

**An Archaeological Evaluation at  
Midhurst Rother College, Midhurst, West Sussex**

**NGR 488620 121878**

**Project No. 4433  
Site Code: RCM 10  
ASE Report No. 2010124  
OASIS id: archaeol6-81296**

**By Diccon Hart  
With contributions by  
Luke Barber, Anna Doherty  
Karine Le Hegarat and Elke Raemen**

**Illustrations by Justin Russell**

**August 2010**

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**Archaeology South-East  
Units 1 & 2  
2 Chapel Place  
Portslade  
East Sussex  
BN41 1DR  
Tel: 01273 426830  
Fax: 01273 420866  
Email: [fau@ucl.ac.uk](mailto:fau@ucl.ac.uk)**

**Abstract**

*Archaeology South-East (ASE), a division of University College London Institute of Archaeology Centre for Applied Archaeology were commissioned by Gifford on behalf of their client to undertake a programme of archaeological evaluation at Midhurst Rother College, Midhurst, West Sussex (centred NGR 488620 121878). A total of 14 trenches, totalling some 280m of trenching, were excavated across the site. The underlying natural sand was encountered at between 28.60m OD in the far west of the site (Trench 4) and 23.08m OD in the southeast (Trench 25).*

*Archaeological features were encountered in six of the excavated trenches. Possible prehistoric activity is suggested by small abraded sherds of pottery within field boundary ditches in the west and northeast of the site (Trenches 6 and 21) and undated pits. Post-medieval activity of 16<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup> century date is seemingly concentrated in the southeast of the site and includes boundary ditches, a single posthole and a small masonry foundation. The remaining features recorded comprise occasional undated pits.*

*The archaeological horizon is sealed by between 0.70m and 1.40m of overburden. With the greatest depths of overburden being recorded in the southern central parts of the site (Trenches 7 and 8), where a sequence of modern made ground exists.*

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## **1.0 INTRODUCTION**

### **1.1 Site Background**

1.1.1 Archaeology South-East (ASE), a division of the University College London Institute of Archaeology Centre for Applied Archaeology have been commissioned by Gifford on behalf of their client, Balfour Beatty Construction Southern Ltd to undertake a programme of archaeological evaluation at Midhurst Rother College, Midhurst, West Sussex, in advance of the submission of a planning application. The site is centred on National Grid Reference (NGR) 530216 124724 and its location is shown in Figure 1.

### **1.2 Geology and Topography**

1.2.1 According to the British Geological Survey 1:50,000 map (sheet 317), the site lies on River Terrace Deposits over units of the Sandgate Formation of the Lower Greensand Group.

1.2.2 The evaluation site is situated in the grounds of Rother College and on land owned by the Cowdray Estate and is bounded by the River Rother to the north, to the south and east by residential developments and North Street and to the west by farmland. Current land use comprises a combination of grassed playing fields, vacant ground and farmland

### **1.3 Planning Background**

1.3.1 Proposals for the development of the existing school include the construction of new school buildings on the site, with associated access road and car parks, outdoor spaces and sports pitches.

1.3.2 An initial *Desk Based Assessment* (DBA) of the site (L-P: Archaeology 2009) deemed the site to be of low-moderate archaeological potential. In addition, geoarchaeological monitoring of boreholes on the site suggests that the site also holds a moderate potential for the recovery of Pleistocene archaeological and palaeoenvironmental data from the underlying river terrace gravels ASE 2010).

1.3.3 The DBA of the site formed the basis for a subsequent *Specification* setting out the requirements for an archaeological evaluation of the site prior to the submission of a planning application for the work (Gifford 2010). A *Written Scheme of Investigation* (WSI) was subsequently prepared by Archaeology South-East (ASE 2010), with reference to the *Specification* and the West Sussex County Council (WSSCC) *Recommended Standard Archaeological Conditions* (WSSCC 2007). Both documents were duly approved by John Mills, WSSCC Archaeologist, in his capacity as advisor to the Local Planning Authority prior to commencement of the works. All work was carried out in accordance with these documents and with the relevant *Standards and Guidance* of the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA 1994).

## **1.4 Aims and Objectives**

1.4.1 The aims of the archaeological investigation were set out in the Written Scheme of Investigation and are herewith reproduced in full.

1.4.2 The main aim of the archaeological evaluation is to identify any archaeological remains surviving within the site which may be impacted upon by the proposed development. More specifically

- To establish with a greater degree of certainty the presence or absence of any archaeological features
- To assess the archaeological character and origins of any such remains
- How any such remains might be affected by the development of the site
- Whether particularly important remains should be preserved in situ,
- What options should be considered for mitigation

## **1.5 Scope of Report**

1.5.1 This report details the results of Phase 1 of the archaeological evaluation works on the site. Phase 2 evaluation works, which will evaluate areas currently occupied by buildings on the site will be undertaken after demolition works have taken place. The work was undertaken between the 26<sup>th</sup> July and 2<sup>nd</sup> August 2010 by Diccon Hart (Senior Archaeologist), Lesley Davidson (Surveyor), and Chris Russell (Archaeologist). The fieldwork was managed by Jon Sygrave (Project Manager) and the post-excavation analysis was managed by Jim Stevenson (Project Manager). The illustrations were prepared by Justin Russell

**2.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND**

- 2.1** The archaeological background of the site was detailed in the DBA (L-P: Archaeology 2009) and is herewith summarised with due acknowledgement.
- 2.2** The site does not contain any known archaeological deposits of national importance, any listed buildings or any scheduled monuments.
- 2.3** The DBA considered the site to have a low archaeological potential for *in situ* archaeological remains for all periods prior to the medieval. However, subsequent geoarchaeological monitoring of boreholes on the site indicated a moderate potential for the recovery of Palaeolithic archaeological and palaeoenvironmental remains from the site (ASE 2010).
- 2.4** The DBA considered the site to hold a moderate archaeological potential for the medieval and post-medieval periods.
- 2.5** The *Specification* (Gifford 2010) also stated that the apparent dearth of archaeological features for many periods noted in the DBA may merely reflect an absence of archaeological fieldwork in the vicinity of the site, rather than a genuine absence of archaeological remains.



### **3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY**

- 3.1** The archaeological evaluation comprised the machine excavation, under constant archaeological supervision of 14 evaluation trenches, measuring 20.0m long by 1.6m wide, totalling some 280.0m of trenching.
- 3.2** Trenches were located to avoid known services and to provide even coverage of those parts of the site currently accessible. Further minor revision of trench locations was required in the light of on-site constraints. Two trenches were not excavated due to on-site constraints, including proximity to known services. All such modifications to the proposed trench layout were made with the agreement of Gifford and the WSCC Archaeologist.
- 3.3** The trenches were scanned prior to excavation using a Cable Avoidance Tool (CAT). Subsequent machine excavation was undertaken under the guidance of an experienced archaeologist and continued to the surface of the underlying natural geology or archaeological deposits, whichever was higher.
- 3.3** The evaluation trenches were surveyed using a Global Positioning System (DGPS) (Leica System 1200 GPS).
- 3.5** All archaeological features and deposits were recorded using the standard context record sheets used by UCLFAU with colours recorded using visual inspection. Sections were drawn at appropriate scales on plastic drafting film.
- 3.6** Backfilling and compaction was undertaken by the machine on completion of the work. With the exception of one trench within the playing fields, no further reinstatement was undertaken.

Number of Contexts	65
No. of files	1
Plan and sections sheets	1
Bulk Samples	N/A
Photographs	72 digital images, 1 roll B/W, 1 roll C/S
Bulk finds	1 small box
Registered finds	N/A
Environmental flots/residue	N/A

Table 1: Quantification of site archive

## 4.0 RESULTS

### 4.1 Natural Geology and Overburden

4.1.1 The natural geology observed on the site generally comprised fine light-mid yellow sand, probably fluvial in origin and related to the River Rother.

4.1.2 The overburden observed on the site varied between 0.70m (Trenches 4 and 21) and 1.40m (Trench 8) in thickness. Thicknesses of subsoil varied between 0.20m (Trench 8) and 0.55m (Trench 23), though these greater depths are likely to reflect a certain degree of bioturbation of the surface of the loose natural sand through rooting. Colluvium, measuring up to 0.70m in depth, was noted in the western parts of the site (Trenches 1-6), where a small dry valley is present. Modern made ground, relating to the recent construction of the adjacent sports hall, was observed in Trenches 7 and 8 and it is here that the overburden was at its greatest thickness of 1.40m.

### 4.2 Trench 1 (Fig 3)

4.2.1 Length: 20.00m                      Width: 1.60m                      Depth: max 0.90m

Orientation: Northeast-southwest

Number	Type	Description	Max. length	Max. width	Max. depth	Max. height (m OD)
1/001	Deposit	Topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.36m	28.48
1/002	Deposit	Colluvium	Tr.	Tr.	0.57m	28.15
1/003	Deposit	Natural	Tr.	Tr.	-	27.61
1/004	Cut	Pit cut	0.95m	0.83m	0.23m	27.33
1/005	Fill	Pit fill	0.95m	0.83m	0.23m	27.33

**Table 2: List of Recorded Contexts – Trench 1**

#### 4.2.2 Summary

The underlying natural geology, comprising mid yellow sand (1/003) was encountered at a maximum height of 27.61m OD at the southwestern end of the trench, falling away to 27.06m OD to the southeast.

Archaeological features observed within this trench comprised a single small ovoid pit [1/004], filled with mid reddish brown silty sand (1/005). No finds were recovered. The pit was sealed by a thick layer of undifferentiated mid reddish brown silty sand colluvium (1/002), in turn sealed by a layer of mid greyish brown silty sand topsoil (1/001).

### 4.3 Trench 2 (Fig. 4)

4.3.1 Length: 20.00m                      Width: 1.60m                      Depth: max 1.09m

Orientation: Northwest-southeast

Number	Type	Description	Max. length	Max. width	Max. depth	Max. height (m OD)
2/001	Deposit	Topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.42m	30.08
2/002	Deposit	Colluvium	Tr.	Tr.	0.69m	29.74
2/003	Deposit	Natural	Tr.	Tr.	-	28.50
2/004	Cut	Tree throw	1.30m	0.40m	0.18m	28.50
2/005	Fill	Fill of tree throw	1.30m	0.40m	0.18m	28.50

**Table 3: List of Recorded Contexts – Trench 2**

#### 4.3.2 Summary

Natural mid yellow silty sand (2/003) was encountered at 28.50m OD towards the centre of the trench, falling away to 28.29m OD to the southeast and 27.70m OD to the northwest.

A single tree throw [2/004] was investigated towards the centre of the trench. This was filled with light yellowish brown sand with occasional charcoal flecks (2/005). No finds were recovered. The tree throw was sealed by a thick layer of mid reddish brown silty sand colluvium (2/002), in turn sealed by the topsoil of the site (2/001).

