Archaeology South-East

ASE

Archaeological Watching Brief Report
Malmaynes Hall Farm
Rochester, Kent

NGR: 580888 174904
(TQ 80888 74903)

ASE Project No: 7264
Site Code: MMH14

ASE Report No: 2015072
OASIS ID: archaeol6-206210

By Catherine Douglas

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Abstract

Archaeology South-East was commissioned by CgMs Ltd to undertake an archaeological watching brief on Land at Malmaynes Hall Farm, Kent.

Twelve trenches were monitored during the watching brief. Possible archaeological features were identified in Trenches 3, 6 and 7, mainly comprising drainage ditches. No dating evidence was retrieved from any of the features, and some of the more discrete features may have been shallow in-filled depressions within the clay geology.

River terrace gravels were encountered in one trench (Trench 8) where they were identified 1.00m below the topsoil surface level. The gravels were overlain by clay head deposit measuring a thickness of 0.59m. In the remaining trenches the geology comprised mid-orange brown compact clay.

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1.1 Site Background

1.1.1 Archaeology South-East (ASE), the contracting division of the Centre for Applied Archaeology (CAA), Institute of Archaeology (IoA), University College London (UCL) was commissioned by CgMs Ltd to undertake an archaeological watching brief on Land at Malmaynes Hall Farm, Kent (TQ 80888 74903; Figure 1).

1.2 Geology and Topography

1.2.1 According to the British Geological Survey 1:50,000 mapping (BGS 2015) the site lies on river terrace deposits comprising sand and gravel, locally with lenses of silt, clay or peat, with overlying head deposits comprising poorly sorted and poorly stratified deposits formed mostly by solifluction and/or hillwash and soil creep. These mostly comprise sand and gravel, locally with lenses of silt, clay or peat and organic material.

1.3 Planning Background

1.3.1 An archaeological watching brief was required for ground works associated with the development of a solar farm due to the presence of previously identified archaeological remains preserved in situ in the southern part of the site (Figure 2).

1.3.2 All work was carried out in accordance with the Kent County Council Specification for Archaeological Watching Brief (KCC 2007).

1.4 Aims and Objectives

1.4.1 The aim of the archaeological watching brief was to determine, as far as was reasonably possible, the location, form, extent, date, character, condition, significance and quality of any surviving archaeological remains, irrespective of period.

1.5 Scope of Report

1.5.1 This report provides the results of the archaeological watching brief carried out at land at Malmaynes Hall Farm between the 6th January and the 5th February 2015. The fieldwork was undertaken by Steve Price. The project was managed by Paul Mason (fieldwork) and Jim Stevenson (Post-excavation).

2.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 Overview

2.1.1 The following information is taken from the forthcoming ASE publication '*Archaeological Investigations along the Isle of Grain – Shorne Pipeline Route, Hoo Peninsula, Kent.'* The sites discussed were in very close proximity to Malmaynes Hall Farm, and provide a brief summary of the archaeological activity of the surrounding area.

2.1.2 The site is located on was located on the southern edge of multi-period landscape extending south of the low flat ridge overlooking the River Medway. A combination of previous archaeological investigations and aerial photographs to the immediate north have identified an area of at least 6 hectares containing Bronze Age and Iron Age activity (ASE forthcoming).

2.2 Bronze Age

2.2.1 Evidence for Bronze Age salt-working has been identified to the North of Malmaynes Farm. The site was under arable crops during the Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age before a new enclosure was established on the ridge in the Middle - Late Iron Age. There was no clear evidence of the function of this enclosure but it may also have been related to salt-working activities.

2.3 Iron Age

2.3.1 An Iron Age enclosure was identified on the low ridge to the north of the site, along with a scattering of associated small pits and a gully.

2.4 Roman

2.4.1 A small cremation cemetery (CC1) was located on the ridge overlooking the River Medway in the late 1st - first half of the 2nd century AD.

2.4.2 Evidence of Roman buildings with associated water holes was identified, along with pottery dating to AD 150 – 300. A water hole containing a pottery beaker provides some evidence for votive deposition in the Roman period.

2.5 Anglo-Saxon

2.5.1 Evidence of early Anglo-Saxon settlement on the Hoo Peninsula is rare: the only other early Anglo-Saxon settlements attested by excavation are at Four Elms, near Wainscott (TQ77SE160; TQ77SE173) and at Hoo St. Werburgh, an estate centre also known from documentary sources (Moore 2002, 266-270). Estate centres acted as important central places for a host of surrounding smaller settlements of farms and hamlets, such as the Site B settlement near Stoke (Brookes and Harrington 2010, 98). (ASE forthcoming report).

3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY

3.1 Fieldwork Methodology

3.1.1 Twelve different areas of excavation associated with the solar energy scheme numbered 1-12 were monitored by an ASE archaeologist (Figure 2). The dimensions of each area have been included in Section 4.

3.1.2 The trenches were excavated using a 13 tonne mechanical excavator fitted with a 1.8m wide flat blade ditching bucket under archaeological supervision. Overburden deposits (e.g. topsoil and subsoil) were removed and excavation continued to the surface of the natural geology, which was then inspected for archaeological features.

