Archaeology South-East

ASE

An Archaeological Evaluation of Land at Rolfe Lane, New Romney, Kent

Planning Ref: Pre-application

NGR 606580 125380
(TR 06580 25380)

Project No: 4408
Site Code: ROL 10

ASE Report No. 2010173
OASIS id: archaeol6-84315

By

Andrew Margetts BA

With contributions by
Dr Matt Pope, Luke Barber, Sarah Porteus, Elke Raemen,
Lucy Sibun, Karine le Hégarat and Dr Lucy Allott

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Abstract

Archaeology South-East (ASE) was commissioned by CgMs Consulting Ltd on behalf of their client to undertake an archaeological evaluation on land at Rolfe Lane, New Romney, Kent (NGR 606580 125380). Eight trenches were excavated, targeting the results of an earlier geophysical survey and cropmarks. The archaeological evaluation succeeded in confirming the presence of a ditched enclosure (a moated site, as recorded in the Kent HER), probably of medieval date. A further system of ditches may, possibly, represent another ditched enclosure, although this is unconfirmed. Further ditch systems and limited evidence of structures, also probably of medieval origin were discovered.

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Site Background

1.1.1 Archaeology South-East (ASE) (a division of The Centre for Applied Archaeology at the Institute of Archaeology, University College London) was commissioned by CgMs Consulting Ltd on behalf of their client to undertake an archaeological evaluation on land at Rolfe Lane, New Romney, Kent (NGR 606580 125380; Fig. 1) as supporting evidence for the allocation of the site in Shepway's Core Strategy.

1.1.2 CgMs Consulting consulted Wendy Rogers, Senior Archaeologist, Heritage Conservation Group, Kent Count Council (HCG, KCC) to establish the precise scope of archaeological works required. She stipulated that in order to better understand the archaeological potential of the site it would be necessary to undertake a programme of archaeological evaluation (trial trenching). A Specification for this work was prepared by KCC (KCC, 2010) from which the following text is taken with due acknowledgement.

> '*Documentary research suggests this whole site contains a medieval moated complex and associated field system with other possible features and/or structures of historic interest. However, as yet there is no definite evidence to suggest the date, character, nature, survival at depth, quality, importance and extent of these remains. There is a need to clarify this in order to guide assessment of the significance of the archaeology and this could be achieved through intrusive, targeted trial trenches'.*

Depending on the results of the evaluation, further measures may be required on site in advance of or during development in order to ensure that archaeological remains, where threatened by the proposed development, are properly recorded and reported on. Any subsequent fieldwork would be subject to further KCC specification/s.

1.1.3 This evaluation phase follows on from earlier geophysical investigations at the site (ASE, 2010a*)* (see section 2.6)

1.2 Geology and Topography

1.2.1 The site is situated in the central northern part of New Romney it comprises a roughly rectangular shaped field currently open pasture. It is generally level at an elevation of *c*.4m AOD with a slight drop to the south. Although the pasture is mainly grassed, large areas of overlying vegetation also exist, mainly comprising of nettles. The site is bounded to the west by school playing fields and a hedge-line, to the northwest by Cockreed Lane and to the east and south by Rolfe Lane and residential housing.

1.2.2 An approximately square depression marked by slight ridges and dense nettle coverage dominates the site. Part of this square feature still comprises a large ditch on the south-eastern side and it was thought probable that this feature relates to a ditched enclosure (the purported infilled 'moat' as recorded in the Kent HER).

1.2.3 The underlying geology at the site, according to the Geological Survey of

Great Britain, scale 1;50,000 (Sheet 305/306 – Folkestone and Dover), comprises a mix of geologies including Blown Sand, Storm Gravel Beach Deposits and Marine Alluvium, suggesting from the outset, that despite the sites current position inland, it may represent part of the former dynamic coastline of the New Romney area.

1.2.4 A long period of bad weather during the 13th century culminated in the Great Storm of 1287 when New Romney harbour was blocked and the course of the River Rother diverted to Rye. Storm deposits associated with the Great Storm have been tentatively identified in New Romney, at two locations on Fairfield Road just to the north-west of the current site (Jarrett, 2002).

1.2.5 As a result of the storms, Stephen Rippon suggests (based on Green's 1968 soil survey) that parts of the New Romney area became heavily alluviated within the former reaches of marine inlet intertidal channels, becoming marshland by the 14th century (2002).

1.3 Planning Background

1.3.1 The below text concerning the Planning Background and Nature of Development is reproduced from section 3 in the KCC specification (KCC, 2010).

'The site has been highlighted as a possible housing allocation site in the draft Shepway District Council Core Strategy. Before consideration of this site within the Core Strategy Document proceeds further, it is considered appropriate to understand more fully the significance of this archaeology. A full understanding of the archaeology on the site will ensure informed decisions are made as the Core Strategy documents are developed. It is not necessary at this stage to have a detailed record of the archaeology on the site but reasonable information is needed on the extent, nature, date, character, importance and significance of the archaeology'.

1.4 Aims and Objectives

1.4.1 General Aims
The general aims of the evaluation as set out in the WSI (ASE, 2010b) were to:

a) ascertain the extent, depth below ground surface, depth of deposit, character, date, significance and condition of any archaeological remains on site;
b) establish the extent to which previous development and/or other processes have affected archaeological deposits at the site;
c) establish the likely impact on archaeological deposits of the proposed development.

1.4.2 Trench Specific Aims
The KCC Specification detailed specific aims for each of the evaluation trenches (KCC, 2010).

- **Trench 1** (c.90m x 1.8m) - to clarify the character and date of the crop marks and geophysical anomalies M1, M2, M3 and M6;

- **Trench 2** (c.20m x 1.8m) – to clarify the character and date of the linear crop mark heading south towards Rolfe Lane and any associated archaeology;

- **Trench 3** (c.50m x 1.8m) – to clarify the character, date etc of the crop marks and geophysical anomalies M4, M5 and M7;

- **Trench 4** (c.20m x 1.8m) – to clarify the character and date of a corner of the large ditched enclosure where crop marks suggest there could be a feeder channel leading from the north east into the main enclosure ditches. Could this represent a tidal channel? This trench needs also to clarify the depth and width of the ditched channel as well as clarify the date and function.

- **Trench 5** (c.80m x 1.8m) – to clarify the presence and as far as possible the character and date of features or structures identified within the central platform/area of the ditched enclosure; to clarify the nature of the deposits within the enclosure and to clarify the nature of the geophysical anomalies M8, M9, M11 and M12;

- **Trench 6** (c.25m x 1.8m) – to clarify the character and date of the main ditches forming this part of the enclosure; the work needs to ascertain the width, depth, nature of fill, function and date of ditches;

- **Trench 7** (c.25m x 1.8m) – to clarify the character, date etc of this crop mark.

1.4.3 Additional Aims

After consultation on site with Wendy Rogers (Senior Archaeologist, HCG, KCC) it was decided that to help clarify certain elements of the site some additional aims and objectives would be beneficial. These comprised:

- GPS survey of overlying vegetation. How does this reflect the below ground archaeology? Can any inferences be made?

- Are any 'feeder' channels or indeed the 'moat' features themselves of a marine/estuarine nature?

- Could the site be the location of the port of New Romney?

- Could the 'moat'/drain features be utilised for trading vessels?

1.5 Scope of Report

1.5.1 This document represents the required evaluation report described in section 8.0. of the *Written Scheme of Investigation* prepared by ASE and subsequently approved by Kent County Council (KCC) prior to commencement of the work (ASE, 2010b).

2.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 New Romney is a small town on the edge of Romney Marsh in the east of Kent. It occupies an area of flat, rich agricultural land reclaimed from the sea. The town was once a sea port, with the harbour adjacent to the church, but is now over a mile inland.

2.2 New Romney may have been a trading centre and influential port from the early medieval period. It developed into an important medieval port and market town and was one of the original five Cinque Ports. New Romney lost its access to the sea and its port facilities during the 14th and 15th centuries, mainly due to natural storms and diversion of the River Rother. New Romney retains much of its medieval and post medieval character and the limited extent of modern development appears to have ensured good survival of buried archaeological remains.

2.3 Historically, one of the most important aspects of the town of New Romney was its location on a shingle spur extending into the Rother estuary forming a natural harbour (although the exact location of this is unknown). In the latter part of the 13th century a series of severe storms weakened the coastal defences of Romney Marsh and the Great Storm of 1287 almost destroyed the town. The harbour and town were filled with sand, silt, mud and debris, and the River Rother changed course, now running out into the sea near Rye, Sussex. The mud, silt and sand were never entirely removed from the town, which is why many old buildings, especially the church, have steps leading down into them from the present pavement level.

2.4 The potential of the site has been assessed in relation to the proximity of known archaeological remains recorded in the Historic Environment Record (HER) for Kent within 500m of the site's boundaries and assessed and in reference to the *Historic Towns Survey for New Romney* (KCC, 2003) and to the *Specification for an Archaeological Evaluation* (KCC, 2010). Extended references to the HER search can be seen in Appendix 1 and are shown on Figure 1.

2.5 The site lies to the north of an archaeologically sensitive area; the New Romney High Street Conservation Area, where early medieval and medieval remains of New Romney have been identified.

2.6 The current HER highlights the presence on the site of a ditched enclosure with an associated field system identified as a series of crop marks and earthworks (Fig. 12). These features have been interpreted as a probable medieval moated manor site: MKE3732 (TR 02 NE15). It is thought that the remains relate to the medieval manor of Cockreed/Craythorne and it is known from local sources that the 'moat' was filled in during living memory (Draper, 2004).

2.7 Recent work both on and in the immediate vicinity of the site includes:

- A Desk Based Assessment undertaken by Canterbury Archaeological Trust in 2003 (CAT, 2003)

- Excavations immediately adjacent to the site at 77 Rolfe Lane. This confirmed the survival of medieval and post medieval remains including a large linear ditch (thought to represent later medieval draining of the area) and evidence of later medieval and post medieval agricultural land use (CAT, 2010).

- A limited geophysical survey undertaken by Archaeology South East during 2010. Two specific areas of the site were investigated which confirmed the survival of a substantial ditched enclosure and the presence of some other possible archaeological "geophysical anomalies" (Figure 13, ASE, 2010a).

- Very recent excavations have been undertaken by CAT on the opposite side of Rolfe Lane, just to the southeast of the current site.

2.8 Archaeology South-East have undertaken a number of archaeological investigations in New Romney in recent years. These include excavations adjacent to Dymchurch Road (Stevenson 2005) and at 'The Elms' (also adjacent to Dymchuch Road) (Stevenson 2006). Both of these investigations which are located about 400m to the south of the current site, revealed good evidence of medieval activity on the edge of the town associated with the maritime industry (fishing, minor ship repair).

3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY

3.1 The methodology comprised the machine excavation of eight evaluation trenches in a pattern agreed by the Senior Archaeologist HCG, KCC (Fig. 2). An extra trench (Trench 8) was excavated in order to more accurately meet the evaluation aims. The trenches were set out using a Leica GPS 1200. Control was provided by DGPS base station and rover. An initial DGPS position was obtained by Leica System 1200. Trench locations were established using a Positional Data Link (PDL) rover

3.2 A Risk Assessment was produced prior to the commencement of the work.

3.3 The trenches were excavated using a mechanical excavator. The trenches were excavated through undifferentiated topsoil and modern made ground in spits of no more than 100mm until archaeological deposits were encountered or the top of the underlying natural sediments reached. The mechanical excavator was fitted with a toothless grading bucket and care was taken that archaeological deposits were not damaged due to over machining. All machining stopped if significant archaeological deposits were encountered.

3.4 Any exposed archaeological deposits were cleaned by hand and recorded in plan and section. During the evaluation, archaeological features/deposits were only to be minimally excavated, excavation would cease when the specific trench aims (see section 1.4.2) were met. Full excavation was not to be undertaken at this time.

3.5 Due to health and safety considerations and the likely presence of a high water table, the excavation of the substantial ditches in Trenches 4 and 6 to their full depth was to be undertaken with judicious use of the machine and where necessary recording was undertaken from the top of trenches.

3.6 All recording and analysis was undertaken in accordance with the Written Scheme of Investigation (ASE, 2010b), the KCC Specification (KCC, 2010) and the relevant *Standards and Guidance* of the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA).

3.7 Spoil generated from excavations was inspected by the ASE archaeologist in-order to recover any artefacts or ecofacts of archaeological interest. A metal detector was used at regular intervals to scan spoil derived from the excavations and at regular intervals during the excavation of archaeological deposits and features.

3.8 The KCC Senior Archaeologist was kept informed of progress and invited to attend site once the trenches were opened. All communications with KCC were undertaken through CgMs Consulting.

3.9 All archaeological features were recorded according to standard ASE practice. Where practicable, all features were planned at 1:20. Drawings were completed 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 photographic

record was made in digital format, monochrome and colour transparency.

3.10 Where deposits suitable for environmental sampling were encountered (such as dated excavated contexts of buried soils, well-sealed slowly silting features, sealed hearths, sealed features containing evident carbonised remains, peats, water-logged or cess deposits), bulk soil samples (40 litres or 100% of smaller features) were taken for environmental analysis.

3.11 Excavation strategy was in accordance with the relevant sections of the *IFA Standards and Conditions.*

Number of Contexts	120
No. of files/paper record	2
Plan and sections sheets	4
Bulk Samples	29
Photographs	23 (digital), 36 (colour), 36 (b + w)
Bulk finds	2 Boxes
Registered finds	41

Table 1: Quantification of site archive

4.0 RESULTS

4.1 Overburden, Disturbance and Geology

4.1.1 The trenches were located within a field laid to pasture. The topsoil across the site comprised of a mid grey brown friable sandy silt containing occasional sub-angular to sub-rounded flint nodules and small fragments of chalk as well as fragments of slate and ceramic building materials (CBM). This deposit was disturbed through rooting (mainly derived from thick patches of nettles (Fig.11) but remained fairly consistent, measuring around 0.4m in depth. Beneath the topsoil a mid grey brown clay silt subsoil, was present in most of the trenches, forming an irregular, and in areas intermittent, interface with deposits encountered below. The subsoil contained similar inclusions to those found within the topsoil with the addition of occasional charcoal flecks and small fragments of sandstone. This subsoil layer seems to be the result of deep ploughing following the levelling activities described below.

4.1.2 The site was subject to considerable degrees of levelling and/or backfilling of deep depressions (where sizeable archaeological features were present). This was in evidence throughout all of the trenches to a greater or lesser degree. This levelling deposit was of 20th Century date and comprised of a firm mid yellow brown silt clay with frequent inclusions of CBM, slate and fragments of sandstone as well as occasional inclusions of chalk fragments and shell.

4.1.3 The deep ploughing and levelling described above probably served to truncate the upper layers of the archaeological horizon in most cases, other than the south-western end of Trench 2 which remained fairly intact. Where deep archaeological features were encountered, the remnant topsoil/boggy layers of the pre-levelling land-surface survived due to the hollow depressions created.

4.1.4 Post-medieval draining of the site was evidenced through many of the trenches. Field drains were often located within the fills of the archaeological features themselves and may to represent some attempt during the sites agricultural usage to drain these deep and therefore wet depressions within the field.

4.1.5 The geology encountered at the site varied greatly. To the south and east wind-blown deposits of sand probably derived from the storm events of the 13th century were encountered and cut by archaeological features. These sands incorporated layers of possible tidal deposits and/or horizons of silting between storm events, some of which were investigated within Trench 5. The purported storm deposit contained finds of fishing hooks, nails and shell; finds which are consistent with such deposits found during work elsewhere in New Romney (Draper & Meddens, 2009 and ASE, 2009). Throughout much of the investigation the natural and archaeological horizon was formed by mid orange/grey brown sandy clay which is probably weathered alluvium (Matt Pope pers comm.). Where deep features were excavated through this deposit, it was found to overly layers of Marine Alluvial Clay and Sand. These in-turn overlay a deposit of

peat (for example in Trench 4).

4.1.6 Much of Trench 7 was located over a bank of Storm Gravel Beach Deposits. This bank could be traced on the surface along the north-eastern boundary of the site as far as the northern bend of Cockreed Lane.

4.2 Trench 1 (Fig. 3)

4.2.1 Trench 1 was located along the western side of the site. It measured *c*.90m in length, and was orientated on a north-west to south-east alignment.

Context No	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Max Deposit Thickness	Max Height m.AOD
1/001	Deposit	Topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.37m	2.83
1/002	Deposit	Subsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.30m	2.53
1/003	Deposit	Natural (weathered alluvium)	Tr.	Tr.	-	2.40
1/004	VOID					
1/005	VOID					
1/006	Fill	Ditch Levelling Deposit	4.5m	1m	-	2.13
1/007	VOID					
1/008	VOID					
1/009	Cut	Ditch	4m	2.15m	0.75m	1.89
1/010	Fill	Ditch	4m	1.85m	0.35m	1.89
1/011	Cut	Natural Channel	Tr.	18m	0.75m	1.70
1/012	Fill	Natural Channel Upper	Tr.	18m	0.50m	1.70
1/013	Fill	Natural Channel Lower	Tr.	18m	0.25m	1.20
1/014	Fill	Ditch (Same as 1/024)	20m	Tr.	0.09m	2.13
1/015	Cut	Possible Gully?	1.6m	0.60m	0.12m	2.13
1/016	Fill	Possible Gully?	1.6m	0.60m	0.12m	2.13
1/017	Cut	Ditch (Same as 1/022)	20m	Tr.	-	2.13
1/018	Fill	Ditch (Same as 1/023)	20m	Tr.	-	2.13
1/019	Fill	Ditch	4m	2m	0.20m	1.54
1/020	Fill	Ditch	4m	1.3m	0.21m	1.34
1/021	Fill	Ditch	4m	0.50m	0.06m	1.13
1/022	Cut	Ring Ditch?	0.90m	Tr.	0.86m	2.13
1/023	Fill	Ring Ditch? Upper	0.90m	Tr.	0.19m	2.13
1/024	Fill	Ring Ditch? Middle	0.90m	Tr.	0.40m	2.13
1/025	Fill	Ring Ditch? Lower	0.90m	Tr.	0.30m	1.73
1/026	Deposit	Marine Alluvium	0.90m	Tr.	0.30m	1.65

Table 2: Context Register, Trench 1

4.2.2 Summary

4.2.3 Crossing the trench on a roughly east-west alignment was a moderately deep boundary/drainage ditch [1/009]. This feature cut natural weathered alluvium, [1/003] and had sharply sloping sides and a flattish base. It was disturbed by a land drain that was left in-situ in order to prevent flooding during excavation. It was filled by four distinct layers. [1/010] comprised the uppermost fill of the feature, a firm mid grey brown clay silt which had

no noticeable inclusions but produced finds of slate, 14th-16th century tile, shell and animal bone, together with an iron sickle and pottery dating from AD 1350-1450. It is thought to represent a backfilling/decommissioning deposit incorporating waste material. Beneath this was [1/019] a dark grey clay silt of soft consistency. Although rich in inclusions of small mollusc shells, this fill produced no finds and is likely to be a natural silting deposit. [1/019] overlay [1/020], an organic, green grey, silt clay of soft consistency. It produced finds of 14th-16th and 16th-18th century peg tile, pottery dating from AD 1275-1350 as well as a small lump of mortar. Directly beneath [1/020] was the primary fill, [1/021] a thin dark black brown silt clay with no inclusions or associated finds.

