

**Archaeological Evaluation and Watching Brief Report
Northern Arc (Pond 22 and The Avenue)
Burgess Hill, West Sussex**

NGR: 531138 120919

Planning Ref: DM/24/0222

**ASE Project No: 250614
Site Code: NAP22
ASE Report No: 2025288
OASIS id: archaeol6-538885**



By David Brown



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Abstract

Archaeology South-East (ASE) was commissioned by Cognition Ltd to undertake archaeological evaluation at the Pond 22 and The Avenue areas of the Northern Arc development site in Burgess Hill. The evaluation took place between the 4th and the 6th of November 2025 with a follow-up watching brief conducted on the 12th November 2025. RPS, part of Tetra Tech, provided overall archaeological project management for the project.

Fifteen trenches were excavated. These showed relatively little evidence for disturbance with the exception of recent services truncation in the north-eastern part of the Pond 22 area. Most of the trenches were found to be archaeologically negative, the only feature being a linear ditch that was recorded in 3 of the trenches in the southern part of The Avenue area that contained High Medieval pottery. An archaeological watching brief was also conducted on land in the eastern half of the southern area of The Avenue projecting northwards into the central section of The Avenue during groundworks for the cutting of an electrical cable trench. No archaeological features, deposits or finds were identified in the watching brief area.

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Site Background

- 1.1.1 Archaeology South-East (ASE) was commissioned by Cognition Ltd to undertake archaeological evaluation by trial trenching of lands at Pond 22 and The Avenue, Burgess Hill, West Sussex (Figure 1). This site is part of the larger Burgess Hill Northern Arc scheme. RPS, part of Tetra Tech, provided overall archaeological project management for the project.

1.2 Location, Geology and Topography

- 1.2.1 The Burgess Hill Northern Arc (also known as Brookleigh) lies in a primarily agricultural landscape to the immediate north of Burgess Hill, to the east of Isaacs Lane. The site comprises of two areas: Pond 22 lies in the eastern part of the development area, situated between the main link road through the development and a small stream; The Avenue comprises of a linear route and spur for a new utility installation to the south of previously excavated areas with the Burgess Hill Northern Arc scheme.
- 1.2.2 According to the British Geological Survey (BGS 2024), the geology of: Pond 22 predominantly consists of the mudstones of the Weald clay with localised deposits of ironstone and outcrops of sandstones of the Horsham Stone Member as well as superficial deposits of alluvium in the stream valley; the Avenue lies over Weald Clay Formation (mudstone).
- 1.2.3 Topographic data for the site is scant: the area of Pond 22 may represent a scarp (a slope formed by erosion or faulting) but historical mapping data may hint at this being the result of quarrying based on the name “Diggin’s Mead” attributed by 19th century mapping; the area of The Avenue is characterised by significant undulating topography which may relate to land drainage.
- 1.2.4 The Pond 22 area has a constraint to it with the presence of a badger sett exclusion zone in place. Trench locations take this into account.

1.3 Planning Background

- 1.3.1 Mid-Sussex District Council have granted outline planning permission for mixed-use development of the wider Burgess Hill Northern Arc site (DM/21/3279, an amendment of DM/18/5114). A reserved matters application for the present works is under planning reference DM/24/2010. The reserved matters application includes an informative requiring compliance with Condition 11 of DM/21/3279/ DM/18/5114:

11. No development shall take place within a reserved matters area until the applicant has secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological work in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation for that reserved matters area, to be first submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority.

Reason: To identify and to secure the appropriate level of work that is necessary before commencement of the development in respect of protecting archaeological heritage assets, and also what may be required after commencement and in some cases after the development has been completed, and to accord with Policy DP34 of the Mid Sussex District Plan 2014 - 2031.

- 1.3.2 A Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI, ASE 2025a) for evaluation was prepared in

accordance with relevant Standards and Guidance of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA 2025), submitted to and approved by all parties prior to the commencement of work at the site.

1.4 Scope of Report

- 1.4.1 The scope of this report is to set out the findings of the trial trench evaluation and subsequent watching brief.

2.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 Introduction

- 2.1.1 This section presents a summary of pertinent findings from recent archaeological works supplemented with findings from desk-based assessments conducted for both areas of the site (ASE 2023b).

2.2 Prehistoric

- 2.2.1 The earliest evidence of activity consisted of a background scatter of flintwork and a shallow spread, both of Mesolithic date. Identification of Neolithic flintwork, including an unfinished arrowhead, demonstrated exploitation of the resources of this part of the Weald. However, the first clear alterations to the landscape dated from the Middle Iron Age and comprised of pits containing burnt clay, and clusters of post-holes. The most interesting features encountered consisted of a thin scatter of remarkably similar pits/hearths showing evidence of *in situ* burning and primary fills rich in oak charcoal. These somewhat enigmatic features were spread across both of the examined mitigation areas. Limited pottery finds and radiocarbon dating suggest these were created in the Romano-British period: a middle Iron Age radiocarbon date from one pit may be an outlier, possibly a result of the “old-wood effect”, whereby older dates can be obtained from unidentified charcoal (ASE 2021). Although their function remains unproven, it is suggested they represent the scant remains of woodland clearance although alternative interpretations, such as charcoal production are also considered.
- 2.2.2 Recent investigations of Plot 1.1 to the north of the excavation area, revealed undated archaeological features consisting of several pits and ditches (ASE 2022).
- 2.2.3 Investigations of Plots 1.5 and 1.6 produced similar results to those above. The only dated feature contained Late Iron Age/Romano British pottery (ASE 2023a & 2024).

2.3 Medieval and Post-Medieval

- 2.3.1 Evidence for medieval activity consisted of abraded pottery recovered from the overburden, and possible field boundaries close to Isaacs Lane, although their date remains unconfirmed. Post-medieval activity was more clearly represented in a varied assemblage of artefacts from the topsoil, and clear land division in the form of substantial ditches corresponding to the field boundaries shown on cartographic sources.

2.4 Historical Mapping

- 2.4.1 Historical mapping from at least 1838 shows that the site crossed two fields, until the alterations occasioned the ongoing works; the northern end possibly extending into a third field. Of possible archaeological interest is a field name recorded by the 1838 tithe survey for a field adjacent to the north of the current site, known as ‘dencher’. Denchering/devonshiring refers to an old practice of sweetening soil by paring off the turf, burning it and ploughing the ashes back (ASE 2023b). The field in the south of the site has a marked undulating topography which may relate to drainage.

2.5 Project Aims and Objectives

2.5.1 The aims of the archaeological investigation are:

- *Whether archaeological remains are present on the site and if so to assess their nature, date, survival and significance*
- *How they might be impacted by the development of the site*
- *To enable the LPA Archaeology Officer to make an informed decision as to the requirement for any further archaeological work either in advance of, or during, the development*

2.5.2 The project also has the potential to inform on the following areas of research from the South-Eastern Research Framework (SERF; KCC 2025):

- *The use of the Weald in later prehistory (Middle Bronze Age – Iron Age Periods)*
- *Agricultural economy – structural aspects; animal and plant remains (Roman Period)*
- *To what extent and in what ways have developments in agricultural technology and demand influenced historic landscape development? (Historic Landscapes)*
- *To what extent and in what ways can past landscapes and their components (prehistoric onwards) be understood in the present landscape? (Historic Landscapes)*
- *An understanding of the multifaceted landscape (Post-medieval and modern period)*

3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY

3.1 Evaluation Methodology

- 3.1.1 The evaluation consisted of 15 trenches across the two areas (Figure 2).
- 3.1.2 Trenches 1 to 7, and an additional Trench 15, were located in the Pond 22 area to the north; Trenches 8 to 14 were located in the Avenue to the south.
- 3.1.3 Trenches 1 to 7 measured c. 30m x 1.8m; Trench 15 measured 25m x 1.8m due to space constraints. Trenches 8 and 10 to 14 measured 15m x 1.8m. Trench 9 was extended to compensate for the fact that the proposed location of Trench 7 was underneath a large spoil bund which the client did not want moved and it was agreed that Trench 9 could be extended to achieve the sample needed. The trenches were located as per the WSI (ASE 2025a) for each area with the above noted exceptions.
- 3.1.4 Prior to excavation, a Cable Avoidance Tool (CAT) scanner was utilised to scan for any additional services that may have not been previously identified. No additional services were identified during the evaluation except for a number of ceramic field drains in The Avenue.
- 3.1.5 The trenches were then opened under archaeological supervision using a wheeled excavator (JCB) fitted with a toothless bucket.
- 3.1.6 The trenches were excavated to the top of the geological horizon. All deposits, features and finds were recorded using standard ASE *pro forma* trench records and Diggit mobile digital recording application. Spoil was banded around the edges of trenches, separating topsoil and subsoils for reinterment.
- 3.1.7 The location of all trenches was set out and recorded, along with the archaeological features, using survey grade GNSS equipment with SMARTNET correctional data enabled.
- 3.1.8 All works and recording were undertaken in line with the WSI (ASE 2025a) and with the Sussex Archaeological Standards (CDC / ESCC / WSCC 2019).

