

**Archaeological Evaluation Report
Land South of Kings Head Public House
Lower Horsebridge
East Sussex BN27 4DH**

**NGR: 557787 111389
(TQ 57787 11389)**

**ASE Project No: 170458
Site Code: KHP17
ASE Report No: 2017319
OASIS ID: archaeol6-291712**



By John Cook

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Abstract

An archaeological evaluation was carried out by Archaeology South-East on Land South of Kings Head Public House, Lower Horsebridge, East Sussex on the 10th and 11th July 2017. The fieldwork was commissioned by Decimus Ltd. The evaluation comprised three trenches.

No significant archaeological finds, features or deposits were identified. Two, probably later post-medieval, ditches were identified running across two of the excavated trenches. Trench 1 was extensively disturbed by a modern sewer.

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Site Background

1.1.1 Archaeology South-East (ASE) was commissioned by Decimus Ltd to undertake an archaeological evaluation on land south of the Kings Head Public House, Lower Horsebridge, East Sussex, BN27 4DH, (NGR 557787 111389; Figure 1).

1.2 Geology and Topography

1.2.1 According to the online British Geological Survey 1:50,000 mapping, the site is underlain by solid geology of Weald Clay Formation: Mudstone. The Weald Clay is overlain by River Terrace Sands and Gravels with alluvium to the east of the site (BGS 2017).

1.3 Planning Background

1.3.1 It is understood that the evaluation has been undertaken pre-application. A Written Scheme of Investigation for the work (ASE 2107) was submitted to and approved by Greg Chuter, Archaeologist, East Sussex County Council, prior to the commencement of fieldwork.

1.4 Scope of Report

1.4.1 The current report provides the results of the archaeological evaluation carried out on the 10th and 11th July 2017. The on-site work was undertaken by John Cook (Senior Archaeologist) and by Tom Simms (Assistant Archaeologist). The project was managed by Paul Mason (Project Manager) and by Dan Swift (Post-Excavation Manager).

2.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 A search of the East Sussex Historic Environment Record returned the following sites within a 500m radius of the site (Figure 1):

HER No.	Description	Period
MES4369	Horsebridge Tollhouse	19th Century
MES6957	Cast Iron Milestone	18th century
MES6958	Watermill	17th century
MES7797 MES7809	Lower Horsebridge Hamlet	Post-medieval
MES7798	Brook House. Buildings	Post-medieval
MES7821	Quarry west of Horsebridge Wood	19th century
MES7872	World War II Gun Emplacement	20th century
MES15543	Wellbury Farm. Moat	Medieval
MES24509	Memorial Pavilion	20th century
MES32626	Bakers Farm. Farmstead	19th century
MES33053	Brook House. Farmstead	19th century

2.2 The HER search also returned records of nine listed buildings within the search radius. None of these buildings lie within or adjacent to the site.

2.3 The site itself lies close to the core of the post-medieval hamlet of Lower Horsebridge (MES7797 MES7809); however Lower Horsebridge is likely to have emerged during the medieval period. The only entry in the HER which was not of post-medieval date was a probable moat at Wellbury Farm (MES15543) some 400m south-west of the site. A moat was recorded during a geophysical survey conducted by Stratascan in 2008 at Welham Farm (EES14527) this most likely is a duplicate of the previous entry. The only other fieldwork within the area was an evaluation by Oxford Archaeology also at Welham Farm (EES14724) which found only a single undated pit and a modern feature.

2.6 Project Aims and Objectives

2.6.1 The general aims of the archaeological evaluation as stated by Greg Chuter are:

- Establish the presence/absence of archaeological remains within the proposed development area
- Determine the extent, condition, nature, character, quality and date of any archaeological remains present
- Establish the ecofactual/environmental potential of the site any archaeological features
- Assess the likely impact of the development proposals on any archaeological remains identified
- Present a mitigation strategy which states how the archaeology of the site is to be accommodated within the proposed development, by design changes, preservation in situ of archaeological remains and/or by record (i.e. through excavation, recording and publication) of archaeological remains that would be impacted if this is considered necessary or appropriate.

2.6.2 Investigation of the site also has the potential to address the following research priorities in alignment with the draft South East Research Framework (SERF, KCC 2017):

- Can any traces medieval activity be found, particular relating to the settlement of Lower Horsebridge?
- Because of the presence of several post-medieval farmsteads in the vicinity of the site, can we further our understanding of rural spatial organisation in the area?
- More consideration of the interaction between town and country. Towns should not be split off from their hinterlands. (SERF M1)

