

**An Archaeological Evaluation at
Stone Farm, Blackwater, Isle of Wight (updated report)**

Planning Ref: Pre-Application

NGR SZ 5111 8592

**Project No. 4621
Site Code: SBI 10**

**ASE Report No. 2010196
OASIS id: archaeol6-86407**

**Alice Thorne
With contributions by
Anna Doherty, Karine LeHegrat, Luke Barber,
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Abstract

Archaeology South-East (ASE), the contracting division of the Centre for Applied Archaeology at University College London, were commissioned by Future Energy Services to undertake an archaeological evaluation on land adjacent to Stone Farm, near Blackwater on the Isle of Wight (NGR: SZ 5111 8592). Seven evaluation trenches totalling 210m in length were targeted upon the results of a prior geophysical survey. Due to an error in the location of two trenches a subsequent evaluation was undertaken in December comprising the excavation of a further two areas. Several linear features and probable pits and postholes were identified. Dating evidence was extremely scarce, although a substantial pit was found to contain a single sherd of probable first millennium pottery.

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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 University College London, were commissioned by Future Energy Services to undertake an archaeological evaluation on land adjacent to Stone Farm, near Blackwater on the Isle of Wight (NGR: SZ 5111 8592). The work was undertaken in support of a planning application for the installation of a utility photovoltaic system, designed to generate renewable energy. The photovoltaic panels will sit on rails supported by piles driven into the ground at approximately 3m centres. Each pile is expected to be driven to a depth of 1 to 1.5m below ground level.

1.1.2 Due to the potential for archaeological deposits to survive on the site, the Isle of Wight Council requested that a geophysical survey be undertaken. This was undertaken by Stratascan in September 2010. The results of the survey identified several linear and discreet anomalies across the site (Stratascan 2010). Consequently Owen Cambridge, Planning Archaeologist at the Isle of Wight Council requested that a programme of archaeological field evaluation be carried out in order to further define whether these features are archaeological in origin. The results of this evaluation could then be used to assess the impact of the proposed development and put forward suitable mitigation measures for those impacts if required.

1.1.3 A Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) was prepared by ASE in response to this request (ASE 2010). All work was carried out in accordance with this document and the relevant *Standards and Guidance* of the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA).

1.2 Geology and Topography

1.2.1 The site comprises an area measuring approximately 13.2ha of flat arable farmland. It is bound on all edges by fields, with Blackwater Road lying to the north. The underlying geology is Lower Greensand (British Geological Survey South Sheet, Fourth Edition Solid, 2001). There is no mapped drift geology at the site, though sand and gravel of unknown origin were noted in the nearby area (Stratascan 2010).

1.3 Aims and Objectives

1.3.1 The aims of the archaeological investigation were to ascertain the character, quality and degree of survival of archaeological remains on the site and the potential impact of development upon them and to inform the Planning Archaeologist as to the requirement for further work should a planning application be granted consent.

1.4 Scope of Report

1.4.1 This report outlines the results of fieldwork undertaken on the 25th to the 27th of October 2010 and the subsequent fieldwork undertaken on 1st December 2010. The fieldwork was supervised by Alice Thorne (Senior Archaeologist) with the assistance of Rob Cole (Surveyor). The project was managed by

Andy Leonard (Project Manager) and Jim Stevenson (Post-Excavation Manager).

2.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The following information is reproduced from the WSI (ASE 2010) and is drawn from a search of the Historic Environment Record (HER) held at the Isle of Wight County Archaeology and Historic Environment Service.
- 2.2 There are numerous findspots of prehistoric flint within 1km of the site. Approximately 300m to the south of the site a watching brief identified a scatter of prehistoric flints and hammerstones dating to the Late Neolithic period. Finds of medieval and post-medieval pottery were also found at the spot although none of the finds were retrieved from features (HER 5521).
- 2.3 Directly to the east of the site and actually encroaching onto the site at its east side is a banked linear feature visible on aerial photographs (HER 7068). This is thought to be Palaeolithic in date although possibly it is of natural origin. The geophysical results have identified a linear feature in approximately the same location and this was targeted by Trench 4 (see Results section below).
- 2.4 A rectilinear enclosure ditch directly to the west on the site (HER 894) measures 98m x 81m and is visible in cropmarks on aerial photographs. Associated features suggest the enclosure has a complex entrance midway along its west side. No finds have been retrieved from the feature to date but it is assumed to be ancient (Neolithic to Roman).
- 2.5 A large ring ditch, again visible on aerial photographs, is present approximately 500m to the south of the site (SMR 7033) and is dated to the Bronze Age. It measures 29m in diameter and is sited on the end of a small promontory ridge, thought to be the site of a plough-levelled Bronze Age Barrow. An oval mound of possible Bronze Age date is located approximately 200m to the east of the site and measures 17m in diameter (HER 7067).
- 2.6 Directly to the south of the site are two linear cropmarks (HER 1754) dating to as early as the Bronze Age which probably relate to field boundaries. A gold ring dating to the Bronze Age was found to the southeast of the site (HER 2290), just to the north of Blackwater Road, and is thought to be a money ring. On the opposite side of Blackwater Road a Bronze Age axe was also found (HER 2291).
- 2.7 Approximately 500m to the southeast of the site lies a possible trackway (HER 1775) dating to the medieval (or later) period. The feature is 160m long aligned northeast to southwest.
- 2.8 There are several post-medieval entries in the HER, mostly for 18th and 19th century buildings, along with infrastructural structures such as bridges.

3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY

- 3.1 The methodology comprised the machine excavation under archaeological supervision of seven trial trenches, five trenches measuring 30m by 2.10m, one trench measuring 25m x 2.1m and one trench measuring 35m by 2.1m (Figure 2). Trenches were located to target the anomalies identified in the geophysical survey. The subsequent stage of evaluation comprised the excavation of one trench measuring 23.5m x 4.5m adjacent to Trench 4, and one trench measuring 6m x 5m at the northeast end of Trench 5. As these areas were extensions to the original trenches the context numbering sequence was maintained for the stratigraphy, with additional numbers assigned where new features were identified.
- 3.2 A 13 tonne 360° tracked excavator fitted with a 2.10m wide toothless ditching bucket was utilised for the initial phase of work. The second phase was undertaken using a 3 tonne tracked excavator.
- 3.3 All trenches were scanned prior to excavation using a CAT scanner.
- 3.4 The trenches were surveyed accurately and tied in to the National Grid utilising a GPS survey system.
- 3.5 The undifferentiated topsoil was removed, in spits of no more than 0.15m, down to the top of the archaeological horizon or to the top of the underlying „natural“, whichever was uppermost. In several trenches, a probable colluvial layer was identified (see section 4.1.5 below). In this case, the excavation was taken to the surface of this deposit. These deposits were then left exposed for 24 hours, and checked regularly for features to weather out. In trenches where no archaeological remains were observed, the probable colluvial layer was removed by machine.
- 3.6 Spoil was stored adjacent to the trench. No backfilling of the trenches was undertaken by ASE, following prior agreement with the client. The client was informed at the close of fieldwork that trenches were awaiting backfilling.
- 3.7 All archaeological features and deposits were recorded using the standard context record sheets used by Archaeology South-East. Soil colours are recorded using visual inspection and not by reference to the Munsell Colour chart.

Number of Contexts	45
No. of files/paper record	1
Plan and sections sheets	1
Bulk Samples	4 (160 ltrs)
Photographs	37
Bulk finds	One small bag
Registered finds	-
Environmental flots/residue	1 fragment of charcoal

Table 1: Quantification of site archive

4.0 RESULTS

4.1 Overburden and Geology

4.1.1 The plough-soil across the site comprised a dark orangish-brown sandy clayey silt, which contained frequent poorly sorted angular to sub-rounded flint nodules and gravels, occasional rounded stones, chips of iron stone, iron-rich sandstone and occasional chips of slate and modern CBM ([001]). This deposit had recently been ploughed, and had a very soft consistency.

4.1.2 The underlying geology across the site was variable, and is outlined below:

4.1.3 Trenches 1, 2 and 7

Within trenches 1, 2 and 7, the plough-soil was found to directly overlie the surface of gravel-rich natural geology. This deposit ([1/002], [2/002] and [7/002]) comprised a mottled mid orangish-brown silty sand matrix, with very frequent poorly sorted flint nodules, gravels and occasional fragmented iron-rich sandstone blocks and chips. This deposit was very variable, often containing irregular pockets of a mottled mid orangish-brown silty sand.

