



Report on Archaeological Works at 288 Catherington Lane, Horndean, Hampshire

March 2015

NON-TECHNICAL SUMMARY

This document sets out the results from archaeological works associated with the erection of a detached dwelling at 288 Catherington Lane, Horndean, Hampshire. A single evaluation trench was excavated on the 6th October 2014, followed by a watching brief on works carried out between the 26th and 28th November 2014.

The results revealed features of post-medieval or modern date, probably associated with a walled garden visible in this location on historic mapping dating back to the early 19th century.

BACKGROUND

Topographical Background

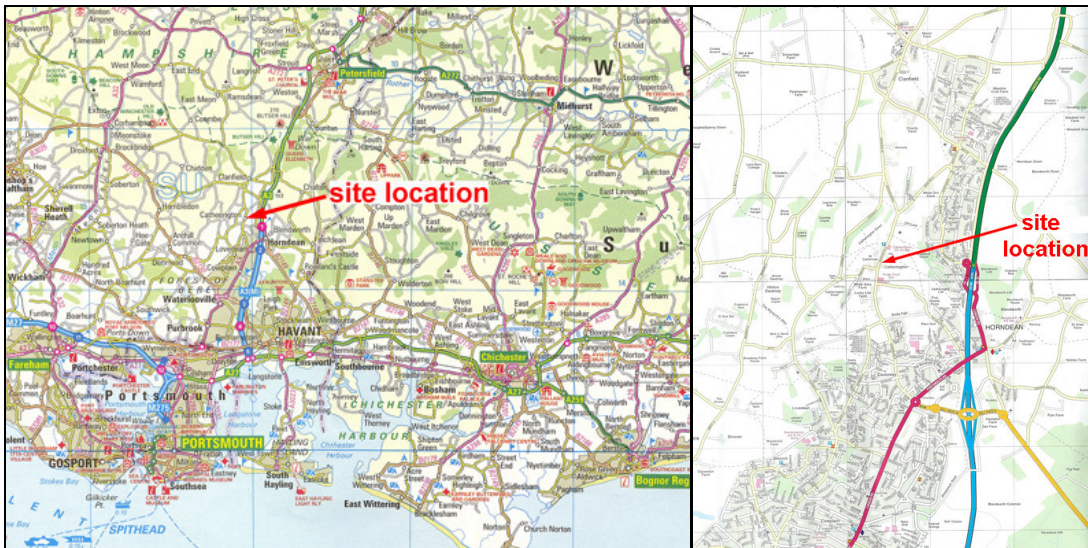


Figure 1 Site location. © Crown copyright. All rights reserved. License number: AL100036068

1. 288 Catherington Lane, lies on the east side of Catherington Lane, c.60m to the north of its junction with Roads Hill road, within the village of Catherington, Hampshire (see Fig.1). The site of the proposed new dwelling lies within the centre of the plot, centred at OS grid reference SU 6944 1421, and at c. 111m aOD. The underlying geology of the site is chalk.

Project Background

2. A & C Wilson obtained planning permission (No: 54694) from East Hampshire District Council for the erection of a detached dwelling at 288 Catherington Lane. Condition 7 of that planning permission stated: "That no development take place until the applicant has secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological work in accordance with a written specification that has been submitted to an approved by the planning authority."
3. West Sussex Archaeology Ltd (WSA) was appointed by A & C Wilson to write and submit such a written specification, which set out the methodology used in order to fulfil the terms of the condition (WSA 2014). This report details the results of the ensuing archaeological work, which consisted of an initial archaeological evaluation trench, excavated on the 6th October 2014, the results of which led to an archaeological watching brief on ground-works carried out from the 26th – 28th November 2014, all by George Anelay of WSA. The project archive, with the landowners permission, will be deposited with Hampshire County Council's Museum Service.

Historical Background

1. Although there are no known archaeological records relating to the site itself, it does lie within an area of High Archaeological Potential as identified in Hampshire County Council's '*A Survey of Historic Rural Settlement in Hampshire*'. This area of archaeological potential comprises the historic core of the settlement of Catherington and as such there is potential for archaeological deposits relating to the origins and development of the settlement as well as for archaeological remains associated with activities that might have taken place at the edge of this settlement core.