3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY

3.1 Fieldwork Methodology

- 3.1.1 The archaeological evaluation consisted of 4 trenches and was carried out on 10th and 11th July 2017.
- 3.1.2 Due to on-site constraints (Figure 3), Trenches 1 and 2 were both moved, and Trench 3 was moved and extended, from the proposed location shown within the WSI (ASE 2107), and Trench 4 was not excavated. Aside from this; all work was conducted in line with the WSI (ibid).
- 3.1.3 All trenches were scanned prior to excavation using a cable avoidance tool. All mechanical excavation was carried out with an 8 tonne tracked excavator fitted with a flat ditching-blade under the supervision of an ASE Archaeologist. Excavation was undertaken in spits of no more than 0.1m to the top of the underlying natural substrate.
- 3.1.4 Hand excavation of the features identified in Trench 2 was undertaken and these were recorded in plan and section. All deposits were recorded using standard ASE recording sheets, with colours recorded by visual inspection only. Trenches were located and levelled using GPS and tied in to the Ordnance Survey. Spoil heaps and trench bases were scanned by eye, for unstratified artefacts.

3.2 Archive

- 3.2.1 The site archive is currently held by Archaeology South-East at the offices in Portslade and will be deposited at a suitable museum in due course.

Context sheets	12
Section sheets	1
Plans sheets	0
Colour photographs	0
B&W photos	0
Digital photos	22
Context register	1
Drawing register	1
Watching brief forms	0
Trench Record forms	3
Bulk finds (quantity e.g. 1 bag, 1 box, 0.5 box 0.5 of a box)	1 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 1: Quantification of site archive

4.0 RESULTS

4.1 Trench 1

4.1.1 Trench 1 was located in the north of the site, and measured 25.00m x 1.80m in plan; however, due to a service trench (Figure 3) Trench 1 could not be excavated to the level of the natural geology. No archaeology was recorded.

4.1.2 The sub soil [1/002], a light grey brown clay silt was overlain by the topsoil [1/001], a mid- brown sandy silt. The contexts are tabulated in the appendix at the rear of this report.

4.2 Trench 2

(Figure 4)

Length 25.00m Width 1.80m Depth 0.78m Orientation NE-SW

Context	Type	Description	Max. Length m	Max. Width m	Deposit Thickness m
2/001	Layer	Topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.20
2/002	Layer	Subsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.50
2/003	Layer	Natural	Tr.	Tr.	0.45
2/004	Cut	Cut of ditch	Tr.	Tr.	unknown
2/005	Fill	Fill of 2/004	0.45	0.45	0.12
2/006	Cut	Cut of ditch	0.51	0.51	0.03
2/007	Fill	Fill of 2/006	0.73	0.73	0.90

Table 2: Trench 2 list of recorded contexts

4.2.1 The natural [2/003], a mid- reddish brown sandy river terrace deposit, was observed at c. 17.58m OD. A subsoil layer [2/002], a mid- brown silt, lay over the natural and underneath a layer of topsoil [2/001]. Pottery and later post-medieval/modern CBM was recovered from the subsoil.

4.2.2 Two ditches [2/004] and [2/006] were recorded in Trench 2. Both ditches were cut into the natural and sealed by subsoil.

4.2.3 [2/004] was a shallow ditch oriented east to west with concave sides and a u-shaped base in the northern end of the trench. The fill [2/005] contained a small, undiagnostic piece of struck flint.

4.2.4 [2/006] was relatively deep ditch oriented northwest to southeast with concave sides and a u-shaped base in the southern end of the trench. The fill [2/007] contained pottery and glass.

4.4 Trench 3

(Figure 5)

Length 35.00m Width 1.80m Depth 0.67m Orientation – NE-SW

Context	Type	Description	Max. Length m	Max. Width m	Deposit Thickness m
3/001	Deposit	Topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.25m
3/002	Deposit	Subsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.37m
3/003	Deposit	Natural	Tr.	Tr.	-
3/004	Cut	Cut for ditch	Tr.	Tr.	-
3/005	Cut	Cut for ditch	Tr.	Tr.	-

Table 3: Trench 4 list of recorded contexts

- 4.4.1 The natural [3/003], a mid- reddish brown sandy river terrace deposit, was observed between c. 17.56m and 17.76m OD. A subsoil layer [3/002], a mid-brown silt, lay over the natural and underneath a layer of topsoil [3/001].
- 4.4.2 Two ditches [3/004] and [3/005] were revealed within the trench. These features aligned with [2/004] and [2/006] and considered to be elements of the same features and were therefore not investigated.

5.0 THE FINDS

5.1 Introduction

5.1.1 A small assemblage of finds was recovered during the evaluation. All were washed and dried or air dried as appropriate, and were subsequently quantified by count and weight, and bagged by material and context (Table 4). All finds have been packed and stored following ClfA guidelines (2014).

