

**Archaeological Evaluation Report
Land South of Sutton Road, Langley
Maidstone, Kent**

**NGR: 579860 151936
(TQ 79860 51936)**

**ASE Project No: 8500
Site Code: SLM 15**

**ASE Report No: 2015416
OASIS id: archaeol6-229583**




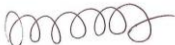
By Gary Webster

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Date of Issue:	November 2015		
Revision:	1		

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Abstract

Archaeology South-East (ASE) was commissioned by Countryside Properties to undertake an Archaeological Evaluation at Land South of Sutton Road, Langley, Maidstone, ME17 3NF. Seventeen trenches were excavated, two of which measured 40m in length, and fifteen of which measured 50m in length.

The features identified in the eastern part of the evaluation indicate a later medieval/post-medieval rural landscape dating to between the 14th-18th centuries, with a series of linear features functioning as field boundaries and drainage ditches. In the western field, several undated and 14th-18th century ditches, and 14th-18th century or modern quarrying activity was recorded. No prehistoric, Roman or positively medieval finds were recovered in the evaluation.

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Site Background

- 1.1.1 Archaeology South-East (ASE) was commissioned by Countryside Properties, and were managed by RPS Planning and Development Limited (RPS), to undertake an Archaeological Evaluation at Land South of Sutton Road, Langley, Maidstone, ME17 3NF (centred on NGR TQ 79860 51936; Figure 1).

1.2 Geology and Topography

- 1.2.1 The British Geological Survey shows the underlying geology of the site comprises bedrock geology of the Hythe Formation; sandstone and limestone formed approximately 112 to 125 million years ago in the Cretaceous Period. (BGS 2015).
- 1.2.2 The site is divided into three distinct areas, separated north-south lanes and footpaths. Access from the Sutton Road is in the form of a north-south orientated road, leading to Rumwood Nurseries. The site is bounded to the north and east by the Sutton Road, to the West by a new housing estate, and to the south by a river. The Parish Church of Saint Mary lies to the south-east. The ground level height ranges from at 91.33m AOD in the south-east part of the site, to 105.38m further north-west.

1.3 Planning Background

- 1.3.1 Planning permission is being sought for the development of the site by Countryside Properties. A series of 'pre-determination' works were agreed with Wendy Rogers of Kent County Council (KCC) Heritage Conservation Group.
- 1.3.2 Stratascan/SUMO undertook a gradiometer survey of the site in late June and July 2015, which showed low potential for archaeological remains.
- 1.3.3 RPS produced a Desk Based Assessment (DBA) for the site earlier in 2015.
- 1.3.4 An archaeological Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) was produced by RPS (2015), detailing the methodology for the archaeological evaluation using targeted trenches across the site.

1.4 Scope of Report

- 1.4.1 This report details the findings of the archaeological evaluation that took place on the 26th to the 30th October 2015. The work was carried out by Gary Webster and Suzie Westall (Archaeologists) and Lucy May and Thomas Simms (Assistant – Archaeologists). The trenches were 'signed off' as complete by Wendy Rogers in a site meeting with RPS (Rob Masefield) and ASE on the 29th October.

2.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 The background below is taken from the DBA (RPS 2015):

2.2 Palaeolithic and Mesolithic

2.2.1 There are no Palaeolithic finds recorded on the HER within 1km of the Site or on the NMR within 500m of the Site (although the NMR reports a handaxe of Acheulian type was found at the western end of King's Wood (NMR 418197)). The HER records the location of Mesolithic implements ('flint scarper and blade or flake') just south of Sutton Road within the northern-central area of the Site (HER TQ 85 SW 31). These may relate to transient hunting and gathering activities within a wooded environment and such stray finds rarely correlate with buried archaeological features. Some potential for collapsed Palaeolithic period caves in areas of ragstone geology in Kent/Sussex generally has been suggested by Dr Matthew Pope based on work at Beedings (Wendy Rogers's pers. comm.; Archaeology International 11, 33-36).

2.3 Neolithic and Bronze Age

2.3.1 There are currently no diagnostic artefacts or definite sites of these periods the Study Area, although worked flints of general prehistoric date were found during evaluation at Boughton Monchelsea to the west of the Site and a flint scarper and arrowhead are reported on the HER c.200m east of the Site. The NMR reports finds of a polished Neolithic flint axe at Brishling Lane (NMR 415702) whilst a Bronze Palstave was also found locally (NMR 415641). However, both are recorded more than 500m from the Site. These finds suggest general activity in the landscape but cannot confirm settlement. It is notable that the extensive archaeological evaluation to the immediate west of the Site by Wessex Archaeology in 2014 did not identify evidence for either Bonze Age field-systems or settlements and the suggestion is that this landscape was still largely wooded.

2.4 Iron Age

2.4.1 The closest Iron Age archaeology the Site (RPS 103) comprises a post-hole (in Trench 29) containing 345 sherds of Early Iron Age pottery from more than one vessel found within the 'Land at Langley Park' evaluation to the immediate west (Wessex Archaeology 2014). Much of the pottery was from a jar which was externally rusticated in a manner potentially introduced from the continent around 600BC (ibid). The post is considered to possibly reflect a 'way post', that is a marker post on an Iron Age route utilising the ridge running through the Site to the north of the Loose Stream (ibid). There was no other evidence of settlement or contemporary agricultural divisions within the 'Land at Langley Park' evaluation area although (potentially residual) Late Iron Age and Romano-British pottery was found within a gully and ditch within Trench 19 (ibid).

2.4.2 An evaluation by RPS at Boughton Monchelsea west of the Study Area identified very early Iron Age evidence for iron working associated with enclosures. Iron ore occurring within the local geology was found on the surface of the evaluation area. A number of other Iron Age sites are known

from the Boughton Monchelsea area to the west of the Site. These include Boughton Quarry Camp (Camp Field) which is a Scheduled Monument. Traces of the outer rampart at Parsonage Farm suggest a late date, possibly at around AD40 and this late date combined with the wide area associated with large ditches is suggestive of an oppidum, a class of large ditched enclosure sometimes (perhaps misleadingly) referred to as 'proto towns'. It is likely such locations represent tribal centres (Wessex Archaeology 2014). A number of other substantial earthwork dykes of Iron Age or probable Iron Age date and possibly associated with the oppidum are known from the wider area, including an example just south of the study Area at Chart Sutton and at Park Wood (Wendy Rogers's pers. comm.).

- 2.4.3 Two evaluations at Furfield Quarry by Kent Archaeological Rescue Unit in 1996 and Museum of London in 2005 identified of a multi-period archaeological evidence including a large enclosure ditch containing Iron Age pottery in its lower fill from the earlier stage, whilst the latter stage included a settlement of Romano-British date with its origins in the Late Iron Age and including a domestic roundhouse.
- 2.4.4 In addition a number of Late Iron Age coins are recorded for the Study Area. These include a gold example to the south of the Site, a cluster of three coins perhaps indicative of a settlement area to the south-west of the Site comprising another gold coin, an issue of c.65-50BC and an issue of the Cantii tribe dating to c.45-40BC. A further gold stater is recorded to the south-west edge of the Study Area at Langley Heath.

2.5 Romano-British

- 2.5.1 As noted Trench 19 at the aforementioned 'Land at Langley Park' evaluation produced a ditch and gully/ditch containing Romano-British pottery, alongside slightly earlier Iron Age material (RPS 103). The evaluation at Furfield Quarry, Boughton Monchelsea (RPS 29; 100) revealed settlement remains comprising continuation of the roundhouse occupation site until c.AD120 after which it declined. The farmstead included two substantial ditched enclosures with other buildings comprising a masonry structure and two aisled buildings defined by their substantial post-holes. Industrial activities included iron working and the remains of a kiln were found. The HER includes a separate reference to a Romano-British building found in 1933 just to the east and presumably part of the same villa complex. This comprised Roman building material (ragstone and tile) within the ploughsoil. Several Roman coins are also recorded as stray finds from the Study Area to the south-east of the Site. These are suggestive of general occupation in this zone.
- 2.5.2 The Roman road that linked Hastings to the south and Rochester via Maidstone to the north-west clips the south-western edge of the 1km Study Area around the Site. A local grid of lanes in the area may be represented by a 'Street' place-name as referred to on historic mapping to the north-east of the Site (Street derived from Latin is a common Anglo-Saxon place-name with reference to Roman roads). There is no reference on the HER from the Study Area that can be related to a Wikipedia reference that 'Maidstone museum exhibits articles excavated from a site in Langley believed to have been a walled Roman cemetery (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Langley,_Kent).

However, the VCH (Page 1974) contains a map showing a local Roman cemetery south-west of the Site -south-west of King's Wood and north of Sutton Vallenge. Another was located between Loose and Langley to the west of the Study Area.

2.6 Anglo-Saxon and Medieval

- 2.6.1 Anglo-Saxon: The derivation of Langley (a common Old English place-name) derives from 'lang leah' which translates as 'long field/clearing or woodland'. This particular Langley was first mentioned in records of 814 as 'Longanleag' and Clinch (2007, 1) suggests 'long clearing' as the appropriate derivation of the place name given the elongated nature of the parish.
- 2.6.2 Whether the Site had been cleared for agriculture during the Saxon period is unknown although Clinch (ibid) times has ventured noted that 'it was mostly wooded, with here and there stretches of heathland, Langley Heath being a good example. The current absence of artefacts of Saxon or medieval date as metal-detecting finds may indeed suggest that much of the area remained wooded. The Kingswood place name of the late Saxon period confirms that the king laid early claim to certain woods. Certain tracks lead south-west from Langley into the 'dens' of the Wealden forest where pigs were taken for pannage (ibid, 1).
- 2.6.3 In wider administrative terms in the 10th to 11th century Langley was within the 18,000 acre lathe of Hollingbourne (merged with Aylesford) within wider judicial Hundred of Eythorne (ibid).
- 2.6.4 Medieval: According to Bristow (1798) Langley was listed as 'Langueleir' in the Domesday Book of 1086, although the author preferred 'long pasture' as the derivation of the name. William the Conqueror passed Langley to his half-brother Odo, who was made earl of Kent in addition to his existing role as bishop of Baieux. Adam Fitzhubert held the land at Langley for the bishop which is recorded in Domesday as follows:
- 2.6.5 'It was taxed at one suling and an half. The arable land is four carucates. In demesne there are two and seven villeins, with five borderers having three carucates. There is a church and seven servants, and three acres of meadow. Wood for the pannage of twenty-five hogs. In the time of King Edward the Confessor, it was worth sixty shillings, when he received it fifty shillings, now sixty shillings. Turgis held it of King Edward.'
- 2.6.6 The land was later confiscated by the Crown following the disgrace of the bishop and by the reign of Henry III was occupied by the Ashway family. In the reign of Edward III, Sir William de Clinton, Earl of Huntingdon, was granted licence to enlarge a park with two hundred acres of land at the manor of Langele. The manor remained with the crown until Richard II's reign.
- 2.6.7 Langley was ecclesiastical jurisdiction of the diocese of Canterbury and was an appendage of the manor in the medieval period. It is recorded that the de Leybourne family replaced an earlier (Anglo-Saxon) church in the 13th century, with further additions built in the 14th and 15th century (Clinch 2007, 63). The present church, dedicated to St Mary, is a rebuild in the late 13th

century style by William Butterfield 1853-5, but the original church at the same location was associated with a lake which may have been used for the practice of 'trial by cold water', a medieval method of deciding guilt by 'the will of God' in cases where the jury could not decide.

