

**An Archaeological Evaluation at Priory Bay Hotel, Nettlestone,
Isle of Wight**

NGR 46330 09025

**Project No. 5050
Site Code: PBN11**

**ASE Report No. 2011284
OASIS id: archaeol6-115203**

Greg Priestley-Bell & Dr Matt Pope

**With contributions from
Luke Barber, Trista Clifford, Anna Doherty and Karine Le Hégarat**

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

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

Abstract

Archaeology South-East was commissioned by the Priory Bay Hotel to undertake an archaeological and geo-archaeological evaluation on land at Priory Bay Hotel, Nettlestone, Isle of Wight (NGR 46330, 09025). Thirteen Evaluation Trenches and four Test Pits were excavated. The work revealed a sequence of Middle Pleistocene sands and gravels of fluvial and possible marine origin. The fluvial gravels contain struck flintwork of probable Lower Palaeolithic affinity. A possible focus of prehistoric activity was tentatively identified covering at least 0.2 hectares and consisting of three or four ditches and a possible pit. The exact period to which the activity belongs is unclear at present, but it is of likely later prehistoric date. With the exception of a single sherd of early post-medieval pottery, the only other remains identified were a few probably 19th- to 20th-century drainage features.

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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 at the Institute of Archaeology, University College London) was commissioned by the Priory Bay Hotel (hereafter referred to as 'the client') to undertake an archaeological evaluation on land at the Priory Bay Hotel, Nettlestone, Isle of Wight (NGR 46330, 09025, Fig. 1) (hereafter referred to as 'the site').

1.2 Geology and Topography

1.2.1 According to the British Geological Survey 1:50,000 map (Sheet 331, *Isle of Wight*) the natural geology comprises Fluvial Gravel of Pleistocene origin along the western and southern parts of the site; these cap the Bembridge Marls which outcrop along the east of the site, while a narrow deposit of Osborne and Headon Beds outcrops along the cliff edge. The deposits are unstable, and much of the cliff exhibits evidence of collapse and land-slipping.

1.2.2 The site is situated in the north-eastern corner of the island to the east of the town of Ryde and on the eastern edge of Nettlestone. It lies across a wide shallow valley extending to the cliff edge, ranging in altitude from sea level to 45m OD. The site is bordered by residential properties to the north-west, a holiday camp to the south, agricultural land to the south-west and the sea (Priory Bay) to the east. It comprises the hotel complex, set within a wooded area, with an open golf course to the south. The wooded cliffs line the eastern side.

1.3 Planning Background

1.3.1 The evaluation was undertaken in support of a future planning application for the installation of new holiday cottages and associated infrastructure. At present the proposals for development have not been finalised but seven 'areas' have been identified as potential development sites.

1.3.2 The Isle of Wight Local Development Framework (LDF), designed to replace the Isle of Wight Unitary Development Plan (UDP), has not yet been implemented. Consequently a number of policies have been 'saved' from the Local Plan to ensure continuity planning policy and decision-making. These include a number of policies relating to the historic environment. The following policy is relevant to the site:

1.3.3 Policy B9: Protection of Archaeological Heritage

Development proposals which are likely to adversely affect the archaeological heritage and features of the Island, directly or indirectly, will not be permitted. Planning applications will be approved provided that:

a) where nationally important remains or their settings are affected by proposed development, permission will only be granted if it will preserve or enhance the archaeological features; on these and other important sites; development which would damage the site or its setting will not be permitted

b) where proposed development may damage or destroy archaeological remains, the Council will require the developer to submit, prior to determination, the results of an archaeological assessment, which may include field evaluation

c) where development is proposed at a location which is likely to affect an archaeological site or its setting, permission may exceptionally be granted if preservation of archaeological remains in situ can be achieved by the careful use of appropriate layout, foundations and design

d) where preservation of archaeological remains in situ is not feasible, the Council will require the developer to submit, prior to determination, proposals which will mitigate the effects of the development on the archaeological remains. Such proposals should include a programme of appropriate archaeological investigation, recording, analysis and publication which may be undertaken as a condition of planning permission.

1.3.4 A Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) was prepared by ASE (2011a) and submitted for the approval of the Isle of Wight Planning Archaeologist in advance of the fieldwork. This document set out the aims and objectives of the evaluation and the methodology to be followed.

1.4 Aims and Objectives

1.4.1 The general aim of the archaeological investigation were to ascertain the character, quality and degree of survival of archaeological remains on the site and the potential impact of development upon them in order to inform the Planning Archaeologist as to the requirement for further work should a future planning application be granted.

1.4.2 The specific aims of the evaluation are:

- To establish the potential for Palaeolithic remains to be present across the site. It is acknowledged that the sample of the site may be too small to provide adequate comprehensive evaluation for Palaeolithic material. However, as the work is being undertaken at pre-application stage, the purpose of this investigation is only to establish at what depth such deposits would be impacted by any proposed development, allowing for a further stage of work to be undertaken as a condition of planning permission, should this be required.
- To establish the presence of any remains from the medieval or post-medieval period, in particular those related to the 16th-century farmstead and possible medieval grange associated with the former St Helen's Priory.

1.5 Scope of Report

1.5.1 The fieldwork was undertaken by Matt Pope (Senior Geo-archaeologist), Greg Priestley-Bell (Senior Archaeologist), Rob Cole and Chris Russell (Archaeologists) and Liz Chambers (Assistant Archaeologist) on the 25th – 27th October 2011. This report details the results of this work.

2.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 Introduction

2.1.1 Details of the archaeological and historical background of the site have largely been drawn from the Desk Based Assessment (ASE 2011b). The most pertinent points from the DBA have been summarised below with due acknowledgement. A full list of HER data from a 1 km radius of the current site is provided in Appendix 1.

2.2 Palaeolithic (c.450,000-c.10,000BC)

2.2.1 Palaeolithic remains are recognised through findspots of artefacts, including several from the north-eastern coastline. Handaxes have been found within Ryde, and a large site at Priory has revealed the largest assemblage from the island, over 1000 artefacts, some of which were found *in situ* (Wenban-Smith & Loader 2007).

2.2.2 Three Palaeolithic find-spots are recorded on the HER within a 1 km radius of the current site, including a general record relating to numerous finds of Palaeolithic material, within or immediately adjacent to the current site

2.3 Mesolithic (c.10,000 BC-c.5,000 BC)

2.3.1 Recent surveys including the Wootton-Quarr project and the Isle of Wight Coastal Audit have added significantly to the number of findspots along the north-east coastline, including more than 100 picks and flint axes.

2.3.2 Three Mesolithic find-spots are recorded on the HER within a 1 km radius of the site, including a Mesolithic/ early Neolithic tranchet axe found on the beach in 1998, immediately adjacent to the current site

2.4 Neolithic (c. 5,000 BC-c.2,300 BC)

2.4.1 The Neolithic period is better represented on the island with monuments including long barrows, lithic working sites and others which have been dated scientifically to this period by the Wootton-Quarr project (Loader 2007). While evidence for settlement activity is sparse in the Neolithic period, the concentration of material appears to be located around the river valleys and the mouths of the northern estuaries and along the south coast (Waller 2007a).

2.4.2 Three Neolithic find-spots are recorded on the HER within a 1 km radius of the site, including a Neolithic stone axe found in 1913, within or immediately adjacent to the current site.

2.5 Bronze Age (c. 2,300 BC-c. 600 BC)

2.5.1 Three groups of Bronze Age barrows are located across the Island, including one between Ashley Down and Brading Down, to the south of Ryde. These monuments form the main evidence for Bronze Age activity and suggest areas of occupation; however, it is now thought that the coastal areas were much more densely occupied than previously thought (Waller 2007b). The presence of buried Neolithic surfaces beneath Bronze Age barrows may indicate continuity of occupation (Waller 2007a).

2.5.2 No Bronze Age sites or find-spots are known within a 1 km radius of the site, although a number of broadly dated prehistoric flint debitage and tools recorded on the HER may relate to this period.

2.6 Iron Age (c. 600 BC-AD 43)

- 2.6.1 The Iron Age on the Isle of Wight is represented by a wider range of archaeological monuments than seen in previous periods such as field systems, burial evidence, coinage and settlements sites, including two hillforts at Brading Haven and Chillerton Down (Waller 2007b). Late Iron Age occupation appears to have been focused on the location of later Roman villas suggesting a continuity of rural practises across these periods, probably relating to agriculture (Waller 2007b).
- 2.6.2 No Iron Age sites or find-spots are known within a 1 km radius of the site

2.7 Romano-British (AD 43 - c. AD 410)

- 2.7.1 The Roman period on the Isle of Wight followed a legacy of trade from the Late Pre Roman Iron Age with evidence for a significant amount of importation of wine prior to the invasions by Caesar in the last century BC (Waller 2007b). The most substantial evidence comes from 'substantial built farmsteads or villas', continuing an agricultural tradition from the later prehistoric period (Lyne 2007).
- 2.7.2 No Roman sites or find-spots were recorded on the HER within a 1 km of the site.

2.8 Anglo-Saxon (c. AD 410 - AD 1066)

- 2.8.1 Saxon settlement has been excavated at Yaverland on the south-east coast of the island (Waller 2007c). Recent analysis has also suggested that the agricultural legacy of the Roman period, including the field systems and boundaries continues through the early medieval period (Waller 2007c). Carisbrooke Castle, located near Newport, is a Norman castle, which through recent excavations has been postulated as the site of an earlier Saxon burgh, with the presence of timber buildings, and burial site, which was reused as a centre of importance after the Norman Conquest
- 2.8.2 No Anglo-Saxon sites or find-spots are recorded within a 1 km radius of the site.

2.9 Medieval

- 2.9.1 The site is situated within the medieval parish of St Helen's, formed from the larger Anglo-Saxon mother parish of Brading. St Helens Priory was established to the south, above Brading Harbour, probably sometime between 1090 and 1106 (Low & White 1977). The priory was suppressed as an alien house in 1414, and its former possessions were granted to Eton College in 1467. An extent of the manor drawn up in 1443 recorded a small group of buildings around a little hall next to the church, with cemetery, dovecot, leased out crofts and demesne land. Woodland also recorded at this time probably refers to the Priory Woods that now border the east side of the site.
- 2.9.2 Clearly, the site lay within the fields mentioned as belonging to the Priory, and the Priory itself lay around the now ruined Old St Helens Church – the suggestion raised by the Victoria County History in 1912 that the present hotel occupied the site of the Priory can be dismissed (Page 1912), although the possibility remains that the 16th century and later farmstead that occupied the site may have originated in the medieval period as a monastic farmstead (grange).

2.10 Post-Medieval

- 2.10.1 The estate remained in the ownership of Eton College until 1799, when it passed into private ownership of the Grose family, who remained the owners until 1937. During this time, the estate was at first mainly given over to agriculture, followed by a period of landscaping.
- 2.10.2 The HER records large numbers of post-medieval sites within a 1 km radius of the site, many of which are listed buildings, which formed part of the estate. Others are not strictly relevant to the development of the site, being individual buildings within the settlements of Nettlestone and St Helens, localised military sites, including multiple boundary posts, and coastal features such as sea-walls and mooring posts.

