

**An Archaeological Evaluation  
at Haven Farm, North Street  
near Sutton Valence  
Kent**

**NGR: 581112 149564**

**Planning Ref: MA/09/2349**

**ASE Project no: 4796  
ASE Report No: 2011121**

**Site Code: SVH 11  
OASIS ID: archaeol6-101929**

**June 2011**

**Giles Dawkes BA MIFA  
With contributions by Luke Barber  
Anna Doherty, Karine le Hégarat  
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## **Abstract**

*An archaeological evaluation of five trenches was undertaken at Haven Farm, North Street, near Sutton Valence, Kent in advance of a proposed housing development.*

*The site is undeveloped and the evaluation has shown that archaeological survival at the site is good and at a relatively shallow depth c. 0.20-0.30m below ground level (BGL). The archaeological remains are fairly extensive and survive to depths of up to c. 1.5m BGL.*

*Archaeological features were present in four of the five trenches excavated and the evaluation has loosely characterised the activity as Romano-British and medieval but its exact nature (settlement, field-system, road/holloway etc) remains unclear.*

*In the middle and west of the site were a series of Late Iron Age/Early Roman shallow ditches possibly relating to a small rural settlement. Adjacent to this and of likely contemporary date was a possible shallow holloway or robber trench aligned northwest-southeast along a ridge of high ground.*

*A series of 12<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> century medieval features were also found comprising of two ditches and a large possible holloway, 1.3m deep and over 10m wide. The possible holloway is parallel and immediately adjacent to the modern road and may be a precursor to it, perhaps part of a known north-south droveway connecting to the villages of Leeds and Hucking to the north with the Weald to the south.*

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## **1.0 INTRODUCTION**

### **1.1 Site background**

- 1.1.1 Archaeology South-East (ASE), (a division of The Centre for Applied Archaeology at the Institute of Archaeology, University College London) was commissioned by Provian Construction to undertake an archaeological evaluation at the proposed site of the Haven Farm, North Street, near Sutton Valence, Kent (centred NGR 581112 149564; Fig 1).

### **1.2 Geology and topography**

- 1.2.1 The site is a rectangular, c. 50m by c. 70m and lies at the top of the Chart ridge with the lower Low Weald to the south. The land-use is currently grassland and the geology is head deposits capping Hythe Beds (BGS sheet 288).

### **1.3 Planning background**

- 1.3.1 The proposed development is for the erection of sixteen dwellings and associated works. This evaluation is part of a condition placed by Maidstone Borough Council in response to planning application MA/09/2349. The following condition was applied to any forthcoming consent:

*No development shall take place until the applicant, or their agents or successors in title, has secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological work in accordance with a written specification and timetable which has been submitted to and approved by the Local Planning Authority.*

Reason: To ensure that features of archaeological interest are properly examined and recorded.

## **1.4 Aims and Objectives**

1.4.1 The specification (KCC 2011) detailed the aims and objectives of the evaluation. These are given below:

- *Has the topography of the site area and its prominent position made it attractive for past activity?*
- *Is there evidence of an earlier iteration of North Street at the site?*
- *Is there any evidence for prehistoric, Roman or Saxon activity within the development area?*
- *Is there any evidence of medieval and post-medieval activity, including industrial activity, at the site?*
- *Has modern disturbance, including agricultural processes, reduced archaeological potential?*
- *What impact will the proposals have on any buried archaeology?*

## **1.5 Scope of report**

1.5.1 The fieldwork was undertaken by Giles Dawkes on the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> May 2011. The project was managed by Jon Sygrave.

## 2.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

KCC HER No.	Figure Ref (Fig. 1)	OS Co-ordinates (TQ)	Description
MKE70823	1	81000 49750	Post Medieval silver coin
MKE71252	2	80500 49800	Copper alloy spur
TQ84NW6	3	8047 4965	Roman masonry building possible mansio
TQ84NW21	4	805 494	Anglo-Saxon pot
2009/250	5	80995 49320	Sutton Valence Primary School, Maidstone, Kent - The Air Raid Shelter - A Brief Architectural Description
2006/215	6	81113 49261	Archaeological watching brief on land to the rear of Bower House, Sutton Valence
TQ84NW8	7	8051 4899	Iron Age cremation urn
TQ84NW14	8	81000 49000	Iron Age coin
MKE70172	9	81000 49000	Medieval copper alloy jetton
MKE71219	10	81000 49000	Iron Age gold coin
TQ84NW10	11	8113 4981	Iron Age gold coin
MKE70372	12	81080 49610	Post Medieval copper alloy jetton
2001/173	13	81270 49466	Archaeological evaluation at Sutton Valence School
TQ84NW244	14	80997 49320	WWII air raid shelter, Sutton Valence primary school
2009/142	15	81280 49387	Archaeological Watching Brief at The Sutton Valence School, North Street, Sutton Valence, Kent
TQ84NW1	16	8127 4937	Roman walled cemetery
TQ84NW246	17	81495 49229	Historic garden, Shirley House, Sutton Valence
TQ84NW245	18	81583 49168	Historic garden, The Old Parsonage, Sutton Valence
TQ84NW22	19	818 491	Early Iron Age brooch
TR04SE120	20	-	Roman Road
2010/259	21	81309 49386	Archaeological Watching Brief at Sutton Valence School, North Road, Sutton Valence, Nr. Maidstone, Kent
TQ84NW65	22	81093 49168	Possible experimental Royal Observer Corps post, Sutton Valence
TQ84NW7	23	81535 49111	Sutton Valence castle

Table 1: KCC HER monuments within 1km of the site (Fig 1)

### 2.1 Prehistoric

The evidence of prehistoric activity in the area is limited to a sparse scatter of later prehistoric findspots, although these include such notable items as two Iron Age gold coins (MKE71219; TQ84NW10) and an Early Iron Age boat-shaped brooch (TQ84NW22). An Iron Age cremation urn (TQ84NW8) was found in the 19<sup>th</sup> century by a local resident whilst gardening and this may well be part of a larger cremation cemetery.

## **2.2 Roman**

The application site lies c.225m north of the projected course of the Roman road (TR04SE120) between Maidstone and Lympne and which continues onto the fields to the west. A roadside settlement with masonry buildings (TQ84NW6) possibly a *mansio*, was identified in the 1930s from aerial photographs and trial trenching. Some 200m to the south-east from the site a walled cemetery (TQ84NW1) was found in the 19<sup>th</sup> century, although its precise location has remained elusive despite an archaeological evaluation (2001/173) and three watching briefs (2010/259; 2006/215; 2009/142) in the suspected area.

## **2.3 Anglo-Saxon and Medieval**

The Anglo-Saxon period is represented solely by the find of a pottery vessel and nothing is known about the circumstances of its retrieval. The local medieval landscape was dominated by Sutton Valence castle and the contemporary adjacent village. This small castle was built in the latter half of the 12<sup>th</sup> century and fell out of use in the early 13<sup>th</sup> century although the medieval village continued to flourish on the important overland route from Rye and Winchelsea to Maidstone and the Medway.

## **2.4 Post-Medieval**

The majority of the buildings in Sutton Valence date to the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries and dozens of these enjoy listed building status (not shown on Fig 1). The village also may have been briefly the home of the experimental Royal Observer Corps post (TQ84NW65).



