

**Archaeological Evaluation and Watching Brief Report
479 Margate Road, Broadstairs, Kent**

NGR 542191 101014

**ASE Project No: 6473
Site Code: BMR 13**

**ASE Report No: 2014002
OASIS No: archaeol6-167728**



By Chris Russel and Gary Webster

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**By Chris Russel and Gary Webster
With a contribution from Karine Le Hégarat**

April 2014

**Archaeology South-East
Units 1 & 2
2 Chapel Place
Portslade
East Sussex
BN41 1DR**

**Tel: 01273 426830
Fax: 01273 420866
Email: fau@ucl.ac.uk**

Abstract

Archaeology South-East was commissioned by Carter Lauren Construction Ltd to undertake an archaeological evaluation and watching brief on land at 479 Margate Road, Broadstairs, Kent. The work consisted of the excavation of four trenches in which the geological horizon was encountered at 48.29m in the north of the site and 48.82m in the south. The geological horizon had been partially truncated by modern activity in Trenches 1 and 3.

A limited amount of potential archaeological remains were identified. These comprised four features (three possible postholes in Trench 3 and a ditch terminus or pit in Trench 4) one of which produced a flint scraper of prehistoric date.

A watching brief was also carried out, to monitor the excavation of the footings for the development, a manhole and an attenuation tank. No archaeology was identified during these excavations.

Should construction of the proposed hotel go ahead at the site, it is anticipated that a second phase of archaeological watching brief will be required by the Heritage Conservation Group, Kent County Council.

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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 Carter Lauren Construction Ltd to undertake an archaeological evaluation on land at 479 Margate Road, Broadstairs, Kent (NGR 542191 101014; Figure 1).

1.2 Geology and Topography

- 1.2.1 According to the British Geological Survey (BGS 2013), the site lies on Thanet Sand overlying chalk and comprises a plot of land on the eastern side of Margate Road. It is bounded to the north by residential and retail properties, to the east by a supermarket car park, and to the south-east by a fire station. The buildings formally occupying the site have recently been demolished.

1.3 Planning Background

- 1.3.1 A planning application (F/TH/13/0600) for the erection of two two-storey buildings comprising a public house/restaurant and hotel with ancillary manager's accommodation and associated works was submitted by the client. Archaeology South-East was commissioned to produce a Heritage Statement to support the application (ASE 2013a).

- 1.3.2 Planning permission was subsequently granted, subject to conditions. Condition 2 states:

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 which has been submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority

GROUND:

To ensure that features of archaeological interest are properly examined and recorded in accordance with the Thanet Local Plan policies HE11 and HE12.

- 1.3.3 A Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) was prepared for the site by ASE (ASE 2013b) in accordance with Kent County Council (KCC) guidelines and duly approved by them. The work on site was carried out in accordance with this document. The project was managed by Paul Mason (Project Manager) and by Jim Stevenson (Post-Excavation Manager).

1.4 Research Aims and Objectives

- 1.4.1 The broad aims of the evaluation as set out in the WSI were,
- 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 establish the extent to which previous groundworks and/or other processes have affected archaeological deposits at the site
 - To assess what options should be considered for mitigation

1.4.2 Investigation of the site was also considered to have the potential to address the following research priorities identified in the draft South East Research Framework:

- To further the study of late Neolithic/Early Bronze age material culture with reference to the movement of people and ideas
- To study the evolution of 'high density' settlement and land division in Thanet in the later Bronze Age and early Iron Age
- To elucidate the nature of inter-regional and continental trade in the later Bronze Age and Iron Age
- To help clarify the nature of the rural settlement pattern in the Roman period
- To help clarify the nature of the transition between the Roman and Anglo-Saxon periods
- To aid the study of the Anglo-Saxon landscape in Thanet with the aim of working towards the re-construction of a 'total' landscape
- To contribute to the study of agricultural buildings and practices in the post-medieval period

1.5 Scope of Report

1.5.1 This report details the results of archaeological evaluation which was undertaken on the 10th, 11th and 12th of December 2013, and the following archaeological watching brief carried out on the 24th and 25th of February, and the 17th March 2014.

2.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 Introduction

- 2.1.1 The following information is paraphrased from the Heritage Statement prepared by Archaeology South-East (ASE 2013a). A total of 84 archaeological sites/find spots sites are listed in the Kent HER within a 1km radius of the site.

