

**Archaeological Evaluation Report  
10 Buckland Road  
Maidstone, Kent**

**NGR: 575519 155647  
(TQ 75519 55647)**

**Planning Ref: 15/502813**

**ASE Project No: 7983  
Site Code: BRK15**

**ASE Report No: 2015471  
OASIS id: archaeol6-236778**



**By Ed Blinkhorn**

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|                                  |              |                 |  |
|----------------------------------|--------------|-----------------|--|
| <b>Prepared by:</b>              | Ed Blinkhorn | Archaeologist   |  |
| <b>Reviewed and approved by:</b> | Dan Swift    | Project Manager |  |
| <b>Date of Issue:</b>            | January 2016 |                 |  |
| <b>Revision:</b>                 |              |                 |  |

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## **Abstract**

*This report presents the results of an archaeological evaluation carried out by Archaeology South-East at 10 Buckland Road, Maidstone, Kent between 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> December 2015. The fieldwork was commissioned by J T Build Ltd in advance of residential development.*

*The evaluation uncovered evidence of a ditch and a gully, aligned north to south, buried by a levelling deposit of clay-silt and capped by made ground. The limited range of finds from the features and the overburden are suggestive of a post-medieval date. Superficial geology suspected to encroach on the site was not present. The archaeological deposits are of limited value.*

## **CONTENTS**

|            |                                   |
|------------|-----------------------------------|
| <b>1.0</b> | <b>Introduction</b>               |
| <b>2.0</b> | <b>Archaeological Background</b>  |
| <b>3.0</b> | <b>Archaeological Methodology</b> |
| <b>4.0</b> | <b>Results</b>                    |
| <b>5.0</b> | <b>The Finds</b>                  |
| <b>6.0</b> | <b>Discussion and Conclusions</b> |

**Bibliography**  
**Acknowledgements**

**HER Summary**  
**OASIS Form**

**Appendix 1: Archaeologically negative trenches: list of recorded contexts**

## **TABLES**

Table 1: Quantification of site paper archive  
Table 2: Quantification of artefact and environmental samples  
Table 3: Trench 3 list of recorded contexts  
Table 4: Trench 5 list of recorded contexts  
Table 5: Finds quantification

## **FIGURES**

Figure 1: Site location  
Figure 2: Trench location and proposed development  
Figure 3: Trench 3 plan, section and photographs  
Figure 4: Trench 5 plan, section and photographs  
Figure 5: Photographs

## **1.0 INTRODUCTION**

### **1.1 Site Background**

- 1.1.1 Archaeology South-East was commissioned by J T Build Ltd to undertake an archaeological evaluation on land at 10 Buckland Road, Maidstone, Kent, hereafter 'the site' (centred on NGR TQ 75519 55647; Figure 1).

### **1.2 Geology and Topography**

- 1.2.1 Land at the site is level at around 13m OD, although the immediate landscape suggests a rise from east to west, being situated on the western side of the Medway valley. The site has been previously developed and more recently was a used car lot. The site is bounded by Buckland Road to the west, residential properties to the north and south and the railway boundary wall to the east.
- 1.2.2 British Geological Survey mapping (BGS 2015) shows the underlying solid geology of the site to comprise Atherfield Clay Formation of sandstone and mudstone, and the site is adjacent to superficial River Terrace deposits of sand and gravel.

### **1.3 Planning Background**

- 1.3.1 Draft planning permission has been granted for the residential redevelopment of the Phase 2 site (Medway Council planning ref: 15/502813). The LPA's consultation with Wendy Rogers, KCC Senior Archaeological Officer resulted in the following response:

*"AR1 No development shall take place until the applicant, or their agents or successors in title, has secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological work in accordance with a written specification and timetable which has been submitted to and approved by the Local Planning Authority.*

*Reason: To ensure that features of archaeological interest are properly examined and recorded."*

- 1.3.2 A Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for the archaeological evaluation of the development site was prepared by ASE (2015) in accordance with relevant Standards and Guidance of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA). Work reported upon here was undertaken in line with guidelines set out in Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE; Historic England 2015), as specified in the WSI. The WSI was submitted to all parties for approval prior to the commencement of work at the site.
- 1.3.3 Fieldwork was undertaken in accordance with the Kent County Council Manual of Specifications for Evaluation (see Appendix B), which outlines the methodology to be used in the field, and in reporting and archiving of the results.

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

- 1.4.1 This report details the results of an archaeological evaluation carried out on the site between the 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> October 2015. It has been prepared in accordance with an approved Written Scheme of Investigation (ASE 2015).
- 1.4.2 Fieldwork was undertaken by Ed Blinkhorn and Sam Riley.

## **2.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND**

### **2.1 Introduction**

- 2.1.1 Further to discussion with the KCC Senior Archaeological Officer, ASE understands that the development lies within an area of multi-period archaeological potential within the urban centre of Maidstone.