2.11 Possible Impacts on Archaeological Remains

- 2.11.1 It would appear that past and present arable cultivation is likely to have had the most adverse impact on the likely archaeological resource of the site area. Localised building works may have impacted in specific areas. Acidic ground conditions may also have destroyed or badly damaged the preservation of specific types of material remains.

2.12 Previous Geoarchaeological Evaluation

- 2.12.1 A programme of evaluation work in 2001 identified a complex sequence of fluvial gravels, containing secondary derived artefacts beneath soliflucted and colluvial deposits that contained preserved land-surfaces (Wenban-Smith 2003). The sequence along the edge of the cliff was found to comprise deep deposits of gravels overlain by up to 2m of Brickearth and topsoil. Artefacts were only recovered from the gravels. The inland extent of the Palaeolithic deposits is unknown, although they probably extend at least 100m back from the cliff edge.

3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY

3.1 Introduction

- 3.1.1 All work was carried out in accordance with the Written Scheme of Investigation (ASE 2011a) and the relevant Standards and Guidance of the IfA (2008).

3.2 Evaluation Trenches

- 3.2.1 The methodology comprised machine excavation under archaeological supervision of thirteen 30m x 2m trial trenches (Figure 2). Trenching was based broadly on a 5% sample of each discrete area or targeted on the proposed development footprint where accessible.

Area 1: Trenches 1-4

Area 2: Trench 5

Area 3: Trench 6

Area 4: Trenches 7-13

Area 5: currently inaccessible

Area 6: currently inaccessible

Area 7: currently inaccessible

- 3.2.2 The location of the trenches was surveyed accurately and tied in to the National Grid and scanned prior to excavation using a CAT scanner.

- 3.2.3 Only undifferentiated topsoil, subsoil and overburden of recent origin was removed by a mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket and was kept separately. The excavation was taken down in spits of no more than 0.25m to the top of the first significant archaeological horizon or the top of the underlying Brickearth, whichever was uppermost. All machining was undertaken under the supervision of a suitably qualified archaeologist.

- 3.2.4 Due to access issues, Trenches 7-13 in Area 4 were opened using a 13 tonne tracked excavator while Trenches 1-6 in Areas 1, 2 and 3 were excavated using a rubber-tracked or wheeled machine. Some minor modifications to the trench layout set out in the WSI were necessary due to the proximity of buildings, trees or power lines, and the presence of buried services. These changes are detailed at the start of the results section for the relevant trenches

3.3 Geoarchaeological Test-Pits (Fig 2)

- 3.3.1 Additionally, four test pits were excavated to a depth of c. 3m to identify any Palaeolithic artefacts within the Brickearth and establish the depth and sequence overlying the gravels. The excavation of the test pits was directed on site by Dr Matt Pope with an assistant to aid the sieving of deposits. The test pits were located close to or within Trenches 1, 5, 6 and 10.

3.4 Recording

- 3.4.1 Full details of the excavation, sampling and recording techniques used are contained within the WSI, a copy of which is in the archive.

3.5 Archive

- 3.5.1 The site produced an archive which is quantified in Table 1. ASE informed the Isle of

Wight museum service that an archive would be generated. The accession number IWCMS:2011.8130 has been allocated to the archive, which will be deposited when all fieldwork and reporting is complete.

Number of contexts	53
No. of files/paper record	1
Plan and sections sheets	2
Bulk Samples	5
Digital photographs	40
B+W photographs	20
CS photographs	20
Bulk finds	1 box
Environmental flots/residue	sample

Table 1: Quantification of site archive

4.0 RESULTS

4.1 Trench 1 (Fig 2)

4.1.1 Trench 1 was located in Area 1, on a west to east sloping grassed area, immediately to the west of tennis courts. The trench measured 10m x 1.5m and was shorter than originally specified in the WSI due to the proximity of trees and a buried service.

4.1.2 A sequence of natural deposits was recorded: colluvial deposit [1/003] of mid yellowish brown silty clay was overlain in the southernmost 2m of the trench by colluvial deposit [1/004], of light/mid yellowish brown silty clay that produced a small quantity of worked flint of Mesolithic/early Neolithic character. This layer was overlain by subsoil [1/002], of mid yellowish brown silty clay which was in turn overlain by topsoil [1/001], of dark yellowish brown silty clay.

4.1.3 Maximum heights on the topsoil ranged from 41.47 AOD at the northern end of the trench to 42.32 AOD at the southern end of the trench. Excavation could not be taken down to natural geology; for reasons of safety.

4.1.4 With the exception of the worked flint from [1/004], no other finds or archaeological features were recorded.

Context	Type	Description	Max. Length m	Max. Width m	Deposit Thickness m
1/001	Deposit	Topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.30
1/002	Deposit	Subsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.20
1/003	Deposit	Colluvium	Tr.	Tr.	1.2+
1/004	Deposit	Colluvium (south)	2.0	Tr.	0.40+

Table 2: Trench 1 contexts

4.2 Trench 2 (Fig 3)

4.2.1 Trench 2 was located in Area 1, on a grassed and levelled overspill car parking area. The trench was in two sections, of shorter length than originally specified, to avoid buried services and measured 23m x 1.5m. Excavation ceased at the top of the undisturbed geology.

4.2.2 Natural geology [2/003], of mid yellowish brown silty clay, was encountered at a maximum height of 43.87m AOD

4.2.3 Cutting natural geology, a linear cut [2/004], measuring 0.50m wide and 0.40m deep ran for 8.4m across the trench, and contained a fill, [2/005], of mottled mid yellowish brown silty clay. A bulk sample, <5>, was taken for environmental remains and the residue produced a pottery sherd, broadly dated to the later Bronze Age or Iron Age.

4.2.4 A semi-circular pit, [2/006], measuring at least 0.90m long, 0.60m wide and 0.40m deep, contained a fill, [2/007], of mottled mid yellowish brown silty clay with occasional gravels. Due to modern truncation, this feature was not sampled. The feature survived at a height of 43.65m AOD.

4.2.5 These features were overlain by made ground [2/002], of dark yellowish grey slightly sandy clayey silt, with 20%-40% hardcore, including brick, concrete, iron, wood, broken ceramic drain and plastic; This was overlain by topsoil [2/001], a dark

brownish grey sandy silt with occasional hardcore as described above. A modern electrical service ran through the trench, truncating the archaeological features

Context	Type	Description	Max. Length m	Max. Width m	Deposit Thickness m
2/001	Deposit	Topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.10
2/002	Deposit	Made ground	Tr.	Tr.	0.40
2/003	Deposit	Natural	Tr.	Tr.	n/a
2/004	Cut	Linear	8.4	0.50	
2/005	Fill	Fill of 2/004	8.4	0.50	0.40
2/006	Cut	Pit?	0.9	0.70	
2/007	Fill	Fill of 2/006	0.9	0.70	0.40

Table 3: Trench 2 contexts

4.3 Trench 3 (Fig 4)

- 4.3.1 Trench 3 was located in Area 1, on a grassed and levelled overspill car parking area. The trench measured 22m x 1.5m; it was shorter than originally specified due to the proximity of trees and buried services. Excavation ceased at the top of the undisturbed geology, layer [3/003], which comprised a mid yellowish brown silty clay.
- 4.3.2 A linear cut [3/004], measuring 0.70m wide and 3.6m long ran across the trench, and contained a fill, [3/005], of mid greyish brown clayey silt that produced later 19th- to mid 20th- century bottle glass. The feature survived at a height of 44.22 AOD.
- 4.3.3 A linear cut [3/006], measuring at least 1.50m long and 0.50m wide, contained a fill, [3/007], of mottled mid yellowish brown silty clay. The feature was the eastward continuation of cut [2/004] in Trench 2 and was unexcavated due to flooding.
- 4.3.4 Overlying the archaeological features was made ground [3/002], of dark yellowish grey slightly sandy clayey silt with 20%-40% hardcore including brick, concrete, iron, wood, broken ceramic drain and plastic; this was overlain by topsoil [3/001], a dark brownish grey sandy silt with occasional hardcore as described above.
- 4.3.5 Heights of the topsoil ranged from 43.20 AOD at the northern end of the trench to 44.64 AOD at the southern end of the trench.

Context	Type	Description	Max. Length m	Max. Width m	Deposit Thickness m
3/001	Deposit	Topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.15
3/002	Deposit	Made ground	Tr.	Tr.	0.40
3/003	Deposit	Natural	Tr.	Tr.	n/a
3/004	Cut	Linear	3.6	0.70	
3/005	Fill	Fill of 3/004	3.6	0.70	0.17
3/006	Cut		1.5	0.80	
3/007	Fill	Fill of 3/006	1.5	0.80	unexcavated

Table 4: Trench 3 contexts

4.4 Trench 4 (Fig 5)

- 4.4.1 Trench 4 was located in Area 1, on a grassed and levelled overspill car parking area. The trench measured 28.5m x 1.5m; it was shorter than originally specified due to the proximity of trees and buried services. Excavation ceased at the top of the undisturbed geology [4/003], which comprised a mid yellowish brown silty clay, which was measured at a maximum height of 44.94 AOD.

- 4.4.2 A slightly curving, linear cut, [4/004], measuring 0.70m wide, 5.70m long and 0.10m deep ran across the trench, and contained a fill, [4/005], of mid orangey brown silty clay. The feature survived at a height of 44.94 AOD. A bulk environmental sample, <3>, was taken from fill [4/005].
- 4.4.3 A linear cut [4/006], measuring 1.40m wide, 1.90m long and 0.80m deep ran across the trench, and contained a fill, [4/007], of mid orangey brown silty clay. The feature survived at a height of AOD and was sampled for environmental remains (sample <4>).
- 4.4.4 A linear cut, [4/008], measuring 1.00m wide, 1.90m long and 0.51m deep ran across the trench, and contained a fill, [4/009], of mid orangey brown silty clay. The feature survived at a height of 44.72 AOD.
- 4.4.5 Above the archaeological features, made ground [4/002], a dark yellowish grey slightly sandy clayey silt with 20%-40% hardcore including brick, concrete, iron, wood, broken ceramic drain and plastic, was overlain by topsoil, [4/001], a dark brownish grey sandy silt with occasional hardcore as described above.