### **3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY**

- 3.1** Five trial trenches, measuring 20m x 1.8m were excavated within the proposed development area (Fig 2).
- 3.2** The trial trenches were excavated under archaeological supervision using a 13 ton 360° tracked excavator fitted with a 1.8m wide toothless ditching bucket.
- 3.3** All encountered archaeological deposits, features and finds were recorded according to accepted professional standards in accordance with the approved specification (KCC 2011) using pro-forma context record sheets. Archaeological features and deposits were planned at a scale of 1:50 and a general site plan was kept at 1:250. Deposit colours were verified by visual inspection and not by reference to a Munsell Colour chart. The spoil, from site clearance prior to development, was inspected by the archaeologist to recover any artefacts of archaeological interest.
- 3.4** A full photographic record of the work was kept (monochrome prints, colour slides and digital), and will form part of the site archive. The archive (including the finds) is presently held at ASE in Portslade, and will in due course be offered to a local museum.
- 3.5** Environmental samples were taken where appropriate. Two bulk samples were taken of ditch fills [2/004] and [3/003].

Number of Contexts	20
No. of files/paper record	28
Plan and sections sheets	1
Bulk samples and sub-samples	2
Photographs	Black and White; colour slide and digital
Bulk finds	1 box
Registered finds	0
Environmental flots/residue	2

Table 2: Quantification of site archive

## 4.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESULTS

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

List of recorded contexts

Number	Type	Same As	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Thickness
1/001	Cut	-	Ditch	10m	1.16m	0.42m
1/002	Fill	-	Ditch fill	10m	1.16m	0.42m
1/003	Deposit	-	Topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.15m
1/004	Deposit	-	Subsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.2m
1/005	Deposit	-	Natural	Tr.	Tr.	NA
1/006	Deposit	-	Cleaning layer above features	Tr.	Tr.	NA
1/007	Fill	-	Ditch fill	3m	Tr.	0.42m
1/008	Cut	-	Ditch	3m	Tr.	0.42m

Top of trench: 117.8m OD

#### Summary

Only the western edge of a north-south aligned ditch [1/001] was seen in the trench. The fill was brown silt clay [1/002] with finds of six medieval pottery sherds dating to 1175-1275 and a residual Late Iron Age/Early Roman pottery sherd. The ditch was at least 1m wide and 0.4m deep with concave sides, and may be the continuance of a possible holloway [2/002] recorded in Trench 2 to the north.

At the southern end of the trench the eastern edge of ditch [1/008] aligned northwest-southeast was recorded. The feature appeared to cut ditch [1/002] and although the feature was not excavated, finds of two medieval pottery sherds, one dating to 1250-1400 and the other to 1400-1550 were recovered from the upper surface of ditch fill [1/007].

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

List of recorded contexts

Number	Type	Same As	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Thickness
2/001	Deposit	-	Topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.2m
2/002	Cut	-	Holloway	Tr.	10.5m	1.3m
2/003	Fill	-	Holloway fill	Tr.	10.5m	1.1m
2/004	Fill	-	Holloway fill	Tr.	Tr.	0.2m
2/005	Fill	-	Holloway fill	Tr.	10.5m.	0.64m

Top of trench: 116.1m OD

#### Summary

A very large cut feature [2/002] was identified in the trench and this was sample excavated by machine. The western edge of the feature was exposed with the

eastern edge lying beyond the limits of the other end of the trench and perhaps beyond the limits of the site.

The undefined edge of [2/002] makes interpretation of the feature difficult, but it appears to be a large holloway aligned north-south, parallel and immediately adjacent to the modern road. Alternatively [2/002] could be a very large quarry pit or even an east-west ditch with the western end terminating in the trench.

A machine-excavated sondage was dug through [2/002] to determine its depth but the full profile of the feature was not seen. However, the feature had a flat base and the primary fill was brown clay [2/003] with finds of two sherds of medieval pottery dating to 1200-1325 and four sherds of residual LIA/Early Roman pottery. Above this was an isolated dump of green grey sand silt [2/004] with frequent charcoal flecks, ceramic building material (CBM) fragments, crushed shell and one sherd of medieval pottery dating to 1250-1400. An environmental bulk sample (<2>) of this fill produced a poor range of environmental remains and included numerous uncharred rootlets suggesting post-depositional disturbance. Above was the upper fill of brown clay silt [2/005].

#### 4.3 Trench 3 (Figs 2 & 5)

List of recorded contexts

Number	Type	Same As	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Thickness
3/001	Deposit	-	Topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.2m
3/002	Deposit	-	Subsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.2m
3/003	Fill	-	Ditch fill	Tr.	1.6m	0.4m
3/004	Cut	-	Ditch	Tr.	1.6m	0.4m
3/005	Cut	-	Ditch	Tr.	1.5m	0.17m
3/006	Fill	-	Ditch fill	Tr.	1.5m	0.17m
3/007	Cut	-	Ditch	Tr.	1.1m	0.18m
3/008	Fill	-	Ditch fill	Tr.	1.1m	0.18m
3/009	Cut	-	Ditch	Tr.	0.7m	0.1m
3/010	Fill	-	Ditch fill	Tr.	0.7m	0.1m
3/011	Cut	-	Ditch	Tr.	0.8m	0.19m
3/012	Fill	-	Ditch fill	Tr.	0.8m	0.19m
3/013	Deposit	-	Natural	Tr.	Tr.	NA

Top of trench: 119.1m OD

#### Summary

Cut into the natural [3/013] were five ditches roughly-aligned east-west. Four ditches were probably LIA/Early Roman and one was undated.

From the north end of the trench, ditch [3/009] had shallow concave sides and base and was filled with brown clay silt [3/010] with no finds.

Ditch [3/007] had shallow concave sides with a flat base and was filled with brown silt clay [3/008] with one sherd of LIA/Early Roman pottery.

Ditch [3/004] was partially cut into the bedrock with stepped sides and a flat base.

The fill was brown silt clay [3/003] with frequent charcoal flecks and sherds of LIA/Early Roman pottery. An environmental bulk sample <1> of this fill produced a poor range of environmental remains and included numerous uncharred rootlets suggesting post-depositional disturbance.

Ditch [3/005] had shallow concave sides and a flat base. The fill was brown grey clay silt [3/006] with 21 sherds of LIA/Early Roman pottery.

Ditch [3/011] had a concave side and a flat base. The fill was brown silt clay [3/012] with one sherd of Roman pottery. Only the northern edge of ditch [3/011] was seen.

#### 4.4 Trench 4 (Figs 2 & 6)

List of recorded contexts

Number	Type	Same As	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Thickness
4/001	Deposit	-	Topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.2m
4/002	Deposit	-	Subsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.25m
4/003	Deposit	-	Natural	Tr.	Tr.	NA
4/004	Cut	-	Ditch/?robber cut	Tr.	1.2m	0.3m
4/005	Fill	-	Ditch fill	Tr.	1.2m	0.3m
4/006	Cut	-	Ditch	Tr.	1.4m	0.3m
4/007	Fill	-	Ditch fill	Tr.	1.4m	0.3m
4/008	Cut	-	Holloway	Tr.	8m	0.35m
4/009	Fill	-	Holloway fill	Tr.	8m	0.35m
4/010	Fill	-	Ditch fill	Tr.	0.32m	0.24m

Top of trench: 119.3m OD

#### Summary

The trench had two small ditches and a large shallow feature, possibly another holloway. All the features were of LIA/Early Roman date.

Ditch [4/004] was aligned northeast-southwest, only its northern edge was seen. The ditch profile is concave and filled with a primary fill of unworked greensand stone cobbles and blocks in an apparent linear dump [4/010]. This dump could represent a masonry wall collapse or debris within a robber trench. The upper fill was brown silt [4/005] with 14 sherds of LIA/Early Roman pottery.

