Archaeology South-East

ASE

Archaeological Evaluation Report
Land south of Colemans' Kitchen Wood, Brisley Farm, Chilmington Green, Ashford, Kent

NGR's 598000 140200, 59700 13900

Planning Ref: AS/12/00400

ASE Project No: 4819
Site Code: CGA 12

ASE Report No: 2012271
OASIS id: archaeol6-140434

By Ian Hogg
With contributions from Trista Clifford
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Abstract

Archaeology South-East was commissioned by CgMs Consulting on behalf of their client to undertake an archaeological evaluation on land at Chilmington Green, Ashford, Kent in advance of the development of the site.

Eighteen trenches, between 30.00m x 2.00m in area, were excavated across two fields. The trenches locations were targeted on the results from two previous geophysical surveys and on the results from excavations on the land to the north of the site.

Natural Weald Clay was revealed at heights between 37.31m and 53.69m AOD. Several, largely undated, features were recorded. In the northern part the site, a series of small, undated ditches and a pit were recorded; these features may represent prehistoric activity. A further 3 ditches and another discrete feature may be modern. In most cases, the findings do not correspond to the geophysical surveys. Some horizontal truncation from deep ploughing was observed across the site.

The evaluation has produced a result that fits well with the current model of archaeological activity around the Brisley Farm / Chilmington Green locale (Stevenson forthcoming) and it seems that the area evaluated is likely to be within ditched fields rather than densely occupied settlement. The evaluation has also confirmed that the major Iron Age / Romano-British Brisley Farm settlement does not continue in this area and that its edge lies some way to the northeast of Trench 11 and to the east of Trench 8.

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Site Background

1.1.1 Archaeology South-East (ASE), the contracting division of The Centre for Applied Archaeology (CAA) at the Institute of Archaeology (IoA), University College London (UCL) was commissioned by CgMs Consulting (CgMs) on behalf of their client to undertake an archaeological evaluation in advance of development on land at Chilmington Green, Ashford, Kent. The site is centred on National Grid References (NGR) 598000 140200 and 59700 13900 and its location is shown in Figure 1.

1.2 Geology and Topography

1.2.1 The site measures approximately 364ha in size and is located to the southwest of Ashford. It comprises open grassland surrounded by the settlements of Great Chart to the north, Kingsnorth to the east, Stubb's Cross to the southwest, Shadoxhurst to the southeast and Singleton and Stanhope to the northeast.

1.2.2 The underlying geology of the site is Weald Clay (BGS 2012).

1.2.3 The evaluation was focused on two fields; the northern field lay immediately to the east of Chilmington Green Farm, the southern field lay to the south of Chilmington Green Road.

1.3 Planning Background

1.3.1 An outline planning application has been submitted (Number AS/12/00400). Broadly, it is proposed to develop a new mixed-use urban neighbourhood comprising *c*. 5,750 residential units with associated formal and informal open spaces, community facilities, utilities and transport infrastructure.

1.3.2 An archaeological Desk Based Assessment (WSP, 2010) for the site as a whole was produced in 2010. That document demonstrated that it has the potential to contain significant archaeological remains from several periods. Subsequent work has been undertaken by Wessex Archaeology including targeted evaluation (Wessex Archaeology 2011a) and geophysics (Wessex Archaeology 2011b) along with an Historic Landscape & Built Heritage Appraisal (Wessex Archaeology 2011c). Consequently CgMs and their clients decided to undertake a programme of further archaeological geophysical survey (ASE 2012a), woodland survey (ASE 2012b) and evaluation trenching to better understand the extent and likely requirements for any mitigation work that may be required should a planning application be approved.

1.3.3 A Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI; ASE 2012c) for the archaeological evaluation was prepared with reference to consultation between ASE and CgMs Consulting Limited and KCC Heritage Conservation Group and was submitted to KCC Heritage Conservation Group for approval.

1.3.4 The evaluation programme followed on from the previous geophysical surveys (ASE 2012a and Wessex Archaeology 2011b) and was designed to investigate anomalies identified during these earlier works and to inform further possible mitigation.

1.4 Aims and Objectives

1.4.1 The Aims and Objectives of the archaeological evaluation were:

- To assess whether archaeological remains extend across the investigation areas to the south and west of Brisley Farm.
- To assess the character, extent, preservation, significance, date and quality of any such remains and deposits
- To assess how they might be affected by the development of the site
- To assess what options should be considered for mitigation
- To further understand the relationship between topography and the archaeological resource and (as per models previously put forward) (Stevenson, forthcoming).
- Investigate key anomalies identified during the geophysical surveys (see Table 1)

1.4.2 Specific objectives in order to fulfil the above aims were:

- Identify any evidence of the Late Bronze age field system thought to exist across South Ashford (northeast-southwest aligned ditches) (all trenches)
- Attempt to identify the southern extent of Brisley Farm Late Iron Age – Romano British occupation (Trenches 7-11)
- Assess whether there is a small, isolated focus of occupation to the southwest of Brisley Farm (Trenches 12-14)
- Assess whether there are likely to be any roadside burials (cremation or inhumation) adjacent to the Roman Road (Trenches 15-18)

1.5 Scope of Report

1.5.1 This report details the results of the archaeological evaluation carried out on the site between the 17th and 21st December 2012 and has been prepared in accordance with the Written Scheme of Investigation (ASE 2012c). The work was carried out by Ian Hogg (Archaeologist) Antonio Reiss (Archaeologist) and Cat Douglas (Archaeologist). It was managed by Darryl Palmer and Andy Leonard (fieldwork) and Jim Stevenson (post-excavation).

1.6 Trench Location Rationale

Specific geophysical anomalies to be targeted are given in Table 1, below (Figure 2):

Trench No	Geophysical Anomalies Targeted*	Comments
1.	C1, F1	Investigate magnetic response (C1) and bipolar anomaly (F1), are they non-archaeological?
2.	4031	Confirm that large linear n-s anomaly (4031) is non-archaeological.
3.	D1, F2	Confirm large n-s linear bipolar anomaly (F2) and magnetic disturbance (D1) are non-archaeological.
4.	A5, D2	Investigate discrete possible archaeological features (A5). Test magnetic disturbance (D2). Additionally, this trench is targeted on the conjectured alignment of a LBA field system ditch from Brisley Farm Area 6 (not detected in geophysics survey).
5	A8, E3	Investigate linear anomaly A8 and other linear / curvilinear anomalies in the vicinity. Investigate dipolar anomaly (E3) (possible ferrous object or may represent buried kilns or ovens).
6.	A11, A12	Investigate linear positive anomalies (A11). Investigate discrete positive anomalies (A12). A further, broad, objective is to assess whether the density of archaeological remains decreases in this vicinity (as is suspected from the results of previous work)
7.	-	Test if north –south aligned ditches (forming Iron Age field system found in Brisley Farm Are 6) continue this far southeast. Test whether the density of archaeological remains decreases in this vicinity
8.	A9	Investigate linear anomalies A9. The main objective is to confirm the southern extent of the Late Iron Age / Romano-British occupation found in Brisley Farm Area 3 and the evaluation of Brisley Farm Area 9.
9.	-	Trenches located to test if main focus of Brisley Farm Late Iron Age / Romano-British occupation has run out by this point.
10.	-	Trenches located to test if main focus of Brisley Farm Late Iron Age Romano-British occupation has run out by this point.
11.	A10, E4	Investigate discrete positive anomalies (A10) and (E4). A further, broad, objective is to assess whether the density of archaeological remains is reducing in this vicinity.
12	4034, 4035, 4036	Investigate the cluster of archaeological anomalies including possible ring ditches / gullies (4034-4036) identified during the Wessex Archaeology geophysical survey. Does this vicinity represent a discrete, settlement located on higher ground?
13	4034, 4035, 4036	Investigate the cluster of archaeological anomalies including possible ring ditches / gullies (4034-4036) identified during the Wessex Archaeology geophysical survey. Does this vicinity represent a discrete, settlement located on higher ground?
14	4034, 4035, 4036	Investigate the cluster of archaeological anomalies including possible ring ditches / gullies (4034-4036) identified during the Wessex Archaeology geophysical survey. Does this vicinity represent a discrete, settlement located on higher ground?
15	4099, 4100	Investigate possibility of burials alongside Roman Road
16	4099, 4100	Investigate possibility of burials alongside Roman Road
17	4099, 4100	Investigate possibility of burials alongside Roman Road
18	4099, 4100	Investigate possibility of burials alongside Roman Road

Table 1: Trench location rationale. Anomalies prefixed by a letter (A1, E1 etc) refer to ASE geophysics report (ASE 2012a). Anomalies represented by a number (4031 etc) refer to Wessex Archaeology geophysics report (Wessex Archaeology 2011b).

2.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 An Archaeological Desk Based Assessment of the entire site has been undertaken by WSP (WSP 2010) with further work undertaken by Wessex Archaeology (Wessex 2010; 2011a, b & c). Detailed work has also been undertaken for the nearby Brisley Farm site (adjacent to Colemans' Kitchen Wood (ASE 2004a & b; 2010; Stevenson forthcoming) and another nearby site (ASE 2004c). The full archaeological and historical background for the site is presented in those documents and is not repeated here.