- 2.6.8 There were two manors at Langley in the late 13th/14th century, both under the lordship of the Leybourne family (notably Sir Roger de Leybourne died on crusade in 1271). Anne Clinch, publisher of 'A History of Langley in Kent' (2007) indicates that the manor at Langley was at the present Langley Park Farm, with the former manor house likely to lay beneath the foundations of the present farmhouse (also cited by Langley Parish Plan Steering Committee 2008). The manor would have been served by the church (see post-medieval section below). Clinch (2007, 6) reports that:
- 2.6.9 'A glance at a modern map will show that Langley Church and Langley Park are not very far from each other as the crow flies' about half a mile...We can but hazard a guess as to what paths ran between one and the other when the church was first established. The church was dedicated to Mary, the most loved of all the saints, and the present structure is the third to have been built. The lord of the manor held the right to appoint the incumbent who was a 'rector', that is parson entitles to the greater tithes of the church.'
- 2.6.10 In 1279 Bacum was the rector following 'Peter'.
- 2.6.11 The 'park' element of the place name relates to the existence of a 14th century deer park at the Langley estate. Such deer parks were set up to hold deer species including fallow deer (introduced in the 12th century). Clinch records that a licence to empark was required from the Crown before such land enclosure and that '200 acres was an average for a modest place such as Langley' (ibid 3-4). These were deer kept for the table rather than for hunting. Records include that the St Legar family from Ulcombe were 'keepers of Langley Park' (ibid).
- 2.6.12 Given the location of the medieval buildings and former medieval church adjacent to the current road network, it is likely some local roads such as Sutton Road (and possibly the lane to Langley Park Farm) date from the medieval period. The HER records the former location of a section of the Pilgrim's Way east of the Site reflecting a former continuation east of the east-west section of Sutton Road before it turns south-east. This route, paralleling the North Downs way, was used for pilgrimages to the shrine of Thomas Becket at Canterbury after his canonization in 1173. Part of Sutton Road's line may have been utilised with the HER reference to the east continuing its line.
- 2.6.13 Sites of medieval date within the Study Area include, in addition to medieval predecessor of the Church of St Mary, the 15th-century Langley Corner Farmhouse (Sheiling Hall) (to the east of the Site) and the mid-16th-century Tile Barn (at the northern edge of the Site). Other Grade II Listed Buildings with late medieval ancestry comprise the typical Wealden House of 'Bishops' and to the north 'Rumwood Court' and with 'Holly Farmhouse' further to the north-east.
- 2.6.14 There are currently no medieval finds or archaeological features noted on the

HER within the Site. The main concentration of medieval finds within the wider Study Area is found to the south-east of the Site around Rectory Farm on the east side of Sutton Road and include strap ends, harness fittings, a key, pendant and seal matrix. These were presumably recovered via metal-detecting and illustrate one medieval occupation area.

2.7 Post-medieval

- 2.7.1 In the 16th and 17th century the 'sterile' Lower Greensands landscape in this 'scarp foot zone' was largely used as heath and comprised 'a huge reservoir of common-land' that included Langley Heath to the east (Brandon and Short 1990). The former deer park was 'disparked by 1570 (Clinch 2007, 4). Other historic records include that in 1635 'all manner of catell' were intercommoned at Langley Heath, when it is also recorded that small-scale enclosure of land for farming was being undertaken (ibid). Such heaths were dominated by sand, marl and were used for provision of bracken and turf whilst Kentish 'petts' (quarries) supplied ragstone, a rare south-eastern source of quality building stone. In this context it is possible that the pond shown on the 1813 map (still a deep depression noted from the walkover at the north-east extent of the Langley Park Farm complex) was such a quarry.
- 2.7.2 The grain of the landscape was transformed through the process of 'Inclosure' in the 18th Century. Langley Park Farmhouse (c.1803) dates to the Napoleonic Wars, a period when British farmers were growing rich from Enclosure and arable farming. The Langley Tithe map and apportionment for 1843 shows mixed farming with arable more prevalent than pasture, and with managed woodland within the western area and as strips (shaws) elsewhere. The nearby farm buildings of c.1850 indicate continuing prosperity from mixed farming following the penetration of railways into Kent, allowing Kentish farmers to supply the metropolitan market. The last vestiges of ancient woodland were cleared from the western area of the Site between 1868 and 1895. The substantial number of large, later Victorian oast houses, both at Langley Park Farm and nearby indicate an increasing local specialisation in hop-growing as general farming became less lucrative due to cheap foreign imports of food. Maps from 1870 onwards also show fruit growing on an ever-increasing scale, peaking around the time of the Second World War. The woodland partially occupying the south-west area and extending west is labelled 'Foxbury Wood'. No significant changes.
- 2.7.3 Having dominated the local landscape, fruit and hop growing is now absent from the local landscape. It is notable that most of the Inclosure field-boundaries shown by the 19th century mapping have since been removed. The exceptions are the hedge boundary dividing the central and western zones, alongside the lane to the Langley Park Farm complex, and that alongside the north-south footpath that divides the central and eastern zones to the east of the farm complex, these provide a skeletal frame of the former field layout.
- 2.7.4 It should be noted that the current parish boundary is the result of changes in 1888 (with land transference to Boughton Monchelsea) and in 1934, when the north-western area of Langley Park, opposite Bicknor Farmhouse, was taken into Maidstone (Clinch 2007, 93).

- 2.7.5 The two major houses in the locality of the Site are Rumwood Court to the north and Langley Park Farmhouse to the south. The former has elements dating from c.1599, but was little more than a substantial farmhouse until 1896 when it was very substantially rebuilt and greatly extended. It was latterly the home of Lord Rootes of motor-car fame. It is now flats. The Langley Park Farm complex to the south, together with the 'string of ponds formed by the Loose Stream, dominated the centre of the parish (Clinch 2007, 16). Referred to on maps up to the 1960s/70s as Manor Park Farm, this was the centre of a manor that passed through various ownerships, including Leven Buffkin who acquired the manor during the reign of Elizabeth I and referred to it as 'my messuage and tenement in Langley Park'. It was purchased by the Earl of Romney at the end of the 18th century (ibid, 4, 16, 17).
- 2.7.6 The present Langley Park Farmhouse (RPS 7) is said to date from 1803 (late 18th century date according to the Listed Building description) but an earlier incarnation is shown (without associated barns within its curtilage) on Andrews, Drury and Herbert's map of 1769. The present house, built as an elegant two-storey Georgian villa, is shown similarly alone on the Langley Parish Plan of 1814, although by this date the string of ornamental ponds had been formed on the Loose Stream to the south. Maps from the 1843 Tithe map (Fig. 8) onwards show a planned courtyard of farm buildings to the west of the house, including the c.1850 cattle sheds and stables 25m to the north-west, the similarly dated 'barn about 30m west-south-west of Langley Park Farmhouse' and 'barn or granary about 25m west-south-west of Langley Park Farmhouse. Also included in the complex is a large, late 19th-century four-roundel oast house. The farmhouse was Listed Grade II in 1968 and the farm buildings in 1985. The complex has undergone substantial alteration since 1985. The farm house has been raised in height by one storey, with a substantial new range enclosing its north side. All major farm buildings have been converted to residential use, with much insertion of new windows, French doors etc. Several new dwellings have also been added. Clinch (2007, 36), citing sales particulars of 1895 describes the complex thus:
- 2.7.7 'The present Langley Park House was built in 1803. It is a handsome brick building with an elegant portico. Nearby is a group of farm buildings, some of which are listed and are thought to have been constructed in about 1850 as part of a planned courtyard, quite rare for Kent. In 1895, when Lord Romney began to dispose of some of his estates, the sale catalogue contained a detailed description of the homestead attached to Langley Park Farm. There was an 'Oast House with four 18ft. Kilns, Cooling Floors and Stores under (brick and slate), Coach House and 6-bay Cart Shed (brick, timber and slate). 4-stall Stable and Loose Box, another 4-stall ditto, Loose Box and Root House (stone and tile), 9-bay Bullock Lodge and Chaff House, and a 5-bay ditto (stone and tile), 2 Pigsties (timber and slate), large Barn and 3 Pigsties (timber and slate), 2 stall Nag Stable and Coach House with Granary over and Hen House adjoining (timber and tile on stone)._ Several cottages were built on the estate in the nineteenth century. More recently some of the farm buildings have been converted into dwellings, which with the nearby oast house and the cottages form an attractive little hamlet.'
- 2.7.8 As noted the Grade II* Church of St Mary was the rebuilt in late 13th century

style by Butterfield 1853-5. Butterfield also designed the adjacent School and School Master's House, completed in 1855. These were originally built to serve the very dispersed dwellings of Langley parish and until the OS map of 1909 the only nearby buildings were a single cottage, the Crown & Horseshoes Inn and a smithy. In 1898 Orchard House was built and between 1898 and 1909 the pub was rebuilt and the smithy was replaced with a grand arts-and-crafts-inspired Institute (now 1 and 2 Old Stile). A number of large detached homes were built, creating the present settlement, in the later 20th Century.

- 2.7.9 Typically for the Kentish Weald, there are a large number of other post-medieval timber-framed farms and farm buildings listed on the HER within the Study Area, a number of which are Listed Buildings. These originated in a now lost landscape of woodland clearings and fields divided by thick wooded shaws. Much the best locally is the 15th-century, Grade II* Langley Corner Farmhouse (Sheiling Hall), a classic Wealden farmhouse 500 metres east of the Site. Closer to the Site is the jettied Tile Barn (RPS 3), which abuts the north side of the Site. This had mid-16th-century elements and a 19th-century façade. It is described by Clinch (2007, 24) as timber-framed with a 19th century facade and with a ground floor 'clad in Flemish-bond red bricks with hung tiles on the first floor.' The 17th-century timber-framed Bicknor Farmhouse and Briarwood lie on Sutton Road, 250 metres and 500 metres west-north-west of the Site respectively.
- 2.7.10 The prosperity brought to the Weald by the Inclosures and the French and Napoleonic wars is represented by a number of Georgian and Regency houses. Much the best of these locally is the Old Rectory, 400 metres south of the Site. It is said to have been rebuilt in 1767 by the Reverend David Waterhouse and has a window containing the arms of Archbishop Matthew Parker. The nearby Rectory Farmhouse is also late 18th-century with early to mid-19th-century alterations, as are Homewell House and The Plough Inn at Five Wents, 750-800 metres south-east of the Site.
- 2.7.11 The Study Area contains a number of later 19th-century and early 20th-century buildings. Some of these, notably the many oast houses that still dominate the local landscape, reflect changing agricultural regimes. Others, like Rumwood Court, reflect better communications with the metropolis brought about by the railway network. Rumwood Court is the best of these locally, but the Orchard House, the Coach & Horseshoes and the former Institute, all of which lie adjacent to the eastern side of the Site close to the Church of St Mary, all reflect this suburbanising trend, as do other houses of the later 20th Century nearby. The 21st Century has witnessed substantial pressure on the local landscape from large-scale residential development. Major developments to the immediate west of the Site include the Imperial Park, St Andrews Park and Langley Park, all of which are currently under construction.
- 2.7.12 There are World War II installations in the wider area (more than 500m from the Site) including a searchlight battery and a single (Diver) anti-aircraft emplacement at Brishling Court (NMR 1494236), a searchlight battery at Boughton Monchelsea and another (Diver) anti-aircraft emplacement at Warmlake, Sutton Vallence. There are no known military installations at or immediately adjacent according to the HER and NMR.

