

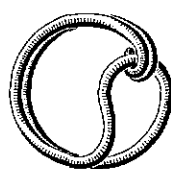
**An Archaeological Evaluation of Land at The Woolpack
(public house), 71 Fishbourne Road West,
Fishbourne, West Sussex**

by Greg Priestley-Bell AIFA

**with a contribution by
Luke Barber BSc MIFA**

Project no. 1434

November 2001



ARCHAEOLOGY SOUTH-EAST

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**Archaeology South-East
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Archaeology South-East

Archaeology South-East is a division of the Field Archaeology Unit, 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 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, the Field Archaeology Unit 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.

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.

Summary

In November 2001, in advance of a planning application for the construction of a small B&B hotel, Archaeology South-East were commissioned by G.D. Potter and Associates to carry out an archaeological evaluation of land immediately to the south-west of The Woolpack public house, 71 Fishbourne Road West, Chichester, West Sussex. The site lies partly within the area of the Fishbourne Roman Palace Scheduled Monument. Two trenches revealed two parallel ditches enclosing a metalled pathway that broadly corresponded with the position of the postulated western edge of Cunliffe's 'southern terrace' of the southern wing of the Flavian Palace (Cunliffe 1969). An extensive Romano-British dump deposit, perhaps associated with the original construction of the terrace or a later extension, was also identified.

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1.0 Introduction

- 1.1** In November 2001, Archaeology South-East (a division of University College London Field Archaeology Unit) was commissioned by G.D. Potter & Associates, on behalf of Punch Pubs, to undertake an archaeological evaluation of land at The Woolpack (public house), 71 Fishbourne Road West, Chichester, West Sussex (NGR SU 483915 104630).
- 1.2** The site (Fig. 1), lies on a gentle south facing slope on the south side of Fishbourne Road West, c. 1.8km west of Chichester. The underlying geology, according to the British Geological Survey, is a clayey head gravel overlain by isolated deposits of loess (brickearth).
- 1.3** It has been proposed (Chichester District Council planning application no. FB/01/01135/FUL) that a small B&B hotel be constructed on land immediately to the south-west of The Woolpack public house. Since the site lies partly within the area of the Fishbourne Roman Palace Scheduled Ancient Monument (County No. 233), the proposal would require prior Scheduled Monument Consent (SMC) from the Department of Culture, Media and Sport (following advice from their advisers, English Heritage). English Heritage required that an assessment of the potential impact of the proposed development on archaeological deposits be provided. Mr James Kenny, the Chichester District Council Archaeologist prepared a Specification for the archaeological evaluation. The chosen methodology consisted of the evaluation of the site by two trial trenches.
- 1.4** A Specification/ Method Statement was produced by Ian Greig of Archaeology South-East outlining details of the techniques to be used during the evaluation. This document was approved by Chichester District Council prior to the commencement of work at the site. The aim of the evaluation was to establish the presence/ absence, nature, quality and depth below surface of any archaeological remains that may be affected by the proposed development.
- 1.5** The evaluation was undertaken by Greg Priestley-Bell (Field Officer) with Dave Yates and Dan Lee (Archaeological Assistants) between 5th - 8th November, 2001, and was carried out in accordance with the Specification provided by Mr. James Kenny, Chichester District Council Archaeologist. This Specification provides background information on the site, much of which is reused in this report with due acknowledgement.

2.0 Archaeological Background

- 2.1 Trial excavations in the 1960s (Cunliffe 1971, 103-4) in the vicinity of Nos. 67-69 Fishbourne Road revealed the masonry footings of the south wing of the Flavian Palace extending beneath both houses and areas to the north, the Woolpack car park and the main road. Excavations in the vicinity of No. 69 and in the garden of the Woolpack (*ibid*, 132-4; Cunliffe, Down and Rudkin 1996, 3-8) produced evidence that the south wing was provided with a southern terrace, probably for a formal garden, which stretched south as far as the coast. The western boundary of the terrace may have been marked by a veranda c. 3m wide. Silt layers in deep features associated with the southern terrace were found to be particularly rich in preserved organic material.
- 2.2 Prior to the construction of The Woolpack in the mid 20th century, the site was occupied by a private house and garden. The house, which was built before c.1875, was sited on the west side of what is now the pub car park.

