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**An Archaeological Evaluation undertaken
along the Route of the Proposed A27 Polegate Bypass,
East Sussex (Stage 2)**

NGR TQ 5780 0570 to 6050 0480

Project No. 1152

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Archaeology South-East

Archaeology South-East is a division of the Field Archaeology Unit of the Institute of Archaeology (University College London), one of the largest groupings of academic archaeologists in the country. Consequently, Archaeology South-East has access to the conservation, computing and environmental backup of the college, as well as a range of other archaeological services.

The Field Archaeology Unit/Archaeology South-East were established in 1974 and 1991 respectively. Although field projects have been conducted world-wide, FAU/Archaeology South-East retains a special interest in south-east England with the majority of our contract and consultancy work concentrated in Sussex, Kent, Surrey, Greater London and Essex.

Based in the local community, the Field Archaeology Unit sees an important part of its work as explaining the results to the broader public. Public lectures, open days, training courses and liaison with local archaeological societies are aspects of its community-based approach.

Drawing on experience of the countryside and towns of the south east of England the Unit can give advice and carry out surveys at an early stage in the planning process. By working closely with developers and planning authorities it is possible to incorporate archaeological work into developments with little inconvenience.

Archaeology South-East, as part of the Field Archaeology Unit, is a registered organisation with the Institute of Field Archaeologists and as such is required to meet IFA standards.

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 In October 1999, Archaeology South-East, a division of the University College London Field Archaeology Unit, was commissioned by W.S. Atkins Heritage, acting on behalf of the Highways Agency, to undertake an archaeological evaluation along the route of the proposed A27 Polegate Bypass, East Sussex (Fig. 1).
- 1.2 The small town of Polegate is located approximately 6km. north-west of Eastbourne at the junction of the existing A27 and A22 (NGR TQ 5800 0500). The programme of road building under discussion entails the construction of a 2.5km.-long dual two-lane road carriageway, which is intended to skirt around the northern side of Polegate and connect the western end of the Pevensey Bypass to the A22 at Cophall. The new route will be sited both on embankments and in cuttings.
- 1.3 An initial archaeological desk-based assessment for the scheme was conducted by the Field Archaeology Unit in 1991 (Gardiner 1991) (*see* Section 4.2). This document was supplemented by the subsequent production of a Project Design for the intrusive evaluation of the proposed area of land-take. The basic field strategy conceived here and approved by all interested parties including the East Sussex County Archaeologist (Dr Andrew Woodcock) and English Heritage (Amanda Chadburn) comprised a two-stage approach
- Stage 1 fieldwalking and test pitting.
 - Stage 2 trial-trenching.
- 1.4 The original plan was to also carry out geophysical survey during both stages of the evaluation. However, when the project was undertaken by Archaeology South-East in 1993 (then trading as South Eastern Archaeological Services), this aspect of the investigation was in fact completed during the Stage 1 fieldwalking and test-pitting. Although the results of Stage 1 were presented in an interim report (Place 1994) (*see* Section 4.3) the trial-trenching (Stage 2) was not initiated as anticipated, due to the Bypass scheme as a whole being put on hold.
- 1.5 In 1996 the development was revived as part of the proposed Weald and Downland DBFO Scheme. A Project Design and Specification for archaeological trial-trenching along the route was again prepared by Archaeology South-East and sanctioned by Dr Woodcock. However, as a result of the 1998 Government review of road building, the evaluation was once more postponed. Nevertheless, it is now intended that the scheme will be let as a Design and Build contract with construction due to commence in Spring 2000.

- 1.6 Consequently, the Stage 2 evaluation was finally conducted by Archaeology South-East from the 11th October to 4th November 1999. The fieldwork programme, undertaken in advance of groundworks, was based upon a Brief and Specification supplied by W.S. Atkins Heritage. As required by the Specification a Project Design and Outline Programme of Works was prepared by Archaeology South-East and submitted to W.S. Atkins prior to the commencement of fieldwork. W.S. Atkins are gratefully acknowledged for providing much of the detailed background information used in the preparation of this report.

2.0 TOPOGRAPHY AND LAND-USE

- 2.1 The proposed route of the Bypass is located on a ridge of gently undulating land found between the Willingdon Levels to the south and Glynleigh Levels to the north. This band of clay is itself rather low-lying between the 4m. and 18m. O.D. contour lines.
- 2.2 In the recent past, the land west of Shepham Lane has primarily been utilized as pasture, while that to the east has been subject to arable cultivation (Fig. 2). Indeed, generally the scheme impacts on undeveloped land in all but three places. Between Sayerland Lane and Otham Court the proposed route crosses the line of a disused railway, now used for recreational purposes and known as the Cuckoo Trail. The site of a former scrapyard and dwelling is located south of the junction of Bay Tree Lane and Sayerland Lane, while Cophall Farm to the east of the A22 has recently been demolished.

3.0 GEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 3.1 The Geological Survey of Great Britain (1:50,000 Ordnance Survey Sheet) indicates that the underlying geology across the area of proposed land-take comprises mainly Reworked Weald Clay and Weald Clay. Borehole and trial-pit data recovered from ground investigations within the relevant footprint signifies that topsoil with an average thickness of 0.3m. lies immediately above these natural deposits.

4.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 4.1 In this section of the report a summary of all work undertaken in relation to the Bypass scheme is presented. However, readers are asked to refer to the original documents as indicated for full details.

4.2 *Desk-based assessment, 1991. (Gardiner 1991)*

4.2.1 Eight archaeological features were located in the vicinity of the proposed route corridor during the desk-based assessment (Fig. 2, Nos 1-8). These are described briefly below.

1 *Site of house (TQ 5812 0578).*

Site of post-medieval or 18th- century house shown on 1794 estate map.

2 *Brick kiln (TQ 5840 0568)*

Site of a possible brick kiln. Identified by the surface presence of burnt clay and charcoal in association with a scatter of bricks dating to the 18th century or earlier.

3 *Fair Field Place (TQ 5865 0570)*

In the 13th century the abbey of Bayham had a fair at Otham held on the vigil and feast of St Lawrence (9th and 10th August). It is not known when this fair lapsed. To the west of the abbey site is a field called Fair Place.

4 *Otham Court (TQ 5880 0575)*

The Abbey of Otham was found c. 1180 at the site of an existing chapel on the demesne of Ralph de Dere. In 1207 the abbey, which was poorly endowed with lands was combined with one from Brockley in Kent and re-established at Bayham on the Sussex-Kent border. The site at Otham became a grange and a chapel was retained. In 1526 Bayham Abbey was dissolved. The manor and farm of Otham then passed into lay hands.

The full extent of the abbey is not apparent from the surviving buildings. It is improbable that the abbey would have had the revenue to undertake a large building programme. Hence the range of monastic buildings is unlikely to have extended much beyond the present farm.

5 *Great and Little Castle Fields (TQ 5900 0590)*

Possible site of a medieval castle built by Ralph de Deere. The exact location is unknown but is presumed to lie at or near the top of the ridge close to Otham Court.

6 *Hipholes (TQ 5950 0550)*

Area of possible medieval settlement identified from cartographic and documentary sources.

7 *Sharnfold Manor* (TQ 6060 0515)

Possible location of the medieval site of Sharnfold Manor identified from cartographic and documentary sources.

8 *Military Trench System* (TQ 6080 0470)

An irregular ditch system interpreted as an area of 20th- century wartime trenches.

4.2.2 It should be noted that only those sites listed above as numbers 1, 2, 3 and 6 fall within the land-take for the road. As such only these sites were subject to intrusive Stage 2 evaluation through trial-trenching.

4.3 *Stage 1 evaluation, 1993 (Place 1994)*

4.3.1 During the Stage 1 evaluation the road corridor was effectively divided into two areas. The first of these, west of Shepham Lane was characteristic by pasture which did not permit fieldwalking while the remaining land to the east of the lane comprised ploughed fields or stubble. Accordingly, this eastern part of the scheme was fieldwalked with some test-pitting and the western stretch was subject to test-pitting only.

4.3.2 A geophysical survey consisting of magnetometer scanning and soil magnetic susceptibility testing was also conducted along the entire length of the route. Additional and more detailed magnetometer surveys were then carried out at a number of sites of potential significance (Bartlett and Clarke 1993).

4.3.3 Five areas meritorious of further archaeological investigation were identified through the recovery of artefacts from field walking and test-pitting and/or the presence of geophysical anomalies. These locations were defined by Place in his interim report of 1994 as follows (Fig. 2):

- West of Bay Tree Lane
An area of medieval pottery with magnetic anomalies.
- South of Otham Court
Site of a probable tile kiln based on geophysical anomaly and test-pitting finds.
- Otham Court to Shepham Lane

Area of high susceptibility readings, low levels of medieval pottery and prehistoric flint.

- East of Shepham Lane
Two areas of prehistoric activity, the latter associated with an extensive area of enhanced magnetic susceptibility.
- North of existing A27
An extensive area of prehistoric activity, associated with areas of enhanced magnetic susceptibility and magnetic anomalies.

4.3.4 It should be noted that the archaeological potential of each area listed above is freshly assessed within Section 11 of this document, in light of the Stage 2 evaluation results.

4.4 *Aerial Photography (Cox 1999)*

4.4.1 An appraisal of all relevant photographs held at the National Library of Aerial Photographs and the Cambridge University Collections was conducted during the preparation of the Project Brief and Specification supplied by W.S. Atkins. This study pinpointed eight areas in which features or anomalies of considered interest to the archaeological field evaluation were situated (Cox 1999) (Fig. 2, A-H). The description of these locations as presented in the Specification is reproduced below.

- A Traces of possible ridge and furrow (medieval ploughing).
- B Areas where topsoil was removed in 1959.
- C Further traces of possible ridge and furrow.
- D A former woodland, extant during the 1940s, removed by 1957.
- E A former field boundary and a former small building and enclosing boundary.
- F Drainage, or small system of water meadow.
- G Further traces of possible ridge and furrow.
- H Flattened and in-filled anti-glider trenches and defences, dating to World War 2.

4.4.2 Of this list, only those suggesting signs of ridge and furrow identified above as 'A' and 'C' were found in the actual route corridor and hence subject to the Stage 2 evaluation.

4.5 *Recent archaeological discoveries in the Polegate area.*

- 4.5.1 Since the completion of the Stage 1 evaluation, work undertaken by Archaeology South-East on the Willingdon Levels has shed further light on the archaeological potential of the area around Polegate.
- 4.5.2 Willingdon Levels is an area of low lying land situated between Polegate and Eastbourne, East Sussex. The Levels are protected by a shingle bank known as the Crumbles and consist of "unconsolidated clays and silts, with a thin peat horizon at circa +1.4m O.D." (Jennings and Smyth 1985, 12). This layer of peat, together with an overlying deposit of alluvium, has protected some of the best preserved prehistoric remains in Sussex.
- 4.5.3 However, the Levels are now the subject of considerable change, due to the construction of Shinewater Neighbourhood Park and related A22 road improvements.
- 4.5.4 A desk-based archaeological assessment of the Willingdon Level had been undertaken by East Sussex County Council in the years prior to development. No evidence was found during this study to indicate the existence of any archaeological deposits within the area of interest. However, in August 1995, a Late Bronze Age timber platform and associated trackway were revealed by landscaping contractors working on the site of the new park (N.G.R. TQ 615029). Archaeology South-East was commissioned by Eastbourne Borough Council and East Sussex County Council, to evaluate and record the archaeological potential of these remarkably well-preserved remains.
- 4.5.5 The platform was constructed of large oak posts driven vertically into the peat and lower clay. These uprights were associated with horizontal timbers placed into the top of the peat to form the base of the structure. This supported wooden rods, plus intermittent layers of gravel and possible reed or rush matting. Three *in-situ* hearths were also recorded. A 200mm- thick layer of accumulated cultural material was located directly above the platform surface. Large quantities of pottery, bone, quernstone fragments, worked and burnt flints have been retrieved from this deposit. These finds are typical of Late Bronze Age (900-800 B.C.) occupation. The peat from the area of the platform has also yielded a number of finely crafted bronze artefacts, including four axes, a chisel and a bracelet. The most spectacular discovery was a unique bronze reed hook complete with intact field maple handle.
- 4.5.6 In the absence of detailed excavation, the site is difficult to interpret with any confidence. However, the site is clearly of national importance.