RESULTS

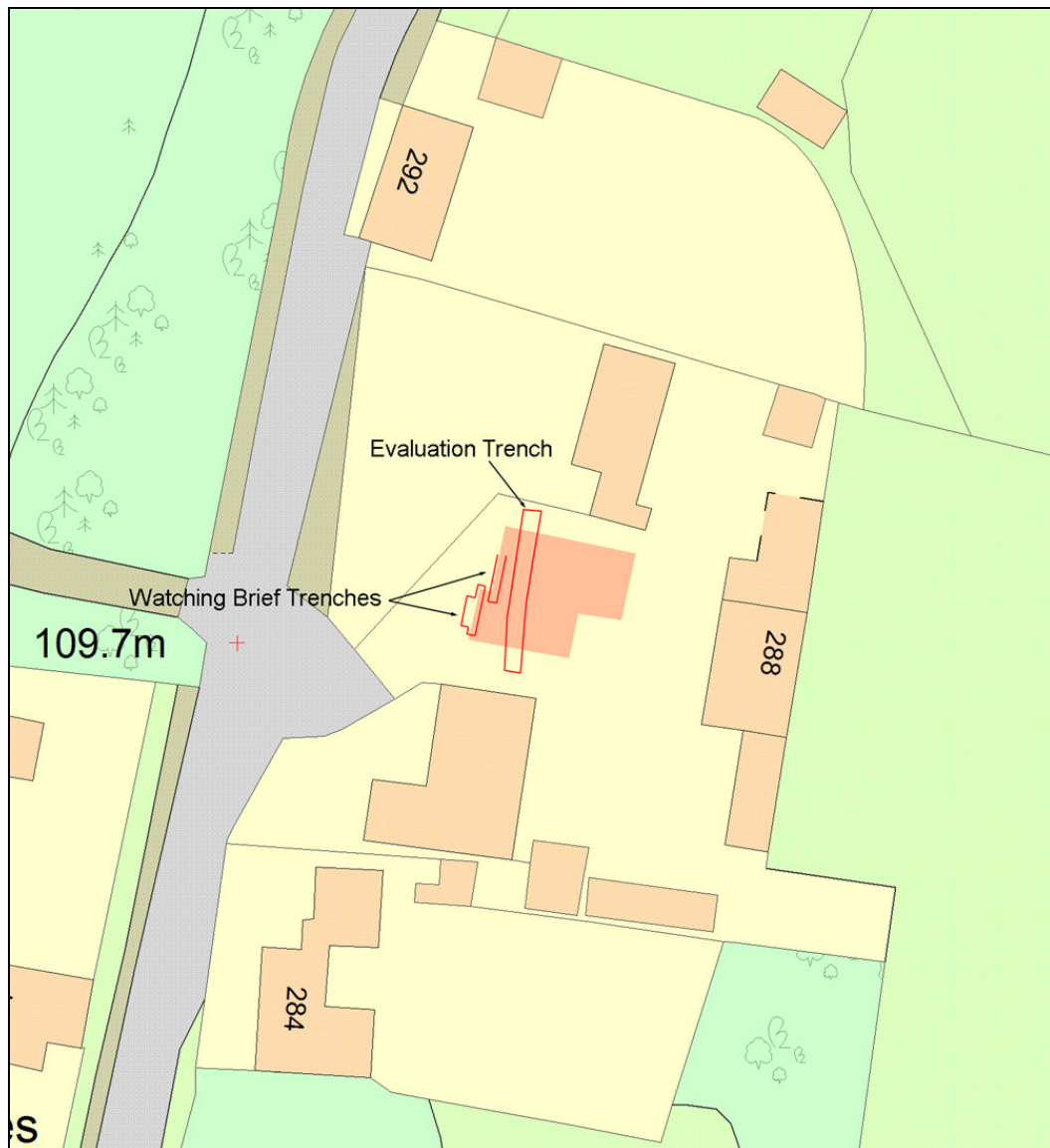


Figure 2 Plan of the site; the proposed dwelling is shaded in pink. © Crown copyright. All rights reserved. License number: AL100036068.

