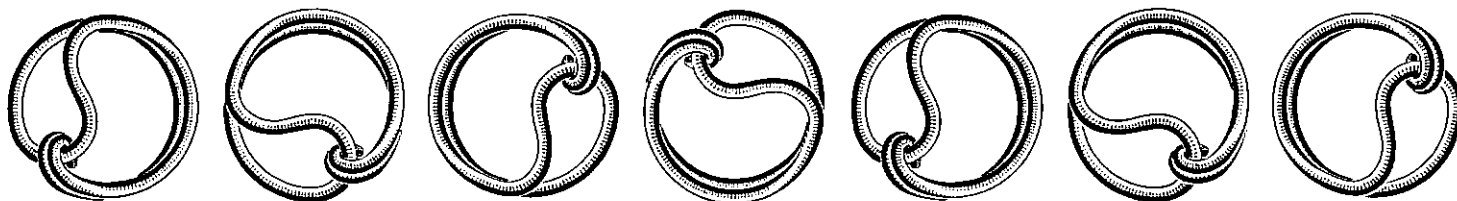


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**An Archaeological Watching Brief at Graylingwell
Hospital, College Lane, Chichester, West Sussex**

SU 866 059

Project No. 1124

**by
Richard James BA AIFA**

November 1999

MAPPED.



ARCHAEOLOGY SOUTH-EAST

**An Archaeological Watching Brief at Graylingwell
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ABSTRACT

A watching brief was maintained during ancillary groundworks connected with a new Acute Unit at Graylingwell Hospital, Chichester. Previous work by Southern Archaeology within the footprints of the new buildings uncovered a concentration of archaeological features, both linear and discrete, dating from the Bronze Age through to the Post-Medieval period. A burnt feature of Roman date was partly investigated during this first phase of the work. The subsequent watching brief, undertaken by Archaeology South-East, revealed the remainder of this feature, which enabled it to be fully investigated. The remains, although heavily truncated, suggest a kiln. In addition, a section was observed through a medieval ditch previously sampled by Southern Archaeology. No other features of archaeological interest were observed.

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 Archaeology South-East were established in 1974 and 1991 respectively. Although field projects have been conducted world-wide, FAU/ Archaeology South-East retain 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.

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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Fig. 1 : Site Location Map

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Archaeology South-East (a division of the University College London Field Archaeology Unit) was commissioned by James Longley Ltd to undertake an archaeological watching brief during ancillary groundworks associated with a new Acute Unit being constructed at Graylingwell Hospital, Chichester, West Sussex (Fig. 1).
- 1.2 An evaluation and subsequent excavation were carried out on the site by Southern Archaeology between July and September 1998. These excavations concentrated on the footprints of the proposed new buildings (Fig. 2).¹ As substantial archaeological remains (see 2.3 for details) were encountered during these area excavations an archaeological watching brief was considered necessary during the remainder of the ancillary groundworks, which consisted of areas of topsoil strip over the northern two-thirds of the site, together with additional ground reduction for a car-park and access routes.
- 1.3 No Specification for the work was required, but a letter detailing the methods to be utilised was sent to the Archaeology Officer (Chichester District Council) for his approval by Archaeology South-East prior to the commencement of the watching brief.
- 1.4 The fieldwork was undertaken by Richard James (Field Officer), Lucy Sibun (Field Officer) and David Dunkin (Archives Officer) over seven visits between 6th and 25th August 1999. The project was managed by Ian Greig (Project Manager) and Luke Barber (Post-Excavation Manager).

2.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The British Geological Survey map (1:50,000 scale), sheet 317, indicates that the underlying geology comprises Valley Gravels.
- 2.2 The site lies on the north-eastern outskirts of Chichester, outside of the original historic core. Few archaeological features had been recorded in the vicinity of the site prior to the recent fieldwork. The only noteworthy monument was a linear earthwork of Late Iron Age date running along the western boundary of the site. This earthwork forms part of the Chichester Dykes, a system of banks and ditches running to the north, west and east of Chichester, between the Bosham stream and the River Lavant, effectively isolating the Manhood Peninsula. This stretch of the Dykes was given the notation 'NS1' by Richard Bradley during his study of the system as part of the Fishbourne Environs Project.²

¹ *An Assessment of Excavations at Graylingwell Hospital, Chichester, 1998* (unpubl. Southern Archaeology Report No. P.98.051).

