

An Archaeological Watching Brief at Burpham Camp, Burpham, West Sussex

West Sussex Scheduled Monument No. WS 48

Planning Reference: B/9/11

Centred NGR: 503948 108858

**Project No: 5008
Site Code: BCB 11**

**ASE Report No. 2011185
OASIS id:archaeol6-105838**

**Author Chris Russel
With contributions by
Elke Raemen and Sarah Porteus**

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**Archaeology South-East
Units 1 & 2
2 Chapel Place
Portslade
East Sussex
BN41 1DR**

**Tel: 01273 426830
Fax: 01273 420866
Email: fau@ucl.ac.uk**

Abstract

Archaeology South-East (ASE), the contracting division of the Centre for Applied Archaeology, University College London, were commissioned by Burpham Cricket Club to undertake an archaeological watching brief at Burpham Cricket Ground, Burpham, West Sussex (NGR 503948 108858) during works associated with the construction of a new equipment shed. No archaeological remains were encountered during the ground works. The work was undertaken on the 12th of July 2011.

CONTENTS

- 1.0 Introduction**
- 2.0 Archaeological Background**
- 3.0 Methodology**
- 4.0 Results**
- 5.0 The Finds**
- 6.0 Discussion and Conclusion**

Bibliography
Acknowledgements

HER Summary Sheet
OASIS Form

FIGURES

Figure 1: Site location
Figure 2: Site plan

TABLES

Table 1: Summary of ESCC HER records with 1km of the site
Table 2: Quantification of site archive
Table 3: List of recorded contexts
Table 4: Quantification of the finds

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Site Background

- 1.1.1 Archaeology South-East (ASE), the contracting division of the Centre for Applied Archaeology, University College London, was commissioned by Burpham and Warningcamp Cricket Club to undertake an archaeological watching brief at Burpham Cricket ground, Burpham, West Sussex, hereafter referred to as 'the site', (Fig.1, centred on NGR 503948 108858). The watching brief was undertaken during works associated with the construction of a new equipment shed.

1.2 Geology and Topography

- 1.2.1 According to the British Geological Survey (BGS 2011) the site's geology comprises Quaternary Head overlying Newhaven Chalk Formation of the Cretaceous Period. Raised Marine Deposits lie immediately to the west.

1.3 Planning Background

- 1.3.1 Planning permission has been granted by Arun District Council under Planning Reference: B/9/11 for the demolition of the existing store (for cricket club equipment) and erection of new store shed. This application lies within the South Downs National Park Authority. No archaeological planning condition was attached to the planning consent.
- 1.3.2 The site lies within the curtilage of Scheduled Ancient Monument WS 48 (West Sussex), Burpham Camp. A request for pre-application advice was made by BWCC to the English Heritage Inspector of Monuments (Richard Massey) who subsequently advised that the proposed works would require Scheduled Monument Consent, and that an appropriate condition of such consent would be for watching brief to be undertaken during excavation works. The Scheduled Monument Consent was granted prior to the commencement of the works.
- 1.3.3 A *Written Scheme of Investigation* (WSI) was produced by ASE for the proposed archaeological works. All work was carried out in accordance with the WSI and the relevant *Standards and Guidance* of the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA 2001).

1.4 Aims and Objectives

- 1.4.1 The general aim of the archaeological work was to monitor all intrusive ground works in order to properly record and report on the location, form, extent, date, character, condition, significance and quality of any surviving archaeological remains exposed during groundworks.
- 1.4.2 The specific objective was to identify record and report on any remains that might be associated with the Saxon Burh or establish whether evidence for Iron Age activity was present.

1.5 Scope of Report

- 1.5.1 This report details the results of the archaeological watching brief undertaken during groundworks at the site. The work was undertaken on the 12th of July 2011 by Chris Russel (Archaeologist). The fieldwork was managed by Neil Griffin (Project Manager) and post-excavation managed by Jim Stevenson (Project Manager).

