Archaeology South-East

ASE

Archaeological Evaluation Report Rapkyns Care Centre, Guildford Road Broadbridge Heath, Horsham West Sussex

NGR 513490 132280

Horsham District Council Planning Reference DC/10/1889

Project No: 5040 Site Code: RCB11

ASE Report No: 2011233 OASIS ID: archaeol6-111201

By Simon Stevens BA MIFA with a contribution by Karine Le Hégarat

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Abstract

Archaeology South-East was commissioned by Gerry Lytle Associates Ltd. to undertake an archaeological evaluation on land at the Rapkyns Care Centre, Guildford Road, Broadbridge Heath, Horsham, West Sussex in advance of redevelopment. Nineteen evaluation trenches were excavated.

No archaeological features or deposits were encountered and topsoil finds were limited to occasional small pieces of fire-cracked flint. In itself, the presence of small quantities of fire-cracked flint is not indicative of any significant level of human occupation at the site, and is probably the result of the intermittent hunter/gatherer activity.

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Site Background

1.1.1 Archaeology South-East (ASE), a division of University College London Centre for Applied Archaeology (UCLCAA) was commissioned by Gerry Lytle Associates Ltd. to undertake an archaeological evaluation on land at the Rapkyns Care Centre, Guildford Road, Broadbridge Heath, Horsham, West Sussex (NGR 513490 118890; Fig. 1).

1.2 Topography and Geology

- 1.2.1 The site is an irregular plot of waste ground covering an area of approximately 2.5ha, at a height of *c*. 50m AOD. It is bounded by woodland to the north and north-west, and on the west side by the buildings and car park of the existing care centre. There is a trackway overhung by mature trees to the east and a metalled access road to the south.
- 1.2.2 According to current data from the British Geological Survey the underlying bedrock forms part of the Horsham Stone Formation, with Weald Clay immediately to the south and east. There is no available information on the superficial geology at the site (BGS 2011).

1.3 Planning Background

1.3.1 Planning permission has been granted for the construction of additional special care facilities at the site (Horsham District Planning Reference: DC/10/1889). Having considered the application, John Mills, Senior Archaeologist at West Sussex County Council (WSCC) recommended to Horsham DC that a condition be attached to the planning consent for the undertaking of a programme of archaeological work. Condition 17 states:

"The developer shall arrange for an archaeological organisation or appropriately qualified archaeologists to observe the excavation and record archaeological evidence that may be uncovered as a result of the development in accordance with a written scheme of investigation which shall be submitted to and approved by the Local Planning Authority prior to the commencement of development."

REASON: To enable items of archaeological interest to be recorded in accordance with the policy DC10 of the Horsham District Local Development Framework: General Development Control Policies (2007).'

- 1.3.2 Initially WSCC recommended the instigation of an archaeological watching brief during the groundworks at the site. However, following further discussions with the client and WSCC it was agreed to undertake 5% evaluation trenching at the outset of the project to define the presence or absence of archaeological remains, enabling mitigation of any archaeology in such a way as to avoid delays to construction work.
- 1.3.3 A *Written Scheme of Investigation* (WSI) was duly produced for this work by ASE (ASE 2011) and approved by WSCC before the commencement of

work. It outlined the methodologies to be used at the site, and the circumstances in which further archaeological work might be required.

1.4 Aims and Objectives

- 1.4.1 The principle objectives of the archaeological work laid out in the *Written Scheme of Investigation (ibid)* were:
 - 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
 - How any such remains might be affected by the development of the site
 - Whether particularly important remains should be preserved in situ
 - What options should be considered for mitigation
- 1.4.2 The ultimate aim is to make public the results of the archaeological evaluation, subject to any confidentiality restrictions.

1.5 Scope of Report

1.5.1 The current report provides results of the archaeological work at the site carried out in late September and early October 2011 by a team comprising Simon Stevens (Senior Archaeologist), John Cook and Rob Cole (Archaeological Surveyors). The project was managed by Andy Leonard (Project Manager) and by Jim Stevenson (Post-Excavation Manager).