3.1.3 All archaeological features were recorded according to standard ASE practice. All features were hand planned at a scale of 1:20, and sections were drawn by hand at a scale of 1:10. Drawings were on plastic draughting film. Features and deposits were described on standard pro-forma recording sheets used by ASE. All remains were levelled with respect to Ordnance Survey datum. A digital photographic record was maintained throughout the watching brief.

3.1.4 The spoil from the excavations was inspected by the ASE archaeologist to recover any artefacts or ecofacts of archaeological interest. All finds recovered from excavated deposits were collected and retained in line with the ASE artefacts collection policy.

3.2 The Site Archive

3.2.1 The site archive is currently held at the offices of ASE and will be deposited at a suitable museum in due course. The contents of the archive are tabulated below (Table 1).

Number of Contexts	57
No. of files/paper record	1
Plan and sections sheets	8
Photographs	204

Table 1: Quantification of site archive

4.0 RESULTS

4.1 Geology and Overburden

4.1.1 In Trench 8 in the north-west part of the site the river terrace gravels were encountered 1.00m below the topsoil surface level. This was overlain by clay head deposit measuring a thickness of 0.59m.

4.1.2 The river gravels were not exposed in the remaining trenches. The drift geology comprised mid-orange brown compact clay containing a moderate number of large angular mud-stones and occasional patches of sand. There were variations in the colour and texture of this deposit, suggesting it may be different variations of head deposits. In some trenches the clay had a green hue and in others it was red-brown, and contained striations of manganese and frequent angular flint inclusions.

4.1.2 Overlying the natural / head deposits was a layer of mid-orange brown silty clay, with a moderate number of flint inclusions. This measured a thickness ranging from 0.22 – 0.45m.

4.1.3 The subsoil was overlain by a layer of dark grey-brown silty clay topsoil measuring a thickness of 0.23 – 0.45m.

4.2 Trench 3, monitored on 20/01/15 (Figure 3)

4.2.1 Trench 3 measured 10m by 8m and was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.80m below topsoil surface level. All contexts encountered in Trench 3 are summarised in Table 2 below.

Context	Type	Description	Max. Length m	Max. Width m	Deposit Thickness m
3/001	Cut	Gully cut	>2.45	0.80m	0.13
3/002	Fill	Gully fill	>2.45	0.80m	0.13
3/003	Layer	Topsoil	>10	>8	0.28 – 033
3/004	Layer	Subsoil	>10	>8	0.22 – 0.35
3/005	Layer	Natural	>10	>8	-

Table 2: Trench 3 list of recorded contexts

4.2.2 A shallow gully terminus [3/001] was encountered on a north-west –south-east orientation. 2.45m of the length was visible, as it extended north-west beyond the limit of excavation. The gully measured a width of 0.80m and a depth of 0.13m. It contained a single dark-reddish brown fill [3/002] containing frequent flint stones. No dating evidence was encountered.

4.3 Trench 6, monitored on 27/01/15 (Figure 4)

4.3.1 Trench 6 measured 9.80m by 7.60m and was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.60m below topsoil surface level. All contexts encountered in Trench 6 are summarised in Table 3, below.

Context	Type	Description	Max. Length m	Max. Width m	Deposit Thickness m
6/001	Cut	Drainage ditch	>10.94	1.62	0.43
6/002	Fill	Fil of 6/001	>10.94	1.62	0.30
6/003	Fill	Fill of 6/001	>10.94	1.62	0.13
6/004	Fill	Fill of 6/005	>7.80	0.39	0.34
6/005	Cut	Drainage ditch	>7.80	0.39	0.34
6/006	Layer	Topsoil	>9.80	>7.60	0.33
6/007	Layer	Subsoil	>9.80	>7.60	0.17 – 0.27

Table 3: Trench 6 list of recorded contexts

4.3.2 A post-medieval ditch [6/005] containing a modern field drain at the base was located on a north-east – south-west orientation. This measured a length greater than 10.95m by a width of 1.62m, and measured a depth of 0.43m. It contained a single silt-clay fill [6/004]. The ditch appeared to be recut [6/001] therefore fill [6/004] was truncated. Ditch [6/001] contained a lower silty clay fill [6/004] overlain by a silty clay fill [6/004] containing modern materials such as plastic and polythene.

4.4 Trench 7, monitored on 28/01/15 (Figure 5)

4.4.1 Trench 7 measured 9.80m by 7.90m and was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.80m below topsoil surface level. All contexts from Trench 7 are summarised in Table 4, below.