3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY

3.1 Eighteen trial trenches were mechanically excavated on the site, 14 trenches in the field in the north of the site and four in the southern field. Each trench measured 30m x 2m in plan (Figure 2).

3.3 All trenches were scanned using a Cable Avoidance Tool (CAT) prior to excavation. Excavation was undertaken in spits of no more than 0.10m to the top of the underlying natural substrate, or to the top of archaeological deposits, whichever was higher.

3.4 All hand excavation and recording was undertaken in line with the methodology outlined in the WSI (ASE 2012c) with deposits recorded on ASE standard recording sheets. Test pits were recorded on plastic drawing film at appropriate scales.

3.5 Trenches were located and tied in to the Ordnance Survey using a GPS unit.

3.6 Spoil heaps and trench bases were scanned by eye, for unstratified artefacts.

3.7 Archive Quantification

Number of Contexts	76
No. of files/paper record	1
Plan and sections sheets	8
Bulk Samples	2
Photographs	61 digital photographs
Bulk finds	1 bag
Registered finds	None
Environmental flots/residue	2

Table 2: Quantification of site archive

4.0 RESULTS

4.1 Trench 1 (Figure 3)

4.1.1 Trench 1 was located in the north-west of the northern field and was targeted to confirm that the magnetic response (C1) and bipolar anomaly (F1) in this area are not archaeological; it was aligned north-east to south-west and measured 30.00m x 2.00m. The trench was 0.62m deep at the north-eastern end and 0.61m deep at the south-western end; excavation ceased at the top of the natural chalky clay.

4.1.2 The earliest deposit observed in Trench 1 was a natural pale yellowish grey chalky clay marl [1/05] observed between 52.45m and 53.69m AOD. The natural was sealed by dark orangey brown clayey silt plough soil [1/04] between 0.26m and 0.29m thick.

4.1.3 The plough soil was cut by a north-east to south-west aligned linear gully [1/01], this gully measured 5.50m in length, 0.53m in width and 0.09m in depth, it had gently sloping sides and a flat base. The gully fill [1/02] consisted of soft greyish brown silty clay; it contained fragments of modern pottery and CBM which were not retained.

4.1.4 The gully was cut by a very recent intervention at its northern end and was overlain by a dark greyish brown clayey silt topsoil [1/03] between 0.24m and 0.27m in thickness.

Trench Number	Context	Type	Description	Deposit Thickness m	Height m AOD
1	03	Layer	Topsoil	0.15-0.25	52.97 - 54.32
1	04	Layer	Plough Soil	0.32-0.46	52.71 - 54.08
1	05	Layer	Weald Clay	0.10m	52.45 - 53.69

Table 3: Trench 1 list of recorded contexts

4.2 Trench 2

4.2.1 Trench 2 was located in the north-west of the northern field and was targeted to confirm that a north-south aligned linear (4031) was not archaeological; the trench was aligned east-west and measured 30.00m x 2.00m. The trench was 0.45m deep at the eastern end and 0.44m deep at the western end; excavation ceased at the top of the natural Weald Clay.

4.2.2 The earliest deposit observed in Trench 2 was the pale yellowish grey silty clay natural [2/03], between 44.72m and 45.90m AOD. The Weald Clay was sealed by a greyish brown sandy silty clay deposit identified as plough soil [2/02], it was between 0.14m and 0.20m thick. The plough soil was cut by a large modern culvert located in the east of the trench and aligned north-south and corresponding with (4031) found during the geophysics. The uppermost deposit in the trench was the topsoil [2/01], a dark greyish brown clayey silt between 0.30m and 0.34m thick.

4.2.3 No archaeological features were identified within Trench 2.

Trench Number	Context	Type	Description	Deposit Thickness m	Height m AOD
2	01	Layer	Topsoil	0.30 - 0.34	45.20 - 46.41
2	02	Layer	Plough Soil	0.14 - 0.20	44.86 - 46.05
2	03	Layer	Weald Clay	0.06 – 0.15	44.72 - 45.90

Table 4: Trench 2 list of recorded contexts

4.3 Trench 3 (Figure 4)

4.3.1 Trench 3 was located in the centre of the northern field; it was aligned north-south and measured 30.00m x 2.00m. This trench targeted on a bipolar anomaly (F2) and magnetic disturbance (D1), to confirm they were non-archaeological. The trench was 0.53m deep at the southern end and 0.36m deep at the northern end; excavation ceased at the top of the natural Weald Clay.

4.3.2 The earliest deposit observed in Trench 3 was the Weald Clay [3/03]; it consisted of pale greyish yellow silty clay observed between 42.98m and 43.96m AOD.

4.3.3 The natural was cut by a small gully [3/04] aligned east-west not identified by the geophysics. The gully was linear with steeply sloping sides and a v-shaped base; it measured 2.00m in length, 0.56m in width and 0.44m in depth. The primary fill [3/05] consisted of pale greyish yellow silty clay redeposited natural 0.18m thick; the secondary fill [3/06] was a mid orangey grey silty clay with occasional charcoal flecking, it was 0.26m thick. Neither fill contained any finds and the feature remains undated.

4.3.4 The gully was overlain by mid greyish brown silty clay plough soil [3/02], 0.20m thick. The plough soil was sealed by topsoil [3/01], this deposit consisted of dark brownish grey clayey silt between 0.15m and 0.18m in thickness.

Trench Number	Context	Type	Description	Deposit Thickness m	Height m AOD
3	01	Layer	Topsoil	0.15 - 0.18	43.34 - 44.29
3	02	Layer	Plough Soil	0.20	43.18 - 44.14
3	03	Layer	Weald Clay	0.01 – 0.27	42.98 - 43.96

Table 5: Trench 3 list of recorded contexts

4.4 **Trench 4** (Figure 6)

4.4.1 Trench 4 was located in the centre of the northern field; it was aligned north-south and measured 30.00m x 2.00m. The trench was targeted on a possible discrete feature (A5) and a magnetic disturbance (D2) as well as the projected line of a Bronze Age field system ditch identified in 2010 (ASE 2010). None of these features were identified in the evaluation. The trench was 0.55m deep at the northern end and 0.60m deep at the southern end; excavation ceased at the top of the natural Weald Clay.

4.4.2 The earliest deposit observed in Trench 4 was pale yellowish grey Weald Clay [4/03], observed between 42.75m and 43.68m AOD.

4.4.3 The natural was cut by a single discrete pit in the centre of the trench not identified by the geophysics; the pit [4/05] was subcircular with moderately sloping sides and an uneven base, it measured 0.80m x 0.70m x 0.12m. The pit fill [4/04], a dark blackish grey clayey silt with frequent charcoal and manganese inclusions, contained tiny fragments of mammal bone retrieved from the environmental sample taken. The fill contained no dateable finds and the feature remains undated.

4.4.4 The feature was sealed by plough soil [4/02], a mid greyish brown silty clay 0.20m thick, this deposit was overlain by the dark greyish brown clayey silt topsoil [4/01] 0.25m thick.

Trench Number	Context	Type	Description	Deposit Thickness m	Height m AOD
4	01	Layer	Topsoil	0.15-0.25	43.25 - 44.18
4	02	Layer	Plough Soil	0.32-0.46	43.00 - 43.93
4	03	Layer	Weald Clay	0.10m	42.75 - 43.68

Table 6: Trench 4 list of recorded contexts

4.5 Trenches 5, 6, 7, 9, 10 and 11

4.5.1 No features were identified within Trenches 5, 6, 7, 9, 10 and 11; these trenches all measured 30.00m x 2.00m and displayed a similar stratigraphic sequence and were all located in the centre and east of the northern field. The trenches were located upon various geophysical anomalies (see Table 1) or to test for the occurrence and/or density of archaeological features in relation to the Brisley Farm excavations (ASE 2010).

4.5.2 Natural pale greyish yellow weald clay [03] was observed in all six trenches; it was overlain by a mid yellowish brown silty clay plough soil [03] between 0.12m and 0.21m thick. The plough soil was sealed by dark greyish brown clayey silt topsoil [01], between 0.22m and 0.33m thick.

4.5.3 Trench 5 was located in the centre of the northern field; it was targeted on linear and curvilinear anomalies (A5) as well as dipolar anomaly (E3) thought to be possible ferrous objects or kilns (D5). It measured 30.00m x 2.00m and was aligned north-east to south-west. The trench was between 0.50m and 0.55m deep and was excavated to the top of the Weald Clay.

4.5.4 Trench 6 was located in the east of the northern field; it was targeted on linear (A11) and discrete anomalies (A12). It measured 30.00m x 2.00m and was aligned east to west. The trench was between 0.55m and 0.60m deep and was excavated to the top of the Weald Clay.