Context	Lithics	Weight (g)	Pottery	Weight (g)	CBM	Weight (g)	Glass	Weight (g)
2/002			1	21	1	295		
2/005	1	2						
2/007			1	29			1	37
Total	1	2	2	50	1	295	1	37

Table 4: Finds quantification

5.2 The Flintwork by Karine Le Hégarat

5.2.1 A single piece of struck flint weighing 3g was recovered from context [2/005]. The small flake is in a poor condition displaying heavy edge damage. It is made from a light grey flint with a thin outer surface, but it is otherwise undiagnostic.

5.3 The Pottery by Luke Barber

5.3.1 The evaluation recovered just two sherds of post-Roman pottery from the site. Context [2/002] produced a relatively fresh 22g bodysherd from a jar in hard-fired fine earthenware with deliberately reduced surfaces. A date between c. 1600 and 1750 is likely for this vessel. The other sherd was recovered from context [2/007]: a late glazed red earthenware bodysherd from a vessel of uncertain form with internal clear glaze. A date between c. 1750 and 1900 is suspected.

5.3.2 The pottery assemblage is small, isolated, lacks feature sherds and is of types well known of in the area. As such it does not hold any potential for further analysis and has been discarded.

5.4 The Ceramic Building Material by Isa Benedetti-Whitton

5.4.1 Nine pieces of ceramic building material (CBM) comprising six broken pieces of brick, two tile fragments and one heavily abraded and therefore unidentifiable fragment, collectively weighing 342g, were recovered from three contexts. All the material was of post-medieval date, and recovered from deposits of 19th or later century date, although some of the material was manufactured prior to this.

5.4.2 One brick fragment found in [2/002] was made from the London fabric 3032, which was most common between the late 1600s and c.1800 following the fire of London. A fragment from [006] was covered in hard grey cement, which must date to the later 19th century at the earliest. All the material was quantified by form, weight and fabric and recorded on standard recording forms. This

information was then entered into a digital Excel spreadsheet. Due to its modernity and lack of any future archaeological potential the CBM has been discarded.

5.5 The Glass by Luke Barber

5.5.1 Context [2/007] produced a 36g base shard from a green cylindrical wine bottle with high kick. The shard has no signs of surface corrosion and only a broad c. 1750-1900 date range can be suggested.

5.5.2 The glass does not have any potential for further analysis and has been discarded.

6.0 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

- 6.1 No significant archaeological finds, features or deposits were identified.
- 6.2 The evaluation revealed a simple stratigraphic sequence of natural geology overlain by 0.30m-0.45m of subsoil, overlain by either 0.50-0.60m of topsoil and/or made ground/levelling deposits. The geological substrate was encountered at a maximum height of 17.76m in the north of the site and 17.56m in the south.
- 6.3 Two former boundary, or drainage ditches, containing later post-medieval material, recorded in Trenches 2 and 3 almost certainly represent elements of the same features. The features were sealed beneath the subsoil and cut into natural geology. Trench 1 was largely disturbed by a known foul sewer.
- 6.4 The subsoil was present in all trenches, apart from where the foul sewer passes through Trench 1, indicating that the archaeological horizon is intact across much of the site.
- 6.5 The evaluation succeeded in addressing the broad research aims of the project by assessing the location, extent, date, character, condition, significance and quality of any surviving archaeological remains present.
- 6.6 As for the SERF (KCC 2017) research priorities; no medieval activity was found. The ditches recorded are similar in orientation to the modern street layout and although they may display some antiquity, in that they were recorded beneath the subsoil horizon, the recovered finds suggest that they are no older than mid- 18th century.

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

ASE would like to thank Decimus Ltd for commissioning the work and for their assistance throughout the project, and Greg Chuter, Archaeologist, East Sussex County Council for his guidance and monitoring.

HER Summary

Site code	KPH17				
Project code	170458				
Planning reference					
Site address	Land South of Kings Head Public House, Lower Horsebridge, East Sussex				
District/Borough	Wealden				
NGR (12 figures)	557787 111389				
Geology	Weald Clay Formation: Mudstone overlain by River Terrace Sands and Gravels				
Fieldwork type	Eval				
Date of fieldwork	10/07/2017 - 11/07/2017				
Sponsor/client	Decimus Ltd				
Project manager	Paul Mason				
Project supervisor	John Cook				
Period summary	Post-medieval				
Project summary	<p>An archaeological evaluation was carried out by Archaeology South-East on Land South of Kings Head Public House, Lower Horsebridge, East Sussex on the 10th and 11th July 2017. The fieldwork was commissioned by Decimus Ltd. The evaluation comprised three trenches.</p> <p>No significant archaeological finds, features or deposits were identified. Two, probably later post-medieval, ditches were identified running across two of the excavated trenches. Trench 1 was extensively disturbed by a modern sewer.</p>				