2.8 Events

- 2.8.1 Most of the archaeological surveys to have taken place in the Study Area have been referred to above. A relatively large scale post-determination archaeological trial trenching exercise was conducted in 2014 for the 32ha 'Land at Langley Park' site to the immediate west of the Site and comprised 113 50m length by 1.8m wide trenches (Wessex Archaeology 2014). Archaeological evidence was scarce and with the exception of the aforementioned Early Iron Age post-hole and later Iron Age and Romano-British pottery in a ditch and gully in another trench the only other notable aspect was identification of former natural watercourses (palaeochannels) down-slope into the Loose Valley.
- 2.8.2 An archaeological evaluation comprising twenty 30m length by 1.8m wide trenches was also recently undertaken by Wessex Archaeology to the immediate north-west of the Site, at 'Land North of Sutton Road' (Wessex Archaeology October 2014). No significant archaeological features were encountered.
- 2.8.3 An earlier evaluation by Wessex Archaeology for CgMs comprising 31 trenches was conducted at 'Imperial Park' to the north-west of the Site in 2014 but was completely devoid of archaeology apart from the aforementioned modern features (Wessex Archaeology 2014).
- 2.8.4 Undated linear earthworks were recorded in a 2005 Museum of London assessment further to the south-east of the Site at Boughton Monchelsea.
- 2.8.5 An archaeological evaluation at Parkwood Industrial Estate by Canterbury Archaeological Trust revealed only 20th century activity.

2.9 Aims and Objectives

2.9.1 The general aim of the pre-determination trial trenching is to "...assess the presence/absence of significant archaeology at locations within the Site considered to have some possible archaeological potential. The archaeological investigation will seek to understand the context of the findings in relationship to the wider settlement pattern, landscape, economy and environment." (RPS, 2015).

2.9.2 Period specific questions are listed in the WSI (ibid.), and are listed below:

2.10 Palaeolithic and Mesolithic

2.10.1 Is there any residual Palaeolithic or further Mesolithic lithic material within the ploughsoil, surface of the geology, or residually within later features?

2.11 Neolithic

2.11.1 If present how may the function of any Neolithic pits or flint scatters be understood in terms of 'ritual and domestic' utility and if present what was the nature of the landscape in which this activity took place?

2.12 Beaker period/Early Bronze Age

2.12.1 Is there any evidence for this locally under-represented period of activity within the Site?

2.13 Middle-late Bronze Age

2.13.1 Are there any indications of whether the landscape was occupied and farmed in the Middle to Late Bronze Age and do any remnants of landscape organisation survive?

2.14 Iron Age

2.14.1 There is evidence of Iron Age occupation and use of dyke systems within the wider surrounding landscape of the Study Area but, despite a lack of adjacent occupation evidence, is there any indication for similar activity within the Site?

2.15 Roman

2.15.1 There is evidence for Romano-British settlement and farming within the wider Study Area but, despite a lack of adjacent occupation evidence, is there any indication for similar activity within the Site itself?

2.16 Saxon

2.16.1 What evidence is there for Middle and Late Saxon activity?

2.17 Trench Specific Questions

- 2.17.2 The following specific project research questions are advanced for specific trenches/ groups of trenches:
- 2.17.3 Trenches 1-4 – Is there any evidence of medieval occupation in this zone close to the medieval incarnation of the church? Is the ditch intercepted by trench 4 solely post-medieval in date or is there a longer sequence of field boundaries represented and is there any evidence for the possible track?
- 2.17.4 Trench 5 – Are the ditches intercepted by the trench both post-medieval in date or is there a longer sequence of field boundaries represented?
- 2.17.5 Trenches 6 and 7 - Is the ditch intercepted by the trench 6 post-medieval in date or is there a longer sequence of field boundaries represented? Is there any evidence for the possible track within Trench 7?
- 2.17.6 Trenches 8 and 9 - Is the ditch intercepted by the trench 9 both post-medieval in date or is there a longer sequence of field boundaries represented and is there any evidence for medieval activity in this area where modern of footpaths merge?
- 2.17.7 Trenches 10, 11 and 17 – Is there any evidence for medieval activity on the fringes of the Langley Park Farm complex?
- 2.17.8 Trenches 12-16 – Is there any evidence of Iron Age date in this field to the east of the Early Iron Age post-hole found during the recent evaluation trenching to the west and is there any evidence for Iron Age boundaries at the break of slope above the valley?

3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY

3.1 Fieldwork Methodology

- 3.1.1 Seventeen trenches were mechanically excavated under archaeological supervision using a 20 tonne machine excavator fitted with a flat-bladed 1.9m wide bucket (Trenches 1- 11 and 17) and a 9 tonne machine excavator fitted with a 1.2m bucket (Trenches 12 – 16). Two trenches were 40m in length, and the rest were 50m. The trench layout can be seen on Figure 2.
- 3.1.2 The trenches were laid out using digital GPS survey equipment and linked to Ordnance Survey.
- 3.1.3 All trenches were scanned with a Cable Avoidance Tool (CAT) before excavation commenced, to ensure that live services were not encountered.
- 3.1.4 Trenches were excavated to the top of archaeological deposits or to the surface of the natural geology, whichever was uppermost. The trenches were stepped in at the edge where appropriate to ensure they were safe for entry. Natural geology was identified in all trenches. Where exposed, this was carefully checked for worked flint and/or other artefacts.
- 3.1.5 All deposits and features were recorded on standard ASE recording sheets and planned using digital survey equipment.

3.2 Fieldwork Constraints

- 3.2.1 Several of the trenches were repositioned from the original position stipulated in the WSI (RPS 2015) due to the conditions on site.
- 3.2.2 Trench 4 was split into three sections to avoid areas that the farm machinery commonly travels over. Two of these areas flooded, and were not able to be investigated fully, although no archaeological remains were noted prior to flooding.

3.3 Archive

- 3.3.1 The site archive is currently held at the offices of ASE and will be deposited at a local museum in due course.

Number of Contexts	74
No. of files/paper record	1
Section sheets	3
Digital photos	65
Trench Record Forms	17

Table 1: Quantification of site archive

4.0 RESULTS

4.1 Trench 1 (Figure 3)

Context	Type	Interpretation	Length m	Width m	Depth m
1/001	Layer	Topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.10-0.14
1/002	Layer	Subsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.18-0.22
1/003	Fill	Fill, single	1.8	0.62	0.09
1/004	Cut	Ditch	1.8	0.62	0.09
1/005	Layer	Natural	Tr.	Tr.	

Table 2: Trench 1 list of recorded contexts

4.1.1 The natural geology [1/005] was overlain with a subsoil [1/002]. The sequence was capped with topsoil [1/001]. The natural geology was identified at a height of 91.82m AOD.

4.1.2 A gully-like ditch [1/004] crossed the south of the trench on an east-west alignment. The edges were slightly irregular. It was cut gradually into the natural, with concave sides leading gradually to a rounded base. The fill [1/003] was a moderately loose mid grey clay, which contained frequent stones and pebbles. 17 brick fragments were retrieved from [1/003], six of which are well crafted hand-moulded bricks of early-to-mid-18th century date. A further two brick pieces are thought to be of the same date, and the remaining brick fragments are likely to be of late medieval date, circa 15th – 16th century.

4.1.3 The gravels [1/005] were excavated to find their depth. They gradually became more orange and manganese and ironstone rich. After a depth of 1.2m, the excavation was ceased.

4.2 Trench 2 (Figure 4)

Context	Type	Interpretation	Length m	Width m	Depth m
2/001	Layer	Topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.10-0.14
2/002	Layer	Natural alluvial deposit	30	Tr.	0.18-0.22
2/003	Layer	Natural	Tr.	Tr.	-
2/004	Cut	Gully	1.8	0.60	0.25
2/005	Fill	Fill, single	1.8	0.60	0.25

Table 3: Trench 2 list of recorded contexts

4.2.1 The natural geology [2/003] was encountered at 91.33m AOD. This was directly overlain by topsoil [2/001]. In the centre of the trench there was a layer of alluvium [2/002] overlying the natural geology.

4.2.2 A gully [2/004] was identified on a north south alignment. It was cut sharply into the natural gravel, with steeply sloping sides leading to a flat base. The fill [2/005] was a pale grey with orange mottling silty clay, with occasional ironstone. No finds were recovered from the fill.

4.2.3 The gravels [2/003] were sondaged to find their depth. They gradually became more orange and manganese and ironstone rich. After a depth of 0.7m, the natural became more like the bedrock geology, a greensand.

4.3 Trench 4 (Figure 5)

Context	Type	Interpretation	Length m	Width m	Depth m
4/001	Layer	Topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.26-0.30
4/002	Layer	Subsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.09-0.40
4/003	Layer	Natural	Tr.	Tr.	--
4/004	Cut	Ditch	3	0.8	Unknown
4/005	Fill	Fill	3	0.8	Unknown
4/006	Cut	Ditch	2	0.7	Unknown
4/007	Fill	Fill	2	0.7	Unknown

Table 4: Trench 4 list of recorded contexts

4.3.1 The natural geology [4/003] was overlain with subsoil [4/002]. The sequence was capped with topsoil [4/001]. The natural geology was identified at a height of 92.69m AOD.

4.3.2 A feature [4/004] was identified on a northeast-southwest alignment. It was flooded before it could be investigated fully, though it was most likely a cut for a modern drain.

4.3.3 A ditch [4/006] was identified on an east-west alignment. It was flooded before it could be investigated fully, though it contained modern material. It was most likely a recently backfilled field boundary. The ditch position correlates with a boundary shown on the 1st Edition O.S map (RPS 2015).

4.4 Trench 7 (Figure 6)

Context	Type	Interpretation	Length m	Width m	Depth m
7/001	Layer	Topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.26-0.36
7/002	Layer	Natural	Tr.	Tr.	-
7/003	Cut	Ditch (same as 7/007)	3.5	0.58	0.14
7/004	Fill	Fill, single	3.5	0.58	0.14
7/005	Cut	Ditch (same as 7/009)	3	0.56	0.14
7/006	Fill	Fill, single	3	0.56	0.14
7/007	Cut	Ditch (same as 7/003)	3.5	0.6	0.1
7/008	Fill	Fill, single	3.5	0.6	0.1
7/009	Cut	Ditch (same as 7/005)	3	0.5	0.12
7/010	Fill	Fill, single	3	0.5	0.12
7/011	Cut	Ditch	2	0.88	0.3
7/012	Fill	Fill, single	2	0.88	0.3
7/013	Cut	Ditch (same as 7/015)	4	0.58	0.23
7/014	Fill	Fill, single	4	0.58	0.23
7/015	Cut	Ditch (same as 7/013)	4	0.65	0.22
7/016	Fill	Fill, single	4	0.65	0.22

Table 5: Trench 7 list of recorded contexts

- 4.4.1 The natural geology [7/002] was identified at a level of 105.38m AOD and was immediately overlain by the topsoil [7/001].
- 4.4.2 A ditch [7/013] / [7/015] was identified north of the trench, running at a northeast-southwest alignment. It was moderately cut into the natural, with steep sides leading to a rounded base. The fill [7/014] and [7/016] was a moderately compact mid brown grey, clayey silt. This ran parallel to ditch [7/009] and [7/005] was identified at the south of the trench, and together they may form a track dating to somewhere between the 14th-18th centuries, based on the CBM found in the fill.
- 4.4.3 Ditch [7/005] / [7/009] was filled by [7/010] / [7/006] which was a moderately compact, red brownish grey, clayey silt. It contained occasional roofing tile fragments, which are difficult to date, dating to somewhere between the 14th-18th centuries.
- 4.4.4 Ditch [7/003] and [7/007] cut ditch [7/005] / [7/009] and was identified at the south of the trench. It is on a northeast-southwest alignment. The fill [7/004] and [7/009] was a moderately compact, red brownish grey, clayey silt. It contained occasional CBM of late medieval to post-medieval date.
- 4.4.5 Ditch [7/011] was identified in the centre of the trench on a north-south alignment. It was sharply cut into the natural geology with steeply sloping sides, leading to a slightly concave base. The fill [7/012] was a soft, mid light grey, sandy silty clay. It contained manganese, charcoal flecks, ironstone and sandstone.