2.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 Burpham Camp

- 2.1.1 The following text is summarised from information held on the WSCC Historic Environment Record (HER).
- 2.1.2 Burpham Camp may be of Saxon origin as it is included in the Burghal Hidage of c. AD 919. However, it may have prehistoric origins as an Iron Age promontory fort before being reused as a Burh.
- 2.1.3 The fort occupies the summit of a long, narrow, elevated tongue of land which extends south from the village of Burpham and overlooks the flood plain of the River Arun to the west and south and the valley of a tributary stream to the east. It is bounded by steep natural chalk cliffs on all but the north side and measures in area some 700m north-south by 250m east-west at the north end, reducing to a mere 50m at the south end. The north side is enclosed by an earthen rampart up to 7m in height, its ends resting upon the edges of the cliffs. Midway is an original simple-cut entrance. The interior falls gently southwards, the cliffs reducing in height from some 15m to 4.5m. To compensate for the weakening natural defences southwards, a bank encircles the southern half of the promontory at the base of the cliffs and measures up to 8m in width and 1m in height, though it has doubtless been much reduced by flood waters, and the inner ditch is now silted up.
- 2.1.4 Excavations were carried out in 1972 by Miss H Sutermeister for DOE in advance of the building of a cricket pavilion within the earthwork (Sutermeister 1976; Webster and Cherry 1973). About 170 postholes were discovered which probably represented two separate buildings lying end to end and parallel to the bank. The smaller of the two was rectangular with a small room partitioned off at the west end. The side walls were constructed of double posts and a small, double-sided, extension was attached to the south wall. The second, longer, building stood on a slightly different alignment east of the other, and was of the same structural type. If the two are contemporary, they may have been joined by a gable or been separated by a narrow passage. Two deep rubbish pits, probably later than the buildings, yielded late Saxon to early Norman pottery.
- 2.1.5 The late Saxon Burh was referred to in the Burghal Hideage of c.919 and was assessed at 720 hides (about 905m). The establishment of an 'emergency' mint at Cissbury late in the reign of Aethelraed II has been taken to suggest that the burh at Burpham was abandoned by this date.
- 2.1.6 A silted ditch has been located by resistivity survey across the middle of the enclosed area. No trace can be seen on aerial photographs Meridian 1963 107937 or 1965 9/65 38.

2.2 The Wider Area

- 2.2.1 A 1km radius search of the WSCC HER centred on the site retrieved the following entries relating to archaeological sites or find spots (Fig. 1). In

addition a further 23 Listed buildings were identified within the same search area. With the exception of the Grade I Listed Parish Church of St Mary all of the entries relate to Grade II houses or barns dating from the early 17th century.

WSSC HER No.	Description	Period
MWS2694	Saxon burial mound at Pepperling Farm investigated in 1835 and found to contain an inhumation with iron sword and possible spearhead	Anglo-Saxon
MWS2701	Type A beaker associated with a crouched adult male burial found in 1954 during excavation of cesspool in garden of Elmbank	Early Bronze Age
MWS2704	Palaeolithic axes found on ground surface in field north of 'The Green Garden'	Palaeolithic
MWS2705	Gold coin of Cunobelin found whilst ploughing east of Pepperling House. Gold stater of c. 150BC found whilst [ploughing near Burpham Church. Potential both refer to the same coin.	Iron Age
MWS2706	Moated area northwest of Great Pepperling measuring c. 60yds square. Medieval pottery found in area.	Medieval
MWS2713	Follis (coin) of Maxentius (Roman Emperor AD306-312) found close to a roadside bank	Roman
MWS2978	Church of St Mary the Virgin. Pre-conquest north wall of nave with 12 th -century, 15 th -century and modern additions/alterations	Late Saxon-modern
MWS2981	11 th - to 12 th -century amber glass vessel found in the bank of the river at Burpham and may be a near-eastern import	Early medieval
MWS2986	Location of former tide mill on the Boundary Brook immediately east of Burpham Camp	Medieval
MWS3296	Possible Bronze Age urn from a barrow near Pepprings	Bronze Age
MWS3313	Terrace way known as Leper's way ascends out of Pepperling Bottom. May be of Roman origin but more likely thought to relate to the possible leper settlement at Lee Farm	?Medieval
MWS3425	Neolithic axe found in the Burpham area	Neolithic
MWS3607	Sestertius (coin) of Antoninus Pius (Roman Emperor AD138-161) found in garden of a house in Burpham	Roman
MWS3655	Dugout canoe found in 1862 when clearing a drainage dyke 25-30 yards west of a sluice through a retaining bank	?Iron Age or Roman
MWS3790	Burpham Camp. Scheduled Monument WS 48. See above.	Saxon and ?Iron Age
MWS4290	Earthwork building platform in a field at Wepham Green with flint walled structure with brick quoins and possible former hollow way in close association	Post-medieval
MWS4361	Small excavation undertaken by ASE (formerly SEAS) in 1994 revealed possible post holes and stake holes of uncertain date	Undated
MWS5720	570yd long and 25-30ft wide terrace runs along west side of Perry Hill, known locally as	Unknown

