

**An Archaeological Evaluation at Ship Street,  
Shoreham-by-Sea, West Sussex**

**Planning Ref: ADC/0318/08**

**NGR 521414 105115  
(TQ 21414, 05115)**

**Project No: 4842  
Site Code: SHM 11**

**ASE Report No. 2011146  
OASIS id: archaeol6-104475**

**Nick Garland MA**

**With contributions by  
Luke Barber, Lesley Davidson, Fiona Griffin, Karine Le Hegarat,  
Sarah Porteus, Elke Raemen, Justin Russell and Lucy Sibun**

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**Abstract**

*A programme of archaeological evaluation was undertaken at Ship Street, Shoreham-by-Sea, West Sussex in advance of a proposed development. The work was undertaken between the 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> June 2011 and was commissioned by Bramber Construction Co. Ltd. A single L shaped evaluation trench, measuring 15 metres in length, was excavated. The natural horizon varied in depth from 4.532 OD in the east of the site and 4.659 OD in the west of the site.*

*The evaluation revealed evidence for possible prehistoric to early Roman ditches and medieval remains dating to between the 12<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> centuries, including a possible structure; the remains of post-medieval houses dating to between the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries were also recorded.*

## **CONTENTS**

- 1.0 Introduction**
- 2.0 Archaeological Background**
- 3.0 Archaeological Methodology**
- 4.0 Archaeological Results**
- 5.0 The Finds**
- 6.0 The Environmental Samples**
- 7.0 Discussion**
- 8.0 Conclusions**

### **Bibliography**

### **Acknowledgements**

### **SMR Summary Sheet**

### **OASIS Form**

Appendix 1: Residues quantification

Appendix 2: Flots quantification

## **FIGURES**

- Fig 1: Site Location Plan
- Fig 2: Trench location Plan
- Fig 3: Trench 1: Plan, sections and photographs
- Fig 4: Harris matrix for Trench 1
- Fig 5: Overlay of trench location with OS 25" Map Sheet LX1.9 (1876)
- Fig 6: Overlay of trench location with OS 25" Map Sheet LX1.9 (1898)
- Fig 7: Overlay of trench location with OS 25" Map Sheet LX1.9 (1912)

## **TABLES**

- Table 1: Quantification of site archive
- Table 2: Recorded Contexts within Trench 1
- Table 3: Quantification of the Finds
- Table 4: The Flintwork

## **1.0 INTRODUCTION**

### **1.1 Site Background**

1.1.1 Archaeology South-East (ASE), the contracting division of The Centre for Applied Archaeology at the Institute of Archaeology, UCL, was commissioned by Bramber Construction Co. Ltd to undertake an archaeological evaluation in advance of development at Ship Street, Shoreham-by-Sea, West Sussex (Fig 1) (NGR 521414 105115).

### **1.2 Geology and Topography**

1.2.1 The site is located within a car park in the centre of Shoreham-by-Sea, approximately 750 metres from the coastline to the south. It lies adjacent to Ship Street to the east and is surrounded by residential properties on its northern, western and southern extents.

1.2.2 According to the British Geological Survey (BGS 2011), the bedrock geology on site consists of the Newhaven Chalk Formation, overlain by superficial Head deposits of clay, silt, sand and gravel.

### **1.3 Planning Background**

1.3.1 Planning permission was granted by Adur District Council for the construction of four three-bedroom townhouses (with four parking spaces at the rear on the site). In consultation with John Mills, Archaeological Officer, West Sussex County Council, and due to the archaeological potential of the site, Adur District Council attached a condition for archaeological work to the planning consent (Ref: ADC/0318/08). Condition 9 states:

*'No development shall take place until the applicant has secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological work in accordance with a written scheme of investigation which has been submitted by the applicant and approved in writing by the Planning Authority.'*

*REASON: The site is of archaeological significance and it is important that it is recorded by excavation and to comply with policy AB1 of the Adur District Local Plan and CH7 of the West Sussex Structure Plan'.*

1.3.2 Following consultation between ASE and WSCC Sussex County Council (ESCC) Archaeological Officer, John Mills, it was decided that an archaeological evaluation of the site should be undertaken.

1.3.3 A Written Scheme of Investigation for the Archaeological Field Evaluation was produced by ASE in June 2011 and was submitted to West Sussex Council for approval prior to the commencement of work (ASE 2011). This document detailed aims and objectives and the methods to be used during the archaeological evaluation.

### **1.4 Aims and Objectives**

1.4.1 The aims of this work were outlined in the WSI (ASE 2011) and are summarised below

- To establish with a greater degree of certainty, the presence or absence of any archaeological features
- To assess the archaeological character and origins of any such remains
- To determine how any such remains might be affected by the development of the site
- To determine whether particularly important remains should be preserved *in situ*,
- To determine what options should be considered for mitigation

## **1.5 Scope of Report**

- 1.5.1 This report details the findings of an archaeological evaluation undertaken by Nick Garland, Chris Russel and Rob Cole (Surveyor) between the 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> June 2011. The project was managed by Neil Griffin (Project Manager) and Jim Stevenson (Project Manager, post-excavation). Figures were prepared by Fiona Griffin, Lesley Davidson and Justin Russell.

## **2.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND**

### 2.1 Introduction

- 2.1.1 The major phase of occupation of the town lies in the Norman, later medieval periods with relatively little evidence known for earlier activity.

### 2.2 Prehistoric and Roman

- 2.2.1 Evidence for settlement pre-dating the medieval period in Shoreham is sparse; however, excavations at Ropetackle, to the west of the current site revealed evidence for some occupation of this area in the Late Iron Age to early Roman period (Stevens in prep).

### 2.3 Medieval

- 2.3.1 New Shoreham was founded shortly after the Norman Conquest at the mouth of the River Adur. Shoreham originates from the Saxon *scora ham* and relates to the local steep slope of the downland. West Street forms part of the original Norman grid-pattern for the planned town, running south to north from the High Street. Following a period of economic prosperity in the 12<sup>th</sup> century, New Shoreham fell into decline due to the silting up of the harbour and the destruction of the southern part of the port by the sea in 1401 (Stevens 2009).
- 2.3.2 A Carmelite Priory was founded in Shoreham 1316 and two hospitals were also built during the medieval period. Medieval remains that survive above ground to this day include the church of St Mary de Haura and The Marlipins building (now a museum) which fronts onto the High Street, to the south-east of the site (Stevens 2009).
- 2.3.3 John Street, to the east of Ship Street was originally known as St John Street, thought to derive from the Knights of St John (the Knights Hospitallers) who had some form of establishment in the town during the 12<sup>th</sup> century. It is therefore considered likely that a religious community was located in this area (Stevens 2009).

