

**Archaeological Evaluation Report
Land East of Billingshurst, Billingshurst
West Sussex**

NGR 509390 126090

Horsham District Council Planning Reference DC/11/1654

**Project No: 5259
Site Code: WLB11**

**ASE Report No: 2011300
OASIS ID: archaeol6-115816**

By Simon Stevens BA MIFA

**With contributions from
Karine Le Hégarat, Anna Doherty, Luke Barber
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Abstract

Archaeology South-East was commissioned by CgMs Consulting Ltd. to undertake an archaeological evaluation on land at Land East of Billingshurst, Billingshurst, West Sussex. Twenty-four trenches of varying width and length were excavated to investigate anomalies located during a geophysical survey at the site.

The majority of the anomalies were found to be geological in origin resulting from differing concentrations of clay, sandstone and manganese in the underlying Weald Clay 'natural'. Others appeared to be the result of undated episodes of localised burning. Finds from the overburden of most of the trenches were limited to pieces of fire-cracked flint and late post-medieval pottery.

A group of archaeological features were encountered and excavated on alignments suggested by the geophysics results. The features consisted mostly of ditches of varying profiles, widths and depths. All of the investigated features contained Romano-British pottery, dated to the 1st and 2nd century AD often in significant quantities. A small black glass Roman ring intaglio was also recovered. Environmental evidence included charcoal and burnt animal bone.

In conclusion, and based on currently available evidence, the targeted evaluation of the locations of the geophysical anomalies has shown that the majority were geological in origin, but the survey also highlighted the presence of buried archaeological features. Based on the geophysics results, the evaluation and initial assessment of the finds it appears that an enclosed area (or enclosures) of first to second century date was located at the site. The incidence of significant quantities of pottery in the ditches suggests the presence of occupation.

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Site Background

- 1.1.1 Archaeology South-East (ASE), a division of University College London (UCL) Centre for Applied Archaeology (CAA) was commissioned by CgMs Consulting Ltd. to undertake an archaeological evaluation at Land East of Billingshurst, Billingshurst, West Sussex (NGR 509390 126090; Figure 1).

1.2 Topography and Geology

- 1.2.1 The c.27ha site lies to the north-east of the centre of Billingshurst and straddles the A272 as it passes eastwards out of the town. The site comprises a number of separate undulating arable and pasture fields to the north of the A272 usually edged by trees and hedges. It lies at a height of c.59m metres at its northern extent (where it lies adjacent to *Stane Street*, the Roman road from Chichester to London, the modern A29), and at c.25m at the southern end.
- 1.2.2 According to current data from the British Geological Survey the underlying bedrock across the entire site is part of the Wealden Group of mudstone, siltstone and sandstone. There is no recorded superficial geology (BGS 2011).

1.3 Planning Background

- 1.3.1 An application has been submitted to Horsham District Council for the development of the site.
- 1.3.2 A programme of archaeological work has been undertaken at the site as part of the pre-application process, including the production of an archaeological desk-based assessment (DBA; CgMs 2011a) a walkover survey, a geophysical survey and a campaign of surface artefact collection (ASE 2011b; see Section 2.0 below). The current report provides details of a further stage of work outlined in a specification produced by CgMs (2011b)

1.4 Aims and Objectives

1.4.1 The aims of the archaeological work given in the Specification (*ibid.*) were:

'The aim of the archaeological evaluation is to target those possible/probable archaeological features identified through geophysical survey that have been considered significant enough to merit further investigation to inform the planning application. Subject to the results of this evaluation, any further requirements for trial trenching will be undertaken as necessary following determination of the planning application.'

The evaluation should aim to determine, as far as is reasonably possible, the location, form, extent, date, character, condition, significance and quality of any surviving archaeological remains, irrespective of period, liable to be threatened by the proposed development. An adequate representative sample of all areas where archaeological remains are potentially threatened should be studied.

The evaluation should also seek to clarify the nature and extent of existing disturbance and intrusions and hence assess the degree of archaeological survival of buried deposits and any surviving structures of archaeological significance.

Within these parameters, the evaluation of this site presents an opportunity to address the following objectives:

- To establish the presence or absence of archaeological deposits*
- Evaluate the likely impact of past land use and development.*
- Identify any evidence of prehistoric or Roman occupation and its nature and extent*

Where physical preservation is likely to be considered as a mitigation option, the primary factors affecting the present state of preservation and the direct and indirect affect of the proposed development should also be considered.'

1.5 Scope of Report

1.5.1 The current report provides results of the archaeological work at the site carried out in late November and early December 2011 by a team comprising Simon Stevens and Dan Swift (Senior Archaeologists), Kari Bowers and Richard Mandeville (Archaeological Assistants) and John Cook (Archaeological Surveyor). The project was managed by Neil Griffin (Project Manager) and by Jim Stevenson (Post-Excavation Manager).

2.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 Summary

2.1.1 A full appreciation of the archaeological background of the site has been given in the DBA (CgMs 2011a) and is summarised below. The site was considered to have low to moderate archaeological potential based on an examination of available cartographic and documentary sources and previous fieldwork in the vicinity.

2.1.2 The site lies in the Low Weald of Sussex, an area which has seen relatively little archaeological fieldwork compared to more densely occupied areas such as the Coastal Plain. The DBA lists a handful of known prehistoric sites in the area, which is presumed to have still been heavily forested at that time. Similarly, despite the proximity of a stretch of Stane Street, the Roman road between Chichester and London, Romano-British remains have also proved elusive in the area. Little Anglo-Saxon or medieval material is known from the locality either, whilst the focus of medieval and later settlement lies to the south-west, around the site of the parish church of Billingshurst which is thought to have been founded in the 12th century

2.1.3 On a period-by-period basis, archaeological potential was categorised as follows:

Palaeolithic, Mesolithic and Neolithic	LOW
Bronze Age and Iron Age	LOW to MODERATE
Roman	LOW to MODERATE
Anglo-Saxon/Early Medieval	LOW to MODERATE
Late Medieval/Post Medieval	LOW to MODERATE
Modern	LOW

2.1.4 Following initial consultation between CgMs and John Mills, Senior Archaeologist, West Sussex County Council, it was decided that archaeological fieldwork would be required to inform the planning process. Following further discussion between all parties, a *Written Scheme of Investigation* (WSI) was prepared outlining the techniques to be used in initial fieldwork at the site, namely a walkover survey, geophysical survey and a programme of surface artefact collection (ASE 2011a).

2.1.5 The walkover survey identified a number of remnant and existing landscape features across the entire examined area. Similarly, the geophysical survey highlighted a number of anomalies of differing character across the site. The surface artefact collection was limited to a single field of c.8.5ha. A range of artefacts including struck and fire-cracked flint and a limited assemblage of Romano-British pottery was found, but the vast majority of recovered material was post-medieval in date (ASE 2011b).

2.1.6 Subsequently, a specification was issued by CgMs (2011b) for trial trenching of the location of the anomalies identified in the geophysical survey (ASE 2011b).

3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY

- 3.1 A plan showing the location of the evaluation trenches was produced by CgMs, targeting geophysical anomalies. This plan, following re-working due to ecological and other constraints, was approved by John Mills, Senior Archaeologist, West Sussex County Council before the work commenced on site.
- 3.2 The location of each trench was scanned prior to excavation using a CAT scanner. The trenches were excavated by a 15 tonne 360° excavator fitted with a five-foot (1.54m) wide toothless ditching bucket under the supervision of staff from ASE.
- 3.3 The mechanical excavation was taken down to the top of 'natural' geological deposits, or to the top of any recognisable archaeological deposits, whichever was the higher. Care was taken not to damage archaeological deposits through excessive use of mechanical excavation. Revealed surfaces of the 'natural' were manually cleaned in an attempt to identify individual archaeological features. Spoil was scanned for the presence of artefacts, both visually and with a metal detector.
- 3.4 All encountered archaeological deposits, features and finds were recorded to accepted professional standards using standard Archaeology South-East *pro forma* recording sheets. Deposit colours were recorded by visual inspection and not by reference to a Munsell Colour chart.
- 3.5 A full photographic record of the work was kept and forms part of the site archive which is currently held at Archaeology South-East offices in Portslade, and has been accepted by the Horsham District Museum. It will be deposited in due course under the accession number HDM:2011.482. The archive consists of the following material:

Number of Contexts	88
Trench Record Sheets	24
No. of files/paper record	1
Plan and sections sheets	1
Bulk Samples	3
Photographs	114 digital images
Bulk finds	1 box
Registered finds	1
Environmental flots/residue	3

Table 1: Quantification of Site Archive

4.0 RESULTS

4.1 Introduction

- 4.1.1 The trial trenching was undertaken during late November and early December 2011. Weather conditions were variable with occasional bouts of heavy rain. However, levels of light were for-the-most-part good, or at least adequate for the identification, investigation and recording of archaeological features.
- 4.1.2 All of the trenches (with the exception of Trench 5) were targetted on anomalies of varying character recorded during the geophysical survey of the site (ASE 2011b).