- 4.5.7 The platform is connected to higher dry land approximately 250m to the west, by a substantial timber track or causeway. This structure was found to cross the proposed route of the A22 road improvement scheme (Greatorex 1995). Consequently, Archaeology South-East undertook a rescue excavation along the section of track affected by the development (Greatorex 1998).
- 4.5.8 The surviving track was at least 6m. wide. It comprised a series of horizontal timbers and rods located in the top of the peat. The structure was secured by three parallel rows of vertical oak posts which may have also marked the route during periods of flooding.
- 4.5.9 A further two smaller timber trackways have also been recorded on a part of the Willingdon Levels known as Dittons (Greatorex, forthcoming). Both of these structures were found by means of a watching brief maintained during landscaping work associated with the construction of the A22 New Route in 1996. The A22 scheme stops where the A27 Polegate Bypass starts on the A27 at Dittons, roughly 400m. north-east of the two trackway sites.
- 4.5.10 The first of these prehistoric alignments comprised two parallel rows of paired posts running from the south-west to north-east and set approximately 0.5m. apart. (NGR TQ 598 040). No horizontal structural elements were recorded across the 100m.-long exposure. Radio-carbon dating has assigned this possible raised walkway to the period 1440-1310 cal B.C.
- 4.5.11 A 46m long stretch of the second Dittons alignment was identified within the top of the Levels peat (NGR TQ 600 041). The remains were characterised by a single meandering line of pointed oak, alder and wild cherry pegs sunk into the lower clay. These stakes marked and secured a 1.40m.-wide series of small horizontal rods and occasional larger timbers which would have almost certainly constituted the original track surface. This structure has been radio-carbon dated to 2460-2205 cal B.C.
- 4.5.12 Additional fieldwork is required to ascertain the full length and ultimate destination of both Bronze Age alignments found in this area.
- 4.5.13 The evidence of tracks, trade and exchange recorded on the Levels, demonstrates that the Shinewater platform formed part of a complex network of prehistoric settlements and communication channels. Obviously, the site should not be studied in isolation, but instead considered as an integral and indeed dynamic element of the wider landscape.
- 4.6 Indeed, when all the background archaeological information was considered within the original Project Design and Specification, it was concluded that the Polegate Bypass route corridor had 'a high potential for prehistoric remains, particularly of Bronze Age date'. This document also clarified the

evidence for medieval and post-medieval remains, including the possible kiln adjacent Otham Court and the nearby site of a fair. Although this fair is unlikely to have left a significant sub-surface legacy, it was thought that the location and date of casual losses may demonstrate site organisation and the nature of the traded goods.

5.0 PROJECT AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

5.1 The aims and objectives of the Stage 2 evaluation as outlined in the W.S. Atkins specification were as follows.

General Aims

- identify evidence of past human activity within the footprint of the scheme;
- to determine the presence or absence of any archaeological remains and buried land surfaces within the footprint of the scheme;
- to identify the character, extent, nature, quality, significance, state of preservation and date of any archaeological remains within the footprint of the scheme
- to provide further information on the nature and chronological development of the area of higher ground between the Willingdon and Glynleigh Levels.

Scheme Specific Objectives

- to recover information about the palaeotopography within the footprint of the scheme.
- to evaluate the significance of palaeoenvironmental deposits within the footprint of the scheme;
- to make an assessment of the impact of the scheme on any significant remains or deposits encountered;
- to make an assessment of the need for further archaeological evaluation or mitigation before or during the construction of the proposed scheme.
- to test the results of the Stage 1 evaluation.

6.0 SPECIFICATION

6.1 As stated in Section 4.3.3 the results of the first stage of evaluation work would suggest five main areas of archaeological interest within the road corridor. Consequently, it was recommended in the Stage 1 report that these locations be subject to trial trenching in order to ascertain the presence or absence of surviving archaeological features. The subsequent specification from W.S. Atkins in fact outlined three principal divisions of fieldwork:

- The trial trenching of the five areas of archaeological potential established during the Stage 1 work.
- The trial-trenching of areas of negative results from the Stage 1 work;
- A metal detector survey of the fair field identified during the desk-top assessment.

7.0 INVESTIGATIVE TECHNIQUES

7.1 One hundred and eighteen trenches, each with a length of 20m and width of 2m. (except where noted in text) were excavated within the proposed Bypass corridor. The position of these trenches as shown in Figures 3 and 4 was chosen to ensure that the sites of densest artefact concentrations and/or geophysical anomalies recorded during the Stage 1 evaluation were sampled effectively. Care was also taken to give the best coverage of other areas within the footprint, using the number of trenches specified.

7.2 Trenches 1 to 115 (including, 47b) were those commissioned by W.S. Atkins as the main part of the Stage 2 Evaluation. Unfortunately, it proved impossible to access the field containing Trench 9, for the current land-user had prevented access by the dumping of a large pile of spoil across the only available entrance way. This farmer failed to respond to any of Archaeology South-East's telephone calls or letters regarding the matter and consequently Trench 9 remains unexcavated.

7.3 In addition to the work commissioned by W.S. Atkins, Archaeology South-East were requested by East Sussex County Council to excavate three further trenches (116-118) on a strip of land they have acquired to widen the A22 at Cophall (Fig. 3). Although a separate report is to be prepared on this smaller exercise, the results are briefly summarized in Section 8.25.

7.4 All of the trenches were excavated under archaeological supervision with a JCB 3cx mechanical digger fitted with a five-foot (1.52m) wide toothless ditching bucket. The topsoil/overburden was removed to reveal either the

- top of archaeological deposits or a clean surface of the undisturbed natural, whichever was uppermost.
- 7.5 As soon as this procedure had been completed, the exposed trench was cleaned manually and examined for any archaeological features and artefact scatters. Further excavation then took place by hand to clarify the nature, character and date of any such located deposits. Deposits suitable for the collection of environmental samples, particularly for faunal remains and carbonised material, were also sought.
- 7.6 All identified archaeological features and artefact concentrations were planned at a scale of 1:50 in relationship to the trench outline and levelled with respect to Ordnance Datum. Additional sections were drawn at a scale of 1:10.
- 7.7 The revealed features and deposits were recorded using context sheets based upon the Central Excavation Unit recording system, as modified for use by Archaeology South-East. It should be noted that as the trenching was undertaken using two machines on different areas of the scheme, one of the team started its context series at number 1, the other at 1001, in order to avoid overlapping records and subsequent confusion.
- 7.8 A black and white and colour transparency photographic record was maintained during the evaluation. In particular photographs of each field and access point were taken both before and after the Stage 2 evaluation.
- 7.9 The removed topsoil/overburden was scanned visually and, where appropriate by metal detector, for any unstratified archaeological artefacts.
- 7.10 On completion of the hand-excavation and recording each trench was backfilled by machine.
- 7.11 All recovered artefacts were washed and marked in accordance with the *UKIC Guidelines for the Preparation of Excavation Archives for Long-term Storage* (1990) and the *IFA Guidelines for Finds Work* (1992). All categories of find were then identified and catalogued by specialists with a working knowledge of artefacts from the area. Summary assessments of each category, along with the full artefact quantification can be found in Appendix 2 of this report.
- 7.12 The metal detector survey undertaken in Fair Field was composed of two phases. The first consisted of the scanning of a 20 by 40m area from the existing surface. Two 20m survey squares were laid out using nylon ropes (Fig. 2, Grids 1 and 2) and each were scanned in 1m wide corridors using an Arado 130 metal detector in order to obtain full coverage. All non-ferrous signals, and a sample of ferrous signals, were excavated. Objects were given

individual small find numbers and bagged separately with their locations being plotted on standard geophysical survey sheets.

- 7.13 The second phase of the metal detector survey involved the mechanical removal of the majority of the topsoil over three transect areas (Fig. 9, Areas A-C) in order to test for the presence of deeply buried metallic artefacts and coins. Care was taken to leave the base of the topsoil or the topsoil/natural interface in tact in order not to remove finds during machining. All excavation was undertaken using a JCB 3cx excavator fitted with a 1.5m wide toothless bucket. Following excavation, each area was thoroughly scanned using the Arado 130 metal detector and the position of any objects plotted.

8.0 RESULTS: TRIAL-TRENCHING

8.1 In order that the results of the trial-trenching can be presented most effectively, trenches are grouped by field. The results from each field are considered together working from west to east along the Bypass route. The thickness of the topsoil, and if present the subsoil, found across each trench is shown in **Appendix 1** along with a full context list. Unless stated otherwise the overburden was removed by machine to expose a clean surface of the natural Weald Clay.

8.2 *Field 1* (Trench 1)

8.2.1 A layer of friable mid grey-brown silty clay topsoil (Context 145) and an underlying deposit of compact light grey-brown subsoil (146) was removed from Trench 1 to reveal the Weald Clay. No archaeological features or artefacts were located in the trench.

8.3 *Field 2* (Trenches 2, 3 and 4)

8.3.1 Topsoil and subsoil layers with similar physical characteristics to those found in Field 1 were excavated across Trenches 2, 3 and 4 to expose the natural clay. No archaeological features or artefacts were located in these trenches.

8.4 *Field 3* (Trenches 5, 6, 7 and 8)

8.4.1 Trenches 5, 6, 7 and 8 were all overlain by a compact but friable mid grey-brown silty clay topsoil containing occasional small angular flint pieces (up to 20mm.) which was itself situated above a compact light yellow-brown silty clay subsoil. These deposits were removed by machine to expose a clean surface of Weald Clay. Although this exercise did not reveal any features of archaeological interest, four pieces of 14th- century pottery and one fire-cracked flint fragment were recovered from the subsoil stripped from Trench 6 (Context 7).

8.5 *Field 4* (Trenches 10 and 11)

8.5.1 A compact but friable mid grey-brown silty clay topsoil was removed across Trench 10 to reveal a dumped deposit of late 20th- century building debris and scrap metal (Context 21). Both contexts were removed by machine to reveal the Weald Clay. The similar topsoil located over Trench 11 was in contrast found to lie directly above the natural. Both trenches were devoid of archaeological features and artefacts.

8.6 *Field 5* (Trenches 12, 13 and 22)

8.6.1 Topsoil comparable to that recorded within Field 4 was stripped from Trenches 12, 13 and 22 to expose a compact light grey-brown silty clay subsoil. This layer was in turn removed to reveal the archaeologically sterile natural. No archaeological features or artefacts were located in these trenches.

8.7 *Field 6* (Trenches 14, 15 and 16)

8.7.1 Topsoil and subsoil layers with similar physical characteristics to those found in Field 5 were removed across Trenches 14, 15 and 16 to reveal the natural clay. This exercise did not uncover any archaeological features, although one unstratified humanly-struck flint was retrieved from Trench 14.

8.8 *Field 7* (Trenches 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30 and 31)

8.8.1 All of the trenches located within Field 7 were overlain by a friable deposit of mid brown silty clay topsoil which itself lay above a compact light grey-brown silty clay subsoil. Only Trench 23 was found to contain any archaeological features (see below). However, the overburden removed from Trenches 26 (Unstrat) 27 (Context 67) and 28 (Context 68) did yield 13th- to 14th- century pottery. One piece of medieval pot and two 18th- century sherds were recovered from the subsoil stripped from Trench 25 (Layer 73) together with a number of tile/brick fragments. Brick and tile plus one sherd of 19th- century pottery was also retrieved from Trench 31 (Unstrat).

8.8.2 Trench 23 (Figs 5 and 7, Sections 1 and 2)

This trench lay at the bottom of a shallow slope in a poorly drained area. Several features, often irregular and poorly defined, were noted cut into the natural clay. Cuts 59 and 60 were two very shallow irregular scoops protruding from the northern trench edge. Although it was thought 60 may have truncated cut 59 this relationship was far from certain and indeed it is equally possible both were part of the same irregular feature. The fills (Contexts 47 and 48) were virtually identical in nature, consisting of grey brown silt clays with occasional small flints and isolated charcoal flecks, and tended to merge into the subsoil (Context 46). It therefore appeared likely that past cultivation had partially truncated and mixed the upper portions of these features: they may have originally been cut from the surface of the subsoil (Context 46 - Fig. 7, Section 2). Both fills (Contexts 47 and 48), as well as the uncertain interface between the two (47/48), contained large quantities of moderately abraded 13th- to 14th- century pottery. Smaller amounts of similar pottery were recovered from the subsoil.

Cut 59 was truncated at its south-east end by an hour-glass shaped feature (Context 65), the fill of which (Context 64) was identical to 47/48. It again appeared this feature may have suffered some truncation/mixing of its upper portions. No finds were recovered from its fill.

At the northern edge of Cut 60 was a shallow U-shaped linear feature (Context 61) crossing the trench on a NE-SW alignment. The discernible part of this feature was some 400mm wide and 200mm deep. The fill (Context 56) was a light grey-brown silty clay which merged with Context 47, which appeared to overlay the feature at this point. The last feature in the trench (Context 62) was an irregular oval, 1m in length and 40mm deep (Fig. 7, Section 1). Although very shallow, the fill (Context 49) contained a large amount of charcoal set within a grey silty clay. A soil sample was taken from this feature due to the richness of the carbonised material within it. Although no finds were recovered from its fill, the presence of Cuts 59/60 to the south-east suggest Cut 62 may also be of medieval date.

