

**An Archaeological Evaluation  
at Land at Quarry Wood, Aldington,  
Kent.**

**NGR: 606136 136961  
(TR 0613 3696)**

**Planning Ref: 14/00681/AS**

**ASE Project No: 7493  
Site Code: AQW15**

**ASE Report No: 2015163  
OASIS id: 210597**

**Garrett Sheehan**

**With contributions from  
Gemma Ayton, Luke Barber, Anna Doherty, Karine Le Hégarat,  
Elke Raemen and Angela Vitolo**

**Illustrations by John Cook**

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## **Abstract**

*Archaeology South-East was commissioned by CgMs Consulting Ltd, on behalf of their client, Taylor Wimpey South East, to undertake an archaeological evaluation in advance of residential development on land at Quarry Wood, Aldington, Kent. A total of nine trenches were excavated.*

*Thirteen Trenches were initially planned, but five of these (Trenches 9 – 13) were not excavated as the eastern end of the site had been subject to extensive quarrying in the 19<sup>th</sup> and earlier 20<sup>th</sup> centuries, and therefore it was considered that no archaeological deposits or features would have survived in that part of the site. An additional trench (Trench 14) was excavated in the western part of the site, between Trenches 5 and 6.*

*Four of the excavated trenches (Trenches 5 - 8) revealed evidence for quarrying and archaeological features were identified in three trenches (Trenches 4, 5 and 14). Three possible archaeological features were identified within the site; comprising of one broadly east west aligned ditch terminus, one small gully and a single possible pit.*

*Post-medieval CBM was recovered from the infill deposits within the quarrying cuts while the ditch terminus produced pottery of late prehistoric date, the gully produced a single sherd of medieval pottery and the pit was devoid of artefactual material.*

*The very limited presence of finds in topsoil and subsoil horizons, along with the history of extensive quarrying across the south and east of the site area, and the absence of archaeological deposits in the north western part of the site, indicate that the potential for the survival of further evidence for settlement activity within the site is probably limited.*

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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), Institute of Archaeology (IoA), University College London (UCL) was commissioned by CgMs Consulting on behalf of their client, Taylor Wimpey South East, to undertake an archaeological evaluation in advance of residential development on land at Quarry Wood, east of Calleywell Lane, Aldington, Kent (NGR 606136 136961).

### **1.2 Geology and Topography**

- 1.2.1 The site comprises a roughly L-shaped plot of pasture land lying to the immediate east of Calleywell Lane. It is bounded to the north and east by farmland and to the south by a modern housing estate fronting Roman Road (Fig. 1).
- 1.2.2 The British Geological Survey shows the site lies on solid geology of Hythe Beds of Lower Greensand (BGS 2015).

### **1.3 Planning Background**

- 1.3.1 The site is earmarked for residential development. The first stage of predetermination work requested by Kent County Council was a Desk Based Assessment (DBA) completed by CgMs Consulting (CgMs 2012).
- 1.3.2 Further to the submission of the DBA planning permission, subject to conditions, was granted by Ashford Borough Council for the erection of 41 dwellings with access from Calleywell Lane, together with associated parking, landscaping and open space (14/00681/AS). The archaeological condition (Condition 44) read as follows:

*No development shall take place until the applicant, or their agents or successors in title, has secured the implementation of archaeological field evaluation works in accordance with a specification and written timetable which has previously been submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority; and following on from the evaluation has secured the implementation of;*

1. *Any safeguarding measures, identified in the evaluation as necessary, to ensure preservation in situ of important archaeological remains and/or*

2. *Further archaeological investigation in accordance with a timetable which has previously been submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority.*

**Reason:** *To ensure appropriate assessment of the archaeological implications of any development proposals and the subsequent mitigation of adverse impacts through preservation in situ or by record.*

- 1.3.2 Accordingly, a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for a trial trench archaeological evaluation was prepared following consultation between ASE and CgMs (ASE 2015). It was prepared in accordance with relevant Standards and Guidance of the Institute for Archaeologists (ClfA 2014a, 2014c) and in line with guidelines set out in Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE; English Heritage 2006) and was submitted to all parties for approval prior to the commencement of work at the site.

#### **1.4 Scope of Report**

- 1.4.1 This report details the findings of the archaeological evaluation which was undertaken by Hayley Nicholls (Archaeologist) and Garrett Sheehan (Archaeologist) between the 27<sup>th</sup> and the 30<sup>th</sup> of April 2015. The project was managed by Paul Mason (Project Manager, fieldwork) and by Jim Stevenson (Project Manager, post-excavation). This report has been undertaken in accordance with the guidelines set out in the KCC Manual of Specifications Part B: Evaluation – Trial Trench Requirements (KCC 2007).

## **2.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND AND RESEARCH AIMS AND OBJECTIVES**

### **2.1 Introduction**

- 2.1.1 The following archaeological background has been derived from the Desk Based Assessment (CgMs Consulting 2012) with due acknowledgment. The full background to the site is contained in that document.

### **2.2 Prehistoric**

- 2.2.1 The Kent HER records no Palaeolithic sites or finds either within the site itself or for within a 1km zone around the site.
- 2.2.2 The Mount is a large earthwork which is recorded as a round barrow approximately 500m north-west of the study site. Investigations in the 1960s recorded that it was constructed of sand, not of local origin and residual Mesolithic flakes, blades and a scraper were found at depth which could have been brought in during its construction (TR03NE6 TR05543717).

### **2.3 Romano-British**

- 2.3.1 The site lies approximately 250m north east of the projected route of a Roman road (called Roman Road). A metalled surface of possible Roman date was recorded beneath the road during a watching brief in 2005 (TR03NE207 TR06763626).
- 2.3.2 Metal detecting approximately 500m west of the study site close to the Roman road recorded a Roman copper alloy crossbow brooch (MKE55849 TR0560037300). Roman coins were potentially found within the east of the site within backfilled soil from the quarry north of the site (TR03NE25 TR06203680).
- 2.3.3 The possible site of a Roman villa was recorded at New Haytors approximately 600m south of the study site where Roman flue tiles and bricks sherds of pottery and piers of square tiles suggest the remains of a hypocaust were found (TR03NE5 TR06053639).

### **2.4 Saxon – Early medieval**

- 2.4.1 Two silver pennies were found during metal detecting at least 600m south of the study site (TR03NE195 TR03NE225 TR06003600). An early medieval silver coin and copper alloy key was found close to the road approximately 650m North West of the study site (MKE55817 TR0540037400 and MKE55834 TR0560037300).
- 2.4.2 A medieval seal was found in topsoil in Clap Hill approximately 250m south west of the study site (TR03NE30 TR058369). A number of finds have been recorded during metal detecting close to The Mount approximately 650m north west of the study site (Silver Coin MKE55836, MKE55837, MKE55838, MKE55839, MKE55840, Copper alloy buckle MKE55841, MKE55842,



MKE55843, MKE55844, MKE55845, MKE55848, Strap fitting MKE55847, copper alloy mount MKE55846 TR0560037300).

2.4.3 St Martins Church at Aldington dates from 12<sup>th</sup> century and lies approximately 1500m south east of the study site. The church would have formed the focus of any development during these periods.