4.1.4 Trench 6

Within trench 6, the plough-soil was found to directly overlie the surface of loose orangish brown sand, which oxidised quickly to a dark reddish – brown colouration [6/002]. This deposit contained very occasional small chalk fragments, and occasional flint and iron rich sandstone chips, which had caused localised straining of the natural geology.

4.1.5 Trenches 3, 4 and 5

Within trenches 3, 4 and 5 the plough-soil overlay a friable layer of mid orangish brown silty clayey sand, which oxidised upon exposure to the air and rain to a dark reddish brown ([3/002], [4/002] and [5/002]). This deposit measured between 0.15 to 0.20m in depth. It contained occasional flint gravels and nodules, occasional small chips of degraded chalk, occasional rounded stones, occasional fragments of iron rich sandstone, occasional charcoal flecks and in trench 5, very rare small fragments of pottery. The deposit was often heavily disturbed with frequent visible worm casts penetrating to a significant depth. The depositional processes which have caused the formation of this layer are uncertain. It is thought probable that this layer represents a colluvial deposit, possibly at least partially a result of hillwash and the shifting of sediments down slope. However, it may also in part represent the bioturbated surface of the underlying geology. It is found only within those trenches which contain an underlying silty clayey sand geology, and was not identified in either the trenches located upon gravels (Trenches 1, 2 and 7) or that located upon a pure sand (Trench 6).

Below this probable colluvial deposit a friable mottled mid to light orangish brown loam natural was encountered, becoming sandier with depth ([3/003], [4/003], [5/003]). In the northern and north-eastern ends of trenches 4 and 5, there was an abrupt change of geology, with a loose

reddish – brown sand exposed, similar to that observed in trench 6 to the north ([4/004], [5/004]).

4.2 Trench 1 (Figure 3)

4.2.1 List of recorded contexts

Number	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Deposit Depth	Height m.AOD
1/001	Deposit	Plough-soil	Tr.	Tr.	0.34m	33.69
1/002	Deposit	Natural gravels	Tr.	Tr.	Sondage to 0.80m depth	33.35
1/003	Fill	Fill of 1/004	Tr.	1.05m	0.17m	-
1/004	Cut	Cut of linear	Tr.	1.05m	0.17m	32.78
1/005	Fill	Fill of 1/006	-	0.55m	0.15m	-
1/006	Cut	Cut of small pit/posthole	-	0.55m	0.15m	33.29
1/007	Fill	Fill of 1/008	0.80m	0.50m	0.16m	-
1/008	Cut	Cut of small pit/posthole	0.80m	0.50m	0.16m	33.35

Table 2, List of recorded contexts, Trench 1

4.2.2 Summary

- 4.2.3 Three features were observed within this trench, each exposed below the plough-soil, and cutting the surface of the underlying natural geology. These features are outlined below:
- 4.2.4 Feature [1/004] comprised a NE-SW orientated linear, crossing the south-eastern part of the trench. The feature measured 1.05m in width by 0.17m in depth, with a gradual concave profile. It was filled by friable dark orange-brown silty sand, containing moderate quantities of angular to sub angular flint nodules [1/003]. No finds were recovered from this fill. This feature is thought to represent a boundary or drainage ditch, which in association with feature [7/007], may represent the remains of a shifted boundary running downhill on a similar alignment as the present day field border.
- 4.2.5 A small sub-circular feature measuring 0.55m in diameter by 0.15m in depth was indentified in the centre part of the trench [1/006]. This feature had a concave profile, and was filled by friable dark greyish brown silty sand, containing frequent quantities of angular to sub angular flint nodules [1/005]. No finds were recovered from this fill. This feature is thought to represent the remains of a small pit or a posthole.
- 4.2.6 A second sub-circular feature was identified partially exposed extending from the southern baulk of the trench. Feature [1/008] measured 0.80m (NW) by 0.55m (SE) as exposed in plan, by 0.16m in depth. It had irregular concave edges, with a concave base. This feature was filled by friable dark greyish brown silty sand, containing occasional angular to sub angular flint nodules [1/007]. No finds were recovered from this fill. This feature is also thought to represent the remains of a small pit or a posthole.

4.3 Trench 2 (Figure 4)

4.3.1 List of recorded contexts

Number	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Deposit Depth	Height m.AOD
2/001	Deposit	Plough-soil	Tr.	Tr.	0.35m	33.70
2/002	Deposit	Natural gravels	Tr.	Tr.	-	33.35
2/003	Cut	Cut of linear	Tr.	0.70m	0.24m	33.35
2/004	Fill	Fill of 1/003	Tr.	0.70m	0.24m	-
2/005	Cut	Cut of possible pit	-	0.54m	0.07m	32.78
2/006	Fill	Fill of 1/004	-	0.54m	0.07m	-
2/007	Cut	Cut of linear	Tr.	1.29m	0.69m	33.22
2/008	Fill	Fill of 1/007	Tr.	1.29m	0.69m	-

Table 3: List of recorded contexts, Trench 2

4.3.2 Summary

- 4.3.3 Three features were observed within this trench, each exposed below the plough-soil, and cutting the surface of the underlying natural geology. These are outlined below:
- 4.3.4 Feature [2/003] comprised a NE-SW orientated linear, crossing the north-western end of the trench. This feature measured 0.70m in width by 0.24m in depth, with a gradual concave profile. It was filled by a loose mid orangish brown loam, containing occasional quantities of angular to sub angular flint nodules [2/004]. No finds were recovered from this fill. This feature is thought to represent a boundary or drainage ditch.
- 4.3.5 A small sub-circular feature measuring 0.54m in diameter by 0.07m in depth was indentified in the south-eastern end of the trench [2/005]. This feature had irregular, shallow tapered edges and a flattish base, and was filled by friable dark greyish brown silty clayey sand, containing frequent flint gravels [2/006]. No finds were recovered from this fill. This feature may represent the base of a small pit, although an area of rooting disturbance could not be ruled out.
- 4.3.6 A second linear feature was identified crossing the trench on an N-S orientation. This feature had straight parallel sides, tapered edges and a rounded base, and measured 1.29m in width by 0.69m in depth [2/007]. It had a single fill of a friable mid orangish brown clayey silty sand, containing occasional fragments of charcoal, patches of redeposited natural clayey sands and occasional poorly sorted angular to sub angular flint nodules [2/008]. No datable evidence was recovered from this fill which is thought to represent the remains of a substantial ditch.

4.4 Trench 3 (Figure 5)

4.4.1 List of recorded contexts

Number	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Deposit Depth	Height m.AOD
3/001	Deposit	Plough-soil	Tr.	Tr.	0.35m	29.30

Number	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Deposit Depth	Height m.AOD
3/002	Deposit	Probable colluvium	Tr.	Tr.	0.20m	28.95
3/003	Deposit	Natural sandy-clayey silt	Tr.	Tr.	Sondage to 1m depth	28.75
3/004	Fill	Fill of 3/005	Tr.	1.07m	0.48m	-
3/005	Cut	Cut of linear	Tr.	1.07m	0.48m	28.75

Table 4: List of recorded contexts, Trench 3

4.4.2 Summary

4.4.3 A single feature was observed within this trench [3/005]. The feature was exposed below the plough-soil, and a very faint trace of the feature was noted cutting the probable colluvial layer [3/002].

4.4.4 Feature [3/005] comprised a NE-SW orientated linear. This feature measured 1.07m in width by 0.48m in depth, with steep tapered sides and a rounded point. It was filled by a friable mid reddish brown loam, containing occasional flint gravels, and occasional charcoal flecks [3/004]. It was extremely ephemeral in plan, with the fill of very similar colour and consistency to the layer through which it cut. However, upon excavation, and particularly at the point that the lower levels of the feature cut the underlying undisturbed geology, the section in profile was clear, with good, well defined edges. No dating evidence was recovered from the fill. This feature is thought to represent the remains of a substantial ditch first identified by the Stratascan geophysical survey.

