Archaeology South-East

ASE

Archaeological Evaluation Report
St Margaret's Holiday Park, St Margaret's-at-Cliffe
near Dover, Kent

NGR: 635510 144290
(TR 35510 44290)

Planning Ref: APP/X2220/A/12/2187965
ASE Project No: 7936
Site Code: SMP16
ASE Report No: 2016058
OASIS ID: archaeol6-244303

By Greg Priestley-Bell

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CONTENTS

TABLES

FIGURES

Abstract

Archaeology South-East was commissioned by Bilfinger GVA, to undertake archaeological evaluation work in advance of the development of land at St Margaret's Holiday Park, St Margaret's-at-Cliffe, near Dover, Kent

*A range of archaeological features including a probable Mesolithic or Neolithic pit, two Late Iron Age or Early Roman large pits (*possibly waterholes or for quarrying*) and a probable Iron Age / Roman coaxial field system as well as undated postholes were recorded. Possible Bronze Age activity is also present. The site is apparently pristine with archaeological features surviving beneath intact subsoil and topsoil horizons.*

The exact character and specific date of the archaeological remains are difficult to ascertain from the limited areas of excavation, but agricultural and settlement activity are both suspected to survive on the site especially given the known prehistoric background of the surrounding area. Any prehistoric settlement activity is considered of archaeological import in light of the South-Eastern Research Framework (SERF).

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Site Background

1.1.1 Archaeology South-East (ASE) was commissioned by Bilfinger GVA, to undertake an archaeological evaluation in advance of the development of land at St Margaret's Holiday Park, St Margaret's-at-Cliffe, near Dover, Kent centred on National Grid Reference (NGR 635510 144290; Figure 1).

1.2 Geology and Topography

1.2.1 According to the British Geological Survey 1:50,000 scale geological mapping, the underlying natural geology consists of chalk. Superficial deposits are not mapped (BGS 2016).

1.2.2 The site is located to the south-east of St Margaret's-at-Cliffe and lies adjacent to the existing St Margaret's Bay Holiday Park. It is currently a narrow strip of grassland bounded by the caravan park to the north-east, agricultural fields to the north-west and Upper Road to the south-east.

1.3 Planning Background

1.3.1 Planning permission was granted on appeal for the expansion of the holiday park (APP/X2220/A/12/2187965). Condition 8 states:

'No development hall take place until a programme of archaeological work has been implemented in accordance with a written scheme of investigation (including a timetable, foundation designs and details of any other below ground excavation) which has been submitted to and approved in writing by the local planning authority.

1.3.2 Ben Found, Archaeological Advisor, Kent County Council (KCC) confirmed that a programme of trial trench evaluation was required, targeting the route of the new access road to better understand the depth of overburden and the character/density/extent of any archaeology that might be present

1.3.3 Accordingly a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for an archaeological evaluation was prepared by ASE (2015). The document outlined the scope and requirements of the initial evaluation and was submitted to KCC for approval in advance of the work. All work was carried out in accordance with the WSI and the Standards and Guidance: Archaeological Evaluations of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA), and other codes and relevant documents of the CIfA (CIfA 2014).

1.4 Scope of Report

1.4.1 This report details the results of the archaeological evaluation carried out on the site between 1st and 3rd February 2016, and has been prepared in accordance with the WSI (ASE 2015). The work was carried out by Greg Priestley-Bell (Senior Archaeologist), Nathalie Gonzalez (Archaeological Surveyor) and Chris Russel and Jake Wilson (Archaeologists). The fieldwork was managed by Paul Mason and the post-excavation work by Dan Swift and Jim Stevenson.

2.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 The following information was supplied by the KCC archaeological officer (Ben Found, pers comm).

2.2 The St Margaret's at Cliffe area is generally very rich in archaeological remains, with Bronze Age, Romano-British and Anglo-Saxon burials/cemeteries all recorded in and around the village. Enclosures have been identified in the fields just to the south-west and immediately to the east of the proposed park extension and a double ring ditch can be seen a short distance to the south. The area was also heavily fortified during the Second World War, with trenches, firing spurs on the Martin Mill Military Railway, cross-Channel gun batteries, a military camp and hospital are all to be found close by.

2.3 Research Aims and Objectives

2.3.1 The broad aims of the evaluation, in keeping with similar previous projects, were:

- To assess the character, extent, preservation, significance, date and quality of any archaeological 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

2.3.2 The project sought to inform on the following areas of research in line with the South-Eastern Research Framework (SERF):

- To determine the presence or absence of prehistoric activity on the site. If present the work should seek to clarify the form, character and extent where possible
- To determine the presence or absence of Roman activity
- To investigate the potential for Saxon and medieval remains
- To add to the findings of KCC's 'Defence of Kent' project

3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY

3.1 Fieldwork Methodology

3.1.1 Health and Safety considerations were of paramount importance in conducting all fieldwork. Safe working practices overrode archaeological considerations at all times. All work was carried out in accordance with the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974, and the Management of Health a Safety Regulations 1992, and all other relevant Health and Safety legislation regulations and codes of practice in force at the time.

3.1.2 Five trenches, each 15m by 1.8m in plan, were excavated using a 360º mechanical excavator equipped fitted with a toothless ditching bucket, as set out in Figure 2. The location of the trenches was accurately established using a survey grade GPS. Some modification to the position of Trench 5 was necessary due to the presence of a service. All trenches were scanned prior to excavation using a Cable Avoidance Tool.

3.1.3 Only overburden of recent origin was removed by machine and kept separately. The excavation was taken down in spits of no more than 0.2m, to the top of the first significant archaeological horizon or the top of the underlying 'natural' – whichever was uppermost. In the event that trenches exceeded a safe working depth, provision was made that suitable precautions (i.e. stepping or battering of trench edges, and/or shoring) be implemented. An indicative safe working depth of 1.2m would be reduced if the trench sides appeared to be unstable; excavations did not exceed 0.8m. All machining was undertaken under the supervision of a suitably qualified and experienced archaeologist.

3.1.7 On conclusion of the excavation, spoil was backfilled in reverse order by machine and compacted.

3.2 Archaeological Excavation and Recording Techniques

3.2.1 All exposed archaeological features and deposits were cleaned by hand, planned and recorded. Cut features were sampled sufficiently so as to meet the aims of the evaluation.

3.2.2 All features were planned at the scale of 1:20 in relation to the trench outline and sections drawn at the scale of 1:10 or 1:20 as appropriate. Plans were drawn on plastic film. A full digital, black & white and colour slide photographic record was kept of the work. Comparative site levels were recorded for each feature or important context with reference to an OS bench mark.

3.2.3 All archaeological features and deposits were recorded using the standard context record sheets used by Archaeology South-East. Soil colours were recorded using visual. A metal detector was used to scan all excavated material.

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.