### **2.2 Palaeolithic**

- 2.2.1 Due to the proximity of the site to mapped river terrace sands and gravels, the site has some potential for Palaeolithic archaeology. Wymer (1999) notes Palaeolithic finds from similar altitudes and stratigraphic locations in the valley immediately to the north of Maidstone.

### **2.3 Mesolithic to Post-Medieval**

- 2.3.1 A Bronze Age ditch and Romano-British artefacts have been found under St Peters Church to the east of site, which itself is part of a medieval and post medieval hospital and religious establishment. St Peters Church was the chapel of the hospital and buried structures associated with the hospital have been located.

### **2.4 Project Aims and Objectives**

- 2.4.1 The broad aims of the evaluation, in keeping with previous similar projects are:

- To assess the character, extent, preservation, significance, date and quality of any remains and deposits
- To assess how they might be affected by the development of the site
- To establish the extent to which previous groundworks and/or other processes have affected archaeological deposits at the site
- To assess what options should be considered for mitigation

- 2.4.2 The project will seek to address the following areas of research from the South Eastern Research Framework (SERF)

- To determine the presence/absence of river terrace deposits and their Palaeolithic archaeological potential
- Identify possible prehistoric or Roman activity in the area
- Inform understanding of medieval and post-medieval Maidstone and the nearby St Peter's Church and hospital

### **3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY**

#### **3.1 Fieldwork Methodology**

- 3.1.1 Fieldwork comprised the excavation of five trenches of varying lengths (Figure 2). Due to on-site space constraints and services, the original configuration of six trenches measuring a total of 31m x 1.80m required modification. The KCC LPA agreed that the modified configuration was acceptable.
- 3.1.2 Five trenches were excavated within the footprint of the proposed construction and retained the numbering system from the proposed trench layout. Trenches 5 and 6 retained their original configuration. Trenches 2, 3 and 4 were each extended to compensate for the abandonment of Trench 1 which had been positioned outside of the proposed construction, in an area of reinforced concrete.
- 3.1.3 The locations of all the trenches were checked with a CAT scanner by accredited ASE personnel prior to excavation.
- 3.1.4 Trenches were excavated using an 8T mechanical excavator fitted with a smooth grading bucket. The trenches were excavated through undifferentiated modern made ground in spits of no more than 0.10m with artefact recovery taking place every scrape until either archaeological deposits or the top of the underlying geological sediments were encountered.
- 3.1.5 Exposed archaeological deposits were cleaned by hand and recorded in plan and section. During the evaluation archaeological features/deposits were excavated sufficiently thoroughly enough to characterise them. Due to the depth at which one feature was encountered, it was sample excavated by machine and recorded from ground level.

## 3.2 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. The contents of the archive are tabulated below.

|                      |    |
|----------------------|----|
| Context sheets       | 6  |
| Section sheets       | 1  |
| Plans sheets         | 0  |
| Colour photographs   | 0  |
| B&W photos           | 0  |
| Digital photos       | 46 |
| Context register     | 1  |
| Drawing register     | 1  |
| Watching brief forms | 0  |
| Trench Record forms  | 5  |

Table 1: Quantification of site paper archive

|  |       |
|--|-------|
| Bulk finds (quantity e.g. 1 bag, 1 box, 0.5 box 0.5 of a box )                 | ½ box |
| Registered finds (number of)   | 0     |
| Flots and environmental remains from bulk samples                              | 0     |
| Palaeoenvironmental specialists sample samples (e.g. columns, prepared slides) | 0     |
| Waterlogged wood   | 0     |
| Wet sieved environmental remains from bulk samples                             | 0     |

Table 2: Quantification of artefact and environmental samples

## 4.0 RESULTS

### 4.1 Trench 3

(Figure 3)

| Context | Type  | Interpretation    | Length m | Width m | Depth m | Height m AOD |
|---------|-------|-------------------|----------|---------|---------|--------------|
| [3/001] | Layer | Made Ground       | 7.50+    | 1.80+   | 0.40    | 11.84        |
| [3/002] | Layer | Levelling deposit | 7.50+    | 1.80+   | 0.50    | 11.44        |
| [3/003] | Fill  | Ditch fill        | 7.50+    | 1.10    | 1.20    | 10.94        |
| [3/004] | Cut   | Ditch             | 7.50+    | 1.10    | 1.20    | 10.94        |
| [3/005] | Layer | Atherfield Clay   | SITE     | SITE    | SITE    | 10.94        |

Table 3: Trench 3 list of recorded contexts

- 4.1.1 Deposits observed in Trench 3 conformed to those elsewhere at the site, comprising made ground overlying a depth of levelling deposit deriving from the Atherfield Clay, reworked to include slate, CBM and other recent finds.
- 4.1.2 The lone feature identified was a ditch [3/004] running north-south slightly oblique to the alignment of the trench and broadly in line with the rear wall of the adjacent property to the north. Finds from the single homogenous greyish-brown clay-silt fill [3/003] comprised animal bone and chunks of Kentish Ragstone.
- 4.1.3 The upper horizon of the ditch had been truncated during levelling or making up of ground, obscuring the true depth and profile of the feature. An east-west aligned concrete footing had truncated some of the ditch approximately in the middle of the trench.