4.5.5 Trench 7 was located in the east of the northern field; it was targeted on investigating the presence of an Iron Age field system. It measured 30.00m x 2.00m and was aligned north-east to south-west. The trench was between 0.50m and 0.55m deep and was excavated to the top of the Weald Clay.

4.5.6 Trench 9 was located in the south-east of the northern field; it was targeted on the presence of Iron Age and Roman settlement activity in this area. It measured 30.00m x 2.00m and was aligned north-west to south-east. The trench was between 0.50m and 0.55m deep and was excavated to the top of the Weald Clay.

4.5.7 Trench 10 was located in the south-east of the northern field; it was targeted on investigating the presence of Iron Age and Roman settlement activity in this area. It measured 30.00m x 2.00m and was aligned north-west to south-east. The trench was between 0.60m and 0.68m deep and was excavated to the top of the Weald Clay.

4.5.8 Trench 11 was located in the south-east of the northern field; it was targeted on investigating two discrete anomalies (A10) and (E4). It measured 30.00m x 2.00m and was aligned east to west. The trench was between 0.45m and 0.52m deep and was excavated to the top of the Weald Clay.

Trench Number	Context	Type	Description	Deposit Thickness m	Height m AOD
5	01	Layer	Topsoil	0.25	41.56 - 42.15
5	02	Layer	Plough Soil	0.15	41.31 - 42.90
5	03	Layer	Weald Clay	0.10	41.16 - 41.75
6	01	Layer	Topsoil	0.25 - 0.30	39.10 - 39.18
6	02	Layer	Plough Soil	0.15	38.83 - 38.85
6	03	Layer	Weald Clay	0.10	38.68 - 38.70
7	01	Layer	Topsoil	0.25	39.38 - 39.72
7	02	Layer	Plough Soil	0.15-0.20	39.23 - 39.52
7	03	Layer	Weald Clay	0.10 – 0.15	39.03 - 39.42
9	01	Layer	Topsoil	0.25	38.61 - 38.87
9	02	Layer	Plough Soil	0.20	38.36 - 38.62
9	03	Layer	Weald Clay	0.10	38.16 - 38.42
10	01	Layer	Topsoil	0.33	38.22 - 38.28
10	02	Layer	Plough Soil	0.20	37.89 - 37.95
10	03	Layer	Weald Clay	0.15	37.69 - 37.75
11	01	Layer	Topsoil	0.22 – 0.30	38.29 - 38.34
11	02	Layer	Plough Soil	0.12 - 0.21	37.99 - 38.12
11	03	Layer	Weald Clay	0.03 – 0.06	37.87 - 37.91

Table 7: Trenches 5, 6, 7, 9, 10 and 11 list of recorded contexts

4.6 Trench 8 (Figure 6)

4.6.1 Trench 8 was located in the north-east of the northern field; it was aligned north-south and measured 30.00m x 2.00m. The trench was targeted to determine the possible extent of the Late Iron Age/Romano-British settlement activity found at Brisley Farm and on linear geophysical anomalies (A9). The trench was 0.33m deep at the northern end and 0.37m deep at the southern end; excavation ceased at the top of the natural Weald Clay.

4.6.2 Natural pale greyish yellow Weald Clay [8/03] was observed between 38.88m and 39.34m AOD. The natural clay was cut by a gully and a possible pit.

4.6.3 The gully [8/04] was linear, aligned north-east to south-west, with steeply sloping sides and a flat base; it measured 2.30m in length, 0.45m in width and 0.42m in depth. The gully fill [8/05] consisted of bluish grey silty clay and contained no finds. This gully did correspond with a linear anomaly in the geophysical survey and may form part of a field system.

4.6.4 The possible pit [8/06] was subrectangular in shape with irregular sides and an undulating base; it measured 2.00m in length, 1.40m in width and was 0.28m deep. The fill [8/07] consisted of loose mid brown clayey silt and contained no finds. This feature may simply be evidence of rooting or a heavily root disturbed pit.

4.6.5 The features were sealed by a plough soil deposit [8/02] between 0.12m and 0.24m thick; this deposit was a mid brownish grey silty clay. The plough soil was overlain by a topsoil deposit [8/01], a dark greyish brown clayey silt between 0.14m and 0.24m in thickness.

Trench Number	Context	Type	Description	Deposit Thickness m	Height m AOD
8	01	Layer	Topsoil	0.14 - 0.24	39.24 - 39.66
8	02	Layer	Plough Soil	0.12 - 0.24	39.00 - 39.52
8	03	Layer	Weald Clay	0.01 - 0.07	38.88 - 39.34

Table 8: Trench 8 list of recorded contexts

4.7 **Trench 12** (Figure 7)

4.7.1 Trench 12 was located in the south of the northern field; it measured 30.00m x 2.00m, it was aligned north-east to south-west and together with Trenches 13 and 14 formed an H shape. The trench was targeted on a cluster of geophysical anomalies including curvilinear features and linears (4034, 4035 and 4036). The trench was 0.35m deep at the south-western end of the trench and 0.46m deep at the north-eastern end; excavation ceased at the top of the natural Weald Clay.

4.7.2 Natural pale greyish yellow Weald clay [12/03] was observed between 38.88m and 39.20m AOD. Cut into the natural clay were two intercutting ditches [12/04] and [12/07] which both ran on a north-west to south-east alignment. These ditches corresponded with anomalies highlighted in the geophysical survey.

4.7.3 Ditch [12/04] was 2.00m long, 1.20m in width and 0.30m in depth, it had steeply sloping sides and a flat base. The ditch fill [12/05] consisted of mid greyish brown silty clay, and contained a single sherd of modern green bottle glass.

4.7.4 Fill [12/05] was cut by a second ditch [12/07], this feature had gently sloping sides and a flat base; it measured 2.00m in length, 1.60m in width and 0.30m in depth. The primary fill [12/08] consisted of mid brown silty clay and contained no finds, it was 0.30m thick. Secondary fill [12/06] a firm reddish grey silty clay 0.15m thick, also contained no finds.

4.7.5 A thin plough soil deposit [12/02] overlay the features, this consisted of mid greyish brown silty clay between 0.07m and 0.19m thick. This was sealed by a dark greyish brown silty clay topsoil [12/01] between 0.18m and 0.27m thick. The ditches seen in Trench 12 were recorded in the geophysical survey, the other anomalies within the trench were not observed.

Trench Number	Context	Type	Description	Deposit Thickness m	Height m AOD
12	01	Layer	Topsoil	0.18 - 0.27	39.22 - 39.57
12	02	Layer	Plough Soil	0.07 - 0.19	38.95 - 39.39
12	03	Layer	Weald Clay	0.01 - 0.12	38.88 - 39.20

Table 9: Trench 12 list of recorded contexts

4.8 Trench 13 (Figure 8)

4.8.1 Trench 13 was located in the south of the northern field; it measured 30.00m x 2.00m, it was aligned south-east to north-west and was targeted in a series on geophysical anomalies (4034, 4035 and 4036). The trench was 0.60m deep, excavation ceased at the top of the Weald Clay.

4.8.2 Natural greyish yellow silty clay [13/03] was observed throughout the trench between 38.48m and 38.74m AOD.

4.8.3 The natural clay was cut by a single gully [13/04]; the gully was linear with steep sides and a curved base, it was aligned north to south and measured 2.00m in length within Trench 13, it was 0.65m wide and 0.27m deep. The gully fill [13/05] consisted of pale yellowish brown silty clay and did not contain any finds.

4.8.4 The gully was overlain by plough soil [13/02], a mid greyish brown silty clay 0.14m thick; this deposit was overlain by the dark greyish brown clayey silt topsoil [13/01] 0.45m thick. As with Trench 12 the geophysical anomalies were not observed as archaeological features within this trench.

Trench Number	Context	Type	Description	Deposit Thickness m	Height m AOD
13	01	Layer	Topsoil	0.45	39.07 - 39.33
13	02	Layer	Plough Soil	0.14	38.62 - 38.88
13	03	Layer	Weald Clay	0.01	38.48 - 38.74

Table 10: Trench 13 list of recorded contexts

4.9 Trench 14 (Figure 8)

4.9.1 Trench 14 was located in the south of the northern field; it measured 30.00m x 2.00m and was aligned north-east to south-west. The trench was 0.44m deep at the north-eastern end of the trench and 0.75m deep at the south-western end; excavation ceased at the top of the natural clay. The trench was targeted on a cluster of geophysical anomalies (4034, 4035 and 4036).

4.9.2 Natural pale yellowish grey Weald Clay [14/03] was observed throughout the trench, between 38.30m and 38.69m AOD. The natural clay was cut by a series of linears.

4.9.3 The largest and most northerly linear [14/10] was aligned northern-west to south-east, it had moderately sloping sides, the feature could not be fully excavated due to the high water table; it measured 2.00m in length, 3.01m in width and was at least 0.60m deep. The primary fill [14/11] consisted of firm reddish grey silty clay 0.26m thick, it did not contain any finds. This fill was sampled for environmental remains which revealed fragments of modern grass. The secondary ditch fill [14/12] consisted of pale grey silty clay 0.40m thick, again no finds were retrieved. The colour and consistency of the fills suggest that ditch may have had a drainage function or at least contained water.