2.2 Prehistoric

- 2.2.1 Thanet is extremely rich in prehistoric evidence from all periods, reflecting the fertile nature of the chalk plateau with its proximity to rich marine and riverine resources, and also the level of development generating opportunities for archaeological recording. The earliest human cultural material known from the vicinity of the site is of Palaeolithic date – a stray find of a handaxe. Mesolithic activity is attested by a number of assemblages of flintwork relating to nomadic hunter-gatherer communities exploiting a number of different resource locations.
- 2.2.2 By the Neolithic period, settled agriculture had begun to develop. A number of sites are known on Thanet, including a causewayed enclosure at Chalk Hill and long barrows. Neolithic worked flint and a number of features, including pits have been recovered from recent excavations in the vicinity of the site. Settlement activity increased during the Bronze Age, with settlement sites, cremation burials and field systems recorded, with the wider Thanet area producing evidence for numerous Middle Bronze Age metalwork hoards and settlement enclosures.

2.3 Roman

- 2.3.1 The Roman period saw a large degree of continuity in the rural landscape, with many farming settlements originating in the Bronze and Iron Ages continuing to be occupied through the Roman period. A Romano-British settlement site is known from Monkton, lying in the west of Thanet, and recent excavations have recorded limited evidence for Roman occupation.

2.4 Saxon and Medieval

- 2.4.1 The site lies within the highest point of the central plateau of Thanet, and the name Westwood suggests more woodland surviving here than elsewhere on the peninsula, perhaps suggesting a greater survival of less fertile deposits capping the chalk. It is likely that the site itself lay within an area of open field arable, common pasture and woodland at this time, and continued to be utilised as such throughout the medieval period.

2.5 Post Medieval/Modern

- 2.5.1 For most of its recorded history, the site has been used as agricultural land, probably associated with Westwood Farm. According to historic OS mapping supplied by the client, the site lay within a large open field until at least 1936. By 1954 the TA Centre, a large L-shaped building, had been constructed in the western half of the site, with three small rectangular buildings arranged to its north-east. Several smaller structures were positioned to the north and south. The north-eastern third of the site appears to have been undeveloped.
- 2.5.2 The structures were demolished in 2012.

3.0 EVALUATION METHODOLOGY

- 3.1 The trial trench evaluation comprised the excavation of four trenches measuring of varying lengths (Figure 2). The trenching scheme was devised to target the areas of the site that are affected by development and were placed to avoid the footprint of the former building where deep deposits of made ground (possibly in-filling sunken floors/sub-basements) were recorded during geotechnical works.
- 3.2 A Risk Assessment was produced prior to the commencement of the work. The locations of all the trenches were checked with a CAT scanner prior to the commencement of excavation.
- 3.3 The trenches were excavated by a mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless grading bucket and care was taken that archaeological deposits were not damaged due to over machining. Excavation was undertaken in spits of no more than 0.10m to the top of the underlying geological substrate or to the top of the archaeological deposits whichever was higher.
- 3.4 Trench 5 was found to contain buried services running along its length and was subsequently abandoned. Further buried services were seen in Trench 3 and the trench was subsequently extended further to the east.
- 3.5 All exposed features were cleaned by hand, planned and recorded. All discrete cut features were sampled by hand as a minimum by half section and at least 10% of linear features were sectioned to produce a vertical section where practicable. All features were planned at the scale of 1:20 in relation to the trench outline and sections drawn at 1:10.
- 3.6 No features deemed suitable for environmental sampling were encountered.
- 3.7 A full digital photographic record of the work was made during the course of the fieldwork.
- 3.8 On conclusion of the excavations, the spoil was backfilled by machine, in appropriate sequence, spread evenly and compacted to ensure a surface flush or nearly flush with the ground surface.

3.9 WATCHING BRIEF METHODOLOGY

- 3.10 There were three separate element monitored during the watching brief phase. This included the foundation footings of the proposed development, the excavation of a manhole (2m by 2m and 2m deep), and the excavation of the attenuation tank (23m by 7m and 2m deep). These areas can be seen on Figure 2.
- 3.11 Excavation was done with a flat-bladed bucket where possible. The archaeologist on site was given enough time to review uncovered deposits and layers, and complete full records.

3.12 THE SITE ARCHIVE

3.12.1 The site archive is currently held at ASE offices in Portslade because Margate Museum is currently unable to accept archaeological archives due to lack of space.

