

**An Archaeological Investigation at
16-18 Rattou Road, Eastbourne, East Sussex**

NGR 560115 099926

**Eastbourne Borough Council Planning Reference
EB/2009/0691**

**Project No: 4180
Site Code: RRE 10**

**ASE Report No. 2010182
OASIS ID:archaeol6-85435**

Simon Stevens BA MIFA

**With contributions by
Anna Doherty, Elke Raemen,
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Abstract

Two evaluation trenches were mechanically excavated at the site to a cumulative length of 45m. The overburden across the site comprised a modern demolition layer overlying a silty topsoil deposit.

Trench 1 contained no cut features, but did provide evidence of a possible terrace or lynchet orientated on a roughly east to west alignment within the southern part of the trench.

Trench 2 contained a possible continuation of this probable lynchet, and in addition produced evidence of a ditch from which several fragments of Late Iron Age / Early Roman pottery were recovered. An undated gully orientated on a similar alignment, and a small pit were also identified within this trench.

A subsequent watching brief showed that the area previously occupied by recently demolished buildings had been heavily truncated. No archaeological deposits or features were identified in any of the monitored foundation trenches. A small assemblage of artefacts (mostly post-medieval in date) was recovered from the overburden.

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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 Centre for Applied Archaeology (UCLCAA), was commissioned by Faithorn Farrell Timms LLP to undertake archaeological work at 16-18 Ratton Road, Eastbourne (NGR 560115 099926) (Fig. 1).

1.2 Geology and Topography

- 1.2.1 The site lies within a residential area on the eastern side of Ratton Road, c.2km to the north-west of the commercial centre of the town of Eastbourne, at a height of c.44mAOD. The site is bounded to the north and south by other properties fronting onto Ratton Road, and to the west by the rear fences of properties fronting onto Mill Road.
- 1.2.2 According to the British Geological Survey 1: 50 000 map of the area (Sheet 334, *Eastbourne*) the underlying geology at the site is Lower Chalk.

1.3 Planning Background

- 1.3.1 Planning consent has been granted by Eastbourne Borough Council for the demolition of the existing buildings and erection of 10 self-contained flats, 4 houses and associated parking (Planning Reference: EB/2009/0691). Following consultation between Eastbourne Borough Council and East Sussex County Council (Eastbourne Borough Council's advisers on archaeological issues), a condition (No.23) was attached to the permission requiring that:

'No development shall take place until the applicant, or their agents or their successors in title have secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological work in accordance with a written scheme of investigation, including a timetable for the investigation, which has been submitted by the applicant and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority and the works shall be undertaken in accordance with the approved details.'

Reason: The development is likely to disturb remains of archaeological interest.'

- 1.3.2 After a consultation process, Greg Chuter, Assistant County Archaeologist, East Sussex County Council stipulated that the initial archaeological work at the site should consist of an archaeological evaluation by the mechanical excavation of trial trenches. Results from this stage of work would provide the information required to assess if further archaeological work and/or mitigation measures would be required at the site. A *Written Scheme of Investigation* was produced for this work outlining the scope of the archaeological works at the site (ASE 2010a)
- 1.3.3 Following the discovery of archaeological features in the trial trenches and a visit to the site by Greg Chuter, it was decided that the appropriate response was to instigate an archaeological watching brief on groundworks at the site. Given the tight timetable for the commencement of development work at the site, it was agreed that the results of the evaluation and watching brief would be incorporated in a single report. However, a separate *Written Scheme of Investigation* was produced for the archaeological watching brief at the site (ASE 2010b)

1.4 Scope of Report

- 1.4.1 The current report provides results of both the archaeological evaluation and subsequent watching brief undertaken at the site. The evaluation was undertaken by Alice Thorne (Senior Archaeologist) and John Cook (Archaeological Surveyor) in early August 2010. The watching brief was carried out during visits to the site by Simon Stevens (Senior Archaeologist) between late August and mid October 2010. The project was managed by Neil Griffin and Jon Sygrave (Project Managers) and by Jim Stevenson (Post-Excavation Manager).

2.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 The site lies within an archaeologically sensitive area with potential for prehistoric, Romano-British and Anglo-Saxon remains. Of particular significance was the presence of rich Anglo-Saxon pagan cemetery in the immediate vicinity of the site which was excavated by ASE in 1997 and contained over 190 inhumations (ASE, forthcoming) A 500m radius search of the East Sussex County Council Historic Environment Record (HER) has been undertaken and the results are summarised below (Table 1).