Context sheets	57
Section sheets	4
Plans sheets	0
Colour photographs	14
B&W photos	14
Digital photos	39
Context register	1
Drawing register	1
Watching brief forms	0
Trench Record forms	0

Table 1: Quantification of site paper archive

Bulk finds (quantity e.g. 1 bag, 1 box, 0.5 box 0.5 of a box)	1
Registered finds (number of)	1
Flots and remains from bulk samples	4
Palaeoenvironmental specialists sample samples (e.g. columns, prepared slides)	0
Waterlogged wood	0
Wet sieved remains from bulk samples	0

Table 2: Quantification of artefact and environmental samples

4.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESULTS

4.1 Trench 1

(Figure 2)

4.1.1 The recorded sequence of deposits was: natural [1/003] consisting of mid orangey brown silty clay with occasional flints; subsoil/colluvium [1/002] consisting of light orangey brown silty clay; topsoil [1/001] consisting of mid brownish grey very clay silt. Some Late Iron Age/early Roman pottery was noted in [1/002].

4.1.2 A ditch [1/004] at the southern end of the trench, measuring >8m long, 0.5m wide and 0.20m deep, contained a fill [1/005] consisting of mid orangey brown silty clay that produced a single fragment of pottery that could be Middle Bronze Age or Iron Age in date.

4.1.4 Modern pit [1/006], measuring >2m wide, >4.5m long and >0.4m deep, contained a fill [1/007] of light brownish white clay silt with 70% chalk and a block of concrete measuring c. 0.5m x 0.3m x 0.2m. This feature was unexcavated.

Trench	Context	Type	Description	Max Length m	Max Width m	Deposit Thickness m (average)	Height m AOD (average)*
T1	1/001	Layer	Topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.30	98.40-98.70
T1	1/002	Deposit	Subsoil/ colluvium	Tr.	Tr.	0.45	97.95-98.40
T1	1/003	Layer	Natural	Tr.	Tr.	Na	98.40
T1	1/004	Cut	Ditch	>8	0.5		**98.06**
T1	1/005	Fill	Of 1/004	>8	0.5	0.20	**97.86-98.06**
T1	1/006	Cut	Pit	>4.5	>2		**98.69**
T1	1/007	Fill	Of 1/006	>4.5	>2	>0.4	**98.29-98.69**

Table 3: Trench 1 list of recorded contexts ***precise heights in bold type**

4.2 Trench 2

(Figure 2)

4.2.1 The recorded sequence of deposits was: natural [2/003] consisting of mid orangey brown silty clay with occasional flints; subsoil/colluvium [2/002] consisting of light orangey brown silty clay; topsoil [2/001] consisting of mid brownish grey very clay silt.

4.2.2 A ditch [2/004] at the southern end of the trench, measuring >10m long, 0.5m wide and 0.10m deep, contained a fill [2/005] consisting of mid orangey brown silty clay. No finds were recovered.

Trench	**Context**	**Type**	**Description**	**Max Length m**	**Max Width m**	**Deposit Thickness m (average)**	**Height m AOD (average)***
T2	2/001	Layer	Topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.25	98.15-98.40
T2	2/002	Deposit	Subsoil/ colluvium	Tr.	Tr.	0.20	97.95-98.15
T2	2/003	Layer	Natural	Tr.	Tr.	Na	97.95
T2	2/004	Cut	Ditch	>10	0.5		**98.12**
T2	2/005	Fill	Of 2/004	>10	0.5	0.10	**98.02-98.12**

Table 4: Trench 2 list of recorded contexts ***precise heights in bold type**

4.3 Trench 3

(Figure 2)

4.3.1 The recorded sequence of deposits was: natural [3/003] consisting of mid orangey brown silty clay with occasional flints and weathered chalk; subsoil/colluvium [3/002] consisting of light orangey brown silty clay; topsoil [3/001] consisting of mid brownish grey very clay silt.

4.3.2 A possible pit [3/004], measuring 1.14m long, <0.73 wide and 0.65m deep, contained a fill [3/005] consisting of light greyish brown clayey silt with Mesolithic or Neolithic worked flints and fire-cracked flint.

4.3.3 A ditch [3/006], measuring >2m long, 1.40m wide and 0.60m deep, contained a fill [3/007] consisting of mid yellowish grey brown silty clay that produced a small quantity of Late Iron Age/Early Roman pottery, an undiagnostic worked flint and fire-cracked flint.

4.3.4 A shallow depression [3/008], measuring >1m long, 0.62m wide and 0.08m deep, contained a fill [3/009] consisting of mid brown silty clay. No finds were recovered.

4.3.5 A large quarry? pit [3/010], measuring >16m long, >2m wide and <1.2m deep, contained an upper fill, probably representing capping, [3/015] consisting of mid yellowish brown silty clay, a secondary fill, probably representing backfill, [3/011] consisting of dark greyish brown silty clay with occasional flints, and a lower fill, representing silting, [3/014] consisting of mottled mid greyish brown/dark yellowish brown very silty clay. Fill [3/011] produced a significant quantity of probably Early Iron Age or Middle Iron Age pottery, undiagnostic worked flints and fire-cracked flint.

4.3.6 A ditch [3/012], measuring >2m long, 1.40m wide and c. 0.60m deep, contained an upper fill [3/013] consisting of dark greyish brown silty clay, and a lower fill [3/019] consisting of dark yellowish brown very clayey silt. Early or Middle Iron Age pottery and undiagnostic worked flints were recovered.

4.3.7 A possible post-hole [3/016], measuring 0.52m long, >0.35m wide and 0.15m deep, contained a fill [3/017] consisting of mottled mid/dark reddish brown. Post-hole? [3/016] lay at the base of ditch [3/012]. No finds were recovered.

Trench	Context	Type	Description	Max Length m	Max Width m	Deposit Thickness m (average)	Height m AOD (average)*
T3	3/001	Layer	Topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.25	98.02-98.27
T3	3/002	Layer	Subsoil/ colluvium	Tr.	Tr.	0.20	97.82-98.02
T3	3/003	Deposit	Natural	Tr.	Tr.	Na	97.82
T3	3/004	Cut	Pit	1.14	>0.73		**98.06**
T3	3/005	Fill	Of 3/004	1.14	>0.73	0.65	
T3	3/006	Cut	Ditch	>2	1.40		**98.41**
T3	3/007	Fill	Of 3/006	>2	1.40	0.60	
T3	3/008	Cut	Depression	>1	0.62		**97.89**
T3	3/009	Fill	Of 3/008	>1	0.62	0.08	
T3	3/010	Cut	Quarry?	>16	>2		**97.90**
T3	3/011	Fill	2nd? of 3/010	>16	>2	0.65	
T3	3/012	Cut	Ditch	>2	1.4		**97.89**
T3	3/013	Fill	upper of 3/012	>2	1.4	c.0.20	
T3	3/014	Fill	Lower of 3/010			>0.45	
T3	3/015	Fill	Upper of 3/010			0.15	
T3	3/016	Cut	Post-hole?	>0.34	0.52		**97.07**
T3	3/017	Fill	Of 3/016	>0.30	0.30	0.15	
T3	3/018	Not used					
T3	3/019	Fill	Lower of 3/012			0.43	

Table 5: Trench 3 list of recorded contexts ***precise heights in bold type**

4.4 Trench 4

(Figure 2)

4.4.1 The recorded sequence of deposits was: natural [4/003] consisting of mid orangey brown silty clay with occasional flints and weathered chalk; subsoil/colluvium [4/002] consisting of light orangey brown silty clay; topsoil [4/001] consisting of mid brownish grey very clay silt.