4.2.4 Situated to the northwest of ditch [1/009] was a large semi circular feature [1/017]. This feature (cutting natural weathered alluvium [1/003]) and extended beyond the limits of the trench. It was seen in plan to be filled by three deposits, the uppermost of which [1/006] comprised a levelling deposit consistent with that described in section 4.1.2 above. Beneath this was remnant topsoil/marshy deposit, [1/018], which would have comprised the previous ground-surface, prior to levelling. The final fill of this large feature visible in plan was [1/014] described in more detail below.

A sample slot was excavated roughly centrally within [1/017] this was numbered [1/022]. The feature had a western edge which gradually sloped to the northeast and its base probably lies outside of the trench in that direction. The uppermost fill comprised mid orange brown clay silt [1/023] (the same as [1/018]) that produced finds of slate together with 16th-18th and 17th-19th century peg tile. Directly beneath this deposit was [1/024], a mid orange brown silt clay (the same as [1/014]) however it produced no finds. The earliest fill encountered within this sample slot underlay [1/024] and comprised a mid blue grey silt clay [1/025] with finds or inclusions.

A narrow gully or ditch like feature [1/015] was also investigated. It was shallow in depth and filled with the same deposit as [1/018] and [1/023] (recorded as [1/016]). This feature may well be simply an irregular projection of this remnant topsoil like fill or derived from disturbance.

4.2.5 Situated towards the north-western limits of the trench was a probable natural channel, [1/011]. This feature was cut through natural weathered alluvium [1/003] onto the underlying Marine Alluvial Clay [1/026].

4.3 Trench 2 (Fig. 4)

4.3.1 Trench 2 was located in the southern corner of the site. It measured *c*.20m in length, and was orientated on a north-east to south-west alignment.

Context No	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Max Deposit Thickness	Max Height m.AOD
2/001	Deposit	Topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.50m	3.35
2/002	Layer	Occupation Layer or	19m	Tr.	0.35m	2.85

Context No	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Max Deposit Thickness	Max Height m.AOD
		Metalled Surface				
2/003	Deposit	Subsoil/Abandonment	Tr.	Tr.	0.38m	2.54
2/004	Deposit	Natural Sand/Storm Deposit	Tr.	Tr.	-	2.16
2/005	Cut	Ditch	Tr.	2.95m	0.46m	2.54
2/006	Fill	Ditch (Primary)	Tr.	2m	0.18m	2.17
2/007	Fill	Ditch (Secondary)	Tr.	2.95m	0.37m	2.54
2/008	Cut	Pit/Hearth	0.90m	0.90m	0.30m	2.54
2/009	Fill	Pit/Hearth	0.90m	0.90m	0.30m	2.54
2/010	Layer	Levelling/Modern Disturbance	8m	Tr.	0.35m	2.85
2/011	Cut	Beamslot	11m	0.28m	0.15m	2.28
2/012	Fill	Beamslot	11m	0.28m	0.15m	2.28
2/013	Cut	Possible Stakehole	0.14m	0.13m	0.05m	2.28
2/014	Fill	Possible Stakehole	0.14m	0.13m	0.05m	2.28
2/015	Cut	Beamslot	11m	0.30m	0.20m	2.34
2/016	Fill	Beamslot	11m	0.30m	0.20m	2.34
2/017	Cut	Possible Pit?	1m	0.67m	0.15m	2.34
2/018	Fill	Possible Pit?	1m	0.67m	0.15m	2.34
2/019	Cut	Beamslot	11m	0.30m	0.27m	2.31
2/020	Fill	Beamslot	11m	0.30m	0.27m	2.31
2/021	Cut	Posthole	0.30m	0.30m	0.10m	2.31
2/022	Fill	Posthole	0.30m	0.30m	0.10m	2.31

Table 3: Context Register, Trench 2

4.3.2 Summary

4.3.3 The topsoil within Trench 2 was noticeably darker and sandier than that encountered on the majority of the site (see section 4.1.1)

4.3.4 Beneath the topsoil was modern disturbance, [2/010], which was probably derived from levelling and ploughing activity. This deposit was restricted to the north-eastern end of the trench. Beneath the topsoil, in the remainder of the trench was an occupation layer or metalled surface [2/002]. This comprised of a mid brown grey sandy silt with frequent inclusions of small shingle and occasional pieces of shell and charcoal. Finds retrieved from this layer included animal bone, slate, iron smithing slag, nails and pottery dating from AD 1250-1325.

4.3.5 [2/002] sealed possible pit or hearth [2/008]. This feature had sharply sloping sides and a flattish base. It was filled by dark black brown sandy silt with occasional inclusions of charcoal and oyster shell. The environmental samples produced from this feature are consistent with cooking activities (see section 6.4.1).

4.3.6 Orientated southeast to northwest, ditch [2/005] was very similar in nature to ditch [1/009] (see above). It was disturbed by two land drains that again were probably inserted in order to alleviate the waterlogged conditions caused by the silted feature. It was filled by mid orange grey sandy clay, [2/007], that contained no noticeable inclusions but produced finds of one

sherd of AD 1250-1325 pottery together with a piece of 16th-18th century peg tile. This overlay a mid blue grey sandy clay [2/006] that produced finds of slate, a nail and a handle from an AD 1325-1450 jug/pitcher.

4.3.7 Ditch [2/005] and pit or hearth [2/008] cut deposit [2/003]. [2/003] comprised a mid orange brown sandy clay with occasional charcoal flecks but no finds. It has been interpreted as a deposit of silting probably during a period of abandonment.

4.3.8 Beneath this deposit were several features: a possible stakehole, [2/013], a possible pit or natural feature [2/017], posthole [2/021] and a probable beamslot (sampled by slots [2/011], [2/015] and [2/019]). With the exception of the stakehole, [2/013] which cut the beamslot (and was filled by a mid brown silt sand [2/014]) the remainder of the features and the beamslot itself were filled with a sterile deposit similar to overlying [2/003]. All of these features cut the natural sand/storm deposit [2/004].

4.4 Trench 3 (Fig. 5)

4.4.1 Trench 3 was located in the western half of the site. It measured *c*.30m in length, and was orientated on a north-west to south-east alignment.

Context No	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Max Deposit Thickness	Max Height m.AOD
3/001	Deposit	Topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.46m	3.03
3/002	Deposit	Subsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.38m	2.63
3/003	Deposit	Natural (weathered alluvium)	Tr.	Tr.	-	2.30
3/004	Cut	Ring Ditch?	12m	Tr.	1m	2.09
3/005	Fill	Ring Ditch? Upper	12m	Tr.	0.45m	2.09
3/006	Fill	Ring Ditch? Middle	12m	Tr.	0.30m	1.64
3/007	Fill	Ring Ditch? Lower	12m	Tr.	0.25m	1.64

Table 4: Context Register, Trench 3

4.4.2 Summary

4.4.3 A single archaeological feature was encountered within Trench 3. This comprised a deep ditch (cutting natural weathered alluvium [3/003]) similar in nature to feature [1/017]/[1/022] in Trench 1. Its upper fill was a mid orange brown silt clay [3/005], probably a ploughed in subsoil/levelling deposit as encountered in the upper levels of the other large ditch features at the site. Beneath this was a mid-dark grey brown clay silt, [3/006], a remnant topsoil/marshy deposit that would have once have formed the ground surface within the ditch depression prior to levelling (see section 4.1.3). This overlay a light grey silt clay [3/007] which comprised the basal fill of this feature. No finds were recovered from this ditch.

4.5 Trench 4 (Fig. 6)

4.5.1 Trench 4 was located in the central northern portion of the site. It

measured *c.*20m in length, and was orientated on a north-south alignment. Stepping of the trench was necessary for safe excavation.

Context No	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Max Deposit Thickness	Max Height m.AOD
4/001	Deposit	Topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.45m	2.98
4/002	Layer	Levelling Deposit	16m	Tr.	0.60m	2.58
4/003	Layer	Levelling Deposit	4m	Tr.	0.70m	2.58
4/004	Fill	Ditch Upper	10m	Tr.	0.26m	1.88
4/005	Cut	Ditch	10m	Tr.	1.60m	2.58
4/006	Deposit	Marine Alluvial Clay	Tr.	Tr.	-	1.85
4/007	Deposit	Natural (weathered alluvium)	Tr.	Tr.	-	2.09
4/008	Fill	Ditch Lower	2m	Tr.	0.28m	1.60
4/009	VOID					
4/010	Deposit	Marine Alluvial Sand	Tr.	Tr.	-	1.75
4/011	Deposit	Disturbed Natural	Tr.	Tr.	-	2.58
4/012	Deposit	Natural Peat	Tr.	Tr.	-	1.10

Table 5: Context Register, Trench 4

4.5.2 Summary

4.5.3 Two land drains were situated at the northern end of the trench. These cut the upper layers of natural weathered alluvium, [4/007] and resulted in context [4/011], disturbed / reworked natural.

4.5.4 A single archaeological feature was encountered within the trench [4/005]. This cut natural deposit [4/007].

4.5.5 Ditch feature [4/005] was filled by four layers. The upper of these comprised two levelling deposits [4/002] and [4/003] consistent with those encountered across the majority of the site (see section 4.1.2 above). There is a possibility that [4/002] may represent the levelled remains of a pushed in bank. They produced finds of medieval brick as well as later medieval/early post medieval tile, slate and nails. These directly overlay mid orange brown clay silt, [4/004], that again probably represented a remnant ground-surface surviving within this deep feature. In this case it was possible to discern the possible remains of an old turf line at the upper horizon of the fill. This fill produced finds of a single sherd of creamware (AD 1780-1820) along with 16th-18th and 17th-19th century tile, slate, a fragment of limestone, lumps of iron and an iron sickle. Underlying [4/004] was darker black brown silt clay [4/008] that contained frequent inclusions of charcoal and ash as well as finds of nails. Ditch feature [4/005] was cut at the upper levels through weathered alluvial deposit [4/007] however this sealed Alluvial Clay deposit [4/006] through which the cut also extended. The upper levels of this clay were noted to be disturbed, possibly by livestock trample and it was in this disturbance on the northern edge that a single large sherd of pottery dated from AD 1300-1400 was recovered.

4.6 **Trench 5** (Fig. 7)

4.6.1 Trench 5 was located approximately centrally within the site. It measured *c.*85m in length, and was orientated on a north-west to south-east alignment.

Context No	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Max Deposit Thickness	Max Height m.AOD
5/001	Deposit	Topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.31m	3.23
5/002	Deposit	Subsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.24m	2.99
5/003	Deposit	Sand/Storm Deposit	Tr.	Tr.	-	2.64
5/004	Cut	Gully or Beamslot Term	0.82m	0.34m	0.20m	2.99
5/005	Fill	Gully or Beamslot Term	0.82m	0.34m	0.20m	2.99
5/006	Cut	Gully or Beamslot Term	0.66m	0.40m	0.21m	2.99
5/007	Fill	Gully or Beamslot Term	0.66m	0.40m	0.21m	2.99
5/008	Cut	Pit	1.4m	2.96m	0.34m	2.95
5/009	Fill	Pit	1.4m	2.96m	0.34m	2.95
5/010	Deposit	Tidal Deposit?	Tr.	3.3m	0.17m	2.80
5/011	Layer	Levelling Deposit	38m	Tr.	0.44m	3.03
5/012	Deposit	Natural (weathered alluvium)	18m	Tr.	-	2.64
5/013	Deposit	Natural Tidal Deposit?	-	Tr.	-	2.77
5/014	Cut	Natural 'Channel'/Storm Deposit?	2.4m	Tr.	-	2.89
5/015	Fill	Natural ' Channel'/Storm Deposit?	2.4m	Tr.	-	2.89
5/016	Fill	Natural 'Channel'/Storm Deposit?	2.4m	Tr.	-	2.49
5/017	Cut	Possible Ditch?	Tr.	1.1m	0.15m	2.77
5/018	Fill	Possible Ditch?	Tr.	1.1m	0.15m	2.77
5/019	Cut	Ditch	4m	Tr.	-	2.40
5/020	Fill	Ditch	4m	Tr.	-	2.40

Table 6: Context Register, Trench 5

4.6.2 Summary

4.6.3 Two similar features, [5/004] and [5/006], were found to be on the same orientation and filled with a similar light grey brown silt sand ([5/005] and [5/007] respectively. They produced 16th-18th and 17th-19th century tile, had inclusions of small sub-rounded pebbles and cut natural sand/storm deposit [5/003]. They were interpreted as the possible remains of gully terminals or perhaps beamslots and extended beyond the trench.

4.6.4 A large pit, [5/008] cut natural channel [5/015]. It was filled by light grey brown silt clay [5/009]. This contained occasional inclusions of sub-rounded pebbles, charcoal flecks and small chalk fragments and produced finds of a single sherd of AD 1250-1300/25 pot together with a medieval bone handle.

4.6.5 The natural channel [5/014] cut by the above described pit was not fully

excavated. It was filled by successive layers of silt sand [5/015] and mid grey brown silt clay [5/016] that may have been laid down by successive storm events. The upper of the two investigated fills, [5/015], contained animal bone as well as an abraded sherd of pottery probably dating to AD 1175 -1250. Similar deposits ([5/013]) were encountered towards the south-eastern end of the trench undercutting the storm deposited 'natural' [5/003].

4.6.6 Possible ditch [5/017] was very shallow in depth and cut [5/003]. It was filled by light brown grey silt sand [5/018] that contained no finds or inclusions.

4.6.7 Ditch feature [5/019] was located at the south-eastern end of the trench (and remains unexcavated) its upper levels were again filled with a ploughed in subsoil ([5/002]) and levelling deposit ([5/011]) below which survived a remnant topsoil/marshy deposit ([5/020] see similar described deposits above). It cut [5/003].

4.7 Trench 6 (Fig. 8)

4.7.1 Trench 6 was located in the eastern half of the site. It measured *c*.27m in length, and was orientated on a north-east to south-west alignment. Stepping of the trench was necessary for safe excavation.

Context No	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Max Deposit Thickness	Max Height m.AOD
6/001	Deposit	Topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.35m	3.12
6/002	Deposit	Subsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.19m	2.77
6/003	Deposit	Shingle	3.2m	Tr.	-	2.53
6/004	Layer	Levelling Deposit	10m	Tr.	0.5m	2.53
6/005	Deposit	Sand/Storm Deposit	Tr.	Tr.	-	2.53
6/006	Fill	Ditch	10m	Tr.	0.44m	2.53
6/007	Fill	Ditch	10m	Tr.	0.34m	2.20
6/008	Deposit	Marine Alluvium	Tr.	Tr.	-	2.25
6/009	Fill	Ditch	1m	Tr.	0.29m	1.63
6/010	Cut	Ditch	10m	Tr.	1.90m	2.53

Table 7: Context Register, Trench 6

4.7.2 Summary

4.7.3 The uppermost fill of ditch feature [6/010] was comprised of a levelling deposit, [6/004], similar to those encountered in other such deep features throughout the rest of the investigation (see section 4.1.2). The finds produced from this layer included 16th-18th and 17th-19th century peg tile, fragments of Folkestone Stone and an iron staple. Directly beneath this was [6/006] a dark orange brown clay silt thought to be the remains of a previous ground surface within the hollow depression of the ditch. This fill contained moderate inclusions of charcoal and produced finds of pig and horse bone, 16th-18th and 17th-19th century peg tile, fragments of Folkestone Stone and a piece of iron wire. Underlying [6/006] was a mid

brown grey sandy clay, [6/007]. This layer contained occasional charcoal flecks as well as finds of a single piece of shell, a nail and preserved wood (from the very base of the feature, see section 6.7 below). This fill is thought to represent silting of the ditch after attempts at maintaining it had been abandoned. Beneath [6/007], on the north-eastern edge, was fill [6/009]. This mid-dark brown grey sandy clay had no noticeable inclusions but did contain small fragments of animal bone. This fill is thought to represent either a slumped in deposit or more likely the remnant of a silting deposit. Ditch feature [6/010] cut through natural sand/storm deposit [6/005] into the underlying Marine Alluvium [6/008].

Evidence of livestock trample could clearly be seen on the edge of the feature during excavation.

4.8 Trench 7 (Fig. 9)

4.8.1 Trench 7 was located close to the north-eastern corner of the site. It measured *c*.26m in length, and was orientated on a north-west to south-east alignment.

Context No	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Max Deposit Thickness	Max Height m.AOD
7/001	Deposit	Topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.24m	3.59
7/002	Deposit	Shingle Bank	22m	Tr.	-	3.49
7/003	Deposit	Subsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.28m	3.35
7/004	Deposit	Natural (weathered alluvium)	4m	Tr.	-	2.52
7/005	Cut	Robbed Wall?	Tr.	0.68m	0.56m	2.82
7/006	Fill	Robbed Wall? Upper	Tr.	0.68m	0.41m	2.82
7/007	Fill	Robbed Wall? Lower	Tr.	0.68m	0.25m	2.42

Table 8: Context Register, Trench 7

4.8.2 Summary

4.8.3 Linear feature [7/005] had near vertical sides and a flat base. It cut natural weathered alluvium [7/004]. Its upper fill [7/006] comprised a mid grey brown clay silt that was similar to the overlying subsoil. This fill produced finds of a heavy duty nail together with 17th-19th century peg tile. Directly below [7/006], fill [7/007] comprised re-deposited natural weathered alluvium. This feature was interpreted as a possible robbed out wall.

4.9 Trench 8 (Figure. 10)

4.9.1 Trench 8 was located on the western side of the site between Trenches 1 and 3. It measured *c*.60m in length, and was orientated on a north-west to south-east alignment.

Context No	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Max Deposit Thickness	Max Height m.AOD
8/001	Deposit	Topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.56m	2.90
8/002	Deposit	Subsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.25m	2.40
8/003	Fill	Ring Ditch?	6.5m	Tr.	0.25m	2.04
8/004	Fill	Ring Ditch?	4.75m	Tr.	0.15m	1.79
8/005	Fill	Ring Ditch?	4.75m	Tr.	0.25m	1.64
8/006	Fill	Ring Ditch?	4m	Tr.	0.50m	1.39
8/007	Cut	Ring Ditch?	6.5m	Tr.	1.1m	2.04
8/008	Deposit	Natural (weathered alluvium)	Tr.	Tr.	-	2.61
8/009	Cut	Pit/Disturbance?	1.45m	0.69m	0.20m	2.19
8/010	Fill	Pit/Disturbance?	1.45m	0.69m	0.20m	2.19
8/011	Cut	Pit/Disturbance?	1.83m	0.78m	0.15m	2.17
8/012	Fill	Pit/Disturbance?	1.83m	0.78m	0.15m	2.17
8/013	Cut	Land Drain	Tr.	0.85m	0.70m	2.26
8/014	Cut	Ring Ditch?	12.5m	Tr.	-	2.26
8/015	Fill	Land drain	Tr.	0.85m	0.70m	2.26
8/016	Fill	Ring Ditch?	1.1m	Tr.	-	1.86
8/017	Fill	Ring Ditch?	12.5m	Tr.	0.40m	2.26
8/018	Fill	Ring Ditch?	12.5m	Tr.	-	2.21

Table 9: Context Register, Trench 8

4.9.2 Summary

4.9.3 All the archaeological features encountered within this trench cut natural weathered alluvium [8/008].

4.9.4 Extending beyond the north-western limits of the trench was ditch [8/007]. This feature was filled with deposits similar in nature to those encountered within deep features elsewhere on the site. The uppermost of these comprised mid orange grey silt clay [8/003]. This contained no noticeable inclusions however it produced finds of 14th-16th century brick together with 15th-17th and 16th-18th century peg tile. It probably represents a ploughed in subsoil/levelling deposit (see section 4.4.3 above for comparison). Beneath [8/003] was a mid to dark orange brown clay silt [8/004]. This produced no finds but was interpreted as a previous ground-surface surviving within the depression created by the ditch. The next fill in the sequence consisted of a mid grey silt clay [8/005] this overlay a darker blue clay [8/006] of similar consistency. Both of these deposits were interpreted as natural silting deposits within the ditch.

