

**An Archaeological Evaluation at Hempstead Lane,
Hailsham, East Sussex**

**Planning Ref:WD/2008/0631MRM
(APP/C1435/A/07/2044517/2044518)**

**NGR: 557800 110300
(TQ 57800 10300)**

**Project No:4146
Site Code: HLH09**

**ASE Report No. 2010068
OASIS id:77694**

**Sarah Porteus
With contributions by
Fiona Griffin, Justin Russel, Luke Barber and Karine LeHegarar**

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Abstract

Archaeology South-East were commissioned by CgMs Consulting to undertake an archaeological evaluation on behalf of their client. Fourteen trial trenches were excavated, nine of which were targeted on anomalies identified in a previous geophysical survey. Most of the anomalies proved to be non-archaeological in origin although there were seven probable drainage or boundary ditches identified in Trenches 2, 4, 5, 6 and 9. The ditches are of probable post-medieval date.

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Site Background

1.1.1 Archaeology South-East were commissioned by CgMs Consulting to carry out a programme of archaeological works on land at Hempstead Lane, Hailsham, East Sussex (NGR:557800 110300, Fig.1).

1.2 Geology and Topography

1.2.1 The site occupies an area of grass land with mature trees around the perimeter and a hedge line crossing south-west to north-east through the site.

1.2.2 The site has a moderate slope south to north down towards Hempstead lane.

1.2.3 The underlying geology of the site is Weald Clay with band of marker clay running east-west through the north of the site (British Geological Survey Shet 319.334).

1.3 Planning Background

1.3.1 The site has planning consent WD/2008/0631MRM, APP/C1435/A/07/2044517/2044518. A condition (no. 9) was attached archaeological planning condition which required the implementation of a scheme of archaeological investigation.

1.3.2 It was recommended by the East Sussex County Council Archaeological Officer (in their role as advisor on archaeological matters to the Local Planning Authority), that a geophysical survey of the site followed by further archaeological investigation as / if necessary would be an appropriate mitigation strategy.

1.3.3 The initial phase of geophysical investigations revealed a series of anomalies with archaeological potential (ASE 2010). Following consultation between CgMs Consulting and Greg Chuter, Archaeological Officer, East Sussex County Council (ESCC) a series of evaluation trenches were proposed to further investigate the anomalies and archaeological potential of the site (CgMs 2010).

1.3.4 The archaeological evaluation forms the second phase of investigations and will inform decisions on future work and any further archaeological mitigation measures.

1.4 Aims and Objectives

1.4.3 The general aims of the evaluation as detailed in the written scheme of investigation (WSI) (CgMs 2010) are:

To determine the presence/absence and the specific nature of any late Prehistoric remains.

To determine the presence/absence and the specific nature of any

Roman or later remains.

To determine the extent of past land use and agricultural activities on the site.

To characterise the nature of the geophysical anomalies found during geophysical survey.

To determine or confirm the character, condition, approximate date or date range, distribution and potential of any remains, by means of artefactual or other evidence where development is proposed.

1.4.4 The specific aims of the archaeological works are:

To determine the presence/absence and the specific nature, distribution and condition of any archaeological features or finds assemblages.

To provide information on which to base future decisions concerning further archaeological work ahead of proposed redevelopment on the site.

1.5 Scope of Report

1.5.1 This report represents the findings of the archaeological evaluation undertaken by Sarah Porteus (Archaeologist), Karine LeHegarat and Gary Webster (assistant archaeologist) between the 10th and 15th of May 2010. The project was managed by Neil Griffin (fieldwork) and Jim Stevenson (post excavation).

2.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 Introduction

2.1.1 An investigation of the archaeological and historical background of the site was undertaken as part of the WSI (CgMs 2010). This information is summarised below with due acknowledgement.

2.1.2 An HER search a 1km radius surrounding the site revealed no sites of designated importance, including Scheduled Monuments, Registered Historic Gardens, Registered Battlefields or listed buildings. The site is recorded as late post-medieval fieldscapes in the East Sussex Historic Landscape Characterisation.

2.2 Prehistoric (450 000 BC – 43AD)

2.2.1 The lack of prehistoric finds or sites within the area is possibly due to a lack of investigations rather than an absence of prehistoric remains. Prehistoric activity may have focussed more along the gravel terraces of the Cuckmere Valley.

2.3 Roman (AD43-409)

2.3.1 A single fragment of Roman metalworking debris was recorded from metal detecting at Michelham Farm around 750m to the south-west of the site (HER EES12884, TQ56900 09600).

2.4 Medieval (AD410 – 1539)

2.4.1 A possible moated site suggested to lie next to the River Cuckmere around 750m north-west of the Hempstead Lane site was shown to be of recent date (Oxford Arch 2008). A second possible moated site is recorded at Boship Farm (HER MES4386, TQ 5709 1111).

2.4.2 A tile kiln in Tilehurst wood to the west of Hempstead lane (TQ 575 097) is believed to be of medieval date and under the ownership of Michelham Priory and mentioned in the conveyance of 1587 (Beswick 1993).

2.5 Post-medieval

2.5.1 Post-medieval buildings are present at Hempstead farm, c.200m west of the site. Several 19th century quarries are also recorded within a 1km radius of the site also with one at Hempstead Farm (HER MES7816, TQ56970 10000).

2.5.2 No less than four post-medieval brick and tile works are also recorded within 1km radius of the site.

2.5.3 Historic map regression shows that the site lay on the edge of woodland, 'tile hurst' wood, and occupied three fields to the south of Hempstead lane. A building depicted on the first ordinance survey map of 1879 was removed by 1899 and replaced by a pond. Field boundaries from the north and centre of the site were removed between 1910 and 2009.

3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY

- 3.1** A total of 14 trial trenches were excavated (Fig. 2). Trenches 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 8, 9, 10 and 11 were targeted on geophysical anomalies (Fig. 3). Trenches 6, 7, 12, 13 and 14 were located on areas where no geophysical anomalies were recorded.
- 3.2** Trenches 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 measured 20 metres in length. Trenches 5, 7, 8, 9, 10 and 12 measured 30 metres.
- 3.3** Trench 11 was shortened by 2 metres to 28 metres in order to avoid encroaching on the tree roots from the neighbouring hedgerow.
- 3.4** Trench 12 was rotated to a south-east to north-west alignment in order to avoid the risk of striking overhead power cables.
- 3.5** Trench 13 was shortened to 18.5 metres and rotated to a south-west to north-east alignment in order to avoid overhead power lines, to move the trench beyond the tree canopies and to maintain maximum distance from the pond to the east.
- 3.6** All work was undertaken to the standards outlined by the Institute of Field Archaeologist's Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Excavations (as amended 1994) and 'Standards for Archaeological Fieldwork, recording, and Post-Excavation Work in East Sussex' (ESCC 2008).
- 3.7** Excavation of the trenches was undertaken using a 360 degree mechanical excavator equipped with a 1.8 metre wide toothless bucket. Machine excavation was undertaken under constant supervision by a qualified archaeologist in spits of no more than 0.10 metre thickness.
- 3.8** Excavation by machine was taken down to the top of any archaeological layer or deposit or the top of the 'natural' substrate where no archaeological deposits were found at a higher level.
- 3.9** Any finds recovered were bagged separately and clearly labelled by context and retained for examination by ASE specialists. All removed spoil was scanned using a metal detector to recover any artefacts.
- 3.10** Material excavated from features suitable potential for environmental processing was collected.
- 3.11** All contexts were recorded on pro forma context recording forms.
- 3.12** A digital and colour slide photographic record was maintained of the excavations.
- 3.13** Sections of archaeological features were drawn at a scale of 1:10 with plans at a scale of 1:20 where appropriate. Sample sections at a scale of 1:50 or 1:20 were recorded for trenches without archaeological features or deposits. All trenches and features were levelled in relation to ordnance datum heights. Feature and trench locations were surveyed in using GPS.

3.14 Following a meeting between Lorraine Darton of CgMs Consulting, Neil Griffin of ASE and Greg Chuter of ESCC the trenches were signed off and backfilled following the completion of recording and excavation. The trenches were compacted to the specifications of the attending ecologist.

Number of Contexts	76
No. of files/paper record	1
Plan and sections sheets	2
Bulk Samples	5
Photographs	1 colour slide film, 1 digital CD
Bulk finds	1 small box
Registered finds	0
Environmental flots/residue	5

Table 1: Quantification of site archive

4.0 RESULTS

4.1 The general stratigraphy across the site consisted of natural yellow Weald Clay, [003], with occasional ironstone or manganese flecks, overlain by a friable dark greyish brown subsoil, [002], containing abraded fragments of CBM, overlain by a friable dark greyish brown topsoil, [001]. In Trenches 1, 7, 10, 11, 12, 13 and 14 no archaeological features were observed.

4.3 Trench 1

List of recorded contexts

Number	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Deposit Depth	Height m.AOD
1/001	Deposit	Topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.25	30.16-29.57
1/002	Deposit	Subsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.05	29.91-29.32
1/003	Deposit	Natural	N/A	N/A	N/A	29.86-29.27

4.3.1 Summary

This trench was targeted on a linear geophysical anomaly.

The trench revealed a simple stratigraphy of natural Weald Clay, overlain by subsoil and topsoil.

A slight perceptible linear disturbance was visible in the ground surface but appeared to be a surface feature only present in the topsoil and probably accounts for the geophysical anomaly previously identified. The disturbance to the south-west of the Trench 1 ('B' on Figure 3) is accounted for by the remains of a bonfire.

No archaeological features, deposits or artefacts were present.

4.4 Trench 2 (Fig. 4)

List of recorded contexts

Number	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Deposit Thickness	Height m.AOD
2/001	Deposit	Topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.40	28.55
2/002	Deposit	Subsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.13	28.15
2/003	Deposit	Natural	N/A	N/A	N/A	28.02
2/004	Cut	Ditch Cut	Tr.	1.50	0.30	
2/005	Fill	Ditch Fill	Tr.	1.50	0.30	
2/006	Cut	Modern ditch cut	Tr.	1.20	0.30	28.28
2/007	Fill	Modern Ditch	Tr.	1.20	0.30	28.28

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4.4.1 Summary

Trench 2 targeted two linear geophysical anomalies. The most westerly of these was identified in the evaluation trench as a shallow linear feature, [2/006], of 1.20m width and a depth of 0.30m. The feature was filled by a dark, damp humid deposit of decomposing grass [2/007], this feature is of recent origin and not of archaeological interest.

