

**An Archaeological Evaluation at 811 The Ridge,  
Baldslow, Hastings East Sussex**

**Planning Application Ref: HS/FA/10/00691**

**NGR 579877 113122**

**Project No. 4713  
Site Code: HTR11**

**ASE Report No: 2011049  
OASIS id: archaeol6-**

**Greg Priestley-Bell**

**March 2011**

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**Abstract**

*Archaeology South-East was commissioned by Mr Rick Hoad to undertake an archaeological evaluation at 811 The Ridge, Baldslow, Hastings, East Sussex (NGR 579877 113122). Two 5m long evaluation trenches were excavated. Trench T1 was taken down to the top of the natural at c. 97.5m AOD: a ceramic land drain was recorded at the base of the trench, while modern disturbance was recorded at the northern end. Trench 2 was taken down to the top of the natural at between 97.4 – 97.7m AOD: the edge of a modern terracing cut was recorded running SW-NE the length of the base of the trench. No archaeological features or finds were present.*

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## **1.0 INTRODUCTION**

1.1 Archaeology South-East (ASE) (a division of The Centre for Applied Archaeology at the Institute of Archaeology, University College London) was commissioned by Mr Rick Hoad (hereafter referred to as 'the client') to undertake an archaeological evaluation at No. 811 The Ridge, Baldslow, Hastings, East Sussex in advance of development (hereafter referred to as 'the site') (Fig.1).

### **1.2 Geology and Topography**

1.2.1 The underlying geology of the site comprises part of the Wadhurst Clay Formation consisting of sandstone dating to the Cretaceous period. The site lies near the top of the north facing slope in Baldslow village, just to the west of the junction of the A2100 and A211.

### **1.3 Planning Background**

1.3.1 The proposed works comprise the demolishing of the existing garage and construction of a new bungalow under Planning Permission ref: HS/FA/10/00691.

1.3.2 Following consultation with Greg Chuter, Assistant County Archaeologist, East Sussex County Council a condition (condition 12) was placed on the planning permission requiring a programme of archaeological works take place on the site ahead of the development. This condition was placed on the works because the site lies within an Archaeological Notification Area, which defines the medieval and post-medieval hamlet of Baldslow. These works are in accordance with PPS5 Planning for the Historic Environment and Policy C6 of the Hastings Local Plan.

1.3.3 ASE produced a *Written Scheme of Investigation* (WSI), required by planning condition 12 (Sygrave 2011). The document was compiled with reference to the East Sussex Standards (ESCC 2008) and was submitted to Greg Chuter, Assistant County Archaeologist ESCC for his approval in advance of development. All work was carried out in accordance with these documents (unless otherwise specified below), and the relevant *Standards and Guidance* of the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA).

### **1.4 Aims and Objectives**

1.4.1 The general aim of the archaeological work is to establish the extent of archaeological deposits on the site, their nature and the degree to which the proposed development may impinge upon them.

1.4.2 Specific aims are to identify and record evidence of the medieval and post-medieval hamlet of Baldslow, note any evidence pertaining to the antiquity of the routeways adjacent to the site and the development of Iron working in the vicinity of the site.

### **1.5 Scope of Report**

1.5.1 The fieldwork was undertaken by Greg Priestley-Bell (Senior Archaeologist) on the 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2011. This report details the results of this work.

## 2.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

### 2.1 Archaeological Periods Represented

#### *Prehistoric*

Palaeolithic 450,000 - 10,000 BC

Mesolithic 10,000 - 5,000 BC

Neolithic 5,000 - 2,300 BC

Bronze Age 2,300 - 600 BC

Iron Age 600 - AD 42

#### *Historic*

Roman AD 42 - 410

Anglo Saxon/Early Medieval AD 410 - 1065

Medieval AD 1066 – 1485

Post-Medieval AD 1486 – present

### 2.2 Summary of HER

2.2.1 The following is a summary of the records held at the Historic Environment Record (HER) for the area within a 500m radius of the proposed development.