OASIS Form

OASIS ID: archaeol6-291712

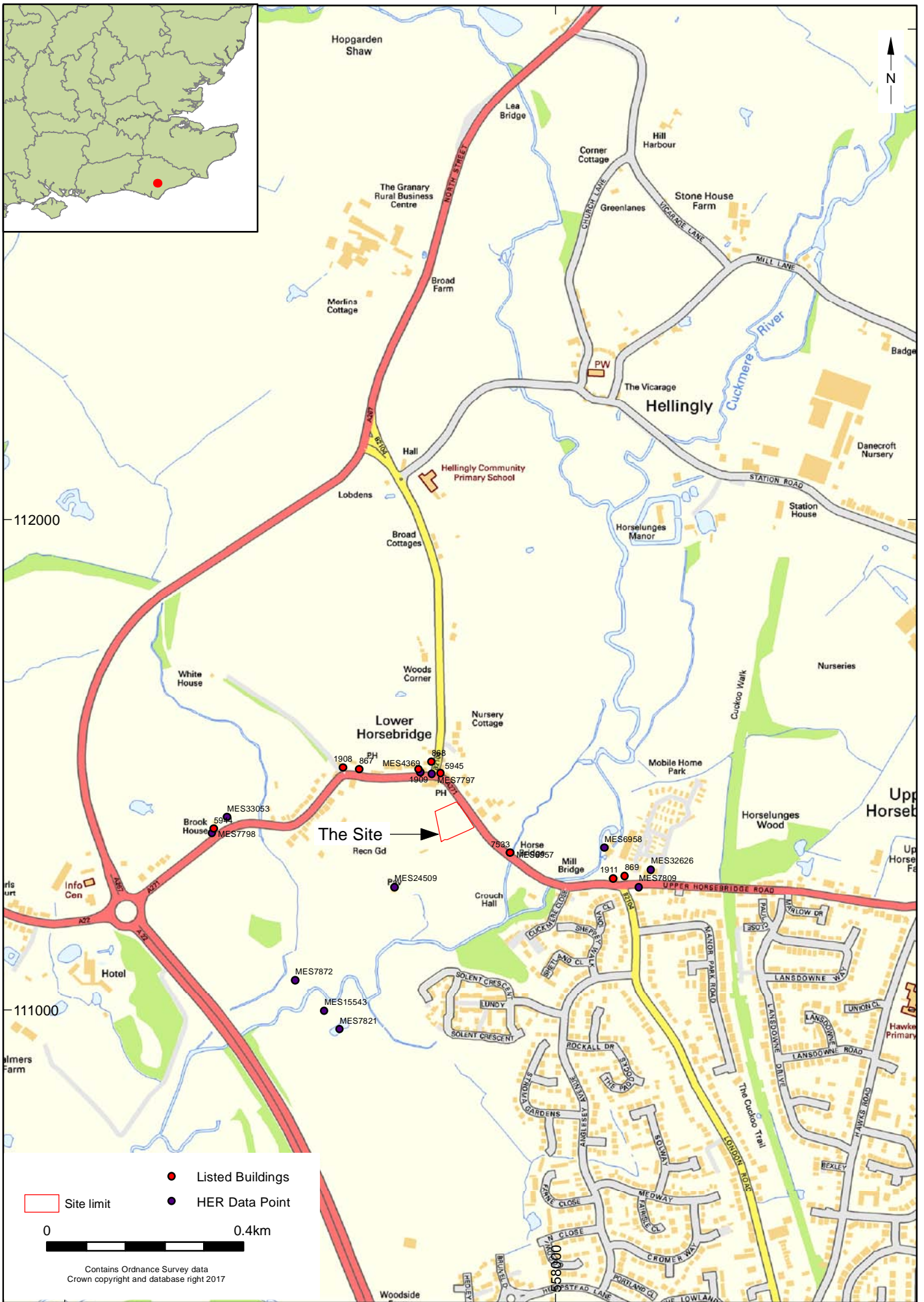
Project details

Project name	Archaeological Evaluation Land South of Kings Head Public House, Lower Horsebridge, East Sussex
Short description of the project	An archaeological evaluation was carried out by Archaeology South-East on Land South of Kings Head Public House, Lower Horsebridge, East Sussex on the 10th and 11th July 2017. The fieldwork was commissioned by Decimus Ltd. The evaluation comprised three trenches. No significant archaeological finds, features or deposits were identified. Two, probably later post-medieval, ditches were identified running across two of the excavated trenches. Trench 1 was extensively disturbed by a modern sewer.
Project dates	Start: 10-07-2017 End: 11-07-2017
Previous/future work	No / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	KPH17 - Sitecode
Any associated project reference codes	170458 - Contracting Unit No.
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Current Land use	Other 13 - Waste ground
Monument type	NONE None
Significant Finds	NONE None
Methods & techniques	"Sample Trenches"
Development type	Housing estate
Prompt	Planning condition
Position in the planning process	Not known / Not recorded
Project location	
Country	England
Site location	EAST SUSSEX WEALDEN HAILSHAM Land South of Kings Head Public House, Lower Horsebridge
Postcode	BN27 4DH
Study area	3855 Square metres
Site coordinates	TQ 57787 11389 50.879837257207 0.243197310636 50 52 47 N 000 14 35 E Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 17.48m Max: 18.43m