3.2 Watching Brief Methodology

- 3.2.1 An archaeological watching brief was also conducted on land in the eastern half of the southern area of The Avenue projecting northwards into the central section of The Avenue during groundworks for the cutting of an electrical cable trench.
- 3.2.2 Ground reduction, using a tracked mechanical excavator with a toothless bucket over the alignment of a new service duct 1.5m wide and a maximum depth of 0.41m was monitored (Figure 2).
- 3.2.3 The works were conducted on 12th November 2025.

3.3 Archive

- 3.3.1 ASE informed Lewes Castle and Museum prior to the commencement of fieldwork that a site archive would be generated. The site archive will be held at the offices of ASE in the short term and assembled in accordance with the Standards and Guidance in the Care of Archaeological Collections (SMA 2020) prior to ultimate deposition at Lewes Castle and Museum, or another suitable repository. The contents of the archive are tabulated below (Table 1 and 2).

Context sheets	55
Section sheets	1
Plans sheets	0
Colour photographs	0
B&W photos	0
Digital photos	43
Context register	1
Drawing register	1
Watching brief forms	1
Trench Record forms	15

Table 1: Quantification of site paper and digital archive

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

Table 2: Quantification of artefact and environmental samples

4.0 RESULTS

Recorded contexts for the archaeologically negative trenches are listed in Appendix 1 at the end of this report.

4.1 Trenches 1-7 and 15 (Pond 22)

- 4.1.1 All trenches were excavated to the top of the geological horizon and exhibited a similar stratigraphy of natural yellow clay overlain by subsoil composed of a mid-brown grey silty clay of variable thicknesses and a mid-grey brown silty clay topsoil with turf line.
- 4.1.2 Trenches 6, 7 and 15, located up the crest of the hill, contained thicker deposits of topsoil and subsoil before coming down onto natural yellow clay.
- 4.1.3 Trenches 1, 2, 4 and 5 contained varying degrees of this same stratigraphy with the addition of deposits or layers of made ground truncating the natural geology. This is likely upcast from the installation of a culvert and headwall slightly beyond the north-east extent of the site.

4.2 Trench 7

(Figure 5)

Context	Type	Interpretation	Length m	Width m	Thickness m	Height mAOD
7/001	deposit	topsoil			0.10	29.49-30.10
7/002	deposit	subsoil			0.12-0.30	29.40-30.05
7/003	deposit	natural			0.10	29.10-29.93
7/004	cut	tree throw	0.60	0.60	0.10	
7/005	fill	fill				

Table 3: Trench 7 list of recorded contexts

- 4.2.1 Trench 7 contained a tree throw with a single fill containing degraded roots and no archaeological finds.

4.3 Trenches 8-10 (The Avenue)

- 4.3.1 Trenches 8 to 10 were located in the northern field of the area known as The Avenue. The sequence was the same in each of these trenches; natural yellow clay was overlain by subsoil, a dark brown slightly sandy silt and topsoil and turf.

4.4 Trenches 11-14 (The Avenue)

- 4.4.1 Trenches 11-14 were located in the southern field of the area known as The Avenue. The stratigraphy of these trenches was also largely homogenous; consisting of a dark brown silt layer and turf line overlying a subsoil of light grey-brown silty clay. Trench 12 was the only archaeologically negative trench.
- 4.4.2 Trenches 11, 13 and 14 contained single, roughly north-south aligned features probably representing lengths of the same ditch.
- 4.4.3 The fills of the ditch in Trenches 13 and 14 produced High Medieval pottery; dating

from c. 1275-1375AD.

Context	Type	Interpretation	Length m	Width m	Thickness m	Height mAOD
11/001	deposit	topsoil			0.17-0.20	24.31-24.31
11/002	deposit	subsoil			0.09-0.10	24.11-24.14
11/003	deposit	natural			0.12	24.02-24.05
11/004	cut	ditch	>1.80	1.20	0.20	
11/005	fill	fill, single	>1.80	1.20	0.20	
13/001	deposit	topsoil			0.20	24.05-24.40
13/002	deposit	subsoil			0.13-0.23	-0.20--0.10
13/003	deposit	natural			0.20	-0.43--0.23
13/004	cut	ditch, boundary	1.15	0.63	0.12	
13/005	fill	fill, single	1.15	0.63	0.12	
14/001	deposit	topsoil			0.23	22.28-22.97
14/002	deposit	subsoil			0.20-0.41	-0.23--0.19
14/003	deposit	natural				-0.64--0.41
14/004	cut	ditch	>1.50	2.60	0.30	
14/005	fill	fill, single	>1.50	2.60	0.30	

Table 4: Trenches 11, 13 and 14 list of recorded contexts

4.5 Watching Brief

- 4.5.1 Topsoil, up to 0.41m thick, was recorded directly overlying the natural geology – an orange-grey silty clay. No archaeological features, deposits or finds were identified in the watching brief area.

5.0 THE FINDS

5.1 Summary

- 5.1.1 A small assemblage of finds was recovered during the evaluation. Finds requiring cleaning were washed by hand and left to air dry as appropriate. They were subsequently quantified by count and weight and bagged by material and context. The hand-collected bulk finds are quantified in Table 5.
- 5.1.2 All finds have been packed and stored following ClfA (2025) guidelines. If conservation recommendations have been made, they are detailed in the relevant material section. The following specialist reports have been prepared in line with the ClfA (2025) toolkit for specialist reporting.

Context	Pottery	Weight (g)	CBM	Weight (g)
3/002	2	4		
12/002	7	29		
13/002			2	36
13/005	56	477		
14/005	122	994		
Total	187	1504	2	36

Table 5: Quantification of hand-collected bulk finds

5.2 The Pottery by Luke Barber

- 5.2.1 The archaeological work recovered 187 sherds of post-Roman pottery, weighing 1504g, from four individually numbered contexts. The material has been fully listed in Table 6 as part of the visible archive. Overall the pottery has a range of sherd sizes from small (<30mm across) to large (>70mm across) and most appear to have suffered the effects of an acidic burial environment. Despite this the sherds show slight to moderate signs of abrasion suggesting they have not been subjected to repeated reworking.

Context	Fabric	Period	No	Weight (g)	Comments (including estimated number of different vessels represented by form. ? = undiagnostic of form)
3/002	Tin-glazed earthenware	EPM	1	2	?x1 (all over blue-tinged glaze).
3/002	Clay pigeon	LPM	1	2	Clay pigeon x1 (block with luminescent orange upper surface).
12/002	M1a Fine quartz, sparse flint to 1mm	HM	1	1	?x1 (oxidised/reduced. Worn).
12/002	M2b Fine/medium quartz	HM	5	19	?Bowl x1 (oxidised, green glaze internal base); ?x3 (oxidised, clear glaze spots. Very worn).
12/002	Glazed red earthenware (early)	EPM	1	9	?x1 (internal dark brown glaze, exterior pale clear glaze. Worn).
13/005	M2b Fine/medium quartz	HM	38	396	Cooking pots x5 (oxidised, external sooting, x1 with traces of green glaze base. Necked rectangular club rim, slight wear)
13/005	M2b Fine/medium quartz	HM	11	68	?Bowls x4 (oxidised, all with internal green glaze bases).

