Ref: 2010015	Drawn by: JLR	Fig. 1	

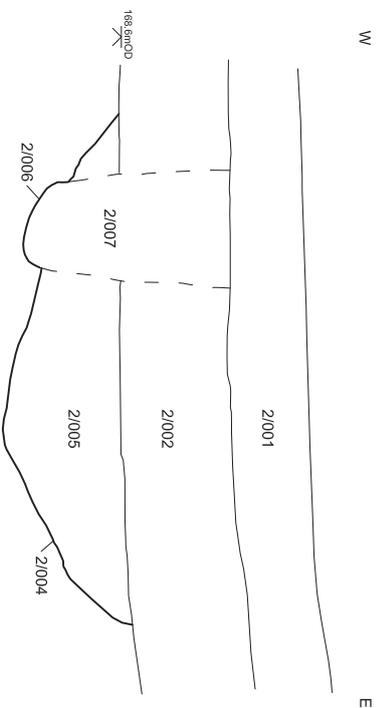
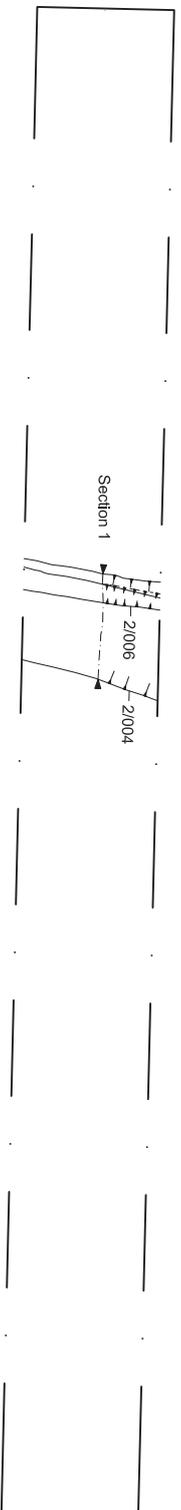


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Trench location plan overlain onto LIDAR and geophysics survey data