2.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 The West Sussex County Council Historic Environment Record was consulted. It contains the following entries within a 1km radius of the current site (plotted on Fig. 1):

HER No. MWS57	Strood Park – historic garden and parkscape
HER No. MWS58	Historic parkscape known from cartographic sources
HER No. MWS5327	Partially buried WWII pill-box. Type 24
HER No. MWS6664	Slinford Mill – historic watermill with above-ground remains
HER No. MWS6665	Struck flints found close to bridle path near Rowfold Farm
HER No. MWS7244	Field name 'Battle Mead Field' known from cartographic sources

- 2.2 This paucity of known sites is probably the result of the rarity of systematic archaeological fieldwork in this part of the Weald, and of that, much has been undertaken in the town of Horsham itself (e.g. Stevens 2008). However, the general Horsham area is known for the quality of Mesolithic flintwork from a number of sites (Butler 2008). Recent fieldwork near Horsham has uncovered significant assemblages of this material resulting from the exploitation of the area by groups of hunter/gatherers (Stevens 2009).
- 2.3 Findspots of material from other periods have proved elusive away from the centre of Horsham, even during fieldwalking projects, where only limited quantities of medieval and larger groups of post-medieval material have been found (e.g. to the south-east of Broadbridge Heath: ASE 2009). Roman finds have proved equally unforthcoming, with the most easterly Wealden ironworks located some way to the west and no evidence of a local villa system (Rudling 1999, 25). The extensive Roman settlement at Alfoldean, which straddles Roman Stane Street lies *c*.2km to the west (Luke & Wells 2000)

3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY

- 3.1 Twenty x 30m evaluation trenches with a cumulative length of 600m providing a c.5% sample of the site were investigated. The location of each of the trenches was scanned prior to excavation with a CAT scanner. The archaeological evaluation trenches were then excavated by a 15 tonne 360° excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket under constant supervision of ASE staff.
- 3.2 The mechanical excavation was taken down to the top of 'natural' geological deposits. Care was taken not to damage any potential archaeological deposits. Revealed surfaces of the 'natural' were then manually cleaned in an attempt to identify archaeological features. Spoil was scanned for the presence of artefacts, both visually and with a metal detector.
- 3.3 All encountered archaeological deposits, features and finds were recorded to accepted professional standards using standard ASE context record forms. Deposit colours were recorded by visual inspection and not by reference to a Munsell Colour chart.
- 3.4 A full photographic record of the work was kept and will form part of the site archive. The site archive is currently held by ASE at the offices in Portslade, and has been accepted for deposition at Horsham Museum. It will be deposited in due course, under the accession number HDM: 2011.276. The archive consists of the following material:

Number of Contexts	57
No. of files/paper record	1
Plan and sections sheets	-
Bulk Samples	-
Photographs	27 digital images
Bulk finds	-
Registered finds	-
Environmental flots/residue	-

Table 1: Quantification of Site Archive

4.0 **RESULTS** (Figure 2)

4.1 Introduction

4.1.1 A total of 19 x 30m long trenches were excavated. One of the trenches (T4) could not be excavated owing to the presence of substantial piles of demolition debris, and Trenches 1, 2, 3, 5 and 7 were moved slightly from the prescribed locations shown in the WSI (ASE 2011) to avoid this, and buried services.

4.2 Trench 1

Context Number	Туре	Description	Max. Deposit Thickness
1/001	Deposit	Topsoil	190mm
1/002	Deposit	Subsoil	330mm
1/003	Deposit	'Natural'	-

- 4.2.1 Trench 1 was excavated to a length of 30m and to a depth of 450mm (47.54mAOD) at the northern end and to 390mm (47.85mAOD) at the southern end at which the 'natural' was encountered and mechanical excavation ceased. The overburden consisted of two distinct layers. The uppermost was context [1/001], a mid-brown silty clay topsoil. It overlay context [1/002], an orangey brown silty clay subsoil, which directly overlay the 'natural', a brownish orange clay with grey mottling and patches of laminar Horsham stone and manganese staining.
- 4.2.2 No archaeological deposits or features were encountered, and only firecracked flint was recovered from the overburden.