Ditch [4/006] aligned east-west had concave sides and base and was filled with grey brown silt sand [4/007] with two sherds of LIA/Early Roman pottery.

Possible holloway [4/008] was aligned northeast-southwest and only a small sondage was hand excavated in the centre of the feature to establish the depth. This is significantly shallower than the possible medieval holloway in Trench 2 ([2/002]) and the feature appears to run along the top of the ridge of high ground rather than bisect it. The fill was dark grey brown sand silt [4/009] from which two sherds of LIA/Early Roman pottery were retrieved.

#### 4.5 Trench 5 (Fig 2)

List of recorded contexts

Number	Type	Same As	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Thickness
5/001	Deposit	-	Topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.2m
5/002	Deposit	-	Subsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.2m
5/003	Deposit	-	Natural	Tr.	Tr.	NA

Top of trench: 117.7m OD

Summary

No archaeological features were identified in this trench.

## 5.0 THE FINDS

Context	Pot	Wt (g)	CBM	Wt (g)	Bone	Wt (g)	Shell	Wt (g)	Flint	Wt (g)	Fe	Wt (g)	Cu. Al.	Wt (g)	F. Clay	Wt (g)	Roofing felt	Wt (g)
1/002	7	52			2	10			1	12								
1/006	8	28	2	8													1	2
1/007	2	4																
2/003	6	14	3	58							1	2						
2/004	1	4	2	32			1	6					1	6				
3/003	3	12	3	26														
3/006	21	180													1	<2		
3/008	1	4													1	8		
3/012	1	<2	2	10														
4/005	14	110	1	18	13	34												
4/007	2	8	2	28														
4/009	2	10																
Total	68	426	15	180	15	44	1	6	1	12	1	2	1	6	2	8	1	2

Table 3: Finds Quantification

### 5.1 Summary

5.1.1 A small assemblage of finds, mainly consisting of pottery, was recovered during the archaeological work. An overview can be found in Table 3. Finds were all washed and dried or air dried as appropriate. They were counted, weighed and bagged by context and by material. None require further conservation

### 5.2 Prehistoric / Early Roman pottery by Anna Doherty

5.2.1 An assemblage of 49 sherds, weighing 334 grams was recovered during the evaluation. Although there are relatively few sherds, the range of fabrics and forms points to a date in the 1<sup>st</sup> century AD, probably pre-dating c. AD70. Most of the sherds were found in stratified contexts in Trenches 3 and 4. The assemblage was examined using a x20 binocular microscope and quantified by sherd count and weight. At this stage, fabrics were broadly defined according to their dominant inclusion type.

5.2.2 Glauconitic fabrics are by far the most common, accounting for around half of the assemblage. These wares first occurred in the Middle Iron Age; however the CTRL excavations have established that they remained dominant in the Maidstone area until around AD70 (Booth 2009, 5). Other tempered wares including flint, grog, and non-Romanised sandy wares are present in very small quantities. Truly Roman fabrics are rare in the assemblage; only in context [2/003], which also contained medieval pottery, did several Roman fabrics co-occur. Amongst the likely Late Iron Age/early Roman contexts, single tiny chips in oxidised Romanised fabrics were found in contexts [4/005] and [4/007].

5.2.3 The forms encountered are typical of the Late Iron Age and early Roman period in Kent and include two plain to slightly beaded rim jars, one featuring horizontal combed/furrowed decoration. Also of note is the base of a jar, which has been

perforated with a number of holes of c. 8mm diameter, probably in order to reuse the vessel as a strainer.

- 5.2.4 As it stands the assemblage has no significance and requires no further analysis, however, if a larger group of pottery is recovered from the site, in the event of further excavation, the current assemblage should be fully integrated and analysed alongside it.

### **5.3 Medieval Pottery** by Luke Barber

- 5.3.1 The evaluation produced 19 sherds of medieval pottery from the site. Although the sherds are quite small (to 30mm across) they do not show extensive signs of abrasion suggesting they have not been subjected to repeated re-working. There appears to be a chronological span covering the mid/late 12<sup>th</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup>/early 16<sup>th</sup> centuries, however, most contexts produced so few sherds tighter dating will need larger/more diagnostic context groups.

- 5.3.2 The earliest pottery was recovered from Trench 1. Context [1/002] produced two slightly abraded reduced cooking pot body sherds in shell tempered ware (Canterbury fabric EM2) and three fresher sherds from a sand and shell tempered (EM3) cooking pot with flat-topped club rim. The other sherd from this deposit consists of part of an unglazed strap handle with raised edges and oblique slashing in a buff sandy ware of probable Maidstone-type (M4). Together the group suggests a date between 1175 and 1250. Context [1/006] produced six further sherds from an EM3 cooking pot with similar rim type. A similar date is probable.

- 5.3.3 Slightly later pottery was recovered from some of the other deposits, however, too few sherds are present to be certain of close dating. Context [1/007] produced a body sherd from an oxidised medium sand tempered M4 jug decorated with white slip under a green glaze and of probable mid 13<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> century date. However, the same deposit produced a fine sandy off-white/buff ware with good internal green glaze. This is possibly a Wealden copy of Tudor Green/early Border ware, suggesting a 15<sup>th</sup> to mid 16<sup>th</sup> century date. The remaining sherds include single oxidised sandy ware bodysherds from [2/003], [2/004] and [3/003]. In contexts [2/003] and [3/003] they are associated with single sherds of Northwest Kent grey sandy ware (M38A) (a bodysherd and unglazed jug rim respectively) suggesting a mid 13<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> century date.

### **5.4 Animal Bone** by Elke Raemen

- 5.4.1 Two contexts produced a small assemblage of animal bone ([1/002] and [4/005]). The bone was in a poor state of preservation with resulting small fragment size and surface deterioration. Context [1/002] contained single fragments of sheep radius and a cattle-sized ulna. The thirteen fragments recovered from [4/005] comprised cattle or sheep-sized long bone fragments.

### **5.5 Ceramic Building Material** by Sarah Porteus

- 5.5.1 A total of 14 fragments of ceramic building material (CBM) with a combined weight of 182g were recovered from seven contexts. The majority of the fragments recovered were in an under-fired orange silty fabric with sparse coarse quartz and fine black iron rich inclusions (provisional fabric T2). The dating of this material is uncertain as none of the fragments are complete enough to ascertain form. The fabric could be of either Roman or medieval date. Fragments in fabric T2 were

recovered from [1/006], [2/003], [3/003], [3/012] and [4/007]. A single fragment of abraded tile of probable 12<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> century date was recovered from context [4/005] in a sandy fine fabric with abundant fine quartz with a reduced core (T4). The remainder of the assemblage comprised peg tile in a highly calcareous fabric (T1) from contexts [2/003] and [2/004]; and a fragment of tile in an orange fabric with moderate calcareous inclusions and sparse coarse quartz with moderate black iron rich inclusions (T2) which may be of broadly post-medieval date.

## **5.6 The Metalwork** by Elke Raemen

- 5.6.1 Two pieces of metalwork were recovered. Context [2/004] contained a copper-alloy sheet fragment, which is not intrinsically dateable. An iron nail fragment, probably of Roman date, was recovered from [2/003]. The surviving head is small and similar to a farrier, with only part of the rectangular-sectioned shank surviving. The nail is paralleled by Manning's (1985) Type 5.

## **5.7 Flintwork** by Karine le Hégarat

- 5.7.1 A single struck flint weighing 12g was recovered from context [1/002] during the course of the evaluation work at the site. The flint is in a very poor condition. It is broken and exhibits heavy post-depositional edge-damage associated with successive redeposition events. The piece is manufactured from coarse-grained light grey flint. It consists of a flake fragment but is otherwise undiagnostic.