4.4.2 A large pit [4/004], measuring (estimated) 9m long, 6m wide and >1m deep, contained an upper fill [4/005] consisting of light orangey brown silty clay. Below [4/005] lay a chalk capping layer [4/024] consisting light whitish brown silty clay with 40% chalk; a linear arrangement of large flint cobbles [4/012] was associated with capping deposit [4/013]. A series of silty dump deposits represented by tip lines ([4/014], [4/015], [4/016] and [4/023]) lay below [4/013]. An array of Early Iron Age/Middle Iron Age and Late Iron Age/Early Roman pottery was recovered as well as undiagnostic worked flint, fired clay pieces, large mammal bone and marine shell.

4.4.3 A post-hole/pad [4/006], measuring 0.85m in diameter and 0.30m deep, contained a lower fill [4/007] consisting of greyish brown silty clay and an upper fill [4/017] consisting of blackish brown silty clay. The section profile suggested that a support post may have been positioned beside a larger post on a pad. No finds were recovered.

4.4.4 A post-hole [4/008], measuring 0.75m in diameter and 0.08m deep, contained a fill [4/009] consisting of greyish brown silty clay. No finds were recovered.

4.4.5 A post-hole [4/010], measuring 0.55m in diameter and 0.10m deep, contained a fill [4/011] consisting of greyish brown silty clay with occasional flints and chalk fragments. No finds were recovered.

4.4.6 A possible post-hole [4/021], measuring 0.35m in diameter and 0.07m deep, contained a fill [4/022] consisting of mid brown silty clay and frequent chalk fragments. No finds were recovered.

4.4.7 A ditch [4/019], measuring >15m long, 0.30m wide and 0.05 deep, contained a fill [4/020] consisting of light brown silty clay. The continuation of the same ditch was recorded in Trenches 1 and 2 as ditch [1/004] and [2/004] respectively. No finds were recovered.

Trench	Context	Type	Description	Max Length m	Max Width m	Deposit Thickness m (average)	Height m AOD (average)*
T4	4/001	Layer	Topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.20	97.33-97.53
T4	4/002	Layer	Subsoil/ colluvium	Tr.	Tr.	0.20	97.13-97.33
T4	4/003	Deposit	Natural	Tr.	Tr.	Na	97.13
T4	4/004	Cut	Pit	c.9	c.6		**97.51**
T4	4/005	Fill	Upper of 4/004	c.9	c.6	>1.2	
T4	4/006	Cut	Post-hole	0.85	0.85		**97.11**
T4	4/007	Fill	Lower of 4/006	0.85	0.85	0.25	
T4	4/008	Cut	Post-hole	0.75	0.75		**97.08**
T4	4/009	Fill	Of 4/008	0.75	0.75	0.98	
T4	4/010	Cut	Post-hole	0.55	0.55		**97.20**
T4	4/011	Fill	Of 4/010	0.55	0.55	0.10	
T4	4/012	Deposit	Flint cobbles	1.60	0.70	0.15	
T4	4/013	Fill	Tip line in 4/004	>1	>1	0.07	
T4	4/014	Fill	Tip line in 4/004	>1	>1	0.17	
T4	4/015	Fill	Tip line in 4/004	>1	>1	0.08	
T4	4/016	Fill	Tip line in 4/004	>1	>1	0.20	
T4	4/017	Fill	Upper 0f 4/006	0.85	0.85	0.05	
T4	4/018	Fill	Primary? Fill of 4/004	>1	>1	0.15	
T4	4/019	Cut	Ditch	>15	0.30		**97.26**
T4	4/020	Fill	Of 4/019	>15	0.30	0.05	
T4	4/021	Cut	Post-hole	0.35	0.35		**97.26**
T4	4/022	Fill	Of 4/021	0.35	0.35	0.07	
T4	4/023	Fill	Tip line in 4/004	>1	>1	0.20	
T4	4/024	Fill	Tip line in 4/004	>1	>1	0.12	

Table 6: Trench 4 list of recorded contexts ***precise heights in bold type**

4.5 Trench 5

(Figure 2)

4.5.1 The recorded sequence of deposits was: natural [5/003] consisting of very light brownish white slightly sandy silt with 95% chalk; subsoil [5/002] consisting of mid orangey brown silty clay with occasional flints; topsoil [5/001] consisting of mid brownish grey very clay silt. A 20th century buckle was recovered from the topsoil.

Trench	Context	Type	Description	Max Length m	Max Width m	Deposit Thickness m (average)	Height m AOD (average)*
T5	5/001	Layer	Topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.20	96.50
T5	5/002	Deposit	Subsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.20	96.30
T5	5/003	Layer	Natural weathered chalk	Tr.	Tr.	Na	96.10

Table 7: Trench 5 list of recorded contexts ***precise heights in bold type**

5.0 THE FINDS

5.1 Summary

5.1.1 A moderate assemblage of finds was recovered and were washed and dried or air dried as appropriate. They were subsequently quantified by count and weight and were bagged by material and context. All finds have been packed and stored following CIfA guidelines (2014).

Context	Pottery	Wt(g)	Bone	Wt(g)	Shell	Wt(g)	Flint	Wt(g)	FCF	Wt(g)	F.Clay	Wt(g)
1/002	3	38					1	37	1	39		
1/005	1	13										
3/005							13	302	1	126		
3/007	1	21					1	3	1	14		
3/011	13	92					9	349	4	252		
3/013	2	16										
3/019	4	23					2	40				
4/005	6	100									2	11
4/014	5	92										
4/016	14	236	2	11	2	16	1	53	1	61	1	9
4/018	4	39					1	11	1	116		
Total	**53**	**670**	**2**	**11**	**2**	**16**	**28**	**795**	**9**	**608**	**3**	**20**

Table 8: Finds quantification

5.2 **The Prehistoric and Roman Pottery** by Anna Doherty

5.2.1 A small assemblage of pottery totalling 53 sherds, weighing 670g was recovered during the evaluation, about half of which belongs to the later prehistoric period (probably the Early or Middle Iron Age) and the remainder to the Late Iron Age/Early Roman period. At this stage the pottery has been characterised for spot-dating purposes but not fully quantified according to a fabric and form type-series. It is recommended that it should be retained and fully recorded and integrated in the event that further archaeological work should take place, producing a larger assemblage.