WSCC HER No.	Description	Period
	Angmering's Half-acre. Possibly a cultivation terrace	
MWS6560	Cast Iron water pump and horse basket in close proximity in Burpham village	Post-medieval
MWS7557	WWII Home Guard firing butts	Modern
MWS8032	Malt House shown on 1875-5 OS 25" map west of Pepperings Farm	Post-medieval
MWS8287	Approximate location of lead coffin found in 1950s when tractor wheel sank into grave whilst ploughing	Unknown
MWS8288	Short stabbing sword found by Lepper's Lane in 1930s	?Roman
MWS8599	Green Garden Cottage. Originally built around AD1400 (if not earlier) as an open-hall house of at least four bays	Medieval

Table 1: Summary of WSCC HER Results within 1Km of the Site

3.0 METHODOLOGY

- 3.1** An archaeologist was in constant attendance during all intrusive works. All ground reduction was undertaken by hand or by machine fitted with a toothless bucket.
- 3.2** The ground works on site consisted of the removal of concrete beams associated with the former structure and the excavation of shallow beam slots on the footprint of the proposed new equipment shed to 0.40m below ground level.
- 3.3** Surfaces and spoil from the excavations were inspected for archaeological finds or features.

Number of Contexts	3
No. of files/paper record	1
Plan and sections sheets	0
Bulk Samples	0
Photographs	9 (digital)
Bulk finds	0
Registered finds	0
Environmental flots/residue	0

Table 2: Quantification of site archive

4.0 RESULTS

4.1 Introduction

4.1.1 The beam slot excavations were monitored at all times and the spoil was scanned for artefacts.

4.1.2 Table 3: List of Recorded Contexts

Number	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Deposit Thickness
1	Deposit	Ploughsoil	-	-	0.30m
2	Deposit	Made Ground	-	-	0.50m
3	Deposit	Subsoil	-	-	-

4.2 Summary

4.2.1 The beam slot excavations were shallow and revealed only friable, light grey silt subsoil with frequent chalk flecks, [003]. Above this was a loose mid grey brown silt topsoil with common chalk flecks, [001].

4.2.2 The footprint of the former shed contained loose light grey fine silt made ground [002]. A limited number of finds were retained from this context.

4.2.3 No archaeological features or were observed within the subsoil [003].

5.0 THE FINDS

5.1 Summary

- 5.1.1 Only two finds were recovered (Table 4), both from subsoil [002]. Finds were washed and dried or air dried as appropriate after which they were counted, weighed and bagged by context and by material. No further conservation was necessary.

Cxt	Pot	Wt (g)	CBM	Wt (g)
2	1	22	1	160

Table 4: Quantification of the finds

5.2 The Pottery by Elke Raemen

- 5.2.1 Subsoil [002] contained a pearl-ware base sherd from an industrial slipware mug. The piece dates between the late 18th and 19th century.

5.3 The Ceramic Building Material by Sarah Porteus

- 5.3.1 A single piece of brick of 68mm thickness weighing 160g in a fine red sandy fabric with abundant iron rich inclusions was recovered from context [002] the piece is of 19th or possibly early 20th century date. The fragment has been discarded.

6.0 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSION

- 6.1** The excavations monitored at Burpham Cricket Club were shallow in nature and failed to reveal natural geology. No finds or features were revealed within the chalky subsoil although some finds were retained from the made ground seen in the footprint of the demolished shed. These were late post - medieval/ modern in origin.

