

**Archaeological Watching Brief Report  
Becket's Barn, Church Farm Holiday Village  
Pagham, West Sussex**

**NGR 488422, 097396**

**Planning Application No: P/91/10, P/124/10**

**Project No: 4834  
Site Code: PHP10**

**ASE Report No: 2011225  
OASIS id: archaeol6-112840**

**By Greg Priestley-Bell**

**With a contributions by  
Lucy Allott, Karine Le Hegarat  
Sarah Porteus and Elke Raemen**

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**Abstract**

*Archaeology South-East was commissioned by A & M Architectural Partnership to undertake an archaeological watching brief on land at Becket's Barn, Church Farm Holiday Village, Pagham, West Sussex.*

*The site lies within the curtilage of Scheduled Ancient Monument 219 (West Sussex), Becket's Barn. The earliest remains identified consisted of possible burnt mound material which if verified may date to the Middle or Late Bronze Age. With the exception of a single sherd of Roman pottery from the alluvium, the watching brief did not identify any more evidence for the Romano-British or Saxon activity recorded during previous investigations. Chronologically, the next significant remains identified on the site probably represented a circular pigeon house that was perhaps an element of the original 13<sup>th</sup>-century Pagham Rectory complex. The origins of the earthworks to the south and east of Becket's Barn remain unclear, although they probably date to medieval or early post-medieval period.*

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## **1.0 INTRODUCTION**

### **1.1 Site Background**

- 1.1.1 Archaeology South-East (ASE; a division of The Centre for Applied Archaeology, CAA; at the Institute of Archaeology, IoA; University College London, UCL) has been commissioned by A & M Architectural Partnership on behalf of their client Bourne Leisure Ltd to undertake an archaeological watching brief following on from evaluation on land at Becket's Barn, Church Farm Holiday Village, Pagham, West Sussex (NGR SZ 88422 97396; Figure 1) during development.

### **1.2 Geology and Topography**

- 1.2.1 The site lies within the curtilage of Scheduled Ancient Monument 219 (West Sussex); Becket's Barn. The site is currently open lawn bounded to the north by Becket's Barn, to the east by a bowling green, to the south by tennis courts and to the west by a fenced caravan park. The 1:50 000 Geological Survey Drift Geology Map of Great Britain (Sheet 332) shows the subject site on the edge of the brickearth and the alluvium (tidal flat deposits) at the northern boundary of Pagham Harbour.

### **1.3 Planning Background**

- 1.3.1 Planning permission has been granted by Arun District Council under Planning Reference: P/124/10/ (resubmission following P/91/10) for the construction of a new building adjacent to the existing central reception building to provide an owners leisure and relaxation facility. Condition 4 of the planning permission states:

*The developer shall arrange for an archaeological organisation or appropriately qualified archaeologists to observe the excavations 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 ensure that archaeological remains on the site shall be adequately investigated and recorded in accordance with Arun District Local Plan policy AREA17 and PPS5.*

- 1.3.2 A Written Scheme of Investigation (ASE 2011) for the archaeological watching brief was prepared in compliance with Condition 4 of the above mentioned planning consent and forthcoming Scheduled Monument Consent. Excavations as detailed below were monitored by a qualified archaeologist. The work was monitored by Richard Massey, English Heritage (EH) and the Archaeological Officers of West Sussex County Council (WSSCC).
- 1.3.3 All work was carried out in accordance with the WSI (unless otherwise specified), and the relevant *Standards and Guidance* of the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA 2001), as well as with reference to West Sussex County Council's, *Recommended Standard Archaeological Conditions* (WSSCC 1999), henceforth referred to as The Standard Conditions.

## **1.4 Aims and Objectives**

- 1.4.1 The general objective of the archaeological work is to monitor all intrusive ground works (i.e. foundations, drainage, general landscaping, etc.) 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 the groundworks.

## **1.5 Scope of Report**

- 1.5.1 This report details the results the watching brief undertaken by John Cook, Nick Garland, Kathy Grant, Andy Margetts, Sarah Porteus and Greg Priestley-Bell between the 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2010 and 28<sup>th</sup> July 2010. The project was managed by Neil Griffin (fieldwork) and Jim Stevenson (post-excavation).

## **2.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND**

- 2.1 Becket's Barn is one of the surviving buildings of the former Pagham Rectory, the earliest record of which dates to 1291 (VCH 227-233). The wider site is thought to have once contained a granary. Depressions to the south of the barn have been interpreted as fish ponds and a moat or sluices associated with Pagham Mill which is thought to lie to the south east of the site (Collins and Fleming 1958, 138).
- 2.2 Three significant archaeological investigations have been undertaken at Becket's Barn or in its immediate environs in modern times. Between 1956 and 1957, excavations within the barn itself revealed a series of medieval/post-medieval floors and an internal wall (Collins and Fleming 1958). A cobbled surface, subsequently re-excavated in 1974 (see below) was found in a trench to the north of the barn.
- 2.3 In 1974, four trenches were excavated, two to the north, one within the barn and one immediately to the south (Gregory 1976). Three phases of activity were identified: Romano-British, Saxon and medieval. Romano-British remains comprised c. 2<sup>nd</sup>-century AD drainage ditches. Saxon remains included an 8<sup>th</sup>-century AD cobbled path (previously recorded during the 1956-7 excavations) and a probable midden. The cobbled surface was cut by several ditches and a small gulley, which contained carbonised grain and charcoal dated to 820 +/- 60 A.D. Medieval mortar floor levels dating to the later 13<sup>th</sup> – early 14<sup>th</sup> century were recorded within the barn, while the footings of a corridor or pentice were revealed against the south wall of the barn. Further to the north, medieval ditches, a probable floor and 14<sup>th</sup>-century rubbish pits were also recorded.
- 2.4 In 1993, South Eastern Archaeological Services (SEAS; Gardiner 1993) excavated 2 evaluation trenches to the south of the barn (Figure 2). Prehistoric and Saxo-Norman pottery was recovered from a later deposit, but no associated features were identified. The 'corridor' recorded in 1974 was re-excavated and interpreted as a possible later garden feature, while an undated area of possible stone paving was uncovered further to the south.
- 2.5 In 1994, SEAS excavated an evaluation trench in the churchyard (Kirk 1994). The work revealed 2 unurned Middle Bronze Age cremations.
- 2.6 Two further archaeological investigations in the area are worthy of note. In 1954, a Saxon cinerary urn of suggested late 6<sup>th</sup>- to 7<sup>th</sup>-century date was found in St Thomas a Becket's churchyard to the north-west of the barn (Collins 1955, 123-5). In 1990, the Trust for Wessex Archaeology excavated a trench to the east of Church Farm and carried out field-walking in a field to the west of the Holiday Village (Heaton and Trott 1990).
- 2.7 Archaeology South-East excavated 2 evaluation trenches prior to the watching brief (ASE 2010). Trench 1 was taken down to the top of the alluvium at between 1.63m – 1.93m AOD: two N-S ditches or channels were revealed at the base a fragment of probably medieval floor tile was recovered from one. These features almost certainly represented the edges of a c. 10m wide x 60m long linear depression; this was an element of extensive earthworks on the site which have been variously interpreted as fish ponds or sluices related to a suggested tide-mill immediately to the south. Trench 2 was taken down to the top of the alluvium at 1.65m AOD: a pattern of fine cracking in the alluvium and the presence of a thin overlying deposit of humified peat was evidence for the relatively rapid drying out of this area of the site.