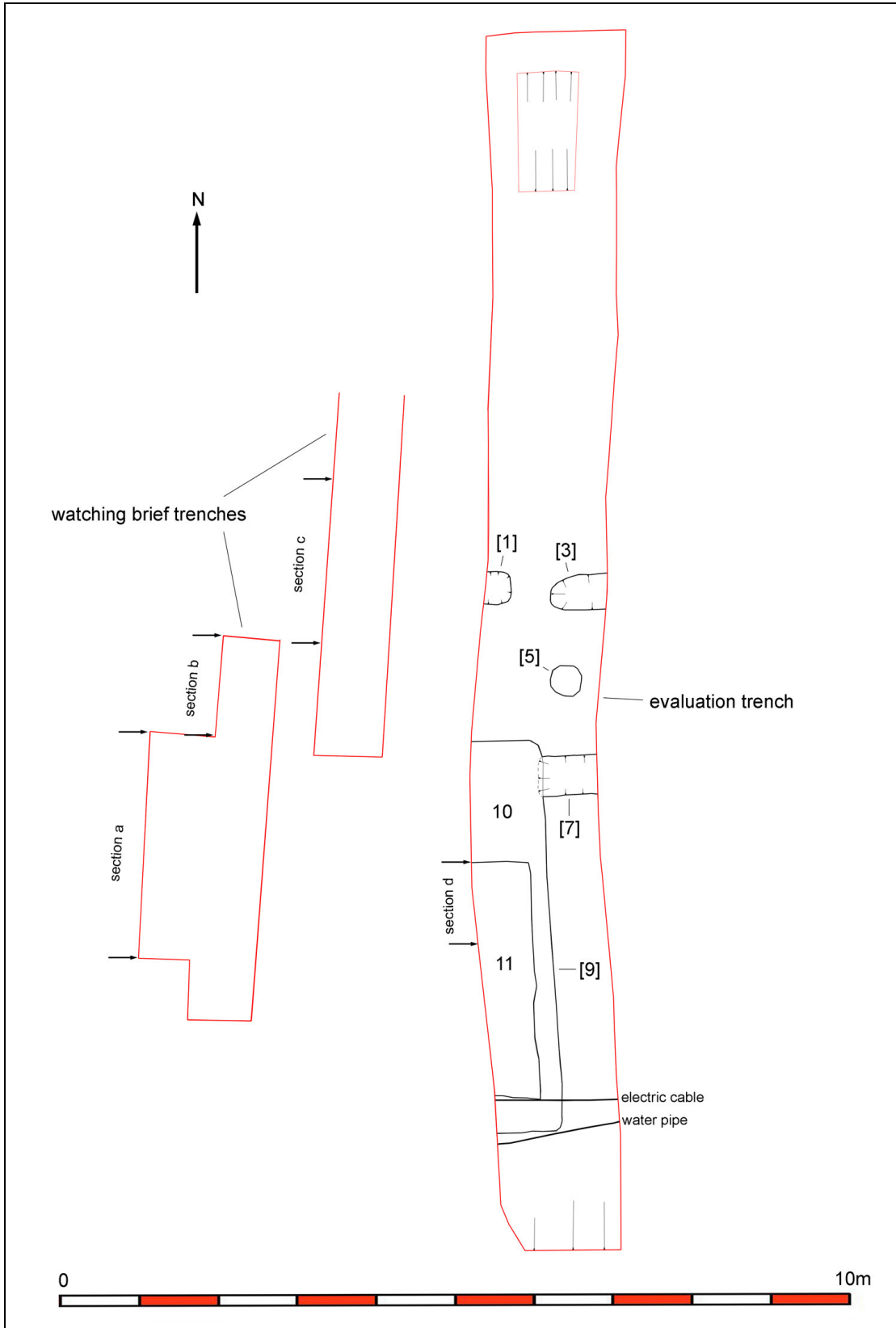


Figure 3 Plan of the trenches containing archaeological features.

