

**An Archaeological Evaluation at Folders Meadow, Folders Lane,  
Burgess Hill, West Sussex**

**Planning Ref: 10/02315/FUL**

**NGR 532007 118214  
(TQ 32007 18214)**

**Project No: 4613  
Site Code: FOL 10**

**ASE Report No. 2010231  
OASIS id: 90356**

**Andrew Margetts**

**With contributions by  
Karine Le Hégarat and Justin Russell**

**January 2010**

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**Abstract**

Archaeology South-East (ASE), a division of University College London Centre for Applied Archaeology (UCLCAA), were commissioned by CgMs Consulting on behalf of their client (Wates Developments Folders Meadow Ltd) to undertake an archaeological evaluation at Folders Meadow, Folders Lane, Burgess Hill, West Sussex in advance of residential development. The fieldwork took place from the 13<sup>th</sup> to the 22<sup>nd</sup> December 2010.

The evaluation succeeded in its general aim of confirming the presence of archaeological features within the site. These included two pits (one of which displayed signs of *in-situ* burning) as well as four linear features. None of the archaeological features produced datable finds and similarly, there was a lack of unstratified artefacts across the site.

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## **1.0 INTRODUCTION**

### **1.1 Site Background**

1.1.1 Archaeology South-East (ASE), a division of University College London Centre for Applied Archaeology (UCLCAA), were commissioned by CgMs Consulting on behalf of their client (Wates Developments Folders Meadow Ltd) to undertake an archaeological evaluation at Folders Meadow, Folders Lane, Burgess Hill, West Sussex (hereafter referred to as 'the site') in advance of residential development (Figures 1 & 2; centred on NGR 532007 118214).

### **1.2 Geology and Topography**

1.2.1 The site occupies approximately 2.24ha and currently comprises rough grass pasture. The site is bounded to the south by Folders Lane, the west by existing residential development, the north by residential development and Birchwood Grove Road and to the east by Birchwood Grove School and a children's play area. The site occupies a generally level plot at an average height of 65m AOD.

1.2.2 According to the British Geological Survey (1:50,000 sheet Solid & Drift edition) the underlying geology comprises Weald Clay. A geotechnical survey undertaken by RSK Group Plc indicates that between 0.2-0.4m of topsoil overlies the Weald Clay and that no made ground is present (RSK 2009).

### **1.3 Planning Background**

1.3.1 Planning permission was granted on 10<sup>th</sup> October 2010 by Mid Sussex District Council for the construction of 77 new dwellings and associated infrastructure (Planning Reference: 10/02315/FUL). Condition 7 of this planning consent states:

*No development shall take place on the site 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 by the applicant and approved by the Local Planning Authority.*

*Reason: To protect any archaeological interest on the site and to accord with Policy B18 of the Mid Sussex Local Plan.*

### **1.4 Aims and Objectives**

1.4.1 The general aim of the investigation was to establish the character, extent and height (metres OD) of archaeological deposits within the site to establish whether any archaeological mitigation is warranted.

### **1.5 Scope of Report**

- 1.5.1 This report outlines the results of fieldwork undertaken on the 13<sup>th</sup> to the 22<sup>nd</sup> December 2010. The fieldwork was supervised by Andrew Margetts (Senior Archaeologist) with the assistance of John Cook (Surveyor), Sam Whitehead and Chris Killeen (Archaeologists). The project was managed by Neil Griffin (Project Manager) and Jim Stevenson (Post-excavation Manager).

## 2.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 The archaeological potential of the site is gauged in relation to records held on the WSCC Historic Environment Record (HER). A 1km radius search centred on NGR 532007 118214 was requested, the results of which are summarised below (Table 1).

2.2 Table 1: Summary of entries held on the WSCC HER database

WSCC HER No.	OS Co-ords (TQ)	Description	Period / date
DWS7047	31861 17943	'High Chimneys' Grade II Listed Building	18 <sup>th</sup> century
2820-MWS120	31400 17920	Parkscape shown at Franklands Park on 1 <sup>st</sup> ed. OS	Post-medieval
6232-MWS4891	32200 18600	Brickfield on north side of Birchwood Grove Road	19 <sup>th</sup> century
6233-MWS4892	31700 18900	Brickyard on west side of Cants Lane	19 <sup>th</sup> century
6237-MWS4896	31500 18800	Brickyard south of Station Road in use 1690-1701 and briefly in 1851	17 <sup>th</sup> -19 <sup>th</sup> century
6238-MWS4897	31300 18800	Brickwork south of Station Road opened 1671, closed 1940	17 <sup>th</sup> -20 <sup>th</sup> century
7950-MWS8064	32270 18580	Worked flint found in rear garden of 42 Wykeham Way in 1966-67	Prehistoric

2.3 Little is known of the history and archaeology of Burgess Hill prior to the development of the modern town during the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Generally speaking, activity of prehistoric, Roman or medieval date in the vicinity of Burgess Hill is not considered to be intensive. That is not to say, however, that such activity is not present in the wider landscape and a recent evaluation to the north east of Burgess Hill at Theobalds Road found evidence of Iron Age, Romano British and medieval activity close to a ridgeway route of prehistoric origin (ASE 2008a, 2). Fragments of butchered animal bone and a small scatter of worked flints of a probable Mesolithic date were recovered during a recent watching brief to the east of the present site at Birchwood Grove School (ASE 2008b, 9).

2.4 Evidence for Mesolithic and Late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age activity has been forthcoming on the western outskirts of Burgess Hill, at sites such as Maltings Farm (Butler, C. 1998, 193-207) and the land between Eastlands Farm and Locks Manor (Sawyer 1999, 49-58). Roman activity has also been identified on the western outskirts of the town, as attested by excavations on the site of Edwards High Vacuum factory (ASE 1996) and the presence of the London to Brighton Roman road. Saxon pottery recovered from Maltings Farm hints to at least limited activity of this date in the wider area (Butler *ibid*).

2.5 ASE undertook a programme of archaeological works at Folders Farm, Burgess Hill between 8th May and 11th June 2007 (ASE 2007). A small open area strip was undertaken in order to further investigate archaeological features identified during the excavation of 13 trial trenches. A total of 19 features were recorded during the investigation, including boundary ditches,



occasional pits and postholes. Some tree throws were also recorded and provide evidence for at least limited tree clearance. Pottery recovered during the course of the fieldwork was largely undiagnostic but has been tentatively assigned a Neolithic-Iron Age date range. However, much of this material appears to be residual and though suggestive of prehistoric activity on the site, available map data implies that the tree clearance and land division evidenced by the ditches and tree throws on the site may well relate to the post-medieval enclosure and clearance of the medieval woodland of Frekebergh. All archaeological features recorded were sealed by the topsoil of the site.