Context	Fabric	Period	No	Weight (g)	Comments (including estimated number of different vessels represented by form. ? = undiagnostic of form)
13/005	M2b Fine/medium quartz	HM	7	13	?x2 (oxidised).
14/005	M1a Fine quartz, sparse flint to 1mm	HM	11	108	Cooking pots x3 (oxidised, external sooting).
14/005	M2a Medium quartz	HM	9	180	Cooking pots x2 (oxidised & reduced, external sooting. X2 tapering club rims).
14/005	M2a Medium quartz	HM	1	55	Frying pan x1 9oxidised, stabbed solid D-section handle).
14/005	M2a Medium quartz	HM	8	90	?x3 (oxidised).
14/005	M2b Fine/medium quartz	HM	58	359	Cooking pots x4 (oxidised & reduced, external sooting. X2 tapering club rims, thickened rim and beaded expanded rim).
14/005	M2b Fine/medium quartz	HM	1	11	Pipkin x1 (oxidised. Slightly beaded flaring rim).
14/005	M2b Fine/medium quartz	HM	8	61	?Bowl x2 (oxidised, internal green glaze base, external sooting).
14/005	M2b Fine/medium quartz	HM	17	90	?x3 (oxidised & reduced).
14/005	M2c Fine/medium quartz, common orange iron oxides to 1mm	HM	3	17	Cooking pot x1 (oxidised, external sooting).
14/005	M3a Fine quartz	HM	4	9	?x3 (oxidised & reduced).
14/005	M3a Fine quartz	HM	2	14	Jugs x2 (oxidised, green glaze exterior. Possibly Ringmer HML 9a type).

Table 6: Pottery assemblage (HM - High Medieval c. 1200/25-1350/75; EPM – Early Post-Medieval c. 1525/50-1750; LPM - Late Post-Medieval c. 1750-1900+)

- 5.2.2 The vast majority of the assemblage is of High Medieval date (184/1491g). The pottery is dominated by quartz tempered fabrics in different grades, with only fabric M1a containing rare flint inclusions. The majority of vessels consist of coarsewares, dominated by cooking pots, but also some bowls are present along with a frying pan handle and a pipkin. The bowls are usually glazed on their internal bases but otherwise decoration is absent. The rim forms are well developed, usually consisting of tapering club types. These coarsewares cannot be matched with the products of the Ringmer industry (to the north of Lewes) with any certainty and it is suspected they derive from another, closer, source. The few fineware jug sherds show simple glazing only and it is suspected that at least one example from context [14/005] equates to Ringmer fabric HML 9a (Barber 2023). The groups from contexts [13/005] and [14/005] appear to be clean ones, free of any notable residual or intrusive material. Taken together, a deposition date of c. 1275-1375 is certain, though a date in the 14th century is considered most likely. The few stray High Medieval sherds in context [12/002] are of similar types and date. The assemblage appears to represent domestic refuse from a nearby settlement.
- 5.2.3 The post-medieval period is represented by just two sherds (contexts [2/002] and [12/002]). These appear to relate to the first half of the 18th century and may be the result of manuring the land with domestic waste during periods of arable cultivation. Interestingly there are no late post-medieval pottery sherds suggesting the land was purely pasture at this time. The latest piece consists of the small piece of later 20th-century clay pigeon from context [3/002].

- 5.2.4 The pottery assemblage is dominated by High Medieval material that appears to represent the notable dumping of domestic waste in the late 13th to mid/late 14th centuries. Medieval pottery from the area of Burgess Hill is relatively scarce in comparison to other areas of Sussex and the assemblage is deemed worthy of long-term curation in a museum. The post-medieval pottery is not considered to hold any potential for further study and is recommended for discard.

5.3 The Ceramic Building Material by Rae Regensberg

- 5.3.1 Two fragments of flat roof tile collectively weighing 36g were recovered from made ground [3/002]. The fragments were conjoined, 12mm thick and were well fired. The fabric was orange with moderate fine quartz. The ceramic building material was recorded by form, weight, dimensions and fabric and entered into an Excel spreadsheet.

6.0 THE ENVIRONMENTAL SAMPLES by Mariangela Vitolo

6.1 Introduction

- 6.1.1 One bulk soil sample was taken from a ditch fill, during evaluation work at the site, for the recovery of environmental remains such as plant macrofossils, wood charcoal, fauna and Mollusca as well as to assist finds retrieval.

6.2 Methodology

- 6.2.1 As the sample was deemed to originate from a possibly waterlogged context, it was first subsampled. A 30L subsample was processed by flotation using a 250µm mesh for retention of the flot and a 500µm mesh for the heavy residue, before being air-dried. The heavy residue was passed through graded sieves of 8, 4 and 2mm and each fraction sorted for environmental and artefactual remains (Table 7). Finds and ecofacts extracted from the residue have been distributed to specialists and they are included in the relevant reports where they add further information to the hand-collected assemblages. A 2L sub-sample was washed through a stack of geological sieves (4, 2, 1, 0.5 and 0.25 mm) and the resulting fractions were kept wet. The remaining 8L were retained for possible future analysis.
- 6.2.2 The flot and wet-sieved fractions were scanned under a stereozoom microscope at 7-45x magnifications. The flot contents are recorded in Table 8. The wet-sieved fractions did not yield any ecofacts preserved in anoxic conditions.

6.3 Results

- 6.3.1 The flot was dominated by uncharred material (c. 80%), comprising mainly fine rootlets and small twigs. These are most likely intrusive, introduced through bioturbation rather than representing past activity. No charred or waterlogged plant remains of archaeological significance were recovered. Only very small flecks of charcoal were observed; these were sparse, highly fragmented, and insufficient in size or quantity to justify further identification. Land snail shells were present in both the flot and the residue, consistent with natural background accumulation within the deposit.

6.4 Discussion

- 6.4.1 The environmental sample from ditch [13/004] produced no charred or waterlogged plant remains of archaeological significance. Although the feature had been interpreted as potentially waterlogged, the absence of preserved waterlogged material suggests that conditions were either insufficiently anoxic for botanical preservation or that waterlogging was short-lived and did not support the survival of organic remains. The flot was dominated by intrusive uncharred material—mainly rootlets and fine woody fragments—indicating ongoing bioturbation. Charcoal occurred only as a few minute flecks and offers no meaningful interpretative value.
- 6.4.2 Given these results, the previously retained soil associated with this sample does not warrant further retention and can be discarded. The assemblage overall represents background environmental noise rather than deliberate or accidental deposition related to past activity.
- 6.4.3 If additional fieldwork is undertaken, targeted sampling is advised. Samples should focus on securely stratified, well-sealed features with clearer potential for preservation—such as deep pits, hearth deposits, or ditch segments showing

sustained waterlogging or rapid infilling. Should genuinely waterlogged contexts be encountered, prompt sampling and appropriate wet storage would be beneficial. A modest programme of bulk sampling (c.40 litres where feasible) would provide adequate coverage while avoiding unnecessary processing of deposits unlikely to yield archaeological ecofacts.

Sample Number	Context	Parent Context	Sample Volume (L)	Sub-Sample Volume (L)	Charcoal >4mm	Weight (g)	Charcoal 2-4mm	Weight (g)	Land Snail Shells	Weight (g)
1	13/005	Ditch [13/004]	40	30	**	1	**	1	*	<1

Table 7: Residue quantification (* = 1-10, ** = 11-50, *** = 51-250, **** = >250) and weights in grams

Sample Number	Context	Weight (g)	Flot volume (ml)	Volume Scanned	Uncharred (%)	Sediment (%)	Charcoal <2mm	Land Snail Shells
1	13/005	3	30	30	80	10	*	*

Table 8: Flot quantification (* = 1-10, ** = 11-50, *** = 51-250, **** = >250) and weights in grams

7.0 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

7.1 Overview of stratigraphic sequence

- 7.1.1 The stratigraphy was homogenous; consisting of a topsoil and turf layer followed by subsoil of varying thicknesses overlying natural clay. Trenches 1, 2, 4 and 5 contained often significant layers of made ground.

