

**An Archaeological Evaluation at  
50-56 Bolsover Road, Worthing, West Sussex**

**Planning Ref: WB/07/1120/FULL**

**NGR TQ 121 034**

**Project No. 4555  
Site Code: BWR10**

**ASE Report No. 2010159  
OASIS id: archaeol6-83111**

**John Cook**

**With a contribution by  
Karine Le Hégarat,**

**September 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**

*An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Archaeology South-East at 50-56 Bolsover Road, Worthing, West Sussex. The work was undertaken between the 13th and 14<sup>th</sup> September 2010 on behalf of CgMs Consulting Ltd. Four trenches, measuring between 7 metres and 25 metres in length by 1.8 metres in width were excavated across the area of proposed development.*

*The underlying natural brickearth of a mid orange clayey silt, was encountered at a maximum height of 8.38 m OD to the north-east of the area of investigation (Trench 3) falling to 8.09 m OD to the north (Trench 2).*

*A single gully was uncovered (Trench 2) which equates to a former boundary seen on the 1934 Ordnance Survey map.*

## CONTENTS

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

**Bibliography**  
**Acknowledgements**

**SMR Summary Sheet**  
**OASIS Form**

### FIGURES

- Figure 1:** Site location
- Figure 2:** Trench location
- Figure 3:** Trench 1: plan sections and photographs
- Figure 4:** Trenches 1, 3 and 4: sections and photographs

### TABLES

- Table 1:** Quantification of site archive
- Table 2:** Recorded context within Trench 1
- Table 3:** Recorded context within Trench 2
- Table 4:** Recorded context within Trench 3
- Table 5:** Recorded context within Trench 4
- Table 6:** Recorded context within Trench 5

## **1.0 INTRODUCTION**

### **1.1 Site Background**

1.1.1 Archaeology South-East (ASE), the contracting division of The Centre for Applied Archaeology at the Institute of Archaeology, University College London, were commissioned by CgMs Limited on behalf of their client, to undertake an archaeological evaluation in advance of development on land 50-56 Bolsover Road, Worthing, West Sussex (NGR 512177, 103429).

### **1.2 Geology and Topography**

1.2.1 The site is located on a relatively flat area of former detached houses. It is bounded by green fields to the north and east, by Monkton Lane to the south and Weybourne Road to the west.

1.2.2 The British Geological Survey (BGS) sheet (318/333) shows that the site lies on brickearth deposits, over Upper Chalk.

### **1.3 Planning Background**

1.3.1 Planning permission was granted by Worthing Borough Council for the re-development of the site for sheltered accommodation. The following condition (Condition 25) was attached to the planning permission:

*'No development shall take place until the applicant has secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological work in accordance with a written scheme of investigation which has been submitted to and approved in writing by the Local planning Authority.'*

1.3.2 A Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for an archaeological evaluation was produced by CgMs Limited in August 2010 and was submitted to Worthing Borough Council for approval prior to the commencement of work (CgMs 2010). The documentation consisted of aims and objectives and methods to be used during the archaeological evaluation of the site. The WSI specified the excavation and recording of four 20m long, 1.8m wide trial trenches.

### **1.4 Aims and Objectives**

1.4.1 The aims of this work were outlined in the WSI and are summarised below (CgMs 2010).

- The evaluation should seek to clarify the nature and extent of existing disturbance and intrusions and hence assess the degree of archaeological survival of buried deposits and any surviving structures of archaeological significance

1.4.2 The detailed objectives of the archaeological evaluation were:

- To establish the presence or otherwise of Prehistoric or later

activity/occupation and define the date and nature of that activity/occupation.

- To establish the palaeoenvironmental context of any prehistoric, or later occupation/activity.
- Evaluate the likely impact of past land use.
- Provide sufficient information to construct an archaeological mitigation strategy.

## **1.5 Scope of Report**

1.5.1 This report details the findings of an archaeological evaluation undertaken by John Cook on the 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> September 2010. The project was managed by Jon Sygrave (Project Manager) and Jim Stevenson (Project Manager, Post-excavation).

## **2.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND**

### **2.1 Introduction to background**

- 2.1.1 The following background information is summarised from a Desk Based Assessment prepared by CgMs with all due acknowledgment (CgMs 2007).
- 2.1.2 The following is a consideration of known archaeological sites and findspots within a 750 metre radius of the site, discussed by period.

### **2.2 Palaeolithic, Mesolithic, Neolithic and Bronze Age**

- 2.2.1 While no Palaeolithic or Mesolithic material has been uncovered in the surrounding areas, there have been various find spots of both Neolithic and Bronze age material. Two Neolithic Axes, both west of the site at Durrington (SMR ref 3300-MWS359) and at Goring by Sea (SMR ref 3324-MWS298) have been identified. Further to these finds, a Late Bronze Age, two piece axe head was found to the north east of the site at Castle Road (SMR ref 3310-MWS5627) and a Bronze Age flint was discovered just north-west of the site on the Field Place Estate (SMR ref 3277-MWS342).