3.0 Methodology

- 3.1 Trench 1 (Fig. 2) measuring 10m in length and 1.5m wide, was excavated using a mini-digger equipped with a toothless ditching bucket. A second trench (T2) (Fig. 2), measuring 3m in length and 1.5m wide was excavated by hand. In both trenches the excavation was to be taken down to the top of 'natural' or the top of any significant archaeological level, whichever was the higher. The trenches were located to a plan agreed with the Chichester District Council Archaeologist (Fig. 2).
- 3.2 Provision was made for archaeological features to be cleaned by hand prior to the drawing of plans and sections. Site and trench location plans (based on a plan kindly supplied by G.D. Potter and Associates) were produced. The nature and extent of all archaeological features and deposits were recorded on separate context sheets. A black and white and colour (35mm transparency) photographic record was kept of the work as appropriate. Provision was made for palaeoenvironmental and environmental sampling.
- 3.3 On completion of the work the machine-dug trench (T1) was back-filled and the soil compacted; full reinstatement was not undertaken. The hand-dug trench (T2) was turfing after back-filling and compaction.

4.0 Results

Trench 1 (Figs 1 and 2)

- 4.1 Turf and topsoil (1), consisting of dark greyish brown slightly clay sandy silt with occasional various modern building materials overlay the area to a depth of c. 220mm. Below Context 1, lay a body of modern made ground (2) consisting of dark yellowish grey sandy silt with occasional various modern building materials, greensand fragments and small chalk rubble. A single sherd of 12th- to 13th century cooking pot was recovered from Context 2. The depth of the deposit varied between 160mm - 260mm.
- 4.2 Below Context 2, lay a continuous layer (3) of medium yellowish brown silty clay with occasional gravel <30mm, fire-cracked flint, greensand fragments, Romano British pottery and tile, together with a single sherd of prehistoric pottery and a single sherd of medieval pottery. This deposit was of broadly uniform depth (c.430mm) and overlay natural brickearth (6).
- 4.3 A shallow depression (4), cutting into Context 6 and measuring c.1250mm in diameter and 30mm deep, contained a fill (5) (the same as Context 3) with one fragment of burnt clay. Context 4 did not appear to be a man-made feature and perhaps represented a tree hole.
- 4.4 A continuous deposit of compact medium orange yellow silty clay (6) was exposed at the base of the trench; four pieces of worked flint was recovered from the surface of the deposit. Context 6 represented natural brickearth, the upper c. 150mm of which had been disturbed by rooting and worm action. As a consequence of this bioturbation, it was unclear whether the upper unit of 6 was a buried land surface or had been truncated.

Trench 2 (Figs 1 and 2)

- 4.5 The area was overlain by a continuous c. 250mm thick layer (1) of turf and topsoil as recorded in Trench 1. Context 1 overlay a discontinuous unit of modern made ground (8), consisting of very dark blackish grey sandy silt with many iron objects and occasional ceramic drain pipe. This deposit was only visible in the south facing section (not illustrated). A modern pipe trench with ceramic pipe (16) was visible within Context 1 in the west facing section (not illustrated).
- 4.6 Context 1 overlay a continuous c. 200mm thick layer (14) of medium/dark slightly silty sandy clay with occasional gravel, charcoal and Romano British tile. Context 14 represented a mixed deposit probably the result of extensive root disturbance within the base of the topsoil (1) and the upper unit of Context 3. Context 14 overlay a continuous layer (7) that was the same as Context (3)