4.3 Trench 2

Context Number	Туре	Description	Max. Deposit Thickness
2/001	Deposit	Topsoil	210mm
2/002	Deposit	Subsoil	300mm
2/003	Deposit	'Natural'	-

- 4.3.1 Trench 2 was excavated to a length of 30m and to a depth of 310mm (47.79mAOD) at the northern end and to 360mm (47.98mAOD) at the southern end at which the 'natural' was encountered and mechanical excavation ceased. The two layers of overburden and the 'natural' were similar in character to those found in Trench 1.
- 4.3.2 No archaeological deposits or features were encountered, and only firecracked flint was recovered from the overburden.

4.4 Trench 3

Context Number	Туре	Description	Max. Deposit Thickness
3/001	Deposit	Topsoil	150mm
3/002	Deposit	Subsoil	320mm
3/003	Deposit	'Natural'	-

- 4.4.1 Trench 3 was excavated to a length of 30m and to a depth of 630mm (47.92mAOD) at the northern end and to 270mmmm (47.97mAOD) at the southern end at which the 'natural' was encountered and mechanical excavation ceased. The two layers of overburden and the 'natural' were similar in character to those found in Trench 1.
- 4.4.2 No archaeological deposits or features were encountered, and only firecracked flint was recovered from the overburden.

4.5 Trench 5

Context Number	Туре	Description	Max. Deposit Thickness
5/001	Deposit	Topsoil	220mm
5/002	Deposit	Subsoil	250mm
5/003	Deposit	'Natural'	-

- 4.5.1 Trench 5 was excavated to a length of 30m and to a depth of 470mm (47.33mAOD) at the northern end and to 360mm (47.78mAOD) at the southern end at which the 'natural' was encountered and mechanical excavation ceased. The two layers of overburden and the 'natural' were similar in character to those encountered in Trench 1.
- 4.5.2 No archaeological deposits or features were encountered, and only firecracked flint was recovered from the overburden.

4.6 Trench 6

Context Number	Туре	Description	Max. Deposit Thickness
6/001	Deposit	Topsoil	150mm
6/002	Deposit	Subsoil	290mm
6/003	Deposit	'Natural'	-

4.6.1 Trench 6 was excavated to a length of 30m and to a depth of 360mm (47.55mAOD) at the western end and to 310mm (47.97mAOD) at the eastern end at which the 'natural' was encountered and mechanical excavation ceased. The two layers of overburden and the 'natural' were similar in character to those found in Trench 1. No archaeological deposits or features were encountered.

4.7 Trench 7

Context Number	Туре	Description	Max. Deposit Thickness
7/001	Deposit	Topsoil	160mm
7/002	Deposit	Subsoil	290mm
7/003	Deposit	'Natural'	-

4.7.1 Trench 7 was excavated to a length of 30m and to a depth of 310mm (47.99mAOD) at the western end and to 380mm (48.36mAOD) at the eastern end at which the 'natural' was encountered and mechanical excavation ceased. The two layers of overburden and the 'natural' were similar in character to those found in Trench 1. No archaeological deposits or features were encountered.

4.8 Trench 8

Context Number	Туре	Description	Max. Deposit Thickness
8/001	Deposit	Topsoil	220mm
8/002	Deposit	Subsoil	190mm
8/003	Deposit	'Natural'	-

4.8.1 Trench 3 was excavated to a length of 30m and to a depth of 310mm (47.14mAOD) at the northern end and also to 310mm (47.40mAOD) at the southern end at which the 'natural' was encountered and mechanical excavation ceased. The two layers of overburden and the 'natural' were similar in character to those encountered in Trench 1. No archaeological deposits or features were encountered.

4.9 Trench 9

Context Number	Туре	Description	Max. Deposit Thickness
9/001	Deposit	Topsoil	190mm
9/002	Deposit	Subsoil	310mm
9/003	Deposit	'Natural'	-

- 4.9.1 Trench 9 was excavated to a length of 30m and to a depth of 200mm (47.39mAOD) at the western end and to 430mm (47.72mAOD) at the eastern end at which the 'natural' was encountered and mechanical excavation ceased. The two layers of overburden and the 'natural' were similar in character to those found in Trench 1.
- 4.9.2 No archaeological deposits or features were encountered, and only firecracked flint was recovered from the overburden.