### **3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY**

- 3.1 An archaeologist was in constant attendance during intrusive works, unless specifically excluded by the WSCC Archaeological Officer and/or EH Inspector. All ground reduction was either undertaken by hand or by a machine fitted with a toothless bucket. Ground reduction was undertaken in careful spits of no greater than 200mm depth.
- 3.2 The archaeologist inspected all revealed surfaces and spoil from the excavations. Any archaeological structures or features revealed were recorded in plan and section as appropriate.
- 3.3 The ground works contractor allowed the archaeological contractor reasonable time and resources to undertake any inspection or recording as required.
- 3.4 All archaeological features and deposits were recorded using the standard context record sheets used by ASE. Excavation strategy was in accordance with Annexe B of the Standard Conditions (WSCC 1999).
- 3.6 Archaeological structures, features and deposits exposed or excavated were planned on plastic drafting sheets and then digitally rectified with reference to the national grid with heights in respect to m AOD.
- 3.7 A photographic record was maintained throughout the duration of the watching brief.
- 3.8 Full details of the excavation, recording and sampling techniques used are contained within the WSI.
- 3.9 The site archive is currently held at ASE offices in and has been accepted by Chichester District Museum (Accession Number CHCDM: 2011.4) where it will be deposited at the end of the project.

Number of Contexts	34
No. of files/paper record	1
Plan and sections sheets	1
Bulk Samples	2
Photographs Digital	32
B+W	6
CS	6
Bulk finds	1 box
Registered finds	-
Environmental flots/residue	2 sample

Table 1: Quantification of site archive

## 4.0 RESULTS (Figures 2-5)

### 4.1 Area A: Footprint of new building (north-east), including scaffolding pads and surface drainage

Context	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Deposit Thickness	Height m. AOD
001	Layer	Topsoil			0.15m	2.58
002	Layer	Modern made ground			0.25m	2.43
003	Deposit	peat			0.15m	2.18
011	Layer	trample			0.03m	2.03
010	Deposit	Dump deposit			0.38m	2.00
004	Deposit	Dump deposit			0.28m	2.00
035	Deposit	Dump deposit			0.28m	1.88
008	Cut					1.82
009	Fill				0.52m	
005	Deposit	Alluvium			N/A	1.82

Table 2: Contexts – Area A: Footprint of new building (north-east)

- 4.1.1 Topsoil [001] consisting of dark greyish brown slightly clayey sandy silt with occasional CBM, flint cobbles, pebbles and rooting, overlay made ground [002] consisting of mid/dark yellowish brown clayey silt/silty clay with frequent pebbles and occasional CBM, wood, plastic and iron. Layer [002] overlay peat [003] consisting of very dark reddish brown slightly clayey silt.
- 4.1.2 Deposit [003] overlay a discontinuous compacted layer [011] up to 30mm thick and consisting of light whitish grey very silty sand with 40% mortar fragments and occasional tile fragments. Layer [011] overlay two dump deposits: [010] measuring up to 380mm thick and consisting of mid yellowish brown silty clay with occasional flint pebbles and stone fragments, and [004] measuring up to 280mm thick and consisting of light whitish yellow sandy silt with 80% lime mortar, 5% chalk fragments and 5% stone fragments. Below [004] lay a further discrete dump deposit [035], measuring 800mm long and 280mm deep, and of similar character to [010].
- 4.1.3 Deposits [004], [010] and [035] overlay a cut [008], measuring 3m long, 1.08m wide and 290mm deep, that contained a fill [009] of light whitish grey silty sand with 80% mortar and stone rubble. Cut [008] was cut into alluvium [005] consisting of mid grey silty clay with very occasional rounded flint pebbles.

#### 4.2 Area B: Footprint of new building (south-east), including scaffolding pads and surface drainage

Context	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Deposit Thickness	Height m. AOD
001	Layer	Topsoil			0.18m	2.61
002	Layer	Modern made ground			0.22m	2.43
003	Deposit	peat			0.20m	2.21
005	Deposit	Alluvium			0.22m	1.99
006	Cut?	Natural depression?				
007	Deposit	Dump of fire-cracked flint			0.18m max	
012	Deposit	Alluvium			N/A	

Table 3: Contexts – Area B: Footprint of new building (south-east)

- 4.2.1 Topsoil [001] overlay made ground [002] consisting of mid/dark yellowish brown clayey silt/silty clay with frequent pebbles and occasional CBM. Layer [002] overlay peat [003]. Deposit [003] overlay alluvium [005] as above with occasional CBM.
- 4.2.2 Alluvium [005] overlay an irregular possible natural depression [006] measuring at least 4.8m long, 1.4m wide up to 180mm deep that perhaps contained a dump deposit or fill [007] consisting of mid/dark yellowish grey very clay silt with 60% fire-cracked flint. Deposit [007] overlay alluvium [012] consisting of dark mottled grey/reddish brown silty clay.

### 4.3 Area C: Footprint of new building (west), including scaffolding pads and surface drainage

Context	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Deposit Thickness	Height m. AOD
001	Layer	Topsoil			0.15m	2.58
002	Layer	Modern made ground			0.60m	
014	Fill	Channel?			0.16m	
036	Cut			10m		
003	Deposit	peat			0.15m	
005	Deposit	Alluvium			0.38m	

Table 4: Contexts – Area C: Footprint of new building (west)

- 4.3.1 Topsoil [001] overlay modern made ground [002] which overlay peat [003]. An apparent cut [036] measuring c. 10m wide and 600mm deep crossed the site broadly SW-NE, and contained a fill [014] of mid brownish grey silty clay with frequent modern material including, bottles, CBM, iron, wood and plastic. The western edge of cut [036] was not clearly seen during the watching brief but was recorded during the evaluation as cut [1/006] in Trench 1.

#### 4.4 Area D: Service trenching through caravan site to the west of Becket's Barn

Context	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Deposit Thickness	Height m. AOD
001	Layer	Topsoil			0.20m	2.57 (above [017] - 2.69)
019	Deposit	Modern made ground			0.40m	2.37
017	Masonry	Wall?	0.35m	0.60m	0.20m	1.97
037	Cut	Foundation trench?	0.35m	0.60m		
016	Deposit	Silting/?			0.20m	1.57
018	Deposit	Alluvium?			0.04m	1.37
015	Deposit	Natural sand			N/A	1.33

Table 5: Contexts – Area D: Service trenching on caravan site to the west of Becket's Barn

- 4.4.1 Topsoil [001], 200mm thick, overlay 400mm of modern made ground [019] which overlay 200mm of peat [016]. An apparent linear cut [037] cut deposit [016]. Cut [037], running broadly E-W and measuring 600mm wide and at least 350mm long, contained masonry [017] consisting of a single course of rough grey stone bonded with sandy lime mortar. Two stones of similar character to masonry [017] were noted within [016] immediately to the north of [017].
- 4.4.2 Deposit [016] overlay a 40mm thick deposit of probable alluvium [018] which overlay natural marine sand [015].

#### 4.5 Area E: Service trenching through car park to the north-west of Becket's Barn

Context	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Deposit Thickness	Height m. AOD
038	Layer	Tarmac and MOT Type 1/concrete			0.25m	2.66
024	Deposit	Made ground			0.45m	2.41
025	Deposit	Made ground			0.45m	2.41
026 028	Layer	Buried topsoil			0.15m	2.11
021	Layer	Floor?			0.10m	1.96
022	Layer	Made ground			0.20m	1.86
027 029	Deposit	Natural? shingle				
023 030	Deposit	Alluvium			N/A	1.66

Table 6: Contexts – Area E: Service trenching through car park to the north-west of Becket's Barn

- 4.5.1 Tarmac and Type 1 base [038], 250mm thick, overlay 450mm of made ground [024]/[025]. Deposit [024] overlay a compact, 100mm thick layer [021] of whitish grey slightly sandy silt with occasional beach pebbles. Layer [021] overlay a deposit [024] of yellowish brown silty clay. Deposit [025] overlay a 150mm thick layer [026] of very dark yellowish brown clayey silt with occasional beach pebbles.
- 4.5.2 Deposit [021] overlay a deposit [023] of light yellowish grey silty clay with occasional lenses of light greyish yellow fine gravel. Layer [026] overlay a deposit [027] of light whitish grey clayey silt with 80% beach pebbles, apparently unsorted.