5.2.2 A total of 27 sherds, weighing 241g are in flint-tempered fabrics with some variability in size, frequency and sorting of inclusions. These occur without clearly later material in contexts [1/005], [3/011], [3/013], [3/018], [4/018] and probably as residual elements in contexts [1/002] and [4/005]. Beyond some very light surface combing observed on one sherd from [3/019], none of the flint-tempered wares are associated with any diagnostic features and only context [3/013] contained more than five associated sherds. This makes close dating of the assemblage at the individual context level very difficult since flint-tempering is a very long-lived tradition spanning mid-2nd to 1st millennium BC (and also observed in some earlier prehistoric traditions). Taken as a whole however, the fabric characteristics are probably most typical of Early and Middle Iron Age assemblages. For example most of the sherds have very silty to fine sandy matrixes, with relatively sparse frequencies of flint and, although a few coarser inclusions of up to 3-4mm were observed, the flint-temper is generally in a finer size grade of less than 2mm. Where flint is more frequent it also

seems to be very well-sorted, another likely indicator of Iron Age dating.

5.2.3 There are two possible exceptions: a bodysherd found on its own in context [1/005] has notably coarser flint inclusions of up to 6mm, taken together with its thick-walled profile this could suggest a Middle Bronze Age date, although it was also noted that the flint was somewhat sparser than typical for this period and the matrix more quartz-rich and it is therefore difficult to rule out the possibility that this is a atypically coarse Iron Age fabric; in addition, a tiny sherd, associated with other flint-tempered wares in context [3/018], contains some sparse grog alongside fine flint inclusions. Grog-with-flint fabrics are less typical of the Early/Middle Iron Age but have been noted in both the Late Bronze Age and Late Iron Age/early Roman periods at Saltwood Tunnel, for example (Every 2006; Jones 2006).

5.2.4 Late Iron Age/early Roman pottery was noted in contexts [1/002], [3/007], [4/005], [4/014] and [4/016]. Contexts [3/007] and [4/005] both lack any definite Roman sandy fabrics and could conceivably be of pre-conquest date; however the former only contained a single grog-tempered shoulder fragment, and the latter a group of five grog-tempered sherds, including a cordoned necked jar and another partial rim fragment with a simple necked profile. In general, the grog-tempered fabrics in these groups are quite well-fired and the forms are probably indicative of a 1st century AD date. There is therefore no certainty that they are earlier than others from the site which do contain obviously post-conquest material. These include small groups from contexts [14/014] and [14/016] both of which also contain grog-tempered bodysherds. In [14/004] a single grog-tempered sherd was accompanied by large fragments from a south Gaulish samian Dragendorff 18 platter with a partial damaged stamp probably reading OFLA[……] and a grey ware with the distinctive sandwich firing of North Kent/Thameside products but also containing some coarse clay-pellets/grog. In [14/016], four grog-tempered sherds were associated with a number of coarse, unevenly fired sandy wares as well as two conjoining North Kent/Thameside fine grey ware sherds. Both of these contexts can be assigned to the 1st century AD.

5.3 Flintwork by Karine Le Hégarat

5.3.1 The evaluation on Land at St Margaret's Holiday Park produced 44 pieces of flint considered to be humanly struck weighing 835g. A further 1468g of unworked burnt flint were also recovered from nine numbered contexts. The struck flints were hand collected and subsequently retrieved from environmental samples. They came from trench 3 (31 pieces), trench 4 (twelve pieces) and subsoil or colluvium deposit [1/002] (1 piece). The material was quantified by piece count and weight and was catalogued directly into an Excel spreadsheet.

Category	Flakes	Blades flakes	Waste	Chips	Blade core	Total
No	28	3	1	11	1	44

Table 9: The flintwork

5.3.2 Three types of raw material were present. The majority of the pieces were manufactured from mid to dark grey flint with a stained thin (1 to 3mm thick) cortex. This material would have been available from superficial deposits. A flake from [1/002] was made using Bullhead flint and two flakes (one from context [3/011] and one from context [3/018]) were made from flint gravel. Overall the flintwork is in a

good condition with the exception of the pieces from possible quarry pit [3/010] and Roman pit [4/004] which are less well preserved.

5.3.3 No diagnostic tools were found, and the assemblage consists principally of waste pieces including 28 flakes, three blades / blade-like flakes, a piece of irregular waste and 11 chips. Of interest is the material from possible pit [3/004] fill [3/005]. The pieces of struck flint were fresh suggesting that they may be contemporary with the feature they came from. The assemblage comprises a blade core (165g), eight flakes, two blade-like flakes and a piece of irregular waste. Two flakes could be refitted. The material appears to represent knapping waste from two nodules. Based on morphological and technological traits, the flintwork from pit [3/004] is likely to be Mesolithic or Neolithic in date. The remaining pieces are likely to be later in date.

5.3.4 Evaluation work on Land at St Margaret's Holiday Park produced a small quantity of flints that provides evidence for prehistoric presence in the landscape. Pit [3/004] produced a small group of flints totalling 12 pieces. Based on its condition and its technology the flintwork is likely to be contemporary with the pit. It probably belongs to the Mesolithic or Neolithic period. The remaining pieces suggest a later date.

5.4 Fired Clay by Elena Baldi

5.4.1 A total of three fired clay pieces were recovered from the evaluation at Land at St Margaret's Holiday Park, St Margaret's-at-Cliffe, Dover, Kent.

5.4.2 All were found in trench 14, two from context [4/005] and one from context [4/016] and weigh 20 g in total.

5.4.3 All fragments are amorphous and in a brownish orange fabric, with abundant fine quartz and widespread black specks.

5.4.4 The clay was poorly fired, however the single piece from [4/016] is quite charred, however still very fragile. Although undiagnostic, the fired clay was recovered from fills that are dated to the Roman period and they are believed to be contemporary with the pottery that was retrieved from the same contexts and that is dated to the late around the 1st century AD.

5.5 Registered Finds by Elena Baldi

5.5.1 Only one single object was recovered during the evaluation trenches and was assigned a unique Registered Finds Number. The object was air dried as appropriate, subsequently quantified by count and weight, it was recorded on separate pro-forma sheet, bagged and it was individually labelled (Table 10). The object is stored in an air-tight Stewart box with silica gel, following CIfA guidelines (2014). X-radiography was not deemed necessary at this stage, in order evaluate further intervention. No further conservation is required.

RF No.	Context	Object	Material	Period	Wt(g)	Conservation	Xray
1	5/001	BUCK	COPP	P. MED	20	N	N

Table 10: Registered find

5.6 **Dress Accessories** by Elena Baldi

5.6.1 The single find is a copper alloy object RF <1>, from context [5/001]. It is a rectangular shaped buckle with a central raised bar and roller on one side. It measures 39 mm in length and 33 mm in width. The pin and strap are missing.

5.6.2 Overall, the buckle is in quite good conditions, but it is covered by a thin layer of soil and dirt mixed with copper corrosion products. A red patina/surface is visible underneath the corrosion layer. The object was found within the surface deposit and its style and technical features strongly suggest a very recent manufacture, generally dated to the 20th century.

5.6.3 Further intervention would require radiography and conservation, but this is not advised, as it would not add further information about its manufacture and dating.

5.7 **Animal Bone** by Gemma Ayton

5.7.1 Just two fragments of bone were recovered through hand-collection both of which derived from a single context, [4/016]. The bones conjoin to form part of a large-mammal rib, the specimen displays signs of surface erosion and weathering.