4.5 Trench 4 (Figure 6)

4.5.1 List of recorded contexts

Number	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Deposit Depth	Height m.AOD
4/001	Deposit	Plough-soil	Tr.	Tr.	0.40m	31.21
4/002	Deposit	Probable colluvium	Tr.	Tr.	0.20m	30.81
4/003	Deposit	Natural sandy-clayey silt	Tr.	Tr.	-	30.61
4/004	Deposit	Natural sand	Tr.	Tr.	-	30.61
4/005	Cut	Cut of linear	Tr.	1.39m	0.35m	30.61
4/006	Fill	Fill of linear	Tr.	1.39m	0.35m	-
4/007	Cut	Cut of pit	-	0.59m	0.12m	30.00
4/008	Fill	Fill of pit	-	0.59m	0.12m	-
4/009	Cut	Cut of possible pit	1.60m	1.40m	0.48m	30.55
4/010	Fill	Fill of possible pit	1.60m	1.40m	0.48m	-

Table 5: List of recorded contexts, Trench 4

4.5.2 Summary

4.5.3 This trench was initially stripped to the surface of layer [4/002]. This deposit was left exposed to weather, but no features were observed at this level. The deposit was then stripped by machine, and two features became visible, cutting the surface of the underlying undisturbed geological horizon [4/003]).

- 4.5.4 Feature [4/005] comprised a NW-SE orientated linear, crossing the southern part of the trench. This feature measured 1.39m in width by 0.35m in depth, with a broad concave profile. It was filled by a friable mid reddish brown loam, containing occasional flint gravels, burnt flint and occasional charcoal flecks [4/006]. It also contained a few sherds of Late Iron Age to early Roman pottery. It is possible that this feature originally cut overlying layer [4/002], but due to the similarities in the colour and composition of the sediment, no trace could be observed at a higher level. This feature is thought to represent the remains of a substantial ditch first identified by the Stratascan geophysical survey.
- 4.5.5 A small sub-circular feature was observed at the southern end of the trench. This feature had an irregular concave profile [4/007], and was filled by a friable dark orangish brown loam containing occasional flint gravels [4/008]. No finds were recovered from this feature, and although it is possible that this feature represents the remains of a small pit, a biological origin cannot be ruled out.
- 4.5.6 The subsequent evaluation, adjacent to Trench 4, revealed one feature, a sub-oval cut [4/009] within the approximate area of the geophysical anomaly (Figure 8). The cut had a concave profile. It was filled by a friable light reddish brown silty sand (4/010) with no artefactual inclusions. This fill was very similar in colour and texture to the natural geology observed towards the southern part of the trench. This feature may represent a pit but may well originate from natural impacts, such as tree rooting
- 4.5.7 A second possible feature was identified in the location of the other geophysical anomaly. However, investigation of this proved it to be of geological origin..

4.6 Trench 5

4.6.1 List of recorded contexts

Number	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Deposit Depth	Max Height m.AOD
5/001	Deposit	Plough-soil	Tr.	Tr.	0.40m	34.63
5/002	Deposit	Probable colluvium	Tr.	Tr.	0.30m	34.33
5/003	Deposit	Natural sandy-clayey silt	Tr.	Tr.	-	34.03
5/004	Deposit	Natural sand	Tr.	Tr.	Sondage to 1.20m depth	34.03

Table 6: List of recorded contexts, Trench 5

4.6.2 Summary

- 4.6.3 This trench was initially stripped to the surface of layer [5/002]. This deposit was exposed to weather for 24hrs, and inspected regularly for features. However, no features became visible at this level, and deposit [5/002] was later stripped out by machine. No features were observed within this trench.

4.7 Trench 6

4.7.1 List of recorded contexts

Number	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Deposit Depth	Max Height m.AOD
6/001	Deposit	Plough-soil	Tr.	Tr.	0.40m	36.35
6/002	Deposit	Natural sand	Tr.	Tr.	Sondage to 0.80m depth	35.95

Table 7: List of recorded contexts, Trench 6

4.7.2 Summary

4.7.3 No archaeological finds, features or deposits were identified within the original trench. The subsequent extension at the northeast end of the trench identified a possible feature at the northwest corner but investigation proved this to be of natural origin. The geophysical anomaly identified by Stratascan is thought to derive from underlying geological variations.

4.8 Trench 7 (Figure 7)

4.8.1 List of recorded contexts

Number	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Deposit Depth	Max Height m.AOD
7/001	Deposit	Plough-soil	Tr.	Tr.	0.33m	29.09
7/002	Deposit	Natural gravels	Tr.	Tr.	-	28.76
7/003	Cut	Cut of linear	Tr.	0.74m	0.26m	28.50
7/004	Fill	Fill of 7/003	Tr.	0.74m	0.26m	-
7/005	Cut	Cut of pit	-	1.05m	0.45m	28.59
7/006	Fill	Fill of 7/005	-	1.05m	0.45m	-
7/007	Cut	Cut of linear	Tr.	0.92m	0.14m	28.49
7/008	Fill	Fill of 7/007	Tr.	0.92m	0.14m	-

Table 8: List of recorded contexts, Trench 7

4.2.2 Summary

4.2.3 Three features were observed within this trench, each exposed below the plough-soil, and cutting the surface of the underlying natural geology. These features are outlined below:

4.2.4 Feature [7/003] comprised an N-S orientated linear, identified at the far western end of the trench. This feature was found to have a clear tapered profile in section, with a rounded base, with the mid orange-brown loam fill [7/004] contrasting clearly against the surrounding natural geology. However, no finds were recovered from this fill, and the feature had slightly irregular edges in plan. This feature is thought to represent a probable boundary or drainage ditch, although a greater area of the feature requires exposure in plan to confidently characterise it.

4.2.5 A sub-circular feature was identified partially exposed in plan extending

from the northern bank of the trench [7/005]. This feature had a regular concave profile, and was filled by a friable mid orange loam, containing occasional charcoal, occasional flint gravels, a flint blade and a single fragment of pottery [7/006]. The dating of this pottery sherd is uncertain, see section 5.2 below. This feature is thought to represent the remains of a substantial pit.

- 4.2.6 Feature [7/007] comprised a NE-SW orientated linear, identified at the far south-eastern end of the trench. This feature was found to have a gradual concave profile. It was filled by friable dark orange-brown silty sand, containing moderate quantities of angular to sub angular flint nodules [7/008]. No finds were recovered from this fill. This feature is thought to represent a probable boundary or drainage ditch, and form a continuation of feature [1/004] identified to the north.

5.0 THE FINDS

5.1 A small assemblage of finds was recovered from eight individually numbered contexts, mainly topsoil and subsoil. Finds have been summarized in the Table 9 below. All finds were washed and dried after which they were counted, weighed and bagged by material and context. No further conservation is required.

Context	Pot	Wt (g)	CB M	Wt (g)	Flint	Wt (g)	FCF	Wt (g)	F.Clay	Wt (g)	Charcoal	Wt (g)
001 (surface collection)			3	56	5	84						
1/001			1	18								
2/001			2	14	1	22						
3/001	1	4										
4/002									1	6		
5/001	5	8					1	108				
5/002	1	2										
7/006	1	8			1	<2					1	<2
Total	11	32	6	88	7	106	1	108	1	6	1	<2

Table 9: Quantification of the finds.

5.2 The Prehistoric and Roman Pottery by Anna Doherty

The evaluation trenches produced 10 sherds of prehistoric and Roman pottery, weighing 24g, from 4 contexts, 3 of which came from the residue of the environmental sample from context [4/006]. Context [7/006] produced a very coarse shell-tempered sherd with a moderate frequency of voids from leached shell inclusions of around 1-4mm. This sherd is extremely abraded and appears to have been fired at a low temperature. There is a small possibility that it is of Neolithic or Early Bronze Age date; however shell-tempered fabrics are also a feature of assemblages throughout most of the 1st millennium BC and it is possible that the soft, friable nature of the fabric is down to post-depositional conditions, so the dating of the sherd remains uncertain.

Another, much finer, shell-tempered sherd with sparse voids of around 0.5-2mm, from context [3/001] is almost certainly of Iron Age date. It also contains some possible rare grog inclusions, suggesting that it may be of Late Iron Age date. Three small Late Iron Age/ early Roman grog-tempered sherds were also found in context [4/006]. Context [5/001] produced five small sherds, probably of a single vessel, in Black-burnished ware 1, which was widely traded in Britain between AD120-400.

The assemblage as it stands is too small and undiagnostic to be of any significance but should be retained and integrated with any pottery recovered in the event of further excavation at the site.

5.3 The post-Roman pot by Luke Barber

A single small and abraded medieval cooking pot body-sherd was recovered from [5/002]. The piece is tempered with fine/medium clear quartz sand with larger opaque sub-rounded to sub-angular quartz and is oxidised brown. A 12th- to mid 13th- century date is probable although more diagnostic sherds would be needed to confirm this.