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Webster, L. E. & Cherry, J. 1973 'Medieval Britain in 1972' in *Medieval Archaeology* XVII (1973), pp150.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

ASE would like to thank Colin Dick for commissioning the work and for his help during the watching brief.

SMR Summary Form

Site Code	BCB11					
Identification Name and Address	Burpham Camp, Burpham, West Sussex					
County, District &/or Borough	West Sussex,					
OS Grid Refs.	503948 108858					
Geology	Quaternary Head Deposits + Cretaceous Chalk					
Arch. South-East Project Number	5008					
Type of Fieldwork	Eval.	Excav.	Watching Brief X	Standing Structure	Survey	Other
Type of Site	Green Field	Shallow Urban	Deep Urban	Other		
Dates of Fieldwork	Eval.	Excav.	WB. 12th July 2011	Other		
Sponsor/Client	Burpham Cricket Club					
Project Manager	Neil Griffin and Jim Stevenson					
Project Supervisor	Chris Russel					
Period Summary	Palaeo.	Meso.	Neo.	BA	IA	RB
	AS	MED	PM	Other Modern		
<p>100 Word Summary.</p> <p><i>Archaeology South-East (ASE), the contracting division of the Centre for Applied Archaeology, University College London, were commissioned by Burpham Cricket Club to undertake an archaeological watching brief at Burpham Cricket Ground, Burpham, West Sussex (NGR 503948 108858) during works associated with the construction of a new equipment shed. No archaeological remains were encountered during the ground works. The work was undertaken on the 12th of July 2011.</i></p>						

OASIS Form

OASIS ID: archaeol6-105838

Project details

Project name	Burpham Camp
Short description of the project	Archaeology South-East (ASE), the contracting division of the Centre for Applied Archaeology, University College London, were commissioned by Burpham Cricket Club to undertake an archaeological watching brief at Burpham Cricket Ground, Burpham, West Sussex (NGR 503948 108858) during works associated with the construction of a new equipment shed. No archaeological remains were encountered during the ground works. The work was undertaken on the 12th of July 2011.
Project dates	Start: 12-07-2011 End: 12-07-2011
Previous/future work	Yes / No
Any associated project reference codes	5008 - Contracting Unit No.
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	Scheduled Monument (SM)
Current Land use	Community Service 2 - Leisure and recreational buildings
Monument type	FORT Early Medieval
Significant Finds	NONE None
Investigation type	'Watching Brief'
Prompt	Scheduled Monument Consent

Project location

Country	England
Site location	WEST SUSSEX ARUN ARUNDEL Burpham Camp
Postcode	BN18 9RR
Study area	1.00 Hectares
Site coordinates	TQ 503948 108858 50.8772917429 0.137978222524 50 52 38 N 000 08 16 E Point

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Archaeology South East
Project brief originator	English Heritage/Department of Environment
Project design originator	Archaeology South-East
Project	Neil Griffin

director/manager

Project supervisor Chris Russel

Type of
sponsor/funding
body Developer

Name of
sponsor/funding
body Burpham Cricket Club

Project archives

Physical Archive
recipient Local Museum

Physical Contents 'Ceramics'

Digital Archive
recipient Local Museum

Digital Media
available 'Images raster / digital photography'

Paper Archive
recipient Local Museum

Paper Media
available 'Context sheet','Correspondence','Miscellaneous Material'

Project bibliography 1

Publication type Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)

Title An Archaeological Watching Brief at Burpham Camp, Burpham, West Sussex.