### **2.3 Iron Age and Roman**

- 2.3.1 A known Iron Age and Roman-British site was found to the north of the site at Ringmer Road, Castle Road and Harefield Avenue (SMR ref 3226-MWS300). A further hoard of roman coins was uncovered in 1907 at Courtlands Brickyard at Goring by Sea, west of the site (SMR ref 3223-MWS3323). Roman pottery has been found at Friars Walk at West Tarring, to the east of the site (SMR ref 3260-MWS328).

### **2.4 Anglo-Saxon and Medieval**

- 2.4.1 No finds of Anglo-Saxon or Medieval date have been found within the vicinity of the site. This area is believed to have been open fields during these periods.

### **2.5 Post-Medieval and Modern**

- 2.5.1 A large amount of post-medieval material was found just to the east of the site at the end of Friars Walk, including flint, slate pot sherds, bone and glass (SMR ref: 5940-MWS4983). A Brickworks was also located to the north of the site, as shown on the 1827 Ordnance survey map (SMR ref: 6123-MWS4787).
- 2.5.2 The site lay within an open field from 1813 until it was noted as being split between an enclosure and an area labelled as 'Allotment Gardens' up until 1954 when a housing development is noted. No further change of use or construction was noted during a review recent Ordnance Survey Maps.

### **2.6 Recent Fieldwork**

- 2.6.1 An archaeological investigation on the Worthing College site was completed

by Archaeology South-East in April 2008. The work revealed evidence of activity taking place as early as the Bronze Age with a separate phase of activity in the Roman period. With activity clustered in the north and the south of the site.



### **3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY**

- 3.1** The archaeological evaluation comprised the machine excavation, under constant archaeological supervision of four evaluation trenches, measuring 7m-25m long by 1.8m wide, totalling some 61.5m of trenching.
- 3.2** Trenches were located to avoid known services and to provide even coverage of those parts of the site currently accessible. Revision of trench locations and lengths was required in the light of on-site constraints and with agreement of CgMs and the County Archaeological Officer.
- 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. No further reinstatement was undertaken.

Number of Contexts	15
No. of files	1
Plan and sections sheets	1
Bulk Samples	N/A
Photographs	6 digital images
Registered finds	N/A
Environmental flots/residue	N/A

Table 1: Quantification of site archive

## 4.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION RESULTS

### 4.1 Trench 1 (Figure 3)

4.1.1 Length: 25m      Width:1.8m      Depth Max.:1.4m

Trench orientation: east to west

Number	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Deposit Thickness	Height m.AOD
1/001	Layer	Topsoil	N/A	N/A	0.20 m	9.07
1/002	Layer	Subsoil	N/A	N/A	0.70 m	8.87
1/003	Layer	Natural brickearth	N/A	N/A	0.35 m	8.17
1/004	Layer	Natural chalk	Tr.	N/A	N/A	7.82

Table 2: Recorded Contexts within Trench 1

#### Summary

4.1.2 A sondage was excavated in the western end of the trench to clarify the natural substrate. The underlying Upper Chalk [1/004] was exposed in this sondage. Overlying this chalk was the natural mid orangish brown brickearth, [1/003], with occasional gravel and small sub-rounded stone inclusions. The brickearth was observed between 8.17 OD in the west of the trench, 8.30 OD mid trench and 8.38 OD in the east of the trench.

4.1.3 Overlying this was the subsoil, [1/002], a mid yellowish brown clayey silt. Overlying the subsoil was the topsoil [1/001].

4.1.4 In the eastern end a brick built service ran across the trench in a north to south orientation.

4.1.5 No archaeological features or deposits were identified and no artefacts recovered.

### 4.2 Trench 2 (Figure 4)

4.2.1 Length:17.5m      Width:1.8m      Depth Max.:1.1m

Trench orientation: east to west

Number	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Deposit Thickness	Height m.AOD
2/001	Layer	Topsoil	N/A	N/A	0.20 m	9.02
2/002	Layer	Subsoil	N/A	N/A	0.70 m	8.82
2/003	Cut	Ditch cut	N/A	0.41 m	0.19 m	8.02
2/004	Fill	Ditch fill	Tr.	0.41 m	0.19 m	8.15
2/005	Layer	Natural	N/A	N/A	N/A	8.09

Table 3: Recorded Contexts within Trench 2

#### Summary

4.2.2 The natural, [2/005], a mid orangish brown brickearth with occasional gravel deposits, was observed between 8.23 OD in the west of the trench, 8.07 OD mid trench and 8.20 OD in the east of the trench. Overlying this was the subsoil, [2/002], a mid yellowish brown clayey silt. Overlying the subsoil was the topsoil, [2/001].