| HER Number | NGR            | Details   |
|------------|----------------|---|
| MES1009    | TQ 8008 1285   | Find spot - Neolithic axe                         |
| MES893     | TQ 79 13       | Find spot - Neolithic axe                         |
| MES3434    | TQ 7909 1419   | Ridgeway – probably prehistoric or Roman trackway |
| MES3416    | TQ 7888 1418   | Find spot – Roman pottery                         |
| MES3414    | TQ 789 140     | Earthwork - medieval                              |
| MES3427    | TQ 789 140     | Extraction pit - medieval                         |
| MES928     | TQ 79679 13326 | Farmstead building – late medieval                |
| MES15539   | TQ 7991 1312   | Settlement – medieval to post-medieval            |
| MES2603    | TQ 7971 1424   | Road - medieval to post-medieval                  |
| MES833     | TQ 8041 1288   | Statue – post-medieval                            |
| MES922     | TQ 8030 1297   | Listed building – post-medieval farmhouse         |
| MES939     | TQ 80 13       | Windmill – post-medieval                          |
| MES8678    | TQ 78881 13582 | House site – 18 <sup>th</sup> century             |
| MES999     | TQ 80023 13108 | Mill site – 19 <sup>th</sup> century              |
| MES15524   | TQ 7908 1339   | Earthwork - undated                               |
| MES15525   | TQ 7904 1350   | Earthwork – undated                               |
| EES14387   | TQ 80250 12800 | Interpretation - CgMs Consulting                  |
| EES14503   | TQ 7858 1456   | Survey – ASE                                      |
| EES14467   | TQ 78880 13555 | Watching brief – CG Archaeology                   |

Table 1: HER search results (0.5km radius)

2.2.2 The area surrounding the site is known for its iron working tradition which is known to have been active since at least the Roman period. Over 60 such Iron working sites are known across the Weald, with a bloomery site located c. 1 mile to the north west of the site in Beaufort Park.

- 2.2.3 The Ridge would have served as the main routeway from Winchelsea, Hastings and through Battle into the rest of Sussex.
- 2.2.4 The sites lies in an Archaeological Notification Area associated with the medieval and post-medieval hamlet of Baldslow on the junction of two routeways of unknown antiquity

### **3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY**

- 3.1** Two evaluation trenches each measuring 5m long and 1.8m wide, were excavated under archaeological supervision using a 360 degree slew mechanical digger equipped with a toothless bucket.
- 3.2** Machine excavation continued to the top of significant archaeological deposits or the surface of geological drift deposits, whichever was uppermost. Machine excavation proceeded in spits of no more than 200mm depth. Spoil heaps and trench bases were scanned with a metal detector as will the spoil derived from excavated features.
- 3.3** All encountered archaeological deposits, features and finds were recorded according to accepted professional standards in accordance with the approved ASE Written Scheme of Investigation using pro-forma context record sheets.
- 3.4** A full photographic record of the trenches and associated deposits and features was kept (including monochrome prints, colour slides and digital), and will form part of the site archive.
- 3.5** Trenches were backfilled and compacted upon completion but no formal re-instatement (e.g. turf etc.) was undertaken.

|                             |      |
|-----------------------------|------|
| Number of Contexts          | 13   |
| No. of files/paper record   | 1    |
| Plan and sections sheets    | 1    |
| Bulk Samples                | none |
| Photographs Digital         | 12   |
| B+W                         | 6    |
| CS                          | 6    |
| Bulk finds                  | none |
| Registered finds            | none |
| Environmental flots/residue | none |

Table 2: Quantification of site archive



## 4.0 RESULTS

### 4.1 Trench 1 (Figs 2 and 3)

| Context | Type    | Description                | Max. Length | Max. Width | Deposit Depth | Height m.AOD           |
|---------|---------|----------------------------|-------------|------------|---------------|------------------------|
| 1/01    | Deposit | Modern made ground         | Tr.         | Tr.        | 0.50m max.    | 98.51 (E)<br>98.42 (W) |
| 1/02    | Deposit | Buried topsoil             | Tr.         | Tr.        | 0.20m max.    | 98.01                  |
| 1/03    | Deposit | Subsoil/weathered natural  | Tr.         | Tr.        | 0.30m         | 97.71                  |
| 1/04    | Cut     | Land drain                 | 2.7m        | 0.35m      |               |                        |
| 1/05    | Fill    | Pottery drain and backfill |             |            | 0.30m         | 97.41                  |
| 1/06    | Deposit | Natural                    | Tr.         | Tr.        | n/a           | 97.52                  |
| 1/07    | Cut     | Modern disturbance         | 2m          | Unknown    |               |                        |
| 1/08    | Fill    | Modern made ground         |             |            | 0.90m max.    | 97.52                  |

Table 3: Trench 1 contexts

4.1.1 Made ground, [1/01], consisting of dark reddish brown clayey silt with occasional CBM, concrete, plastic and iron, overlay a buried topsoil, [1/02], consisting of dark reddish brown clayey silt with occasional rooting. Layer [1/02] overlay subsoil/weathered natural [1/03], consisting of mid yellowish brown silty clay. Deposit [1/03] overlay natural, [1/06], consisting of mid brownish yellow silty clay.