Cut into the natural clay, [2/003], was a 'U' shaped linear ditch, [2/004], of 1.50m maximum width and a depth of 0.30m. The ditch was filled by a firm, dark greyish brown silty clay [2/005]. Overlying the backfill of the ditch was subsoil deposit [2/002] of 0.13m thickness which was in turn overlain by topsoil deposit [2/001] of 0.40m thickness. Ditch [2/004] contained fragments of post-medieval CBM and is most likely a post-medieval drainage ditch.

The geophysical anomaly does not exactly correspond to this feature in the overlay plan (Figure 3). However, it is possible that the survey detected the slight thickening of subsoil built up to the east of ditch [2/004].

4.5 Trench 3 (Fig. 5)

List of recorded contexts

Number	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Deposit Thickness	Height m.AOD
3/001	Deposit	Topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.30	27.36 - 28.56
3/002	Deposit	Subsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.10 – 0.30	27.06-28.26
3/003	Deposit	Natural	N/A	N/A	N/A	26.96 – 27.96
3/004	Cut?	Cut of slope/ditch	Tr.	1.35m?	0.35	27.83
3/005	Fill	Fill of ditch/ deposit within slope	Tr.	1.35m?	0.35	27.83
3/006	Deposit	Deposit	6.00	Tr.	0.05-0.10	27.86

4.5.1 Summary

Trench 3 targeted a wide linear anomaly. No evidence for any archaeological feature was identified within the trench, however the anomaly coincided with an area of increased thickness of subsoil.

The natural clay [3/003] was encountered at a maximum height of 27.96m AOD, to the north of the trench the land dropped sharply to 26.96m AOD. Context [3/003] was overlain by friable dark greyish brown subsoil deposit [3/002] of variable thickness. At the northern end of the trench, deposit [3/002] was 0.10m thick, to the south, (beyond cut [3/004]), the deposit thickened to 0.30m, possibly accounting for the geophysical

anomaly.

The subsoil appeared to have been intentionally cut, [3/004]. There was no clear northern edge of the cut to conclusively suggest a ditch feature. Within [3/004] was a fine sticky red silty clay deposit [3/005] which contained fragments of slate and CBM.

Overlying the subsoil in the central 6 metres of the trench was a 0.05 to 0.10 metre thick, patchy deposit of chalk flecks and abraded CBM fragments [3/006]. Overlying [3/006] was 0.30m of topsoil, [3/001].

4.6 Trench 4 (Fig. 6)

List of recorded contexts

Number	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Deposit Depth	Height m.AOD
4/001	Dep	Topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.20	29.73-30.21
4/002	Dep	Subsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.20	29.53-30.01
4/003	Nat	Natural	N/A	N/A	N/A	29.33-29.81
4/004	Cut	Ditch cut PM field boundary	Tr.	0.55	0.50	29.86
4/005	Fill	Fill of field boundary	Tr.	0.55	0.20	29.86
4/006	Cut?	Possible cut	Tr.	2.00	0.30	29.73
4/007	Fill?	Fill of cut	Tr.	2.00	0.30	29.73

4.6.1 Summary

Trench 4 was located to investigate a north south linear anomaly. The natural clay, [4/003], was encountered at a minimum depth of 29.33mAOD. Overlying the natural clay was a 0.20m thick friable dark greyish brown subsoil [4/002] containing a moderate amount of CBM.

Cut into the subsoil was a ditch, [4/004], of 0.55m width and 0.50m depth. The ditch was only partially filled by a friable dark brown silty clay [4/005] of 0.20m thickness (see Section 3, Figure 6). The ditch remained clearly visible on the surface and is probably the remnant of the field boundary removed between 1910 and 2009.

A 2.00m wide depression, [4/006], was observed in section with a depth of 0.30m from the surface. The depression was filled by [4/007] a loose topsoil, the change in density may be responsible for the geophysical anomaly, identified in the survey.

A 0.20m thick deposit of topsoil [4/001] overlay the subsoil in the remainder of the trench.

4.7 Trench 5 (Fig. 7)

List of recorded contexts

Number	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Deposit Depth	Height m.AOD
5/001	Dep	Topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.20-0.28	29.71 – 29.13
5/002	Dep	Subsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.10-0.12	29.51-28.85
5/003	Nat	Natural	N/A	N/A	N/a	29.41-28.73
5/004	Cut	Cut of field boundary ditch	Tr.	1.70	0.20	28.73
5/005	Fill	Fill of field boundary ditch	Tr.	1.70	0.20	28.73

4.7.1 Summary

Trench 5 was located to target a north-south orientated linear feature. The natural clay, [5/003], was encountered at 28.73m at the north-west, rising to 29.41m at the south-east.

Cut into the natural clay was a wide 'U' shaped ditch, [5/004], with shallow sloping side and 1.70 metre width and 0.20 metre depth. Filling the ditch was a sticky orangish brown silty clay with occasional CBM inclusions and occasional iron stone flecking [5/005] of 0.20m thickness. The location of the ditch, parallel to the visible field boundary in Trench 4 suggests it is possibly an earlier cut of the same feature.

Overlying the backfill of the ditch and covering the area of the trench was a 0.10 to 0.12 metre thick, friable dark greyish brown subsoil deposit, [5/002], which was in turn overlain by topsoil, [5/001].

4.8 Trench 6 (Fig. 8)

List of recorded contexts

Number	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Deposit Depth	Height m.AOD
6/001	Dep	Topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.20	30.45
6/002	Dep	Subsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.20	30.25
6/003	Nat	Natural	N/A	N/A	N/A	30.05
6/004	Cut	Cut of ditch	Tr.	1.20	0.20	30.00
6/005	Fill	Fill of ditch	Tr.	1.20	0.20	30.00
6/006	Cut	Cut of ditch	Tr.	0.87	0.30	30.05
6/007	Fill	Fill of ditch	Tr.	0.87	0.30	30.05

4.8.1 Summary

Trench 6 did not target any geophysical anomalies. The natural clay [6/003] was encountered at a depth of 30.05m.AOD. Cut into the natural were two linear ditch features running roughly parallel to each other in a north-south direction.

Ditch [6/004] was 1.20m wide with a wide shallow 'U' shape and 0.20m depth and was filled by [6/005], a greyish yellow brown silty clay.

Ditch [6/006] was a wide shallow 'U' shape of 0.87m width and 0.30m thickness and filled by [6/007], a sticky greyish yellow brown clayey silt containing a possible pottery fragment.

It is possible that these ditches continue into Trench 9 where features on a similar alignment were identified.

The cut features were overlain by a 0.20m thick friable dark greyish brown subsoil [6/002] with moderate abraded CBM inclusions, which was in turn overlain by a 0.20m thick topsoil deposit.

4.9 Trench 7

List of recorded contexts

Number	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Deposit Depth	Height m.AOD
7/001	Dep	Topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.20-0.30	31.00-32.11
7/002	Dep	Subsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.20-0.30	30.80-31.81
7/003	Nat	Natural	N/A	N/A	N/A	30.60-31.51

4.9.1 Summary

The trench revealed a simple stratigraphy of natural Weald Clay, overlain by subsoil and topsoil.

No archaeological features, deposits or artefacts were present.

4.8 Trench 8 (Fig. 9)

List of recorded contexts

Number	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Deposit Depth	Height m.AOD
8/001	Dep	Topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.20	32.59-32.14
8/002	Dep	Subsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.20-0.30	32.39-31.94
8/003	Nat	Natural	N/A	N/A	N/A	32.19 – 31.64
8/004	Cut	Cut of modern field boundary	N/A	1.00	0.28	32.58
8/005	Fill	Fill of ditch	N/A	1.00	0.10	32.50
8/006	Fill	Fill of ditch	N/A	1.00	0.10	32.40

4.8.1 Summary

Trench 8 was targeted on two geophysical anomalies; a north-west to south-east linear and a patch of suspected modern origin. No evidence was found for the linear anomaly beyond a slight bank associated with the modern field boundary, [8/004]. The anomaly to the south west being is likely attributable to a slight change in the natural clay.

The natural clay [8/003] was encountered at a minimum depth of 32.14mAOD. The natural was overlain by a friable dark greyish brown subsoil [8/002] of 0.20m thickness to the south west and 0.30m thickness to the north east.

Cut into the subsoil was a modern field boundary ditch [8/004] a steep sided, 1m wide, flat bottomed ditch. Two fills were visible in the boundary ditch, the base fill [8/006], a soft light greyish brown silty clay of 0.10m thickness contained fragments of rubber shoe sole and was overlain by [8/005] a humic dark greyish brown deposit of 0.10m thickness.

Overlying the subsoil to the north east was a 0.20m thick topsoil deposit, [8/001], the deposit was thinner to the south west of the ditch.

4.9 Trench 9 (Fig. 9)

List of recorded contexts

Number	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Deposit Depth	Height m.AOD
9/001	Dep	Topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.20-0.30	32.35-31.82
9/002	Dep	Subsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.26-0.20	31.05-31.62
9/003	Nat	Natural	N/A	N/A	N/A	30.79-31.42
9/004	Cut	Cut of ditch		1.40	0.35	27.56
9/005	Fill	Fill of ditch		1.40	0.35	27.56
9/006	Cut	Cut of ditch		1.40	0.22	27.34
9/007	Fill	Fill of ditch		1.40	0.22	27.34
9/008	Cut	Cut of ditch		1.80	0.10	27.81
9/009	Fill	Fill of ditch		1.80	0.10	27.81

4.9.1 Summary

Trench 9 was located to target two linear and one apparently square anomaly. The natural clay [9/003] was encountered between 31.42mAOD at the south west reducing to 31.42 at the north east.

Cut into the natural clay were three cut linear features running north-west to south-east.

Feature [9/004] was a steep sided 'U' shaped ditch with gradual slope at the base of 1.40m maximum width and a depth of 0.35mAOD which was filled by a friable greyish brown sandy clay [9/005] of 0.35m thickness with occasional CBM fragments.

Running parallel to [9/004] was [9/006] a 1.4m wide fairly steep sided 'U'

shaped ditch of 0.22m depth and filled by a mid greenish yellow silty clay [9/007] of 0.22m thickness.

To the far south west of the trench was a 1.8m wide 0.10m deep very shallow linear feature [9/008] filled by a light greyish yellow silty clay [9/009] of 0.10m thickness.

The features were overlain by a friable dark greyish brown subsoil [9/002] of between 0.20 and 0.26m thickness which was in turn overlain by a 0.20 to 0.30m thick topsoil [9/001].

The cut features appear to align with the geophysical anomalies, the two deeper features appear to be drainage ditches which are on the same approximate alignment as ditches identified in Trench 6. The wide shallow feature possibly represents an undulation in the underlying geology rather than a genuine archaeological cut feature.