4.2.3 A linear ditch, [2/003], ran across the trench in a north to south orientation and was cut into the natural brickearth, [2/005] and sealed by the subsoil. It was concave in profile with gradually sloping sides and was filled by a mid yellowish brown silty clay, [2/004]. A single piece of struck flint was recovered from the fill. This ditch is shown on the 1934 OS 25" Map (Figure 5).

4.2.5 Modern disturbance within the trench included brick and concrete footings in the north-west corner and the backfilled cut for a mains sewer in the eastern end.

### 4.3 Trench 3 (Figure 4)

4.3.1 Length:7m                      Width:1.8m                      Depth Max.:1.1m

Trench orientation: north to south

Number	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Deposit Thickness	Height m.AOD
3/001	Layer	Topsoil	N/A	N/A	0.20 m	9.09
3/002	Layer	Subsoil	N/A	N/A	0.50 m	8.89
3/003	Layer	Natural	N/A	N/A	N/A	8.38

Table 4: Recorded Contexts within Trench 3

#### 4.3.2 Summary

4.3.3 The natural [3/003], a mid orangish brown brickearth with occasional gravel inclusions, was observed between 8.38 OD in the north of the trench and 8.31 OD in the south of the trench. Overlying this was the subsoil, [3/002], a mid yellowish brown clayey silt. Overlying this was the topsoil [3/001].

4.3.4 The backfilled cut of the mains sewer was observed in the north of the trench.

4.3.5 No archaeological features or deposits were identified and no artefacts recovered.

### 4.4 Trench 4 (Figure 4)

4.4.1 Length:12m                      Width:1.8m                      Depth Max.1.1m

Trench orientation: north to south

<b>Number</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Max. Length</b>	<b>Max. Width</b>	<b>Deposit Thickness</b>	<b>Height m.AOD</b>
4/001	Layer	Topsoil	N/A	N/A	0.40 m	9.04
4/002	Layer	Subsoil	N/A	N/A	0.45 m	8.74
4/003	Layer	Natural	N/A	N/A	N/A	8.29

Table 5: Recorded Contexts within Trench 4

#### 4.4.2 Summary

4.4.3 The natural [4/003], a light orangish brown brickearth with occasional gravel and small sub-rounded stone inclusions, was observed between 8.04 OD in the north of the trench and 8.37 OD in the south of the trench. Overlying this was a subsoil layer, [4/002], a mid yellowish brown clayey silt. Overlying this was the topsoil [4/001]. The topsoil was thicker here than in the other trenches and contained inclusions of brick and concrete.

4.4.4 No archaeological features or deposits were identified and no artefacts recovered.

## **5.0 THE FINDS**

### **5.1 Flintwork** by Karine Le Hégarat

- 5.1.1 A single struck flint weighing 12g was recovered from the fill of a ditch in Trench 2 (context [2/004]). It was a light grey to grey, tertiary retouched flake.
- 5.1.2 The flint exhibited some post-depositional damage on both right and left-hand edges and although the proximal end of the flake displayed some inverse abrupt retouches, the technological traits were not sufficient to assist with dating.
- 5.1.3 The assemblage is not considered to warrant any further analysis as it is extremely limited in size and the flint recovered within the fill of the ditch is most likely residual.

## **6.0 DISCUSSION**

- 6.1** The evaluation revealed a consistent stratigraphic sequence of topsoil and subsoil overlying brickearth. This brickearth was typically sealed by 0.70-0.90m of overburden
- 6.2** A single gully [2/003] was noted running north to south across Trench 2. Only a residual struck flint was recovered from the fill of this feature. The location and orientation of the gully suggests that it is the former boundary between an enclosure and an area marked as 'Allotment Gardens' on the 1934 Ordnance Survey map (Figure 5).
- 6.3** The results of this evaluation have indicated only very limited evidence for ancient activity on site (a single struck flint flake).
- 6.4** The natural substrate (brickearth) appeared mostly undisturbed across the site demonstrated by the present of subsoil in all of the trenches. However, the building footings encountered in the west end of Trench 2 may have potentially removed any archaeological remains present in this immediate locality.

**7.0 CONCLUSION**

**7.1** The results of the evaluation have indicated little evidence for archaeological activity and one probable modern gully located within Trench 2 which closely matches a boundary seen on the 1934 Ordnance Survey map.

