



# Chris Butler MfA Archaeological Services Ltd



## Petworth Park Archaeology Project Volunteer Dig May 2014

by  
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## *Summary*

*A Community excavation project opened a number of evaluation trenches across Petworth Park. Prehistoric activity was evidenced by a single Mesolithic bladelet, and a number of Saxo-Norman pottery sherds were also found, but most of the activity focussed around the High medieval and early Post medieval periods. Trenches 1 & 2 were opened up over features that were recorded but not excavated. Trench 3 investigated a house platform that appears to have been occupied in the 16th and 17th centuries, if not earlier, whilst Trenches 4 and 5 failed to locate the Common boundary. Trench 6 located a bank and ditch feature, which remains undated.*

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## **1.0 Introduction**

- 1.1** Chris Butler Archaeological Services Ltd has been commissioned by The National Trust to supervise and run a Community Excavation at Petworth House and Park, Petworth, West Sussex as part of the Petworth Park Archaeology Project. Petworth Park is located in West Sussex, (central grid reference SU 968225), approximately ten kilometres east of Midhurst. The park extends northwest from the town of Petworth up to Pheasant Copse, bounded to the northeast by the A283 and to the southwest by the A272 and Upperton Road (Fig. 1). The project is examining the archaeology of the parkland, which has previously not been subjected to systematic survey.
- 1.2** The 280 hectare country house estate including the Grade I listed Petworth House, informal pleasure grounds in the north-eastern portion and a designed parkland landscape of grassland, woodland copses and water features is owned and managed by The National Trust with support from Natural England and Lord and Lady Egremont's staff. The proposed brief was to excavate seven trenches in two distinct areas of the Park targeting features discovered in a geophysical survey undertaken during Winter 2013/ Spring 2014. Due to last minute changes by the National Trust only six trenches were eventually opened and excavated.
- 1.3** The purpose of the Community Excavation is:
- a) To characterise a range of archaeological features previously identified during desk based assessment, field survey and geophysical survey.
  - b) To enable the participation of volunteers who are involved in the Petworth Park Archaeology Project, and to provide training in excavation and recording techniques for those volunteers to develop and enhance their archaeological knowledge and experience.
  - c) To enable the local community and visitors to Petworth House and Park to observe the excavation and learn about archaeological techniques.
  - d) To provide a report on the works, which can be utilised for interpretation and educational use.
- 1.4** The geology of the property is broadly split between the sandstone of the Lower Greensand (Easebourne and Hythe Formations) in the south and Wealden Group mudstones and siltstones (Weald Clay Formation) in the north. A narrow band of Atherfield Clay Formation mudstone runs between the two.
- 1.7** This report covers the evaluation trenches that were excavated under the supervision of the author, assisted by Tom Dommett the National Trust Archaeologist, between 23rd May 2014 and 1st June 2014, in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation<sup>1</sup> that was approved by The National Trust.

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<sup>1</sup> Butler, C. 2014 Written Scheme of Investigation for a Community Excavation at Petworth Park, Petworth, West

## 2. Historical Background<sup>2</sup>

- 2.1 In 1102 the manor of Petworth, as part of the lordship of Arundel, was forfeited to Henry I, and after his death passed to his wife Queen Adeliza. She bestowed the Honor of Arundel, and the manor of Petworth with it, upon her brother Josceline who took the Percy family name as a condition of his marriage to Agnes de Percy. The Honor remained under the Percy family ownership from this time until the 16th century.
- 2.2 In 1536 the Manor of Petworth was passed to Henry VIII on the death of Henry Percy the 6th Earl of Northumberland, reverting back to the 7th Earl in 1557 under Queen Mary.
- 2.3 The 9th 'Wizard' Earl inherited the Estate in 1585. The grand plans for expansion drawn up while imprisoned in the Tower of London were not executed, although some extensions and additions to the house and grounds were undertaken, most notably the 9th Earl's Stables.
- 2.4 During the late 16th and 17th centuries a series of gardens developed around the house, shown on Treswell's map of 1610 as a square walled garden and central fountain – purchased from Delafolla and supplied by piped water from Upperton – with rose garden, bowling green, orchard and fish ponds to the west, 'rampart terraces developing to the north-west and the 'Wilderness' – precursor to the Pleasure Grounds – to the North.
- 2.5 Between 1682-1748 the 6th Duke of Somerset, who acquired Petworth through his marriage to Lady Elizabeth Percy, made sweeping changes to the house, stables and the style and layout of the formal gardens, as evidenced by Hutchinson's 1706 plans and the 1749 Ocular Draught, as well as expanding the park.
- 2.6 After the premature death of the 7th Duke in 1750, just two years after inheriting the Petworth Estate, the property passed to Charles Wyndham, 2nd Earl of Egremont, who commissioned Lancelot 'Capability' Brown to undertake extensive landscaping alterations.
- 2.7 Brown's involvement with Petworth formed the basis for the naturalised parkland we see today, including the major diversion of the Petworth to Tillington highway in 1763 which greatly expanded the parkland to the South and influenced its landscape relationship to the surrounding post-medieval settlement.

- 2.8** The 3rd Earl of Egremont, George Wyndham, inherited the estate in 1763 aged 12. It is during this period that Turner was a constant visitor to the House, producing, alongside Constable and Witherington, the pictorial record which immortalised the Park.
- 2.9** The 3rd Earl's illegitimate son, Colonel Wyndham (created Lord Leconfield in 1859), inherited the estate in 1837. The 2nd Lord Leconfield inherited in 1869. His impact on the parkland was largely related to the employment of Anthony Salvin, who diverted the West Front carriage drive – the main entrance route being taken through the Pleasure Grounds – and altering the Pleasure Ground and private garden boundaries to their current extents.
- 2.10** In 1947 the property was conveyed to the National Trust by the 3rd Lord Leconfield.

### **3.0 Methodology**

- 3.1** The archaeological work was undertaken in accordance with The National Trust's Brief and the *IfA* Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Excavation (Recommended Standards).
- 3.2** The National Trust Archaeologist marked out the location of all the trenches. The trenches to be excavated were those indicated in the revised brief provided by the National Trust<sup>3</sup>. A CAT scan was carried out over each trench prior to their excavation commencing.
- 3.3** The trenches were excavated by machine in accordance with the Recommended Standards. The excavations were carried out using a flat-bladed ditching bucket in shallow spits under archaeological supervision. Machine excavation ceased when the archaeological deposits were encountered.
- 3.4** Archaeological deposits and features were archaeologically excavated by hand, and recorded in accordance with the Recommended Standards. Cut features and structures that are not being preserved in-situ were excavated by hand and fully recorded prior to their removal. Excavations were carried out down to the natural where this was encountered before 1.2m.
- 3.5** The spoil from the excavations was inspected by Archaeologists and Volunteer Henry Wakeford to recover any artefacts and ecofacts of archaeological interest. A metal detector survey was undertaken by Volunteer Don Mountford, a member of the West Sussex Metal Detecting Society, using a Whites DFX Wide Band detector to scan the spoil derived from the excavations and the base of the trenches and their surrounding area.
- 3.6** All archaeological deposits, features and finds were excavated by hand, and recorded according to accepted professional standards using proforma sheets. Deposit colours were recorded by visual inspection and not by reference to a Munsell Colour chart.
- 3.7** A full digital and black and white photographic record of the work was kept as appropriate and will form part of the site archive. The archive is presently held by Chris Butler Archaeological Services Ltd. A site reference of PWP.14 has been allocated.

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<sup>3</sup> 31/3/2014, *Brief for Petworth Park Archaeology Project Spring Evaluation Excavations*, National Trust

**3.8** All artefacts recovered during the excavations on the site are the property of the National Trust. They are to be suitably bagged, boxed and marked in accordance with the *United Kingdom Institute for Conservation, Conservation Guidelines No 2* and on completion of the archaeological post-excavation programme the National Trust will arrange for them to be deposited in a museum or similar repository.

**3.9** Although there are surviving bench marks in the area, they could not be located and traversed into the excavation areas. The nearest bench marks to each of the trenches can be seen in Table 1 below.

**Table 1**

<b>Trench</b>	<b>Closest bench mark Height OD</b>	<b>Location</b>
<b>1</b>	38.4225	WALL SW SIDE RD 55M SE JUNC RDS 2.5M SE JUNC WALL NE FACE
<b>2</b>	38.4225	WALL SW SIDE RD 55M SE JUNC RDS 2.5M SE JUNC WALL NE FACE
<b>3</b>	49.9469	HO NO263 W SIDE RD SE ANG E FACE
<b>4</b>	49.9469	HO NO263 W SIDE RD SE ANG E FACE
<b>5</b>	49.9469	HO NO263 W SIDE RD SE ANG E FACE
<b>6</b>	86.0086	NBM LOWER LODGE PITSHILL W SIDE NEW RD PROJECTION E FACE SE ANG

**3.10** The proposed brief was to excavate targeted trenches based on the geophysics results. The proposed plan is discussed below. The Locations of the trenches are shown on Figs. 2, 6, 7 & 8.

**West Lawn: Sites 1-4 (Fig. 3)**

**3.11** **Site 1** comprised a trench (Trench 1) approximately 16m x 1m, investigating a rectangular low resistance anomaly aligned N-S, approximately 12m x 7m with surrounding areas of high resistance particularly notable around the southern end of the feature. It is possible that this feature relates to the post-medieval settlement which occupied this area prior to the expansion of the Park in 1763.



- 3.12 Site 2** comprised a trench (Trench 2) approximately 8m x 1m, investigating a portion of a low resistance geometric apsidal anomaly which appears to extend south from the route of the Court Ditch Lane. The feature is aligned with the principal southern entrance to the parkland from c. 1690-1763, and possibly represents a formal garden feature designed to mask the entrance.
- 3.13 Site 3** is a trench approximately 10m x 1m, with the aim of establishing the nature of a circular low resistance anomaly at the centre of the possible geometric garden feature, and a curvilinear low resistance anomaly oriented E-W (most likely a 19th century trackway based on the 1838 Tithe mapping), and to determine the relationship between the two.
- 3.14 Site 4** comprised a trench approximately 6m x 1m, examining a linear high resistance anomaly oriented N-S of unknown date and function.

#### **North Park: Sites 5-7**

- 3.15 Site 5** (Fig. 4) investigated the easternmost of a pair of curvilinear banks which extend across the northern portion of the Park, identified on lidar data and through field survey, with a trench c. 20m x 1m (Trench 6). Geoarchaeological survey through a hand auger transect identified a pair of ditches up to 0.9m deep and up to 4m wide, with no apparent metalling between these – the eastern edge of the feature may have comprised a double-ditch which produced archaeological fills during hand augering<sup>4</sup>.
- 3.16 Site 6** (Fig. 5) comprised a trench c. 20m x 1m (Trench 5) to examine a curvilinear double bank feature running ENE-WSW which may represent a portion of the Park Pale in the 16th century.
- 3.17 Site 7** (Fig. 5) comprised a trench c. 12m x 1m, (Trench 4) immediately southeast of Site 6, examining a curvilinear bank which may relate to the boundary of Petworth Common as it stood c. 1550, or a portion of the Park Pale which enclosed it around this time.
- 3.18** After opening Trenches 1 and 2 there was a change in plan from the National Trust which meant the original Trenches 3 and 4 were not opened. Trenches 1 and 2 were recorded and backfilled without the volunteers excavating the uncovered features. The original Trenches 5 to 7 were renumbered and an extra trench was opened. As can be seen from Figs. 7 & 8, the new Trenches 3, 4 and 5 are located near the Lower Pond and Trench 6 is located close to the centre of the northern part of the park.