4.10 Trench 10

Context Number	Туре	Description	Max. Deposit Thickness
10/001	Deposit	Topsoil	200mm
10/002	Deposit	Subsoil	290mm
10/003	Deposit	'Natural'	-

4.10.1 Trench 10 was excavated to a length of 30m and to a depth of 410mm (47.63mAOD) at the northern end and to 270mm (48.07mAOD) at the southern end at which the 'natural' was encountered and mechanical excavation ceased. The two layers of overburden and the 'natural' were similar in character to those found in Trench 1. No archaeological deposits or features were encountered.

4.11 Trench 11

Context Number	Туре	Description	Max. Deposit Thickness
11/001	Deposit	Topsoil	190mm
11/002	Deposit	Subsoil	250mm
11/003	Deposit	'Natural'	-

4.11.1 Trench 11 was excavated to a length of 30m and to a depth of 320mm (46.37mAOD) at the western end and to 360mm (46.82mAOD) at the eastern end at which the 'natural' was encountered and mechanical excavation ceased. The two layers of overburden and the 'natural' were similar in character to those found in Trench 1. No archaeological deposits or features were encountered.

4.12 Trench 12

Context Number	Туре	Description	Max. Deposit Thickness
12/001	Deposit	Topsoil	210mm
12/002	Deposit	Subsoil	280mm
12/003	Deposit	'Natural'	-

4.12.1 Trench 12 was excavated to a length of 30m and to a depth of 270mm (47.03mAOD) at the northern end and to 310mm (47.42mAOD) at the southern end at which the 'natural' was encountered and mechanical excavation ceased. The two layers of overburden and the 'natural' were similar in character to those found in Trench 1. No archaeological deposits or features were encountered.

4.13 Trench 13

Context Number	Туре	Description	Max. Deposit Thickness
13/001	Deposit	Topsoil	200mm
13/002	Deposit	Subsoil	210mm
13/003	Deposit	'Natural'	-

4.13.1 Trench 13 was excavated to a length of 30m and to a depth of 340mm (46.27mAOD) at the northern end and to 280mm (46.54mAOD) at the southern end at which the 'natural' was encountered and mechanical excavation ceased. The two layers of overburden and the 'natural' were similar in character to those found in Trench 1. No archaeological deposits or features were encountered.

4.14 Trench 14

Context Number	Туре	Description	Max. Deposit Thickness
14/001	Deposit	Topsoil	210mm
14/002	Deposit	Subsoil	270mm
14/003	Deposit	'Natural'	-

4.14.1 Trench 14 was excavated to a length of 30m and to a depth of 310mm (46.70mAOD) at the western end and to 270mm (47.18mAOD) at the eastern end at which the 'natural' was encountered and mechanical excavation ceased. The two layers of overburden and the 'natural' were similar in character to those found in Trench 1. No archaeological deposits or features were encountered.

4.15 Trench 15

Context Number	Туре	Description	Max. Deposit Thickness
15/001	Deposit	Topsoil	180mm
15/002	Deposit	Subsoil	210mm
15/003	Deposit	'Natural'	-

4.15.1 Trench 15 was excavated to a length of 30m and to a depth of 340mm (46.99mAOD) at the northern end and to 260mm (47.38mAOD) at the southern end at which the 'natural' was encountered and mechanical excavation ceased. The two layers of overburden and the 'natural' were similar in character to those found in Trench 1. No archaeological deposits or features were encountered.

4.16 Trench 16

Context Number	Туре	Description	Max. Deposit Thickness
16/001	Deposit	Topsoil	220mm
16/002	Deposit	Subsoil	310mm
16/003	Deposit	'Natural'	-

4.16.1 Trench 16 was excavated to a length of 30m and to a depth of 350mm (45.56mAOD) at the western end and to 360mm (45.79mAOD) at the eastern end at which the 'natural' was encountered and mechanical excavation ceased. The two layers of overburden and the 'natural' were similar in character to those found in Trench 1. No archaeological deposits or features were encountered.

4.17 Trench 17

Context Number	Туре	Description	Max. Deposit Thickness
17/001	Deposit	Topsoil	200mm
17/002	Deposit	Subsoil	270mm
17/003	Deposit	'Natural'	-

4.17.1 Trench 17 was excavated to a length of 30m and to a depth of 350mm (46.18mAOD) at the northern end and to 320mm (46.27mAOD) at the southern end at which the 'natural' was encountered and mechanical excavation ceased. The two layers of overburden and the 'natural' were similar in character to those found in Trench 1. No archaeological deposits or features were encountered.