**7.2** The evidence from previous work on Worthing College indicated that the main concentration of features occurred to the south and that features seen in the north related to agricultural activity. Therefore it is possible that the current site lies within an area of former agricultural activity accounting for the lack of archaeological activity.

## **BIBLIOGRAPHY**

ASE 2008 Archaeological Evaluation at Worthing Sixth Form College, Bolsover Road, Worthing, West Sussex, Archaeology South-East unpublished grey literature

CgMs Consulting Ltd 2007 *Desk Based Assessment of land at Worthing Sixth Form College, Bolsover Road, Worthing*, unpublished grey literature

CgMs Consulting Ltd 2010 Written Scheme of Investigation for a Field Evaluation: 50-56 Bolsover Rd Worthing,

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

The co-operation and assistance of Mark Taylor of East Sussex County Council and Sally Dicks and Paul Chadwick of CgMs is greatly appreciated.



**SMR Summary Form**

Site Code	BWR10					
Identification Name and Address	50-56 Bolsover Rd, Worthing, East Sussex					
County, District &/or Borough	Worthing					
OS Grid Refs.	NGR 512177, 103429					
Geology	Brickearth					
Arch. South-East Project Number	4555					
Type of Fieldwork	Eval. y	Excav.	Watching Brief	Standing Structure	Survey	Other
Type of Site	Green Field	Shallow Urban	Deep Urban	Other		
Dates of Fieldwork	Eval.	Excav.	WB.	Other		
Sponsor/Client	CgMs Consulting					
Project Manager	Jon Sygrave					
Project Supervisor	John Cook					
Period Summary	Palaeo.	Meso.	Neo.	BA	IA	RB
	AS	MED	PM	Other Modern y		
<p>100 Word Summary.</p> <p><i>An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Archaeology South-East at 50-56 Bolsover Road, Worthing, West Sussex. The work was undertaken between the 13th and 14<sup>th</sup> September 2010 on behalf of CgMs Consulting Ltd. Four trenches, measuring between 7 metres and 25 metres in length by 1.8 metres in width were excavated across the area of proposed development.</i></p> <p><i>The underlying natural brickearth of a mid orange clayey silt, was encountered at a maximum height of 8.38 m OD to the north-east of the area of investigation (Trench 3) falling to 8.09 m OD to the north (Trench 2).</i></p> <p><i>A single gully was uncovered (Trench 2) which equates to a former boundary seen on the 1934 Ordnance Survey map.</i></p>						

## OASIS FORM

**OASIS ID: archaeol6-83111**

### Project details

Project name	50-56 Bolsover Road, Worthing
Short description of the project	<p><i>An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Archaeology South-East at 50-56 Bolsover Road, Worthing, West Sussex. The work was undertaken between the 13th and 14<sup>th</sup> September 2010 on behalf of CgMs Consulting Ltd. Four trenches, measuring between 7 metres and 25 metres in length by 1.8 metres in width were excavated across the area of proposed development.</i></p> <p><i>The underlying natural brickearth of a mid orange clayey silt, was encountered at a maximum height of 8.38 m OD to the north-east of the area of investigation (Trench 3) falling to 8.09 m OD to the north (Trench 2).</i></p> <p><i>A single gully was uncovered (Trench 2) which equates to a former boundary seen on the 1934 Ordnance Survey map.</i></p>
Project dates	Start: 13-09-2010 End: 14-09-2010
Previous/future work	No / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	4555 - Contracting Unit No.
Any associated project reference codes	BWR10 - Sitecode
Type of project	Field evaluation
Monument type	FIELD Uncertain
Significant Finds	STRUCK FLINT Uncertain
Methods & techniques	'Sample Trenches'
Development type	Urban residential (e.g. flats, houses, etc.)
Prompt	SMR enhancement
Position in the planning process	After full determination (eg. As a condition)

### Project location

Country	England
Site location	WEST SUSSEX WORTHING WORTHING 50-56 Bolsover Road,

	Worthing
Postcode	BN13 1
Study area	0.30 Hectares
Site coordinates	TQ 12177 03429 50.8189574135 -0.407339537756 50 49 08 N 000 24 26 W Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 8.09m Max: 8.38m

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#### Project creators

Name of Organisation	Archaeology South East
Project brief originator	CgMs Consulting
Project design originator	CgMs Consulting
Project director/manager	Jon Sygrave
Project supervisor	John Cook
Type of sponsor/funding body	CgMs Consulting

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#### Project archives

Physical Archive recipient	n/a
Physical Contents	'Worked stone/lithics'
Digital Archive recipient	n/a
Digital Contents	'Stratigraphic','Survey'
Digital Media available	'Images raster / digital photography','Survey','Text'
Paper Archive recipient	evaluation report
Paper Contents	'Stratigraphic','Survey'
Paper Media available	'Context sheet','Drawing','Map','Notebook - Excavation',' Research',' General Notes','Photograph','Plan','Report','Section','Survey '

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#### Project bibliography 1

Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)

Publication type

Title An Archaeological Evaluation at 50-56 Bolsover Road, Worthing,  
West Sussex

Author(s)/Editor(s) Cook, J.