4.5 Trench 12 (Figure 7)

Context	Type	Interpretation	Length m	Width m	Depth m
12/001	Layer	Topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.18-0.30
12/002	Layer	Subsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.25
12/003	Layer	Natural	Tr.	Tr.	-
12/004	Cut	Quarry pit	>21	Tr.	>1
12/005	Fill	Fill	>21	Tr.	1
12/006	Layer	Subsoil	c.5m	Tr.	0.22

Table 6: Trench 12 list of recorded contexts

- 4.5.1 The natural geology [12/003] was overlain with a subsoil [12/002] in the south-east of the trench and subsoil [12/006] in the centre of the trench. The sequence was capped with topsoil [12/001]. The natural geology was identified at a height of 103.22m AOD.
- 4.5.2 A large quarry pit [12/004] was identified in the centre and east of the trench. It is steeply cut into the natural geology. The base of the pit was not seen. The fill [12/005] was a compacted, bright mottled orange silty clay. It contained frequent stones. Modern material such as concrete and plastic was identified in the fill.

4.6 Trench 13 (Figure 8)

Context	Type	Interpretation	Length m	Width m	Depth m
13/001	Layer	Topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.30-0.32
13/002	Layer	Natural	Tr.	Tr.	-
13/003	Cut	Ditch	1.8	1.38	0.25
13/004	Fill	Fill, single	1.8	1.38	0.25

Table 7: Trench 13 list of recorded contexts

- 4.6.1 The natural geology [13/002] was encountered at a height of 105.22m AOD and was immediately overlain by the topsoil [13/001].
- 4.6.2 A ditch [13/003] was identified north of the trench, running on a north-south alignment. It was moderately cut into the natural, with concave sides leading to an irregular base. The fill [13/004] was a moderately soft mid brown grey, sandy silt. No finds were recovered from the fill.

4.7 Trench 14 (Figure 9)

Context	Type	Interpretation	Length m	Width m	Depth m
14/001	Layer	Topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.27-0.32
14/002	Layer	Natural	Tr.	Tr.	-
14/003	Cut	Ditch	3.5	0.5	0.12
14/004	Fill	Fill, single	3.5	0.5	0.12

Table 8: Trench 14 list of recorded contexts

- 4.7.1 The natural geology [14/002] was identified at a height of 104.06m AOD and was immediately overlain by the topsoil [14/001].
- 4.7.2 An undated ditch [14/003] was identified north of the trench, running on a northeast-southwest alignment. It was gradually cut into the natural, with concave sides leading to a concave base. The fill [14/004] was a loose mid grey brown, clayey silt. No finds were recovered from the fill.

4.8 Trench 16 (Figure 10)

Context	Type	Interpretation	Length m	Width m	Depth m
16/001	Layer	Topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.28-0.32
16/002	Layer	Natural	Tr.	Tr.	-
16/003	Cut	Quarry pit	20	1.8	1.2
16/004	Fill	Fill, primary	3.5	1.8	0.23
16/005	Fill	Fill, secondary	3.5	1.8	0.38
16/006	Fill	Fill	10	1.8	1.2

Table 9: Trench 16 list of recorded contexts

- 4.8.1 The natural geology [16/002] was encountered at 103.09m AOD, and was immediately overlain by the topsoil [16/001].
- 4.8.2 A large quarry pit [16/003] was identified in the centre and south of the trench. It is moderately cut into the natural geology, and was in excess of

1.2m deep. The bottom fill [16/004] was a moderate, mid grey brown, silty clay. It contained a metal bolt which is not intrinsically dateable. The middle fill [16/005] was moderately firm, orangey yellow silty clay, containing occasional pieces of sandstone, 14th and 18th centuries tile and a piece of slag. The upper fill [16/006] was moderately firm, dark reddish orange, silty clay, containing occasional sandstone.

4.9 Negative Trenches 3, 5, 6, 8 – 11, 15, 17

Context	Type	Interpretation	Depth m
3/001	Layer	Topsoil	0.27-0.30
3/002	Layer	Subsoil	0.26-0.36
3/003	Layer	Natural	
5/001	Layer	Topsoil	0.15-0.27
5/002	Layer	Subsoil	0.10-0.14
5/003	Layer	Natural	
6/001	Layer	Topsoil	0.30-0.35
6/002	Layer	Natural	
8/001	Layer	Topsoil	0.28-0.3
8/002	Layer	Natural	
9/001	Layer	Topsoil	0.28-0.31
9/002	Layer	Natural	
9/003	Layer	Subsoil	0.3
10/001	Layer	Topsoil	0.23-0.26
10/002	Layer	Natural	
11/001	Layer	Topsoil	0.29-0.32
11/002	Layer	Natural	
15/001	Layer	Topsoil	0.28-0.30
15/002	Layer	Natural	
17/001	Layer	Topsoil	0.28-0.34
17/002	Layer	Natural	
17/003	Layer	Subsoil	0.05

Table 10: Trench 3, 5, 6, 8 – 11, 15, 17 list of recorded contexts

- 4.9.1 These trenches followed a simple stratigraphic sequence. The natural geology was either capped directly by topsoil, or there was subsoil surviving between the layers.
- 4.9.2 Though several potential features were identified and investigated in these trenches, they were either natural or too modern to be archaeologically significant.
- 4.9.3 The features investigated in Trench 5 were found to be modern truncations, resulting from machine activity within the site entrance.
- 4.9.4 A single sherd of later 16th to 17th century pottery was recovered from the topsoil [9/001] in Trench 9.

5.0 THE FINDS

5.1 The Finds

- 5.1.1 A small assemblage of finds was recovered during the evaluation at Sutton Lane in Maidstone. All finds were washed and dried or air dried as appropriate. They were subsequently quantified by count and weight and were bagged by material and context (Table 11). All finds have been packed and stored following ClfA guidelines (2014). None of the finds require further conservation.

Context	Pottery	Wt (g)	CBM	Wt (g)	Slag	Wt (g)	Fe	Wt (g)
1/003			29	4901				
7/004			2	115				
7/006			1	28				
7/008			2	12				
7/010			1	114				
7/014			1	42				
9/001	1	48						
16/004							1	76
16/005			1	30	1	11		

Table 11: Quantification of the finds

5.2 The Post-Roman Pottery by Luke Barber

- 5.2.1 The evaluation recovered a single sherd of post-Roman pottery from the site (context [9/001]). This consists of a 44g fresh base fragment from a vessel in oxidised fine hard-fired earthenware with deliberately reduced exterior surface. The fabric, which is marl-rich and contains occasional medium quartz grains, is typical of the later 16th to 17th centuries.

5.3 The Ceramic Building Material by Isa Benedetti-Whitton

- 5.3.1 A total of 36 pieces of ceramic building material (CBM) weighing 4917g were recovered from eight evaluation contexts. It appears to be a collection of early post-medieval potentially medieval brick and tile.
- 5.3.2 Brick made up the majority of the assemblage with 17 fragments, all taken from [1/003]. Six of these pieces were entirely vitrified; three of them displayed well preserved forms that showed them to be well crafted hand-moulded bricks, approximately 110mm x 58mm on average with even surfaces and sharp arises. These characteristics are suggestive of an early-to-mid-18th century date. Two of the brick pieces had faces with the remnants of a burnt blue-grey glaze.
- 5.3.3 Of the remaining eleven pieces of brick, two fabric types were distinguished. Two very small brick pieces in B2 (see Table 12) displayed similar features to those vitrified bricks. The other nine brick fragments were all made from the same well-fired yet soft fabric B1, and were also different in terms of

form. These pieces – although much abraded – were clearly much thinner at approximately 50mm, and had rounded arises, which is characteristic of earlier bricks. It is suggested that these may be late medieval bricks circa 15th - 16th century.

- 5.3.4 A small proportion of the assemblage was made up of CBM fragments too abraded or fragmentary to assess form, and the remaining 13 pieces were roofing tile taken from: [7/004]; [7/006]; 7/008]; [7/010]; [7/014]; [7/16] and [16/005]. Despite the fairly small assemblage, four fabric types were identified within the tile, although these may be two variants of the same clay. The tile in T2 (and T2A) appears to be better made than those in T1, suggestive of a later date. Two of the T7 fragments retrieved from [7/016] had square peg holes of 11mm x 9mm, and were not particularly even in form. Although it is tempting to assign an earlier date to these pieces, peg tiles are hard to date precisely as their form changed very little between the 14th and 18th centuries.

Fabric code	Description
T1	Hard dense orange fabric with moderate - common calcareous inclusions and speckle.
T1A	Dense fabric with abundant fine and medium calcareous scatter and sparse very coarse (up to 1mm) calcareous material. Sparse fine and medium quartz.
T2	Dense, Fe-rich clay with cream marbling, moderate medium quartz; moderate Fe oxide; moderate very coarse deposits of dark red clay.
T2A	Combination of T2 and T1A; red Fe-rich fabric with common Fe-rich inclusions and black Fe oxide. Also common cream/calcareous speckle.
B1	Well fired but 'powdery' fabric. Sparse coarse - very coarse Fe oxide. Sparse very coarse quartz and calcareous inclusions.
B2	Hard, well fired fabric streaked with cream and occasional round cream silty deposit. Moderate coarse - very coarse (up to 3mm) black and dark red Fe oxides.

Table 22: Fabric descriptions for Land south of Sutton Lane, Maidstone

5.4 The Ironwork by Elke Raemen

- 5.4.1 Context [16/004] contained a single iron bolt (length 80mm) with oval head (dim c. 25 by 30mm). The piece is not intrinsically dateable.

5.5 The Slag by Luke Barber

- 5.5.1 Context [16/005] produced a 12g piece of grey aerated fuel ash slag with surface bubbling and extensive vitrification. This waste could have derived from any number of high temperature processes and is not indicative of date.

6.0 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

6.1 Overview of stratigraphic sequence

- 6.1.1 The natural geology formed a slight gradient from south-east to north-west, with the lowest level identified at 91.33m AOD in Trench 2, and the highest level at 105.38m in Trench 7.
- 6.1.2 The trenches followed a simple stratigraphic sequence. The natural geology was capped directly by topsoil in Trenches 7, 13, 14 and 16 whilst in all other trenches natural geology was topped by subsoil and topsoil horizons. The subsoil was between 0.05-0.14m thick.
- 6.1.3 Eight archaeological features were identified in 8 of the trenches. Six of the features comprised linear features such as field boundary/enclosure ditches and a gully. Two quarry pits were also identified. The features were fairly evenly dispersed across the eastern and western parts of the site, with no archaeology identified in the centre of the site on the location of Trenches 10, 11 and 17.

6.2 Deposit survival and existing impacts

- 6.2.1 Although a number of modern features were identified, the subsoil was intact across the majority of the site and the archaeological horizon appeared to be largely undisturbed. The exception to this was the western edge of the western field; where no subsoil was identified in Trenches 13, 14 or 16, and the westernmost edge of the eastern field; where no subsoil was identified in Trench 7. There is also likely to be fairly substantial truncation in the area around Trench 12 in which the southern edge of a large modern quarry(?) pit was recorded. The edge of another large 14th to 18th century quarry(?) pit was also recorded in Trench 16.