4.9.4 In the centre of the trench a second linear [14/08] ran north-south, this feature was the same as that seen in Trench 13 as [13/04]. The ditch, although very similar in shape was rather deeper in this trench, measuring 2.20m in length, 1.10m in width and 0.75m in depth. The fill [14/09] was very similar to [13/05] and once again did not contain finds.

4.9.5 At the south-western end of the trench, a pair of north-west to south-east aligned, parallel, intercutting ditches were recorded [14/04] and [14/06]. These ditches corresponded with anomalies highlighted in the geophysical survey. The features are equivalent to [12/04] and [12/07] respectively. Ditch [14/04] had moderately sloping sides and a flat base, it measured 2.00m in length, 0.80m in width and 0.33m in depth. The fill [14/05] was very similar to [12/05], it did not contain any finds.

4.9.6 Fill [14/05] was cut by ditch [14/06], a linear with moderately sloping sides and a concave base, it measured 2.00m in length, 1.20m in width and 0.50m in depth. The ditch fill [14/07] was very similar to [12/08], again it contained no finds.

4.9.7 The features were sealed by a plough soil deposit [14/02] of mid greyish brown silty clay between 0.18m and 0.42m thick. The plough soil was overlain by topsoil deposit [14/01], a dark greyish brown clayey silt between 0.20m and 0.41m thick.

Trench Number	Context	Type	Description	Deposit Thickness m	Height m AOD
14	01	Layer	Topsoil	0.20 - 0.41	39.13 - 39.17
14	02	Layer	Plough Soil	0.18 - 0.42	38.72 - 38.97
14	03	Layer	Weald Clay	0.10m	38.30 - 38.69

Table 11: Trench 14 list of recorded contexts

4.10 Trenches 15, 16, 17, 18

4.10.1 No archaeological features were identified with Trenches 15, 16, 17 and 18; these trenches displayed a similar stratigraphic sequence and were all located in the centre of the southern field. All four trenches were targeted on investigating the possibility of burials adjacent to a probable Roman road.

4.10.2 The earliest deposit recorded in these trenches was firm, pale, greyish yellow Weald Clay natural [02]. The Weald Clay was sealed by the dark greyish brown clayey silt topsoil [01], which measured between 0.31m and 0.48m in thickness.

4.10.3 Trench 15 was the westernmost of the four trenches; it measured 30.00m x 2.00m and was aligned north to south. The trench was between 0.38m and 0.45m deep and was excavated to the top of the Weald Clay.

4.10.4 Trench 16 was located to the south of Trench 15; it measured 30.00m x 2.00m and was aligned north to south. The trench was between 0.42m and 0.43m deep and was excavated to the top of the Weald Clay.

4.10.5 Trench 17 was located to the east of Trench 15; it measured 30.00m x 2.00m and was aligned north to south. The trench was between 0.45m and 0.50m deep and was excavated to the top of the Weald Clay.

4.10.6 Trench 18 was located to the south of Trench 17; it measured 30.00m x 2.00m and was aligned north to south. The trench was between 0.35m and 0.41m deep and was excavated to the top of the Weald Clay.

Trench Number	Context	Type	Description	Deposit Thickness m	Height m AOD
15	01	Layer	Topsoil	0.37 – 0.41	37.72 - 38.18
15	02	Layer	Weald Clay	0.05 – 0.08	37.31 - 37.78
16	01	Layer	Topsoil	0.32 – 0.41	38.40 - 38.59
16	02	Layer	Weald Clay	0.02 – 0.10	37.99 - 38.21
17	01	Layer	Topsoil	0.39 – 0.48	37.86 - 38.02
17	02	Layer	Weald Clay	0.03 – 0.11	37.47 - 37.60
18	01	Layer	Topsoil	0.31 – 0.37	38.31 - 38.34
18	02	Layer	Weald Clay	0.04 – 0.06	37.94 - 37.97

Table 12: Trenches 15, 16, 17 and 18 list of recorded contexts

5.0 THE FINDS

5.1 **The Glass** by Trista Clifford

5.5.1 The only find retrieved from the site was a small sherd of glass (Table 13), it was washed and dried after which it was weighed. It does not require further conservation.

5.5.2 The single fragment of green glass, weighing 2g, from a modern wine bottle was recovered from [12/005].

Context	Glass	Wt (g)
12/005	1	<2

Table 13: Quantification of Finds

6.0 THE ENVIRONMENTAL SAMPLES by Karine Le Hégarat and Dawn Elise Mooney

6.1 Two 40L bulk soil samples were taken during evaluation work at Chilmington in Ashford to establish the presence of environmental remains such as charcoal, charred macroplant remains, bones and shells. Sample <01> comes from the primary fill [14/011] of ditch [14/010] and sample <02> originates from pit fill context [4/04]. They were processed in their entirety in a flotation tank, and the flots and residues were retained on 500µm and 250µm meshes and air dried. The residues were passed through graded sieves (8, 4 and 2mm) and each fraction sorted for environmental and artefact remains. The flots were scanned under a stereozoom microscope at x7-45 magnifications. An overview of the samples contents is presented in Table 14.

6.2 Charred wood remains present in sample <02> were analysed by D.E. Mooney. One-hundred charcoal fragments recovered from the heavy residue of the sample were fractured along 3 planes (transverse, radial and tangential) according to standardised procedures (Gale & Cutler 2000). Specimens were viewed under a stereozoom microscope for initial grouping, and an incident light microscope at magnifications up to 400x to facilitate identification of the woody taxa present. Taxonomic identifications were assigned by comparing suites of anatomical characteristics visible with those documented in reference atlases (Hather 2000, Schoch *et al.* 2004), and by comparison with modern reference material held at the Institute of Archaeology, University College London. Identifications have been given to species where possible, however genera, family or group names have been given where anatomical differences between taxa are not significant enough to permit satisfactory identification. Nomenclature used follows Stace (1997).

Sample <01> - Ditch fill [14/011]

6.3 The relatively large flot (80ml) from sample <01> was dominated by uncharred vegetation (94%) consisting principally of very fine rootlets and fragments of modern grass. No charred plant remains were noted in the sample. The residue produced a calcined mammal bone fragment.

Sample <02> - Pit fill [4/004]

6.4 Sample <02> contained a large assemblage of wood charcoal fragments. They were present in the large flot (200ml) and in the residue including numerous large pieces >15mm as well as smaller fragments and flecks. The preservation of the charcoal was in general fair, with low levels of sediment concretion and infiltration linked to fluctuations in ground water level. Moderate levels of mineralisation were noted in some of the fragments. All fragments examined were identified as *Quercus* sp. (oak).

6.5 No other classes of biological material were noticed in sample <02>, and sampling produced no artefactual remains.

Discussion

Charred macroplants

6.6 The samples contained no charred macroplant remains at all, and therefore hold no potential to characterise agricultural economy and landuse activities associated with the features. Although sample <01> came from a deposit which was abundant in uncharred vegetation providing evidence for modern disturbance, potential contamination and movement within the deposit, roots were uncommon in sample <02> from pit fill [4/004]. Furthermore, the large assemblage of charcoal present in <02> shows potential of recovering charred plant material. It is therefore possible that dumps of charred macroplant remains may be recovered from the site. It is recommended that any future sampling at the site targets richer deposits.

Charcoal

6.7 The predominance of oak in sample <02> suggests that firewood was procured from oak-dominated deciduous woodland in the local area, possibly with a particular focus on this taxon. The charred wood remains from Chilmington have to potential to contribute to our understanding of fuel use and procurement in the area as has been established in charcoal analyses from the nearby sites of Brisley Farm (Gale forthcoming) and Westhawk Farm (Challinor 2008), where a prevalence of oak has also been recorded. The preservation of the charcoal was sufficient to allow for secure identifications to be made, which indicates that further sampling for charred wood remains from suitable deposits in any future archaeological investigations at the site may be productive.

					Flot								Residue							
Sample Number	**Context**	**Context / deposit type**	**Sample Volume litres**	**Sub-Sample Volume litres**	**Weight g**	**Flot volume ml**	**Volume scanned**	**Uncharred %**	**Sediment %**	**Seeds uncharred**	**Charcoal >4mm**	**Charcoal <4mm**	**Charcoal <2mm**	**Charcoal >4mm**	**Weight (g)**	**Charcoal <4mm**	**Weight (g)**	**Charcoal Identifications**	**Burnt bone >8mm**	**Weight (g)**
1	14/011	Ditch	40	40	62	80	80	90	2										*	<2
2	4/004	Pit	20	20	20	200	200	10	-	*Potentilla* sp. (*)	***	***	****	***	40	***	8	*Quercus* sp. (100)		

Table 14: Summary of Environmental Samples

7.0 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

7.1 An appraisal of the geophysical survey and evaluation results

7.1.1 Given the quantity of anomalies encountered during the geophysical surveys, the evaluation produced a relatively modest number of archaeological features and few that correspond to the geophysical anomalies. Only five features, all gullies, in Trenches 8, 12 and 14, appear to correspond to the geophysical results.