### 4.4 Trench 3

4.4.1 Length: 20.00m                      Width: 1.60m                      Depth: max 0.97m

Orientation: northwest-southeast

Number	Type	Description	Max. length	Max. width	Max. depth	Max. height (m OD)
3/001	Deposit	Topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.33m	28.85
3/002	Deposit	Colluvium	Tr.	Tr.	0.67m	28.52
3/003	Deposit	Natural	Tr.	Tr.	-	28.10

**Table 4: List of Recorded Contexts – Trench 3**

#### 4.4.2 Summary

Natural geology, comprising mid yellow sand (3/003) was encountered at a maximum elevation of 28.10m OD at the northwestern end of the trench, falling away to 27.30m OD to the southeast. This was sealed by a layer of mid reddish brown colluvium (3/002), in turn overlain by the topsoil of the site (3/001).

No archaeological features were observed.

#### 4.5 Trench 4

4.5.1 Length: 20.00m                      Width: 1.60m                      Depth: max 0.71m

Orientation: Northeast-southwest

Number	Type	Description	Max. length	Max. width	Max. depth	Max. height (m OD)
4/001	Deposit	Topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.36m	29.25
4/002	Deposit	Colluvium	Tr.	Tr.	0.30m	29.00
4/003	Deposit	Natural	Tr.	Tr.	0.30m	28.60

**Table 5: List of Recorded Contexts – Trench 4**

##### 4.5.2 Summary

Natural geology of mid yellow sand (4/003) was recorded between 28.33m and 28.60m OD. This was overlain by a layer of mid reddish brown colluvium (4/002), in turn sealed by the topsoil of the site (4/001). A probable Neolithic end-and-side scraper was recovered from the colluvial layer (4/002) (see Section 5.6 below).

No archaeological features were observed.

#### 4.6 Trench 5

4.6.1 Length: 20.00m                      Width: 1.60m                      Depth: max 0.96m

Orientation: northeast-southwest.

Number	Type	Description	Max. length	Max. width	Max. depth	Max. height (m OD)
5/001	Deposit	Topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.31m	27.98
5/002	Deposit	Colluvium	Tr.	Tr.	0.69m	27.68
5/003	Deposit	Natural	Tr.	Tr.	-	26.99

**Table 6: List of Recorded Contexts – Trench 5**

##### 4.6.2 Summary

Natural mid yellow sand (5/003) was observed between 26.91m and 26.99m OD. This was sealed by a layer of mid reddish brown silty sand colluvium (5/002), in turn overlain by the topsoil of the site (6/001)

No archaeological features were observed.

#### 4.7 Trench 6 (Fig. 5)

4.7.1 Length: 20.00m                      Width: 1.60m                      Depth: max 0.50m

Orientation: Northwest-southeast

Number	Type	Description	Max. length	Max. width	Max. depth	Max. height (m OD)
6/001	Deposit	Topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.40m	29.28
6/002	Deposit	Colluvium	19.0m	Tr.	0.66m	28.90
6/003	Deposit	Natural	Tr.	Tr.	-	28.20
6/004	Cut	Ditch	1.60m	0.52m	0.18m	27.97
6/005	Fill	Ditch fill	1.60m	0.52m	0.18m	27.97

**Table 7: List of Recorded Contexts – Trench 6**

##### 4.7.2 Summary

Natural mid yellow sand was encountered at a maximum height of 28.20m OD at the northwestern end of the trench, falling away to 27.55m OD to the southwest.

A northeast-southwest aligned ditch [6/004], filled with mid yellowish brown silty sand (6/005) was situated towards the centre of the trench. A small an abraded sherd of undiagnostic prehistoric pottery was recovered from this feature. The sherd may be of Earlier Neolithic or Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age date.

Ditch [6/004] was sealed by a layer of mid reddish brown colluvium (6/002), in turn overlain by the topsoil of the site (6/001). Three fragments of 16<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup> century tile were recovered from the colluvial layer (6/002).

#### 4.8 Trench 7 (Fig. 6)

4.8.1 Length: 20.00m                      Width: 1.60m                      Depth: max 1.10m

Orientation: southeast-northwest

Number	Type	Description	Max. length	Max. width	Max. depth	Max. height (m OD)
7/001	Deposit	Made Ground	Tr.	Tr.	0.60m	25.73
7/002	Deposit	Buried topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.45m	25.37
7/003	Deposit	Subsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.15m	24.78
7/004	Fill	Posthole cut	0.60m	0.45m	0.45m-	24.56
7/005	Fill	Posthole fill	0.60m	0.45m	0.45m-	24.56
7/006	Cut	Animal burial	0.60m	0.50m	0.10m	24.66
7/007	Fill	Animal skeleton	0.60m	0.50m	0.10m	24.66
7/008	Deposit	Natural	Tr.	Tr.	Tr,	24.62

**Table 8: List of Recorded Contexts – Trench 7**

#### 4.8.2 Summary

Natural geology, consisting of mottled mid greyish yellow sand (7/003) was encountered at around 24.62m OD along the length of the trench.

A large posthole [7/004] filled with mid greyish brown silty sand (7/005), was situated towards the southern end of the trench. Several large packing stones of sandstone were present within this fill, as well as a small fragment of post-medieval tile of probable 17<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup> century date and an undiagnostic flint flake. The only other feature recorded in this trench comprised a modern animal (pig) burial (7/006), in a sub-rectangular pit [7/007].

Both features were sealed by a layer of mid yellowish brown subsoil (7/003), in turn overlain by a layer of buried topsoil, comprising mid greyish brown silty sand (7/002). This was sealed by a thick layer of modern made ground (7/001).

#### 4.9 Trench 8

4.9.1 Length: 20.00m                      Width: 1.60m                      Depth: max 1.40m

Orientation: southeast-northwest

Number	Type	Description	Max. length	Max. width	Max. depth	Max. height (m OD)
8/001	Deposit	Made ground	Tr.	Tr.	0.80m	26.33
8/002	Deposit	Buried topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.40m	25.54
8/003	Deposit	Subsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.20m	25.34
8/004	Deposit	Natural	Tr.	Tr.	-	25.14

**Table 9: List of Recorded Contexts – Trench 8**

#### 4.9.2 Summary

Natural geology, comprising mid brownish yellow mottled sand (8/004) was encountered at a maximum height of 25. 14m OD at the southeastern end of the trench, falling away gradually to 25.05, OD to the northwest.

This was overlain by a layer of mid yellowish brown silty sandy subsoil (8/003), in turn overlain by a buried topsoil horizon of mid grey silty sand (8/002). The sequence was capped with a thick layer of modern made ground (8/001).

No archaeological features were observed.

#### 4.10 Trench 18

4.10.1 Length: 20.00m                      Width: 1.60m                      Depth: max 1.04m

Orientation: northeast-southwest

Number	Type	Description	Max. length	Max. width	Max. depth	Max. height (m OD)
18/001	Deposit	Topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.47m	27.26
18/002	Deposit	Subsoil/colluvium	Tr.	Tr.	0.31m	26.79
18/003	Deposit	Natural	Tr.	Tr.	-	26.48

**Table 10: List of Recorded Contexts – Trench 18**

#### 4.10.2 Summary

Natural mid yellowish brown sand (18/003) was encountered at a maximum height of 26.48m OD at the southwest end of the trench, falling away to 26.33m OD to the northeast.

The natural geology was sealed by a layer of mid brown sand subsoil (18/002), in turn overlain by the topsoil of the site (18/001).

No archaeological features were observed.

#### 4.11 Trench 20

4.11.1 Length: 20.00m                      Width: 1.60m                      Depth: max 0.87m

Orientation: northwest-southeast

Number	Type	Description	Max. length	Max. width	Max. depth	Max. height (m OD)
20/001	Deposit	Topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.27m	25.97
20/002	Deposit	Subsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.57m	25.70
20/003	Deposit	Natural	Tr.	Tr.	-	25.15

**Table 11: List of Recorded Contexts – Trench 20**

#### 4.11.1 Summary

Natural geology, comprising mid yellowish brown sand (20/003) was encountered at 25.15m OD at the southwest end of the trench, falling away to 24.89m OD to the northeast. This was overlain by a layer of mid brown silty sand subsoil (20/002), in turn sealed by the topsoil of the site (20/001).

No archaeological features were observed.

#### 4.12 Trench 21 (Fig. 7)

4.12.1 Length: 20.00m                      Width: 1.60m                      Depth: max 0.92m

Orientation: southwest-northeast

Number	Type	Description	Max. length	Max. width	Max. depth	Max. height (m OD)
21/001	Deposit	Topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.30m	26.41
21/002	Deposit	Subsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.40m	26.11
21/003	Deposit	Natural	Tr.	Tr.	0.20m	25.59
21/004	Cut	Pit cut	0.55m	0.55m	0.22m	25.49
21/005	Fill	Pit fill	0.55m	0.55m	0.22m	25.49
21/006	Cut	Ditch cut	1.60m	0.92m	0.33m	25.54
21/007	Fill	Ditch fill	1.60m	0.92m	0.33m	25.54

**Table 12: List of Recorded Contexts – Trench 21**

#### 4.12.2 Summary

Natural mid yellow sand (21/003) was encountered between 25.49m and 25.59m OD.

A small circular pit [21/004], filled with light yellowish brown silty sand (21/005), was situated towards the southwestern end of the trench. No finds were retrieved from the feature. Immediately to the northeast, lay a east-west aligned ditch [21/006], with a broadly 'V' shaped profile and a fill of mid yellowish brown silty sand (21/007). A very small and abraded undiagnostic sherd of prehistoric pottery was recovered from this feature, although it could be either of earlier Neolithic or Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age date.

These two features were sealed by the subsoil of the site, comprising mid yellowish brown silty sand (21/002), in turn overlain by the topsoil of the site (21/001).

#### 4.13 Trench 23 (Fig. 8)

4.13.1 Length: 20.00m                      Width: 1.60m                      Depth: max 0.80m

Orientation: northeast-southwest

Number	Type	Description	Max. length	Max. width	Max. depth	Max. height (m OD)
23/001	Deposit	Topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.25m	25.61
23/002	Deposit	Subsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.55m	25.48
23/003	Deposit	Natural	Tr.	Tr.	-	24.98
23/004	Cut	Foundation trench	0.55m	0.55m	0.22m	25.41
23/005	Fill	Masonry foundation	0.55m	0.55m	0.22m	25.41

**Table 13: List of Recorded Contexts – Trench 23**



#### 4.13.2 Summary

Natural mid yellow sand (23/003) was encountered at 24.98m OD at the southwest end of the trench, falling away to 24.81m OD to the northeast.