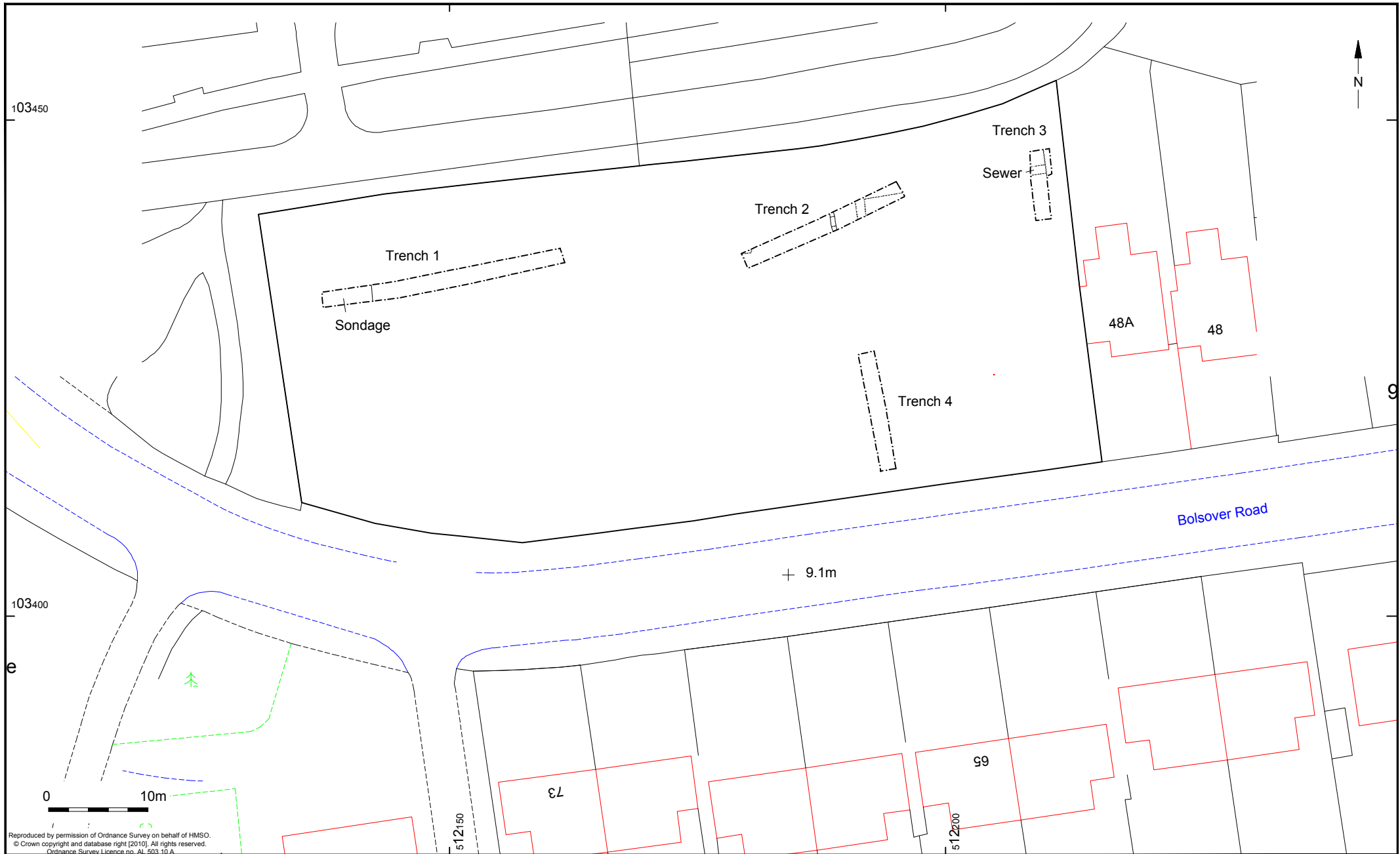
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Entered by John Cook (jrc8019@yahoo.com)