Project creators	Decimus Ltd
Name of Organisation	Archaeology South East
Project brief originator	Decimus Ltd
Project design originator	ASE
Project director/manager	Paul Mason/Andy Margetts
Project supervisor	John Cook
Type of sponsor/funding body	Developer
Name of sponsor/funding body	Decimus Ltd
Project archives	
Physical Archive recipient	local museum
Physical Contents	"Ceramics", "Glass"
Digital Archive recipient	ASE
Digital Contents	"Survey"
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography", "Survey", "Text"
Paper Contents	"Survey"
Paper Media available	"Plan", "Report", "Section", "Survey "
Project bibliography	
1	
Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Archaeological Evaluation Report Land South of Kings Head Public House, Lower Horsebridge, East Sussex BN27 4DH
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Cook, J.
Other bibliographic details	Report number 2017319
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Entered on	1 August 2017

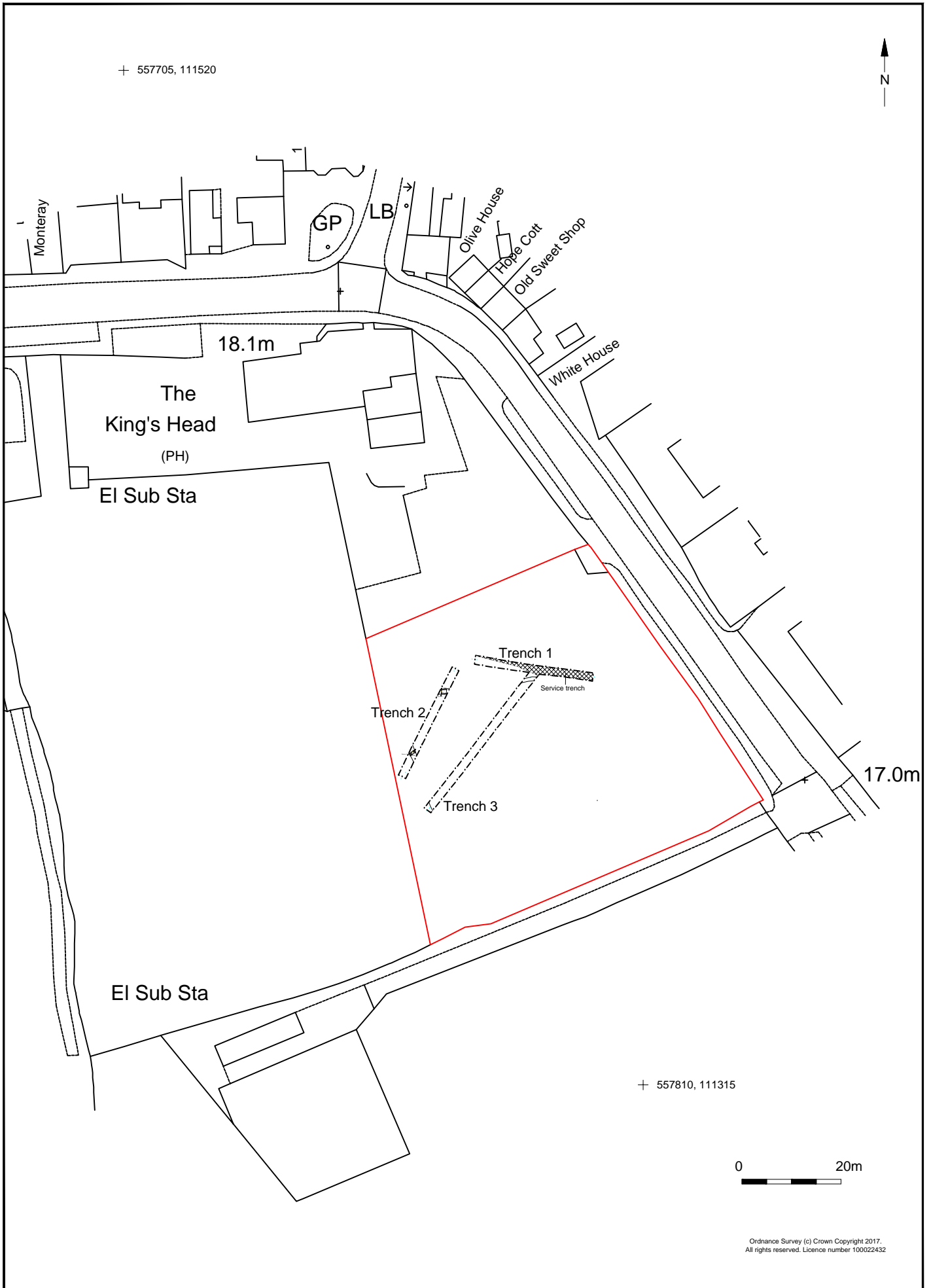
Appendix 1: Archaeologically negative trenches: list of recorded contexts