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<sup>4</sup> Wessex Archaeology 2013: *Petworth Park West Sussex Geoarchaeological Survey Report*. (Unpublished Report)

- 3.19** The aims and objectives of the excavation did not change. The new Trench 3 was placed across a house platform and ditch to understand their date of construction and how they were constructed.
- 3.20** The work was undertaken as a training exercise for volunteers, supervised by the National Trust Archaeologist (Tom Dommett) and the author. Andy Bradshaw visited the site on two occasions to survey in the trenches and provide some surveying training to the volunteers.

## 4.0 Results

- 4.1** The results will be discussed trench by trench with a table for the contexts discovered within each trench.
- 4.2** Trenches 1 and 2 were opened on the west lawn. Both topsoil layers, **1/001** and **2/001**, and natural deposits, **1/005** and **2/007**, are identical. The topsoil is a mid brown clay silt, almost a peat like structure. It has a friable texture and up to 2% angular stone, 7mm in size, inclusions. This layer was removed mainly by machine with one non excavated trench hand de-turfed. The natural is a friable mid to pale brown, sandy clay silt with 3% sandstone stone inclusions, up to 5mm in size.

### Trench 1

- 4.3** Trench 1 was located on the west lawn aligned north-east to south-west, (Fig. 6, Plate 1) The trench measured 8.2m in length, 1.2m wide and was 0.6m deep. Two metres from its southern end there was a 2 inch handmade lead water pipe possibly leading from a spring to a fountain in the garden. As well as the pipe there was evidence of a possible garden feature (**1/004**) (Fig. 9). Although this feature was not excavated there were many artefacts collected from its surface.

Table 2: Trench 1 Contexts

Context Number	Context Type	Description
1/001	Layer	Topsoil
1/002	Layer	Subsoil
1/003	Fill	Fill of 1/004
1/004	Cut	Possible Foundation Cut
1/005	Layer	Natural

Plate 1: Trench 1



## Trench 2

**4.4** Trench 2 was also located on the west lawn aligned east to west, (Fig. 6, Plate 2). It measured 13.7m in length, 1.20m wide and was 1.10m deep at the west end of the trench and 0.21m at the east end. As well as the topsoil, subsoil, and natural there are several deposits and a cut feature (Fig. 9). A small drainage gully, **2/004** (Fig. 9) terminates in the west end of the trench. Further east from this there is a large area of possible demolition debris, **2/005**, included in which was a deposit of burnt material, **2/006**. Although these contexts were not excavated there was a selection of artefacts collected from the trench.

Table 3: Trench 2 Contexts

Context Number	Context Type	Description
2/001	Layer	Topsoil
2/002	Layer	Subsoil
2/003	Fill	Fill of 2/004
2/004	Cut	Possible Gully
2/005	Deposit	Possible Dump/ Demolition
2/006	Deposit	Burnt Area
2/007	Layer	Natural



Plate 2: Trench 2

- 4.5** A 3m square trench was de-turfed by hand but not excavated up on the west lawn (Fig. 6, Plate 3). The turf was replaced almost immediately due to the National Trust's change of plan. No trench number or record was created for this trench.

Plate 3: Unexcavated  
Trench



- 4.6** The topsoil in Trenches 3, 4 and 5 was identical so their composition is discussed together here. Contexts **3/001**, **4/001** and **5/001** were composed of a mid to dark brown, friable, sandy clay. There is approximately a 1% distribution of angular small ironstone pieces.
- 4.7** There were variations in the natural depending on its depth. Contexts **3/002**, **4/002** and **5/002** recorded the first layer of natural, which sits above a clay layer. These layers consist of a firm, yellow brown sandy clay, possibly Brick Earth, with moderate to frequent patches of ironstone flecking. Beneath this was a layer of mottled clay with patches of frequent ironstone flecks otherwise it was devoid of inclusions.

### Trench 3

- 4.8** Trench 3 was located in the northern part of the Park close to the park boundary wall and just north of the Fox Hounds Kennel, and south of the lower pond (Fig. 7, Plate 4). The trench was orientated east - west and measured 19m long, 1.2m wide and had a depth of 0.56m. This was an extra trench and was not originally in the brief. This trench only had subsoil in the western half of the trench.

- 4.9** There are two significant features within this trench. At its eastern end the trench cuts through a raised platform, **3/003** (Fig.10, Plate 5). **3/003** is a soft, mid brown, silty clay with very sparse abraded ceramic building material (CBM) fragments. The feature uncovered in the trench measured 9m long, 1.2m wide and 0.5m deep. This one homogenous deposit indicates it was most likely deposited in that location in a single event. The top of the mound is a large flat area suggesting that this was once a house platform. This is supported by a map regression exercise undertaken by the National Trust. There is a building shown on the 1610 map in this location, but not on the 1761 map. This area of Petworth was common land until some point in the 16th century when it was enclosed. This house platform probably represents an encroachment onto the common land.
- 4.10** Surrounding the base of the **3/003** is a ditch **3/004** (Fig. 10, Plate 6). This linear feature measured 3.25m wide, by 1.2+m long and 0.67m in depth. It has a flat base and straight, moderately steep sides with a moderate break of slope at its top and base. The ditch contains three fills **3/005**, **3/006** and **3/007**. The ditch is thought to be a boundary between the house platform and the rest of the common and would have also acted as drainage keeping the house platform and the house dry.
- 4.11** The primary fill, **3/007**, was 0.17m deep and covered the sides as well as the base of the ditch due to its deposition through erosion. The deposit composition is of a sticky, yellow clay with very common ironstone flecks, approximately 30% distribution. It was recorded that the deposit was not fully excavated on the west edge due to access difficulties towards the end of its excavation.
- 4.12** The secondary fill, **3/005**, of the ditch consists possibly if the eroded material washed down from house platform **3/003**. The composition of this fill is of soft pale yellow brown silty clay with moderate to sparse Ironstone flecks with rare larger ironstone. It was 0.35m deep. The deposit sits notably higher on the east side, this being the edge closest to the house platform.
- 4.13** **3/006** is the final fill of the ditch. This is a sticky, mid to pale brown silty clay with sparse ironstone flecks. It is unclear how this fill was deposited but more than likely it has been washed/eroded in to the top of the ditch. This may be the final obvious fill of the ditch however, there is a depression on the ground surface possibly indicating where this ditch ran.

Table 4: Trench 3 Contexts

Context Number	Context Type	Description
3/001	Layer	Topsoil
3/002	Layer	Natural
3/003	Deposit	House Platform
3/004	Cut	Cut of Ditch
3/005	Fill	Fill of 3/004
3/006	Fill	Fill of 3/004
3/007	Fill	Fill of 3/004
3/008	Layer	Subsoil

Plate 4: Trench 3





Plate 5: Trench 3



Plate 6: Trench 3, Cut 3/004



## Trench 4

**4.14** Trench 4 was located in the northern part of the Park just north of the Fox Hounds Kennel, and south of Trench 5 and the lower pond, and west of Trench 3 (Fig. 7, Plate 7). The trench was orientated north - south and measured 13.3m long, 1.2m wide and had a depth of 0.36m (Fig. 11). The natural in this trench contains a defined, heavily ironstone flecked linear patch. Originally thought to be an archaeological feature it was given the context number **4/003**, after excavation it was realised that this was a geological anomaly under **4/004** and therefore voided as it is part of **4/002**. In the brief this is site 7.

**4.15** There is a deposit across the entire trench, Context **4/004**, which is a moderately friable, mid brown, silty clay containing moderate to sparse sub-rounded sandstone pebbles with a moderate distribution of finds. This seems to be a single homogenous possible dump of material uncertain in date. It could be related to the construction, or dredging of the lower pond.

Table 5: Trench 4 Contexts

Context Number	Context Type	Description
4/001	Layer	Topsoil
4/002	Layer	Natural
4/003	VOID	
4/004	Deposit	Possible dump/ spread

Plate 7: Trench 4



## Trench 5

- 4.16** Trench 5 was located in the northern part of the Park just north of the Fox Hounds Kennel, and Trench 4 and south of the lower pond, north-west of Trench 3 (Fig. 7, Plates 8 & 9). The trench was orientated north to south and measured 22.3m long, 1.2m wide and had a depth of 0.36m. In the brief this is site 6.
- 4.17** Originally thought not to contain any archaeological features the cut and deposit at the southern end of this trench was not discovered until the last day of the excavation. This fairly diffuse feature seems to be fairly large. Context **5/003** is a single linear cut across the 1.2m wide trench, its full extent is unknown (Fig. 12). It is orientated east to west with a moderately sharp break of slope, a moderate angle of slope and a flat base. This is most likely a cut for a large feature which not only contains **5/004** but could also contain **4/004**.
- 4.18** Context **5/004** is a soft mid brown silty clay with sparse ironstone pebble inclusions. A very similar consistency to **4/004** and could be part of a deposit created by the construction of the lower pond or dredging of it.
- 4.19** This trench was placed here as a double banked linear was suspected in this location due to the evidence on the ground and the Lidar results. However on excavation there was no evidence of this double banked feature.

Table 6: Trench 5 Contexts

Context Number	Context Type	Description
5/001	Layer	Topsoil
5/002	Layer	Natural
5/003	Cut	Cut
5/004	Fill	Fill of 5/003

Plate 8: Trench 5, Cut 5/003



Plate 9: Trench 5



## Trench 6

- 4.20** Trench 6 was located in the northern part of the Park overlooked by a castle type folly (Fig. 8, Plate 10). The trench was orientated north-west, south-east and measured 19 m long, 1.2m wide and had a depth of 0.50m. In the brief this is site 5.
- 4.21** The topsoil in this trench, **6/001**, is a friable mid to dark brown sandy silt. There are no inclusions; however there are a considerable number of large anthills. This is thought to be ancient grassland similar to that of **3/001**, **4/001** and **5/001**.
- 4.22** There is possibly very diffuse subsoil within this area. It consists of a moderately soft mid to pale brown sandy clay silt with rounded pebble inclusions at less than 1%.
- 4.23** The natural in this area is a moderate to hard, brown orange, sandy clay (brick earth) under which is blue orange coloured mottled clay. There is an approximate 40% distribution of ironstone flecking inclusions. There seems to be three natural deposits in this trench, some of which could be the natural silting of the valley.

- 4.24** There are possibly three features within this trench. At the north-west end of the trench **6/004** is a raised north-east south-west aligned linear bank (Fig. 13, Plate 11). This feature was targeted in the trenching as it can be traced across the landscape for some distance as part of a double banked feature. The uncovered bank is a single homogenous deposit, **6/004**, of moderate compaction, constructed from a mid brown clay silt with no inclusions. The feature measured 1.2m long (width of the trench plus), 4.26m wide and 0.48m high. From the top of the bank there were two flint flakes and from within the deposit, close to its base, there was a residual Mesolithic flint bladelet.
- 4.25** In the centre of the trench there is an ephemeral linear cut feature which has been classed as a ditch **6/006** (Fig. 13, Plate 12), and may be associated with the bank (**6/004**). This possible ditch is orientated north-east to south-west and measures 2.2m wide, 1.2m long and 0.34m deep. It has a moderate to shallow sloped sides with a flat base. It contains a single diffuse fill, **6/007**, of a moderately compacted, mid brown, clay sandy silt with moderate to sparse ironstone flecks.
- 4.26** At the south-east end of the trench there was a homogenous dump or spread of material, **6/005**, (Fig. 13, Plate 13) which contained a number of CBM fragments. This deposit sits within a possible cut feature, **6/008**, or a natural or manmade hollow created by a possible bank of redeposited natural, **6/009**. Deposit **6/005** is a medium to friable, mid brown clay sandy silt with sparse medium sized irregular ironstone stones. It measures 1.2m wide, 6.8m long and 0.5m deep.