7.1.2 Of these features, four were probably modern, and in fact represent the same ditches (Trench 12, [12/04], [12/07] and Trench 14, [14/04], [14/06]). The final ditch, [08/04] may be of more ancient origin.

7.1.3 The geology in the evaluation trenches and indeed in the adjacent excavation areas investigated at Brisley Farm was very variable, comprising thick, heavy, Weald Clay interspersed with bands or patches of dense manganese concretions. This is probably a product of the seasonal waterlogging of the area and would account for the majority of the geophysical anomalies identified. It is fairly safe to assume that the majority of geophysical anomalies identified represent such geological variations rather than being of anthropomorphic origin.

7.2 Summary of the identified features

7.2.1 Three small undated gullies or ditches were recorded in Trenches 3, 8 and 13/14 spread across the northern field. These vary in alignment and were all less than a metre wide, with fairly pronounced v- and u-shaped shallow profiles. These features may have some antiquity and possibly form further elements of the field systems recorded at Brisley Farm (Stevenson, forthcoming).

7.2.2 Additionally, several, probably modern, ditches were identified. The largest of these was ditch [14/010] in Trench 14. The environmental sample from the fill of this ditch contained modern grass fragments, however, this may be intrusive within the sample as the result of the extremely heavy rain during collection. Another proximate ditch [12/04] (also recorded within Trench 14 as [14/04]) on the same alignment as [14/010] was found to contain a piece of modern bottle glass. A third ditch or gully [1/00] containing modern pottery and CBM was recorded in Trench 1.

7.2.3 Two undated discrete features were also recorded: [4/005] in Trench 4 and possibly [8/006] in Trench 8. Pit [4/005] appeared undisturbed by roots and contained a large assemblage of charcoal. This feature may have some antiquity. The other, [8/006], was unconvincing and may have been disturbed by heavy root action, if not form evidence of actual rooting in its entirety.

7.2.4 Across the trenches, evidence of deep ploughing was recorded with visible plough marks evident in most. The stratigraphic sequence across the site was otherwise undisturbed and consisted of plough soil overlain by topsoil.

7.2.5 Although weather conditions (extreme rain causing trench flooding) prevented, in some cases, trenches being allowed to 'weather out' fully, archaeological features have still been identified in a number of trenches. This suggests that even if a small number of more ephemeral linear features have not been detected, the broad archaeological picture as presented here is correct.

7.3 The wider archaeological landscape

7.3.1 The evaluation has produced a result that fits well with the current model of archaeological activity around the Brisley Farm / Chilmington Green locale (Stevenson forthcoming).

7.3.2 The area evaluated is likely to be within ditched fields rather than densely occupied settlement. Dating evidence was not really forthcoming (as is to be generally expected from field ditches) but given what is known already about the surrounding landscape, elements of this system are probably of Late Bronze Age (particularly those ditches with a pronounced 'V' shaped profile) Iron Age / Romano-British or perhaps less, likely medieval date.

7.3.3 In the wider area, very localised areas of settlement within these empty fields may be reflected in the larger proportion of artefacts recovered, as was found, for example during the evaluation carried out by Wessex Archaeology to the south-east (Wessex Archaeology 2011a). As has been suggested before (Stevenson, forthcoming) these small 'islands' of occupation are probably located on higher ground slightly above the more waterlogged surrounding fields.

7.3.4. The major focus of Iron Age / Romano British occupation in the vicinity is at Brisley Farm. A key aim of the current evaluation was to clarify the extent of the settlement. This has been successful and it is highly likely that the 'edge' of this site lies some way to the northeast of Trench 11 and to the east of Trench 8.

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HER Summary Form

Site Code	CGA12					
Identification Name and Address	Land south of Colemans' Kitchen Wood, Brisley Farm, Chilmington Green					
County, District &/or Borough	Ashford, Kent					
OS Grid Refs.						
Geology	Weald Clay					
Arch. South-East Project Number	4819					
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. 17-12-12 to 21-12-12	Excav.	WB.	Other		
Sponsor/Client	CGMS Consulting					
Project Manager	Darryl Palmer					
Project Supervisor	Ian Hogg					
Period Summary	Palaeo.	Meso.	Neo.	BA	IA	RB
	AS	MED	PM	Other **Unknown Modern**		

Summary

Archaeology South-East was commissioned by CgMs Consulting on behalf of their client to undertake an archaeological evaluation on land at Chilmington Green, Ashford, Kent in advance of the development of the site.

Eighteen trenches, between 30.00m x 2.00m in area, were excavated across two fields. The trenches locations were targeted on the results from two previous geophysical surveys and on the results from excavations on the land to the north of the site.

Natural Weald Clay was revealed at heights between 37.31m and 53.69m AOD. Several, largely undated, features were recorded. In the northern part the site, a series of small, undated ditches and a pit were recorded; these features may represent prehistoric activity. A further 3 ditches and another discrete feature may be modern. In most cases, the findings do not correspond to the geophysical surveys. Some horizontal truncation from deep ploughing was observed across the site.

The evaluation has produced a result that fits well with the current model of archaeological activity around the Brisley Farm / Chilmington Green locale (Stevenson forthcoming) and it seems that the area evaluated is likely to be within ditched fields rather than densely occupied settlement. The evaluation has also confirmed that the major Iron Age / Romano-British Brisley Farm settlement does not continue in this area and it's edge lies some way to the northeast of Trench 11 and to the east of Trench 8.

OASIS ID: archaeol6-140434

Project details

Project name	Land south of Colemans' Kitchen Wood, Brisley Farm, Chilmington Green
Short description of the project	Archaeology South-East was commissioned by CgMs Consulting on behalf of their client to undertake an archaeological evaluation on land at Chilmington Green, Ashford, Kent in advance of the development of the site. Eighteen trenches, between 30.00m x 2.00m in area, were excavated across two fields. The trenches locations were targeted on the results from two previous geophysical surveys and on the results from excavations on the land to the north of the site. Natural Weald Clay was revealed at heights between 37.31m and 53.69m AOD. Several, largely undated, features were recorded. In the northern part the site, a series of small, undated ditches and a pit were recorded; these features may represent prehistoric activity. A further 3 ditches and another discrete feature may be modern. In most cases, the findings do not correspond to the geophysical surveys. Some horizontal truncation from deep ploughing was observed across the site. The evaluation has produced a result that fits well with the current model of archaeological activity around the Brisley Farm / Chilmington Green locale (Stevenson forthcoming) and it seems that the area evaluated is likely to be within ditched fields rather than densely occupied settlement. The evaluation has also confirmed that the major Iron Age / Romano-British Brisley Farm settlement does not continue in this area and it's edge lies some way to the northeast of Trench 11 and to the east of Trench 8.
Project dates	Start: 17-12-2012 End: 21-12-2012
Previous/future work	Yes / Yes
Any associated project reference codes	CGA 12 - Sitecode
Any associated project reference codes	4819 - Contracting Unit No.
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Current Land use	Cultivated Land 3 - Operations to a depth more than 0.25m

Monument type	DITCHES Uncertain
Monument type	PITS Uncertain
Monument type	LINEAR Modern
Significant Finds	BOTTLE GLASS Modern
Methods & techniques	"Targeted Trenches"
Development type	Urban residential (e.g. flats, houses, etc.)
Prompt	National Planning Policy Framework - NPPF
Position in the planning process	After outline determination (eg. As a reserved matter)