8.9 *Field 8 (Trench 32)*

8.9.1 Deposits of topsoil and subsoil comparable to those recorded in Field 7 were removed from Trench 32 to expose the surface of the natural. No features of archaeological significance were located within this trench, however, five sherds of 18th-century pottery were recovered from the subsoil (Layer 91). These sherds may relate to the habitation of the cottage known to have existed in the vicinity of this trench.

8.10 *Field 9 (Trenches 33, 34, 35, 36, 37 and 38)*

8.10.1 All trenches within Field 9 were covered by topsoil and subsoil deposits indistinguishable from those located in Field 7. These contexts were removed by machine to reveal the natural clay. No features of archaeological interest were located in any of the trenches. One sherd of 18th- to 19th-century pottery was retrieved from the topsoil overlying Trench 35 (Context 76), while Trenches 34 and 38 each yielded a humanly-struck flint from the subsoil (Contexts 75 and 83 respectively).

8.11 *Field 10 (Trench 39)*

8.11.1 As with the trenches contained within Fields 7, 8 and 9, topsoil and subsoil was removed from Trench 39 to reveal the Weald Clay. Although no features of archaeological interest were present, four sherds of 15th-century pottery were retrieved from the excavated subsoil (Context 85) suggesting some late medieval activity in the immediate area.

8.12 *Field 11* (Trench 40)

8.12.1 Trench 40 was situated in quite dense woodland and thus had to be positioned as best as possible between the trunks and overhead branches of mature trees. Indeed, these problems of accessibility meant that it only proved feasible to excavate a 12m. length of this trench (Fig. 3). Nevertheless, a friable deposit of light mid brown silty clay topsoil and a visually similar but compact subsoil was removed where practicable to expose the Weald Clay. No archaeological features or artefacts were recorded during this exercise.

8.13 *Field 12* (Trenches 41, 42 and 43)

8.13.1 All three trenches within Field 12 contained a friable grey-brown silty clay loam topsoil with very occasional flint pebbles, which was found to overlie a compact light grey-brown subsoil which in turn overlay the natural Weald Clay. No archaeological features were noted in any of these trenches, however, a small quantity of late medieval/early post-medieval tile and one sherd of post-medieval pottery was retrieved from the subsoil excavated across Trench 41 (Context 93). Four pieces of late medieval/early post-medieval tile were also recovered from the subsoil found in Trench 43 (Context 97).

8.14 *Field 13* (Trenches 44 and 46)

8.14.1 Initially, a compact but friable mid grey-brown silty clay topsoil was stripped from Trench 44 to reveal an archaeologically sterile compact light orange-brown slightly silty clay subsoil. This deposit was itself removed, exposing a third layer extending across the whole trench (Context 1049). Context 1049, a compact light grey and orange mottled silty clay, was physically identical to the underlying natural, but contained two sherds of 13th/14th- century pottery, tile/brick, iron and slate fragments as well as occasional charcoal flecks. Consequently, it was decided to carefully take this deposit down by machine until undisturbed natural had been reached unequivocally – an additional trench depth of between 0.2 and 0.25m. However, no archaeological features were identified within this trench and the exact reason for the reworked natural layer (1049) is uncertain.

8.14.2 A similar topsoil to that described in Section 7.14.1 was removed across Trench 46, revealing a compact light grey-brown silty clay subsoil with occasional flint pebbles (Context 99). Context 99 yielded four sherds of 18th- century pottery, tile/brick fragments, iron and slag and was found immediately above the natural Weald Clay. No evidence of archaeological features or for the continuation of the layer recorded in Trench 44 as Context 1049 was found within this cutting.

8.15 *Field 14* (Trenches 45, 47, 47b, 48 and 49)

8.15.1 All of the trenches investigated within Field 14 were overlain by a friable grey-brown silty clay loam topsoil which was removed by machine to reveal the Weald Clay. Trench 47 was located in an area where the presence of a relatively high concentration of ceramic material found in association with a geophysical anomaly during the Stage 1 evaluation had suggested the existence of a tile/pottery kiln. However, on investigation none of the trenches located within this field were shown to contain archaeological features. Despite the lack of structural evidence for a kiln, a reasonably significant quantity of tile (61 pieces) and five sherds of 15th-century pottery were recovered from the topsoil stripped over Trench 47 (Context 103). Consequently, it was decided to excavate an additional trench (47b) across the area of interest in order to better assess the presence or absence of *in-situ* archaeology. As stated in paragraph 4.4 of the Project Design prepared by Archaeology South-East "Trench 47 may need adjustment to ensure it samples the site of the possible pottery kiln. A further 20 x 2m. contingency trial trench may be used to clarify deposits in one of the specified trenches." However, Trench 47b also proved to be devoid of archaeological features.

8.16 *Field 15* (Trenches 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 59, 60, 61, 62, and 64)

8.16.1 A friable grey-brown silty clay loam topsoil and a compact light grey silty clay subsoil were removed by machine to reveal the natural in all trenches except 53, 55 and 56. Within these three trenches intermittent lenses of compact grey-brown and yellow brown mottled silty clay were found sandwiched between the subsoil and Weald Clay.

8.16.2 Only one feature was noted during the investigation of Field 15. In Trench 56 a 1.1m-wide and 0.25m-deep linear cut (Context 126) was found to dissect the Weald Clay, below the main subsoil deposit. This probable ditch or gully had gently-sloping concave sides, irregularly-shaped base and was aligned in an approximate south-east to north-west direction across the trench (Figs 5 and 7, Section 3). The investigation of the compact mid brown silty clay fill (Context 125) did not locate any artefactual dating evidence. However, it should perhaps be noted that the subsoil removed from Trenches 50 (Context 105) 51 (Context 107) 54 (Context 111) and 62 (Context 1334) in each case contained small quantities of 18th- and 19th-century ceramic material. Two sherds of late 15th- to mid 16th-century pottery were also retrieved from the subsoil found across Trench 62 (Context 133).

8.17 *Field 16* (Trench 58)

8.17.1 A compact but friable light grey-brown silty clay topsoil containing occasional flint nodules was stripped from Trench 58 to reveal a clean

surface of the Weald Clay. No archaeological features or artefacts were located during this exercise.

8.18 *Field 17 (Trench 63)*

8.18.1 Topsoil, similar in character to that recorded in Field 16 was removed from Trench 63 to expose the underlying natural. This trench showed signs of tree root disturbance but did not contain any archaeological features or artefacts.

8.19 *Field 18 (Trenches 65, 66,67,68, 69 and 70)*

8.19.1 A deposit of topsoil indistinguishable from that found in Fields 16 and 17 was removed from Trenches 65 to 70 to expose the natural clay. None of the trenches contained archaeological features, although two sherds of 16th-century pottery were retrieved from the topsoil excavated across Trench 65 (Context 139).

8.20 *Field 19 (Trenches 71-90)*

8.20.1 A compact but friable mid grey-brown silty clay topsoil was excavated across all of the trenches located within Field 19, revealing a compact deposit of mid orange-brown silty clay subsoil. This context, which was essentially a mixed layer of topsoil and natural created as a result of ploughing, was itself removed by machine to expose a clean surface of the Weald Clay.

8.20.2 Only two features of archaeological significance were located during the evaluation of this area. The first of these was a lozenge-shaped cut (Context 1013) found to dissect the natural within Trench 76 below a 0.35m.-thick deposit of topsoil and subsoil (Figs 5 and 7, Section 4). Context 1013 was approximately 1.9m. long, 0.7m. wide and 0.65m. deep, with virtually vertical sides and a flat base. No artefactual evidence was recovered from the compact dark brown-grey fill (1014) of this consequently undated feature of uncertain function.

8.20.3 The only other feature recorded within this particular field was found to dissect the Weald Clay in Trench 80. Running roughly east to west across the trench Context 1025 was approximately 0.9m. wide and at least 0.25m. deep with irregular sides and base (Figs 5 and 7, Section 5). Although no artefacts were recovered from the compact slightly silty clay fill (Context 1026) it is interpreted as a probable modern (i.e. 20th- century) agricultural drainage ditch or gully.

8.20.4 Artefacts recovered from the topsoil and subsoil deposits excavated across Trenches 71, 73, 74, 75, 81, 83, 84, 85 and 89 are perhaps shown to best effect in Appendix 2 together with stray surface finds (see finds table in Appendix 2 - Field to east of Shepham Lane). Suffice to say at this juncture

that the retrieval of a relatively high number of humanly-struck flints from Field 19 has confirmed the interim results of the Stage 1 evaluation fieldwalking undertaken in the area.

8.21 *Field 20* (Trench 91)

8.21.1 Similar topsoil and subsoil deposits to those recorded in Field 19 were removed from Trench 91, to reveal the natural clay. No archaeological features or artefacts were located in the trench.

8.22 *Field 21* (Trenches 92, 93, 94, 95 and 96)

8.22.1 Trenches 92 to 96 were all overlain by a compact but friable dark grey-brown silty clay topsoil with occasional rounded pebbles (5mm.) and flint fragments (up to 10mm. in length). This context was removed by machine to expose the Weald Clay across each trench. No archaeological features were recorded during the evaluation of this area, although the removed layers of topsoil were found to contain small quantities of 19th/20th- century pottery, as well as iron, glass and slate.

8.23 *Field 22* (Trenches 97, 98 and 99)

8.23.1 A deposit of compact but friable mid grey-brown silty clay with very occasional flint fragments (up to 100mm.) was located directly above the natural in Trenches 97, 98 and 99. None of these trenches contained archaeological features, although the topsoil in this parcel of land did yield eight humanly-struck flints.

8.24 *Field 23* (Trenches 100-115)

8.24.1 A compact but friable mid grey-brown silty clay with orange flecks and occasional flint fragments up to 60mm. in length was removed across all trenches situated in Field 23. This procedure revealed a clean surface of the Weald Clay in Trenches 101, 102, 104, 105, 106, 110 and 112 and natural brickearth in Trenches 100 and 107. Within Trench 115 a thin layer of mixed topsoil and clay also required excavation before a clean surface of the Weald Clay was exposed satisfactorily. No archaeological features were present in the trenches noted above, although a number of humanly-struck flints were retrieved from the topsoil in and around Trenches 100, 101, 102, 107 and 110.

8.24.2 However, features of varying significance were discovered in six of the trenches positioned within this final field. The Weald Clay found below the topsoil in Trench 103 was dissected by an approximately 1.2m.-wide and 0.35m.-deep linear cut (1063) aligned roughly from east to west (Figs 5 and 7, Sections 6 and 7). Despite the fact that no datable artefacts were

recovered from the compact grey-green silty clay fill (1064) of this feature, it is thought to probably be as a 20th-century field drain or gully.

- 8.24.3 Topsoil was stripped from Trench 108 to reveal a deposit that, although very similar in appearance to Weald Clay, contained occasional charcoal flecks. Accordingly, this layer was itself removed until a clean surface of the natural was exposed. This exercise revealed a small oval-shaped pit (Cut 1080) with a maximum length of 0.9m., width of 0.45m. and depth of 0.1m. (Figs 6 and 8, Section 8). The compact but friable mid grey-brown silty-clay fill (1081) did not contain any dating evidence, although a small number of sheep bones were recovered during its excavation. While admitting the limited nature of the evidence, Feature 1080/1 is perhaps best interpreted as the remains of a relatively modern animal burial. The condition of the bone material is such as to suggest it probably post-dates the medieval period: generally older bone does not survive well in such acidic ground conditions.
- 8.24.4 A probable 20th- century drain was found to cross Field 23 in an approximate south-east to north-west direction. This feature dissected the Weald Clay located below the topsoil in Trenches 109 (Figs 6 and 8, Section 9: Cut 1070), 111 (Fig. 6, Cut 1073) and 113 (Figs 6 and 8, Section 11: Cut 1077).
- 8.24.5 On exposure of the Weald Clay in Trench 111, a slightly darker but nevertheless poorly-defined area of clay containing fire-cracked and humanly-struck flint was noted (Figs 6 and 8, Section 10: Context 1075). A box-section was excavated across this context in order to best assess its character and date. In fact investigation continued in this way until Weald Clay, devoid of artefacts, had clearly been located in the base of the hand-dug slot. Context 1075 was not associated with any discernible cut. However, the presence of the worked flint does suggest a site of transitory ?prehistoric activity. Indeed, the recovered fire-cracked flint, with its intimation of fires/hearths may even indicate, if not permanent settlement, at least temporary or overnight occupation of the area. Without study of a wider area around this trench it is impossible to be certain about what this layer may represent. It should be noted that it proved impossible to ascertain if the finds recovered from Context 1075 were *in-situ* or found in a disturbed deposit.
- 8.24.6 Two features dissected the Weald Clay found immediately below the topsoil in Trench 114. The first of these, a 0.5m.-wide and 0.35m.-deep linear cut (Cut 1089: Figs 6 and 8, Section 13) crossed the easternmost end of the trench on an approximate south-west to north-east alignment. The compact mid grey-brown silty clay fill (Context 1090) of this probable modern field drain did not yield any artefacts. The final feature (Cut 1087: Figs 6 and 8, Section 12) comprised a possible sub-circular pit or perhaps the south end of a linear ditch or gully running underneath the southernmost trench baulk. The

maximum depth of this irregularly-profiled cut was 0.4m. Its compact mid grey-brown silty clay fill contained flecks of modern brick (Context 1088).