### 4.2 Trench 5

(Figure 4)

| Context | Type  | Interpretation  | Length m | Width m | Depth m | Height m AOD |
|---------|-------|-----------------|----------|---------|---------|--------------|
| [5/001] | Layer | Made Ground     | 5.00+    | 1.80+   | 0.90    | 12.15        |
| [5/002] | Layer | Atherfield Clay | SITE     | SITE    | SITE    | 11.85        |
| [5/003] | Fill  | Drain fill      | 2.00+    | 0.60    | 0.30    | 11.85        |
| [5/004] | Cut   | Gully/Drain     | 2.00+    | 0.60    | 0.30    | 11.85        |

Table 4: Trench 5 list of recorded contexts

- 4.2.1 Similar to Trench 3, made ground (including shallow depths of levelling deposit) directly overlay the Atherfield Clay.
- 4.2.2 A small shallow probable drain [5/004] cut into bedrock ran north-south in the trench and was filled with a dark greyish-brown clay-silt [5/003] including frequent charcoal flecks and occasional animal bone, tile, shell, Ragstone and modern wood finds.

### **4.3 Trenches 2, 4, and 6**

(Figure 5)

- 4.3.1 Deposits in negative trenches, as for all trenches at the site, followed the same stratigraphic sequence. Made ground, comprising Tarmac, concrete, and mixed crush/hardcore was typically between 0.26 m and 0.50 m thick, overlying a dark brownish-grey levelling deposit of clay-silt probably deriving from reworked Atherfield Clay (bedrock). The overburden directly overlay Atherfield Clay, which varied in composition (clays and sands) and colour (reddish-brown and greenish-grey) across site.

## 5.0 THE FINDS

### 5.1 Summary

- 5.1.1 A small assemblage of finds was recovered and washed and dried or air dried as appropriate. They were subsequently quantified by count and weight and were bagged by material and context (Table 5). All finds have been packed and stored following ClfA guidelines (2014). No further conservation is required.

| Context | CBM | Wt(g) | Bone | Wt(g) | Shell | Wt(g) | Stone | Wt(g) |
|---------|-----|-------|------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| 3/003   |     |       | 9    | 464   |       |       |       |       |
| 5/004   | 2   | 79    | 8    | 62    | 11    | 32    | 1     | 29    |

Table 5: Finds quantification

### 5.2 Ceramic Building Material (CBM) by Elena Baldi

- 5.2.1 Two pieces of ceramic building material (CBM) weighing 79 g were recovered from context [5/004] of an evaluation trench, the cut of a gully. These are conjoining parts of a medieval or post-medieval peg tile.

### 5.3 Geological Material by Elena Baldi

- 5.3.1 One fragment of roofing slate tile was found from context [5/004], weighing 29g. The piece may be Welsh roofing slate but is too small for definitive identification.

### 5.4 Animal Bone by Gemma Ayton

- 5.4.1 A small assemblage of animal bone containing 17 fragments was recovered through hand-collection from two contexts including [3/003] and [5/004]. The assemblage is in a moderate to good state of preservation with large fragments but no complete bones remaining. The identifiable bone from context [3/003] includes a cattle and a caprine mandible and a dog tibia and pelvic fragment. The identifiable bone from context [5/004] includes a well-preserved, domestic fowl humerus alongside medium and large-mammal long-bone fragments. There is no evidence of gnawing, burning, butchery or pathology on the bones.

### 5.5 Marine Molluscs by Elena Baldi

- 5.5.1 The excavations recovered only small quantities of marine shells from context [5/004], a total of 11 fragments with a weight of 32 g; only one oyster seems fairly intact, whilst all the others are very fragmented. All but two pieces are fragments of oyster (*Ostrea edulis* L.) and two are small fragments of mussel (*Mytilus edulis*).

## **6.0 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS**

### **6.1 Overview of stratigraphic sequence**

- 6.1.1 The stratigraphic sequence was consistent across the site and comprised Atherfield Clay bedrock at between 11.01 OD and 11.85 OD, overlain by a levelling deposit of reworked Atherfield Clay containing assorted crushed CBM, tiles and slates. This in turn was capped by mixed crush and hardcore, topped with Tarmac.
- 6.1.2 Only two features were identified, one north-south ditch containing animal bone was found in Trench 3 and a small gully/drain, also aligned north-south, was found in Trench 5 and contained small amounts of post-medieval/modern CBM, bone, shell and slate.
- 6.1.3 Considering the valley-side location of the site, the occurrence of a levelling deposit is unsurprising and that this layer probably derives from the local geology is equally unsurprising. Dating the features is based wholly on the sparse finds assemblage although it is likely that they relate to post-medieval activity.
- 6.1.4 Trenching has sufficiently identified the sparse distribution of features at the site, and demonstrated that river terrace gravels of the Medway were not present.