Fig. 2



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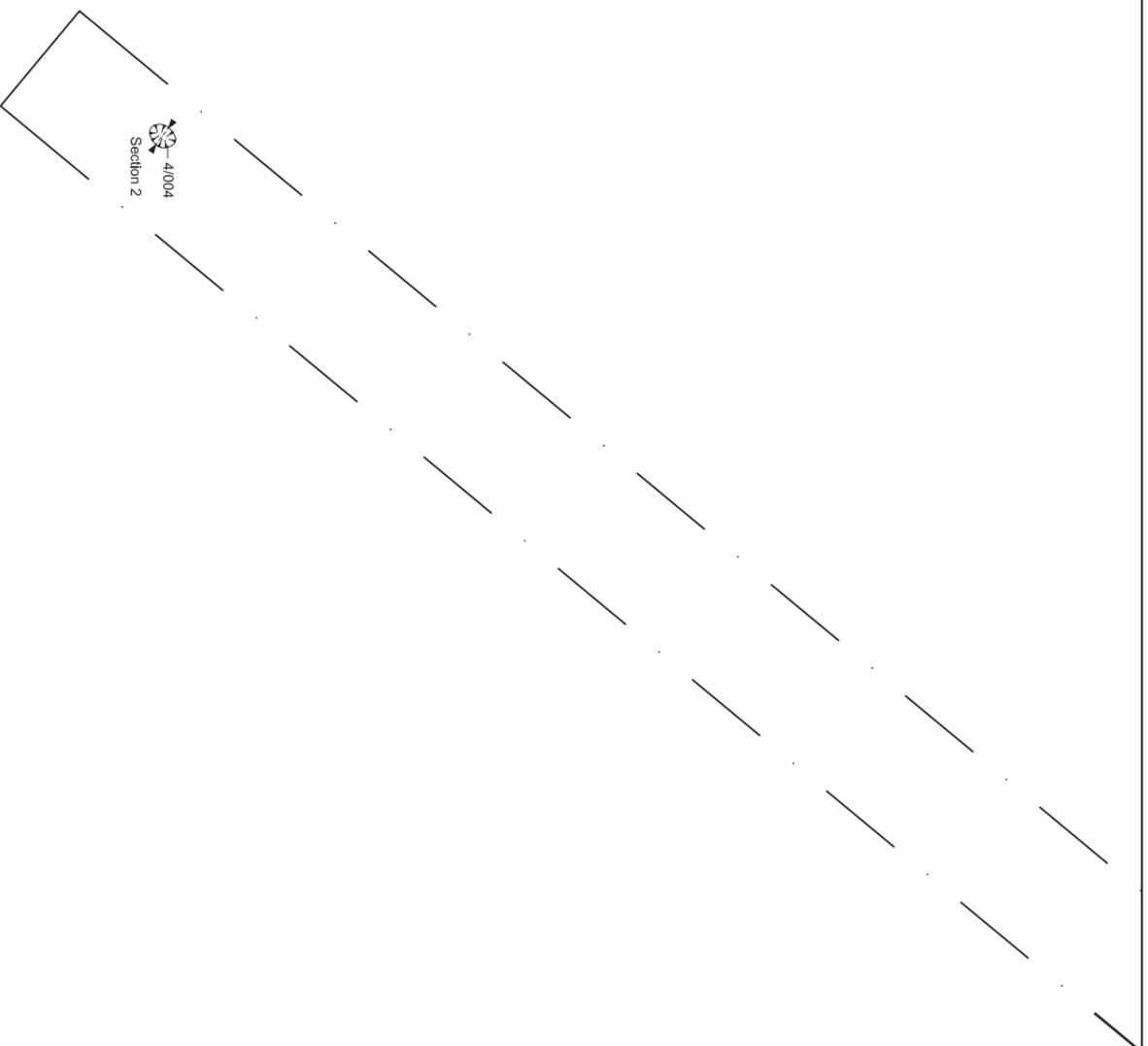
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Feb 2010