5.7.2 A further 64g of bones were recovered from whole earth samples of which 15g were burnt or cremated. The majority of the bones from the samples are small, eroded and unidentifiable though amongst the identifiable fragments are sheep/goat premolars and small, rodent incisors from sample <1> and a herring vertebrae and cat incisor from sample <3>.

5.8 **Shell** by Elena Baldi

5.8.1 Only two marine shells were recovered from one single context [4/016], which weigh 16 g in total.

5.8.2 One piece is an incomplete and juvenile oyster shell (*Ostrea edulis L.*), since only few growth steps are recorded.

5.8.3 The other shell is a common limpet (*Patella vulgata*), as characterised by the shell with irregular ribs. This type of shellfish is abundant in the North Sea and the English Channel.

5.8.4 The shells, recovered from a context dated to the Roman period, are only a little glimpse of the available diet of the population settled at the site.

6.0 The Environmental Samples by Mariangela Vitolo

6.1 Introduction

6.1.1 Four bulk soil samples were taken to recover environmental material such as charred plant macrofossils, wood charcoal, fauna and mollusca as well as to assist finds recovery. The following report summarises the contents of the samples and discusses the information provided by the charred plant remains on diet, agrarian economy, vegetation environment and fuel selection and use.

6.2 Methodology

6.2.2 The samples were processed in their entirety in a flotation tank and the residues and flots were retained on 500µm and 250µm meshes respectively before being air dried. The residues were passed through graded sieves of 8, 4 and 2mm and each fraction sorted for environmental and artefactual remains (Table 11). Artefacts recovered from the samples were distributed to specialists, and are incorporated in the relevant sections of this volume where they add further information to the existing finds assemblage. The flots were scanned under a stereozoom microscope at 7-45x magnifications and their contents recorded (Table 12). Preliminary identifications of macrobotanical remains were made with reference to modern comparative material and published reference atlases (Cappers *et al*. 2006, Jacomet 2006, NIAB 2004). Nomenclature used follows Stace (1997).

6.3 Results

Samples <1> [4/007], <2> [4/020], <3> [4/016] and<4> [3/014].

6.3.1 The samples produced small flots, most of which were dominated by uncharred rootlets, which are indicative of low level disturbance and are likely to have infiltrated the deposits through root action.

6.3.2 Charred plant remains were present sporadically in deposits [4/007] and [4/020] and in large amounts in [4/016]. Identified crop seeds included caryopses of wheat (*Triticum* sp.), including glume wheats (*Triticum dicoccum/spelta*) and barley (*Hordeum* sp.), some of which hulled. Wild species were represented by docks (*Rumex* sp.), clovers/melilots (*Trifolium/ Melilotus* sp.), knotweed family (Polygonaceae) and goosefoot family (Chenopodiaceae). Further, pods of wild radish (*Raphanus raphanistrum*) and cereal size stem fragments and culm nodes were also recorded.

6.3.3 The residues of most samples contained some charcoal, but not in large enough a quantity to warrant identification work. Bones, some of which burnt, marine molluscs and land snail shells were also recorded. Finds included pottery, fire cracked flint, flint, burnt clay, coal and a foreign stone.

6.4 Discussion

6.4.1 The bulk soil samples from St Margarets Bay were generally poor in terms of charred plant remains and charcoal. The few cereal grains present in samples <1> and <2> are probably just background noise, but the assemblage from sample <3> seems to arise from a larger scale burning incident. Glume wheats, in particularly spelt, and barley are crops that are commonly recorded in Roman deposits in south east England (e.g. Vitolo, forthcoming).

6.4.2 These samples show that there is potential for nearby deposits to also preserve plant macrofossils and charcoal and any future work at the site should continue to include sampling, targeting primary deposits. Further, given the richness in plant remains of sample <3> if any excavation work is carried out, the results of the evaluation should be incorporated into the post excavation assessment.

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

Sample Number	Context	Sample Volume litres	Sub-Sample Volume litres	Charcoal >4mm	Weight (g)	Charcoal <4mm	Weight (g)	Charred botanicals (other than charcoal)	Weight (g)	Bone and Teeth	Weight (g)	Burnt bone >8mm	Weight (g)	Burnt bone 4-8mm	Weight (g)	Burnt Bone 2-4mm	Weight (g)	Marine Molluscs	Weight (g)	Land Snail shells	Weight (g)	Other (eg ind, pot, cbm)
1	4/007	20	20			*	<1	* *Hordeum* sp., cf *Avena* sp., cf *Bromus* sp.	<1	**	13			*	<1					*	<1	pottery **/ 91g - FCF **/ 189g - flint */ 53g
2	4/020	40	40					* cf *Triticum* sp. (1)	<1	*	<1									**	10	foreign stone */ 9g - FCF */ 27g
3	4/016	40	40	*	<1	*	<1	*** *Hordeum* sp., *Triticum* sp., *Vicia/Lathyrus* sp., Poaceae stem fragments and culm node	9	**	28	*	8	**	2	**	1	**	12	*	<1	flint */ 2g - pottery **/ 70g - burnt clay **/ 152g - FCF **/ 205g
4	3/14	40	40	*	<1	**	<1															FCF **/ 212g - coal */ <1g - flint */ <1g

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

Sample Number	Context	Spit (if relevant eg. excavation)	Weight g	Flot volume ml	Volume scanned	Uncharred %	Sediment %	Charcoal <2mm	Crop seeds charred	Identifications	Preservation	Weed seeds charred	Identifications	Preservation	Other botanical charred	Identifications	Land Snail Shells
1			3	50	50	70	20	*									
2	4/020		7	75	75	80	10	*									***
3	4/016		7	50	50	30	10	***	***	*Triticum dicoccum/spelta*, *Hordeum* sp. (hulled)	++/+	**	Rumex sp.,Polygonaceae, Chenopodiaceae, *Trifolium/Melilotus* sp.	++	*	Cereal size culm node, *Raphanus raphanistrum* pod	**
4	3/14		1	20	20	70	10	**									**

7.0 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

7.1 Overview of stratigraphic sequence

7.1.1 Levels taken on the natural sandy/silty clay project a slight slope from north to south towards the cliff edge and range between 98.40m OD and 96.10m OD. This was overlain by an intact subsoil horizon that was mostly 0.20m thick, but was 0.45m thick at the top of the slope. Topsoil overlay this.

7.1.2 A range of archaeological features were represented including a probable Mesolithic or Neolithic pit, two Late Iron Age or Early Roman large pits and a probable Iron Age / Roman coaxial field system. Undated postholes were also recorded that may be of the same date as the field system. Possible Bronze Age activity is also present.

7.1.3 The two northern trenches contained a single ditch. The focus of activity seems to be in the central part of the site and no remains whatsoever were found in the southernmost trench.

7.1.4 The exact character and specific date of the archaeological remains are difficult to ascertain from the limited areas of excavation.

7.2 Deposit survival and existing impacts

7.2.1 With the exception of a modern pit in the northernmost trench, the archaeological horizon was apparently intact beneath a layer of regular subsoil.