WEST SUSSEX ARCHÆOLOGY

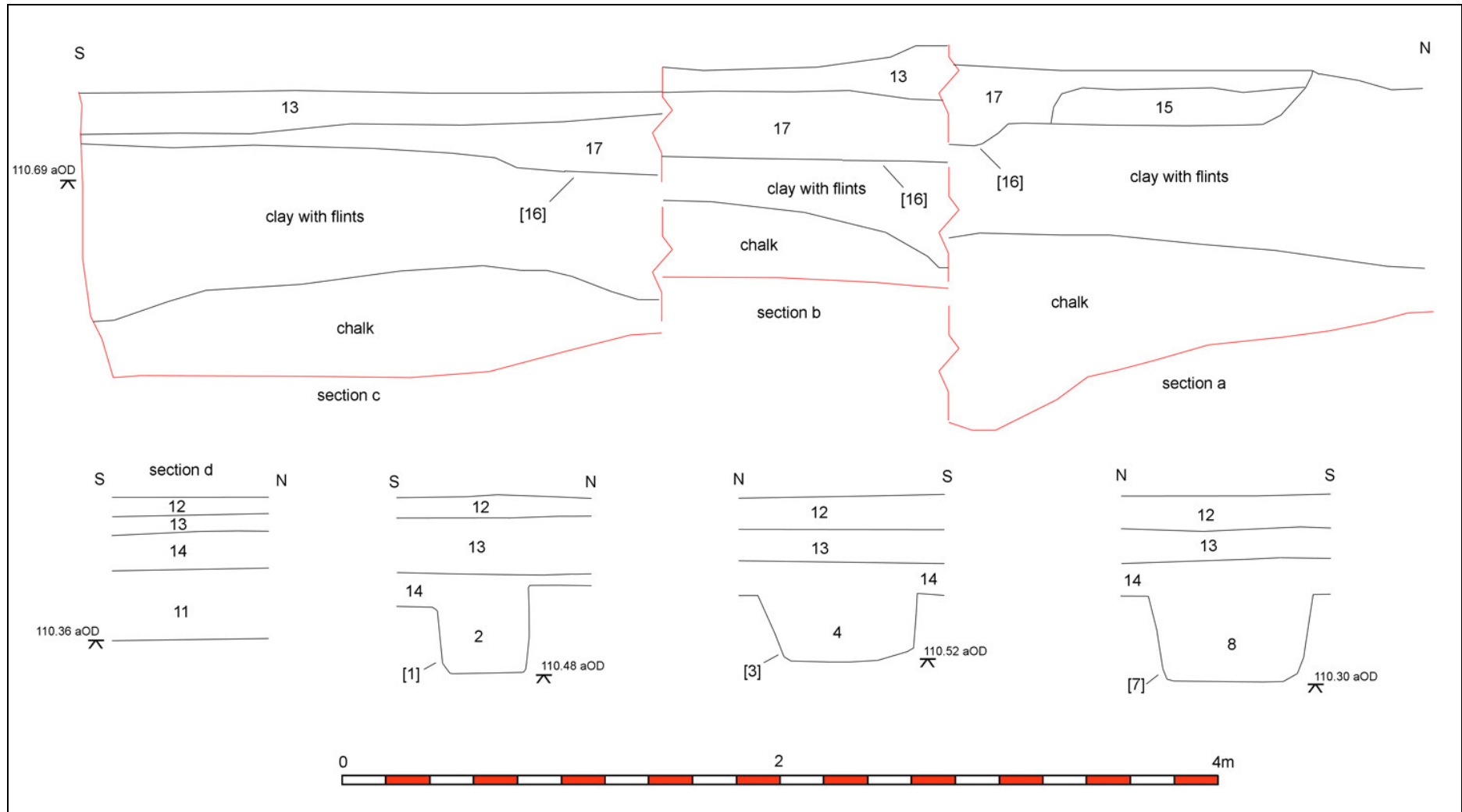


Figure 4 Sections across features within the evaluation and watching brief trenches.

WEST SUSSEX ARCHÆOLOGY

1. Initially a single evaluation trench was excavated across the location of the proposed new dwelling in order to ascertain whether any archaeological remains survived on the site. It became apparent that, while the northern part of the site had been truncated to the depth of the underlying geology, the southern part still retained historic soil layers. This truncation was almost certainly a result of the levelling of the site linked to previous development works, since the topography naturally slopes from north to south.
2. At the southern end of the trench an historic mid-brown/orange topsoil (No. 14 in Fig.4) survived to a depth of c.0.2m, decreasing in depth to the north, until it disappeared approximately 5m from the north end of the evaluation trench. Overlying this were two modern layers, again increasing in depth to the south, the lower a dark black/brown silt (No.13 in Fig.4) and the upper the existing gravel surface (No.12 in Fig.4).