### 2.4 Recent Archaeological Investigations

- 2.4.1 In the immediate vicinity of the site, a number of archaeological excavations have uncovered evidence of occupation. Excavations were undertaken by ASE at John Street, to the south-east of the site in 2001, revealing evidence of structural remains and cess pits ranging in date from the 12<sup>th</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup> centuries (Stevens 2009).
- 2.4.2 Further to the west of the site, excavations at Ropetackle by ASE in 2008, uncovered some evidence of Saxo-Norman activity followed by a marked increase in archaeological remains from the 13<sup>th</sup> century onwards (Stevens in prep). Evidence for a large scale disposal site was present in these excavations, as well as extensive evidence for post-medieval occupation.
- 2.4.3 Finally a recent archaeological investigation at 19-21 West Street by ASE in 2011 site revealed evidence of medieval domestic activity in the form of a number of rubbish pits (ASE forthcoming).

### 3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY

#### 3.1 Excavation Methodology

- 3.1.1 A single L shaped trench, measuring 15m x 1.8m, was machine excavated across the area of proposed development (Fig 2).
- 3.1.2 The trench was excavated under constant archaeological supervision, using a 13 ton 360 degree excavator, fitted with a toothless ditching bucket. Revealed surfaces were manually cleaned to identify any archaeological deposits or features. All spoil removed from the trench was inspected visually and also scanned with a metal detector for the presence of any stray, unstratified artefacts.
- 3.1.3 Only undifferentiated topsoil, subsoil and overburden of recent origin was removed by machine and kept separately. The excavation was taken in spits of no more than 0.1m for the topsoil and subsoil, until the top of the first significant archaeological horizon or the top of the underlying 'natural' was reached.

#### 3.2 Recording Methodology and Site Archive

- 3.2.1 All encountered archaeological deposits, features and finds were recorded according to accepted professional standards in accordance with the approved Written Scheme of Investigation (IfA 2008; ASE 2011). Archaeological features and deposits were planned at a scale of 1:20 or by GPS Total Station. Sections were drawn at a scale of 1:10.
- 3.2.2 A full photographic record of the trenches and associated deposits and features was kept (including monochrome prints, colour slides and digital images), and will form part of the site archive, which is quantified in Table 1.
- 3.2.3 The archive is presently held at the Archaeology South-East offices at Portslade, East Sussex; it has been accepted by Marlipins museum and will be deposited there in due course.

Number of Contexts	29 contexts
No. of files/paper record	1 folder
Plan and sections sheets	1 sheets
Bulk Samples	2 samples
Photographs	11 colour slides, 11 B+W, 54 digital

Table 1: Quantification of site archive



## 4.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION RESULTS

### 4.1 Introduction

4.1.1 A complex sequence of stratigraphy was uncovered in Trench 1 (Fig 3). The details of contexts recorded in the trench are given in Table 1 and a Harris matrix is provided in Figure 4.

Number	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Deposit Thickness	Height m.AOD
001	Layer	Tarmac	N/A	N/A	0.25 m	5.75
002	Layer	Demolition material	N/A	N/A	0.42 m	5.50
003	Layer	Subsoil	N/A	N/A	0.39 m	5.08
004	Masonry	Brick floor	1.8 m	0.95 m	N/A	4.848
005	Masonry	Concrete floor	3.9 m	1.5 m	N/A	4.884
006	Masonry	N-S wall	2.5 m	N/A	0.4 m	4.914
007	Masonry	E-W wall	0.6 m	0.35 m	0.4 m	5.287
008	Masonry	Brick wall	1 m	0.23 m	0.4 m	5.398
009	Masonry	N-S wall	2.4 m	N/A	0.4 m	5.255
010	Masonry	E-W wall	1.5 m	0.45 m	0.5 m	5.187
011	Masonry	N-S wall	1.5 m	0.5 m	0.5 m	5.444
012	Masonry	E-W drain	2.4 m	0.35 m	0.25 m	5.515
013	Layer	Levelling deposit	N/A	N/A	0.42 m	5.50
014	Layer	Natural	N/A	N/A	N/A	4.69
015	Cut	Cut of ditch	2.36 m	0.45 m	0.2 m	4.68
016	Fill	Fill of ditch	2.36 m	0.45 m	0.2 m	4.68
017	Cut	Cut of post pit	0.7 m	0.7 m	0.18 m	4.68
018	Fill	Fill of post pit	0.7 m	0.7 m	0.18 m	4.68
019	Fill	Post pipe	0.15 m	0.15 m	0.18 m	4.68
020	Cut	Construction cut of Well	1.5 m	0.6 m	0.7 m	5.50
021	Masonry	Well	1.5 m	N/A	N/A	5.50
022	Fill	Backfill within Well	1.5 m	0.6 m	0.7 m	5.50
023	Cut	Cut of ditch	1.8 m	1.5 m	0.4 m	4.74
024	Fill	Fill of ditch	1.8 m	1.5 m	0.4 m	4.74
025	Fill	Fill of ditch	1.8 m	1.5 m	0.4 m	4.74
026	Cut	Cut of ditch	1.8 m	0.85 m	N/A	4.653
027	Fill	Fill of ditch	1.8 m	0.85 m	N/A	4.653
028	Cut	Cut of post pit	0.6 m	0.6 m	N/A	4.651
029	Fill	Fill of post pit	0.6 m	0.6 m	N/A	4.651

Table 2: Recorded Contexts within Trench 1

### 4.2 Summary of structures, features and deposits in Trench 1 (Fig 3 & 4)

#### 4.2.1 Natural geology

Natural layer [014], a mid orangish brown silty clay with occasional sub-angular stone inclusions, was observed between 4.659 OD in the west of the trench and 4.532 OD in the east of the trench.

#### 4.2.2 Possible prehistoric to early Roman ditches

At the southern end of the trench, ditch [015] cut natural layer [014]. The fill of this ditch, [016], contained worked flint dated to the Mesolithic or Early Neolithic period, as well as a small fragment of pottery probably dating to the Late Iron Age/ early Roman period. A second unexcavated E-W ditch, [026], may represent the return of ditch [015].

#### 4.2.3 Medieval features

Cutting [016], was a post pit, [017], containing two fills, [018] and [019]. The post-pipe within this feature, [019], contained pottery dating to the late 13<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> century. A second unexcavated post pit, [028], was located just to the north of [017] and may have been part of the same structure. This feature clearly cut through the unexcavated ditch [026].