4.9.5 Two possible pits, [8/009] and [8/011], were located at the south-eastern end of the trench. These were filled with deposits very similar to the overlying subsoil (fills [8/010] and [8/012] respectively). [8/010] produced a single sherd dated to AD 1350-1450, a nail and fragments of fired clay. [8/012] contained a sherd of pottery dating from AD 1275 to 1350 together with animal bone, shell, fired clay and a piece of slag. Although the cuts of these pits seemed to be fairly regular, the bases were undulating and diffuse and they may be the result of disturbance (e.g. rooting or plough action).

4.9.6 The upper layers of the south-eastern edge of ditch feature [8/014] were investigated by a hand dug slot. This showed the stratigraphy to be disturbed by a land drain (cut [8/013] fill [8/015]) however three different deposits were also present. The upper of these comprised a mid orange grey silt clay, [8/017], similar to [8/003] (see above). This overlay dark orange brown clay silt [8/016] (similar to [8/004] see above) that produced finds of AD 1200-1275 pottery as well as animal bone and fired clay. The earliest fill, [8/018], comprised mid grey silt clay similar to [8/005] (see above). This produced finds of animal bone as well as a single sherd of AD 1275-1375 pottery.

5.0 THE FINDS

5.1 Summary

5.1.1 A small assemblage of finds was recovered during the evaluation. A quantification table is given in Appendix 2. Finds have been washed and dried or air dried as appropriate and are bagged and stored according to IfA guidelines. All finds were counted, weighed and bagged by material. A number of finds were assigned unique Registered Finds number (RF <00>; Table 14). Metalwork is in fair condition and all of it is in stable condition. A number of pieces however will require X-rays to further clarify type or identity.

5.2 **The Pottery** by Luke Barber

5.2.1 The evaluation recovered a small assemblage of pottery, most of which is of medieval date. The sherds vary in size from small (< 20mm across) to medium (20-40mm across) although the majority are small. Despite this, most are in fresh condition suggesting they have not been subjected to extensive reworking. Context groups are generally small (under 5 sherds) and many deposits produced single sherds only, making dating tentative. As a result of the low number of sherds involved the degree of residuality and intrusiveness is impossible to gauge.

5.2.2 The earliest pottery consists of a few sherds of sand and moderate shell tempered wares of late 12th- to late 13th- century date. A bowl with heavy hooked rim, unstratified in Trench 2, may be the earliest piece from the site with a c. 1175 to 1250 date range probable. A small abraded sherd from [5/015] may be of similar date. The remaining sand and shell tempered sherds are better fired and only sparse shell. These are more in keeping with a mid to late 13th- century date and would be in keeping with the squared club rim from a cooking pot recovered from [8/016].

5.2.3 Overlapping with the sand and sparse shell wares are the sand tempered wares, which increase in proportion throughout the second half of the 13th century, until they virtually dominate the assemblages of the late 13th/early 14th centuries. Although sand tempered jugs appear quite commonly alongside the sand/shell tempered wares from the early/mid 13th century on Romney Marsh, it is the increase in sand tempered cooking vessels that is particularly notable in the later stages of the 13th century. The current site has a number of fine/medium sand tempered jug and cooking pot sherds of the later 13th to mid 14th centuries, suggesting this was the main period of activity at the site. Although most of the wares are of local Ashford/Wealden production, French imported material from Saintonge is present in [1/020] and [2/002] in the form of green glazed jugs.

5.2.4 A few sherds of pottery dating to between c. 1350 and 1450 are also present, most notably from [1/010] though singular sherds were also recovered from [2/006] and [8/010]. The wares are characterised by well/hard-fired sparse sand tempered vessels with little decoration. Although oxidised vessels are more common, reduced ones are also represented. A

green glazed pitcher fragment was recovered from [1/010] with a large oval-sectioned rod handle from a jug/pitcher coming from [2/006]. These are the latest medieval sherds from the site and taken as a whole suggest at least some activity continuing into the second half of the 14th century.

5.2.5 The only post-medieval pottery recovered consists of five sherds of creamware and two sherds from a pearlware plate (context [1/018]) and a single sherd of creamware from [4/004]. The presence of this material demonstrates some limited activity between c. 1780 and 1820. No later material was recovered.

5.3 The Ceramic Building Material by Sarah Porteus

5.3.1 A total of 86 fragments of ceramic building material (CBM) with a combined weight of 6748g were recovered from the evaluation. A single fragment of mortar was also recovered. The material is of medieval date with some post-medieval peg tile (Table 10). A provisional fabric type series has been created with the aid of a x10 binocular microscope. Fabric types were compared with existing fabric series where possible.

Period	Count	Weight (g)
Medieval	24	2908
Later medieval or early post-medieval	42	2874
Post-medieval	18	794
undated	2	172
Total	86	6748

Table 10: Breakdown of the CBM assemblage by quantity and date

5.3.2 Medieval fabrics and forms (Table 11)

Brick in fabric B2 is of possible Flemish origin, fabric B2 is comparable to Museum of London (MoL) fabric MoL3031 a light coloured calcareous fabric in cream, light brown and greyish pink. Bricks in this fabric from the assemblage are unfrogged with rounded arises and have thicknesses of 55 and 54mm with one identifiable breadth of 105mm, bricks of these dimensions fall within a date range of AD 1350 to 1550 (Drury 2000). It has also been suggested that during this period brick tended to be used as a concealed building material and clad in stone up until around AD 1400 when it became more commonly used in visible parts of structures (*ibid.).* A second brick fabric, B3, of probable medieval date was identified. Some similarities were noted to MoL3044 fabric which is dated to the 14th century. The brick was unfrogged with rounded arises and of 50mm thickness. In this instance, a broader date range of 14th to 16th century is given as the London date is based on a limited datable sample. Peg tile of probable medieval date was identified in two fabric types. Peg tile in fabric T3 had occasional splash glazing to the surface and a reduced core in many cases which suggest a medieval date a poorly formed circular peg hole was also noted in one fragment a 14th to 16th century date is likely. The second peg tile fabric T5 is similar to the Tyler Hill fabric with abundant coarse quartz and a 14th to 16th century date is likely.

Fabric	Description	Form	Date	Contexts
B2	Pale cream sandy brick fabric	Brick	1350-1550	4/002, 8/003
B3	Yellowish cream sandy fabric with very coarse red silt inclusions of up to 10mm diameter	Brick	14th-16th	4/002
T3	Sandy fabric with sparse coarse quartz and coarse calcareous inclusions	Peg tile	14th-16th	1/006, 1/010, 1/014, 1/020, 4/003, 8/003, 8/015
T5	Orange very coarse fabric with abundant coarse quartz	Peg tile	14th-16th	1/010, 1/014, 8/003

Table 11: Medieval fabric types and form

5.3.3 Later medieval or early post-medieval fabrics and forms (Table 12)

A range of peg tile fabrics were identified of later medieval or early post-medieval date. The most common fabric type T2 and nrT2 had large misshapen circular peg holes in a number of fragments. Less common were fragments in soft under-fired fabric T6 represented by a single fragment and fabric T4 also represented by a single fragment. No immediately comparable fabric types were available from known fabric series.

Fabric	Description	Form	Date	Contexts
T2	orange fabric with sparse coarse quartz and chunky cream and dark orange silt inclusions	Peg tile	C16th-C18th	1/006, 1/014, 1/018, 1/020, 1/023, 2/007, 4/002, 4/003, 4/004, 5/005, 5/005/5/007, 6/004, 8/015
Nr T2	As T2 with fewer calcareous inclusions and more reddish appearance.	Peg tile	C16th-C18th	4/002, 4/003, 8/003, 6/006
T4	Brownish orange fine fabric with sparse calcareous inclusions	Peg tile	C15th-C17th	8/015
T6	Brown fine sandy fabric with abundant fine micaceous speckles	Peg tile	C15th-C17th	8/003

Table 12: Later medieval or early post-medieval fabrics and forms

5.3.4 Post-Medieval fabrics and forms (Table 13)
Fragments of peg tile of probable post-medieval date were recovered from nine contexts. The exact dating of the fabric type is uncertain and it is possible some fragments may be of later medieval date. The fabric T1 is similar to Canterbury Archaeological Trust Fabric CAT32 and is common peg tile fabric in Kent.

Fabric	Description	Form	Date	Contexts

T1	Pinkish orange fabric with abundant fine calcareous inclusions and sparse fine red iron rich inclusions	Peg tile	C17th-19th	1/006, 1/018, 1/023, 4/004, 4/003, 6/004, 6/006, 5/005 or 5/007, 7/006

Table 13: Post-medieval fabrics and forms

A small quantity of undated brick in an orange red sandy brick fabric with moderate medium quartz and moderate iron rich inclusions was recovered from contexts [5/005] and [8/018]. In addition a single fragment of loose coarse sandy lime mortar with rounded sand was recovered from context [1/020] and was also undated.

5.3.5 The material should be retained for comparison with material recovered from any future archaeological investigations.

5.4 The Glass by Elke Raemen

5.4.1 Only one glass fragment was recovered, consisting of a large, green wine bottle neck, dating to the mid 18th to mid 19th century. The fragment was recovered from topsoil [6/001].

5.5 The Registered Finds by Elke Raemen

5.5.1 A medium-sized registered finds assemblage was recovered, including metalwork and worked bone. RF nos. <1> onwards were allocated on site and include some plotted (not shown in report figures) bulk metalwork e.g. nails. RF nos. <101> were allocated off-site.

5.5.2 The majority of Registered Finds are unstratified. Stratified finds are mainly from medieval contexts. A variety of activities are represented. Fishing is evidenced by two fishhooks (RF <1> and <4>) as well as three unstratified and two stratified (RF <123> and <134>) rolled, lead net-sinkers. Large quantities of fish hooks have been recovered from past excavations, e.g. excavations at Saint Nicholas Primary School contained 86 fish hooks (ASE, 2009).

5.5.3 A single bolt from a clench bolt (RF <127>), often used in boat building, was also recovered.

5.5.4 Household objects e.g. a cauldron foot (RF <125>), are present, as well as agricultural tools i.e. the two sickles (RF <102> and <135>) and various dress accessories.

5.5.5 A complete overview can be found in Table 14.

CONTEXT	RF No	OBJECT	MATERIAL	WT (g)	PERIOD	DATE	COMMENT	CONSERVATION RECOMMENDATIONS
2/004	1	FISH	IRON	<2	MED		incomplete; spade end	X-ray
2/004	2	NAIL	IRON	14	MED		plotted; bulk	

CONTEXT	RF No	OBJECT	MATERIAL	WT (g)	PERIOD	DATE	COMMENT	CONSERVATION RECOMMENDATIONS
							find	
2/004	3	NAIL	IRON	6	MED		plotted; bulk find	
2/004	4	FISH	IRON	<2	MED		incomplete	X-ray
2/004	5	NAIL	IRON	4	MED		plotted; bulk find	
2/004	6	NAIL	IRON	6	MED		plotted; bulk find	
4/004	101	STAP	IRON	<2	MED		small U-staple	
4/004	102	SICK	IRON	38	MED		tanged, blade and tang broken	
4/004	103	UNK	IRON	58	MED		amorphous frag	X-ray
4/004	104	UNK	IRON	40	MED		amorphous frag	X-ray
4/004	105	UNK	IRON	62	MED		amorphous frag	X-ray
T3 u/s	106	TOKEN	LEAD	6	PMED	?18th-19th century	"IW"	
T3 u/s	107	THIM	COPP	4	PMED	C18th-19th	machine-made	
T3 u/s	108	TOKEN	LEAD	4	MED-PMED		illegible	
T3 u/s	109	COIN	SILV	<2	MED	?1247-72	cut half penny - ?Henry III - "Long Cross"	
T3 u/s	110	WEIG	COPP	2	MED-PMED		?coin weight	
T3 u/s	111	NETS	LEAD	4	MED		rolled	
T3 u/s	112	UNK	LEAD	6	MED-PMED		?repair	
T1 u/s	113	THIM	COPP	4	MED-EPMED	late medieval to early post medieval	ring thimble; hand made	
T1 u/s	114	DISC	LEAD	6	MED-PMED		flakinig; unknown function	
T1 u/s	115	MOUN	COPP	14	LPMED		decorative mount eg furniture	
T1 u/s	116	NETS	LEAD	20	MED		rolled	
T1 u/s	117	BUTT	COPP	6	PMED	?MC17th-18th	solid cast and domed	
T1 u/s	118	STUD	COPP	<2	MED-EPMED		hollow, domed stud with integral shank	
T1 u/s	119	STRL	COPP	<2	MED	Late 12th to late 14th century	internal projections	
T4 u/s	120	NETS	LEAD	6	MED		rolled	
T4 u/s	121	BUCK	LEAD	4	MED	Late 14th to early 15th century	double oval - shoe	
T4 u/s	122	BUCK	LEAD	<2	MED	Late 14th to early 15th century	circular - shoe	

CONTEXT	RF No	OBJECT	MATERIAL	WT (g)	PERIOD	DATE	COMMENT	CONSERVATION RECOMMENDATIONS
4/003	123	NETS	LEAD	4	MED		rolled	
T7 u/s	124	?STPE	COPP	<2	MED		possible strap-end	X-ray
T7 u/s	125	CAUL	COPP	10	MED/EPMED		foot	
T7 u/s	126	BUPL	COPP	6	MED		rocker-arm border and "K" across surface. Gilded	
2/002	127	BOLT	IRON	34	MED			
6/004	128	STAP	IRON	2	MED		small U-staple fragment	
T6 u/s	129	BUTT	COPP	<2	PMED	C18th-19th	button	
T6 u/s	130	?RAZO	COPP	12	PMED	C19th-EC20th	possible handle	
T6 u/s	131	WEIG	LEAD	40	MED-PMED		attachment missing	
6/006	132	WIRE	IRON	<2	PMED			
5/009	133	HAND	BONE	4	MED			
1/020	134	NETS	LEAD	34	MED		rolled	
1/010	135	SICK	IRON	124	MED		tanged. Tip blade broken	

Table 14. Summary of the Registered Finds.

5.6 **The Bulk Metalwork** by Elke Raemen

5.6.1 A medium-sized assemblage of 96 pieces of metalwork (wt 874g) was recovered. Included are 35 pieces of ironwork, 45 pieces of lead and five pieces of copper-alloy. In addition, a single sheet of white metal was also recovered.

5.6.2 All lead, copper-alloy and white metal was recovered from the topsoil. Lead-alloy consists solely of waste, strip and sheets fragments. Copper-alloy includes strip and sheet fragments as well as driving band fragments from shells (C20th) and two 20th-century bullets. The white metal sheet fragment is also of 20th-century date.

5.6.3 The ironwork is mainly stratified and from medieval contexts. The majority consists of general purpose nails and nail fragments, although a few heavy duty fragments are included as well (e.g. [4/004], [7/006]). Context [4/008] contained 19th- to early 20th-century tin can fragments, both from circular- and rectangular-sectioned tins. Iron, round-sectioned wire from [6/006] is likely to be of late post-medieval date as well.

5.7 **The Geological Material** by Luke Barber

5.7.1 The majority of stone recovered from the site consists of medieval West Country slate. This roofing material is fairly common in south coast ports in the 12th to 13th centuries, particularly on buildings of some substance. The next most common type is Folkestone stone. Two large fragments were

recovered from unstratified deposits. One of these has marine burrows, clearly showing it was collected from the beach in the Folkestone area. The other, and largest piece (9,000g), consists of a faced building block. Other Folkestone stone pieces were recovered from [6/004] and [6/006].There is also another large block of stone (12,500g) from unstratified deposits. This consists of slightly glauconitic sandstone probably from the Lower Greensand Beds. The only other stone present consists of an ?intrusive piece of coal in [2/002], a fragment of Purbeck shelly limestone (4/004] and a piece of ferruginous sandstone possibly from the Lower Greensand series (context [6/004]).

5.8 The Metallurgical Remains by Luke Barber

5.8.1 Trenches 1 and 6 produced fragments of dense copper alloy slag/waste suggesting non-ferrous metalworking nearby. Unfortunately all of the material was unstratified, however, considering the date of most of the activity on site it is likely the material relates to medieval activity. The remaining slag was all from medieval contexts with two pieces of probable iron smithing slag being recovered from [2/002] and [8/015] and a small piece of furnace lining coming from [8/012].

5.9 The Fired Clay by Elke Raemen

5.9.1 A small assemblage, consisting of six pieces of fired clay, was recovered from four individually numbered contexts in Trench 8. All pieces are amorphous and in a sparse fine sand-tempered fabric, some with rare organic temper. Pottery from these features dates between the 13th to mid 14th century.

5.10 Marine Shell by Elke Raemen

5.10.1 A small assemblage of only five pieces of marine shell was recovered. Fragments consist mainly of lower valves from oyster shell as well as a single cockle shell valve. Pottery from these contexts is of medieval date.

5.11 The Animal Bone by Lucy Sibun

5.11.1 A small assemblage of bone was recovered during the evaluation, with no more than six fragments in any of the twelve bone producing contexts. Fragments were identified as cattle, sheep, pig and horse. Cattle and sheep were the most abundant within the assemblage represented by long-bones, vertebrae, ribs and cranial fragments. Pig was only present in [6/006], represented by a single long-bone fragment, and horse in [6/006] and [8/015], represented by a long-bone and an innominate bone. There was no evidence for butchery or pathology on any fragments.

6.0 THE ENVIRONMENTAL AND GEO-ARCHAEOLOGICAL SAMPLES

6.1 The Environmental Samples by Karine le Hégarat & Lucy Allott

6.1.1 A total of 29 bulk samples of between ten and forty litres were taken during evaluation work at Rolfe Lane, New Romney. These came from a range of archaeological features, such as ditches, pits, beamslots, a possible hearth and a possible occupational layer / metalled surface as well as from several natural deposits including marshy deposits, windblown sandy deposits, a natural channel and possible marine and tidal alluvium. Sampling targeted recovery of environmental indicators which could provide information regarding the past vegetation and land use activities at the site. In addition, sampling aimed to establish evidence for remains which would help clarify the post-depositional and sedimentary history of several deposits, as this could provide further evidence of the variability of the site environment, including the hydrological conditions. Finally sampling also aimed to maximise the recovery of artefacts.

6.1.2 Various methods of processing have been applied to the soil samples as they originated from several types of deposits ranging from waterlogged peat-like deposits to coarse gravels. Both wet sieving and flotation were used and small sub samples have been retained in several instances to allow for more detailed microscopic examination if required. Processing methods specific to each sample are presented in Appendix 3. The contents of the residues and flots are summarised in further tables in Appendix 3.

6.2 Results Trenches 4 and 6

6.2.1 Samples <4, 6, 7 and 8> and samples <9 and 10> taken from ditches [4/005] and [6/010] consisted almost entirely of humic material including grasses, leaves, fruits' endocarps, twigs, bark and seeds. Identified taxa included knotgrass/docks (*Polygonum/Rumex* sp.), buttercup (*Ranunculus* sp.), pondweeds (*Potamogeton* sp.), possible common water-crowfoot (cf. *Ranunculus aquatilis*) and marigolds (cf. *Calendula* sp.). Seeds of the daisy (Asteraceae) and carrot (Apiaceae) families as well as several unidentified seeds were also present. Charred material consisted only of infrequent small charcoal flecks (<2mm) within the flot from sample <8>. With the exception of samples <5>, land snail shells were present in varying quantity in all the samples and were particularly abundant in sample <7>. Other environmental remains included fish and mammal bones as well as marine mollusca in the residues from ditch [6/010]. Insects were also present. Burnt clay, slate and metal was also observed within all these samples.