4.2 Trench 1

Context Number	Type	Description	Max. Deposit Thickness
1/001	Deposit	Topsoil	250mm
1/002	Deposit	Subsoil	250mm
1/003	Deposit	'Natural'	-

- 4.2.1 Trench 1 was located in an area of grassland at the northern end of the site. Due to on-site constraints the trench was only excavated to a width of 2m and a length of 15m at which point it was clear that the geophysical anomalies were geological in origin. The trench was excavated to a depth of 470mm (49.86mAOD) at the north-western end and to 290mm (50.04mAOD) at the south-eastern end, at which the 'natural' was encountered and mechanical excavation ceased.
- 4.2.2 The overburden consisted of two distinct layers. The uppermost was context [1/001], a mid-brown humic topsoil/ploughsoil. It overlay context [1/002], a mid-greyish brown layer of subsoil. This in turn overlay the 'natural', yellow silty sand, which contained pockets of sandstone and occasional deposits of manganese, context [1/003].
- 4.2.3 No archaeological features or deposits were encountered, suggesting that the geophysical survey had detected differences in the underlying geology, caused by varying concentrations of sandstone, clay and manganese. Deposits of sandstone were encountered at a shallow depth in the trench, and appear to have been the main geophysical anomaly detected. No artefacts were recovered from the overburden.

4.3 Trench 2

Context Number	Type	Description	Max. Deposit Thickness
2/001	Deposit	Topsoil	100mm
2/002	Deposit	Subsoil	190mm
2/003	Deposit	'Natural'	-

- 4.3.1 Trench 2 was located in a paddock in the north-eastern part of the site. It was excavated to a length of 30m, to a width of 2m and to a depth of 290mm (42.70mAOD) at the western end and to 280mm (43.05mAOD) at the eastern end, at which the 'natural' was encountered and mechanical excavation ceased.
- 4.3.2 The overburden consisted of two distinct layers. The uppermost was a mid-brown humic topsoil, context [2/001], which overlay a subsoil of which was similar in texture, but slightly lighter in colour, context [2/002]. This overlay the 'natural', a yellowish brown sandy clay, with pockets of red clay and manganese.
- 4.3.3 No archaeological features or deposits were encountered, suggesting the geophysical survey had detected differences in the underlying geology. No artefacts were recovered from the overburden.

4.4 Trench 3

Context Number	Type	Description	Max. Deposit Thickness
3/001	Deposit	Topsoil	120mm
3/002	Deposit	Subsoil	200mm
3/003	Deposit	'Natural'	-

- 4.4.1 Trench 3 (and Trench 4) were excavated in a paddock to the east of Trench 2. Trench 3 was excavated to a length of 30m to a width of 4m, and to a depth of 290mm (47.93mAOD) at the north-eastern and to 280mm (47.31mAOD) at the south-western end, at which the 'natural' was encountered and mechanical excavation ceased.
- 4.4.2 The two layers of overburden and underlying 'natural' were similar in character to those found in Trench 2, which is thought to explain the varying geophysical readings as no archaeological deposits or features were encountered. A small assemblage of artefacts was recovered from the overburden.

4.5 Trench 4

Context Number	Type	Description	Max. Deposit Thickness
4/001	Deposit	Topsoil	120mm
4/002	Deposit	Subsoil	210mm
4/003	Deposit	'Natural'	-

4.5.1 Trench 4 was also excavated to a length of 20m to a width of 4m, and to a depth of 300mm (48.87mAOD) at the northern end and to 250mm (48.71mAOD) at the southern end, at which the 'natural' was encountered and mechanical excavation ceased.

4.5.2 The two layers of overburden and underlying 'natural' were similar in character to those found in adjacent Trench 3. No archaeological deposits or features were encountered, again suggesting the geophysical survey had detected geological anomalies. A small assemblage of artefacts was recovered from the overburden.

4.6 Trench 5

Context Number	Type	Description	Max. Deposit Thickness
5/001	Deposit	Ploughsoil	220mm
5/002	Deposit	'Natural'	-

4.6.1 Trench 5 was located at the western end of a large arable field. It was located there as a 'control' trench away from any geophysical anomalies. It was excavated to a length of 40m, a width of 2m and to a depth of 220mm (40.40mAOD) at the western end and also to 220mm (40.63mAOD) at the eastern end, at which the 'natural' was encountered and mechanical excavation ceased.

4.6.2 The overburden consisted of a single layer of mid-brown silty clay ploughsoil, context [5/001]. There was no discernable sub-soil layer. The 'natural' was similar in character to that encountered in the previous trenches. The 'natural' in this part of the site only contained small quantities of flint gravel, but also occasional deposits of manganese oxide in the orangey clay matrix. A small assemblage of artefacts was recovered from the overburden.

4.7 Trench 6

Context Number	Type	Description	Max. Deposit Thickness
6/001	Deposit	Topsoil	290mm
6/002	Deposit	'Natural'	-

4.7.1 Trench 6 was located near the centre of the arable field, and was split to avoid a 'tramline' (vehicle track) used by the farmer. It was excavated to a length of 52m, a width of 4m, and to a depth of 190mm (46.34mAOD) at the north-eastern end and to 230mm (44.80mAOD) at the south-western end, at which the 'natural' was encountered and mechanical excavation ceased.

4.7.2 The ploughsoil and underlying 'natural' were similar in character to those found in Trench 5. No archaeological deposits or features were encountered, again suggesting the geophysical survey had detected geological inconsistencies. A small assemblage of artefacts was recovered from the overburden.

4.8 Trench 7

Context Number	Type	Description	Max. Deposit Thickness
7/001	Deposit	Topsoil	330mm
7/002	Deposit	'Natural'	-
7/003	Deposit	Spread of pottery	-
7/004	Cut	Ditch	840mm
7/005	Fill	Ditch	840mm
7/006	Cut	Ditch	550mm
7/007	Fill	Ditch	550mm

4.8.1 Trench 7 was located over a group of geophysical anomalies of differing character to most of the others encountered at the site. It was shortened to avoid a 'tramline' and split between Trenches 7, 8 and 9. It was excavated to a length of 30m and to a width of 4m, and to a depth of 240mm (48.37mAOD) at the north-eastern end and to 330mm (46.40mAOD) at the south-western end, at which the 'natural' was encountered and mechanical excavation ceased.

4.8.2 The ploughsoil overburden and underlying 'natural' were similar in character to those found in Trench 5. Three archaeological features were recorded, and a small assemblage of artefacts was recovered from the overburden.

4.8.3 Context [7/003] was a localised spread of Romano-British pottery encountered directly on the surface of the 'natural'. There was no obvious associated feature, perhaps suggesting it had been truncated by ploughing leaving the pottery resting on the very base of the feature, or that it was derived from the nearby ditch [7/004].

4.8.4 The other two features were both ditches. The largest was ditch [7/004] which ran from north to south across the trench on the alignment of an anomaly found during the geophysical survey. It was 2.9m in width and a maximum of 840mm in depth, with a flattened 'v' shaped profile. The single fill was context [7/005], a brownish grey silty clay, which contained a significant assemblage of Romano-British pottery, a glass intaglio and environmental remains including charcoal and burnt animal bone.

- 4.8.5 The smaller feature was ditch [7/006], which crossed the trench from south-east to north-west at the north-eastern end of the trench, again corresponding to a recorded geophysical anomaly. It was also broadly 'v'-shaped in profile, 1.3m in width and a maximum of 550mm in depth. The single fill was context [7/007], a yellowish grey silty clay, which contained a small assemblage of Romano-British pottery. The feature had been heavily disturbed by the laying of a ceramic field drain and so no environmental sample was taken.

4.9 Trench 8

Context Number	Type	Description	Max. Deposit Thickness
8/001	Deposit	Topsoil	330mm
8/002	Deposit	'Natural'	-
8/003	Cut	Ditch	410mm
8/004	Fill	Ditch	410mm
8/005	Cut	Ditch	200mm
8/006	Fill	Ditch	200mm
8/007	Cut	Ditch	680mm
8/008	Fill	Ditch	680mm
8/009	Cut	Ditch	390mm
8/010	Fill	Ditch	390mm

- 4.9.1 Trench 8 was located over the same complex of geophysical anomalies as Trench 7. It was excavated to a length of 30m, to a width of 4m, and to a depth of 200mm (49.12mAOD) at the north-eastern end and to 330mm (48.43mAOD) at the south-western end, at which the 'natural' was encountered and mechanical excavation ceased. The ploughsoil overburden and 'natural' were similar in character to those found in Trench 7. Four archaeological features were recorded.
- 4.9.2 The northernmost feature was ditch [8/003], a flat-bottomed ditch which ran from east to west across the trench. It was 1.3m wide and 410mm deep. The single fill was context [8/004], a greyish brown silty clay, from which a small assemblage of Romano-British pottery was recovered. Further to the south there was a wider, but notably shallower feature, ditch [8/005]. The single fill was context [8/006], a mid-greyish brown silty clay, from which a small assemblage of Late Iron Age/early Romano-British pottery was recovered.
- 4.9.3 Ditch [8/007] was probably the continuation of ditch [7/007] in Trench 7. It was 'v' shaped in profile, 910mm in width and a maximum depth of 680mm. The single fill was context [8/008], a mid-greyish brown silty clay, from which a significant assemblage of Romano-British pottery was recovered. The other feature encountered appeared to be the terminus of a feature detected during the geophysical survey.
- 4.9.4 Ditch [8/009] extended below the south-western baulk of the trench, and was therefore of uncertain extent; the excavated portion was 390mm in depth. The single fill was context [8/010], an orangey brown silty clay from which a small assemblage of Romano-British pottery was recovered.

4.10 Trench 9

Context Number	Type	Description	Max. Deposit Thickness
9/001	Deposit	Topsoil	300mm
9/002	Deposit	Subsoil	70mm
9/003	Deposit	'Natural'	-

4.10.1 Trench 9 was located to the south of Trench 7 on steeply sloping ground. It was excavated to a length of 20m, to a width of 4m, and to a depth of 200mm (44.45mAOD) at the north-eastern end and to 210mm (42.51mAOD) at the south-western end, at which the 'natural' was encountered and mechanical excavation ceased.