² R. Bradley, "A Field Survey of the Chichester Entrenchments", in B. Cunliffe, *Excavations at Fishbourne, vol. 1: The Site* (1971), 17-36.

- 2.3 Two phases of archaeological work carried out by Southern Archaeology between July and September 1998 on the site uncovered a rich concentration of features (Fig. 2). The most prominent feature was a large Iron Age linear ditch running east-west across the site. Adjacent to it, on its south side, and probably pre-dating it, was an enclosure of Late Iron Age date. Other prominent linear features included a Roman ditch running parallel with the large Iron Age ditch, a large Medieval boundary ditch with an entrance, and a number of narrow Post-Medieval ditches and gullies. Also present were a number of discrete features, including Bronze Age cremations and two interesting plank-lined pits of Roman date. Also of Roman date was part of a small tile-lined hearth. The remainder of this latter feature was excavated during the recent watching brief.

3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY

- 3.1 The objective of the watching brief was to record any archaeological remains at the site which would be affected by the proposed groundworks, with particular regard to the extent, character, depth below ground level, condition, date and significance of such deposits.
- 3.2 All features were to be planned and recorded on *proforma* record sheets. A full photographic record (black-and-white & colour transparency) of the work was kept as appropriate.
- 3.3 The archaeological monitoring was limited to the northern two-thirds of the site, where groundworks were taking place. Within this area, areas of more intrusive groundworks were targeted for the watching brief as it was considered these would have the most serious impact on the archaeological deposits at the site. These areas consisted of the car park, haul road and drainage runs (Fig. 2). The remainder of the groundworks were of a shallower nature and were inspected as appropriate. The stripping was carried out using tracked excavators fitted with toothless blades.

4.0 RESULTS

- 4.1 The watching brief on most of the site produced no archaeological features. A 300mm layer of topsoil (Context 1 - friable grey-brown silty clay) was seen to overlay a light brown dirty flint gravel which averaged some 100-200mm thick (Context 2 - disturbed Head deposits) which in turn rested on the clean natural gravel. The surface of this dirty gravel was regarded as 'natural' by the contractors carrying out the topsoil strip and consequently was not removed. As such the dirty gravel subsoil across most of the site was not reduced enough to enable a clean surface to be inspected on the underlying natural. Although the presence of this subsoil effectively masked any archaeological features in these areas this layer also would act as a buffer zone to protect any underlying

archaeological deposits from the tracking of surface machinery. Consequently, although features were visible in the sides of the Southern Archaeology excavation trenches, they could not be followed on the surface of the adjacent dirty gravel. Features could only be seen in plan in the few areas where further ground reduction removed the dirty gravel subsoil. The area north of the haul road, stripped for a car-park, contained a darker spread of gravel (Fig. 2, Context 3), approximately 35m long and of indeterminate width and depth, which contained Roman pottery and tile. No edges or base could be identified to this context, which appeared to merge imperceptibly into the surrounding lighter undisturbed natural gravel.