4.1.2 A linear cut, [1/04], running N-S across the trench, contained a single fill, [1/05], consisting of mid yellowish grey silty clay and a ceramic pipe drain. At the northern end of the trench, a large amorphous cut, [1/07], contained a mixed fill, [1/08], consisting of dark grayish brown silty clay with occasional CBM, concrete, glass, plastic and iron.

### 4.2 Trench 2 (Figs 2 and 4)

| Context | Type          | Description        | Max. Length | Max. Width | Deposit Depth | Height m.AOD           |
|---------|---------------|--------------------|-------------|------------|---------------|------------------------|
| 2/01    | Deposit       | Modern made ground | Tr.         | Tr.        |               | 98.92 (N)<br>98.62 (S) |
| 2/02    | Not used      | -                  | -           | -          | -             | -                      |
| 2/03    | Cut           | Modern terracing   | Tr.         | Tr.        |               |                        |
| 2/04    | Fill/ deposit | Modern made ground | Tr.         | Tr.        | 1.1m          | 98.77 (N)<br>98.02 (S) |
| 2/05    | Deposit       | Subsoil            | Tr.         | Unknown    | 0.3m          |                        |
| 2/06    | Deposit       | Natural            | Tr.         | Unknown    | n/a           | 97.72 (N)<br>97.42 (S) |

Table 4: Trench 2 contexts

- 4.2.1 Made ground, [2/01], consisting of dark greyish brown silty clay with 20% stone gravel, overlay subsoil, [2/05], consisting of mid yellowish brown silty clay (not seen in recorded east-facing section). Deposit [2/05] overlay natural, [2/06], consisting of mid brownish yellow silty clay.
- 4.2.2 A linear cut [2/03], measuring 350mm wide and 300mm deep, ran the full length of the base of the trench, and contained a mixed fill [2/04] of dark yellowish brown silty clay with occasional modern brick, plaster board, slate and iron

## **5.0 FINDS AND ENVIRONMENTAL SAMPLES**

### **5.1 Summary**

- 5.1.1 No ancient finds were noted or recovered. A significant quantity of modern building materials and refuse was noted but not recovered.
- 5.1.2 No deposits suitable for environmental sampling were encountered.

## **6.0 DISCUSSION**

- 6.1.1 Although the northern part of the site had suffered some localised disturbance, buried topsoil and subsoil/weathered natural was identified. These seemingly intact deposits therefore offered the potential for the identification/recovery of archaeological remains. However, no such archaeological remains were present
- 6.1.2 The southern part of the site appeared to be heavily truncated by modern landscaping which would have almost certainly removed all but the deepest archaeological remains in that area.
- 6.1.3 In conclusion, no archaeological features or deposits were present and no ancient artefacts recovered. This absence of archaeological features together with the absence of any residual finds suggests that the proposed development will have minimal impact on the archaeological record.

## **BIBLIOGRAPHY**

ESCC, 2008. *Standards for archaeological fieldwork, recording and post-excavation work in East Sussex*

Sygrave, J, 2011 811 The Ridge, St. Leonards-on-sea, Hastings, East Sussex: Archaeological evaluation: Written scheme of investigation. Unpub. ASE rep.

**HER Summary Form**

|  |  |                 |                |                    |        |       |
|--|--|-----------------|----------------|--------------------|--------|-------|
| Site Code  | HTR11  |                 |                |                    |        |       |
| Identification Name and Address  | No. 811 The Ridge, Baldslow, Hastings, East Sussex |                 |                |                    |        |       |
| County, District &/or Borough  | East Sussex  |                 |                |                    |        |       |
| OS Grid Refs.  | NGR 579877 113122                                  |                 |                |                    |        |       |
| Geology  | Wadhurst Clay                                      |                 |                |                    |        |       |
| Arch. South-East Project Number  | 4713   |                 |                |                    |        |       |
| Type of Fieldwork  | Eval. X  | Excav.          | Watching Brief | Standing Structure | Survey | Other |
| Type of Site   | Green Field  | Shallow Urban X | Deep Urban     | Other              |        |       |
| Dates of Fieldwork   | 3 <sup>rd</sup> Feb 2011                           | Excav.          | WB.            | Other              |        |       |
| Sponsor/Client   | Mr Rick Hoad                                       |                 |                |                    |        |       |
| Project Manager  | Jon Sygrave  |                 |                |                    |        |       |
| Project Supervisor   | Greg Priestley-Bell                                |                 |                |                    |        |       |
| Period Summary   | Palaeo.  | Meso.           | Neo.           | BA                 | IA     | RB    |
|  | AS   | MED             | PM             | Other<br>Modern X  |        |       |
| <p>100 Word Summary.</p> <p><i>Archaeology South-East was commissioned by Mr Rick Hoad to undertake an archaeological evaluation at 811 The Ridge, Baldslow, Hastings, East Sussex (NGR 579877 113122). Two 5m long evaluation trenches were excavated. Trench T1 was taken down to the top of the natural at c. 97.5m AOD: a ceramic land drain was recorded at the base of the trench, while modern disturbance was recorded at the northern end. Trench 2 was taken down to the top of the natural at between 97.4 – 97.7m AOD: the edge of a modern terracing cut was recorded running SW-NE the length of the base of the trench. No archaeological features or finds were present.</i></p> |  |                 |                |                    |        |       |