6.2.2 Wet sieved sample <11> from natural marsh deposit [4/012] produced some wood debris, grasses and some possible fish scales.

6.3 Results Trench 5

6.3.1 Flots from samples <19, 20, 21> from gullies or beamslot terminals [5/004] and [5/006] were dominated by uncharred material including fine roots and

uncharred seeds such as bramble (*Rubus* sp.) and seeds from the goosefoot (Chenopodiaceae) family. Charred botanical material was limited to occasional small wood charcoal fragments <4mm and a single grain of wheat (*Triticum* sp.) in the residue from sample <20>. A small quantity of bones, mollusca and land snail shells were also noted. Artefact remains included some slate, burnt clay and pottery.

6.3.2 Sample <22> from the fill [5/009] of pit [5/008] was more productive. Both the flot and the residue produced a small quantity of moderately well preserved wood charcoal fragments of >4mm. Charred macrobotanical remains included caryopses of barley (*Hordeum* sp.) and wheat (*Triticum* sp.), a possible legume (cf. Fabaceae) as well as some wild/weed grass seeds. Burnt bones, marine mollusca as well as a large quantity of fish bones and land snail shells were present amongst the assemblage.

6.4 Results Trench 2

6.4.1 Charred plant remains were frequent in sample <1> collected from the fill of a pit or hearth [2/008]. They included frequent wood charcoal fragments >4mm, charred crops mainly represented by oat/brome (*Avena/Bromus* sp.) but also barley (*Hordeum* sp.), wheat (*Triticum* sp.), and a grain of vetch/pea (*Vicia/Lathyrus* sp.). Wild/weed taxa consisted of mustard/cabbage (*Sinapis/Brassica* sp.), knotgrass/docks (*Polygonum/Rumex* sp.), sedge (*Carex* sp.) as well as several unidentified seeds. Other environmental remains included land snail shells, burnt and unburnt bones, fish bones and micro fauna as well as marine mollusca. In addition, fragments of burnt clay, pottery and mortar were also present in the residue.

6.4.2 Samples <2> and <3> from ditch [2/005], sample <12> recovered from occupational layer / metalled surface [2/002] and sample <26> from beam slot [2/020] produced an array of environmental remains. Although all four samples yielded some wood charcoal fragments and land snail shells these were more common in the primary fill [2/007] of ditch [2/005]. The same ditch feature also produced some charred macrobotanicals including two unidentified cereal grains and one wild grass seed. Mammal and fish bones as well as marine mollusca were present in varying quantity within these samples and fragments of burnt clay, pottery, slate and amorphous metallic remains were also noted within the residues. It should be added that samples <26>, <3> and <12> were dominated by uncharred humic material consisting of woody debris, leaves, fine roots and seeds providing evidence for plants found on damp and disturbed grounds.

6.5 Trenches 1, 8 and 3

6.5.1 Samples <15, 16 and 17> and samples <27> and <28> were collected from ditch features [8/007] and [3/004]. With the exception of sample <15> from the upper fill of ditch [8/007], the samples consisted of humic material including leaves, twigs, bark, buds, fine roots and seeds. Taxa identified included elder (*Sambucus nigra*), knotgrass/docks (*Polygonum/Rumex* sp.), possible common water-crowfoot (cf. *Ranunculus aquatilis*), water-dropworts (cf. *Oenanthe* sp.), marigolds (cf. *Calendula* sp.) as well as

seeds of the carrot (Apiaceae) and daisy (Asteraceae) families and various unidentified seeds. Land snail shells were present in all these samples but were more common in sample <15>, which also contained small quantities of mammal bones, fish bones and mollusca.

6.5.2 The upper fill of natural channel [1/011] (sample <13>) produced frequent land snail shells and a small quantity of charred wood fragments.

6.5.3 Infrequent charcoal fragments <2mm were present in sample <18> from a Ditch fill ([1/014]). The other environmental remains included abundant land snail shells and a small amount of fish bones, mammal bones and mollusca.

6.6 Discussion and Conclusions

6.6.1 Sampling has provided clear evidence for a broad array of environmental indicators. Remains of food plants are infrequent but where evident they are focussed within features such as pits and hearths that are likely to be associated with domestic activities within the site. The assemblage currently suggests that oats were an important crop although barley, wheat and legumes are also indicated. Fish and mollusca tend to be somewhat more wide spread within the features than the charred botanical remains. The faunal assemblage is likely to be largely composed of fish and mollusca food resources although it is also possible that some were naturally occurring in the palaeochannel.

6.6.2 Common water crowfoot and pondweeds in the uncharred botanical assemblage provide a strong indication for pond-like or relatively still freshwater environments. This is clearly consistent with the structural feature evidence recorded during excavation. Water-dropwort species can, however, grow in a range of habitats including both fresh and brackish conditions as well as still and flowing water. Sampling has also revealed a well preserved and apparently diverse assemblage of mollusca and these remains may assist in establishing groundwater conditions during the infilling/silting of the palaeochannel and ditched enclosure. Their presence also indicates potential for preservation of other microscopic indicators such as diatoms and foraminifera that are sensitive to subtle changes in nutrient levels and salinity.

6.7 Timber Samples by Lucy Allott

6.7.1 Six pieces of waterlogged wood and a further three fragments of bark were encountered during excavation of the fill [6/007] of ditch [6/010]. The samples have been cleaned and manually sectioned for preliminary identification under a stereozoom microscope at x10-45 magnifications. Timber samples 1-5 were wrapped in black plastic and stored in cold airtight conditions, while timber samples 6 and 7 which had already dried to some extent were allowed to dry slowly and stored as hand collected finds. Table 15 provides further details of each.

Context Number	Timber sample number	Details of sample	Taxonomic identification
6/007	1	Roundwood, halved along length (340mm), bark and sapwood absent and measuring 50mm in diameter.	Oak (*Quercus* sp.)
6/007	2	Roundwood, halved along length (690mm), bark and sapwood absent and measuring ca. 55mm in diameter.	not identified at present
6/007	3	Timber plank, tangentially faced, the piece is broken at both ends but measures 830 x 130 x 17mm.	Oak (*Quercus* sp.)
6/007	4	Quartered timber, retaining knots on outside although bark and sapwood are absent. 139mm length, quartered faces measure 60mm and 70mm giving the original roundwood ca. 120-130mm diameter (with sapwood removed).	Oak (*Quercus* sp.)
6/007	5	Quartered timber retaining knots on outside, bark is absent and a small area of sapwood may be present. L-shaped notch removed at one end while opposing end has been cut to a point and retains tool marks on surface. Entire piece measures 1050mm in length and is bent at approximately 720mm from tapered end although the break is modern and occurred during excavation. The thickness of the piece varies along its length and at the notched end it is of similar proportions to Timber Sample 4.	Oak (*Quercus* sp.)
6/007	6	Radially cleft timber block, sapwood absent measuring approximately 100 x 100mm	Oak (*Quercus* sp.)
6/007	7	3 bark fragments	No identification obtained

Table 15: Timber and waterlogged wood samples

6.7.2 Wood recovered during the evaluation was in remarkably good condition with internal wood anatomical features clear and intact and external features, conversion method and working clearly preserved. There was very little evidence for either distortion or decomposition of the wood. Timber sample 5 retains the clearest evidence relating to function of the wood. This stake with a notch at the top may form part of a timber fencing structure. The sections of roundwood may derive from coppiced oak woodland and although the pieces do not retain direct evidence for their use such straight rods could also have been used for fencing.

6.7.3 With the exception of the roundwood these oak timbers provide no potential for radiocarbon dating. The current assemblage provides no potential to undertake dendrochronological work as the pieces are either too small (with too few growth rings) or they do not retain both pith and sapwood. They have however demonstrated that deposits in the ditched enclosure (moat) at this site are suitable for preserving large timbers as well as smaller wooden items.

7.0 CONSIDERATION OF RESEARCH AIMS

7.1 Introduction

7.1.1 The text below considers the results of the evaluation with regard to the 'General', 'Trench Specific' and Additional Research Aims under these three headings for ease of reading. However, the information is also given on a trench by trench basis in Appendix 5 which should be referred to as / if necessary.

7.2 Aims

The results of the investigation are discussed by phase, with reference to the General Aims, aims set out in the WSI and in section 1.4, above. An attempt has been made to phase the archaeological evidence. This phasing should be treated as provisional and tentative due to the general lack of dating material from primary fills.

The phases encountered at the site were (provisionally):

Phase 1: 'Natural'
Phase 2: Medieval (late 13th century)
Phase 3: Medieval (late 13th to early 14th centuries)
Phase 4: Post Medieval (16th to 19th centuries)
Phase 5: Modern (20th century)

7.2.1 Phase 1: 'Natural'

The natural and archaeological horizon was encountered at between 1.70 (Trench 1) and 2.61mAOD (Trench 8) .This natural geology was comprised of weathered alluvium which overlay deposits of Marine Alluvial Clay in Trenches 1, 3, 4 and 8. There was, however, some variation. In Trench 4, there was a layer of peat underlying the weathered alluvium. Probable storm deposits were identified in Trenches 2 and 5 (windblown sand), Trench 6 (storm gravel beach deposits), and Trench 7 (a large bank of storm gravel)

A small number of features related to this phase were identified. In Trench 1, a probable shallow silted channel, [1/011] which may have been part of a natural rivulet or stream utilised to feed the potentially water filled ditches forming the ditched enclosures identified on the site. In Trench 5, a several features seemed to relate to bands of tidal deposits ([5/010], [5/013] and [5/014]).

7.2.2 Phase 2: Medieval (late 13th century)

Ditch feature [1/017] (0.34m below ground-level) was the only archaeological feature dated to this phase within Trench 1. This dating is tentative and is based on the feature's similarity with those found in Trenches 3 and 8, nearby; features [3/004] (0.55m below ground-level), [8/007] and [8/014] (both 0.30m below ground level). Together, these features are thought to represent a sub-circular enclosure and although

only limited dating was obtained from excavation of the 'lower' fills of [8/014] on balance this date seems a likely possibility. This ditch feature may, then, form part of an additional ditched enclosure to that encountered in Trenches 4 and 6.

In Trench 2, four features were recognised as cutting the natural. These comprised a beamslot, pit, posthole and stakehole. They were all encountered at an approximate depth of 0.90m below ground-level. No dating evidence was retrieved from their fills they have been provisionally dated to this phase through stratigraphic relations and comparisons with features from elsewhere (see below). These features possible relate to the remains of a timber building. Similar structures cutting storm deposits were encountered at the Southlands School site (Draper & Meddens, 2009) and at St Nicholas's School, New Romney (ASE, 2009). Like the remains encountered at the current site, both of these structures were sealed by a layer that probably represents a short period of abandonment, [2/003] (possibly relating to the great storm of 1287).

No archaeological features that dated to this phase were encountered in the remainder of the trenches.

7.2.3 Phase 3: Medieval (late 13th to early 14th centuries)

Some of the accumulated fills of ditch [1/017] in Trench 1 may be of this date.

In Trench2, cutting abandonment layer [2/003] was boundary / drainage ditch [2/005] and pit / hearth [2/009]. Also dated to this phase was occupation layer / metalled surface [2/002]. These remains were found at depths of between 0.63m and 0.80m below ground-level. They may represent the remains of a second building, bounded by an enclosure ditch; however no definite structural features were encountered.

Ditch feature [4/005] (0.45m below ground-level) was the only archaeological feature dated to this phase within Trench 4. This feature is thought to represent a man-made feeder channel linking a natural stream with the rest of the ditched enclosure (designated as a moated site in the Kent HER). Although unexcavated, [5/019] is thought to represent the south-eastern continuation of the main ditched enclosure. Similarly, ditch, [6/010] (0.45m below ground-level) in Trench 6 was the only is also thought to be part of the main ditched (moated) enclosure, although no dating evidence was retrieved from the lower fills of this feature.

Some, fairly limited remains were found in Trench 5, inside the main ditched enclosure. Pit [5/008] (*c*.0.40m below ground-level) and ditch feature [5/019] (*c*.0.75m below ground-level) dated to this phase. Pit [5/008] may have been dug for rubbish deposition. It demonstrates that medieval features survive within the large ditched enclosure (moated site).

No archaeological features that dated to this phase were encountered in the remainder of the evaluation trenches.

7.2.4 Phase 4: Post-medieval (16th to 19th centuries)

Drainage / boundary ditch [1/009] (0.34m below ground-level) has been provisionally dated to this phase. However, its similarity to drainage / boundary ditch [2/005] (Phase 3) may indicate medieval origins for the feature. This feature seemed to be relatively unaffected by any subsequent development or processes at the site, although the upper horizons may have been truncated by ploughing. Possible gully [1/015] (0.34m below ground-level) is thought more likely to be a disturbed part of a post-medieval remnant land-surface preserved in the upper levels of feature [1/017].

The only activity related to this phase in Trench 2 relates to accumulated fills within boundary ditch [2/005].

In Trench 5, gully / beamslot terminals [5/004] and [5/006] have been dated to this phase and may (although not definitively) represent structures within the large ditched enclosure (moated site).

The single archaeological feature encountered in Trench 7 comprised a possible robbed out wall [7/005] (0.22m below ground-level).

No archaeological features that dated to this phase were encountered in the remainder of the evaluation trenches.

7.2.5 Phase 5: Modern (20th century)

The only remains within Trench 1 linked to this phase comprise the levelling deposit laid down in-order to fill the depression left by [1/017]. Some modern disturbance was encountered at the north-eastern end of Trench 2. In general the most intact archaeology encountered at the site was preserved in this trench. However, two possible pits [8/009] and [8/011] were probably more likely the result of disturbance via rooting and/or the plough.

The remainder of the trenches did not reveal any modern features.

7.3 Trench Specific Research Aims

7.3.1 The Trench Specific Research Aims as detailed in the WSI are addressed by theme. Appendix 5 presents these aims on a trench by trench basis for reference.

7.3.2 Cropmarks

Trench 2 was successful in its specific aim of investigating the linear crop mark heading south towards Rolfe Lane. This proved to be boundary / drainage ditch [2/005] (Fig.12).

The cropmarks investigated by Trench 3 related to the continuation of a sub-circular enclosure (Fig 12).

Trench 1 was sited from the crop marks that proved to be misleading on the ground, thus Trench 8 was situated in order to fulfil the specific aims of Trench 1(see below). This proved that the investigated cropmarks probably comprised the circuit of a sub-circular ditched enclosure.

Only one feature, related to the cropmark upon which Trench 7 was sited, was encountered. This comprised a possible robbed out wall. The opposing linear feature that forms this cropmark was not encountered. This may be due to it being backfilled with natural gravels and not being recognised on site, however the discrepancy in levels between where [7/005] was encountered and where the opposing linear feature could have been expected (i.e. high on the shingle bank) makes it seem more likely that the feature suggested by the cropmark was not real.

7.3.3 Geophysical Anomalies

Geophysical anomaly (Fig 13) M4 probably comprised ditch feature [3/004]. Geophysical anomaly M5 is approximately on the same orientation as the land-drain located within Trench 8 and it is likely that M5 relates to the continuation of this feature. Geophysical anomaly M7 probably relates to the deep subsoil/levelling deposits (and the demolition debris these incorporate) located at this end of the trench.

In Trench 5, geophysical anomalies M8, M9, M11 and M12 probably all represent tidal bands or channels (see Phase 1 above). M12 however was not crossed by the trench.

In Trench 8, Geophysical anomaly M1 related to a sub-circular enclosure. Geophysical anomaly M2 was not encountered. Geophysical anomaly M3 probably relates to ditch [8/014]. Geophysical anomaly M6 probably comprised the deep ploughing/levelling encountered within the trench.

7.3.4 The main ditched enclosure (moated site): internal features, 'feeder' channels

Ditch feature [4/005] did represent a feeder channel to the main ditched enclosure (moated site). No indications that this channel was tidal in nature were found. The width of this feature was not ascertained due to the oblique location of the trench.

Trench 5 proved that archaeological features survived within the main ditched (moated) enclosure, their character and date has been clarified above.

As discussed above no dating evidence was retrieved from the lower fills of ditch feature [6/010] however it is thought to date to the late 13th early 14th centuries.

7.4 Additional Research Aims

7.4.1 The Additional Research Aims, which developed during the fieldwork, are

addressed by theme. Appendix 5 presents these aims on a trench by trench basis for reference.

7.4.2 Vegetation survey

The GPS survey of overlying vegetation (see Fig. 11) was an accurate indication of the location of below ground archaeology in Trenches 1, 2, 3, 4, 6 and 8. The nettles that this vegetation mainly comprised of show a predilection for growing in the humic upper fills of deep features. They covered the entirety of the archaeological remains present in Trench 2 and could be used to roughly project the continuations of ditches [1/017], [1/009], feature [3/004] and ditches [4/005], [6/010], [8/007] and [8/014]. There were no concentrations of vegetation associated with the remains present in Trench 7.

7.4.3 The site environment: marine / estuarine?

No indications of a marine/estuarine environment were evident from the environmental samples taken during the evaluation (ditch contexts [4/005], [3/004], [6/010], [8/007] and [8/014]. The presumed natural channel in Trench 1, [1/011], probably represents a silted natural stream or rivulet utilised to feed the deep water filled features on the site.

7.4.4 Was this the location of the Port? Could trading vessels have navigated the ditches?

There were no indications that the site represents the medieval port of New Romney. The limited amount of artefacts associated with fishing (fish hooks, lead weights) are commonplace in New Romney and cannot be used to infer that the site was directly associated with the wider maritime industry.

The shallow nature of the purported feeder stream (less than 1m) encountered within Trench 1 would not allow the passage a boat. Equally the more substantial ditches found in Trenches 3, 4, 6 and 8 would not have been large enough to allow the passage of trading vessels.

8.0 DISCUSSION AND INTERPRETATION (Fig. 14)

8.1 The archaeological evaluation succeeded in confirming the presence of a moated site, probably of medieval date evident from cropmarks and aerial photographs. A further system of ditches may, possibly represent another ditched enclosure, although this is unconfirmed. Some limited evidence of structures and ditch systems, also probably of medieval origin was also discovered.

8.2 The earliest archaeological remains were encountered within Trench 2. These comprised the probable remains of a timber built structure of possible late 13th century or earlier date. As discussed above similar structures have been discovered elsewhere in New Romney (Draper & Meddens, 2009 and ASE, 2009). These examples have also (like the example investigated here) been sealed by layers thought to represent a period of abandonment, possibly the result of storm events. It is reasonable to hypothesise that we have, in the sealing of these occupation layers, a transformation of ground conditions at the site during the Late 13th century which may relate to marine inundations associated with recorded storm event.

8.3 Later (late 13th to early 14th century) possible occupation evidence was again found in Trench 2 with an occupation layer or metalled surface bounded by a drainage/boundary ditch. A similar drainage/boundary ditch was encountered within Trench 1 and these, together with cropmark evidence may form a rectangular enclosure utilised for agricultural and/or settlement activity.