6.0 The Finds And Environmental Samples by Luke Barber

6.1 The evaluation at the site produced a relatively small assemblage of finds. These are tabulated in Table 1 below.

Context	Romano-British Tile	Undiagnostic Tile	Pottery	Fire-cracked Flint	Worked Flint	Other
1 (T2)	4/509g	2/365g	4/32g	-	-	Clay Pipe 6/16g Oyster 1/42g Brass 1/6g
2 (T1)	-	-	*1/10g	-	-	-
3 (T1)	7/2,407g	-	*6/69g	3/247g	*1/3g	-
3/7 (T2)	3/1,791g	-	*3/22g	-	-	Oyster 1/9g
5	-	-	-	-	-	Burnt Clay 1/3g
6	-	-	-	-	*4/50g	-
10	55/1,300g	-	*7/97g	3/280g	*1/5g	Limestone 2/89g Carpet shell 1/7g Mosaic Cube 1/3g
12	10/728g	-	-	-	-	Bone 1/11g
13	2/479g	-	-	-	-	-
15	4/83g	-	*2/11g	-	-	Oyster 1/1g

Table 1: Finds Quantification (No. of pieces by weight in grams). * Retained finds

- 6.2 Unsurprisingly, the finds from the topsoil (Context 1) show a great range of dates. The earliest material consists of four fragments of Roman tile (including tegula), however, the bulk of the material is of post-medieval date. The pottery is all 19th century and the clay pipe stems span the 17th to 19th centuries. There is also a single copper alloy (brass) strap fitting from a 19th-century horse harness.
- 6.3 The only find from Context 2 consists of a base sherd from a medieval cooking pot in sand and flint tempered ware. It is probable the sherd originated from 12th- to 13th- century manuring of the land.
- 6.4 Context 3 contained a larger group of finds of somewhat mixed origin. The bulk of the material is clearly Roman. This includes large fragments of floor, tegula and imbrex tile in sand and sand/iron oxide tempered fabrics. The pottery from this context is dominated by Roman material: three sand tempered wares of the Arun Valley industry together with a single sherd of Samian ware (South Gaulish). However, one residual sherd of later prehistoric calcined flint tempered ware is present together with a single ?intrusive sand and flint tempered 11th- to 12th- century sherd. A mid 1st- to early 2nd- century date is provisionally suggested for the layers' deposition but with a little reworking during later medieval cultivation. Context 7 (equivalent to Context 3 in Trench 2) included Roman floor tile together with one sand tempered sherd and two Samian sherds. The latter include a South Gaulish sherd as well as a Central Gaulish Dr 33 cup. A late 1st- to mid 2nd century date is suggested.

- 6.5** Context 6 contained only prehistoric worked flint, including a core and blade suggesting Mesolithic activity close by.
- 6.6** Context 10, as with Context 3, shows some signs of intrusive material being present. The context is dominated by Roam tile, frequently in small and abraded pieces. A single hard chalk mosaic cube is also present. The pottery from this context consists of five Roman sherds (three of which are very small and abraded though the other two are large conjoining sherds from the base of a jar in fine blackware) of probable mid 1st- to 2nd- century date together with a residual prehistoric sherd and a single ?intrusive flint tempered Saxo-Norman sherd.
- 6.7** Contexts 12 and 13 contained only Roman tile (floor and imbrex) while Context 15 contained two undiagnostic Roman sand tempered greyware sherds.
- 6.8** Three environmental samples were taken during the evaluation. These are listed below in Table 2.

Context No.	Sample No.	Sample Size (litres)	Sub-Sample Size
3	1	24	12
10	2	36	12
12	3	12	6