- 2.6** The site itself lay towards the southern extent of the medieval free chase of Frekebergh, a large tract of woodland belonging to the lords of the Lewes Barony (Warne, H. 1985: 136-137). There is some evidence to suggest that piecemeal enclosure of this woodland was underway as early as the 13<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup> century, a process that was largely complete by the end of the 17<sup>th</sup> or 18<sup>th</sup> century (Warne *ibid*). Documentary sources indicate that the site still lay within a block of compact woodland stretching northwards from Folders Lane to Leylands Road at the start of the 16<sup>th</sup> century. In 1507 the southernmost wedge of this block abutting 'Horsemansway' (Birchwood Grove Road) within which the site lies, was sold off (*ibid*. 138).
- 2.7** No development is shown within or in close proximity to the site on the 1845 Keymer Tithe map (Figure 10). Ordnance Survey mapping shows that the existing residential development bounding the site to the north and west is of late 19<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> century origin.

### **3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY**

- 3.1** The fieldwork methodology comprised the mechanical excavation of 620 linear meters of 1.8m wide trenching representing a 5% sample of the residential development. Trenches were positioned to achieve a representative coverage across the site (Figure 2). Trenches were 30m in length, with the exception of trench 13, which was 20m in length. Any significant changes to trench locations as a result of on-site constraints etc. were agreed in advance with the WSCC Archaeological Officer via CgMs Consulting.
- 3.2** An additional 50m of contingency trenching, comprising two trenches 25m in length (Trenches 22 and 23, Figure 2) was excavated in order to evaluate areas inaccessible in the first instance due to on-site constraints.
- 3.3** The trenches were accurately located using a Global Positioning System (DGPS) and DGPS Total Station (Leica 1205 R100 Total Station, Leica System 1200 GPS).
- 3.4** The trench locations were scanned prior to excavation using a Cable Avoidance Tool (CAT).
- 3.5** Trenches were mechanically excavated using a toothless ditching bucket under archaeological supervision. Machine excavation continued to the top of archaeological deposits or the surface of geological drift deposits, whichever was uppermost. Machine excavation proceeded with caution and in strips of no more than 200mm depth.
- 3.6** Spoil heaps and trench bases were scanned with a metal detector as was the spoil derived from excavated features.
- 3.7** Trenches were backfilled and compacted upon completion but no formal reinstatement (e.g. re-turfing, re-seeding) was undertaken.
- 3.8** Excavation strategy was in accordance with Annexe A of the Standard Conditions (WSCC 2007). Archaeological deposits/features were cleaned and recorded and only partially excavated in order to characterise their nature. Full excavation of features or deposits did not take place without the permission of the WSCC Archaeological Officer.
- 3.9** All archaeological features and deposits were recorded using the standard context record sheets used by Archaeology South-East.
- 3.10** Archaeological features and deposits exposed or excavated were planned in relation to the trench and the trench planned onto a copy of the Ordnance Survey map not smaller than 1:2500 scale. Both sections of each trench were drawn and recorded.
- 3.11** Archaeological deposits/features were cleaned and recorded.
- 3.12** Environmental samples were processed and assessed in accordance with

Section 7 of the WSCC Standard Conditions (WSCC 2007).

Number of Contexts	80
No. of files/paper record	1
Plan and sections sheets	1
Bulk Samples	1
Photographs	32 (digital)
Bulk finds	0
Registered finds	0
Environmental flots/residue	1 small box

Table 2: Quantification of site archive

## **4.0 RESULTS (Figures 2 – 9)**

### **4.1 Overburden and Geology**

4.1.1 The topsoil across the site remained fairly consistent (0.20m to 0.30m thick) and comprised a mid grey brown clay silt, which contained occasional flint nodules, and charcoal flecks. Beneath the topsoil was a very shallow firm mid-light grey brown silt clay subsoil 0.02m to 0.10m thick) that contained occasional to moderate flint nodules.

4.1.2 The underlying geology across the site comprised variable Weald Clay with flint gravels, It was sometimes necessary to remove c.0.10m of the surface of the natural horizon in order to clarify any archaeological features and/or remove root disturbance.

### **4.2 Trench 1**

<b>Number</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Max. Length</b>	<b>Max. Width</b>	<b>Deposit Depth</b>	<b>Height m.AOD</b>
1/001	Deposit	Topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.30m	63.53
1/002	Deposit	Subsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.07m	63.23
1/003	Deposit	Natural	Tr.	Tr.	-	63.22

Table 3: Trench 1, List of recorded contexts

4.2.1 No archaeological features or finds were encountered within this trench.

### **4.3 Trench 2**

<b>Number</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Max. Length</b>	<b>Max. Width</b>	<b>Deposit Depth</b>	<b>Height m.AOD</b>
2/001	Deposit	Topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.40m	63.43
2/002	Deposit	Subsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.11m	63.19
2/003	Deposit	Natural	Tr.	Tr.	-	63.14

Table :4 Trench 2, List of recorded contexts

4.3.1 No archaeological features or finds were encountered within this trench.

### **4.4 Trench 3**

<b>Number</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Max. Length</b>	<b>Max. Width</b>	<b>Deposit Depth</b>	<b>Height m.AOD</b>
3/001	Deposit	Topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.30m	63.22
3/002	Deposit	Subsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.20m	63.06
3/003	Deposit	Natural	Tr.	Tr.	-	63.05

Table 5: Trench 3, List of recorded contexts

4.4.1 No archaeological features or finds were encountered within this trench.

### **4.5 Trench 4**

Number	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Deposit Depth	Height m.AOD
4/001	Deposit	Topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.25m	63.43
4/002	Deposit	Subsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.07m	63.18
4/003	Deposit	Natural	Tr.	Tr.	-	62.97

Table 6: Trench 4, List of recorded contexts

4.5.1 No archaeological features or finds were encountered within this trench.

#### 4.6 Trench 5 (Figure 3)

Number	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Deposit Depth	Height m.AOD
5/001	Deposit	Topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.20m	62.88
5/002	Deposit	Subsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.02m	62.68
5/003	Deposit	Natural	Tr.	Tr.	-	62.50
5/004	Cut	Linear (term)	3.7m	0.34m	0.20m	62.50
5/005	Fill	Linear (term)	3.7m	0.34m	0.20m	62.50

Table 7: Trench 5, List of recorded contexts

4.6.1 A single archaeological feature [5/004] was encountered within this trench, comprising a shallow ditch or gully with gently sloping sides and a rounded base. It was filled by mid yellow grey silt clay [5/005] that contained occasional angular flint nodules but no archaeological finds.