Number of Contexts	16
No. of files/paper record	1
Plan and sections sheets	1
Photographs	117 digital
Bulk finds	1 box

Table 1: Site archive quantification

4.0 TRIAL TRENCHING RESULTS

4.1 Trench 1

(Figure 3)

4.1.1 Length: 30.00m total Width: 1.8m Depth: 1.20m

Orientation: north – south

Number	Type	Description	Max. length	Max. width	Max. depth	Max. height (m OD)
1/001	Layer	Crush	Tr.	Tr.	0.54m	49.93m
1/002	Layer	Made Ground	Tr.	Tr.	0.90m	49.39m
1/003	Deposit	Subsoil	10.94m	Tr	0.37m	49.13m
1/004	Deposit	Geology	10.94m	Tr.	-	48.46m
1/005	Cut	Cut of Posthole	0.45m	0.34m	0.15m	48.46m
1/006	Fill	Fill of [1/005]	0.45m	0.34m	0.15m	48.46m
1/007	Cut	Cut of Posthole	0.25m	0.33m	0.19m	48.41m
1/008	Fill	Fill of [1/007]	0.25m	0.33m	0.19m	48.41m
1/009	Cut	Cut of Posthole	0.41m	0.37m	0.27m	48.43m
1/010	Fill	Fill of [1/007]	0.41m	0.37m	0.27m	48.43m

Table 2: List of Recorded Contexts, Trench 1

- 4.1.2 The geological substrate, a light reddish brown fine silt with frequent angular flint inclusions, was encountered at a maximum height of 48.46m AOD, overlain by a mid-grey brown, fine silty clay subsoil, [1/003]. The natural substrate had been subject to significant truncation especially in the south of the trench where made ground, [1/002], was observed to a depth of 1.2m. The sequence in Trench 1 was capped by a layer of 'crush' [1/001]. Three archaeological features were observed approximately mid-way along Trench 1.
- 4.1.3 A small pit or posthole, [1/005], was found in the middle of the trench. It had concave sides and a flat base. This feature was filled by a dark grey-brown fine silty clay with sub-angular flint inclusions. No artefacts were present.
- 4.1.4 To the north of this feature was a second small pit or posthole [1/007] with steep sides and a rounded, concave base. This was filled by a dark grey-brown fine silty clay [1/008] with sub-angular flint inclusions. No artefacts were present.
- 4.1.5 A third feature was observed further north still. It was bisected by the eastern baulk of Trench 1 but appeared to be another small pit or posthole [1/009]. This had steep sides and a concave base and was filled by a dark grey-brown fine silty clay [1/010] which contained sub-angular flint inclusions. No artefacts were present.
- 4.1.6 All of these features were cut into the natural and sealed by the subsoil.

4.2 Trench 2

4.2.1 Length: 30.00m Width: 1.8m Depth: 0.73m

Orientation: north-west – south-east

Number	Type	Description	Max. length	Max. width	Max. depth	Max. height (m OD)
2/001	Layer	Topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.11m	48.80m
2/002	Layer	Made Ground	Tr	Tr.	0.30m	48.50m
2/003	Layer	Subsoil	Tr	Tr.	0.32m	48.03m
2/004	Layer	Geology	Tr.	Tr.	-	48.06m

Table 3: List of Recorded Contexts, Trench 2

4.2.2 The geological substrate, a light reddish brown fine silt with frequent angular flint inclusions, [2/004], was encountered at a maximum height of 48.06m AOD, overlain by a mid-grey brown, fine silty clay subsoil, [2/003] which was, in turn, overlain by a levelling deposit comprised of loosely compacted brick and other building rubble, [2/002]. The levelling deposit was sealed by topsoil, [2/001].

4.2.3 No archaeological features were observed in Trench 1.

4.3 Trench 3

4.3.1 Length: 37.22m Width: 1.8m Depth: 1.2m

Orientation: north-east – south-west

Number	Type	Description	Max. length	Max. width	Max. depth	Max. height (m OD)
3/001	Layer	Crush	Tr.	Tr.	0.34m	49.99m
3/002	Layer	Made Ground	12.74m	Tr.	0.36m	49.11m
3/003	Layer	Subsoil	12.74m	Tr.	0.38m	48.81m
3/004	Layer	Made Ground	7.45m	Tr.	0.90m	48.52m
3/005	Layer	Geology	Tr.	Tr.	-	48.82m
3/006	Layer	Buried Topsoil	5.0m	Tr.	0.15m	49.56m

Table 4: List of Recorded Contexts, Trench 3

4.3.2 The geological substrate, a light reddish brown fine silt with frequent angular flint inclusions, was seen at a maximum height of 48.82m AOD but had been disturbed in the west of the Trench where a made ground deposit, [3/004], was present to a depth of 1.2m. Where the natural geology was seen, it was overlain by a mid-grey brown, fine silty clay subsoil, [3/003]. The east of the trench contained a friable, dark grey brown fine clay silt with occasional sub-angular flint pebble inclusions, possibly a buried topsoil, [3/006]. The sequence in Trench 3 was capped by a layer of 'crush' [3/001].