5.4 The Ceramic Building Material by Sarah Porteus

A very small quantity of abraded post-medieval peg tile was recovered from 3 contexts. Context [001] contained three fragments in a fine orange sandy fabric with abundant fine quartz and fine black iron rich inclusions (3/54g), fragments in the same fabric were also recovered from context [2/001] (2/14g). A reduced fragment in a fine silty fabric with sparse fine quartz and cream silt inclusions was recovered from context [1/001] (1/18g).

5.5 The Flintwork by Karine Le Hégarat

A small collection comprising just six struck flints weighing 74g and four burnt unworked flints weighing 108g was recovered from Stone Farm evaluation work (Table 10). The raw material used for the majority of the struck flints was a light grey to light brown fine-grained flint with frequent white mottled patches and thin brown slightly rolled off outer surface. A single artefact recovered from plough soil context in Trench 2 was manufactured from a very fine-grained dark brown flint which was most certainly of high flaking quality. Archaeological work revealed frequent flint nodules and gravels within the plough soil and the underlying geology. The raw material was therefore immediately available on the site. The overall condition of the flint was relatively poor with four pieces recorded as broken and several pieces displaying signs of post-depositional damage. A single shattered piece from general plough soil context [001] presented some rust marks (iron mould spots) associated to ploughing activities as well as some white surface discolouration.

The struck flints consisted of pieces of flint debitage including two flakes, a broken flake, two blade fragments and a shattered piece. Both flakes from context [1] displayed signs of having been removed with a hard hammer. The flake fragment recovered from context [2/001] exhibited platform-edge abrasion on its dorsal surface. This preparation technique is typical of the Mesolithic/Early Neolithic.

The proximal end of a blade (29 x 19 x 4mm) collected in Trench 7 could be refitted to a distal fragment (27 x 17 x 3mm) found while processing sample <4>. The refitted blade is also characteristic of the Mesolithic/Early Neolithic. The break could represent unintentional breakage during manufacture or a deliberate snap. An intentional snap, indicating blade production is common on many Mesolithic sites. The break could also correspond to more recent post-depositional disturbances.

The assemblage is extremely limited in size but should be retained to allow integration with any assemblage recovered in the event of further work.

Context	Sample	Interpretation	Flake	Broken flake	Blade fragment	Shattered piece	Burnt unworked flint - No./Wt. (g)
001		General plough soil	2			1	
2/001		Plough soil		1			
4/006	<2>	Ditch fill					3/<2
5/001		Plough soil					1/108
7/006		Pit fill			1		
7/006	<4>	Pit fill			1		
		Total	2	1	2	1	4/108

Table 10: The Flintwork

5.6 The Fired Clay by Elke Raemen

A single abraded and featureless fragment was recovered from [4/002]. The piece, low fired and ill-mixed, is in a sparse fine sand-tempered fabric with rare iron oxide inclusions to 1mm and occasional mica inclusions.

5.7 The Charcoal by Lucy Allott

A single fragment of roundwood charcoal was recovered from context [7/005].

5.8 The Environmental Samples by Karine Le Hégarat

Four 40 litre bulk samples were taken during evaluation work at the site to recover environmental remains such as wood charcoal, charred macrobotanical remains, fauna and mollusca as well as to assist finds recovery. Three samples were taken from ditch fills [2/008], [3/004] and [4/006] and a sample was extracted from pit fill [7/006]. Samples were processed in a flotation tank and the residues and flots were retained on 500µm and 250µm meshes and air dried. The residues were passed through graded sieves (4 and 2mm) and each fraction sorted for environmental and artefact remains (Table 4). Flots were scanned under a stereozoom microscope at x7-45 magnifications and their contents recorded (Table 5).

Flots consisted almost entirely of sediment and uncharred vegetation including modern very fine roots, woody roots and infrequent uncharred seeds such as elder (*Sambucus nigra*), knotgrass/dock (*Polygonum/Rumex* sp.), seeds from the goosefoot (Chenopodiaceae) families and possible orache (cf. *Atriplex* sp.). As the deposits were not waterlogged or well enough sealed for anaerobic preservation, this could indicate some post-depositional disturbance and potential modern contamination. The archaeobotanical remains were restricted to infrequent fragments of wood charcoal. The charcoal fragments in the flots and residues were moderately well preserved and predominantly small (<2mm in size) although occasional fragments >4mm were noted. No other classes of biological materials were

present.

The residues produced a single fragment of flint debitage, a single sherd of pottery, small pieces of fire cracked flint, occasional fragments of burnt clay and some magnetic material. Both the piece of flint debitage and the pottery sherd are included in the finds report.

The charcoal assemblages are too limited to provide meaningful interpretations regarding fuel use or the vegetation environment. Nonetheless some fragments might be suitable for dating if this is considered of value for understanding the features. However, it should be noted that given the high frequency of roots the charcoal might have been subject to considerable post-depositional disturbances and this might render any radiocarbon dating attempt unsuitable.

Sample Number	Context	Context / deposit type	Sample Volume litres	sub-Sample Volume litres	Charcoal >4mm	Weight (g)	Charcoal <4mm	Weight (g)	Other (eg ind, pot, cbm)
1	2/008	Ditch fill	40	40	*	<2	**	<2	
2	4/006	Ditch fill	40	40	*	<2	**	<2	FCF */<2g - Pot */4g - CMB */<2g
3	3/004	Ditch fill	40	40	*	<2	**	<2	
4	7/006	Pit fill	40	40	*	<2	**	<2	Magnetic material **/<2g - Flint */<2g

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

Sample Number	Context	weight g	Flot volume ml	Uncharred %	sediment %	seeds uncharred	Charcoal >4mm	Charcoal <4mm	Charcoal <2mm
1	2/008	<2	10	80	10	** <i>Sambucus nigra</i> , Chenopodiaceae indet.		**	**
2	4/006	12	48	80	8	** <i>Polygonum/Rumex</i> sp., Chenopodiaceae indet., unident. Seeds	*	**	***
3	3/004	16	11	10	87				**
4	7/006	4	10	78	5	* <i>Polygonum/Rumex</i> sp., Chenopodiaceae indet., cf <i>Atriplex</i> sp.	*	**	***

Table 12: Flot quantification (*=1-10, ** = 11-50, *** = 51-250, **** = >250) and preservation (+ = poor, ++ = moderate, +++ = good).

6.0 DISCUSSION

- 6.1 The evaluation has confirmed the presence of features of archaeological origin to exist within the site.
- 6.2 Trenches 3 and 4 have confirmed the archaeological origin of two linear features initially identified during the geophysical survey conducted by Stratascan (2010). Very little datable evidence was recovered, but three small sherds of Late Iron Age to early Roman pottery from context [4/006] suggests that these two ditches may represent enclosure features, extending southwards and eastwards beyond the limit of the current evaluation area (Fig. 8).
- 6.3 Several other features were also identified, although not so closely corresponding to the geophysics results. It is thought that the considerable underlying geological variability across the site may have affected the reliability of the geophysical results. In addition, quantities of modern inclusions were noted within the plough soil, and it is very probable that ferrous inclusions may have prompted misleading responses.
- 6.4 A ditch orientated upon a broadly similar alignment to the modern day field boundary was identified within trenches 1 and 7. This ditch also appears to correspond to the alignment of a significant geophysical anomaly located to the north, within the area of evaluation trench 2 (Fig. 8). This feature was highlighted as a “negative linear anomaly” and interpreted as a bank or earthwork of possible archaeological origin by Stratascan (2010, Fig. 7). However, no sign of this feature was observed within the line of Trench 2.
- 6.5 Two other undated linear features were observed within trench 2, with feature [2/007] comprising a substantial probable boundary ditch.
- 6.6 A probable undated linear in the far north-western end of trench 7 may correspond to the location of a large geophysical anomaly identified in this area, although further work will be required to characterise the precise nature of this feature.
- 6.7 In addition, a scatter of small undated probable pits and/or postholes were identified across the site. The substantial pit [7/005] contained a flint blade and a pottery sherd which may be of Neolithic or Early Bronze Age date.
- 6.8 Dating evidence across the site was extremely elusive, with what few pieces there were usually small, abraded and largely un-diagnostic. This may reflect an original scarcity of artefactual material associated with the past activity occurring at the site. However, preservation of remains may have been affected by the ph balance of the soil, and post-depositional processes such as plough damage. A thin scatter of pottery recovered from the plough soil across the site has included Iron Age, Romano-British black burnished ware, and a single small and abraded probable medieval sherd.

- 6.9 A thin background scatter of Mesolithic/Early Neolithic flintwork was also recovered from across the site.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

ASE, 2010. Stone Farm, Blackwater, Isle of Wight: Archaeological Evaluation Written Scheme of Investigation. Unpublished ASE report, project 4621.