8.4 Large ditches were evidenced in Trenches 1, 3, 4, 5, 6 and 8. These were fed by a possible natural channel part of which may have been evidenced in Trench 1 (Fig.14). These large ditch features seem to represent two distinct enclosures. The first of these situated in the west of the site (Trenches 1, 3 and 8) is probably sub-circular or D-shaped in plan with an internal diameter of approximately 25-30m. Small moated sites of this shape are not uncommon and may be of a generally earlier date (Aberg 1978) and it is possible that this enclosure represents either a forerunner of the larger ditched enclosure (designated as a moated site on the Kent HER) site to the east (discussed below) or is a contemporary of that enclosure. Other possible interpretations for this feature are that it represents an ancillary enclosure to the larger site intended for agricultural purposes. No internal features were encountered. It is also interesting to note that this circular enclosure is placed roughly centrally within a semicircular curving bend to Cockreed Lane.

8.5 The large moated site, which is defined in the Kent HER, (Trenches 4, 5 and 6), comprised a rectangular enclosure measuring *c*.80m long and 90m wide, probably fed by a natural stream/rivulet via a man-made feeder channel (Fig, 14). This enclosure had some, limited, evidence of internal features surviving though no definite structural evidence for internal buildings was revealed.

8.6 Previously the site has been related to Craythorne manor with earlier

references to a Cockreed manor. These have been thought to be one and the same (Romney Marsh Research Trust, 2004). Could the evidence of a possible second enclosure encountered during this investigation point towards Cockreed being a moated site in its own right before a subsequent change of name and postulated building of Craythorne in the late 13th century?

8.7 The location of a possible building in the northeast of the site was evidenced by a probable robber trench located within Trench 7. The dating evidence retrieved from this feature proved to be relatively late (post medieval) and it is possible that the structure to which this feature possibly relates is agricultural in origin (a barn for example) and is probably associated with post medieval pastoral land-use of the site.

8.8 As discussed above, the site (other than Trench 2) has been subject to a considerable degree of 20th century disturbance that has almost certainly served to truncate any shallow features and also infill the upper levels of the larger ones. Finds from these levelling deposits (together with artefacts retrieved from the archaeological features) perhaps provide circumstantial evidence for possible buildings that may once have occupied the site. The medieval structures may have been built of brick with Folkestone stone cladding and roofed with slate and later peg tile. The only later medieval and post medieval ceramic building evidence comprised peg tile possibly utilised to re-roof the medieval structures until the late 18th century when a building was known to have burnt down (Romney Marsh Research Trust, 2004).

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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Appendix 1: Summary Table of Archaeological Sites

HER/LBS No.	NGR (TR)	Description	Period
TR02NE10 (MKE3727)	0600 2500	Imprecise find spot of bronze Iron Age stater	Iron Age
TR02NE15 (MKE3732)	0655 2532	Large moated site and remains of field system	Medieval
TR02NE25 (MKE8264)	0600 2500	Imprecise location of former windmill in New Romney	Medieval/ post-medieval
TR02NE27 (MKE15260)	0625 2532	Former site of 19th century brickworks	Post-medieval
TR02NE66 (MKE18383)	0600 2500	Imprecise reference to medieval deposits located in New Romney	Medieval
TR02NE84 (MKE32443)	0653 2502	Grade II Listed Building. Fairfield House – 18th-century or earlier	Post-medieval
TR02NE71 (MKE32992)	0674 2525	Grade II Listed Building. Craythornes c. 1700 AD with later alterations & additions	Post-medieval
TR02NE100 (MKE43014	0659 2508	Watching brief undertaken by Canterbury Archaeological Trust revealed two medieval sub-circular features in addition to 13th/14th-century pottery	medieval
Not yet added	606680 125310	Evaluation by CAT at 77 Rolfe Lane large linear ditch post-dating ditched enclosure thought to represent later medieval draining of the area. Evidence suggestive of an agricultural regime present at the site from the later medieval period onwards also found	Medieval & post-medieval

Appendix 2: Quantification of the Finds

Context	Pot	Wt (g)	CBM	Wt (g)	Bone	Wt (g)	Shell	Wt (g)	Stone	Wt (g)	Fe	Wt (g)	Cu.Al	Wt (g)	Pb	Wt (g)	white metal	Wt (g)	Glass	Wt (g)	Slag	Wt (g)	F.Clay	Wt (g)	Wood	Wt (g)	Mortar	Wt (g)
us									3	<6000																		
T1 us											1	16	3	6	7	76					5	230						
1/006			5	150																								
1/010	5	44	4	210	4	54	4	32	2	98																		
1/014	1	10	4	142	3	6			1	<2																		
1/016					6	64					9	18																
1/018	8	18	1	6																								
1/020	2	6	2	106																							1	4
1/023			4	76					6	8																		
1/025					2	12																						
T2us	1	54																										
2/002	8	112			4	12	1	<2	3	12	3	6									1	36						
2/006	1	122							1	40	1	4																
2/007	1	12	1	10							2	22																
T3 us													2	14	20	250	3	6			2	60						
T4us													2	42	3	26												
4/002			18	2566					3	146	1	18																
4/003			9	726					1	132	5	60																
4/004	1	4	4	168					5	394	3	56																
4/006	1	64																										
4/008											4	42																

Context	Pot	Wt (g)	CBM	Wt (g)	Bone	Wt (g)	Shell	Wt (g)	Stone	Wt (g)	Fe	Wt (g)	Cu.Al	Wt (g)	Pb	Wt (g)	white metal	Wt (g)	Glass	Wt (g)	Slag	Wt (g)	F.Clay	Wt (g)	Wood	Wt (g)	Mortar	Wt (g)
T5us													1	<2	10	48												
5/005			2	142																								
5/005 or 5/007	2	106																										
5/009	1	2																										
5/015	1	6			2	24																						
T6us											1	50	3	18	4	50												
6/001																			1	126								
6/004			3	218					3	632	1	10																
6/006			3	222	4	292			1	638	1	<2																
6/007							1	24			1	6													4	216		
6/009					7	30																						
T7us															1	2												
7/006			8	414							1	28																
8/003			10	812																								
8/010	4	6									1	6											4	2				
8/012	1	<2			3	14	1	10													1	8	1	<2				
8/015	5	30	3	170	2	102	1	10	1	34											1	6	1	<2				
8/016	2	40			1	348																	1	12				
8/018	1	4	1	116	3	20																						

APPENDIX 3: ENVIRONMETAL SAMPLE TABLES

Bulk samples from Rolfe Lane, New Romney: location and processing details

Sample Number	Context	Parent context	Context / deposit type	Comments	Sample Volume litres	sub-Sample Volume litres
4	4/004	4/005	Upper fill of ditch [4/005] -MOAT	Wet sieved sub - sample of 1L	20	1
5	4/006	4/006	Natural soil (unspecified) - Marine Alluvium?	Processed and residue entirely retained for geoarchaeology	20	20
6	4/008	4/005	Lower fill of ditch [4/005] - Top of [4/008] MOAT	Processed and sub-sample retained from residue for geoarchaeology	20	20
7	4/008	4/005	Lower fill of ditch [4/005] - Middle of [4/008] MOAT	Processed and sub-sample retained from residue for geoarchaeology	20	20
8	4/008	4/005	Lower fill of ditch [4/005] - Bottom of [4/008] MOAT	Processed and sub-sample retained from residue for geoarchaeology	10	10
11	4/012	4/012	Natural marsh deposit	Wet sieved sub - sample of 1L	20	1
9	6/006	6/010	Fill of ditch [6/010] - MOAT	Processed and sub-sample retained from residue for geoarchaeology	40	40
10	6/007	6/010	Fill of ditch [6/010] - MOAT	Processed and sub-sample retained from residue for geoarchaeology	40	40
19	5/005	5/004	Fill of gully or beamslot terminal [5/004]- WITHIN MOAT	All processed by floatation	10	10
20	5/007	5/006	Fill of gully or beamslot terminal [5/006]- WITHIN MOAT	All processed by floatation	10	10

Sample Number	Context	Parent context	Context / deposit type	Comments	Sample Volume litres	sub-Sample Volume litres
21	5/005 + 5/007	5/004 + 5/006	Fill of gullies or beamslot terminals [5/004] and [5/006] - mixed deposits - WITHIN MOAT	All processed by floatation	20	20
22	5/009	5/008	Fill of pit [5/008]	All processed by floatation	20	20
23	5/010	5/010	Natural soil (unspecified) - Tidal Deposit?	Retained for geoarchaeology	20	
24	5/003	5/003	Natural wind blown deposit (sand storm deposit)	Retained for geoarchaeology	20	
25	5/013	5/013	Natural soil (unspecified) - Natural, tidal Deposit?	Retained for geoarchaeology	20	
1	2/009	2/008	Fill of pit or hearth [2/008]	All processed by floatation	20	20
2	2/007	2/005	Primary fill of ditch [2/005]	All processed by floatation	40	40
3	2/006	2/005	Secondary fill of ditch [2/005]	All processed by floatation	30	30
12	2/002	2/002	Occupation Layer or Metalled Surface	All processed by floatation	20	20
26	2/020	2/019	Fill of beamslot [2/019]	All processed by floatation	20	20
13	1/012	1/011	Upper fill of natural channel [1/011]	Processed and sub-sample retained from residue for geoarchaeology	40	40
14	1/013	1/011	Lower fill of natural channel [1/011]	Retained for geoarchaeology	40	
18	1/014	?	? (subsoil/colluvial layer?)	Processed and sub-sample retained from residue for geoarchaeology	20	20

Sample Number	Context	Parent context	Context / deposit type	Comments	Sample Volume litres	sub-Sample Volume litres
15	8/003	8/007	Upper fill of ditch [8/007]	Processed and sub-sample retained from residue for geoarchaeology	20	20
16	8/004	8/007	Fill of ditch [8/007]	Processed and sub-sample retained from residue for geoarchaeology	20	20
17	8/005	8/007	Fill of ditch [8/007]	Processed and sub-sample retained from residue for geoarchaeology	20	20
27	3/006	3/004	Lower fill of ditch [3/004]	Processed and sub-sample retained from residue for geoarchaeology	20	20
28	3/007	3/004	Middle fill of ditch [3/004]	Processed and sub-sample retained from residue for geoarchaeology	20	20
29	3/008	3/008	Natural soil - marine alluvium	Retained for geoarchaeology	20	

Residue quantification (* = 1-10, ** = 11-50, *** = 51-250, **** = >250), weights in grams and Presence (denoted as 'P') of remains where recorded but not yet weighed or quantified.

Sample Number	Context	Parent context	Charcoal >4mm	Weight (g)	Charcoal <4mm	Weight (g)	Charred botanicals (other than charcoal)	Weight (g)	Mineralised Botanicals	Weight (g)	Bone and Teeth	Weight (g)	Crem bone >8mm	Weight (g)	Crem bone 4-8mm	Weight (g)	Crem Bone 2-4mm	Weight (g)	Fishbone and microfauna	Weight (g)	Marine Mollusca	Weight (g)	Land Snail shells	Weight (g)	Other expressed as quantity and weight or P = presence
4	4/004	4/005																							
5	4/006	4/006																							
6	4/008	4/005																					P		Metal: P
7	4/008	4/005																					P		
8	4/008	4/005																							
11	4/012	4/012																							
9	6/006	6/010									P								P				P		Burnt clay: P - Slate: P - Metal: P
10	6/007	6/010									P								P		P		P		Burnt clay: P - Uncharred botanicals: P
19	5/005	5/004			*	<2																	*	2	Slate */2g - Burnt clay */2g
20	5/007	5/006			*	<2	*	<2			*	2											*	<2	Pottery */14g - Slate */4g

Sample Number	Context	Parent context	Charcoal >4mm	Weight (g)	Charcoal <4mm	Weight (g)	Charred botanicals (other than charcoal)	Weight (g)	Mineralised Botanicals	Weight (g)	Bone and Teeth	Weight (g)	Crem bone >8mm	Weight (g)	Crem bone 4-8mm	Weight (g)	Crem Bone 2-4mm	Weight (g)	Fishbone and microfauna	Weight (g)	Marine Mollusca	Weight (g)	Land Snail shells	Weight (g)	Other expressed as quantity and weight or P = presence
21	5/005 + 5/007	5/004 + 5/006			*	<2					*	2									*	2			Slate */4g - Burnt clay */6g
22	5/009	5/008	*	<2	**	<2									**	4			***	20	*	<2	***	44	Pottery */<2g - Slate **/10g - Mortar **/4g - Burnt clay **/4g
23	5/010	5/010																							
24	5/003	5/003																							
25	5/013	5/013																							
1	2/009	2/008	**	8	***	6					**	30			*	4	**	<2	***	4	**	<2	***	36	Mortar **/4g - Pottery */8g - Burnt clay */4g
2	2/007	2/005	**	6	**	4													**	6	***	9	***	18	Slate **/6g - Pottery */4g - Burnt clay */<2g
3	2/006	2/005	**	2	***	4	*	<2			**	12							**	4	**	182	***	2	Burnt clay **/24g - Pottery */2g - Nut */<2g - Slate */6g
12	2/002	2/002	*	<2	**	<2					***	20											*	<2	Metal */<2g - Pottery **/66g
26	2/020	2/019	*	2	**	2													*	<2	**	2	***	10	Slate */4g
13	1/012	1/011	*	<2	*	<2																	***	10	Burnt clay **/<2g - Seed */<2g
14	1/013	1/011																							
18	1/014	?			**	<2	*	<2			**	6							*	<2	***	6	***	8	Slate **/4g - Pot */6g - Burnt clay */<2g

Sample Number	Context	Parent context	Charcoal >4mm	Weight (g)	Charcoal <4mm	Weight (g)	Charred botanicals (other than charcoal)	Weight (g)	Mineralised Botanicals	Weight (g)	Bone and Teeth	Weight (g)	Crem bone >8mm	Weight (g)	Crem bone 4-8mm	Weight (g)	Crem Bone 2-4mm	Weight (g)	Fishbone and microfauna	Weight (g)	Marine Mollusca	Weight (g)	Land Snail shells	Weight (g)	Other expressed as quantity and weight or P = presence
15	8/003	8/007	*	<2	*	<2					**	4							*	<2	**	6	***	8	Slate**/12g - Pottery */8g - Burnt clay */<2g
16	8/004	8/007																							
17	8/005	8/007																					P		Peg tile: P
27	3/006	3/004																					P		Burnt clay: P
28	3/007	3/004																					P		
29	3/008	3/008																							

Flot quantification (* = 1-10, ** = 11-50, *** = 51-250, **** = >250) with preliminary identifications of botanical remains

Sample Number	Context	Flot Weight g	Flot volume ml	Flot Sub-sample examined (ml)	Uncharred %	Sediment %	Seeds uncharred	Charcoal >4mm	Charcoal <4mm	Charcoal <2mm	Crop seeds charred	Identifications	Preservation	weed seeds charred	Identifications	Preservation	fish, amphibian, small mammal bone	LSS

Sample Number	Context	Flot Weight g	Flot volume ml	Flot Sub-sample examined (ml)	Uncharred %	Sediment %	Seeds uncharred	Charcoal >4mm	Charcoal <4mm	Charcoal <2mm	Crop seeds charred	Identifications	Preservation	weed seeds charred	Identifications	Preservation	fish, amphibian, small mammal bone	LSS
5	4/006	8	160	100	98	2	* unidentified											
6	4/008	86	392	100	60	5	** cf. *Ranunculus aquatilis*, unidentified seeds											** 35% 4 types
7	4/008	48	150		30	5	** *Polygonum/Rumex* sp., *Potagometon* sp., *Ranunculus* sp., unidentified seeds											*** 65% 4 types
8	4/008	10	38		95	4	* unidentified seeds			**								* 1% frags.
9	6/006	>246	>645	100	88	2	*** cf. *Ranunculus aquatilis*, cf. *Calendula* sp., unidentified seeds											*** 10% 4 types
10	6/007	96	320	100	94	1	**** *Polygonum/Rumex* sp., Apiaceeae, Asteraceae, *Ranunculus* sp. cf. *Ranunculus aquatilis*, unidentified seeds											*** 5% 3 types
19	5/005	2	45		85	10	* Chenopodiaceae indet.			*								** 5% 4 types
20	5/007	2	75		91	5	* *Rubus* sp., unidentified seeds			*								** 3% 3 types
21	5/005 + 5/007	8	155		93	4	** Chenopodiaceae indet.			*								* 3% 3 types

Sample Number	Context	Flot Weight g	Flot volume ml	Flot Sub-sample examined (ml)	Uncharred %	Sediment %	Seeds uncharred	Charcoal >4mm	Charcoal <4mm	Charcoal <2mm	Crop seeds charred	Identifications	Preservation	weed seeds charred	Identifications	Preservation	fish, amphibian, small mammal bone	LSS
22	5/009	16	150		69	1	** Chenopodiaceae indet., *Sambucus nigra*	**	***	****	**	*Hordeum* sp., *Triticum* sp., Cerealia, cf Fabaceae	+ to ++	*	Poaceae	++	*	*** 5% 4 types
1	2/009	5	27		65	4	* Chenopodiaceae, cf. *Asperula/Galium* sp.	**	***	****	***	*Avena/Bromus* sp., *Triticum* sp., *Hordeum* sp., *Vicia/Lathyrus* sp.	+ to ++	*	*Sinapis/Brassica* sp., *Carex* sp., *Polygonum/Rumex* sp., unidentified seeds	+ to ++		*** 6 % 3 types
2	2/007	14	38		30	33	* Chenopodiaceae indet., *Sambucus nigra, Asperula/Galium* sp.		* (1)	**				*	Poaceae	+		*** 33% 3 types
3	2/006	4	39		90	2	*** *Polygonum/Rumex* sp., Asteraceae, cf. Potamogetonaceae, unidentified seeds		*	***								** 4% 2 types
12	2/002	2	4		83	10	*** Asteraceae, Chenopodiaceae, *Rubus* sp., unidentified seeds		* (1)	**								
26	2/020	6	30		89	10												* 1% 2 types
13	1/012	10	75		25	10	** Polygonum/Rumex sp., unidentified seeds											*** 65% 5 types
18	1/014	2	18		50	2	* *Sambucus nigra*, indeterminate bud			*								*** 48% 4 types
15	8/003	6	55		70	7	* *Polygonum/Rumex* sp.											*** 23% 3 types

Sample Number	Context	Flot Weight g	Flot volume ml	Flot Sub-sample examined (ml)	Uncharred %	Sediment %	Seeds uncharred	Charcoal >4mm	Charcoal <4mm	Charcoal <2mm	Crop seeds charred	Identifications	Preservation	weed seeds charred	Identifications	Preservation	fish, amphibian, small mammal bone	LSS
16	8/004	62	185	100	69	30	*** cf. *Calendula* sp., cf. *Ranunculus aquatilis*, cf. Apiaceae, unidentified stones											* 1% 1type
17	8/005	108	580	100	96	4	* cf. *Ranunculus aquatilis*, Asteraceae, unidentified seeds											* 1 type
27	3/006	136	470	100	75	2	**** Apiaceae, cf. *Ranunculus aquatilis*, cf. *Calendula* sp., *Sambucus nigra*, cf. *Oenanthe* sp.											*** 10% 4 types
28	3/007	62	280		88	2	**** cf. *Ranunculus aquatilis*, cf. *Calendula* sp., unidentified seeds, Apiaceae											** 10% 3types

Appendix 4: SMR Summary Form and OASIS FORM

SMR Summary Form

Site Code	ROL 10					
Identification Name and Address	An Archaeological Evaluation of Land at Rolfe Lane, New Romney,					
County, District &/or Borough	Kent					
OS Grid Refs.	NGR 606580 125380					
Geology	Blown Sand, Storm Gravel Beach Deposits and Marine Alluvium					
Arch. South-East Project Number	4408					
Type of Fieldwork	Eval. ✓	Excav.	Watching Brief	Standing Structure	Survey	Other
Type of Site	Green Field ✓	Shallow Urban	Deep Urban	Other		
Dates of Fieldwork	Eval. Oct 2010	Excav.	WB.	Other		
Sponsor/Client	CgMs					
Project Manager	Neil Griffin					
Project Supervisor	Andy Margetts					
Period Summary	Palaeo.	Meso.	Neo.	BA	IA	RB
	AS	MED ✓	PM ✓	Other Modern		
Archaeology South-East (ASE) was commissioned by CgMs Consulting Ltd on behalf of their client to undertake an archaeological evaluation on land at Rolfe Lane, New Romney, Kent (NGR 606580 125380). Eight trenches were excavated, targeting the results of an earlier geophysical survey and cropmarks. The archaeological evaluation succeeded in confirming the presence of a ditched enclosure (a moated site), probably of medieval date. A further system of ditches may, possibly, represent another ditched enclosure, although this is unconfirmed. Further ditch systems and limited evidence of structures also probably of medieval origin was also discovered.						