4.10 Trench 10

List of recorded contexts

Number	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Deposit Depth	Height m.AOD
10/001	Dep	Topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.20	33.09-33.20
10/002	Dep	Subsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.14-0.20	32.89-33.00
10/003	Nat	Natural	N/A	N/A	N/A	32.69-32.86

4.10.1 Summary

This trench was targeted on a linear geophysical anomaly.

The trench revealed a simple stratigraphy of natural Weald Clay, overlain by subsoil and topsoil.

A slight increase in subsoil thickness associated with the southwest boundary of the site is the most likely source of the geophysical anomaly.

No archaeological features, deposits or artefacts were present.

4.11 Trench 11

List of recorded contexts

Number	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Deposit Depth	Height m.AOD
11/001	Dep	Topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.20-0.30	29.87-29.91
11/002	Dep	Subsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.20-0.28	-
11/003	Nat	Natural	N/A	N/A	N/A	29.50-29.75

4.11.1 Summary

This trench was targeted on a linear geophysical anomaly.

The trench revealed a simple stratigraphy of natural Weald Clay, overlain by subsoil and topsoil.

A slight increase in subsoil thickness associated with the boundary of the site is the most likely source of the geophysical anomaly.

No archaeological features, deposits or artefacts were present.

4.12 Trench 12

List of recorded contexts

Number	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Deposit Depth	Height m.AOD
12/001	Dep	Topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.20-0.30	29.55-30.04
12/002	Dep	Subsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.20-0.30	-
12/003	Nat	Natural	N/A	N/A	N/A	29.23-29.83

4.12.1 Summary

The trench revealed a simple stratigraphy of natural Weald Clay, overlain by subsoil and topsoil.

No archaeological features, deposits or artefacts were present.

4.13 Trench 13

List of recorded contexts

Number	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Deposit Depth	Height m.AOD
13/001	Dep	Topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.20	30.27-30.44
13/002	Dep	Subsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.20	-
13/003	Nat	Natural	N/A	N/A	N/A	29.98-30.14

4.13.1 Summary

The trench revealed a simple stratigraphy of natural Weald Clay, overlain by subsoil and topsoil.

No archaeological features, deposits or artefacts were present.

4.14 Trench 14

List of recorded contexts

Number	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Deposit Depth	Height m.AOD
14/001	Dep	Topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.20-0.30	29.65-30.20
14/002	Dep	Subsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.10-0.20	-
14/003	Nat	Natural	N/A	N/A	N/A	29.34-29.84

4.14.1 Summary

The trench revealed a simple stratigraphy of natural Weald Clay, overlain by subsoil and topsoil.

No archaeological features, deposits or artefacts were present.

5.0 THE FINDS

5.1 Introduction

- 5.1.1 A small assemblage of finds, consisting of post-medieval pottery, ceramic building material and a small amount of slag and geological material was recovered during the archaeological work.

5.2 The Pottery by Luke Barber

- 5.2.1 The evaluation recovered a small assemblage of pottery all of which can be dated to the later post-medieval period. Sherds are typically of medium size (to 50mm across) and do not show extensive signs of having been reworked. The earliest sherd was recovered from [7/002] and consists of the foot-ring base from a tea bowl in late Staffordshire white salt-glazed stoneware. This piece is likely to date to between 1740 and 1780. This is in keeping with the remaining sherds from this deposit, which include a creamware bodysherd, probably dating between 1760 and 1800, and a local glazed red earthenware which could belong to a 1750 to 1850 date range. Context [10/002] was the only other to contain pottery – a single stained creamware plate sherd dating to between 1760 to 1820, though a date later in that range is likely.

5.3 The Ceramic Building Material by Sarah Porteus

- 5.3.1 A total of 30 fragments of ceramic building material (CBM) with a combined weight of 2996g were recovered from site. Most fragments were recovered from subsoil contexts and are most likely of post-medieval date, a small quantity of residual possible medieval material was also identified.
- 5.3.2 Peg tile was present in two fabric types, T1 – an orange fabric with abundant cream silt marbling with chunky orange silt inclusions and T2 – an orange sandy fabric with sparse coarse quartz and coarse black iron inclusions and fine to medium sized voids. Brick was represented by fabric B2 – A red fabric with moderate black iron rich inclusions. Table 3 shows the fabric and form by context. Brick fragments often appeared to have intentionally vitrified headers, a fragment recovered from [2/005] appears to be the same as those used in the post-medieval farmhouse to the west of the site.
- 5.3.3 A small quantity of CBM is of possible medieval date, all residual to the contexts in which they were found, and includes two highly vitrified fragments of brick one from context [5/005] and one from [3/002]. A fragment of under fired peg tile from [7/002] may also be medieval in origin.
- 5.3.4 Vitrified material accounted for 55% of the total assemblage by weight with under-fired material accounting for a further 12%. The incorrectly fired material is suggestive of the brick and tile being kiln wasters which may relate to the brick and tile works known to be in the area in the post-medieval period. Dating of poorly fired material is problematic as the form can become warped and the fabric unidentifiable, however where sufficient form remained it was suggestive of a post-medieval date of the 17th to 19th century.

Context	Forms	Fabrics	Date
2/005	Brick, flakes	B1, T1	C19th
3/002	Brick, peg tile	B1, T2	C17th-C19th (with possible medieval residual fragments)
3/005	Peg tile, flakes	T2	C17th-C19th
4/002	Peg tile, brick	V, T1	C17th-C19th
4/007	Peg tile, brick	T1, T2	C17th-C19th?
5/005	Brick, peg tile	T3, V	C17th-C19th? (possible medieval brick fragment)
6/002	Peg tile	T2, V	C17th-C19th
7/002	Peg tile	V, T1, T2	C17th-C19th (possible residual late medieval or early post med material)
9/002	Brick, peg tile	T1, T2, V	C17th-C19th
10/002	Peg tile	T1, T2	C17th-C19th
14/002	Peg tile, tile	T2, T3	C17th-C19th

Table 3: CBM forms by context with date.

5.4 The Metallurgical Remains by Luke Barber

5.4.1 Six small pieces of slag were recovered from three individually numbered contexts. Contexts [4/002] and [5/005] produced one and three fragments of typical post-medieval blast furnace slag respectively. The two pieces of aerated slag from [4/007] are less diagnostic, but glassy surfaces in places also suggest these are from a blast furnace. The first blast furnace in the Weald was constructed at Newbridge at the very end of the 15th century and revolutionised the iron industry. However, the associated slags were frequently transported some distances around the region for track and road metalling and it is quite possible the current pieces derive from such activity.

5.5 The Geological Material by Luke Barber

5.5.1 Two contexts produced stone, both of which appear to be of post-medieval date. Context [3/005] contained two small pieces of grey/silver West Country type slate, most likely to be residual medieval pieces, and a piece of probable post-medieval coal. Context [4/002], associated with post-medieval blast furnace slag, contained two pieces of local Wealden siltstone.

6.0 THE ENVIRONMENTAL SAMPLES by Karine Le Hegarat & Lucy Allott

6.1 Introduction

6.1.1 Five bulk soil samples were taken during archaeological work at Hempstead Lane to retrieve environmental remains such as charred macrobotanicals, charcoal, bone and shell and to obtain datable finds for otherwise undated contexts. All samples were taken from ditch fill deposits, which might represent drainage or boundary ditches.

6.2 Methods

6.2.1 All samples were processed in a flotation tank, the residues and flots were retained on 500µm and 250µm meshes respectively and were air dried prior to sorting. The residues were passed through graded sieves and each fraction sorted (Table 4). Flots were scanned under a stereozoom microscope at magnifications of x7-45 and their contents recorded (Table 5). Preliminary identifications of the charred macrobotanicals have been made through comparison with reference material held and reference texts (Cappers *et al.* 2006; Jacomet 2006).

6.3 Results

6.3.1 Generally, the samples produced small flots containing very few environmental remains. They were dominated by uncharred material, including small roots and uncharred seeds such as bramble (*Rubus* sp.) and nettle (*Urtica* sp.): 99% uncharred for samples <01>, <03>, <04> and <05> and 90% for sample <02>. All uncharred remains must be considered modern intrusive material as no waterlogged or anaerobic conditions are present at the site.

6.3.2 The presence of wood charcoal fragments varied amongst the five samples with most samples containing infrequent small wood charcoal flecks. This was the case for samples <03>, <04>, <05>. However, small wood charcoal fragments were more abundant in the residues from sample <01>, context (5/005) and sample <02>, context (6/005). Only sample <02> produced sufficient charcoal fragments that were >4mm in size. Fragments from both samples may be suitable for identification and dating although they were found within heavily rooted deposits and might have been redeposited through bioturbation. Given the potential for disturbance within these shallow ditch features no identifications have been provided for the small wood charcoal assemblage. The assemblages are too limited to provide detailed information about fuel use or woody vegetation.

6.3.3 No crop seeds were present in any of the samples. A very small quantity of moderately preserved charred weed seeds was observed in sample <03> including one oat/brome (*Avena/Bromus* sp.) and two from the Poaceae (Grass) family. Four samples contained traces of modern fungal sclerotia spores. They are common in active soils such as arable land, peat and woodland.

6.3.4 A small quantity of burnt clay was recorded in samples <01> to <04> with the addition of some small fragments of vitrified material in the flot from

sample <01>.

6.4 Discussion

- 6.4.1 Sampling from the ditch deposits has confirmed the presence of a small quantity of environmental remains including wood charcoal fragments and charred macrobotanicals. The charcoal fragments in samples <01> and <02> were best represented though presence of modern disturbance limits their dating potential.
- 6.4.2 The charred plant remains are too limited to merit further analysis or to provide information about the local vegetation. Burnt clay and vitrified material could be associated with the brick and tile works known to be in the area in the post-medieval period and may represent the discard of waist on the field.