Table 7: Trench 6 Contexts

Context Number	Context Type	Description
6/001	Layer	Topsoil
6/002	Layer	Subsoil
6/003	Layer	Natural
6/004	Deposit	Bank Deposit
6/005	Deposit	Deposit or Spread
6/006	Cut	Possible Ditch Cut
6/007	Fill	Fill of 6/006
6/008	Cut?	Possible cut
6/009	Deposit	Possibly redeposit natural?



Plate 10: Trench 6



Plate 11: Trench 6; Bank 6/004



Plate 12: Trench 6; Cut 6/006



Plate 13: Trench 6; Feature 6/005

## 5.0 The Finds

### 5.1 The Pottery by Luke Barber

- 5.1.1 The excavations produced 160 sherds of pottery, weighing 1463g, from eight individually numbered contexts (Table 8). Following spot dating the material was fully recorded for archive on pro forma. The pottery from each context has been quantified by sherd count, weight and estimated number of vessels per fabric. This data, along with details about form and decoration, have also been input into an excel database.

**Table 1:** Chronological breakdown of whole assemblage by fabric/ware

<b>Fabric code</b>	<b>Expansion</b>	<b>Suggested range</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>No. of sherds</b>	<b>Weight</b>
<b>Saxo-Norman</b>					
MC1	Chalk and quartz tempered	c. 900-1150		7	88g
<b>High Medieval</b>					
MQ1	Coarse quartz tempered	c. 1100-1250		7	37g
MQ3	Medium quartz	c. 1200-1375		11	77g
MQ4	Fine quartz	c. 1250-1450		8	84g
MQ5	Very fine quartz	c. 1250-1400		6	30g
<b>Transitional</b>					
T1	Painted ware type fine buff sandy	c. 1450-1575		15	121g
T3	Paler version of T1	c. 1450-1575		21	207g
RAER	Raeren stoneware	c. 1475-1550		1	1g
<b>Early Post-medieval</b>					
GRE1	Red earthenware (abundant sand)	c. 1550-1700		8	75g
GRE2	Red earthenware (sparse sand)	c. 1575-1750		29	188g
GRE3	Fine well-fired earthenware	c. 1525-1700		6	87g
BORDB	Border ware (brown glazed)	c. 1550-1700		4	32g
BORDG	Border ware (green glazed)	c. 1550-1700		3	12g
BORDY	Border ware (yellow glazed)	c. 1550-1700		9	52g
TGW	Tin-glazed earthenware	c. 1600-1750		5	19g
LONS	London stoneware	c. 1670-1800		2	40g
FREC	Frechen stoneware	c. 1550-1700		5	39g
<b>Late Post-medieval</b>					
GRE5	Red earthenware (late type)	c. 1750-1900		3	101g
CREA	Creamware	c. 1760-1820		6	155g
PEAR	Pearlware (plain)	c. 1780-1820		1	2g
PEAR TR	Pearlware (transfer-printed)	c. 1780-1820		2	5g
UE	Unglazed earthenware	c. 1800-1900		1	11g
<b>Totals</b>				<b>155</b>	<b>2060g</b>

- 5.1.2 The assemblage is very similar to that from the 2013 excavations in that it is totally dominated by relatively small sherds (to 40mm across) with an overall average sherd weight of just 9.1g. Most have clear signs of moderate/heavy abrasion. This, combined with the marked chronological mixing in most deposits, strongly suggests the material has been subjected to repeated reworking. As such the current report combines the assemblage in order to gain a more reliable chronological overview of activity at the site. A wide chronological range of pottery is present, with each period producing a number of distinct fabrics/wares. The fabric series is the same as that used for the 2013 work, with a few additional fabrics being identified in the 2014 assemblage. Gaps in the fabric numbering on Table 8 indicate fabrics identified in the 2013 assemblage but not the current one.
- 5.1.3 The earliest pottery from the site consists of the seven chalk tempered cooking pot sherds from Contexts **1/001** (2/8g) and **1/002** (5/80g). Those from the latter deposit, despite apparently being residual, are quite fresh and derive from the same reduced cooking pot with simple flaring rim. This vessel could be as early as the 10<sup>th</sup> century, but an 11<sup>th</sup> to early 12<sup>th</sup>- century date is perhaps more likely.
- 5.1.4 The High Medieval period is far better represented, with 32 sherds (228g) from 29 different vessels being recovered from six different contexts. Most (25 sherds) were residual in one of three deposits in Trench 1 but the sherds from Contexts **4/004** and **5/004** may be contemporary with the context they were within. Despite this increase in quantities the material consists of abraded small sherds, mainly from undecorated cooking pots. Very few poorly glazed jugs are present. Most are in one of four local fine/medium sandy fabrics that span the later 12<sup>th</sup> to mid/late 14<sup>th</sup> centuries though there is nothing in the assemblage that need be before c.1200. The material may relate to quite intensive manuring, suggesting occupation may have been quite close.
- 5.1.5 The subsequent Late Medieval (Transitional) period (c. 1375-1550) is represented by similar quantities of pottery (37/329g from an estimated 24 different vessels), though sherd sizes tend to be larger, with slightly less signs of abrasion despite all apparently being residual in their contexts. However, most of the pottery appears to relate to the latter part of the chronological range, perhaps after 1450/75. Whether there was a period of abandonment between 1350 and 1450/75 is difficult to say both as a result of the indistinct nature of the local ceramics at this time and the small size of the current assemblage. The majority of this assemblage is composed of the fine buff sandy wares, a fabric typically associated with the painted wares very common in West Sussex between the mid 15<sup>th</sup> and mid 16<sup>th</sup> centuries. However, the current assemblages has no sherds with white slip decoration and the presence of internal green glazing on a number of the vessels may suggest the bulk of the assemblage is better placed in the 16<sup>th</sup> century, perhaps with some sherds running beyond c. 1550. A range of cooking pots, jars and pitchers are represented, all of local manufacture (possibly Grafham. There is also a single 1g sherd from a probable German Raeren stoneware vessel (probably a mug) from **3/003**. Pottery of this period was only located in Trenches 1 to 3.



- 5.1.6 The Early Post-medieval period produced the largest chronological group from the excavations (71/544g, 45 ENV), with sherds of this date only being recovered from Trenches 1 to 3. This is obviously the most intense period of activity, predominantly spanning the later 16<sup>th</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup> centuries. The assemblage is dominated by one of a number of local earthenware fabrics, some of which probably start early in the 16<sup>th</sup> century (Table 1: GRE 1-3). Most of these sherds are not diagnostic of form, but at least six GRE2 bowls are represented. The assemblage contains a good proportion of regional wares from other parts of the country. Unsurprisingly the Surrey-Hampshire Border ware industry is well represented by jars, bowls, plates and cups (the latter consisting of four sherds with brown glaze from **3/003**). Wares from London include the scatter of tin-glazed ware, though no recognisable forms are present, and the two sherds from the same early 18<sup>th</sup>-century London stoneware bottle (the same vessel in Contexts **2/001** and **2/005**. At 7% of the early post-medieval assemblage imports are not as well represented as in the 2013 work and indeed there are only German Frechen sherds present.
- 5.1.7 The Late Post-medieval period is not well represented in the assemblage (13/274g from 9 ENV). All was recovered from context **2/001** where a number of larger, less abraded sherds were recovered. These include part of an unglazed earthenware flower pot, fragments of at least two GRE5 vessels and a scattering of creamware and pearlware serving dishes and plates. All in all the group would suggest a period of domestic refuse disposal between c. 1780 and 1820. The lack of later 19<sup>th</sup> century pottery is quite marked.

## 5.2 The Ceramic Building Material by Luke Barber

- 5.2.1 The excavations recovered 82 pieces of ceramic building material, weighing 5302g, from six individually numbered contexts. The material has been fully recorded by fabric, form and period on pro forma for archive. The resultant data has been used to create an Excel database. Due to the very mixed chronological nature of the associated deposits only a brief summary is given here.
- 5.2.2 The earliest material consists of three worn pieces of peg tile tempered with moderate/abundant medium quartz (Contexts **3/003** and **6/005**). These are almost certainly of the 13<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> centuries. The remaining peg tile is not so certainly dated though it makes up the majority of the assemblage by count (62/1862g). These tiles are in one of three fabrics: fine with sparse medium quartz (22/763g), sparse medium quartz with common iron oxide and marl pellets (32/930g) and a buff marl-rich fabric with some medium quartz (8/169g). All three types are found together but this may be a result of the mixed nature of the deposits. Typically between 12 and 16mm thick and often quite crudely finished these could be placed anywhere between the 15<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> centuries.

5.2.3 The assemblage includes 16 pieces of brick (3368g) all of which are of probable 16<sup>th</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup> century date. All were recovered from Trenches 2 to 4 and despite there being four different fabrics present all are of similar general type. Most pieces are notably worn, with no measurable dimensions: the only exceptions being heights of 50 and 52mm (both from Context **3/003**). The exception to this is a near complete brick measuring 220 x 107 x 50mm (2425g), also from **3/003**.

### 5.3 The Clay Tobacco Pipe by Luke Barber

5.3.1 An assemblage of five stem fragments (11g) and two bowls (19g) were recovered from the excavations. The material has been fully listed on pro forma for archive. All of the stems were recovered from **1/001**. Three are of the second half of the 17<sup>th</sup> century, all of which are notably worn, while two fresher examples are of the first half of the 18<sup>th</sup> century. The bowls consist of a heavily worn example dated c. 1640-80 (Context **2/001**) and a fresh example dated c. 1740-1800 (Context **1/003**).

### 5.4 The Building Material by Luke Barber

5.4.1 Excavations at the site recovered 31 pieces of stone, weighing 867g, from six individually numbered contexts in Trenches 1 to 4. The assemblage is therefore notably smaller than that from the 2013 excavations that recovered 317 pieces of stone, weighing 67,234g. The material has been fully recorded on pro forma for the archive. The stone from each context has been quantified by number of fragments and weight by stone type. This data has also been entered into an excel archive. Some nine different stone types were identified in the assemblage, though a number of these probably represent different strata within the same quarry.

5.4.2 Much of the stone is notably weathered and the vast majority is from deposits where the ceramics clearly show there has been extensive reworking and chronological mixing. Added to this the danger that pieces may have been re-used the assemblage does not hold any chronological integrity. The assemblage can be summarised under two functional categories: building material and miscellaneous.

5.4.3 The largest element of the stone assemblage is associated with building. There are four small (48g) pieces of sandstone almost certainly from the Lower Greensand series (Trenches 1 to 3). Although none are diagnostic, it is quite probable they are from larger building blocks. There are also two pieces of off-white oolitic limestone (Contexts **1/003**: 1/63g and **2/001**: 1/13g), both very heavily eroded, but probably from building blocks. Similar stone in the form of slabs, was recovered from the 2013 work. The source of this stone is uncertain as it does not match the Bath and Portland oolitic limestones more commonly used in the area. A Midlands source is possible.

- 5.4.4 The other notable assemblage of building material consists of roof coverings. There are just two pieces (34g: Context **2/001**) of typical calcareous Horsham stone roofing slab. There are also seven pieces (431g) of probable roofing slab in a much more porous decalcified ferruginous sandstone (contexts **1/003** and **2/005**). Both types have been noted amongst Roman roofing slabs at Bignor where initially it was thought that the calcareous type were Horsham stone from the Weald Clay, while the non-calcareous type may have been a local Lower Greensand equivalent. However, the 2013 assemblage contained a few pieces with grey calcareous ‘cores’ surrounded by brown non-calcareous rinds. This suggests that all may well be from the Horsham stone beds.
- 5.4.5 The other type of stone roof covering was slate. The two types are the same as those noted in the 2013 excavations. The most common type (3/21g) is quite finely laminated and although similar to medieval West Country slate is not typical of it (being consistently greyer with a slightly coarser lamination). As such this would either appear to be slate from a different West Country source exploited in the early post-medieval period or indeed from a different source altogether (Contexts **1/003** and **4/004**). There are also a few pieces of notably coarse granular green grey slate, similar to Cumbrian types (3/66g: Contexts **2/001** and **2/005**).
- 5.4.6 The remaining stone consists of a mixture of small pieces with no signs of human working. Indeed, most show signs of having been water-worn or weathered by natural processes. The material includes chert (1/114g) and ferruginous carstone (7/69g) pieces probably derived from the Lower Greensand Beds and a 3g fragment of chalk.
- 5.4.7 Context **1/003** also produced a vitrified mortar/stone fragment (52g) and a fragment of off-white sandy lime mortar with chalk to 2mm (38g).