This was sealed by the subsoil of the site (23/002), through which was cut a foundation trench [23/004] for a small north-south aligned foundation (23/005) built of unmortared roughly hewn sandstone blocks. Three small fragments of 16<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup> century brick and tile, as well as a fragment of 16<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup> century pottery were recovered from this foundation.

The sequence was capped by the topsoil of the site (23/001).

#### 4.14 Trench 24 (Fig. 9)

4.14.1 Length: 20.00m                      Width: 1.60m                      Depth: max 0.90m

Orientation: Northeast-southwest

Number	Type	Description	Max. length	Max. width	Max. depth	Max. height (m OD)
24/001	Deposit	Topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.30m	24.91
24/002	Deposit	Made ground	Tr.	Tr.	0.40m	24.69
24/003	Deposit	Subsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.20m	24.31
24/004	Deposit	Natural	Tr.	Tr.	-	24.21
24/005	Fill	Ditch fill	1.60m	0.60m	0.16m	24.21
24/006	Cut	Ditch cut	1.60m	0.60m	0.16m	24.21
24/007	Fill	Ditch fill	1.60m	0.78m	0.15m	24.12
24/008	Cut	Ditch cut	1.60m	0.78m	0.15m	24.12

**Table 14: List of Recorded Contexts – Trench 24**

#### 4.14.2 Summary

Natural geology, comprising mottled light yellow sand (24/008) was encountered at a maximum height of 24.31m OD at the southwestern end of the trench, falling away to 24.12m OD to the northeast.

Two ditches were observed within this trench, both on similar northwest-southeast orientations; Ditch [24/005] towards the southwestern end of the trench and Ditch [25/007] towards the northeastern end. Both features were of similar shape and size, with comparable shallow, rounded profiles and fills of light grey sand (24/004) and (24/006) respectively. A fragment of 17<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup> century tile was recovered from ditch [24/007].

Both features were sealed by a layer of light yellowish grey subsoil (24/003), in turn sealed by a layer of mid greyish brown made ground (24/002). The sequence was capped with the topsoil of the site (24/001).

#### 4.15 Trench 25

4.15.1 Length: 20.00m                      Width: 1.60m                      Depth: max 0.92m

Orientation: northwest-southeast

Number	Type	Description	Max. length	Max. width	Max. depth	Max. height (m OD)
25/001	Deposit	Topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.45m	23.73
25/002	Deposit	Subsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.42m	23.40
25/003	Deposit	Natural	Tr.	Tr.	-	23.08

**Table 15: List of Recorded Contexts – Trench 25**

#### 4.15.2 Summary

Natural mid yellow silty sand (25/003) was encountered at a maximum height of 23.08m OD at the northwestern end of the trench, falling away to 22.78m OD to the southeast. This was overlain by the subsoil of the site (25/002), in turn sealed by the topsoil of the site (25/001).

No archaeological features were observed.

## 5.0 THE FINDS

### 5.1 Introduction

5.1.1 A small assemblage of finds was recovered during the evaluation. A summary can be found in Table 16. Finds were all washed and dried or air dried as appropriate and were counted, weighed and bagged by material, according to IFA guidelines.

Context	Pot	Wt (g)	CBM	Wt (g)	Bone	Wt (g)	Flint	Wt (g)	Iron	Wt (g)
4/002							1	72		
6/002			3	94						
6/005	1	<2								
7/005			3	16			1	24	1	10
7/006					37	228				
20/002	3	4								
21/007	1	<2								
23/005	1	<2	3	72						
24/006			1	86						
<b>Total</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>268</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>228</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>96</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>10</b>

Table 16: Quantification of the Finds

### 5.2 The Prehistoric Pottery by Anna Doherty

5.2.1 A total of 5 prehistoric sherds from 3 vessels were recovered from three contexts. All are very small undiagnostic flint-tempered bodysherds. Two examples, from contexts (20/002) and (21/007) appear to be of the same fabric type with a laminar sand-free matrix and moderate, moderately-sorted flint, generally between 0.5 and 2mm, with rare examples up to 3mm in size. The other sherd, from (6/005) has similar, although slightly sparser, flint inclusions in a laminar but much more quartz-rich, silty matrix.

5.2.2 The use of flint-tempering was very long-lived and it is therefore impossible to date the pottery with any certainty. The small size and abraded nature of the sherds also means that there is a strong possibility that they had been redeposited in the contexts that they were retrieved from. The sorting, frequency and size of inclusions and the laminar, relatively low-fired character of the fabrics suggest that they are most likely to belong to either the Earlier Neolithic or Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age periods. The sandier of the two fabrics is particularly typical of the former period, but equally would not be out of place in the latter. The assemblage has no significance or potential as it stands but should be integrated with any further pottery recovered in the event of future excavation on the site.

### 5.3 The post-Roman Pottery by Luke Barber

5.3.1 A slightly abraded rim of an internally green glazed bowl in buff Wealden earthenware was recovered from [23/005]. The piece, possibly from the Graffham industry, is of later 16<sup>th</sup>- to 17<sup>th</sup>-century date.

#### 5.4 The Ceramic Building Material by Elke Raemen

5.4.1 One brick fragment and nine roof tile fragments were recovered from four individually numbered contexts. The earliest pieces are of 16<sup>th</sup>- to 17<sup>th</sup>-century date. Deposit (6/002) contained three roof tile fragments, two of which are in a medium fired, fine sand-tempered fabric with occasional iron oxide inclusions to 2mm and rare chalk temper to 4mm. The third fragment consists of a hard fired fabric with rare iron oxide inclusions to 3mm. The latter fabric was also encountered in a tile fragment from foundation (23/005). The same context contained a tile piece in a sparse fine sand-tempered fabric with moderate iron oxides to 3mm. A brick fragment in the same fabric was also recovered. No complete dimensions survive.

5.4.2 Later material consists of a 17<sup>th</sup>- to 18<sup>th</sup>- century roof tile fragment in a sparse fine sand-tempered, micaceous fabric with rare iron oxide inclusions to 2mm from ditch [24/006]. In addition, three small, undiagnostic probable roof tile fragments were recovered from posthole fill (7/005). Pieces are in an ill-mixed, sparse fine to medium sand-tempered fabric and are likely to be of 17<sup>th</sup>- to 18<sup>th</sup>-century date.

#### 5.5 The Animal Bone by Lucy Sibun

5.5.1 37 fragment of animal bone from an adult pig were recovered from context (7/004).

#### 5.6 The Flint by Karine Le Hegarat

5.6.1 The work at Midhurst Academy produced two struck flints (Table 17).

5.6.2 A broken flake was recovered from context (7/005). The good quality black flint originates locally and is probably from the South Downs. Although the tertiary flake was in a fresh condition, the distal end was absent.

5.6.3 Trench 4 produced an end-and-side scraper made on a pebble. The raw material was most probably obtained from local gravel deposits, which were available on as well as around the site. The piece displayed a ginger/orange patina and a very thin buff/orange cortex. The scraper exhibited continuous direct retouches starting on the left-hand edge. They carried on over half the contour. It was most probably Neolithic.

5.6.4 As both these artefacts are isolated finds, they do not have any potential for further study.

	Category	Count	Wt (g)	Context	Interpretation
Debitage	Flake fragment	1	24	[7/005]	Fill of posthole
Retouched tool	End-and-side scraper	1	72	[4/002]	Subsoil

Table 17: The flintwork assemblage

#### 5.7 The Metalwork by Elke Raemen

5.7.1 Only one metal object was recovered. Context (7/005) contained an iron general purpose nail fragment with rectangular head (15 by 12mm).

## 6.0 DISCUSSION

### 6.1 Introduction

6.1.1 Archaeological features were noted in six of the 14 excavated trenches, with a range of features present including a handful of undated pits, several ditches, a posthole and a modern animal (pig) burial. A tree throw was also investigated in Trench 2, in the far west of the site.

### 6.2 Interpretation

6.2.1 *Possible* prehistoric activity on the site is represented by the very small and abraded fragments of prehistoric pottery recovered from Ditches [21/006] in the northeast of the site and [6/004] in the west, as well as from the subsoil (20/002) in Trench 20. The heavily abraded nature of the sherds coupled with very small sherd size, however, indicates that the sherds are probably residual and as a result it would be unwise to infer too much from their presence. Indeed, even their date is uncertain and they could be either of earlier Neolithic or Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age date. In this regard the Neolithic end-and-side scraper recovered from the subsoil in Trench 4 is worth mention here. Together with the pottery, this may imply at least limited Neolithic activity in the vicinity.

6.2.2 Whatever the date of Ditches [6/004] and [21/006], the features appear to be relatively isolated and probably represent field boundaries, rather than anything associated with settlement; a premise borne out by the general paucity of prehistoric material on the site.

6.2.3 Post-medieval activity on the site is better represented. This is seemingly concentrated in the south east of the site in Trenches 7, 23 and 24. Features include the single posthole [7/004], the masonry foundation (23/005) and the two ditches [24/005] and [24/007]. Available dating indicates a possible 16<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup> century date for foundation (23/005) and a 17<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup> century date for posthole (7/005) and Ditch [24/007].

6.2.4 An examination of the available historic maps show that Ditch [24/007] may be equated with a boundary shown on the Tithe map of 1845 (Fig. 10). This boundary is shown on the First and Second Edition Ordnance Survey maps of 1874 and 1897 (Figs. 11 and 12) but has disappeared by the Third Edition Ordnance Survey map of 1912 (Fig. 13). Wall (23/005) also correlates well with a boundary shown on all three available editions of the Ordnance Survey maps (Figs 11-13) and may only actually have been demolished in the 20<sup>th</sup> century, perhaps during landscaping for the current school grounds. The same boundary is also shown on the Tithe map of 1845, although the excavated ditch does not correlate so well with the map data here, presumably the result of imperfect scaling. Posthole [7/004] also lies very close to the line of a track or road shown on the three available editions of the Ordnance Survey map and it is not inconceivable that it formed part of a fence line or similar bounding the track.

6.2.5 Ditch [24/005] is conspicuous by its absence from the available 19<sup>th</sup> century historic maps, although interestingly the ditch appears to form the north-westerly continuation of the current northeast boundary of Borough House,

which fronts the High Street. Again, it would seem that any such boundary had fallen into disuse by the time the Tithe maps were compiled in the mid 19<sup>th</sup> century.

- 6.2.6 Finally, the pig burial encountered in Trench 7 brings us to the modern era; during the course of the fieldwork, ASE were informed by one of the caretakers present that the school used to keep livestock on the site, which were interred in the area of Trench 7; it is likely that the remains encountered in Trench 7 belong to one such beast.