Project location

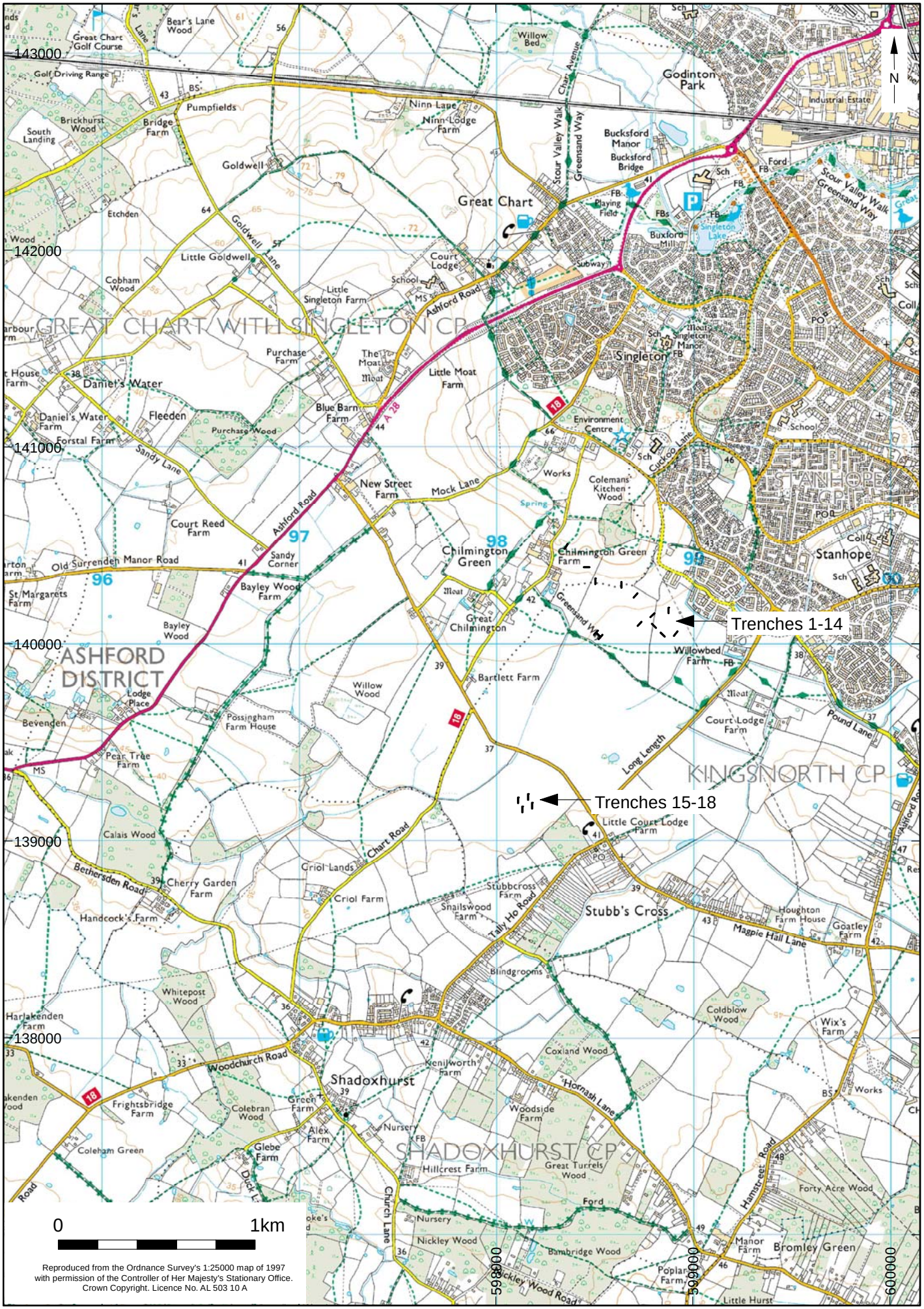
Country	England
Site location	KENT ASHFORD GREAT CHART WITH SINGLETON Land at Chilmington Green
Postcode	TN23 3DP
Study area	364.00 Hectares
Site coordinates	TQ 9800 4020 51 0 51 07 34 N 000 49 47 E Point
Site coordinates	TQ 9700 3900 51 0 51 06 56 N 000 48 54 E Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 37.31m Max: 53.69m

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Archaeology South-East
Project brief originator	Kent County Council
Project design originator	CgMs Consulting
Project director/manager	Darryl Palmer/Jim Stevenson
Project supervisor	Ian Hogg
Type of sponsor/funding body	CgMs Consulting
Name of sponsor/funding	CgMs Consulting

body

Project archives	
Physical Archive recipient	Local Museum
Physical Contents	"Environmental","Glass"
Digital Archive recipient	Local Museum
Digital Contents	"Stratigraphic"
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography","Survey","Text"
Paper Archive recipient	Local Museum
Paper Contents	"Stratigraphic","Survey"
Paper Media available	"Context sheet","Plan","Report","Section","Survey ","Unpublished Text"
Entered by	Ian Hogg (ian.hogg@ucl.ac.uk)
Entered on	9 January 2013



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© **Archaeology South-East**		Land south of Colemans' Kitchen Wood, Brisley Farm, Chilmington	Fig. 1
Project Ref: 4819	Jan 2013	Site location	
Report Ref: 2012271	Drawn by: JLR		

598000

599000

N

Trench 1

Trench 2

Trench 3

Trench 4

Trench 5

Trench 7

Trench 8

Trench 6

Trench 9

Trench 10

Trench 11

Trench 12

Trench 13

Trench 14

140000

Trench 16

Trench 18

Trench 15

Trench 17

139000

0 10m

Wessex geophysics area

ASE geophysics area

Archaeology
Possible archaeology
Probable archaeology
Trend

Moderate positive anomaly
Weak positive anomaly
Magnetic disturbance
Magnetic debris
Dipolar/Bipolar anomalies
Thermoremnant
Modern linear drain

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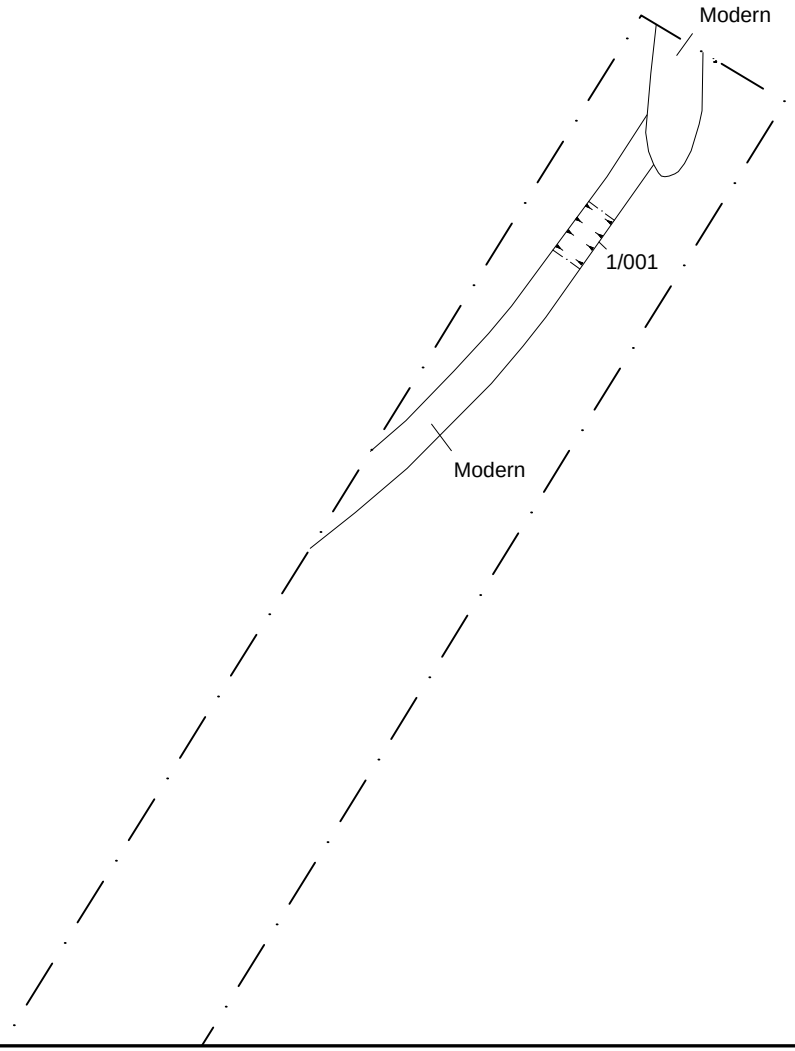
Project Ref: 4819	Jan 2013	Evaluation trench location and geophysics survey areas	
Report Ref: 2012271	Drawn by: RHC		



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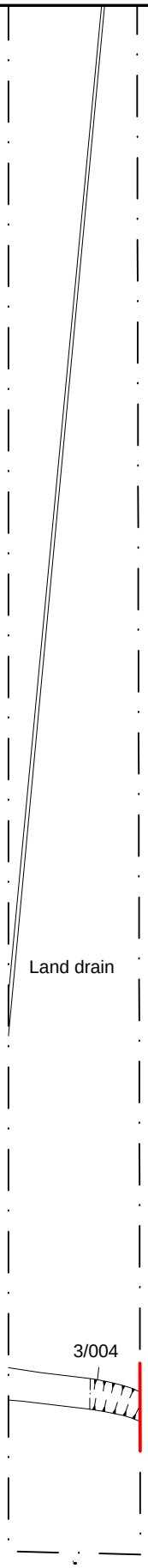
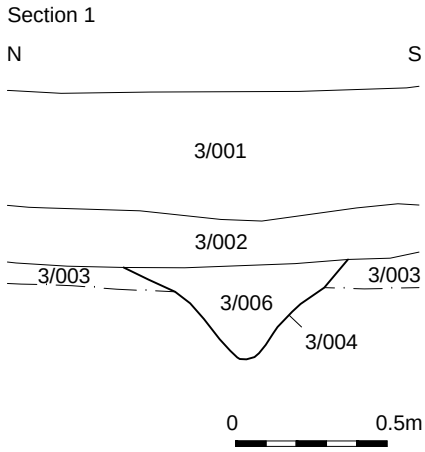
Report Ref: 2012271	Drawn by: RHC		