Context	Type	Description	Max. Length m	Max. Width m	Deposit Thickness m
7/001	Cut	Possible pit	0.54	0.36	0.17
7/002	Fill	Fill of 7/001	0.54	0.36	0.08
7/003	Fill	Fill of 7/001	0.51	0.16	0.09
7/004	Cut	Shallow Pit?	0.48	0.36	0.18
7/005	Fill	Fill of 7/004	0.48	0.36	0.18
7/006	Cut	Field Drain	>9	0.26	>0.19
7/007	Fill	Fill of 7/006	>9	0.26	>0.19
7/008	Cut	Shallow pit?	>0.38	>0.32	0.09
7/009	Fill	Fill of 7/008]	>0.38	>0.32	0.09
7/010	Layer	Topsoil	>9.80	>7.90	0.32
7/011	Layer	Subsoil	>9.80	>7.90	0.25 – 0.36
7/012	Layer	Natural / head	-	-	-

Table 4: Trench 7 list of recorded contexts

4.4.2 An oval feature [7/001] measured a length of 0.54m by a width of 0.36m and measured a depth of 0.17m. The gradual sides and shallow profile suggest the feature is unlikely to be a post-hole or pit, but is more likely to be a shallow depression within the clay geology. It appeared to contain a lower mottled red clay fill [7/002] overlain by a grey-brown silty clay fill [7/003].

4.4.3 Two small shallow possible pits [7/004] and [7/008] were truncated by a modern field drain [7/006]. Each contained a single mid brown clay fill and had a shallow bowl shaped profile. Pit [7/004] measured a diameter of 0.48m by a depth of 0.18m and contained a clay fill [7/005]. Pit [7/008] measured a diameter of 0.38m by a depth of 0.09m and contained clay fill [7/009]. There was no obvious evidence to suggest these features were archaeological.

4.5 Archaeologically negative trenches

- Trench 1, monitored on 06/01/15
- Trench 2, monitored on 13/01/15
- Trench 4, monitored on 21/01/15
- Trench 5, monitored on 26/01/15
- Trench 8, monitored on 29/01/15
- Trench 9. monitored on 29/01/15 and 30/01/15
- Trench 10 monitored on 03/02/15
- Trench 11 monitored on 03/02/15
- Trench 12 monitored on 04/02/15 and 05/02/15

4.5.1 Trench 1 measured 7m x 7m and was excavated to a maximum depth of 1.75m below topsoil surface level. Trench 2 measured a length of 9.80m by a width of 7.70m and was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.90m below topsoil surface level. Trench 4 measured a length of 9.70m by a width of 7.90m and was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.90m below topsoil surface level. Trench 5 measured a length of 9.80m by a width of 7.90m and was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.80m below topsoil surface level. Cable trenches 8, 9 and 10 measured a width of 0.60m and were excavated to a maximum depth of 1.00m below topsoil surface level. All contexts from Trenches 1, 2, 4, 5 and 8 - 12 have been summarised in Table 5, below.

Context	Type	Description	Max. Length m	Max. Width m	Deposit Thickness m
1/001	Layer	Topsoil	>7	>7	0.28
1/002	Layer	Green clay	>7	>7	0.07 – 0.15
1/003	Layer	Subsoil	>7	>7	0.32
1/004	Layer	Head deposit	>7	>7	-
2/001	Layer	Topsoil	>9.80	>7.70	0.28 – 0.33
2/002	Layer	Subsoil	>9.80	>7.70	0.42 – 0.50
2/003	Layer	Head deposit	>9.80	>7.70	-
4/001	Layer	Topsoil	>9.70	>7.90	0.38 – 0.45
4/002	Layer	Subsoil	>9.70	>7.90	0.23 – 0.37
4/003	Layer	Natural / head	-	-	-
5/001	Layer	Topsoil	>9.80	>7.90	0.32
5/002	Layer	Subsoil	>9.80	>7.90	0.25
5/003	Layer	Natural / head	-	-	-
8/001	Layer	Topsoil	-	>0.60	0.27
8/002	Layer	Subsoil	-	>0.60	0.39 – 0.59
8/003	Layer	Head deposit	-	>0.60	-
8/004	Layer	Natural	-	-	-
9/001	Layer	Topsoil	-	>0.60	0.27 – 0.33

Context	Type	Description	Max. Length m	Max. Width m	Deposit Thickness m
9/002	Layer	Subsoil	-	>0.60	0.21 – 0.41
9/003	Layer	Head deposit	-	>0.60	-
9/004	Layer	Natural	-	>0.60	-
10/001	Layer	Topsoil	-	>0.60	0.24 – 0.34
10/002	Layer	Subsoil	-	>0.60	0.36 – 0.45
10/003	Layer	Head deposit	-	>0.60	-
10/004	Layer	Natural	-	>0.60	-
11/001	Layer	Topsoil	-	>0.60	0.29 – 0.37
11/002	Layer	Subsoil	-	>0.60	0.11 – 0.44
11/003	Layer	Head deposit	-	>0.60	-
11/004	Layer	Natural	-	>0.60	-
12/001	Layer	Topsoil	-	>0.60	0.33 – 0.40
12/002	Layer	Subsoil	-	>0.60	0.35 – 0.42
12/003	Layer	Head deposit	-	>0.60	-
12/004	Layer	Natural	-	>0.60	-

Table 5: Archaeologically negative trenches 1, 2, 4-5 and 8-12 list of recorded contexts

5.0 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

5.1 The river terrace gravels were only encountered in one trench (Trench 8) where they were identified 1.00m below the topsoil surface level. The gravels were overlain by clay head deposit measuring a thickness of 0.59m.