6.3 Discussion of archaeological remains by period

- 6.3.1 The majority of ditches in the eastern field can be broadly dated only to between the 14th and 18th century. These features therefore probably represent infilled later medieval or post-medieval field boundaries. The features in Trench 7 do not follow the same alignment as the present field layout, so these may be older than those in the eastern side of the field in Trenches 1 and 2 which do. The perpendicular arrangement of three ditches suggest a small area of enclosures. The re-cutting identified (4.4.4) may relate to cleaning out of these enclosure ditches rather than being a clearly defined phase of activity. No subsoil was detected in Trench 7. Modern features were identified in Trench 4.
- 6.3.2 In the western field 2 large quarry(?) pits were recorded. One of these, in Trench 12, is modern, whilst the other in Trench 16 is 14th to 18th century in date. Fig 11 of the geophysical survey report (stratascan/SUMO, 2015) shows a wide zone of 'Strong magnetic debris-possible disturbed or made ground' along the southern side of the western field commensurate with trenches 12, 15 and 16. This zone probably correlates with the identified deposits, It is possible that some of this material is associated with the creation of the driving range. Undated ditches, recorded in Trenches 13 and

14, follow the same alignment as the present layout. In this area of the field no subsoil was recorded.

- 6.3.3 No features were identified in the middle field and here there was an intact subsoil in all three trenches (10, 11, 17). This suggests that any activity associated with Langley Park Farm did not extend through these trenches.
- 6.3.4 No prehistoric, Roman or positively medieval finds were recovered from the entire evaluation.

6.4 Consideration of research aims

- 6.4.1 The general aim of the pre-determination trial trenching was to assess the presence/absence of significant archaeology at locations within the site considered to have some possible archaeological potential. It also sought to understand the context of the findings in relationship to the wider settlement pattern, landscape, economy and environment. (RPS, 2015).
- 6.4.2 The evaluation successfully identified the presence of eight archaeological features. These have been characterised as broadly 14th - 18th century and modern ditches and a modern quarry(?) pit. Undated ditches and an undated quarry(?) pit were also recorded. There was no scope to further the understanding of the period specific questions listed in the WSI, as no archaeological finds or features of prehistoric, Roman or Saxon date were identified.
- 6.4.3 The following project research questions were also set out in the WSI for specific trenches/ groups of trenches:
- 6.4.4 *Trenches 1-4 – Is there any evidence of medieval occupation in this zone close to the medieval incarnation of the church? Is the ditch intercepted by trench 4 solely post-medieval in date or is there a longer sequence of field boundaries represented and is there any evidence for the possible track?*
- 6.4.5 The only evidence of medieval activity in Trench 1 was some brick fragments of 15th – 16th century date found alongside a large number of bricks of early-to-mid-18th century.
- 6.4.5 The ditch [4/006] identified on an east-west alignment in Trench 4 was found to contain modern material such as broken parts of ceramic field drains and is most likely a recently backfilled field boundary. There was no evidence of a longer sequence of field boundaries existing in this part of the site.
- 6.4.6 *Trench 5 – Are the ditches intercepted by the trench both post-medieval in date or is there a longer sequence of field boundaries represented?*
- 6.4.7 No ditches were identified in Trench 5. The only features identified were found to be modern truncations resulting from machine activity within the entrance of the site.
- 6.4.8 *Trenches 6 and 7 - Is the ditch intercepted by Trench 6 post-medieval in date or is there a longer sequence of field boundaries represented? Is there any evidence for the possible track within Trench 7?*
- 6.4.9 There was no evidence of a ditch in Trench 6. The possible NW/SE alignment of a track was considered on the basis of the LiDAR results but can be discounted due to the negative evidence within trenches 4 and 7. Two parallel ditches on an alternative alignment were recorded in Trench 7, however, these appear to terminate at another ditch and are therefore thought more likely to represent smaller field boundaries or an enclosure rather than a track. These may represent elements within a medieval open-field system.

- 6.4.10 *Trenches 8 and 9 - Is the ditch to be intercepted by trench 9 both post-medieval in date or is there a longer sequence of field boundaries represented and is there any evidence for medieval activity in this area where modern of footpaths merge?*
- 6.4.11 No ditches were intercepted in Trenches 8 or 9. The boundary line shown on historic mapping may therefore have been a fence line, with no below ground impact.
- 6.4.12 *Trenches 10, 11 and 17 – Is there any evidence for medieval activity on the fringes of the Langley Park Farm complex?*
- 6.4.13 There was no evidence for medieval, or any other, activity within Trenches 10, 11 and 17 relating to the Langley Park Farm complex.
- 6.4.14 *Trenches 12-16 – Is there any evidence of Iron Age date in this field to the east of the Early Iron Age post-hole found during the recent evaluation trenching to the west and is there any evidence for Iron Age boundaries at the break of slope above the valley?*
- 6.4.15 There was no dateable evidence for Iron Age activity within any of these trenches, however, various undated ditches and a 14th to 18th century pit were recorded in the western part of the field.

6.5 Conclusions

- 6.5.1 The features identified in the eastern part of the evaluation indicate a later medieval/post-medieval rural landscape dating to between the 14th-18th centuries, with a series of linear features functioning as field boundaries and drainage ditches. In the western field, several undated and 14th-18th century ditches, and 14th-18th century, or later, and modern quarrying activity was recorded. No prehistoric, Roman or positively medieval finds were recovered in the evaluation.

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Wessex Archaeology October 2014. *Archaeological Evaluation Report*. Land North of Sutton Road Maidstone Kent

Yates, D, 2007. *Land, power and prestige*. Bronze Age field systems in Southern England. Oxbow Books

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

ASE would like to thank RPS for commissioning the work and for their assistance throughout the project, and Wendy Rogers of KCC Heritage Conservation Group for his guidance and monitoring. The excavation was directed by Gary Webster and Suzie Westall. The author would like to thank all archaeologists who worked on the excavations. Justin Russell produced the figures for this report; Paul Mason managed the excavations; Jim Stevenson and Dan Swift the post-excavation process.

HER Summary

HER enquiry no.	-					
Site code	SLM15					
Project code	8500					
Planning reference	-					
Site address	Land south of Sutton Road, Langley, Kent					
District/Borough	Maidstone					
NGR (12 figures)	579860 151936					
Geology	Head deposits and the Hythe formation (sandstone and limestone).					
Fieldwork type	Eval					
Date of fieldwork	26 th Oct – 30 th Oct 2015					
Sponsor/client	RPS					
Project manager	Paul Mason					
Project supervisor	Gary Webster and Suzie Westall					
Period summary						
			Medieval	Post-Medieval		
Project summary (100 word max)	<p>Archaeology South-East (ASE) was commissioned by Countryside Properties Limited to undertake an Archaeological Evaluation at Land South of Sutton Road, Langley, Maidstone, ME17 3NF. Seventeen trenches were excavated, two of which measured 40m in length, and fifteen of which measured 50m in length.</p> <p>The features identified in the eastern part of the evaluation indicate a later medieval/post-medieval rural landscape dating to between the 14th-18th centuries, with a series of linear features functioning as field boundaries and drainage ditches. In the western field, several undated and 14th-18th century ditches, and 14th-18th century or modern quarrying activity was recorded. No prehistoric, Roman or positively medieval finds were recovered in the evaluation.</p>					
Museum/Accession No.	Maidstone museum is not currently accepting archives, therefore the archives are currently being held at the Archaeology South-East office in Portslade, Sussex, and will be deposited at a suitable museum in due course.					

OASIS Form

OASIS ID: archaeol6-229583

Project details

Project name An Archaeological Evaluation at Land South of Sutton Road, Langley, Maidstone Kent

Archaeology South-East (ASE) was commissioned by RPS Planning and Development Limited (RPS) to undertake an Archaeological Evaluation at Land South of Sutton Road, Langley, Maidstone, ME17 3NF. Seventeen trenches were excavated, two of which measured 40m in length, and fifteen of which measured 50m in length.

Short description of the project The features identified in the eastern part of the evaluation indicate a later medieval/post-medieval rural landscape dating to between the 14th-18th centuries, with a series of linear features functioning as field boundaries and drainage ditches. In the western field, several undated and 14th-18th century ditches, and 14th-18th century or modern quarrying activity was recorded. No prehistoric, Roman or positively medieval finds were recovered in the evaluation.

Project dates Start: 26-10-2015 End: 30-10-2015

Previous/future work Yes / Not known

Type of project Field evaluation

Site status None

Current Land use Cultivated Land 1 - Minimal cultivation

Significant Finds BRICKS Post Medieval

Significant Finds PEG ROOFING TILES Post Medieval

Methods & techniques "Targeted Trenches"

Development type Urban residential (e.g. flats, houses, etc.)

Prompt Planning condition

Position in the planning process Pre-application

Project location

Country England

Site location KENT MAIDSTONE LANGLEY Sutton Road, Langley

Postcode ME17 3NF

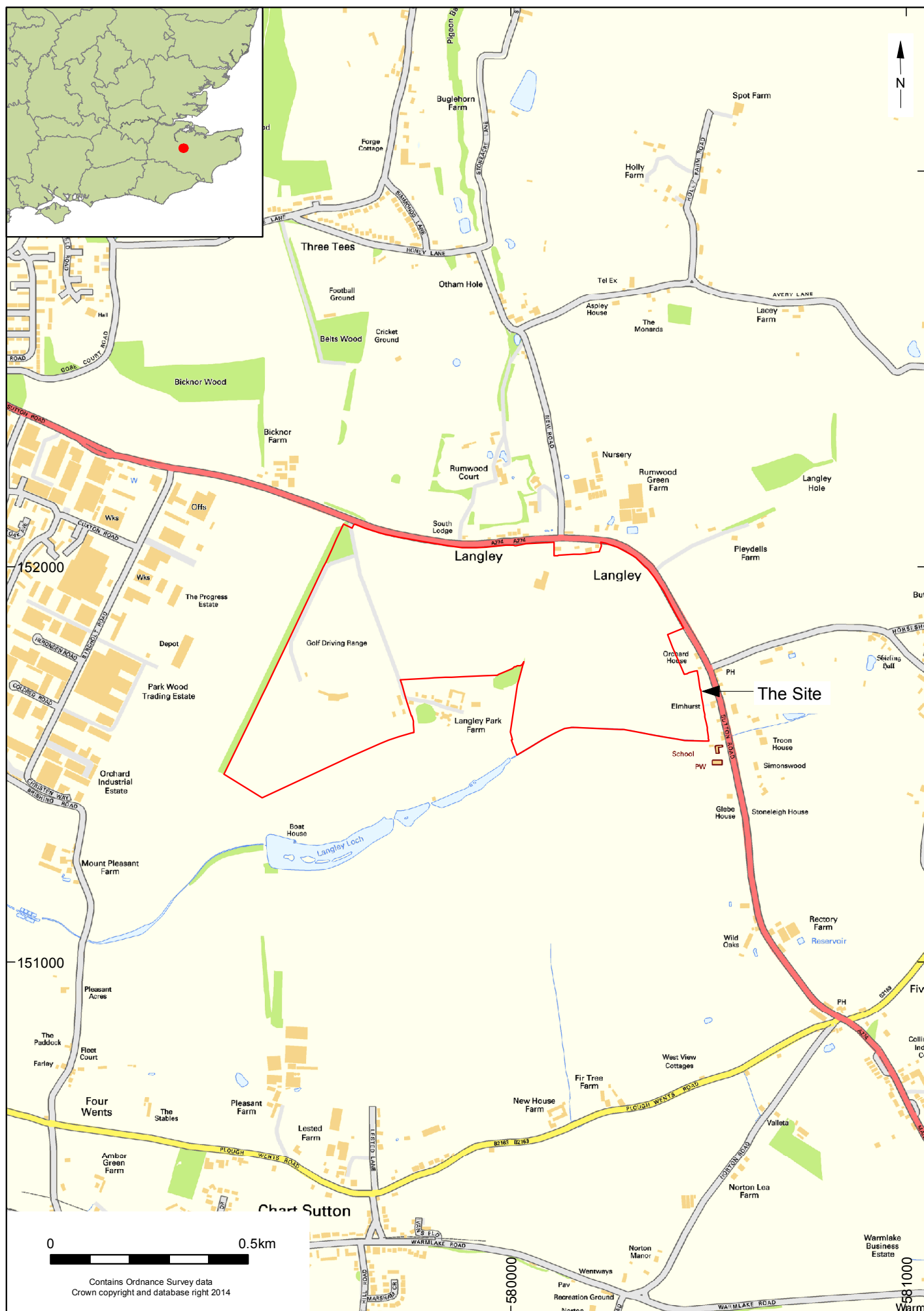
Study area 1 Kilometres

Site coordinates TQ 79860 51936 51.237646538824 0.576840394336 51 14 15 N
000 34 36 E Point