#### 4.6 Area F: Drain run between new build and Becket's Barn

Context	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Deposit Thickness	Height m. AOD
001	Layer	Topsoil			0.15m	2.67
039	Deposit	Modern made ground			0.85m south 0.55m north	1.82 2.12
031	Deposit	peat			0.10m south 0.15m north	1.72 1.97
032	Deposit	Gravel			0.10m	1.87
034	Deposit	Dump deposit			0.05m	1.67
033	Deposit	Alluvium			N/A	

Table 7: Contexts – Area F: Drain run between new build and Becket's Barn

- 4.6.1 Topsoil [001], 150mm thick, overlay up to 850mm of made ground [039] consisting of mid/dark yellowish brown clayey silt/silty clay with frequent pebbles and occasional CBM, wood, plastic and iron. Deposit [039] overlay peat deposit [031] consisting of dark greyish brown clayey silt with frequent plant remains.
- 4.6.2 Deposit [031] overlay alluvium [033] consisting of mid/dark greenish grey silty clay, that contained a 50mm thick lens [034] of mid brownish grey clayey silt with 60% beach pebbles and occasional CBM, slate and iron.
- 4.6.3 In the northern 3m of the pipe trench, made ground [039] decreased in thickness to 550mm. A gravelly deposit [032], 100mm thick, consisting of mid yellowish grey silty clay with 60% beach pebbles lay below deposit [031] and above deposit [033]

Context	Pot	Wt (g)	CBM	Wt (g)	Shell	Wt (g)	WF	Wt (g)	FCF	Wt (g)	Stone	Wt (g)	Pb	Wt (g)	Cu. Al.	Wt (g)	Mortar	wt (g)
2	4	218													1	10		
5 or 7							1	<2										
5/11			6	794							3	1088						
5	1	16			3	30												
7							4	416	24	1166								
9			14	1142	1	14					16	7150	1	82				
17																	1	340
16			5	230														
18			3	876														
26	3	18																
33			1	36														
34			1	12							1	12						
29							4	480										
<b>Total</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>252</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>3090</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>896</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>1166</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>8250</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>82</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>340</b>

Table 8: Quantification of finds



## **5.0 FINDS AND ENVIRONMENTAL SAMPLES**

### **5.1 The Roman pottery by Anna Doherty**

- 5.1.1 A single sherd of Rowlands Castle grey ware was recovered from context [005]. This fabric type was common in the environs of Chichester from the mid/late 1<sup>st</sup>- to 3<sup>rd</sup>-centuries.

### **5.2 The Post-Roman pottery by Luke Barber**

- 5.2.1 The archaeological work recovered a small quantity of post-Roman pottery from two individually numbered contexts. Context [002] produced five large fresh sherds of refined white earthenware. Although one consists of a plain bodysherd the remaining four are all from polychrome transfer-printed vessels. Two (conjoining) sherds are from a tea cup with rose motif and stamped 'MADE IN ENGLAND' on its base, while the other two (also conjoining) sherds are from a plate with ochre, green and yellow floral border. The plate has an orange and black maker's transfer on its base: Losol Ware (in orange) over KEELING & Co Ltd over a crown over Burslem Made in England. This mark of Keeling and Co Ltd was in use between c. 1912 and 1936 (Godden 1991, No. 2245).
- 5.2.2 The other context with post-Roman pottery was [026]. This produced three sherds of transfer-printed pearlware including fragments from a plate with blue floral decoration, a mug and a willow-patterned sherd. A date between 1810 and 1840 is probable for this group as the sherds are of quite late type.

### **5.3 The Ceramic Building Material by Sarah Porteus**

- 5.3.1 A total of 28 fragments of ceramic building material (CBM) with a combined weight of 3042g were recovered from the watching brief phase. The fabrics were compared with those from the earlier evaluation phase for consistency, though the findings of the evaluation are not repeated here and can be found in the evaluation report. Further fabric descriptions were added where necessary (Table 9). Fabric samples from the watching brief have been retained with later post-medieval items discarded. The assemblage is largely later post-medieval in date with a single tile likely to be of medieval date and a moderate amount of post-medieval material.
- 5.3.2 Context [005/011] contained peg tile fragments in three different fabrics, T1 and T2 of later medieval or early post-medieval date and a fragment of in fabric T5, thick and under-fired the fragment is likely to be of earlier 13<sup>th</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup> century date.
- 5.3.3 Context [009] contained fragments of peg tile in fabric T2, of 15<sup>th</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup> century date and T3 of 17<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> century date. Also present were fragments of peg tile in fabric T5 which retained one complete thickness of 163mm, the tile is slightly thinner than that recovered from context [005/011] and better made so may be of later medieval or early post-medieval date. Fragments of 17<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> century brick in fabric B1 were also recovered.
- 5.3.4 Context [018] contained fragments of probable floor tile with vertical edges of 23mm thickness, the fragments are difficult to date but likely to be of post-medieval date 17<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> century. The fragments are in a similar fabric to B1.
- 5.3.5 Context [016] contained brick in fabric B1 of 17<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> century date and fragments of peg tile in fabrics T1 and T2 of probable 15<sup>th</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup> century date.

5.3.6 Contexts [033] and [034] each contained a single abraded fragment of peg tile in fabric T5 of probable 15<sup>th</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup> century date.

Fabric	Description	Date range
T1	fine sandy orange fabric with abundant fine rounded black iron rich inclusions and abundant fine quartz and some fine silt streaking.	C15th-C17th
T2	Fine sandy fabric with sparse medium quartz inclusions and sparse black iron rich inclusions	C15th-C17th
T3	Orange sandy fabric with moderate coarse quartz and moderate medium to coarse sized black iron rich inclusions	C17th-C19th
T4	Abundant sandy fabric with moderate coarse quartz and abundant fine black iron rich inclusions with moderate very coarse angular flint	C13th-C15th
T5	Soft brown fabric with reduced grey core with moderate medium sized quartz and orange and cream silt inclusions with fine micaceous speckling.	C12th-C17th
B1	Red sandy fabric with abraded surface with moderate black iron rich inclusions	C17th-C19th

Table 9: Fabric descriptions for CBM from evaluation and watching brief phases

#### 5.4 Worked Flint by Karine Le Hégarat

5.4.1 A small collection of seven struck flints weighing 676g and a sample of 24 burnt unworked flints weighing 1166g were recovered during the course of the watching brief. The outer surface of the artefacts displayed a cortex more or less pitted and abraded to a smooth thin buff gravel surface. The interior varied from a light brown to a grey colour. Frequent inclusions were noted in the coarse to fine-grained flint. Overall, the artefacts were in a poor state of preservation, with almost all the flints exhibiting either heavy post-depositional edge damage or breaks.