## OASIS ID: archaeol6-95355

### Project details

|                                  |   |
|----------------------------------|---|
| Project name                     | The Ridge, Hastings   |
| Short description of the project | Archaeology South-East was commissioned by Mr Rick Hoad to undertake an archaeological evaluation at 811 The Ridge, Baldslow, Hastings, East Sussex (NGR 579877 113122). Two 5m long evaluation trenches were excavated. Trench T1 was taken down to the top of the natural at c. 97.5m AOD: a ceramic land drain was recorded at the base of the trench, while modern disturbance was recorded at the northern end. Trench 2 was taken down to the top of the natural at between 97.4 - 97.7m AOD: the edge of a modern terracing cut was recorded running SW-NE the length of the base of the trench. No archaeological features or finds were present. |
| Project dates                    | Start: 03-02-2011 End: 03-02-2011   |
| Previous/future work             | Not known / Not known   |
| Type of project                  | Field evaluation  |
| Current Land use                 | Residential 1 - General Residential   |

### Project location

|                   |   |
|-------------------|---|
| Country           | England   |
| Site location     | EAST SUSSEX HASTINGS HASTINGS 811 The Ridge, Hastings |
| Postcode          | TN34  |
| Study area        | 0.10 Hectares   |
| Height OD / Depth | Min: 97.40m Max: 97.70m                               |

### Project creators

|                              |                            |
|------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Name of Organisation         | Archaeology South East     |
| Project brief originator     | East Sussex County Council |
| Project design originator    | Archaeology South-East     |
| Project director/manager     | Jon Sygrave                |
| Project supervisor           | Greg Priestley-Bell        |
| Type of sponsor/funding body | private client             |

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**Project archives**

Physical Archive recipient     Hastings Museum

Digital Archive recipient     Hastings Museum

Paper Archive recipient     Hastings Museum

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**Project bibliography 1**

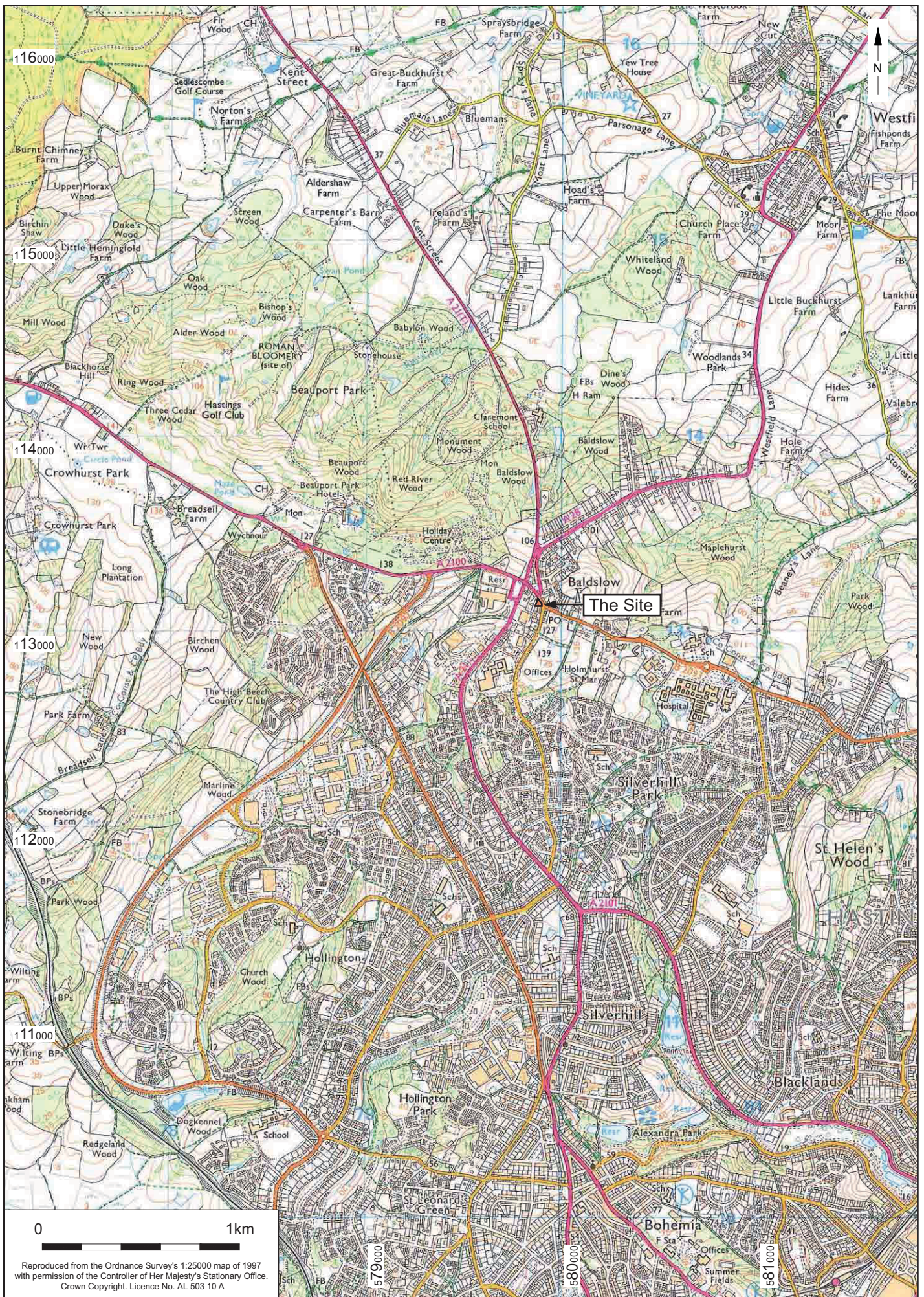
Publication type     Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)