#### 4.7 Trench 6

Number	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Deposit Depth	Height m.AOD
6/001	Deposit	Topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.25m	62.77
6/002	Deposit	Subsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.02m	62.52
6/003	Deposit	Natural	Tr.	Tr.	-	62.52

Table 8: Trench 6, List of recorded contexts

4.7.1 No archaeological features or finds were encountered within this trench.

#### 4.8 Trench 7 (Figure 4)

Number	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Deposit Depth	Height m.AOD
7/001	Deposit	Topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.20m	62.79
7/002	Deposit	Subsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.10m	62.59
7/003	Deposit	Natural	Tr.	Tr.	-	62.33
7/004	Cut	Linear	1.70m	0.70m	0.10m	62.22
7/005	Fill	Linear	1.70m	0.70m	0.10m	62.22

Table 9: Trench 7, List of recorded contexts

4.8.1 A single archaeological feature [7/004] was encountered within this trench, comprising a shallow linear feature with gently sloping sides and a rounded

base. It was filled by mid yellow brown silt clay [7/005] that contained occasional angular flint nodules but no archaeological finds.

#### 4.9 Trench 8

Number	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Deposit Depth	Height m.AOD
8/001	Deposit	Topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.30m	62.27
8/002	Deposit	Natural	Tr.	Tr.	-	61.90

Table 10: Trench 8, List of recorded contexts

4.9.1 No archaeological features or finds were encountered within this trench.

#### 4.10 Trench 9

Number	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Deposit Depth	Height m.AOD
9/001	Deposit	Topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.25m	62.54
9/002	Deposit	Subsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.10m	62.30
9/003	Deposit	Natural	Tr.	Tr.	-	62.25

Table 11: Trench 9, List of recorded contexts

4.10.1 No archaeological features or finds were encountered within this trench.

#### 4.11 Trench 10

Number	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Deposit Depth	Height m.AOD
10/001	Deposit	Topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.25m	62.44
10/002	Deposit	Subsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.04m	62.19
10/003	Deposit	Natural	Tr.	Tr.	-	62.17

Table 12: Trench 10, List of recorded contexts

4.11.1 No archaeological features or finds were encountered within this trench it was however crossed by several land-drains.

#### 4.12 Trench 11 (Figure 5)

Number	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Deposit Depth	Height m.AOD
11/001	Deposit	Topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.25m	61.81
11/002	Deposit	Subsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.04m	61.60
11/003	Deposit	Natural	Tr.	Tr.	-	61.56
11/004	Cut	?Geological feature	0.60m	0.60m	0.20m	61.56
11/005	Fill	?Geological feature	0.60m	0.60m	0.20m	61.56

Table 13: Trench 11, List of recorded contexts

4.12.1 The single sub circular feature in the trench [11/004], had sharply sloping sides and a tapered base. It was filled by mid blue grey clay [11/005] that contained occasional angular flint nodules but no archaeological finds. This feature is thought to be of possible geological origin.

#### 4.13 Trench 12 (Figure 6)

Number	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Deposit Depth	Height m.AOD
12/001	Deposit	Topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.28m	62.16
12/002	Deposit	Subsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.10m	61.88
12/003	Deposit	Natural	Tr.	Tr.	-	61.69
12/004	Cut	Pit	1m	0.50m	0.34m	61.69
12/005	Fill	Pit	1m	0.50m	0.34m	61.69

Table 14: Trench 12, List of recorded contexts

4.13.1 Pit-like feature [12/004] was seen to extend beyond the limits of the trench in the north eastern corner. It had had sharply sloping sides and a rounded base and was filled by mid yellow brown clay silt [12/005] that contained occasional angular flint nodules but no archaeological finds.

#### 4.14 Trench 13

Number	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Deposit Depth	Height m.AOD
13/001	Deposit	Topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.24m	62.43
13/002	Deposit	Subsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.10m	62.19
13/003	Deposit	Natural	Tr.	Tr.	-	62.05

Table 15: Trench 13, List of recorded contexts

4.14.1 No archaeological features or finds were encountered within this trench but a geo-technical test pit was located towards the southern end.

#### 4.15 Trench 14 (Figure 7)

Number	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Deposit Depth	Height m.AOD
14/001	Deposit	Topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.30m	59.64
14/002	Deposit	Natural	Tr.	Tr.	-	59.36
14/003	Cut	Linear	7.50m	0.52m	0.48m	57.50
14/004	Fill	Linear	7.50m	0.52m	0.48m	57.50
14/005	Cut	Linear	7.50m	0.52m	0.50m	57.52
14/006	Fill	Linear	7.50m	0.52m	0.50m	57.52

Table 16: Trench 14, List of recorded contexts

4.15.1 Linear feature [14/003] and [14/005] was aligned approximately east to west and had sharply sloping sides and a rounded base. It was filled by mid yellow brown silt clay (Contexts [14/004] and [14/006]) that contained

occasional angular flint nodules but no archaeological finds.

#### 4.16 Trench 15 (Figure 8)

Number	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Deposit Depth	Height m.AOD
15/001	Deposit	Topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.28m	60.92
15/002	Deposit	Subsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.02m	60.64
15/003	Deposit	Natural	Tr.	Tr.	-	60.53
15/004	Cut	Pit	0.80m	0.70m	0.15m	60.24
15/005	Fill	Pit	0.94m	0.70m	0.15m	60.24

Table 17: Trench 15, List of recorded contexts

4.16.1 Pit feature [15/004], the only feature present in the trench, was sub-oval in plan with sharply sloping sides and a rounded base. It displayed some signs of *in-situ* burning and was filled by mid-dark grey brown clay silt [15/005] that contained moderate quantities of charcoal but no archaeological finds.

#### 4.17 Trench 16

Number	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Deposit Depth	Height m.AOD
16/001	Deposit	Topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.30m	60.12
16/002	Deposit	Natural	Tr.	Tr.	-	59.89

Table 18: Trench 16, List of recorded contexts

4.17.1 No archaeological features or finds were encountered within this trench.

#### 4.18 Trench 17 (Figure 9)

Number	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Deposit Depth	Height m.AOD
17/001	Deposit	Topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.28m	61.33
17/002	Deposit	Subsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.09m	61.15
17/003	Deposit	Natural	Tr.	Tr.	-	61.00
17/004	Cut	Linear (term)	1.90m	0.40m	0.07m	60.76
17/005	Fill	Linear (term)	1.90m	0.40m	0.07m	60.76

Table 19: Trench 17, List of recorded contexts

4.18.1 A single archaeological feature [17/004] was encountered within this trench. It comprised a shallow linear terminus with gently sloping sides and a rounded base and was filled by mid yellow brown silt clay [17/005] that contained occasional manganese fragments but no archaeological finds.

