

An Archaeological Watching Brief at the Half Brick Pub site Worthing, West Sussex

**NGR 516243 102854
(TQ16243 02854)**

Planning Ref:WB/10/0895/FULL

**Project No:5083
Site Code: WBP11**

**ASE Report No. 2011192
OASIS id:106582**

Archive: Worthing Museum: Pending acceptance

**Sarah Porteus
With contributions by
Elke Raemen and Luke Barber
Illustrations by Justin Russell**

August 2011

**An Archaeological Watching Brief at the Half Brick Pub site
Worthing, West Sussex**

**NGR 516243 102854
(TQ16243 02854)**

Planning Ref:WB/10/0895/FULL

**Project No:5083
Site Code: WBP11**

**ASE Report No. 2011192
OASIS id:106582**

Archive: Worthing Museum: Pending acceptance

**Sarah Porteus
With contributions by
Elke Raemen and Luke Barber
Illustrations by Justin Russell**

August 2011

**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 undertook a watching brief on the site of the Half Brick Pub, Worthing on behalf of Avid Development Ltd during conversion works. The archaeological watching brief revealed extensive modern intrusions to the site. The periodic extensions and remodelling of the site over the years appear to have significantly disturbed the underlying deposits. A linear feature running roughly north-north-east to south-south-west may be a ditch, boundary or old stream. It was probably present before the original pub building and may have been filled in either during preparation for its construction or during the early life of the pub.

CONTENTS

- 1.0 Introduction**
- 2.0 Archaeological Background**
- 3.0 Archaeological 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: Location of monitored area
Figure 3: Site plan and sections

TABLES

Table 1: Quantification of Site Archive
Table 2: List of Recorded Contexts
Table 3: Quantification of Finds.

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Site Background

1.1.1 Archaeology South-East (ASE), the contracting division of the Centre for Applied Archaeology, Institute of Archaeology, University College London, were commissioned by Avid Development Ltd to undertake a watching brief during ground work associated with the construction of flats on the site of the former Half Brick Pub, Worthing (NGR 516243 102854, Fig 1).

1.2 Geology and Topography

1.2.1 According to current data from the British Geological Survey the superficial geology of the site lies on the margin between Brickearth and Beach and Tidal deposits (undifferentiated) (BGS 2011).

1.2.2 The site occupies a flat area of land near the shingle beach and was previously the site of the Half Brick pub which has been largely demolished; only the south west corner of the structure remains at present.

1.3 Planning Background

1.3.1 The archaeological work forms part of the planning condition 27 attached to the planning consent requiring an archaeological watching brief (Planning Ref: WB/10/0895/FULL).

1.4 Aims and Objectives

1.4.1 The general objective of the work is to ensure that any features, artefacts or ecofacts of archaeological interest impacted by the excavations are recorded and interpreted to appropriate standards.

1.4.2 The specific aim of the work is to look for any buried remains associated with a known nearby Roman site.

1.5 Scope of Report

1.5.1 This report represents the findings of the archaeological watching brief undertaken by Sarah Porteus (Archaeologist) on the 2nd of August 2011. The project was managed by Jon Sygrave (Fieldwork) and Jim Stevenson (Post-excavation).

2.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 Prehistoric 450 000BC-AD42

- 2.1.1 Little evidence exists for prehistoric activity within the immediate vicinity of the site. However, the West Sussex Coastal Plain as a whole was settled fairly intensively in the later Bronze Age to Early Iron Age.

2.2 Roman AD42-409

- 2.2.1 Similarly the coastal plain has produced extensive evidence for exploitation during the Roman period. Roman activity close to the site has been identified south of the junction of Merton Road to Navarino Road. Areas of dark soil containing Roman pottery and oyster shell were identified along Brighton Road (no's 72-96) and remains of a flint wall and Roman pottery were found south of the junction with Navarino Road (Barton 1965, 85-86)

2.3 Medieval AD410-1539

- 2.3.1 Little evidence of Saxon or medieval activity has been identified within the immediate vicinity of the site.