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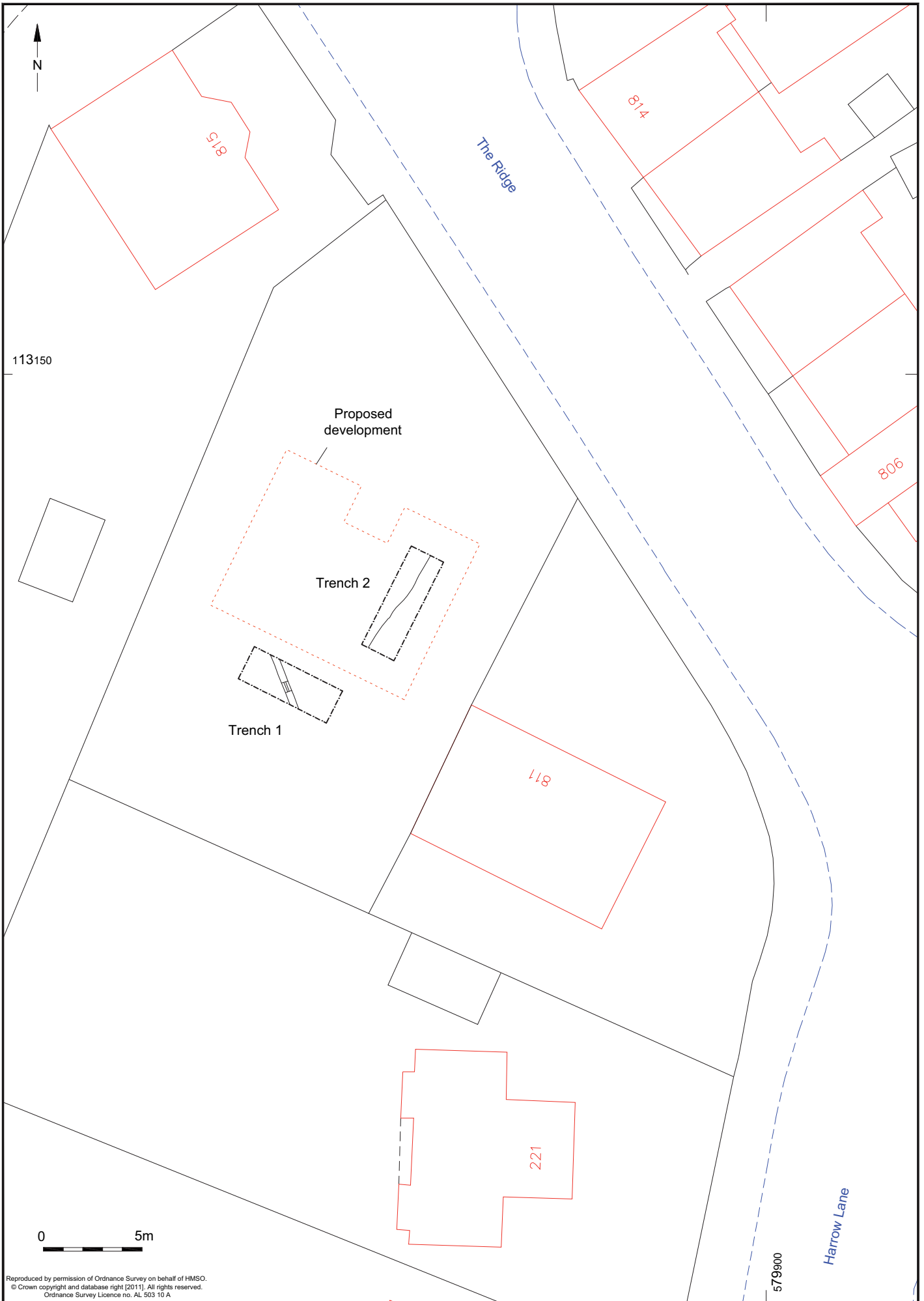
Entered by     Jim Stevenson (jim.stevenson@ucl.ac.uk)