- 4.2 A large soakaway excavated in the south-eastern part of the site, just south-east of the smaller Southern Archaeology trench, cut through part of the large medieval ditch examined in 1998 (Contexts 180/231). The ditch measured 3m in width, with a depth of 2m, and clearly continues at least 20m further south than the limits exposed in 1998. The dimensions of the ditch may suggest a park pale. A drainage ditch running along the eastern boundary of the site (depth, 1.1m; width, 0.7m) was also inspected (Fig. 2). A 2.2m wide ditch was seen in section to cross the drainage run approximately 50m south of the haul road. Its upper surface was only exposed after the removal of Context 2 (dirty gravel subsoil). Depth could not be determined due to water ingress. It appeared to line up with Ditch 105 from the 1998 excavation. Curiously, no trace was seen in the trench side to the north of the large Iron Age entrenchment. Only the north-east to south-west portion of the haul road was available for archaeological inspection. No archaeological features were noted cutting the natural gravel in this area.
- 4.3 Only one area of archaeological interest was subjected to detailed archaeological excavation during the watching brief. This was a continuation of the burnt feature partly investigated by Southern Archaeology, and interpreted by them as a 'tile-lined hearth' (Context 21, producing pottery of second and third century date). Between 2-300mm of dirty gravel subsoil had been removed by machine, revealing a dark irregular oval patch of silty soil (Contexts 4 & 6) easily differentiated from the surrounding natural flint gravel. When this was trowelled clean, it resolved itself into two discrete cuts, an irregular sub-rectangular feature (Context 7) and a linear feature (Context 5) (Fig. 3). Both features were seen to contain large quantities of fired clay, tile and brick, set within a deposit which had clearly been subjected to great heat. Both features were quadranted.
- 4.4 The northernmost feature (Fill 6 - a firm, mid-brown silty clay) was sub-rectangular in shape, with an approximate diameter of 2m. The cut (Context 7) was irregular with a flat base, measuring c.200mm in depth. The northern edge was somewhat unclear and this area of the fill contained many large flint nodules. This side could not be investigated any further due to the immediate proximity of plant working on the haul road to the north. It remains a possibility that the feature extended further in this direction. The fill contained a

large quantity of fired clay, with a colour range extending from salmon pink through to black, and a number of broken tiles. The feature had been truncated, partly by machinery but probably by earlier activity on site, and nothing structural remained *in situ*.

- 4.5 The second feature (Fill 4 - a firm, mid-brown silty clay) took the form of a 3.8m linear spread of silt with an expanded, slightly bulbous, northern end, 2m in width (the remainder of the feature had a width of approximately 1m). The cut (Context 5) was shallow (200mm) with gentle sides, becoming more rectangular towards the south (Fig. 3). The southern end had been destroyed by previous activity, the position and nature of which enabled it to be identified as the 'tiled-hearth' excavated by Southern Archaeology (Context 21). A group of disturbed tiles were visible at the southern end of the feature, corresponding to the tiles recorded by Southern Archaeology. The remainder of the feature contained no surviving *in situ* structural evidence, and was similar to feature 7, containing a mix of red and black fired clay, together with tiles and pottery, and a number of large flint nodules.

5.0 FINDS

- 5.1 The watching brief produced a small assemblage of finds. These are tabulated below.

Context	Tile (no.)	Tile (gms)	Burnt clay (gms)	Pottery (no.)	Other
3	43	2,772	300	66	
4	66	14,769	420	1	sandstone
6 - initial cleaning	10	1,950	950	12	slag x 1
6 - NE quadrant	269	6,690	1,825	3	flint Fe nail x 1
6 - SW quadrant	33	2,690	3,975		

- 5.2 The pottery from the site is dominated by grey sandy wares from the Rowlands Castle industry although other more local coarsewares are present, including Arun valley products. The bulk of this assemblage consists of jars and large storage jars. Also present is a BB1 dish and sherd of Central (?) Gaulish Samian from Context 3. Taken as a whole all contexts appear to be of 2nd century date although a little late C1st and early C3rd material is also present.
- 5.3 The large quantity of tile from the site is generally in a soft fine sand tempered fabric with some iron ore inclusions. The majority are from tegula tiles although thicker floor tiles are also present. There is no evidence for the presence of box

flue or imbrex tile. As such all tile found would be suitable for creating a lining to a kiln or oven.