5.2 In the remaining trenches the geology comprised mid-orange brown compact clay containing a moderate number of large angular mud-stones and occasional patches of sand. There were variations in the colour and texture of this deposit, suggesting it may be different variations of head deposits. In some trenches the clay had a green hue and in others it was red-brown, and contained striations of manganese and frequent angular flint inclusions.

5.3 Overlying the natural / head deposits was a layer of mid-orange brown silty clay, with a moderate number of flint inclusions. This measured a thickness ranging from 0.22 – 0.45m. This subsoil was overlain by a layer of dark grey-brown silty clay topsoil measuring a thickness of 0.23 – 0.45m.

5.4 Possible archaeological features were identified in three of the areas monitored (Trenches 3, 6 and 7). There was no dating evidence retrieved from any of the features, and some of the more discrete features may have been shallow in-filled depressions within the clay geology.

5.5 A shallow undated gully terminus [3/001] was encountered on a north-west – south-east orientation In Trench 3.

5.6 A probable post-medieval ditch [6/005] containing a modern field drain at the base was located on a north-east – south-west orientation in Trench 6. The ditch appeared to be recut [6/001] by a later ditch containing modern materials such as plastic and polythene.

5.7 Three discrete oval shaped features [7/001][7/004] and [7/008] in Trench 7 may represent shallow pits or post-holes. It is unclear whether they are archaeological or evidence of modern posts, or whether they are shallow natural depressions within the clay. No dating evidence was retrieved from these features.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

ASE, Forthcoming. *Archaeological Investigations along the Isle of Grain – Shorne Pipeline Route, Hoo Peninsula, Kent*

Kent County Council 2007. *Standard Specification for an Archaeological Watching Brief*

Online resources

www.bgs.ac.uk (Accessed on 13/03/15)

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

ASE would like to thank CgMs for commissioning the work and for their assistance throughout the project. The excavation was directed by Steve Price. Justin Russell produced the figures for this report; Paul Mason project managed the excavations and Jim Stevenson project managed the post-excavation process.

HER Summary

Site Code	MMH14					
Identification Name and Address	Land at Malmaynes Hall Farm, Stoke, Kent					
County, District &/or Borough	Kent					
OS Grid Refs.	TQ 80888 74903					
Geology	River terrace deposits comprising sand and gravel, locally with lenses of silt, clay or peat, with overlying head deposits					
Arch. South-East Project Number	7264					
Type of Fieldwork			Watching Brief			
Type of Site	Green Field					
Dates of Fieldwork			WB. 6th January - 5th February 2015			
Sponsor/Client	CgMs					
Project Manager	Paul Mason					
Project Supervisor	Steve Price					
Period Summary						
			PM	unknown		

Summary

Archaeology South-East was commissioned by CgMs Ltd to undertake an archaeological watching brief on Land at Malmaynes Hall Farm, Kent.

Twelve trenches were monitored during the watching brief. Possible archaeological features were identified in Trenches 3, 6 and 7, mainly comprising drainage ditches. No dating evidence was retrieved from any of the features, and some of the more discrete features may have been shallow in-filled depressions within the clay geology.

River terrace gravels were encountered in one trench (Trench 8) where they were identified 1.00m below the topsoil surface level. The gravels were overlain by clay head deposit measuring a thickness of 0.59m. In the remaining trenches the geology comprised mid-orange brown compact clay.

OASIS Form

OASIS ID: archaeol6-206210

Project details

Project name	An Archaeological Watching Brief at Land at Malmaynes Hall Farm, Kent
Short description of the project	Archaeology South-East was commissioned by CgMs Ltd to undertake an archaeological watching brief on Land at Malmaynes Hall Farm, Kent. Twelve trenches were monitored during the watching brief. Possible archaeological features were identified in Trenches 3, 6 and 7, mainly comprising drainage ditches. No dating evidence was retrieved from any of the features, and some of the more discrete features may have been shallow in-filled depressions within the clay geology. River terrace gravels were encountered in one trench (Trench 8) where they were identified 1.00m below the topsoil surface level. The gravels were overlain by clay head deposit measuring a thickness of 0.59m. In the remaining trenches the geology comprised mid-orange brown compact clay.
Project dates	Start: 06-01-2015 End: 05-02-2015
Previous/future work	No / Not known
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	None
Current Land use	Grassland Heathland 2 - Undisturbed Grassland
Monument type	ENCLOSURE Iron Age
Significant Finds	CREMATIONS Roman
Significant Finds	SALT-WORKING Bronze Age
Investigation type	"Watching Brief"
Prompt	Planning condition

Project location

Country	England
Site location	KENT MEDWAY HOO ST WERBURGH Land at Malmaynes Hall
Study area	10.00 Hectares
Site coordinates	TQ 580888 174904 50.9345844993 0.250127429662 50 56 04 N 000 15 00 E Point