Entered on     7 March 2011



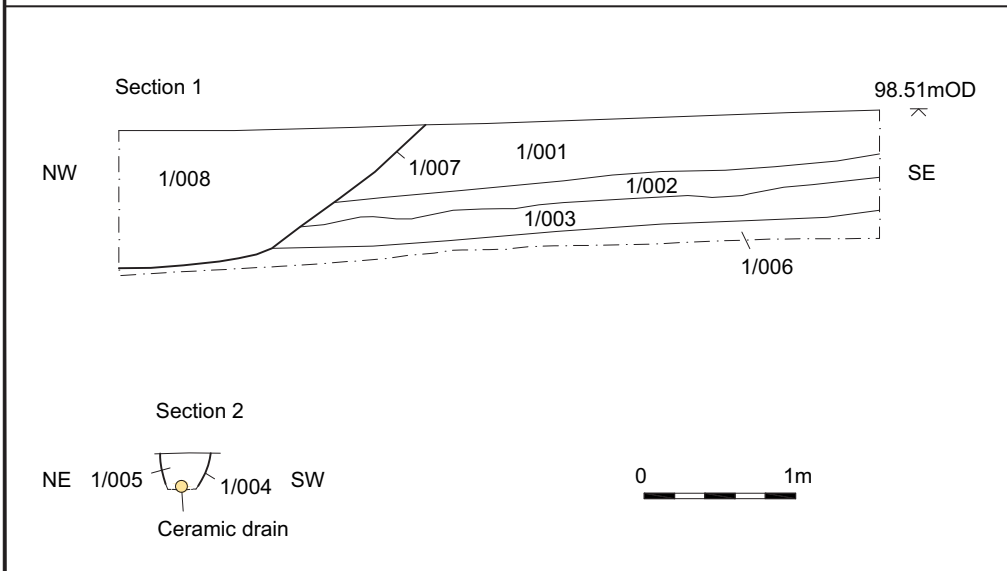
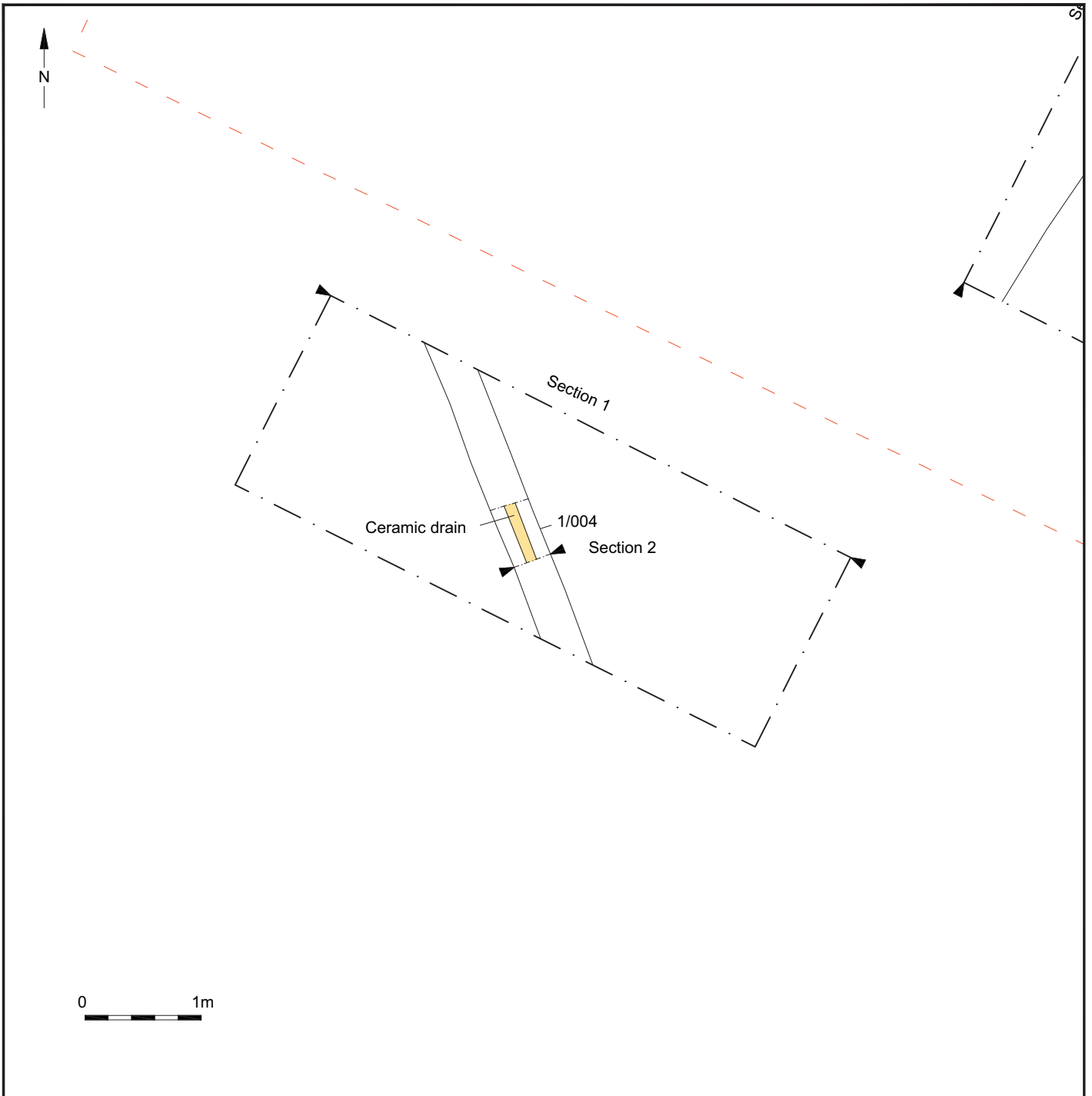