Table 4: Residue Quantification (* = 1-10, ** = 11-50, *** = 51-250, **** = >250)

Sample Number	Context	Context / deposit type	Sample Volume litres	Charcoal >4mm	Weight (g)	Charcoal <4mm	Weight (g)	Other (eg ind, pot, cbm)
1	5/005	Ditch fill	20	*	1	****	9	Burnt clay**/6g
2	6/005	Ditch fill	20	**	8			
3	9/007	Ditch fill	20	Empty				
4	9/005	Ditch fill	20			*	1	Burnt clay*/4g
5	2/005	Ditch fill	20	Empty				

Table 5: Flot Quantification (* = 1-10, ** = 11-50, *** = 51-250, **** = >250) and preservation (+ = poor, ++ = moderate, +++ = good)

Sample Number	Context	weight g	Flot volume ml	Uncharred %	sediment %	seeds uncharred	Charcoal >4mm	Charcoal <4mm	Charcoal <2mm	weed seeds charred	Identifications	Preservation	Ind debris hammerscale
1	5/005	4	90	99	0	* <i>Rubus</i> sp.		*					*
2	6/005	<1	52	90	0		*	*	**				
3	9/007	<1	65	99	0	* <i>Rubus</i> sp.			*	*	<i>Avena/Bromus</i> sp., Poaceae indet.	++	
4	9/005	4	82	99	0	* <i>Rubus</i> sp., <i>Polygonum/Rumex</i> sp.			*				
5	2/005	6	140	99	0	** <i>Rubus</i> sp., <i>Urtica</i> sp.							

7.0 DISCUSSION

7.1 Summary

- 7.1.1 The excavations revealed no evidence for late Prehistoric, Roman or medieval activity on the site.
- 7.1.2 Evidence of past land use in the area and subsequent agricultural activity is suggested by the ceramic building material assemblage and ditches. The presence of waster in the CBM assemblage is suggestive of brick and tile manufacture in the area. This fits in with the known pattern of brick and tile kilns in the area.
- 7.1.3 The abraded nature of the CBM recovered suggests the field may have been manured / ploughed. It also seems likely that in order to drain the soil to make the field viable a series of drainage ditches have been dug which appear to drain towards the flatter area at the north of the field and the pond feature at the north west of the site.
- 7.1.4 The features identified were either cut through the subsoil, (Trench 4) or sealed by between 0.30 and 0.40m of topsoil and subsoil (Trenches 2, 6, 5, 8 and 9).

7.2 The evaluation results and the geophysical survey

- 7.2.1 Excavations revealed no archaeological remains in Trench 1. However, the geophysical anomalies are aligned with a north-west to south-east linear surface anomaly and the remains of a modern bonfire to the south of the trench.
- 7.2.2 Of the two anomalies identified in Trench 2 one is of non-archaeological origin and the second ditch feature does not directly relate to the geophysical anomaly. It seems likely the second anomaly may relate to a slight thickening to subsoil to the east of the ditch.
- 7.2.3 In Trench 3 a thickening of subsoil mid trench appears to be responsible for the geophysical anomaly. To the north of the trench it appears the land may have been intentionally terraced to leave a lower lying area at the base of the field to collect run-off water.
- 7.2.4 Trench 4 contained a modern field boundary. The targeted geophysical anomaly appeared to relate to a topsoil feature identified in section and is not of archaeological origin.
- 7.2.5 Trench 5 contained a ditch feature, possibly for drainage or an earlier field boundary, which relates directly to the geophysical anomaly. Post-medieval CBM was recovered from the feature.
- 7.2.6 Trench 6 was not targeted on geophysical anomalies though two ditches were identified running north-west to south-east across the trench, both are possible drainage or boundary ditches filled by fine silt.
- 7.2.7 Trench 8 was targeted on two geophysical anomalies. One relates to a thickening of topsoil associated with a hedge boundary and the other is due

to a slight change in natural geology.

- 7.2.8 Trench 9 contained 3 ditch features each appearing to relate directly to geophysical anomalies, two north-west to south-east linear features appear to be drainage ditches and may be the same as similarly aligned features identified in Trench 6. The third wide and shallow feature may be an undulation in the natural clay.
- 7.2.9 Trench 10 was targeted on the same linear feature as Trench 8, no archaeological feature was identified and it is believed a thicker area of topsoil relating to a hedge boundary is responsible for the anomaly.
- 7.2.10 Trench 11 was targeted on a linear anomaly at the northern end of the trench, the anomaly relates to a thickening of soil near to a mature hedgerow boundary.
- 7.2.11 Trenches 7, 12, 13 and 14 were not targeted on geophysical anomalies. No archaeological features were found within these trenches.

8.0 CONCLUSION

- 8.1** Only probable drainage or boundary ditches were identified during the works. The finds assemblage is not suggestive of intensive activity within the immediate area, though the abraded ceramic assemblage does suggest some ploughing or manuring in the post-medieval period resulting in a spread of abraded CBM through the subsoil.
- 8.2** Regarding the specific aims in the WSI the results are largely negative, with a majority of geophysical anomalies not relating to cut features. Drainage or boundary ditches of probable post-medieval were identified in trenches 2, 4, 5, 6 and 9.

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeology South-East would like to thank Lorraine Darton of CgMs and Greg Chuter of ESCC for their help and advice.

SMR Summary Form

Site Code	HLH09					
Identification Name and Address	Hempstead Lane, Hailsham					
County, District &/or Borough	East Sussex					
OS Grid Refs.	557800 110300					
Geology	Weald Clay					
Arch. South-East Project Number	4146					
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. 10/5/10-15/5/10	Excav.	WB.	Other		
Sponsor/Client	CgMs Ltd					
Project Manager	Neil Griffin					
Project Supervisor	Sarah Porteus					
Period Summary	Palaeo.	Meso.	Neo.	BA	IA	RB
	AS	MED	PM ✓	Other Modern		
<p>100 Word Summary.</p> <p><i>Fourteen trial trenches were excavated, nine of which were targeted on geophysical anomalies. Most of the anomalies proved to be non-archaeological in origin with seven probable drainage or boundary ditches identified in trenches identified in trenches 2, 4, 5, 6 and 9. The ditches are of probable post-medieval date.</i></p>						

OASIS Form

OASIS ID: archaeol6-77694

Project details

Project name	An archaeological evaluation at Hempstead Lane, Hailsham, East Sussex
Short description of the project	Fourteen trial trenches were excavated, nine of which were targeted on geophysical anomalies. Most of the anomalies proved to be non-archaeological in origin with seven probable drainage or boundary ditches identified in trenches identified in trenches 2, 4, 5, 6 and 9. The ditches are of probable post-medieval date.
Project dates	Start: 10-05-2010 End: 15-05-2010
Previous/future work	Yes / Not known
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Current Land use	Grassland Heathland 2 - Undisturbed Grassland
Monument type	NONE None
Significant Finds	NONE None
Methods & techniques	'Targeted Trenches'
Development type	Housing estate
Prompt	Planning condition
Position in the planning process	After full determination (eg. As a condition)
Project location	
Country	England
Site location	EAST SUSSEX WEALDEN HAILSHAM Hempstead Lane
Study area	140.00 Square metres

Site coordinates TQ 587 103 50.8698002403 0.255693679906 50 52 11 N 000
15 20 E Point

Project creators
Name of Organisation Archaeology South-East

Project brief originator CgMs Consulting

Project design originator CgMs Consulting

Project director/manager Neil Griffin

Project supervisor Sarah Porteus

Type of sponsor/funding body Developer

Project archives
Physical Archive recipient Local Museum

Physical Contents 'Ceramics'

Digital Archive recipient Local Museum

Digital Contents 'none'

Digital Media available 'Images raster / digital photography','Text'

Paper Archive recipient Local Museum

Paper Contents 'none'

Paper Media available 'Context sheet','Drawing','Photograph','Plan','Report','Section','Survey','Unpublished Text'

Project
bibliography 1

Publication type Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)

Title An archaeological evaluation at Hempstead Lane, Hailsham,
East Sussex

Author(s)/Editor(s) Porteus, S.