## **7.0 CONCLUSION**

- 7.1** Six of the 14 excavated trenches contained archaeological features. For the most part these comprise occasional boundary ditches, pits and postholes that are probably best considered part of the wider agricultural landscape. Two main periods of activity are represented by the available dating evidence. Possible later prehistoric activity is suggested by small, abraded sherds of pottery recovered from two of the ditches, though there is a high degree of probability that this pottery is residual, while post-medieval activity of 16<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup> century date is represented by boundary ditches, a posthole and a small masonry foundation, all clustered in the south and east of the site. The archaeological horizon is sealed beneath between 0.70m and 1.40m of overburden.

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Gifford 2010, *Midhurst Rother College, West Sussex: Draft Tender Specification for Archaeological Evaluation*, Gifford report 16418.CHA.R01 unpublished report

IFA 1994 (Rev. 2008) *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation*

LP Archaeology 2009 *Archaeological Desk Based Assessment of land at Midhurst Academy, West Sussex*

WSCC, 2007, *Recommended Standard Archaeological Conditions*



**SMR Summary Form**

Site Code	RCM10					
Identification Name and Address	An Archaeological Evaluation at Midhurst Rother College, Midhurst, West Sussex					
County, District &/or Borough	West Sussex					
OS Grid Refs.	530216 124724					
Geology	Fluvial sand over Sandgate Formation					
Arch. South-East Project Number	4433					
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. 26.07.10 – 02.08.10	Excav.	WB.	Other		
Sponsor/Client	Gifford					
Project Manager	Darryl Palmer					
Project Supervisor	Diccon Hart					
Period Summary	Palaeo.	Meso.	Neo. ✓	BA✓	IA✓	RB
	AS	MED	PM ✓	Other Modern		
<p>100 Word Summary.</p> <p><i>Archaeology South-East (ASE), a division of University College London Institute of Archaeology Centre for Applied Archaeology were commissioned by Gifford on behalf of their client to undertake a programme of archaeological evaluation at Midhurst Rother College, Midhurst, West Sussex (centred NGR 488620 121878). A total of 14 trenches, totalling some 280m of trenching, were excavated across the site. The underlying natural sand was encountered between 28.60m OD in the far west of the site (Trench 4) and 23.08m OD in the southeast (Trench 25).</i></p> <p><i>Archaeological features were encountered in six of the excavated trenches. Possible prehistoric activity is suggested by small abraded sherds of pottery within field boundary ditches in the west and northeast of the site (Trenches 6 and 21). Post-medieval activity of 16<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup> century date is seemingly concentrated in the southeast of the site and includes boundary ditches, a single posthole and a small masonry foundation. The remaining features recorded comprise occasional undated pits.</i></p> <p><i>The archaeological horizon is sealed by between 0.70m and 1.40m of overburden. With the greatest depths of overburden being recorded in the southern central parts of the site (Trenches 7 and 8), where a sequence of modern made ground exists.</i></p>						

OASIS Form

## **OASIS ID: archaeol6-81296**

### Project details

Project name	an archaeological evaluation at Midhurst Rother College, Midhurst. WEst Sussex
Short description of the project	<p>Archaeology South-East (ASE), a division of University College London Institute of Archaeology Centre for Applied Archaeology were commissioned by Gifford on behalf of their client to undertake a programme of archaeological evaluation at Midhurst Rother College, Midhurst, West Sussex (centred NGR 488620 121878). A total of 14 trenches, totalling some 280m of trenching, were excavated across the site. The underlying natural sand was encountered between 28.60m OD in the far west of the site (Trench 4) and 23.08m OD in the southeast (Trench 25). Archaeological features were encountered in six of the excavated trenches. Possible prehistoric activity is suggested by small abraded sherds of pottery within field boundary ditches in the west and northeast of the site (Trenches 6 and 21). Post-medieval activity of 16th-18th century date is seemingly concentrated in the southeast of the site and includes boundary ditches, a single posthole and a small masonry foundation. The remaining features recorded comprise occasional undated pits. The archaeological horizon is sealed by between 0.70m and 1.40m of overburden. With the greatest depths of overburden being recorded in the southern central parts of the site (Trenches 7 and 8), where a sequence of modern made ground exists.</p>
Project dates	Start: 26-07-2010 End: 02-08-2010
Previous/future work	Yes / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	RCM10 - Sitecode
Any associated project reference codes	4433 - Contracting Unit No.
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None

Current Land use	Cultivated Land 1 - Minimal cultivation
Current Land use	Other 14 - Recreational usage
Current Land use	Vacant Land 2 - Vacant land not previously developed
Monument type	PIT Uncertain
Monument type	DITCH Early Neolithic
Monument type	FOUNDATION Post Medieval
Monument type	PIG Modern
Significant Finds	POT Uncertain
Significant Finds	FLINT Neolithic
Significant Finds	BRICK Post Medieval
Methods & techniques	'Sample Trenches'
Development type	Public building (e.g. school, church, hospital, medical centre, law courts etc.)
Prompt	Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPS
Position in the planning process	Pre-application
Project location	
Country	England
Site location	WEST SUSSEX CHICHESTER MIDHURST Midhurst Rother College
Postcode	GU29 9DT
Study area	7.40 Hectares
Site coordinates	SU 530216 124724 50.9087305684 -1.245781113130 50 54 31 N 001 14 44 W Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 23.08m Max: 28.60m
Project creators	
Name of Organisation	Archaeology South-East
Project brief originator	Gifford
Project design originator	Archaeology South-East
Project director/manager	Darryl Palmer

Project supervisor Diccon Hart

Type of sponsor/funding body Client

Name of sponsor/funding body Balfour Beatty Construction Southern Ltd

Project archives

Physical Archive recipient Chichester Museum

Physical Contents 'Animal Bones','Ceramics','Worked stone/lithics'

Digital Archive recipient Chichester Museum

Digital Contents 'Animal Bones','Ceramics','Worked stone/lithics'

Paper Archive Exists? No

Paper Archive recipient Chichester Museum

Paper Media available 'Context sheet','Correspondence','Photograph','Plan','Report'

Project bibliography 1

Publication type Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)

Title an Archaeological evaluation at Midhurst Rother College, Midhurst. West Sussex

Author(s)/Editor(s) Hart, D

Other bibliographic details 2010124

Date 2010

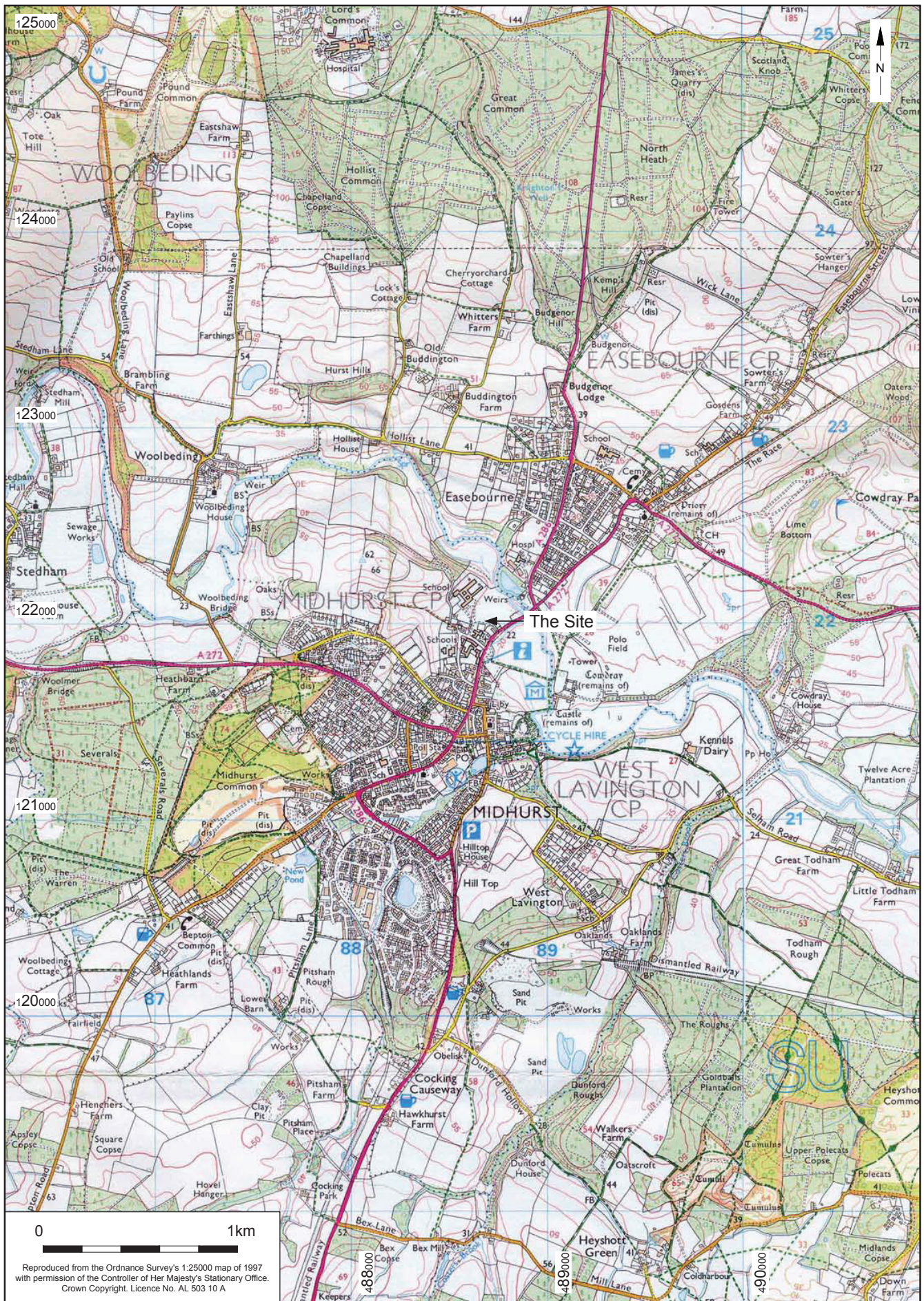
Issuer or publisher Archaeology South-East