6.0 DISCUSSION

- 6.1 There are two possible interpretations for Feature 5. It may be a heavily disturbed and truncated kiln, with the southern arrangement of tegula tiles forming the firing chamber, the fire itself located in the narrow channel and the scooped part to the north forming a stoke-hole. Evidence of burning is provided by the presence of large quantities of fired clay in the fill, together with fire-cracking of the underlying gravel. The bulk of the natural gravel, however, was unaffected by the heat. This could be explained by a tile lining across most of the feature. None of this survived *in situ*, but the fill contained 14.77kg of tile which could well represent the disturbed remnants of such a lining. This interpretation is supported by the fact that all the diagnostic tile fragments are from *tegulae* and floor tiles (*i.e.* flat tiles). No pieces of curved *imbrex* tile were present. One pottery sherd was recovered from the fill, a piece from a jar of Rowlands Castle ware with a batch mark.
- 6.2 Alternatively, the feature might be the remains of a tile-lined hearth, a common find on Roman sites (*e.g.* examples from excavations in the North-West Quadrant of Chichester³). The scooped area to the north may have been formed by repeated raking-out of the embers.
- 6.3 Feature 7 is more problematical, as it was incomplete, with the northern edge probably inaccessible. The portion excavated was superficially similar to Feature 5, suggesting it may have been related. This feature also contained a substantial amount of tile, 11.33kg, which suggests it may represent part of a further kiln, although probably not in use at the same time as Feature 5. Fifteen sherds of pottery were recovered, including part of a Rowlands Castle storage jar.
- 6.4 The darker gravel spread (Context 3) to the north of the haul road is somewhat enigmatic. The presence of the road severed its relationship with Features 5 and 7. The absence of any edges militates against an interpretation as a feature, and it is more likely to have been an area of disturbed natural, perhaps an activity area or rubbish depository associated with the putative kilns immediately to the south. Pottery of 2nd - 3rd century date was recovered, including Rowlands Castle, Black Burnished 1, Samian and local coarse wares.

³ A. Down, *Chichester Excavations 3* (1978), 82; A. Down & J. Magilton, *Chichester Excavations 8* (1993), 5.

7.0 CONCLUSIONS

- 7.1** The watching brief added little extra information to that recorded during the 1998 work. The feature interpreted in 1998 as a 'tiled hearth' was found to extend further to the north, with a structure that could be seen as the heavily truncated remains of a kiln. A second, allied structure was also recorded, together with a disturbed area that may be a working area or trample zone.
- 7.2** A further stretch of the medieval ditch recorded in 1998 was seen in section, confirming that it ran at least a further 20m to the south, and perhaps more of Roman ditch 105. No other features were seen during the groundworks, mainly because the groundworks did not penetrate below the masking layer of dirty gravel sandwiched between topsoil and natural.