2.4.4 The site itself most likely lay within agricultural land during these periods.

## **2.5 Post-medieval – modern**

2.5.1 During the post-medieval period the site lay in agricultural land outside the core of development at Aldington surrounded by dispersed cottages and small hamlets.

2.5.2 Symnell Cottage was originally built in 15th century approximately 400m north of the study site and is currently Grade II Listed. The Old Cottage lies behind Symnell Cottage and was originally built in 16th century approximately 700m north of the study site and is currently Grade II Listed. Goldwell House was originally built in 16th century approximately 400m north east of the study site and is currently Grade II Listed. An associated stable was built in 17th century and is also Grade II Listed. Symnell House was originally built in 16th century and lies approximately 500m north east of the study site and is currently Grade II Listed.

2.5.3 By the 18th century there was a small hamlet at Clap Hill. Three buildings within Clap Hill were built by the 18th century and are currently Grade II Listed; 1 and 2 Clap Hill lies approximately 250m south west of the study site, Clap Hill house lies approximately 300m south west of the study site and By The Way lies approximately 400m south west of the study site.

2.5.4 By the mid 19<sup>th</sup> century the site lay to the north of a large quarry. By 1871 the quarry had extended into the south of the site and by 1896 it had extended across the southern and south western part of the site.

2.5.5 By the early 20<sup>th</sup> century the quarry had extended further northwards to cover the bulk of the site. The north of the site remained in agricultural land. By the 1930s the quarry was disused and the land within the site had been backfilled.

2.5.6 There was little change to the site by the 1960s. By the 1970s a smallholding had been constructed in the centre of the site. The remainder of the site comprised of agricultural land on the edge of new development. There has been no subsequent change to the site.

## **2.6 Research aims and objectives**

2.6.1 The broad aims of the evaluation, in keeping with previous similar projects

were to:

- 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

2.6.2 The evaluation will seek to inform on the following areas of research from the South-Eastern Research Framework (SERF):

- The transition to the Roman period and the study of its agricultural economy

### **3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY**

#### **3.1 Fieldwork Methodology**

- 3.1.1 The initial methodology for the trial trench evaluation, as outlined in the project WSI (ASE 2015), comprised of the excavation of 13, 30m x 1.8m trenches targeted on development impacts.
- 3.1.2 Subsequent consultation with the KCC Archaeological Officer resulted in the excavation of five of these trenches being abandoned, as they were located within the footprint of a post-medieval quarry (2.5.4 and Fig. 2). In addition two of the planned trenches were realigned in order to avoid the small holding area which was determined to hold little potential for features of archaeological interest. The excavation of an 18m x 1.8m trench and small perpendicular extensions to two other trenches was also carried out in order to ascertain the extent of identified archaeological features (Fig. 2). All work was carried out in accordance with the project WSI document as well as the relevant Chartered Institute for Archaeologists procedural documents (CIfA 2014a and 2014c).
- 3.1.2 The proposed locations of trenches were scanned using a Cable Avoidance Tool (CAT scanner) in order to check for services.
- 3.1.3 Exposed archaeological deposits were cleaned by hand and were photographed and surveyed using GPS; they were then excavated to ascertain their nature and extent and the excavated sections were subsequently drawn, photographed and surveyed.
- 3.1.4 Features and deposits were described on standard pro-forma recording sheets used by ASE. All remains were levelled with respect to Ordnance Survey datum.
- 3.1.5 The strategy for sampling archaeological and environmental deposits was carried out with reference to English Heritage guidelines for environmental archaeology (English Heritage 2011).

#### **3.2 Archive**

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

Number of Contexts	44
No. of files/paper record	1 file
Plan and sections sheets	1
Colour photographs	0
B&W photos	0
Digital photos	107
Permatrace sheets	1
Trench Record Forms	9
Bulk Samples	1
Bulk Finds	0.10 box

Table 1: Quantification of site archive

## 4.0 RESULTS

### 4.1 Trenches 1, 2 and 3

- 4.1.1 These three trenches were devoid of archaeology and no finds were retrieved from their topsoil or subsoil deposits.

Trench Number	Context	Type	Description	Deposit Thickness m
1	001	Layer	Topsoil	0.25 – 0.40
1	002	Layer	Made ground	0.35
1	003	Layer	Natural	NA
2	001	Layer	Made ground	0.30
2	002	Layer	Topsoil	0.25
2	003	Layer	Natural	NA
4	001	Layer	Topsoil	0.20 – 0.30
4	002	Layer	Natural	NA

Table 2: Trenches 1, 2 and 3; list of recorded contexts

### 4.2 Trench 4

- 4.2.1 Trench 4 was located close to the north east corner of the site. The trench measured 30m in length, 1.8m wide and was orientated on a north-east to south-west alignment. The natural substrate [4/002] occurred at between 74.28m and 74.56m AOD (Fig. 3).
- 4.2.2 One possible archaeological feature was identified within the trench, comprised of an oval pit. This pit was located approximately mid-way along the length of the trench.
- 4.2.3 Pit [4/003] was oval in plan and measured 1.22m in length by 0.90m in width and 0.26m deep. The pit was cut through natural substrate [4/002] and was filled by two archaeologically sterile sandy silt deposits [4/004] and [4/005] and sealed by topsoil [4/001].

Context	Type	Description	Max. Length m	Max. Width m	Deposit Thickness m
4/001	Layer	Topsoil	NA	NA	0.30
4/002	Layer	Natural	NA	NA	NA
4/003	Cut	Pit	1.22	0.90	0.32
4/004	Fill	Fill, primary	0.80	0.60	0.08
4/005	Fill	Fill, secondary	1.22	0.90	0.26

Table 3: Trench 4; list of recorded contexts

### 4.3 Trench 5

- 4.3.1 Trench 5 was located at the western edge of the site, parallel to Calleywell Lane. The trench measured 30m in length, 1.8m wide and was orientated on a north/north-east to south/south-west alignment. An extension (Trench 5B)

measuring 6m by 5m was excavated perpendicular to the eastern side of the trench. The natural substrate [5/008] occurred at between 74.90m and 75.20m AOD (Fig. 4).

- 4.3.2 The northern edge of the post-medieval quarry pit (see 2.5.4 and Fig. 2) was identified at the southern edge of the trench and measured 4m in exposed north-south extent [5/004]. It was filled with mid brown sandy clay silt containing lenses of redeposited orange sandy clay and produced post-medieval CBM fragments [5/003]. This deposit was overlain by topsoil [5/001].
- 4.3.3 One archaeological feature was identified within the trench, comprised of an east to west aligned ditch terminus. This ditch was located towards the northern end of the trench.
- 4.3.4 Ditch [5/007]/[5/011] measured 6m in exposed length, between 1m and 1.50m in width and between 0.30m and 0.49m deep. The eastern end of the ditch ended in a squared-off terminus with rounded corners and the western end extended beyond the limit of excavation in the direction of Calleywell Lane. The ditch was cut through natural substrate [5/008] and was filled by two deposits.
- 4.3.5 The primary ditch fill consisted of light grey brown sandy silt [5/006]/[5/010] which contained frequent amounts of angular limestone fragments and moderate amounts of snail shell fragments. This deposit produced sherds of Middle/Late Iron Age pot as well as some fire-cracked flint. Small fragments of burnt clay were also observed within this fill. The secondary fill consisted of mid-dark grey brown sandy silt [5/005]/[5/009] which produced a large quantity of Middle/Late Iron Age pot as well as animal bone and possible pot boilers, small fragments of burnt clay or daub were also observed within this deposit. These fills were sealed to the west by subsoil [5/002] and were directly overlain by topsoil [5/001] to the east.