### **6.2 Deposit survival and existing impacts**

- 6.2.1 Moderate degrees of truncation can be expected at the site, through the making up of ground and levelling works, although this is likely to vary across the site.

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

- 6.3.1 Probable post-medieval features were encountered underneath made ground, and a probable levelling deposit. Historic mapping does not show any possible features to which these may be related. Until the 1930s, the plot remained undeveloped and the archaeology may predate the earliest OS maps, when the site was open land apparently associated with the house to the south.
- 6.3.5 The archaeological deposits are of only limited interest due to their relatively recent origins and restricted range of finds, and are at depths which will only be minimally impacted upon by the proposed development.

### **6.4 Consideration of research aims**

- 6.4.1 The evaluation successfully assessed surviving archaeology at the site and established that moderate degrees of truncation can be expected, probably occurring during levelling works at the site. Fieldwork has established that superficial geological deposits are not present at the site, and that only marginally interesting post-medieval archaeological remains are present. These deposits can only help develop understanding of post-medieval Maidstone in an aggregate study of the area.

## **6.5 Conclusions**

- 6.5.1 Two post-medieval features found beneath made ground are the only discoveries made during evaluation works at the site. Whilst they demonstrate that archaeology survives underneath levelled ground on the flanks of the river valley, little can be learned from these in solitude. No Pleistocene deposits were identified.

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## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

ASE would like to thank J T Build Ltd for commissioning the work and for their assistance throughout the project, and Wendy Rogers County Archaeologist Kent County Council for her guidance and monitoring. The excavation was directed by Ed Blinkhorn and was assisted by Sam Riley. Justin Russell who produced the figures for this report; Jon Sygrave project managed the excavations and Jim Stevenson and Dan Swift project managed the post-excavation process.

## HER Summary

|                                       |  |             |           |                |          |       |
|---------------------------------------|--|-------------|-----------|----------------|----------|-------|
| <b>HER enquiry no.</b>                |  |             |           |                |          |       |
| <b>Site code</b>                      | BRK15  |             |           |                |          |       |
| <b>Project code</b>                   | 7983   |             |           |                |          |       |
| <b>Planning reference</b>             | 15/502813  |             |           |                |          |       |
| <b>Site address</b>                   | 10 Buckland Road, Maidstone, Kent, ME16 0SL  |             |           |                |          |       |
| <b>District/Borough</b>               | Maidstone  |             |           |                |          |       |
| <b>NGR (12 figures)</b>               | 575519 155647  |             |           |                |          |       |
| <b>Geology</b>                        | Atherfield Clay  |             |           |                |          |       |
| <b>Fieldwork type</b>                 | Eval   | Excav       | WB        | HBR            | Survey   | Other |
| <b>Date of fieldwork</b>              | 16-17 <sup>th</sup> December 2015  |             |           |                |          |       |
| <b>Sponsor/client</b>                 | Courtland Ltd.   |             |           |                |          |       |
| <b>Project manager</b>                | Jon Sygrave  |             |           |                |          |       |
| <b>Project supervisor</b>             | Ed Blinkhorn   |             |           |                |          |       |
| <b>Period summary</b>                 | Palaeolithic   | Mesolithic  | Neolithic | Bronze Age     | Iron Age |       |
|                                       | Roman  | Anglo-Saxon | Medieval  | Post-Medieval? | Other    |       |
| <b>Project summary (100 word max)</b> | An archaeological evaluation was conducted at 10 Buckland Road, Maidstone, Kent NGR 559820 104967, between the 16th and 17th December 2015. Five trenches measuring up to 9.5m in length were excavated. Small quantities of post-medieval/modern finds were recovered from two linear features, and also from the overburden across the site. No Pleistocene river terrace gravels were encountered at the site. The archaeological findings are of limited interest. |             |           |                |          |       |
| <b>Museum/Accession No.</b>           |  |             |           |                |          |       |

## Finds summary

| Find type   | Material | Period                | Quantity |
|-------------|----------|-----------------------|----------|
| Animal Bone | Osseous  | Medieval-Modern       | 17       |
| CBM         | Ceramic  | Medieval-Postmedieval | 2        |
| Roof Tile   | Slate    | Medieval-Modern       | 1        |
| Molluscs    | Shells   | Medieval-Modern       | 11       |