2.4 Post-Medieval AD1540-Present

- 2.4.1 The Half brick pub was originally constructed in 1835 on scrubland/ pasture, some 200ft to the south of the present location. Following sea damage in 1850, it was rebuilt further inland at the present location in 1874. The structure underwent a number of extensions and alterations particularly in the early 20th century. It is thought to be so named because it was constructed from half-bricks (bats); however, although it is possible the original pub was constructed in this way, no evidence exists within the present structure for the use of half bricks.

3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY

3.1 Excavation and Monitoring Methodology

- 3.1.1 The location of monitored areas is shown on Figure 2. John Mills, Senior Archaeologist, West Sussex County Council, was kept informed of the works. Following liaison between John Mills and ASE, the watching brief was discontinued after the monitoring of c. 80% of the site because the remainder was significantly disturbed by later intrusions.
- 3.1.2 In the monitored areas, made-ground of modern origin was removed by machine using a flat bladed bucket down to the surface of archaeological deposits or to the underlying natural geology. This process was observed by the attending archaeologist.
- 3.1.3 Sufficient time was allowed for the attending archaeologist to record any archaeological features or deposits identified.
- 3.1.4 All excavated spoil was monitored for artefacts and ecofacts.

3.2 Site Records

- 3.2.1 Plans and sections of the site were drawn up on plastic draughting film at an appropriate scale.
- 3.2.2 Contexts were recorded on pro-forma record forms with identification of colours done by visual inspection rather than reference to a Munsell colour chart.
- 3.2.3 Finds recovered from site were labelled by context and taken to Archaeology South-East offices for analysis by in house specialists.
- 3.2.4 A digital photographic record was maintained of the work.

3.3 Site Archive

- 3.3.1 ASE informed Worthing Museum after to the commencement of fieldwork that a site archive would be generated. The site archive is currently held at the offices of ASE and will be deposited at Worthing museum in due course. Worthing Museum does not give out archive accession numbers in advance of deposition. The contents of the archive are tabulated below (Table 1).

Number of Contexts	10
No. of files/paper record	1
Plan and sections sheets	3
Bulk Samples	0
Photographs	1 digital CD
Bulk finds	1 small bag
Registered finds	0
Environmental flots/residue	0

Table 1: Quantification of site archive

4.0 RESULTS (Fig. 3)

4.1 Natural Geology

- 4.1.1 The natural Brickearth substrate, [002], was found to be heavily truncated and only remained on the south east corner of the site. It occurs in patches at a minimum depth below ground of 0.50m.

4.2 Post Medieval Ditch or Stream

- 4.2.1 A linear feature, [004], interpreted as a possible ditch or defunct stream was observed running north-north-east to south-south-west in the eastern part of the site. The feature was not fully excavated as it lay at the limit of excavation for the concrete pad. It was observed for a length of 10.40m north to south and was 1.5m wide at the north, widening to 5m at the south. The base of the feature was not encountered but a fill of beach gravel, [010], was visible in places beneath an upper fill of dark soil, [003], containing large amounts of oyster and scallop shells with broken pottery and glass, dating to the late 18th to early 19th century; areas of degraded broken unfrosted post-medieval red brick were also present within this deposit but were not retained as finds.

4.3 Modern Cuts and Deposits

- 4.3.1 The generic number [009] has been assigned to a number of modern cuts. In places these were seen to truncate fill [003]. A deposit of beach gravel, [005], filled these cuts and also covered most of the eastern half of the site. It is thought that this deposit may have been brought from the beach as a levelling deposit. These contexts have not been shown on plan.

4.4 Contexts Associated with The Half Brick Pub

- 4.4.1 No direct relationship between the gravel deposit [005] and the pub structure could be observed. The cellar extended along the western edge of the site, and its construction trench cut the natural Brickearth. A backfill of the construction trench, [008], was a loose to compact yellow brown silty clay and gravel.
- 4.4.2 The site was overlain by a made ground deposit, [001], of dark brown silt of up to 0.40m thickness, containing modern building rubble and demolition material.