Context	Type	Description	Max. Length m	Max. Width m	Deposit Thickness m
4/001	Deposit	Topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.20
4/002	Deposit	Made ground	Tr.	Tr.	0.40
4/003	Deposit	Natural	Tr.	Tr.	n/a
4/004	Cut	Linear	5.70	0.70	
4/005	Fill	Fill of 4/004	5.70	0.70	0.10
4/006	Cut	Linear	1.90	1.40	
4/007	Fill	Fill of 4/006	1.90	1.40	0.80
4/008	Cut	Linear	1.90	1.00	
4/009	Fill	Fill of 4/008	1.90	1.00	0.51

Table 5: Trench 4 contexts

4.5 Trench 5 (Fig 2)

- 4.5.1 Trench 5 was located in Area 2, on rough grass on the edge of trees. The trench measured 17.5m x 1.5m; it was shorter than originally specified due to the proximity of trees and overhead services. Excavation ceased at the top of the undisturbed geology
- 4.5.2 The recorded sequence of deposits was: natural [5/003] of; subsoil [5/002] of mid yellowish brown sandy silty clay; topsoil [5/003] of dark greyish brown sandy clay silt.
- 4.5.3 Heights of the topsoil ranged from 43.56 AOD at the northern end of the trench to 43.36 AOD at the southern end of the trench.
- 4.5.4 No archaeological features were recorded.

Context	Type	Description	Max. Length m	Max. Width m	Deposit Thickness m
5/001	Deposit	Topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.15
5/002	Deposit	Subsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.10
5/003	Deposit	Natural	Tr.	Tr.	n/a

Table 6: Trench 5 contexts

4.6 Trench 6 (Fig 2)

- 4.6.1 Trench 6 was located in Area 3, in a grassed area, enclosed on three sides by buildings. The trench measured 13m x 1.5m; it was excavated in two parts and was shorter than originally specified due to the proximity of buildings and buried services. Excavation ceased at the top of the undisturbed geology.
- 4.6.2 The recorded sequence of deposits was: natural [6/003], of mid yellowish brown silty clay overlain by subsoil [6/002] of mid yellowish brown sandy silty clay. At the eastern end of the trench, a deposit of made ground [6/004], consisting of dark greyish brown sandy silty clay with occasional modern brick and iron was recorded beneath the topsoil, [6/001], a light yellowish brown sandy clay.
- 4.6.3 Heights of the topsoil ranged from 39.51 AOD at the eastern end of the trench to 40.74 AOD at the western end of the trench.

Context	Type	Description	Max. Length m	Max. Width m	Deposit Thickness m
6/001	Deposit	Topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.20
6/002	Deposit	Subsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.10
6/003	Deposit	Natural	Tr.	Tr.	n/a
6/004	Deposit	Made ground	1.00	1.50	0.30

Table 7: Trench 6 contexts

4.7 Trench 7 (Fig 2)

- 4.7.1 Trench 7 was located in Area 4, on the golf course. The trench measured 30m x 1.8m. The trench was 0.52m deep at the north end and 0.44m at the southern end. Excavation ceased at the top of the undisturbed geology.
- 4.7.2 The recorded sequence of deposits was: natural [7/003], of mid yellowish brown silty clay; subsoil [7/002], of light brown sandy silt; topsoil [7/001] of light greyish brown sandy silt.
- 4.7.3 Heights of the topsoil ranged from 41.69 AOD at the northern end of the trench to 40.35 AOD at the southern end of the trench.
- 4.7.4 No archaeological features were recorded.

Context	Type	Description	Max. Length m	Max. Width m	Deposit Thickness m
7/001	Deposit	Topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.15
7/002	Deposit	Subsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.37
7/003	Deposit	Natural	Tr.	Tr.	n/a

Table 8: Trench 7 contexts

4.8 Trench 8 (Fig 6)

- 4.8.1 Trench 8 was located in Area 4, on the golf course. The trench measured 30m x 1.8m. The trench was 0.38m deep at the west end and 0.34m at the east end. Excavation ceased at the top of the undisturbed geology [8/003], a mid brown sandy clay.
- 4.8.2 A linear cut [8/004], measuring 0.35m wide, 30m long and 0.25m deep ran the length of the trench, and contained a fill [8/005], of mid greyish brown clayey silt that produced slate roofing fragments, of probable medieval date. The feature survived at a height of 38.70 AOD.

- 4.8.3 The feature was overlain by subsoil [8/002], of light brown sandy silt, which was in turn overlain by topsoil [8/001], of light greyish brown sandy silt.

Context	Type	Description	Max. Length m	Max. Width m	Deposit Thickness m
8/001	Deposit	Topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.08
8/002	Deposit	Subsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.26
8/003	Deposit	Natural	Tr.	Tr.	n/a
8/004	Cut	Linear	30	0.35	
8/005	Fill	Fill of 8/004	30	0.35	0.25

Table 9: Trench 8 contexts

4.9 Trench 9 (Fig 7)

- 4.9.1 Trench 9 was located in Area 4, on the golf course. The trench measured 30m x 1.8m. The trench was 0.35m deep at the north end and 0.53m at the south end. Excavation ceased at the top of the undisturbed geology, [9/003], of mid brown sandy clay.
- 4.9.2 A linear cut [9/004], measuring 1m wide, 1.8m long and 0.25m deep ran across the trench, and contained a fill, [9/005], of dark greyish brown clayey silt that produced 19th- to mid-20th- century pottery. The feature survived at a height of 40.15 AOD.
- 4.9.3 Overlying the feature was subsoil [9/002], of light brown sandy silt and topsoil [9/001], of light greyish brown sandy silt.

Context	Type	Description	Max. Length m	Max. Width m	Deposit Thickness m
9/001	Deposit	Topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.17
9/002	Deposit	Subsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.24
9/003	Deposit	Natural	Tr.	Tr.	n/a
9/004	Cut	Linear	1.8	1.00	
9/005	Fill	Fill of 9/004	1.8	1.00	0.25

Table 10: Trench 9 contexts

4.10 Trench 10 (Fig 2)

- 4.10.1 Trench 10 was located in Area 4, on the golf course. The trench measured 30m x 1.8m. The trench was 0.46m deep at the west end and 0.39m at the east end. Excavation ceased at the top of the undisturbed geology.
- 4.10.2 The recorded sequence of deposits was: natural [10/003] of mid brown sandy clay; subsoil, [10/002], of light brown sandy silt; topsoil, [10/001], of light greyish brown sandy silt.
- 4.10.3 Heights of the topsoil ranged from 40.18 AOD at the west end of the trench to 39.10 AOD at the east end of the trench.
- 4.10.4 No archaeological features were recorded.

Context	Type	Description	Max. Length m	Max. Width m	Deposit Thickness m
10/001	Deposit	Topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.18
10/002	Deposit	Subsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.17
10/003	Deposit	Natural	Tr.	Tr.	n/a

Table 11: Trench 10 contexts

4.11 Trench 11 (Fig 2)

4.11.1 Trench 11 was located in Area 4, on the golf course. The trench measured 30m x 1.8m. The trench was 0.40m deep at the west end and 0.34m at the east end. Excavation ceased at the top of the undisturbed geology.

4.11.2 The recorded sequence of deposits was: natural, [11/003], of mid brown sandy clay; subsoil, [11/002], of light brown sandy silt; topsoil [11/001] of light greyish brown sandy silt.

4.11.3 Heights of the topsoil ranged from 38.46 AOD at the west end of the trench to 37.94 AOD at the east end of the trench.

4.11.4 No archaeological features were recorded.

Context	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Deposit Thickness
11/001	Deposit	Topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.08
11/002	Deposit	Subsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.30
11/003	Deposit	Natural	Tr.	Tr.	n/a

Table 12: Trench 11 contexts

4.12 Trench 12 (Fig 2)

4.12.1 Trench 12 was located in Area 4, on the golf course. The trench measured 30m x 1.8m. The trench was 0.54m deep at the south end and 0.32m at the north end. Excavation ceased at the top of the undisturbed geology.

4.12.2 The recorded sequence of deposits was: natural, [12/003], of mid brown sandy clay; subsoil, [12/002], of light brown sandy silt; topsoil [12/001] of light greyish brown sandy silt.

4.12.3 Heights of the topsoil ranged from 38.85 AOD at the south end of the trench to 39.25 AOD at the north end of the trench.

4.12.4 No archaeological features were recorded.

Context	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Deposit Thickness
12/001	Deposit	Topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.20
12/002	Deposit	Subsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.13
12/003	Deposit	Natural	Tr.	Tr.	n/a

Table 13: Trench 12 contexts

4.13 Trench 13 (Fig 8)

Context	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Deposit Thickness
13/001	Deposit	Topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.20
13/002	Deposit	Subsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.13-0.32
13/003	Deposit	Natural	Tr.	Tr.	n/a
13/004	Cut	Linear	1.8	1.1	
13/005	Fill	Fill of 13/004	1.8	1.1	0.19

Table 14: Trench 13 contexts

- 4.13.1 Trench 13 was located in Area 4, on the golf course. The trench measured 30m x 1.8m. The trench was 0.66m deep at the south end and 0.25m at the north end. Excavation ceased at the top of the undisturbed geology, [13/003], a mid brown sandy clay.
- 4.13.2 A linear cut, [13/004], measuring 1m wide, 1.8m long and 0.19m deep ran across the trench, and contained a fill, [13/005], of dark greyish brown clayey silt. The feature survived at a height of 37.26 AOD.
- 4.13.3 Overlying the feature was subsoil, [13/002], of light brown sandy silt and topsoil, [13/001,] of light greyish brown sandy silt.

4.14 Geoarchaeological Test Pit 1 (Fig 2)

4.14.1 This Test Pit was located within a small east-west trending dry valley at the northern edge of the property. The upper 1.4m of the sequence has been interpreted as essentially a dry valley colluvial fill, comprising fluvial gravels within a silt-clay matrix. This layer produced two sherds of probable Middle/late Iron Age pottery. Sands were encountered at 1.4m, coarsening and becoming lighter at the base where they met an abrupt junction with the Bembridge Marl at 3.3m.

LOCATION	TP3 PBN	OSNGR	SZ 63102 90584	ELEVATION	40.0m OD	
Depth	Strat	Lithology	Colour	Clast	Sample	Notes
0	Topsoil	Silty Clay	Light Yellowish Brown	10% SR Flint 10-30mm		
0.25	Subsoil	Silty Clay	Reddish Brown	10% SA Flint 10-30mm		
0.45	Colluvium	Silty Clay	10YR5/6 Light Yellowish Brown	50% SA Flint 30-80mm		
1.3	Colluvium	Silty Clay	10YR5/6 Light Yellowish Brown	50% SA Flint 30-80mm	100lt Artefact	
1.4	Sand	Medium Sand With Clay	2.5Y 5/3 Light Olive Brown	5% R/SR Flint 20-40mm	100lt Artefact	
2.5	Sand	Medium Sand	10YR 5/8 Yellowish Brown			Mottled
3.2	Sand	Medium to Coarse Sand	2.5Y Light Olive Brown			Mottled
3.3	Clay	Clay Firm	Pale Blue-Grey			
3.5	Base of Test-pit					

Table 17: Summary of deposits in Geoarchaeological Test Pit 1

4.15 Geoarchaeological Test Pit 2 (Fig 2)

- 4.15.1 A stiff, cohesive clay containing lenses of sub-angular soliflucted gravel lenses was encountered close to the surface. The lenses were more concentrated towards the base where they formed a Head Gravel; the entire upper sequence is interpreted as a Brickearth.
- 4.15.2 Beneath this lay iron-stained medium-coarse sands; these were firm in consistency

and held together with a little clay. At 2.9m there was a colour change in the sands, lightening to olive yellow and losing the clay. The base of the sequence was not reached due to a waterstrike being encountered.