4.3.3 No archaeological features were observed in Trench 3.

4.4 Trench 4

(Figure 4)

4.4.1 Length: 30.00m total Width: 1.8m Depth: 0.69m

Orientation: north-east – south-west

Number	Type	Description	Max. length	Max. width	Max. depth	Max. height (m OD)
4/001	Layer	Topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.11m	49.64m
4/002	Layer	Made Ground	Tr.	Tr.	0.21m	49.35m
4/003	Layer	Buried Topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.15m	49.25m
4/004	Layer	Subsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.30m	48.95m
4/005	Layer	Geology	Tr.	Tr.	-	48.79m
4/006	Cut	Cut of Terminus/Pit	1.5m	0.47m	0.25m	48.41m
4/007	Fill	Fill of [4/006]	1.5m	0.47m	0.25m	48.41m

Table 5: List of Recorded Contexts, Trench 4

- 4.4.2 The geological substrate, a light reddish brown fine silt with frequent angular flint inclusions, [4/005], was encountered at a maximum height of 48.79m AOD. This was overlain by a mid-grey brown, fine silty clay subsoil, [4/004], which was, in turn, overlain by a friable, dark grey brown fine clay silt with occasional sub-angular flint pebble inclusions an apparent buried topsoil, [4/003]. Immediately above this was a levelling deposit comprised of loosely compacted brick and other building rubble, [4/002], with the sequence in these trenches capped by topsoil [4/001].
- 4.4.3 A single archaeological feature was seen in Trench 4. This consisted of a steep sided cut, [4/006], with a concave base that was truncated by the northern baulk of the trench. This was filled by a mid-red brown, fine silt [4/007]. A flint scraper was recovered from this feature, of indeterminate prehistoric date.

4.5 WATCHING BRIEF RESULTS

- 4.5.1 The excavation of the footing trenches was mostly through building demolition rubble and made ground c. 0.8m thick, though there were areas to the west of the site where natural geology was encountered. The buried topsoil seen in the trial trenches was also seen sporadically throughout footing trenches. There was no archaeology identified.
- 4.5.2 The excavation for the manhole measured 2m by 2m in plan, and was excavated to a depth of 2m. Again there was made ground directly overlying natural geology. There was no archaeology identified.
- 4.5.3 The excavation for the attenuation tank saw much less made ground coverage, but still came directly down on to the natural geology. It measured 23m by 7m in plan and was 2m deep. There was no archaeology identified.

5.0 THE FINDS

5.1 Introduction

- 5.1.1 A small assemblage of finds, summarised in Table 6, was recovered during the evaluation. Bulk finds were all washed and dried or air dried as appropriate. They were subsequently quantified by count and weight and were bagged by material and context.

Context	Flint	Wt (g)
3/002	1	27
3/003	1	32
4/007	1	63
Total	3	122

Table 6: Quantification of the finds

5.2 The Flintwork by Karine Le Hégarat

- 5.2.1 Three pieces of struck flint weighing 122g were recovered from two trenches (Trench 4, one piece and Trench 3, two pieces) during evaluation work at the site. The material consists of two irregular flakes and an end scraper.
- 5.2.2 The artefacts display moderate edge damage. They are made on dark grey flint with off-white outer surface, and the raw material appears to be of good flaking quality.
- 5.2.3 The scraper recovered from context [4/007] exhibits traces of surface discolouration. It is manufactured on a primary flake, the proximal end of which is slightly damaged. The tool displays minimal curving abrupt retouch along the distal end, but is otherwise undiagnostic.
- 5.2.4 The archaeological work at Margate Road has provided limited evidence for prehistoric activities, but no diagnostic pieces were recovered to allow the flintwork to be more precisely dated.

6.0 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

6.1 The Stratigraphic Sequence and degree of disturbance

- 6.1.1 The evaluation has revealed a relatively simple stratigraphic sequence of natural geology overlain by 0.30m-0.38m of subsoil, overlain by either 0.30-0.54m of topsoil and/or made ground/levelling deposits. The geological substrate was encountered at a maximum height of 48.29m in the north of the site and 48.82m in the south.
- 6.1.2 Subsoil was present in all of the trenches, indicating that the top of the natural geology (the archaeological horizon) is broadly intact across the site. However, this horizon has been truncated by buildings and other modern activity in some locations. This is particularly the case in Trenches 1 and 3 where there was a large degree of modern disturbance to a depth of at least 1.2m below ground surface. This is seen again in the results of the watching brief, which show the largest amount of disturbance toward the west of the site.