## 5.5 Prehistoric Flintwork by Chris Butler

- 5.5.1 Very little prehistoric flintwork has been found at Petworth Park, and this excavation only produced two pieces. The first was a Mesolithic bladelet (7g), from Context **6/004**, produced with a soft hammer, and having micro edge damage along one lateral edge, possibly as a result of utilisation.
- 5.5.2 Context **3/003** produced a single small fragment of unworked fire-fractured flint (6g).

## 5.6 Glass by Chris Butler

- 5.6.1 The largest group of glass came from Trench 1, where Context **1/001** produced 15 fragments of dark green bottle glass (408g) and Context **1/003** produced 30 fragments of dark green bottle glass. The glass is mostly unabraded body fragments, but includes three up-kicks, one of which also has a pontil mark, and a single neck with an applied lip. The glass bottles were handmade, with no mould lines, embossing or makers marks. They appear to be mineral water bottles and date to the last half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Three of the fragments in Context 1/001 are thinner, and may date to the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. A single fragment of green window glass (1g) came from Context **1/003**.
- 5.6.2 Context **2/001** produced 14 fragments of glass (153g), including seven dark green mineral water bottle fragments, three thinner dark green bottle fragments, a light green bottle fragment and two fragments of clear window glass. This context also produced a fragment of glass with a metallic backing, from a mirror. This group has a late 19<sup>th</sup> to early 20<sup>th</sup> century date range. Context **2/005** produced a single clear glass bottle fragment (21g) of similar date.
- 5.6.3 The few fragments of glass from Context **3/003** appear to be earlier in date, and not inconsistent with the dating of the pottery from this context. They comprise three thin light green window? glass fragments (3g), and a single fragment of stained window glass (2g), with a turquoise blue surface remaining on one side.
- 5.6.4 Context **4/004** produced three fragments of dark green bottle glass and three fragments of window glass (14g), all of which date to the late 19<sup>th</sup> or early 20<sup>th</sup> century.

## 5.7 Animal Bone by Chris Butler

- 5.7.1 Animal bone does not survive well in the acidic soil conditions, and much of what was found was very eroded or fragmentary, and comprised predominantly of teeth. A total of nine teeth and 14 other bone fragments were recovered, weighing 241g.
- 5.7.2 The teeth comprise a probable sheep tooth fragment from Context **1/001**, three cow teeth from Context **3/003**, and five horse teeth from Context **4/004**, the latter being a young animal as the teeth do not appear to be very worn. Most of the six bones from Context **2/001** are very fresh, and appear to be a recent rabbit burial.

## 5.8 Metal items by Chris Butler

- 5.8.1 Apart from a Cu Al thimble of later 17<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> date (4g) from Context **3/003**, all the remaining 31 metal items were of iron, and weighed 695g. Many of the iron pieces were unidentifiable lumps or fragments which could not be identified as objects without the use of x-ray.
- 5.8.2 The majority of the identifiable items were nails of different sizes and styles. Four from Context **1/001**; one from Context **1/003**; three from Context **2/001**; eight from Context **3/003**; and three from Context **4/004**. Most were fragmentary, but probably derived from wooden structures.
- 5.8.3 Context **1/001** produced a fragment from an iron knife, with part of the blade and tang present, but insufficient to be able to assign a type or period. The same context also produced a fragment of flat oval-shaped iron, which may have been a fragment from a horseshoe.
- 5.8.4 Three fragments of iron slag (50g) were recovered from Context **2/001**.

## 6.0 Conclusion

- 6.1** The excavation of six evaluation trenches indicated that there is a long and varied archaeological record at Petworth Park. Even though the west lawn was not fully excavated the geophysics results were confirmed. The dates of the possible garden features are undetermined and require further investigation. However Trench 1 produced a selection of pottery from the topsoil and subsoil. The earliest pottery dating to around the 10th to 12th centuries is from Context **2/002**. Despite appearing to be residual fragments they look quite fresh suggesting the possibility of settlement close by. Other residual pottery fragments within Trench 1 date to the later 12<sup>th</sup> to mid/late 14<sup>th</sup> centuries. A small quantity of finds date to the late medieval transitional period, perhaps indicating a reduction of settlement close by, or traffic through the area. The possible demolition deposits within this area will also require further investigation.
- 6.2** Trench 2 produced Late Medieval and Early Post Medieval artefacts. This indicates that there has been occupation in the area throughout this time period. The deposition of these artefacts is possibly from the old village, or from a possible gate house or formal gardens which once covered the area.
- 6.3** The trenches in the northern part of the park investigated features which predate the enclosure of the land by the Petworth Estate. The land in this area has evidently never been ploughed and has been grazed at least since the 1500's when this area was Common Land. It has been suggested by Mike Allen and Chris Butler that this could be a surviving prehistoric landscape<sup>5</sup>. The presence of a Mesolithic bladelet would appear to confirm past land use dating back to hunter-gatherer societies.
- 6.3** Trench 3 contained evidence for a house platform which once would have bordered the common. The earliest artefacts discovered are peg tiles dating from the 13th to 14th centuries. These suggest the building that once stood here may date to this period. The only map to indicate there was once a building in this location is the 1610 map which shows it was owned by a Nicholas Martwick. Most of the artefacts collected were small sherds of pottery dating to the late medieval transitional period to the early Post Medieval period. The bricks from this trench are probably 16th to 17th century in date. This all indicates the building was constructed and occupied in the 16th and 17th centuries with a possible destruction date around the time when the park was enclosed. Further investigation will be required to actually locate the position of the building itself.

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<sup>5</sup> Mike Allen and Chris Butler Pers. Com. 17/7/14

- 6.4** Trenches 4 and 5 disproved the possible location of the common boundary. However there was an unknown spread of material across both trenches. Within this deposit there was a selection of contemporary pottery fragments dating to the late 12<sup>th</sup> to mid/late 14<sup>th</sup> centuries. It is unclear where this deposit may have come from, but it could relate to quite intensive manuring. This indicates that this part of the common was possibly ploughed/ intensively farmed, perhaps associated with the building/ occupation discovered in Trench 3.
- 6.5** The earthwork features in Trench 6 produced only a single piece of prehistoric flintwork, and although it is possible these features are prehistoric, it is most likely that the flintwork found is residual.
- 6.6** In conclusion, the spring 2014 excavations produced some interesting results, and although they may not have answered many of the aims of the excavation, the results have added to the knowledge we have about the Petworth Park history and its landscape, and have opened up opportunities for further research in the future.

## **7.0 Acknowledgements**

- 7.1** I would like to thank the National Trust Archaeologist Tom Dommett for commissioning the work, and all the volunteers who took part in the excavation. The author would also like to thank Andrew Bradshaw for his survey work on site and drawings.
- 7.2** Jan Oldham managed the post excavation finds processing, and we would like to thank Luke Barber and Chris Butler who reported on the finds.