Table 2 : Environmental Samples

- 6.9** The samples were subjected to a sub-sampling policy for the purpose of assessment. A 30% or 50% sub-sample was processed for the samples with a view to processing the remainder of the sample if the results from the sub-sample merited it. In the event none of the sub-samples showed a high potential for environmental/economic remains. All samples were processed using bucket flotation. The flot from each sample was caught on a 250 micron sieve with the residue being retained on a 1mm mesh. Once the residues were dry they were sorted by eye to extract material of archaeological/environmental interest with the remaining stones etc being discarded. The results of this sorting are given in Table 3 below. The dried flots were also scanned by eye, and with the help of a microscope (x20 magnification) where necessary, to assess the presence/absence and quality of archaeobotanical remains (seeds) and charcoal (Table 3) and thus the potential of the current site for addressing important environmental and economic questions regarding the activity at the site.
- 6.10** The flots from the samples (Table 3) do not contain large amounts of charcoal and that which is present is generally of a small size and in poor condition. The flots appear to contain very few seeds (none were present in the sub-

sample from Context 3) and no cultivated species were noted. Some of the seeds from Contexts 10 and 12 appear to be semi-waterlogged rather than charred. Modern contamination on site from roots etc appears to be low to moderate though as noted with the seeds some of this root material may be semi-waterlogged and thus not of modern origin.

Context	Modern Roots	Charcoal	Seeds	Residue (*retained)
3	***	* to 1mm	- Cereal - Wild	FCF 1/15g
10	**	* to 1mm	- Cereal **- Wild	Tile 1/15g-
12	*	* to 2mm	- Cereal ** Wild	

Key: - : None * : Very Low ** : Low *** : Moderate **** : High (frequency)
(Wild - non-cultivated plants)

Table 3 : Results of Environmental Samples : Flots and Residues

- 6.11 The residues from the samples contain virtually only flint gravel. No worked and only one piece of fire-cracked flint was recovered. No pottery, bone or shell material was evident but this is thought to be due to the type of site rather than the soil conditions.

7.0 Conclusions

- 7.1 Although the precise interpretation of features 9, 11 and 13 may be open to question, the marked difference between the results from Trench 1 and 2 strongly suggests that Trench 1 was positioned outside the area of the southern terrace of the south wing of the Flavian Palace, while Trench 2 was on the edge of, or just within the terrace. This broadly corresponds with the line of the western edge of the southern terrace as postulated by Cunliffe (Cunliffe 1969).

8.0 Consideration of Methodology and Confidence Rating

- 8.1 Trial trenching provides the quickest, most economic means of evaluating an area. This method is particularly effective when dealing with discrete areas confined by structures, trees and hedges, as was the case in this instance. In view of this, a confidence rating of 80% is given for the identification of remains within the area of investigation.