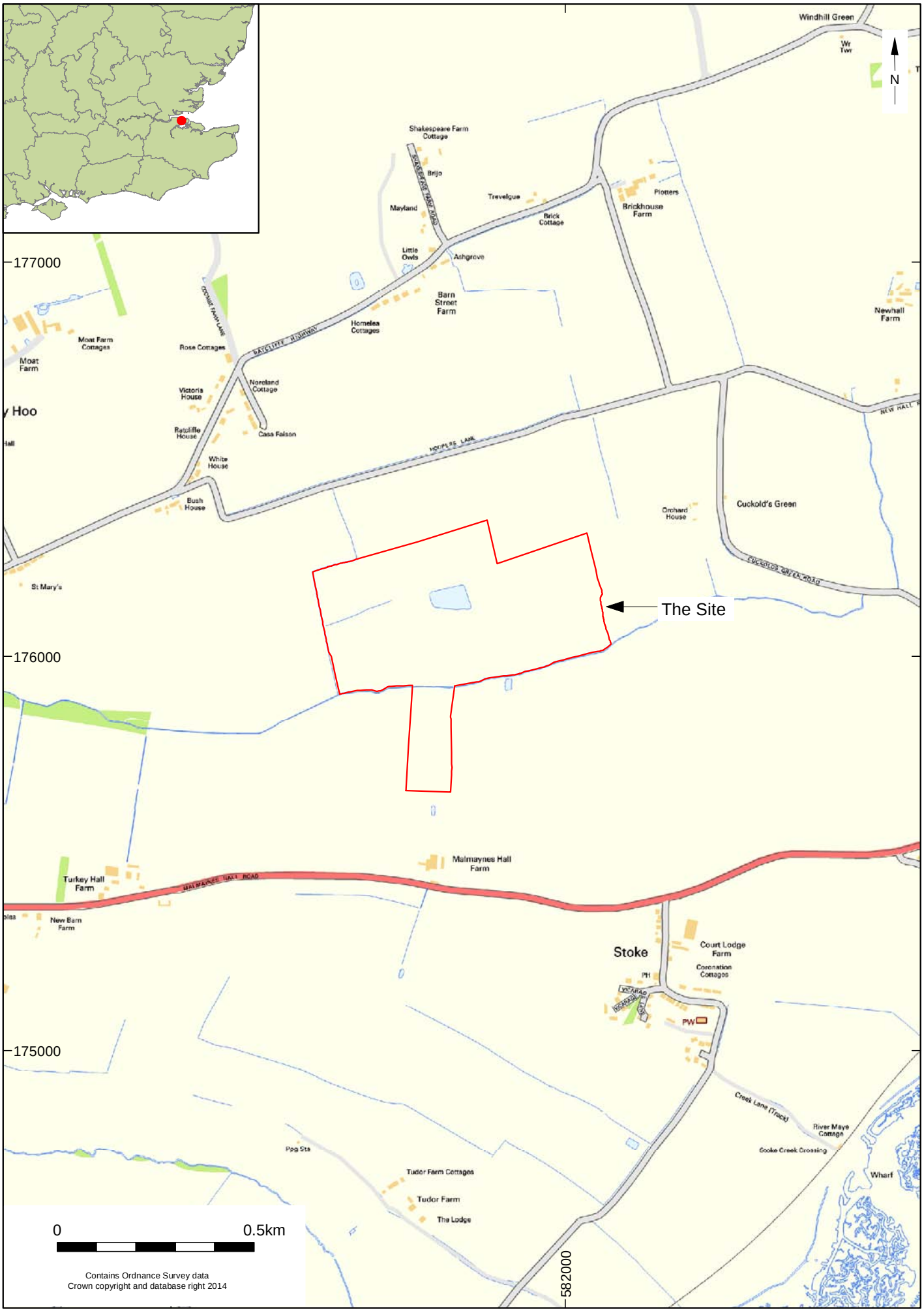
Project creators

Name of Organisation	Archaeology South-East
Project brief originator	Kent County Council
Project design originator	Archaeology South-East
Project director/manager	Paul Mason
Project supervisor	Catherine Douglas
Type of sponsor/funding body	Consultant
Name of sponsor/funding body	CgMs