4.18 Trench 18

Context Number	Туре	Description	Max. Deposit Thickness
18/001	Deposit	Topsoil	210mm
18/002	Deposit	Subsoil	310mm
18/003	Deposit	'Natural'	-

4.18.1 Trench 18 was excavated to a length of 30m and to a depth of 520mm (46.30mAOD) at the western end and to 360mm (46.84mAOD) at the eastern end at which the 'natural' was encountered and mechanical excavation ceased. The two layers of overburden and the 'natural' were similar in character to those found in Trench 1. No archaeological deposits or features were encountered.

4.19 Trench 19

Context Number	Туре	Description	Max. Deposit Thickness
19/001	Deposit	Topsoil	220mm
19/002	Deposit	Subsoil	270mm
19/003	Deposit	'Natural'	-

4.19.1 Trench 19 was excavated to a length of 30m and to a depth of 240mm (45.80mAOD) at the western end and to 380mm (45.70mAOD) at the eastern end at which the 'natural' was encountered and mechanical excavation ceased. The two layers of overburden and the 'natural' were similar in character to those found in Trench 1. No archaeological deposits or features were encountered.

4.20 Trench 20

Context Number	Туре	Description	Max. Deposit Thickness
20/001	Deposit	Topsoil	200mm
20/002	Deposit	Subsoil	320mm
20/003	Deposit	'Natural'	-

4.20.1 Trench 20 was excavated to a length of 30m and to a depth of 240mm (46.40mAOD) at the northern end and to 210mm (46.64mAOD) at the southern end at which the 'natural' was encountered and mechanical excavation ceased. The two layers of overburden and the 'natural' were similar in character to those found in Trench 1. No archaeological deposits or features were encountered.

5.0 THE FINDS

5.1 Introduction

5.1.1 A very limited assemblage of artefacts was recovered from the overburden, consisting entirely of pieces of fire-cracked flint.

5.2 **The Flintwork by** Karine Le Hégarat

5.2.1 Nine unstratified unworked burnt flints weighing 128g were recovered during the course of the evaluation at the site (Table 2). All the burnt flintwork has been heavily calcinated to a light grey and white colour. Burnt unworked flint often indicates prehistoric activities. However, this assemblage is too small to have any potential for further study.

Context	Burnt unworked flint No	Wt. (g)	
U/S T1	1	32	
U/S T2	4	44	
U/S T3	1	6	
U/S T5	2	8	
U/S T9	1	38	
	9	128	

Table 2: Flintwork

6.0 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

- 6.1 No significant archaeological deposits or features were encountered in any of the evaluation trenches. The assemblage of finds from the overburden was limited to small pieces of fire-cracked flint, and adds little to the understanding of the past of this part of the Weald.
- 6.2 In itself, the presence of such small quantities of fire-cracked flint is not indicative of any significant level of human occupation at the site, and is probably the result of the intermittent hunter/gatherer activity which has left more tangible traces elsewhere in the Horsham area (See Paragraph 2.1 above).
- 6.3 Therefore, based on currently available, evidence it seems highly unlikely that any archaeological deposits will be disturbed during the proposed development work at the site.

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

ASE would like to thank Gerry Lytle Associates Ltd. for commissioning the work and Mark Taylor, County Archaeologist, West Sussex County Council for his guidance throughout the project.

HER Summary Form

Site Code	RCB11							
Identification Name and Address	Rapkyns Car Centre, Guildford Road, Broadbridge Heath							
County, District &/or Borough	Horsham [Horsham District, West Sussex						
OS Grid Refs.	513490 13	2280						
Geology	Horsham S	Stone						
Arch. South-East Project Number	5040	5040						
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. 29.09.11 - 01.10.11	Excav.	WB.	Other				
Sponsor/Client	Gerry Lytle	Associates	Ltd.	·				
Project Manager	Andy Leon	ard/Jim Stev	venson					
Project Supervisor	Simon Ste	vens						
Period Summary	Palaeo.	Meso. ?✓	Neo.	BA	IA	RB		
	AS	MED	PM	Other				

Archaeology South-East was commissioned by Gerry Lytle Associates Ltd. to undertake an archaeological evaluation on land at the Rapkyns Care Centre, Guildford Road, Broadbridge Heath, Horsham, West Sussex in advance of redevelopment. Nineteen evaluation trenches were excavated.