## **5.8 Fired Clay** by Elke Raemen

- 5.8.1 Two fragments of fired clay were recovered during the evaluation. Both are sparse fine sand-tempered with rare organic temper. The fragment from [3/008] is amorphous, whereas the piece from [3/006] retains one flat surface. As both pieces are small and featureless, no conclusion can be drawn as to their function or origin.

## **5.9 Other Finds** by Elke Raemen

- 5.9.1 An immature right valve from an oyster (*Ostrea Edulis*) was recovered from [2/004]. In addition, a piece of modern roofing felt was found intrusive in context [1/006].



## **6.0 THE ENVIRONMENTAL SAMPLES** by Karine Le Hégarat

### **6.1 Introduction**

- 6.1.1 Two bulk soil samples were taken during evaluation work at the site of Haven Farm to retrieve environmental remains such as charred macrobotanicals, charcoal, fauna and mollusca. Sample <1> was retrieved from a Late Iron Age / early Roman ditch ([3/004], fill [3/003]). Sample <2> was extracted from a possible holloway ([2/002], fill [2/004]). The deposit yielded a sherd of pottery dating to AD 1250-1400.

### **6.2 Methods**

- 6.2.1 Both samples were processed in their entirety in a flotation tank and the flots and residues were retained on 250 and 500µm meshes respectively and were air dried prior to sorting. Residues were sieved through 2mm and 4mm geological sieves and each fraction sorted for artefact and environmental remains (Table 3). The flots were scanned under a stereozoom microscope at x7-45 magnifications and an overview of their contents recorded (Table 4). Preliminary identifications have been made for the macrobotanical remains through comparison with reference material and manuals (Cappers *et al.* 2006, Jacomet 2006, NIAB 2004). Nomenclature used follows Stace (1997).

### **6.3 Results**

- 6.3.1 The flots and residues from both samples have confirmed the presence of environmental remains including wood charcoal fragments, small quantities of charred macrobotanical remains as well as faunal remains including burnt and unburnt mammal bones, teeth, fish bones, molluscan fauna and a single fly puparium. Sampling has also produced a small quantity of artefactual remains including small pieces of glass, burnt clay, fire cracked flint, pottery as well as some industrial debris and various amorphous metal fragments including a possible nail. Although sherds of pottery were recovered from sample <1>, a larger quantity was recorded in sample <2>.
- 6.3.2 Sampling produced small flots (8ml each) which contained relatively high percentage of uncharred botanical materials consisting predominantly of rootlets. In addition, sample <1> contained uncharred wild/weed seeds and fruiting structures such as blackberry/raspberry (*Rubus fruticosus/idaeus*), knotgrass/dock (*Polygonum/Rumex* sp.) and buttercup (*Ranunculus* sp.) and a small amount of finely grained fibrous-like matter possibly deriving from very fragmented mollusc shells was present in sample <2>. The presence of uncharred vegetation is likely to suggest some post-depositional disturbances within the deposits.
- 6.3.3 Both samples contained a small assemblage of wood charcoal fragments. The assemblage included some fragments >8mm in size although the majority were considerably smaller. Although they are not numerous, they are well enough preserved for identification as part of further work at the site. Bulk sample <1> produced a poorly preserved grain of wheat (*Triticum* sp.) which was heavily pitted and fragmented as well as a small unidentified nut shell fragment. The five unidentified cereal grains (Cerealia), the grain of wheat (*Triticum* sp.) as well as the unidentified CPR observed in sample <2> were also of poor quality.

## **6.4 Discussion**

- 6.4.1 Sampling has confirmed the presence of a limited quantity of moderately to poorly-preserved charred plant remains as well as other environmental indicators (mammal bones, fish bones, mollusca and fly puparium). These were infrequent and given the frequency of rootlets in the samples, it should be considered that they might be intrusive. The charred macrobotanical remains are too limited to enable interpretations relating to plant use or economy of the area. The few poorly preserved charred cereal remains could simply represent general burnt domestic debris scattered over the site. The assemblage of wood charcoal fragments is too limited to provide significant information regarding woody taxa targeted for fuel but it may represent material suitable for radiocarbon dating. However, dates have already been obtained from both ditch [3/004] and possible holloway [2/004] and the botanical remains are unlikely to refine further the dating of these deposits.

Table 4: Residue Quantification

Sample Number	Context	Context / deposit type	Use " * " rating for enviro remains quantification ( * = 1-10, ** = 11-50, *** = 51-250, **** = >250), give weights in grams.															Estimate quant. & weight (eg, Pot star rating *,***/5g)						
			Sample Volume litres	sub-Sample Volume litres	Charcoal >4mm	Weight (g)	Charcoal <4mm	Weight (g)	Charred botanicals (other than charcoal)	Weight (g)	Bone and Teeth	Weight (g)	Crem bone >4mm	Weight (g)	Crem Bone 2-4mm	Weight (g)	Fishbone and microfauna		Weight (g)	Marine Molluscs	Weight (g)	Land Snail shells	Weight (g)	
1 3/003		Fill of ditch [3/004]	40	40	**		2	**		4	*	<2	**	30	*	<2	*							Glass */<2g - F. Clay */10g - Pottery **/36g - FCF */20g
2 2/004		Fill of holloway [2/002]	20	20	**		4	***		6	*	<2	*	6	*	<2	*		2	**	14	*	<2	Slag */2g - Fe */18g - Hammerscales */<2g - Pottery */14g

Table 5: Flot Quantification

Sample Number	Context	Weight g	Flot volume ml	Uncharred %	sediment %	seeds uncharred	Charcoal >4mm	Charcoal <4mm	Charcoal <2mm	crop seeds charred	Identifications	Preservation	weed seeds	chared	Identifications	Preservation	Insects, Fly Pupae etc min	Potential	Further work	notes
1 3/003		<2	8	86	8	<i>Rubus</i> sp. **, <i>Polygonum/Rumex</i> sp. *, <i>Ranunculus</i> sp. *	*	*	**								* FP	CH D MA D		Uncharred material: rootlets and leave frags.
2 2/004		<2	8	60	10		*		***	*	<i>Triticum</i> sp.	++	*		cf. <i>Avena/Bromus</i> sp., Poaceae	+ to ++		CH D/C MA D/C		Uncharred material: rootlets

## **7.0 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS**

### **7.1 Early Prehistoric**

A single residual flake from the medieval holloway or ditch [1/001] was the only evidence of potential early prehistoric activity in the vicinity of the site.

### **7.2 Late Iron Age/Early Roman**

Possible LIA/Early Roman features were found exclusively in Trenches 3 and 4 in the west. The most prominent feature is holloway or robber trench [4/008] which seems to have followed the ridge of high ground in a northeast-southwest direction. The amount of pottery recovered from the other smaller ditches, in particular [3/005] and [4/004] suggest that these features were related to or enclosed a settlement, rather than defining field boundaries. The holloway/robber trench and the settlement ditches may be contemporary and could represent associated landscape features.

### **7.3 Medieval**

Possible holloway [2/002] was by far the most substantial feature found on the site and ditch/holloway [1/001] maybe a southern continuation of this feature. There was no evidence of metalling in the base of the feature although a prepared surface of hard-standing would not be necessary for the droving of livestock. The road may represent a precursor to North St. Although the interpretation of this feature is not definite, the North Downs of Kent is scarred by numerous north-south droveways connecting the more coastal settlements to the north with pastureland, particularly for swine, in the Weald for the practise of transhumance. Everitt (1986) has identified over 15 north-south droveways / holloways in the vicinity of Sutton Valence and this may be part of a route connecting with the villages of Leeds and Hucking to the north.