4.10.2 The overburden consisted of two layers, the ploughsoil noted elsewhere in the field, context [9/001], and a thin layer of greyish brown silty clay subsoil, context [9/002]. The subsoil contained deposits of ash and large pieces of charcoal, suggesting fires in the vicinity. No archaeological deposits or features were encountered. A small assemblage of artefacts was recovered from the overburden.

4.11 Trench 10

Context Number	Type	Description	Max. Deposit Thickness
10/001	Deposit	Topsoil	300mm
10/002	Deposit	Subsoil	160mm
10/003	Deposit	'Natural'	-

4.11.1 Trench 10 (along with Trenches 11 and 12) was located in a paddock on the western edge of the site. It was excavated to a length of 10m, a width of 4m, and to a depth of 230mm (35.62mAOD) at the western end and to 410mm (35.66mAOD) at the south-western end, at which the 'natural' was encountered and mechanical excavation ceased.

4.11.2 The two layers of overburden consisted of a mid-brown silty clay topsoil, context [10/001], which overlay a deposit of mid-greyish brown silty clay subsoil, context [10/002]. The 'natural' was similar to that encountered elsewhere at the site. No archaeological deposits or features were encountered, again suggesting the geophysical survey had detected geological inconsistencies. No artefacts were recovered from the overburden.

4.12 Trench 11

Context Number	Type	Description	Max. Deposit Thickness
11/001	Deposit	Topsoil	250mm
11/002	Deposit	Subsoil	280mm
11/003	Deposit	'Natural'	-
11/004	Cut	Culvert	-
11/005	Fill	Culvert	-

4.12.1 Trench 11 was located over a geophysical anomaly and across the alignment of an apparently collapsed culvert. It was excavated to a length of 20m, a width of 4m, and to a depth of 470mm (33.37mAOD) at the north-western end and to 460mm (33.57mAOD) at the south-eastern end, at which the 'natural' was encountered and mechanical excavation ceased. The two layers of overburden and the 'natural' were similar to those found in adjacent Trench 10. The 3m wide cut for the collapsed culvert was observed, ([11/004]). The visible fill, context [11/005], a mid-brown silty clay was not investigated or illustrated.

4.12.2 No archaeological deposits or features were encountered, again suggesting the geophysical survey had detected geological inconsistencies, and the line of the culvert. Following consultation with Dr Matthew Pope (ASE's Senior Geoarchaeologist), it was concluded that any potential investigation of underlying valley deposits had been compromised by the excavations for the laying of the culvert. A small assemblage of artefacts was recovered from the overburden.

4.13 Trench 12

Context Number	Type	Description	Max. Deposit Thickness
12/001	Deposit	Topsoil	230mm
12/002	Deposit	Subsoil	280mm
12/003	Deposit	'Natural'	-

4.13.1 Trench 12 was located in the same paddock as Trenches 10 and 11. It was excavated to a length of 20m, a width of 4m, and a depth of 320mm (33.37mAOD) at the western end and to 470mm (33.57mAOD) at the eastern end, at which the 'natural' was encountered and mechanical excavation ceased. The two layers of overburden and the 'natural' were similar to those found in Trench 10.

4.13.2 No archaeological deposits or features were encountered again suggesting the geophysical survey had detected geological inconsistencies. A small assemblage of artefacts was recovered from the overburden

4.14 Trench 13

Context Number	Type	Description	Max. Deposit Thickness
13/001	Deposit	Topsoil	110mm
13/002	Deposit	Subsoil	180mm
13/003	Deposit	'Natural'	-

4.14.1 Trench 13 (and Trenches 14, 15, 16 and 17) was located in a low-lying paddock. It was excavated to a length of 30m, a width of 2m, and a depth of 290mm (40.12mAOD) at the northern end and to 200mm (39.31mAOD) at the southern end, at which the 'natural' was encountered and mechanical excavation ceased.

4.14.2 The overburden and 'natural' were similar in character to those found in Trench 10. No archaeological deposits or features were encountered, again suggesting the geophysical survey had detected geological inconsistencies. A small assemblage of artefacts was recovered from the overburden.

4.15 Trench 14

Context Number	Type	Description	Max. Deposit Thickness
14/001	Deposit	Topsoil	220mm
14/002	Deposit	Subsoil	130mm
14/003	Deposit	'Natural'	-

4.15.1 Trench 14 was excavated to a length of 30m, a width of 4m, and a depth of 330mm (37.10mAOD) at the northern end and to 190mm (36.31mAOD) at the southern end, at which the 'natural' was encountered and mechanical excavation ceased. The two layers of overburden and the 'natural' were similar to those found in Trench 13.

4.15.2 No archaeological deposits or features were encountered, suggesting the geophysical anomalies were entirely geological in origin. A small assemblage of artefacts was recovered from the overburden

4.16 Trench 15

Context Number	Type	Description	Max. Deposit Thickness
15/001	Deposit	Topsoil	200mm
15/002	Deposit	Subsoil	220mm
15/003	Deposit	'Natural'	-
15/004	Cut	Tree Throw	-
15/005	Fill	Tree Throw	-

4.16.1 Trench 15 was excavated to a length of 70m, a width of 4m, and a depth of 310mm (34.98mAOD) at the north-western end and to 250mm (36.47mAOD) at the south-eastern end, at which the 'natural' was encountered and mechanical excavation ceased. The two layers of overburden and the 'natural' were similar to those found in Trench 13.

4.15.2 No archaeological deposits or features were encountered, (except for an irregular tree throw – cut [15/004], fill [15/005], not fully excavated or illustrated) despite the

size of the trench (the largest excavated at the site) suggesting the geophysical anomalies were entirely geological in origin. A small assemblage of artefacts was recovered from the overburden

4.17 Trench 16

Context Number	Type	Description	Max. Deposit Thickness
16/001	Deposit	Topsoil	250mm
16/002	Deposit	Subsoil	160mm
16/003	Deposit	'Natural'	-

4.17.1 Trench 16 was excavated to a length of 20m, a width of 2m, and a depth of 370mm (38.43mAOD) at the north-western end and to 260mm (38.13mAOD) at the south-eastern end, at which the 'natural' was encountered and mechanical excavation ceased. The two layers of overburden and the 'natural' were similar to those found in Trench 13.

4.17.2 No archaeological deposits or features were encountered, suggesting the geophysical anomalies were entirely geological in origin. A small assemblage of artefacts was recovered from the overburden

4.18 Trench 17

Context Number	Type	Description	Max. Deposit Thickness
17/001	Deposit	Topsoil	120mm
17/002	Deposit	Subsoil	180mm
17/003	Deposit	'Natural'	-
17/004	Cut	Tree throw	-
17/005	Fill	Tree throw	-

4.18.1 Trench 17 was excavated to a length of 30m, a width of 2m and a depth of 220mm (36.87mAOD) at the north-western end and to 210mm (36.95mAOD) at the south-eastern end, at which the 'natural' was encountered and mechanical excavation ceased. The two layers of overburden and the 'natural' were similar to those found in Trench 13.

4.18.2 No archaeological deposits or features were encountered (except for an irregular tree throw – cut [17/004], fill [17/005], not fully excavated or illustrated), again suggesting the geophysical survey had detected only geological inconsistencies. A small assemblage of artefacts was recovered from the overburden.

4.19 Trench 18

Context Number	Type	Description	Max. Deposit Thickness
18/001	Deposit	Topsoil	200mm
18/002	Deposit	Subsoil	200mm
18/003	Deposit	'Natural'	-

4.19.1 Trench 18 and Trenches 19, 20, 21 and 22 were located in a pasture field adjacent to the A272. It was excavated to a length of 30m, a width of 2m, and to a depth of 340mm (39.99AOD) at the western end and to 360mm (39.96mAOD) at the eastern end, at which the 'natural' was encountered and mechanical excavation ceased. The two layers of overburden and the 'natural' were similar to those found in Trench 13.

4.19.2 No archaeological deposits or features were encountered, again suggesting the geophysical survey had detected only geological inconsistencies. A small assemblage of artefacts was recovered from the overburden.

4.20 Trench 19

Context Number	Type	Description	Max. Deposit Thickness
19/001	Deposit	Topsoil	320mm
19/002	Deposit	'Natural'	-
19/003	Cut	Tree Throw	-
19/004	Fill	Tree Throw	-
19/005	VOID		
19/006	VOID		
19/007	Cut	Area of burning	40mm
19/008	Fill	Area of burning	40mm

4.20.1 Trench 19 was excavated to a length of 40m, a width of 2m, and to a depth of 340mm (47.05mAOD) at the north-western end and to 310mm (45.00mAOD) at the south-eastern end, at which the 'natural' was encountered and mechanical excavation ceased. The topsoil, context [19/001] and 'natural' were similar to those found in Trench 18, although there was no obvious subsoil layer.