Stratascan, 2010. Geophysical Survey Report, Stone Farm, Blackwater, Isle of Wight. Unpublished Stratascan report, ref J2777.

SMR Summary Form

Site Code	SBI 10					
Identification Name and Address	Stone Farm, Blackwater					
County, District &/or Borough	Isle of Wight					
OS Grid Refs.	SZ 5111 8592					
Geology	Lower Greensand					
Arch. South-East Project Number	4621					
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. 25 – 27/10/ 10	Excav.	WB.	Other		
Sponsor/Client	Future Energy Services					
Project Manager	Andy Leonard					
Project Supervisor	Alice Thorne					
Period Summary	Palaeo.	Meso.	Neo.	BA	IA ✓	RB ✓
	AS	MED ✓	PM	Other Modern		
<p>100 Word Summary.</p> <p><i>Archaeology South-East (ASE), the contracting division of the Centre for Applied Archaeology at the University College London, were commissioned by Future Energy Services to undertake an archaeological evaluation at land adjacent to Stone Farm, near Blackwater on the Isle of Wight (NGR: SZ 5111 8592). Seven evaluation trenches totalling 210m in length were targeted upon the results of a prior geophysical survey. Several linear features and probable pits and postholes were identified. Dating evidence was extremely scarce, although Late Iron Age to early Roman pottery was recovered from a probable enclosure ditch and a substantial pit was found to contain a single sherd of probable Neolithic or Early Bronze Age date pottery.</i></p>						

OASIS Form

OASIS ID: archaeol6-86407

Project details

Project name	Stone Farm, Blackwater
Short description of the project	<i>Archaeology South-East (ASE), the contracting division of the Centre for Applied Archaeology at the University College London, were commissioned by Future Energy Services to undertake an archaeological evaluation at land adjacent to Stone Farm, near Blackwater on the Isle of Wight (NGR: SZ 5111 8592). Seven evaluation trenches totalling 210m in length were targeted upon the results of a prior geophysical survey. Several linear features and probable pits and postholes were identified. Dating evidence was extremely scarce, although Late Iron Age to early Roman pottery was recovered from a probable enclosure ditch and a substantial pit was found to contain a single sherd of probable Neolithic or Early Bronze Age date pottery.</i>
Project dates	Start: 25-10-2010 End: 27-10-2010
Previous/future work	Yes / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	SBI10 - Sitecode
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Current Land use	Cultivated Land 3 - Operations to a depth more than 0.25m
Monument type	DITCH Uncertain
Significant Finds	POTTERY Roman
Methods & techniques	'Targeted Trenches'
Development type	Service infrastructure (e.g. sewage works, reservoir, pumping station, etc.)
Prompt	Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPS
Position in the planning process	Pre- determination

Project location

Country	England
Site location	ISLE OF WIGHT ISLE OF WIGHT GODSHILL Stone Farm, Blackwater

Postcode	XXXXXXX
Study area	210.00 Square metres
Site coordinates	SZ 5111 8592 50.6701205407 -1.276665279570 50 40 12 N 001 16 36 W Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 28.00m Max: 33.00m

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Archaeology South East
Project brief originator	Isle of Wight County Archaeology and Historic Environment Service
Project design originator	Isle of Wight County Archaeology and Historic Environment Service
Project director/manager	Andy Leonard
Project supervisor	Alice Thorne
Type of sponsor/funding body	Client
Name of sponsor/funding body	Future Energy Services

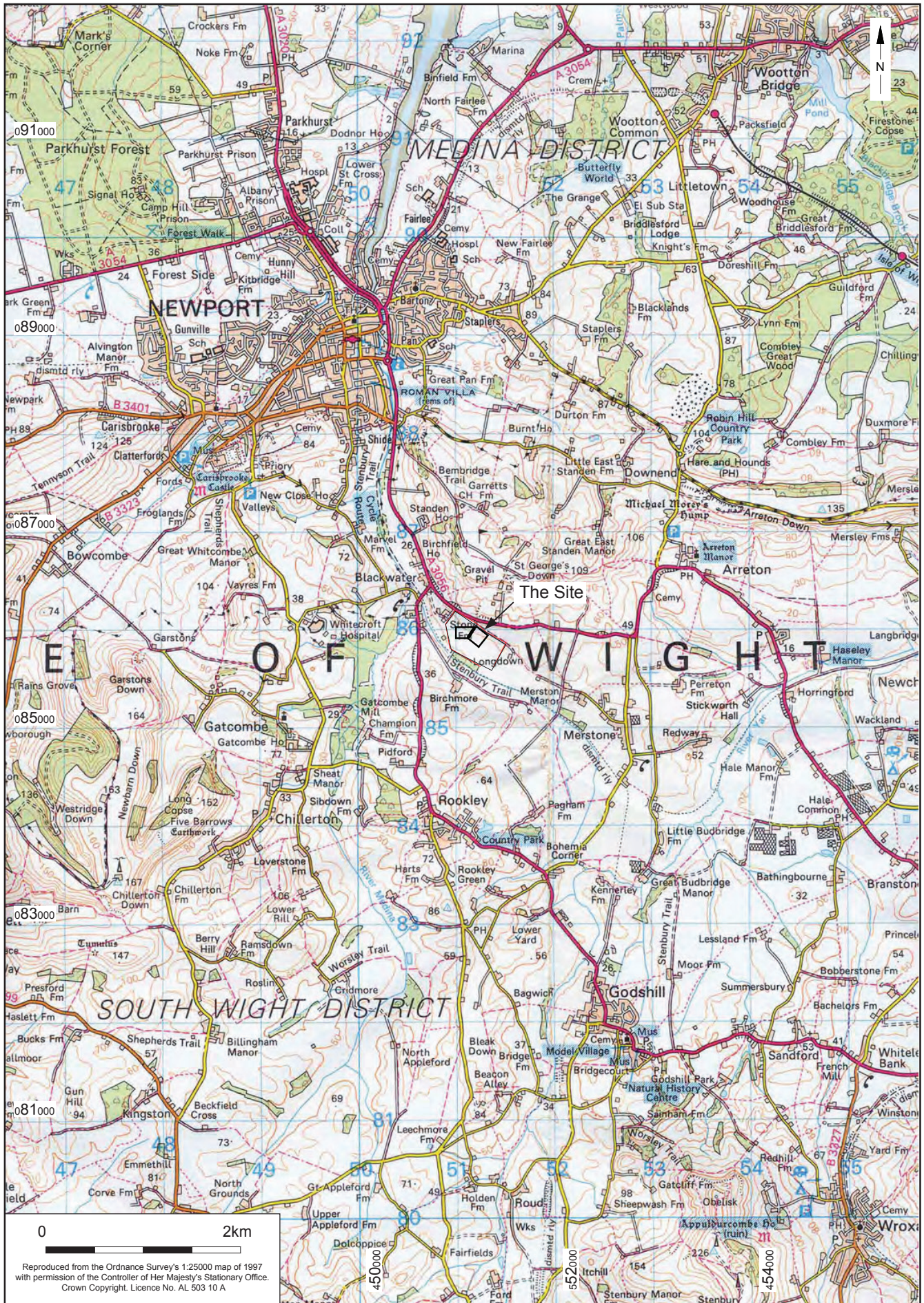
Project archives

Physical Archive recipient	local museum
Physical Contents	'Ceramics','Worked stone/lithics'
Digital Archive recipient	Local Museum
Digital Contents	'Stratigraphic','other'
Digital Media available	'Images raster / digital photography'
Paper Archive recipient	Local Museum
Paper Contents	'Ceramics','Stratigraphic','Worked stone/lithics','other'
Paper Media available	'Context sheet','Correspondence','Diary','Plan','Report','Section'