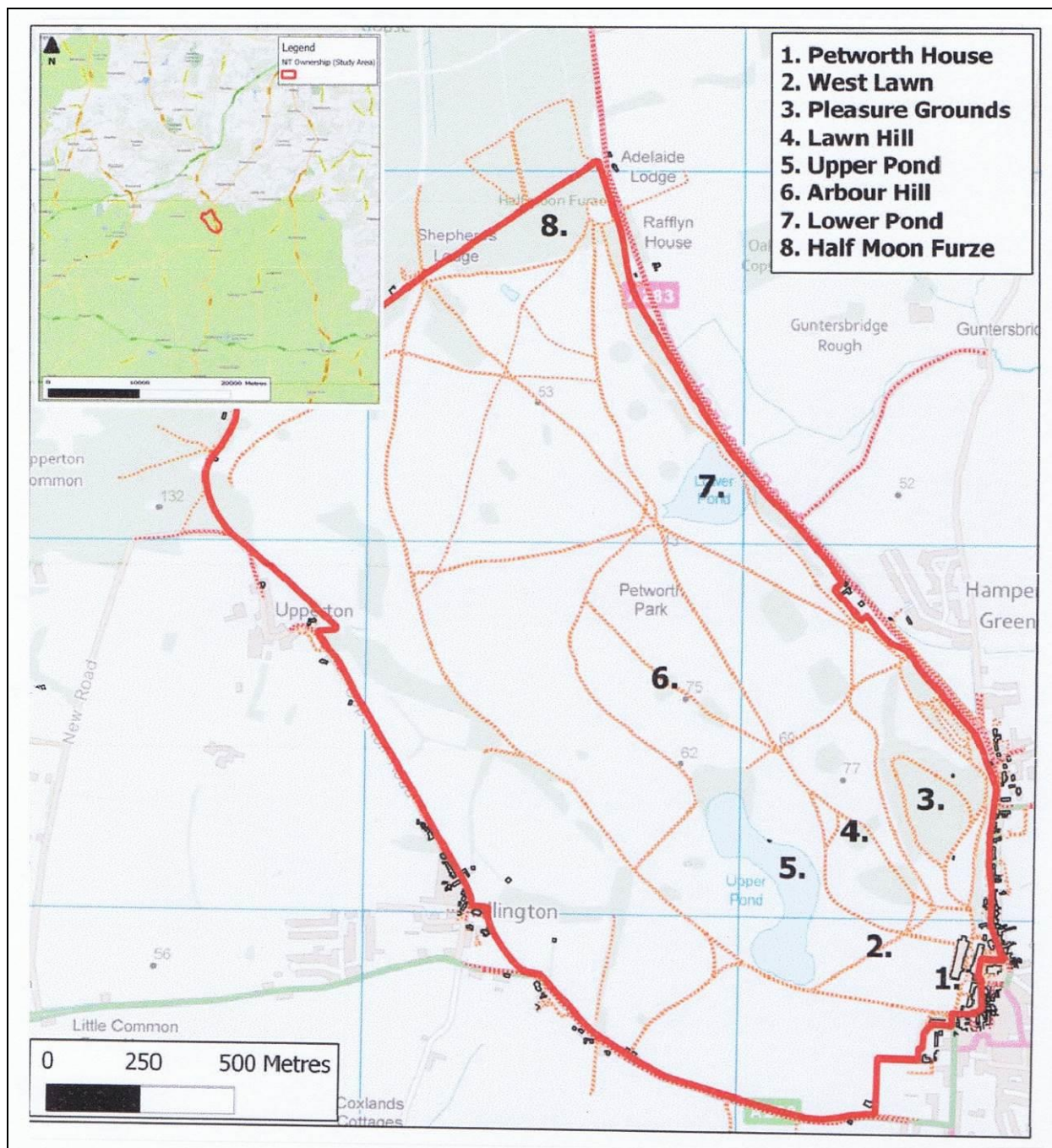


Fig. 1: Petworth Park: Site location Map  
(adapted from map provided by the National Trust)  
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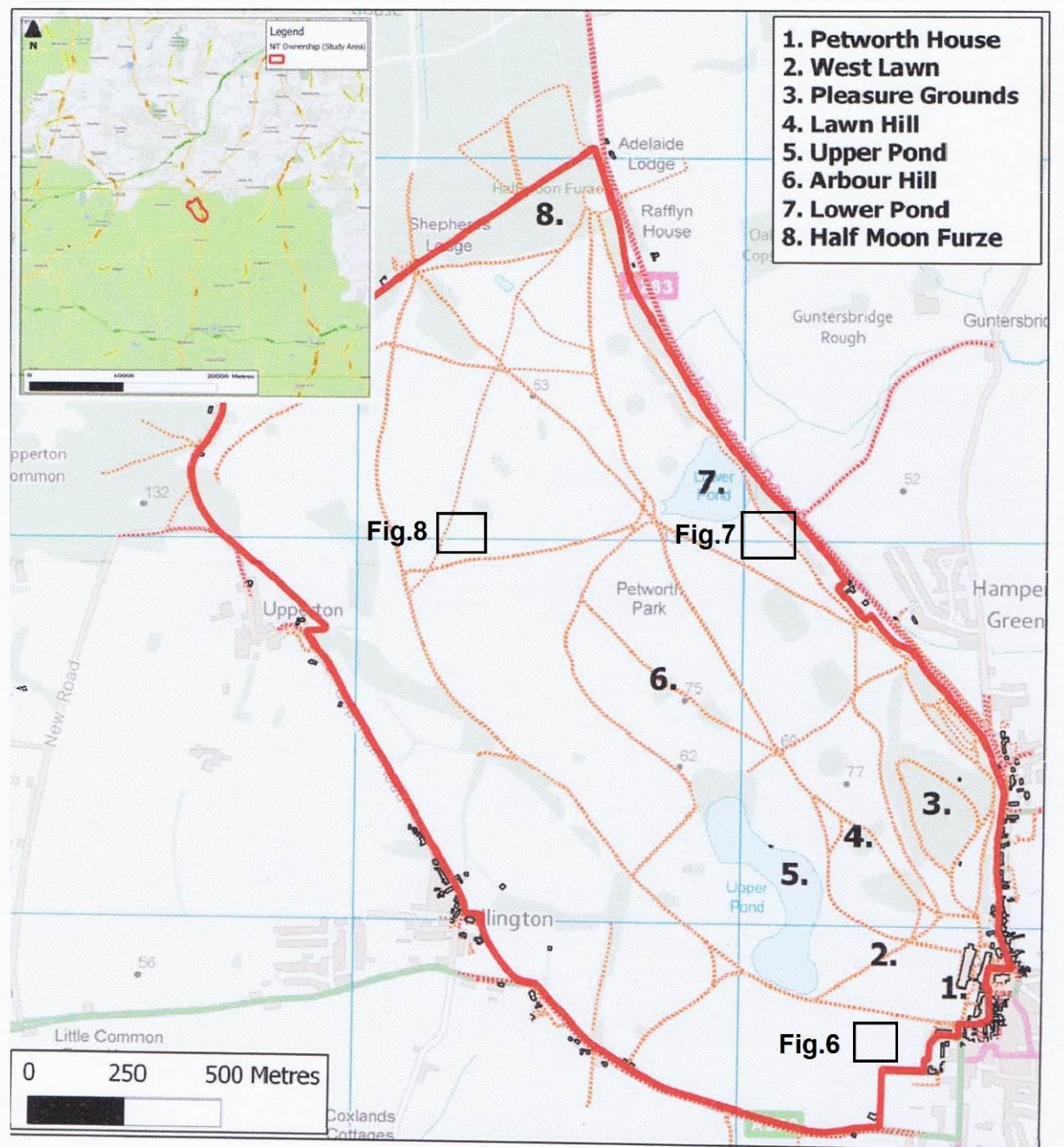


Fig. 2: Petworth Park: Site map showing location of Trenches  
(adapted from map provided by the National Trust)  
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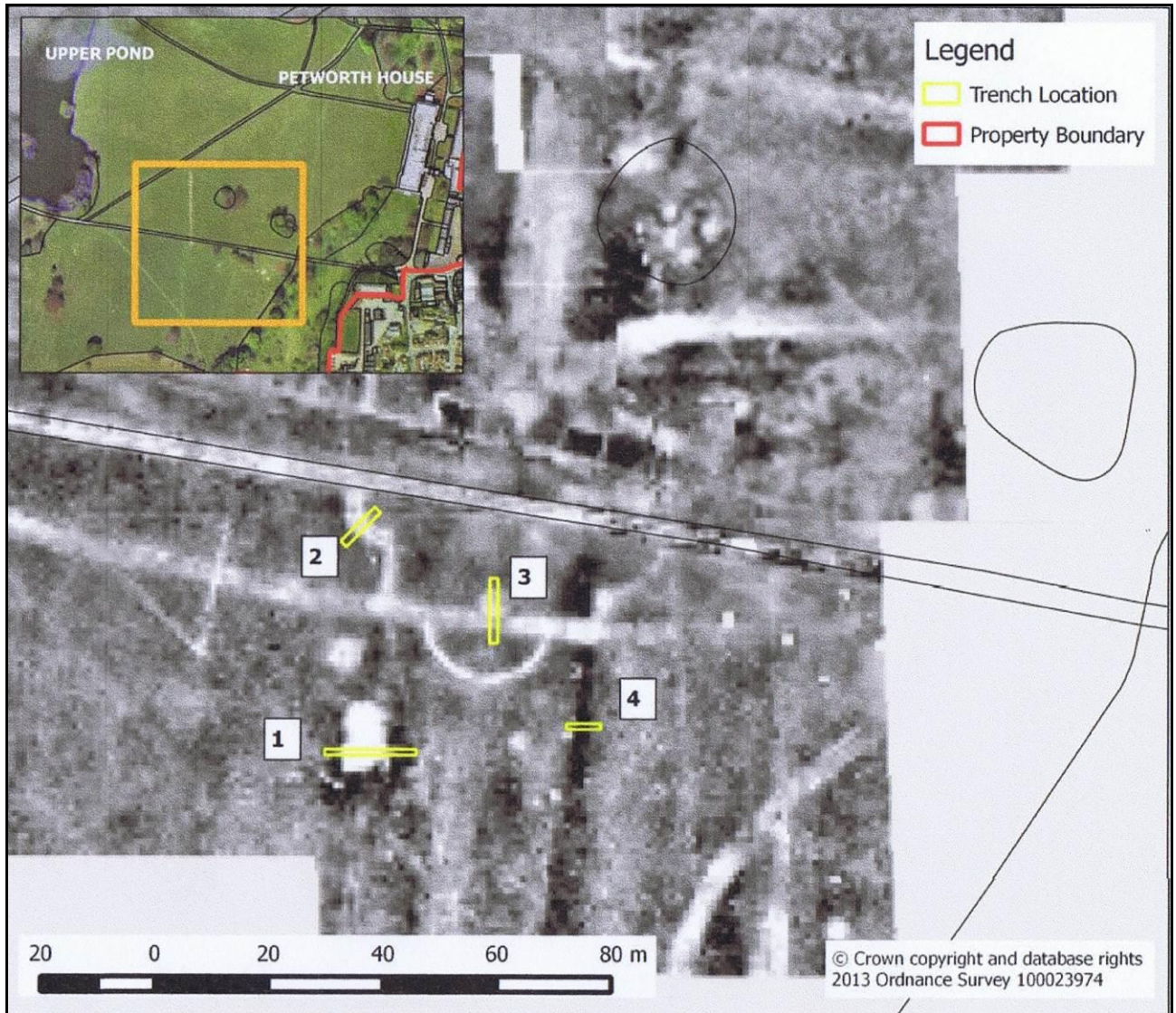


Fig. 3: Petworth Park: Proposed excavation Sites 1-4 with trench locations  
superimposed on geophysics results  
(adapted from Fig. provided by the National Trust)

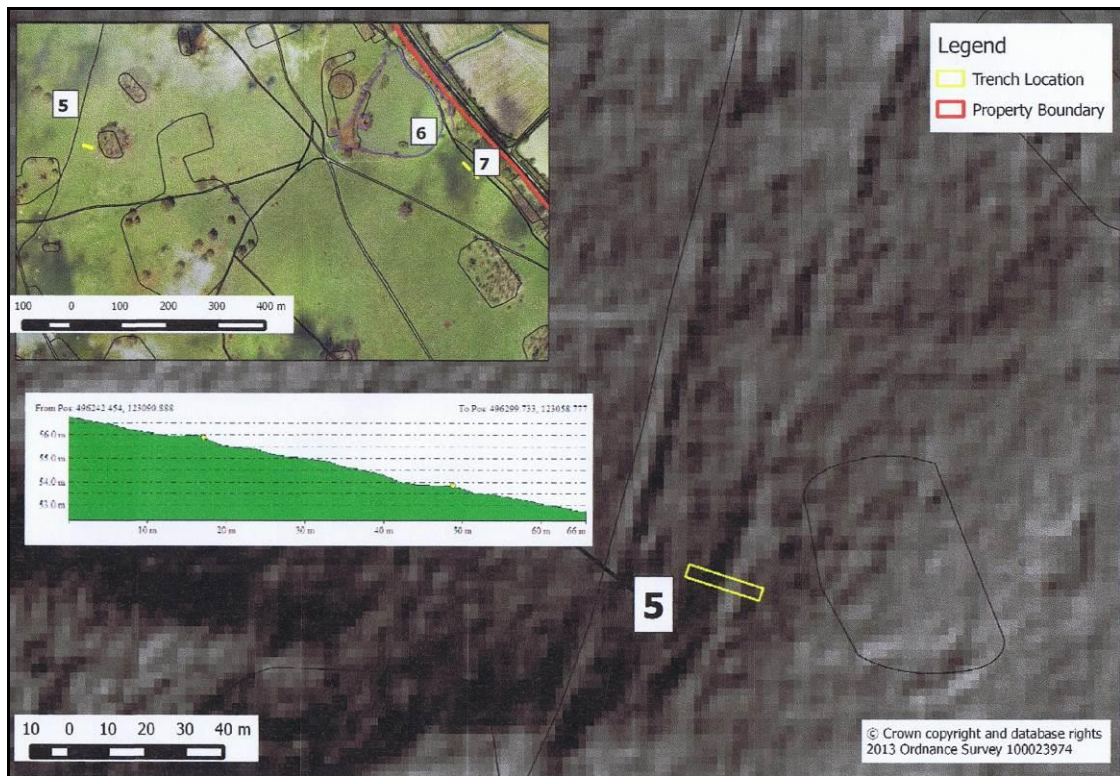


Fig. 4: Petworth Park: Proposed excavation Site 5 with trench location superimposed on geophysics results (adapted from Fig. provided by the National Trust)