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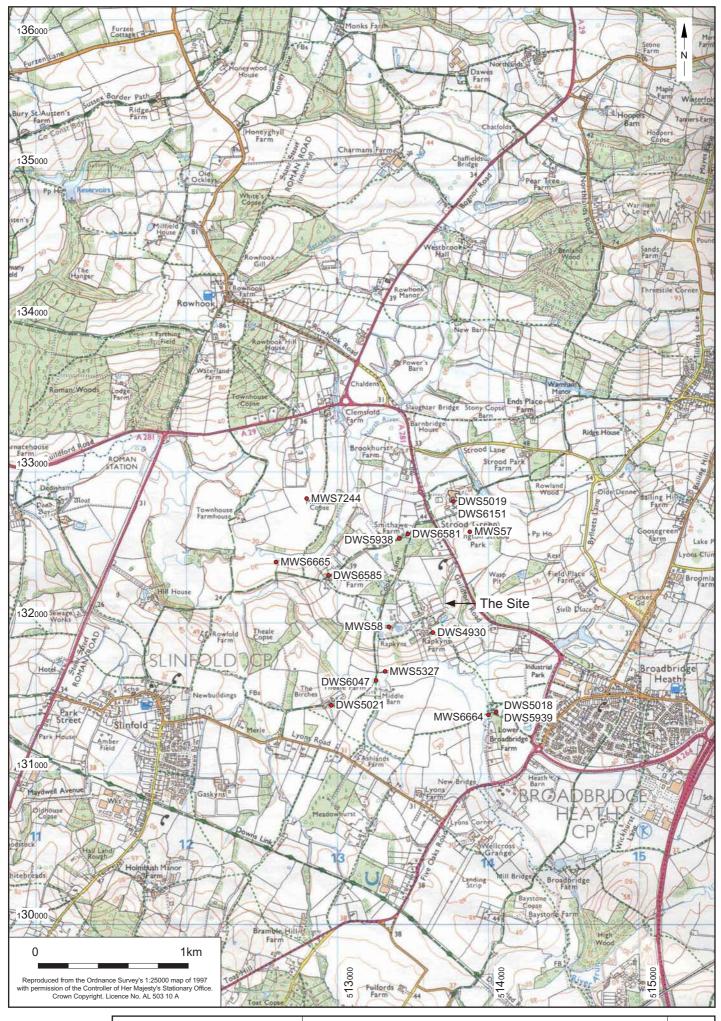
OASIS Form