4.20.2 Three 'features' were identified and recorded. Cut [19/003] was an irregular tree throw and cut [19/005] was geological in origin. However, cut [19/007] consisted of a slight depression in the surface of the 'natural' recognisable by a baked clay 'halo', with a diameter of 550mm and depth of only 40mm, indicative of heating of a small area. The fill, context [19/008] consisted of a mid-orangey brown silty clay. No datable artefacts were recovered from the feature. A small assemblage of artefacts was recovered from the overburden

4.21 Trench 20

Context Number	Type	Description	Max. Deposit Thickness
20/001	Deposit	Topsoil	380mm
20/002	Deposit	'Natural'	-

4.21.1 Trench 20 was excavated to a length of 30m, to a width of 2m and to a depth of 320mm (45.20mAOD) at the western end and to 380mm (43.84mAOD) at the eastern end, at which the 'natural' was encountered and mechanical excavation ceased. The topsoil and 'natural' were similar to those found in Trench 19.

4.21.2 No archaeological deposits or features were encountered, again suggesting the geophysical survey had detected only geological inconsistencies. A small assemblage of artefacts was recovered from the overburden

4.22 Trench 21

Context Number	Type	Description	Max. Deposit Thickness
21/001	Deposit	Topsoil	300mm
21/002	Deposit	Subsoil	190mm
21/003	Deposit	'Natural'	-

4.22.1 Trench 21 was excavated to a length of 40m, to a width of 4m and to a depth of 490mm (39.43mAOD) at the north-eastern end and to 320mm (42.10mAOD) at the south-western end, at which the 'natural' was encountered and mechanical excavation ceased. The two layers of overburden and 'natural' were similar to those found in Trench 18.

4.22.2 No archaeological deposits or features were encountered, again suggesting the geophysical survey had detected only geological inconsistencies. A small assemblage of artefacts was recovered from the overburden.

4.23 Trench 22

Context Number	Type	Description	Max. Deposit Thickness
22/001	Deposit	Topsoil	240mm
22/002	Deposit	Subsoil	200mm
22/003	Deposit	'Natural'	-

4.23.1 Trench 22 excavated to a length of 30m, a width of 2m, and to a depth of 330mm (40.83mAOD) at the northern end and to 390mm (41.81mAOD) at the southern end, at which the 'natural' was encountered and mechanical excavation ceased. The topsoil and 'natural' were similar to those found in Trench 18.

4.23.2 No archaeological deposits or features were encountered, again suggesting the geophysical survey had detected only geological inconsistencies. No artefacts were recovered from the overburden.

4.23 Trench 23

Context Number	Type	Description	Max. Deposit Thickness
23/001	Deposit	Topsoil	260mm
23/002	Deposit	Subsoil	200mm
23/003	Deposit	'Natural'	-

4.23.1 Trench 23 was located in a steeply sloping pasture field to the north of the A272. It was excavated to a length of 60m, a width of 4m, and to a depth of 420mm (38.38mAOD) at the northern end and to 350mm (41.40mAOD) at the southern end, at which the 'natural' was encountered and mechanical excavation ceased. The two layers of overburden and 'natural' were similar to those found in Trench 18.

4.23.2 No archaeological deposits or features were encountered, again suggesting the geophysical survey had detected only geological inconsistencies. A small assemblage of artefacts was recovered from the overburden.

4.23 Trench 24

Context Number	Type	Description	Max. Deposit Thickness
24/001	Deposit	Topsoil	140mm
24/002	Deposit	Subsoil	160mm
24/003	Deposit	'Natural'	-

4.23.1 Trench 24 was located in another steeply sloping pasture field. It was excavated to a length of 30m, a width of 2m, and to a depth of 240mm (40.80mAOD) at the northern end and to 250mm (44.34mAOD) at the southern end, at which the 'natural' was encountered and mechanical excavation ceased. The topsoil and 'natural' were similar to those found in Trench 18.

4.23.2 No archaeological deposits or features were encountered, again suggesting the geophysical survey had detected only geological inconsistencies. No artefacts were recovered from the overburden.

5.0 THE FINDS

Context	Pottery	Wt (g)	CBM	Wt (g)	FCF	Wt (g)	Fired clay	Wt (g)	Flint	Wt (g)	Glass	Wt (g)	Stone	Wt (g)	CTP	Wt (g)
T9 u/s					2	70										
T8 u/s					4	64										
T7 u/s	7	26	1	20	2	30										
T6 u/s	2	8														
T5 u/s	2	8			4	88										
T4 u/s			1	58	3	15 2										
T3 u/s			1	18	1	< 2										
T23 u/s	4	10	2	76							1	< 2				
T21 u/s			1	8	2	6			1	10						
T20 u/s	2	10	1	26	1	16										
T19 u/s	41	226	4	34	1	26					1	6				
T18 u/s	1	2			1	24										
T17 u/s	7	16			8	66	1	< 2								
T16 u/s			1	< 2	2	17 4										
T15 u/s	9	68	3	13 0	10	26 4									1	< 2
T14 u/s	4	24			2	98							1	76		
T13 u/s	11	114	5	13 0	6	18					2	14			1	2
T12 u/s			1	16	1	6										
T11 u/s	3	8	1	6												
8/010	5	22														
8/008	25	482														
8/006	12	46														
8/004	7	26														
8/ 008	14 1	128 6					3	24								
7/005			3	40 0												
7/005	51	560											1	52		
7/005	10 4	442	1	42									1	76 6		
7/003	21	42														

Table 2: Quantification of finds

5.2 The Flintwork by Karine Le Hégarat

- 5.2.1 Evaluation work at the site yielded a single piece of struck flint weighing 110g. The artefact found unstratified was manufactured from a dark grey flint with frequent inclusions and a thin off-white cortex. It consists of a fragmentary unclassifiable core. The piece exhibits heavy post-depositional edge damage with a deep V-shaped mark which is often associated to plough-damage. Although the flint was used for the removal of flakes, it displays signs of heavy battering. This might imply that the artefact was used as a tool after having been used as a core. This artefact is not diagnostic of a particular period.

5.3 The Roman Pottery by Anna Doherty

Introduction

- 5.3.1 A relatively large assemblage of pottery was recovered, mainly from stratified contexts in Trenches 7 and 8; this amounts to 405 sherds, weighing 3100g (295 ENV; 4.58 EVE). Although the condition of the pottery is generally highly abraded, this is almost certainly the result of post-depositional conditions, often observed on sites with clay geology. In general, sherd size is relatively large and there are two stratified groups of over a hundred sherds, suggesting that they represent rubbish accumulated from settlement activity in the vicinity of these trenches.

Methodology

- 5.3.2 The pottery was examined using a x20 binocular microscope and recorded on pro-forma sheets which are retained for the archive. In the absence of a published type-series for Sussex, fabric, form and decoration codes follow those in use at the Museum of London (Marsh & Tyers 1979; Davies et al 1994). The pottery was quantified by sherd count, weight, Estimated Vessel Number (ENV) and Estimated Vessel Equivalent (EVE).

Overview of Assemblage

- 5.3.3 Over 90% of the assemblage is made up by local sandy Arun Valley fabrics, the vast majority of which are coarse wares associated with necked jars, flat rim bowls and lids. Although an attempt was made to divide these into grey wares (AVGW) oxidised wares (AVOX) and black surfaced wares (AVBW), most examples are rather unevenly fired, which is a characteristic of some Arun Valley wares. Some finewares of similar origin were recorded, although these were not associated with any diagnostic form elements. There are also some examples of the Arun Valley white ware fabric produced at Wiggonholt, including a ring-necked flagon.
- 5.3.4 Production of Arun Valley wares is known at Littlehampton, but is particularly concentrated in the Pulborough area, just a short distance to the south-west along Stane Street. Interestingly, one vessel of this type appeared to be warped as a result of misfiring. Although this could be a 'second' which had travelled from the known area of production, it does raise the possibility that further Arun Valley kilns lay closer to the current site.
- 5.3.5 The remainder of the assemblage includes a small number of grog-tempered wares as well single sherds in calcareous rock-tempered and flint tempered fabrics. In terms of regionally-traded wares, there are only a few sherds of Verulamium region white ware and single examples of BB1, BB2 and Rowlands Castle grey ware. Large sherds from a decorated Lezoux samian bowl (Dragendorff 37) and a cup or dish (Dragendorff 35/36) represent the only imported wares. Unfortunately the former is too severely abraded for the decoration to be identified.

Dating

- 5.3.6 One context, [8/006], produced only a small number of grog-tempered bodysherds, indicating that it is of Late Iron Age to early Roman date. Although grog-tempered wares were occasionally present in other groups, the absence of 'Romanised' fabrics in this group suggests that [8/006] may be of earlier date than most other Roman contexts.
- 5.3.7 Production in the Arun Valley was at its height in the 1st and 2nd century so the dominance of these fabrics clearly indicates that the assemblage is broadly of this date. The homogeneity of Arun Valley products hinders very close dating, however in general the dominance of necked jars and flat-rim bowls and the absence of black burnished style forms probably indicates that most activity in this area is of late 1st to early 2nd century date. Each of the large contexts groups, [7/005] and [8/008], contained one or two sherds post-dating AD120 but this can probably be treated as a *terminus post quem* for the filling of the features, rather than an indication that there was substantial continuing activity in the mid 2nd century.

Statement of Significance

- 5.3.8 Very few assemblages from this part of Sussex are published so the two large context groups, [7/005] and [8/008], could provide important comparative data. The presence of the probable waster sherd could also be indicative of kilns in the wider vicinity of the site, although equally it may be a 'second' which came from the known area of production around Pulborough. Should further excavation take place, the evaluation assemblage should be fully integrated into any future analysis on Roman pottery from the site.