8.25 *Trenches 116, 117 and 118.*

- 8.25.1 Topsoil and overburden was removed from the trenches commissioned by East Sussex County Council to reveal the natural Weald Clay. No features or artefacts of archaeological significance were located during this procedure.

9.0 RESULTS: METAL DETECTOR SURVEY

- 9.1 Although some parts of the survey area were under long grass the majority was characterised by short to medium-length grass at the time of survey. As such only small areas proved problematic during the initial surface survey, particularly the western third of Grid square 1 (Fig. 9). This square only produced eight non-ferrous signals during the initial surface survey. All proved to be modern rubbish/ farm debris (aluminium pole fragments and foil etc) and were located at depths between 60 and 120mm from the existing surface.
- 9.2 Grid square 2 proved equally unproductive during the first phase of the survey. In all it produced six artefacts (five non-ferrous and one ferrous). Again, the majority of the non-ferrous material was of modern origin and found at depths varying from 50 to 170mm. One copper alloy sphere-shaped handle of 19th- century date was recovered at a depth of 50mm. The single piece of iron consists of a blade fragment of unknown date (probably post-medieval) located at a depth of 290mm. No artefacts or coins of archaeological interest were recovered during the initial survey of Grid squares 1 and 2 and as such the material has not been reproduced as a plot-out.
- 9.3 The mechanical excavation of the three transect areas revealed the topsoil to be a mid grey brown silt clay with occasional flint pebbles to 30mm. The results of each transect area were as follows:
- 9.3.1 Area A: The topsoil, which rested directly on the natural orange brown clay (with a slightly mixed interface), was found to be between 150mm (East end) and 200mm (West end) deep. The topsoil was mechanically removed to a depth of between 120mm (East end) and 180mm (West end). At this level (ie the base of the topsoil) the excavated surface was scanned by the metal detector. Only six objects were recovered: five pieces of clinker and one lead air rifle pellet. All these objects were of 19th- (clinker) and 20th- (air rifle pellet) origin and were located in the topsoil/ natural interface.

- 9.3.2 Area B: The topsoil, which rested directly on the natural orange brown clay (with a mixed interface), was found to be between 150mm (North end) and 200mm (South end) deep. The topsoil was mechanically removed to a depth of between 130mm (North end) and 120mm (South end). At this level the excavated surface was scanned by the metal detector. Only three objects were located: two pieces of 19th- century clinker and a lead pistol ball of 18th-/19th- century date. The clinker was located at the topsoil/ natural interface while the lead shot had sunk 50mm into the surface of the natural clay.
- 9.3.3 Area C: The stratigraphy varied within this transect area. The southern half was characterised by 130-190mm of topsoil which graded into the natural underlying clay, however, in the northern half of the area the topsoil, (some 170mm deep) contained patches of natural clay and rested on a layer of mid brown grey silt clay with brown mottles some 70-120mm thick, below which appeared to be the natural clay. The area was excavated to a depth of 100 to 150mm at which point the surface was scanned by the metal detector. Only one find was recovered: a 20th- century shot-gun cartridge case from the mid brown silt clay beneath the topsoil in the northern half of the transect area. The boundary between this soil layer and the natural to the south was marked by an irregular linear spread of flint nodules/pebbles and 18th/19th- century brick and tile, perhaps forming a field drain or lining to a pond located in the northern half of the excavated area.

10.0 A SUMMARY OF RESULTS

- 10.1 Only two of the trenches excavated along the proposed route of the Polegate Bypass were found to contain features or deposits of archaeological significance.
- 10.2 Trench 23 was characterised by the presence of two shallow pits dating to the 13th/early 14th century (Cuts 59 and 60). These were associated, at least physically and stratigraphically, with an undated linear ditch or gully (Cut 61) and a small circular feature of debatable origin and function (Cut 65). Evidence for a 'fire-pit' or hearth was also recorded in the form of a sub-circular scoop filled with charcoal (Cut 62). It is unfortunate that no artefacts were recovered from the investigation of this final context but based on current evidence it is thought to probably be of medieval date. All features in this trench appeared to have suffered some degree of truncation and mixing presumably as a result of past arable cultivation.
- 10.3 Trench 111 was notable for the discovery of a poorly-defined deposit of clay incorporating a low-density scatter of fire-cracked and humanly-struck flint (Context 1075). This context would appear to be indicative of prehistoric

activity on the ridge of higher land situated between the wetland environments of the Willingdon and Pevensey Levels.

- 10.4 The metal detector survey did not locate any coins or artefacts of archaeological interest relating to the fair site.

11.0 CONCLUSIONS

- 11.1 In this section of the report it is intended to reconsider each of the five areas of possible archaeological interest defined by Place in his 1994 Stage 1 evaluation report (Section 4.3.3). The significance of relevant sites identified along the Bypass corridor by means of previous desk-based assessment (Section 4.2) and aerial photograph appraisal (Section 4.3) will then also be considered.

11.2 *West of Bay Tree Lane*

- 11.2.1 The evidence of medieval pottery and magnetic anomalies recorded in this particular location during the Stage 1 evaluation has been corroborated to a certain extent by the trial-trenching programme. A low-level concentration of 13th- to 14th- century pottery was recovered from the topsoil towards the south-eastern corner of the field (Trenches 25, 26 and 27). However, of greater importance were the cut features of this period found in Trench 23 which was positioned to sample the site of a specific magnetic anomaly. The presence here of pits and a possible hearth, plus the relatively large quantities of pottery retrieved from sealed contexts suggests the existence of a small medieval domestic site, perhaps a farmstead in the immediate vicinity. On initial analysis the shallow nature of the recorded features would appear to indicate that the archaeological deposits have been truncated by later agricultural activity. However, it is considered likely that further evidence for local medieval settlement and agricultural practice may survive in this area.

11.3 *South of Otham Court*

- 11.3.1 Despite the detection in Field 14 (around Trenches 47 and 47b) of a strong magnetic anomaly which suggested the presence of a tile/pottery kiln, no structural evidence for such a feature was recorded through trial-trenching. However, a notable quantity of tile and five sherds of 15th- century pottery were recovered from the vicinity of the conspicuous geophysical reading. As such, and considering the small area needed to accommodate a kiln, it is still considered possible that at least the remains of a kiln await discovery in this area.

11.4 *Otham Court to Shepham Lane*

11.4.1 During the Stage 1 evaluation low levels of medieval pottery and prehistoric flintwork were collected from this area of high magnetic susceptibility readings. However, the limited artefactual evidence recovered from the subsequent Stage 2 trenching, and in particular the complete lack of significant features, strongly suggests there is unlikely to be archaeological deposits located along this stretch of the proposed route.

11.5 *East of Shepham Lane*

11.5.1 The relatively high number of humanly struck flints retrieved from land east of Shepham Lane during the Stage 2 work has confirmed the use of this area during the prehistoric period. However, as no contemporaneous features were found to dissect the Weald Clay, such activity would appear to be of a transitory nature. No *in-situ* evidence for the prehistoric or historic utilisation or settlement of the area was recorded. In fact, the only located cuts were of probable 20th-century origin. Consequently, it can be concluded that there is little likelihood of significant archaeological features and deposits surviving on this part of the route corridor.

11.6 *North of the A27*

11.6.1 The assemblage of humanly-struck flint recovered from the topsoil across Field 23 and layer 1075 (Trench 111) strongly indicates a second area of prehistoric activity along the length of the proposed Bypass. The discovery of fire-cracked flint in association with worked flint may even suggest the use of fires/hearths and hence at least temporary or overnight occupation. However, no surviving cut features of prehistoric origin were found within the evaluation trenches to support such a theory. Indeed, the only located cuts which could account for the magnetic anomalies recorded in this field are probably of 20th- century date. However, it should be remembered that prehistoric hearths and activity areas can be small in extent and it is possible some may lay between the evaluation trenches. If such remains are present it is likely they have suffered to some extent from later arable cultivation.

11.7 1. *Site of house (TQ 5812 0578)*

11.7.1 No cut features of any description were located in Trench 31, which was positioned to sample the possible post-medieval or 18th- century house identified through desk-based assessment. Only five sherds of 18th- century pottery were recovered from the removed overburden. In fact, the suggested site of the building had produced little of the expected magnetic irregularity when scanned during the Stage 1 evaluation and no trace of any such structure or associated earthworks/artefacts was discerned on the ground

surface during a 1991 walkover survey. As such, based on the current evidence, it would appear any associated remains at this point may have been subjected to extensive later disturbance.

11.8 2. *Brick Kiln* (TQ 5840 0568)

11.8.1 No evidence was recovered during the trenching to confirm Gardiner's suggestion of a brick kiln at this location. It should also be noted that previously the geophysical survey had also failed to detect any such structure. The presence of the pottery sherds in Trench 39 do however, suggest some late medieval activity in this area.

11.9 3. *Fair Field Place* (TQ 5865 0570)

11.9.1 No coins or artefacts related to the fair were uncovered during the metal detector survey. The methodology employed would have located such finds had they been present and it is therefore assumed that the area of the fair was confined to the higher, level ground to the north of the current land-take. The surveyed area was on a south-facing slope running down to a stream/wet ditch and such topography was obviously not utilised for the fair.

11.10 6. *Hipholes*

11.10.1 The absence of medieval features and limited artefactual evidence recorded during the Stage 2 evaluation suggests that the proposed Bypass does not cut across an area of medieval settlement at this location.

11.11 The relevant aerial photographs displayed traces of possible ridge and furrow at two places along the route corridor (Fig. 2; A and C). However, trial-trenching has not produced any evidence on the ground for these features. It can only be assumed that the noticeable related earthworks have been removed by later ploughing and as such these features are only visible from the air.

11.12 Generally, the investigative techniques used during the project are considered to have been appropriate for assessing the archaeological potential of land proposed for development. However, it can be argued that the two possible kiln sites identified prior to fieldwork were not sampled intensively enough to categorically dismiss claims of their existence.

12.0 ARCHIVE

- 12.1 The Project Archive will be collated in accordance with "Guidelines for the preparation of excavation activities for long-term storage" (UKIC 1990). The finds recovered from the evaluation and all paper and photographic records will be deposited in a suitable local repository on completion and acceptance of the final report. Until then they will be stored at Archaeology South-East's premises at Ditchling.