Another medieval feature, a north-south orientated ditch, [023], was located at the western end of the trench and was cut into the natural, [014]. The primary fill of this feature contained pottery dating to the mid 12<sup>th</sup> to mid 13<sup>th</sup> century as well as some animal bone.

#### 4.2.4 Post-medieval structures and deposits

A series of three walls lay to the south of the trench. Walls [009] and [010] form a north-south and east-west return and possibly represent the corner of a room or building, which clearly truncated earlier ditch, [015]. Both of these walls were of flint construction and survived to approximately five or six courses. A north-south wall, [011], lay parallel to wall [009] and was also of flint construction. The close proximity of these two walls suggests that they represent separate phases of construction. A length of drain, [012], which ran in an east-west direction butted wall [011].

Slightly further to the north, two abutting walls were orientated across the trench in an approximately east-west direction. A short length of flint walling, [007], exposed on the eastern side was abutted by a thinner brick wall [008], forming a later addition dated to the 18<sup>th</sup> or 19<sup>th</sup> century by the brick. No stratigraphic relationships with other lengths of wall were clearly definable within the trench but it seems likely that [007] and [008] may be directly associated with other surviving masonry in this area.

To the north of [007] and [008], was a flint constructed wall, [006], orientated in a north-south direction which survived to a height of approximately five courses. Some evidence of rendering on the western face was visible in places but did not survive to a high degree. It is possible that this forms part of the same structure as wall [007].

To the west of wall [006], an irregular brick floor, [004], dated to the 18<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> century, was uncovered. This was heavily sooted in places and was overlain by a concrete floor, [005], that extended south and was bounded by walls [007] and [008].

All of the archaeological features and deposits lay below a dark brown silty clay subsoil, [003]. In the north of the trench, this was overlain by a layer of demolition material, [002], whereas in south of the trench it was overlain by a levelling deposit, [013], a mid brown silty clay.

Near the western extent of the trench, a brick-built well, [021], dated to the mid 18<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> century by the ceramic building material (CBM), was the only feature to cut through levelling deposit [013], indicating that it is of later date than the other walls in the southern part of the trench. The site was sealed by the tarmac surface of the car park, [001].

## 5.0 THE FINDS

5.1 A small assemblage of finds, mainly consisting of pottery, was recovered during the evaluation. An overview of the bulk finds can be found in table 3. In addition, a clay tobacco pipe (CTP) stem fragments retaining a partial maker's mark was assigned a registered finds number (RF <1>). Finds were all washed and dried or air dried as appropriate. They were counted, weighed and bagged by material and by context. The registered find was recorded and bagged individually. None of the finds require further conservation.

Context	Pot	Wt (g)	CBM	Wt (g)	Bone	Wt (g)	Shell	Wt (g)	Flint	Wt (g)	FCF	Wt (g)	Stone	Wt (g)	F.Clay	Wt (g)
2	5	164					2	106								
3	8	148	1	3120	1	2					1	12	1	<2	1	14
4			2	2780												
16									2	16	1	10				
19	1	4														
21			2	2986												
24	2	30			6	<2										
<b>Total</b>	16	346	5	8886	7	2	2	106	2	16	2	22	1	0	1	14

Table 3: Quantification of the finds

## 5.2 The Pottery by Luke Barber

### 5.2.1 Introduction

The archaeological work produced a small assemblage of pottery from the site. Although sherd sizes are generally of a small to medium size (up to 50mm across) the majority show no/little signs of abrasion suggesting they have not been extensively reworked. A few pieces do exhibit signs of more extensive abrasion.

### 5.2.2 Possible Late Iron Age/ early Roman pottery

A very small fragment of grog-tempered pottery was recovered from the residue of environmental sample <1>, from ditch fill [016]. This fabric is most likely to belong to the Late Iron Age/ early Roman period although the sherd is too small and undiagnostic to provide a certain date.

### 5.2.3 Medieval

Context [003] produced a slightly mixed group of sherds, the majority of which date to the mid 13<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> centuries. There are two fresh well-fired oxidised cooking pot sherds tempered with sand and sparse shell (including a club rim). This ware may well have been produced in the town as it dominates most of the High Medieval assemblages. There is also a fine/medium sand tempered thumbled base from a jug that shows notable abrasion and two very fresh (sooted) body and base sherds from a cooking pot tempered with medium sand and rare quartz grits to 1mm. There are also

two green glazed sherds in a fine off-white/buff fabric, one from a jug, the other a cooking pot with internally glazed base. A Surrey source is possible for these vessels. In addition, [003] produced a somewhat abraded, though large (62g), sherd from a jar with bead and flanged rim and internal green glaze. The oxidised fabric is a coarse sandy oxidised earthenware which can be placed anywhere between the mid 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> centuries.

Context [19] contained a single bodysherd from an oxidised cooking pot tempered with moderate sand with coarser grits of probable late 13<sup>th</sup>- to 14<sup>th</sup>-century date. The only other context to produce pottery was [24] that yielded medieval pottery from both hand collection (2/29g) and the environmental residue (8/38g). The hand collected sherds are in a medium-fired oxidised orange-brown fabric, tempered with medium sand and sparse mixed grits. One consists of the beaded flaring rim from a cooking pot of mid 12<sup>th</sup>- to mid 13<sup>th</sup>- century date. The material from the residues includes further sherds of similar fabric as well as some better fired purely sand tempered wares suggesting an early/mid 13<sup>th</sup>- century deposition date.

#### 5.2.4 Post-medieval

Context [2] produced a fresh group of pottery that can be placed between 1825 and 1875. The five sherds consist of pieces from a glazed red earthenware handled bowl, a Sunderland-type slipware handled bowl, an English stoneware bottle (with illegible stamping near its base) and two transfer-printed plate/bowl sherds with willow pattern and floral designs in blue.

### 5.3 The Ceramic Building Material by Sarah Porteus

#### 5.3.1 Introduction

A total of five brick samples were recovered from three contexts, all are of post-medieval date. The assemblage has been recorded on pro forma record forms for archive and discarded.

#### 5.3.2 Summary of the assemblage

Context [004] contained two floor bricks with abraded upper surfaces; unfrogged, with a thickness of 55mm, one of the bricks had a heavily sooted upper surface. The bricks were in a coarse orange sandy fabric with abundant coarse quartz and sparse very coarse black iron-rich and silt inclusions. The floor bricks are of probable 18<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> century date.

Context [008] contained a single brick of standard 230 by 110 by 65mm dimensions. The brick was unfrogged with sharp arises and mortared with a soft cream sandy lime mortar in an orange-red fabric with a scatter of fine quartz. The brick is also likely to be of 18<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> century date.