LOCATION	TP2 PBN	OSNGR	SZ 63174 90255	ELEVATION	44.5m OD.	
Depth	Strat	Lithology	Colour	Clast	Sample	Notes
0	Topsoil	Silty Clay	Light Yellowish Brown	10% SR Flint 10-30mm		
0.25	Subsoil	Silty Clay	Reddish Brown	10% SA Flint 10-30mm		
0.45	Brickearth	Silty Clay	Reddish Brown	5% SA Flint 10-30mm		
0.7	Head Gravel	Silty Clay	Reddish Brown	80% SA Flint 10-40mm	100lt Artefact	
1.4	Sand	Medium Sand With Clay	5YR 5/8 Yellowish Red			Mottled
2.5	Sand	Medium Sand	10YR 5/8 Yellowish Brown			Mottled
2.9	Sand	Medium to Coarse Sand	2.5Y Light Olive Brown			Waterstrike
3.0	Base of Test-pit					

Table 16: Summary of deposits in Geoarchaeological Test Pit 2

4.16 Geoarchaeological Test Pit 3 (Fig 2)

4.16.1 A stiff, cohesive clay containing lenses of sub-angular soliflucted gravel was encountered close to the surface, comprising a gravelly Brickearth as seen in TP2. Beneath this, the iron-stained medium-coarse sands were encountered at 1.5m. The test pit was only dug to 2.5m due edge collapse and the base of these sands was not found. The sands were firm in consistency and held together with a little clay.

LOCATION	TP4 PBN	OSNGR	SZ 63222 90270	ELEVATION	40.5m OD.	
Depth	Strat	Lithology	Colour	Clast	Sample	Notes
0	Topsoil	Silty Clay	10YR 5/6 Light Yellowish Brown	10% SR Flint 10-30mm		CBM
0.4	Subsoil	Silty Clay	10YR 5/6 Light Yellowish Brown	10% SA Flint 10-30mm		CBM
0.6	Head Deposit	Silty Clay	10YR 5/6 Light Yellowish Brown	20% SA Flint 20-40mm	100lt Artefact	
0.8	Head Deposit	Clay with Sand	5YR 5/8 Yellowish Red	15% SA flint 10-30mm In lenses		Mottled
1.5	Sands	Medium Sand with Clay	5YR 5/8 Yellowish Red			Mottled
2.5	Base of Test-pit (Collapsed)					

Table 18: Summary of deposits in Geoarchaeological Test Pit 3

4.17 Geoarchaeological Test Pit 4 (Fig 2)

4.17.1 Beneath a partially-landscaped surface lay a gravelly subsoil containing a diverse clast population including Tertiary, fluvial and beach flint. Beneath this lay 1.25m of fluvial gravel within a cohesive, mottled clay matrix. At the base was a coarse sand containing a little clay. This rested abruptly on the surface of the Bembridge Marl.

LOCATION	TP1 PBN	OSNGR	SZ 63375 89954	ELEVATION	39.2m OD.	
Depth	Strat	Lithology	Colour	Clast	Sample	Notes
0	Topsoil	Silty Clay	10YR5/6 Light Yellowish Brown	20% SR Flint 10-80mm		Tertiary, Beach & Fluvial flint noted
0.3	Subsoil	Silty Clay	10YR5/6 Light Yellowish Brown	30% SR Flint 10-80mm		Tertiary, Beach & Fluvial flint noted
0.5	Fluvial Gravel	Silty Clay	Reddish brown	80% SR Flint 20-70mm		Grey Mottling
1.2	Fluvial Gravel	Silty Clay	Reddish brown	80% SR Flint 20-70mm		Grey Mottling
1.5	Fluvial Sand & Gravel	Medium Sand With Clay	Light Greenish Grey	60% R/SR Flint 20-60mm	100lt Artefact	
1.75	Bembridge Marl	Clay Firm	Pale Blue-Grey			
3.0	Base of Test-pit					

Table 15: Summary of deposits in Geoarchaeological Test Pit 4

5.0 THE FINDS

5.1 Introduction

5.1.1 A small collection of finds was recovered during the archaeological investigations. The assemblage is quantified in Table 19:

Context	Pot	wt (g)	CBM	wt (g)	Flint	wt (g)	Stone	wt (g)	Glass	wt (g)	F Clay	wt (g)
TP 1 (1.7m)	2	16										
1/004					4	40					1	6
13/003					1	18						
3/005									2	94		
3m TR1 TP					1	18						
4/007					1	7						
8/002	1	50										
8/005							4	22				
9/005	3	48										
T9 u/s	1	14	1	6								
u/s					1	65						
Total	7	128	1	6	8	148	4	22	2	94	1	6

Table 19: Quantification of finds

5.2 The Worked Flint by Karine Le Hégarat

5.2.1 A small assemblage comprising just 10 struck flints, weighing 156g, has been recovered through hand collection and from sample residues from the evaluation trenches (Table 20). It consisted entirely of pieces of flint debitage, including four flakes, four flake fragments and two shattered pieces. With the exception of the material from [1/004], the artefacts were in a moderate to poor state of preservation displaying moderate to relatively extensive edge modification, as well as rolling. The relatively poor condition of most of the flintwork suggests that the artefacts are not in their primary location of deposition. One unstratified large flake was struck with a hard hammer. However, several proximal ends are present in the assemblage, providing evidence for the use of a soft hammer. The material from [1/004] in Trench 1 is of Mesolithic/early Neolithic character (Matt Pope pers comm), while the remainder of the worked flint is undiagnostic of date.

Context	Flake	Broken flake	Shattered piece
3m TR1 TP	1		
U/S	1		
4/007			1
1/004	2	1	1
13/003		1	
4/005 <3>		1	
2/005 <5>		1	
	4	4	2

Table 20: The worked flint

5.2.2 Two flint flakes were recovered from the Pleistocene sediments investigated in the Geoarchaeological Test Pits. These comprised a 35mm long hard hammer flake with two dorsal scars from fluvial gravels at 1.5m depth in GTP1 and a hard hammer flake, 42mm in maximum length, at 1.4m depth in fluvial gravels from GTP3.

5.1.3 Neither of these flakes had features which were clearly diagnostic of date but their origin within fluvial gavel which, on the basis of altitude, are of apparent Middle Pleistocene age, strongly suggests these artifacts are of Lower Paleolithic origin.

5.3 The Prehistoric Pottery by Anna Doherty

5.3.1 The prehistoric pottery from the site amounts to just 3 sherds, weighing 20g. Two of these were recovered from Geoarchaeological Test Pit 1, at a depth of c.1.7m. Both are undiagnostic bodysherds in quartz-rich fabrics, one of which also contains sparse, fine, well-sorted flint-inclusions. These fabrics are most typical of the Middle to later Iron Age.

5.3.2 The evaluation trenches produced only a single small sherd recovered from the residue of environmental sample <5> from context [2/005]. The fabric of this sherd contains rare/sparse, but rather ill-sorted, flint of c.0.5-2mm, in a slightly sandy matrix, with some voids possibly from leached shell. This fabric type is more ambiguous and might be of any later prehistoric date.

5.4 The Post-medieval Pottery by Luke Barber

5.4.1 The earliest post-medieval pottery consists of a slightly abraded rim from an oxidised glazed red earthenware dish with internal green glaze (context [8/002]). Local earthenwares are notoriously difficult to date closely in isolation; however, this vessel would be in keeping with an early 16th-to 17th- century date. The other three sherds of pottery were all recovered from context [9/005] and consist of pieces from the same very weathered refined white earthenware side plate of mid/late 19th- to mid 20th- century date.

5.5 The CBM by Luke Barber

5.5.1 Unstratified deposits in Trench 9 produced a small (14g) fragment of sparse/moderate fine sand tempered medium-fired tile. Unfortunately the surfaces are missing but a general early post-medieval date is considered most likely.

5.6 The Glass by Luke Barber

5.6.1 Context [3/005] produced two fragments from a green cylindrical beer/wine bottle of later 19th- to mid 20th- century date.

5.7 The Fired Clay by Trista Clifford

5.7.1 A single fragment of fired clay was recovered from context [1/004]. The fabric is fine sand tempered with abundant organic voids. There are no diagnostic features although two flat outer surfaces are present.

5.8 The Geological Material by Luke Barber

5.8.1 Four small pieces of silver-grey West Country roofing slate were recovered from [8/005]. These are most likely to be of medieval date and undoubtedly derived from a

building of some substance, though how far they have been transported from source is uncertain.

6.0 THE ENVIRONMENTAL SAMPLES by Karine Le Hégarat

6.1 Introduction and Methodology

6.1.1 Three 40L bulk soil samples were taken during evaluation work at the site to recover environmental remains such as wood charcoal, charred macrobotanical remains, fauna and mollusca, as well as to assist finds recovery. The samples were extracted from ditches [2/004] (fill [2/005]), [4/004] (fill [4/003]) and [4/006] (fill [4/005]). They were processed 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 (8, 4 and 2mm) and each fraction sorted for environmental and artefact remains. The flots were scanned under a stereozoom microscope at x7-45 magnifications. An overview of the samples contents is presented in Table 17.

6.2 Results

6.2.1 The flots consisted almost entirely of uncharred vegetation including woody debris, leaves fragments, the involucre of an acorn, high numbers of fine roots as well as a few uncharred seeds such as blackberry/raspberry (*Rubus fruticosus* agg./*idaeus*), nettle (*Urtica* sp.), knotgrass/dock (*Polygonum/Rumex* sp.), elder (*Sambucus nigra*) and seeds from the goosefoot (Chenopodiaceae) and pink (Caryophyllaceae) families. The high level of uncharred vegetation suggests some post-depositional disturbances and potential modern contamination of the deposits. There was a general paucity of environmental remains in the samples. The wood charcoal fragments were very sparse and predominantly small-sized (<4mm). The small assemblage of charred macroplants consisted of a single indeterminate cereal grain (Cerealia) and a single charred weed seed from the daisy (Asteraceae) family. The charred plant remains revealed poor preservation. No other classes of biological material were represented. The residues contained a small sherd of pottery, a small amorphous piece of burnt clay <10mm, and two pieces of flint.

6.3 Conclusions

6.3.1 Sampling from the ditch deposits has confirmed the presence of a very small quantity of environmental remains including wood charcoal fragments and charred macrobotanicals. However, the assemblage is too limited and too poorly preserved to provide any significant information about the agricultural economy, fuel use and the local vegetation and the presence of modern disturbance limits their dating potential.