Context	Type	Description	Max. Length m	Max. Width m	Deposit Thickness m
5/001	Layer	Topsoil	NA	NA	0.30-0.50
5/002	Layer	Subsoil	26	2	0.20
5/003	Layer	Fill	4	1.80	
5/004	Cut	Quarry	4	1.80	
5/005	Layer	Fill, secondary	1.9	1.3	0.32
5/006	Layer	Fill, primary	1.9	1	0.21
5/007	Cut	Ditch	1.9	1.3	0.49
5/008	Layer	Natural	NA	NA	NA
5/009	Layer	Fill, secondary	4.1	1.5	0.14
5/010	Layer	Fill, primary	4	0.70	0.18
5/011	Cut	Ditch terminus	4.1	1.5	0.30

Table 4: Trench 5; list of recorded contexts

## 4.4 Trench 6

4.4.1 Trench 6 was located in the southwest corner of the site, parallel to the northern boundary with Celak Close housing estate. The trench measured 30m in length, 1.8m wide and was orientated on an east/south-east to west/north-west alignment. An extension (Trench 6B) measuring 9m in length by 1.80m in width was excavated perpendicular to the southern side of the trench. The natural substrate [6/002] occurred at between 74.94m and 75.16m AOD.

4.4.2 The northern edge of the post-medieval quarry pit was identified at the eastern end of the main trench and at the southern edge of the Trench 6B extension (Figs 2 and 6). The quarry measured 10m in east to west extent within Trench 6 [6/003] and extended across the width of Trench 6B [6/005]; a sondage excavated at the eastern end of the main trench revealed that the quarry pit had a steep-sided cut edge and a depth of at least 0.40m. The quarry pit was filled with mid brown sandy clay silt containing lenses of redeposited orange sandy clay [6/004]/[6/006]. This deposit was overlain by topsoil [6/001].

Context	Type	Description	Max. Length m	Max. Width m	Deposit Thickness m
6/001	Layer	Topsoil	NA	NA	0.20-0.30
6/002	Layer	Natural	NA	NA	NA
6/003	Cut	Quarry	10	1.80	
6/004	Layer	Fill	10	1.80	>0.4
6/005	Cut	Quarry	2.20	1.80	
6/006	Layer	Fill	2.20	1.80	

Table 5: Trench 6; list of recorded contexts

## 4.5 Trench 7

4.5.1 Trench 7 was located in the southwest corner of the site, perpendicular to the northern boundary with Celak Close housing estate. The trench measured 30m in length, 1.8m wide and was orientated on a north to south alignment. The natural substrate (6/002) occurred at between 74.90m and 75.35m AOD.

4.5.2 Both the northern and southern edges of the post-medieval quarry pit [7/004] were identified within this trench (Figs 2 and 6). The quarry pit measured 12m in north to south width and was filled with mixed mid brown sandy clay silt and redeposited orange sandy clay [7/005]. This deposit was sealed by subsoil [7/002], which was in turn overlain by topsoil [7/001].

Context	Type	Description	Max. Length m	Max. Width m	Deposit Thickness m
7/001	Layer	Topsoil	NA	NA	0.20
7/002	Layer	Subsoil	NA	NA	0.22

Context	Type	Description	Max. Length m	Max. Width m	Deposit Thickness m
7/003	Layer	Natural	NA	NA	NA
7/004	Cut	Quarry	12	1.80	
7/005	Layer	Fill	12	1.80	

Table 6: Trench 7; list of recorded contexts

## 4.6 Trench 8

4.6.1 Trench 8 was located in the centre of the site, south of the former small holding. The trench measured 30m in length, 1.8m wide and was orientated on a northwest to southeast alignment. The natural substrate varied between greensand with limestone inclusions [8/002] and orange sandy clay [8/003] and occurred at between 74.51m and 74.90m AOD.

4.6.2 The topsoil deposit [8/001] overlay a layer of mid brown sandy clay silt containing lenses of orange sandy clay [8/004] which measured 0.70m in thickness and which produced a quantity of post-medieval CBM and a clay-pipe stem. This deposit was interpreted as back-fill and the trench was therefore entirely situated within the quarry pit [8/005].

Context	Type	Description	Max. Length m	Max. Width m	Deposit Thickness m
8/001	Layer	Topsoil	NA	NA	0.30 – 0.50
8/002	Layer	Natural	NA	NA	NA
8/003	Layer	Natural	NA	NA	NA
8/004	Layer	Fill	NA	NA	0.70
8/005	Cut	Quarry	NA	NA	0.70

Table 7: Trench 8; list of recorded contexts

## 4.7 Trench 14

4.7.1 Trench 14 was located between Trenches 5 and 6 in the south-western part of the site. The trench measured 18m in length, 1.8m wide and was orientated on a north to south alignment. The natural substrate [14/002] occurred at between 74.71m and 75.30m AOD (Fig. 5).

4.7.2 One archaeological feature was identified towards the southern end of the trench, comprised of a shallow east to west aligned gully.

4.7.3 Gully [14/004] measured 0.80m in width and 0.14m in maximum depth and extended across the width of the trench, but was not identified in either Trench 5, to the west, or Trench 6B, to the east. The gully was cut through natural substrate [14/002] and was filled by sandy silt clay [14/003] from which a single sherd of medieval pot and a small quantity of animal bone was recovered.



Context	Type	Description	Max. Length m	Max. Width m	Deposit Thickness m
14/001	Layer	Topsoil	NA	NA	0.25 – 0.30
14/002	Layer	Natural	NA	NA	NA
14/003	Layer	Fill	>1.80	0.80	0.14
14/004	Cut	Gully	>1.80	0.80	0.14

Table 8: Trench 14; list of recorded contexts

## 5.0 THE FINDS

### 5.1 Introduction

5.1.1 A small assemblage of finds was recovered during the evaluation Quarry Wood, Aldington. Finds were all washed and dried or air dried as appropriate. They were subsequently quantified by count and weight and bagged by material and context (Table 9). Finds were all packed and stored according to ClfA guidelines (Table 10); (CIFA 2014b).

Context	Pot	Wt(g)	CBM	Wt(g)	Bone	Wt(g)	Flint	Wt(g)	CTP	Wt(g)	F. Clay	Wt (g)
4/001							1	2				
5/001	1	8										
5/003			1	72	1	6						
5/004			1	1002								
5/005	46	460			11	88						
5/006	9	84										
5/009	9	126			3	8						
5/010	3	28										
8/004	1	10	15	463					1	2		
14/001	1	4									1	10
14/003	1	6			1	38						
Total	71	716	18	1540	16	140	1	2	1	2	1	10

Table 9: Quantification of the finds

Finds	Quantity
Bulk finds boxes (450mm x 240mm x 220mm)	0.10

Table 10: Finds archive quantification

## **5.2 The Flintwork** by Karine Le Hégarat

- 5.2.1 A single piece of struck flint weighing 2g was recovered from the topsoil in Trench 1. A further three chips (weighing <1g) and six fragments (14g) of burnt unworked flint have been collected from the residue of environmental sample <01> taken from context [5/006]. The small flake fragment manufactured from a mid-grey flint with occasional inclusions and the chips are chronologically undiagnostic.

