

An Archaeological Evaluation on the Phase 3 Amenity Areas of the Bolnore Village Development and Stage 5 Relief Road, South of Rocky Lane, Haywards Heath, West Sussex

(TQ 32422 22235 to TQ 32739 22452)

By

Neil Griffin BSc AIFA

Project No. 1945

October 2004

ARCHAEOLOGY SOUTH-EAST

SMR Number	Site Name	Record Type	a Ę
7259 - MWS7321	Bolnore Village (Phase 3) - evaluation	Monument	
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Monument Types and	Dates		

Monument Types and Dates

DITCH (Early Iron Age to Roman - 800 BC to 409 AD) DITCH (Medieval - 1066 AD to 1539 AD) DITCH (Post Medieval - 1540 AD to 1900 AD)

Description and Sources

Description

Three test pits targetting a potential prehistoric working surface failed to locate any worked flints, although one waste flake was recovered nearby. Seven of eighteen evaluation trenches located eleven linear features. One is late post-medieval and another contained a small sherd of probably medieval pottery. A third contained a moderate assemblage of late Iron Age to early Roman pottery. All other features were undatable due to the paucity of artefacts. (1) Subsequent excavation revealed two ring ditches forming a small enclosure. Pottery within the outer ditch suggests a Late Iron Age to early Romano-British date; sherds from the inner ditch may date from the Middle to Late Iron Age. A small amount of iron slag and worked flints were recovered. A smaller gully outside the enclosure may relate to an earlier phase of the site. Other features within the enclosure may relate to gate structures. See 7263. (2) 16 evaluation trenches were excavated but only one located a feature. This was a small irregular scoop that contained 2 sherds of 1st century AD pottery and a flint flake. A small amount of pottery (MBA-PM), PM tile, worked flint (including Mesolithic blades) and burnt flint was found unstratified within the majority of trenches. (3)

Sources

- Unpublished document: Archaeology South-East (Neil Griffin). Jul 2004. An archaeological evaluation at (1)Bolnore Village Development (Phase 3), Haywards Heath, West Sussex.
- Unpublished document: Archaeology South-East (Neil Griffin). Aug 2004. Bolnore Village Phase 3 -(2)Excavation. Interim Summary Statement...
- Unpublished document: Archaeolgy South-East. Oct 2004, An Archaeological Evaluation on the Phase 3 (3)Amenity Areas of the Bolnore Village Development and Stage 5 Relief Road, South of Rocky Lane, Haywards Heath, West Sussex.

Location

mood for					
National Grid Refere Centroid TQ 3241 224	nce 2 (MBR: 10m by 10m)	TQ32SW	Point	· į	
Administrative Areas	3				
Civil Parish	Cuckfield Rural,	Mid Sussex, West	Sussex		н н н
Address/Historic Na	mes - None recorded			×(
Designations, Status	ses and Scorings				
Associated Legal De	signations - None record	led			
Other Statuses and	Cross-References	· · ·			
Sites & Monuments R	ecord - 7259			Active	
Ratings and Scoring	s - None recorded				
Land Use	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·				
Associated Historic	Landscape Character Red	cords - None reco	orded		
Other Land Classes	- None recorded			- -	
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SMR Number 7259 - MWS7321 Site Name Bolnore Village (Phase 3) - evaluation

Related M	onuments - None Recorded		
Associate	d Finds		
FWS4558	SLAG (Early Iron Age to Roman - 800 BC to 409 AD)	IRON	
FWS4559	FLAKE (Prehistoric - 500000 BC to 42 AD)	FLINT	
Associate	d Events/Activities		
EWS701	Bolnore Village - Evaluation (Event - Interpretation)		

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Archaeology South-East 1 West Street Ditchling East Sussex BN6 8TS

Tel: 01273 845497 Fax: 01273 844187 Email: <u>fau@ucl.ac.uk</u>

ARCHAEOLOGY SOUTH EAST

Archaeology South-East is a division of University College London Field Archaeology Unit. The Institute of Archaeology at UCL is 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.

UCL Field Archaeology Unit and South Eastern Archaeological Services (which became Archaeology South-East in 1996) were established in 1974 and 1991 respectively. Although field projects have been conducted world-wide, Archaeology South East retains a special interest in south-east England with the majority of our contract and consultancy work concentrated in Sussex, Kent, Greater London and Essex.