Sample Number	Context	Sample Volume (l)	Sub-Sample Volume (l)	Flots							Residues										
				Weight g	Flot volume ml	Volume scanned	Uncharred %	Sediment %	Seeds uncharred	Charcoal <2mm	Crop seeds charred	Identifications	Preservation	Weed seeds charred	Identifications	Preservation	Charcoal >4mm	Weight (g)	Charcoal <4mm	Weight (g)	Other (eg ind, pot, cbm)
3	4/005	40	40	2	20	20	98	2												Burnt clay */<2g - Flint */<2g - FCF */28g	
4	4/007	40	40	4	25	25	98	2	* <i>Rubus</i> sp., Chenopodiaceae, <i>Polygonum/Rumex</i> sp.	*	*	Cerealia	+	*	Asteraceae (1)	+ +	*	4	*	< 2	FCF */28g
5	2/005	40	40	10	75	75	93	7	* <i>Polygonum/Rumex</i> sp., Chenopodiaceae/Caryophyllaceae, <i>Sambucus nigra</i> , <i>Urtica</i> sp.	*							**	4	**	< 2	Industrial debris */<2g - Pottery */<2g - Flint */<2g - Uncharred vegetation */<2g

Table 21: Sample quantification (* = 1-10, ** = 11-50, *** = 51-250, **** = >250) and weights in grams

7.0 DISCUSSION

7.1 Trench 1

7.1.1 Trench 1 was orientated N-S on the southern edge of an E-W dry valley. Colluvium [1/003] was recorded in in this trench and the same deposit was seen in TP1, extending to quite a significant depth (1.2m+). This deposit produced two sherds of Middle to later Iron Age pottery which might have derived from any nearby area of higher ground overlooking the dry valley.

7.1.2 A second unit of colluvium [1/004], overlying [1/003], was recorded at the southern end of the trench, upslope on the dry valley edge. Colluvium [1/004] probably derived from the small hilltop immediately to the south, where Trenches 2, 3 and 4 were located. It is possible therefore that the Mesolithic/early Neolithic flintwork contained within [1/004] also derived from the same area; the unrolled condition of the flint suggested that it had not moved far.

7.2 Trench 2 (Fig 3)

7.2.1 Ditch [2/004] did not produce any independent dating evidence; however the homogeneous, non-organic character of the fill suggested a prehistoric origin. Although a small quantity of charcoal was recovered, environmental remains from sampling were too limited and too poorly preserved to provide any significant information about fuel use and the local vegetation.

7.2.2 Pit [2/006] did not produce any independent dating evidence but again the homogeneous, non-organic character of the fill suggested a possibly prehistoric origin.

7.3 Trench 3 (Fig 4)

7.3.1 Ditch [3/004] contained a humic fill that produced later 19th- to mid 20th- century bottle glass, and was probably a small drainage feature of that period.

7.3.2 Ditch [3/006] was almost certainly the eastward continuation of ditch [2/004] in Trench 2 described above. Although ditch [3/006] could not be excavated due to persistent local flooding, the fill [3/007] was identical to fill [2/005] of ditch [2/004].

7.4 Trench 4 (Fig 5)

7.4.1 Ditch [4/004] did not produce any independent dating evidence; however the homogeneous, non-organic character of the fill again suggested a prehistoric origin. Although ditch [4/004] was perhaps slightly curving, it appeared to lie broadly at right angles to postulated prehistoric ditch [2/004]/[3/006]; these features may therefore represent elements of a coaxial field system.

7.4.2 Ditches [4/006] and [4/008] did not produce any independent dating evidence, except a single piece of worked flint from ditch fill [4/007]. The ditches contained very similar fills, again suggestive of a prehistoric date. Although the profiles of the excavated ditch sections were dissimilar, the arrangement of the two ditches could suggest that they are part of the same curving feature; ditch [4/006] did indeed appear to curve slightly towards ditch [4/008]. If this was the case, the resultant c. 25m long semi-circular ditch

might have represented the western part of a circular enclosure with an estimated diameter of c. 20m.

7.5 Trench 6

7.5.1 Deposit [6/004] was a localised deposit of modern made ground possible associated with nearby plastic and concrete drains that ran westwards from the nearby accommodation.

7.6 Trench 8 (Fig 6)

7.6.1 Ditch or gully [8/004] was a late post-medieval or modern French drain possibly associated with the construction of the existing golf course.

7.7 Trench 9 (Fig 7)

7.3.9 Ditch or gully [9/004] produced 19th- to mid-20th- century pottery and lay parallel to ditch [8/004] discussed above; it probably represents another drainage feature. An associated low earthwork perhaps suggested that this feature predated the use of the area for a golf course.

7.8 Trench 13 (Fig 8)

7.8.1 Ditch [13/004] was undated apart from a single piece of worked flint, and probably represents a minor drainage feature of unknown date.

7.9 Geoarchaeological Test-Pits

7.9.1 The entire site appears to be underlain by Middle Pleistocene deposits of fluvial and possibly marine origin. The fluvial deposits produced, in two locations, struck flintwork. These two flakes were not particularly diagnostic but were not incompatible with Lower Palaeolithic technological practices. The confirmation of artefact bearing Pleistocene deposits dating up to half a million years in age, provides a context for the artefacts previously collected in Priory Bay.

8.0 CONCLUSION

8.1 Original specific aims

8.1.1 Two specific aims were set out in the WSI (ASE 2011a):

- To establish the potential for Palaeolithic remains to be present across the site.
- To establish the presence of any remains from the medieval or post-medieval period, in particular those related to the 16th-century farmstead and possible medieval grange associated with the former St Helen's Priory.

8.2 Palaeolithic

8.2.1 Despite the small scale of the geoarchaeological assessment it has been broadly possible to conclude that a fluvial gravel sequence is present across the site which has potential for the recovery of lower Palaeolithic archaeology. These gravels rest on medium to coarse sands of unknown origin, which are quite probably a Middle Pleistocene marine deposit. This can be correlated, on the basis of altitude, with the Steyne Wood Clay and the Slindon Formation of the West Sussex Coastal plain.

8.3 Later prehistoric

8.3.1 A focus of probable later prehistoric activity, represented by three or four ditches and a possible pit, was identified in Area 1. These features occupied a small hill-top location on the southern edge of a dry valley, and covered an area of at least 0.2 hectares. Although no firm dating evidence was recovered from the features, one piece of worked flint was found in one of the ditches and a further four pieces of worked flint from the colluvium in the adjacent dry valley, together with two fragments of probable Iron Age pottery.

8.4 Post-medieval

8.4.1 The complete lack of medieval remains and the paucity of early post-medieval remains was perhaps unexpected considering the history of the site and the proximity of standing buildings dating from the 16th century. However, no trenches were located within the enclosed nucleus of the old farmstead and it is likely that the areas immediately beyond the central courtyard were used as arable plots or for pasture. The lack of residual material that might have derived from the manuring of the fields, perhaps suggests that the immediate environs of the farmstead were used for pasture.

8.4.2 The only early post-medieval find with any potential connection to the former St Helens Priory was a single sherd of early 16th- to 17th century pottery from the subsoil, [8/002], in Trench 8; no other finds or features from this period were recorded. Late post-medieval remains comprised a small quantity of mid/late 19th- to mid-20th- century pottery and glass from probable drainage gullies or ditches.

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APPENDIX 1 - SUMMARY TABLE OF HER DATA(Listed Buildings are shown in *Italics*)

Site No.	HER/LBS No.	NGR (SZ)	Description	Period
1	1186	63 91	Palaeolithic implements found in 1886 and 1897.	Lower Palaeolithic
2	1192	6365 9011	Numerous Palaeolithic artefacts found in gravel from cliff falls since 19 th century.	Lower Palaeolithic
3	1937	63 91	End scraper found near Horestone Cottage, c.1951.	Lower Palaeolithic
4	2071	6321 9088	Butt end of rolled black patinated chipped flint axe, found on beach prior to 1990.	Early Mesolithic – Early Neolithic
5	3559	6348 9026	Flint tranche axe found on beach in 1998.	Early Mesolithic – Early Neolithic
6	1158	6324 8929	Polished flint axe found in garden in 1897.	Neolithic
7	1184	6341 9034	Polished epidiorite stone axe found 1913.	Neolithic
8	1282	6307 8930	Polished flint axe found in St Helens prior to 1982.	Neolithic
9	1185	6343 9030	Flint thumb scraper found at Priory Bay in 1925.	Prehistoric
10	1806	628 895	Flint implement and debitage found during fieldwalking in 1987.	Prehistoric
11	1931	626 896	Worked flints, probably found during fieldwalking in 1987.	Prehistoric
12	1944	638 897	Mesolithic? Axe found on beach in 1985.	Prehistoric
13	1994	6270 8950	Flint implement found at Broomlands Park Far, St Helens.	Prehistoric
14	1997	6282 8967	Flint blade found in vicarage garden, St Helens.	Prehistoric
15	2001	6279 8966	Scraper and flake found next to vicarage, St Helens.	Prehistoric
16	2404	6297 8966	Large amount of burnt flint seen on pipeline easement off Eddington Road in 1995-96.	Prehistoric
17	1159	6365 8954	Cluniac Priory of St Helens, founded 1071-86, dissolved 1414.	Medieval
18	1160 <i>409863</i>	63706 89477	St Helens Old Church Tower, 12 th century church tower re-used as a seamark in 18 th century. <i>Grade II Listed Building</i>	Medieval
19	1171	635 895	Possible medieval fishponds associated with St Helens Priory.	Medieval
20	13899 <i>414148</i>	63218 90362	St Helens Priory – 20 th century house with 16 th – 18 th century origins. <i>Grade II Listed Building</i>	Post-Medieval
21	13898 <i>414151</i>	63166 90397	Former stables, now a house. <i>Grade II Listed Building</i>	Post-Medieval

22	13900 414151	63210 90297	Former stable, now holiday accommodation. <i>Grade II Listed Building</i>	Post-Medieval
23	13901 414151	63235 90289	Dovecote. <i>Grade II Listed Building</i>	Post-Medieval
24	13902 414151	63256 90314	Barn. <i>Grade II Listed Building</i>	Post-Medieval
25	13903 414151	63188 90304	Barn. <i>Grade II Listed Building</i>	Post-Medieval
26	3594	6332 9024	The Priory – landscape garden of 18 th -20 th century date. <i>Local List</i>	Post-Medieval
27	3096	6327 8991	Military boundary stone.	Post-Medieval
28	3097	6327 8990	Military boundary stone.	Post-Medieval
29	3098	6341 8984	Military boundary stone.	Post-Medieval
30	3099	6341 8985	Military boundary stone.	Post-Medieval
31	3100	6346 8999	Military boundary stone.	Post-Medieval
32	3101	6342 8995	Military boundary stone.	Post-Medieval
33	3102	6354 9013	Military boundary stone.	Post-Medieval
34	3320	636 903	Ruined sea wall, built in late 19 th century with later additions.	Post-Medieval
35	3560	6346 9031	Ruined brick and concrete pump house, possibly for pumping seawater to a pool. Probably 19 th century.	Post-Medieval
36	3561	6344 9028	Waterfall constructed of stone blocks.	Post-Medieval
37	6112	6355 9012	Ruined cylindrical iron and concrete base, possibly mooring post.	Post-Medieval
38	6114	6352 9007	Iron fence railings.	Post-Medieval
39	1166	636 898	Nodes Point Battery, built by 1904 for coastal defence.	Post-Medieval
40	2827	6373 8996	Site of 18 th century watch house.	Post-Medieval
41	3095	6378 8963	Military boundary stone.	Post-Medieval
42	3105	635 898	Anti-aircraft gun, 1916.	Post-Medieval
43	3110	635 899	Anti-aircraft guns, 1943.	Post-Medieval