## **5.3 The Prehistoric Pottery** by Anna Doherty

- 5.3.1 An assemblage of prehistoric pottery was recovered from contexts in Trench 5, amounting to 67 sherds, weighing 698 grams. The pottery has been briefly examined for spot-dating purposes but has not yet been recorded in detail according to a fabric type-series.
- 5.3.2 A group of pottery was found in context [5/005] but smaller groups with very similar ware types were noted in contexts [5/006], [5/009] and [5/010]. Although there is some variability amongst the fabrics, all of the sherds are broadly similar handmade wares with quartz-rich matrixes, often containing large naturally-occurring iron-rich inclusions. Other added inclusions like flint (and possibly sandstone) occur in a minority of examples but these tend to be rare or sparse in frequency. Some sherds also contain rare argillaceous inclusions although it is difficult to determine whether these are naturally-occurring clay pellets or added grog-temper. No diagnostic feature sherds are present but the range of fabrics represented is very comparable to those from Middle/Late Iron Age groups at nearby sites on the High Speed 1 (CTRL) route, including Little Stock Farm (Bryan 2006).

## **5.4 The post-Roman pottery** by Luke Barber

- 5.4.1 The evaluation recovered a small assemblage of post-Roman pottery from the site. The earliest consists of a 4g oxidized body sherd from a sandy ware vessel, probably from Tyler Hill, to the north of Canterbury (context [14/003]). A date between c. 1225 and 1350 can be ascribed to the sherd. Although small, the sherd is un-abraded.
- 5.4.2 The remaining three sherds derive from Late Post-medieval vessels. Unglazed earthenware flower pot sherds, both with flattened D-profiled rims (contexts [5/001] 6g and [14/001] 4g), are un-abraded and can be placed in a later 19<sup>th</sup> to mid 20<sup>th</sup> century range. The remaining sherd is from a 5g scrap of heavily abraded Midlands slipware of 19<sup>th</sup>- century date (context [8/004]).
- 5.4.3 The post-Roman pottery has no potential for further analysis.

## **5.5 Ceramic Building Material** by Elke Raemen

- 5.5.1 Sixteen fragments of CBM were recovered. A single fragment of peg tile was recovered from [5/003]. The piece is of probable early post-medieval date and is in an orange fabric with common calcium carbonates to 1.5mm, moderate fine to medium black and red iron oxides, rare fine quartz and rare medium quartz. Context [8/004] contained 13 fragments of peg tile: six in the same fabric and the remainder in a similar matrix with sparse calcareous inclusions and moderate iron oxides. One fragment in the latter fabric exhibits a partial polygonal peg hole of 13mm diameter. Also recovered from this context were two very abraded brick fragments, one of which exhibits self-glaze on the abraded surfaces. These are undiagnostic of date.

**5.6 The Clay Tobacco Pipe** by Elke Raemen

- 5.6.1 A stem fragment of clay tobacco pipe (CTP) was recovered from [8/004]. The fragment is abraded and dates to c. 1750-1910.

**5.7 The Fired Clay** by Elke Raemen

- 5.7.1 An amorphous fragment of fired clay (wt 10g) was recovered from [14/001]. The piece is in an orange clay with abundant fine quartz.

**5.8 The Animal Bone** by Gemma Ayton

- 5.8.1 A small assemblage of 16 animal bone fragments has been recovered from 3 contexts including [14/003], [5/006] and [5/005]. The specimens are in a poor state of preservation being highly fragmented and showing signs of surface erosion. Context [14/003] includes three medium-mammal sized long-bone fragments and a fragment of a cattle-sized proximal femur. Context [5/006] includes an upper molar from a sheep/goat and context [5/005] includes both medium and large-mammal sized long-bone fragments and a sheep/goat mandible. There is no evidence of butchery, burning, gnawing or pathology on the bone, the assemblage holds no potential for further analysis.

## **6.0 THE ENVIRONMENTAL SAMPLES** by Angela Vitolo

### **6.1 Introduction**

- 6.1.1 During evaluation work at the site, one bulk soil sample was taken from the basal fill of a ditch to recover environmental material such as charred plant macrofossils, wood charcoal, fauna and mollusca as well as to assist finds recovery. The following report records the contents of this sample and documents any information they provide regarding the local vegetation environment, plant or animal use.

### **6.2 Methodology**

- 6.2.1 The sample was processed by flotation in its entirety; the flot and residue were captured on 250µm and 500µm meshes respectively and were air dried. The dried residue was passed through graded sieves of 8mm, 4mm and 2mm and each fraction sorted for environmental and artefactual remains (Table 11). Artefacts recovered from the sample were distributed to specialists, and are incorporated in the relevant sections of this volume where they add further information to the existing finds assemblage. The flot was scanned under a stereozoom microscope at 7-45x magnifications and the contents recorded (Table 12). Identifications of macrobotanical remains have been made through comparison with published reference atlases (Cappers *et al.* 2006, Jacomet 2006, NIAB 2004), and nomenclature used follows Stace (1997).

### **6.3 Results and discussion**

- 6.3.1 The flot was dominated by rootlets and a large number of land snail shells were also present. One caryopsis of possible barley (*Hordeum* sp.) and one cleaver (*Galium* sp.) were recorded. Very small fragments of charcoal were present in low quantity and, given the lack of evidence for in situ burning, and because the deposit is likely to have accumulated slowly, the sample was deemed unlikely to provide significant information on fuel selection and charcoal identification was not carried out.

Sample Number	Context	Sample Volume litres	Sub-Sample Volume litres	Charcoal >4mm	Weight (g)	Charcoal <4mm	Weight (g)	Bone and Teeth	Weight (g)	Burnt bone 4-8mm	Weight (g)	Land Snail shells	Weight (g)	Other (eg ind, pot, cbm)
1	5/006	40	40	**	<2	***	2	**	16	**	4	*	<2	FCF */ 12g - Pottery **/ 52g - Burnt Clay */ <2g - Flint */ <2g

Table 11: Residue quantification (\* = 1-10, \*\* = 11-50, \*\*\* = 51-250, \*\*\*\* = >250) and weights in grams

Sample Number	Context	Weight g	Flot volume ml	Volume scanned	Uncharred %	Sediment %	Charcoal >4mm	Charcoal <4mm	Charcoal <2mm	Crop seeds charred	Identifications	Preservation	Weed seeds charred	Identifications	Preservation	Land Snail Shells
1	5/006	12	130	130	70	10		*	**	*	cf <i>Hordeum</i> sp. (1)	+	*	<i>Galium</i> sp.	++	***

Table 12: Flot quantification (\* = 1-10, \*\* = 11-50, \*\*\* = 51-250, \*\*\*\* = >250) and preservation (+ = poor, ++ = moderate, +++ = good)