OASIS ID: archaeol6-111201

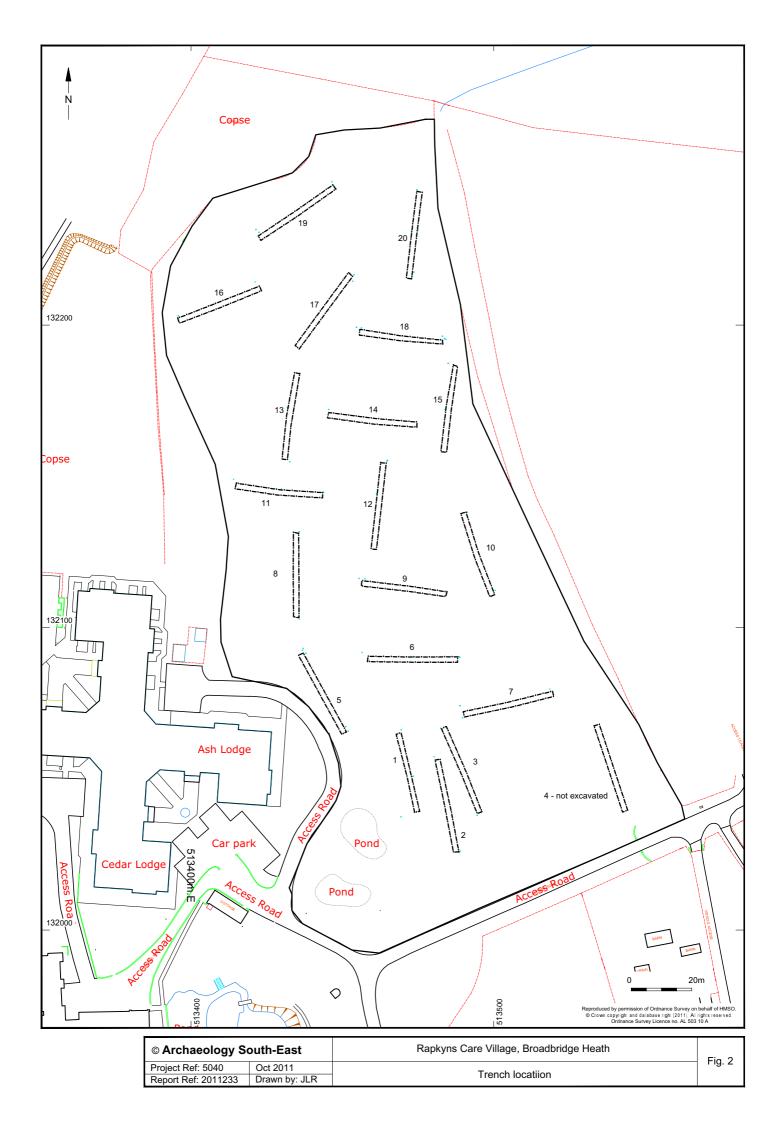
Project details			
Project name	An Archaeological Evaluation at Rapkyns Care Centre, Guildford Road, Broadbridge Heath, Horsham, West Sussex		
Short description of the project	Archaeology South-East was commissioned by Gerry Lytle Associates Ltd. to undertake an archaeological evaluation on land at the Rapkyns Care Centre, Guildford Road, Broadbridge Heath, Horsham, West Sussex in advance of redevelopment. Nineteen evaluation trenches were excavated. No archaeological features or deposits were encountered and topsoil finds were limited to occasional small pieces of fire-cracked flint. In itself, the presence of small quantities of fire-cracked flint is not indicative of any significant level of human occupation at the site, and is probably the result of the intermittent hunter/gatherer activity.		
Project dates	Start: 29-09-2011 End: 01-10-2011		
Previous/future work	No / Not known		
Any associated project reference codes	5040 - Contracting Unit No.		
Any associated project reference codes	RCB11 - Sitecode		
Any associated project reference codes	DC/10/1889 - Planning Application No.		
Type of project	Field evaluation		
Site status	None		
Current Land use	Other 13 - Waste ground		
Monument type	NONE None		
Significant Finds	NONE None		
Methods & techniques	'Sample Trenches'		
Development type	Public building (e.g. school, church, hospital, medical centre, law courts etc.)		
Prompt	Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPS		
Position in the planning process	After full determination (eg. As a condition)		

Project location				
Country	England			
Site location	WEST SUSSEX HORSHAM BROADBRIDGE HEATH Rapkyns Care Centre, Guildford Road			
Postcode	RH12 3PQ			
Study area	2.50 Hectares			
Site coordinates	TQ 1349 3228 51.0780649866 -0.379711489886 51 04 41 N 000 22 46 W Point			
Height OD / Depth	Min: 45.00m Max: 55.00m			
Project creators				
Name of Organisation	Archaeology South-East			
Project brief originator	West Sussex County Council			
Project design originator	Archaeology South-East			
Project director/manager	Andy Leonard/Jim Stevenson			
Project supervisor	Simon Stevens			
Type of sponsor/funding body	Client			
Name of sponsor/funding body	Gerry Lytle Associates Ltd.			
Project archives				
Physical Archive Exists?	No			
Digital Archive recipient	Horsham Museum			
Digital Archive ID	HDM: 2011.276			
Digital Contents	'other'			
Digital Media available	'Images raster / digital photography'			
Paper Archive	Horsham Museum			

recipient			
Paper Archive ID	HDM: 2011.276		
Paper Contents	'other'		
Paper Media available	'Context sheet','Report','Unpublished Text'		
Project bibliography 1			
Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)		
Title	An Archaeological Evaluation at Rapkyns Care Centre, Guildford Road, Broadbridge Heath, Horsham,West Sussex		
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© Archaeology South-East		Rapkyns Care Village, Broadbridge Heath	Fig. 1
Project Ref: 5040	Oct 2011	Site location	rig. i
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