#### 4.19 Trench 18



Number	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Deposit Depth	Height m.AOD
18/001	Deposit	Topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.24m	61.82
18/002	Deposit	Subsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.04m	61.58
18/003	Deposit	Natural	Tr.	Tr.	-	61.49

Table 20: Trench 18, List of recorded contexts

4.19.1 No archaeological features or finds were encountered within this trench.

#### 4.20 Trench 19

Number	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Deposit Depth	Height m.AOD
19/001	Deposit	Topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.25m	60.80
19/002	Deposit	Subsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.04m	60.61
19/003	Deposit	Natural	Tr.	Tr.	-	60.57

Table 21: Trench 19, List of recorded contexts

4.20.1 No archaeological features or finds were encountered within this trench.

#### 4.21 Trench 20

Number	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Deposit Depth	Height m.AOD
20/001	Deposit	Topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.25m	61.81
20/002	Deposit	Subsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.10m	61.70
20/003	Deposit	Natural	Tr.	Tr.	-	61.61

Table 22: Trench 20, List of recorded contexts

4.21.1 No archaeological features or finds were encountered within this trench.

#### 4.22 Trench 21

Number	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Deposit Depth	Height m.AOD
21/001	Deposit	Topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.20m	61.64
21/002	Deposit	Subsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.10m	61.44
21/003	Deposit	Natural	Tr.	Tr.	-	61.40

Table 23: Trench 21, List of recorded contexts

4.22.1 No archaeological features or finds were encountered within this trench.

#### 4.23 Trench 22

Number	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Deposit Depth	Height m.AOD
22/001	Deposit	Topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.30m	62.84
22/002	Deposit	Natural	Tr.	Tr.	-	62.46

Table 24: Trench 22, List of recorded contexts

4.23.1 No archaeological features or finds were encountered within this trench.

#### 4.24 Trench 23

Number	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Deposit Depth	Height m.AOD
23/001	Deposit	Topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.30m	63.54
23/002	Deposit	Natural	Tr.	Tr.	-	63.21

Table 25: Trench 23, List of recorded contexts

4.24.1 No archaeological features or finds were encountered within this trench.

## 5.0 THE ENVIRONMENTAL SAMPLES by Karine Le Hégarat

### 5.1 Methodology

5.1.1 A single 40L bulk soil sample was taken during evaluation work at Folders Meadows to establish the presence of environmental remains such as wood charcoal, charred macrobotanical remains, fauna and mollusca as well as to provide material suitable for dating. The sample, extracted from the mid-dark grey brown silt fill [15/005] of pit [15/004] which yielded moderate inclusions of wood charcoal, was processed in a flotation tank and the residue and flot were retained on 500µm and 250µm meshes and air dried. The residue was passed through graded sieves (4 and 2mm) and each fraction sorted for environmental and artefact remains (Table 26). The flot was scanned under a stereozoom microscope at x7-45 magnifications and its content recorded (Table 27). Preliminary identifications of macrobotanical remains and charcoal have been made through comparison with reference atlases (Cappers *et al.* 2006; Hather 2000) and nomenclature used follows Stace (1997).

### 5.2 Results

5.2.1 The large flot (250ml) was dominated by uncharred vegetation (94%) consisting principally of modern very fine roots but also including some infrequent uncharred seeds such as bramble (*Rubus* sp.), probable Solomon's-seal (cf. *Polygonatum multiflorum*) and some seeds from the goosefoot (Chenopodiaceae) family. In addition, the flot contained moderate number (4%) of probable modern fungal sclerotia, which are common in active soils. The significant level of roots present in the shallow (0.15m deep) pit together with the presence of fungal resting bodies could indicate a small degree of modern disturbance and potential contamination of the deposit.

5.2.2 Nonetheless, sampling confirmed the presence of a moderate assemblage of wood charcoal fragments. Although these were scarce in the flot, the residue contained sufficient reasonably well preserved fragments, some of which were >5mm in size. As the only taxon identified in the assemblage is oak (*Quercus* sp.) from slow grown, probably mature wood specimens, charcoal within this deposit presents no potential for accurately dating the infilling of the feature. In addition, the presence of roots and fungal resting bodies (5.2.1) indicate a degree of possible contamination meaning that the contextual integrity of any charcoal submitted cannot be assured.

5.2.3 No other classes of biological material were noticed and sampling produced no artefactual remains apart from a small quantity of fire cracked flints.

### 5.3 Summary

5.3.1 The bulk environmental sample taken during the evaluation work confirmed the presence of a limited assemblage of modern uncharred macrobotanical remains, roots and fungal sclerotia that provide evidence for modern disturbances, potential contamination and movement within the deposit.

Their presence lessens the value of remains within this sample for further dating work. Oak wood charcoal was the only archaeobotanical material evident which, due to the potential longevity of the material, is not considered suitable for radiocarbon dating. Unfortunately this isolated assemblage is also too limited to provide significant information regarding woody vegetation or fuel use.

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	15/005	fill of pit [15/004]	40	40	**	6	***	4	FCF */42g

Table 26: Residues quantification (\* = 0-10, \*\* = 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
1	15/005	14	250	94	1	*** <i>Rubus</i> sp., cf. <i>Polygonatum multiflorum</i> , Chenopodiaceae	*	*	**

Table 27: Flots quantification (\* = 0-10, \*\* = 11-50, \*\*\* = 51 – 250, \*\*\*\* = >250) and preservation (+ = poor, ++ = moderate, +++ = good)

## 6.0 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

- 6.1** The evaluation succeeded in its general aim of confirming the presence of archaeological features within the site. These included two pits (one of which displaying signs of *in-situ* burning) as well as four linear features.
- 6.2** None of the archaeological features produced datable finds and similarly there was a lack of un-stratified artefacts across the site. Understandably this makes any attempt at drawing firm conclusions about the site extremely difficult.
- 6.3** It is possible that some of the shallow linear features (e.g. [7/004]) may represent either hedge-lines or plough furrows. The linear features recorded in trenches 5 and 14 correspond with boundaries shown on the 1845 Keymer Tithe map (Figure 10). These boundary lines are thought to mark the extent of woodland or hedgerows at the edge of the fields and it is possible that these areas would have been bounded by shallow ditches or gullies. (Richard James pers. comm.) It is probable that burnt pit [15/004] is either a fire-pit or relates to tree-clearance/stump burning. However, both the apparent disturbed and contaminated nature of the deposit [15/004] and the absence of environmental material suitable for radiocarbon dating mean that no further information is obtainable.
- 6.4** The evaluation encountered very limited archaeological remains all of which were undated and difficult to interpret. Indeed it is thought that many of the encountered features may even be natural in origin or the result of deep ploughing. A very few of linear features uncovered, particularly those which do not clearly correspond to known post-medieval boundaries, may, potentially, be man-made and of ancient origin. Unfortunately these features were devoid of datable artefacts and further interpretation is not possible.