Context	Flake	Broken flake	Blade-like flake fragment	Shattered piece	Core	Core fragment	Burnt unworked flint - No./Wt. (g)
007			1			1	24/1166 (sample only)
005		1					
029	1	1		1	1		
	1	2	1	1	1	1	24/1166 (sample only)

Table 10: Quantification of worked flint

- 5.4.2 Context [007] produced a blade-like flake fragment and a possible core fragment which was partially recorticated pale milky blue. A sample of burnt unworked flint was also taken from the same deposit. Context [005] yielded a small flake fragment. Context [029] produced a small core weighing 113g. The artefact, which exhibited some incipient bluish surface cortication, displayed signs of heavy battering, implying that it was subsequently used as a tool. A flake, a flake fragment as well as a shattered piece were also found in this context.
- 5.4.3 None of these artefacts are chronologically diagnostic although the presence of flake scar removals on the dorsal side of the flint found in context [005] might indicate a Mesolithic or Neolithic date for this artefact. However, large quantities of burnt flint are often associated with Bronze Age burnt mounds in particular.

## **5.5 The Geological Material by Luke Barber**

- 5.5.1 The site produced a relatively large quantity of stone, most notably from context [009]. This produced 10 fragments (208g) of medieval silver/grey West Country roofing slate and 10 irregular pieces (6,904g) of Mixen Rock, a fossiliferous limestone now only found on an offshore reef about 1.5km south of Selsey Bill. This stone type was used quite extensively in the area from the Roman period into the 19<sup>th</sup> century. The Mixen fragments all have extensive areas of adhering friable fine off-white lime mortar. The aggregates within this mortar consist of moderate sand and sub-angular to sub-rounded flint grits to 10mm (most to 5mm) with black iron oxide specks to 1mm. A water-rounded flint nodule (402g) from [009] also had the same adhering mortar.
- 5.5.2 Context [017] produced an irregular but weathered piece of chalk with a substantial coating of a buff sandy lime mortar while [034] produced a single piece of West Country slate. The remaining stone was recovered from [5/011]. This deposit produced two further fragments of West Country slate (441g), one each of the blue grey and lilac hues. Both slates, at 9mm, are notably thick. The other stone from [5/011] consists of a 24mm thick slab (probably from roofing) of calcareous brown/grey fine sandstone. This is almost certainly Horsham stone although it is a little more friable than the usual roofing slates.

## **5.6 The Shell by Trista Clifford**

- 5.6.1 Context [005] contained one lower and one undiagnostic Common Oyster (*Ostrea edulis*) valve. A river -rolled unidentified bi-valve fragment came from context [009].

## **5.7 The metal objects by Trista Clifford**

- 5.7.1 A lead rod with square section and tapering ends, possibly structural in origin, was recovered from context [009]. Context [002] contained a highly corroded early 20<sup>th</sup> century (pre-decimal) penny of uncertain ruler.

## **5.8 Environmental Samples by Karine Le Hégarat**

- 5.8.1 Two 40L bulk soil samples were taken during the watching brief at the site to establish evidence for environmental remains such as charcoal, charred macrobotanicals, bones and shells and to ensure maximum recovery of artefacts including small pieces of flint debitage. Sample <1> was retrieved from the fill [009] of a structural cut [008], interpreted as the backfill of a robbed out foundation trench and sample <2> was collected from burnt mound material [007].
- 5.8.2 The samples were processed in their entirety in a flotation tank and the residues and flots were retained on 500µm and 250µm meshes and air dried. The residues were passed through graded sieves (4 and 2mm) and each fraction sorted for environmental and artefact remains (Table 11). The flots were scanned under a stereozoom microscope at x7-45 magnifications and their contents recorded (Table 12).
- 5.8.3 The small flots (10ml and 30ml respectively) were dominated with uncharred vegetation including modern rootlets and uncharred weed seeds including dandelion (*Taraxacum officinale*) and knotgrass/dock (*Polygonum/Rumex* sp.). The high level of roots suggests a small degree of relatively modern disturbance and potential contamination of the deposits by later intrusive elements. On the whole sampling produced a small amount of environmental remains limited to infrequent charcoal fragments, a single charred grain and a single small bone fragment and land snail shells. Wood charcoal fragments were only recorded in the flot and residue from sample <2>. They were predominantly small (<4mm and often <2mm) with only six pieces >4mm. The single charred macroplant remain was found in sample <1> and consisted of a poorly preserved indeterminate cereal (*Cerealia*) grain which was highly pitted and fragmented.
- 5.8.4 A small mammal bone fragment was also retrieved from sample <1>. A small amount of CBM and a single amorphous fragment of fired clay <14mm in size were noticed in sample <1> while sample <2> contained a small amount of fire cracked flints. No pieces of flint debitage were present in either sample.
- 5.8.5 The bulk environmental samples taken during the watching brief confirmed the presence of wood charcoal in sample <2>. In addition to burnt unworked flints, samples from burnt mound material are expected to be charcoal-rich. The small assemblage of charcoal found in [007] could be associated with the burnt mound. However, the fragments are sufficiently small enough to have been redeposited through bioturbation.
- 5.8.6 Given the potential for disturbance within this deposit no identifications have been undertaken. In addition, the charcoal assemblage is too limited to provide significant information regarding the selection of wood for fuel, the local vegetation environment or to provide material suitable for dating. With the exception of a small amount of fire cracked flints, no additional environmental remains or artefacts were retrieved from this sample, which could help clarify the function of the burnt mound.
- 5.8.7 The charred macroplant remains (present in sample <1> only) are insufficient and too poorly preserved to provide evidence for agricultural activity and local environment.

Sample Number	Context	Context / deposit type	Sample Volume litres	sub-Sample Volume litres	Charcoal >4mm	Weight (g)	Bone and Teeth	Weight (g)	Other (eg ind, pot, cbm)
1	009	Fill of structural cut [008]	40	40			*	2	Mortar **/342g, CBM*/4g
2	007	Burnt mound material [006]	40	40	*	<2			FCF **/990g

Table11: Residue Quantification (\* = 1-10, \*\* = 11-50, \*\*\* = 51-250, \*\*\*\* = >250) and weights in grams.

Sample Number	Context	Weight g	Flot volume ml	Uncharred %	Sediment %	Seeds uncharred	Charcoal >4mm	Charcoal <4mm	Charcoal <2mm	Crop seeds charred	Identifications	Preservation	Land Snail Shells
1	009	<2	10	75	5	<i>Polygonum/Rumex</i> sp. (1), Caryophyllaceae (1)				*	Cereal (1)	+	*** 20% 3 types
2	007	2	30	96	2	<i>Taraxacum officinale</i> (1), cf. <i>Solanum</i> sp.	*	*	**				

Table 12: Flot Quantification (\* = 1-10, \*\* = 11-50, \*\*\* = 51-250, \*\*\*\* = >250) and preservation (+ = poor, ++ = moderate, +++ = good)