Entered on 23 September 2010

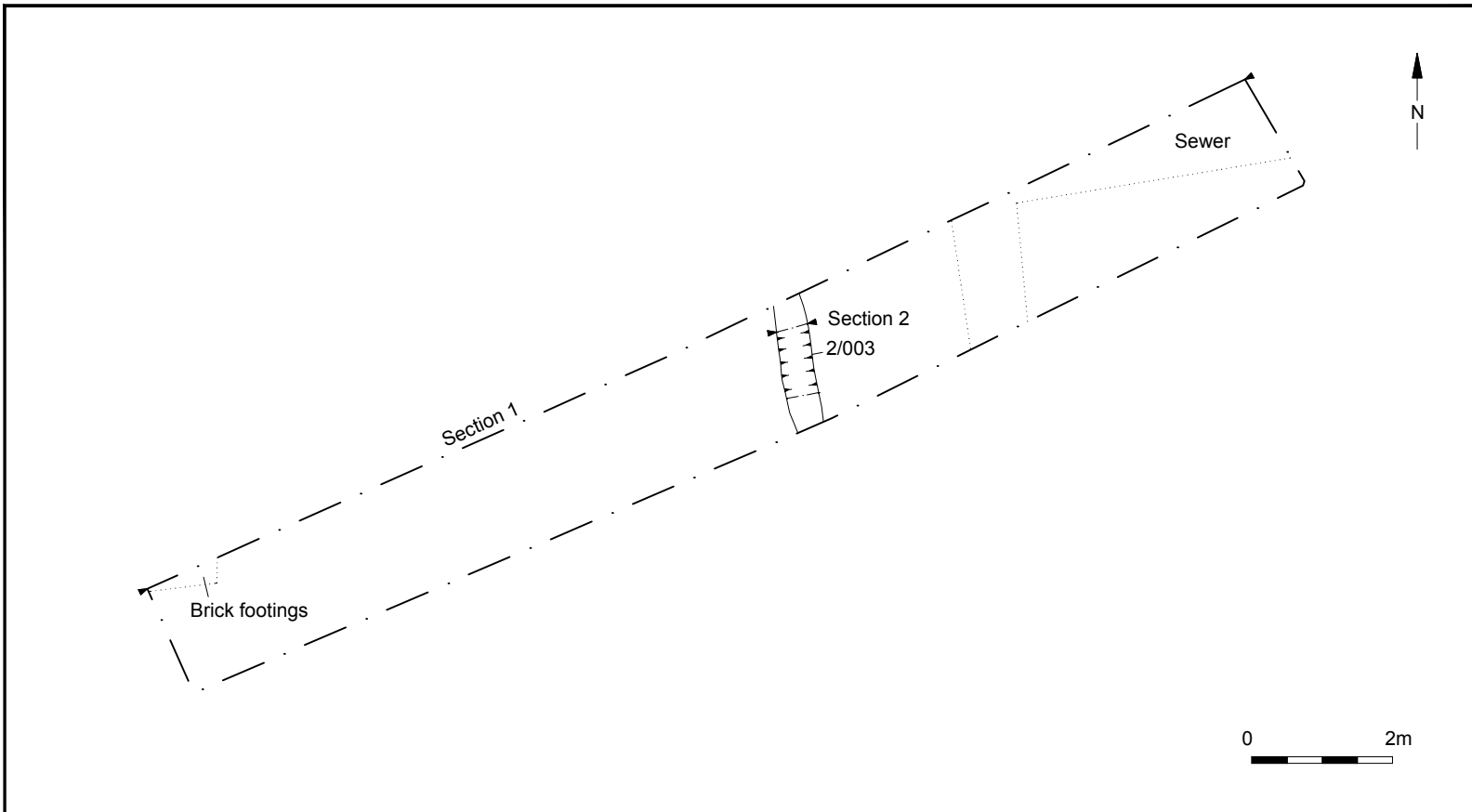


© Archaeology South-East		Bolsover Road, Worthing		Fig. 1
Project Ref: 4555	Sept 2010	Site location		
Report Ref: 2010159	Drawn by: JLR			