Other
bibliographic
details report 2010068

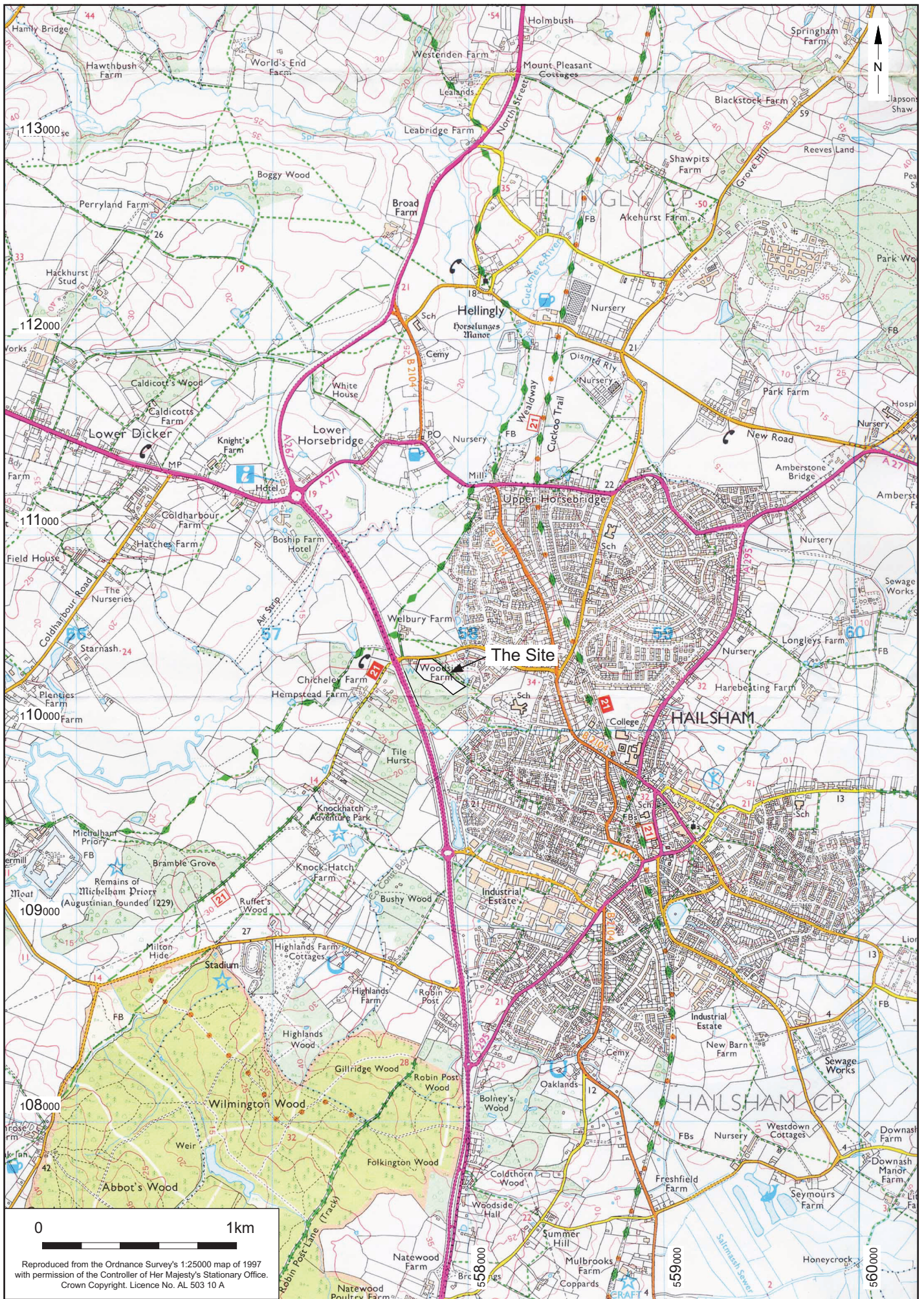
Date 2010

Issuer or publisher archaeology South-East

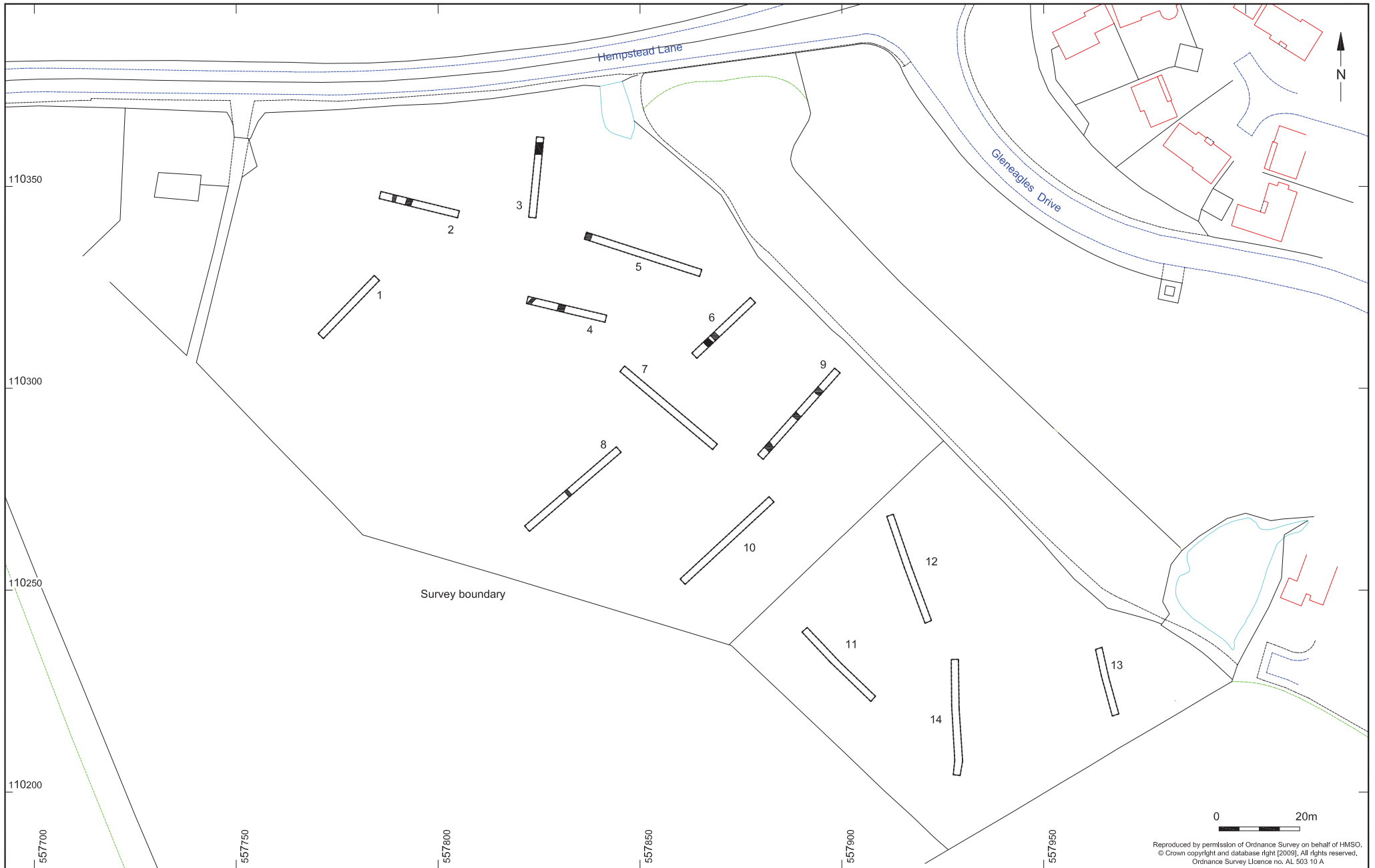
Place of issue or
publication Archaeology South-East, Portslade

Description A4 bound copy and pdf

Entered by sarah Porteus (s.porteus@ucl.ac.uk)
Entered on 21 May 2010



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Project Ref: 4146	May 2010	Site location	
Report Ref: 2010068	Drawn by: JLR	Fig. 1	



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Hempstead Lane, Hailsham

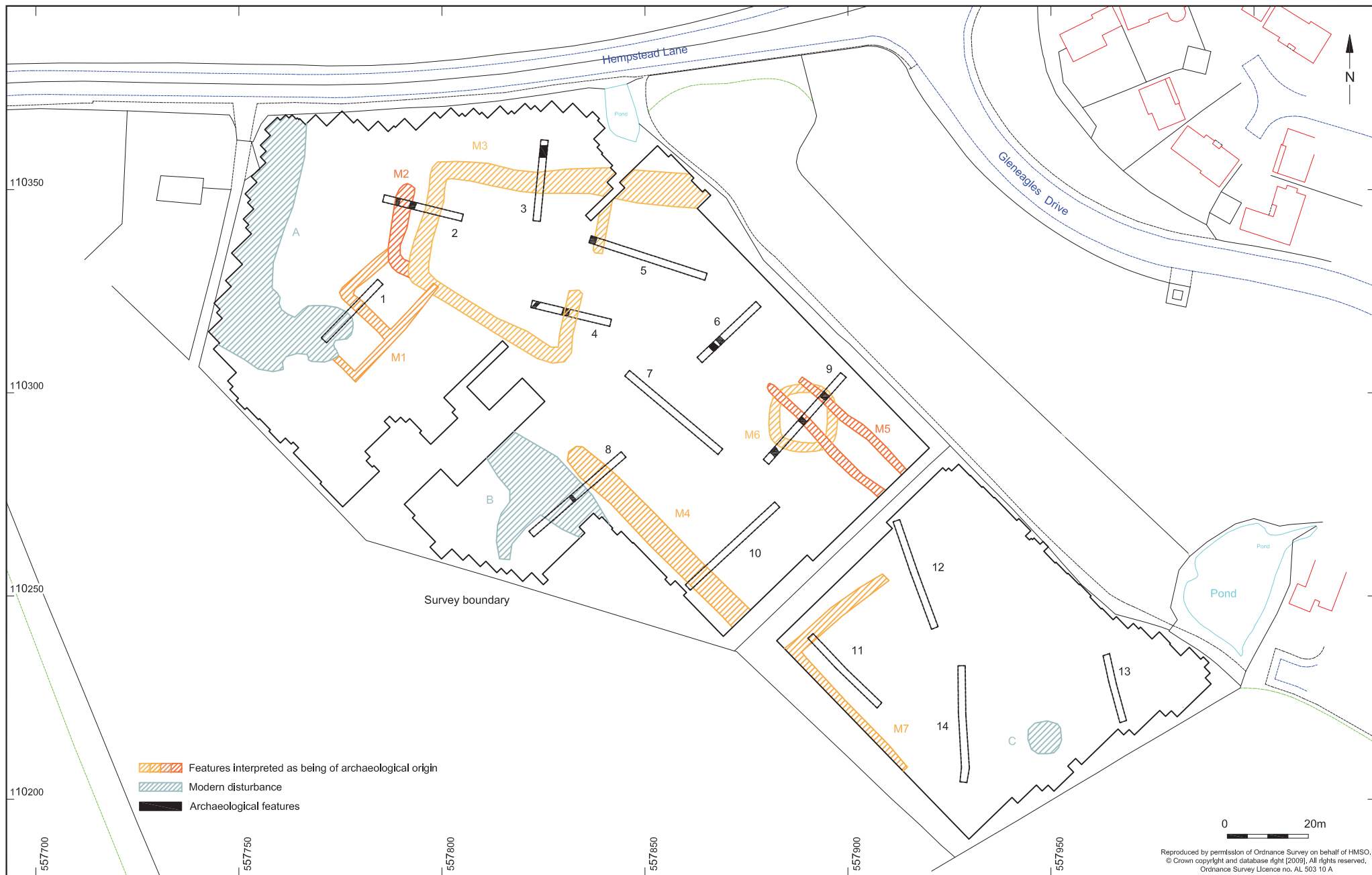
Project Ref: 4146
Report Ref: 2010068

May 2010
Drawn by: JLR/FEG

Trench Location

Fig. 2

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© Archaeology South-East		Hempstead Lane, Hailsham		Fig. 3
Project Ref: 4146	May 2010	Trench location in relation to geophysical anomalies		
Report Ref: 2010068	Drawn by: JR/FG			