Place of issue or publication Archaeology South-East

Description A4 book

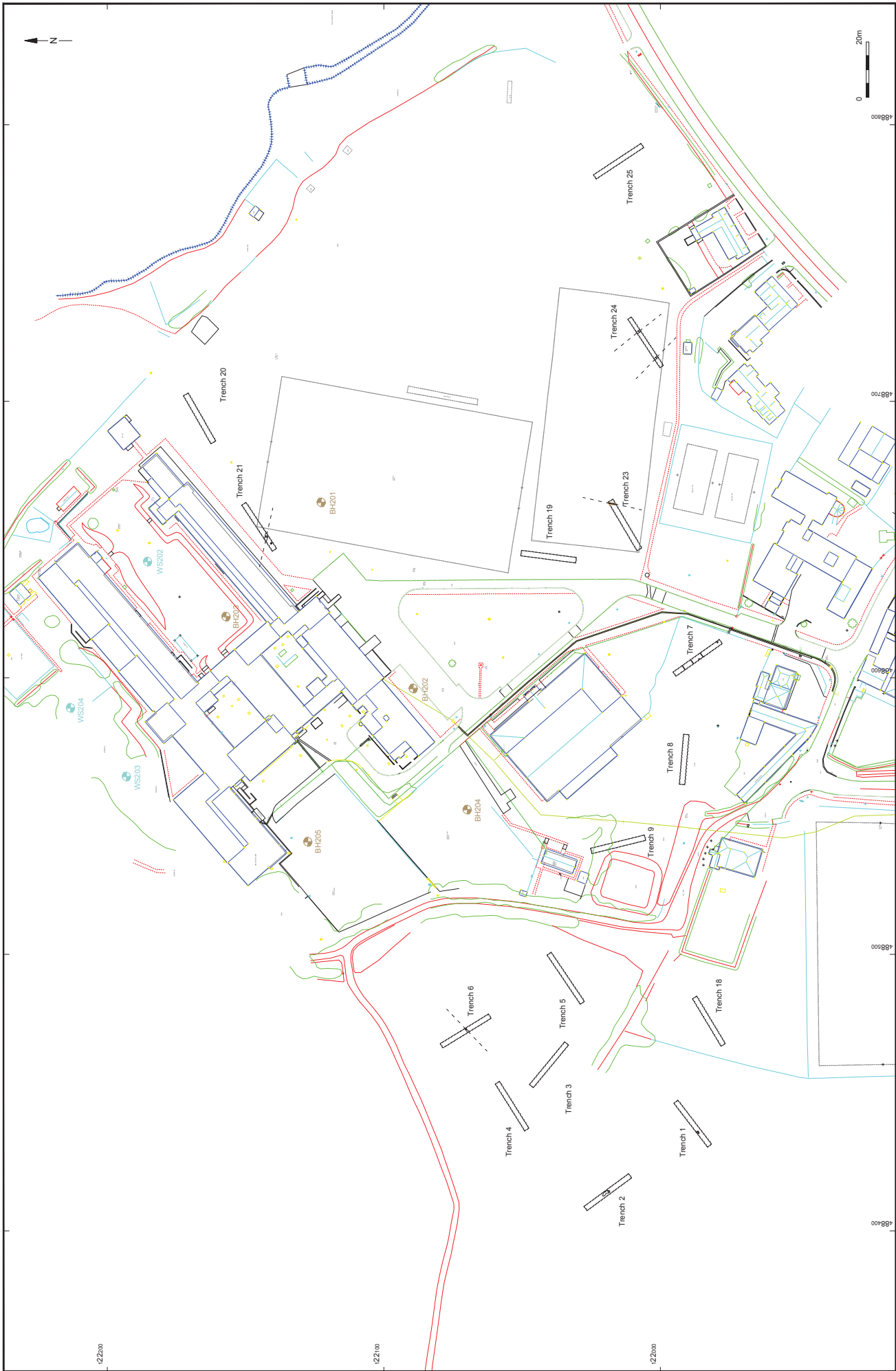
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Entered on 20 August 2010



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Fig. 1



<b>Archaeology South-East</b>		Rother College, Midhurst	
Project Ref: 4433	Aug 2010	Site plan	
Report Ref: 2010124	Drawn by: JLR	Fig. 2	

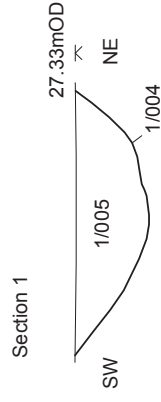
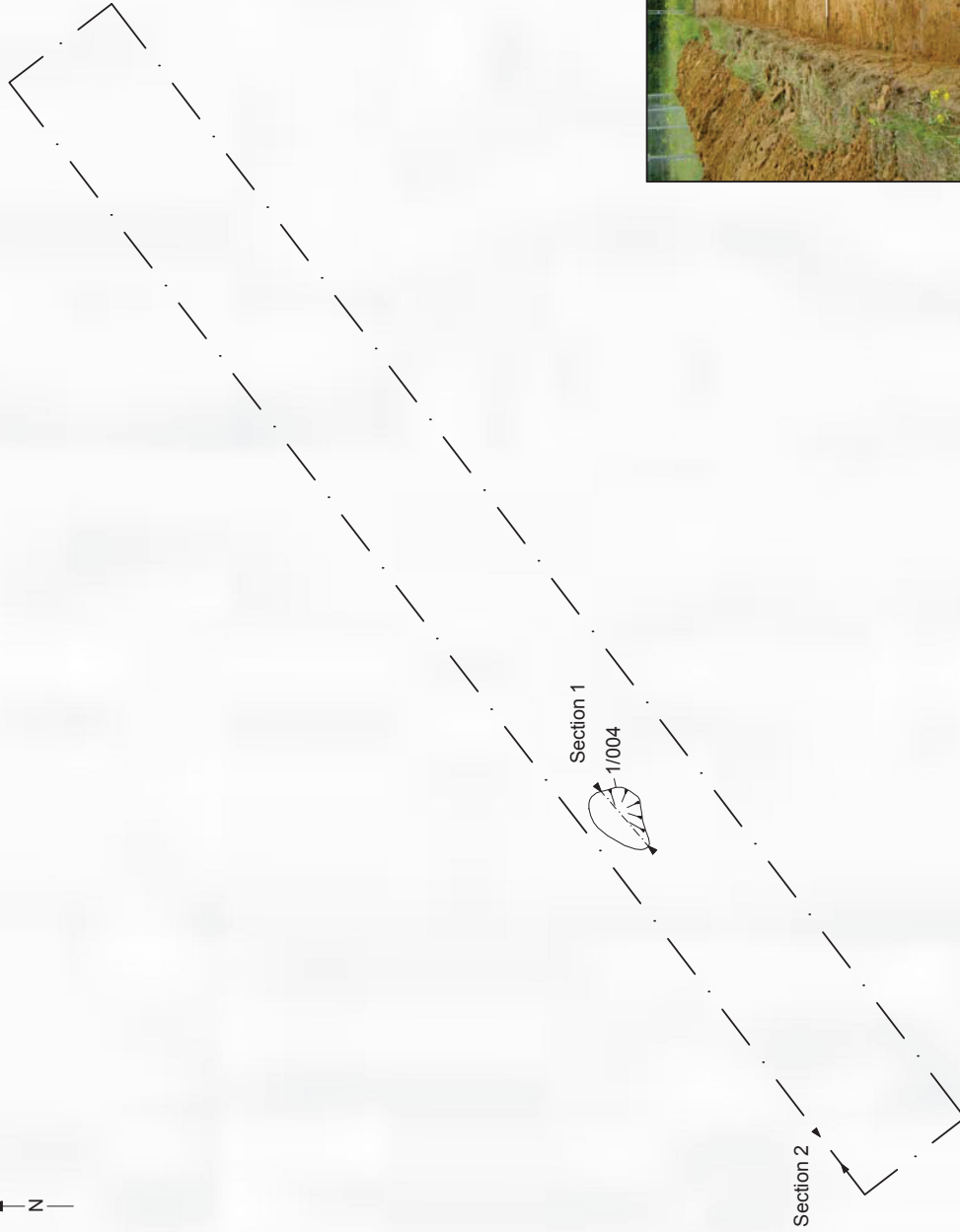
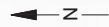


Fig. 3.1: Trench 1 looking north-east



Fig. 3.2: 1/004 looking north-west

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Trench 1: Plan and sections

Fig. 3

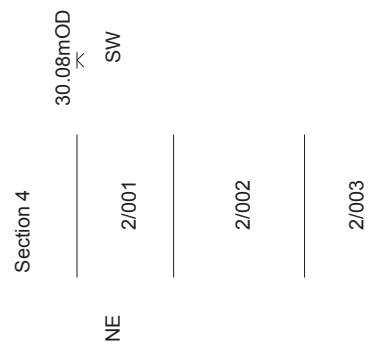
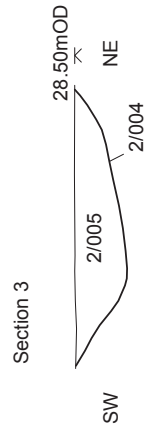
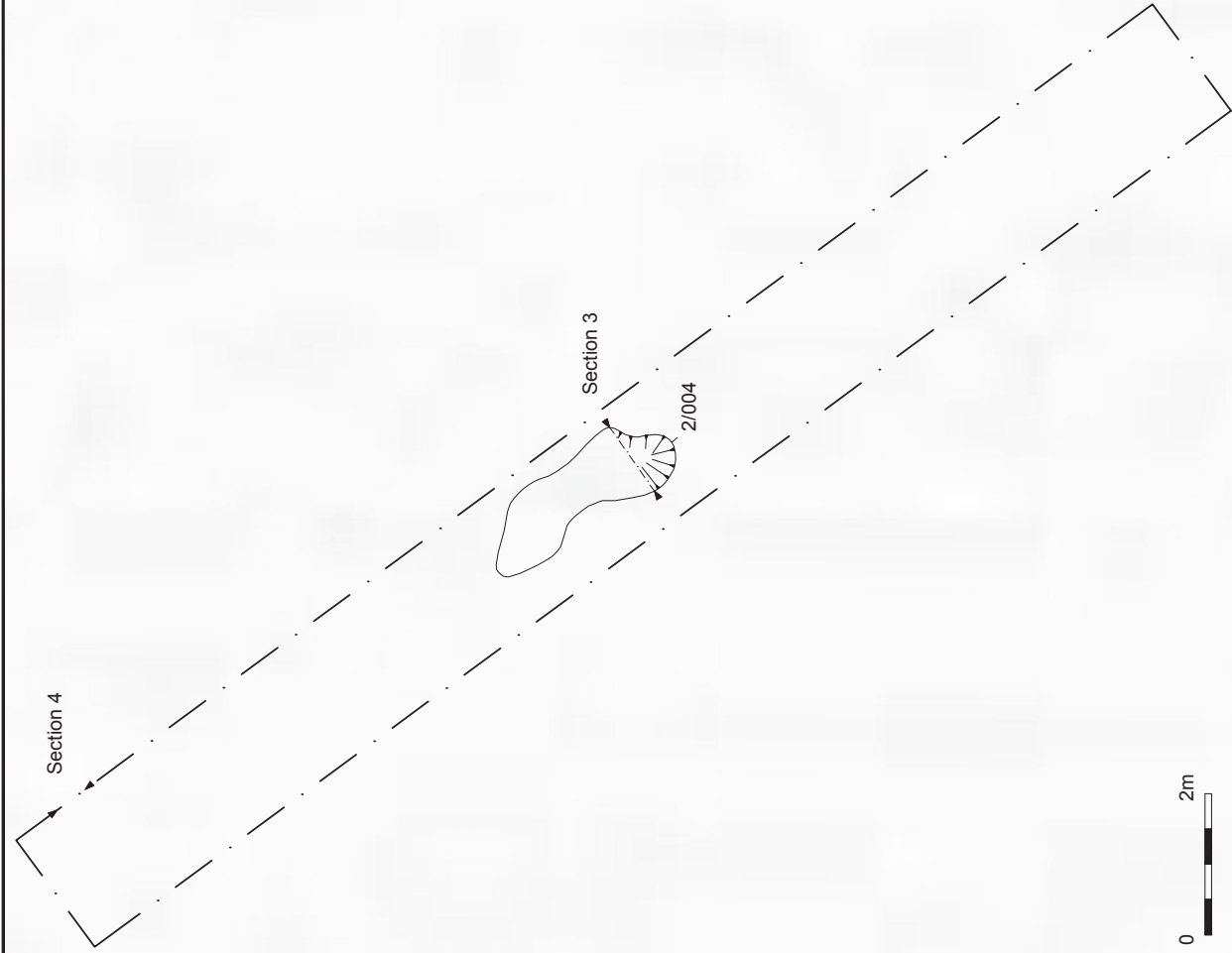