13.0 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- 13.1 Archaeology South-East are grateful to W.S. Atkins Heritage for providing source material used in this report. The project was managed by Ian Greig and Luke Barber

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APPENDIX 1:
Context List with depth of layers

Context No	Trench No.	Description	Notes	Thickness of layer
1	7	Topsoil		0.35
2	7	Subsoil		0.10-0.15m
3	7	Natural		
4	8	Topsoil		0.20m.
5	8	Subsoil		0.20m.
6	6	Topsoil		0.25m
7	6	Subsoil		0.10-0.12m
8	5	Topsoil		0.20m
9	5	Subsoil		0.20m
10	5	Natural		
11	4	Topsoil		0.25m
12	4	Subsoil		0.20m
13	4	Natural		
14	3	Topsoil		0.20m
15	3	Subsoil		0.20m
16	2	Topsoil		0.20m
17	2	Subsoil		0.20m
18	11	Topsoil		0.25m
19	11	Natural		
20	10	Topsoil		0.20-0.30m
21	10	Dumped Deposit		0.40m
22	22	Topsoil		0.25m
23	22	Subsoil		0.10m
24	12	Topsoil		0.20m
25	12	Subsoil		0.15m
26	13	Topsoil		0.20m
27	13	Subsoil		0.15m
28	14	Topsoil		0.20m
29	14	Subsoil		0.10m
30	15	Topsoil		0.25m
31	15	Subsoil		0.15m
32	16	Topsoil		0.20m
33	16	Subsoil		0.10m
34	17	Topsoil		0.20m
35	17	Subsoil		0.10m
36	17	Natural		
37	18	Topsoil		0.20m
38	18	Subsoil		0.10m
39	20	Topsoil		0.20m
40	20	Subsoil		0.10m
41	19	Topsoil		0.20m
42	19	Subsoil		0.10m
43	21	Topsoil		0.20m
44	21	Subsoil		0.20m
45	23	Topsoil		0.20m
46	23	Subsoil		0.15m
47	23	Fill of possible pit 60		

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48	23	Fill of possible pit 59		
49	23	Fill of pit 62		
50	24	Topsoil		0.20m
51	24	Subsoil		0.15m
52	26	Topsoil		0.20m
53	26	Subsoil		0.10m
54	31	Topsoil		0.20m
55	31	Subsoil		0.10-0.15m
56	23	Fill of ditch/gully 61		
57	30	Topsoil		0.20m
58	30	Subsoil		0.15m
59	23	Cut of possible pit	13th/early 14th century	
60	23	Cut of possible pit	13th/early 14th century	
61	23	Cut of ditch/gully		
62	23	Cut of pit		
63	23	Layer		
64	23	Fill of possible post-holes 65		
65	23	Cu of possible post-holes		
66	27	Topsoil		0.20m
67	27	Subsoil		0.10m-0.15m
68	28	Topsoil		0.20m
69	28	Subsoil		0.15m-0.20m
70	29	Topsoil		0.20m
71	29	Subsoil		0.10-0.15m
72	25	Topsoil		0.20m
73	25	Subsoil		0.15m
74	34	Topsoil		0.10m
75	34	Subsoil		0.10m
76	35	Topsoil		0.10m
77	35	Subsoil		0.10m
78	36	Topsoil		0.10m
79	36	Subsoil		0.10m
80	37	Topsoil		0.10m
81	37	Subsoil		0.10m
82	38	Topsoil		0.10m
83	38	Subsoil		0.10-0.15m
84	39	Topsoil		0.10m
85	39	Subsoil		0.10m
86	40	Topsoil		0.10m
87	40	Subsoil		0.10m
88	33	Topsoil		0.10m
89	33	Subsoil		0.10m
90	32	Topsoil		0.20m
91	32	Subsoil		0.20m
92	41	Topsoil		0.20m
93	41	Subsoil		0.20m
94	42	Topsoil		0.20m
95	42	Subsoil		0.10m
96	43	Topsoil		0.20m
97	43	Subsoil		0.15m
98	46	Topsoil		0.25m
99	46	Subsoil		0.20m

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100	45	Topsoil	0.20-0.25m
101	48	Topsoil	0.20m
102	49	Topsoil	0.20m
103	47	Topsoil	0.25m
104	50	Topsoil	0.20m
105	50	Subsoil	0.10-0.15m
106	51	Topsoil	0.20m
107	51	Subsoil	0.15m
108	52	Topsoil	0.20m
109	52	Subsoil	0.15m
110	54	Topsoil	0.20m
111	54	Subsoil	0.15m
112	53	Topsoil	0.20m
113	53	Subsoil	0.30m
114	53	Layer	0.10m
115	55	Topsoil	0.20m
116	55	Subsoil	0.15m
117	55	Layer	0.50m
118	56	Topsoil	0.20m
119	56	Subsoil	0.15m
120	56	Layer	0.25-0.30m
121	56	Natural	
122	57	Topsoil	0.20m
123	57	Subsoil	0.15m
124	56	Layer	0.10m
125	56	Fill of ditch 126	
126	56	Cut of ditch	
127	60	Topsoil	0.20m
128	60	Subsoil	0.15m
129	58	Topsoil	0.35m
130	59	Topsoil	0.20m
131	59	Subsoil	0.10-0.15m
132	62	Topsoil	0.20m
133	62	Subsoil	0.15m
134	61	Topsoil	0.22m
135	61	Subsoil	0.15m
136	64	Topsoil	0.20m
137	64	Subsoil	0.15m
138	63	Topsoil	0.30-0.35m
139	65	Topsoil	0.20m
140	70	Topsoil	0.25m
141	69	Topsoil	0.25m
142	68	Topsoil	0.25m
143	67	Topsoil	0.25m
144	66	Topsoil	0.25m
145	1	Topsoil	0.15m
146	1	Subsoil	0.10m
147	47b	Topsoil	0.25m
1001	71	Topsoil	0.29m
1002	71	Subsoil	0.60-0.8m
1003	72	Topsoil	0.25m

Archaeology South-East
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1004	72	Subsoil	0.10m
1005	73	Topsoil	0.05m
1006	73	Subsoil	0.25m
1007	74	Topsoil	0.05m-0.1m
1008	74	Subsoil	0.25m
1009	75	Topsoil	0.10-0.15m
1010	75	Subsoil	0.20m
1011	76	Topsoil	0.25m
1012	76	Subsoil	0.15m-0.20m
1013	76	Cut	
1014	77	Fill of Cut 113	
1015	77	Topsoil	0.22-0.25m
1016	77	Subsoil	0.15m
1017	78	Topsoil	0.30-0.35m
1018	78	Subsoil	0.25m
1019	79	Topsoil	0.20-0.30m
1020	79	Subsoil	0.20m
1021	81	Topsoil	0.20m
1022	81	Subsoil	0.20m
1023	80	Topsoil	0.20m
1024	80	Subsoil	0.15m
1025	80	Cut of ditch/gully	
1026	80	Fill of ditch/gully 1025	
1027	82	Topsoil	0.30m
1028	82	Subsoil	0.15m
1029	84	Topsoil	0.20m
1030	84	Subsoil	0.15m
1031	83	Topsoil	0.18m
1032	83	Subsoil	0.15m
1033	85	Topsoil	0.20-0.25m
1034	85	Subsoil	0.15m
1035	86	Topsoil	0.30m
1036	86	Subsoil	0.20m
1037	87	Topsoil	0.25-0.30m
1038	87	Subsoil	0.15-0.20m
1039	89	Topsoil	0.25-0.30m
1040	89	Subsoil	0.15-0.20m
1041	88	Topsoil	0.25-0.30m
1042	88	Subsoil	0.15-0.20
1043	90	Topsoil	0.25m
1044	90	Subsoil	0.15m
1045	91	Topsoil	0.20m
1046	91	Subsoil	0.20m
1047	44	Topsoil	0.40m
1048	44	Subsoil	0.12m
1049	44	Subsoil	0.20-0.25m
1050	92	Topsoil	0.22m
1051	93	Topsoil	0.22m
1052	94	Topsoil	0.24m
1053	95	Topsoil	0.20m
1054	96	Topsoil	0.25m
1055	97	Topsoil	0.35-0.40m

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1056	98	Topsoil		0.25-0.30m
1057	99	Topsoil		0.25-0.30m
1058	100	Topsoil		0.25m
1059	101	Topsoil		0.26m
1060	112	Topsoil		0.25m
1061	102	Topsoil		0.25m
1062	103	Topsoil		0.25m
1063	103	Cut of ditch		
1064	103	Fill of Ditch 1063		
1065	104	Topsoil		0.20-0.25m
1066	105	Topsoil		0.20m
1067	106	Topsoil		0.20-0.25m
1068	107	Topsoil		0.25m
1069	109	Topsoil		0.20-0.25m
1070	109	Cut of ditch/gully	20th century	
1071	109	Cut of ditch/gully 1070	20th century	
1072	111	Topsoil		0.20m
1073	111	Cut of ditch/gully	20th century	
1074	111	Fill of ditch/gully 1073	20th century	
1075	111	Layer	Contains fire-cracked and worked flint	
1076	113	Topsoil		
1077	113	Cut of ditch/gully	20th century	
1078	113	Fill of ditch/gully 1078	20th century	
1079	108	Topsoil		0.36m
1080	108	Cut of small pit		
1081	108	Fill of small pit 1080		
1082	108	Subsoil		0.10m
1083	110	Topsoil		0.30m
1084	115	Topsoil		0.25m
1085	115	Subsoil		0.15m
1086	114	Topsoil		
1087	114	Cut	20th century	
1088	114	Fill of cut 1087	20th century	
1089	114	Cut of ditch/gully		
1090	114	Fill of ditch/gully 1089		

APPENDIX 2: FINDS AND ENVIRONMENTAL SAMPLE

FINDS TABLE: Polegate Bypass (Site Code - PBP 99)

Context	Tr. No.	Pottery	Bone	F/C Flint	Worked Flint	Tile/Brick	Other	Comments
7	6	4/25g		1/10g				Pot: C14th
46	23	5/60g		1/2g		2/100g	Burnt clay 3/75g	Pot: C13th
47	23	51/175g		2/2g				Pot: C13th
47/48	23	120/650g	2/20g	1/12g				Pot: C13th to early C14th
48	23	159/800g		2/50g		2/25g	Slate 1/25g	Pot: C13th to early C14th
67	27	7/45g	1/25g					Pot: C13th-C14th
68	28	1/5g						Pot: C13th
70	29				1/25g			
73	25	3/175g	3/350g			14/1050g	Burnt clay 1/25g	Pot: C18th (residual medieval)
75	34			1/175g	1/50g			
76	35	1/35g						Pot: C18th-C19th
83	38				1/25g	3/125g		Tile: Post-medieval
85	39	4/100g				1/50g		Pot: C15th
91	32	5/75g						Pot: C18th
93	41	1/1g			1/20g	11/410g		Tile: Late medieval-early Post-medieval
97	43					4/475g		Tile: Late medieval-early Post-medieval
99	46	4/200g			1/25g	13/600g	Fe 1/25g Slag 1/110	Pot: C18th
100	45					15/425g		Tile: C18th
102	49				1/10g	6/105g		Tile: early (?) Post-medieval
103	47	5/12g				61/600g		Pot: C15th (?)
105	50	4/50g				41/720g	Burnt clay 10/140g	Pot and Tile: C18th-C19th

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107	51							9/800g	Glass 1/100g	(some residual medieval pot)
111	54			1/2g			13/975g		Glass: C18th	
133	62	2/20g					38/800g		Title: C18th-C19th	
139	65	2/30g					2/45g		Title: Late medieval-early Post-medieval	Pot: Late C15th-C16th
1002	71	2/5g					2/8g		Pot: C16th	
1005	73						1/125g		Pot: C12th-C13th	
1007	74			2/20g						
1009	75						1/100g			
1022	81				1/25g					
1029	84	1/1g			3/50g				Pot: C18th-C19th	
1031	83			2/80g						
1033	85	1/5g		2/25g					Pot/Tile: C18th	
1039	89			2/10g						
1040	89			1/2g						
1047	44			1/50g			2/70g			
1049	44	2/25g					18/50g		Fe 1/975g; Slate 1/25g	Title: late medieval/early Post-medieval
1050	92	3/15g							Pot: C13th-C14th	
1051	93	2/25g							Pot: C19th-C20th	
1052	94	12/100g		1/20g			1/25g		Fe 1/25g; Glass 1/1g Slag 3/75g	Pot: C19th-C20th
1053	95	3/50g					1/150g		Glass 1/5g	Pot: C19th-C20th
1056	98			1/1g						
1058	100			6/125g	2/25g					
1059	101			1/25g						
1061	102			2/40g	2/5g		1/70g		Burnt clay 2/20g	
1064	102								Burnt clay 10/12g	
1068	107	1/10g			2/25g		1/50g			Pot: C19th

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1069	109							5/125g		Title: C19th
1071	109							2/20g	Burnt clay 1/2g; Fe 1/5g	-
1075	111			24/100g			6/50g			-
1079	108		1/20g							Pot: C19th-C20th
1081	108		30/75g							-
1083	110						2/150g			-
U/S	5		1/5g						Clay pipe 1/1g	-
U/S field east of Shep. Lane			1/25g				30/625g	1/12g		Pot: C13th
	14						1/2g	1/50g		-
	23		26/180g					1/20g		Pot: C13th-C14th
	26		1/8g					3/250g		Pot: C13th-C14th
	31		1/25g					6/160g		Pot: C19th
U/S surface finds	near 97-99						7/500g			-
U/S surface finds	near 100- 115			2/35g			3/60g	1/100g		-
TOTAL			436/2952g	36/470g	44/516g	81/1950g	281/9142g			

Finds Summaries

The evaluation produced a number of artefacts: these are tabulated above with key observations noted, by category, below.

Worked Flint

The 81 pieces of worked flint predominantly consist of hard-hammer struck waste flakes usually retaining some cortex. The raw material is usually black or grey Downland flint although iron-stained material from secondary geological contexts is also present. Most of the material was located in the surface of the subsoil or the topsoil, however, most pieces are reasonably fresh with little sign of heavy attrition through rolling. A few implements are present. These include two scrapers and a discoidal knife (?) from the surface of the field to the east of Shepham lane; broken blades from Contexts 111, 1040 and unstratified in Trench 74; a concave scraper from the surface of the field around Trenches 100-115 and a serrated blade and borer/knife from Context 1075. A single core was located on the field surface close to Trenches 97-99. In general the assemblage is not particularly diagnostic of close date, however, the majority could easily be placed in a Later Bronze Age context although some earlier pieces (ie the blades) are present.