6.2 Potential archaeological features

- 6.2.1 Four potential archaeological features were identified during the evaluation; a group of shallow postholes in Trench 1, occurring at 48.41-48.43m AOD and a ditch terminus or possible pit in Trench 4, at 48.41 AOD. The terminus / pit yielded a flint scraper which was not distinctive of any particular period.
- 6.2.2 All of the potential features were cut into the natural geology and sealed by the overburden. In Trench 1, the features were sealed by 1.12m of overburden and in Trench 2, by 1.23m overburden.
- 6.2.3 Other archaeological evidence was limited to two pieces of struck flint, of a broad prehistoric date, recovered from the subsoil in Trench 3.
- 6.2.4 No archaeology was identified during the watching brief.

6.3 Conclusions and consideration of research aims

- 6.3.1 The evaluation and watching brief at Margate Road, Broadstairs revealed fairly limited archaeological evidence. The archaeological features identified may be of prehistoric date, suggested by the flint scraper found in feature [4/006] but other than this there was no direct dating evidence. The two other pieces of unstratified struck flint recovered from the Trench 3 are of little significance and are not indicative of intensive prehistoric activity.
- 6.3.2 As detailed above, the evaluation and watching brief has succeeded in the broad research aims of the project by assessing the character, extent, preservation, significance, date and quality of the archaeological remains present.
- 6.3.3 Should construction of the proposed hotel go ahead at the site, it is anticipated that a second phase of archaeological watching brief will be required by the Heritage Conservation Group, Kent County Council.

Bibliography

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http://www.archaeologists.net/sites/default/files/node-files/ifa_standards_field_eval.pdf

Acknowledgements

ASE would like to thank Carter Lauren Ltd for commissioning this work and Wendy Rogers of KCC for her help and guidance during the project.

HER Summary Form

Site Code	BMR 13					
Identification Name and Address	<i>479 Margate Road, Broadstairs</i>					
County, District &/or Borough	Kent					
OS Grid Refs.	NGR 542191 101014					
Geology	Thanet Sand					
Arch. South-East Project Number: 6287						
Type of Fieldwork	Eval.	WB				
Type of Site	Brown Field					
Dates of Fieldwork	Dec 2013	Feb-March 2014				
Sponsor/Client	Carter Lauren Ltd					
Project Manager	Paul Mason					
Project Supervisor	Chris Russel					
Period Summary		Meso.	Neo.	BA	IA	RB
<p>Summary</p> <p><i>Archaeology South-East was commissioned by Carter Lauren Construction Ltd to undertake an archaeological evaluation on land at 479 Margate Road, Broadstairs, Kent. The work consisted of the excavation of four trenches in which the geological horizon was encountered at 48.29m in the north of the site and 48.82m in the south. The geological horizon had been partially truncated by modern activity in Trenches 1 and 3.</i></p> <p><i>A limited amount of potential archaeological remains were identified. These comprised four features (three possible postholes in Trench 3 and a ditch terminus or pit in Trench 4) one of which produced a flint scraper of prehistoric date.</i></p> <p><i>Should construction of the proposed hotel go ahead at the site, it is anticipated that a second phase of archaeological watching brief will be required by the Heritage Conservation Group, Kent County Council.</i></p>						

OASIS Form

OASIS ID: archaeol6-167728

Project details

Project name	479 Margate road, Broadstairs
Short description of the project	<p>Archaeology South-East was commissioned by Carter Lauren Construction Ltd to undertake an archaeological evaluation and watching brief on land at 479 Margate Road, Broadstairs, Kent. The work consisted of the excavation of four trenches in which the geological horizon was encountered at 48.29m in the north of the site and 48.82m in the south. The geological horizon had been partially truncated by modern activity in Trenches 1 and 3.</p> <p>A limited amount of potential archaeological remains were identified in the evaluation. These comprised four features (three possible postholes in Trench 3 and a ditch terminus or pit in Trench 4) one of which produced a flint scraper of prehistoric date.</p> <p>A watching brief was also carried out, to monitor the excavation of the footings for the development, a manhole and an attenuation tank. No archaeology was identified during these excavations.</p> <p>Should construction of the proposed hotel go ahead at the site, it is anticipated that a second phase of archaeological watching brief will be required by the Heritage Conservation Group, Kent County Council.</p>
Project dates	Start: 10-12-2013 End: 12-12-2013
Previous/future work	Not known / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	BMR 13 - Sitecode
Any associated project reference codes	6473 - Contracting Unit No.
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Current Land use	Other 13 - Waste ground
Monument type	NONE Uncertain
Significant Finds	WORKED FLINT Uncertain
Methods & techniques	"Sample Trenches"
Development type	Urban commercial (e.g. offices, shops, banks, etc.)
Prompt	Planning condition
Position in the	Not known / Not recorded

planning process

Project location

Country	England
Site location	KENT THANET BROADSTAIRS AND ST PETERS 479 margate road, broadstairs
Postcode	CT10 2QD
Study area	2.00 Hectares
Site coordinates	TR 542191 101014 50 1 50 50 01 N 001 36 39 E Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 48.29m Max: 48.82m