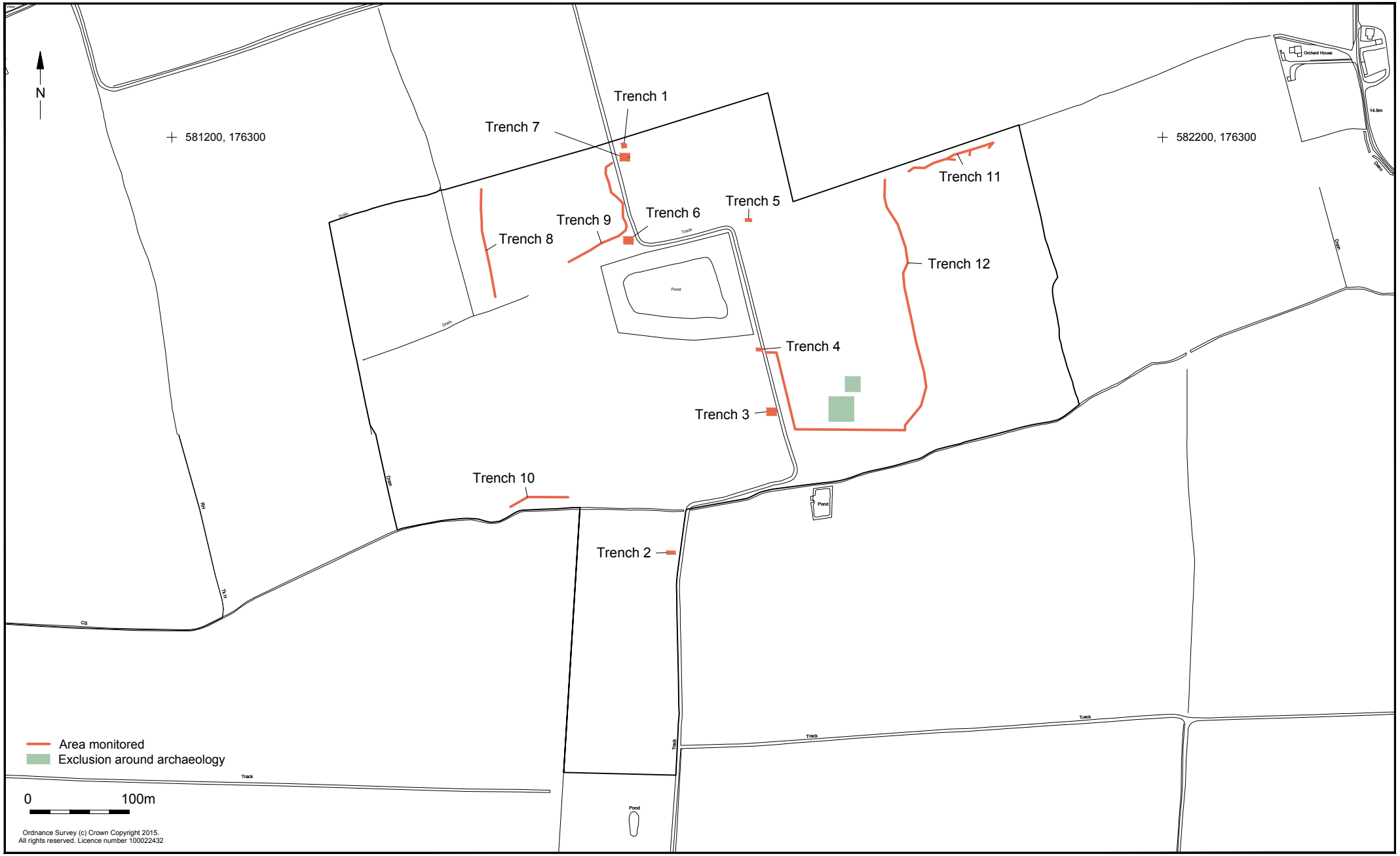
Project archives

Physical Archive Exists?	No
Digital Archive recipient	Local Museum
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography"
Paper Archive recipient	Local Museum
Paper Media available	"Context sheet","Drawing","Plan","Report","Section"

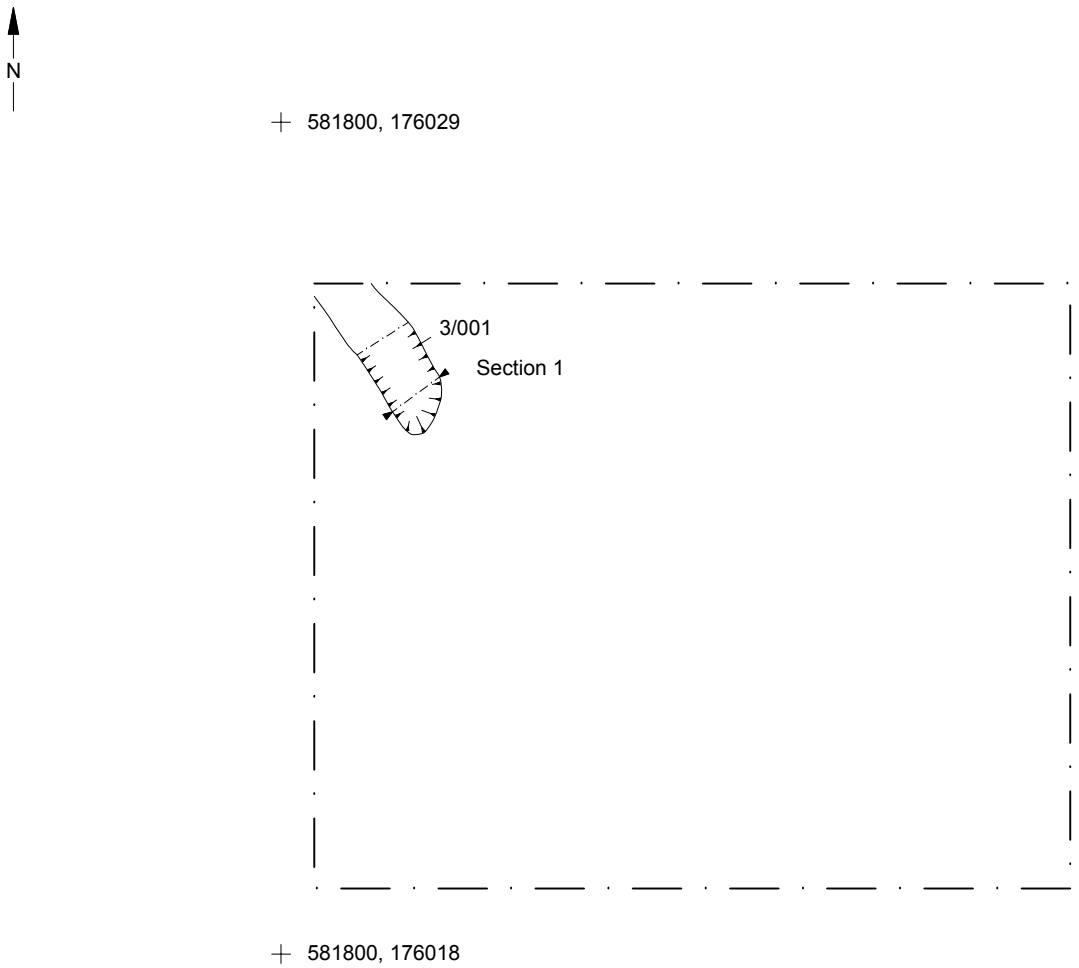
Entered by	Catherine Douglas (catherine.douglas@ucl.ac.uk)
Entered on	13 March 2015