## OASIS Form

**OASIS ID: archaeol6-236778**

### Project details

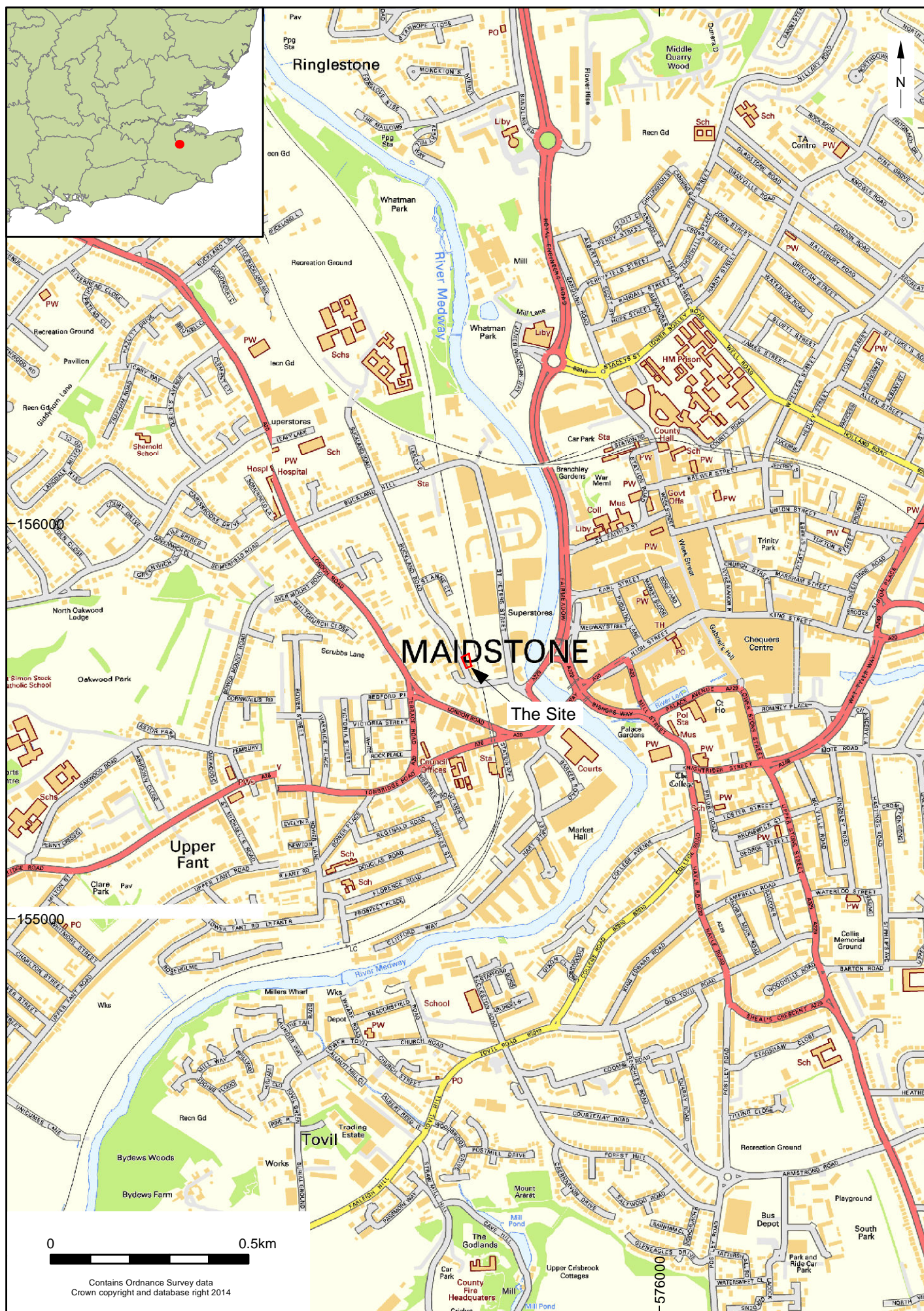
|  |  |
|--|--|
| Project name                           | 10 Buckland Road, Maidstone  |
| Short description of the project       | An archaeological evaluation was conducted at 10 Buckland Road, Maidstone, Kent NGR 559820 104967, between the 16th and 17th December 2015. Five trenches measuring up to 9.5m in length were excavated. Small quantities of post-medieval/modern finds were recovered from two linear features, and also from the overburden across the site. No Pleistocene river terrace gravels were encountered at the site. The archaeological findings are of limited interest. |
| Project dates                          | Start: 16-12-2015 End: 17-12-2015  |
| Previous/future work                   | No / Not known   |
| Any associated project reference codes | 7983 - Contracting Unit No.  |
| Any associated project reference codes | BRK15 - Sitecode   |
| Type of project                        | Field evaluation   |
| Site status                            | None   |
| Current Land use                       | Other 13 - Waste ground  |
| Monument type                          | DITCH Post Medieval  |
| Monument type                          | GULLY Post Medieval  |
| Significant Finds                      | N/A Post Medieval  |
| Methods & techniques                   | "Sample Trenches"  |
| Development type                       | Small-scale (e.g. single house, etc.)  |
| Prompt                                 | Planning condition   |
| Position in the planning process       | Not known / Not recorded   |
| Project location                       |  |
| Country                                | England  |
| Site location                          | KENT MAIDSTONE MAIDSTONE 10 Buckland Road, Maidstone   |
| Postcode                               | ME16 0SL   |
| Study area                             | 0 Square metres  |
| Site coordinates                       | TQ 75517 55649 51.272362311091 0.516505205085 51 16 20<br>N 000 30 59 E Point  |
| Height OD / Depth                      | Min: 11.01m Max: 11.85m  |
| Project creators                       |  |
| Name of                                | Archaeology South-East   |