Drawing on experience of the countryside and towns of the south east of England, Archaeology South East 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 UCL 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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Abstract

A programme of archaeological investigation was undertaken in order to establish the archaeological potential along the route of the Bolnore Village Development Stage 5 Road at the southern end of a large, ongoing development on the western side of Haywards Heath.

16 evaluation trenches were excavated, but only one located a feature. This was a small irregular scoop that contained two sherds of 1st century AD pottery and a flint flake. The southern continuation of a Late Iron Age/early Roman double ditched enclosure that was located immediately north of this site was not found. A small amount of pottery (spanning the Middle Bronze Age to the post-medieval period), post-medieval tile, worked flint (including possible Mesolithic blades) and burnt flint was recovered unstratified within the majority of the trenches.

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Acknowledgements

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SMR Summary Sheet

Figure 1:Site Location PlanFigure 2:Trench LocationFigure 3:Plan and Section

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 Archaeology South-East (ASE), a division of University College London Field Archaeology Unit was commissioned by Crest Nicholson (South) Ltd., (Mr A. Yeardley) to carry out an archaeological evaluation prior to groundworks associated with the Bolnore Village Development Stage 5 Relief Road under planning application CD/029/96.
- 1.2 The site forms part of a larger scheme of development that lies to the west of the main Brighton to London railway line at the western side of Haywards Heath. It lies south of Rocky Lane, and consists of amenity areas at the south of the Phase 3 housing development, and the Stage 5 Relief Road which lies at the south eastern end of the overall scheme of development and will form a new crossing over the London to Brighton railway line approximately 120m south of the existing route (TQ 32422 22235 to TQ 32739 22452; Fig 1).
- 1.3 Recent research and limited archaeological investigations (see below) have identified a relatively low archaeological potential for the Stage 5 Relief Road. It was agreed between representatives of West Sussex County Council (WSCC), Crest Nicholson and ASE that archaeological evaluation would be an appropriate means of establishing the archaeological potential of this area of the overall development.
- **1.4** Should the initial stage of targeted archaeological evaluation justify further, more detailed, archaeological works in this area, this would be discussed in advance with WSCC and Crest Nicholson.
- **1.5** A Specification for the evaluation was prepared by ASE and duly approved by the Assistant County Archaeologist, West Sussex County Council (WSCC), prior to the commencement of fieldwork.
- 1.6 The fieldwork was undertaken by Neil Griffin (Field Officer) and Mike Pritchard (Archaeological Assistant) between 11th to 15th October 2004. The project was managed by Ian Greig (Project Manager).

2.0 Geological and Archaeological Background

- 2.1 According to the British Geological Survey 1: 50,000 map of the area (sheets 302 and 318/333) the site to the east of the railway line is Cuckfield Stone and to the west of the railway line is likely to be a combination of this and Upper Grinstead Clay.
- 2.2 A desk-based archaeological assessment covering all phases of the development area was prepared by Alison Borthwick Associates (Borthwick 1994) prior to

the development. This indicated some, but relatively limited, archaeological potential.

2.3 The present site is to the east of the line of a Roman road, although the road is within the Phase 1 area and does not actually pass through or immediately adjacent to Phase 3. The position of the road was confirmed during work by ASE on phase 1 of the development (James 1998 and 1999), although only a few stone fragments from the foundation levels of the road survived on the predicted alignment to indicate its former presence. No evidence for associated occupation was found.

- 2.4 An early post-medieval house was also identified towards the north of the Phase 2 area. Extensive evaluation by ASE (James, 2001) failed to locate this, and it was concluded that it might have been located just outside of the development area; it is not relevant to Phase 3.
- 2.5 Evidence for prehistoric activity in the area, in the form of flint artefacts and worked flakes were also found within the Phase 3 area adjacent to a stream at national grid reference TQ 3238 2252 during the course of a walkover survey for the then proposed Haywards Heath By-pass (Butler 1989). These finds established archaeological potential within the Phase 3 Area. A small number of further worked flints were also found during this 1989 survey further c. 400m to the west and c. 800m to the north (*ibid.*). A number of flint artefacts, including two discrete concentrations, were located by ASE during the course of the construction of the Relief Road (Stages 1, 2 and 3) and Phase 1 Housing at the northern end of the development site (Griffin 2002).
- 2.6 Evaluation of the main Phase 3 area by ASE (Griffin 2004a) revealed a small number of mainly undated linear features. One ditch appeared to be of late Iron Age/early Roman date and the area around this feature was subsequently stripped of topsoil and subjected to an archaeological excavation (Griffin 2004b). This revealed part of a double-ditched enclosure, provisionally of this date, with a number of internal features. Only a small portion of the enclosure was within the development area; it may extend to the south of Rocky Lane, within the area covered by this report.