OASIS Form

OASIS ID: archaeol6-84315

Project details

Project name	Rolfe Lane, New Romney
Short description of the project	Archaeology South-East (ASE) was commissioned by CgMs Consulting Ltd on behalf of their client to undertake an archaeological evaluation on land at Rolfe Lane, New Romney, Kent (NGR 606580 125380). Eight trenches were excavated, targeting the results of an earlier geophysical survey and cropmarks. The archaeological evaluation succeeded in confirming the presence of a ditched enclosure (a moated site), probably of medieval date. A further system of ditches may, possibly, represent another ditched enclosure, although this is unconfirmed. Further ditch systems and limited evidence of structures also probably of medieval origin was also discovered.
Project dates	Start: 30-08-2010 End: 16-09-2010
Previous/future work	Yes / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	ROL 10 - Sitecode
Any associated project reference codes	4408 - Contracting Unit No.
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Current Land use	Cultivated Land 1 - Minimal cultivation
Monument type	MOATED ENCLOSURE Medieval
Significant Finds	POTTERY Medieval
Methods & techniques	'Targeted Trenches'
Development type	Not recorded
Prompt	Planning condition
Position in the planning process	Between deposition of an application and determination

Project location

Country	England
Site location	KENT SHEPWAY NEW ROMNEY Rolfe Lane
Study area	310.00 Square metres

Site coordinates	TR 606580 125380 50.8527352445 1.703875148070 50 51 09 N 001 42 13 E Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 1.60m Max: 2.80m

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Archaeology South East
Project brief originator	CgMs Consulting
Project design originator	Archaeology South-East
Project director/manager	Neil Griffin
Project supervisor	Andrew Margetts
Type of sponsor/funding body	Client
Name of sponsor/funding body	Cgms

Project archives

Physical Archive recipient	local museum
Physical Contents	'Ceramics','Metal','Wood','Animal Bones'
Digital Archive recipient	Local Museum
Digital Contents	'other'
Digital Media available	'Geophysics','Images raster / digital photography'
Paper Archive recipient	Local Museum
Paper Contents	'Animal Bones','Ceramics','Environmental','Metal','Stratigraphic','Survey','Wood','other'
Paper Media available	'Context sheet','Correspondence','Diary','Drawing','Miscellaneous Material','Notebook - Excavation',' Research',' General Notes','Photograph','Plan','Report','Section','Survey '

Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	An Archaeological Evaluation of Land at Rolfe Lane, New Romney
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Margetts, A
Other bibliographic details	4408
Date	2010
Issuer or publisher	Archaeology South-East
Place of issue or publication	Archaeology South-East
Description	Grey Literature Report
Entered by	Andy Margetts (a.margetts@ucl.ac.uk)
Entered on	13 October 2010

Appendix 5: Detailed consideration of the research aims

Introduction

The results of the investigation are discussed by trench below, with reference to the aims set out in section 1.4, above. For the relevant sections concerned with the *General Aims* of the evaluation some attempt has been made to phase the encountered archaeological evidence. This phasing should be treated as provisional and tentative due to the general lack of dating material from primary fills.

The phases encountered at the site were (provisionally):

Phase 1: 'Natural'
Phase 2: Medieval (late 13th century)
Phase 3: Medieval (late 13th to early 14th centuries)
Phase 4: Post Medieval (16th to 19th centuries)
Phase 5: Modern (20th century)

Trench 1

General Aims (discussed by phase)

Phase 1: 'Natural'

The natural and archaeological horizon was encountered at between 1.70 and 2.40mAOD within Trench 1. The natural geology was comprised of weathered alluvium which overlay deposits of Marine Alluvial Clay. The only feature related to this phase comprised a probable shallow silted channel [1/011]. This channel may be part of a natural rivulet or stream utilised to feed the potentially water filled ditches forming the ditched enclosures identified on the site. This feature seemed to be relatively unaffected by any previous development or processes at the site other than the upper horizons may have been truncated by ploughing.

Phase 3: Medieval (late 13th to early 14th centuries)

No archaeological features dated to this phase were encountered within the trench although some of the accumulated fills of ditch [1/017] may be of this date.

Phase 4: Post-medieval (16th to 19th centuries)

Drainage / boundary ditch [1/009] (0.34m below ground-level) has been provisionally dated to this phase. However, its similarity to drainage / boundary ditch [2/005] (Phase 3) may indicate medieval origins for the feature. This feature seemed to be relatively unaffected by any previous development or processes at the site other than the upper horizons may have been truncated by ploughing.

Possible gully [1/015] (0.34m below ground-level) is thought more likely to be a disturbed part of the post-medieval remnant land-surface preserved in

the upper levels of feature [1/017].

Phase 5: Modern (20th century)

The only remains within Trench 1 linked to this phase comprise the levelling deposit laid down in-order to fill the depression left by [1/017].

Trench Specific Aims

Trench 1 was sited from the crop marks that proved to be misleading on the ground, thus Trench 8 was excavated in-order to meet Trench 1's trench specific aims (see below).

Additional Aims

- The GPS survey of overlying vegetation (see Fig. 11) proved to be an accurate indication of the location of below ground archaeology in Trench 1. The nettles that this vegetation mainly comprised of show a predilection for growing in the humic upper fills of deep features. They could be used to roughly project the continuations of both ditch feature [1/017] and drainage / boundary ditch [1/009].

- Presumed natural channel [1/011] probably represents a silted natural stream or rivulet utilised to feed the deep water filled features on the site. No indications of a marine/estuarine environment were evident from the environmental samples obtained.

- No indications to suggest that the site represents the medieval port of New Romney were encountered within the trench. A lead fishing weight was however recovered from unstratified contexts.

- The shallow nature of the purported feeder stream (less than 1m) encountered within Trench 1 would not allow the passage a boat.

Trench 2

General Aims (discussed by phase)

Phase 1: 'Natural'

The natural and archaeological horizon was encountered at 2.16mAOD within Trench 2. The natural geology comprised of wind-blown sand (probable storm deposits of late 13th century date?). No features were related to this phase however finds of fishing hooks and nails were recovered.

Phase 3: Medieval (late 13th to early 14th centuries)

Cutting abandonment layer [2/003] was boundary / drainage ditch [2/005] and pit / hearth [2/009] also dated to this phase was occupation layer / metalled surface [2/002]. These remains were found at depths of between

0.63m and 0.80m below ground-level. They may represent the remains of a second building, bounded by an enclosure ditch, however no definite structural features were encountered.

Phase 4: Post-medieval (16th to 19th centuries)

The only activity related to this phase in Trench 2 relates to accumulated fills within boundary ditch [2/005].

Phase 5: Modern (20th century)

Some disturbance related to this phase was encountered at the north-eastern end of Trench 2. The rest of the trench proved to survive as the most intact archaeology encountered at the site.

Trench Specific Aims

Trench 2 was successful in its specific aim of investigating the linear crop mark heading south towards Rolfe Lane. This proved to be boundary / drainage ditch [2/005] (Fig.12).

Additional Aims

- The GPS survey of overlying vegetation (Fig 11). proved to be an accurate indication of the location of below ground archaeology in Trench 2 The nettles that this vegetation mainly comprised of almost covered the area occupied by Trench 2 and seemed to mark the eastern limits of the archaeological remains.
- No feeder channels or moat-like features were encountered within the trench.
- No indications to suggest that the site represents the medieval port of New Romney were encountered within the trench.

Trench 3

Phase 1: 'Natural'

The natural and archaeological horizon was encountered at 2.30mAOD within Trench 3. The natural geology was comprised of weathered alluvium which overlay deposits of Marine Alluvium.

Phase 3: Medieval (late 13th to early 14th centuries)

No archaeological features that dated to this phase were encountered.

Phase 4: Post-medieval (16th to 19th centuries)

No archaeological features that dated to this phase were encountered.

Phase 5: Modern (20th century)

No archaeological features that dated to this phase were encountered.

Trench Specific Aims

The cropmarks investigated by Trench 3 related to the continuation of a sub-circular enclosure (Fig 12). Geophysical anomaly (Fig 13) M4 probably comprised ditch feature [3/004]. Geophysical anomaly M5 is approximately on the same orientation and location of the land-drain located within Trench 8 and it is likely that M5 relates to the continuation of this feature. Geophysical anomaly M7 probably relates to the deep subsoil/levelling deposits (and the demolition debris these incorporate) located at this end of the trench.

Additional Aims

- The GPS survey of overlying vegetation (Fig. 11) proved to be an accurate indication of the location of below ground archaeology in Trench 3. The nettles that this vegetation mainly comprised of seemed to show a predilection for growing in the humic upper fills of deep feature [3/004]. As such they may be used to transpose the likely continuation of this feature.

- No indications of a marine/estuarine environment were evident from the environmental samples obtained from ditch feature [3/004]

- No indications to suggest that the site represents the medieval port of New Romney were encountered within the trench.

- Ditch [3/004] is of considerable width but only of moderate depth, it would not allow the passage of a vessel

Trench 4

Phase 1: 'Natural'

The natural and archaeological horizon was encountered at 2.09mAOD within Trench 4. The natural geology comprised of weathered alluvium overlying Marine Alluvium and peat.

Phase 3: Medieval (late 13th to early 14th centuries)

Ditch feature [4/005] (0.45m below ground-level) was the only archaeological feature dated to this phase within this trench. This feature is thought to represent a man-made feeder channel linking a natural stream with the rest of the ditched enclosure (designated as a moated site in the Kent HER) encountered in Trenches 5 and 6.

Phase 4: Post-medieval (16th to 19th centuries)

No archaeological features that dated to this phase were encountered.

Phase 5: Modern (20th century)

No archaeological features that dated to this phase were encountered.

Trench Specific Aims

Ditch feature [4/005] did represent a feeder channel to the main enclosure enclosure (moated site). No indications that this channel was tidal in nature were found at this stage (see below). The width of this feature was not ascertained due to the oblique location of the trench.

Additional Aims

- The GPS survey of overlying vegetation (see Figure 11) proved to be an accurate indication of the location of below ground archaeology in Trench 4. The nettles that this vegetation mainly comprised of seemed to show a predilection for growing in the humic upper fills of deep feature [4/005]. As such they may be used to transpose the likely continuation of this feature.

- No indications of a marine/estuarine environment were evident from the environmental samples obtained from ditch feature [4/005] however further work may help to clarify the true nature of this feature.

- No indications to suggest that the site represents the medieval port of New Romney were encountered within the trench.

- Ditch [4/005] is of considerable width but it would not allow the passage of a vessel

Trench 5

Phase 1: 'Natural'

The natural and archaeological horizon was encountered at 2.64mAOD within Trench 5. The natural geology comprised of weathered alluvium together with wind-blown sand (probable storm deposits of late 13th century date?). Several features related to this phase were investigated ([5/010], [5/013] and [5/014]). These all seemed to relate to bands of tidal deposits.

Phase 3: Medieval (late 13th to early 14th centuries)

Pit [5/008] (*c*.0.40m below ground-level) and ditch feature [5/019] (*c*.0.75m below ground-level) dated to this phase. Pit [5/008] may have been dug for rubbish deposition. It demonstrates that medieval features survive within the large ditched enclosure (moated site).

Although unexcavated [5/019] is thought to represent the south-eastern

continuation of the ditched enclosure found in Trenches 4 and 6.

Phase 4: Post-medieval (16th to 19th centuries)

Gully / beamslot terminals [5/004] and [5/006] have been dated to this phase and may represent structures within the large ditched enclosure (moated site).

Phase 5: Modern (20th century)

No archaeological features that dated to this phase were encountered

Trench Specific Aims

Trench 5 proved that archaeological features survived within the main ditched (moated) enclosure, their character and date has been clarified above. Geophysical anomalies M8, M9, M11 and M12 probably all represent tidal bands or channels (see Phase 1 above). M12 however was not crossed by the trench.

Additional Aims

- The GPS survey of overlying vegetation (see Fig.11) did not extend to this area of the site.
- Ditch feature [5/019] remained unexcavated.
- No indications to suggest that the site represents the medieval port of New Romney were encountered within the trench.
- No features capable of conveying boats were investigated within the trench.

Trench 6

Phase 1: 'Natural'

The natural and archaeological horizon was encountered at 2.53mAOD within Trench 6. The natural geology comprised of weathered alluvium and Storm Gravel Beach Deposits overlying Marine Alluvium.

Phase 3: Medieval (late 13th to early 14th centuries)

Ditch feature [6/010] (0.45m below ground-level) was the only archaeological feature dated to this phase within this trench. Although no dating evidence was retrieved from the lower fills of this feature it is thought to be part of the main ditched (moated) enclosure.

Phase 4: Post-medieval (16th to 19th centuries)

No archaeological features that dated to this phase were encountered.

Phase 5: Modern (20th century)

No archaeological features that dated to this phase were encountered.

Trench Specific Aims

As discussed above no dating evidence was retrieved from the lower fills of ditch feature [6/010] however it is thought to date to the late 13th early 14th centuries.

Additional Aims

The GPS survey of overlying vegetation (Fig. 11) proved to be an accurate indication of the location of below ground archaeology in Trench 6. The nettles that this vegetation mainly comprised of seemed to show a predilection for growing in the humic upper fills of deep feature [6/010]. As such they may be used to transpose the likely continuation of this feature.

No indications of a marine/estuarine environment were evident from the environmental samples obtained from ditch feature [6/010]

No indications to suggest that the site represents the medieval port of New Romney were encountered within the trench.

Dicth [6/010] is of considerable width and depth but it would not allow the passage of a vessel

Trench 7

Phase 1: 'Natural'

The natural and archaeological horizon was encountered at 2.52mAOD within Trench 7. The natural geology comprised of weathered alluvium overlying a large bank of Storm Gravel Beach Deposits.

Phase 3: Medieval (late 13th to early 14th centuries)

No archaeological features that dated to this phase were encountered within the trench.

Phase 4: Post-medieval (16th to 19th centuries)

The single archaeological feature encountered within this trench comprised a possible robbed out wall [7/005] (0.22m below ground-level).

Phase 5: Modern (20th century)

No archaeological features that dated to this phase were encountered within the trench.

Trench Specific Aims

Only one feature related to the cropmark upon which Trench 7 was sited was encountered. This comprised a possible robbed out wall. The opposing linear that forms this cropmark was not encountered. This may be due to it being backfilled with natural gravels and not being recognised on site, however the discrepancy in levels between where [7/005] was encountered and where the opposing linear feature could have been expected (i.e. high on the shingle bank) makes the possibility that this feature does not exist the more likely.

Additional Aims

- The GPS survey of overlying vegetation (Fig. 11) did not encounter any concentrations at the Trench 7 location.
- No feeder channels or moat-like features were encountered within the trench.
- No indications to suggest that the site represents the medieval port of New Romney were encountered within the trench.

Trench 8

Phase 1: 'Natural'

The natural and archaeological horizon was encountered at 2.61 AOD within Trench 8. The natural geology comprised of weathered alluvium overlying Marine Alluvium.

Phase 3: Medieval (late 13th to early 14th centuries)

No archaeological features that dated to this phase were encountered

Phase 4: Post Medieval (16th to 19th centuries)

No archaeological features that dated to this phase were encountered

Phase 5: Modern (20th century)

Two possible pits [8/009] and [8/011] were probably more likely the result of disturbance via rooting and/or the plough.

Trench Specific Aims

Trench 8 was situated in order to fulfil the specific aims of Trench 1. This proved that the investigated cropmarks probably comprised the circuit of a sub-circular ditched enclosure to which geophysical anomaly M1 also related. Geophysical anomaly M2 was not encountered. Geophysical anomaly M3 probably relates to ditch [8/014]. Geophysical anomaly M6 probably comprised the deep ploughing/levelling encountered within the trench

Additional Aims

- The GPS survey of overlying vegetation (Fig. 11) proved to be an accurate indication of the location of below ground archaeology in Trench 8. The nettles that this vegetation mainly comprised of seemed to show a predilection for growing in the humic upper fills of ditch features [8/007] and [8/014]. As such they may be used to transpose the likely continuation of this feature.

- No indications of a marine/estuarine environment were evident from the environmental samples obtained from ditch features [8/007] and [8/014]

- No indications to suggest that the site represents the medieval port of New Romney were encountered within the trench.