5.4 The Post-Roman Pottery by Luke Barber

- 5.4.1 The evaluation recovered a small assemblage of post-Roman pottery. All was recovered from unstratified deposits in 11 of the trenches. As such the material can be viewed as coming from the topsoil/cultivation horizon and the small, and usually abraded, sherds are in keeping with this.
- 5.4.2 The earliest material is of Transitional date and was recovered from Trench 17. This produced two small (4g) and somewhat abraded body sherds in fine oxidised sand tempered fabrics likely to date to between the mid 14th and 15th centuries though larger sherds would be needed to be certain.
- 5.4.3 The early post-medieval period is slightly better represented but only really toward its end. An oxidised sandy glazed earthenware sherd from Trench 20 could be placed anywhere between the mid 16th and mid 18th centuries. However, a date towards the end of this range is perhaps more likely as the remaining definite early post-medieval sherds are of 18th- century Staffordshire-type white salt-glazed stoneware (Trenches 6: 2/6g, 11: 1/1g, 20: 1/1g and 23: 1/4g).
- 5.4.4 Somewhat more late post-medieval pottery is present. As this is mainly of late 18th- to early 19th- century types the material probably represents a continuation of the 18th- century activity already noted. Glazed red earthenware, creamware and pearlware are all quite well represented though few feature sherds are present and the material has been subjected to extensive reworking. Little definite pottery dating to after c. 1825 is present. The few pieces include a fragment of refined white earthenware from Trench 5 and the rim from a blue transfer-printed serving dish with willow pattern design from trench 11.

- 5.4.5 All in all the post-Roman pottery would suggest very little activity/refuse disposal prior to the mid 18th century. From then until about c. 1825 there appears to have been a notable amount of refuse spread on the area, presumably through manuring. Following this date manuring appears to have ceased, presumably as the land was under longer-lived pasture.

5.5 The Ceramic Building Material by Sarah Porteus

- 5.5.1 A total of 25 fragments of ceramic building material (CBM) with a combined weight of 892g were recovered during the evaluation. The majority of the assemblage is of Roman and post-medieval date.
- 5.5.2 The assemblage has been examined with the aid of a X10 magnifier and a provisional fabric series has been drawn up. Samples of each fabric type and fragments of Roman date have been retained for archive the remainder of the assemblage, approximately 25% by weight, has been discarded.

Romano-British

- 5.5.3 Fragments of Roman material were recovered from context [7/005] and unstratified from trenches T12, T16, and T19. The fragments were all highly abraded and in a fine orange fabric with sparse to moderate fine quartz. The largest fragments were recovered from context [7/005] though none of the fragments have clear form. The largest fragment, most likely a brick, has impressions of grass or straw in a broken surface suggesting these inclusions had caused the brick to fracture during firing and may be a waster.

Post-Medieval

- 5.5.4 The remainder of the assemblage comprised abraded, unstratified fragments of post-medieval material. Three peg tile fabrics were identified, T3 of 17th to 19th century date, T1 and T2 of 19th to 20th century date. Fabric T3, orange fabric with sparse and moderate fine quartz was recovered from trench T20. Peg tile in fabric T1, orange fabric with black iron rich inclusions and fine cream streaking was recovered from trenches T4, T11, and T13. Peg tile in fabric T2 was recovered from trenches T3, T13, T15 and T21. Brick in fabric B1, a hard-fired red fabric with moderate fine black iron rich inclusions and fine cream silt streaking similar to T1 was recovered from T7 and T15, the brick is of probable 17th to 19th century date. The post-medieval fabrics are typical of those found in the Billingshurst area and are most likely of local production.

5.6 The Fired Clay by Anna Doherty

- 5.6.1 Four small, amorphous pieces of fired clay were recovered. One was unstratified in the area of Trench 17 and the remaining 3 were found in context [8/008], which was well-dated by the pottery to the earlier 2nd century. All of the fragments were in a similar fabric with moderate coarse quartz in the range 0.4-0.8mm and rare voids from burnt out organic matter. None of the fragments retain any surfaces which would be diagnostic of function.

5.7 The Glass by Luke Barber

- 5.7.1 Only one registered find, RF<1>, was recovered from the site. This consists of a small oval (9 x 7mm) black glass Roman ring intaglio from [7/005]. Although the face is weathered a standing figure is discernible of the front though who it represents is unclear.
- 5.7.2 The majority of the remaining glass consists of green wine bottle fragments, none of which are large enough to be chronologically diagnostic. However, the glass itself appears quite weathered though well made so a general mid 18th- to 19th- century date can be assigned to these pieces. It is likely it belongs to the same later 18th- to early 19th- chronological range demonstrated by the ceramics. The only other glass consists of a fragment from a faceted tumbler in unweathered clear glass of later 19th- to 20th- century date (unstratified in Trench 23).

5.8 The Clay Tobacco Pipe by Luke Barber

- 5.8.1 The evaluation recovered just two plain stem fragments from the site both of which are unstratified (Trenches 13 and 15). The pieces are slightly abraded and can be placed between the mid 18th and mid 19th centuries.

5.9 The Geological Material by Luke Barber

- 5.9.1 Context [6/005] produced two pieces of stone, both of which appear to be naturally weathered with no signs of human modification. The largest piece (772g) is of a medium-grained glauconitic sandstone from the Lower Greensand while the smaller piece consists of an irregular piece of Wealden mud/siltstone. Both are local to the site/its vicinity.

6.0 THE ENVIRONMENTAL SAMPLES by Karine Le Hégarat

6.1 Introduction and Methods

- 6.1.1 Three ditch fill contexts [7/005], [8/008] and [8/004] were sampled during the evaluation work at the site to establish evidence for environmental remains such as charcoal, charred macroplant remains, bones and shells. All three deposits produced sherds of pottery dated to the Roman period. Samples were processed in a flotation tank and the residues and flots were retained on 500 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 (Table 3). Flots were scanned under a stereozoom microscope at x7-45 magnifications and their contents recorded (Table 4).

6.2 Results

- 6.2.1 Sampling produced small flots which were dominated by uncharred material including sediments and uncharred vegetation. Although uncharred weed seeds were infrequent, the flots contained a moderate amount of modern fine rootlets. Charred macroplant remains were absent from these samples but small to moderate quantities of charred wood fragments were present in the flots and residues. These were more abundant in the residue from sample <1001> [7/005]. The assemblage of charcoal comprised several large-sized pieces measuring >4mm. Fragments were moderately well preserved, although several appear to be percolated by sediment. The residues from sample <1001> and sample <1002> contained a small amount of burnt mammal bone fragments. Both these samples produced a small quantity of fired clay and sherds of pottery including fragments of rim. In addition, sample <1001> produced three corroded nail fragments and a very small bicolour oval artefact (RF <1>; see above).

6.3 Discussion

- 6.3.1 Sampling confirmed the presence of charcoal and burned bones whilst also assisting recovery of small artefacts. The moderate assemblage of charred wood is generally well preserved however no further identification work has been undertaken at this stage as these ditch assemblages may represent material deriving from several burning events accumulated or deposited in the ditch features over time. Interpreting such assemblages and attributing value to the range of taxa identified can be problematic and the results are unlikely to provide meaningful interpretations regarding fuel use or the vegetation environment. The presence of charcoal fragments as well as burnt bone demonstrates potential for preservation of other domestic refuse at this site that may be associated with the Roman occupation and could contribute information regarding land use activities at the site. It is recommended that sampling forms part of any further work undertaken at the site.

Sample Number	Context	Context / deposit type	Sample Volume litres	Sub-Sample Volume litres	Charcoal >4mm	Weight (g)	Charcoal <4mm	Weight (g)	Burnt bone >8mm	Weight (g)	Burnt bone 4-8mm	Weight (g)	Other (eg ind, pot, cbm)
1001	7/005	Fill of Ditch [7/004]	40	40	****	48	***	6			*	<2	Pottery **/46g - Nails */2g - Fired clay */22g - ?Glass/jet object */<1g
1002	8/008	Fill of Ditch [8/007]	40	40	***	12	***	2	*	<2	*	<2	Pottery **/160g - Fired clay */64g
1003	8/004	Fill of Ditch [8/003]	20	20	**	2	**	<2					

Table 3: Residue Quantification (* = 1-10, ** = 11-50, *** = 51-250, **** = >250) and weights in grams

Sample Number	Context	Weight g	Flot volume ml	Volume scanned	Uncharred %	Sediment %	Seeds uncharred	Charcoal >4mm	Charcoal <4mm	Charcoal <2mm
1001	7/005	4	25	25	61	6	* <i>Rubus fruticosus</i> agg./ <i>Idaeus</i> , <i>Polygonum/Rumex</i> sp.		* (4)	***
1002	8/008	10	18	18	35	35	* <i>Polygonum/Rumex</i> sp., indet. Seeds	* (2)	* (3)	***
1003	8/004	6	10	10	55	35	* <i>Polygonum/Rumex</i> sp.			***

Table 4: Flot Quantification (* = 1-10, ** = 11-50, *** = 51-250, **** = >250) and preservation (+ = poor, ++ = moderate, +++ = good)