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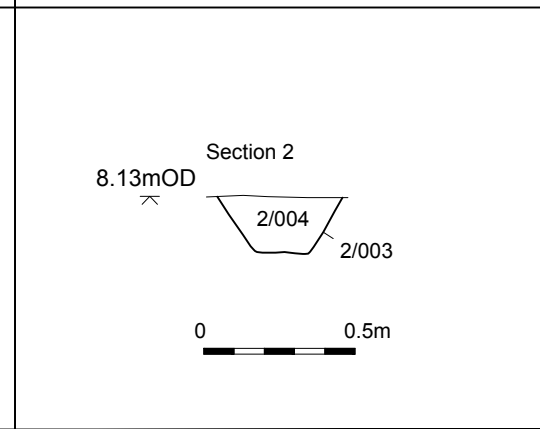
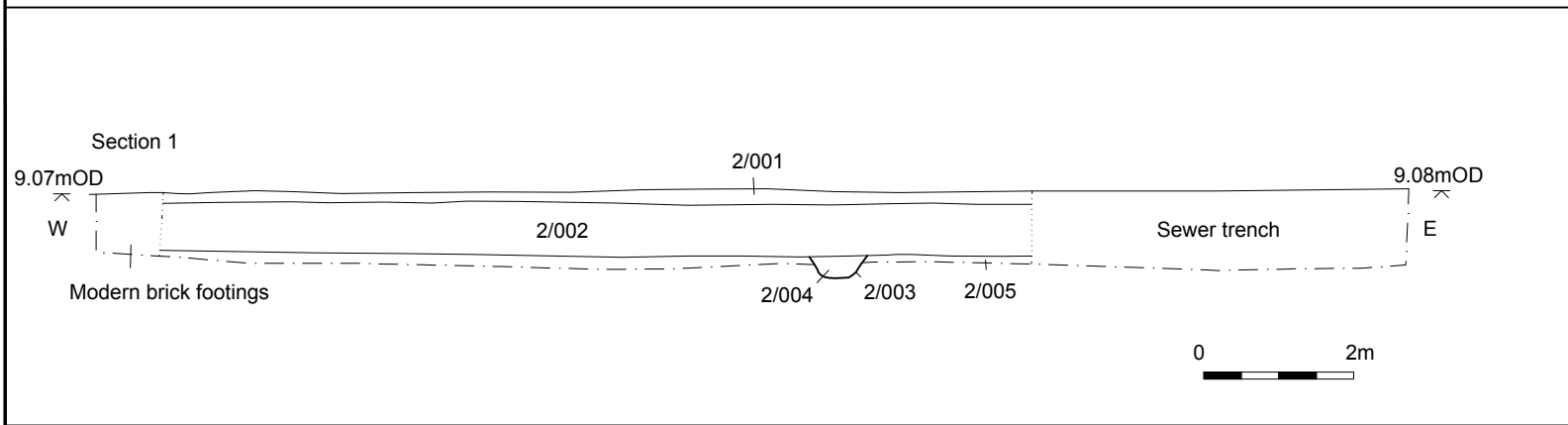
© Archaeology South-East		Bolsover Road	Fig. 2
Project Ref: 4555	Sept 2010	Trench location	
Report Ref: 2010159	Drawn by: JLR		



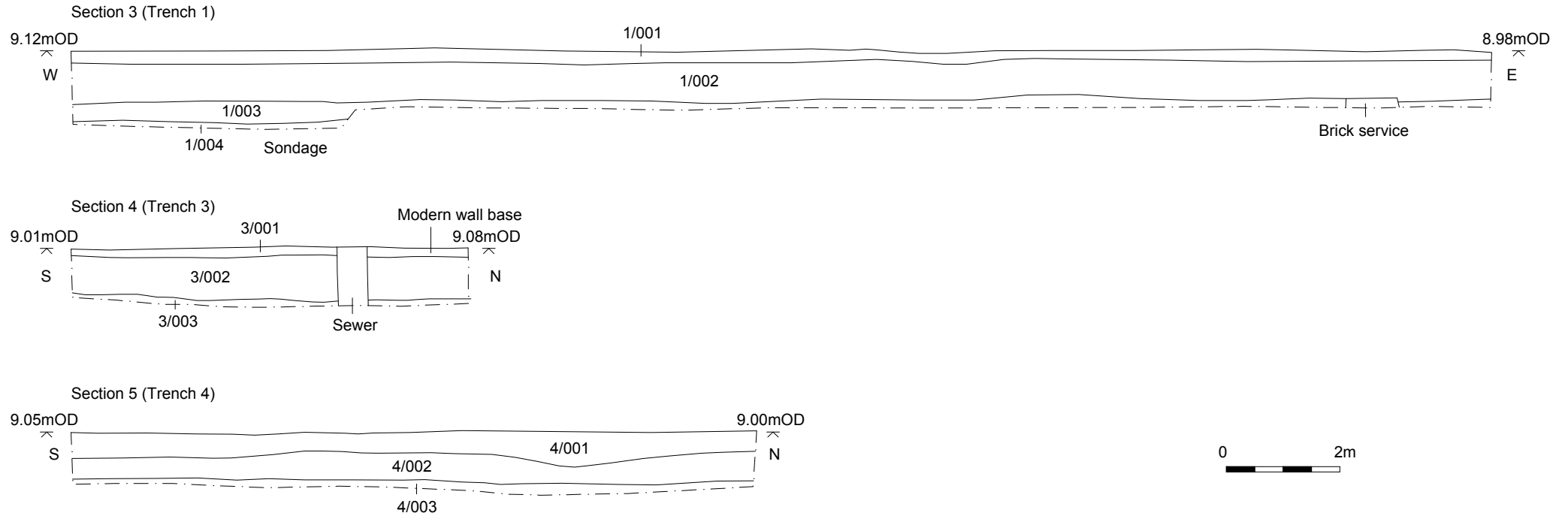
Trench 2 facing west



2/003 facing south



© Archaeology South-East		Bolsover Road	Fig. 3
Project Ref: 4555	Sept 2010	Trench 2: Plan, section and photographs	
Report Ref: 2010159	Drawn by: JLR		