Trench Number	Context	Type	Description	Deposit Thickness m	Height m AOD
1	1/001	Deposit	Topsoil	0.20	18.28-18.43
1	1/002	Deposit	Subsoil	-	18.08-18.23

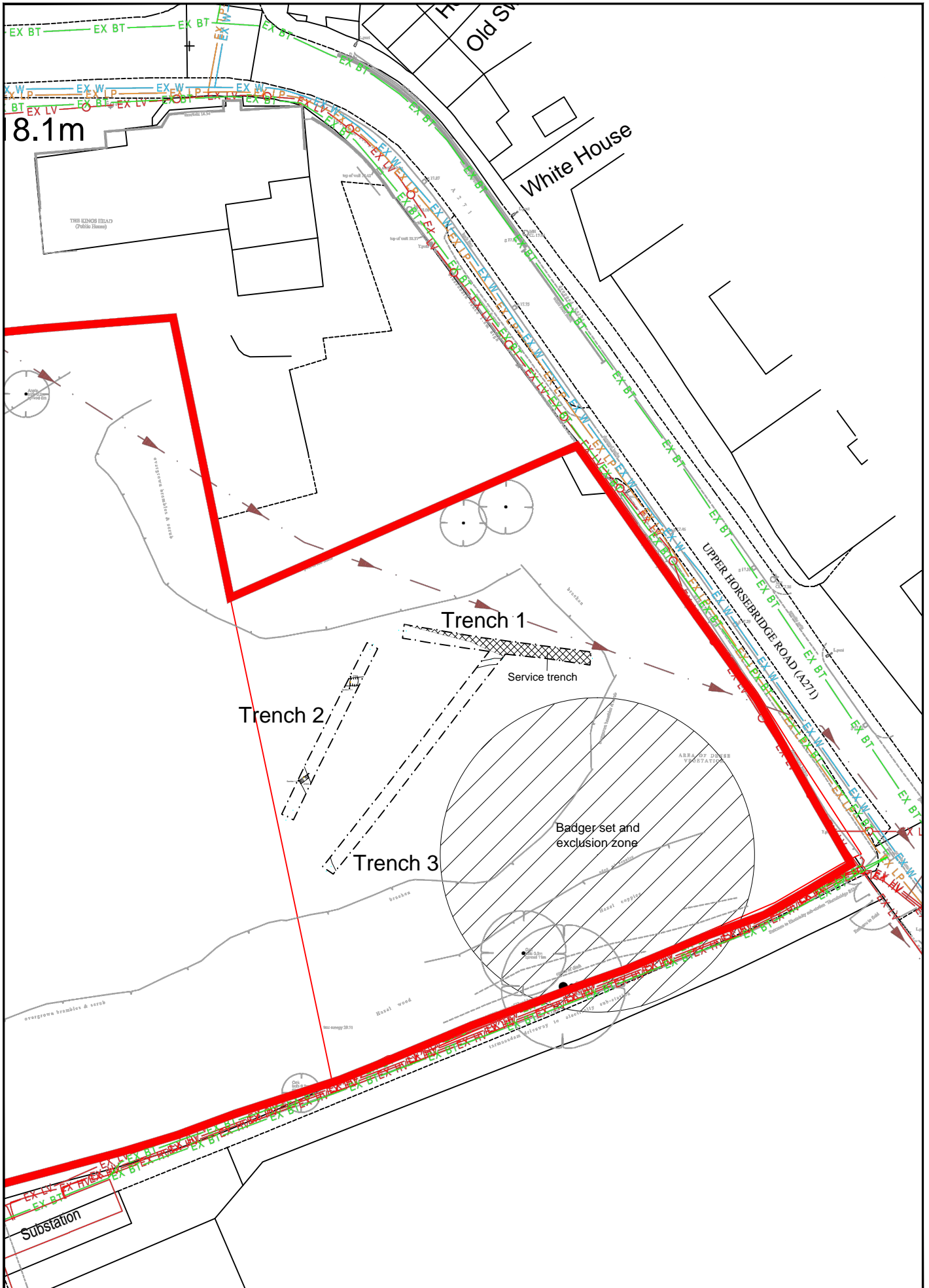


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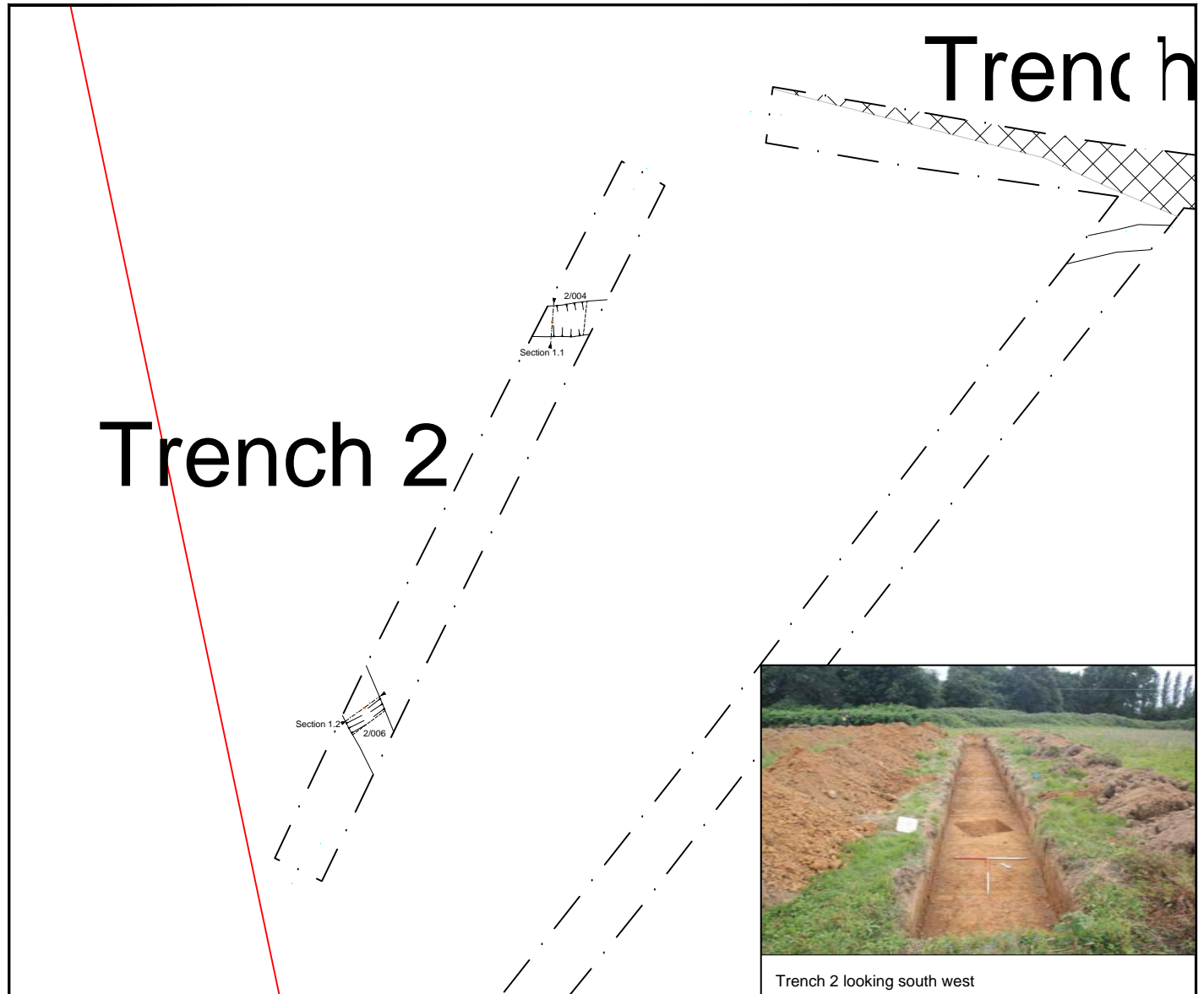