7.0 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

- 7.1 The majority of the trenches contained no discernable archaeological features, and it appears that the geophysical survey highlighted geological rather than archaeological anomalies in the majority of cases. This possibility was noted in the geophysics report (ASE 2011, 22). However, a number of archaeological features were also identified in the geophysics and these were verified and investigated in the evaluation.
- 7.2 Undated episodes of burning were located in Trenches T9 and T19. Datable archaeological features were encountered in Trenches 7 and 8, on alignments suggested by the results of the geophysical survey. All of the investigated features contained Romano-British pottery, often in significant quantities. Some other categories of finds, such as animal bones were notably absent, probably owing to the acidity of the local soils, which had caused damage to the surface of some of the pottery. The small black glass Roman ring intaglio was a notable exception. Environmental evidence included charcoal and burnt animal bone, and showed some potential.
- 7.3 The dating of the pottery suggests that occupation of the site may have begun in the Late Iron Age and continued through the 1st century into the early 2nd century AD. Evidence of activity at other periods was somewhat limited, with only the slightest hint of prehistoric utilisation of the site. Only one sherd of transitional medieval/post-medieval pottery was recovered from the overburden, along with more substantial quantities of post-medieval material, indicative of manuring of the site. This evidence supports the level of data gathered during the fieldwalking of the available arable field earlier in the year (*ibid.*).
- 7.4 The sheer quantity of pottery and the presence of the intaglio, (and arguably the tile), are clear evidence that there was occupation in the area, utilising both local and imported pottery sources. The trenches did not uncover the location of any surviving evidence of structures, but the artefacts (and arguably the environmental evidence) point to the probability of settlement, possibly a farmstead in the area, perhaps within the enclosure area within the ditch identified in the area of Trenches 7 and 8. This vicinity occupies high ground overlooking a former stream valley to the south.
- 7.5 No obvious route way between the activity in the area of Trenches 7 and 8 and Stane Street was detected during the geophysical survey, or during the trial trenching. Examination of the local Tithe map, and re-examination of the cartographic sources reproduced in the DBA (CgMs 2011a) did not show any tangible survival of such a route way in the landscape in the historic period.
- 7.6 In conclusion, and based on currently available evidence, the targeted evaluation of the locations of the geophysical anomalies has shown that the majority were geological in origin, but the survey also highlighted the presence of buried archaeological features. Based on the geophysics results, the evaluation and initial assessment of the finds it appears that an enclosed area (or enclosures) of first to second century date was located at the site.

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HER Summary Form

Site Code	WLB11					
Identification Name and Address	Land at Land East of Billingshurst, Billingshurst					
County, District &/or Borough	Horsham District, West Sussex					
OS Grid Refs.	NGR 509390 126090					
Geology	Weald Clay					
Arch. South-East Project Number	5259					
Type of Fieldwork	Eval. ✓	Excav.	Watching Brief	Standing Structure	Survey	Other
Type of Site	Green Field ✓	Shallow Urban	Deep Urban	Other		
Dates of Fieldwork	Eval. Nov. 2011 - Dec. 2011	Excav.	WB.	Other		
Sponsor/Client	CgMs Consulting Ltd.					
Project Manager	Neil Griffin/Jim Stevenson					
Project Supervisor	Simon Stevens					
Period Summary	Palaeo.	Meso.	Neo.	BA	IA ✓	RB ✓
	AS	MED	PM ✓	Other		

Archaeology South-East was commissioned by CgMs Consulting Ltd. to undertake an archaeological evaluation on land at Land East of Billingshurst, Billingshurst, West Sussex. Twenty-four trenches of varying width and length were excavated to investigate anomalies located during a geophysical survey at the site.

The majority of the anomalies were found to be geological in origin resulting from differing concentrations of clay, sandstone and manganese in the underlying Weald Clay 'natural'. Others appeared to be the result of undated episodes of localised burning. Finds from the overburden of most of the trenches were limited to pieces of fire-cracked flint and late post-medieval pottery.

A group of archaeological features were encountered and excavated on alignments suggested by the geophysics results. The features consisted mostly of ditches of varying profiles, widths and depths. All of the investigated features contained Romano-British pottery, dated to the 1st and 2nd century AD often in significant quantities. A small black glass Roman ring intaglio was also recovered. Environmental evidence included charcoal and burnt animal bone.

In conclusion, and based on currently available evidence, the targeted evaluation of the locations of the geophysical anomalies has shown that the majority were geological in origin, but the survey also highlighted the presence of buried archaeological features. Based on the geophysics results, the evaluation and initial assessment of the finds it appears that an enclosed area (or enclosures) of first to second century date was located at the site. The incidence of significant quantities of pottery in the ditches suggests the presence of occupation.

OASIS Form

OASIS ID: archaeol6-115816

Project details

Project name	An Archaeological Evaluation at Land East of Billingshurst, Billingshurst, West Sussex
Short description of the project	Archaeology South-East was commissioned by CgMs Consulting Ltd. to undertake an archaeological evaluation on land at Land East of Billingshurst, Billingshurst, West Sussex. Twenty-four trenches of varying width and length were excavated to investigate anomalies located during a geophysical survey at the site. The majority of the anomalies were found to be geological in origin resulting from differing concentrations of clay, sandstone and manganese in the underlying Weald Clay 'natural'. Others appeared to be the result of undated episodes of localised burning. Finds from the overburden of most of the trenches were limited to pieces of fire-cracked flint and late post-medieval pottery. A group of archaeological features were encountered and excavated on alignments suggested by the geophysics results. The features consisted mostly of ditches of varying profiles, widths and depths. All of the investigated features contained Romano-British pottery, dated to the 1st and 2nd century AD often in significant quantities. A small black glass Roman ring intaglio was also recovered. Environmental evidence included charcoal and burnt animal bone. In conclusion, and based on currently available evidence, the targeted evaluation of the locations of the geophysical anomalies has shown that the majority were geological in origin, but the survey also highlighted the presence of buried archaeological features. Based on the geophysics results, the evaluation and initial assessment of the finds it appears that an enclosed area (or enclosures) of first to second century date was located at the site. The incidence of significant quantities of pottery in the ditches suggests the presence of occupation.
Project dates	Start: 28-11-2011 End: 08-12-2011
Previous/future work	Yes / Yes
Any associated project reference codes	5259 - Contracting Unit No.
Any associated project reference codes	WLB11 - Sitecode
Any associated project reference codes	DC/11/1654 - Planning Application No.
Type of project	Field evaluation
Monument type	DITCHES Roman
Significant Finds	POTTERY Roman

Significant Finds	TILE Roman
Significant Finds	GLASS INTAGLIO Roman
Methods & techniques	'Targeted Trenches'
Development type	Rural residential
Prompt	Planning condition
Position in the planning process	Pre-application

Project location

Country	England
Site location	WEST SUSSEX HORSHAM BILLINGSHURST Land East of Billingshurst
Postcode	RH14 9HN
Study area	27.00 Hectares
Site coordinates	TQ 0939 2609 51.0232154134 -0.440094128395 51 01 23 N 000 26 24 W Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 25.00m Max: 59.00m

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Archaeology South-East
Project brief originator	CgMs Consulting
Project design originator	Archaeology South-East
Project director/manager	Neil Griffin/Jim Stevenson
Project supervisor	Simon Stevens
Type of sponsor/funding body	Client
Name of sponsor/funding body	CgMs Consulting Ltd.