HER No.	Nat. Grid Ref.	Brief Description	Period
MES515 EES9252	5603010010	Romano-British rubbish pit connected with salt boiling possibly indicating a settlement	Roman
MES520	55990 10020	Chapel of Knights of St John	Medieval
MES557	55985 09949	The Old Parsonage, a 16 th century Manor House	Post-medieval
MES558	55991 09947	Relocated Cornish cross in the grounds of Manor House	Medieval
MES620 EES9479 EES9451 EES14217	56034 09978	Anglo Saxon Inhumation cemetery at The Grange, St Anne's Road (SAM DES 8200)	Early Medieval
MES623	5602009980	A Mid Bronze Age burial urn within the grounds of Eastbourne College	Bronze Age
MES626	56030 09945	Possible site of Medieval moat associated with Eastbourne Manor	Medieval / Post-Medieval
MES632	56012 09940	Eastbourne Manor – separated into three 'quasi-manors' in 1574	Post-Medieval
MES634 EES9401	5605009960	Bronze Age cinerary urn and pits in Mill Gap road	Bronze Age
MES641	5599010010	Site of possible Windmill	Post-Medieval
MES642	5595010050	Ocklynge mill, also known as Bakers mill, constructed in 19 th century	Post Medieval
MES765	55979 09941	Three (12 th century) lime kilns of the flue-less intermittent type found in Church Street	Medieval
MES767 EES9478	55984 10003	Anglo-Saxon burial found in back garden of 27 Hurst Road	Early Medieval
MES773	55960 10050	Fragments of Iron Age pottery (Horsted Keynes ware) found in Windmill Close	Iron Age
MES775	55998 10001	Location of demolished St John's Mill Tower and possible site of medieval mill	Medieval / Post-Medieval
MES824 EES9381 EES9403	56003 99950	Three large lime-burning pits dated to 1175 found on Star Brewery site	Medieval
MES826	5599099950	Two-storey timber frame 15 th century building	Post-medieval
MES7009	55955 10054	Four medieval rubbish pits suggesting possible habitation in Willingdon Road	Medieval
MES7010	56021 99989	Site of Post mill demolished in 1885	Post-Medieval

HER No.	Nat. Grid Ref.	Brief Description	Period
MES7011	56036 99980	Gildredge Manor post mill, also known as Black Mill	Medieval / Post-Medieval
MES7020	56035 99940	Site of The Goffs watermill	Medieval
MES7363	56020 10100	Flint flakes, pottery, fire cracked flint and a copperpennanular brooch pin found during road building	Early Bronze Age to Late Saxon
MES7403 EES9403	56001 99949	Investigation of Bourne Stream valley exposed evidence of IA site and Late Saxon and Early Medieval activity	Iron Age / Late Saxon and Early Medieval
MES14498	59900 00000	Findspot of gold 20 th century ring at 34 Mill Road	20 th century
EES13907	56035 99985	Watching Brief at the Old Vicarage, St Anne Roads uncovered no archaeological remains	None
EES14050	56025 99872	Evaluation at Eastbourne College of Arts uncovered 3 LIA pits, 2 LIA ditches and 7 Anglo-Saxon inhumations	Late Iron Age / Anglo-Saxon
EES14135	56060 99981	Watching Brief at 6 Mill Gap Road uncovered no archaeology remains	None
EES14165	56026 00574	Evaluation trenches uncovering a stone structure, a cobbled yard and a timber building suggested a 12th - 18th century date	Medieval / Post-Medieval
EES14332	56011 99824	Watching Brief at 4 Ratton Road uncovered no archaeology remains	None
EES14354	59900 00000	Watching Brief at 14 Hurst Road uncovered no archaeology remains	None
EES14550	56022 00581	Evaluation at Pococks Field, Kings Drive revealed two sections of a building and evidence of prehistoric activity	Prehistoric / Post-medieval
EES14551	56028 10043	Evaluation at Pococks Field, Kings Drive revealed little archaeological evidence apart from finds dating to medieval / post-medieval	Medieval / Post-Medieval
EES14581	56025 10050	Desk-based assessment of Pococks Field, Kings Drive revealed potential for Bronze Age, Iron Age, Roman, Late Medieval and Post Medieval periods	
EES14647	56057 99980	Watching Brief at 4 Mill Gap Road uncovered no archaeology remains	None
EES14650	56032 99768	A small excavation at Eastbourne College revealed no archaeological evidence	None
EES14651	56032 99983	A excavation at Eastbourne College revealed part of a BA barrow, and evidence of IA and Romano-British occupation including inhumation burials	Bronze Age, Iron Age and Roman

HER No.	Nat. Grid Ref.	Brief Description	Period
EES14548 EES9452	56022 10052	Geophysical survey at Pococks Field, Kings Drive, Eastbourne revealed widespread anomalies of possible archaeological origin	Unknown

3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY

- 3.1 The locations of two evaluation trenches to a cumulative length of 45m were agreed with East Sussex County Council (Fig. 2). This trench length provided a 4% sample of the site surface area. The location of the trench was checked with a CAT scanner for the presence of buried services prior to the commencement of work.
- 3.2 The archaeological evaluation trenches were then excavated by an 8 tonne 360° excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket under the constant supervision of staff from Archaeology South-East. Care was taken not to damage archaeological deposits through excessive use of mechanical excavation.
- 3.3 During the watching brief phase personnel from Archaeology South-East monitored the mechanical excavations, examined all sections for the presence of archaeological features, and scanned all available spoil for archaeological artefacts.
- 3.4 During both stages of archaeological work, all encountered archaeological deposits, features and finds were recorded to accepted professional standards using standard Archaeology South-East context record forms. Deposit colours were recorded by visual inspection and not by reference to a Munsell Colour chart. Both trenches and all features were levelled to the Ordnance Datum
- 3.5 A full photographic record of the work was kept and will form part of the site archive. The site archive is currently held by Archaeology South-East at the offices in Portslade, and will be offered to Eastbourne museum in due course. The archive consists of the following material:

Number of Contexts	15
No. of files/paper record	1
Plan and sections sheets	1
Bulk Samples	1
Photographs	c.20 digital images
Bulk finds	1 small box
Registered finds	-
Environmental flots/residue	1

Table 2: Quantification of Site Archive

4.0 RESULTS – THE EVALUATION

4.1 Trench 1 (Fig. 3)

Context Number	Type	Description	Max. Deposit Thickness
1/001	Deposit	Brick Rubble	400mm
1/002	Deposit	Topsoil	300mm
1/003	Deposit	'Natural' Chalk	-
1/004	Cut	?lynchet	300mm
1/005	Cut/fill	?Gully	<10mm

- 4.1.1 Trench 1 was located close to the western boundary of the site. It was excavated to a length of 18m and to a depth of 400mm (43.87mAOD) at the northern end and to 550mm (43.37mAOD) at the southern end at which depth the 'natural' weathered chalk was encountered and mechanical excavation ceased.
- 4.1.2 The overburden consisted of two distinct layers. Context [1/001] was the uppermost, a deposit of brick rubble with a maximum thickness of 400mm. It overlay context [1/002], a mid-greyish brown silty topsoil, which had a maximum thickness of 300mm. In turn this deposit directly overlay the 'natural' weathered chalk, context [1/003].
- 4.1.3 An ephemeral feature was noted towards the northern end of the trench [1/005]. This was a barely visible, shallow scoop but thought to be a possible continuation of gully [2/008] noted in trench 2 (See 4.2.4 below)
- 4.1.4 The only anomaly of potential interest encountered in the trench was a possible lynchet or terrace, context [1/004], which survived as a distinct localised drop (of c.300mm) in the level of the chalk surface, which ran across the trench from east to west. This appeared to continue into Trench 2 (see Paragraph 4.2.6 below).

4.2 Trench 2 (Fig. 4)

Context Number	Type	Description	Max. Deposit Thickness	Max. Deposit Width/Diameter
2/001	Deposit	Brick Rubble	300mm	-
2/002	Deposit	Topsoil	400mm	-
2/003	Deposit	'Natural' Chalk	-	-
2/004	Cut	Ditch	400mm	1m
2/005	Fill	"	"	"
2/006	Cut	Pit	300mm	80mm
2/007	Fill	"	"	"
2/008	Cut	Gully	400mm	250mm
2/009	Fill	"	400mm	"
2/010	Cut	Lynchet	300mm	-

- 4.2.1 Trench 2 was located nearer the centre of the site. It was an 'L' shaped trench excavated to a total length of 27m and a depth of 360mm (44.03mAOD) at the eastern end, to 320mm (43.82mAOD) in the corner, and to 600mm (43.33mAOD) at the southern end. At these depths the 'natural' weathered chalk was encountered and mechanical excavation ceased.
- 4.2.2 The two layers of overburden were similar in character to those encountered in Trench 1. The brick rubble, context [2/001] was a maximum of 300mm in thickness, and the underlying silty topsoil, context [2/002] was a maximum of 400mm in thickness. The 'natural' weathered chalk was recorded as context [2/003].

Archaeological features were identified in the base of the trench.

- 4.2.3 The only datable feature was Ditch [2/004], which ran east to west across the trench. It was 1m wide and 400mm deep with concave sides and base. The only fill was context [2/005], a dark brownish grey sandy silt. A small quantity of Late Iron Age/Early Romano-British pottery was recovered from the feature as well as residual struck flint. An environmental sample was taken and was found to contain evidence of cereal crop processing in the vicinity of the ditch (see Section 7.0 below). This is strongly indicative of the presence of domestic activity in the locality of the current site.
- 4.2.4 Another linear feature was identified in the trench running parallel to Ditch [2/004]: Gully [2/008]. It had an irregular profile and was a maximum of 400mm wide and 250mm deep. The single fill was context [2/009], a light brownish grey sandy silt. No datable artefacts were recovered from the feature.
- 4.2.5 A small pit/post-hole was encountered between the two linear features. Cut [2/006] was 300mm in diameter but survived to a depth of only 80mm. The single fill was context [2/007], a mid-greyish brown silt. No datable artefacts were recovered from the feature.
- 4.2.6 The possible lynchet encountered in Trench T1 was also identified in this trench. Again there was a drop in level of 300mm which ran from east to west across the trench. The only other feature encountered was a bore-hole close to the junction of the east to west and north to south 'arms' of the trench.

5.0 RESULTS – THE WATCHING BRIEF (Fig. 2)

Context Number	Type	Description	Max. Deposit Thickness
100	Deposit	Topsoil/Brick Rubble	350mm
101	Deposit	'Natural' Chalk	-

- 5.1 The mechanical excavation of foundation trenches at the site was monitored. The trenches were a maximum of 750mm wide and a maximum of 1.5m in depth. The overburden consisted of a mixture of the layers of overburden encountered in the evaluation trenches, and was recorded as context [100]. It was a maximum thickness of 350mm and directly overlay the 'natural' weathered Chalk, context [101]. No archaeological deposits or features were identified. A small assemblage of artefacts was recovered from the overburden.
- 5.2 The area formerly occupied by the recently demolished buildings (and hence much of the new build) was found to have been heavily truncated/mixed during the demolition work. Therefore, following consultation with Greg Chuter it was agreed that the watching brief was unnecessary in this area given the level of disturbance

6.0 THE FINDS

6.1 Introduction

6.1.1 A small assemblage of finds was recovered during the archaeological work. A summary can be found in Table 3. Finds were all washed and dried or air dried as appropriate. All objects were counted, weighed and bagged by material and context. No further conservation is required.