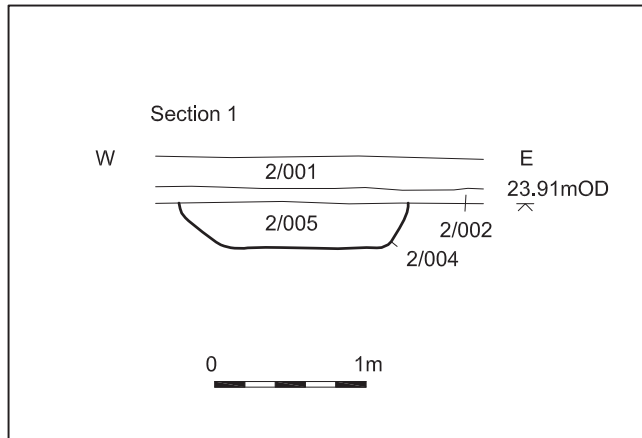
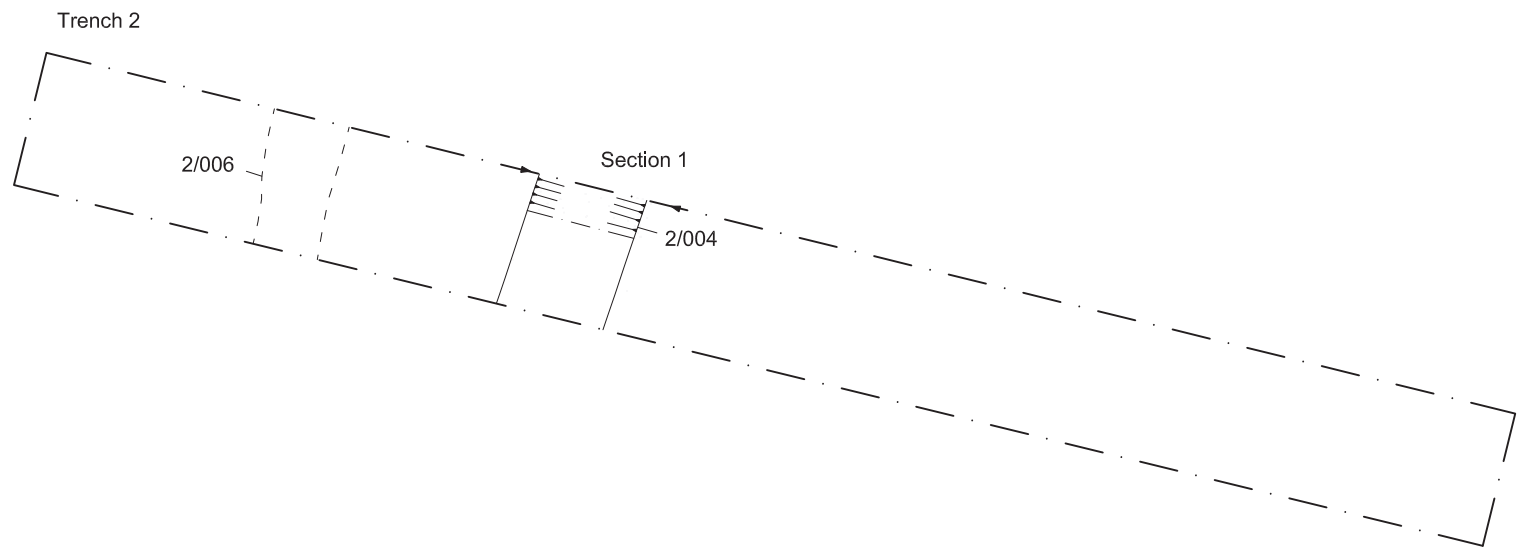
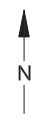


Fig. 4.1: 2/004 looking north

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Project Ref: 4146	May 2010	Trench 2: plan, section and photo	
Report Ref: 2010068	Drawn by: JR/FG		

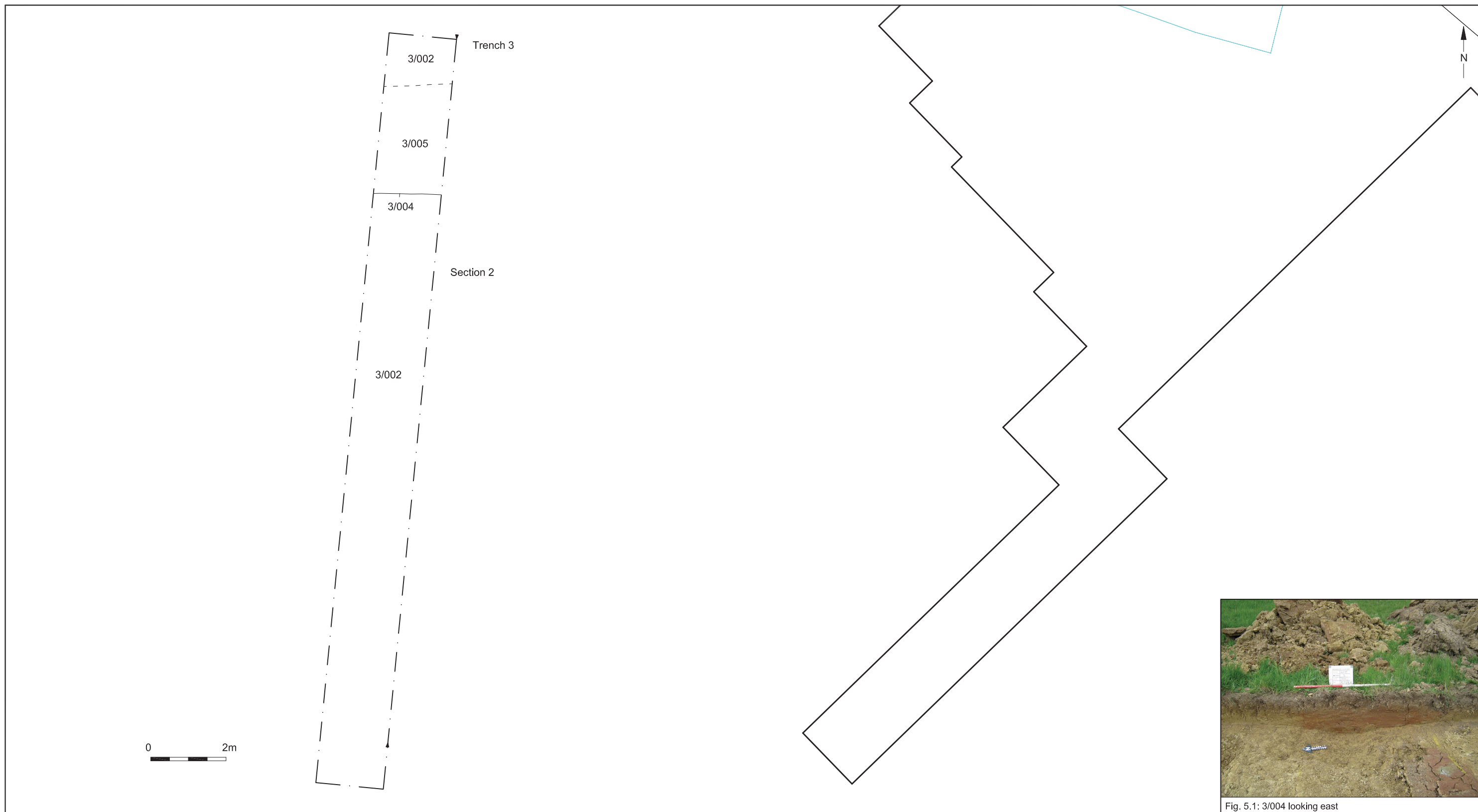
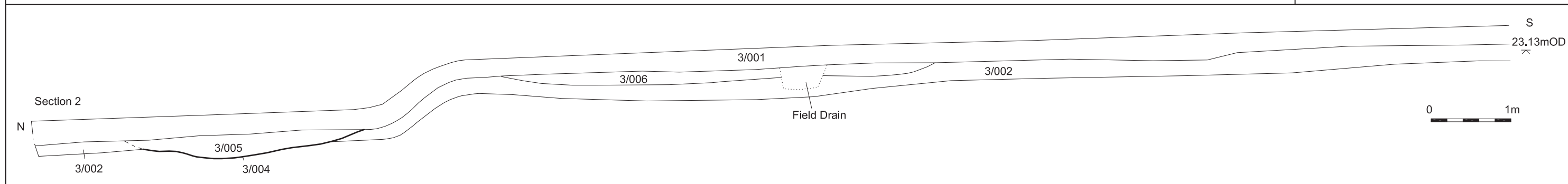


Fig. 5.1: 3/004 looking east



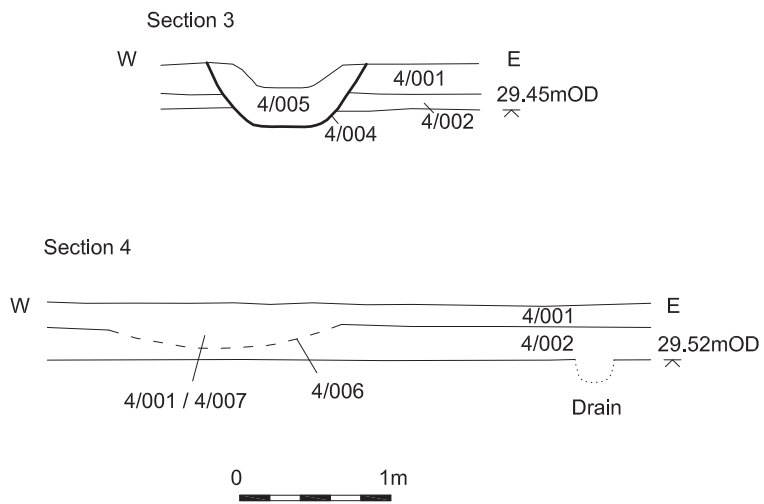
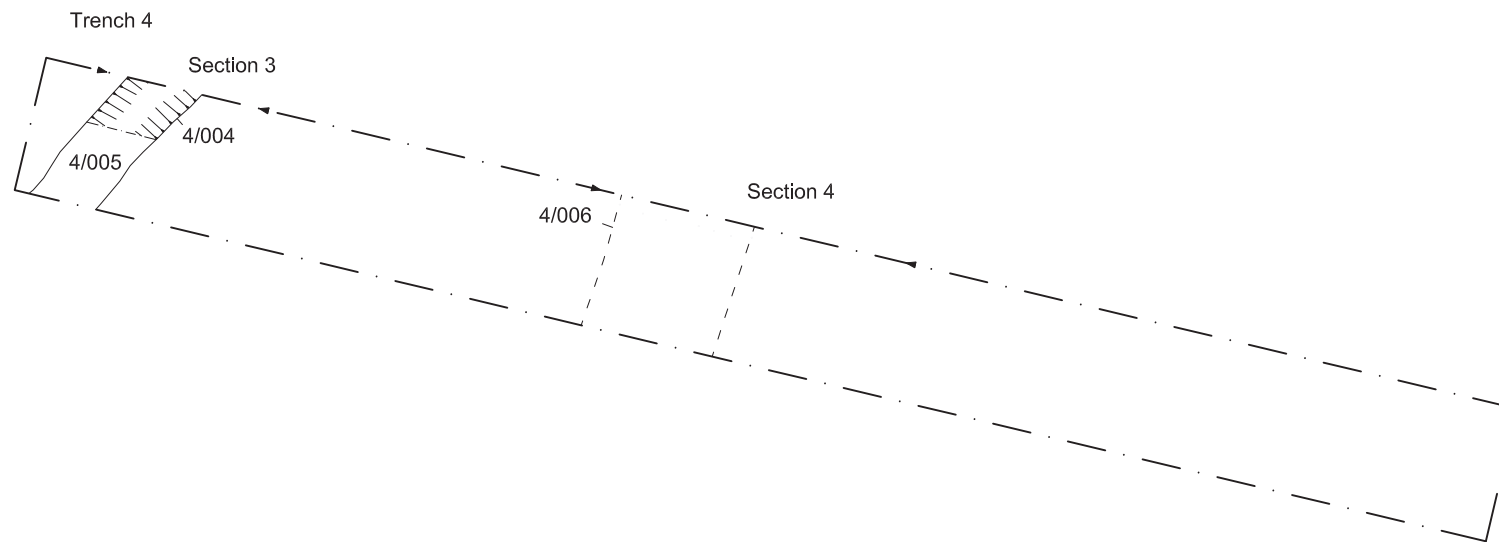