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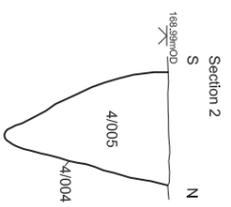
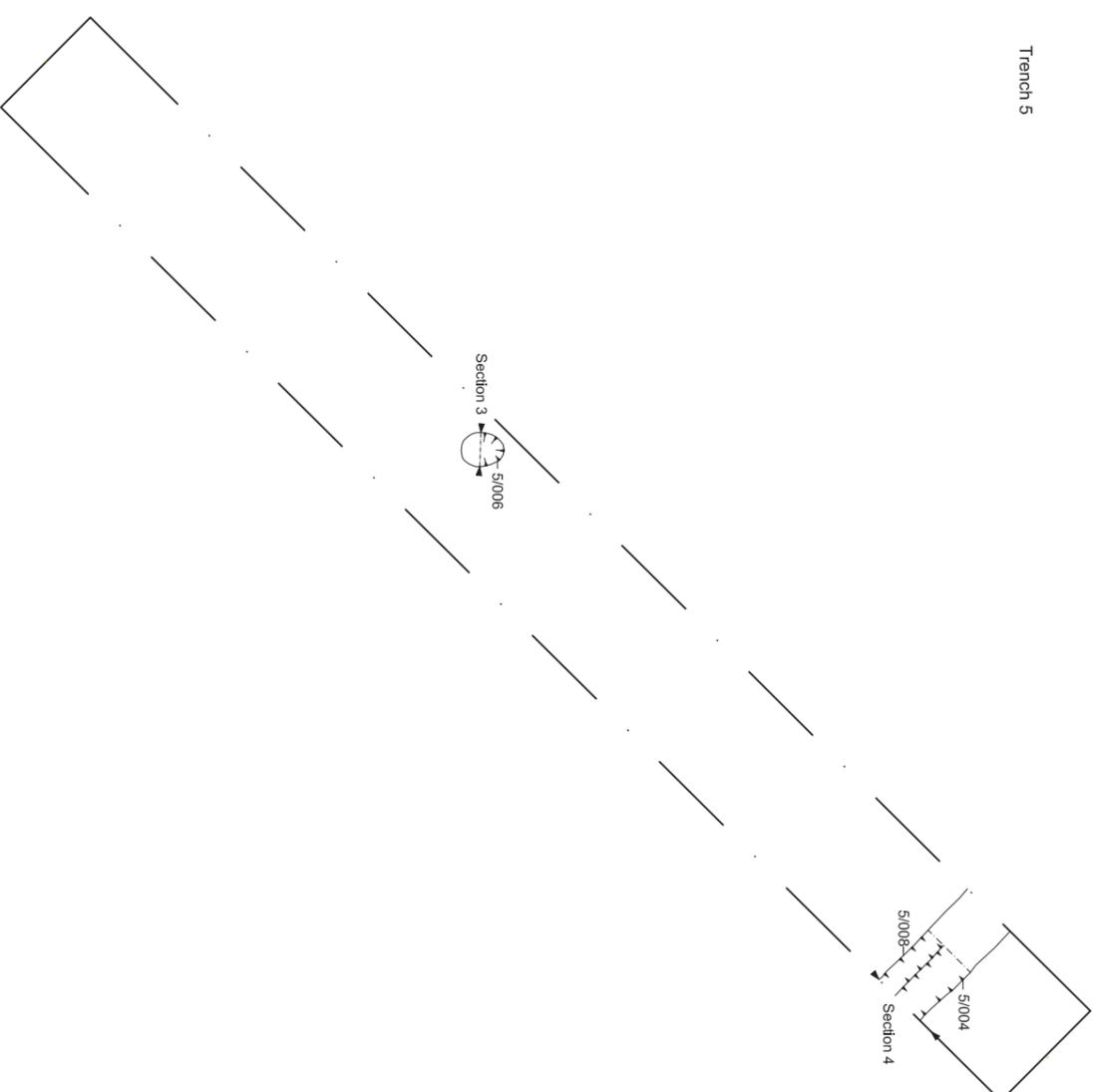
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Trench 2 plan and section