### **7.4 Impacts**

The site is undeveloped and the evaluation has shown that archaeological survival at the site is good and at a relatively shallow depth c. 0.20-0.30m below ground level (BGL). The archaeological remains are fairly extensive and survive to depths of up to c. 1.5m BGL. The evaluation has loosely characterised the activity as Romano-British and medieval but its exact nature (settlement, field-system, road/holloway etc) remains unclear.

## REFERENCES

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## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

ASE would like thank Provian Construction for commissioning the work. The co-operation and assistance of the client and Adam Single of Kent County Council is gratefully acknowledged.

## Appendix 1: Kent SMR Form

Site Code	SWB09					
Identification Name and Address	Haven Farm, North Street, Sutton Valence, Kent					
County, District &/or Borough	Maidstone Borough Council					
OS Grid Refs.	581112 149564					
Geology	Greensand					
Arch. South-East Project Number	4796					
Type of Fieldwork	Eval. ✓	Excav.	Watching Brief	Standing Structure	Survey	Other
Type of Site	Green Field ✓	Shallow Urban	Deep Urban	Other		
Dates of Fieldwork	Eval. 18-19/05/11	Excav.	WB.	Other		
Sponsor/Client	Provia Construction					
Project Manager	Jon Sygrave					
Project Supervisor	Giles Dawkes					
Period Summary	Palaeo.	Meso.	Neo.	BA	IA ✓	RB ✓
	AS	MED ✓	PM			
<p>An archaeological evaluation of five trenches was undertaken at Haven Farm, North Street, near Sutton Valence, Kent in advance of a proposed housing development.</p> <p>The site is undeveloped and the evaluation has shown that archaeological survival at the site is good and at a relatively shallow depth c. 0.20-0.30m below ground level (BGL). The archaeological remains are fairly extensive and survive to depths of up to c. 1.5m BGL.</p> <p>Archaeological features were present in four of the five trenches excavated and the evaluation has loosely characterised the activity as Romano-British and medieval but its exact nature (settlement, field-system, road/holloway etc) remains unclear.</p> <p>In the middle and west of the site were a series of Late Iron Age/Early Roman shallow ditches possibly relating to a small rural settlement. Adjacent to this and of likely contemporary date was a possible shallow holloway or robber trench aligned northwest-southeast along a ridge of high ground.</p> <p>A series of 12<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> century medieval features were also found comprising of two ditches and a large possible holloway, 1.3m deep and over 10m wide. The possible holloway is parallel and immediately adjacent to the modern road and may be a precursor to it, perhaps part of a known north-south droveway connecting to the villages of Leeds and Hucking to the north with the Weald to the south.</p>						

## Appendix 2: OASIS Form

**OASIS ID: archaeol6-101929**

**Project details**

Project name Haven Farm

An archaeological evaluation of five trenches was undertaken at Haven Farm, North Street, near Sutton Valence, Kent in advance of a proposed housing development.

The site is undeveloped and the evaluation has shown that archaeological survival at the site is good and at a relatively shallow depth c. 0.20-0.30m below ground level (BGL). The archaeological remains are fairly extensive and survive to depths of up to c. 1.5m BGL.

Archaeological features were present in four of the five trenches excavated and the evaluation has loosely characterised the activity as Romano-British and medieval but its exact nature (settlement, field-system, road/holloway etc) remains unclear.

**Short description of the project**

In the middle and west of the site were a series of Late Iron Age/Early Roman shallow ditches possibly relating to a small rural settlement. Adjacent to this and of likely contemporary date was a possible shallow holloway or robber trench aligned northwest-southeast along a ridge of high ground.

A series of 12th to 14th century medieval features were also found comprising of two ditches and a large possible holloway, 1.3m deep and over 10m wide. The possible holloway is parallel and immediately adjacent to the modern road and may be a precursor to it, perhaps part of a known north-south driveway connecting to the villages of Leeds and Hucking to the north with the Weald to the south.

Project dates Start: 18-05-2011 End: 19-05-2011

Previous/future work No / No

Any associated project reference codes 4796 - Contracting Unit No.

Any associated project reference codes SVH11 - Sitecode

Type of project Field evaluation

Site status None

Current Land use Grassland Heathland 3 - Disturbed

Monument type DITCH Late Prehistoric

Monument type DITCH Roman

Monument type DITCH Medieval

Significant Finds POTTERY Late Prehistoric

Significant Finds POTTERY Medieval

Methods & techniques 'Sample Trenches'