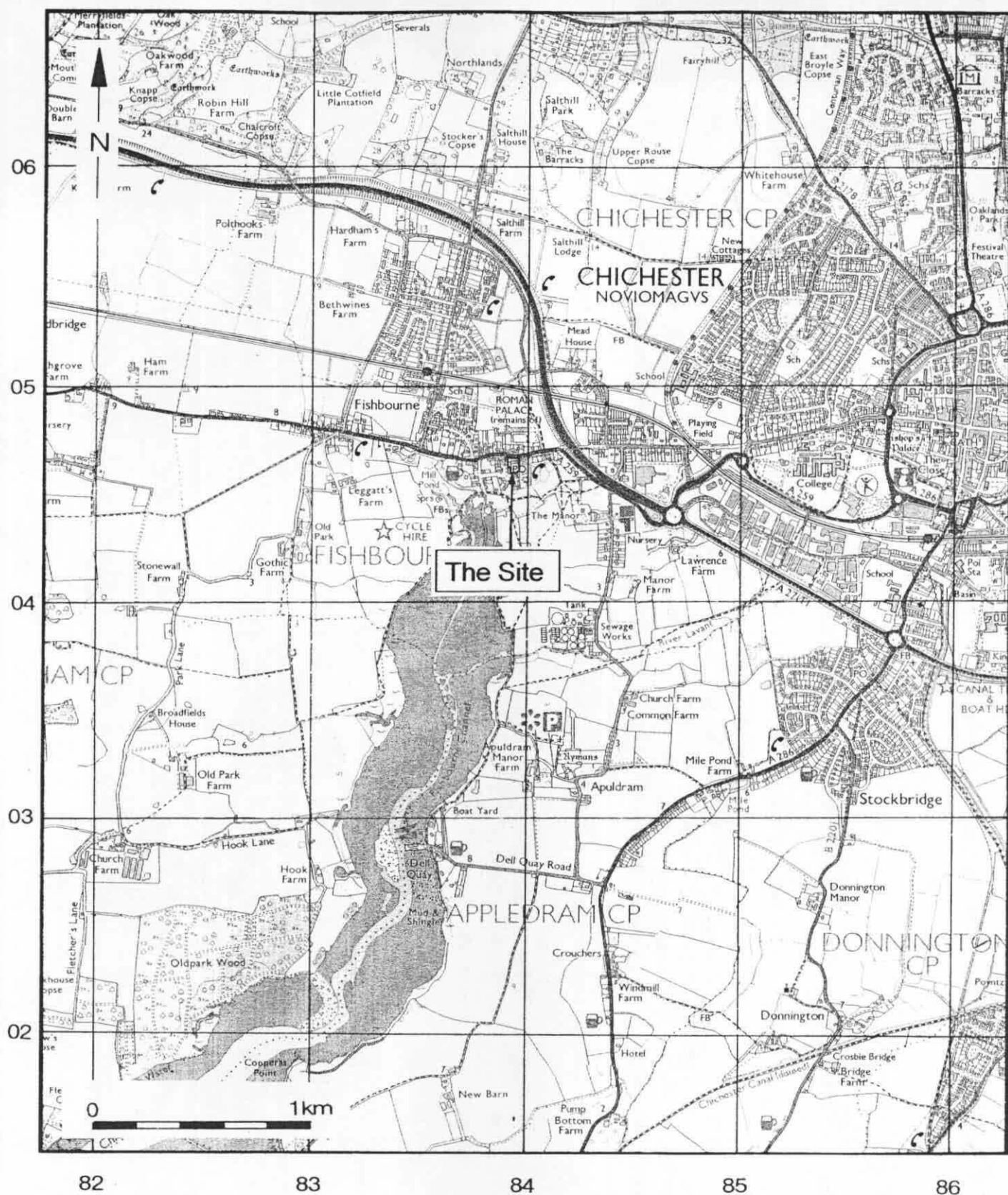
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Cunliffe, B (1971) *Excavations at Fishbourne: 1, The Site*. Society of Antiquaries, London.

Cunliffe, B., Down, A. and Rudkin, D. (1996) *Excavations at Fishbourne, 1969-1988. Chichester Excavations 9*. Chichester District Council.