Context	Pot	Wt (g)	CBM	Wt (g)	Shell	Wt (g)	Flint	Wt (g)	Glass	Wt (g)	CTP	Wt (g)
u/s	11	100	3	64					1	28	1	2
2/005	8	76			1	<2	1	14				
Total	19	176	3	64	1	<2	1	14	1	28	1	2

Table 3: Quantification of the Finds.

6.2 The Late Iron Age/Early Romano-British Pottery by Anna Doherty

6.2.1 Context [2/005] produced a small group of Late Iron Age/Early Roman pottery, amounting to 8 sherds, weighing 76 grams, probably derived from 3-4 different vessels. All of the sherds are in a typical East Sussex grog-tempered fabric, which also contains white sedimentary rock and dark iron-rich inclusions. All examples feature even grey firing, probably suggesting that this is a post-conquest group (although this cannot be stated with certainty). The only diagnostic feature sherd is from a wheel-thrown necked jar with a single cordon on the shoulder, similar to types classified as B1 by Thompson's (1982) typology.

6.3 The Post-Roman Pottery by Elke Raemen

6.3.1 A small assemblage of mainly 19th-century pottery was recovered from the topsoil. The earliest pieces consist of two creamware plate fragments of mid 18th- to early 19th-century date. Two conjoining pearlware handle fragments as well as two body sherds, dating to the later 18th to mid 19th century, were recovered as well. The 19th-century assemblage includes three fragments of blue transfer-printed china, all from plates, in addition to a polychrome transfer printed cup fragment and an unglazed red earthenware flowerpot fragment.

6.4 The Ceramic Building Material by Sarah Porteus

6.4.1 A total of three fragments of ceramic building material (CBM) were recovered with a combined weight of 64g, the fragments were all unstratified and comprised three fragments of 18th to 19th century peg tile in an orange sandy fabric with moderate fine quartz and some cream silt streaks.

6.5 The Glass by Elke Raemen

6.5.1 A single body fragment from an aqua cylindrical bottle was recovered from the topsoil. The piece dates to the mid 19th to early 20th century and is likely to be from a mineral water bottle.

6.6 The Flintwork by Karine Le Hégarat

6.6.1 A single struck flint weighing 14g was recovered from the fill [2/005] of ditch [2/004]. It consisted of a secondary flake manufactured from a dark grey fine-grained flint with infrequent light grey mottled patches. The dorsal side of the artefact exhibited some

incipient white surface cortication. The piece of flint debitage is chronologically undiagnostic.

6.7 Other Finds by ElkeRaemen

- 6.7.1 A single, small land snail was recovered from [2/005]. The topsoil contained a plain clay tobacco pipe (CTP) stem fragment. The piece dates between 1750 and 1820.

7.0 THE ENVIRONMENTAL EVIDENCE by Karine Le Hégarat

7.1 Introduction

7.1.1 A single environmental sample was extracted from the single fill [2/005] of a Late Iron Age/Early Romano-British ditch [2/004] as part of the evaluation work at Ratton Road, Eastbourne. Sampling aimed to establish evidence for environmental remains such as wood charcoal, charred macrobotanical remains, fauna and mollusca.

7.2 Method

7.2.1 The sample was processed in a flotation tank, the residue and flot were captured on 250µm and 500µm meshes respectively and were air dried prior to sorting. The residue was sieved through 4mm and 2mm geological sieves and each fraction sorted for environmental and artefact remains (Table 4). The flot was scanned under a stereozoom microscope at x7-45 magnifications and an overview of its content recorded (Table 5). Preliminary identifications of macrobotanical remains have been made using modern comparative material and reference texts (Cappers *et al.* 2006, Jacomet 2006, NIAB 2004). Nomenclature used follows Stace (1997). Abundance and preservation of the macrobotanicals have been recorded to establish their potential for further analysis.

7.3 Results

7.3.1 The relatively large flot (200ml) contained a moderate quantity of uncharred vegetation (35% of the flot) including woody roots and modern weed seeds such as elder (*Sambucus nigra*), petty spurge (*Euphorbia peplus*), common fumitory (*Fumaria officinalis*) and seeds from the goosefoot (Chenopodiaceae) family. The presence of uncharred vegetation could indicate a small degree of stratigraphic movement and modern post-depositional disturbances.

7.3.2 Nonetheless, sampling has confirmed the presence of environmental remains including wood charcoal fragments, charred macrobotanicals, land snail shells (LSS) and fragments of marine mollusca. The wood charcoal fragments were moderately well preserved but infrequent and predominantly small (<2mm) although rare fragments >4mm were also noted. Due to the limited nature of this assemblage no identifications were undertaken.

7.3.3 However, the flot produced a moderately rich assemblage of charred crop remains including two possible poorly preserved legumes (cf. Fabaceae), some cereal caryopses of wheat (*Triticum* sp.) and unidentified grains (Cerealia) as well as some chaff remains. The latter were particularly abundant and included glumes, spikelet bases with and without adherent glume(s) (spikelet forks) as well as culm nodes. Overall the assemblage of charred crop remains was moderately to poorly preserved. Although the majority of the glume bases were characteristic of spelt wheat (*Triticum spelta*), a single glume which could belong to emmer (*Triticum cf. dicoccum*) was also noted.