3.0 Archaeological Methodology

3.1 The archaeological evaluation was carried out in accordance with the Specification. This was to comprise of the mechanical excavation of 16 trenches (Fig. 2) to a width of c.1.8m and measuring between c.20m and 30m long (total length c.335m). The position of Trench 1 was adjust slightly in order to stand a better chance of locating any continuation of the double-ditched enclosure that may be present to the south of Rocky Lane. Trench 12

disturbed a badger sett that was not apparent on the surface. The excavation was therefore stopped and the trench restricted to 10m in length.

3.2 All trenches were scanned by a CAT scanner prior to mechanical excavation. Mechanical excavation was subsequently carried down in the evaluation trenches to the surface of geological drift deposits, or to the top of surviving archaeological deposits (whichever was uppermost) by means of a JCB fitted with a toothless ditching bucket. The excavated spoil and identified archaeological features were scanned by a metal detector in order to facilitate the recovery of small metal artefacts.

- **3.3** Each evaluation trench and all archaeological features and deposits were levelled in relation to ordnance datum by means of survey station spot heights as depicted on a digital site survey supplied to ASE by Crest Nicholson.
- **3.4** All archaeological features were planned, photographed and recorded in accordance with the Specification. All features were recorded onto plastic drafting film at the scale of at least 1:20 in relation to trench outline and sections at the scale of 1:10 were drawn as necessary. Trenches were planned onto the digital site survey.
- 3.5 All archaeological features and deposits were recorded using *pro forma* context record sheets used by UCL Field Archaeology Unit. Soil colours were recorded using visual inspection and not by reference to the Munsell Colour chart.
- **3.6** After the completion of recording works, all excavated trenches and test pits were backfilled and compacted ensuring that no voids were left, with the exception of Trench 12, which was left open as it had disturbed a badger sett. One end of Trench 12 was ramped to provide an escape route for any animals falling into the trench.

4.0 Results

- 4.1 All trenches were 20m long except Trench 1 (30m), Trench 2 (25m) and Trench 12 (stopped after 10m due encountering a badger sett). Three basic stratigraphic units were encountered (although Context 102 was not present in every trench): Context 101 (topsoil) comprising a friable, light brown sandy clay-silt; Context 102 (subsoil) homogenous red-yellow-brown, firm clay silt with occasional sandstone fragments; and Context 103 (bedrock) comprising firm red-brown to yellow sandstone.
- 4.2 Trench 1 was excavated to a maximum depth of c. 350mm. Context 101 was between 180mm to 200mm thick and increased in depth downslope to the south. This directly overlay Context 103, red-orange sandstone, which showed

evidence of animal burrows. No features or deposits of archaeological significance were located within this trench although a small quantity of pottery was collected from the spoil.

4.3 Trench 2 was excavated to a maximum depth of c. 800mm. Context 101 increased in thickness downslope to the south between 250mm to 300mm. This overlay Context 102, which increased in thickness to the south from c. 150mm to c. 250mm and had a diffuse interface with Contexts 1 and 3. Context 103 within the northern c. 15m of the trench comprised a red-brown sandstone and this changed moderately abruptly to yellow sandstone for the remainder of the trench. No features or deposits of archaeological significance were located within this trench.