Author(s)/Editor(s) Chris Russel

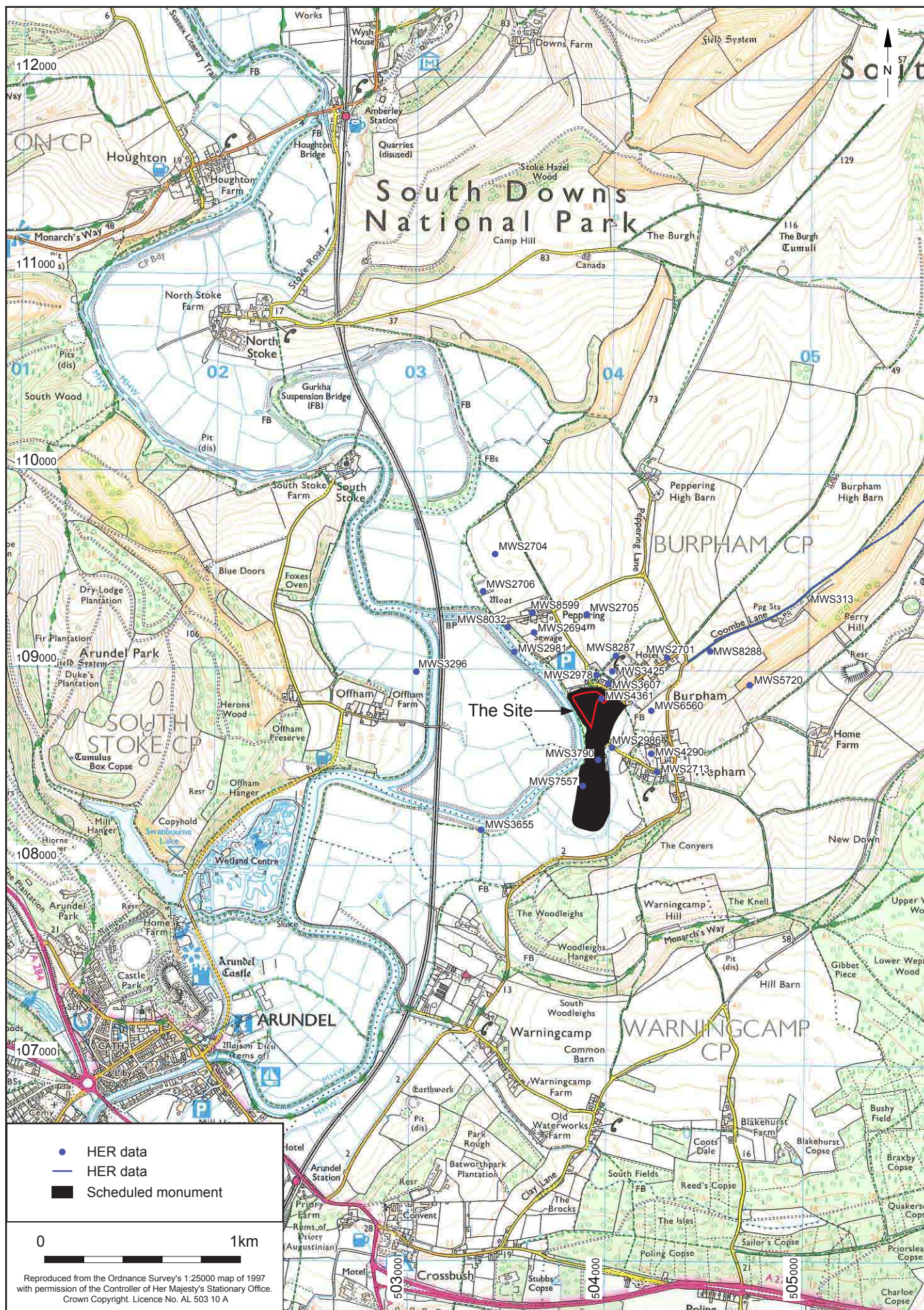
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© Archaeology South-East		Burpham and Warningcamp Cricket Club, Burpham	Fig. 1
Project Ref: 5008	July 2011	Site location	
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Fig. 2.2: Excavation of beam slots

Fig. 2.1: Sample section

© Archaeology South-East		Burham and Warningcamp Cricket Club, Burham	Fig. 2
Project Ref: 5008	July 2011	Site plan and photographs	
Report Ref: 2011185	Drawn by: LD		

Head Office
Units 1 & 2
2 Chapel Place
Portslade
East Sussex BN41 1DR
Tel: +44(0)1273 426830 Fax: +44(0)1273 420866
email: fau@ucl.ac.uk
Web: www.archaeologyse.co.uk



London Office
Centre for Applied Archaeology
Institute of Archaeology
University College London
31-34 Gordon Square, London, WC1 0PY
Tel: +44(0)20 7679 4778
Fax: +44(0)20 7383 2572
Web: www.ucl.ac.uk/caa

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