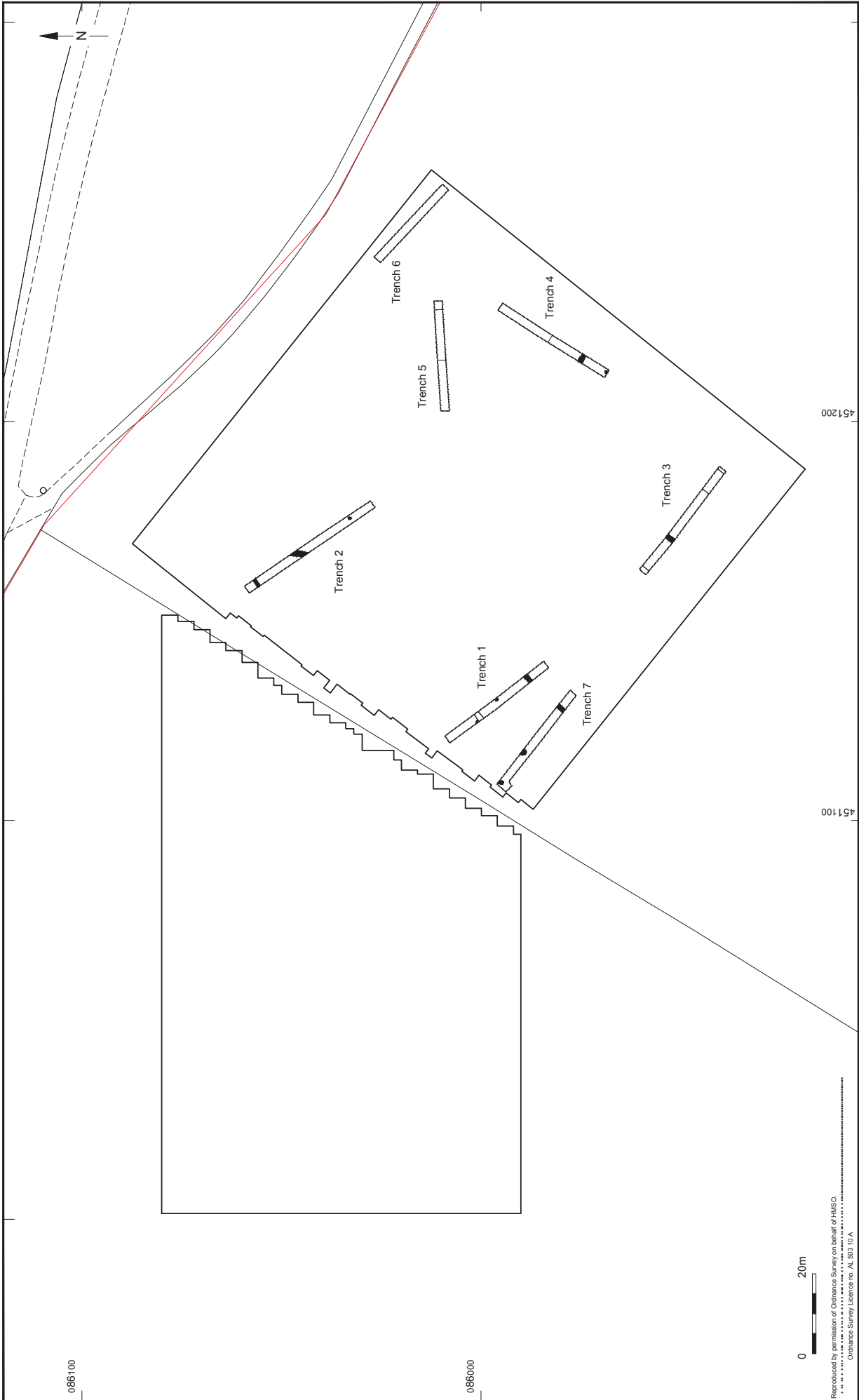
Project bibliography 1

Publication type Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title Stone Farm, Blackwater
Author(s)/Editor(s) Thorne, A
Other bibliographic details 4621
Date 2010
Issuer or publisher Archaeology South-east
Place of issue or publication Archaeology South-East
Description grey literature

Entered by alice thorne (tcrnath@ucl.ac.uk)
Entered on 15 November 2010



© Archaeology South-East		Stone Farm, Blackwater	Fig. 1
Project Ref. 4621	Nov 2010	Site location	
Report Ref. 2010196	Drawn by: JLR		



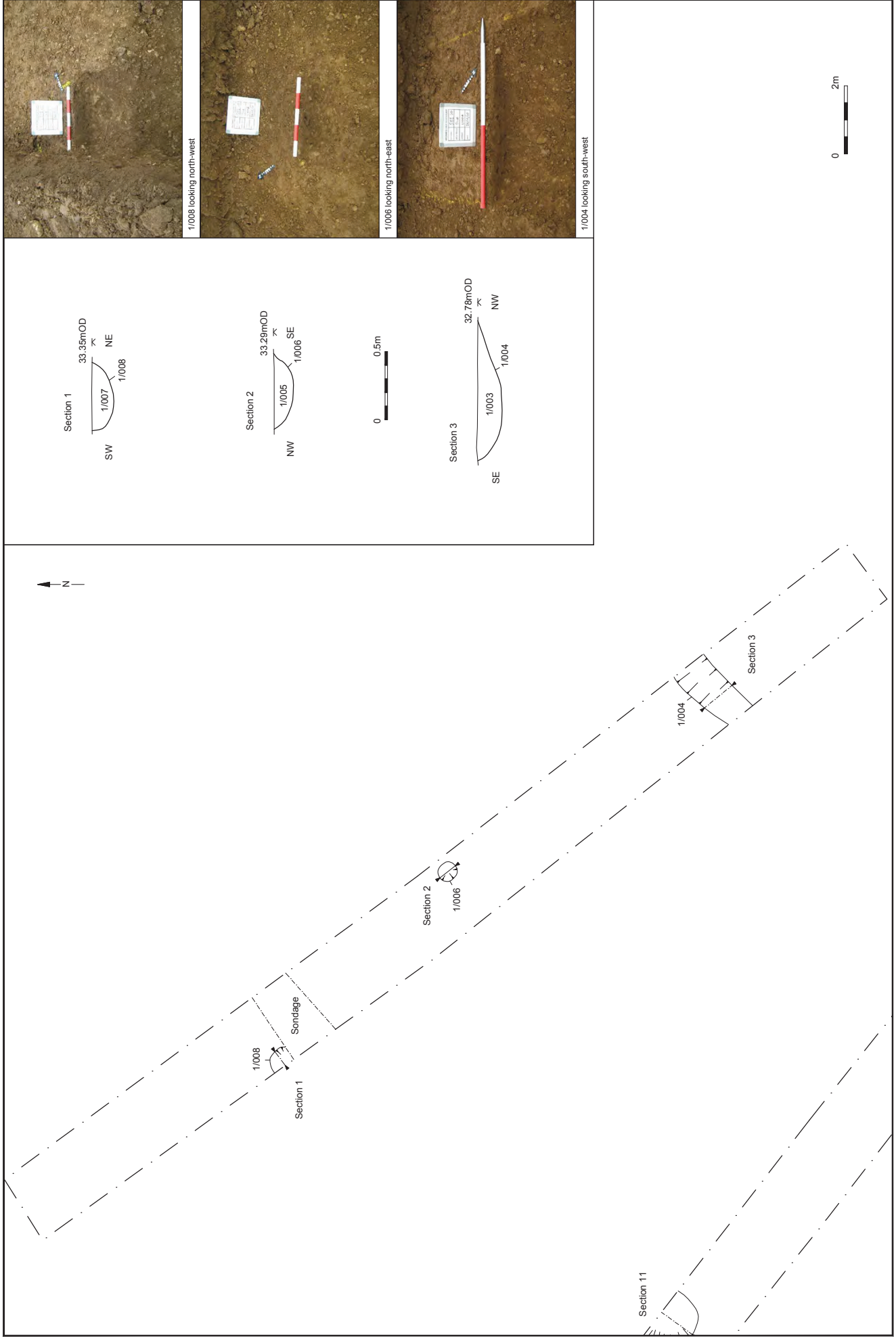
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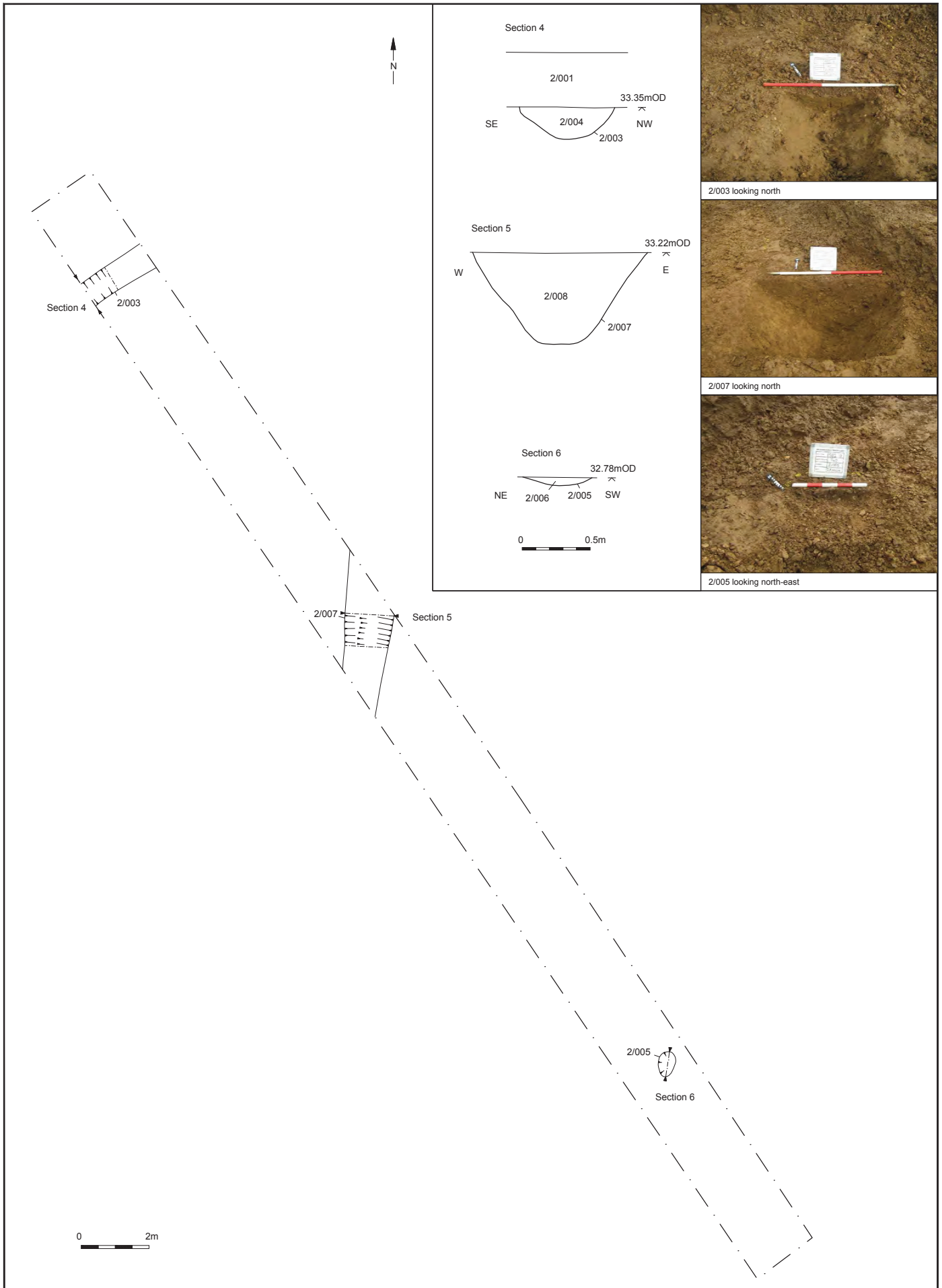
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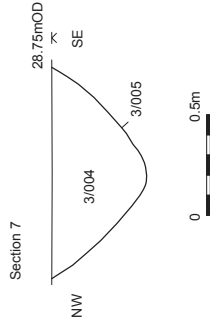
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Project Ref: 4621	Nov 2010	Trench location	
Report Ref: 2010196	Drawn by: JLR		