Context [021] contained two fragments of brick in a fabric similar to Museum of London fabric MoL3032, a purple/red fabric with moderate slag and organic inclusions. The brick is warped and heat affected and has a shallow rectangular frog and is of mid 18<sup>th</sup> or 19<sup>th</sup> century date.

### 5.4 The Flintwork by Karine le Hégarat

5.4.1 Work at Ship Street produced two struck flints weighing 16g, both recovered from context [016] (Table 4). The pieces are manufactured from a fine grey flint with occasional inclusions and an off-white cortex abraded to a smooth surface. The material consists of a miscellaneous retouched piece and a narrow secondary flake which displays parallel flake scar removals on the dorsal face. The presence of blade-scars on the dorsal surface of the flake, together with platform abrasion indicates a Mesolithic or Early Neolithic date. The second piece displays some light edge damage. The broken flake exhibits partial abrupt and low retouches on the left-hand edge, towards the proximal end and the miscellaneous retouched piece could have been used as a side scraper. A small quantity of burnt unworked flint was also recovered from context [016] and from the subsoil.

Context	Flake	Misc. Retouched piece	Burnt unworked flint - No./Wt. (g)
3			1/12
16	1	1	1/10
16	1	1	2/24

Table 4: The Flintwork

## 5.5 The Animal Bone by Lucy Sibun

5.5.1 Two contexts produced a very small quantity of animal bone. The assemblages from both [003] and [024] contained sheep-sized longbone fragments, with those from [024] in a fragile state and extremely fragmentary.

## 5.6 Other Finds by Elke Raemen

5.6.1 Context [002] contained two left valves from mature oyster shells. Both are severely abraded but still hold some evidence of minor infestation. The same context also included a plain clay tobacco pipe stem fragment (RF <1>) with part of the heel surviving. The latter retained a partial maker's mark moulded in relief on the surviving side of the heel: "W?". The stem dates to ca. 1720-1800, but given the incompleteness of the mark, its maker cannot be identified.

5.6.2 A Welsh slate fragment was recovered from [19]. Finally, context [3] contained a featureless fragment of fired clay in a sparse fine sand-tempered fabric with occasional organic temper, as well as rare crushed flint temper to 1mm. The fragment is likely to represent structural daub.

## 6.0 THE ENVIRONMENTAL SAMPLES by Karine Le Hegarat

### 6.1 Introduction

6.1.1 Two 20L soil bulk samples were taken during the evaluation work at Ship Street, Shoreham-by-Sea to establish evidence for environmental indicators such as charred macrobotanicals, charcoal, bones and shells. Sample <1> was retrieved from the fill of possible prehistoric ditch [015] and sample <2> originated from the primary fill [024] of ditch [023] which contained ceramics dating to the medieval period.

### 6.2 Methods

6.2.1 Samples were processed in their entirety in a flotation tank; the residues and flots were retained on 500µm and 250µm meshes respectively and were air dried prior to sorting. The residues were passed through 4mm and 2mm geological sieves and each fraction sorted for environmental and artefactual remains (Appendix 1). The flots were scanned under a stereozoom microscope at magnifications of x7-45 and an overview of their contents recorded (Appendix 2). Preliminary identifications have been provided for macrobotanical remains through reference to modern comparative material and reference atlases (Cappers *et al.* 2006, Jacomet 2006 and NIAB 2004). Nomenclature used follows Stace (1997).

### 6.3 Results

6.3.1 These samples contained a small to moderate assemblage of environmental remains, including charred botanical remains as well as faunal remains, with the largest quantity recorded in the primary fill of ditch [023]. Sampling has also produced a moderate quantity of artefactual remains.

6.3.2 The small flots (10ml and 20ml respectively) contained a very low percentage of uncharred botanical materials, predominantly rootlets and uncharred seeds of elder (*Sambucus nigra*) and a single seed from the poppy (Papaveraceae) family.

#### 6.3.3 Sample <1>

A small quantity of wood charcoal fragments was present in the flot and residue from sample <1>. Although the assemblage included pieces >4mm in size, the majority were considerably smaller (<2mm). Infrequent charred macrobotanical remains were also recorded in the deposit, including grains of wheat (*Triticum* sp.), one of which could be bread wheat (*Triticum* cf. *aestivum*) and one indeterminate grain (Cerealina), as well as some unidentified grass (Poaceae) weed seeds. The sample produced infrequent small fragments of unburnt bones. The residue also contained a small amount of burnt unworked flints and a single sherd of small sherd of pottery dating to the Late Iron Age / early Roman period.

#### 6.3.4 Sample <2>

Sample <2> contained also a small sized assemblage of wood charcoal fragments represented by few fragments >10mm in size although the majority were smaller, often <4mm in size. These were moderately well preserved and

may include fragments suitable for identifications and radiocarbon dating. The small assemblage of charred macroplant remains comprised charred crop remains and charred wild/weed seeds. The cereal remains were poorly preserved and identifiable material consisted of a possible grain of barley (cf. *Hordeum* sp.), some unidentifiable grains (Cerealia) as well as half a legume (Fabaceae). A small amount of other potential charred crop species, including common pea/vetch/tare (cf. *Pisum/Vicia/Lathyrus* sp.) was also present in the residue. Charred wild/weed seeds were also sparse. The small assemblage included petty spurge (*Euphorbia pepus*), ivy-leaved speedwell/woodruffs (*Veronica hederifolia/Asperula arvensis*), possible sun spurge (cf. *Euphorbia helioscopia*), unidentified grass (Poaceae) seeds as well as one unidentified seed. Faunal remains were recorded in the flots and residue consisting of burnt and unburnt mammal bones and a moderate quantity of fish bones. Artefacts were common within this deposit and the assemblage included a small amount of medieval pottery, CBM, a single nail, some pieces of slag as well as some burnt unworked flints.