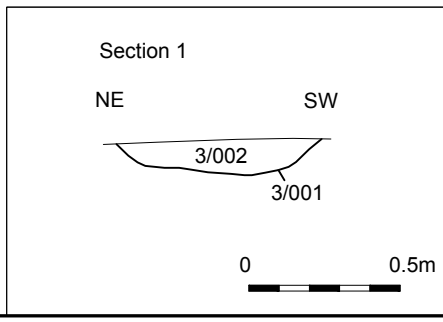


© **Archaeology South-East**		Malmaynes Hall	Fig. 1
Project Ref: 7264	March 2015	Site location	
Report Ref: 2015072	Drawn by: JLR		



© Archaeology South-East		Malmaynes Hall, Rochester	Fig. 2
Project Ref: 7264	March 2015	Plan of monitored areas	
Report Ref: 2015072	Drawn by: JLR		





3/001 looking south

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Project Ref: 7264	March 2015	Trench 3: plan, section and photograph	
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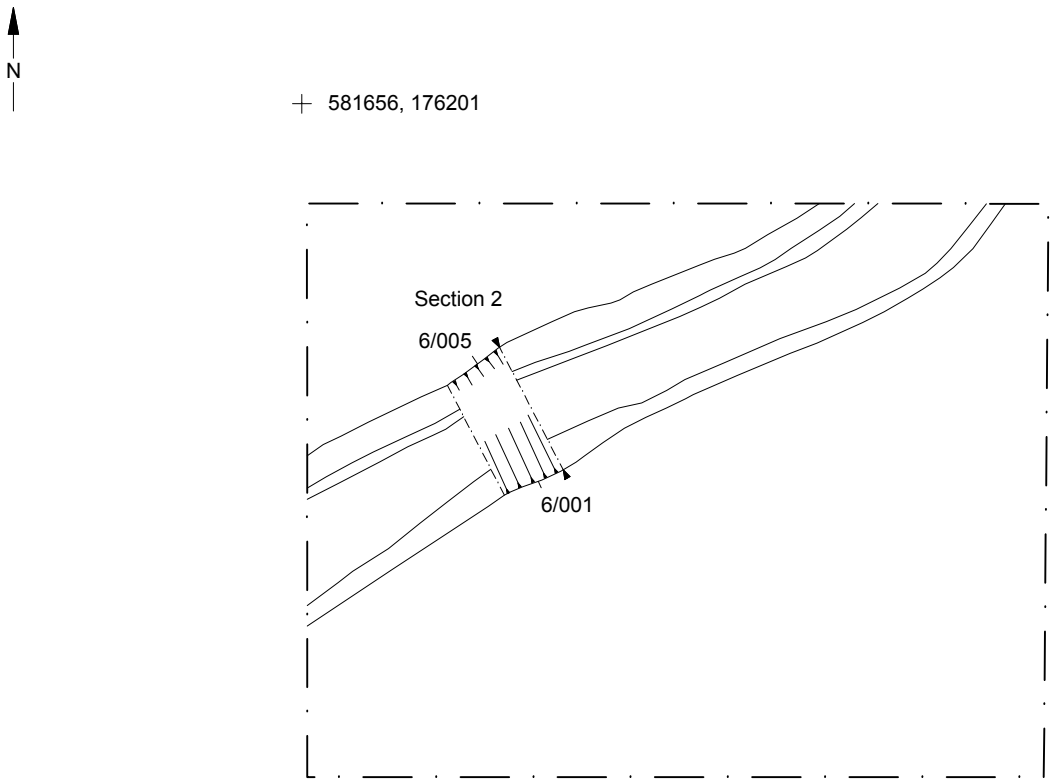
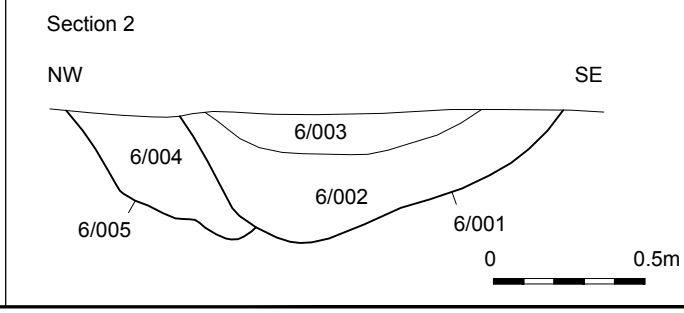