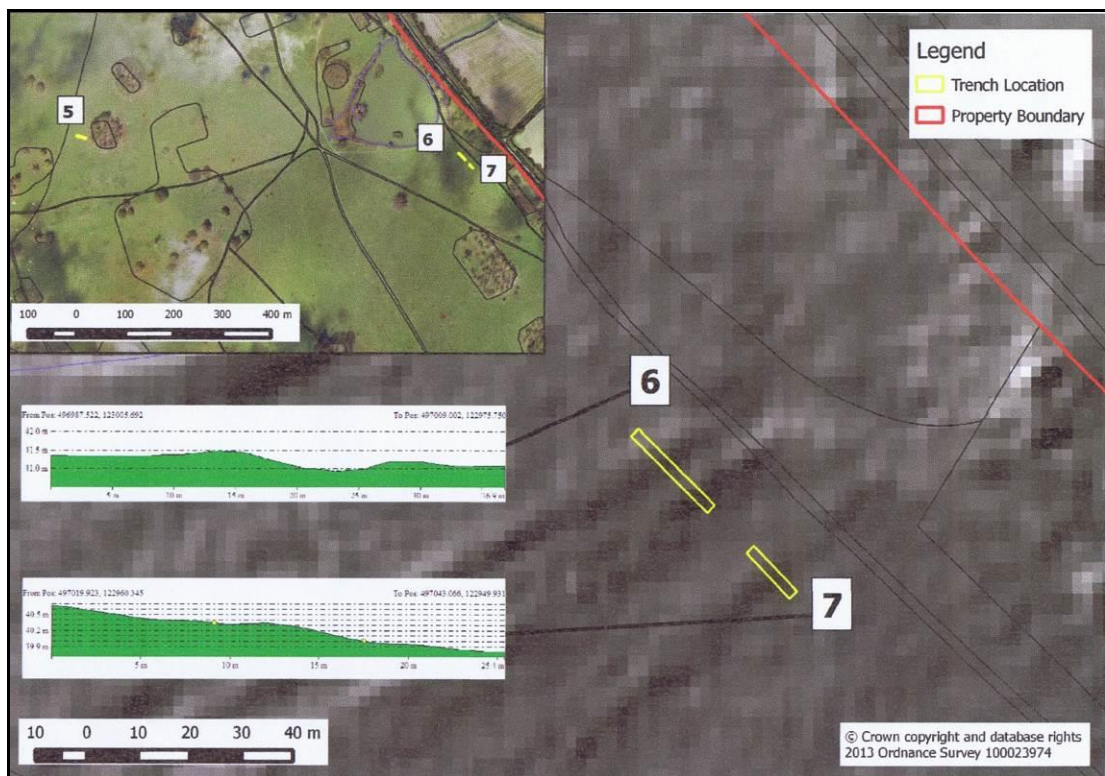


Fig. 5: Petworth Park: Proposed excavation Sites 6 & 7 with trench locations superimposed on geophysics results (adapted from Fig. provided by the National Trust)

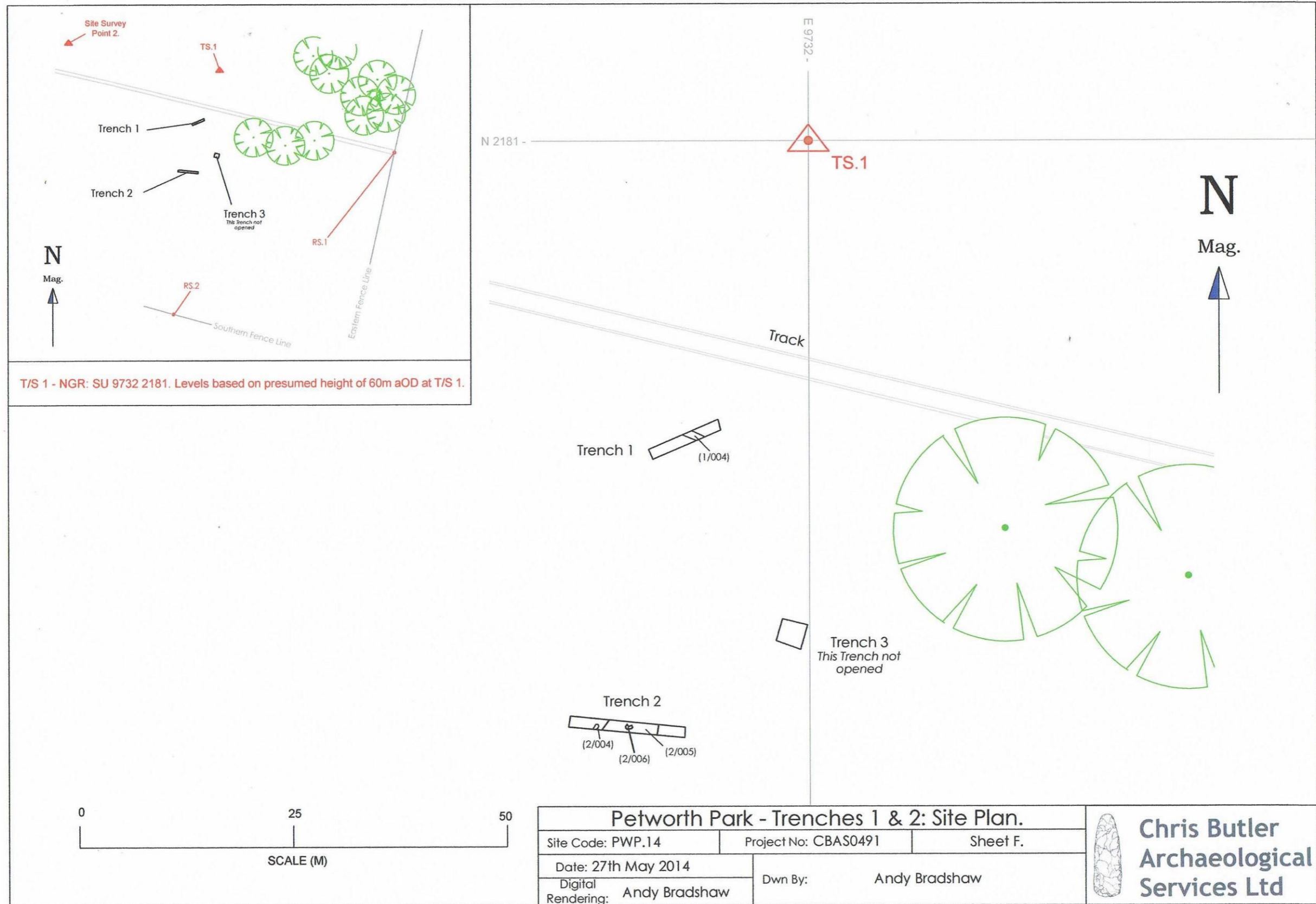


Fig. 6: Petworth Park: Location of Trenches 1 and 2.

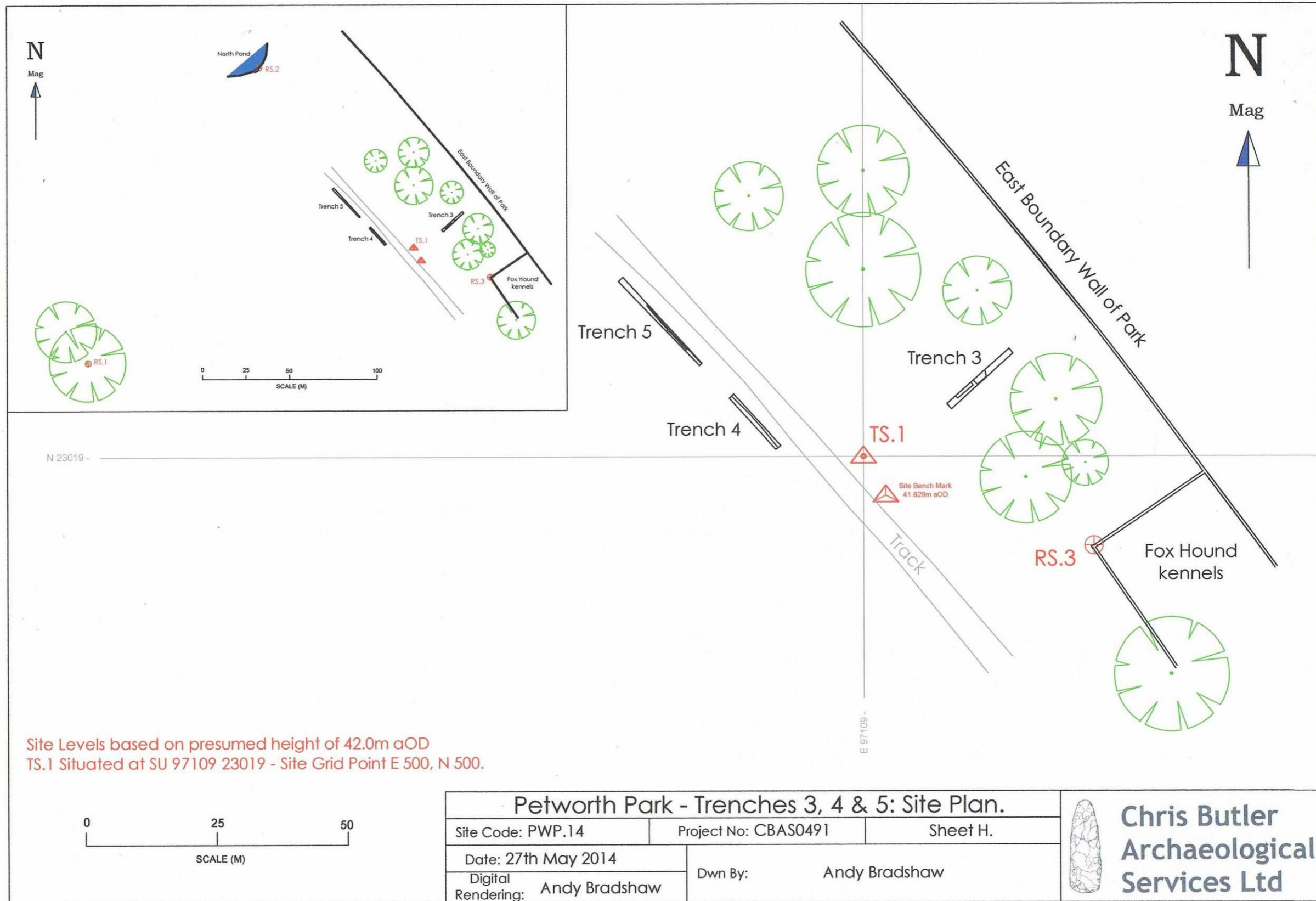


Fig. 7: Petworth Park: Location of Trenches 3, 4 and 5.