7.2 Deposit survival and existing impacts

- 7.2.1 For the most part, the integrity of the archaeological horizon is good. The north-western trenches [1, 2, 4 and 5] in the Pond 22 area however were heavily truncated by a culvert and headwall.

7.3 Discussion of archaeological remains by period

- 7.3.1 The only archaeological activity was a linear ditch traversing the southern field of The Avenue area that was recorded in Trenches 11, 13 and 14. The ditch contained High Medieval pottery of likely 14th century date. The feature does not appear on the 1st edition Ordnance Survey map of 1880 (Figure 10) and so may be of some antiquity. The pottery is indicative of waste from a domestic settlement. The ditch is roughly parallel to Isaacs Lane to the west.

7.4 Potential impact on archaeological remains

- 7.4.1 No significant development impacts upon archaeological remains is anticipated given the findings of this evaluation.

7.5 Consideration of research aims

- 7.5.1 The general aims of the work have been met, however, none of the research aims can be addressed.

7.7 Conclusions

- 7.7.1 Fifteen trenches were excavated. These showed relatively little evidence for disturbance with the exception of recent services truncation in the north-eastern part of the Pond 22 area. Most of the trenches were found to be archaeologically negative, the only feature being a linear ditch that was recorded in 3 of the trenches in the southern part of The Avenue area that contained High Medieval pottery. An archaeological watching brief was also conducted on land in the eastern half of the southern area of The Avenue projecting northwards into the central section of The Avenue during groundworks for the cutting of an electrical cable trench. No archaeological features, deposits or finds were identified in the watching brief area.

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Appendix 1: Archaeologically negative trenches; list of recorded contexts

Context	Type	Interpretation	Length (m)	Width (m)	Thickness (m)	Height (m AOD)
1/001	Layer	Topsoil	30.00	1.80	0.10-0.15	25.01-25.75
1/002	Layer	Subsoil	30.00	1.80	0.13	24.91-25.60
1/003	Layer	Natural				24.21-25.17
1/004	Layer	Made ground	30.00	1.80	0.30-0.60	24.81-25.50
2/001	Layer	Topsoil	30.00	1.80	0.30-0.35	26.15-26.86
2/002	Layer	Made ground	30.00	1.80	0.40	
3/001	Layer	Topsoil	30.00	1.80	0.06-0.13	22.52-25.75
3/002	Layer	Subsoil	30.00	1.80	0.08-0.15	22.39-25.65
3/003	deposit	natural				22.24-25.53
4/001	Layer	Topsoil	30.00	1.80	0.25-0.30	24.06-30.38
4/002	Layer	Made ground	30.00	1.80	-	28.67-30.08
5/001	Layer	Topsoil	30.00	1.80	0.10	26.12-28.57
5/002	Layer	Subsoil	30.00	1.80	0.30	26.02-28.47
5/003	deposit	natural			0.02	
5/004	Layer	Made ground	30.00	1.80	0.40	25.62-28.17
6/001	Layer	Topsoil	30.00	1.80	0.10	29.06-30.12
6/002	Layer	Subsoil	30.00	1.80	0.20-0.30	28.96-30.02
6/003	deposit	natural			0.04	28.71-29.76
8/001	Layer	Topsoil	15.00	1.80	0.15-0.18	24.28-24.38
8/002	Layer	Subsoil	15.00	1.80	0.20-0.30	24.13-24.23
8/003	deposit	natural				23.87-23.94
9/001	Layer	Topsoil	30.00	1.80	0.10-0.15	23.46-23.60
9/002	Layer	Subsoil	30.00	1.80	0.10-0.15	-0.15-23.50
9/003	deposit	natural				-0.30-23.40
10/001	Layer	Topsoil	15.00	1.80	0.10-0.12	23.17-23.19
10/002	Layer	Subsoil	15.00	1.80	0.17-0.23	-0.12-23.08
10/003	deposit	natural				-0.35-22.87
12/001	Layer	Topsoil	15.00	1.80	0.15-0.28	22.05-22.14
12/002	Layer	Subsoil	15.00	1.80	0.25-0.30	-0.28-21.94
12/003	deposit	natural			0.20	-0.53-21.64
15/001	Layer	Topsoil	25.00	1.80	0.13	29.77-30.03
15/002	Layer	Subsoil	25.00	1.80	0.16-0.18	29.64-29.90
15/003	deposit	natural			0.10	29.46-29.74

HER Summary

Site code	NAP22					
Project code	250614					
Planning reference	DM/24/0222					
Site address	Burgess Hill, Northern Arc (Pond 22/The Avenue)					
District/Borough	Burgess Hill					
NGR (12 figures)	531138 120919					
Geology	Clay					
Fieldwork type	Eval		WB			
Date of fieldwork	The evaluation took place between the 4 th and the 6 th of November 2025 with a follow-up watching brief conducted on the 12 th November 2025.					
Sponsor/client	Cognition Ltd					
Project manager	Paul Mason					
Project supervisor	Dave Brown					
Period summary						
			Medieval			
Project summary	Fifteen trenches were excavated. These showed relatively little evidence for disturbance with the exception of recent services truncation in the north-eastern part of the Pond 22 area. Most of the trenches were found to be archaeologically negative, the only feature being a linear ditch that was recorded in 3 of the trenches in the southern part of The Avenue area that contained High Medieval pottery. An archaeological watching brief was also conducted on land in the eastern half of the southern area of The Avenue projecting northwards into the central section of The Avenue during groundworks for the cutting of an electrical cable trench. No archaeological features, deposits or finds were identified in the watching brief area.					

OASIS Summary

OASIS ID (UID): archaeol6-538885

Project Name: Evaluation at Northern Arc (Pond 22/The Avenue)

Activity type: Evaluation

Sitecode(s): NAP22

Planning Id: DM/24/0222

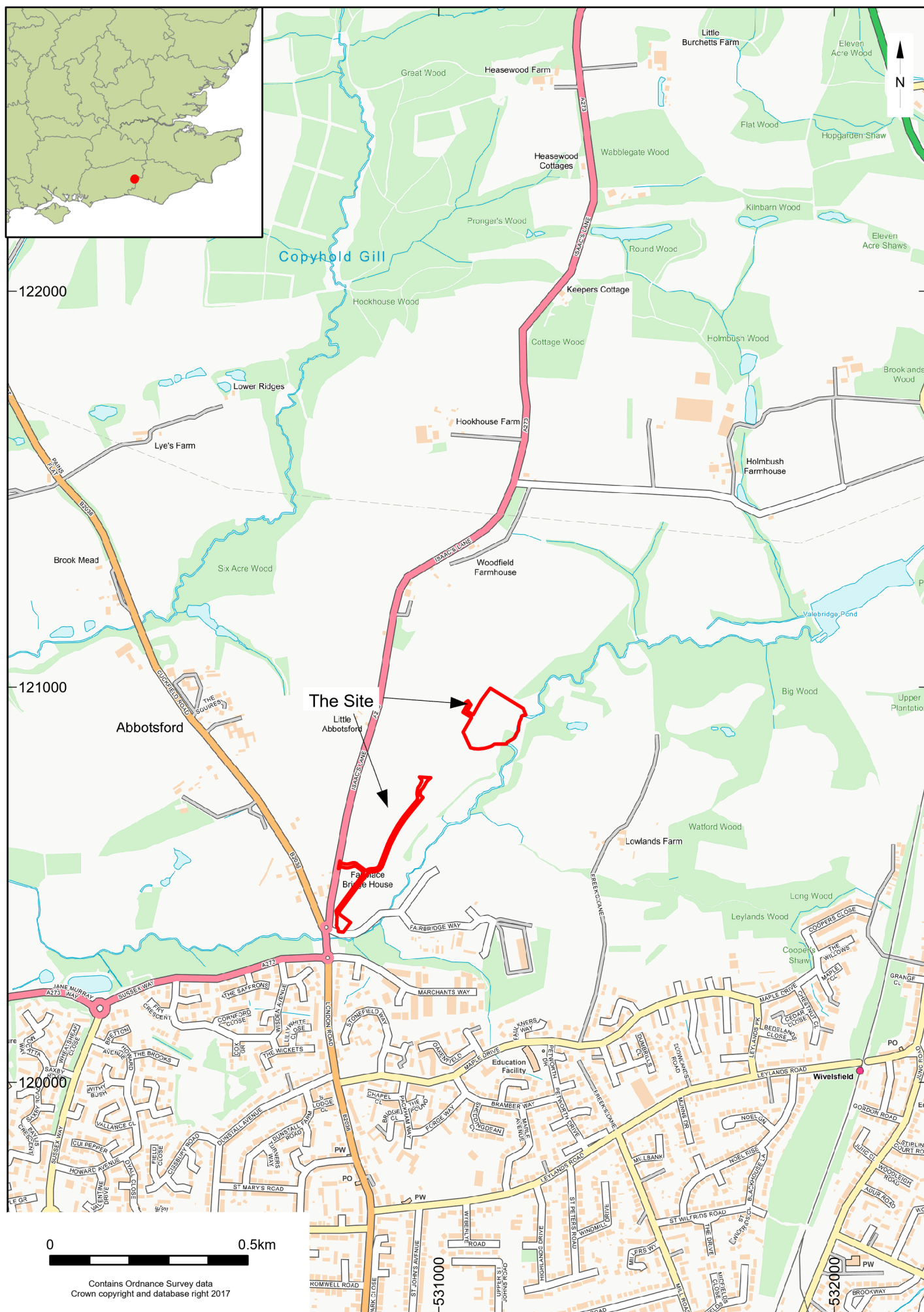
Reason for Investigation: Planning: Between application and determination