Number	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Deposit Thickness
001	Dep	Made Ground	Tr.	Tr.	0.40m
002	Nat	Brickearth	N/A	N/A.	N/A
003	fill	PM 'midden'	10.40	5.00	0.30+
004	Cut	Ditch?	10.40	1.5-5.0	Unknown
005	Dep	Levelling deposit?	Tr.	Tr.	0.30m
006	Mas	Pub building	10.00	8.00	Foundations 0.50+
007	Cut	Cut of foundations	N/A	N/A	N/A
008	Fill	Fill of foundations	N/A	0.20	N/A
009	Cut	Modern intrusions	N/A	N/A	1.20m+
010	Fill	Lower fill of 004	N/A	3.0	0.10+

Table 2: List of recorded contexts

5.0 THE FINDS

5.1 Introduction

- 5.1.1 A small finds assemblage was recovered from context [003], the upper fill of linear feature, [004].

Context	Pottery	Wt (g)	CTP	Wt (g)	Glass	Wt (g)
3	5	234	2	6	1	426

Table 3: Quantification of finds

5.2 The Glass by Elke Raemen

- 5.2.1 A single glass fragment was recovered from [003], consisting of a green glass wine bottle base with low kick (di. 87mm, wt 419g). The base is of late 18th- to 19th- century date.

5.3 The Post-Medieval Pottery by Luke Barber

- 5.3.1 The archaeological work recovered six sherds of late post-medieval pottery, all of which was retrieved from context [003]. The sherds are typically large (to 110mm across) and show no signs of abrasion, suggesting they have not been subjected to reworking. Taken together they suggest a deposition date between c. 1780 and 1810. A single bodysherd from a press-moulded dish in Staffordshire-type combed slipware (32g) is present and may be from slightly earlier in the 18th century. The remaining pieces are all from early blue transfer-printed pearlware. Three vessels are represented: conjoining bodysherds from a jug/jar with Chinese landscape design (3/89g); a base sherd from a plate with foliage design (1/13g) and part of the foot-ring base from a large bowl with Chinese landscape design (1/99g).

5.4 The Clay Tobacco Pipe by Elke Raemen

- 5.4.1 Context [003] contained two clay tobacco pipe (CTP) stem fragments (wt 6g). Both are plain, unmarked and date to c. 1750-1910.

6.0 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSION

6.1 Post-Medieval Feature

6.1.1 A linear feature running roughly north-north-east to south-south-west may be a ditch, boundary or old stream which appears to have been present before the construction of the pub. Its backfill, which includes shell, glass, clay pipe and ceramics, appears to date to the late 18th to early 19th century. The dating of finds is only slightly earlier than the original pub building and could suggest that the feature was put out of use when the site was being adapted from scrubland or pasture for the construction of the pub. However, the glass and ceramics may have been in use for a considerable time prior to deposition and could therefore represent rubbish accumulated during the early life of the pub.

6.2 Later Activity and Truncation to the Site

6.2.1 The archaeological watching brief revealed extensive modern intrusions to the site, the periodic extensions and remodelling of the site over the years appear to have significantly disturbed the underlying deposits and this may be a reason why no archaeology predating the post-medieval period was uncovered

6.2.2 The latest phase of activity appears to have been the levelling of the site with beach gravels.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Barton, K.J. 1965 Worthing Museum Archaeological Notes for 1963. *Sussex Archaeological Collections* 103, 83-93.

BGS 2011 British Geological Survey, Geology of Britain Viewer, accessed 3/8/2011
http://maps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyviewer_google/googleviewer.html

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

ASE would like to thank Avid Construction Ltd for commissioning the work and John Mills, Senior Archaeologist at West Sussex County Council for his continued guidance throughout the project.