- 4.4 Trench 3 was excavated to a maximum depth of c. 250mm. Context 101 measured c. 200mm in thickness and directly overlay Context 103. This consisted of yellowish sandstone at the northern c. 5m of the trench but became red-brown to the south. No features or deposits of archaeological significance were located within this trench.
- **4.5** Trench 4 was excavated to a maximum depth of c. 450mm. Context 101 measured c. 200mm in thickness and overlay c. 150mm of Context 2. This overlay Context 103, which comprised yellow sandstone at the southern c. 6m of the trench, becoming red-brown to the north. No features or deposits of archaeological significance were located within this trench, although a single piece of burnt flint was recovered from the spoil.
- **4.6** Trench 5 was excavated to a maximum depth of c. 300mm. Context 101 measured c. 225mm in thickness and overlay Context 103 which was redbrown in colour throughout the trench. A number of plough scars aligned c. north-south were observed in this deposit. No features or deposits of archaeological significance were located within this trench.
- 4.7 Trench 6 was excavated to a maximum depth of c. 300mm. Context 101 measured c. 250mm in thickness and overlay Context 103, which was redbrown at the northern c. 12m of the trench and light brown to the south. Evidence of animal burrows/root action was quite common across the machined surface. No features or deposits of archaeological significance were located within this trench.
- **4.8** Trench 7 was excavated to a maximum depth of c. 300mm. Context 101 measured c. 250mm in thickness and directly overlay Context 103, which was red-brown consistently throughout. No features or deposits of archaeological significance were located within this trench, although a small quantity of pottery, worked flint and slate was collected from the spoil.
- **4.9** Trench 8 was excavated to a maximum depth of c. 500mm. Context 101 measured c. 300mm in thickness and directly overlay Context 103, which was

red-brown in colour. Some animal burrowing and tree root activity was present throughout the trench. One slightly amorphous bowl-shaped feature (Fig. 3) at the northern end of the trench (Cut 104) was found to contain a small amount of East Sussex Ware pottery and a piece of worked flint within its light brown, firm silt fill (Context 105). No other features or deposits of archaeological significance were located within this trench, although a small quantity of pottery and worked flint were recovered from the spoil.

- **4.10** Trench 9 was excavated to a maximum depth of c. 500mm. Context 101 measured c. 300mm in thickness and overlay Context 3 which varied from light red-brown to dark yellow in colour. No features or deposits of archaeological significance were located within this trench, although a small quantity of pottery and tile was recovered from the spoil.
- **4.11** Trench 10 was excavated to a maximum depth of c. 450mm. Context 101 measured 300mm in thickness and overlay Context 3, which was light redbrown in colour. No features or deposits of archaeological significance were located within this trench, although a small quantity of pottery and worked flint was recovered from the spoil.
- **4.12** Trench 11 was excavated to a maximum depth of c. 500mm. Context 101 measured c. 300mm in thickness and overlay Context 103, which was light redbrown in colour. A small area towards the western end of the trench was not excavated due to encountering a wasp nest. No features or deposits of archaeological significance were located within this trench.
- **4.13** Trench 12 was excavated to a maximum depth of c. 400mm. Context 101 measured c. 200mm in thickness and overlay Context 103, which was redbrown in colour. No features or deposits of archaeological significance were located within this trench although a small amount of pottery and worked flint was recovered from the spoil.
- **4.14** Trench 13 was excavated to a maximum depth of c. 500mm. Context 101 measured 300mm in thickness and overlay Context 103, which was red-brown in colour. No features or deposits of archaeological significance were located within this trench although a modern trench (cutting through Context 1) was observed at the southern end of the trench. A small amount of pottery, tile, worked flint and slate was recovered from the spoil.
- **4.15** Trench 14 was excavated to a maximum depth of c. 500mm. Context 101 measured c. 300mm in thickness and overlay Context 103, which was redbrown in colour. No features or deposits of archaeological significance were located within this trench, although a small quantity of tile was recovered from the spoil.
- 4.16 Trench 15 was excavated to a maximum depth of c. 400mm. Context 101 measured c. 200mm in thickness and overlay Context 103, which was red-

brown in colour. No features or deposits of archaeological significance were located within this trench, although a small quantity of pottery, tile and worked flint were recovered from the spoil.

4.17 Trench 16 was excavated to a maximum depth of c. 300mm. Context 101 measured c. 150mm in thickness and overlay Context 103, which was redbrown in colour. No features or deposits of archaeological significance were located within this trench, although a small quantity of tile and slatewere recovered from the spoil.

5.0 The Finds

^{5.1} The finds assemblage collected from the site is summarised in Table 1 and described in more detail below.