Organisation Responsible for work: Archaeology South-East

Project Dates: 04-Nov-2025 - 06-Nov-2025

Project Methodology: Archaeological trial trenching.

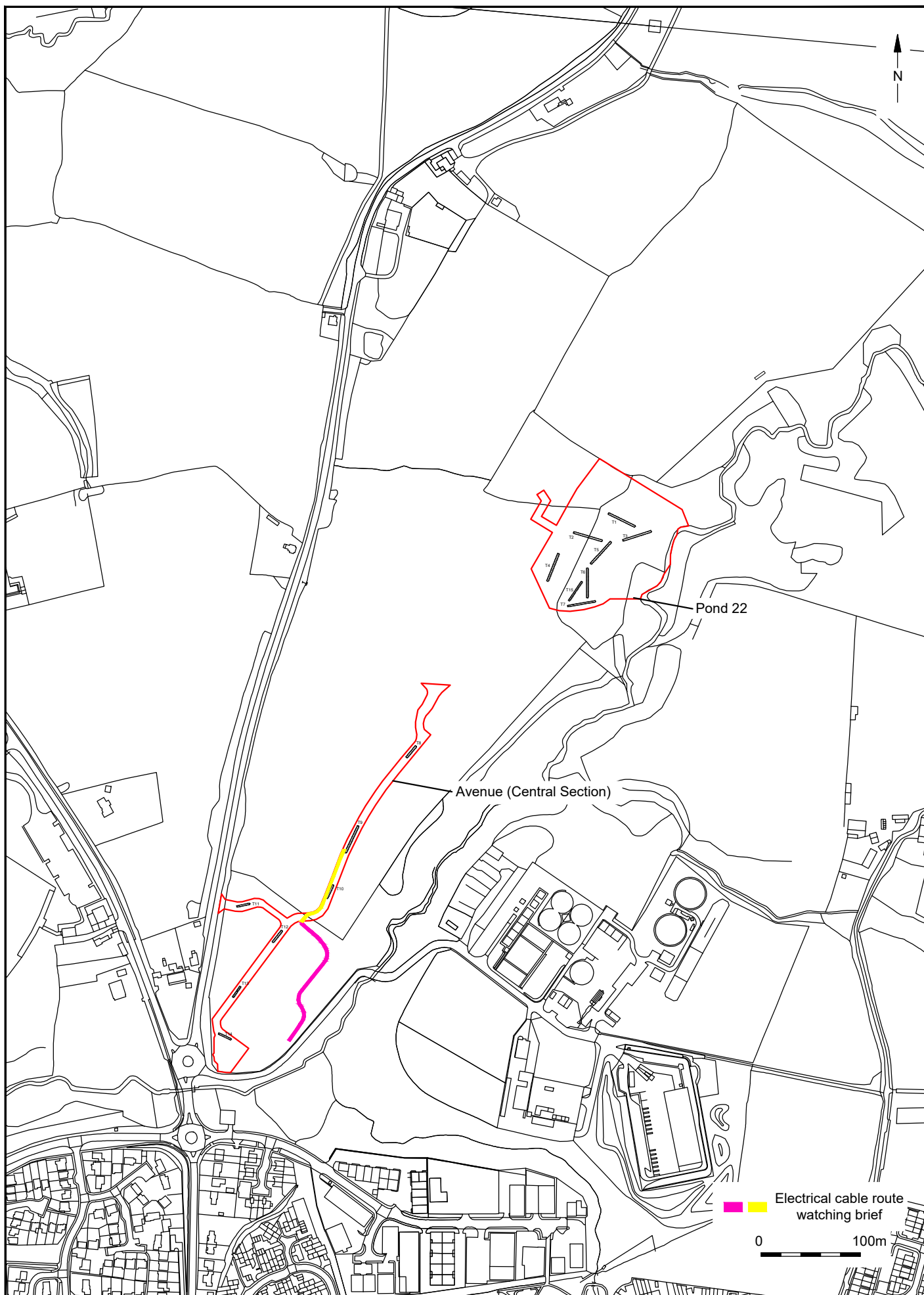
Project Results: Fifteen trenches were excavated. These showed relatively little evidence for disturbance with the exception of recent services truncation in the north-eastern part of the Pond 22 area. Most of the trenches were found to be archaeologically negative, the only feature being a linear ditch that was recorded in 3 of the trenches in the southern part of The Avenue area that contained High Medieval pottery. An archaeological watching brief was also conducted on land in the eastern half of the southern area of The Avenue projecting northwards into the central section of The Avenue during groundworks for the cutting of an electrical cable trench. No archaeological features, deposits or finds were identified in the watching brief area.