7.3 Discussion of archaeological remains by period

7.3.1 As mentioned above, a range of archaeological features were represented including a probable Mesolithic or Neolithic pit, two Late Iron Age or Early Roman large pits (possibly waterholes or for quarrying) and a probable Iron Age / Roman coaxial field system. Undated postholes were also recorded that may be of the same date as the field system and Bronze Age activity may also be present.

7.3.2 It is difficult to ascertain the exact character and specific date of the archaeological remains are difficult to ascertain from the limited areas of excavation, but the range of finds and the occurrence of both linear and discrete features hints that both agricultural and settlement activity may survive on the site especially given the known prehistoric background of the area. Any prehistoric settlement activity is of archaeological import.

7.3.3 In particular the exact function and date of the two large pits recorded in Trenches 3 and 4 remains unknown, they may have been for chalk quarrying or used as waterholes, or both, and later backfilled. The bulk soil samples from these yielded few cereal grains but one sample <3> seems to arise from a larger scale burning incident.

7.4 Potential impact on archaeological remains

7.4.1 Any development of the site will impact upon the remains discussed above.

7.5 Consideration of research aims

The project sought to inform on the following areas of research in line with the South-Eastern Research Framework (SERF):

- To determine the presence or absence of prehistoric activity on the site. If present the work should seek to clarify the form, character and extent where possible

  Prehistoric remains are recorded but their precise form, character and extent is not possible to ascertain from the limited archaeological investigations.

- To determine the presence or absence of Roman activity

  Early Roman remains are recorded but its precise form, character and extent is not possible to ascertain from the limited archaeological investigations.

- To investigate the potential for Saxon and medieval remains

  No Saxon or medieval remains were recorded.

- To add to the findings of KCC's 'Defence of Kent' project

  No post-medieval remains were recorded with the exception of a 20th century pit at the top end of the site.

7.6 Conclusions

7.6.1 A range of archaeological features including a probable Mesolithic or Neolithic pit, two large Late Iron Age or Early Roman pits (possibly for quarrying) and a probable Iron Age / Roman coaxial field system as well as undated postholes were recorded. Possible Bronze Age activity is also present.

7.6.2 The exact character and specific date of the archaeological remains are difficult to ascertain from the limited areas of excavation, but agricultural and settlement activity are both suspected to survive on the site especially given the known prehistoric background of the surrounding area.

7.6.3 With reference to the South-Eastern Research Framework (SERF); any prehistoric settlement activity is of archaeological import.

7.6.4 Any development of the site will impact upon these remains.

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HER Summary

Site code	SMP16					
Project code	ASE Project No: 7936					
Planning reference	APP/X2220/A/12/2187965					
Site address	St Margaret's Holiday Park, St Margaret's-at-Cliffe Near Dover, Kent					
District/Borough	St Margaret's-at-Cliffe					
NGR (12 figures)	635510 144290					
Geology	Chalk					
Fieldwork type	Eval					
Date of fieldwork	February 2016					
Sponsor/client	*Bilfinger GVA*					
Project manager	Paul Mason					
Project supervisor	G P-Bell					
Period summary		Mesolithic	Neolithic	Bronze Age	Iron Age	
	Roman			Post-Medieval		
Project summary (100 word max)	Archaeology South-East was commissioned by Bilfinger GVA, to undertake archaeological evaluation work in advance of the development of land at St Margaret's Holiday Park, St Margaret's-at-Cliffe, near Dover, Kent A range of archaeological features including a probable Mesolithic or Neolithic pit, two Late Iron Age or Early Roman large pits (possibly waterholes or for quarrying) and a probable Iron Age / Roman coaxial field system as well as undated postholes were recorded. Possible Bronze Age activity is also present. The site is apparently pristine with archaeological features surviving beneath intact subsoil and topsoil horizons. The exact character and specific date of the archaeological remains are difficult to ascertain from the limited areas of excavation, but agricultural and settlement activity are both suspected to survive on the site especially given the known prehistoric background of the surrounding area. Any prehistoric settlement activity is considered of archaeological import in light of the South-Eastern Research Framework (SERF).					

OASIS Form

OASIS ID: archaeol6-244303

Project details

Project name	St Margarets Bay, Dover, archaeological evaluation
Short description of the project	Archaeology South-East was commissioned by Bilfinger GVA, to undertake archaeological evaluation work in advance of the development of land at St Margaret's Holiday Park, St Margaret's-at-Cliffe, near Dover, Kent A range of archaeological features including a probable Mesolithic or Neolithic pit, two Late Iron Age or Early Roman large pits (possibly waterholes or for quarrying) and a probable Iron Age / Roman coaxial field system as well as undated postholes were recorded. Possible Bronze Age activity is also present. The site is apparently pristine with archaeological features surviving beneath intact subsoil and topsoil horizons. The exact character and specific date of the archaeological remains are difficult to ascertain from the limited areas of excavation, but agricultural and settlement activity are both suspected to survive on the site especially given the known prehistoric background of the surrounding area. Any prehistoric settlement activity is considered of archaeological import in light of the South-Eastern Research Framework (SERF).
Project dates	Start: 01-02-2016 End: 03-02-2016
Previous/future work	Not known / Yes
Any associated project reference codes	SMP16 - Sitecode
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Site status (other)	area rich in archaeological remains
Monument type	PIT Neolithic
Monument type	DITCHES Iron Age
Monument type	DITCHES Roman
Monument type	PITS Iron Age
Monument type	PITS Roman
Significant Finds	POTTERY Late Prehistoric
Significant Finds	POTTERY Roman
Significant Finds	FLINTWORK Late Prehistoric
Significant Finds	BONE Late Prehistoric
Significant Finds	SHELL Late Prehistoric
Significant Finds	FIRED CLAY Late Prehistoric

Methods & techniques	"Test Pits"
Development type	Rural residential
Development type	caravan park
Prompt	Planning condition
Position in the planning process	After full determination (eg. As a condition)

Project location

Country	England
Site location	KENT DOVER ST MARGARETS AT CLIFFE St Margarets Bay Holiday Park
Postcode	CT15 6AG
Study area	12000 Square metres
Site coordinates	TR 35510 44290 51.148655263506 1.367816825139 51 08 55 N 001 22 04 E Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 96.1m Max: 98.4m

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Archaeology South-East
Project brief originator	Kent County Council
Project design originator	Archaeology South-East
Project director/manager	Paul Mason
Project supervisor	Greg Priestley-Bell
Type of sponsor/funding body	Client
Name of sponsor/funding body	Bilfinger GVA

Project archives

Physical Archive recipient	Local Museum
Physical Archive ID	SMP16

Physical Contents	"Animal Bones","Ceramics","Environmental","Worked stone/lithics","other"
Digital Archive recipient	Local Museum
Digital Archive ID	SMP16
Digital Contents	"Animal Bones","Ceramics","Environmental","Stratigraphic","Survey","Worked stone/lithics","other"
Digital Media available	"GIS","Images raster / digital photography","Survey","Text"
Paper Archive recipient	Local Museum
Paper Archive ID	SMP16
Paper Contents	"Animal Bones","Ceramics","Environmental","Stratigraphic","Survey","Worked stone/lithics","other"
Paper Media available	"Context sheet","Correspondence","Miscellaneous Material","Photograph","Plan","Report","Section","Survey "

Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Archaeological Evaluation Report St Margarets Bay Caravan Park, Dover
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Priestly-Bell, G
Other bibliographic details	ASE Report No: 2016058
Date	2016
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Description	grey lit rep

Entered by	Dan Swift (d.swift@ucl.ac.uk)
Entered on	1 March 2016

© Archaeology South-East		St Margarets Bay Holiday Park, Dover	Fig. 1
Project Ref: 7936	02 - 2016	Site location	
Report Ref: 2016058	Drawn by: NG		

N

635553, 144381

1

2

3

4

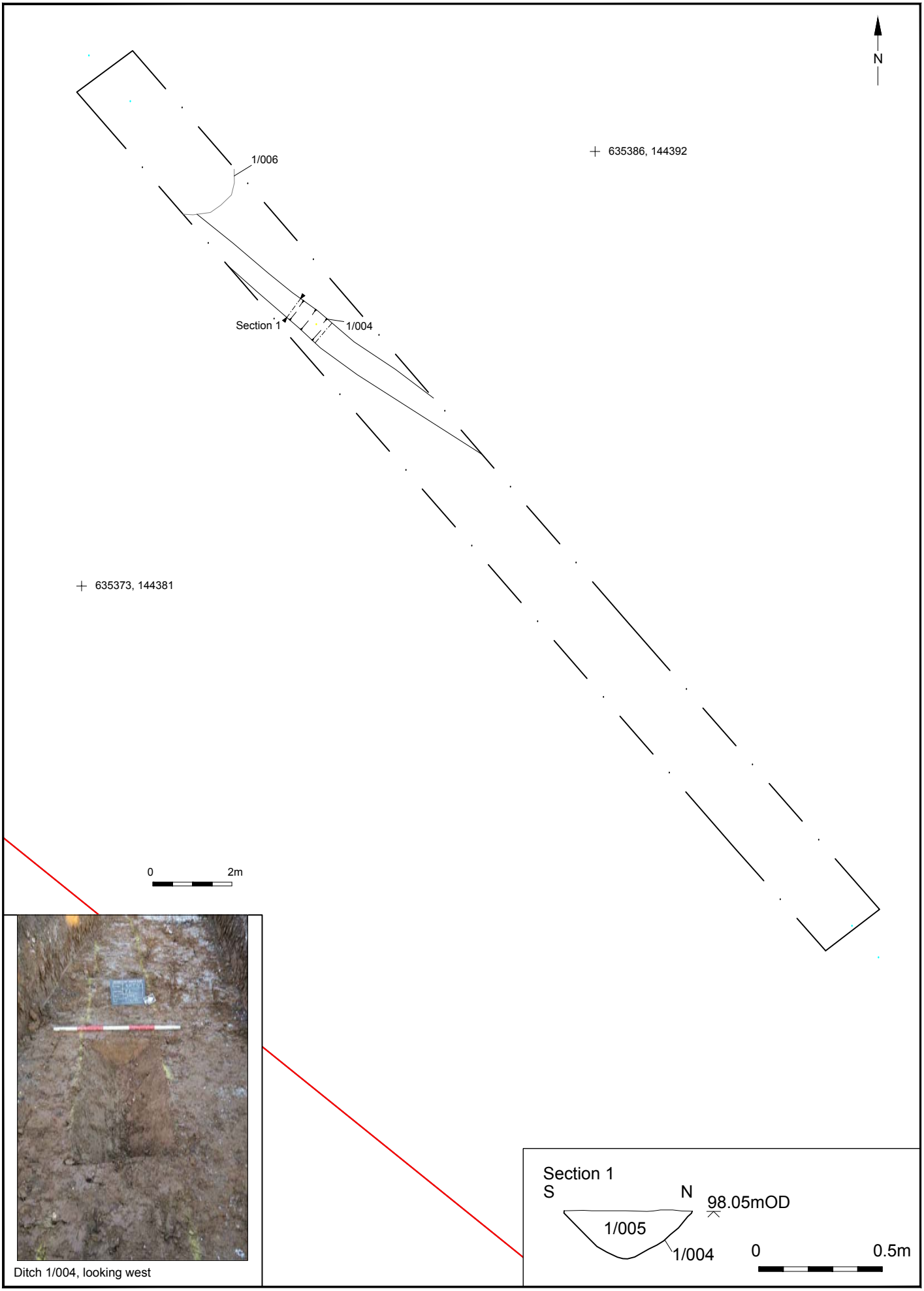
5

635378, 144278

94.1m

0 20m

© Archaeology South-East		St Margarets Bay Holiday Park, Dover	Fig. 2
Project Ref: 7936	February 2016	Trench Location	
Report Ref: 2016058	Drawn by: NG		



Ditch 1/004, looking west

© **Archaeology South-East**		St Margarets Bay Holiday Park, Dover	Fig. 3
Project Ref: 7936	February 2016	Trench 1 : plan, section and photograph	
Report Ref: 2016058	Drawn by: NG		