Trench	Context	Pottery	Tile	Worked Flint	Other
			Num	ber/weight	
1	U/S	2/10			
4	U/S				Burnt flint 1/8
6	U/S		1/36	1/6	
7	U/S	1/22		1/68	Slate 1/1
8	105	2/14		1/16	
8	U/S	6/24		6/32	
9	U/S	1/12	1/24		
10	U/S	1/2		3/10	
12	U/S	1/8		1/4	
13	U/S	1/2	2/112	2/16	Slate 1/4
14	U/S		2/58		
15	U/S	2/13	2/42	2/6	
16	U/S		2/50		Slate 1/1
TO	TAL	17/107	10/272	17/158	

Table 1: The Finds

5.2 Pottery

5.2.1 A broad range of pottery was recovered from unstratified deposits (i.e. topsoil or subsoil) from most of the trenches. This includes a Middle Bronze Age sherd (Trench 7), Late Iron Age to early Roman East Sussex ware and cream sandy ware (Trench 8), 13th century sandy ware and 17th century Frechen stoneware (Trench 15), late 15th to mid 16th century Raeren stoneware (Trench 12), 19th century china (Trenches 1 and 9), and 19th century porcelain

6'

(Trenches 10 and 13). The only stratified pottery came from Context 105 (fill of possible tree throw 104 within Trench 8) and was Late Iron Age to early Roman course and fine sandy wares.

5.3 Tile

5.3.1 All the tile was of 18th to 19th century date and, with the exception of a single ridge tile from Trench 6, was peg tile.

5.4 Worked Flint

5.4.1 A variety of flintwork was recovered from unstratified contexts across the site and was mainly of black Downland flint, often with cortex surviving. A number of hard-hammer waste flakes and shattered pieces were represent and are probably of later prehistoric date (i.e. Bronze Age to Early Iron Age). However, some blades, including soft hammer examples were also found (unstratified, Trenches 4 and 8) and may be of Mesolithic date.

5.5 Other

5.5.1 All the roofing slate was Welsh in origin and likely to be 19th century in date. The single piece of burnt flint may be regarded as further evidence of prehistoric activity.

6.0 Discussion

- 6.1 This evaluation failed to locate the southerly continuation of the enclosure located on the opposite side of Rocky Lane. This may be for a number of reasons as follows:
 - 1. The enclosure did not extend as far south as Trench 1 and has been largely destroyed by Rocky Lane, but may survive under the adjacent hedgerow.
 - 2. Trench 1 may have been excavated through a second, southerly entrance and therefore missed the enclosure ditches.
 - 3. Truncation of the hilltop has occurred, either through ploughing or possibly during construction of Rocky Lane or the railway cutting (the enclosure ditches located during the recent excavation were deeper and better preserved to the north, becoming progressively shallower towards Rocky Lane).
- 6.2 The earlier excavation of this enclosure showed that little pottery was present, and this was mirrored during the course of this evaluation. A small amount of pottery similar to that found within the ditches of the enclosure (i.e. East Sussex Ware) was located within Trench 8, and pottery of this date was also

found within Feature 104, although this may be a former burrow or tree bowl. One Middle Bronze Age sherd was also found (i.e. within the spoil from Trench 7) and in addition to the worked flints indicate a prehistoric presence in the area. These finds and those from earlier phases of archaeological investigation suggest that such activity stretches back to the Mesolithic period and this general area may have been favoured because of its proximity to a water course (c. 200m to the northwest) and the hilltop vantage point commanding far reaching views to the south.

6.3 Finds of medieval and post-medieval date are likely to be the result of manuring the fields when under cultivation. The current land use is pasture/set aside, but past ploughing was evident from plough scars cut into the underlying sandstone and the thinness of the topsoil in proximity to the hilltop compared to lower on the slopes.

7.0 Conclusions

7.1 This evaluation has shown that whilst the enclosure probably did not extend this far south, some evidence of prehistoric activity is present and may possibly be focused in the vicinity of Trench 8. The evidence suggests that further remains of archaeological significance are unlikely to be encountered elsewhere in the Phase 3 amenity south of Rocky Lane, and along the route of the Stage 5 Relief Road.

Acknowledgements

The use of information supplied by WSCC and Crest Nicholson is duly acknowledged.