Project archives

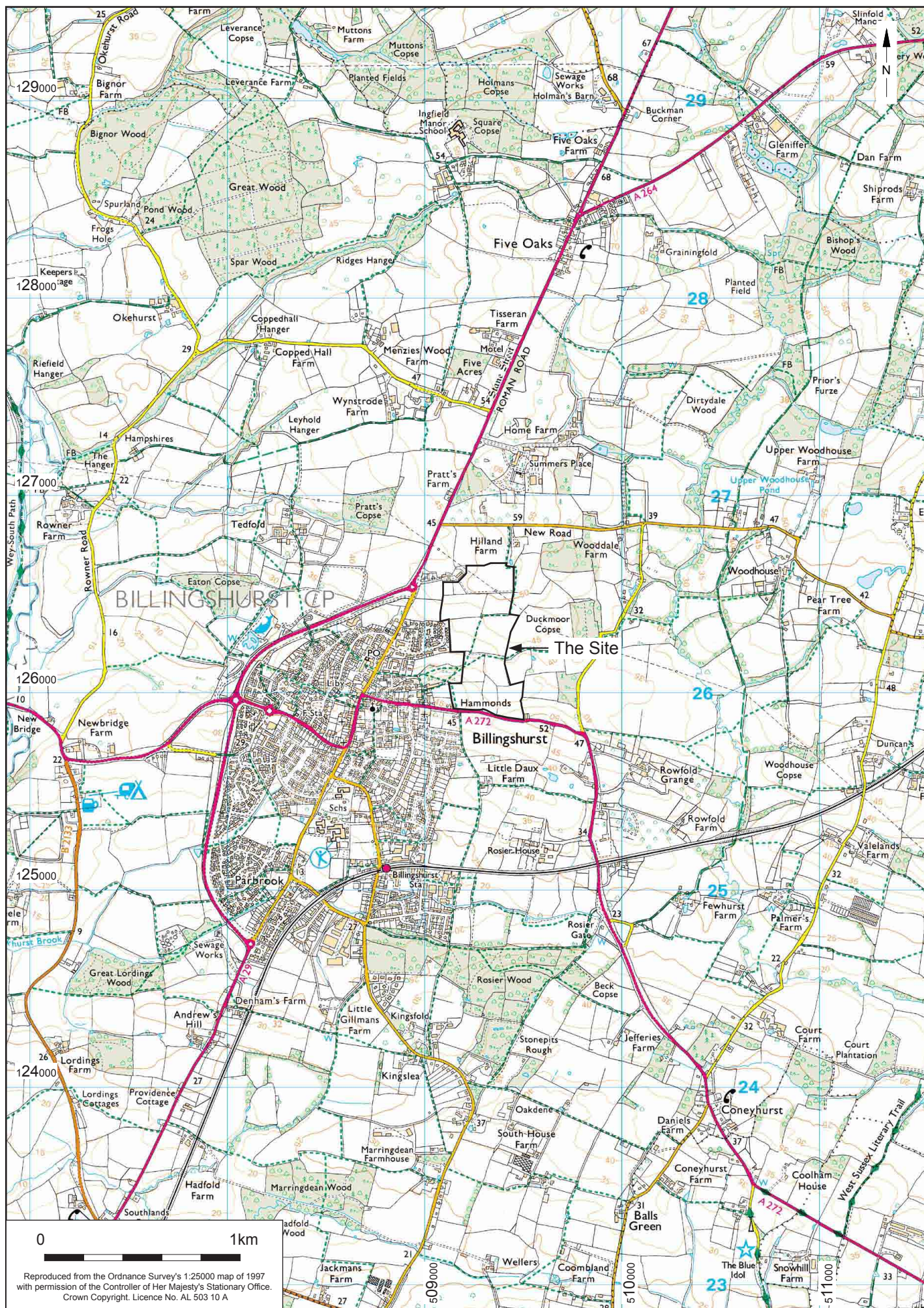
Physical Archive recipient	Horsham Museum
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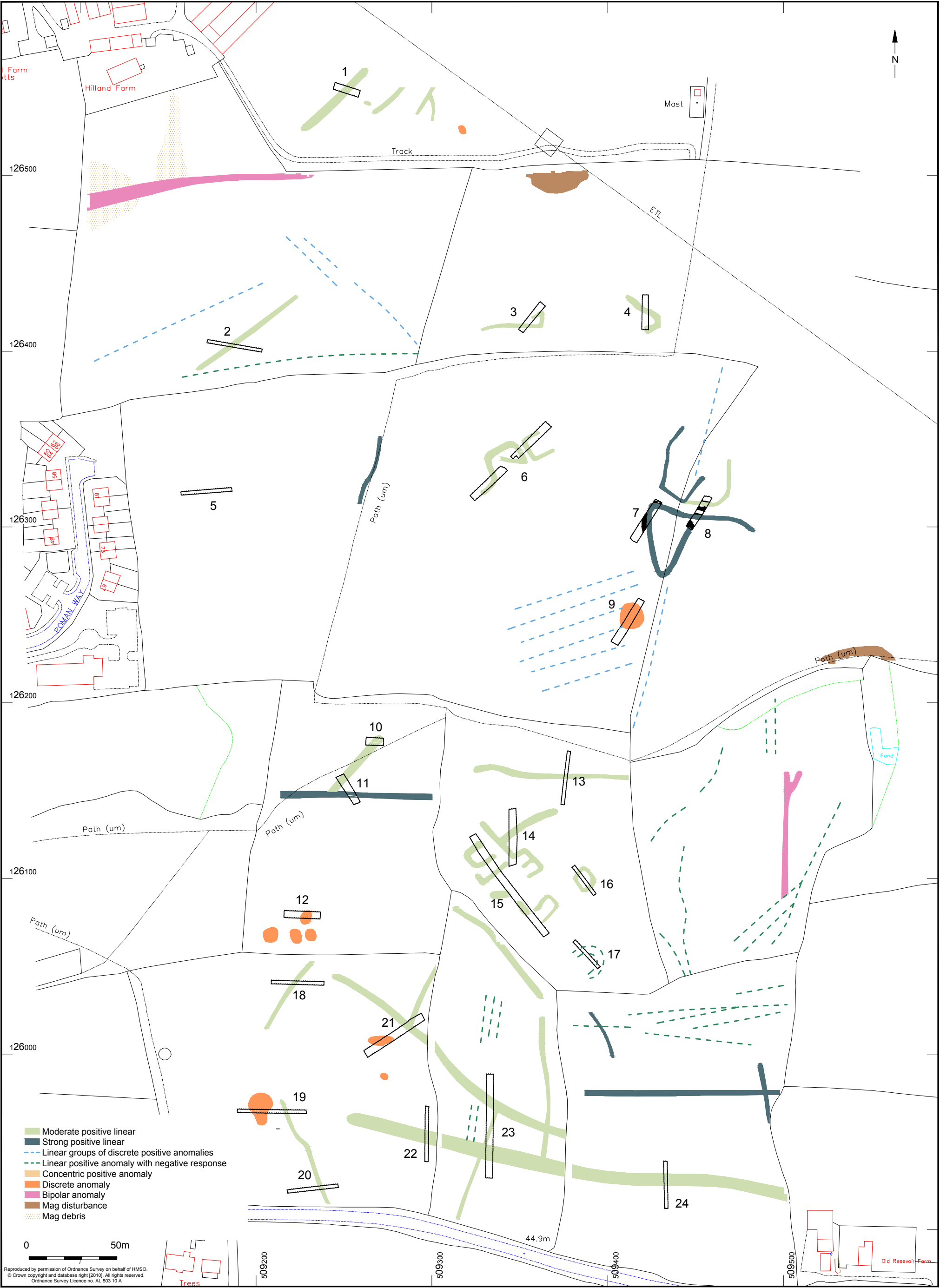
Physical Archive ID	HDM:2011.482
Physical Contents	'Ceramics','Environmental','Glass','Worked stone/lithics'
Digital Archive recipient	Horsham Museum
Digital Archive ID	HDM:2011.482
Digital Contents	'other'
Digital Media available	'Survey','Text','Images raster / digital photography'
Paper Archive recipient	Horsham Museum
Paper Archive ID	HDM:2011.482
Paper Contents	'other'
Paper Media available	'Context sheet','Correspondence','Miscellaneous Material','Plan','Report','Section','Survey ','Unpublished Text'

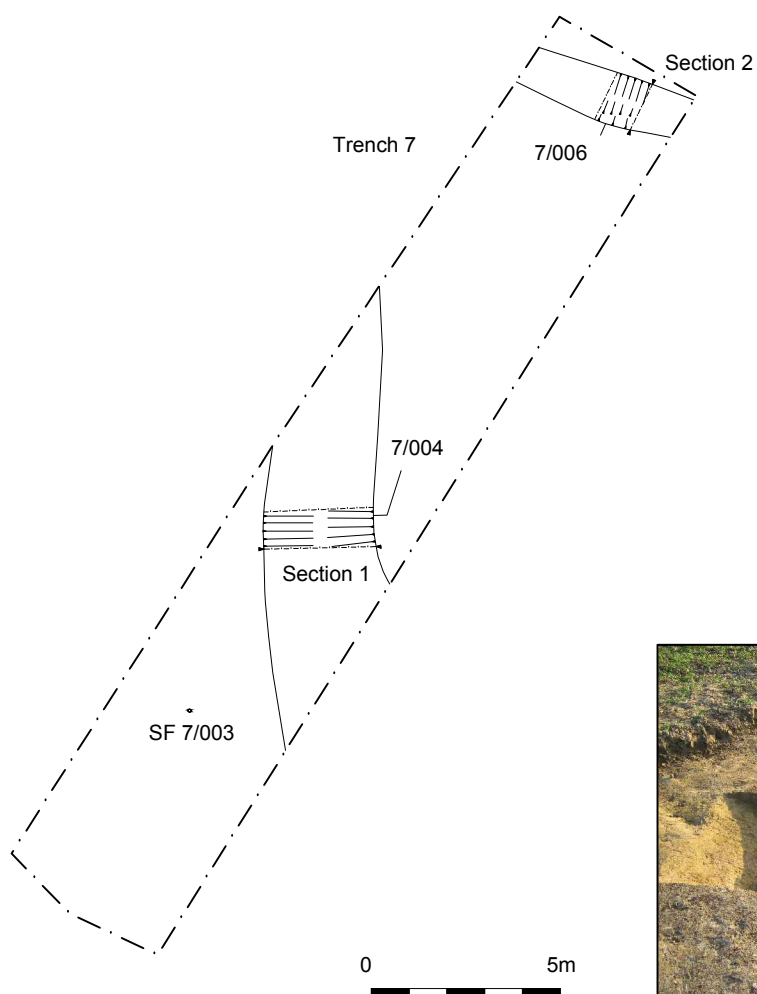
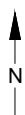
Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	An Archaeological Evaluation at Land East of Billingshurst, Billingshurst, West Sussex
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Stevens, S.
Other bibliographic details	ASE Report No.2011300
Date	2011
Issuer or publisher	Archaeology South-East
Place of issue or publication	Portslade, East Sussex
Description	ASE client report format. A4-sized with cover logos.