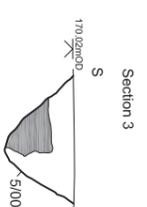
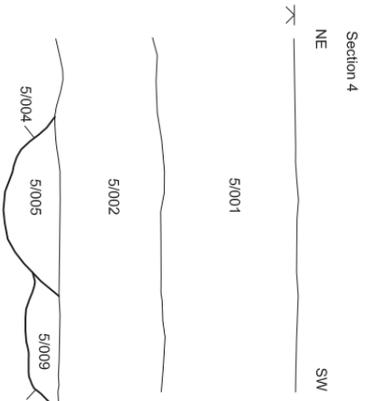
Trench 4



Trench 5



Section 2



Sandstone

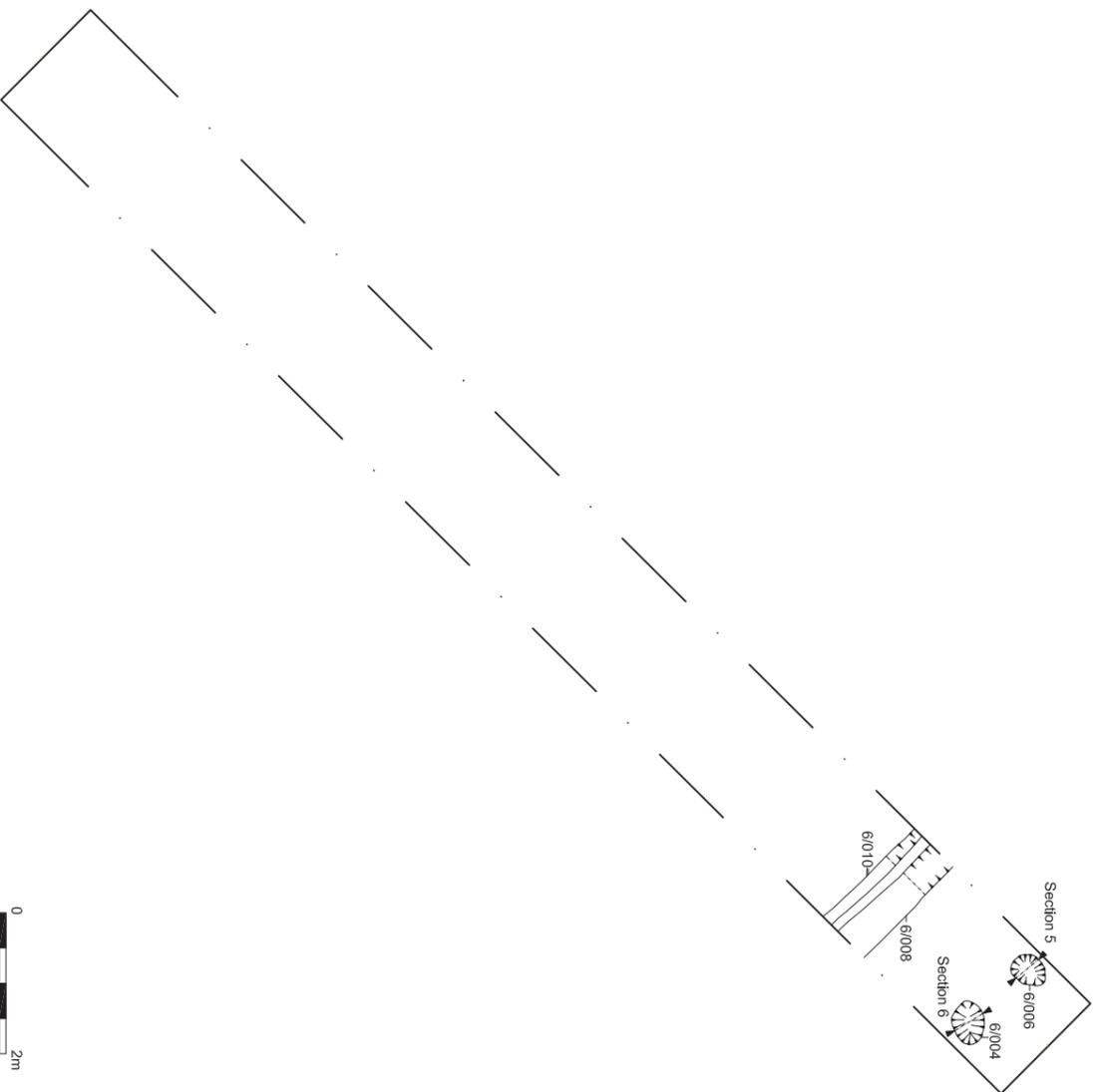