© Archaeology South-East		Land South of Kings Head Public House	Fig. 1
Project Ref: 170458	June 2017	Site location map	
Report Ref: GFI HFJ	Drawn by: AR		



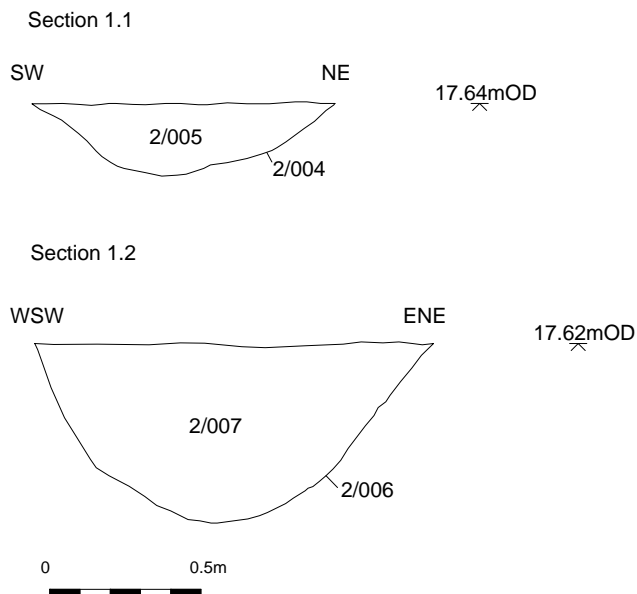
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Project Ref: 170458	July 2017	Trench location	
Report Ref: 2017319	Drawn by: JC		