Development type Housing estate

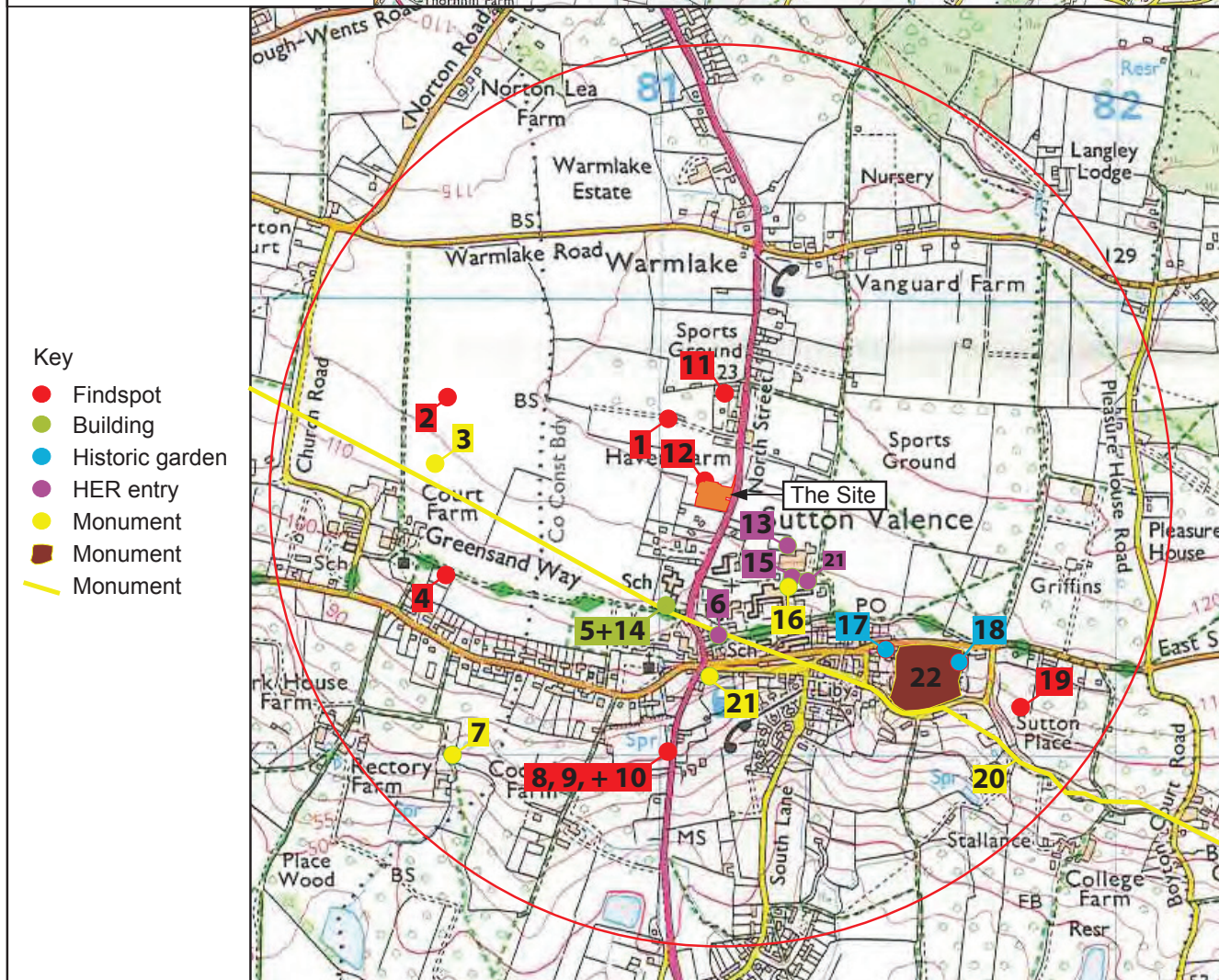
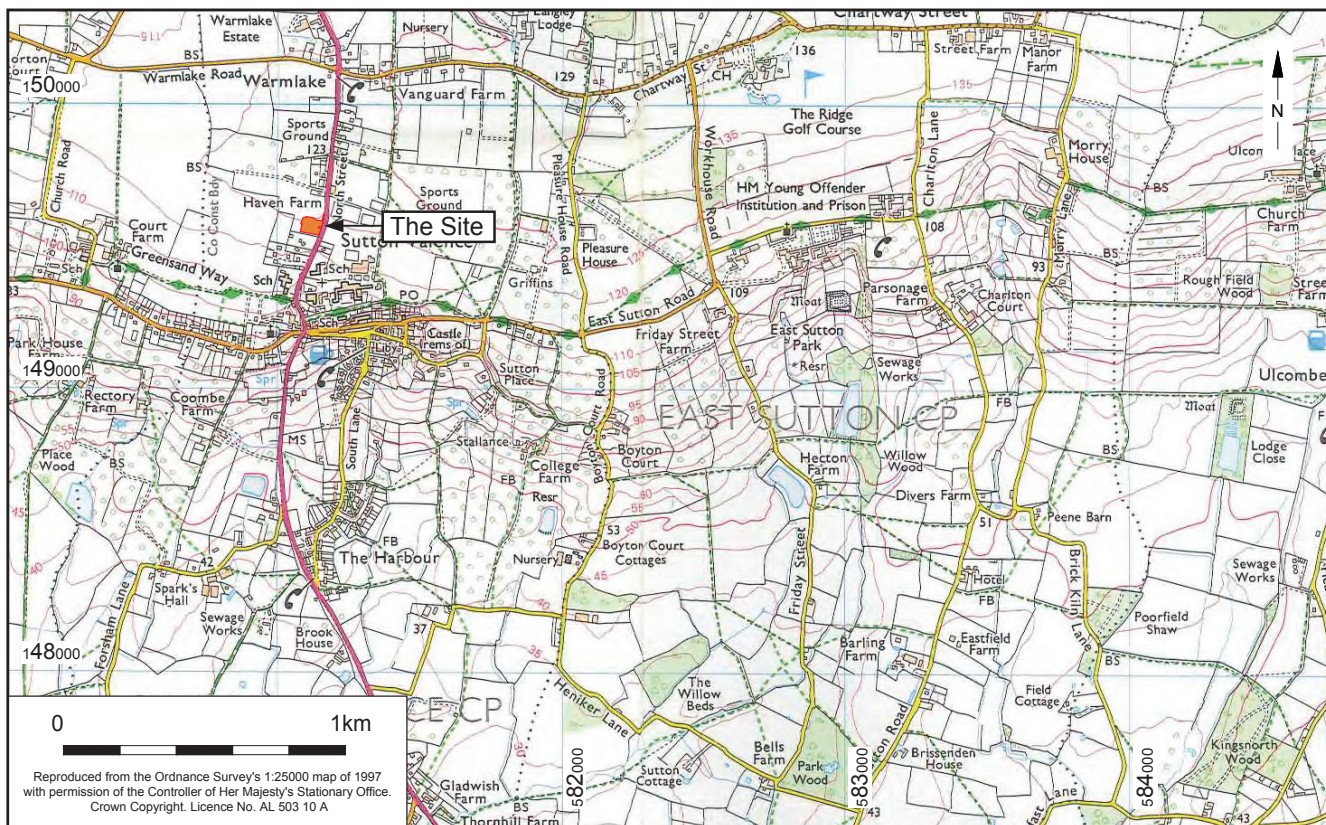
Prompt Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPS



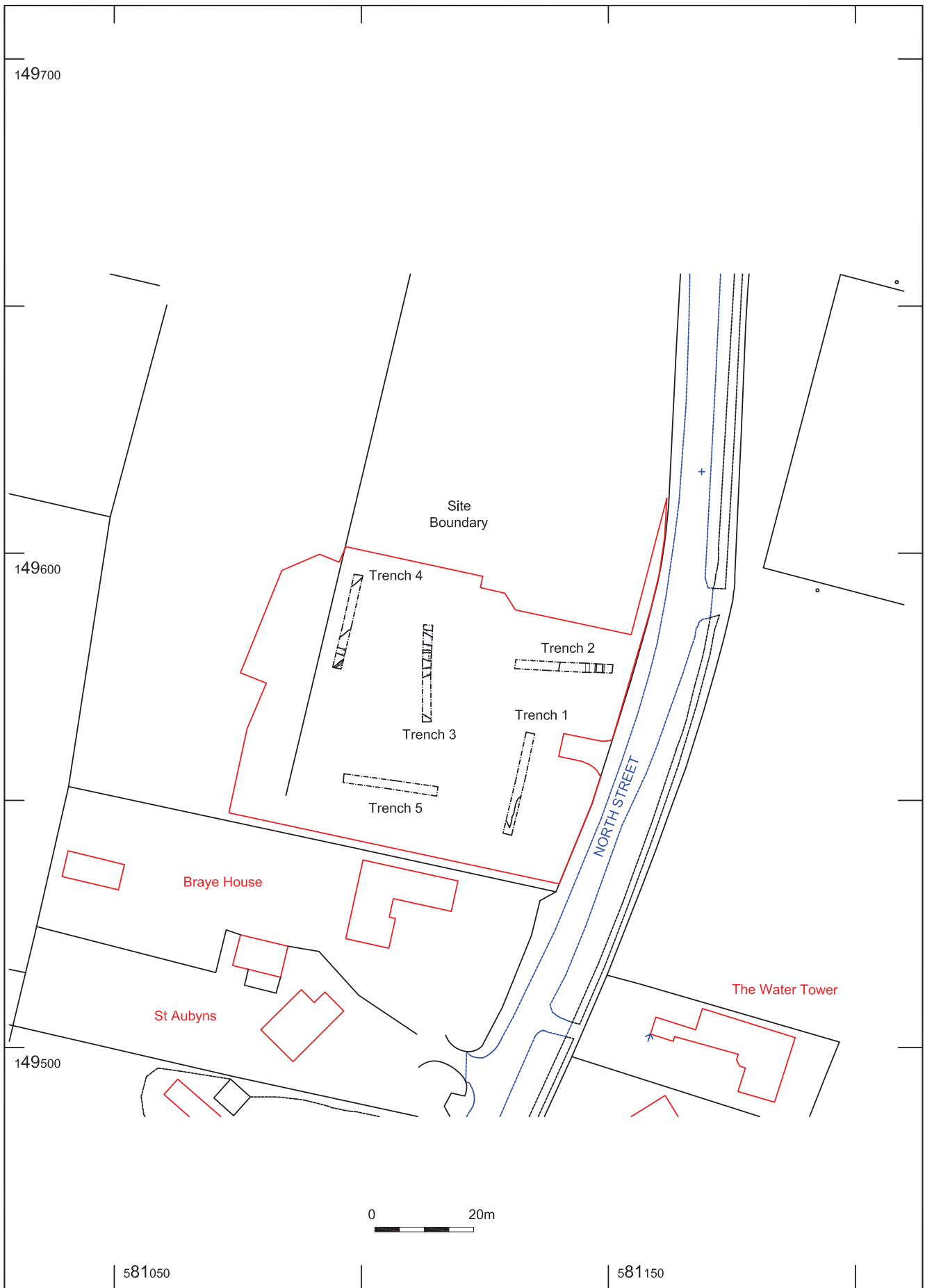
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Postcode	ME17 3AE
Study area	0.25 Hectares
Site coordinates	TQ 8111 4956 51.2159044683 0.593528633134 51 12 57 N 000 35 36 E Point
Project creators	
Name of Organisation	Archaeology South-East
Project brief originator	Kent County Council
Project design originator	Kent County Council
Project director/manager	JON SYGRAVE
Project supervisor	Giles Dawkes
Type of sponsor/funding body	private client
Project archives	
Physical Archive recipient	MAIDSTONE MUSEUM
Physical Contents	'Animal Bones','Ceramics','Environmental','Metal'
Digital Archive recipient	MAIDSTONE MUSEUM
Digital Contents	'Animal Bones','Ceramics','Environmental','Metal','Survey'
Digital Media available	'Database','Spreadsheets','Survey','Text'
Paper Archive recipient	MAIDSTONE MUSEUM
Paper Contents	'Animal Bones','Ceramics','Environmental','Metal','Survey'
Paper Media available	'Context sheet','Photograph','Plan','Report','Section','Survey '
Project bibliography	
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Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Haven Farm, North Street, near Sutton Valence, Kent Report on an Archaeological Evaluation
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Giles Dawkes
Other bibliographic details	2011121
Date	2011