Height OD / Depth Min: 91.69m Max: 105.38m

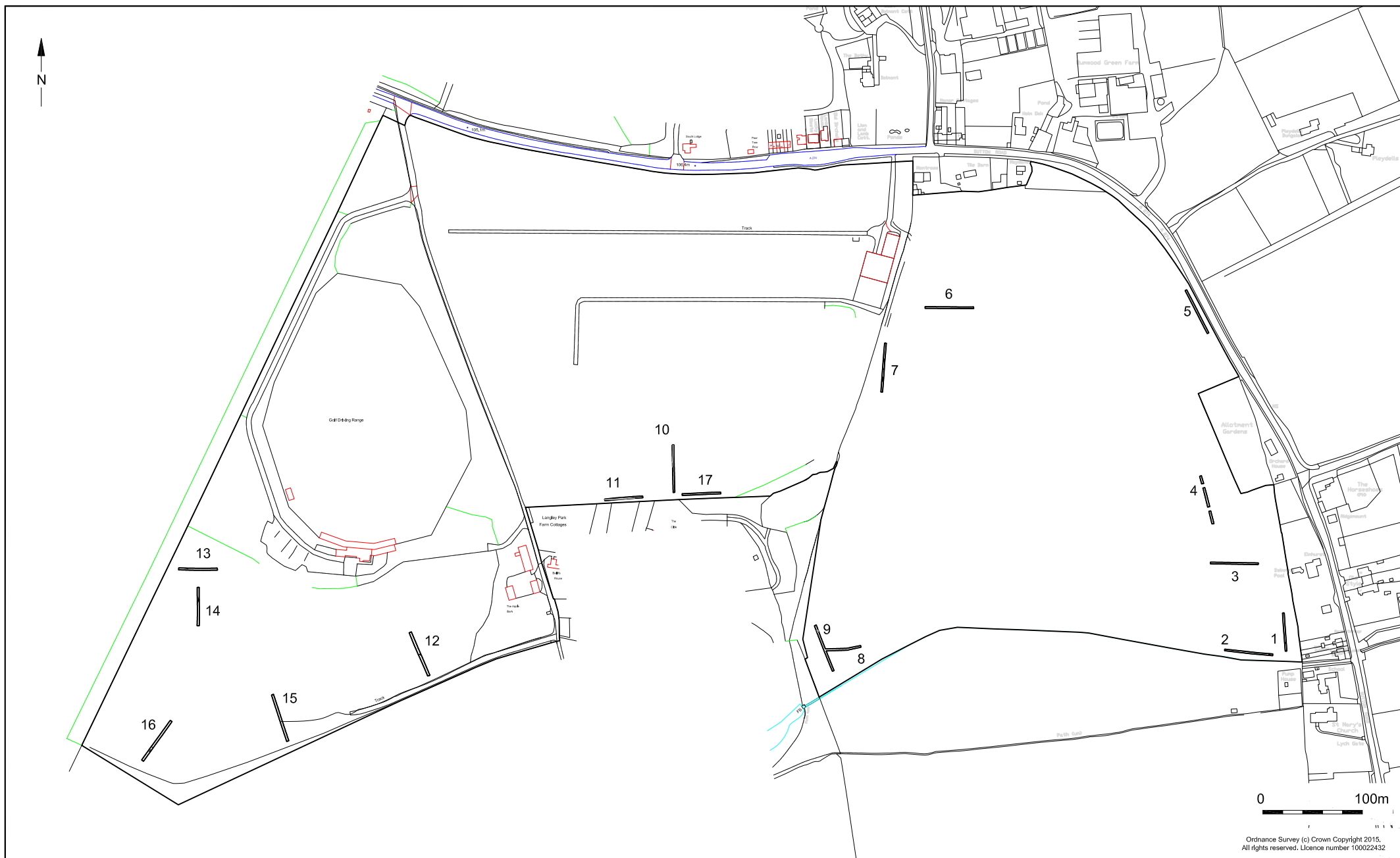
Project creators

Name of Organisation	Archaeology South-East
Project brief originator	Kent County Council
Project design originator	Kent County Council
Project director/manager	Paul Mason
Project supervisor	Gary Webster
Type of sponsor/funding body	RPS Planning and Development Limited
Project archives	
Physical Archive recipient	Local Museum
Physical Contents	"Ceramics"
Digital Archive recipient	Local Museum
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography", "Survey", "Text"
Paper Archive recipient	Local Museum
Paper Media available	"Context sheet", "Drawing", "Plan", "Report", "Section", "Survey "
Entered by	Catherine Douglas (catherine.douglas@ucl.ac.uk)
Entered on	9 November 2015

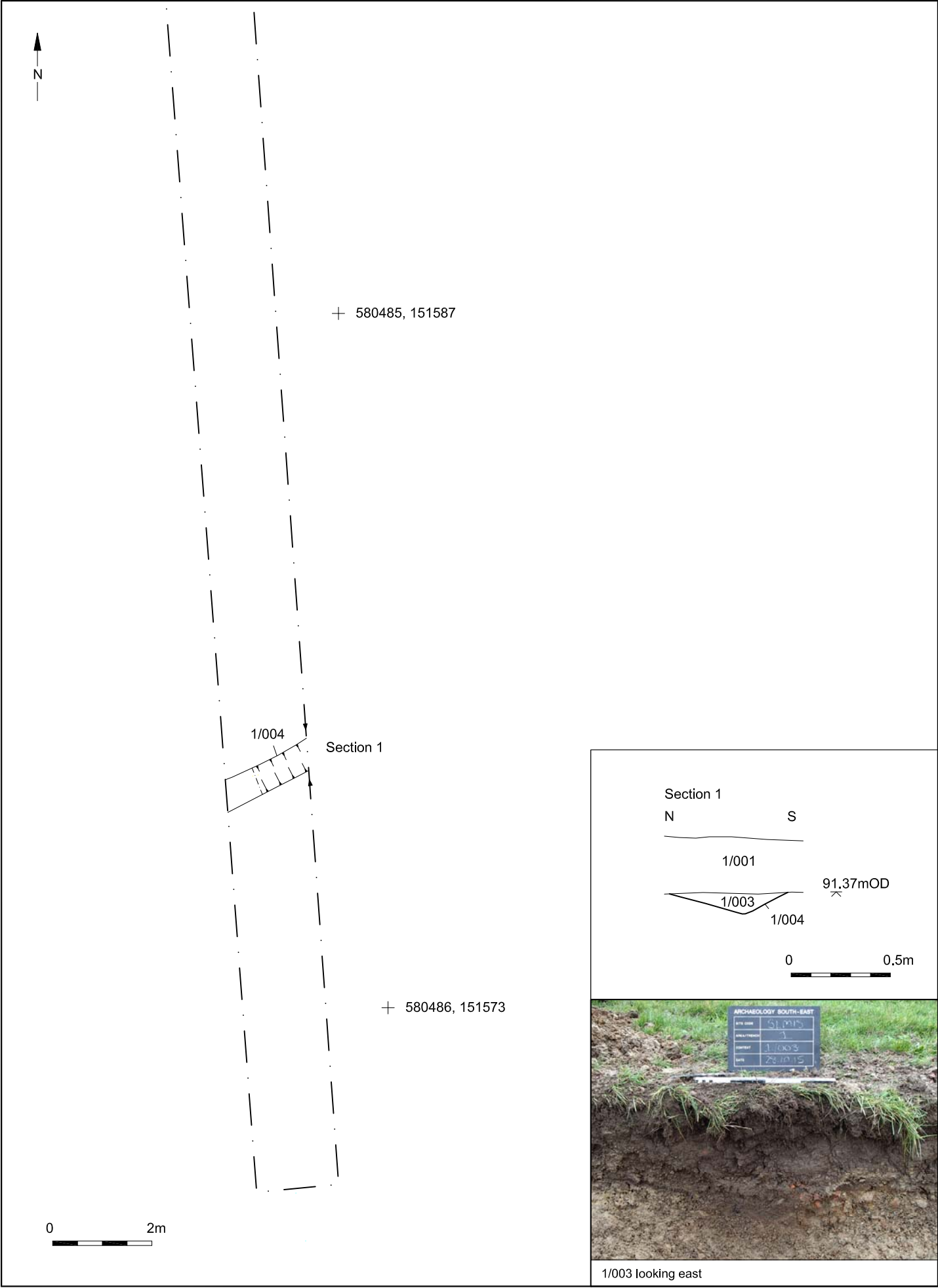


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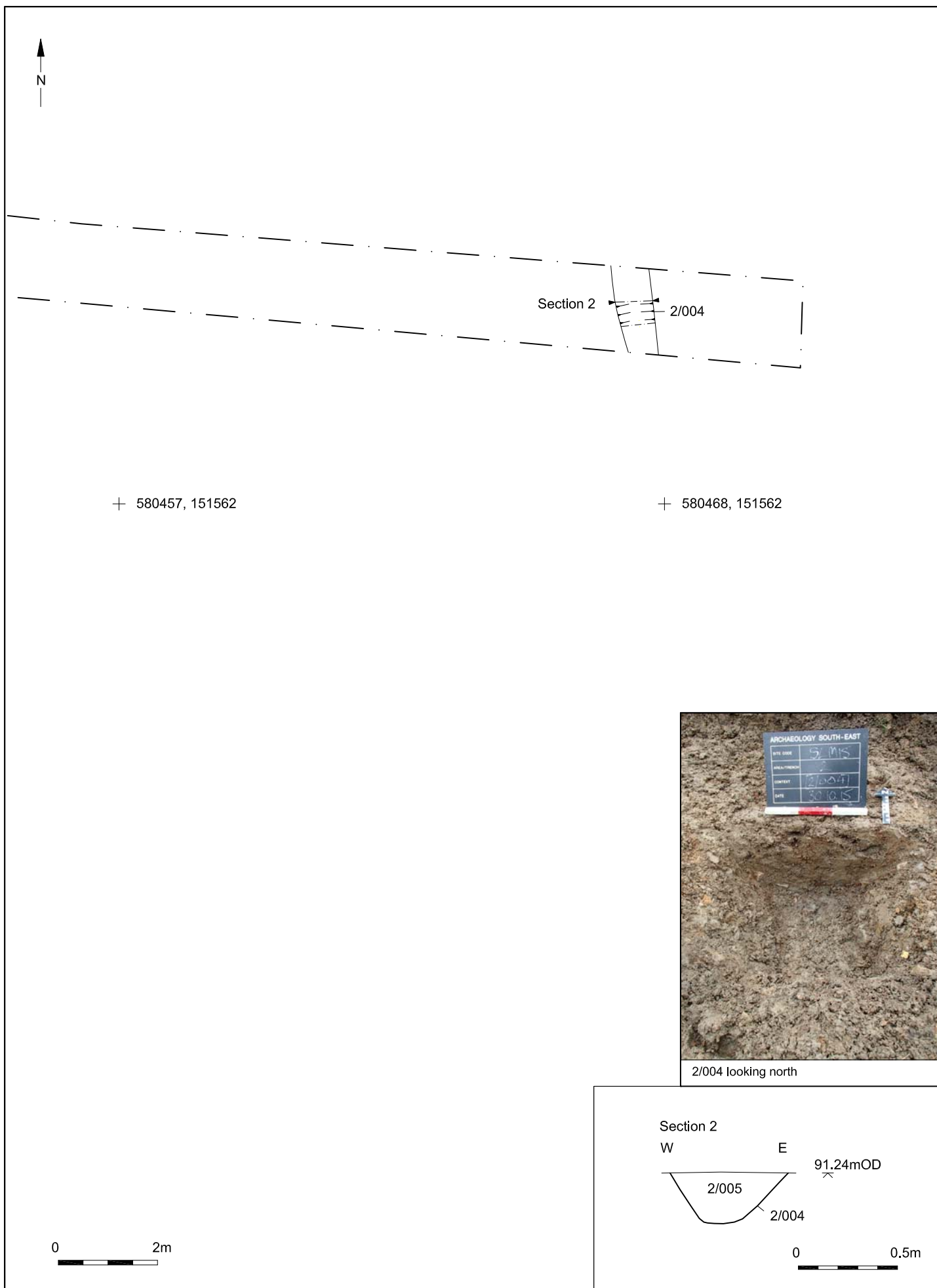
© Archaeology South-East		Sutton Lane, Maidstone	Fig. 1
Project Ref: 8500	Nov 2015	Site location	
Report Ref: 2015416	Drawn by: JLR		