Organisation

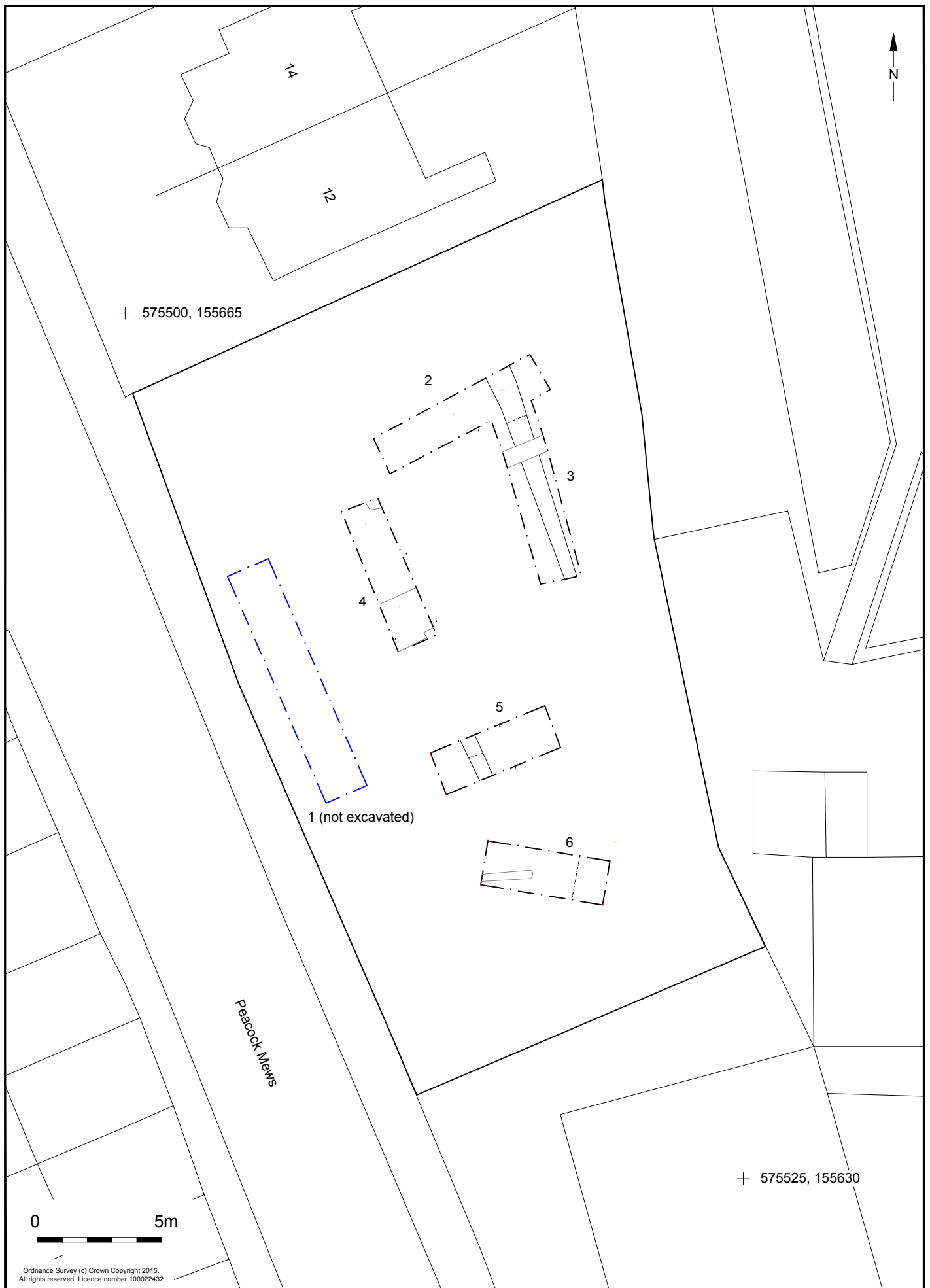
|                              |   |
|------------------------------|---|
| Project brief originator     | Archaeology South-East                                |
| Project design originator    | Archaeology South-East                                |
| Project director/manager     | Jon Sygrave   |
| Project supervisor           | Ed Blinkhorn  |
| Type of sponsor/funding body | client  |
| Name of sponsor/funding body | J T Build Ltd   |
| Project archives             |   |
| Physical Archive recipient   | Local Museum  |
| Physical Contents            | "Animal Bones","Ceramics","other"                     |
| Digital Archive recipient    | Local Museum  |
| Digital Contents             | "none"  |
| Digital Media available      | "Images raster / digital photography","Survey","Text" |
| Paper Archive recipient      | Local Museum  |
| Paper Contents               | "none"  |
| Paper Media available        | "Miscellaneous Material"                              |
| Entered by                   | Ed Blinkhorn (e.blinkhorn@ucl.ac.uk)                  |
| Entered on                   | 7 January 2016  |