44	3294	635 900	Site of signal station.	Post-Medieval
45	4020	636 898	Second World War coastal battery, Nodes Point.	Post-Medieval
46	6201	638 900	St Helens Fort, 16 th -17 th century.	Post-Medieval
47	14510	6315 9051	Horstone Point, arts and Crafts house built in 1928.	Post-Medieval
48	413956	63102 91204	Old Boathouse, 16 th century building modified in 19 th century. <i>Grade II Listed Building</i>	Post-Medieval
49	414516	63255 90313	Fairy Hill, late 18 th /early 19 th century house. <i>Grade II Listed Building</i>	Post-Medieval
50	410644	63164 89240	Garden Wall of Eddington Manor. <i>Grade II Listed Building</i>	Post-Medieval
51	410645	63138 89238	Corner Cottage, 17 th century former farm building. <i>Grade II Listed Building</i>	Post-Medieval
52	410646	63128 89224	Barn to south west of Corner Cottage. <i>Grade II Listed Building</i>	Post-Medieval
53	414145	62588 89976	Church of St Helen, built 1717. <i>Grade II Listed Building</i>	Post-Medieval
54	410623	63153 89247	Eddington Manor, late 16 th /early 17 th century farmhouse. <i>Grade II Listed Building</i>	Post-Medieval

SMR Summary Form

Site Code	PBN11					
Identification Name and Address	Priory bay Hotel, Nettleston, Isle of Wight					
County, District &/or Borough	Isle of Wight					
OS Grid Refs.	NGR 46330 09025					
Geology	Marine Gravel along the western and southern parts of the Site, capping Bembridge Marls					
Arch. South-East Project Number	5050					
Type of Fieldwork	Eval. X	Excav.	Watching Brief	Standing Structure	Survey	Other
Type of Site	Green Field	Shallow Urban X	Deep Urban	Other		
Dates of Fieldwork	Eval. 25-27/10/2011.	Excav.	WB.	Other		
Sponsor/Client	The Priory Bay Hotel					
Project Manager	Andy					
Project Supervisor	Greg Priestley-Bell					
Period Summary	Palaeo. X	Meso.	Neo.	BA	IA X	RB
	AS	MED	PM X	Other Modern X		
<p>Archaeology South-East was commissioned by the Priory Bay Hotel to undertake an archaeological and geo-archaeological evaluation on land at Priory Bay Hotel, Nettleston, Isle of Wight (NGR 46330, 09025). Thirteen Evaluation Trenches and four Test Pits were excavated. The work revealed a sequence of Middle Pleistocene sands and gravels of fluvial and possible marine origin. The fluvial gravels contain struck flintwork of probable Lower Palaeolithic affinity. A possible focus of prehistoric activity was tentatively identified covering at least 0.2 hectares and consisting of three or four ditches and a possible pit. The exact period to which the activity belongs is unclear at present, but it is of likely later prehistoric date. With the exception of a single sherd of early post-medieval pottery, the only other remains identified were a few probably 19th- to 20th-century drainage features</p>						

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OASIS ID: archaeol6-115203

Project details

Project name	The Priory Bay, Nettleston, Isle of Wight
Short description of the project	<i>Archaeology South-East was commissioned by the Priory Bay Hotel to undertake an archaeological and geo-archaeological evaluation on land at Priory Bay Hotel, Nettleston, Isle of Wight (NGR 46330, 09025). Thirteen Evaluation Trenches and four Test Pits were excavated. The work revealed a sequence of Middle Pleistocene sands and gravels of fluvial and possible marine origin. The fluvial gravels contain struck flintwork of probable Lower Palaeolithic affinity. A possible focus of prehistoric activity was tentatively identified covering at least 0.2 hectares and consisting of three or four ditches and a possible pit. The exact period to which the activity belongs is unclear at present, but it is of likely later prehistoric date. With the exception of a single sherd of early post-medieval pottery, the only other remains identified were a few probably 19th- to 20th- century drainage features</i>
Project dates	Start: 25-10-2011 End: 27-10-2011
Previous/future work	No / Not known
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	Listed Building
Current Land use	Other 15 - Other
Monument type	DITCH Late Prehistoric
Monument type	PIT Late Prehistoric
Significant Finds	WORKED FLINT Uncertain
Significant Finds	WORKED FLINT Late Prehistoric
Significant Finds	POT Late Prehistoric
Methods & techniques	'Sample Trenches','Test Pits'
Development type	Extensive green field commercial development (e.g. shopping centre, business park, science park, etc.)
Prompt	Voluntary/self-interest
Position in the	Pre-application

planning process

Project location

Country	England
Site location	ISLE OF WIGHT ISLE OF WIGHT NETTLESTONE AND SEAVIEW The Priory Bay Hotel, Nettleston, IoW
Site coordinates	SZ 63300 90248 50.7078421097 -1.103424960080 50 42 28 N 001 06 12 W Point

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Archaeology South East
Project brief originator	Isle of Wight County Archaeology and Historic Environment Service
Project design originator	Archaeology South-East
Project director/manager	Andy Leonard/Jim Stevenson
Project supervisor	Greg Priestley-Bell
Type of sponsor/funding body	Client
Name of sponsor/funding body	The Priory Bay Hotel

Project archives

Physical Contents	'Ceramics','Glass','Worked stone/lithics'
Digital Contents	'Survey'
Digital Media available	'Images raster / digital photography','Survey','Text'
Paper Contents	'none'
Paper Media available	'Drawing','Photograph','Plan','Report','Section','Survey ','Unpublished Text'

Entered by	Greg Priestley-Bell (gregpbell@btinternet.com)
Entered on	4 December 2011

OASIS:

Please e-mail [English Heritage](#) for OASIS help and advice

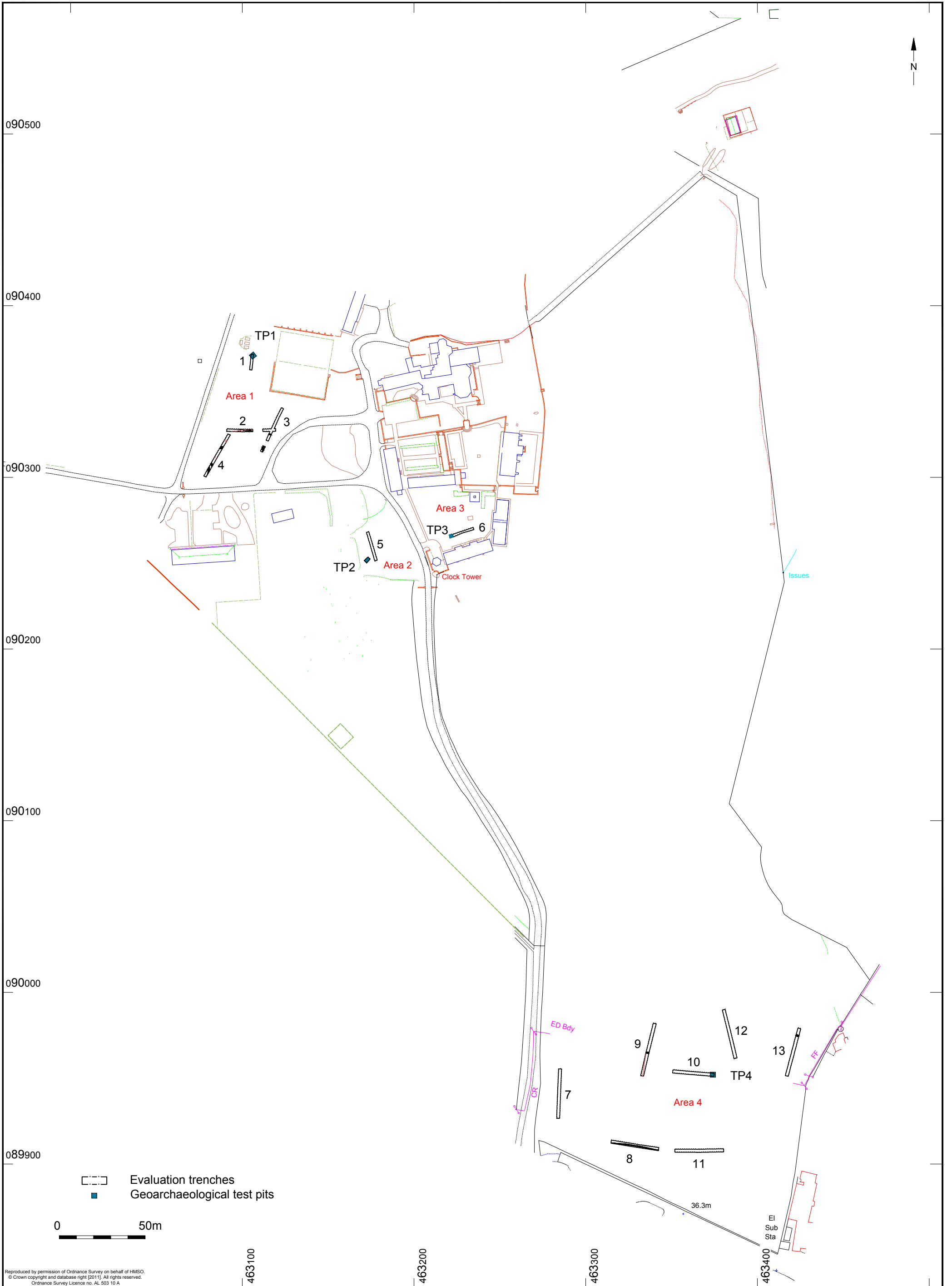
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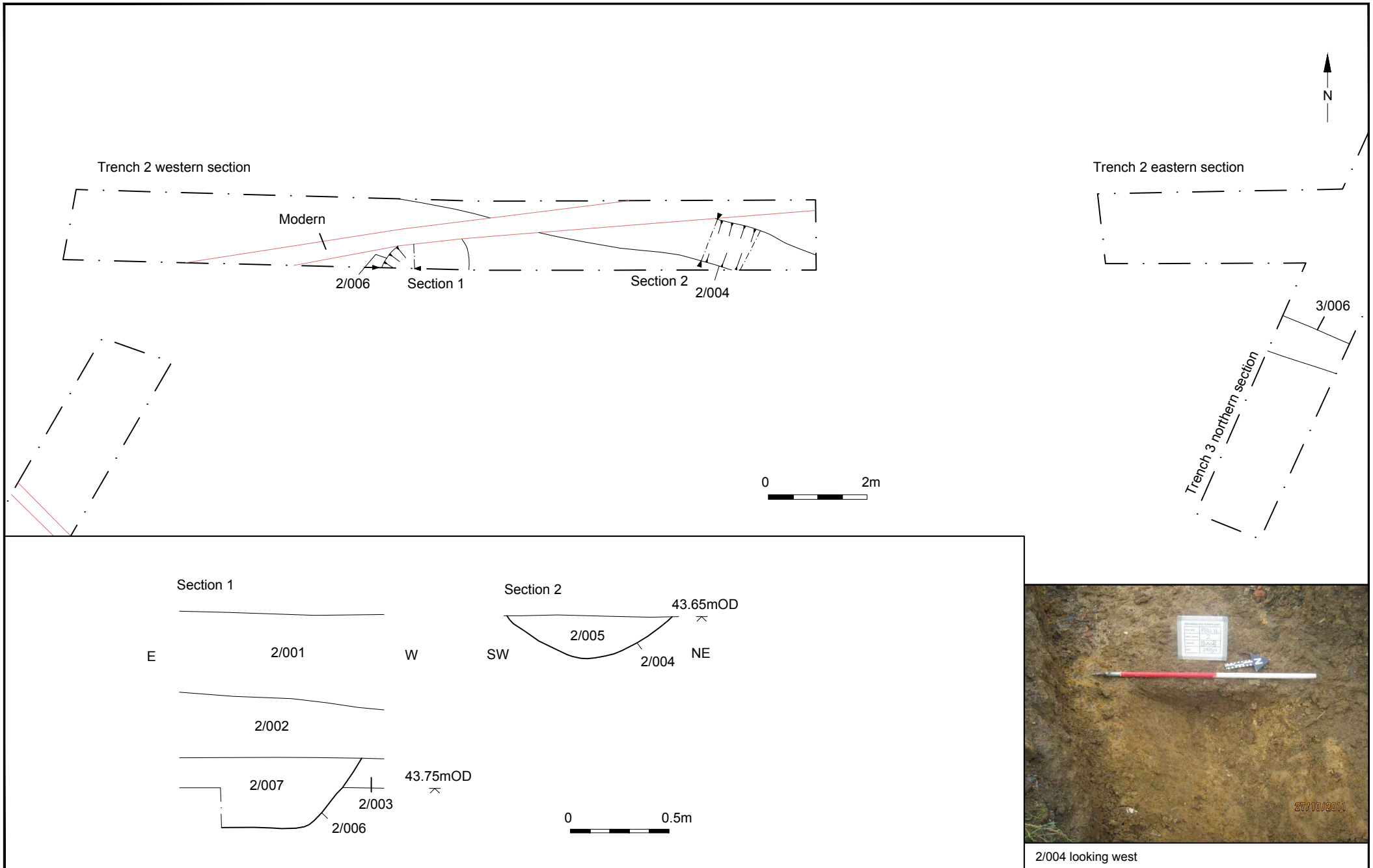