6/001 and 6/005 looking north-east



© **Archaeology South-East**		Malmaynes Hall, Rochester	Fig. 4
Project Ref: 7264	March 2015	Trench 6: plan, section and photograph	
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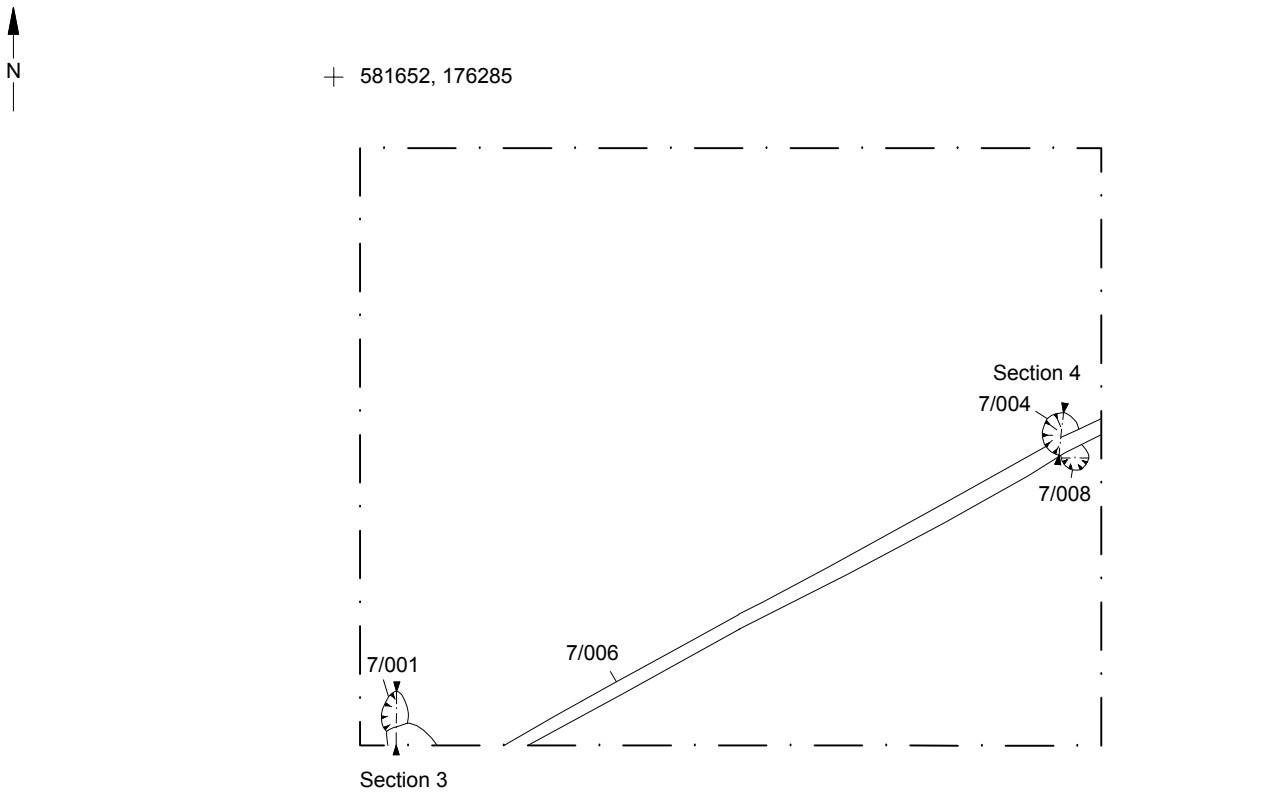

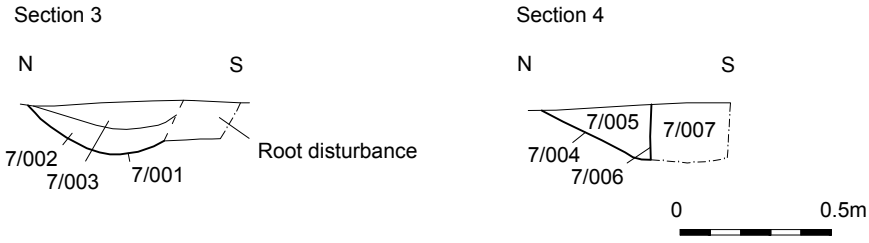

7/001 looking east

7/004 and 7/006 looking east

© Archaeology South-East		Malmaynes Hall, Rochester	Fig. 5
Project Ref: 7264	March 2015	Trench 7: plan, sections and photographs	
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