7.3.4 A small assemblage of wild/weed seeds was noticed within the flot and taxa identified include bedstraw/ivy-leaved speedwell (*Galium* sp. / *Veronica hederifolia*), knotweed/dock (*Polygonum/Rumex* sp.), seeds from the daisy (Asteraceae) family, fescues (*Festuca* sp.) and other grasses (Poaceae).

7.3.5 Sampling also produced a large quantity of land snail shells and a smaller number of fragmented marine mollusca.

7.4 Discussion

- 7.4.1 Sampling from the ditch deposit has confirmed the presence of a moderate quantity of environmental remains including charcoal, charred macrobotanicals as well as land snail shells and marine mollusca. Charred wood fragments were scarce but the charred cereal remains were more frequent.
- 7.4.2 Although the wheat grains were not satisfactorily determined beyond the genus level, several glume bases were identified as spelt wheat (*Triticum spelta*) and one glume was classified as a probable emmer (*T. cf. dicoccum*). It has been suggested that hulled wheat was stored in spikelet form as it increased protection of the grains. These would then be separated from the glumes on a routine basis (Hillman 1981).
- 7.4.3 Therefore, the presence in the ditch of waste glumes could be highly indicative of domestic activities relating to crop processing within the immediate excavated area. It has also been suggested that the chaff fragments removed after parching and pounding could have been used as fuel (ibid). The large quantity of charred chaff fragments in relation to the small amount of charcoal might therefore points towards an accident rather than a deliberate use of the crop processing waste as fuel in a domestic fire. The cereals might have been cultivated locally or they could have been brought to the site part processed. Wild/weed grass taxa could provide evidence for grassland, although they might have been brought to the site amongst the cereals.

Sample Number	Context	Context / deposit type	Sample Volume litres	sub-Sample Volume litres	Marine Molluscs	Weight (g)	Land Snail shells	Weight (g)
1	2/005	Ditch fill	40	40	**	<2	***	8

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

Sample Number	Context	weight g	Flot volume ml	Uncharred %	sediment %	seeds uncharred	Charcoal >4mm	Charcoal <4mm	Charcoal <2mm	crop seeds charred	Identifications	Preservation	weed seeds charred	Identifications	Preservation	other botanical charred	Identifications	Preservation	LSS
1	2/005	38	200	35	5	** <i>Sambucusnigra</i> , <i>Euphorbia peplus</i> , <i>Fumariaofficilaris</i> , <i>Chenopodiaceae</i> indet.	*	***	***	**	<i>Triticum</i> sp., Cerealia	+ to ++	**	<i>Galium</i> sp./ <i>Veronica</i> <i>hederifolia</i> , <i>Polygonum/Rumex</i> sp., <i>Festucasp.</i> , Poaceae, Asteraceae	++	***	Glumes (<i>Triticumspelta</i>) and (<i>Triticumcf.dicoccum</i>), spikelet bases, spikelet forks, culm node and internode	+ to ++	*** 50% 4 types

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

8.0 DISCUSSION

- 8.1 The limited archaeological remains encountered and recorded during the evaluation phase at the site have added to the growing corpus of archaeological data from the Eastbourne area. The presence of a feature dating from the Late Iron Age/Early Romano-British period arguably gives weight to the suggestion that this part of Eastbourne was relatively densely occupied at this time (cf. the Eastbourne College of Art and Technology site; see Section **2.0** above).
- 8.2 Evidence of land division by ditches and gullies like those encountered at the site has a lengthy pedigree, dating back well into prehistory in Sussex and beyond (Yates 1999). That this practice continued in the immediate area is clearly evidenced at the site, and evidently such land partition continued locally into the medieval period and beyond (e.g. medieval ditches further to the north in Kings Drive; ASE 2004).
- 8.3 It was unfortunate that no further evidence for the Late Iron Age/Early Romano-British ditch was uncovered during the watching brief phase, and that the undated gully was also not encountered again, so that dating evidence could potentially have been recovered. Similarly no other archaeological features were identified during the monitoring of the groundworks, which displayed considerable levels of truncation.
- 8.4 However, although the artefactual evidence from the dated ditch was limited it could be argued that the environmental evidence was of some significance. The presence of waste products from the processing of cereal crops may suggest the presence of domestic activity in the vicinity and hence the presence of structures and other associated, potentially rich archaeological deposits. However, given the position of the site in a built-up area, it is perhaps unlikely that such remains have survived in the area to any great extent, if they did exist in the first instance.