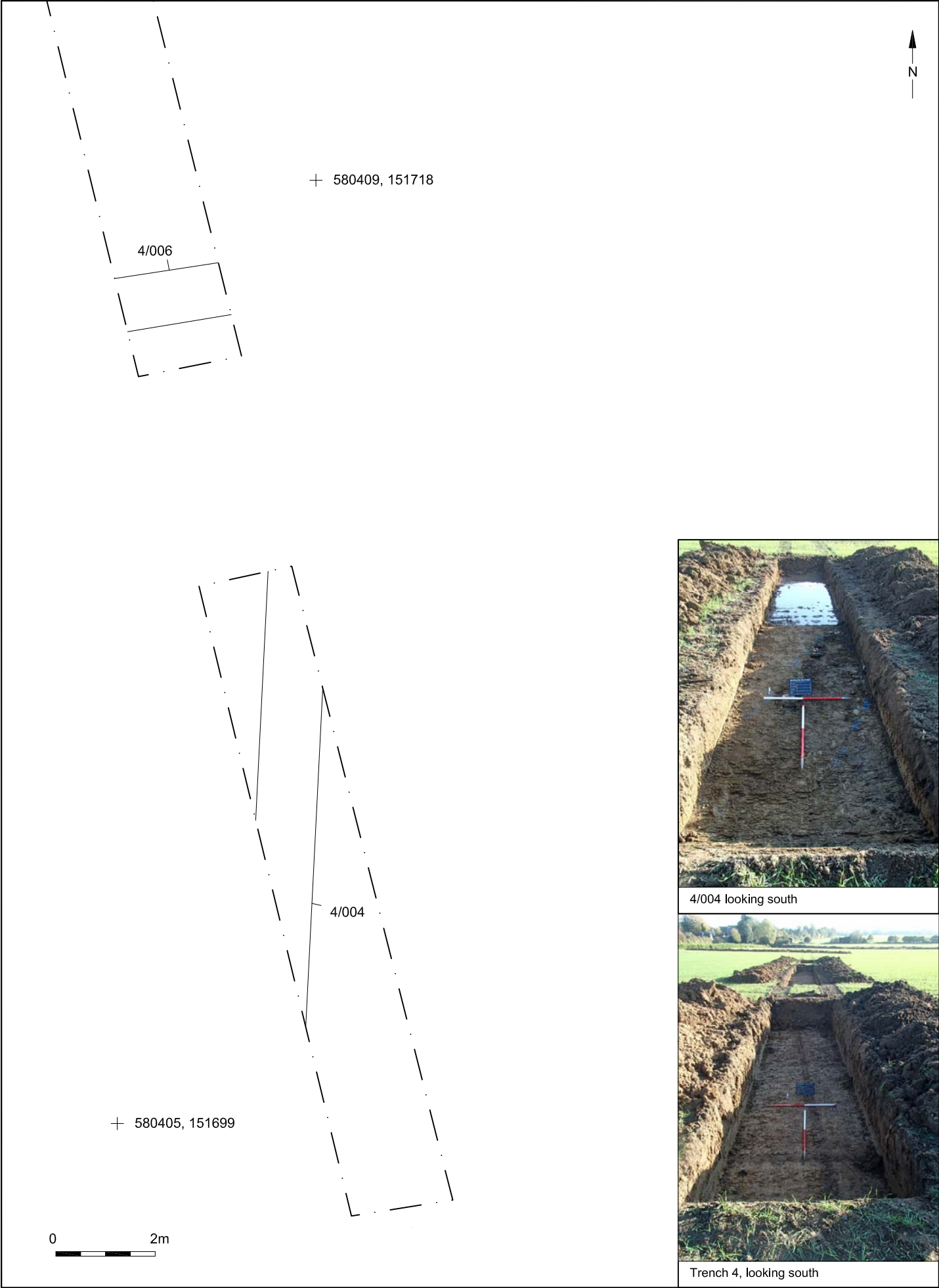


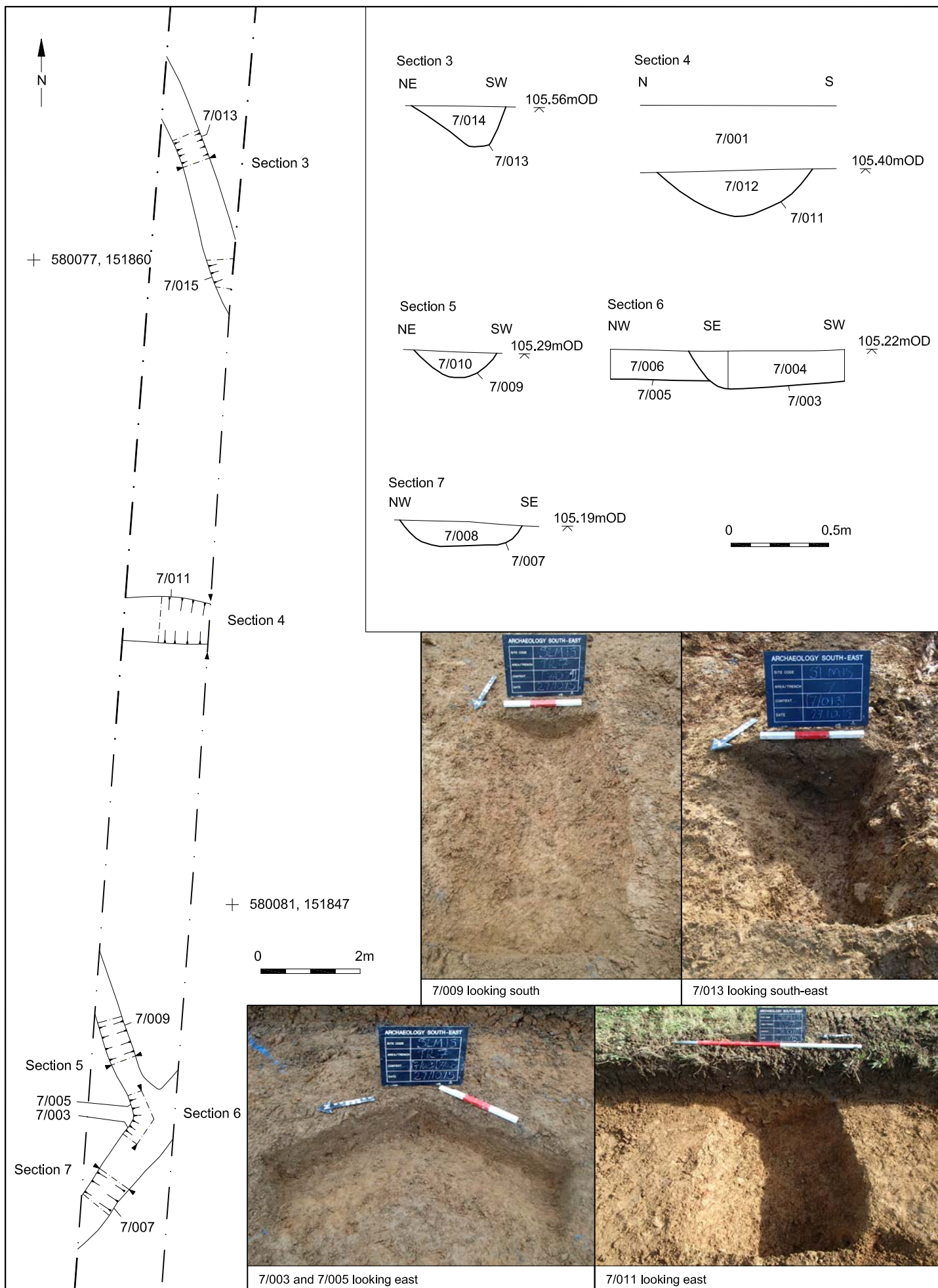
© Archaeology South-East		Sutton Lane, Maidstone	Fig. 2
Project Ref: 8500	Nov 2015	Trench location	
Report Ref: 2015416	Drawn by: JLR		