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**HER Summary Form**

Site Code	FOL10					
Identification Name and Address	Folders Meadow, Folders Lane, Burgess Hill					
County, District &/or Borough	West Sussex					
OS Grid Refs.	TQ 532007 118214					
Geology	Weald Clay					
Arch. South-East Project Number	4613					
Type of Fieldwork	Eval. X	Excav.	Watching Brief	Standing Structure	Survey	Other
Type of Site	Green Field X	Shallow Urban	Deep Urban	Other		
Dates of Fieldwork	Eval. 13 <sup>th</sup> -23 <sup>rd</sup> Dec 2010	Excav.	WB.	Other		
Sponsor/Client	CgMs Consulting Ltd					
Project Manager	Neil Griffin and Jim Stevenson					
Project Supervisor	Andy Margetts					
Period Summary	Palaeo.	Meso.	Neo.	BA	IA	RB
	AS	MED	PM	Other Modern		
<p>100 Word Summary.</p> <p>Archaeology South-East (ASE), a division of University College London Centre for Applied Archaeology (UCLCAA), were commissioned by CgMs Consulting on behalf of their client (Wates Developments Folders Meadow Ltd) to undertake an archaeological evaluation at Folders Meadow, Folders Lane, Burgess Hill, West Sussex in advance of residential development. The fieldwork took place from the 13<sup>th</sup> to the 22<sup>nd</sup> December 2010.</p> <p>The evaluation succeeded in its general aim of confirming the presence of archaeological features within the site. These included two pits (one of which displayed signs of <i>in-situ</i> burning) as well as four linear features. None of the archaeological features produced datable finds and similarly, there was a lack of un-stratified artefacts across the site.</p>						

OASIS Form

**OASIS ID: archaeol6-90356**

**Project details**

Project name	An Archaeological Evaluation at Folders Meadow, Folders Lane, Burgess Hill, West Sussex
Short description of the project	Archaeology South-East (ASE), a division of University College London Centre for Applied Archaeology (UCLCAA), were commissioned by CgMs Consulting on behalf of their client (Wates Developments Folders Meadow Ltd) to undertake an archaeological evaluation at Folders Meadow, Folders Lane, Burgess Hill, West Sussex in advance of residential development. The fieldwork took place from the 13 <sup>th</sup> to the 22 <sup>nd</sup> December 2010. The evaluation succeeded in its general aim of confirming the presence of archaeological features within the site. These included two pits (one of which displayed signs of <i>in-situ</i> burning) as well as four linear features. None of the archaeological features produced datable finds and similarly, there was a lack of un-stratified artefacts across the site.
Project dates	Start: 13-12-2010 End: 22-12-2010
Previous/future work	No / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	FOL10 - Sitecode
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Current Land use	Grassland Heathland 3 - Disturbed
Monument type	UNDATED FEATURES Uncertain
Significant Finds	NONE None
Methods & techniques	'Sample Trenches'
Development type	Housing estate
Prompt	Planning condition
Position in the planning process	After full determination (eg. As a condition)

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**Project location**

Country	England
Site location	WEST SUSSEX MID SUSSEX BURGESS HILL Folders Meadow
Postcode	RH15 XXX
Study area	0.50 Hectares
Site coordinates	TQ 532007 118214 50.8849608826 0.178227955060 50 53 05 N 000 10 41 E Point



Lat/Long Datum      Unknown  
Height OD / Depth    Min: 59.00m Max: 61.00m

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**Project creators**

Name of Organisation      Archaeology South East  
Project brief originator    West Sussex County Council  
Project design originator    Archaeology South-East  
Project director/manager    Neil Griffin  
Project supervisor          Andrew Margetts  
Type of sponsor/funding body    CgMs Consulting  
Name of sponsor/funding body    CgMs Consulting

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**Project archives**

Physical Archive Exists?      No  
Digital Archive Exists?      No  
Paper Archive Exists?      No

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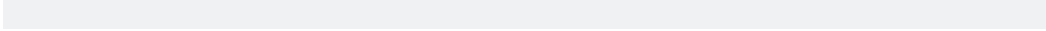
**Project bibliography 1**

Publication type              Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)  
Title                              An Archaeological Evaluation at Folders Meadow, Folders Lane, Burgess Hill, West Sussex  
Author(s)/Editor(s)          Margetts, A.  
Other bibliographic details    ASE Report No. 2010231  
Date                                2010  
Issuer or publisher            Archaeology South East  
Place of issue or publication    Portslade  
Description                      Eval Report

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Entered by                      Andy Margetts (andrew\_margetts@tiscali.co.uk)

Entered on            23 December 2010





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Folders Meadow, Folders Lane, Burgess Hill