## 6.4 Discussion and conclusion

- 6.4.1 Sampling has confirmed the presence of environmental remains within these deposits including charred plant and faunal remains. Although sample <1> produced a small range of environmental remains, a relatively diverse assemblage was recorded in sample <2> including fish bones, burnt and unburnt mammal bones, charcoal and charred macrobotanicals.
- 6.4.2 The small assemblage of charred crop grains provides only limited information regarding the economy of the site. The grains provide evidence for the use of a range of crops, including wheat and possibly bread type wheat, barley and legumes. Unfortunately, this assemblage is too limited and fragmentary to determine whether the crops were grown and processed locally or if they were imported to the site. The charred wild/weed taxa indicated represent common arable weeds, grassland taxa or other weeds of disturbed grounds.
- 6.4.3 The small assemblage of wood charcoal fragments contained fragments which may be suitable for identifications. However, they are too few to provide significant information regarding the local past woody vegetation or fuel use on site. The small assemblage may also present material suitable for radiocarbon dating, although the environmental remains are unlikely to refine the dates already obtained from the artefacts.
- 6.4.4 The samples have revealed a relatively wide array of environmental remains. The small quantity of environmental indicators recorded in the possible prehistoric linear feature provides evidence for a general background of disturbed waste material. The more varied assemblage present within the medieval ditch is indicative of general domestic activities. The remains could correspond with ongoing disposal of refuse in the ditch.



## **7.0 DISCUSSION**

### **7.1 Prehistoric to Early Roman? and Medieval Remains**

- 7.1.1 A series of features, comprising three ditches and two post pits appear to pre-date the post-medieval period.
- 7.1.2 Probably the earliest feature was ditch [015], the fill of which produced, Mesolithic to Early Neolithic flint and a very small pottery sherd, thought most likely to date to the Late Iron Age/ early Roman period. This may suggest that this feature is of prehistoric to early Roman date, although it is equally possible that the finds are residual. A second ditch [026], orientated east-west was not sampled but potentially represents a return of ditch [015].
- 7.1.3 Another ditch, [023], was observed in the western end of the trench. This feature produced material dating to the mid 12<sup>th</sup> to mid 13<sup>th</sup> century and therefore represents the earliest well-dated medieval feature. The ditch was fairly wide but also quite shallow and probably represented a drainage ditch associated with occupation in this part of the town.
- 7.1.4 Two post pits, [017] and [028], truncated ditches [015] and [026]. Evidence for a post-pipe was visible within post pit [017] and finds dating the feature to the late 13<sup>th</sup> to early 14<sup>th</sup> century were recovered from its fill. Post pit [028] was not excavated but possibly represents part of the same medieval structure. The nature or extent of this structure is unknown.

### **7.2 Post-Medieval Remains**

- 7.2.1 A series of later features comprised five lines of walling, a drain, a well and two floor surfaces dated to the post-medieval period.
- 7.2.2 The post-medieval remains appear to define three areas; two internal rooms and one area of external activity. This is confirmed by historic maps dated to 1876, 1898 and 1912 (Figs. 5-7), which show two buildings on the site during this period. While the precise location of the trench in relation to the historic maps is difficult to determine at this scale, it does show that the orientation of walls and the location of external and internal areas broadly matches the site plan.
- 7.2.3 The first room lies to the north of the trench and is represented by brick floor [004] and a later concrete floor laid over the top [005]. This room is defined by N-S wall [006] which may represent the street frontage onto Ship Street, although there is little evidence to confirm this. The wall, [007], and later bricked up entrance, [008], delimit this room to the south and possibly represent a change of use in this period, from one dwelling to two.
- 7.2.4 The second room lies to the south of the trench and is represented by wall [009] to the east and wall [010] to the south. N-S wall [011] potentially represents a remodelling of this building within a different phase; however, it is difficult to determine whether this is of earlier or later date.
- 7.2.5 Finally, an external area is represented to the far west of the trench with the establishment of a well, [021], probably in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century. Drain, [012], may be associated with the same external space although it is. These

features may be associated with buildings that lay to the east.

## **8.0 CONCLUSION**

- 8.1** The evaluation was successful in determining the presence of archaeological features on site. It is thought that further archaeological remains would have been visible had they been present, and consequently, that the density of finds and features recorded accurately reflects the degree of ancient activity on the site.
- 8.2** The archaeological remains within this evaluation trench can be put in the context of the wider history of Shoreham. While there may be some evidence of prehistoric to early Roman remains, the first well-dated features relate to the medieval era of prosperity in the town, dated to between the 12<sup>th</sup> century and its decline in the late 13<sup>th</sup> century. The post-medieval remains have been linked with buildings shown to have existed in the area on historic maps of this period,
- 8.3** It appears that the archaeological deposits of medieval date lie at approximately 1 m below the existing ground level, although post-medieval remains lie at a very shallow depth below the car park levels, ranging from 0.2 to 0.5 m.

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**ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

The assistance of Steve Manser-Knight of Bramber Construction and John Mills of West Sussex County Council is gratefully acknowledged.

**SMR Summary Form**

Site Code	SHM 11					
Identification Name and Address	Ship Street, Shoreham-by-Sea, West Sussex					
County, District &/or Borough	Shoreham-by-Sea, Adur					
OS Grid Refs.	521414 105115					
Geology	Head Deposits (BGS Sheet 318)					
Arch. South-East Project Number	4842					
Type of Fieldwork	Eval. <b>X</b>	Excav.	Watching Brief	Standing Structure	Survey	Other
Type of Site	Green Field	Shallow Urban	Deep Urban <b>X</b>	Other		
Dates of Fieldwork	Eval. 9/6/11 to 10/6/11	Excav.	WB.	Other		
Sponsor/Client	Bramber Construction Co. Ltd					
Project Manager	Neil Griffin					
Project Supervisor	Nick Garland					
Period Summary	Palaeo.	Meso.	Neo.	BA	IA	RB
	AS	MED <b>X</b>	PM <b>X</b>	Other		
<p><i>100 Word Summary.</i></p> <p><i>A programme of archaeological evaluation was undertaken at Ship Street, Shoreham-by-Sea, West Sussex in advance of a proposed development. The work was undertaken between the 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> June 2011 and was commissioned by Bramber Construction Co. Ltd. A single L shaped evaluation trench, measuring 15 metres in length, was excavated. The natural horizon varied in depth from 4.532 OD in the east of the site and 4.659 OD in the west of the site.</i></p> <p><i>The evaluation revealed evidence for possible prehistoric to early Roman ditches and medieval remains dating to between the 12<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> centuries, including a possible structure; the remains of post-medieval houses dating to between the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries were also recorded</i></p>						

**OASIS ID: archaeol6-104475**

Project details

Project name Ship Street, Shoreham-by-Sea

Short description of the project A programme of archaeological evaluation was undertaken at Ship Street, Shoreham-by-Sea, West Sussex in advance of a proposed development. The work was undertaken between the 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> June 2011 and was commissioned by Bramber Construction Co. Ltd. A single L shaped evaluation trench, measuring 15 metres in length, was excavated. The natural horizon varied in depth from 4.532 OD in the east of the site and 4.659 OD in the west of the site.