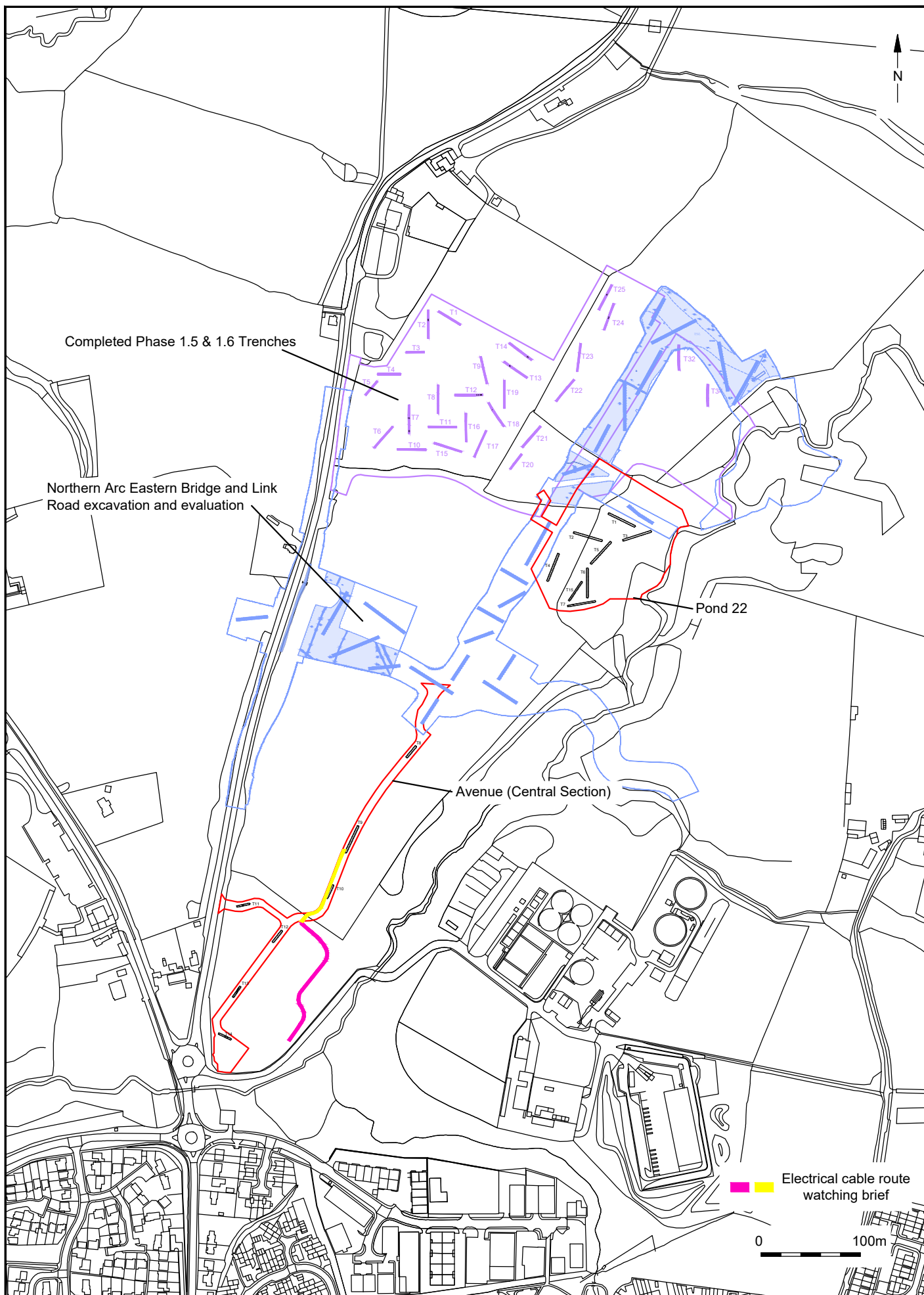
Contains Ordnance Survey data
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© Archaeology South-East		Northern Arc (Pond 22); Northern Arc (The Avenue), Burgess Hill, West Sussex	
Project Ref: 250614	Sept 2025	Site Location	
Report Ref: 2025288	Drawn by: AC		