Fig. 6.1: 4/004 looking north



Fig. 6.1: 4/006 looking north



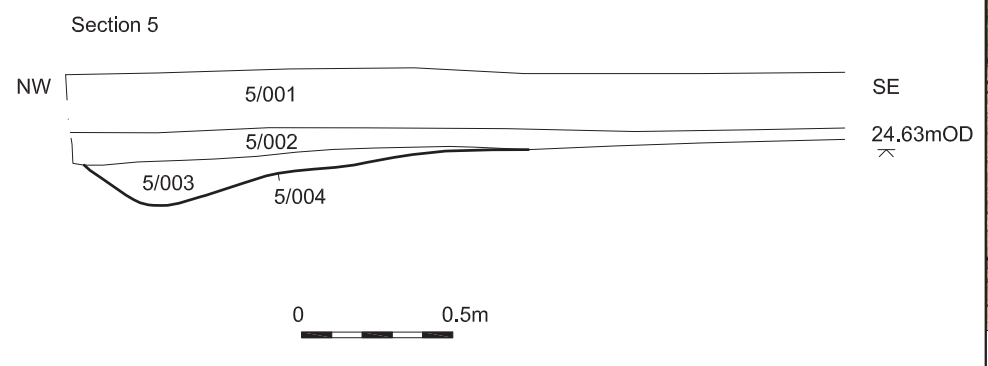
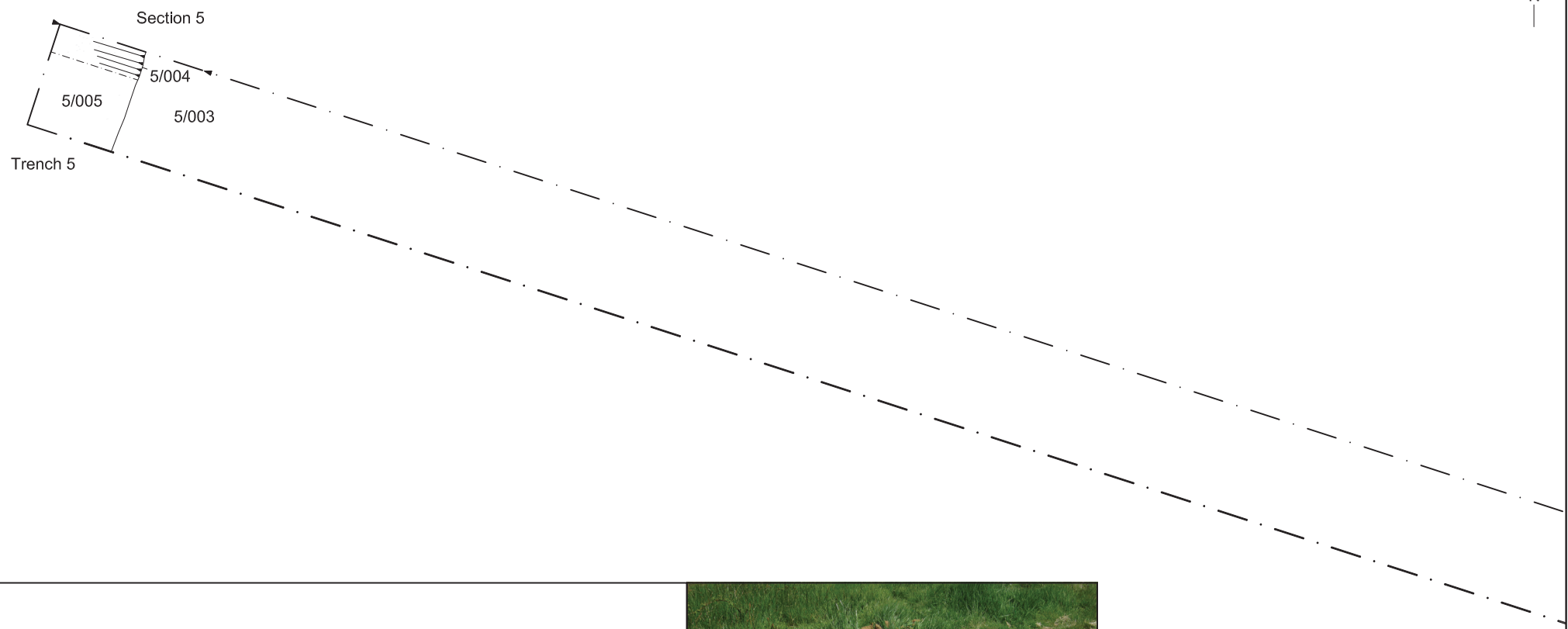
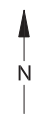


Fig. 7.1: 5/005 looking north-east



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Project Ref: 4146	May 2010	Trench 5: plan, section and photo	
Report Ref: 2010068	Drawn by: JR/FG		

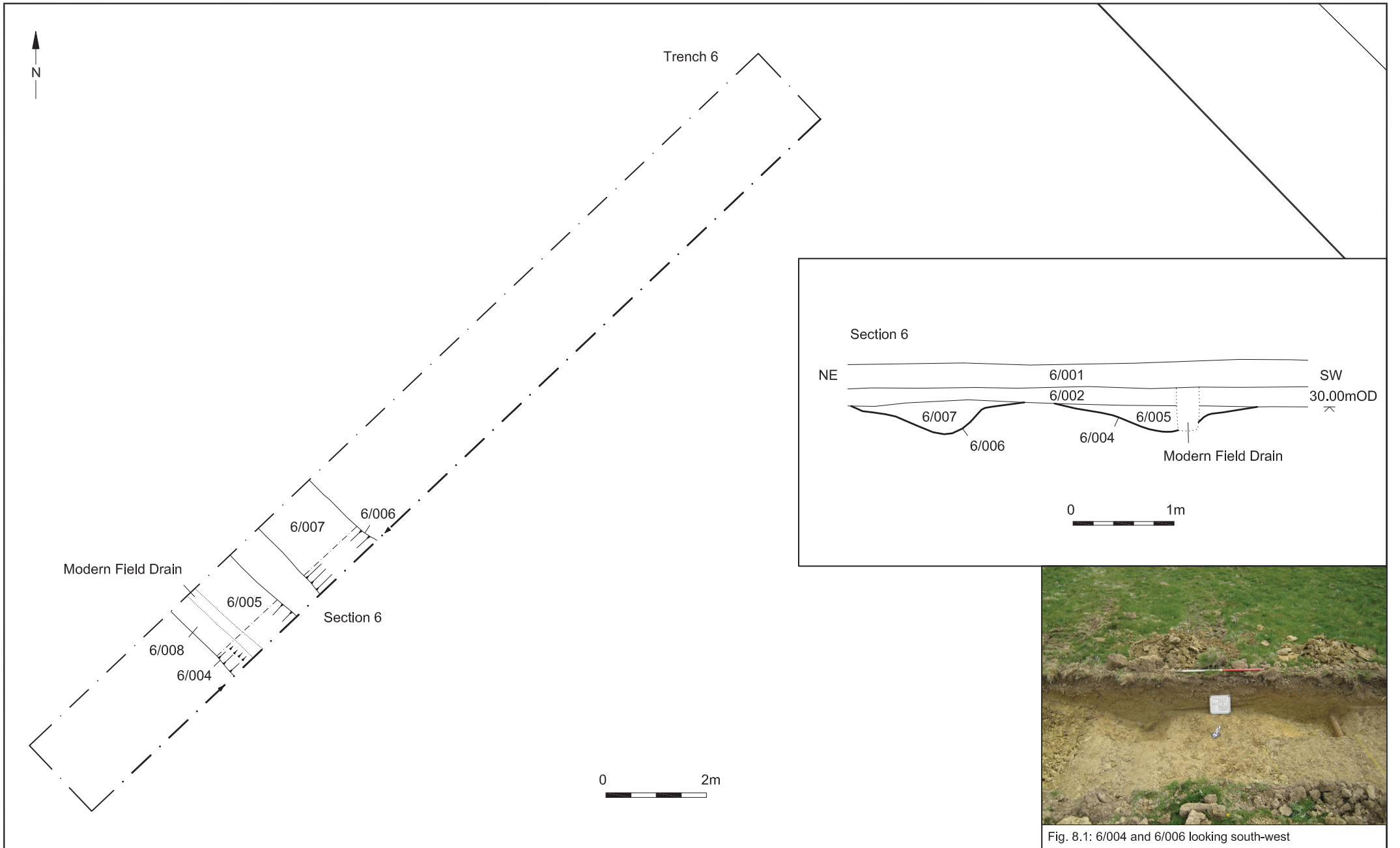


Fig. 8.1: 6/004 and 6/006 looking south-west

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Project Ref: 4146	May 2010	Trench 6: plan, section and photo	
Report Ref: 2010068	Drawn by: JR/FG		