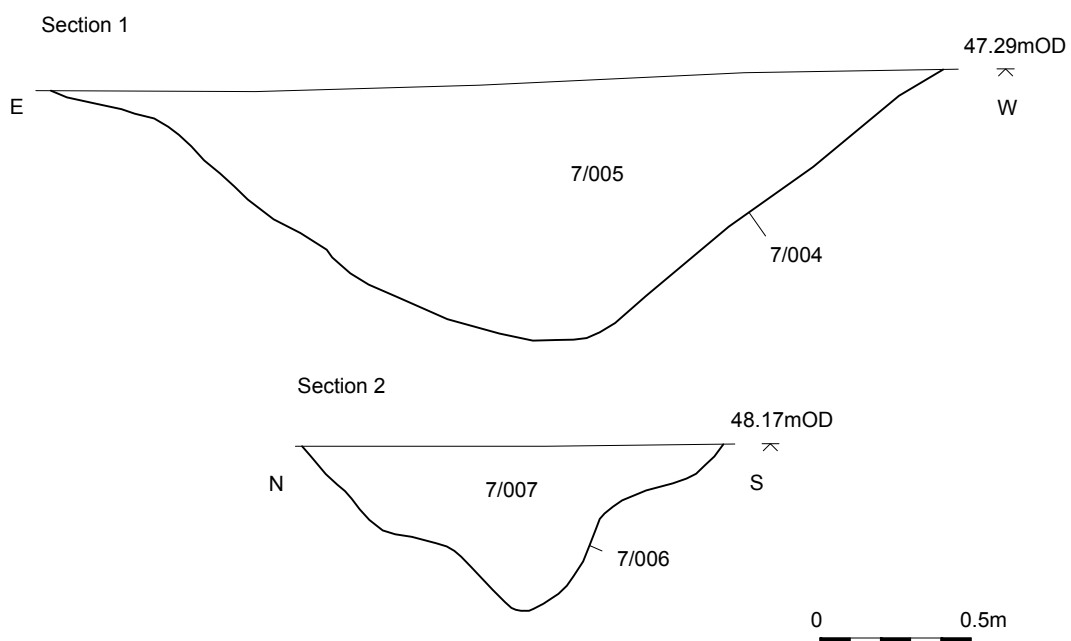
Entered by	Dan Swift (d.swift@ucl.ac.uk)
Entered on	20 December 2011

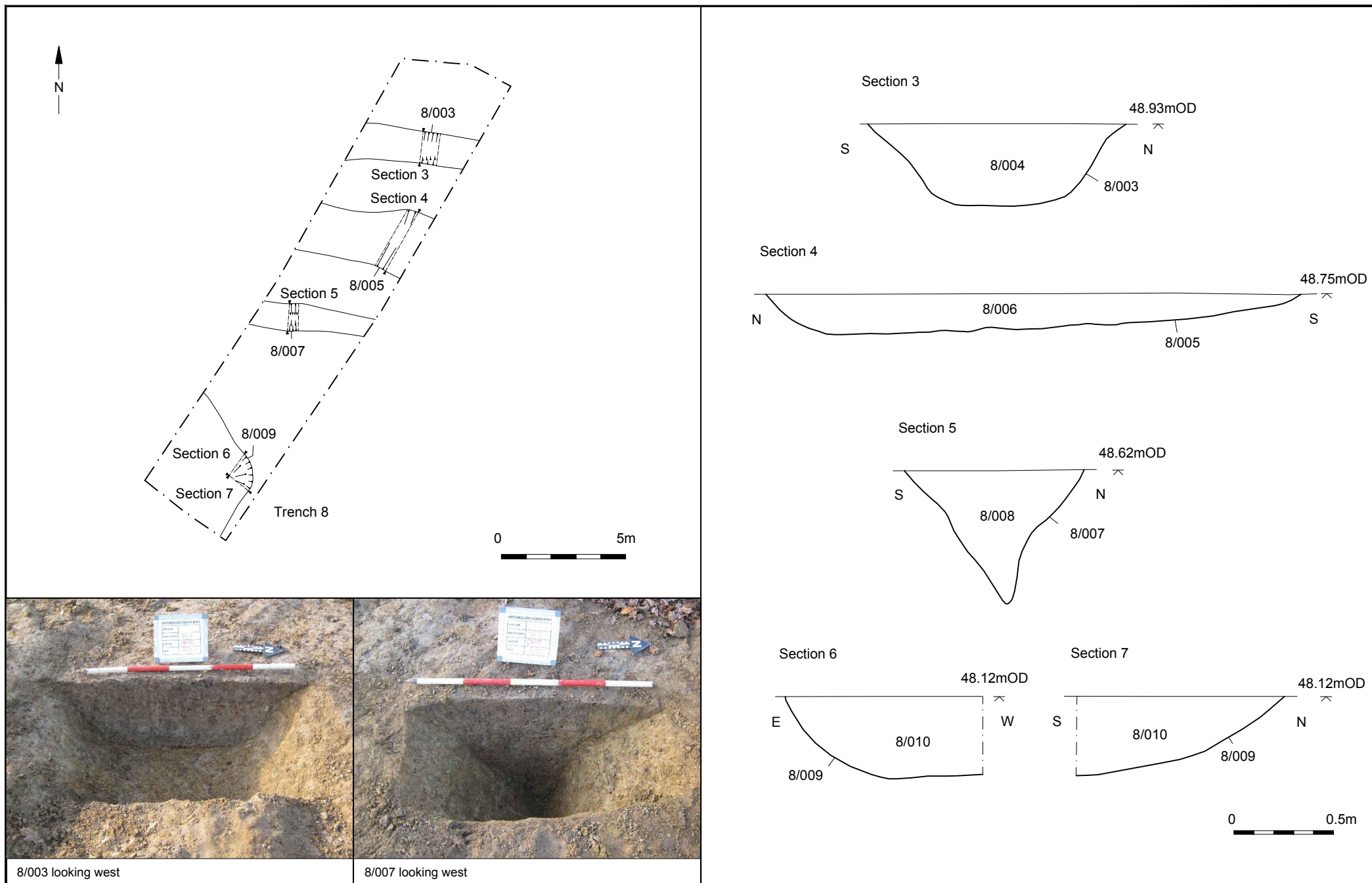


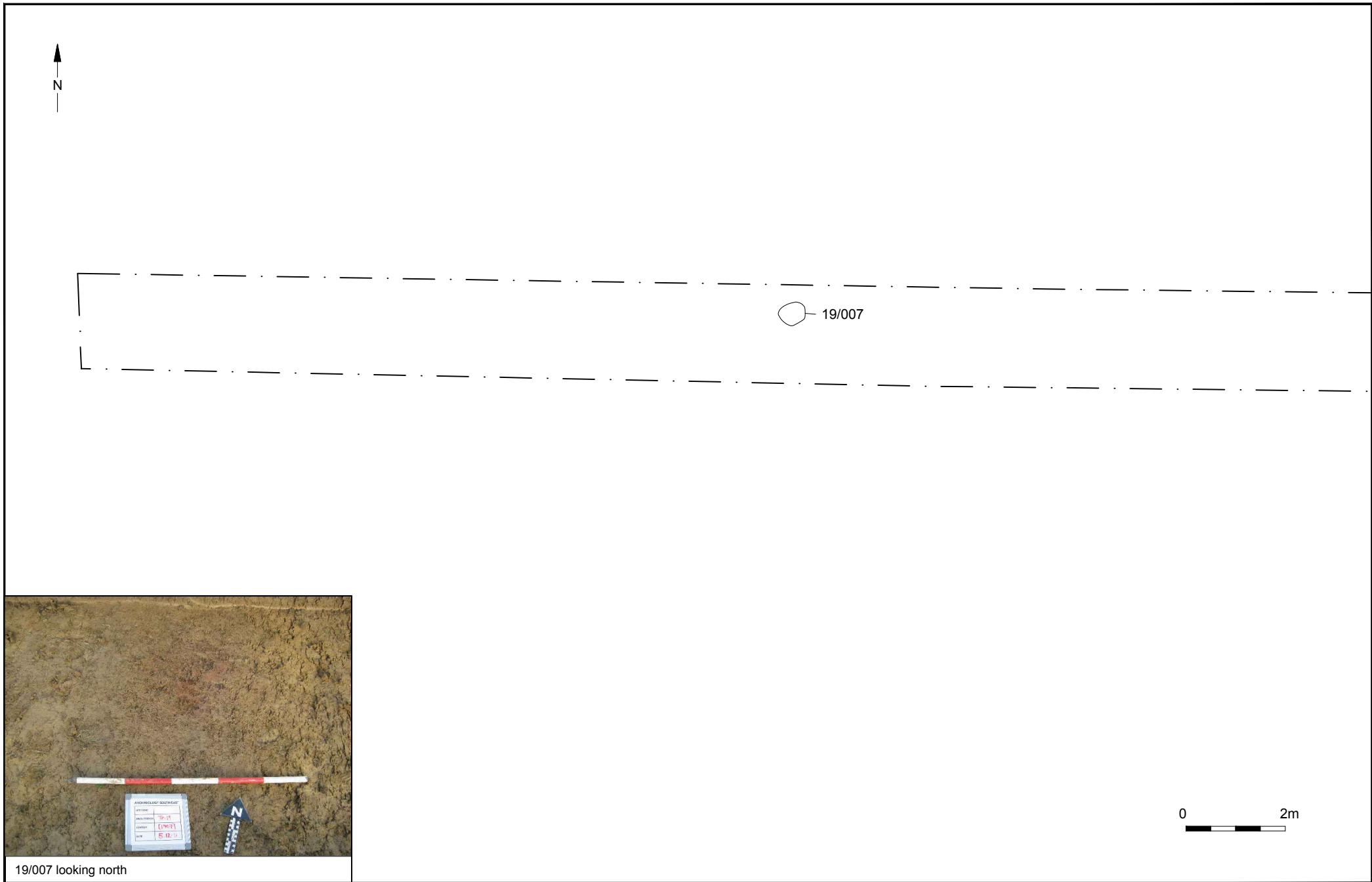




7/004 looking south







19/007 looking north

© Archaeology South-East		Land East of Billingshurst	Fig. 5
Project Ref: 5259	Dec 2011	Trench 19: Plan and photograph	
Report Ref: 2011300	Drawn by: JC/JR		

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