8.0 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

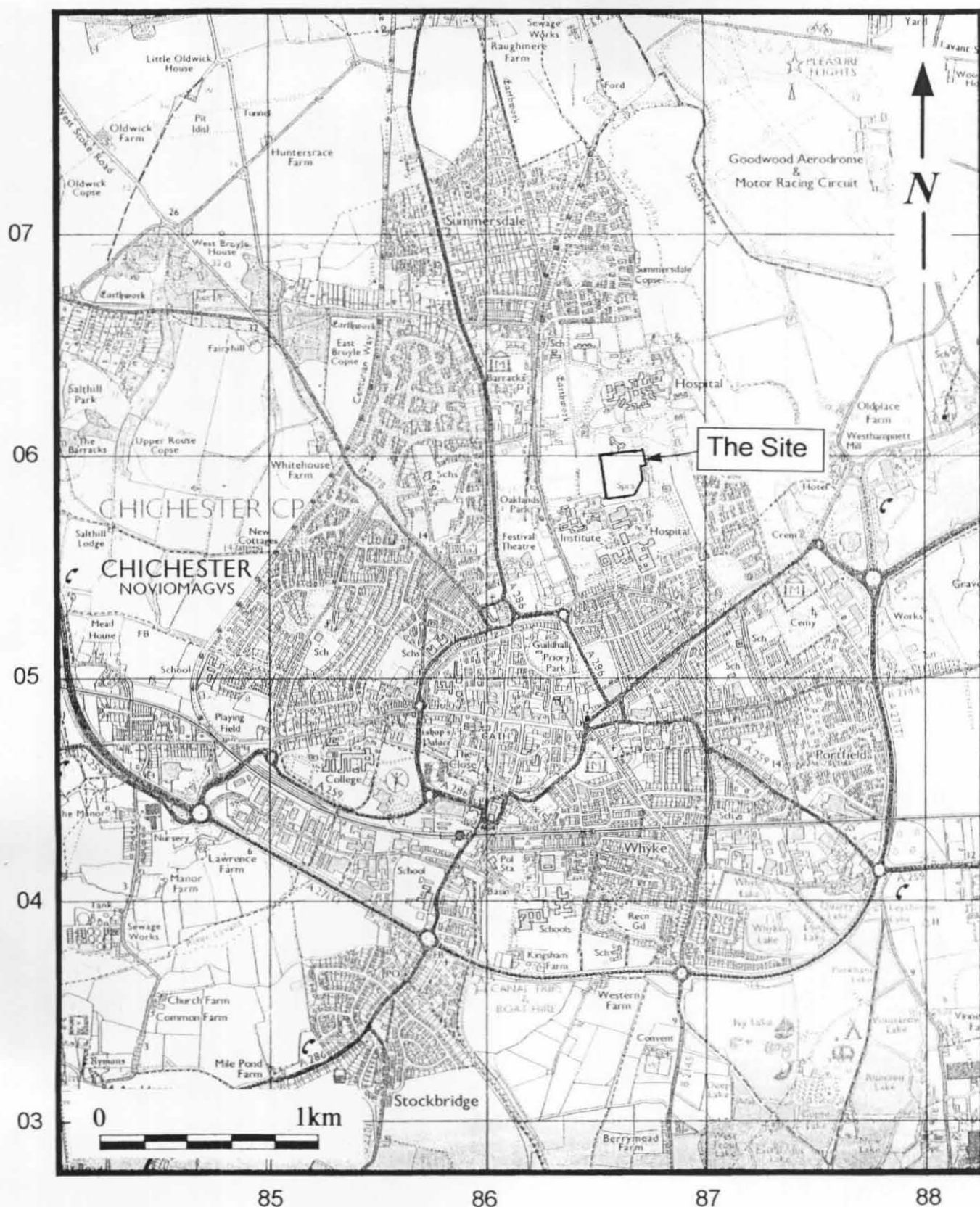
- 8.1** The use of information supplied by James Kenny of Chichester District Council is gratefully acknowledged, as is the assistance provided by the Site Manager, Gerry Hanson (J. Longley Ltd).

SMR Summary Form

Site Code	GHC 99					
Identification Name and Address	Chichester PFI Acute Unit, Graylingwell Hospital, College Lane, Chichester, West Sussex					
County, District &/or Borough	Chichester District					
OS Grid Refs.	SU 866 059					
Geology	Valley Gravels					
Arch. South-East Project Number	1124					
Type of Fieldwork	Eval.	Excav.	Watching Brief ✓	Standing Structure	Survey	Other
Type of Site	Green Field	Shallow Urban ✓	Deep Urban	Other		
Dates of Fieldwork	Eval.	Excav.	WB. 6-25/8/99	Other		
Sponsor/Client	J. Longley Ltd					
Project Manager	Ian Greig & Luke Barber					
Project Supervisor	Richard James					
Period Summary	Palaeo.	Meso.	Neo.	BA	IA	RB ✓
	AS	MED	PM	Other		