Figure 5 The evaluation trench looking south.

3. At a distance of 7m from the north end of the trench two small pits or gullies (Nos. 1 & 3 in Figs. 3 & 4) were revealed, cut into the surface of the geology and filled with soil (Nos. 2 & 4 in Fig.4) indistinguishable from the historic topsoil. Both extended beyond the edges of the trench and were 0.3m deep, with the eastern being 0.6m wide, and the western 0.4m wide. At a distance of 2m to the south was a further small pit or gully (No.7 in Fig.4) with similar fill

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material (No.8 in Fig.4), 0.6m wide and 0.4m deep. At the mid point between these northern and southern pits/gullies was a shallow circular pit or post-hole, 0.2m in diameter and 0.08m deep. The similar alignment and relative positioning of these features would suggest they are contemporary.



Figure 6 Features 1, 3, 5, 7 & 9, looking north. The scale is 1m.

4. A small assemblage of artefacts was recovered from the fills of the pits/gullies and the pit/post-hole: seven sherds of medieval and post-medieval pottery were recovered from the northern two pits/gullies (Nos.1 & 3), two fragments of post-medieval or modern brick from pits/gullies Nos.3 & 7, and a fragment of post-medieval or modern vessel glass from pit/post-hole No. 5. This assemblage would suggest a post-medieval or modern date for these features. It is possible that they are linked to the walled garden shown in this location on 19th century mapping.
5. The southern pit/gully (No.7) appeared to be cut by a shallow depression (No.9 in Figs. 3 & 4) extending half way across the trench from the west, 0.3m deep and 5m long. It was filled with two layers, the upper being material (No. 10 in Fig.3) similar to the historic topsoil and the lower being a chalk-rich grey/brown silt (No.11 in Figs.3 & 4). No artefacts were recovered from its fill, but it must post-date the features described above.



Figure 7 Feature 9 as seen in the western section of the watching brief trenches, looking north-west. The scale is 1m.

6. The presence of these features resulted in a requirement for a watching brief on the excavation of the footings for the proposed new dwelling. No trace of a continuation of the pits/gullies found in the evaluation trench was noted in the foundation trenches, however a further shallow depression (No.16 in Fig.4) filled with chalk-rich grey brown-silt (No.17 in Fig.4) was observed. Its depth was similar to that found in the evaluation trench (No.9), as was its length, although its southern and northern edges proved to be

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rather diffuse, with an additional less chalk-rich lower layer (No.15 in Fig.4) against its north side. Its width was again not visible since it was present in both sides of the trench. It is possible that both these features (Nos. 9 & 160 are the remains of planting beds associated with the walled garden. No other archaeological features were noted in the foundations trenches.

7. Amongst the artefacts recovered from pit/gully No.2 was a single fragment of Roman *tegula* (roofing tile). Other Roman finds have previously been made in Catherington, with a pit, coin and roof tile of that date found 200m to the north near to the school and Roman pottery sherds found near to the church, a further 100m beyond (HCC pps.87-9). It would seem probable that a villa is located somewhere in the vicinity.

CONCLUSION

1. The archaeological works at 288 Catherington Lane have revealed features of post-medieval or modern date, probably associated with the walled garden visible on historic mapping dating back to the early 19th century. However several artefacts of an earlier date found amongst the finds assemblage recovered from within these features suggests occupation of an earlier date within the vicinity. Several medieval pottery sherds are probably associated with earlier phases of the village's occupation, while a fragment of Roman *tegula* adds to the growing evidence for a nearby villa.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

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<http://documents.hants.gov.uk/landscape/historic-settlement/CatheringtonHistoricRuralSettlementpublication.pdf>

West Sussex Archaeology Ltd 2014 **Written Specification for Archaeological Works at 288 Catherington Lane, Horndean, Hampshire** Unpublished