## **7.0 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS**

### **7.1 Overview of stratigraphic sequence**

- 7.1.1 Trenches 1 and 2 were located within an area in which most of the topsoil had been previously removed and replaced with made ground deposits, comprised of crushed stone containing some building rubble, while the remaining trenches were excavated through undisturbed topsoil deposits (Fig. 2).
- 7.1.2 The topsoil across the site comprised loose mid brown clay silt containing varying amounts of angular limestone inclusions and occasional amounts of post-medieval and modern CBM and modern refuse. This deposit measured between 0.20m and 0.50m in thickness and directly overlay the natural substrate across the northern part of the site, and overlay subsoil and quarry fill deposits to the south.
- 7.1.3 The subsoil across the southern part of the site comprised of moderately compact, fine-grained mid brown sandy clay-silt containing varying amounts of angular limestone inclusions. Post-medieval CBM fragments were recovered from this deposit in several trenches. The deposit measured between 0.20m and 0.30m in thickness and directly overlay the natural substrate.
- 7.1.4 The natural substrate consisted, for the most part, of greensand containing frequent amounts of angular limestone fragments of varying size, interspersed with patches of orange sand-clay. The natural substrate was encountered between 73.58m AOD and 75.35m AOD across Trenches 1 to 7 and 14 with a pronounced slope from east to west observed in Trench 5 at towards the western boundary of the site. The natural substrate was encountered between 74.51m AOD and 74.90m AOD in Trench 8, which was probably situated within the northern edge of the former quarry.
- 7.1.5 Quarrying activity was identified in Trenches 5 to 8, with the northern edge of the quarry pit identified in Trenches 5 to 7, while Trench 8 appeared to have been situated entirely within the quarry pit. The quarry in-fill deposit was similar in composition to the subsoil, being largely composed of mid brown sandy clay-silt, but also contained large lenses of redeposited orange sand-clay. A quantity of post-medieval CBM and a single clay-pipe stem was recovered from this deposit.
- 7.1.6 Three possible archaeological features were identified within the site area comprising of one ditch terminus (74.79mAOD, sealed by 0.50-0.70m of subsoil and topsoil combined), one gully (75.20mOD, sealed by 0.30m of topsoil), and an oval pit (74.56mAOD, sealed by 0.30m of topsoil). The ditch terminus appears on artefactual evidence to be of Middle-Late Iron Age date, the gully may date to the medieval or early post-medieval period on the same basis, while the pit was undated.
- 7.1.7 The fills of the gully and oval pit and the primary fill of the ditch terminus were derivatives of the subsoil and geological deposits while the secondary



fill of the ditch terminus was composed of an intentional back-fill deposit of dark grey brown sandy silt.

## **7.2 Deposit survival and existing impacts**

- 7.2.1 The evaluation has confirmed that limestone extraction in the southern half of the site was extensive and will have impacted upon the bulk of any surviving archaeological deposits or features. It is possible that such features were formerly present given that two definite archaeological features were identified, both situated at the south-western corner of the site, to the immediate north of the quarry pit. In addition the HER records the likely origin of a number of Roman coins as being from quarried deposits from the site.
- 7.2.2 The evaluation suggests that the northern end of the site, which does not appear to have been impacted upon by quarrying activity, was devoid of any early settlement activity, with the only possible exception being the oval 'pit' identified at the north-east corner of the site; however, the fills of this pit were derivatives of the local geological deposits and were archaeologically sterile. It may be that this feature was in fact a naturally occurring depression of geological origin.

## **7.3 Discussion of archaeological remains by period**

- 7.3.1 The earliest archaeological feature identified on site was the ditch terminus [5/007]/[5/011], which can confidently be dated to the Middle or Late Iron Age based on analysis of the retrieved pottery. The function of this ditch is less clear; the large quantity of pottery retrieved from its fills suggests that it was situated in close proximity to an area of settlement, and may have served to delineate an entrance to an enclosure as opposed to serving as an outlying field boundary ditch. However the area enclosed must have lain to the south, as the area to the north appears to have been devoid of settlement activity, and any such settlement activity will therefore have been removed by quarrying.
- 7.3.2 While no sites or features of the Middle-Late Iron Age have been previously identified in the immediate environs of the site, a number of sites of this period have been identified in the wider vicinity, including a small settlement enclosure at Little Stock Farm, situated less than 2km directly to the north.
- 7.3.3 The small gully [14/004] identified to the south of the Iron Age ditch has a *terminus post quem* of the 13<sup>th</sup> century, based on the retrieval of a single pottery sherd and the unabraded nature of the sherd suggests that it was unlikely to have been deposited at a significantly later date. Due to the ephemeral condition of the gully not much can be inferred as to its function, but the lack of other identified features of this date elsewhere on the site again suggests that it was likely related to agricultural or settlement activity focused on the quarried-out area to the south.
- 7.3.5 The oval feature [4/003] identified at the northeast corner of the site was archaeologically sterile and, as discussed above, may in fact be a natural geological feature.

#### **7.4 Consideration of research aims**

- 7.4.1 The archaeological investigations have succeeded in characterising the extent, character and condition of the archaeological remains. In terms of character and condition, only two definite archaeological features were identified during these investigations; a ditch terminus dating to the Middle – Late Iron Age and a gully of later medieval date.
- 7.4.2 Both of the definite archaeological features identified were located towards the southwest of the site, and it is likely that this area was a focus of settlement/ agricultural activity in the Iron Age and later periods.
- 7.4.3 Specific research aims regarding the transition to the Roman period and the study of its agricultural economy within the region could not be meaningfully addressed, as there was no direct evidence of Romano-British activity on the site. However the presence of Roman coins (identified from the HER record only) likely originating from quarried-out material from the site, as well as the proximity of the Roman road, suggest that such activity may have existed, but would likely have been focused on the southern part of the site and therefore any evidence for such would have been destroyed in the post-medieval period through quarrying activity.

#### **7.5 Conclusions**

- 7.5.1 The results of the archaeological evaluation indicate that two phases of agricultural exploitation and/or settlement existed at the site. Middle-Late Iron Age activity is indicated by the ditch terminus from which a quantity of pottery was recovered and medieval activity is represented by the shallow gully to the south of this.
- 7.5.2 The evaluation trenching indicates that the northern half of the site was largely devoid of archaeological activity perhaps indicating that this area had been occupied by woodland for much of the pre-modern period.
- 7.5.3 Iron Age and medieval activity was likely focused on the southern half of the site, which had been subject to extensive quarrying in the later post-medieval and early modern periods and the majority of evidence for this activity has therefore likely been destroyed by quarrying.
- 7.5.4 There is a small possibility that further archaeological remains may survive in a limited area to the east of Calleywell Lane, at the southwest corner of the site (in the vicinity of Trenches 5 and 14).