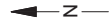
Fig. 4.1: Trench 2 looking north-west



Fig. 4.2: 2/004 looking north-west

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Report Ref: 2010124	Drawn by: JLR	Fig. 4	





Section 6

Section 5

6/004

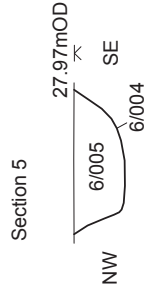


Fig. 5.1: Trench 6 looking south-east



Fig. 5.2: 6/004 looking north-east

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Trench 6: Plan and sections

Fig. 5

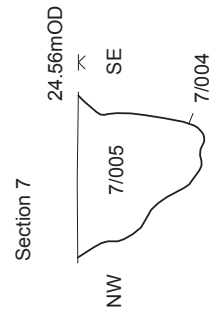
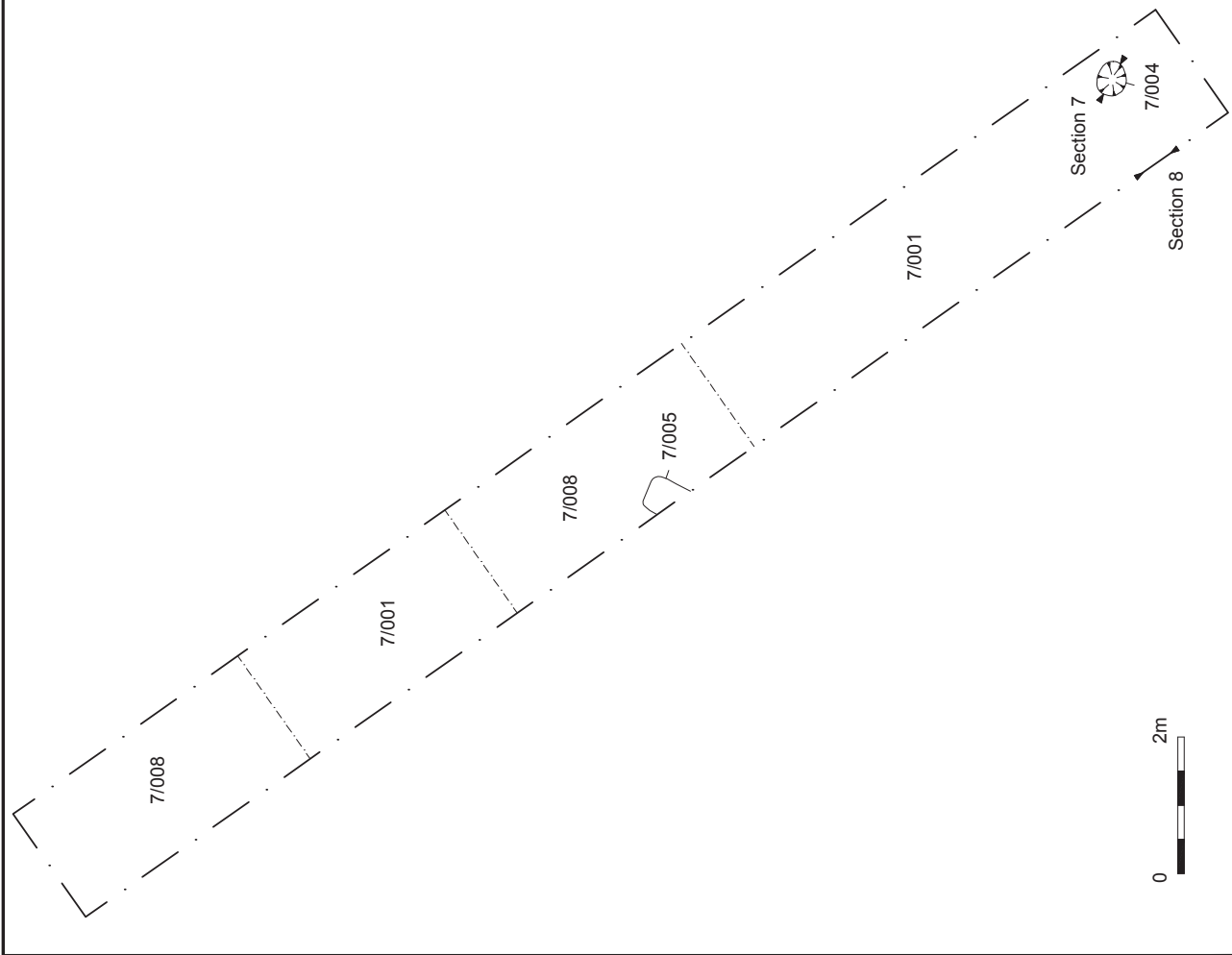


Fig. 6.1: Trench 7 looking south-east

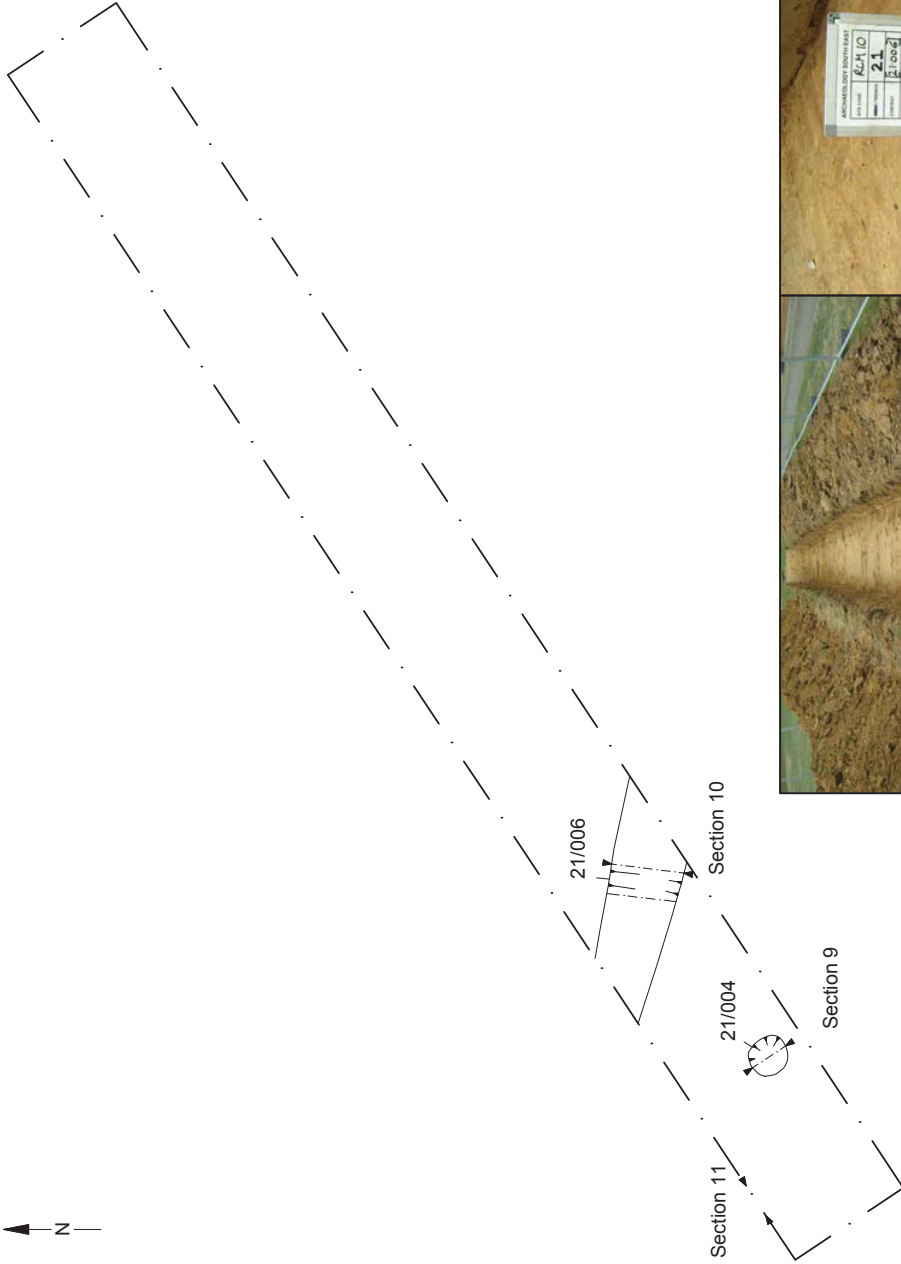


Fig. 6.2: 7/005 looking south-west



Fig. 6.3: 7/004 looking south-west

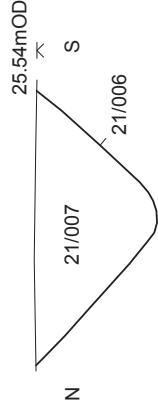
<b>Archaeology South-East</b>		Rother College, Midhurst		Fig. 6
Project Ref: 4433	Aug 2010	Trench 7: Plan and sections		
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Section 9



Section 10



Section 11

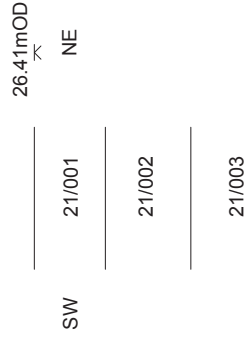


Fig. 7.1: Trench 21 looking south-west



Fig. 7.2: 21/006 looking east



Fig. 7.3: 21/004 looking south-west



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Trench 21: Plan and sections