3/004 looking west

0 2m

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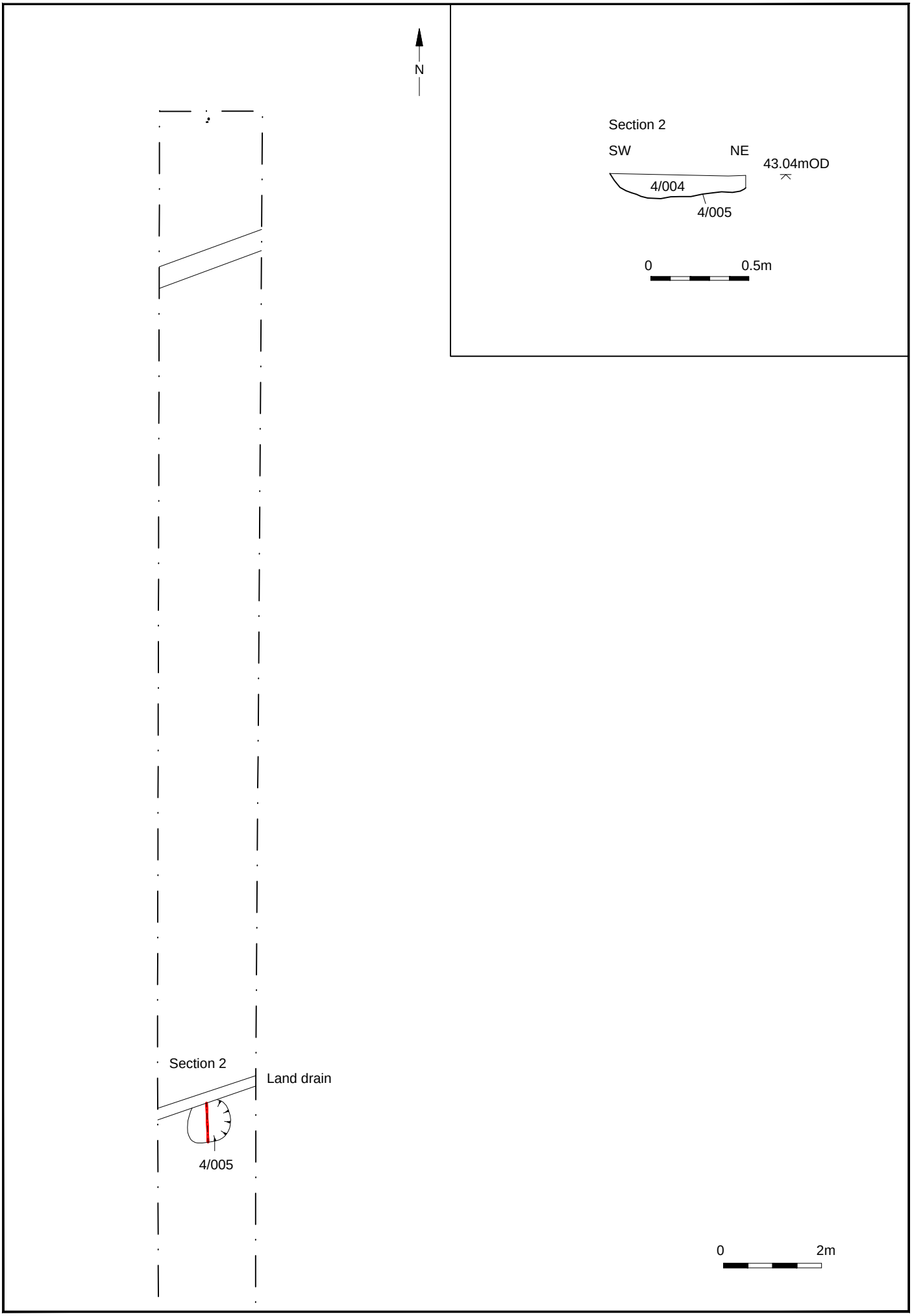
Report Ref: 2012271	Drawn by: RHC		



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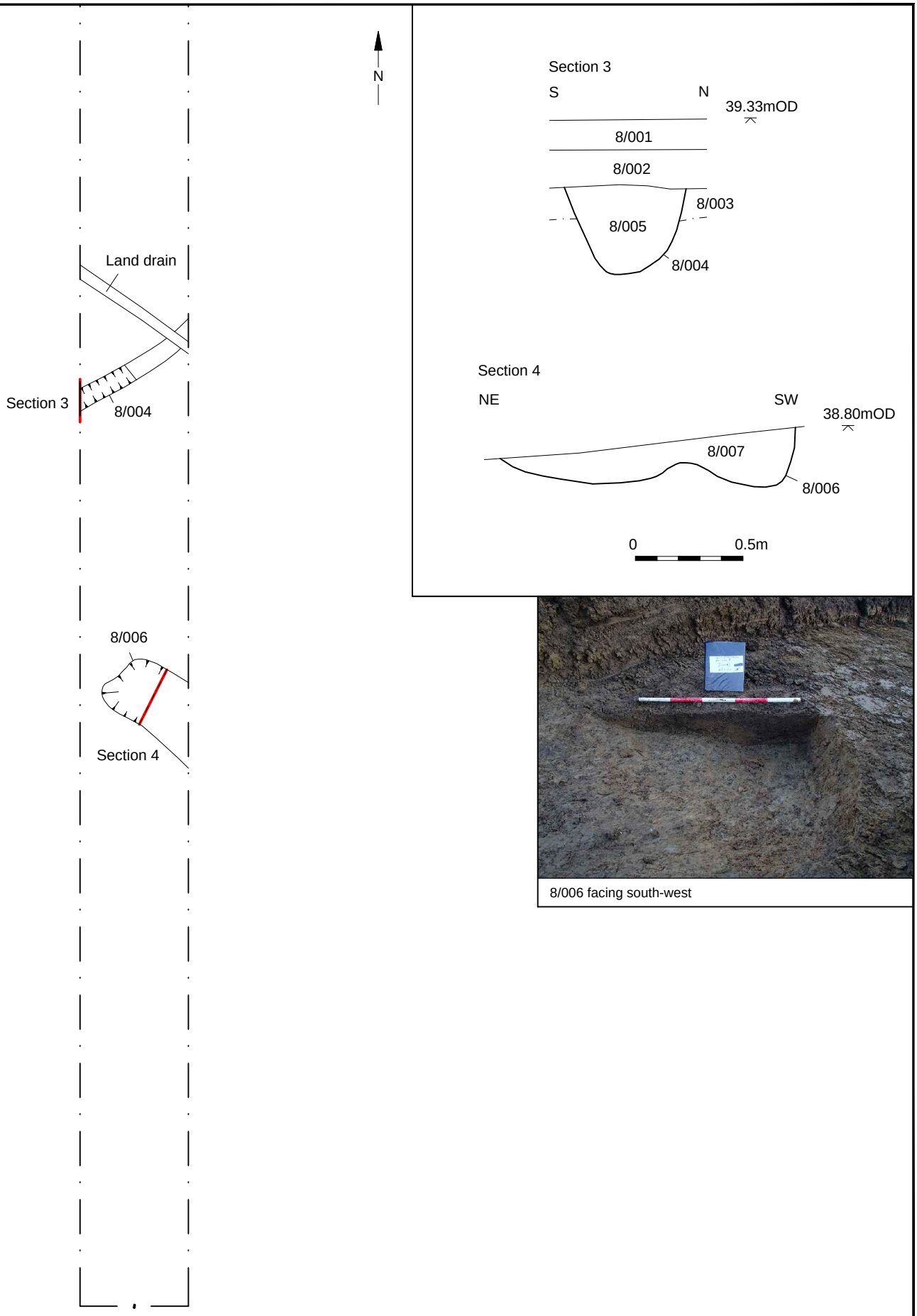