Trench 1 facing west



Trench 1 sondage facing north



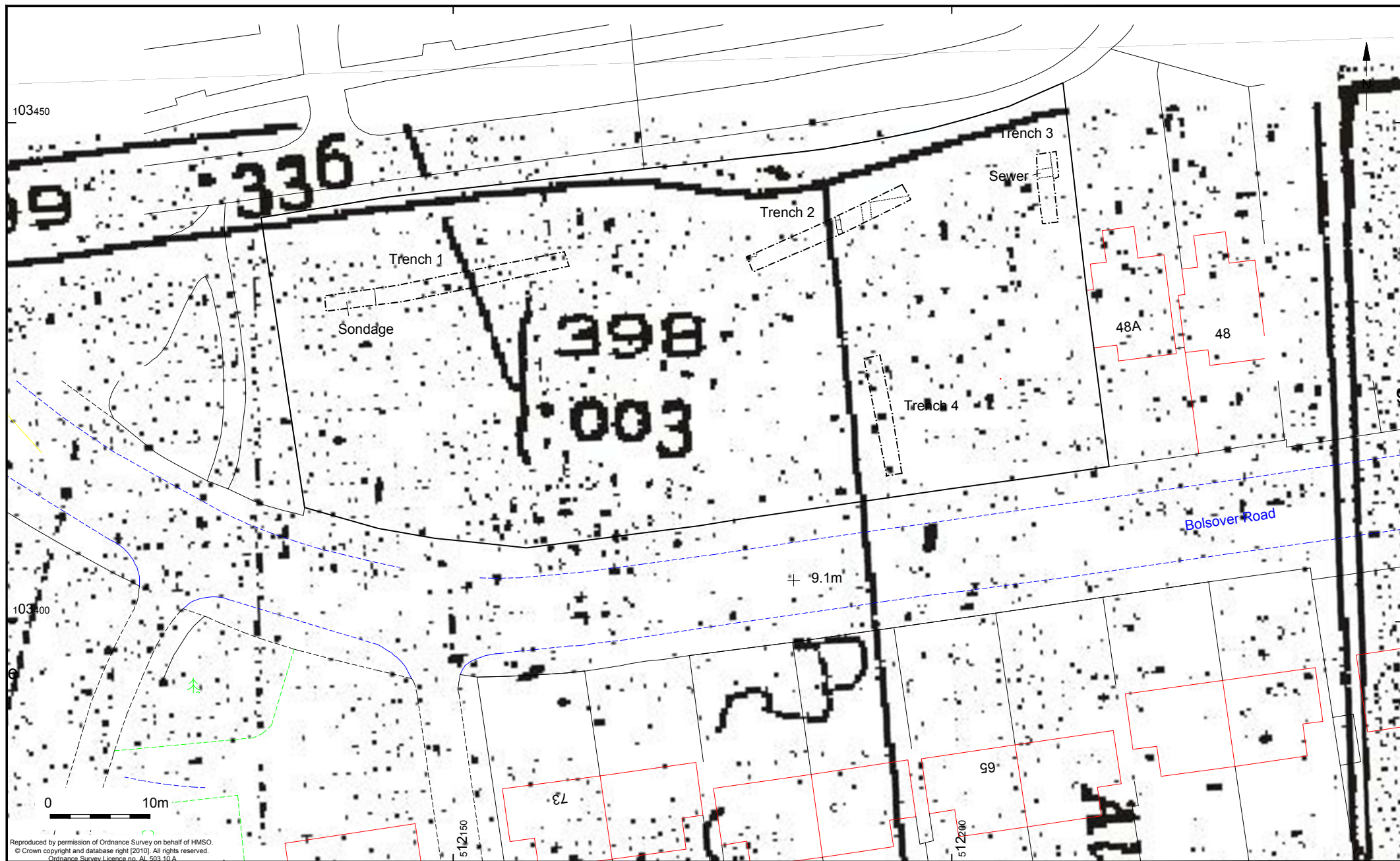
Trench 3 facing north



Trench 4 facing south

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Project Ref: 4555	Sept 2010	Trench plan and extract of OS 25" 1934	
Report Ref: 2010159	Drawn by: JLR		

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  
Web: [www.ucl.ac.uk/caa](http://www.ucl.ac.uk/caa)

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