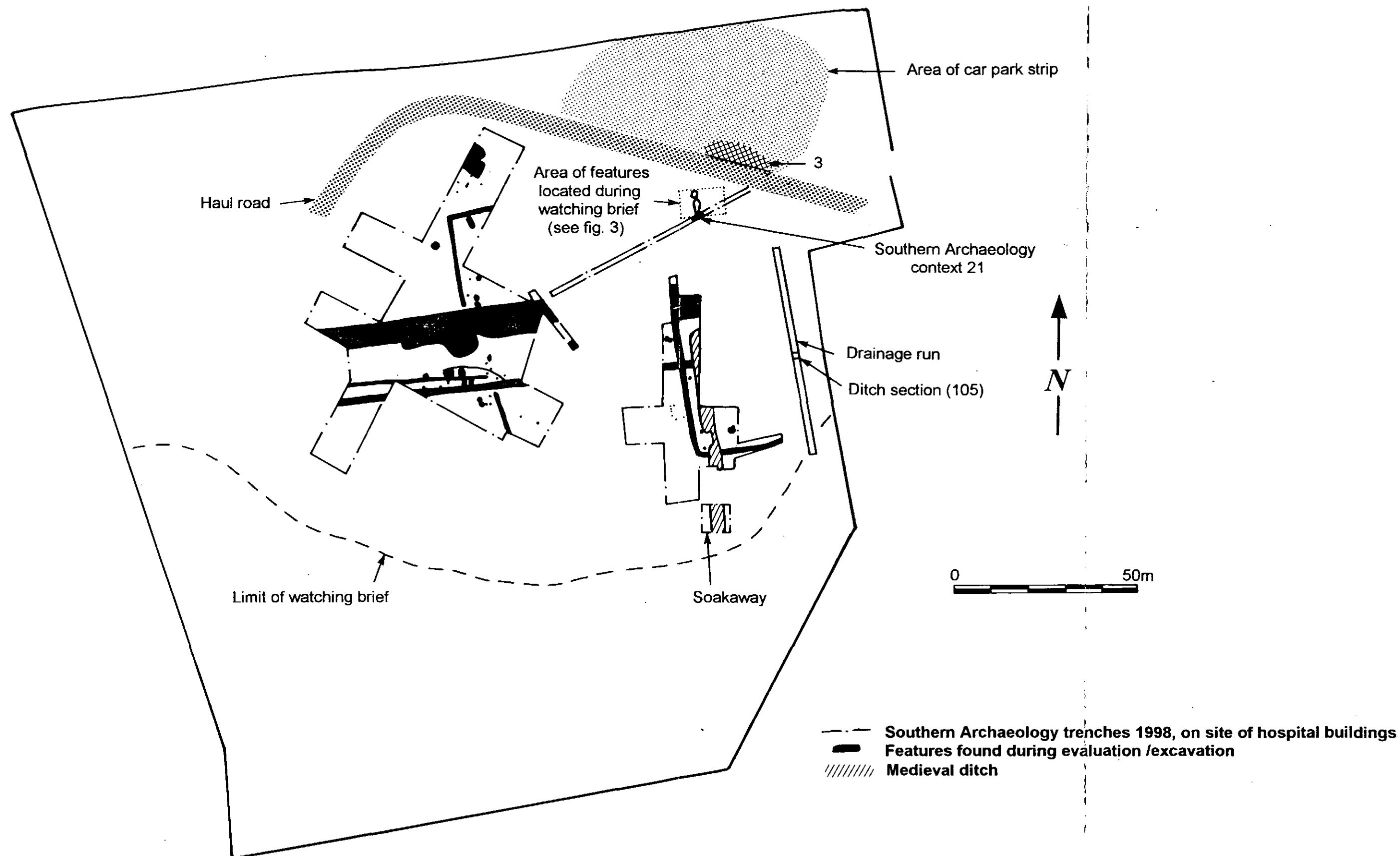
100 Word Summary.