Fig. 2

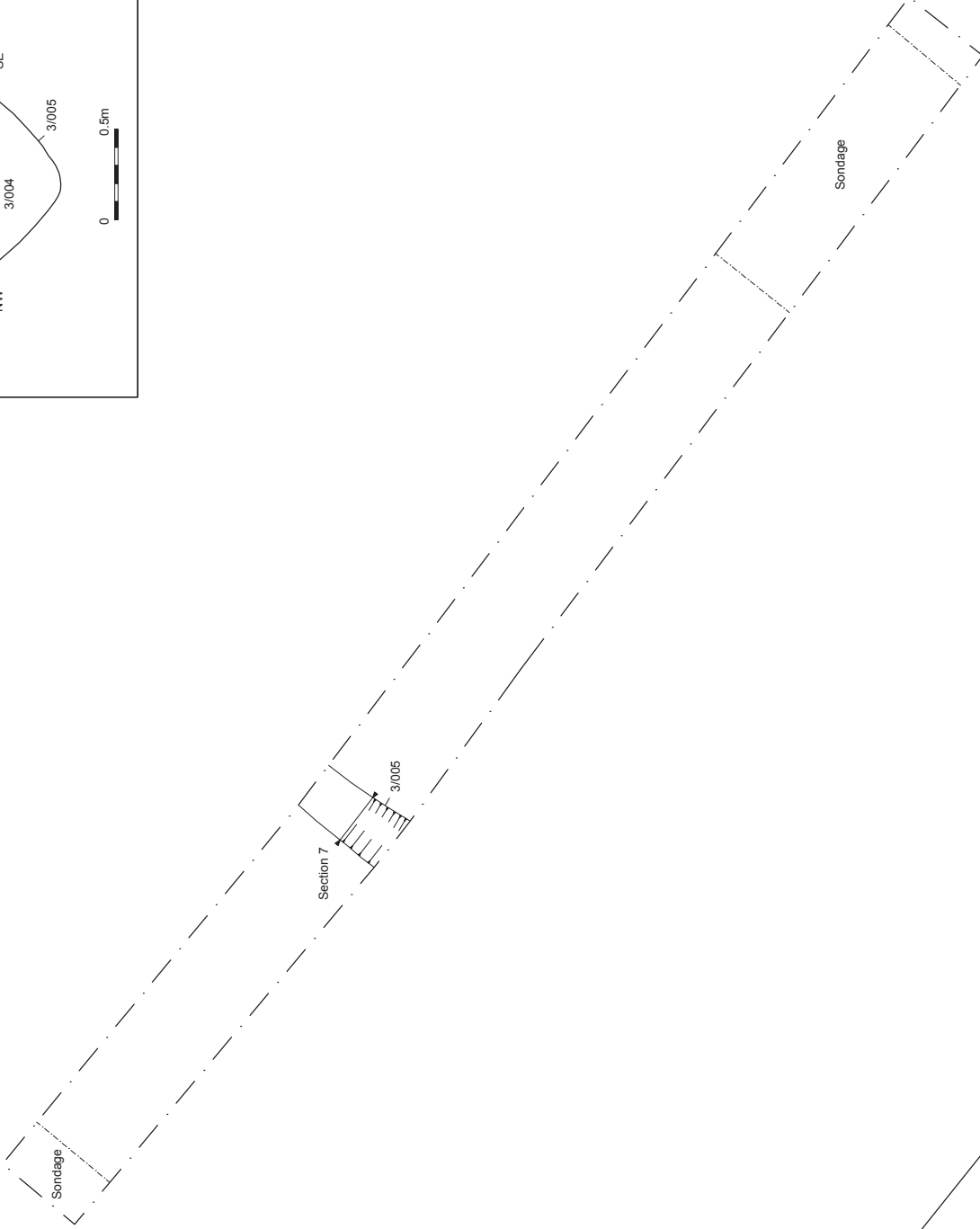


• Archaeology South-East
 Stone Farm, Blackwater
 Trench 1: Plan, sections and photographs
 Project Ref. 4621
 Report Ref. 2010196
 Nov 2010
 Drawn by: JLR