- Ditch/ features [8/007] and [8/014] were of considerable width and depth but they would not allow the passage of a vessel

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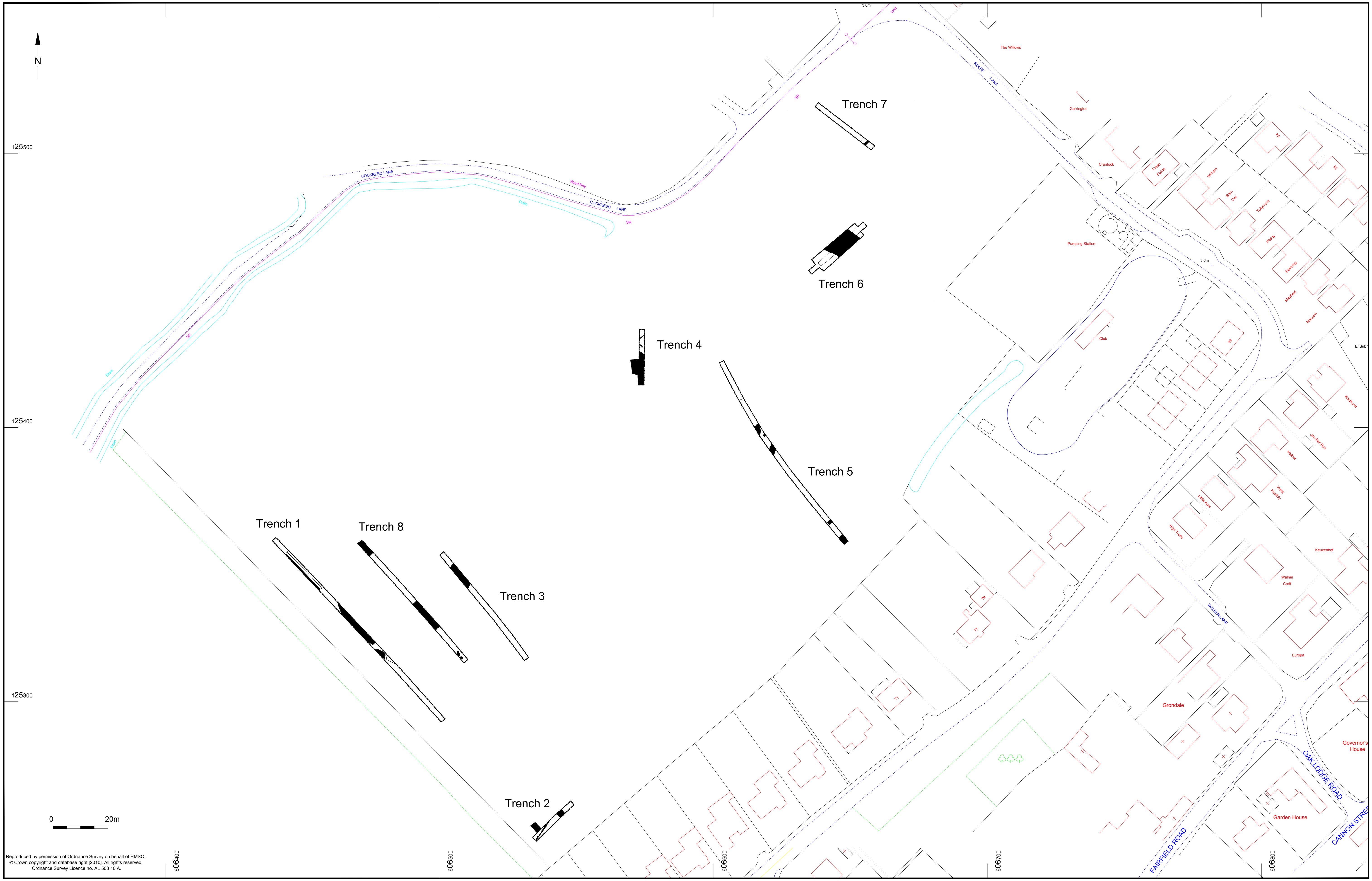
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Pumping Station
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El Sub
Wadhurst
Jan-Ber-Ron
Malbar
West Hoathly
Little Acre
High Trees
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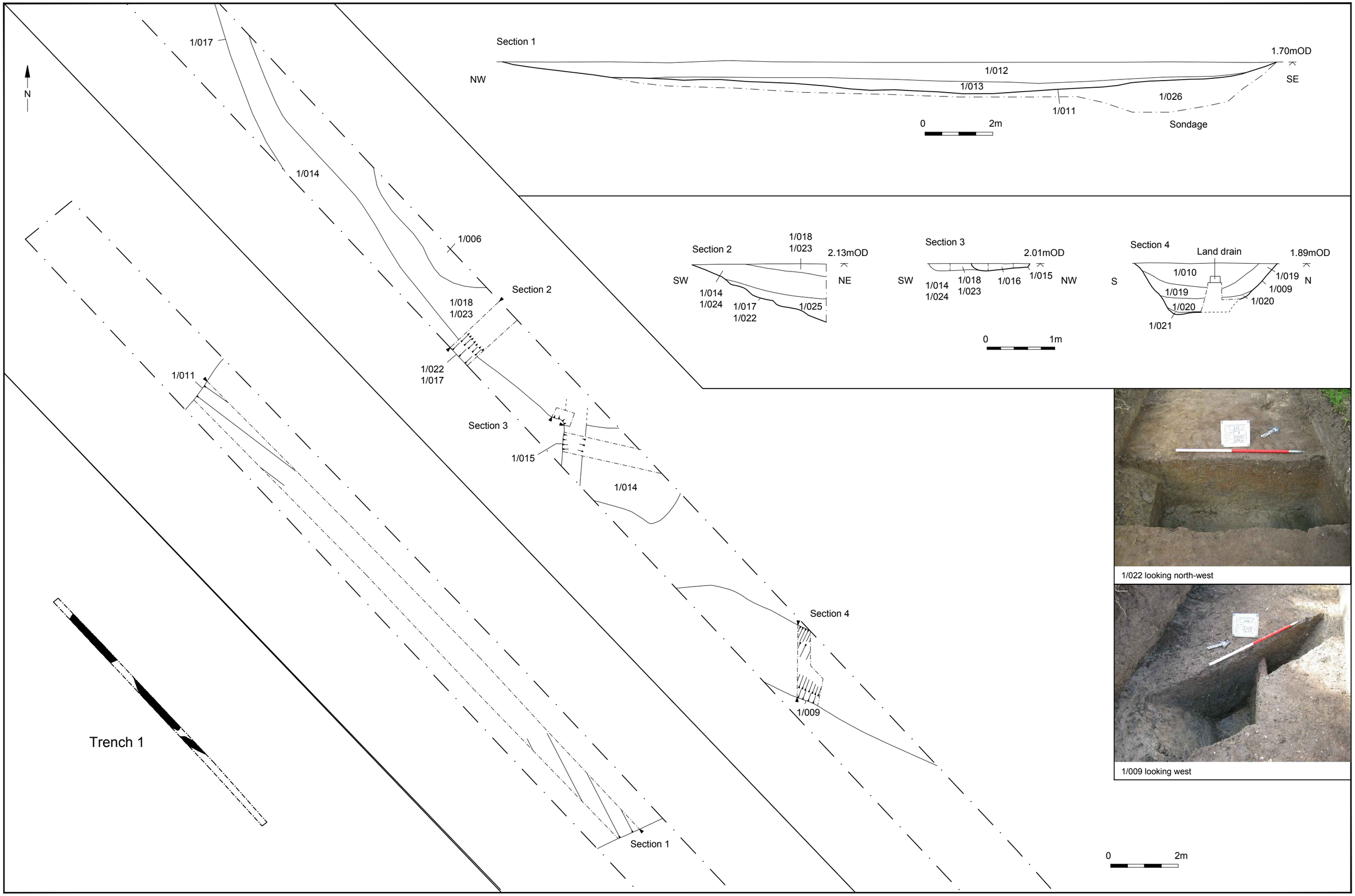
Governor's House
OAK LODGE ROAD
Garden House
CANNON STRE
FAIRFIELD ROAD

© Archaeology South-East		Land adjacent to Rolfe Lane, New Romney	Fig. 2
Project Ref: 4408	Oct 2010	Trench location	
Report Ref: 2010173	Drawn by: JLR		



1/022 looking north-west

1/009 looking west

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Project Ref: 4408	Oct 2010	Trench 1, plan, sections and photographs	
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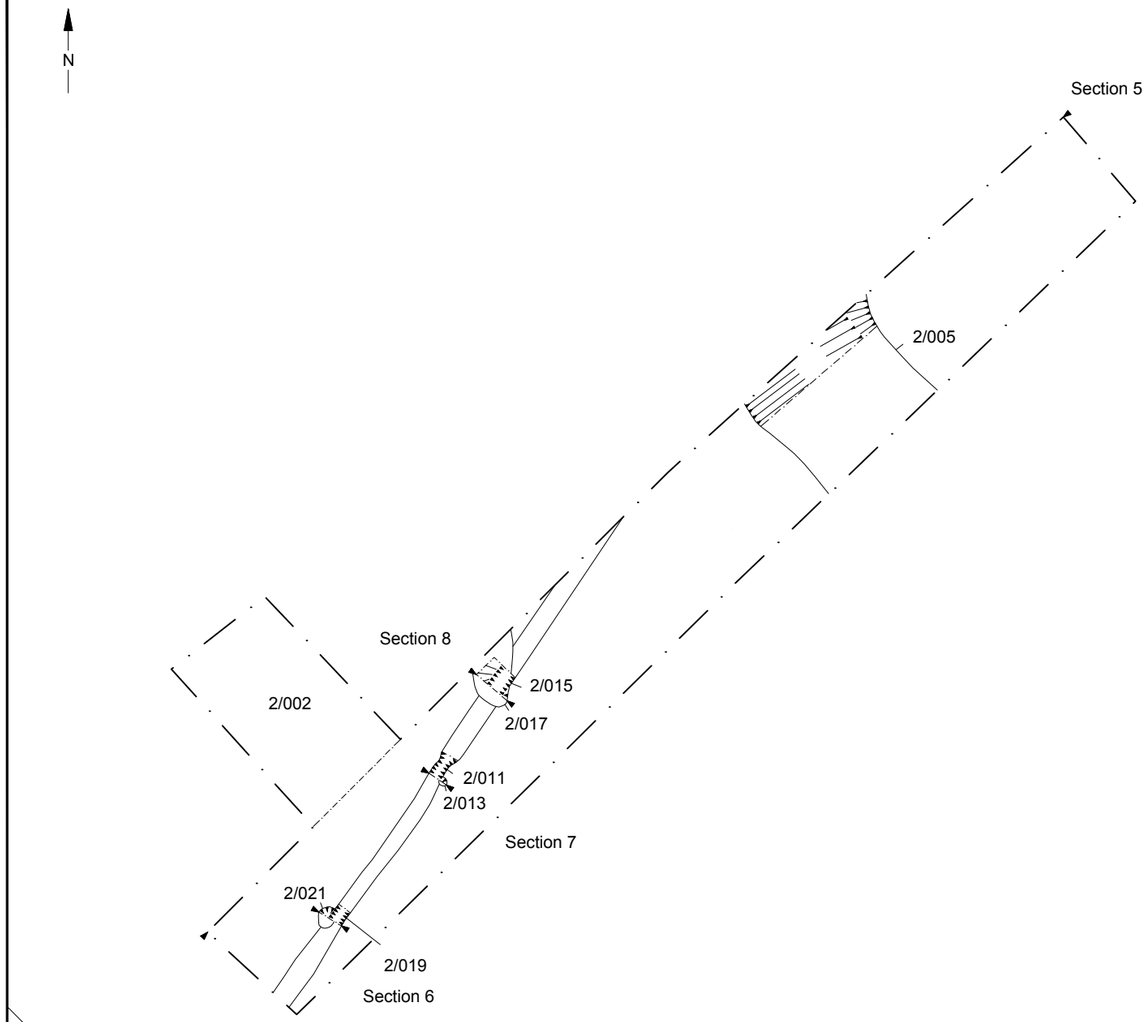

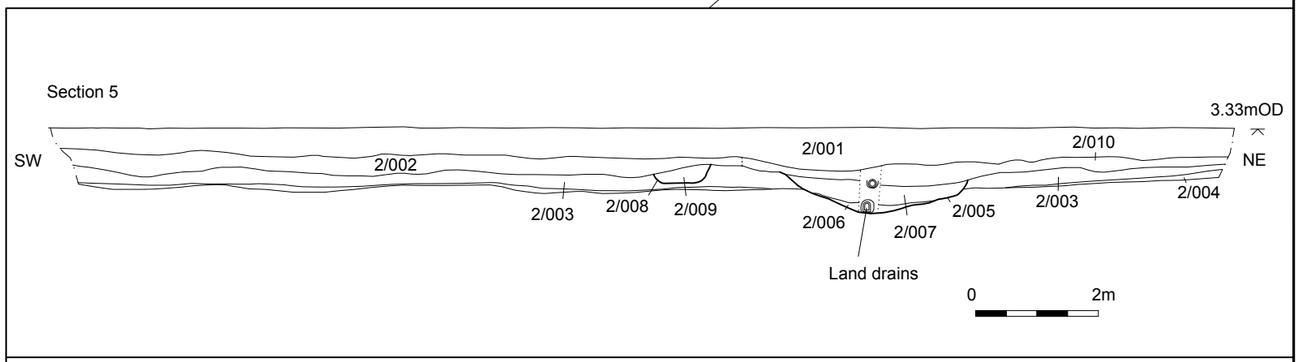

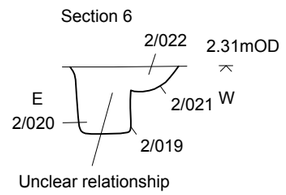

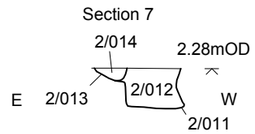

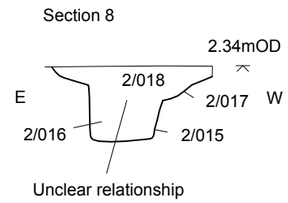

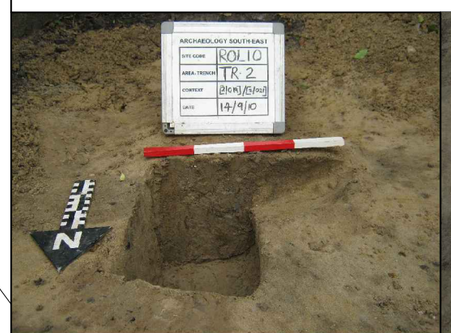

2/019 and 2/021 looking south

2/011 and 2/013 looking south

2/015 and 2/017 looking south

		Land adjacent to Rolfe Lane, New Romney	Fig. 4
Project Ref: 4408	Oct 2010	Trench 2, plan, sections and photographs	
Report Ref: 2010173	Drawn by: JLR		

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3/004

Section 9

Trench 3

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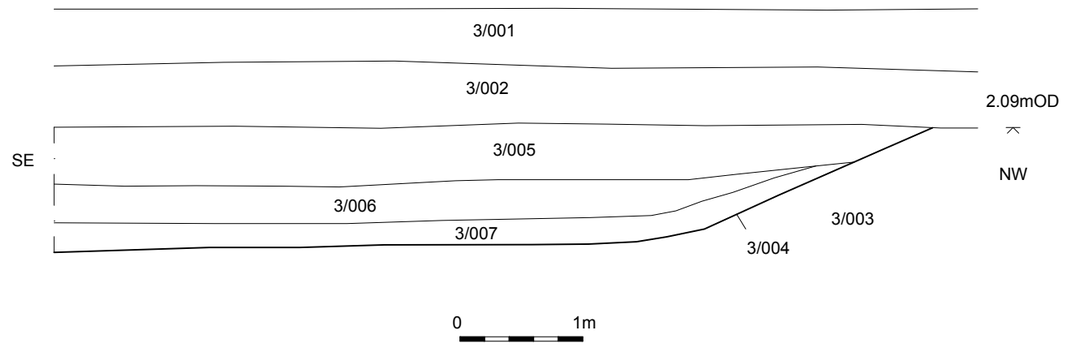
Section 9



3/004 looking south-west

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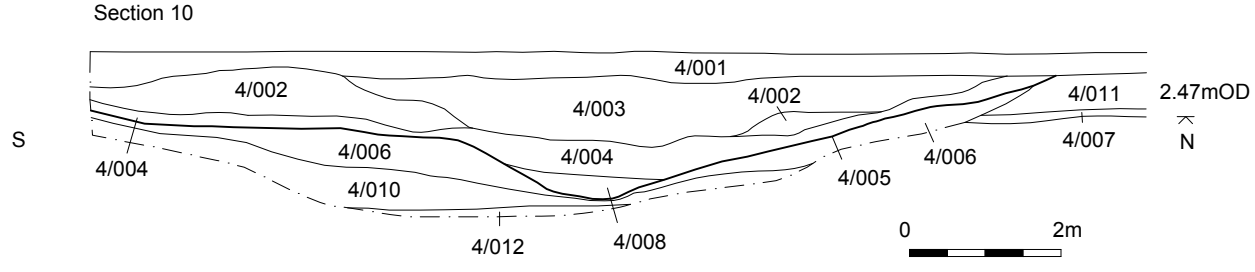

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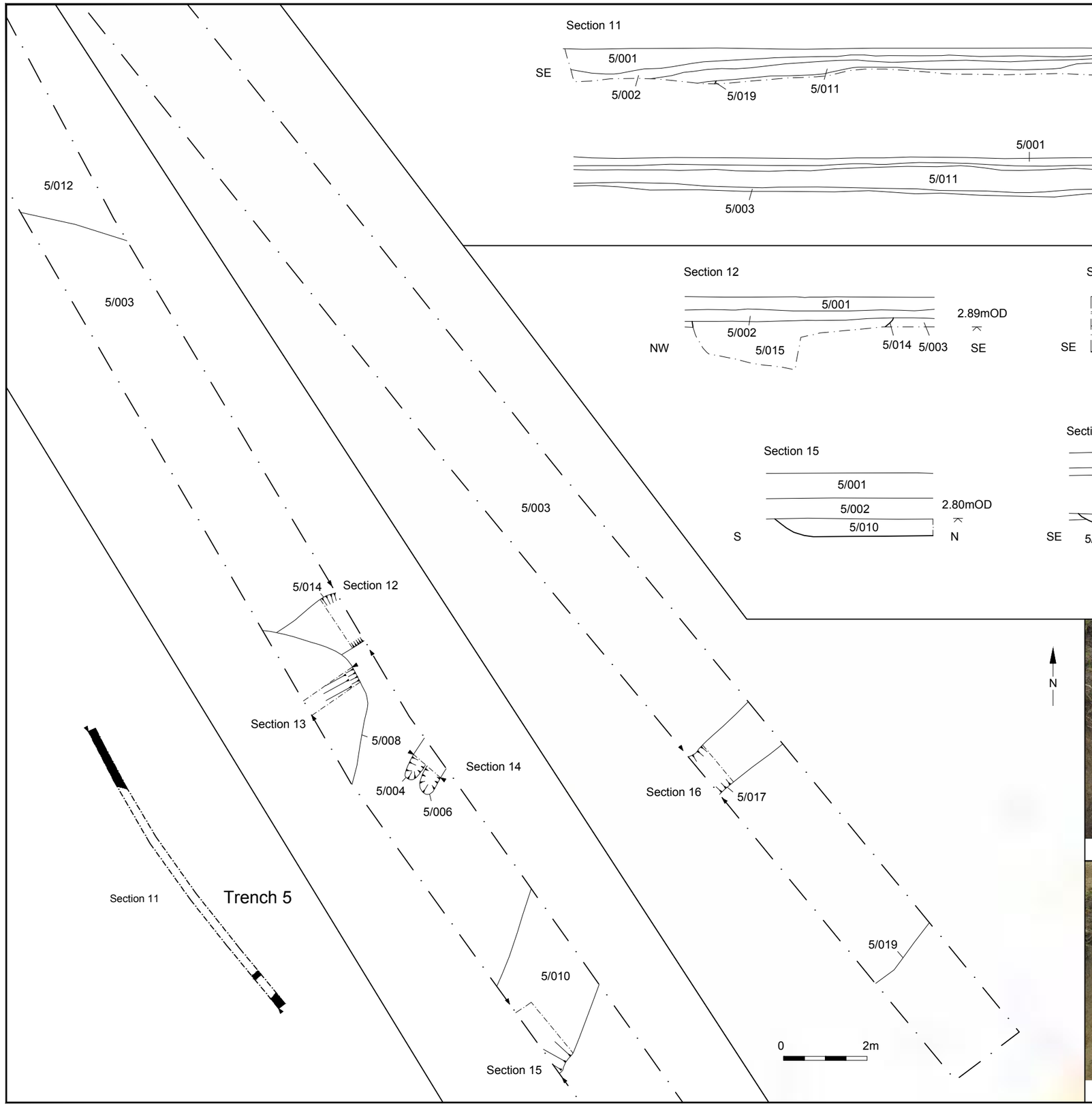
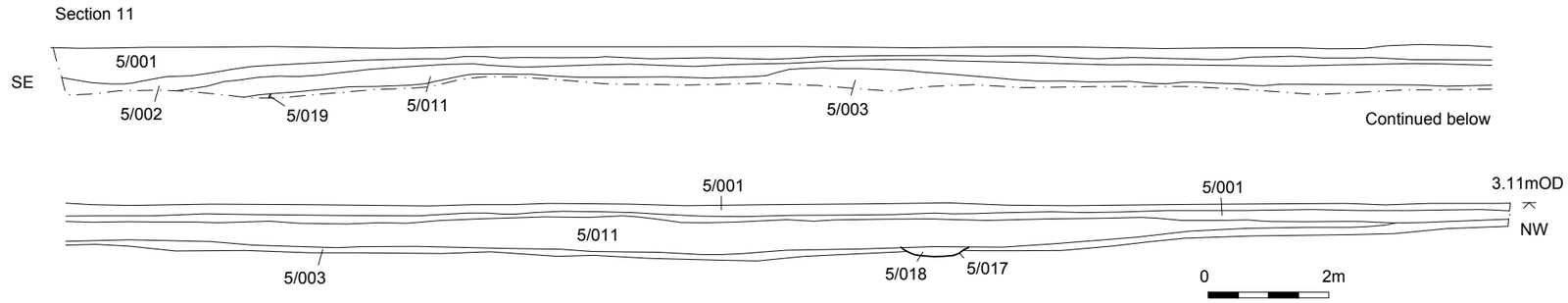
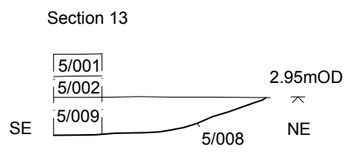
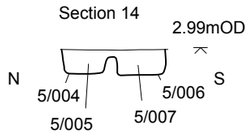
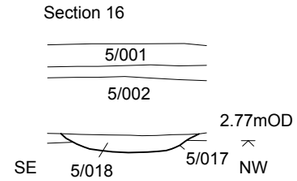
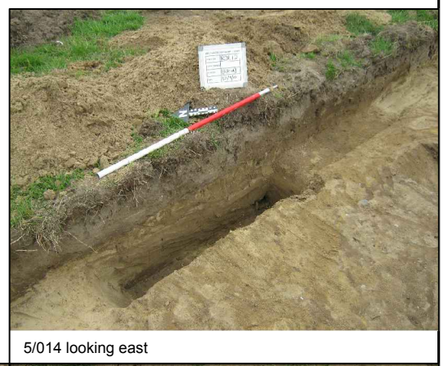