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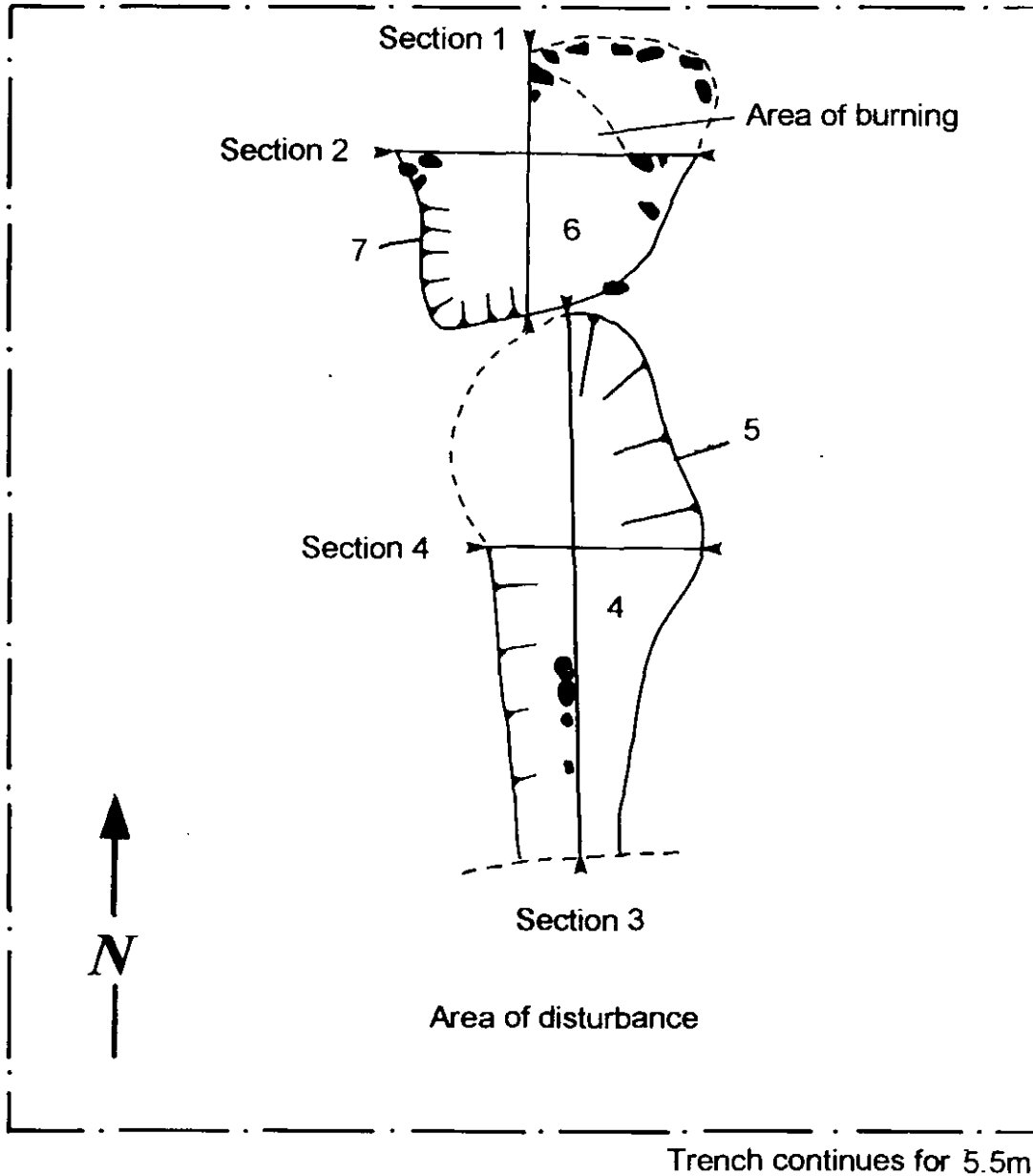
ARCHAEOLOGY SOUTH EAST	SITE Chichester PFI Acute Unit		
	TITLE Site Location Map		
1 WEST STREET DITCHLING EAST SUSSEX BN6 8TS	DATE November 1999	REF. 1124	DRAWING NO. Fig 1