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Archaeology South East
Project brief originator	Kent County Council
Project director/manager	Paul Mason
Project supervisor	Chris Russel
Type of sponsor/funding body	Developer

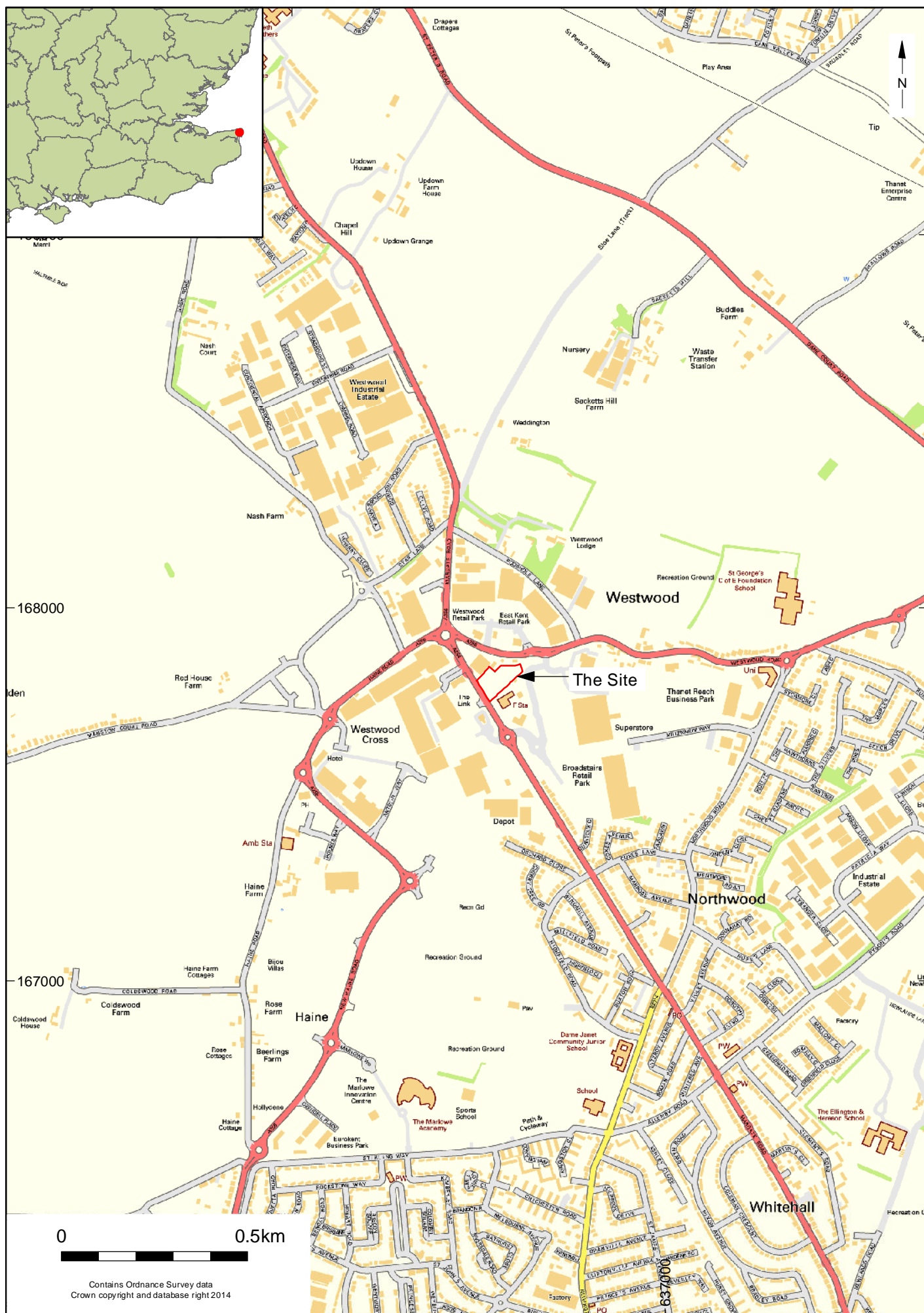
Project archives

Physical Archive recipient	local museum
Physical Contents	"Worked stone/lithics"
Digital Archive recipient	local museum
Digital Contents	"none"
Digital Media available	"GIS","Images raster / digital photography"
Paper Archive recipient	local museum
Paper Contents	"Worked stone/lithics"
Paper Media available	"Context sheet","Drawing"

Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	An Archaeological Evaluation at 479 Margate Road, Broadstairs, Kent.
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Russel,C
Other bibliographic details	Report Number:2014002
Date	2014
Issuer or publisher	ASE
Place of issue or publication	POrtslade

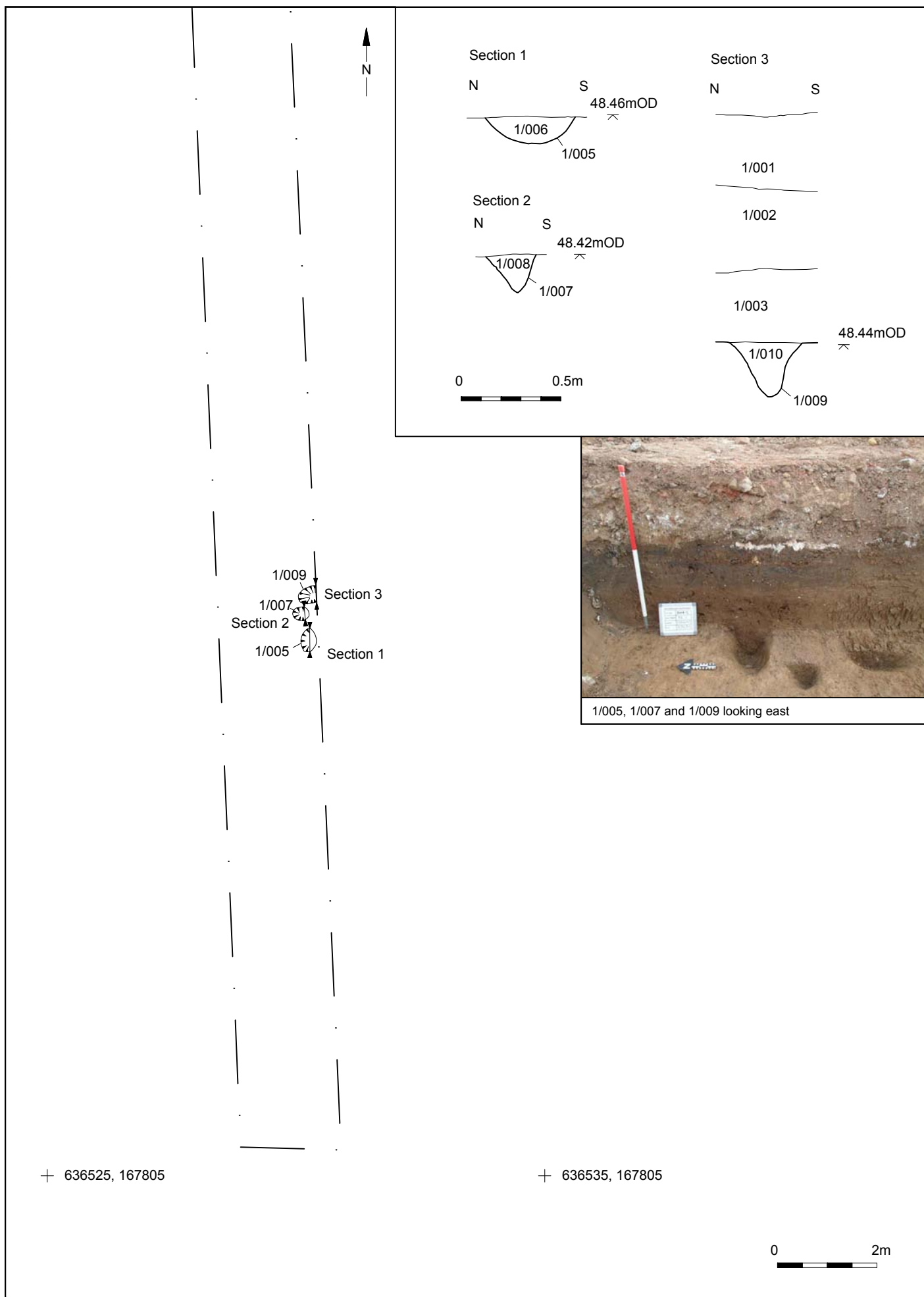
Entered by	Chris Russel (c.russel@ucl.ac.uk)
Entered on	6 January 2014