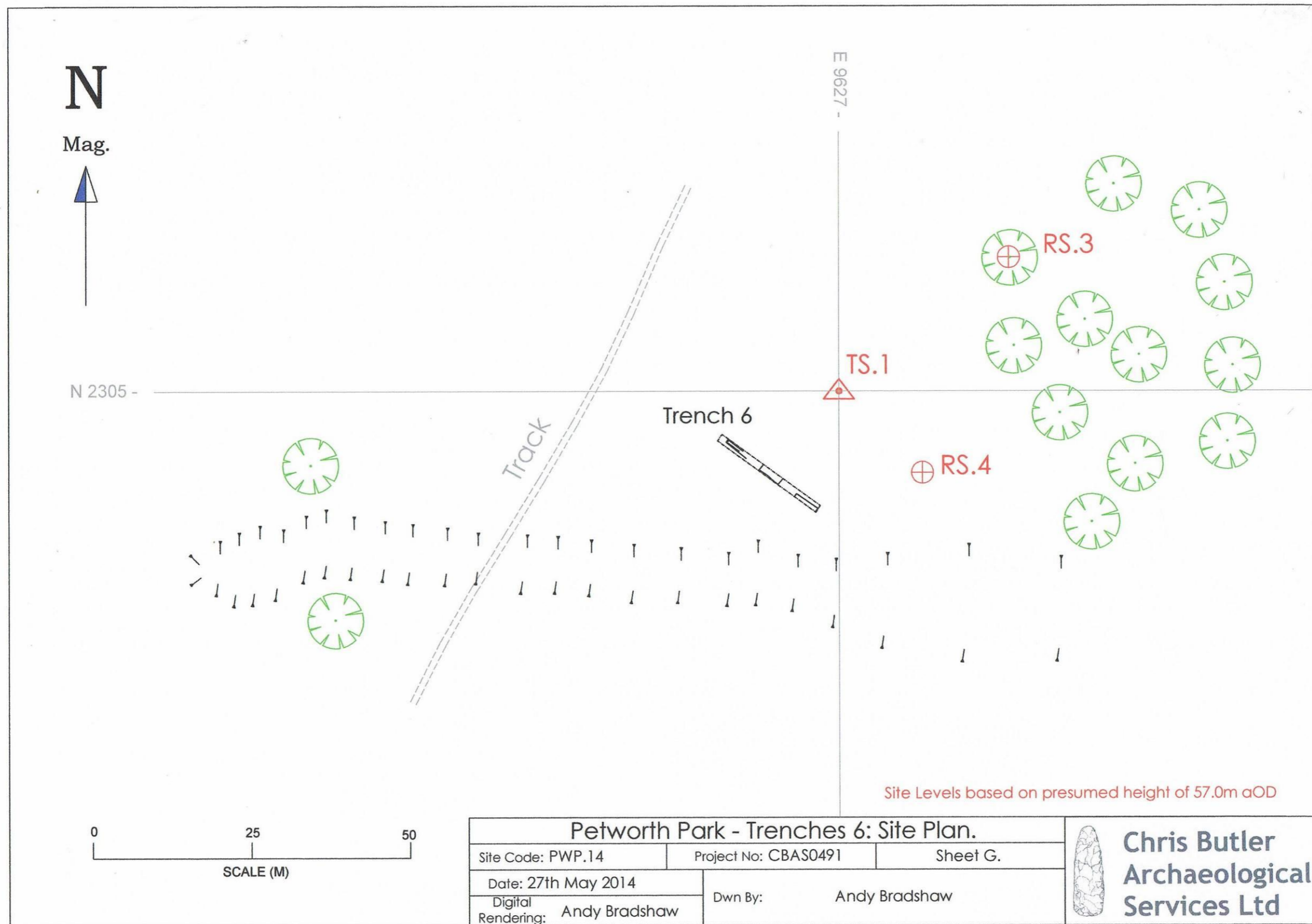


Fig. 8: Petworth Park: Location of Trench 6.

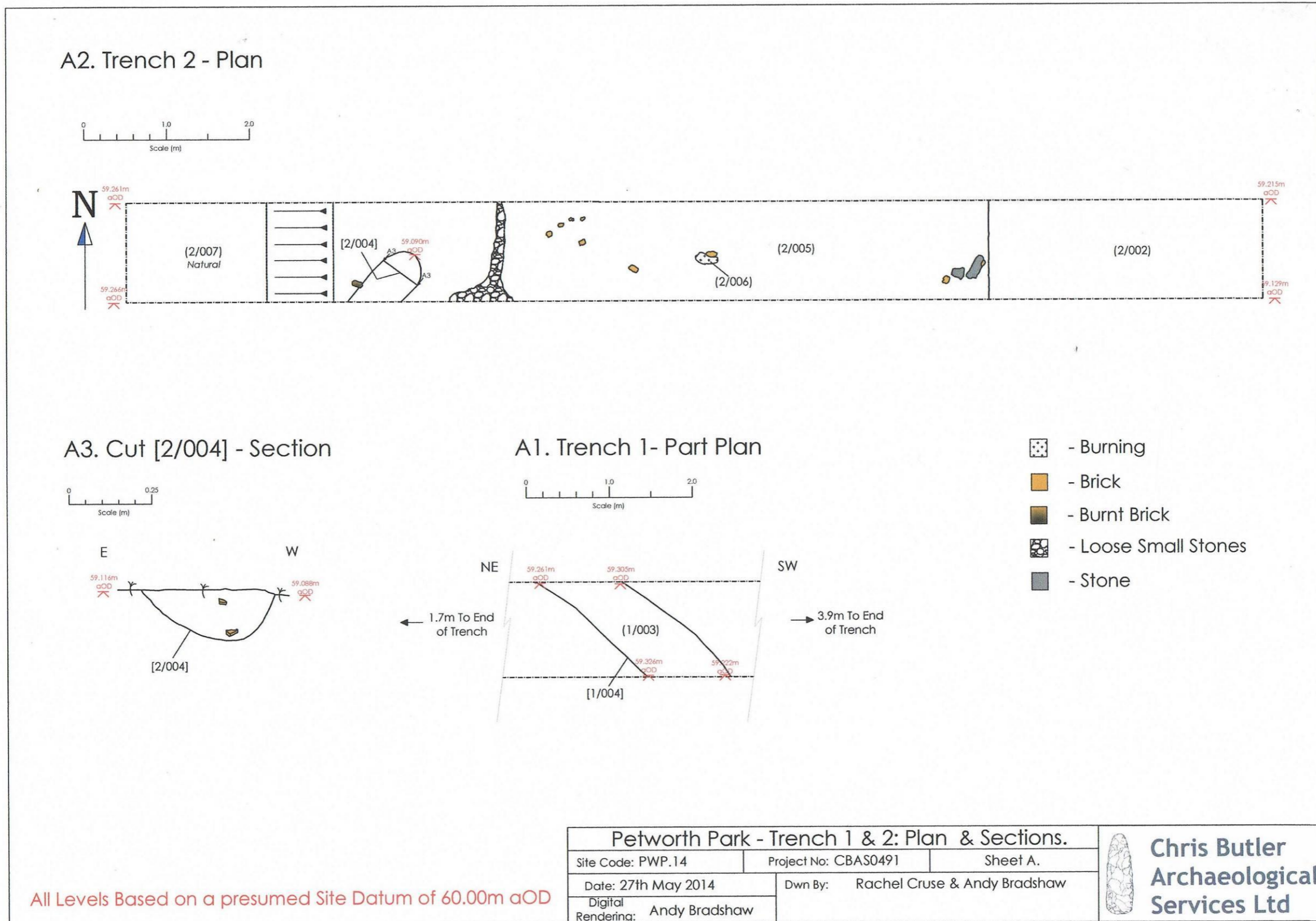


Fig. 9: Petworth Park: Plans Trenches 1 & 2, and Section of Cut 2/004.



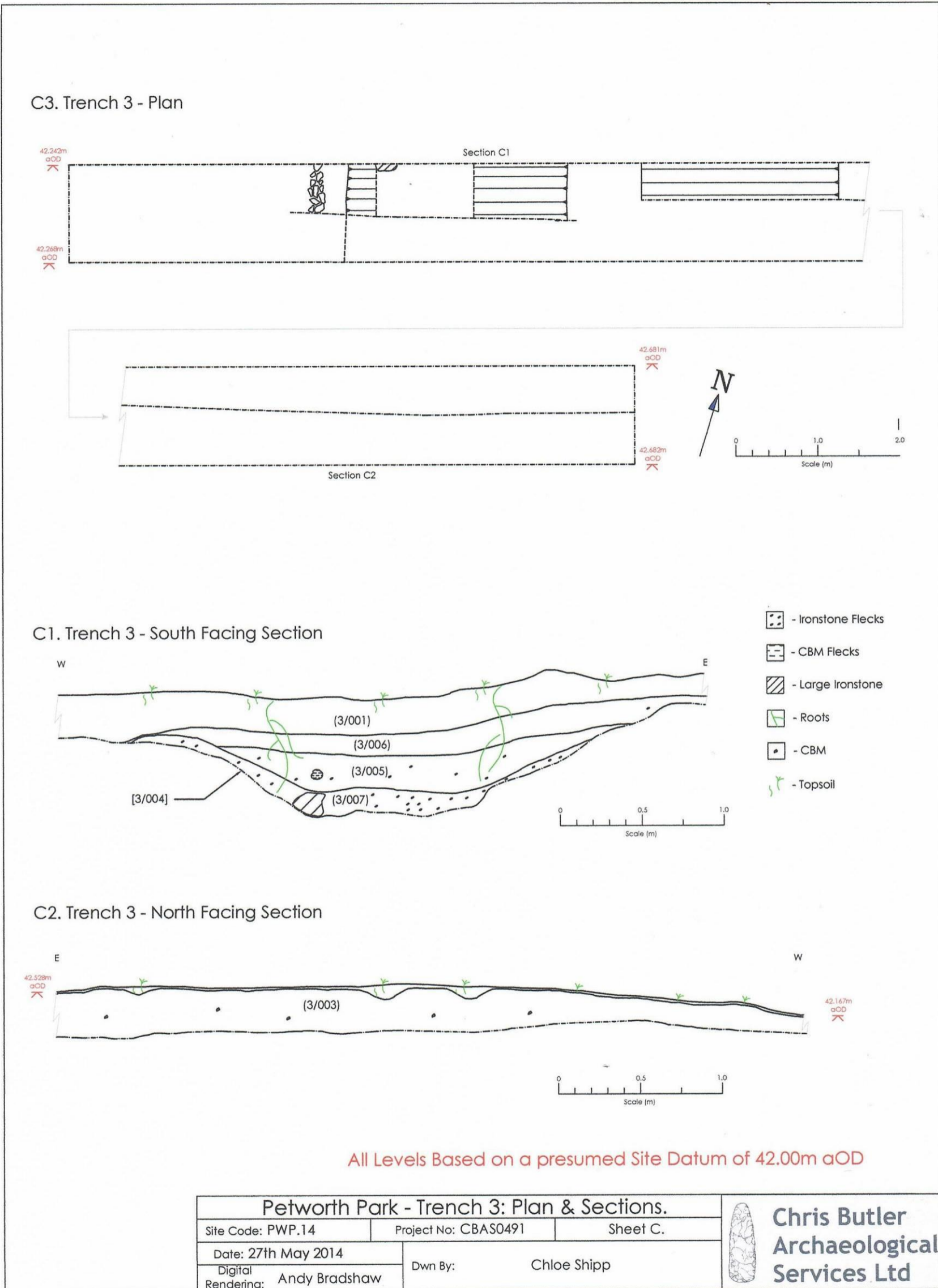
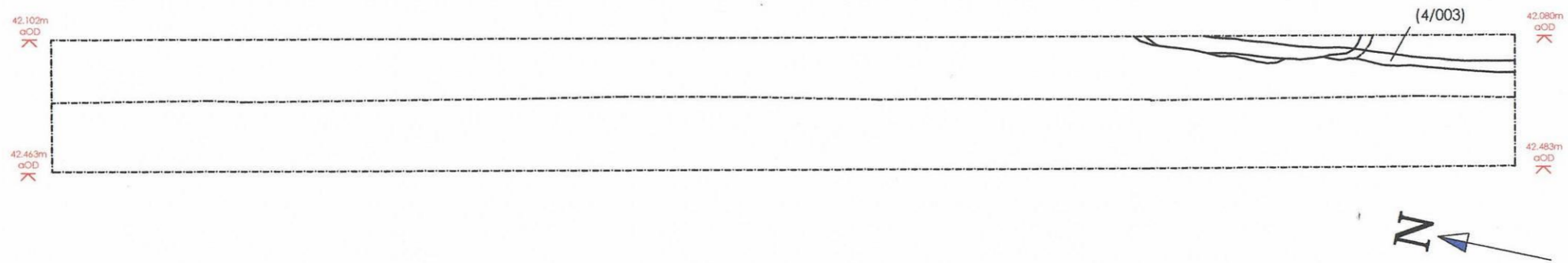
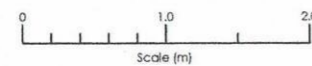
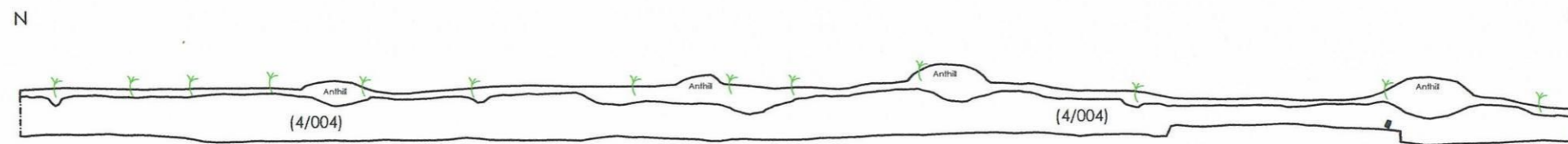


Fig. 10: Petworth Park: Plan and Sections Trench 3.