HER Summary Form

Site Code	WBP11					
Identification Name and Address	Half Brick Pub, Worthing					
County, District &/or Borough	West Sussex					
OS Grid Refs.	516243 102854					
Geology	Brickearth					
Arch. South-East Project Number	5083					
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. 2/8/11	Other		
Sponsor/Client	Avid Developments Ltd					
Project Manager	Jon Sygrave					
Project Supervisor	Sarah Porteus					
Period Summary	Palaeo.	Meso.	Neo.	BA	IA	RB
	AS	MED	PM ✓	Other Modern		
<p>100 Word Summary.</p> <p>Archaeology South-East undertook a watching brief on the site of the Half Brick Pub, Worthing on behalf of Avid Development Ltd during conversion works. The archaeological watching brief revealed extensive modern intrusions to the site. The periodic extensions and remodelling of the site over the years appear to have significantly disturbed the underlying deposits. A linear feature running roughly north-north-east to south-south-west may be a ditch, boundary or old stream. It was probably present before the original pub building and may have been filled in either during preparation for its construction or during the early life of the pub.</p>						

OASIS Form

OASIS ID: archaeol6-106582

Project details

Project name	Watching brief at Half Brick Pub, Worthing
Short description of the project	Archaeology South-East undertook a watching brief on the site of the Half Brick Pub, Worthing on behalf of Avid Development Ltd during conversion works. The archaeological watching brief revealed extensive modern intrusions to the site. The periodic extensions and remodelling of the site over the years appear to have significantly disturbed the underlying deposits. A linear feature running roughly north-north-east to south-south-west may be a ditch, boundary or old stream. It was probably present before the original pub building and may have been filled in either during preparation for its construction or during the early life of the pub.
Project dates	Start: 02-08-2011 End: 02-08-2011
Previous/future work	No / No
Any associated project reference codes	WBP11 - Sitecode
Any associated project reference codes	5083 - Contracting Unit No.
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	None
Current Land use	Other 2 - In use as a building
Monument type	NONE None
Significant Finds	POT Post Medieval
Investigation type	'Watching Brief'
Prompt	Planning condition
Project location	
Country	England
Site location	WEST SUSSEX WORTHING WORTHING Half Brick Pub
Postcode	BN11 2HA
Study area	200.00 Square metres
Site coordinates	TQ 1624 0285 50.8129496624 -0.349862659298 50 48 46 N 000 20 59 W Point
Project creators	
Name of Organisation	Archaeology South-East
Project brief originator	Archaeology South-East
Project design originator	Archaeology South-East
Project director/manager	Jon Sygrave