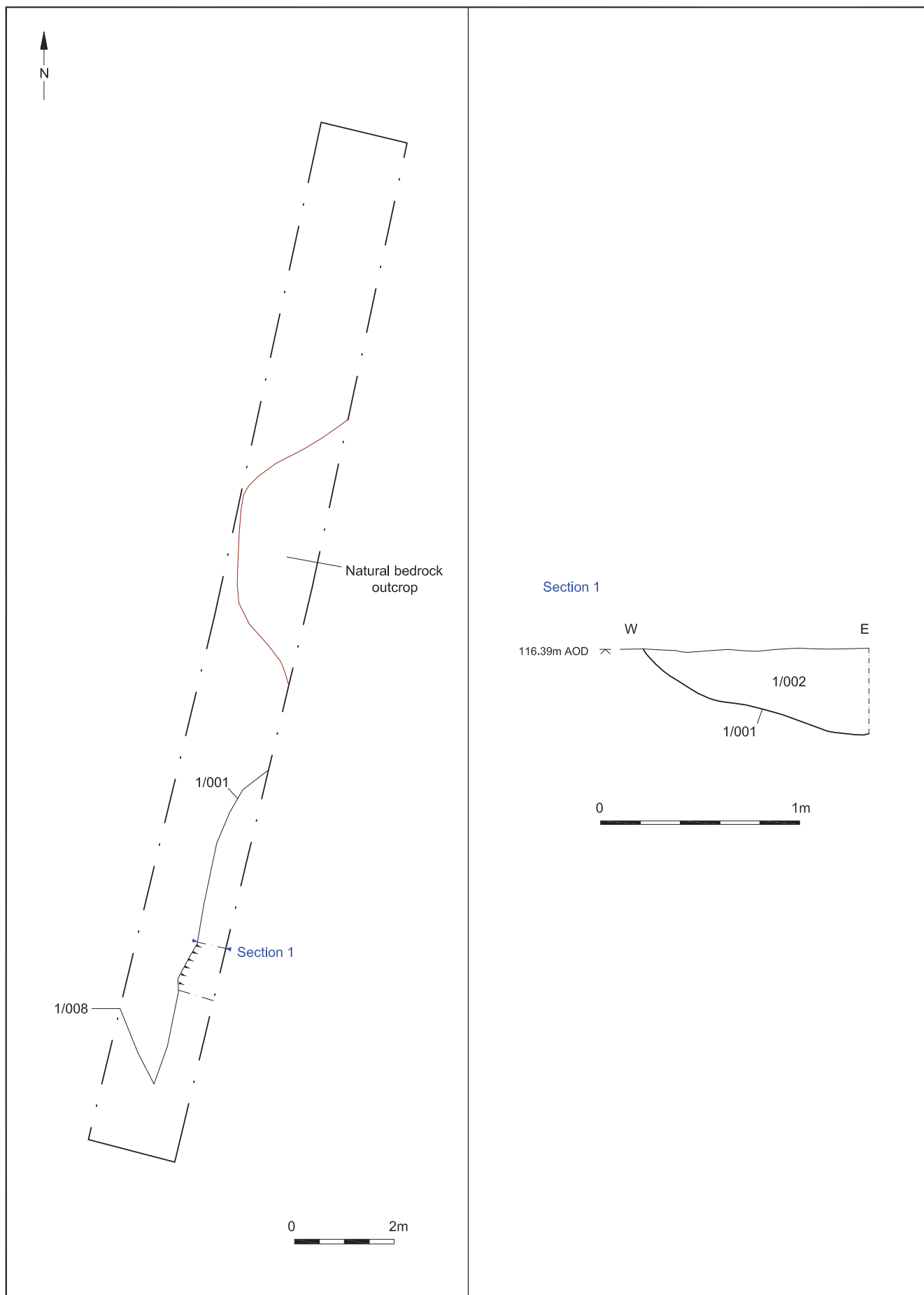
Issuer or publisher Archaeology South-East  
Place of issue or publication Portslade  
Description grey report  
Entered by Giles Dawkes (gilesdawkes@ucl.ac.uk)  
Entered on 27 May 2011