### B3. Trench 4 - Plan




### B2. Trench 4 - East Facing Section



All Levels Based on a presumed Site Datum of 42.0m aOD

Petworth Park - Trench 4: Plan & Section.		
Site Code: PWP.14	Project No: CBAS0491	Sheet B.
Date: 30th May 2014	Dwn By: Vicky Lillywhite	
Digital Rendering: Andy Bradshaw		



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Services Ltd**

Fig. 11: Petworth Park: Plan and Section Trench 4.

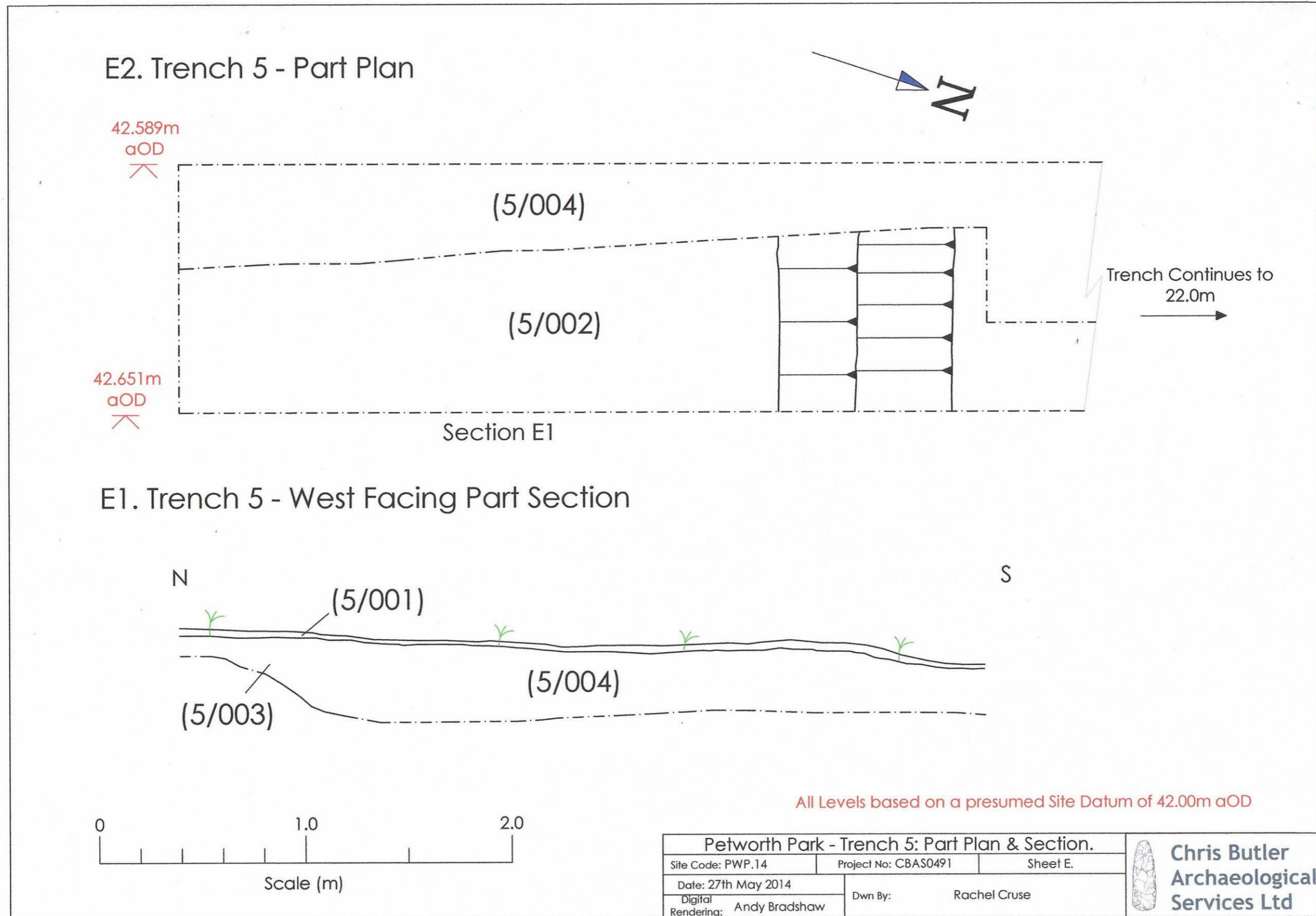


Fig. 12: Petworth Park: Plan and Section Trench 5.

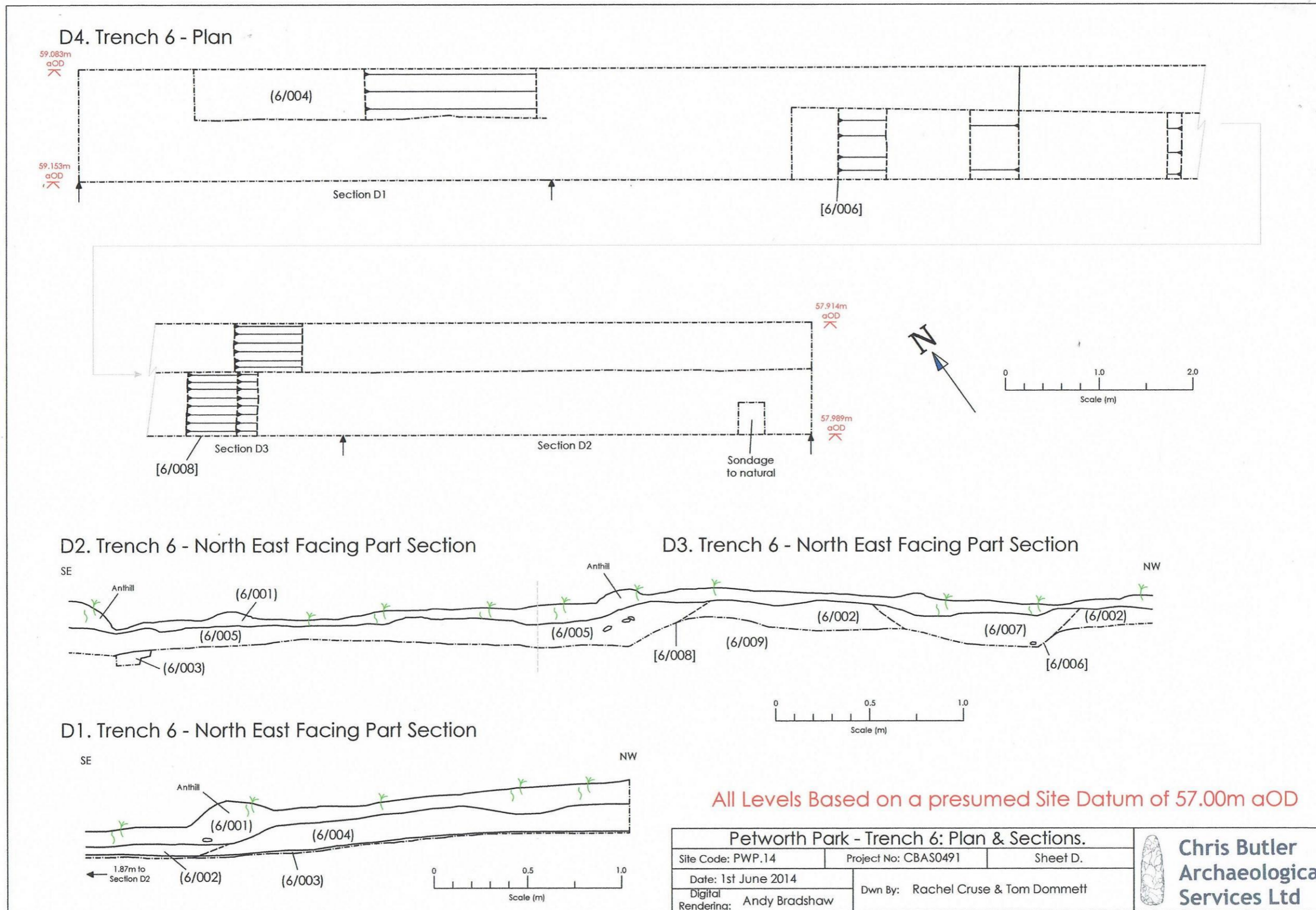


Fig. 13: Petworth Park: Plan and Sections Trench 6.

### Appendix 1 HER Summary Form

Site Code	PWP.14					
Identification Name and Address	Petworth Park Spring Community Excavation					
County, District &/or Borough	Chichester District Council					
OS Grid Refs.	Various (see text)					
Geology	Lower Greensand (Easebourne and Hythe Formations) in the south and Wealden Group mudstones and siltstones (Weald Clay Formation) in the north					
Type of Fieldwork	Eval.	Excav. <b>X</b>	Watching Brief	Standing Structure	Survey	Other
Type of Site	Green Field <b>X</b>	Shallow Urban	Deep Urban	Other: Urban		
Dates of Fieldwork	Eval. <b>X</b>	Excav.	WB.	Other:		
Sponsor/Client	National Trust					
Project Manager	Chris Butler MfA					
Project Supervisor	Rachel Cruse					
Period Summary	Palaeo.	Meso. <b>X</b>	Neo. <b>X</b>	BA	IA	RB
	AS	MED <b>X</b>	PM <b>X</b>	Other		
<p>100 Word Summary.</p> <p><i>A Community excavation project opened a number of evaluation trenches across Petworth Park. Prehistoric activity was evidenced by a single Mesolithic bladelet, and a number of Saxo-Norman pottery sherds were also found, but most of the activity focussed around the High medieval and early Post medieval periods. Trenches 1 &amp; 2 were opened up over features that were recorded but not excavated. Trench 3 investigated a house platform that appears to have been occupied in the 16th and 17th centuries, if not earlier, whilst Trenches 4 and 5 failed to locate the Common boundary. Trench 6 located a bank and ditch feature, which remains undated.</i></p>						

## **Chris Butler Archaeological Services Ltd**

Chris Butler has been an archaeologist since 1985, and formed the Mid Sussex Field Archaeological Team in 1987, since when it has carried out numerous fieldwork projects, and was runner up in the Pitt-Rivers Award at the British Archaeological Awards in 1996. Having previously worked as a Pensions Technical Manager and Administration Director in the financial services industry, Chris formed **Chris Butler Archaeological Services** at the beginning of 2002.

Chris is a Member of the Institute of Field Archaeologists, and a Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries of London. He was a part time lecturer in Archaeology at the University of Sussex, and taught A-Level Archaeology at Bexhill 6<sup>th</sup> Form College having qualified (Cert. Ed.) as a teacher in 2006. He recently set up the Sussex School of Archaeology.

Chris specialises in prehistoric flintwork analysis, but has directed excavations, landscape surveys and watching briefs, including the excavation of a Beaker Bowl Barrow, a Saxon cemetery and settlement, Roman pottery kilns, and a Mesolithic hunting camp. He has recently undertaken large landscape surveys of Ashdown Forest and Broadwater Warren and is Co-Director of the Barcombe Roman Villa excavation project.

His publications include *Prehistoric Flintwork*, *East Sussex Under Attack* and *West Sussex Under Attack*, all of which are published by Tempus Publishing Ltd.

**Chris Butler Archaeological Services Ltd** is available for Flintwork Analysis, Project Management, Military Archaeology, Desktop Assessments, Field Evaluations, Excavation work, Watching Briefs, Landscape and Woodland Surveys & Fieldwalking, Post Excavation Services and Report Writing.

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