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HER Summary Form

Site Code	RRE 2010					
Identification Name and Address	16-18 Ratton Road					
County, District &/or Borough	Eastbourne, East Sussex					
OS Grid Refs.	NGR 560115 099926					
Geology	Lower Chalk					
Arch. South-East Project Number	4180					
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. 05.08.2010 – 06.08.2010	Excav.	WB. 25.08.2010 – 15.08.2010	Other		
Sponsor/Client	Faithorn Farrell Timms LLP					
Project Managers	Neil Griffin/Jon Sygrave/Jim Stevenson					
Project Supervisors	Alice Thorne/Simon Stevens					
Period Summary	Palaeo.	Meso.	Neo.	BA	IA ✓	RB ✓
	AS	MED	PM ✓	Other		
<p>100 Word Summary.</p> <p><i>Two evaluation trenches were mechanically excavated at the site to a cumulative length of 45m. The overburden across the site comprised a modern demolition layer overlying a silty topsoil deposit.</i></p> <p><i>Trench 1 contained no cut features, but did provide evidence of a possible terrace or lynchet orientated on a roughly north-west to south-east alignment within the southern part of the trench.</i></p> <p><i>Trench 2 contained a possible continuation of this probable lynchet, and in addition produced evidence of a ditch from which several fragments of Late Iron Age / Early Romano-British pottery were recovered. An undated gully orientated on a similar alignment, and a small pit, were also identified within this trench.</i></p> <p><i>A subsequent watching brief showed that the area previously occupied by recently demolished buildings had been heavily truncated. No archaeological deposits or features were identified in any of the monitored foundation trenches. A small assemblage of artefacts (mostly post-medieval in date) was recovered from the overburden.</i></p>						

OASIS Form

OASIS ID: archaeol6-85435

Project details

Project name	An Archaeological Investigation at 16-18 Ratton Road, Eastbourne, East Sussex
Short description of the project	Two evaluation trenches were mechanically excavated at the site to a cumulative length of 45m. The overburden across the site comprised a modern demolition layer overlying a silty topsoil deposit. Trench 1 contained no cut features, but did provide evidence of a possible terrace or lynchet. Trench 2 contained a ?continuation of this probable lynchet, and in addition produced evidence of a ditch from which several fragments of Late Iron Age / Early Roman pottery were recovered. An undated gully orientated on a similar alignment, and a small pit were also identified within this trench. A subsequent watching brief showed that the area previously occupied by recently demolished buildings had been heavily truncated. No archaeological deposits or features were identified in any of the monitored foundation trenches. A small assemblage of artefacts (mostly post-medieval in date) was recovered from the overburden.
Project dates	Start: 05-08-2010 End: 15-10-2010
Previous/future work	No / No
Any associated project reference codes	4180 - Contracting Unit No.
Any associated project reference codes	RRE 10 - Sitecode
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Current Land use	Other 13 - Waste ground
Monument type	DITCH Roman
Significant Finds	POTTERY Roman
Methods & techniques	'Targeted Trenches'

Development type	Urban residential (e.g. flats, houses, etc.)
Prompt	Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPG16
Position in the planning process	After full determination (e.g. As a condition)

Project location

Country	England
Site location	EAST SUSSEX EASTBOURNE EASTBOURNE 16-18 Ratton Road
Postcode	BN21 2LS
Study area	100.00 Square metres
Site coordinates	TV 6010 9990 50.7759541193 0.271035444054 50 46 33 N 000 16 15 E Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 43.00m Max: 45.00m

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Archaeology South-East
Project brief originator	East Sussex County Council
Project design originator	Archaeology South-East
Project director/manager	Neil Griffin/Jon Sygrave
Project supervisor	Simon Stevens
Type of sponsor/funding body	Client

Name of sponsor/funding body Faithorn Farrell Timms LLP

Project archives

Physical Archive recipient local museum

Physical Contents 'Ceramics','Environmental'

Digital Archive recipient local museum

Digital Contents 'other'

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

Paper Archive recipient local museum

Paper Contents 'other'

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

Project bibliography 1

Publication type Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)

Title An Archaeological Investigation at 16-18 Ratton Road, Eastbourne, East Sussex