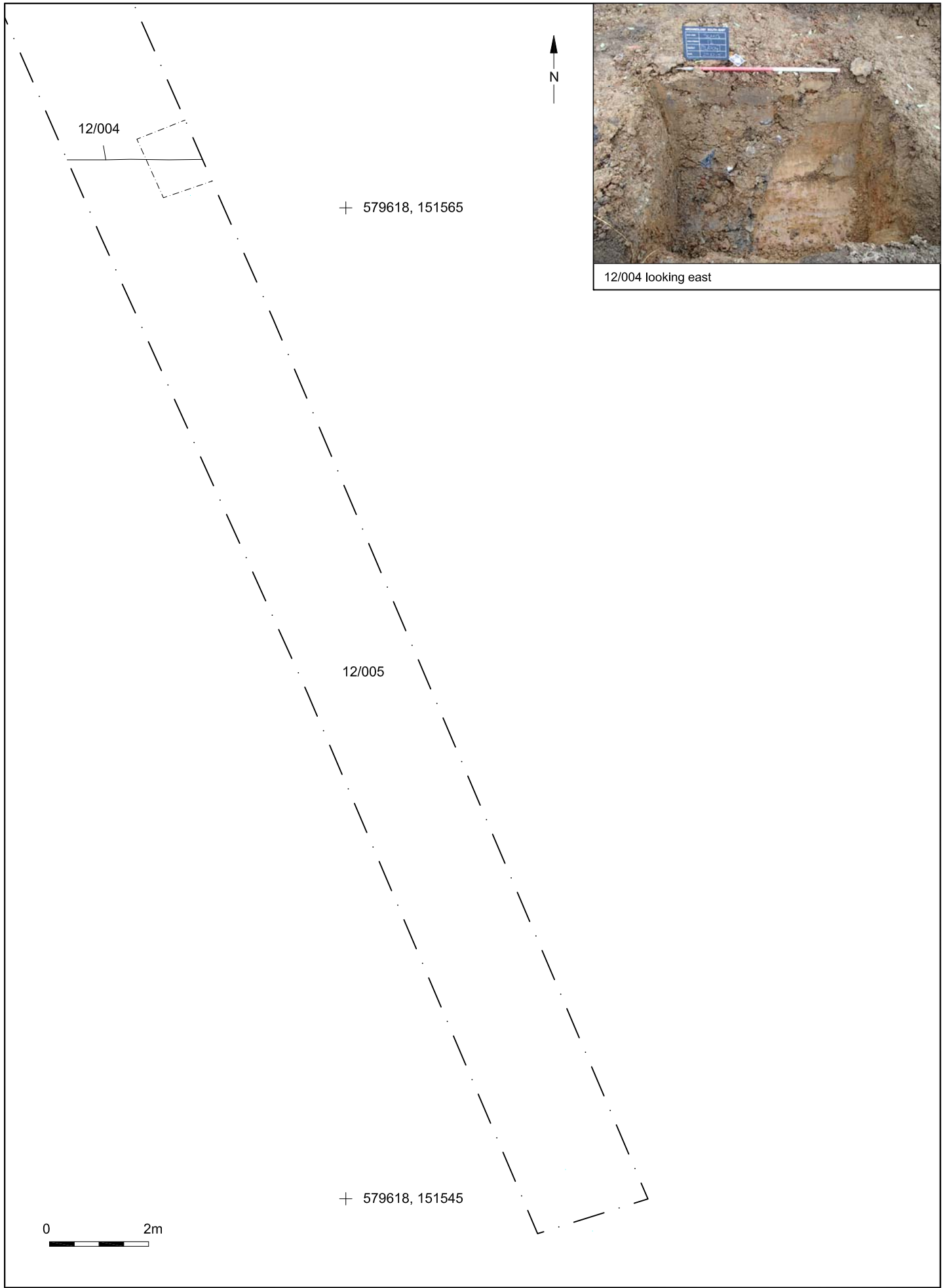


© Archaeology South-East		Sutton Lane, Maidstone	Fig. 3
Project Ref: 8500	Nov 2015	Trench 1: plan, section and photograph	
Report Ref: 2015416	Drawn by: JLR		

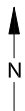




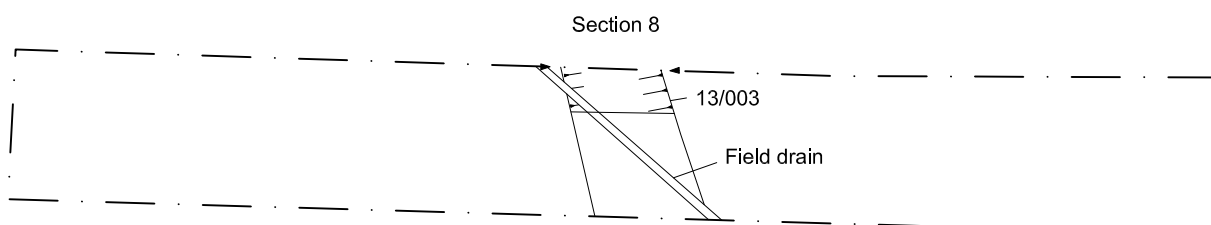




© Archaeology South-East		Sutton Lane, Maidstone		Fig. 7
Project Ref: 8500	Nov 2015	Trench 12: plan		
Report Ref: 2015416	Drawn by: JLR			



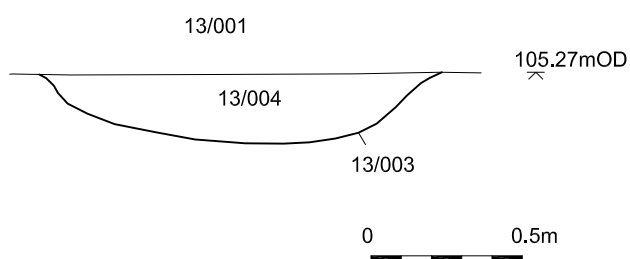
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0 2m

Section 8
W E



F13/003 looking north

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Project Ref: 8500

Nov 2015

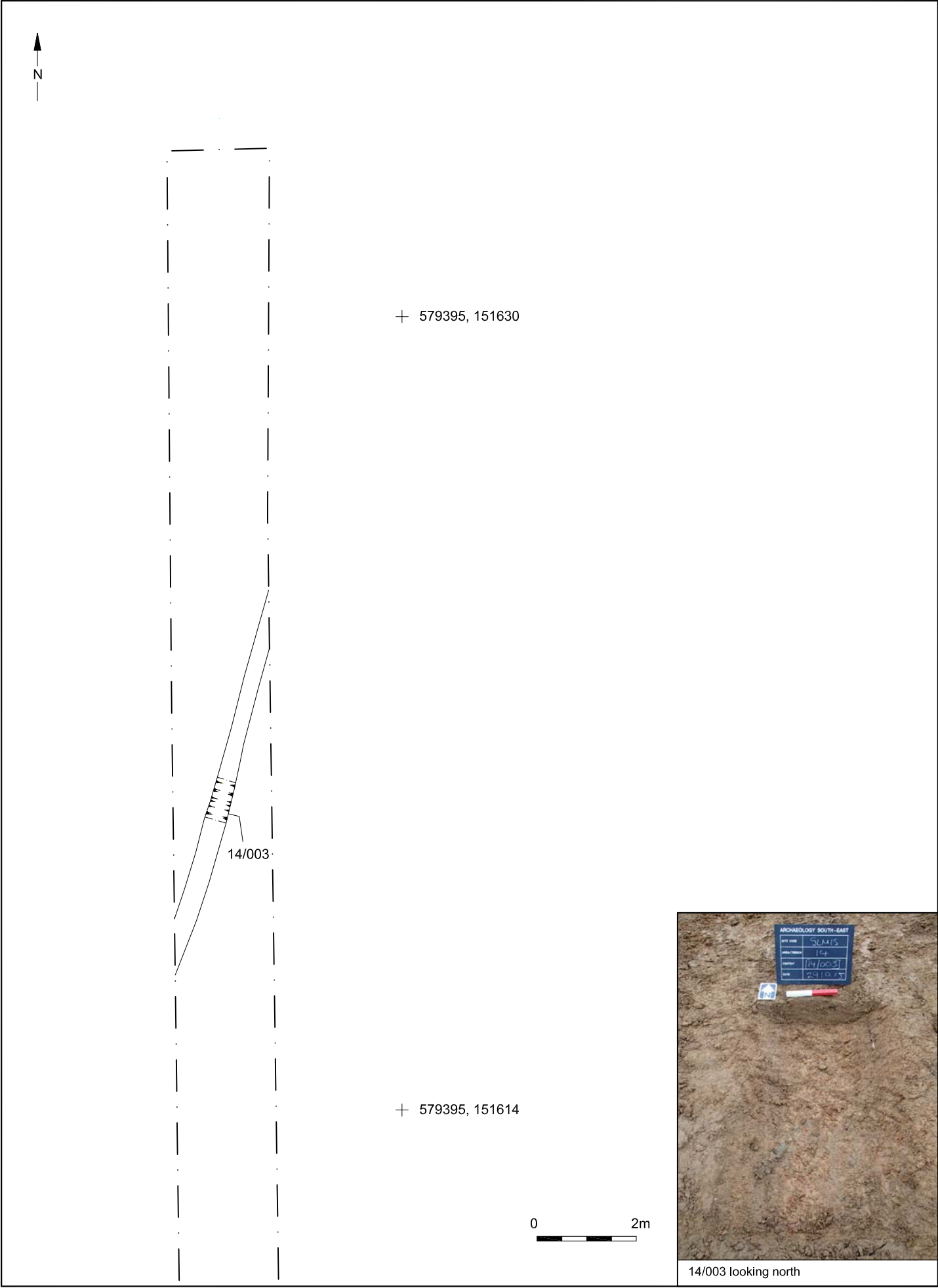
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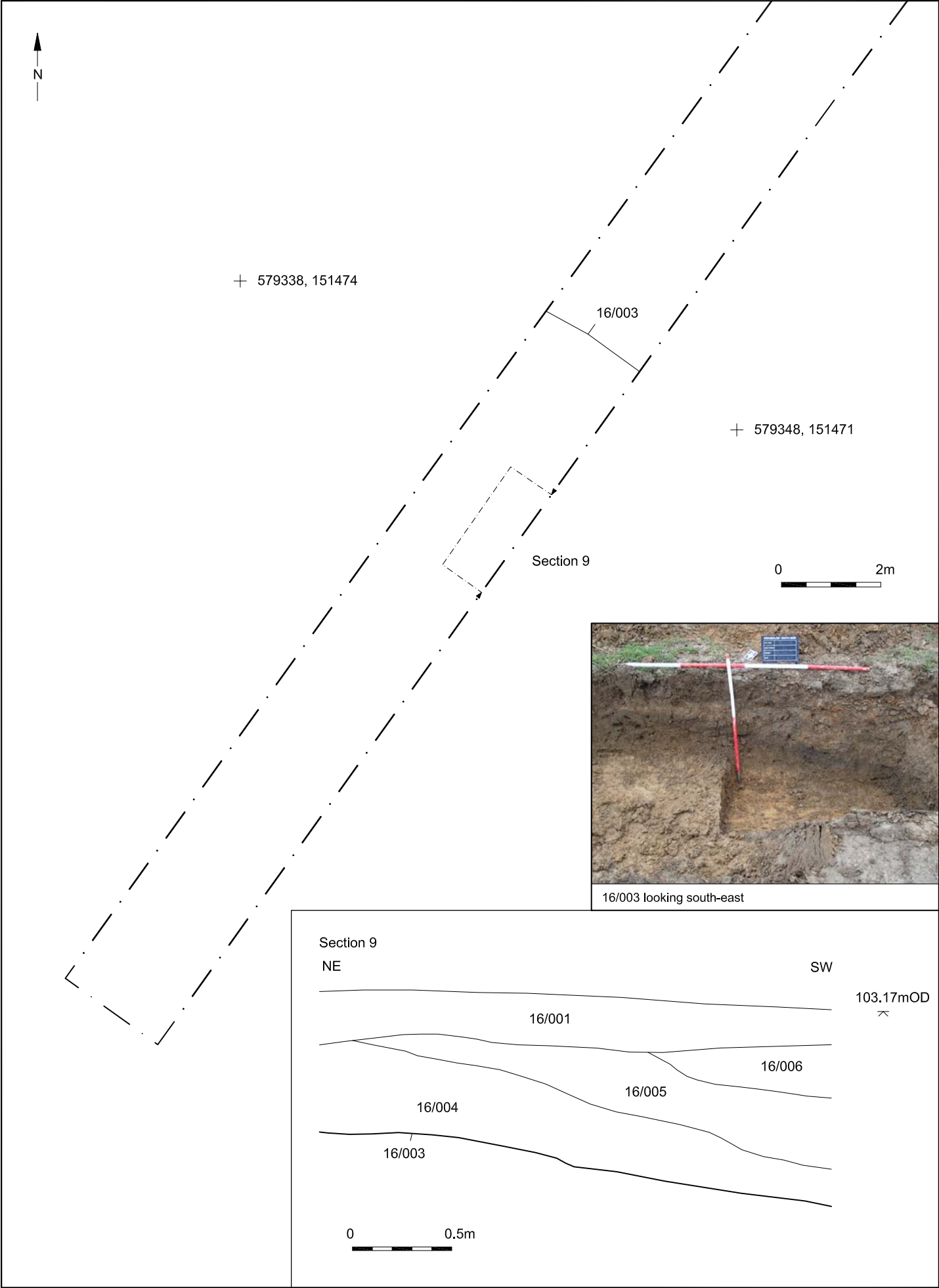
Sutton Lane, Maidstone

Trench 13: plan, section and photograph

Fig. 8



© Archaeology South-East		Sutton Lane, Maidstone	Fig. 9
Project Ref: 8500	Nov 2015	Trench 14: plan and photograph	
Report Ref: 2015416	Drawn by: JLR		



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