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© Archaeology South-East		Priory Bay, Nettlestone		Fig. 1
Project Ref: 5050	Dec 2011	Site location		
Report Ref: 20112284	Drawn by: JLR			



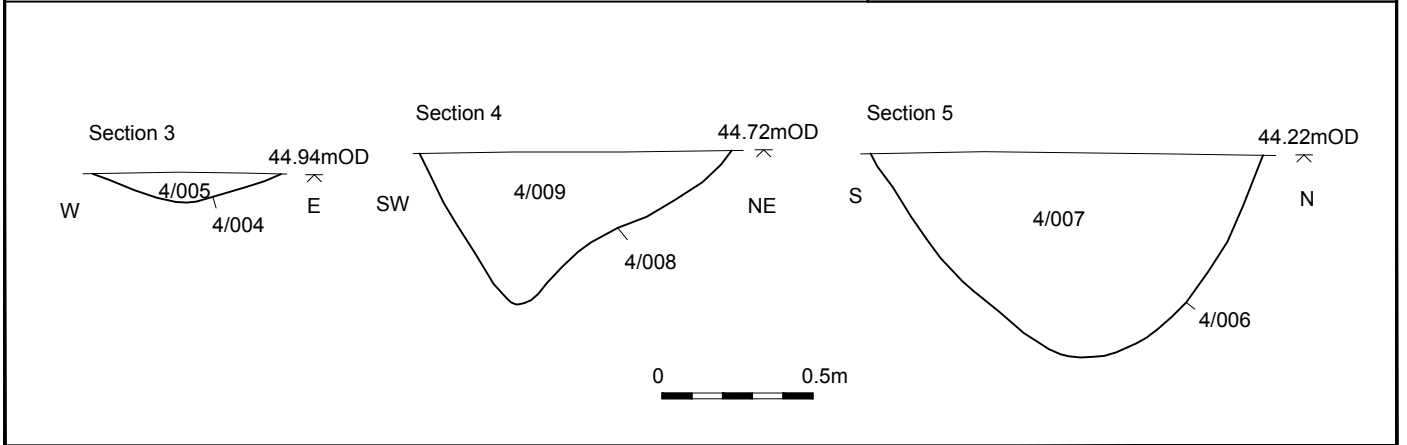
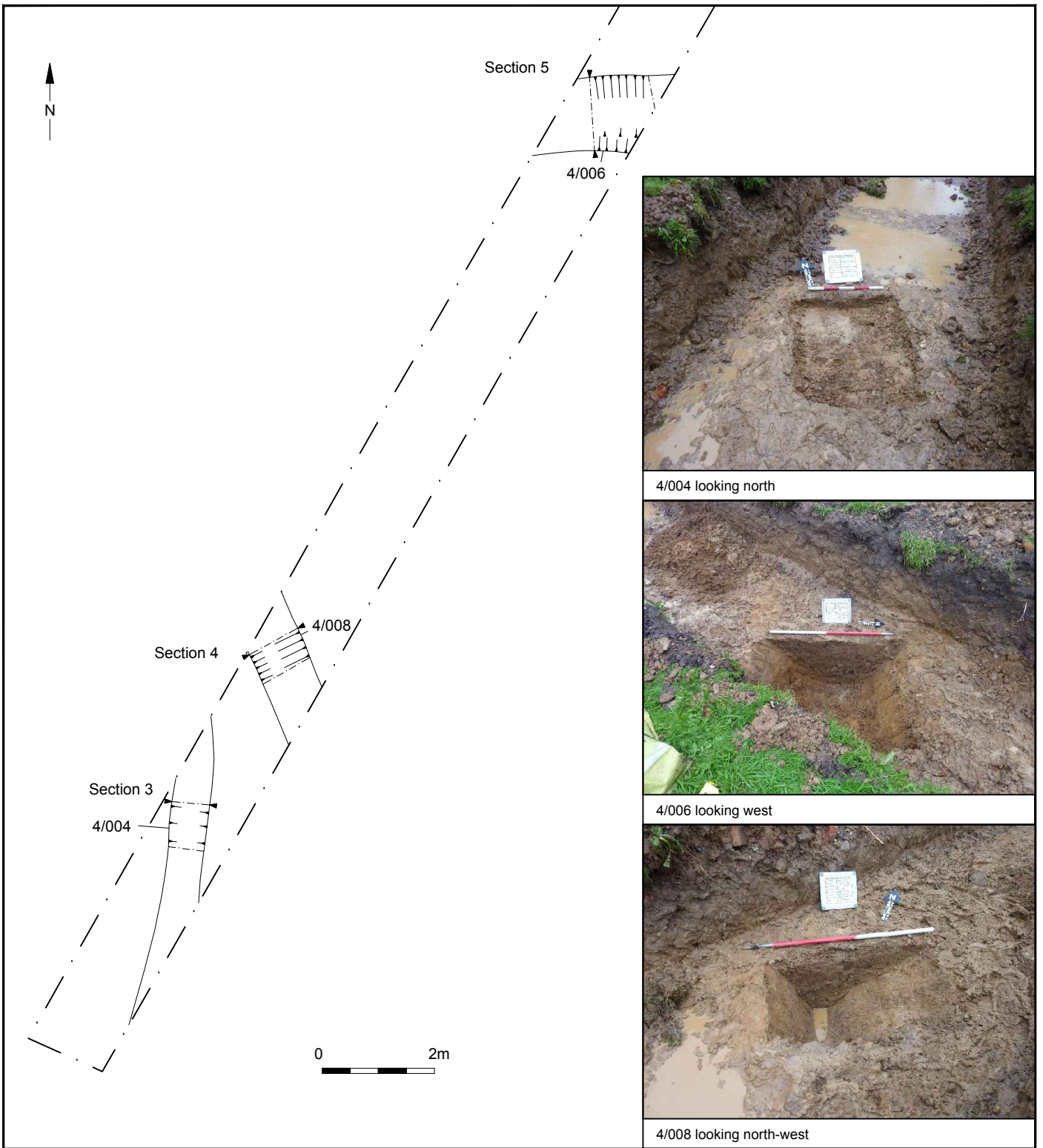
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Project Ref: 5050	Nov 2011	Trench location	
Report Ref: 2011284	Drawn by: JLR		