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

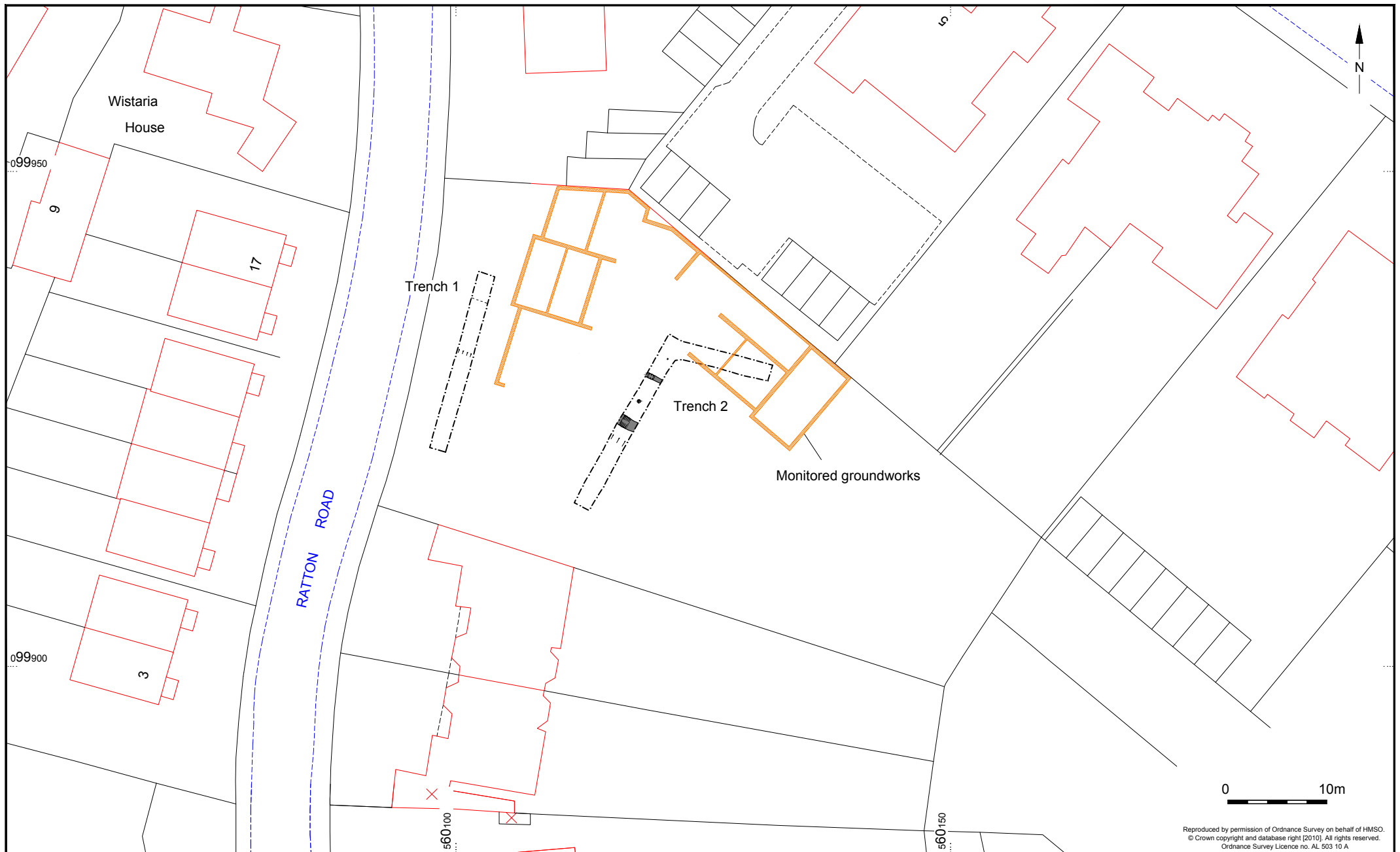
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Description	Standard ASE Report - A4-sized with cover logos.