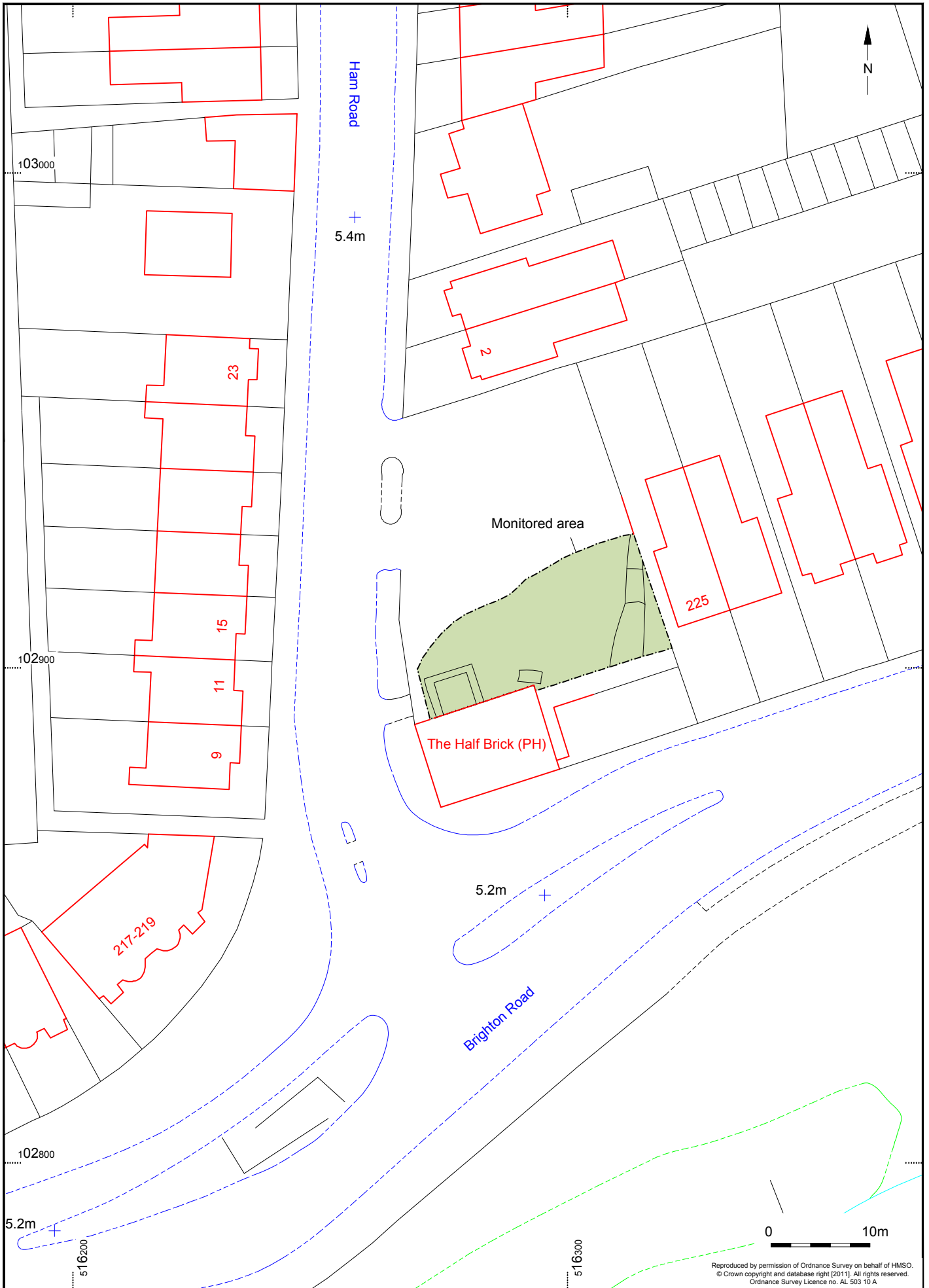
Project supervisor	Sarah Porteus
Type of sponsor/funding body	Developer
Name of sponsor/funding body	Avid Development Ltd
Project archives	
Physical Archive recipient	Worthing Museum
Physical Contents	'Ceramics', 'Glass'
Physical Archive notes	awaits confirmation of acceptance of archive
Digital Archive recipient	Worthing Museum
Digital Contents	'none'
Digital Media available	'Images raster / digital photography'
Paper Archive recipient	Worthing Museum
Paper Contents	'none'
Paper Media available	'Context sheet','Plan','Section','Unpublished Text'
Project bibliography	
1	
Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	An archaeological Watching brief at the Half Brick Pub, Worthing, West Sussex
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Porteus, S.
Other bibliographic details	report 2011192 project 5083
Date	2011
Issuer or publisher	archaeology South-East
Place of issue or publication	Archaeology South-East, Portslade
Description	A4 bound and PDF versions
Entered by	sarah porteus (s.porteus@ucl.ac.uk)
Entered on	3 August 2011