|                          |               |                         |  |        |
|--------------------------|---------------|-------------------------|--|--------|
| © Archaeology South-East |               | 811 The Ridge, Hastings |  | Fig. 1 |
| Project Ref: 4713        | Feb 2011      | Site location           |  |        |
| Report Ref:              | Drawn by: DJH |                         |  |        |

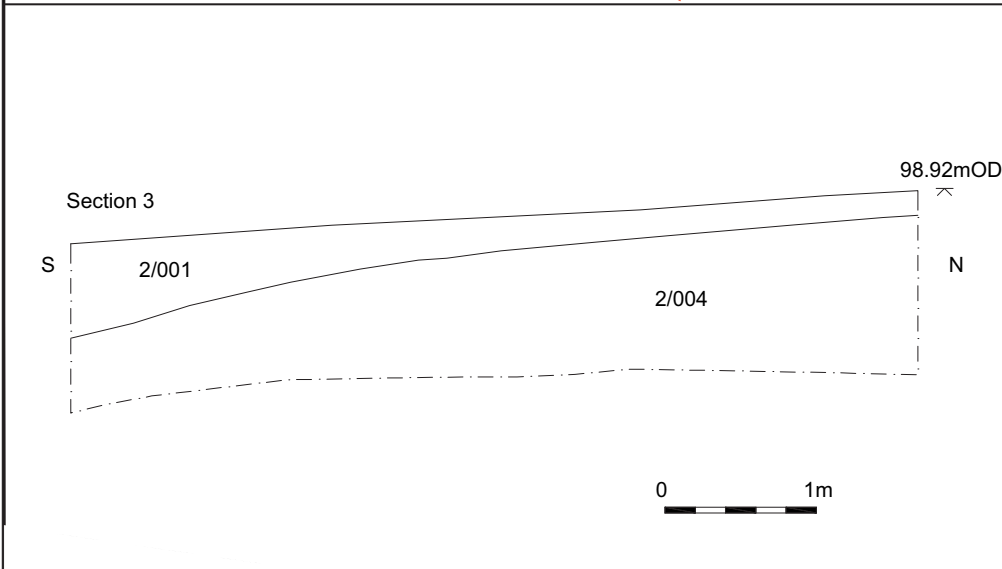
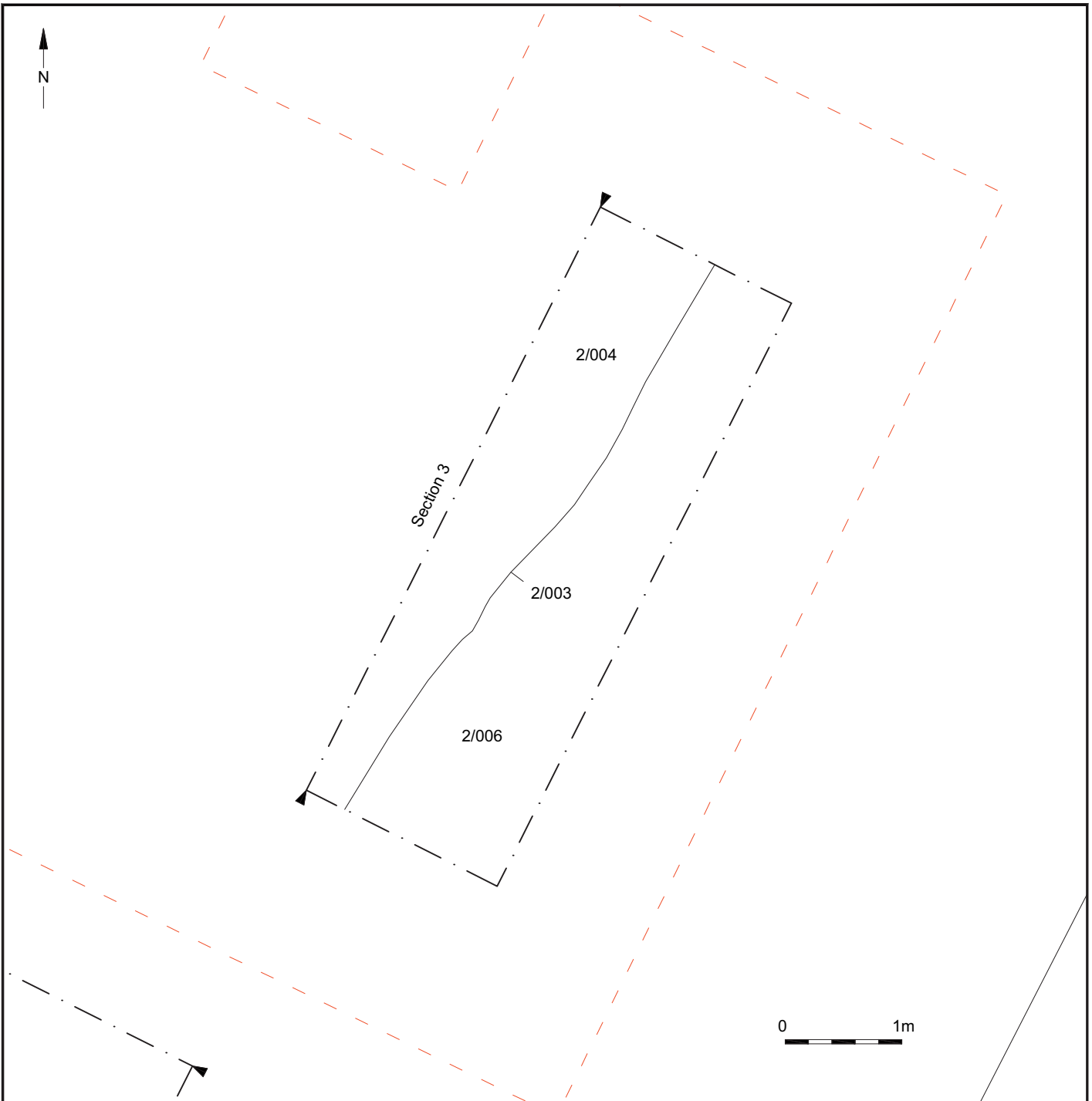


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|                          |               |                         |        |
|--------------------------|---------------|-------------------------|--------|
| © Archaeology South-East |               | 811 The Ridge, Hastings | Fig. 2 |
| Project Ref: 4713        | Feb 2011      | Trench location         |        |
| Report Ref:              | Drawn by: JLR |                         |        |



|                          |               |   |        |
|--------------------------|---------------|---|--------|
| © Archaeology South-East |               | 811 The Ridge, Hastings                 | Fig. 3 |
| Project Ref: 4713        | Feb 2011      | Trench 1: Plan, sections and photograph |        |
| Report Ref:              | Drawn by: JLR |   |        |



|                          |               |   |        |
|--------------------------|---------------|---|--------|
| © Archaeology South-East |               | 811 The Ridge, Hastings                 | Fig. 4 |
| Project Ref: 4713        | Feb 2011      | Trench 2: Plan, sections and photograph |        |
| Report Ref:              | Drawn by: JLR |   |        |

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