**Appendix 1: Archaeologically negative trenches: list of recorded contexts**

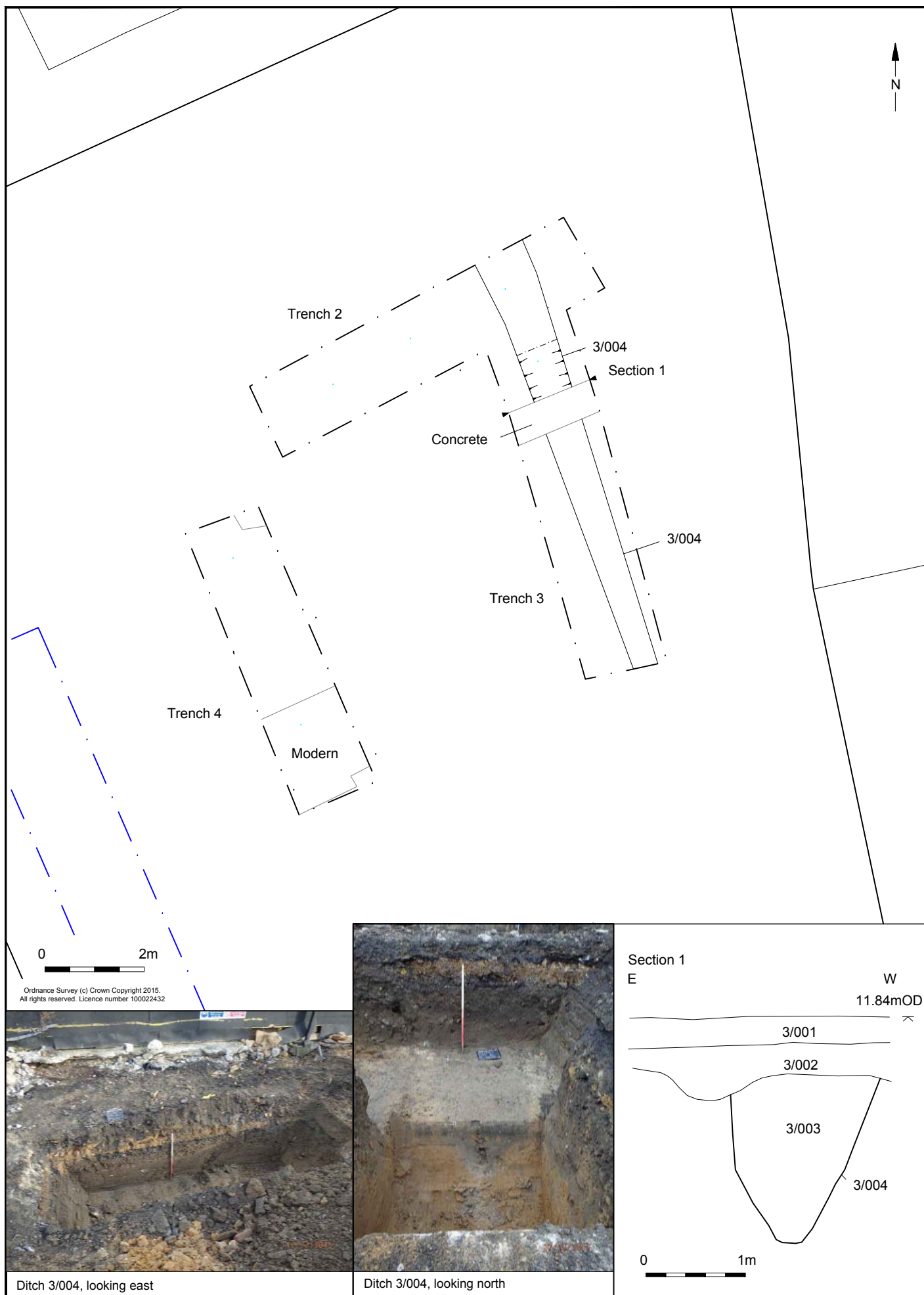
| <b>Trench</b> | <b>Context</b> | <b>Type</b> | <b>Interpretation</b> | <b>Depth m</b> | <b>Height m AOD</b> |
|---------------|----------------|-------------|-----------------------|----------------|---------------------|
| 2             | 2/001          | Layer       | Made Ground           | 0.50           | 12.01               |
| 2             | 2/002          | Layer       | Levelling Deposit     | 0.50-0.60      | 11.51               |
| 2             | 2/003          | Layer       | Atherfield Clay       | 0.30+          | 11.01               |
| 4             | 4/001          | Layer       | Made Ground           | 0.25-0.26      | 12.10               |
| 4             | 4/002          | Layer       | Levelling Deposit     | 0.36-0.50      | 11.85               |
| 4             | 4/003          | Layer       | Atherfield Clay       | 0.25+          | 11.49               |
| 6             | 6/001          | Layer       | Made Ground           | 0.70-0.80      | 12.28               |
| 6             | 6/002          | Layer       | Atherfield Clay       | 0.20+          | 11.48               |