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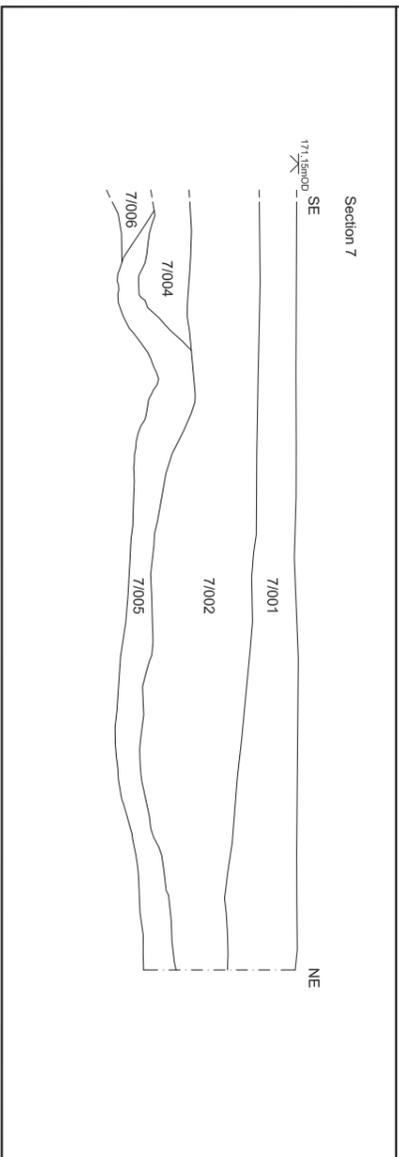
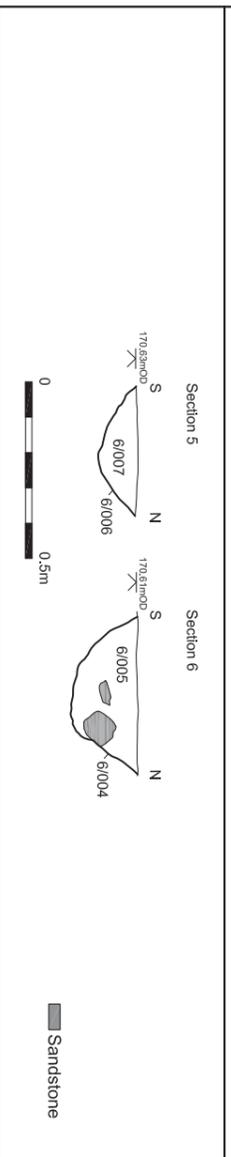
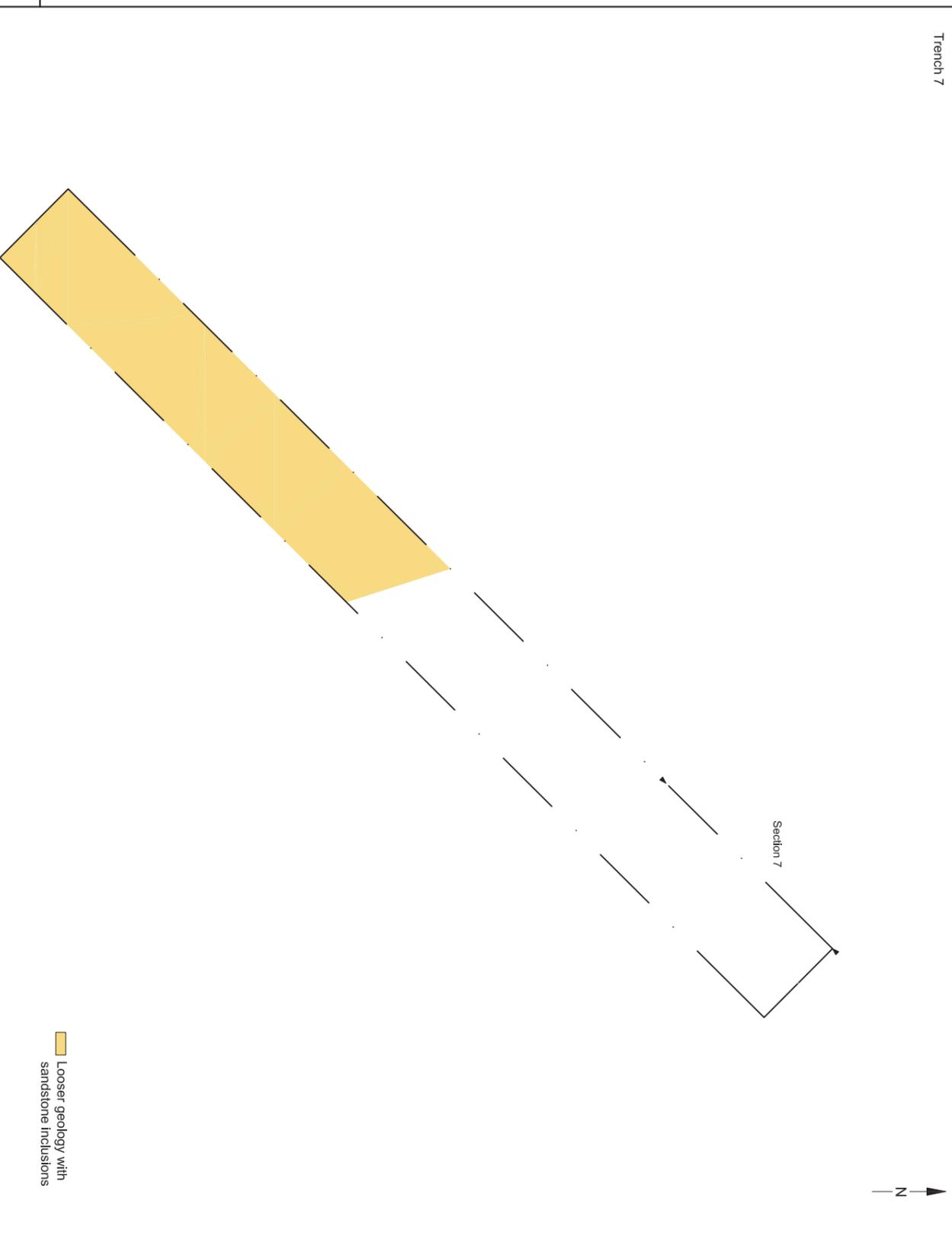