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## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

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## HER Summary Form

Site Code	AQW15					
Identification Name and Address	Quarry Wood, Aldington, Kent					
County, District &/or Borough	Ashford Borough Council					
OS Grid Refs.	606136 136961					
Geology	Hythe Beds of Lower Greensand					
Arch. South-East Project Number	7493					
Type of Fieldwork	<b>Eval.</b>	Excav.	Watching Brief	Standing Structure	Survey	Other
Type of Site	<b>Green Field</b>	Shallow Urban	Deep Urban	Other		
Dates of Fieldwork	<b>Eval.</b> <b>27/04/15</b> - <b>30/04/15</b>	Excav.	WB.	Other		
Sponsor/Client	CgMs					
Project Manager	Paul Mason					
Project Supervisor	Hayley Nicholls					
Period Summary	Palaeo.	Meso.	Neo.	BA	IA	RB
	AS	<b>MED</b>	<b>PM</b>	<b>Other Modern</b>		
<p>Summary</p> <p><i>Eight 30m x 1.8m trenches (Trenches 1 - 8) and one 18m long trench (Trench 14) were excavated from topsoil level to the natural substrate surface, to a minimum depth of 0.35 and a maximum depth of 1.20m. In addition two short extensions were added to Trenches 5 and 6 to help ascertain the extent of exposed archaeological features. These trenches confirmed that quarrying during the 19th and early 20th century appears to have removed any archaeological potential across the southern end of the site. Three features of archaeological significance were identified at the northern end of the site; a broadly east-west aligned ditch [5/007]/ [5/011] measuring between 1-1.5m in width and 0.29-0.47m in depth was exposed for a length of 6m in Trench 5/ 5B. This ditch extended beyond the western limit of Trench 5, in the direction of Calleywell Lane, and ended in a squared-off east terminus. A considerable quantity of pottery of likely Middle-Late Iron Age date was recovered from its fills. A second, shallow east-west running gully [14/004] was recorded approximately 10m south of this ditch, within Trench 14. This gully measured 0.80m in width and 0.14m in maximum depth and extended across the width of the trench, but did not apparently survive to any great extent beyond Trench 14, as it was not recorded in Trench 5 to the west or Trench 6 to the east. A single sherd of likely late medieval/ early post-medieval pottery was recovered from the gully fill. The third feature was identified in Trench 4 at the northeast corner of the site; this consisted of a northeast-southwest oriented oval pit [4/003], which measured 1.22m in length by 0.90m in width by 0.32m deep. This pit was filled with sandy silt deposits from which no artefactual material was recovered.</i></p>						

## OASIS Form

**OASIS ID: archaeol6-210597**

### Project details

Project name	Quarry Wood, Aldington, Kent
Short description of the project	Eight 30m x 1.8m trenches (Trenches 1 - 8) and one 18m long trench (Trench 14) were excavated from topsoil level to the natural substrate surface, to a minimum depth of 0.35 and a maximum depth of 1.20m. In addition two short extensions were added to Trenches 5 and 6 to help ascertain the extent of exposed archaeological features. These trenches confirmed that quarrying during the 19th and early 20th century appears to have removed any archaeological potential across the southern end of the site. Three features of archaeological significance were identified at the northern end of the site; a broadly east-west aligned ditch [5/007]/ [5/011] measuring between 1-1.5m in width and 0.29-0.47m in depth was exposed for a length of 6m in Trench 5/ 5B. This ditch extended beyond the western limit of Trench 5, in the direction of Calleywell Lane, and ended in a squared-off east terminus. A considerable quantity of pottery of likely Middle-Late Iron Age date was recovered from its fills. A second, shallow east-west running gully [14/004] was recorded approximately 10m south of this ditch, within Trench 14. This gully measured 0.80m in width and 0.14m in maximum depth and extended across the width of the trench, but did not apparently survive to any great extent beyond Trench 14, as it was not recorded in Trench 5 to the west, or Trench 6 to the east. A single sherd of likely late medieval/ early post-medieval pottery was recovered from the gully fill. The third feature was identified in Trench 4 at the northeast corner of the site; this consisted of a northeast-southwest oriented oval pit [4/003], which measured 1.22m in length by 0.90m in width by 0.32m deep. This pit was filled with sandy silt deposits from which no artefactual material was recovered.
Project dates	Start: 27-04-2015 End: 30-04-2015
Previous/future work	No / Not known
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Current Land use	Vacant Land 1 - Vacant land previously developed

### Project location

Country	England
Site location	KENT ASHFORD ALDINGTON QUARRY WOOD, ALDINGTON
Postcode	TN25
Study area	2.60 Hectares
Site coordinates	TR 606136 136961 50.8631487443 1.70407007588 50 51 47 N 001 42 14 E Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 73.58m Max: 76.067m

### Project creators

Name of Organisation	Archaeology South-East
Project brief originator	CgMs Consulting
Project design originator	CgMs Consulting
Project director/manager	Paul Mason
Project supervisor	Garrett Sheehan
Type of sponsor/funding body	CgMs Consulting
Name of sponsor/funding body	CgMs Consulting

### Project archives

Physical Archive recipient	Local Museum
Physical Contents	"Animal Bones", "Ceramics", "Environmental"
Digital Archive recipient	Local Museum
Digital Media available	"Database", "GIS", "Images raster / digital photography", "Survey", "Text"
Paper Archive recipient	Local Museum
Paper Media available	"Context sheet", "Correspondence", "Diary", "Drawing", "Map", "Matrices", "Miscellaneous Material", "Photograph", "Report", "Section", "Survey", "Unpublished Text", "Unspecified Archive"

### Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	An Archaeological Evaluation on land at Quarry Wood, Aldington, Kent
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Sheehan, G. & Stevenson, J.
Other bibliographic	2015163

details

Date 2015

Issuer or  
publisher ASE

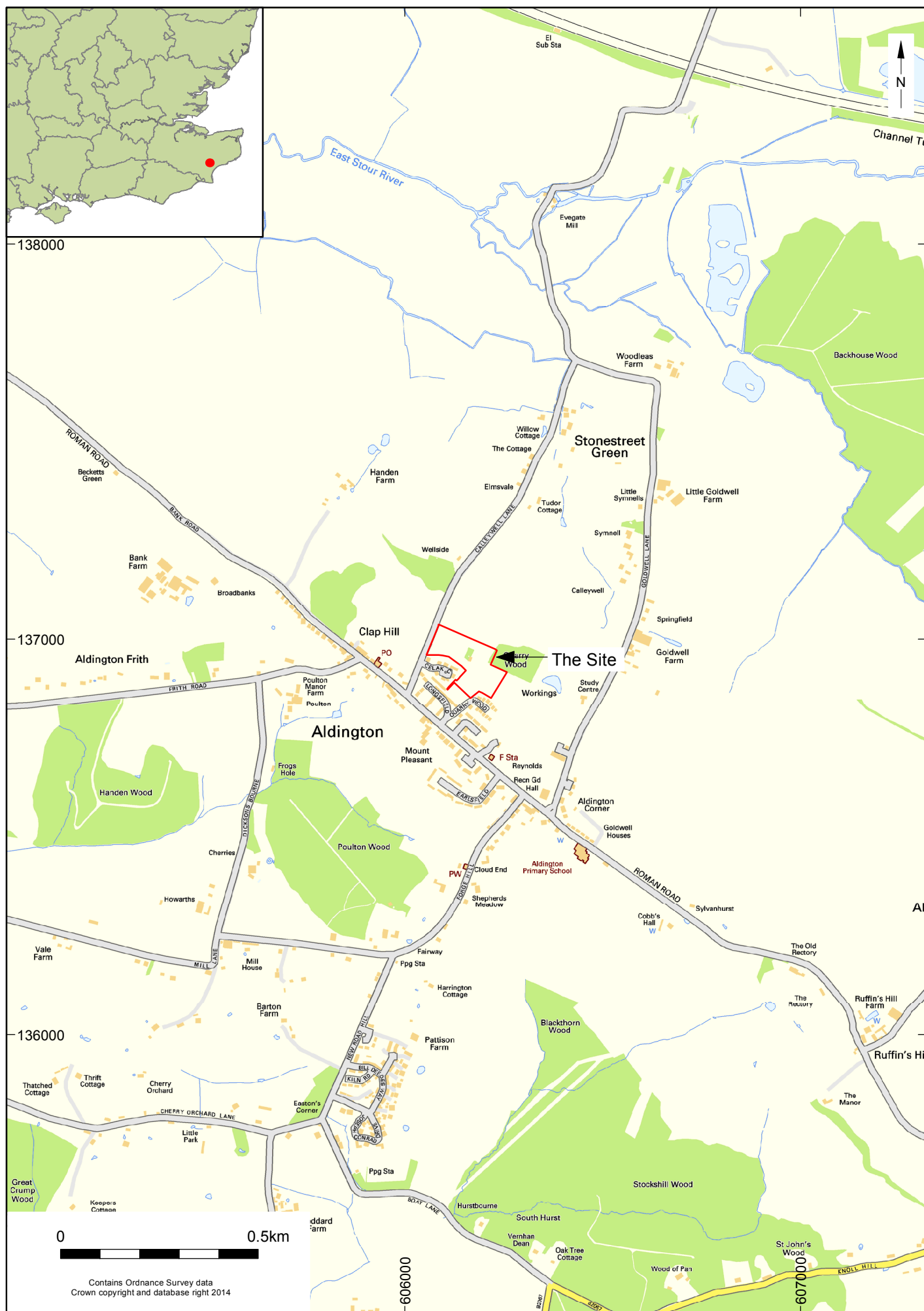
Place of issue or  
publication Portslade