Pottery

The majority of the 436 sherds of pottery from the evaluation are of medieval date, the majority coming from Contexts 47, 47/48 and 48. The medieval pottery for the Stage 2 works as a whole spans the late 12th to 15th centuries although most is not later than the 14th century. The material usually shows signs of moderate abrasion and sherd sizes are generally small although this may in part be due to the acidic nature of the subsoil rather than a reliable indication of secondary reworking of deposits: pottery from Contexts 47/48 and 48 also shows signs of abrasion despite being in a cut feature. The medieval fabric range consists of flint and sand, medium sand and fine sand tempered wares, most of which are oxidised dull orange in firing. Although nearly all of these sherds are from cooking pots, some jugs (occasionally with glaze) are present.

The 15th- to 16th- century pottery is present in only very small quantities but is usually in better condition than the earlier material. Fabrics consist of fine sand tempered wares, sandy earthenwares and fine earthenwares. A single sherd of German stoneware is also present. The post-medieval pottery from the evaluation is dominated by brown/red- glazed earthenwares of 18th- to 19th- century date and 19th- to 20th- century transfer-printed china. None of this material is present in large groups and the bulk is likely to have derived from manuring practices during arable episodes of farming.

Ceramic Building Materials

The 281 pieces of ceramic building material are predominantly from peg tiles. Some are located in medieval contexts (ie 48) but the majority are from topsoil/subsoil contexts. The tiles are in a fine to medium sand-tempered fabric with occasional white clay pellet inclusions. This basic fabric is present in both medieval and early post-medieval examples, however, fragments of 18th- and 19th- century date are noticeably fired to higher temperatures. A concentration of tile is apparent in the vicinity of the supposed kiln site (ie Trench 47, Context 103) and all this material appears to be of late medieval to early post-medieval date.

Bone

Very little bone material was recovered and this is undoubtedly due in part to the acidic nature of the subsoil. Species represented include cattle from Context 73; horse teeth from Context 47/48 and sheep teeth from Context 1081.

Other Material

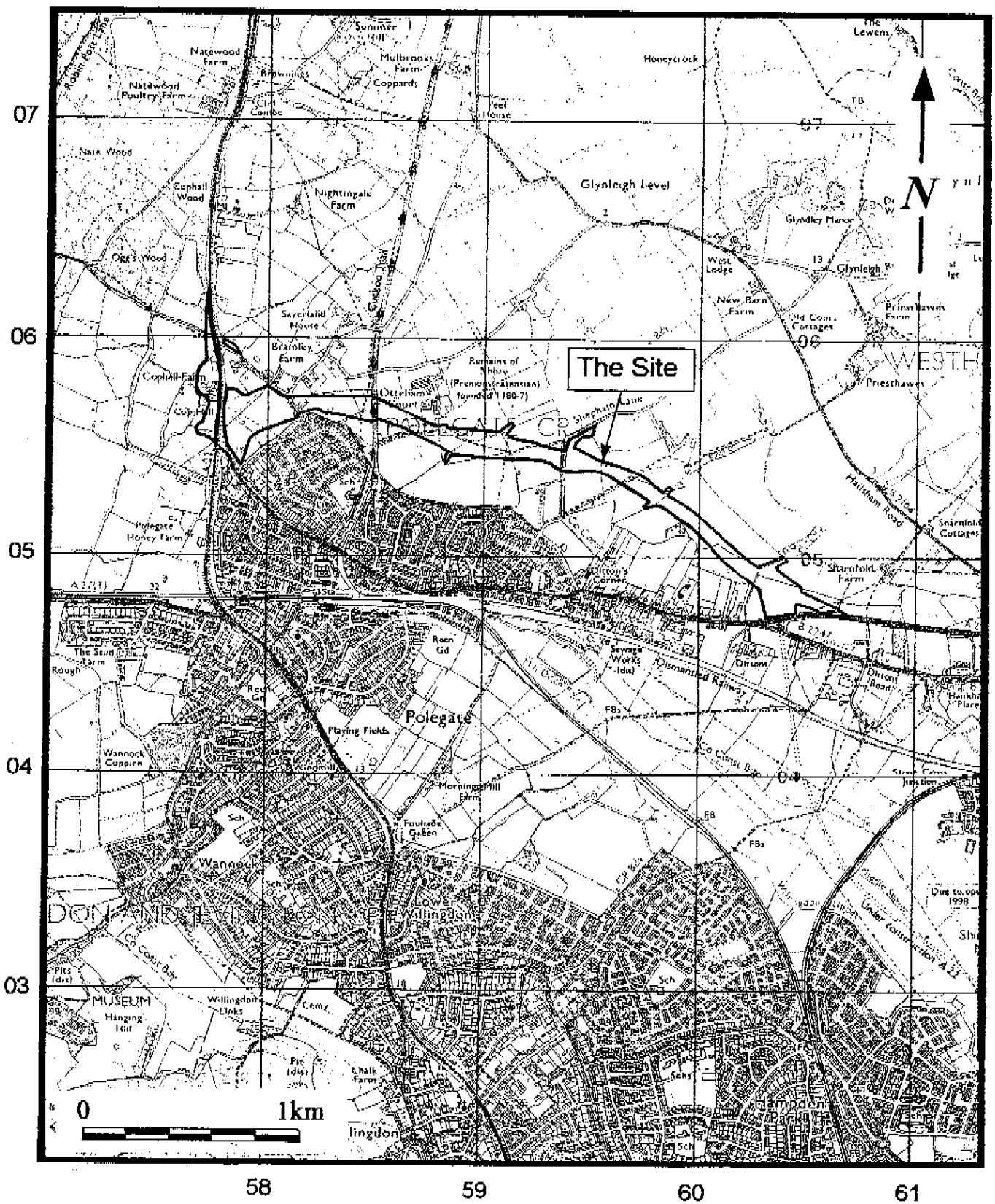
The other categories of material only form very small groups and are of little interest. No pieces of daub were noted amongst the burnt clay and all of the glass is of 18th- to 19th- century date. The slag recovered all relates to post-medieval iron-working and has probably been brought from elsewhere.

Environmental Sample

Only one context was located during the evaluation which was considered to hold a reasonable potential for containing environmental/economic data: Trench 23, Context 49 (fill of Cut 62). Although no dating evidence was located in this fill it was obviously rich in carbonised remains and the proximity of the medieval features to the south-east suggested it may be of similar date. As a result a 15 litre soil sample was taken.

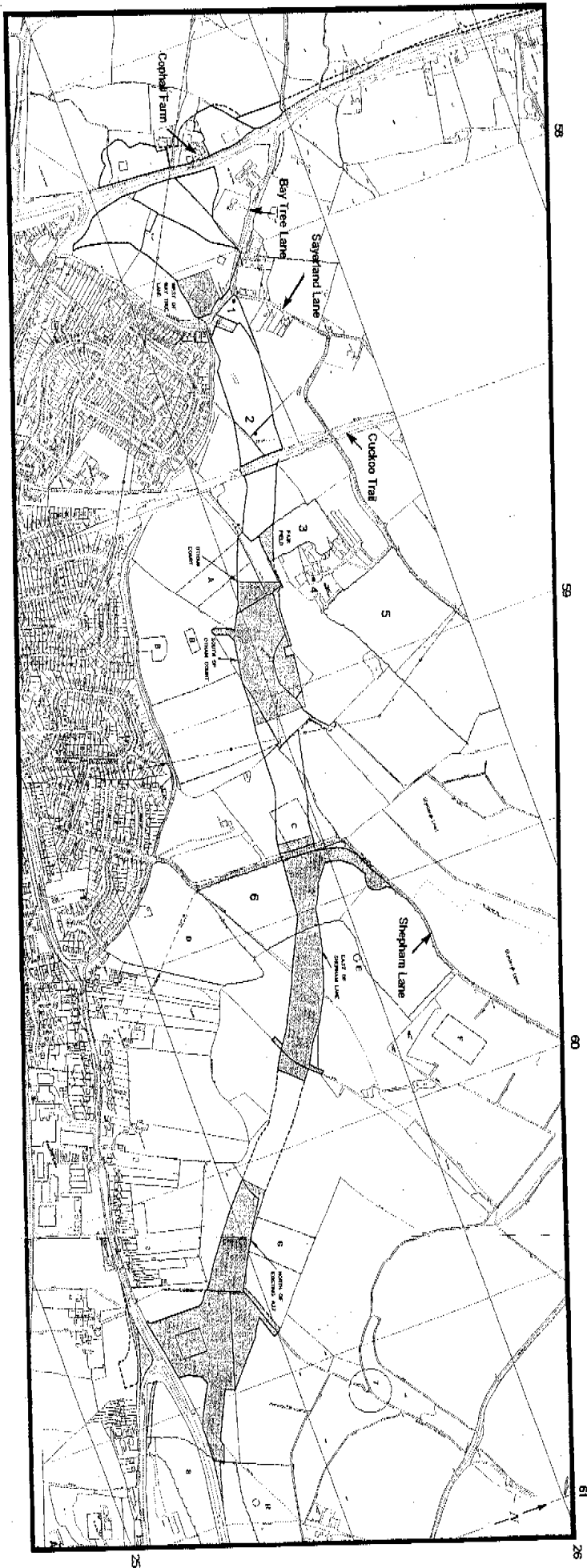
The sample was subjected to floatation in its entirety with float being retained on a 500 micron sieve and residue being retained on a 1mm sieve. Once dry the float and residue were scanned with a binocular microscope (x10) in order to assess the sample's contents.

The residue was found to be devoid of any ecofactual or artefactual material. A little charcoal was present (which had not floated) to 6mm. The float contained moderate to abundant charcoal pieces to 10mm (though most was around 3-5mm). Low quantities of modern rootlets were also present. No carbonised seeds were visible.



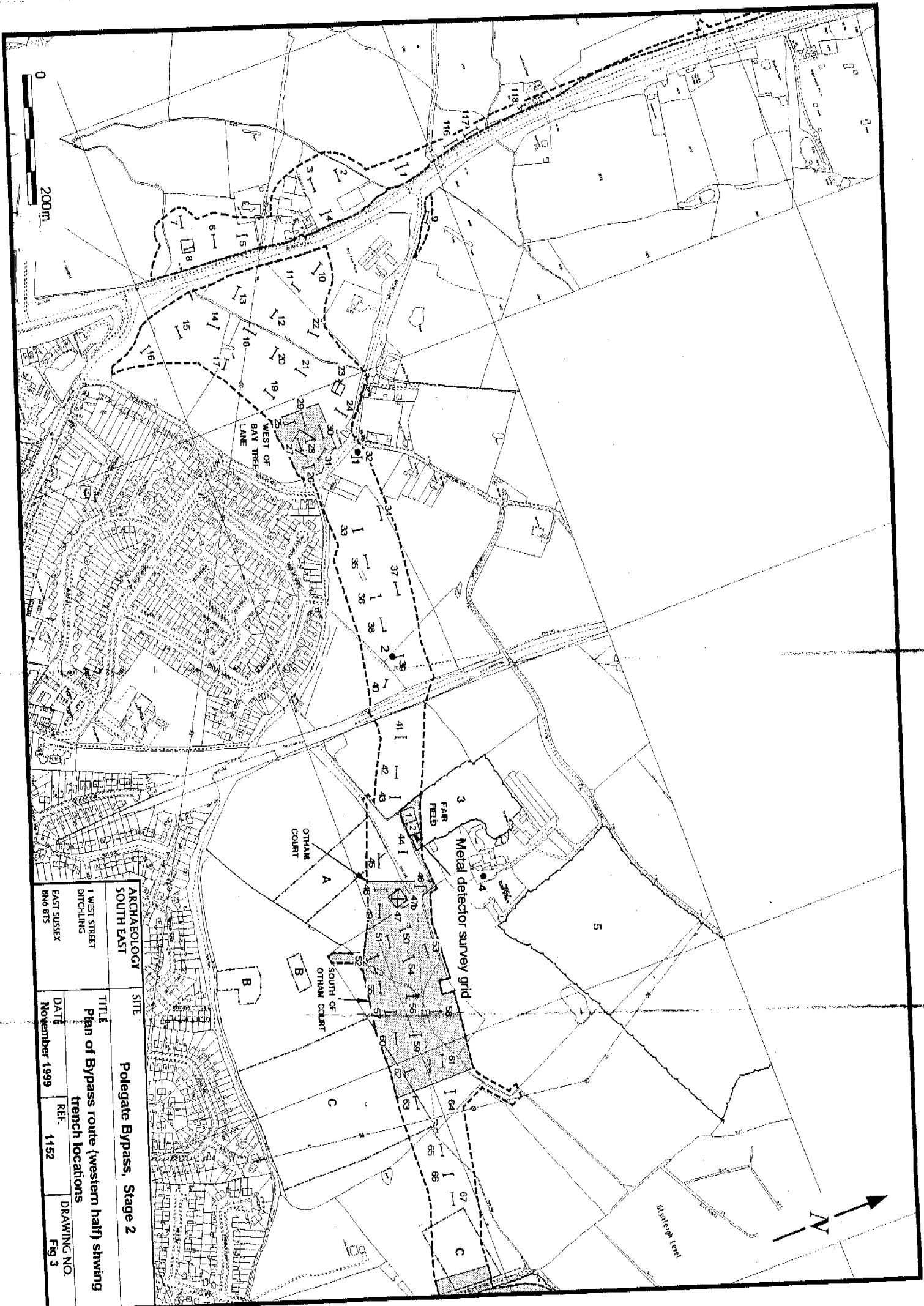
ARCHAEOLOGY SOUTH EAST	SITE Polegate Bypass, Stage 2		
	TITLE Site Location Plan		
I WEST STREET DITCHLING EAST SUSSEX BN6 8TS	DATE November 1999	REF. 1152	DRAWING NO. Fig. 1