Fig. 7

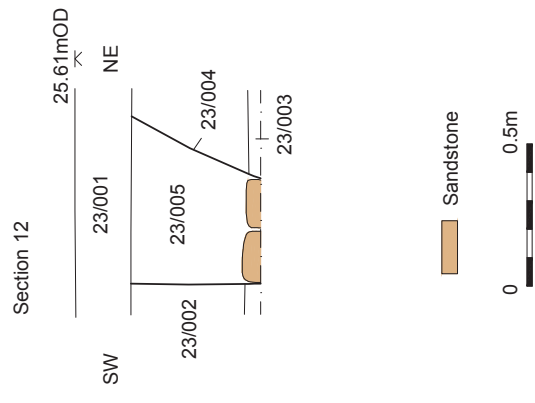
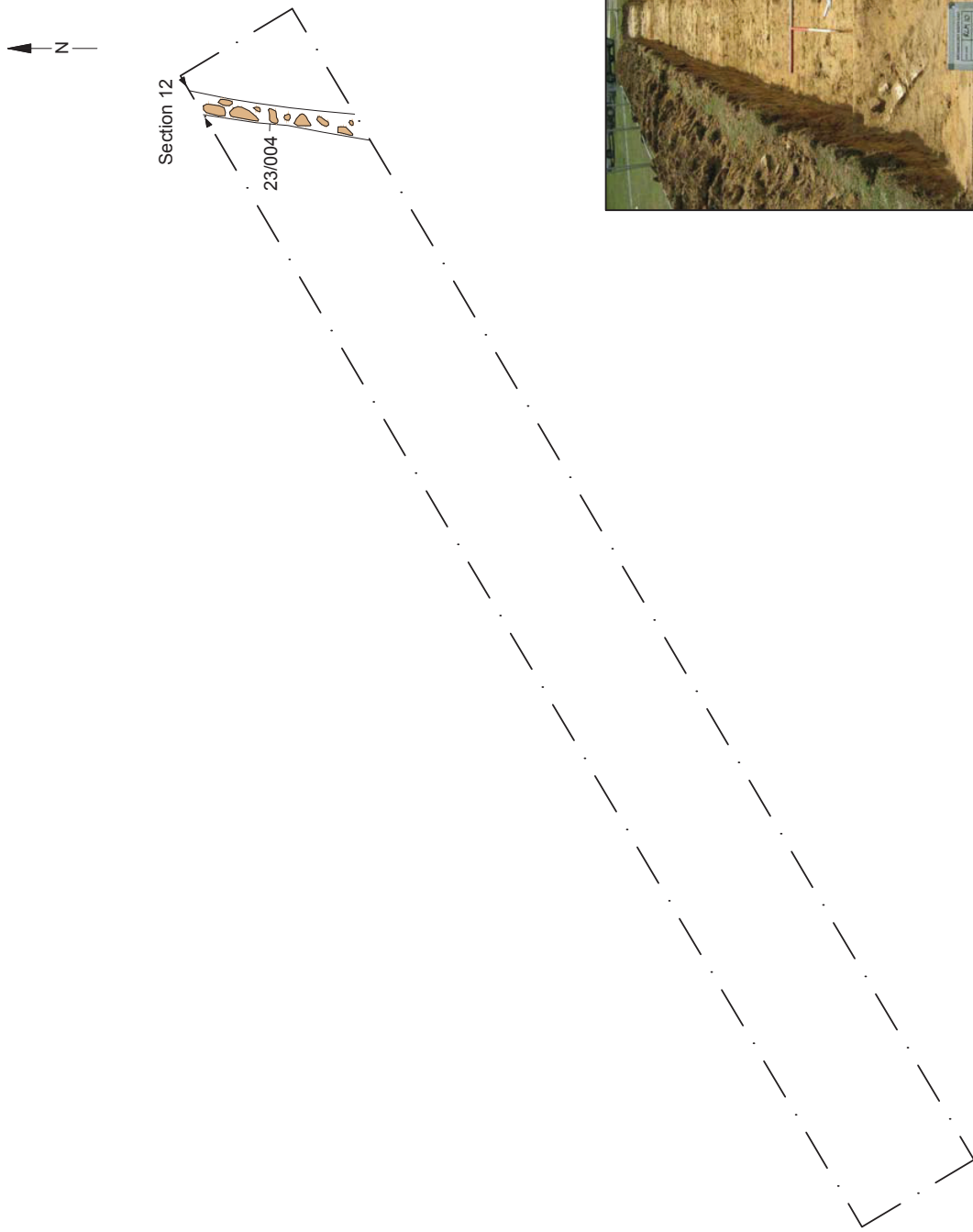


Fig. 8.1: Trench 23 looking south-west



Fig. 8.2: 23/004 looking west

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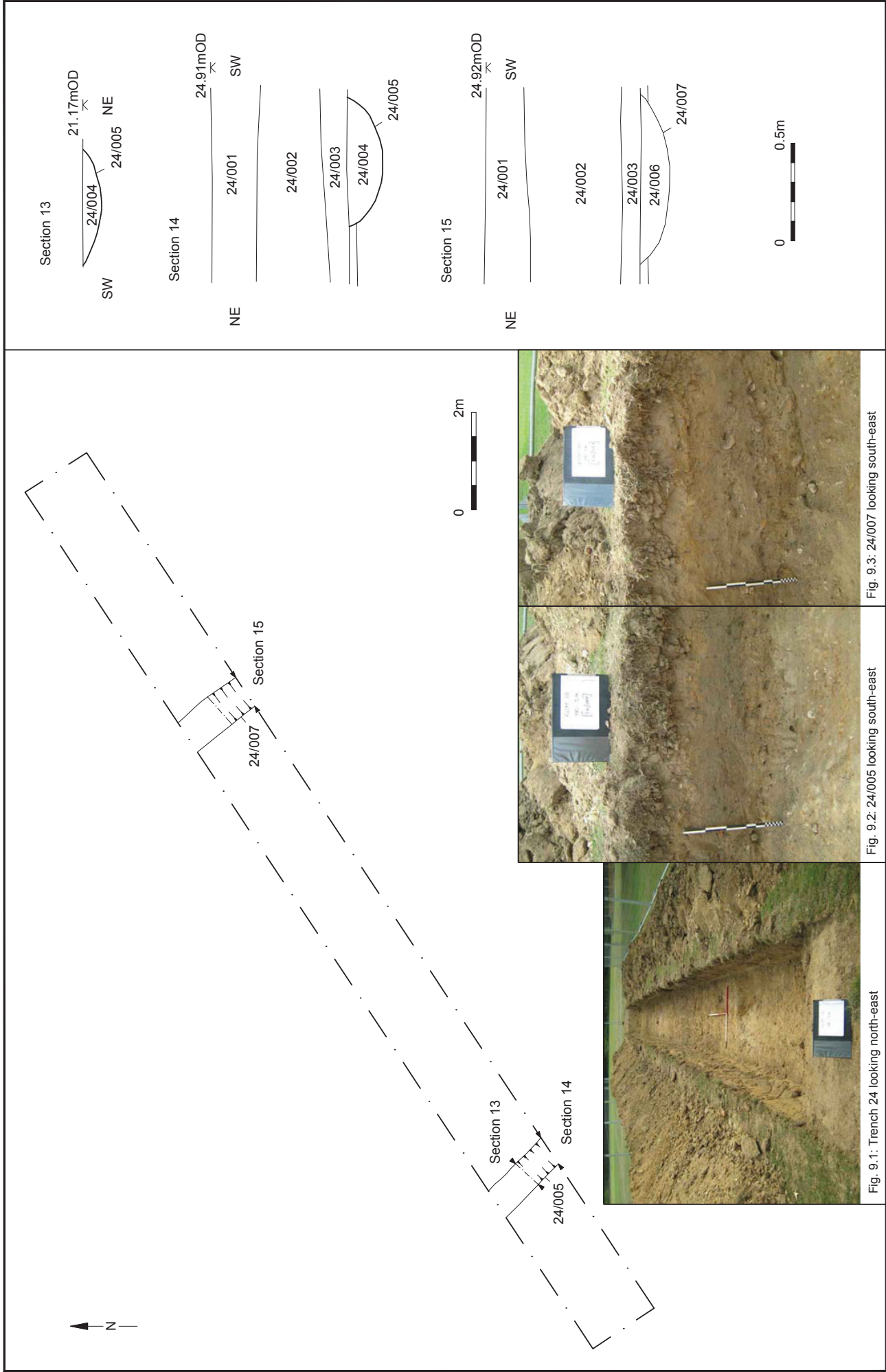
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Trench 23: Plan and sections