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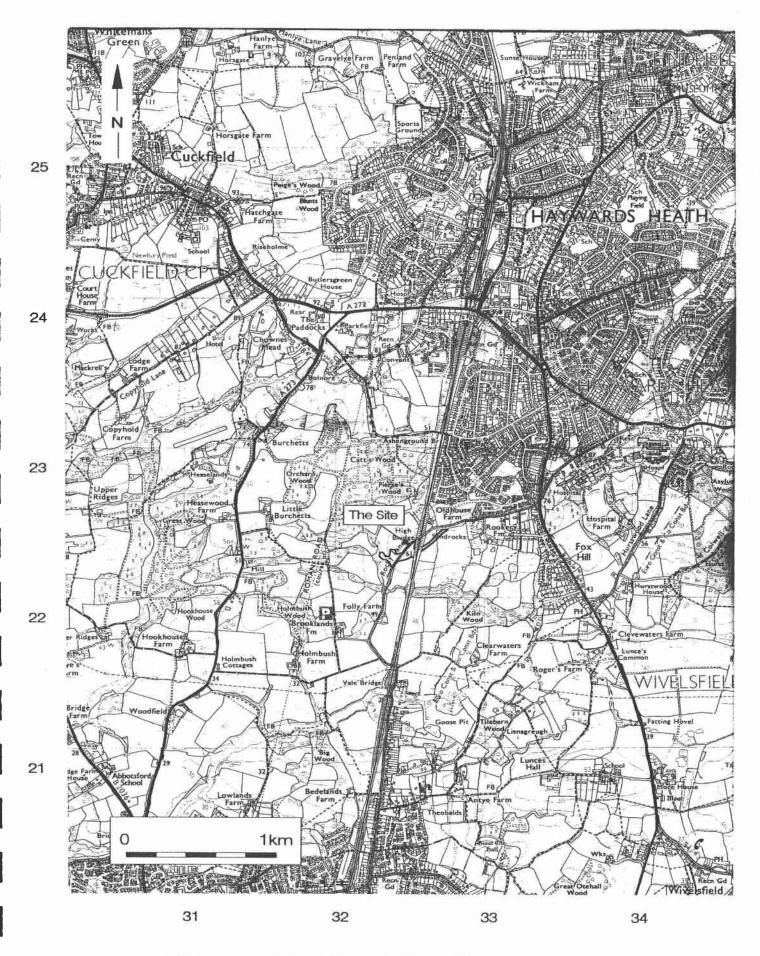
<u>SMR Summary</u>	<u>Form</u>					
Site Code	BNR 04		· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·			
Identification Name	Bolnore \	/illage Stag	e 5 Relief R	oad, Haywa	ards Heath	n. West
and Address	Sussex					,
County, District &/or	Mid Suss	ex District	Council			
Borough						
OS Grid Refs.	TQ 32422	2 22235 to	TQ 32739 22	2452		
Geology	Cuckfield	Stone, Uppe	er Grinstead C	Clay		· ·
Arch. South-East	1945					· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·
Project Number						
Type of Fieldwork	Eval.	Excav.	Watching	Standing	Survey	Other
	 ✓ 	·	Brief	Structure		
Type of Site	Green	Shallow	Deep	Other		
·	Field 🗸	Urban	Urban			_
Dates of Fieldwork	Eval.	Excav.	WB.	Other		
	10 th - 14 th Oct 2004					
0		L	1			······································
Sponsor/Client	Crest Nicl	nolson (Sou	uth) Ltd			
Project Manager	lan Greig	***** * ******************************	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·			
Project Supervisor	Neil Griffin)			<u></u>	
Period Summary	Palaeo.	Meso.	Neo.	BA	IA✓	RB
	AS	MED 🗸	PM ✓	Other		
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SMR Summary Form

100 Word Summary.

A programme of archaeological investigation was undertaken in order to establish the archaeological potential along the route of the Bolnore Village Development Stage 5 Road at the southern end of a large, ongoing development on the western side of Haywards Heath.

16 evaluation trenches were excavated, but only one located a feature. This was a small irregular scoop that contained two sherds of 1st century AD pottery and a flint flake. The southern continuation of a Late Iron Age/early Roman double ditched enclosure that was located immediately north of this site was not found. A small amount of pottery (spanning the Middle Bronze Age to the post-medieval period), post-medieval tile, worked flint (including possible Mesolithic blades) and burnt flint was recovered unstratified within the majority of the trenches.



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Ref: 1945	Oct 2004	Site Location Plan	Fig. 1

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