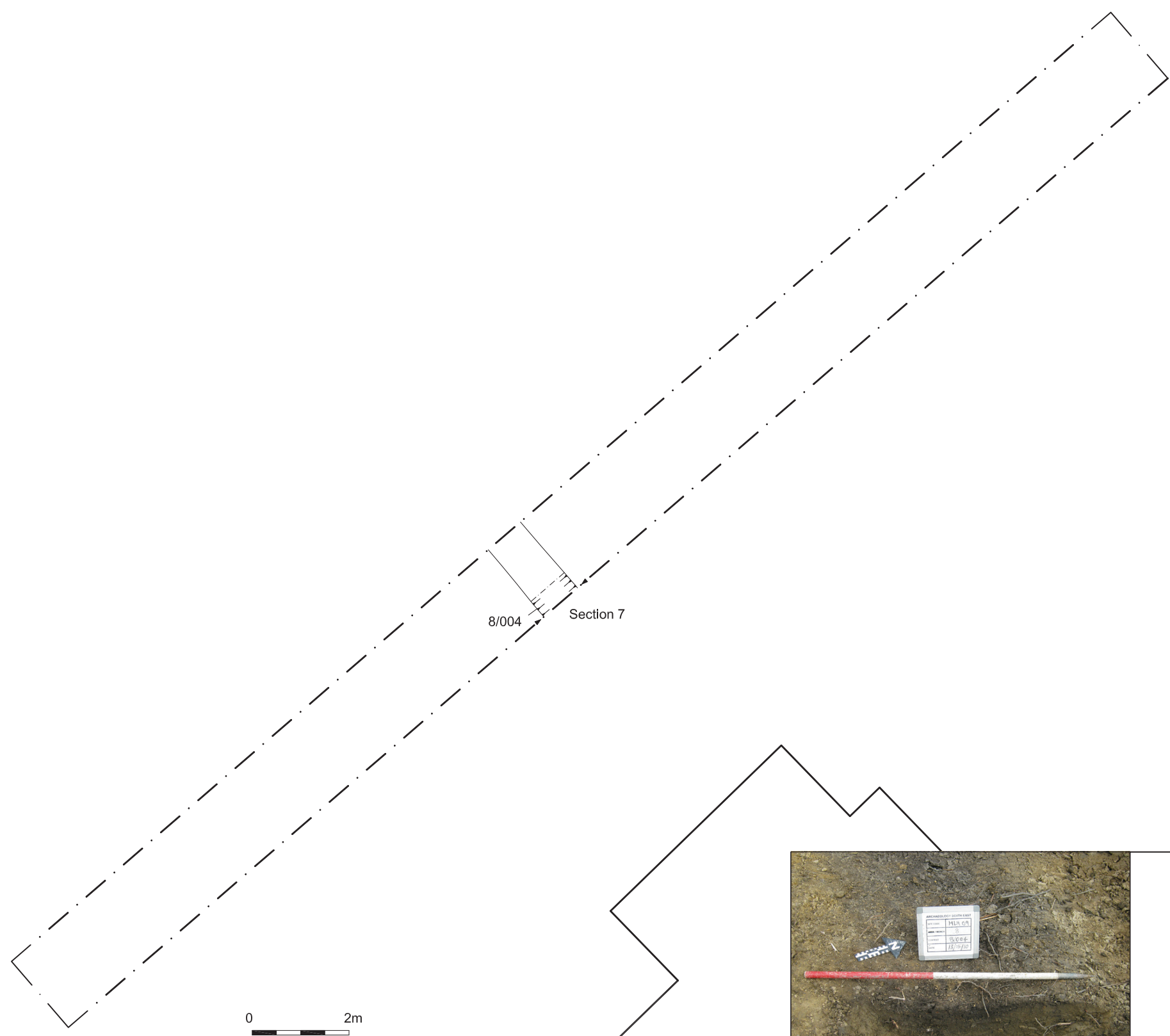
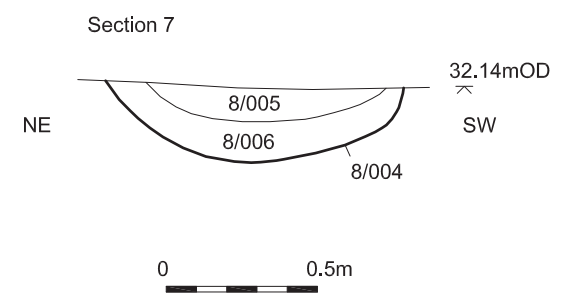


Fig. 8.1: 8/004 looking north-west



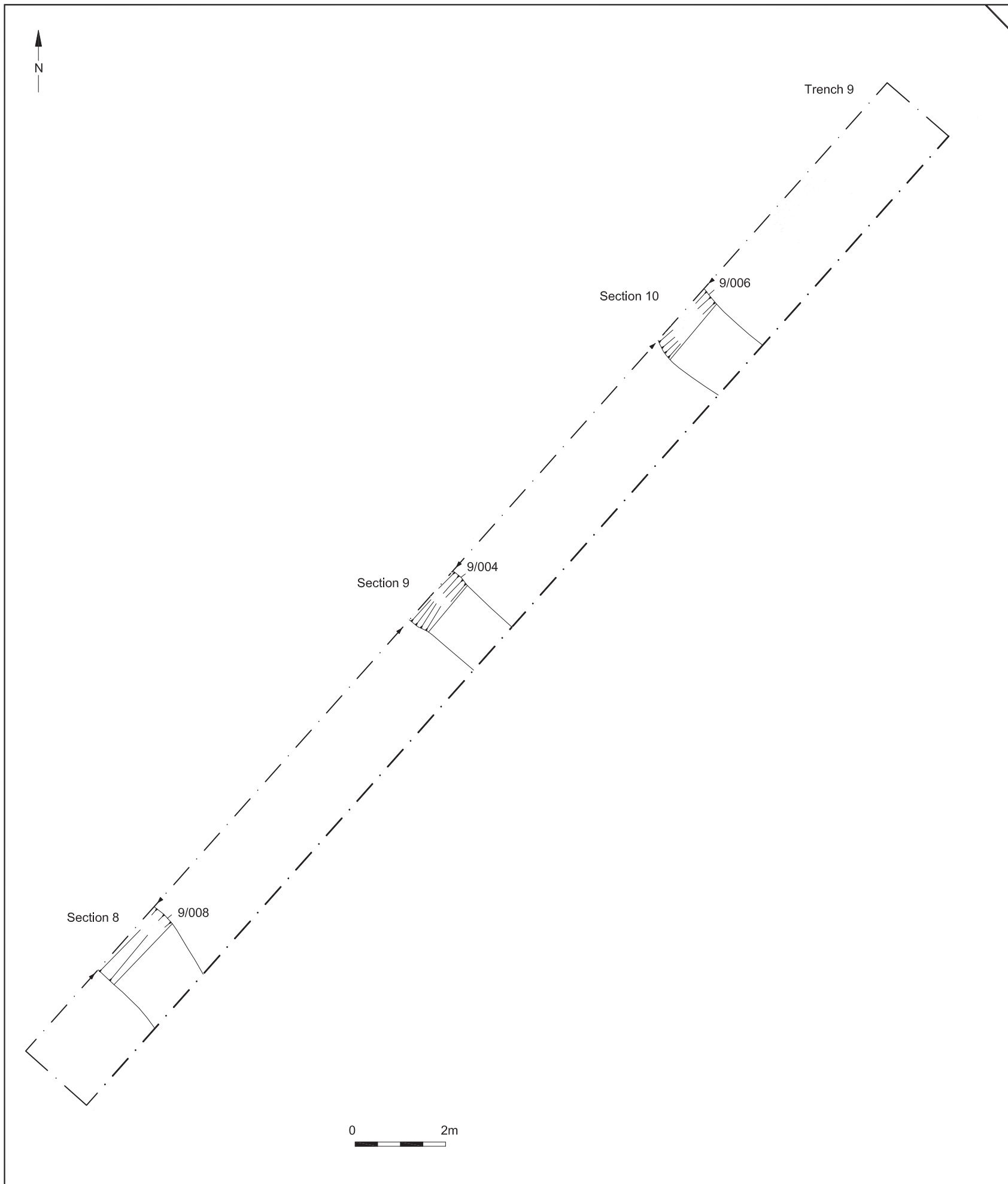


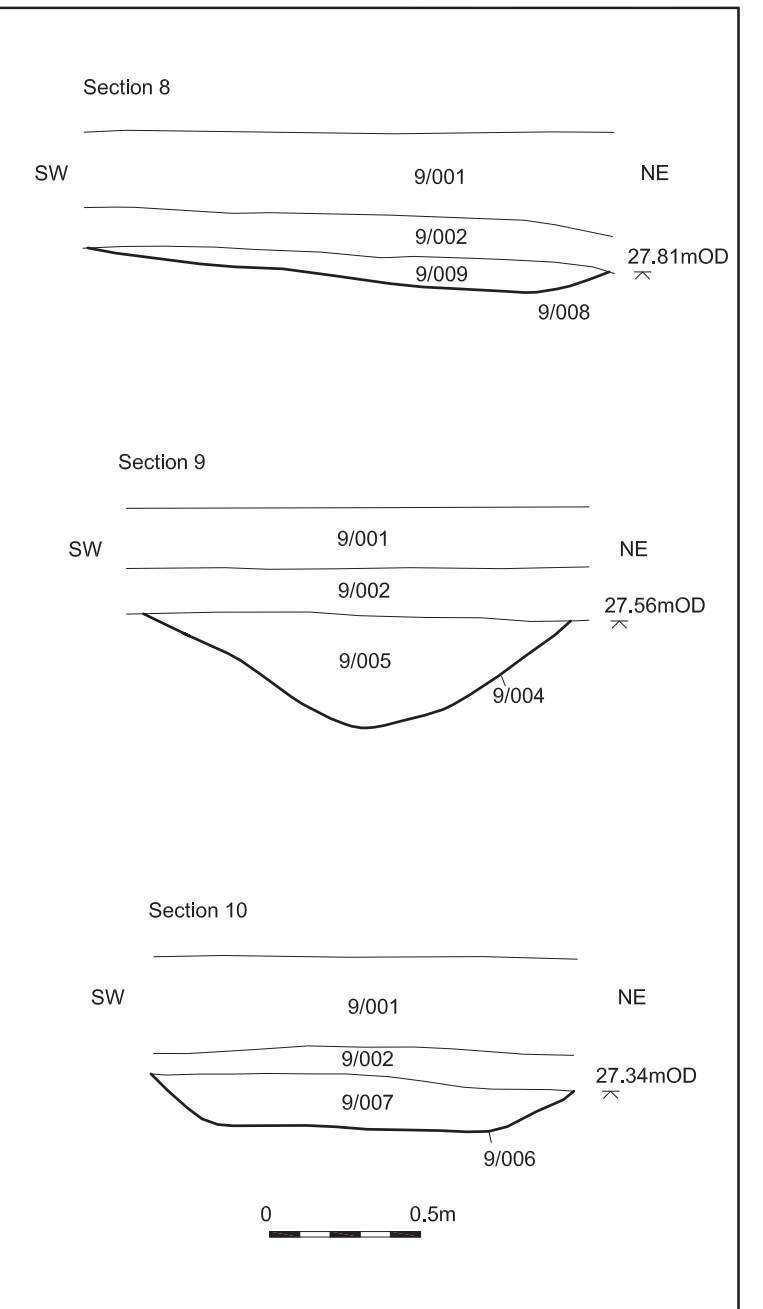
Fig. 9.1: 9/008 looking north-west



Fig. 9.2: 9/004 looking north-west



Fig. 9.3: 9/006 looking north-west



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