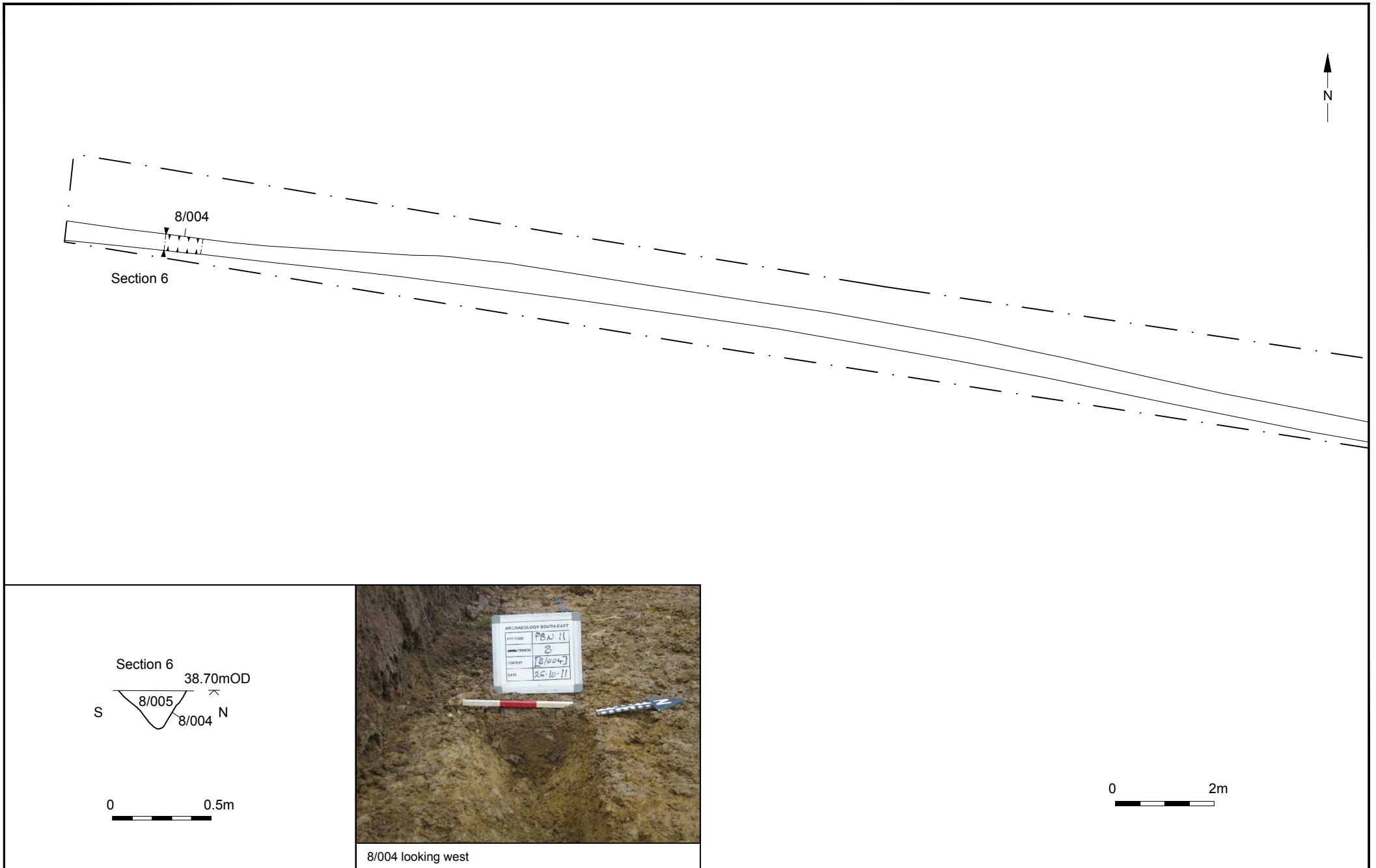
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Project Ref: 5050	Nov 2011	Trench 2: Plan, sections and photograph	
Report Ref: 2011284	Drawn by: JLR		



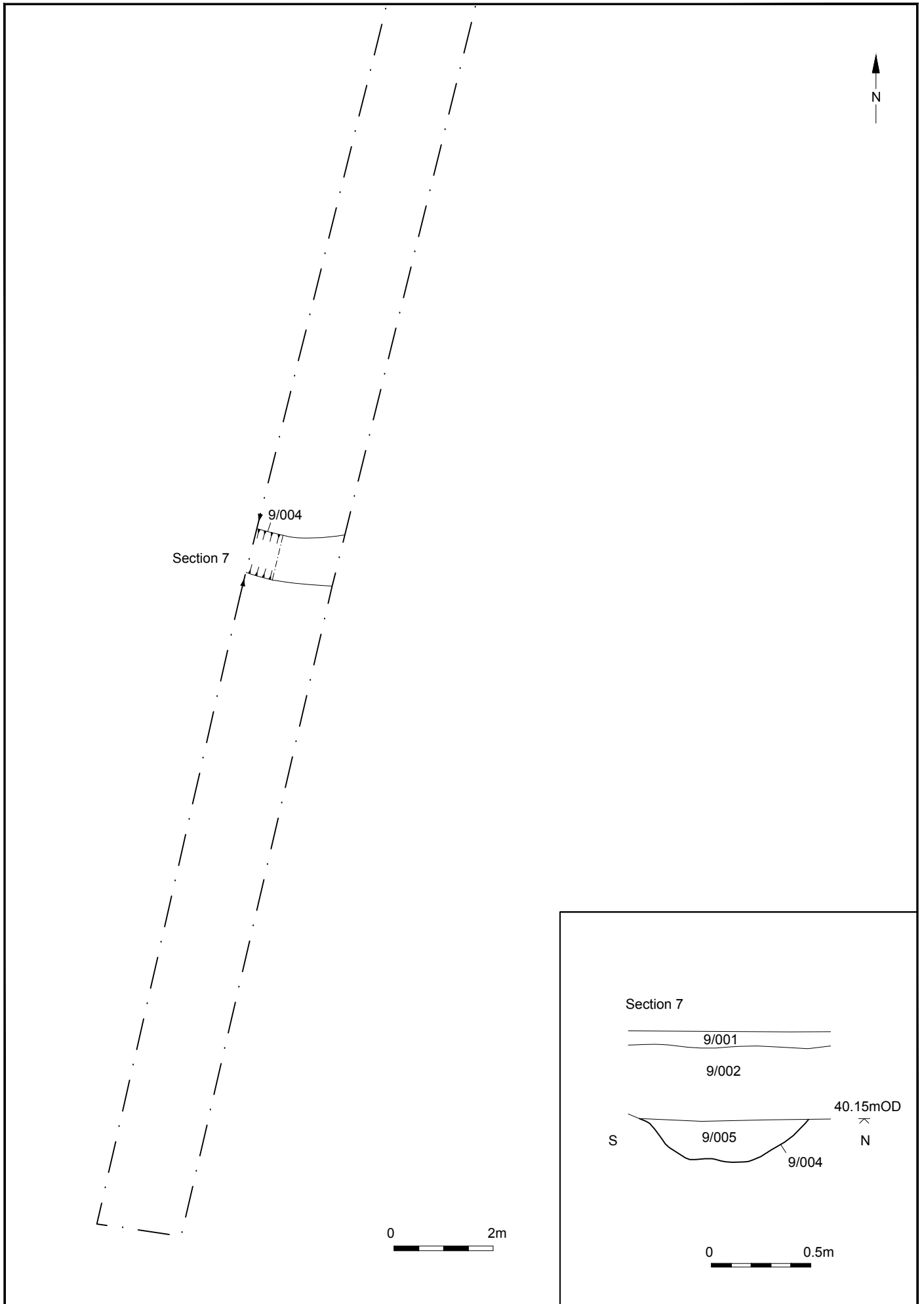
© Archaeology South-East		Priory Bay Hotel	Fig. 4
Project Ref: 5050	Nov 2011	Trench 3: Plan and photograph	
Report Ref: 2011284	Drawn by: JLR		



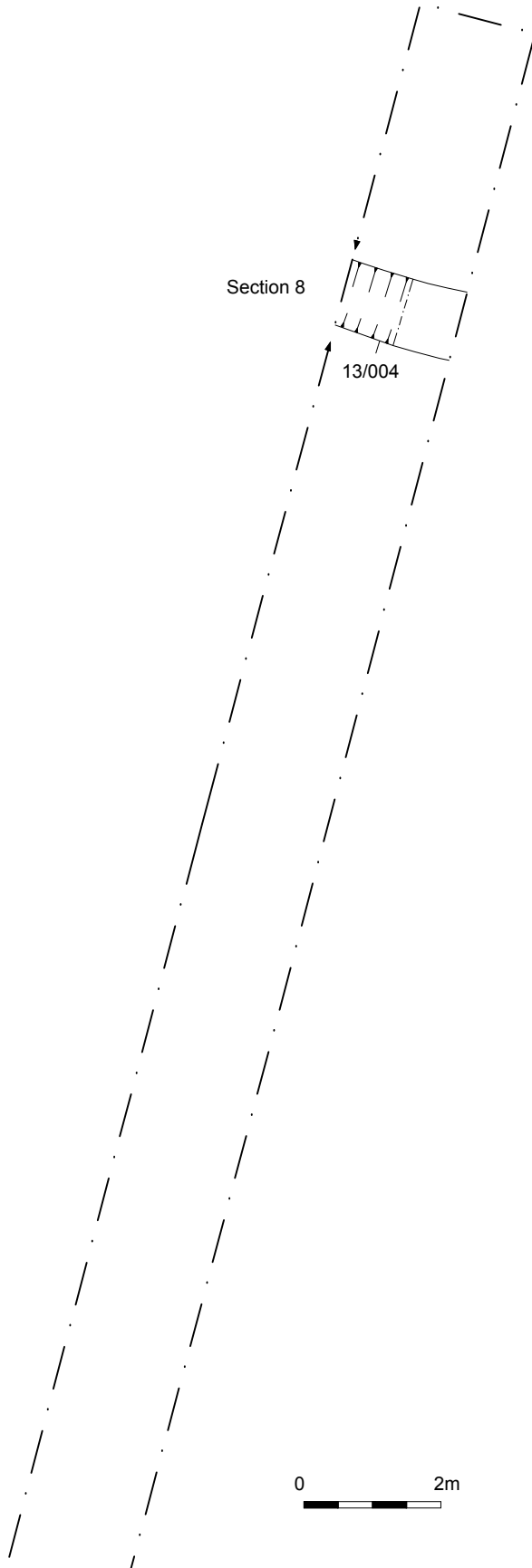
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Project Ref: 5050	Nov 2011	Trench 4: Plan, sections and photographs		
Report Ref: 2011284	Drawn by: JLR			



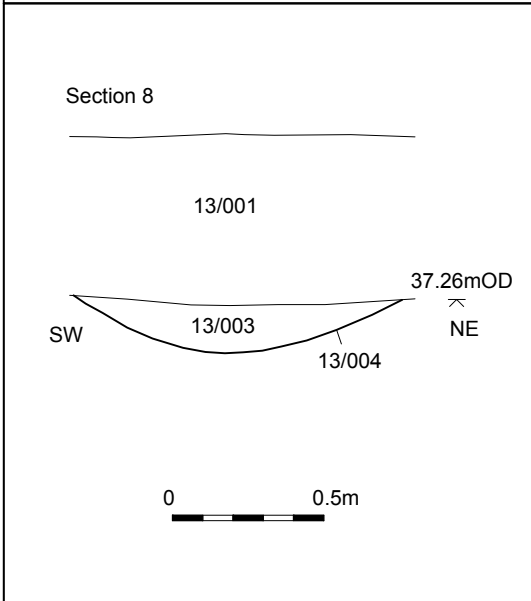
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Project Ref: 5050	Nov 2011	Trench 8: Plan, section and photograph	
Report Ref: 2011284	Drawn by: JLR		



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Project Ref: 5050	Nov 2011	Trench 9: Plan and section	
Report Ref: 2011284	Drawn by: JLR		



13/004 looking north-west



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Project Ref: 5050	Nov 2011	Trench 13: Plan, section and photograph	
Report Ref: 2011284	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

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