<b>• Archaeology South-East</b> Project Ref: 4433 Report Ref: 2010124		Rother College, Midhurst Trench 24: Plan and sections		Fig. 9
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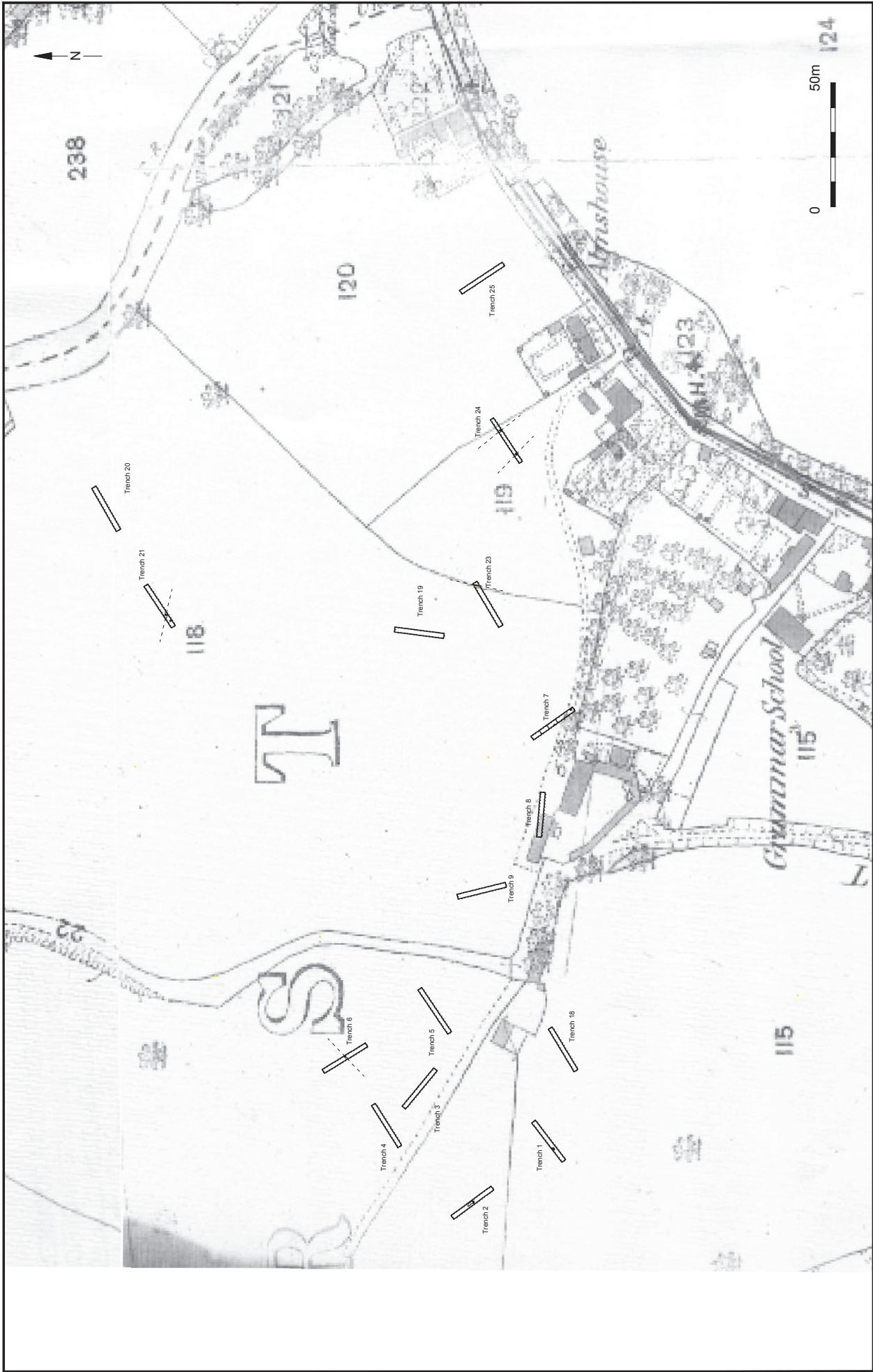
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Trench location and Tithe map, 1845

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Fig. 10



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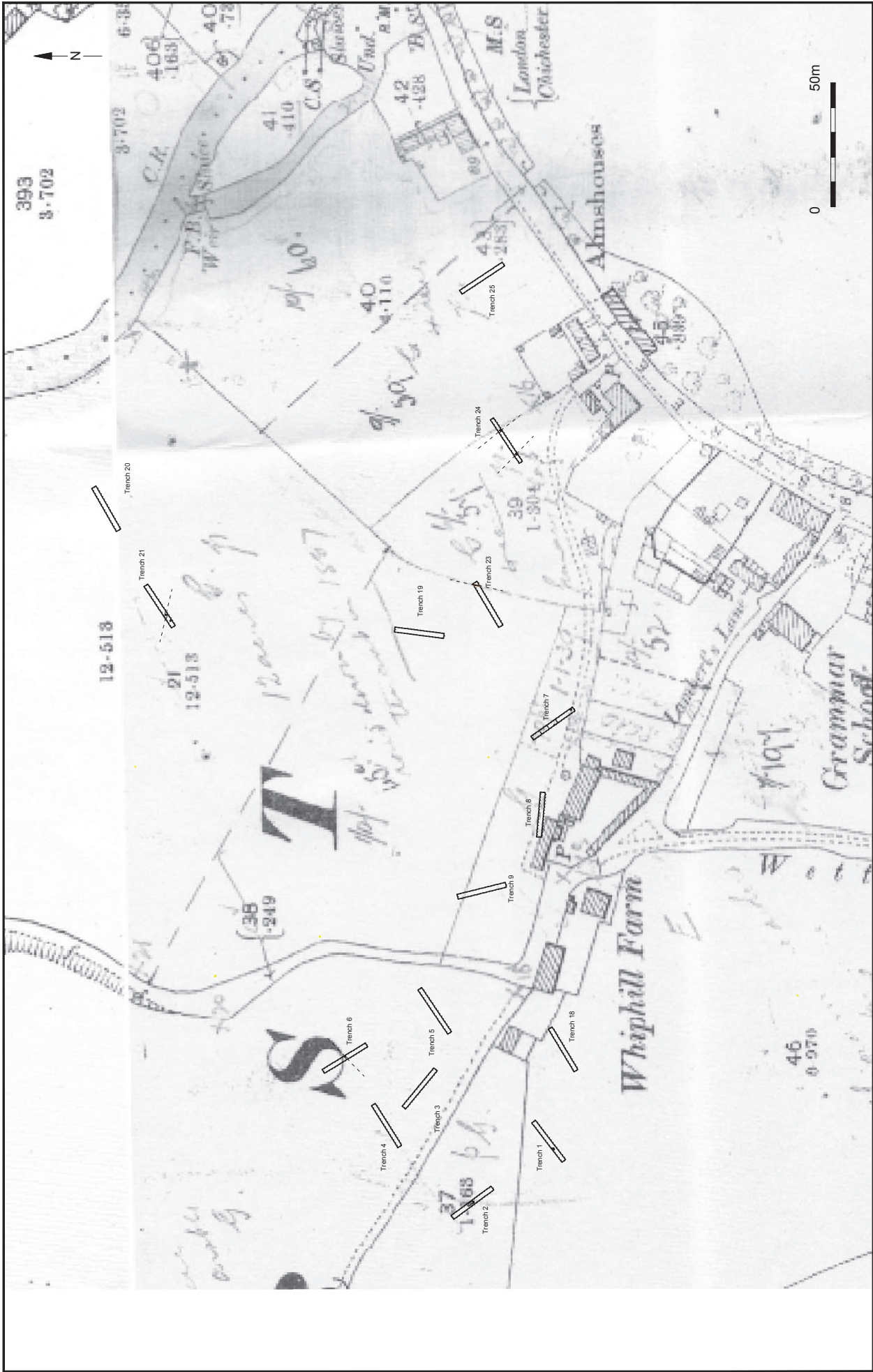
Project Ref: 4433

Aug 2010

Trench location and Ordnance Survey 1st edition, 1874

Report Ref: 2010124

Drawn by: JLR

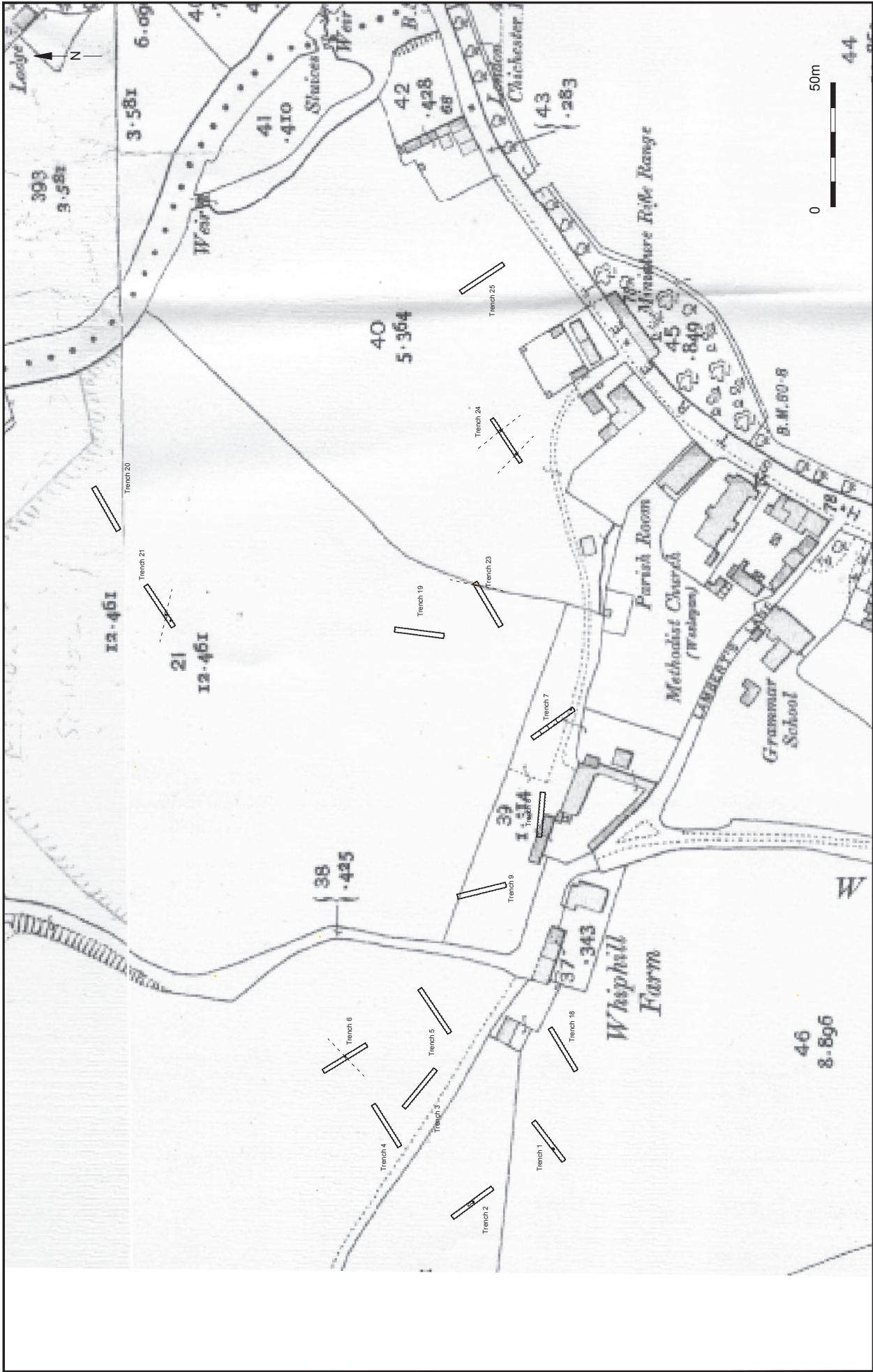


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Project Ref: 4433	Aug 2010
Report Ref: 2010124	Drawn by: JLR

Trench location and Ordnance Survey 2nd edition, 1897





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Head Office  
Units 1 & 2  
2 Chapel Place  
Portslade  
East Sussex BN41 1DR  
Tel: +44(0)1273 426830 Fax: +44(0)1273 420866  
email: [fau@ucl.ac.uk](mailto:fau@ucl.ac.uk)  
Web: [www.archaeologyse.co.uk](http://www.archaeologyse.co.uk)



London Office  
Centre for Applied Archaeology  
Institute of Archaeology  
University College London  
31-34 Gordon Square, London, WC1 0PY  
Tel: +44(0)20 7679 4778  
Fax: +44(0)20 7383 2572  
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