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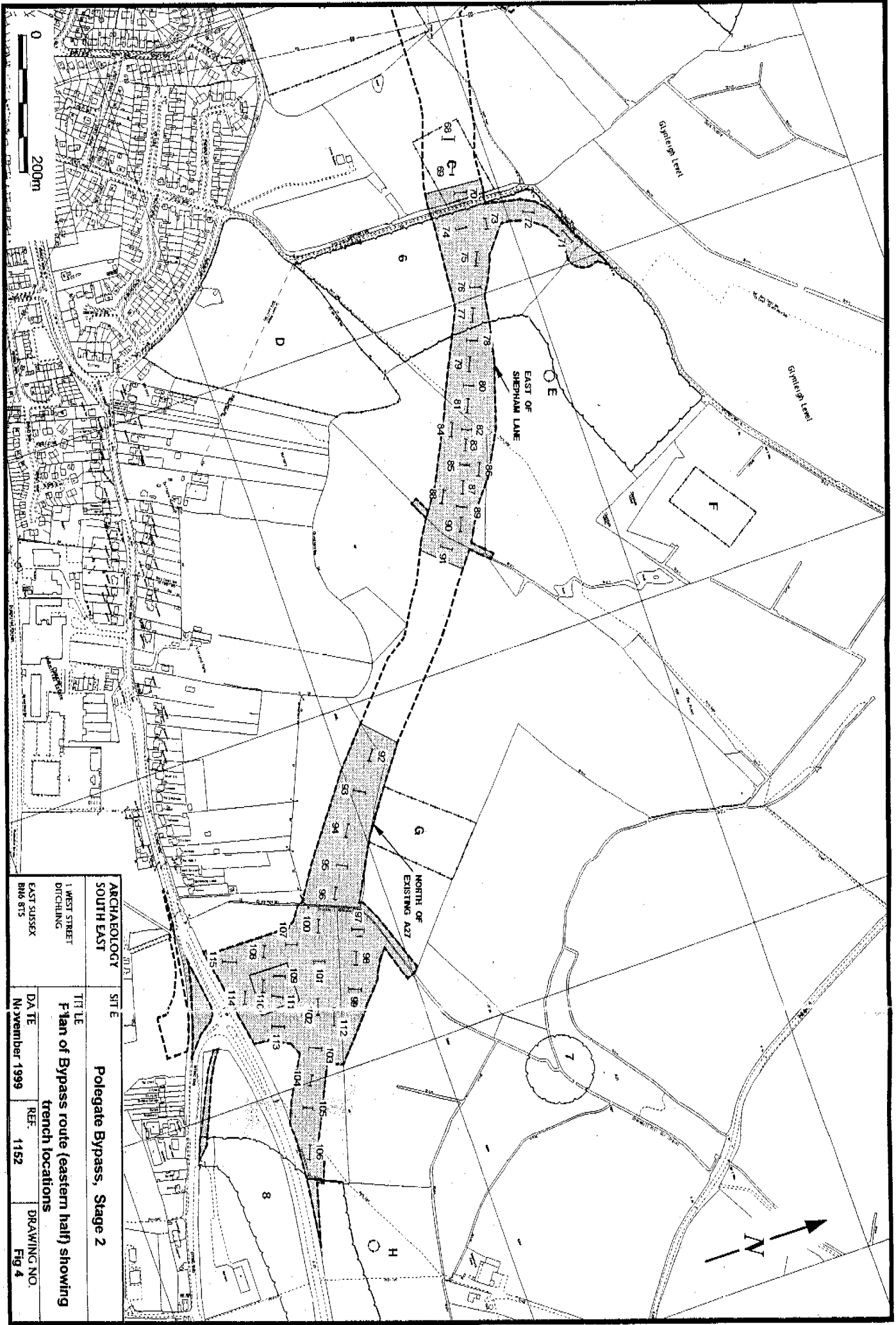


- Areas of magnetic anomalies identified in stage 1 evaluation 1993
- ▨ Areas of archaeological potential identified in stage 1 evaluation 1993
- ▤ Site identified from aerial photograph appraisal 1999
- ▥ Known or potential archaeological site identified in desk based assessment 1991

ARCHAEOLOGY SOUTH EAST	SITE Polegate Bypass, Stage 2
TITLE Plan of Bypass route showing areas of archaeological interest	
1 WEST STREET DITCHLING EAST SUSSEX BN6 8TS	DATE November 1999
	REF. NO. 1152
	DRAWING NO. Fig 2

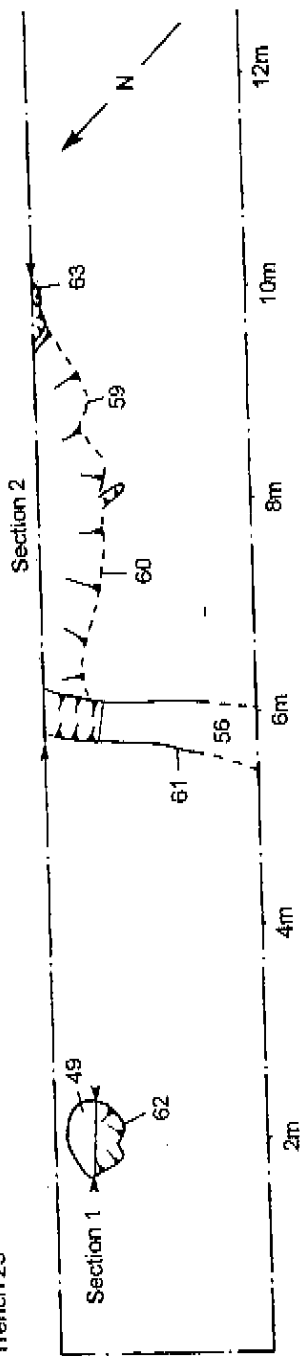


ARCHAEOLOGIST SOUTH EAST	SITE	Polegate Bypass, Stage 2	
1 WEST STREET DITCHLING EAST SUSSEX BN6 8TS	TITLE	Plan of Bypass route (western half) showing trench locations	
DATE November 1999	REF.	1152	DRAWING NO. Fig 3

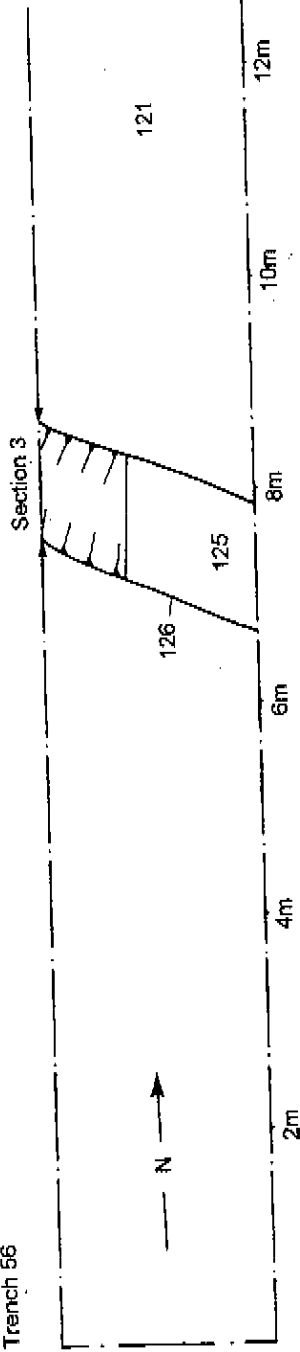


ARCHAEOLOGY SOUTH EAST	SITE	Polegate Bypass, Stage 2	
1 WEST STREET DITCHING EAST SUSSEX BN6 8TS	TITLE	Plan of Bypass route (eastern half) showing trench locations	
	DATE	REF.	DRAWING NO.
	November 1999	1152	Fig 4

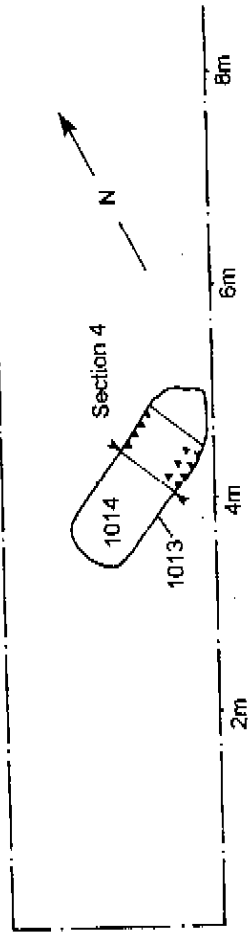
Trench 23



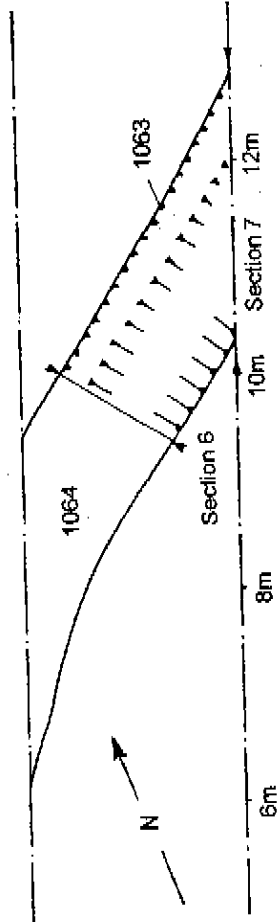
Trench 56



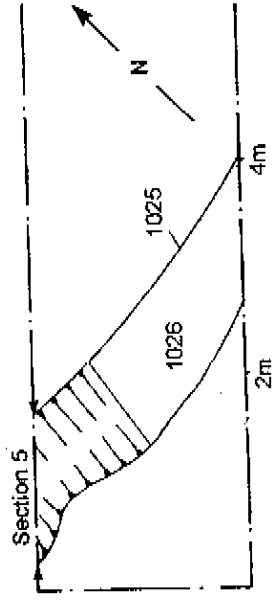
Trench 76



Trench 103

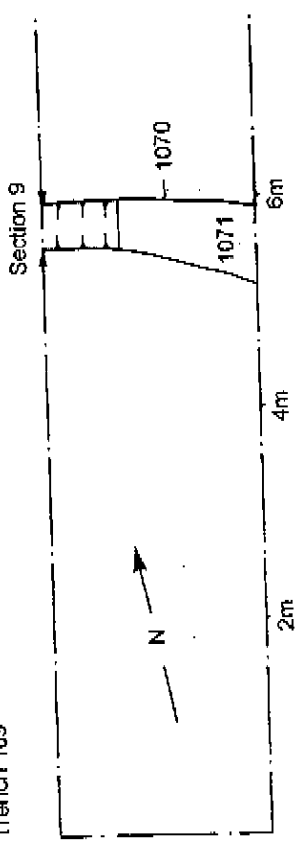


Trench 80

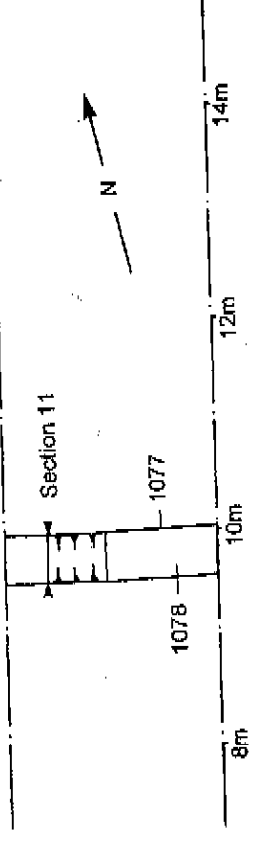


ARCHAEOLOGIST SOUTH EAST	SITE Pollegate Bypass, Stage 2
TITLE I. WEST STREET DITCHING EAST SUSSEX BN96 8TS	Trench plans: Trenches 23, 56, 76, 80 and 103
DATE November 1999	REF. 1162
	DRAWING NO. Fig 5