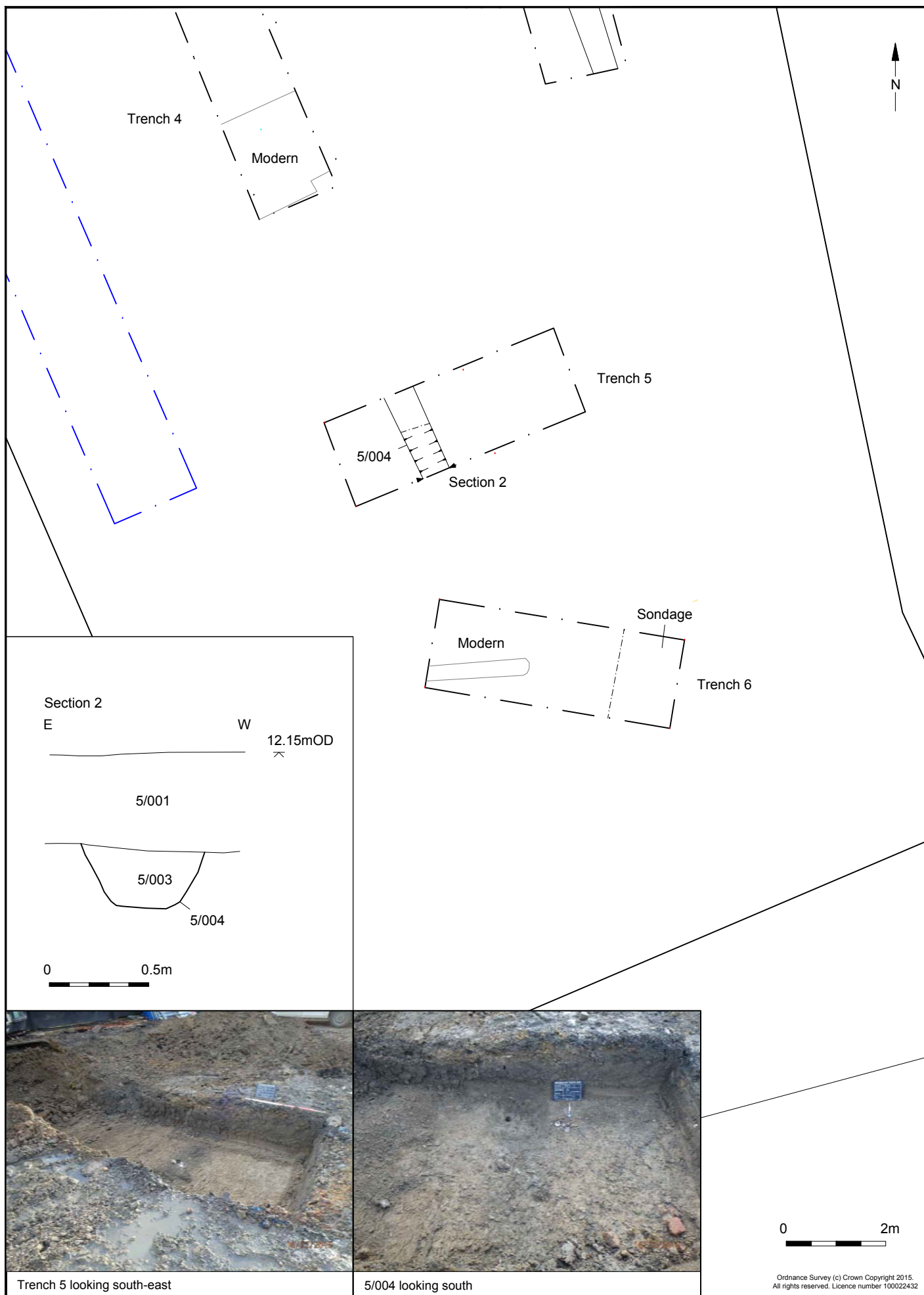


|                          |              |                             |        |
|--------------------------|--------------|-----------------------------|--------|
| © Archaeology South-East |              | 10 Buckland Road, Maidstone | Fig. 1 |
| Project Ref: 7983        | Jan 2016     | Site location               |        |
| Report Ref: 2015471      | Drawn by: NG |                             |        |



|                          |              |                             |        |
|--------------------------|--------------|-----------------------------|--------|
| © Archaeology South-East |              | 10 Buckland Road, Maidstone | Fig. 2 |
| Project Ref: 7983        | Jan 2016     | Trench location             |        |
| Report Ref: 2015471      | Drawn by: NG |                             |        |





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Drawn by: NG

10 Buckland Road, Maidstone

Trench 5 plan, section and photographs

Fig. 4



Trench 2, looking east



Trench 4, looking south



Trench 6, looking north

|                          |               |                             |        |
|--------------------------|---------------|-----------------------------|--------|
| © Archaeology South-East |               | 10 Buckland Road, Maidstone | Fig. 5 |
| Project Ref: 7983        | Jan 2016      | Photographs                 |        |
| Report Ref: 2015471      | Drawn by: JLR |                             |        |

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