The evaluation revealed evidence for possible prehistoric to early Roman ditches and medieval remains dating to between the 12<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> centuries, including a possible structure; the remains of post-medieval houses dating to between the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries were also recorded.

Project dates Start: 09-06-2011 End: 10-06-2011

Previous/future work No / Yes

Any associated project reference codes SHM 11 - Sitecode

Type of project Field evaluation

Site status None

Current Land use Other 15 - Other

Monument type POST HOLE Medieval

Monument type DITCH Medieval

Monument type HOUSE Post Medieval

Significant Finds NONE None

Methods & techniques 'Sample Trenches'

Development type Small-scale (e.g. single house, etc.)

Prompt Planning condition

Position in the planning process After full determination (eg. As a condition)

Project location

Country England

Site location WEST SUSSEX ADUR SHOREHAM BY SEA Ship Street

Postcode BN43 5DY

Study area 460.00 Square metres

Site coordinates TQ 21414 05115 50.8322474605 -0.2756975360 50 49 56 N 000 16 32 W Point

Height OD / Min: 4.53m Max: 4.66m

Depth	
Project creators	
Name of Organisation	Archaeology South-East
Project brief originator	Archaeology South-East
Project design originator	Archaeology South-East
Project director/manager	Neil Griffin
Project supervisor	Nick Garland
Type of sponsor/funding body	Developer
Name of sponsor/funding body	Bramber Constructioun Co. Ltd
Project archives	
Physical Archive recipient	Local Museum
Physical Contents	'Animal Bones','Ceramics','Environmental','Metal','Worked stone/lithics','other'
Digital Archive recipient	Local Museum
Digital Contents	'Animal Bones','Ceramics','Environmental','Metal','Survey','Worked stone/lithics','other'
Digital Media available	'Images raster / digital photography','Survey','Text'
Paper Archive recipient	Local Museum
Paper Contents	'Animal Bones','Ceramics','Environmental','Metal','Survey','Worked stone/lithics','other'
Paper Media available	'Context sheet','Drawing','Map','Photograph','Plan','Report','Section','Survey'
Project bibliography 1	
Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	An Archaeological Evaluation at Ship Street, Shoreham-by-Sea, West Sussex
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Garland, N
Other bibliographic details	2011146
Date	2011

Issuer or  
publisher            Archaeology South-East

Place of issue or  
publication        Portslade

Entered by            Nick Garland (n.garland@ucl.ac.uk)

Entered on            1 July 2011



**Appendix 1: Residues quantification (\* = 1-10, \*\* = 11-50, \*\*\* = 51-250, \*\*\*\* = >250)**

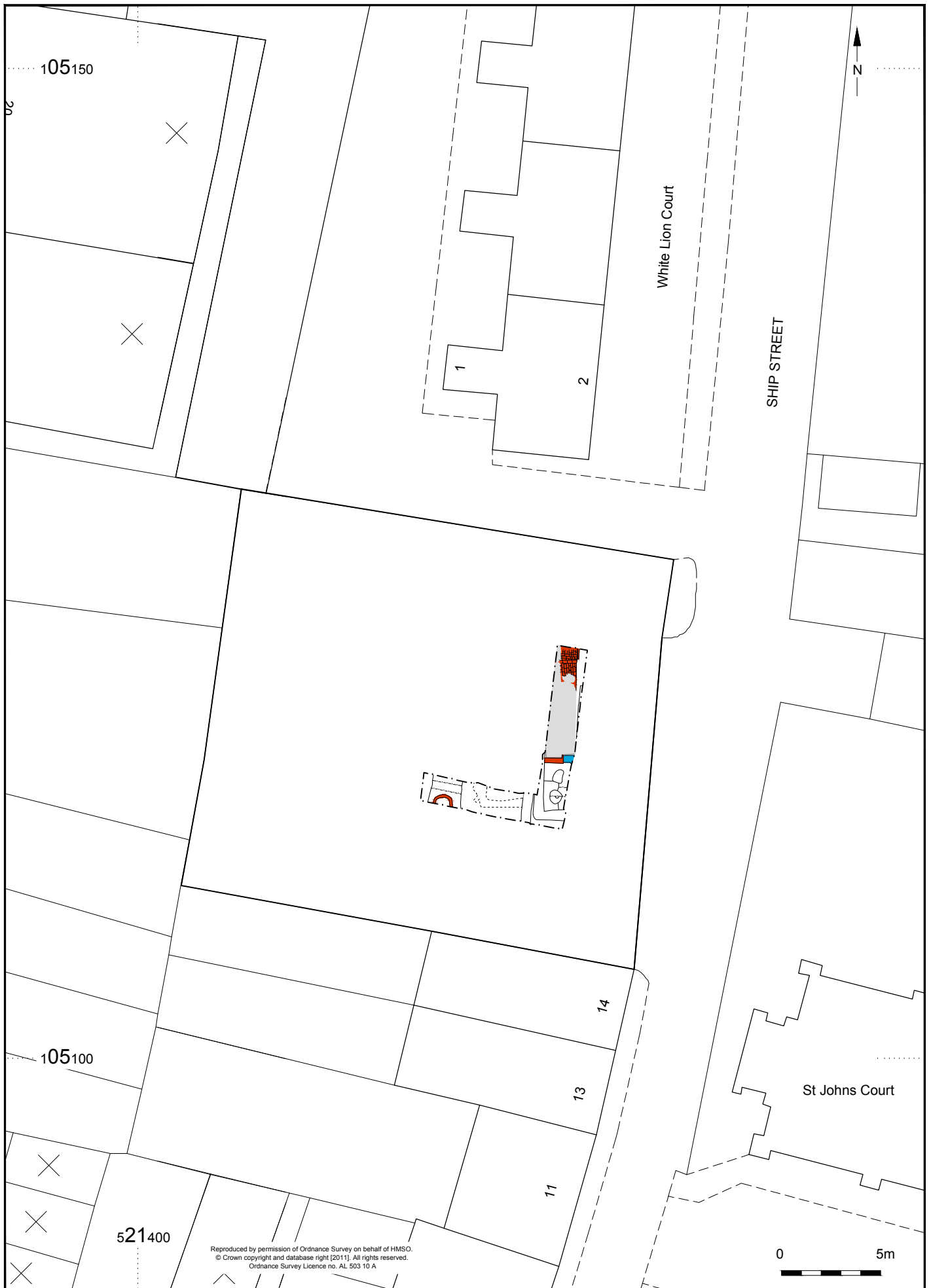
Sample Number	Context	Context / deposit type	Sample Volume litres	sub-Sample Volume litres	Charcoal >4mm	Weight (g)	Charcoal <4mm	Weight (g)	Charred botanicals (other than charcoal)	Weight (g)	Bone and Teeth	Weight (g)	Crem bone 4-8mm	Weight (g)	Crem Bone 2-4mm	Weight (g)	Fishbone and microfauna	Weight (g)	Other (eg ind, pot, cbm)
1	16	Fill of ditch [15]	20	20	*	<2	**	<2	* <i>Triticum</i> sp., Cerealia	<2	*	<2							FCF */28g - Pot */<2g
2	24	Primary fill of ditch [024]	20	20	**	2	**	<2	* Fabaceae, cf. <i>Pisum/Vicia/Lathyrus</i> sp., Cerealia	<2	**	16	*	2	*	<2	***	8	FCF */34g - CBM */28g - Nail */<2g - Slag */14g - Pot **/40g