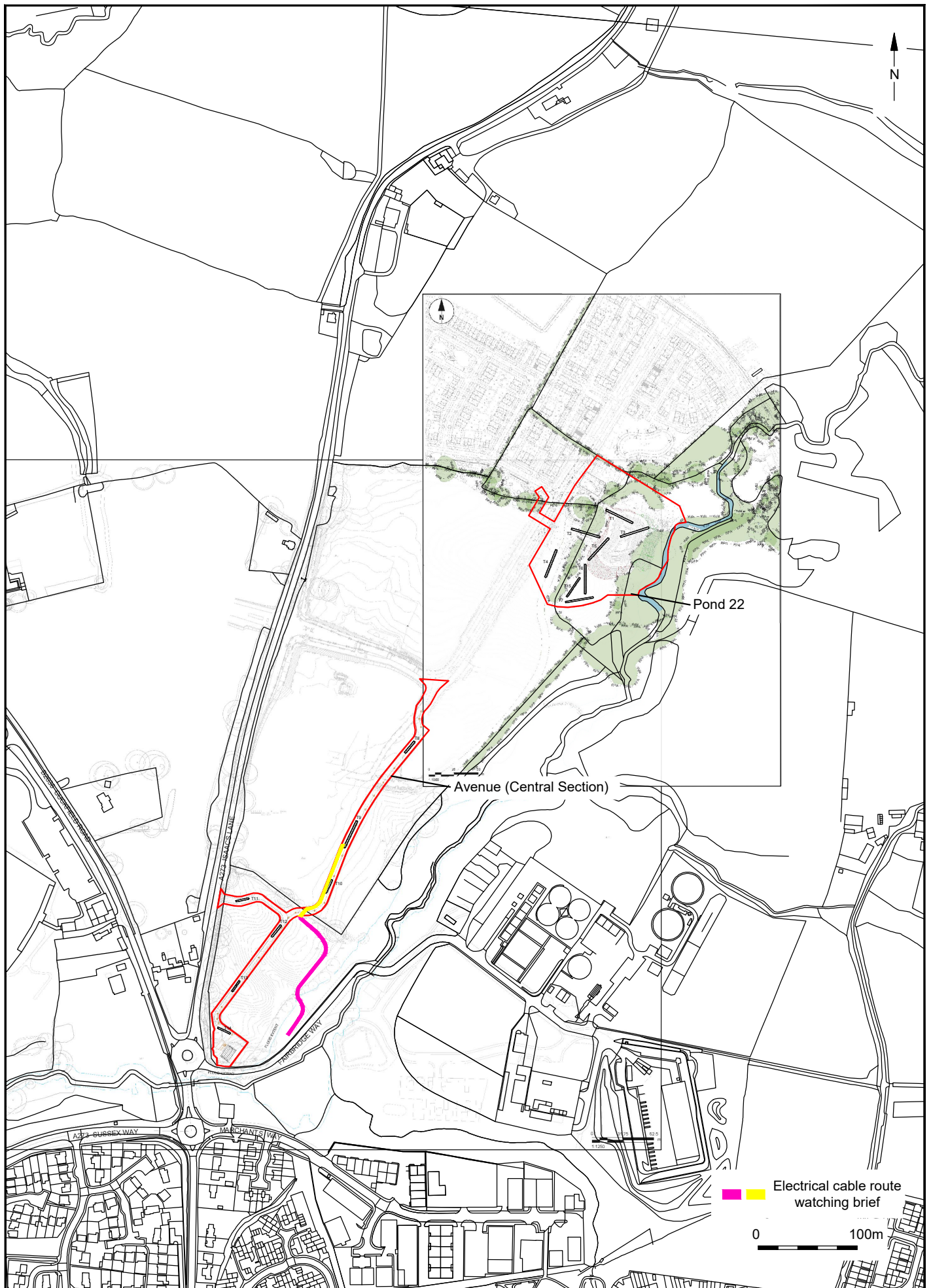
Fig. 1



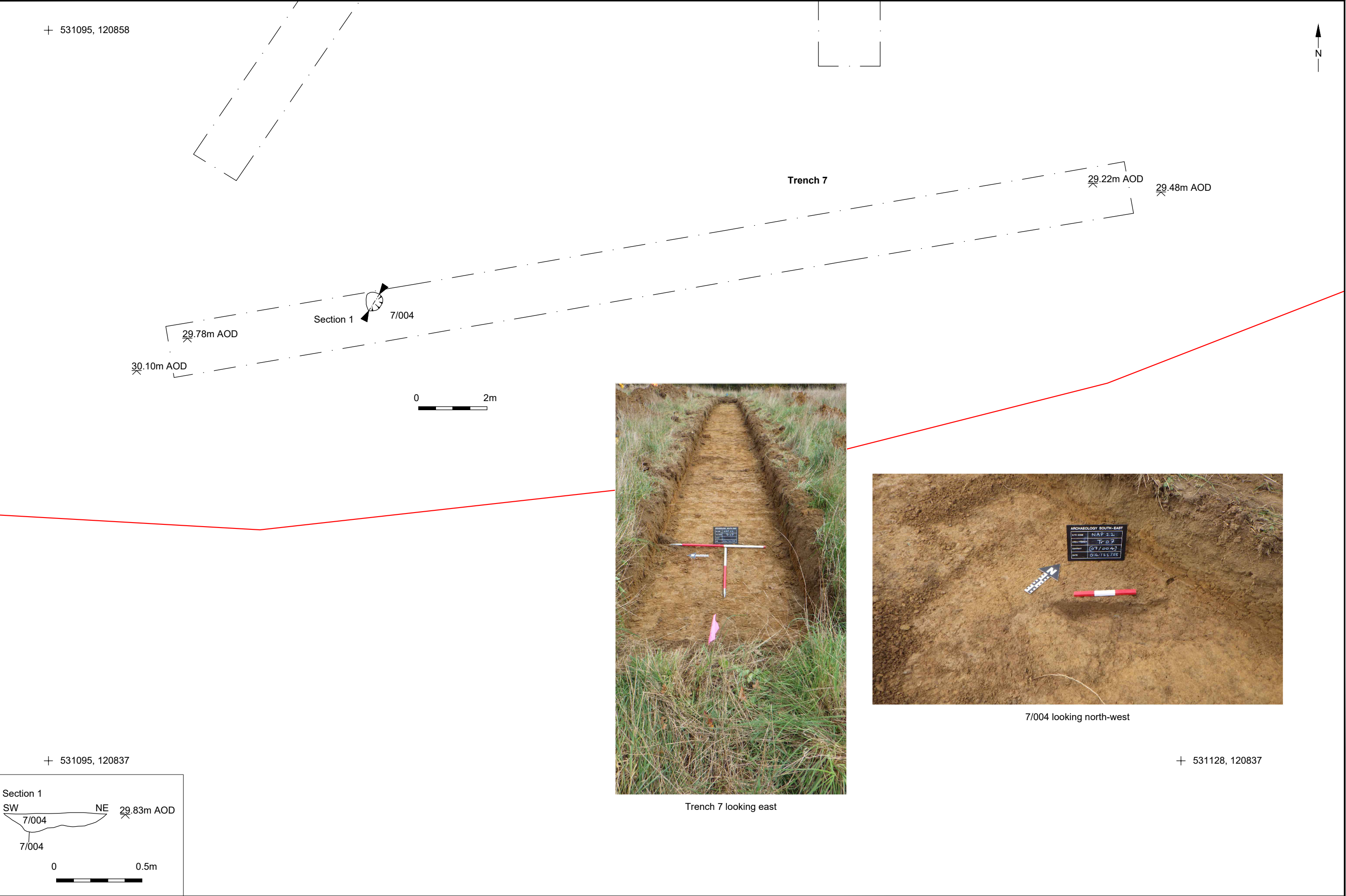
© Archaeology South-East		Northern Arc (Pond 22); Northern Arc (The Avenue), Burgess Hill, West Sussex	Fig.2
Project Ref: 250614	November 2025	Trench locations	
Report Ref: 2025288	Drawn by: AC		



© Archaeology South-East		Northern Arc (Pond 22); Northern Arc (The Avenue), Burgess Hill, West Sussex	Fig.3
Project Ref: 250614	November 2025	Trench locations and immediate previous works	
Report Ref: 2025288	Drawn by: AC		

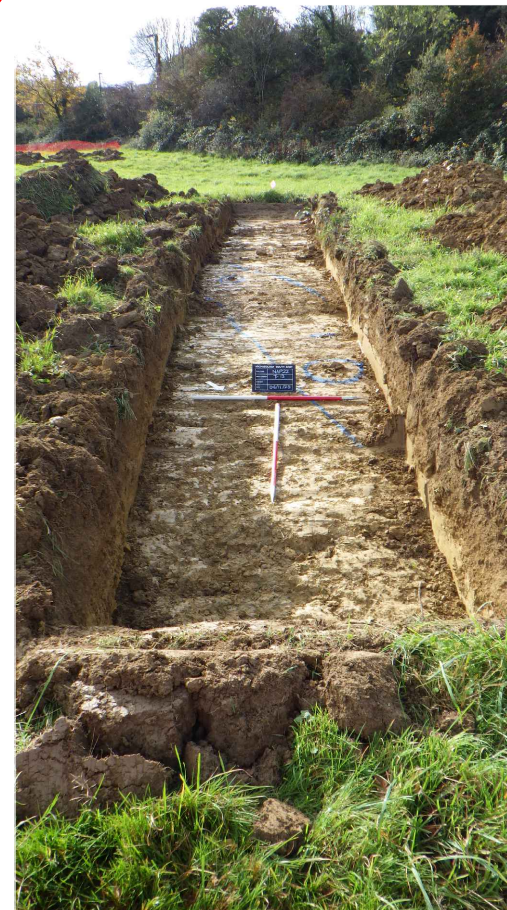
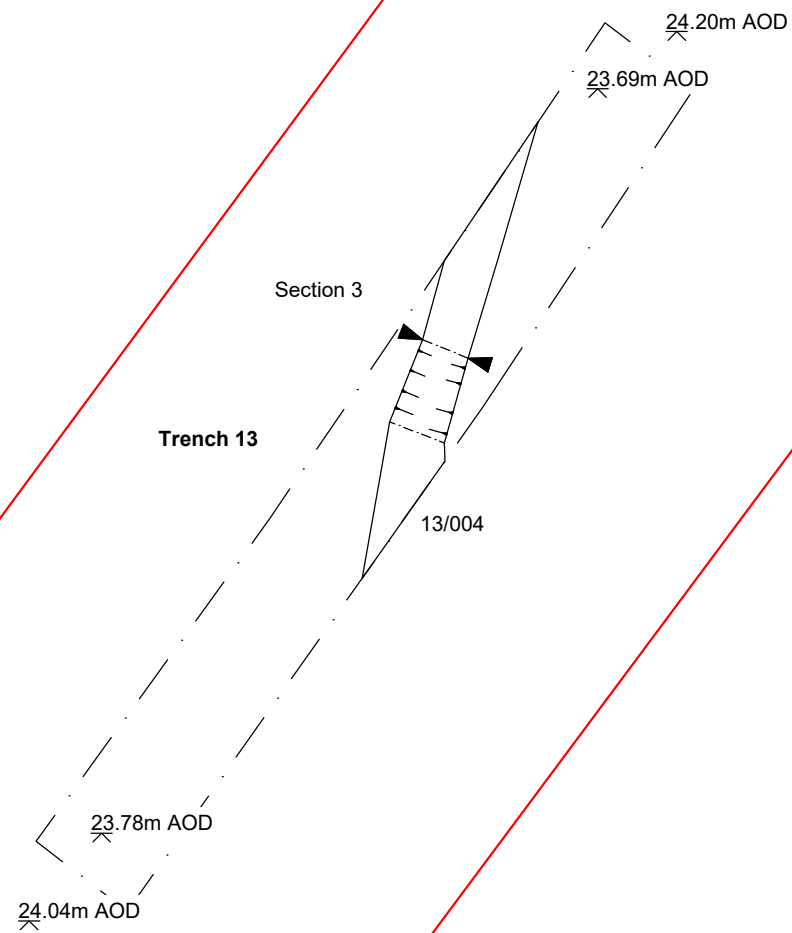


© Archaeology South-East		Northern Arc (Pond 22); Northern Arc (The Avenue), Burgess Hill, West Sussex	Fig.4
Project Ref: 250614	November 2025	Trench locations with proposed development plans	
Report Ref: 2025288	Drawn by: AC		