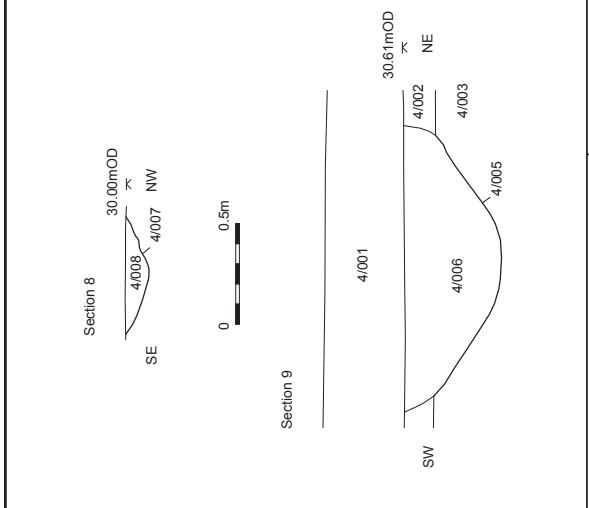
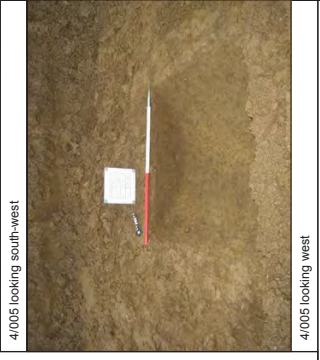
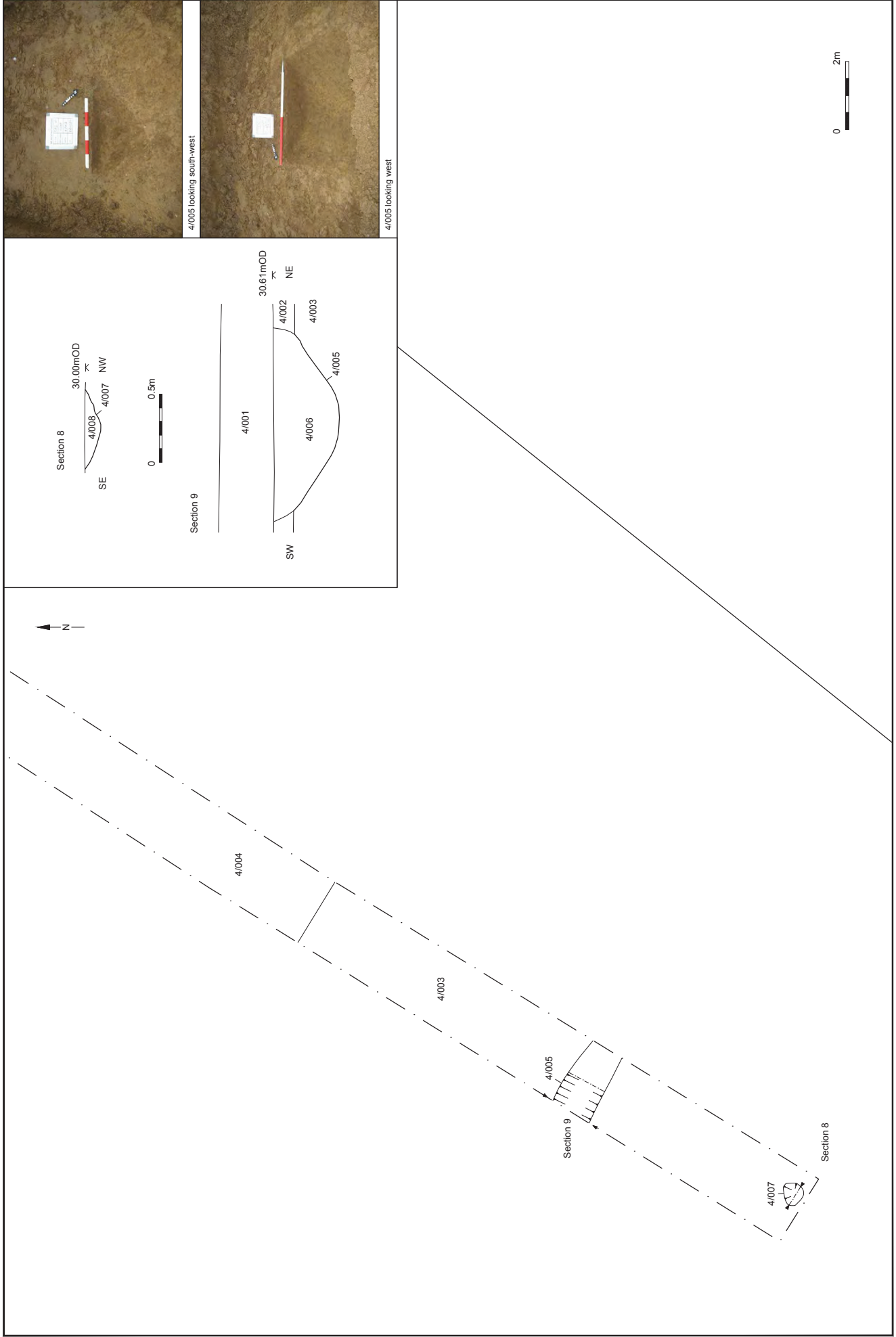


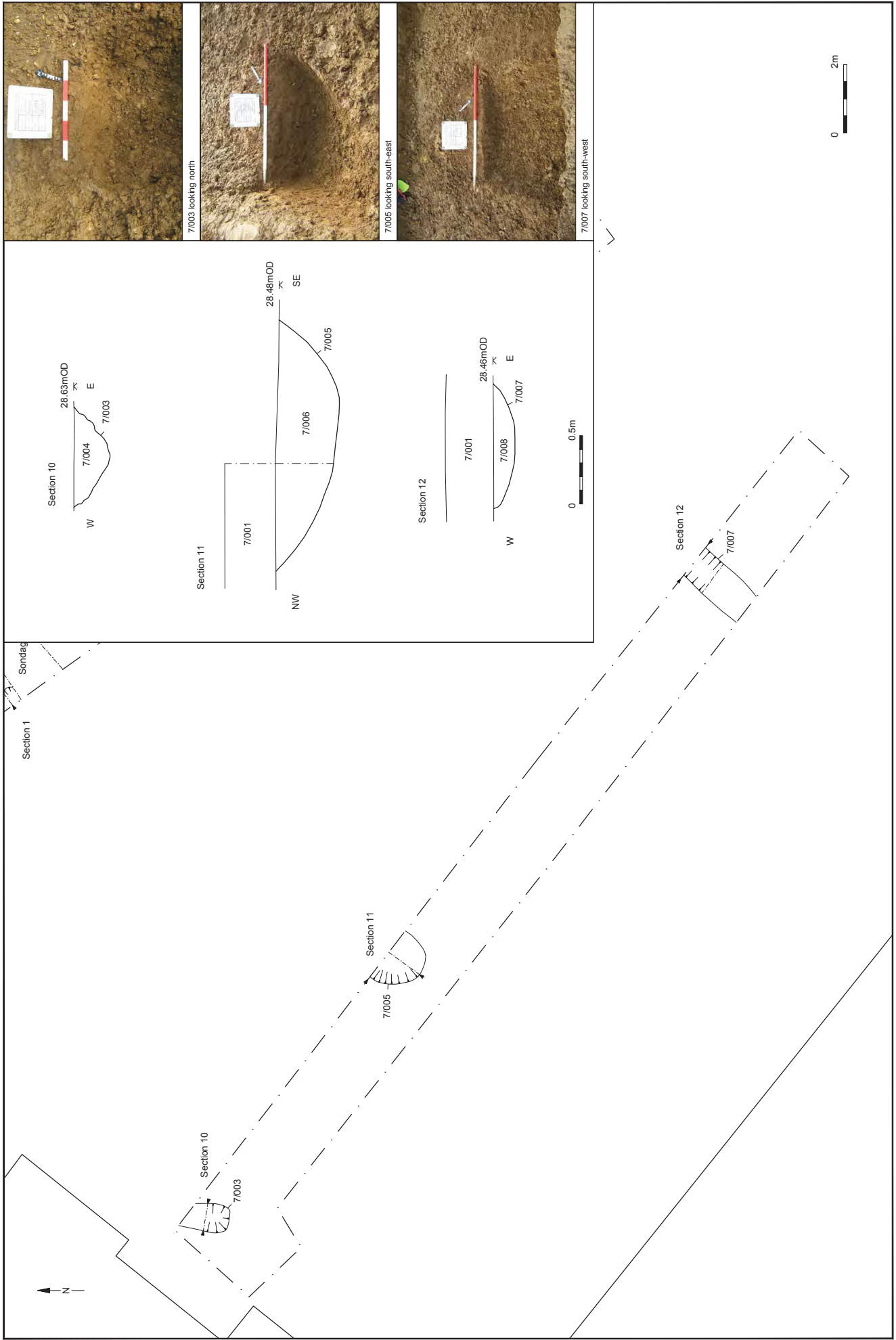


3/005 looking north-east



Archaeology South-East		Stone Farm, Blackwater	Fig. 5
Project Ref. 4621	Nov 2010	Trench 3 Plan, section and photograph	
Report Ref. 2010196	Drawn by: JLR		





Archaeology South-East
 Stone Farm, Blackwater
 Trench 7: Plan, sections and photographs
 Project Ref: 4621
 Report Ref: 2010196
 Nov 2010
 Drawn by: JLR



© Archaeology South-East		Stone Farm, Blackwater	
Project Ref: 4621	Nov 2010	Trench location and results of geophysics (Stratascan)	
Report Ref: 2010196	Drawn by: JLR		

Fig. 8

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