**Appendix 2:** Flots quantification (\* = 1-10, \*\* = 11-50, \*\*\* = 51-250, \*\*\*\* = >250) and preservation (+ = poor, ++ = moderate, +++ = good)

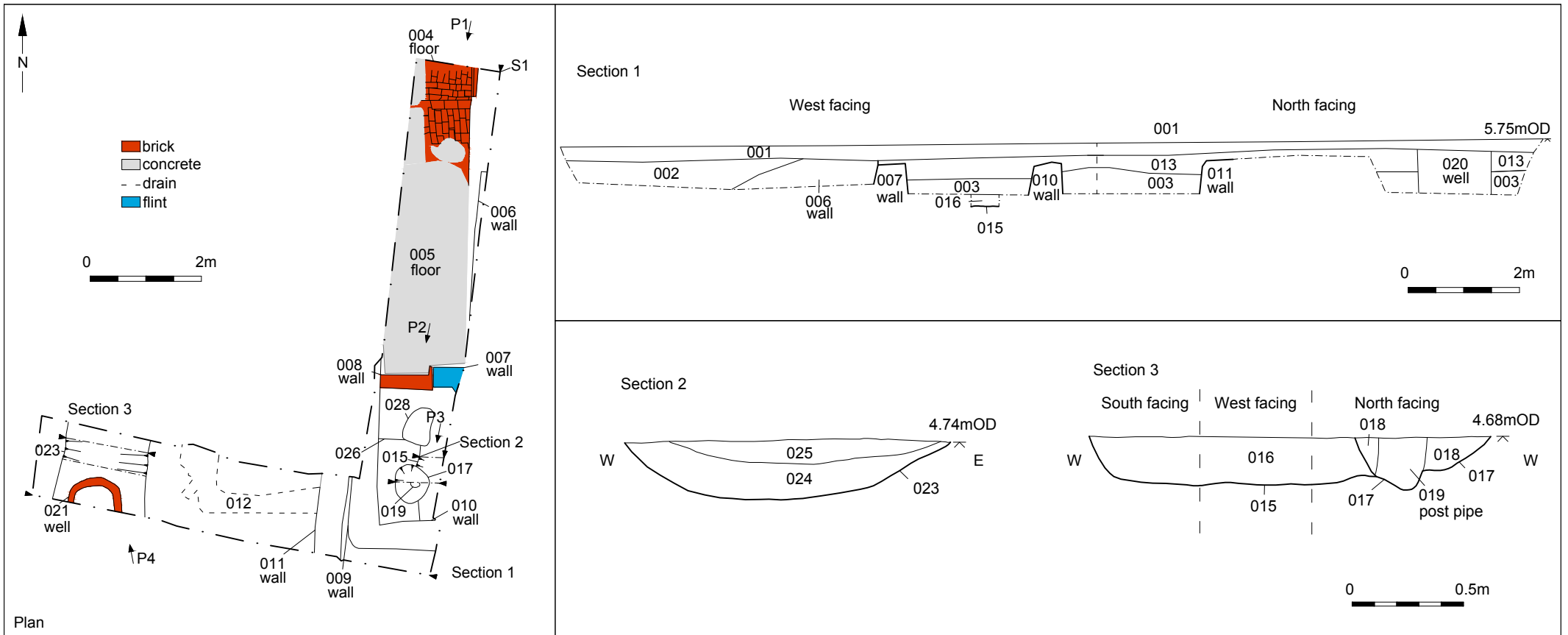
Sample Number	Context	weight g	Flot volume ml	Uncharred %	sediment %	seeds uncharred	Charcoal >4mm	Charcoal <4mm	Charcoal <2mm	crop seeds charred	Identifications	Preservation	weed seeds charred	Identifications	Preservation	fish, amphibian, small mammal bone
1	16	2	10	10	15	* <i>Sambucus nigra</i> , Papaveraceae	*	**	***	*	<i>Triticum</i> cf. <i>aestivum</i> , <i>Triticum</i> sp.	+ to ++	*	Poaceae	+ to ++	
2	24	2	20	20	20	* <i>Sambucus nigra</i>	*	**	***	*	cf. <i>Hordeum</i> sp., Fabaceae	+	*	<i>Euphorbia peplus</i> , <i>Veronica hederifolia</i> , Poaceae, cf. <i>Euphorbia helioscopia</i> , unid. Seed	++	*



© Archaeology South-East		Ship Street, Shoreham-by-sea	Fig. 1
Project Ref: 4842	June 2011	Site location	
Report Ref: 2011146	Drawn by: FEG		



© Archaeology South-East		Ship Street, Shoreham-by-Sea, Evaluation	Fig. 2
Project Ref: 4842	June 2011	Trench location plan	
Report Ref: 2011146	Drawn by: FG/LD		