Project Ref. 4613

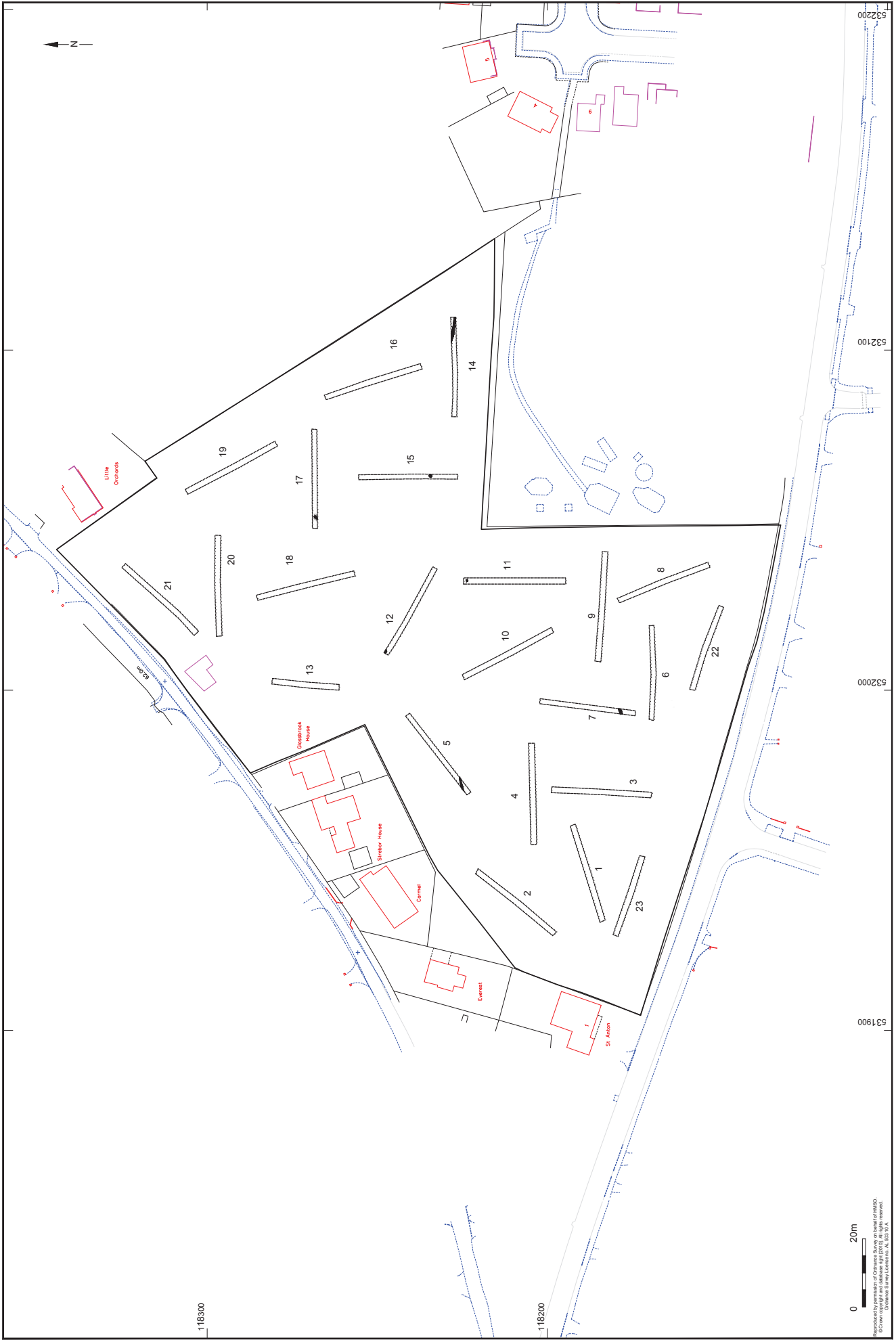
Jan 2011

Site location

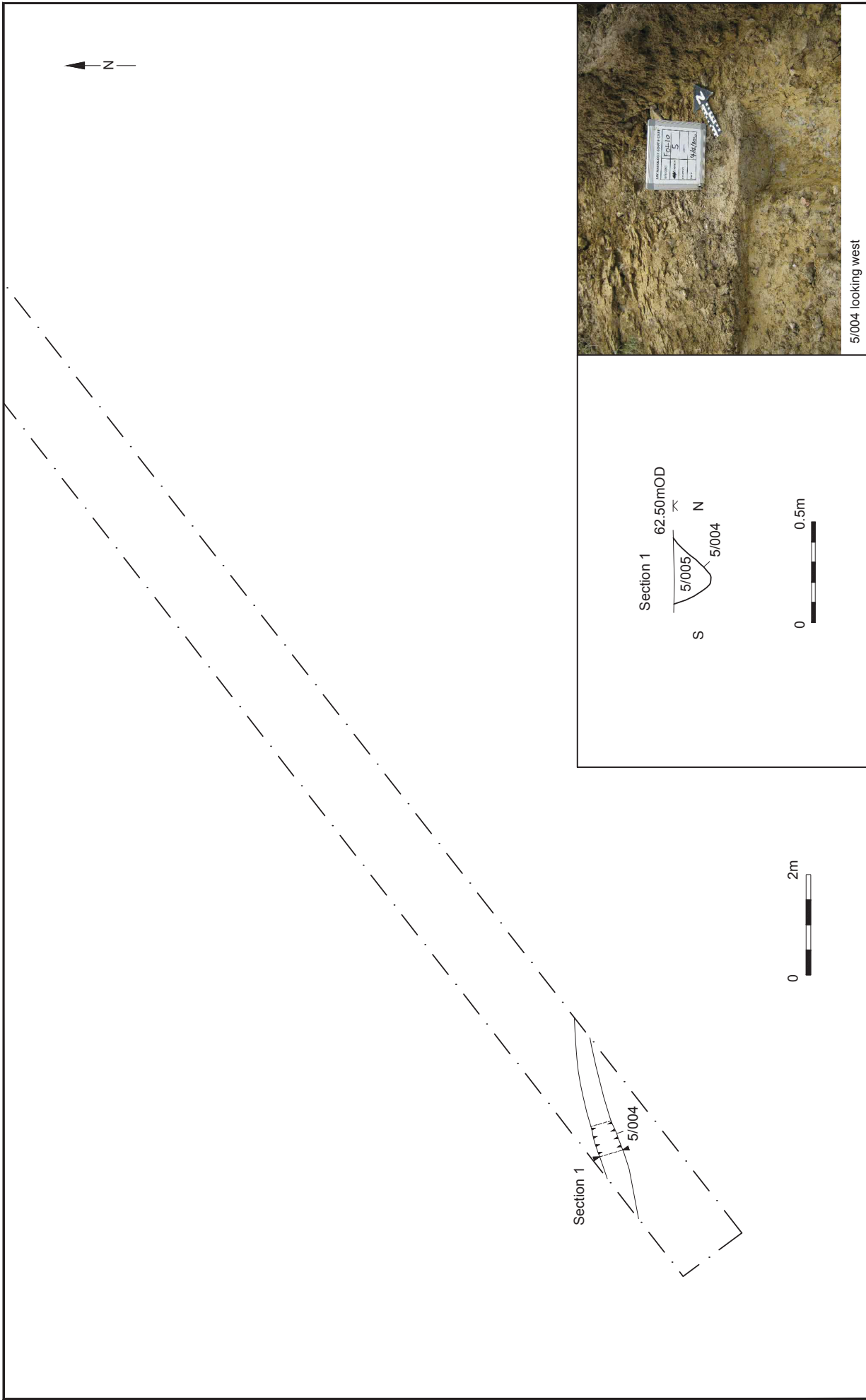
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Fig. 1