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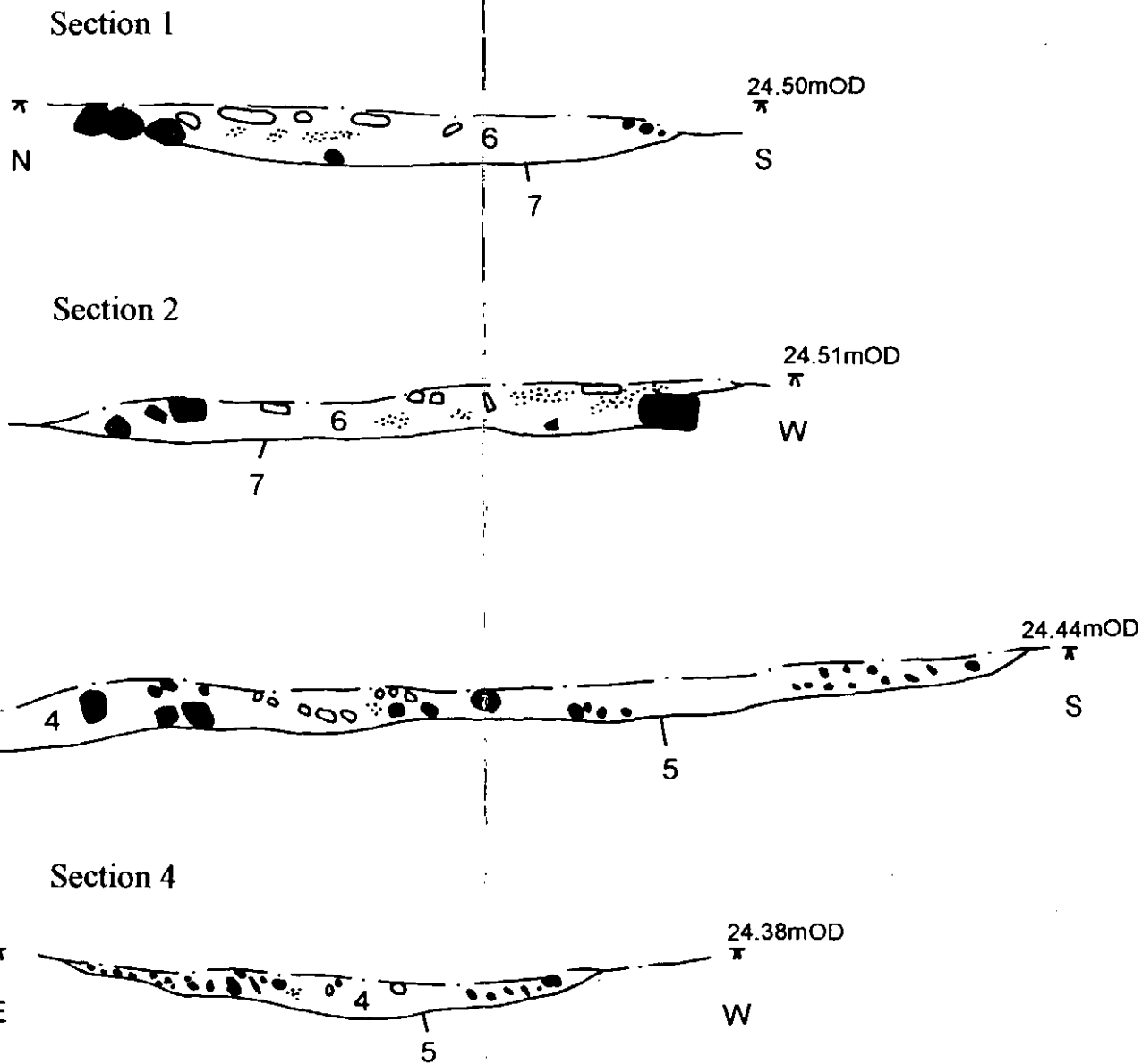


ARCHAEOLOGY SOUTH EAST	SITE Chichester PFI Acute Unit		
1 WEST STREET DITCHLING EAST SUSSEX BN6 8TS	TITLE Plan of Site		
	DATE November 1999	REF. 1124	DRAWING NO. Fig 2

Plan of trench



- Flint
- Red burnt clay
- ⊙ Black burnt clay



ARCHAEOLOGY SOUTH EAST	SITE	Chichester PFI Acute Unit	
1 WEST STREET DITCHLING	TITLE	Plan and Sections	
EAST SUSSEX BN6 8TS	DATE	November 1999	REF. 1124
			DRAWING NO. Fig 3