8/006 facing south-west

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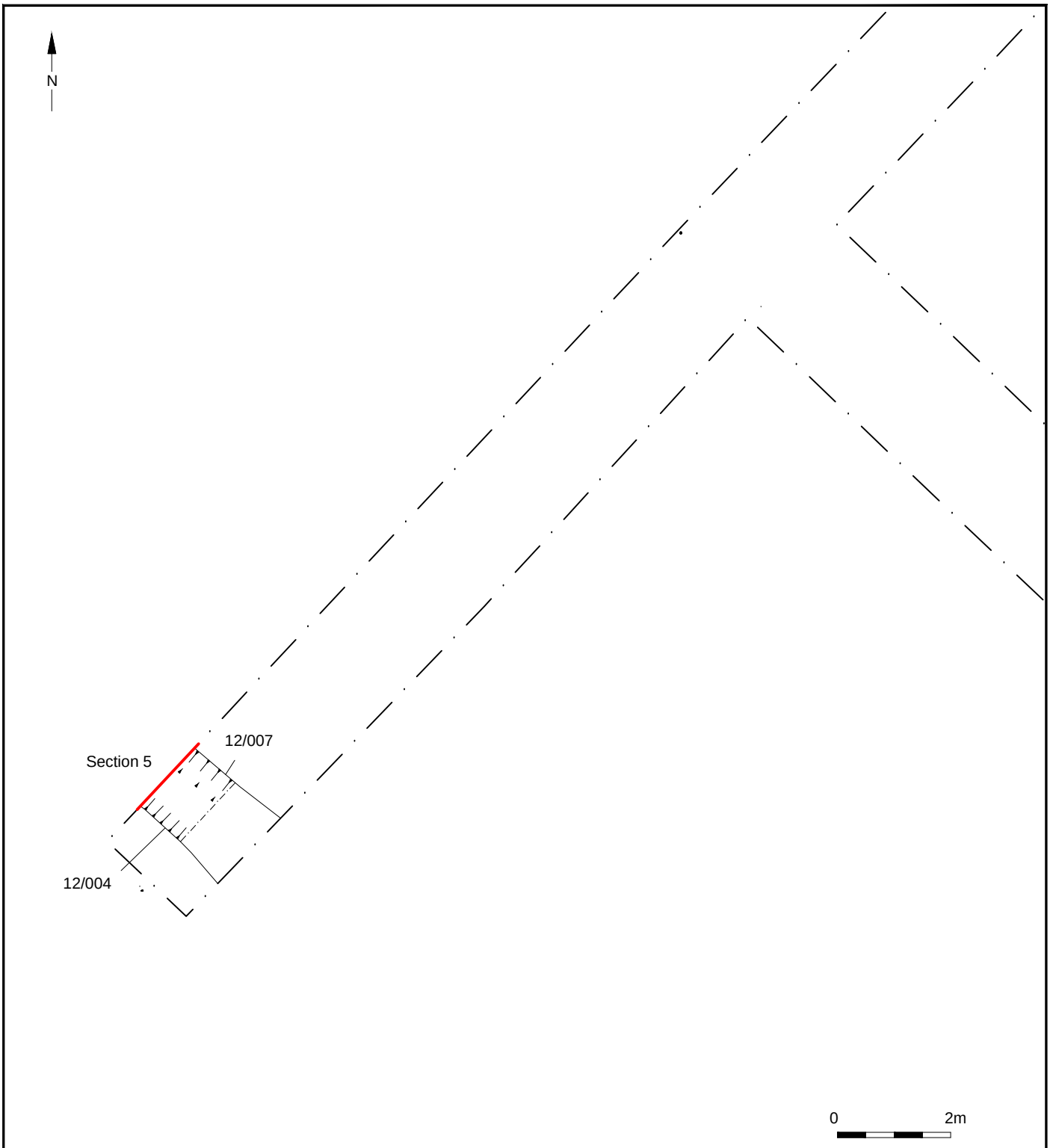
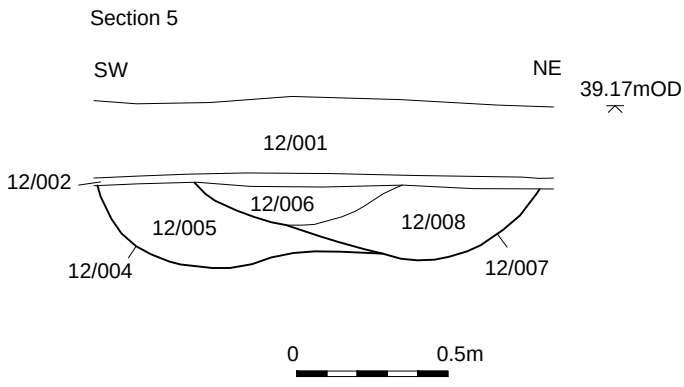
Project Ref: 4819	Jan 2013	Trench 8	
Report Ref: 2012271	Drawn by: RHC		





12/004 and 12/007 looking east

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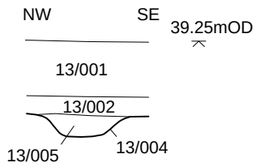
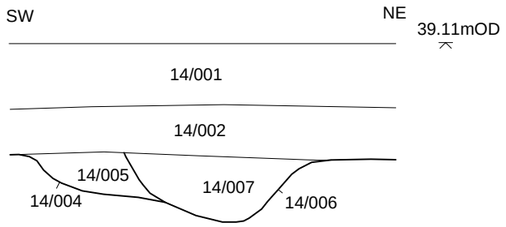
Report Ref: 2012271	Drawn by: RHC		

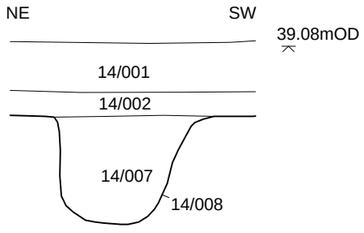
Section 6



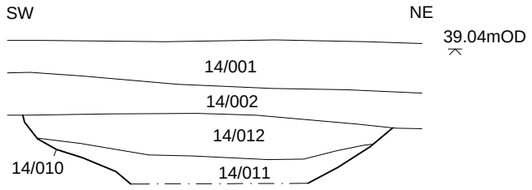
Section 7



Section 8



Section 9



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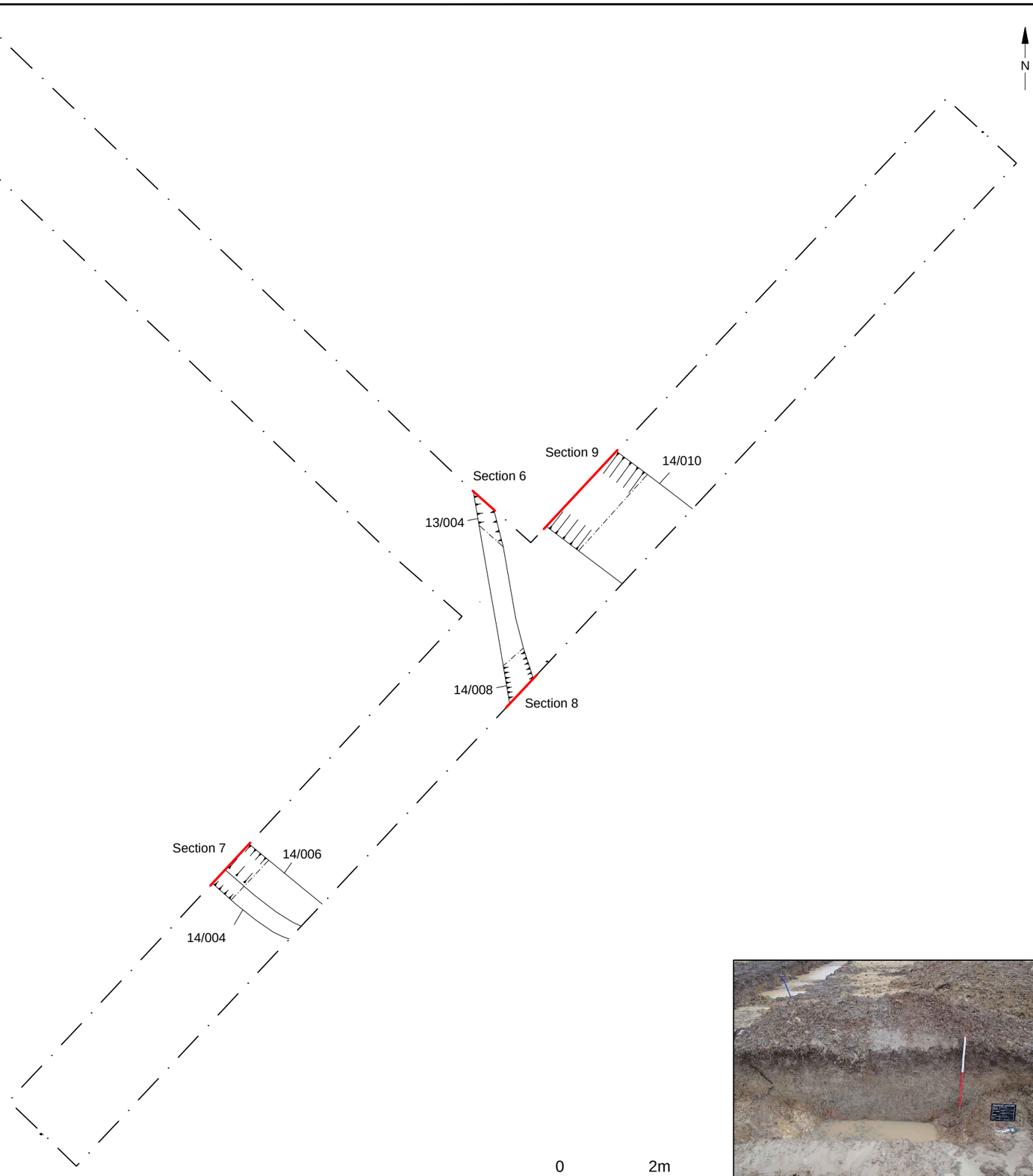

14/010 looking north-west

© **Archaeology South-East**		Land south of Colemans' Kitchen Wood, Brisley Farm, Chilmington	Fig. 8
Project Ref: 4819	Jan 2013	Trenches 13 and 14	
Report Ref: 2012271	Drawn by: RHC		

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