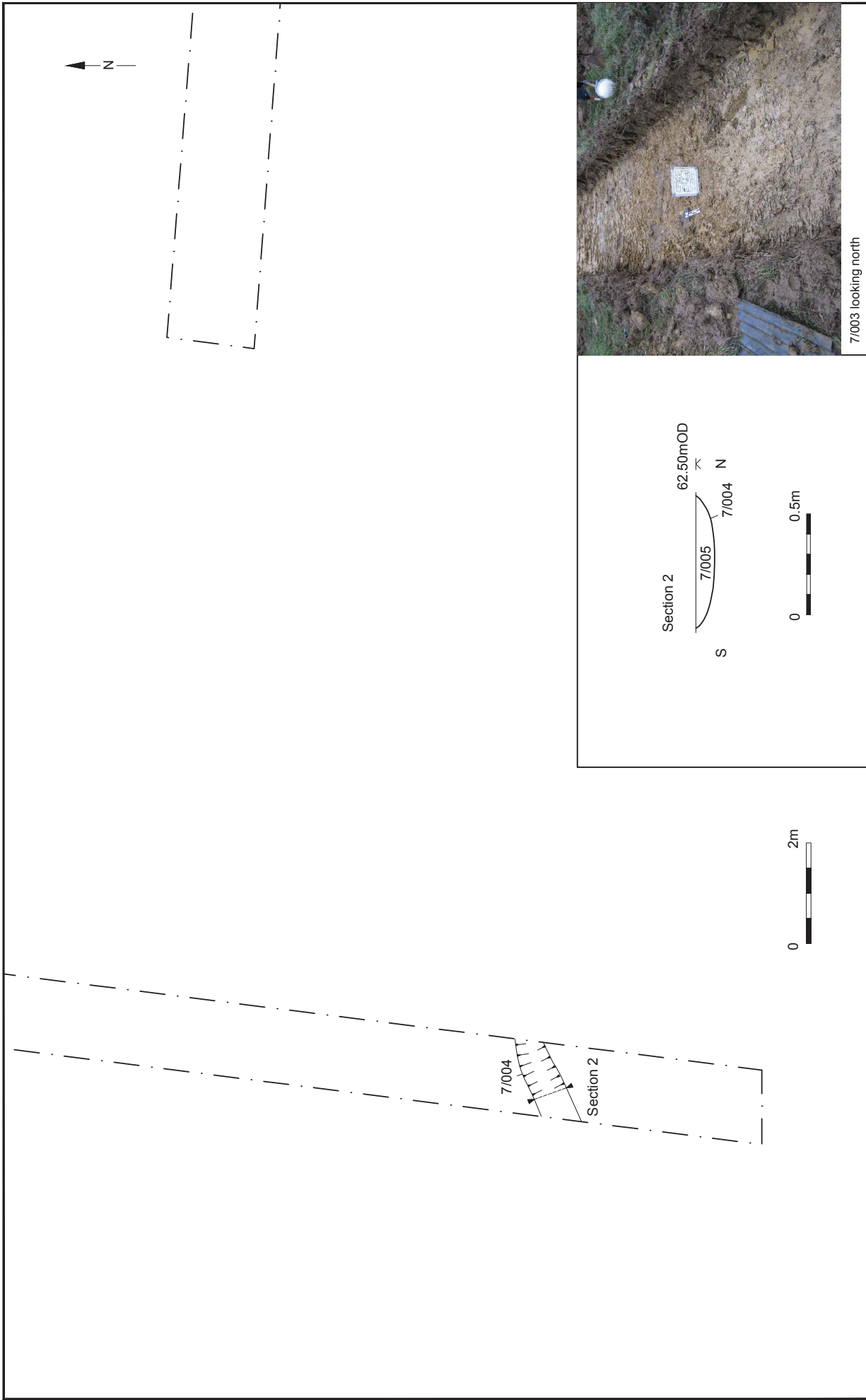
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 Project Ref: 4613 Jan 2011  
 Report Ref: 2010231 Drawn by: JLR

Trench 5: Plan, section and photograph

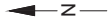
Fig. 3



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Trench 7: Plan, section and photograph

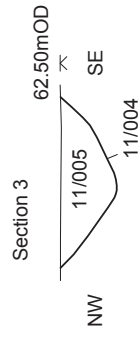
Fig. 4



Section 3



11/004



11/004 looking north-east

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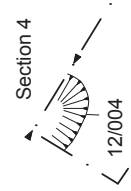
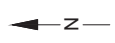
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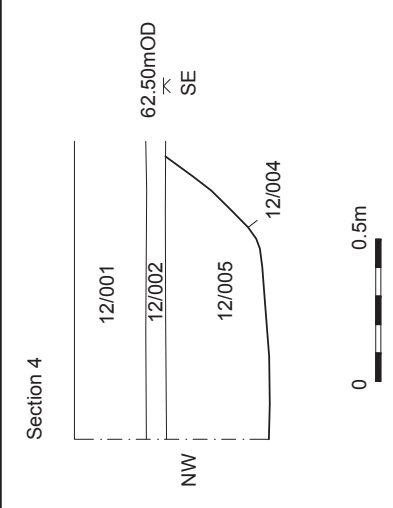
Folders Meadow, Folders Lane, Burgess Hill

Trench 11: Plan, section and photograph

Fig. 5

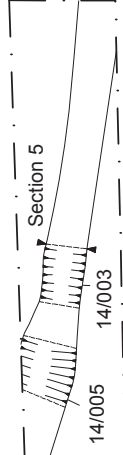
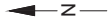


12/004 looking north-east

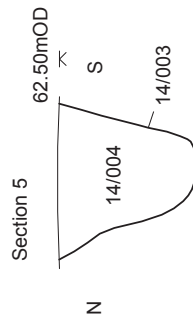


© <b>Archaeology South-East</b>		Folders Meadow, Folders Lane, Burgess Hill		Fig. 6
Project Ref: 4613	Jan 2011	Trench 12: Plan, section and photograph		
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14/003 looking east