Trench 5

Trench 6

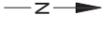
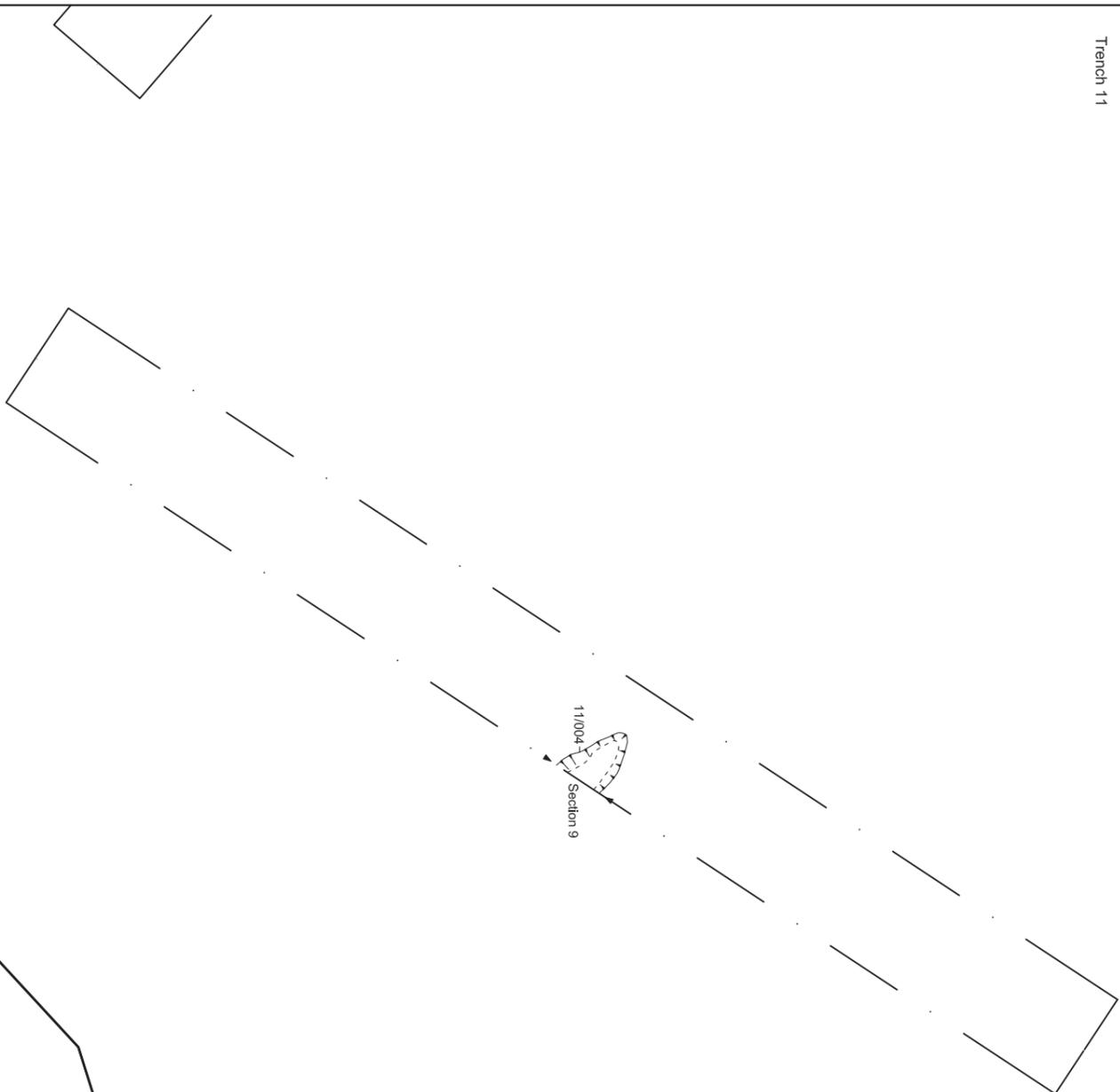
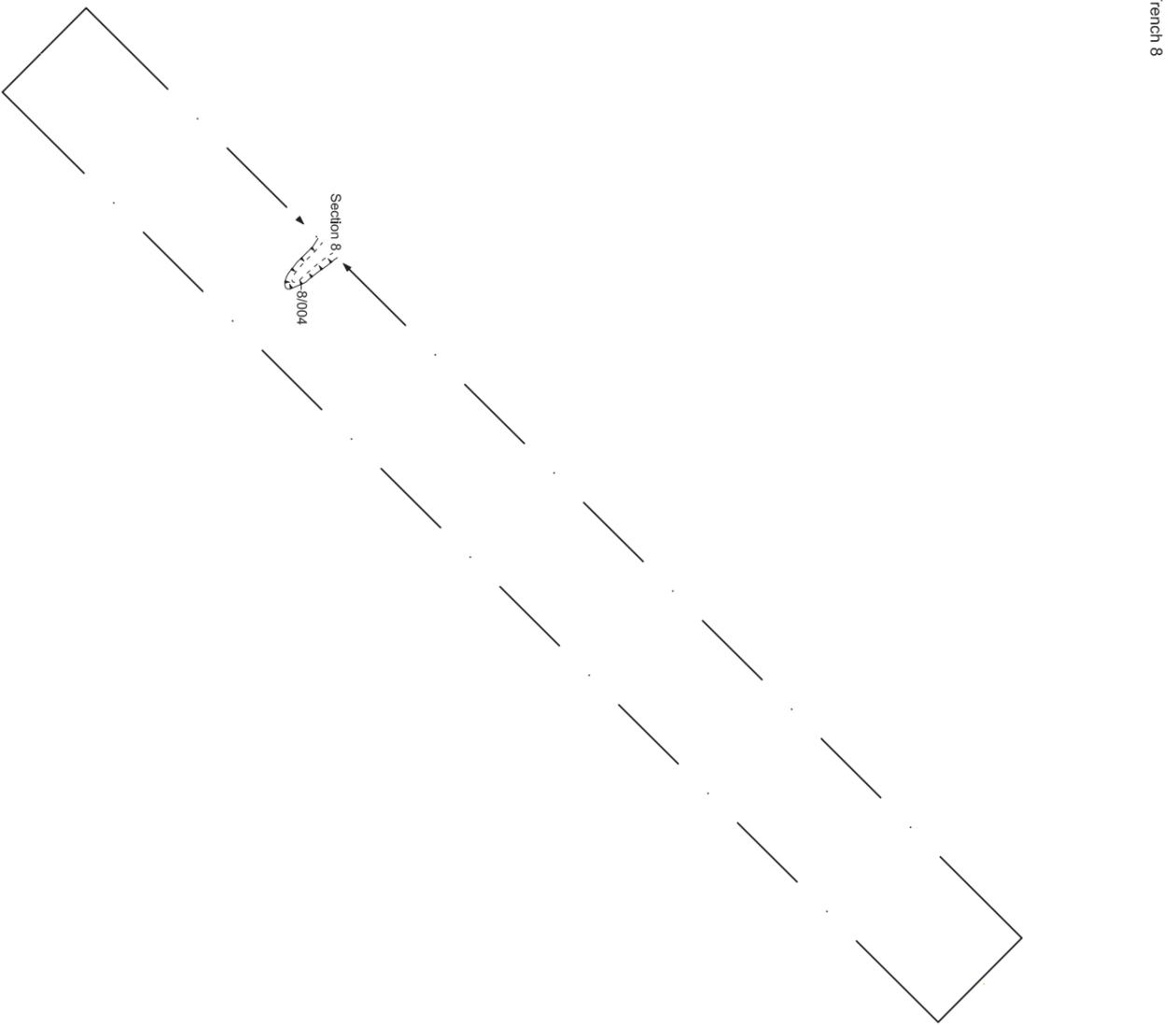


Trench 7



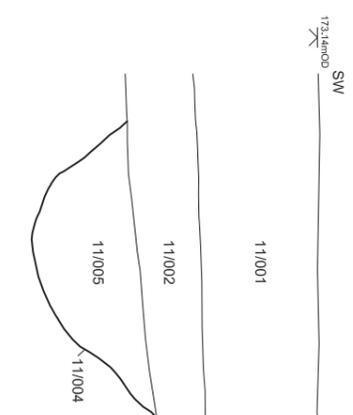
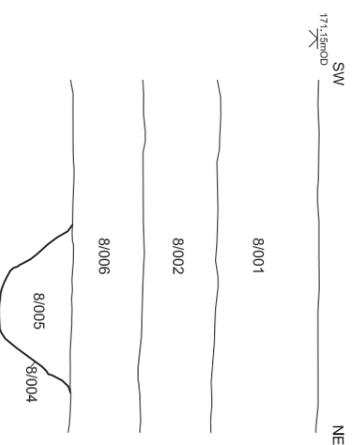
Trench 8

Trench 11



Section 8

Section 9





Trench 1



Trench 2



Trench 3



Trench 9



Trench 10

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