© Archaeology South-East		Land South of Kings Head Public House	Fig. 3
Project Ref: 170458	July 2017	Site constraints	
Report Ref: 2017319	Drawn by: JC		



Trench 2 looking south west

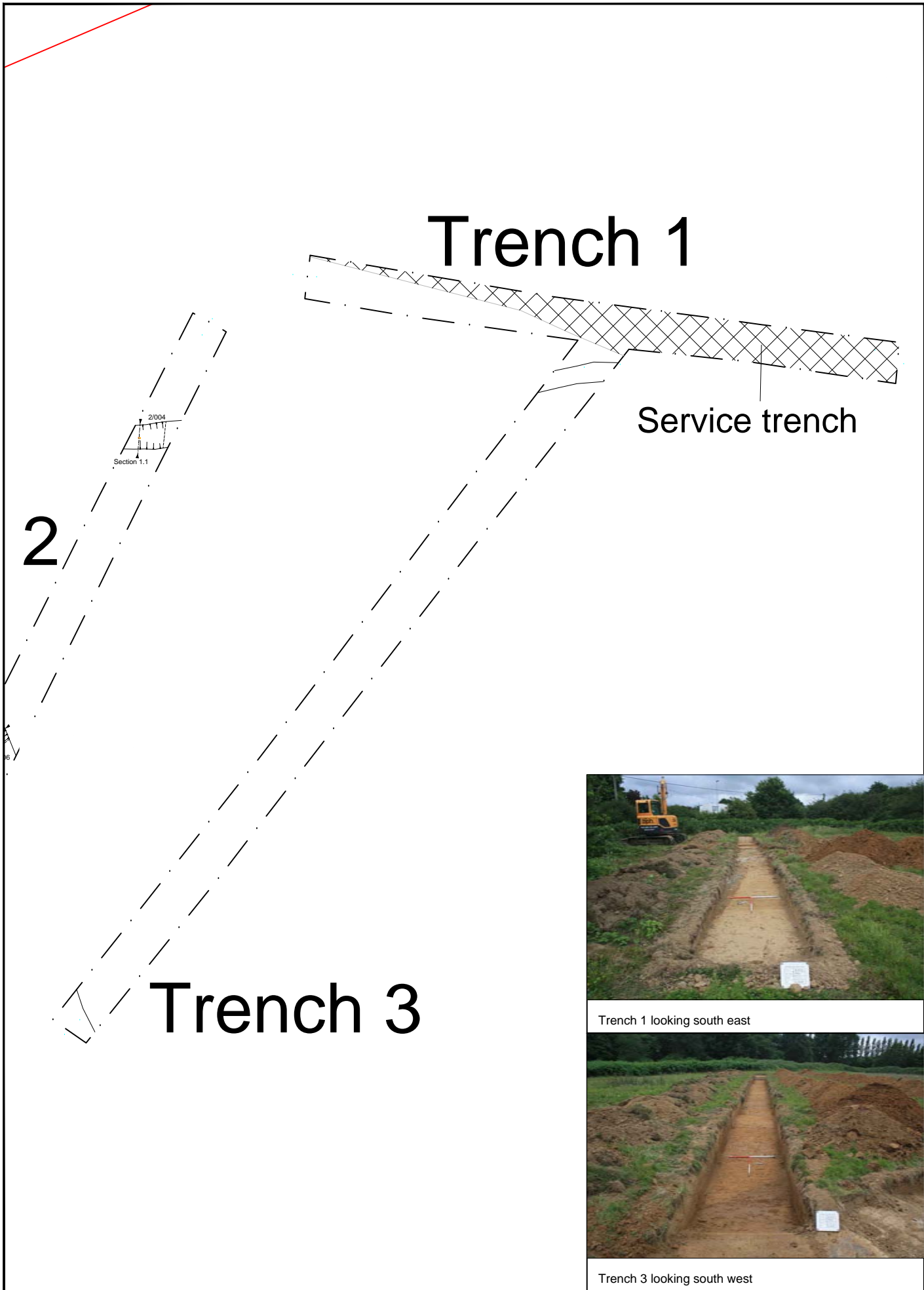


Feature [2/004] looking west



Feature [2/006] looking north west

© Archaeology South-East		Land South of Kings Head Public House	Fig. 4
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© Archaeology South-East		Land South of Kings Head Public House	Fig. 5
Project Ref: 170458	July 2017	Trenches 1 and 3 plan and photographs	
Report Ref: 2017319	Drawn by: JC		

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