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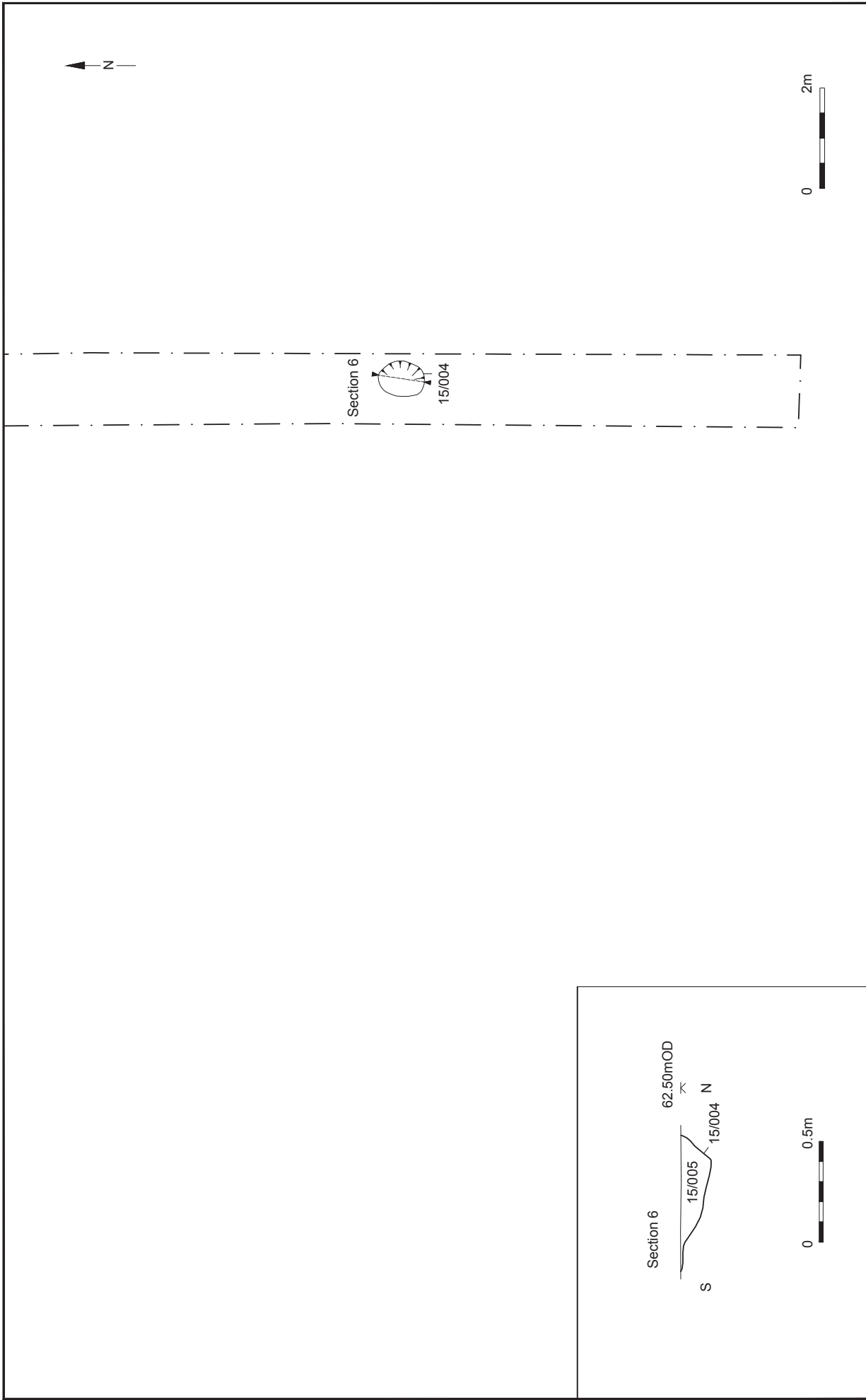
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Trench 14: Plan, section and photograph

Fig. 7



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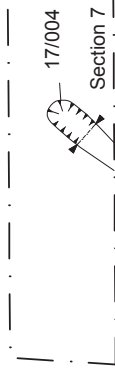
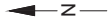
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Project Ref: 4613    Jan 2011

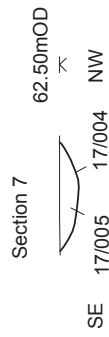
Trench 15: Plan and section

Report Ref: 2010231    Drawn by: JLR

Fig. 8



17/004 looking south-west



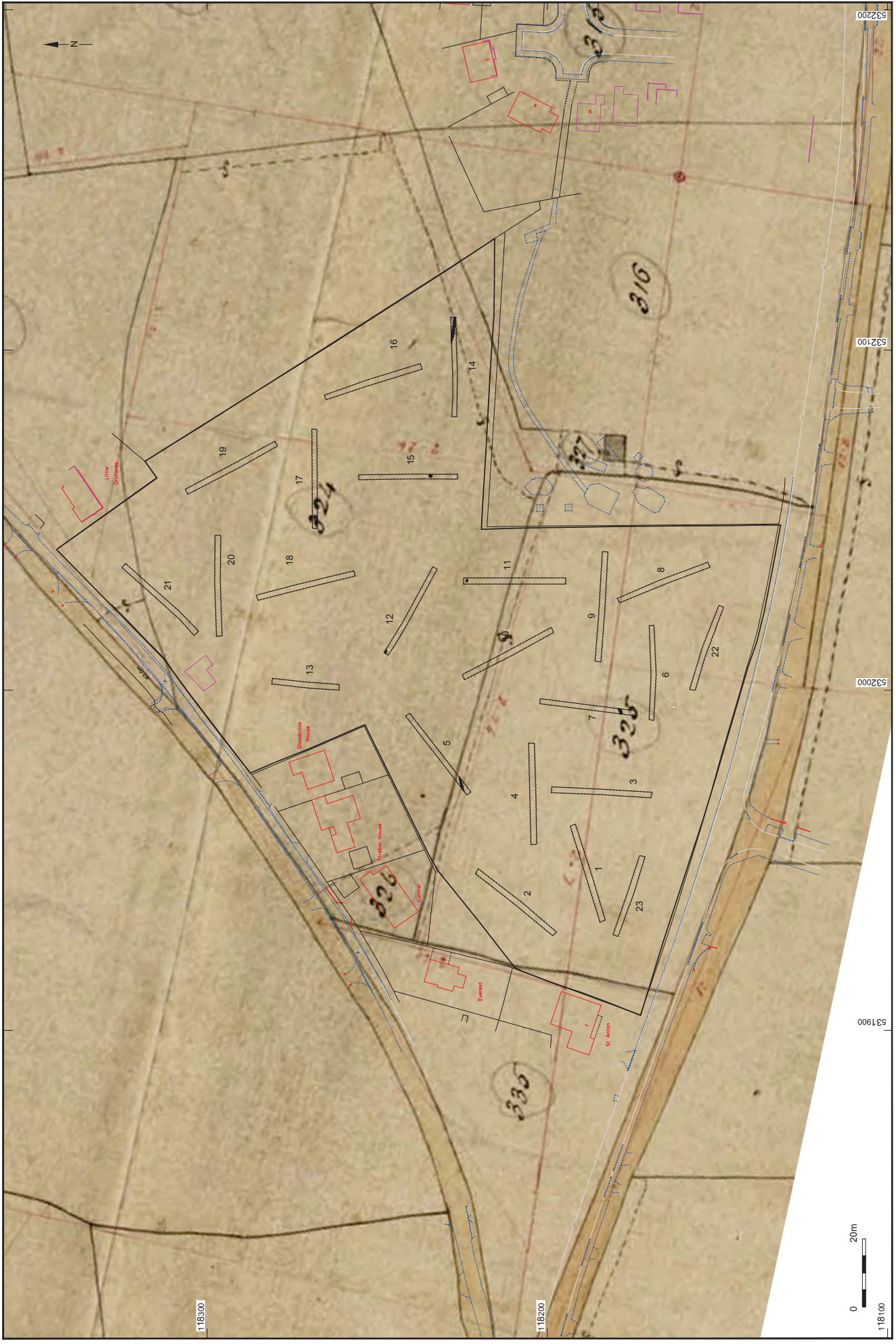
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Trench 17: Plan, section and photograph

Report Ref: 2010231 Drawn by: JLR



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