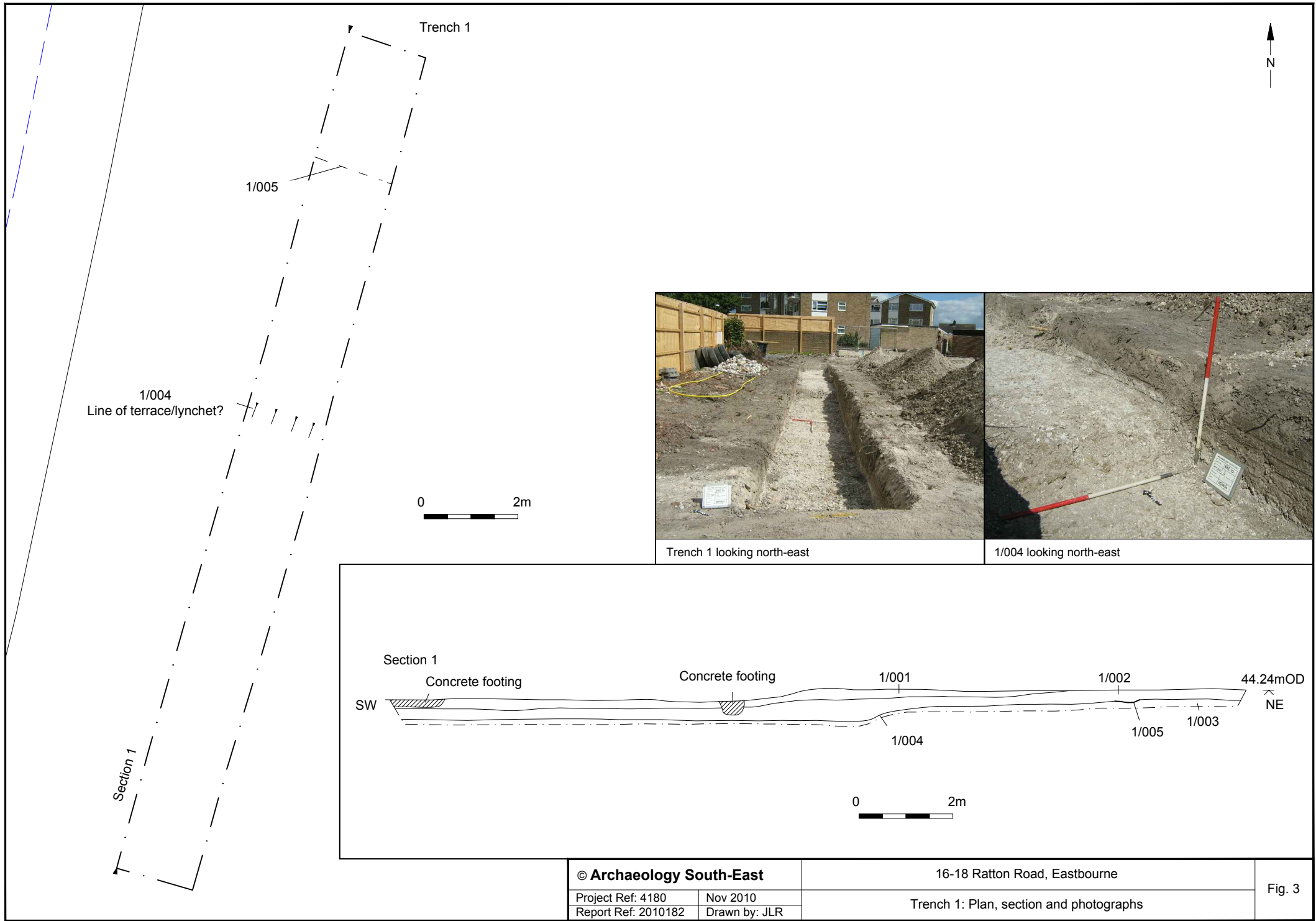


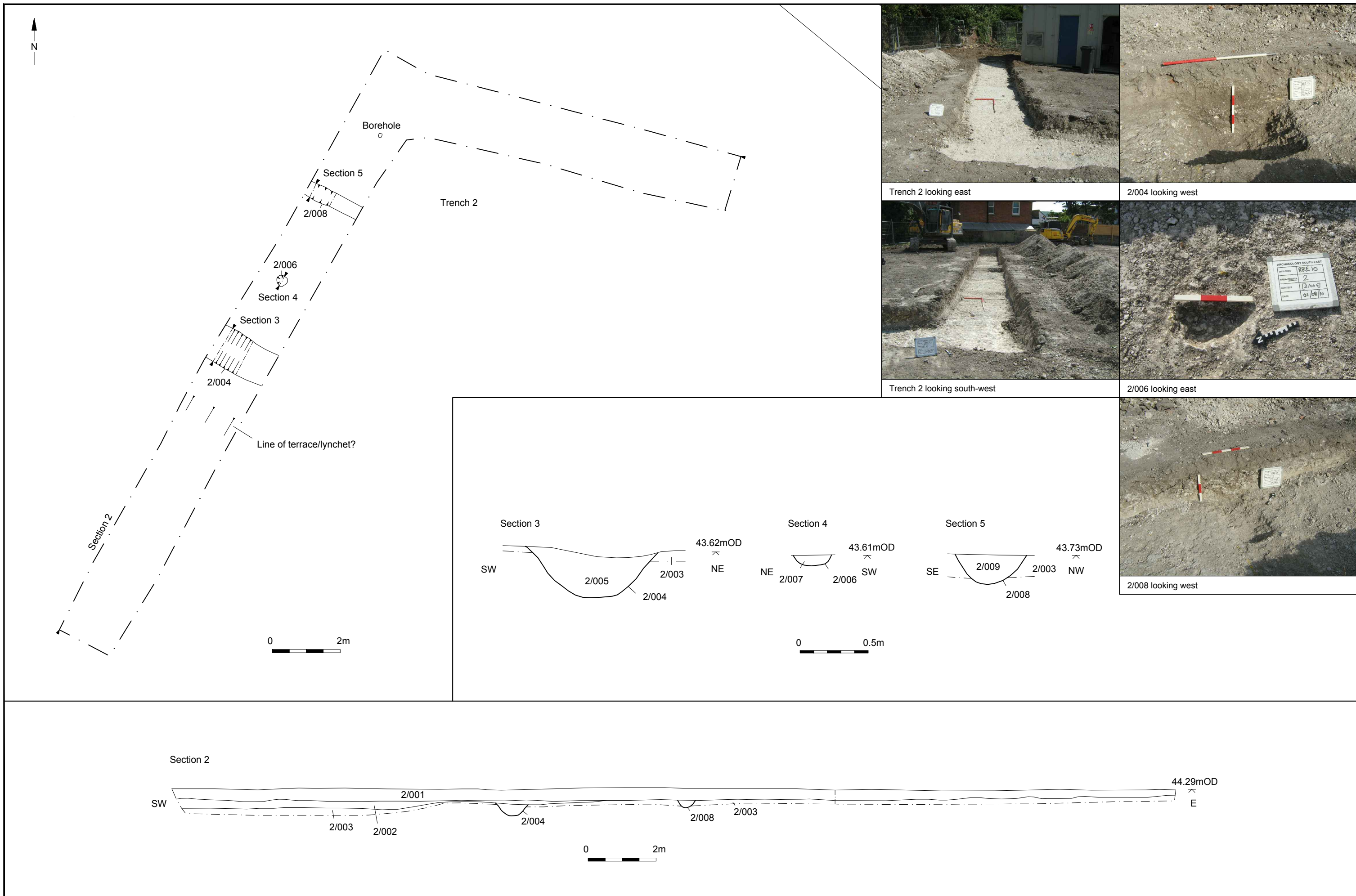
© Archaeology South-East		16-18 Ratton Road, Eastbourne		Fig. 1
Project Ref: 4180	Nov 2010	Site location		
Report Ref: 2010182	Drawn by: JLR			



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© Archaeology South-East		16-18 Ratton Road, Eastbourne	Fig. 2
Project Ref: 4180	Nov 2010	Evaluation trenches and monitored area plan	
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© Archaeology South-East		16-18 Ratton Road, Eastbourne	Fig. 4
Project Ref: 4180	Nov 2010	Trench 2: Plan, sections and photographs	
Report Ref: 2010182	Drawn by: JLR		

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