635405, 144355

635425, 144355

N

2/004

Section 2

0 2m

Ditch 2/004, looking north west

Section 2

S N

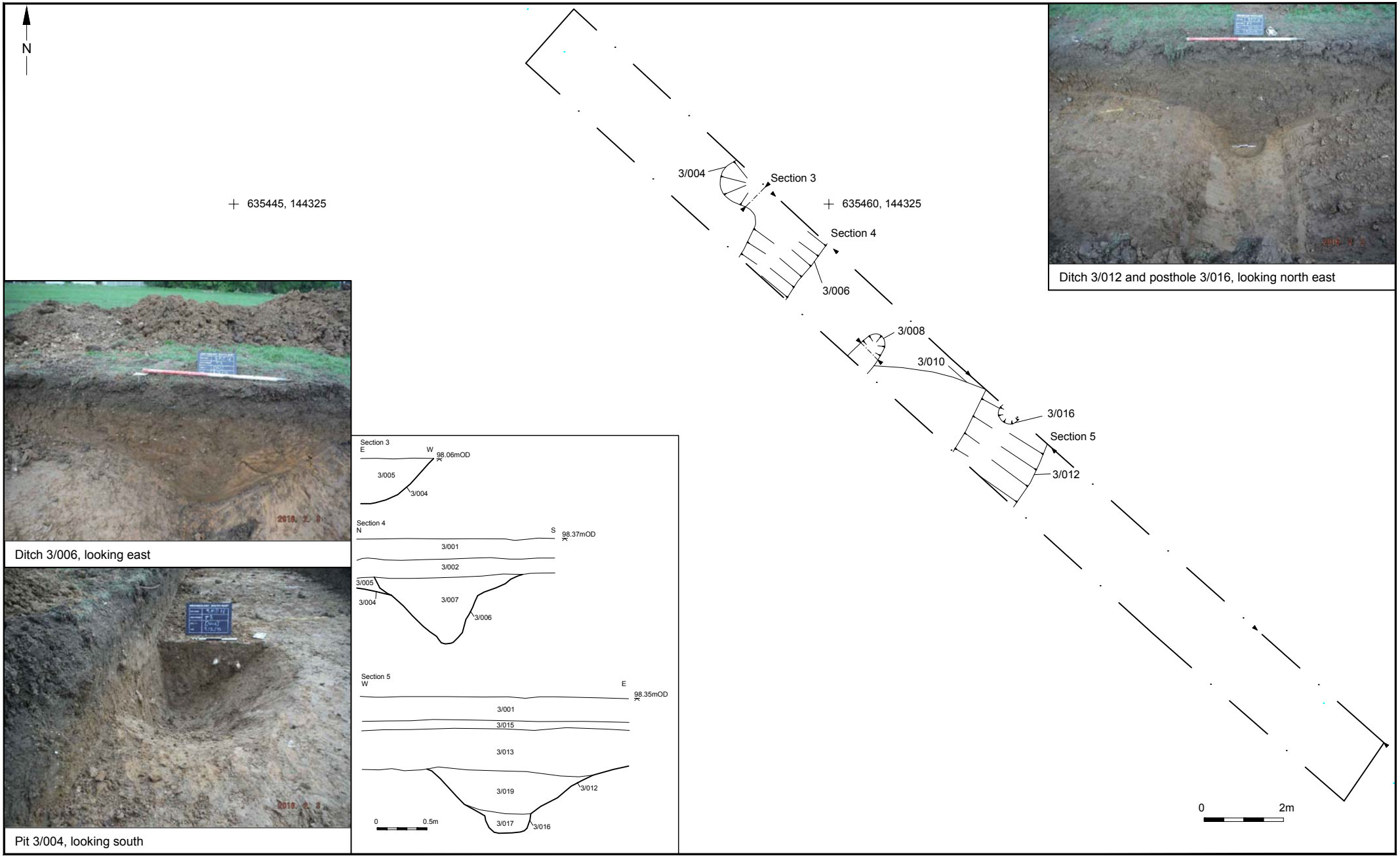
98.07mOD

2/005

2/004

0 0.5m

© Archaeology South-East		St Margarets Bay Holiday Park, Dover	Fig. 4
Project Ref: 7936	February 2016	Trench 2 : plan, section and photograph	
Report Ref: 2016058	Drawn by: NG		

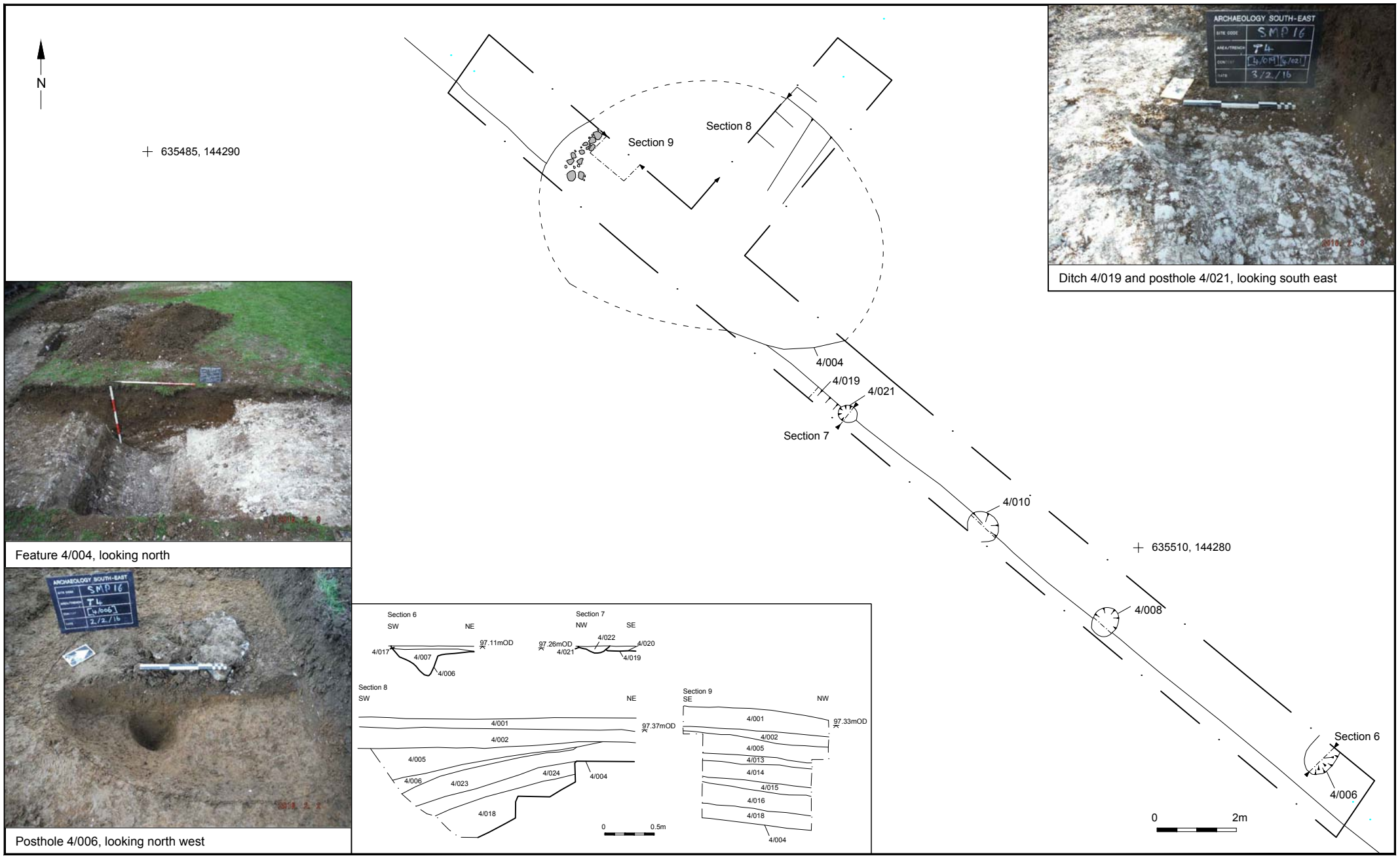


Ditch 3/012 and posthole 3/016, looking north east

Ditch 3/006, looking east

Pit 3/004, looking south

© Archaeology South-East		St Margarets Bay Holiday Park, Dover	Fig. 5
Project Ref: 7936	February 2016	Trench 3 : plan, section and photograph	
Report Ref: 2016058	Drawn by: NG		



Ditch 4/019 and posthole 4/021, looking south east

Feature 4/004, looking north

Posthole 4/006, looking north west

© Archaeology South-East		St Margarets Bay Holiday Park, Dover	Fig. 6
Project Ref: 7936	February 2016	Trench 4: plan, section and photograph	
Report Ref: 2016058	Drawn by: NG		

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