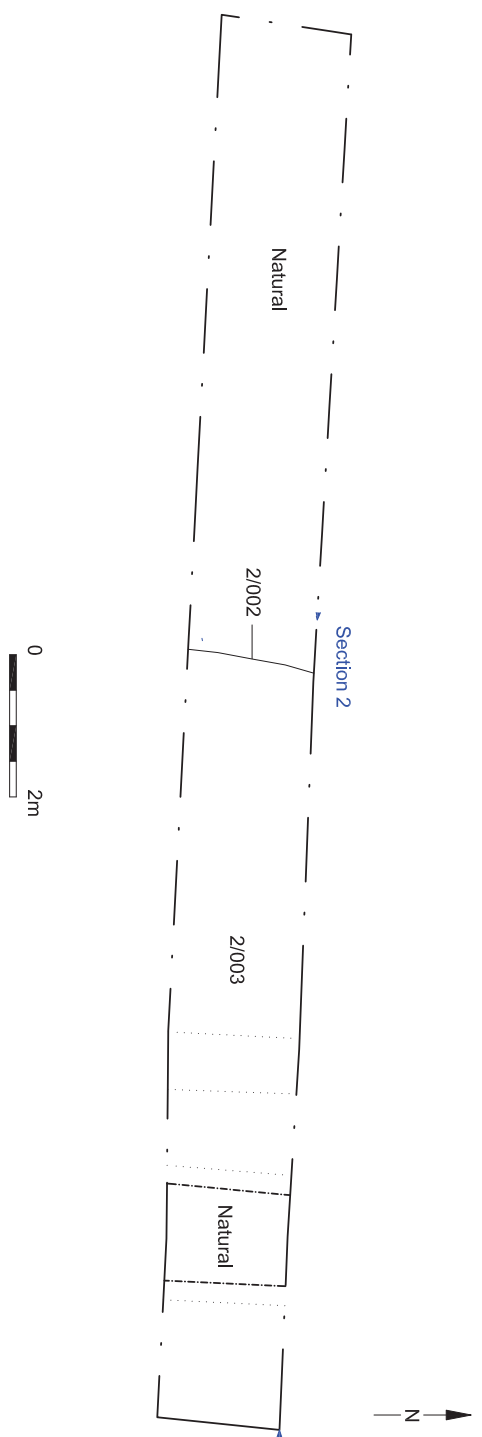


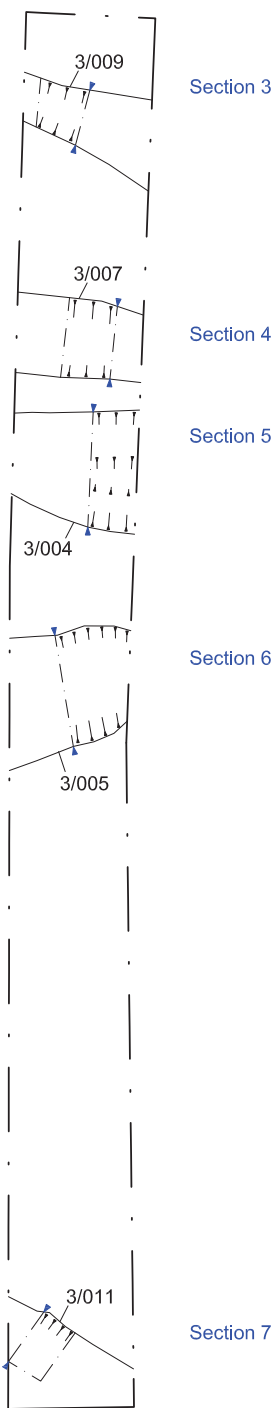






© Archaeology South-East		Haven Farm, Sutton Valence	Fig. 3
Project Ref: 4796	May 2011	Trench 1: Plan and section	
Report Ref: 2011121	Drawn by: DJH		



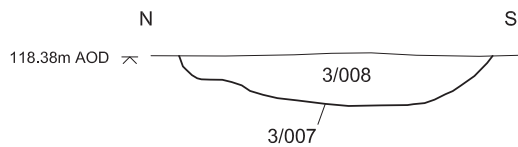


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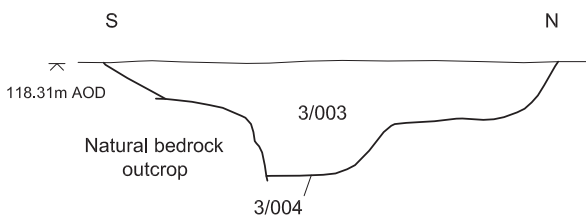
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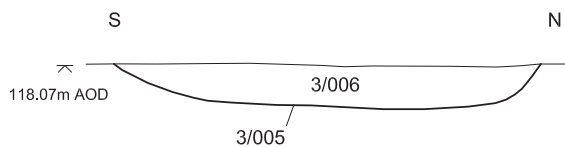
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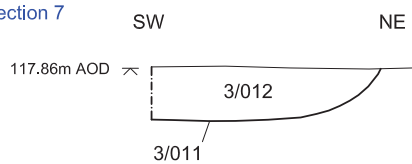
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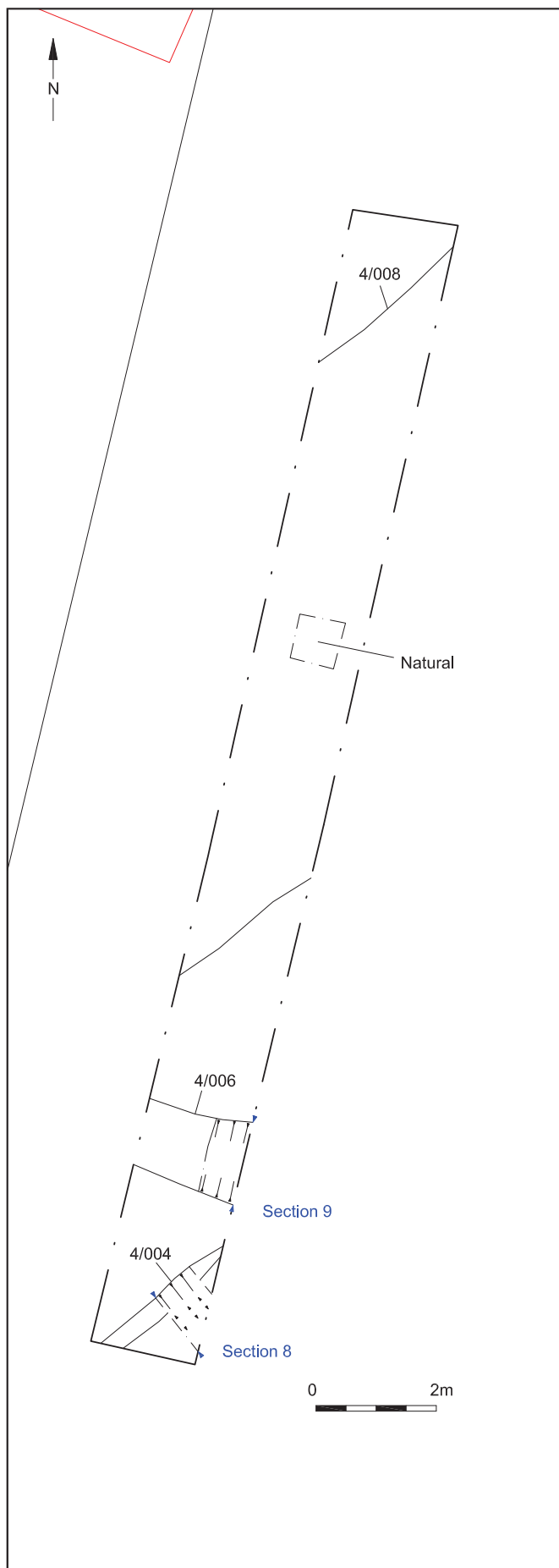
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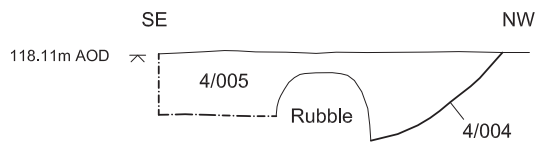
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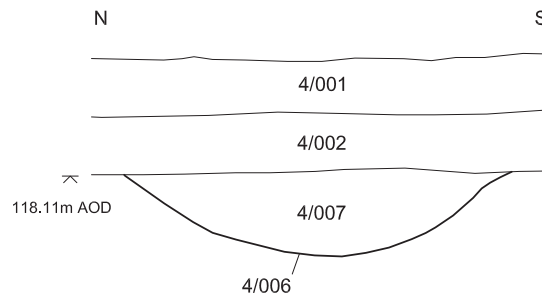
Trench 3 facing south



#### Section 8



#### Section 9





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