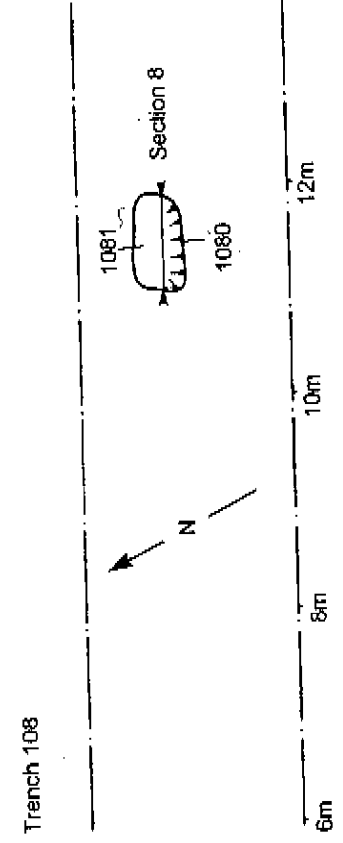
Trench 109



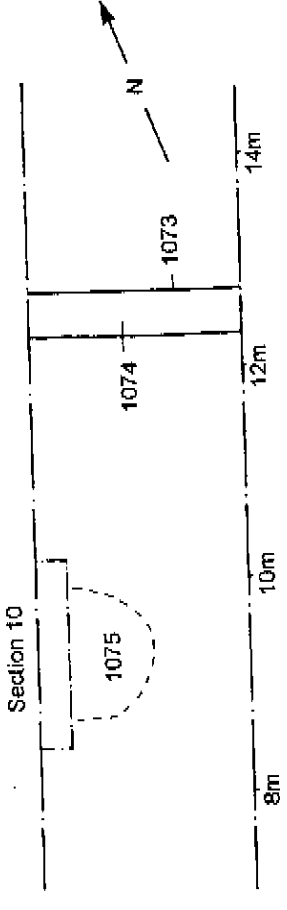
Trench 113



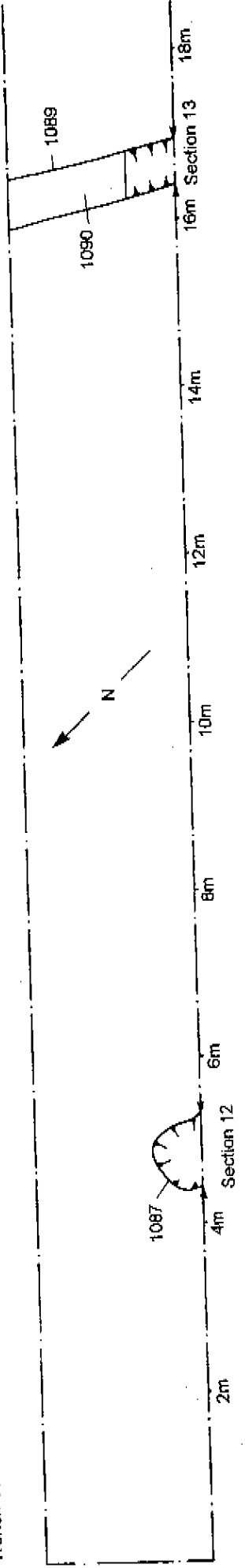
Trench 108



Trench 111



Trench 114

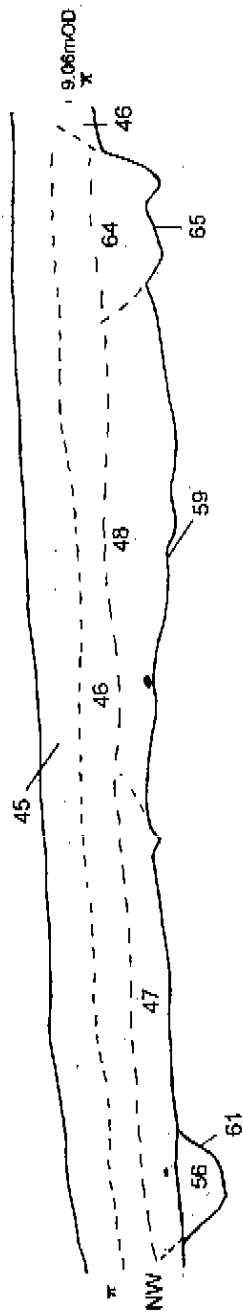


ARCHAEOLOGY SOUTH EAST	SITE Polegate Bypass, Stage 2
1 WEST STREET DITCHLING EAST SUSSEX BN6 8TS	TITLE Trench plans : 108, 109, 111, 113 and 114
	DATE November 1999
	REF. 1152
	DRAWING NO. Fig 6

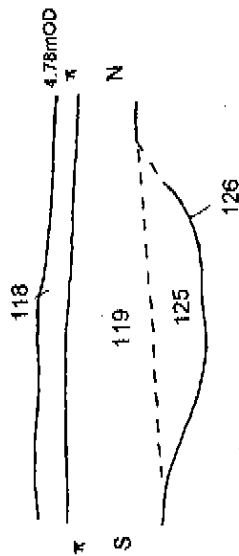
Section 1



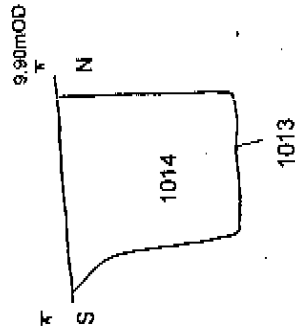
Section 2



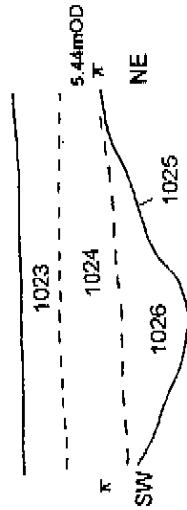
Section 3



Section 4



Section 5

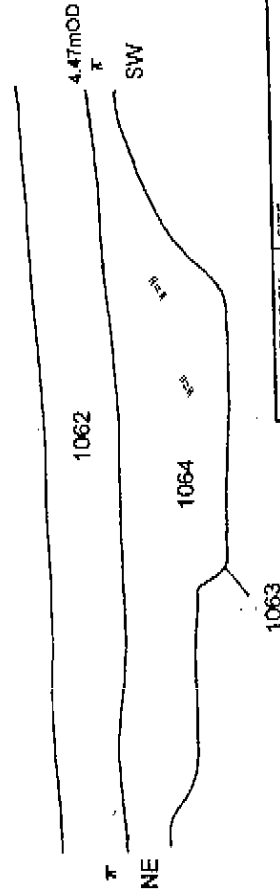


- Flint
- ☼ Burrit clay
- * Charcoal

Section 6



Section 7

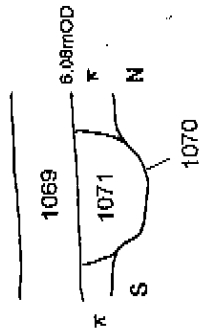


ARCHAEOLOGY SOUTH EAST	SITE Poilegate Bypass, Stage 2
1 WEST STREET DITCHLING EAST SUSSEX BN0 8TS	TITLE Sections 1-7
DATE November 1999	REF. 1152
DRAWING NO. Fig. 7	

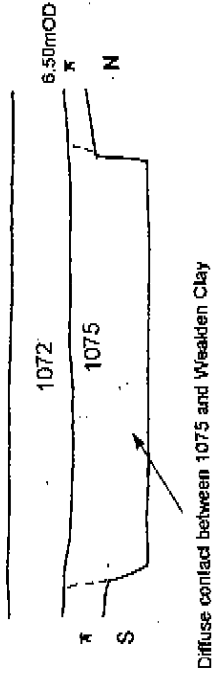
Section 8



Section 9



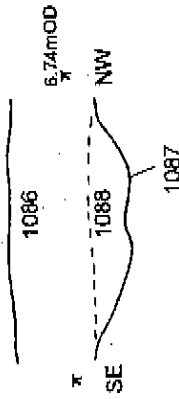
Section 10



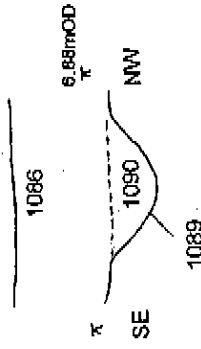
Section 11



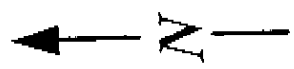
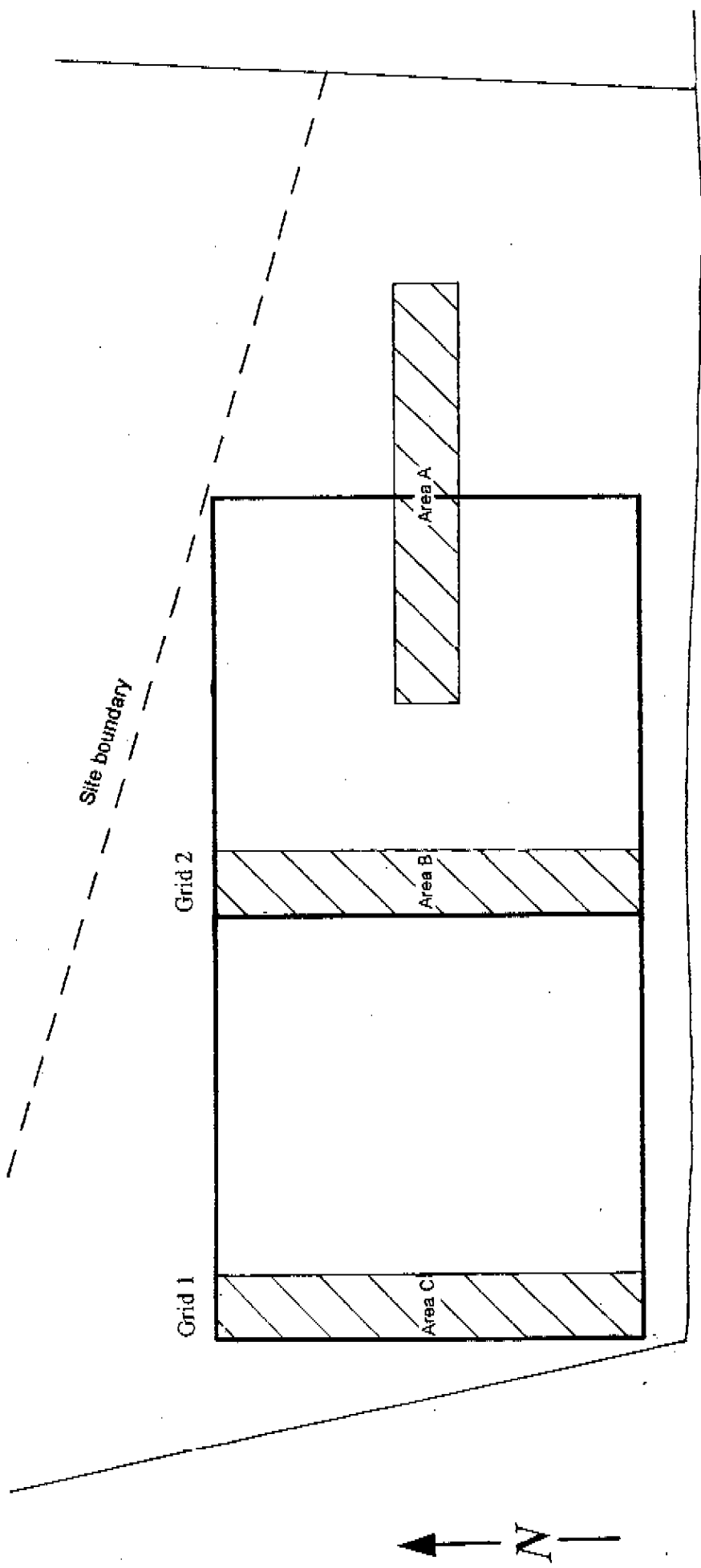
Section 12



Section 13



ARCHAEOLOGY SOUTH EAST	SITE	Polegate Bypass, Stage 2	
1 WEST STREET DITCHLING EAST SUSSEX BN16 8TS	TITLE	Sections 8-13	
	DATE	REF.	DRAWING NO.
	November 1999	1152	Fig 6



ARCHAEOLOGY SOUTH EAST	SITE Polegate Bypass, Stage 2
1 WEST STREET DITCHLING EAST SUSSEX BN6 8TS	TITLE Plan of metal detector survey grid (Fair Field)
DATE November 1999	REF. 1152
	DRAWING NO. Fig 9

Field boundary

Site boundary

Grid 2

Grid 1

Area A

Area B

Area C