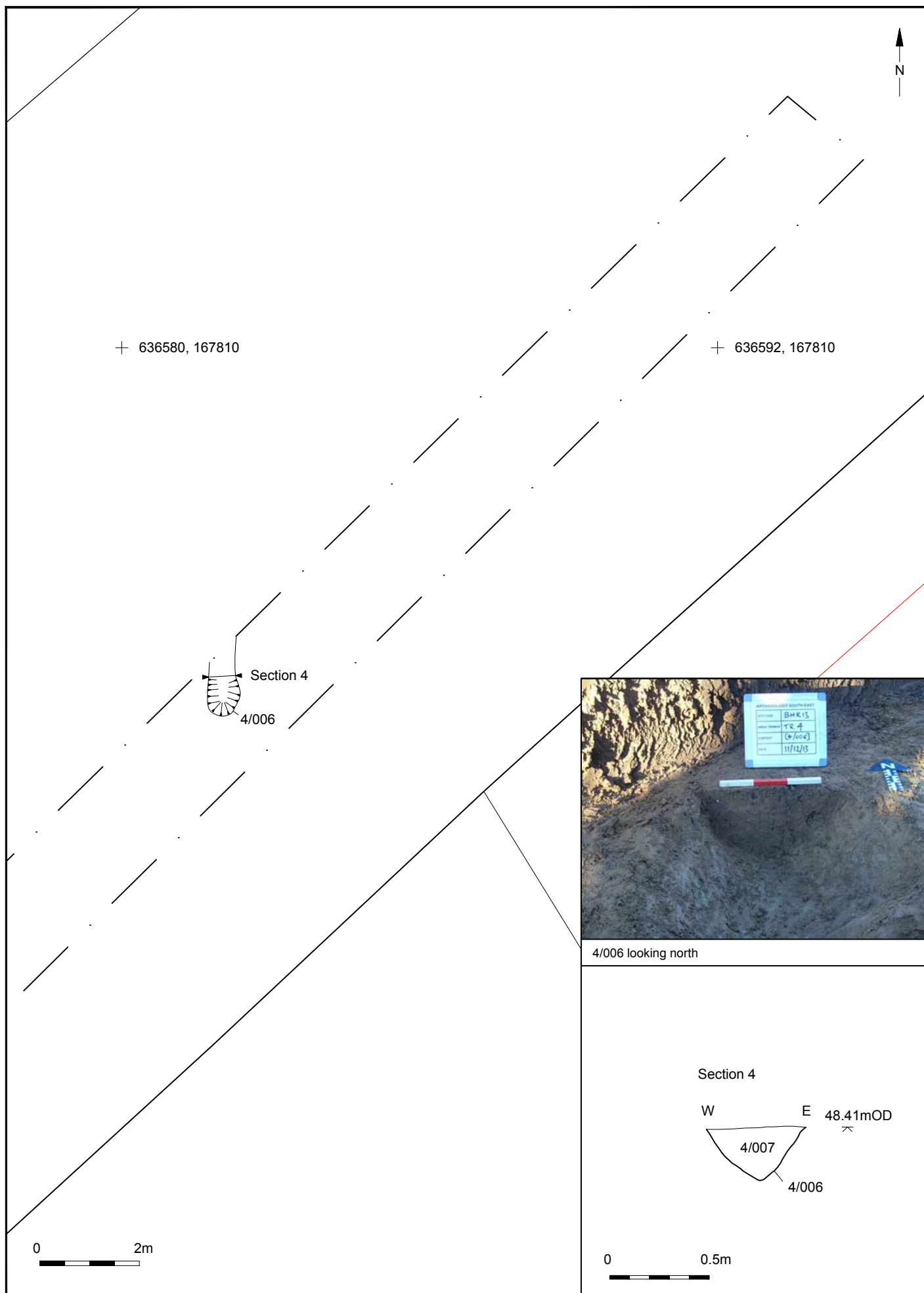


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Project Ref: 6473	January 2014	Site location plan	
Report Ref: 2014002	Drawn by: JC		



© Archaeology South-East		479 Margate Road, Broadstairs	Fig. 2
Project Ref: 6473	January 2014	Trench location	
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© Archaeology South-East		479 Margate Road, Broadstairs	Fig. 4
Project Ref: 6473	January 2014	Trench 4 plan, section and photograph	
Report Ref: 2014002	Drawn by: JC		

Sussex Office

Units 1 & 2
2 Chapel Place
Portslade
East Sussex BN41 1DR
tel: +44(0)1273 426830
email: fau@ucl.ac.uk
web: www.archaeologyse.co.uk

Essex Office

The Old Magistrates Court
79 South Street
Braintree
Essex CM7 3QD
tel: +44(0)1376 331470
email: fau@ucl.ac.uk
web: www.archaeologyse.co.uk

London Office

Centre for Applied Archaeology
UCL Institute of Archaeology
31-34 Gordon Square
London WC1H 0PY
tel: +44(0)20 7679 4778
email: fau@ucl.ac.uk
web: www.ucl.ac.uk/caa