+ 530754, 120471



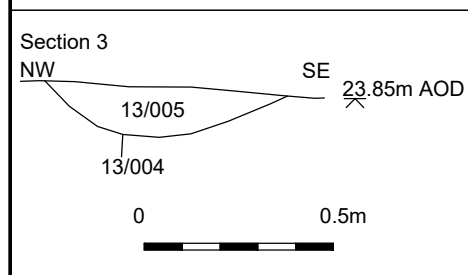
Trench 13 looking south-west



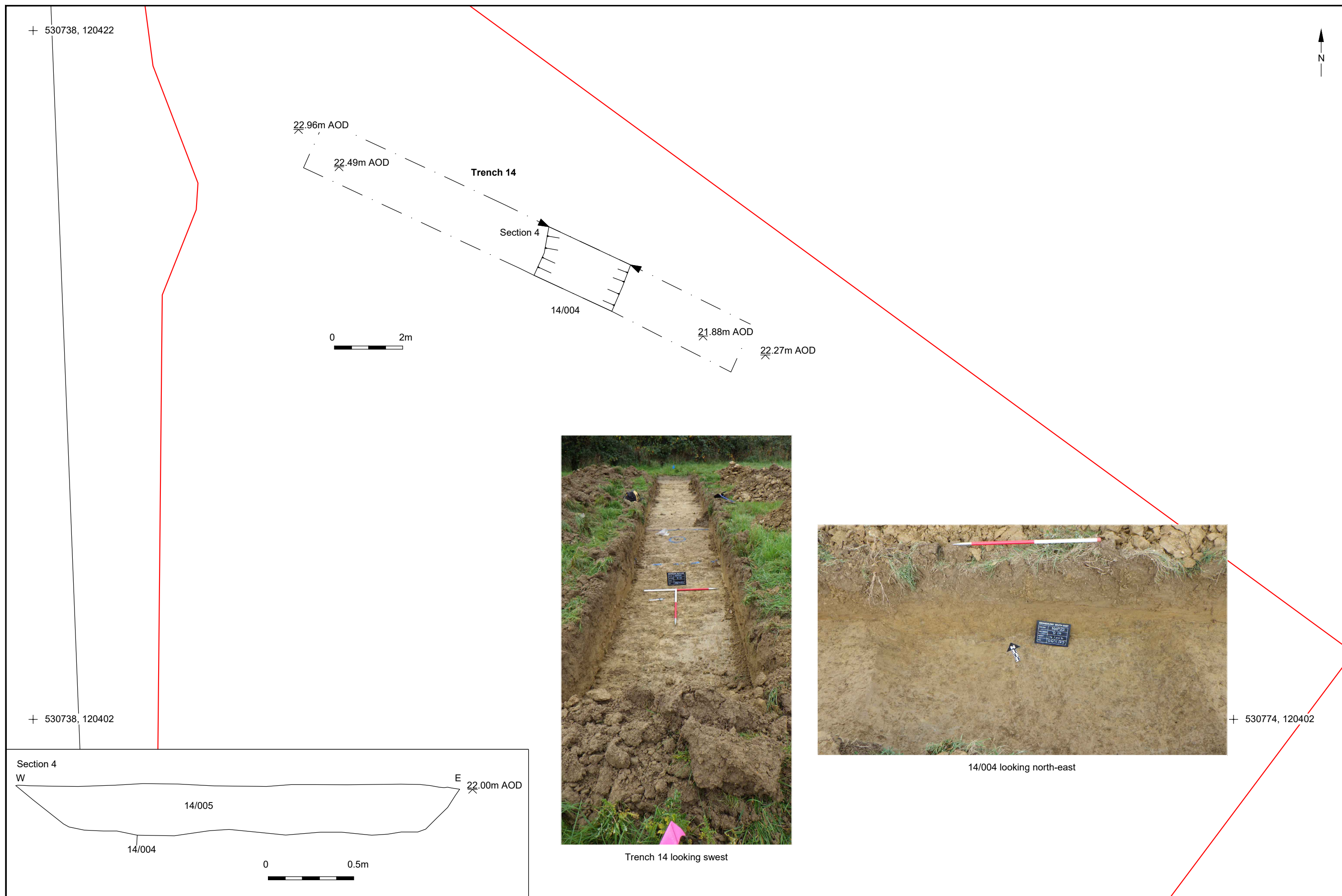
13/004 looking north-east

+ 530754, 120450

+ 530788, 120450



© Archaeology South-East		Northern Arc (Pond 22); Northern Arc (The Avenue), Burgess Hill, West Sussex	Fig.7
Project Ref: 250614	November 2025		
Report Ref: 2025288	Drawn by: AC	Trench 13; plan, section and photographs	





Trench 1 looking south-east



Trench 2 looking south-east



Trench 3 looking east



Trench 4 looking north-east



Trench 5 looking south-west



Trench 6 looking north



Trench 8 looking north-east



Trench 9 looking north-east



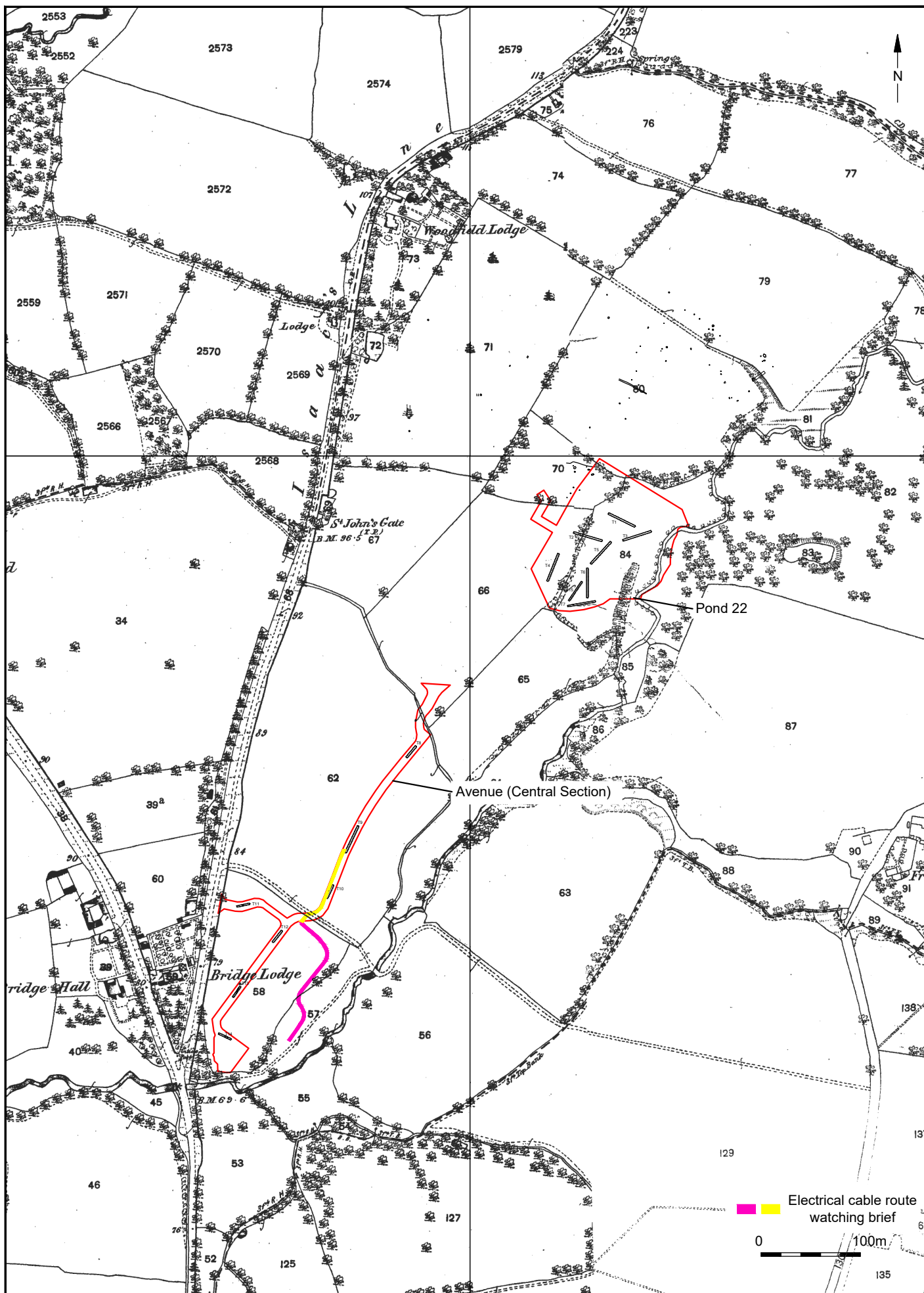
Trench 10 looking north-east



Trench 12 looking south-west



Trench 15 looking north-east



© Archaeology South-East		Northern Arc (Pond 22); Northern Arc (The Avenue), Burgess Hill, West Sussex	
Project Ref: 250614	November 2025	Trench locations over 1st edition 1880's OS	
Report Ref: 2025288	Drawn by: AC		

Fig.10



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