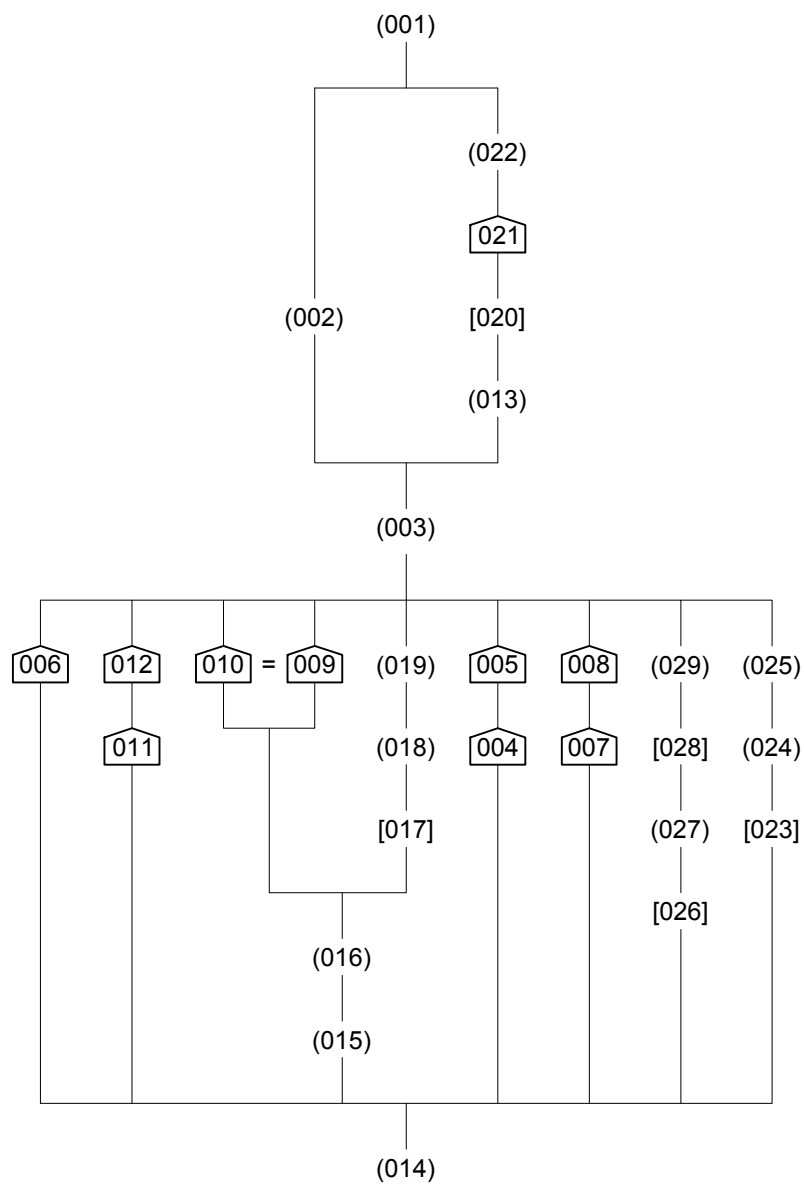
P1: South facing photo of brick floor 004

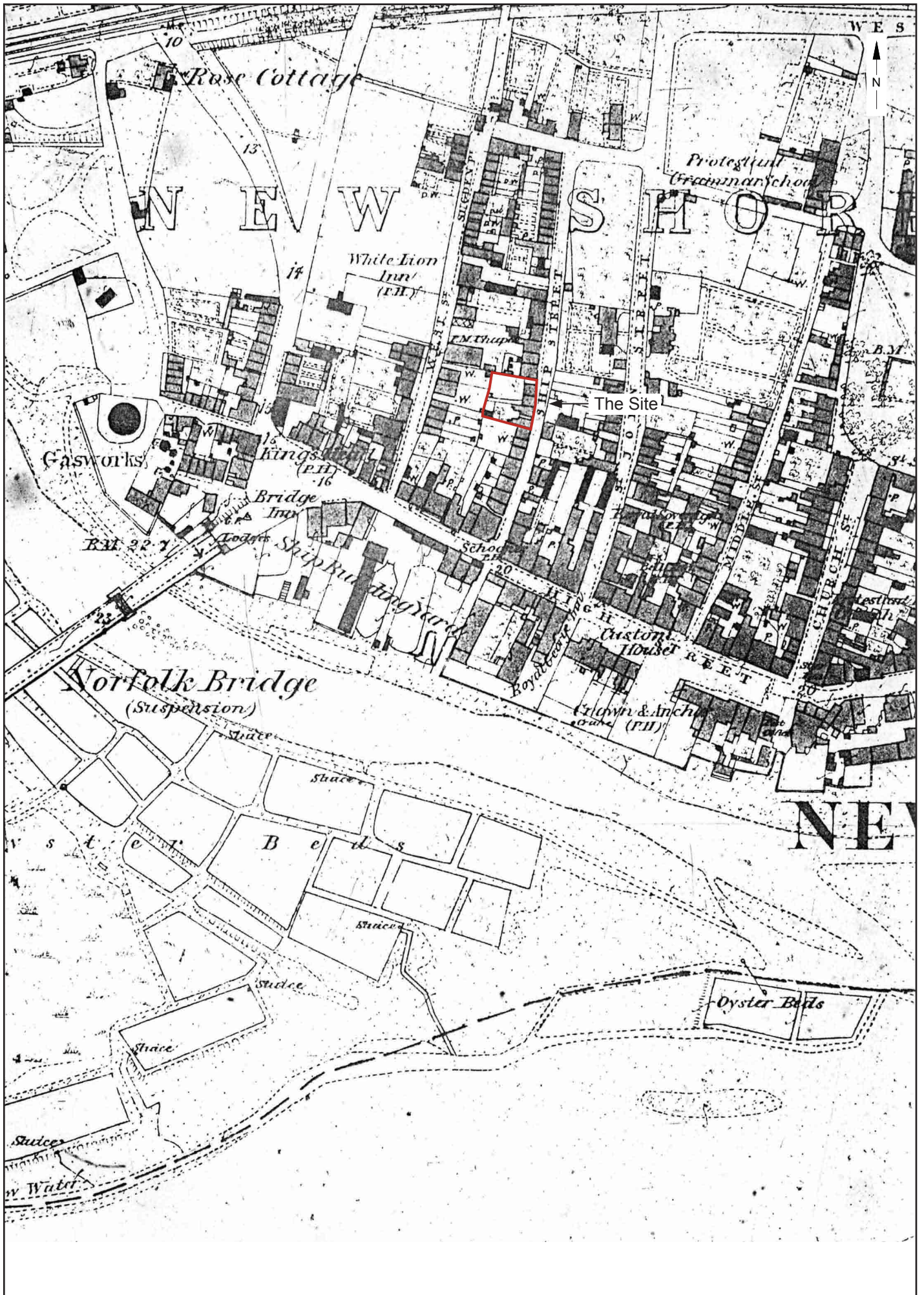
P2: South facing photo of walls 007 (left) and 008(right)

P3: South facing photo of ditch 015 and posthole 017

P4: North facing photo of ditch 023

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Project Ref: 4842	June 2011	Plan, sections and photographs		
Report Ref: 2011146	Drawn by: LD			





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Project Ref: 4842	June 2011	OS 25" Map Sheet LX1.9 (1876)	
Report Ref: 2011146	Drawn by: LD		



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Report Ref: 2011146	Drawn by: LD		





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