## 6.0 DISCUSSION

### 6.1 Area A: Footprint of new building (north-east), including scaffolding pads and surface drainage

- 6.1.1 The modern made ground deposit [002] generally related to the levelling of much of the site at some time after 1956; Collins and Fleming describe 'mounds and depressions' still visible at the time of their 1956-7 excavations (1958). Before infilling, the area to the south and east of Becket's Barn was a large meadow in which an extensive pattern of earthworks was evident. These earthworks are shown on Figure 6 which has been reproduced from the 1958 excavations report, the plan of which is based upon the 1910 OS Map 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition.
- 6.1.2 Much of the made ground may have been associated with the early 1990s construction of the existing sales lounge and landscaped courtyard. However, the archaeological evaluation by SEAS in advance of the sales lounge development recorded significant disturbance in '1993 Trench 1', extending down to c. 1.70m AOD; disturbance was also present in '1993 Trench 2' but to a lesser extent, going down to c. 1.90m AOD (Gardiner 1993). Gardiner suggested that this made ground deposit was the same as reported by Gregory during the work in 1974, and had presumably been laid down in the 1960s or early 1970s. In the eastern end of '1993 Trench 1' Gardiner also identified the cut and backfill of the trench excavated by Fleming and Collins in 1956-7.
- 6.1.3 The thin layer of peat [003]/[016]/[031] recorded in most areas indicated that there was a relatively rapid drying of the area after the last phase of alluviation. This proposition was supported by evidence from the evaluation Trench 2 where the underlying alluvium [2/004] showed the characteristic hexagonal pattern of fine cracks that results from drying. The character of the deposits is clear evidence that the site has evolved from an intertidal mudflat environment that became colonised by plants and eventually developed into a salt marsh and saw the formation of peat deposits. As the marsh became progressively drier, the peat became humified and formed a proto-topsoil. Subsequent to the development of the humified peat there was no evidence of any further marine encroachment.
- 6.1.4 Layer [011] probably represented trample during a phase of post-medieval demolition or construction. This activity took place after the last phase of alluviation but before the formation of the peat represented by layer [003]/[016]/[031].
- 6.1.5 The curving cut [008] probably represented part of the construction trench of a circular 'pigeon house' shown in roughly this location on the 1786 Manorial Map reproduced in the 1958 excavations report, the plan of which is based upon the 1910 OS Map 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition (Figure 6). The earliest reference to a pigeon house within the Pagham Rectory complex is in accounts drawn up in 1443-1444 by the Warden of Canterbury College Oxford which itemised the cost of repairs to a dove-cot (*ibid.* 138). A 1671 Survey of the Sussex Estates of the Dean and Chapter of Canterbury mentions 'a good rounde stoan pigeon howse well stored and in good repayre' near to Becket's Barn. These earlier references are likely to be to the same building shown on the 1786 map and identified during the watching brief.
- 6.1.6 Dump deposit [035] probably related to the construction of the proposed pigeon house represented by cut [008]. The mortar and stone rubble fill [009] of cut [008] was likely to have been waste material resulting from the robbing out of the masonry. Dump deposit [004] primarily consisted of lime mortar that probably

resulted from the cleaning of salvaged masonry following the demolition of the building. Dump deposit [010] was probably associated with the levelling of the area following demolition.

- 6.1.7 A deposit of alluvium [005] at the base of the excavation produced a single sherd of Roman mid/late 1<sup>st</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup> century pottery. The alluvium had been naturally deposited and perhaps represented an available land surface during that period.

## **6.2 Area B: Footprint of new building (south-east), including scaffolding pads and surface drainage**

- 6.2.1 Cut [006] was probably a natural depression above and in which deposit [007] accumulated and/or was dumped. Deposit [007] consisted of comminuted fire-cracked flint characteristic of 'burnt mound material'; two pieces of worked flint were also recovered. Traditionally, burnt mounds have been considered a Bronze Age innovation, spanning the Middle and Late Bronze Age, although some recently examined sites in Scotland have been firmly dated to the Late Neolithic. Burnt mounds are increasingly being recognised as elements of a Bronze Age settled landscape. On the West Sussex Coastal Plain, Dave Dunkin has identified links between Later Bronze Age metalwork deposits and the locations of burnt mounds, watercourses and settlements (2001, 261-62). Two Middle Bronze cremations recorded in Pagham churchyard are perhaps contemporary with the burnt mound activity recorded on the current site.
- 6.2.2 Burnt mounds are generally oval, crescentic or kidney-shaped accumulations of heavily burnt stone, ash and charcoal. Usually at least one associated trough, and sometimes a hearth, is identified, either beside the mound or sometimes below it. Burnt mounds are defined as much by their location as by their morphology: they would always have been positioned close to a water source, whether it was a spring, stream or area of marshland. On the current site, the burnt mound material may have been somewhat dispersed by subsequent flooding, while associated features may have lain outside the monitored area.
- 6.2.3 In spite of the growing number of suspected burnt mounds excavated, the exact function of these features is still open to question. What is generally accepted however is: i) that the associated trough was used as a container in which to boil water by the addition of hot stones; ii) that the hearth (where identified) was for heating the stones, and iii) that the mound itself represents an accumulation of discarded fragments of burnt stone. The practicality of this process has been thoroughly tested by experiment and its efficacy is beyond doubt (Brindley *et al* 1990, 25 - 32; Denvir 2003.; Lawless *et al* 1995).
- 6.2.4 However, it is still not clear as to the precise uses to which the boiling water and/or steam were put. Since burnt mounds were first identified as a class of monument in their own right, the list of suggested functions has grown steadily, it includes (starting with the three most commonly advocated): cooking, including fat rendering (Monk 2007, 22-25), bathing/sauna (Barfield & Hodder 1987), textile production, including washing, dyeing and fulling, (Jeffrey 1991), laundry, leather working, general purpose 'kitchen sink' (Denvir 2003), brewing (O'Drisceoil 1988, 671-80), water purification (Dave Dunkin pers. comm.), the soaking of osiers for basketry, the production of narcotic vapours, eel and fish store and as ritual foci. The debate has been fuelled by a characteristic paucity of finds from burnt mounds (Cherry 1990, 170-2).

**6.3 Area C: Footprint of new building (west), including scaffolding pads and surface drainage**

- 6.3.1 Cut [036] almost certainly represented a buried channel/linear depression, measuring c. 10m wide and perhaps 60m long, that was an element of a series of earthworks known to have occupied the area to the east and south of Becket's Barn. This channel was identified in evaluation Trench 1 where its edges were defined by two ditches or smaller channels ([1/006] and [1/008]); a fragment of oak stave [1/010] aligned along the cut of [1/008] perhaps represented the remains of a revetment or fallen fence.
- 6.3.2 The humified peat deposit [003] was seen to continue down the sloping sides and across the base of channel [036], indicating that this element of the earthworks had been dug at a time when the area had not dried out completely and was perhaps still subject to flooding by the sea. The infilling deposit [014] above the humified peat was modern and similar in character to dump deposit [002] discussed above.
- 6.3.3 The earthworks have been interpreted as fish ponds or sluices related to a tide-mill (Figure 6), although documentary evidence perhaps suggests alternative interpretations. In 1451 a 'cove' on the seashore near the mill of Pagham for the farming of oysters is recorded (VCH 1953, 4, 227-233). A 1575 rental of lands belonging to the parsonage of Pagham refers to the meadow containing the earthworks as 'salte slipe' or 'slipe ground', while the Manorial Map of 1786 calls the earthworks 'moats' (Collins and Fleming 1958, 138). Although the date of the earthworks is unclear, they are probably medieval or early post-medieval in origin.

**6.4 Area D: Service trenching through caravan site to the west of Becket's Barn**

- 6.4.1 Wall [017] was cut into a silting/humified peat deposit [016] that produced CBM dating to between 15<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup> century, with the majority of the material dating to between 17<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup> century. In view of this, it is very likely that wall [017] relates to a post-medieval structure that lay just to the south-west of Becket's Barn, perhaps a boundary or garden wall. It is *possible* that wall [017] represents the N-S return of a now demolished wall shown on Collings and Fleming's Plan 2, described as 'Later than medieval or modern'.