0 1km

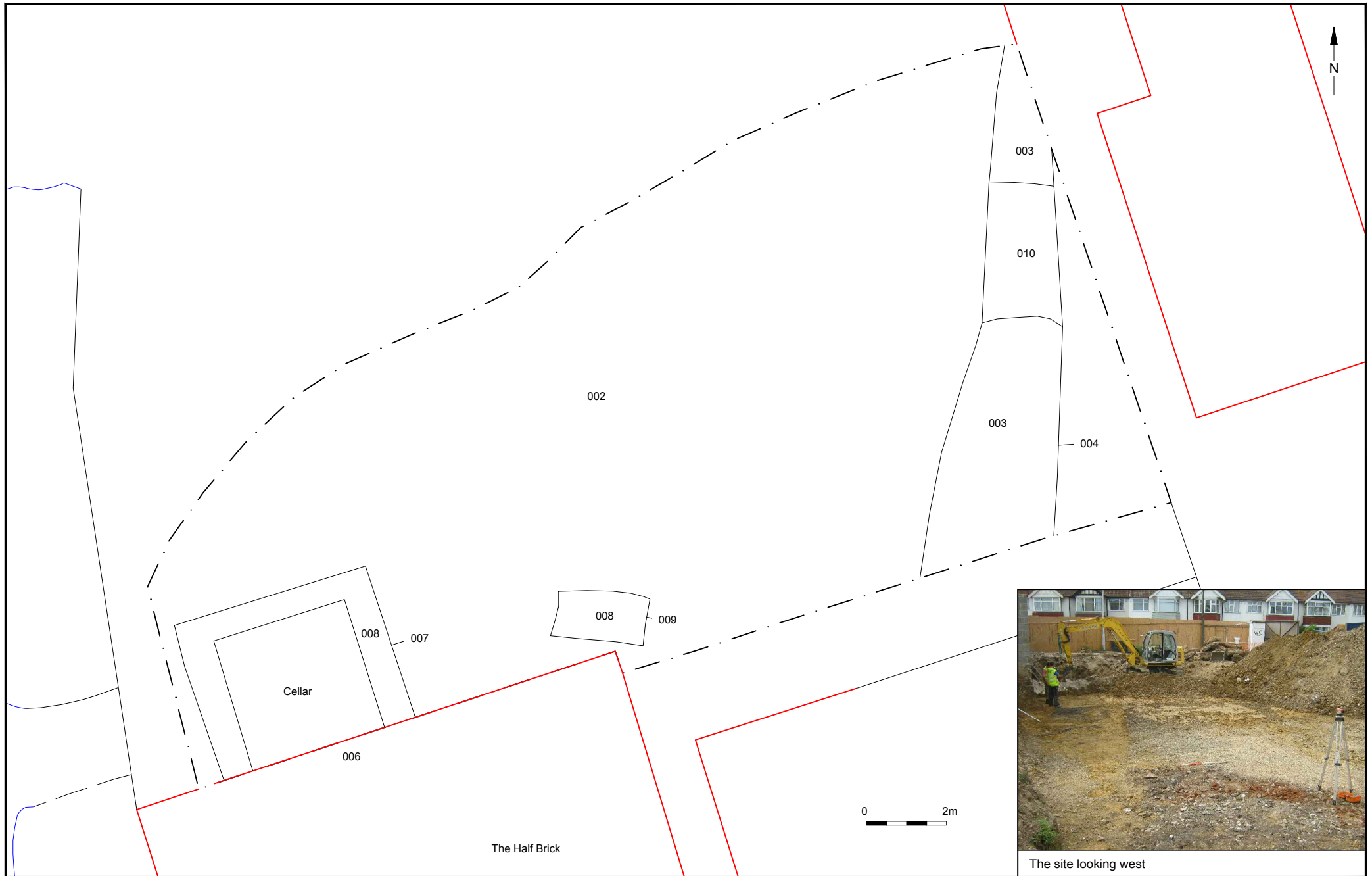
Reproduced from the Ordnance Survey's 1:25000 map of 1997 with permission of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationary Office. Crown Copyright. Licence No. AL 503 10 A

© Archaeology South-East		Half Brick, Worthing	Fig. 1
Project Ref: 5083	Aug 2011	Site location	
Report Ref: 2011192	Drawn by: JLR		



Reproduced by permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of HMSO.
 © Crown copyright and database right (2011). All rights reserved.
 Ordnance Survey Licence no. AL 503 10 A

© Archaeology South-East		Half Brick, Worthing		Fig. 2
Project Ref: 5083	Aug 2011	Site plan		
Report Ref: 2011192	Drawn by: JLR			



© Archaeology South-East		Half Brick, Worthing	Fig. 2
Project Ref: 5083	Aug 2011	Site plan	
Report Ref: 2011192	Drawn by: JLR		

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

The contracts division of the Centre for Applied Archaeology, University College London 

©Archaeology South-East