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Entered by garrett sheehan (g.sheehan@ucl.ac.uk)

Entered on 7 May 2015





© Archaeology South-East		Quarry Wood, Aldington	Fig. 1
Project Ref: 7493	May 2015	Site location	
Report Ref: 2015163	Drawn by: JLR		



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Project Ref: 7493

May 2015

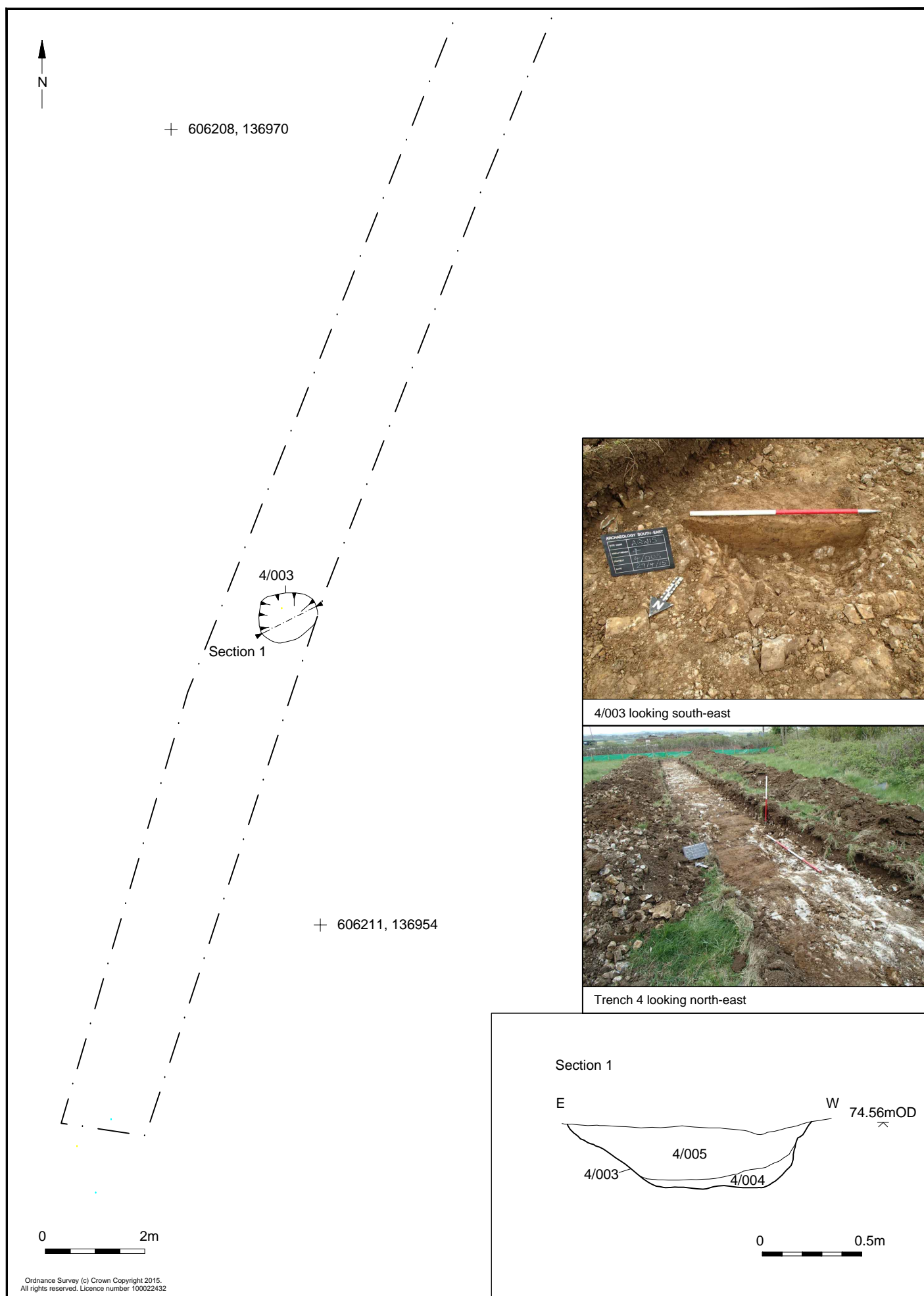
Report Ref: 2015163

Drawn by: JC

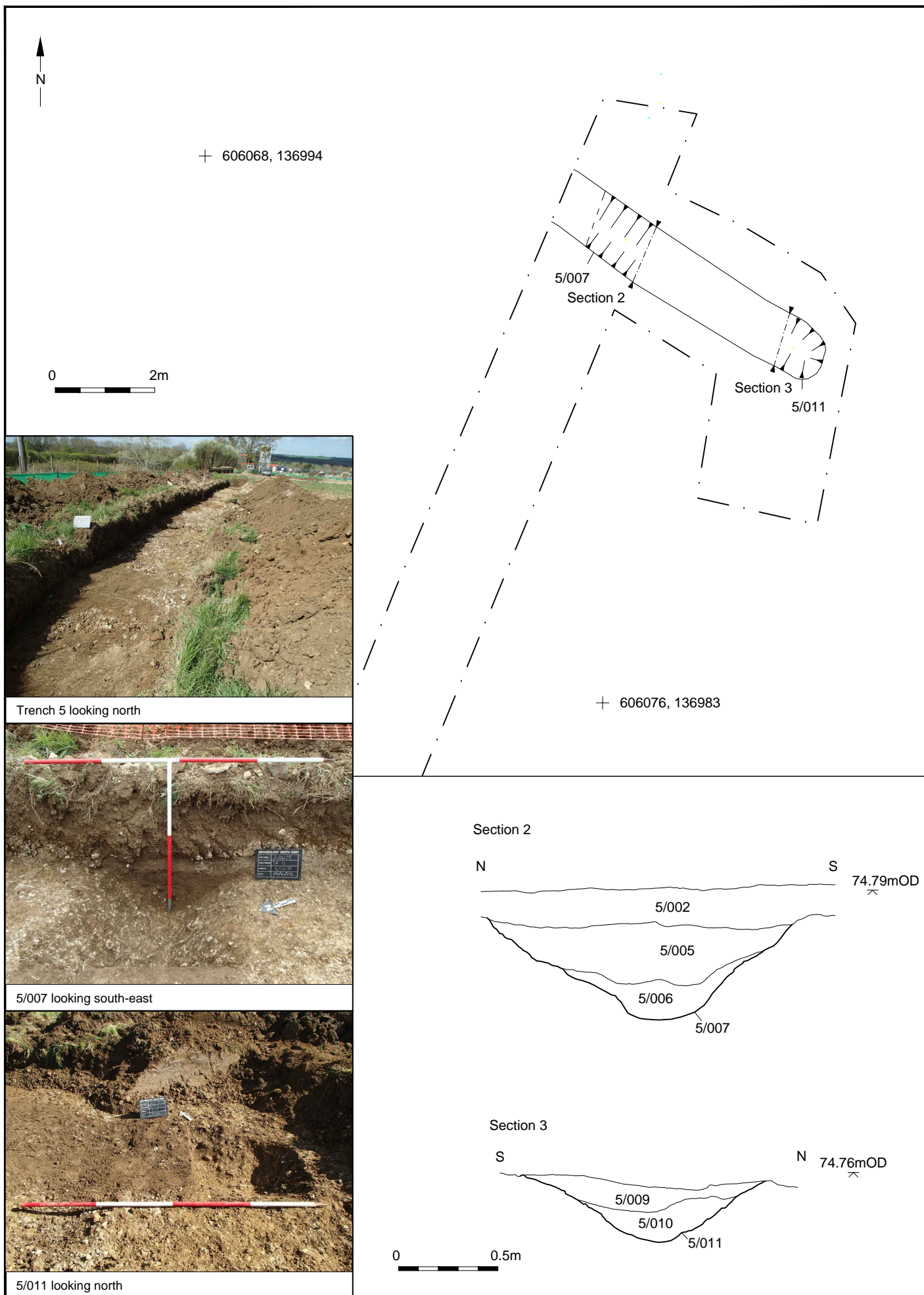
Quarry Wood, Aldington