**6.5 Area E: Service trenching through car park to the north-west of Becket's Barn**

- 6.5.1 Buried topsoil [026] produced pottery dating to the first half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century and probably related to the 19<sup>th</sup>- to 20<sup>th</sup>- century use of the site as a farm. Layer [021] was a beaten chalk floor that probably represented an exterior hard standing contemporary with 19<sup>th</sup>-century buried topsoil [026].

**6.6 Area F: Drain run between new build and Becket's Barn**

- 6.6.1 Made ground [039] was the same as the substantial made ground deposit [002] discussed above. The northward decrease in the depth of made ground [039] indicated that channel [036] recorded in Area C was shallower in this area and perhaps terminated.



## **7.0 CONCLUSIONS**

- 7.1 The earliest remains identified on the site consisted of possible burnt mound material probably dating to the Middle/Late Bronze Age although this not confirmed by any dating evidence. Two Middle Bronze cremations recorded in Pagham churchyard are perhaps contemporary with activity record here. Burnt mounds have been found at many locations to the south of Chichester including Hayling Island, Thorney Island and West Wittering and most recently at Cobnor Point, Bilsham, Sidlesham and Earnley (ASE Coastal Plains Monograph in prep.); in common with the subject site, a significant number of these have been located below the 5m contour close to the present shoreline. Andrew Woodcock suggests that the Bronze Age seashore at Pagham in c. 3000BP might have been between 500m to 1km further out than today; this would have placed the site in an estuarine environment with a strong fresh water influence (Rudling 2003, 3).
- 7.2 With the exception of a single sherd of Roman pottery from the alluvium [005], the watching brief did not identify any further evidence for the Romano-British or Saxon activity recorded during previous investigations. Chronologically, the next significant remains that were identified during the present work belonged to perhaps the 13<sup>th</sup>-century, when the Pagham Rectory complex was built. Although there is no documentary evidence for a pigeon house or dove-cot on the site until the mid-fifteenth century, it is likely that a pigeon house would have been an essential element of the original rectory layout. The circular cut [008] identified during the watching brief may represent the original perhaps 13<sup>th</sup>-century pigeon house.
- 7.3 The origin of the broad channel [036], and the rest of the earthworks to the south and east of Becket's Barn remains unclear, although they probably date to medieval or early post-medieval period.

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### **Acknowledgements**

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## HER Summary Form

Site Code	PHP10					
Identification Name and Address	Becket's Barn, Church Farm Holiday Village, Pagham, West Sussex					
County, District &/or Borough	West Sussex					
OS Grid Refs.	NGR 488422 097396					
Geology	Alluvium					
Arch. South-East Project Number	4834					
Type of Fieldwork	Eval.	Excav.	Watching Brief X	Standing Structure	Survey	Other
Type of Site	Green Field	Shallow Urban	Deep Urban	Other Coastal alluvium		
Dates of Fieldwork	Eval.	Excav.	WB. 3/5/2010- 28/7/2010	Other		
Sponsor/Client	A & M Architectural Partnership					
Project Manager	Neil Griffin					
Project Supervisor	Greg Priestley-Bell					
Period Summary	Palaeo.	Meso.	Neo.	BA X	IA	RB
	AS	MED X	PM X	Other Modern X		
<p>Archaeology South-East was commissioned by A &amp; M Architectural Partnership to undertake an archaeological watching brief on land at Becket's Barn, Church Farm Holiday Village, Pagham, West Sussex.</p> <p>The site lies within the curtilage of Scheduled Ancient Monument 219 (West Sussex), Becket's Barn. The earliest remains identified consisted of possible burnt mound material which if verified may date to the Middle or Late Bronze Age. With the exception of a single sherd of Roman pottery from the alluvium, the watching brief did not identify any more evidence for the Romano-British or Saxon activity recorded during previous investigations. Chronologically, the next significant remains identified on the site probably represented a circular pigeon house that was perhaps an element of the original 13<sup>th</sup>-century Pagham Rectory complex. The origins of the earthworks to the south and east of Becket's Barn remain unclear, although they probably date to medieval or early post-medieval period.</p>						

## OASIS Form

OASIS ID: archaeol6-112840

### Project details

Project name	An Archaeological Watching Brief at Becket's Barn, Church farm Holiday Village, Pagham, West Sussex
Short description of the project	Archaeology South-East was commissioned by A & M Architectural Partnership to undertake an archaeological watching brief on land at Becket's Barn, Church Farm Holiday Village, Pagham, West Sussex. The site lies within the curtilage of Scheduled Ancient Monument 219 (West Sussex), Becket's Barn. The earliest remains identified consisted of possible burnt mound material which if verified may date to the Middle or Late Bronze Age. With the exception of a single sherd of Roman pottery from the alluvium, the watching brief did not identify any more evidence for the Romano-British or Saxon activity recorded during previous investigations. Chronologically, the next significant remains identified on the site probably represented a circular pigeon house that was perhaps an element of the original 13th-century Pagham Rectory complex. The origins of the earthworks to the south and east of Becket's Barn remain unclear, although they probably date to medieval or early post-medieval period.
Project dates	Start: 03-05-2010 End: 28-07-2010
Previous/future work	Yes / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	PHP10 - Sitecode
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	Scheduled Monument (SM)
Current Land use	Community Service 2 - Leisure and recreational buildings
Monument type	BURNT MOUND uncertain
Monument type	PIGEON HOUSE Medieval
Monument type	EARTHWORK Medieval

Significant Finds      WORKED FLINT uncertain

Significant Finds      CBM Medieval

Significant Finds      CBM Post Medieval

Investigation type    'Watching Brief'

Prompt                  Planning condition

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**Project location**

Country                  England

Site location           WEST SUSSEX ARUN PAGHAM Church Farm Holiday Village,  
Pagham, West Sussex

Postcode                PO10

Study area              5000.00 Square metres

Site coordinates       SZ 88422 97396 50.7688325574 -0.745961699627 50 46 07 N 000 44  
45 W Point

Height OD / Depth    Min: 1.33m Max: 2.67m

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**Project creators**

Name of  
Organisation            Archaeology South East

Project brief  
originator                West Sussex County Council

Project design  
originator                Archaeology South-East

Project  
director/manager        Neil Griffin/Jim Stevenson

Project supervisor     Greg Priestley-Bell

Type of  
sponsor/funding  
body

Client

Name of  
sponsor/funding  
body

A & M Architectural Partnership

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**Project archives**

Physical Contents 'Ceramics','Environmental','Metal','Worked stone/lithics','other'

Digital Contents 'Survey'

Digital Media  
available 'Images raster / digital photography','Survey','Text'

Paper Contents 'none'

Paper Media  
available 'Context sheet','Drawing','Notebook - Excavation',' Research',' General  
Notes','Photograph','Report','Section'

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Entered by Greg Priestley-Bell (gregpbell@btinternet.com)