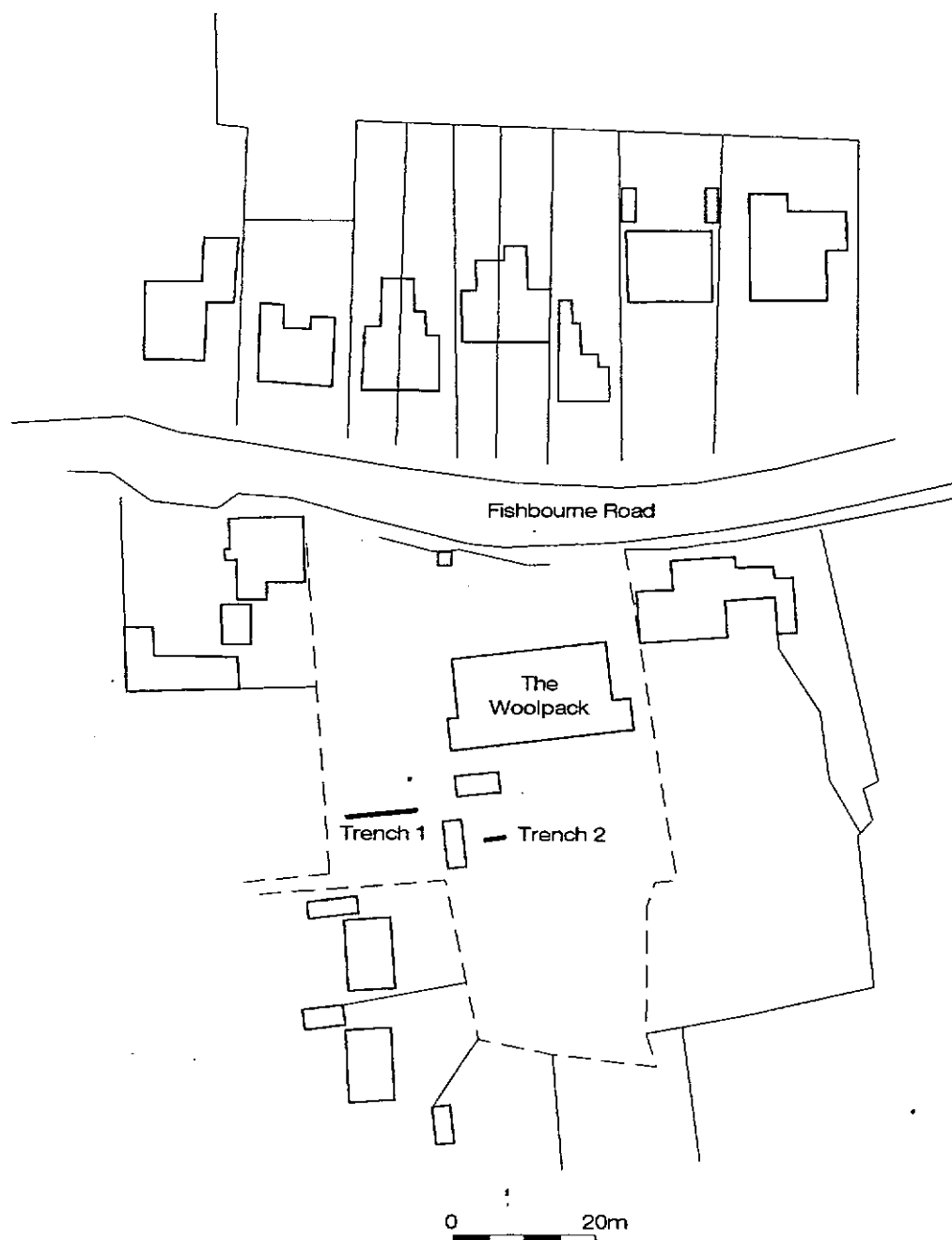
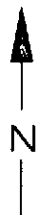
SMR Summary Form

Site Code	WPK 01					
Identification Name and Address	The Woolpack (public house), 71 Fishbourne Road West, Chichester, West Sussex					
County, District &/or Borough	Chichester District Council					
OS Grid Refs.	483915 / 104630					
Geology	Clayey head gravel overlain by isolated deposits of loess (brickearth)					
Arch. South-East Project Number	1434					
Type of Fieldwork	Eval. X	Excav.	Watching Brief	Standing Structure	Survey	Other
Type of Site	Green Field	Shallow Urban X	Deep Urban	Other		
Dates of Fieldwork	Eval.	Excav.	WB. 5-8/11/2001	Other		
Sponsor/Client	G.D.Potter & Associates/ Punch Pubs					
Project Manager	Ian Greig/Luke Barber					
Project Supervisor	Greg Priestley-Bell					
Period Summary	Palaeo.	Meso.	Neo.	BA	IA	RB X
	AS	MED	PM	Other		
<p>100 Word Summary.</p> <p><i>In November 2001, in advance of a planning application for the construction of a small B&B hotel, Archaeology South-East were commissioned by G.D. Potter and Associates to carry out an archaeological evaluation of land immediately to the south-west of The Woolpack public house, 71 Fishbourne Road West, Chichester, West Sussex. The site lies partly within the area of the Fishbourne Roman Palace Scheduled Monument. Two test trenches revealed two parallel ditches enclosing a metalled pathway that broadly corresponded with the position of the postulated western edge of Cunliffe's 'southern terrace' of the southern wing of the Flavian Palace (Cunliffe, 1969). An extensive Romano-British dump deposit, perhaps associated with the original construction of the terrace or a later extension, was also identified.</i></p>						