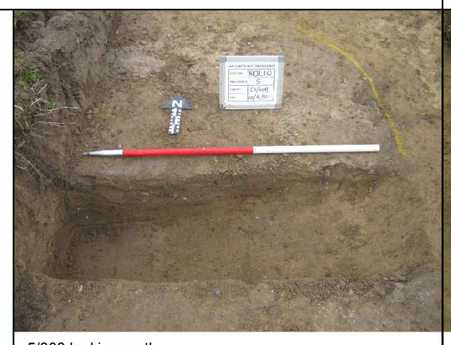








5/014 looking east



5/008 looking north

5/004 and 5/006 looking north-east

5/010 looking north

5/017 looking south

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Project Ref: 4408	Oct 2010	Trench 5, plan, sections and photographs	
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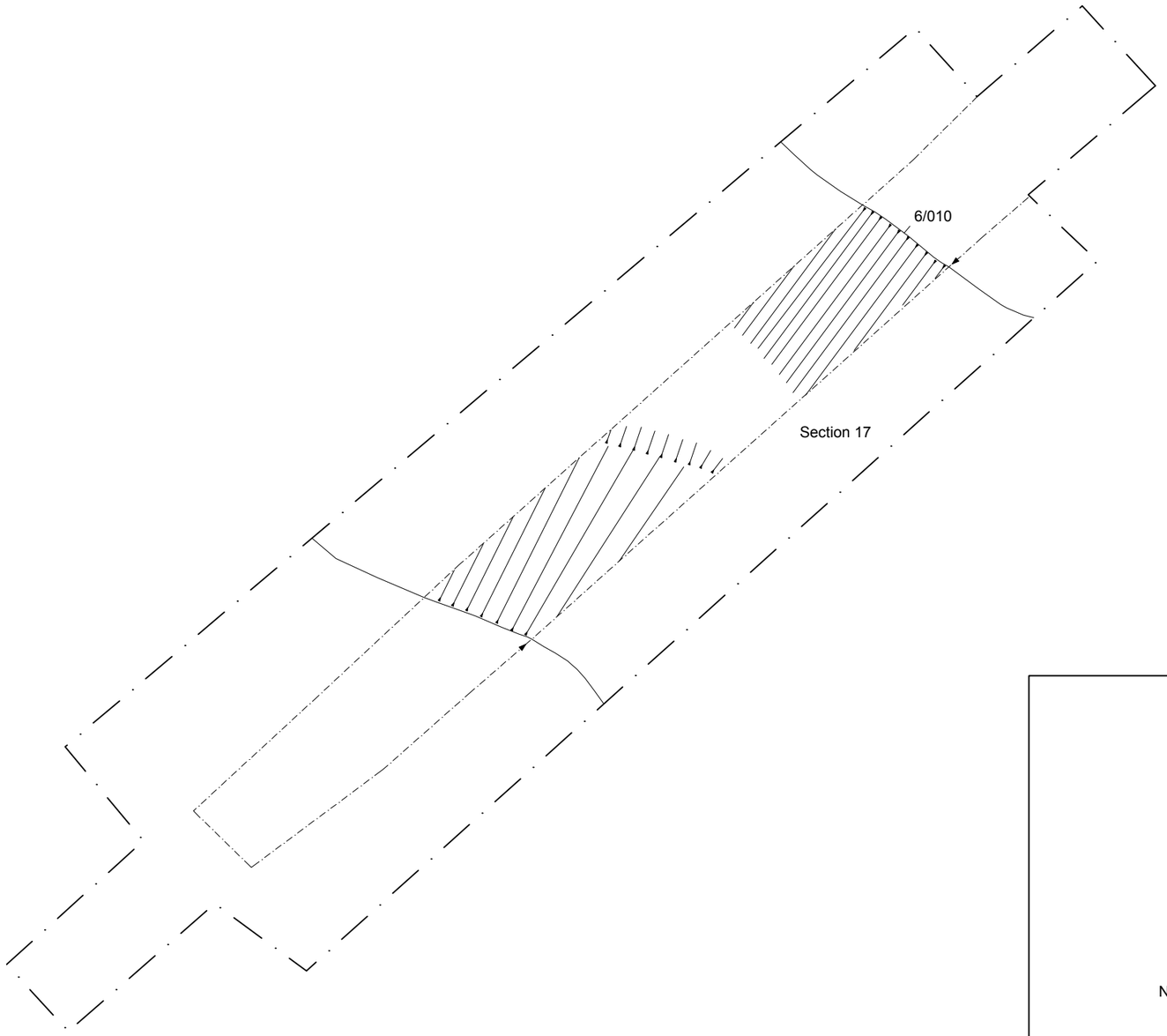

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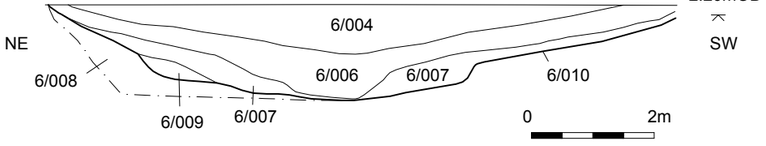
6/010 looking east

Section 17



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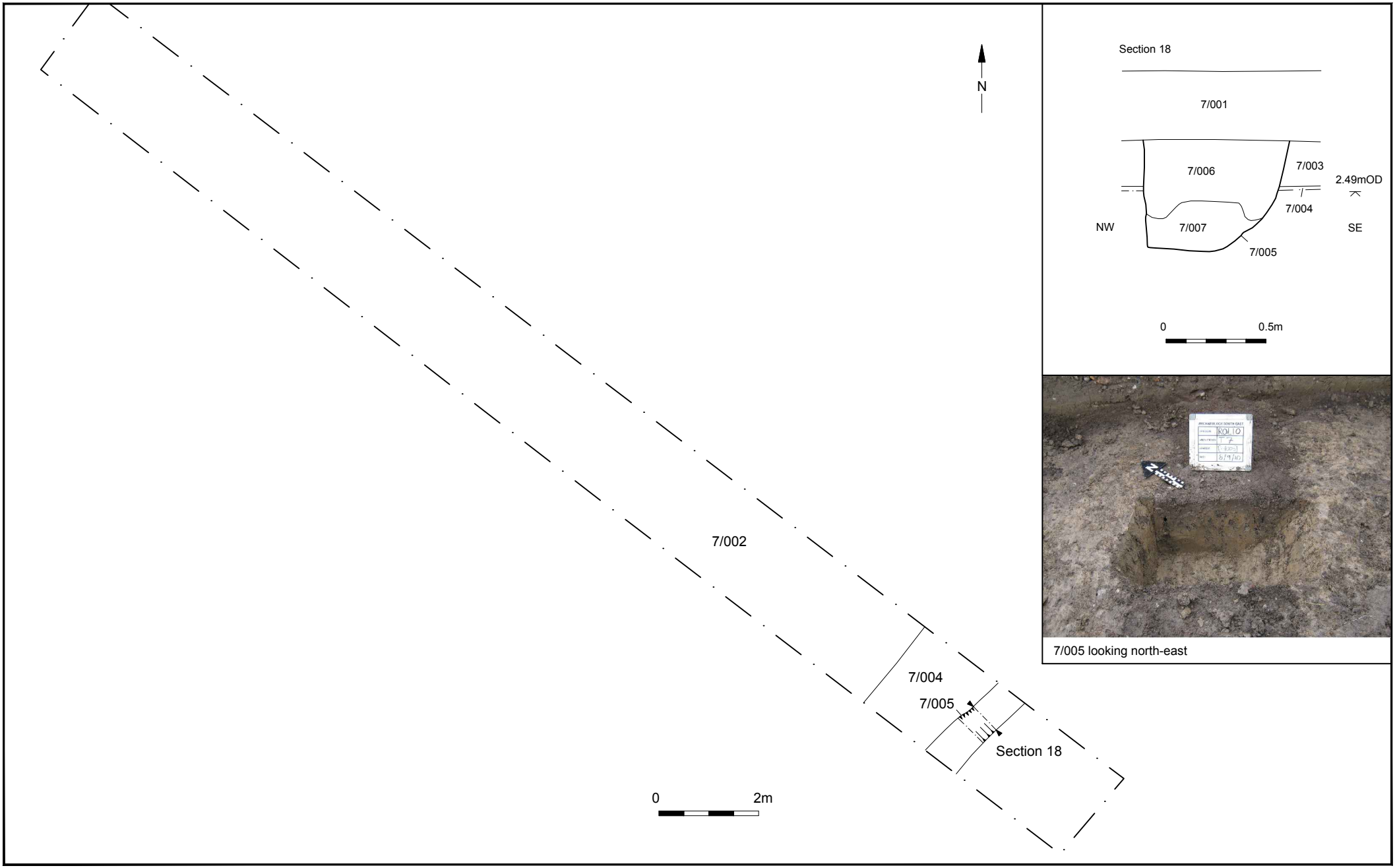

7/005 looking north-east

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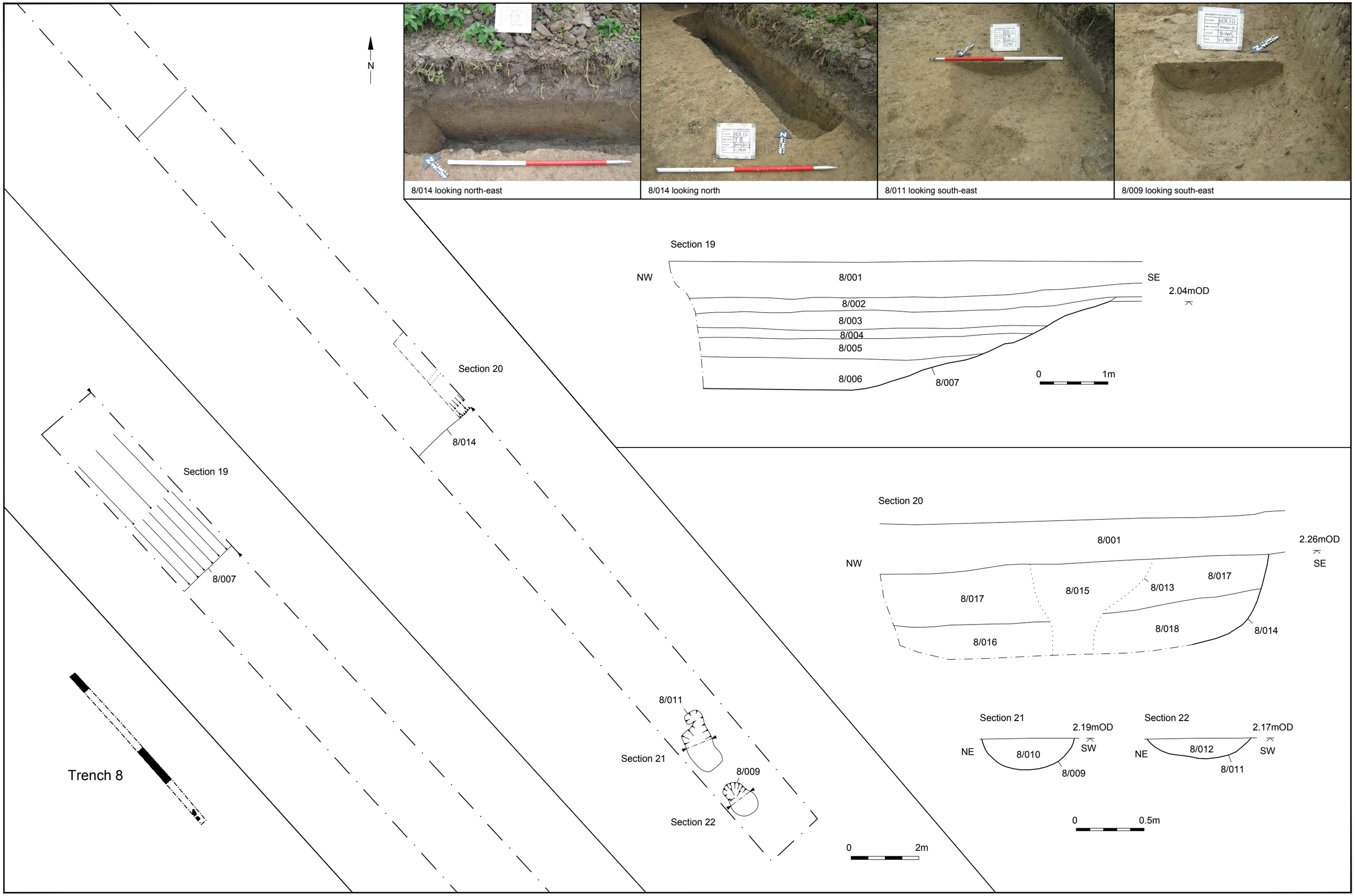
Report Ref: 2010173	Drawn by: JLR		

8/014 looking north-east

8/014 looking north

8/011 looking south-east

8/009 looking south-east



Section 19

Section 20

Section 21

Section 22

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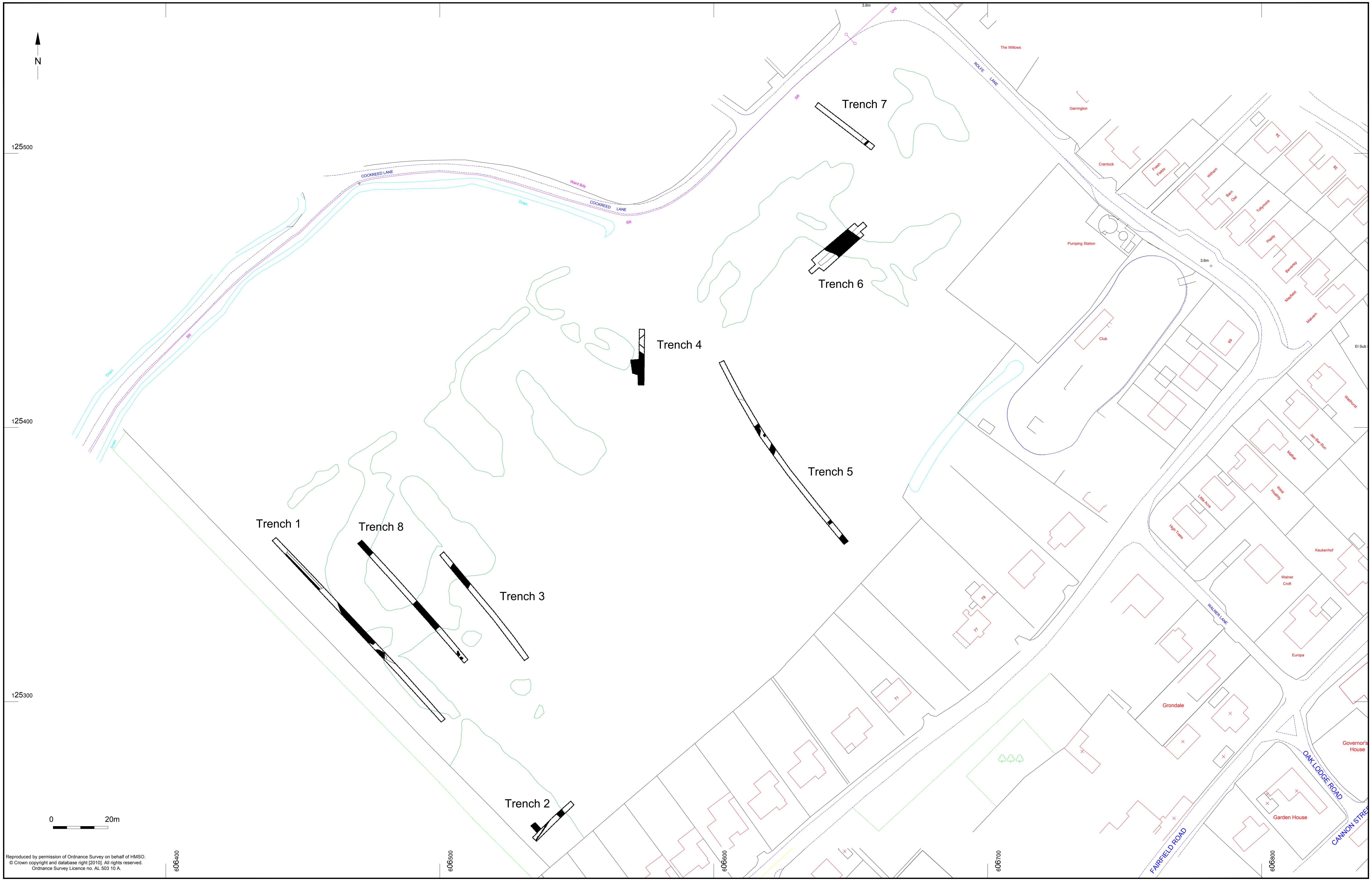
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Pumping Station
Club
99
El Sub
Wadhurst
Jan-Ber-Ron
Malbar
West Hoathly
Little Acre
High Trees
Keukenhof
Walner Croft
WALNER LANE
Europa
79
77
71
Grondale
Governor's House
Garden House
OAK LODGE ROAD
CANNON STREE
FAIRFIELD ROAD
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Project Ref: 4408	Oct 2010	Trench location overlying plan of vegetation	
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Malbar
West Hoathly
Little Acre
High Trees
Keukenhof
Walner Croft
Europa
Grondale
Governor's House
Garden House

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Keukenhof
Walner Croft
Europa
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Garden House
Magnetometry interpretation
Resistivity interpretation
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Land adjacent to Rolfe Lane, New Romney

Trench location overlying plan of geophysics

Fig. 13

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Project Ref: 4408	Oct 2010	Interpretative plan overlying Google Earth image	
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