Entered on 30 October 2011

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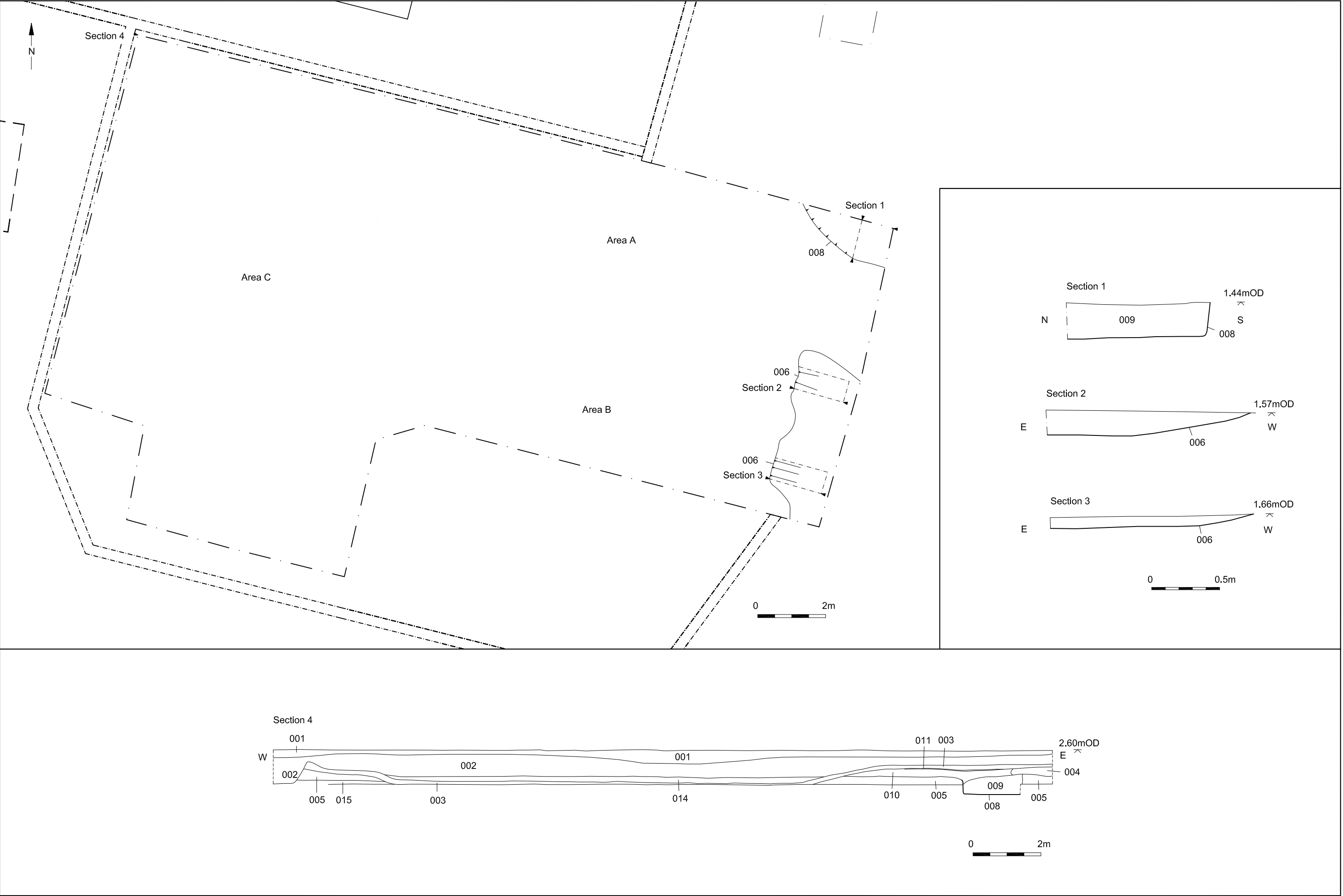


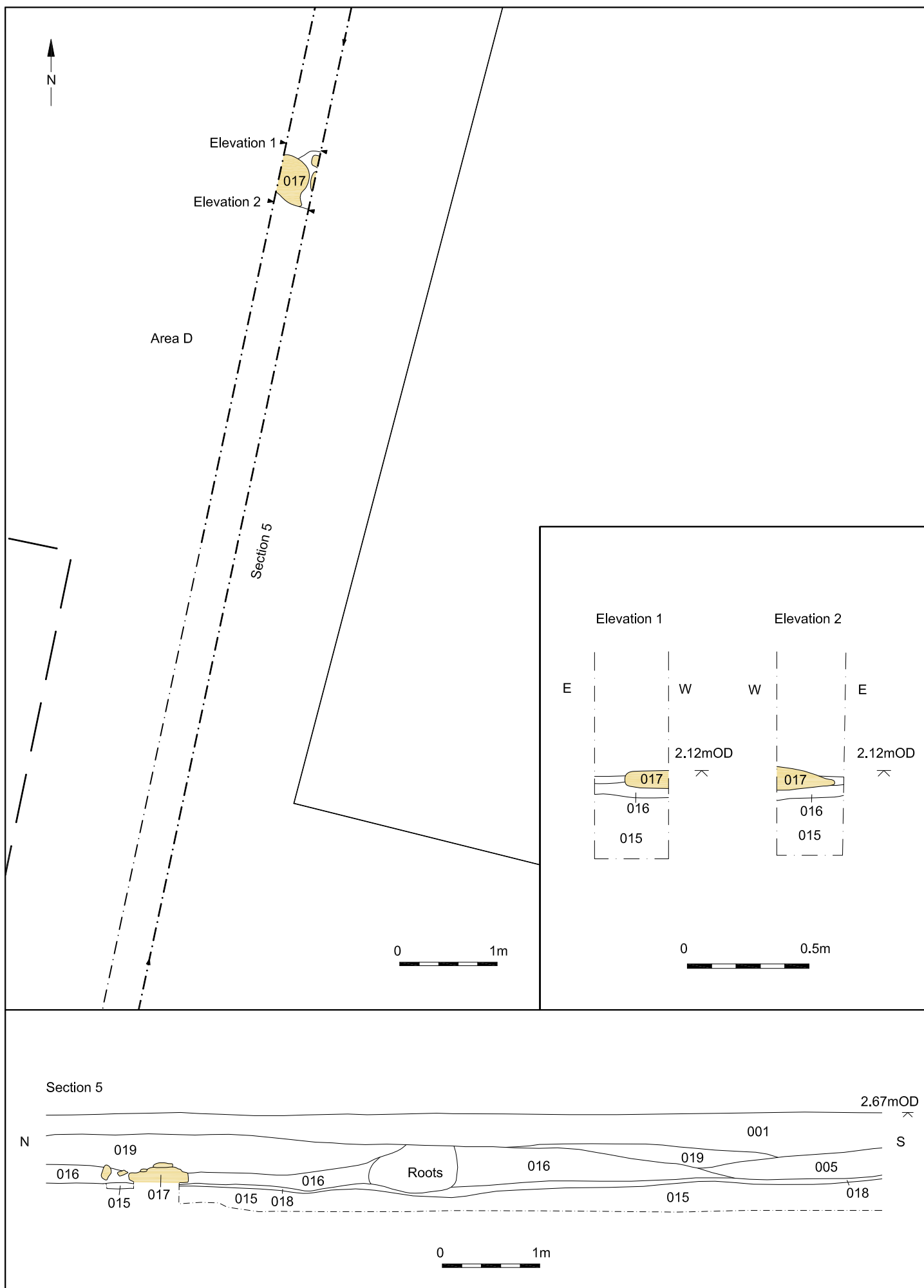
© Archaeology South-East		Church Farm Holiday Village, Pagham	Fig. 1
Project Ref: 4834	Jan 2012	Site location	
Report Ref: 2011225	Drawn by: JLR		