Trench location

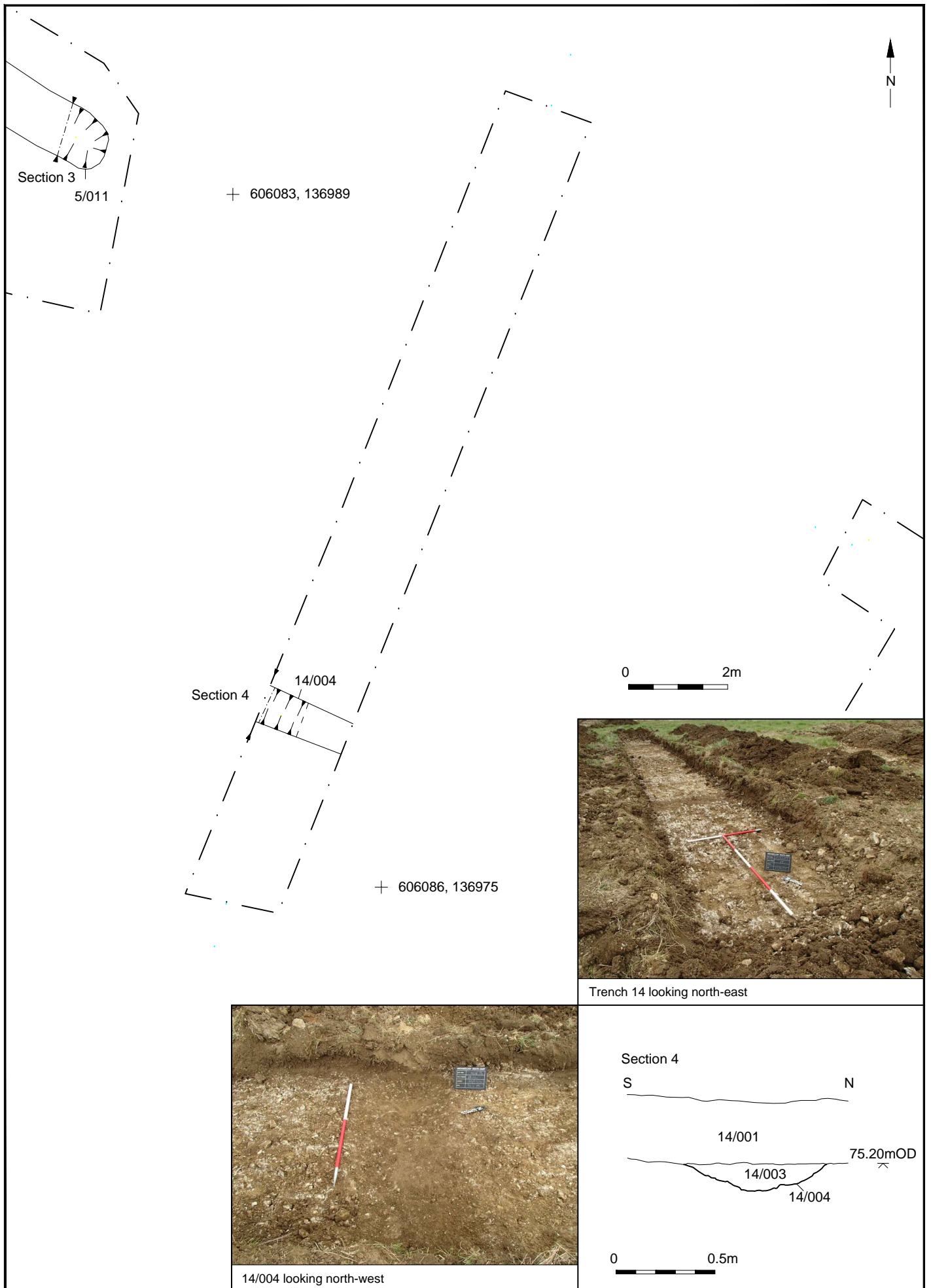
Fig. 2



© Archaeology South-East		Quarry Wood, Aldington	Fig. 3
Project Ref: 7493	May 2015	Trench 4 plan, section and photographs	
Report Ref: 2015163	Drawn by: JC		









Quarry pit 6/003 looking east



Quarry pit 7/004 looking north

© Archaeology South-East		Quarry Wood, Aldington	Fig. 6
Project Ref: 7493	May 2015	Photographs of quarry pits	
Report Ref: 2015163	Drawn by: JLR		

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