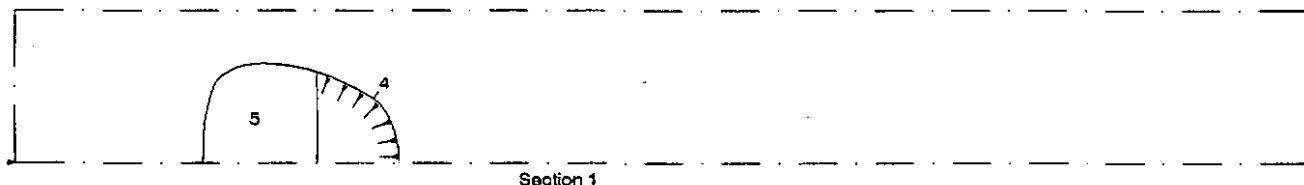
ARCHAEOLOGY SOUTH EAST 1 WEST STREET DITCHLING EAST SUSSEX BN6 8TS	SITE			The Woolpack, Fishbourne	
	TITLE			Site Location Plan	
	DATE		REF.	DRAWING NO.	
	Nov 2001		1434	Fig. 1	

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ARCHAEOLOGY SOUTH EAST 1 WEST STREET DITCHLING EAST SUSSEX BN6 8TS	SITE The Woolpack, Fishbourne		
	TITLE Trench Location Plan		
	DATE Nov 2001	REF. 1434	DRAWING NO. Fig. 2

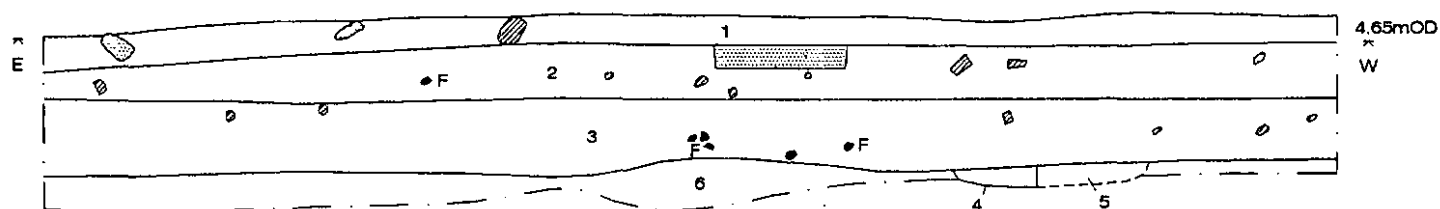
Trench 1



Section 1

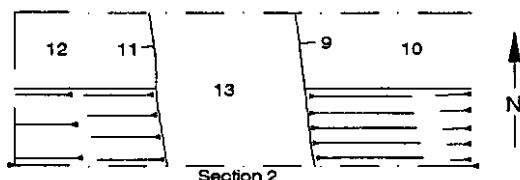
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Section 1



- ⊗ Brick/tile
- F ● Fire-cracked flint
- Flint
- ⊗ Concrete

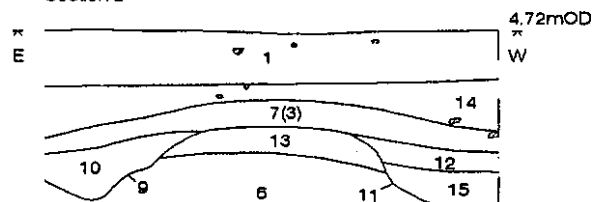
Trench 2



Section 2

0 1m

Section 2


**ARCHAEOLOGY
SOUTH EAST**

1 WEST STREET
DITCHLING
EAST SUSSEX
BN6 8TS

SITE

The Woolpack, Fishbourne

TITLE

Trenches 1 and 2 : Plans and Sections

DATE

Nov 2001

REF.

1434

DRAWING NO.

Fig. 3