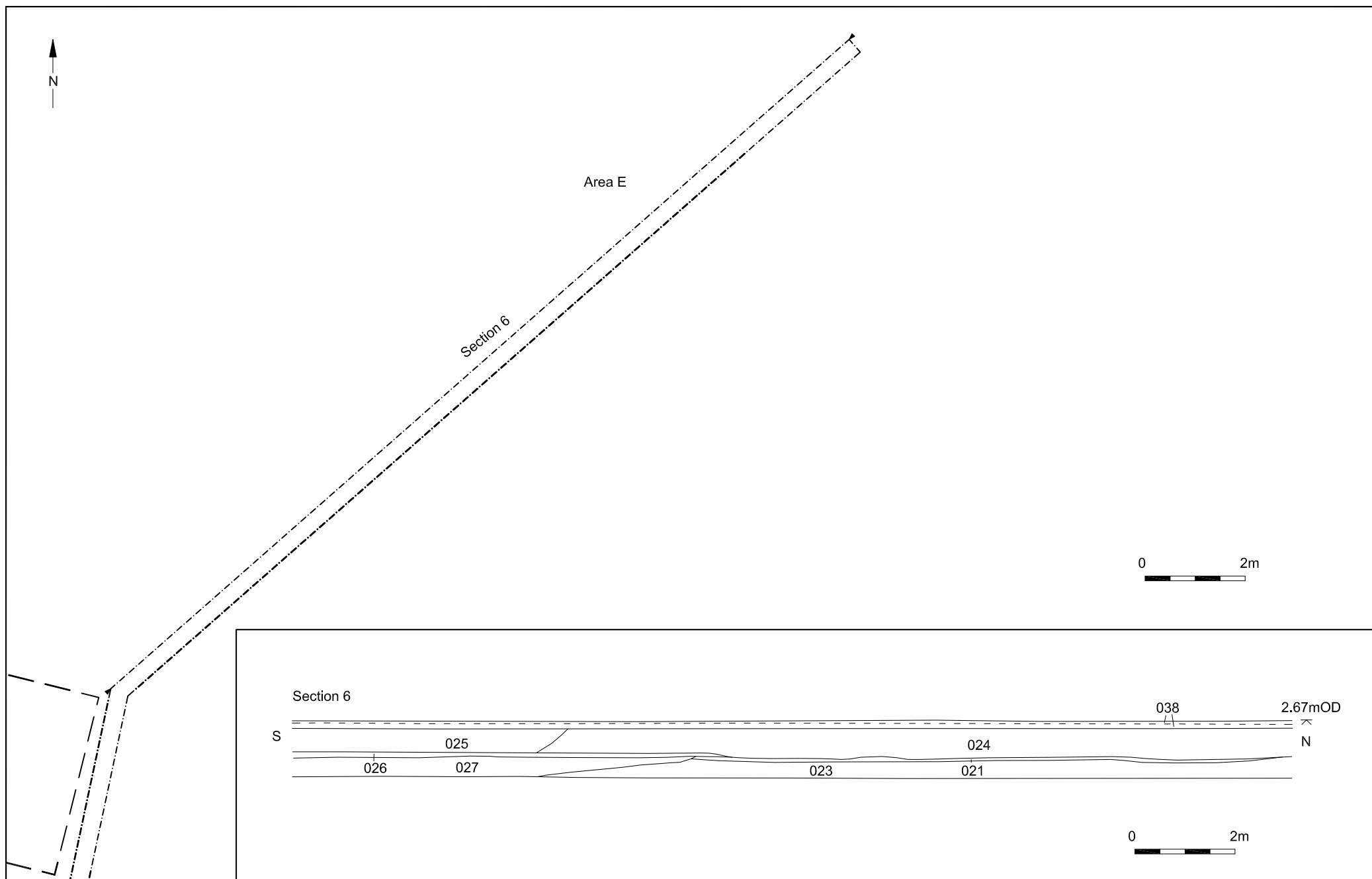




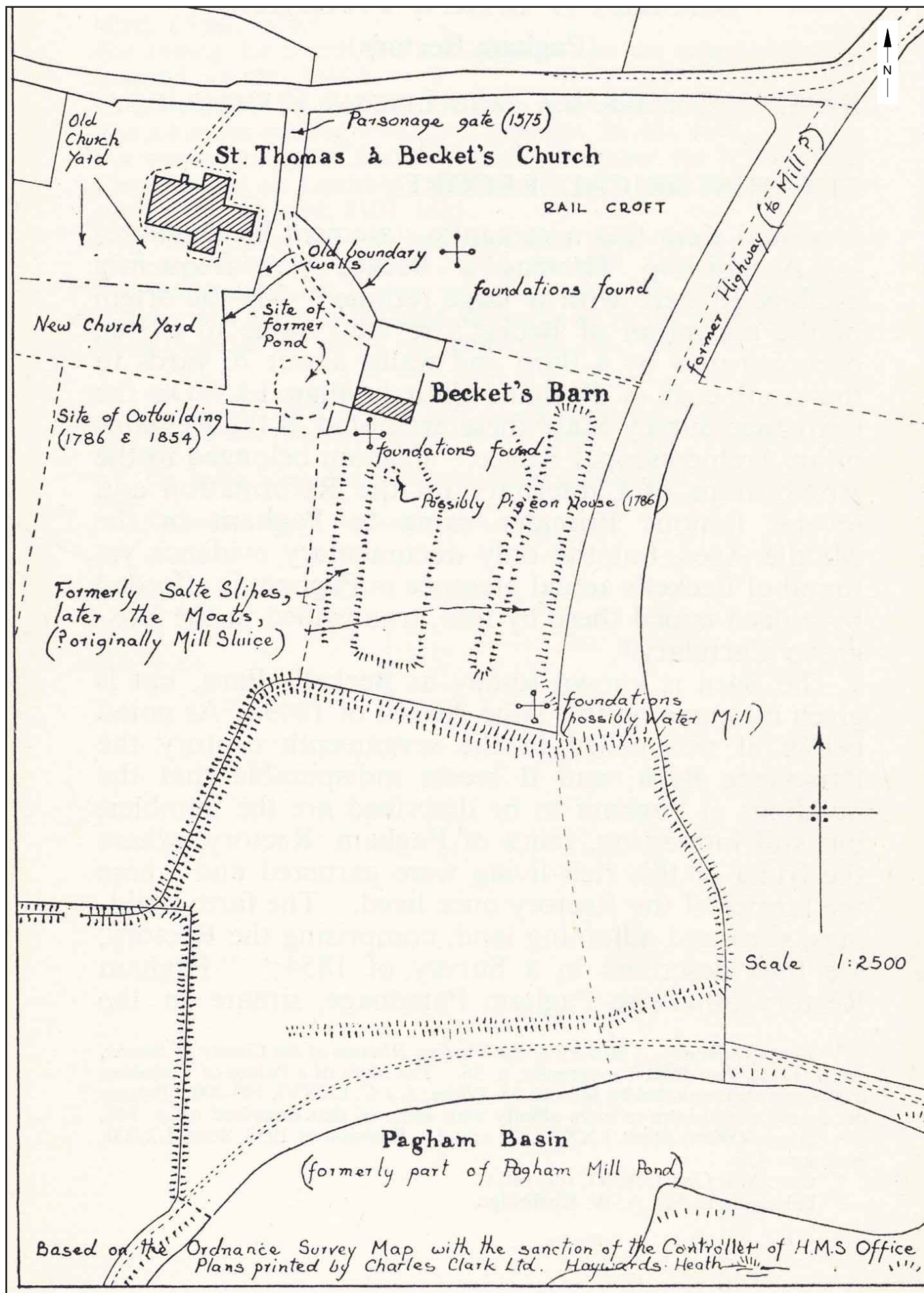
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Project Ref: 4834	Feb 2012	Plan of monitored areas	
Report Ref: 2011225	Drawn by: JLR		







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Project Ref: 4834	Feb 2012	Area E: plan and section	
Report Ref: 2011225	Drawn by: JLR		



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Project Ref: 4834	Feb 2012	Site plan from 1958 report (SAC 96)	
Report Ref: 2011225	Drawn by: JLR		

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